

Mission statement

ANTI-FRAUD POLICY

The managing authority of the Interreg VI-A IPA Hungary Serbia Programme is committed to maintain high legal, ethical and moral standards with the involvement of the partner country, to adhere to the principles of integrity, objectivity and honesty and wishes to be seen as opposed to fraud and corruption in the way that it conducts its business. All members of staff of the Programme's management bodies at national/regional authorities' level share this commitment.

The objective of this policy is to promote a culture which deters fraudulent activity and to facilitate the prevention and detection of fraud and the development of procedures which will aid in the investigation of fraud and related offences and which will ensure that such cases are dealt with timely and appropriately in order to protect sound financial management of EU funds, ensure impartiality of persons involved in the implementation of EU funds and preserve public trust in EU.

Fraud is the use of false, incorrect or incomplete statements or documents, which has as its effect the misappropriation or wrongful retention of funds from the general budget of the European Union or budgets managed by, or on behalf of the European Union. Fraud is non-closure of information in violation of a specific obligation with the same effect, or the misapplication of such funds for purposes other than those for which they were originally granted.

The term fraud is commonly used to describe a wide range of misconducts including theft, corruption, embezzlement, bribery, forgery, misrepresentation, collusion, money laundering and concealment of material facts. It often involves the use of deception to make a personal gain for oneself, a connected person or a third party, or a loss for another – intention is the key element that distinguishes fraud from irregularity. Fraud does not just have a potential financial impact, but it can cause damage to the reputation of an organisation responsible for managing funds effectively and efficiently.

This is of particular importance for a public organisation responsible for the management of EU funds. Corruption is the abuse of power for private gain. Conflict of interests exists where the impartial and objective exercise of the official functions of a person are compromised for reasons involving family, emotional life, political or national affinity, economic interest or any other shared interest.

The managing authority and the partner country have procedures in place for reporting fraud, both internally and to the European Anti-Fraud Office and contacts the OLAF Coordination Office of the National Tax and Customs Office as well.

The managing authority together with the partner country have a zero tolerance policy to fraud and corruption, and have in place a control system that is designed to prevent and detect, as far as is practicable, acts of fraud and correct their impact, should they occur.

Fraud can be reported to OLAF under the following link: <https://fns.olaf.europa.eu/>