

SPEAK UP EUROPE

Empower European Citizens to Speak Up Against Corruption

ABOUT WHISTLEBLOWING SOLUTIONS IMPRESA SOCIALE S.R.L.

Whistleblowing Solutions I.S. S.r.l. (WBS) is a non-profit social enterprise that supports the fight against corruption through the research, development and provision of specific digital technology and operational support to anti-corruption organisations. These organisations, in turn, support whistleblowers in reporting malpractice worldwide.

Whistleblowing Solutions was incorporated in 2016 by the developers of the <u>GlobaLeaks</u> technology. This was done to strategically support a sustainability plan for the development of the GlobaLeaks whistleblowing software, which is a modern whistleblowing framework. The software has already been translated into more than 90 languages worldwide and is used by thousands of organisations running whistleblowing projects around the world, focusing on investigative journalism, anti-corruption, human rights and corporate compliance.

The goal of Whisleblowing Solutions is to create free software and a free knowledge base around whistleblowing, and to foster a large community of those who support whistleblowers.

ABOUT THE PROJECT

Speak Up Europe is a new project aiming to prevent corruption in high-risk areas in the EU by empowering individuals to speak up about misconduct to public, private and civil society organisations that can take action.

To achieve this, the project will help provide European citizens with <u>safe corruption reporting channels</u> to receive technical, legal and advocacy assistance in Bulgaria, France, Hungary, Latvia, Romania and Slovenia. The analysis of the complaints received will in turn allow Transparency International's national chapters in these countries to identify systemic issues in high-risk sectors and inform their advocacy accordingly.

The project will also help public and private European organisations in high-risk sectors to implement best-practice whistleblowing mechanisms. Not only will it benefit workers who will have access to safe channels to report corruption and receive information on their rights and obligations, it will also benefit public and private organisations, as whistleblowing mechanisms are effective corruption risk management and prevention tools. This will allow the organisations to be alerted to and address corruption issues, thus preventing or mitigating damages for them and, often, the public interest. Hence, it will also benefit society at large.

WBS ACTIONS WITHIN THE PROJECT

With this project WBS intends to further develop, test and finalise a large set of technical and operational documentation that can be used by various stakeholders – including European public agencies, companies and civil society - to build secure digital whistleblowing platforms. These platforms will adopt the GlobaLeaks technology and will be in line with the European Directive 2019/1937 and the European General Data Protection Regulation 2016/679 (GDPR).

More specifically, WBS's contribution will support:

Safe online platforms adopted and used by civil society for corruption reporting, case management, and corruption risk analysis

In collaboration with Transparency International Secretariat (TI-S), WBS will support four national chapters of Transparency International to adopt GlobaLeaks and implement a digital whistleblowing reporting channel for their Advocacy and Legal Advice Centres (ALAC).

In particular, chapters from Hungary, Bulgaria, Latvia, and Romania will be trained.

During this, Whistleblowing Solutions will design, implement, test and finalise documentation that can be used to train other Transparency International chapters or other civil society organisations to implement a user-friendly, secure and sustainable digital whistleblowing platform that can receive and handle whistleblowers reports.

Safe online whistleblowing platform for national authorities, public institutions, companies and whistleblowers

The project, Speak Up Europe, seeks to provide public and private organisations with a safe online platform for receiving and managing whistleblowing reports, based on a <u>successful initiative</u> using GlobaLeaks which is currently supporting over 1,500 institutions in Italy.

Using the years of expertise gained with Transparency International Italia in supporting public agencies and corporations in the adoption of digital whistleblowing platforms, WBS will document the technical procedures followed to set-up and implement this efficient and sustainable model.

With support from Transparency International Italia and the Secretariat, WBS will then help Transparency International Slovenia replicate the Italian model, using the technical documentation developed.

The end-product is expected to be a high-quality set of manuals that can be used by any TI chapter or other organisation to provide safe digital whistleblowing platforms.

FUNDER

This two-year project, running from January 2022 to December 2023, is funded by the European Union's Internal Security Fund - Police.



The content of this factsheet represents the views of the author only and is their sole responsibility. The European Commission does not accept any responsibility for use that may be made of the information it contains.

You can find out more about the overall project <u>here.</u>