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The culture of corruption in public administration: a comparison between Sweden and Italy

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The culture of corruption in public administration



A comparison between Sweden and Italy

Dr. Peter Stiernstedt (Presenting)
and Prof. Alberto Testa

Presented on December 6 at the Conference in Perugia, Italy

Introduction

What to expect from this presentation

The project

The observation

The report

The framework

The countries

The lenses

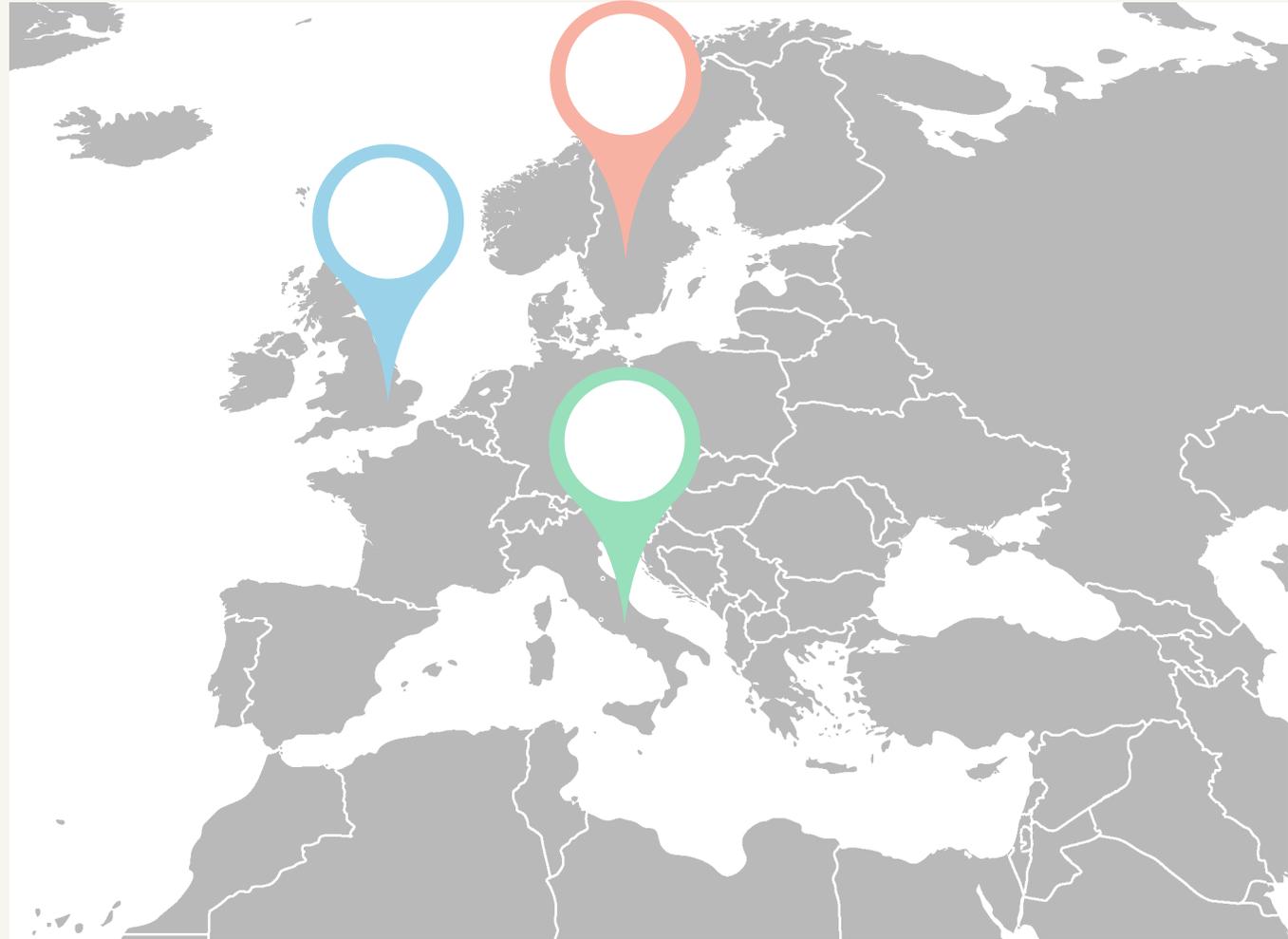
The cases

The impact

The project

A study on corruption in Sweden by comparing it to Italy by some guys in the UK

Sir Isac Newton



The observation

PRIVATE SECTOR • 17 NOVEMBER 2019

TROUBLE AT THE TOP: JOINT STATEMENT BY THE NORDIC CHAPTERS OF TRANSPARENCY INTERNATIONAL

Issued by national chapters in Denmark, Finland, Greenland, Iceland, Norway and Sweden
at the 26th Annual Membership Meeting

Issued by [Transparency International Iceland](#)



Truth

Trust

Transparency

Corruption in Swedish public administration



Korruption i Myndighetssverige (Brå, 2014)

- In 2014 the Swedish National Council for Crime Prevention published the report "Corruption in government agencies".
- The report presents a study that focuses on corruption that seeks to influence the core domain of the work of public sector agencies – the exercise of public authority.
- The results and conclusions of the report can be summarised as follows:
Research on corruption remains limited.
- The Swedish Anti-Corruption Institute, emphasised the importance of the four cultures that increase the risk for corruption.

The methodological framework

The four cultures conducive to corruption



Blindness

[Blindhett]

“Corruption
cannot
occur here.”



Silence

[Tystnad]

“Mind your
own
business.”



Informal rules

[Informella regler]

“Rationalisations
favourable to
deviance.”



Efficiency

[Effektivitet]

“Choosing
and creating
shortcuts.”

Countries of analysis

Do not use the CPI as a time-series!



Points: 85/100

Rank: 3/180

For the third year running, the top seven countries in the Corruption Perceptions Index 2018 consist of the four Nordic nations – Denmark, Finland, Sweden and Norway. All score between 84 and 88 points out of 100 on the index.



Points: 52/100

Rank: 53/180

Theoretical lens

Bourdieu's (1989) micro-macro theory

01

Habitus - Blindness

Humans naively learn about the world and its axioms in a pre-reflective unconscious way.

02

Fields - Silence

A network or configuration of objective relations between positions occupied by social actors.

03

Capitals – Efficiency

Each field has dominant (and dominated) actors ranked in the order of power they possess.

04

Doxa (logic) – Informal rules

A product of a tacit agreement representing what seems obvious and normal in a field.

Criminological lens

General Strain Theory (Agnew, 1992)

Institutionalised means

Accept

Reject

Cultural goals

Accept

Conformity

Innovation

Reject

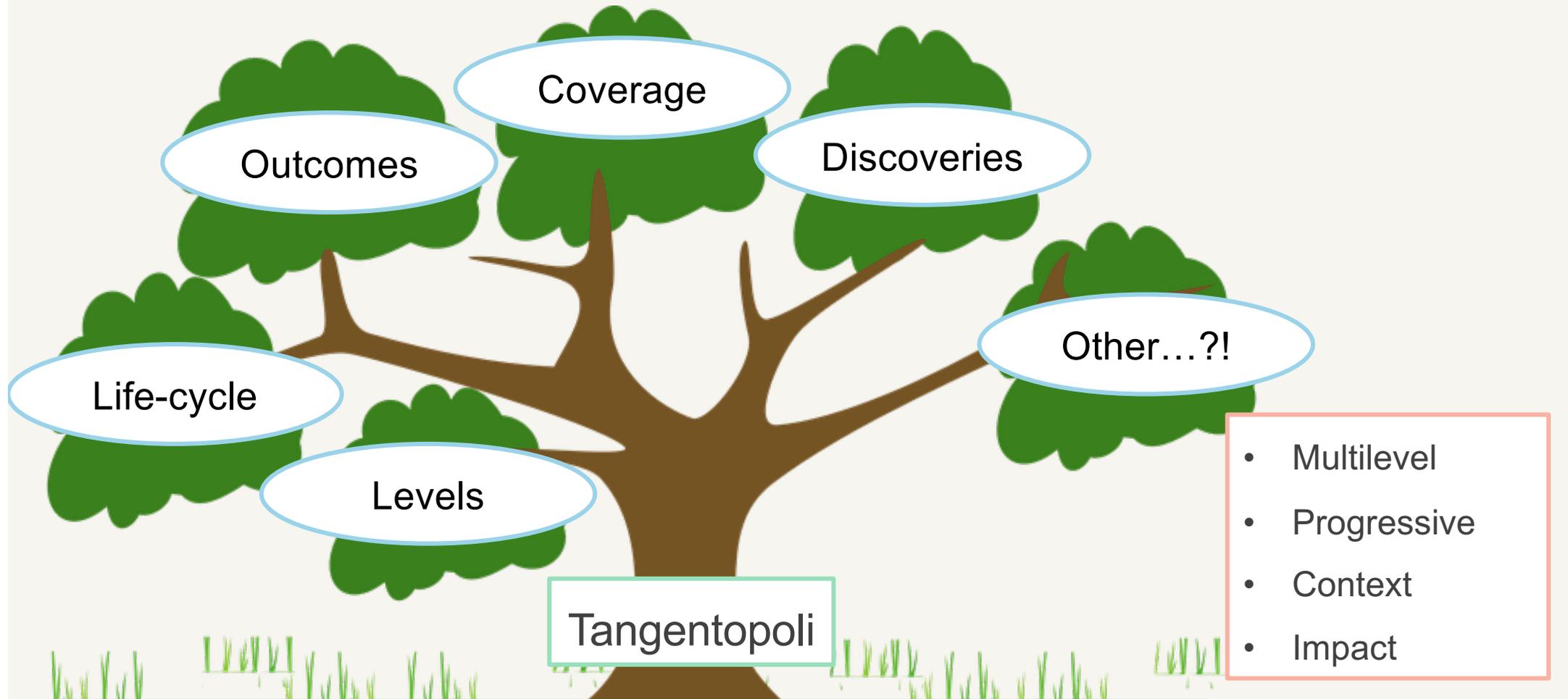
Ritualism

Retreatism

Accept	Conformity	Innovation
Reject	Ritualism	Retreatism

Case studies welcome

An Italian stem with Swedish branches



Impact on perceptions

Educated guesses



The culture of corruption in public administration



**Thank you
for
listening!**

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