

METHODOLOGICAL APPENDIX: CORRUPTION MONITORING SYSTEM



The Corruption Monitoring System (CMS) was designed and developed by CSD in 1998.²⁵⁴ Introduced at a time when corruption measurement was confined to public perceptions, the CMS launched a measure of the corruption victimisation of individuals by public officials accounting for their direct experience with various corruption patterns. Based on CMS diagnostics, assessments could be made about the dynamics of the prevalence of corruption patterns in a society.

The CMS methodology allows comparability of data across countries and registers the actual level and trends of direct involvement in administrative corruption, as well as the public attitudes, assessments and expectations relating to corruption. CMS diagnostics have been applied in Bulgaria since 1998,²⁵⁵ in Southeast Europe in 2001, 2002 and 2014,²⁵⁶ and occasionally in Georgia and Moldova. Some CMS concepts have also been modified and included in the Eurobarometer surveys on corruption; this makes CMS data comparable to Eurobarometer data.²⁵⁷

THEORETICAL BACKGROUND

Most academic and policy analyses on corruption usually start with the assertion that corruption is a multifaceted phenomenon that is difficult or impossible to measure.²⁵⁸ The measurement problem of multi-facet phenomena as corruption boils down to definition and operationalisation of the underlying concept. Defining what is being measured scopes the interpretations of data and the types of conclusions that could be made.

The CMS is one of the possible measurement approaches to corruption. Its main objective is to provide statis-

tical estimates of the prevalence of the most common incidents of corruption and has diagnostic and descriptive functions.

In the CMS context, corruption is conceptualised as a specific type of social behaviour which includes specific forms of interaction between actors, attitudes associated with these interactions and a set of perceptions which relate to the interactions (serving both as reflections of the interaction and prerequisites which define the behaviour strategy of the actors). Corruption refers to a specific group of interactions: the public is provided with services by government institutions, in the process of which it deals with officials who are employed by these institutions. Corruption is described through the “principal-agent model”: members of the public (clients) interact with government institutions (principal) through officials (agents); agents act on behalf of the principal who defines their rights and obligations and entrusts them with certain discretionary power. Corruption is an interaction in which officials in government institutions (agents) abuse the discretionary power they have been entrusted with by these institutions (principal) in their interaction with the public (clients).

This definition has two key elements which need to be further operationalised: “abuse” and “benefit”. Both should be present for certain behaviour to be categorised as corruption. The relation between these concepts could be defined as a “form-content” relationship. The “benefit” is the form of the transaction, while the “abuse” refers to the content of the transaction – the type of resource that is being offered in exchange for a benefit. Varieties of corruption behaviour arise because of the variation in both form and content: of the benefits that are being supplied by clients to agents and of the types of abuse of public power are the content of the exchange. The most common word used to label the forms of corruption is “bribe.” Regarding content, variations in corruption behaviour could be numerous but they depend on what is being done, how it is done and who is the perpetrator. In more concrete terms the above variation in corruption behaviour could be summarised in four sub-concepts:

- **Form.** Bribe is the common label of the private benefit that is being exchanged. The most common forms

²⁵⁴ (Center for the Study of Democracy, 1998, pp. 64-91)

²⁵⁵ All Corruption Assessment Reports since 1998 are available at the “Anti-corruption” section of CSD’s webpage <http://www.csd.bg>

²⁵⁶ (SELDI, 2002).

²⁵⁷ (TNS Political & Social, March 2014) and (TNS Opinion & Social, February 2014).

²⁵⁸ Summaries of discussions in this area can be found in: (Disch, Vigeland, Sundet, Hussmann, & O’Neil, 2009); (Jain, 2001); (Johnson & Mason, July 2013); (Reinikka & Svensson, J., 2003).

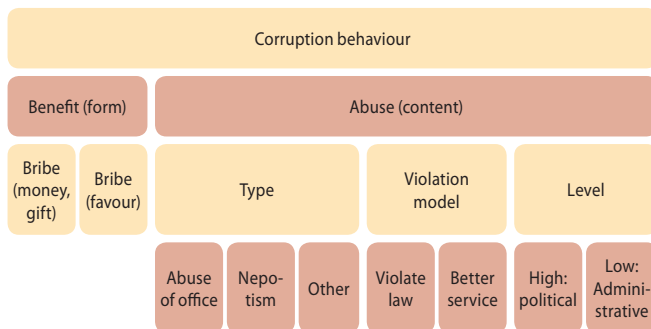
of bribes include money, gifts or favours. The latter could be linked to types of corruption behaviour. It is important to note that bribes are the empirical manifestation of corrupt behaviour but receive their corruption load only in conjunction with the other aspects of corruption.

- **Type.** Entrusted discretionary power can be abused in many different ways (trading in influence, nepotism, clientelism, etc.).
- **Level.** Agents at different levels could abuse discretionary power and this might not always be directly linked to specific clients (level).
- **Violation model** refers to the model of abuse of discretionary power and could be split into two broad categories: 1) violation of existing laws and/or institutional norms; 2) provision of a better service. In some societies and cultures, additional benefits provided to agents could be regarded (by custom, law, tradition, etc.) as normal behaviour when/if provided services are normal or better; in such cases additional benefits take the form of a tip and not the form of a bribe.

While the above abstract summary model of corruption behaviour could be further specified in order to list most possible variations of form and content, it is important to note that form and content could easily be used as proxies of each other. If there is a bribe, there is most probably some kind of abuse; on the other hand, if there is an abuse, there probably is some material gain. Therefore, in order to measure the prevalence of corruption behaviour, an attempt should be made to either measure the number of bribe incidents, or the number of abuses of different types. In empirical terms, the easier way to “access” corrupt behaviour is through identification of instances of bribery. Types, violation models and levels are more difficult to observe and account for. Even when the latter is the case, there is always a possibility that a violation has occurred without any personal benefit for the offender (the official).

The specific objective of the CMS is to address the most common forms of abuse. In terms of the above classification this would be **low level (administrative) corruption of all types and violation models**. The reason for choosing such a criterion is expected prevalence that could be registered with random sample techniques: low level (administrative) corruption of all types and violation models. The proxy of these abuses is the occurrence of bribery which is defined as benefit received informally by the agent (the public official) in the form of money, gift or favour. It is an addition

Corruption behaviour elements



Source: Center for the Study of Democracy/Vitosha Research.

to the public services clients are entitled to, given the organisation of the public service of a country.

CMS INDICATORS AND INDEXES

The main indicators of the CMS describe corruption (as a social phenomenon) using three groups of concepts: experience, attitudes, and perceptions.

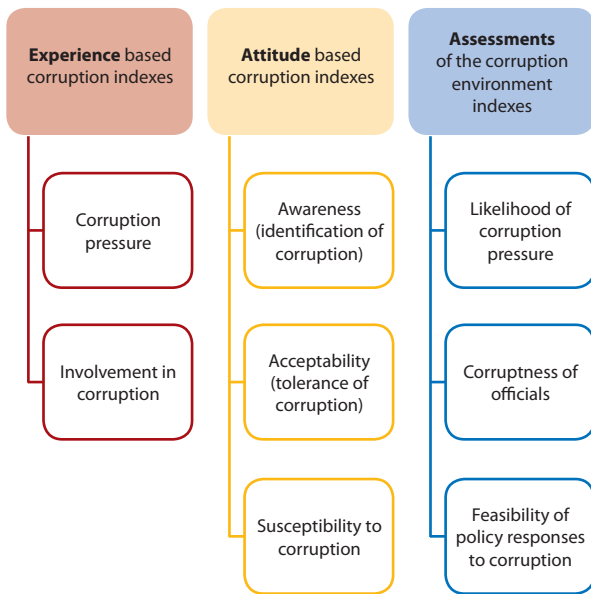
Information on CMS indicators is collected through a survey questionnaire. Indicators are first broken down into survey questions and at the analysis stage the information is aggregated to form the CMS indexes. This allows for a more robust interpretation of findings and has been a way to keep findings aligned to the theoretical background of the study.

Over the years, two methods of aggregation have been used by SELDI. In the 2001 – 2002 round of SELDI diagnostics, as well as in the SELDI Action Agenda,²⁵⁹ a quasi-normalisation procedure was used, which calculates individual respondent scores for each respondent and “places” scores on a scale ranging from 0 (“best value” in terms of corruption) to 10 (“worst value” in terms of corruption). In the 2013 – 2014 diagnostics, the results of which are presented in this report, a direct allocation of respondents into specific (for each indicator) categories was used. Essentially, both procedures render similar results, but have some important differences.

The advantages of the normalisation method are that all indexes use the same scale and are in this way

²⁵⁹ (SELDI, 2013).

Structure of the Corruption Monitoring System Indexes



Source: Center for the Study of Democracy/Vitoshka Research.

comparable in terms of values. The disadvantage of the index calculated in this way is that it is not directly interpretable. The conclusions that can be made would be based on time series and evaluation of dynamics over time. However, an index of 0.5 or 5.6 does not directly relate to the content of questions and the specific aspects of the concept it represents. Another disadvantage is that possibilities for statistical analysis of data are largely limited.

The main advantages of the direct allocation method (conditional recoding of variables that compose each indicator) are two. First, results are directly interpretable in terms of content. In this way the index is more or less “self-explanatory” and needs little input explanations as to what is measured and presented. Second, the index variables provide all possibilities for statistical analyses and tests. A limitation in this respect is that index variables are measured on weak scales (nominal).

A comparison of results between quasi-normalisation and conditional recoding calculation methodologies is presented below for one of the most important and widely commented indexes: involvement in corruption transactions.

EXPERIENCE-BASED CORRUPTION INDEXES

Involvement in corruption

“Involvement in corruption” captures the instances when individuals make informal payments to public officials. The questions used to gather information about this indicator are victimisation questions and reflect experience during the preceding year. The indicator summarises citizens’ reports and divides them into two categories: people without corruption experience (have not given bribes) and people with corruption experience (have given bribes at least once during the preceding year).

Research questions:

A13. Whenever you have contacted officials in the public sector, how often in the last year you have had to:

One answer on each line.

- 1 In all cases
- 2 In most of the cases
- 3 In isolated cases
- 4 In no cases
- 9 Don't know/No answer

A13A	Give cash to an official	1	2	3	4	9
A13B	Give gift to an official	1	2	3	4	9
A13C	Do an official a favor	1	2	3	4	9

Recoding procedure (new index)

Conditional recoding divides respondents into two categories:

- (a) Those who have not paid bribes – includes respondents who have simultaneously answered with code 4 to all questions.
- (b) Those who have paid bribes – includes respondents who have answered with codes 1, 2 or 3 to any of the three questions.

Additional categories:

- (c) No contact – people who have not contacted the administration (based on previous filter question).
- (d) No answer – people who have chosen DK/NA option to at least one of the three questions.

Final variable: aggregates (for every respondent) the

values of all questions based on the above conditional recoding scheme.

```
SPSS SYNTAX
compute NNaa13a=a13a.
compute NNaa13b=a13b.
compute NNaa13c=a13c.
recode NNaa13a NNaa13b NNaa13c(1 thru 2=3)
(sysmis=20).
count Iict= NNaa13a NNaa13b NNaa13c(3).
recode Iict (2 thru 3=1).
if (NNaa13a=9) Iict=9.
if (NNaa13b=9) Iict=9.
if (NNaa13c=9) Iict=9.
if (NNaa13a=20) Iict=20.
if (NNaa13b=20) Iict=20.
if (NNaa13c=20) Iict=20.
val lab Iict 0 'Did not give bribe' 1 'Gave bribe' 20 'No
contact with admin' 9 'DK/NA'.
var lab Iict 'Involvement in corruption'.
```

Recoding procedure (old index)

The index reflects the self-assessed involvement of the respondents in various forms of corrupt behavior.

This index is a function of questions (a13a, a13b, a13c), where the value codes are recoded as follows:

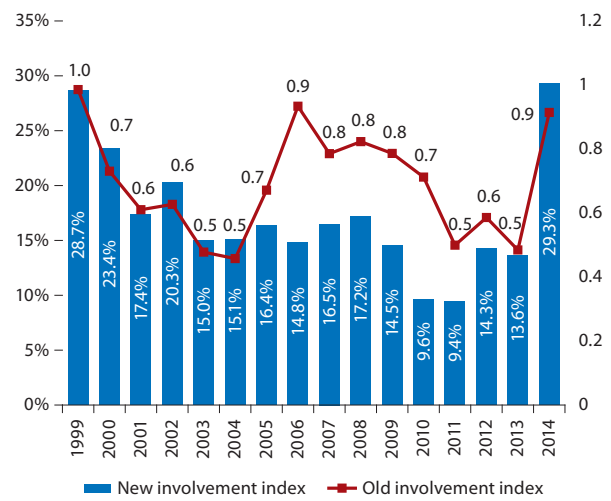
Original value	Label	Recoded (final) value (a13ar, a13br, a13cr)
1	In all cases	10
2	In most of the cases	6.6666666
3	In isolated cases	3.3333333
4	In no cases	0
(not asked if)	No contact in the last year	System missing
9	Don't know/No answer	System missing

An average of the recoded values for all questions is computed, thus the final index ranges from the lowest 0 (no corruption transactions) to the highest possible 10 (all contacts involve corruption transactions).

$$i4 \text{ (Involvement in corrupt practices)} = (a13ar + a13br + a13cr)/3$$

Results:

New and old involvement indexes for Bulgaria (1999 – 2014)



Source: Center for the Study of Democracy/Vitoshka Research.

Corruption pressure

“Corruption pressure” reflects instances of initiation of bribe seeking by public officials: either by directly requesting an informal payment or by indirectly indicating that an informal payment would lead to a positive (for the citizen) outcome. CMS results have shown that pressure has been a decisive factor for involvement. Most corruption transactions occur after the active solicitation of payments by officials.

Research question:

A12. Whenever you have contacted officials in the public sector, how often in the last year they have:

One answer on each line.

- 1 In all cases
- 2 In most of the cases
- 3 In isolated cases
- 4 In no cases
- 8 No contact in the last year
- 9 Don't know/No answer

A12A	Directly demanded cash, gift or favor	1	2	3	4	8	9
A12B	Not demanded directly, but showed that they expected cash, gift or favor	1	2	3	4	8	9

IF A12 = 8 (no contact in the last year) go to A15. Otherwise continue with A13

Recoding procedure (new index)

Based on variables A12a and a12b.

Logic: corruption pressure has been exercised, if respondent answers with categories 1, 2 and 3 to any of the two variables. Respondents who answered with category 4 to both questions have not experienced corruption pressure.

SPSS SYNTAX

compute NNaa12a=a12a.

compute NNaa12b=a12b.

recode NNaa12a NNaa12b (1 thru 2=3).

count IPress= NNaa12a NNaa12b (3).

fre IPress.

recode IPress (2=1).

fre IPress.

if (NNaa12a=8) IPress=8.

if (NNaa12b=8) IPress=8.

if (NNaa12a=9) IPress=9.

if (NNaa12b=9) IPress=9.

fre IPress.

val lab IPress 0 'No corruption pressure' 1 'Experienced corruption pressure' 8 'No contact with administration' 9 'DK/NA'.

VARIABLE LABELS IPress 'Experience with corruption pressure'.

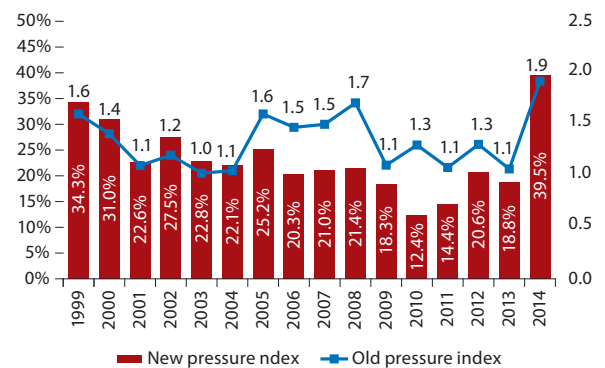
Recoding procedure (old index)

This index is a function of questions (a12a, a12b), where the value codes are recoded as follows:

Original value	Label	Recoded (final) value (a12ar, a12br)
1	In all cases	10
2	In most of the cases	6.666666
3	In isolated cases	3.333333
4	In no cases	0
8	No contact in the last year	System missing
9	Don't know/ No answer	System missing

An average of the recoded values for the two questions is computed, thus the final index ranges from the lowest 0 (no cases of corruption pressure) to the highest possible 10 (corruption pressure in all cases of contact). $i3$ (Corruption pressure) = $(a12ar + a12br)/2$

New and old corruption pressure indexes for Bulgaria (1999 – 2014)



Source: Center for the Study of Democracy/Vitoshka Research.

ATTITUDES-BASED CORRUPTION INDEXES

Direct involvement in corruption transactions is accompanied by the prevalence of specific attitudes towards corruption and corruption behaviour and by perception of the spread of corruption in society. Ideally, low levels of involvement in corruption would be paired with negative attitudes towards corrupt behaviour and perceptions that corruption is rare and unlikely. This does not mean that perceptions and attitudes directly determine corruption behaviour of citizens. Rather they could influence behaviour to a certain degree but essentially express the general social and political atmosphere in society related to corruption.

Awareness (identification) of corruption

“Awareness (identification) of corruption” is an index accounting for the level of understanding of citizens as to what constitutes corruption behaviour. The index differentiates between three categories of awareness: high (citizens who identify all or most of the common corruption behaviour patterns as corruption), moderate (many of the common corruption practices are identified but some forms of corruption are classified as “normal behaviour”), low (few corruption patterns are identified as corruption).

Recoding procedure (new index)

Based on questions A1B-A1K.

Counts identified corruption practices. Maximum score 11 = all practices identified as corruption. Minimum score 0 = no behavior identified as corruption.

Research question:

A1B. In your opinion, which of the following actions are examples of “corruption”?				
<i>One answer on each line</i>				
		Yes	No	DK/NA
A	Giving a gift to a doctor so that he/she takes special care of you	1	2	9
B	Giving money/doing a favour to an administration official in order to win a competition, concession or public procurement tender	1	2	9
C	Using “connections” to receive a particular public service that your are entitled to (by law)	1	2	9
D	Lobbying a public official to hire a relative (family, friend) of yours	1	2	9
E	Contacting a municipal councilor personally, in order to receive a permission for construction	1	2	9
F	Giving money to a police officer so that your driver’s license is not suspended	1	2	9
G	Using someone’s official position for doing private business	1	2	9
H	Providing confidential information acquired in public office to acquaintances of yours for personal gain	1	2	9
I	Administration officials accepting money for allowing tax evasion or tax reduction	1	2	9
J	Pre-election donations to political parties	1	2	9
K	Paying additional remuneration to a lawyer who assists a defendant to stop a lawsuit against him/her	1	2	9

Recoding:

1 = (values 0 thru 3) = low level of awareness of corruption behavior

2 = (values 4 thru 7) = moderate level of awareness

3 = (values 8 thru 11) = high level of awareness

SPSS SYNTAX

COUNT

ICor = a1ba a1bb a1bc a1bd a1be a1bf a1bg a1bh a1bi a1bj a1bk (1) .

VARIABLE LABELS ICor 'Identification of corruption' .

RECODE

ICor

(SYSMIS=SYSMIS) (0 thru 3=1) (4 thru 7=2) (8 thru 11=3)

INTO ICor2 .

VARIABLE LABELS ICor2 'Identification of corruption (categories)' .

EXECUTE .

Recoding procedure (old index)

No such index has been calculated.

Acceptability (tolerance) of corrupt behaviour

While awareness captures the knowledge component, acceptability of corruption captures tolerance (or lack of tolerance) towards corruption. It summarises whether it is acceptable to the public for members of the

parliament or the government, as well as civil servants at central and local government level, to receive gifts, money, favours or a free lunch (“get a treat”) in return to solving someone’s problems.

Research question:

A9.	According to you, are the following activities acceptable, if performed by members of the parliament or the government?
<i>One answer on each line.</i>	

- 1 Acceptable
- 2 Rather acceptable
- 3 Rather unacceptable
- 4 Unacceptable
- 9 Don't know/No answer

A9A	To accept an invitation for a free lunch/dinner to solve personal problems	1	2	3	4	9
A9B	To resolve a personal problem and accept a favor in exchange	1	2	3	4	9

A9C	To accept gifts for the solution of personal problems	1	2	3	4	9
A9D	To accept cash for the solution of personal problems	1	2	3	4	9

A10. According to you, are the following activities acceptable, if performed by officials at ministries, municipalities and mayoralities?
One answer on each line.

- 1 Acceptable
- 2 Rather acceptable
- 3 Rather unacceptable
- 4 Unacceptable
- 9 Don't know/No answer

A10A	To accept an invitation for a free lunch/dinner to solve personal problems	1	2	3	4	9
A10B	To resolve a personal problem and accept a favor in exchange	1	2	3	4	9
A10C	To accept gifts for the solution of personal problems	1	2	3	4	9
A10D	To accept cash for the solution of personal problems	1	2	3	4	9

Recoding procedure (new index)

Based on variables a9 and a10.

Logic: respondents who consider any of the list of practices acceptable (values 1 and 2 on a9 and a10) are coded as "accepting", while the others (values 3, 4 and 9) are coded as "unaccepting" these practices.

SPSS SYNTAX

COUNT

Ix1 = A9A A9B A9C A9D A10A A10B A10C A10D (1)
 A9A A9B A9C A9D A10A A10B A10C A10D (2) .

VARIABLE LABELS Ix1 'Tolerance of corruption practices (Acceptability)'.
 EXECUTE .

fre Ix1.

recode Ix1 (1 thru 8 = 2) (0=1) INTO Ix2.

VARIABLE LABELS Ix2'Tolerance of corruption practices (Acceptability)'.
 EXECUTE .

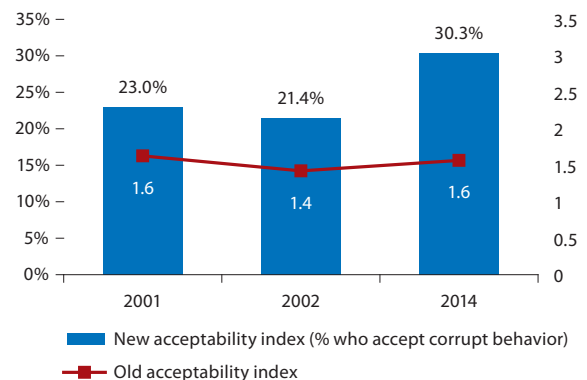
Recoding procedure (old index)

This index is a function of questions (a9a, a9b, a9c, a9d, a10a, a10b, a10c, a10d), where the value codes are recoded as follows:

Original value	Label	Recoded (final) value (a9ar...)
1	Acceptable	10
2	Rather acceptable	6.6666666
3	Rather unacceptable	3.3333333
4	Unacceptable	0
9	Don't know/No answer	System missing

An average of the recoded values for all 8 questions is computed, thus the final index ranges from the lowest 0 (unacceptable) to the highest possible 10 (acceptable).
 (Acceptability) = (a9ar + a9br + a9cr + a9dr + a10ar + a10br + a10cr + a10dr)/8

New and old acceptability indexes for Bulgaria (2001, 2002 and 2014)



Source: Center for the Study of Democracy/Vitoshka Research.

Susceptibility to corruption

"Susceptibility to corruption" reflects the tendency of respondents to react to two hypothetical situations – one involves being in the role of an underpaid public official and accepting or denying a bribe that is offered, the other asks about giving a bribe to a corrupt public official, if one had a major problem to solve and was asked explicitly for a bribe (cash). Declaring the denying of a bribe in both situations is interpreted as the respondent being not susceptible to corruption, accepting/giving a bribe in both is interpreted as susceptibility, while giving/taking a bribe in one of the situations and not in the other is defined as "mixed behaviour".

Research question:

A8. Imagine yourself in an official low-paid position and you are approached by someone offering cash, gift or favor to solve his/her problem. What would you do:

One answer only.

- 1 I would accept – everyone does that.
- 2 I would accept, if I can solve his problem
- 3 I would not accept, if the solution to the problem is related with law evasion
- 4 I would not accept, I do not approve of such acts
- 9 *Don't know/No answer*

A15. If you had a major problem and an official directly demanded cash to solve it, what would you have done?

One answer only.

- 1 I would pay by all means
- 2 I would pay if I can afford
- 3 I would not pay if I had another way to solve the problem
- 4 I would not pay by any means
- 9 *Don't know/No answer*

Recoding procedure (new index)

Based on questions a8 and a15.

Categories of both collapsed to 2 options: susceptible to corruption (1,2 and 3) and not susceptible (4). Based on that three types of respondents are formed:

- 1: susceptible to corruption (would give and accept bribes)
- 2: not susceptible to corruption (would not give or accept bribes)
- 3: mixed behavior (would give, but not accept or the opposite)

SPSS SYNTAX

```
compute aa8=a8.
compute aa15=a15.
recode aa8 aa15 (1 thru 2=3).
compute skl=0.
if (aa8=3 and aa15=3) skl=1.
if (aa8=4 and aa15=4) skl=2.
if (aa8=3 and aa15=4) skl=3.
if (aa8=4 and aa15=3) skl=3.
```

val lab skl 1 'Susceptible to corruption' 2 'Not susceptible to corruption' 3 'Mixed behavior'.
recode skl (0=sysmis).

Recoding procedure (old index)

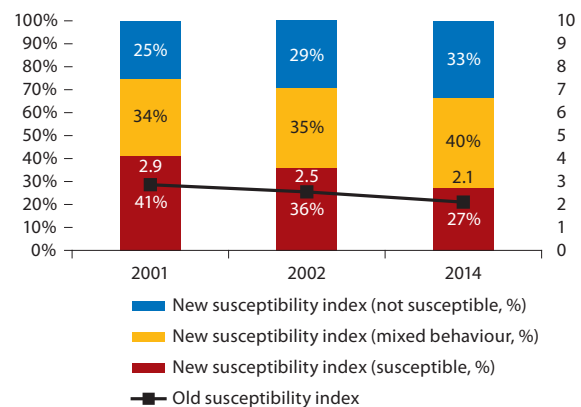
This index is a function of questions (a8, a15), where the value codes are recoded as follows:

Original value	Label	Recoded (final) value (a8r, a15r)
1	I would accept/pay	10
2	I would accept/pay, if...	6.6666666
3	I would not accept/pay, if...	3.3333333
4	I would not accept/pay	0
9	<i>Don't know/No answer</i>	System missing

An average of the recoded values for the two questions is computed, thus the final index ranges from the lowest 0 (I would not accept/pay) to the highest possible 10 (I would accept/pay).

$$(\text{Susceptibility to corruption}) = (a8r + a15r)/2$$

New and old susceptibility indexes for Bulgaria (2001, 2002 and 2014)



Source: Center for the Study of Democracy/Vitoshka Research.

ASSESSMENTS OF THE CORRUPTION ENVIRONMENT INDEXES

The experience with corruption and the attitudes towards corruption, as well as the general current sentiment and level of trust towards public institutions

in society determine the public’s assessment of the corruptness of the environment. These perceptions are summarised in the following indexes:

Likelihood of corruption pressure

“Likelihood of corruption pressure” is an index measuring expectations of the public for the likelihood to face corruption pressure in interaction with public officials. Overall this is an index gauging perceptions of the corruptness of the environment. In principle, corruption theory considers that people would be more likely to resort to corruption patterns if they assess the environment is intrinsically corrupt.

Research question:

A3. In order to successfully solve one’s problem is it likely or is it not likely he/she to have to:
One answer on each line.

- 1 Very likely
- 2 Rather likely
- 3 Rather unlikely
- 4 Not likely at all
- 9 Don’t know/No answer

A3A	Give cash to an official	1	2	3	4	9
A3B	Give a gift to an official	1	2	3	4	9
A3C	Do a favor to an official	1	2	3	4	9

Recoding procedure (new index)

If the respondent answered 1 (very likely) or 2 (rather likely) to at least one of the three questions (A3A, A3B or A3C), then the likelihood of pressure is considered to be high, in all other cases the likelihood of pressure is considered to be low.

compute likely = 2.
 if (a3a =1 or a3a =2 or a3b=1 or a3b = 2 or a3c = 1 or a3c = 2) likely =1.

Recoding procedure (classical index)

This index was also known as “Practical efficiency of corruption.”

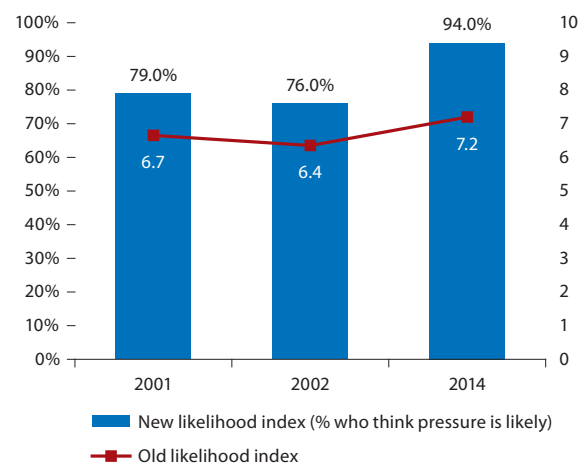
This index is a function of questions (a3a, a3b, a3c), where the value codes are recoded as follows:

Original value	Label	Recoded (final) value (a3ar, a3br, a3cr)
1	Very likely	10
2	Rather likely	6.6666666
3	Rather unlikely	3.3333333
4	Not likely at all	0
9	Don’t know/ No answer	System missing

An average of the recoded values for all three questions is computed, thus the final index ranges from the lowest 0 (not likely at all) to the highest possible 10 (very likely).

$$(\text{Likelihood of corruption pressure}) = (a3ar + a3br + a3cr)/3$$

New and old likelihood indexes for Bulgaria (2001, 2002 and 2014)



Source: Center for the Study of Democracy/Vitoshka Research.

Corruptness of officials

Corruptness of officials is an index reflecting perceptions of the integrity reputation of various groups of public officials; it thus constitutes an estimate by the public of the corruptness of the various public services. The interpretation of this index is specific, as it is an assessment of attitudes of citizens towards public officials rather than a measure of the prevalence of corruption in the respective government departments. The added value of this index is that it helps identify top ranking sectors affected by corruption or being least trusted by the public.

Research question:

A2.	As you see it, how far is corruption proliferated among the officials in the public sector?
<i>One answer only.</i>	

- 1 Almost all officials are involved
- 2 Most officials are involved
- 3 Few officials are involved
- 4 Scarcely anyone of the officials is involved
- 9 *Don't know/No answer*

Recoding procedure (new index)

This question is presented directly, as a mean value on an inverted scale (1 becomes 4, 2 becomes 3, 3 becomes 2, 4 becomes 1, 9 is excluded from mean computations as “user missing”). However, rather than presenting data for the officials in the public sector as a whole, more concrete perceptions (question A4) for the different kinds of public officials (e.g. officials at ministries, judges, public prosecutors, etc.) are presented.

A4.	According to you, how far is corruption proliferated among the following groups:
<i>One answer on each line.</i>	

- 1 Almost everybody is involved
- 2 Most are involved
- 3 Few are involved
- 4 Scarcely anyone is involved
- 9 *Don't know/No answer*

A4A	Journalists	1	2	3	4	9
A4B	Teachers	1	2	3	4	9
A4C	University officials or professors	1	2	3	4	9
A4D	Officials at ministries	1	2	3	4	9
A4E	Municipal officials	1	2	3	4	9
A4F	Administration officials in the judicial system	1	2	3	4	9
A4G	Judges	1	2	3	4	9
A4H	Public prosecutors	1	2	3	4	9
A4I	Investigating officers	1	2	3	4	9
A4J	Lawyers	1	2	3	4	9
A4K	Police officers	1	2	3	4	9
A4L	Customs officers	1	2	3	4	9
A4M	Tax officials	1	2	3	4	9

A4N	Members of parliament	1	2	3	4	9
A4O	Ministers	1	2	3	4	9

Recoding procedure (old index)

This index is a function of question (a2), where the value codes are recoded as follows:

Original value	Label	Recoded (final) value (a2r)
1	Almost all officials are involved	10
2	Most officials are involved	6.6666666
3	Few officials are involved	3.3333333
4	Scarcely anyone of the officials is involved	0
9	<i>Don't know/No answer</i>	System missing

The final index ranges from the lowest 0 (nobody is involved) to the highest possible 10 (almost everybody is involved).

(Corruptness of officials) = a2r

Feasibility of policy responses

“Feasibility of policy responses to corruption” is an indicator capturing the “public thinking” about policy responses to corruption. More specifically it evaluates potential public trust in the government’s willingness and/or capacity to tackle corruption, as well as potential support for anticorruption policies.

Research question:

A19.	In view of corruption in (country), which of following opinions is closer to your own?
<i>One answer only.</i>	

- 1 The wide spread of corruption cannot be reduced
- 2 Corruption will always exist in (country), yet it can be limited to a degree
- 3 Corruption in (country) can be substantially reduced
- 4 Corruption in (country) can be eradicated
- 9 *Don't know/No answer*

Recoding procedure (new index)

Answers 1 and 2 are recoded as “1” – Corruption can be substantially reduced or eradicated, 3 and 4 are recoded as “2” Corruption cannot be substantially reduced, 9 remains “don’t know”.

Recoding procedure (old index)

This index is a function of question (a19), where the value codes are recoded as follows:

Original value	Label	Recoded (final) value (a19r)
1	The wide spread of corruption cannot be reduced	10
2	Corruption will always exist in (country), yet it can be limited to a degree	6.6666666
3	Corruption in (country) can be substantially reduced	3.3333333
4	Corruption in (country) can be eradicated	0
9	Don't know/No answer	System missing

The final index ranges from the lowest 0 (corruption can be eradicated) to the highest possible 10 (corruption cannot be reduced).

(Feasibility of policy responses) = a19r

New and old feasibility of policy responses indexes for Bulgaria (2001, 2002 and 2014)

