

COOPERATION AGREEMENT

between
Ministry of Labor and Social Policy
and
Transparency International-Bulgaria

THE MINISTRY OF LABOR AND SOCIAL POLICY, hereinafter referred to as the Ministry, represented by Totyu Mladenov, as the Minister of Labor and Social Policy,

and

TRANSPARENCY INTERNATIONAL-BULGARIA, hereinafter referred to as TI-Bulgaria, represented by Ognyan Minchev, chairman of the Board of TI-Bulgaria,

AWARE that that the in order to increase public confidence in the institutions and strengthen civil control is necessary to stipulate clear and effective rules for interaction between the non-governmental organizations and the public administration,

TAKING INTO CONSIDERATION that the achievement of tangible results in corruption prevention is a factor for strengthening the role of civil society and the introduction of modern standards of transparency and democratic control,

UNITED in the opinion that the creation of an unfavorable institutional and legal environment for the corruption development, as well as public awareness for the corruption existence reasons and its consequences is unattainable without the joint efforts of the state institutions and the non-governmental organizations,

WITH THE OBJECTIVE OF IMPROVED COOPERATION in the prevention and fight against corruption,

Ministry of Labor and Social Policy and Transparency International – Bulgaria

Have agreed upon the following:

I. PRINCIPLES AND OBJECTIVES OF THE AGREEMENT

1. The Ministry and TI-Bulgaria accept to ensure the implementation of the present agreement in accordance with the principles of equality and mutual respect.

2. The cooperation between the Ministry and TI-Bulgaria will be implemented in observance of the laws of the Republic of Bulgaria.

3. The cooperation between the two parties will be implemented on the basis of common objectives in the prevention and fight against corruption, and also to guarantee transparent and efficient governance.

II. MEASURES FOR INCREASING INTEGRITY AND COUNTERACTING CORRUPTION IN PUBLIC PROCUREMENT

1. The Ministry will provide opportunity for conducting independent civil monitoring for increasing integrity and counteraction of corruption. The Ministry commits to work together with TI-Bulgaria in the introduction of policies and mechanisms for integrity in the governance.

2. The Ministry commits to ensure participation in work groups and meetings, and to provide access to information and documentation, necessary for carrying out the monitoring.

3. TI-Bulgaria shall participate in joint or separate teams for monitoring of the process of execution of project with significant public and economic importance. In conducting the monitoring, TI-Bulgaria commits to strictly observe the principles of neutrality and professionalism.

III. EXCHANGE OF EXPERTISE IN THE FIELD OF CORRUPTION PREVENTION AND COUNTERACTION

1. TI-Bulgaria shall provide expert assistance on the issues concerned with corruption prevention and counteraction, in cases when it has the necessary expertise.

2. The parties of this agreement shall participate in workshops for discussion, elaboration and dissemination of good practices for corruption prevention and counteraction in the preparation, and implementation of projects of significant socio-economic importance.

3. The parties of this agreement shall conduct joint research initiatives in the field of corruption-related issues, in order to optimize the applied anticorruption practices, and enhance the efficiency of preparation and implementation of projects of significant socio-economic importance in the country.

**MINISTER OF LABOR
AND SOCIAL POLICY**

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TOTYU MLADENOV

Sofia, 04.04.2012

**CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD OF
TRANSPARENCY INTERNATIONAL-
BULGARIA**

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OGNYAN MINCHEV

Sofia, 04.04.2012