

The role of local and regional authorities in preventing corruption and promoting good governance

Council of Europe/Committee of Regions

Christoph Demmke

Brussels, 28 February 2017

Codes - Definitions

- **Code of ethics** is a written set of guidelines issued by a organization to its employees and management to help them conduct their actions in accordance with its primary values and ethical standards
- **A code of conduct** is generally addressed to and intended for employees alone. It usually sets expectations and restrictions on behavior
- **A code of practice** is adopted for a profession or a sector and sets expectations to professional responsibility
- **Regulatory and legally bindings codes** – e.g. *code de travail*

Codes of Ethics – 5 much discussed questions to the Plenum/Audience

- Do they guide behavior? Do codes have an educational effect? Are codes effective – only for those who are already ethically motivated?
- Do they influence organizational culture? What kind of leadership and org. culture is needed to support the long term effectiveness of codes?
- Could it be that certain type of codes fit better to certain cultures, countries, institutions, sectors and people than others? Do you know of any best-practices that exist in the field?
- What are the managerial costs of effective codes, e.g. personnel, HRM and leadership costs? Are codes an administrative burden for HR departments, leaders, employees?
- Who should be involved in the drafting and cultivating of codes as living documents?

Effectiveness of ethics instruments (N=27)

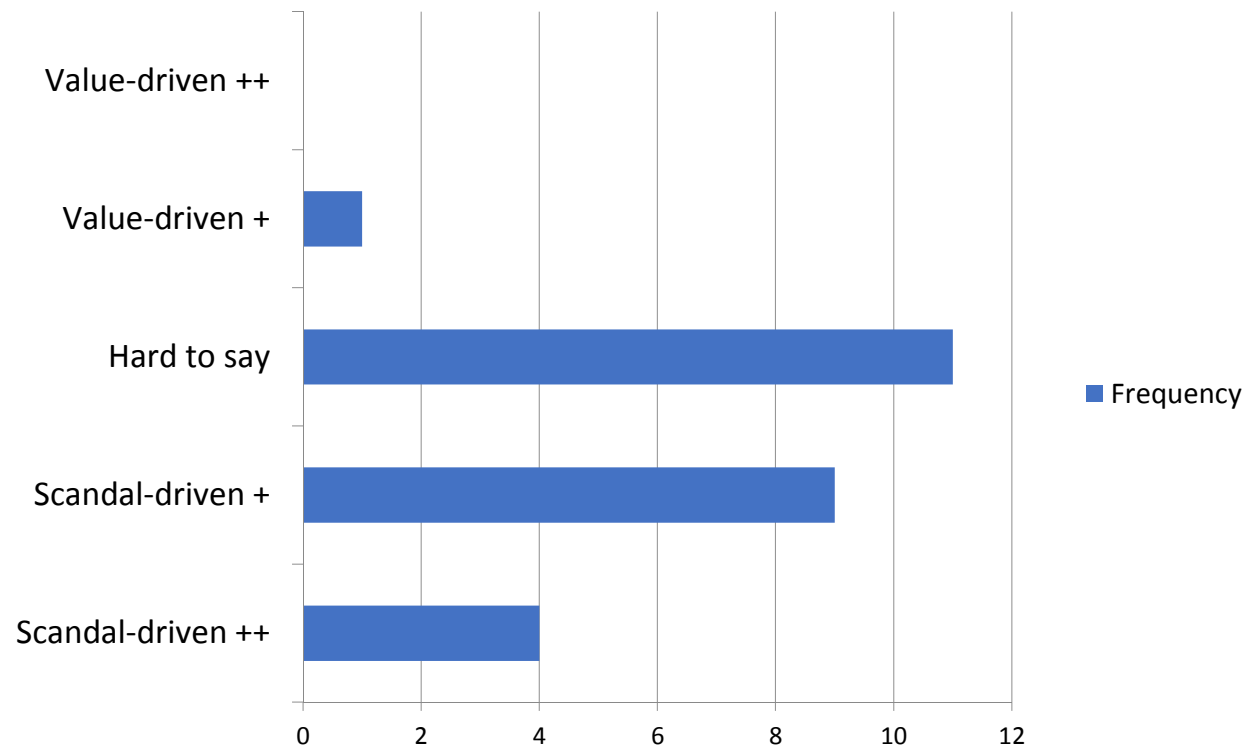
(1=ineffective, 5=effective)



Role of Media, Transparency, Openness

- Role of media as important watchdog, Important role of media in the detection of wrongdoings
- Importance of media for public discussions, public information.....
- **But:**
- Watchdog role under pressure, partly through cutbacks in the public broadcasting service, falling number of newspaper subscription, ncreasing distrust in media (?) and strong concentration of ownership in the media sector. This constitutes a risk of control of administrations

Are public discussions scandal-driven? (N=25)



Have the current public discussions affected the levels of public trust towards elected officials (N=25)?

