

*Anti-Corruption in  
Southeast Europe:  
Delivering Better  
Governance through  
Synergies among  
Civil Society  
Stakeholders*



**CORRUPTION**  
Your **NO** counts

H. Visser  
European Commission - DG NEAR

# Corruption & the World

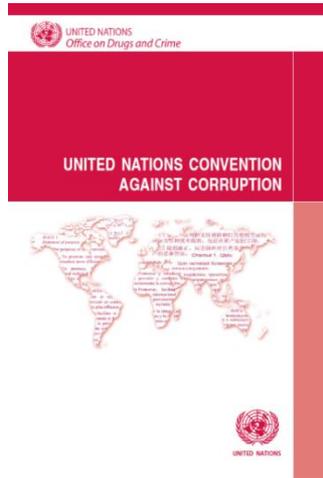


*"There is no peace without development, no development without peace, and there is no lasting peace or sustainable development without respect for human rights and rule of law"*

**UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon**

*"Corruption is the thief of economic and social development; stealing the opportunities of ordinary people to progress and to prosper"*

**Executive Director UNODC Yury Fedotov**



# RoL: What it means



“[...] A system **where laws are applied and enforced** [...] but also the spirit of the law and fundamental rights, which are the ultimate foundation of all laws. The rule of law means a system in which no one [...] is above the law; it means **equality before the law**. The rule of law also means fairness and due process. It means guarantees that **laws cannot be abused** for alien purposes, or retrospectively changed. The rule of law means that justice is upheld by an **independent judiciary**, acting impartially. It means ultimately a **system where justice is not only done, but it is seen to be done**, so that the system can be trusted by citizens to deliver justice.”

**Viviane REDING, Former Vice-President of the European Commission and EU Justice Commissioner, 4.9.2013**

# Corruption defined



the abuse of public office for private gain

World Bank



the promise or giving of any undue payment or other advantages whether directly or through intermediaries to, or for the benefit of, a public official to influence the official to act or refrain from acting in the performance of his or her official duties in order to obtain or retain business

OECD Working Group

# Key words



- Behaviour
- Willing actors
- Dependency
- Trust being exploited
- Gain or treatment not available to others
- Systems



The political  
commitment to  
really root out  
corruption seems  
to be missing”

Cecilia Malmstroem

EU Home Affairs  
Commissioner

**While corruption of some form or another may inhere in every human community, the system of governance has a great impact on its level and scope of practice. Systems can corrupt people as much as, if not more than, people are capable of corrupting systems.**





## **Main tasks**

- 1. Inform & Educate**
- 2. Monitor & Expose**
- 3. Advocate & Advise**

**One can do all or  
each CSO can do one**

**CSOs need to inform each other, co-ordinate their actions, check their facts, monitor each other, mobilise**

**Good cop, Bad cop  
+ Prosecutor controlling these cops**



European  
Commission

Thank  
You!!

Email: [henk.visser@ec.europa.eu](mailto:henk.visser@ec.europa.eu)

## 1. Inform & Educate (change culture)

- laws, costs, victims, ethics



<http://www.indonesia-digest.net/2540analysis.htm>





## 2. Monitor & Expose

- implementation of laws, systems, procedures
- use of resources (staff)
- compare with other countries
- track and trace
- involve law enforcement





## 3. Advocate & Advise

- urge people to take action
- urge politicians / administrators to take action
- provide recommendations
- identify and assist victims

You can **stop**  
**CORRUPTION**

A graphic illustration of two red silhouettes of people standing and shaking hands. The silhouettes are positioned in front of the word "CORRUPTION", with the word "COR" partially obscured by the figures. The silhouettes cast long, grey shadows to the right.

# EU Anti-Corruption Report



## **Main findings:**

**Corruption costs EU economy +/- 120 billion euros/year.**

**76% of Europeans think corruption is widespread**

**56% think it increased in their country**

**8% have experienced or witnessed corruption**

**Report calls for stronger integrity standards in the area of public procurement and suggests improvements in control mechanisms in some Member States.**

**Conclusion: Corruption deserves greater attention in all EU MS.**

# EU AC Report trends



## 1. Control mechanisms

- differences in preventive policies (e.g. ethical rules, awareness)
- in many MS internal controls are weak and uncoordinated
- conflict of interest rules vary across EU, mechanisms for checking are often insufficient and sanctions rarely applied and often weak

## 2. Prosecution and punishment

- rules making corruption a crime are in place but often uneven
- efficiency enforcement and prosecution of corruption varies
- comprehensive corruption crime statistics are missing in most MS
- procedural rules (e.g. lifting politician's immunity) obstruct cases

## 3. Political dimension

- political accountability and integrity still an issue in many EU MS
- shortcomings on party financing and sanctions rarely imposed

## 4. Risk areas

- corruption risks are generally higher at regional and local levels
- urban development and construction, health care, are vulnerable
- petty corruption remains a widespread problem only in few MS.



## Forces that drive up & spread corruption!

