

Trust in Politics by Values and Virtues

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1. Obstacles to Trust in Politics

Before speaking about trust, we have to recognize what undermines trust:

- Greed (dependency from material needs)
- Egoism (own interests, no balance with interest of others)
- Powergame (increase own power as ultimate goal)
- Satisfaction (through pleasure, gambling, violation, exploitation)
- Narcism (lack of ability for compassion)
- Destruction (Criminal or destructive energy)
- Nepotism (Peergroup-solidarity first, ethnicism, racism, sexism)
- Mistrust (caused by/linked to corruption, intransparency)

2. Trust Surveys

- *International surveys on trust and values* e.g. the global values survey www.worldvaluessurvey.org;
- trust in leaders, an inquiry of the World Economic Forum www.weforum.org;
- trust in brands www.rdtrustedbrands.com;
- Worldbank governance indicators www.worldbank.org/wbi/governance,
- European trust survey http://europa.eu.int/comm/public_opinion/sntadard_en.htm;
- Globescan www.globescan.com.

3. What is Trust?

- Trust is the ability to be in a relation to and start an interaction with a person or an institution in spite of some uncertainty and a lack of full clarity.
- Trust is a pre-condition of every relation and interaction.
- Trust increases the security in the interaction without giving and needing a total certitude.
- There is a direct, measurable economic benefit of trust: Trust reduces the transaction costs in economic and political relations. But trust almost by definition includes also the risk of its abuse. Without this risk the relation is a dictatorship and right round the clock anxious control.

4. What Builds Trust?

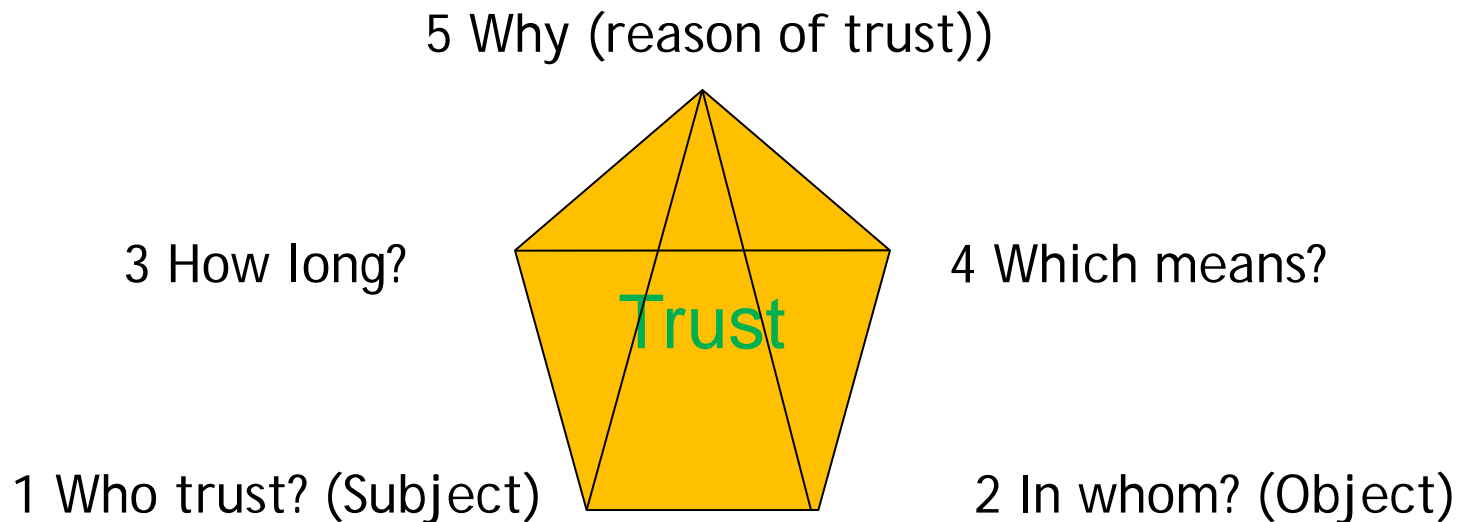
- The relations/environment of persons/institutions
- The ability to recognize and deal with risks
- The ability to think ahead and long term
- The ability to build majorities/find political coalitions
- Trustworthy are persons and institutions with the following characteristics:
 - Competence (professional, social, communicative)
 - Reliability, Faithfulness
 - Integrity, honesty
 - Openness (information policy)
 - Caring attitude (respect, take people serious, loyalty)

See results of studies such as Gabarro 1978, Butler & Cantrell 1984, Butler 1991; Clark & Payne 1997, Meifert 2003]

5. Trust Needs Mistrust

- Control is the enemy of trust. Many people repeat this wrong view, suggesting that trust is blind trust. But blind trust can easily be abused. It is not a stable foundation for a sustainable personal or institutional relation.
- Trust does not come out of nothing. Trust is built step by step and grows by experience of reliable interactions.
- Mistrust is not the enemy of trust, but a necessary component in establishing trust.
- Trust is neither in opposition to contracts or control. On the contrary: contracts need trust to be signed and they strengthen trust while being respected and implemented.
- Trust is also strengthened by control as well as by criticism. Democratic criticism builds trust.

6. Five Questions on Trust



7. Trust by Values

- The Golden Rule of Mutuality
- The Balance of Self interest and the others interest
- Community orientation
- Freedom
- Justice/Fairness
- Responsibility
- Sustainability

8. Trust by Virtues

Servant leadership

Integrity

Honesty

Modesty

Courage (to take reasonable risks)

Compassion/Empathy

Reliability

Keeping Promises

Caring

9 How to Re-Establish Trust in Politics?

- Analysis: What is the reason for Mistrust? (5 Questions)
- Coherence: between personel and institutionel values
- Courage: to defend positions against mainstream
- Respect: for Decision-makers/politicians
- Values and Virtues, not only money and power
- New persons, new parties, new institutions

thank you

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obrigado gracias
धन्यवाद asante sana

merci danke grazie