



IBE PUBLICATION LAUNCH - ETHICS AT WORK: 2018 SURVEY OF EMPLOYEES - FRANCE

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# ABOUT THE SURVEY









## ABOUT THE SURVEY

**PURPOSE** 

- UNDERSTAND employees' attitudes to ethics at work
- TRACK developments over time
- COMPARE how business ethics is viewed in different countries

**METHODOLOGY** 

- TRIENNIAL survey started in 2005 in Britain
- ONLINE survey conducted by ComRes on behalf of IBE
- Change of methodology for the UK in 2015 from face-toface to online

RESPONDENTS

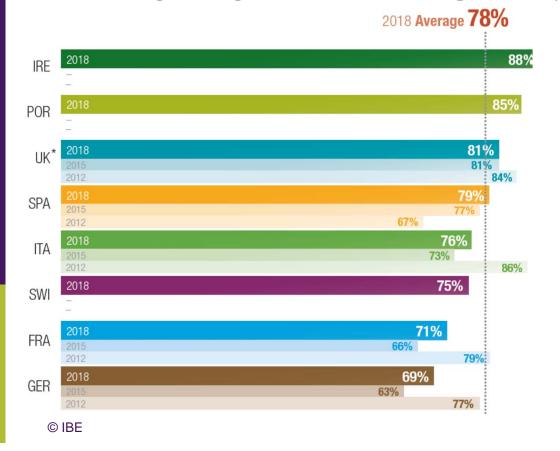
- Total of 2,268 respondents across Australia, NZ and UK
- Representative sample of about 750 working adults in each country (754 in France)



# 1. CORPORATE CULTURE: WHAT ARE THE RISKS

# HOW OFTEN IS HONESTY PRACTICED AT WORK?





Encouraging results. BUT...

! Employees perceptions might be influenced by a number of factors

# EMPLOYEES' PERCEPTIONS: WHAT

ARE THE RISKS

# Employees in France are more likely to Business Ethics have lenient attitudes towards ethically

questionable practices compared to

**FRANCE** 

Favouring family or friends when recruiting or awarding contracts

30% 19%

Pretending to be sick to take the day off

13% 9%

Minor fiddling/exaggeration of travel expenses

11% 9%

France

European Average

German employees are more likely than average to find each of the nine workplace practices acceptable

European average.

In the **UK**, employees find eight of the nine workplace practices more acceptable than average

**French** employees find seven of the nine workplace practices more acceptable than average Portuguese employees find each of the nine workplace practices more unacceptable than average

Employees in **Italy** find seven of the nine workplace practices more unacceptable than average

Employees in both **Ireland** and **Spain** find six of the nine workplace practices more unacceptable than average

**Swiss** employees find four of the nine workplace practices more acceptable than average. However, they also find two of the nine workplace practices less acceptable than average.

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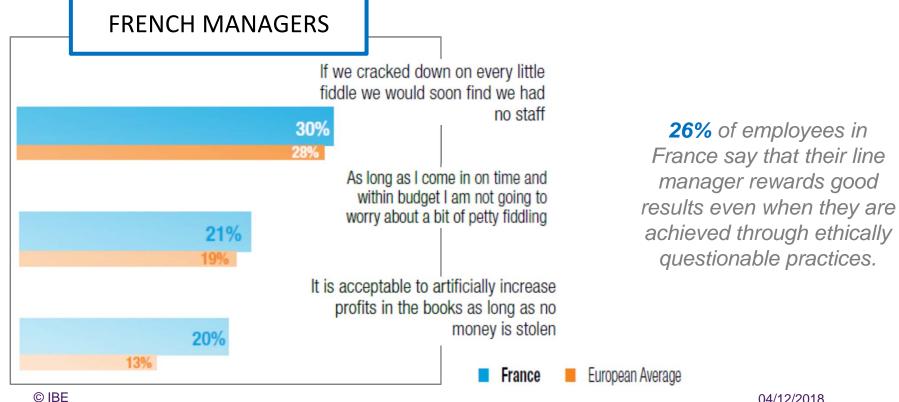
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## MORAL DISENGAGEMENT: MANAGERS' ATTITUDES







# 2. WHAT CAN INFLUENCE CORPORATE CULTURE?

## THE ETHICS PROGRAMME







## DO ETHICS PROGRAMMES WORK?



#### In French organisations with an ethics programme, employees say that:

- **Honesty** is practised more frequently (87% vs 66%)
- The organisation acts more responsibly in all its business dealings with stakeholders (85% vs 44%)
- They are more willing to speak up if they become aware of misconduct (80% vs 37%)

#### HOWEVER...

! They are more likely to have lenient attitudes to ethically questionable practices (e.g. minor fiddling/exaggeration of expenses: 17% vs 8%)



### A SUPPORTIVE ENVIRONMENT



#### TONE FROM THE TOP

Ability of managers to set a good example of ethical behaviour, explain the importance of honesty and ethics at work and support employees in following the organisation's standards of behaviour.

#### STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

Whether an organisation discusses issues of right and wrong at team meetings, lives up to its stated policy of social responsibility and acts responsibly in all its business dealings.

#### ADDRESSING MISCONDUCT

The ability of an organisation to discipline employees who violate its ethical standards.

# HOW IMPORTANT IS 'WALKING THE TALK'?

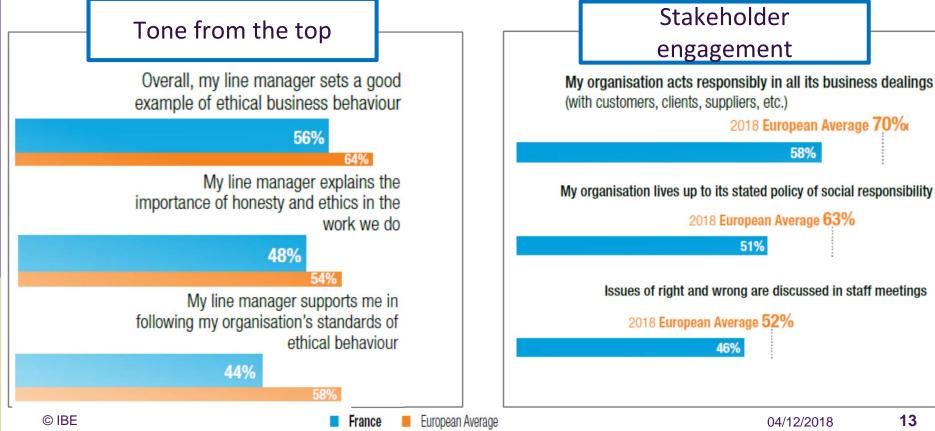


In organisations with a supportive environment, employees say that:

- Honesty is practised more frequently (88% vs 45%)
- They are less **aware of misconduct** (27% vs 66%)
- They are more willing to speak up if they become aware of misconduct (72% vs 44%)
- They felt less **pressures** to compromise their organisation's ethical standards (80% have not felt pressured vs 57%)

# CORPORATE ENVIRONMENT IN FRANCE







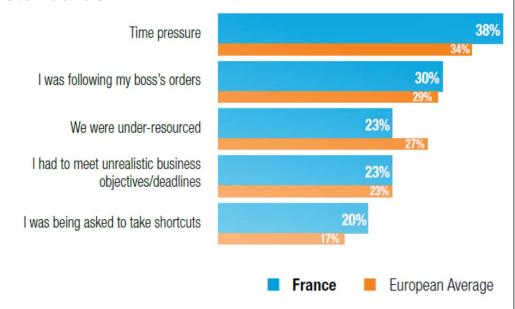
# 3. SPEAK UP SYSTEMS: DO THEY WORK?

## WHY SPEAKING UP IS IMPORTANT? Toe



#### **PRESSURES**



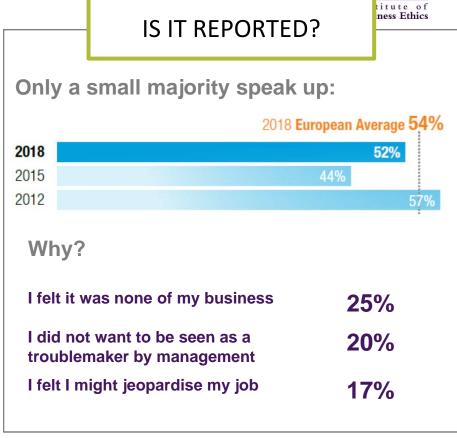


20% of French employees say that they have felt pressure to compromise their organisation's ethical standards (European average: 16%).

It has increased from 14% in 2015.

## WHY SPEAKING UP IS IMPORTANT?





# WHAT IS THE ORGANISATIONS' RESPONSE?



## SATISFACTION WITH PROCESS

Of those who do speak up, how many are satisfied with the outcome?

46% of French employees who have been aware of misconduct and raised their concerns report that they are satisfied with their organisation's response (51% European average)

## ARE ISSUES ADDRESSED?

Respondents who believe that their organisation disciplines employees who violate ethics:

Only half (49%) of French employees believe their organisation disciplines employees who violate its ethical standards (53% European average)

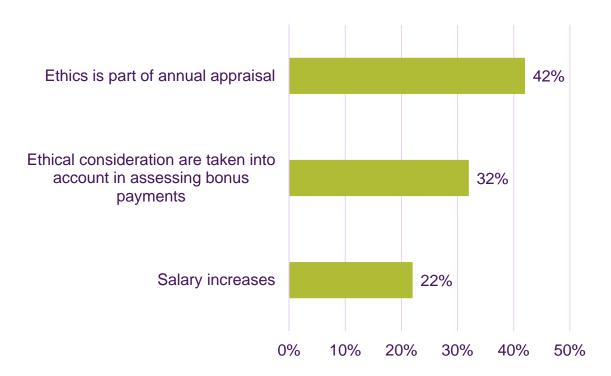


# 4. INCENTIVISING ETHICS

# INCENTIVES TO ETHICS: ARE THEY COMMON?



25% of French
respondents say
their organisation
provides incentives
to encourage
employees to live
up to its ethical
standards



## INCENTIVES TO ETHICS: DO THEY HAD WORK?



In organisations with incentives to ethics, employees say that:

- **Honesty** is practised more frequently (81% vs 68%)
- They are more likely to **speak up** about misconduct they are aware of (80% vs 42%) and be satisfied with the outcome of them speaking up (73% vs 25%)
- Ethically questionable practices are more likely to be acceptable (e.g. pretending to be sick to take a day off: 19% vs 10%)
- They felt more **pressures** to compromise their organisation's ethical standards (28% vs 18%)

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## THANK YOU!

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