

Analysis of the Recognisability of the Corruption Perception Index among Students of the University of Applied Sciences Velika Gorica

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ABSTRACT

Apart from decelerating significantly the economic activity, the financial crisis has increased the presence of corruption in many societies. Preventing corruption is one of the leading challenges not only for the government but also for the overall society and economy of the Republic of Croatia. Crisis is an ideal motive for new strategies and reforms, and the response to financial crisis has to be directed to fighting corruption in all segments. The Corruption Perceptions Index (CPI) is a complex index based on surveys and studies carried out by independent institutions, and it measures the corruption in the public sector, among officials, employees or politicians, i.e. administrative and political corruption. According to the report by the Transparency International, the Republic of Croatia is, as expected, far below the EU average according to CPI. Apart from the problem of the very existence of corruption in Croatia, the problem lies also in the lack of information and awareness of the public about the issue of corruption. The method of survey was used to carry out a study about the corruption perceptions index among the students of the University of Applied Sciences. The results and conclusions of the studies and the statistical data are presented in the paper.

Key words: corruption, perception, crisis

Introduction

Corruption is a social phenomenon increasingly mentioned nowadays in times of financial instability and crisis. It is a social condition in the broadest sense defined as any abuse of public office or powers for personal profit or the acquisition of legal benefits^{1,2}. It has been present since ancient times, or rather, since the organized human community has been known³. It is inherent in all state structures regardless of the political structure, region or religion. Today's scientific and research public is increasingly concerned with corruption as one of the factors stymieing socio-economic development. In this regard, the conclusions that the financial crisis, in addition to a significant slowdown in economic activity, in many societies increased the presence of corruption are becoming more frequent. How to prevent corruption and whether it is even possible is becoming a very important issue. Prevention of corruption is becoming one of the leading challenges, not just for the government but also for the total society and economy of every state. In the Republic of

Croatia (RoC), the perception of the presence of corruption in the last decade indicates continued growth. More and more people are aware of the fact that this is a problem, despite having neither a clear picture nor the belief that things will improve. According to the reports of Transparency International Croatia, the citizens consider the lack of political will and the inability of authorities to prevent corruption responsible for such a state of distrust.

Since corruption is in itself a concealed phenomenon, its accurate measurement is very difficult, and this is supported by the fact that the concept and definition of corruption are different so the harmonization of the term corruption as a criminal offense in the legislation of individual countries, including the Republic of Croatia, is necessary. One of the most frequently used definitions of corruption was given by the World Bank in 1997. It defines corruption as the abuse of public office for private

gain⁴. Corruption will never be totally eradicated, but its suppression is still possible through the use of the political will, legal standards, promotion of the anti-corruption worldview and education⁵.

Material and Methods

Division of corruption

Corruptive activities are often so intertwined that it is almost difficult to state with certainty a clear division. According to Rose-Ackerman, 1999, corruptive activities are divided into four groups⁶:

- Corruptive activities occurring in accordance with market principles, where the employees of private or public sector can be suspected of corrupt activities for providing and/or obtaining special privileges for individuals or companies, whereby they do not use legal criteria, but rather receive compensation in the form of money and/or a reciprocal favor.
- Corruptive activities that act as an incentive bonus, where the employees of public or private sector have a low level of incentive for good performance of the tasks given to them and are closely related to low salaries or the lack of supervision.
- Corruptive activities that reduce the costs of implementing government policies or laws.
- Corruptive activities which enable the occurrence of other criminal activities, where the illegal business is directly related to the police or the judiciary.

This division can be classified depending on the level and severity of corruptive acts and adapt to the situation in each country. In developed societies where the equality of all social stakeholders is present, as well as the transparent performance of activities, we notice the difference compared to the societies where the level of correlation is low since the decisions are directly linked to the responsibilities for which the administration is responsible^{7,8}.

In addition to this division, we frequently use the division on:

- Clientelistic corruption where the person participating in corruptive activities, e. g. giving a bribe, receives greater benefit than the person receiving the bribe.
- Patrimonial corruption where the person receiving the bribe achieves greater benefit than the person giving the bribe.
- Considering the amount and frequency of bribery, we divide it into insignificant and significant corruption. Insignificant is a term used for frequent bribes to public sector employees of lower rank, while the significant is a one-off payment to public sector employees of higher rank.
- Political and administrative corruption, which is closely related to the main actors of the system – politicians and administration^{6,9,10}.

In Croatian language the phrase »bribery and corruption« is deeply ingrained, which suggests that, besides

the distinctive giving or receiving of bribes, there are other forms of corruptive behaviour. It usually takes on some other forms such as the embezzlement of public funds, misappropriation of public property, fraud and extortion, nepotism and cronyism, trade in influence, patronage and the like¹¹.

Effects of corruption and corruption perception index

According to Thomson, 1993, the existence of corruption in any form is bad for the society since it is the exchange of money and services for personal gain, and to the detriment of public life. Corruption increases the inequality in a society and creates an atmosphere of poverty, since the additional income from corruptive acts reaps a small social group which grows rich¹³. However, the greatest impact is certainly in the public sector since the corruptive acts reduce state revenues, stymie socio-economic development, and thus inter alia reduce the financing of health, education and school sectors¹⁴. When high level of corruption is present in a state, the choice of priority developmental areas depends on the corruption rent-seeking and not the criteria of economy development and progress. Therefore, the projects like infrastructure or security issues, such as the defense of a certain state, are very suitable for corruptive activities¹⁵.

Economic policy is therefore less efficient in the conditions of high level of corruption¹⁶. In the countries with a high rate of corruptive activities, everything is focused on the corruptive rent-seeking, whereby the public administration particularly loses its meaning and function. Public administration becomes an interesting working place due to fast and easy earnings, nepotism in hiring occurs, which reduces efficiency, and the number of employees increases constantly, thus creating a totally inefficient system. A vicious circle of size and poor functioning is created¹⁷, which we ourselves witnessed in Croatia. Moreover, corruption creates the impossibility that new technologies arrive in states, input of fresh capital and mobility. If we add mishandling of privatization of companies to all this, an atmosphere of bad economic situation is created, as well as the lack of vision of development of each country. Corruption acts as a kind of tax, increasing the costs of market entry and business operations, it undermines the competitiveness and creates the atmosphere of an increased economic risk. It particularly affects smaller companies that are not able to follow the race in bribery, while larger companies due to better financial and human capacities most frequently solve their problems with public administration and administrative apparatus through some form of corruption¹⁸. Negative trends of the evaluation of the presence of corruption in individual countries affect the country's credit rating, give a picture of security or insecurity of investment, stability of the economic policy, and primarily of the rule of law and political system. Therefore, the application and recognition of criteria such as the Corruption Perceptions Index (CPI) is of great importance for the identifi-

cation of the actual situation and comparison between individual countries.

In order to understand the CPI, it is necessary to know its contents and what it actually defines. It represents the ranking of countries according to the level of perception of the prevalence of corruption among public officials and politicians. It is composed of data obtained on the basis of scientific research related to corruption carried out by various respectable institutions, and it constitutes the view of business people and analysts from across the globe, including the countries evaluated. To CPI is allocated the number of points which an individual country achieves on the basis of questionnaires conducted, what places it on the ranking list. In order to use the most modern methodologies of calculating CPI, this procedure is subject to constant changes and improvements. Thus, in relation to current practice, in 2012 a new CPI scale of 0–100 has been introduced, where 0 = absolute corruption and 100 = no corruption. Data for the year 2012 are therefore not comparable to the data from previous years. CPI research was in 2012 conducted in 176 countries of the world. The first place of the least corrupted countries share Denmark, Finland and New Zealand with the result of 90, followed by Sweden and Singapur (Table 1). The most corrupted countries are at the bottom of the table, where are Somalia, Afghanistan and North Korea with only 8 points (Table 2)¹⁰.

Republic of Croatia is on the CPI scale for 2012 situated at the 46th place. In comparison to the European Union (EU) countries, RoC shares the placement with Slovakia and only in Romania, Italy and Bulgaria is the situation worse (Table 3)¹⁰.

TABLE 1
COUNTRIES PERCEIVED AS THE LEAST CORRUPTED
(TRANSPARENCY INTERNATIONAL, 2013)

No.	Country	Result	Number of researches
1.	Denmark	90	7
2.	Finland	90	7
3.	New Zealand	90	7
4.	Sweden	88	7
5.	Singapur	87	9

TABLE 2
COUNTRIES PERCEIVED AS THE MOST CORRUPTED
(TRANSPARENCY INTERNATIONAL, 2013)

No.	Country	Result	Number of researches
170.	Turkmenistan	17	3
171.	Uzbekistan	17	6
172.	Myanmar	15	4
173.	Sudan	13	6
174.	Afghanistan	8	3
175.	North Korea	8	3
176.	Somalia	8	4

TABLE 3
RANKING LIST OF EU COUNTRIES AND CROATIA ACCORDING
CPI (TRANSPARENCY INTERNATIONAL, 2013)

Country	Result	Country	Result
Denmark	90	Portugal	63
Finland	90	Slovenia	61
Sweden	88	Poland	58
Netherlands	84	Malta	57
Luxembourg	80	Hungary	55
Germany	79	Lithuania	54
Belgium	75	Latvia	49
United Kingdom	74	Czech Republic	49
France	71	Croatia	46
Austria	69	Slovakia	46
Ireland	69	Romania	44
Cyprus	66	Italia	42
Spain	65	Bulgaria	41
Estonia	64	Greece	36

Apart from the problem of the existence of corruption in the Republic of Croatia, a major problem is the lack of information and public awareness of the problem of corruption, so the aim of this paper is to determine recognition of CPI and the determination of current findings on the issue of corruption.

The research was conducted in March 2013 on the first, second and third year of professional studies of the University of Applied Sciences Velika Gorica. The scientific-research method of questionnaire has been chosen. As the survey instrument, the survey form: »Research of the perception of corruption« has been used, which consisted of twenty two (22) questions, partly open-ended type and partly multiple choice. Thematically, the questions involved several areas: personal perception and recognition of corruption, perceived position of Croatia in the world according to corruption and personal experiences with corruption. The total number of students surveyed was one hundred (100).

Given the sensitivity of the research subject, the survey was anonymous, with the intent to protect the identity of examinees and thus ensure the truthfulness of answers. Socio-demographic data has not been collected, so that individual questionnaires could not be attributable to the identity of individual examinees. Statistical methods used in data processing were descriptive statistics and the method of analytical statistics. Data and the results of data processing are presented in tables and graphs, so frequency (f) and percentage (%) were used for the processing and display of research results by individual questions.

Results

One hundred (100) students of the University of Applied Sciences Velika Gorica were surveyed using the questionnaire survey. Six questionnaires were excluded

from the statistical analysis, primarily due to the suspicion that examinees approached the research without motivation so the veracity of data given cannot be relied upon. Specifically, five examinees were excluded from statistical analysis since they filled in the questionnaire without motivation and provided unreliable answers (besides, one of them provided vulgar and inappropriate answers) and one questionnaire was excluded due to the suspicion that the answers were either copied from another person, or the same person filled in the questionnaire twice. The total number of questionnaires analyzed amounted to ninety four (94).

Definition of corruption

Examinees were asked to provide their own definition of corruption using open-ended questions. Qualitative analysis of the content of definitions has been performed regarding common elements involved in order to reduce the number of categories and sub-categories to the lowest possible amount. Four (4) basic categories were obtained. The largest number of definitions, thirty seven (37) is included in the category: Corruption is bribery (bribing, corruptibility), followed by the category: Achievement of personal gain in an illegal/immoral manner with thirty two (32) definitions and the category: Incomplete, unclear or incorrect definition with twenty four (24) definitions and in the end No definition with four (4) answers.

Four basic definition categories and corresponding sub-categories are shown in Table 4.

Since none of the given definitions is complete, a category of Incomplete, unclear or incorrect definitions has been introduced, whereby incomplete definitions refer to those which cannot be clearly linked to corruption, or they indicate an act where a corruptive act cannot be clearly distinguished in relation to other forms of illegal activities. Thus one definition states that: »Corruption is

paying for services«, although by bribing a certain person in position we ensure that this person provides or performs a certain service outside applicable laws and rules, this definition fails to distinguish an act of corruption from legal and regular payment of services. Despite the incompleteness of all definitions given, in the majority of them certain common elements appear. One's own gain is emphasized in the sense of achieving one's own goals or needs by giving bribes, versus someone else's tangible or intangible gain or the gain of the person who received a bribe. Furthermore, it is evident that the relationship is being established between the giving and receiving of bribes, probably depending on one's own attitude towards corruption. A very common element of definitions given is a formal legal condemnation of the act of corruption where it is emphasized as an illegal act. A large number of definitions include condemnation from the standpoint of human morality and ethics, defining corruption as an immoral and unethical act.

Examples of corruption

In this part of the questionnaire, the examinees were asked to name at least three (3) examples of corruption. Categories shown in Table 5 were obtained through the processing and merging of all examples given. It is evident that the majority of examples given consists of unspecified examples of corruption in general (33 statements), followed by the examples of political and administrative corruption (35 statements) and bribing the police (31 statement) and other examples of corruption with 22 statements or less.

Prevalence of corruption in the Republic of Croatia

Examinees were offered to list six or more areas where corruption is the most prevalent in the Republic of Croatia. All answers given are shown in Table 6 in the form of categories obtained by qualitative analysis. Ac-

TABLE 4
DEFINITIONS OF CORRUPTION

What is corruption in your opinion?	f
Corruption is bribery (bribing, corruptibility)	37
Accomplishment of personal benefits in an illegal or unethical manner	32
– Exploitation of position or abuse of office in order to profit	22
– Illegal and/or unethical taking of money or other material (less frequently intangible) assets	5
– Illegal and/or unethical manner of achieving one's goals	5
Incomplete, unclear or incorrect definition	24
– Provision/payment of services	3
– Emotional attitude instead of a definition (negative attitude 3, positive 1)	4
– Equalization with the state or politics (»Corruption is the Republic of Croatia«)	6
– Reaching the goal (in an illegal manner)	5
– Separate – otherwise unclassified (»Favouring minority at the expense of the community«, »destruction of confidence in the citizens and sometimes politics«)	2
No definition	4
No answer or answer »I do not know«.	

TABLE 5
EXAMPLES OF CORRUPTION

	f
State at least three examples of corruption!	f
General forms of corruption (unspecified examples)	33
– Giving/receiving bribes	24
– Abuse of office	3
– Nepotism	6
Political and administrative corruption:	35
– General	8
– Buying of votes	1
– Government of the Republic of Croatia	5
– Political parties	8
– Individuals	10
– Bribery of civil servants in bureaucratic and administrative jobs	3
Bribing of police: (forgiving traffic offenses, criminal offenses, »looking away«)	31
Buying and rigging of public tenders	22
School system	20
– General	1
– Bribing of professors	10
– Buying exams or diplomas	7
– Copying	1
– Moving up on the waiting list for the enrollment	1
Unclear and wrong examples	19
Healthcare (Bribing of doctors and medical personnel, medical tests circumventing waiting lists)	12
Judiciary:	10
– Bribing of judges	6
– State Attorney's office	2
– General	2
State-owned companies	8
Church	3
Republic of Croatia	3
Economy	1

According to answers analyzed, corruption is most prevalent in politics (78 statements), then in the police (54 statements), healthcare (52 statements), education (45 statements) and business and labour market (41 statement).

Profit in corruption

In most cases not very precise answers were given. The majority claims that *both parties involved in corruption* or the handover of bribes benefit, while some opt for one or the other side. Of the remainder, the majority name *powerful persons or those in high places* or *politicians*. Since the question asked was open-ended, all answers given have been subject to qualitative analysis. Categorization of answers is shown in Table 7.

Causes of corruption

Examinees were asked to state what causes corruption in their opinion. The majority stated the reason to

TABLE 6
PERCEPTION OF THE PREVALENCE OF CORRUPTION IN THE REPUBLIC OF CROATIA

Where is corruption most prevalent in the Republic of Croatia?	f
Politics	78
– general	36
– political parties	4
– government	32
– parliament	3
– ministries	3
Police	54
Healthcare	52
Education	45
– general	9
– school system	20
– colleges	16
Business and labour market	41
– business	3
– corporations	5
– state-owned companies	16
– private companies	8
– crafts	1
– entrepreneurship	1
– public tenders	7
Sports	25
– general	15
– football	10
State agencies and institutions/administration	23
– general	14
– customs	5
– local authorities	1
– inspectorates	3
Judiciary	18
Everywhere	7
Economy	6
Church	4
Banks	4
I do not know and unclear answers	3
Associations and organizations	2
Music	1

be desire for money (21 statement), absence, inefficiency or poor implementation of laws and sanctions (20 statements) and personality traits of people (20 statements), as well as greed (15 statements) which could likewise be characterized as a personality trait, however, due to the large number of statements it has been displayed as a separate category. Other causes of corruption are shown in Table 8.

Possibilities of preventing corruption

The question »In your opinion, how can corruption be prevented?« was asked in the questionnaire. Fourteen

TABLE 7
PERCEPTION OF PROFITEERING IN CORRUPTION

Who benefits the most from corruption?	f
Both parties involved in corruption	32
Unclear, non-specific and wrong examples	27
Persons offering bribes	10
Powerful persons and those in high places	10
Government and/or politicians	10
Persons receiving bribes	7
Criminals (mafia)	3
Banks	1
Companies	1
Doctors	1
School of Medicine in Zagreb	1
Ministry of Interior	1
Judges	1

TABLE 8
PERCEPTION OF THE CAUSES OF CORRUPTION

What is the cause of corruption, in your opinion?	f
Desire for money/material gain	21
Absence, inefficiency or poor implementation of laws and sanctions	20
Personality traits of individuals and/or groups (e.g. pride, malice, laziness, immorality, drive for profits, etc.)	20
Greed	15
Imprecise, unclear or without answer	15
Characteristics of cultures or peoples	12
– Primitivism, ignorance or mentality of the people	7
– Culture of the people	4
– Passivity and obedience of the people	1
Poor leadership of the government, state organization and poor systems of governance	7
Desire for position/power	5
Abuse of power	5
Inequality in the society and disregard for human rights and needs (e. g. Need for adequate and timely healthcare)	4
Poor financial situation and standard of living (including the crisis period)	14

(14) examinees (14.9%) offered no solution for the prevention of corruption. The answers of others are summarized in the categories shown in Table 9. Instead of offering a solution for the prevention of corruption, a large number of examinees (24) expressed an opinion that it is impossible or difficult to prevent corruption. The same number stated as a possible solution the punishment of corruption. Some even suggested extreme penalties such as the death penalty and public disgrace.

TABLE 9
PERCEPTION OF THE POSSIBILITIES FOR PREVENTING CORRUPTION

How can corruption be prevented, in your opinion?	f
With difficulty or it cannot be prevented	24
Penalties	24
– More severe penalties than the current ones	12
– Prison sentence	6
– Fines	3
– Death penalty	2
– Public disgrace	1
Better control and inspections	14
Adoption and implementation of adequate (stringent) laws against corruption	14
Significant changes in the society	12
– Reconstruction of the society and state organization	5
– Better upbringing and education of younger generations by instilling adequate values and attitudes	6
Rebellion of the people	1
Improvement of the standard of living and financial situation	8
I do not know	4
Human resources policy	4
– Recruitment of quality, qualified incorrupt and non-party persons	2
– Dismissal of corrupt persons	1
– New young people in political functions	1
Reporting corruption to the police or the competent authorities	2

Perception of corruption in Croatia and Croatian position in relation to other countries

- Question: Do you know what is the Corruption Perception Index?

According to research results, it has been shown that 71% of examinees does not know what the Corruption Perception Index is, while 3% provided no answer. Graphical representation of results is given in Figure 1.

- This was followed by the question How high is, in your opinion, Corruption Perception Index for the Republic of Croatia? (On the scale of 0 to 100, 0 is the highest level of the perception of corruption, and 100 the lowest).

Although general ignorance of the corruption perception index was not expected, results obtained from the previous question resulted in a category with no answers. Figure 2 shows the overview of the answers, with the examinees who answered they did not know what the Corruption Perceptions Index being excluded. So, the results of 26 examinees who did know what the Corruption Perceptions Index is are shown.

Examinees were offered four answers: 0–25, 26–50, 51–75 and 76–100 with an explanation that lower CPI means a more corrupt country and vice versa.

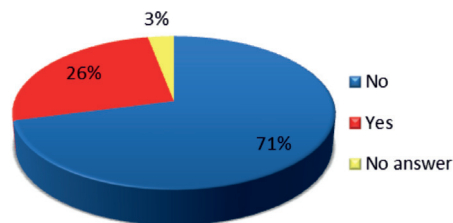


Fig. 1. Distribution of answers to the question: »Do you know what is Corruption Perceptions Index?« (N=94).

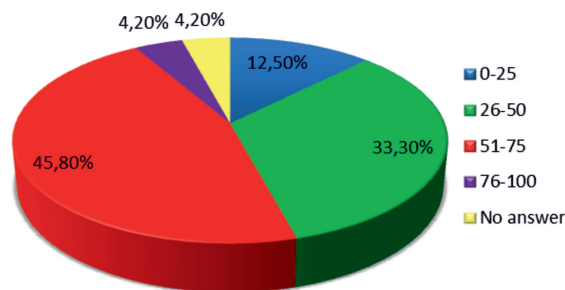


Fig. 2. Distribution of answers to the question »In your opinion, what is the Corruption Perceptions Index for the Republic of Croatia?« (answers of 26 examinees who knew what CPI was are shown).

From the graphical representations on Figure 2 it is evident that the majority of examinees, 45.80% of them (11 examinees) considers the CPI of Croatia to be between 51 and 75, while 33.80% (8 examinees) consider it to be between 26 and 50. According to the Transparency International data for 2012, Croatian CPI amounts to 46, thus occupying 62nd position in the world (Transparency International, 2013). So only eight (8) examinees correctly estimated the CPI of Croatia.

- Question: Of a total of 176 countries on the list, which place occupies the Republic of Croatia according to the Corruption Perceptions Index?

The largest number of examinees (N=34, 36.18 %) places Croatia by corruption between 80th and 120th place of 176 countries on the Transparency International list. 21.28% (N=20) of examinees ranks Croatia between 120th and 150th place and 17.2% (N=16) ranks it after the 150th place. According to Transparency International, Croatia occupies 62nd place, meaning that only 14.89% (N=14) of examinees estimated Croatian position correctly. A large majority of examinees perceive Croatia negatively as a quite corrupt country in relation to other countries of the world. The results are shown graphically in Figure 3. Many examinees answered the previous question »Do you know what the Corruption Perceptions Index is?« with a »no«, which casts doubt on the validity of the answers to this question. However, the results can be taken into consideration since only four examinees (4.26%) provided no answer and since the question asked clearly indicates the correct direction of the scale of corruption perception index, or to be precise, the rank of 176 countries on the list.

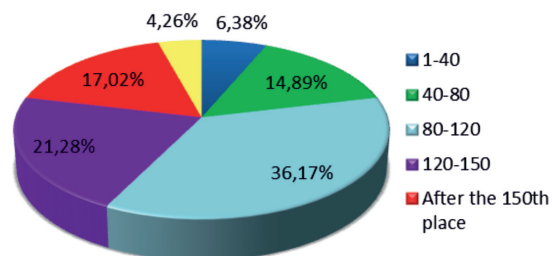


Fig. 3. Distribution of answers to the question »Of a total of 176 countries on the list, which place occupies the Republic of Croatia according to the Corruption Perceptions Index?« (N=94).

- Question: By the accession to the EU, the CPI in Croatia will be?

Question offered had four (4) answers offered: reduced, increased, will stay the same and I do not know. The majority of examinees, 39.4 % (N=37), considers that the CPI in Croatia will stay the same when Croatia joins the EU. 26.6 % (N=25) of them stated they did not know will the CPI in Croatia change and in which way. The results are shown in Figure 4.

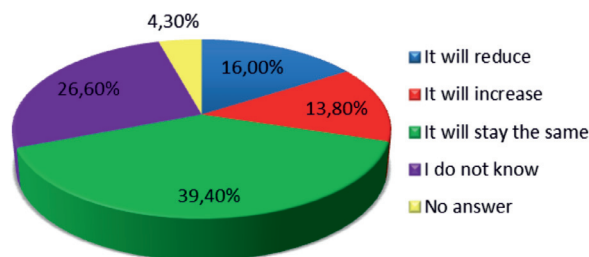


Fig. 4. Distribution of answers to the question »How will the Perception Index of Croatia change with the accession to the European Union?« (N=94).

- Question: Is there corruption in the EU states?

Perception of corruption in the EU gave the answer that corruption exists in EU member states in a large percentage (97.9%). Two examinees (2.1%) did not answer the question (Figure 5).

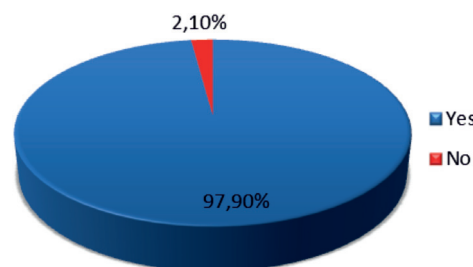


Fig. 5. Distribution of answers to the question „»Is corruption present in the European Union?« (N=94).

- Question: In your opinion, in which countries of the world is corruption the least prevalent?

Examinees were asked to state at least three countries of the world in which corruption is the least prevalent, in their opinion. The frequency of specifying individual countries is given in Table 10 and Figure 7.

TABLE 10

RANKING LIST OF THE COUNTRIES ACCORDING TO THE PERCEIVED MINIMUM PRESENCE OF CORRUPTION IN THE WORLD, RANKING LIST RANGES FROM THE LEAST CORRUPT TO THE MOST TO THE MOST CORRUPT COUNTRY

Country	f	Country	f
1. Switzerland	43	27. Liechtenstein	2
2. Germany	33	28. Afghanistan	1
3. Sweden	29	29. Africa	1
4. Norway	16	30. Botswana	1
5. Finland	14	31. Brazil	1
6. Austria	10	32. Bulgaria	1
7. Canada	9	33. Chile	1
8. Denmark	7	34. Dominican Republic	1
9. Luxembourg	7	35. Egypt	1
10. Belgium	6	36. Ireland	1
11. Great Britain	6	37. JAR	1
12. Iceland	5	38. Katar	1
13. Australia	3	39. China	1
14. Middle East	3	40. Libya	1
15. France	3	41. Macedonia	1
16. Italy	3	42. Monte Carlo	1
17. Japan	3	43. Ivory Coast	1
18. Monaco	3	44. Panama	1
19. Netherlands	3	45. Papua New Guinea	1
20. SAD	3	46. Poland	1
21. Slovenia	3	47. Russia	1
22. Serbia	3	48. San Marino	1
23. Albania	2	49. Turkmenistan	1
24. Bosnia and Herzegovina	2	50. United Arab Emirates	1
25. Greece	2	51. Zimbabwe	1
26. Croatia	2		

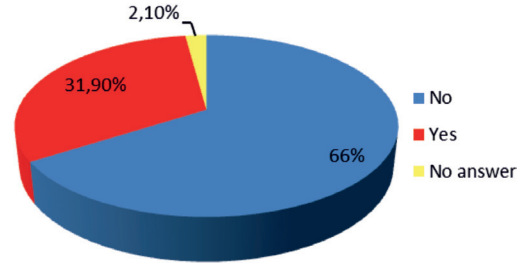


Fig. 7. Distribution of answers to the question »Have you ever been in a position to offer/give a bribe?« (N=94).

A total of 49 countries has been mentioned (if we exclude Africa mentioned as a continent and the Middle East as a region), 8 (8.5%) provided no answer, 22 (23.4%) stated two countries or less. Countries have been ranked from those with the highest number of statements to those with the lowest number of statements. A higher number of statements means the perception of a country as less corrupt, so they are ranked from the least corrupt to the most corrupt. The ranking list presented in Figure 6 ranges from the least corrupt to the most corrupt country, and only countries with three or more statements have been shown.

Personal experiences with bribery and corruption

To the question: »Have you ever been in a position to offer/give a bribe?«, of the total number of examinees, 66% (N=62) examinees have never been in a position to offer/give a bribe to someone (Figure 7). Of 30 (31.9% of the total sample) examinees who answered they have been in a position to offer or give a bribe to someone, 23 (76.7%) would do so again, while three (10%) provided no answer (Figure 8).

To the question would you do so again if you find yourself in the position to do so, the highest percentage answered they would (76.7%), while 13.3% answered they would not and 10% provided no answer.

Furthermore, the examinees were asked the following: »Have you ever offered/given a bribe to someone?«. Twenty (20) examinees (21.30% of the total sample) ad-

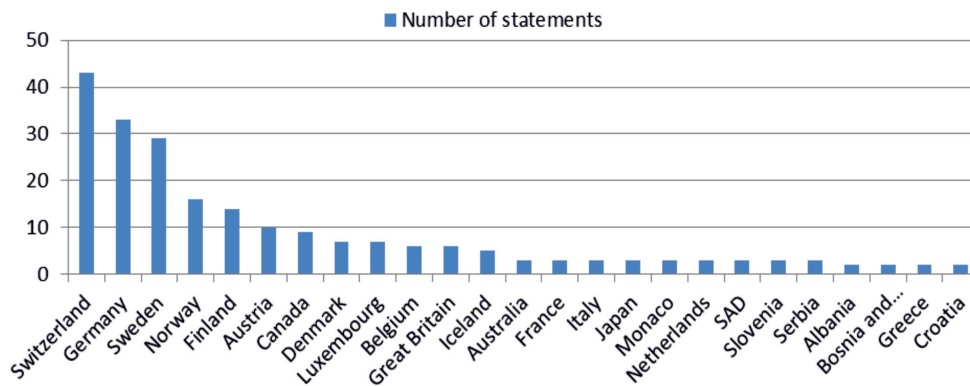


Fig. 6. Ranking list of countries according to the perceived lowest presence of corruption in the world.

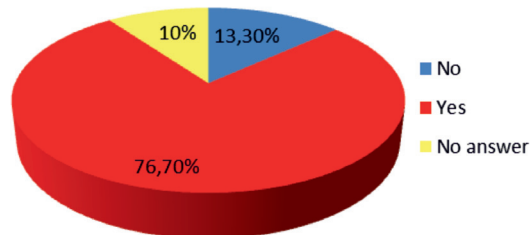


Fig. 8. Distribution of answers to the question »Would you offer/give a bribe again if you found yourself in a position to do so?« obtained on the sample of 30 UAS students who found themselves in a position to offer/give a bribe to someone.

mits they actually offered/gave a bribe when they found themselves in such a situation (Figure 9).

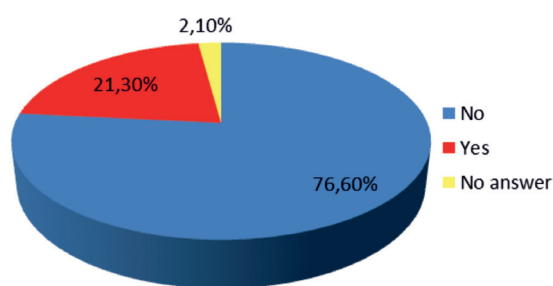


Fig. 9. Distribution of answers to the question »Have you ever offered/given a bribe to someone?« (N=94).

This was followed by a question to those who were not in a position to offer a bribe: »If you were not in a position to offer a bribe, would you nevertheless do it if the opportunity presents itself?«.

Of 62 examinees (66% of the total sample) who answered they have never been in a position to offer/give a bribe to someone, 20 (32.3%) said they would do it if the opportunity arose. Two provided no answer (3.2%). The results are shown in Figure 10. Those who would do so anyway explained their answers. We present them in full in Table 11 (noting that some of them are paraphrased for easier entry into the database).

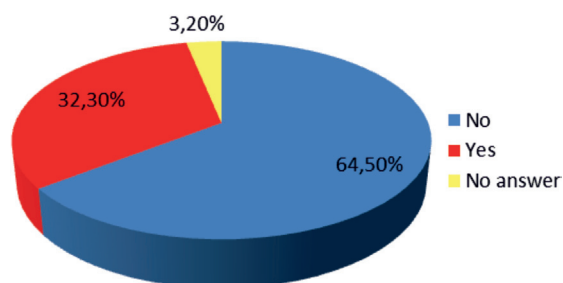


Fig. 10. Distribution of answers to the question »If you have never found yourself in a position to offer/give a bribe, would you do so anyway if you found yourself in a position to do so?« obtained on the sample of 62 UAS students who were not in a position to offer/give a bribe to someone.

TABLE 11

EXPLANATIONS OF TWENTY (20) STUDENTS OF THE UNIVERSITY OF APPLIED SCIENCES VELIKA GORICA WHO HAVE NEVER BEEN IN A POSITION TO OFFER/GIVE A BRIBE BUT WOULD DO SO IF THEY FOUND THEMSELVES IN A POSITION TO DO SO AND THE REASON WHY

Why would you offer/give a bribe if you were in a position to do so?	f
If that would help me, why not.	1
If I would do something good while doing so.	1
If it is a matter of a disease.	1
If it is the easier way to get what I need, I would do it.	1
End justifies the means.	1
In health reasons, primarily and in case it affects my life drastically.	1
Only if I would have to do it to help my family or loved ones.	1
You only live once.	1
I think that is okay.	2
You never know what you will encounter in life, if I cannot succeed in a fair way due to 1000 unfair people, then I will also be unfair and succeed.	1
I would pay the police not to write me a ticket.	1
Only if it were a matter of life or death, since I know how institutions function – e.g. healthcare.	1
I would imitate the state.	1
Because I can.	1
Because it is easier to pay 200 than 100 kunas.	2
Because our state functions in this way, if you have money, you have work.	1
Depending on the situation, not if it would hurt someone.	1

Of forty (40) examinees (64.5%) who answered they would not offer or give a bribe to someone, no matter what, twenty four (24) explained their answers. They mostly explained them by the belief in justice and the fact that they are persons who have innate moral and ethical principles. Explanations summarized into categories are shown in Table 12.

TABLE 12

CATEGORIZED EXPLANATIONS OF 24 STUDENTS OF THE UNIVERSITY OF APPLIED SCIENCES VELIKA GORICA WHO HAVE NEVER BEEN IN A POSITION TO OFFER/GIVE A BRIBE AND WOULD NOT DO SO EVEN IF THEY FOUND THEMSELVES IN A POSITION TO DO SO AND THE REASON WHY

Why you wouldn't offer/give someone a bribe if you were in a position to do so - answers	f
It is neither ethical nor moral.	8
I believe in honest work and effort and honest way to achieve your goals.	5
I have no money for bribery.	3
I have a firm stance against bribery.	2
Bribery is not an adequate solution to achieve one's goals.	2
I do not want to break the law.	2
There is no need to do so.	1
I feel disgust towards bribery.	1
Persons who want bribes already receive salaries.	1

Furthermore, 26 (27.7% of the total sample) examinees said they have experienced that someone asked them for a bribe, three (3.2% of the total sample) provided no answer, and the majority (N=65, 69.1% of the total sample) had no such experiences (Figure 11).

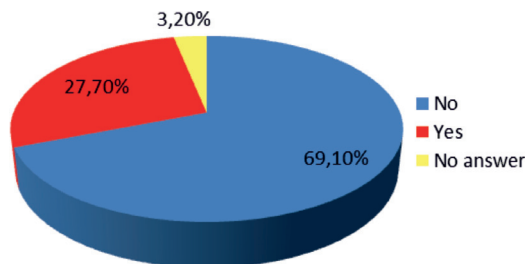


Fig. 11. Distribution of answers to the question »Did anyone ever ask you for a bribe in order to provide you something you needed?« (N=94).

• Question: How did this person ask you for a bribe?

Examinees (26 of them) who have been in a situation that a bribe has been asked from them, all except one, explained how that bribe was asked from them. Some provided more than one answer, so we shall refer to the total number of answers per category and percentage of total answers. A total of 11 answers (42.3%) were that the bribe was asked for in an indirect way through a suggestive message or a gesture. An equal number, eleven (11) answers (37.9%) stated that the person asking for the bribe clearly said so. Distribution of other answers can be seen in Figure 12.

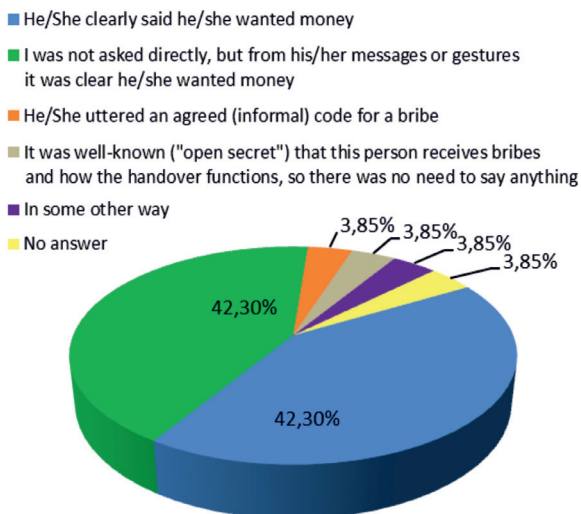


Fig. 12. Distribution of answers to the question »In which way did this person ask you for a bribe?« obtained on the sample of 26 UAS students who found themselves in a position that someone asked them for a bribe.

Many examinees, forty four of them (44) or 46.8% of the total sample would report corruption, while forty three (43) examinees (45.7% of the total sample) would not do so (Figure 13).

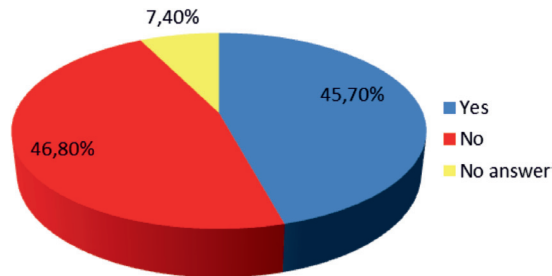


Fig. 13. Distribution of answers to the question »Would you report a case of corruption if you found yourself in such a position?« (N=94).

To the question »Who would you turn to and report corruption?«, although the answers have been provided, the analysis showed the inconsistency of the options offered so we decided not to present the results.

Moral opinion on bribery

At the end of the questionnaire the examinees were given the possibility to express personal moral attitude towards bribery. The majority of examinees, sixty five of them (65), or 69.1% considers giving or offering bribes an immoral act, while twenty five (25) or 26.6% does not think so. The others provided no answer (Figure 14). Five examinees explained their answers. Of the three examinees who provided affirmative answers, one actually expressed doubt. Namely, he believes this to depend on the situation, if he was forced to bribe someone in order to help his loved ones, he would not consider this immoral.

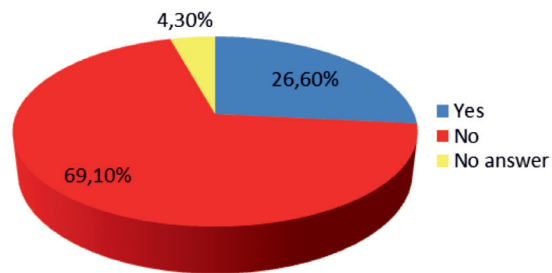


Fig. 14. Distribution of answers to the question »Do you consider giving/offering bribes an immoral act?« (N=94).

The explanations of other two examinees are:

»I think that the young and educated or quality people in general cannot come to the fore in a corrupt society, which leads the country into ruin.«

»Everything that is outside the law is immoral and in the end followed by consequences.«

Explanation of two examinees who answered they did not consider bribery to be an immoral act reveals that this is also actually a moral dilemma depending on the situation.

Discussion and Conclusion

The intended goal of this paper has been realized through the research of the perception of corruption and recognition of the Corruption Perceptions Index on the sample of examinees from the University of Applied Sciences Velika Gorica. The problem of the existence of corruption in the Republic of Croatia is present, but the lack of information and public awareness of the problem of corruption through the recognition of CPI did not provide satisfactory results. The examinees did not recognize the concept of CPI, and of the smaller number of examinees who were familiar with CPI, the answers on the placement of Croatia on the ranking list were quite accurate. The examinees generally associate corruption with politics, the police, healthcare and education, while some general forms of corruption in state-owned companies are also present. Regarding profit in a corruptive act, the examinees state that both parties involved in corruptive acts benefit from it, while the motive for such activities is stated to be desire for money, poor implementation of legislation, greed and similar. When it comes to the possibility of preventing corruption, the majority of examinees consider the problem of corruption to be impossible or very difficult to solve. Observing the position of the European Union and the upcoming accession of the Republic of Croatia to full membership, the examinees expect no significant improvement and perceive the EU as a country where corruption exists. In the area of personal experiences with bribery and corruption, the examinees stated they encountered giving or receiving bribes, and they would also for the most part repeat it. Justification for bribery in general referred to the easier

achievement of a better position for themselves, while a number of those who provided negative answers to the question of giving bribes, expressed faith in justice and moral principles. Although a certain number stated they would provide bribes, the majority of examinees consider bribery to be an immoral act.

By summarizing all these elements obtained on the basis of the questionnaire analysis, we obtain a more complete definition of corruption, which reads as follows:

Corruption is by law or other rules prohibited or unauthorized abuse of institutionalized trust, duties and powers of the person who is in a position to do something for parties concerned, and can be motivated by the achievement of personal tangible or intangible benefits, nepotism or other reasons, such as personal moral principles or generally accepted ethical principles. Acts of corruption are most frequently, although not exclusively, contrary to generally accepted ethical standards and basic human rights.

As a final thought, let us state that we encountered certain problems by analyzing the term Corruption Perceptions Index in the Croatian language. Since the Corruption Perceptions Index is assigned by the international anti-corruption organization Transparency International based on the opinion of analysts, business people and experts worldwide¹⁰, it does not represent the perception of citizens on the corruption in their country as can be concluded by the name, but rather an external evaluation or perception of an international agency or organization. So the translation of Corruption Perceptions Index into Croatian could be the Index of Perceived Corruption.

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ANALIZA PREPOZNATLJIVOSTI INDEKSA PERCEPCIJE KORUPCIJE MEĐU STUDENTIMA NA VELEUČILIŠTU VELIKA GORICA

S A Ž E T A K

Financijska kriza, osim što je bitno usporila gospodarsku aktivnost, u mnogim je društvima povećala prisutnost korupcije. Sprečavanje korupcije jedan je od vodećih izazova ne samo za vlast nego za sveukupno društvo i gospodarstvo Republike Hrvatske. Kriza je idealan povod za nove strategije i reforme, a odgovor na financijsku krizu mora biti usredotočen na suzbijanje korupcije u svim segmentima. Indeks percepcije korupcije (IPK) složeni je indeks zasnovan na anketama i istraživanjima koje su provele neovisne institucije, a mjeri korupciju u javnom sektoru, među dužnosnicima, službenicima ili političarima, odnosno administrativnu i političku korupciju. Republika Hrvatska je prema izvješću Transparency Internationala, očekivano, daleko ispod EU prosjeka prema IPK. Izuzev problema samog postojanja korupcije u RH, problem predstavlja i nedostatak informiranosti i svijesti javnosti o problemu korupcije. Metodom ankete provedeno je istraživanje o indeksu percepciji korupcije među studentima Veleučilišta Velika Gorica. Rezultati istraživanja te statistička obrada podataka prikazani su u radu.