



**TRANSPARENCY
INTERNATIONAL**
BULGARIA

ANNUAL REPORT

2012

Transparency International – Bulgaria, the Bulgarian chapter of Transparency International, was founded in 1998. Since then we have achieved a considerable capacity to elaborate and implement projects to fight corruption.

During the last years TI-Bulgaria has gained a wide range of supporters and independent experts from different fields of science and public life, which participate in projects implementation. Contacts with the public community were established and TI-Bulgaria earned a reputation of a respected and stable organization.

In 2012 Transparency International – Bulgaria has actively continued to pursue its activities related to fight against corruption at national, regional and international level. The TI-Bulgaria team continues to successfully fulfill the entire scope of goals and tasks through initiation and implementation of specific projects within its National Programme and Regional Programme.

NATIONAL PROGRAMME

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

Effective Civil Control as a Factor for Improvement the Integrity in Political and Electoral Process Project

The project is a nine months long initiative of TI-Bulgaria, conducted since the late June 2011 with the financial support of America for Bulgaria Foundation.

The main purpose of the initiative is to improve the transparency in the election process by mobilizing the efforts of civil society for exercising of effective civil control on the upcoming elections in two main directions:

- Transparency and accountability in financing electoral campaigns; and
- Integrity and transparency of the electoral process on the Elections day - prevention of the practices of purchasing votes.

In 2012 Transparency International – Bulgaria conducted independent civil monitoring of the partial local elections in the municipalities of Kyustendil and Saedinenie. The monitoring was implemented in partnership with three local non-government organizations and 36 observers, including representatives of public organizations, the academic community, university students and independent experts.

In early May 2012, Transparency International – Bulgaria launched an advocacy campaign informing the Bulgarian citizens about their voter rights and responsibilities. As part of the “Sam Izbiram” (“It’s My Decision”) initiative, the organization distributed awareness materials and presented the website www.samizbiram.bg, as well as the toll free telephone number to which citizens could report Election Day violations.

On the basis of the monitoring conducted, Transparency International – Bulgaria formulated recommendations for amending of the Election Code aimed at providing sufficient guarantees for functioning of a politically independent and professionally trained administration.

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

Capacity Building for Effective Management and Competencies Improvement of the Specialized Prosecution Offices Project

From July to December 2012 TI-Bulgaria team provided consultancy and analytical expertise within the project implemented by the National Prosecutor's Office. The activities were focused on the following areas:

- Evaluation and assessment of the human resources, the levels of specialization, necessity to qualification improvement and HR management optimization;
- Examining and analysis of the good practices in management and qualification improvement of the prosecutors from Specialised Prosecution and comparison with the relevant institutions in EU member states;
- Development of training strategy and publication of a handbook regarding fight against organised crime groups issues.

III. PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION REFORM. MONITORING OF PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS

Monitoring of the Commission for Forfeiture of Illegal Assets members' selection procedure

Following the entry into force of the Act on Deprivation in Favour of State of Illegally Acquired Property and the forthcoming constitution of the Commission for Forfeiture of Illegal Assets (CFIA), Transparency International – Bulgaria launched a civil monitoring of the Commission members' selection procedure.

The object of the observation is the processes of nomination, selection and appointment of members of the Commission. With regard to the implementation of the civil monitoring, TI-Bulgaria initiated a number of meetings with institutions involved in the nomination and selection process, including the Prime Minister, the President, the Parliament and the Parliamentary Factions.

IV. TRANSPARENCY AND EFFECTIVENESS OF THE MANAGEMENT OF PUBLIC FUNDS – COUNTERACTION OF CORRUPTION IN PUBLIC PROCUREMENT

Promoting Integrity through Advocacy: Counteracting Corruption in Public Procurement Project

The "Increasing Integrity through Advocacy: Counteracting Corruption in Public Contracting" Project is a three year initiative of Transparency International – Bulgaria, which started in February 2011. It is funded by the Integrity Initiative of the World Bank and Siemens, established on July 2, 2009 to provide support to organizations worldwide that are active in the fight against corruption and fraud through Collective Action, education and training.

The project of the Bulgarian chapter of Transparency International is aimed at fighting corruption in public procurement in Bulgaria and is focused on the implementation of an innovative anticorruption tool – the Integrity Pact.

In 2012 TI-Bulgaria focused on promotion of the Bulgarian Integrity Pact model which is an innovative instrument for improvement of transparency and effectiveness in public funds expenditure through independent civil control. The pilot implementation of this instrument started in cooperation with the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Regional Development and Public Works, the Ministry of Labour and Social Policy, and Road Infrastructure Agency.

V. 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 14-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.

In 2012 TI-Bulgaria finalized its work on the international initiative started in the beginning of October 2010 which 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.

In 2012 the project team elaborated the National Integrity System Assessment report analysing the research results. TI-Bulgaria conducted a number of public discussions and forums with the participation of representatives of governmental institutions, local authorities, political parties, academia, non-governmental organisations and media. The project team presented finding of the national report and of the comparative regional report as well.

Civil Society and Public Institutions – Partners in Increasing Transparency through the Elaboration and Implementation of Conflict of Interests Prevention Policy Project

During 2012 Transparency International Bulgaria continued its partnership activities within the Civil Society and Public Institutions – Partners in Increasing Transparency through the Elaboration and Implementation of Conflict of Interests Prevention Policy Project implemented by Transparency International Croatia.

The activities focused on know-how transfer in the conflict of interest prevention policies in Croatia. This included (1) Handbook for prevention and conflict of interest; (2) Comparative study of the best developed practices in European Union member states in the spheres of conflict of interests; and (3) Series of training seminars for public officials, media representatives and non-governmental sector.

ONGOING ACTIVITIES

Corruption Perceptions Index 2012

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 2012 CPI ranks countries according to a brain new methodology which gives each country a score from 0 to 100, where 0 is a score given to countries with extremely high level of corruption, and 100 is given to countries free of corruption.

NEW PUBLICATIONS

- **Transparency and Integrity of the Election Process: Report on the Monitoring of the Presidential and Local Elections in the Republic of Bulgaria;**
- **National Integrity System Assessment – National Report for Bulgaria;**
- **Transparency and Integrity of the Election Process: Report on the Monitoring of the Partial Mayoral Elections in the Municipality of Saedinenie and the Elections for Municipal Councillors in the Municipality of Kyustendil;**
- **Money, Politics, Power: Corruption Risks in Europe – Regional Report on National Integrity Systems in 25 European Union Member States;**
- **Fight Against Organised Crime Handbook.**

TRANSPARENCY INTERNATIONAL - BULGARIA BUDGET

