
**Corruption prevention in the midst of crisis?
Workshop 2: Think globally, act locally:
Corruption prevention in German municipalities**

Joachim Schwanke
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Context:

Corruption and integrity violations are not new phenomena, but some of the oldest and most enduring human behaviour patterns.

They increasingly threaten the social democratic order of our society, in that they violate the principles of equality before the law, impartiality of office for the public authorities and fair competition in the free economy, and promote a non-transparent economy based on privilege.

Based on this knowledge, a strategy has been developed the City of Hamburg, which aims to implement and further develop compliance structures for the public administration.

A wide range of low-threshold measures have emerged, based on an anti-corruption law from 1997, which are intended to increase prevention awareness of government employees, in order to strengthen their integrity and basic moral attitude. These measures also aim to ensure that corruption and integrity violations are combated in the public administration by means of a repressive approach.

An approach has been developed by the Hamburg administration, known as the “3 *pillar approach*”, which includes three inter-related aspects, including:

- Creation of corruption-resistant procedures within the administration, which must be anchored by appropriate internal control and steering mechanisms within the authorities and need to be continuously improved.
- Raising awareness through initial and further training aimed at a specific target group, which not only includes colleagues but also – and above all – superiors.
- Consistent criminal and disciplinary prosecution, which are guaranteed in Hamburg by direct and trusting cooperation between the Internal Affairs Department and a public prosecution department that is exclusively responsible for prosecutions for corruption.

In 2002, the Hamburg Senate further developed its anti-corruption strategy. As a result, the following individual measures are now part of Hamburg’s anti-corruption strategy:

- Identification of fields of activity that are vulnerable to corruption (risk analysis)
- Consistent disciplinary and functional supervision
- “Multiple control principle” and transparent decision-making
- Fundamental separation of planning, awarding of contracts and accounting

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- Compliance with basic principles for public invitations to tender
 - Rotation of staff in sensitive areas
 - Compulsory requirement for government employees to report all cases of suspected corruption (“duties of information”)
 - Reinforcement of internal audits for all authorities
 - Exercising particular caution when assigning staff in areas vulnerable to corruption
 - Restrictive regulations based on part-time work legislation
 - Intensification of initial and further training;
 - Raising awareness and instructing employees
 - Exclusion of companies from competition and anti-corruption clauses
 - Regulations for the acceptance of rewards and gifts
 - Committing contractors to secrecy according to the law on confidentiality
 - Drafting of a law on the freedom of information
 - Creation of a specialist department within the state prosecution service
 - Provision of a free public call line
 - Creation of a notification office for commercial enterprises (ombudsman)

In Hamburg, as the central office, the Internal Affairs Department was assigned the task of combating corruption, by repressive and preventive means, and coordinating all the necessary measures.

The “anti-corruption conference” was therefore organised as the strategic heart of the anti-corruption strategy in Hamburg, under the leadership of the head of the Internal Affairs Department. It will provide opportunities for leading representatives from all the Hamburg authorities to develop individual recommendations, which will pave the way for Senate decisions and are therefore binding for all Hamburg authorities.