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A Future Without Corruption – One Vision, Multiple Strategies

6th ICAC Symposium

Hong Kong, 11-13 May 2015

The Public Against Corruption - GRECO's Experience

Presentation by Marin Mrčela, Ph. D.
President of the GRECO



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Group of States against Corruption



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“The mistake you make, don’t you see, is in thinking one can live in a corrupt society without being corrupt oneself. You’re trying to behave as though one could stand right outside our economic system. But one can’t. One’s got to change the system...” (George Orwell, “Keep the Aspidistra Flying, 1936)



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GRECO's objective:

- monitor compliance with the Council of Europe's anti-corruption standards
- identify deficiencies and prompt reforms
- promote and share good practices

Today: 49 member States (awaiting EU)



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GRECO Evaluation Procedure:

- Evaluation rounds based on a specific theme(s)
- Questionnaire and on-site visit
- Country-specific evaluation and publication of a report
- Compliance procedure and publication of its results

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GRECO Four Evaluation Rounds

1. Authorities in charge of preventing, investigating, prosecuting and adjudicating corruption; Specialization; Immunities (2000-2002)
2. Seizure and confiscation, Public administration and corruption, Liability of legal persons, Links between corruption, organised crime and money laundering, Tax and financial legislation (2003-2005)
3. Transparency, supervision and enforcement of party and election campaign financing; Criminalization (2007-2011)
4. Corruption prevention in respect of members of Parliament, judges and prosecutors (2012-...)

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The public against corruption

- civil society – an alternate way to decision-making
 - knowledge and independent expertise
 - monitor, detect and reverse the corrupt practices
- corruption effects all segments of society
 - “ordinary citizens should be listened to, respected and acted upon
 - the role of the media



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European and global standards

- multidisciplinary fight against corruption
- to raise public awareness
- to encourage research
- freedom of the media
- NGO's essential contribution /CM Rec(2007)14/
 - promotion of public awareness
 - free to undertake research, education...
 - effective participation without discrimination in dialogue and consultation on public policy with Governmental mechanisms



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Office of the UNHC for Human Rights

- The key attributes of good governance:
 - Responsibility
 - Accountability
 - Participation
 - Responsiveness (to the needs of the people)



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Examples of GRECO's rec.

- to inform the general public of the measures and results achieved as well as about avenues for reporting suspicions of corruption (Armenia)
- to develop and publicly articulate anti-corruption policy (Italy)...with the involvement fo civil society (San Marino)
- to establish anti-corruption strategy..the plan should be widely known with high degree of public awareness (Russian Federation)

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Examples of GRECO's rec. (2)

- anti-corruption monitoring body should represent public institutions and civil society (Turkey, Ukraine)
- to ensure access and transparency of public documents (Luxembourg, Switzerland, Germany, Cyprus, Slovenia, Czech Republic, Montenegro)
- political parties annual accounts be made public (UK, Ireland, Sweden, Malta, France, Hungary, Georgia)



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Examples of GRECO's rec. (3)

- public access to the results of supervision of political parties (Greece, Armenia, Montenegro)
- to adopt and make public Code of Conduct for members of parliament (Finland, Croatia, Netherlands), rules of gifts should be public (Sweden)
- to adopt and make public Code of Conduct for judges (Denmark, Germany, Lithuania)...and for prosecutors (Slovak Republic)
- declarations of assets easily accessible to the public (France, Slovakia)



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Concluding remarks

- successful fight against corruption without public is impossible
- information, consultation, dialogue, partnership
- trust, accountability, independence
- corruption thrives in obscurity
 - transparency and access to information are essential to reduce corruption – to change the system where corruption is way of life, doing bussines



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Thank you for your attention!

Evaluation reports as well as other relevant information at:

www.coe.int/greco



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