

Distinguishing criteria between petty and high-ranking corruption: Expert evaluation

Balázs Garamvölgyi

Measuring corruption

- International organisations, peer review mechanisms (UNCAC, OECD WGB, GRECO)
- EU Rule of law reports

From technical compliance to effectiveness

→ Pressure on practitioners:

show your results, your cases, quantify, qualify

One question keeps popping up...

What is high-level corruption?

How many high-level corruption cases do you have?

We have plenty... statistics, case studies... **oh**, wait.

OECD WGB has a matrix of huge cases, right?
Blind **spots, limitations...**

Which elements should we consider?

What is high-level corruption?

EU rule of law report, October 2020

- ***While there is prosecution of high-level corruption in some cases, it remains very limited.***

And:

- ***While the prosecution service has launched a limited number of corruption-related investigations against members of Parliament from the ruling party, there has been no prosecution of high-level government officials in recent years.***

Problematic, in many ways

We thought we got it... try again next year

The Quest for the Definition

Corruption is...

- What the Criminal Code says?
- What the UNCAC says?
- What sociology says?
- What the layman says?

The Quest for the Definition

International legal background → ∅

National Criminal Codes → ∅

What else...

Transparency International?

Perception based corruption index

+ Definition of high-level corruption

TI's definition of grand corruption:

“Any corruption case involving **high-level** public **officials** and at least one of the **offences** set out in the UNCAC (Articles 15-25), or a political finance or lobbying offence, and which

1. contributes to harm the **health** or **life** of at least a part of the **State's** population; and/or
2. contributes to financial **damage** or personal **enrichment** of at least [X] times the annual minimum household income; and/or
3. involves a total of **bribes** of at least [X] times the annual minimum household income.”

But... Wait a minute...

Result? Define the elements? Causality? Large scale measured by income? → Dead end

What now?

We still need a notion

Is measuring high-level corruption... at a rough estimation?

„I know it when I see it.”

Combination of elements? But how?

Thank you for your attention!

A decorative graphic consisting of a solid teal horizontal bar at the top, followed by a white horizontal bar, and then three thin, parallel teal horizontal lines on the right side of the white bar.