



*Project Funded by the European Commission
6th Framework Programme
Under the Socio-Economic Sciences and Humanities Theme (SSH)*

Crime and Culture-Project at a Glance

(May 2009)

Acronym	Crime and Culture
Project Full Title	Crime as a Cultural Problem. The Relevance of Perceptions of Corruption to Crime Prevention. A Comparative Cultural Study in the EU-Accession States Bulgaria and Romania, the EU-Candidate States Turkey and Croatia and in the EU-States Germany, Greece and the United Kingdom
Funding Scheme	Specific Targeted Research Project
Coordinator	University of Konstanz crimeandculture@uni-konstanz.de
Duration	January 1, 2006 – July 31, 2009
EU Funding	1.094.700 EUR
EC Scientific Officer	Ms. Manuela Alfé
Website	www.uni-konstanz.de/crimeandculture/index.htm
Short Description	<p>CRIME AND CULTURE: 35 researchers across 10 institutions in 8 European countries</p> <p>What is CRIME AND CULTURE?</p> <p>The research project aims to develop means to optimise corruption prevention in the EU. The urgency of such a project is reflected in the fact that corruption holds the potential to retard seriously the process of the Community's enlargement and integration, even to the extent of threatening the very core of its concept of social order. The prevention policies that have been developed by the EU and implemented so far within individual member countries have in general been characterised by legislative, administrative and police force measures. These are based on a definition of corruption prevention developed in political and administrative institutions that, for its implementation, rely on a top-down</p>



Crime & Culture



	<p>procedure. The research project purports to conduct not an inquiry into the nature of corruption ‘as such’, but rather into the perceptions of corruption held by political and administrative decision-makers in specific regions and cultures, those held by actors representing various institutions and authorities, and above all by the citizens and the media in European societies. The project proceeds from the assumption that the considerably varying perceptions of corruption, determined as they are by cultural dispositions, have significant influence on a country’s respective awareness of the problem and thereby on the success of any preventative measures. For this reason, the project investigates the ‘fit’ between institutionalised prevention policies and how these are perceived in daily practice, as well as how EU-candidate and member countries as a result handle the issue of corruption. In a final step, the research project intends to make specific recommendations for readjusting this ‘fit’ in the frame of an inter-active scholars-experts conference to take place on July 10, 2009 in Brussels.</p>
<p>Crime and Culture Consortium</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • University of Konstanz, Co-ordinator, Germany www.uni-konstanz.de • University of Tübingen, Germany www.uni-tuebingen.de • Center for Liberal Strategies, Bulgaria www.cls-sofia.org • Research Institute for Quality of Life (Romanian Academy), Romania www.iccv.ro • University of Galatasaray, Turkey www.gsu.edu.tr • University of Zagreb, Croatia www.ffzg.hr • Panteion University, Greece www.panteion.gr • South East European Studies at Oxford, United Kingdom www.seesox.ac.uk
<p>Aims and Objectives</p>	<p>Which Are the OBJECTIVES of the Project?</p> <p>The goal of the project is to deepen the knowledge of the phenomenon of corruption in the countries designated above. In doing so, it follows a twofold line of inquiry: The objects of the project are both the conceptual preconditions of the expert systems as well as the socio-cultural conditions under which these systems are put into effect.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. First empirical phase: evaluation of expert systems. Analysis of documents of the target groups politics, judiciary, police, media, civil society and economy. 2. Second empirical phase: interviews with representatives of all target groups. Reconstruction of common-sense definitions of corruption out of the data. 3. Third empirical phase: systematic strength-weakness analysis of expert systems.



	<p>4. Interactive scholars-experts conference in Brussels: Development of bottom-up strategies for the prevention of corruption.</p> <p>5. Communication of research findings in the scientific community, with policy-makers and in the public sphere.</p> <p>6. Co-operation with national and international anti-corruption agencies.</p>
<p>Dissemination of Project Findings</p>	<p>Dissemination of knowledge within the research project Crime and Culture takes place on <i>four levels</i> covering a range of activities which involve: the project consortium itself, the scientific community, experts and policy-makers and the civil society.</p> <p>Project Consortium:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Intensive knowledge transfer within the consortium in terms of an innovative application of sociological theory (Grounded Theory) and the use of applied methods of qualitative empirical research. 2. Enrichment of academic curricula and generation of a European added value in educational terms in the countries involved in the project. <p>Scientific Community:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Publication of <i>articles</i> in scholarly journals (http://www.uni-konstanz.de/crimeandculture/publications.htm) 2. Plant <i>Book Series</i> by Ashgate Publishing Group, UK. 3. Presentation of project findings in a score of national and international <i>conferences</i>. 4. Establishment of a <i>Discussion Paper Series</i> (25 Discussion Papers) (http://www.uni-konstanz.de/crimeandculture/papers.htm). 5. Generation of further research co-operations in the field: Research Fellowship of the Japanese government at Waseda University, Tokyo on: Political Corruption in Germany and Japan. <p>Experts and Policy-makers:</p> <p>The goal on this level of dissemination is to operationalise the knowledge gained from the project by co-operating with policy-makers and experts working in the field of anti-corruption. The respective multiple-stage plan comprises of the following details:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Representatives from all target groups of the project, that is politics, judiciary, police, media, civil society and economy are directly involved in the project in different ways, i.e. as interviewees, informants and discussants in the process of data-generation. 2. As a result, the exchange of knowledge and information between scholars and experts have been continual throughout the entire project. 3. Project findings have been during every project phase disseminated to experts and policy-makers on national and international level via the Project Newsletter and the Discussion Papers. 4. In the course of the follow-up final conference of the project in Brussels, the findings of the project will be targeted discussed with experts and



	<p>policy-makers representing that single target groups and international anti-corruption agencies.</p> <p>Further Synergies and the Civil Society:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. All reports and other intellectual products of the consortium are available without remuneration to the general public via the <i>project web site</i> (www.uni-konstanz.de/crimeandculture/index.htm) 2. Further synergies resulted from the scholarly education activities carried out by the consortium. 3. The institutions participating in the project have established contacts and co-operation between the consortium and NGOs that are involved in combating corruption in the wider public sphere in their countries and internationally. 4. The project management is involved in the anti-corruption activities of the Transparency International Secretariat (TI) in Berlin in the frame of the Advocacy and Legal Advice Centers (ALAC) a project which TI has recently launched. A joint venture project between TI and the research performers at Konstanz University will be funded by the 7th Framework Programme of the European Commission (short title of the project: ALACs).
<p>Deliverables</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regular scientific reports by all project partners http://www.uni-konstanz.de/crimeandculture/reports.htm • Discussion Paper Series • Project website and regular e-newsletters • Kick-off meeting, further project meetings and final conference http://www.uni-konstanz.de/crimeandculture/events.htm • Organisation of panels, poster sessions and presentations in conferences.
<p>Relationship to Key Anti-corruption Agencies</p>	<p>Except close co-operation with Transparency International the project management has initiated intensive contacts to representatives of international anti-corruption organisations such as: European Anti-Fraud Office (OLAF), DG JLS, European Commission, Council of Europe: GRECO-Group of States against Corruption, OECD, Sigma-Programme, UNODC: Economic and Social Council, The Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, SELDI: Southeast European Legal Development Initiative, World Bank: World Bank Institute (WBI).</p>