# Социокультурные аспекты предпринимательской деятельности / Socio-cultural aspects of entrepreneurship

Оригинальные статьи / Original articles

https://doi.org/10.24182/2073-9885-2020-13-4-229-246



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## What components should an ethics and compliance program consist of to help organizations remain ethical and compliant in times of crisis and beyond?

Annotation: Organizations currently face many challenges due to the COVID-19 pandemic. In similar times of crisis, it is of the utmost importance for organizations to remain ethical and compliant with the law as well as with the temporary measures imposed on them by States. Ethics and compliance programs help organizations behave ethically and in compliance with all rules in a structured and comprehensive way. The paper analyzes selected models of an ethics and/or compliance program with the aim to find out what components an ethics and compliance program should contain in order to be effective in ensuring ethical and compliant behavior of an organization at all times including unexpected crises.

*Keywords:* analysis, comparison, crisis, components, ethics program, ethics and compliance program, model.

Acknowledgements: This work was supported by The Slovak Research and Development Agency under the contract no. APVV-16-0091.

**Introduction.** Many unethical and illegal practices still take place in the business environment, one of the most prominent global problems being corruption (Remišová and Lašáková, 2017; Zemanovičová and Vašáková, 2017). Moreover, the current COVID-19 pandemic has been affecting citizens as well as organizations around the world. In order to stop the spread of the virus, States have implemented measures that impose new obligations on organizations. In addition, this pandemic puts a lot more pressure on them to remain ethical and compliant than usual. Whether in times of crisis or not,

organizations have the responsibility to manage the behavior of their employees and their own, too. Therefore, they should have instruments in place to ensure their conduct is in line with the legal and ethical requirements. Organizations can also influence the behavior of other stakeholders such as suppliers or customers (Hoekstra and Kaptein, 2020). Kaptein (2017) suggests that remaining ethical requires struggle from organizations and a crisis is one of such struggles. He also points out that new, more demanding ethical norms have emerged as a result of crises. Indeed, many organizations have resisted unethical practices so far during this pandemic and what is more, they have engaged in activities to fight against the new coronavirus even if they are in a difficult situation (He and Harris, 2020). The current circumstances stress out the importance of a right approach to ethics management in organizations and make organization assess whether their ethical mechanisms can assure the ethical and compliant behavior even in times of crisis, in other words, make them question whether their ethics and compliance program is truly effective.

Theoretical review. Scientists have not yet agreed on one common definition of an ethics program, a compliance program or an ethics and compliance program. For Brenner (1992), an ethics program «is made up of values, policies and activities which impact the propriety of organizational behaviors»(p. 393). According to this author, each organization has an ethics program even if it is not explicitly created and implemented in an organization since ethics programs contain not only explicit, but also implicit parts - the components such as the corporate culture, valued behaviors, management behaviors or incentive systems. Explicit or tangible components include, among other things, codes of ethics, ethics seminars, management ethics decisions or internal control systems. Weaver, Treviño, and Cochran (1999A) consider formal ethics programs to be «organizational control systems aimed at standardizing employee behavior within the domain of ethics and legal compliance»(p. 42). Weaver and Treviño, (1999) specify that the aim of these control systems is to «create predictability in employee behavior and correspondence between specific employee behaviors and more general organizational goals and expectations»(p. 317). Similarly to Weaver, Treviño, and Cochran, Kaptein (2009) also regards an ethics program to be one of the control systems in an organization since he defines ethics programs «as the formal or tangible organizational control systems designed to create an ethical culture, and to, directly or indirectly, impede unethical conduct and promote ethical conduct» (p. 264). According to Walker (2006), «a compliance programme is a formal system of policies and procedures adopted by an organisation with the purpose of preventing and detecting violations of law, regulation and organisational policy and fostering an ethical business environment» (p. 71). Majluf and Navarrete (2011) define compliance and ethics programs as «the way companies make explicit their guidelines for ethical behavior in terms of basic principles and values, strategies, and company policies, as well as in terms of well-defined norms and rules such as the expectation that all employees should observe the law, honor contracts, and follow regulations» (p. 568). Remišová (2015) understands an ethics program as an integrated system of «beliefs and values, mechanisms, processes and ways of communication which the organization adopts for a long-term and continuous development of ethics in its organizational culture» (p. 80). Remišová and Bohinská (2017) describe a compliance program as «a set of internal policies, procedures and instruments, which regulate the organization's behavior, i.e. behavior of its owners, management and employees, so that the law is not violated during any activity undertaken by the organization» (p. 12). Martineau, Pauchant and Johnson (2017) explain that ethics «programs are usually put in place with the common objectives to assure integrity and to prevent corporate deviance and the occurrence of ethical scandals. They seek to improve the ethical behavior of employees and managers, in compliance with organizational rules and standards, and in line with corporate values» (791).

**Research approach.** Models of an ethics program or of an ethics and compliance program have been created not only by governmental or non-governmental institutions, but also by experts from advisory companies, including centers for business ethics, and scientists. When looking at different models, the following question occurred: *What components should an ethics and compliance program consist of in order to be effective in promoting ethical and legal behavior and in preventing unethical and illegal behavior in an organization*?

To find an answer to the research question, selected existing models of an ethics and/or compliance program were explored from three sources: (1) governmental, intergovernmental and international organizations (institutional models), (2) advisory companies including centers for business ethics (expert models), (3) scientific literature in the field of business ethics (scientific models).

Table 1 contains a list of all studied models and specifies which models were further thoroughly analyzed.

Together, 5 models from the first source category, 4 models from the second and 12 models from the third source category were studied. Due to the scope of this paper, the number of models that underwent further analysis was cut. In the

Table 1

| Model  | Author/s   | Year | Included<br>in further<br>analysis |  |
|--|--|------|------------------------------------|--|
| Institutional models   |  |      |                                    |  |
| FSGO model   | United States Sentencing<br>Commission                                   | 1991 | Yes                                |  |
| Business ethics: a manual for<br>managing a responsible business<br>enterprise in emerging market<br>economies | U. S. Department of Com-<br>merce, International Trade<br>Administration | 2004 | No                                 |  |
| Good practice guidance on internal controls, ethics and compliance   | OECD   | 2010 | Yes                                |  |
| ISO 19600, Compliance manage-<br>ment systems — Guidelines   | ISO  | 2014 | Yes                                |  |
| Evaluation of corporate compli-<br>ance programs   | U. S. Department of Justice,<br>Criminal Division                        | 2019 | No                                 |  |
| Expert models  |  |      |                                    |  |
| ComplianceProgramMonitor <sup>ZfW</sup>  | ZfW  | 2009 | Yes                                |  |
| BCFG: Development model for organizational integrity   | SIO  | 2014 | No                                 |  |
| Global ethics and integrity<br>benchmarks  | Dubinsky, J.E., Richter, A.  | 2015 | Yes                                |  |
| Ethics and compliance framework  | Deloitte   | 2015 | Yes                                |  |
| Scientific models  |  |      |                                    |  |
| Structural and behavioral dimen-<br>sions of an ethics program   | Brenner, S. N.   | 1992 | No                                 |  |
| 12 steps to building a best-<br>practices ethics program   | Navran, F.   | 1997 | No                                 |  |
| Model of an ethics program   | Weaver, G.R., Treviño, L.K.,<br>Cochran, P.L.                            | 1999 | Yes                                |  |
| Four P's of ethical business   | Spiller, R.  | 2000 | No                                 |  |
| The development framework of ethical structures  | Morris, M.H., Schindehutte, M.,<br>Walton, J., Allen, J.                 | 2002 | No                                 |  |
| A framework for organizational virtue  | Whetstone, J.T.  | 2005 | No                                 |  |
| Model of an ethics program   | Kaptein, M.  | 2009 | Yes                                |  |
| Measures of business ethics im-<br>plementation  | Belak, J., Duh, M., Mulej, M.,<br>Štrukelj, T.                           | 2010 | No                                 |  |
| Corporate model of sustainable business practices  | Svensson, G., Wood, G., Cal-<br>laghan, M.                               | 2010 | Yes                                |  |
| Model of a compliance and ethics program   | Majluf, N. S., Navarrete, C.M.   | 2011 | Yes                                |  |
| Optimal ethics systems model   | Collins, D.  | 2015 | Yes                                |  |
| Six-orientation model  | Martineau, J. T., Johnson, K.J.,<br>Pauchant, T.C.                       | 2017 | Yes                                |  |

<sup>1</sup> The table is created by the author.

case of institutional models, models relating to a large number of organizations and/or those that other models are derived from were selected. As for the expert models, a very complex step-by-step model developed for the certification purposes was excluded. Finally, those scientific models were chosen that other authors refer to in their works as well as more recent process models and one of the latest models, which brings a slightly different perspective on the issue.

**Models developed by governmental and intergovernmental institutions, and international organizations.** The Federal Sentencing Guidelines for Organizations (hereinafter referred to as *FSGO*), adopted in the U.S.A. in 1991, provided one of the first comprehensive models of an effective compliance and ethics program. Although this model is relevant primarily to U.S. organizations and organizations operating in the U.S. market, it has also served as inspiration for legislators and organizations from other countries as well as scholars in developing their models. The model contains minimal requirements for organizations to consider if they want to be effective in preventing and detecting criminal conduct and promoting law-compliant and ethical organizational culture. It consists of seven components (United States Sentencing Commission, 2018).

Good practice guidance on internal controls, ethics and compliance, approved by the OECD Council in 2010, includes a model of an ethics and compliance program that is not binding for organizations. Its aim is to help organizations establish effective internal controls, ethics and compliance programs so that they are able to prevent and detect corruption of foreign public officials in international business transactions. It includes 12 components (OECD, 2010).

The international standard *ISO 19600 Compliance management systems* — *Guidelines* (hereinafter referred to as *ISO 19600*), created by the International Organization for Standardization in 2014, is based on the Australian standard AS 3806 Compliance programs from 2006. There is an obvious shift in the approach to the issue that can already be observed from the naming of the standards. *ISO 19600* emphasizes the responsibility of governing bodies and management in organizational compliance. It should be noted that the standard covers not only compliance with relevant laws, industry codes and organizational standards, but also standards of good corporate governance, best practices, ethics and company expectations. *ISO 19600* defines seven key themes — context of the organization, leadership, planning of the compliance management system, system support, implementation of the system, regular evaluation of the effectiveness of

the system, continuous improvement of the system to ensure its suitability, adequacy, and efficiency. Each theme encompasses a number of components that an organization should implement to promote compliant behavior. In total, the model contains 24 components (ISO, 2014).

Table 2 provides an overview of the components of three analyzed institutional models.

Table 2

| FSGO model – United States<br>Sentencing Commission<br>(1991) | Good practice guidance on<br>internal controls, ethics<br>and compliance – OECD<br>(2010) | ISO 19600 - ISO (2014)                                     |
|---|---|--|
| Oversight by high-level per-                                  | Strong and visible support<br>and commitment from sen-                                    | Leadership commitment                                      |
| sonnel, individuals with opera-                               | ior management  | Good governance principles                                 |
| tional responsibility, adequate resources                     | Supervision by senior repre-<br>sentative/s, autonomy, ade-<br>quate resources            | Provision of resources                                     |
|   |   | Understanding the organiza-<br>tion and its context        |
|   |   | Understanding needs and expectations of interested parties |
| Standards and procedures to prevent and detect criminal       | Clearly articulated and visible corporate policy  | Scope of compliance man-<br>agement system                 |
| conduct   |   | Compliance obligations                                     |
|   |   | Compliance risks   |
|   |   | Compliance policy  |
|   |   | Plans to achieve compliance                                |
|   |   | objectives   |
|   |   | Actions to address risks                                   |
|   | Accountability at all levels  |  |
| Due care in delegating substan-                               | Applicability at all levels   | Roles, responsibilities, au-                               |
| tial discretionary authority                                  | Applicability to business partners (if possible)  | thorities  |
|   | Regular communication and   | Competence and training                                    |
| Clear and regular communica-                                  | training  | Awareness  |
| tion including training pro-                                  | Encouragement of compli-  | Communication  |
| grams   | ance with the program   | Documented information                                     |
|   |   | Operational planning and control                           |
|   | Financial and accounting  | Controls and procedures                                    |
|   | procedures  | Control of outsourced proc-<br>esses                       |

| Overview of the components of the analyzed institutional models <sup>2</sup> |
|--|
|--|

<sup>2</sup> The table is created by the author.

| FSGO model – United States<br>Sentencing Commission<br>(1991)  | Good practice guidance on<br>internal controls, ethics<br>and compliance – OECD<br>(2010)   | ISO 19600 - ISO (2014)   |
|--|---|--|
| Monitoring, auditing, periodi-<br>cal evaluation of the program,<br>mechanisms for confidential<br>and anonymous reporting | Guidance and advice, confi-<br>dential reporting of viola-<br>tions, undertaking of actions | Monitoring, measurement,<br>analysis, evaluation<br>Audit<br>Management review |
| Appropriate incentives and disciplinary measures   | Appropriate disciplinary procedures for violations  |  |
| Response to the criminal con-<br>duct, modifications of the pro-<br>gram   | Regular review of the pro-<br>gram  | Noncompliance, corrective<br>actions<br>Continuous improvement                 |

Although the *FSGO model* contains only seven components, it covers most of the themes of the more elaborated models of OECD and ISO. The *FSGO model* does not include any mention of operations though. In addition, its components are just key principles. While still quite general, *Good practice guidance on internal controls, ethics and compliance* comes with more detailed information on each component. On the other hand, *ISO 19600* provides a quite detailed description of each theme including a number of specific components and actions. It also clearly links these components together. Even if general (i.e. not designed for a specific size of an organization or a sector), *ISO 19600* can serve as practical guidance with many specific examples for execution of each component. The measures imposed by the FSGO or recommended by OECD are also covered by *ISO 19600*. The only components not explicitly included in *ISO19600* are the disciplinary measures and incentives for ethical and compliant behavior.

Models designed by advisory companies and experts in business ethics. A German center for business ethics — Zentrum für Wirtschaftsethik (ZfW) — contributed to the international discussion on what compliance means for organizations and how compliance issues overlap with the management systems by designing the *ComplianceProgramMonitor*<sup>27W</sup>. It should be noted that the term compliance is understood more broadly in this model, too. In addition to laws and regulations, organizational principles, internal regulations and rules, this term also relates to compliance with the principles of good corporate governance and generally accepted ethical norms. Thus, it can be assumed that similarly to *ISO19600*, this model is a model of an ethics and compliance program, not just of a compliance program. The model contains ten components, which are assigned to one of three stages — development, implementation, review (Zentrum fər Wirtschaftsethik, 2009).

In 2009, Dubinsky and Richter presented a universal model for the systematic development of ethics and integrity in organizations, which they called *Global ethics and integrity benchmarks*. Their model can be applied in organizations across all industries and is intended primarily for large and medium-sized organizations. As the requirements for ethical behavior of organizations increase, Dubinsky and Richter, together with the expert panel, reworked the model in 2015. The current model consists of three groups — foundation, ethical culture, ethical risk management. Every group contains several components, with 13 components in total (Dubinsky and Richter, 2015).

Deloitte, one of Big4 companies, created their *Ethics and compliance framework* which considers a culture of ethics and compliance as the core component of an ethics and compliance program. In addition, the model includes nine other components of the program divided into three phases — design, implementation, assessment. The framework also suggests that the program is supported by technology, processes and people (Deloitte, 2015).

The list of the components of three analyzed expert models is captured in Table 3 below.

Table 3

| Compliance<br>Program<br>Monitor <sup>Z(W</sup> – ZfW (2009)                                | Global ethics and integrity<br>benchmarks – Dubinsky<br>and Richter (2015) | Deloitte's Ethics<br>and compliance<br>framework (2015) |
|---|--|---|
| Leadership and corporate  | Vision and goals supporting<br>ethics and integrity                        | Culture of ethics and compliance                        |
| culture   | Ethical leadership   | Governance  |
|   | Ethical organizational culture   | and leadership  |
| Code of ethics  | Assessment of ethical and reputational risks                               | Risk assessment<br>and due diligence                    |
| Code of conduct Policies and procedures   | Compliance with law<br>and rules   | Standard, policies<br>and procedures                    |
| Organization – responsibili-<br>ties, steering committee, of-<br>fice, whistleblower system | Qualifications, roles, respon-<br>sibilities                               |   |
|   | Communication  |   |
| Communication and training  | Training   | Training  |
|   | Balance between confidenti-<br>ality and transparency                      | and communication                                       |

#### Overview of the components of the analyzed expert models <sup>3</sup>

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> The table is prepared by the author.

| Compliance<br>Program<br>Monitor <sup>Zrw</sup> – ZfW (2009)         | Global ethics and integrity<br>benchmarks – Dubinsky<br>and Richter (2015) | Deloitte's Ethics<br>and compliance<br>framework (2015)         |
|--|--|---|
| Compliance in HR   | System to manage conflicts<br>of interest                                  |   |
|  | Elimination of a possibility<br>of fraud, bribery<br>and corruption        | Third party compliance  |
| Transparency – risk screening<br>and control of risk manage-<br>ment | Whistleblowing   | Employee reporting  |
| Monitoring<br>Audit  | and investigations   | Case management<br>and investigations<br>Testing and monitoring |
| Addit  | Disciplinary and reward measures   | Testing and momorning   |
|  |  | Continuous improvement  |

As it is visible from this summative table, three models are balanced in terms of the number of components. Some of the components they include are similar (such as ethical organizational culture, communication and training, risk management), some differ. For example, *ComplianceProgramMonitor<sup>2</sup>*<sup>W</sup> emphasizes processes in HR, *Global ethics and integrity benchmarks* focuses on fraud, bribery and corruption, and *Ethics and compliance framework* includes third-party compliance. Moreover, these models all have a slightly different approach to building an ethical organization. As an illustration of this distinction, *ComplianceProgramMonitor<sup>2</sup>*<sup>W</sup> divides its components into three consecutive stages, while Dubinsky and Richter's model splits the components into three categories and at the same time, the advancement within each component is described. Deloitte's framework depicts an iteration of a repetitive process that consists of ten components.

**Models developed by scientists.** Weaver, Trevico and Cochran (1999B) presented their theoretical model of an ethics program based on their research held in 1995. It consists of seven components. Kaptein (2009) came up with a model of an ethics program encompassing nine components. Svensson, Wood and Callaghan (2010) developed a model that captures a continuous and iterative process which begins with the requirements of the market or society. The organizational values and norms should match these requirements. It continues with the activities an organization performs, guided by values and norms, the activities are perceived and later evaluated by internal and external stakeholders and the process restarts at this stage. The *Corporate model of sustainable business* 

*practices*, as they named it, is therefore based on the obligations and responsibilities of the organization to internal and external stakeholders. It contains five interconnected components — foundation, communication about the code of ethics, guidance, outcome and reconnection — which consist of a number of sub-components, 18 in total.

Although Majluf and Navarrete (2011) introduced only a two-component compliance and ethics program model, the first being implicit component, the second explicit component, their model has a number of sub-components. The explicit component covers all formal systems and procedures that aim to ensure ethical conduct in an organization. The implicit component of the model includes those sub-components that support ethical behavior but are neither formal nor exact. In fact, they created a model with 13 components. Collins (2015) designed the Optimal ethics systems model to help organizations enhance their ethical behavior and socially responsible outcomes. In addition to the governance mechanisms, the basis of the model, the model consists of other 12 components grouped into 5 categories - hiring, orientation, training, operations, evaluation. Martineau, Pauchant and Johnson (2017) did not find the existing models of an ethics program sophisticated enough for the current complex business environment. Therefore, they offered their Six-orientation *model* of an ethics program which consist of 33 components divided into 6 areas - structural practices, social and environmental responsibility practices, consultation and participation practices, experiential ethical development practices, detection practices and normative practices.

Table 4 provides a list of components of the analyzed scientific models. The increase in number of components included in models over two decades is the most evident in this category of models. The latest analyzed model from 2017 contains 33 specific components, some of them quite innovative, compared to 7 components of the model from 1999. On the other hand, the latest model (*Six-orientation model*) does not include components such as the evaluation of the program or its components and improvement based on the findings. In general, models from the 2010's are more elaborated, they also emphasize the importance of different HR practices in building ethical organization. In addition, three of the models from the last decade encompass components that reach outside of an organization and are aimed at positively impacting society.

**Discussion.** As noted in the previous sections, the described models differ in the number of components (from 7 to 33) as well as the degree of elaboration and details of individual components even within each category. The *FSGO* 

Table 4

### Overview of the components of the analyzed scientific models <sup>4</sup>

| Model<br>of an ethics<br>program –<br>Weaver,<br>Treviño,<br>Cochran<br>(1999) | Model of an<br>ethics pro-<br>gram –<br>Kaptein<br>(2009) | Corporate model<br>of sustainable<br>business prac-<br>tices – Svensson,<br>Wood, Callaghan<br>(2010) | Model of<br>a compliance<br>and ethics<br>program –<br>Majluf,<br>Navarrete<br>(2011) | Optimal eth-<br>ics systems<br>model –<br>Collins (2015) | Six-orientation<br>model of an<br>ethics program –<br>Martineau,<br>Johnson and<br>Pauchant (2017)       |
|--|---|---|---|--|--|
| Top man-<br>agement<br>involvement/<br>commit-<br>ment                         |   | Support in strate-<br>gic planning  | Ethical leader-<br>ship   | Governance<br>mechanisms                                 | Budget for ethi-<br>cal management<br>/initiatives   |
| Ethics-<br>oriented<br>policy state-<br>ments                                  |   |   |   | Code of ethics<br>and conduct                            | Code of ethics<br>Code as a man-<br>agement tool   |
| Procedures<br>for dealing<br>with ethics-<br>related is-<br>sues               | Code of<br>ethics   | rocedures<br>or dealing<br>ith ethics-<br>elated is-  | Code of ethics  | Ethical deci-<br>sion- making<br>framework               | Policies and<br>procedures for<br>handling com-<br>plaints<br>Ethical decision-<br>making frame-<br>work |
|  | Ethics of-  | Ombudsman   |   |  | Ethics office<br>Management  |
| Ethics per-<br>sonnel and<br>offices   | Managerial<br>and em-<br>ployee ac-<br>countability       | Ethics committee<br>Ethics training<br>committee  | Ethics commit-<br>tee   |  | position in eth-<br>ics<br>Ethics commit-<br>tee<br>Research center<br>Consultant                        |
| Ethics com-<br>munication,<br>training and                                     | Ethics train-<br>ing and com-<br>munication               | Communication to employees  | Open commu-<br>nication   |  | Workshops us-<br>ing meditation,<br>silence,   |
| investiga-<br>tions  | investiga-  | Communication<br>to new employees   | Ethics training   | Ethics training  | Workshops on<br>well-being<br>Ethics work-<br>shops based on<br>art                                      |
|  |   | Communication to suppliers  | Orientation<br>programs   |  | Coaching / Men-<br>toring program<br>Dialog sessions   |
|  |   | Communication<br>to other stake-<br>holders   | Ethical climate   | Participatory<br>empowerment                             | Roundtables<br>Immersion in<br>nature activities   |
|  |   | Ethics training   | Organizational<br>culture   | F  | Case studies<br>Contemplation,<br>prayer, silence<br>in meetings   |

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> The table is created by the author.

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|--|------------------------------|--------------------------|
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| Model<br>of an ethics<br>program –<br>Weaver,<br>Treviño,<br>Cochran<br>(1999) | Model of an<br>ethics pro-<br>gram –<br>Kaptein<br>(2009) | Corporate model<br>of sustainable<br>business prac-<br>tices – Svensson,<br>Wood, Callaghan<br>(2010) | Model of<br>a compliance<br>and ethics<br>program –<br>Majluf,<br>Navarrete<br>(2011) | Optimal eth-<br>ics systems<br>model –<br>Collins (2015)       | Six-orientation<br>model of an<br>ethics program –<br>Martineau,<br>Johnson and<br>Pauchant (2017) |
|--|---|---|---|--|--|
|  |   |   |   |  | Employees'<br>participation<br>in ethical initia-<br>tives   |
|  | Pre-  |   | Evaluation of performance   | Job applicant<br>ethics<br>Respect                             | Pre-employment<br>screening  |
|  | employment<br>screening                                   | Ethical perform-<br>ance appraisal  | Incentive sys-<br>tem<br>and promotion<br>policies                                    | employee<br>diversity<br>Leadership,<br>goals, apprais-<br>als | Ethical criteria<br>in evaluation  |
|  |   |   |   |  | Accounting<br>systems and<br>procedures  |
|  |   | Resolving ethical<br>and sustainable<br>problems in the<br>marketplace and                            |   | Prod-<br>uct/service<br>accountability                         | Purchase of fair-<br>trade products<br>Partnership with<br>NGOs                                    |
|  |   | in society  |   | Environmental management                                       | Corporate activ-<br>ism<br>Social and envi-<br>ronmental re-<br>porting                            |
|  |   | Assisting<br>the bottom line  |   | Community<br>outreach  | Research and<br>development<br>Promotion<br>of environmental<br>practices                          |
| Telephone<br>reporting<br>and advice   | Dedicated<br>telephone<br>line (hotline,<br>helpline)     | Audit   |   | Ethics report-   | Surveys<br>Ethics hotline<br>or helpline   |
| systems<br>(hotline,<br>helpline)  | Internal<br>monitoring,<br>audits                         | Support<br>to whistleblowers  | Line of reports   | ing system   | Program<br>for whistleblowers<br>Use of the in-<br>formation<br>verification                       |
|  | Incentives,<br>rewards                                    | Consequences for<br>a breach of the<br>code   | Sanctions<br>and disciplinary<br>measures   |  | agency   |
| Regular<br>evaluation  |   | Evaluation of<br>a code of ethics<br>Control and ad-<br>justment of prac-<br>tices                    | Investigation<br>of allegations,<br>corrective ac-<br>tions                           | Best practices<br>assessment for<br>continuous<br>improvement  |  |

*model* of an effective compliance and ethics program consists of only seven components, which are considered to be minimal requirements for

organizations. The components represent broad principles, and the model gives organizations freedom to design programs which suit their needs.<sup>5</sup> However, this model has served as inspiration for other authors who have created more complex and detailed models. Furthermore, no matter the source of the model, it can be noted that older models contain less components - the number of components included in models have increased over time. The models from the 1990s (the FSGO model or the model of Weaver. Trevico and Cochran) are relatively simple. However, since their creation, society had to deal with major organizational scandals at the beginning of the millennium and the global financial crisis of 2007–2008. Following these events, several laws came into force and regulations and recommendations were issued to prevent the unethical and illegal behavior of organizations (Peterson, 2013). These laws and regulations have imposed new responsibilities on organizations. Moreover, society has also begun to have greater demands when it comes to the conduct of organizations. Organizations are expected to behave not only legally but also ethically and even take on new responsibilities (Crane and Matten, 2016; Freeman, 2010; Porter and Kramer, 2011). Therefore, simple models represent only a necessary minimum for an effective ethics and compliance program. Recent models contain a wider range of components and seek to include relatively specific practices - for example, ISO 19600 from 2014 consists of 24 components and the latest of the described models - the Six-orientation *model* from 2017 – includes 33 components.

When analyzing existing models, it became evident that the majority of them capture either explicitly or implicitly an iterative process. This is in line with the recent findings of other studies (Hoekstra and Kaptein, 2020; Lašáková, Remišová and Bohinská, in press). Even the graphic representation of some of the models (e.g. *Ethics and compliance framework* developed by Deloitte) depicts a circle that repeats. In addition, although only 5 of the 11 analyzed models include a modification of the program or continuous improvement as one of the components, an evaluation of practices/components or an audit are part of four other models. Therefore, it can be assumed that authors of such models expect that further steps should be taken as a result of an evaluation or an audit as/if necessary. As for the differences between the three categories relating to a review or modifications of the program, all analyzed

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> Desio, P. https://www.ussc.gov/sites/default/files/pdf/training/organizational-guidelines/ ORGOVERVIEW.pdf.

institutional models take into consideration that the program cannot be static due to constant changes in and outside organizations. They contain regular or irregular revisions and amendments of the program and even its improvement as components. On the other hand, some of the expert models and scientific models (even if the minority) neglect this component.

Out of the analyzed models, only the *model of Majluf and Navarrete* categorize components as either implicit (informal) or explicit (formal). Besides the *Kaptein's model* with purely formal components, the rest of the models contain both formal and informal components to some extent. Even if some authors (Brenner, 1992; Majluf and Navarrete, 2011) conclude that the informal components can have a higher positive impact on the ethical behavior than the formal ones, none of the analyzed models encompass only informal components. This is logical as an ethics and compliance program influence and regulate all organizational activities, therefore, its formal side emphasizes its importance.

Some of the analyzed models do not focus only on internal stakeholders and their conduct but also on external stakeholders. While a few models aim to shape the behavior of selected external stakeholders, others' goal is to support and promote ethical behavior in the market and society. As examples of the former, Good practice guidance on internal controls, ethics and compliance extend the requirements of ethical and legal behavior to business partners or Deloitte's Ethics and compliance framework suggests third-party compliance. Other models intend to impact external stakeholders indirectly - whether it is taking into account relevant requirements and expectations of important external stakeholders when creating the program (ISO19600), communicating about the ethical direction of the organization towards external stakeholders (Corporate model of sustainable business practices, Global ethics and integrity benchmarks, Six-orientation model), developing and producing responsible products or services or being accountable for them (Optimal ethics systems model, Six-orientation model), or including components covering different levels of social responsibility (Corporate model of sustainable business practices, Optimal ethics systems model, Six-orientation model). While there are models in each category that contain components influencing external stakeholders, scientific models come up with the widest range of components, some of them call for accountability for products as well as organizational activities and active involvement in promoting ethical behavior not only inside but also outside an organization.

Thanks to the comparative tables, it was easy to identify those components that most of the models have in common. Every model consists of a formal

document setting out standards of conduct which can be complemented by other policies and procedures. The majority of scientists refer to this formal document as a code of ethics. In addition, communication and training is included either as one or two separate components in each model. Besides, ethical leaders or commitment of leaders' to ethics, appointing individuals or other entities responsible for ethics in an organization, assigning resources for the program, monitoring, hotlines or mechanisms for reporting, rewards and disciplinary measures, an audit or an evaluation of the components, their adjustment or the program improvement are all part of most models in all three categories. There is also a number of unique components or of components included in a couple of models that can still be considered by those organizations which review the effectiveness of their program during the COVID-19 pandemic, or see a need for preparing a more robust program.

As for the institutional models, the *FSGO model* provides minimal requirements and the *OECD model* minimal recommendations for organizations for their programs to be effective. So, they both give organizations minimal guidance and advise what their program needs to definitely include. The expert models seem to form a bridge between the institutional and scientific models. All three analyzed expert models emphasize ethical corporate culture which is also accentuated in many scientific models, but they also focus on risk management that seems to fall out from the analyzed scientific models. In that sense, the expert models resemble more to the institutional models that are mainly aimed at reducing the risk of illegal behavior. There is an apparent difference in the naming of individual components between the three categories, too. Scientists use specific names for components such as an above-mentioned code of ethics instead of a formal document or an ethics officer instead of an oversight or supervision. The terminology might be different, but these different terms mostly refer to similar or even the same components.

**Conclusion.** This paper has attempted to contribute to the current discussion on how organizations can remain ethical during a crisis such as the COVID-19 pandemic and beyond. As implementing isolated ethical measures or mechanisms can hardly assure ethical and compliant behavior in today's complex environment (Bohinská, 2018), an ethics and compliance program consisting of a number of different components needs to adopted and integrated in all daily activities of an organization. Cosmetic ethics and/or compliance programs that organizations adopt proved to be window dressing, thus ineffective in promoting ethical behavior and detecting unethical and illegal behavior (Krawiec, 2003). Therefore, the paper looks at selected models of an ethics and/or compliance programs to find out what components should an ethics and compliance program contain in order to be effective in ensuring ethical and legal behavior. Models developed by institutions, advisory companies, including centers for business ethics, and scientists from the field of business ethics are chosen to explore the view of legislators and regulators, experts from practice as well as scientists on what an effective ethics program or an ethics and compliance program should include. Connecting these different views seems to be useful as they complement each other. The institutional view focuses more on compliance and formal components, while scientists attach more importance to informal components and involve external stakeholders to a much bigger extent. The expert view bridges both institutional and scientific views.

The paper analyzes only selected 12 models which can be considered as its main limitation. In addition, it simply enumerates the components of an effective ethics and compliance program. On the other hand, even a list of components that most of the analyzed models have in common, namely leaders' commitment to ethics and their active involvement and support, a code of ethics and other supporting policies, adequate resources for ethics, an ethics officer, an integration of the program, communication, ethics training, monitoring, ethics hotlines and helplines, evaluation of the effectiveness of the program, rewards and disciplinary measures, corrective actions and continuous improvement, can help organizations to identify missing parts when reviewing their own program. Moreover, organizations can get inspiration from a list of innovative components and decide if such components could help in their particular cases. Besides practical implications, the paper presents an analysis and subsequent comparison of different models of an ethics and/or compliance program that has not yet appeared in the scientific literature.

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