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Corruption – enemy of progress

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Corruption – enemy of progress

1. Corruption = Monopoly + Discreet power – Control
2. In Montenegro, corruption is one of the state problems. Ranged, it is on fourth position, one of the major problems in Montenegro.
 1. First ranged problem is political instability – 57,47%
 2. Second – unemployment – 48,47 %
 3. Third – low wages –38,75%
 4. Fourth – Corruption – 27,1%
3. How wide is corruption in Montenegro? 73% of questioned persons believe corruption exists in Montenegro. Index of widespread of corruption is very high in government administration.
4. Citizens of Montenegro don't accept corruption. Measured by index, which is in range from 1-10, index of acceptability is below 2. On this way citizens of Montenegro declare their non-willingness to be personally involved in corruptive activities and this indicator is lower than in other states.
5. In which areas corruption is mostly present (marks from 1-5)
 1. Customs (average mark 4.12)
 2. Top Government (average mark 4.08)
 3. Government's media (average mark 3.91)
 4. Local administrative services (inspectors) (average mark 3.89)
 5. Financial police (average mark 3.89)
 6. State owned enterprises (average mark 3.89)
 7. Courts (average mark 3.7)
 8. ...
 9. ...
 10. ...
 11. ...
 12. ...
 13. ...
 14. Schools and Faculties (average mark 3.41)

6. Which professions are mostly corrupted:

1. Doctors (medicines)
2. Managers of state owned enterprises
3. Custom officers
4. Clerks from local administration
5. Top Government
6. Financial police administrative

Key place for corruption are government and management structures.

7. What are the major sources for corruption?

Source	Modalities - synthesized	Sum of modalities	Sum
Socio-anthropological	Human nature, people behave on such way + lack of moral and dishonesty in society	7.08+24.21	31.29
Structural	Poorness	11.61	11.61
Institutional	Political and economic system + weak legal system, no legal state	8.26+37.79	46.05
Situational	War and sanctions + low wages of administrative	2.95+6.10	9.05
Other		1.37+0.59	1.96
TOTAL			100

Sources of corruption grouped in this way show the most questioned people believe institutional sources are dominant, 46.05%. Those results show citizens are not satisfied with system environment and activities done by political structures in this area. Citizens of Montenegro recognize they live in corruptive environment, which doesn't provide equal opportunities for all, but provides privileges for representatives of government.

8. What are the most successful models for decrease corruption and bribery:

1. New Laws and their enforcement (27.41%)
2. Announcement of examples of corruption in all medias (17.99%)
3. Judiciary penalties (16.25%)
4. Increase in wages of administration employees (11.03%)

9. Conclusion

1. Corruption is widespread in our society.
2. Corruption, on the level of general opinions, is recognized as extremely negative social phenomena with consequences on whole society.
3. Beside it is recognized as negative issue, most questioned individual would accept involvement in corruption and bribery, if that would help them to solve personal problems in practical situations. From that point of view, questioned persons believe that are more guilty those who accept bribery and who are corrupted than those who offer it. Questioned people see corruption as way to solve some personal problems. So, “small corruption” has become common in everyday behavior. This is one of the symptoms of social pathology in Montenegrin society and additional reasons to name this society as “ill”.
4. Small corruption in many cases was enforced by monopolistic position of some administrative or owners of specific knowledge (doctors) and, in some cases, can be understandable.
5. There are no too many correlates between corruption and exogenous variables, to it can be concluded corruption is present in all parts of society.
6. Corruption is widespread in all parts of society, but from the point of social dangerous, government structures are the most important one.
7. Corruption is widespread in all professions, but before all doctors, state administrative, managers in state owned companies and custom officers are the most corrupted ones.
8. For efficient anticorruption program it is necessary to start radical economic and institutional reform which will provide efficient environment where sources for corruption will be eliminated, monopolies will be destroyed, discreet power will be limited and transparency in public services will be provided.
9. Role of media is limited now, but all types of media should be more involved in this process in order to decrease presence of this dangerous social phenomenon.
10. Role of international community was often problematic and usually motivated by political and economic interests, but not real willingness to support Montenegrin society in realization of anticorruption program.

Annex:

1. Anticorruption activities in Montenegro
2. Anticorruption initiatives in Montenegro

Anticorruption activities in Montenegro

Parliament of Republic of Montenegro passed, in August 2001, Law on Public Procurement, as one of the most important anticorruption legal acts.

Also, system of following regulations based on law has been finished.

Main goal of the Law is to introduce transparent public procurement of goods by the Government, because in this area corruption was present.

Parliament of Republic of Montenegro passed, in August 2001, The Budgetary Law, according to which Central state treasury will be implemented in Ministry of finance, and through all flow of money will be realized. Introduction of DM as legal tender in Montenegro monetary stability has been provided. Monetary stability is main precondition for budgetary control, which is not possible under inflation, because planned budget cannot be compared with realized at the end of the year. Difference between real and nominal values in Budget can be and it is source for insufficient control and possible corruption.

In Program of Government of Montenegro, as one of the priorities of the Agency for anticorruption initiative, is Law on conflict of interests and Code of Ethics. These laws are especially important in small society, as Montenegro is, where same people have covered lot of functions.

As part of reform of legal and judiciary system, key point belongs to new Law on Courts, Law on Public Prosecutor, and activities on reform in Criminal Law have been started. This is part of reform in judiciary system.

Government of Montenegro adopted the Program of reducing informal economy. Process of transition from informal to formal economy has been started.

As part of activities on establishment the new custom system, special antimuggling unit has been formed. Custom tariffs are very common for users (traders).

Also, establishment of special Team for reducing corruption has been planned. Team should be consisted of representatives from the Government, NGO's, and relevant international organizations and institutions as well.

As part of making legal regulations, which means involvement from NGO's, Law on Police has been drafted, and also Law on conflict of interests will be drafted. Involvement of non-government organizations is highly important in this process.

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There are two important things:

1. NGO – establishment of independent groups and organizations, which work as interests groups and make a pressure, is highly important in anticorruption processes and establishment of market economy.
2. Political parties – this is completely nontransparent area. Way of financing of political parties is not transparent. Who finance political parties and how? How much money some interest groups and individual can invest into political parties so they can make a pressure and influence them and realize their own interests.
3. Reform of administration and its modernization and opening. How administration works? How it makes decisions?
4. New economic system: building of new open economic system.
5. Transparency!

Anticorruption initiative in Montenegro

Talking points

Republic of Montenegro, as all other countries from the Region, at the Stability Pact for SEE, Working table III meeting, held in Sarajevo, in February 2000, accepted **Agreement and Action Plan for anticorruption initiative (AAPAI)**.

Government of Montenegro, in February 2000, appointed The Higher representative for anticorruption.

GoM, in December 2000, passed decision on establishment new government agency – **Agency for anticorruption initiative**, which will be managed by The Higher representative for anticorruption.

Agency for anticorruption initiative, among the other, prepares drafts of laws, initiates international cooperation and application of international documents, influence reducing in corruption trough advertising and operative measures, coordinates activities from government and non-government sector in this area.

During visit to Montenegro from representatives from Committee of AAPAI, agreement to draft Law on anticorruption was made. All activities will be coordinated by Agency for anticorruption initiative, and in drafting process will be involved representatives from Government, experts from USAID and Council of Europe, as well as NGO's.

Republic of Montenegro is, without any doubt, in favor for strong measures for reducing corruption. In this area, GoM needs huge financial and technical-expertise support.