

## COUNTRY REPORT

*Oxana Bologan\**

### I. CURRENT SITUATION OF CORRUPTION

Corruption continues to alter the national values and to threaten the political, economic and social stability of the Republic of Moldova. Our society, regretfully, hasn't avoided corruption and its dangerous effects. At the moment, this social vice is one of the main problems that transition countries have to confront, inclusive of the Republic of Moldova. Its spreading is facilitated by public tolerance, poverty, an insufficient mechanism of assuring of the supremacy of the law, etc. People discuss corruption at great length, but, still, not enough, because the high level of it within the country underlines the necessity of the implementation of more efficient countermeasures.

When we speak about corruption, we speak about the definition, the causes, its impact, consequences, methods of studying the problem, prognosis, prevention and combating it. No country can say that it isn't affected by corruption. As a result, this vice becomes a transnational phenomenon, having specific characteristics for each country. It is obvious that if corruption has a multi-dimensional, complex and multi-structural character, it needs to be combated, as well, by complex means.

The Moldovan legislation defines corruption as an anti-social phenomenon, being represented by an illegal agreement between two parties, one of them proposing or promising illegal privileges or benefits, and the other party, being involved in the public service, consenting or accepting them for carrying out or not carrying out some official duties; meeting the elements of an offence provisioned under the criminal law of the Republic of Moldova.

The Republic of Moldova has taken serious steps towards the reduction of corruption, and the results are very promising.

It is well known that in order to assure the quality of an efficient anti-corruption process and good governance, the State needs a complex of relevant attributes, inclusive of:

- A developed legal framework adjusted to international standards;
- An adequate institutional framework;
- A co-operative and pro-active civil society;
- Efficient international co-operation.

At the moment, Moldova has them all, as well national anti-corruption policies. But I think that this is not enough. We still need a more efficient implementation of the anti-corruption programmes and the establishment of some new advanced practices.

Control, prevention and combating of corruption are priority elements of various programmes based on certain engagements assumed before the international community (the Republic of Moldova – European Union Action Plan, the Millennium Challenges, etc.). The unconditional political obligation to fight against corruption is also denoted by the implementation in the Republic of Moldova of the National Strategy for the Prevention and Combating of Corruption, approved by the Decision of Parliament no. 421-XV dated 16 December 2004.

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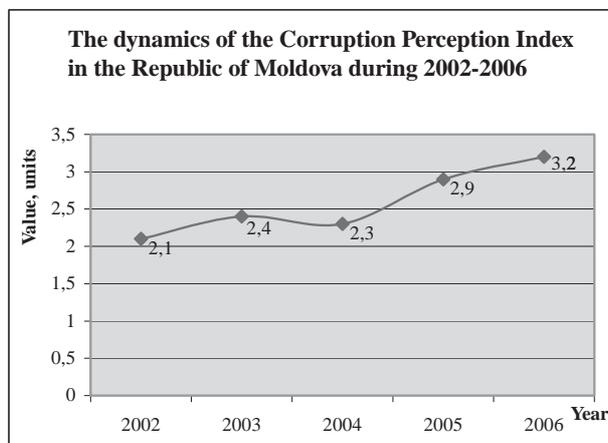
\* Lieutenant, Superior Inspector of the Anti-corruption Programs and European Integration Section, General Directorate for Analytics, Prognosis and Prevention, Center for Combating Economic Crimes and Corruption, Republic of Moldova.

The first results of these activities showed up at the end of 2005; they were evaluated in public discussions during the National Conference organized on 9 December 2005 with the theme “Progress and Perspectives in Combating Corruption”. The complexity and the growing magnitude of corruption places this problem on the top of all serious problems of the Republic of Moldova.

### A. Moldova Performance Diagnostic

The year 2005 may be considered a revolutionary stage in the fight against corruption and it continued in 2006 as well. This fact is confirmed by the increase in efficiency in combating this malicious phenomenon and by the results achieved in the Corruption Perception Index.

This index, published annually by Transparency International (TI), denotes modest progress in the field of prevention and combating of corruption in the country owing to the involvement of public institutions, civil society and the private sector in the fight against corruption.



Thus, in 2006, according to the data of TI, the Republic of Moldova was placed 81 of the 163 countries covered by the listing, the corruption perception index for the country being equal to 3.2. For comparison, in 2005 Moldova was placed 95 out of 159 countries, its index being at the level of 2.9. This fact to a considerable extent denotes both the political will of the government and the efforts of civil society in the field of prevention and combating of corruption in the country.

One of the most important actions that facilitated the fight against corruption was the continuation of efficient implementation of the National Strategy for Prevention and Combating of Corruption in the Republic of Moldova (hereinafter referred to as NSPCC), approved by the Decision of Parliament no. 421-XV of 16 December 2004. By the implementation of annual action plans, the achieved results were to a substantial degree owed to the efficient combination of all available means for the combating of corruption: combating, prevention and collaboration with civil society.

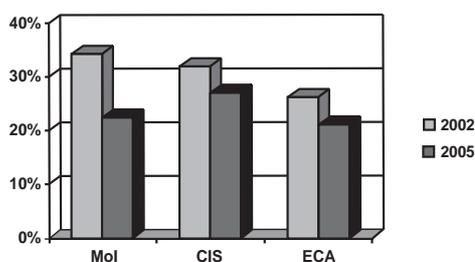
#### 1. World Bank Institute's (WBI) Control of Corruption Indicator (Republic of Moldova)<sup>1</sup>

Year	1996	1998	2000	2002	2004	2006
Raw Score	-0.26	-0.36	-0.73	-0.91	-0.96	-0.65

Scale:  
(-2.5 = worst score,  
2.5 = best score)

Moldova's WBI "Control of Corruption" score fell sharply between 1996 and 2004. Since then, it has improved little by little.

Bribe Frequency  
Percent of firms saying unofficial payments are frequent



#### 2. The EBRD-World Bank Business Environment and Enterprise Performance Survey (BEEPS)<sup>2</sup>

The graphs display the responses to four survey questions included in the WBI's Control of Corruption Indicator.

##### (i) Bribe Frequency

Approximately 34% of firms in 2002 reported that "irregular additional payments" were often necessary to get things done. That number declined to approximately 20% in 2005.

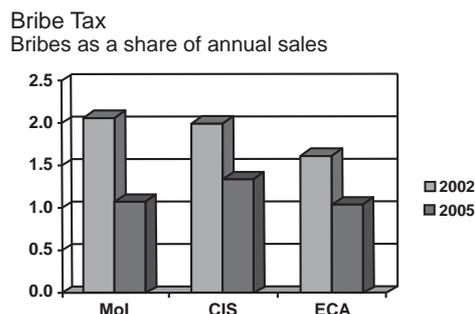
<sup>1</sup> Source: Kaufmann D., A. Kraay, and M. Mastruzzi 2007: Governance Matters VI: Governance Indicators for 1996-2006

<sup>2</sup> Source: <http://siteresources.worldbank.org/INTECAREGTOPANTCOR/Resources/BEEPS2005-at-a-glance-Final-Moldova.pdf>

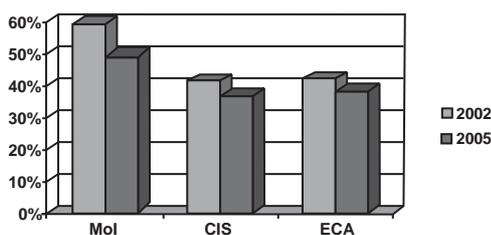
(ii) Bribe Tax

We can also observe some improvement in the so-called “bribe tax” (percentage of total annual sales that firms pay in unofficial payments to public officials), which has decreased from approximately 2.2% in 2002 to 1.5% in 2005.

Although in absolute terms bribery associated with influencing the content of legislation is low (3% of firms identified it as a problem), the trend between 2002 and 2005 is negative.



Corruption as a Problem Doing Business  
Percent of firms indicating corruption as a problem doing business



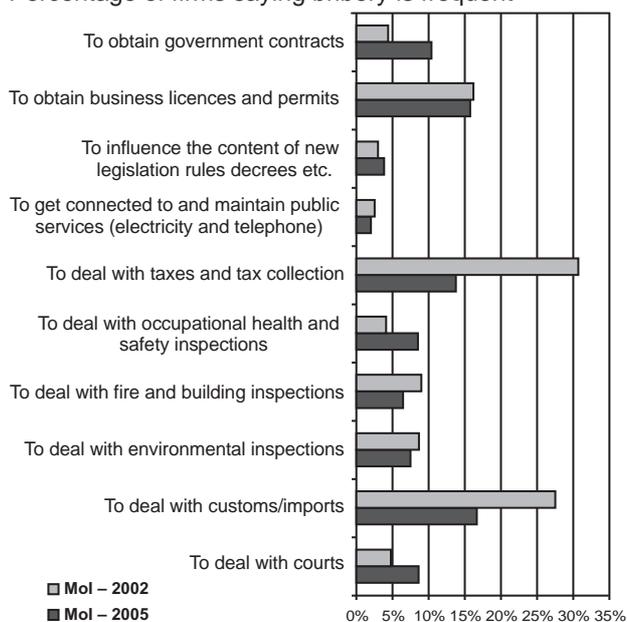
(iii) Corruption as a Problem Doing Business

In 2002, 60% of firms identified corruption as a significant obstacle. That number fell to 50% in 2005.

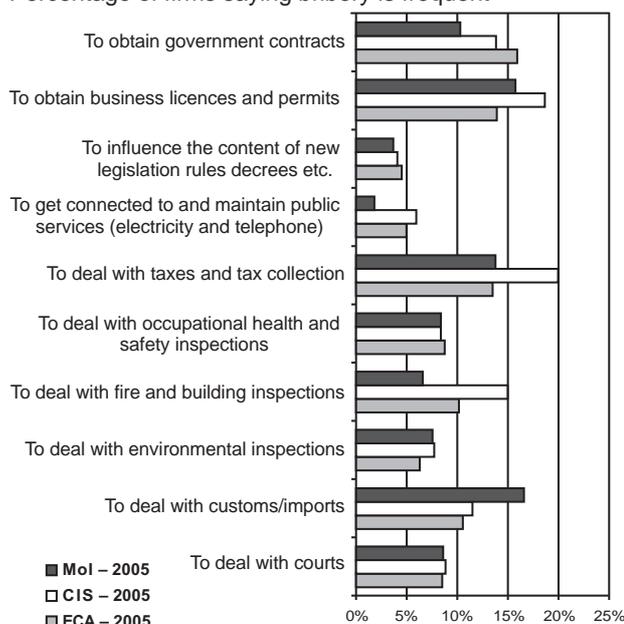
Between 2002 and 2005, we have witnessed an increase in corruption associated with government contracts, judicial rulings, and occupational health/safety inspections.

Between 2002 and 2005, there has been a decline in corruption associated with tax collection and administration and the customs service. However, in *absolute* terms, the survey firms reported that bribery was most frequent in the customs service, tax collection and administration, and business licensing. Regulatory uncertainty is exceptionally high in Moldova. Almost 70% of firms in Moldova report that uncertainty about regulatory policies makes it difficult to do business. High levels of regulatory discretion create ample opportunities for petty corruption. Between 2002 and 2005, we witnessed an increase in the number of firms reporting that judicial assessments are unaffordable, slow, unfair, and corrupt. In 2002, roughly 30% of firms reported that the judiciary was a significant obstacle to “doing business” in Moldova. By 2005, that number rose to 50% of high levels of corruption in the municipal police.

Unofficial Payments in Sectors—Over Time  
Percentage of firms saying bribery is frequent



Unofficial Payments in Sectors—Across Countries  
Percentage of firms saying bribery is frequent



### 3. Nations in Transit: Corruption<sup>3</sup>

Year	1999	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
Score	6.00	6.00	6.25	6.25	6.25	6.25	6.00

7 = worst, 1 = best

### 4. Key Points

The introduction of the National Anti-corruption Strategy and the corresponding Action Plan in January 2005 signalled a very promising year in the fight against corruption. Indeed, all involved public institutions and agencies, as well as the civil society, got off to a very active and convincing start in the implementation of the Anti-corruption Action Plan. The main efforts have been geared toward bringing anti-corruption legislation in line with international norms and practices and toward outlining the competences of each of the many institutions involved to avoid duplication of activities. Concrete measures have also been undertaken to limit the spread of corruption among civil servants. Moldovan civil society and international organizations that monitor corruption are unanimous in saying that some progress has been achieved in preventing and fighting corruption. Despite the fact that certain public services (such as health care, education, the police, and the customs services) suffer from high levels of corruption, studies have demonstrated that public tolerance toward corruption in Moldova is decreasing. *The country's rating for corruption improved from 6.25 to 6.00 owing to the encouraging steps undertaken both by the Moldovan government and by civil society in the fight against corruption, notably through the implementation of the Action Plan; yet the awaited large-scale effects are still not felt in Moldovan society.*

The government advertises contracts through the National Public Procurement Agency. Calls for tenders are advertised on the Internet. All state acquisitions with public funds are organized through this agency. A website facilitates public access to tenders and is meant to increase the transparency of the process.

### 5. Public Perception and Attitudes Towards the Corruption Phenomenon in Moldova, July 2007<sup>4</sup>

The most recent survey carried out in our country showed how frequently Moldovan inhabitants were asked to pay a bribe when addressing a state employee: a doctor (40%), a teacher (16%), police officer (14%), a professor (11%), and customs officer (10%). Almost half of the respondents declared that they had been asked to pay bribes during the last year. During the last three months (April, May, June 2007), 33% had to pay bribes, 30% to make presents and 24% to give different favours. The public perception of the corruption phenomenon within the customs service and the police force has decreased a little, but both still remain on the list of the most corrupt institutions.

The results of the 2007 survey show that both corruption and low income are in fourth place among the most important problems that exist in Moldova at the moment.

The multitude of data provided by international bodies proves that corruption is still a serious danger for our country, although some progress has been made.

## II. CURRENT PROBLEMS RELATING TO CORRUPTION IN THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM AND THEIR SOLUTIONS

The Center for Combating Economic Crimes and Corruption (CCECC) plays an essential role in the prevention and combating of corruption. It is the main body in the country responsible for the prevention and combating of corruption, and was created on the basis of the Decision of the Government of the Republic of Moldova no. 158 from 11 February 2002. The Law no. 1104-XV on the Center for Combating Economic Crimes and Corruption was adopted on 6 June 2002, and entered into force on 27 June 2002. It grounds the organization and functioning of the institution.

<sup>3</sup> <http://www.freedomhouse.org/template.cfm?page=47&nit=396&year=2006>

<sup>4</sup> Source: carried out by IMAS-inc Marketing & Sondaje, financed by MOLICO Project of the Sida, European Commission and Council of Europe.

The legal framework of our country, besides the aforementioned Strategy for the Prevention and Combating of Corruption also includes:

- Constitution of the Republic of Moldova, adopted on 29 July 1994;
- Criminal Code, Law no. 985-XV, 18 April 2002;
- Criminal Procedure Code, Law no. 122-XV, 14 March 2003;
- Administrative Contraventions Code, 29 March 1985;
- The Decision of the Government on some measures to prevent corruption and protectionism (no. 615 from 28 June 2005);
- Law on Fighting Against Corruption and Protectionism (Law no. 900, 27 June 1996);
- Law on Operative Activity of Investigation (Law no. 45-XIII, 12 April 1994);
- Law on Public Service (Law no. 443-XIII, 4 May 1995);
- Law on the Declaration and Monitoring of the Income and Assets of State Dignitaries, Judges, Prosecutors, Public Servants and Certain Persons holding Managerial Positions (Law no. 1264-XV, 19 July 2002);
- Law on State Protection of Victims, Witnesses and Other Parties in Criminal Proceedings (Law no. 1458-XIII, 28 January 1998);
- Law on the Procurement of Goods, Works and Services for Public Needs (Law no. 1166-XIII, 30 April 1997);
- Law on the prevention and control of money laundering and terrorism financing (Law no. 1166-XIII form 30 April 1997).

Corruption, already considered a transnational phenomenon, has its roots in the lowest levels of power. Growing in manifestations, it wins more and more territory by attacking public institutions and even law enforcement bodies.

The opportunities for corruption are many and State bodies continue to develop new anti-corruption policies. In the view of prevention and combating of corruption within the public sector, the Decision of the Parliament no. 421-XV of 16 December 2004 was adopted. It is provided that:

- All central public administration authorities must provision in their activity programmes concrete activities to prevent corruption and protectionism;
- The deputy minister (or deputy director) has responsibility for corruption and protectionism prevention within the institution;
- The aforementioned deputy minister or (or deputy director) will organize:
  - The internal control of compliance by employees with the provisions of the legislation, in view of prevention of corruption cases and monitoring of the implementation of institutional measures for the prevention of corruption and protectionism;
  - The receiving of information from different sources (audience, anonymous letters, the hotline, e-mail etc.) about corruption offences by the employees of the respective public institutions, its examination and undertaking of the necessary measures and presenting to the competent law enforcement bodies the mentioned documentation (or information);
  - The presentation to the Center for Combating Economic Crimes and Corruption (to the Secretariat of the Monitoring Group of the implementation of the National Anti-corruption Strategy) once in a term of informative notes on the undertaken measures in the respective field, inclusive of the activities taken in common with other authorities, as well as some proposals for the amelioration of the existing situation.

## **A. Problems and Solutions at the Investigation and Prosecution Levels**

### **1. Supervision of Investigation and Prosecution Officers**

Solution: The investigation process begins with a complaint from a citizen, or from an article in a newspaper etc. The citizens' complaints are examined according to the law on petitioning by which a complaint must be examined in 15 days, up to a maximum of 30 days. If a petition is not signed, it is examined by the institution only in the case of existence of any threats to the security of the State or public order. In order to improve supervision of officers and civil servants, all public institutions are obliged to have security departments responsible for internal supervision (auditing and management). When these do not exist, the human

resources departments exercise this function. In addition, there is a deputy minister in each ministry responsible for measures to combat corruption and nepotism.<sup>5</sup>

As well, complaints on the activity of public employees can be made on the hotline of the institutions or if it refers to the employees of the Center, citizens can complain at the General Prosecution Office which supervises compliance with the law of the law enforcement bodies.

## 2. Lack of Harmonization with International Standards

In line with attained positive achievements some difficulties were also encountered. So, regardless of the fact that the Republic of Moldova has signed the Civil and Criminal Conventions against Corruption, ratified by the Laws no. 428 of 30 October 2003 and no. 542 of 19 December 2003, the national legislation still misses multiple important amendments that are urgently required for its adjustment to the provisions of the respective conventions. Thus, the problem may be characterized by a slow process of harmonization of national legislation on corruption compared to the international legislative developments in this field.

Solution:

- Adjustment and priority implementation of international anti-corruption norms;
- Acceleration of adoption of draft laws elaborated in compliance with the Action Plan of Implementation of the National Anti-Corruption Strategy for the years 2005 and 2006;
- Intensification of efforts aimed at efficient implementation of normative regulations on corruption in practice;
- Elaboration of efficient mechanisms of implementation and use of anti-corruption legal frameworks.

## 3. Complexity and Uncertainty of Law

The abundance of legislation has made the law very complex and, indeed, uncertain. Inter-ministerial coordination is inadequate. The recent amendment to Article 106 of the Criminal Code shows, however, that the legislature has become more aware of the importance not only of securing convictions but also of detecting, seizing and confiscating the proceeds of criminal offences, including the confiscation of assets of their equivalent value. (Conclusions of the GRECO Second Evaluation Round).

Solution:

- Review of existent legislation by the specialized bodies and by the subdivision of the CCECC that gives anti-corruption expertise to the normative acts (a relatively new responsibility of the CCECC);
- Capacity consolidation of the law enforcement authorities in the assurance of quick reaction and efficiency in the investigation and examination of corruption-related criminal cases and efficient co-operation with other responsible bodies.

## 4. Difficulty of Investigation of the Corruption Phenomenon among Top-Ranking Officials

Solution:

- Intensification of the activity of law enforcement authorities in the detection and documentation of corruption schemes among top-ranking public officials;
- Raising the efficiency of mechanisms of information about corruption acts and implementation of Law no. 1458-XIII dated 28 January 1998 regarding State protection of victims, witnesses and other persons providing assistance in the process of criminal investigation.

## 5. Civil Monitoring of the Activity of Law Enforcement Bodies

Solution: The Republic of Moldova, with the help of international bodies, is in the process of setting up a Civil Council that will supervise the activity of the CCECC and will represent civil society.

## 6. Interim Measures

The provisions on interim measures are not entirely satisfactory and are sometimes contradictory.

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<sup>5</sup> Following an examination of the measures to implement the National Anticorruption Strategy, the government decided on 11 July 2006 to strengthen internal supervision of the activities of public officials. On 6 September 2006 the Strategy for Internal Control and Audit was adopted.

Solution: To revise and harmonize the existing legislation on confiscation and interim measures so that the instrumentalities of corruption and other related offences, as well as the proceeds and their equivalent value, can be confiscated.

#### 7. Disposal of Frozen Assets

If need be, the public authorities, such as the Ministry of the Interior, the CCEEC or the Public Prosecutor's Office, should be able to use or dispose of seized or frozen assets and participate in the sharing of confiscated assets, which is not the case at the moment.

Solution: It should be envisaged that a special body entrusted with managing seized or frozen assets will be established and that the rules on the use and distribution of such assets should be changed.

#### 8. Few Disclosures

Very few money laundering cases have been disclosed.

Solution: To make every effort to ensure that the links between organized crime and money laundering are taken into account in all aspects of the fight against corruption, especially by making it easier to identify the existence of such links and by strengthening the contribution of the anti-money laundering arrangements to fight against corruption, and by ensuring that institutions and professions required to declare their suspicions receive instructions and training to assist in the detection and reporting of acts of corruption.

In 2004, Moldova adopted a National Strategy for the Prevention and Elimination of Corruption and an Action Plan.<sup>6</sup> The Strategy is led by the Council for the Co-ordination of the Fight against Crime and chaired by the Head of State. A monitoring group made up of deputy ministers and deputy directors of administrative authorities was set up in February 2005 to monitor implementation of the Strategy and the Action Plan. The secretariat of this group is provided by the CCEEC. These bodies assess the effectiveness of anti-corruption measures by regularly analysing the information provided by people with specific responsibility for preventing corruption and nepotism (deputy ministers or deputy directors).

### **B. Problems and Solutions at the Trial Level**

#### 1. Sentencing

The analysis of sentences often demonstrates that the punishments determined by the courts are not proportional to the gravity of committed crimes and to the size of inflicted damages.

Solution: Review of legislation in order to establish more concrete punishments. Example: to avoid in legislation expressions like: "from two to five years of imprisonment" as it gives opportunities for corruption.

#### 2. Delays in Disposing Cases

Another problem consists of the delayed examination of corruption-related criminal dossiers by the courts, leading to the reduction of the efficiency of the criminal law and of the efforts of the criminal pursuit organs for the combating of corruption and related crimes.

Solution: Intensification of the activity of the courts, and the establishment of specific regulations that would better organize the activity of the courts.

#### 3. Restricted Use of Special Investigative Techniques

The Code of Criminal Procedure only authorizes the use of special investigative techniques in corruption cases with aggravating circumstances. They are accordingly not available in ordinary corruption cases which are punishable by a maximum of five years' imprisonment, in cases involving trading in influence or

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<sup>6</sup> This strategy comprises three main focal points: 1) the concept, causes and consequences of corruption in Moldova; 2) measures for preventing and eliminating corruption, especially improvements to the legislative framework and its actual application, prevention of corruption in public institutions and political life, and closer co-operation between public institutions and civil society; and 3) the machinery for implementing the Strategy.

accounting offences, or for identifying the proceeds of such offences. Such a state of affairs can only be prejudicial to the quality of the proceedings and the trial.

Solution: To bring the legislation on special investigative techniques in line with the provisions of the Criminal Law Convention on Corruption (ETS no. 173).

#### 4. Public Awareness of Court Sessions and Decisions

Solution: To make video recordings of the courts' sessions.

#### 5. Investigation of Judges

Investigation of corruption cases among judges is considered very difficult due to the fact that in order to begin criminal proceedings it is necessary to ask the approval of the Supreme Council of Magistrates which meets once a month.

Solution: To establish new regulations that would make investigation and prosecution easier in regard to judges.

### III. GENERAL MEASURES TO PREVENT CORRUPTION

The objective reality has already proved the fact that corruption can not be stopped only by criminal and restrictive methods. The prevention of corruption is an extremely important aspect that may stop the spreading of this social drawback, if properly employed; in other words, if the preventive measures are focused not on the exterior manifestations of corruption but on the generating factors. So, preventive activity is determined not only by the increase in public concern at the growing number of corruption crimes but also by the limited effect of criminal and suppressive measures of combating corruption.

The CCECC uses the following instruments in the view of diagnosing corruption acts:

- Assessment of corruption risk within institutions;
- Advice of experts on the anti-corruption legislation;
- Public opinion polls;
- Criminal analysis and prognosis.

Anti-corruption education is also among the most important preventive activities. It is carried out systematically by the Center's employees in co-operation with civil society.

The recent amendments of the legislation have directed the CCECC's corruption prevention activity towards providing anti-corruption expertise to the national legislature and assessment of corruption risk within central and local public institutions.

Thus, at the end of 2006, the CCECC, in common with the NGO "Centre for Analysis and Prevention of Corruption (CAPC)", developed the Methodology and the Guide for giving anti-corruption expertise to legislative acts. The European experts (Jean Pierre Bueb and Quentin Reed) endorsed these acts, expressing their great appreciation for the initiative and the quality of the documents. *They noted that Moldova was an example, from this perspective, for the countries of the European Union, as well as for the members of the Council of Europe.* The correct implementation of the methodology in its two stages of the legislative process (by CCECC at the elaboration stage and by CAPC before the adoption by Parliament in its second hearing) will substantially contribute to the development of a coherent, simple and understandable legal framework. Moreover, this instrument will increase the capacity of the CCECC and the non-governmental sector to disclose the vulnerabilities to corruption and to the development of preventive measures by identifying the omissions, repetitions and ambiguity of the provisions of the legislation, as well as the possible corruption risks at the implementation level.

#### **IV. INTERNATIONAL CO-OPERATION IN CORRUPTION CASES**

International co-operation is a very important component of the process of prevention and combating of the corruption phenomenon.

International legal frameworks to which Moldova is a party include:

- The UN Convention against Corruption, signed 27 September 2004, ratified by Law no. 158-XVI, 6 July 2007;
- The Criminal Law Convention on Corruption, ratified on 30 October 2003 by the Law no. 428-XV. In concordance with the Convention, the Criminal Code in force delimits corruption in public and private areas and defines notions of passive and active corruption;
- The Civil Law Convention on Corruption, ratified by Law no. 542-XV, of 19 December 2003;
- The Additional Protocol to the Criminal Law Convention on Corruption, ratified by Law no. 157 of 6 July 2007;
- The Council of Europe Convention on Laundering, Search, Seizure and Confiscation of the Proceeds of Crime and the Financing of Terrorism; ratification act: Law no. 914-XV, 15 March 2002.

The participation of the Republic of Moldova in the Anti-Corruption Initiative of the Stability Pact for South-Eastern Europe (SPAI) should also be mentioned. Taking into consideration the objectives and recommendations of SPAI, the activities aimed at suppression of corruption at the regional level fit harmoniously into the process of European integration, constituting a considerable part of it.

A very important role in the monitoring of the use of international legal instruments is played by the Group of States Against Corruption (GRECO). In 2006 the second anti-corruption evaluation cycle of the Republic of Moldova was carried out. Based on the Report for the Republic of Moldova 15 recommendations that must be implemented not later than the 31 May 2008 were elaborated and presented.

The CCECC became a member of the International Association of Anti-Corruption Authorities, in October 2006, in Beijing, China, during the First Annual Conference and General Assembly. It has the scope of facilitation and of efficient implementation of the UN Convention against Corruption.

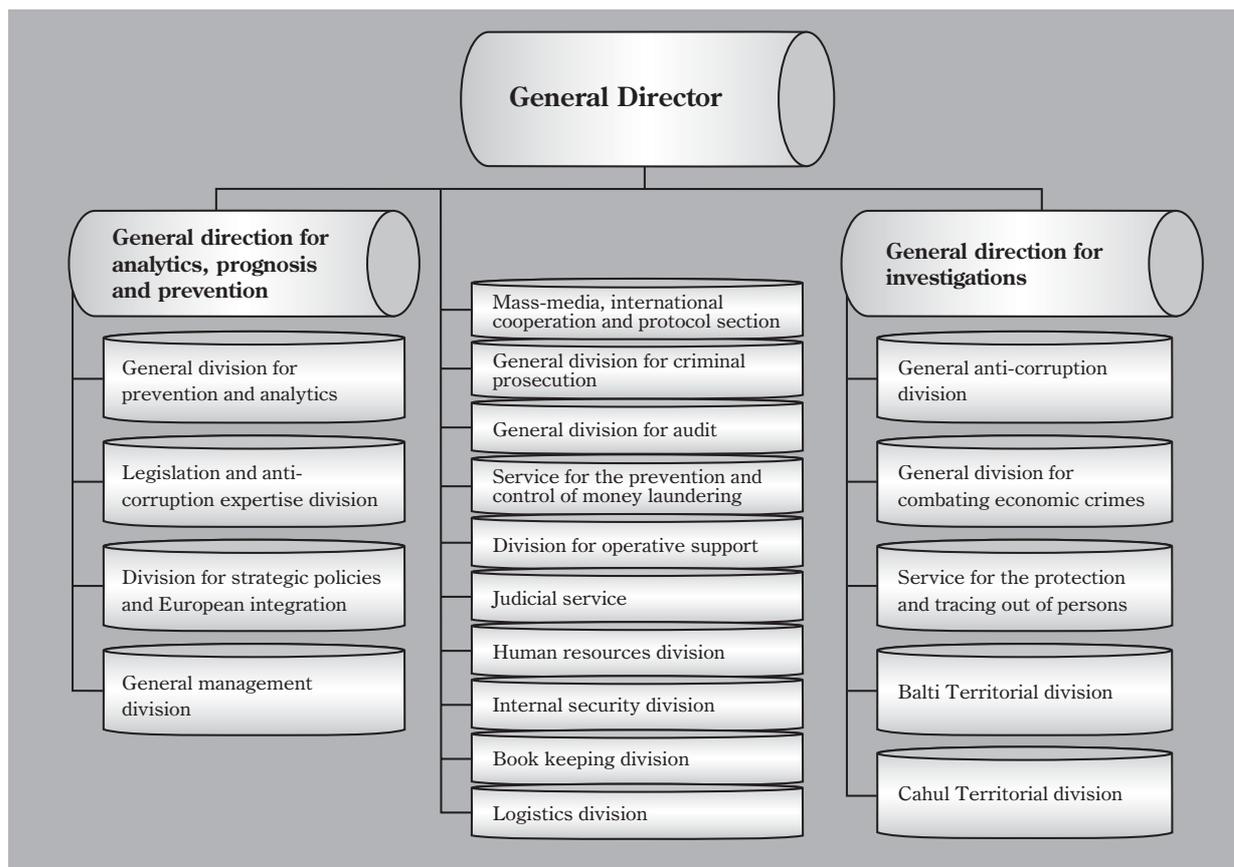
#### **V. CENTER FOR COMBATING ECONOMIC CRIMES AND CORRUPTION AND ITS INVESTIGATIVE AND PROSECUTORIAL AUTHORITY**

With the adoption of the Law on creation of the Center for Combating Economic Crimes and Corruption in Moldova an institution provided with a complex system of authority in detection of economic crimes, beginning with collection and documentation of information, performance of controls, initiation of criminal investigations, and criminal prosecution, and ending with presentation of the dossiers to the prosecution authorities for further examination by the judiciary, was created.

The activity of this authority consists of the prevention, detection, investigation, and removal of economic, financial and tax violations; combating corruption and protectionism; combating the legalization of property and laundering of illegally obtained money; ensuring the anti-corruption expertise of legal drafts and governmental normative acts and their compliance with State policy in the field of prevention and combating of corruption.

The Center for Combating Economic Crimes and Corruption was created on the basis of the Decision of the Government of the Republic of Moldova no. 158 of 11 February, 2002.

The strategic orientation of the CCECC consists of the concentration of the efforts against corruption with the scope of assuring the effective functioning of the rule of law and democracy, as well as economic and social development of the State.



#### A. The Tasks of the Center

- (i) Preventing, disclosing, investigation and suppression of financial-economic and tax offences;
- (ii) Counteraction of corruption and protectionism;
- (iii) Counteraction of legalization of material assets and laundering of illegally gained money;
- (iv) Carrying out of anti-corruption examination of draft legal acts and draft normative acts of the Government in the view of establishing conformity with State policy on prevention and counteraction of corruption.

The tasks of the Center are exhaustive and can not be amended unless by virtue of the law itself.

#### B. Counter Activity

- Effectuation of the operative investigative activity and criminal prosecution of corruption offences, money laundering and economic and financial crimes;
- Investigation of corruption and economic and financial contraventions and sanctioning the perpetrators;
- Disclosure of some fiscal contraventions and offences and sanctioning the culprits.

The General Anti-corruption Division's responsibilities include the multilateral operative and complex investigations aimed at combating corruption and protectionism; removal of causes and favouring conditions; determination of priority activities in order to detect, eradicate and anticipate acts of corruption and protectionism depending on the methods and tools used by the infringers. The service duties of this Division also include operative coverage of the major branches of the national economy, public and law enforcement authorities concerning documentation of illicit activity of corrupted public officers, and the revealing of methods and schemes of corruption.

The General Division for Combating Economic Crimes was established within the Center in the year 2004. The basic tasks of the division include: detection, eradication, combating and prevention of economic corruption crimes that represent a threat to the economic security of the State, public property and the interest of the consumer. In order to assure a successful performance of functional duties, the Division's activity includes the following specific fields:

- combating of infringements related to tobacco products, bakeries, the consumption market, contraband and illicit traffic of goods;
- combating of infringements related to the circulation of ethylic alcohol and its derivative products;
- combating of infringements in medical and pharmaceutical institutions, in the institutions of education, in state budget institutions, in the sphere of precious metals and delinquent firms;
- combating of infringements in the field of transportation, informational technologies and advertising, construction and ecology;
- combating of infringements related to the power sector and energetic resources; and
- combating of infringements on the stock market, in the insurance companies, in industry, in the sector of ferrous metals and humanitarian aid.

### **C. The General Division for Criminal Prosecution**

The results of the law enforcement authorities to a significant degree depend on the results of the General Division for Criminal Prosecution, which is one of the main subdivisions of the Center. The major tasks of the Division comprise detection, documentation and investigation of corruption-related crimes, as well as qualitative performance of criminal prosecution of the cases held by the Center. After the adoption of the Law on the Status of Criminal Prosecution Officers the role of the General Division for Criminal Prosecution has significantly increased.

## **VI. CONCLUSION**

During the last two years of activity, the CCECC proved its capacity of development of its own anti-corruption policies.

The multitude of actions implemented by the Moldavian authorities aimed at combating corruption has been evaluated by the GRECO experts during the Second Evaluation Cycle for Moldova. It was mentioned that Moldova has made a considerable improvement in reforms and numerous laws were adopted in all fields of activities. Many things are still waiting to be done.

The efficient implementation of Anti-Corruption Plans will improve the achievements of the country in combating corruption and will serve as a real premise for social and economic development and will assure the acceptance of the Republic of Moldova into the family of countries with strong democratic values.