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THE SPECIFICITY OF APPLICATION OF METHODS IN CRIMINOLOGICAL RESEARCH OF CORRUPTION

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SUMMARY

The article thoroughly analyses the problems of application of the methods in criminological research of corruption, especially – statistics. Formal and actual state of corruption in Ukraine are analysed on the basis of official statistics. Special attention is drawn to the fact that despite extremely negative data and assessment of corruption in Ukraine, there is a large public demand for relevant and reliable information on the state of corruption-related crime. The issue of providing anti-corruption practice and jurisprudence by means of reliable national statistics on this topic still remains unsolved.

Key words: methods in criminological research, statistics, corruption combating, corruption-related crime, criminological research of corruption.

АНОТАЦІЯ

В статті ґрунтовно досліджуються проблеми застосування методів в кримінологічних дослідженнях корупції, особлива увага приділена статистичному методу. Проаналізовано формальний та реальний стан корупції в Україні із використанням даних офіційної статистики. Особлива увага звертається на те, що, незважаючи на вкрай негативні дані та оцінки масштабів корупції в Україні, а також необхідність забезпечення належною та достовірною інформацією з даного питання, надання як для практики, так і для юридичної науки достовірної вітчизняної статистичної інформації з метою використання у аналітичних та інших цілях залишається невирішеним.

Ключові слова: методи дослідження корупції, статистика, протидія корупції, корупційна злочинність, кримінологічне дослідження корупції.

Introduction. There is no doubt that the scientific study of corruption problems cannot be conducted in isolation from the disappointing realities of the present state-building stage of Ukraine, in conditions of which the phenomenon exists, develops and roots itself. Therefore, the potential of each of the sciences has to be used to the fullest for corruption combating in Ukraine. Criminology allows, without falling outside the scope of accepted branch framework, to do so most effectively.

One of the major theoretical problems that Ukrainian criminologists are faced with today is the correct application of criminological research methods. This problem is particularly evident in the context of studying corruption as a complex, rooted, massive, negative social phenomenon caused by external and internal, historical, political, economic and other objective and subjective factors. Besides using exclusively criminological methods in corruption research, for a good reason, many scholars substantiate the justification of the usage of methods of such discipline as: statistics, which is used to characterise quantitative and qualitative corruption changes as a mass social phenomenon, the patterns of which can be established using certain methods (approximation, extrapolation, interpolation, evaluation of the statistical reliability) [1, p. 30].

The purpose of article. Thus, the above stated requires significant intensification of professional environment, as the today's level of attention that is paid to serious problems connected with unreliable corruption statistics in Ukraine is not encouraging: for some people this subject is interesting enough, for others it is too complicated; some believe that it can be simply solved at a governmental level, while others see no direct connection between the very problem and negative consequences to which it leads. That is why, despite the very negative assessment of the corruption scale in Ukraine and, therefore, significant demand for relevant and reliable information about its dynamics and prospects for overcoming, the issue of providing both anti-corruption practices, and

legal science with the statistics of a proper level still remains unsolved. An attempt to change this situation is made in this publication and described below.

Main body. Available official statistics is published incomplete and sometimes distorted. Not only it does not often help, but also prevents from achieving the necessary results. As of today, uncoordinated and/or contradictory statistics of various state authorities continue to be at our disposal: the Ministry of Internal Affairs, the Prosecutor General of Ukraine, the courts of different instances, etc.

Moreover, available materials reflect only separate aspects of the general state of corruption-related crime in Ukraine. In addition to this, the current political and social conditions only contribute to reducing the reliability and accuracy of official information. Not to mention the lack of a tradition of publishing objective statistics, caused by the long period of prevalence of information falsification methods, artificial overstatement of positive performance and understatement of the negative one, emphasis on formal data, and not on the real process flow in various fields of state and social life.

It should also be mentioned that strict regulatory requirements for the unified and standardised forms of official crime statistics in Ukraine have not existed until now, and, therefore, various state authorities independently set standards for statistical calculation that, as a result, led to a significant complication of the primary tasks of consolidation and synchronisation of data on corruption in Ukraine. Furthermore, we must take into account the fact that national statistics, starting from 2014, do not reflect the whole scale of crime because they do not take into account information from the temporarily occupied territories and the territories that are under control of Ukraine but in the Anti-Terrorist Operation Zone (ATO), making it difficult to track the dynamics and trends of this type of crime. Therefore, a much more systemic approach is required.

Taking into consideration all above mentioned, today, we have high expectations of the current and future work

of the newly established National Agency for Prevention of Corruption (NAPC), which should become a centre for collecting and analysing information on the state of corruption in the country. Thus, the authorities of NAPC, according to Art. 11 of the Law of Ukraine "On Preventing Corruption", are the following: conduct the analysis of preventing and combating corruption in Ukraine, state authorities activities, the Autonomous Republic of Crimea authorities and local self-government bodies in preventing and combating corruption, statistics, research results and other information regarding the situation of corruption; conducting research on the study of the situation of corruption.

However, in order for NAPC to become an effective anti-corruption strategy performer in Ukraine, it is necessary to examine the reasons that led to the above mentioned situation, identify mistakes and make appropriate, adequate conclusions. So, once again, we emphasise the great importance of reliable statistics for effective corruption combating. One of the key issues, which may be solved without much difficulty and in short time is the imperfect form and content of statistical reports submitted by the competent state authorities, as discussed below.

Of course, it would be unfair to say that no efforts to organise a proper statistical work were previously made. For example, one of the attempts at introducing a single document that would contain consolidated information on committed corruption-related crimes and administrative offences connected with corruption, was a joint approval of the State Statistics Committee of Ukraine, the Prosecutor General, the Ministry of Internal Affairs, the Security Service, the Ministry of Revenues and Duties, the Ministry of Defence, the State Judicial Administration of Ukraine of the Form № 1-KOR ("Report on Combating Corruption"), as of 2013. [3] At the same time, this example can demonstrate a number of fallacious approaches that, undoubtedly, need a radical revision: terminological inconsistencies, emphasis shift and inadequate data prioritisation, focus on secondary indexes, while neglecting the most important ones, etc.

For instance, a number of articles of the Criminal Code of Ukraine that establish responsibility for corruption-related crimes, according to Art. 45 of the Criminal Code of Ukraine, are not reflected in the above mentioned Form, among which are the use of budget funds contrary to their target allocation, providing budget expenditures or loans without a set budget allocations or exceeding them (Art. 210 of the Criminal Code of Ukraine) and bribery of an employee or organisation (Art. 354 of the Criminal Code of Ukraine).

Besides, according to the Form, statistics on "Combating Corruption" is collected conforming to a number of articles of the Criminal Code of Ukraine. These articles provide for a penalty for a crime that is not considered as corruption-related under any methodology: for example, extortion (p. 2-4 Art. 189 of the Criminal Code of Ukraine); obstruction of legitimate business activity (p. 3 Art. 206 of the Criminal Code of Ukraine); disclosure of commercial or bank secrets (Art. 232 of the Criminal Code of Ukraine); forgery in office (p. 2 Art. 366 of the Criminal Code of Ukraine) and others. Of course, in this case it could be objected that each of these offences may somehow be associated with corruption. However, in our opinion, this approach does not stand up to criticism because it scatters attention to a very wide range of offences. In fact, it makes an effective work for a particular result impossible.

In the Form, there is also a statement "other corruption-related offences". Taking into account the above mentioned, it only increases the risks of additional statistical confusion and makes it impossible to clearly define offences which are recorded in this category. In addition to this, the Form contains terminology which has been outdated for the past several years,

including "taking a bribe" (Art. 368 of the Criminal Code of Ukraine); "provocation of bribery or commercial bribery" (Art. 370 of the Criminal Code of Ukraine), which eloquently speaks for itself and needs no additional comments.

One may find a lot of similar contradictory examples. Thus, according to the report of the first instance courts on the review of the criminal proceedings materials (Form № 1-1, approved by the State Judicial Administration of Ukraine as of 21.11.2012 №158), 130 414 cases of criminal proceedings were received by the first instance courts during 2015 [4]. However, according to the Exclusive report on criminal offences (Form №1, approved by the Prosecutor General of Ukraine as of October 23, 2012 №100), only from January to December 2015, 163 795 criminal proceedings with indictment were submitted to court by the prosecutors [5].

Therefore, one should critically judge the fact that the Prosecutor General's Office has not conducted a separate statistics of corruption-related crimes in Ukraine. The Exclusive report on criminal offences, the structure of which contains information for each article of the Special Part of the Criminal Code and sections of the Special Part of the Criminal Code, does not provide the necessary information. Since corruption-related crimes are not indicated in a separate section of the Criminal Code of Ukraine, their sample data are missing. Therefore, on the basis of the above mentioned report, the data on the overall picture of a corruption-related crime in Ukraine can only be obtained using complicated calculations. Although this method of data collection does not claim perfection, as of today, it is viewed as one of the few available, and, thus, the most effective.

A separate issue, which is unsolved in the Prosecutor General report, is an analysis of statistical information on the crimes that are considered as corruption-related only if they are committed by abuse of office (Art. 191, 262, 308, 312, 313, 320, 357, 410 of the Criminal Code of Ukraine). For example, a crime under Art. 357 of the Criminal Code of Ukraine (stealing, appropriation, or extortion of documents, stamps and seals, or acquiring them by fraud or abuse of office, or endamagement thereof) may be committed in two ways: either by fraud, or abuse of office, and it is only considered to be corruption-related in the second case. Meanwhile, the above mentioned statistics reflects only aggregate data of Art. 357 of the Criminal Code of Ukraine. Thus, it is impossible to distinguish among them quantitative indexes of stealing, appropriation, extortion of documents, stamps and seals, or acquiring them by abuse of office. This approach to statistics leads to considerable miscalculation of the proportion of corruption-related crime in the general crime structure and gravity of crimes under Art. 191, 262, 308, 312, 313, 320, 357, 410 of the Criminal Code of Ukraine in the structure of corruption-related crime.

Taking into account the above mentioned, the only solution to a qualitative analysis of corruption in Ukraine is a careful use of different forms of reporting of various state authorities. It must be comprehensive and critical, and on its basis certain observations will be possible to make.

It is also very significant that among corruption-related crimes, on the basis of 2015 conclusions, there is a significant majority of the ones under Art. 191 of the Criminal Code of Ukraine (misappropriation, embezzlement or conversion or property by abuse of office) – 54.8% of all registered corruption-related crimes. It is obvious that these data cannot properly reflect the real situation in Ukraine. The reason for this inadequate figure is the above mentioned lack of a separate statistics for offences committed by abuse of office.

A similar in essence, but different in scale is the situation with statistical information on crimes punishable by following Articles of the Criminal Code of Ukraine: Art. 357 (stealing, appropriation, or extortion of documents, stamps and seals, or

acquiring them by fraud or abuse of office, or endamage-ment thereof) – 1828 cases or 9.81% of the registered corruption-related crimes; Art. 262 (stealing, appropriation or extortion of firearms, ammunition, explosives or radioactive material, or obtaining them by fraud or abuse of office) – 207 cases or 1.11% of the registered corruption-related crimes; Art. 410 (stealing, appropriation, extortion or fraudulent obtaining of weapons, ammunitions, explosive or other warfare substances, vehicles, military or special engineering, or other munitions, or abuse of office, by a military serviceman) – 191 cases or 1.03 % of the registered corruption-related crimes.

The rest of crimes from the list make up to less than one percent of the registered corruption-related facts. In particular, these include offences under the following Articles: 320 of the Criminal Code of Ukraine (violation of rules related to circulation of narcotics, psychotropic substances, their analogues or precursors), 313 of the Criminal Code of Ukraine (stealing, appropriation, extortion of equipment devised for making of narcotic or psychotropic substances, or their analogues, or acquisition of such equipment by fraud or abuse of office, and other unlawful actions involving such equipment), 308 of the Criminal Code of Ukraine (stealing, appropriation, extortion of narcotics, psychotropic substances or their analogues, or acquisition of same by fraud or abuse of office). According to Art. 312 of the Criminal Code of Ukraine (stealing, appropriation, extortion of precursors, or acquisition of precursors by fraud or abuse of office), no criminal offence was registered by the law enforcement authorities during 2015.

Thus, official records on the state of crimes of the above listed Articles of the Criminal Code of Ukraine cannot be the basis for criminological research of corruption problems in Ukraine, as the crimes are related to corruption only if they were committed by abuse of office, so the methodology of their usage should be revised.

As for the available statistical data on the crimes provided for in Art. 210, 354, 364, 364-1, 365-2, 368-369-2 of the Criminal Code of Ukraine, defined as corruption-related according to the Art. 45 of the Criminal Code of Ukraine without any clauses, for instance, as of Art. 364 (abuse of authority or office) law enforcement authorities registered 3078 cases during 2015. Thus, these offences constitute a significant share in the structure of corruption-related crimes – 16.52%. However, only 187 cases (6%) with the indictment were submitted to the court, indicating a very low level of disclosure of this category of crimes and bringing perpetrators to justice.

According to court statistics, during 2015, under Art. 364 of the Criminal Code of Ukraine sentences (rulings) entered into force on 114 people, including 5 persons acquitted, 43 convicted, 4 of which to the punishment of imprisonment, 2 of which to the fine, 37 persons received additional penalty of deprivation of the right to occupy certain positions or engage in certain activities; 30 persons were released on probation.

1588 cases were registered according to Art. 368 of the Criminal Code of Ukraine (a proposal, promise or giving an excessive benefit to an officer). 730 of them were submitted to the court with the indictment that makes almost 46%, which is a rather high result compared to other corruption-related crimes. Thus, the share of crimes under Art. 368 of the Criminal Code of Ukraine amounted to 8,53% of corruption-related crimes.

According to court statistics, under this Article, sentences (rulings) entered into force on 394 people, including 11 persons acquitted, 374 convicted, 59 of which to the punishment of imprisonment, 178 of which to the fine, 334 persons were deprived of the right to occupy certain positions or engage in certain activities; 124 persons were released on probation.

According to Art. 364-1 of the Criminal Code of Ukraine (abuse of authority by an official entity of private law, regardless of the legal form), law enforcement authorities

registered 382 cases during the reporting period accounted. Thus, the proportion of these offences is 2.05% in structure of corruption-related crimes. However, only 30 cases (less than 8%) were submitted to court with indictment.

Judging from the court statistics, during 2015, under this Article, sentences (rulings) entered into force on 23 people, though, no suspect was acquitted.

According to Art. 369 of the Criminal Code of Ukraine (a proposal, promise or giving an excessive benefit to an officer), law enforcement authorities registered 228 cases during the reporting period. 148 of them were submitted to the court with indictment, which makes 1.55% of corruption-related crimes.

If to mention the outcome of the cases under Art. 369 of the Criminal Code of Ukraine in courts, during the 2015, sentences (rulings) entered into force on 166 people, 1 person acquitted, 123 convicted, 3 of which to the punishment of imprisonment, 79 of which to the fine, 34 persons were released on probation, i.e. almost every fourth.

Besides, according to the Art. 369-2 of the Criminal Code of Ukraine (abuse of influence) law enforcement authorities registered 208 cases, 160 of them were submitted to the court with indictment, i.e. the proportion of crime connected with the abuse of influence is 1.12% of all corruption-related crimes. According to Art. 354 of the Criminal Code of Ukraine (bribery of an employee of state enterprises, institutions or organisations), starting from January to December 2015, law enforcement authorities registered 31 criminal offences. 23 of them were submitted to the court with indictment, therefore, the proportion of these crimes is only 0.17% in the structure of the corruption-related crimes.

Thus, according to the above mentioned articles of the Criminal Code of Ukraine (354, 364, 364-1, 365-2, 368, 369 and 369-2), law enforcement authorities registered 5682 cases. Sentences (rulings) entered into force on 823 people, 21 persons acquitted, 676 convicted, 75 (11%) of which to the punishment of imprisonment, 367 (54%) of which to the fine, 199 (29%) were released on probation. 397 (59%) persons were deprived of the right to occupy certain positions or engage in certain activities, as an additional penalty.

We should pay attention to the fact that the disclosed facts of corruption-related crimes mostly concern officials of the lowest level. In total, according to the data on persons who committed corruption-related offences, included in the report of the Ministry of Internal Affairs on Combating Corruption as of 2015, such offences were committed by 277 civil servants, of whom 234 (85%) officials are of the 5-7th categories, which are the lowest. To some extent, this may be an indicator of the lack of political will to curb corruption, and, also, an "indexes" struggle of the law enforcement authorities. Statistical data on the results of court examinations of criminal cases of corruption-related crimes lead to disappointing conclusions.

Thus, despite a number of high-profile arrests of persons suspected of committing corruption-related crimes and demonstration of depriving them of significant funds and valuables, in fact, no government official of a high rank was brought in indictment during 2015-2016.

This situation can be improved by the Specialised Anti-Corruption Prosecutor's Office and the National Anti-Corruption Bureau of Ukraine whose task is to prevent corruption-related offences which are committed by senior officials only, who are authorised to perform state functions or local self-government, and threaten national security.

It is important to bear in mind that, according to official statistics, the most corrupted spheres of social life are budgetary system (286 cases), system of education (129 cases), health service (119) and the sphere of land relations (100). At the same time, in our opinion, the above mentioned spheres are considered as the most corrupted only by the criterion of the

incidence of such crimes, and not by the amount of state losses. If the calculations had been made according to other criteria, the results, with a high degree of probability, would have been different.

It is significant that the number of recorded corruption-related crimes in Ukraine increased in the last year: according to Art. 354, 364, 364-1, 365-2, 368, 369 and 369-2 of the Criminal Code of Ukraine, 6359 cases were recorded during 2013, 5156 cases (-19%) during 2014, and 5682 cases (+10%) during 2015. Of course, it should be taken into account that the growth of this index still cannot make up the gap in the statistics caused by corruption latency. Moreover, a formal increase in the number of cases initiated according to corruption-related articles can be the result of a more careful attention to corruption-related practices on the part of society and a more transparent work of the competent state authorities in this direction.

Although this article is primarily devoted to the problems of official statistics, it is impossible to ignore the gradual growth, in recent years, of the value of other unofficial statistical information sources. In particular, it is reasonable to distinguish between the studies of Ukrainian and foreign experts, the results of sociological surveys, ratings of non-governmental, especially, international organisations. Besides, sociological studies are mentioned here for a good reason, as the relationship between statistics and sociology is gradually becoming stronger, demonstrating the irreversible integration and interplay of various fields of knowledge, and natural modernisation of approaches to the methods of achieving scientific works necessary for the society.

In this context it should be noted that particularly valuable corruption studies are conducted by an international non-profit organisation Transparency International (TI), the most significant of which are the following: Corruption Perceptions Index, Bribe Payers Index, International Review of Crime Victims, Opacity Index, National Integrity System Assessment and Globalisation Index. For example, surveys of state citizens and foreigners, permanently residing in its territory, businessmen and analysts are the basis for Corruption Perceptions Index (CPI) on the level of national corruption. Thus, this index shows the views shared by individuals who represent different social strata. Bribe Payers Index (BPI) complements the CPI, since it reflects the tendency of companies from leading exporting countries of the world to offer improper advantage to authorities in developing countries and other countries.

Therefore, at the present stage of development of national criminology, such corruption indexes are essential, as they are received from reputable international organisations which conduct research that provides unified and standardised procedures. However, unquestioning recognition of these studies by the international and Ukrainian community should not lead to frivolous handling of national statistics, because only its comprehensive analysis can provide a systemic nature of every serious scientific material.

Before moving to the analysis of official statistics in Ukraine we should also mention the growing influence on the modern anti-corruption information discourse presented by national community organisations and research centres, though, the methodology of their collecting, processing and analysing the relevant data differs from the approaches of similar international institutions. In particular, researchers actively use statistical data collected and processed by the Kiev International Institute of Sociology, Ilko Kucheriv Democratic Initiatives Foundation, Institute of Applied Humanitarian Research, the Centre for Economic and Political Studies named after Olexander Razumkov.

It is known that the results of research conducted by the above mentioned organisations draw special attention to the

complex problems of high-level corruption in Ukraine, which survived even after the Revolution of 2014, and a number of anti-corruption reforms and innovations that followed it. Although, this disappointing information does not surprise us by its stability, in order to overcome the problem, we must continue keeping the focus on its unacceptable indexes. According to the survey "The level of corruption perceptions in business" 57.2% of respondents believe that corruption situation has not changed in the last period of time, 27.7% say that the situation has worsened, and only 15.1% of respondents note some improvements [2].

Conclusions. There is a significant gap between the number of registered cases of corruption-related crimes, as analysed above, (5762 cases) and the number of convicted persons (676). Only 11.7% of perpetrators were brought to justice, slightly more than one in ten, and 199 persons were released on probation, almost every third. There is a "red tape" in solving such critical issues as taking the persons suspected of committing corruption-related crimes into custody, defining sufficient bail for them, removing them from their posts.

According to the Articles, the sanction which involves deprivation of the right to occupy certain positions or engage in certain activities (Art. 364, 364-1, 365-2, 368, 369 and 369-2 of the Criminal Code of Ukraine) was imposed on 60% of perpetrators only. Which means that the other people, who were proven guilty in committing corruption-related crimes, are able to continue holding their positions and being involved in corruption-related practices.

Corruption-related crimes substantially differ by their latency, and their share in the total number of registered crimes, calculated on the basis of official data (3.3%), may not reflect the actual extent of corruption-related crime in Ukraine.

A significant number of criminal proceedings is completed during the pretrial investigation: among 5762 registered cases, only 1281 (22.2%) were submitted to the court with indictment. This low figure may indicate lack of qualifications of the investigative staff, problems with logistics, and law enforcement authorities' corruption. This hypothesis is proved by the following data: the number of officials and police officers who committed corruption-related crimes reached 203 (10.4% of all perpetrators of corruption-related offences), the State Fiscal Service – 54 (2.8%), the Prosecutor General – 15 (0, 8%).

Tracking patterns and dynamics of various corruption-related activities are significantly impeded due to not unified official reporting that differs not only within various departments, but also within the same department in different years. In these conditions, the most optimal way of analysing corruption-related crimes is tracking data on specific articles of the Criminal Code of Ukraine, especially, those which are corruption-related according to Art. 45 of the Criminal Code of Ukraine (without clauses).

Even though an exhaustive list of corruption-related crimes was stated in the Criminal Code of Ukraine (Art. 45), not all forms of official statistical reporting are adjusted in accordance with the specified regulatory innovation. As a result, the analysis of data on corruption-related crimes, which are considered to be corruption-related in case of abuse of power, is especially problematic, since it is only one of the possible ways of committing it.

Logically controversial is the ratio of cases of proposing, promising or giving an excessive benefit to an officer (Art. 369 of the Criminal Code of Ukraine), 288 cases, and cases of accepting the proposal, promise or obtaining an excessive benefit by an officer (Art. 368 of the Criminal Code of Ukraine), 1588 cases. This means that 5.5 times fewer cases of giving an excessive benefit than receiving it are reflected in the official statistics. Such a big difference can hardly be explained only by p.

5 of Art. 354 of the Criminal Code of Ukraine which claims the possibility of exemption from criminal responsibility for crimes under Art. 354, 368-3, 368-4, 369, 369-2 of the Criminal Code of Ukraine of the persons who received a proposal, promise or giving an excessive benefit, but were not reported to the agency by other sources, whose officers are authorised to report suspicions, voluntarily announced about the incident and actively contributed to the disclosure of the offence committed by the person who received an excessive benefit, offer or promise.

Punishments imposed for corruption-related crime do not meet the gravity – only 11% of perpetrators were sentenced to imprisonment, while 54% are liable only to a fine. More "shocking" is the ratio of the number of cases of corruption-related crimes and sentences involving imprisonment. The chance to be sent behind bars for committing a corruption-related crime is not more than 1.3%, not including the cases of release on probation.

Despite the significant problems that exist in the sphere of official corruption-related statistics in Ukraine, the analysis of available empirical data, together with estimates of scientists and sociological studies conducted at the appropriate level, allows us to expose a number of existing problems and evaluate the effectiveness of the campaign against corruption in Ukraine. We believe that data, obtained on the above mentioned basis in preparing this publication, on the level, structure and dynamics of corruption-related crime in Ukraine, require assiduous and, at some point, critical evaluation, and they may become the basis for further criminological research, which, in its turn, will help bring Ukraine closer to the level of rule-of-law states, where corruption is a rare and practically overcome vestige of the past.

Official national statistics of corruption-related crime is not suitable for the use in criminological research of corruption in Ukraine. This creates preconditions for a full review of the methodology and requirements for submitting and processing statistical data that should be focused on a specific goal – to minimise corruption as a complex phenomenon and significantly reduce the number of corruption-related crimes of every kind in particular. That is why, NAPC should organise the statistical work on a new basis, taking into consideration the above mentioned mistakes and gaps, regardless of previous negative experiences. In fact, 2016 has to become a reference point of entirely new corruption statistics that should have almost nothing in common with inaccurate and incomplete data of the previous years.

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