

**BRIBERY AND PUBLIC SERVICES:  
A GLOBAL COMPARISON**

***PROFESSOR RICHARD ROSE FBA***

Director, Centre for the Study of Public Policy  
U. of Strathclyde Glasgow  
[www.cspp.strath.ac.uk](http://www.cspp.strath.ac.uk)

London School of Economics

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## **CORRUPTION AND BRIBERY**

We must name things before we can count them

Corruption: Not meeting specified standards, eg, corrupt computer file

What standard?: Bureaucratic impartiality bound by rule of law

Distinguishes modern rule of law governance  
from customary or from anti-modern forms of governance

## BRIBERY

Giving money or material benefits to a public official to get a service in a way that departs from bureaucratic standards

An exchange involving supply and demand

Paid for a specific service:  
Desired, e.g. health care or education  
Undesirable, e.g. tax or police

A means of getting things done: cf. James S Coleman's social capital

Anti-social social capital

## GETTING THINGS DONE BY HOOK OR BY CROOK

	Bribery, connections	Strategy		
		Bureau.	Market	Passive
1. <i>Getting into university without good enough grades</i>				
Russia	38	n.a.	36	26
Czech Republic	12	n.a.	71	17
Korea	5	n.a.	37	57
2. <i>Actions to get a better flat when not entitled to publicly subsidized housing</i>				
Russia	44	n.a.	30	27
Czech Republic	14	23	48	15
Korea	22	n.a.	64	15
3. <i>Action if an official delays issuing a government permit</i>				
Russia	62	18	n.a.	20
Czech Republic	35	46	n.a.	19
Korea	21	45	n.a.	34
4. <i>Getting treatment for a painful disease when hospital says one must wait for months</i>				
Russia	57	13	11	19
Czech Republic	24	31	31	14
Korea	(not applicable; no government health service)			

Bribery option: Offer bribe, use connections, make up a story

Bureaucratic: Write a letter of complaint, push officials to act

Market: Buy what you want legally; education: pay a tutor

Passive: Nothing can be done

Sources: New Korea Barometer 1997 (N: 1,117); Czech Republic: New Democracies Barometer V 1998 (N: 1,017); New Russia Barometer VII 1998 (N: 1,908).

### **WHEN A PAYMENT IS A BRIBE AND UNACCEPTABLE**

1st scenario: *The public official looks at the application and describes how complicated it can be to get a license. He complains about his workload and how much paperwork it takes to provide the license. Your friend, the shopkeeper, is worried his application for a business license may be rejected. He offers a payment, roughly equal to five times the price of a good restaurant meal. The public official takes the money and issues the license.*

	Yes	No	No answer
	%	%	%
Official's behaviour acceptable	8	85	7
Payment was a bribe	81	11	8

2nd scenario: *While a shopkeeper is applying for a business license, the public official he is dealing with mentions the amount of paper and difficulties involved, but he still manages to issue the license. As he hands the license to the shopkeeper, he mentions how thankful many of his clients are for his work. A tipping box is located outside the public official's office. The shopkeeper puts banknotes into this tipping box, roughly equal in value to five times the price of a good restaurant meal.*

	Yes	No	No answer
	%	%	%
Official's behaviour acceptable	18	74	8
Payment was a bribe	68	22	10

Source: Transparency International, *Global Corrupt Barometer 2009*. Pooled replies from 68 countries. Total number of interviews: 72,110.

## **PAYMENT OF BRIBE VARIES BY**

National context

Degree of discretion or bureaucratization in service delivery

Contact with service

Socio-economic and social capital resources of individual

Normative and perceptual predispositions individuals

Household composition

**Paying bribe = (f) Context, Service, Contact, Predisposition, Household**

## QUESTIONS ABOUT PAYING BRIBES

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\*Transparency International Global Corruption Barometer (Q 3.B, 2010). In the past 12 months have you or anyone living in your household paid a bribe in any form to each of the following institutions or organisations?

\*EBRD Life in Transition (Q 6.04, 2011). Did you or any member of your household make an unofficial payment or gift when using these services over the past 12 months?

\*Latin American Public Opinion Project (Q EXC14, 2010) Did you have to pay a bribe to the courts in the last 12 months? [Wording varies with the service].

\*Afrobarometer (Q 61, 2012). In the past year, how often, if ever, have you had to pay a bribe, give a gift or do a favour to government officials in order to....

\*Eurobarometer (Q C5, 2011). Over the last 12 months has anyone in our country asked you, or expected you, to pay a bribe for his or her services?

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Sources: See Appendix Table A.

### PAYMENT OF BRIBES BY SERVICE

	GCB	LITS	LAPOP	Afro	Euro
	(as percentage of all respondents)				
Health	9	18	4	13	4
Education	6	6	4	7	1
Police	8	6	10	11	2
Courts	3	1	2	-	1
Permits, documents	5	4	3	13	1
Public utilities	4	-	-	7	-
Tax	2	-	-	-	-
Customs	2	-	-	-	1
Land	3	-	-	-	-

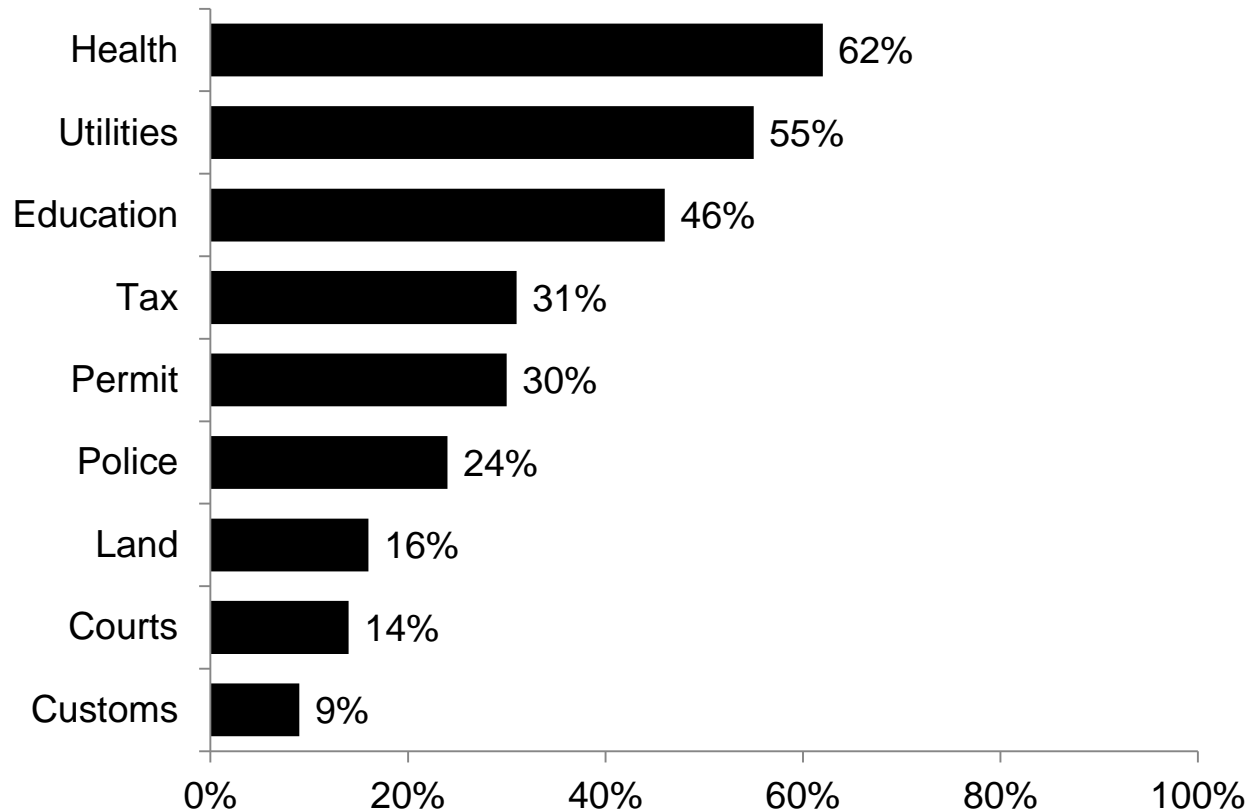
Source: See Table 5.1.



## CONTACT VARIES BY PUBLIC SERVICE

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*Q. In the past twelve months, have you or anyone living in your household had a contact with the following services:*



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Source: Transparency International Global Corruption Barometer, 2010 question 3B. Total number of respondents in 81 countries: 87,787.

### **PAYMENT OF BRIBES BY CONTACT WITH SERVICE**

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	GCB		LITS		LAPOP	
	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes
	(as percentage of people with contact)					
Health	86	14	73	27	95	5
Education	86	14	82	18	95	5
Police	67	33	69	31	n.a	
Courts	75	25	85	15	88	12
Permits	82	18	81	19	87	13
Public utilities	92	8	-	-	-	-
Tax	92	8	-	-	-	-
Customs	78	22	-	-	-	-
Land	82	18	-	-	-	-

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### BRIBERY COMPARED ACROSS CONTINENTS

	<u>No contact</u>	<u>Contact</u>	
		No bribe	Bribe
	(percent of all respondents)		
GCB: EU countries	14	77	9
GCB: Latin America	9	71	20
GCB: All	15	64	21
LITS	19	58	23
GCB: Asia	27	48	25
GCB: Africa	8	37	54

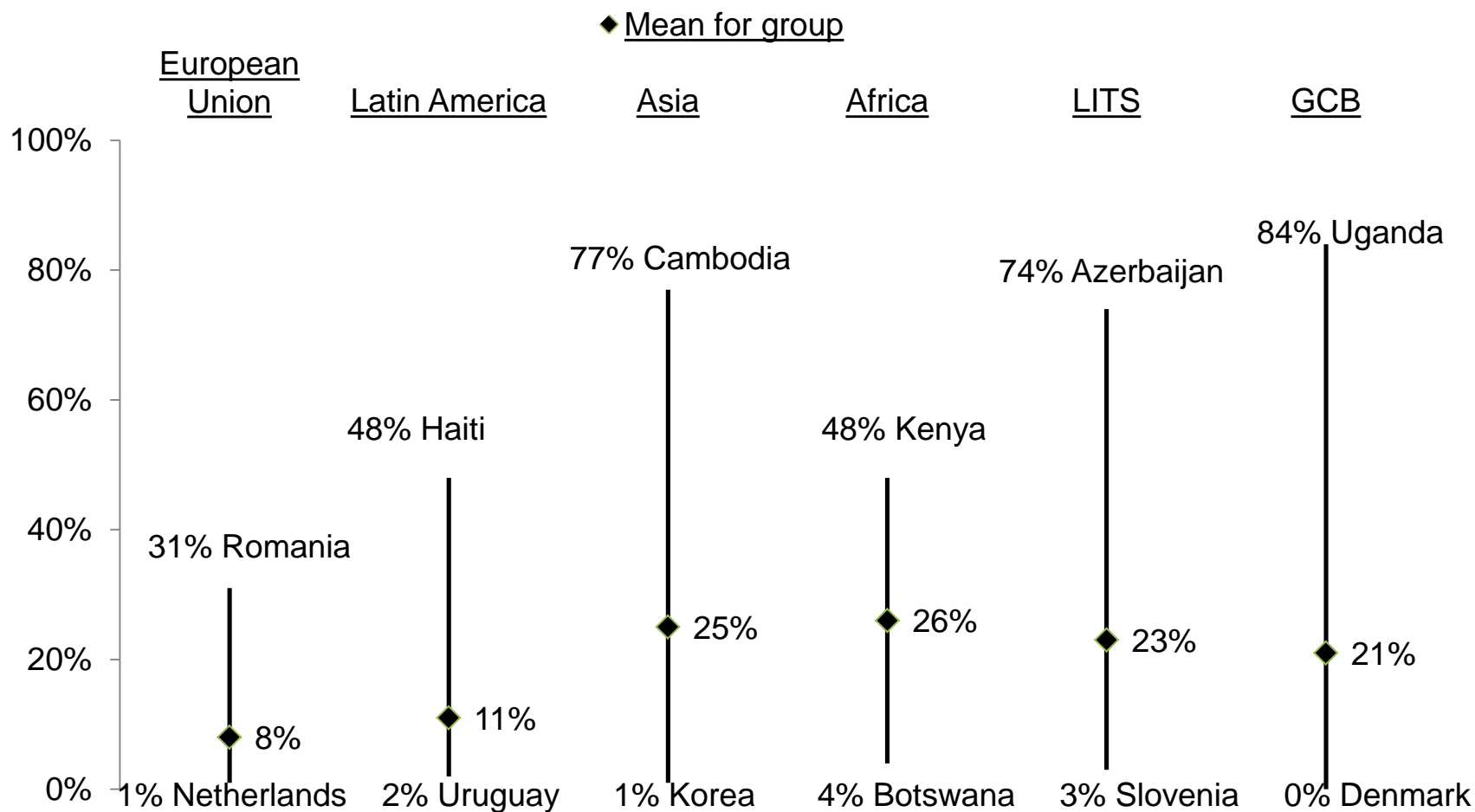
Note: Because of lack of comparability in questions about services and contact, in Africa, Latin America and Eurobarometers, this table uses 2010 GCB data for 21 EU member states, 10 African countries, 9 Latin American countries and 12 countries in Asia.

**POLICE: PERCEPTION, CONTACT AND BRIBERY**

	Perception corrupt	Contact	Bribe paid	Difference Perceive-pay
	%	%	%	%
Afrobarometer	75	n.a.	11	64
GCB	71	24	8	63
Eurobarometer	40	n.a.	2	38
LITS	32	19	6	26

Sources: As in previous tables. N.a. refers to no question asked about contact with this service.

## BIG DIFFERENCES IN BRIBERY WITHIN AND BETWEEN CONTINENTS



Sources: Calculated from surveys as reported in Appendix Table 1. The Asia figure is the mean for 12 nationwide Asian surveys of the 2010 Global Corruption Barometer.