



Election campaign financing in Serbia – key problems and potential solutions

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Transparency Serbia published [analysis of key problems](#) related to election campaign financing in Serbia and recommendations for their resolving.

This material we presented to the public, representatives of academic community and political parties on the meeting "Dialogue on elections 2020", organized by the Foundation for an Open Society and Faculty of Political Sciences on 9.8.2019. At the meeting we also presented main recommendations from [publication "Officials' Campaign as a Form of Abuse of Public Resources"](#)

Among other, this text points out to treatment of these issues in the planning documents of Serbia, analyze recommendations of ODIHR, GRECO and European Commission, emphasizes key loopholes of the Law on Financing of Political Activities, in other regulations and recent practice of the Agency and RAEM.

Recommendations of TS for priority proceedings, among other, request that:

Ministry of Justice should establish working group for amending the Anticorruption Agency Law in the part that refers to separation of public and political function (article 29), or the Law on Preventing Corruption (article 50), to complete and specify this provision, having in mind recommendations of ODIHR and findings of independent monitoring.

Ministry of Justice should establish working group for sending regulations related to criminal prosecution of criminal acts that are related to illegal financing of the campaign.

Ministry of Culture and Informing and Ministry of Trade should establish working group that would deal with resolving of most urgent matters of amending media legislation and regulations on state and political advertising, before comprehensive reforms that will take place after adoption of Media Strategy occur.

National Assembly should organize public hearing related to report of the Anticorruption Agency about implementation of the National Anticorruption Strategy and on the occasion of recent reports on financing of the campaign and control of financing of the campaign and to elect missing members of the Council of RAEM and the Board of Anticorruption Agency.



Regulatory Body for Electronic Media should define the rules for proceeding of media related to the campaign, as well as to adopt internal rules for proceedings of RAEM related to campaign monitoring, in the scope of existing legal framework and after its change, as well as to publish these rules.

Anticorruption Agency should define the rules on proceeding in the control of financing of the election campaign, parallel to changes of legal framework and to publish these rules.

During the preparation of all stated regulations it is necessary to provide adequate participation of experts, state organs and political subjects, but also holding of public debate.

Public Prosecution, Anticorruption Agency, RAEM and other authorized organs to address the public call to all those that have knowledge of violation of rules and to report about it confidentially and timely by publishing of the results of investigation and information about undertaken measures. These organs should publish findings of the research and information about undertaken measures related to irregularities from previously held elections, as well as by topics that came up in the period in-between elections.

Recent announcement of establishing of working group of the Government „that will cooperate with ODIHR in further reform of the election process,“ if representatives of other state organs are involved accordingly, could potentially play the role of the coordinator in above mentioned reforms, to insure respecting of deadlines necessary for the reforms to show some effect before the beginning of the campaign for the next parliamentary elections.