

# Your Opinion

## Corruption and Ethics

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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.

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•(\*) 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](http://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? .....

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

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