CORRUPTION IN NON-ECONOMIC ACTIVITIES WITH
SPECIAL FOCUS ON POLICE CORRUPTION

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Abstract

Corruption is present in all spheres of society and it is a part of social development throughout history. The most dangerous corruption is performed by the members of higher layers of society. It is equally dangerous in economic and non-economic activities, but it seems more dangerous for a society when situated in a non-economic environment. Any social activity with corruptive behavior brings numerous negativities. It may be the most problematic when expressed in police activities, because, in such cases, it stimulates corruptive activities in other areas of society as well.

Keywords: corruption, non-economic activity, police, economic crime, prevention, repression.

1. INTRODUCTION

Corruption appeared with the inception of organized human society. It was maintained in all social systems and can be found in every social group of any size. Corruption appears today in almost every sphere of society.

The problem with defining corruption is very complex, and it can be explored from multiple aspects depending on the subject and the aim of the research. By determining the content of corruption as a term, it needs to be understood that there is still no unique definition that would be accepted in both national and international scales. Corruption is one of those terms that are difficult to determine as its meaning shifts throughout different time, social and political contexts. And although corruption has been recognized since ancient times and follows the development of society over the centuries, the phenomena flourished in the modern era of rapid international communication, rapid financial transactions and the flow of goods and wealth. That is why certain differences in determining corruption exist and emphasize its complexity. Actually, most criminal legislations do not define the term corruption, but they include various forms of illegal behavior. Such behavior is not only in a special group of criminal acts but among the other criminal acts against the economy.

Corruption corrodes society’s morale by jeopardizing or destruction of its social, economic, political and legal institutions. It destroys some basic human values, such as: freedom, dignity, human rights, the citizens and their need to create and apply new

1 Jovicic, D., Skakavac, Z., Economic Criminology, Novi Sad: Faculty of Law and Business Studies PhD Lazar Vkatic, 2019., pp. 197.
knowledge and products of a material or spiritual nature. This approach points at the ethic component of corruption as a term. The behavior of certain people who commit corruption is the opposite of the behavior of other people who live from what they legally earn, in the absence of a privileged position in the civil service, company or institution engaged in non-economic activities.

The criminal act of corruption is beyond any doubt dangerous for every society. It represents a serious social problem that often turns into a source of economic and political problems, as a consequence of different situations. It strongly affects the moral values of citizens and seriously disrupts the functionality of the state and its legislative, judicial and executive bodies. The biggest victims of corruption are ordinary people and businessmen who act in accordance with the law.

The police are one of the state bodies whose activity is shown by the state government and it is in the sphere of non-economic activity. The presence of corruption in the police organization shows the presence of corruption in the state, i.e., in the other state bodies as well. The existence of corruption within police structures slows down and prevents suppression of corruption in the whole society. Without the support and necessary activities of the police, the implementation of the anti-corruption program will be more difficult and reduced to a minimum. Police employees, if they perform illegal activities, violate their own dignity, the credibility of their profession, and the legal system as a whole. In order to reduce the level of corruption, it is necessary to determine the cause, carriers and forms of corruption in police activities, which should lead to adequate systemic measures to combat it.

The integrity of police activity, as one of the most important state activities, is seen through the integrity of every police official, their behavior in accordance with the law, ethical and moral values. Such behavior should be an example to other police employees and to all citizens. Informing the public about these issues and setting various social and administrative measures can play a significant role in the fight against corruption and all similar crimes.

2. BASIC FORMS OF CORRUPTION

The term “corruption” basically refers to bribery, repayment of an official. An official who is corruptible and receives money or service (bribe) as a precondition for committing an official act is called a corrupt person. Corruption as a negative form of behavior originates from the ancient period and Aristotle’s words: “The greatest crimes were not committed out of necessity, but those that were committed out of redundancy.” It threatened all known empires during its historical development (Roman Empire, Ottoman Empire, British Empire, Habsburg Empire, etc.). Its roots in its present form are related to the formation of customs services at the end of the 19th century, when the possibilities of abusing the public service for personal wealth were created.

There are different approaches in determining the term “corruption” which are significant for studying this negative behavior. In every approach, the essence of the term is the same, and it means abuse of trust and public power for achieving private and personal gains. Corruption is used to obtain otherwise free services: education, healthcare, employment, government services and others.

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Over time, corruption has developed under various influences of the economy, society and politics, which has more harmful consequences for society and the state. Because of its hidden nature and different forms, corruption represents one of the most dangerous examples of economic crime. Corruption undertakes many illegal acts in order to harm the public interest, because a person who maintains a certain position abuses the position and institution, and thus reduces the trust of citizens and public opinion about the state and society.

Corruption is both a problem of a person and a society. Bribery is hidden, and both parties are interested in keeping it that way to achieve their personal interests. Profitteers take advantage of their position by breaking regulations. Obtaining material goods in terms of illegal economic use is a motive that exposes individuals to committing criminal acts of corruption. One of the most important characteristics of corruption is manifested in mutual relationship between corruption and poverty, which is again related to the motive for committing corrupt crimes and the moral understanding of corruption as such.

The carriers of corruption are people in high positions, those who have a high reputation. Those people perform responsible tasks in state bodies, public services and other institutions responsible for legislation, obligations and responsibilities of citizens and legal entities (issuing documents, verification of financial obligations to the state). This type of crime is committed by people in high positions who abuse their reputation and influence. They abuse the given trust to achieve their goals and bribe politicians, officials, managers, police and judiciary. It is performed by high-level businessmen, which is why it is labeled as the “white-collar crime”.

3. DEFINITION OF CORRUPTION

It is important to note that there is still no single definition of corruption that would be accepted both nationally and internationally. The most often definition of corruption is - the abuse of entrusted power for private gain. Thus, the definition adopted by the United Nations includes both corruption related to state activities and corruption present in other forms of economic and non-economic activities. According to this definition, corruption is any act or oversight that a responsible person makes during the performance of his/her duties and seeks a reward or accepts gifts, promises or other benefits. It is important to mention once again that these are responsible professionals regardless of their activity and that a certain act is related to professional duties.

Given that the term corruption should include corruption in the public and private sectors, the definition includes the following important elements:

- Unlawful and amoral activity
- Perpetrator – a person who holds a high state, political, financial, economic or other public office; a person working in senior positions in the private sector
- Activity that includes abuse of position, crossing authority, abuse of function and reputation, failure to perform tasks within your competence, use of institutions where the perpetrators are employed
- Achieving unlawful property or gain wealth without legal grounds, gaining personal interests, political, financial or other power

This definition includes corruption in the public and private sectors, pointing to the perpetrators of corrupt crimes in both sectors and the content of their criminal activity.

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pointing to the goal of committing corrupt crimes for the sole purpose of achieving illegal properties and profits\(^5\).

Although there are different approaches in defining corruption, some mutual characteristics may be extracted:
- Corruption is multilayered phenomena
- Corruption is present in every country
- Corruption is not a product of recent time
- Corruption cannot be exterminated
- Corruption is adjustable to various state systems
- Corruption is often related to the state system and the moral condition of the nation
- The most common criminal offense of corruption is abuse of official position or authority by the holder of such authority
- Forethought is asked for the criminal responsibility
- Two sides are always involved: one that needs certain favor and the other that provides it\(^6\).

From all of the above, we can conclude that corruption is an extremely delicate criminal act characterized by secrecy and widespread existence, transformability, great danger to society, low level of moral principles, difficult confirmation of intent in the criminal law sense, and illegal function of state bodies and institutions. Corruption has successfully passed through all the pores of society. Corrupt activities help to finish businesses, more or less important, which means abuse and privatization of power, position and influence from a particular job. Members of powerful circles may influence with their position and abuse of institutions to prevent, discover or prove criminal activity\(^7\).

In legal terms, corruption is defined in different ways and through different crimes. Corruption is standardly defined as:
- Requesting or receiving (directly or indirectly) any monetary value or benefit (gift, service, promise, assistance) from a public servant or person performing a public function in exchange for any act, supervision in the domain of public duty;
- Offer or guaranty (direct or indirect) of any monetary value or benefit (gift, service, promise, assistance) from a public servant or person performing a public function in exchange for any act, supervision in the domain of public duty;
- Any act or supervision by a public official or a person holding a public office in exchange for any monetary value or benefit to himself or to a third party;
- Abuse or gaining property based on some act;
- Participating as an organizer, co-organizer, assistant, participant or concealer after the act has been performed, or in any other role, in exchange (or expecting exchange) for any cooperation or conspiracy to perform the act.

According to professor Derencinovic, corruption is defined as a process that involves at least two perpetrators who exchange without authorization in order to gain personal benefit and thus harm the public interest, moral, legal norms and foundations of democratic development, the legal state and the rule of law. In general, corruption is seen as the misuse of public services for personal gain. That includes activities of bribery, nepotism and abuse of position for personal gain\(^8\).

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\(^7\) Boskovic, M., Current Problem of Anti-corruption, Belgrade, 2000., pp. 9-10.
4. **CAUSES AND CONSEQUENCES OF CORRUPTION**

According to general opinion, corruption is a dynamic social phenomenon with negative consequences and with causes pertaining in current social relations, which brings about the need to research those causes in different social systems. In the last few decades, the dynamic of social relations is especially expressed in transition states, i.e., states that are or have been going through the so-called transition period. It is expressed in economic, legal, political, financial, social, cultural and other forms of social life. Corruption is also present in developed countries, which makes it a national and global problem. In order to solve this issue, there are various measures of prevention and repression, but with a prior understanding of the causes of corruption.

Of course, it is not easy to look through all factors of corruption growth, but those are mostly weak state administration and political institutions. Other than that, in countries where judicial institutions are not well developed, corruption regress on variables and their interaction, and on a standard set of controls for the level of development of the country and political competition.

Corruption is a complex and multi-faceted phenomenon that can take a variety of forms. A wide variety of political, institutional, administrative, social and economic factors, both domestic and international, is important in enabling and fomenting corruption. The main causes of corruption come from different spheres: size and structure of governments, democracy and political system, quality of institutions, economic freedom/openness of the economy, civil service salaries, freedom of the press and judiciary, cultural determinants, links to organized crime.

Corruption is a special form of crime with three causal dimensions: social, state and individual. The social dimension of corruption uses the level of linking social capital to crime and corruption. Difficult living conditions and the impossibility of leaving those conditions for a better economic situation create fertile ground for the development of crime in general and corruption in particular. The state governance dimension is based on the fact that state governance is a part of social reality and is corruptible. Those in power consider themselves to be above the law and use their positions for personal benefit. The individual dimension is a personal set of values that prevents people from dealing with crime, i.e., from behaving contrary to legal norms. Even under the pretext that socio-economic conditions are ideal and that the state governance functions flawlessly, corruption and crime will still exist, because the management of external living conditions does not always control the internal human instincts. That is why corruption must be fought at the individual level, because the fight against crime at all levels is still reduced to individual motivation.

Corruption is more and more becoming not only a national but also a global issue, and as such is present especially in countries devastated by conflicts and in the process of transition, which leads us to the importance of this topic for Bosnia and Herzegovina and Republika Srpska (RS) as its integral part. The process of transition, which includes the transformation of ownership and privatization of capital, as well as the development of new states according to principles that differ from the previous ones, directly affects the creation

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of conditions for corruption in all aspects of social life. Corruption has a negative impact on the development of transition countries because it hinders economic growth and reduces productive activities and thus increases criminal activities that prevent healthy competition and suppress poverty reduction activities\textsuperscript{11}.

Every society has different consequences of corruption. The results show that corrupt activities have a negative impact on aspects that affect society as a whole, such as growth. There are significant proofs that corruption has a negative impact on sustainable development. He concludes that policy measures should aim to reduce corruption, especially in those natural resources that are of high value to society, in order to protect and preserve the capital base that is crucial for sustainable development.

Systemic corruption and the one at the highest level, important for legislation and institutions, has a negative impact on aspects that strongly affect society as a whole. Small size corruption also has a negative impact, as it is always possible to get wider forms.

Among the most dangerous forms of corruption are those that allow trade to influence the adoption of laws and regulations to protect their interest and the interests of various factors. These results seem economically intuitive because a higher number of different regulations and laws give the officials the discretion they need for extracting bribes and encourages the private sector, economic and non-economic parts of society, to pay them in order to facilitate business. This activity is perpetrated by different lobby groups for a certain benefit, of course.

The manner and extent of the impact of corruption on society depends on the readiness of the state and its factors to confront such criminal behavior. Due to the state’s monopoly in certain areas, officials are able to gain this power and they often have the discretion necessary for collecting bribes as well. Additional difficulties in detecting corruption arise due to differences in the degree of corruption. Every country has passed anti-corruption laws, drawing a line between illegal bribery and acceptable “gifts of good will”. This shows that they have already acknowledged that corruption is a phenomenon they have to deal with, but every country has its own definition of where to draw the line.

5. FORMS OF CORRUPTION

Corruption is present in all spheres of society, and its form and scope depend on part of the conditions of each country, especially in countries in transition, where the most dangerous corruption is committed by members of the upper strata of society and economic activities. It is equally dangerous in economic and non-economic activities, but it seems more dangerous to society when it is in a non-economic environment, for example: judiciary, practice of law, local government, the media, the police, political parties and NGOs.

Bribe, abuse of power and other forms of corruption affect the reputation of state bodies, public servants, companies and individuals. Stories of corrupt public servants result in citizens’ distrust of the state, its authority and representatives. The abuse of power as a form of corruption refers to the misuse of public mandates, political and financial power in order to illegally gain material goods and the change of political status for themselves or others\textsuperscript{12}.

\textsuperscript{11} Boskovic, M., Organized crime and Corruption, Banja Luka, 2004., pp. 293.
\textsuperscript{12} Cotic, D., International Recommendations and National Experiences in the Fight Against Corruption, Institute of Criminological and Sociological Research, Belgrade, 2001., pp. 201.
The most common form of corruption is based on services provided by an individual to an individual. Such behavior is equally present in the public and private sectors. According to such criteria, there are three types of corruption:

- Corruption of state sector
- Corruption of private sector
- Mixed corruption

Corruption in the public sector occurs when corrupt activity occurs between two officials in the public sector, while corruption in the private sector refers to the same activity but within the private sector. Mixed corruption includes corrupt activities of private and public sector representatives.

According to the criteria of participants’ activity in criminally sanctioned corruption acts, we can distinguish:

- Active corruption
- Passive corruption

Active corruption occurs when a government official makes a profit because they have committed a certain act, while passive corruption occurs when a government official accepts such a profit with such intention.

According to the level of corruption at the international level, there are three different basic forms of corruption:

- International corruption
- National corruption
- Combined corruption

Forms of corruption vary from country to country in content, cause and intensity, and depend on the social and economic situation in that country.

6. CORRUPTION IN NON-ECONOMIC ACTIVITIES

Although corruption is expressed in economic activities, it is important to focus on non-economic activities and how corruption is manifested there. This is especially related to financial affairs on non-economic activities. Therefore, corruption in non-economic activities can be found in public procurements, sales, education, healthcare, public policy, police and other non-economic sectors such as local government, political parties or NGOs.

The function of state includes the purchase and sale of certain goods and services through public procurements and sales under the most favorable conditions. This means that the state procures goods and services from the most favorable suppliers, i.e., at the lowest possible price for that type and quality, but also sells goods and services at the actual price that corresponds to the quality and quantity of goods and services. However, what occurs is that public servants look after their own interests instead of the interest of society and seek suppliers that will provide certain goods and favors if corrupted by a certain amount of money (usually a percentage of the value of the contract).

Legal system is one of the most important parts of every state and has a special place in the functionality of the state, so the existence of corrupt practices in the legal system

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15 Jovicic, D., Skakavac, Z., Economic Criminology, Novi Sad: Faculty of Law and Business Studies PhD Lazar Vktic, 2019., pp. 119.
negatively affects the entire state apparatus and its functionality. Therefore, we find judiciary corruption to be one of the most dangerous forms of corruption. A corrupt judiciary makes it possible to reduce penalties or even completely avoid punishment for participants in the chain of corrupt activities. That is how potential future participants in this chain are encouraged to participate as they can avoid responsibility beyond any doubt and that leads to further expansion of corrupt activities.

The current period brings corruption in healthcare. It most often occurs in the process of admission, selection of a specialist, during the treatment of patients, rehabilitation in specialized institutions or sending to spa treatments. Besides money, expensive gifts and providing services are very common in this area.

Also, corruption exists in the sphere of education, where the carriers of corruption are people who intend to make illegal decisions through corruption. Corruption in education is incompatible with the major goal of education: to produce citizens respecting the law and human rights. Corruption threatens equal access, quantity and quality of education. These practices occur in educational planning processes, in school management, in student admission and examination, in teacher administration and in teachers’ professional conduct.

Bearing in mind all the above spheres of life affected by corruption, we must be aware that corruption is widespread in our society and all other activities of state and public administration.

7. POLICE CORRUPTION

The authors agree it is difficult to define police corruption as it is linked to other forms of unlawful misconduct of a police officer. The wider definition of police corruption is the one in which law enforcement officers end up breaking their political contract and abuse their power for personal gain. This type of corruption may involve one or a group of officers. The narrower definition distinguishes corruptive activities like bribery from non-corruptive activities like robbery, burglary or theft without law authorization.

Internal police corruption is a challenge to public trust, cohesion of departmental policies, human rights and legal violations involving serious consequences. Police corruption is divided in a couple of groups: Corruption of authority: When police officers receive free drinks, meals, and other gratuities, because they are police officers, whether intentionally or unintentionally. Theft/burglary is when an officer or department steals from an arrest and crime victims or corpses. Extortion: Demanding or receiving payment for criminal offenses, to overlook a crime or a possible future crime. Shakedowns: When a police officer is aware of a crime and the violator but accepts a bribe for not arresting the violator. "Fixing": Undermining criminal prosecutions by withholding evidence or failing to appear at judicial hearings, for bribery or as a personal favor. Internal payoffs: Prerogatives and prerequisites of law enforcement organizations, such as shifts and holidays, being bought and sold and the "frameup": The planting or adding to evidence, especially in drug cases.

The presence of corruption in the police questions the feasibility of law enforcement, i.e., the readiness of the police to detect corrupt acts, find the perpetrators and provide evidence in order to ensure the further course of criminal proceedings. Just like corruption

in judicial system, corruption in the police improves acts of corruption, because the one who commits corruption will not apply measures to expose such negative behavior. If police corruption is significant in scope, we can call it organized corruption. Corrupted police are unable to fight against organized corruption. If corruption has spread significantly through other institutions, then such a corrupt society is incapable of acting to eradicate police corruption

A high-ranking police officer can satisfy many of the demands of bribe-offering persons, whether it is about not to submit requests for violation procedures, issue a firearms licenses, travel documents, vehicle registrations, or about having a senior officer asking him to act upon his orders and pressure others to participate in prohibited activities. For such favor there is always a counter-favor, which is a characteristic of bribery in police corruption. There are also cases where the director of police prevents the submission of a report on a criminal offense or does not allow the detection and proof of a criminal offense of a person who is highly ranked or with great influence. Such cases bring either survival or promotion or any other conveniences.

8. FORMS OF POLICE CORRUPTION

Corruption can appear and it can be expressed in various forms in every social activity, including police activities. Authors approach that phenomenon differently, but for the sake of this paper we will focus on eight forms of police corruption:

- **Corruption of authority**: When police officers receive free drinks, meals, and other gratuities, because they are police officers, whether intentionally or unintentionally.
- **Bribery**: When a police officer accepts a bribe to perform or not perform his duty.
- **Shakedowns**: When a police officer is aware of a crime and the violator but accepts a bribe for not arresting the violator.
- **Extortion**: Demanding or receiving payment for criminal offenses, to overlook a crime or a possible future crime.
- **Protection of unlawful activities**: When police protection is approved for perpetrators.
- "**Fixing**: Undermining criminal prosecutions by withholding evidence or failing to appear at judicial hearings, for bribery or as a personal favor.
- **Direct theft / Burglary** is when an officer or department steals from an arrest and crime victims or corpses.
- **Internal payoffs**: Prerogatives and prerequisites of law enforcement organizations, such as promotions, shifts and holidays, being bought and sold etc.

Of course, there are different realizations, for example in the publication “Police Corruption in Serbia”, issued by Belgrade Center for Security Policy, 2014, where the forms of police corruption are:

- Petty corruption
- Bureaucratic corruption
- Criminal corruption

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- Political corruption and
- Incompatible activities

There is a deep belief among citizens and police officers that traffic police officers accept bribes from citizens. The reason for such behavior is mundane and direct experience citizens have in touch with traffic police. The bribe is mostly money, but it can also be paying for drinks or lunch, or doing a counter-favor. There are well-known examples of citizens avoiding paying for a ticket by helping a police officer at the hospital where they are employed. The main reason for corruption is avoiding paying tickets or other sanctions for traffic violations.

Bureaucratic corruption in the police force refers to the misuse of internal procedures and bureaucratic processes and resources for private gain. There are many internal processes that can be subject to abuse, as police forces are typically very large institutions with considerable numbers of staff and extensive assets to manage. For example, as in other areas of the public sector, police contracting and procurement procedures are particularly vulnerable to corruption, with risks of tender manipulation in exchange for bribes and return service.

Criminal corruption within police refers to activities of police officers that are some forms of criminal activity. At a more structural level of police corruption, police officers can abet (organized) crime either by building their own criminal enterprises, by protecting illegal activities from law enforcement, and/or by conspiring with criminals to commit crimes. A typical form of collusion between the police and criminals is the collection of kickbacks from gangs, drug dealers and operators of illegal establishments such as brothels or casinos to protect the involved criminals and their revenue streams from law enforcement. In some cases, corrupt police officers ask for a regular percentage of the “take” or receive payments for leaking information on upcoming investigations and raids or for manipulating investigations against criminals. Criminals may occasionally bribe police officers to facilitate or reduce the costs of their operations. This can also involve paying police officers to use their powers to undermine competition by other crime syndicates, for example by harassing and intimidating drug dealers on behalf of other drug dealers.

Police work is closely intertwined with problems of political corruption. Police forces can be manipulated for political purposes, either to suppress political dissent or bypass laws and regulations to favor friends and political allies. This can translate into political interference in police investigations, the initiation of false investigations, the “framing” of political opponents, the leaking of confidential information to politicians, etc. Also, there are stories of police becoming the source of media affairs where political parties are involved, one way or another.

Finally, the police are not immune to so-called “incompatible activities”. This is the case of police officers working as private security. A lot of disciplinary proceedings have been initiated in the Serbian police due to a serious breach of duty. Police officers work as “black security” for wealthy people which may potentially represent an act of protection of persons involved in unlawful economic acts. There are also other forms of incompatibility where additional activities are opposed to policing, including political office\footnote{Djordjevic, S., Corruption Assessment in the Serbian Police, Belgrade Centre for Security Policy, Belgrade, 2014., pp. 20-31.}.
9. STRATEGIES TO SUPPRESS POLICE CORRUPTION

Corruption activity in the police should be monitored through the analysis of factors that lead police officers to abuse of authority and perform corrupt activities. It is necessary to change the approach in researching the causes from individual to organized by including external and internal factors. That will help investigate the behavior, causes and consequences of police corruption.

Corruption is a burden to society as a whole, and police corruption is a special kind of danger and problem for society. Therefore, attention is paid to strategies to reduce the effects of police corruption. Each country applies a different approach in combating corruption in this vital state body. Professor Zeljko Kralj establishes a strategy for combating corruption in the police by eliminating the causes of corrupt behavior. According to the traditional understanding, police corruption is limited to a small number of unreliable individuals, i.e., “rotten apples”, that need to be eliminated from the system and that resolves the problem. That view is popular among politicians and political leadership. However, all major corruption cases in the police prove a structural connection that encouraged corruption and created a favorable climate for the emergence of “rotten apples”.

Measures to combat police corruption are classified into five strategies that are needed in parallel: reactive measures (criminal investigation, police work, evidence-gathering activity, disciplinary measures, proceedings etc.), proactive control of policing (integrity tests, polygraph, control measures, psychological and ethical tests), systemic measures (analysis of good and bad practice, risks, anti-corruption control), strengthening integrity in the police (through the application of a code of ethics, protection of whistleblowers and informers, rewarding whistleblowers, surveys for police officers and citizens on their perception of corruption) and improving governance human resources as an anti-corruption policy (development of risk assessment, file handling, rotation of directors, investigation of the financial situation of police officers, etc.)

Research on police corruption may be done in three ways: by surveys for public opinion (that follows trending in citizens’ perception of corruption within police), by analysis of prevention practice and suppression of police corruption (with the goal of determining positive and negative characteristics of prevention system and suppression of corruption and applying successful solutions to solving new problems) and scientific research on terms, causes, consequences and forms of police corruption.

A significant number of authors consider corruption to be a phenomenon with a very high cover-up index, because it basically “represents an agreed tort, i.e., participants in corruption act voluntarily and for mutual benefit”. Therefore, both parties in that tort have an interest in denying it. Kesic emphasizes “the restriction of police records where there are considerably fewer units (perpetrators and delinquents) than the actual numbers as a consequence of more subjective intent than objective circumstances”. That is one of the specific flaws of statistics about police corruption. Within the police unit, the management decides not to report cases of corruption in order to preserve the reputation of the police organization and protect it from public judgement. They would rather make the corrupt police officer resign or transfer him to another unit.

In order to reduce corrupt activities, it is necessary to apply a methodology that will lead to an improvement in the fight against such crimes. Some of the methods needed to prevent and combat corruption are: defining accurate measures to prevent corrupt activities in the police administration (e.g. audio or video documentation of work with clients); audio documentation of all telephone complaints to the police and communications between civil servants; often rotations of the personnel in sectors that have been confirmed to be prone to corrupt activities.

Combating police corruption is necessary for the normal functioning of society, regaining the trust and reputation of the police, increasing the overall security of citizens, because the citizens of our region currently do not have enough trust in police officers. In order to regain that trust, better expertise among police employees and a higher level of respect for ethical norms are needed. It is necessary for police employees to perform their activities with conscience, in accordance with the law and regulations that model their jurisdiction and authority. Fighting corruption changes the general perception that everything can be bought, that all government officials are corrupt, that police officers can be bribed, etc.

Each of these strategies can be discussed in a broader sense, but our intention here was basically to identify ways to act strategically to reduce corrupt activities in the police organization.

10. CONCLUSION

Transparency International’s Global Corruption Barometer for Serbia in 2016 showed that police are third, behind health services and officers issuing official documentation, as the most affected by corruption. According to this research, police corruption is mainly found in the traffic police. In order to reduce police corruption to a minimum, it is necessary to have more political will and responsibility in the fight against corruption, by taking energetic and hard measures, promoting good practice in fighting corruption at all levels, and promoting accountability and transparency in police work agencies.

Having in mind the importance of the police in the state system, we can conclude that the research of police corruption has an enormous scientific and social importance. The general significance can be seen in the strong contribution to the spread of knowledge about the existing but secret phenomenon. Any detail can serve to fulfill the knowledge about this behavior and to remedy the consequences produced by the police on an individual and social level. We need to be aware of the fact that investigating police corruption is not an easy task. Anyone who decides to explore and find corruption within police ranks must be prepared to face various problems, objective and subjective.

The statement that police corruption exists in some form in almost every police organization around the world seems quite well-founded. Of course, the scope and the nature of police corruption in countries with low democracy level directly influences the corruption level in the entire society. For that reason, especially in underdeveloped countries, police reform is very important for improving both the police service and the conditions in the entire state administration. Police corruption contributes to the total devastation of police activity as one of the most important state services, and transforms it into a service for individual or group interests and for the sole purpose of personal enrichment of police employees. The main motive of police corruption is achieving private or personal interests.
This situation within the police organization leads to the citizens losing confidence in the police service. An atmosphere of insecurity is created in the majority of the population and that causes a negative environment in the whole society. Therefore, the fight against corruption must be organized and conducted in such a way that measures of prevention and suppression are both in action. It is also very important to unravel the perpetrators of criminal acts, prosecute them efficiently, bring them to custody and face them with responsibility. If there is no efficient reaction and adequate criminal policy, corrupt behavior will not be reduced. On the contrary, it will strengthen until the state sends a clear message that crime or corruption do not pay off.

11. REFERENCES