EU Funds and the Path to Good Governance in Bulgaria and Romania: Lessons Learnt

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Improving governance in Bulgaria: Evaluating the Impact of EU Conditionality through Policy and Financial Assistance

- Evolution of EU financial support for anticorruption and good governance actions
- From pre-accession assistance to the European structural and investment funds
- The positive and negative lessons learnt
- The way forward
Support for Justice and Home Affairs (JHA) during the accession period (allocated EU contribution in EUR mln.)
Direct support for AC and CVM benchmarks was limited during transition

Overview and agreed budget support for the CVM’s six benchmarks on Bulgaria (EUR million)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Benchmark</th>
<th>EUR mln.</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1-2</td>
<td>3,2 1,6 0,1</td>
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<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>51,4 2,6 1,4</td>
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<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>7,2 2,7 0,0</td>
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<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>115,0 0,0 0,1</td>
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<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>19,3 3,8 0,8</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Support in total actual payments for anticorruption-related actions during the 2007-2013 programming period (EUR mil.)

![Graph showing support in total actual payments for anticorruption-related actions during the 2007-2013 programming period (EUR mil.).](image-url)
Dynamics of the overall provided support for anticorruption-related actions (actual EC payments, EUR mln.)

- Start of EU Pre-Accession Assistance
- Signing of the Accession Treaty
- Expiration of the post-accession clauses under the CVM

Graph showing the dynamics of payments from 1998 to 2015, with significant peaks in 2004 and 2009.
The positive

- Increased efficiency, transparency and data accessibility.
- Public procurement with EU funds is, on average, four times less likely to be corrupt than contracts, exclusively financed by the national budget.
- Effectiveness, impact and purposefulness of the EU-funded projects however remain problematic.
The negative

- Lack of formal link between AC progress under the CVM and provision of financial support.
- Despite negative CVM reports, funds allocated to AC projects have dropped off since 2010.
- Lack of genuine political will and commitment to undertake reforms.
- Track record includes very few final convictions in cases involving substantial corruption.
- EU`s decreasing leverage to apply external pressure.
The way forward

- Civil society as pressure tool.
- EU in need to strengthen its internal and external mechanisms for policy-making in the good governance domain.
- Conditionalities should be tied to financial support and based on a common system of monitoring and evaluation of progress.
Thank you!