

Social anti-corruption measures



Corruption

- ▣ **lat. corrumpo** - to break up, destroy, annihilate
/to spoil, to weaken (1.)
- ▣ “Improper and usually unlawful conduct intended to secure a benefit for oneself or another. Its forms include bribery, extortion and the misuse of inside information. It exists where there is community indifference or a lack of enforcement policies. In societies with a culture of ritualized gift giving, the line between acceptable and unacceptable gifts is often hard to draw” (2.)

Corruption as a society disease

- ▣ It is considered as normal (*Everybody behaves in such a manner, why shouldn't I ?*)
- ▣ Moral issue
- ▣ Distorted image of the true nature of corruption- the road to the destruction of their own economy, political system and society as a whole
- ▣ Lack of motive, will and incentives to fight corruption (*My individual impact does not make a difference...*)

Anti- corruption measures

□ Institutional measures

□ Social measures

1. *Limiting governmental authority*

2. *Improving accountability*

3. *Realigning incentives*

Raising public awareness and motivating the society to fight corruption

1. Public awareness raising and education

- ▣ Educating people to recognize it when it occurs
- ▣ A priority of a government
- ▣ Different target groups but only one important message
- ▣ General public or specific audiences
- ▣ Target groups:
political parties, public/private sector workers, civil society organizations, scholars and students...
- ▣ Time and consistency

1. Public awareness raising and education

Methods:

- Media and Internet
- Seminars, workshops
- Public enquiries or hearings
- Surveys
- Criminal law
- Publication of information about investigations and prosecutions
- A national anti-corruption strategy
- Research papers
- National/international, governmental/non-governmental materials (manuals, conventions, toolkits..)



2. Public participation raising

- ▣ The opportunity to oversee the government
- ▣ Checks and balances
- ▣ Engagement in political activity
- ▣ Public right to service and responsibility to avoid and report corrupt practices
- ▣ Rules and expectations how public officials should behave
- ▣ Encouragement and support
- ▣ Monitoring implementation of anti corruption measures
- ▣ Contribution to the development of strategies and involvement in anti-corruption bodies
- ▣ Trust in the Government

3. Public complaints mechanisms

- ▣ Correct the mistake and improve the system.
- ▣ Anyone who becomes aware of corruption to report it to the authorities
- ▣ A sense of public empowerment
- ▣ Guidelines
- ▣ Balance between the protection of "whistleblowers", victims and witnesses and the request for liability
- ▣ Anti-corruption bodies - agencies, ombudsman, inspectors...



4. Access to information

- ▣ Freedom to seek and receive information
- ▣ Accurate and in due time
- ▣ Fast and simple information searching and screening
- ▣ User initiated
- ▣ Restricted only exceptionally by a law
- ▣ Public institutions have to publish information about their work



5. Media training and investigative journalism



- ❑ Freedom to publish and disseminate information
- ❑ Exposing corrupt acts puts pressure to act in conformity with the rules
- ❑ Autonomy of the media –credible information
- ❑ Deciding which information to report and which to leave out (“gatekeeping”)
- ❑ Training, awareness-raising of media personnel
- ❑ Investigative journalism- risks
- ❑ Obtaining information ethically
- ❑ Mechanisms to monitor the media itself and the integrity of journalists



6. Civil society

- ▣ Ideas from outside bodies and experts
- ▣ Joint government/civil society bodies - e.g. boards, commissions, anti-corruption observatories
- ▣ Monitoring the implementation of reforms
- ▣ Independent strategies
- ▣ “Early warning systems”
- ▣ All interests have to be taken into consideration
- ▣ Controlling local officials



7. Citizens' charters

- ▣ Basic standards
- ▣ Complementary to codes of conduct
- ▣ For users and providers of a service
- ▣ A remedy or a complaint if the standards are not satisfied
- ▣ High quality, efficient and effective public services
- ▣ Training and awareness-raising of officials

An educated, informed and aware society can:

- ▣ Overlook it's leaders conduct
- ▣ Act as deterrence on individuals who tend to practice corruption
- ▣ Successfully prosecute corruption offences and reduce corruption to a minimal level



References

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Thank you for
your attention!