

## 14. CORRUPTION

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Source: Crime Statistics Yearbook, 2017

[http://www.kriminaalpoliitika.ee/sites/krimipoliitika/files/elfinder/dokumendid/kuritegevuseestis\\_2017\\_veebi01.pdf](http://www.kriminaalpoliitika.ee/sites/krimipoliitika/files/elfinder/dokumendid/kuritegevuseestis_2017_veebi01.pdf), p 91-95

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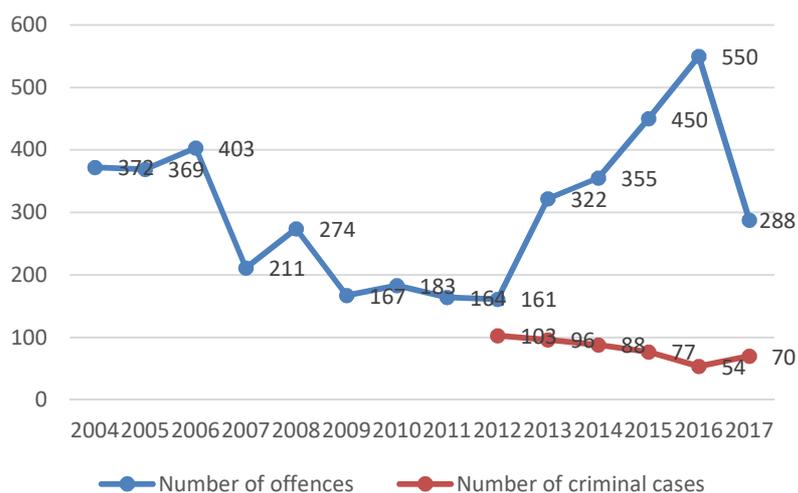
**288** corruption offences were registered.

**77** corruption offences in the field of medicine.

**48%** less corruption offences than compared to 2016

**20** corruption offences in local governments

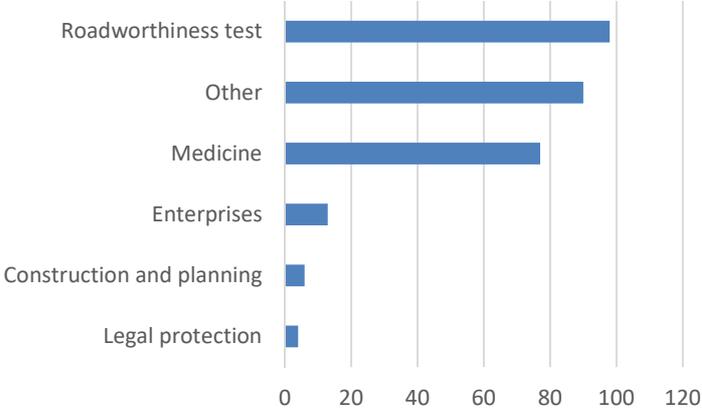
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The number of corruption offences was the lowest over the past years (288).

**Figure 45.** Number of registered corruption offences and criminal cases

The number of registered corruption offences<sup>1</sup> dropped to the lowest level over the last five years (288). Due to the high number of registered corruption offences related to interdependent roadworthiness tests in 2016 (bribery and professional forgery), this decrease is expected. However, there is no reason to deduct that corruption has decreased as a whole, since the number of criminal cases has increased from 54 to 70, which indicates a rise in the frequency of these cases. Similarly to previous years, it has become evident that corruption offences are special cases compared to other types of offences, since, for example, bribery is a mirrored offence, where the same act is registered from the point of the briber, receiver as well as the mediator, which multiplies the number of offences. In addition, the number of offences is also increased by the repeated acts carried out by the same people, incl. legal and private persons.



**Figure 46.** Areas where corruption was discovered in 2017

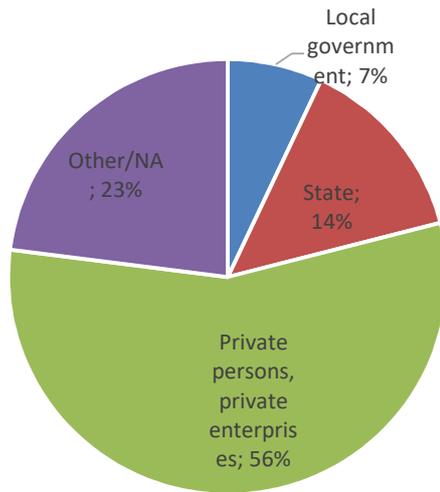
In conclusion, the number of bribery cases has decreased, but the number of offences related to public procurements and process restrictions has increased somewhat. There were 14 registered cases of infringing public procurement implementation requirements (compared to 3 in 2016) and 13 infringements of process restrictions (compared to 4 in 2016).

Compared to earlier years, there were significantly more registered corruption cases in 2017 related to the field of medicine as well as infringements of process restriction and infringements by local government officials (decisions or operations with oneself).

In terms of sectors, most offences were registered in roadworthiness tests which were all related to one specific inspection location in Tallinn: an employee would take bribes of approximately 10–20 euros and in return, would sign off on documents proving roadworthiness.

*The corrupted price of medical certificates is higher than the price of roadworthiness tests.*

<sup>1</sup> In addition to professional offences, embezzlement and fraud by officials, private sector bribery offences and prohibited donations are taken into account.



**Figure 47.** Sectors where corruption was discovered in 2017

In cases related to the medical field, about half of the offences were cases where Jõgeva county doctors would take bribes for falsify medical data of patients for receiving social welfare, for example, for attributing false loss of performance. A third of the cases where offences where persons liable to service in the Defence Forces would bribe mediators to be freed from service or obtain an extension. In some of these cases, the doctor issuing the certificate would not receive any money nor were they aware of the bribe to the mediator. A typical sum was 700 euros. There were also cases in which faster health services financed by the Health Insurance Fund were expected in return for a bribe. There were also cases in the medical sector which were not linked to doctors, but corruption cases related to larger procurements, where hospital workers were bribed for a favourable contract or a evaluation committee members were offered a bribe.

Local government corruption accounted for 7% of all cases (20) – this also includes cases related to local government foundations, institutions managed by local governments etc.

The largest part of local government corruption cases were infringements of process restriction (6) and embezzlement cases (6). An example of infringements of process restriction are cases where local government officials would forward grants to self-related unions, made decisions regarding the loan guarantee for a union they were associated with, transferring property in their own favour etc.

A single distinctive local government cannot be highlighted as corruption cases were similarly divides (approximately 1–2 cases per local government).

*Local government corruption cases only accounted for 7% of all cases.*