

Meeting with UAEE Delegation

**9 September 2024**

Allow me to greet you and welcome you to ANAC.

I want to re-affirm the commitment of the Italian National Anti-Corruption Authority (ANAC), which I have the honor of presiding, to participate in the activities of the Abu Dhabi Declaration Programme and in contributing in all the related initiatives to enhance the collaboration between Supreme Audit Institutions (SAIs) and Anti-Corruption Bodies (ACBs) in preventing and fighting corruption.

Enhancing collaboration between Supreme Audit Institutions and Anti-Corruption Bodies in preventing and fighting corruption is necessary but not enough. It is crucial to recognize that all parts of society have a necessary role to play in facing corruption. This includes, but has not to be limited to SAIs and their relationship with ACBs. Effectively tackling corruption requires institutional coordination at all levels to ensure that all parties involved can interact to achieve the common objective. Accordingly, the work of ACBs must be in synergy with the work of other institutions that may play a part in the prevention, detection and tackling of corrupt practices.

Crucially, this includes SAIs, whose role in monitoring the effective management of public resources and ensuring transparency and accountability makes them a pivotal entity to counteract corruption. In Italy, in the last few years, we experimented effective forms of cooperation both between ANAC and the Supreme Audit Institution ( The Corte dei Conti) and between all the actors involved in corruption prevention.

Among other examples, cooperation between ANAC and Italian SAI is very strong in the public procurement field. In fact, ANAC, carrying out its oversight activities on public procurement, when it detects elements of potential misuse of public funds, sends specific reports and the related information materials to the SAI. At the same time, SAI, in the course of its investigations, may request documents and information from the ANAC, with particular regard to the data on public procurement managed directly by the ANAC in a specific database, which is one of the most important databases in the Country.

At a more general level, all the Italian institutions called upon, in their various capacities, in the prevention and repression of corruption are involved in a specific coordination table for continuous updating on their activities and good practices and for promoting common initiatives.

With the application and progressive improvement of coordination tools and approaches to prevent corruption both ant national and international level, ANAC is, and wants to be in an increasingly strong and decisive manner, part of a system for the promotion of public integrity, even more today in a context of global tensions and crises and in which the resources and public investments awaken unprecedented appetites of organized crime and corrupts.

As we have done in recent years, we will continue to do so in the future with even more conviction. Knowledge sharing initiatives like the one of today, as well as the cooperation established within the UNODC’s Abu Dhabi Declaration Programme, will continue to illuminate our path.

**Brief presentation of ANAC**

ANAC is one of the most important anti-corruption authorities in Europe in terms of the breadth of its competences, the number of its employees and its independent budget.

The three sectors in which ANAC operates are:

1. **TRANSPARENCY**

ANAC oversees compliance with the **legislation on transparency** that requires public entities and State-controlled enterprises to **publish certain types of information** on their websites. In order to fulfill this obligation, the Authority can issue **guidelines** and other criteria and may **sanction** the public entities in the event of failure to publish the mandatory information.

1. **PREVENTION OF CORRUPTION**

ANAC plays a key role in the implementation of corruption prevention policies through the adoption of the **National Anti-Corruption Plan** and the updating of the anti-corruption framework as a whole. Its **auditing** and **advisory activities** significantly contribute to the **dissemination of a culture of integrity** in the public sector.

ANAC verifies the **quality and effectiveness** of the anti-corruption policies implemented by public bodies.

It also ensures the compliance with **pre- and post-employment rules** by public employees.

ANAC has regulatory, investigating and sanctioning powers in the area of **whistleblowing**.

1. **PUBLIC PROCUREMENT**

Public procurement is one of the areas most exposed to the risk of corruption. The Authority, therefore, employs a great effort in **supervising public contracts** to guarantee **legality, competition** and **avoid corruption and the waste of public resources**.

Through its **advisory activities**, the Authority gives opinion on specific matters and helps the contracting authorities in designing **complex calls** for tenders (**collaborative supervision**).

The Authority also **resolves disputes between contracting authorities and economic operators** on specific matters (ADR – Alternative Dispute Resolution).

ANAC’s **monitoring activity** on public procurement is also based on its strategic asset, the **National Public Procurement Database**.

**The challenges we face today**

There are, of course, many challenges.

One of the most pressing at the moment is the implementation of **whistleblower protection**, which has been extended to the **private sector under a European directive**.

I would rather talk about another big challenge, which is the **digitalization of the entire public procurement lifecycle**.

Italy’s revised Procurement Code, adopted in 2023, requires the digitalization of the entire public procurement lifecycle from January 2024.

Contracting authorities must use certified digital procurement platforms for planning, tender design, publication, award and execution phases of public procurement and concession contracts. Digitalization applies to all procurement or concession contracts, whatever their value, in both ordinary and the utility sectors.

The **ANAC** maintains a **central element of the new digital procurement system**. The ANAC **database, at the heart of the system, interacts both with the contracting authorities’ certified platforms** and with **other government databases** containing information needed by contracting authorities to manage the various phases of the public procurement lifecycle. This data integration will make it possible to ensure **full transparency of public contracts** throughout their life cycle.

As a result of the interoperability of the system, ANAC maintains the **Virtual Economic Operator's File**, allowing access to information needed to verify that an economic operator fulfils the requirements to participate in public tenders and that there are no grounds for exclusion. The data and documents contained in the file are automatically updated by the certifying bodies. Certifying bodies include, among others, the Ministry of Justice, Ministry of the Interior, INPS (National Social Insurance Agency), INAIL (National Institute for Insurance against Accidents at Work) and the Revenue Agency. Contracting authorities can consult and reuse this information in any procedure in which the company participates.