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**Evidence-based approaches to
assessing corruption and UNODC
project in Western Balkans**

*Statistics and Surveys Section
UNODC*



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Outline

1. Why is it so difficult to measure corruption
2. Critical aspects:
 - methods
 - data producers
3. UNODC project in Western Balkans



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Measuring corruption: why is it so difficult?

- Hidden crime
- Reluctance to disclose it
- Several and ever-changing forms of corruption
- Differences on what is understood as corruption





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Notwithstanding difficulties, many attempts

- Use of official data on reported cases
- Indirect methods to assess corruption:
 - Experts' assessments
 - Composite indices



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Experts' assessments

- Advantage: Inexpensive and quick
- Disadvantages:
 - Depend on selected experts
 - Their real knowledge
 - Their understanding of corruption





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Composite indicators

- Advantages:
 - ‘Simple’ measure for complex phenomena
 - Powerful tool for advocacy and awareness-raising
- Disadvantages
 - It is not clear what is actually measured
 - Highly subjective
 - Final output is a ranking





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Direct methods (evidence-based)

Information on corruption is directly collected:

- from whom had experience of it
- through statistical methods (sample surveys)





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Sample surveys

Advantages

- Focus on experience
- Specific and policy-relevant information
- Solid methodology

Disadvantages

- Cover mainly small scale corruption
- Complex operation



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Different kinds of surveys

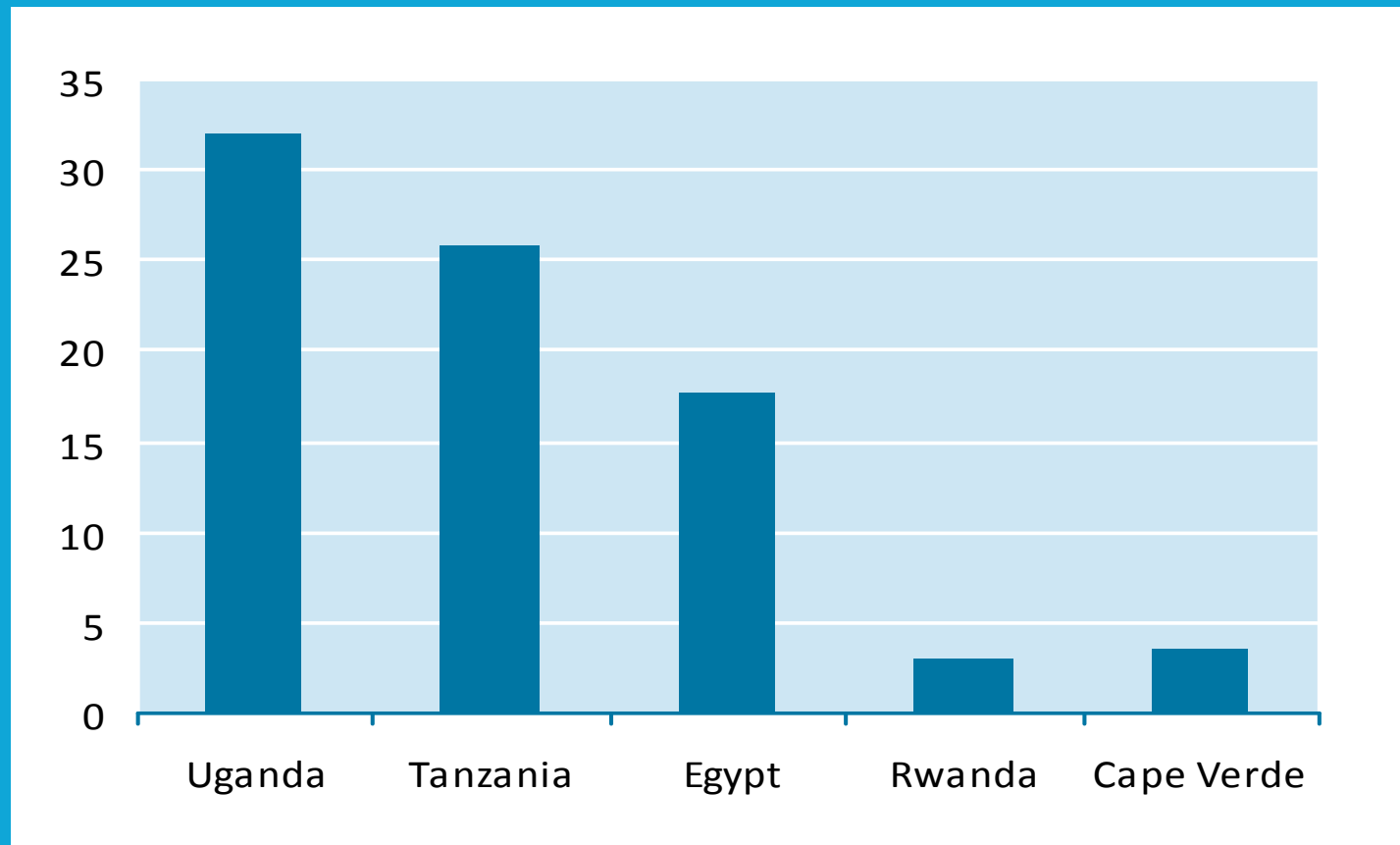
- Population-based (households, individuals)
- Business sector
- Civil servants or selected sectors (Judiciary, Police,..)



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Percentage of respondents who had to pay a bribe during last year (selected African countries, 2007)

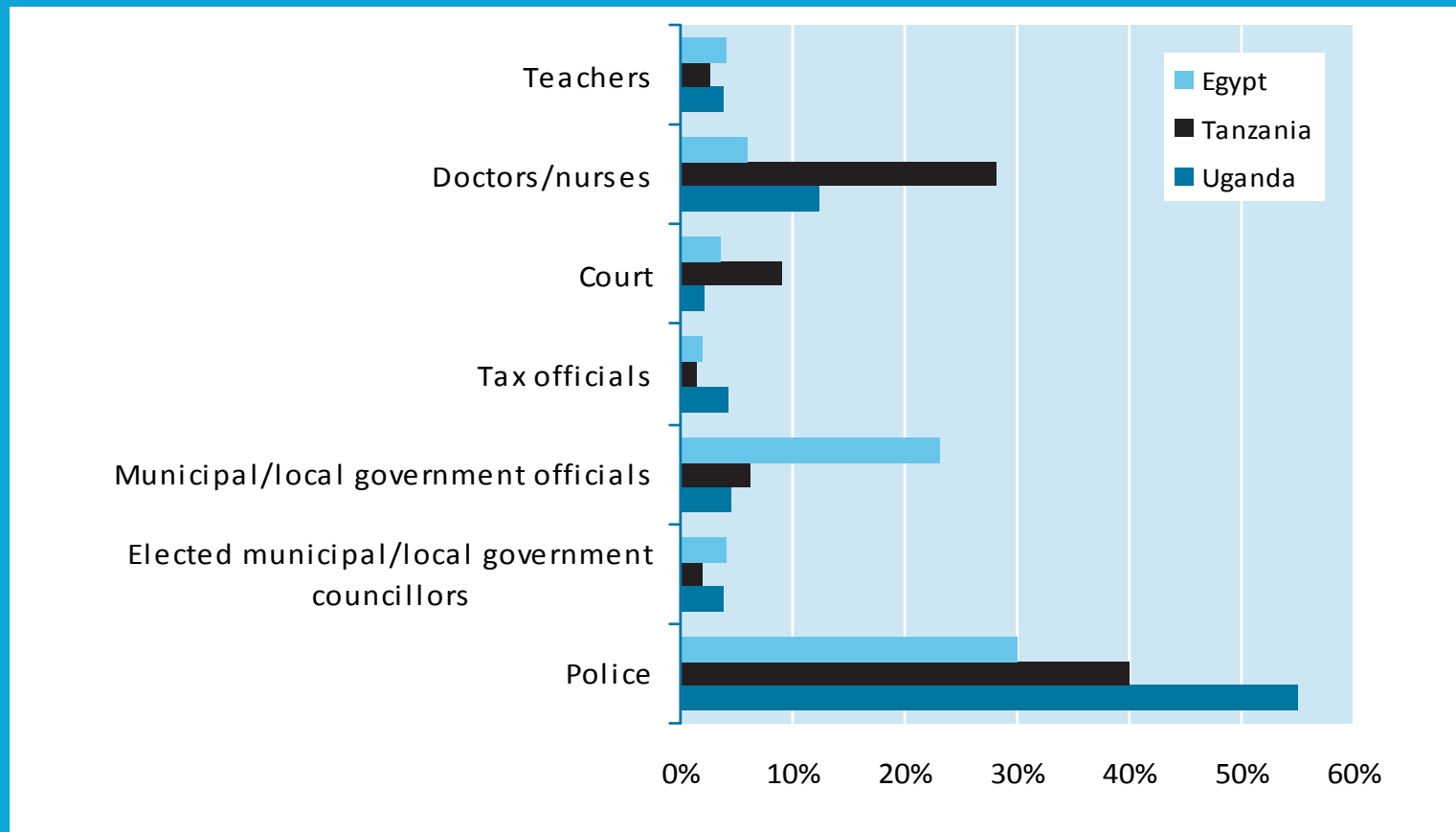




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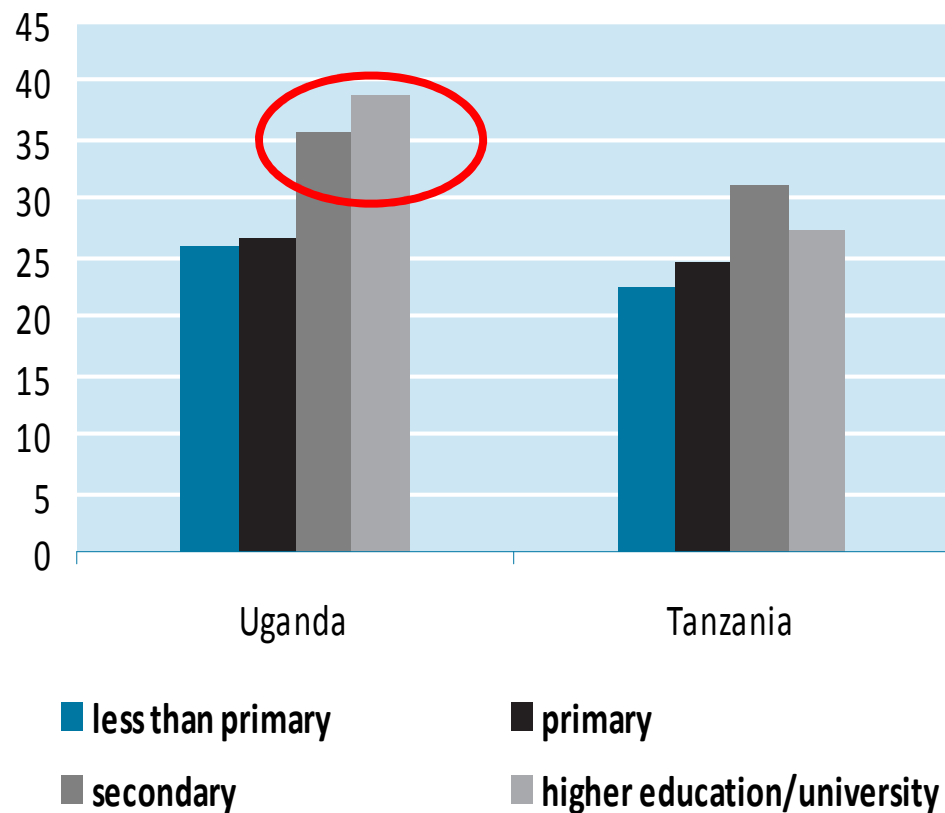
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Distribution of bribes by requesting public officials (Selected countries, 2007)



Bribe-payers by education attainment

- Different patterns in two countries

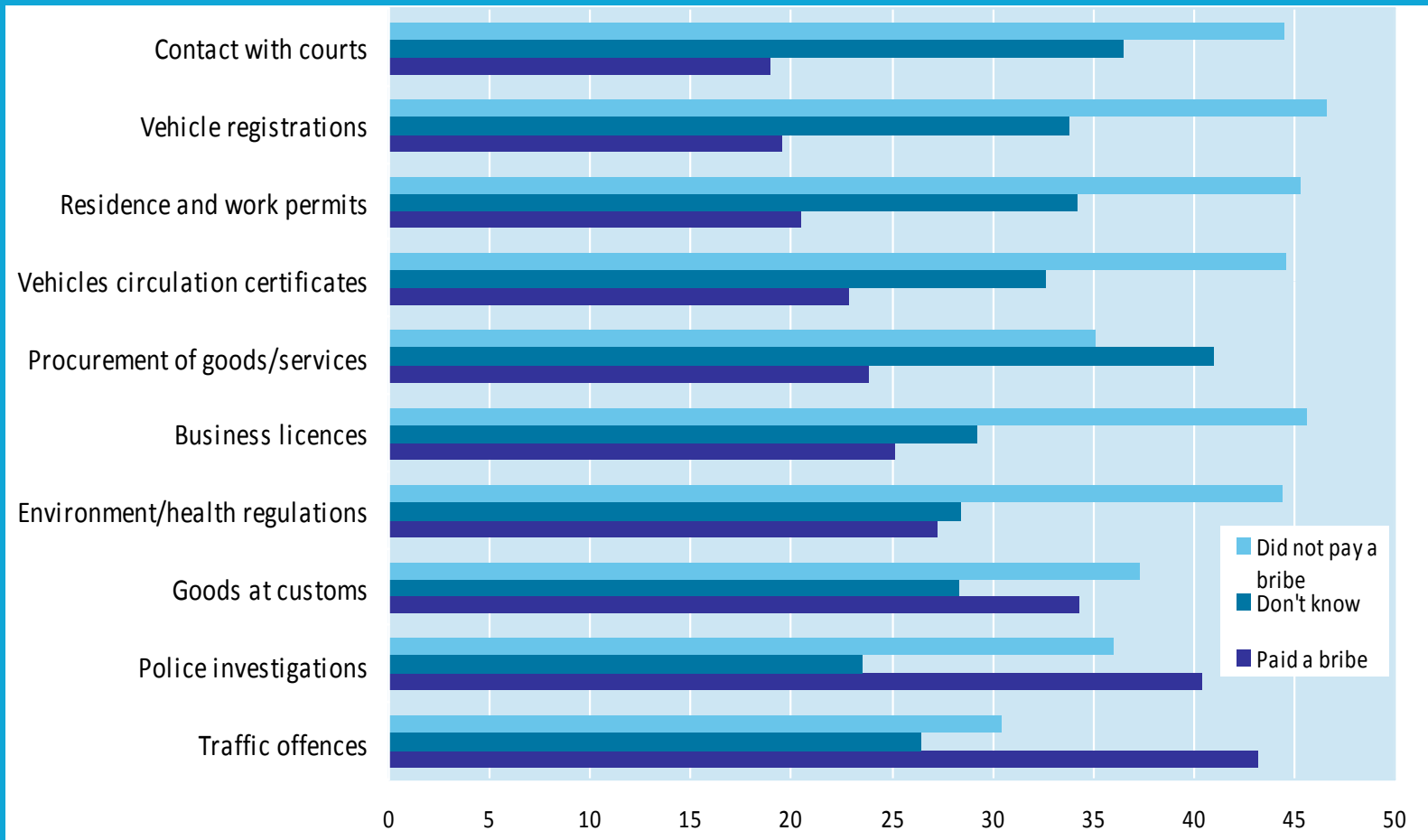




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Percentage of businesses who had to pay a bribe, among those who performed selected operations (Nigeria, 2007)





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Civil servants integrity survey: an example of data

Pilot integrity survey in Iraq (2009)

- 52% of respondents knew about their job through friends or relatives
- 42% of respondents were helped by friends or relatives in getting the job



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Topics covered, for example:

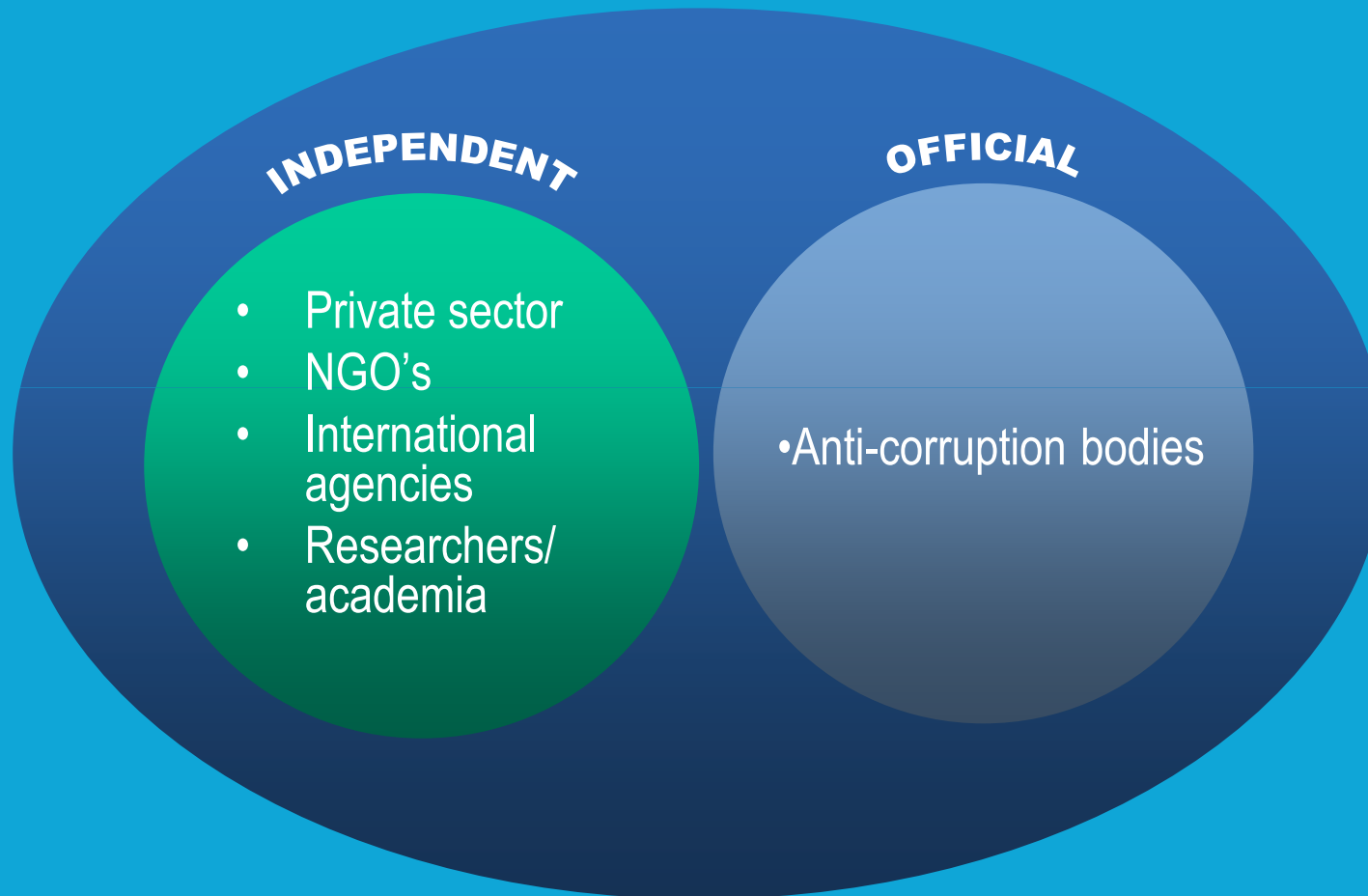
- % of individuals (or businesses) who had to pay a bribe
- sectors/operations most affected
- amounts paid, modalities of corruption
- vulnerable groups in the population
- reporting corruption episodes to authorities



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Data producers





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Independent and official data on corruption, a paradox?

Two conditions:

- Involvement of National statistical authorities
- Use of international 'standards'



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UNODC program of corruption surveys in Western Balkans

- EC funded program, implemented in 2010
- Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Montenegro, Kosovo UNSCR 1244, Serbia, the FYR of Macedonia
- Large scale household survey on corruption and other crimes
- Implementing partners: National Statistical Offices (except Croatia)

Main topics

- Experience of bribery
- Sectors involved, administrative procedures at risk, modalities
- Reporting mechanisms, knowledge of anti-corruption authorities
- Opinion, attitudes and perceptions
- Experience of other crimes, as victims



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Outputs

By end of 2010:

- 7 national reports
- 1 regional report (*with no ranking*)
- Methodological paper on measurement of corruption



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For further information

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