

# 9TH INTERNATIONAL STUDENT CONFERENCE ON LOCAL SAFETY AND SECURITY



University of Maribor

Faculty of  
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## LOCAL INSTITUTIONAL INTEGRITY AS A METHOD AGAINST ORGANIZED CORRUPTION FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

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- **RQ1**: Are the mechanisms for preventing organized corruption at the local level in Slovenia effective?
- **RQ2**: Is there a connection between organized corruption and sustainable development?

# THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

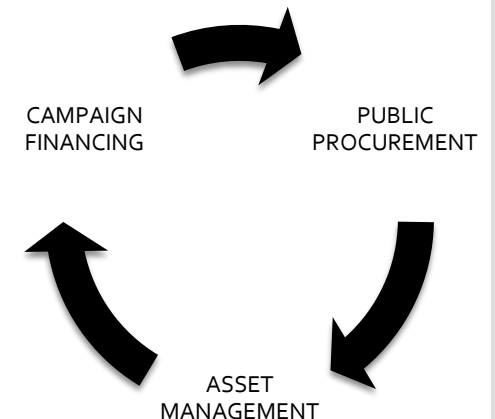
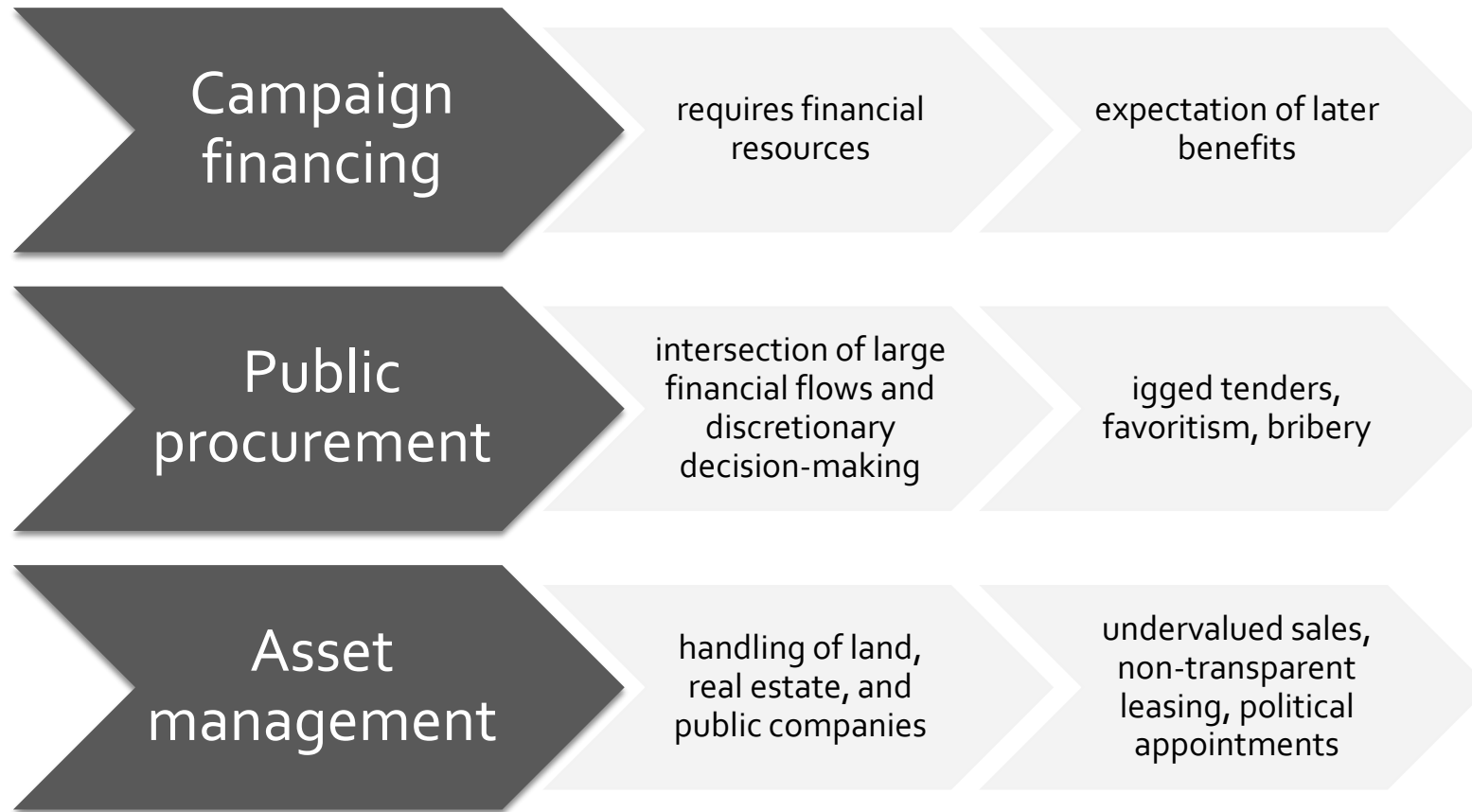
- **Corruption** (abuse of position for private gain)
- **Organized corruption** (integration into the functioning of the state system in order to preserve influence and power)
- Impact of organized corruption on:
  - **Politics:** informal networks, state capture, elections
  - **Economy:** inefficient use of public funds, limited economic development
  - **Local sphere:** local state capture, weaker oversight, limited sanctioning



# ROLE OF LEGISLATION AND OVERSIGHT

- **The Integrity and Prevention of Corruption Act (ZIntPK):** functioning of the Commission for the Prevention of Corruption (*KPK*), prevention of conflicts of interest, supervision of officials' assets → *KPK* lacks repressive powers
- **The Criminal Code (KZ-1):** difficulty in proving corruption-related criminal offences (mutual benefit, reversed burden of proof)
- **The Public Procurement Act (ZJN-3):** ensuring competition, transparency, and efficiency → issues in public procurement
- **The Local Self-Government Act (ZLS):** mayor as the legal representative of the municipality → weakened oversight due to concentration of power
- **Functioning of legislation in practice?**

# ORGANIZED CORRUPTION AT THE LOCAL LEVEL IN SLOVENIA



# CASE ANALYSIS

- **Urban areas:**
  - Public procurement and asset management
  - Large-scale projects
  - Limited transparency and public oversight
- **Rural areas:**
  - Asset management
  - Rapid changes in land-use designation
  - Limited transparency and public oversight
- **Findings:**
  - Occurs in various forms
  - Not the result of individual mistakes
  - Reflects systemic deficiencies in oversight and governance

# PREVENTION OF CORRUPTION AT THE LOCAL LEVEL

- **Integrity of public officials as the foundation of prevention** → challenges in practice: clientelism, political appointments, interest groups, lack of sanctions
- **Transparency enables oversight of public spending** → e.g. ERAR (but only formal?)
- **Oversight and institutions:** limitations of supervisory bodies
- **Role of civil society:** exposing corruption → politicization of media?

# CORRUPTION AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

- **Sustainable development** = balanced progress in economic, social, and environmental areas, with effective and transparent institutions playing a key role
- **Healthcare** (public procurement): favoritism of suppliers, overpricing of equipment → consequences: lower quality of services, reduced accessibility
- **Broader level:** investments benefiting individuals → consequences: poorer infrastructure, inefficient use of funds, hindered development



**"Mechanisms for preventing corruption at the local level in Slovenia do exist, but in practice they are not sufficiently effective due to weak oversight, lack of sanctions, and the intertwining of political and economic interests."**

At the same time:

**"Organized corruption directly hinders sustainable development, as it distorts decision-making, reduces institutional effectiveness, and undermines trust in society."**