

Activity 8.5: The Citizen in the European Union Area 8.5.1 Participation and citizenship in Europe

SSH.2011.5.1-1. „Corruption and resistance to corruption in the private and public sphere”

„The Challenge

Corruption erodes the development and maintenance of a sustainable economic, social and political environment. It retards economic growth by leading to the inefficient allocation of resources, increasing the cost of business, discouraging entrepreneurship and investor confidence, and reducing competition; corruption also raises ethical issues in the conduct of business as well as in public administration. It increases the cost and decreases the quality of public projects and services and derails the formulation or implementation of effective policies, e.g. environmental and health policy. The political consequences of widespread corruption, while less tangible, are no less real: corruption undermines the legitimacy of elected officials, democratic institutions, political parties, media and democratic values, reduces representation in policymaking, erodes rule of law, and impairs performance of public institutions. On the international level, the corruption of elites might be linked to the development and the prosperity, or the lack thereof, of a country. Thereby, corruption occurs in numerous forms, ranging from petty (low-) to macro, structural levels. It is often linked to trafficking, money laundering, tax evasion and tax heavens. However, compared to issues of financial fraud and tax evasion which may be linked, gains that are sought through corruption that will be focused will be achieved by granting material or immaterial advantages, e.g. by paying bribes and thereby undermining a level playing field for business, and a transparent just system of (good) administration. Corruption also involves important gender dimensions; it can increase social polarization and, in extreme cases, can trigger social and political upheaval. In addition, corruption may show a cultural and historical dimension. Thus analysing corruption and enhancing resistance to corruption (by public officials, economic actors, civil society organisations, individual citizens) is an important and complex challenge.

Why it matters for Europe

The issue is of vital importance to the economic, environmental, development, political and social welfare objectives of the EU. It is estimated that hundreds of billions of Euros are paid in bribes every year. Thus, the effectiveness of EU internal policies in areas such as transport, energy, telecommunications, and environmental protection as well as of its external policies – e.g. development assistance, trade- is influenced by the issue of corruption. The very credibility of EU and national institutions and policies is based, among others, on their own integrity and on their ability to prevent and fight corruption in the economic, political and other spheres. Different experiences exist within the EU with regard to how corruption is perceived, what its scope and nature is, whether it is linked to specific forms of organised crime and how it can be fought –including with a more or less prominent role of legislative measures, anti-corruption institutions, role of media and advocacy in unveiling corruption.

However, no country is spared and the phenomenon calls for comparative analysis of different cultures of corruption, identification of good practices and cooperation at EU and international levels.

Addressing the challenge

Research dimensions to be taken into consideration:

- Comparative historical, social, legal, anthropological and political research on the causes, nature, and scope of corruption and the factors contributing to the emergence, spread and persistence of corruption (from petty to structural) in administration, business, finance,

science, political parties, enforcement agencies and other spheres.

- Analysis of anti-corruption legislation in Europe, the functioning of anti-corruption and enforcement institutions and the effectiveness of judicial and other measures to combat corruption.
- Comparative research on corruption worldwide, focussing on the impact on development and governance in the emerging economies and less developed countries and the significance for EU international cooperation policies.
- Research on professional and business behaviour and ethics and on transparency procedures as they apply to a range of domains such as medicine, law, media, public sector and finance –including the implications of career shifts from public administration to lobbying organisations and vice versa.
- Sociological and media studies research on the public perception of corruption and its influence on behaviour and attitudes –including on the willingness to take legal or civic action against it, or contributing to apathy and disempowerment.
- Research on the gender relationship, gender dynamics and gender patterns of corruption and anti-corruption in a comparative perspective, including gender sensitive options for fighting corruption, e.g. encourage and enable women to seek assistance from anti-corruption measures or bodies.“

Funding scheme: Collaborative project (large scale integrated research project)

Für dieses Förderthema ist als Förderinstrument ein **Collaborative project¹ (large-scale integrating project)** vorgegeben.

Die **minimale Fördersumme für Projektanträge in diesem Topic liegt bei 6,5 Mio. € pro Antrag.**

Diese Summe stellt eine Mindestanforderung dar. Projektanträge, die eine finanzielle Unterstützung der Europäischen Kommission unterhalb dieser Grenze beantragen, werden nicht zur Evaluierung zugelassen.

An Projektanträgen müssen mindestens 7 voneinander unabhängige Partner aus mindestens 7 Mitglieds- oder Assoziierten Staaten beteiligt sein.

Dieses Topic ist unter dem **Call-Identifizier FP7-SSH-2011-1** ausgeschrieben. Projektanträge mit diesem Förderinstrument müssen bis zum **02. Februar 2011, 17:00 Uhr** (Ortszeit Brüssel) per [EPSS \(„Electronic Proposal Submission Service“\)](#) eingereicht werden.

Alle notwendigen Unterlagen zur Einreichung von Anträgen zu diesem Topic finden Sie auf der [Cordis-Webseite](#).

Bitte wenden Sie sich bei Fragen zur Antragstellung jederzeit an die Nationale Kontaktstelle Sozial-, Wirtschafts- und Geisteswissenschaften!

Unsere Kontaktdaten finden Sie unter:

<http://www.nks-swg.de/de/ansprechpartner.php>

¹ Verbundprojekte („*Collaborative Research Projects*“, CP) sind Forschungsprojekte, die von Konsortien mit Partnern aus verschiedenen Ländern und dem Ziel durchgeführt werden, neues Wissen, neue Technologien, Produkte, Verfahren oder Dienstleistungen zu entwickeln. Größe, Gegenstandsbereich und interne Organisation der Projekte können je nach Förderbereich und thematischem Schwerpunkt unterschiedlich gestaltet sein. Prinzipiell unterscheidet man zwischen kleinen bis mittelgroßen Verbundprojekten („*small or medium-scale focused research projects*“) und großen integrierten Projekten („*large-scale integrating projects*“).