

transparency and publicity of civil administration are considered to be main public services in Finland.

One of the most prominent specialized anti-corruption institutions in the world is the Independent Anti-Corruption Commission, which was founded in Hong Kong in 1974. Since then the Independent Anti-Corruption Commission has identified three key areas of anti-corruption, namely, enforcement, corruption prevention and public enlightenment. Hong Kong has become one of the most corruption-free countries of the world.

Consequently, each state has its own algorithm for building a structure of institutions, but today there is an urgent need for such institutions to operate in a single common rhythm to ensure the anti-corruption effectiveness.

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Fighting Against Corruption in the USA

Level of corruption in the USA is average. The United States has elaborate and extensive mechanisms for investigating and prosecuting corrupt practices. The US faces a wide range of domestic challenges related to the abuse of entrusted power for private gain.

The US offers a competitive market and abundant business opportunities. Business costs are increased by extensive anti-corruption legislation and strong requirements for compliance and internal controls. Money laundering, abuse of office, extortion and commercial bribery are prohibited by law.

Companies should be aware that the US government actively and effectively enforces the established anti-corruption legislative framework, including the Foreign Corrupt Practices Act. The FCPA provides a narrow exception for facilitation payments and for recorded gifts of appropriate, minimal value.

Corruption in the judiciary is a moderately low risk for companies. Companies express general confidence in the efficiency of the legal framework pertaining to settling disputes and challenging regulations. Judicial favors in return for irregular payments and bribes are uncommon.

The country performs well in relation to the reliability of police services to protect companies from crime. In legislation the United States has strong and useful mechanisms for effective investigating and prosecuting

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