The effects of public disclosure and peer monitoring on tax compliance

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University of Crete Internal Webinars 20 October 2021, Crete

Main idea:

- Tax authorities have access to the tax declarations of citizens, but they cannot monitor their real wealth without costly auditing.
- In contrast, individuals can observe the wealth of their peers, but they do not have access to their tax declarations.
- The mismatch can be lifted if tax declarations are made public so that peers can function as monitors, as is the case in some Nordic countries.
- Acknowledging real-life political constraints regarding the obligatory nature of tax disclosures, we test an alternative scheme where tax declaration disclosure is voluntary.
- We argue that real-life local networks can function as guards against evasive taxpayers.

This presentation

- Motivation
 - Empirical evidence
 - Literature
- Experimental Setting
 - PGG-baseline
 - Our mechanism
 - Additional treatments (2x2 design)
- Results
 - Pooled countries
 - By country
- Conclusion

Motivation

Countries allowing public disclosure

🕈 ENGLISH GREEK ITALIAN 🗸 🗸

The entire country has 4,740,063 taxpayers. Of these, 694,250 (14.6%) days no tax. The average income is ISK 333,554.

Bærum has the highest average income in the country, and Trysil has the lowest.

The highest average wealth is found in Frøya municipality, and the lowest in Verran municipality. The cohort with the largest average fortune was born in 1923.

Hele landet

Hele landet har **4 740 063** skatteytere. Av disse betaler **694 250** (14,6 %) ingen skatt. Snittinntekten er **333 554** kr.

Bærum har den høyeste snittinntekten i landet, og **Trysil** har den laveste.

Den høyeste snittformuen finner vi i **Frøya** kommune, og den laveste i **Verran** kommune. Årskullet med størst snittformue er født i **1923**.

Topplisten

	Navn	Inntekt ~	Formue	Skatt
1.	TROND MOHN Bergen, f. 1943	598 527 943	4 463 208 712	227 821 709
2.	CHRISTIAN GRUNER SUNDT Oslo, f. 1977	405 685 960	23 652 384	60 756 682
3.	IVAR ERIK TOLLEFSEN Bærum, f. 1961	238 660 700	9 201 140 496	154 928 356
4.	GUSTAV MAGNAR WITZØE Frøya, f. 1993	182 958 644	20 915 323 825	235 526 503
5.	BJØRN RUNE GJELSTEN Oslo, f. 1956	155 388 937	1 494 232 568	60 792 428
5.	WENCHE WIKAN LIGÅRD Os, f. 1964	130 052 644	198 154 448	42 988 175
7.	LARS NILSEN Drammen, f. 1968	118 735 313	366 878 380	40 926 483
3.	HERBJØRN HANSSON Sandefjord, f. 1948	115 731 104	42 057 767	50 556 078
э.	JOHAN BERNHARD UGLAND Grimstad, f. 1953	111 782 227	950 683 161	43 956 839
10.	MAGNUS REITAN Oslo, f. 1975	110 533 459	4 891 240 730	77 253 211
11.	OLE GUNNAR SOLSKJÆR Kristiansund, f. 1973	108 097 552	70 522 018	2 120 253
12.	TOR ØIVIND FJELD	106 445 161	2 630 823 031	55 505 869



Motivation

- ACCESSIBILITY (Perez-Truglia 2020)
- Norway: Online (2001)
- **Finland:** Visit tax agency (journalists); Online 10K richest individuals
- **Sweden**: not-anonymous phone, Ratsit website with fee
- Iceland: 2 weeks access not easy
- **Others:** online information of subset of the population (e.g. public employess)

Verotiedot ==Tax Information

Henkilöt Yritykset

SUODATA TULOKSIA ==Filter Results

Suodata tuloksia joko maakunnan tai nimen mukaan. ==Filter results by either province or name

Valitse maakunta ==Select a province

Kaikki Ahvenanmaa - Åland Etelä-Karjala Etelä-Pohjanmaa Etelä-Savo Kainuu Kanta-Häme Keski-Pohjanmaa Keski-Suomi Kymenlaakso Lappi Pirkanmaa Pohjanmaa Pohjois-Karjala Pohjois-Pohjanmaa Pohjois-Savo Päijät-Häme Satakunta Uusimaa Varsinais-Suomi

Hae nimellä ==Search by name

HAE

ΚΑΙΚΚΙ	Farnings	Base income	Total	Province
Nimi <mark>==name</mark>	Ansiotulo	Pääomatulo	Tulot yhteensä	✓ Maakunta
Hukkanen Hannu Tapani	1 203 827	26 662 597	27 866 424	Varsinais-Suomi
Kuntze Tomi Mikael	1 200 946	26 660 397	27 861 343	Varsinais-Suomi
Riihimäki Kimmo Sakari	37 373	24 529 672	24 567 045	Pirkanmaa
Wahlroos Björn Arne Christer	609 789	18 083 292	18 693 081	Varsinais-Suomi
Terentjeff Jorma Kalevi	48 214	16 200 307	16 248 521	Pohjois-Pohjanmaa

Tax on Personal Income (% of GDP), source OCDE



Tax Revenue (% of GDP), source OCDE





7.5

5 2009

Literature (Public compulsory disclosure)

- **Bo et al., 2015:** found a slight increase (about 3%) in reported business income after 2002 in communities that previously had limited disclosure.
- Hasegawa et al., 2013: analyzed disclosure of individual and corporate tax information in Japan and found that the existence of a "disclosure threshold" encouraged some underreporting of income.
- **Perez-Truglia, 2020**: In Norway, that the higher transparency increased the gap in happiness between richer and poorer individuals by 29%, and it increased the life satisfaction gap by 21%.
- Experimental studies:
 - Positive (shame) effect: Laury and Wallace, 2005; Coricelli et al., 2010:, Casal and Mittone, 2016; Andreoni, Petrie, 2004; Alm et al., 2017
 - Negative (mimicry): Fortin et al. (2007), Lefebvre et al. (2011)

Literature (Whistleblowing/Peer Monitoring)

- Armin et al. 2018: tax collections significantly increased after the introduction of the whistleblowing mechanism in Israel in February 2013
- Mechtenberg et al. 2017: increase in both truthful and fraudulent whistleblowing reports with an uncertain effect on tax collection
- Masclet et al., 2013: they observed that allowing for whistleblowing opportunities reduces tax evasion.
- Masclet et al., 2019 : Information on other taxpayers' compliance rates together with the opportunity to report tax evaders have a positive and very significant effect on the level of income reported.
- **Bazart et al., 2019:** under whistleblowing scheme (i) the targeting of evaders is improved, (ii) the monetary amount of tax evasion is smaller, and (iii) the tax levy is greater.

Literature (Voluntary disclosure)

- Langemayr, 2017: voluntary disclosure mechanisms increase (theoretically) the incentive to evade taxes, they nevertheless increase tax revenues net of administrative costs. Empirically shows the importance of administrative costs and the increase of tax evasion.
- Kreitmair, 2015: (i) Individuals tend to disclose their contribution information when given the option. (ii) Voluntarily revealed contributions are significantly higher than contributions under mandated disclosure. (iii) Voluntary disclosure may be helpful in attenuating the boomerang effect.
- **Dubois et al., 2018:** (i) the voluntary disclosure has a positive effect, measured by lower average extraction levels. (ii) If the disclosure mechanism allows self-declaring, there is a large tendency to lie leading to an increase in extraction.

Our Mechanism

- A Public Goods setting measuring cooperation
- Allows for voluntary public disclosure of tax declarations
- Allows for whistleblowing towards any actor (even co-operators)
- Allows for peer monitoring of others' actions (cooperating/revealing but not whistleblowing)
- Introduces (dis)incentives for misreporting even by free riders

EXPERIMENTAL SETTING

Public Goods Game (baseline)

Public Goods Game 6 players Tax-framed Endowment: 120 tokens Binary decision: Declare or No Tax rate: 50% to public good Partners Matching (with photos) Random Tax Auditing (1/6) **30 rounds**

STAGE 1: Tax Declaration

1 von 1

Verbleibende Zeit [sec]: 7

ETAPA 1

Tu ingreso en este período es: 120

Por favor, elige entre las dos opciones siguientes:

Haz clic en este botón si quieres DECLARAR tu ingreso.

DECLARAR

Periode

Haz clic en este botón si quieres NO DECLARAR tu ingreso.





Stage 1: Declare / Not Declare Income 50% Taxation PGG multiplication





Stage 1: Declare / Not Declare Income 50% Taxation PGG multiplication PGG redistribution





Full Cooperation Everyone 180





Full Evasion Everyone 120





5 Cooperators 160 tokens 1 Evader 220 Tempting, no???





5 Cooperators 160 tokens 1 Evader 220 Yes*6

STAGE 2: Tax Auditing

1 von 1

Verbleibende Zeit [sec]: 6

ETAPA 2

Los resultados de auditoría

Tú NO fuiste (al azar) SELECCIONADO para ser auditado. El miembro auditado ha elegido DECLARAR su renta en la Etapa 1. Este miembro NO PAGA una multa de impuestos (de 100 Fichas) NINGUNO de los restantes 5 miembros (incluido tú) recibe 20 Fichas.

OK

Periode

=60 Tokens

Binary Tax-Framed PGG



Stage 1: Declare / Not Declare Income 50% Taxation Stage 2: Auditing Feedback Audit Prob=1/6 Prob success=3/6 One Random Audit in the Group If Dec_0 : Penalty 100 tokens Redistributed to other 5 No revelation of who was audited

STAGE 3: Feed back

Periode	1 von 1		Verbleib	ende Zeit [sec]: 0
		o 1 Miembro 4	Tu decisión de declaración:	DECLARAR
	Miembro 1		Número de declarantes (incluido tú):	1
			Fichas ganadas de la Etapa 1:	120
			Fichas ganadas de la Etapa de Auditoría:	0
	Miembro 2	Miembro 5	Fichas ganadas en esta ronda:	120
	Miembro 3	Miembro 6	Fichas ganadas de todas las rondas:	120 ок

=60 Tokens

Binary Tax-Framed PGG



Stage 1: Declare / Not Declare Income 50% Taxation
Stage 2: Auditing
Stage 3: Feedback:
Earnings from Stage 1 (PGG)
Earnings from Stage 2 (Audit)
Number of Declarants
Photo but no decisions:

	Pocket	Тах	Public Good	Pay fee	Compensation
	120	-60*(1- <i>c_i</i>)	$+(\Sigma c_i^*60^*2)/6$	-100 (1- <i>c_i</i>)/6	(5+ci)/6*20*(6- <i>Σc_i</i> -(1- c _i))/(6-(1-c _i))
c=1	120	-60	+Σc _i *20	0	+20*(6-Σc _i)/6
c=0	120	-0	+Σc _i *20	-100/6	+(5/6)*20(5- <i>Σc_i/5)</i>



Baseline Treatment, n=300



OUR MECHANISM Voluntary Disclosure and Whistleblowing





Stage 1: Declare / Not Declare Income 50% Taxation PG multiplication PG redistribution

Stage 2: Reveal / Not Reveal Decision

_ Período	
1 de 1	Tiempo [sec]: 0
	Per favor, llegar a una decisión!
ETAPA 2	
Has decidido DECLARAR 120 fichas	
Por favor, elige entre las dos opciones sigu	ientes:
Haz clic en este botón si quieres REVELAR tu decisión (DECLARAR 120) a los demás miembros	de tu grupo.
Haz clic en este botón si quieres NO REVELAR tu decisión a los demás miembros de tu grupo.	





Stage 1: Declare / Not Declare Income 50% Taxation

Stage 2: Reveal / Not Reveal Decision

Stage 3: Whistleblowing

Período 1 de 1	Tiempo [sec]: 0
Tu has decidido DECLARAR 120 y REVELAR que te da el derec	cho de DENUNCIAR hasta un miembro del grupo
	Ingreso 120 NO REVELAR
	YA EN LA LISTA DE AUDITORIA
Ingreso 120 Declarar 120 DENUNCIAR	Ingreso 120 Declarar 0
Ingreso 120 Declarar 120 DENUNCIAR	Ingreso 120 NO REVELAR YA EN LA LISTA DE AUDITORIA

STAGE 4: Tax Auditing

1 de 1

Período-

Tiempo [sec]: 0

ETAPA 4

Cuántos miembros son susceptibles de auditoría en esta ronda y con qué probabilidad

3 (incluido tú) miembros están EXENTOS. 3 miembros son SUSCEPTIBLES: 2 por NO REVELAR y 1 por RECIBIR EL MAYOR NUMERO DE DENUNCIAS La probabilidad de auditoría de cada miembro susceptible es 1/3 = 33%

Resultados de la auditoría

Tú estás EXENTO de auditoría . El miembro auditado ha elegido DECLARAR 0 en la Etapa 1. Este miembro PAGA una multa de impuestos (de 100 Fichas) CADA UNO de los restantes 5 miembros (incluido tú) recibe 20 Fichas.

OK

=60 Tokens

Binary Tax-Framed PGG



Stage 1: Declare / Not Declare Income 50% Taxation Stage 2: Reveal / Not Reveal Decision Stage 3: Whistleblowing **Stage 4:** Auditing Pool: Max Votes + No revealers Audit Prob=1/(1+2)Prob success=2/3 One Random Audit in the Eligible Group If Dec_0 : Penalty 100 tokens Redistributed to other 5 No revelation of who was audited

STAGE 4: Feedback

Periodo	1 de 1			Tiempo (sec): 0
			Tu decisión de <mark>declaración</mark> :	DECLARAR 120
	Declarar 120	NO REVELAR	Número que declaran 120 (incluido tú):	3
<u>.</u>			Fichas ganadas de la Etapa 1:	120
B	Ingreso 120 Declarar 120	Ingreso 120	Fichas ganadas de la Etapa de Auditoría:	20
		Declarar 0	Fichas ganadas en esta ronda:	140
	Ingreso 120 Declarar 120	Ingreso 120 NO REVELAR	Fichas ganadas de todas las rondas:	140

=60 Tokens

Binary Tax-Framed PGG



Stage 1: Declare / Not Declare Income 50% Taxation Stage 2: Reveal / Not Reveal Decision **Stage 3:** Auditing Stage 4: Feedback: Earnings from Stage 1 (PGG) Earnings from Stage 3 (Audit) Number of Declarants Photo + info: Declared_120 (if RV&DEC) or... Declared_0 (if RV&NO_DEC) or... Not Revealed (if No_RV)

Is it optimal to reveal???

- Auditing Probability depends on no revealers & max votes
- If c=1, then you reveal so the prob. success is higher
- If c=0, then you reveal because it is the only chance no to be in the eligible group

Is it optimal to denounce and who???

- Denouncing affects the number of persons in the eligible group for -100
- Denouncing affects the success probability for +20
- Denounce free-riders is optimal for both types
- Only exception: if 1 free-rider then he votes against a cooperator

	i_coop						
$\sum_{-i} c_i$		5	4	3	2	1	0
Payoff	1	<mark>180</mark>	<mark>180</mark>	<mark>160</mark>	140	120	
Payoff	0	120	160	<mark>160</mark>	<mark>150</mark>	<mark>136</mark>	<mark>120</mark>

NE: Free Ride if $\sum_{-i} c_i < 3$ Indiferent if $\sum_{-i} c_i = 3$ Free Ride if $\sum_{-i} c_i > 3$

Experimental design



RESULTS

Sample Information

	Castellon	Warsaw	Lyon	Munich	Total	30 periods
Treatment s	5 (7)	5	5	5	20	
Ν	372	384	366	336	1458	43740
N(G)	62	64	61	56	243	7290
Exchange	1€/270	1zl/100	1€/270	1€/270		
Fee	3€	13zl	3€	4€		
Earnings	16.7-19.4€	44.2-53.7zl	15.9-19.4€	17-19.4€		

Vol. Whistle, n=294





Pooled Countries by treatment



Regressions					
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
	Logit	RE	poisson	mixed	mixed
State Imperf.(NX)	2.231***	1.652***	.435***	1.652***	79**
	(.195)	(.199)	(.052)	(.188)	(.308)
Ideal(XX)	4.393***	2.445***	.599***	2.445***	
	(.236)	(.183)	(.047)	(.227)	
Our Mech.(NN)	1.374***	1.072***	.3***	1.072***	-1.373***
	(.184)	(.204)	(.057)	(.279)	(.383)
Norway(XN)	4.023***	2.405***	.589***	2.405***	04
POL		MENTS AF	RE SIGINIF	CANTLY E	BETTER
FR		THAN	BASELIN	E	
	(.177)	(.203)	(.054)	(.006)	(.006)
GER	1.027***	.518***	.122***	.518***	.571***
	(.199)	(.181)	(.041)	(.002)	(.003)
period	033***	02***	004***	02***	012***
1	(.003)	(.003)	(.001)	(.003)	(.003)
_cons	.4**	3.26***	1.154***	3.26***	5.524***
	(.162)	(.165)	(.047)	(.13)	(.181)
Observations	43740	7290	7290	7290	5790

Robust standard errors are in parentheses *** p<.01, ** p<.05, * p<.1



	(1)	(2)	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
	logit	logit	RE	RE	Poisson	Poisson	mixed	mixed
vol_disclosure	-2.444***	-2.192***	-1.06***	79***	225***	162***	-1.06***	79**
	(.161)	(.244)	(.153)	(.217)	(.037)	(.046)	(.306)	(.308)
whistle	667***	385	318**	04	073**	009	318***	04
	(.157)	(.262)	(.154)	(.192)	(.034)	(.036)	(.123)	(.129)
whist_v_discl		482		543*		126*		543*
		(.327)		(.303)		(.066)		(.282)
POL	.786***	.775***	.346*	.34*	.072*	.072*	.346***	.34***
	(.207)	(206)	(102)	(187)	(041)	$(\cap 4)$	(00 2)	(.005)
FR	64	The	main p	roblem	is discl	osure!		383***
	((.407)	(· <i>4</i> + 1)	(•411)	((()	(.006)
GER	1.239***	1.234***	.568***	.571***	.126***	.128***	.568***	.571***
	(.237)	(.236)	(.214)	(.211)	(.045)	(.045)	(.002)	(.003)
period	024***	024***	012***	012***	002***	002***	012***	012***
	(.003)	(.003)	(.003)	(.003)	(.001)	(.001)	(.003)	(.003)
_cons	4.774***	4.628***	5.702***	5.564***	1.751***	1.717***	5.702***	5.564***
	(.22)	(.243)	(.18)	(.183)	(.038)	(.037)	(.203)	(.176)
Observations	34740	34740	5790	5790	5790	5790	5790	5790
Pseudo R ²		(2)	.Z	.Z	.Z	.Z	.Z	.Z

Robust standard errors are in parentheses *** p<.01, ** p<.05, * p<.1





Mixed Regre	essions by C	country						
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)
	SPAIN	PAIN	POLAND	POLAND	FRANCE	FRANCE	GERM	GERM
vol_disclos	-1.25***	612	-1.216***	916***	-1.582***	-1.55***	114	009
	(.301)	(.446)	(.227)	(.346)	(.373)	(.474)	(.266)	(.412)
whistle	608**	.056	104	.219	413	381	16	055
	(.304)	(.346)	(.229)	(.229)	(.373)	(.416)	(.265)	(.448)
whist_v_di		-1.276**		623		064		206
		(.573)		(.441)		(.747)		(.533)
period	017***							01
-	(.007)	There a	are import	ant differe	nces acros	ss countrie	2S! 06)	(.006)
_cons	6.031***	5.699***	6.081***	5.919***	5.516***	5.5***	5.671***	5.618***
	(.244)	(.252)	(.219)	(.235)	(.275)	(.271)	(.263)	(.348)
Observatio	1500	1500	1500	1500	1440	1440	1350	1350
	-	-						

Robust standard errors are in parentheses *** p<.01, ** p<.05, * p<.1

A closer look to our mechanism



	i_coop						
$\sum_{-i} c_i$		5	4	3	2	1	0
Payoff	1	<mark>180</mark>	<mark>180</mark>	<mark>160</mark>	140	120	
Payoff	0	120	160	<mark>160</mark>	<mark>150</mark>	<mark>136</mark>	<mark>120</mark>

Logit Regressions				
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
	Contrib.	Contrib.	Contrib.	Contrib.
lagcc	.246	414**	481***	487***
	(.208)	(.186)	(.178)	(.177)
lagrv	.128	634***	375*	31
	(.127)	(.237)	(.193)	(.198)
lagccXlagrv		1.232***	.958***	.885***
		(.293)	(.246)	(.252)
lagothercc			.401***	249*
			(.066)	(.128)
lagotherrv			.191***	32***
			(.055)	(.091)
lagotherccrv				.183***
				(.032)
lagvotes	.008	.185**	.078	.051
	(.061)	(.078)	(.074)	(.076)
lagaudited	.058	.228	.043	021
	(163)	(163)	(164)	(165)

My and groups history are the best predictors!

	(.495)	(.489)	(.35)	(.332)
FR	119	104	142	176
	(.611)	(.586)	(.414)	(.38)
GER	2.12***	2.074***	1.434***	1.284***
	(.618)	(.608)	(.5)	(.464)
period	032***	032***	022***	025***
-	(.009)	(.009)	(.007)	(.006)
Qage	.053	.052	.053	.052
	(.042)	(.042)	(.041)	(.041)
Qgender	239	243	294	29
	(.258)	(.252)	(.223)	(.217)
_cons	141	.106	-1.85*	023
	(.956)	(.929)	(.988)	(.977)
Observations	8526	8526	8526	8526

Standard errors are in parentheses

*** *p*<.01, ** *p*<.05, * *p*<.1

Regressions			
	(1)	(2)	(3)
	RE	Poisson	mixed
lagcc	.123	.085*	056
	(.144)	(.045)	(.124)
lagrv	396***	125***	305***
	(.096)	(.04)	(.092)
lagccXlagrv	.136***	.032***	.114***
	(.025)	(.008)	(.023)
lagauditsuccess	.411***	.169***	.414***

Contribution is not important predictor if not revealed. Revelation has a strong negative effect if cc=0!

Interaction has a positive effect!

penou	-••• 1	004	01/
	(.003)	(.001)	(.005)
_cons	2.519***	.851***	3.241***
	(.522)	(.182)	(.485)
Observations	1421	1421	1421

Standard errors are in parentheses

*** p<.01, ** p<.05, * p<.1





Logit Regressions				
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
	ES	POL	FRA	GER
lagcc	529**	676*	334	475
	(.232)	(.376)	(.46)	(.494)
lagrv	325	1.206*	804**	.167
	(.273)	(.629)	(.358)	(.625)
lagccXlagrv	.6*	405	1.634***	.527
	(.337)	(.555)	(.488)	(.786)
lagothercc	315*	425***	.391**	436
	(.18)	(.119)	(.195)	(.445)
lagotherrv	173	367*	053	607
	(.132)	(.189)	(.151)	(.424)
lagotherccrv	.115**	.246***	.075	.283**
	(.051)	(.044)	(.059)	(.127)
lagvotes	.05	374*	.251***	103
	(.133)	(.203)	(.094)	(.182)
lagaudited	252	.373	313	02

Logit Regressions

^{lag} There are important differences across countries!
 ^{pei} Germany only other interaction matters.
 ^{Qa} France own history more important.

Qg

_cons	375	028	-6.402	2.344
	(1.354)	(2.158)	(4.296)	(1.99)
Observations	2262	2088	2088	2088

Standard errors are in parentheses

*** *p*<.01, ** *p*<.05, * *p*<.1

Conclusions (1)

- Endogenization has a positive effect (as compared to baseline) on cooperation
- Whistle blowing is not a problem!
- Voluntary disclose (and its interaction) has a negative effect!
- Country differences: ES: whistle interacts negatively with vol_disclos.; POL&FR: vol_disclose (if cc=0) matters; FR&GE: time trend disappears

Conclusions (2)

- In our mechanism, very important role of cc1rv0's as they affect the auditing probability and expectations
- Own and others short history on cc and rv (and their interaction) are good predictors
- Country differences: ES: whistle interacts negatively with vol_disclos.; POL&FR: vol_disclose (if cc=0) matters; FR&GE: time trend disappears

Thank you for your attention!

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