

Corruption and public policy

Transparency International (TI) defines corruption as “the misuse of entrusted power for private gain”. In other terms, it is when there is no transparency, no law that emphasizes public access to information, which allowing decision makers to act without being held accountable.

Corruption can be measured through many tools. Transparency International has established an annual Corruption Perceptions Index in view of measuring corruption and ranking the countries depending of their score. The CPI aims at giving a general classification of corruption in countries using expert assessments and opinion surveys. Today, more than 150 countries are ranked by the CPI. The World Bank on the other hand uses six following indicators to measure corruption which includes voice and accountability, political stability, government effectiveness, regulatory quality, rule of law and control of corruption.

Corruption is the opposite of good governance, and good public policy, because it is against laws, state policies, rules and regulations and destroying public trust. Corruption effects on public policy efficiency because it is linked to low growth, income inequality, poverty and poor service provision. There are other less direct and measurable impacts, such as eroding public trust in government, as well as governance, The costs of corruption for economic, political and social development are becoming increasingly evident. On the political level, it constitutes a major barrier to democracy, hindering the emergence of a more responsible political system, as well as its institutions and leadership.