

Some progress was made in the area of **anti-corruption policy**.

The Criminal Code was amended to refine the scope of incrimination for bribery and trading in influence and to introduce criminal liability for failure to report donations and other funds used to finance electoral campaigns. The amended Electoral Code introduced a requirement to submit financial reports for all election campaigns to the State Electoral Commission, State Audit Office and State Commission for Prevention of Corruption (SCPC) within 15 days of the end of the campaign, to be published immediately on the respective websites of these bodies. The amendments were adopted with a view to implementing GRECO's third round recommendations concerning incrimination and transparency of party funding. The new Criminal Procedure Code, which was adopted in November 2010 and enters into force in November 2012, aims to enhance the role of the public prosecutor in the pre-trial procedure and introduces a number of special investigative measures. The 2011-2015 State programme for the prevention and repression of corruption and the State programme for reduction of conflict of interest, as well as their corresponding action plans, remain to be adopted. The Law on Financing of Political Parties still remains to be amended to take account of GRECO recommendations. The OECD Convention on Combating Bribery of Foreign Public Officials in international business transactions has yet to be ratified.

There are several bodies tasked with combating corruption. The SCPC, the Anti-corruption Unit within the Organised Crime Department of the Ministry of Interior and the Basic Public Prosecutor's Office for the Fight against Organised Crime and Corruption all remain understaffed and underfinanced. The establishment of investigation centres under the new Criminal Procedure Code will require a 30% increase in the numbers of both prosecutors and support staff. The specialisation of law enforcement agents and judiciary at local level, in particular on petty corruption, remains insufficient. Although the Law on prevention of corruption was amended to professionalise the SCPC, public trust in its independence and impartiality nevertheless remains fragile. Its approach is still reactive rather than proactive, and its impact on the promotion of anti-corruption policies is weak. The SCPC received 457 new complaints or reports of corruption in 2010 and filed 14 requests with the Public prosecutor's Office (PRO) to initiate criminal prosecutions.

The majority of corruption cases prosecuted and brought before courts continue to be for abuse of an official position and fraud. There were 83 convictions for corruption-related offences in 2010 and 58 convictions so far in 2011. The capacity of the judiciary to deal with sensitive high-level corruption cases remains weak. The courts continue to apply lenient penalties. The number of cases in which seizure or confiscation of assets were ordered remains low. Decisions by public prosecutors not to indict are still not being reviewed by the courts. The absence of consolidated statistics which clearly track the investigation, prosecution, conviction and sentencing of corruption-related offences is a weakness which needs to be addressed both in order to facilitate the preparation of strategies for combating the phenomenon and to better inform the public of progress made in suppressing it.

In 2010, the Sector for Internal Control and Professional standards within the Ministry of Interior brought criminal charges against 29 police officers for criminal offences, including 16 cases of alleged abuse of an official position. Five police officers from one border crossing point were charged as part of a large-scale police operation. The Customs Administration should be prioritised as a high corruption risk in the development and implementation of future anti-corruption programmes.

During the reporting period, 496 asset declarations were submitted by public officials upon election, appointment or expiry of office. The SCPC established, for the first time, a procedure for systematic verification of asset declarations, in cooperation with the Ministry of Interior, the Cadastral Agency, the Central Register, the Central Securities Depository and the PRO. Between April and June 2011, 9 out of the 122 asset declarations made by officials from the legislative branch, 28 out of the 124 declarations from the executive branch and 89 out of the 913 declarations from the judicial branch were verified. The SCPC referred 30 cases in which discrepancies had been found to the PRO for further action.

The SCPC received 620 declarations of conflict of interest and submitted 202 requests to initiate criminal proceedings for failure to submit such declarations, including against one MP, 4 mayors and 8 judges. It also received 95 complaints requesting a determination of a conflict of interest. Amendments to the Law on conflict of interest and secondary legislation setting out a procedure for checking the content of such declarations still remain to be adopted.

As regards enforcement of the Law on financing of political parties, 16 political parties submitted annual accounts of financial operation to the State Audit Office (SAO), 8 parties submitted annual financial reports, 6 parties submitted quarterly reports on donations for the second half of 2010 and 7 parties submitted quarterly reports on donations for the first half of this year. All political parties which took part in the parliamentary elections of June 2011 submitted financial reports on the election campaign, including donations, in terms of the Electoral Code. The SAO began auditing these reports in September.

The number of complaints to the National Commission for Protection of the Right to Public Interest Information rose from 340 in 2009 to 540 in 2010. The majority were submitted by civil society organisations and the most common ground was the inactivity of informationholders. Information related to public expenditure continued to be subject to a number of exceptions set out in the law.

The Academy for Training of Judges and Prosecutors (ATJP) carried out 13 training events for 373 participants on the new provisions of the Criminal Code related to extended confiscation and illicit enrichment and 6 training events on bribery were attended by 162 participants including judges, prosecutors and legal clerks.