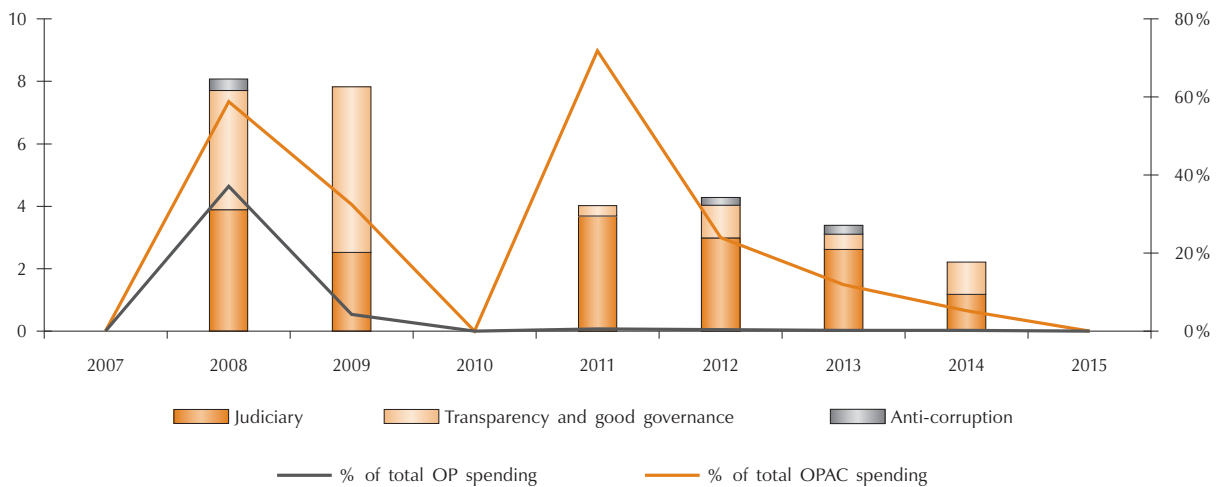


## 8. EU FUNDING FOR ANTICORRUPTION REFORMS IN BULGARIA

Despite the growing importance of anticorruption at the EU level (as evidenced, for example, by the publication of the *EU Anticorruption Report* in 2014), **EU's financial assistance does not match this challenge**. Such imbalance is particularly visible in Bulgaria: funding for anticorruption has been sporadic despite the existence of a post-accession monitoring instrument in the justice and home affairs area (the CVM). Data show that after 2009 the financial resources allocated for anticorruption, judiciary, transparency and good governance projects<sup>42</sup> significantly decrease (Figure 13).

**FIGURE 13. TOTAL ACTUAL PAYMENTS IN SUPPORT OF ANTICORRUPTION-RELATED ACTIONS DURING THE 2007 – 2013 PROGRAMMING PERIOD (MILLION EUR)**



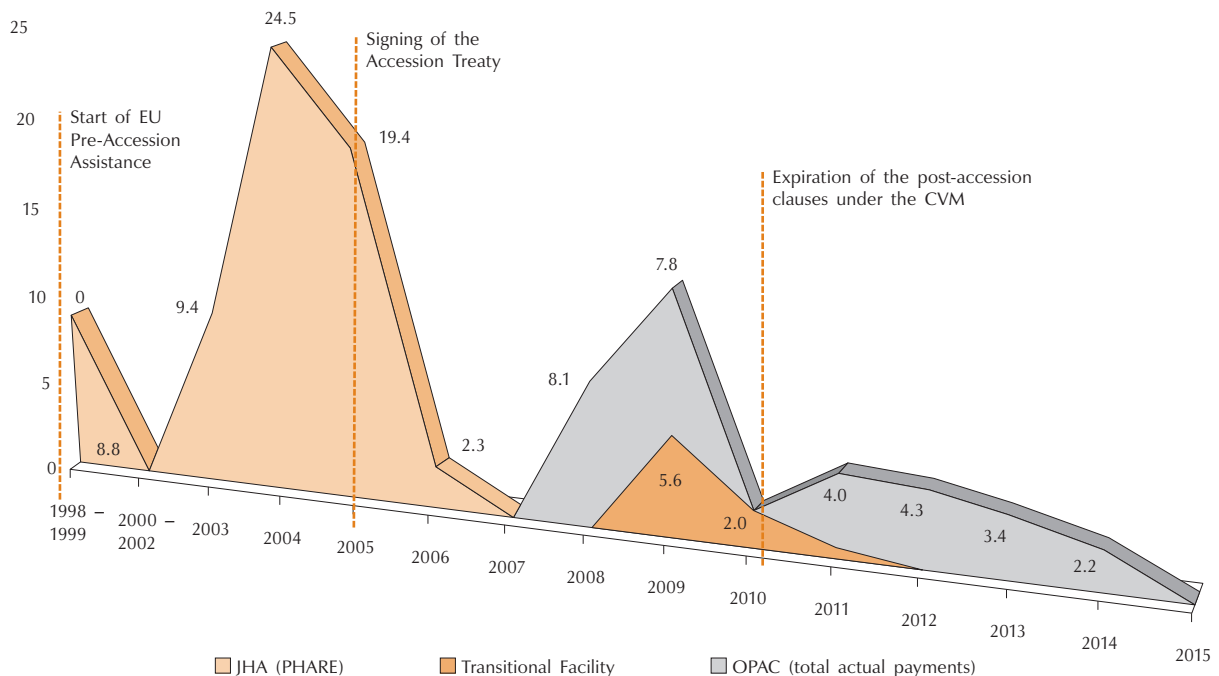
Source: Managing Authorities of OPAC. Note: As of 31.08.2015..

An overview of the EU financial support for anticorruption-related actions since the beginning of the pre-accession programs, more specifically the Phare program from 1998, reveals an even more telling trend. Irrespective of the actual amount of financial support through the years, Bulgaria seems to be delivering on its anticorruption commitment and

<sup>42</sup> "Anticorruption" includes specific projects containing the keywords "corruption" and/or "anticorruption", as well as projects related to organized crime and/or EU funds fraud. "Judiciary" includes projects from the following sub-priorities on Judiciary from Priority Axes 1, 2 and 3 – 1.5; 2.4; and 3.3. "Transparency and good governance" includes projects from the OPAC database, containing the keywords "good governance" and/or "transparency". Duplicates have been removed.

compliance with EC recommendations (under both pre- and post-accession monitoring mechanisms) only when closing in on a major step towards EU accession or in case any other related conditionalities exist. In the first instance, during the country's pre-accession period, the allocation of anticorruption-related funding mounted on two particular occasions – in the very beginning of the Phare program and towards the signing of the Treaty of Accession in 2005. In the post-accession phase support by OPAC and the 2007 Transitional Facility increased prior to 2010, before scaling down, which coincided with the expiration of the CVM's suspension clauses (Figure 14).

**FIGURE 14. DYNAMICS OF THE OVERALL FUNDING FOR ANTICORRUPTION-RELATED ACTIONS TO BULGARIA (ACTUAL EU PAYMENTS, MILLION EUR, 1998 – 2015)**



Note: The values for 2015 include total actual payments until 31.08.2015.

Source: Managing Authorities of the EU operational programs in Bulgaria; Ministry of Finance, 2015.