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Corruption In the Public Sector In North Macedonia: What Can Be Done?

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CORRUPTION IN THE PUBLIC SECTOR IN NORTH MACEDONIA WHAT CAN BE DONE?

Abstract

The purpose of this project is to analyze the current situation of corruption in the public sector in North Macedonia and suggest possible solutions to prevent this kind of corruption.

Introduction

According to United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, for many years the corruption in the public sector in North Macedonia is considered to be a serious problem.

Corruption in North Macedonia is considered to be most present in customs, courts, police, the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Transport and Communications, the Government, local authorities and the tax administration.

In many reports and researches, bribery is underlined to be the biggest corruption problem.

Definition

Corruption is abuse of entrusted power for private gain (U4 Anti-corruption resource center, n.d.). It can take many forms, occurs in different situations and includes diverse actions.

Corruption can happen anywhere: in business, government, the courts, the media, and in civil society, as well as across all sectors from health and education to infrastructure and sports. **Corruption can involve anyone:** politicians, government officials, public servants, business people or members of the public. **Corruption adapts** to different contexts and changing circumstances. It can evolve in response to changes in rules, legislation and even technology (Transparency International, n.d.).

Corruption in public sector in North Macedonia

Current situation

➤ Legislation

- Law on Prevention of Corruption and Conflict of Interest (Official Gazette of Republic of Macedonia no.12/2019)
- Law on lobbying (Official Gazette of Republic of Macedonia no.106/2008)
- Law on the Protection of Whistle-blowers (Official Gazette of Republic of Macedonia no.196/2015)
- Law on Administrative Servants (Official Gazette of Republic of Macedonia no.27/2014, 199/2014, 48/2015, 154/2015)
- Law on Public Employees (Official Gazette of Republic of Macedonia no.27/2014, 199/2014, 27/2016, 35/2018)

➤ Problems

- Widespread corruption in the public sector;
- Politicization of the public service;
- Inefficient judicial system is a major factor in the prevalence of corruption;
- A small number of penalties for corruption versus the real number
- Citizens are not optimistic about eradicating the corruption in the public sector;
- Citizens do not report corruption.

Solutions

- Upgrading of the legislative framework for the fight against corruption;
- Increase in the responsibility of the administrative servants and prevention of politicization of the public service;
- More transparent and merit-based employment in public institutions;
- Judicial reform;
- Restoring citizens' trust in the public sector.

References

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Figure 2. "Stop corruption paint grunge sign vector image" Created by VectorStock

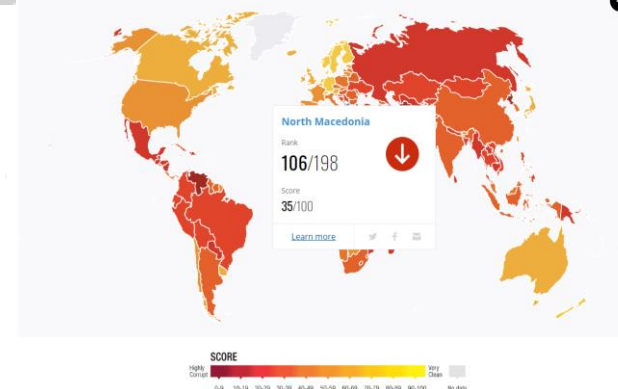
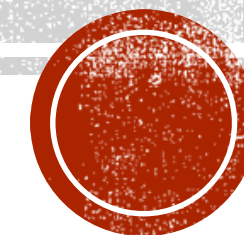


Figure 1. "Corruption around the World in 2019" Created by Transparency International (2020)



Conclusion

North Macedonia has a certain level of readiness in the fight against corruption, but the country must take bigger steps and to show that the fight against corruption is a national priority.

Teodora Gacoska/English Language Institute, Syracuse University, 2020