ETINED

Ethics
Transparency
and INtegrity
in EDucation

TACKLING TODAY'S CHALLENGES TOGETHER:
CORRUPTION IN EDUCATION

❝ FACTS AND FIGURES

Corruption in the education sector remains a significant barrier to achieving inclusive and equitable quality education. According to Transparency International, 41% of people globally perceive their national education sector as corrupt or extremely corrupt.

Source: Transparency International, *Corruption in Education Services*[1]

The Global Corruption Barometer found that around three in 10 people pay a bribe or use a personal connection to access public services, such as health care or education.

Source: Transparency International, *Global Corruption barometer: European Union 2021*[2]

WHAT IS CORRUPTION IN EDUCATION?

No European country is exempt from corruption in education and corruption exists at every level of education.

Corruption in education includes: making certain groups pay extra to access ordinary schools, only teaching compulsory subjects in fee-paying tutorials, only passing students who have paid for extra lessons, shadow schools, ghost teachers, rigged examinations, sexual harassment and exploitation, doctors and engineers with false qualifications who endanger lives, embezzlement and nepotism.

Certain issues concern mostly higher education: plagiarism, buying off-the-peg research papers and "diploma mills" selling fake academic qualifications.

Corruption destroys equal opportunities and undermines human rights, not least every child's right to education.

It teaches children that such practices are normal and acceptable; that it pays to break the rules; and that money determines success, rather than merit and achievement.

It erodes public trust in our institutions and, ultimately, democracy itself.

WHAT CAN WE DO?

We need a culture change in Europe. Corruption can only be eliminated if everyone involved in education – from teachers to parents and students – adopts the highest ethical standards.

The Council of Europe's Ethics in Education Platform (ETINED) has been created to develop and pool policies and best practices on ethics, transparency and integrity in education and to disseminate this information through training, tools and a website.

In particular, the platform intends to crack down on fraud in education – starting with plagiarism and "diploma mills" – and to produce ethical guidelines for everyone involved in education. Honesty is set to be a key value in the guidelines.

The platform complements the Council of Europe's long-standing work on teaching human rights and citizenship and on the democratic management to governance of schools and universities and non-formal learning environments.

The Council of Europe has legal mechanisms to combat corruption, but its focus on ethics and changing attitudes is vital, because laws cannot resolve the underlying problems alone.

1. https://knowledgehub.transparency.org/guide/topic-guide-on-corruption-in-education
2. https://www.transparency.org/en/publications/gcb-european-union-2021

COUNCIL OF EUROPE

CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

COUNCIL OF EUROPE STANDARDS

Recommendations and resolutions of the Committee of Ministers on transparency, ethics and integrity

CDEDU[1] and ETINED[2]

► CM/Rec(2022)18 of the Committee of Ministers to member States on countering education fraud

► CM/Rec(2019)9 of the Committee of Ministers to member States on fostering a culture of ethics in the teaching profession

► CM/Rec(2012)13 on ensuring quality education, defines a quality education as being, among other things, 'free of corruption'

Other sectors

► CM/Rec(2014)7 on the protection of whistleblowers

► CM/Rec(2012)7 on the responsibility of public authorities for academic freedom and institutional autonomy

► CM/Rec(2000)10 on codes of conduct for public officials

► CM/Res(1997)24 on the twenty guiding principles for the fight against corruption

Standards, legal instruments and norms tackling corruption

► Criminal Law Convention on Corruption (ETS No. 173) and its additional Protocol (ETS No. 191)

► Civil Law Convention on Corruption (ETS No. 174)

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1. CDEDU: Steering Committee for Education of the Council of Europe
2. ETINED: Council of Europe Platform on Ethics, Transparency and Integrity in Education

COUNCIL OF EUROPE PROJECTS AND MATERIALS

Projects concerning Corruption in Education

Quality Education for All in North Macedonia (2022-2025) – on promoting democracy and human rights in and through education and equip young people with the competences to live in a multicultural society through a comprehensive set of initiatives at the policy and grassroot levels.

Quality Education for All in Montenegro (2019-2022) – on promoting democratic culture and academic integrity as key elements of quality education.

Project against Corruption in Albania (PACA) (2009-12) – on improving transparency, accountability and social participation in the education system.

Strengthening Integrity and Combating Corruption in Higher Education in Armenia (2015-17).

Council of Europe materials of relevance to the projects include

Democratic governance of schools – manual for head teachers, explaining how to ensure all areas of school life reflect democratic values and human rights.

Education against corruption – manual for teachers in Albanian primary and secondary schools (PACA project).

Teaching controversial issues – guide to help teachers encourage pupils to discuss the issue of corruption in a safe environment, so they can form their own judgments based on reason, evidence and human rights standards. Corruption is a controversial issue in some European countries.

Teacher's code of ethics in public and private pre-university education – to help teachers create a motivating environment for students, and to take appropriate decisions when faced with ethical dilemmas (PACA project).

COUNCIL OF EUROPE WEBSITES

Pan-European Platform on Ethics, Transparency and Integrity in Education (ETINED):
www.coe.int/etined

Group of States against Corruption (GRECO) monitors compliance with anti-corruption standards:
www.coe.int/greco

Parliamentary Assembly's anti-corruption platform:
https://pace.coe.int/en/pages/anti-corruption-platform

Economic Crime and Cooperation Division:
https://www.coe.int/en/web/corruption

http://www.coe.int/education

EDUCATION FOR DEMOCRACY

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