

Book reviews

“Corruption and combating the phenomenon by means of criminal law and criminal procedure” by Dr. Aurelian Sabau Pop, Universul Juridic Publishing House, 2010.

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Corruption is an important negative phenomenon in Romania as international and national data show, and this is why it is relevant to underline the research published by Senior Lecturer Dr. Aurelian Sabău Pop and based on his PhD thesis. The research explores and identifies the way the corruption is defined and punished in the criminal code and criminal procedure code, and compare them to the practice of corruption thus identifying gaps in legislation.

The book is structured on six chapters which propose a methodological and conceptual approach over corruption. In the first chapter the author presents the political and social dimension of the concept of corruption, continuing with the international and national evolutions in legal mechanism. The chapter focuses on the legal norms starting from definitions and moving forward to penal and procedural norms in this matter, showing how the national legal system is connected to the European norms and recommendations.

The second chapter develops the corruption crimes, types and legal application. The third chapter develops on types of corruption crimes for companies, starting from international and European regulations and how they were implemented in the national legal system, thus pointing out the strong points but also the weakness of national system. Also, this chapter helps identifying the source of some European reports regarding the national legal system and corruption.

The fourth chapter approaches the aspect of corruption as a form of organized crime linking the European and international dimension of the phenomenon, with the national practices. The chapter identifies the way Romania fits into this system in positive and negative aspects, identifying favorable aspects which may increase the development of such practices.

The fifth chapter has a high scientific and policy making value as it proposes an extensive research concerning a comparative study concerning legal norms on corruption crimes, starting from the World Trade Organization, and continuing with the Finish, Swedish, Portuguese, Spanish, Dutch, Hungarian, Irish and German systems in combating corruption. Thus, the book adds an important contribution to the literature, highlighting similarities and practices specific to different European states.

The last chapter analyses the efficiency of legal norms in combating the phenomenon. Considering the globalization of the international economic system, the problem of sanctioning corruption and other linked crimes in international transactions has increased considerably. The books point that more attention needs to be given and stronger international norms and institutions need to be built in order to prevent and punish such crimes. As an international phenomenon,

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combating corruption should be seen as a European endeavor, aimed at unifying forces and methods in order to stop transnational crimes of corruption.

The book has the merit point towards the need of a European institutional system concerning this exact case, which, in fact was developed over the years. The book stresses the need for international cooperation between states, and national convergent norms as difference in legislation may represent the breach companies or private individuals need in order to escape punishment. Another conclusion of the book concerns the link between company and public entities corruption, and the need to identify legal means to stop these practices, which can be detrimental to the economy, to public service but also to country's image abroad, which can affect its international reputation and funding.