



HELLENIC REPUBLIC



NATIONAL TRANSPARENCY AUTHORITY

**ANNUAL  
REPORT**

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**2019**

# GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE

The establishment of the National Transparency Authority (hereinafter referred as NTA or Authority) with the Law 4622/2019, constituted the catalyst for a radical organizational and operational modernization of key public Audit Bodies (Inspectors-Controllers Body for Public Administration, General Inspector of Public Administration, Inspectors Body for Health and Welfare Services, Inspectors Body for Public Works, Inspectors-Controllers Body for Transport), as well as the General Secretariat of Anti-Corruption.



The Governor of  
the NTA



Within the first four months of its operation, the Authority managed to successfully implement a very demanding management plan for change by completing the integration of the six bodies and addressing organizational and operational dysfunctions of years. At the same time, there was not a day of operational inactivity. From the very beginning, the Authority exercised all its responsibilities thanks to the experience and tireless efforts of the staff and the management team. Statistical data show that the Authority has produced measurable and high-quality work in all three of its operational pillars, Control - Prevention - Awareness and has managed to create strong links with society and high expectations for continuity.

In 2019, we laid the foundations for a series of reform actions involving structural changes, such as the standardization and modernization of audit procedures and methodologies based on international standards and good practices, adopted by the most successful public bodies active, in preventing and combating fraud and corruption and improving the effectiveness of administrative action.

NTA also developed a strong presence at an international level, demonstrating that Greece can embrace innovation, bring forth the talent of public administration executives, implement ambitious reforms and mobilize forces of the public and private sectors. Citizens demand accountability for the actions of public bodies and institutions. They recognize transparency as a pillar for improving their daily lives. They need to see that things are changing in the field of public integrity and the fight against corruption. NTA was established to respond to citizens' expectations and change the situation.

Not everything that we achieved in 2019 would have been possible without the professionalism and dedication of the executives of NTA. In 2020, we are committed to work even harder and together move towards accomplishing the goals that unite us all. More transparency. Less corruption. Social justice and equal opportunities for all.



# INTRODUCTION

The annual report of the National Transparency Authority provided for in article 85, par. 5 of Law 4622/2019 (Government Gazette 133/A'/07.08.2019) is the main tool of transparency and accountability for the Authority's action and aims to provide objective and responsible information on the work carried out and for the planning of its activities for the following year.

The report is submitted by the Governor of the Authority to the President of the Greek Parliament and to the Committee on Institutions and Transparency, to be discussed in accordance with the Standing Orders of the Parliament. It is also posted on the website of the Authority.



The introductory section of the annual report presents a summary of the report for year 2019 with emphasis on the most important results. The main part of the report is structured in the following thematic sections:

1. Legal nature, institutional framework and organizational structure of the Authority.
2. Organizational change actions that took place during the first period of operation of the NTA, with emphasis on the key points of the Action Plan developed to manage the transition to a single Organization, following the abolition of five Audit Services and a General Secretariat, as well as the simultaneous transfer of their responsibilities and staff to the Authority.
3. An overview of the activities of NTA within the four months of its operation, based on the following three operational axes:
  - a) Auditing work of the Authority and good practices of members of the former Coordinating Body of Inspection and Audit
  - b) Integrity and Accountability Promotion
  - c) Actions on awareness raising and information
4. Presentation of the international partnerships developed by NTA, as well as the portfolio of projects that have been designed and implemented, taking advantage of the opportunities offered by different financial tools and European programs.
5. A summary of the strategic vision of the NTA that emerges through its upgraded institutional role and annual operational planning, in which the main operational pillars and key lines of intervention are highlighted. In addition, the structural actions designed to be undertaken by the NTA in 2020 are presented.

This document lists the introductory section of the Authority's report with the summary of the 2019 report.

The entire annual report (Greek version) has been posted on the official website of NTA ([www.aead.gr](http://www.aead.gr)) at the link:

<https://aead.gr/images/essays/ead-annual-report-2019.pdf>







**August 7th, 2019.** Law 4622/2019 abolishes 5 Auditing Bodies & the General Secretariat Against Corruption and establishes NTA, to which the responsibilities of the abolished Bodies are transferred.



## Vision



The emergence of the Authority as a modern and innovative public organization:

- With a strong international presence,
- With a decisive contribution to the defense of the public interest, the restoration of citizens’ trust in institutions and the development of an environment of equal opportunities for all.

## Mission



Strengthening the national audit, integrity & accountability framework:

- carrying out audits & inspections
- developing targeted strategies and strengthening policy coordination to identify, prevent and depreciate fraud and corruption phenomena
- raising awareness of citizens and businesses on the impact of corruption on society & the economy.



# 5 Strategic Objectives



The establishment and operation of the NTA contributed to the positive rise of Greece by 7 positions in the “Corruption Perceptions Index (CPI) 2019” with a score of 48 out of 45.



## Presence throughout the country

Central Offices based in Athens and 6 Regional Services in Thessaloniki, Larissa, Patras, Serres, Tripoli and Rethymnon.

## The NTA carries out audits on

- Ministries & other Services of the Central Government
- Legal entities governed by public or private law of the Central Government
- Local Authorities
- Businesses & Legal entities governed by public or private law supervised by Local Authorities
- Public authorities or Companies managed by the public sector
- Private Entities
- Individuals

# 3 Pillars of Organizational and Operational Structure



In October 2019 there were 301 inspectors-auditors and 87 administrative officers serving in the NTA. The posts of inspectors-auditors are covered exclusively by the secondment of public officials and the duration of the secondment is 3 years with the possibility of renewal until the completion of 4 consecutive periods of three years secondment.

High operating rates, even during the phase of internal reorganization and redesign of procedures. From September 9<sup>th</sup> to December 31<sup>st</sup> 2019, 302 administrative acts and 7 contract notices for the staffing of NTA were issued.

As part of the transitional action plan, 13 Working Groups were set up with the following topics:

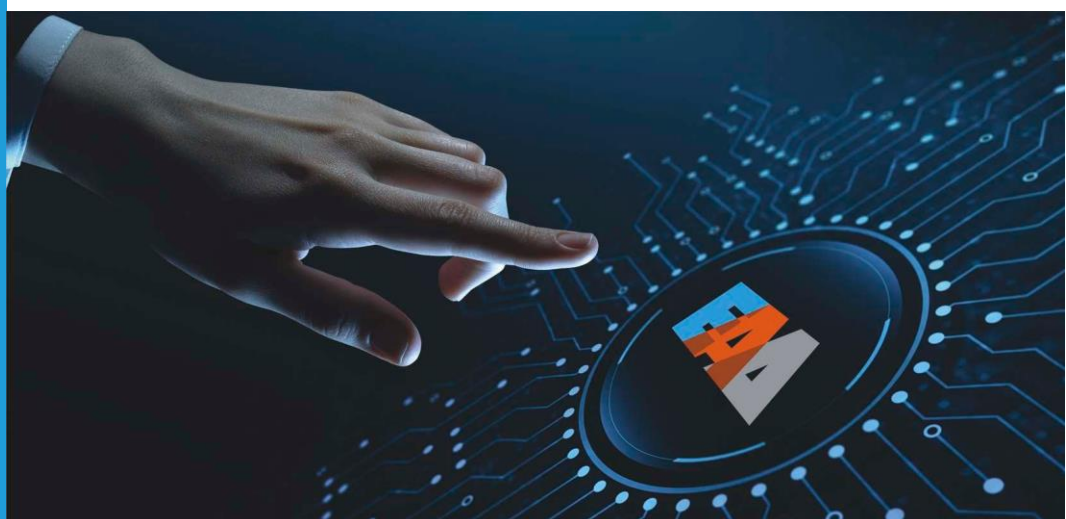
Development of an Integrated Complaints Management System
Drafting of a Prosecutor’s Orders Management Regulation
Drafting of the Audit Operations Regulation
Drafting of a Code of Professional Conduct and a Code of Ethics
Development of a follow-up progress system
Drafting of the Authority’s operating organization
Preparation of Public Sector Audit Standards
Reporting as part of the development of a technical study evaluation of the public procurement system
Drafting an action plan for the compliance of the NTA with national and Community legislation on the protection of individuals with regard to the process of personal data
Drafting a draft of Internal Rules of Organization for the National Coordinating Body for Audit and Accountability (ESOEL)
Management of Electronic Applications Changes of NTA
Drafting of a proposal for the presentation of the NTA’s Action Results
Recording of the obligations arising from the legislation in matters of fire safety, safety and hygiene for the services of NTA

# 3,940 Complaints

50.45 %	maladministration
15.96 %	cases of corruption
9.72 %	non-compliance with procedures
6.17 %	lack of transparency
2.51 %	cases of fraud
15.19 %	other problems

The NTA has been designated as the **Hellenic Anti-Fraud Coordination Service (AFCOS)**.

In 2019 **89** complaints were received with respect to fraud cases involving co-financed projects.



## Carrying out audits



507 audit orders were issued, 135 of which were issued after the Authority was established and launched.

### Controlled entities - individuals

33.58 %	Local Authorities (first degree)
19.51 %	Hospitals
12.00 %	Legal entities governed by private law
7.32 %	Legal entities governed by public law
6.57 %	Individuals
4.13 %	Ministries
2.63 %	Local Authorities (second degree)
1.69 %	Insurance institutions
1.50 %	Decentralized administrations
0.94 %	Audit procedures of asset declaration of public officials
10.13 %	Other institutions



484 audit reports were completed, 160 of which were completed since the NTA was established and launched. The most common findings of audits are maladministration and non-compliance.

### Findings of Audit Reports

Maladministration	Non-compliance
Complex procedures	Delays
Lack of transparency	Corruption
Fraud	Lack of communication
Deficiencies in logistics & digital infrastructure	Other findings



### Application of anti-smoking legislation

Between 26.10.2019 and 31.12.2019 audits were carried out on 1,193 agencies and 170 fines of EUR 120,000 were imposed.



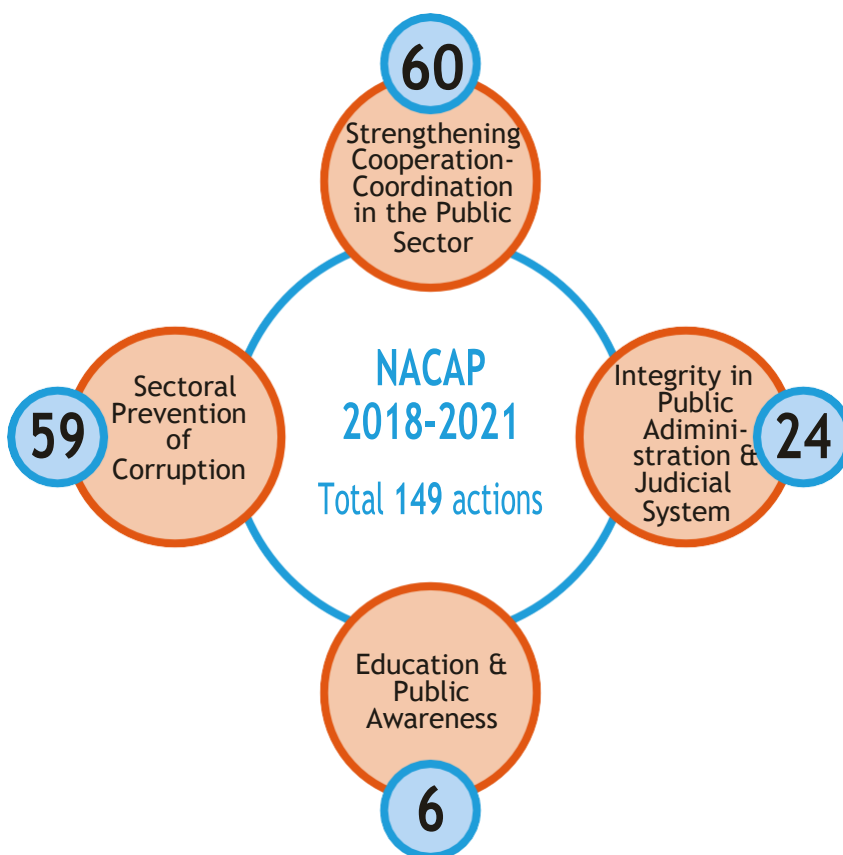
### Preliminary investigation and Disciplinary Responsibilities

33 preliminary examinations were conducted by Inspectors-Auditors, following public prosecutors' orders.  
 1,472 disciplinary decisions were considered.  
 82 objections were submitted to Disciplinary Boards and 9 Appeals were lodged before the Administrative Appeal Court and the Council of State.



## Integrity and Accountability

The Authority, as the competent institution for the planning and coordination of actions to enhance transparency and accountability, as well as for the prevention and repression of fraud and corruption phenomena, has the initiative and coordinates the actions for the establishment of the National Integrity System, the adoption of the National Internal Audit System. The NTA is also the National Authority responsible for the implementation of the National Anti-Corruption Action Plan (NACAP).



## National Cooperation – Communication and Awareness Actions

Developing cooperation and communication networks in order to improve the coordination and avoid duplication of actions by public institutions in the fight against corruption and fraud.



## 2 Memorandums of Cooperation

- With the General Secretariat of Citizenship of the Ministry of Interior for the assessment and identification of risks in existing procedures and policies in the fields of grant and acquisition of Greek citizenship and naturalization.
- With the Asset Control Institutions of Law 3213/2003 on the establishment of a single Regulation for Audit Procedures of Asset Declaration.

## 7 National Partnerships - Joint Actions

With the Ministry of Tourism for the provision of know-how and advisory services in the framework of the creation of an effective Internal Audit Unit and on general issues to strengthen accountability mechanisms

With the General Secretariat for Public Human Resources of the Ministry of Interior on the preparation of the National Integrity System

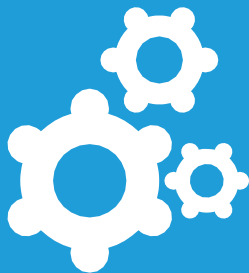
With the Ministry of Macedonia-Thrace for co-operation relating to integrity and accountability

With the Independent Authority for Public Revenue (IAPR) to avoid duplications in the carrying out of asset declaration checks on the personnel of IAPR and the exchange of information and findings

With the Region of Central Macedonia to strengthen the operation of the Internal Audit Unit

With the Municipality of Thessaloniki to exploit the know-how of the Internal Audit Unit

With the Municipality of Athens for the provision of know-how and advisory services for an effective Internal Audit Unit



## 5 Awareness and Communication Actions

Participation in the Thessaloniki International Fair. The Authority was hosted at the pavilion of the Ministry of Interior.

Conference on “Technology for Transparency”, on the occasion of International Anti-Corruption Day. During the event, a live vote was held via mobile phones, with the help of the online application Mentimeter.

Participation in the annual conference of the Hellenic Institute of Internal Auditors, on “Expect the Unexpected”. Presentation of the mission and the main operational objectives of the NTA.

Organization of a conference entitled “The Internal Audit in Local Authorities”. Presentation of the Internal Audit Manual and the practical guide for the implementation of Internal Audit.

Participation in the annual conference of the Hellenic Association of Certified Fraud Examiners (Hellenic ACFE), on the topic “Integrity, the Ultimate Brand”, where the vision and mission of NTA was presented.

Establishing international cooperation and communication networks, strengthening the extroversion and presence of Greece in international fora

## 6 Projects in the framework of international cooperation

Strengthening the National Anti-Corruption Action Plan in cooperation with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC): targeted interventions in specific policy areas and horizontal areas.

“Technical Assistance Project on Delivering Good Governance in Greece”: the project is being implemented by the Council of Europe in cooperation with the Hellenic Agency for Local Development and Local Government (EETAA) and aims to promote Useful Governance through the Inter-municipal Cooperation for Strengthening Internal Audit in Local Authorities.

“Administrative Reform Technical Assistance in Greece”: in collaboration with the French public agency for international technical assistance, Expertise France, to strengthen the operation of Internal Audit Units in Local Authorities.

Implementation of a specialized training program for the fight against corruption in Greece, in collaboration with the Finnish Institute of Public Management HAUS.

“Strengthening the institutional framework for combating corruption and the Integrity and Transparency Mechanisms”: the project will be funded by the Financial Mechanism of the European Economic Area and the partnership will involve, in addition to the NTA, the Financial and Economic Crime Unit (SDOE), the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC). The aim of the project’s actions is to strengthen the National System of Accountability & Integrity and strengthen the framework for asset management and recovery.

Development of Behavioral Analysis Tools and Risk Analysis-based Audit Planning Methodology: this project is funded by the European Commission’s Directorate-General for Structural Reform (DG REFORM).

## 11 Participations and representations in International Organizations, International Conferences and Working Groups

Senior Officials Working Group on Integrity of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (19 March 2019).

Conference on the integrity of the member countries of the Adriatic and Ionian Initiative (AII), in Montenegro (16-17 April 2019).

Meeting of E.E. national contact points on corruption issues, in Brussels (4 October 2019).

Briefing on Operation OPSON VIII and opening meeting for Operation OPSON IX, to deal with the phenomenon of the illicit trafficking of counterfeit, counterfeit food and beverages (7-8 November 2019).

European conference on the investigation of fraud and corruption affecting the EU’s financial interests in Bucharest (25-26 November 2019).

International conference on innovative responses to contemporary challenges in the anti-corruption sector in Belgrade (12 December 2019).

8<sup>th</sup> session of the UNCAC (United Nations Convention against Corruption) Conference of States Parties (CoSP8) to in Abu Dhabi (16-20 December 2019).

### International representation in the context of the role of NTA as Greek AFCOS

Annual meeting of the relevant coordinating departments for the protection of the European Union’s financial interests (24 October 2019).

Group meeting on the Prevention of Fraud (7 November 2019).

Group reporting and analysis meetings of fraudulent and other irregularities (14 May & 5 December 2019).

Meetings of the Advisory Committee for the Coordination of Fraud Prevention, COCOLAF (12-13 June, 7 November & 6 December 2019).

# Operational Planning for 2020 includes interventions in 4 areas

**1** Upgrading Audits,  
Methodologies &  
Standards

**2** Promotion of Integrity  
& Accountability

**3** Awareness &  
Communication

**4** Strengthening  
Operational Capacity





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