

ANTI-CORRUPTION RESEARCH QUARTERLY

KNOWLEDGE FOR TRANSPARENCY - LINKING ANTI-CORRUPTION RESEARCH AND PRACTICE

Photo: Istockphoto
© Andrey Prokhorov

IN THIS ISSUE

Spotlight: Fighting Corruption from Below	1
Highlights in Anti-corruption Research	4
Featured Curriculum	6
Research Marketplace	7
News from ANTICORRP	8

Welcome to the fourteenth issue of the Anti-Corruption Research Quarterly. Here you will find recent insights and activities in anti-corruption research synthesised for scholars, policy-makers, and practitioners. This newsletter is part of the Anti-Corruption Research Network (ACRN), a Transparency International initiative to strengthen the knowledge community and information service for anti-corruption research. [Subscribe today!](#)

FIGHTING CORRUPTION FROM BELOW

By **Brigitte Zimmerman***

Introduction

Citizens have been noticeably absent from research on anti-corruption efforts. When citizens are involved, it is often as voters in elections with the assumption that they will act on information about corruption to remove tainted officials. However, corrupt officials are only sometimes removed from office by voters – some may even gain from corruption – and the long-term effect on corruption levels of election-focused interventions involving citizens is uncertain. Fortunately, a growing body of research places citizens in a more central role in anti-corruption interventions outside of elections. This research taps new sources of data to test arguments.

This article addresses this body of research, extracting trends in findings and noting avenues for future exploration. The research cited in this article came from two recent conferences: the American Political Science Association 2013 Annual Meeting, held August 29 through September 1 in Chicago; and The New School for Social Research's 30th *Social Research* conference, Corruption, held November 21-22 in New York City.

Citizens Fighting Corruption Outside of Elections

How can citizens fight corruption beyond voting the corrupt out of office? A key voice in this line of work is Michael Johnston. In discussing his new book, *Corruption,*

Contention, and Reform, at The New School's corruption conference, Johnston argued that anti-corruption efforts should not necessarily take action through formal institutions at all, but instead should act through "an opening up of the process of making rules and decisions" that brings more interests and voices to the table. The main conclusion of his forthcoming book, which analyzes corruption syndromes across the world, is that "deep democratization" is required for citizens to ferret out corruption.

During my recent fieldwork in Malawi, presented at the American Political Science Association (APSA) Annual Meeting in September, I found that citizens have access to many non-electoral avenues for fighting corruption. Citizens report corruption to the Anti-Corruption Bureau, relay corruption concerns to the media, organize protests centered around an anti-corruption platform, complain of corruption among government officials to traditional leaders, write letters about corruption to political parties, and petition higher levels of government to remove corrupt officials from office. Drawing on a survey of Malawian citizens, I found that 60% of respondents agreed with the statement, "Community members (citizens) in Malawi are empowered to do something about corruption in the district assemblies." When

Tell the world about your research? Blog with ACRN!

www.corruptionresearchnetwork.org

The ACRN web platform opens up space for corruption researchers to blog about their research projects, highlights from recent conferences, and more.

If you would like to be a guest blogger with the ACRN, get in touch.

(acrn_editor@transparency.org)

ANTI-CORRUPTION RESEARCH NEWS

FIGHTING CORRUPTION FROM BELOW



Dreamtime

provided with a hypothetical instance of corruption and asked how they would respond, 70% of citizens offered a realistic and specific action to sanction it. At least in Malawi, citizens are attempting to combat corruption separately from how they vote in elections.

Technology will increasingly provide one avenue through which citizens can hold their political officials responsible for corruption and other governance choices. Guy Grossman, Gabrielle Sacramone-Lutz and Macartan Humphreys conducted research in Uganda on a program that allows citizens to contact government officials via text message. Their initial findings, also presented at the APSA Annual Meeting, demonstrate that citizens are reticent to use this avenue of communication. The authors are currently unpacking the reasons for the low usage rates, but their first paper purports that one possible reason might be the costs involved.

Limits of Citizen Anti-Corruption Efforts

Yet, as other research shows, the involvement of citizens in fighting corruption is not a foregone conclusion. Citizens are strategic in how they evaluate corruption, using diverse types of information to determine whether or not they should invest their resources in fighting corruption. We are now learning more about the factors that influence this decision, including: the information available to the citizen about the political system; citizen characteristics; and the form of corruption in question.

For example, Jeff Mondak and his co-authors (Damarys Canache and Matthew Hayes) use data from 24 countries and find that both past

experiences and psychological traits condition perceptions of corruption. Consistent with an outlook that considers the collective as well as the individual, they find that the level of bribery in an individual's region is actually a more significant predictor of corruption perceptions than the individual's personal experiences with corruption. Furthermore, consistent with the logic of motivated reasoning, citizens who voted for those currently in office perceive corruption to be lower than those who voted for the opposition. Their findings demonstrate that citizen perceptions of corruption – and presumably their motivation to combat it – are shaped by both community and individual factors.

Similarly, Jessica Gottlieb has produced compelling recent work about differences among citizens in their reaction to new information about government corruption. In her fieldwork in Mali, Gottlieb examined the behavioral effects of a civics course. She found that information affected men and women differently. While men were more inclined to participate in civic activity after receiving information about government capacity and performance, women were less inclined to participate after getting this information. Interestingly, these two effects cancelled each other out, resulting in an overall null effect of the intervention. Gottlieb's interviews and focus groups suggest that the intervention heightened the salience of civic participation, which increased the costs to participation for women as they are not typically welcome in the public sphere. In fighting corruption, it behooves us to think about other heterogeneous effects among citizens, especially considering the frequent weak results from anti-corruption interventions targeting citizens.

“Citizens are strategic in how they evaluate corruption, using diverse types of information to determine whether or not they should invest their resources in fighting corruption”

FIGHTING CORRUPTION FROM BELOW

“One important characteristic of any form of corruption is the extent to which it imposes a direct and immediate impact on citizens.”

“Anti-corruption initiatives need to combine information about corruption with information about the surrounding political system.”

We’re also learning that citizens need information about the political system in addition to information about corruption in order to be incentivized to participate in anti-corruption activities. Gottlieb has found that citizens who were provided with information about the roles and responsibilities of government in addition to information about government performance are more likely to hold their government accountable, as measured by their vote in a survey experiment and their challenges to local leaders in a town hall meeting. This aligns with my finding that 69% of citizens who haven’t taken action against corruption cite a lack of knowledge about avenues for reporting it. Future research must consider the full body of information available to citizens when anticipating results.

One final factor that may affect citizen participation in anti-corruption efforts is the form of corruption in question. In Malawi, I argue that corruption takes many forms, and that one important characteristic of any form of corruption is the extent to which it imposes a direct and immediate impact on citizens. Through a survey experiment on citizens, I show that citizens use their limited resources to fight corruption when it is immediate to their lives (for example, stealing food subsidies), but that we should not expect citizens to mobilize against forms of corruption that are not as immediate (for example, obtaining per diem for workshops that were not attended).

References

Gottlieb, Jessica. 2013. “Greater Expectations: A Field Experiment to Improve Accountability in Mali.” Working paper.

Gottlieb, Jessica. 2013. “Why women participate less in civic activity: Evidence from Mali.” Working paper.

Grossman, Guy, Macartan Humphreys and Gabriella Sacramone-Lutz. 2013. “Does Information Technology Flatten Interest Articulation? Evidence from Uganda.” Presented at the American Political Science Association Annual Meeting, September 2013.

Johnston, Michael. 2013. “More than Necessary, Less than Sufficient: How Democratization and Development Shape Corruption Control.” Talk at Corruption, Center for Public Scholarship at The New School for Social Research, November 2013.

Canache, Damrays, Jeffrey J. Mondak, and Matthew Hayes. 2013 “Antecedents of Perceptions of Political Corruption in Latin America.” Presented at the American Political Science Association Annual Meeting, September 2013.

Zimmerman, Brigitte. 2013. “Transparency, Sanctioning Capacity, and Corruption Displacement: Evidence from Malawi.” Working paper.

**About the Author: Brigitte Zimmerman (<http://polisci2.ucsd.edu/bazimmer/>) is a Ph.D. candidate at the University of California, San Diego. Her work focuses on the relationship between transparency, sanctioning capacity, and corruption in Malawi and Zambia*

One reason for the failure of anti-corruption interventions may be that citizens don’t care enough about the corruption that’s brought to light to mobilize against it, also known as the classic collective action problem. Those designing anti-corruption initiatives can incentivize citizens to participate by understanding and emphasizing the more immediate effects of corruption.

Conclusions

As anti-corruption efforts continue to evolve, the potential for citizens to assist should not be overlooked. Concluding that citizens are not motivated enough or empowered enough to sanction corruption would be a mistake. Anti-corruption initiatives need to combine information about corruption with information about the surrounding political system. Such initiatives will not find support from all citizens, and citizens will not choose to mobilize against all forms of corruption. Yet, non-electoral and informal avenues may have as much effect as official or electoral mechanisms to combat corruption. As Michael Johnston said at The New School, “Corruption will persist, even be the norm, until those with a stake in ending it can oppose it in ways that cannot be ignored...Transparency and accountability need to be more than rituals.”

ANTI-CORRUPTION RESEARCH NEWS

HIGHLIGHTS IN ANTI-CORRUPTION RESEARCH

MEASURING CORRUPTION

Corruption Perception Index 2013

Transparency International, 2013

The Corruption Perceptions Index 2013 serves as a reminder that the abuse of power, secret dealings and bribery continue to ravage societies around the world. The Index scores 177 countries and territories on a scale from 0 (highly corrupt) to 100 (very clean). No country has a perfect score, and two-thirds of countries score below 50.

Many of the lowest scoring countries face the troubles of corruption alongside political instability and conflict. As in 2012, last place is shared by Afghanistan, North Korea and Somalia. But previously high-scoring countries haven't been safe from the risks of corruption either. Spain's six-point decline was not only the most dramatic drop of all EU countries, but one of the largest globally. Australia is yet further proof that no country can afford to be complacent. Despite having one of the world's highest GDPs, the country fell by four points this year.

<http://bit.ly/1mK10DJ>

Democracy, Inequality and Corruption: Korea, Taiwan and the Philippines Compared

You, Working Paper presented at ECPR 2013

Jong-Sung You conducts a comparative historical analysis of the role that economic inequality plays as a driver of corruption in democratic contexts, looking in particular at Korea, Taiwan and the Philippines. He argues that inequality produces several causal mechanisms that serve to embed corrupt practices within democratic structures and make them difficult to eradicate. <http://bit.ly/1bwfCII>

Local Government Engineering Department: Problems of Good Governance and Way Forward

Sharmin and Akram, 2013, TI Bangladesh Recently this TI National Chapter conducted research on how corruption mechanisms work at the Local Government Engineering Department. The authors concluded that at the project implementation level, corruption takes place through mutual understanding between engineers and contractors. For example, in order to get the work order, contractors must submit a competitive price quote. During the assessment of tenders or after getting the work order, however, documents are changed on the basis of negotiation and mutual understanding between the engineers and contractors, thereby evading the rules. <http://bit.ly/1aLyLzp>

Measuring Corruption: The case of the Russian Federation

Zhuravleva, 2013

Social Science Research Network

This study develops the income-expenditure comparison as a method of measuring corruption. Using micro-level data on reported household earnings, expenditures and assets provided by the Russian Longitudinal Monitoring Survey for the period between 2000-2009, the authors find that households with workers in the public sector receive lower wages than their private sector counterparts, yet enjoy the same level of expenditure. The author uncovered a counterintuitive living standards gap between workers from the public and private sectors, concluding that the observed gap results from unreported income within the public sector, most likely due to corrupt activities.

<http://bit.ly/1aNO5sb>

UNDERSTANDING CORRUPTION

Cities and corruption – the great, unfortunate disconnect in research and practice

Zinnbauer 2013, Social Science Research Network

The central argument of this article targets two very different audiences: urban scholars, practitioners, and advocates, and the anti-corruption community. Firstly, Zinnbauer seeks to redress some misperceptions of corruption held by urban scholars, and draws on a vast body of empirical evidence to corroborate his claim that corruption is a major impediment to urban aspirations. He then considers whether there is a distinctive "urban corruption challenge" with its own particular risk profile, and contends that cities play a pivotal role in the fight against corruption.

<http://bit.ly/1hNQPuR>

Understanding and Preventing

Corruption Graycar and Prenzler, 2013, Palgrave

Despite the growth in interest of corruption in government and politics, few studies have focused on the practical questions of how to combat corruption. Graycar and Prenzler address these deficits by connecting analyses about the nature and causes of corruption with strategies for effective corruption reduction. Using a variety of international case studies, this edited volume explores corruption prevention strategies in the areas of criminal justice, government procurement, public health and town planning. <http://bit.ly/1idczAD>



Photo: Istockphoto ©JLGutierrez

"Using micro-level data on reported household earnings... we find that there exists an expenditure gap in favor of the public sector... Unexplained differences are referred to as unreported income, or bribes."
 Zhuravleva, 2013

"New methodologies for diagnosing and tracking corruption at the local and specifically city level are being developed and larger empirical corruption surveys are becoming more granular to capture some distinctively urban characteristics of corruption."
 Zinnbauer, 2013

HIGHLIGHTS IN ANTI-CORRUPTION RESEARCH

“Our results show that greater internet awareness about whistleblower laws results in more corruption coming to light and being successfully prosecuted”

Goel and Nelson, 2013

“Bribery is the most frequent type of crime among judges and court staff in general”

Quinteros, Castillo and Chávez, 2013

Governance: 'Two Publics' and Defiance in the Global Fund's Operations in Uganda

Sekalala and Kirya, 2013, Warwick School of Law Research Paper

The Global Fund to fight Aids, Tuberculosis and Malaria (GFATM) was established in 2003 in order to disburse funds to the poorest countries that were to be utilised in fighting these three major diseases. The authors focus on the effectiveness of the subsidiary relationship between the GFATM and the countries in which it operates, and argue that the GFATM is largely successful in ensuring that developing countries gain access to medicine. However, they argue that the corruption affecting its activities in many developing countries can also in part be explained by defiance from subsidiary organisations at the local level. Defiance arises when the subsidiaries adhere to their own set of priorities/values/principles, which do not necessarily coincide with those of the GFATM. <http://bit.ly/1jpD1cT>

FIGHTING CORRUPTION

Guide on how to Use the Inter-American System of Human Rights for the Protection of Anti-Corruption Whistleblowers

Nash, Bascur and Contreras, 2013, Chile University Press

This guide is meant to act as a tool to help individuals as well as civil society organizations understand how human rights standards, such as the Inter-American System of Human Rights (ISHR), work in cases where anti-corruption whistleblowers are vulnerable to abuse and face various risks. Nash, Bascur and Contreras, who work as researchers at the University of Chile, analyse the opportunities that the ISHR provides in complementing national regulations concerning whistleblower protection, such as limitations to the act of whistleblowing itself, as well as other considerations that need to be taken into account by any potential whistleblower. <http://bit.ly/1hmlIuS>

Micro-corruption in Judicial Power: the case of court-appointed receivers

Quinteros, Castillo and Chávez, 2013, Catholic University Peru

Recent surveys have confirmed that Peruvians consider the judiciary to be the most discredited institution in the country. This study finds that only 2.4 percent of the cases that are being investigated by the State Attorney's Office (452) are referred to judges – out of more than 18,000 cases at the national level. Bribery is the most frequent type of crime among judges and court staff in general. <http://bit.ly/KLXcDr>

Effectiveness of whistleblower laws in combating corruption

Goel and Nelson, 2013, BOFIT Discussion Papers

Whistleblowers, whistleblowing and whistleblower laws have featured prominently in the news recently. Whistleblowing has proven to be an effective means of uncovering misconduct and is seen as one instrument to expose and fight corruption. This research article focuses on the relationship between whistleblower laws and the fight against corruption using an Internet-awareness based approach. <http://bit.ly/1aLjSdx>

Anti-Corruption Policy: Can International Actors Play a Constructive Role?

Edited by Rose-Ackerman and Carrington, 2013 Carolina Academic Press

While international organizations routinely incorporate anti-corruption efforts into their good governance programs, innovation in the struggle against corruption is constantly required. One approach, taken by the authors of this volume, is to document the costs of corruption for the citizens of developing countries and for the integrity of international business dealings. Editors Susan Rose-Ackerman and Paul D. Carrington bring together a diverse group of authors to evaluate ongoing anti-corruption efforts and consider whether change is necessary. <http://bit.ly/LXWe85>

Can the Hong Kong ICAC Help Reduce Corruption on the Mainland?

Bryane Michael, 2013, University of Hong Faculty of Law Research Paper

Hong Kong's Independent Commission Against Corruption (ICAC) serves as a leading example of a successful anti-corruption agency. To what extent can the ICAC – and the Prevention of Bribery Ordinance (POBO), which regulates its work – contribute to reductions in corruption on the Chinese mainland? In this paper, the authors look at the ways in which the ICAC – technically a Chinese agency (albeit operating in a legally independent jurisdiction) – can help to reduce and prevent corruption on the mainland. The authors find that with the proper modifications to the POBO, the Agency can reduce the value of corruption on the Mainland between \$5-\$20 billion. <http://bit.ly/1dayRNx>

ANTI-CORRUPTION RESEARCH NEWS

FEATURED CURRICULUM

Quantitative and Qualitative Research Methods on Corruption and their Application

The Basel Institute on Governance offers a two-day workshop on research methods on corruption and their application. The workshop is designed to provide working professionals and interested stakeholders with the necessary conceptual and methodological tools to undertake corruption research applicable to a wide variety of topics, contexts and aims.

The first day of the workshop is devoted to discussion of basic elements of research design as applicable to the field of corruption. The second day provides participants with the opportunity to apply the concepts learned through structured group work. The following table is an outline of the four modules which are covered during the course.

For further information please contact Dr. Claudia Baez Camargo
<http://bit.ly/19asRJO>

<p>1 <u>Basic concepts in research design</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Variables: Dependent, independent, intervening variables • Formulating Hypotheses • Operationalization of variables: indicators and issues of validity and reliability • Quantitative/qualitative methods: Big N and small N research design. Comparative strengths and weaknesses • Discussion of correlation and causation and the need for theory 	<p>2 <u>The role of theories of corruption in driving the research agenda</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • General and middle range theories • Conceptual and empirical dilemmas in translating theories of corruption into research • Definitions of corruption and challenges to the operationalization of the concept for research
<p>3 <u>Quantitative methods</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussion of the available indicators to measure corruption (CPI, WIGIs, QoG database etc.) • When is quantitative analysis appropriate? • Discussion of validity and reliability of the leading corruption indicators • Discussion of the robustness of the findings from quantitative research on corruption 	<p>4 <u>Qualitative methods</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussion of variables used in qualitative analyses of corruption • Power and influence analysis: stakeholder mapping and formal and informal institutional frameworks • Functional equivalence analysis • Process tracing and ethnographic strategies for researching corruption teacher

Are you currently teaching or developing a course on corruption? Share your ideas and help corruption curriculum development in academic institutions around the world by featuring it through the ACRN.

Please write to us:
acrn_editor@transparency.org

RESEARCH MARKETPLACE

Call for Applications

▪ Call for Applications to PhD programme at the Quality of Governance Institute in Gothenburg, Sweden

Deadline: March 03, 2014. The Department of Political Science is offering four doctoral studentships, starting from September 1, 2014. The positions are fully financed for four years. Two of the positions will form part of the Quality of Government Institute's "The Performance of Democracies" project, analysing how democracies perform in curbing corruption.
<http://bit.ly/1cYqbKD>

• Master in Anti-Corruption Studies (MACS), Vienna, Austria.

Deadline: March 31, 2014. The MACS offers a series of interdisciplinary courses that provide participants with a foundation in the study of anti-corruption. It strives to attract participants from various cultural and

professional backgrounds, from public institutions, the corporate world, international organizations, academia, civil society, and the media. <http://bit.ly/1aNYDrr>

• Master of Governance and Human Rights at the Humboldt-Viadrina School of Governance, Berlin, Germany

Deadline: February 15, 2014. A two-year online distance learning (part-time on-campus) international Master program. The professional degree will be taught in English, and aims to empower students and young professionals to understand and reflect the theoretical meaning and practical application of governance in and through human rights.

<http://bit.ly/1eUOZpa>



RESEARCH MARKETPLACE

Events

- **NATO Building Integrity Conference on Institution Building**
March 03-06, 2014. Oslo, Norway.
The conference brings together experts from the fields of anti-corruption research and integrity building to discuss how best to develop and implement an integrity plan in the defence sector.
<http://bit.ly/1eg8Hdo>
- **Second Forum on Anti-Corruption Australia**
March 25-26, 2014. Sydney, Australia.
C5's Forum on Anti-Corruption delivers practical insights on the latest anti-bribery and corruption enforcement initiatives, as well as global anti-corruption compliance strategies. <http://bit.ly/1dRpk4k>
- **2014 International Studies Association Annual Convention**
March 26-29, 2014. Toronto, Canada.
"Spaces and Places: Geopolitics in an Era of Globalisation." Papers to be presented include work on transparency in the energy and defence sectors, as well as in e-governance. <http://bit.ly/1dxXFzo>
- **Anti-Money Laundering and Financial Crime Conference Asia Pacific**
April 07-08, 2014. Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. This year's conference focuses on tackling evolving financial crime threats and improving risk assessments in the region.
<http://bit.ly/19PZT22>

Job Opportunities

- **Director of U4 Anti/Corruption Resource Centre**
Deadline: February 15, 2014. Bergen, Norway. The U4 team is searching for a leader who, together with the U4 team of experts, can analyse developments and set the strategic vision of the resource centre.
<http://bit.ly/1c6uJ5F>
- **Learning specialist/Training Programme Developer**
Deadline: February 9, 2014.
UNOPS is looking for a professional in the field of procurement fraud and corruption prevention to develop a learning programme for delivery to our partners. <http://bit.ly/1cyjTpm>
- **Research Assistant**
Deadline: February 7, 2014
The International Budget Partnership (IBP) is seeking three Research Assistants for the Open Budget Initiative to work on its Open Budget Survey with a team of international budget experts.
<http://bit.ly/1a3sllj>

Call for Papers

- **ECPR 2014 General Conference Call for Panels and Individual Papers**
Deadline: February 15, 2014. The goal of this section is to foster the renewed interest in the comparative analysis of foreign policy. More specifically, the section places emphasis on the spatial and temporal dimensions of comparison, that is, on cross-country comparisons of foreign policy as well as on comparisons of foreign policy over time. <http://bit.ly/1jpHFau>
- **Call for Papers for on "Localizing Global Institutions. The Impact of International Development Cooperation"**
Deadline: February 15, 2014.
Institutional diffusion has caused an assimilation of norms and standards on the international and national policy levels worldwide. Local areas are increasingly affected by global norms, globally constructed knowledge and global scripts. <http://bit.ly/1mwkp8b>.
- **Case Study Competition on Business Integrity**
Deadline: June 01, 2014. The CEU Business School and the American Chamber of Commerce in Hungary are offering cash prizes for the three best case studies documenting business integrity dilemmas in Central and Eastern Europe. <http://bit.ly/1feDt8A>

ANTI-CORRUPTION RESEARCH NEWS

NEWS FROM ANTICORRP



25-27 October
 Workshop hosted by the German Institute for Global and Area Studies (GIGA) in Hamburg for a first round of discussion of contemporary global 'achievers'



December 3 2013, Brussels
 Conference on Anti-Corruption and Anti-Fraud Measures in Relation to the use of European Structural Funds

WHAT IS ANTICORRP?

Anticorrp is a new large-scale research project funded by the European Commission's Seventh Framework Program. Its central objective is to investigate factors that promote or hinder the development of effective anti-corruption policies. The project started in March 2012 and will last for five years. The initiative consists of twenty-one research groups in sixteen EU countries. Transparency International is a member of ANTICORRP consortium.

RECENT ACTIVITIES

Anticorrp Researchers and GIGA Institute hold international workshop

In October 2013 ANTICORRP researchers gathered in Hamburg during a workshop at the GIGA institute to discuss corruption indicators and compare contemporary anti-corruption achievements in a number of countries in order to answer the question of whether world governance rankings correctly reflect those who have made the biggest strides in controlling corruption.

The workshop examined 13 countries which are performing better than other states in their respective regions. The participants were hesitant about labelling these countries as unqualified success stories, in particular questioning whether reigning in grand corruption also reduced petty corruption. <http://bit.ly/1ezGRLZ>

Anticorrp researchers lead a panel at the German Association of Political Science conference, Leipzig October 2013

One of the panels at the conference was entitled "Corruption and Political Power from a Comparative Area Perspective", and drew researchers from throughout Europe. Several ANTICORRP researchers attended the panel discussion: Prof. Dr. Alina

All five papers presented in the panel put corruption, traditionally understood as the "misuse of public office for private gain", in a broader perspective and set out to relate this phenomenon to other political, economic, social and regional factors.
<http://bit.ly/1g3QMxF>

Conference on Anti-Corruption and Anti-Fraud Measures in Relation to the use of European Structural Funds Dec 3 2013, Brussels

The conference considered a new paper by Fazekas et al, which explores the impact of EU structural funds on institutionalised grand corruption in three countries where competitive particularism is dominant – the Czech Republic, Hungary and Slovakia – between 2009-2012. The authors explore whether EU funds have contributed to the weakening institutional quality in terms of wasteful public spending and increased 'legal' corruption conducted through public procurement.

The authors use a unique database containing contract-level public procurement information for all three countries allowing for a systematic examination of corruption risks associated with EU funding at the micro-level.

The authors develop a composite indicator of corruption risks based on the incidence and frequency of irregularities in individual public procurement transactions. A comparison of corruption risks in EU- and nationally-funded public procurement transactions points at the potential negative effects of EU funding in Czech Republic and Hungary and to potential positive effects in Slovakia, although data is incomplete for the latter.

<http://bit.ly/1cZ874s>

This issue of ACRN News was edited by
Cristina Velez
 E-mail: cvelezvieira@transparency.org