Integrity & Corruption: the Struggle within Local Government

Codru Vrabie, Romania
5-6 Dec. 2012, Ankara

with help from prezi.com and clipartillustration.com
Integrity & Corruption: the Struggle within Local Government

Codruț Vrabie, Romania
5-6 Dec. 2012, Ankara

with help from prezi.com and clipartillustration.com
- chain of corruption
- story of local elections
- potential solution?
a public servant
had a daughter
who got into an accident
and died during the operation
because the surgeon
had gotten his diploma
by bribing his professor
who needed the money to fix his car
broken by numerous potholes in the road of his daily commute
the potholes resulted from poor materials, used by underpaid workers
as the headmaster had to cut costs, cover informal payments, and still make a profit.
for the "almighty" businessman that owned the construction company
and had bribed the same civil servant, in order to get the contract, some time ago...
lost money, nation-wide, yearly:

- € 2.5 bn. from bribes in rigged procurements
- € 20 bn. from tax evasion (and related crimes)
a public servant
and a doctor, and a professor, and a headmaster and a businessman--they all give and take bribes without ever thinking of the full consequences of their actions :-(

are they bad people?, or generally honest, sometimes falling (in)to temptation?!?
• chain of corruption
• story of local elections
• potential solution?
now, think of a local community, a small city of 12,000 people, whereof only 10,000 voters, but 4,000 are working abroad

- we may have about 1,000 such communities in Romania
the polls show a split electorate, with 50-50 chances to both the incumbent mayor and the challenger.

statistics show about 50 families on social aid from the city hall, namely about 100-150 votes to "play" with...

at 30% voter turnout (about 2,000+ voters), having "bought" 100 votes ahead of time, may well tip the scale in favor of the incumbent
social aid may be obtained upon a doctor's notice

- the doctor gets bonus points for more patients in care
- the "citizen" gets "aid" money on a bogus condition
- the mayor gets favorable votes in the next elections
so who do you think would complain?!?

the civil servant prefers to turn a blind eye or to join the scheme, because s/he needs to keep the job...

capture and vote-buying actually happens long before the elections!
indirect proof from campaign finances:
at 18 mln. voters nation-wide, expect at least € 18 mln. fundraised by all political parties, right?
  • only € 4 mln. reported by all parties combined!
  • x 3 rounds of elections in 2012, still € 6 mln. missing
so, how to provide incentives for integrity?

- € 2.5 bn. lost only in rigged procurement
- € 20 bn. lost in tax evasion (corrupt or not?)
- a mere € 6 mln. lost in campaign finance
• chain of corruption
• story of local elections
• potential solution?
2006 study claims € 1 mln./year investments in training and human resources may bring € 1 bn./year increase in absorption capacity for/of EU funds for the missing € 22+ bn./year lost to corruption & white-collar crime, at least € 20 mln./year should be invested in integrity training and/or other education
€ 20 mln./year is just 0.04% of Romania's state budget, while a full 1% of the budget is usually recommended for an effective financing of anticorruption policies, in any country...
scary stories?

- chain of corruption
- election campaign finance
- expensive solution?
- bribe market may help :-)

Prezi
bribe market www.piatadespaga.ro
Evoluție șpagă medie

2009
Valoare medie șpagă (€): 266

bribe market www.piatadespaga.ro
teşekkürler :-)
codru.vrabie[at]gmail.com
codruvrabie.blogspot.com