

PRESS RELEASE

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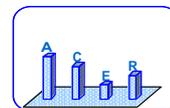
“The ALBANIAN CORRUPTION ASSESSMENT REPORT – 2014”

Tirana, October 24th 2014

- In the last 15 years, more than 2/3 of Albanian citizens see corruption as one of the biggest barriers for the acceleration of socio-economic development and the European integration of the country. Other main challenges remain unemployment, crime and insufficient family incomes.
- Governmental institutions are engaged in an anticorruption reforms process that includes policies and regulatory framework, institutional practices and law implementation agencies, judiciary, civil society, businesses and international cooperation.

During 2014 the Albanian Center for Economic Research (ACER) in cooperation with House of Europe (HoE) and Albanian Socio-Economic Think-tank has, been a member of SELDI-South-East Europe Leadership for Development and Integrity – a civil society effort for improving governance in the region, coordinated by the Sofia-based think-tank Center for the Study of Democracy. SELDI aims to contribute to a dynamic civil society in the region, capable of participating in the public debate and influencing the policy and decision-making process in the area of anti-corruption and good governance.

A **national survey** conducted in the first half of 2014 under this initiative shows that a considerable number of Albanian citizens create their **assessment on corruption** mainly based on mass-media publications, than personal experiences in a very similar measure (1/3).



A project implemented by a consortium lead by the Center for the Study of Democracy

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“The European Union is made up of 27 Member States who have decided to gradually link together their know-how, resources and destinies. Together, during a period of enlargement of 50 years, they have built a zone of stability, democracy and sustainable development whilst maintaining cultural diversity, tolerance and individual freedoms. The European Union is committed to sharing its achievements and its values with countries and peoples beyond its borders”.

According to **the involvement in corruption** and **corruption pressure index**, the measurements conducted in 2001, 2002 and 2014, there was a significant reduction during this period, but the number of citizens who have been asked for bribes (45.3%) and those paying bribes (38.9%) remains still high.

Citizen perceptions on **corruption prevalence**, meaning the prevalence of the corruptive practices in the public sector employees, are quite high: 74% of people interviewed.

According to the **acceptability of corruption index** and **susceptibility to corruption index**, as a positive phenomenon it is seen the decline of corruption acceptances as compared to 2001 (51%, 2014), while there is also a “tiredness” within citizens expressed with a susceptibility to corruption index almost unchanged.

The survey shows that Albanian citizens still see **corruption as an efficient tool for solving problems** in relation with state institutions and public administration, but this year this index has slightly improved.

In the **ranking of institutions based on public perception about their inclusion or not in corruption**, judges and customs officers are considered as the most corrupted (level 3.3 on a scale from 0 to 4) followed by prosecutors, clerks of court administration and party leaders. While the least corrupted are perceived to be journalists and teachers (level 2.2).

Citizens “tiredness” from the failures of the fights against corruption of state institutions and society until today, is expressed in the increasing of their distrust in **corruption expectations index**: 6.3 level in 2014 compared with 5.5 in the previous measurements. Even the specific weight of people who think that corruption can be reduced significantly or disappear, has been declining compared with measurements made in 2001 and 2002.

"Corruption Assessment Report 2014" is prepared by ACER under the methodological guidance of the Center for the Study of Democracy (CSD, Bulgaria). For more details, you can consult the full report at: www.acer.org.al or contact us directly by e-mail: acer@abcom.al and zef.preci@gmail.com and phone numbers: (042) 225-021 and (042) 274-603 (ACER)

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