

## The main findings

- Most of the observed media in November and December have slightly reduced the volume of reporting on corruption in comparison with the previous period. The number of published television reports decreased from 251 to 240, a number of articles was reduced from 952 to 934.
- Of all the monitored media, TV Pink with 50 and Blic daily newspapers with 160 offered the highest number of articles devoted to corruption in November and December.
- When it comes to the actors (mentioned in the news items and articles about corruption), the Government of Serbia and the Serbian Progressive Party as the party of government received the largest shares of the coverage and were portrayed in a positive light. While the anti-corruption bodies and whistleblowers as well as victims of corruption were also portrayed positively, they received considerably less coverage. United Regions of Serbia, whose leader had heard as a citizen, and after hearing got a chance to prove his innocence by telling his version of the case to the National Savings Bank First TV and TV Vojvodina, as well as in newspapers Politika and Kurir.
- The institutions or actors portrayed in a negative light were those in the public sector (industry and public institutions), private companies, suspected and accused of corruption, local governments, especially in Belgrade, and Democratic party as a party whose president was a mayor (of Belgrade). TV Pink excelled in putting the Democratic Party, and Dragan Djilas in a negative context.
- If we look at the area of issues, media largely reported on corruption in politics and economy as well as about corruption sanctioning. However, what decreases the contribution to the fight against corruption is the fact that items were presented in informative, not analytical form of journalism. In general, the aim of the reporting was to inform and promote the fight against corruption, not to reveal new aspects of the actors or corruption or any chance to bring in doubt the approach itself in some of the cases and the way in term of the way of dealing with a case from the aspect of the integrity of the investigation.
- As in the previous period, in most of the cases, the reporting was based on official information provided by the institutions or transferred from the agencies, without further studies (analyses) and researching. In a small number of cases journalists in their reporting were including some additional information. There is a lack of reporting that refers to the widest frame and provides a comprehensive analysis, but it is in the form of repetition of information that have been already transmitted.
- The tendency of reporting on corruption in a sensationalist manner (identified in the previous period), contrary to comprehensive analytical and investigative journalism to some extent continued also in the observed period. Unformer and Kurir had the largest number of articles written in sensationalist manner.

- To some extent the media continued the practice of unbalanced reporting on corruption, in the sense that the reports do not cover all sides of the story. Also, there were cases in which all the actors were involved (presented), but did not get equal time or area to present their point of view. This is visible in reporting on suspects and accused for corruption, where the only reference to a hearing as the citizen media presents as the arrest and beginning to serve his sentence before it was even given a verdict.
- The anticorruption programs that are managed by the Government, such as the National strategy for the fight against the corruption, and Action plan for its implementation had not been mentioned in reporting almost at all during those two months. Media were focused on reporting on the repressive part of the fight against corruption, while the topic of prevention, promoting the whistleblowers, and concept of a good management as the mechanism in fight against corruption were represented only marginally.
- RTS as a public service increased the number of corruption-related items to 44 compared, to 34 items in September. A certain number of analyzed contributions were connected with the corruption indirectly, in the context of references to specific actors or mentioning of corruption with other issues. There was just a small number of reports in which corruption was a major issue.
- Regarding the media contribution to fight against corruption, it can be concluded that they have a significant space for improvement, as they are still lacking in their researching and indicating to the public on specific cases of corruption, organizing regular programs, debates and talk shows to this topic that is very important to the public. Since it is based on public funding, RTS should have a leading role in this field and to bring the issues of public interest above other topics. Unlike some other media, RTS is tending to keep a neutral position in reporting about corruption.
- Oposite to the previous reporting period, number of cases there was a violation of presumption of innocence decreased from 326 to 165. Daily newspapers Kurir, Blic had the largest number of articles in which the presumption of innocence was violated, while this trend dominated in reporting of TV Pink and TV B92 among televisions.
- The last period of monitoring confirms the observed trend that the media in general are not proactive and do not see their own interest in the disclosure of corruption and the fight against corruption - instead, in certain cases, media are used as a tool in the hands of certain political or economic interests. The result of it is a lack of comprehensive analysis that would provide a clearer insight into the current state when it comes to corruption and ways to prevent it. Part of the media showed selectivity in choosing the cases of corruption that will be reported on. The media are either a means of promoting the government's fight against corruption, or promotion of the ruling party as a fighter against corruption. Media do not use the reports of the anti-corruption body, or their databases as the source for their articles and reports. Also, the media

does not carry out the promotion of successful practices that civil society or individuals make in the fight against corruption.