

# STUDY CASE ON ECONOMIC AND FINANCIAL CRIME IN GERMANY

Monica Violeta ACHIM, Sandra CLEMENT

Babes-Bolyai University, Cluj-Napoca, Romania

[monica.achim@econ.ubbcluj.ro](mailto:monica.achim@econ.ubbcluj.ro), [sandra.clement@econ.ubbcluj.ro](mailto:sandra.clement@econ.ubbcluj.ro)

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## Abstract:

*The paper analyzes the relationship between various economic and financial crimes such as corruption, tax evasion, and money laundering as a function of age, gender, education level, and occupation. The methodology is based on a survey in Germany with 1,742 responses and is underpinned by statistical models such as the chi-square and intensity assessment. The results suggest that education and related awareness of the importance and significance of combating financial and economic crime is a potentially key factor. Also of great importance are age and, to some extent, occupational status. The results represent a valuable contribution especially for states, governments, schools, but also for the interested public. The results are not only important for Germany, but also for other countries that can use the survey as an example and learn from it.*

**Key words:** Economic crime, corruption, money laundering, age, gender, education, survey, Germany,

**JEL classification:** E26, O11, O17, C23

## 1. INTRODUCTION

The German state is missing out on 12 billion euros in tax revenue as a result of the Cumex scandal. In this case, financial market players collaborated with very wealthy citizens to obtain tax refunds under the pretext of a legal loophole, but these refunds were never paid by the citizens (Handelsblatt, 2023). A 30-billion-euro economic loss occurred as a result of the Wirecard fraud. According to reports, fictitious trading was carried out and sales were artificially increased with subsidiaries in Asia (Focus, 2023). Or even \$200 billion a year in damage is estimated to have resulted from the exposure of tax evasion by the Panama Papers. These headlines highlight how widespread economic and financial crime is and the high impact it has on a state budget. Economic and financial crime is increasingly publicized in the media and is a growing problem for society. Globalized finance, the increasing amount of money and trade transactions and the acceleration of information technologies bring shady sides within the framework of the financial world. Therefore, combating financial crime, which is often complex and causes significant financial damage to institutions, governments, people and businesses, is becoming increasingly important. In order to identify the origin and influencing factors on economic and financial crime, it should be started from the obvious factors of a person. What influence do the daily circumstances like the age, gender, education or the professional relationship have on the actions regarding criminal nature.

Before starting with the analysis of the survey, the state of research in Germany should be briefly discussed. Torgler (2003) examined tax morale between East and West Germans in 1990 and 1997 a second time. Again, the results are clear that East Germans have a higher tax morale in 1990 as well as in 1997 than West Germans. In this paper, cultural differences are identified as an influencing factor. Also, social norms were found to be a driver, as adherence to the norms of the German democratic republic is noticeable. Likewise, a higher tax morale can be found among older citizens in the East. No significant difference was found between East and West Germany among younger citizens. Comparable to the study described above, Feld and Torger (2007) examine the differences in tax morale in West and East Germany for 1990, 1997, and 1999 using cross-section analysis. The results indicate that tax morale was significantly higher in East Germany in 1990 than

in West Germany, but morale attitudes no longer differed significantly in 1999. Especially trust in the legal system turns out to be a factor influencing tax morale. Feld and Torgler (2007) see explanations for the differences in the perception of the exchange of information between citizens and the state. While East Germans welcome reunification and the benefits it brings. For West Germans, reunion is associated with high costs and also with tax increases, which inevitably affects tax morale. Torgler and Werner (2005) examine the impact of tax autonomy on tax morale in Germany for the years 1997 and 1990. Results show that a higher level of tax autonomy leads to higher tax morale. Streif (2013) also focus at tax morale and the impact of the change in public policy and administration due to reunification for 1990 and 1997 using ordinary least squares and ordered probit regression. Results show that the change in government has a significant effect on tax morale. Doerrenberg and Peichl (2018) investigate tax compliance as a function of social norms using a randomized survey experiment. It becomes clear that individuals who adhere to social norms exhibit higher tax compliance. Intrinsic motivation to comply with tax regulations is also a key factor. As the previous literature shows, tax morale was mainly studied in times of German reunification. There is little literature on the factors influencing economic and financial crime, nor what the perception is in Germany. The paper contributes to the scientific enlightenment of the factors influencing the German economic and financial crime.

The aim of this paper is to examine the factors influencing tax compliance, tax morality, corruption and money laundering. We have found in the literature (Hasseldine and Li, 1999; Torgler and Valev, 2006; Mocan, 2008; Croson and Gneezy, 2009; McGee 2012a, McGee, 2012b, McGee and Shopovski, 2023; and Achim et al. 2020) that there is some influence of age, gender, education and occupation and we intend to investigate these in the study. The individual behavior patterns, provide information about various situations related to economic and financial crime. The results can make an important contribution to science and are very useful for policy makers such as governments, various organizations working against crime, but also for tax offices or other institutional organizations. The results help stakeholders target individuals more effectively and take more specific action. Additionally, country-specific perceptions and behaviors in response to political action are presented and analyzed. From this, governments can derive possible consequences. In addition, political behavior is validated and thus the results can be a learning effect for other countries or a negative example.

The following hypotheses are described in order to better pursue the objective of the work.

**Hypothesis 1:** Tax compliance varies according to age, gender, education and professional status.

**Hypothesis 2:** Tax morale varies according to age, gender, education and professional status.

**Hypothesis 3:** Perception level of corruption can be influenced by age, gender, education and professional status.

**Hypothesis 4:** Perception of the ability of bank employees to detect money laundering transactions can be determined by age, gender, education and professional status.

**Hypothesis 5:** Willingness to disclose information as part of Know your customer processes is dependent by age, gender, education and professional status.

The paper is divided into different research areas. At the beginning, the chosen methodology and the use of the data are described. This is followed by the statistical investigation of the data using the chi-square method and intensity assessment. Finally, the results obtained are discussed and interpreted. A summary rounds off the paper.

## 2. METHODOLOGY AND DATA

The methodology of the survey was chosen following the publication of Achim and McGee (2023). Their work is based on a survey in Romania, which achieved 1,856 responses. The survey is based on qualitative and ordinal scaled variables dealing with the different forms of financial crime. Following the work, the same survey was conducted in Germany. The German survey is an online survey, which should reach a broad mass of participants. Thus, the survey was placed on various

platforms, such as LinkedIn, Xing, Instagram and Facebook, personal networks (relatives, friends, sports group, mother-child groups, former study colleagues), three different banking institutions, eight different companies (work colleagues, suppliers, customers and) and four different universities. With the mailing of the surveys to the different groups of people, I asked at the same time to forward them to their contacts, which resulted in a quick multiplication. The survey was active from 19/10/2022 to 09/11/2022. And thus within 22 days the answers were collected. The selection of the group of participants is intended to ensure both a heterogeneous group in terms of interests, residence, and age, as well as different employment statuses, thus covering a broad range of bands. The variables used are presented in the table below.

**Table no. 1. Variables**

Variable	Unit/scale	Exp. sign
<b>Dependent variables</b>		
Tax compliance, tax morale, perception of corruption, ability to detect money laundering and willingness to cooperate at bank transaction		
<b>Independent variable</b>		
Age	Varies between 16 to 65 and older	-
Gender	Varies between men and women	men
Education	Varies between highschool and less and doctoral degree	-
Professional relation	Varies between student and retired	-

Source: Own composition

In addition to the description, analysis, and identification of correlations of achieved results, a score is also calculated. The mentioned score serves as average frequencies and contributes to simplified comparability. The scores are formed in the context of the independent variables (age, gender, education, professional relation) and they are presented according with the study of Achim et al. (2023):

$$Q1: \text{Tax compliance score} = (1 * N_1 + 2 * N_2 + 3 * N_3) i \quad (1)$$

The numbers 1 - 3 represent the answer choices related to the question of the behavior when paying the tax burden: 1: Pay taxes long before the deadline; 2: Pay taxes at a time very close to the deadline; 3: Are generally late in paying taxes

$N_1 - N_3$  refers to the relative frequency in percent of responses 1 - 3, within the different determinants "i" (age, gender, education, professional relation). The score ranges from 1 (best tax compliance attitude) to 3 (worst tax compliance attitude).

The second score includes tax morale. The following formula was used:

$$Q2: \text{Tax morale score} = (1 * N_1 + 2 * N_2 + 3 * N_3 + 4 * N_4) i \quad (2)$$

Variables 1 - 4 refer to the answers describing the behavior when visiting a restaurant, hairdresser or hotels regarding the receipt of a bill: 1: You will always receive a receipt; 2: You always ask for a receipt; 3: You receive a receipt but you do not take it with you; 4: You do not mind if you do not receive a receipt

Variables  $N_1 - N_4$  include the frequency of responses distribution of options 1 - 4, within category "i" (age, gender, education, professional relation). Again, the score covers the range of 1 (high tax morale) - 4 (low tax morale).

The corruption perception score can be determined using the third question. The score is determined using the following formula:

$$Q3: \text{Corruption perception score} = (1 * N_1 + 2 * N_2 + 3 * N_3 + 4 * N_4 + 5 * N_5) i \quad (3)$$

Variables 1 - 5 represent the response options, which are intended to express the level of corruption perception: 1: Very low level of corruption; 2: Low level of corruption; 3: Medium level of corruption; 4: High level of corruption; 5: Very high level of corruption

The values  $N_1 - N_5$  represent the relative frequency of the answers 1-5 and are expressed in percent, in the category "i" (age, gender, education, professional status). The calculated score ranges from 1 (very low perception of corruption) to 5 (very high perception of corruption).

The next function represents the estimated ability to detect money laundering transactions by bank employees and is asked in question 4.

$$\text{Q4: Anti-money laundering skills} = (1 * N_1 + 2 * N_2 + 3 * N_3 + 4 * N_4) i \quad (4)$$

Numbers 1 - 4 represent the response options in terms of money laundering level: 1: High ability; 2: Medium ability; 3: Low ability; 4: Very low ability

The variables  $N_1 - N_4$  represent the relative frequency of the answer options 1 - 4 in the context of the category "i" (age, gender, occupational status, level of education). The score behaves within the range between 1 (very low ability to detect money laundering) and 4 (high ability to detect money laundering).

The last equation refers to the last question, which refers to the willingness to cooperate in the form of KYC processes in connection with questions from bank employees about the origin of the money.

$$\text{Q5: Cooperation money laundering} = (1 * N_1 + 2 * N_2 + 3 * N_3) i \quad (5)$$

Numbers 1 - 3 refer to the answer options: 1: You provide the requested information because you know that bank employees are just doing their job; 2: You are upset about the requested information, but provide information; 3: You refuse to provide information

The values  $N_1 - N_3$  represent the relative frequency of the answers 1 - 3 and are expressed in percent, in the category "i" (age, gender, education, professional relation). The score ranges from 1 (very high willingness to cooperate) - 3 (low willingness to cooperate).

Results show that a heterogeneous group between men and women, young people, and people of older age participated. There is also a wide range in the professional relationship. Although the majority is employed, followed by pensioners, managers and students. Also, in the consideration of the highest school degree everything is present from secondary and high school up to the doctoral students.

All age groups are represented. There was 21% participation from 16-24 year olds, 22% from 25-32 year olds, 25% from 33-45 year olds, and 31% from 46-60 year olds. Thus, the 46-60 year olds are slightly more represented than the younger generation. When looking at gender, it can be seen that it is almost balanced. 47.8% men and 52% women participated. Regarding the different levels of education among the respondents, it is evident that bachelor students are the most represented (38.8%), closely followed by secondary and high school graduates (35.8%). Master's students (20.9%) are also represented with some distance, and doctoral students (4.5%) make up the minority. The distribution of professional status shows that 65% are employees. Another 19% are students and managers and retirees are represented with 7.5% each.

### 3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

An important step in this analysis is to test the correlations between the variables included in the model. In this regard, we will use the Chi-Square statistic for computing the difference between observed and expected data. Following the formula for  $\chi^2$  statistic we will compute in table 4 the relationship that exist between the variables considered in this survey along with their probabilities (p-value).

$$\chi^2 = \sum \frac{(O-E)^2}{E} \quad (1)$$

Source: Based on Freie Universität Berlin (2023).

Where: O represents the observed frequency and E represents the expected frequency of the variables.

**Table no. 2. Relationship existence – Chi-square test results**

Variables	Age	Gender	Education	Professional status
<b>Q1 - Tax compliance</b>	301.63 (0.000)	10.24 (0.006)	123.85 (0.000)	76.94 (0.000)
<b>Q2 - Tax morale</b>	638.91 (0.000)	254.05 (0.000)	650.54 (0.000)	629.49 (0.000)
<b>Q3 - Perception of corruption</b>	512.66 (0.000)	149.05 (0.000)	405.21 (0.000)	159.90 (0.000)
<b>Q4 - AML skills</b>	125.45 (0.000)	21.04 (0.000)	230.06 (0.000)	331.57 (0.000)
<b>Q5 - Attitude towards KYC procedures</b>	308.70 (0.000)	14.66 (0.0007)	59.49 (0.000)	289.58 (0.000)

Source: Own calculation

Note: Chi-square calculated (p-value)

The p-values for the entire chi-square statistics is less 0.000, except the p-value test (0.006) for gender in relationship with tax compliance. Therefore, all the probabilities are below the level of 0.05 and we can reject the null H0: there is no relationship between two categorical variables. We can conclude that the variables are not independent of each other and that there is a statistical significant relationship between the variables regarding financial crime perception.

The next step is to quantify the intensity of the relationship between the variables and this will be provided by the contingency coefficients presented in the Table 5. In this case, Pearson's Contingency Coefficient (C\*) is computed and reflects the strength of the two variables association.

$$C^* = \sqrt{\frac{\chi^2}{n + \chi^2}} \quad (2)$$

Source: Based on Freie Universität Berlin (2023).

In this formula  $\chi^2$  represents the Chi-Square statistic and  $n$  is the number of observations. The value of C\* can vary between 0 and 1, if the C\* = 0, there is no relationship between two variables. If the value is between 0.5 and 1 there is a strong association.

Based on the results from table 1 there are a few strong relationships with a higher coefficient than 50% as in the case of tax morale in relationship with age, education and professional status.

Considering the first variable **age**, we can see important differences in the perception of different age groups on the financial crime. The lowest association is between age and Q1 - tax compliance (0.07) and the highest between age and Q2 - tax morale (0.51). A moderate association we have between age and Q3, Q4, and Q5.

For the association between **gender** and financial crime variables, we can observe more homogeneity marked by low and moderate intensity. If in the case of tax compliance, tax morale and perception of corruption we can find different perspectives between men and women, in the AML skills and attitude towards know your customer (KYC) procedures these differences tend to be lowering. As we can see from the table 4 this is the weakest association.

**Education** is very important in the case of tax morale, because in this case is registered the powerful intensity, thus we can conclude about the importance of education in increasing the tax morale. In addition, education can be an important mean in combating corruption because the citizens becoming more aware about the negative consequences of corruption when their level of education increase.

Association between **professional status** and all the variables included is from moderate in the case of Q1-Tax compliance (0.206) to powerfully, the highest one being registered in the case of Q2- Tax morale. Thus, no matter to what professional category belong, all the participants included in the survey demonstrate a strong tax morale and significant AML skills. In addition, the responsibility for the tax payment is very high. This is because most respondents choose to pay taxes at a time very close to the deadline or even well before the deadline.

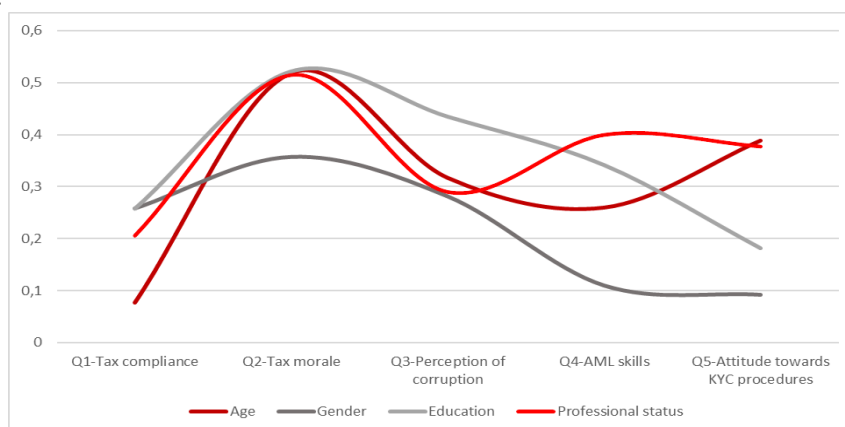
**Table no. 3. Intensity assessment – contingency coefficient results**

Variables	Age	Gender	Education	Professional status
<b>Q1 - Tax compliance</b>	0.076	0.258	0.258	0.206
<b>Q2 - Tax morale</b>	0.518	0.357	0.521	0.515
<b>Q3 - Perception of corruption</b>	0.316	0.281	0.434	0.290
<b>Q4 - AML skills</b>	0.259	0.109	0.342	0.400
<b>Q5 - Attitude towards KYC procedures</b>	0.388	0.091	0.182	0.378

Source: Author's own calculation.

Note: Pearson's Contingency Coefficient

In Figure 1 is presented for each financial crime variable (Q1, Q2, Q3, Q4 and Q5) the intensity score. The most powerful association is registered between Q2 – tax morale and their determinants (for age, education and professional status the Pearson's contingency coefficient is higher than 0.5).



**Figure no. 1. Intensity assessment.**

Source: Own elaboration based on the results of the survey

#### 4. RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

The survey has brought different results in terms of a certain pattern of behavior, but also in terms of the manifestation of various economic and financial crimes. Now it is of great interest whether the results are a logical consequence or whether there is no structure.

At the beginning, **tax compliance** is considered. Results show that people of younger age (25-45 years) predominantly pay their taxes before the payment deadline. Persons of older generation (46-60 years) in turn pay around the deadline. A possible explanation for these results could be that at the beginning of an adult life, and thus in connection with the first submission of the tax return, people pay before the deadline due to a lack of knowledge and the will to do everything right or due to increased respect for the tax office. This fear of new things and the associated respect for the matter and for the tax office decreases with increasing age, after which the payment morale also shifts. Although people of the older generation also pay within the deadline, they no longer pay well before the deadline. When looking at the results on the basis of gender-specific characteristics, it quickly becomes clear that no differences can be seen here. This makes it

clear that there are no differences in Germany in terms of attitudes toward tax behavior. Both men and women deal with it in the same way and pay their taxes around the deadline. With regard to education, on the other hand, it is evident that the higher the level of education, the earlier the tax burden is paid. This is a characteristic that can be explained by logic. People with higher education have the necessary know-how to know for what the tax burden is to be paid and for what it is spent. A more educated person develops a certain understanding of this and perceives this as a necessity to pay the tax burden in a timely manner. By having the necessary respect and understanding, people with higher education pay their taxes earlier in order to provide the tax office with the monetary resources in a timely manner so that they can manage it. It is also possible that people with higher education also have a higher income, which means that a higher financial buffer has been accumulated. Thus, there is no need for the group of people to save a certain amount of time in order to pay the tax burden, which means that an early transfer of funds is not a challenge. Last but not least, the occupational relationship is an influencing factor that needs to be discussed. Results indicate that all individuals (students, employees and managers) have the same tax behavior except for retirees. These results indicate that retirees pay their taxes before the other occupational groups. Explanations for this may be that retirees, by principle, have developed the behavior of paying their obligations and especially their debts as early as possible. This behavior may result either from the fact that, contrary to their usual routine, retirees no longer have to work from morning to night and therefore have more time on their hands, or from the fact that retirees are no longer used to dealing with obligations and pressure and want them to be settled as quickly as possible. In addition, it is also possible that this is typical behavior for the generation. Here, the motto is to get everything done as quickly as possible.

A closer look at the respondents' **tax morale** shows that the younger generation (16-24 years old) and the older generation (46-60 years old) have a lower tax morale than the middle-aged (25-45 years old). This behavior can possibly be explained simply. People between the ages of 16 and 24 lack the necessary knowledge to understand what it means when they don't receive a bill at the hairdresser or in a restaurant and the waitress adds up the prices on a small notepad. This knowledge comes only with higher age. In the group of people between 25 and 45 years of age, the interest is already higher. This can be explained by the fact that the understanding of the tax statement is developed in restaurants, at the hairdresser or also at other services. People realize what it means when asked "do you need an invoice". They also develop their own opinion, which may require the service provider to also pay their taxes and thus contribute to the tax budget. In the 46-60 age group, tax morale drops again somewhat. This behavior can possibly be attributed to the fact that people may have been disappointed by the government or the use of taxes and therefore do not pursue paying taxes with the utmost consistency. Likewise, older people may have the attitude that everyone has to look after themselves and be responsible for their own behavior; no judge is needed. There are also no gender-specific differences in tax morals. It is clear that both men and women have similar attitudes. This may come from the emancipation of women, that similar attitudes and behavior patterns towards service providers can be represented. In terms of education, it is evident that the respondents with doctoral degrees stand out. These have by far the highest moral attitude, which is possibly linked to the highest education, understanding of the need and knowledge of consequences as a crime. When looking at the occupational relationship, it is clear that pensioners have the worst tax morals. This is possibly linked to the fact that retirees do not place a high value on consistent adherence to tax morality in their environment due to possible disappointment with the government, politics, or the use of tax funds. It is also possible that pensioners receive a low pension and basically have to watch their financial expenses, which means that they can avoid paying taxes when they go to the hairdresser or to a restaurant. Besides, it is also possible that people do not realize what it means not to want to receive a bill.

Now the **corruption** and the related behavioral patterns are discussed. When looking at the perception of corruption on the basis of the influencing factor of age, it is evident that the perception of corruption increases with age. One possible explanation is that professional responsibility is highest at a higher age, which increases interest in corrupt behavior. Older people



are more likely to hold positions with greater decision-making responsibility. This can lead to them coming into contact with people who are prone to corruption. When considering gender, it is evident that men have a lower perception of corruption than women. In the literature, it is often assumed that men have a higher perception of corruption. However, this depends on the countries that are considered. In Germany, on the other hand, there is almost an equal distribution of women in management positions as men. In countries such as Africa, there is still a very conservative distribution of roles, which would easily explain an increased proportion of men. In this survey, which was conducted in Germany, there is possibly an approach as to why women perceive a somewhat higher level of corruption, as they are possibly more sensitive in dealing with suspicious cases. A pattern of behavior can also be seen in the level of education. It is evident that the higher the level of education, the lower the perception of corruption. This can possibly be explained by the fact that people with a higher education see too high a risk in exposing the crime, thereby putting their career, reputation and standard of living at risk. Therefore, individuals with lower education are more likely to risk their lives by gaining an advantage through corruption. Of course, the question here is how does contact take place between persons of lower education and an employee in the government or municipality. However, it should be said here that even in everyday life, every person inevitably has to deal with a person in an official position. No matter whether it is about a driver's license, a marriage, a parking ticket, a granting of a plot of land or something else. If we take a closer look at the allocation of land in Germany, for example, it becomes clear that a successful purchase of land is almost comparable to winning the lottery. Because the number of interested parties is so high, potential applicants have no other option than to bribe the official who administers the land allocation process.

When looking at the professional relationship, it is evident that students and pensioners perceive a somewhat higher corruption than employees and managers. This could possibly be due to the fact that both students and retirees are going through a life change. A student struggles to get a place at university and to afford the fees by means of funding. Retirees, too, have been earning money on their own all their lives and are now suddenly dependent on the government and the country, which pay a pension. These life-changing cuts can be cause for acts of desperation that result in corrupt behavior in oneself or in one's surroundings.

Below is a closer look at the **ability of bank employees to detect money laundering**. It can be seen that there are no major differences depending on age. However, the older and younger generations attribute a somewhat lower ability to bank employees. Middle-aged individuals see slightly higher ability. This is possibly due to the fact that there is a certain lack of knowledge, especially among younger and older persons, as to what spectrum the bank offers. The level is also not particularly high among the middle-aged generation. It should be said here that there is little education in Germany as to what tools and options the banks and their employees have to be able to clear up money laundering transactions. When considering gender, it is clear that women attribute a higher level of ability to bank employees than men. Women may have a higher level of trust in bank employees, whereas men are more skeptical. When looking at education, it is clear that bachelor's degree students attribute the highest level of competence to bank employees. Master's students, on the other hand, perceive the lowest. This result does not allow for any logical interpretation. Lastly, there is the consideration of the occupational relationship. Here it is clear that retirees attribute the least competence to bank employees and managers and students the highest. It is possible that pensioners cannot even imagine the technical means and possibilities that banks have today for monitoring transactions. Thus, the assessment can possibly be attributed to ignorance or is it due to the generation and its development. The fact that students and master's degree candidates have the highest competence rating could be due to their awareness and the necessary knowledge and interest. It is also possible that managers, in particular, are in close contact with banks, which means that there may be an exchange in their daily work and they may be called upon to cooperate.

Lastly, we take a closer look at **customers' willingness to cooperate** with questions from bank employees. Here it becomes clear that the older the customer, the more likely he or she is to question bank employees' questions or find them unpleasant. The reason for this may be that no one



likes to justify their behavior or their banking transactions. The younger generation still has the necessary respect and possibly the fear of consequences or of coming under suspicion. Older people, on the other hand, do not like to be controlled and know that the banks have little power to do so. When considering gender, women are somewhat more cooperative, which may be due to the fact that women, in principle, try to be more empathetic, understanding and polite. When looking at education, it is clear that the higher the level of education the more cooperative people are. This can be explained purely in terms of enlightenment. People with higher education know why the bank employees ask the questions and want to contribute to the detection of money laundering transactions to it. People with a lower level of education do not know why they are being asked such questions and feel that their privacy is being violated. They take the questions personally and feel under suspicion. When looking at the professional relationship, it becomes apparent that the higher the profession, the less willingness to cooperate. A similar reasoning can be illustrated here as well. Students are enlightened, have respect for banking, and are happy to cooperate. Retirees, on the other hand, do not want to disclose their private lives and are therefore unwilling to cooperate. Likewise, due to their advanced age, they have the necessary self-confidence to completely refuse to cooperate.

## 5. CONCLUSION

In summary, the factors of age, education and occupation exert a great influence on economic and financial crime. Gender is not decisive in some cases, because they are too similar, and in some cases, there are small differences. Germany may be too emancipated for the gender factor to find serious differences in behavior patterns. The results help to target the fight against economic and financial crime. For the German government, the fighting organizations, the bank employees and for many others it is valuable information to adapt their educational program and their control mechanisms and instruments to it.

All in all, it can be summarized that this study helps to establish an up-to-date profile of taxpayers in Germany, taking into account the level of tax morality, the perception of corruption and the reaction to possible acts of corruption. In addition, this study attempts to show how citizens are involved in the fight against money laundering and to what extent they are willing to cooperate with financial institutions in this direction. Based on our findings, policymakers can better understand taxpayers' response to and perceptions of financial and economic crime. Based on the results obtained, targeted measures can be taken to combat, but also to promote. The findings suggest that education and related awareness of the importance and significance of combating financial and economic crime is a potentially key factor. Also, of great importance is age and, to some extent, occupational status. Also, in these areas it is of great effectiveness to take targeted campaigns and measures. Even though the level of compliance in Germany is quite high, better information of citizens about possible activities in the area of financial crime is needed.

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