IMPLEMENTING SHARED ANTI-CORRUPTION AND GOOD GOVERNANCE SOLUTIONS IN SOUTHEAST EUROPE: INNOVATIVE PRACTICES AND PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIPS

What could the EU, national governments, international partners and civil society do more in the next five years to bring the region closer to a sustainable good governance path? Four core anti-corruption initiatives in societies and entrenched state capture networks be effectively overthrown?

The SEE Good Governance Report

The principles of good governance continue to face an increasing number of challenges in the region of Southeast Europe. The EU member states from the region are among the leading net recipients of EU funding, yet, documents leaked by the “Panama Papers” showed that around 10% to 20% of the EU funds for the countries under the Europe and the Stability and Growth Pact are spent on corruption and other forms of graft. This has led to the development of corruption networks within the public sector, in the private sector and at the level of international organizations.

The SEE Good Governance Report aims to provide a deeper understanding of these challenges and pave the way for effective anti-corruption reforms in nine countries: Bulgaria, Croatia, Hungary, Romania, Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, North Macedonia, and Serbia.

The report focuses on ten of the most testing governance vulnerabilities in the region:

PUBLIC PROCUREMENT INTEGRITY

Public procurement constitutes a substantial portion of GDP in both high- and low-income economies.

Across the globe it represents 15% to 30% of GDP.

While corruption in public procurement can take many forms, there is a clearly definable set of corrupt techniques that are actively used in Southeast Europe to siphon off public money for private gain.

- Favoritism and Clientelism
- Incomplete contracts
- Tailored tender specifications
- Conflict of interest in the tendering process
- High share of non-open procedures
- Contract modification in the implementation phase

- In addition to these six issues, COVID-19-induced changes in public procurements, as well as the overuse of urgent procedures
- The analysis outlines a procurement-related corruption risk in the healthcare sector


2017 2021

10 10% to 25%

Percentage of a public contract's overall value may be lost due to shabby practices

Implemented by: 

The REVENUE project, co-financed by the Center for the Study of Democracy, Bulgaria and benefited from a €3.1 million grant from Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway through the EEA and Norway Grants Fund for Regional Cooperation. The aim of the project is to implement shared anti-corruption and good governance solutions in Southeast Europe through innovative practices and public-private partnerships.

The PDPA project, co-financed by the Center for the Study of Democracy, Bulgaria and benefited from a €10 million grant from Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway through the EEA and Norway Grants Fund for Regional Cooperation. The aim of the project is to implement shared anti-corruption and good governance solutions in Southeast Europe through innovative practices and public-private partnerships.