

Ethics learning in Cypriot business schools

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Type: Full paper

Section: Misconduct and challenges in higher education

Abstract:

Through retrospective examination of recent financial crises and scandals, a justifiable question could be whether educational curricula of Business Schools have been designed to prepare business graduates with regards to ethical considerations as well as academic and professional integrity. In this paper, a thorough review of the literature on embedding ethics in Business School learning is presented. It indicates that there is some theoretical justification in incorporating ethics learning in Business School curricula. Furthermore, the literature reports an array of ready to use, engaging methods to do that. That is, the Business Schools could be doing more. Cyprus has seen its share of financial crises and scandals. The financial wounds of the Cyprus Stock Exchange scandal and crisis of 1999-2000 are still open for many Cypriot companies and households who have lost millions. More millions were lost during the 2012–13 Cypriot financial crisis. The scandal with junk bonds followed. Moreover, not a day passes without bringing to light another embezzlement case. Cyprus has many Business Schools, yet to the best of our knowledge, no study focuses on the status of ethics learning in Business Schools in Cyprus. Our study looks into the efforts of Business Schools academics to embed ethics in their teaching. Furthermore, we look into the perceptions of Business School students regarding their ethics learning. The impact of the presented research relates to severe implications of possible under-representation of learning outcomes that relate to ethics and integrity in Business Schools in Cyprus and their contributions to the ethics crisis that lead us to several financial crises and scandals.

Keywords: Academic integrity, ethics, professional integrity.