Opportunities for Journalists and NGOs to Interact with Anti-Corruption Systems

Breakout Session E - Drivers and Enablers of Policy Effectiveness

Presented by

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THE STORY

Baseline

- Solid hierarchy of power. Lack of any political or “corrupt” competition.
- Paucity of data and of the possibilities to analyze it.
- Lack of reaction by the law enforcement and the executive authorities.
- The society’s faith in changes and the media as their enabler is low.
Tasks and Goals:

• To change everything you saw in the previous slide. Preferably, for the better. 😊
IMPLEMENTED ACTIONS

ACTIONS TAKEN TO ADDRESS CHALLENGES:

• Expand the teams that conduct journalistic investigations.

• Journalists take part in public councils of state agencies, including by vetting the candidates for state authorities.

• Investigative journalists work on making the data in state registers public.

• Creation of services for journalists and NGOs based on those data.

• Working with the public opinion, eradicating the term budget (no one’s) money. Introducing the notion of taxpayers’ money (your money). Engaging citizens to participate in analytical or investigative projects.

• Create law groups which would take the role of an intermediary (translator) between the journalist and the law enforcement to facilitate a more effective reaction to the investigations.

• Criticism and control of state agencies (including the newly-created ones).
Creation of Projects With the Participation of:

- Specialized investigative journalists.
- IT experts, foremost on development, systematization, and data analysis.
- Lawyers.
- Representatives of state agencies (unofficially)
- Experts in various aspects of the economy.
SUCCESS STORIES (based on our team’s work):

- 192 proceedings, commenced by various agencies in 18 months.
- Regular reaction by the state agencies (without the commencement of criminal proceedings).
- More than 30 thousand people take part in volunteering projects.
- The most popular open data projects were made by NON-governmental organizations.
- The amount of saved taxpayers’ money exceeds 1 billion hryvnias.
SUCCESS STORIES:

• The journalistic investigations triggered the commencement of proceedings against: the head of the National Guard, the head of NACP, deputy head of Foreign Intelligence, deputy head of SBU, several MPs, including heads of committees...
LESSONS TO SHARE:

• Talk to everyone in their language.
• Trust institutions, but don’t trust their members.
• Bring together people with different expertise.
• Develop regional organizations.
THANK YOU!

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