
Education - Experience of the Transparency International Slovakia (TIS)

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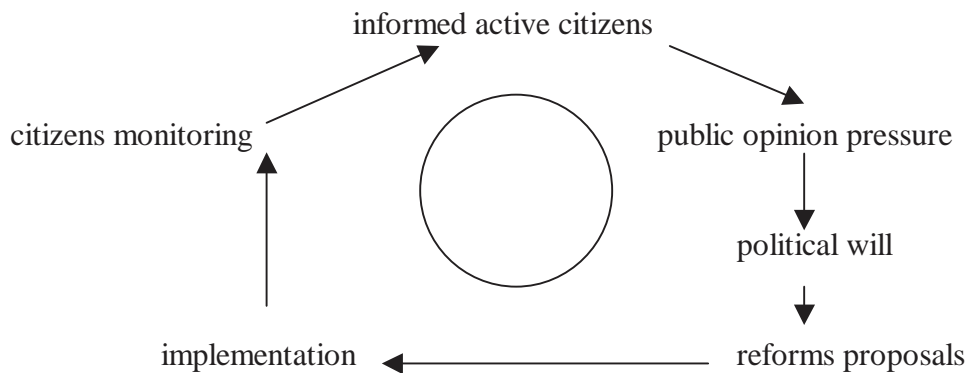
1. Background

Corruption in Slovakia is not only serious ethical and social problem but economic and political as well. The first attempt to solve the problem of corruption in Slovakia came in 1995 when the former government adopted an anti-corruption program called “Čisté ruky” (clean hands). However, despite the program’s proposals for legislative change to fight corruption, little was actually ever implemented or achieved mainly due to the lack of real political will and closed process of its implementation. Slovakia learnt that the closed process of government fighting corruption without involving other stakeholders like NGO's does not create potential for real changes in this area.

The non-governmental organizations started to be very active on this field criticizing the government and pushing for action.

Thus the anti–corruption agenda started to be important after the 1998 election. The Slovak Prime Minister Mikuláš Dzurinda invited the local chapter of TI – Transparency International Slovakia (TIS) - to discuss corruption-related problems in August 1999. Mr. Dzurinda asked TIS to prepare an anti–corruption plan. TIS submitted the program in early November 1999. After public discussion, the anti–corruption program called National Program of the Fight against Corruption (NPFČ) was adopted by the Slovak government in June 2000. NPFČ focused on three pillars - prevention, repression and raising **public awareness**.

2. Our Strategy



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TIS recognizes that it is very important in this phase of anti-corruption activities in Slovakia to create active attitude of citizens and pressure on politicians in order to create political will to change the system.

The fight against corruption requires more than systematic reforms in the fields of prevention and enforcement. There must also be strong political support for these measures. This means that **public attitudes are very important**.

At present Slovak citizens have a passive or fatalistic attitude toward corruption. Almost every day brings some new media report on the latest corruption scandal, but nobody ever seems to get punished. People no longer believe in the possibility of change and sink into passivity.

The past political regime and experience from that era are still having significant impact on the way public affairs are administered. The relationship public administration - citizen is still quite paternalistic. Citizens expect from the state to take care of their lives and to solve their problems and do not participate on public affairs. On the other hand, the public servants do not act as someone authorized by the citizen to represent his/her interests and whom they should provide information and account to.

Slovakia needs to build the political will to fight corruption, to mobilize the public to support the necessary reforms. To achieve this, TI Slovakia launched a range of public awareness activities aimed at providing information and influencing attitudes among different segments of the population.

Assuming that it is necessary to start forming an active civic attitude as early as in period of human life when basic moral and social values are shaping, we consider as very important to introduce subjects of transparency of public sector, ethics and the fight against corruption to curricula of secondary schools. Not like in countries with longer democratic tradition where social environment quite naturally influences young people to more active attitude towards public affairs and where citizens are considered to be partners who regularly take part in administering of public affairs, in our Slovak context it is necessary to breed/shape this attitude in school age.

Education is a part of our activities. (for an overview of the activities see Supplement 1)

3. Education

Objectives:

- to increase public awareness of the problem of corruption
- to encourage an active civic approach to the fight against corruption.

TIS focused on introducing **education of anti-corruption tools at secondary schools and universities**. In future, we would like to focus on primary schools as well.

That is why we have decided for such a combination of methods and procedures that will enable us to achieve:

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- **short-term effects** - to introduce the information to educational system as soon as possible,
 - **long-term effects**, which means that the problems of corruption, transparency of the public sector and active citizen remain the permanent part of instruction once the projects of TIS are over.

Since the combination of expert analytical work with a pedagogical-methodical work proved effective, TIS has worked together with a large group of external experts from both individual anti-corruption tools and pedagogical fields.

Our goal is to make these problems - transparency, anti-corruption fight, and the active attitude of citizens - an integral part of the educational system.

TIS prepared **background resource materials for training**. This is a series of 16 brochures on anti-corruption tools, making flexible modules for various groups of participants possible. 24 experts have been involved in preparation of training materials and they have also become trainers. Experts come, for example, from the National Council of the Slovak Republic, the Supreme Audit Office, the Ministry of Economy, the Ministry of Finance, the Ministry of Justice, the Office of Public Procurement, experts, who had prepared the “Audit of central state administration”, etc. Each of the 16 chapters has approximately 30 pages. (see attachment 2).

We run an anti-corruption campaign in the Slovak Television. There were 10 sessions, each one in length of 26 minutes that means total length of 260 minutes. These programs are prepared for the general public and can be used in the pedagogical process as well. We have prepared videocassettes for teachers, which, in an entertaining manner, provide explanation of individual anti-corruption tools. These videos also include examples of particular cases of corruption.

3.1. Secondary schools

- Since any new teaching scheme for secondary schools has to be approved by **the Ministry of Education (MoE)**, we have to accept procedures and terms set.
- Meetings with representatives from the Ministry of Education have been organized, with a support of the MoE for the project expressed.
- TIS, in co-operation with the *State Pedagogical Institute*, prepared project for introducing the topic of corruption and transparency into education at secondary schools, which states precise schedule for development of texts, training of teachers and monitoring of the process.
- Methodical steering group was created, which proposed including this issue to subject Civic theory.
- Specialized pedagogical tools were developed, which are based on active methods of teaching.
- Video- tapes are used as complementary tools.
- Teachers, who will teach the anti-corruption subjects at experimental schools, are at first going to be trained at specialized workshops.
- We have settled agreements on experimental verifying at selected secondary schools.
- In initial phase, the project will take place at 30 secondary schools (see attachment 3).
- Verifying will be conducted by form of questionnaires separately for teachers and students, and also by using methods of controlled interview.
- Evaluation of direct and indirect results and modification of processes and texts.

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- Nation-wide introducing of the subject in teaching at secondary schools in Slovakia.

The second channel for introducing the subject to teaching at secondary schools, even more dynamic, is network of Baťa Junior Achievement Slovakia (BJASR), which operates in the whole territory of Slovakia.

- As a result of co-operation with BJASR, special methodical group has modified the Anti-corruption Tools (set of 16 expert texts) and published more comprehensive and interesting texts for students "Ethics and Corruption in Business" with separate "Practice book - Ethics and Corruption in Business". These two books will be used already in school year 2001-2002 as a part of subject Applied economics.
- A working group of teaching specialists was created in order to compile methodical instruction how to work with the textbooks and video teaching aids in preparation of students in education departments.
- As a didactic tool, videotapes with recordings of 10 TV programs Anti-corruption Tools are also available.
- Training's of teachers in three regional centers of the country are scheduled for September/October 2001 (40 teachers in Košice, 47 in Banská Bystrica and 52 in Bratislava).

3.2. Universities

At the universities we have also combined ad hoc lectures with an attempt to implement new subjects or parts of subjects respectively.

- TIS lectured on corruption at several universities (The Comenius University, University of Matej Bel, University of Economics). Young people are of our big interests and we invited them to give them lectures at University of Economics in Bratislava. Not long ago we were invited by the students of the Faculty of Law of the University of Matej Bel in Banská Bystrica to give lecture being a part of workshop "With blood against corruption"(it was connected with voluntary blood donation).
- Starting October 2001, education students of the Faculty of Education at The Comenius University are trained on the subject. There is an added leverage, as graduates of these departments later become teachers at primary and secondary schools.

The subject of corruption and transparency is going to be included in the curricula of **Economic University**. TIS has already submitted proposal for approval to authorities of the University. A team of lecturers was formed to prepare a textbook 'Economic Aspects of Corruption' for student in the fourth year.

What we are doing

It is possible to divide TIS activities into several groups:

Analyses of corruption, situation in the Slovak Republic

We **published several studies** (Faces of Corruption in Slovakia; Transparency in Slovak Economy I., II.; Pursuing Interests in Forming: Lobbying or Corruption?; Corruption from the Viewpoint of Governance and Accountability; Conflict of Interest, Ethics and Ethical Code in the Public Administration, Public Procurement).

We co-operated with World Bank on the **public opinion research** when creating diagnostic surveys defining reasons and state of corruption in Slovak Republic.

We **analyzed in detail sensitive areas** that tempt to corruption everywhere in the world (public procurement, licenses, and public administration). We created working group that works on the issue of public procurement. In the process of adopting the bill concerning public procurement in Slovak parliament we negotiated with MPs over amendments, and literally lobbied for creating the possibility of independent monitoring. We published handbooks how to act in the process of public procurement, how to get this process under public control.

Experts associated with TIS have become members of workgroup, which is elaborating amendment to the law on **public procurement** and the concept of joint procurement by several procurers.

TIS was also invited by the Chairman of Constitutional and Law Commission of National Council of Slovak Republic to co-operate on new legislation concerning **conflict of interests**.

Public awareness activities

- TIS runs an **anti-corruption campaign in the Slovak Television** (accessible to 99 % of the population). TIS produced 10 educational programs, there were 10 sessions, each one in length of 26 minutes, that means total length of 260 minutes on STV 1 in prime time and then also in one re-run. These programs are prepared for the general public. Many citizens all over Slovakia are writing to us describing their experience with corruption and propose changes in legislation. These programs seem to have significant impact on understanding of corruption and anti-corruption tools.
- TIS runs an **anti-corruption campaign on the Twist Radio** (nation-wide private radio network). This campaign consists of 10 programs focusing on corruption in different public sectors, such as health care, education etc. There are many call-ins by listeners who discuss options in fighting corruption and their experiences. Recorded programs are available at the TIS web site - www.transparency.sk
- All our publications, standpoints are publicly and freely distributed and spread through our web site (www.transparency.sk). We also tried to spread international know-how by publishing the translated version of **Anti-corruption Handbook (TI – Source book)**.

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- We got in **contact with** Slovak **regions** such as (Presov, Banska Bystrica, Vranov nad Toplov, Rožňava).
 - We actively began to co-operate with **young people** - great response had **competition for the best essay** called “Moral, Ethics, and Corruption - In the Eyes of Youth”. This competition was organized in 2000 for students of secondary schools. We enjoyed the presence of the Minister of Education when the winners were awarded. The Prime Minister also donated prizes. We published bulletin comprising all received essays and all awarded essays were also published in press. Lately all participants took part in all-day workshop under the name "For Future Leaders", where they could discuss with sociologists, policy scientists, economists and TIS representatives. In 2001 TIS implemented the **second annual** competition on the best essay on corruption for students of secondary schools and universities. In comparison to previous year, the number of students involved more that doubled - more that 80 students participated. The Minister of Finance Brigita Schmognerova and Daniel Lipšic from the Ministry of Justice presented awards to winners.
 - University students as well as high-school students could take part in the **competition for the best poster and logo** with the motive of transparency and the fight against corruption. Symbols have been used for National Program of the Fight against Corruption. One of the awarded logos was later chosen as a main graphic symbol for the cover of TI publication *TI Source Book 2000*, which has been distributed all around the world.
 - We use to organize **“Sports day”** for NGOs in order to get more NGOs aware of anti – corruption spirit and activities we are doing. We have already had 3 sports days. The one organized this year on June 16, 2000 was prepared and realized in co-operation with “Tax payers association” and had the name “The day of tax freedom and tax transparency”.

We assume that the issue of transparency and corruption in Slovak Republic has been opened and widely discussed also thanks to Transparency International Slovakia.

Watchdog activities and monitoring

- TIS have been invited to monitor the transparency of privatization and tenders (see attachment 3).
- TIS staff writes many **articles** on corruption-related issues. TIS is quoted regularly in **newspapers, TV or radio stations**. Among others, TIS was approached by the Austrian TV ORF, Slovenian TV and Financial Times.
- TIS monitors implementation of the **NPFC**. **TIS published its evaluation** of its implementation and is active in the steering committee. The evaluation was submitted to the media and is also available on the TIS web page.
- TIS actively participates in function of the **Steering Committee**, which is headed by the Deputy Prime Minister for Economic Affairs.

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- TIS provides **expertise for local and international experts** coming to discuss corruption in Slovakia, e.g. experts from the European Union, the World Bank, the Council of Europe, OECD etc. TIS is also active in the Slovak – American Action Committee.
 - TIS publishes a **monthly newsletter called “Pod lupou”** that reflects development in this area in Slovakia, publicizes global anti–corruption activities and tools to fight corruption. The newsletter is distributed to media, NGOs, public administration and the parliament.

Trainings

- TIS implements series of training initiatives on anti–corruption tools for **public administration, media and NGOs**. TIS conducted training for media and NGOs from whole Slovakia where about 25 people were trained. 20 employees of the public administration were trained. The steering committee also asked TIS to realize the training for more than 20 members of the steering committee. The lecture for about 40 employees of the Ministry of Economy was conducted.
- TIS implements **training series on investigative journalism**, with special focus on corruption, in cooperation with Center of Independent Journalism. A group of about 20 journalists from the whole country meets on a monthly basis, with each training session focused on a different topic related to corruption. Journalists are evaluating each training. They express high satisfaction with quality of the training.

Attachment 2

Anti-corruption tools

No	Author	English title
1.	Daniela Zemanovičová, Emília Sičáková, 2001	Corruption in the Slovakia as Society-wide Problem (Ethical, Moral, Economic and Political Problem)
2.	Denisa Ivanová, Ján Hrubala, 2001	Legal Tools in the Fight against Corruption
3.	Tomáš Kameniec, Vladimír Pirošík, 2001	Access to Information as an Anti-corruption Implement
4.	Emília Sičáková, Ľubica Slimáková, 2001	Ethic, Ethical Infrastructure as a Prevention of Corruption
5.	Milan Galanda, Ladislav Orosz, Vladimír Pirošík, 2001	Conflict of Interests on the Level of Public Agents
6.	Juraj Nemeč, Vladimír Pirošík, Ľubica Slimáková, 2001	Conflict of Interests on the Level of State Administration
7.	Katarína Tomanová, 2001	Conflict of Interests on the Level of local Government
8.	Miroslav Beblavý, Emília Sičáková, Daniela Zemanovičová, 2001	Transparency at the State Administration
9.	Viktor Nižňanský, 2001	Decentralization of Public Administration and Proceedings for Corruption Reduction
10.	Miroslav Beblavý, Peter Švec, 2001	Transparency of Public Finances
11.	Juraj Vlach, Juraj Nemeč, 2001	Public Procurement in Connection with Corruption and Transparency
12.	Daniela Zemanovičová, Emília Sičáková, Peter Ondrejka, 2001	Freedom of decision making as the source of corruption
13.	Anton Klíma, Emília Sičáková, Martin Karchňák, 2001	Supervision and its Function in the Fight against Corruption
14.	Miroslav Lisoň, Jozef Stieranka, Ján Vittek, 2001	The Role of the Police in the Fight against Corruption
15.	Ján Hrubala, Denisa Ivanová, 2001	The Role of Prosecutor's Office and Courts in Corruption Revealing, Legal Proceedings
16.	Zuzana Mistríková, Milan Žitný, 2001	The Role of Media in the Fight against Corruption, Ethics in Media, Corruption in Media

