



Responsive Public Management

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Austria's International Anti-Corruption Academy

As the seat of a number of international organisations, Austria was interested in co-founding and hosting a one-of-a-kind research and training organisation focused exclusively on fighting corruption and improving governance.

The International Anti-Corruption Academy (IACA) was officially founded on 8 March 2011. Based in Laxenburg, it is a joint initiative of the European Anti-Fraud Office (OLAF), the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and the Republic of Austria. It has the status of international organisation¹, and aspires to be a key player in the fight against corruption.

Promoting the United Nations Convention against Corruption

The idea of setting up an international academy offering anti-corruption training for the 186 Member States of the International Police Association was first raised at the 75th Interpol General Assembly, which was held in Rio de Janeiro in 2006. On 2 September 2010 in Vienna, UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon chaired the founding meeting of this new organisation in the presence of 120 States, international organisations and representatives from both public and private sectors. Thirty-five countries signed the founding treaty. To date, the Academy comprises 67 Members² (64 UN Member States and three intergovernmental organisations).

The Academy is financed by training fees as well as by "contributions". Contributors who are not already IACA partners must agree to uphold the Academy's values, to refrain from exercising any pressure and influence on the IACA, to not compromise IACA's integrity, independence and impartiality, and, in line with the Academy's transparency policy, accept publication of any donation over 1,000 euros.

IACA is led by a Board of Governors, who were elected at the first session of the Assembly of Parties on 29 November 2012³. It is represented by its Dean and Executive Secretary, Martin Kreutner⁴, who was appointed by the Board of Governors to a four-year term.

¹ <http://www.iaca.int/about-us/agreement-and-external-resolutions>

² <http://www.iaca.int/constituency/general-information>

³ <http://www.presseportal.de/pm/107332/2371544/erste-vertragsstaatenkonferenz-der-internationalen-anti-korruptionsakademie-in-wiener-uno-city>

⁴ <http://www.iaca.int/12-faculty/dean/48-martin-kreutner?highlight=WyJrcmV1dG5lciJd>

A wide range of up-to-date training programmes

The IACA describes itself as an international centre for excellence and expertise, with the goal of serving as a comprehensive gateway for all corruption-related issues. It offers seminars, training modules, workshops and a Master in Anti-Corruption Studies⁵ (MACS) to both the public and private sphere. The Academy also offers tailor-made trainings in cooperation with other organisations (such as the UNDP, FAO and the International Ombudsman Institute⁶, whose headquarters are also in Vienna). Starting from the assumption that corruption "knows no borders, affects all countries and sectors of society and cannot be remedied with traditional educational methods alone," the Academy takes a holistic approach (cross-disciplinary, inter-regional, inter-cultural, cross-sectorial and sustainable). Through its training programs, the IACA deals with every aspect of the issue of corruption and thoroughly analyses its implications. The Academy provides public- and private-sector decision-makers, international organisations and civil society a forum for exchanging ideas about anti-corruption efforts.

In the fall of 2013, the IACA is offering, for the first time, a Procurement Anti-Corruption Training programme (PACT)⁷. The programme will combine three weeks of distance learning (divided into two sessions) and a one-week training session at the Academy. It is designed for individuals who are involved in at least one of the principle phases of procurement (publication, award, monitoring, investigation or sanction). Participants are asked to prepare a paper presenting an anti-corruption strategy with recommendations as to how it could be implemented in their home country. Guest lecturers include representatives from the World Bank and Transparency International.

Incomplete membership

Although many countries affected by corruption have chosen to join the IACA, several "major" countries are missing from the ranks. These include Canada, China, the US and Japan, as well as 12 EU Member States, including Germany and France. In response, on 1 August 2013, the Academy recruited Claudia Bandion-Ortner, former Austrian Minister of Justice⁸, who is specifically tasked with remedying the situation. She will contact the various national governments, and in particular departments that coordinate anti-corruption actions (in France, this is the Central Corruption Prevention Department (*Service central de prévention de la corruption*), which was set up in 1993 under the aegis of the Ministry of Justice).

It was in this spirit that the IACA held a Missions Briefing on 29 May 2013⁹ in the Vienna International Centre, which was attended by more than 50 States, both Members and non-Members. Participants were informed of recent developments at IACA and were urged to deposit their instrument of ratification or accession by 8 October to be able to take part in the second Assembly of Parties, scheduled to take place in Bangkok from 9 to 11 December 2013.

All UN Member States are eligible to join IACA. Instrument of accessions must be deposited with the Austrian Federal Ministry for European and International Affairs¹⁰.

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⁵ http://www.ots.at/presseaussendung/OTS_20130207_OTS0207/iaca-launches-the-first-global-master-in-anti-corruption

⁶ <http://www.theioi.org/fr/l-iiio>

⁷ <http://www.iaca.int/standardized-trainings/pact>

⁸ http://www.krone.at/Oesterreich/Bandion-Ortner_wird_im_August_neuen_Job_antreten-Kein_Richterposten-Story-269164

⁹ <http://www.iaca.int/35-news-2>

¹⁰ <http://www.iaca.int/faq>