

Kyiv, 14.10.2024

Commission for Conducting External Independent Evaluation of NABU Completes First Visit to Kyiv: Results and Next Steps.

The Commission for conducting the external independent evaluation (audit) of the effectiveness of the National Anti-Corruption Bureau of Ukraine (NABU) has completed its first visit to Ukraine, which took place from October 1 to October 11. During the visit, the Commission initiated and held a series of productive meetings with government bodies, civil organizations, and other stakeholders. The goal was to gather baseline information, conduct consultations, and establish communication channels with stakeholders to promote transparency throughout the process and to develop criteria and methodology to guide the audit.

Over the course of two weeks, the Commission met with representatives from the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine, the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine, the National Agency for the Prevention of Corruption (NAPC), the Asset Recovery and Management Agency (ARMA), the Specialized Anti-Corruption Prosecutor's Office (SAP), and the High Anti-Corruption Court (HACC). During these meetings, the Commission discussed with these bodies NABU's collaboration with the aforementioned institutions, the effectiveness of these interactions, and opportunities for further development. The Commission also held a series of relevant meetings with NABU's Director, deputies, heads of structural units, and the Public Control Council of NABU.

Additionally, the Commission organized a public meeting with open registration for civil organizations in the format of a Listening Forum. This provided participants with the opportunity to share their perspectives and highlight key concerns regarding NABU's activities. During this session, the Commission gathered the views and positions of civil society representatives and encouraged ongoing information exchange and suggestions.

The information collected during this first visit will be used to develop the methodology and criteria for the independent evaluation.

“External independent evaluation truly reflects the importance of Ukraine's anti-corruption efforts, especially in this critical moment of its history. Its significance and seriousness are established by law. We are grateful for the strong local support we have received from Ukrainian experts throughout our work. We are pleased that all meetings were productive and cooperative, laying the groundwork for continued collaboration. We have already requested some documents from NABU and received some in response. We appreciate NABU's cooperation. The Commission is here to assist – to provide suggestions and recommendations to improve NABU's processes, drawing on our international experience, to identify a way forward, and to ensure NABU fully realizes its potential. This is NABU's first external independent evaluation, and we take our responsibility seriously. The Commission is firmly committed to achieving its goals. We are currently working on the methodology, following a systematic and evidence-based approach”, - commented **Robert Westbrook**, Head of the Commission.

The next steps for the Commission include developing and approving the criteria and methodology for the independent evaluation, along with conducting intensive audit work. Additional visits are planned as part of the audit. The final report of the external independent evaluation will be published on the website of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine and included in NABU's report, which will be presented to the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine.

It is worth noting that this external independent evaluation (audit) of NABU's effectiveness is the first since NABU's establishment in 2015. The Commission operates under the Law of Ukraine on the National Anti-Corruption Bureau of Ukraine, with its composition approved by the Cabinet of Ministers in September 2024, in accordance with part seven of Article 26 of this Law. The members of the Commission are Robert Westbrooks, Martin Arpo, and Hermione Cronje, all of whom bring significant international expertise in pre-trial investigations, anti-corruption, asset recovery, and auditing.