

Anti-corruption Research and Education Centre at National University of “Kyiv-Mohyla Academy”

Background/problem identification

Demand to tackle large-scale corruption in Ukraine triggered Euromaidan protests across the globe and now became the largest expectation from Ukrainian society and international community from the new government. While all new political leaders who came into power in 2014 proclaim political will to tackle corruption, no measurable results have been achieved so far. The new package of anti-corruption laws has been adopted, but a few experts in Ukraine do understand how these laws should be implemented and should bring up results. New Anti-corruption Investigative and Preventive Agencies are about to be set up, but there is any single educational program, which would train civil servants, investigators and analysts working within these agencies.

International organizations and donor community have already deployed many external experts and groups advising Ukrainian authorities in anti-corruption reforms. Meantime, **there is lack of internal expertise in the issue and lack of Ukrainian anti-corruption professionals, both in public and non-governmental sector.** This is disregarding the high interest and readiness of thousands of recently mobilized civil society activists and volunteers across the country to contribute into the anti-corruption war and watchdog the government.

Corruption is a cancer and a common problem of many countries, but there are no universal anti-corruption tools for every state and society. In Ukraine the problem has its unique specific features caused by a mix of post-Soviet economic, cultural and political developments, backed up with recent Russian military aggression. Thus, there is a high need in developing internal national expertise in the issue of tackling corruption, researching appropriate anti-corruption tools and policies, enabling with anti-corruption tools activists and professionals across the country – both within government and outside.

Mission and goals

National Anticorruption Research and Education Centre will provide short-term and long-term interdisciplinary practical training programs and research aimed to prepare a new generation of Ukrainian professionals in anti-corruption field as well as to conduct high-quality interdisciplinary anti-corruption research for good governance and state building in the country.

The educational programs will train policy makers, journalists, investigators, lawyers, civil society activists, civil servants through short-term practical courses and long-term Masters degree program in anti-corruption and state building field.

Research and Trainings will be tailored in a very practical way to provide quick professional expert supply to the high demand for anti-corruption related reforms and changes in Ukraine. Mobilized activists across the country with different professional background will be armed with practical professional anti-corruption tools.

Resources:

Centre could be set up through endowment mechanism **for the proceeds of corruption of Pavlo Lazarenko, former Prime-Minister of Ukraine convicted in the US for money laundering**.[□] The first funds are already available for the repatriation from the US and consist of 2.8 mil USD. Ideally, Centre could be placed in a Kyiv-based building, which was recovered as proceeds of corruption as well.

To launch the project there could be fundraised funds from international donor institutions, which could match funds in addition to the repatriated Lazarenko funds.

Academic Partner:

AntREC will be set up at the National University of Kyiv-Mohyla Academy in Ukraine, founded four hundred years ago, and considered one of the most respected and known universities to drive for progressive reforms in the sector of higher education in Ukraine.[□] A former President of the University, Mr. Sergiy Kvit, became Minister of Education of Ukraine right after the Euromaidan revolution.

EDUCATIONAL AND TRAINING PROGRAMS

AntREC will provide long-term and short-term educational interdisciplinary trainings for post-graduates and graduate students.

Post-graduate education**1. For state officials**

Post-graduate training will be mostly tailored for civil servants and officers from law enforcement agencies. AntREC will start from a few pilot projects providing short-term trainings for newly hired investigators of National Anti-corruption Bureau, as well as analysts from Corruption Preventive Agency (to be established in spring as well). Furthermore, after assessment of needs within other state agencies and Ministries AntREC will conduct regular training for practitioners from various Ministries and government bodies dealing with integrity checks and setting up anti-corruption compliance programs.

Such trainings will be conducted in coordination with international donors and experts willing to assist in setting up both anti-corruption agencies. All materials and courses developed within this short-term pilot courses will be collected and used for development of regular long-term non-degree educational

programs for state officials and law enforcement practitioners.

2. For private practitioners

A basic anti-corruption interdisciplinary practical training course (non-degree), aimed at professionals and practitioners already dealing with the issue of corruption - mostly NGO activists, journalists, various activated professionals willing to contribute to anti-corruption and good governance .

The program will begin with 1-2 days introduction session, where basic notions will be explained and then students will pick up a few courses below, which better fit to their professional interests:

1. Political accountability and key notions of corruption (grand, political, administrative, petty); specifics of corruption in a captured states and Post-soviet countries; oligarchic economy.
2. Introduction to public finance: state budget, public procurement, taxation, securities market, banking regulations, state companies sector – illustrated by key schemes for abuse of state funds.
3. Introduction to the criminal justice, anti-money laundering and assets recovery (seizure, confiscation and repatriation). International challenged and legalized corruption (transfer pricing, beneficial ownership, etc).
4. Anti-corruption tools for the civil society: direct action events, messaging, civic control, parliamentary control, communication with law enforcement agencies.
5. Open databases and sources and their analyses.
6. Anti-corruption reforms: overview of laws and regulations, conflict of interests concept, assets declarations, anti-corruption bodies and their role, whistleblower protection, e-governance.
7. Corruption in specific sectors (health, environment, educations, road construction, etc..)

The course will be of interest for professionals and students with different background, who are discovering possibilities to use their professional knowledge in tackling corruption. Every student will have to produce its own research publication and prepare a practical project on current anti-corruption challenges.

Scholarships and mini-grants for graduation projects could be provided.

Graduate programs

AntREC graduate educational activity will start from 1-2 special non-obligatory courses introduced to KMA curriculum. Through 1-2 years these courses will develop into Masters program on anti-corruption and good governance. Complex Masters program will be developed after full revision of existing courses, assessment of needs, pilot interdisciplinary non-degree anti-corruption course launch and conduction of first pilot research programs.

Steps to do:

- conduct revision of all existing courses with KMA, assess which could be relevant to anti-corruption and good governance
- develop curricular for first 1-2 pilot courses, which could be launched already in Autumn 2015.

Faculty:

- Western professors –experts in the issues
- Ukrainian and international practitioners on anti-corruption, financial investigations
- Best Ukrainian and international investigative journalists
- Faculty of National University of Kyiv-Mohyla Academy

RESEARCH CENTRE

BACKGROUND:

There are various law schools and government research centers in Ukraine. They are regularly developing anti-corruption and good governance related papers, which are lacking applied interdisciplinary research background work, frequently are copying western approaches, rarely reply to existing demand and needs of government institutions and society. Thus, such kind of existing approach in research hardly can be used to develop effective anti-corruption tools. Generally these projects suffer from lack of sustainability and sequence. At the same time, every year numerous PhD dissertations are defended in Ukraine, but papers either do not apply to the practice needs or are not implemented in Ukrainian public policy and practice of government agencies. Moreover, academic research containing practical solutions to urgent needs and challenges towards good governance and transparency in Ukraine is almost absent because of lack of financial back up

Principles:

AntREC will conduct project based applied research of anti-corruption and good governance related issues. Research projects could be long-term (a few years) and short-term (a few weeks/months), but should be demand driven. The demand and needs will be assessed within existing government and law enforcement agencies undergoing reforms and striving for good governance.

All research projects should be interdisciplinary and conducted by teams of experts with various background, both Ukrainian and foreign. Each team will be composed after finalization of detailed terms of reference of research project, developed jointly with government/law enforcement authority. It is envisioned that young Ukrainian researchers and scholars will be invited to join various research teams and will be able to apply for project scholarships.

Papers produced by AntREC should be of high quality - publishable at international and foreign research editorials. Papers should contain practical recommendations and solutions to current burning

governance and anti-corruption challenges in Ukraine.

AntREC will become a bridge between education and research, as scholars and experts working in expert teams will become trainers for upcoming students and postgraduates within educational part of AntREC activities. Finally, AntREC will become a bridge between academic world in Ukraine and state institutions facing challenges on the way towards transparency and good governance.

The Research Centre:

1. Studying social-cultural origins of corruption in Ukraine, the role of command-administrative Soviet system in forming social-cultural prerequisites for raise of corruption during independence of Ukraine.
2. Analysing legislation and legislative drafts against possible corruption risks; monitoring of implementation of state policy in anti-corruption
3. Developing practical techniques in investigating financial crimes, strengthening anti-money laundering regime in Ukraine, implementation of criminal procedure code
4. Management of state finances and public resources.
5. Econometric analysis of the role of corruption on economic growth of Ukraine
6. Researching the role of civil society and activism in Ukraine

Timeline and steps to do:

AntREC will start research operations from 1-2 first short-term pilot projects, which could already be launched in spring 2015. Preliminary it was identified demand within Ministry of Economy and Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources in conducting assessment of corruption risks existing within the Ministries and entire sectors, which are under their mandate for reforms.

Thus, first 1-2 research teams could be composed to:

- 1) assess good governance educational and training needs for officials in the agencies,
- 2) evaluate corruption risks existing within operating and management structure of the Ministries and elaborate possible solutions for their mitigation (setting up internal compliance and due diligence systems)
- 3) analyse key corruption risks and schemes existing within sectors (or subsectors), which includes mapping of stakeholders, assessment of legislative framework, cost analysis, recommendations for practical management solutions and policy changes needed

First pilot applied research projects will develop research model on anti-corruption and good governance for other state agencies and sectors, which would require conduction of similar assessments.

During first pilot project phase of AntREC launch there will be developed the following activities of the Research centre:

- a database of best anti-corruption and good governance related scholars, experts and researchers within KMA, other universities and institutions in Ukraine will be developed

- an online library of existing anti-corruption and good governance applied research will be set up, collecting within one place all recommendations, papers, researches developed in Ukraine within the last 10-15 years

AntREC positioning

- a living anti-corruption and good governance hub will be set up, where regular events will be conducted for public awareness, networking and education purposes

Resources and staff

Facilities

Office approximately 150 square meters (library room, meeting room, office for staff)

Facilities: office furniture, office supplies such as a video projector, three computers, printers, Xerox, phone with fax machine etc.

Staff:

Executive Director (Coordinator) of the Center

Research project manager

Trainings and education programs manager

Communications Expert/event manager

Office manager

Accountant

For initial phase of AntREC launch executive director could act as a project manager for research and trainings.

Experts and trainers

Teams of experts and researches will be set up according to every separate research and educational project. Firstly, KMA experts will be engaged.

Institutional Structure of AntREC

Officially Centre will be part of KMA, but should have independent Steering Committee composed of well-known international professors and Ukrainian anti-corruption practitioners.

Partners:

Anti-corruption Action Centre

National University of Kyiv-Mohyla Academy

Kyiv-Mohyla Foundation of America

Transparency International-Ukraine