Arab Anti-Corruption and Integrity Network

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European Anti-Corruption Experience

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Fall of Iron Curtain

In early nineties of previous millenium federal states (USSR, Yugoslavia, Czechoslovakia) have disintegrated, some of them after war atrocities...

Fighting corruption was not an issue at all.
Building of New States

After dealing with most pressing issues (wars, territorial divisions, tensions among different nationalities) institutional building of new states begun..

Fighting corruption was still not an issue..
Corruption becomes important...

... in a political sense: more and more elections are won and lost because of corruption of politicians, which from being a part of solution turned into a part of a problem...
Strange Things Happen

In new countries people started to like “corrupt dictatorships” more than “honest democracies”...

..because...

...they did not have the feeling that anybody is fighting corruption, which was getting worse and worse..
International Pressure Grows

- Accession processes to international organisations (UN, Council of Europe, EU, OECD,..)

- Development of international anti-corruption legal instruments (OECD Convention on Fighting Bribery of Foreign Public Officials in International Business Transactions, CoE Criminal and Civil Law Convention on Corruption, UNCAC,....)
European Two Sets of AC Standards

“Old” Europe not so much burdened by corruption but with no decisive action in fighting it

VS

“New” Europe heavily burdened by corruption but undertaking a lot of efforts to fight it..
Three Main Directions of AC Efforts in New Europe

- Accession to international AC legal instruments
- Adoption of national AC strategies
- Establishment of specialised AC institutions
Accesion to international AC legal instruments

- No real AC standards in the European Union
- Council of Europe Conventions (ETS 173, ETS 174, ETS 191)
- UNCAC

Monitoring of their implementation !!!
Adoption of national AC strategies

They were of a very different quality but with almost the same problems:

- too general or too concrete
- no follow-up mechanisms
- no responsibility for weak- or no-implementation
- no immediate tangible results
- time-frame for their implementation too long
Establishment of specialised AC institutions

Three types:

- Preventive ones (FYROM, Slovenia, ..)
- Repressive ones (Croatia, Romania, ..)
- Combined ones (Lithuania, Latvia, ..)
Crucial Question:

Is there a need to give police powers to AC agencies or not?

Be careful, be very careful!
Different Results of Different AC Agencies

People still used to respect repression and not prevention

HOWEVER

Combined AC agencies really seem to be the best ones!
Lessons Learnt: Important for Fighting Corruption

- Do not cause additional risks
- Prepare for incidents
- Deal with incidents
- Respect wider framework and objectives (other country’s policies)
Gap between “Old” and “New” Europe is Closing

“Old” European countries are having more and more problems with corruption but still don’t fight it very seriously

VS

“New” European countries are having less and less problems with corruption due to their serious AC efforts
European Three Sets of AC Standards?

EU is developing its own mechanism

Council of Europe still has its own mechanism

Some countries (Kosovo) don’t belong anywhere
Is corruption not our common enemy?

Basically yes, not sure for Europe !!!
THANK YOU!

QUESTIONS ?

COMMENTS ?

REMARKS ?