

Prof. Dr. Eduard Ivanov, International Anti-Corruption Academy (IACA)

The role of anti-corruption compliance in the business sector in the protection of European funds

Abstract. Corruption in the public and business sectors is closely linked to fraud, including fraud against European funds. Designers of criminal schemes often use corruption to prepare and commit fraud crime and following money laundering. In this regard, an effective and efficient anti-corruption compliance management system in the business sector is an important component of the European anti-fraud framework. Modern trends in the development of anti-corruption compliance are the growing role of ethics and values, digitalization of the compliance function, the use of big data analytics and AI. However, designing and implementing an anti-corruption compliance programme is a challenging task, especially for SMEs. According to the IACA's study, there are around 50 anti-corruption compliance guidelines published by various international organizations and other stakeholders. Companies face numerous obstacles, such as localization of compliance programmes, lack of data or limited access to information required for third-party due diligence and risk management.