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CORRUPTION: LESSONS TO BE LEARNT

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The target of my paper is to analyze the experience of European countries in their attempt to solve the problem of corruption and find ways which can help our country to be less corrupt. Corruption is a problem for all countries.

According to Machiavelli, corruption – is the use of public opportunities for private purposes. Countries at the top of the Corruption Perceptions Index 2015 are Denmark, Finland, Sweden, New Zealand, Netherlands, Norway, Switzerland, Singapore, Canada and Germany. It means that these countries have the lowest index of corruption and their experience can be useful for Ukraine to confront it.

Recent studies of Transparency International show that freedom of the press is positively correlated with control of corruption in well-established democracies. Countries such as Finland, Denmark, Sweden and New Zealand have high GDP per capita, low inequality rates, literacy rates close to 100 %, and prioritise human rights issues (e.g. gender equality, freedom of information). The following measures can help to overcome corruption:

- transparency of budget information It prevents the door to waste and misappropriation of public funds. In this manner, countries should try to promote information openness as well as enhance citizens’ participation across all budget process.

- codes of conduct rules for public servants. For example, some countries oblige their ministers to publish information on their spending, travel and gifts every month.

- autonomous and effective judiciary. Legal framework can curb a wide range of corruption related infringements.

To draw the conclusion, one can say that it is very important to cure a culture of corruption across society. It`s a long-term process and demands the inculcation of confidence in the rule of law in the wider public. It depends on the judiciary and the public administration change and also through younger generation education.

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