

Our Members at a Glance

Interview with Claire Martin*



What organization do you work for? How does it support social accountability?

I work at the Transparency International Secretariat based in Berlin, Germany. Transparency International is a global coalition of over 100 civil society organizations working together to tackle corruption. In our new Strategy 2020 [Together Against Corruption](#), the Transparency International Movement commits itself to support citizens around the world demand more open and accountable government and business. Social accountability will also sit at the core of my work tackling corruption in public procurement.

How would you define SAcc and, according to you, why is it important?

For me, social accountability is an approach towards building accountability that relies on the engagement of ordinary citizens to exact accountability. For me however an equally important part of the equation is the building of state capability and readiness to respond to this pressure. In too many countries policy design and service delivery are hampered by corruption and deaf to the priorities of the poor. Social accountability mechanisms can help to make service delivery more effective and decision making more informed by the realities on the ground and the needs of the poorest and most marginalized.

What are the main lessons you have drawn by supporting organizations' social accountability projects?

It is still early days for me working on social accountability, but I am aware of some important lessons already learned through engagement of colleagues and Transparency International national chapters in social accountability efforts. One lesson for example is that social accountability approaches can provide an important reality check for public policy makers working at an expert level at the center but without a real feel for the reality of those who will be affected by policies or decisions. Being able to give voice to and feed in the voices of those actually impacted by these decisions, can go a long way to improve decision-making.

Are there particular projects or publications that you would like to share in the platform or its newsletter?

As of January 2016, we have embarked on a four year project funded by the European Commission with a focus on detecting and preventing corruption in public procurement in relation to projects co-funded by Structural and Cohesion Funds. Operating in 11 countries in the European Union, this project will implement an approach developed by Transparency International called the Integrity Pact. In 2015, we reviewed past experience with the approach and are currently undertaking updates to take account of lessons learned. A core part of the approach going forward will be the engagement of citizens to hold governments to account for delivery of clean public procurement. I look forward to sharing our experiences over the coming months and years.

You can contact Claire Martin to get to know more of her work in Transparency International through the GPSA Knowledge Platform!

*This interview was done by Janet Oropeza Eng, Coordinator of the Knowledge Management Area at Fundar, Centre for Analysis and Research, in February 2016.