**Agenda**

**OSF Eurasia Network Strategy Convening on Good Governance, and Transparency and Accountability**

Corruption in its many forms presents a widespread challenge for the entire Eurasia region.  The thematic areas of combating grand corruption and transparency and accountability in particular are priorities that the Eurasia Program will address for 2015 and beyond. The primary aim of this convening is to foster closer cooperation in this area between the Eurasia Program’s grant making and advocacy teams, the National Foundations, and the rest of the OSF network.

We hope that Montenegro, the location for this convening, will provide a useful comparative perspective with countries of the former Soviet Union that aspire to join the EU, but it first must make progress in tackling challenges relating to national and local corruption and making its government transparent and accountable to society.

The purpose of this convening is to facilitate an exchange of information and experiences in the field of anti-corruption work and transparency and accountability; to build cross-national networks and coalitions; to strengthen the National Foundations’ ties with international experts; and to identify areas where the Eurasia Program and OSF should invest in its resources. The convening will serve as the first opportunity to highlight shared themes, challenges, and successes for the Eurasia and Balkans regions, as well as lessons from the Balkans that can be applied in the Eurasian context. Finally, we hope that this will serve as a springboard for the Regional Academy of Good Governance, a new network of legal experts, researchers, activists, journalists, and others committed to anti-corruption and transparency and accountability initiatives in the Eurasia region.

During this convening, we aim to focus the conversation on the three following models of engagement in anti-corruption efforts and identify concrete themes and areas for cross-national collaboration within the context of our panels:

1) Constructive and effective engagement with governments (for example, EITI and OGP);

2) Using international advocacy as a point of leverage (for example, pursuing ill-gotten assets recovery);

3) Civic mobilization around tangible issues, i.e. working with population around the topics of corruption in education, public health, access to resources, and others to generate pressure against the government and other powerful stakeholders.

A tentative agenda and a “mapping” of OSF good governance and T&A programs in the Eurasia region is posted on KARL and can be downloaded from here: <https://karl.soros.org/communities/eurasia-anti-corruption/files>

***Wednesday, November 19, 2014***

**8:30-9:00: Registration and coffee**

**9:00-9:20:** **Introduction.** Vicki Litvinov and Tatyana Margolin, Eurasia Program, USA - Moderators

# 9:20-10:50: Panel Transparency and Accountability in Energy and Extractive Industries

*Objectives: to provide an update on the status of this field, identify gaps in the operation of national and international coalitions and other initiatives, and ways to address them. This panel will address themes of balancing civic mobilization with constructive engagement in different country contexts, and how it is used to foster activism around issues of extractive industries.*

Michael Hall, Eurasia Program, USA - Moderator

Galib Efendiyev, Natural Resource Governance Institute, Azerbaijan

Dinara Pogodina, Soros Foundation - Kazakhstan

Oliana Valigura, Publish What You Pay, Ukraine

# 10:50 – 12:20: Panel Transparency and Accountability in Budgets

*Objectives: to discuss why budget transparency is critical to anti-corruption work and the role civil society could and should play in this context; to facilitate an exchange of experiences and best practices; and to strengthen cross-national networks and coalitions.*

Zuhra Halimova, Open Society Institute Assistance Foundation – Tajikistan

Dumitru Budianschi, Expert Group, Moldova

Zhanibek Khassan, Zertteu Research Institute, Kazakhstan

Tojinisso Azizova, NGO “Lawyers,” Tajikistan

# 12:30 – 13:30: Luncheon Presentation: Updates on Ukraine

Presenter: Yevhen Bystrytsky, International Renaissance Foundation, Ukraine  
Moderator: Tatyana Margolin, Eurasia Program, USA

# 13:30 – 14:45: Panel Addressing Political Corruption

*Objectives: to determine how to address political corruption challenges in the Eurasian context, particularly transparent elections, truth commissions, and other forms of transitional justice.*

Erica Razook, Open Society Justice Initiative, USA - Moderator

Olga Crivoliubic, Soros Foundation Moldova

Oleksiy Orlovsky, International Renaissance Foundation, Ukraine

Tinatin Bolkvadze, Open Society Georgia Foundation

# 14:45 – 15:00: Coffee break 15:45 – 17:15: Panel Civic Mobilization for Institutional Reforms

*Objectives: to share best practices, lessons learned and other experiences of civic mobilization that have successfully brought about institutional reforms. Areas of interest include how Foundations have addressed systemic corruption in various areas; and how the “spirit of the Maidan” has been channelled into anti-corruption efforts in Ukraine and other countries in Eurasia.*

Scott Horton, Columbia University, USA - Moderator

Polina Painante, Association for Participatory Democracy (ADEPT), Moldova

Nasima Nazrieva, Open Society Institute Assistance Foundation – Tajikistan

Oleksiy Orlovsky, International Renaissance Foundation, Ukraine

**17:15 – 18:00: Presentation: The Power of Investigative Journalism as a Tool to Address Grand Corruption**Presenters:   
Miranda Patrucic, Organized Crime and Corruption Reporting Project (OCCRP), Bosnia & Herzegovina  
Kristine Aghalaryan, Hetq Investigative Journalists’ NGO, Armenia

Moderator: Gayane Mamikonyan, Open Society Institute Assistance Foundation – Armenia

# *Thursday, November 20, 2014:*

# 8:30 – 10:00: Panel 5. Corruption in Public Procurement & OSF’s Role in Civic Mobilization around Concrete Challenges

*Objectives: to discuss how the Foundations have used civic mobilization to address corruption in tangible areas that readily affect citizens’ lives. Relevant contexts include education, public health, the judicial system, access to resources, and others.*

Kristin Whitehead, Eurasia Program, USA – Moderator

Larisa Minasyan, Open Society Institute Assistance Foundation – Armenia

Zuhra Halimova, Open Society Institute Assistance Foundation – Tajikistan

Shamil Ibragimov, Soros Foundation – Kyrgyzstan

**10:00 – 10:30: Coffee break**

# 10:30 – 12:00: Panel 6. EU Integration: Tackling Systems of Corruption as a Benchmark and Leverage for International Advocacy

*Objectives: to gain a better understanding how the process of EU integration can be leveraged to promote anti-corruption reforms; to build stronger networks between countries aspiring to join the EU; and to explore the possibilities for advocacy with EU institutions.*

Viorel Ursu, Eurasia Program, UK – Moderator

Varvara Colibaba, Soros Foundation Moldova

Tinatin Bolkvadze, Open Society Georgia Foundation

Oleksiy Orlovsky, International Renaissance Foundation, Ukraine

**12:20 – 13:20: Luncheon Presentation: Challenges to Good Governance in Azerbaijan**

Presenters:   
Galib Efendiyev, Natural Resource Governance Institute, Azerbaijan  
Gubad Ibadoglu, Economic Research Center, Azerbaijan

Moderator: Michael Hall, Eurasia Program, USA

# 14:00 – 15:45: Panel 7. The Balkans’ Thorny Path to the EU: Combatting Corruption in Serbia, Montenegro, and Bosnia and Herzegovina

*Objectives: to provide insights into the Western Balkans civil society’s struggles for the integrity of state institutions, offer lessons for the Eurasia region.*

Miodrag Milosavljevic, Program Director, Fund for an Open Society in Serbia– Moderator

Vanja Calovic, MANS, Montenegro

Stevo Muk, Institute Alternative, Montenegro  
Dragomir Pop-Mitic, Coalition for Civil Oversight of Public Finance, Serbia

# 15:45 – 16:00: Coffee break

# 16:00 – 17:00: Wrap-Up and Key Takeaways

Erica Razook, Open Society Justice Initiative, USA - Moderator

* Main actors: NGOs; think tanks/public policy centers; legal experts; journalists and researchers
* NGO coalitions: mobilization, perspectives, and pitfalls
* Balancing between the three models of engagement (constructive engagement, civic mobilization, and international advocacy).
* Linking local actors to global coalitions and mechanisms (EITI, OGP, etc.)
* Intra-OSF coalitions, shared frameworks and working groups
* Other key takeaways

**19:30 – Dinner at Porto Restaurant**