

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY


Summary of Content

The present guide is aimed at assisting anti-corruption authorities in meaningfully engaging young people to support them in their anti-corruption efforts. It fills the gap between the intention of these agencies to engage young people and the lack of guidance available on how to do so. The basis for developing this guide was the study of existing literature and the collection of primary qualitative and quantitative data.

The nexus of meaningful youth engagement and anti-corruption authorities' work is characterized by three concepts:

1. **Youth engagement:** Depending on their role and the type of engagement, the contribution of young people can be categorized as “voice” (i.e. engaging constructively in dialogue and raising issues that affect them), “insight” (i.e. gathering and communicating knowledge from young people to inform decisions of anti-corruption authorities, including their policies and programmes) and “action” (i.e. leading or participating in initiatives to address issues affecting them and their communities, including anti-corruption-related activities).
2. **Meaningful youth engagement:** To make youth engagement meaningful, it must occur under certain circumstances, which are defined by five themes: diversity and inclusion, engagement-enabling environment, intergenerational collaboration, quality youth participation and youth empowerment.
3. **Anti-corruption authorities' functions:** the anti-corruption work of these agencies can be categorized into five functions: prevention, law enforcement, public outreach/awareness-raising, education and regulation/policymaking.

Meaningful youth engagement in anti-corruption work is youth engagement that occurs under enabling conditions, whereby young people actively participate at different stages of an anti-corruption initiative, in collaboration with stakeholders, and which results in their empowerment and the promotion of anti-corruption outcomes.



Anti-corruption authorities can significantly benefit from engaging young people in the following ways:

1. Young people can support anti-corruption authorities in overcoming the three main challenges that they typically face in the pursuit of their mandates: to prevent and combat corruption effectively, to communicate with key stakeholders appropriately, and to manage resources efficiently.
2. Engaging young people offers significant opportunities for anti-corruption authorities, including bringing new knowledge and ideas outside the current scope of anti-corruption authorities

Obstacles that anti-corruption authorities commonly face in promoting youth engagement relate to the capacities of young people and the institutional readiness of agencies.

Anti-corruption authorities interested in starting or improving their efforts related to youth engagement should proceed in three phases:

1. **Strengthen institutional readiness for meaningful youth engagement:** the capacity of an agency for meaningful youth engagement depends on the state of preparation of the five themes of meaningful youth engagement in the institution. The level of anti-corruption authority preparedness is measured using 13 “institutional enablers”. Based on an assessment, they can enhance their chances of successful meaningful youth engagement.
2. **Develop youth engagement activities at the operational level:** to design meaningful youth engagement activities, anti-corruption authorities can apply a Theory of Change approach in four steps: i) define the anti-corruption programme objective; ii) understand what young people can contribute to achieving the objective; iii) describe the detailed activities and how young people will be engaged; and iv) check that the programme complies with meaningful youth engagement criteria.
3. **Monitor and evaluate efforts to continuously learn and improve their meaningful youth engagement.**

The present guide offers step-by-step guidance for the first two phases and general advice for the third one.

Its objective is to encourage anti-corruption authorities around the world to introduce youth engagement to their work or to improve their existing efforts by making them meaningful. However, going forward, additional technical and financial resources are essential to support implementation and to build an international, intergenerational community of practice on meaningful youth engagement for anti-corruption authorities.



Structure of the GUIDE

The content of the present guide is presented in three main chapters:

- **Chapter 1: Conceptual framework.** This provides information on research, data and concepts that form the basis of the guide. It explains the key intellectual assumptions and defines the main terms that are critical for understanding the topic, bringing together core concepts of research on anti-corruption authorities and meaningful youth engagement.
- **Chapter 2: Rationale for anti-corruption authorities to engage young people.** This addresses the question of why anti-corruption authorities should engage young people. As with any new initiative, there are obstacles and opportunities. But in support of meaningful youth engagement, our research finds that young people can help anti-corruption authorities enhance the quality of anti-corruption initiatives thanks to their insights and innovative ideas, their voices and communication skills, and their interest in issues relating to youth and social development.
- **Chapter 3: How can anti-corruption authorities meaningfully engage young people?** This contains detailed step-by-step guidance for anti-corruption authorities to assess and enhance their institutional readiness for meaningful youth engagement, to integrate this guidance into their operations and to monitor and evaluate their efforts with regard to continuous improvement and learning.

Finally, ideas on how to foster the implementation of the recommendation outlined in the present guide are detailed in a concluding chapter. In addition, information on research and data collection is provided, as well as more details on assessing anti-corruption authorities readiness for meaningful youth engagement.