

KLAIPĖDA DISTRICT RESIDENTS' ATTITUDE TOWARDS CORRUPTION

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ABSTRACT

The article presents a survey on Klaipėda district residents' attitude towards corruption. It is necessary to evaluate the level of corruption in a particular local area because understanding the incentives for corruption and self-dealing is a precondition for making progress. Citizens' perceptions are important for local governments where citizens have more direct impact on political representation and service provision in their communities. The research revealed that Klaipėda district residents' attitude towards corruption practices is negative and the population is aware of the harm caused by corruption. The respondents rarely face the forms of corruption practices. Most respondents think that excessive bureaucracy and the complexity of the legal framework, which is constantly changing, contribute to prevalence of corruption. Most respondents have given bribes to medical personnel. The respondents assume that the most effective anti-corruption means is the inevitability of punishment, as well as giving publicity to corruption acts. When faced with corruption, residents would turn to law enforcement bodies and use anonymous helpline.

KEYWORDS: *corruption, local governance, residents' attitude.*

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Introduction

Corruption is generally defined as the abuse of public power for private gain (Ackerman, Truex, 2012). The President of the World Bank Dr. Jim Yong Kim proclaimed that “corruption is public enemy number 1” (Yap, 2017: 119). Scientific literature (Paliduskaitė, 2005; Bowman, Gilligan, 2007; Soheli Iqbal, Seo, 2008; Ackerman, 2002; Graycar, Sidebottom, 2012; Ackerman, Truex, 2012; Kozłowski, Kozłowska, Swirska, 2016) and legal documents (LR seimo nutarimas „Dėl LR nacionalinės kovos su korupcija 2015-2025 m. programos patvirtinimo“) reveals negative impact of corruption on the whole state and public spheres of life. Corruption has negative effects on “softer outcomes”, such as satisfaction with government and democratic legitimacy (Ackerman, 2002; Ackerman, Truex, 2012). Corruption undermines people's trust in the political system, institutions, and leadership (Soheli Iqbal, Seo, 2008: 58; Kozłowski, Kozłowska, Swirska, 2016). Corruption in social and legal sphere increase poverty, social inequality, leads to legal nihilism, undermined faith in justice.

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Researchers (Paliduskaitė, 2005, 2006; Iqbal, Seo, 2008; Tanzi, 2012; Dyussenov, 2016; Kozłowski, Kozłowska, Swirska, 2016) identify enlarged attention to corruption and express pity that despite national and international organizations' efforts the serious problem of corruption persists, adapting to the changing environment and taking on new forms has even increased in recent years. D. Bowman and G. Gilligan (2007), Ackerman, Truex (2012) refer to citizens' perception which suggest that corruption is increasing. Meanwhile, Linhartova (2017) found that development of information technology and e-government contribute to reduction of corruption level in economically more developed countries, as well as in a group of economically less developed countries. If e-government is strengthened with high-quality public bureaucracies consisting of competent public agents, anti-corruption efforts could more effectively lower the corruption levels of public affairs (Kim, 2014). Resolution of the Lithuanian Parliament on the approval of National Anti-corruption program for the period of 2015–2025 (Lietuvos Respublikos Seimo nutarimas "Dėl LR nacionalinės kovos su korupcija 2015–2025 m. programos patvirtinimo", 2015) indicates that anti-corruption environment in Lithuania is improving. This study partially confirms other studies (Global Corruption Barometer, "Eurobarometre"). In Lithuania, there is a declining number of respondents who still think that corruption helps when addressing to the state institutions, and who are ready to give a bribe in order to solve their problem. The document also highlights that still there is a difference between perception of corruption and corrupt practice. For example, residents often negatively estimate corruption environment in a country or in a particular institution, although personally had not been confronted with corruption (Lietuvos Respublikos Seimo nutarimas "Dėl LR nacionalinės kovos su korupcija 2015–2025 m. programos patvirtinimo", 2015).

Foreign scientists (for example, Ackerman, Truex, Pope, Caiden, Klitgaard, Bowman, Gilligan) and Lithuanian researchers (Justickis, Raudonienė, Vaitiekus, Dobryninas, Ališauskienė, Gutauskas, Pivoriūnas, Vaišvila, Paliduskaitė, and others) analysed the phenomenon of corruption, and its particular aspects. In Lithuania and its districts, the practical corruption situation is evaluated by special organizations (for example, Transparency International Lithuania, Vilnius) or national and local governments.

Therefore, the necessity to evaluate the situation in a particular local area and the importance to announce publicly the relevant information are two related aspects which are actual in this research. Firstly, understanding the incentives for corruption and self-dealing is a precondition for making progress. Ackerman and Truex (2012) notice that a policy, which works quite well in one country, may fail or be co-opted in another with lower quality of governance. Obviously, when seeking for further economic development one needs to understand the institutional origins of corruption and to take them into account while designing policies. Therefore, the local government of Klaipėda district needed to find out the opinion of its residents on corruption. Citizen's perceptions are important for governments, particularly local governments where citizens have more direct impact on political representation and service provision in their communities. D. Valle-Cruza, R. Sandoval-Almazana, and J. Gil-Garcia (2016: 321) revealed that citizens' perceptions about the problems of transparency, efficiency, and corruption definitely affect their engagement with government agencies. D. Bowman and G. Gilligan (2007) also identified the importance of residents' perceptions on corruption. Moreover, A. J. Kozłowski, I. Z. Kozłowska, and A. Swirska, (2016) discussed that positive changes at the local level are associated with an increased citizens' activity in implementing various tasks in their near environment, and also with increased interest in public affairs at the local level. J. Paliduskaitė (2006: 63) alleged an idea that people's trust in the government (its representatives and individual authorities) may be a parallel to the perception of corruption. The higher the distrust, the more likely it can be suspected of a higher degree of corruption.

Secondly, it is important to publicise information about corruption situation. The results of Fiona Yap's (2017) experiment signify that collective action against government corruption is achievable, and that several conditions—including information about others' actions, rewards but not penalties, low initial costs, and whether the participant benefitted versus did not benefit from corrupt action—influence citizens' choice to pursue collective action (Yap, 2017: 133). The results highlight the central role of information regarding other participants' choice to pursue collective action that led individuals to choose similarly. Such findings, exploring the situation and publication of the survey results, are actual in pursue of education of anti-corruption.

tion society (Sohel Iqbal, Seo, 2008: 60). Also, one of the main objectives pointed out in the Law of the Republic of Lithuania on the Prevention of Corruption (Lietuvos Respublikos korupcijos prevencijos įstatymas, 2002) is to involve residents in the corruption prevention, and one of the means to do so, is education of society and forming of its awareness (Lietuvos Respublikos korupcijos prevencijos įstatymas, 2002). Municipalities are obligated to inform their residents about corruption situation and their anti-corruption activity through the mass media and other means. Therefore, the National Anti-Corruption Program for the period of 2015-2025 (Lietuvos Respublikos Seimo nutarimas..., 2015) established a goal to develop and increase non-tolerance for corruption, as well as to promote civil engagement, motivating people not to take or give a bribe, to report about corruption, and act in good faith. The implementation of this objective has invoked spread of information for society and anti-corruption training.

The aim of research is to survey the attitude of Klaipėda district residents towards corruption, and the effective ways and means of fight against corruption.

Research objectives:

- To reveal the attitude of the Klaipėda district population towards corruption and the reasons of corruption spread in different areas;
- To investigate the experience of the Klaipėda district population of giving a bribe (Have they ever offered a bribe? What did they offer as a bribe? Would they bribe someone once again?);
- To identify the approach of the Klaipėda district population towards the ways and means of fight against corruption.

Research methods: analysis of scientific literature and legal regulation documents, quantitative research and survey of the Klaipėda district residents, data programming and analysis by SPSS, analysis of the results of the questionnaire survey.

1. Research methodology

Research population and sample. The research population make residents of Klaipėda district aged 18 and over (individuals whose residence is declared in Klaipėda district). The study population size – 43 336 persons (source available at: http://www.vrk.lt/documents/10180/548936/Rinkejai_2015sav.pdf/a974fee2-4e6a-400c-a100-c87119cba690). During the study 137 respondents completed questionnaires (a 95% probability, 10% of error). Respondents were calculated using the V. Panioto's sample volume formula, taking into account the aim of the study: the study population characteristics (i.e., size and homogeneity of the test character in relation to the criteria), the accuracy of sought data and questionnaire characteristics (Bitinas, Rupšienė, Žydžiūnaitė, 2008; Valackienė, Mikėnė, 2008; Kardelis, 2009), and the time of research accomplishment set by Klaipėda municipality.

Survey method – Klaipėda district residents' questionnaire, using a pre-prepared standardized questionnaire, which was composed referring scientific literature and legal regulation documents analysis and recommendations of Klaipėda District Municipality. Respondents are selected using non-probability target selection (Valackienė, Mikėnė, 2008; Kardelis, 2009). The choice of residents for the research was determined by age (at least 18 years old).

Research period – November and December of 2016.

Research procedure. The Klaipėda district residents' survey was accomplished with paper and online versions. Electronic questionnaire and the invitation – request was sent to 346 organizations, which e-mail addresses were published on the websites, to participate in the study. Klaipėda district companies were selected using the information platform <http://rekvizitai.vz.lt/imone>. 87 Klaipėda district residents responded to the online version of the questionnaire, 50 - in the paper version of the questionnaire. During the research ethical principles were followed: security, confidentiality (anonymity and confidentiality), goodwill, universality, significance, respect for personal dignity, justice and the right to receive accurate information (Bitinas, Rupšienė, Žydžiūnaitė, 2008; Kardelis, 2009 et al.).

Data analysis. Data analysis was performed using the statistical program for social researches SPSS 23.0. The percentage frequencies were calculated, setting of statistically significant differences – Chi-square test, nonparametric Kruskal-Wallis test, descriptive statistical characteristics, the Spearman correlation coefficient of grades were used. All statistical decisions that do not meet the conditions of $p \leq 0,05$, were regarded as unfounded. Graphical analysis was performed using MS Excel spreadsheet.

Demographic data of respondents. The study involved 137 respondents. Most of the respondents belong to 41–51-year age group (32.8%) and 52–62 years' age group (24.8%). 19.7% of respondents belong to 30–40 year respondents' age group. The smallest respondents' groups contain of youngest respondents (18–29 year) (14.6%) and oldest respondents (from 63 year) (8%). In order to reveal statistically significant differences of opinion between the different age groups of respondents, respondents are grouped into four groups: 18–29 years of age – 14.6%; 30–40 years of age – 19.7%; 41-51 years of age – 32%; 52 years and older – 32.8%.

2. Analysis of Klaipėda district population's approach towards corruption

One of the main objectives of this study was to survey the attitude of Klaipėda district residents towards corruption. The respondents were presented five allegations describing corruption and were asked to agree or disagree with them (see Figure 1).

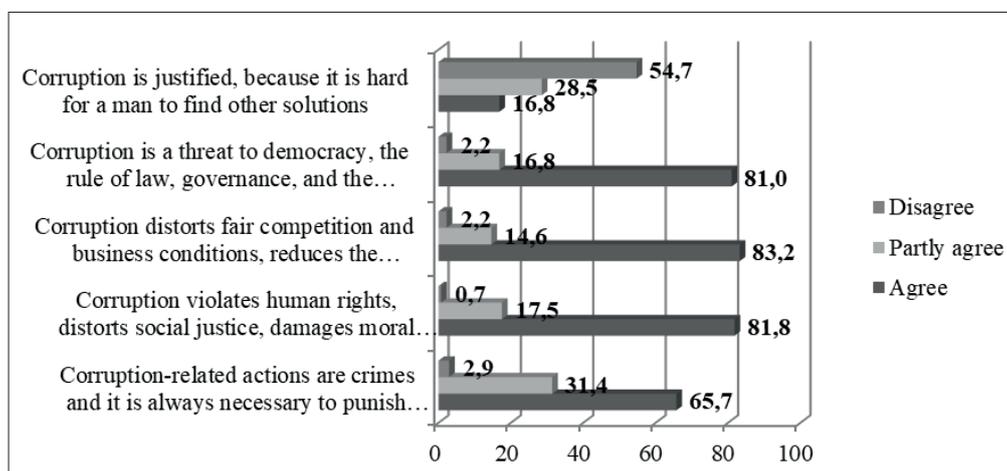


Fig. 1. Percentage distribution of respondents' answers to the question "What statements are describing the phenomenon of corruption?"

Source: constructed by the authors based on the survey data.

The respondents mostly agree with the statements like "corruption distorts fair competition and business conditions, reduces economic growth" (83.2%). Diametrically contrary respondents agree with the statement that "corruption is justified, because it is hard for a man to find other solutions (16.8% – "agree", 54.7% – "disagree"). So it can be said that the attitude of Klaipėda district residents towards corruption is negative, the population is aware of the harm caused by corruption. However, despite the broad support for statements that describe the evil of corruption and damage, fewer respondents agreed with the statement that for the corruption-related activities "...it is always necessary to punish by real punishment" ("agree" – 65.7%, "partly agree" – 31.4%).

Participants were asked to evaluate the prevalence of corruption in the Klaipėda district (see Fig. 2). 50.4% of respondents believe that corruption is widespread in Klaipėda district as well as in Lithuania. The analysis links between respondents' attitudes and their age revealed that people aged 41–51 were mainly those who believe that corruption in Klaipėda district is more widespread than in the rest of Lithuania. So, it can be said that many of the respondents do not think that the corruption in their place of residence is more widespread than in other districts of Lithuania.

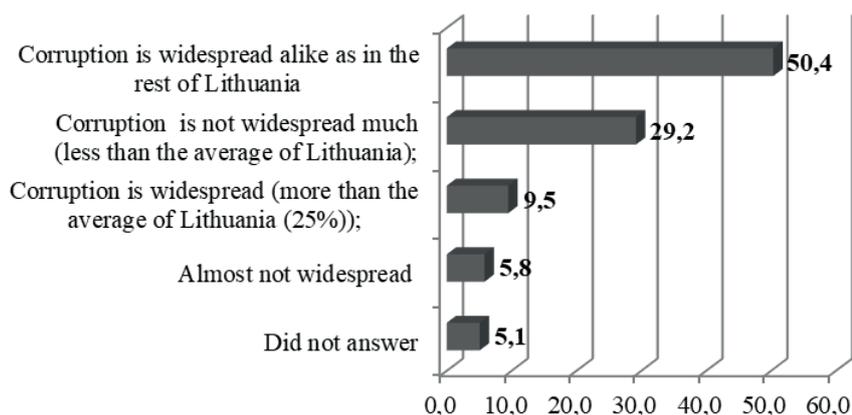


Fig. 2. Percentage distribution of respondents' answers to the question "How widely is corruption spread in Klaipėda district?"

Source: constructed by the authors based on the survey data.

Participants were asked to indicate how often they have to deal with corruption-related forms of activities living and/or working in Klaipėda district (scale: 1 – “never”; 2 – “rarely”; 3 – “sometimes”; 4 – “often”; 5 – “very often”) (see Table 1 and Table 2). It was stated that, in general, respondents rarely face corruption-related forms of activities. They are sometimes confronted with abuse of office or misuse of power (average – 2.69), active and passive bribery (average – 2.36), protectionism of relatives (average – 2.23). Meanwhile, it is most rarely encountered with service (commercial) secrets disclosure (average – 1.55), documents or instruments in forgery (average – 1.67), dirty money or property legalization (average – 1.69). In order to determine the differences between the responses to the allegations as how often have to deal with corruption-related forms of activities and age groups, Kruskal-Wallis nonparametric test was calculated (Table 2). The following statistically significant differences between the variables were set. Respondents aged 41–51 are more likely than other groups to face with trading in influence, abuse of authority, counterfeiting of documents or instruments misreporting, legalization of money or property, protectionism of relatives.

Table 1. Evaluation of respondents' answers to the question "How often do you have to deal with the corruption-related activities living and/or working in Klaipėda district?"

No.	Forms of corruption-related activities	Average	Mode	Standard deviation
1.	Active and passive bribery	2.36	3	1.143
2.	Trading in influence	1.82	1	1.230
3.	Abuse of office or misuse of power	2.69	3	1.288
4.	Documents or instruments in forgery	1.67	1	1.072
5.	Property legalization	1.80	1	1.212
6.	Service (commercial) secrets disclosure	1.55	1	0.923
7.	Submission of incorrect data on income, profit or wealth	1.95	1	1.279
8.	Legalization of money or property obtained in a criminal way	1.69	1	1.110
9.	Protectionism of relatives	2.23	1	1.393

Source: constructed by the authors based on the survey data.

Table 2. Comparison by age of respondents' answers to the question "How often do you have to deal with the forms of corruption-related activities living and/or working in Klaipėda district?"

Forms of the corruption-related activities	Average range in age group				p meaning
	18–29	30–40	41–51	52 <	
Active and passive bribing	73.28	65.28	74.23	64.10	0.556
Trading in influence	75.55	71.00	80.09	53.80	0.007
Abuse of authority or exceeding in powers	70.38	69.80	83.06	53.86	0.005
Forgery of documents or measurements	72.75	73.87	79.42	53.99	0.005
Property legalization	82.43	66.00	81.40	52.43	0.000
Office (commercial) secret disclosure	80.68	77.07	74.61	53.36	0.004
Submission of incorrect data on income, profit or wealth	71.53	64.96	82.50	56.80	0.010
Legalization of money or property obtained in a criminal way	77.68	62.72	83.93	53.98	0.000
Protectionism of relatives	56.23	67.44	82.73	61.88	0.021

Source: constructed by the authors based on the survey data.

The study also sought to find out the residents' opinion on the factors that influence the incidence of corruption (Figure 3).

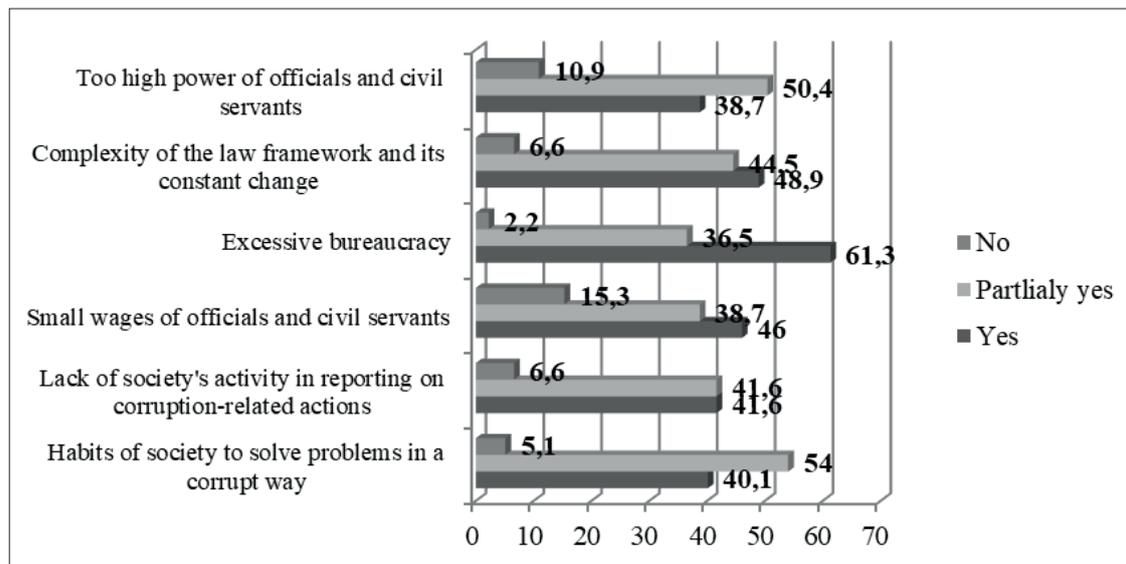


Fig. 3. Percentage distribution of respondents' answers to the question "What factors contribute to the prevalence of corruption in Klaipėda district?"

Source: constructed by the authors based on the survey data.

According to the respondents' opinion, two interrelated factors contribute to the prevalence of corruption: excessive bureaucracy ('yes' – 61.3%), the complexity of the law framework and its constant change ('yes' – 48.9%). The most common variant of the answer "no" was pointed to such factors as: small wages of officials and civil servants ('no' – 15.3%), too high power of officials and civil servants ('no' – 10.9%). In the option "other" respondents named such reasons as "there is no personal responsibility", "the older generation is used to solving problems by a bribe", "money is the real reason for the spread of corruption".

Respondents were asked to name subjects that influence the prevalence of corruption in Klaipėda district (see Figure 4). The respondents named three main subjects that affect the spread of corruption: politicians ('yes' – 54%), civil servants ('yes' – 43.8%), businessmen ('yes' – 43.8%). When evaluating the population's contribution to the spread of corruption, respondents most often answered "partially yes" (62.8%).

Respondents aged 41-51 significantly more often answered that the population and politicians influence the spread of corruption most ($p = 0.007$).

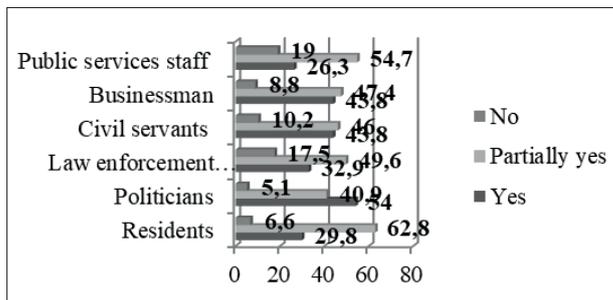


Fig. 4. Percentage distribution of respondents' answers to the question "Who has got the biggest influence on the prevalence of corruption in Klaipėda district?"

Source: constructed by the authors based on the survey data.

The authors aimed to find out where in Klaipėda district institutions corruption is widespread most according to the public opinion (Figure 5).

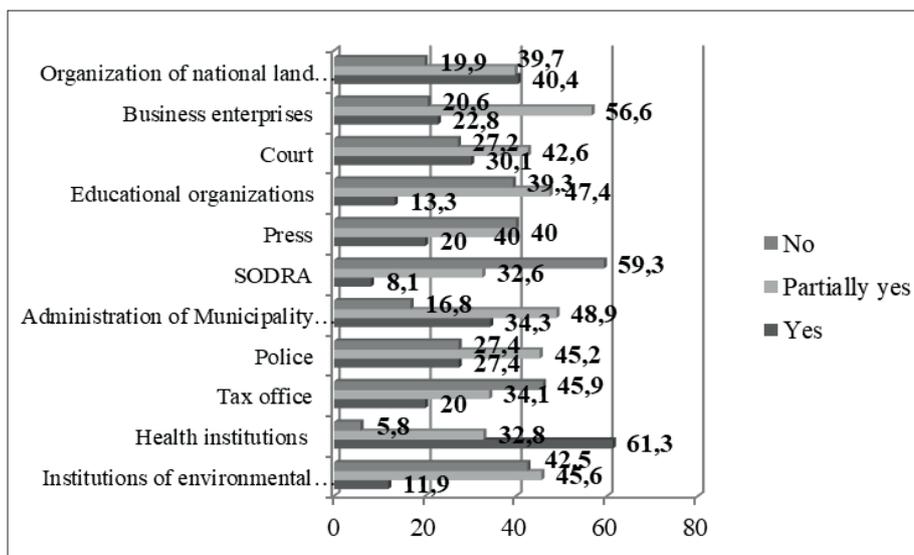


Fig. 5. Percentage distribution of respondents' answers to the question "Where is corruption widespread most in Klaipėda district institutions?"

Source: constructed by the authors based on the survey data.

Respondents were able to assess the list of 11 institutions and/or write in their own option. People believe the corruption is widespread mostly in medical institutions ('yes' – 61.3%) and organization of national land service ('yes' – 40.4%); corruption is widespread the least in SODRA ('no' – 59.3%), the state tax office ('no' – 45.9%) and the environmental protection ('no' – 42.5%). One respondent chose the option "other" and stated that "public procurement is nowhere transparent". However, 41–51 aged respondents significantly more often stated that corruption is widespread in environmental protection, medical institutions, the court, and in educational institutions ($p < 0.05$).

3. Klaipėda district residents' experience of giving a bribe

The study attempted to reveal what were the groups of people that respondents have given a bribe to them in Klaipėda district. Respondents were able to choose from five answer options and/or write in their own answer. The distribution of the respondents' answers is presented in Figure 6. Analysis of the data showed that most respondents gave bribes to medical personnel ('yes' – 48.9%) and civil servants ('yes' – 20.44%).

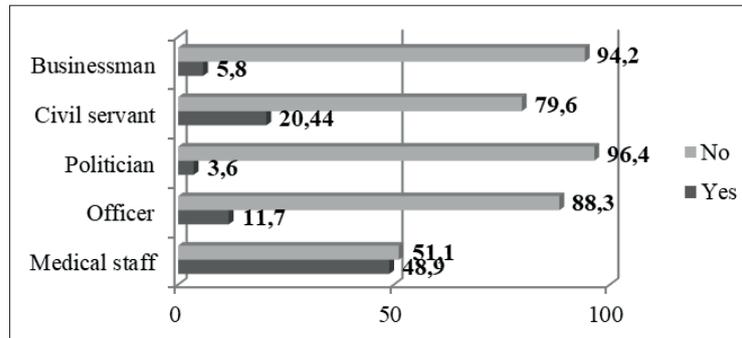


Fig. 6. Percentage distribution of respondents' answers to the question "Whom have you ever given a bribe in Klaipėda district?"

Source: constructed by the authors based on the survey data.

Respondents were asked to name the form of a bribe which they gave (see Figure 7). The most frequently were named money (45.3%) and food products (28.5%). Yet, there were respondents (31), who gave a bribe in money and named the amounts of it (e.g., 100 LTL, 50 to 200 LTL, 100–200 LTL, less than 200 LTL and repeatedly, 10,000 LTL or 15 EUR, 20 EUR, 30 EUR, 50 EUR, from 20 to 70 EUR, 100 EUR, 100–200 EUR, 120 EUR, 150 EUR, 500 EUR). Whereas, a bribe in food was named as candies and meat products.

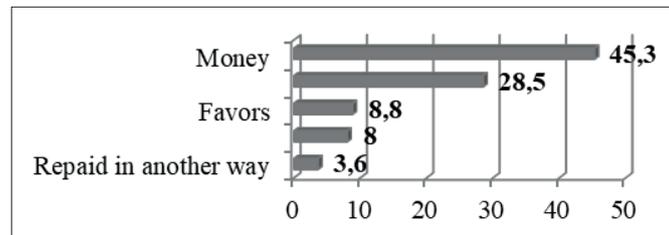


Fig. 7. Percentage distribution of respondents' answers to the question "What was the form of a bribe when you bribed someone?"

Source: constructed by the authors based on the survey data.

Respondents were asked to specify the circumstances under which they decided to give a bribe (Figure 8). Respondents could choose a few of the five answer options and/or name their own circumstances, so the total amount of responses is greater than 100%. It is appropriate to mention that almost 30% of the respondents indicated that they are not bribing. Respondents who gave a bribe, most often heard from other people that it is necessary to bribe (31.4%). In the response option "other" respondents named the following circumstances: 'I did not receive the services until I did not give a bribe'; 'I forgot to give a bribe and I could not change anything in a health institution'.

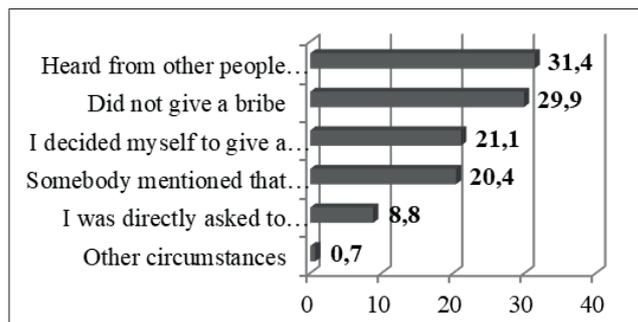


Fig. 8. Percentage distribution of respondents' answers to the question "What were the circumstances that you decided to give a bribe?"

Source: constructed by the authors based on the survey data.

The study aimed to find out the respondents' intentions to bribe in the future when solving their problems (Figure 9). Based on the data analysis, it could be stated that only 14.6% of the respondents have a firm judgment on giving a bribe to solve their problems in the future. Meanwhile, almost one-third of respondents do not intend to give a bribe ('no' – 28.5 %).

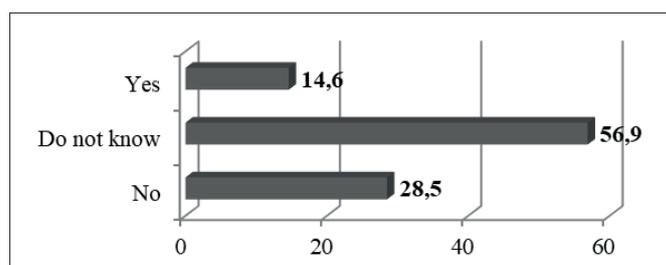


Fig. 9. Percentage distribution of respondents' answers to the question "Would you try to bribe someone in the future to solve the problem?"

Source: constructed by the authors based on the survey data.

4. Klaipėda district population's attitude towards the effective ways and means of a fight against corruption

The study sought to identify the effective ways and means of a fight against corruption (Figure 10). The respondents believe that the most effective anti-corruption means is the inevitable punishment of persons for pursued corruption (67.2%), publicity of corruption acts in the press, on TV and other media (57.7%). It is appropriate to mention that in the response option "other" two respondents wrote: 'publicity and publicity only'; 'it is necessary to publish on each budget purchase on at least one Web site'. Other means that were named were interpreted as only partially effective. Statistically significant differences were not found when the statistical data analysis and comparison of answers to questions on what are the effective means in fight against the corruption by age group accomplished. Such attitude of residents meets the statement by Ackerman and Truex (2012) that severe punishment pushes the cost-benefit calculus towards clean government. Many routinely employed anti-corruption measures are grounded in a criminal justice model, which assume that increasing the penalties associated with getting caught will act as a sufficient mechanism to deter individuals from acting corruptly (Graycar, Sidebottom, 2012).

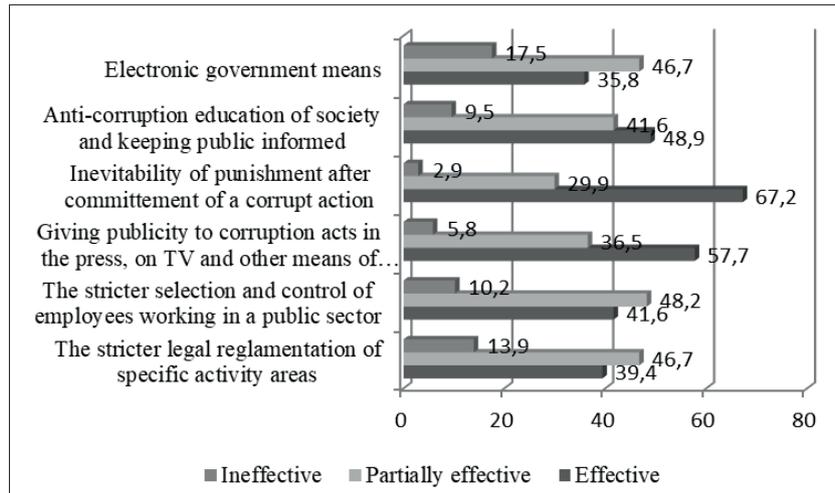


Fig. 10. Percentage distribution of respondents' answers to the question "What are effective measures that may help to fight corruption?"

Source: constructed by the authors based to the survey data.

The study examined the means which the respondents would use while facing the corruption (Figure 11). According to the survey data, could be said that law enforcement agencies collected more "yes" answers (51.1%) and anonymous helpline (50.4%). The Anti-Corruption Commission of Klaipėda District Municipality Council collected most "no" answers (65%). However, in general, more than half of the respondents in the face of corruption would report nothing and nowhere.

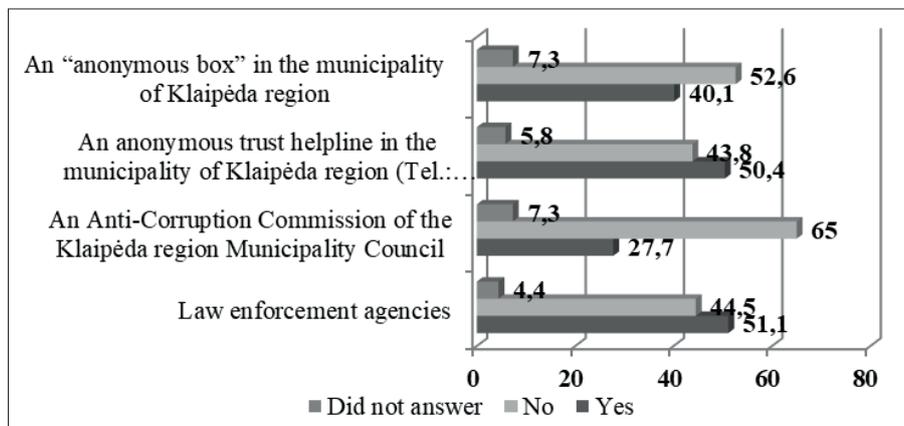


Fig. 11. Percentage distribution of respondents' answers to the question "What corruption prevention measures would you prefer when faced up with corruption?"

Source: constructed by the authors based on the survey data.

Conclusions

The research revealed that the attitude of Klaipėda district residents towards corruption is negative, the population is aware of the harm caused by corruption. Despite the broad support for claims that describe the evil and damage of corruption, fewer respondents agreed with the statement that the people making corrup-

tion-related activities “...always need to be punished with the full rigour of the law”. It can be stated that many of the respondents do not think that corruption in their district is more prevalent than in other districts of Lithuania. The study revealed that, in general, respondents rarely face the forms of corruption practises; respondents sometimes are confronted with abuse of office or misuse of power, active and passive bribery, and protectionism of relatives. Most respondents believe that excessive bureaucracy as well as complexity and constant change of the legal framework contribute to prevalence of corruption.

The study found that most respondents have bribed medical personnel and civil servants. Data analysis suggests that respondents aged 41–51 years or 52 years and older offer bribes the most. As the most often form of a bribe respondents named money and food products. Respondents that gave a bribe, usually heard from other people that they need to do so. Slightly more than one-fifth of the respondents decided by themselves to bribe someone. Almost one-third of the respondents do not intend to give a bribe in the future while solving their problems.

The study revealed that the most effective anti-corruption means, according to the respondents, is the inevitability of punishment for people who have committed corruption-related activities, as well as giving publicity to corruption acts in the press, TV and other media. Respondents stated that when faced with corruption they would turn to law enforcement bodies and take advantage of anonymous helpline. However, in general, more than half of the respondents admitted that when faced up with corruption they would report nothing to anyone.

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KLAIPĖDOS RAJONO GYVENTOJŲ POŽIŪRIS Į KORUPCIJĄ

ILVIJA PIKTURNAITĖ, JUDITA JONUŠEVIČIENĖ, ROBERTAS KAVOLIUS
Klaipėdos valstybinė kolegija (Lietuva)

Santrauka

Straipsnyje pristatomas Klaipėdos rajono gyventojų požiūris į korupciją. Konkrečios vietovės korupcinės situacijos ir gyventojų požiūrio vertinimas sudaro sąlygas taikyti antikorpucines priemones. Gyventojų požiūris ypač svarbus vietos savivaldai, kur gyventojai daugiau gali tiesiogiai veikti politinį atstovavimą ir paslaugų bendruomenei teikimą. Tyrimas atskleidė, kad Klaipėdos rajono gyventojų požiūris į korupciją yra neigiamas, gyventojai suvokia jos daromą žalą: apklaustieji labiausiai pritaria teiginiams „korupcija iškreipia sąžiningą konkurenciją, verslo sąlygas, mažina ekonomikos augimą“; „korupcija pažeidžia žmogaus teises, iškreipia socialinį teisingumą, žaloja visuomenės moralę“; „korupcija kelia grėsmę demokratijai ir teisei valstybei, valstybės valdymui, valstybės ar savivaldybių įstaigų stabilumui“. Tikslinga pastebėti, kad, nepaisant pritarimo teiginiams, apibūdinantiems korupcijos blogį ir žalą, apklaustieji mažiau pritaria teiginiui, kad už korupcinio pobūdžio veiklas „...visada reikia bausti realiomis bausmėmis“. Galima teigti, kad daugelis apklaustųjų nemano, kad jų gyvenamojoje vietoje korupcija yra paplitusi labiau nei kituose Lietuvos rajonuose: kiek daugiau nei pusė apklaustųjų mano, kad korupcija Klaipėdos rajone yra paplitusi tiek pat, kiek ir Lietuvoje; dalis apklaustųjų mano, kad korupcija šiame rajone yra mažai paplitusi arba beveik nepaplitusi.

Analizuojant respondentų požiūrio ir jų amžiaus sąsajas nustatyta, kad 41–51 m. respondentų grupėje buvo daugiausia manančiųjų, kad korupcija Klaipėdos rajone yra labiau paplitusi nei visoje Lietuvoje. Tyrimu nustatyta, kad apskritai respondentai su korupcinės veiklos formomis susiduria retai; kartais jiems tenka susidurti su piktnaudžiavimu tarnybine padėtimi arba įgaliojimų viršijimu, kyšininkavimu ir papirkimu, savo artimųjų protegavimu. Rečiausiai susiduriama su tarnybos (komercinės) paslapties atskleidimu, dokumentų ar matavimo priemonių klastojimu, nusikalstamu būdu įgytų pinigų ar turto legalizavimu. 41–51 m. amžiaus respondentai dažniau nei kitų grupių respondentai nurodė susiduriantys su įvairiomis korupcinėmis veiklos formomis. Labiausiai, respondentų nuomone, prie korupcijos paplitimo prisideda du tarpusavyje susiję veiksniai: per didelis biurokratizmas, teisinės bazės sudėtingumas ir nuolatiniai pokyčiai. Apklaustų-

jų nuomone, korupcija labiausiai paplitusi medicinos įstaigose ir žemėtvarkoje. Nustatyta, kad dažniausiai respondentai davė kyšius medicinos darbuotojams ir valstybės tarnautojams. Duomenų analizė rodo, kad daugiausia kyšius duoda 41–51 m. bei 52 m. ir vyresni respondentai. Dažniausia apklaustieji kaip kyšio davimo formą įvardijo pinigus ir maisto produktus. Kyšį davę respondentai paprastai girdėdavo iš kitų žmonių, kad reikia duoti. Kiek daugiau nei penktadalis respondentų duoti kyšį apsisprendė patys. Beveik trečdalis respondentų teigė, kad jiems buvo užsiminta arba tiesiogiai pasakyta. Remiantis duomenų analize galima teigti, kad tik 16 proc. respondentų yra tvirtai apsisprendę ateityje duoti kyšį, spręsdami savo problemas. Tuo tarpu beveik trečdalis apklaustųjų kyšio duoti neketina. Apklaustieji mano, kad veiksmingiausia kovos su korupcija priemonė yra baudmės neišvengiamumas korupcinę veiklą vykdydžiusiems asmenims, korupcijos atvejų viešinimas spaudoje, TV ir kitomis priemonėmis. Kitas įvardytas priemonės apklaustieji laiko iš dalies veiksmingomis. Respondentų teigimu, susidūrę su korupcija, jie kreiptųsi į teisėsaugos įstaigas ir pasinaudotų anoniminiu pasitikėjimo telefonu. Tačiau apskritai daugiau nei pusė apklaustųjų, susidūrę su korupcijos atveju, niekur ir nieko nepraneštų.

PAGRINDINIAI ŽODŽIAI: *korupcija, vietos savivalda, gyventojų požiūris.*

JEL KLASIFIKACIJA: D73, H79, K40