

## **ASSESSING ALBANIAN STUDENTS PERCEPTION TOWARD FAVORITISM IN UNIVERSITY. THE CASE OF ALBANIA**

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### **Abstract**

Corruption is a challenge for development as it undermines the main pillars of good governance and it weakens the role of institutions. Corrupted legislative bodies and executive entities reduce accountability and harshly compromise the rule of law. One of the main challenges for Albania is to reduce corruption. Based on the latest Transparency International Corruption Index (2012), Albania reached only the 113th rank of 176 countries, with the weakest result of the entire region and Europe. Special concern raises the development as the position is getting weaker over the last years (2008: 85, 2011: 95). Based on existing studies also mentioned before, also Albanian universities have fundamental problems of vulgar corruption in the education process. Our research is based on corruption economics theory which is widely used for research on corruption influences on economic development and institutional sustainability. The focus of the research is on education-specific corruption, defined by Rummyantseva (2005: 86) as “corruption that involves students as agents and has direct effect on their values, beliefs, and life chances”. The proposed study aimed to analyse the awareness and the behaviours toward corruption practices and the students’ perception on the corruption costs and benefit based on different profiles and stages of higher education, types of education management and cultural and nationality background. Our research questions is: what is the extent of occurrence of corrupt behaviour in higher education institutions of Albania. The study is based on descriptive analyses made to a large scale survey carried with more than 1900 university students in Albania. The outcome of the study can provide to new insight on how to fight education specific corruption, to achieve to higher equity and increase human capital.

**Keywords:** *abusive behaviors, corruption, favoritism, higher education, Albania.*