
Corruption decreases in some countries but not in Armenia.

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The World Bank has recently released its third report called 'Anticorruption in Transition 3- Who is Succeeding... And Why.' The report concludes that efforts to tackle corruption in former socialist countries have yielded positive results but to prevent regression sustainable reforms are needed.

Armenia's scores in comparison with other countries

WB experts say Armenia should continue tackling bribery. According to the report, in 2005, the 200 Armenian companies surveyed have continued to pay bribes in the same frequency as in 2002 courts but is still below the average for countries of the CIS. Meanwhile, the bribery incidences have increased in tax and customs bodies as well as in courts.

The survey showed that the businessmen in Armenia (as well as in Tajikistan and Uzbekistan) do not consider corruption to be a serious problem as they colleagues in other CIS countries do. The report also indicated that while the portion of the 'tax burden' is lower for the companies in Armenia, Croatia, Lithuania and Moldova, the overall volume of the bribes paid is much bigger due to the rapid growth of economies in those countries.

In Armenia - as well as in Georgia and Moldova - the incidences of bribery are more frequent for registering companies and taxation process, and in Azerbaijan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan and Kyrgyzstan, the problem of tax administration is more acute.

WB experts have concluded that in Armenia, Albania, Russia and Azerbaijan, the bribery has significantly grown on the legislative level where the "rules of the game" are frequently distorted to fit a small number of the privileged. Meanwhile, in those terms a significant improvement has been seen in Bulgaria, Lithuania, Slovakia, Ukraine, Georgia and Slovenia.

The survey said the in Armenia the bribery in the tax administration has risen from the previous low level to the middle.

Noteworthy is a conclusion made in the report that Armenia launched a " Anticorruption Strategic Program" in 2003 and in 2004 a high-level anticorruption commission was set up headed by the country's prime minister. But several corruption indicators have even degraded. In contrast, a National Anticorruption Strategy was launched in Georgia followed by Actions Plan. This plan has been applied in conjunction with aggressive anticorruption policies and institutional reforms, which have resulted in reduction of bribery and change in society's tolerance towards corruption.
