

# BEST PRACTICES IN COMBATING CORRUPTION



**osce**

Office of the Co-ordinator for Economic and Environmental Activities  
Kärntner Ring 5-7 ■ A-1010 Vienna, Austria  
Telephone (+43-1) 514 36-151 ■ Telefax (+43-1) 514 36-96 ■

## INTRODUCTION BY DR MARCIN ŚWIĘCICKI

*Co-ordinator of the Office of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities*

**“Power tends to corrupt; absolute power corrupts absolutely.”**

– British historian Lord Acton, 1887

No country, however democratic, is free from corruption. This social ill touches government officials, politicians, business leaders and journalists alike. It destroys national economies, undermines social stability and erodes public trust.

Corruption lowers tax revenue, inflates costs of public services and distorts allocation of resources in the private sector. The negative correlation between good governance and economic development has been identified. Corruption humiliates the ordinary citizen and weakens the state.

The fight against corruption has been recently placed high on the agenda of the OSCE states. The 1999 Istanbul Charter for European Security calls for anti-corruption efforts to intensify. In 2001, under Romanian chairmanship, the Economic Forum in Prague and subsequent seminar in Bucharest in 2002 were devoted to good governance. The OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights and the OSCE field presences have organized debates and training programs. In some cases, the OSCE has worked with both international and local partners in anti-corruption campaigns.

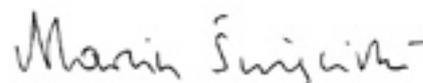
In December 2003, the OSCE reaffirmed its own commitment to good governance with the New Strategy Document for the Economic and Environmental Dimension. Commitments of all 55 participating States addressing transparency and corruption will be subject to systematic review. At the same time, OSCE institutions offer assistance to participating States in streamlining legislation, building institutional capacity and developing national anti-corruption strategies. This booklet serves as a confirmation of that pledge.

Elsewhere, other international organizations – the United Nations, the Council of Europe, the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development as well as the World Bank and the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development – have launched similarly aggressive campaigns.

Political leaders in many countries have already declared combating corruption as their priority. In some countries national plans of combating corruption are being created and specialized agencies established. There is a growing number of international and national non-governmental organizations engaged in unmasking corruptive practices. Media, wherever free, denounces corruption in politics and business.

Yet practical knowledge of how to wage an effective anti-corruption campaign remains limited. To assist OSCE member-states in their endeavors, this booklet provides examples of best practices from the OSCE region and beyond. The described case studies are not meant as made-to-order solutions for fighting corruption. Rather, they are narrative examples whose lessons can be applied as individual country circumstances allow.

The booklet is addressed to legislators, public officials, media, NGOs, business circles and civil society at large. For those readers interested in gaining more detailed information on the practices cited here, an extensive list of Web sites and other materials has been provided at the end.



---

The Office of the Co-ordinator of Economic and Environmental Activities would like to express its deep gratitude to the United States, United Kingdom, and Norwegian delegations for financing the publication of this booklet. We are also particularly grateful to Jeremy Pope, Co-director of TIRI (the governance-access-learning network) and Emil Tsenkov, Senior Fellow at the Center for the Study of Democracy in Sofia, Bulgaria, for sharing their knowledge and advice.



# TABLE OF CONTENTS

<b>CHAPTER 1 POLITICAL OPENNESS</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>CHAPTER 2 ELECTIONS AND POLITICAL PARTY FINANCING</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>CHAPTER 3 CONFLICT OF INTEREST AND MONITORING FINANCIAL ASSETS</b>	<b>29</b>
<b>CHAPTER 4 REGULATING LOBBYING</b>	<b>43</b>
<b>CHAPTER 5 POLITICAL AND JUDICIAL IMMUNITY</b>	<b>49</b>
<b>CHAPTER 6 BUILDING AND MAINTAINING AN ETHICAL PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION</b>	<b>57</b>
<b>CHAPTER 7 COMPLAINT MECHANISMS AND THE OMBUDSMAN</b>	<b>75</b>
<b>CHAPTER 8 REVENUE COLLECTION TRANSPARENCY</b>	<b>87</b>
<b>CHAPTER 9 PUBLIC PROCUREMENT</b>	<b>103</b>
<b>CHAPTER 10 LICENSES AND CONCESSIONS</b>	<b>119</b>
<b>CHAPTER 11 PRIVATIZATION AND ANTI-CORRUPTION PROCEDURES</b>	<b>127</b>
<b>CHAPTER 12 CRIMINAL LAW AND ITS ENFORCEMENT</b>	<b>135</b>
<b>CHAPTER 13 NATIONAL ANTI-CORRUPTION STRATEGIES</b>	<b>155</b>
<b>CHAPTER 14 ANTI-CORRUPTION COMMISSIONS</b>	<b>165</b>
<b>CHAPTER 15 THE MEDIA AND CIVIL SOCIETY</b>	<b>179</b>
<b>CHAPTER 16 THE JUDICIAL SYSTEM: JUDGES AND LAWYERS</b>	<b>191</b>
<b>CHAPTER 17 AFTERWORD</b>	<b>199</b>
<b>WEBSITE ADDRESSES</b>	<b>207</b>