Romania's Anticorruption Efforts
- A view from civil society -

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SELDI Policy Advocacy Workshop
Belgrade, Serbia
April 28, 2015

Romania's governance and corruption situation

WGI in 2007 (percentile rank)

	Romania	Bulgaria
Government effectiveness	45.6	53.8
Rule of law	51	52
Control of corruption	54	52.4

WGI in 2013 (percentile rank)

	Romania	Bulgaria
Government effectiveness	53	59
Rule of law	56	51
Control of corruption	53	50

Indirect indicators of particularism

1. Why is Romania still considered to be one of the most corrupt among the new EU member states?

2. Why does it continue to have some of the lowest governance scores?
   - A high perception of corruption persists despite changes in government
   - Real influence held by same individuals/groups regardless of the election outcome
   - High political migration
   - Widespread perception that some people are above the law
   - Relatively low number of convictions/jail time for people from status groups → **positive changes in this respect**
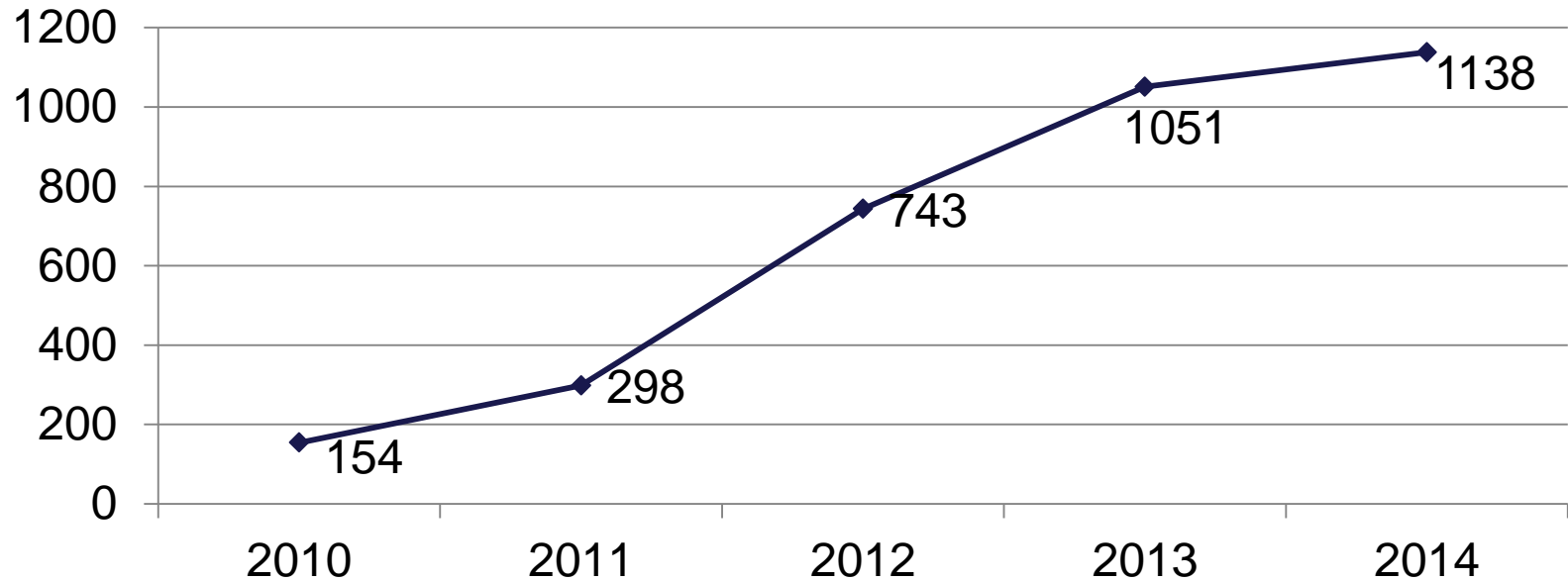
Crackdown on corruption (I)

• After 13 years DNA anti-corruption activity, 8 years ANI assets and conflict of interest activity, 8 years EU membership → public crackdown on medium and high-level corruption (2014 & 2015 particularly fruitful)

• 2015: DNA – 3rd most trusted executive institution:
   1) Army (75%)
   2) Gendarmerie (62%)
   3) DNA (59%)
   4) Intelligence Service (48.7%),
   5) High Court of Cassation & Justice (48.8%)
   Source: INSCOP Research (5-10 February 2015)

Crackdown on corruption (II)

DNA highlights

Total individual convictions (2010-2014)

Crackdown on corruption (III)

• In 2015 only, DNA prosecutors convinced the judiciary to support preventive measures against 12 high-ranking and previously thought of as "untouchable" political figures (former ministers, MPs, mayors, county council presidents) → prevent them from influencing the investigation, but danger of excessive use

• Anti-corruption entities: former ANI president/ DIICOT prosecutor general

• The recent string of arrests and convictions prompted accusations of politically motivated investigations done in cooperation with the Intelligence Agency

Crackdown on corruption (IV)

Remaining challenges:

➢ willingness of MPs to vote in favour of lifting their colleagues' parliamentary immunity so that they may be investigated

➢ recouping the financial damages

➢ extended confiscation of illegally obtained assets

➢ maintaining the institutional stability of anti-corruption entities
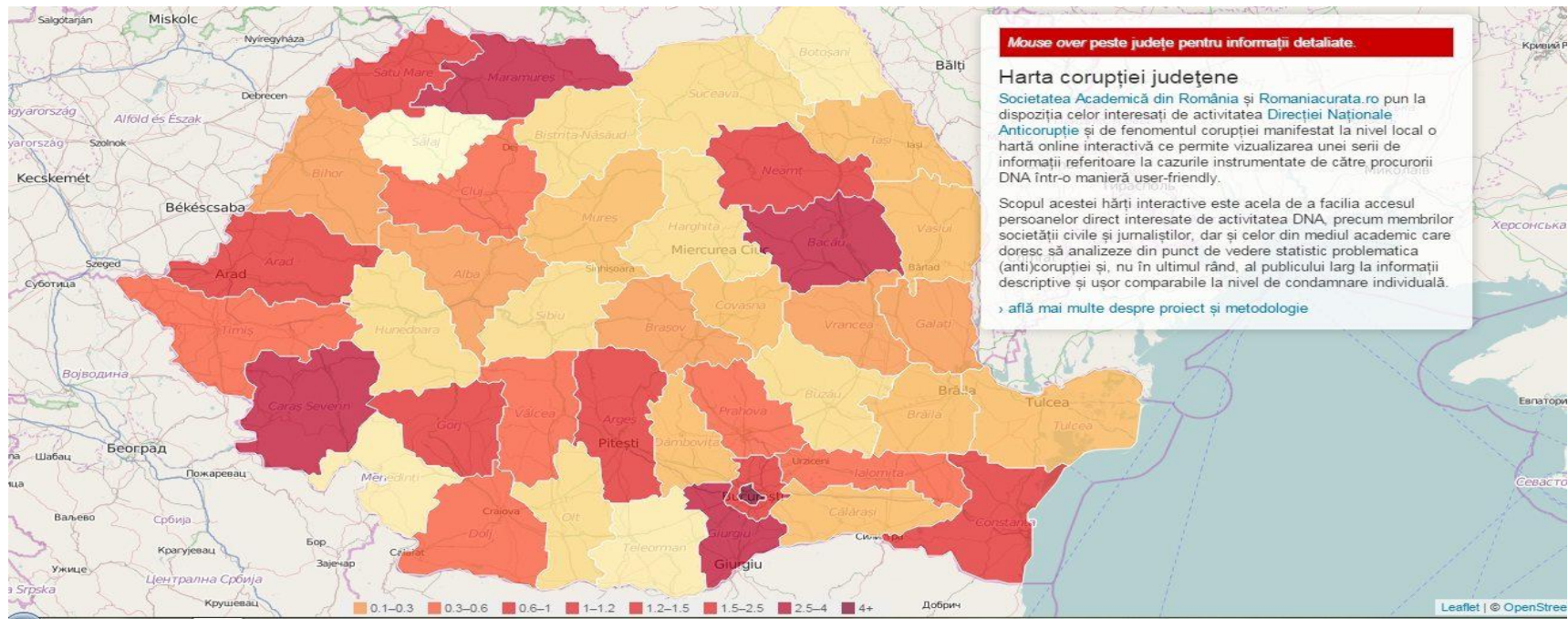
Civil society initiatives (I)

ANTICORRP FP 7 research project (Grant Agreement: 290529) - corruption risks in construction sector procurement from 2007-2013

➢ Single bidding = occurs esp. at local level & it involves mostly nationally funded contracts & state owned companies

➢ 21% of single bidding contracts went to "favoured" firms (political party donors, owned by the procurement committee president/local official or by a 1st degree relative, negative press coverage)

➢ National privileged firms win mainly state budget contracts # international privileged firms tend to win EU funded contracts & both tend to win more contracts via single bidding in pre-electoral years

Civil society initiatives (II)

Interactive online map of county-level corruption
➢ Bucharest: occurrence of most criminal acts of corruption
➢ 2014: most convictions involving high ranking national and local political actors
➢ Public officials with decision making power tend to receive a suspended sentence # lower ranking public officials
➢ EU funds fraud: most common conviction for public officials at local level

Useful links

- ANTICORRP project: http://anticorrp.eu/

- Interactive map of corruption: http://www.romaniacurata.ro/harta-coruptiei/

- Charter for Good Governance: http://romaniacurata.ro/wp-content/uploads/2014/09/Charter-for-Good-Governance.pdf

- The Alliance for a Clean Media: http://www.romaniacurata.ro/english-reports/

- Anticorruption toolbox: http://www.againstcorruption.eu/anti-corruption-projects/anti_corruption_toolbox/

- Anticorruption network: http://www.againstcorruption.eu/featured-organizations/

- Anticorruption publications: http://www.againstcorruption.eu/?post_type=reports

- Organized Crime and Corruption Reporting Project (active in Europe and Central Asia): https://reportingproject.net/occrp/index.php/en/about-us

- Investigative dashboard: http://www.investigativedashboard.org/

- Data journalism (an example): http://www.feradi.info/en/about

Thank you!

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