Anti-corruption WG notes - 6/5/2014

Attended: Gina; Kristin; Michael; Alisher

1. Conceptual framework. It was agreed that the anti-corruption portfolio may consists of three components, provided we got enough capacities: 1) grand corruption; 2) institutional corruption; 3) transparency & accountability (the T&A component wouldn’t include extracting industries, to avoid duplication with RWI and PWYP. It may focus on public procurement; cotton and silk cocoons export revenues; national and local budgets). But it will depend on whether we’d be able to come up with meaningful ideas to cover all three components.
2. The key issue is to engage with NFs and get them interested in collaboration. To meet their interests EP could provide a platform for exchange of information and experience; to study and disseminate best experience. EP could also work to creating the coalition/network of local experts and relevant program coordinators. To better understand the needs of NFs we started mapping areas of their interest and local capacities.
3. We discussed division of labor within the group, so here is what we have agreed with:
   1. Michael – 1) will help to engage with Azerbaijani activists, journalists and experts and coordinate everything related to Azerbaijan; 2) work on commissioning research and papers. The first topic of interest is political economy and the state capture in Armenia (Michael, who is the expert?).
   2. Kristin - not sure if electricity will be continued next year, wants to work on grand corruption in Russia, but will explore the windows of opportunities and constraints and get back to us next week, before making final decisions.
   3. Gina – kindly agreed to work as a liaison in our communication and engagement with NFs and help to establish contacts with program coordinators, local NGOs and experts.
   4. Alisher – 1) will continue working on the agenda of grand corruption that for the moment covers Uzbekistan, but is already extending to Turkmenistan and Azerbaijan (thanks to the OCCRP project); 2) will explore the possibility of cooperation with CEIP (Sarah Chayes), that already has its own program on kleptocracy, on the matter of organizing a workshop possibly with the following title: Corruption, Legitimacy and Sovereignty, which will be the first step towards building a coalition of experts and NGOs. Alternative option (as a hosting agency) is TI. Another such an opportunity to bring local experts is the conference we’re planning in Bern this fall; 3)   Topics for other workshops: Bota Fund; public procurement; institutional corruption, etc.