EVENT REPORT:
INTEGRITY PACT STAKEHOLDER EVENT
14 DECEMBER 2017, BUCHAREST, ROMANIA

On 14 December 2017 Transparency International Secretariat and civil society partners from 11 European countries organised a conference in Bucharest, Romania, to mark the halfway point of the project Integrity Pacts – Civil Control Mechanism for Safeguarding EU Funds. The project uses Integrity Pacts and other civic control mechanisms to monitor the procurement processes of 17 projects funded by the European Commission in order to ensure integrity and transparency. The Integrity Pact is a signed commitment by government and bidders in public contracts to act with integrity and transparency. The pact allows Transparency International and other NGO partners to monitor compliance with that commitment.

The objective of the event was to share experiences, lessons learned, successes and challenges around the use of Integrity Pacts, two years into the four-year project. It was organised in Romania, the country where the project has the most civil society partners (three) using the Integrity Pact to monitor the largest number of public procurement processes (four). It was attended by approximately 80 participants of which over a third were representatives of government and private sector: bidders; national, regional and local contracting authorities; and representatives from national procurement agencies.

The day consisted of both plenary and group sessions. The opening session included speeches from Marius Nica, Romanian delegate minister of European funds, the European Commission’s Vittoria Alliata di Villafranca, director of the Department for Increasing Administrative Capacity and Implementation in DG REGIO and David Ondráčka, TI board member and executive director of Transparency International Czech Republic.

"Without trust that a competition is fair and open, many businesses will hesitate to participate in a government contract, citizens lose confidence and costs increase." Vittoria Alliata di Villafranca, DG Regio

This session was followed by a presentation from Pascal Boijmans, head of unit, Competence Centre for Increasing Administrative Capacity, DG REGIO, on the European Commission’s work on clean contracting and ongoing initiatives and trends of relevance to attendees. Participants showed a lot of interest in this session, especially those who were less familiar with the opportunities of support available.

The afternoon sessions covered different areas: lessons learnt, Integrity Pact and the law, open data and working with communities.

Overall, the participants showed great interest in the event and actively participated in sessions. Government, private sector and civil society representatives engaged in open discussions, acknowledging shared commitments and objectives. In some cases, government representatives expressed interest in increasing involvement in the current project or possible cooperation with their civil society counterparts on future procurement projects.