



***"Fighting Corruption in the
Western Balkans -
Overview of the Region and
Case studies"***

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Anti-Corruption Activities in the Western Balkan Countries

Corruption Perception Index (CPI) 2010
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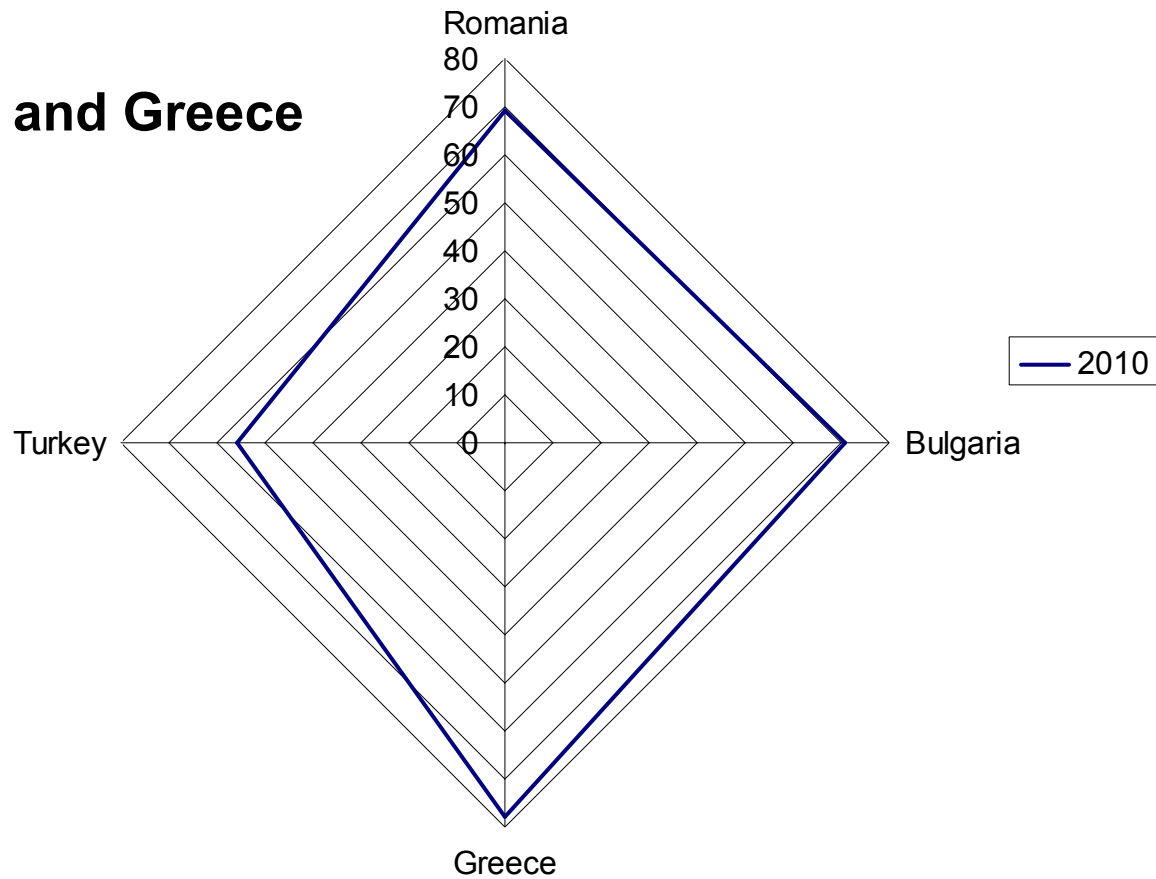
Corruption Perception Index rankings

- 62nd Republic of Macedonia and Croatia (4.1 index points);
- 69th Montenegro (3.7 index points);
- 78th Serbia (3.5 index points);
- 87th Albania (3.3 index points);
- 91st Bosnia and Herzegovina (3.2 index points);
- and
- 110th Kosovo (2.8 index points) (ranked for the first time)

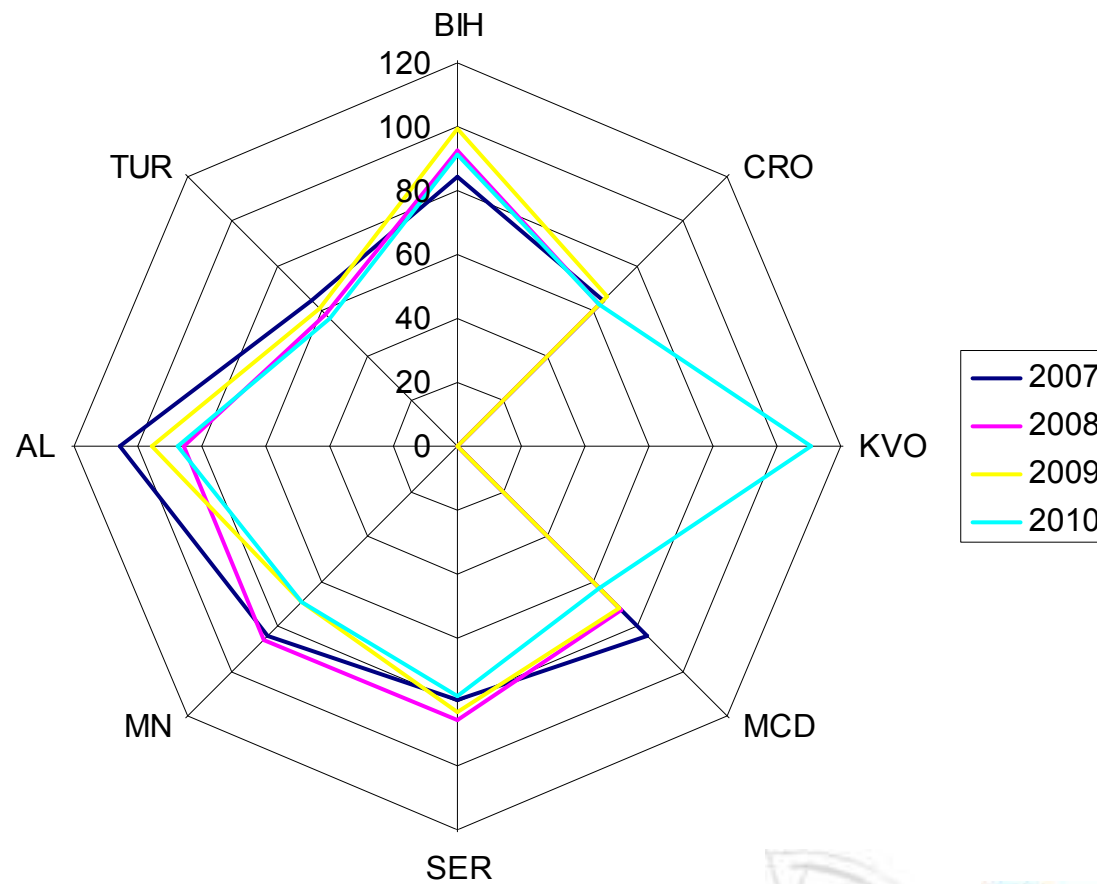


CPY 2010 for the EU member countries

Romania, Bulgaria and Greece with Turkey

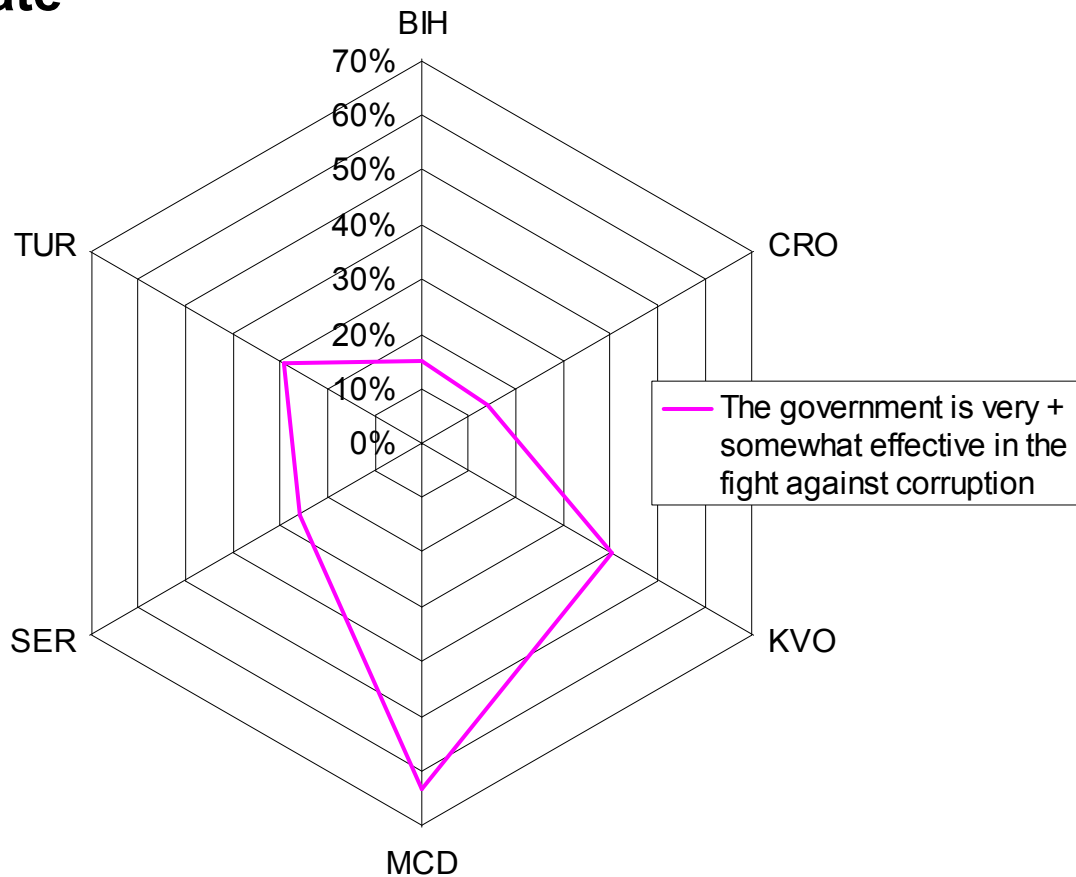


CPI 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010 for the Western Balkan countries



Global Corruption Barometer

Western Balkan /
potential EU candidate
countries



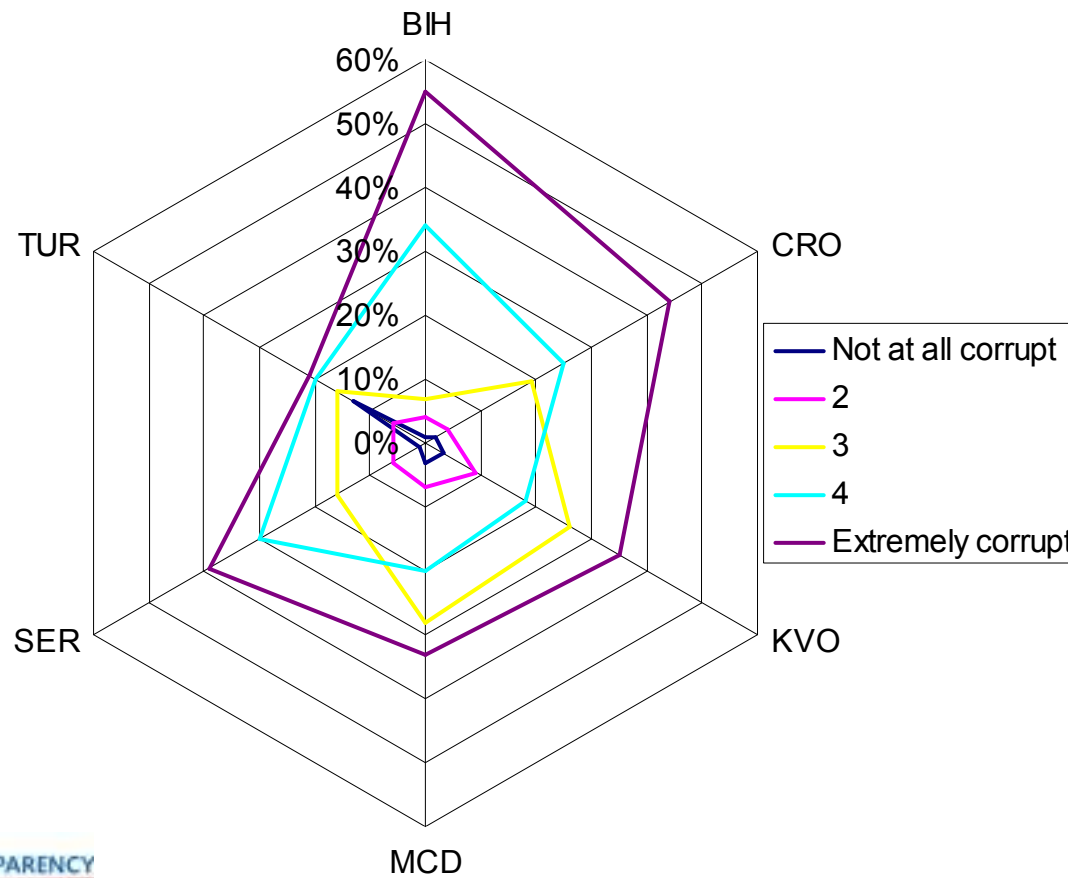
- **Category list:**
 - **Political Parties**
 - **Business/ private sector**
 - **Public Officials/Civil Servants**
 - **Judiciary**

To what extent is this category affected by corruption in your country:

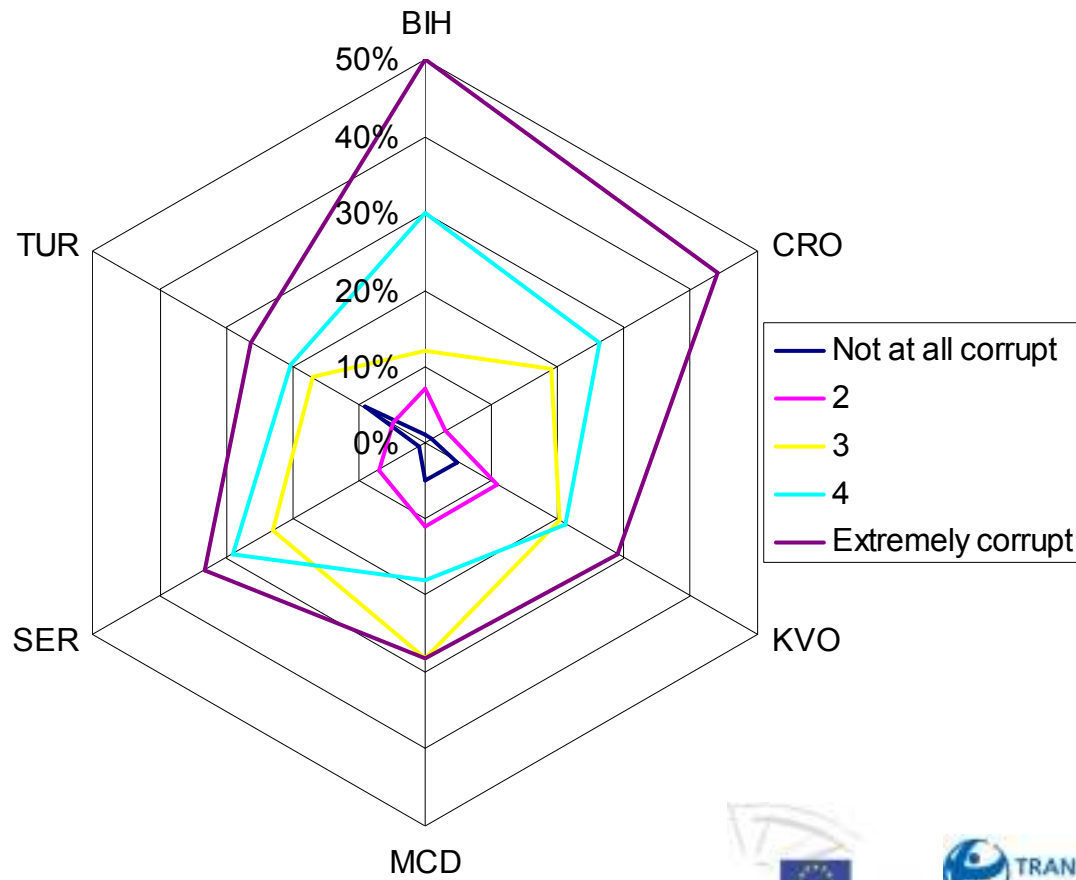


... category affected by corruption ...

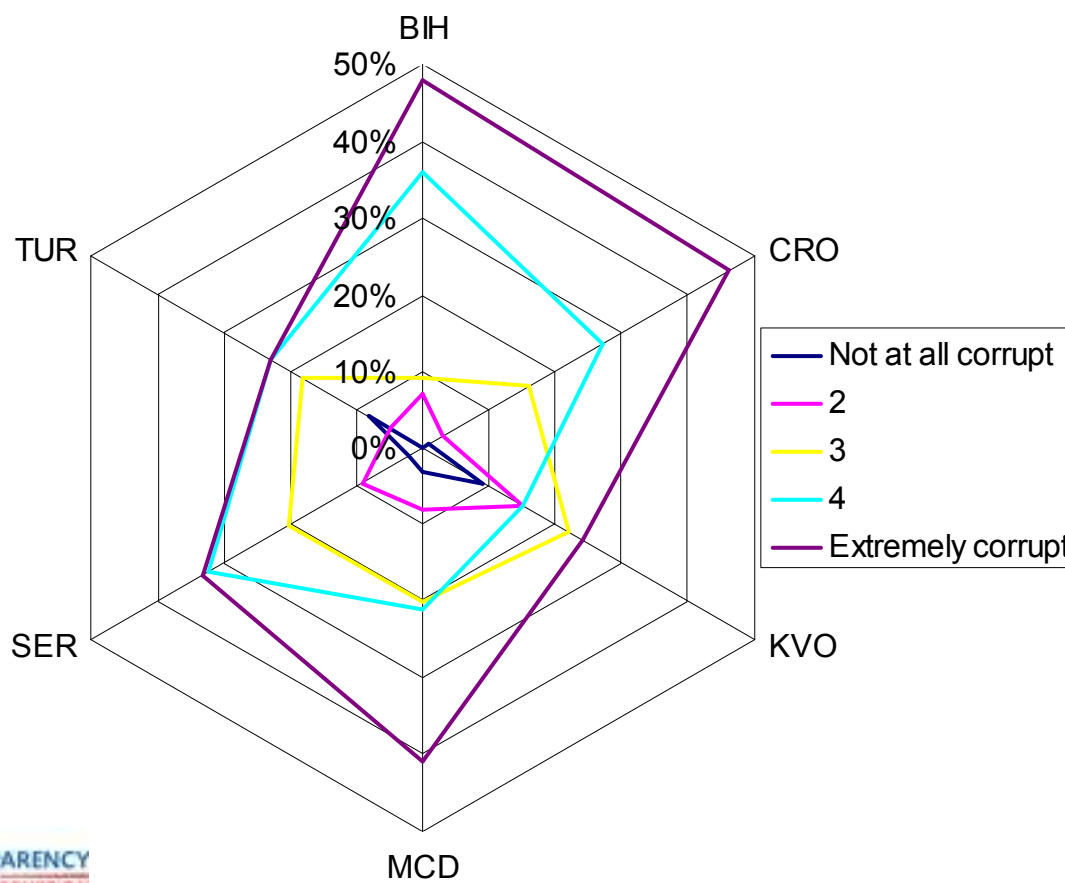
Political Parties?



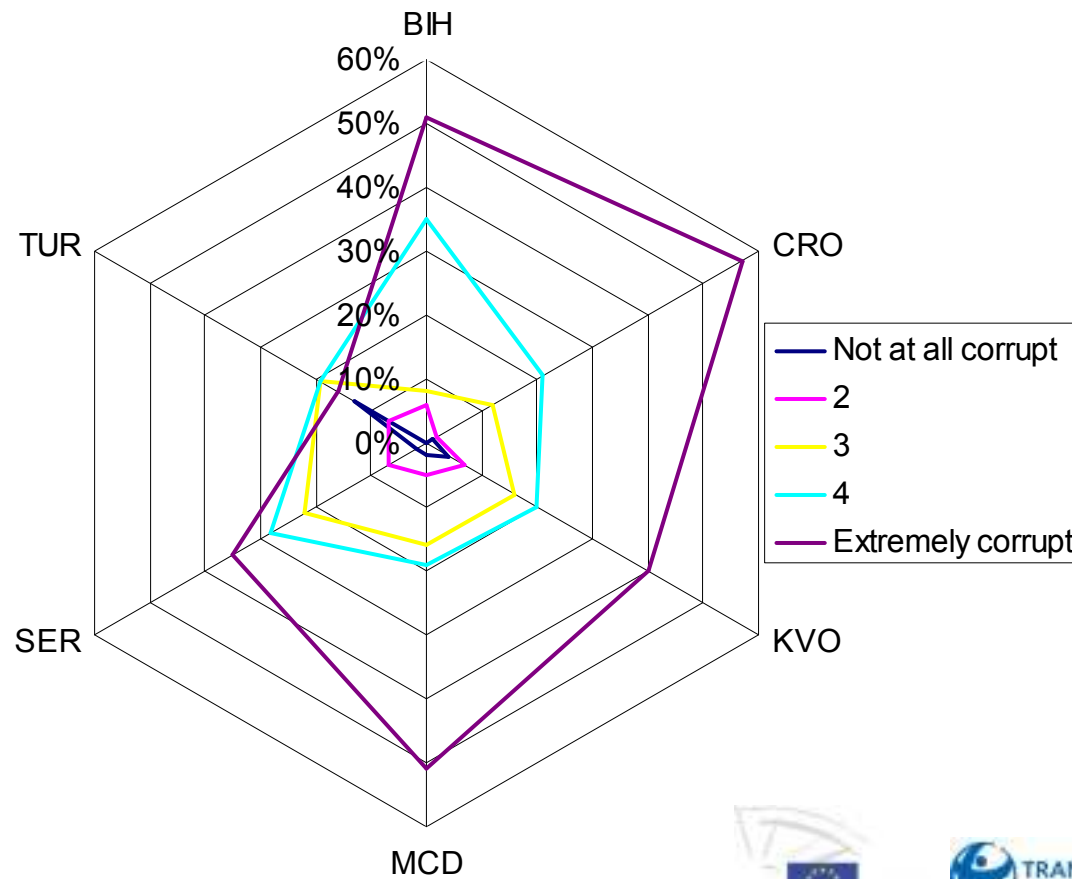
... category affected by corruption ...
Business / private sector?



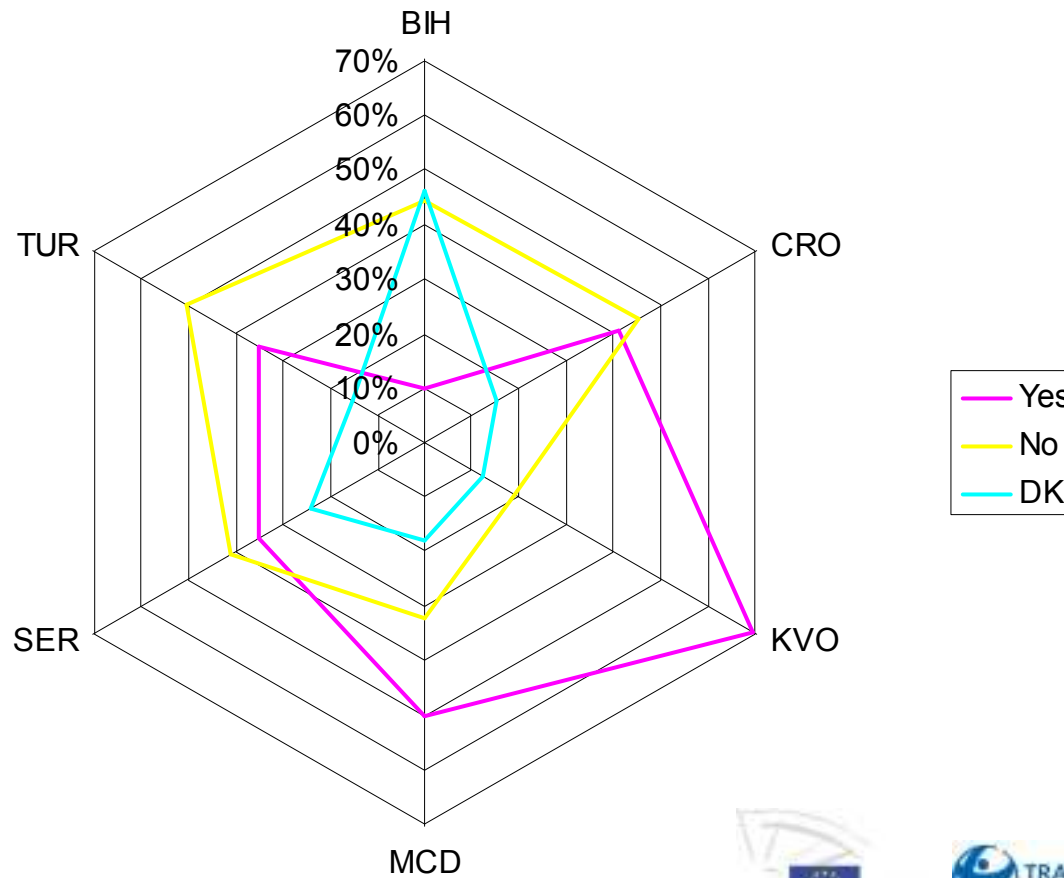
... category affected by corruption ... Public Officials/Civil Servants?



... category affected by corruption ...
Judiciary?



Would you be willing to pay more to buy from a company that is clean/corruption free?



UNODC Balkan study

- “While conventional crime levels are low and organized crime appears to be in decline, there is one area of criminal activity that is *especially problematic in the Balkans – corruption and economic crime.*”



UNODC Balkan study

- These offences are particularly difficult to measure, but there are two areas where South East Europe leads the world in victimization according to the crime *victim surveys: payment of bribes and consumer fraud.*



UNODC Balkan study

- *More recent surveys have shown that large shares of the population continue to report paying bribes.” ...*



In-Country activities

- The European Commission (EC) in its Progress Report published in November 2007, states for the entire sub-region that *"The enforcement of the rule of law, notably through judicial reform, and the fight against corruption and organized crime are top priorities"*.
- *In its 2009 progress report Brussels criticized the EU-hopefuls over widespread corruption and shortcomings in the judiciary in the document.*



In-Country activities

- As a result of the strong emphasis put on anti-corruption efforts in all WB countries in the EU progress reports as well as the fact that all countries in the Western Balkans region have ratified the UN Convention against Corruption (UNCAC came into force on 14 December 2005), a number of initiatives have been launched with respect to combating corruption.



In-Country activities

- Developed national anti-corruption strategies, programmes and action plans,
- Strengthening their institutional and legislative capacities to prevent and confront public corruption.



In-Country activities

- Already started the procedures for revising the existing strategies (Montenegro, Serbia, Kosovo, Croatia) and monitoring mechanisms,
- Some have been more advanced and have already adopted follow-up AC Programmes based on the efficiency indicators (Republic Macedonia).

Anti-corruption bodies

Establishment of the anti-corruption bodies differs through the region.

- In some of the countries the AC bodies are independent administrative units based on special laws, as in the former Republic Macedonia and Kosovo and recently in Serbia (the Agency for the Fight against corruption in Serbia)



Anti-corruption bodies

Establishment of the anti-corruption bodies differs through the region.

- The Unit for Anti-corruption Initiative in Montenegro is created with the Government decree, with some announcement for the future changes in the status and position,
- USKOK in Croatia Others is functioning as part of the prosecutor's office



Anti-corruption bodies

- A common characteristic for these bodies is that they are not appropriately resourced (lack of staff, equipment and budgeting), they are not accordingly treated by the Parliaments and the Governments, and there is a need for better cooperation with the judiciary, other law enforcement agencies, state agencies and governments.



Anti-corruption bodies

- The State Commission for Prevention of Corruption in the Republic Macedonia has inspection powers and supervisory functions in respect of official's assets, conflicts of interest and incompatibilities as well as for controlling of political campaign financing.



Legislative reforms

- The development concerning the legislative reforms related to fight against corruption is evident.
- The legal framework addressing various forms of corruption has been extended, both qualitatively and quantitatively.



Legislative reforms

- Part of the anti-corruption legislation in the WB countries comprises different acts related to: Conflict of Interest Prevention; Corporate Criminal Liability, Money Laundering Prevention, Witness Protection; Personal Data Protection; Right to Access to Information and others.

Lack of implementation

- It is important to note, however, that the operational implementation of the laws has been weak to date.
- In most cases, the bodies responsible for implementation of the adopted laws lack resources, both human and financial, to adequately carry out their mandate.



Lack of implementation

It results in a situation where the public perception of corruption is disproportionate to the detection and prosecution of corrupt practices, which means that additional efforts are to be made both in terms of legislation and enforcement.

Stimulate the political will

Declaratively expressed political will and determination to fight corruption must imply detachment from political parties and narrow the political interests in the best interests of overall societal development.



Civil society

Despite some positive steps, civil society in the WB region remains weak and needs to be adapted to the present circumstances. It is, therefore, important to create conditions conducive to further growth of their activities



Civil society

In addition to the participation and strengthening of the role of the civil society, there is a need for additional support of the awareness raising, investigative journalism and accurate and appropriate media information, as well as for the integrity trainings and education for the young journalists



Facilitation of the Anti-Corruption Activities

- Given the importance of the UNCAC implementation for all countries in the region of the Western Balkans, the need for creating an additional mechanism for coordinating the implementation activities with the EU accession processes may be envisaged.



Facilitation of the Anti-Corruption Activities

- The importance of the two ongoing processes may enable conceiving of and contemplating a future possibility for establishment of a specific focal point for coordination, planning and programming of the sub-regional anti-corruption activities



Integrity

- *“State Party shall promote, inter alia, integrity, honesty and responsibility among its public officials, in accordance with the fundamental principles of its legal system.”*

the UNCAC



Integrity

- The integrity of institutions has crucial importance for the prevention of eventual risks in corporative behavior.
- Some EU member states have already adopted separate laws on integrity.
- Integrity as a concept has to do with consistency of actions, values, methods, measures, principles, expectations and outcomes
- GRECO (Group of States against Corruption - Council of Europe) peer review process an input to the member countries integrity.



Main points for activity

- Implementation of the existing legislation
- Efficiency
- Judicial reforms
- Anti Corruption Strategy/Action Plan (ACS) &KPI
- Civil society
- Whistleblowers
- Media
- International Anti-Corruption Conventions (CoE – GRECO, UNCAC, OECD)
- Integrity



WE THANK YOU FOR
YOUR ATTENTION

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