
Press release

The publishing of the Transparency International (TI) Guide translation, Edition 1999 / Informing

Transparency International – Romania launched the Romanian translation of the *National integrity systems. The Transparency Source Book 1999* (author: Jeremy Pope), within a project financed by the World Bank's Mission in Romania.

The work was launched on April the 9th 2002, at 17:00 o'clock, at the Group for Social Dialogue center. The speakers and the participants saluted the book's publishing and underlined its instrumental character for researching, initiating, and implementing projects and programs, for elaborating policies with incidence on the transparency and corruption.

The value of the book comes from its multiple possible uses. *The Transparency Source Book* may serve as:

- course support for the students interested in a strictly defined domain
- guidance for the government or for the international institutions interested in identifying and evaluating the functioning of the institutions relevant for the anticorruption programs (by reporting to standards clearly defined by the authors), as well as
- guidance for the elaboration of the anticorruption strategies and of the plans for the implementation of the respective policies.

The officials present at the launching showed that, despite its association with the Anglo-Saxon context (that marks the book's content), *The Transparency Source Book* constituted a source of inspiration in elaborating the anticorruption policies frames (The Anticorruption Strategy and Plan). More recently, before being available in a Romanian translation, *The Transparency Source Book* served as a point of reference for the projected "Corruption White Book", that will be elaborated in the Romanian adhesion to NATO perspective.

Civil society representatives expressed their opinion that the *Source Book* is not lacked of importance and interest for the citizens in the sense that:

- the non-explicit premise of the book is that the citizen is above the state,
- facilitates the understanding and the identification of the corruption acts

- encourages and consolidates the citizens' capacity of fighting against corruption,
- generates realist expectations in regard to the progresses in the fight against corruption.

Finally, the discussions tended to a convergence point: the manner in which the citizens understand and report themselves to the corruption represents the necessary premise for a "substantial step forward" in the anticorruption fight.

TI-Romania wishes to thank in particular for the attention and for the comments to this book

- to Mrs. Mihaela Lambu, lecturer, University of Bucharest, Faculty of Political and Administrative Sciences,
- to Mr. Adrian Baboi-Stroe, translation coordinator and founding member of TI-Romania,
- to Mr. David Martinez-Madero, Pre-adhesion Romania-UE Counselor,
- to Mrs. Raluca Pruna, program coordinator in the Justice and Internal Affairs domain within the European Commission Mission,
- to Mr. Robert Cazanciuc, General Director of the Prime Minister's Control Office,
- to Mr. Cornel Calinescu, counselor, the Ministry of Justice,
- to Mr. Anton Niculescu, coordinator of the European Integration Program of the Open Society Foundation,
- to Mr. Radu Dumitrescu, member of the Civic Action Foundation.

The study offers a comprehensive conceptualization of the transparency and the institutional accountability, which serves to any anticorruption reform program. The key-concept of the study is the national integrity system, defined as the set of institutions and practices existent in any society, no matter its development degree, having as ultimate goal the transformation of corruption in an enterprise with a risk degree as high as possible and with potential benefits as low as possible.

The study will be available in an electronic format on the www.transparency.org.ro website, while the printed volume is available free of charge, in existent stock limit, at TI-Romania' center from Bd. Nicolae Titulescu, nr. 14, bl. 21, apt. 3, Sector 1, Bucharest. For further information and orders, we invite you to contact Mrs. Cristina Sejdini. Tel./fax: (01) 659-3371. E-mail: office@transparency.org.ro.