TRANSPARENCY INTERNATIONAL

ANNUAL REPORT 2023

KYRGYZSTAN

Score	Rank	Score change
26/100	141/180	↓ -1 since 2022

26

GLOBAL AVERAGE

Kyrgyzstan scored 26 points out of 100 and ranked 141st out of 180 countries.
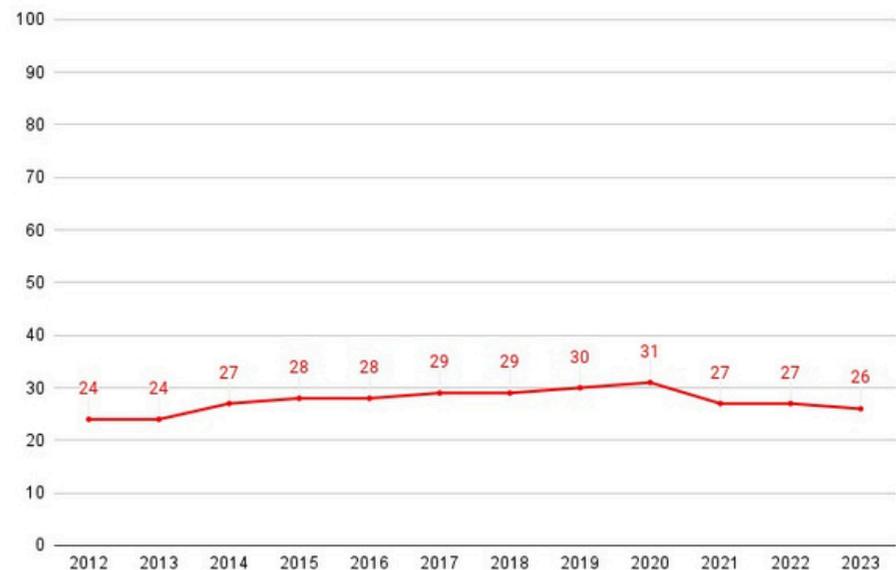
Transparency International's Corruption Perceptions Index (CPI) is a composite index measuring the level of perception of corruption in the public sector in various countries. It is based on surveys of experts and entrepreneurs conducted by independent organizations around the world and has been published annually since

1995. The CPI results of different years can be compared since 2012. Countries are ranked on a scale from 0 to 100, with zero representing the highest level of corruption perception and 100 the lowest.

The CPI 2023 is topped by Denmark (90), Finland (87) and New Zealand (85). South Sudan, Syria (13) and Somalia (12) rank last.

Among Central Asian countries, Kazakhstan has three points more than last year, and Uzbekistan has two points more than last year. Tajikistan (20) andTurkmenistan (18) have the lowest scores.

Kyrgyzstan's score has been worsened over the past four years, scoring 31 points in 2020 and 27 points in 2021 and 2022

The Digital Technologies for civic empowerment (DT4CE) project, funded by the European Union (EU) and implemented by Transparency International Secretariat and Transparency International Kyrgyzstan aims to empower civil society through digital technologies. The project focuses on making direct and interactive digital tools more accessible. Its primary objectives include empowering citizens to hold duty bearers accountable, claiming their legitimate interests, and strengthening the capacities of Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) and youth to leverage digital technology for advancing public policy.

Hackathons

In 2023, Transparency International Kyrgyzstan held four hackathons under the project "Digital Technologies for Civic Empowerment (DT4CE) in Kyrgyzstan" with the support of the Delegation of the European Union to the Kyrgyz Republic. Students from various universities took part in these events.

The first hackathon "IT for Better Roads in Kyrgyzstan"

The first hackathon "IT for Better Roads in Kyrgyzstan" was held on May 5 and 6. The goal of the event was to create a platform containing an interactive map of the republic's roads, including up-to-date information on the roads repaired and repaired over the past three years and road sections requiring repair work. 25 teams took part in the hackathon. road sections requiring repair work. 25 teams took part in the hackathon.

According to the results of the event, the third place was awarded to the team "NAS" (Kyrgyz State Technical University named after I. Razzakov), the second place - to the team "Manas VM" ("Manas" Kyrgyz-Turkish University), and the first place was not awarded to anyone because the jury considered that the performance of the teams did not meet the criteria of the goals and objectives of the hackathon.

The second hackathon "Let's Go Digital 3.0" jointly with Codify Lab took place on June 17 and 18. The goal of the event was to create a platform that would simplify the interaction between citizens and the state. 36 teams took part in the hackathon.

According to the results of the hackathon, the third place was taken by the team "Manas" ("Manas" Kyrgyz-Turkish University), the second place - "INAI" (Kyrgyz-German Institute of Applied Informatics), and the first place was awarded to the team "Manas VM" ("Manas" Kyrgyz-Turkish University).

The third hackathon "IT for Better Laws in Kyrgyzstan"

The third hackathon "IT for Better Laws in Kyrgyzstan" was held on September 23 and 24. The goal of the event was to create a platform to support and promote civil legislative initiative in the Kyrgyz Republic with the help of digital technologies. 20 teams took part in the hackathon.

According to the results of the event, the third place was awarded to the team "Shantaram" ("Manas" Kyrgyz-Turkish University, "Ala-Too" International University), the second place to "INAI" (Kyrgyz-German Institute of Applied Informatics), and the first place was taken by the team "Mozgohack" (AUCA, INAI, "Manas" KTU, "Ala-Too" IU, Compass College).

The fourth hackathon "IT for Better Public Procurement" was held on November 4 and 5. The goal of the event is to create a platform for the involvement of citizens and entrepreneurs in the process of public procurement in the Kyrgyz Republic with the help of digital technologies. 25 teams took part in the hackathon.

According to the results of the hackathon, the third place was awarded to the team "Brainhack" (AUCA, INAI, "Manas" KTU, "Ala-Too" IU, Compass College), the second place to "reduX", and the first place was awarded to the team "Manas VM" ("Manas" Kyrgyz-Turkish University).

In Kyrgyzstan, the government is making efforts to transition public services to a digital format, with the operation of the e-government services portal and the public procurement portal. Public demand for open data is also very high, and internet penetration is steadily increasing. The country has joined the Open Government Partnership initiative, committing to promote and implement open data policies. However, the efforts by governments to fully embrace digital technologies still fall short of public expectations, even in developed countrieshere is an urgent need to involve civil society organizations (CSOs) and especially the youth in the digitalization process to meet societal needs.

Without addressing the problem of public apathy and distrust toward engaging with the government, and without providing them with tools for accountability, it is impossible to expand civic participation in government activities.

The application of digital technologies to engage citizens in government interaction is one of the priority areas of TI Kyrgyzstan's strategy. Based on the experience of other chapters and to test the demand in Kyrgyzstan, two pilot platforms were launched: (1) Bilem.kg, providing continuous access to simple and understandable instructions in accessible language on how to obtain public services, including their cost, and templates and forms of necessary documents, and (2) Jol.kg, containing specific information on road construction and repair where users can report on road condition and receive information about its construction.

During the project, existing platforms were reworked and upgraded, considering the experience and lessons learned from other TI chapters (Hungary, Georgia, Russia, and Ukraine). In addition to the existing platforms, two more were developed: one for monitoring road construction and repairs,

and the other focused on informing the general public about the state services provided, overcoming administrative barriers, and simplifying the interaction of citizens with the government.

To ensure that the functionality of the platforms and mobile applications meets users' needs in achieving the set goals, TI-Kyrgyzstan works with interested universities and IT companies to conduct separate hackathons for each of the four platforms and corresponding mobile applications. This will help increase the effectiveness of the hackathons by involving students and faculty from these universities, as well as business representatives. On the other hand, it will also help actively disseminate information about the project, platforms, and their use.

As a result of the hackathons, technical specifications and gamification rules were developed for the four complementary electronic platforms and mobile applications, concerning public procurement, civic legislative initiatives, public road construction, as well as instructions on interacting with government institutions in user-friendly language;

creating a space through the platforms for meetings and forums aimed at activists, for civil society to gain additional knowledge and clarity through peer exchange, information sharing, and online debates, and providing an up-to-date database and documents on government legal and procedural issues in a user-friendly language for citizens of Kyrgyzstan.

Simultaneously, to strengthen the capacity of CSOs and youth in using digital technologies to promote public policy, this initiative will develop the capacity and skills of CSOs and citizens in using digital tools as a means of anticorruption activity and civic work; it will also provide information and legal consultations for citizens on issues related to corruption, as well as administrative issues for youth and women civic activists.

Collectively, these actions will enable various factions of civil society to equip and expand their opportunities for active communication and ensuring accountability in the public sector through digital means. Such intervention will contribute to the proper flow and access to information, the expansion of civic space, and the enhancement of the honesty and integrity of government institutions in Kyrgyzstan.

In December of 2023 there was a launch of "Jol.kg" and "Bilem" platforms.
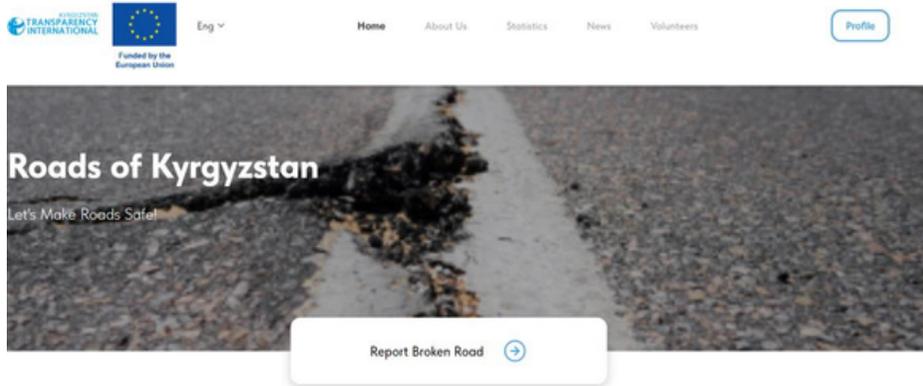

"Jol.kg" platform is aimed at monitoring road construction and repair, containing an interactive map to provide access to information on roads and streets repaired in recent years, including cost of works, contractor details, warranty periods, links to procurement documents and other information on works. The users can report defects on roads and fix them, vote on the priority of road repairs and provide feedback in a convenient format. They can mark a point or section of road on a map and tell about its condition and quality by attaching pictures as evidence.

The purpose of the "Jol.kg" platform is to ensure that citizens' appeals about the condition of roads reach the authorities.

If the authorities took into account the appeal and repaired a certain road section, the moderator will change the status to "Repaired" and add information about the road repair
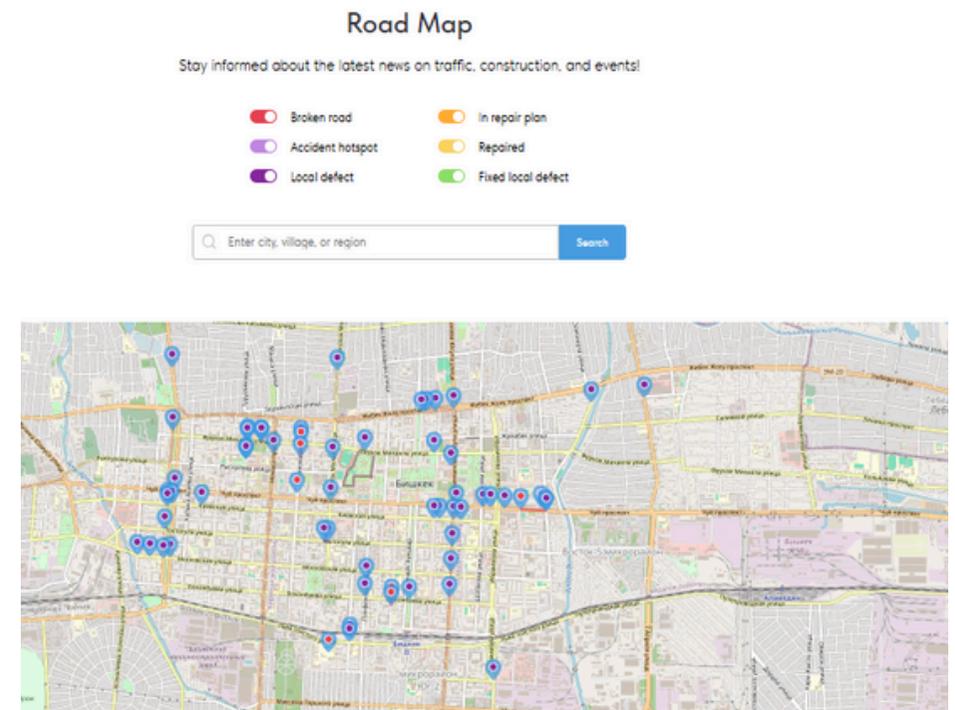
The "Bilem" platform serves as a vital tool in empowering civil society by providing citizens with comprehensive access to essential state services. It is designed to break down the administrative barriers that often hinder effective interaction with government bodies. By utilizing this platform, users can gain in-depth knowledge about their rights and the obligations of various government agencies, ensuring they are well-informed and capable of advocating for themselves
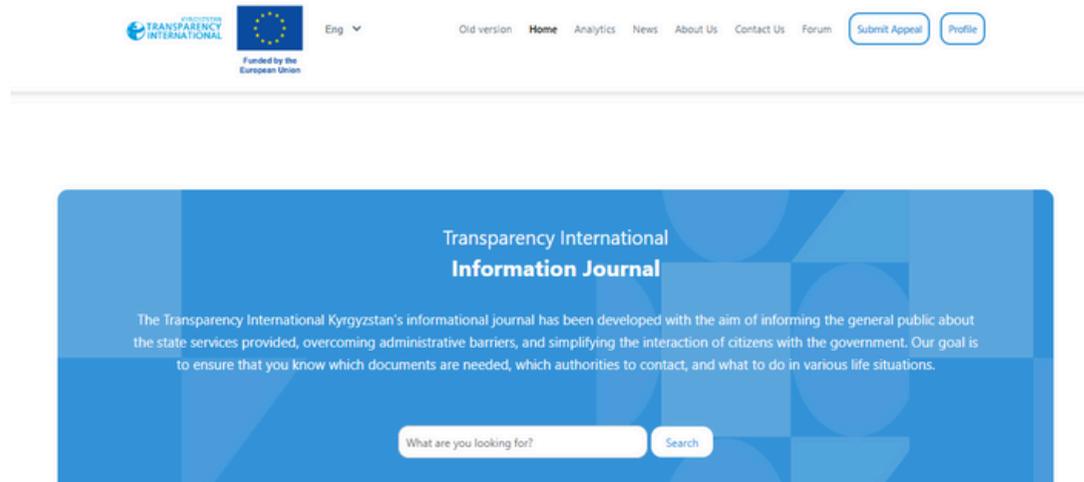
Moreover, "Bilem" plays a crucial role in the fight against corruption by fostering transparency and accountability within governmental processes. Citizens can access detailed information on how to navigate bureaucratic procedures, including where to find and how to complete necessary forms and documents. The platform also provides up-to-date information on the working hours, locations, and contact details of relevant government organizations, making it easier for users to connect with the services they require.

Through the "Bilem" platform, citizens are not just passive recipients of information but active participants in the governance process. This initiative is a cornerstone in building a more transparent, responsive, and accountable government, thereby strengthening the overall fabric of civil society.