



Norway 

**OPINION POLL
AMONG THE NORWEGIAN PUBLIC
ABOUT
CORRUPTION**

SEPTEMBER 2009

**A JOINT PROJECT BETWEEN
TRANSPARENCY INTERNATIONAL NORWAY AND
INNOVATION NORWAY**

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1. Introduction

In June 2009, Transparency International Norway (TI-N) entered into an agreement with Innovasjon Norway to carry out an opinion poll among the Norwegian public. The purpose was to investigate opinions about different aspects of corruption in Norway:

- How widespread it is
- How serious it is
- Whether it is an increasing or decreasing problem
- Which sectors that are most corrupt
- What the main reasons for corruption are

The opinion poll was executed by Norstat in medio September 2009 for Innovasjon Norway. It was carried out among 1000 respondents with differences in gender, age, education, which part of the country, type of residential area, household income, and household size. The selection of respondents was drawn proportionately in accordance with the individual county's population size and was equalised by gender.

TI-N formulated the questions, analysed the responses, and prepared this report. TI-N is accountable for the viewpoints and conclusions in this report.

Explanation of terms used in the report:

Trend - When it for a response alternative is a connection between increasing or decreasing response percentage and increasing or decreasing age, level of education, income, type of residential area (population density), or number of persons in the household.

Major variation - When the response percentage for a group of respondents varies with ten percent points or more from the average for a response alternative.

Large minority - When the response share for a response alternative lies between 1/3 and 1/2.

Majority - When the response share for a response alternative lies between 1/2 and 2/3.

Large majority - When the response share for a response alternative lies above 2/3.

The opinion poll can be seen in connection with two other surveys conducted by TI-N in the autumn of 2009. The reports are being posted on TI-N's web-page: www.transparency.no:

- Survey of preventive measures against corruption in the 25 largest companies listed at the Norwegian stock exchange.
- Survey among Norwegian businesses about corruption.

2. Conclusions

Supposing that the responses are representative for the Norwegian public, some main conclusions can be drawn from the opinion poll. It is, however, unclear to which degree the answers reflect the actual situation of corruption in Norway, and to which extent the respondents have a correct understanding of what corruption is. Regardless of this, the public opinion on these questions is important for the trust in the public sector, the business sector, and voluntary organisations.

The Norwegian authorities should prioritise the fight against corruption higher and provide sufficient resources for this because a large part of the population believes that corruption has increased in Norway in the later years, will increase in the future, and is at least as serious as other economic crimes, while “small risk of being caught” is rated as an important reason for corruption.

State, municipal, private and voluntary administrations and enterprises should to a larger extent implement and inform about preventive measures against corruption to avoid incidents and improve their reputations because a large part of the population believes that corruption is a problem in all of these sectors.

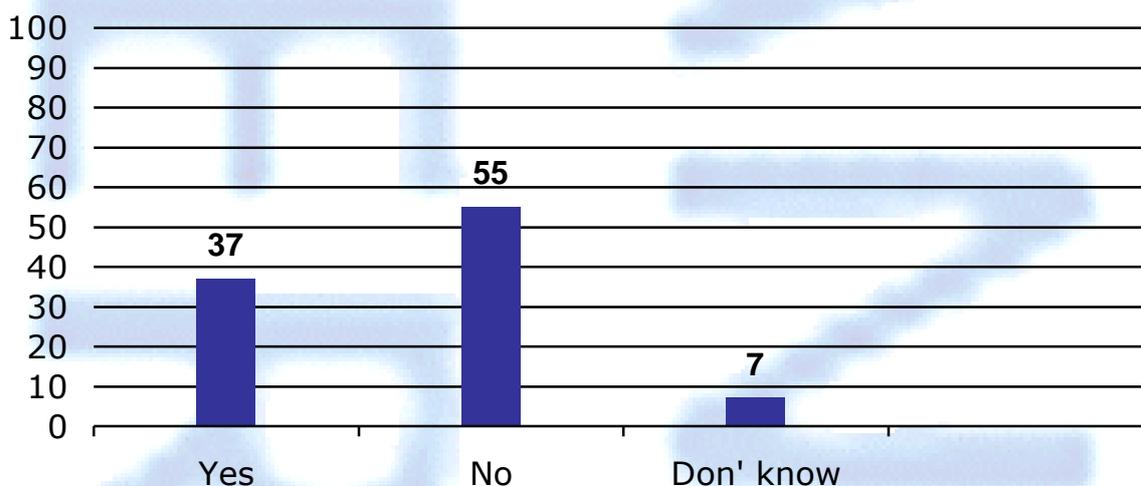
3. Data

Trends and variations compared to the average responses were observed within some of the different groups that have answered the questions:

- Gender - Small differences and variations from the averages
- Age - Both significant variations and some trends
- Level of education - Both significant variations and some trends
- Which part of the country- Some significant variations
- Type of residential area (population density) - Small variations and no visible trends
- Household income Some variations and some trends
- Household size - Some significant variations

The bar charts show the percentage distribution between the response alternatives. Trends and variations within the different groups are described under each diagram.

1. Do you believe that corruption is a big problem in Norway?

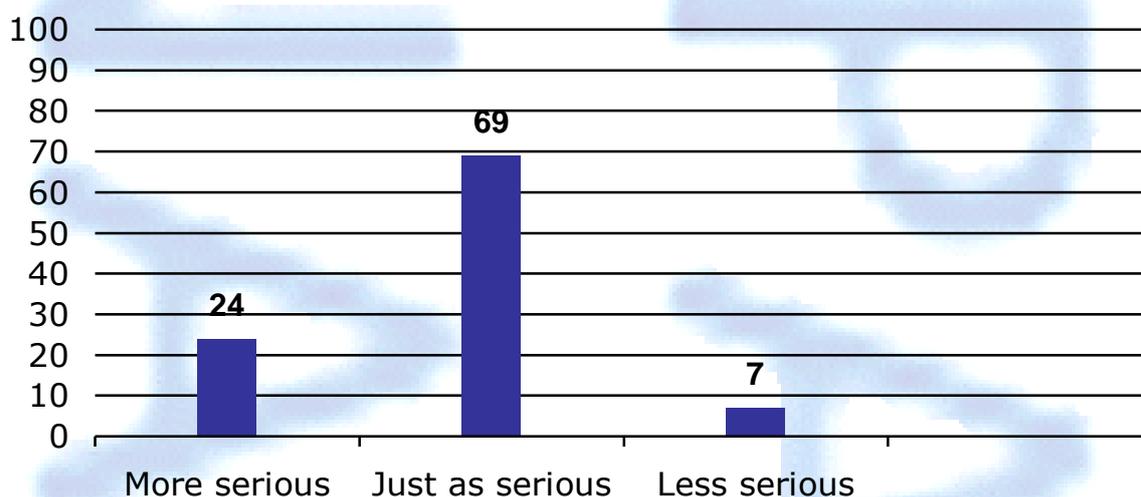


The majority does not see corruption as a big problem in Norway, while a minority does.

Variations and trends:

- Response share "yes" increases gradually with age from below 30 years (23 %) to 50 years + (50 %).
- There is largest share of "yes" among those with income below 300,000 NOK (47 %).
- There are most "yes" responses where there is one person in the household (47 %), gradually decreasing with larger households up to five persons or more (27 %).

2. Do you believe that corruption is as serious as other economic crimes (such as theft and embezzlement)?

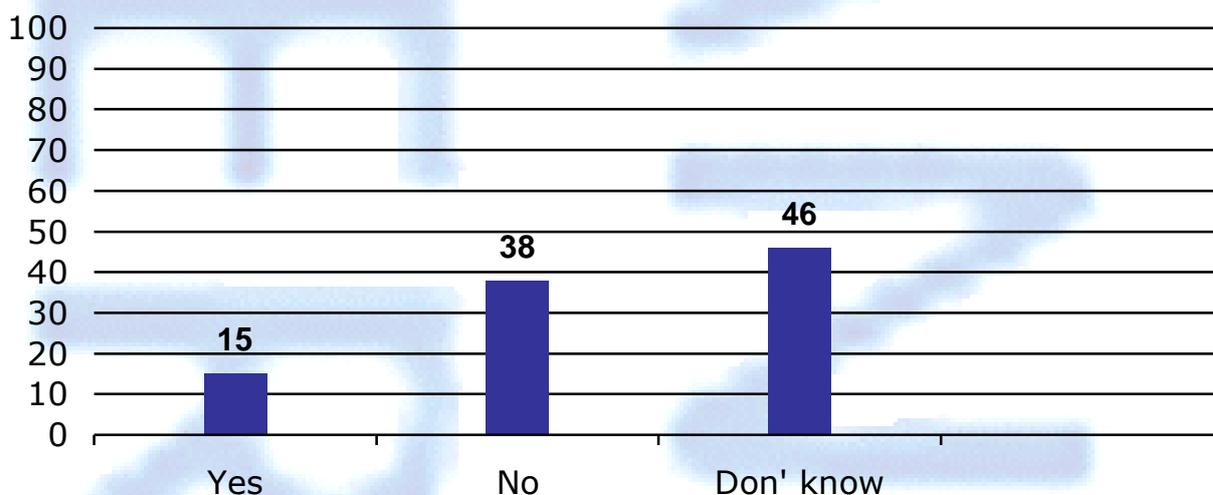


A large majority believes that corruption is just as serious as other economic crimes, and some believe that it is more serious.

Variations and trends:

- There are fewest "more serious" responses among those living in Western Norway (14 %).
- The sum of responses for "more serious" and "just as serious" is almost the same for all groups of respondents.

3. Does the Norwegian economic crime unit (Økokrim) prioritise corruption high enough?



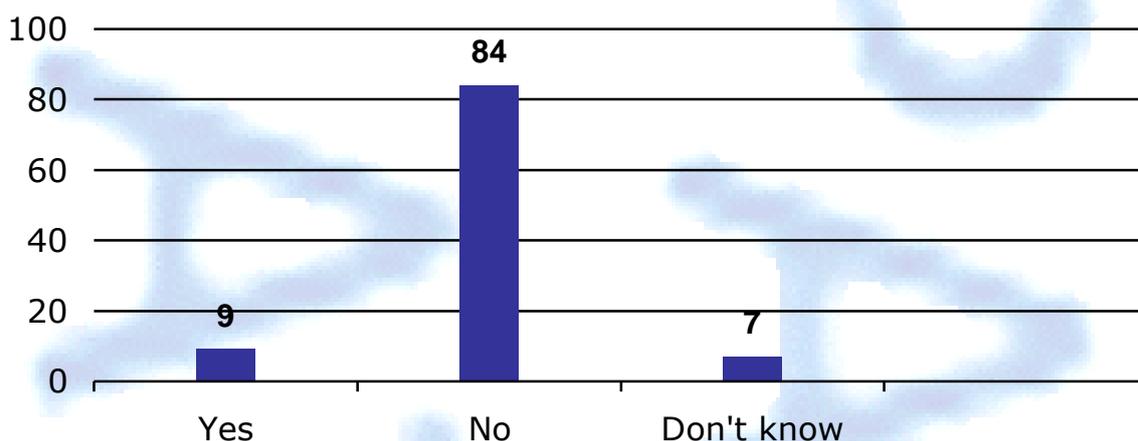
Almost half of those asked had no opinion of whether Økokrim is prioritising corruption high enough.

Among the rest, a large majority believes that Økokrim does not prioritise it high enough.

Variations and trends:

- Response share "no" increases gradually with age, from below 30 years (25 %) to 50 years + (49 %).
- There are most "no" responses in the western part of Eastern Norway (53 %) and fewest in Oslo (30 %).
- There are most "yes" responses among those with income above 900,000 NOK (25 %).
- The percentage "no" responses is largest where there is one person in the household (45 %), gradually decreasing with increasing household size up to five or more persons (29 %).

4. Do you believe that there is more corruption in Norway than in the other Nordic countries?

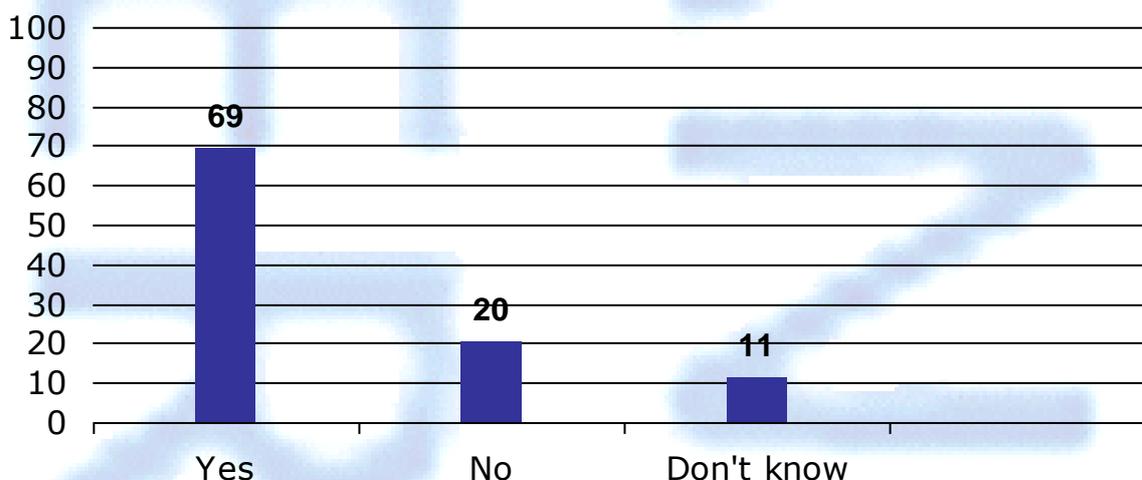


A large majority believes that there is no more corruption in Norway than in the other Nordic countries.

Variations and trends:

- The deviations are small, and there are no apparent trends.
- There are most "yes" responses among those below 30 years of age (16 %).
- There are most "no" responses among those with income above 900,000 NOK (93 %).

5. Do you believe that the extent of corruption in Norway has increased over the last years?

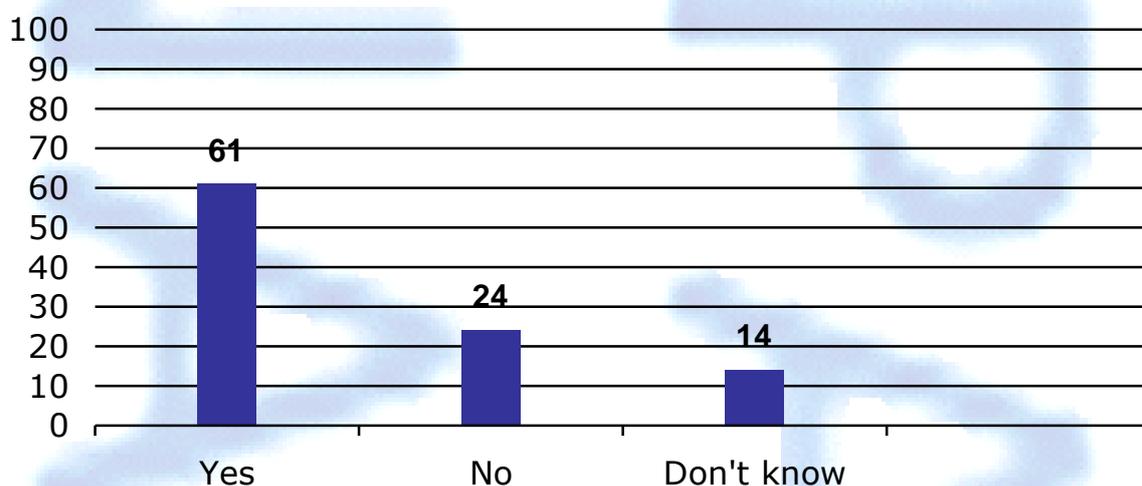


A large majority believes that the extent of corruption in Norway has increased in the later years.

Variations and trends:

- Response share "yes" increases gradually with age, from below 30 years (61 %) to 50 years + (78 %).
- The share of "no" responses increases gradually with level of education, from ground school to university of 4 years + (23 %).
- There are most "yes" responses among those with income in the range 301,000-400,000 NOK (80 %), and most "no" among those with income above 900,000 NOK (30 %).

6. Do you believe that the extent of corruption in Norway will increase in the years ahead?

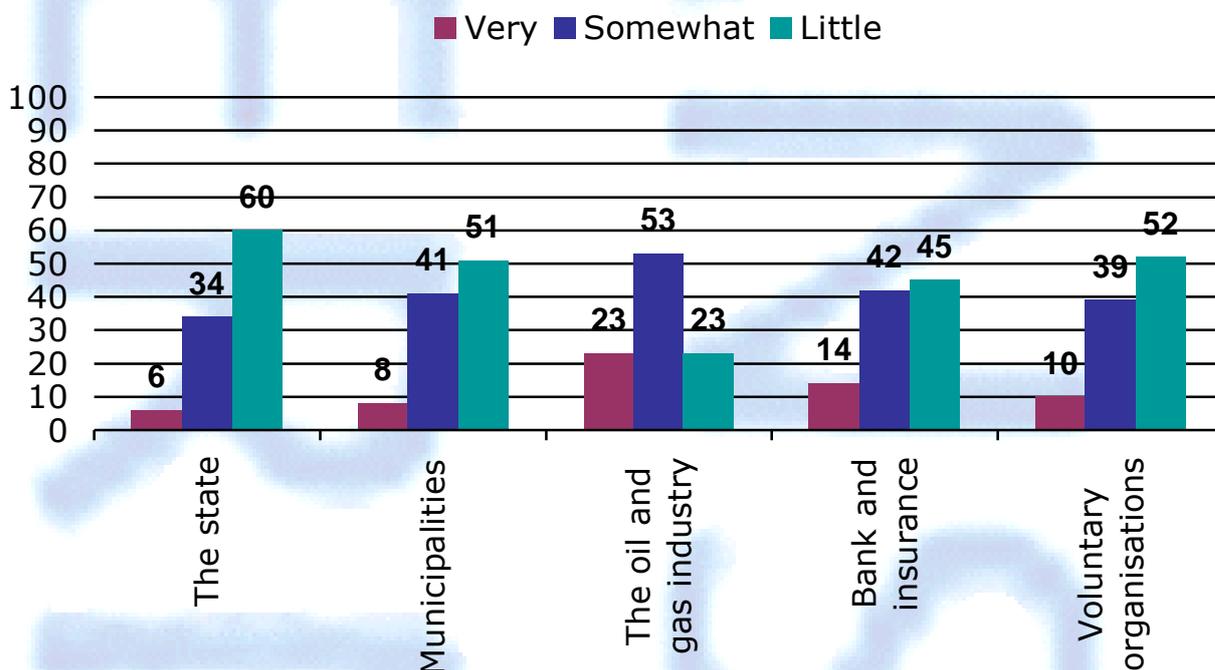


A majority believes that the extent of corruption in Norway will increase in the coming years.

Variations and trends:

- Response share "yes" increases gradually with age, from below 30 years (52 %) to 50 years + (68 %).
- There are most "yes" responses among those with income between 301,000 and 400,000 NOK (70 %), and most "no" among those with income above 900,000 NOK (34 %).

7. How corrupt are these sectors?



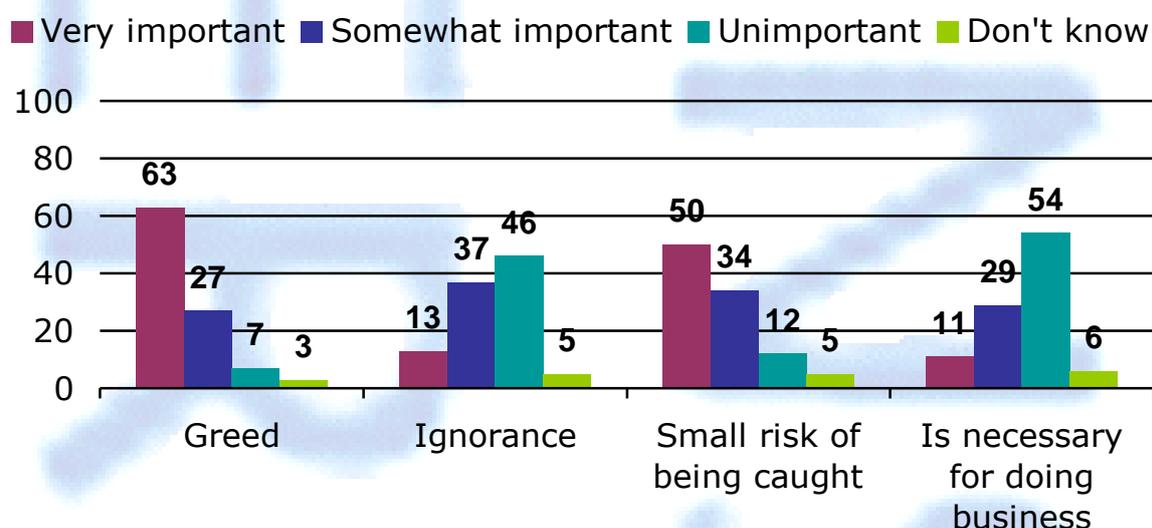
Both when considering the responses for "very corrupt" and the sum of "very corrupt" and "somewhat corrupt", the oil and gas industry is perceived as most corrupt (sum 76 %), followed by banking and insurance (sum 56 %), and then voluntary organisations and municipalities (sum 49 %). The state is perceived as least corrupt (sum 40 %).

Variations and trends:

- The state
 - The response share for "little" increases with level of education from ground school to university of 4 years + (70 %).
 - The share of "little" increases with income from below 300,000 NOK (44 %) to the income range 701,000-900,000 NOK (69 %). The sum of "very" and "somewhat" is largest among those with income below 300,000 NOK (56 %).
- Municipalities
 - There are most respondents among those living in Oslo who believe that the municipalities are "very corrupt" (15 %). The sum of responses for "very" and "somewhat" is also highest in Oslo (52 %).
 - The sum of response share "very" and "somewhat" is highest among those with income below 300,000 NOK (61 %).
- Oil and gas industry
 - The sum of responses for "very" and "somewhat" increases gradually with age, from those below 30 years (67 %) to 50 years + (81 %).
 - There is highest share of "very" responses in Northern Norway (30 %), while it is lowest in Western Norway (18 %).
 - Response share "very" decreases with increasing income, from those earning less than 300,000 NOK (28 %) to those earning more than 900,000 NOK (16 %).
- Banking and insurance
 - There are only small variations, and there are no obvious trends for these sectors.
- Voluntary organisations
 - Response share "little" is largest among those with highest education, i.e. university level of 4 years + (62 %).

- The sum of responses for "very" and "somewhat" is highest for Northern Norway (52 %), and is lowest for the western part of Eastern Norway (35 %).

8. What are the most important causes of corruption in Norway?



Both when considering the responses for "very important" and the sum of "very important" and "somewhat important", "greed" is perceived as the absolutely most important cause of corruption (sum 90 %) among these alternative causes, closely followed by "small risk of being caught" (sum 84 %).

Variations and trends:

- Greed
 - Response share "very important" increases gradually with age, from below 30 years (55 %) to 50 years + (68 %).
 - There is lowest share "very important" responses among those with five persons or more in the household (51 %), among those living in the Central Norway (52 %), and among those living in rural areas (54 %).
 - There is highest share "very" responses among those with household income between 301,000 and 400,000 NOK (75 %).
 - The response share "unimportant" does not exceed 12 % in any of the groups.
- Ignorance
 - The sum of responses for "very" and "somewhat" decreases with age from below 30 year (56 %) to 50 years + (44 %).
 - The share of responses for "very" decreases with level of education from ground school (17 %) to university of 4 years + (10 %).
- Small risk of being caught
 - There are most "very" responses among those with income between 401,000 and 500,000 NOK (60 %).
 - The response share "unimportant" does not exceed 15 % for any of the groups.
- Is necessary for doing business
 - The response share "very" decreases with increasing age, from those below 30 years (17 %) to 50 years + (9 %). The trend is the same for the sum of "very" and "somewhat".
 - There are most people answering "very" among those with only ground school education (21 %).
 - There are most people answering "unimportant" among those with highest education (64 %), and fewest among those with ground school education (43 %), among those who are below 30 years of age (41 %), and among those with five persons or more in the household (41 %).

4. Results and comments

- A majority considered corruption not to be a serious problem in Norway, while a large minority thought that it is.
 - Even though it is a minority, it is apparent that many consider corruption as a significant problem. The reasons can be increased attention on corruption cases in the media and in the courts in the later years, own experiences with corruption challenges, or a combination.
- A large majority believed that corruption is just as serious as other economic crimes, and some considered it to be more serious.
 - It is encouraging that very few look at corruption as not being a serious crime. This probably reflects a change in attitude resulting from new legislation against corruption (2003), as well as high visibility of consequences of violating the law (such as the public waterworks case).
- Almost half of the respondents had no opinion of whether the Norwegian economic crime unit (Økokrim) prioritises corruption high enough. Among the rest, a large majority believed that they do not.
 - This can be compared with “small risk of being caught” being rated as the second most important cause of corruption. Relatively few cases have been tried in the court system, and there are few convictions. Many cases brought up by the media have not been followed up by the police.
- A large majority believed that there is no more corruption in Norway than in the other Nordic countries.
 - This is in contrast to Transparency International’s Corruption Perceptions Index (CPI) which ranks Norway lower than all the other Nordic countries. Norway fell significantly in this index in 2008 (14th place, 7.9 points of maximum 10). Norway’s position improved somewhat in 2009 (11th place, 8,6 points). Norway’s weak position in the CPI compared to the other Nordic countries can be caused by a higher corruption level in Norway, higher consciousness about the problem, an increasing tendency of cases being uncovered, or a combination of these.
- A large majority believed that the extent of corruption had increased in Norway in the later years, and a majority expected it to increase in the future.
 - This could be expected due to increased media attention and more cases being investigated.
- The oil and gas industry was ranked as most corrupt, followed by banking and insurance.
 - This could be expected since large cases have received a lot of media attention (the “Iran case” and the “Libya case”), and is consistent with Transparency International’s Bribe Payers Index (BPI) which shows that the oil and gas industry is one of the most exposed sectors. The reason why voluntary organisations are considered to be corrupt is probably due to the uncovering of economic irregularities and embezzlement in some organisations that administer considerable amounts of raised funds. It is surprising that the municipal sector is perceived not to be corrupt considering the number of cases that have come up (the public waterworks case, the Oslo municipality case, the Bærum municipality case).
- “Greed” is rated as the main reason for corruption, closely followed by “small risk of being caught”.
 - It is interesting and positive that the opinion rates “ignorance” and “is necessary for doing business” lowest among the suggested alternative causes of corruption. It probably means that the level of consciousness on these issues is increasing. That “greed” is ranked highest indicates that attitude building still is a big challenge. That “small risk of being caught” is ranked second highest is a challenge for the authorities.