

WHAT SHOULD WE KNOW ABOUT *THE INTEGRITY CERTIFICATE?*

The integrity certificate was introduced into the law in 2017 being reasoned the need to create an integrity filter for future high-officials and civil servants.



WHAT IS AN INTEGRITY CERTIFICATE?

An integrity certificate is an official document containing information for the last 3 years about ascertained unjustified assets, ascertained conflicts of interest, ascertained breached restrictions, unresolved incompatibilities, breached limitations, and bans on holding public offices, including high-level public offices, all confirmed either by acts of findings issued by the National Integrity Authority (NIA) or by final court decisions.

IMPORTANT!

- The integrity certificate is valid for 3 months. It includes the information about final court decisions and the NIA's final acts of findings, and it is issued within 15 working days from the date of registration.
- For candidates standing for local or parliamentary elections, the integrity certificate must be submitted to the Central Electoral Commission or district electoral councils within 30 days before Election Day.



WHO MUST REQUEST AN INTEGRITY CERTIFICATE?

- Persons intending to run for an elected office (member of the Parliament or in the People's Assembly of Gagauzia, president of the country, mayor, local councilor, governor of Gagauzia).
- Heads of public entities for candidates admitted to competitions for a vacancy.

IMPORTANT!

All candidates in the parliamentary elections to be held in February 2019 (regardless of whether they are on party lists or running in uninominal electoral constituencies) and in local elections to be held in summer 2019, will have to ask for an integrity certificate.



WHO ISSUES THE INTEGRITY CERTIFICATE AND IN WHAT CIRCUMSTANCES?

- The integrity certificates are issued by the NIA free of charge.
- The applicants **will submit a signed written request**, along with a copy of their IDs, personally or through an empowered person with a notarized power of attorney.
- Candidates in parliamentary and presidential elections will submit their requests personally to the NIA. Local elected representatives (mayors, councillors, the governor and deputies in the People's Assembly of the ATU Gagauzia) – to the offices of the Public Services Agency.
- The integrity certificate **is delivered to the candidate in person**, at the office of the entity candidates have submitted the request.
- The place, modality, and procedure for requesting and issuing the integrity certificates are detailed in the NIA's Regulation.



AN INTEGRITY CERTIFICATE:

- **IS NOT the same as a criminal record** (issued by the Ministry of Interior) or an integrity record (issued by the National Anticorruption Center). It does not contain information about the existence or absence of criminal antecedents or any criminal investigation started against the bearer.
- **DOES NOT contain information about violations found by the NIA** in the declarations of assets, personal conflicts, incompatibilities, and limitations, if the acts of findings issued by the NIA are in progress and are not final.
- **DOES NOT contain information about the court sentences** imposing a ban on holding public offices, if the sentences are not final.
- **IS NOT published on the website of the NIA** or the entity where the candidate is to be appointed.

The integrity certificates issued by the NIA before the parliamentary elections of 24 February 2019 will cover the period between December 2015 and 2018. During this period, the NIA underwent institutional reform and issued acts of findings only between December 2015 and July 2016

Will the integrity certificate be a genuine integrity filter for the 2019 parliamentary and local elections?



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