What could be the role of a SAI in fighting corruption and promoting integrity?

An Austrian example

Dr. Rene Wenk

Paris, 26 March 2018
Austrian Court of Audit - Competence

- Supreme Audit Institution of Austria
- The audit responsibility for:
  - the Federation,
  - the Laender (regional states),
  - municipalities with more than 10,000 inhabitants (since 2011)
  - municipal associations
  - social insurance institutions
  - legal entities, endowments, funds, institutions
  - companies > 50% public contribution or predominant influence
  - Chambers (e.g. for commerce, labour)
How does the Austrian Court of Audit define its Anti-Corruption approach?

- Common agreement: Holistic, multi-disciplinary and comprehensive approach necessary

Main approach of the Austrian Court of Audit

Repression  Prevention  Education  Cooperation

National/internat.
Why is the role of the Austrian Court of Audit so important?

more than 6500 auditees
one of the most independent organisation
no. 1 in the Public Thrust Index
How is the ACA doing its Anti-Corruption Work – A Time Travel

2012 and before
• Varying approach

2013/2014
• Guideline for Auditing Corruption Prevention Systems (CPS)

2015/2016
• First results: Audit of CPS at four Federal Ministries

2018
• Department for Anti-Corruption, Compliance, Risk Management

Publication of the guideline to the public

OECD, Paris, March 2018
Aim: Systematic integration of anti-corruption approach in the auditing process of the ACA

Challenges at the beginning: e.g. broad audit competence of ACA or auditing „Tone at the top“

Based on standards for Compliance Management Systems

„Corruption as the abuse of entrusted power for private gain“

Right now under revision (e.g. adding more case studies)
Elements of an AC-System according to the guideline

Culture

Check/Adjust

Strategic objectives

Communication

Risk analysis

Organisation

Programme
Audit of Corruption Prevention Systems

- No comprehensive Corruption Prevention System implemented (except MoI)
- No risk analysis conducted
- No explicit responsibility defined
- Impact afterwards: Minimum standards for Compliance Management Systems on federal level adopted, Compliance/Integrity Officers appointed,...
Departement – Anti-Corruption, Compliance, Risk Management

- Mid of 2017 implemented (size of a unit)
- Since March 2018 enlarged to the size of an audit department
- Compliance/Integrity Officer of the ACA, responsible for Risk Management
- Audit of Anti-Corruption, Compliance and Risk Management Issues
Thank you very much for your attention!

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