Ukraine’s Position Paper

Committee: United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)

Topic: Governance and its Effects on Education

Country: Ukraine

School: Lower Canada College

Governance and policies can have a very large effect on education in today’s day and age. Considered to be a fundamental human right by the United Nations, the sad reality of today’s world is that approximately 124 million children are still not in school and 115 million children are illiterate. One major reason for this incredibly high figure is the effect governance can have on education. Misuse of resources in corrupt countries, countries with political instability, and financial crises are known to have lower education rates than others. In terms of corruption, bribery and abuse of power by officials for the benefit of corporations can often take away resources from education. Political instability can also cause schools to close down and children to drop out of school. This creates a vicious cycle where an uneducated generation grows up to lead the country, which can create even more political instability.

In 2003, Ukraine signed and ratified the United Nations Convention Against Corruption (UNCAC).[[1]](#footnote-1) The document aims to eliminate corruption by targeting six areas: prevention, criminalization, law enforcement measures, internatinoal cooperation, asset recovery, and technical assistance and information exchange. However, according to a study released by Transparency International called the Corruption Perception Index, Ukraine is still very corrupt, ranking 130th along with the likes of Cameroon, Iran, Nepal, Nicaragua and Paraguay.[[2]](#footnote-2) This is largely due to past leaders such as Viktor Yanukovich’s lasting impact in Ukraine. However, the current President, Petro Poroshenko, sees Ukraine’s future as being in the European Union, and therefore is trying to solve Ukraine’s corruption problem. Despite the corruption in Ukraine, 99.7% of the population is literate and 6.7% of its GDP is spent on education, ranking 35th in the world.[[3]](#footnote-3)

Possible solutions include creating a more transparent process for how taxes are spent. If governments are forced to be more transparent with their allocation of funds, then corruption levels should decrease worldwide. Ukraine believes that their corruption levels need to decrease greatly in order to potentially join the EU and keep up their alliance with the United States.

1. "United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime." Signatories to the United Nations Convention against Corruption. UNODC, 21 Sept. 2016. Web. 11 Nov. 2016. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. Transparency International. "Corruption Perceptions Index 2015." *Transparency International*. Transparency International, 2015. Web. 11 Nov. 2016. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. "The World Factbook: UKRAINE." *Central Intelligence Agency*. Central Intelligence Agency, n.d. Web. 11 Nov. 2016. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)