TRANSPARENCY INTERNATIONAL SLOVAKIA

ANNUAL REPORT

2005



Annual Report of Transparency International Slovakia for 2005

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I. Activities of Transparency International Slovakia in 2005

Looking back at 2005, it may be concluded that Transparency International Slovakia (hereinafter as "TIS") continued in successful development of various activities aimed at the phenomenon of fight against corruption. The activities stemmed from the belief that the reduction of corruption means systematic changes made in the field of prevention and repression and at the same time increasing public sensitivity to this issue.

Activities that were supposed to increase the awareness of citizens concerning the corruption were focused on the education of students at secondary schools and universities as well as anti-corruption training sessions of the employees of state administration and self-governments. The media as an anti-corruption player is an important ally in the fight against corruption. Therefore, we have organised a number of press meetings, issued several press releases where we expressed our view on many questions related to corruption and conflicts of interests. Simultaneously, we gave a number of statements to the media along with the publication of various articles.

With reference to systematic measures TIS collaborated on the preparation of a new version of the Act on Public Procurement and draft of the Act on Conflict of Interest while supporting the

Amendment to Act on Free Access to Information together with other non-governmental organisations.

In 2005, TIS was active in the preparation of both publications and research. Various areas of handling public funds were subject to an analysis, wherein two specific cases were highlighted: namely the distribution of grants from the Environmental Fund and funds from additional tax income from U.S. Steel Košice. With the help of their network of external co-workers TIS issued eight publications and four issues of the newsletter *Pod lupou* ("Under the Magnifying Glass").

The release of a respective summary evaluation report completed the long-term public procurement monitoring. Activities related to public procurement were undertaken in cooperation with Mr. Jiří Vlach, a TIS expert in public procurement. During this period, TIS also began to be active in the area of handling EU funds under the leadership of Mr. Marián Babitz. A self-governing programme of TIS, again in cooperation with Mr. Vladimír Pirošík, started where successful activities from previous years finished. Moreover, the initiative aimed at reducing corruption within the business sphere was pursued – Business Anti-Corruption Charter – under the leadership of Mr. Pavol Nechala.

With respect to international cooperation in fight against corruption we have been actively engaged in the activities of our TI international network. We also actively cooperate on the Transparency through Awareness programme focusing on monitoring of transparency with regard to the use of the EU structural funds in the Slovak republic. Simultaneously, TIS launched a new international project the objective of which is to transfer knowledge and experience in eliminating corruption from Slovakia to Serbia and Montenegro. In addition, as in the previous years, TIS representatives attended and participated in a number of conferences.

Summarizing 2005, TIS would like to express its thanks to all donors that supported TIS activities. Similarly, TIS wants to express gratitude to members of the Alliance for Transparency and Fighting Corruption and external co-workers for their cooperation and the media for the help in creating anti-corruption awareness.

More information on TIS activities is disclosed in the following text.

I.1 Educational Initiatives

At the beginning of December TIS in cooperation with methodological centres organised 5 training sessions for teachers that pursue anti-corruption education, which as regards the education sphere, enhanced the field of fight against corruption to school curriculum.

The training sessions were preceded by the preparation and updates of methodological materials (Celospoločenský problém – korupcia II (Corruption-A Nationwide Issue), Methodological Guidebook, Updated version of TIS, 2004, prepared by a team of authors in cooperation with TIS and Protikorupčná výchova v náuke o spoločnosti (Anticorruption Education in Civic Education), TIS, 2005). TIS provided for the selection of trainers that carried out individual training with the anti-corruption theme in the course of a following phase of the project based on updated teaching materials.

After selecting a respective training group, a series of five training sessions for teachers at secondary schools was organised in the preparatory phase of the project, which enabled the preparation of these teachers for a proper incorporation of anti-corruption issues in the education process.

The implementation phase of the project (December 2005) began with the first training held on 5 December in the Methodological and Pedagogical Centre (MPC) in Bratislava – okolie (Vicinity); other training sessions were held on 6 December in MPC in Trenčín, 7 December in MPC in Prešov, 8 December in MPC in Banská Bystrica and on 9 December in MPC Bratislava – City.

In 2005, Mrs. Emília Sičáková-Beblavá taught the subject *Corruption and Clientelism* at the Faculty of Economic and Social Sciences of the Comenius University in Bratislava. Simultaneously, she lectured students at the Faculty of Commerce of the University of Economics in Bratislava and the Department of Political Science of the Comenius University in Bratislava.

I.2 Training Centre

TIS led training sessions for central state administration as well as local self-governments.

In February 2005, TIS organised training for employees of local state administration in Banská Bystrica. In March 2005, training about access to information was organised in Bratislava.

In May 2005 and June 2005, TIS representatives consisting of Mrs. Emília Sičáková-Beblavá and Mr. Vladimír Pirošík led a workshop focusing on the reduction of corruption at the local self-government level in Banská Bystrica and Košice, respectively.

Within the framework of their activities oriented towards local self-governments, TIS organised a meeting of activists that have been active in monitoring of activities concerning public affairs management at the mentioned level. The workshop held on 22 through 24 July 2005 in a mountain hotel in Skalka pri Kremnici was supported by Friedrich Ebert Foundation. It followed a similar meeting that took place in July 2004 and supported the development of watchdog activities in Slovakia. This three-day workshop was preceded by a tour of the representatives of the Czech civic association *Oživeni*-Bohemian Greenways through selected Slovak towns and cities. It was aimed at introducing activities of these Czech watchdogs that have been active mainly in civic control of selected representatives and handling of assets within the city of Prague. The workshop and the preceding tour brought benefits to both the participants that gained unique information and knowledge from people with practical experience and to experts, and the lecturers. TIS plans to pursue such activities in the future.

In November 2005, the workshop *Support for Anti-Corruption Leaders* active in the Bratislava region was held under the leadership of Mr. V. Pirošík, which was followed by a workshop for anti-corruption leaders active in Trenčín region. The objective of the workshops was to discuss possible anti-corruption mechanisms that may be used to reduce corruption at the regional level of public affairs management and may identify local "drivers of change" – anti-corruption leaders.

1.3 Reduction of Corruption in Business Sphere

In connection with the initiative to reduce corruption in business sphere, a new project of Business Anti-Corruption Charter was launched again to follow the successful pilot project from 2003. The Charter includes publicly declared obligations of entrepreneurs to reduce corruption. The objective is to create a platform for discussion and the search for alliances to enforce key anti-corruption measures. The website www.charta.sk has a new design and contents.

I.4 Research of Corruption in Public Sector

In 2005, TIS focused on research of corruption in a number of public sector spheres that will be specified in the following part of the Annual Report.

Evaluation of Three Years' Progress of the Slovak Government and the National Council of the SR in respect of Fight against Corruption

At a press meeting on 18 October 2005 TIS presented an analysis of three years' progress of the Slovak Government and the National Council of the SR in reducing corruption. The report stated that under a formal deduction all tasks set out in *the Anti-Corruption Programme* were fulfilled, but it also highlighted a number of weaknesses such as delay in fulfilling several obligations and non-response to actual calls in the sphere of fight against corruption. The part devoted to governmental activities included the evaluation of the Programme Declaration of the Government as well as its Anti-Corruption Programme. As regards the National Council of the SR, the report pays attention to legislative activities of MPs in fight against corruption, while mentioning amendments to acts with an anti-corruption element, both those adopted and not adopted. In its conclusion, "purity of political life" is individually evaluated and a short part is also devoted to local self-governments. More detailed information about the evaluation can be found at www.transparency.sk.

Public Sector Monitoring

In 2005, TIS focused on public sector monitoring in the following five areas – public procurement monitoring, monitoring of HR policy and policy of asset handling in the so-called public companies, monitoring of controlling mechanisms in these companies, monitoring of distribution of public resources to local self-governments and monitoring of voting of MPs of HTUs in regions that impact corruption.

Public Procurement Monitoring

Public procurement monitoring belongs to long-term activities of TIS. In autumn 2005, the project comprising public procurement monitoring in individual public administration institutions was completed by publishing a comprehensive public procurement evaluation in Slovakia titled: As Good as Possible? Summary Evaluation of Public Procurement Monitoring in Slovakia (Tak dobre ako sa len dá? Súhrnné hodnotenie monitoringov verejného obstarávania na Slovensku).

The Summary Report was published after several rounds of public procurement monitoring. At the beginning of the year, monitoring in all offices of Slovak higher territorial units and at selected schools within the scope of their competence was completed. Next round of

monitoring that commenced in February focused on **ministries**. To conclude, in summer 2005 final public procurement monitoring was carried out in **water management companies**, **organisations providing waste collection and disposal services and in Metro Bratislava, a.s.** TIS presented the results of individual rounds of public procurement by publishing press releases or by direct contact with the media, by arranging a press meeting. In addition to informing residents, a highly-professional discussion with interested experts, directly from the monitored institutions, was also held at the end of each monitoring.

Monitoring of Asset Handling and Human Resource Policy in Public Companies

This monitoring of TIS focused on the transparency of activities of public companies, i.e. companies with ownership interest of the government or self-governments. After the preparation of research and training methodology, in summer 2005 the inquirers of TIS visited nine companies throughout Slovakia. The status in the aforementioned areas was determined using a structured questionnaire aimed at numerous aspects of the transparency of sale and lease of assets by public companies and their human resource policies (e.g. existence of internal regulations, provision of information to public, the application of tendering methods etc.). Such a research contributes to a better understanding of business sphere as regards state administration and self-government; a sphere that has not been systematically reviewed to a considerable extent until now.

Monitoring of Controlling Mechanisms of Public Companies

This monitoring reviewed the transparency of activities of public companies based on controlling mechanisms. That which was monitored included internal control functioning in these companies as well as various types of external control by public bodies such as the Supreme Audit Office of the SR or directly- by exercising public control of these companies. The objective was to identify if and what controlling mechanisms organisations had established to measure effectiveness of their activities and what conclusions they came to based on the performed controlling activities. Similarly as in the first round of this project, inquirers visited nine different public companies. The sample group of companies was formed so as all forms of public companies (state-owned enterprises, joint-stock companies and limited liability companies) were represented. Monitoring was carried out from September 2005 until November 2005.

Distribution of Grants from the Environmental Fund and Additional Tax Income from U.S. Steel Košice

In 2005, TIS examined the methods of distributing public resources to local self-governments and focused on two individual cases of public funds handling – distribution of grants from the Environmental Fund and additional tax income from U.S. Steel Košice. Based on the findings of TIS it was concluded that the allocation of both the grants from the Environmental Fund and additional tax income from U.S. Steel Košice was insufficiently transparent. In both cases we organised a press meeting and presented our findings to the media and public. More detailed information is available via the TIS website.

Analysis of Voting of MPs of the Banská Bystrica, Prešov and Trenčín Self-Governing Regions for the Period of 2001 – 2005 on Selected Problems of Public Interest in terms of Transparency

The analysis of voting of MPs for the period of 2003 – 2005 on selected problems of public interest in terms of transparency presents a ranking of all MPs in the regions under monitoring in order of their votes on the selected questions of public interest discussed during the first term of office of regional councils. Subject to the analysis were votes whereat it was possible to clearly determine whether the acceptance of a drafted rule or decision was under correct or incorrect voting in terms of transparency. The selected votes covered certain time period and topic range. Voting under evaluation is based on the most important powers of self-governing regions – they relate to educational system, social affairs, handling of the assets of regions as well as the very functioning of the offices of self-governing regions. The preparation of the analysis was coordinated by TIS co-workers, Mr. V. Pirošík and Mr. Ivan Rončák.

Anti-corruption Mechanisms with Respect to European Funds

In 2005, TIS participated in an international project coordinated by Transparency International Secretariat. Its objective was to contribute to the enhancement of transparency in the use of European funds in the new EU member states by fostering public awareness of their purposes, the methods of their managing and utilization. Simultaneously, the project examines the existing and possible anti-corruption mechanisms with respect to European funds.

The project has been carried out in cooperation with national branches of Transparency International in Poland, Czech Republic, Latvia, Estonia and Lithuania. This cooperation creates room for the exchange of experience and information about the functioning of structural funds in the mentioned countries.

In this project TIS focuses attention on the search for and identification of areas of the use of structural funds that seem potentially problematic in terms of transparency, and the preparation of recommendations for improvement. In the first phase, TIS performed an analysis of weaknesses of the system of structural funds distribution. In the second phase, recommendations were prepared in order to eliminate the identified weaknesses. In the third phase, the project focuses on the mediation of findings to target groups (potential applicants, journalists, responsible representatives of public administration and public) as well as search for possibilities of implementing proposed solutions. Therefore, for example, in December 2005 a workshop was organised and it focused on discussion about potential improvements with regard to transparency of structural fund management in Slovakia. Experts in structural funds, public procurement and representatives of the Fight against Corruption Department of the Office of the Government of the SR attended the workshop.

Corruption Perception Index (CPI)

Transparency International Slovakia presents Corruption Perceptions Index (CPI) prepared by Transparency International on an annual basis. CPI prepared for this year evaluates the level of corruption in 156 countries all over the world. It was presented at a press meeting in Bratislava in October 2005.

I.5 Support for System Measures in Fight Against Corruption

In 2005 we actively supported system measures in fight against corruption. We participated in preparation of the new legislation drafts or presented corruption-related issues to experts from various areas.

Cooperation on new Act on Public Procurement

TIS representatives – Mr. Jiří Vlach and Mr. Pavel Nechala were members of working group at the Office for Public Procurement formed to prepare a new legislation related to public procurement. Several meetings with representatives of Civil Service Office and Ministry of Finance of SR were held to discuss the then prepared Act on Public Procurement and results of surveys conducted by TIS on this topic.

Discussions about Improving Public Procurement Procedures at Ministries and Offices of Higher Territorial Units

In relation to TIS activities related to monitoring and assessment of public procurement, meetings with representatives of higher territorial units and later with representatives of ministries were held in June 2005. Discussions were related to possibilities of improving public procurement procedure in mentioned institutions.

Support for Amendment of Freedom of Information Act

On 24th August 2005, TIS together with four other NGOs published a press release in which they express consent with the wording of the amended act on Free Access to Information. The reason was the acceptance of number of comments from non-government organisations in the comment procedure. The amended act provides the right of free access to information to the extent known in 2000.

Cooperation on proposed Act on Lobbying

TIS submitted its comments on the Act on Lobbying which was in legislative process by the end of 2005. Mr. Pavel Nechala actively participated in the preparation of the act, as he attended and gave his contributions in several sessions that formed its wording.

Advantages and Risks of Public-Private Partnership

Transparency International Slovakia started to address the issue of public-private partnership. Apart from currently undergoing survey, TIS together with the Partnership for Prosperity Association organised a seminar titled *Advantages and Risks of Public Private Partnership* on 28th September 2005. The first block summarized the World Bank view on the issue and presented the situation of public-private partnership in the Czech Republic. Next block was devoted to proposed government policies regarding pubic-private partnership. The third block focused on existing or proposed cases of public-private partnership. This seminar proved the intention of Transparency International Slovakia to actively participate, apart form other activities, in discussions on public-private partnership issues.

I.6. Anticorruption Activities of TIS Abroad

From the point of view of activities abroad, the 2005 was oriented on transfer of Slovak experience with fight against corruption to the Republic of Serbia and Monte Negro. The aim of the research missions of our experts was not only to determine the sources of corruption, but also to try to find solutions based on our experience and experience from abroad.

Transfer of Experience with Fight against Corruption from Slovakia to Serbia and Monte Negro

Since January 2005 to June 2006, Transparency International Slovakia, with the support from Civil Society Development Foundation, has been conducting a project focused on transfer of Slovak knowledge and experience with fight against corruption to the Republic of Serbia and Monte Negro. The aim of the project is to improve the ability to fight corruption and thus to reduce its size and extent in public sector of Serbia and Monte Negro.

Initially, the project focused on identification of problematic issues in the topic of corruption, on mapping of reasons for corruption behaviour and on analysis of existing efforts to pass anticorruption measures. Slovak anticorruption experience as well as experience from other countries were modified and adopted to situation in Serbia. The project includes several research trips of Slovak experts to Serbia as well as trips of Serbian experts to Slovakia.

First Mission to Serbia (April 2005)

Consultants of TIS, Mr. Vladimír Pirošík and Mr. Andrej Salner travelled to Serbia in April 2005 on a first TIS mission. The aim of the mission was to obtain information about means and ways as well as general view of the fight against corruption in Serbia. Slovak experts attended several meetings mainly with state representatives. The first mission of Slovak experts to Serbia also included a workshop "A High Standard Public Administration and Anticorruption Tools in Serbia". The mission was organised in close cooperation with our partner Transparency International Serbia.

Second Mission to Serbia (June-July 2005)

Mr. A. Salner and Mr. V. Pirošík travelled to Serbia on a second mission at the end of June 2005. The main aim of the mission was to obtain a general picture of the state of fight against corruption in Serbia and to present Slovak experience with fight against corruption to more experts and specialists. This mission focused on meetings with representatives of self-administration, journalists, and local anticorruption leaders. A series of workshops was conducted throughout the regions of Serbia. The outcomes of the two missions are publications Evaluation of Anticorruption Tools in Serbia and Proposed Solutions Based on Slovak Experience.

Third mission to Serbia (October 2005)

In October 2005, the Transparency International Slovakia sent two of its public procurement experts-Mr. J. Vlach and Mr. P. Nechala to Serbia. The aim of this mission was to assess the general state of public procurement system in Serbia by means of meetings and discussions. Slovak experts had several meetings with relevant Serbian counterparts. The second aim was to introduce the methodology of public procurement monitoring to our partners in Transparency International Serbia. Discussions on application of TIS public procurement monitoring conducted in Serbia were also held.

II. Examples of Active Participation of Transparency International Slovakia in Activities Focusing on Anticorruption Issues in 2005

- In April 2005, Mrs. Emília Sičáková-Beblavá presented a lecture on transparency and environmental policies at the conference f Conservative Institute Ružomberok.
- On 24th and 25th May 2005 Mr. Jiří Vlach attended a conference "Public Contracts-On the Joint Way Towards the Clear Objective" in Prague, where he presented a lecture "Public Procurement in Slovakia".
- In June 2005 a program coordinator Mr. Marián Babitz attended a workshop in Berlin devoted to the methodology of the EU structural funds monitoring.
- TIS Representatives-Mr. Marián Babitz and Mr. Rastislav Havran attended a workshop in Tallin, Estonia in August 2005. The workshop was devoted to planning and coordination of further activities in the framework of Transparency through Awareness project, which is coordinated by a TI secretariat in Berlin.
- On 15th September 2005 Mr. Jiří Vlach presented a lecture titled "TIS Monitoring of Public Procurement in Slovakia" at the seminar "Transparency in Public Contracts in the Czech Republic" organised by the TI-Czech Republic in Prague.
- In September 2005, Mrs. Emília Sičáková-Beblavá presented a lecture about Business Activities of Self-Government at Jour fix organised by the Institute for Public Policy at the Faculty of Social and Economic Sciences, Comenius University in Bratislava.
- Mrs. Emília Sičáková-Beblavá took active part and presented a lecture at the meeting organised by the Slovak Foreign Policy Association on the issue of Public-Private Partnership in October 2005.
- In October 2005, Mrs. Emília Sičáková-Beblavá presented a lecture on corruption risks related to business sphere in Oslo, Norway.
- The President of the TIS Mrs. Emília Sičáková-Beblavá presented a lecture on the results of survey of TIS on Public Procurement at the conference in Bratislava-November 2005.
- Mrs. Emília Sičáková-Beblavá gave a lecture on corruption and media as anticorruption players at Masaryk's University, Brno, Czech Republic in November 2005.
- A lecture on corruption was presented by the TIS President at the international conference on Multilevel Public Administration in Athens, Greece in November 2005.

- Mrs. Emília Sičáková-Beblavá attended the annual TI conference in November 2005 in Berlin.
- Mrs. Emília Sičáková-Beblavá had a presentation at the conference organised by the European Public Law Centre and devoted to activities of inspection authorities in fight against corruption.
- Mr. P. Nechala and Mr. P. Filin were invited by the British Chamber of Commerce in the Slovak Republic and attended the seminar on Public-Private Partnership in Practice in November 2005 in Bratislava.
- On 24th and 25th November 2005, Mr. P. Nechala attended the international conference titled Public-Private Partnership in CEE.
- On 12th December 2005 Mrs. Emília Sičáková-Beblavá and Mr. P. Nechala attended a meeting with the members of the Economic Club Kežmarok.
- Press conferences organised by TIS in 2005 a presentation of results of public procuring monitoring in 8 higher territorial units in Slovakia took place on 14th April. The TIS presented results of analysis of the distribution of additional tax payments from U.S. STEEL Košice at the press conference on 20th July 2005. The Corruption Perception Index together with the evaluation of the 3 years of work of the Slovak government and the National Council from the point of view of corruption was presented a the press conference on 18th October 2005.

III. Publications of Transparency International Slovakia Issued in 2005

Transparency International Slovakia published 5 publications, 3 final reports and 4 issues of the newsletter "Pod lupou" (Under the Magnifying Glass).

Anticorruption Education in Civic Education (Protikorupčná výchova v náuke o spoločnosti)

Daniela Ďurajková, Martin Kríž

November 2005

A new publication-Ďurajková, D., Kríž, M.: *Anticorruption Education in Civic Education*, TIS, 2005, which includes analysis of curriculum of the subject Civic Education together with final requirements for students taking GSE Exams from Civic Education was prepared. Its objective is to stress the possibilities these 2 pedagogical documents and to incorporate the issue of anticorruption tools into education with the help of this methodical handbook. 600 copies of the publication were printed by the end of November 2005.

A Nationwide Issue-Corruption II (A Methodical Handbook) (Celospoločenský problém - korupcia II (metodická príručka))

Updated Edition

Daniela Ďurajková, Daniela Zemanovičová, Martina Zuberská

November 2005

The publication – Ďurajková, D., Zemanovičová, D., Zuberská, M.: *A Nationwide Issue-Corruption II (A Methodical Handbook)*, TIS, 2005 – is an updated edition of the document published for the first time in September 2004. This updated edition is more complex, includes more topics and reflects most recent changes in society. 400 copies of the updated edition handbook were printed.

As Good As Possible? (An Overall Review of Public Procurement Monitoring in Slovakia) (Tak dobre, ako sa len dá? (Súhrnné hodnotenie monitoringov verejného obstarávania na Slovensku))

Jiří Vlach, Emília Sičáková-Beblavá

November 2005

The publication As Good As Possible? (An Overall Review of Public Procurement Monitoring in Slovakia) is a result of a long-term interest of TIS in the issue of public procurement. Transparency International Slovakia has published more than 10 publications dealing with this issue. This work reviews the public procuring from the view of 5 rounds of monitoring process. The aim and purpose of the monitoring conducted was to obtain a summary review on the state of public procuring from various points of view (including ethical and anticorruption standpoints) in several comparable public procuring organisations, to compare obtained characteristics, deduce relevant conclusions and propose possible suggestions. The work features reviews and comparisons of the state of public procuring not only at procuring entities at the central public administration but also on the level of local self-government.

Monitoring of Public Procurement in Water Management Companies and Organisations Providing Waste Collection and Disposal Services

(Monitoring verejného obstarávania vo vodárenských spoločnostiach a spoločnostiach zabezpečujúcich odvoz a likvidáciu komunálnych odpadov)

Jiří Vlach, Emília Sičáková-Beblavá

November 2005

The fifth round of mentioned monitoring focused on companies providing services to citizens. Apart from other data, this report includes an analysis of the application of the Act on Public Procurement and the Act on Free Access to Information in these types of companies and offers evaluation of the monitored aspects of public procurement in water management companies.

Monitoring of Public Procurement at the Ministries of the Slovak Republic (Monitoring verejného obstarávania na ministerstvách SR)

Jiří Vlach, Emília Sičáková-Beblavá

September 2005

The publication reviews public procurement process on the level of the central public administration bodies – the ministries. Procuring at ministries is evaluated in 4 aspects. The first aspect is the evaluation of the organisation of public procurement process, the second is the number of public procurement cases, we also analyse the selected cases of procuring and provide the comparison between procuring procedures-benchmarking.

Monitoring of Public Procurement in the Offices of the Slovak Higher Territorial Units and at Selected Schools within the Scope of Their Competence

(Monitoring verejného obstarávania v úradoch Vyšších územných celkov Slovenska a vybraných školách v ich pôsobnosti)

Jiří Vlach, Emília Sičáková-Beblavá

April 2005

Similar to other reports, the final report of the third round of public procurement monitoring shows evaluation of public procurement in three types of institutions-in the offices of Higher Territorial Units, in selected grammar schools within the scope of their competence, and in selected secondary schools within the scope of their competence. Public procurement procedure is reviewed by means of 4 aspects used in other rounds of monitoring.

Participation in Self-Government (Anticorruption Policy Tool) (Participácia v samospráve (Nástroj protikorupčnej politiky))

Vladimír Pirošík ed.

March 2005

One of the expected benefits of the public administration reform, including the process of decentralization, was to get public administration closer to wider public and thus to invoke a natural motivation for the public to be more involved in the decision-making. Fifteen years after the transformation was started, we can not speak about the barrier-free contact between the public and the public administration authorities. Although this publication deals to some extent with reasons of such situation, it mainly focuses on further development-it is meant to be at least

a small "how-to-do-it" guide for those, who still support the idea of communication between the authorities and the public.

Corruption and Anticorruption Policies in Slovakia in 2004 Korupcia a protikorupčná politika na Slovensku v roku 2004

Emília Sičáková-Beblavá ed.

January 2005

At the beginning of 2005, TIS published a summary valuation report on the state of corruption in Slovakia titled *Corruption and Anticorruption Policies in Slovakia in 2004*. The report deals with the corruption issues in various areas of Slovak society in 2004. It covers a wide spectrum of topics, e.g.: criminal offences of corruption, public opinion and perception of corruption in Slovakia, meeting of programme declaration of the Slovak government in the area of fight against corruption in 2004, and international agreements and cooperation. Main part of the report is devoted to evaluation of individual institutions of the public sector (executive and legislative authorities, self-governments, professional associations, business activities of the state). The report also reviews media, private sector, financing of political parties and non-governmental organisations. The report ends with the descriptions of the specific issue of building industry. The report is available at the TIS web site.

Pod lupou (Under the Magnifying Glass)

In 2004, a monthly TIS newsletter *Pod lupou (Under the Magnifying Glass)* changed to quarterly periodicity for the 2005. In addition to the development of corruption situation, it also focuses on several cases of non-transparent behaviour of state representatives and businessmen, and many other issues. The January-March issue deals, apart from regular extracts from the TI Newsletter, with the new legislation in conflict of interest in local self-governments, and includes an interview with the Chief Justice Mr. Milan Karabín. The April-June 2005 issue includes the summary of public procurement monitoring in the offices of Higher Territorial Units and draws attention to the Global TI report on corruption in the building industry. The issue concludes with the analysis of the new legislation for conflict of interest in self-governments. The July-**September** issue offers articles about self-governments and personal data protection and about municipal companies in relation to the Act on Free Access to Information. The issue includes, as usual, a book review, in this issue Motivation of Clerical Officer, Civic Qualification of Citizens and Public Policies (Úradnícka motivácia, občianska spôsobilosť a verejná politika) from Julian Grand. The **October-December** issue focuses on the review of the three years of the government and the local self/governments from the view of corruption fighting, presents the corruption perception index for 2005 and offers article on the amendment to the Act on Free Access to Information, actively advocated also by the TIS. It also includes first of the two articles on the issue of lobbying in the EU. All issues are available at the TIS web site.

IV. People and TIS in 2005

During 2005 we worked together with several known people, who showed their concerns with the status of corruption in the Slovak society. These included central state administration and self-governments representatives, experts from various areas of public life, and/or university students. Transparency International Slovakia highly appreciates their cooperation and contribution.

The Alliance for Transparency and Fight Against Corruption-an advisory body to TIS continued its activities in 2005. The alliance proposes areas of interests for the TIS, as well long-term program objectives, and potential candidates for cooperation in individual areas, of whom ad-hoc working groups could by formed.

Members of the Alliance for Transparency and Fight against Corruption:

Milan Banáš, Anna Butašová, Iveta Griačová, Eugen Jurzyca, Mária Kolaříková, Katarína Mathernová, Grigorij Mesežnikov, Vladimír Pirošík, Oľga Reptová, Emília Sičáková-Beblavá, Dušan Stanek, Juraj Stern, Soňa Szomolányi, Jiří Vlach, Daniela Zemanovičová.

The TIS staff is:

President

Transparency International Slovakia

Emília Sičáková-Beblavá

Office Manager and Program Coordinator

Marián Babitz

Lawyer

Pavel Nechala

Project Assistant

Peter Filin

Knowledge and Files Managers

Ladislav Tolmáči, Alex Levský

Finance Manager

Marta Gabrielová

Programs in 2005 were devoted to:

- Reduction of corruption in local self-governments-Program Coordinator Mr. Vladimír Pirošík.
- Reduction of corruption in public procurement-Program Coordinator Mr. Jiří Vlach,
- Introduction of anticorruption measures to business activities-Program Coordinator Mr. Pavel Nechala,
- Reduction of corruption in the EU Funds handling-Program Coordinator Mr. Marián Babitz.

V. Donors Supporting Transparency International Slovakia in 2005

• British Embassy –

A project devoted to implementation of anticorruption measures in business activities. The project started in June 2005 and ends in May 2007.

• European Commission –

The project "Transparency Through Awareness" is devoted to transparency in the use of the EU funds in the new member states. The projects started in June 2005 and ends in May 2006.

• Royal Netherlands Embassy –

A research on transparency of public-private partnership projects. The grant started in October 2005 and expires in September 2006.

• Civic Society Development Foundation-

A project devoted to transfer of knowledge and experience with fight against corruption from Slovakia to the Republic of Serbia and Monte Negro. The project started in January 2005 and ends in June 2006.

• Open Society Foundation –

The Project: Support for Local Anticorruption Leaders. The project started in January 2005 and ends in August 2006.

• Open Society Institute –

A project devoted to transparency of the so called public companies. The project started in January 2005 and ends in December 2006.

• Partnership for Transparency Fund –

Monitoring of public procurement. The project ended in September 2005.

• Local Government Initiative –

The program for local self-governments. The project ended in February 2005.

• The Slovak Republic Government Office

An educational project for teachers and educationists focused on enhancing transparency, corruption perceptiveness and anticorruption tools. The project started in September 2005 and ended in December 2005.

• Friedrich Ebert Foundation in Slovakia

Training activities focused on improvement and support for the TIS watchdog local network and additional printing of publication related to such activities. The training was conducted in July 2005.

• 2% of Income Tax Share-

Funds amounting to SKK 212,789.00 were also used for the support of our activities in 2005. It helped to spread the critical views on corruption throughout the Slovak society.

VI. Cooperating Institutions

In 2005 we had successful cooperation with a number of institutions, including Slovak and international NGOs, state authorities, and foundations:

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Fair-play Alliance

Bohemian Greenways – Oživení (Activation)

Economic Development Centre

Economic University

Economic Club Kežmarok

INEKO

Junior Achievement Slovakia – Mládež pre budúcnosť (The Youth for The Future)

Local Government Institute

Ministry of Education of the SR

Friedrich Ebert Foundation in Slovakia

The Supreme Audit Office of the SR

Department for Fight Against Corruption

Civic Association Strážov

Partnership for Prosperity-Civic Association

The Business Alliance of Slovakia

Antimonopoly Office of the SR

Special Court

National Institute of Education

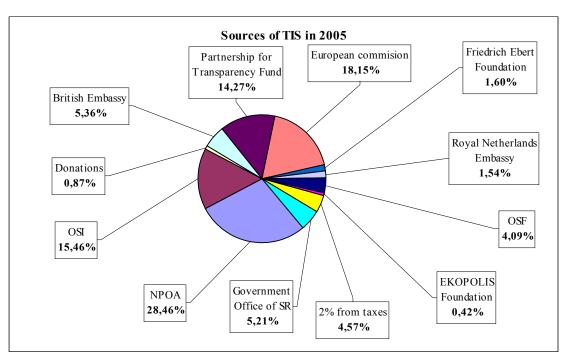
Transparency International – Secretariat

Transparency International – National Chapters

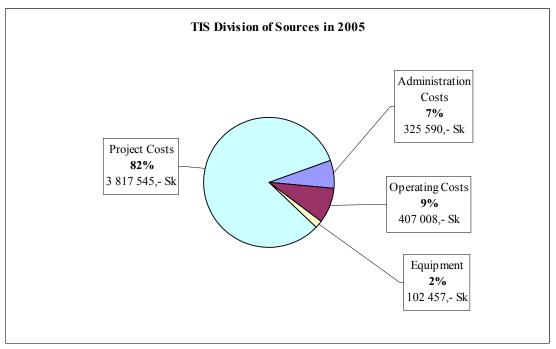
Office for Public Procurement

Institute for Public Policy, Faculty of Social and Economic Sciences, Comenius University, Bratislava

VII. Financial Report



Sources: 4 680 356,- Sk



Total costs: 4 652 600,- Sk

Distribution of 2% of income tax share received – in total SKK 212,789.00:

