



INNOVATIONS FOR SUCCESSFUL SOCIETIES

Building Institutions, Escaping Development Traps

Anti-Corruption Reforms in the Baltics

In the late 1990s, influence peddling, campaign finance violations, and high-level graft jeopardized some countries' efforts to join the European Union (EU). Two new ISS case studies describe how [Lithuania](#) and [Latvia](#) drew upon the model of Hong Kong's Independent Commission Against Corruption as they established anti-corruption agencies and achieved EU accession.

In 1997, Lithuania established the [Special Investigation Service \(STT\)](#), an elite law enforcement unit that became the first multifunctional anti-corruption agency in Europe. Initially based in the Ministry of the Interior, the STT quickly increased its capacity and built a common identity among staff. Legislation passed in 2002 gave the STT more autonomy and new powers, allowing it to make headline-grabbing arrests that boosted its reputation and deterred wrongdoers. While deficiencies in the judicial process leave many STT cases to languish in the judicial system, undermining public trust, the STT now investigates hundreds of cases annually and its preventive and educational efforts have become a model within Europe.

Eager to demonstrate progress against corruption as a part of the accession process for the EU, Latvia established the [Corruption Prevention and Combating Bureau \(KNAB\)](#) in 2002. KNAB overcame political opposition by launching ambitious investigations, rallying public support, and using its unique power to monitor campaign finance violations to reign in political corruption. KNAB's efforts helped drive public support for dramatic reforms that reduced opportunities for high-level corruption, including stronger campaign finance laws, more transparency in parliamentary votes, expedited trials, protections for whistle-blowers, and changes in parliamentary immunity.

Charting a Path to Fairer Elections in Nigeria

Citizen demand for election reform rose sharply in advance of Nigeria's 2011 presidential race. Incumbent Goodluck Jonathan, who had recently assumed the presidency after Umaru Yar Adua's death in

Featured Interview

In a recent interview with ISS, [Attahiru Jega](#) describes his reform efforts as chairman of Nigeria's Independent National Electoral Commission, beginning in 2010. These reforms resulted in Nigeria's most successful elections to date. In the interview, Jega also describes Nigeria's open-secret-ballot system designed to prevent people from casting votes in multiple polling places. Under this system, voters are accredited early in the day at the polling site and everyone votes at the same time later that day, making voting an all-day affair.

U.S. Case Studies

In response to requests from reformers in other countries for examples of effective reform efforts in the United States, ISS has published its first two US-focused case studies. The first explores [Indiana](#) Governor Mitch Daniels' work to reform state government. The second describes campaign finance reforms in [New Jersey](#) that sought to eliminate pay-to-play.

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office, tapped Attahiru Jega to lead an electoral reform effort.

A university chancellor and champion of electoral reform, Jega knew there was too little time to overhaul the country's electoral commission. Instead he enlisted a team of trusted advisers to improve the commission's operations and engaged a network of civic society groups to extend the commission's reach. He promoted transparency, created a new voter registry, reformed balloting procedures, improved coordination with political parties and government agencies, and created a trusted corps to man the polls on election day. Despite some logistical issues and an outbreak of post-election violence, observers validated the elections as the freest and fairest in Nigerian history. A [new ISS case study](#) describes these reforms and their impact.

Improving Government Accountability and Leading Reform

[Innovations for Successful Societies](#) (ISS) helps public servants, policy makers, and scholars share institution-building strategies that work in especially challenging contexts. [Interview-based](#) case studies facilitate these exchanges and provide a basis for scholarly research. To date, ISS has published [103 reformer-focused case studies](#) and more than [350 interviews](#) all of which are available for free on a [web repository](#). Thousands of people around the globe access these web resources each month. Governments use the materials to learn from each other, inspire discussion in their ranks, and recall the steps they took to implement a reform. Universities and training programs use the cases in the classroom to engage students in the operational and strategic aspects of public sector reform.

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practitioners and scholars to evaluate the pros and cons of different reform strategies and weigh the effects of context. ISS welcomes feedback on its cases, including suggestions of additional topics and questions to be considered, corrections, and how case studies are being used: iss@princeton.edu

Where ISS Has Worked

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