

COOPERATION AGREEMENT

ON

INCREASING TRANSPARENCY AND FIGHT AGAINST CORRUPTION

GIVEN: The interest and good will of both institutions to cooperate in increasing transparency with a view to fighting corruption.

Aiming at: Increasing and strengthening cooperation between the High State Audit and the organizations, individuals, and civil society organized groups, which aim at providing analysis and recommendations that lead to a better implementation of laws and their impact on the public.

REAFFIRMING: The determination for ensuring a strict respect for the Constitution, the integral Law on the High State Audit, as well as the will and seriousness of the civil society organizations that are parties in this agreement, as well as the belief that a honest cooperation between the public and civil society structures gives concrete results in limiting and preventing corruption;

PURSUANT TO: Law No. 8270, dated 23.12.1997 "On the High State Audit", as amended, which defines the High State Audit as the highest economic and financial audit institution in the Republic of Albania, whose main objective is to control whether the public funds are used in an effective and useful manner, ensure a good financial administration, and compliance with the law in the economic and financial area, as well as inform the public authorities and the public about the results of its work;

Law No. 8788, dated 07.05.2001 "On non-profitable NGOs", which regulates the activity of the civil society organizations;

The High State Audit (HSA), which is the relevant authority for purposes of the Cooperation Agreement, represented by its Chair, Mr. Bujar Leskaj (hereinafter referred to as a Party),

and

The Albanian Institute of Science (AIS), which implements the Open Data Albania Project, which is the relevant authority for purposes of the Cooperation Agreement, represented by its Chair, Ms. Aranita Brahaj (hereinafter referred to as a Party),

Agree on the following Cooperation Agreement:

ARTICLE 1

THE SCOPE

- 1.1. This Agreement shall facilitate the cooperation and coordination of the activities of the Parties and shall simplify the communication and exchange of data pertaining to areas of mutual interest.
- 1.2. The cooperation referred to under paragraph 1 shall take place on same basis and by the principle of mutuality.

ARTICLE 2

THE CONTRIBUTION OF THE HIGH STATE AUDIT

- 2.1. The HSA commits to engage its staff to various activities with the Albanian Institute of Science, including consultation meetings, round tables, workshops, seminars, etc., which aim at improving the quality of work of the HAS and increase the participation of AIS through its qualified expertise according to an agreed work plan signed by the two representatives who sign this Agreement.
- 2.2. The HAS commits to engage staff, and in cooperation with AIS, carry out joint activities for exchanging information of mutual interest and increase transparency.
- 2.3. The HAS commits to invite AIS to all its performance evaluations and to public activities with other state and civil society structures, send statistical information about its work on periodical basis, and organize joint activities (working meetings, seminars, conferences, etc.) with AIS to raise the public opinion about the need to prevent and deepen the fight against corruption.

ARTICLE 3

THE CONTRIBUTION OF THE ALBANIAN INSTITUTE OF SCIENCE

- 3.1. AIS commits to contribute through the expertise of its staff according to the terms of its work plan agreed and signed by the heads of both institutions for conducting regular consultation meetings with the HAS staff, round tables, seminars, workshops, etc. and publish information and statistics of interest to both parties, using its format.
- 3.3 AIS commits to follow and attend the public activities of the HAS for deepening the fight against corruption and increasing transparency.

ARTICLE 4

JOINT CONTRIBUTIONS

4.2. HSA and AIS commit to cooperate in organizing the above-mentioned joint activities to offer and exchange relevant information for the parties.

ARTICLE 5

COORDINATION BETWEEN THE PARTIES

5.1. The Parties assign one contact person each for the implementation of this Agreement.

5.2. The contact persons shall have regular meetings depending on the need for exchanging information. The scope of information exchange between them shall comply with Article 1 of this Agreement.

5.3. The contact persons shall regularly update the heads of their respective institutions on the implementation of this Agreement.

ARTICLE 6

ADMINISTRATION OF INFORMATION

6.1. The information exchanged between the Parties shall be administered according to the rules provided by Law No. 8270, dated 23.12.1997 "On the High State Audit", as amended, Law No. 8788, dated 07.05.2001 "On non-profitable organizations", Law No. 8503, dated 30.6.1999 "ON the right to information to official documents", and Law No. 8517, dated 22.07.1999 "On personal data protection".

ARTICLE 7

FINAL PROVISIONS

7.1. This Agreement shall enter into force on the date it is signed by the Parties and shall remain in force for an indefinite period.

7.2. Amendments to this Agreement may be made through written communication, specifying the date on such amendments enter into force.

7.3. In addition to the provision foreseen by paragraph 1 of this Article, this Agreement may also be terminated by either Party by a written notice sent to the other Party in advance.

7.4. The Agreement is prepared in the Albanian language and signed in 2 (two) original copies, one of which is kept by the High State Audit, and the other by the Albanian Institute of Science.

This Cooperation Agreement was signed today, on 19.05.2014.

ON BEHALF OF THE HIGH STATE AUDIT

CHAIR

BUJAR LESKAJ

(signed and stamped)

ON BEHALF OF THE ALBANIAN INSTITUTE OF SCIENCE

CHAIR

ARANITA BRAHAJ

(signed and stamped)