Beyond perception: can we measure corruption?

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Abstract. Despite several efforts, corruption is still one of those social phenomena difficult to measure. This, mainly to its nature as well as its individual and collective implications. Measuring corruption implies a multidimensional effort in order to get as much as possible reliable information from organizations and citizens, and other sources. One strategy, the most common, is to generate some data related to how people perceive corruption in a society, and basically corruption in public sector. Another strategy, the less common and mostly unfamiliar, is to generate data from experienced corruption in order to explore details, characteristics, and to get some more accurate and valuable information to design public policies. This presentation is about the practice of INEGI-Mexico related to the generation of nation-wide statistical information of experienced corruption in households directly related to public services, but also about the generation of information related to perceptions, social expectations as well as information from institutional capabilities.

Keywords: Statistics, measurement, perception, Mexico