### Headline Recommendations

- Reinforce potency of parliamentary debates and civil society discourse.
- Enhance transparency of the legislative process; allow for sufficient time to deliberate bills within parliament and broader society and analyse their potential impact.
- Implementation both at national level as well as at sectoral level, through thematic sub-strategies of the national anti-corruption strategy under the coordination of the Ministry of Justice, with the involvement of public sector institutions and civil society.

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LEGISLATURE / EXECUTIVE

• Reduce emergency decision-making.

• Ensure liability of cabinet members and deputies in cases of fraud and corruption by setting up mechanisms accordingly.

• Introduce regular impact assessments for policy measures.

JUDICIARY

• Unify the jurisprudence by ensuring the effective use of the available ‘justice portal’ by all courts.

• Apply accountability mechanisms in a timely and objective manner; monitor the independence of the judiciary and ensure its impartiality.

PUBLIC SECTOR

• Elaborate, implement and maintain strong anti-corruption mechanisms that are tailored to the specific corruption risks, resources and structure of each public institution.

• Pursue a zero-tolerance policy with regard to corruption, supported by the leadership of public institutions; recognize that bribery undermines integrity, transparency, accountability and efficiency.

• Act against corruption in public services such as health, education, social security and utilities by establishing comprehensive anti-corruption strategies.

• Standardise the administrative procedures of public institutions while considering their specific functions.

• Introduce standard quality management for central and local government structures.

• Assess the corruption risks of public authorities and institutions annually.

• Introduce integrity pacts for all contracting authorities; the pact should include a witness to the reception of goods or services and independent witness in the certification of the accomplishment of contractual obligations.

• Grant privileges to tenderers who have adopted ethical and integrity principles.

• Payment for goods and services should be made only after an independent certification confirms fulfilment of contractual obligations.

• Increase the accountability of public decision makers through ensuring transparency in justifying their decisions and appropriate publicity.

• Introduce black-lists of tenderers who do not respect their contractual obligations.
• Develop an ethics and integrity curriculum for university degrees such as public administration, sociology, political science, as well as public sector trainings.

**LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES**

• Establish objective criteria for recruitment and promotion in order to avoid nepotism and enhance staff performance.

• Introduce transparency standards for decision-making processes and internal documents.

**ELECTORAL MANAGEMENT BODY**

• Stabilise and codify electoral legislation; commit the legislature and executive to leave electoral legislation untouched for at least one year before an election and thus meet European standards.

• Implement reporting and monitoring mechanisms to disclose actual campaign programmes and expenses, not only declared expenses.

• Implement a system of control for in-kind contributions to political parties.

• Ensure the independence and professionalism of polling station presidents.

**SUPREME AUDIT INSTITUTION**

• Increase the independence of public internal auditors.

• Restore the controlling power of the institution and expand it to an external audit delegate; establish policies and a complementary approach for the two main functions of the institution (control and audit); improve public relations and promote partnerships with civil society organizations and the media.

**ANTI-CORRUPTION AGENCY**

• Establish an unequivocal system of public law with respect to the conduct of public offices and dignities according to the principle of proportionality; regulate a system of assets and interests declarations and specific incompatibilities, prohibiting other sources of income than wage / salary in order to achieve a consistent relationship to art. 44 (9) of the Constitution.

• The National Anticorruption Directorate (DNA) should establish a set of appropriate mechanisms for the individualization of the offense, to determine applications for sanctioning submitted to the court and to increase the speed in investigating high-level corruption cases.
• Strengthen sanctioning mechanisms; introduce a central database of cases and an internal policy of information, publicity and media coverage in order to improve the effectiveness and objectivity of the approaches used.

**POLITICAL PARTIES**

• Prohibit parties from offering benefits or incentives to voters, either directly or through intermediaries; structure electoral campaigns around the quality of the party program and the candidates.

• Parties will deter, under the penalty of exclusion, their local representatives from joining up benefits paid as social assistance with an electoral campaign, recognizing that this practice is an indirect means of buying votes.

• Refrain from engaging political supporters to carry voters to the polls, recognising that this practice presents a major risk for direct purchase of votes.

• Oblige parties to decline donations or sponsorships from illegal sources, donations that require the offer of public contracts to the sponsor Commit parties to report irregularities in the electoral process to competent authorities and civil society.

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**BUSINESS**

• Enhance the transparency of corporate structures inter alia by publicly disclosing all subsidiaries.

• Evaluate prospective contractors and suppliers with due diligence in order to ensure that they have effective anti-bribery programmes.

• Actively participate in anti-corruption initiatives and multi-stakeholder processes at the sectoral level.

• Empower whistleblowers in the private sector by establishing comprehensive regulations and provide reporting channels.

• Verify existing anti-corruption and transparency commitments through independent reviewers.

• Align company reporting on anti-corruption activities with international standards, e.g. the United Nations Global Compact and Transparency International’s reporting guidance.

• Publish information on companies’ activities as well as their accounts in full detail, especially transfers made to governments and local communities.

• Verify companies’ political contributions through its board and shareholders.

• Disclose political contributions and lobbying activities.
• Assess corruption and bribery risks across companies’ supply chains.

• Notify contractors and suppliers about a company’s anti-bribery policies; require equivalent standards from contractors and suppliers.

These recommendations are based on the findings of the 2011 National Integrity System Assessment of Romania. ©2012 TI Romania. All rights reserved.

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