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Corruption in the system of Education of Ukraine

(informational and analytical memo)

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The efficiency of democratic changes, economic development and civil society strengthening in Ukraine directly depend on the quality of education. Under the circumstances of globalization qualitative education becomes the main priority for educational policy in majority of countries, and the investments into human capital are understood as a leading factor of economic success of the state. Having become the participant of Bologna declaration in May 2005, Ukraine has to provide accordance of the state education system to European standards and demands that are accompanied with a range of difficulties and discrepancies. However, integration of education system of Ukraine into European educational space is complicated not only with the necessity of implementation of the structural reform of education branch, organizational and methodological provision, but also with the factor that education system in Ukraine is totally corrupted. Except several universities, the shadow relationships in education, corruption and bribery take place in the most of higher schools, covering all stages of studying – starting with entering to university, passing the exams, and completing with presentation of Doctoral or Master thesis.

One can say conditionally that corruption in the system of education is not the most dangerous type of corruption. Corruption in the spheres of politics and economics, the political and economical damage from which is deep and long-lasting, has more dangerous consequences. Nevertheless, common corruption, with the displays of which many citizens face in everyday life (the mostly often – in the spheres of medicine and education), has a strong negative influence on the moral state of society because it easily lessens the values of education, science, moral values. Corruption in education system is especially dangerous because the first its victims the representatives of young generation – the future of the country - become. Actually, the pupils and students are very sensitive to the atmosphere in university, and dealing with different displays of injustice, bribery and corruption, loose optimism and perceive such a state of things quite painfully. Then part of them develops quite tolerant attitude towards bribery and perceives it as fast and convenient way of problems solution. Such a position of youth that will create the future of the country, substantially postpones the prospective of overcoming corruptive relationships in the society, in particular, in education. As result, the society loses a lot because it doesn't receive the qualified specialists as it isn't possible to "buy education". The diplomas and "business" traits of the person received in such a way create disfigured reality, where the real education loses the functions and sense of its existence.

1) Assessment of corruption scale in the system of education of Ukraine – data of sociological surveys

According to "The Barometer of Global Corruption-2006" of Transparency International¹, the Ukrainians consider as the most corrupted institutions the political parties, parliament, courts and police (with index 4,2 due to 5-point system of estimation), then goes business (4,0), the third place the customs system and medical institutions occupy (3,9), **corruption in education** takes the fourth place (with index 3,8), then go licenses institutions (3,4), media and militaries (3,1); NGOs (3,0) and religious institutions (2,2) complete this list.

¹ http://www.transparency.org/policy_research/surveys_indices/gcb/2006

The resembling results show other sociological surveys. According to the latest data of MSI project sociological survey², the worst corruption offenders are perceived to be in the Verkhovna Rada and Cabinet of Ministers, although the other branches and levels of government are highly corrupted as well. In particular, the corruption in higher education takes the fifth position in the list of widely corrupted spheres in public sector (with indicator of 43,6% respondents), after the state auto inspection (DAI) (57.5 %), the police (54.2 %), health care services (54 %), and the court system (49 %) (then go Prosecutor's offices (42.9 %), customs authorities (42.8%), and tax authorities (40.3 %)). One-third to one-half of all Ukrainians who dealt with government over the past 12 months were extorted by corrupt officials. Actually, the worst offenders were universities - where 47.3% respondent were extorted to give bribe and 29% did it voluntarily⁴.

Corruption in Schools. Of the 24 percent of respondents with school age children attending state schools, many participate in corrupt transactions to get educational services. These education consumers, have to donate money to the school or class funds, donate money for school repairs, and give gifts to teachers. But they are not forced to pay for school admissions, passing examinations, receiving gold or silver medals, receiving grades, or forced tutoring.

Other results of interviewing states that

- 88 percent of those respondents were not asked and did not give unofficial payments for school admission.
- 91 percent were not asked and did not give unofficial payments to pass an examination.
- 92 percent were not asked and did not give unofficial payments to receive a gold or silver medal.
- 88 percent were not asked and did not give unofficial payments for better grades.
- 87 percent were not asked and did not give unofficial payments for “forced” tutoring.
- However, 52 percent were asked and did donate money to the school and class fund, while 33 percent gave without even being asked.
- 54 percent were asked and did pay for school repairs, while 35 percent gave voluntarily.
- 32 percent were asked and did donate flowers and gifts for teachers, while 49 percent gave voluntarily.

There was sympathy for the teachers and school administrators; the proposed remedies for corruption in the schools is to raise salaries (13%) and fund the budget fully (14.6), raise professional level (8) and fire those exposed of corruption (7.9). While these appear to be the most frequently identified, only a small percentage of respondents believe they will be effective⁵.

Corruption experience in Higher Education.

Limited access to free higher education was identified by 73.7 percent of respondents as a serious problem in Ukraine today.

Of those respondents who indicated that they had to pay a bribe to state university administration officials or educators, 37.6 percent said that they did so in relation to admission to the university.⁶

According to another recent research conducted by MSI, 45,9% of respondents whose relatives or friends had the admission exams in the university, confirmed that positive result was received owing

² That was conducted in cooperation with Kyiv International Institute of Sociology, between January and April 2007, and included a sample of 10,580 respondents from all of the oblasts in Ukraine and the Autonomous Republic (AR) of Crimea.

³ http://www.pace.org.ua/images/pace_baseline_survey2007_eng.doc - P.19.

⁴ for comparison - healthcare (43.8/18.2), police (42.8/21.7), business regulation and inspection(41.1/21.8), government subsidized housing (39.2/17.5), utilities(36.6/14.9), customs (36.5/18.1), government permits (36/18.5), Army draft (32.1/14.4), government hiring (32.1/14.2) and the courts (31.8/13.7);

http://www.pace.org.ua/images/pace_baseline_survey2007_eng.doc - P. 24.

⁵ http://www.pace.org.ua/images/pace_baseline_survey2007_eng.doc - P.29-31.

⁶ http://www.pace.org.ua/images/pace_baseline_survey2007_eng.doc - P.32.

to corruption. Other 26,5% supposed (though they were not sure) the facts of corruption had place. It means that more than half of university entrants faced with corruption this summer.

Data of one more sociological survey⁷ (qualitative one - based on the results of focus group discussions) prove the fact the entrants usually agree their interests with the parents' interests and possibilities; moreover, the presence of parents' informal relations which would assist the children to enter the university is considered as a norm. Besides, as a condition of successful entering the university practice of coaching is mentioned – in the majority of cases the coach serves not only as source of knowledge but also as a “mediator” in the admission examination process. In a whole, the results of discussion show that entering the university owing to the knowledge is considered as something real only for very gifted entrants, the winners of different scientific competitions, etc. In other cases the participants of discussion suppose the necessity of some amounts of money. Those who try to enter “by their own”, due to the forecasts, could only to pretend to the paid form of studying, including studying in private universities. Other models of successful entering the university envisage informal relations between the entrants' parents and influential representatives of chosen universities.

2) Legislative regulation of corruption in education

The corruptive offences in education are regulated by the general articles of the Code on Administrative Violations, the Code of Administrative Proceedings, and the Criminal Code of Ukraine. The officials of this spheres might be prosecuted according to the Criminal Code of Ukraine (though, to bear the criminal liability such officials in terms of the Criminal Code of Ukraine should perform duties connected with performing of organization and managing or administrative and economic obligations, therefore average teacher is outside the scope of criminal proceedings bearing administrative responsibility). The Law “On the fight against corruption” in its current version is applied only to the civil servants (thus not refers to representatives of education system), though the Draft Law “On the fight against corruption” includes a wide list of liable officials, including persons temporally or permanently holding posts connected with the performing of organizational or administrative functions – that creates a possibility for such persons (including those representing education sphere) to account due to this law regulations.

President's Decree “On Urgent Measures Concerning Provision of Functioning and Developing Education in Ukraine” (issued on July 4, 2005, #1013/2005), among other activities, obligates the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine to conduct the measures aimed at overcoming bribes and other negative phenomena in the sphere of education, and to strengthen the relevant activities to prevent such phenomena. Nevertheless, the Concept of Overcoming Corruption in Ukraine “On the Way to Integrity” issued on September 11, 2006, which defines the main spheres where corruption should be combated, analyses risks and elaborates possible ways to prevent and fight corruption, doesn't mention with any word about education (as health care system as well, which is also one of the most corrupted spheres) paying attention to such spheres as state service, administrative procedures, public procurement, judiciary, formation and operation of elected bodies. That's why, understanding possible difficulties in the procedural application of the legislative rules on the education (as in a health care system) officials liability, it seems to be expedient to recognize the problem on the level of conceptual papers with the following implementation into the level of legislation.

However, in the end of June 2007 the President Viktor Yushchenko tried to draw attention of the law-enforcement bodies to the problem of corruption in education. In particular, he submitted the corresponding letter to the Ministry of Interior and General Prosecutor's Office noticing that despite the activities conducted during the previous years there are not appreciable results still; thus,

⁷ By Laboratory for Social Research of the Centre for Private Support Initiative (Lviv, Ukraine) within the frames of research “The Phenomenon of Corruption in Youth Interpretation: Experience, Observation, Social Behaviour”, 2007.

situation needs the urgent measures were conducted by law-enforcement bodies which should realize all their authorities to prevent and reveal the facts of bribes in the higher schools of the country⁸.

Unfortunately, there is no generalized statistics concerning corruptive offenses in the sphere of education. However, according to Viktor Bezkorovaynyy's data (the chairman of the Main Service on Law-Enforcement Bodies Activities Issues), during 6 months of this year 23 officials of education system were instituted to administrative proceedings for corruptive offences. 46 criminal proceedings were instituted. 39 of them were submitted to the court, 7 are under investigation.⁹

3) **Activities aimed at combating corruption in education**

2.1 International technical assistance (MCC)

Speaking about overcoming corruption in the sphere of education, among the programs of international technical assistance Millennium Threshold Corporation (MCC) Threshold Country Program (TCP) should be mentioned. It is conducted by Government of Ukraine in close coordination with USAID and the MCC, and was agreed and signed at the beginning of December 2006. Ukraine's Threshold Program aims to reduce corruption in the public sector through strengthening civil society's monitoring and exposure of corruption, judicial reform, increased government monitoring and enforcement of ethical and administrative standards, streamlining and enforcing regulations and combating corruption in higher education.

Below a brief description of the activities envisaged by the program is presented.

1. **Strengthening Civil Society's Monitoring and Exposure of Corruption** - This program component aims to reduce opportunities for corruption by enabling civil society to be more effective monitors of government and advocates for reform.

A new project - Promoting Active Citizen Engagement (PACE) in Combating Corruption in Ukraine - was launched by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) in December 2006. The Project is a two-year activity that supports non-governmental monitoring and advocacy on priority areas in the fight against corruption, focusing particularly on issues identified by the Government of Ukraine in its Millennium Challenge Corporation (MCC) Threshold Country Plan, namely: strengthening judicial reform; government monitoring and enforcement of ethical and administrative standards; streamlining and enforcing regulations; and combating corruption in higher education establishment institutions. The Project is implemented by Management Systems International (MSI) in partnership with the US-Ukraine Foundation (USUF), Counterpart Creative Center (CCC), Kiev International Institute of Sociology (KIIS), and Center for Ukrainian Reform Education (CURE) (*more information is available at www.pace.org.ua*).

This project has two major components: 1) support for civil society advocacy and monitoring efforts; and 2) investigative journalism and other media anticorruption efforts. Both PACE components are essential to furthering and measuring the GOU's progress and long-term commitment to the fight against corruption.

2. **Judicial Reform** - Critical to efforts to fight corruption is increasing the level of transparency in the delivery of justice by introducing permanent improvements in key legislative, procedural and institutional arrangements. The proposed activities will also contribute to fostering a more professional cadre of administrative judges, court personnel, and notaries. The goal of this component is to increase transparency in the judicial sector.

⁸ <http://delo.ua/news/politics/ukraine/info-40088.html#>

⁹ <http://www.president.gov.ua/news/data/print/17286.html>

3. Government Monitoring and Enforcement of Ethical and Administrative Standards

Currently Ukraine has no general conflict of interest legislation for government officials except for certain provisions that limit business opportunities for family members of officials. Additionally, although there are requirements that candidates for public office and civil servants declare their assets, the methodology has flaws and omissions, and submitted declarations are rarely checked and even more rarely are sanctions imposed for falsification. This component will create systems to strengthen accountability among government officials and enable the Government of Ukraine to better monitor and enforce ethical and administrative standards.

4. Streamlining and Enforcing Regulations – Complicated, confusing and overlapping systems providing construction permits, delivery of municipal services, land and property ownership and usage are sources of significant corruption. Both private individuals and legal entities must complete an enormous number of steps to start any construction activity. The processes are neither transparent, nor defined in time, and there is clear evidence of corruption at all steps. This component will change the legislative and regulatory framework for property transactions, reform the permit system, and streamline lines of responsibilities and procedures in order to reduce corruption in these areas.

5. Combating Corruption in Higher Education - Recognizing the importance of reducing corruption within the educational system, a national testing center, the Ukrainian Center of Evaluation of Education (UCEE), has been established. Assistance is required, however, to fully implement the external testing system as well as to ensure its integrity. The goal of this component is to reduce corruption in higher education by establishing a legal framework requiring a minimum test score for admission to universities; developing a functioning security system for test results; and ensuring that 100 percent of students are tested and the test centers are fully operational. This component is being conducted in close cooperation with the Ministry of Education of Ukraine (*more information in the part on external test system below*)

Highlights of Expected Results

1. Reduce the perceived level of corruption in all areas by 10 percent.
2. Reduce experiential corruption in all areas by 20 percent.
3. 30 percent of NGO advocacy campaigns result in government reforms.
4. Reduce the number of cases brought to the European Court of Justice by 30 percent.
5. Increase the number of notary violation findings that result in sanctions or prosecutions by 30 percent.
6. Increase compliance with procedures in ministries with an Internal Investigative Unit (target to be determined upon establishment of the Internal Investigative Unit).
7. Reduce the number of users who indicate that they made unofficial payments in areas of customs, transportation, construction, land ownership, land usage, and municipal services by 20 percent.
8. Increase to 100 percent the percentage of students tested for university admission.

2.2 Activities conducted by Ministry of Education of Ukraine

According to the recent interview of the Minister of Education Stanislav Nikolayenko¹⁰, Ministry of Education recognizes the problem of corruption in education but also conducts a range of activities in order to tackle corruption. Besides, he claims decreasing the facts of corruption arguing this with the data of sociological survey that was carried out in 2005, 2006 and is to be done in 2007 by the Institute for Social and Political Psychology in Kyiv, Donetsk, Lviv oblast, Odesa and Kharkov (the region where the most numbers of students are studying).

¹⁰ Znannya optom i vrozdrub, abo Nezruchni zapytannya do ministra osvity I nauky // Zerkalo nedeli. May 26 – June 2, 2007.- <http://www.dt.ua/3000/3300/59393/>

One of the questions concerns assessing the dynamics of corruption in universities at the entrance level. Approximately 20% gave response that the cases of bribery had place but there are less of them than earlier. Approximately 27% answered that the bribes are taken as earlier and the situation is the same; 7—8% consider that briberies flourished. If to compare the entrance campaigns of two previous years, the number of those recognized that he entered to the high school with the help of bribery was 19% in 2005, and 13% already – in 2006.

As Nikolayenko says, they launched to conduct the whole complex of organizational, economic and legal measures. **1) Organizational measures.** They improved the rules of students admission (regarding independent test system, it is described below). Second, there are headquarters which react to the facts of corruption. In each region there is a representative of ministry who traces those cases, and the special public commission; the situation becomes better in comparison to the previous year, now more attention is also drawn to educational work. Besides, on the beginning of 2007 the credentials of the student self-governments bodies were extended a bit, and there is a student council under the ministry, which reports on the situation pertaining corruption. **2) Economic measures.** The salaries were increased twice as much. **3) Legal measures.** During the previous year 400 facts of corruption were revealed, and criminal proceedings were instituted.

But the Minister also notices that the relatives provoke corruption in high school on their own. According to the survey, for the question “How would you act if some professors proposed you to help with getting good grade for the certain reward?” the answer “I would use this opportunity” gave 21% students in Donetska oblast, 29% in Kyiv, 28% in Lviv, 25 % in Odesa and 30% in Kharkov. “I wouldn’t use it but would inform the others” – approximately 15%. “Wouldn’t advice anybody to do it” – 21-26%; and “I would not use it but also would inform the law-enforcement bodies” – 2,8-8%. But 42% of interviewed parents said they would not spend time and efforts but choose the possibility how to pay.

Diplomas buying. The Ministry conducts also the measures in order to make diplomas falsification as futile. They elaborated the system of diplomas check-up (as they claim, unique one at the territory of Union of Independent States). There is a web-site (www.osvita.net), where all who received the diploma since 1997 in Ukraine are registered. Information is getting from 1100 places, the rectors are responsible for information validity, and information is being checked. During 5 months of this year 84 thousands person checked the diplomas. During 2006 180 letters of request from law-enforcement bodies were received regarding legality of diplomas getting, in 6 cases it turned out they were falsified.

Besides, Ukrainian diploma certificate has 6 levels of protection. There wasn’t any falsified diploma certificate revealed by law-enforcement bodies with all the levels of protection.

Entrance campaign 2007. The Ministry publicized the letter where it obliged the chairmen of higher schools to organize the operation of admitting commissions in such a way each student and his parents could get qualified and correct answers. The functioning of admitting commissions should be transparent, objective and widely informative.

The operative headquarter is created under the Ministry which will control conducting entrance campaign and preventing briberies and corruption, and the hotline will function. During this summer a consultative hotline “Summer examination period 2006/2007” 8(044) 486-13-16 is operating.

3. Usage of new approaches for combating corruption in education - Independent Test System.

In order to improve education in Ukraine, its integration into European educational space, and creation of the conditions for providing citizens’ access to qualitative education the system of independent (external) testing for graduating pupils was launched to be implemented.

This common initiative is being implemented by Ukrainian Centre for Estimation of Education Quality (www.ukrtest.org) (supported by International Renaissance Foundation (Soros Foundation in Ukraine - www.irf.kiev.ua), and the Ministry of Education of Ukraine (www.mon.gov.ua).

In 2006 40 thousand pupils took participation in external testing. The pupils passed the test on Ukrainian language, and Mathematics or History for their choice. Then they could enter the university according to the test results or to pass exams at usual basis. In a whole, such a system was positively estimated by the pupils and parents though not all the universities wanted to go on this way; there were the complaints that test results were converted and evaluated lower than the results of customary exams passing.

This year the test results were forced to be recognized by all universities though not all of them accepted this approach completely.

In 2007 116 thousand pupils (26%) among 448 thousands of all graduating pupils participated in external test examination¹¹.

Ukrainian Centre for Estimation of Education Quality (Ihor Likarchuk- chairman) which implements external testing conducted registration during January 15-February 19, 2007 when the participants should have submitted a written request and noticed the subject they wanted to choose. Testing was conducted according to the ministry quotas. On April 21 the test on Ukrainian was conducted; on April 28 – on Mathematics of History (due to the pupil's choice). Besides, as a pilot project on April 25, 2007 in Kharkivska oblast testing on Physics, Chemistry and Biology was conducted.

Approximately 20 thousand teachers participated in test conducting and task checking. The tests envisaged multiple choice or extended answer where the pupils should have demonstrated their level of knowledge and ability to present their thoughts.

According to the test results, 56,6% pupils demonstrated good knowledge of Ukrainian language and literature (10,2% of them demonstrated “excellent” level (10—12 grades¹²), 46,4% — upper-intermediate (7—9 grades), 36,8% — intermediate (4—6 grades), 6,6% - elementary level. Whereas the tests on History resulted in nearly 10% of A-pupils, “good” was received by nearly 30%, “satisfactory” – 54,2%, “unsatisfactory” – approximately 6%. The worse results were received on Mathematics: only 6,6% received “excellent”, 28,7% - “good”, 51,6% - “satisfactory”, and 13,1% - “unsatisfactory” grade.

4 technological lines on processing the test papers were operating in Kyiv, Lviv, Donetsk and Kharkiv oblasts in 2007. The content of test tasks was changed, and time for their fulfilling was increased (the number of test tasks on History was increased from 60 to 65), time was increased from 90 minutes to 180. The measures preventing information escape were strengthened.

The results of external testing were to be received by the pupils during June 1-20 in the closed envelope. They would have been accepted as a state final attestation and entrance exam to university.

For the first time in Ukraine some universities announced they would accept only the certificates of test (for instance, Ivan Franko National Lviv University, Kharkiv Economic University).

¹¹Sertyfikat z osoblyvym statusom. Z nastupnogo roku vin zaminyt' vstupni ispyty u vuz.// Dzerkalo tyzhnya. 18-24 August 2007. <http://www.dt.ua/3000/3300/60139/>

¹² Ukrainian system of secondary education uses 12 grade system of knowledge estimation

Among 6 thousand pupils who were interviewed after testing, 40% said they just wanted to check up their knowledge, 25% wanted to use the results of test as entrance exam to the university, 20% didn't want to pass a state final attestation in the school. 76% respondents noticed there were no violations while conducting examination; however, 6% pupils noticed the violations. 71% pupils informed they relied only upon own knowledge, the rest confessed in usage of other resources (10% used friend's prompting, 7% - cribs, 4% received a crib via mobile phone, 3% used the instructors' knowledge, 5% - other sources of information ¹³ (?)).

Nevertheless, as the Minister Stanislav Nikolayenko said at the press conference devoted to external independent test system, there were no violations while conducting external testing revealed by Security Service of Ukraine, or the Ministry of Interior, the public or journalists.¹⁴

In Kyiv 95% graduating pupils passed testing (as it was mentioned, 26% pupils in Ukraine participated in examination). There were 83 testing points in Kyiv. 3667 instructors conducted testing, and 549 checked the results.

The pupils estimated new system quite positively though noticed they don't believe enough they would enter the university with those certificates without exams and "ties"¹⁵. Besides, they recognized the tasks were not easy; they are not differentiated to the level of complicity but often their schools have specialization in the certain direction.

Skepticism is also seen from the results of recent survey of MSI, which showed that majority of respondents envisages implementation of external test system won't influence the level of corruption (24,3% agreed such approach would decrease corruption in the university at the level of admission exams, 38,9% consider the level of corruption would not decrease; 7,4% expect the number of briberies will increase). These facts prove the people don't confide even in modern prospective methods of preventing corruption.

The Ministry of Education of Ukraine and the Centre of External Testing, however, are more optimistic. The Minister has adopted the decree according to which the universities will accept only the certificates next year.

It is planned to cover all graduating pupils in 2008 with external testing, and as it is supposed, 5-7 additional subject tests will be proposed to current Ukrainian, and Mathematics or History. Maybe, they even will be differentiated according to different levels of complicity, due to universities demands, etc. It will be possible if there is enough money from the state budget. The Centre also anticipates providing the opportunity to pass repeat testing (if the first one was missed because of important reasons) but in this case this test will require payment.

Demographic situation. Despite the positive fact of implementation of independent testing system they say there will no substantial problems for the pupils to become a student this year. That is the generation of children of the beginning of 90-s when the economic crisis had place in Ukraine, and correspondingly, the low birth rate was. At the present year 680 000 student placed are licensed in Ukraine (nearly 80% of them are state ones, 20% - private. But there is also state contract form of studying so the proportions are 50/50 in a whole). But 400 000 children are studying in graduating class. Even if all of them enter the high school, there will be 280 000 vacant places. Thus, there is a chance for those not succeeded in the previous years.

¹³ <http://www.dt.ua/3000/3300/60139/>

¹⁴ Pry provedenni zovnishnjogo nezalezhnogo testuvannya v shkolah Ukrainy porushen' vyjavleno ne bulo // May 21, 2007. - <http://www.osvita.org.ua/ukrtest/news/2007-05-21>

¹⁵ Vypusknyky shkil: zavdannya testiv buly ne z lehkyh // May 4, 2007 - <http://www.osvita.org.ua/ukrtest/news/2007-05-04/>

4. Reasons of corruption in education and the ways of its overcoming

These issues need more extended analysis, and, unfortunately, it's quite difficult to provide it in such a brief notice. However, some outlines should be done.

In particular, among the reasons provoking corruptive practices in Ukrainian system of education the experts usually mention the following ones:

- low salary for the teachers and professors;
- students' need in diploma certificate (regardless its quality);
- lack of the culture of the general democratic values, lack of confidence in objectivity and fairness of the professors, and awareness of impunity for bribery;
- lack of coordinated and systematic initiatives by authorities and civil society aimed at overcoming corruption in education;
- transferring the corruptive practices from the older generation to younger one under the conditions of impunity for corruptive offences¹⁶.

As a first step for overcoming corruption, introducing the external test system should be positively estimated. Nevertheless, it doesn't solve the problem completely, because the elite schools propose education of much more high quality than, for instance, village ones. Thus, system approach to the problem of overcoming corruption should be implemented.

The majority of researchers notice that the first step towards solving this problem should be increasing of salary of the teachers and professors, and other people engaged into working in education sphere in order to raise prestigiousness of this kind of profession, and to minimize the temptation (or even necessity) of briberies.

The next complex of measures envisages improving and developing of efficient system of criminal and administrative responsibility for bribery – not only active but passive as well.

The Ministry of Education of Ukraine, the law-enforcement bodies responsible for the fight against corruption should strengthen their initiatives for overcoming corruption. Introducing the lesson devoted to corruption issues into the programs of secondary education might be the effective mechanism. Meanwhile, the role of President in this process should be very influential as also the role of coordinative Commission on the fight against corruption under the National Security and Defense Council. One might suppose that establishing the single coordinative anticorruption body that it is anticipated to be introduced soon would provide strengthening and coordinating initiatives for decreasing corruption in education.

Moreover, wider involving the media and non-governmental organizations into the fight against corruption in the sphere of education is needed. The essential results of the fight against corruption in education might be achieved only owing to combining the efforts of authorities implementing clear state policy and strategy, and civil society and mass media providing the control over law adhering, initiating and conducting anticorruption activities.

¹⁶ <http://politics.in.ua/index.php?go=News&in=view&id=9094>