What can you find in this edition?

- TI Lithuania launched their study on private sector accountability
- Transparencia Venezuela’s one-year investigation on Venezuelan State-Owned Enterprises
- TI UK launched an online tool to help companies tackle bribery and corruption
- TI Mongolia launched the Doing Business Without Bribery e-learning tool
- TI-S’s Communication on Engagement report submitted to UNGC
- What’s Coming Up!

**TI Lithuania: Launch of private sector accountability study**

*Evaluation of reporting practices of the largest Lithuania-based companies*

TI Lithuania launched their study on the private sector accountability recently and have received lots of attention. Using a TRAC-type of assessment, TI Lithuania analysed corporate websites looking for publicly available information on companies’ anti-corruption programme, organisational structure (including beneficial ownership transparency) and financial reporting. The study, which evaluated 49 largest companies in Lithuania, showed at least 17 companies have become more transparent in their practices compared to the result back in 2014. In addition, after the launch TI Lithuania received feedback from half a dozen companies who expressed their interest and would like to further improve their scores.

The study results were announced through a press release to all major media outlets, business associations, all companies evaluated and other stakeholders of TI Lithuania. The press release is also available in English and can be found at [http://www.transparency.lt/en/20171031/](http://www.transparency.lt/en/20171031/). The results of the study and full ranking are published on the website [skaidrumas.lt/imones](http://skaidrumas.lt/imones).

The results of the TI Lithuania study was featured the same day of the launch in the main Lithuanian business daily Verslo žinios, and were also presented on TV and radio talk shows of the Lithuanian National Broadcaster (LRT) and the main business radio Žinių radijas. The press release was picked up by the Baltic News Service with subsequently at least ten major media outlets.

TI Lithuania will now continue with the next step of arranging follow-up meetings with various business stakeholders, as well as having the launch of the online self-evaluation kit scheduled for late November.

For more information, contact Sergejus Muravjovas, TI Lithuania at sergejus@transparency.lt
One-Year Investigation on Venezuelan State-Owned Enterprises

Transparencia Venezuela launched an investigation on Venezuelan State-Owned Enterprises (SOEs) back in July 2016 and recently published a report about its findings.

According to the results of the investigation, which concentrated on eight companies in the oil, manufacturing, agrifood, financial and electric sectors, the Venezuelan SOEs incurred losses of US$396 million in 2016, a figure that exceeded the nation’s budget for health, education, housing and social security. In Venezuela, SOEs operate in the context of opacity, weak legal controls, lack of accountability, frequent changes in the attached agencies and authorities and impunity. TI Venezuela’s investigation also found intentions by the government to seek the capture of the state, the appropriation of public resources and political control. They have relevant evidence to also believe that SOEs’ poor management in the manufacturing, agricultural and commercial sectors could be partially responsible for the dramatic national crisis, which since 2016 is considered a humanitarian crisis. The study notes serious deficiencies in coverage and quality in telecommunications, mass transportation, water, roads, housing construction, production and distribution of essential foods, medical supplies, pharmaceuticals and personal hygiene items, which are goods and services that directly affect the Venezuelans quality of life.

Learn more about this investigation here: https://transparencia.org.ve/project/the-bolivarian-project-enlarged-the-platform-of-state-owned-enterprises-to-increase-economic-political-and-social-control/

Read and download the complete report by Transparencia Venezuela in Spanish here: https://transparencia.org.ve/project/informe-general-2016-2017/

We thought you might also want to know...

How did Transparencia Venezuela came to the decision to start this project in 2016?

Transparencia Venezuela had been trying for years to study all SOEs, mainly due to the growth of them since 2003, the number of resources in the nation’s budget that they consumed, the opacity in their management, the growing and obvious decline in production and because Transparencia Venezuela is working on building open databases to deal with opacity. For that reason, Transparencia Venezuela created Vendata.org, the largest platform of open databases in Venezuela. In 2014, Transparencia Venezuela began talking to donors about the subject and finally in 2016 the possibility was opened with resources approved.

What will be the next step of Transparencia Venezuela in continuing the work further?

A. Seek and make visible more evidence of Kleptocracy of SOEs in Venezuela

Transparencia Venezuela will continue in the search for and update of information on SOEs and also complete the database and map of SOEs and update the database periodically. They will explore other research topics that more clearly indicate the alleged robbery of public resources through SOEs by the group in power.

B. Improve and expand the Kleptocracy Index

In the first phase of the project, this index was applied to 40 enterprises. Transparencia Venezuela will expand the SOE sample to 100.

C. Conduct national and international exchange workshops.

Transparencia Venezuela will present the situation of SOEs in Venezuela, to different audiences in order to generate advocacy and denounce how the SOEs can be used as an instrument of kleptocracy. Transparencia Venezuela will also organise an international training workshop for directors of enterprises and government officials.

D. Formalise complaints of concrete cases of kleptocracy through Venezuelan enterprises, both national and internationally.

Follow up on cases of intervention by the ruling party (PSUV), political control of the population through clientelistic practices and use of enterprises to finance political activities.

E. Carry out a dissemination campaign that promotes the positioning of public opinion in favor of the independence of SOEs.

This campaign intends to generate social and political discussion about the importance of good corporate governance and the need for accountability of the management of SOEs, as well as the obligation to be efficient, generate resources, benefits, goods and services. The campaign will try to facilitate the understanding of the importance of SOEs’ independence from political-circumstantial management and how the principle that they should work in the higher public interest could be enforced.

Contact Javier Molina, Transparencia Venezuela via jmolina@transparencia.org.ve if you like to learn more!
TI UK: Comprehensive online tool launched to help companies tackle bribery and corruption

New Anti-Bribery Portal aims to provide consistent and implementable procedures for companies operating in multiple jurisdictions

TI UK launched a new online tool last month, providing up-to-date and in-depth guidance for businesses in understanding and tackling bribery. Drawing on expertise from over 120 leading compliance and legal practitioners, the guidance presents international good practice informed by the UK Bribery Act, US Foreign and Corrupt Practices Act, other national legislation, as well as the ISO37001 standard. It recognises both the global nature of modern business, and an emerging standard of anti-bribery procedures that extends beyond any single national requirement.

This free-to-use, 18 module guidance is the culmination of eight years of work by TI’s in-house experts working with businesses, government, investigators and regulators, the daily reality of corruption risk for businesses and the expectations of legislation and enforcement regimes. The 18 modules include risk assessment, due diligence, managing third parties, aligning incentives to behaviour, and a free e-learning course. In addition to straightforward bribery, the guidance covers other areas of corruption risk that companies increasingly need to be aware of, such as political engagement, as well as transparency in corporate reporting.

Robert Barrington, Executive Director of TI-UK, said:

“This new TI guidance will serve as an important tool for businesses looking to navigate the complex field of anti-bribery compliance in the modern world. It should be saved in the bookmarks of every single compliance officer or in-house lawyer who is serious about the reputation of their organisation.”

Want to learn more? Take a look at the announcement and visit www.antibriberyguidance.org to view or download the guidance in full.

TI Mongolia: Doing Business Without Bribery e-learning tool launched

All you need to use the e-tool is a computer with internet access, and a will to do business without bribery!

TI Mongolia in partnership with Business Council of Mongolia launched an e-learning tool called Doing Business Without Bribery in October 2017. The project was innovative and it is the first time Mongolians are provided with web-based training course.

The module was developed by the Business Ethics Working Group under the Business Council of Mongolia and was initiated by TI Mongolia in 2016, where the TI Mongolia BIP team is also member. The launch event was well attended by business council members, international organisations and civil society; participants found it very useful, innovative and also emphasised the need for periodic and on regulations for Mongolia specifically.

The tool was originally developed by TI-UK, and has then been adapted to Mongolian context. The course outlines the impacts of corruption, and how it affects people, communities and businesses on a global scale, and also specifically on how bribery can affect businesses in Mongolia. Case scenarios were also included in order to provide participants with an opportunity to demonstrate their understanding of how to deal with bribery challenges and to address the issue. The online course can be easily accessed, participants can complete this course and learn valuable lessons about bribery and how to address risks in less than 60 minutes.

Contact Urantsetseg Ulziikhuu, TI Mongolia via Urantsetseg@transparency.mn if you have further questions!
BIP News update—UNGC COE report submitted

The BIP team recently submitted TI-S’s Communication on Engagement (COE) report to the UN Global Compact (UNGC), where we report on TI-S’s activities over the last two years to support the UNGC Principles and engage with the initiative.

Take a look to see highlights of our work with international business-focused anti-corruption initiatives – such as the UNGC 10th Principle Working Group, the SDGs and Goal 16, the WEF Partnering Against Corruption Initiative (WEF PACI), the B20, OpenOwnership and the Business Principles Steering Committee.

We also provide an update on our two most-used TI business integrity tools – Transparency in Corporate Reporting (TRAC) and Business Integrity Country Agenda (BICA); lots of Chapters are currently carrying out these studies and we hope you find this update useful!

What’s Coming up?

♦ Conference of the State Parties to the United Nations Convention Against Corruption 7th Session, 6-10 November 2017, Vienna, Austria

Katja Bechtel, Head of TI-S Business Integrity Programme, will be a panel speaker at the Special Event—Promoting integrity in State-Owned Enterprises (SOEs): trends and challenges (See flyer here: https://www.unodc.org/documents/treaties/UNCAC/COSP/session7/SpecialEvents/Invitation_IntegritySOE_UNODC_Afin_06.pdf) to speak about the 10 Anti-Corruption Principles for State-Owned Enterprises, which will be launched later this month.

♦ 3rd Anti-Corruption Compliance EMEA Summit 2017, 15-16 November 2017, Dubai, United Arab Emirates

Jermyn Brooks, Chair of TI Business Advisory Board, will be the Chairman of the conference and also the keynote speaker on the session Global and EMEA Corruption Trends: Challenges and New Possibilities.

♦ United Nations Global Compact Board Meeting, 30 November 2017, Geneva, Switzerland

Patricia Moreira, Managing Director of TI-S, will be participating the UNGC Board Meeting on behalf of TI.