



# **Benchmarking in Integrity Audit**

Ina de Haan Netherlands Court of Audit www.courtofaudit.com





# **Topics**

- Aditing integrity: Why
- Auditing integrity: What
- Auditing Integrity: How
- Auditing integrity: Benchmarking
- Some challenges





# **Auditing Integrity: why?**













# **Auditing Integrity: what?**

- **Principle based**
- Managerial
- Prevention
- Facilitating ethical culture
- Wide definition
- •Ownership:
  - •(Civil) society
  - Management

- Legalistic
- Repression
- Detection and punishment
- Narrow definition
- •Ownership:
  - Legislator
  - Law enforcement

Rule based



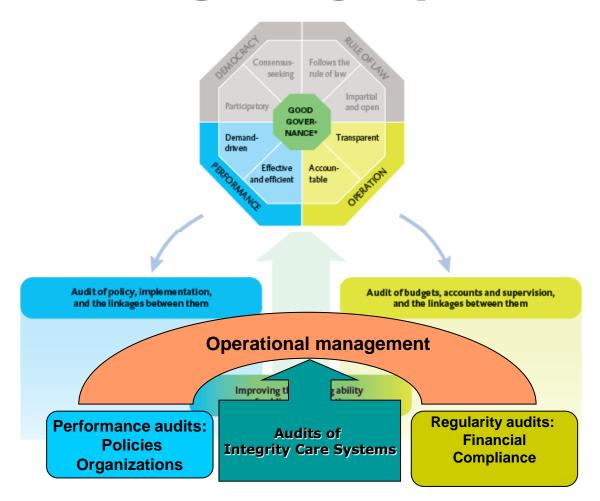








# **Auditing integrity**







# **Audit objective**

# To determine whether a public sector organisation has:

- implemented an adequate set of integrity measures
- to control its integrity risks
- that might seriously undermine confidence in the organisation and thus in its image and continuity.

This may lead to an opinion on the maturity of the entity's Integrity management





# **Purpose of integrity audits**

- 1. Stimulate awareness and improvement
- 2. Determine strengths and weaknesses in a specific entity
- 3. Identify weak organisations, departments or sectors in the public sector

Not: detect incidents of fraud and corruption





# **Auditing integrity: How?**

Culture & behaviour

Legal framework

Integrity

Integrity controls

Standards & Obligations





# **Legal framework**

Requirements that are based in laws or bylaws, that have a relation with integrity and that public entities need to implement. For instance:

- Laws on the civil service
- Access to information law
- Financial Disclosure law





# Standards and obligations

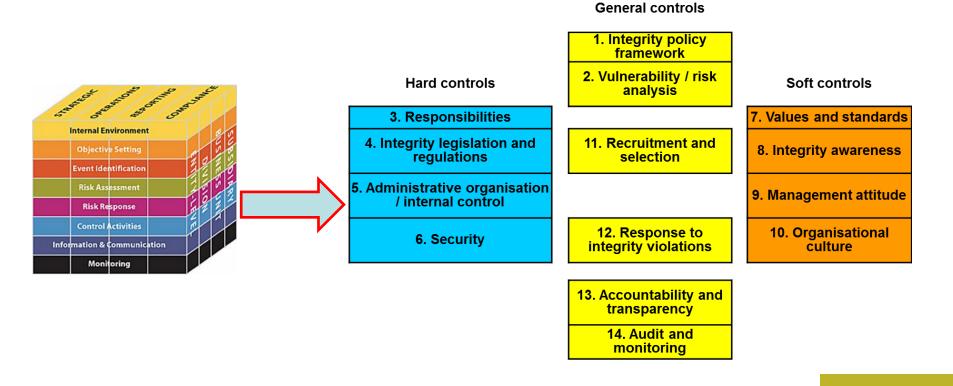
Obligations or good practices for a specific sector, for instance:

- International agreements, e.g. UNCAC
- Codes of conduct
- Citizens charter





# **Integrity control system**







### **Behaviour and culture**

Elements of an organization's culture that strongly influence the outcome of integrity:

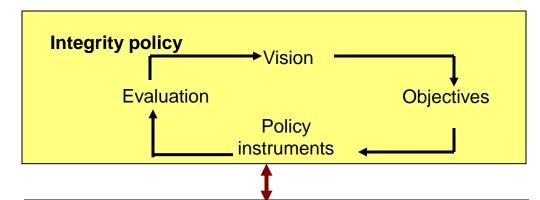
- Tone at the top
- Shared values and norms
- Experiencing Fairness of treatment
- Good relationships among colleagues





# **Basic audit framework**

# Integrity Care System



### **Execution of instruments**

### **Hard controls:**

Codes, rules, regulations, investigations, sanctions

General controls: Internal control, audits,

risk analysis

**Soft controls:** Ethics training, leadership,

awareness





### **Ten Golden Rules**

- **Scope**: focus on prevention not on incidents
- Clear criteria: what is required both by law and good (risk) management
- Benchmark: in time, between entities, motivates improvement
- **Introduction**: meet with the auditee to explain the audit
- **No surprises**: communication during the process
- Involve auditee: creates ownership and incentives to improve
- Verify observations: send observation to auditee to verify
- Contradictory procedures: ask reaction of auditee
- Publication: full & fair publication of all results
- Follow-up: especially with staff of auditee (share ideas on how to improve)





# Benchmarking: a case study

- Compare the organisation's performance and/or process with best practice
- Within a peer group
- Develop plans to make improvements
- Continuous process
- Purpose: stimulates improvement
- Monitoring





# **Benchmarking integrity controls**

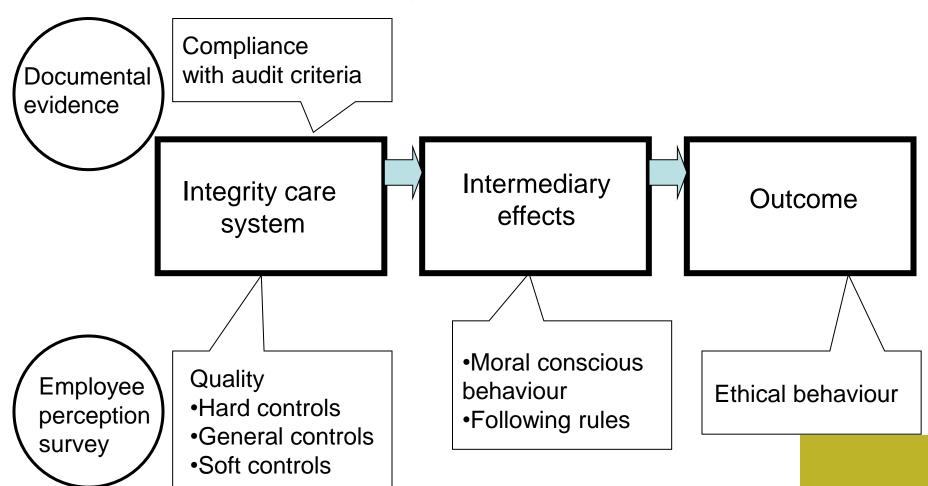
- Integrity
  management: a base
  line measurement in
  2004 (2005)
- State of integrity management in central government in 2009 (2010)







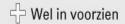
# Audit design 2009





## **Results**

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Inbreukenregistratie	4	0	÷	0	4	_	4	-	4	0	4	0	_	_	4	0	4	0	4	4	0	4	4	0	_	0	
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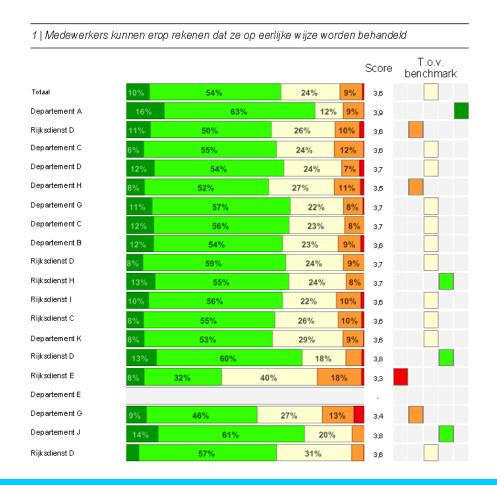
# **Employee perception survey**

- Enrichment of documental evidence
- Insight in effects and maturity of instruments; especially soft controls
- Internet survey amongst 17.000 civil servants (a-select)
- Integrity module validated emloyee perception survey "InternetSpiegel"
- Added items on knowledge of regulations, policy and values
- 6579 respondents (38%)





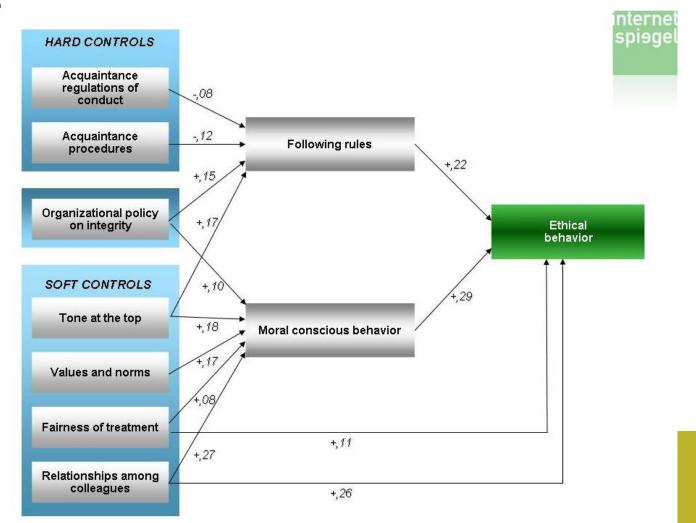
# **Benchmarking results**







### **Results**



# Main findings perception survey

- Emphasis on soft controls: have more impact on perception of integrity than hard controls
- Better communication on policy, rules, procedures and violations is needed
- Tone at the top and ethical guidance of management needs more attention
- Discrepancy between perception of management and workfloor: Manegenment underestimates the risks





# Follow-up

- Results shared with each organisation with workshops, focused on improvement
- Employee perception survey released as a internal monitoring tool for PSO
- Ministry of interior took up monitoring integrity of PSO
- BIOS developed leadership training





# Some challenges







# Some challenges









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