11th International Anti-Corruption Conference: Workshop 10.1

Presentation Abstract

1. Your name: Prof. Aleksandras Dobryninas	2. Workshop Title: Tools that directly measure corruption

3. Title of case-study or paper: Map of Corruption in Lithuania: 2001-2002

"Map of Corruption in Lithuania" is a project initiated by Transparency International Lithuanian Chapter in 2001. The aim of the Project is to monitor the institutional and geographical spread of corruption in Lithuania. The monitoring is based upon measurement of the attitudes of the general public and entrepreneurs towards corruption, it's level and role in the society; their personal experience in confronting cases of corruption (bribes); sources of information about corruption; public perspectives on effective means of tackling corruption in Lithuania.

The project was financially supported by the Finish, British, and US embassies, the Lithuanian office of World Bank, and the Lithuanian Government.

The first national representative survey of the Lithuanian public and entrepreneurs was conducted in July-September 2001, the second one – in November–December 2002. 2028 residents and 1005 entrepreneurs were interviewed during the first survey, 1012 residents and 1017 entrepreneurs interviewed during the second survey.

Population surveys were conducted at respondents' homes as face-to-face interviews. A multi-stage random sample design was used for the study. The first stage of the sampling procedure is to identify administrative districts of Lithuania (10 in total). In order to identify a cluster of sampling, the sampling points were selected according to the size of the settlements, which are grouped into big, medium, and small towns and villages. The number of the sampling points in each category depends on the percentage of population living in the settlements of this category. One sampling point is representing approximately 1% of population surveyed (12 interview per sampling point). In small villages the sampling point in some cases was represented by 6 interviews.

The total number of sampling points selected was 223. The survey was carried out in capital, 6 main cities, 40 towns and 60 villages. These sampling points were selected at random from the list of the sampling points of each size (except main cities – they all are included). Selecting respondents in each sampling point random route methodology was used – starting from the randomly selected point. *Kish* tables were used (separately for male and female subsamples) to select respondent at household. Up to two call-backs were done in order to interview selected respondents.

The margin of error of the population survey in 2001 does not exceed 2.5%, in 2002 – 3%.

Business leaders' surveys were carried out according to the following scheme. Senior executives and owners of private companies were interviewed, with one respondent per company selected. The basis for the sampling design was Lithuanian companies' catalogues and Department of Statistics data on the number of companies in counties and the size of companies as well as the main sphere of their activity. The sample drawn was a representative random sample, stratified by the districts. In each of 10 counties, the number of companies interviewed corresponds with the share of that county's companies in national companies' registrar according to the data by the Department of Statistics. Quota for larger companies was applied in order to ensure their minimum statistical representation in the sample.

The margin of error of the results of these surveys does not exceed 3%.

The main findings are as follows:

- An absolute majority of the Lithuanian population and entrepreneurs considers corruption to be a burden on society and does not support business. However, the public pays bribes because it believes (72% in 2001, and 75% in 2002) that the bribes help to solve problems. Thus, 61% in 2001 and 60% in 2002 of Lithuanians say they are ready to pay bribes in order to deal with an important problem;
- Both the general public and entrepreneurs tend to think that the level of corruption in Lithuania has increased over last five years (53% of general public and 52% of the entrepreneurs in 2001 and correspondingly 55% and 48% in 2002);
- Comparison of the attitudinal evaluation of the political, administrative, judicial and social service institutions with the personal experience in being expected or demanded to pay bribe by these institutions as well as by actually paying the bribe shows significant discrepancies between the images and actual activity of some of the institutions and high correspondence of the others. The more intense relationship

between the clients (public and entrepreneurs) is with the institution, the better-founded attitude towards that institution is. The institutions which have low level contacts with the public but high exposure in the media tend to be overestimated as corrupt (judicial, political institutions and central administration);

- The survey results, dealing with the behavioral attitudes, show that about 38% of adult Lithuanian residents paid bribes for the officials during last five years. The same result was for entrepreneurs in 2001, however in 2002 the share of business people paid bribe decreased until 34%.
- Among the "bribery-hot" institutions (these, who have required bribes) for the general public are traffic police, local hospitals, policlinics, central hospitals, customs, and State Tax Inspectorate; for entrepreneurs - State Tax Inspectorate, The Social Insurance Fund Board, the Fire and Rescue Department, the State Center of Public health, the Tax police, municipalities, Automobile Technical Inspection Centers;
- The analysis of the geographical landscape of the bribery show, that the general public and entrepreneurs bribes the local and regional institutions more often than the central; about 70% of all bribes paid by general public are "collected" by Vilnius, Kaunas, and Klaipedas counties.
- Mass media (TV first of all) plays the major role as a source of information about corruption in Lithuania for the general public, followed by the personal experience; entrepreneurs say that the personal experience and the press are most reliable source of the information about corruption;
- Accepting that corruption is harmful for society and individuals, but nevertheless willing to pay bribes, the Lithuanian population suggests the following means for tackling the corruption: a) legal means (stricter punishments, administrative sanctions, legal changes), b) social means (standard of living improvement, reducing unemployment), c) moral and PR activities (strengthening morals, public visibility);

The comparison of the general public attitude towards the level of corruption, the severity of that phenomenon in Lithuania, the attitudes towards the main state institutions with regard to corruption (mostly very negative or negative) and behavioral patterns of the public and entrepreneurs show, that the majority of the institutions are not pro-active in forming their image and informing customers about their activities. There are a number of institutions which can be called "bribery-hot" and which have real internal problems related to bribery. First of all on the local and regional level. However, the majority of the institutions are perceived in much worse light by the public and entrepreneurs than the actual experience suggests. Thus the sufficient PR activities, transparency and openness are the urgent need in order to improve their image and overall evaluation among the clients and public at large.

The research in question, of course, does not cover all forms of corruption in Lithuania. It was concentrating only on the most "publicly visible" form as bribes. Also surveys can provide researcher only with general ("geographical") vision of spread of corruption in Lithuania, but are not able to scrutinize this phenomenon in details. Nevertheless, even in such limited context, the project has big academic and civic potential.

Organizing institutional and geographical corruption's diagnostic in Lithuania, TILC seeks not only to rise the level of public awareness about corruption problems in the country, but also intends to provide the governmental and non-governmental institutions, as well as individuals with information that could be used in practical anti-corruption activities. The results of the Project were regularly presented at the meetings of the Government of the Republic of Lithuania, at the plenary sitting of Seimas of the Republic of Lithuania, and for Lithuanian President. The received data were also discussed with heads and administrative stuff of other Lithuanian governmental institutions such as Special Investigation Service, Customs, District Courts, etc. The project and its outcomes were widely presented in Lithuanian and international mass media.

The next survey "Map of Corruption in Lithuania" is scheduled for the end of 2003. TILC also hopes that its experience in organizing diagnostic surveys in Lithuania could be helpful for designing in the future an international diagnostic survey for Central and Eastern Europe, as well as for other regions.