

Your Opinion

Corruption and Ethics

Venetian Institute
13, Greencoat Mansions
Greencoat Row, Westminster
London SW1P 1PG (UK)

By driving up costs, distorting laws and regulations and misallocating resources, corruption subverts economic and social development, undermines respect for public institutions and damages the fabric of society.

If you currently live or work in Northeast* Italy - or even if you are here just temporarily for holiday or business reasons - please spare a few minutes to answer the questions below.

Your opinion is even more vital if you have lived and worked abroad. This foreign experience has in fact given you the possibility of widening your horizons and gaining a better perception of what needs to be changed in the Venices*.

Our survey gives you the chance to tell us what you think corruption is, how bad you believe it is, what its causes are and what you reckon might be done to minimize its negative effects.

Answer as many questions as possible, but **ignore any questions you do not wish to answer**. Partially completed questionnaires are still of value to us, and we would prefer to receive your feedback with some answers missing rather than not receive it at all.

Thank you for taking the time to complete the survey.

•(*) For the purpose of these surveys, the words "Venices", "Venetia" and "Northeast Italy" are interchangeable, and are taken as meaning the historical Venices within Northern Italy - i.e. the current Italian regions of Venezia Tridentina-Sud Tirol/Alto Adige, Venezia Euganea, Friuli-Venezia Giulia, and the current provinces of Bergamo, Brescia, Cremona (i.e. Venezia Orobica), and Mantova.

• The design of the survey questionnaire was based on similar corruption and governance surveys carried out by the World Bank in other countries.

• The Venetian Institute regards your privacy as important. Your responses will be in the strictest confidence (for more information please see our Privacy Statement on www.venezie.org).

Corruption and Ethics in Northeast Italy

1. In your opinion, which one of the following words or sentences best describes corruption? (*choose only one*)

Promotion of personal interest over the public good___; Embezzlement from the public treasury___;
Favoritism___; Nepotism___; Giving bribes to government officials___; Taking of bribes by government officials___; Abuse of power for personal advantage___; Gifting___; Organized crime___; Moral deterioration of society___; Dishonesty___; Misuse of public office for private gain.

2. How would you define corruption in your own words?

.....
.....
.....
.....

3. What role does bribery play in people's everyday lives, here in the Venices?

Unavoidable___; Frequent___; Exists, but not necessary___; Unnecessary___; Other___.

If other, please specify:
.....
.....

4. In your opinion, which government agencies and professional institutions, in the Venices, are highly corrupted?

(you can choose more than one)

City Councils___; Political Parties___; Notaries and Lawyers___; Customs___; City Governments___;
Banks___; Provincial Councils___; Financial Police___; Regional Councils___; Police Forces___;
Provincial Governments___; Judiciary___; Health Services___; Religious Institutions___; Tax
Administration___; Regional Governments___; Armed Forces___; Mass Media___; Educational
Institutions___; Other___.

If other, please specify:
.....

5. What is your main source of information about corruption?

Mass Media___; Personal experience___; Relatives and friends___; Other___.

If other, please specify:

6. Over the past 12 months, if you have interacted with government agencies to get services, was a bribe requested by an official or did you offer a bribe to an official?

- Health Care: [*Bribe requested*___; *Bribe offered*___.]; - Building permits: [*Bribe requested*___; *Bribe offered*___.]; - Traffic Police: [*Bribe requested*___; *Bribe offered*___.]; - Avoiding Army draft: [*Bribe requested*___; *Bribe offered*___.]; - Customs: [*Bribe requested*___; *Bribe offered*___.];
- Police Forces: [*Bribe requested*___; *Bribe offered*___.]; - Schools/Universities: [*Bribe requested*___; *Bribe offered*___.]; - Tax inspectors: [*Bribe requested*___; *Bribe offered*___.];
- Financial Police: [*Bribe requested*___; *Bribe offered*___.]; - Driving licence: [*Bribe requested*___; *Bribe offered*___.]; - Courts: [*Bribe requested*___; *Bribe offered*___.]; - Unemployment/Social Aid: [*Bribe requested*___; *Bribe offered*___.]; - Passport: [*Bribe requested*___; *Bribe offered*___.];
- Getting a job: [*Bribe requested*___; *Bribe offered*___.]; - Real Estate Registry: [*Bribe requested*___; *Bribe offered*___.]; - Other(s): [*Bribe requested*___; *Bribe offered*___.]

- if other(s) please specify which agency(ies):

7. To what extent do you trust each level of government to make decisions and operate to benefit citizens rather than to serve the personal interests of government officials?

Very high trust___; High trust___; Moderate trust___; Low trust___; No trust___; Other___.

If other, please specify:
.....

8. If you have moderate, low or no trust, what are the reasons for your low confidence?
-
-
-
9. In your opinion what are the effects and consequences of corruption in the Venices?
 Slows economic development___; Threatens state security___; Reduces human rights___; Poor get poorer/Rich get richer___; Declining standard of living___; Other___.
- If other, please specify:
-
-
10. What do you think is the main cause of corruption in the Venices?
 Desire for personal gain___; Imperfect legislation___; Low salaries___; Large bureaucracy___; Insufficient controls___; Other___.
- If other, please specify:
-
-
11. Do you think that local governments and councils in the Venices (at city, provincial and regional levels) really want to solve the corruption problem? Yes___; No___.
12. Are you aware of any anti-corruption activities, reforms or campaigns that have been implemented over the past year by local governments? Yes___; No___.
13. If yes, how effective do you think they are?
 Highly Effective___; Partially effective___; Ineffective___; Other___.
- If other, please specify:
-
14. In your opinion, how easy is it to get information about the following subjects:
- Government budgeting decisions: Very easy___; Relatively easy___; Difficult___; Very difficult___.
 - Cost of public services: Very easy___; Relatively easy___; Difficult___; Very difficult___.
 - Citizens' rights: Very easy___; Relatively easy___; Difficult___; Very difficult___.
15. Have you ever filed a complaint with a government agency or a law enforcement agency related to a corruption case? Yes___; No___.
16. Would you be willing to report corruption if you could do so anonymously? Yes___; No___.
17. Would you be willing to give your name and address to authorities in order to report corruption?
 Yes___; No___.
18. In the past 12 months, have you made any unofficial payments (in the form of extra money, gifts, favors or services) to any government officials? Yes___; No___.

19. Which of the following approaches are likely to be the most effective in fighting corruption? (*you can choose more than one*)

Stricter internal controls___; Information on citizens' rights___; Strengthened law enforcement___; Laws with severe sanctions___; Strengthened mass media___; Frequent internal audits___; Citizen watchdogs___; Ethics taught in schools___; Strengthened civil society___; Whistleblower protection___; Civil service professionalism___; Asset declaration___; Increased professionalism of judiciary___; Codes of ethics___; Simplified administrative procedures___; Internal anti-corruption units___; Open hearings___; Improved procurement system___; Increase salaries___; Reduced regulation of economy___; Other___. If other, please specify:

20. Finally, if you had the power to do anything to fight corruption, what would it be?

To ensure we are reaching all parts of the community, we would find it of great benefit if you could also answer the following general questions.

1. Why are you presently in the Venices?

Living here___, Working here___, Studying___, Visiting___, Other___. If other please specify:

2. Where are you currently living, working, studying, or visiting? (*if you live and work/study in two different cities choose the one you feel you know best*):

Belluno___, Bergamo___, Bozen/Bolzano___, Brescia___, Cremona___, Gorizia___, Mantova___, Padova___, Pordenone___, Rovigo___, Trento___, Treviso___, Trieste___, Udine___, Venezia___, Verona___, Vicenza___, Other___. If other city, please specify:

If you want us to contact you regarding your suggestions or questions please give us your name and e-mail address (or telephone number):

Thank You for Completing the Survey