Public-Private Sectors: Ending Conflicts of Interest

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European Business Ethics Network
Overview

I. Identifying the problem
II. Understanding the nature of the problem. Analysis
III. Exploring possible solutions from Business Ethics


I. Identifying the problem

Not “conflict of interest” *per se*, but

Corruption: using public resources for private benefit in a non-transparent manner
II. Understanding the nature of the problem. Analysis

1. Above all, an ethical problem
2. Endemic to both public/state and private sectors, rich and poor alike, regardless of culture
3. A “disease” that affects human nature
III. Exploring possible solutions from Business Ethics

1. No “once and for all” solution

2. a) norms-based: laws, rules, principles, standards...
   Interpretation/application?

   b) consequence-based: cost-benefit analysis of alternatives, pragmatism...
   End justifies means?
III. Exploring possible solutions from Business Ethics

2. c) virtue/common good:

   norms + consequences + character

common good:

The good of the whole human being and of all human beings. “Win-win” game
(Vs. Individualism, satisfaction of individual preference, “zero-sum” game)
III. Exploring possible solutions from Business Ethics

e.g. IDOM Engineering Consultancy