

# THE EUROPEAN CORRUPTION OBSERVATORY

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**Investigating Corruption**



**Transparency International is a global movement with one vision: a world in which government, business, civil society and the daily lives of people are free of corruption. Through more than 100 chapters worldwide and an international secretariat in Berlin, we are leading the fight against corruption to turn this vision into a reality.**

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## Investigating Corruption

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# INTRODUCTION

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Corruption is a complex phenomenon with economic, social, political and cultural dimensions which cannot be easily eliminated. Corruption hampers economic development, undermines democracy and damages social justice and the rule of law. Corruption varies in nature and extent from one country to another but all corruption impinges on good governance, sound management of public money and competitive markets. In extreme cases it undermines the trust of citizens in democratic institutions and processes. The Member States of the EU are not immune to this reality.

Only a few cases of fraud and corruption, however, are ever brought to light or reported, and even fewer are brought to justice. Journalism and mass media can be a powerful tool that can help shed light on, and raise awareness around, corruption cases, indirectly applying pressure on public authorities and ultimately contributing to the prevention and fight against corruption.

There are also many other actors in the anti-corruption field, such as policy makers, technology experts, NGOs and researchers, who also need to come together and to work collectively to help raise awareness, prevent and prosecute

corruption. There is currently no one formal platform or network bringing all these various actors together - resulting in many different organisations or actors working on similar projects which leads to a waste of resources and a lack of peer-to-peer learning.

To promote better intelligence gathering and dissemination and to encourage cross-border networks, in 2014 Transparency International EU together with Journalismfund.eu established the European Corruption Observatory.

This project is a pan-European digital tracking platform consolidating corruption-related news into one information hub aiming to foster awareness of corruption trends amongst the media, civil society and policy makers. The overarching objective was to increase transnational knowledge of corruption cases in the EU and make this information more accessible to and better structured for professionals investigating corruption or working on anti-corruption policy. The project also aimed to support informal networks where people could share their complementary skills and resources.

## Corruption in the EU

Every country suffers from corruption in one form or another, whether it is having to pay bribes to access healthcare, a property market being used to hide ill-gotten gains, or foreign bribery cases. The reality is that corruption impacts the lives of all citizens across the EU, and is a constant threat to prosperity, growth, and security. Corruption also undermines trust in democratic institutions and weakens the accountability of political leadership.

While the nature and scope of corruption varies from one EU Member State to another, none of the EU Member States has a clean bill of health. The 2014 Eurobarometer on corruption revealed that three quarter of respondents (76%) thought that corruption was widespread in their own country. With more than half of Europeans (56%) believing the level of corruption in their country has increased over the past three years, and three in ten (29%) saying that it has increased 'a lot'.<sup>1</sup>

Whatever form corruption takes, it is undoubtedly one of the biggest challenges facing Europe today. A recent study by RAND Europe for the European Parliament estimated that the EU loses between € 179 billion and € 990 billion every year to corruption (including both direct and indirect effects).<sup>2</sup>

In the EU, the greatest corruption risks lie in the areas of public procurement, political party financing and lobbying.<sup>3</sup> However, trends towards further globalisation and an ever growing number of cross-border financial transactions has also meant that corruption is no longer contained within a state.

In a world where people, money, and businesses can quickly and freely move across borders, crime and corruption are also going global and cross-border corruption is becoming increasingly significant. For example, transnational organisations can evade the rules governing funding of European political parties by donating to the same party in different countries. This makes accountability more difficult because the agents of cross-border corruption are capable of doing business almost everywhere - meaning it is difficult to hold them accountable anywhere.

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1 Special Eurobarometer 397 / Wave EB79.1 (February 2014) see: [http://ec.europa.eu/public\\_opinion/archives/ebs/ebs\\_397\\_en.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/public_opinion/archives/ebs/ebs_397_en.pdf)

2 RAND Europe 2016, The Cost of Non-Europe in the area of Organised Crime and Corruption; Annex II – Corruption, see: [www.europarl.europa.eu/RegData/etudes/STUD/2016/579319/EPRS\\_STU%282016%29579319\\_EN.pdf](http://www.europarl.europa.eu/RegData/etudes/STUD/2016/579319/EPRS_STU%282016%29579319_EN.pdf)

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3 Transparency International 2012, Money, Politics, Power: Corruption Risks in Europe, see: [www.transparency.org/enis/report](http://www.transparency.org/enis/report)

# The Role of Investigative Journalism

In order to properly tackle the problem of corruption we need well informed policy makers and continuous public pressure. Investigative journalism and high quality reporting on corruption are vital for raising awareness among the public and policy makers, not only by investigating individual cases of corruption but by highlighting systemic risks and trends. The press also has an important role to play in strengthening democratic governance, promoting awareness and keeping a check on corrupt practices and the misuse of government power.

Journalism and its possible effect of naming and shaming is seen as a very effective deterrent to corruption. Indeed research by Transparency International in 2011 showed that in most countries surveyed more people believed in the effectiveness of journalists than in national anti-bribery laws.<sup>4</sup> While the 2014 special Eurobarometer also showed that the media/newspapers/journalists were one of the top three bodies that Europeans would most trust to deal with a complaint about a corruption case, should the need arise.<sup>5</sup>

With corruption increasingly being a cross-border issue, today's media has had to innovate to keep up with these new challenges in investigations. Alongside this, access to information is also increasing and data journalism is on the rise. Collaboration between journalists is crucial as they need to work together across borders to not only follow the story but also to share resources: following illicit flows of money across borders or just swathing through huge amounts of data files takes cooperation, technological expertise and many other skill sets.

A 2012 study by Journalismfund.eu highlighted the value of investigative European journalism to deter fraud and corruption against EU funds, while underlining that “[j]ournalists have to learn to co-operate, also across borders, in order to be able to tackle...vast projects in times of scarce resources”.<sup>6</sup>

Some of the biggest corruption stories in the media in recent times have come from cross-border investigations (Swissleaks, Luxleaks, the Panama Papers to name a few) and, as the work of Journalismfund.eu shows, there are many other stories being investigated. With a precarious financial landscape for media and journalism cooperation and collaboration is even more crucial.

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4 Transparency International 2011 Putting Corruption Out of Business, see: [www.transparency.org/research/bps2011/](http://www.transparency.org/research/bps2011/)

5 Special Eurobarometer 397 / Wave EB79.1 (February 2014) see: [http://ec.europa.eu/public\\_opinion/archives/ebs/ebs\\_397\\_en.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/public_opinion/archives/ebs/ebs_397_en.pdf)

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6 Fonds Pascal Decroos 2012 Deterrence of fraud with EU funds through investigative journalism, see: [www.fondspascaldecroos.org/sites/fondspascaldecroos.org/files/imce/EP%20Study%20-%20Deterrence%20of%20fraud.pdf](http://www.fondspascaldecroos.org/sites/fondspascaldecroos.org/files/imce/EP%20Study%20-%20Deterrence%20of%20fraud.pdf)





# THE PROJECT

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To promote better intelligence gathering, information exchange and collaboration in the field of anti-corruption, in 2014 Transparency International EU (TI EU), with the financial support of the European Commission<sup>7</sup> and in partnership with Journalismfund.eu, established the European Corruption Observatory. The Observatory is a pilot project to monitor trends in corruption in the EU 28 Member States by compiling relevant media articles and promoting collaboration among different partners working on corruption issues.

There is also currently no investigative journalist network dedicated to corruption issues that covers the whole of the EU. However, sustaining such a network over the length of time required to complete complex transnational investigations would need greater resources than were available for this project. Instead, the aim for this project was to establish a network between journalists and civil society and other anti-corruption actors with complementary skills and resources with the aim of supporting cross-border investigative journalism and the sharing of insights and reports on specific corruption topics across Europe.

## The project had two main aims:

- ▶ To promote pan-European collaboration between investigative journalists, anti-corruption civil society networks and EU public authorities.
- ▶ To create a database of media to facilitate analysis and identification of corruption trends.

The database is a free and easily accessible “one stop shop” for corruption-related news in Europe, which aims to foster awareness of corruption. The database compiles articles on cases of corruption which are then tagged according to type of corruption, sector and country to help facilitate analysis of corruption trends across the EU as well as facilitating the identification of cross-border cases of corruption. From our background research no other free resource is available that does anything similar at the European level.

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<sup>7</sup> Co-funded by the Prevention of and Fight against Crime Programme of the European Union.

## Collaboration

At the EU level there are numerous networks working on corruption in distinct fields, there is however no single formal network that brings together actors from different backgrounds or one that focuses solely on corruption.

As mentioned before, creating and sustaining such a network over the length of this project would have required greater resources than were available. Instead, our focus was on bringing journalists, civil society and other anti-corruption actors together. Through sharing insights and reports on specific corruption topics across Europe, our aim was for informal networks to be created where people could share their complementary skills and resources. We also created an online networking platform on the European Corruption Observatory website to allow further interaction.

In total there were six official events including:

1. September 2014: A focus group to help design the European Corruption Observatory;
2. May 2015: Presentation at the Dataharvest Conference (organised by Journalismfund.eu) - that brought together over 300 of the leading data and investigative journalists across Europe;
3. July 2015: A workshop that brought together both journalism students and students studying corruption;
4. December 2015: A workshop that brought together journalists and civil society to discuss whether new models of collaborations are affecting investigative journalism's ability to combat corruption;
5. March 2016: A workshop to discuss investigations by both media and civil society into corruption risks in the media and telecoms industries;
6. June 2016: A workshop that brought together journalists, civil society, law enforcement and policy makers to discuss VAT fraud in the EU.

(See Annex 1 for the workshop programmes)

Beyond these official events, the European Corruption Observatory has also been introduced to a wide and varied audience across the European Union at a number of high profile speaking events including: to 300 journalists and hackers (technology experts) at an event in London, and to members of the OLAF Anti-Fraud communicators network, OAFCN (a unique pan-European network of communicators working on anti-fraud issues).

## **WORKSHOP CASE STUDY: Investigating Corruption Risks in the Media and Telecoms Industry**

In March 2016, Transparency International EU brought together journalists and other anti-corruption stakeholders in Budapest, Hungary, to discuss the different methods and tools for investigating corruption risks in the media and telecoms industry.

The media are often referred to as the fourth pillar in democracy. The media can shape the public's view on the issues of the day and play a role in monitoring and investigating the actions of those in power and informing citizens about them. Yet the media industry is not immune to corruption. Types of corruption in the media vary from bribery in the form of cash for news, staged or fake news, gift giving, concealed advertisement and media capture by vested private or political interests. A study into media ownership in Georgia showed a number of instances where media owners were suspected of interference in the editorial policies of the broadcasters, undermining media freedom.<sup>8</sup>

Clearly, who owns the media is an important issue for transparency, good governance and democracy. But how about who owns the internet? The internet is increasingly central to our lives, as more and more citizens go online. This is reflected in the media industry, which is progressively using the internet as its key medium. Those

who own the internet (internet service providers) hold the keys to citizens' daily lives and have the power to either protect or infringe access to information and the privacy of our communications. A recent project<sup>9</sup> by the Organised Crime and Corruption Reporting Project (OCCRP), in partnership with RISE Project and EurActiv.ro, investigated who owns the internet across Eastern Europe. One of the findings showed that Serbia is a legal grey zone for data protection. State authorities can get usernames and passwords to access ISPs' internal systems, allowing them to access retained data at any time.

At the global level, the telecommunications industry is very lucrative with 10 billion mobile phone and internet users worldwide and a total market value of approximately US\$2 trillion. But what can citizens and other stakeholders find out about these companies and why should they care about how transparent the companies are? A recent report by Transparency International looked at 35 major industry players to find out how transparent they are in three areas that are crucial for fighting corruption: disclosure of anti-corruption programmes, organisational transparency and disclosure of key financial information by country of operation.<sup>10</sup> One of the findings showed that only four of the 35 companies reveal information about their tax payments in each of the countries where they are active.

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8 Transparency International Georgia, April 2014, Who owns Georgia's media: Power networks and corporate relationships behind Georgian media outlets, see: [www.transparency.ge/en/post/report/report-who-owns-regional-media](http://www.transparency.ge/en/post/report/report-who-owns-regional-media)

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9 Internet Ownership Project see, [www.reportingproject.net/internetownership](http://www.reportingproject.net/internetownership)

10 Transparency International 2015, Transparency in Corporate Reporting: Assessing the World's Largest Telecommunications Companies, see: [www.transparency.org/news/feature/how\\_transparent\\_are\\_telecommunications\\_companies](http://www.transparency.org/news/feature/how_transparent_are_telecommunications_companies)

Nu circuleert  
veel voorstel  
voor een verma  
belasting, maar  
heb nog geen  
voorstel gehoord  
dat de middenklasse  
niet de treft

...dubel? De mensen, de  
keel het week plat te  
...ossingen voor. De mini-  
ning bijvoorbeeld, die de-  
invoeren. Moet er sneller  
...en Gemaakt?  
...zin om olie op het vuur te  
...nu te eisen, maar het moet  
...is de normaalste zaak van de  
...heeft niets te maken met een  
...n het stakingsrecht. Je kan dat  
...n uitvoeren zonder dat de men-  
...ens en 's avonds telkens drie uur  
...e politie kunnen ingrijpen als be-  
...wordt



# The European Corruption Observatory Database

After an initial focus group and desk research, it was decided to track RSS feeds of a number of key media sites in each of the EU's 28 Member States. Our aim was to take the key online media sites in each country and using custom-built software to examine the text and locate key words (search terms) of different types of corruption. See Annex 2 for the list of search terms. These search terms were translated into 22 languages to allow us to track media stories from across the European Union.

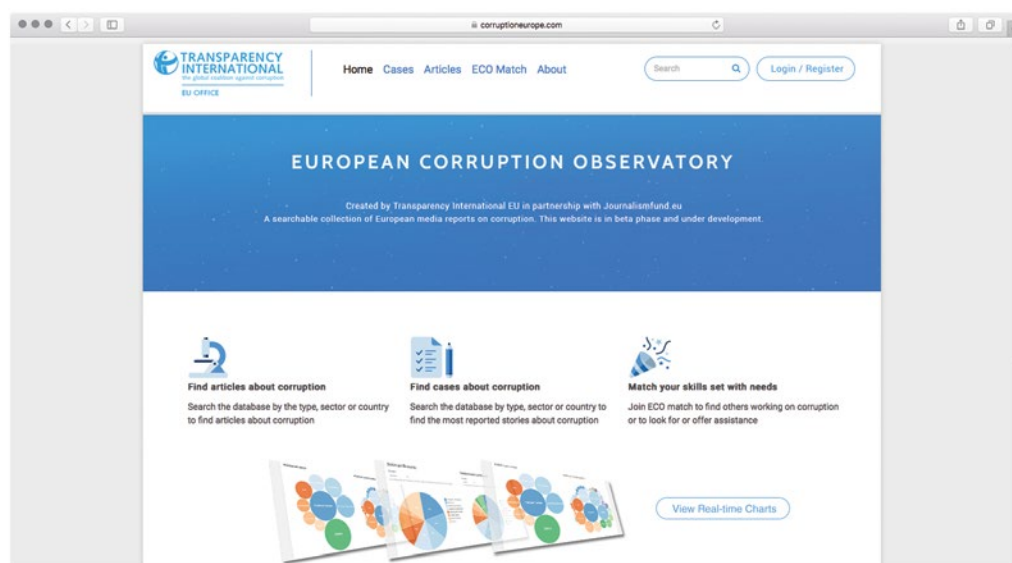
However, although the system tracks media articles in all of the Member States, due to resource constraints the online database is currently only showing collated media articles from free online media outlets based in Austria, the Czech Republic, Germany, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, the Netherlands, Latvia, Lithuania, Romania, Slovenia and the United

Kingdom. See Annex 3 for the full list of media sources from these countries.

With the assistance of native speakers from across these countries, relevant articles on corruption were provided with a short English summary and tagged for additional information including - type of corruption, sector and the country.

The resulting database allows users to monitor articles with a clear link to corruption in Europe (whether there is an allegation of corruption, an investigation, or a court case). Information can be filtered in an intuitive way by the type of corruption mentioned in the article, the sector and/or by country. The website provides links to the original media sources for all the articles. The database is also fully searchable for other search terms and phrases in all languages.

**FIGURE 1: Screenshot of the European Corruption Observatory website (www.corruptioneurope.com)**









## RESULTS

This pilot database is the basis for journalists, civil society, policy makers, law enforcement officials and the wider public to access corruption-related news across the EU and from many different language sources. The aim of the project was to facilitate the analysis and identification of trends in corruption across Europe and in specific EU Member States, as well as to facilitate the identification of cross-border cases of corruption.

As outlined above, due to language restraints the public database currently collates media articles only from sources based in Austria, the Czech Republic, Germany, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, the Netherlands, Latvia, Lithuania, Romania, Slovenia and the United Kingdom, as well as some other international media sources.

The database does not capture every media article about corruption, as not every media source from those member states was monitored (for a full list of media sources see Annex 3). Furthermore, it must also be noted that not every case of corruption is

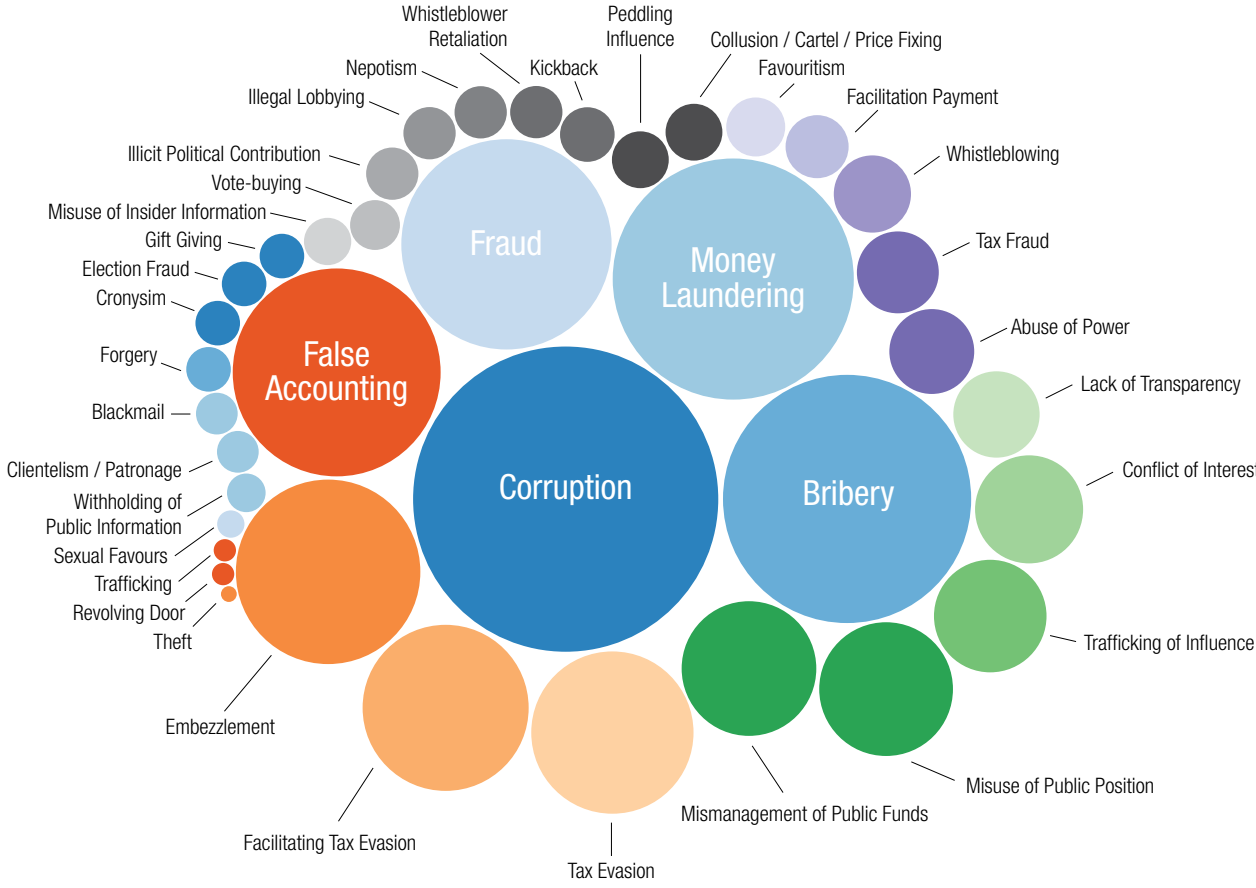
reported in the media and some cases of corruption (such as the recent Panama Papers case) are reported on extensively. All of these caveats limit the accuracy of the results so no statistical relevance can be derived from the findings.

However, with over 1500 articles collated on the database, it is possible to highlight some trends.

Interactive charts based on the content contained within the European Corruption Observatory are available to view on the website. The graphics allow users to see:

- ▶ Which corruption problems and sectors are most common;
- ▶ The most prevalent corruption problems per sector;
- ▶ The most prevalent sectors per corruption problem;
- ▶ Corruption problems per country;
- ▶ Sectors per country.

**FIGURE 2: Bubble chart of the types of corruption problems reported in the media articles contained in the European Corruption Observatory database.**





## Types of Corruption

Using a taxonomy defined by Transparency International, 40 different types of corruption problems were used to filter the articles collated on the European Corruption Observatory Database. See Annex 4 for the full list of corruption problems. In order to faithfully reflect the content of the articles, more generic terms such as “corruption” and “fraud” were included in the list. This is because many media articles do not define what they mean by corruption or fraud.

Looking at the collection of articles on the database it is clear to see that some corruption problems are more prevalent than others in articles reported in European Media. The top four include:

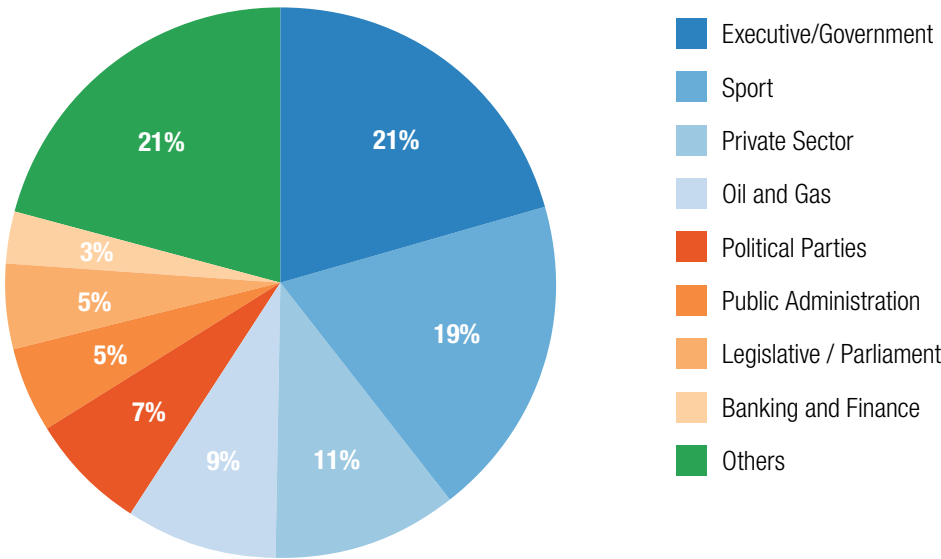
1. Corruption;
2. Bribery;
3. Money Laundering;
4. Fraud.

Using the interactive charts provided on the European Corruption Observatory website, it is also possible for users to look at what the key sectors are in relation to each different type of corruption problem.

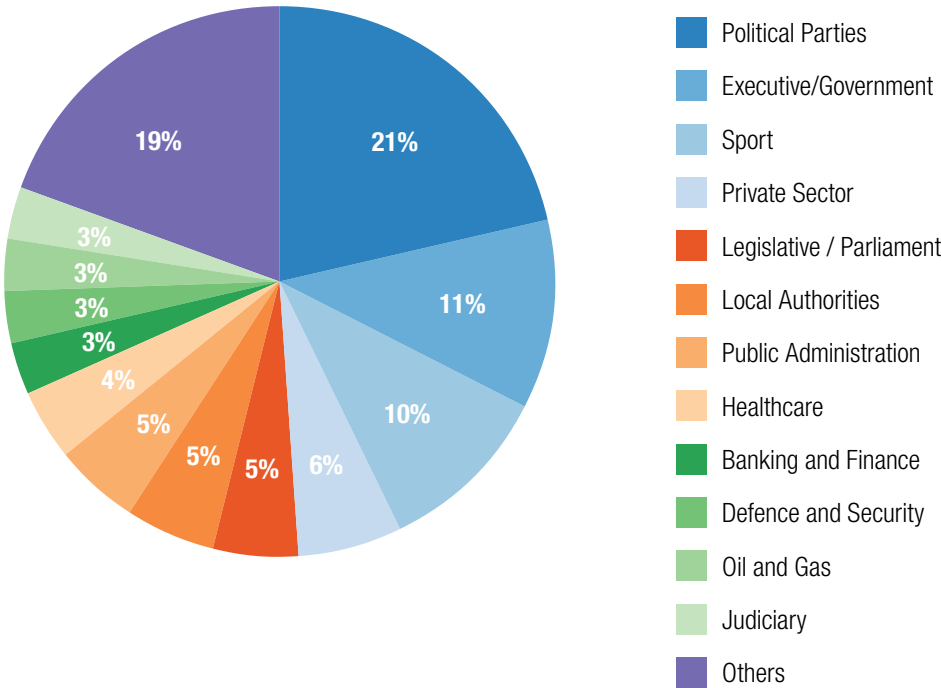
1. Corruption – the top sectors are Executive/Government, Sport, Private Sector, Oil and Gas and Political Parties (see Figure 3 for full details);
2. Bribery – the top sectors are Political Parties, Executive, Sport, Private Sector and legislative / Parliament (See Figure 4);
3. Money Laundering – the top sectors are Political Parties, Private Sector, Banking and Finance, Executive/ Government and Sport (See Figure 5);
4. Fraud – the top sectors are Private Sector, Executive/Government, Banking and Finance, Political Parties and Sport (See Figure 6).

Users can also search the database for articles on each type of corruption problem by using the filtering functions.

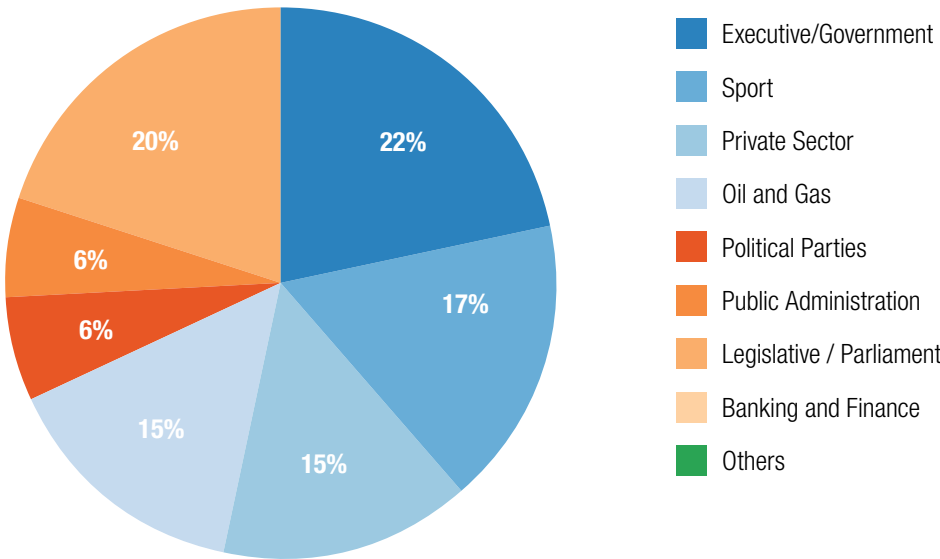
**FIGURE 3: Corruption - key connected sectors as reported in the media**



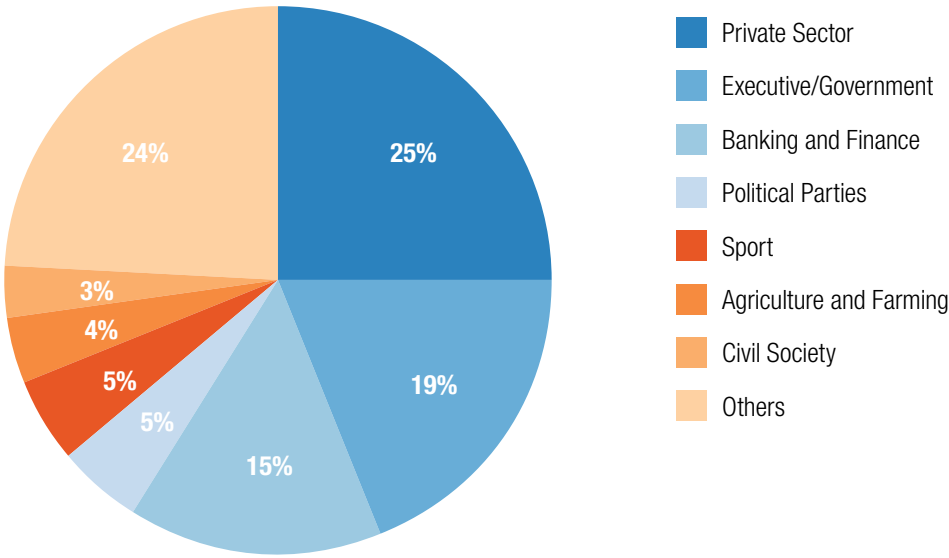
**FIGURE 4: Bribery - key connected sectors as reported in the media**



**FIGURE 5: Money Laundering - key connected sectors as reported in the media**



**FIGURE 6: Fraud - key connected sectors as reported in the media**







## Cross-border Corruption

The global nature of corruption is apparent when you look through the media articles contained within the European Corruption Observatory Database. Many cases of corruption contained within the database cover multiple jurisdictions and encompass many different forms of corruption. The bigger the story, the more complex it becomes.

Without doubt, the biggest investigative journalism story this year was by the ICIJ (the International Consortium of Investigative Journalists) on the Panama Papers. This was a giant leak of more than 11.5 million financial and legal records that exposed a system that enables crime, corruption and wrongdoing, hidden by secretive offshore companies.

The ICIJ, together with the German newspaper Süddeutsche Zeitung and more than 100 other media partners, spent a year sifting through the leaked

files to expose the offshore holdings of world political leaders, links to global scandals, and details of the hidden financial dealings of fraudsters, drug traffickers, billionaires, celebrities, sports stars and more.

Although the European Corruption Observatory only contains a relatively small number of articles about the Panama Papers compared to what was published in media outlets throughout Europe, our database clearly reveals the extent of the case.

The European Corruption Observatory has collated 151 articles from many different media outlets and in numerous languages on the Panama Papers. These articles have been tagged for type of corruption, sector and country. Looking at the case it is immediately clear the scale of the cross-border nature of this story and how one firm can be implicated in facilitating many different types of corruption and in varied sectors.

**Figure 7: Screenshot of the Panama Papers Case on the European Corruption Observatory website ([www.corruptioneurope.com](http://www.corruptioneurope.com))**

**Panama Papers**  
The Panama Papers is a global investigation into the sprawling, secretive industry of offshore that the world's rich and powerful use to hide assets and skirt rules by setting up front companies in far-flung jurisdictions.

Based on a trove of more than 11 million leaked files, the investigation exposes a cast of characters who use offshore companies to facilitate bribery, arms deals, tax evasion, financial fraud and drug trafficking.

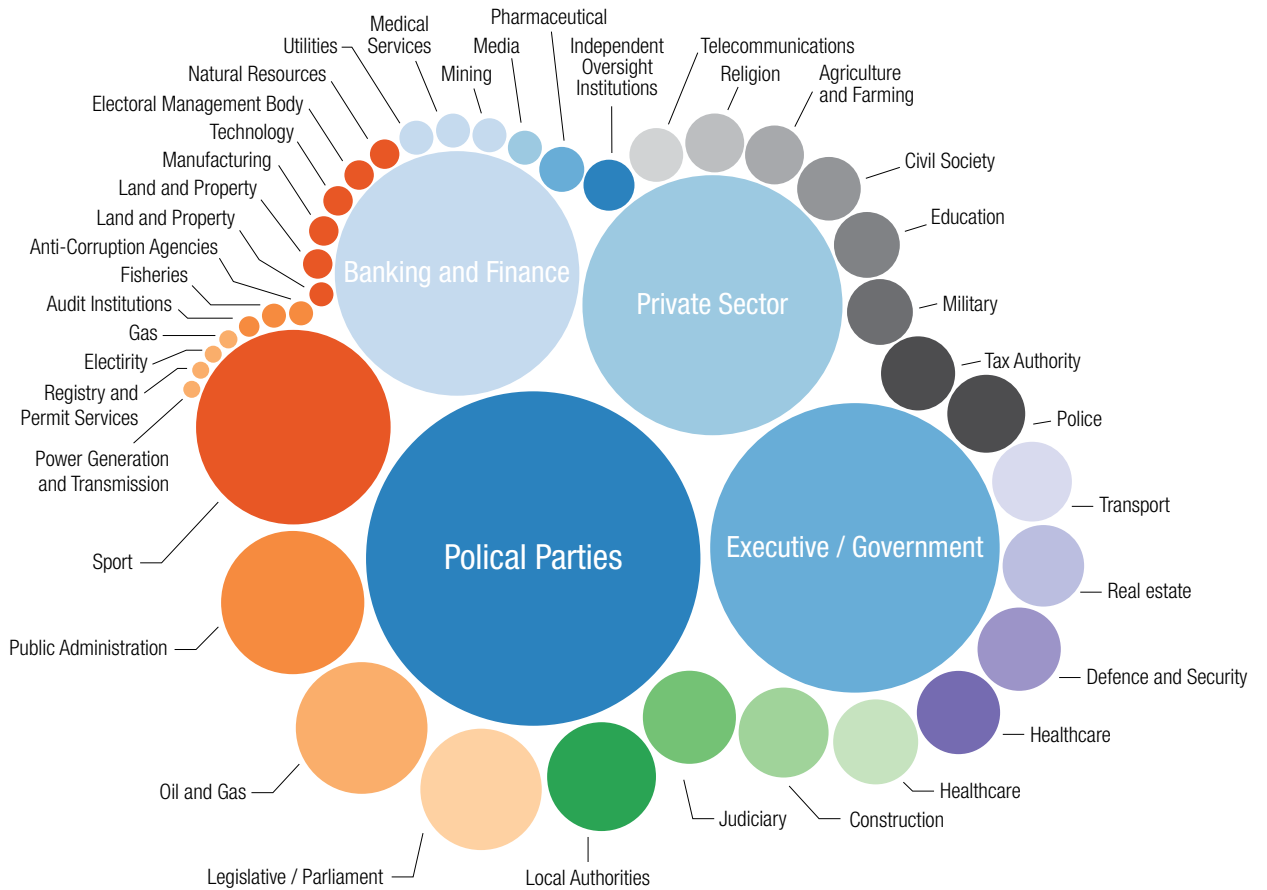
**Number of articles in results: 94**

**Corruption Problem:**  
Bribery Conflict of Interest Corruption  
Embezzlement Facilitating Tax Evasion  
Facilitation Payment False Accounting Fraud  
Lack of Transparency Money Laundering  
Tax Evasion Tax Fraud Whistleblowing

**Sector:**  
Banking and Finance Executive/Government  
Audit Institutions Judiciary Real Estate  
Legislative / Parliament Media  
Natural Resources Mining Political Parties  
Private Sector Public Administration Sport  
Tax Authority

**Countries:**  
Argentina Australia Austria Bahrain  
Belgium Bermuda British Virgin Islands  
Cayman Islands China Cyprus  
Czech Republic Egypt El Salvador  
European Union France Germany Hong Kong  
Hungary Iceland Iran Iraq Italy Lebanon  
Libya Luxembourg Netherlands North Korea  
Pakistan Panama Peru Qatar Russia  
Saudi Arabia Seychelles Singapore Slovenia  
South Africa Spain Switzerland Syria  
Ukraine United Arab Emirates United Kingdom  
United States Zimbabwe

**FIGURE 8: Bubble chart of the key sectors reported in the media articles contained in the European Corruption Observatory database.**



## Sectors

Using a taxonomy defined by Transparency International, 48 sectors were used to filter the articles. See Annex 5 for the full list of sectors.

Looking at the collection of articles on our database, it is clear that some sectors are more prevalent than others. The top four are:

1. Political Parties;
2. Executive / Government;
3. Private Sector;
4. Banking and Finance.

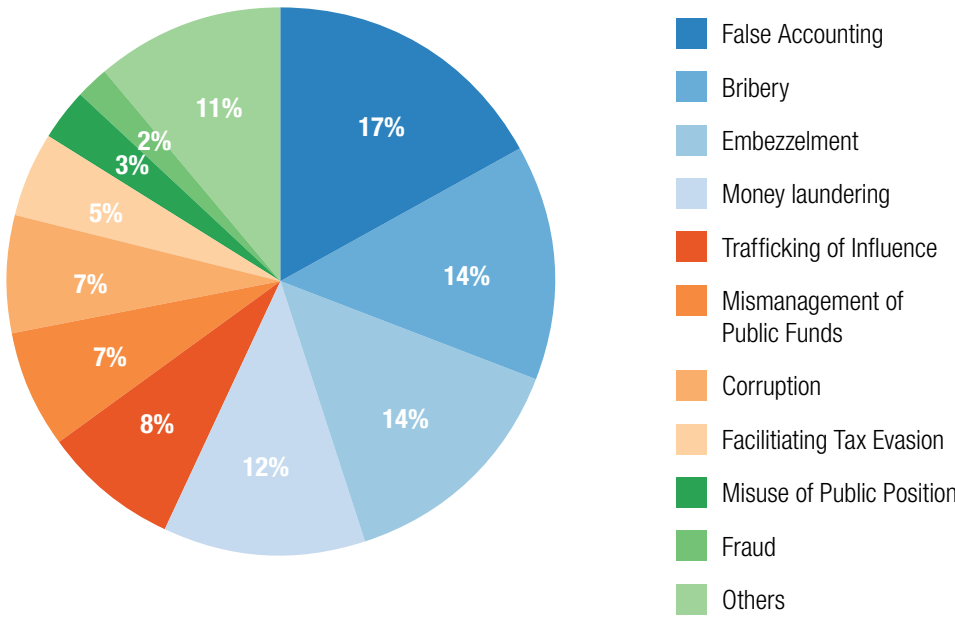
(See Figure 8)

As before, using the interactive charts provided on the European Corruption Observatory website, it is also possible for users to look at what the key corruption problems are related to each different sector.

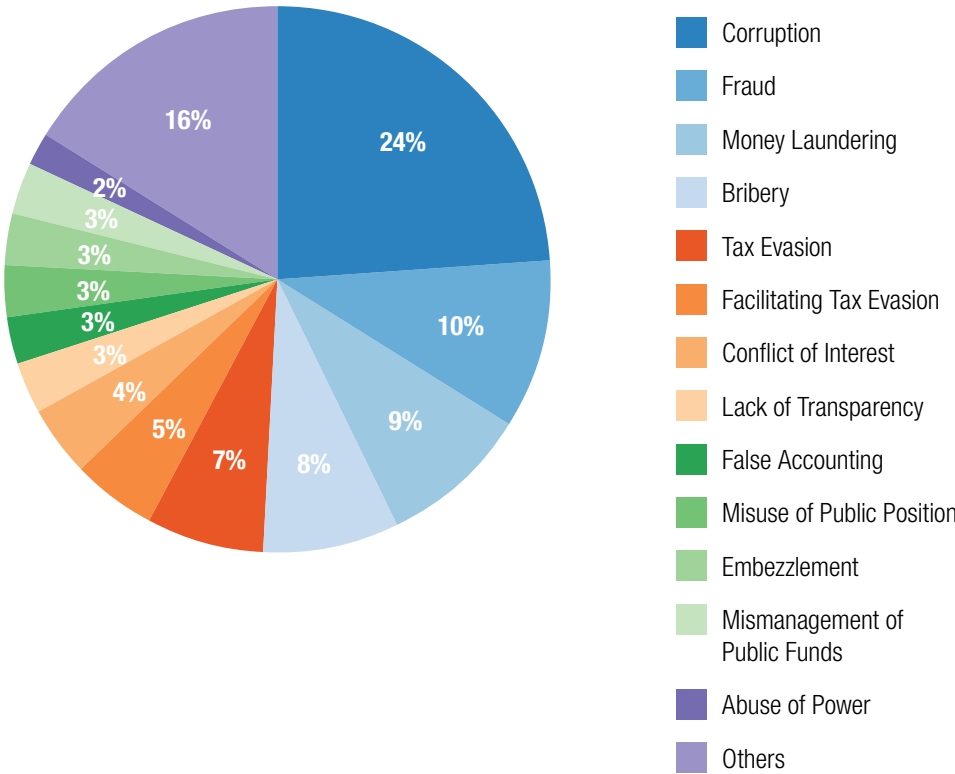
1. Political Parties – the top corruption problems are False Accounting, Bribery, Embezzlement, Money Laundering and Trafficking of Influence (See Figure 9);
2. Executive / Government – the top corruption problems are Corruption, Fraud, Money Laundering, Bribery and Tax Evasion (See Figure 10);
3. Private Sector – the top corruption problems are Fraud, Facilitating Tax Evasion, Corruption, Money Laundering and Tax Evasion (See Figure 11);
4. Banking and Finance – the top corruption problems are False Accounting, Money Laundering, Fraud, Tax Evasion and Corruption (See Figure 12).

Users can also search the database for articles on each sector by using the filtering functions.

**FIGURE 9: Political Parties - key corruption issues as reported in the media**

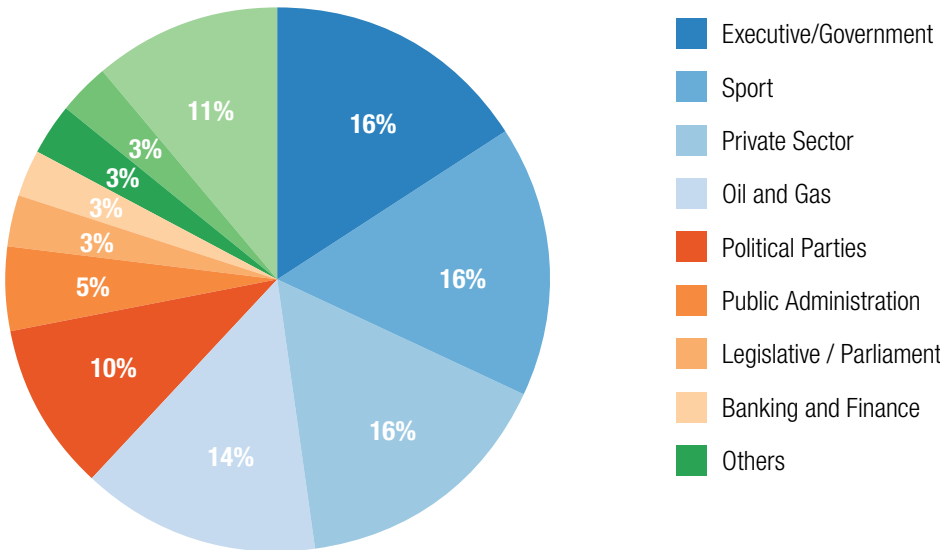


**FIGURE 10: Executive / Government - key corruption issues as reported in the media**

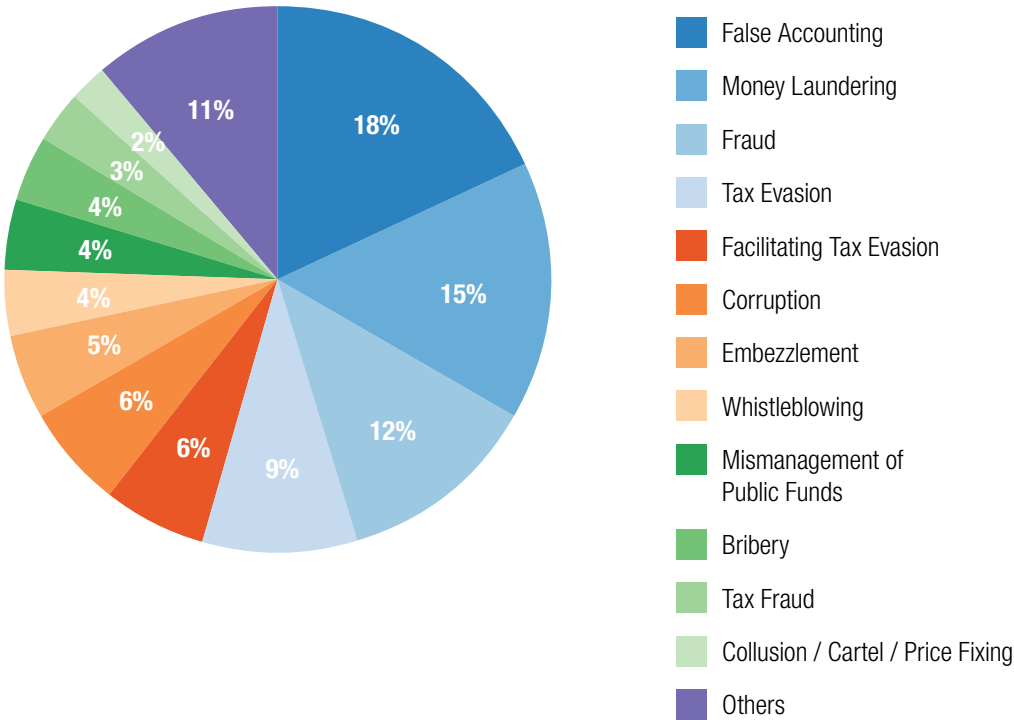




**FIGURE 11: Private Sector - key corruption issues as reported in the media**



**FIGURE 12: Banking and Finance - key corruption issues as reported in the media**







# ANNEX 1

## Workshop programmes

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### 08 July, 2015, Vilnius, Lithuania

#### European Corruption Observatory Workshop

<b>09.00 – 10.00</b>	<b>Morning Session</b>
10.15 – 11.15	Trans-boundary investigative journalism and cooperation (Transparency International EU)
11.15 – 12.15	The use of open data and digital tools for Transparency (Open Knowledge Foundation)
<b>12.15 – 13.15</b>	<b>Lunch</b>
13.15 – 14.15	Introduction to the European Corruption Observatory (Transparency International EU)
14.15 – 15.15	Exploring the European Corruption Observatory (Alison Coleman Transparency International EU)
<b>15.15 – 15.45</b>	<b>Coffee Break</b>
15.45 – 17.45	The role of the media (Transparency International Lithuania)

## 09 December, 2015, London, United Kingdom

### New models of collaboration: a help or a hindrance?

#### 10.00 – 12.00 **Panel Discussion New models of collaboration in investigating corruption – a help or a hindrance?**

- ▶ Deborah Unger  
Manager Rapid Response Unit, Transparency International
  
- ▶ Staffan Dahllöf  
Staffan is a freelance reporter based in Copenhagen. Staffan runs the website wobbing.eu and previously worked on Farmsubsidy.org. He is currently involved in the MEPs project – the first time ever journalists representing all 28 European member states have teamed up to file complaints with the European Court of Justice against the European Parliament
  
- ▶ Serious Fraud Office  
The Serious Fraud Office is an independent UK government department that investigates and prosecutes serious or complex fraud, and corruption.
  
- ▶ Andrew Feinstein  
Andrew is Executive Director of Corruption Watch, a London based NGO which details and exposes the impact of bribery and corruption on democracy, governance and development. Andrew is a former African National Congress Member of Parliament. He resigned when the government refused to allow an unfettered investigation into the South African arms deal, which was tainted by allegations of significant, high level corruption.
  
- ▶ Nick Mathiason  
Director of Finance Uncovered and a journalist at the Bureau of Investigative Journalism

#### 12.00 – 12.30 **Introduction to the European Corruption Observatory Platform**



**26 March, 2016, Budapest, Hungary**

**Investigating Corruption in the Media and Telecoms Industries**

**10.30 – 11.30**      **Investigating Corruption in the Media and Telecoms Industries**

- ▶ Nino Robakidze, Transparency International Georgia  
Who owns Georgia's media? Study of ownership of media outlets in Georgia
  
- ▶ Smari McCarthy, Chief Technologist OCCRP  
Who owns the internet? The Internet ownership project
  
- ▶ Krisztina Papp, Transparency International Hungary  
How Transparent are Global Telecommunications Companies?  
Transparency in Corporate Reporting

**11.30 – 12.00**      **Discussion**

**12.00 – 12.30**      **Introduction to the European Corruption Observatory Platform**

## 02 June, 2016, Mechelen, Belgium

### How to unveil VAT and other carousel fraud?

14.00-17.00

- ▶ Presentation: Journalists unveiling VAT fraud  
Bo Elkjær, Denmark's Radio, shows sequences from and comments on his recent documentary on VAT carousels as they were practised in Denmark.

Discussion: What type of data and which research methods were applied to unveil the Danish case? What can we learn from this experience? What are the needs of investigative journalists covering this field?

Q & A

Coffee break

- ▶ Presentation: Understanding structures to allow better research  
Chris Perryman of Europol, Marius-Cristian Frunza of Schwarzthal risk management consultancy: Understanding the strengths and weaknesses of administrative and enforcement structures to allow better research in the field. Which data are available where? How can journalists get credible information?

Q & A

- ▶ Presentation: Monitoring fraud and corruption coverage in European media  
Alison Coleman, Transparency International Europe on the new online tool currently under development by TI with the support of the European Commission.

# ANNEX 2

## List of Search Terms

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- ▶ Asset Recovery
- ▶ Bribery
- ▶ Clientelism
- ▶ Collusion
- ▶ Corruption
- ▶ Debarment
- ▶ Price fixing
- ▶ Conflict of interest
- ▶ Cronyism
- ▶ Embezzlement
- ▶ Extortion
- ▶ Facilitation payment
- ▶ Fraud
- ▶ False accounting
- ▶ Graft
- ▶ Illegal lobbying
- ▶ Illicit political contribution
- ▶ Kickback
- ▶ Insider Trading
- ▶ Misuse of Public Position
- ▶ Money Laundering
- ▶ Nepotism
- ▶ Peddling influence
- ▶ Policy Capture
- ▶ Revolving Door
- ▶ Solicitation
- ▶ State capture
- ▶ Tax evasion
- ▶ Trafficking influence
- ▶ Vote-buying
- ▶ Whistleblower
- ▶ Whistleblowing

# ANNEX 3

## List of Media Sources

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### Austria

[Der Standard](#)  
[Keine Zeitung](#)  
[Die Presse](#)  
[Kurier](#)

### Czech Republic

[Novinky](#)  
[Idnes](#)  
[Aktualne](#)  
[CT24](#)

### Germany

[Spiegel Online](#)  
[Tagesschau](#)  
[Die Welt](#)  
[Zeit](#)  
[TAZ](#)

### Hungary

[Origo](#)  
[Index](#)  
[Direkt36](#)  
[Atlatzso Hungary](#)  
[FN](#)  
[Napi.hu](#)  
[VG.hu](#)  
[Nemzeti Adó-és Vámhivatal](#)  
[444](#)  
[HVG.hu](#)  
[MNO](#)  
[Népszava Online](#)  
[VS](#)  
[Figyelő Online](#)  
[Portfolio](#)  
[Mandiner](#)  
[Metropol.hu](#)  
[168 Óra Online](#)

### Ireland

[Irish Examiner](#)  
[The Journal](#)

### Italy

[La Repubblica](#)  
[Il Sole 24 Ore](#)  
[Il Fatto Quotidiano](#)  
[Sky TG24](#)

### Netherlands

[AD](#)  
[Nu Jij](#)  
[Volksrant](#)  
[NOS](#)  
[fd](#)  
[Trouw](#)  
[Het Parool](#)  
[Vrij Nederland](#)  
[Elsevier](#)  
[HP/De Tijd](#)  
[Follow the Money](#)

### Latvia

[Delfi](#)  
[TVNET](#)  
[Latvijas Sabiedriskie mediji](#)  
[DB.lv](#)  
[Diena](#)

### Lithuania

[Delfi](#)  
[LIETUVOS RYTAS](#)  
[15Min](#)  
[TV3.lt](#)  
[ALFA.lt](#)  
[Lietuvos Žinios](#)



## Romania

[Adevarul](#)

[Gândul](#)

[Rise Project](#)

[Ager Press](#)

[Digi 24](#)

## Slovenia

[24UR.com](#)

[Planet Siol](#)

[RTV SLO](#)

[STA](#)

[Pod Črto](#)

[Delo](#)

## United Kingdom

[BBC News](#)

[City AM](#)

[The Guardian](#)

[The Telegraph](#)

[The Independent](#)

[Open Europe](#)

[Wales News](#)

[Herald Scotland](#)

[Metro News](#)

[Sky News](#)

[The Courier](#)

[24 Dash](#)

[IB News](#)

[The Bureau Investigates](#)

## Other Sources

[Euractiv](#)

[Tax News](#)

[Euromoney](#)

# ANNEX 4

## Corruption Problems

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- ▶ Abuse of power
- ▶ Blackmail
- ▶ Bribery
- ▶ Clientelism/ Patronage
- ▶ Collusion/ Cartel /Price Fixing
- ▶ Conflict of Interest
- ▶ Corruption
- ▶ Cronyism
- ▶ Election Fraud
- ▶ Embezzlement
- ▶ Facilitating Tax Evasion
- ▶ Facilitation Payment
- ▶ Favouritism
- ▶ Forgery
- ▶ Fraud
- ▶ Fraud / False Accounting
- ▶ Gift Giving
- ▶ Illegal Lobbying
- ▶ Illicit Political Contribution
- ▶ Inefficiency/ Red Tape
- ▶ Kickback
- ▶ Lack of Transparency
- ▶ Mismanagement of Public Funds
- ▶ Misuse of Insider information
- ▶ Misuse of Public Position
- ▶ Money Laundering
- ▶ Nepotism
- ▶ Peddling influence
- ▶ Revolving Door
- ▶ Sexual Favours
- ▶ Tax Evasion
- ▶ Tax Fraud
- ▶ Theft
- ▶ Trafficking
- ▶ Trafficking of Influence
- ▶ Vote-buying
- ▶ Welfare Fraud
- ▶ Whistleblower Retaliation
- ▶ Whistleblowing
- ▶ Withholding of Public Information

# ANNEX 5

## Corruption Sectors

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- ▶ Agriculture and Farming
- ▶ Banking and Finance
- ▶ Civil Society
- ▶ Construction
- ▶ Customs and Immigration
- ▶ Defence and Security
  - ▶ Military
- ▶ Education
- ▶ Executive/Government
- ▶ Healthcare
- ▶ Independent Oversight Institutions
  - ▶ Anti-Corruption Agencies
  - ▶ Audit Institutions
  - ▶ Electoral Management Body
  - ▶ Ombudsman
- ▶ Judiciary
- ▶ Labour and Employment
- ▶ Land and Property
  - ▶ Land Services
  - ▶ Real Estate
  - ▶ Registry and Permit Services
  - ▶ Legislative / Parliament
- ▶ Manufacturing
- ▶ Media
- ▶ Medical services
- ▶ Natural Resources
  - ▶ Fisheries
  - ▶ Forestry
  - ▶ Mining
  - ▶ Oil and Gas
  - ▶ Water
- ▶ Pharmaceutical
- ▶ Police
- ▶ Political Parties
- ▶ Power Generation and Transmission
- ▶ Private Sector
- ▶ Public Administration
- ▶ Religion
- ▶ Tax Authority
- ▶ Technology
- ▶ Transport
- ▶ Utilities
  - ▶ Electricity
  - ▶ Gas
  - ▶ Telecommunications
  - ▶ Waste disposal
  - ▶ Water and Sanitation



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**Transparency International EU** is part of the global anti-corruption movement of Transparency International, which includes over 100 chapters around the world. Since 2010, Transparency International EU has functioned as a regional liaison office for the global movement and as such it works closely with the Transparency International Secretariat (TI-S) in Berlin, Germany.

Transparency International EU leads the movement's EU-focused advocacy, in close cooperation with national chapters worldwide, but particularly with the 25 national chapters in EU Member States. Transparency International EU's mission is to prevent and address corruption and promote integrity, transparency and accountability in the EU institutions and in EU internal and external policies, programmes and legislation.

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