

ENOTHTA IV: Η Κανονιστική Συμμόρφωση ως ανταγωνιστικό πλεονέκτημα που υπερτερεί του κόστους της. Compliance as a competitive advantage outbalancing its cost



Scope of compliance for the today's discussion

Included

- <u>Legal & Regulatory compliance</u>: compliance with laws/regulations/rules
- Bribery & corruption regarding customers, suppliers, 3rd parties
- <u>Embargo and sanctions</u>: trading with restricted persons/organizations, financing crime/ terrorists
- Anti-Money Laundering: dealing with suspicious organizations, transaction risk
- Privacy and data protection: processing of personal data, handling of incidents
- <u>Anti-trust/ Competition</u>: trade rules and communication principles violation
- Market abuse while in dominant position
- <u>Conflicts of Interest</u>: Inducements and Fees, Outside directorship/activities,
 employee trading, business conflicts
- <u>Information controls</u>: Information barriers and confidential information (excl. personal data)

Not included

- Health, Safety and environmental
- <u>Employee matters</u>: diversity, conduct, harassment
- <u>Customer complaints</u>
- Quality: norms, checks, assurance
- Tax

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It is difficult to measure Compliance ROI since

- On one hand compliance bears a certain cost to an organization (time, resources, IT systems)
- On the other hand compliance creates
 - new opportunities with financial impact (e.g. new markets, new customers)
 - avoidance of difficult situations with measurable cost impact (e.g. fines)
 - avoidance of damaging factors to non-measurable damage (e.g. reputation, loss of customers, loss of talents)

Let's start with:

- It is all about risk identification, risk mitigation and organizational risk appetite
- Although compliance is not optional, there are many ways to tackle the matter and various levels of organizational maturity
- Compliance is currently being transformed from a tick the box approach to a compliance cultural asset for the organizations.

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The need: In a complex business environment with global activities, enterprises ...

The **complex** and **fast changing** Regulatory environment applicable to the business activities of a company that is <u>present in various markets</u> or that is <u>part of an international company value chain</u>, creates an additional burden for compliance and change to the company that is beyond its core activities and expertise.

For example the main <u>anti-corruption</u> legislation / guidelines/ key stakeholders are:

- Legislation
 - Foreign Corrupt Practices Act (FCPA)
 - UK bribery act
 - National laws
- International Anti-bribery conventions
 - UN (United Nations) convention against corruption
 - OECD (Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development) Convention on Combating Bribery of Foreign Officials
 - Criminal Law Convention on Corruption (Council of Europe),
 - Civil Law Convention on Corruption (Council of Europe)
 - African Union Convention on Preventing and Combating Corruption
 - Inter-American Convention Against Corruption (Organization of American States)
- industry/ sector codes
 - COCIR (Healthcare)
- industry/ sector regulations
 - Sunshine act (Healthcare)
- Organizations and Agencies Combating Corruption
 - Transparency International
 - World Bank
 - European procurement authority

...have nowadays the ultimate need to comply with laws, rules and regulations and be able to demonstrate this.

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The risk: we have seen the last decade many cases of non compliance...

- Large corporate fines for violations: direct fines for own violations, indirect fines for violations of business partners
- Lengthy public **investigation procedures** that disrupt the company operations
- Debarment from public procurement or other opportunities (eg. World bank financed projects)
- Lack of corporate financing by banks or investors
- Reputational damage, loss of stakeholder trust
- Loss of market share
- Decrease in stock price
- Failure to attract employees
- Penal charges for key employees and imprisonment
- Fines for key employees



The solution: a robust ethics and compliance program can ...

Management Responsibility



Set up...

Prevent

policies

processes

the right culture,

...to avoid the misconduct



2 Detec



Establish detection mechanisms to

identify deviations from the policies

and wrong doings





- Disciplinary actions
- Improve program

Integrity of all of the company's employees and 3rd parties

- Compliance risk assessment
- Code of conduct, guidelines and processes
- 13 Training and communication
- 1.4 Advice and support

- **Control system** in the primary process
- Monitoring and compliance reviews
- Compliance checks by Audit
- 2.4 Compliance investigations
- 2.5 Whistleblower system

- 3.1 Troubleshooting/post-processing incidents
- Remedy systemic weaknesses
- **Consequences** in the case of individual misconduct
- 3.4 Continuous improvement

...protect the organization by adverse acts and their consequences.



The competitive advantage between a company with robust CO program...

Strategic

- Management demonstrates undisputable ethics and leadership through the "tone from the top"
- Management can get to better decisions due to Risk management effectiveness
- Gets access to international markets and is able to operate in high risk markets with confidence because of it's compliance controls
- · Gets trusted by customers, suppliers, employees, shareholders, other stakeholders
- Gets better access to the value chain of big international companies
- Gets easier access to external financing
- Attracts top talents, attracts potential partnerships, contract opportunities, or merger & acquisition considerations
- Fosters Sustainable development
- Provides assurance to the management to sign the "in compliance statement"
- Avoids Successor Liability for Anti-Corruption Violations through the compliance Due diligence during M&A activities
- Cultivates ethical culture across it's whole value chain

operational

- Its employees are aware of the risks, can identify them and are able to act accordingly.
- Gets a better 3rd party risk management: knowing customers and vendors through the due diligence process
- Avoids conflicts of interest
- Prevents and detects non conformance activities
- Communicates the company's risks all the way through the organization and enables employees to counter act through the whistleblowing channel.
- Escalates any deviations in the right time and to the right people
- Conducts internal investigations
- Responds to external CO related requests in more timely and accurate manner and at a lower cost
- Stays out of trouble/ stay out of courts
- · robust ethics and compliance program can reduce adverse legal action and lessen financial penalties```

...and one that is simply "adhering to the law".



If you think compliance is expensive...

...try non compliance

THANK YOU

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