

PREVENTING CORRUPTION AND STRENGTHENING ETHICS IN CENTRAL AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

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INTRODUCTION

- **Democracy is one of the three pillars of the European constitutional patrimony with human rights and law primacy**
- **Corruption creates exclusions at the human, political and economical level**
- **But, corruption destroys the necessary confidence between population and its representatives**
- **It's a necessity to strengthen Ethics in central and local Government and in the private sector to protect individual rights as well as legitimate State interests**

SPECIALISED ENTITY

- **Question :**

Is the creation of a new and specialised entity the appropriate solution for strengthening ethics among civil officials ?

OBJECTIVES

Questions :

- **What is Your priority ? Fighting or preventing corruption, money laundering, economical crimes... or increasing ethics**
- **Who is concerned ? Members of Government, politicians, civil servants, public officials, the population in general.**
- **To which problem is the public opinion more sensitive ?**

ACTION PLAN

- **Acting simultaneously on prevention, sanction and education,**
- **Taking into account the short, medium and long term,**
- **Acting for obtaining the adhesion of the population**

- **Changing the mentality of the population**
- **Strengthening honesty and probity of the public officials (elected or not)**

- **Creating a specialised entities is one of the possible means**

FOREIGN EXAMPLES

- **The oldest agency was created in Hong Kong but it was in charge of fight, prevention and education,**
- **The oldest preventive agency in Europe is the French SCPC (Central Agency for Prevention of Corruption),**
- **There are a few other examples of entities only in charge of prevention**
- **Among other activities they are developing Ethics in the public and private sectors**

WHAT MEANS ETHICS

It exists differences between :

- **Moral (rules for the life in a society),**
- **Ethics (personal rules),**
- **Deontology (professional rules)**
- **Conduct (a code of conduct is a list of general rules to be applied by a group of people)**
- **Responsibility (make the difference between being responsible of..., or taking responsibility when acting) – the first means guilty ; the second able to assume the decision taken**

HOW TO PROMOTE ETHICS ?

Using appropriate tools :

- **Setting standards**
- **Promoting and monitoring standards**
- **Ensuring transparency and publicity of information**
- **Training**
- **Exchanging experiences in order to identify good practices**

EXAMPLES OF GOOD PRACTICES

- **Codes of conduct, competition for recruitment, promotion of the most efficient people,**
- **Developing capacities by training...**
- **Mapping the risks (human, managerial, organisational... using whistle blowing),**
- **Reducing the risks (management, control, audit, transparency, publicity...),**
- **Not forgetting sanctioning the faults (which means : existence of a law and implementation of this law) but never punish good faith and due diligence.**

CONCLUSION

STRENGTHENING ETHICS

- **A LONG TERM ACTION**
- **A PART OF A MULTIDISCIPLINARY STRATEGY (combining education, sanction and prevention),**
- **A REAL POLITICAL WILL (namely for sanctioning everybody),**
- **AN IMPORTANT ROLE PLAYED BY EDUCATION (beginning at school),**
- **AN IMPORTANT ROLE PLAYED BY THE MEDIAS (promotion of honesty).**

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR
ATTENTION**

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