**Transparency International's Corruption Perception Index for 2012**

***Six years of stagnation***

Sixth year in a row Serbia hasn't improved its score in Transparency International's Corruption Perception Index, that reflects opinion of predominantly foreign experts and businessmen, on corruption among officials and public servants.

In this year's research, that comprehends 176 independent states and dependable territories, Serbia is ranked as 80th, with 39 out of possible 100 index points. Data were received on the basis of seven independent – relevant researches published **during final year, for which data were collected during 2011 and first half of 2012.**

Related to previous year, **Serbia is higher ranked**, because in 2011, our country was 86th from 183 countries, but that is a consequence of other countries’ regression. In the final year, those countries overtaken or reached our position B&H, Liberia, Sri Lanka, Bulgaria and Trinidad and Tobago, while worst ranked now are (and were better or the same) Panama, Jamaica, El Salvador, Morocco, Thailand, Columbia, Greece and Peru. After a while, all former republics of SFRJ[[1]](#footnote-2) are ahead of us, also all Balkan countries, except for Greece, Albania and Moldavia[[2]](#footnote-3). The best ranked are Denmark, Finland and New Zealand (90) and from former socialist countries Estonia (64), Slovenia (61) and Poland (58). At the bottom of the scale are Sudan (13), Afghanistan, North Korea and Somalia (8).

**Comparison of individual scores with CPI from earlier years in global level is not completely possible due to changes in calculation methodology**. Changes include different scale for presenting results (0 to 100 instead 0 to 10), calculation of sources only published in last year (earlier in past two years), introducing of new, relevant researches and different evaluation of certain sources' findings. However, when it comes to Serbia, findings from 6 (out of 7) researches that were used for CPI 2011 and CPI 2012 are completely identical, **and we can claim with certainty that there was no changes in perception of our corruption[[3]](#footnote-4).**

We remind that in previous years' ranking, Serbia was perceived as a country with high level of corruption (2011, with the score of 3.3., in a scale of 0 to 10, where 10 is the most desirable result). Score hasn’t suffered important changes in the period 2007-2011, significant changes upwards were accomplished before that, especially compared to 2000, when SRJ was considered as the most corrupted European State.

Findings of Corruption Perception Index, **although** **they don't testify on the state efforts** to fight this menace (e. g., number of criminal charges, number of adopted laws), **on number of cases** of corruption nor on its widespread **in certain sectors**, are very significant because they provide clear picture on countries' reputation worldwide. Indirectly, those data are **important indicator of credibility of state to fight corruption and obstacles it faces with or potential investors could face with**. We expect that **further ranking will show in which level current efforts of Government of Serbia and other state organs were credible enough to change such status.**

**Transparency – Serbia considers** that fight against corruption, regardless of what observers think of it, **can be successful only if it is organized systemically, so that it comprehends important segments, rule of law provisions, coordination of certain institutions' work with strict respecting of their constitutional and legal jurisdictions**.

Among priority measures, that should be implemented, are: securing of **greater transparency of state organs' work** (including rules on public debates and lobbying, increasing transparency of data on Government's, public enterprises' and other institutions' work), **decreasing regulatory and financial state interventions** (e.g. permits, approvals, subventions) that create risks for corruption, reform of **public procurement** area and complete organizing of public sector, respecting and strengthening of **independent state organs** **role** (Anticorruption Agency, Commissioner for Information, State Audit Institution, Ombudsman) and securing implementation of their decisions and recommendations, providing of **transparency of media ownership** and prohibitions of sponsorships and media advertizing of monopolists from public sector, **independent, efficient and accountable judiciary**, protection of **whistleblowers and witnesses of corruption**, **proactive approach** in researching corruption, measures for **control of public officials' and servants' property**, strict control **of accuracy and completeness of the reports on campaign and political party financing**, resolving of all cases where suspected of corruption **from previous years** also establishing of structure of state oppressive apparatus that would allow such actions to be discovered and punished in future.

**Transparency – Serbia**

**Belgrade, 5 December 2012**

1. Montenegro is ahead of Serbia (score 41 compared to 39), but ranking was made on the basis of only 4 researches (in the case of Serbia 7). In this „duel“, i.e., if only four researches would be taken into consideration that are common to both countries, score of Serbia would be better (43 to 41). [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
2. Special measures have been used for Kosovo, and corruption perception of public servants from that teritory was evaluated with 34 (105. Place on the list). [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
3. Fight against corruption in the first 100 days of Government’s work http://transparentnost.org.rs/index.php?option=com\_content&view=article&id=246:borba-protiv-korupcije-u-prvih-100-dana-vlade&catid=14:vesti&lang=en&Itemid= [↑](#footnote-ref-4)