Acceptance and Effectiveness of Company Measures to Counter Corruption

Research question: How do companies counter corruption?

Alongside the legal liability risks, getting caught up in corruption can have serious indirect consequences for a company. These can range from financial damage, across legal liabilities, to damage to the company’s image. As a result, companies have chosen different ways to counter these risks. However, we still do not know the reasons why different approaches to prevention are more or less effective.

The project: Helping to optimize prevention

The study is being funded by the German Research Foundation (DFG). An interdisciplinary team of organizational psychologists, criminologists, economists, and lawyers are studying under which conditions the various approaches to counter corruption in companies are an effective form of prevention. The team is paying particular attention to the acceptance of such measures within a company and the specific company culture. The research project should end in autumn 2014.

Target: The private sector

The study is addressing companies with more than 1,000 employees in Germany. It focuses not only on companies that have already introduced anti-corruption measures but also on those that are still undecided or are currently in the planning or development phase. The aim is to carry out an approximately 20-minute Web-based survey of at least 100 managers in each company whose remit may cover this topic. Each company can decide who should complete the survey, and it is completely voluntary and absolutely anonymous. A team member will come to the company in advance for preparatory personal discussions with those responsible.

Your benefit: Knowledge – at no cost

The project is paying all the costs for implementing, analysing, and reporting the survey. The only costs for participants will be the time required to fill it out.

Participating companies will benefit from receiving reliable information on how well any measures they have already introduced are accepted, or they can use the results of the survey to help them decide whether they need to take further steps.

The research team is not interested in individual companies and it will report no results on single companies. Nonetheless, all participating companies will receive a summary of the findings, and they will be able to access the complete findings free of charge.

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