

Protecting SMEs from corruption

Promising practices of Chambers of Commerce & Industry and NGOs across Europe

How does corruption hamper European businesses?

43%

European companies consider corruption to be a problem for doing business

32%

say corruption prevented them from winning a public procurement contract



Construction and building is the most exposed sector to corruption with 1 out of 2 companies deeming corruption as an obstacle to business

This perception varies highly from one country to another.

% of businesses considering corruption to be a problem for doing business



The smaller the company the more often corruption appears to be a problem to do business

Chambers of Commerce & Industry play a special role in supporting businesses to protect themselves from corruption. In the framework of the ACTS project co-funded by the European Union, EUROCHAMBRES identified a range of anti-corruption initiatives of European Chambers of Commerce & Industry and NGOs.

Promoting good governance

Good conduct in foreign transactions



Transparent public procurement

Awareness raising & Public advocacy



Supporting Whistleblowers



Training businesses



ICC's guidelines for good corporate governance

The International Chamber of Commerce developed tools and guidelines to fight corruption in the business sector. European Chambers of Commerce & Industry usually direct these tools at their member businesses. In addition, several members of Chambers participate in the works of ICC's Commission on Corporate Responsibility and Anti-corruption.

- Rules on Combating Corruption
- Anti-corruption clause
- Guidelines on Gifts and Hospitality
- Guidelines on Whistleblowing
- Guidelines on Agents, Intermediaries and Other Third Parties
- Anti-corruption Third Party Due Diligence: A Guide for SMEs
- A training tool for Resisting Extortion and Solicitation in International Transactions (RESIST)

<https://iccwbo.org/global-issues-trends/responsible-business/combating-corruption/>



Integrity At Work Initiative Transparency International Ireland

Chambers Ireland supports and sits in the Advisory Group of the Integrity At Work (IAW) initiative to promote supportive working environments for anyone reporting concerns of wrongdoing. To join this programme, organisations are asked to sign the IAW pledge which includes a commitment to ensure that anyone reporting wrongdoing will not face penalisation, that action will be taken in response to disclosures and staff will be made aware of the availability of support and advice.

IAW members receive a range of tools, guidance and training developed by Transparency International Ireland. The initiative also helps organisations sign-post their staff to the Speak Up helpline which is run by Transparency International Ireland in partnership with the Transparency Legal Advice Centre - Ireland's only independent law centre offering free specialist legal advice on Protected Disclosures. This helps ensure that staff can make informed decisions before they report their concerns and have the support they need when they speak up.

<http://www.integrityatwork.ie/>



Business ethics and anti-corruption handbook

The Chamber of Commerce & Industry of Armenia produced a handbook on business ethics and anti-corruption. It consists of good governance standards as defined and internationally acknowledged by the ICC, the OECD and Transparency International and applied to the Armenian business sector.

The publication was released in 2,000 copies and disseminated electronically as well.

<http://www.armcci.am>



A study on private sector corruption

The Estonian Chamber of Commerce & Industry participated in carrying out a comparative study among 1000 Danish and Estonian businessmen on private-to-private corruption.

The project was co-funded by the European Commission under the Prevention of and Fight against Crime (ISEC) Programme.

www.korruptsioon.ee/sites/www.korruptsioon.ee/files/elfinder/dokumendid/private-to-private_corruption_final_report_2.pdf



Incentives for ethical businesses Bari Chamber of Commerce Latina Chamber of Commerce

"Legality Rating" is a new and innovative tool promoted by the Italian Authority for Competition and Market as from 2012 to enhance business conduct.

With this tool, companies are awarded stars that reflect their level of compliance and ethics. Well rated companies are then favoured in the Public Administrations' calls for tenders.

This system makes the topic of corruption visible and of interest to authorities, trade associations, businesses and the civil society.

www.ba.camcom.it/
<http://cameradicommerciolatina.it/>



Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Serbia's codes for business conduct

The Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Serbia (CCIS) produced two codes for business conduct: a Code of Business Ethics and a Code of Corporate Governance. These rules provide companies with recommendations for good corporate governance. The member companies of CCIS are invited to either apply these codes or indicate which code of business conduct they apply.

www.pks.rs

TRAINING BUSINESSES & STUDENTS



AUSTRIA

Facing anti-corruption on the front-lines in difficult countries
'Increase your profits, lower your risks – through non-corruption'

ICC Austria's programme starts where most training sessions end – after a lawyer and a system specialist have set up a 'compliance system'. With this first step, all employees know what is allowed and what is forbidden – however they do not know as to how to implement this compliance system on the front lines, when negotiating with partners in very difficult countries.

ICC Austria trained local and international companies and chambers in countries like Russia, China, India, Indonesia, Kazakhstan, Romania, Croatia, etc. and helps companies which are exposed to the pressure of corruption.

icc@icc-austria.org

ESTONIA

Training courses for Russian speaking entrepreneurs

The Estonian Chamber of Commerce & Industry organises training courses and discussion groups for Russian speaking entrepreneurs. A booklet in Russian was also published to raise awareness on corruption issues among this audience.

www.korruptsioon.ee/en
www.koda.ee/en

BELGIUM

Business ethics and compliance programme – University Certificate of the Catholic University of Louvain & ICC Belgium

It is the first university certificate in Business ethics and compliance management in Belgium. It provides the participants with an understanding of the key success factors to establish a corporate ethics and compliance programme, including for international transactions. It teaches the students the relevant skills to assess the significant integrity risks that may affect business operations and to establish control and prevention mechanisms to mitigate them.

This certificate is open to ethics and compliance professionals, lawyers, CFOs, management consultants, risk managers, auditors, CEOs, directors, board members, regulators, public officers and international directors.

<https://uclouvain.be/fr/etudier/iufc/business-ethics-and-compliance-management.html>

ITALY

Partnerships with schools

The Chamber of Commerce of Puglia set up partnerships with regional schools to provide young people with training sessions on anti-corruption.

www.unioncamerepuglia.it/

SUPPORTING WHISTLEBLOWERS



ITALY

"Riemergo" - Information desks
Unioncamere Lombardia
Union of Lombardy Economic Chambers

12 physical and virtual information desks on illegal issues (corruption, counterfeiting, usury) have been established in the Lombardy Chambers of Commerce as reference points for SMEs, collecting their requests and helping them with the collaboration of experts. An online whistleblowing service on TOR based technology was developed together with Transparency International Italy.

Within one year, already 30 cases of usury and corruption have been collected by the helpdesks.

www.sportelliriemergo.it

ENSURING GOOD CONDUCT IN FOREIGN TRANSACTIONS



Anti-corruption guide for Belgian enterprises overseas

In 2016, the International Chamber of Commerce in Belgium was the main author of a guide published by the Belgian contact point for the OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises to support SMEs to conform to the rules on combating bribery of foreign public officials in international business transactions.

<https://diplomatie.belgium.be/sites/default/files/downloads/anti-corruption-guide.pdf>

ICC Belgium also cooperated with Brussels Enterprises Commerce and Industry to organise a workshop with smaller companies dedicated to anti-corruption during the Export day 2015.

www.iccwbo.be



Business without Corruption (BWC)

The Chamber of Commerce of Romania (CCIR) trains experts in transparent investments to advise local and foreign investors. Training sessions are also intended for entrepreneurs to learn about anti-corruption best practices used by multinational corporations in their business transactions overseas.

In addition, CCIR developed a transparency register for foreign investors and Romanian investors abroad.

ccir.ro/en/

ENHANCING TRANSPARENCY IN PUBLIC PROCUREMENT



Integrity Pact of the Chamber of Commerce & Industry of Latina

The Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Latina implemented a complete strategy to fight corruption. Among the measures taken, an integrity pact to tackle corruption in public procurement has been set up. It consists of a series of rules to comply with for any company wishing to apply for a call for tenders/proposals from the Chamber of Commerce.

In addition, a specific mailbox has been created to collect suggestions from any citizen to prevent corruption and enhance transparency.

Furthermore, the Chamber applied a series of measures for its internal organisation as required by the Italian legislation for the prevention and repression of bribery to counter corruption (e.g. computerisation of procedures, instructions not to act in case of conflict of interest, identification of criteria for the rotation of personnel working in areas that may be exposed to corruption, codes of conduct for employees).

<http://cameradicommerciolatina.it/>



Web portal 'Cista Politika'

The Bureau for Social Research (BIRODI) developed an online database gathering information on public procurement and subsidies in 4 cities of Serbia. A tool is also available to analyse the data collected. It aims at making the field of public procurement more transparent, an area specifically subject to corruption. It helps in identifying corruption cases and gathering evidence in case of legal action.

www.cistapolitika.rs/



Chamber of Commerce & Industry of Romania's Advocacy Bodies

The Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Romania created and coordinated advocacy bodies. Composed of companies which work on developing anti-corruption policies, these working groups contributed to legislative initiatives.

ccir.ro/en/



CCI Serbia's anti-corruption team

The Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Serbia formed an anti-corruption team in 2008, whose main task is the prevention against corruption in the business sector through the promotion of anti-corruption activities and the organisation of awareness raising events. 18 anti-corruption events have taken place already.

www.pks.rs



Working groups to elaborate anti-corruption Laws

The Chamber of Commerce & Industry of Serbia contributes actively to the legislative work on anti-corruption. It participated in the working group to draft the first Serbian Law on Protection of Whistleblowers, which entered into force in December 2014.

It also took part in the elaboration of the National Strategy for the Fight against Corruption.

www.pks.rs



Preventing corruption in SMEs and micro-SMEs

The Belgrade Chamber of Commerce (BCC) organises workshops on corruption with State authorities, universities, owners and managers of SMEs and NGOs on a regular basis. It hosted a Seminar on the Action Plan for the implementation of the National Strategy for the fight against corruption for 2013-2018, with the Serbian Ministry of Justice.

BCC carries out an attentive monitoring and promotion of best practices of some member companies that have implemented anti-corruption policies and standards.

A seminar organised by BCC resulted in a whitepaper presenting 25 suggestions and guidelines for the promotion of the fight against corruption, in accordance with GRECO's (Group of States against corruption) recommendations.

www.kombeg.org.rs/EIndex.aspx

More about projects to fight corruption in the business sector at www.acts-project.eu



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