

CALLING ALL FRAUDSTERS:

8 ways to master corruption

“Corruption is no one night stand, it is a marriage,” says Julia Draxler, who, together with Roland Spitzlinger, runs Vienna's “Institute of Applied Corruption”. Instead of condemning corruption, they take an ironic approach and teach people how to behave like their corrupt role-models. In *Alpbach*, they gave a short crash-course.

Written by Katrin Nussmayr

1 MIND YOUR SOCIAL SURROUNDINGS

“We live in a very cold environment”, says Spitzlinger. His recommendation: Just party and concentrate on the receptions. Even better than talking: “Create common experiences. The more extreme, the better.” The experts name table soccer at Jakober as well as sexual encounters.

2 LEAVE AN IMPRESSION

Hand out business cards with your picture on it. If you have a stupid or very common name, just change it. First names like Charlotte or Patricia for women and Leopold or Alexander for men, combined with a last name that sounds royal or French-diplomatic are overly represented in management floors, the experts say. This will more likely put you into powerful positions and give you more ways to abuse your power.

3 DON'T PANIC IF YOU FAIL YOUR STUDIES

“You can also buy a degree,” says Draxler. She recommends degrees in Law or Economics. Bosnia has some good private universities that offer quick PhDs, she says. “The Austrian police president did his Master's in eight weeks. Very demanding.”

4 STAY WITHIN LEGAL BOUNDARIES

If you take money for corrupt reasons, and you want to be safe, tax it. Draxler and Spitzlinger offer different ways of

doing so: “In order to be legally safe, set up a consulting contract. As a return service, a simple concept should suffice. Eight pages of an expert assessment are worth up to six million euros.” They state that a judge from Innsbruck, who was attending the Legal Symposium, assured them that this is a good method.

5 LAUNDER THE MONEY

As an alternative, they recommend money laundering in order to be able to explain to the tax office where the money is from. Spitzlinger recommends going into the art market and buying a piece of art at fairs like the Art Basel – preferably from a young, unknown artist where the value of the

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piece is hard to estimate. Just sell it again for a higher value, backdate the first receipt – here is your official income.

6 AVOID ELECTRONIC TRANSACTIONS

Draxler and Spitzlinger suggest performing corrupt payments in cash or Bitcoins. When it comes to delivering money, Spitzlinger appeals to people's dignity: “Take a good suitcase, not a plastic bag.” Draxler adds: “But don't underestimate the weight – one million euros can weigh 15 kilos.” If it gets too heavy, take a trolley.

7 STAY PROFESSIONAL

Even when you get caught or get into trouble, don't reveal your friends. This will make you appear trustworthy. In court, the experts recommend the phrase “I have no perception to this” as a categorical answer.

8 THERE IS ALWAYS A SECOND CHANCE

“Keep your dignity, even if you acted unmorally from society's point of view.” And don't forget: There is the “revolving door effect”. Change into another industry or move abroad. “Go to America to some think-tank and wait until the furore dies down.” ■

▼ Corruption experts Spitzlinger and Draxler tell reporter Katrin Nussmayr how to boost her journalism career

