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# Promoting Integrity and Anti-Corruption in Eastern Partnership Area: Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine

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Implemented by UNDP Istanbul Regional Hub in partnership with  
UNDP Country Offices and (former) FPDL – Partners Foundation for  
Local Development, Romania

**Natuti Pirashvili, Anti-Corruption Practitioner, Georgia**

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## PROJECT GOAL

To promote Integrity and Anti-Corruption at the local level  
in  
**Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine**  
by disseminating and applying  
the innovative and practical  
**Anti-Corruption Methodology “Islands of Integrity”**

# Pockets of Effectiveness Theory

Researchers identified public organizations, able to provide public goods and services relatively effectively in a hostile environment dominated by poor management and bad governance

How? These organizations are relatively independent from the whole system (as LGs are), have political support (such as willing Mayors) and improve themselves through problem-solving processes engaging multiple stakeholders and step-by-step experimentation (go through a strategic and participatory process)

The innovative Anti-Corruption Methodology, similarly, transforms **Local Governments into “Islands of Integrity”** (and effectiveness) even if they operate in a sea of mismanagement and bad governance

## **“Islands of Integrity” Anti-Corruption Methodology**

A-C Methodology authors, Ana Vasilache and Ronald MacLean Abaroa, were inspired by his experience as Mayor of La Paz, Bolivia, when working closely with his team and Harvard mentor, Professor Robert Klitgaard, successfully treated and prevented corruption in his city and local government.

They developed it in order to transfer and multiply the successful experience of La Paz worldwide, in other countries and cities. The Methodology gained international recognition by 2011 UN Public Service Award, was applied in 12 CEE/SEE countries and 30 LGs, and included in widely used workbooks, translated into many languages.

International organizations programs adopted it, such as UNDP Istanbul Regional Hub, World Bank, Open Society Foundations or Partners Global

# “Islands of Integrity” Anti-Corruption Methodology

The A-C Methodology is *strategic and participatory*:

**Strategic** means that it focuses on changing corrupt organizational systems not (only) corrupt individuals; identifies with priority the most dangerous forms of corruption; goes through the strategic planning process steps, from diagnosis to solutions.

**Participatory** means that managers and staff, leaders and outside stakeholders, work together to analyze the vulnerability to corruption of their organization and elaborate solutions.

Since corruption is a concept loaded with emotions, such as fear, shame or defensiveness, the A-C Practitioners help participants demystify corruption and approach it in an analytical way.

# “Islands of Integrity” Anti-Corruption Methodology

## Project Stages

### Stage 1: 2015-2016

Anti-Corruption Practitioners have been selected and their capacity was built, through the comprehensive **ACT – Anti-Corruption Training**, to support local governments apply “Islands of Integrity” A-C Methodology

### Stage 2: 2016-2017

Best A-C Practitioners (one team/country) were guided/mentored to work with selected mayors/local governments in order to help them diagnose the activities/services vulnerable to corruption and elaborate solutions to address vulnerability causes

## Stage 1: ACT - Anti-Corruption Training, 2015-2016

Trainers & Mentors: Ana Vasilache & Olivia Baci

- ❑ **Knowledge Building Component**, September 2015-April 2016

  - On-line learning, 5 Modules

- ❑ **Skills Building Component**, May 2016

  - Face-to-face Training

## Stage 2: Working with Local Governments, 2016-2017

Mentors: Ana Vasilache & Olivia Baci

- ❑ **Georgia:** Natia Pirashvili and Eka Dgebuadze worked with selected (by UNDP CO) Kutaisi Municipality
- ❑ **Moldova:** Diana Ranga Enachi and Valentin Lozovanu worked with selected (by UNDP CP) Straseni Municipality
- ❑ **Ukraine:** Local Government not yet selected, A-C Practitioners team conducted awareness raising workshops in Donetsk and Lugansk regions, under UNDP program

## Kutaisi/Georgia and Straseneni/Moldova

- ❑ A-C Methodology Guideline was adapted to the local context
- ❑ General and In depth Diagnosis Reports of local governments activities/services vulnerability to corruption were elaborated in participatory processes
- ❑ Capacity Building trainings were delivered to support improvement of leadership and management skills of Leaders and Decision-makers
- ❑ The Anticorruption Strategic Plans for next 3 years and Action Plans for strategies implementation were drafted and provided for Mayor and Municipal Councils approval
- ❑ In 2018 (hopefully) through Project Stage 3, implementation of some priority actions will be further supported



## **Black Sea NGO Forum Regional Meetings**

### A-C Professionals Network "Islands of Integrity" at the Black Sea

- ❑ Tbilisi, November 2015 - Black Sea NGO Forum – presenting the A-C Methodology "Islands of Integrity" and promoting the A-C Professionals Network idea
- ❑ Kishinev, October 13, 2016 – 1<sup>st</sup> Regional Meeting of the Anti-Corruption Professionals Network "Islands of Integrity" at the Black Sea
- ❑ Kutaisi, June 26, 2017 - 2<sup>nd</sup> Regional Meeting of the Anti-Corruption Professionals Network "Islands of Integrity" at the Black Sea

A-C Professionals, certified A-C Practitioners, from Albania, Croatia, Georgia, Macedonia, Moldova, Romania, Serbia, Ukraine

## Looking into the Future

Suggestions on Network building:

- ❑ Include in the network the municipalities who have implemented the methodology;
- ❑ Develop mechanisms to support other consultants and practitioners in countries that are not part of the network and ensure they are provided with skills and support;
- ❑ Ensure regular experience sharing with other practitioners through Annual Meeting, Networking;
- ❑ Explore the possibility for joint project at international level;
- ❑ Cooperate with large anti-corruption project in countries and make sure that donors and implementers working in the same field are aware of the methodology and can tap into this resources and that the network is aware of activities in this field.



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# Thank you for your attention!

**Natia Pirashvili**  
**AC Practitioner**

**[npirashvili@gmail.com](mailto:npirashvili@gmail.com)**

**+995 593030044**