

## 2008 Corruption Perceptions Index 2008

### Regional Highlights: South Eastern Europe and Central Asia

Countries Ranked: 7 in South Eastern Europe and 13 Post-Soviet Countries

Transparency International's 2008 Corruption Perceptions Index (CPI) clearly demonstrates that corruption remains a serious challenge in South Eastern Europe and post-soviet states. All 20 countries register scores below 5 (out of a possible 10) indicating that most face serious perceived levels of domestic corruption.

Despite extensive reforms and external incentives in the framework of the European Union pre-accession process, **Croatia, Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia** and **Bosnia and Herzegovina** are not perceived as having significantly improved their anti-corruption stance. Apart from **Turkey** and **Albania**, the impact of the fight against corruption has been little despite actions undertaken to tackle the problem and promises by heads of state to make anti-corruption a core element of reforms in the run-up to EU membership.

The only two countries in South Eastern Europe currently witnessing a significant reduction in their perceived levels of corruption and showing signs of initial change are Albania, a potential EU candidate country, and Turkey, an EU candidate country. However, the EU accession process cannot yet be deemed a sustainable remedy.

Although **Turkey** declared anti-corruption a priority prior to 2006, no notable changes in legislation for greater transparency nor satisfying reforms furthering the fight against corruption can be noted in the past two years. In spite of this and the turmoil surrounding the last presidential and parliamentary elections, the country's economy has been developing very well, classifying Turkey as one of the BRICK-MUT countries with a heavy influx of foreign investors. This generally positive economic context and a focus on political developments in the public discourse may have influenced a side-tracking of corruption issues and an increased CPI score from 4.1 in 2007 to 4.6 in 2008.

In **Albania** on the other hand, where the CPI score rose from 2.9 in 2007 to 3.4 in 2008, the current government has been vocal about anti-corruption reforms it has championed over the past years and which appear to be showing initial results. An official task force created to fight corruption and economic crime has increased the number of officials prosecuted and sentenced for corruption, also building confidence among the public that corruption can be punished in Albania. In 2007, 224 officials were identified as involved in corruption and power abuse, 53 of them were arrested and prosecuted. A systemic approach was also taken in reducing corruption in tax administration, procurement and services to business, leading to a modernisation of such services. The implementation of electronic systems for taxes, procurement and business licenses reduced opportunities for extortion.

Of all CIS countries only Georgia shows an improvement while the scores of **Russia** and **Ukraine** continue to slide. Most countries in Central Asia remain at the same low level or show a significant decrease in their CPI score as is the case with **Kyrgyzstan** which went from 2.1 in 2007 to 1.8 in 2008.

**Georgia**, with a score of 3.9 in 2008 up from 3.4 in 2007, shows that the current administration's early reform efforts were highly effective in earning public confidence and improving the country's international image. There is a general consensus among public officials and civil society organisations that petty corruption has fallen post-revolution. In spite of this, grand corruption remains a persistent concern and a common assessment is that the official anti-corruption campaign is too heavily focused on prosecution as opposed to prevention, and that it is rather ad-hoc and not systemic or participatory.

Country Rank	Regional Country Rank	Country /Territory	CPI Score 2008	Confidence Intervals	Surveys Used
58	1	Turkey	4.6	4.1 - 5.1	7
62	2	Croatia	4.4	4.0 - 4.8	8
67	3	Georgia	3.9	3.2 - 4.6	7
72	4	Macedonia	3.6	2.9 - 4.3	6
85	5	Albania	3.4	3.3 - 3.4	5
85	5	Montenegro	3.4	2.5 - 4.0	5
85	5	Serbia	3.4	3.0 - 4.0	6
92	8	Bosnia and Herz	3.2	2.9 - 3.5	7
102	9	Mongolia	3.0	2.6 - 3.3	7
109	10	Armenia	2.9	2.6 - 3.1	7
109	10	Moldova	2.9	2.4 - 3.7	7
134	12	Ukraine	2.5	2.2 - 2.8	8
145	13	Kazakhstan	2.2	1.8 - 2.7	6
147	14	Russia	2.1	1.9 - 2.5	8
151	15	Belarus	2.0	1.6 - 2.5	5
151	15	Tajikistan	2.0	1.7 - 2.3	8
158	17	Azerbaijan	1.9	1.7 - 2.1	8
166	18	Turkmenistan	1.8	1.5 - 2.2	5
166	18	Kyrgyzstan	1.8	1.7 - 1.9	7
166	18	Uzbekistan	1.8	1.5 - 2.2	8