TRANSPARENCY INTERNATIONAL - BULGARIA

2016
ANNUAL ACTIVITY REPORT

REPORT OF TRANSPARENCY INTERNATIONAL – BULGARIA FOR ACTIVITIES IN 2016

In 2016, Transparency International - Bulgaria celebrated 18 years since its founding. The organisation was established in 1998 as Transparency International's first national office in Southeast Europe. During this period, TI-Bulgaria has built a significant capacity to create and implement projects to counter corruption, promote good governance in the activities of public institutions, as well as managed to develop its reputation of a professional, politically impartial and active civic organisation.

In recent years, Transparency International - Bulgaria has gained a wide range of supporters and has worked with a large number of independent experts from various spheres of scientific and public life to implement its projects and initiatives. Established ties with national and international institutions were extended towards civil society structures and the media, and the association earned its name as a respectable and reliable organisation.

In 2016, Transparency International - Bulgaria continued to actively carry out activities to counter corruption at a national, regional, and international level. All implemented programs and initiatives of the association were focused on the realisation of its mission and main priorities, as well as the objectives and tasks laid out in the charter.[1]

The team at the Transparency International – Bulgaria office continued to successfully realise its full range of goals and objectives by planning and implementing specific projects and initiatives under two main programs.

[1] **The mission of Transparency International - Bulgaria, deriving from its status as a Bulgarian representation of the greater body:** uniting the efforts of state institutions, local authorities, representatives of civil society, the private sector and the media in order to introduce systemic reforms and concrete actions against corruption in the country.

The main priorities in the work of the association: the initiation and implementation of projects and programs for combating corruption at both a national and regional level.

The main goals and tasks set out in the charter of the association:

- Conducting research initiatives on corruption issues by mobilising efforts of scientists, public figures and experts in the relevant fields;
- Collecting, presenting, and disseminating the necessary analytical information among state institutions and civil society organisations.
- Developing, testing and implementing various citizens' initiatives aimed at anti-corruption;
- Offering expert and technical assistance for various citizens' initiatives aimed at anti-corruption;
- Building and maintaining a contact network of international and national partner and donor organisations dealing with similar issues;
- Long-term cooperation with central and local authorities, experts in the state administration and non-governmental organisations with a similar focus in order to create a stable network of public coalitions working on fighting corruption.

THE **NATIONAL PROGRAM** aimed at:

- The application of effective models for independent expert monitoring and civil control over the legislation and processes of governance in relation to transparency principles and accountability
- Initiating advocacy campaigns in support of important public causes and issues related to preventing and tackling corruption, as well as the protection of individual victims of corruption;
- Increasing public awareness on the topic of integrity, transparency and accountability in the work of public institutions;
- Carrying out analytical activities on the problems related to anti-corruption and the enforcement of good management practices through mobilising the expertise of the organisation as well as of foreign experts in the field.

THE **REGIONAL PROGRAM** aimed at:

- The implementation of international projects in partnership with the Transparency International – Secretariat, along with the national representatives of the organisation.
- The exchange of experience and the creation of regional networks for the implementation of anti-corruption initiatives.

ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE ASSOCIATION IN 2016

- Developed Index of the Local Integrity System - 2016, a tool for the comparative assessment of contributions of key sectors and institutions in combating corruption at a local level. The index was published for a second year and provides a comparative assessment of the 27 municipalities included in the survey. It can serve as an investment guide for businesses at a regional level, as well as to indicate to local institutions what necessary reforms need to be made. In the long term, the Index will be useful for analysing the trend of development across the municipalities included in the survey, as well as for any necessary investigations.
- An initiative to ensure transparency and accountability in the management of European funds spent through public procurement. Transparency International – Bulgaria participates in an international project supported by the European commission, within which the organisation offered its expertise on the application of integrity pacts in the public procurement of organizations from 10 other European countries, while also monitoring the construction of important infrastructure elements of the domestic highway 'Struma'.

- Developed methodology for assessing the integrity system of the banking sector, which serves as a tool for analysing problems in the work of internal institutions with supervisory powers. The methodology served as a starting point for analysing the causes of one of the biggest scandals in the public life of the country in recent years - the bankruptcy of CCB. On a global scale, the methodology can serve as a universal tool for impartial analysis of the system of control institutions, to identify and overcome systemically recurring issues in the national banking sector, as well as to identify potential risks to the banking system.
- Implemented civic initiative to monitor the election process. In this regard, the organisation conducted civilian monitoring of the presidential election and the national referendum held on 6/13 November 2016, with the assistance of a wide network of civil society organizations. Based on the conducted observation and analysis of the obtained results, a monitoring report was produced and published, as well as a package of proposals for changes in the electoral legislation and in the practice of its implementation.
- Conducted expert analysis related to the development of the corruption-tackling capacity of business. In this regard, an expert team at Transparency International – Bulgaria organised a training course on the prevention and tackling of corruption. Based on this, anti-corruption training was conducted for the management team of one of the leading companies in the telecommunications sector.
- Conducted conferences, training seminars, round tables and public discussions, both in the country and abroad, dedicated to the system of integrity of public institutions on a local level, transparency and integrity within the electoral process, as well as mechanisms for civil control over the management of public resources spent through public procurement.
- Published publications, information and training materials that present the analysis and research of Transparency International – Bulgaria in connection with its implemented projects and initiatives.

AREAS OF ACTIVITY

I COUNTERING POLITICAL CORRUPTION. MONITORING COMPLIANCE WITH DEMOCRATIC STANDARDS DURING THE ELECTION PROCESSES. MONITORING THE FINANCING OF POLITICAL PARTIES.

The troubling impact of corruption on political life, as well as on the overall governance model of the country, is one of the main topics of focus for the organisation since its inception to present day.

In 2001, Transparency International – Bulgaria monitored the transparency of an election campaign for the very first time (the 2001 presidential election), and created a methodology for measuring the level of transparency in the financing of political parties and election campaigns in 2003, using as a basis Transparency International's well-established Corruption Perceptions Index. For sixteen consecutive years, the organisation has been conducting research which it uses to develop and publish indices for transparency in the financing of election campaigns, prepare reports on the observation of the election process, and formulate proposals for changes in legislation that are the subject of attention not only from Bulgarian audiences, but also from other international organisations and national representations of Transparency International.

In recent years, the issue of transparency and accountability in the financing of campaigns has been displaced by other issues that have a significant negative impact on the electoral process - vote buying, various forms of control and illegal pressure on voters, as well as organisational preparation and improper conduct of the election. The accumulating problems in the election process provoked the Transparency International team to expand the scope of its observation and evaluation and since 2009, the main focus of observation has been two main problematic areas: 1) democratic standards, integrity and transparency in the election process; including limiting irregularities and abuses of citizens' voting rights; 2) transparency and accountability in relation to the financing of the election campaigns of candidates.

Monitoring of the presidential elections and national referendum

In September 2016, Transparency International – Bulgaria launched a monitoring campaign and sought to obtain official referendum observer status.[2]. The organisation mobilised the support of more than 100 volunteers and 26 NGOs and monitored the election process. The monitoring initiative was based on the following actions:

- creation of a wide advocacy network consisting of volunteers and 26 non-governmental organisations working at a local level in all regions of the country, united under the name - National Network for Election Observation;
- training of observers of the election process and the referendum, aimed at identifying violations and reporting them to institutions in order to limit their occurrence on the day of the referendum (held in October 2016);
- monitoring all key stages of the election process:

[2] See Decision of the CEC № 3551-PVR-HP / 20.09.2016 on registration of observers from Transparency International - Bulgaria for participation in the elections for President and Vice President of the Republic and a national referendum on November 6, 2016

1) the election campaign for the presidency role;

2) the information campaign related to changes in the model of the electoral system and connected issues, introduction of compulsory voting and reduction of the amount of state subsidy given to parties,

3) the activity of institutions preparing for the election and referendum;

4) the course of the election process on 6 and 13 November 2016;

- participation in various television and radio broadcasting formats, as well as discussions aimed at disseminating information on the issues discussed in the referendum;
- establishing violations in the election process and reporting them to relevant institutions in order to limit / sanction them.

An important achievement of the initiative is the fact that the organisation not only succeeded to mobilise volunteers, but also to facilitate practical training in application of civil monitoring methods, which is an important part of educating political science students at the Sofia University 'St. Kliment Ohridski.

Based on the monitoring and subsequent analysis, Transparency International – Bulgaria developed a report on the election process and formulated a package of proposals for increasing its transparency and integrity. In the period after the elections, Transparency International – Bulgaria then focused its efforts on promoting proposals for changes in the electoral legislation and was an active participant in a series of discussions on the topic. The organisation has developed an opinion in connection with the draft Electoral Code and continues to monitor the work of the National Assembly in connection to relevant changes within the Electoral Code.

II. PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION REFORM. MONITORING THE ACTIVITY OF PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS

Local Integrity System Index Project

The Local Integrity System Index project is a three-year initiative of Transparency International - Bulgaria, which has been implemented since the beginning of November 2014 thanks to the financial support of the America for Bulgaria Foundation. The initiative is an expression of Transparency International – Bulgaria's assessment that an effective fight against corruption in the country cannot be carried out without the participation of key institutions and social actors at a local level.

The initiative is implemented through three main types of activity:

- assessment of the capacity of local public institutions and other actors to implement sustainable anti-corruption policies; building an annual Local Integrity System Index;
- strengthening the integrity of local communities: developing the capacity of local authorities to implement long-term sustainable anti-corruption policies;
- advocacy for reforms in local anti-corruption policies.

In 2016, the organisation focused its attention on two key areas:

- conducting a survey of the institutions of the local integrity system and promoting the results of the survey;
- conducting a series of expert discussions, workshops and training seminars with representatives of the surveyed institutions, which are aimed at developing the capacity of the least represented municipalities to tackle corruption.

The survey of the institutions of the local integrity system was conducted in cooperation with a wide network of local NGOs that are partners of the organisation in implementing the initiative in the 27 municipalities. In this regard, on 1-2 April 2016 a training seminar was held for representatives of non-governmental organizations involved in the implementation of the initiative, with the aim of exchanging experiences after working together in the first year and to outline the guidelines for joint further work.

A study of the activities of institutions and social actors at a local level was conducted, with efforts focused on the following areas:

- conducting in-depth interviews and surveys with members of Municipal Councils, secretaries in the municipalities (regional centres), journalists from local and regional media, representatives of local businesses, political parties and non-governmental organizations;
- analysis of documented sources reflecting the work of the surveyed institutions from the 27 municipalities;
- statistical processing and analysis of the results of the survey, which served to develop the Index of the local integrity system - 2016;
- creation of a website - an internet platform to provide awareness of the research results and an opportunity for further analytical search and analysis of data from index - 2015 and index - 2016.

As a result of the application of monitoring methodology, the 2016 *Local Integrity System Index* was compiled. It is the second annual survey of key institutions and social actors that are constructing a system of integrity and responsible governance at a local level. The index presents a comparative picture of their capacity to fight corruption, as well as the role and importance of the

municipal council, mayor, municipal administration, political parties, judiciary, police, business, media and civil society in the 27 municipalities – considered to be regional centres in Bulgaria.

The results of the 2016 survey were announced at a forum held on 9 December 2016 - International Anti-Corruption Day. The discussion was attended by mayors, chairmen of municipal councils, district governors, local public mediators, civil society experts and the media. The results of the Local Integrity System Index are also published on the initiative's independent page:**http://lisi.transparency.bg/**.

The second area of work on the project in 2016 was focused on developing the capacity to tackle corruption of institutions and social actors from the three municipalities ranked at the bottom of the index in the previous year. In this regard, the following efforts have been made:

- work meetings with local government representatives and regional administrations took place - the results of the surveys were presented in their respective municipalities during meetings with mayors and regional governors from Kardzhali, Haskovo and Vidin. Analysis of identified problems as well as programs for targeted action to eliminate them were also presented;
- forums were organised with the participation of members of the regional anti-corruption councils - in Vidin, Gabrovo, Dobrich, Kardzhali and Haskovo, meetings were held with the participation of the members of the regional councils on preventing and countering corruption, within which the results of the research were presented and support to overcome identified problems in the work of the institutions was mobilised;
- a series of discussions were held with representatives of non-governmental organisations from Kardzhali, Haskovo and Vidin - during the discussions, the role of civil society organisations to oversee and improve local government work was discussed and positive experiences were shared by non-governmental organizations who have successfully managed to oversee and improve local governance;
- training seminars for journalists from Kardzhali, Haskovo and Vidin – the organisation held a "Master Class in Investigative Journalism", which developed and improved the ability of local media to investigate the activities of institutions at a local level.

Work on the project's implementation continues in 2017, as the focus of our efforts will shift to the development of the anti-corruption capacity of the institutions within the three municipalities that received the lowest scores in the 2016 survey.

CCB initiative - what happened?

Since the beginning of 2016, three Bulgarian non-governmental organisations - the Centre for Liberal Strategies, Transparency International – Bulgaria and the Access to Information Program - have joined forces to implement a joint initiative aimed at increasing transparency with regards to the functioning of the banking system, the identification of problems in the work of banks and institutions with supervisory powers and, last but not least, the creation of conditions for stability in the banking system and the development of mechanisms for integrity and efficiency in the work of public institutions regulating the banking sector.

The specific cause behind the creation of this civic initiative is one of the most significant scandals in the country in recent years - the bankruptcy of Corporate Commercial Bank. The initiative's strategic goal is to make an impartial assessment of the reasons behind it, which will then serve as a starting point for change in the way of functioning of the banking system, as well as for the development of the capacity of the supervisory institutions to effectively implement the control functions and protect the public interest.

Transparency International's contribution to this initiative consists of developing an analytical tool to assess the capacity, role and governance of institutions with supervisory powers in the banking system, as well as implementing this tool to carry out assessments.

In 2016, an expert team of the Transparency International association developed a 'Methodology for Assessing the Integrity System in the Banking Sector', which served as an analytical tool for the research and evaluation of institutions that play a key role in determining the rules for the functioning of the banking system, monitor their implementation and imposes sanctions.

Based on the developed document, the team at Transparency International – Bulgaria continues its work on assessing the institutions which form the integrity system in the banking sector - the Bulgarian National Bank, the Financial Supervision Commission, the Public Supervision Commission for Registered Auditors, banks, audit firms, and parliament.

III. TRANSPARENCY AND EFFECTIVE MANAGEMENT OF PUBLIC FUNDS - COUNTERING CORRUPTION IN PUBLIC PROCUREMENT

The initiative is part of a four-year international project 'Integrity Pacts - a preventive civil mechanism for the protection of EU funds', which has been implemented since the beginning of January 2016 with the financial support of the European Commission. It is part of a joint initiative involving 11 countries (Bulgaria, Greece, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Hungary, Czech Republic) and is coordinated by the Transparency International Secretariat.

The main goal of the initiative is to study the Integrity Pacts model as a tool to increase transparency and accountability in public procurement and to promote

implementation in the European Union to prevent fraud and corruption in the spending of European funds. The specific objectives of the project are:

- To mobilise the expertise of organisations implementing integrity pacts and to facilitate the exchange of experience and expertise between EU Member States in relation to the governance of European funds;
- To contribute to transparency and accountability in 17 selected areas of public procurement in 11 EU Member States, co-financed by European funds;
- To provide transparency and access to information on issues related to the process of arranging and implementing public procurement;
- To evaluate the implementation of integrity pacts by deriving good practices and formulating recommendations for wider distribution of this as well.

In 2016, the efforts of the Transparency International team were focused on several areas:

- Providing expertise on the model of the Integrity Pact in public procurement and its practical application - in this regard, a series of workshops were held, during which expert teams of the organisations implementing the project exchanged their expertise and practical experience on the nature of integrity pacts, practical aspects of their implementation, critical analysis and evaluations of achievements and implementation issues. In 2016, expert teams from Greece and the Czech Republic participated in work meetings with the team of Transparency International – Bulgaria to study the experience of the Bulgarian team in this field;
- Monitoring a public procurement of significant public interest - the Transparency International – Bulgaria team took over monitoring of the implementation of public procurement orders in which a significant level of public interest is held and a large amount of European funds will be spent. The contract for the design and construction of the Zheleznitsa tunnel on the Struma highway was selected as the object for monitoring. In this regard, cooperation agreements were signed with the contracting authority (National Company "Strategic Infrastructure Projects" and subsequently the Road Infrastructure Agency), an Integrity Pact was developed, a series of meetings were held aimed at involving the companies participating in the procedure, and the first monitoring report was prepared on the basis of the conducted observations.

- Analysis and evaluation of the effect of the implementation of the Integrity Pact as a tool for increasing transparency and accountability in public procurement in which European funds are spent - within this activity, the

team of the organisation participated in joint meetings with other participants in the project. These included the workshop "Integrity Pacts - a tool to increase transparency, accountability and EU funds implementation", held on 12 October 2016 in Brussels as part of the European Week of the Regions, as well as the meeting between representatives of the European Commission and the TI-Secretariat in Brussels, held on 16-17 June 2016.

Partnership with business to develop their corruption-fighting capacity

In October 2016, an expert team of Transparency International – Bulgaria conducted a training course for the management staff of one of the leading telecommunications companies in the country - Telenor.

III. Raising public awareness. Conducting advocacy campaigns

Project 'Centre for Legal Consultation of Victims of Corruption'

The Centre for Legal Consultation of Victims of Corruption was established in 2006 at the initiative of Transparency International - Bulgaria.[3] Since then, under the direction of the TI- Secretariat and national representative offices, over 15 centres have been created in countries across Europe, Asia and Africa.

The current work of the Centre for Legal Consultation of Victims of Corruption in Bulgaria is carried out as part of the project 'Submit a report (II) - involvement of citizens in combating corruption in Southern Europe.' The initiative is implemented with the financial support of the European Commission, under the program "Crime Prevention and Counteraction", Home / 2012 / ISEC / AG, which aids the construction of new centres and exchange of experience with existing centres across

[3] **Advocacy and Legal Advice Centre (ALAC).**

southern Europe. The international project is being implemented in six countries - Bulgaria, Italy, Romania, Portugal, Slovenia and Cyprus.

The activities of the centre include the provision of practical legal assistance and expert advice for citizens who have suffered or become witnesses to corruption and wish to inform state authorities. For this purpose, they have been provided with access to the contact number 0800 11 224 (no costs apply), through which reports can be submitted for cases of corruption. Reports can also be submitted electronically by email (alac@transparency.bg) or by the continuously maintained website (http://alac.transparency.bg/bg/signals-corruption.html)

The centre aims to enable citizens to play an active part in the fight against corruption by providing free legal aid in support of their efforts to report corruption-linked crimes by public institutions or their fellow employees. In this regard, the main focus of the activities of the centre in 2016 was filed reports from citizens about expected and conducted violations during the election process. The majority of the 141 received reports referred to violations and crimes against the political rights of citizens with relation to their participation in the election process. As in previous election campaigns (2009, 2011, 2012, 2013 and 2014), the centre's team assisted citizens by providing information on their rights as voters.

In 2016, the organisation's efforts were focused not only on providing assistance to citizens and protecting their rights (by providing free legal aid), but also in several other areas:

- conducting public opinion polls and disseminating analysis of corruption in the country;
- conducting an information campaign among citizens aimed at informing them about the negative consequences of corruption and the means by which they can protect their rights;
- conducting an advocacy campaign before the institutions to encourage measures for reducing corruption;

Based on the results of the centre's work in 2016, the organisation's expert team formulated a series of recommendations for changes in the electoral legislation, for necessary institutional measures in the preparation and conduct of elections and for implementing a more effective policy to sanction identified cases of crimes against the political rights of citizens. The recommendations were presented both in work meetings and in public forums with the participation of institutional representatives.

As part of the advocacy campaign in the fall of 2015, Transparency International – Bulgaria supported trained observers, which aimed to build knowledge and skills to monitor the election process and protect the voting rights of citizens. The conducted training served as a starting point for civil monitoring of the election process and for identifying problems and trends in the election process of the country.

The election process was monitored with the assistance of a coalition of 26 NGOs across the country, which involved more than 100 volunteers. With their help,

violations of the voting rights of citizens were detected, and a team of experts at Transparency International – Bulgaria were able to engage in assessing each received report and seeking assistance from institutions to protect victims and sanctioning crimes and violations.

National Anti-Corruption Resource Centre Project

Transparency International – Bulgaria continues to support the Anti-Corruption Centre, which was established with the financial support of the European Commission. The library of the centre contains a significant volume of books, periodicals and analytical resources reviewing the nature of the problem of corruption both nationally and globally. Along with the publications by experts, international institutions and other non-governmental organisations, the centre shall make available all publications by Transparency International in both English and Bulgarian – altogether an outcome of over 17 years of work.

The built capacity of the centre allows the team to continue operating activities in three main areas:

- Processing and filling in the information archive which is also being completed by several other different sources for information. The archive is updated by the daily press review of the national press and electronic publications providing information on corruption cases and analysis dedicated to the topic. In addition, the archive is filled with publications, analysis and research published on the internet. Therefore, the archive is also being supplemented by conference materials provided by state institutions as well as by Bulgarian and international non-governmental organisations;
- The team at Transparency continues providing information on its library, processing submissions on a daily basis and accepting electronic requests for information from the library;
- The activity of the Anti-Corruption Resource Centre is supported by interns - students of political science, European studies and public administration at the Sofia University, NBU and foreign universities as well. Transparency International has an established practice of providing students with the opportunity to conduct an internship. Alongside informing them on how the organisation operates, the team strives to promote TI's fight against tolerating corruption. The trainees provide assistance both in the current work of the team and in the activities of the centre.

Monitoring of national print and electronic media

Our team carries out regular media monitoring of national print and electronic publications. Information about corruption cases, abuse of power and public resources, as well as analysis and comments on the various dimensions of the problem of corruption in various public spheres, is subject to necessary

reorganisation. This allows information to be used within various project activities and to help identify problem areas in the fight against corruption.

PERMANENT ACTIVITIES

Presentation of the comparative research of Transparency International

As a national representation of the global anti-corruption organisation Transparency International, the Transparency International – Bulgaria team annually announces the results of comparative international research and analysis, some of which have established themselves as authoritative sources of information and assessments of corruption, economic and political development within the studied countries. These include:

- **The Corruption Perception Index**, measuring the level of political and administrative corruption according to the assessments of business representatives, economic and political risk analysts from around the world and surveyed experts from relevant countries. The study allows for comparative assessments on both a regional and sub-regional scale, which can provide businesses with a general indication of which countries carry a greater risk of corruption and, as a result, where the environment for the conduct of business is most suitable.
- **Global Corruption Barometer**, presenting an assessment of the level of corruption prevalent in the individual sectors and institutions within the studied countries. The study makes it possible to compare the degree to which corruption has spread in key sectors of social, economic and political life. Along with the ability to implement sector analysis, the barometer serves as a basis for the development of anti-corruption policies by highlighting priority areas. Alongside this, it serves as an indicator for businesses on the institutions and sectors of social, economic and political life, which face greater issues and, as a result, represent a more serious risk of corruption.
- **Global Corruption Report**, presenting an in-depth study of corruption in key sectors of public life.
- **Bribe Payers Index**, providing information on the readiness of companies from a given country to offer and pay bribes in the implementation of their export strategies abroad. The survey serves businesses as a guide to the willingness of their competitors working abroad or those intending to export to new markets to offer and pay bribes.

PUBLIC EVENTS AND FORUMS,

ORGANISED BY TRANSPARENCY INTERNATIONAL - BULGARIA

Within the framework of implemented initiatives and projects in 2016, Transparency International – Bulgaria made a large number of public appearances. The main goal of the team is to increase media interest and coverage of all of its initiatives. The organisation actively works with a wide range of representatives from both national and regional print and electronic media networks. As a result of the establishment of lasting contacts with them, the events organised by Transparency were widely covered in the media. Amongst the forums organised in 2016 were:

- Training seminar for non-governmental organizations 'Index of the local integrity system: year II - successes, lessons learned, expectations', held on 1-2 April 2016 in Sofia;
- Press conference 'Index of the Local Integrity System: Which municipalities are at the bottom of the ranking and how to make progress?', held on 11 April 2016 in Sofia;
- 'Master class in investigative journalism ', held on 5 April 2016 in Haskovo;
- 'Master class in investigative journalism', held on 17 May 2016 in the town of Kardzhali;
- 'Master class in investigative journalism', held on 19 April 2016 in Vidin;
- Forum of the Public Anti-Corruption Council for presenting and discussing the results of the survey 'Index of the local integrity system – 2015', held on 12 June 2016 in Vidin;
- Forum of the Public Anti-Corruption Council for presenting and discussing the results of the survey 'Index of the local integrity system – 2015', held on 13 June 2016 in Dobrich;
- Forum of the Public Anti-Corruption Council for presenting and discussing the results of the survey 'Index of the local integrity system – 2015', held on 15 June 2016 in Dobrich;
- Discussion 'Local system of integrity in Bulgaria: the role of civil society organisations', held on 7 April 2016 in Haskovo;
- Discussion 'Local system of integrity in Bulgaria: the role of civil society organisations', held on 8 April 2016 in Kardzhali;
- Discussion 'Local system of integrity in Bulgaria: the role of civil society organisations', held on 22 April 2016 in Vidin;
- Forum 'Index of the Local Integrity System – 2016', held on 9 December 2016 in Sofia.

NEW PUBLICATIONS OF THE TRANSPARENCY INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION

As a result of the conducted research, analysis and monitoring in 2016, the following publications were made:

- 'Index of the local integrity system in Bulgaria: a catalog of good practices';
- 'Methodology for assessing the integrity system in the banking sector';
- Methodology for observation, 'Independent civil monitoring of the procedure for awarding and implementing a public procurement with the subject "Design and construction of the Struma Motorway, Lot 3.1 "Zheleznitsa" tunnel';
- Report from the open procedure for awarding a public procurement with subject "Design and construction of the Struma Motorway Lot 3.1" Zheleznitsa" tunnel: STAGE I. Analysis of the preparation of the procedure and the documentation for participation.

Information about the activity of Transparency International - Bulgaria under Art. 40 of the Non-profit Legal Entities Act

As a non-profit organisation, Transparency International – Bulgaria carries out its activities in support of the development of civil society. The main priority in the work of the organisation is the initiation and implementation of prevention projects and programs countering corruption at a national, regional and local level.

In accordance with the organisation's charter, its mission is to unite the efforts of state institutions, local authorities, representatives of civil society, the private sector and the media - carrying out systemic reforms and sanctions which prevent the spread of corruption in the country.

All implemented programs and initiatives of the organisation in 2016 were directly tied to the implementation of the priorities outlined above. All income received within the past year has been used in alignment with the requirements of Article 38 and the charter of the organisation, as well as in agreement with the organisation's efforts to support public activity for the development and continuity of civil society.