

FOREIGN ASSESSMENTS OF THE POLITICAL CORRUPTION LEVEL IN UKRAINE (INTERNATIONAL CORRUPTION RATINGS)

Given the difficulty of definition of political corruption and the absence of an internationally accepted uniform approach to its definition and assessment, the best known international ratings, such as *Transparency International* or *Freedom House*, use the notions of “ordinary” corruption and, respectively, assess the general level of corruption.

Despite all differences in the relevant survey methods, said ratings prompt the conclusion that for the rest of the world Ukraine remains a country with a high corruption level, and the situation persists for a long time, despite the current socio-political and socio-economic changes and the authorities’ declarations of the need to enhance struggle with corruption.

World Bank

The World Bank Institute in its “Worldwide Governance Indicators” (WGI) project, covering more than 200 countries of the world, uses six indices and a 101-point scale (“0” – the worst situation, “100” – the best). The indices that may indirectly witness the level of political corruption include *Voice and accountability*, *Rule of law*, *Control of corruption*.¹

Dynamic of Ukraine’s rank in the WGI studies

| | 2004 | 2005 | 2006 | 2007 | 2008 |
|--------------------------|------|------|------|------|------|
| Voice and accountability | 28.8 | 35.1 | 45.2 | 46.2 | 47.1 |
| Rule of law | 26.2 | 33.8 | 24.8 | 26.7 | 31.1 |
| Control of corruption | 19.9 | 37.9 | 33.5 | 27.1 | 28.0 |

Among Ukraine’s neighbours, the situation is the best in the Baltic states (in particular, Latvia) and Poland, the worst – in Belarus.

Ukraine and neighbouring countries in the WGI 2008 study

| | Voice and accountability | Rule of law | Control of corruption |
|----------------|--------------------------|-------------|-----------------------|
| Latvia | 73.1 | 71.3 | 64.7 |
| Poland | 72.6 | 65.1 | 67.6 |
| Ukraine | 47.1 | 31.1 | 28.0 |
| Russia | 21.6 | 19.6 | 15.5 |
| Belarus | 7.2 | 16.7 | 23.7 |

Freedom House

Nations in Transit – an annual all-round comparative survey of the state of affairs in 29 post-communist states of Eurasia.

In its surveys, the Freedom House uses seven indices: electoral process (free elections); civil society (third sector, non-governmental organisations); independent media; national democratic governance (branch interaction); local democratic governance (local authorities); judicial framework (its independence); corruption.² The rating is measured on a 7-point scale (where “1” is the best index, “7” – the worst).

Dynamic of Ukraine’s rank in the “Nations in Transit” studies

| | 2004 | 2005 | 2006 | 2007 | 2008 |
|--------------------------------|------|------|------|------|------|
| Electoral process | 4.25 | 3.50 | 3.25 | 3.00 | 3.00 |
| Civil society | 3.75 | 3.00 | 2.75 | 2.75 | 2.75 |
| Independent media | 5.50 | 4.75 | 3.75 | 3.75 | 3.50 |
| National democratic governance | | 5.00 | 4.50 | 4.75 | 4.75 |
| Local democratic governance | | 5.25 | 5.25 | 5.25 | 5.25 |
| Judicial framework | 4.75 | 4.25 | 4.50 | 4.50 | 4.75 |
| Corruption | 5.75 | 5.75 | 5.75 | 5.75 | 5.75 |

Ukraine and neighbouring countries in the “Nations in Transit” 2008 study

| | Electoral process | Civil society | Independent media | National democratic governance | Local democratic governance | Judicial framework | Corruption |
|----------------|-------------------|---------------|-------------------|--------------------------------|-----------------------------|--------------------|-------------|
| Latvia | 2.00 | 1.75 | 1.75 | 2.00 | 2.25 | 1.75 | 3.00 |
| Poland | 2.00 | 1.25 | 2.25 | 3.50 | 2.25 | 2.50 | 3.00 |
| Ukraine | 3.00 | 2.75 | 3.50 | 4.75 | 5.25 | 4.75 | 5.75 |
| Russia | 6.75 | 5.50 | 6.25 | 6.25 | 5.75 | 6.25 | 6.00 |
| Belarus | 7.00 | 6.50 | 6.75 | 7.00 | 6.75 | 6.75 | 6.25 |

Transparency International

The annual Corruption Perceptions Index (CPI), first used in 1995, is the most famous of the Transparency International projects. It was devised to measure the level of corruption in the world. CPI rating now covers 180 countries where the corruption level is estimated by experts.

By the results of 2009, it may be said that fighting corruption remains a challenge for the whole region, and the situation in Ukraine is among the worst, since political corruption, corruption in the private sector of economy and high tolerance of citizens to corrupt practices give little ground to hope for a rapid improvement of the situation.

In 2009, there was no country in the world that was totally free of corruption. The best situation is recorded in New Zealand, whose rating makes 9.4 on an 11-point scale (with “0” standing for the highest level of corruption, “10” – the lowest), the worst – in Somalia – 1.1.

In 2009, Ukraine ranked 146th out of 180 countries with 2.2 points, alongside with such countries as Zimbabwe, Sierra Leone, Russia. In 2008, its index was 2.5 points (134th out of 180 countries), alongside with Pakistan and Nicaragua. In 2007 – 2.7 (118th out of 179), in 2006 – 2.8 (99 out of 163), in 2005 – 2.6 (107th out of 158), in 2004 – 2.2 (122nd out of 145).³

Ukraine and neighbouring countries in the Transparency International 2009 study

| | Rank | Points |
|----------------|------------|------------|
| Poland | 49 | 5.0 |
| Latvia | 56 | 4.5 |
| Belarus | 139 | 2.4 |
| Ukraine | 146 | 2.2 |
| Russia | 146 | 2.2 |

Global Integrity

Global Integrity is an independent, non-profit organisation conducting surveys in the fields of management and fighting corruption.

Surveys of that organisation are highly detailed, using over 300 parameters (comments, references, expert assessments, etc.), divided into groups.

The categories that may indirectly witness the level of political corruption include: civil society; elections; administrations and civil services; fighting corruption and observance of the law.

The situation in Ukraine was assessed twice, in 2004 and 2007, using a 101-point scale (“0” – the worst situation, “100” – the best).⁴

Dynamic of Ukraine’s rank in Global Integrity studies

| | Subcategory | 2004 | 2007 |
|---|------------------------------------|-----------|-----------|
| 1. Civil society | | 77 | 86 |
| | 1.1 Civil society organisations | 89 | 95 |
| | 1.2 Media | 68 | 79 |
| | 1.3 Access to information | 74 | 85 |
| 2. Elections | | 70 | 73 |
| | 2.1 Voting & citizen participation | 83 | 98 |
| | 2.2 Election integrity | 82 | 80 |
| 3. Administrations and civil services | | 41 | 41 |
| | 3.1 Civil service regulations | 31 | 48 |
| | 3.2 Whistle-blowing measures | 0 | 2 |
| | 3.3 Procurement | 67 | 63 |
| 4. Fighting corruption and observance of the law | | 62 | 79 |
| | 4.1 Anti-corruption law | 57 | 100 |
| | 4.2 Anti-corruption agency | 72 | 66 |
| | 4.3 Access to justice | 55 | 83 |
| | 4.4 Law enforcement | 66 | 67 |

¹ See: All Indicators for One Country. – World Bank web site, http://info.worldbank.org/governance/wgi/sc_country.asp, http://info.worldbank.org/governance/wgi/sc_chart.asp

² See: Nations in Transit 2008. – Web site of the Freedom House, http://www.freedomhouse.hu/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=196

³ See: Corruption Perceptions Index 2009. – Transparency International web site, http://www.transparency.org/policy_research/surveys_indices/cpi/2009

⁴ See: Country assessments. – Global Integrity web site, <http://report.globalintegrity.org>