Alliance for Integrity (AfIn)

**Description:** The Alliance for Integrity (AfIn) is a German business-driven initiative that involves organisations from the private sector, civil society and the international community that seek to jointly reduce corruption risks in partner countries. By connecting stakeholders, the AfIn increases companies’ capacities to implement approaches proven to prevent and combat corruption. It also supports companies adhering to national and international anti-corruption standards. Effectively, the AfIn creates a system of incentives for companies to fight corruption in their own business environments, particularly in developing and emerging countries.

**Objective:** The AfIn aims to promote integrity among companies, their business partners and other relevant economic actors. It promotes integrity by ensuring that companies operating in select countries possess improved capacities and knowledge to prevent and combat corruption. It fosters dialogue, co-operation and co-ordination between companies and governments. The initiative has three pillars of action: 1) awareness raising about companies’ good practices on inculcating and integrating ethics into decision making, operations and communications to stakeholders; 2) capacity development for companies and their supply chains on ethics and integrity; and 3) public-private dialogues on streamlining public services.

**Partners:** The AfIn is voluntary and includes the Federation of German Industries (BDI), Bilfinger SE, Deutsche Bank AG, the Association of German Chambers of Industry and Commerce (DIHK), Linde AG, MAN SE, Merck KGaA, Metro AG, SAP SE, SMS GmbH, Transparency International and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime. The initiative is open to all organisations that support its aims and principles.

**Key activities:** The AfIn encourages peer-to-peer learning among members, which includes the sharing of experiences, challenges, best practices and suggestions for how to establish and maintain integrity within a company. It promotes mutual exchange between organisations in the fields of business, politics, administration and civil society. It facilitates access to knowledge and information on national and international guidelines and standards, as well as international anti-corruption expertise. It also creates workshops and training courses on the best strategies, guidelines and standards as a way to help members and their business partners implement concrete measures to integrate integrity into their organisations and practices.

**Results:** After a successful pilot phase in 2014, the AfIn was launched in 2015 and operations were expanded from working only in India to working in Brazil and Ghana as well. The AfIn has had success in India, including hosting various workshops and advisory groups and producing a survey report with key findings on anti-corruption strategies. Conferences, collective training and workshops have been held with local representatives in Brazil and Ghana. Workshops have informed participants about current developments in compliance and showcased measures to enhance business integrity.

**Insights:** The role of government as a third party convenor is important to ground multi-stakeholder initiatives and bring together competitors. The AfIn was able to build on the work of the German chapter of the United Nations Global Compact, which also helped ensure buy-in from different stakeholders.

**SOURCES:**
AfIn (n.d.), Alliance for Integrity website, www.allianceforintegrity.org (accessed 1 July 2016).