



**TRANSPARENCY
INTERNATIONAL
BULGARIA**

ANNUAL REPORT

2010

In 2010, Transparency International – Bulgaria continued its activities in the field of the fight against corruption at national, regional and international level.

All implemented programmes and initiatives were in line with the mission, the vision and the general priorities as determined in the Statute of the organization.

12 years after its establishment, Transparency International – Bulgaria performs its activities in the framework of its two general programmes: National Programme and Regional Programme.

NATIONAL PROGRAMME

ACTIVITY AREAS

I. COUNTERACTING POLITICAL CORRUPTION. MONITORING THE FINANCING OF POLITICAL PARTIES. MONITORING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DEMOCRATIC STANDARDS IN THE ELECTION PROCESS

In 2010 Transparency International – Bulgaria continued its efforts to improve the national legal framework related to the financing of political parties. TI-Bulgaria representatives proposed amendments to legislation regulating the electoral process. Experts of TI – Bulgaria participated in the meetings of the Legal committee of the National Assembly.

II. SUPPORT TO THE REFORM IN THE JUDICIARY. EFFECTIVE INVESTIGATIONS AND FIGHT AGAINST CORRUPTION

In 2010 TI-Bulgaria implemented activities within two projects in this area: “Enhancing anti-corruption capacity of the National Prosecution Office” and “Strengthening Capacity of the National Prosecution Office in the context of the inter-institutional cooperation in the fight against crimes and protection of public interest”.

Enhancing Anti-Corruption Capacity of the National Prosecution Office Project

From the beginning of July 2009 TI-Bulgaria started the implementation of a project related to building capacity of the National Prosecutor’s Office of the Republic of Bulgaria. The project is implemented with the financial support of the Institutional Development Fund of the World Bank.

The aim of the project is to strengthen the capacity and effectiveness of the Prosecutor’s Office of the Republic of Bulgaria to investigate corruption crimes more efficiently.

Transparency International Bulgaria had three general directions in its activities:

- Sociological surveys on the work of Prosecutors’ Office in the course of investigation of corruption crimes;
- Public events to build capacity: training workshops for prosecutors and investigators, a national conference ;
- Publications: a Catalogue of best European and international practices in fighting corruption based on complex comparative analysis.

Strengthening Capacity of the National Prosecution Office in the Context of the Inter-Institutional Cooperation in the Fight against Crimes and Protection of Public Interest Project

As the leading partner of the Coalition “Cooperation for Effective Control”, TI-Bulgaria provided consultancy to the project implemented by the Supreme Administrative Prosecution Office. The project is funded by the Operational Programme Administrative Capacity of the European Social Fund. During the project implementation TI-Bulgaria experts analysed cooperation between National Prosecution Office and fifteen institutions that exercise public control. The other important component was the implementation of comparative legal research of similar legal systems in EU member states.

III. TRANSPARENCY AND EFFECTIVE MANAGEMENT OF PUBLIC FUNDS – COUNTERACTION OF CORRUPTION IN PUBLIC PROCUREMENT

Improving Transparency in the Process of Spending of Public Funds with Significant Public Interest in Bulgaria: Monitoring the Trakia Highway Deal

The project is a one-year initiative of Transparency International-Bulgaria which is implemented with the financial support of America for Bulgaria Foundation. The aim of the project is to reduce the opportunities for embezzlement of public property through development of standards increasing transparency and civic control of tenders and procurement procedures.

Excellence and Integrity in Public Procurement

The initiative was implemented in the period from November 2009 to May 2010 with the support of Transparency International Secretariat and OLAF –HERCULE II Programme of the European Commission.

TI-Bulgaria team developed training programme on integrity rules in public procurement and national and European transparency standards. The organization conducted two workshops with the participation of local and regional authorities’ representatives as well as participants from NGOs and media.

IV. RAISING PUBLIC AWARENESS AND ADVOCACY

Monitoring of national press and electronic media

TI-Bulgaria team maintains on-going monitor of national press and electronic media. Archive of publications and analyses on corruption crimes, abuse of functions, trading in influence and other corruption dimensions is kept in the library of the ALAC.

Advocacy and Legal Advice Centre Project

The Centre was established in 2006 and is based on the Anticorruption Resource Centre (ACRC) established in 2002 over the years the ALAC was supported by different donor, among which TI – Secretariat and the European Commission. In 2010 the ALAC was working with the support of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of France. It is also a part of the project “Advocacy and Legal Advice Centres in South East Europe”, which includes the building of centres for legal advice and advocacy in a number of states in South East Europe. Such centres have already been created or are currently

being set up in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Romania, Bulgaria, Moldova, Serbia, Georgia, and Albania.

The aim of the ALAC is to provide *pro bono* legal advice to citizens, victims and witnesses of corruption and gives an opportunity to the citizens to take an active part in combating corruption. The establishment of this Centre has been provoked by the necessity to improve the level of civil knowledge on the challenges, facing citizens in counteracting everyday corruption, as well as raising their awareness on the approaches and mechanisms for combating corruption at legislative and institutional levels.

A free-of-charge telephone hotline 0800 11 224 has been established for victims and witnesses of corruption crimes to refer their reports on corruption.

The activity of the Centre is also aimed at increasing the capacity of public institutions in working with citizens when receiving complaints of corruption. In this context the efforts of the team of the Centre are a part of the efforts for raising public trust in state institutions and the introduction of systematic improvements (legislative, administrative and institutional) in the fight against corruption.

Anti-corruption Resource Centre

Transparency International Bulgaria continues maintaining of the Anti-corruption resource centre (established in 2002), which was set up with the financial support of the European Commission. Numerous books, periodic and analytic publications on corruption issues are available for general public to use. All reports and publications developed by TI-Bulgaria during its 12-year activity are at all interested parties disposal as well.

REGIONAL PROGRAMME

National Integrity System Project

National Integrity System is an evaluation model of Transparency International, designed to give a measurable expression of the functioning of key institutions and sectors that are crucial in the fight against corruption.

The two-year initiative is a part of an international project of Transparency International, funded by "Prevention and Fight Against Crime" Programme of the Directorate General "Home Affairs" of the European Commission.

The assessment will be made according to a uniform system in all countries, which includes detailed study of key sectors and institutions, based on a number of indicators, analysis of documentary sources, other evaluation reports and interviews with experts. The study in Bulgaria will evaluate governmental bodies and institutions such as judiciary, National Assembly, public sector, law enforcement agencies, political parties, civil society, business and media.

Countdown to Impunity - Statutes of Limitations Project

Transparency International implemented a sixteen-month project on research and advocacy for the limitation periods for corruption crimes. The aim is to identify shortcomings and good practices in all 27 EU member states.

During the project implementation a comparative legal research, analysis of the national legal framework and sociological surveys were conducted. TI-Bulgaria issued two publications – National Report and Regional Report "Timed out: How statutes of limitations affect the prosecution of corruption in the European Union".

ONGOING ACTIVITIES

Corruption Perceptions Index

As a national chapter for Bulgaria of Transparency International movement, each year TI-Bulgaria announces the Corruption Perception Index (CPI) results. The Corruption Perceptions Index is a complex survey that combines different sources of information about corruption, making it possible to compare countries according to their annual score. The CPI ranks countries according to the perception of corruption in the public sector and gives each country a score between 0 and 10, where 0 is a score given to countries with extremely high level of corruption.

Global Corruption Barometer

For five consecutive years TI-Bulgaria announces the Transparency International's Global Corruption Barometer. The Barometer presents the main findings of a public opinion survey that explores the general public's views of corruption, as well as experiences of bribery around the world. It assesses the extent to which key institutions and public services are perceived to be corrupt and measures citizens' views on government efforts to fight corruption.

NEW PUBLICATIONS

- **Methodology for Civil Monitoring on the Implementation of Infrastructure Projects**
- **Catalogue of Best Practices in Fighting Corruption in the Member States of the European Union, the United States of America and Other Countries**
- **Timed Out: How Statutes of Limitations Affect the Prosecution of Corruption in the European Union**

**TRANSPARENCY INTERNATIONAL - BULGARIA BUDGET
Sources for 2010 (%)**

Government subsidy	Intergovernmental Organizations*	Foundations	Private Sector	Dues and donations	Fees, honoraria, publications	TI-Secretariat**	Other***	Total
%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
-	25.64	40.02	-	-	-	16.94	17.40	100

*Intergovernmental Organizations: European Commission, European Social Fund, the World Bank (16.94 % provided by the intergovernmental organizations through TI-Secretariat and 25.64 % provided directly by the intergovernmental organizations)

TI- Secretariat: 16.94 % (provided by the intergovernmental organizations through TI-Secretariat)

***Other: resources provided by embassies of European Union MSs and other (e.g. French Republic Embassy)

