

**CORRUPTION AND THE GENDER BALANCE IN
ADMINISTRATION DECISIONAL LEVELS. CASE OF ROMANIA**

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ABSTRACT: *The aim of this study is to carry out an analytical and critical exploration of the state of some aspects of public administration in Romania, such as corruption and the gender balance in administration decisional levels. The first part of the paper is an overview of the concept of corruption. At the same time, knowing that the literature has debated the controversy linking between gender and corruption, we feel that it is a very sensitive one, requiring many scientifically validated studies. But this was the reason to track the presence of women in positions of public administration in our country. The second part of the paper makes a comparison between the above mentioned aspects from Romania with those of other countries. Our conclusions are that Romanian society has done some progress in fighting corruption but the Corruption Perception Index situates the country on an inferior position among UE countries, so it remains a major challenge. As positive aspects, we underline that Romanian women are well represented in top levels of non-political, administrative positions but this did not generate a significant reduction in corruption.*

KEYWORDS: *public administration; corruption; gender balance; informal practices*

JEL Classification: *K00, K42*

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