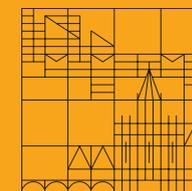


Members of the Project Consortium

- University of Konstanz, Germany (Co-ordinator)
- University of Tübingen, Germany
- Police University, Federal State of Baden-Württemberg, Germany (Affiliated)
- Centre for Liberal Strategies, Sofia, Bulgaria
- Research Institute for the Quality of Life (Romanian Academy), Bucharest, Romania
- Galatasaray University, Istanbul, Turkey
- University of Zagreb, Croatia
- National School of Public Administration and Local Government, Athens, Greece
- Panteion University, Athens, Greece
- South East European Studies at Oxford (SEESOX), United Kingdom
- Center for Research and Policy Making (CRPM), FYR Macedonia (Affiliated)



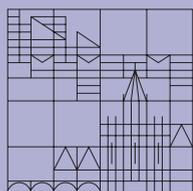
UNIVERSITY OF KONSTANZ
Research Group Sociology of Knowledge

Crime

& Culture

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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 the EU-States Germany, Greece and United Kingdom

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Sixth Framework Programme of the European Commission
Specific Targeted Research Project





CRIME AND CULTURE:

35 researchers across 10 institutions in 8 European countries

What is CRIME AND CULTURE?

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 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 interactive scholars-experts conference in Brussels.

Which Are the OBJECTIVES of the Project?

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.

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. Improvement of the **effectiveness** of the existing expert systems, which are presently limited to a top-down approach.
4. **Interactive scholars-experts conference** in Brussels: Development of **bottom-up strategies** for the prevention of corruption. On the basis of the findings from the phases one to three, points of departure will be delineated for the **revision of the existing expert systems**.
5. **Communication** of research findings in the scientific community and public sphere.
6. **Co-operation** with national and international anti-corruption agencies.