Do Transitions have to be Corrupt? A Case Study of Slovakia
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Abstract
Corruption has emerged as one of the most significant challenges to governance and economic development in countries of Eastern Europe and the Former Soviet Union. This paper analyzes a case study of a relatively successful three-year anticorruption program in the Slovak Republic. It discusses the three prerequisites to a successful anticorruption program: initial conditions, which are the condition of institutions, civil society and entrepreneurship at the start of transition; political will, which is the commitment of government to fight corruption; and pressure on government to reform, which includes internal pressure from citizens and external pressure from multilateral and bilateral organizations. The analysis shows that whereas the initial conditions were strong in Slovakia, it was the generation of political will and the existence of great internal and external pressure that led to the successful implementation of the anticorruption program. Slovakia’s case indicates that leadership able to generate political will and put pressure on government to reform is of utmost importance in a large-scale anticorruption program.