

Acknowledgements

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The EU Accession Monitoring Program developed its methodology for monitoring corruption in close partnership with Transparency International, and wishes to acknowledge the key contribution of TI chapters not only in drafting individual country reports, as noted above, but in sharing their accumulated experience and expertise by commenting on draft reports and organising many of our expert roundtable meetings (see below).

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OSI held roundtable meetings in many candidate countries to invite expert critique and commentary on the draft reports from representatives of the Governments, the Commission Delegations, and civil society organisations and experts. We are grateful to the many participants at those meetings who generously offered their time and expertise. Lists of the meeting participants are available from the EU Accession Monitoring Program (euaccession@osi.hu).

THE EU ACCESSION MONITORING PROGRAM

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Preface

The Open Society Institute's **EU Accession Monitoring Program (EUMAP)** was initiated in 2000 to support independent monitoring of the EU accession process by civil society representatives.

In keeping with the broader aims of the Open Society Institute, EUMAP has focused on governmental compliance with the political criteria for EU membership, as defined by the 1993 Copenhagen European Council:

Membership requires that the candidate country has achieved stability of institutions guaranteeing democracy, human rights, the rule of law and respect for and protection of minorities.

EUMAP reports are elaborated by independent experts from the States being monitored. They are intended to promote responsible and sustainable enlargement by highlighting the significance of the political criteria and the key role of civil society in promoting governmental compliance with those criteria – up to and beyond accession.

In 2001 EUMAP published its first two volumes of monitoring reports, on minority protection and judicial independence in the ten candidate countries of Central and Eastern Europe. In 2002 new and more detailed minority reports (including reports on the five largest EU member States) have been produced, as well as reports on judicial capacity, corruption and – in cooperation with OSI's Network Women's Program/Open Society Foundation Romania – on equal opportunities for women and men in the CEE candidate States.

EUMAP reports on **corruption and anti-corruption policy** point to areas in which corruption appears to be problematic, and assess the efficacy of governmental anti-corruption efforts; they do not attempt to establish levels of corruption or to rank countries according to how corrupt they are.

The EUMAP methodology for monitoring corruption and anti-corruption policy (available at www.eumap.org), was developed by EUMAP with input from Transparency International and an international advisory board. The methodology provides for a broad survey of the legislation and institutions that may serve to prevent or combat corruption, drawing on existing evidence on corruption in each candidate State in conjunction with interviews carried out by country reporters. Although this does not constitute an exhaustive or scientific examination of the specific areas covered, its principle advantage lies in the consistent application of the same methodology to all monitored countries.

First drafts of each report were reviewed by members of the international advisory board and by national roundtables. Roundtables were organised in order to invite comments on the draft from Government officials, civil society organisations, minority representatives, and international organisations. The final reports reproduced in this volume underwent significant revision based on the comments and criticisms received during this process. EUMAP assumes full responsibility for their final content.