



Transparency Suomi

NATIONAL INTEGRITY SYSTEM ASSESSMENT

Recommendations

- 1) The Finnish public sector needs ethical codes and better regulation on conflicts of interest. There should be no room for maneuver and clearer sanctions when rules are broken.
- 2) Decision-making amongst public officials should be made more open and transparent. There should be more public information about the work of public officials and this information should reach the citizens efficiently. Legislative measures alone are not sufficient.
- 3) Anti-corruption work should be better resourced in Finland. At the municipal level, for instance, the amount of human resources in public services could constitute a problem. The legislature suffers from excessively long court processes. It can also be argued that the national audit office does not have sufficient resources in order to supervise election financing. All these gaps give corruption the possibility to flourish.
- 4) Management must be modernized in both public and private sectors. Public administration must be renewed. As resources become scarcer, it is vital to pay attention on how vital services are being taken care of.
- 5) Legislation must be modernized. There is no definition of corruption in the Finnish legal system. It is also worthwhile to ask the question whether the new election funding regulations are sufficient in practice.

- 6) Civil society organizations, as well as businesses, should be involved in anti-corruption work. As issues become more and more complicated, openness and good governance can remain leading principles only if officials, NGOs and businesses take the challenge of corruption very seriously and build cooperation.
- 7) There should be a greater emphasis on investigative journalism. The media plays a crucial role in revealing and investigating corruption cases. As the business model of print media is rapidly changing, one should ask how and by whom the work of investigative journalism should be supported.
- 8) "Old boys' networks" are at the heart of corruption in Finland. A thorough discussion about the problems of networking is needed; the key word is "openness". Public officials as well as political figures should be ready to make their financial interests public on a voluntary basis. Lobbying should be made more transparent.