

Annexes:

Summary of checks performed by relevant authorities on the steps for which funding is requested, including weaknesses identified and any corrective actions taken.

During the verification process, all relevant evidence was thoroughly collected and reviewed, as part of the internal control procedures, the verification of the reform step was conducted to assess its alignment with the requirements outlined in the Commission Implementing Decision and the associated Reform Agreement. The relevant evidence was thoroughly collected and reviewed, supporting the conclusion that the reform step has been achieved. This evidence has been systematically documented in the verification checklist, and all supporting materials have been securely stored to ensure the availability of a robust audit trail.

The collected documentation has been comprehensively recorded in the verification checklist, and all supporting evidence has been appropriately archived. The following verification checks were made, such as the confirmation that all required documentation, as specified in Annex 1 of the Reform Agreement (attached to this report), has been submitted, the assessment of compliance with the narrative description of the reform step, as outlined in the Commission Implementing Decision, the verification that the submitted documentation provides clear and unequivocal evidence of the fulfilment of the reform step and the confirmation that the timing of the reform step's completion is adequately substantiated by the attached evidence. However, based on the procedures carried out, no findings or non-compliances were identified in relation to the reform step under review.

1) Fiche to be used for each step:

The step under review	Increase the number of whistleblowing reports processed by the Agency (by 30% compared to 2023)
Baseline	20 cases whistleblowing reports processed by the Agency, 2 of which have been sent to the prosecutor's office
Deadline of the step	June 2025
Actual results	In accordance with Article 18 paragraph 2 and 3 of the Law no. 06/L –085 on protection of Whistle-blowers¹, the Agency for Prevention of Corruption (APC) serves as the designated authority for external whistleblowing within the public sector for the cases that fall under its scope. Reports of whistleblowing submitted to the APC increased by 140% in 2024 compared to 2023, namely from 20 reports in 2023 to 48 in 2024. All whistleblowing cases reported to the APC in 2024 were reviewed, resulting in nine criminal reports being submitted to the Police or Prosecution. This positive trend continued in the first half of 2025. During this period, the APC has received 41 whistleblowing reports. Of the total number of cases reported in 2025, 34 have been processed until 30 June, resulting in 3 criminal reports submitted to the Police.

¹ (Official Gazette of the Republic of Kosovo / no. 22 / 18 December 2018, Pristina) <https://gzk.rks-gov.net/ActDetail.aspx?ActID=18303>

	In addition to the traditional written format, whistleblowing within the public sector can also be submitted electronically through a platform or application developed by the Agency in 2024, funded by the British Embassy in Kosovo, which <i>will be available to the public starting in July 2025</i>². This application is available for download on the AppStore (IOS) and PlayStore (Android), under the name Sinjalizo (Corruption Prevention Agency), and will be used to report whistleblowing cases, which will be linked to the reporting module of the Report Abuse platform³. In terms of institutional capacities and staffing, the Agency's efficiency in handling cases improved, in part, due to the recruitment of additional staff. Specifically, one officer dedicated to whistleblowing case management was hired during 2024/2025.⁴ Previously, the Agency had established a special whistleblowing unit. The unit is led by the chief and now this unit counts in total 3 staff members. Upon approval of the agency's request by Government, 1 additional official is expected to be recruited The following training programs for APC staff handling whistleblowing cases were conducted in 2024: Whistle-blowing organized by GIZ, in Prishtina from 13-14.05.2024, attended by 10 APC officials⁵. Additionally, in the framework on capacity building, in 2024 and 2025, officials responsible for whistleblowing in public institutions, participated in the following training sessions organized by the APC: During 2024, the Agency a total of ten (10) activities with a total number of participants of 140 officials, all for responsible officials of public institutions, in some of these activities the Agency was supported by the OSCE Mission in Kosovo, which were carried out throughout the year: two in May, two in June, two in October, three in November and one in December. These trainings include the following: • Understanding the Law and Whistle-blower Procedures: Training officials on the rules and procedures to follow when dealing with whistle-blowers, as well as on how to handle whistle-blower cases. • Handling Whistle-blower Cases: Developing skills to assess and investigate whistle-blower cases, ensuring that the process is fair to whistle-blowers. • The Importance of Transparency and Accountability: Training officials on the importance of transparency in public administration and the impact that whistle-blowers have on preventing corruption and improving public services. • Education on Confidential Information Management: Using technologies and methods to ensure that whistle-blower information remains secure and confidential, while protecting the identity of whistle-blowers. • Providing Whistle-blower Protection: Educating officials on how to keep whistle-blowers safe and protected from possible retaliation and punishment that may follow a whistle-blower.
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² <https://www.facebook.com/share/p/19q9vNgj8F/?mibextid=wwXlfr>

³ <https://www.facebook.com/share/p/19q9vNgj8F/?mibextid=wwXlfr>

⁴ <https://konkursi.rks-gov.net/advertisement/details?refNumber=RN00015248>

⁵ <https://www.facebook.com/share/p/16YbfzRF6/?mibextid=wwXlfr>

	Training of responsible officials within institutions, has contributed to improving performance as well as increasing responsibility and accountability in relation to whistleblowing and the protection of whistle-blowers. During 2025, so far, 7 awareness activities have been held for officials responsible for receiving and handling whistleblowing cases, with a total number of participants of 131 officials. Additionally, at the request of the Agency, 44 Public Institutions have organized internal awareness activities regarding the whistleblowing Mechanism for their staff⁶. Besides training initiatives, the APC also conducted awareness-raising events targeted at public officials, the Agency has successfully organized "Integrity Week 2024", an initiative dedicated to strengthening transparency, accountability and building institutions with integrity. This week of activities, held from 9 to 13 December 2024, brought together over 300 participants from public institutions, the private sector, civil society and the media, contributing to the debate on good practices in the fight against corruption. Day Four of this activity tackled the topic of: The Role of Whistleblowing in the Public and Private Sector. Participants discussed challenges and best practices for whistle-blowers protection⁷. At the 10th General Assembly of NEIWA in Brussels, Belgium, the Agency became the newest partner of the Network of European Integrity and Whistleblowing Authorities (NEIWA).⁸
Evidence provided	1. APC Annual Report 2023 and 2024, highlighting the number of external whistleblowing, https://apk-rks.net/wp-content/uploads/2025/08/2025-03-28-Raporti-vjetor-i-punes-se-APK-per-vitin-2024-ENG.pdf ; https://apk-rks.net/wp-content/uploads/2024/05/Raporti-Vjetor-2023-Agencia-per-Parandalimin-e-Korrupsionit_Anglisht_compressed.pdf 2. The Agency for Prevention of Corruption Annual Report 2024 or other documents, highlighting the number of staff recruited, https://konkursi.rks-gov.net/advertisement/details?refNumber=RN00015248 3. Evidence of training sessions organized for APC staff dealing with whistleblowing cases – Reports, links, etc., https://www.facebook.com/share/p/16YbfzRF6/?mibextid=wwXIfr 4. Evidence of training held for officials responsible for whistleblowing in public institutions – Reports, links, etc., https://www.facebook.com/share/p/1CK1pBKduk/?mibextid=wwXIfr https://www.facebook.com/share/p/15XRH6YrnP/?mibextid=wwXIfr https://www.facebook.com/share/p/1FTmJFNuRD/?mibextid=wwXIfr https://www.facebook.com/share/p/1JfBeC1vF5/?mibextid=wwXIfr https://www.facebook.com/share/p/19XU37BeVX/?mibextid=wwXIfr https://www.facebook.com/share/p/16sLXfh3JW/?mibextid=wwXIfr https://www.facebook.com/share/p/16wsyGo6Zp/?mibextid=wwXIfr 5. Evidence of awareness raising event on whistleblowing in public sector – Reports, links, etc.

⁶ <https://www.facebook.com/share/p/19GWrYTgG8/?mibextid=wwXIfr>

<https://www.facebook.com/share/p/1Ar1EXKW38/?mibextid=wwXIfr>

⁷ <https://www.facebook.com/share/p/1Ex7YuGKR8/?mibextid=wwXIfr>

⁸ <https://www.facebook.com/share/v/1AiroAw2qV/?mibextid=wwXIfr>

	https://www.facebook.com/share/p/1Ex7YuGKR8/?mibextid=wwXIfr https://www.facebook.com/share/p/19q9vNgj8F/?mibextid=wwXIfr 6. Evidence of internal awareness raising by Public Institutions activities, https://www.facebook.com/share/p/19GWrYTgG8/?mibextid=wwXIfr https://www.facebook.com/share/p/1Ar1EXKW38/?mibextid=wwXIfr 7. Evidence of the joining the network, https://www.facebook.com/share/v/1AiroAw2qV/?mibextid=wwXIfr
Checks performed in the verification of the step and related findings	During verification of the step, all evidence has been collected and reviewed (justifying the achievement of the reform). The evidence has been listed down in the checklist on the conducted verification, and all documents supporting the verification have been properly stored (in order to ensure audit trail). The following checks were conducted: • All necessary documentation, as specified in Annex 1 of RA (which are also attached to this report); • Compliance with the descriptive part of the reform step from the Commission Implementing Decision; • The attached documentation can unequivocally confirm the fulfilment of the reform step; • The attached documentation can unequivocally confirm the period in which the reform step has been fulfilled. No related findings have been identified.
Compliance with general principles and DNSH principle	The implementation of the steps does not contravene the general principles outlined in Article 4 and 11(4) of Regulation (EU) 2024/1449 and Article 3 of the Facility Agreement. The implementation of the steps does not contravene the ‘Do No Significant Harm’ principle (DNSH).
Double funding	There is no double funding for the activity. While an electronic platform has been developed by the Agency in 2024, funded by the British Embassy in Kosovo, it will be available to the public starting in July 2025⁹ and will be used to report whistleblowing cases. The current reform is aimed at enhancing the overall efficiency and effectiveness of the Agency in implementing the reform as its success depends on an increased capacity to handle cases. Specifically, it focuses on increasing the number of whistleblowing cases which increase was aimed to be undertaken primarily through increases in the number of staff and their adequate training through consistent capacity building activities. These activities are distinct and complementary to the initial platform development and ensure no overlap in funding.
Clear conclusion on the achievement of the step	The step has been fully achieved.

⁹ <https://www.facebook.com/share/p/19q9vNgj8F/?mibextid=wwXIfr>

