README for replication of results in Rules, Discretion, and Corruption in Procurement: Evidence from Italian Government Contracting

This version: February 11, 2024

I Data Sources

1. Procurement data: we use procurement data for the universe of infrastructure procurement from the Italian Anticorruption Authority (ANAC), the public entity that oversees public procurement in Italy. The data are provided into two subsets - for years 2000-2008 and 2009-2016.

2. Criminal Investigations Data: For each firm, we obtained the full list of its owners and top managers through the Company Accounts Data System. This is a proprietary database maintained by CERVED Group that we observe for four separate years: 2006, 2011, 2014, and 2016. For each firm, the union of all owners and managers recorded in any of these four periods represents the set of individuals connected to the firm in our analysis. For each individual, their record of criminal investigations was coded, and this information was aggregated across firm-linked individuals to obtain a firm-level measure of potential criminal status. We use the same criminal investigations database to determine the suspected criminality of each RUP in our data. Records of individuals' criminal investigations were analyzed for us by AISI (Italy's internal intelligence and security agency) using a centralized archive, the Sistema D'Indagine Interforze (SDI), which is a primary source of information that police officers and intelligence agencies use to identify potential targets for further investigation.

II Data Access

Procurement data can be freely accessed and downloaded from the ANAC website: https://dati.anticorruzione.it/opendata. For years pre-2013, a request needs to be made to ANAC.

CERVED Company Accounts data are proprietary data that can be accessed by researchers through institutional purchases. For more information, please visit: https://www.cerved.com/en/.

Criminal Investigations data are confidential data that were provided under an agreement between Bocconi University and the Presidency of the Council of Ministers. For more information, please contact the Bocconi-BAFFI Carefin Center https://baffi.unibocconi.eu/contactsat at: baffi@unibocconi.it.