

PRESENTATION

Beatriz Escribano
SUSTAINABLE? Magazine Scientific Director.

The *Sustainable?* magazine, is a journal of multidisciplinary dialogue and communication at university level involving the current state of thought in relation to humanities, sciences and technologies from the perspective of sustainability, globalization. It also includes in general, reflections, analysis and proposals regarding the problems faced worldwide today.

The UNESCO Chair of Sustainability at the UPC with this magazine also intends to open interdisciplinary, critical, reflective, plural and rigorous spaces in order to promote the kind science and technology that can contribute to sustainable development.

As we started back in 1999, published issues have been several. *Globalization, Biotechnology, Africa: a global challenge, Agenda, The pathway of Rio 92, Democracy: a today's vision, Ethics and research, Sustainability: a reference framework, Energy, Sustainability and complexity, Sustainability and education, Sustainability assessment, Recycling city, Society in crisis*, until last year's subject *Alternatives to crisis*.

At the time the board of the *Sustainable?* magazine, met on the past February and decided that the subject of the latest issue would be *Corruption*, it was not on anyone's mind that during the entire editing process of the n°15 magazine, this would be one of most popular topics among the different news media and debate spaces. The articles presented on this new edition present diverse perspectives that go from a global conceptual vision on the meaning of the term framed on different structural matters, until the detailed personal and complaint stories regarding some current and well known cases.

We expect and hope that the presented articles in this issue are interesting enough to help us be lead to reflection, and thus visualize that there are other ways and models that allow social, juridical, administrative and legal changes where values such as generosity, honesty, trust, the search for the common good, knowledge, shared responsibility and equity of a balanced economy must work as vectors to drive alternatives to corruption schemes.

The participating authors are people dedicated to research and training in universities from diverse backgrounds and nationalities. In this issue we present four articles that part from a critical perspective where a humanistic and holistic nature, the concern on the state of the world and the struggle for global welfare are notorious. An important aspect of the content is the denunciation of some corrupted personalities in various fields such as governments, cultural institutions, boards of large companies, etc.

The first article entitled "*Corruption and Sustainability: the un-paths of the world and the structural basis of modern corruption*" is written by Andri w . Stahel, an economist and professor at the ELO Institute of Associative Economics, a great collaborator of the UNESCO Chair of Sustainability at UPC and experienced researcher in the field of ecological economics and education. He frames us the corruption issue within two main areas: ethics and morality, and structural legitimacy. The author describes that from the perspective of the crisis of sustainability linked to the process of corruption on human development, the most worrying aspect is that this hosts a number of socio-economic and legal practices that corrupt the common good both at short and long haul. The author presents as an alternative, the reconnection for recovering the fellowship of our community in the broadest sense.

The second article "*Social capital and corruption*" presented by Alejandra Calleros, economist and researcher on sustainability integrated assessment methodologies, and Beatriz Escribano, Professor at the UNESCO Chair of Sustainability (UPC), first shows an etymological study of the two acceptances of the term corruption: one related to the field of social morals and the other to the misuse of available assets for personal gain. Next, tracks down the study and analysis of corruption linking it to the concept of social capital exposing different views that support the finding that confidence, both in people and in institutions, has a great influence on the progress that can be achieved by corruption within a given society. Finally, perceptions of citizens around some corrupt practices in the Latin American and Catalan context are analyzed in order to identify possible alternatives.

Josep Pont, a professor and researcher at the Center for Advanced Studies of the Amazon (NAEA) and the Federal University of Pará (UFPA), writes the third article entitled "*System and Corruption: Law and Social Control in Brazil*". The author parts from the hypothesis that public and control proposals are not so useful in the fight against corruption. Pont frames the problem of corruption in the social- systemic field, staging the Brazilian case, where the government considers that the real problem is either "justice" or "rights". In the environment of the Public Administration "a non-corrupt option is presented as one that has lower benefits than the corrupt solution". Then, the idea about the enactment of laws to prevent corruption is developed, considering it as a complex way and extremely slow in its application. And finally, a warning is made by the author on how in contextualizing the people within the system can be translated as losing responsibility, both at individual and at group level.

The final and fourth article "*Energy sector. Controlled corruption dynamics*" by Alfons Pérez, researcher at the Observatory on the Debt of Globalization of Barcelona, characterizes and reports fraudulent practices in the energy sector taking into account geopolitical relations, markets liberalization and bonds made with politicians. The case of fossil energy geopolitics, shows how corrupted governments enhance and expand their coffers. On the other hand, the liberalization of energy markets help large companies to manipulate earnings to their advantage. And finally, the so called revolving doors where senior politicians take advantage of their influences portfolio to advise major corporations from their public administration boards.

As it always has been over the many years, all goes together with the list of electronic and bibliographic resources that is kindly prepared by Miquel Puertas and Núria Castillo. Like they have done each time, they add value to this new issue, so from here we will never stop thanking their effort.