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**Press release**

**Whistleblowers protection  
- another taboo for the Romanian public institutions -**

Transparency International Romania today, 25<sup>th</sup> September 2008, launches The Report monitoring the implementation of the law for the whistleblower protection at the local public administration level. The Report is the outcome of a monitoring carried on for the 8 development regions, in the May – September timeframe, and its conclusions underline the manner in which the Law no. 571/2004 is known and applied in the Romanian institutions after 4 years from its adoption.

The Report was realized with the support of 8 local NGOs and it is based on the information received after a series of public information requests sent to all the Prefectures, County Councils and chief towns around the country, as well as by monitoring these institutions' websites.

The requested information took into account:

- } The harmonization of the Interior Order Regulations with the stipulations of the Law No. 571/2004 – the objective of the IOR analysis is to identify the measure in which the institutions implemented the Law and the amount of time spent in the implementation
- } The Whistleblowing cases – A good indicator of the implementation level or of the public institutions efforts to inform about the whistleblower protection topic is the whistleblower volume itself.
- } The ethic adviser and the implementation of the legal stipulations regarding the property and interests declarations – the existence of the two functions represent an essential step towards the integrity degree augmentation within the public institutions
- } Local institutional policies concerning the whistleblowing – this aspect deals with the institutions' own measures in implementing or promoting the whistleblowing instrument

The study results highlight the extremely slow process of implementing the whistleblowing instrument at the local administration level. Among the other conclusions there are:

- } The low degree of harmonization of the IORs with the stipulations of the Law for the Whistleblower protection
- } Law's poor promotion among the personnel working for the local public administration
- } Ethic adviser's attributions rarely make a specific reference to the whistleblowing

For these failings in implementing the law, Transparency International Romania recommends:

- } Initiating an information and promotion campaign about the legal stipulations for the public sector personnel.
- } The constant monitoring and evaluation of the manner of applying the Law no. 571/2004, in the framework of the monitoring process carried by the Discipline Commissions and extending these stipulations to the contracted personnel too.
- } A series of legislative amendments concerning issues as extending the coverage area of the Law no 571/2004 to all the categories of employees from the public sector, public services or the completion of the Law with stipulations marking strictly the sanctions and the manner to apply the judicial accountability of the entities authorized in applying this law.

The Monitoring Report was realized within the *Raising the local civil society's ability to promote public integrity at level of the public local administration* project, a project implemented with the financial support of the European Union within The Phare Civil Society Programme 2005. To its elaboration contributed, besides Transparency International Romania, the Concept Foundation as well as 8 other local NGOs.

