Global Challenges of the 21st Century
1) Technological development and human health/ quality of life
2) Climate change and environmental sustainability
3) Democracy and cohesion in Europe

The Influence of Political Corruption on Trust and Social Cohesion

Political corruption in all its forms is a major and obvious breach of trust. Although being combatted in national and international instruments, such as the Council of Europe Criminal Convention against Corruption and the United Nations Convention against Corruption, it still happens and needs fine-grained regulation for all its different forms (e.g. party financing and revolving doors) as well as enforcement and a change in culture in many places.

The notion of trust comes in many dimensions. Trust in government and trust between citizens (social trust) are distinct notions but they are empirically connected. Living with (political) corruption damages trust in government and social institutions and impacts social inclusion and social cohesion, not only hindering economic development but also undermining the functioning of a state.

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