

# **“Regulating the Invisible: Efforts to Map and Control Corruption”**

## **Call for Papers *Regulation & Governance* Special Issue 2026**

### **Guest Editor**

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### **Description**

While the corruption research field has made significant steps ahead compared to previous knowledge, a significant gap between academia and policy remains to be bridged to support the implementation of more effective control of corruption in the EU and the rest of the world. The Horizon Project *BridgeGap* summons actionable evidence to support EU anti-corruption policies but compares the European Union also with European non-member states and the rest of the world. In particular, the project builds new indicators on formal (de jure) institutions and informal (de facto) ones to test the effectiveness and impact of anticorruption regulation, using data from Europam.eu and other sources. It also looks at the consequences of corruption and the policy failure of anticorruption.

Corruption is addressed in this special issue as a policy problem, thus defined primarily at the aggregate level, with significant security and social consequences. While outdated views on corruption presumed that the EU and US would export its integrity values to the rest of the world, the new approach to corruption as a cross-border subverter of democracy and security, acknowledges that institutional transfer can run both ways, and each side can change the other. The continuous scandals related to lobbies of foreign nations at the European Parliament illustrates this shift and the insider trading accusations to President Donald Trump illustrate how the process of *undue influence* to capture decision-making, corruption subverts formal institutions, institutional corruption can result from the exploitation of the vulnerability of just a few strategically placed individuals.

The special issue will provide a critical platform for exploring institutional corruption and its linkage with regulation in general, and anticorruption regulation more specifically. By encouraging a dialogue between empirical research and practical policymaking, it aims to advance the understanding of corruption as a multidimensional challenge and to propose innovative solutions for its regulation. This goal is particularly timely, as after the cessation of the Foreign Corrupt Practice Act enforcement by President Donald Trump remains alone as a good governance promoter of anti-corruption policy across borders.

### **Open Call**

This special issue of *Regulation & Governance* invites submissions that critically examine the challenges and opportunities in regulating corruption, with a focus on (but not exclusively) the role of the European Union (EU).

Submissions may address, but are not limited to, the following themes:

- Solutions experimented for the evaluation of corruption and anticorruption across time.

- The experience with the gap between the de jure and de facto in anticorruption and the solutions to bridge it.
- The evidence on regulation impact and the consequences of policy failure on economies and societies.
- The interplay between domestic vulnerabilities and transnational corruption risks in the EU, and more developed societies in general and the rest of the world.
- The effectiveness of regulatory frameworks, such as public procurement policies, in mitigating corruption.
- The role of institutional reforms, judicial cooperation, and media freedom in combating corruption.
- Innovations in measuring corruption and assessing the impact of anticorruption policy.

The editors encourage submissions that critically analyse existing frameworks, propose new methodologies, or explore the implications of recent legislative developments.

#### **Key dates**

- Open call for Papers Start: **April 15, 2025**
- Deadline for extended abstract submissions: **June 1, 2025**
- Invitation by issue editors sent by: **June 20, 2025**
- Full paper submissions: **September 20, 2025**
- First round of reviews completed by: **October 20, 2025**
- Resubmissions of papers: **November 20, 2025**
- Final review by: **December 5, 2025**
- Submission of final papers: **December 20, 2025**
- Final Special Issue Submission: **January 20, 2026**

#### **Information for authors**

Potential contributors should submit an extended abstract (1,200 words, excluding references) and the corresponding author's contact information. Extended abstract must be sent by **June 1, 2025**, to the editorial team: Alina Mungiu-Pippidi ([ampippidi@luiss.it](mailto:ampippidi@luiss.it)). Please indicate "R&G Special Issue Corruption 2026" in the email object.

For further information about the submission process, please contact Elettra Latini ([elatini@luiss.it](mailto:elatini@luiss.it))

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[BridgeGap](#): Bridging the Gaps in Evidence, Regulation and Impact of Anticorruption Policies, [info@bridgegap-project.eu](mailto:info@bridgegap-project.eu)