

corrupt practices. The most widely enforced anti-corruption law in the world is the Foreign Corrupt Practices Act, which prohibits US persons and entities from bribing foreign government officials. FCPA Resource Guide and FCPA Compliance Quick Guide can help companies avoid corruption risks abroad and help comply with legislation.

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### **Anti-Corruption Policy of the World's Least Corrupt Countries**

Corruption is a complex social, political and economic phenomenon that affects all countries. Corruption undermines democratic institutions, slows economic development and contributes to governmental instability. Still, there are a number of countries where corruption is at a very low level. New Zealand, Denmark, Finland and Sweden have been consistently ranked at the top of the Corruption Perceptions Index and are perceived to be the least corrupt of all the countries surveyed. These countries share a common set of characteristics that are typically correlated with lower levels of corruption.

Beside law enforcement, there is a broad consensus that fighting corruption involves public participation and transparency mechanisms such as disclosure of information. Recent studies show that freedom of the press is positively correlated with control of corruption in well established democracies. Finland, Denmark, Sweden and New Zealand all have high GDP per capita, low inequality rates, literacy rates close to 100%, and such prioritized human right issues as, for example, gender equality, freedom of information, security and other economic, social and cultural rights.

Well performing countries typically have a long tradition of government openness, civic activism and social trust, with strong transparency and accountability mechanism in place allowing citizens to monitor their politicians and hold them accountable for their actions and decisions.

There are four strategic areas that are common to all these countries:

- disclosure of budget information discourages waste and misappropriation of public funds. Therefore, countries should seek to promote information disclosure as well as enhance citizens' participation

throughout the budget process. The Open Budget Index shows that Sweden allows citizens to assess how their government is managing public funds.

- Codes of Conduct for public servants. Denmark obliges ministers to monthly publish information on their travelling expenses and gifts.

- Legal framework criminalizing a wide range of corruption related abuses and an independent and efficient judiciary.

Higher-ranked countries tend to have more press freedom, access to information about public spending, and independent judicial systems. These areas are indispensable in the fight against corruption.

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### **The experience of foreign countries in the fight against corruption**

Reducing the level of corruption to a safe level in Ukraine is possible only on condition that foreign experience in combating this extremely negative social phenomenon. The selection and study of those foreign programs aimed at combating bribery and corruption that have proved in practice their effectiveness, presents great prospects for taking into consideration positive foreign experience, especially in the absence of our own really effective mechanism to counter corruption.

Let us analyze the experience of countries that have achieved a certain success in this area:

In Israel, the anti-corruption atmosphere is provided by a system of “certain duplication of monitoring” over possible corrupt practices is carried out by government organizations, special police units and Office of the State Comptroller, that is independent of ministries and government agencies, and public organizations such as “ Government cleanliness offices.” These organizations investigate possible corruption points, and in case of their detection inform investigative units. In Israel petty corruption is virtually nonexistent because of significant social benefits for officials and punishment when corruption is detected. In Israel not more than 5% of crimes connected with corruption are finally brought to court and the reputation of a man implicated in corruption scandal, is highly undesirable.

The basis of the fight against corruption in Germany is the matter of destroying the financial base of criminal gangs. This can be achieved in two ways: confiscation (confiscation of property) and the creation of an