

ETHICS, INTEGRITY AND THE FIGHT AGAINST CORRUPTION

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Abstract: *The authors of the paper address a current topic that raises a wide-ranging debate in literature, referring to the way in which ethics, integrity and the fight against corruption should be viewed and expressed, as well as how anti-corruption education could be understood of the younger generation.*

Key words: *corruption, anti-corruption, transparency, education, accountability*

Conceptual delimitations

ETHICS according to DEX represents all norms of moral conduct which rule human relations and attitude towards society, of a particular social class, of state, country, family etc.

The range of norms based on which a human group is ruling its conduct to differentiate what is legitimate and acceptable in achieving its goals; morality

INTEGRITY represents the feeling of dignity, justice and consciousness, which governs the human conduct; honesty; morality; probity.

ANTICORRUPTION is the fight against corruption.

What is an anticorruption management system?

It is obvious that the fight against corruption, both on national level and on the level of European Union, needs an integrated strategic approach

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which has both prevention and repression role and which may be supported by a coalition. This includes interested parties of the (1) State and government institutions, (2) business environment and businessmen and also increasingly (3) on behalf of citizens and organizations of civil society, such as NGOs, organizations of academic research and lobby groups which push the political agenda towards their needs, such as environment protection, promotion of the environment rescue policies, promotion of human rights – individual freedom, peace, disarmament, equality, integrity and fight against corruption.

The implementation of an anticorruption management system needs leadership and intervention from the top management, whereas the policy and program must be communicated to the entire staff and external parties such as contractors, suppliers and partners of mergers of companies. Thus, it supports the reduction of the risk of occurrence of bribery and may prove to your management, employees, owners, sponsors, clients and other business partners that you have enforced anticorruption safety measures and a good practice internationally acknowledged. Also, in case of criminal investigation, it may provide you with the evidence of taking the steps necessary to prevent corruption.

The anticorruption management system, based on a range of measures and means of control, including on directory lines of support, presents the prerequisites related to the following issues:

- Adopting a policy and procedures of fight against corruption;
- Proving its commitment by the management structures;
- Training in the spirit of fight against corruption;
- Appointing a person who may supervise the conformity to this policy;
- Evaluation of corruption risks related to some projects or some commercial partners;
- Implementation of financial, commercial or contractual control means, as well as in the field of procurement;
- Initiation of procedures of reporting, supervision, inspection, and audit;
- Amending actions and of continuous improvement.

Corruption and anticorruption in Romania

If the corruption phenomenon is considered partly a consequence of communist past, anticorruption is an effort mainly constituted with external support and pressure. The adhesion of Romania to EU and NATO represented the first step taken by the government of Romania towards building a legal and institutional frame. Although the process was difficult due to political pressures – considering that the former nomenclature was an important factor in the post-communist transition and still has a visible role – the anticorruption frame, which includes the National Anticorruption Directorate or the National Agency for Integrity, has started to perform changes since the middle of 2000. However, the global indicators of perception of corruption (like European Commission, by Mechanism of Cooperation and Verification) constantly show the fact that Romania does not need a wider legislative or institutional frame, but more efforts and political will to fight against corruption.

The International Anticorruption Academy (*IACA-International Anti-Corruption Academy*) is the first international organization in the field of fight against corruption, with legal international personality. IACA operates based on the incorporation agreement opened for signing in September 2010 and officially became an international organization on 8th March 2011 with the goal of significantly supporting the fight against corruption. The seat of IACA is in Laxenburg, near Vienna.

IACA was initiated based on joint efforts of UN Office for Drugs and Criminality (UNODC), Austria and European Anti-Fraud Office (OLAF). IACA is operating as a center of excellence in the field of international cooperation in the fight against corruption, but also for the promotion of education, professional training and academic studies and has an important contribution to the efficient implementation of UN Convention against Corruption (UNCAC).

Among the objectives of Academy, we could mention:

- Approaching the corruption phenomenon in a wide and interdisciplinary manner;
- Professionalizing the anticorruption activity so as to reach the most modern standards;
- Performing a significant improvement of efficiency of institutions, organizations and individuals hired in the prevention and fight against corruption;

- Performing studies related to efficiency of anticorruption strategies and activities;
- Consolidating the existing dialogue, collaboration between the interested parties;
- Building partnerships with the interested parties involved;
- Performing searches with a view to elaborating strategies and efficient anticorruption activities;
- Developing standards and good practices in the field of anticorruption research and education.

The Academy intends to improve the knowledge and skills of individuals as well as the transparency and responsibility of institutions and organizations.

IACA is operating based on voluntary contributions of the parties to this agreement, contributions coming from private sector and other donors, participation fees, fees for organization of workshops and technical support, income from such contributions etc.

The training programs elaborated by IACA, including Master Program in the field of anticorruption include different cultural traditions and focus on the state requirements. Such programs cover a wide range of lectures, seminars, specific events, conferences and other training activities. The Academy will also organize *on-line courses and provide other on-line tools*.

Such programs invite the representatives of governmental agencies, international organizations, anticorruption agencies, authorities of law enforcement and judicial authorities, non-governmental organizations, civil society and private sector. The Academy intends to determine and maintain a global network of professionals.

The Academy is hiring academicians, specialists and other experts acknowledged on international level. They will organize searches in the field of anticorruption, instructions and assistance in investigations. The Academy shall promote exchanges between academics, students, public officers and practitioners in the private sector, as well as between experts and representatives of organizations of civil society on global level.

The anticorruption education is another component of National Anticorruption Strategy 2016-2020, meant to develop within the young generation and civil society skills such as integrity, morality, ethical skills and conducts.

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Within the young generation, integrity should be developed since childhood, the development of ethical feelings, a civic and moral culture being necessary to any normal society. The fight against corruption must start early in life and continue up to maturity, in all social environments, institutions of education, business environment, public institutions.

The attitude of each of us facing corruption must be firm. The power of personal example by contagion cannot eradicate the phenomenon, but it may reduce it, so as to turn integrity into virtue. A society generates conducts, perverts characters or not, provides patterns, whereas the models must be built, based on ethical attitudes, integrity and competence, regardless whether we refer to training institutions or civil society.



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