

Foreword

Although its effects on democratic institutions and economic and social development have long been apparent, the fight against corruption has only relatively recently been placed high on the international policy agenda. Today, many international organisations are addressing the global and multi-faceted challenge of fighting corruption.

The OECD provided a major contribution to this important effort in 1997 with the Convention on Combating Bribery of Foreign Public Officials in International Business Transactions. Soon after, in 2002, the Council of Europe Criminal Law Convention on Corruption came into force. It provides common standards concerning corruption-related offences, and requires its parties to create specialised authorities for fighting corruption.

The United Nations Convention against Corruption, which came into force in 2005, is the most universal in its approach: it covers a very broad range of issues including prevention of corruption, criminalisation of corruption, international co-operation, and recovery of assets generated by corruption. It also requires its parties to establish specialised bodies responsible for preventing corruption and for combating corruption through law enforcement.

In addition to mandating anti-corruption bodies, these international conventions establish standards for their effective operation: the bodies should be independent from undue interference, specialised in corruption, and have sufficient resources and powers to meet their challenging tasks.

This report is an updated edition of a report released in 2008 providing a comprehensive overview of the experience of anti-corruption bodies and relevant international standards and including 14 case studies. This new edition reviews evolving understanding of international standards and practice, as well as describes the most recent experience of anti-corruption institutions. The report consists of two parts. Part 1 provides a summary of main international requirements regarding anti-corruption bodies and an analysis of key elements of international standards such as independence, specialisation, resources and training, and selected key features, such as main models, functions, role of co-ordination and co-operation at national and international levels. Part 2 of the report comprises case studies of 19 anti-corruption institutions from countries around the world.

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Corruption (Slovenia), the Serious Fraud Office (the United Kingdom), the Anti-Corruption Agency (Serbia), the Corruption Eradication Commission (Indonesia), the Office for Government Ethics (USA), the Office of the Comptroller General (Brazil), the Directorate of Corruption and Economic Crime (Botswana), and the Ministry of Justice of Poland.

This 2012 updated edition of the report was prepared by Mrs. Vera Devine (consultant) and Ms. Inese Gaika of the Anti-Corruption Division of the OECD Directorate for Financial and Enterprise Affairs. It is based on the 2008 edition mainly prepared by Mr. Goran Klemenčič and Mr. Janez Stusek (then University of Maribor, Slovenia).

The report was prepared in the framework of the OECD Anti-Corruption Network for Eastern Europe and Central Asia (ACN). The ACN is a regional anti-corruption initiative supported by the OECD. Its aim is to assist the countries in Eastern Europe and Central Asia in their fight against corruption. Further information about the ACN is available on its website, www.oecd.org/corruption/acn.

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