

WHEN ‘EVERYBODY KNOWS EVERYBODY’: INTEGRITY MANAGEMENT IN SMALL STATES

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Comments and questions are welcome.

Abstract

Although the existing studies on integrity management and corruption acknowledge the important role of wider societal norms and institutions for public sector integrity, their causal mechanisms often remain underexplored. This applies notably to a specific contextual factor that is understudied in integrity and corruption research – the size of states. The paper aims to explore how small size of countries measured in terms of their populations influences public sector integrity management and what are the implications of small size for designing integrity management systems. The empirical analysis draws on expert interviews with individuals engaged in the development of the Estonian public sector integrity management system. The paper shows that countries with small populations are probable to face several significant effects on integrity management deriving from the limited economies of scale. The effects range from the need to accommodate a context with an elevated potential for conflicts of interests to resource constraints, structural limitations, and high personalism of integrity management.

Keywords: integrity management, anti-corruption policies, country size, small states, Estonia

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