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Volume 59, 2007 - [Issue 2](#)

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Original Articles

'Red Mobs', 'Yuppies', 'Lamb Heads' and Others: Contacts, Informal Networks and Politics in the Czech Republic, Slovenia, Bulgaria and Romania

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Pages 217-252 | Published online: 19 Feb 2007

🗨️ Cite this article

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Notes

I would like to thank the anonymous reviewers as well as Einar Braathen, Martin Hanssen, Arne Tesli and Aadne Aasland for their useful comments.

¹A comparison of each country's score on Transparency International's corruption perception index for 2001 and 2005 shows that there has been very little improvement in terms of reducing corruption in all countries except Slovenia. On a scale ranging from 1 to 10, where 1 represents high levels of corruption and 10 represents low levels of corruption, Bulgaria was given a score of 3.9 in 2001 and 4.0 in 2005. Romania's score for 2001 was 2.8. In 2005 the score had improved by 0.2 to 3.0. The Czech Republic fared rather worse with a score of 3.9 in 2001, compared to 4.3 in 2005. In contrast, Slovenia's score for 2001 was 5.2, compared to 6.1 for 2005. Source: www.transparency.org, accessed 15 June 2006.

²In February 1999, 39% of those polled said they considered almost all or most of Bulgarian politicians to be corrupt. By January 2002 the percentage had risen to 47.78%.

³Alena V. Ledeneva, 'How Russia Really Works', Open Democracy, Feature Article, 16 January 2002, available at: http://www.opendemocracy.net/globalization/article_253.jsp, accessed 15 June 2006.

⁴As reduced corruption is a key factor in attracting foreign investment, applicant states, to be successful in securing membership, must demonstrate progress on the one hand, and a commitment to reform on the other.

⁵The project was funded by the European Union (contract number EV5V-CT93-56/730) and carried out by the Centre for the Study of Institutions and Population Change, Maribor University, Slovenia. The project was coordinated by the Maribor University of Applied Sciences, Faculty of Social Sciences, Department of Sociology/Anthropology.

⁶Each informant was interviewed in their own language by professional translators. The interview guide. The interview guide was structured as follows: (1) general information about the respondent; (2) officials; (4) prosecutors and judges; (5) national business representatives; (6) international

business representatives; (7) media representatives; (8) national and international NGOs; and (9) EU/Council of Europe representatives and national government officials working in the field of anti-corruption.

⁷English language transcripts of the interviews were coded in QSR NUD*IST (version 4). The text unit—the basic unit to be coded—was defined as a respondent's answer to a question. Some double-coding did occur in cases where the respondent's answer to a question addressed issues covered by more than one node. In other cases respondents provided answers to one question when answering others. Furthermore, some respondents failed to answer all the questions. The total number of text units (N) in the tables below therefore does not always correspond to the total number of respondents interviewed, although findings in this article are also based on a count of the respondents who answered the questions referred to in the article in the same way. Once the dataset had been coded, the total number of text units coded at each node was recorded and percentaged. Further, we created nine independent variables—one for each category of respondents included in the project—and cross-tabulated these against the dependent variables. The total number of text units retrieved from each cross-tabulation was inserted in tables and percentaged.

⁸Quotations are marked as follows: El-r (elected representative); PP (political party representative); N-bus (representative of national, i.e. local company); L-bus (representative of local company); NGO (NGO representative); G-off (government official); G-off (government official); E (Council of Europe representative); C (country representative); R (respondent interviewed within the country); and F (findings).

⁹Finding... representative... columns to... (Other) are... presented...

¹⁰Zhan V... 1996 and... Bulgaria... on 13

February 1997.

¹¹Lyuben Berov was prime minister in Bulgaria's first non-communist government for 46 years, from 1992 to September 1994, when he resigned from office.

¹²Partidul România Mare, or the Greater Romania Party, is a party to the far right, headed by Vadim Tudor.

¹³Maramures is located in the north-western part of Romania, along the border with Ukraine. It is considered to be the most isolated and underdeveloped part of the country.

¹⁴At the time of interviewing, Octav Cozmanca was Romanian Minister of Public Administration.

¹⁵These findings are rather surprising in that corruption in Romania—at least if one is to judge by Transparency International's corruption perception index—is more extensive than in the Czech Republic. One explanation might be that an anti-corruption campaign was launched in Romania some time before we collected our data. Romania has also been—and still is—under heavy pressure from the EU to reduce levels of corruption. Our findings might therefore to some extent reflect a certain caution on the part of the respondents in this regard—although it is of course also possible that requests for favours regard to status with

¹⁶Iliescu (Frontul Salvării Naționale) was elected President of Romania in May 1990. In May 1992 for the first time a President was elected by the people in elections.

¹⁷For a more detailed discussion of corruption in Romania see [World Bank \(2000, 2001\)](#).


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