

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

THE ITALIAN BUSINESS CRIME SURVEY RATIONALE

The Italian Business Crime Survey represents the first large-scale survey developed in Italy to measure the level of crime against Italian companies and to identify the main crime types against them.

It was carried out, in 2008, by Transcrime, on behalf of the Italian Ministry of the Interior, within the project “Implementazione Analisi Criminale” (“Implementing Crime Analysis”), for the National Operational Programme “Sicurezza per lo sviluppo del Mezzogiorno d’Italia 2000/2006” (“Security for the development of the South of Italy 2000/2006”).

It is a sample survey, representative for all the Italian regions (20 regions) and for the provinces of the South of Italy (34 provinces), carried out on around 11,500 business units, belonging to all economic sectors, with more than one employee.

It represented the first survey of this type in Italy and the fourth one in Europe, after those carried out in England and Wales, Scotland and the Netherlands.

It is the first specific measurement of conventional and non-conventional crime against businesses in Italy, based on alternative measures of crime rather than criminal justice statistics.

The information collected through this type of survey helps to estimate the level of the “dark figure” of crime and to identify the extent of non-conventional crimes (such as extortion and corruption), which often target businesses but which are rarely reported to the police.

It also collects information on the structural characteristics of the victimized businesses, on the offenders, on the perception of the crime risk, on the non-reporting level and on the trust in the police. It also complements the information collected through the last victimization survey on individuals, carried out by ISTAT (Italian National Institute of Statistics) in the same period of time (2008). This allows the comparability of the level and type of crime against individuals and businesses.

KEY FIGURES

- ✓ 11,477 Italian business premises interviewed: it is the largest business crime victimization survey ever conducted in Italy.
- ✓ 4 businesses out of 10 are victims of at least one crime during the 12 months prior to the interview: a victimization rate which is seven times higher than the one registered by ISTAT for individuals (5.7%).
- ✓ On average, each victimized company experienced 7 offences per year: a number which is three times higher than the one registered for individuals (2 offences per year for each victimized person).
- ✓ Robbery are higher in the South of Italy, with rates more than double than in the North of Italy: 2.9% vs 1.2%; theft and vandalism are higher in the North of the country.
- ✓ Offences which may be connected to the activities of organized crime (intimidations and threats, extortion and corruption) are more targeted on companies located in the South of Italy (8.1%), with rates more than double than in the North (3.4%).
- ✓ 25.9% of companies victims of intimidations and threats and 77.5% of those victims of extortion state that the offences were committed by local organized crime groups. In the regions of the South of Italy and in Sicily and Sardinia these rates rise to 51.9% and 83.9%, respectively.
- ✓ Accommodation and food service activities, Other service activities and Construction are the most victimized economic sectors for those offences which may be connected to the activities of organized crime.
- ✓ 32.4% of Italian victimized companies report the crime to the police.
- ✓ 6.6% and 1.4% of the Italian businesses victims of extortion and corruption report it to the police.
- ✓ 30% of companies perceive a rather or very high crime risk in the area where they operate. In the South of Italy the perception of a rather or high crime risk rises to 40.7%.
- ✓ For 38.6% of businesses the crime risk affects their propensity to invest. In the regions of the South of Italy this rate increases to 49%.