



NATIONAL CONVENTION ON THE EUROPEAN UNION IN NORTH MACEDONIA (NCEU-MK)

DRAFT RECOMMENDATIONS

First Session of the Working Group - 6, Anti-corruption (Chapter 5 - Public Procurement,
Chapter 18 - Statistics and Chapter 32 - Financial Control)
on topic:

“Dealing and fighting corruption and protecting the financial interests of the state”

19.07.2023, Club of Deputies, Skopje

The recommendations aim to reduce opportunities for corruption, improve public finance management, and maintain sound public finances. The following recommendations were made:

1. Establishment of Central Registry for public-private partnerships and concessions

The creation of the Central Registry for concessions and public-private partnerships is crucial for effectively monitoring and overseeing awarded contracts. This Registry should be publicly accessible and include comprehensive information regarding contract structures, terms, and the responsibilities of all parties involved. Implementing an efficient and sustainable digital system for data entry and review in the registers is also essential. Additionally, the Registry should provide a comprehensive overview of the state's claims against concession beneficiaries and public-private partnerships.

2. Introduction of a balance sheet for the public sector

To mitigate the risk of devaluing state property and prevent corrupt practices, it is necessary to introduce a balance sheet for the public sector. This balance sheet should include regular and systematic evaluations of assets and liabilities. Special attention should be given to identifying and analyzing potential instances of corruption or devaluation of state assets.

3. Real-time monitoring of liabilities by budget users

The implementation of an efficient system for real-time monitoring and control of all liabilities undertaken by budget users is crucial. This system should be digital and integrated with the public finance management information system, as announced by the Ministry of Finance. Moreover, information on liabilities should be publicly available, allowing all interested parties to monitor and review them at any time.

4. Strengthening the role of parliament in budget determination and supervision

Parliament should play an active and robust role in the preparation, acceptance, and supervision of the budget. To achieve this, transparency and dialogue between the government and parliament should be enhanced. The public should be well-informed and have the opportunity to actively monitor and evaluate budget activities. The Assembly should be empowered to take necessary measures in cases of irregularities or shortcomings through its oversight role.

These recommendations are intended to enhance trust in public finances, reduce corruption risks, and ensure transparency, accountability, responsibility, and effective management of the state's financial resources.