



Corruption evolves and adapts – fast.

How can we stay ahead?

New Working Paper



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Corruption is a complex problem

- It emerges from complex **political, economic and social contexts**
- It's sustained through **resilient and adaptive networks** of actors
- It's **dynamic and evolves fast**



No simple solutions!

Examples: port of Rotterdam and Kapitan Andreevo border checkpoint



In both, the authorities have cracked down on trafficking with high-tech infrastructure and increased enforcement capacity.

But trafficking, and the corruption that often facilitates it, did not disappear.

→ Instead, criminal strategies and corruption adapted.

Anticipating tomorrow's corruption

Insights from foresight and anticipatory governance can help us:

- Anticipate how crime and corruption might adapt, what could go wrong and what new risks and opportunities may arise
- Design more forward-looking and adaptive anti-corruption measures



“ Foresight and anticipatory governance cannot give us certainty.

But they offer a more systematic way of thinking about uncertainty, adaptation and change.”

Interested? 3 steps to get started

1 Map the system

- political, economic and social **contexts**
- involved **actors**
- their **relationships**
- their **incentives** and **interests**



2

Anticipate responses and unintended consequences

- Use foresight tools such as **cross-impact analysis** and **scenario building** to anticipate how actors might react to anti-corruption reforms.
- Develop and monitor **indicators** to catch emerging risks and positive changes early.



3

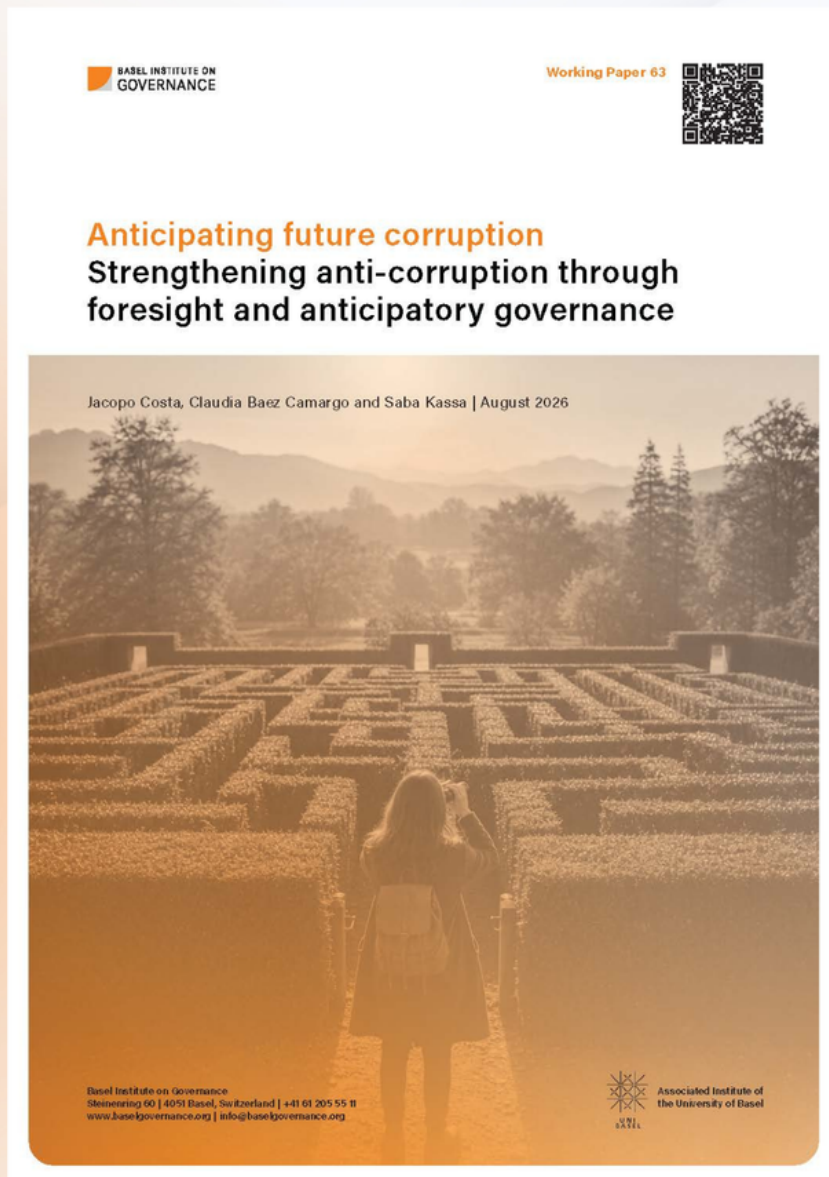
Scan the horizon for trends, new risks and opportunities

- Apply **horizon scanning**, using research, news and expert input, to spot risks and early signals of change.
- Use **trend analysis** to track macro-level shifts that may create new corruption risks or open up opportunities for reform.



Learn more:

Anticipating future corruption Strengthening anti-corruption through foresight and anticipatory governance



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