



REPUBLIC OF SLOVENIA  
**COURT OF AUDIT**

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## **Code of Ethics of the Court of Audit of the Republic of Slovenia**

### **Introduction**

The Code of Ethics of the Court of Audit of the Republic of Slovenia provides general principles and values defining the conduct when implementing auditing powers of the Court of Audit of the Republic of Slovenia. This Code of Ethics is applicable to all staff and employees of the Court of Audit within their areas of responsibility and competence. In the continuation of the document for the aforementioned expressions the term auditors is used.

The purpose of the Code of Ethics is to provide for independent, objective and efficient operations of the Court of Audit as the supreme audit institution. By applying the Code of Ethics, the Court of Audit demonstrates the utmost responsibility to the public and the users of public funds.

### **Confidence and credibility**

- The Court of Audit implements its powers in such a manner that it gains trust and respect of the public and the users of public funds.
- The outcomes of the auditors' work must be professional, comprehensive, credible and supported by appropriate and sufficient evidence.

### **Integrity**

- Integrity of the Court of Audit is based on the integrity of the auditors. The Court of Audit carries out its work justly, with due care and responsibility and in accordance with laws and considering the principles of auditing.
- Auditors must safeguard their integrity, not only in professional but also in personal environment. They must avoid any actions and circumstances that can compromise their professional reputation and the reputation of the Court of Audit.

### **Independence, objectivity and impartiality**

- The Court of Audit is independent in performing its powers. Audit process implementation must not be influenced by the audit field or audit subject, auditees, prejudice or any other factors that could hinder the professional conduct of work.
- Auditors must in professional and in private life avoid all situations which could threaten their independence, objectivity and impartiality or impact their work in any respect. Their independence must be protected also by refusing gifts or awards that could affect their independence and integrity or may be seen as compromising.

### **Political neutrality**

- The Court of Audit is politically neutral in performing its powers.
- Auditors must avoid active participation in politics, since it could indicate conflict of interest and give the appearance of bias when conducting auditing powers of the Court of Audit. They must avoid any actions that can compromise the professional reputation of the Court of Audit as politically independent institution.

### **Conflict of interest**

- The Court of Audit performs its powers in such a manner that conflict of interest is avoided.
- Auditors must pay attention to every actual or possible conflict of interest and must do their best to avoid conflict of interest. Any close cooperation with auditees and other stakeholders must be avoided since that could affect auditors' impartiality or may give the appearance of bias when conducting auditing powers.
- Auditors must not take advantage of their official position for their personal benefit and must avoid situations where there is a risk of conflict of interest or situations which may raise doubts about objectivity and independence.

### **Confidentiality**

- The Court of Audit handles information in accordance with the regulations that lay down their secrecy and confidentiality.
- Auditors must not disclose the information to unauthorised persons and must not use them for personal benefits.
- Audit findings must not be published before the issue of the audit report.

### **Competence and professional development**

- The Court of Audit performs its powers by following auditing principles and ensures professional training.
- Auditors must always strive to expand and deepen their knowledge, develop skills and professional competence.
- Auditors must when planning, implementing and supervising audit conduct as well as when drafting audit reports act with professional diligence and perform tasks with responsibility. In their audits, auditors must use appropriate methods and adopt an audit approach at the highest professional level or of high quality.

### **Loyalty to the institution and mutual relationships**

- Auditors are always loyal to the Court of Audit and in implementing their work they do not breach the powers and authorisations. Loyalty also signifies their ability to present critical observations and to warn auditors about the implementation of the Court of Audit's powers which could be contrary to the Code of Ethics and other legal and professional bases.
- Auditors must be polite towards their co-workers. They must refrain from any discrimination and must respect rights, freedom and dignity of others. They must contribute to good

relationships among co-workers and avoid personal and other conflicts. They must provide professional assistance to co-workers if they need it but must not interfere in their work or mislead them. They must act in accordance with the principles providing for respectful, professional, supportive and healthy working environment.

### **Conclusion**

General principles and values of the Code of Ethics present basic conduct which is also covered in the Integrity Plan of the Court of Audit that addresses it in detail.

By adopting this Code of Ethics of the Court of Audit of the Republic of Slovenia, the Code of Ethics of State Auditors shall case to apply.

Ljubljana, 9 December 2014

Number: 001-2/2014-2

President of the Court of Audit  
Tomaž Vesel