

# INTEGRITY TRANSPARENCY ACCOUNTABILITY

Student Creativity Competition

**Integrity Leaders of Tomorrow**



HELLENIC REPUBLIC



NATIONAL TRANSPARENCY AUTHORITY



## A few words about the National Transparency Authority

The **National Transparency Authority (NTA)** was established by law **4622/2019** with the aim to enhance transparency and fight corruption in our country. For the first time, a single and independent Authority was established in Greece, with all the necessary guarantees of independence and impartiality, in accordance with best practices from other countries and international law.

**The Authority's mission** is to formulate and implement a framework of coherent policies, focusing both on the detection and repression of acts of corruption, as well as on prevention and deterrence. At the same time, it aims to inform and raise awareness in society, especially among young children – tomorrow's citizens of our country – in order to gradually change attitudes and perceptions about public ethics and integrity.

The Authority is structured around **three main pillars** introducing, for the **first time in Greece**, an organisational and operational model of innovative actions and practical tools to enhance transparency.



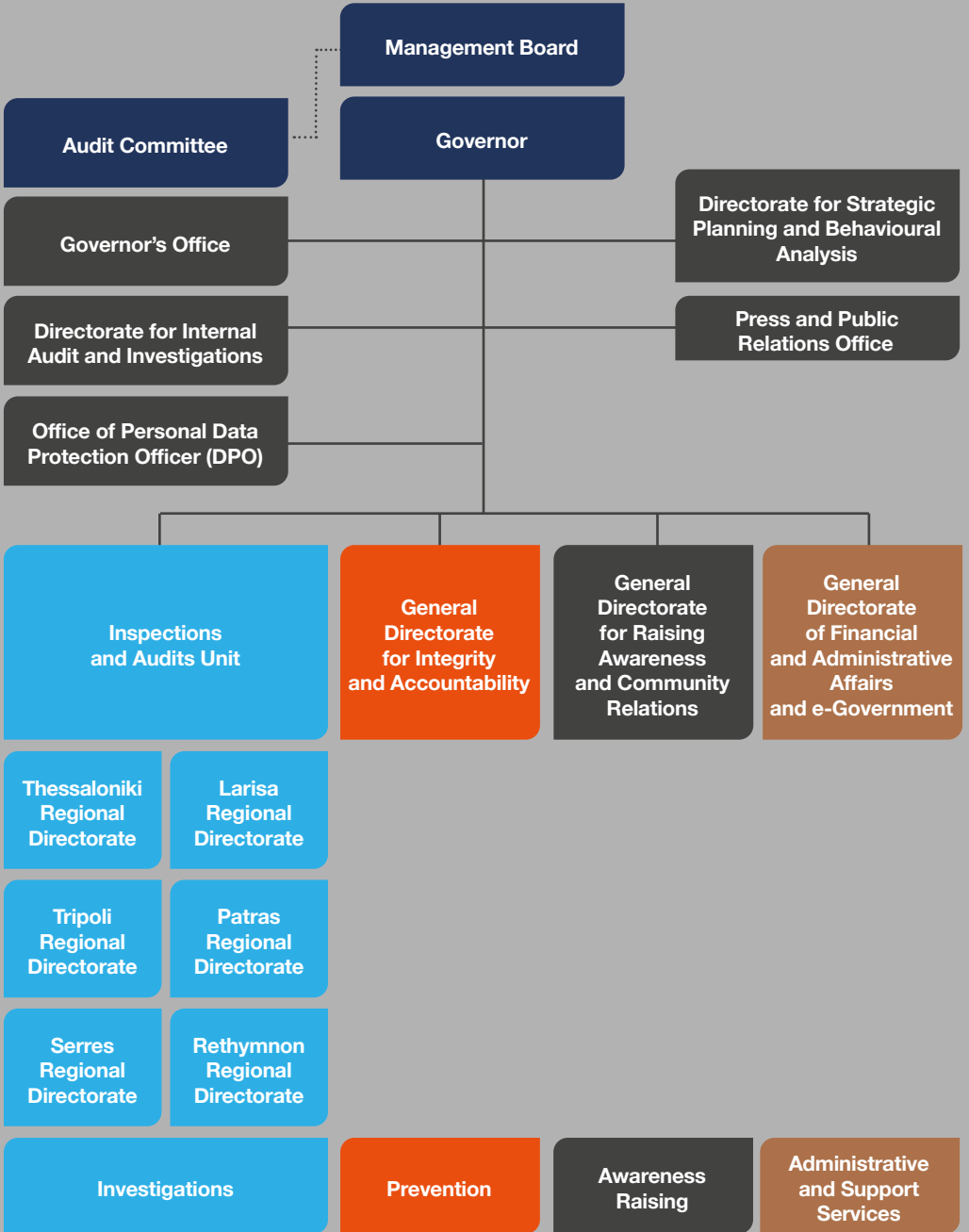
**1<sup>st</sup> PILLAR:**  
Inspections  
and Audits



**2<sup>nd</sup> PILLAR:**  
Integrity  
and Accountability  
Policies



**3<sup>rd</sup> PILLAR:**  
Awareness Raising  
and Community  
Relations



Meeting the society's demand for transparency, accountability and reliability, the NTA implements a standard procedure for managing and evaluating complaints. The ultimate goal is to improve the targeting and planning of audits, objectively manage complaints on the basis of specific evaluation criteria, directly handle and prioritise complaints based on their severity and documentation, maximise effectiveness in complaints management, and ultimately strengthen citizens' trust in public institutions.

At the same time, the Authority's responsibility is to coordinate the implementation of the **National Anti-Corruption Action Plan (NACAP)**, which is the primary policy tool, at national level, for identifying, preventing and dealing with corruption phenomena. The Plan includes a coherent framework of actions, interventions and projects aiming at preventing and strengthening transparency, integrity and accountability, and systematically informing and raising awareness on corruption issues.

The NTA contributes catalytically to the achievement of the objectives of the Plan, through the implementation of important NACAP actions in cooperation with public policy bodies (e.g. ministries). At the same time, the implementation of NACAP is a national commitment, which ensures the continuity of the reforms undertaken by the country at European and international level.

Furthermore, within the framework of the **National Integrity System (NIS)**, which is implemented in cooperation with the Ministry of Interior, the NTA carries out concrete actions aimed at improving the performance and effectiveness of anti-corruption mechanisms and promoting the principles of transparency and good governance in the public sector.

Finally, the Authority has developed a significant **international presence** through active participation in the most recognised international networks of anti-corruption authorities and international fora. At the same time, it has undertaken the coordination of national bodies, actively participating in the evaluation process of our country by international organisations in the field of the fight against corruption.



## Introduction

How do you explain **integrity** to a child to ensure he/she understands this complex, even for adults, concept? In the NTA we use a simple and understandable definition: *“Integrity is doing the right thing even when no one is watching.”* In this way, we give content to the concept of “integrity”, which may seem theoretical, but it has a practical application in our everyday life. After all, **Integrity, Transparency and Accountability** are the foundations of every democratic and ordered state, which decides and acts with the progress and well-being of its citizens in mind. We want to “introduce” these timeless values of transparency, integrity, civil equality and justice to students of all educational levels through the Student Creativity Competition “Integrity Leaders of Tomorrow”, which we organise every year, as well as all the educational activities we carry out. After all, change can only come from young children, which are bearers of hope for a world with less corruption, more transparency and integrity, and a moral value scale different from that of older generations.

So, let’s allow children once again show us how to deal with corruption, one of the most critical problems worldwide, with multiple and severe consequences for the social, economic and political life of a country.

# 1<sup>st</sup> Student Creativity Competition

The Student Creativity Competition “Integrity Leaders of Tomorrow” is addressed to Primary and Secondary Education students, with the main mission of raising awareness within the school community of the values of truth, transparency and integrity. It is at the “heart” of the actions carried out by the NTA, alongside the gradual introduction of children - tomorrow’s citizens of the country – into a culture of zero tolerance towards corruption. However, in order to create such a culture and cultivate the “soil” so that it bears fruit, actions such as this Student Competition are necessary to inform and raise awareness among the new generation.

The 1<sup>st</sup> Student Competition was held for the first time during the **school year 2020-2021** in cooperation with the Ministry of Education and Religious Affairs, the Institute of Educational Policy and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC). Students from all over the country had the

opportunity to express themselves **creatively** (through paintings, collages, posters, videos, written texts and poems) and to capture in an original way the values of respect, truth, justice, integrity and solidarity.



*“The Competition inspired me to create a painting about solidarity... the value we have to offer to those in need.”* These words of **Alexandra Sotiropoulou** from the 28<sup>th</sup> Primary School of Piraeus summarise the real goal of the competition in the best way. Same as in the comment of **Asimakis Chronas** from the Ionideios Secondary School of Piraeus: *“The contest helped me a lot on a personal level as well. I got to do what I love, which is directing, while at the same time, I was given the opportunity to travel to Vienna and talk to people who work in the fight against corruption.”*

In total, **217 Primary and Secondary Education students** participated in the 1<sup>st</sup> Student Competition with **157 projects**. At the same time, **37 schools** from all over the country were represented (a significant number, considering that the Competition was held during the pandemic). Its aim was to bring the student community in contact with the concepts of ethics, transparency and accountability, as well as with the benefits that arise for society from strengthening mechanisms that prevent and deal with corruption and maladministration.

During a special event, the NTA **awarded** the students whose projects were distinguished after an evaluation process by a Special Committee. The children presented their works and talked about them, describing how they were inspired. **Dimitris Diamantidis, the famous basketball player**, awarded the children and offered them personalised T-shirts with his signature, declaring the first “National Integrity Team”. At the same time, he discussed with them the values of sports integrity and respect. Moreover, the author **Antonis Papatheodoulou** gave the children his book “The city that drove out war” and talked with them about the current values of peace, acceptance and solidarity.

The winners of Primary Education schools received the NTA’s **educational material** created especially for this action in cooperation with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC). At the same time, the Secondary School students **travelled to Vienna**, where they visited the UNODC headquarters and presented their projects at a special award ceremony. The winners’ creations were put together to form an **Art Exhibition** hosted at the NTA’s headquarters and presented in the context of the Integrity Forum organised by the Authority on the occasion of the International Anti-Corruption Day.

# 2<sup>nd</sup> Student Creativity Competition



*“It was a **very nice experience**. We obtained important things and positive messages. We will definitely participate in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Student Competition again!”* With encouraging messages like this from **Ioannis Kakaroundas** and **Filippos Bolovinis**, students of the 16<sup>th</sup> Primary School of Lamia, the NTA proceeded to the organisation of the **2<sup>nd</sup> Student Competition**. Thus, in December 2022, in cooperation with the Ministry of Education and Religious Affairs, the National Commission for Human Rights, the Library of the Hellenic Parliament and the Educational Television, the NTA announced the 2<sup>nd</sup> Student Competition with the topic **“No to violence, yes to friendship. Stop bullying.”**

The topical issue of school bullying and the question whether its elimination is linked to the respect for human rights, trust, tolerance beyond ethnic background, socio-economic level and other factors favoring any discrimination (social, economic, racial, religious etc.) was chosen this time as the point of reference for starting the Competition. Its official launch took place on **December 9, 2022**, during the 2<sup>nd</sup> Integrity Forum organised by the NTA in the context of the International Anti-Corruption Day, and participants are invited to **submit** their projects **until April 7, 2023**.



The new Competition aims to inform students about school bullying and violence, diversity, human rights, respect, trust, truth and integrity. International experience has shown that the problem of bullying is multidimensional and can only be tackled with appropriate prevention and development of social and emotional skills in children, both in school and in family environments. Skills such as anger management, conflict resolution, empathy and decision-making are valuable tools for children to learn to respect others, irrespective of their country of origin and characteristics. Values such as respect, responsibility, dialogue, truth, cooperation, tolerance, honesty, trust, freedom and justice are the best companions for a child.

The 2<sup>nd</sup> Student Competition will be an ideal occasion for teachers to inform and raise awareness in the student community about those issues, but it will also be an opportunity to develop a comprehensive dialogue with children and to hear, through their artistic creations, their concerns and their own perspective on school bullying, diversity, human rights, as well as how much they understand the connection of truth and integrity to all of this.

### **Participation eligibility**

The competition is open to Primary and Secondary Education students of all schools in Greece as well as Greek schools abroad. The consent of their parents/guardians is required for participation.

For more information about the Student Creativity Competition “Integrity Leaders of Tomorrow”, you can:

- visit the website of the National Transparency Authority [www.aead.gr](http://www.aead.gr)
- contact **213 212 9 794 & 795**
- send an email to the following address: [studentcompetition@aead.gr](mailto:studentcompetition@aead.gr)



## Children's works



Alexandra Sotiropoulou  
28<sup>th</sup> Primary School of Piraeus



Akrivi Papadimitriou  
5<sup>th</sup> Primary School of Sparta



Ioannis Kakarountas and Filippos Bolovinis  
16<sup>th</sup> Primary School of Lamia  
Video

Scan the QR Code  
to watch the video





## Children's works



Anastasios Paliokostas  
and Georgios Lampiris  
3<sup>rd</sup> Primary School of Alimos  
Video

Scan the QR Code  
to watch the video



Maria Anna Markakis  
28<sup>th</sup> Primary School of Piraeus



**Nicoleta Argyraki**  
3<sup>rd</sup> Primary School of Alimos



**Chrysa Karamitrou**  
3<sup>rd</sup> Primary School of Alimos,  
Video

Scan the QR Code  
to watch the video



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## Children's works



Athanasios Hatzis  
and Dimitris Tsagogiannis  
*Zografeio Junior High School*



Ioanna Maria Michalopoulou  
*5<sup>th</sup> Primary School of Sparta*



Asimakis Chronas

*Ionideios Model Secondary School of Piraeus*

*Video*

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# NATIONAL TRANSPARENCY AUTHORITY

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The Project is co-funded by Greece and European Union