



**NATIONAL CONVENTION ON THE EUROPEAN UNION IN THE REPUBLIC OF
NORTH MACEDONIA (WEB: nkeu.mk)**

4th Session of Working Group 6 – “Anti-Corruption”

10 September 2024, Skopje Panoramika Hotel, 09:30 -13:30

ABSTRACT

**Title: The data we trust: A prerequisite for a more robust economy and an effective fight
against corruption**

In the era of globalization and digital transformation, accurate and reliable data is becoming a fundamental pillar on which prosperous and stable societies are built. North Macedonia, on its way to the European Union, faces numerous challenges related to governance, economic growth, and the fight against corruption. However, one of the most significant aspects connecting all these challenges is the need for reliable data, which will enable informed decision-making and improve institutional transparency.

Accurate and accessible data are the basis of democratic stability and citizens' trust in institutions. According to the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), transparency in official data directly affects public trust, which is key to social cohesion and strengthening democratic processes. In this context, the session will consider the importance of data in public administration, exploring how it can contribute to better accountability and inclusiveness in decision-making processes.

Accurate data is necessary in the economic sphere to create realistic and feasible economic projections and strategies. Financial planning can fail without reliable data, resulting in uncertainty and instability in the economy. The World Bank points out that countries with developed data collection and analysis systems are in a significantly better position to attract foreign investment. For Macedonia, improving the quality and transparency of data will increase its potential to attract capital, which is a critical factor for economic growth and integration in the global market.

One of the most important aspects of joining the European Union is fighting corruption. Corruption undermines institutions and threatens the basic principles of the rule of law. According to Transparency International's Corruption Perceptions Index, countries with high transparency and reliable data have a lower rate of corruption and a higher degree of institutional stability. In Macedonia, improving the systems for collecting and publishing data in the public sector will reduce corruption and strengthen trust in institutions.

The session will explore and analyze the World Bank's governance indicators, which measure six key aspects: control of corruption, rule of law, regulatory quality, government effectiveness, political stability, and transparency and accountability.





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Controlling corruption will be a central theme for Macedonia's progress towards the European Union. Participants of this session will present data and analyzes and discuss how improving the quality and availability of data can contribute to greater efficiency in the fight against corruption.

In addition, the session will consider the role of data in attracting foreign investment, highlighting the key factors investors consider when making decisions. According to UNCTAD reports, countries with high transparency and reliable data have a significant advantage in attracting foreign capital, which is necessary for their economic development and integration into the global economy. For Macedonia, this represents an opportunity for substantial progress in the European Union by strengthening institutions and improving financial performance.

The session will offer a comprehensive overview of the importance of accurate and reliable data for Macedonia in the context of its path to the European Union. Through data analyzes and discussions, participants will be able to identify the main challenges and opportunities for improving data quality and specific recommendations for increasing the transparency and efficiency of institutions.



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