

TRAINING DESCRIPTION

Title: *Capacity Building for Civil Society, Media, and Researchers on the Use of the Integrity Watch Serbia Platform*

Background and Rationale

Effective oversight of public spending requires timely access to structured, reliable, and analytically usable data. In Serbia, public procurement and large-scale public investments represent areas of heightened integrity risk due to the volume of public funds involved and the complexity of institutional and contractual arrangements.

The Integrity Watch Serbia platform, developed by Transparency Serbia within the international Integrity Watch initiative, addresses this challenge by consolidating publicly available data on public procurement, contracts, framework agreements, and politically exposed companies, and by presenting them through user-friendly visualizations and analytical tools. A dedicated module on the EXPO 2027 project further strengthens public oversight of one of the largest public investments in the country.

To ensure effective and responsible use of this tool, targeted capacity building is required for civil society organizations, journalists, researchers, and other stakeholders engaged in monitoring public finances and integrity risks.

Overall Objective

To strengthen the capacity of civil society, media, and research actors to independently monitor public spending and integrity risks through effective and responsible use of the Integrity Watch Serbia platform.

Specific Objectives

- To improve participants' understanding of public procurement data and integrity indicators
- To build practical skills for navigating, searching, filtering, and analyzing data on the Integrity Watch Serbia platform
- To enhance the ability of participants to identify patterns, trends, and potential integrity risks in public spending
- To promote ethical and professional standards in the use of open data for research, journalism, and advocacy

Target Groups

- Civil society organizations active in anti-corruption, public finance, and governance monitoring
- Journalists and media professionals covering public spending and accountability

- Researchers and analysts in public policy, economics, and political science
- Other stakeholders with an interest in transparency and oversight of public funds

Training Content

The training covers the following thematic areas:

- Overview of the Integrity Watch initiative and the Integrity Watch Serbia platform
- Platform structure, navigation, and methodology
- Analysis of public procurement data
- In-depth use of the EXPO 2027 module as a case study for monitoring large-scale public projects
- Identification and analytical use of data on companies related to political actors
- Methodological limitations, data reliability, and ethical standards

Methodology

The training is delivered through an interactive and practice-oriented approach, combining:

- Presentations and live demonstrations of the platform
- Guided hands-on exercises using real data
- Case study analysis (with a focus on EXPO 2027)
- Group discussions and Q&A sessions

Expected Results

- Increased knowledge among participants of public procurement processes and integrity risks
- Enhanced capacity of CSOs, journalists, and researchers to conduct data-driven monitoring of public spending
- Improved quality of research outputs, media reporting, and advocacy initiatives based on platform data
- Greater use of the Integrity Watch Serbia platform in public oversight activities

Training Syllabus

General Information

- **Title:** User Training on the Integrity Watch Serbia Platform
- **Target audience:**
Journalists, civil society organizations, researchers, analysts, public officials, students, and interested citizens
- **Level:** Beginner to intermediate
- **Format:** Interactive training (presentation, live platform demonstration, hands-on exercises)
- **Duration:**
 - 2,5 hours (divided into 4 sessions)

Training Sessions and Content

Session 1: Introduction to Integrity Watch Serbia

Duration: 30 minutes

Topics:

- Integrity Watch initiative introduction
- Introduction to the platform features
- Platform structure, navigation, and methodology
- Limitations and Ethics
- What the platform *does* and *does not* do? What problems does it address?

Session 2: Public Procurements (contracts and framework agreements)

Duration: 45 minutes

Topics:

- Analysis of the structure of the data in the table
- What is the difference between contracts and framework agreements?
- Identifying concentration of funds
- Long-term relationships between institutions and companies

Practical Exercise:

- Filtering the public procurement data and finding specific contractors
- Finding largest bidders during one year in the specific contracting authority

Session 3: EXPO 2027 Module – Monitoring Large-Scale Projects

Duration: 30 minutes

Topics:

- Importance of EXPO 2027 for public finances
- Structure and content of the EXPO module
- EXPO 2027 as a case study
- Repeated winners and limited competition

Practical Exercise:

- Mapping key EXPO 2027 actors
- Identifying potential integrity risks

Session 4: Companies Related to Politics

Duration: 30 minutes

Topics:

- Types of political links
- Why are these companies selected?
- Analytical use vs. legal conclusions
- Risks of misinterpretation

Practical Exercise:

- Comparing politically related companies with public procurements

Materials Provided

- User Manual (PDF)
- Video instructions
- List of relevant links and data sources

Evaluation

- Participant feedback form