

“WHISTLEBLOWER” INTERNATIONAL TRANSLATIONS, TERMINOLOGY & WORD ORIGINS	
Bosnia and Herzegovina	Bosnians have started using the Serbian term ‘uzbunjivač’ to some extent...although their draft law refers only to ‘corruption reporters’ ‘prijavitelji korupcije’.
Croatia	Croats use ‘zviždač’, a literal translation of ‘whistleblower’.
English	<p>According to the Whistleblower Directory, in English, “the term ‘whistleblower’ derives from the practice of English bobbies who would blow their whistle when they noticed the commission of a crime, which alerted both law enforcement officers and the general public of danger” (see: http://whistleblowerdirectory.com/whistleblower-definitions/).</p> <p>Synonyms provided in English dictionaries for the term ‘whistleblower’ do not all have positive connotations. Some synonyms include ‘rat’, ‘stool pigeon’, ‘informer’, ‘snitch’ and ‘tattle tale’ (see, for example: http://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/whistleblower).</p>
India	In India, ... we just adapt whatever term is available from another language and use it. Once the Whistleblower Act is passed, perhaps people will come up with a word denoting whistleblower and whistleblowing.
Ireland	The meaning of ‘whistleblower’ in Irish is ‘sceithire (pronounced Schkehre); it comes from the verb ‘sceith’ which means to leak or divulge and in certain contexts it can also mean to betray; ‘sceitheann rún’ betrays a confidence”.
Germany	<p>In 2000, Transparency International Germany started to look for an adequate German translation of the word "whistleblower" - to no avail. The neutral "Hinweisgeber" (tip giver) is now used interchangeably with the untranslated English "whistleblower." While the word "Mitarbeiterhinweise" (employee tips) is typically used - and perfectly acceptable for the purpose of whistleblowing. The translation of the activity of "whistleblowing" as "hinweisen" or "Hinweise geben" in German sounds a bit awkward and is therefore seldom used. For the time being, it seems more acceptable to use the foreign word "Whistleblowing" to describe the activity.</p> <p>In draft legislation the term "Anzeigerecht" (reporting right) has been used; however the person "Anzeigender" is a tip giver or informant, and thus again undesirably close to negative concepts - "Hinweisgeber" being much more adequate.</p>

Japan	According to Linda S. Spedding, author of the “Due Diligence Handbook: Corporate Governance, Risk Management and Business Planning” (Elsevier Ltd., 2009), the term for ‘whistleblower’ in Japanese is ‘naibu kokuhatsu’, which means ‘exposure from within’.
Macedonia	Macedonians, for the purpose of amendments to [their] anti-corruption law have just coined the term ‘укажувач’, meaning someone who points to irregularities.
The Netherlands	We use the word ‘klokkenluider’ – a person ringing the bell.
Nepal	In Nepal they call whistleblowing ‘Shankha Gosh’, which means ‘blowing the conch’”
Poland	We are promoting the term ‘sygnalista’ in Poland which derives from the verb ‘to signal’ and is neutral. Actually, ‘signalista’ in Polish primarily refers to someone who sends and picks up signals, e.g. in the navy or aviation, but as it is rarely used in this context, we decided we could try to give it one more meaning and use it as a Polish equivalent to ‘whistleblower’”.
Russia	One Russian term for ‘whistleblower’ is ‘osvedomitel’, which has negative connotations meaning ‘rat’ or ‘snitch.’ A more neutral term which is now being used more widely is ‘лицо сообщающее о правонарушении’, which means ‘person reporting violation of the law’
Serbia	“The Serbian term for whistleblower is ‘узбуњивач’ (alternatively in Latin script: uzbunjivač), meaning “alarm-raiser”. The term was coined a few years ago and has a largely positive connotation”.
Slovenia	Slovenians [use] ‘žvižgač’, literal translation of ‘whistleblower’.
South Africa	“In Afrikaans, we talk about ‘bekendmaker’ – a person who makes things known”.
Spain	<p>“In Spanish, there are several terms, [including]:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ‘Informante’ - the most accurate and usual translation; one who provides information about wrongdoing. This term is linked to anonymity or confidentiality, the basis on which the information is provided; • ‘Denunciante’ - if the information is provided openly, publicly; • ‘Testigo protegido’ - if the information is provided in criminal proceedings and the identity has to be kept secret for the defendants re. security issues or risk of retaliation; • ‘Confidente’ - usually police informer, who provides confidentially information to detectives but never becomes witness in trial; • ‘Arrepentido’ - usual term for those insiders from criminal groups who plea bargain and get procedural advantages or protection in exchange of the information. <p>‘Soplón’ or ‘chivato’ - the same, but very negative terms as the “informer” is seen from the opposite side, the gang, as a traitor who breaks the ‘omerta’ - the pact of silence”.</p>
Uruguay	Further information on Spanish terms. Even if the term ‘informante’ is used in the Latin American legislation, it has deeply negative political connotations since it was largely used during the dictatorships that took place in the 70’s and 80’s. Because of this relation with the term, the new legislation ruling that issue struggles between using the more accurate term that is associated with that period, or a term that is less precise.