Empowering EU against State Capture through a New Monitoring Tool:

SceMaps - State Capture Estimation and Monitoring of Anticorruption Policies at the Sectoral Level

LATEST DEVELOPMENTS OF PROJECT SCEMAPS

Roundtable on Rule of Law focusing on policy implications for Bulgaria, Italy, Romania and Spain as part of the SceMaps project

Thursday 3 December

The roundtable aims at outlining the major challenges faced by these countries, as well as instruments and measures that could facilitate their reforms against state capture and corruption. The roundtable will present the opinions and recommendations of national MEPs and local think-tanks, aiming at facilitating the EU and national efforts in this area.

The [SceMaps big-data analytics platform](#) is online!

The platform allows to see some very interesting red flags about suspicious cases of irregularities in public procurement in three economic sectors (wholesale of solid, liquid and gaseous fuels, wholesale of pharmaceutical goods, construction) of four countries object of the project (Bulgaria, Italy, Romania and Spain). The **platform offers for the first time ever a fully-integrated risk assessment**, based on linked data of public procurement, companies ownership and financial information, e.g. [buyer concentration index](#) showing the exposure of separate company to tenders allocated by a single entity or [procurement exposure ratio](#) of the company, demonstrating what share of its annual revenues are generated by tenders.

Please note, that to access the data, you need first to [register](#) in the platform.

The last addition to the platform will be the integration of data from media-content monitoring about journalistic investigations for suspicious cases of corruption in procurement, which is still under development. The platform is designed to allow for scalability (i.e. adding new countries or economic sectors) and close-to-real-time operation (i.e. update of data on monthly or even daily basis).

NEWS ON CRIMINAL INVESTIGATIOS

Bulgaria

- **Silistra Municipality Uses State of Emergency to Circumvent Legal Requirements for Tender Procedure ([Anti Corruption Fund, 15 May 2020](#)).**

The Anti-Corruption Fund foundation (ACF) has filed a report to national authorities regarding the municipality of Silistra and their procurement procedures. The ACF notes in their report about the growing trends in the use of emergency law to circumvent proper procedural processes during the COVID-19 crisis.

Italy

- **Palermo: corruption and controlled contracts in healthcare: Covid managers among those arrested ([Corriere della Sera, 20 May 2020](#))**

Several people arrested by the Guardia Di Finanza in an operation targeting what they have called the "systemic corruption in the Sicilian healthcare system". Anotnio Calenda, the coordinator for the Coronavirus emergency in Sicily, is among those arrested.

- **Corruption in Armed Forces contracts: 31 precautionary measures ([ADNkronos, 9 July 2020](#))**

The Rome-section of the Italian Police (coordinated by the Public Prosecutor's Office of the capital) carried out precautionary detention orders against 31 suspects, including public officials (belonging to the Armed Forces) and entrepreneurs, accused of fraud in supplies, corruption, auction disruption, and other crimes in contracts for supplies of the Armed Forces.

- **Nigeria-ENI-Shell Corruption Case: Future of ENI's CEO at stake ([The Africa Report, 24 September 2020](#))**

In Milan, the largest corruption case of the Oil industry's history is taking place with executives of Eni and Shell facing charges of corruption and bribery. The case is over the USD 1.1 billion paid to Nigerian officials for exploration rights on the Nigerian coast.

- **Rigged competitions, frauds and corruption in the Piedmontese Local Health Authority ([The Huffington Post, 30 November 2020](#))**

The Guardia di Finanza discovered and dismantled a criminal association within the Piedmontese Local Health Authority (ASL). Rigged tenders, fraud in public supplies and corruption (for a total value of EUR 3.5 million ~~euros~~) are the accusations that led to 15 pre-trial detention orders.

Romania

- **Romania's Anti-Organized Crime Chief Prosecutor Resigns After Spouse Conviction ([Romania Insider, 25 September 2020](#))**

The director of the DICCOT (Directorate for Investigating Organized Crime and Terrorism) resigned after her husband was sentenced to 3 years in prison for corruption charges. The DNA (Directorate for Anti-Corruption), a partner government body, was in charge of the investigation of the case.

- **Bogdan Olteanu, Former Deputy Director of the Bank of Romania, Sentenced to 5 years in Prison on Corruption Charges ([Romania Insider, 29 October 2020](#)).**

The former deputy director of the Bank of Romania was sentenced to 5 years for taking bribes for political appointments while serving in his post as deputy director. Olteanu was bribed EUR 1 million by a Romanian businessman to appoint their preferred candidate to Governor of the Danube Delta. An area in which they already had business interests.

Spain

- **Spain Supreme Court Confirms Convictions in Gurtel Graft Case ([El Pais, 14 October 2020](#))**

One of the largest anti-corruption cases in modern Spanish history comes to an end with the supreme court handing out 29 convictions. The Gurtel case was a massive public procurement corruption scheme that was running from 1999 to 2005 across ~~6~~ six different regions.

- **Spain Opens 3rd Corruption Probe Involving former King ([Jersey Evening Post, 6 November 2020](#))**

The Supreme Court of Spain launched its third corruption probe into the financial dealings of the royal family. Along with the other already ongoing investigations into the financial affairs of the Spanish Royal family in Spain and Switzerland, this probe is looking into the use of credit cards and funds by the king and queen that did not belong to them.

LATEST DEVELOPMENTS IN ANTI-CORRUPTION MEASURES

- **The Italian Anti-Corruption Authority published the annual report ([Il Fatto Quotidiano, 2 July 2020](#); [ANAC, 2 July 2020](#))**

The Italian National Anti-Corruption Agency (ANAC) presented at the Italian Parliament its yearly report. Two major results: bribes sometimes reach a maximum of EUR 50 ~~euros~~, and corruption is a method more and more used by organised crime groups.

SCE MAPS

- **For a More Equal World Post-Covid-19: Focus On the Financial Gatekeepers (Transparency International, 2 October 2020)**

Transparency International published a report covering the implications of the financial crises on corruption and money laundering. In their report, they cite previous crises such as the 2008 financial crisis, to demonstrate the prevalence of financial misdealing associated with large scale bailouts and government backed loans. The report serves as a call to action for regulators and civil society to be more vigilant through the recovery process.

- **Spain Advances in the Implementation of Measures to Prevent Corruption in International Economic Transactions (Transparency International, 14 October 2020)**

In aA Transparency International report , they highlights the recent policy successes of the Spanish government in better securing international transactions and disclosure of financial assets. This is achieved through their new law on "Registry of Beneficial Ownership" which is meant to reduce the feasibility of shell companies. From an external level Spain has significantly improved its prosecution capacity for cases of foreign bribery.

- **Covid is Only Good for the Mafia, for 70% of Respondents They Have More Power (Libera, 21 November 2020)**

A study done by Libera and Demos have shown that people's perceptions of corruption has grown since the beginning of the Covid-19 pandemic. The study goes on to show that people fear that the financial recovery plans in the form of EU funds could contribute more to corruption if spread too broadly. Instead a focus on investment in healthcare and education infrastructure is a common theme, especially in the south of the country which struggled the most in dealing with the pandemic.

EVENTS AND PUBLICATIONS BY SCEMAPS MEMBERS:

- **Expert Forum Hosts Forum on European Commission Rule of Law Report on Romania (Expert Forum, 29 October 2020)**

Expert Forum hosted a public forum discussing the Commission report on Romania and sought to formulate policy recommendations from the EU report. Following the round table discussion, Expert Forum compiled their own report based on local experts such as the Prosecutor General, Director of Anti-corruption (DNA) and the Minister of Justice to name a few.