

FSD2831 KORRUPTIO JA POLIITTISET INSTITUUTIOT BOTSWANASSA JA ITÄVALLASSA 2009-2012

FSD2831 CORRUPTION AND POLITICAL INSTITUTIONS IN BOTSWANA AND AUSTRIA 2009-2012

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Interviews Austria

A. Interviewee

- Function and mandate?
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B. Institutions

(i) **Federalism** – country structured into federal government and Länder with own power

- Is a federal structure – in your opinion – good for your country? Why (not)?
 - ⊕ Do you think the Länder have genuine power and mandate?
 - ⊕ Or do you think **real** power resides with the federal government?
 - If federal government makes decisions “outside its mandate” – who can intervene and how?
 - If the Länder (ex. Landtag) make decisions “outside their mandate” – who (citizens, federal state...) can intervene and how?
 - Voters elect representatives at federal level (Nationalrat) and at the regional level (Landtag).
These have different mandates and representatives.
 - ➔ Do you think it's difficult for the voters to keep track of their representatives (and mandate) at different levels / in different fora and hold them accountable?
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(ii) **Parliamentarism** – Government dependent on parliamentary confidence and Head of State (HOS) ≠ simultaneously Head of Government (HOG)

- Your country has a President elected by the people and a Chancellor usually selected from the party with parliamentary majority. Executive power resides with these two figures.
 - Is this a good structure for your country, do you think? If not, why? (Has power been divided between them in a suitable way?)
 - ⊕ Do you think the President should have more power? Why?
 - ⊕ The Chancellor is said to be a dominant figure in Austrian society. Do you feel the Chancellor has too much power? Why?
 - Do you feel that parliament has good enough insight into what the Chancellor (and government) is doing?
 - ⊕ Is the President involved in / consulted in decision making?
 - Are votes of no confidence common?
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(iii) Party-centered electoral system – candidacies determined by party & voters not voting directly for candidate

- Am I correctly informed that Austria has an electoral system with closed party lists i.e. on election day voters vote for the list put forward by a party, not individual candidates?
- How do Austrians feel about not being able to cast a vote directly for a person?
- If you wanted to run for the Nationalrat, who would make the decision about your candidacy?
- Do you feel party officials have too much power when it comes to nominations and rankings?

- ⊕ Could your supporters influence your access to the list or your ranking on the list? Or is it only the party officials?
 - Many Austrians are members of a political party. People are said to link party membership with personal benefits (such as employment), what do you think?
 - ⊕ Does it happen that friends of the party leadership are placed high on the list?
 - ⊕ How? When voting you cannot refrain from voting for a corrupt individual?
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(iv) Large bureaucracy – large funding envelope, power and work force

- Do you think bureaucrats have more power than politicians?
 - Advantages / disadvantages of this in your opinion?
 - Do you feel that parliamentarians are able to control what the bureaucracy does?
 - If you as a citizen are interested in decisions made by the bureaucracy (for instance why a certain building company was awarded a contract), would you be able to get information about the tendering/ contracting process?
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C. Corruption

- Does corruption – in your opinion – exist in your country?
- What kind of corruption? (Give examples) Where? Who's involved?
- Is corruption a problem in your line of work?
- ⊕ CPI (2005): low corruption but GCB (2009): 35% of respondents say political parties are corrupt. Contradiction?

- **Why** do you think corruption exists / doesn't exist in Austria? (causes)

