

Shkodër, 19 Dhjetor / December 2016

Vlorë, 20 Dhjetor / December 2016

Durrës, 21 Dhjetor / December 2016

Berat, 22 Dhjetor / December 2016

## "KORRUPSIONI ZGJEDHOR

SI RREZIK PËR DEMOKRACINË SHQIPTARE DHE ROLI I PJESËMARRJES QYTETARE"

## "ELECTORAL CORRUPTION

JEOPARDIZING ALBANIAN DEMOCRACY AND THE ROLE OF CITIZENS' PARTICIPATION"

### ANNOUNCEMENT

KRIK Albania Association, in cooperation with the Coalition of Domestic Observers, from Monday 19 December will organize four round tables with the topic "*Electoral corruption jeopardizing Albanian democracy and the role of citizens' participation*" in Shkodër, Vlorë, Durrës and Berat, respectively on 19, 20, 21 and 22 December 2016.

This initiative is part of the advocacy campaign addressing electoral corruption and encouraging direct democracy, realized by KRIK in cooperation with the Coalition of Domestic Observers, and supported financially by the **Embassy of Switzerland in Tirana** and the **Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands in Tirana**.

The aim of the activity is to raise concerns about all forms and manifestations of deformation of the popular will in electoral processes, as well as in-between them. It is also aimed to bring into attention and open a discussion about processes with a major impact in electoral matters, or democracy in general, such as the electoral reform, finances of political parties or decriminalization. Specifically, will be discussed about the causes for the failure of the electoral reform, the lack of control over finances of political parties and lack of efficiency of the decriminalization process.

During the round tables will be presented the main elements constituting electoral corruption and, besides informing on them, will be brought a more complete and in depth approach to the phenomenon of electoral corruption, especially with regard to topics such as **election management, electoral justice** and **finances of political parties**, highlighting throughout every presentation and discussion the space and necessity for a proactive role of all actors of the society, and citizens themselves, and discuss means to face this phenomenon.

The program of the round tables is divided into two main sessions. The first session will be dedicated to the theoretical presentation of the phenomenon of electoral corruption, as well as institutional and political developments of the last months. The second session will be dedicated to discussion with the participants based on topics discussed in the first session, manifestation of the phenomenon at the local level and will be provided space for open discussions by the participants.

The discussions and concerns highlighted during the round tables will be presented to the Ad-Hoc Parliamentary Committee for the Electoral Reform and to the relevant political and institutional actors, or even to the Parliamentary Committee of Legal Matters, to the latter related to undertaking other legal amendments, necessary to improve the upcoming electoral process and addressing concrete terms the issues that constitute and feed the phenomenon. .

Invited and participants in the round tables will be representatives of local non-governmental organizations, political parties, responsible institutions, local media, youth and students, professionals or persons interested in electoral matters and well functioning of democracy.



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Kingdom of the Netherlands

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Topics of the roundtable:

1. *The long transition of the Albanian democracy and lack of trust.*
2. *Threats of state capture by unknown and illegal interests.*
3. *Electoral corruption and the three dimensions of electoral processes.*

**PROGRAM**

- 09:45 - 10:00 Registration of participants.
- 10:00 - 10:10 Opening remarks, moderator, representative of KRIIK / CDO.
- 10:10 - 10:40 “Electoral corruption” representative of KRIIK / CDO.
- *Deformation of the democratic will, what is electoral corruption, how can democratic will be deformed, citizens’ trust in the power of the vote, how much change does a vote make.*
  - *Management of the electoral process, management of the electoral process by relevant institutions, i.e. the Central Election Commission, the Commissions of Election Administration Zones, etc..*
  - *Finances of political parties, what is the legal regulation, how efficient has been the legal framework until now, what are the legal loopholes that leave space for abuse, how do finances of political parties affect state capture.*
  - *Electoral justice, fight against vote buying and use of public administration, role of the responsible institutions, strengthening of institutions to stay away from political pressure, the role of the citizens in strengthening institutions and investing them.*
- 10:40 - 11:20 “Reforms and institutional processes”, representative of KRIIK/CDO.
- *Decriminalization, legal provisions, responsible institutions, progress to date, what are the challenges in implementing it.*
  - *Electoral Reform, the progress of the reform to date, the failure of the reform until now, main issues to be addressed.*
  - *Elections of 18 June 2017, the political context, the weight in the Justice Reform, the problematic that might manifest, uncertainties for the upcoming elections, mechanisms that citizens can use.*
- 11:20 – 12:20 Exchange of opinions and open discussions by the participants.  
*Opening of the session with a short presentation on “Electoral corruption and challenges at the local level”*
- 12:20 - 12:30 Conclusions.
- 12:30 Closing of the activity / Coffee.

\* During the activity will NOT be provided translation in English.



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