

investigate the flow of illicit goods along trafficking routes in and around the country. The NCB plays a key national role in tackling the serious crime areas which affect the country most, including crimes against children, fugitive investigations, financial crime and trafficking in human beings.

The UK does not have a national police force. Instead, there are 44 geographic forces in England and Wales, and a single force in Scotland and one in Northern Ireland. Specialist police forces that work alongside the geographic forces include the British Transport Police, the Ministry of Defence Police and the Civil Nuclear Constabulary.

NCB Manchester is part of the National Crime Agency (NCA), a body of operational crime fighters leading the UK's fight to cut serious and organized crime. The NCA addresses national security threats, focusing principally on:

- strengthening UK borders
- fighting fraud and cybercrime
- protecting children and young people
- tackling serious and organized crime

INTERPOL Manchester and the NCA help the UK fight international crime through the coordination and provision of specialist support to investigations, using INTERPOL channels to build effective partnerships between the UK police forces and law enforcement agencies worldwide. INTERPOL Manchester helps the UK Government protect its 14 Overseas Territories from the threats of terrorism and organized crime. There are seven INTERPOL Sub Bureaus annexed to NCB Manchester, each with delegated regional authority: Anguilla, Bermuda, British Virgin Islands, Cayman Islands, Gibraltar, Montserrat, Turks & Caicos.

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ANTI-CORRUPTION EFFORTS IN EUROPE: INTERNATIONAL EXPERIENCE

Reducing corruption to manageable levels in Ukraine can only be achieved by learning from international experiences in combating this detrimental social issue. Examining and adopting foreign anti-corruption programs that have demonstrated real effectiveness offers significant

potential, especially given the lack of a strong domestic anti-corruption framework [1].

For example, Israel has created an environment that discourages corruption through a system of "overlapping monitoring" by government bodies, special police units, the independent Office of the State Comptroller, and civil organizations like the "Office of Government Cleanliness" [2]. These entities investigate corruption allegations, and if any wrongdoing is identified, they refer the matter to investigative bodies. The country's low level of petty corruption is attributed to generous social benefits for officials and severe consequences for those caught engaging in corruption. Notably, less than 5% of corruption-related crimes are prosecuted, and those involved in scandals face significant reputational damage [3].

In Germany, the fight against corruption is centered on dismantling the financial networks that support criminal activities. This is primarily achieved through asset forfeiture and the establishment of a legal framework to prevent money laundering. A key measure is the obligation for banks to report transactions exceeding 20,000 euros to law enforcement, ensuring that such information is used solely for investigative purposes [4]. Moreover, the law requires individuals making deposits greater than 50,000 euros to provide identification, thus enhancing transparency.

One critical measure has been improving transparency in public sectors, such as procurement and political funding. This effort is essential in countries like France and Spain, which have faced high-profile corruption scandals. In France, for example, recent reforms include the establishment of an anti-corruption agency, while Spain has strengthened regulations around public officials' financial disclosures to enhance accountability in public life [6].

A 2023 EU-wide study highlights that many countries have taken steps to protect whistleblowers, who play a crucial role in exposing corruption in both public and private sectors. This move is particularly significant in Germany and Ireland, where new legislation provides robust protections for individuals reporting wrongdoing. These protections align with the EU Whistleblower Directive, which mandates secure reporting channels across member states.

Additionally, countries like Denmark and Finland, consistently ranked among the least corrupt globally, demonstrate the benefits of proactive and transparent governance structures. These countries invest significantly in public sector transparency and judicial independence, ensuring that corrupt practices are promptly addressed. Furthermore, anti-corruption organizations, including Transparency International, continue to advocate for reforms that would further shield EU economies from corruption-related risks.

While considerable progress has been made, challenges remain. Transparency International emphasizes that some EU nations, including

Hungary and Poland, still struggle with issues of judicial independence and political influence over the media, which can obstruct effective anti-corruption enforcement. Continuous monitoring, regional cooperation, and harmonized legislation remain critical for sustaining progress across Europe [7].

In conclusion, Europe's efforts to combat corruption demonstrate a growing recognition of the need for transparency, robust legal frameworks, and support for whistleblowers. These reforms not only enhance governance and economic stability but also rebuild public trust in institutions, which is crucial for democratic societies.

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THE UK CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM

The UK criminal justice system is an intricate framework of government departments and public agencies that collaborate to enforce the law and maintain societal order. Key government bodies such as the Ministry of Justice and the Home Office work alongside specialized agencies, including the Crown Prosecution Service and the National Crime Agency, to create a structured approach to criminal justice. This structure not only enforces laws and