

# SOUTHEAST EUROPE COALITION ON WHISTLEBLOWER PROTECTION

Belgrade, 10 November 2015

## MISSION STATEMENT

Collective efforts of public authorities and civil society, backed by growing public support, have helped to increase transparency and integrity in public administration and open opportunities to improve legal protection for whistleblowers. Throughout the region, however, whistleblowers continue to face retaliation and threats.

The members agree that the Coalition will work towards strengthening whistleblower rights and protections, and improve the enabling environment for whistleblowers as a part of prevention and countering corruption. In order to use whistleblowing as an effective tool to strengthen political and corporate integrity as well as advance good governance, the Coalition agrees that whistleblowers exposing wrongdoing in the public interest must be protected by the law from all forms of retaliation.

The Coalition will:

- **Advocate for the passage and implementation of suitable and comprehensive legislation** in respective countries.
- **Strengthen public awareness and acceptance of whistleblowing**, by initiating public campaigns. The campaigns will also educate potential whistleblowers about their constructive contribution to a society shaped by transparency and accountability.
- **Identify and mitigate gaps and vulnerabilities in whistleblower protection** by monitoring the implementation of laws, policies and practises. It will function as a regional **Ethics Commission** on whistleblower protection, following cases and providing recommendations.
- **Act as a platform** for sharing experiences and lessons learnt, regional best practices for whistleblower laws and policies, develop strategies and support common interests. The coalition will partner with civil society groups and public and private sector stakeholders.

The members of the Coalition pledge to contribute and support each other in reaching set objectives on the national and regional level.

The Coalition will have a designated coordinator to lead project development and fundraising, support members' initiatives, facilitate communication among members and represent the Coalition publicly and in various forums.

The Coalition remains open to new members.