Istat victimization survey: the module on Corruption

Experience-based surveys on corruption

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United Nations Convention against Corruption
General Assembly by resolution 58/4 of 31 October 2003 → 2005
Ratified from Italy October 2009

“Corruption is an insidious plague that has a wide range of corrosive effects on societies. It undermines democracy and the rule of law, leads to violations of human rights, distorts markets, erodes the quality of life and allows organized crime, terrorism and other threats to human security to flourish”

- Prevention
- Criminalization of corruption in public and private

UN - SDG Goal 16 → 2015
Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels

16.5 Substantially reduce corruption and bribery in all their forms

16.5.1 Proportion of persons who had at least one contact with a public official and who paid a bribe to a public official, or were asked for a bribe by those public officials, during the previous 12 months
Input at national level

BES → Wellbeing Scientific Committee Istat – Cnel

Partnership → Istat and ex SSPA

→ Istat and ex CIVIT (now ANAC)

For the first time Focus on corruption and bribery measurement

• Indicators NOT based on perception

• Indicators NOT on registered data (used for other aspects, estimate of illegal GDP)
The contribute of victimization survey

Main goal: petty corruption

Focus: interaction between citizens and Public official

Indicators useful to know:

- The dark figure of corruption
- Not only the judicial iter
- Which sectors are more involved in corruption
- Indirect experience of corruption and recommendations, that are very interesting in order to detect the humus for corruption
Steps….. Long planning phase

Cognitive test (SASU 2007- 2008)

Literature review (2014)

Focus groups and interviews to experts (2014-2015)

Pilot survey → July 2015 (CATI – CAPI) on 5 metropolitan municipality

Final survey → October 2015 – June 2016 (CATI – CAPI) about 40.000 persons 18-80
Steps...

Focus groups and key experts interviews

with judges, journalists, academics, politicians, citizens, representatives of NGO, doctors, representatives of workers (trade association) ....
| Expert/ - academic | yes | yes | | | | | | | | | |
| Cuis (Cne e other association, Anac) | Yes | Disagreement | | | | Yes | | | | |
| Bank of Italy | Yes, after experience | | | | | | | | |
| World Bank | No | Yes | | | | | | | | |
| Focus experts academics – institutions | no | | | | | | | | | |
| ISTAT (experts on institution survey) | | | | | | | | | |
| Focus politicians experts – associations | disagreement | | | | | | | | | |
| ONG health rights | Yes | | | | | | | | |
| Journalist 1 | Yes | no | | | | | | | |
| Journalist 2 | Yes | no | | | | | | | |
| Academic Expert on health | | | | | | | | | |
| Doctors | Yes | | | | | | | | |
| Judges | Yes | | | | | | | | |

**SECTORS**

- Amministrazione pubblica (sanità – incluso medico di base, istruzione, lavoro, enti locali, giustizia, dogane, fisco, controlli, licenze, permessi,
The planning phase

International referent points → UNODC
→ WORLD BANK

Mexico, Afghanistan, Iran, Uruguay…

Several Survey models:
- based on evaluation of services
- based on Victimization context (on business and household)

Our choice: an ad hoc module, at the end of the main victimization survey questionnaire
Output of planning phase

Where: sectors

- Health
- Social assistance
- Education
- Job searching
- Public offices
- Justice
- Police and army
- Public utilities

What: more specific definitions

- Private and public sector
- Both corruption and bribery
- Individual and household
- Indirect experience of corruption
- Vote-buying (European, national and administrative elections)
- Intercessions/nepotism
Output of planning phase

Who: actors

- Direct relationship
- Intermediaries/Mediators
- Economic activities
- Profession
- Education

Dynamic in details

- The way: how was requested
- If he/she payed (money, gift, other...)
- The amount: how much...
- Would you do again ... and (if not) reasons for not repeating
- Was it useful....
- The reporting: (if yes) to whom; (if not) reasons
From juridical definition to questions

Bribery: un agreement (*pactum sceleris*) between a public officer and a private person (artt. 318-322 Penal Code)

Corruption (art. 317 Penal Code): when a public officer, because of his power, obliges someone else to pay or to do favors, to him-self or to others

Bribery in private sector (art. 2635 Civil Code)

Vote-buying
Questions on corruption

PERSONS 18 - 80 years old

Now, I will ask you about episodes and behavior, you could be victim. Please consider only situation happened in Italy.

Does it ever happen to you or to someone in your family, that someone makes you understood, or suggested you, or asked you directly or through other persons, extra pay, a gift or others favors, in order to obtain a service or to speed up it?

This question-request is inserted in the 8 sectors we investigated, like in a screening.
Example from health:

16. SAN1 Does it ever happen to you or to someone in your family, **when** you need to do a medical visit, a diagnostic test, an operation, that a doctor, a healthcare assistant or others, in order to do what you need **or to speed it**, **makes you understood, or suggested you, or asked you directly or through other persons, extra pay, a gift or others favours?**

**If no (probing question)**

…….. Ask for money to operate or to give assistance in a public hospital…..?

**And for all respondent**

*An other question… not specifically corruption in our penal code*

….. A doctor… Make you understood before the child birth/operation… in the public sector, you need to do a medical visit in the private doctor’s office?
Filter questions

Without filter questions for:

- Health
- Education
- Job searching
- Public utilities

Filter questions for:

- Assistance
- Public offices
- Justice
- Police and army

THEN THE CORRUPTION REQUEST
Indicators

• Prevalence rate (life course, 3 years, last 12 months) by corruption sector

→ health, social assistance, education, job searching, public offices, justice, police and army, public utilities

• Incidence rate (3 years, last 12 months) by corruption sector
Indicators

• Rate of indirect victimization by region and sector
  (health, social assistance, education, job searching, public offices, justice, police and army, public utilities)

• Rates on the diffusion of the culture of the phenomenon
A pervasive phenomenon

- Intercessions: Proportion of persons «helped» by region and sector

- (at work)
  Did you ever see exchange of favours or of money you considered not legal or not appropriate?

(if yes)
what did you do?
For professionals and entrepreneurs…

According to you, how often happen for businesses like yours …. To be obliged to pay or to do gifts or favors to public official in order to…. (if often or always)

DID IT HAPPEN TO YOU?

1. To obtain permission, license or to speed up...
2. To be helped in case of fiscal control
3. To win contracts with public institution
4. To obtain permit and licence for import and export
5. To speed up the judicial iter
In conclusion
A good answer from citizens
.... Do you understand of what we are speaking?
Yes, about corruption
.... What do you think?
It was the right time Istat did it
But also some uncertainty
..... I can’t tell it to you

- Meaningful data
- A small window on a sensitive topic
- A measure
For the future: the needs

- Business victimization survey
- Sources integration
- Joint analysis of experienced corruption and corruption tolerance and expressed civic values (from other surveys)

In our module:

- More space in survey
- Solution about the problem of direct and indirect respondent
Challenges for comparability

- How many questions?
- Module versus ad hoc survey
- Each country has its own peculiarities