

Serbia: From Corruption to State Capture

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Corruption in Serbia (CMS)

- Serbia ranks best in corruption pressure (24%), expectations of a bribe (55%) and feasibility of policy responses to corruption (47%)
- Serbia ranks second in involvement in corruption (23%)
- Serbia ranks third best in acceptability of corruption (29%) and joint-third in susceptibility to corruption (67%)

- *Corruption pressure* – being asked for a bribe; experienced by 24,4% of citizens (better than in 2019. yet, not the best since 2001; 2016. 22,6%).
- *Corruption involvement* – giving a bribe; recorded among 23% of the population (lowest in 2016. – 18,6).
- *Acceptability* – the share of citizens: 29% (worse in comparison to 2019 – 24%)
- *Susceptibility* – 67% of the population susceptible to accept or offer a bribe.
- *Likelihood of corruption pressure* – 55% of people consider corruption pressure very likely or likely to happen (increase in comparison to 2019)
- *Perception of feasibility of policy responses to corruption*: 51% of citizens have a positive perception

State Capture in Serbia (SCAD)

- Serbia ranks highest in regards to state capture enablers (43/100)
- Monopolization pressure especially high in:
 - the electricity and gas sector (77%)
 - programming and broadcasting activities (64%)
 - construction and wholesale of pharmaceutical goods (51% each)

Causes for Concern

- The Law on Public Procurement & Law on Linear Infrastructure Projects which led to a significant decrease of open tenders
- Noticable decrease of prosecution of high-level corruption
- Media capture through public funding and actions of state-owned Telekom Srbija
- Diminished independence of independent regulatory bodies through legal changes and personnel appointments (ACA, REM, Ombudsperson, Fiscal Council)
- Single-party political dominance, incl. almost single-party parliament 2020-2022, which removed most checks and balances

What should we focus on at national and EU level?

- Judicial independence, implementation of constitutional changes
- Media freedom and media capture (EU noted “limited progress”, but serious problems remain)
- Prosecution and non-prosecution of high-level corruption and organized crime cases (especially the most sensitive cases such as Savamala, Krušik, Jovanjica)



Thank you!