

UDC 343.352

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Combating Corruption in Estonian Police

Estonia's level of corruption in general and more specifically in the police force is low in comparison to the European Union's average. In Estonia the Security Police Board and Police Board are in charge of investigating and regulating any instances of police corruption. Their main aims are to gather intelligence and elaborate anti-corruption measures. These boards comprise four regional departments who mainly deal with corruption surrounding higher officials. Majority of their force have received higher education with specialized training in corruption investigations. Their primary purpose is to investigate instances of corruption crimes, committed only by public servants. The achievements of this board have been solving cases in significant white-collar crime and corruption in border and customs guard. All of the Estonian police officers have to go through a bit of initial anti-corruption training and some must fulfill it in terms of continued training. The general Estonian police are governed by the Police Board who has an Internal Control Division responsible for the investigation of misconduct and corruption. The Police board is in control of investigating smaller instances of corruption, as well as those cases concerning civic officials. The most recent "Anti-Corruption Strategy 2013-2020" crosses many private and public areas and sectors of Estonia. The aim of the Strategy is to raise awareness and educate the population of corruption issues. Within the guidelines of this Strategy all decisions, regulations and policies implemented by the different ministries and boards must abide by the rule of transparency, whereby the public must be informed of what is occurring, how much it will cost and why. Due to Estonia's position on the border of the European Union (EU), their Border and Customs Guards come in contact with a great deal of organized crime and immigrants wanting to cross the Eastern border of Estonia into the EU. As a result, many officials in this agency see the opportunity to increase their wealth through corruption and in turn accept bribes to let immigrants into Estonia and the EU. This type of corrupted officials pose a serious threat to both national security and the security of the EU, when they let in illegal immigrants, in particular those involved in organized crime. The Estonian Government states the aim of all anti-corruption strategies set up in their country is to ensure their population is allowed full enjoyment of their human rights. Through the long-term anti-corruption strategies, the Estonian Government aims to rid their country of any sort of corruption