



GLOBAL CORRUPTION BAROMETER

Less than one year after accession to the European Union, 50% of Romanians perceive governmental efforts to fight corruption as inefficient. This result – together with the Corruption Perception Index 2007, where Romania's score of 3.7 shows a high level of perceived corruption among officials and politicians - indicates the low credibility of anticorruption reforms and raises serious concerns as to their sustainability.

In line with results from previous years, the most corrupt institutions continue to be the political parties and the Parliament, with 3.9 points, the judiciary with 3.8 points, the police and the health system, both with 3.7 points (on a scale of 1 to 5, 1 being not at all corrupt and 5 being totally corrupt). However, in absolute value the scoring is generally lower than last year, except for the police, which experienced an increase of 0.1 points.

Also worrying is the public's perception regarding the business environment, the mass-media and the civil society, all of which continue to have high scores. The scandals which have characterized the public agenda in the last year have lead to a deteriorated image for both public institutions and private entities, with damaging effects on citizens' trust in their activities, as a consequence of the politicization of the anticorruption discourse and suspicions of bias.

Findings from the 2007 Barometer show that both public utility services, as well as registry and permit services have an increased score compared to last year, with 2.4 and 2.9 points respectively. In light of this, Transparency International Romania draws

The Global Corruption Barometer 2007 presents the findings of a public opinion survey investigating corruption-related perceptions and experiences. This year 63,199 people from 60 countries and territories were interviewed between June - September 2007. The survey is executed yearly since 2003 by the Gallup International Association for Transparency International, as part of the „Voice of the People” survey.

attention to the fact that anticorruption efforts must be focused towards an effective reform of the administrative system, since public perception on corruption is largely based on personal experiences in the direct contact with state institutions.

Thus, it is imperative that both the public and the private sectors have increased accountability, so that public institutions can fulfill their competencies in an environment of integrity and outside any pressure or influences.

In conclusion, TI-Romania requests Romanian officials to concentrate their efforts towards ensuring the credibility, efficiency and sustainability of anticorruption efforts, by keeping them outside political interests and approaching with priority the decision-making levels in public administration, regardless of tier, thus creating premises for the development of a correct, equitable and transparent public sector.

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All materials relating to the Global Corruption Barometer 2007 are available online at: www.transparency.org.ro