



**THE ANTI-CORRUPTION  
AGENCY OF THE  
REPUBLIC OF UZBEKISTAN**

# THE NATIONAL ANTI-CORRUPTION REPORT

2024

Tashkent 2025



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**REPORT**  
(2024)

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## INTRODUCTION

**The National Anti-Corruption Report of the Republic of Uzbekistan** is prepared to ensure the implementation of the norms established by Article 93 of the newly edited the Constitution of the Republic of Uzbekistan and Article 8<sup>1</sup> of the Law «On Combating Corruption».

**The purpose of the National Report** is to inform the public about the essence and significance of state anti-corruption policy in Uzbekistan, the reforms implemented in this track in **2024**, and their outcomes.

The National Report is the **fourth report** prepared by the Anti-Corruption Agency (hereinafter referred to as the Agency).

The National Report provides detailed information on reforms and comprehensive measures implemented in Uzbekistan in combating corruption, in particular, on the progress of implementing state anti-corruption programs, adopted regulatory legal acts in this area, the dynamics of corruption crimes, as well as the activities of government bodies and organizations to prevent corruption.

The edition presents the rating assessment of the effectiveness of anti-corruption work, the Openness Index assessing the transparency of government agencies, the population's attitude toward corruption, as well as the the results of sociological surveys.

It also covers the participations of civil society institutions in fighting corruption, the formation of anti-corruption immunity among young people, as well as the results of monitoring the activities of public councils in government bodies.

For to ensure consistency of reforms, proposals are also made for future tasks and mechanisms for their implementation.

The National Report comprises of an Introduction, **13 paragraphs**, a Conclusion, Proposals and Recommendations.

The National Report is intended for the general public, in particular, representatives of government agencies, independent experts, rating agencies, public activists, scholars and other interested parties.

# 1

## IMPROVEMENT IN THE ANTI-CORRUPTION LEGAL FRAMEWORK

In 2024, 8 regulatory legal acts were adopted to provide legal support for the anti-corruption reforms.

- 1 The Law of the Republic of Uzbekistan **'On Conflict of Interest'** (5 June 2024, Law of the Republic of Uzbekistan, No.931).

### The Law defines:



the concept of a conflict of interest, organizations covered by the law, their rights and obligations, as well as restrictions on preventing a conflict of interest;



the Agency as a specially authorized government body in regulating conflicts of interest;



implementation of mechanisms for reporting conflicts of interest, submitting declarations, maintaining a register and identifying conflicts of interest;



administrative liability for failure to comply with the requirements of the legislation on conflict of interest (Article 1934 of the Administrative Responsibility Code).

According to the law, the following actors participate in the regulation of conflicts of interest in government bodies:

- the Agency as a specially authorized government body;
- internal anti-corruption control units and (or) personnel units of government agencies - a special unit;
- Ethics Commissions in government agencies and organizations.

- 2** Resolution of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan **‘On measures to effectively organize the implementation of the Law of the Republic of Uzbekistan ‘On Conflict of Interest’** (5 June 2024, No.RP-210).

#### The Resolution provided for:






- establishment of the Republican Interdepartmental Commission for Coordination of Work on Organizing the Implementation of the Law of the Republic of Uzbekistan ‘On Conflict of Interest’;
- approval of the Roadmap for measures to be implemented in 2024 as part of the implementation of the Law;
- quarterly analysis of situations in which a conflict of interest has been allowed in the activities of government agencies and organizations, submission of statutory notices to government agencies and organizations in which an increase in this type of cases is observed, to determine urgent measures;
- critical discussion every six months at meetings of the Republican Interdepartmental Commission of the measures taken to identify and eliminate conflicts of interest.

- 3** Resolution of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan **‘On measures to introduce a system of continuous improvement of knowledge of the population and civil servants in the fight against corruption’** (June (21 June 2024, No.RP-228).

#### The Resolution provides for:

- launch of the Virtual Anti-Corruption Academy electronic platform from January 1, 2025;
- formation of an electronic database of scientific research in combating corruption.

### Training in the Virtual Academy is conducted on the basis of anti-corruption training programs for the following contingent:

-  citizens, business entities, representatives of NGOs and other civil society institutions;
-  preschool and school children, students of educational organizations;
-  civil servants of government bodies and organizations (mandatory training is conducted once every 3 years);
-  employees of enterprises with government share.
-  Training in combating corruption in the Virtual Academy is organized according to basic and special training courses.

**4** Law of the Republic of Uzbekistan **‘On amendments to the Criminal Code of the Republic of Uzbekistan to prevent corruption in sports’** (4 November 2024, Law of the Republic of Uzbekistan, No.988).

The Law supplemented the Criminal Code with new Articles 214<sup>1</sup> and 214<sup>2</sup> for corruption offenses in sports.

According to them, criminal liability is established for the illegal receipt of material assets or property benefits by participants and organizers of sports competitions, as well as for bribery of participants and organizers of sports competitions.

**5** Resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers **‘On measures to conduct anti-corruption expertise of regulatory legal acts in 2024’** (16 April 2024, No. 205).

The Resolution approved plans for conducting anti-corruption expertise of current legislative acts on issues of citizenship, family, information and informatization, education, science and culture.




The Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Uzbekistan was instructed to develop a Roadmap for eliminating corruption factors identified as a result of anti-corruption expertise, based on proposals from government agencies and organizations.

**6** Resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers ‘**On approval of the Regulation on the procedure for conducting remote monitoring of compliance by government agencies and organizations with obligations established by regulatory legal acts in ensuring openness**’ (30 December 2024, No. 910).

The Resolution establishes the grounds, procedure and timeframes for the Agency to conduct remote monitoring of the openness of the activities of government agencies and organizations, the procedure for recording the results and applying enforcement measures.

According to the Resolution, remote monitoring is carried out on a scheduled basis and unscheduled basis, and its term should not exceed fifteen working days (with the possibility of extending for one month).

**Based on the results of remote monitoring, the Agency has the right to apply the following enforcement measures for the identified deficiencies:**

-  submitting a written notice to prevent violations;
-  submitting a statutory notice on the reasons for the violation of the requirements established by legislative acts and the elimination of the conditions causing it;
-  drawing up an administrative protocol for failure to post socially significant data subject to disclosure.

The Regulation also approves standard forms of socially significant data subject to disclosure by government agencies and organizations.

**7** ‘**Regulation on the procedure for organizing training on the Virtual Anti-Corruption Academy electronic platform**’ was approved. *(Registered by the Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Uzbekistan on 30 October 2024, Registration No.3565).*

In accordance with the Regulation, the organization and conduct of training in the Virtual Anti-Corruption Academy are carried out by the Agency and the Law Enforcement Academy.

Training in the Virtual Academy is carried out according to basic (free for all users) and special (paid) courses.



**Advanced training in special courses is mandatory for all civil servants, while:**

- they undergo training within three months after hiring;
- the frequency of advanced training is at least once every three years.

Special courses for employees of internal anti-corruption control units and those holding corruption-prone positions are conducted on the basis of in-depth training programs.

The Agency monitors the quality of the educational process in the Virtual Academy.

A certificate is issued to persons who have successfully completed special training courses.

**8** **'Standard forms of notification of an existing conflict of interest, declaration of a probable conflict of interest and a register of conflicts of interest'** approved. *(Registered by the Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Uzbekistan on 5 November 2024, Registration No. 3569).*

**According to them, documents are filled out and maintained in government agencies and other organizations based on the following standard forms:**



notification of an existing conflict of interest (filled out when a conflict of interest situation arises);



employee's declaration of a potential conflict of interest (filled out upon hiring, transfer to another job and at the end of the year);



declaration of a potential conflict of interest of persons associated with the employee;



register of conflicts of interest (accounting for existing and potential conflicts of interest).

The specified standard forms provide for the introduction of a uniform approach and practice for regulating conflicts of interest in government agencies and other organizations.

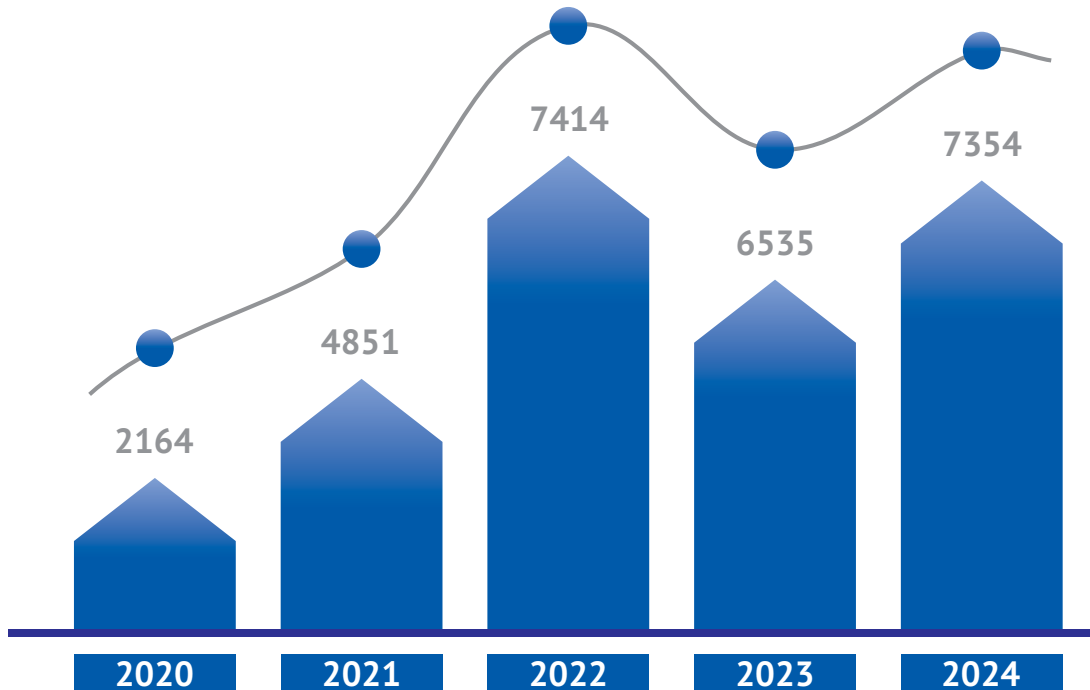
## 2

STATISTICS ON  
CORRUPTION OFFENSES

According to the analysis, in **2024**, the courts of the republic **brought 7,354 people to criminal liability for corruption crimes** in **4,649** criminal cases. Of these, **1,525** people, or **20%**, were sentenced to **imprisonment**.

2991 >	<i>people were sentenced to correctional labor</i>
1 080 >	<i>to restriction of freedom</i>
1121 >	<i>to a fine</i>
7 >	<i>to compulsory labor</i>
5 >	<i>to deprivation of certain rights</i>
62 >	<i>people were given suspended sentences</i>
265 >	<i>people were not convicted</i>
86 >	<i>were released from punishment, the criminal case against</i>
212 >	<i>people was terminated</i>

### Dynamics in the number of persons committed corruption offenses



Since the classification of corruption offences was clearly defined by the Cabinet of Ministers's Resolution No.829 of 31 December 2020, statistics have shown a sharp increase in the number of persons committing crimes since 2021.

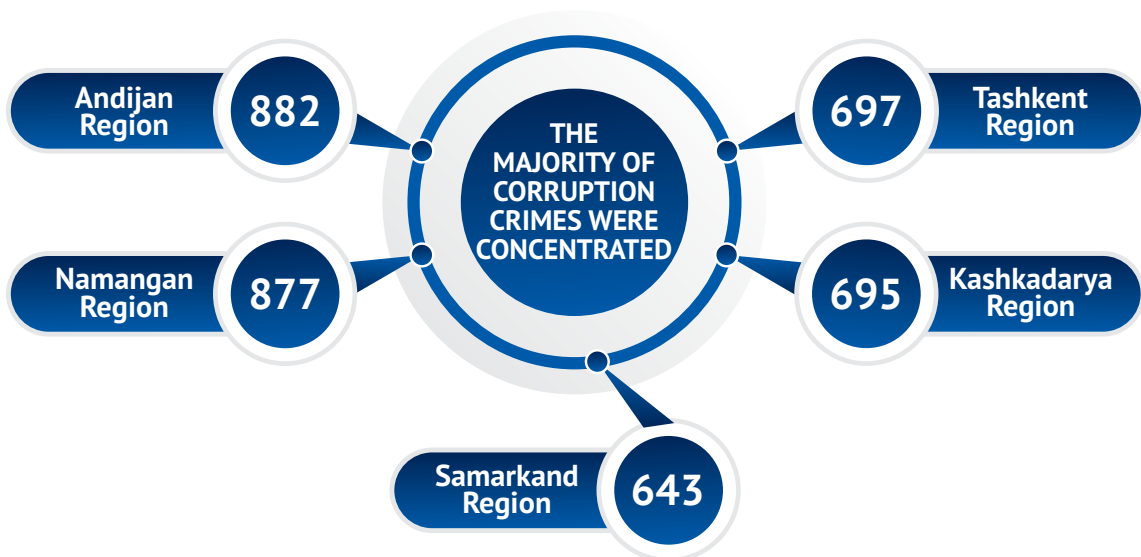
It has been established that corruption crimes caused **damage** to the public interest in the amount of **2 trillion 812 billion UZS**.

*The largest share of damage to state interests is caused by Andijan Region (680 billion UZS), Tashkent Region (332 billion UZS), Namangan Region (308 billion UZS) and Sirdarya Region (289 billion UZS).*

### The most frequently committed corruption crimes

Type of crime	2024
Theft by misappropriation or embezzlement (Article 167)	4189
Fraud (Article 168)	1191
Receiving a bribe (Article 210)	187
Giving a bribe (Article 211)	1086
Abuse of power or official authority (Article 205)	188
Official forgery (Article 209)	106

In 2024, **123** cases of corruption crimes were identified in **the employment sector**, **292** cases in **the allocation of loans** and **640** cases in **the use of budget funds**.



***Analysis of the number of persons convicted  
for corruption offences by regions***

<b>Region</b>	<b>Number of convicts</b>
Samarkand Region	643
Republic of Karakalpakstan	554
Tashkent city	392
Tashkent Region	697
Surkhandarya Region	396
Bukhara Region	400
Navoi Region	366
Namangan Region	877
Sirdarya Region	517
Khorezm Region	157
Jizzakh Region	266
Ferghana Region	512
Andijon Region	882
Kashkadarya Region	695
<b>Total</b>	<b>7354</b>

***Analysis of persons  
convicted of corruption crimes by sectors***

<b>654</b>	- preschool and school education
<b>342</b>	- healthcare
<b>271</b>	- commercial banks
<b>202</b>	- employment
<b>111</b>	- electricity grids
<b>106</b>	- local administrations (hokimiyats)
<b>90</b>	- higher education
<b>83</b>	gas supply
<b>76</b>	water supply
<b>68</b>	- cadaster
<b>39</b>	NGOs
<b>36</b>	- agriculture
<b>26</b>	transport
<b>244</b>	business entities

One of the reasons for the increase in the number of corruption crimes is the increased activity of law enforcement agencies in their detection, yet the ineffective functioning of internal control systems in ministries and departments.

In particular, on March 5, 2025, at an extended meeting of the National Anti-Corruption Council headed by the President, the activities of internal anti-corruption control units of government bodies and organizations to combat corruption were criticized as insufficient, and the heads of internal control units of 117 government bodies and organizations were dismissed from their positions.

### 3

## IMPLEMENTATION OF THE STATE ANTI-CORRUPTION PROGRAM 2023-2024

Uzbekistan has established the practice of implementing national anti-corruption policy by adopting State Programs every two years.

*In particular, the fourth State Anti-Corruption Program 2023-2024, approved by the Decree No.200 of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan dated November 27, 2023, has also become an important tool for the consistent performance of reforms in this area.*

The Agency carried out continuous monitoring of the implementation of the State Program, and the reports of the heads of responsible organizations were heard and discussed at quarterly meetings of the National Council. As a result, the tasks and instructions provided for by the State Program, consisting of **30** measures in **9** areas, were fully implemented.

**The following work has been carried out within the framework of the State Program:**

**1** 12 draft regulatory legal acts aimed at improving the fight against corruption have been developed, of which 4 adopted:

- Resolution of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan No.RP-249 of July 10, 2024 '**On measures to improve the public procurement system and stimulate the participation of small businesses in it**' established the creation of a separate system for public posting of prices for goods (works, services) on a special information portal on public procurement;
- Resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers No.910 of December 30, 2024 '**On approval of the Regulation on the procedure for conducting remote monitoring of compliance by government bodies and organizations with obligations established by regulatory legal acts in ensuring openness**' established the grounds, procedure and timeframes for the Agency to conduct remote monitoring

of the openness of the activities of government bodies and organizations, the procedure for recording the results and applying enforcement measures;

- Resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers No.102 of February 15, 2025 '**On approval of the Administrative Regulations for the provision of public services for inclusion in the Register of Unified Suppliers for public procurement**' approved the administrative regulations for the provision of public services for inclusion in the Register of Unified Suppliers. According to them, inclusion in the register will be carried out through the Unified Portal of Interactive Public Services from April 1, 2025;
- Resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers No.108 of February 24, 2025 '**On approval of the Regulation governing the use of corporate bank cards for public procurement**' establishes the procedure for making purchases related to business trips, including payment of transportation costs, accommodation costs, refueling vehicles running on gasoline, liquefied and compressed gas, aviation and diesel fuel, as well as refueling electric vehicles using corporate bank cards.

**2** **E-learning** educational platform (*data.anticorruption.uz*) was launched to train specialists in ensuring the openness of government agencies and organizations.

In 2024, **609** specialists in ensuring openness from **119** government agencies underwent trainings on the platform.

**3** An information system for the digitalization of the activities of government agencies and organizations related to human resource management (*hrm.argos.uz*) was launched.

The platform stores a personal database of about **95 thousand** civil servants from **2,672** organizations.

**4** A system for **informing the public** about illegal decisions of officials overturned by the courts has been created.

In particular, the procedure for publicly posting court decisions on the overturning of illegal decisions of government bodies and organizations, as well as their officials, has been established on the Interactive Services Portal of the Supreme Court of the Republic of Uzbekistan (*public.sud.uz*).

**5** **The Corruption-Free Area** Project has been launched in the preschool and school education system of the Republic of Uzbekistan.

The National Anti-Corruption Council approved **the Roadmap** for the implementation of the Corruption-Free Area Project in the preschool and school education system for 2024-2025.

In accordance with the implementation of **the Roadmap**:

- an anti-corruption expertise conducted of **79** regulatory legal acts related to preschool and school education;
- Corruption risk assessment in tasks and functions was carried out on a special electronic platform (e-anticor);
- **24,624** school principals and **199,666** teaching staff working in the system underwent trainings, as well as **1,605** employees attended trainings at the Law Enforcement Academy;
- **709** awareness-raising events were organized for the preschool and school education system employees on corruption and its consequences, and its prevention;
- **6,891** state preschool educational organizations introduced biometric identification of students;
- a conflict of interest were identified in **117** employees, and measures taken to eliminate it.

**6** Over **500** events were organized within **the Anti-Corruption Week** timed to the International Anti-Corruption Day on December 9.

More than **110** organizations held Open Days, **334** institutions in the regions organized round tables and trainings, as well as **3** forums of the republican and international level held, and over **210** video reels shown.

***For reference: in 2023, Open Days were held in more than 100 organizations, contests among students in more than 30 higher educational institutions, 2 forums of the national and international level, over 20 workshops, dialogues and other events.***

**7** For cultivating a zero-tolerance attitude toward corruption in young people, the practice of organizing **meetings** of representatives of anti-corruption bodies **with young people** has been established.

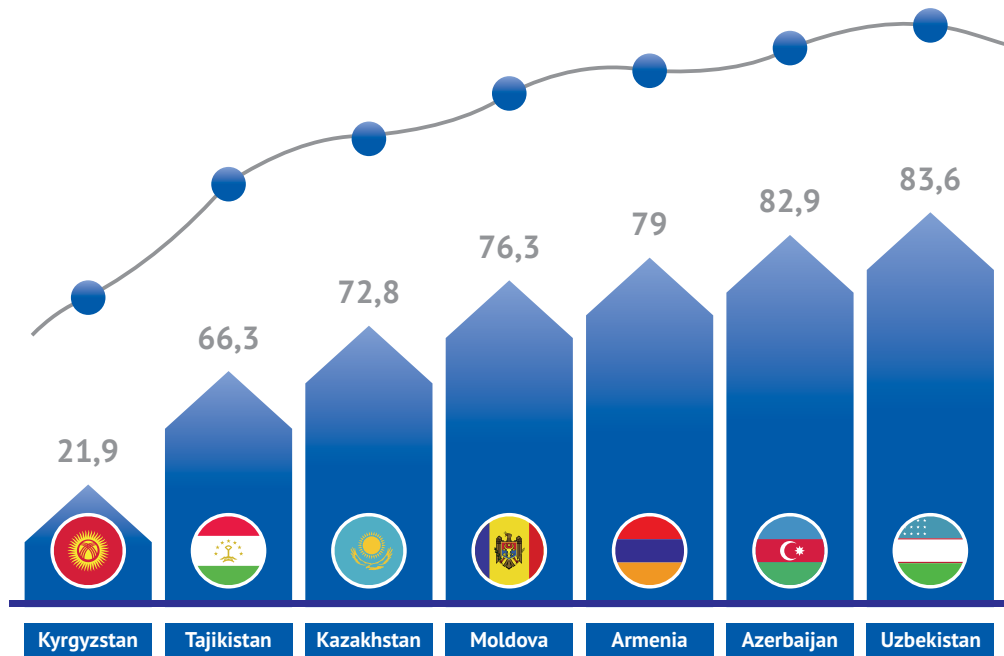
Similar events were held in **114** higher educational institutions. In particular, the Agency's Director met with young people in Namangan Region on February 9, in Ferghana Region on March 16, in the Republic of Karakalpakstan on April 18, and as part of the Minister and Youth event on December 20, 2024.

**8** **Measures** have been taken to expand the participation of civil society institutions and media representatives in the fight against corruption.

Grant competitions for NGOs on combating corruption in the amount of **1 billion 784 million UZS** have been conducted. **34** seminars have been organized for representatives of NGOs, the media, public councils and academic circles, and **840** participants underwent trainings.

**9** **5th round of monitoring** under the OECD Istanbul Anti-Corruption Action Plan was conducted.

According to the results of the monitoring, the anti-corruption policy of Uzbekistan **scoring 83.6** ranked first among the countries of Central Asia.



4

## ACTIVITIES OF GOVERNMENT BODIES ENGAGED IN FIGHTING CORRUPTION

In accordance with the Law of the Republic of Uzbekistan ‘On Combating Corruption’, government bodies engaged in anti-corruption activities (the Agency, the General Prosecutor’s Office, the State Security Service, the Ministry of Internal Affairs and the Ministry of Justice) have carried out a number of activities to combat and prevent corruption in the country.



### The Anti-Corruption Agency

**1** **K**The Anti-Corruption Agency conducted studies on issues of conflict of interests, public procurement, transparency of government agencies and the effective use of budget funds by regions and industries.

Following the studies, the Agency submitted **408** (260 in 2023) **statutory notices** to ministries and departments to eliminate the identified violations.

Of which:

<b>257</b>	(195) cases of violation of the public procurement legislation;
<b>45</b>	(40) cases of failure to disclose socially significant data assigned by the law;
<b>41</b>	(15) cases of combining civil service with entrepreneurial activities;
<b>32</b>	cases of non-transparency in candidate selection;
<b>33</b>	(10) cases related to other issues (deficiencies in ratings, crime, activities of internal control units, etc.).

Disciplinary measures were taken against **85** (74) persons who made mistakes and shortcomings, and in **234** cases, illegal public procurements for a total of **263.9 billion UZS** were cancelled.

*The largest number of statutory notices on violations of legislation in public procurement were submitted – to the Ministry of Health (52), local government bodies (32), the Ministry of Transport (30), the Ministry of School and Preschool Education (23), the Ministry of Higher Education, Science and Innovation (18), and the Ministry of Water Resources (14).*

In addition, **293** (227) materials were submitted to law enforcement agencies for a legal assessment of the violations identified during the studies.

Based on the submitted materials, law enforcement agencies initiated **28** (23) **criminal** cases and **104** (96) **administrative** cases under the relevant articles of the Criminal Code.

**For example**, based on the results of studies of public procurement carried out without registration with the treasury authorities, **13 criminal cases** were initiated against arbitration courts of Tashkent city, Tashkent Region, Kashkadarya Region, Surkhandarya Region, Andijan Region, Ferghana Region, Namangan Region, Sirdarya Region, Jizzakh Region, Bukhara Region, Khorezm Region, as well as against officials of budgetary organizations who made payments in violation of the requirements of the legislation on public procurement.

*Also, based on the results of the studies, decisions were made to return material damage to the state budget in the total amount of **222.7 billion UZS**.*

**55** messages published in the media on corruption cases were studied, **25** of them revealed violations of the legislation in public procurement, in **5** cases civil servants were engaged in entrepreneurial activities, and these violations were eliminated.

An analysis was conducted of **factors contributing to the emergence of corruption** in various areas of state and public life, and **22** analytical reports were submitted to the Administration of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan and other organizations.

In particular, during the studies, conditions contributing to the commission of corruption offenses in a wide range of sectors were analyzed, including **public procurement, healthcare, culture, law enforcement agencies, construction, obtaining academic degrees, and road industry.**

**For example**, in public procurement, the fragmentation of procurement volumes, the admission of conflicts of interest (participation of close relatives) in tenders were identified, cases of plagiarism in obtaining an academic degree, using personal networks and acquaintances to gain special privileges, digitalization in the system of awarding academic degrees, the lack of control and accountability mechanisms were also revealed.

**2** In order to ensure compliance with obligations to ensure **openness of the activities of government bodies**, remote monitoring was regularly carried out and measures were taken to eliminate identified deficiencies.

*In particular, the openness of **103** government agencies and organizations was monitored, based on the results of which **45** statutory notices were submitted.*

Within the framework of **the Mystery Shopper Feedback** events, **statutory notices** were submitted to **6** ministries (the Ministry of Construction and Housing and Communal Services, the Ministry of Employment and Poverty Reduction, the Ministry of Agriculture, the Ministry of Transport, the Ministry of Energy and the Ministry of Investments, Industry and Trade) and **2** regional administrations (hokimiyats of Andijan and Namangan regions).

In relation to **5** persons who violated the requirements of regulatory legal acts on openness, **administrative liability measures** were applied under **Article 215<sup>7</sup> of the Administrative Responsibility Code** (violation of legislation on openness of activities of government agencies and organizations).

**3** In 2024, in international cooperation area the Agency signed **4** cooperation agreements and memorandums with international organizations and anti-corruption agencies of foreign countries.

*The documents were signed with the World Bank, the United Nations Office of Rule of Law and Security Institutions, the Anti-Corruption Bureau of Georgia and the Rule of Law Center of Finland.*

The Agency held **55** official meetings with international partners, organized **12** seminars and trainings with the participation of international experts, and hosted **3** international forums. Those include:



The Tashkent Global Anti-Corruption Media Forum (September 10, Tashkent);



The 4<sup>th</sup> Tashkent Anti-Corruption Forum (October 16-17, Tashkent);



The 3<sup>rd</sup> Business Integrity Forum (December 16, Tashkent).

In **2024**, the Agency launched **4** joint projects with international organizations.



The project '**Strengthening the National Anti-Corruption Ecosystem in Uzbekistan**' in cooperation with UNDP and funded by the European Union (**2024-2026, EUR 2.5 mln**);

The project included the introduction of the National Integrity System, increasing the capacity of regional anti-corruption councils, developing electronic platforms and strengthening the role of non-governmental organizations and the media.



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The project '**Improving Governance in Uzbekistan – Inclusive Corruption Prevention**' implemented in cooperation with UNDP and GIZ Office in Tashkent, co-funded by the European Union and the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) (**2024-2026, EUR 4.5 mln**);

*The project provides for a range of measures, including the implementation of AI in the activities of the Anti-Corruption Agency, increase in the capacity of internal anti-corruption control units (compliance control) of government agencies, organization of research aimed at strengthening the position of Uzbekistan in international rankings, introduction of new mechanisms for the effective implementation of the Law 'On Conflict of Interest', and enhancement of corruption reporting system based on European experience.*



The project ‘**Support to the Fight against Corruption in Uzbekistan**’ jointly with the Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs of the US Department of State and the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (**2024-2026, USD 945 thousand**);

*The project documents provide for strengthening cooperation between the Republic of Uzbekistan and the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development in combating corruption, including promoting the implementation of international standards within the framework of the Istanbul Action Plan of the OECD Anti-Corruption Network for Eastern Europe and Central Asia. In particular, a Roadmap has been developed based on OECD recommendations for Uzbekistan, and foreign experts are involved in the implementation of each of its items.*



The project ‘**Support for anti-corruption measures to improve the investment climate**’ implemented by the Agency together with the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA).

*The project includes seminars and trainings for Agency employees and responsible departments in combating corruption and public procurement, as well as other goals and objectives.*



## **General Prosecutor’s Office of the Republic of Uzbekistan**

**The Prosecutor General’s Office of the Republic of Uzbekistan** conducted oversight to ensure properly and timely following anti-corruption laws, specifically focusing on preventing corruption in key areas like healthcare, higher education, construction, energy, public procurement, and banking.

In particular, **251** statutory notices on the elimination of identified violations in the **higher education sector** were submitted to the relevant agencies and institutions, **560** persons were brought to disciplinary and administrative responsibility, **67** criminal cases initiated.

The General Prosecutor’s Office identified significant financial errors and deficiencies totaling **2 trillion 736 billion** UZS through **359** inspections of public procurement legality.

*In this regard, 199 statutory notices on the elimination of violations of the law were submitted to the relevant institutions, 37 illegal documents were brought into compliance with the law, 106 persons were brought to disciplinary responsibility, 789 persons were brought to administrative responsibility, 362 criminal cases were initiated, the violated rights of 454 persons were restored.*

The analysis showed the majority of the identified cases of violation of the law went to the **conclusion of direct contracts** that contradict the procurement legislation (298 bln), **purchase of goods at very high prices** (152), **violation of selection and competition requirements** (145), **failure to post information about purchases on the portal** (18.8), **incorrect choice of the type of purchase** (9.1), **failure to conduct an expertise of contracts and technical specifications** (1.4) and **conflict of interests** (1.3).

*In 2024, 31 people were rewarded by the prosecutor's office for reporting corruption offenses or otherwise assisting in the fight against corruption (147 over the past 3 years).*

*1 of them received a money reward, 28 - a certificate of gratitude, 2 - a commemorative gift.*

Measures were taken to analyze corruption crimes and the reasons for committing crime in certain industries, which made it possible to exclude corruption factors.

In particular, an analysis was conducted of corruption crimes committed by employees of **local government bodies, healthcare, sports, pre-school and school education, higher education, construction, employment, culture and public procurement sectors**, and the reasons for their commission, which followed by submitting **10** reports to the National Anti-Corruption Council, and **7** statutory notices to the relevant bodies and institutions.

For to increase legal awareness and legal culture of the population, to **foster an uncompromising attitude towards corruption** in society, **9149** events were held, including **19** conferences, **218** seminars and **2512** round tables, as well as **1584** appearances in the media, including **306** on television, **397** on radio, **140** in print media and **741** on the Internet.



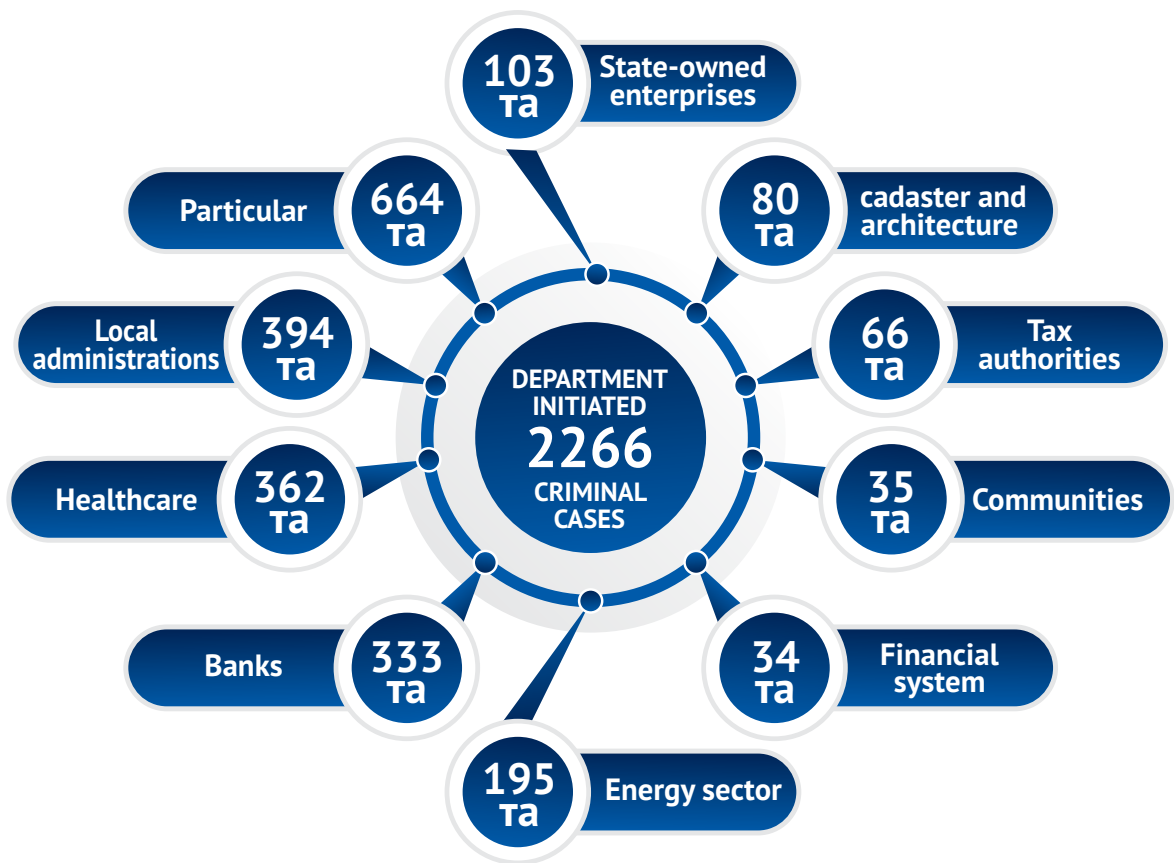
## The Department for Combating Economic Crimes at the General Prosecutor's Office

In 2024, the **Department for Combating Economic Crimes at the General Prosecutor's Office** carried out systematic work to ensure effective control over the targeted and rational use of budget funds, and to strengthen the prevention of violations of budget legislation.

### The following work was carried out to ensure the targeted use of budget funds and prevent the misuse of funds:

- as part of the studies conducted to ensure the reliability of cost estimates and staffing of government agencies, **2.3 trillion UZS** were substantiated jointly with the Ministry of Economy and Finance;
- as a result of remote monitoring of the movement of budget funds, illegal spending of **3.1 trillion UZS** related to public procurement was prevented in **554** cases;
- as a result of operational and analytical measures, theft of budget funds in the amount of **1.2 trl** soums was prevented in **857** cases, **660 billion UZS** were returned to the budget;
- in **87** cases, the misuse of subsidies in the amount of **247 billion UZS** was stopped.

As part of the measures to reduce the shadow economy, inventory counts were conducted of **673 thousand** entities, and **16 trillion UZS** were returned to the budget due to the reflection of hidden transactions in official reporting.



Also, **178** entrepreneurs were protected from the violations related to corruption.



## The Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Republic of Uzbekistan

For 12 months of 2024, employees of the **Combating Corruption and Economic Crimes Unit of the Crime Detection Department of the Ministry of Internal Affairs and its regional divisions** identified **about 3,300** crimes committed in the field of corruption and economics, against the order of activities of government authorities, administration and public associations.

The majority of these crimes were bribery, extortion, fraud, violation of currency legislation, counterfeiting and transfer of counterfeit banknotes, as well as theft and embezzlement.

Of the material damage caused by crimes in the amount of **787 billion 120 million UZS**, **239 billion 584 million UZS** (30.4%) were collected.

*The operatives identified and solved **581** crimes in the agro-industrial complex, **35** in industry, **194** in the fuel and energy complex, **68** in the banking, financial and credit system, **310** in the social sector, **82** in the consumer market, **199** in the small and medium-sized businesses, **16** in foreign companies and joint ventures, **18** in law enforcement agencies, **135** in supervisory authorities, **135** in local administrations, as well as about **1,570** crimes in other areas.*

**102** videos and posters aimed at raising the legal awareness of the population and fostering an intolerant attitude towards corruption were prepared and posted in the media and on the official pages of the internal affairs agencies on social networks.

From April 21 to April 30, 2024, the internal affairs agencies held events 'Ten days of urgent fight against corruption', within the framework of which preventive talks with personnel were held in 208 district and city internal affairs agencies.

As a result of the preventive measures taken, the number of cases of reporting bribery increased by 141 (75%) compared to the same period (in 2023 - 188, in 2024 - 329).



## The State Security Service of the Republic of Uzbekistan

In 2024, criminal cases against **220** individuals investigated by **the State Security Service** for corruption were sent to court in accordance with the established procedure, and **406 billion UZS** (87 percent) out of **466 billion UZS** in damages caused during the investigation were recovered.



## The Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Uzbekistan

**The Ministry of Justice** implements measures in combating corruption, participates in legislative activities, conducts anti-corruption expertise of draft legislative acts, and is also actively involved in raising legal awareness of the population and civil servants.

In particular, **31** draft regulatory legal acts have been developed aimed at improving legislation and creating additional conveniences for the population and business entities.

*Following the anti-corruption expertise of **2,093 draft regulatory legal acts**, **337 corruption-causing factors (11%)** were identified in **222 drafts**, and the developers were given proposals for their elimination.*

**The system for providing public services has been simplified and the number of electronic public services has been increased. In particular:**

- **more than 70** new public services have been introduced through public service centers, bringing the number of services to **438**;
- **more than 100** public services presented on the interactive public services portal have been redesigned according to the '**3 steps**' and '**user-friendly**' principles, and the processes for providing services have been simplified;
- **18** types of public services for providing conclusions to the population and business entities have been systematized;
- **12 proactive** and more than **50 composite** public services have been launched;

- **7** licensing and permitting and notification procedures have been completely cancelled;
- **6** licensing and permitting procedures have been cancelled through consolidation;
- **3** licensing and permitting procedures have been transferred to the notification form;
- a special ‘**Zero Licensing**’ regime has been introduced, establishing a ‘transition and adaptation period’ of up to **3 months** for opening a business (using radiography and veterinary laboratory diagnostics as an experiment);
- joint decisions have been signed with interested ministries and departments on conducting pilot testing of **32 public services** in a specific region.

To date, the total number of public services provided is **more than 1,000**, of which **438** are provided directly through Public Service Centers, and **735** through the Unified Portal of Interactive Public Services.

In 2024, **635,383** cases of violation of the law by government bodies and organizations in the provision of public services were identified, **8,812** penalties were applied to the violators.

**More than 27,000** awareness-raising events were held, aimed at broadly explaining the content, essence and significance of anti-corruption legislative acts.

*In particular, **366** television and **743** radio programs were broadcast, **434** articles were published in newspapers and magazines, **more than 16,800** seminars, round tables and conferences were held, door-to-door legal consultations were organized, **more than 7,200** information materials were posted on websites and in social networks, **1,600** visual legal propaganda materials were distributed.*

The Ministry of Justice on the **Legislative News** section in its official page on YouTube posted 6 videos to raise corruption awareness.

On the Telegram channel '**Legal Information**' short information materials and videos on the topic of the fight against corruption were posted, which were viewed by **more than 144,000** users.

Regional justice authorities regularly hold '**Education Hours**' in hokimiyats (local administrations), organize seminars and round tables to explain to employees the essence of the uncompromising fight against corruption and new legislation.

**More than 4,000** visual propaganda materials (booklets, leaflets, infographics) were distributed at targeted events on legal education.

5

## ANTI-CORRUPTION EXPERTISE OF REGULATORY AND LEGAL ACTS, AND THEIR DRAFTS

After regulating the anti-corruption expertise of regulatory legal acts and their drafts by a **special law** and creating an effective system, positive practices for organizing anti-corruption expertise in government agencies started shaping.

As a result of a thorough review of draft laws by ministries and departments at the initial stage and taking measures to eliminate corruption-generating factors, a **decrease** in the level of corruption factors in the drafts being implemented is observed.

In particular, the number of drafts in which the Ministry of Justice identified corruption-generating factors decreased by **5%** compared to 2023, and the number of corruption factors - by **37%**.





In 2024, out of **2,350** drafts, **337** corruption-generating factors were identified in **222** drafts (11%).

**For information:** in 2023, out of **2,379** drafts, **569** corruption-generating factors were identified in **356** drafts (16%).

The majority of drafts with corruption-generating factors in 2024 were submitted by the **following ministries and departments:**

- ➔ The Ministry of Economy and Finance – **30** (in 17% of 174 drafts);
- ➔ The Ministry of Ecology, Environmental Protection and Climate Change – **16** (in 11% of 142 drafts);
- ➔ The Ministry of Agriculture – **15** (in 12% of 128 drafts);
- ➔ The Ministry of Higher Education, Science and Innovation – **12** (in 18% of 66 drafts).

### The analysis revealed the most frequently used corruption-generating factors in draft legislative acts:

-  absence or incompleteness of administrative procedures (37%);
-  breadth of discretionary powers (10%);
-  complexity of methods for implementing measures and uncertainty of sources of their financing (6%);
-  other corruption-generating factors (47%).

Despite the fact that 4 years have passed since the introduction of the practice of anti-corruption expertise of draft regulatory legal acts, some ministries and departments still submit drafts to justice bodies without conducting an expertise, that is, without filling out the checklist.

In particular, out of **2,350** draft regulatory legal acts submitted to the Ministry of Justice for expertise, **74** did **not include a checklist** for identifying corruption-generating factors.

*The major part of the drafts submitted without anti-corruption expertise falls on the Jizzakh regional administration (8), the Ministry of Investment, Industry and Trade (6), the Ministry of Energy, the Ministry of Agriculture and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (5 each).*

The Agency conducted **anti-corruption expertise of 327 draft regulatory legal acts** of ministries and departments.

Also, on the instructions of the chambers of the Oliy Majlis of the Republic of Uzbekistan, their bodies and the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan, **22** draft regulatory legal acts were subjected to anti-corruption expertise.

*Based on the expertise results, 676 corruption-generating factors were identified in 233 (71%) of 327 drafts, for which relevant recommendations for their elimination were submitted to ministries and departments.*

### The most common corruption-generating factors identified:

139	contradictions in regulatory legal acts;
98	absence or incompleteness of administrative procedures;
50	improper use of links;
56	norms allowing for the avoidance of tender (auctions) requirements;
47	breadth of discretionary powers;
47	incorrect wording;
41	unsubstantiated use of exceptions;
18	uncertainties in the forms and types of control over the activities of government agencies;
180	other types of corruption-generating factors.

In accordance with Government Resolution No. 205 of April 16, 2024, an anti-corruption expertise of current legislative acts in the citizenship, family, information and informatization, education, science and culture sectors was conducted in 2024.

In particular, 692 current legislative acts in these sectors were subjected to anti-corruption expertise, in 68 or 10% of which 91 corruption-generating factors and norms with unclear implementation mechanisms were identified.

A draft resolution of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan 'On measures to eliminate corruption-generating factors and gaps in legislative acts' was developed and submitted to the Government, providing for the elimination of the identified corruption-generating factors and conflicting norms.

## 6

## INTRODUCTION OF MODERN MECHANISMS TO PREVENT CORRUPTION

### 6.1. Regulation of conflict of interest in government agencies and organizations

*To effectively organize the implementation of **the Law** of the Republic of Uzbekistan 'On Conflict of Interest', the Resolution of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan No. RP-210 approved **the Roadmap**, within the framework of which the following activities were implemented:*

**1** Before the entry into force of the Law, **working groups** were created to study issues related to the practical implementation of the requirements and mechanisms established by it in government agencies and organizations, and to provide them with recommendations.

The working groups, headed by the First Deputy Prosecutor General, the Deputy Minister of Justice and the First Deputy Director of the Anti-Corruption Agency, were instructed to conduct studies in **local executive authorities, as well as in other government bodies and legal entities with a state share in the authorized capital.**

**2** To effectively organize the implementation of the law, **a list of 157** government authorities and administration bodies, state trust funds, local hokimiyats, enterprises with a state share in the authorized capital of 50 percent or more, and unitary enterprises covered by the law has been compiled.

**3** **A standard departmental program** for the implementation of the law and a methodological manual based on national and international legislation on conflicts of interest and measures to eliminate them have been developed, **handout materials** for employees have been prepared and sent to government agencies and organizations for use.

- 4** 'Standard forms of notification of an existing conflict of interest, declarations of a probable conflict of interest and a register of conflicts of interest' has been approved (No. 3569 of 05.11.2024).
- 5** Test questions have been developed to assess the knowledge and skills of employees of government agencies and organizations on conflicts of interest, and **more than 95,600** employees participated in it.  

A plan was approved based on the testing results, which mandated monthly conflict of interest trainings. A total of **30,760** employees from **67** organizations have been trained at the Law Enforcement Academy and the Lawyers' Training Center.
- 6** **Awareness-raising events** are regularly held for the wider public clarifying the content and meaning of the law.  

In particular, a press conference was organized on June 7, 2024, **5** television programs were prepared, **2** briefings held, as well as **more than 100** videos displayed in the media and social networks.
- 7** Before the law came into force, working groups conducted studies in government agencies and organizations on issues related to the practical implementation of the requirements and mechanisms established therein.

**In particular:**

- a) **213** cases of **close relatives working in organizations under their direct control** or direct management were identified in some government agencies and organizations, and measures were taken to eliminate them.  
Employees were **officially warned** about the need to avoid situations that could lead to a conflict of interest in the future;
- b) when studying cases of **civil servants carrying out entrepreneurial activities, 1,513** cases of conflicts of interest related to civil servants engaged in entrepreneurial activities simultaneously with their civil service were identified and eliminated.

*For instance, it was revealed that in 279 cases in the Ministry of Agriculture, 79 cases in the Ministry of Construction and Housing and Communal Services, 72 cases in the Ministry of Ecology, Environmental Protection and Climate Change, 50 cases in the Ministry of Transport, 26 cases in the Ministry of Water Resources, 96 cases in JSCB Mikrokreditbank, 79 cases in JSC Uzsvtaminot, 46 cases each in JSCB Business Development Bank and JSC Uzbekistan Temir Yollari, 37 cases in JSC Asakabank, 30 cases in the Statistics Agency, 16 cases in the Central Bank and JSC Uzbekinvest, 15 cases in JSCB Alokabank and 13 cases in JSCB Turonbank, officials were the founders of business entities.*

Similarly, **19** officials in the Navoi regional administration, **15** - in the Tashkent regional administration, **11** - in the Tashkent city administration, **11** - in the Kashkadarya regional administration, **10** - in the Bukhara regional administration, **8** - in the Sirdarya regional administration, **8** - in the Khorezm regional administration, **6** - in the Ferghana regional administration and **5** - in the Namangan regional administration were founders (or heads) of business entities.

The Agency **submitted 33 statutory notices** to government agencies and organizations on measures to suspend the activities of officials as founders of business entities;

- c) In 2024, the Agency submitted **57** statutory notices to ministries and departments and **54** requests to law enforcement agencies on the facts of conflict of interest in **111** public procurements worth **221.3** billion UZS, in **75** cases, purchases were canceled for a total of 33.6 billion UZS.

Based on the materials sent to law enforcement agencies, **24** persons were brought to administrative responsibility and **10** persons - to disciplinary responsibility.

A **remote analysis** conducted by the Accounts Chamber revealed that **3.2 thousand** contracts worth **296.8** billion UZS of **241** government customers were concluded in violation of the conflict of interest requirements of the legislation in public procurement.

Administrative protocols were drawn up against **155** officials who committed violations of the law, the collected materials were sent to the courts;

- d) A launch of internal anti-corruption control units, personnel services and ethics commissions has been studied, which showed that **117** government bodies and organizations, as well as banks, have their internal anti-corruption control units consisting of **1,284** employees, and ethics commissions operate on the basis of Cabinet of Ministers Resolution No.595 of October 14, 2022.

Currently, an electronic module is being implemented on the Agency's **E-anticor. uz** electronic platform that allows identifying situations related to conflicts of interest and implementing **online monitoring**.

The system is aimed at preventing **nepotism, cronyism and localism** in hiring, appointment to a position, promotion, certification and assessment, issuance of permits (licenses), conducting public procurement, control measures and privatization of state property.

## 6.2. Implementation of a system for anti-corruption training of the population and civil servants

*In order to continuously improve the level of knowledge of the population and civil servants in the fight against corruption, the Virtual Anti-Corruption Academy electronic platform was launched.*

The following measures were taken to effectively organize training on this platform:

- 1 The Agency together with the Law Enforcement Academy approved **a training schedule for** civil servants on anti-corruption issues for 2025, as well as **a list of civil servant positions subject to training, and a contingent of civil servants.**

According to the training schedule 2025, **more than 140 thousand** civil servants are planned to be trained during the year, **a clear list of civil servant positions subject to training** has been formed.

- 2 The **training programs** in the Virtual Academy have been adapted to the contingent, as well as **teaching aids and materials** prepared.

A working group consisting of representatives of the Agency, the Law Enforcement Academy, the Ministry of Higher Education, Science and Innovation, the Ministry of Preschool and School Education and the Youth Affairs Agency has been created to develop **special programs and content** for students of educational institutions.

The working group developed and approved the following **7** training programs for the contingent:

- ➔ **Counteracting Corruption in Corporate Entities;**
- ➔ **Counteracting Corruption in the Civil Service;**
- ➔ **Cooperation Technologies between Government Agencies and Civil Society Institutions in Corruption Prevention;**
- ➔ **Foundations of corruption prevention;**
- ➔ **Counteracting Corruption in Entrepreneurship;**
- ➔ **Training Program for Students of Educational Institutions;**
- ➔ **Training Program for Pupils of Preschool and School Educational Institutions.**

Besides, **10** teaching guides and materials have also been developed.

Currently, work is underway to develop teaching aids and materials using international grants.

In particular, a meeting was organized with **representatives of the German Society**

for **International Cooperation** (GIZ) and an agreement was reached on the joint development of **teaching guides and materials** for use in the Virtual Academy.

**3** Work is underway to create **high-quality animated films, video and audio materials** using foreign grants.

The Ministry of Preschool and School Education has developed **the Anti-Corruption Education** project, and the Ministry of Higher Education, Science and Innovation has introduced the module '**The Essence, Consequences and Mechanisms of Combating Corruption**' into the philosophy course for students of all non-specialized courses.

**4** **Recommended annual research topics** that can be implemented in combating corruption for higher education institutions and research organizations have been developed and posted on the Virtual Anti-Corruption Academy electronic platform.

**5** **The mobile app of the Virtual Anti-Corruption Academy** electronic platform has been launched in test mode.

The mobile app provides the opportunity for effective distance learning using **video lessons, tests, practical assignments and other educational materials**.

**6** **Tuition fee for advanced training in specialized training courses** on a paid basis has been developed and approved by the Board of Trustees of the Academy.

According to it, a fee of **7 percent** of reference calculation value for 12 hours of training in a special distance course for one student has been established.

***For information:** basic training courses intended for citizens, business entities, representatives of NGOs and other civil society institutions, students of educational organizations are organized free of charge.*

# 7

## DIGITALIZATION OF GOVERNMENT AGENCIES AND ORGANIZATIONS

- 1 In 2024, work continued to reduce bureaucracy in public administration, eliminate conditions causing corruption through the digitalization of government agencies, and simplify the provision of public services.

Today, the number of services provided through the Unified Portal of Interactive Public Services has exceeded **710** (in 2023, there were 570).

In particular, electronic submission of applications for pensions, obtaining medical certificates (083), registration and assignment of child benefits and financial assistance to low-income families, subsidies for the construction of hotels, student loans, professional certification of teaching staff of state institutions of general secondary education and other services helps to reduce bureaucracy and corruption.

*For example, previously, to receive an **educational loan**, students had to collect **7** different documents from various departments and spend several weeks. Now, all processes are automated through the Unified Portal, the student is not required to provide any documents, and educational loans are issued within **5** working days.*

Or, if earlier, to assign **child benefits to low-income families**, more than **15** documents were required, now these processes are automated and are resolved by submitting a single application through the Unified Portal.

As a result, in 2024 alone, **child benefits** were assigned to **259 thousand** low-income families.

The processes of enrollment in dormitories for students of higher educational institutions have been completely transferred to an online format, and **more than 115 thousand** students received referrals for student housing through the Unified Portal for the 2024-2025 academic year.

Most importantly, all **8** processes of this service: from submitting an application to concluding an agreement, determining applicants, distributing and making payments, have been digitized.

**2** In 2024, **75** projects aimed at digitalizing the activities of state and economic management bodies were implemented.



The automated accounting system - **UzASBO software package** - has been improved.

#### **Within the framework of the program:**

- ➔ paper form of the staffing schedule of budgetary organizations was abandoned and **a fully electronic** system of formation was introduced;
- ➔ integrated with information databases of government bodies and organizations, and the ability to **automatically refuse inclusion in the system** by checking the system when hiring a candidate if it is established that he works elsewhere was created;
- ➔ budgetary organizations were allocated staff units, **divided into groups** by types of payments and accrual of wages;
- ➔ types of payments standardized, as well as **compliance** of each type of payment and its maximum amounts **with regulatory and legal acts ensured**;
- ➔ tariffing of general educational organizations were digitized, as well as processes for **calculating wages** due to the integration of qualification categories of employees **automated**.

As a result of **improving the UzASBO software package**, errors and shortcomings in the correct maintenance of monthly wages, bonus payments and work experience of employees were prevented.

**In higher education, the EduBilling information system** has been introduced for applying tuition fee contracts in electronic form, making online payments and monitoring payments by universities. **More than 110** higher education institutions are connected to this billing system, payments under tuition fee contracts in the amount of **5.93** trillion UZS have been made.

The system for assigning qualification categories to teaching staff in **preschool and school education** has been improved. In order to combat corruption, **FaceID** and **Blockchain** technologies were used in practice for the first time during the testing process.

As a result of the introduction of **the Online certification** systems, **more than 335 thousand** teachers, **60 thousand** physicians and **22 thousand** civil servants have been certified.

Since corruption risks in the provision of **banking services** mainly fall on **operations related to issuing loans**, special attention was paid to the digitalization of these processes.



In particular, a procedure for providing **preferential loans for family businesses** through a single electronic platform (*oilakredit.uz*) was introduced.

A **scoring system** for lending in all banks and an automated assessment of the creditworthiness of clients were introduced.

In order to reduce the impact of the human factor on lending processes, the possibility of online **issuance of all types of retail loans** (microloans, car loans, consumer, educational and overdraft loans) **through bank mobile applications** was introduced, and these operations are completely digitalized.

In **the transport sector**, the **electronic purchase of** air, bus and train **tickets** has been introduced, which enabled to avoid the problems, including waiting in lines and wasting time on the road for tickets.

Full digitalization of **the tax system** creates convenience for the population and entrepreneurs, eliminating the need to visit tax offices and illegal contacts with taxpayers.



In particular, currently **the Tax Services Portal** (*my.soliq.uz*) and its mobile application provide about **50** tax services, and the population and entrepreneurs can remotely submit all tax payments and tax reports electronically.






For example, using a mobile application, a citizen can view types of taxes, payment deadlines, calculations, use of benefits, refund of overpaid taxes, and also send reports to the tax authority.



**SHAFFOF QURILISH**  
MILLIY AKBOROT TIZIMI

In **the construction sector**, **the Transparent Construction** National Information System has been further developed.

**In particular, the system:**

-  registration of the process of commissioning of constructed facilities through **the State Control in Construction electronic platform**;
-  formation of the estimated cost of objects based on data from **the National Classifier of Construction Resources electronic platform**;
-  **mandatory posting** by the customer of primary construction permits, expert opinions and tender documentation, as well as relevant public procurement contracts;
-  sending information on completed work in the form of electronic invoices submitted to tax authorities;
-  posting additional information in the system (*funds allocated for construction, invoices, information about construction workers, overdue credit debt and other information*) through integrated information systems of ministries and departments.

Using **the Remote Audit** automated information system for monitoring compliance with budget discipline by government agencies, **112 thousand** financial errors and violations of budget discipline in the amount of **2.3 trillion** UZS were eliminated, of which **1.6 trillion** UZS of violations were prevented.

This system has **447** modules for identifying and preventing risks in ministries and departments, **234** databases of **37** ministries and departments have been integrated, **28** types of risk analysis are automatically generated.



**The Agroplatforma system** has been launched, covering processes in **the agro-industrial complex** from land preparation to harvesting and final settlements. More than **44 thousand** farms and **120** clusters are connected to the system, and **more than 7.2 thousand** preferential loans have been allocated through it.

The introduction of **the electricity consumption metering system** made it possible to serve about **10 million** customers and reduce data processing time **by 5 times** (*from 10 to 2 hours*).

After the launch of **the alimony collection system** in the Compulsory Enforcement Bureau, **216 thousand** enforcement cases have been terminated, and **97 billion** UZS of debt have been repaid through the autopayment system.



## TOZA MAKON

Within the framework of **the Toza Makon system**, specialists of **more than 2.4 thousand** sanitation enterprises have been provided with three-in-one payment terminals, and GPS devices have been installed on **3.4 thousand** units of special equipment of **155** sanitation enterprises.

The improvement of **the Subsidiya.mf.uz platform** continued, ensuring the transparency of the distribution of subsidies and compensations paid to citizens and business entities from the State budget, as well as the targeted nature of their provision.

**In particular, this information system covers the process of paying 72 types of subsidies.**

44	agriculture and water management
18	poverty reduction and employment
7	the State Committee of Veterinary and Livestock Development
2	reimbursement of down payments and interest on mortgage loans to citizens
1	provision of prosthetic and orthopedic products and technical rehabilitation equipment to citizens in need

*As a result of the digitalization measures taken, Uzbekistan's position in the **UN E-Government Development Index** increased by **6 positions**, taking **63<sup>rd</sup>** place out of **196 countries** and entering the group of countries with a Very High EGD.*

8

## ANALYSIS OF CORRUPTION RISKS IN SPECIFIC AREAS AND ELIMINATION OF CONTRIBUTING FACTORS

### Efficient use of state budget funds, ensuring transparency and accountability

*In order to ensure targeted and efficient use of state budgetary funds, further strengthening state financial control, improving the internal audit system in ministries and departments distributing budget funds, as well as expanding public participation and control, the Decree of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan of July 10, 2024 No. DP-100 'On additional measures to strengthen financial control over the use of budgetary funds' was adopted.*

- ➔ In accordance with the Decree, **the Accounts Chamber** will conduct an external audit of the execution of the consolidated budget of the Republic of Uzbekistan;
- ➔ From 2025, conduct an audit of the activities of major organizations in which the state's share in the authorized capital is 50 percent or more;
- ➔ Conduct a strategic and information technology audit;
- ➔ The results of the external audit of the annual report on the execution of the budget of the Republic of Karakalpakstan, local budgets of regions and Tashkent city, as well as the conclusions of the Accounts Chamber on the assessment of the draft budget for the next year will be discussed at meetings of the Jokargy Kenes of the Republic of Karakalpakstan, regional and Tashkent City councils of people's representatives with the participation of responsible officers of the Accounts Chamber;
- ➔ Quarterly hearing of information provided by the Accounts Chamber based on the results of control activities carried out by the Accounts Chamber at meetings of the Cabinet of Ministers.

In addition, from January 1, 2025, the creation of **Risk Management Committees** on a collegial basis under the leadership of the first heads of government bodies and organizations to prevent financial and other risks has been defined.

In 2024, the Accounts Chamber carried out **36** control activities in order to ensure compliance with budget discipline and targeted spending of budget funds.

**9.2 trillion** UZS of budget funds were optimized and redirected to priority goals.

*In particular, 2.1 trillion soums from state target funds, 1.7 trillion soums saved as a result of initiative budget processes, optimized.*

*Overpayments in the amount of **496 billion** UZS were identified, of which **418 billion** UZS were recovered, **55 billion** UZS of illegal expenses were prevented.*

Audit was conducted on the effectiveness and legality of expenses carried out using funds allocated from budgets of the budgetary system in **the Ministry of Higher Education, Science and Innovation** and organizations of the system.

*The studies revealed that **499** teachers of **35** higher educational institutions were illegally paid **15.1 billion** UZS on certificates not giving the right to award academic degrees, and these funds were recovered.*

*In the violation of budgeting and staff discipline, **45.2 billion** UZS were spent on **wages** and **stipends** in excess of the budgeted amount, as well as **73.7 billion** UZS were spent inappropriately.*

**14 billion** UZS of overpayments, shortfalls, inappropriate and inefficient spending of funds and other violations were identified in the system of **the Ministry of Employment and Poverty Reduction**.

In addition, bad debts were formed at the expense of **18 billion** UZS of deposited funds.

The costs of compensating the **heat supply** enterprises for losses incurred as a result of maintaining low tariffs for the population were studied.

*It was revealed that **277 billion** UZS of excess subsidies were allocated to compensate for losses incurred as a result of applying reduced tariffs to the population within the framework of the public-private partnership agreement between the Veolia Energy Tashkent Special Project Company and the Tashkent city administration.*

In other areas, **1.7 trillion** UZS of misappropriation and ineffective spending were identified, and measures were taken to eliminate them.

*As part of the family entrepreneurship development program, some suppliers sold non-existent products through the platform, on average 25% more expensive.*

*For example, motor vehicles were supplied for **558 billion** UZS, greenhouse structures - for **207.5 billion** UZS, motor cultivators - for **113 billion** UZS at inflated prices.*

*The formation of a register of unscrupulous suppliers in the **Marketplace system** was automated, control has been established at all stages of lending.*

*Based on the results of control activities carried out in 2024, **223 instructions, 43 statutory notices, 683 proposals and more than 700 recommendations** for eliminating the identified deficiencies were submitted to responsible executors.*

When studying the targeted spending of subsidies allocated from the State **Agriculture** Support Fund, inefficient use of **5 billion** UZS of subsidies was revealed, as well as the payment of **500 million** UZS of subsidies without complying with the requirements of the Regulation.

When studying **the targeted spending of local budget funds**, financial errors were revealed in Jizzakh Region in the amount of **27.4 billion** UZS, in Samarkand Region in the amount of **19.4 billion** UZS.

Instructions were submitted to **54** ministries and departments that failed to ensure transparency of the budget process, including the timely posting of data on the open data portal.

## Preventing Corruption in Public Procurement and Creating a Transparent Procurement System

A number of positive changes have also been made in **the public procurement sector**, highly vulnerable to corruption.

In particular, **15** draft regulatory legal acts aimed at improving the public procurement system, ensuring its openness and transparency have been developed, and 5 of them adopted.

**For reference:** *Those five include 2 laws on amendments and additions to the laws 'On Public Procurement' and 'On Licensing, Permitting and Notification Activities'; the Strategy for Improving and Developing the Public Procurement System 2025-2027, and two resolutions - 'On additional measures to support producers and create broad opportunities for them in public procurement'; and 'On measures – to improve public procurement and boost small business participation'.*

### The result:

- ➔ a system has been established of putting on **public discussion** by government customers of information – for at least **one working day** prior to the conclusion of direct contracts, and for **two working days** of the results of competitive bidding;
- ➔ a procedure for entering suppliers into the Unified Register of Suppliers based on the conclusion of **the Competition Promotion and Consumer Protection Committee** has been introduced;
- ➔ **the reduction in the number of direct contracts** has been determined as one of the most important performance indicators for the activities of heads of government bodies, as well as a system has been launched of **reporting to the Cabinet of Ministers** on measures taken to sharply reduce the share of direct purchases;
- ➔ **a scoring system** has been introduced to assess compliance by business entities with the requirements of the legislation on public procurement;
- ➔ a requirement has been established for public procurement entities to obtain **permission** to operate as an **operator of an electronic public procurement system** when providing services related to conducting procurement procedures in electronic public procurement systems;
- ➔ The Law of the Republic of Uzbekistan ‘On Public Procurement’ has been supplemented with Article 791, which provides for a procedure for members of the commission for reviewing complaints in public procurement to **recuse** themselves and not participate in voting on this issue in case of a **conflict of interest or affiliation** with participants in procurement procedures.

The Training Center at the Ministry of Economy and Finance of the Republic of Uzbekistan organized advanced training courses for government customers and officers of corporate organizations responsible for organizing and conducting procurement procedures on the themes '**Procedure for organizing and conducting public procurement**', '**Special course for suppliers in public procurement**', '**Special course on organizing the activities of the procurement commission and its organization**'.

A total of **3,470** employees advanced their skills in these courses in the form of full-time and part-time training.

The electronic complaint review system in public procurement (*dxm.mf.uz*) is integrated with the programs of operators of the electronic public procurement system.

In order to ensure transparency of the public procurement process and prevent conflicts of interest, a system for disclosing information on **beneficiaries of business entities** has been introduced on a special public procurement information portal.

As a result of the work carried out, 5th round of monitoring under the Istanbul Anti-Corruption Action Plan for the OECD Anti-Corruption Network for Eastern Europe and Central Asia announced the positive dynamics in the public procurement system of Uzbekistan and placed it in the '**high**' category with a score of **53.2**.

However, cases of violation of legislation and risks of corruption in public procurement remain high.

*The General Prosecutor's Office's analysis of corruption crimes committed in public procurement procedures in 2018-2024 revealed that **791** persons were brought to criminal liability in this area.*

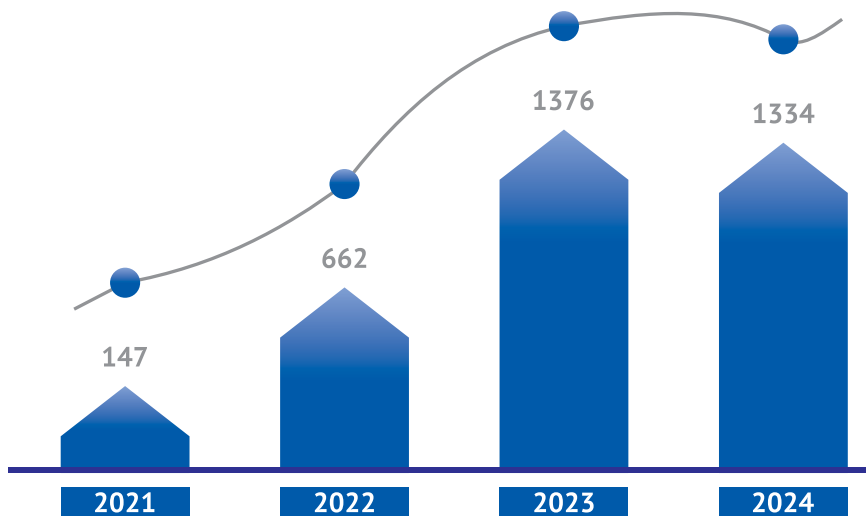
*Of these, **89** were organizations with state participation, **238** - business entities and **464** - representatives of government agencies.*

### Representatives of government agencies brought to justice

12	construction
14	finance
14	agriculture
14	employment
15	culture
16	sports
17	higher education
73	local government
116	healthcare
149	preschool and school education

The tendency of **administrative offences** in cases of violation of legislation on public procurement continues.

*Number of administrative offenses in public procurement (Article 175<sup>8</sup> of the Administrative Responsibility Code)*



The Accounts Chamber conducted **21** audits of the effectiveness and legality of public procurement, revealing violations of the requirements of the legislation on public procurement in the amount of **4.5 trillion** UZS.

*In particular, directly concluded contracts in the amount of **772.1 billion** UZS were implemented in violation of the requirements of the legislation on public procurement.*

The Department for Combating Economic Crimes prevented **121** cases of illegal expenditures related to public procurement in the amount of **1.1 trillion** UZS.

*Direct contracts worth **595 billion** UZS, concluded in violation of the requirements of the procurement legislation, contracts worth **255 billion** UZS, concluded bypassing the Transparent Construction system, contracts worth 96 billion soums related to a conflict of interest, contracts worth **63.9 billion** UZS, concluded in violation of the established restrictions on the purchase price, contracts worth **23 billion** UZS, concluded without an expertise of the purchase price, and contracts worth **59.1 billion** UZS related to other types of illegal agreements were terminated.*

## Prevention of corruption in entrepreneurship and business

In order to prevent corruption in the private sector, works have been carried out to inspect the activities of business entities, prevent illegal interference in their activities and protect the rights of entrepreneurs.

By the Decree of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan of November 11, 2024 No.DP-184, in order to improve the system of state control over entrepreneurial activity and eliminate corruption factors in this area:

- ➔ the list of bodies authorized to exercise control over the activities of business entities and the scope of their control has been approved, and control measures for the activities of business entities by bodies not included in the list have been prohibited;
- ➔ from January 1, 2025, the procedure for **notifying the Business Ombudsman** by registering all inspections of business entities in the **Unified State Control** information system was established;
- ➔ **The Risk Analysis** electronic system has been launched, classifying the risk of committing an offense in the activities of business entities into 'low', 'medium' and 'high' levels and conducting inspections depending on the risk level.

By Decree of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan of January 9, 2024 No. DP-8, in order to simplify **licensing, permitting** and notification procedures in the field of entrepreneurship, **19** documents and procedures were canceled from March 1, 2024, and **3** were transferred to the notification procedure.

*For example, inclusion in the register of customs carriers, inclusion in the Unified Electronic Register of residential lease agreements, notification of the start or termination of activities to improve the qualifications of drivers of motor vehicles and urban electric transport, notification of the start or termination of activities for the sale of cultural values, etc.*

- ➔ a procedure has been introduced for remote assessment of applicants' compliance with the requirements and conditions of licensing and permitting documents using video communication when issuing a license or permit;
- ➔ when registering or re-registering a business entity, it is permitted to indicate the place of residence of the founder as a postal address.

By the Resolution of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan of January 23, 2024 No. RP-39, **Sustainability rating of business entities** was introduced.

It was determined that business entities with a high sustainability rating are not subject to tax audits and are provided with preferential loans, as well as subsidies, benefits and preferences depending on the rating level.

In order to prevent cases of illegal interference in business activities, **the Chamber of Commerce and Industry** conducted a public expertise of **1041** draft regulatory legal acts and developed **900** proposals.

The Agency together with UNODC organized the **3rd International Business Integrity Forum 'Reducing Corruption Risks and Business Practices and State Inspection Processes'**.

In 2024, **one** meeting of the Special Commission on the Anti-Corruption Business Charter was held, **19** business entities joined the Charter.

*The Business Ombudsman has taken **2,580** measures to protect the rights of entrepreneurs, including **58** complaints, **74** statutory notices, **147** conclusions, **35** warnings and **2,266** administrative fines.*

*During the reporting period, the courts ruled in favor of entrepreneurs in the amount of **16.6 billion** UZS, overturned **118** decisions and imposed disciplinary sanctions on more than 123 officials.*

In addition, the Business Ombudsman, together with UNODC, implemented the program 'Reducing Corruption Risks in the Implementation of State Control over the Activities of Business Entities'.

As part of the program, anti-corruption expertise of **11** regulatory legal acts was conducted.

# 9

## PUBLIC PARTICIPATION IN ANTI-CORRUPTION EFFORTS

*One of the most effective means of combating and preventing corruption is fostering a zero-tolerance attitude toward corruption among the population and establishing effective public oversight of government agencies and organizations.*

*In this regard, the public, especially young people, and NGOs were actively involved in the anti-corruption process, as well as the activities of government bodies at both national and regional levels coordinated.*

### 9.1 Youth Immunity Against Corruption

To cultivate intolerance for corruption in young people and actively engage them in this process, Protocol No. 12 of the National Anti-Corruption Council of January 26, 2024, approved and implemented **the Roadmap for the implementation of GRACE Initiative in Uzbekistan 2024-2027.**

***For reference:** The Global Resource for Anti-Corruption Education (GRACE) is a United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) initiative launched in 2021 following the UN General Assembly's special session against corruption, with the goal of fostering a global culture that rejects corruption by empowering youth and strengthening educational systems to teach integrity and ethics.*

Throughout 2024, systematic awareness-raising activities were conducted among young people and the public, aimed at explaining the negative consequences of corruption, its prevention, and strengthening integrity.

Together with the Youth Affairs Agency, the Agency developed **10** types of campaign materials (*booklets, photos, videos, and audio materials*) promoting the fight against corruption.



**YOSHLAR ISHLARI**  
AGENTLIGI

**The Youth Affairs Agency**, together with mahalla (community) youth leaders, prevention inspectors, and relevant organizations, held **9,452** meetings and awareness-raising events to increase the effectiveness

of the fight against corruption. During these events, information was provided on the negative consequences of corruption among young people and its significant damage to society.

*682,000 young people in mahallas were provided with information on the fight against corruption. Special awareness campaigns were organized, bringing together over 5,000 young people.*

*A total of 1,345 roundtable discussions were held in mahallas addressing the negative impact of corruption on society and the lives of young people, as well as studies conducted among young people, grown-ups, and teachers on the social and economic consequences of corruption.*

**More than 5,000** young people were provided with campaign materials about the negative consequences of corruption and the importance of supporting their steadfast and honest behavior in society.

**The Ministry of Higher Education, Science, and Innovation** conducted **485** challenges on the social media pages of higher education institutions under the hashtag **#Stop\_korrupsiya**.

The challenges covered a total of **57,142** employees, faculty, and students.

### **Interactive events and seminars organized for young people**

In November and December 2024, **126** higher education institutions hosted the republican competition on the best drawing on the theme 'Youth Says 'No' to Corruption', the republican competition on the best video on the theme 'Corruption-Free Educational Institution', and all stages of the Anti-Corruption Knowledge Competition.

The competitions covered **over 145,000** students.

To assess young people's anti-corruption knowledge, knowledge competitions were organized using the 'University - Region - Republic' system, which involved **18,603** students.

*On November 22, 2024, the Anti-Corruption Agency, in cooperation with UNODC, the Regional Dialogue NGO, and GIZ, organized ‘**The Conference of the States Parties to the UN Convention against Corruption: Second Cycle of the Implementation Review**’ at the Law Enforcement Academy, timed to the upcoming International Anti-Corruption Day.*

Undergraduate and graduate students from the Karakalpak State University, Westminster International University in Tashkent, the University of World Economy and Diplomacy, the Samarkand State University, the Tashkent State University of Law, the Supreme School of Judges at the Supreme Judicial Council of the Republic of Uzbekistan, the National University of Uzbekistan, the Termez State University, the Namangan State University, and the Law Enforcement Academy attended the event.

### **Implementation of Anti-Corruption Programs in Specialized Institutions**

The Ministry of Higher Education, Science, and Innovation provided the translation into the state language of the GRACE’s teaching guides and videos.

**15** faculty members of the Law Enforcement Academy, conducting educational and research work in the field of anti-corruption, joined the Anti-Corruption Academic Network (ACAD).

*The Law Enforcement Academy in collaboration with the relevant ministries, developed a ‘Fighting Corruption’ special training program for students of higher educational institutions, vocational schools, and academic lyceums on the Virtual Anti-Corruption Academy electronic platform, as well as a special training program for students of educational organizations.*

## 9.2 Expanding NGO and Media Involvement in Fighting Corruption

Organizational and practical support was provided to increase the activity of civil society institutions, particularly NGOs, in combating corruption. **Over 840** representatives of NGOs, media, journalists, bloggers, and other specialists attended **34** training seminars. Including:

*As part of the retraining and professional development of leaders of nongovernmental nonprofit organizations, **the Public Administration Academy at the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan** has included the topic **'Implementing Public Oversight and Organizing Public Monitoring in the Fight against Corruption'** in its curriculum.*

The Agency jointly with the National Association of Non-governmental Non-profit Organizations organized a practical dialogue on the theme 'NGO Participation in the Fight against Corruption' (8 May 2024).

An online seminar for NGOs 'NGO Participation in the Fight against Corruption: International Practice' was organized (14 June 2024).

The Agency and the Ijtimoiy Fikr Republican Center for the Study of Public Opinion held a roundtable discussion 'Corruption in the Mirror of Public Opinion' (based on the results of a sociological survey on the topic 'Citizens on Corruption in Uzbekistan') (27 June 2024).

The Anti-Corruption Agency together with UNDP and the European Union, organized a Summer School seminar with participation of the Agency's Public Council, the Expert Group and media representatives (26-27 June 2024).

On October 16, an interactive session on the topic **'NGO Participation in the Fight against Corruption: Analysis of National and International Experience'** was held as part of **the 4th Tashkent Anti-Corruption Forum**. Discussions included the role and place of NGOs in the fight against corruption, international experience and practices, the activities of international and local NGOs in this area, and the results achieved and challenges encountered.

## Work carried out through practical dialogue and cooperation with NGOs

As a result of the seminars and trainings, NGO participation in the fight against corruption has significantly increased. Practical dialogues and public hearings were organized at their initiative.

*In 2024, commissioned by the Agency, a grant competition for 400 million UZS funded by the Public Fund at the Oliy Majlis, was announced.*

*The winner was the Ezgulik Human Rights Society of Uzbekistan, which organized practical seminars for NGO representatives in 14 regions of the country.*

In 2024, the Anti-Corruption Agency, together with UNDP and with financial support from the European Union, awarded grants totaling **665 million** UZS to **8** NGOs following a grant competition on the topic 'Engaging Civil Society Institutions in the Development and Implementation of Innovations in Combating and Preventing Corruption'.

As a result of these projects, NGOs:

- ➔ established systematic implementation of projects and practical research in combating corruption;
- ➔ identify the causes and factors of corruption in industries and sectors, and submit proposals to government agencies for their elimination;
- ➔ implement projects to foster a strong anti-corruption stance among the population, especially young people and women;
- ➔ opened anti-corruption coworking centers in higher education institutions in all regions (61);
- ➔ created an illustrated Anti-Corruption ABC for young people;
- ➔ methodological and practical manuals are being developed for individuals with visual and hearing impairments.

Furthermore, the work of **the Anti-Corruption Laboratory**, implemented by **the Yuksalish Movement** in collaboration with the Anti-Corruption Agency and Regional Dialogue INGO, continued, and in 2024, research was conducted on two topics.

YUKSALISH

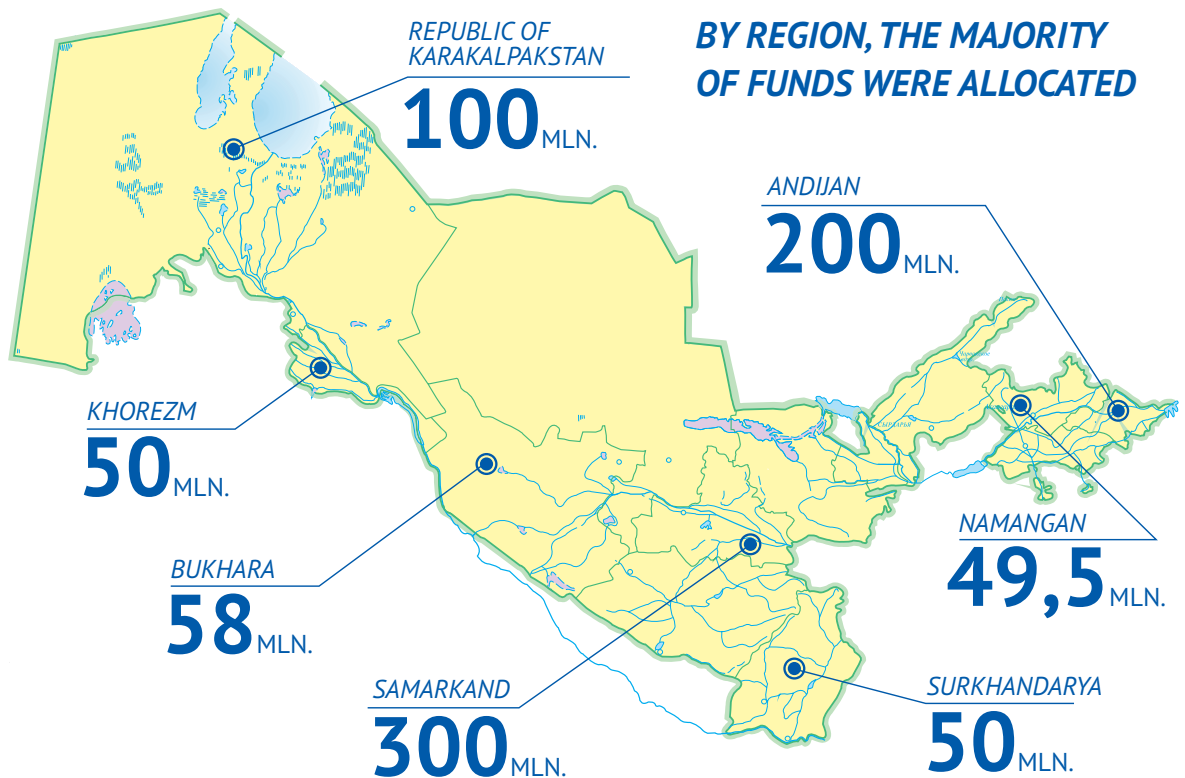
The project included research ‘Corruption Risk Assessment in Admission to Primary School’ and ‘Corruption Risks in Mortgage Subsidy’.

To support Uzbekistan’s anti-corruption efforts, the Agency in cooperation with the Yuksalish Movement, together with Search for Common Ground Uzbekistan, is implementing the **#YoshXabador: Youth Against Corruption** project, which included training sessions for young people in Jizzakh and Kashkadarya regions and the Republic of Karakalpakstan.

### Regional NGO Engagement Activities

Grant competitions totaling **1 billion 434 million 400 thousand** UZS were announced in 2024 (compared to 266,900,000 UZS in 2023).

**For reference:** For the first time since 2023, grants and social orders for NGOs were announced in the regions, where regional NGOs participated and implemented projects.



**For reference:** Due to a lack of applications for grant projects from Tashkent city (total grant project value: 170 million UZS) and Sirdarya Region (50 million UZS), projects aimed at expanding the participation of civil society institutions and media representatives in the fight against corruption were not implemented in these regions.

As part of the grant projects, active anti-corruption advocacy efforts were conducted.

In particular, the Navoi Regional Office of the Council of Justice Veterans of the Ministry of Justice selected one school in each district and city of the region and, together with the regional justice department, organized 11 Law Classes. For example, at Secondary School No. 22 in Navoi, the model Law Class was provided with legal literature and information banners.

Desks and chairs totaling 25 million UZS were also purchased for the Law Classes in Khatirchi District and Zarafshan city. During the grant project, **over 400** booklets and leaflets aimed at preventing corruption were distributed to the public.

*The Noila Center for Social Assistance, Legal Protection, and Monitoring, winner of the grant project 'Field of Experience: Improving the Competence of Public Oversight Entities – an Important Step in Educating Young People in the Spirit of Anti-Corruption', organized training seminars on the topic 'The Role and Importance of Public Oversight in Anti-Corruption' in November and December, 2024.*

NGOs in Samarkand Region and the Republic of Karakalpakstan were particularly active in using unconventional propaganda and outreach methods.

As part of the project, Jayhun Ilhomlari NGO, together with a group of creative individuals led by director Mars Nuratdinov, produced a play about the negative impact of corruption on the development of the state and society, and the fate of corrupt individuals.

The Samarkand Youth Multimedia Center produced six social video reels on corruption prevention, fostering immunity to it, and the inevitability of punishment for this crime.

### 9.3 Activities of Public Councils in Government Agencies

To establish an effective dialogue between the state and society, ensure transparency in the activities of government bodies, and ensure effective interaction with civil society institutions, Resolution No. RP-3837 of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan ‘**On measures to organize the activities of public councils at government bodies**’ provided for the organization of the work of public councils within the system of ministries, departments, and administrations (hokimiyats).

To further improve the activities of public councils, Decree No. DP-124 of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan of August 26, 2024 ‘**On measures to further improve the system of government support for civil society institutions**’ provided for:

- ➔ appointment of public council heads from among representatives of civil society institutions;
- ➔ assessment of effectiveness of public councils and announcement of the results once a year;
- ➔ introduction of the practice to financially encouraging the most active members of public councils from extra-budgetary funds of the government body.

During the study of the activities of public councils in accordance with this decree, a number of shortcomings were identified.

Specifically, the studies revealed that **25** public councils lack in NGO representatives, **3** public councils have fewer than the established membership limit (15 members), and **7** council chairs are appointed from among civil servants.

For example, public councils at the Ministry of Investment, Industry, and Trade (13 members), the Ministry of Construction, Housing, and Communal Services (11 members), and the Committee for Industrial, Radiation, and Nuclear Safety (7 members) consist of fewer than 15 members.

In the Ministries of Health, Energy, Foreign Affairs, Employment and Poverty Reduction, the Committee on Family and Women, and the Cultural Heritage Agency, employees of these organizations have been appointed as heads of public councils.

**For information:** In accordance with Presidential Decree No. DP-124 of August 26, 2024, heads of public councils are appointed from among representatives of civil society institutions.

*In accordance with Decree No. DP-37 of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan 'On the State Program for the Implementation of the Uzbekistan-2030 Strategy in the Year of Support for Youth and Business,' the Agency also monitored the functioning of public councils at **84** government agencies and organizations in accordance with established requirements, and identified a number of abovementioned deficiencies.*

According to the legal acts, public councils are granted a number of rights, such as developing proposals and recommendations to improve the effectiveness of government agencies, receiving information, statistics, and other materials from government agencies in accordance with established procedures, and participating in public and expert discussions of draft regulatory legal acts developed by government agencies.

However, the activities of public councils at government agencies are primarily limited to participation in cultural and educational events.

When analyzing the status of posting data about public councils on official websites as part of the assessment of **the Openness Index** of the activities of government bodies, it was identified that the Andijan, Jizzakh and Sirdarya regional administrations did not post information about the Public Council on their official websites, and the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Committee on Family and Women, and the Ferghana regional administration did not develop and publish in the prescribed manner the organizational and legal framework for the activities of the Public Council.

# 10

## THE NATIONAL ANTI-CORRUPTION COUNCIL AND ITS REGIONAL COUNCILS

### Activities of the National Anti-Corruption Council

In 2024, **five meetings** of the National Anti-Corruption Council were held, resulting in the development and systematic implementation of work plans and action plans.

The National Council adopted work plans aimed at preventing corruption in the country and strengthening preventive measures at the sectoral and regional levels, implementing the Corruption-Free Area project, and strengthening public oversight, and ensures their timely implementation.

At the Council's meetings, measures were taken to strengthen the role of civil society institutions in the fight against corruption, as well as to conduct training seminars for regional Anti-Corruption Councils of the Republic of Karakalpakstan, regions, and Tashkent city, and to implement international anti-corruption standards into the legislation of the Republic of Uzbekistan.

#### Following the implementation of these measures:

- ➔ the results of a study of the activities of public councils under government agencies were discussed and corresponding recommendations were developed;
- ➔ the organizational action plan for the implementation of a system for reporting and resolving conflicts of interest in the civil service was developed and implemented;
- ➔ the results of the anti-corruption effectiveness rating of government agencies and organizations, and the identification of corruption risks were discussed;
- ➔ programs were adopted to improve anti-corruption mechanisms in the fuel and energy sector, water management, and in the system of the Ministry of Energy;
- ➔ tasks were set to improve Uzbekistan's position in international anti-corruption rankings and indices;

- ➔ reports were heard on the improvement of Uzbekistan's position in international ratings and indices, as well as on the implementation of state anti-corruption programs;
- ➔ the practice introduced to hold an annual Anti-Corruption Week timed to December 9, International Anti-Corruption Day;
- ➔ a Roadmap for the widespread implementation of GRACE Initiative in Uzbekistan was approved.

The reports made focus on shortcomings in this area and measures were identified to address them.

### Collaborating with Regional Councils

In 2024, regional councils held a number of events to promote their activities and actively engage civil society representatives in the anti-corruption process.

**8** online seminars were organized for regional anti-corruption councils on implementing transparency legislation, identifying and assessing corruption risks, and identifying legislative gaps and factors contributing to corruption.

The Agency leadership conducted **10** working visits to the regions, during which a critical analysis of the regions' performance was conducted and, based on the results, proposals for improving their activities were developed.

*Since the fourth quarter of 2024, the Agency, together with UNDP, launched the **Transparent Cities and Honest Districts** projects in Mirzo-Ulugbek District of Tashkent city, Jizzakh city in Jizzakh Region, and Vobkent District of Bukhara Region.*

**For reference:** *Transparent Cities and Honest Districts are specially created areas where institutions and organizations implement high standards of integrity, transparency, and ethics, eliminating any form of corruption. The methodology underlying these projects has proven effective in 11 countries in Central and Eastern Europe and Southeastern Europe.*

*The Agency in collaboration with UNDP conducted an anonymous survey among citizens and government officials on the topic ‘**The Impact of Corruption Complaints on the Fight against Corruption in Uzbekistan**’ in the Ferghana, Sirdarya, Kashkadarya, Navoi, and Tashkent Regional Councils.*

Overall, the year 2024 saw an increase in the activity of regional anti-corruption councils in the areas of advocacy, organizing various events and flash mobs, and working with representatives of civil society institutions and youth.

In turn, greater efforts are needed in areas of coordinating anti-corruption policies in the regions and organizing public oversight of the implementation of relevant documents at the local level.

Along with it, based on the corruption situation or risks, it is necessary to take the necessary measures to establish a system for upgrading the qualifications of civil servants, organize social surveys and research among the public and civil servants, and develop appropriate proposals to address the identified problems.

# 11

## NATIONAL RANKINGS AND INDICES

### 11.1 Rating Assessment of the Effectiveness of Anti-Corruption Work

Based on the results of 2024, the performance of **102** government organizations was assessed (*including 14 organizations assessed for the first time*). Of these, **41** organizations joined a **'good'** category (81-100 points), **53** - went to a **'satisfactory'** category (55-80 points), and **8** fell to a **'unsatisfactory'** category (less than 55 points).

To ensure the impartiality of the rating results, the results were independently and objectively reviewed by the Independent Expert Group consisting of representatives of civil society institutions, which independently conducts the rating assessment and presents its results.

*According to the analysis, the average rating result for the current year was **73.8** points, **4.9** points higher than in 2023 (95 public organizations received an average score of 68.9 points), and **14.3** points higher than in 2022 (62 public organizations received 59.5 points).*

At the same time, as a result of targeted measures taken jointly with the Agency to address deficiencies identified in the performance of **13** public organizations that assessed **'unsatisfactory'** in the 2023 rating assessment, positive dynamics in their performance were also observed.



1. 8 organizations categorized as ‘**unsatisfactory**’ demonstrated weak implementation of mechanisms aimed at preventing corruption.

*For reference: The Treasury Service Committee (17 points), the Pharmaceutical Industry Development Agency (26 points), the Pharmaceutical Product Safety Center (28 points), the Center for State Ecological Expertise (48 points), Uzagroleasing JSC (53 points), and the Center for Effective Use of State Property (53 points) completed the initial assessment and classified as ‘unsatisfactory’.*

**These organizations failed to implement measures or provide the Agency with information on the following assessment criteria:**

- ➔ monitoring and controlling the effectiveness of anti-corruption procedures;
- ➔ improving employee knowledge and skills in combating corruption;
- ➔ minimizing identified and assessed corruption risks;
- ➔ effectively organizing the activities of the internal anti-corruption control unit.

Despite the fact that **Uzbekcoal JSC (48 points)** showed a positive result last year (60 points in 2023), yet this time fell into ‘**unsatisfactory**’ category.

**The Agro-Industrial Complex Development Agency’s** anti-corruption work was assessed ‘**unsatisfactory**’ for two consecutive years, with a score of **9 points** (16 points in 2023).

The unsatisfactory rating was due to the lack of personal initiative on the part of the organizations’ leaders in combating corruption, the absence of a clear accountability mechanism, and insufficient attention to the effective introduction of the anti-corruption system.

2. Despite the implementation of anti-corruption measures in the activities of 53 government organizations, whose performance was rated as **'satisfactory'**, deficiencies in monitoring the implementation of these measures were identified.

Specifically, these organizations failed to provide information on the organizations' implementation of information and educational activities aimed at reducing corruption risks and raising legal awareness and legal culture among the population.

3. **The highest results were demonstrated by the Navoi Mining and Metallurgical Company (96 points), the Ministry of Mining and Geology (95 points), and the Central Bank (94 points).**

Overall, the rating system ensured effective monitoring of the implementation of established anti-corruption objectives, as well as strengthening a healthy competitive environment in the industry and further increasing the accountability of organization leaders.

**Based on the assessment results, the following work is planned:**

- 1 Develop a draft regulatory document providing for further improvement of the rating system by adding relevant indicators, simplifying and optimizing them;
- 2 Based on the rating results, develop a program of measures aimed at promoting the positive experiences of organizations rated **'good'**, further improving the activities of organizations rated **'satisfactory'**, and addressing the deficiencies identified in organizations rated **'unsatisfactory'**. To present a progress report on its implementation at meetings of the National Anti-Corruption Council.

## 11.2 The Openness Index of Government Bodies and Organizations

*In accordance with Decree of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan No. DP-154, an analysis of achievements and shortcomings in ensuring the transparency of government agencies and organizations was conducted in 2024, and the **Openness Index** in activities of government agencies was created based on target indicators.*



The Index covered the activities of **98** (103 in 2023) government agencies and organizations and assessed them based on **8** indicators consisting of **84** assessment criteria.

Based on the assessment results, **50** government agencies joined ‘**green**’ category (31 in 2023), **34** organizations rated ‘**yellow**’ (43), and **14** organizations – ‘**red**’ (29).

Compared to the previous year, the number of government agencies rated ‘**green**’ increased by **18%**, while the number of those rated ‘**red**’ decreased by **15%** (amid positive performance).

Compared to the 2023 indicators, organizations rated ‘**green**’ increased by **31%**, while those rated ‘**red**’ decreased by **18%**.

*The highest performance indicators went to JSC Almalyk Mining and Metallurgical Combine (91 points), the Tax Committee (90 points), JSC Uzavtosanoat (89 points), and the Navoi Mining and Metallurgical Company (89 points).*

*(JSC Uzsvtaminot, the Ministry of Justice, and the Central Bank (84 points) rated ‘**green**’; the Cadaster Agency and the Ministry of Energy (70 points each), JSC Uztelecom (69 points), the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Karakalpakstan, JSC Uzbekistan Railways and the Tashkent city administration (67 points each) rated ‘**yellow**’; while the Ferghana regional administration (54 points), JSC Regional Electrical Power Networks (52 points), JSC Toshshakhartranskhizmat (51 points), the Cinematography Agency (30 points); and the Andijan regional administration (28 points) rated ‘**red**’)*

At the national level, the Pharmaceutical Industry Development Agency (**32 points**), the Agency of Hydrometeorological Service (**45 points**), the Committee of Family and Women (**50 points**), and the Inspection for Control in Electric Power Industry, Oil Products and Gas Usage (**51 points**) rated ‘**red**’.



Disclosure of socially significant data in accordance with international best practices and a culture of accountability of representative bodies to voters allowed this to be elevated to a new level.

**For example**, in 2024, all sessions of the chambers of Parliament (55) and 907 sessions of regional Councils, as well as the defense of 1,130 doctoral dissertations (PhD, DSc), were broadcast live on television channels and online.

As a result of these measures, Uzbekistan ranked 30<sup>th</sup> globally and 1<sup>st</sup> in Central Asia in the international Open Data Inventory ranking, scoring 70 points.

(In this ranking, Kazakhstan ranked 51st, Kyrgyzstan 92nd, Tajikistan 126th, and Turkmenistan 195th.)



Systematic training and methodological support for employees responsible for ensuring openness, with the participation of foreign experts, has been established. In 2024, 155 employees advanced their skills in 11 training courses.

*(6 advanced training courses covered 95 employees at the national level and 60 employees at local government level.)*

The Resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers No. 910 of December 30, 2024, approved the Procedure for Remote Monitoring of Activities in Ensuring Transparency, and all procedures for which were established on the basis of the Regulation.

The resolution approved standard forms of socially significant data and **created a unified approach** to the public disclosure of this category of data.

IV

Based on the results of **the Openness Index**, the following work will be implemented:

- ➔ improving **the Openness Index** criteria and revising the mechanisms for assessing the effectiveness of the feedback system and the activities of employees responsible for ensuring openness;
- ➔ implementing assessment processes at the lower levels of the system to further disseminate the positive experience gained through the implementation of the Openness Index. In particular, as a pilot project – assessing the openness level in the activities of district and city administrations (hokimiyats) of Tashkent Region;
- ➔ **implementing** organizational measures aimed at eliminating and preventing the identified deficiencies:
  - a) preparing and submitting proposals to the authorized body for **rewarding** employees responsible for ensuring openness of government agencies rated **'green'**;
  - b) developing recommendations for further improving the openness performance of employees of the organizations rated **'yellow'**;
  - c) considering the issue of imposing disciplinary sanctions on employees responsible for ensuring openness, whose organizations rated 'red', in accordance with the procedure established by law;
  - d) conducting a hearing of reports from the heads of government agencies rated in the **red** category at the Presidium of the Cabinet of Ministers and reports from the heads of other organizations at meetings of the Senate of the Oliy Majlis. Also, develop a **comprehensive program of measures** to address deficiencies and improve performance in this area.

12

## PUBLIC OPINION ON CORRUPTION LEVEL IN UZBEKISTAN

The Agency, together with the Ijtimoiy Fikr Center, conducts **annual public opinion surveys among the population.**

***For reference:** The public opinion survey was conducted nationwide on April 19 -20, 2022, involving 1,110 respondents; in May - October 2023, involving 2,063 respondents; and on April 15 - May 13, 2024, involving 1,103 respondents. A three-year study covered a total of 4,276 respondents.*

The surveys examined corruption, its prevalence, and the vulnerability of various ministries and agencies to corruption, as well as public attitude toward government measures to combat corruption.

A three-year study showed that the proportion of respondents who considered the level of corruption in Uzbekistan **'high'** decreased from **36%** to **31%**.

*The proportion of respondents condemning corruption in society and understanding its negative consequences **increased by 20%** (from 72% to 91%).*

*The proportion of citizens reporting corruption to law enforcement agencies **increased from 3.6% in 2022 to 11.5% in 2024.***

The survey showed the industries prone to corruption in 2024: **healthcare** (24%), **higher education** (21%), **preschool and school education** (9%), **employment** (9%), and **construction** (7%).

While in 2021, **the tax and customs services**, as well as **local administrations** were identified as corruption-prone areas, in 2024 respondents did not identify these sectors as corrupt.

In 2024, the Agency, together with UNDP, conducted a survey on **the role and impact of reporting corruption in the fight against corruption.**

The survey assessed citizens' perceptions and understanding of the need to report corruption offenses, as well as the challenges they face when reporting them to competent authorities, and the main barriers to doing so.

**74.0%** of respondents expressed a willingness to report corruption, and **82.2%** were ready to report through an electronic platform or mobile app.

However, the main reasons for not reporting corruption were **their own interest** in corruption (19.8%) and **lack of knowledge about whom to contact** (20.4%).

Furthermore, 13.8% of respondents considered giving gifts as a gratitude normal, while 7.4% said they did not consider such actions to be corrupt.

*According to the analysis, sectors that directly interact with citizens (education, healthcare, utilities, employment) are susceptible to corruption, and the risks of corruption are high.*

Regionally, residents of Samarkand, Ferghana, and Tashkent regions reported encountering corruption more frequently and that corruption is widespread in the country.

The proportion of respondents who considered corruption 'high' decreased in the Republic of Karakalpakstan, Jizzakh, Bukhara, Namangan, Sirdarya, and Khorezm regions.

**The surveys specified five top reasons for corruption emergence:**

- ➔ citizens' willingness to resolve their issues or problems evading the law;
- ➔ citizens' ignorance (lack of awareness) of the law and their rights;
- ➔ self-interest, the drive for personal gain;
- ➔ low incomes, economic factors, and social stratification;
- ➔ weak public oversight of officials by civil society.

According to the public, the most effective measures in combating and preventing corruption include raising wages, fostering an anti-corruption mindset among young people, increasing penalties for offenses, and improving citizens' legal literacy.

Overall, respondents rated the country's anti-corruption policy positively, while emphasizing the need to strengthen measures in this area.

## 13

INTERNATIONAL RANKINGS  
AND INDICES

Uzbekistan's position in international anti-corruption rankings and indices has improved.



According to the Corruption Perceptions Index (CPI) of Transparency International, Uzbekistan ranked **121<sup>st</sup>** out of 180 countries in 2024 with a score of **32**, down one point from its 2023 ranking (*121<sup>st</sup> place with a score of 33 in 2023*), but **up 37** places compared to the previous seven years.

Russia fell to **13** positions (*154<sup>th</sup>*), Belarus fell to **16** positions (*114<sup>th</sup>*), Kyrgyzstan went down **5** positions (*146<sup>th</sup>*), and Tajikistan fell to **2** positions (*164<sup>th</sup>*).

**For information:** *The CPI methodology reflects the level of corruption in the public and private sectors. The data is compiled from expert assessments, media and social media information, and business surveys. It draws on **13** sources (Uzbekistan is assessed using **9** sources) from **12** international organizations, and is updated every one or two years.*

According to the analysis, although our **improvement** in this ranking is due to positive dynamics in some indicators, Uzbekistan's position in 2024 remains unchanged due to **stagnation** or **decrease** in some indicators.

Over the past four years, four of the nine sources in the Corruption Perceptions Index have shown positive dynamics, while five have shown negative dynamics.

Source	2021	2022	2023	2024	difference
Bertelsmann Foundation Transformation Index	29	29	29	30	+ 1
Economist Intelligence Unit	20	20	20	18	- 2
Nations in Transit by Freedom House	24	24	24	18	- 6
Economics and Country Risk from Global Insight	35	35	35	32	- 3
The World Bank's Country Policy and Institutional Assessment (CPIA)	27	35	35	39	+ 12
WJP Rule of Law Index	36	37	37	38	+ 2
V-Dem Democracy Indices	25	25	19	18	- 7
PRS International Country Risk Guide	0	41	48	51	+ 10
World Economic Forum EOS	0	0	49	47	- 2

**Note:** The World Economic Forum's indicator was added in 2023.

**For example,** despite significant **positive** changes in the indicators of openness and accountability, political, economic, and financial risk management, and anti-corruption policies (+24 points), there is a negative result (-13) in the indicators of democracy, freedom and safety of journalists, and public engagement in the fight against corruption.

According to Transparency International, fifteen out of nineteen countries in the Eastern Europe and Central Asia region (including Uzbekistan) have stagnated or declined, as governments have failed to implement basic measures against corruption.

**The reasons are as follows:**

- ➔ weak democratic institutions and the rule of law, persistent instability, and external pressure;
- ➔ inability of governments to implement even the most basic anti-corruption measures;
- ➔ many countries have no or inadequate laws regulating political financing, lobbying, or beneficial ownership transparency;
- ➔ governments use special laws to evade oversight of large strategic investments, ignoring the public interest;
- ➔ most countries in the region are unable to prosecute high-level corruption due to undue influence from other branches of government and interest groups;
- ➔ even in supposedly democratic countries, ruling parties increasingly use opaque financing and rule-bending to seize power in electoral processes.

1. Uzbekistan's position in **other anti-corruption rankings** has also **declined** compared to last year.



World Justice  
Project

1. Uzbekistan ranked **83<sup>rd</sup>** out of **142** countries in **the World Justice Project's Rule of Law Index**, scoring **49** points. Compared to last year, the country's position has dropped by one point, falling **5** positions (**78<sup>th</sup> with 50 points in 2023**).

*The Rule of Law Index consists of 8 factors (constraints on governments powers, absence of corruption, open government, fundamental rights, order and security, regulatory enforcement, civil justice, and criminal justice) and **44** sub-indicators.*

Factors		2023	2024	difference
Rule of Law Index	score	50	49	-1
	position	78	83	-5
Constraints on governments powers	score	38	37	-1
	position	119	116	+3
Absence of corruption	score	47	47	
	position	66	68	-2
Open government	score	37	38	+1
	position	119	117	+2
Fundamental rights	score	45	44	-1
	position	109	108	+1
Order and security	score	90	90	
	position	17	17	
Regulatory enforcement	score	45	44	-1
	position	99	103	-4
Civil justice	score	52	51	-1
	position	74	74	
Criminal justice	score	44	45	+1
	position	71	70	+1



In the Trace Bribery Risk Matrix 2024, Uzbekistan rose to **134<sup>th</sup>** position with **57** points from among 194 countries (*rating from 1 to 100 points, 1 point the most positive*). Comparing to the previous year, **+1** point, yet **decrease in 4** positions (*in 2023, Uzbekistan placed 130<sup>th</sup> with 58 points*).

**For reference:** *The Bribery Risk Matrix* summarizes relevant information from leading civil society institutions, international organizations including UN, World Bank, V-Dem at the University of Gothenburg and World Economic Forum, and assesses the risks of bribery in business in over 194 countries.



Uzbekistan ranked 161<sup>st</sup> out of 213 countries with an indicator of -0.81 in the Control of Corruption from **the Worldwide Governance Indicators** (176<sup>th</sup> place with -1.05 in 2021).

**For reference:** *Worldwide Governance Indicators* is a rating conducted by the World Bank for more than 200 countries in 6 areas.

Voice and Accountability		Political Stability and Absence of Violence / Terrorism		Government Effectiveness		Regulatory Quality		Rule of Law		Control of Corruption	
score (+/-)	position (+/-)	score (+/-)	position (+/-)	score (+/-)	position (+/-)	score (+/-)	position (+/-)	score (+/-)	position (+/-)	score (+/-)	position (+/-)
-1,40 (+0,13)	182 (+12)	-0,24 (+0,19)	130 (+19)	-0,20 (+0,33)	116 (+22)	-0,58 (+0,40)	144 (+33)	-0,89 (+0,19)	168 (+13)	-0,81 (+0,24)	161 (+15)

2. Despite Uzbekistan’s decline in the anti-corruption rating, our country’s position in **the openness rankings** is significantly improving.



In **Open Data Inventory by Open Data Watch 2024**, Uzbekistan scored **83** points and placed **12<sup>th</sup>** from among **195** countries, making **growth to 18 positions** compared to 2022 (*in 2022, Uzbekistan scoring 70 points placed 30<sup>th</sup>*).

Uzbekistan ranked 1<sup>st</sup> among Central Asian countries, while Kazakhstan 44<sup>th</sup>, Kyrgyzstan 92<sup>nd</sup>, and Tajikistan 100<sup>th</sup>, and Turkmenistan was not assessed.

**For reference:** *The international organization Open Data Watch every 2 years assesses the quality of open data published by government agencies and organizations, and their publication in accordance with international standards.*

## CONCLUSION

In 2024, a range of measures were undertaken to further implement preventive mechanisms to combat corruption and strengthen efforts aimed at preventing it, rather than simply combating the consequences of corruption.

Specifically, mechanisms to prevent conflicts of interest were developed and legally regulated, mandatory procedures for increasing the knowledge of all civil servants on anti-corruption issues were established, and comprehensive measures were adopted to digitalize the activities of government agencies.

At the meeting of the National Anti-Corruption Council, chaired by the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan, Shavkat Mirziyoyev, the effectiveness of anti-corruption efforts in recent years was discussed and priorities for the future were identified.

The head of state noted that a clear system for preventing and combating corruption has been established, specific laws have been adopted, and, most importantly, an open system and environment has been created in society that brings the problem of corruption into public discussion, with the role and influence of the media particularly increasing in this regard.

It was also noted that **reforms** and **digitalization** in the areas of land allocation, construction, admission to higher education institutions, school and preschool enrollment, road safety, loan issuance, and illegal interference in entrepreneurial activities have contributed to a sharp reduction in corruption in these areas.

At the same time, criticism was leveled at the fact that law enforcement agencies continue to struggle with the consequences of corruption, that internal anti-corruption control units do not feel responsible for identifying and eliminating corruption factors, that the Agency does not deeply study the problem of corruption in regions and industries, that the role of Parliament in the fight against corruption is insufficient, that the risks of corruption in public procurement are high, and that petty corruption (*75% of corruption crimes*) reduces public trust in the government.

Overall, instructions were given to reduce the fight against corruption in the district and mahalla level and to create a special system in this area to work in collaboration with the public.

The political will and uncompromising stance of the head of state in the fight against corruption indicate that reforms in this area will be consistently continued in the future, and the range of actors participating in these processes will continue to expand.

It was also determined that if government agencies and organizations fail to cooperate with the Agency and fail to take measures to prevent corruption within their

systems, measures will be taken against the heads of these organizations by the end of the year, based on a recommendation from the National Anti-Corruption Council and the Agency.

In order to continue anti-corruption reforms and ensure the fulfillment of the instructions of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan, the following tasks are considered as priorities:

- 1** Reducing corruption risks in public procurement, in particular, reducing direct procurement by half, establishing liability for violating price requirements, and implementing artificial intelligence technologies to identify violations of the law;
- 2** Improving the effectiveness of internal anti-corruption control units, establishing independence, performance evaluation criteria, and training requirements;
- 3** Developing in conjunction with the Agency and responsible government agencies, a system for identifying and eliminating corruption factors in industries, down to the grassroots level;
- 4** Introducing into practice the system of declaration of income and assets of civil servants;
- 5** When considering candidates for ministerial and hokim positions, reviewing by the chambers of the Oliy Majlis and the Councils of People's Representatives, their Corruption Prevention Plans;
- 6** Developing a draft law providing for the establishment of a clear list of corruption crimes;
- 7** Further expanding the participation of civil society institutions in the fight against corruption and support scientific research;
- 8** Ensuring an open and transparent process for hiring civil servants, creating a registry of civil servants, and implementing a new system for studying the level of corruption susceptibility of personnel;
- 9** Increasing the responsibility of the chambers of the Oliy Majlis in organizing parliamentary oversight, including ensuring they hearing and discussing monthly reports from heads of government agencies on their work to combat corruption in the regions;
- 10** In the Education class, explaining simply and easily for students that honesty and the non-violation of others' rights are fundamental moral principles.





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INTERNATIONAL ANTI-CORRUPTION EXCELLENCE AWARD

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