

**FINANCIAL
ACCOUNTABILITY
TRANSPARENCY &
INTEGRITY**



CONCEPT NOTE

FACTI Panel briefing for European governments and civil society organisations

Co-hosted with Access Info Europe

Connecting financial integrity and open government agendas in Europe

Date: 28 April 2021, 16:00 – 17:30 (CET)

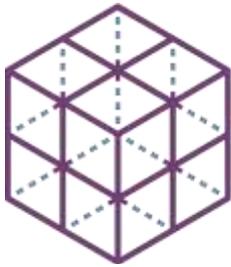
Virtual meeting via Webex / Registration is required*

Background

Setting a path towards financial integrity had become crucial for all governments, at a time when public funds are much needed to recover from the COVID-19 pandemic and to address other global concerns such as the climate crisis and rising levels of poverty and inequality. European countries are not exempted from these challenges.

In its recently published report, the UN High Level Panel on International Financial Accountability, Transparency and Integrity (FACTI Panel) outlines an achievable blueprint to reform global finance, replenish public coffers and use them to invest in education, healthcare, the green economy, human rights and inclusive societies. The Panel's recommendations address issues such as transparency around company ownership and public procurement, global governance on tax matters, measures to deter corruption and to foster asset recovery. In particular, the FACTI Panel recognizes the role of civil society actors in policy-making and the importance of access to information, as preconditions of an ecosystem where corruption and wrong-doing can be exposed, sanctioned and deterred.

In its systemic approach, the FACTI Panel's analysis and recommendations are in tune with the Open Government Partnership's values and current priorities. In the European region, most (up to 30) governments have joined the multilateral initiative Open Government Partnership (OGP) in the past 10 years and developed biennial action plans, in a co-creation process with civil society. Very often open government commitments have focused on corruption prevention and transparency and accountability policies have provided direct value to law enforcement, tackling issues such as political integrity, access to justice, or the protection of the civic space. Today most OGP member countries in Europe have adopted open public procurement measures and some are championing company ownership transparency.



Much has been achieved, but the task ahead is considerable in terms of curbing illicit financial flows and redirecting funds for public investments and sustainable development. Setting this path will only be possible with a renewed approach to policy-making, one that is grounded in the values of transparency, public accountability and participation of the whole ecosystem involved in the fight against illicit financial flows.

Objectives

In Europe and beyond, the Open Government Partnership (OGP) offers a platform through which governments and civil society actors are co-creating political commitments on a broad range of areas including the fight against corruption, tax fairness and asset recovery for development.

Synergies between OGP and the FACTI Panel's work may bring impulse to financial integrity and the financing of the Sustainable Development Goals. Therefore, the Panel would like to present its recommendations to European governments and civil society organizations engaged in open government reforms. In particular it wishes to identify:

1. Key institutions and organizations that have willingness and capacity to engage with FACTI Panel recommendations and advise open government action plans.
2. Messages and strategies to promote financial integrity and sustainability through open government.

Programme

Opening (10 min)

FACTI Panel Secretariat

Access Info Europe

Presentation of the FACTI Panel's report and recommendations (15 min)

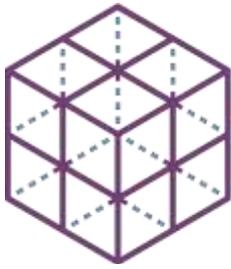
Thomas Stelzer, Dean & Executive Secretary of the IACA - International Anti-Corruption Academy and FACTI Panel member

Panel discussion segment with invited speakers (45 min)

Venla Mäntysalo, Senior Specialist, Ministry of Justice, Finland

Izadora Zubek, International Affairs Officer, Agence Française Anticorruption, France

Inese Kuske, State Chancellery, Department for Public Administration Policy, Latvia



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John Devitt, Chief Executive, Transparency International Ireland

The panel discussion will be moderated by **Helen Darbshire**, Executive Director, Access Info Europe and civil society member of the Steering Committee of the Open Government Partnership.

Open discussion with registered participants (15 min)

Closing remarks (5 min)

Thomas Stelzer, Dean & Executive Secretary of the IACA - International Anti-Corruption Academy and FACTI Panel member