

Marco Stampa
(CSR, ENI SpA)

Countries where oil and gas companies operate are often characterized by a high degree of complexity and weakness as for the social development and institutional governance.

On the other hand, due to the business peculiarities, the oil industry has to gain its licence of operate on a long- term prospect.

To comply with this fundamental requirement and to reduce the potentially huge cost of the liability both on reputation and on financial performance and investment risk, the companies need to adopt a set of internal rules and tools to prevent corruption.

These rules and tools must be mandatory for all managers and employees, in all countries where a company operates.

To date, the discussion on the applicability of these tools is mainly concerning the transparency issue, that is of great importance to face the management of the big flow of revenues generated by the petroleum business.

In this framework, Eni's system is based on some fundamental elements:

- the Code of Practice, set up in 1994;
- a set of clear and transparent rules to prevent and address corruption;
- an Internal Audit function, in charge of verification of standard and procedures compliance;
- an "Organizational, management and control Model", approved according to the Italian Legislative Decree 231/2001 on accountability and responsibility of Companies about the crimes against Public Administration and business interest;
- a Monitoring Body, set up to implement the "Model";
- a guidelines system on qualification, selection and management of the Company's suppliers and contractors.

In this framework the internal communication and training play a strategic role, as they are aimed not only at enhancing corporate know-how, but also at disseminating and sharing values and principles as well as at creating a corporate culture towards transparency and sustainability.

At the international level, Eni takes part in the Extractive Industry Transparency Initiative (EITI), which promotes among governments, international financial institutions, companies and NGOs the commitment to reporting in a transparent way payments and revenues generated from extractive activities and managing them to support sustainable development.

The set of principles, standard and company's procedures has to be extended to all sustainable development local investments.

Eni, whose initiatives for the communities in Italy and abroad yearly amount to some 50 million euros, has integrated the transparency principle as a grant of accurate control of projects' governance.

Also the partnership relations have great importance in awarding contracts to deliver local development support. Eni devotes its attention to the selection of suitable organizations (like local NGOs and international agencies) to carry out the projects in compliance with the above mentioned principles and rules.