Education Specific Corruption in Western Balkan

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American University in Kosovo, Kosovo
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Abuse of entrusted (public) power for private interest in higher education institutions has a great impact on:

- The development of the student
- The bureaucracy and efficiency of the institution
- The relations between members of a society

The current research focuses on Specific Aspects related to Corruption in Education

The research is conducted in four Balkan countries: Albania, Montenegro, Kosovo and FYROM
Previous Research

* TI Corruption Index and UNODC (2011):
  MNE, FYROM: High Bribes and low Perception of Corruption
  AL and KS: Low Bribes and high Perception

* Barr & Serra (2010) ➔ A relation between Corruption & Culture

* Literature on Blat and Guanxi (Ledeneva, 2008; LI, 2010) ➔
  Deeply-rooted value of Personal Networking type of corruption in some cultures

* Literature on wider corruption correlates and factors (Getz & Volkema, 2011; Basabe & Ross, 2005) ➔
  Relation between corruption & work-related culture dimensions (power distance, uncertainty avoidance, individualism/collectivism, and masculinity/femininity)

* Frank & Schulze (2000) ➔ Economic students are more corrupt than others

* There is no scientific study up to now on ESCoWeB
* Underlying mechanisms of corrupt behavior among students in universities?
* Perceptions on the prevalence of two types of corrupt behavior (bribing vs. favoritism)?
* Role of culture on corrupt behavior condoned and exercised in universities?
* Role of the country’s economic past on corrupt behavior in universities.
* How does the corrupt behavior take place? As a one-to-one negotiation process or through mediators. In the latter case, who are the mediators?
Socio-Political Factors
- Economic situation
- Law and Enforcement
- Overall level of corruption

Cultural Factors
- National history
- Ethnic homogeneity
- Cultural values

Individual Background
- Social status
- Religion
- Previous schooling experience

Institutional Factors
- Regulations
- Transparency
- Codes of ethics
- Power Structure

*Theoretical Model*

Corruption
- Bribing
- Favoritism
Hypotheses

* Hypothesis 1: There are stronger corruption tendencies in the countries characterized by:
  * Higher extent of endorsement of collectivistic values
  * Harsher previous economic shortage history (Lack or unfair distribution of goods)

* Hypothesis 2: There is higher favoritism in smaller academic communities defined by population size or ethnicity

* Hypothesis 3: Corruption tendencies are higher among students of Finance, Business, Law compared to students of Informatics.
* Research Methodology

* Secondary Data and Literature Review

* Semi-structured interviews with alumni & teaching assistants - focused on the personal experience or of that of their peers.

* Quasi-experimental questionnaires - Two vignettes describing a favoritism situation and a bribing situation. We measured the students’ imagined emotion or action tendencies after having read the vignettes, as well as their willingness to engage in corruption.

* Focus groups with students and faculty staff

* Experiments (next year)
*The results of this study contribute to the literature on corruption in higher education and in comparisons of behavior toward corruption. The outcome of the study can lead to new insight on how to fight education-specific corruption and to achieve higher equity. The findings will be made available to policymakers, experts, actors of interest and the general public in order to promote change in the regulations. For this purpose a roundtable in each country is foreseen to disseminate the results of the project. Furthermore, a common brochure of all partners will be prepared, presenting results and main recommendations in a non-technical way.