

# THEMATIC COMPILATION OF RELEVANT INFORMATION SUBMITTED BY BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

## ARTICLE 13 UNCAC

### PUBLICATION AND DISSEMINATION OF INFORMATION ON CORRUPTION

#### BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA (SEVENTH MEETING)

**In relation to respecting, promoting and protecting the freedom to seek, receive, publish and disseminate information concerning corruption (article 13 (1) (d)),** in the past few years a number of civil society organizations contributing to the fight against corruption significantly increased in B&H. This process culminated in 2012 when ACCOUNT – Network of Non-Governmental Organizations, Institutions and individuals active in fight against corruption – was established. ACCOUNT now has more than 120 members (including APIK) and its main goal is to speed up anti-corruption reforms in Bosnia and Herzegovina through various actions and advocacy.<sup>21</sup> Among other, they are informing the general public about the manifestations and problems of corruption, particularly through convening meetings of experts, publishing studies and issuing reports. ACCOUNT and TI B&H are only organizations exclusively devoted to curbing corruption, but there are many organizations which are contributing to the fight against corruption through various projects aimed to increase transparency and accountability in the public administration.<sup>22</sup>

Media is also playing a significant role in fight against corruption, particularly those media outlets focusing their research on corruption, public spending, administration, organized crime and similar topics. Media is often serving as a bridge between civil society and citizens, providing channels for easier communication among stakeholders. Among other, three organizations are recognized as leaders when it comes to reporting on corruption. Centre for Investigative Reporting (CIN) is dedicated to providing fair and unbiased information on organized crime and corruption and the negative effect they have on the lives of ordinary citizens.<sup>23</sup> So far, CIN published a large numbers of investigative stories and research studies on corruption in various areas, such as police, education system, employment processes, judiciary, health system, financing of political parties, public procurements, assets of politicians<sup>24</sup> and the others topics. CIN stories have led to the firing or resignation of prime ministers, judges and ministers. Their stories have led to indictments against politicians. It led to organized crime figures and police alike being jailed. It led to changes in the law and the procedures of ministries. It led to closing of a university. Centre for Media Development and Analyses through online magazine “Žurnal”<sup>25</sup> is contributing to the freedom of speech, provides access to truthful information, objective analyses and recommendations for decision makers in the community.