Welcome to Council of Europe course on
INTRODUCTION TO CORRUPTION PREVENTION

BACKGROUND AND AIM

The present **Council of Europe online course on Introduction to Corruption Prevention** was developed in 2021 and is intended for **anyone** interested in following and understanding the basics of **preventing corruption**. It is suitable for "beginners" as well as for those who already have knowledge about the prevention of corruption but are curious to find new and specific perspectives.

The course provides overview of forms of corruption and prevention tools, ethics and how codes of conduct promote ethical behaviour, conflicts of interest and ways of managing such situations, purpose and enforcement of post-employment restrictions, regulating management of gifts, aims of asset declarations systems, role of free access to information in corruption prevention, regulating lobbying activities, transparency of political financing, protecting whistleblowers, corruption risks in public procurement and measures to mitigate them, and the role of auditing in anti-corruption.

Through reflection exercises, quizzes and scenarios, the course puts on the spotlight ethical dilemmas and challenges in implementing anti-corruption measures. It engages the learners into exploring how to deal with them, for example when it comes to acceptance of gifts or properly managing a conflict of interest situation. It also brings clarity to the approach taken by the Council of Europe with respect to these issues, as contained in the standards set by the Council of Europe conventions, resolutions and other instruments, and provided in the recommendations of GRECO, the Council of Europe's anti-corruption monitoring body.

COURSE STRUCTURE

This training consists of the following **13 modules**:

MODULE 0: INTRODUCTION

MODULE 1: MEANING OF CORRUPTION

- Is corruption a precise term?
- What forms of corruption exist?
- Is it possible to define 'corruption'?
- What is the difference between 'real' and 'perceived' corruption?

MODULE 2: CORRUPTION PREVENTION TOOLS

- Why is repression not enough to reform a society?
- How to identify corruption risks?

MODULE 3: ETHICAL PRINCIPLES AND CODES OF CONDUCT

- What is ethics?
- What is the difference between corrupt and unethical?
- Why is ethics important for preventing corruption?
- How do codes of conduct make a difference?
- What should be part of a code of conduct, then?
- Are codes of conduct the same for all types of public officials?
- How to put codes of conduct into practice?
- How to support creating an ethical public sector?

MODULE 4: CONFLICT OF INTEREST AND INCOMPATIBILITIES

- What is a 'conflict of interest'?
- Is 'conflict of interest' a form of corruption?
- How to properly manage conflict of interest?
- Special response: Incompatibilities
- Is bribery a conflict of interest?
- How to reform a country's conflict of interest framework?

MODULE 5: POST-EMPLOYMENT RESTRICTIONS

- Why do we have post-employment restrictions?
- How long shall restrictions take?
- Specifics for members of parliament and judges?
- How to enforce post-employment restrictions?

MODULE 6: GIFTS AND OTHER BENEFITS

- What is the problem with gifts?
- How to manage gifts?

MODULE 7: ASSET DECLARATIONS

- Why asset declarations are essential? (Financial side)
- Why asset declarations are essential? (Private interest side)
- What did Council of Europe bodies state on asset declarations?

MODULE 8: FREE ACCESS TO INFORMATION

- Why is freedom of information relevant for fighting corruption?
- How does a system of freedom of information work?
- Media freedom
- How to reform freedom of information?

MODULE 9: LOBBYING

- Lobbying maps and graphs
- How to define lobbying?
- Why should we consider lobbying regulations?
- How to create transparency on lobbying?
- What should be ethical boundaries on lobbying?
- How to reform lobbying frameworks?

MODULE 10: POLITICAL FINANCING

- Money in party politics – necessary or corruption?
- How to limit money in politics?
- How to limit unfair advantages of incumbent candidates?

- How to make political financing transparent?
- How to reform political finance frameworks?

MODULE 11: WHISTLEBLOWING
- Why are whistleblowers relevant for fighting corruption?
- How to protect a whistleblower?
- Whistleblower, informant, protected witness – what is the difference?
- How to reform whistleblower conditions?

MODULE 12: PUBLIC PROCUREMENT
- Why procurement corruption matters
- Identifying corruption risks
- Minimizing corruption risks
- How to reform procurement frameworks?

MODULE 13: AUDITING OF PUBLIC FUNCTIONS
- What does 'auditing' mean?
- How can auditing help in preventing corruption?
- How to reform audit systems

HOW TO USE THIS ONLINE COURSE?

You can follow all 13 modules in their entirety and in the order listed above.

You may also jump to any module that is of particular interest for you.

Each section module builds up step-by-step, so it makes sense to start from the beginning. However, if you wish, you may jump to any part of each module.

We suggest you start with the module: **Meaning of corruption.**

The course includes not just text but also numerous **interactive elements**, such as reflection exercises, scenarios and quizzes. In case you would like to study some topics more in-depth, you will have the opportunity to do so, for example, by exploring the linked documents and resources. All of these are an integral part of the course and are aimed at enhancing your learning experience.

ACCESS THE FREE ONLINE COURSE

The course can be accessed by visiting the Council of Europe HELP online platform at http://help.elearning.ext.coe.int/. First you need to set up a HELP Platform account if you have not yet done so. Then you can follow this link to directly access the online course in English: https://help.elearning.ext.coe.int/course/view.php?id=5490. Other languages will be available in the upcoming period.

Once you complete the course, you will be able to print out your HELP statement of accomplishment.