



How to promote a culture of ethics and legality for the sustainable development of communities.

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1. Corruption in context analysis of the European Union.

Almost two years have passed since the European Commission presented the results of a careful monitoring of the spread of corruption in the Member States, describing it as “systemic” and urging greater political commitment for confronting it effectively as corruption “*seriously damages the economy and society as a whole*”. After all, it is now known that corruption can be defined in a broad sense as any “abuse of power for private profit”. From that point of view it has emerged that “many countries in the world are plagued by a deep-rooted corruption that hinders economic development, undermines democracy and harms social justice and the rule of law. EU Member States are not immune from this reality. While varying from one country to another for its nature and extent, corruption affects all Member States and affects good governance, sound management of public money and competitiveness of markets. In extreme cases, corruption undermines public confidence in democratic institutions and processes”.

The analysis of the phenomenon in the EU Member States and of the measures adopted to prevent and combat corruption did not leave room for hesitation in the text of the report, that qualifies as urgent the need to undertake a serious and constructive debate between the Commission, Member States, the European Parliament and other interested parties in support of anti-corruption activities. It was made clear that while it is true that EU Member States already have most of the institutions and the legal instruments necessary to prevent and combat corruption, nevertheless the results obtained are not satisfactory and uniform across the EU. From an examination of the specific acts of corruption in various sectors and of the measures taken to prevent or punish corrupt practices as defined by law, there emerged a first laconic reflection of context: the anti-corruption standards, although significant, are not always applied with determination.