



SPECIAL EUROBAROMETER 548

Citizens' attitudes towards corruption in the EU in 2024

EUROBAROMETER **REPORT**

FIELDWORK: February – March 2024



This survey has been requested by the European Commission, Directorate-General for Migration and Home Affairs (DG HOME) and co-ordinated by the European Commission, Directorate-General for Communication (DG COMM 'Media monitoring and Eurobarometer' Unit)

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Introduction



Introduction

Corruption is typically understood as the misuse of power entrusted to individuals for personal advantage. Manifesting in various guises, it ranges from blatant acts like bribery and influence peddling to subtler forms such as nepotism, conflicts of interest, and the revolving door phenomenon between the corporate world and public service. This malpractice not only deepens social inequalities and erodes trust in governmental institutions but also undermines effective governance and social equity, posing a significant challenge to the principles of law, democracy, and human rights. Furthermore, corruption detrimentally impacts governmental goals aimed at narrowing the wealth gap and enhancing environmental sustainability. Its adverse effects on the economy are profound, instigating business uncertainty, impeding operations, and incurring extra costs, ultimately sabotaging the European Union (EU)'s investment climate, compromising the integrity of the Internal Market, and depleting public resources¹.

The EU Rule of Law Report, released annually since 2020, reveals the diverse nature and extent of corruption across EU Member States, highlighting the varying success of anti-corruption measures throughout the EU. This report forms a crucial foundation for discussions with national authorities and parliaments and fuels wider deliberations across Europe. Complemented by the anti-corruption experience-sharing program initiated by the Commission in 2015, and continued as thematic workshops under the EU Anti-Corruption Network since 2024, these initiatives have spurred national bodies to enhance the enforcement of anti-corruption legislation and policies.²

The Commission's anti-corruption efforts are centred around the following main pillars:

- mainstreaming anti-corruption provisions in EU horizontal and sectorial legislation and policy
- monitoring the efforts of EU Member States in preventing and fighting corruption
- supporting the implementation of anti-corruption measures at national level through funding, technical assistance, and experience-sharing
- improving the quantitative evidence base for anti-corruption policy
- promoting the fight against corruption globally

This Eurobarometer survey is designed to explore the level of corruption perceived and experienced by European citizens. It was first conducted in 2005³, and has been repeated in 2007⁴, 2009⁵, 2011⁶, 2013⁷, 2017⁸, 2019⁹, 2022¹⁰, and 2023¹¹.

¹ https://ec.europa.eu/home-affairs/policies/internal-security/organised-crime-and-human-trafficking/corruption_en

² https://ec.europa.eu/home-affairs/policies/internal-security/organised-crime-and-human-trafficking/corruption_en

³ <https://ec.europa.eu/commfrontoffice/publicopinion/index.cfm/Survey/getSurveyDetail/instruments/SPECIAL/surveyKy/1490>

⁴ <https://ec.europa.eu/commfrontoffice/publicopinion/index.cfm/Survey/getSurveyDetail/instruments/SPECIAL/surveyKy/636>

⁵ <https://ec.europa.eu/commfrontoffice/publicopinion/index.cfm/Survey/getSurveyDetail/instruments/SPECIAL/surveyKy/814>

⁶ <https://ec.europa.eu/commfrontoffice/publicopinion/index.cfm/Survey/getSurveyDetail/instruments/SPECIAL/surveyKy/1010>

⁷ <https://ec.europa.eu/commfrontoffice/publicopinion/index.cfm/Survey/getSurveyDetail/instruments/SPECIAL/surveyKy/1076>

⁸ <https://ec.europa.eu/commfrontoffice/publicopinion/index.cfm/Survey/getSurveyDetail/instruments/SPECIAL/surveyKy/2176>

⁹ <https://europa.eu/eurobarometer/surveys/detail/2247>

¹⁰ <https://europa.eu/eurobarometer/surveys/detail/2658>

¹¹ <https://europa.eu/eurobarometer/surveys/detail/2968>

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This survey covers the following areas:

- General perceptions of corruption including acceptability, its extent, and the perceived changes in incidence in recent years.
- Detailed attitudes to corruption in public institutions and business, and the effectiveness of government, the judicial system, and institutions in tackling corruption.
- Personal experience of bribery, and the incidence of corruption in contact with institutions.
- Whether corruption was reported, awareness of where to report corruption and the level of trust in various authorities to deal with it. Reasons for not reporting corruption are also considered.

The findings have been evaluated at the EU level, encompassing all 27 Member States, and have been broken down by country and socio-demographic group. The methodology for the present survey is rooted in the 2013 Special Eurobarometer survey design. This year's results have been benchmarked against those from 2023 and, when pertinent, against data from prior surveys. Notably, in 2019, the United Kingdom was a member of the EU, so any reference to the EU average from that year or earlier includes data from the UK.

Throughout the report, when comparisons are made with the 2023 results in the text, the percentage point difference is shown in brackets. For example, (45%, +3) denotes a 3 percentage point increase and (65%, -7), a 7 percentage point decrease. Where there has been no change since 2023, this is expressed as (=).

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Methodology

This survey was carried out by the Verian Group in the 27 EU Member States between the 7th of February and the 3rd of March. Some 26,411 respondents from different social and demographic groups were interviewed in their mother tongue. This survey was commissioned by the European Commission, Directorate-General for Migration and Home Affairs (DG HOME).

Note: In this report, Member States are referred to by their official abbreviation, as listed below:

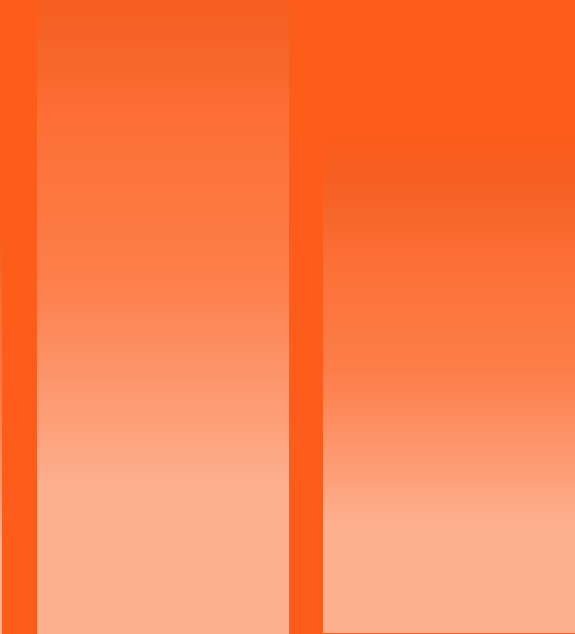
Belgium	BE	Lithuania	LT
Bulgaria	BG	Luxembourg	LU
Czechia	CZ	Hungary	HU
Denmark	DK	Malta	MT
Germany	DE	Netherlands	NL
Estonia	EE	Austria	AT
Ireland	IE	Poland	PL
Greece	EL	Portugal	PT
Spain	ES	Romania	RO
France	FR	Slovenia	SI
Croatia	HR	Slovakia	SK
Italy	IT	Finland	FI
Republic of Cyprus*	CY*	Sweden	SE
Latvia	LV		
European Union - weighted average for the 27 Member States of the European Union			EU27
BE, FR, IT, LU, DE, AT, ES, PT, IE, NL, FI, EL, EE, SI, CY, MT, SK, LV, LT, HR			euro area
BG, CZ, DK, HU, PL, RO, SE			Non-euro area

* Cyprus as a whole is one of the 27 European Union Member States. However, the "acquis communautaire" has been suspended in the part of the country which is not controlled by the government of the Republic of Cyprus. For practical reasons, only the interviews carried out in the part of the country controlled by the government of the Republic of Cyprus are included in the "CY" category and in the EU27 average.

We wish to thank the people throughout the European Union who have given their time to take part in this survey.
Without their active participation, this study would not have been possible.



Key findings



More than two thirds of Europeans still believe corruption is widespread in their country

- Over two thirds (68%) believe corruption is prevalent in their country, marking a slight decrease of two percentage points since 2023.
- Perceptions of corruption's prevalence vary widely among EU Member States, with more than 90% of citizens in Greece (98%), Portugal (96%), Malta and Slovenia (95%), Croatia (92%) and Cyprus (91%) viewing corruption as widespread. In contrast, only 18% in Finland, 26% in Denmark, and 43% in Luxembourg share this view.
- In comparison to 2023, there has been an increase in the perception of widespread corruption within 16 EU Member States. The most significant increases were observed in Sweden, where nearly half of the respondents (49%) perceive corruption as widespread, marking a 13-point rise, followed by Slovenia, where 95% of respondents share now this view, up by 12 points, and the Netherlands, with 54% acknowledging widespread corruption, a 7-point increase.
- Three quarters of respondents agree that too-close links between business and politics lead to corruption, indicating a slight decrease from the previous year's 78%. Almost two-thirds (63%, -3) believe that favouritism and corruption hinder business competition. Almost six in ten (59%, -1) believe that corruption is part of the business culture in their country. Just over half (51%, +1) agree that in their country, the only way to succeed in business is to have political connections.
- Respondents are most likely to think that corruption is present within political parties (53%), amongst politicians at local, regional, or national levels (50%) and officials who award public tenders (37%) or grant building permits (36%).
- More than six in ten (63%, -4) believe that bribery and the use of connections is often the easiest way to obtain certain public services.

Over a quarter of Europeans feel they are personally affected by corruption in their daily life.

- Just over one quarter of respondents (27%) say that they are personally affected by corruption in their daily life, an increase of 3 percentage points compared to 2023.
- Those surveyed living in Member States which joined the EU in or after 2004 are more likely than those living in countries which joined prior to that date to agree that they are personally affected by corruption (40% vs. 23%). Those living outside the euro area are also more likely to say this compared to those living in euro area countries (33% vs. 25%).

The majority of Europeans continue to think that corruption is unacceptable.

- A majority of Europeans (61%) continue to view corruption as unacceptable, although this represents a decline of three percentage points from the previous year, 2023.
- In 21 EU Member States, at least half of all respondents consider corruption to be unacceptable, with the highest percentages found in Spain (80%), Malta (77%), and Ireland and Portugal (both 74%), while fewer than four in ten respondents agree with this position in Czechia (28%), Slovakia (38%), and Romania (39%).
- Around a third of respondents think it is acceptable to do a favour (33%) or give a gift (30%) in order to get something from a public administration or a public service, while just over one in five think it is acceptable to give money (21%) for this reason. Although a majority find it unacceptable to exchange favours, gifts or money for public services, there is an increasing trend in the acceptability of such actions; +7, +3, and +5 percentage points respectively.

Only a minority think the fight against corruption in their country is effective.

- Over four in ten (41%, -4) think the level of corruption in their country has increased in the past three years, and 43% (+2) think it has stayed the same.
- In ten EU Member States, at least half of respondents think the level of corruption in their country has increased, a view most widespread in Portugal (78%), Slovenia (73%), Croatia (72%), and Malta (70%).
- Since 2023, higher proportions of respondents believe that corruption in their country has risen in 12 EU Member States. The largest increases were observed in Slovenia (73%, +19), Sweden (60%, +18), and Portugal (78%, +12). Conversely, in 14 countries, the perception that corruption has increased is lower than in 2023, particularly in Italy (29%, -11), Germany (38%, -9), and Poland (19%, -7).
- Respondents are pessimistic about national efforts to combat corruption. Only a minority think measures against corruption are applied impartially and without ulterior motives (35%), that there are enough successful prosecutions to deter people from corrupt practices (32%), that their national government's efforts to combat corruption are effective (30%) or that there is sufficient transparency and supervision of the financing of political parties in their country (30%).
- In all but three Member States (Denmark, Finland, and Luxembourg), the majority of respondents agree high-level corruption cases are not pursued sufficiently in their country. In two countries at least eight in ten agree: Greece (83%) and Lithuania (81%).

The police are the most trusted body to deal with corruption across all Member States.

- Six in ten Europeans say they most trust the police to deal with a case of corruption (-1). The police rank well above the justice system (23%, -1), the only other institution or body mentioned by at least one in five respondents.

More than half of the respondents do not know where to report corruption if they experience or witness it.

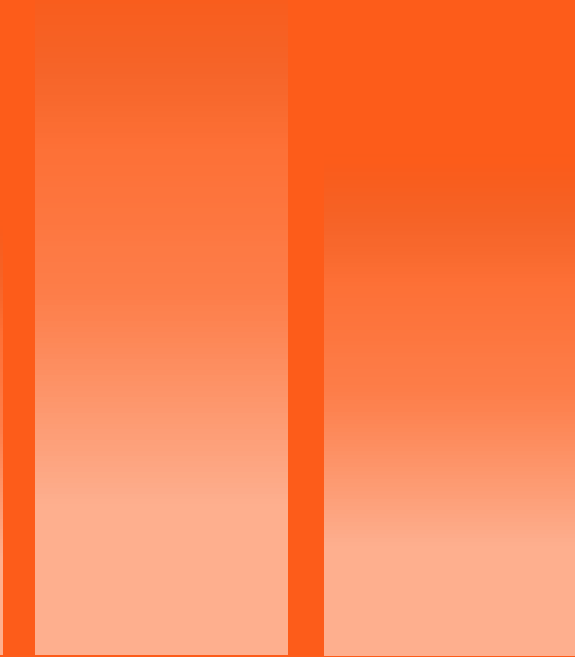
- Five per cent of Europeans report they have personally encountered or witnessed a case of corruption in the last 12 months. At the national level, results range from 14% in Croatia and 12% in Greece to 1% in Portugal followed by Sweden, Romania, and Finland (all 3%).
- Of those that have had contact with various services, fewer than one in ten (7%) express that someone asked for or expected them to offer a gift, favour or additional money in exchange for their services. The country-level results range from 23% in Belgium and 20% in Bulgaria and Croatia to 1% in Denmark and 2% in Spain, Portugal, Finland, and Sweden.
- One in ten respondents (10%) personally know someone who accepts or has accepted bribes, with country scores ranging from 32% in Greece and 26% in Malta to 4% in Ireland and 5% in Italy.
- More than half of the respondents (56%) state they do not know where to report corruption if they experience or observe it, similar levels to 2023 (54%). Respondents are most likely to know where to report corruption in Malta (63%) and Slovenia (60%) and least likely in Romania and Belgium (both 28%) and Poland (32%).
- Among those who experienced or witnessed corruption, 18% reported it (+4).

The difficulty in proving corruption is the main reason for not reporting it.

- In 23 EU Member States, difficulty in proving anything is the most mentioned reason for not reporting corruption, although results differ widely across countries: from 60% in Finland to 29% in Romania.
- Overall, more than four in ten respondents (43%, -4 percentage points since 2023) say that the difficulty in proving corruption is an important reason they do not report it. Close to three in ten (28%, -2) say reporting it would be pointless because those responsible will not be punished, while as many (28%, =) say there is no protection for those who report corruption.



I. General perceptions of corruption



1 How widespread is corruption?

Respondents are slightly less pessimistic about the spread of corruption than they were in 2023, but a majority of over two thirds still believe corruption is widespread in their country.

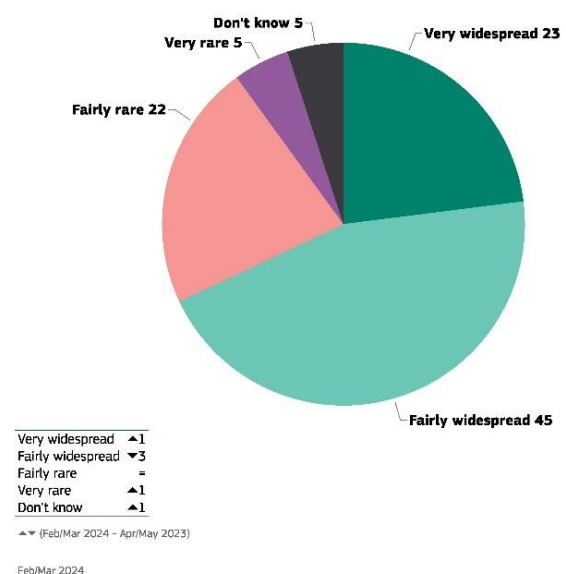
Respondents were asked to assess how widespread they think the corruption is in their country¹².

More than two thirds of respondents (68%, -2 percentage points since 2023) believe corruption is widespread in their country.¹³ Nearly one in four (23%, +1) perceive corruption as “very widespread”, while 45% (-3) see it as “fairly widespread”. In total, more than one in four (27%, +1) consider corruption rare in their country, with 22% (=) deeming it “fairly rare” and 5% (+1) viewing it as very rare. A small percentage, 5% (+1), indicate they “don’t know”.

The results show that respondents are slightly less pessimistic regarding the spread of corruption in their country compared to 2023, with a majority still thinking the problem is widespread. After dropping slightly (-3 percentage points) between 2019 and 2022, and again increasing by two percentage points back to 70% in 2023 the proportion who think corruption in their country is widespread has slightly decreased again to the 2022 level. This is eight points lower than it was in 2013 when the question was asked for the first time.

In 23 EU Member States, the majority of respondents believe that corruption is widespread in their country. At least nine out of ten respondents share this view in seven of the Member States: Greece (98%), Portugal (96%), Slovenia and Malta (both 95%), Croatia (92%), Cyprus (91%) and Spain (90%).

QD2. How widespread do you think the problem of corruption is in (OUR COUNTRY)? (EU27) (%)



In four countries, fewer than half think corruption is widespread: Finland (18%), Denmark (26%), Luxembourg (43%), and Sweden (49%).

In four countries, at least half of the respondents perceive corruption as “very widespread”: Malta, Slovenia (both 61%), Cyprus (55%) and Greece (50%).

¹² QD2. How widespread do you think the problem of corruption is in (OUR COUNTRY)?

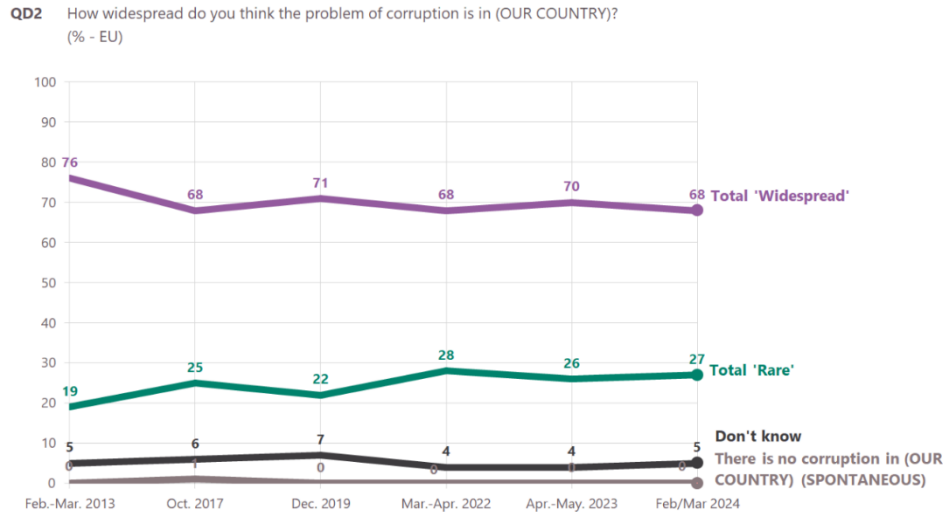
¹³ Before answering whether corruption is widespread in their country, respondents were given a detailed definition of corruption: “offering, giving, requesting, and accepting bribes or kickbacks, valuable gifts, and important favours, as well as any

abuse of power for private gain”. They were also requested to base their answers on their own experience.

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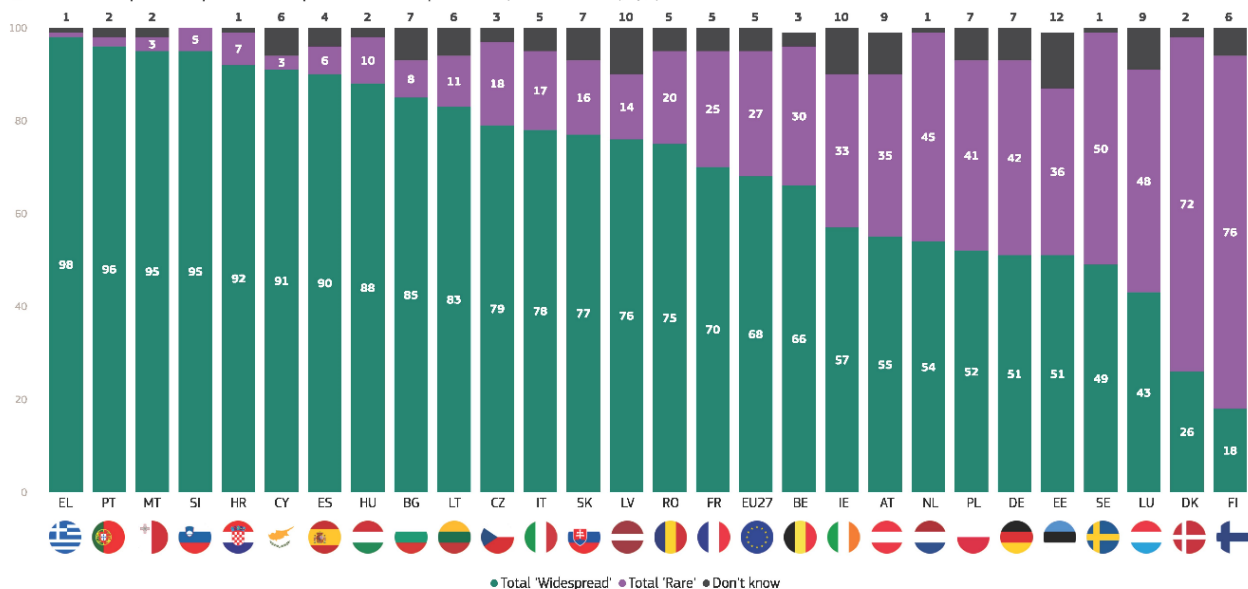
In 16 EU Member States, the proportion of respondents who think corruption is widespread in their country has increased since 2023, with the biggest rise seen in Sweden (49%, +13), Slovenia (95%, +12), and the Netherlands (54%, +7). Belief that corruption is widespread has decreased in nine countries, most notably in Poland (52%, -9), Italy (78%, -7), and Estonia (51%, -6).

The country analysis over the long term shows some interesting patterns and trends in the proportion of respondents feeling corruption is widespread in their countries notably:

- In Czechia there was a steady decline between 2013 (95%) to 2023 (76%) before a slight rise again to 79% in 2024.
- In Ireland, the percentage has fallen from 81% in 2013 to 57% in 2024.

- In Greece perceptions of widespread corruption have been consistently high and above 95% since 2013.
- In Italy there has been slight fluctuations over four years, followed by a marked drop (-7) in between 2023 and 2024.
- In Malta percentages fluctuated from 89% in 2019, to 79% in 2022 to 92% in 2023 before rising again to 95% in 2024.
- In Sweden, fluctuations are noted annually, with percentages moving from 40% in 2019, to 32% in 2022, 36% in 2023, and reaching 49% in 2024.

QD2. How widespread do you think the problem of corruption is in (OUR COUNTRY)? (%)



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The **socio-demographic analysis** shows that the majority of respondents in each group (60% or over) think corruption in their country is widespread. However, this belief is more widely held in some groups than others:

- Older respondents are overall more likely to think that corruption is widespread. More than seven in ten (70%-71%) of those aged 40 and up think this way, compared to two thirds of those aged 25-39, and just over of six in ten (62%) of those aged 15-24.
- The earlier a respondent left education, the more likely they are to think corruption is widespread: more than three quarters (77%) who left education aged 15 or younger think this way, compared to almost two thirds (65%) who completed their education aged 20 or older.
- The unemployed (75%) and the self-employed (74%) are the most likely professional group to say corruption is widespread, particularly compared to managers (62%) and students (60%).
- Those facing challenges in paying their bills most of the time are more inclined to believe that corruption is prevalent, with eight in ten holding this view. In contrast, about two thirds (65%) of individuals who rarely or never face such financial difficulties think corruption is widespread.
- Respondents who have experienced or witnessed corruption are substantially more likely to think it is widespread (90% and 81% respectively) than those who have not (67%).
- Respondents who know someone who takes bribes are more likely to think corruption is widespread than those who do not know anyone who does this (83% vs. 67%).

The regional analysis shows that respondents from the Member States that joined the European Union in or after 2004¹⁴ are slightly more likely than those in countries who were already members in 2004¹⁵ to think that corruption is widespread in their country (70% vs. 68%), similar proportions to 2023 (73% vs. 68%) This is a similar picture to respondents living in euro area countries compared to those living in non-euro countries (70% vs. 62%), compared to 2023 (71% vs. 64%).

QD2 How widespread do you think the problem of corruption is in (OUR COUNTRY)?
 (% - EU)

	Total 'Widespread'	Total 'Rare'	Don't know
EU27	68	27	5
 Gender			
Man	69	27	4
Woman	67	27	6
 Age			
15-24	62	29	9
25-39	66	29	5
40-54	71	26	3
55 +	70	25	5
 Education (End of)			
15-	77	16	7
16-19	71	24	5
20+	65	32	3
Still studying	60	31	9
Socio-professional category			
Self-employed	74	23	3
Managers	62	36	2
Other white collars	69	28	3
Manual workers	71	24	5
House persons	68	25	7
Unemployed	75	19	6
Retired	69	25	6
Students	60	31	9
Difficulties paying bills			
Most of the time	80	15	5
From time to time	72	23	5
Almost never/ Never	65	30	5
Experienced or witnessed corruption			
Yes, experienced	90	9	1
Yes, witnessed	81	17	2
No	67	28	5
You know someone who takes bribes			
Yes	83	16	1
No	67	28	5

¹⁴ This country group refers to the weighted average of the 13 'new Member States' which joined the European Union during the 2004, 2007 and 2013 enlargements. BG, CZ, EE, HR, CY, LT, LV, MT, HU, PL, RO, SI, SK

¹⁵ This country group refers to the weighted average of the 14 Member States forming the European Union before the enlargements of 2004, 2007 and 2013. BE, IT, FR, DE, LU, NL, DK, IE, PT, ES, EL, AT, SE, FI.

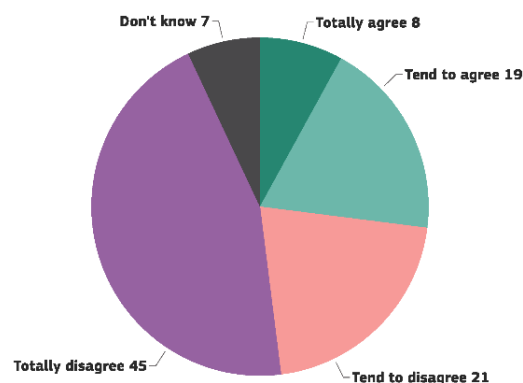
2 Level of corruption in daily life

Over a quarter say they are personally affected by corruption in their daily life.

Respondents were questioned on whether they feel personally affected by corruption in their daily lives¹⁶. More than a quarter (27%, +3 percentage points compared to 2023) say they are personally affected by corruption in their daily lives, with 8% (+1) stating they “totally agree” with this assertion. Conversely, the majority (66%, =) indicate they disagree that they are personally affected by corruption, with 45% (-7) expressing they “totally disagree”.

The regional analysis shows respondents living in Member States that joined the EU in or after 2004 are more likely than those from the other EU Member States to agree they are personally affected by corruption in their daily life (40% vs. 23%). Those living outside the euro area are also more likely to say this compared to those living inside euro area countries (33% vs. 25%).

QD12.4. Please tell whether you agree or disagree with each of the following? :-You are personally affected by corruption in your daily life (EU27) (%)

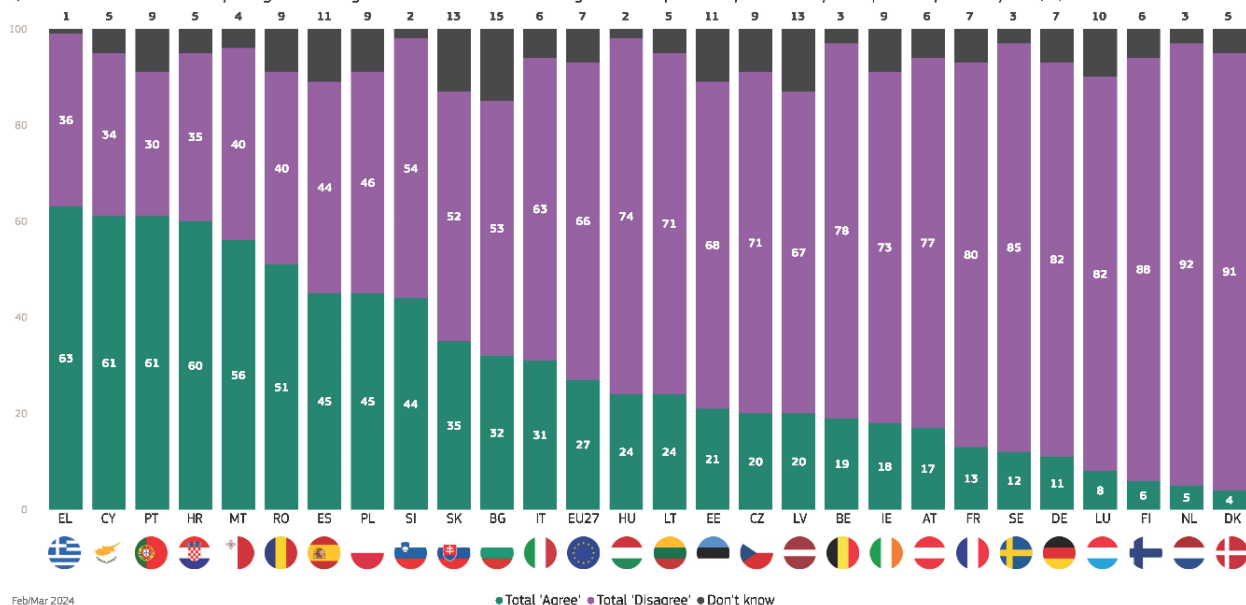


▲1
 ▲2
 ▲1
 ▼7
 ▲3

▲▼ (Feb/Mar 2024 - Apr/May 2023)

Feb/Mar 2024

QD12.4. Please tell whether you agree or disagree with each of the following? :-You are personally affected by corruption in your daily life (%)



¹⁶ QD12.4. Please tell whether you agree or disagree with each of the following? You are personally affected by corruption in your daily life.

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There is a wide variation between countries of those who say they are personally affected by corruption.

In six countries, more than half of respondents say they are affected: Greece (63%), Cyprus and Portugal (both 61%), Croatia (60%), Malta (56%), and Romania (51%). Corruption is felt on a personal level by fewer than a tenth in four countries: Denmark (4%), the Netherlands (5%), Finland (6%) and Germany.

Compared to 2023, in 20 countries, respondents are now more likely to say they are personally affected by corruption, with the biggest increases seen in Slovenia (44%, +16), Poland (45%, +8), Portugal (61% +7) and Greece (63%, +7). The proportion of respondents saying this has decreased in six Member States, most notably in Malta (56%, -7), and stayed constant in Austria (17%).

QD12.4 Please tell whether you agree or disagree with each of the following?
You are personally affected by corruption in your daily life(%)





		EU27	SI	PL	EL	PT	HR	BE	DE	ES	LV	BG	CZ	EE	CY	LT	HU	RO	SE	IE	FR	NL	AT	DK	FI	IT	LU	SK	MT
Total 'Agree'	Feb/Mar 2024	27	44	45	63	61	60	19	11	45	20	32	20	21	61	24	24	51	12	18	13	5	17	4	6	31	8	35	56
	Δ Sept/Oct 2023	▲3	▲16	▲8	▲7	▲7	▲6	▲5	▲4	▲4	▲4	▲3	▲3	▲3	▲3	▲3	▲2	▲2	▲2	▲1	▲1	▲1	=	▼1	▼1	▼2	▼2	▼2	▼7
Total 'Disagree'	Feb/Mar 2024	66	54	46	36	30	35	78	82	44	67	53	71	68	34	71	74	40	85	73	80	92	77	91	88	63	82	52	40
	Δ Sept/Oct 2023	▼6	▼15	▼10	▼7	▼10	▼7	▼5	▼6	▼10	▼11	▼6	▼7	▼4	▼6	▼4	▼2	▼4	▼2	▼1	▼4	▼3	▼1	▼2	=	▼1	▼4	▼5	▲5
Don't know	Feb/Mar 2024	7	2	9	1	9	5	3	7	11	13	15	9	11	5	5	2	9	3	9	7	3	6	5	6	6	10	13	4
	Δ Sept/Oct 2023	▲3	▼1	▲2	=	▲3	▲1	=	▲2	▲6	▲7	▲3	▲4	▲1	▲3	▲1	=	▲2	=	=	▲3	▲2	▲1	▲3	▲1	▲3	▲6	▲7	▲2

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The **socio-demographic analysis** highlights the following differences:

- Respondents aged 25-54 (30%-31%) are more likely to say they are personally affected by corruption, compared to those aged 15-24 (23%), and those aged 55 and up (24%).
- Three in ten (30%) of respondents who finished their education aged 16 to 19 say they are personally affected by corruption, compared to one in four (25%) of those who left school aged 20 and up and similar proportions (26%) of those who left school before the age of 15.
- At close to four in ten, the self-employed feel the most affected by corruption compared to the other socio-professional groups.
- Those who experience difficulties with paying bills most of the time or from time to time are more likely to say they are affected (39% and 35% respectively) than those who never or almost never experience such problems (22%).
- Respondents who consider themselves as belonging to the working class are the most likely (29%) to say they are personally affected by corruption, followed by those of the lower middle class, the middle class, and the upper class (27% all), and substantially more likely than those in the upper-middle class (21%) to feel affected by corruption.

QD12.4 Please tell whether you agree or disagree with each of the following?
You are personally affected by corruption in your daily life
 (% - EU)

	Total 'Agree'	Total 'Disagree'	Don't know
EU27	27	66	7
 Age			
15-24	23	69	8
25-39	31	63	6
40-54	30	64	6
55 +	24	68	8
 Education (End of)			
15-	26	64	10
16-19	30	63	7
20+	25	70	5
Still studying	20	71	9
Socio-professional category			
Self- employed	38	57	5
Managers	24	72	4
Other white collars	30	64	6
Manual workers	30	63	7
House persons	30	61	9
Unemployed	29	62	9
Retired	22	70	8
Students	20	71	9
Difficulties paying bills			
Most of the time	39	54	7
From time to time	35	58	7
Almost never/ Never	22	71	7
Consider belonging to			
The working class	29	61	10
The lower middle class	27	66	7
The middle class	27	67	6
The upper middle class	21	77	2
The upper class	27	69	4

3 Acceptability of corruption

The vast majority of citizens continue to deem it inappropriate to offer gifts, perform favours, or give money to secure a public service.

Respondents were asked to what extent they thought it was acceptable to do a favour, give a gift or give money when they want something from a public administration or a public service¹⁷.

Regarding **doing a favour** to receive a service from public administration, one-third of the respondents (+7 from 2023) find this practice acceptable. Among them, 8% consider it “always acceptable” — a figure that has doubled since last year — and 25% (+3) regard it as “sometimes acceptable.” Conversely, more than two-thirds (65%, -7) assert that such behaviour is “never acceptable”.

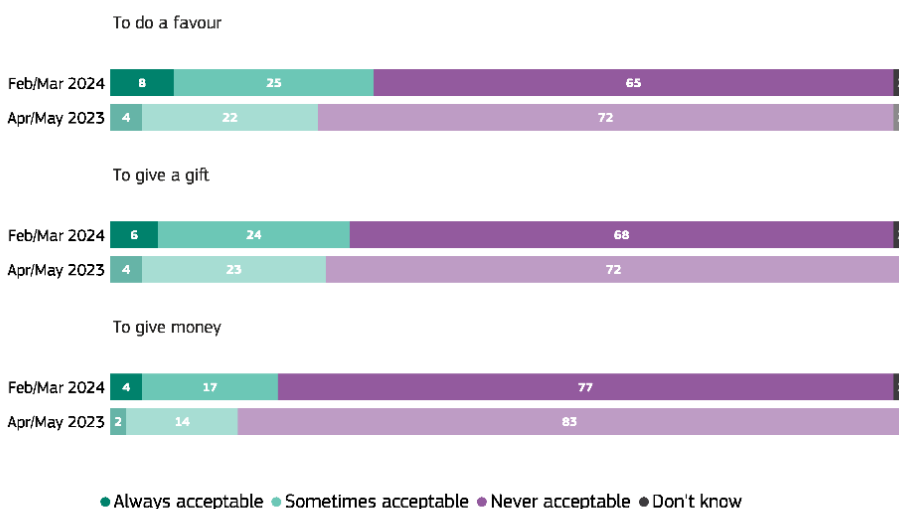
Three in ten respondents (+3) believe it is acceptable to **give a gift** to receive something from public administration or public service. Of these, 6% (+2) regard it as “always acceptable,” and 24% (+1) consider it “sometimes acceptable.” However, the majority, 68% (-4), view this behaviour as “never acceptable.”

Around one in five (21%, +5) think it is acceptable to **give money** with 4% (+2) saying this is “always acceptable” and 17% (+3) that it is “sometimes acceptable”.

The majority (77%, -6) think this behaviour is “never acceptable”.

While still held by a minority, the view that it is acceptable to perform a favor, give a gift or give money to obtain a service from public administration or public service has risen in the past year, following a slight decline between 2022 and 2023.

QD1. Talking more generally, if you wanted to get something from the public administration or a public service, to what extent do you think it is acceptable to do any of the following? (EU27) (%)



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¹⁷ QD1. Talking more generally, if you wanted to get something from the public administration or a public service, to what extent do you think it is acceptable to do any of the following? 1. To give money; 2. To give a gift; 3. To do a favour.

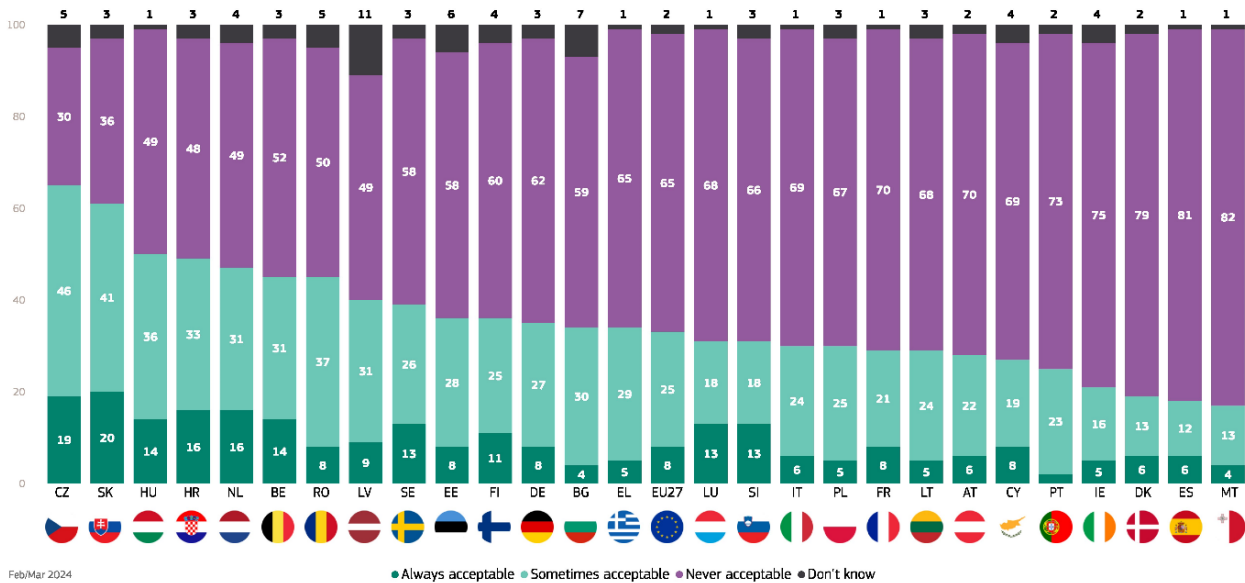
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Do a favour

Across the EU, Czechia (65%), Slovakia (61%) and Hungary (50%), stand out as the only countries where at least half of the respondents believe it is acceptable to do a favour in exchange for a service from public administration or public

service. They are followed by Croatia (49%). In the other Member States, only a minority consider this behaviour acceptable, with Malta (17%), Spain (18%), and Denmark (19%) showing the lowest acceptance levels for such action.





















QD1.3. Talking more generally, if you wanted to get something from the public administration or a public service, to what extent do you think it is acceptable to do any of the following? :-To do a favour (%)



Relative to 2023, there is a greater tendency among respondents in 22 EU Member States to view this action acceptable, with the highest rises observed in Sweden (39%, +24), the Netherlands (47%, +21), Finland (36%, +21), and Belgium (45%, +19). In five countries, people are marginally less inclined than in 2023 to consider this behaviour acceptable, particularly in Bulgaria and Greece (both 34%, -3), and Spain (18%, -3).

Respondents in countries that joined the EU in or after 2004 are more likely than those already members to think this action is acceptable (41% vs. 31%). In both cases, proportions have increased since 2023 (+8 and +7 respectively). The same pattern applies comparing respondents in countries outside the euro area (38% +9) to those within (31% +6

QD1.3 Talking more generally, if you wanted to get something from the public administration or a public service, to what extent do you think it is acceptable to do any of the following?
To do a favour(%)

																													
Always acceptable	Feb/Mar 2024	8	5	6	4	6	2	8	16	6	14	20	5	5	6	4	5	8	8	8	9	13	8	19	13	14	11	16	13
	Δ Sept/Oct 2023	▲4	=	▲1	▼2	▼2	▲1	▲3	▲8	▲1	▲7	▲6	▲3	▲3	▲4	▲2	▲3	▲5	▲5	▲1	▲6	▲9	▲5	▲14	▲11	▲9	▲8	▲11	▲8
Sometimes acceptable	Feb/Mar 2024	25	29	12	30	22	23	21	33	24	36	41	16	24	13	13	25	19	27	37	31	18	28	46	18	31	25	31	26
	Δ Sept/Oct 2023	▲3	▼3	▼4	▼1	=	▼2	▼1	▼6	▲1	▼5	▼4	=	▲3	▲2	▲6	▲4	▲4	▲7	▲13	▲4	▲6	▲9	▲4	▲4	▲10	▲13	▲10	▲16
Never acceptable	Feb/Mar 2024	65	65	81	59	70	73	70	48	69	49	36	75	68	79	82	67	69	62	50	49	68	58	30	66	52	60	49	58
	Δ Sept/Oct 2023	▼7	▲4	▲4	▲2	▲1	=	▼1	▼2	▼2	▼3	▼4	▼6	▼7	▼8	▼9	▼10	▼13	▼15	▼16	▼16	▼17	▼18	▼18	▼21	▼23	▼25	▼26	
Don't know	Feb/Mar 2024	2	1	1	7	2	2	1	3	1	1	3	4	3	2	1	3	4	3	5	11	1	6	5	3	3	4	4	3
	Δ Sept/Oct 2023	=	▼1	▼1	▲1	▲1	▲1	▼1	=	=	=	▲1	▲1	=	▲1	=	▲2	▲1	▲1	▲1	▲6	▲1	▲3	=	▲3	▲2	▲2	▲4	▲2
Total 'Acceptable'	Feb/Mar 2024	33	34	18	34	28	25	29	49	30	50	61	21	29	19	17	30	27	35	45	40	31	36	65	31	45	36	47	39
	Δ Sept/Oct 2023	▲7	▼3	▼3	▼3	▼2	▼1	▲2	▲2	▲2	▲2	▲3	▲6	▲6	▲8	▲7	▲9	▲12	▲14	▲10	▲15	▲14	▲18	▲15	▲19	▲21	▲21	▲24	

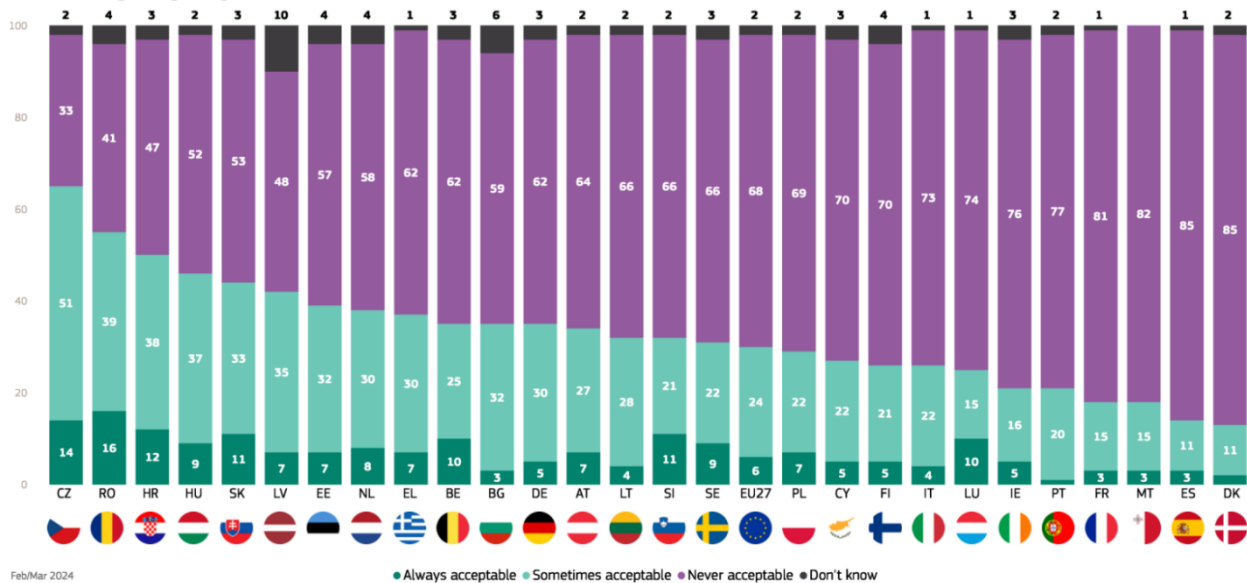
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Giving a gift

In three countries, at least half of those surveyed think it is acceptable to give a gift to secure a service from the public administration or public service: Czechia (65%), Romania (55%), and Croatia (50%). In five countries, more than one in ten think it is “always acceptable” to do this: Romania (16%), Czechia (14%), Croatia (12%), and Slovenia and Slovakia (both 11%).

In the rest of the Member States, only a minority think this behaviour is acceptable, with the lowest scores found in Denmark (13%), Spain (14%), and France and Malta (both 18%).

QD1.2. Talking more generally, if you wanted to get something from the public administration or a public service, to what extent do you think it is acceptable to do any of the following? :-To give a gift (%)



Relative to 2023, the number of respondents inclined to consider it acceptable to give a gift in exchange for a service from the public administration or public service has increased in 13 countries. The largest increases are observed in the Netherlands (38%, +20), Czechia (65%, +14), Finland (26%, +14), Belgium (35%, +13), and Germany (35%, +13).

Conversely, the acceptability of this behaviour has decreased in 14 countries, most notably in Greece (37%, -13), Bulgaria (35%, -8), Croatia (50%, -7), Latvia (42%, -7), and Spain (14%, -7).

Regionally, respondents from Member States that joined the EU during or after 2004 are notably more likely to consider it acceptable to offer a gift to receive something from public administration or public service (42% +1 since 2023) compared to those in the Member States that were part of the EU before 2004 (26% +3). Similarly, individuals in countries outside the euro area are more inclined to view this practice as acceptable (38% +2) than those in euro area countries (27% +3).

QD1.2 Talking more generally, if you wanted to get something from the public administration or a public service, to what extent do you think it is acceptable to do any of the following?
To give a gift(%)



Always acceptable	Feb/Mar 2024	6	7	3	3	12	9	7	1	5	3	4	7	11	4	7	2	3	7	5	16	11	14	10	9	10	5	5	8
	Δ Sept/Oct 2023	▲2	▼1	=	▼3	▲3	▲3	▼3	=	▲2	=	=	▲3	▲5	▲2	▲2	▲1	▲1	▲3	▲2	▲2	▲8	▲9	▲6	▲4	▲7	▲3	▲3	▲5
Sometimes acceptable	Feb/Mar 2024	24	30	11	32	38	37	27	20	16	15	22	22	33	28	35	11	15	32	22	39	21	51	15	22	25	30	21	30
	Δ Sept/Oct 2023	▲1	▼12	▼7	▼5	▼10	▼8	=	▼3	▼4	▼1	▼1	▼5	▼7	▼3	▼9	=	▲4	▲2	▲5	▲2	▲2	▲5	▲5	▲7	▲6	▲10	▲11	▲15
Never acceptable	Feb/Mar 2024	68	62	85	59	47	52	64	77	76	81	73	69	53	66	48	85	82	57	70	41	66	33	74	66	62	62	70	58
	Δ Sept/Oct 2023	▼4	▲12	▲7	▲6	▲6	▲4	▲2	▲2	▲1	▲1	▲1	▲1	▲1	=	▼1	▼2	▼5	▼6	▼7	▼7	▼11	▼12	▼12	▼13	▼15	▼15	▼16	▼24
Don't know	Feb/Mar 2024	2	1	1	6	3	2	2	2	3	1	1	2	3	2	10	2	0	4	3	4	2	2	1	3	3	3	4	4
	Δ Sept/Oct 2023	▲1	▲1	=	▲2	▲1	▲1	▲1	▲1	▲1	=	=	▲1	▲1	▲1	▲8	▲1	=	▲1	=	▲3	▲1	▼2	▲1	▲2	▲2	▲2	▲2	▲4
Total 'Acceptable'	Feb/Mar 2024	30	37	14	35	50	46	34	21	21	18	26	29	44	32	42	13	18	39	27	55	32	65	25	31	35	35	26	38
	Δ Sept/Oct 2023	▲3	▼13	▼7	▼8	▼7	▼5	▼3	▼3	▼2	▼1	▼1	▼2	▼2	▼1	▼7	▲1	▲5	▲5	▲7	▲4	▲10	▲14	▲11	▲11	▲13	▲13	▲14	▲20

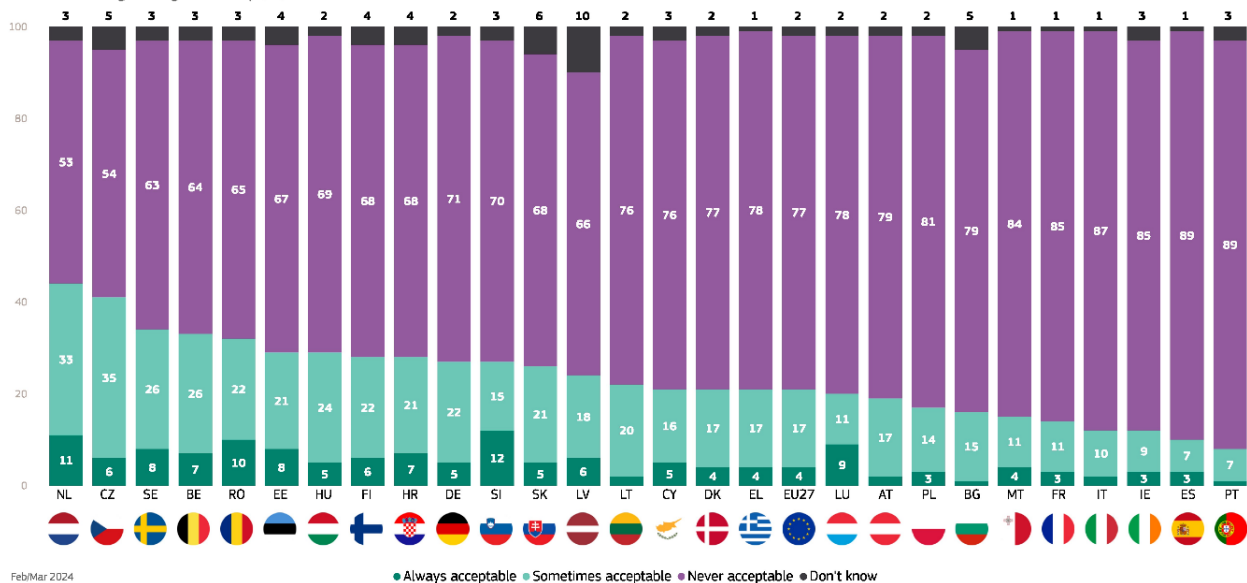
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Giving money

Giving money is the least acceptable behaviour next to offering gifts or doing a favour. In four countries, a third or more of respondents think it is acceptable to give money if they want something from the public administration or

public service: the Netherlands (44%), Czechia (41%), Sweden (34%) and Belgium (33%). Portugal is the only country where fewer than one in ten (8%) say this, with similarly low scores registered in Spain (10%), Ireland (12%) and Italy (12%).


QD1.1. Talking more generally, if you wanted to get something from the public administration or a public service, to what extent do you think it is acceptable to do any of the following? :-To give money (%)



Respondents are more inclined than in 2023 to believe that giving money to receive something from public administration or a public service is acceptable in 20 Member States, particularly in Czechia (41%, +21), Slovenia (27%, +18), and Sweden (34%, +18). However, the perception that such behaviour is acceptable has decreased in three countries: Greece (21%, -10), Bulgaria (16%, -3), and Austria (19%, -2). In Ireland (12%), Italy (12%), France (14%) and Lithuania (22%), there has been no change in this view.

The regional analysis shows that respondents from Member States that joined the EU in or after 2004 are more likely than their counterparts who were already members to think it is acceptable to give money in order to get something from a public administration or a public service (25% vs. 19%). This was also the case for countries outside the euro area and those within the euro area (25% vs. 19%).

QD1.1 Talking more generally, if you wanted to get something from the public administration or a public service, to what extent do you think it is acceptable to do any of the following?
To give money(%)

																													
Always acceptable	Feb/Mar 2024	4	4	1	2	3	3	2	2	5	10	6	4	5	1	3	4	3	5	5	9	7	7	8	6	11	8	12	6
	Δ Sept/Oct 2023	▲2	▼1	▼1	▼2	▲1	▲1	=	=	▲3	▲3	▲4	▲2	▲3	▲1	▲3	▲2	▲1	▲2	▲3	▲7	▲6	▲4	▲7	▲4	▲7	▲2	▲11	▲5
Sometimes acceptable	Feb/Mar 2024	17	17	15	17	11	9	10	20	24	22	18	17	21	7	7	11	14	16	22	11	21	26	21	22	33	26	15	35
	Δ Sept/Oct 2023	▲3	▼9	▼2	=	▼1	▼1	=	=	▼2	▼2	▼3	=	=	▲3	▲2	▲3	▲4	▲5	▲7	▲5	▲6	▲9	▲9	▲12	▲9	▲16	▲7	▲16
Never acceptable	Feb/Mar 2024	77	78	79	79	85	85	87	76	69	65	66	77	68	89	89	84	81	76	71	78	68	64	67	68	53	63	70	54
	Δ Sept/Oct 2023	▼6	▲9	=	▲1	=	▼1	▼1	▼1	▼2	▼2	▼8	▼3	▼5	▼6	▼5	▼6	▼6	▼7	▼11	▼13	▼14	▼15	▼18	▼18	▼19	▼20	▼21	▼21
Don't know	Feb/Mar 2024	2	1	5	2	1	3	1	2	2	3	10	2	6	3	1	1	2	3	2	2	4	3	4	4	3	3	3	5
	Δ Sept/Oct 2023	▲1	▲1	▲3	▲1	=	▲1	▲1	▲1	▲1	▲1	▲7	▲1	▲2	▲2	=	▲1	▲1	=	▲1	▲1	▲2	▲2	▲2	▲2	▲3	▲2	▲3	=
Total 'Acceptable'	Feb/Mar 2024	21	21	16	19	14	12	12	22	29	32	24	21	26	8	10	15	17	21	27	20	28	33	29	28	44	34	27	41
	Δ Sept/Oct 2023	▲5	▼10	▼3	▼2	=	=	=	=	▲1	▲1	▲1	▲2	▲3	▲4	▲5	▲5	▲5	▲7	▲10	▲12	▲12	▲13	▲16	▲16	▲16	▲18	▲18	▲21

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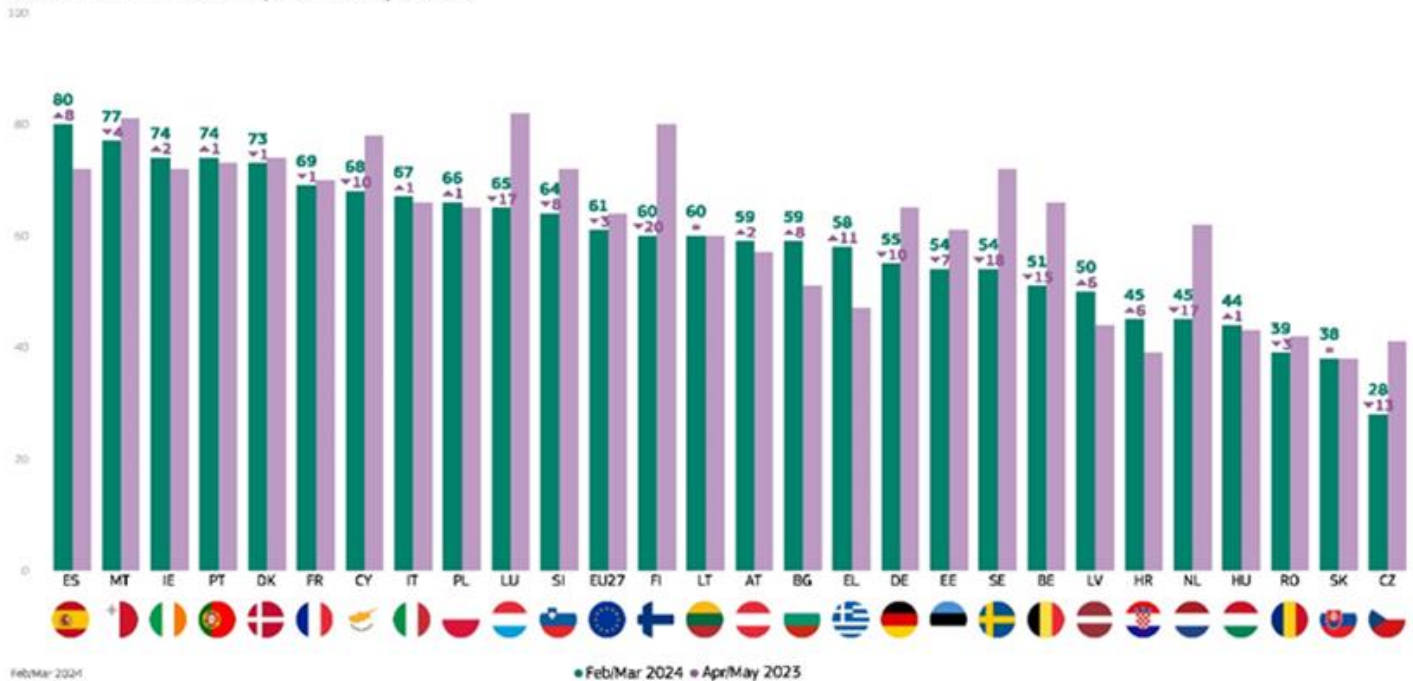
Based on the answers to each of the three questions above a “tolerance to corruption index” is calculated, categorising respondents according to whether they primarily regard corruption as 'acceptable', 'tolerated', or 'unacceptable'.¹⁸

Just over 6 in 10 (-3 since 2023) of surveyed Europeans think corruption is unacceptable. In 21 EU Member States, half or more share this view, with the highest percentages found in Spain (80%), Malta (77%), and Ireland and Portugal (both 74%). Conversely, fewer than four in ten respondents agree with this position in Czechia (28%), Slovakia (38%) and Romania (39%).

Since 2023, there has been an increase in the proportion of respondents perceiving corruption to be unacceptable in 11 Member States. The highest increases are seen in Greece (58% +11), Spain (80% +8), Bulgaria (59% +8), Latvia (50% +6) and Croatia (45% +6).

In 15 Member States, fewer respondents were indexed as finding corruption unacceptable with the sharpest declines observed in Finland (60% -20), Sweden (54% -18), the Netherlands (45% -17) and Belgium (51% -15). It should be noted that this is predominately due to increases in the proportions of respondents stating the practices of doing a favour, giving gifts, and giving money to get something from public bodies are “Sometimes acceptable”, rather than “Never acceptable” in these countries.

QD1T. Tolerance index to corruption - Unacceptable (%)



¹⁸ The index is calculated based on the answers given to QD1.1, 2 and 3. Points are attributed depending on the answers to those three questions: “never acceptable” (0 points), “sometimes acceptable” (1 point) and “always acceptable” (2 points). Respondents who received 0 points in total (i.e. they answered never acceptable to all questions) are classified in the index as answering “unacceptable”, while those




who scored 1 to 3 points are classified as “tolerated” and those who scored 4 to 6 points are classified as “acceptable”. Based on this scoring system, the index shows the percentage of respondents who find corruption “unacceptable” overall.

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The **socio-demographic analysis** on the corruption index shows a number of differences in tolerance levels across groups:

- The perception that corruption is unacceptable increases with age (55% of 15-24 year olds vs. 64% of 55+).
- Those who stayed in education past 20 have a higher tolerance to corruption than those who left before they were 16.
- The working class (69%) and lower middle class (64%) are more likely to be indexed as finding corruption unacceptable than the other socio-economic groups, especially in comparison to the upper class (48%).
- Tolerance for corruption is higher amongst those who have experienced (42%) or witnessed corruption (37%), compared to those who have experienced neither (30%).
- Similarly, those who know someone who has taken bribes is less likely to perceive corruption as unacceptable (52%) than someone who does not (63%).

QD1T Tolerance index to corruption
(% - EU)

	Acceptable	Tolerated	Unacceptable
EU27	9	30	61
 Gender			
Man	9	31	60
Woman	8	30	62
 Age			
15-24	13	32	55
25-39	10	32	58
40-54	8	30	62
55 +	7	29	64
 Education (End of)			
15-	5	24	71
16-19	8	32	60
20+	8	30	62
Still studying	13	31	56
Consider belonging to			
The working class	6	25	69
The lower middle class	7	29	64
The middle class	9	33	58
The upper middle class	14	31	55
The upper class	21	31	48
Experienced or witnessed corruption			
Yes, experienced	14	42	44
Yes, witnessed	16	37	47
No	8	30	62
You know someone who takes bribes			
Yes	11	37	52
No	8	29	63

4 How widespread is corruption in different areas of society?

A majority think that the giving and taking bribes and the abuse of power for personal gain are widespread among political parties and politicians.

Respondents were asked whether they thought that giving and taking bribes and the abuse of power for personal gain are widespread amongst officials, politicians, and political parties as well as public and private services and institutions.¹⁹

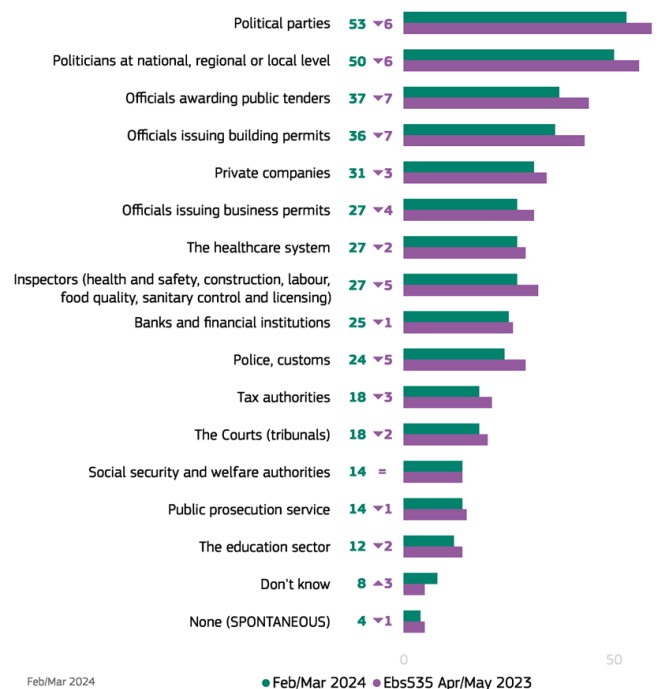
More than half of respondents (53%, a decrease of 6 percentage points) consider these behaviours widespread among **political parties**, with nearly the same proportion (50%, -6) regarding **local, regional, or national politicians** in the same light. These declines in mentioning politicians and political parties, follows a period of increases between 2019 and 2022 (+6 for political parties and +7 for politicians).

More than one in three think the abuse of power is widespread amongst **officials awarding public tenders** (37%, -7) or **officials issuing building permits** (36%, -7). These decreases since 2023 again follow increases recorded between 2019 and 2022 (both +6).

Just over three in ten (31%, -3) say this behaviour is widespread in **private companies**, and just over a quarter say giving and taking bribes and the abuse of power for personal gain are widespread amongst **inspectors (health and safety, construction, labour, food quality, sanitary control, and licensing)** (27%, -5), **officials issuing business permits** (27%, -4), and the **healthcare system** (27%, -2).

One in four think this behaviour is widespread in **banks and financial institutions** (-1), with similar proportions found regarding the **police and customs** (24%, -5).

QD4. In (OUR COUNTRY), do you think that the giving and taking of bribes and the abuse of power for personal gain are widespread among any of the following? (MULTIPLE ANSWERS POSSIBLE) (EU27) (%)



Around one in five think this way about the **tax authorities** (18%, -3) or **the courts** (like tribunals) (18%, -2), while more than one in ten mention the **public prosecution service** (14%, -1), **social security and welfare authorities** (14%, =), or **the education sector** (12%, -2).

¹⁹ QD4. In (OUR COUNTRY), do you think that the giving and taking of bribes and the abuse of power for personal gain are widespread among any of the following? (MULTIPLE ANSWERS POSSIBLE)

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The regional analysis shows that respondents living in the Member States that joined the EU after 2004 are more likely than those living in countries that were already members in 2004 to say that corruption is widespread in the healthcare system (42% vs. 22%), police and customs (29% vs. 22%), the courts (25% vs. 16%), the education sector (15% vs. 11%), and the public prosecution service (19% vs. 13%). In contrast, respondents in the pre-2004 Member States are more likely to say corruption is widespread in political parties (57% vs. 41%), among politicians at national, regional, or local level (53% vs. 40%), officials issuing building permits (38% vs. 28%) and business permits (28% vs. 21%), private companies (35% vs. 19%), and banks and financial institutions (28% vs. 13%).

Respondents living in the euro area are more likely than those in the non-euro area to say corruption is widespread in political parties (58% vs. 37%), among politicians at national, regional, or local level (53% vs. 37%) and those issuing building permits (38% vs. 26%) and business permits (29% vs. 19%), and banks and financial institutions (28% vs. 13%). Conversely, those surveyed in non-euro countries are more likely than their euro area counterparts to think that giving and taking of bribes and the abuse of power for personal gain are widespread in the healthcare system (35% vs. 24%).

Between 2023 and 2024 we see a decrease in the proportion of respondents who think corruption is widespread in political parties both in countries that were already part of the EU before 2004 (57%, -6), and those that joined after 2004 (41%, -6). The same trend can be observed regarding corruption among politicians at national, regional, or local level (53%, -5 and 40%, -5), officials awarding public tenders (38%, -7 and 34%, -8), officials issuing building permits (38%, -8 and 28%, -8), and private companies (35%, -3 and 19%, -2).

In both euro area and non-euro area countries there are some decreases in the proportion of respondents reporting widespread corruption in different institutions. For instance, those surveyed inside the euro area are now less likely to report widespread corruption in political parties (58%, -6), as are those outside the euro area (37%, -8). The same holds for officials issuing building permits (38%, -6 and 26%, -9).

The national analysis reveals that in 14 EU Member States, respondents identify **political parties** as the primary perpetrators of the giving and taking of bribes and the abuse of power for personal gain. They additionally rank second or third in an additional eleven countries. The highest proportions are recorded in Spain (77%), Malta (73%), and Greece and Slovenia (71%). Conversely, this view was

lowest in Finland and Poland (both 28%), Sweden (30%), and Denmark (32%).

In Portugal, political parties rank equal first with **politicians at national, regional, or local level** (both 69%). The same is true Hungary (52%) and in Austria (47%). In total, politicians are the most or second-most mentioned in 17 countries, with the overall highest proportions registered in Slovenia (73%), Portugal (69%), and Greece (68%). In 11 countries, at least half of the respondents say this. The lowest scores are found in Poland (25%), Denmark (33%) and Latvia (36%).

Officials awarding public tenders rank first for respondents in the Netherlands (49%), along with politicians and officials issuing building permits, and second or third in further 12 countries. They are also mentioned by at least half of all respondents in six countries, most notably Greece (67%), Malta (58%), and Slovenia (56%). Those surveyed are least likely to mention this in Denmark (19%), Poland (23%), and Romania (26%).

Officials issuing building permits are ranked joint first in the Netherlands (49%). In addition, this item ranks second or third in another eight EU Member States. It is mentioned by at least half of respondents in Malta where it ranks second (67%), Greece (63%), Portugal where it ranks third (53%), and Lithuania (51%). Fewer than one in four mention this item in Poland (18%) and Finland (20%).

Respondents in Sweden (54%) most often say corruption is widespread in **private companies** (ranking first), followed by Portugal (47%) and the Netherlands where it ranks second (43%). This is the most mentioned item in Denmark (39%) and it also ranks second in Luxembourg (39%). This is the third mentioned item in Germany (36%) and Finland (27%).

The **healthcare system** ranks first, second, or third for widespread corruption in nine countries. The highest scores are found in Greece (89%), Lithuania (64%), and Slovakia (53%) where it is ranked first, and Cyprus (53%), where it comes second. The healthcare system is also ranked the highest for widespread corruption in Romania (45%) and Poland (36%).

Bulgaria (54%) is the only country where the **police and customs** one of the three most mentioned institutions as having widespread corruption, although more than half in Greece (56%) think the same way.

Portugal (55%) is the only country where more than half think corruption is widespread in **banks and financial institutions** and it is the third most mentioned institution in Spain (38%).

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The **courts** are the third-most mentioned item in Bulgaria (47%), and more than four in ten say the same in Malta (44%) and Croatia (43%).

None of the remaining five institutions (inspectors, tax authorities, the social security and welfare authorities, public prosecution service or education sector) feature in the three most mentioned for widespread corruption in any country. Notable national findings regarding these institutions include:

- Greece is the only country where more than half (59%) mention **inspectors** like health and safety, construction, labour, food quality, sanitary control, and licensing inspectors, though close to half (46%) think the same in Portugal.
- Greece is also the only country where more than half (57%) say that there is widespread corruption among **tax authorities**, with at least one in three mentioning this in Portugal (40%), Bulgaria (37%), Malta (35%), and Croatia (33%).
- Respondents are the most likely to mention **social security and welfare authorities** in Malta (42%), Greece (38%), and Portugal (36%).
- Among those surveyed, the **public prosecution service** is most likely to be mentioned in Malta (33%), Slovakia (31%), and Slovenia (30%).

- More than one in five respondents mention the **education sector** in Slovakia and Cyprus (both 27%), Romania (23%), and Italy and Portugal (both 22%).

Compared to 2023, the proportion of respondents who say the giving and taking bribes and the abuse of power for personal gain are widespread in **political parties** has increased in eight EU Member States, most notably in Slovenia (71%, +7), Finland (28%, +5), and Greece (71%, +4). Proportions have declined in 18 countries, with the sharpest decreases seen in the Netherlands (37%, -18), Poland (28%, -13), and Cyprus (56%, -12). No change was registered in Lithuania (56%).

In five countries, respondents are now more likely to say corruption is widespread amongst **politicians**, with the largest increases seen in Slovenia (73%, +13), Finland (38%, +6), and Portugal (69%, +3). Proportions have declined in 20 countries, with the largest decreases seen in Cyprus (37%, -17), Belgium (45%, -12), and the Netherlands (49%, -11). There has been no change in Bulgaria (46%) and Greece (68%).

The proportion of respondents mentioning **officials awarding public tenders** has increased in seven countries, most notably in Slovenia (56%, +6), Portugal (55%, +6), and Sweden (42%, +5). Proportions have decreased in 20 countries with the largest decreases seen in Malta (58%, -15), Cyprus (43%, -12), and Slovakia (36%, -11).

QD4. In (OUR COUNTRY), do you think that the giving and taking of bribes and the abuse of power for personal gain are widespread among any of the following? (MULTIPLE ANSWERS POSSIBLE) (%)

	EU27	AT	BE	BG	CY	CZ	DE	DK	EE	EL	ES	FI	FR	HR	HU	IE	IT	LT	LU	LV	MT	NL	PL	PT	RO	SE	SI	SK
Political parties	53	47	49	46	56	57	50	32	47	71	77	28	67	52	52	47	54	56	46	46	73	37	28	69	37	30	71	43
Politicians at national, regional or local level	50	47	45	46	37	53	47	33	48	68	64	38	60	53	52	42	48	55	38	36	63	49	25	69	40	45	73	50
Officials awarding public tenders	37	33	31	46	43	55	28	19	30	67	35	27	38	46	41	33	50	48	28	44	58	49	23	55	26	42	56	36
Officials issuing building permits	36	33	29	40	45	40	32	26	31	63	37	20	33	44	28	37	48	51	36	43	67	49	18	53	26	34	48	31
Private companies	31	27	29	12	26	26	36	39	20	24	34	27	36	21	28	31	29	24	39	16	27	43	13	47	17	54	30	34
Officials issuing business permits	27	26	24	36	42	21	24	8	23	60	32	10	18	38	23	30	38	37	14	24	46	34	12	45	24	27	37	21
The healthcare system	27	30	10	49	53	40	15	6	17	89	15	4	18	39	43	18	37	64	11	40	38	18	36	36	45	12	50	53
Inspectors (health and safety, construction, labour, food quality, sanitary control and licensing)	27	24	24	38	30	31	26	19	21	59	23	10	22	38	24	20	38	43	14	29	35	32	15	46	25	25	42	34
Banks and financial institutions	25	24	23	12	31	9	21	21	14	29	38	3	30	19	19	31	27	15	27	12	26	35	8	55	15	29	33	21
Police, customs	24	16	28	54	41	21	10	9	12	56	25	6	26	42	22	24	25	31	14	38	32	31	22	33	36	10	30	36
Tax authorities	18	13	16	37	30	17	9	7	7	57	18	2	16	33	20	16	24	16	13	21	35	18	10	40	24	5	29	29
The Courts (tribunals)	18	12	18	47	32	28	7	3	11	38	21	3	17	43	20	14	21	41	8	24	44	10	15	38	28	9	36	39
Social security and welfare authorities	14	16	7	16	21	12	8	8	11	38	12	2	11	24	12	13	21	20	5	10	42	12	7	36	17	12	24	23
Public prosecution service	14	12	11	29	23	16	7	4	9	29	17	1	11	26	20	12	19	25	6	19	33	11	12	28	21	10	30	31
The education sector	12	19	5	19	27	17	6	4	7	19	9	3	8	21	11	12	22	14	8	10	20	8	9	22	23	17	19	27
Don't know	8	14	7	8	13	12	9	6	14	1	6	13	9	8	5	17	8	9	14	15	5	3	10	5	9	2	5	8
None (SPONTANEOUS)	4	6	5	1	3	3	5	23	6	0	1	23	3	1	4	9	2	1	8	2	1	6	8	1	3	17	1	2

1st Most Frequently Mentioned Item
2nd Most Frequently Mentioned Item
3rd Most Frequently Mentioned Item

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In ten EU Member States, the proportion mentioning **officials issuing building permits** has increased in two countries: Portugal (53%, +5) and Latvia (43%, +3). Proportions have declined in 23 countries with the largest decrease seen in Cyprus (45%, -14), the Netherlands (49%, -12), and Malta (67%, -11) and Slovakia (31%, -11). The results remain unchanged in Ireland (37%) and Greece (63%).

Mentions of **private companies** have increased in six countries, with the sharpest rise registered in Slovakia (34%, +6), and declined in 19 countries, with the sharpest drop seen in Malta (27%, -12), Slovenia (30%, -7) and Latvia (16%, -7). The results remain unchanged in Sweden (54%).

With regard to **inspectors**, small increases (+3 or less) are seen in six countries, and decreases, some substantial, registered in 19 countries like Cyprus (30%, -15) and Malta (35%, -13). Mentions remained stable in Sweden (25%) and Denmark (19%).

In two countries the proportion who thinks corruption is widespread amongst **officials issuing business permits** has increased: Portugal (53%, +5) and Latvia (43%, +3). Mentions have declined in 23 countries, with the sharpest decreases noted in Cyprus (45%, -14), the Netherlands (49%, -12), and Slovakia (31%, -11) and Malta (67%, -11).

The proportions who think corruption is widespread in the **healthcare system** have increased in 10 countries, most notably in Latvia (40%, +7), with decreases are registered in 15 countries, such as Cyprus (53%, -8), Romania (45%, -8), Slovakia (53%, -6) and Croatia (39%, -6), with no change seen in Hungary (43%).

The proportion of respondents mentioning the **police and customs** has increased slightly in two countries: Greece (56%, +2) and Austria (16%, +1). Mentions have declined in 24 countries with the largest decreases registered in Malta (32%, -23), Cyprus (41%, -14), France (26%, -14), and Lithuania (31%, -10). Opinion is unchanged in Finland (6%).

The proportion of respondents who think corruption is widespread in **banks and financial institutions** has increased slightly in nine EU Member States, for instance in Greece (29% +4) and Austria (24%, +4). Decreases are seen in 16 countries, most Malta (26%, -10), Denmark (21%, -7), and Cyprus (31%, -7). Opinion remains unchanged in Bulgaria (12%) and Czechia (9%).

Mentions of the **tax authorities** have increased slightly in five countries, for instance in Ireland (16%, +4) and Slovenia (29%, +3). They have declined in 1 countries, with the largest decreases seen in Cyprus (30%, -14), Croatia (33%, -9), and France (16%, -7) and Belgium (16%, -7). There has been no change in Bulgaria (37%), Luxembourg (13%), Finland (2%), and Sweden (5%).

In five countries mentions of the **courts** have increased, with the largest in Bulgaria (47%, +8). Mentions have decreased in 16 countries, most notably in Croatia (43%, -10) and Cyprus (32%, -8), while in six countries the proportions have remained stable.

Changes in mentions of **social security and welfare authorities** are generally small. Mentions have increased slightly in nine countries, and substantially in Malta (42%, +14). They have decreased in 15 countries, most notably in Cyprus (21%, -10), Greece (38%, -7), and Belgium (7%, -6). Mentions are stable in Germany (8%) and Hungary (12%).

Mentions of the **public prosecution service** have increased in nine countries, most notably in Slovenia (30%, +4) and Latvia (19%, +4). In 14 countries there have been decreases, most notably in Malta (33%, -16) and Cyprus (23%, -13). There has been no change in four countries.





























Finally, mentions of the **education sector** have increased slightly in two countries (+3 in Ireland and Sweden), and declined in 18 countries, for instance in Portugal (22%, -8), and have remained stable in seven Member States.

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QD4 In (OUR COUNTRY), do you think that the giving and taking of bribes and the abuse of power for personal gain are widespread among any of the following? (MULTIPLE ANSWERS POSSIBLE)
(%)

																													
Political parties	Feb/Mar 2024	53	49	46	57	32	50	47	47	71	77	67	52	54	56	46	56	46	52	73	37	47	28	69	37	71	43	28	30
	Δ Sept/Oct 2023	▼6	▼9	▲3	▲2	▼11	▼4	▼5	▼4	▲4	▼8	▼4	▼5	▼9	▼12	▲3	=	▲1	▼7	▼6	▼18	▼5	▼13	▲1	▼7	▲7	▼7	▲5	▼10
Politicians at national, regional or local level	Feb/Mar 2024	50	45	46	53	33	47	48	42	68	64	60	53	48	37	36	55	38	52	63	49	47	25	69	40	73	50	38	45
	Δ Sept/Oct 2023	▼6	▼12	=	▼1	▼3	▼7	▼3	▼7	=	▼8	▼3	▼8	▼7	▼17	▲2	▼2	▲1	▼10	▼8	▼11	▼8	▼10	▲3	▼4	▲13	▼4	▲6	▼4
Officials awarding public tenders	Feb/Mar 2024	37	31	46	55	19	28	30	33	67	35	38	46	50	43	44	48	28	41	58	49	33	23	55	26	56	36	27	42
	Δ Sept/Oct 2023	▼7	▼10	▼2	▼7	▼4	▼11	▼7	▲1	▲4	▼6	▼9	▼10	▼7	▼12	▲3	▼4	▼7	▼8	▼15	▼5	▼5	▼10	▲6	▼7	▲6	▼11	▲2	▲5
Officials issuing building permits	Feb/Mar 2024	36	29	40	40	26	32	31	37	63	37	33	44	48	45	43	51	36	28	67	49	33	18	53	26	48	31	20	34
	Δ Sept/Oct 2023	▼7	▼10	▼3	▼2	▼3	▼10	▼8	=	=	▼9	▼7	▼9	▼9	▼14	▲3	▼1	▼8	▼7	▼11	▼12	▼4	▼10	▲5	▼10	▼2	▼11	▼2	▼3
Private companies	Feb/Mar 2024	31	29	12	26	39	36	20	31	24	34	36	21	29	26	16	24	39	28	27	43	27	13	47	17	30	34	27	54
	Δ Sept/Oct 2023	▼3	▼4	▼4	▼3	▼7	▼4	▼5	▲2	▼1	▼7	▼7	▼6	▲1	▼6	▼7	▼1	▼1	▲2	▼12	▼7	▼3	▼3	▲2	▼1	▼7	▲6	▲2	=
The healthcare system	Feb/Mar 2024	27	10	49	40	6	15	17	18	89	15	18	39	37	53	40	64	11	43	38	18	30	36	36	45	50	53	4	12
	Δ Sept/Oct 2023	▼2	▼1	▲4	▲4	▼4	▼4	▼1	▲1	▲1	▼2	▲1	▼6	▼4	▼8	▲7	▼5	▼2	=	▼2	▼1	▲2	▼4	▲3	▼8	▲2	▼6	▲1	▲4
Officials issuing business permits	Feb/Mar 2024	27	24	36	21	8	24	23	30	60	32	18	38	38	42	24	37	14	23	46	34	26	12	45	24	37	21	10	27
	Δ Sept/Oct 2023	▼4	▼7	▼4	▲3	▼3	▼8	▼6	▲4	▲1	▼5	▼6	▼7	▼4	▼13	▼4	▲3	▼5	▼6	▼19	▼9	▼2	▼1	▲4	▼6	▲1	▼8	▼2	▼1
Inspectors (health and safety, construction, labour, food quality, sanitary control and licensing)	Feb/Mar 2024	27	24	38	31	19	26	21	20	59	23	22	38	38	30	29	43	14	24	35	32	24	15	46	25	42	34	10	25
	Δ Sept/Oct 2023	▼5	▼10	▼1	▲1	=	▼7	▼3	▲1	▼5	▼2	▼5	▼8	▼4	▼15	▲1	▼7	▼1	▼3	▼13	▼9	▼3	▼10	▲3	▼5	▲1	▼2	▲2	=
Banks and financial institutions	Feb/Mar 2024	25	23	12	9	21	21	14	31	29	38	30	19	27	31	12	15	27	19	26	35	24	8	55	15	33	21	3	29
	Δ Sept/Oct 2023	▼1	▼1	=	=	▼7	▼2	▼2	▼3	▲4	▼1	▼4	▼3	▼1	▼7	▲2	▲1	▼1	▲3	▼10	▼3	▲4	▼1	▲2	▼3	▲3	▲1	▼6	▲3
Police, customs	Feb/Mar 2024	24	28	54	21	9	10	12	24	56	25	26	42	25	41	38	31	14	22	32	31	16	22	33	36	30	36	6	10
	Δ Sept/Oct 2023	▼5	▼9	▼5	▼9	▼1	▼3	▼7	▼5	▲2	▼9	▼14	▼8	▼2	▼14	▼3	▼10	▼1	▼7	▼23	▼8	▲1	▼5	▼6	▼6	▼2	▼9	=	▼3
Tax authorities	Feb/Mar 2024	18	16	37	17	7	9	7	16	57	18	16	33	24	30	21	16	13	20	35	18	13	10	40	24	29	29	2	5
	Δ Sept/Oct 2023	▼3	▼7	=	▲2	▼1	▼2	▼4	▲4	▼4	▼6	▼7	▼9	▼3	▼14	▼1	▼1	=	▼2	▼6	▼5	▼1	▼3	▲2	▼5	▲3	▲1	=	=
The Courts (tribunals)	Feb/Mar 2024	18	18	47	28	3	7	11	14	38	21	17	43	21	32	24	41	8	20	44	10	12	15	38	28	36	39	3	9
	Δ Sept/Oct 2023	▼2	=	▲8	=	▼2	=	=	▼1	▼1	▼5	▼2	▼10	▼2	▼8	▲2	=	▲1	▼3	▼7	▼1	▼1	▼5	▼1	▲1	▼3	▼7	=	▲1
Social security and welfare authorities	Feb/Mar 2024	14	7	16	12	8	8	11	13	38	12	11	24	21	21	10	20	5	12	42	12	16	7	36	17	24	23	2	12
	Δ Sept/Oct 2023	=	▼6	▼5	▲4	▼3	=	▼2	▲2	▼7	▼2	▲1	▼1	▲1	▼10	▼1	▼3	▼6	=	▲14	▼4	▲1	▼3	▲2	▼2	▲3	▼2	▼1	▲1
Public prosecution service	Feb/Mar 2024	14	11	29	16	4	7	9	12	29	17	11	26	19	23	19	25	6	20	33	11	12	12	28	21	30	31	1	10
	Δ Sept/Oct 2023	▼1	▼4	▲3	▼2	=	▲1	▲1	▲2	▼4	=	▼3	▼3	=	▼13	▲4	▼5	▼1	▼2	▼16	▼5	▲1	▼3	▼1	▲1	▲4	=	▼1	▲2
The education sector	Feb/Mar 2024	12	5	19	17	4	6	7	12	19	9	8	21	22	27	10	14	8	11	20	8	19	9	22	23	19	27	3	17
	Δ Sept/Oct 2023	▼2	▼1	=	▼1	▼2	▼3	▼3	▲3	=	▼3	▼1	▼1	▼4	=	▼3	▼1	=	▼2	▼2	=	▼1	▼2	▼8	▼6	=	▼3	=	▲3
None (SPONTANEOUS)	Feb/Mar 2024	4	5	1	3	23	5	6	9	0	1	3	1	2	3	2	1	8	4	1	6	6	8	1	3	1	2	23	17
	Δ Sept/Oct 2023	▼1	▼1	=	=	▲2	▼2	=	=	=	=	=	=	=	▼1	=	▼2	▼2	▲1	=	▼1	▼2	▲5	▼1	=	▼3	▲1	▼7	▼3
Don't know	Feb/Mar 2024	8	7	8	12	6	9	14	17	1	6	9	8	8	13	15	9	14	5	5	3	14	10	5	9	5	8	13	2
	Δ Sept/Oct 2023	▲3	▲2	▼1	▲6	▲3	▲4	▲2	▲3	=	▲3	▲3	▲5	▲3	▲6	▲2	▲3	▲6	▲2	=	▲2	▲5	▲2	=	▲3	▲1	▲3	▲2	▲1

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The **socio-demographic analysis** illustrates a range of differences:

- Respondents aged 40 and over are more likely to perceive corruption as widespread among politicians compared to those aged 15-39. This trend is also seen in perceptions of officials awarding public tenders and building permits. In terms of healthcare sector, the 15-24 age group are less likely to think that corruption is widespread than the other age groups.
- The longer a respondent remained in education, the more likely they are to think corruption is widespread in private companies (35% of those who finished their studies after the age of 20 vs. 30% of those who finished before 16). Those who finished education pre-16 are more likely than their longer-educated peers (20+) to say that corruption is widespread among political parties (59% vs. 53%).
- The self-employed are the professional group most likely to believe that widespread corruption exists for each institution.

Similarly, respondents who experience difficulties paying their bills most of the time are more likely than those who rarely or never do to think that corruption is widespread among each institution, apart from private companies. The differences are most prominent for Tax authorities (31% vs. 15%), The Courts (31% vs. 15%) the healthcare system (38% vs. 24%) and financial institutions (37% vs. 23%).
- Respondents who have experienced corruption are consistently more likely to think corruption is widespread than those who have not. This is particularly striking for the healthcare system (55% vs. 26%) and the Courts (39% vs. 17%). The same pattern applies for those who have witnessed corruption. For instance, those who have witnessed corruption are more likely to think that it is widespread in private companies compared to those who haven't, the biggest differences for these groups being Between inspectors (41% vs. 27%), officials issuing building permits (40% vs. 26%) and the education sector (25% vs. 11%).

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QD4 In (OUR COUNTRY), do you think that the giving and taking of bribes and the abuse of power for personal gain are widespread among any of the following? (MULTIPLE ANSWERS POSSIBLE)
 (% - EU)

	Police, customs	Tax authorities	The Courts (tribunals)	Social security and welfare authorities	Public prosecution service	Politicians at national, regional or local level	Political parties	Officials awarding public tenders	Officials issuing building permits	Officials issuing business permits	The healthcare system	The education sector	Inspectors (health and safety, construction, labour, food quality, sanitary control and licensing)	Private companies	Banks and financial institutions	None (SPONTANEOUS)	Don't know
EU27	24	18	18	14	14	50	53	37	36	27	27	12	27	31	25	4	8
 Gender																	
Man	24	18	18	14	15	51	53	40	37	28	27	12	29	33	26	4	7
Woman	23	18	18	13	14	49	53	35	34	26	27	12	26	29	24	5	10
 Age																	
15-24	26	16	17	11	13	45	51	27	26	22	20	13	24	29	23	5	12
25-39	26	20	20	15	16	47	50	35	33	25	28	14	28	31	25	4	7
40-54	24	19	19	15	17	53	56	41	39	30	29	13	30	32	27	4	6
55 +	21	17	17	13	13	51	53	40	38	27	27	10	26	31	24	5	9
 Education (End of)																	
15-	24	22	20	18	17	54	59	40	40	31	29	13	29	30	28	3	11
16-19	24	18	19	14	15	49	52	38	36	28	30	13	28	29	24	4	8
20+	22	16	17	12	13	51	53	39	37	26	25	11	27	35	25	5	5
Still studying	24	16	16	12	12	46	51	26	27	23	19	13	24	30	23	5	13
Socio-professional category																	
Self-employed	29	25	25	17	21	57	59	48	44	32	36	17	35	39	30	3	5
Managers	22	15	14	12	11	50	49	40	37	27	23	11	26	37	24	5	4
Other white collars	25	18	18	14	15	47	51	39	36	29	28	12	28	28	25	5	5
Manual workers	24	19	19	14	16	52	54	36	35	26	26	13	29	30	25	4	7
House persons	25	19	19	18	17	49	54	37	36	30	33	13	28	27	27	4	11
Unemployed	26	20	22	15	16	50	58	35	36	26	30	15	27	33	29	4	8
Retired	21	16	17	13	13	50	52	38	37	26	28	10	27	30	23	4	11
Students	24	16	16	12	12	46	51	26	27	23	19	13	24	30	23	5	13
Difficulties paying bills																	
Most of the time	34	31	31	24	25	59	63	42	40	35	38	18	36	32	37	3	6
From time to time	27	21	21	16	18	48	54	38	36	29	30	15	29	27	25	3	8
Almost never/ Never	21	15	15	11	12	50	52	37	35	25	24	10	26	33	23	5	8
Experienced or witnessed corruption																	
Yes, experienced	41	36	39	28	35	70	64	58	49	44	55	26	43	44	29	0	2
Yes, witnessed	32	28	29	23	22	58	58	48	45	40	36	25	41	42	30	0	2
No	23	17	17	13	14	49	53	37	35	26	26	11	27	30	24	5	8

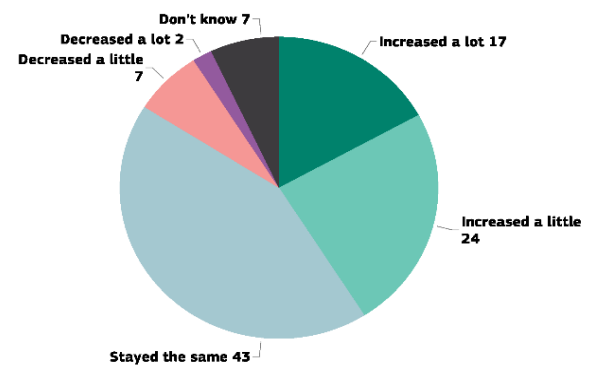
5 Level of corruption over the last three years

Four in ten respondents say the level of corruption in their country has increased in the past three years.

Just over four in ten (41%, -4 percentage points since 2023) think the level of corruption in their country has increased in the past three years, with 17% (=) saying it has “increased a lot”.²⁰ In contrast 9% (+1) think the level has decreased, with 2% (+1) saying it has “decreased a lot”. More than four in ten (43%, +2) think the level has stayed the same, while 7% (+1) say they don't know.

The proportion of respondents who think that corruption in their country has increased has dropped to 2022 levels and is 15 percentage points lower than the peak observed in February-March 2013. The proportion who thinks corruption levels have stayed the same steadily climbed between 2013 and 2022 and has remained at similar levels (+/- 2%) since.

QD3. In the past three years, would you say that the level of corruption in (OUR COUNTRY) has...? (EU27) (%)

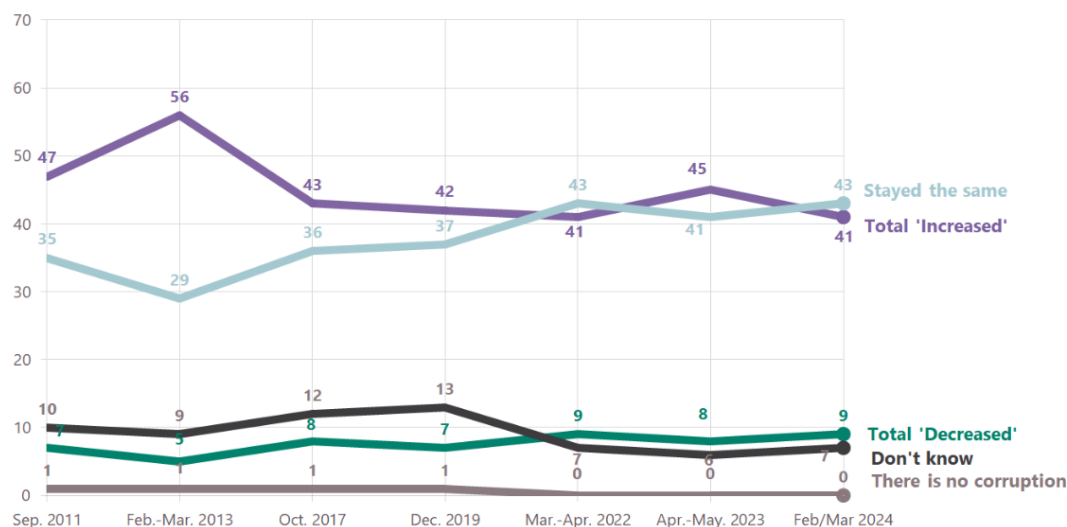


Increased a lot =
 Increased a little ▼4
 Stayed the same ▲2
 Decreased a little =
 Decreased a lot ▲1
 Don't know ▲1

▲▼ (Feb/Mar 2024 - Apr/May 2023)

Feb/Mar 2024

QD3 In the past three years, would you say that the level of corruption in (OUR COUNTRY) has...? (% - EU)



²⁰ QD3. In the past three years, would you say that the level of corruption in (OUR COUNTRY) has... ?

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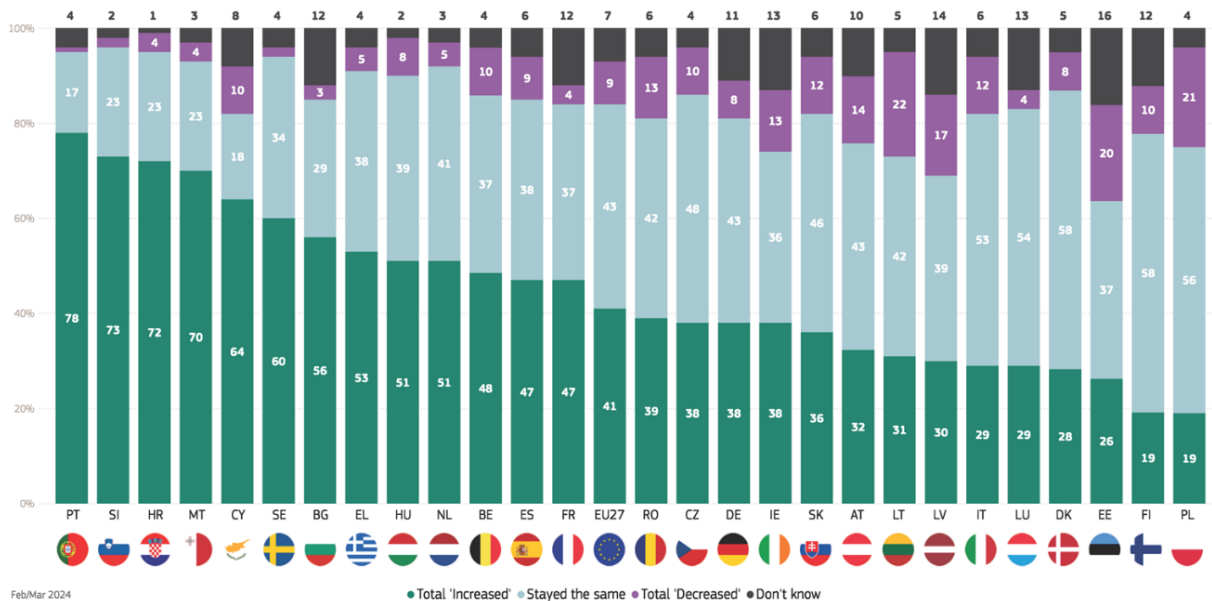
In ten EU Member States at least half think the level of corruption in their country has increased in the past three years. This view is the most widespread in Portugal (78%), Slovenia (73%), Croatia (72%) and Malta (70%).

In five countries, at least half of the respondents think the level of corruption has stayed the same: Finland and Denmark (both 58%), Poland (56%), Luxembourg (54%), and Italy (53%).

In three EU Member States, at least one in five think that corruption in their country has decreased in the past three years: Lithuania (22%), Poland (21%), and Estonia (20%).

The regional analysis shows that respondents in the Member States already part of the EU in 2004 are more likely to say that corruption in their country has increased (42% -5), compared to those living in countries that joined the EU in 2004 or afterwards (36%, -1). Those living in euro-area countries are also more likely to say corruption has increased than those living in countries outside the euro area (43%, -4 vs. 35%, =).

QD3. In the past three years, would you say that the level of corruption in (OUR COUNTRY) has...? (%)

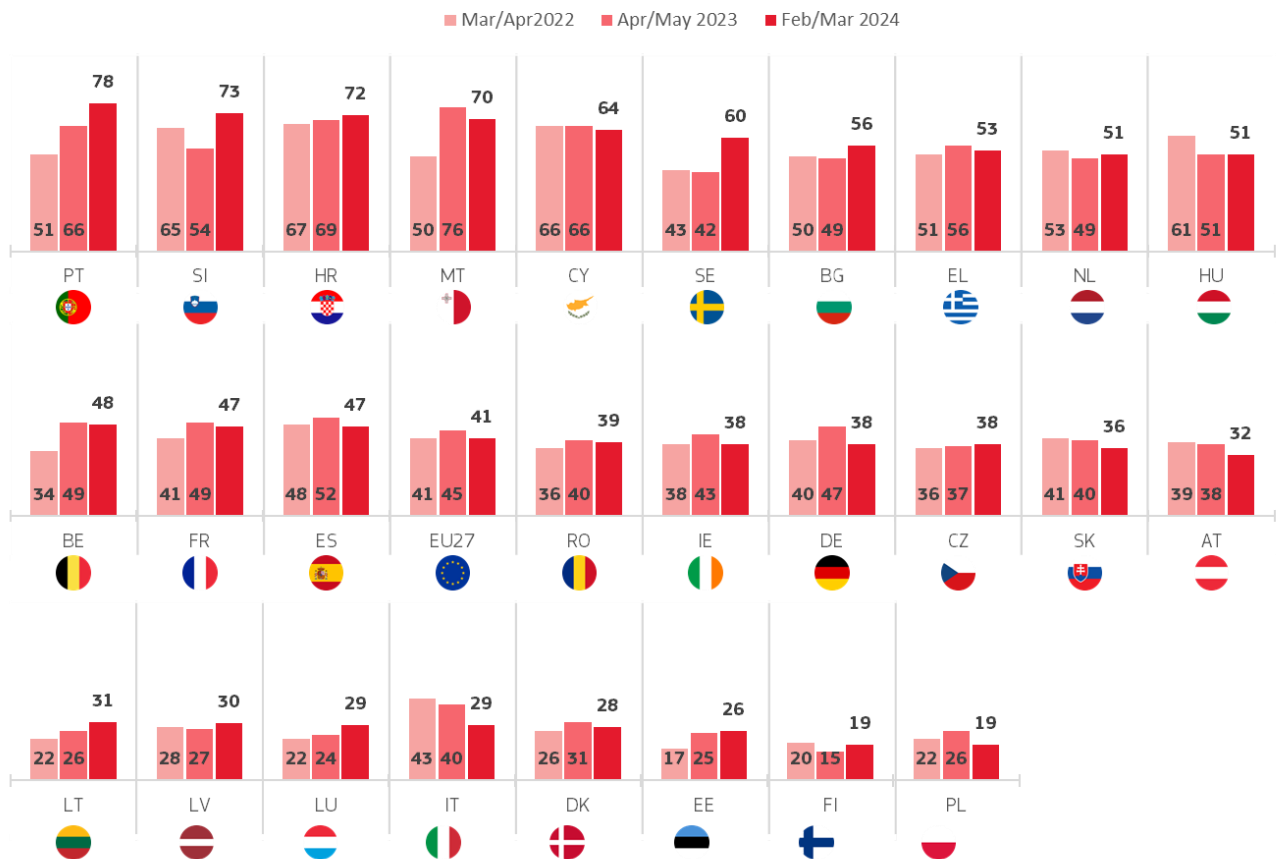


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Since 2023, the proportion of respondents who think that corruption has increased in their country over the last three years has increased in 12 EU Member States, with the biggest increase seen in Slovenia (73%, +19), Sweden (60%, +18), and Portugal (78%, +12). In 14 countries, the proportion has decreased, most notably in Italy (29%, -11), Germany (38%, -9), and Poland (19%, -7). It has stayed the same in Hungary (51%).

The chart below illustrates the national results for the last three waves of the survey and shows consistent trends in several EU Member States. The proportion of respondents who think the level of corruption in their country has increased in the past three years has continuously declined in Italy (down from 43% to 29%), Austria (down from 39% to 32%), and Slovakia (down from 41% to 36%). Gradual increases can be observed in Portugal (51% to 78%), Croatia (67% to 72%), Lithuania (22% to 31%), Luxembourg (22% to 29%) and Estonia (17% to 26%).

QD3. In the past three years, would you say that the level of corruption in (OUR COUNTRY) has...?
(% - TOTAL 'INCREASED')



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The **socio-demographic analysis** illustrates the following:

- Among socio-professional categories we see that the unemployed are by far the most likely to say corruption has increased (50%), particularly compared managers (35%) and students (33%).
- The more difficulties a respondent has paying bills, the more likely they are to say corruption has increased: 57% who experience difficulties most of the time say this, compared to 39% who never or almost never experience difficulties.
- Respondents who consider themselves belonging to the lower-middle class (46%) and working class (43%) are more likely to say corruption has increased especially in comparison to the upper class (32%).
- Those who have experienced (62%) or witnessed (56%) corruption are more likely to say it has increased than those who have not experienced or witnessed corruption (40%).
- Finally, respondents who know someone who takes bribes are more likely to think corruption has increased compared to those who do not (58% vs. 39%).

QD3 In the past three years, would you say that the level of corruption in (OUR COUNTRY) has...?
 (% - EU)

	Total 'Increased'	Stayed the same	Total 'Decreased'	There is no corruption in (OUR COUNTRY) (SPONTANEOUS)	Don't know
EU27	41	43	9	0	7
Socio-professional category					
Self-employed	44	42	10	0	4
Managers	35	51	9	0	5
Other white collars	40	44	11	0	5
Manual workers	44	41	8	0	7
House persons	38	42	11	0	9
Unemployed	50	34	6	0	10
Retired	43	41	8	0	8
Students	33	44	9	0	14
Difficulties paying bills					
Most of the time	57	28	7	0	8
From time to time	41	44	9	0	6
Almost never/ Never	39	44	9	0	8
Consider belonging to					
The working class	43	40	8	0	9
The lower middle class	46	39	7	0	8
The middle class	39	45	10	0	6
The upper middle class	38	48	10	0	4
The upper class	32	36	27	0	5
Experienced or witnessed corruption					
Yes, experienced	62	30	5	0	3
Yes, witnessed	56	34	8	0	2
No	40	43	9	0	8
You know someone who takes bribes					
Yes	58	33	6	0	3
No	39	44	9	0	8



II. Attitudes to corruption in detail

6 Corruption in public institutions

Three quarters of Europeans think that too-close links between business and politics lead to corruption, while two thirds think that high-level corruption cases are not pursued sufficiently.

Respondents were asked whether they agreed or disagreed with statements about corruption in their country's local or regional public institutions²¹.

Three quarters (75%, -3 percentage point since 2023) agree that **too close links between business and politics lead to corruption** and at least seven in 10 agree that there is corruption in the **national** (71% -3) **and local or regional institutions** (70% -3). In each case, disagreement levels are similar to 2023 (between 15 and 19%) with slightly higher proportions expressing they are unsure at around a tenth.

Almost two thirds of respondents (65%, -2) agree that **high-level corruption cases are not pursued sufficiently**, that **bribery and the use of connections is often the easiest way to obtain certain public services** (63% -4), and that **favouritism and corruption hamper business competition** (63% -3). Again, disagreement levels have remained the same at around a quarter, whereas the proportion of respondents saying they "don't know" has risen slightly.

Belief that **corruption is part of the business culture** and **the only way to succeed in business is to have political connections** has stayed similar levels since 2023 (59%, -1 and 51% +1 respectively).

Although in most cases, there has been some decreases in agreement since 2023, this is largely due to higher numbers saying they "don't know", rather than disagreeing,

QD12. Please tell whether you agree or disagree with each of the following? (EU27) (%)



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²¹ QD12. Please tell me whether you agree or disagree with each of the following?
12.1 There is corruption in the local or regional public institutions in (OUR COUNTRY);
12.2 There is corruption in the national public institutions in (OUR COUNTRY); 12.3
Corruption is part of the business culture in (OUR COUNTRY); 12.5 There are enough
successful prosecutions in (OUR COUNTRY) to deter people from corrupt practices;
12.6 High-level corruption cases are not pursued sufficiently in (OUR COUNTRY);
12.7 (NATIONALITY) Government efforts to combat corruption are effective; 12.8
Too-close

links between business and politics in (OUR COUNTRY) lead to corruption; 12.9
Bribery and the use of connections is often the easiest way to obtain certain public
services in (OUR COUNTRY); 12.10 There is sufficient transparency and supervision
of the financing of political parties in (OUR COUNTRY); 12.11 In (OUR COUNTRY) the
only way to succeed in business is to have political connections; 12.12 In (OUR
COUNTRY), favouritism and corruption hamper business competition; 12.13 In (OUR
COUNTRY) measures against corruption are applied impartially and without ulterior
motives.

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A minority of respondents agree with the four statements relating to the fight against corruption. In each case, around two-thirds or more disagree or are unsure that that measures against corruption mentioned are effective and applied impartially and with transparency.

Fewer than four in ten (35% =) believe that **measures against corruption are applied impartially and without ulterior motives**. Close to half (49%, -3) disagree, while 16% (+3) say they 'don't know'.

Close to a third (32%, =) think that **there are enough successful prosecutions to deter people from corrupt practices**, while more than half (54%, -1) disagree. Fewer than one in eight (14%, +1) are unsure.

Three in ten respondents (=) agree that their **national government's efforts to combat corruption are effective**. However, more than half (57%, -3) disagree and more than one in ten (13%, +3) say they don't know.

Three in ten respondents (+1) believe there is **sufficient transparency and supervision of the financing of political parties** in their country whereas close to six in ten (58%, -3) disagree and around one in ten (12%, +2) say they 'don't know'.

QD12. Please tell whether you agree or disagree with each of the following? (EU27) (%)

In (OUR COUNTRY) measures against corruption are applied impartially and without ulterior motives



There are enough successful prosecutions in (OUR COUNTRY) to deter people from corrupt practices



(NATIONALITY) Government efforts to combat corruption are effective



There is sufficient transparency and supervision of the financing of political parties in (OUR COUNTRY)

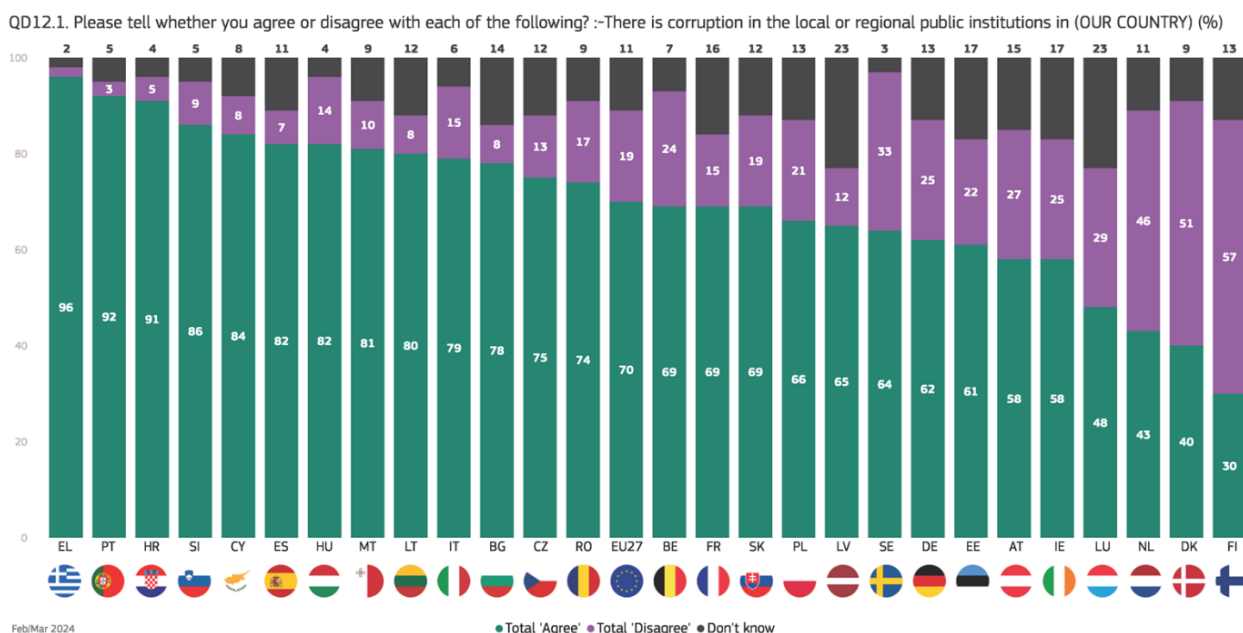


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Corruption in local or regional level public institutions.

In all EU Member States except Luxembourg (48%), the Netherlands (43%), Denmark (40%) and Finland (30%), at least half of respondents agree that there is corruption in the local or regional public institutions in their country, although proportions vary considerably. At least nine in ten say this is the case in Greece (96%), Portugal (92%), and Croatia (91%).



In ten EU Member States agreement that there is corruption in local or regional public institutions has increased since 2023, most notably in Slovenia (86%, +11), Sweden (64%, +9) and Romania (74%, +7).

Conversely, in 16 countries respondents are less likely to think this way, with the largest decrease seen in Italy (79%, -7), the Netherlands (43%, -7), Ireland (58%, -6), and France (69%, -6). There has been no change in opinion in Belgium (69%).

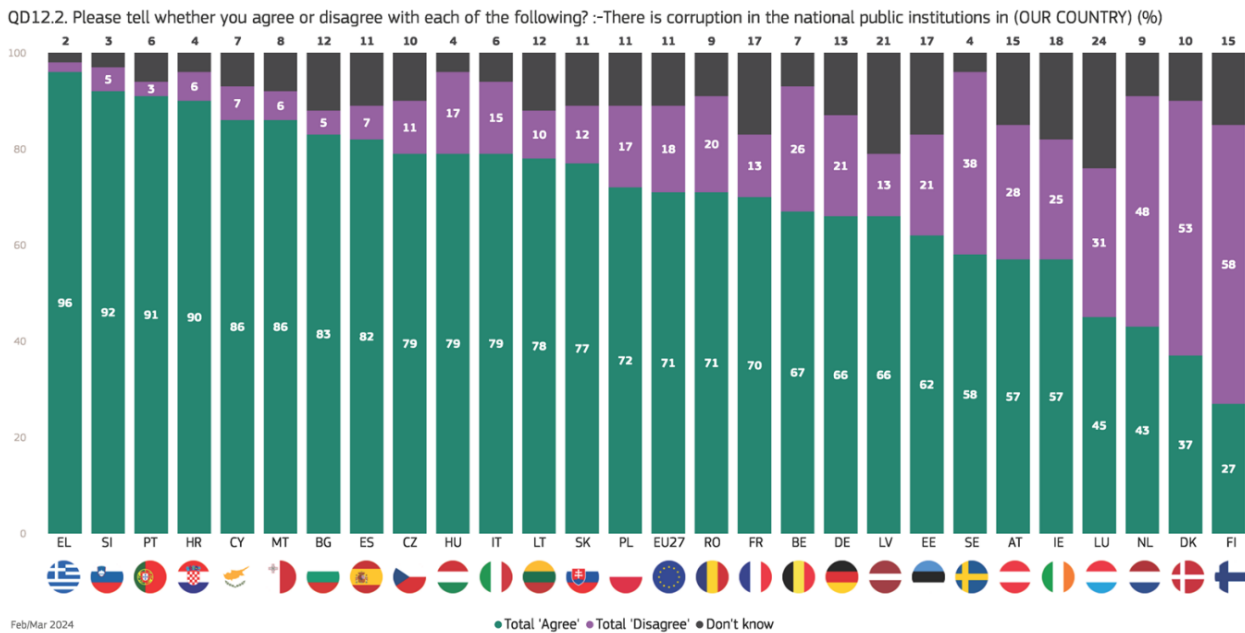
QD12.1 Please tell whether you agree or disagree with each of the following?
There is corruption in the local or regional public institutions in (OUR COUNTRY)(%)

																													
Total 'Agree'	Feb/Mar 2024	70	86	64	74	78	81	96	82	92	65	30	69	80	66	62	61	82	91	58	69	75	40	84	48	58	69	79	43
	Δ Sept/Oct 2023	▼3	▲11	▲9	▲7	▲5	▲5	▲4	▲2	▲2	▲1	▲1	=	▼1	▼1	▼2	▼2	▼2	▼2	▼2	▼2	▼3	▼4	▼4	▼5	▼6	▼6	▼7	▼7
Total 'Disagree'	Feb/Mar 2024	19	9	33	17	8	10	2	14	3	12	57	24	8	21	25	22	7	5	27	19	13	51	8	29	25	15	15	46
	Δ Sept/Oct 2023	▼1	▼10	▼7	▼9	▼5	▼5	▼3	▼3	▼1	▼6	▼2	▼1	▼3	▼4	▼2	▼1	▼2	=	▼5	▲1	▼2	=	▲2	▼2	▲6	▼2	▲5	▲1
Don't know	Feb/Mar 2024	11	5	3	9	14	9	2	4	5	23	13	7	12	13	13	17	11	4	15	12	12	9	8	23	17	16	6	11
	Δ Sept/Oct 2023	▲4	▼1	▼2	▲2	=	=	▼1	▲1	▼1	▲5	▲1	▲1	▲4	▲5	▲4	▲3	▲4	▲2	▲7	▲1	▲5	▲4	▲2	▲7	=	▲8	▲2	▲6

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Corruption in the national level public institutions.

In 23 EU Member States, over half of respondents agree that there is corruption in the national public institutions in their country. Overall, there are 13 countries where at least three quarters of respondents agree with the highest agreement levels found in Greece (96%), Slovenia (92%), Portugal (91%) and Croatia (90%).



Respondents in seven countries are now more likely to agree there is corruption in national public institutions than they were in 2023, with the largest increase seen in Slovenia (92%, +11), Sweden (58%, +7) and Greece (96%, +4).

However, in 17 countries agreement has decreased, most notably in the Netherlands (43%, -8), Ireland (57%, -7), and Italy (79%, -7). There has been no change in opinion in Portugal (91%) Lithuania (78%), Poland (72%), and Finland (27%).

QD12.2 Please tell whether you agree or disagree with each of the following?
 There is corruption in the national public institutions in (OUR COUNTRY)(%)

																													
Total 'Agree'	Feb/Mar 2024	71	92	58	96	83	71	90	78	72	91	27	67	66	66	62	86	79	77	79	82	86	57	37	70	45	57	79	43
	Δ Sept/Oct 2023	▼3	▲11	▲7	▲4	▲3	▲2	▲1	=	=	=	=	▼1	▼2	▼3	▼3	▼3	▼3	▼3	▼4	▼4	▼4	▼5	▼6	▼6	▼6	▼7	▼7	▼8
Total 'Disagree'	Feb/Mar 2024	18	5	38	2	5	20	6	10	17	3	58	26	13	21	21	7	17	12	11	7	6	28	53	13	31	25	15	48
	Δ Sept/Oct 2023	▼1	▼9	▼4	▼3	▼3	▼3	▼3	▼2	▼4	▼1	▼2	=	▼3	▼1	=	▲1	▲1	▲3	=	▼1	=	▼3	=	▼2	▼2	▲6	▲4	▲3
Don't know	Feb/Mar 2024	11	3	4	2	12	9	4	12	11	6	15	7	21	13	17	7	4	11	10	11	8	15	10	17	24	18	6	9
	Δ Sept/Oct 2023	▲4	▼2	▼3	▼1	=	▲1	▲2	▲2	▲4	▲1	▲2	▲1	▲5	▲4	▲3	▲2	▲2	=	▲4	▲5	▲4	▲8	▲6	▲8	▲8	▲1	▲3	▲5

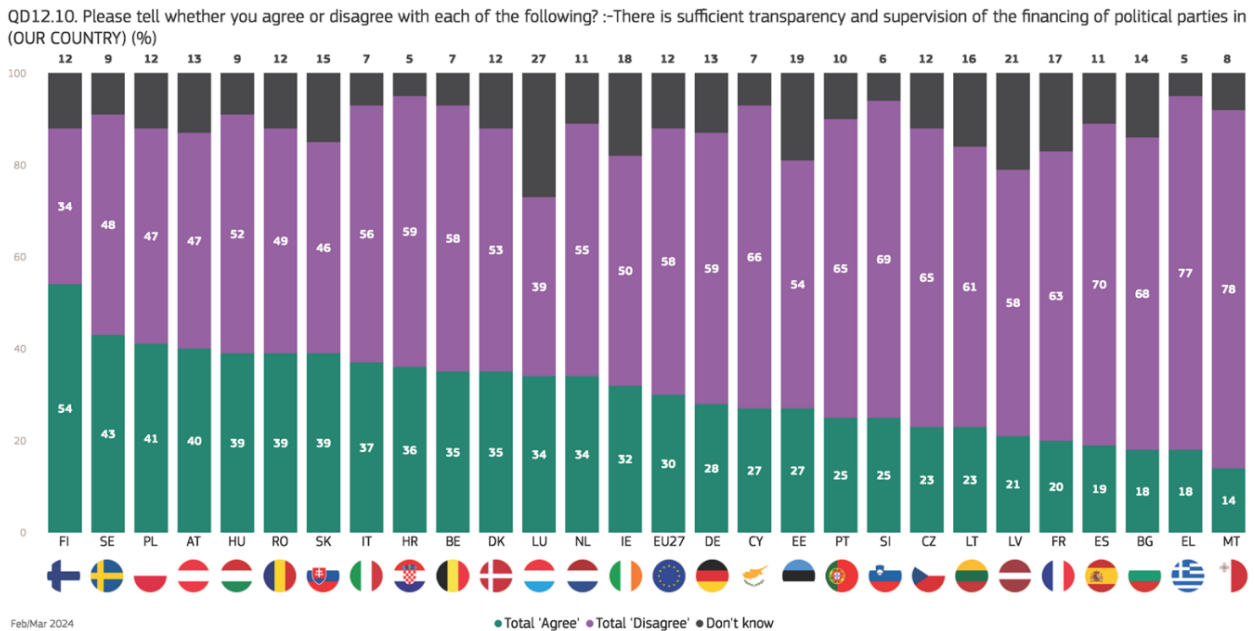
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Transparency and supervision of the financing of political parties.

Finland is the only Member State where more than half believe there is sufficient transparency and supervision of the financing of political parties in their country (54% vs. 34% who disagree). In the remaining 26 countries only a minority agrees, with proportions ranging from 43% in Sweden, 41% in Poland, and 40% in Austria, to 14% in Malta and 18% in Bulgaria and Greece. Overall, in 20 countries more than half disagree.

It is also worth noting that in 19 countries, at least one in ten specified they were unsure, with the highest proportions being in Luxembourg (27%) and Latvia (21%).

The regional analysis shows those living in Member States that joined the EU in 2004 or later are more likely to agree that there is sufficient transparency and supervision of the financing of political parties than those from the countries already members, with this gap widening since 2023 (35% +4 vs. 28% =). In addition, those living outside the euro area are more likely to agree that there is sufficient transparency and supervision of the financing of political parties than those living in countries within the euro area (37%, +3 vs. 28%, +1).



Compared to 2023, respondents in 15 countries are now more likely to agree there is sufficient transparency and supervision of the financing of political parties in their country, with the largest increase seen in Slovakia (39%, +17), Cyprus (27%, +8), and Croatia (36%, +7).

In nine countries agreement has decreased, most notably in Slovenia (25%, -7), Luxembourg (34%, -6), and Czechia (23%, -4). There has been no change in opinion in Italy (37%), the Netherlands (34%) and Latvia (21%).

QD12.10 Please tell whether you agree or disagree with each of the following?

There is sufficient transparency and supervision of the financing of political parties in (OUR COUNTRY)(%)



		EU27	SK	CY	HR	AT	RO	BE	PT	HU	MT	PL	EE	DE	SE	DK	LT	IT	LV	NL	BG	IE	EL	ES	FR	FI	CZ	LU	SI
Total 'Agree'	Feb/Mar 2024	30	39	27	36	40	39	35	25	39	14	41	27	28	43	35	23	37	21	34	18	32	18	19	20	54	23	34	25
	Δ Sept/Oct 2023	▲1	▲17	▲8	▲7	▲6	▲6	▲5	▲5	▲4	▲4	▲4	▲3	▲2	▲2	▲1	▲1	=	=	=	▼1	▼2	▼2	▼2	▼2	▼3	▼4	▼6	▼7
Total 'Disagree'	Feb/Mar 2024	58	46	66	59	47	49	58	65	52	78	47	54	59	48	53	61	56	58	55	68	50	77	70	63	34	65	39	69
	Δ Sept/Oct 2023	▼3	▼17	▼8	▼7	▼9	▼5	▼4	▼3	▼5	▼6	▼9	▼5	▼3	=	▼2	=	▼1	▼1	▼5	▲2	=	▲3	▼1	▼3	▲1	▲3	▼3	▲10
Don't know	Feb/Mar 2024	12	15	7	5	13	12	7	10	9	8	12	19	13	9	12	16	7	21	11	14	18	5	11	17	12	12	27	6
	Δ Sept/Oct 2023	▲2	=	=	=	▲3	▼1	▼1	▼2	▲1	▲2	▲5	▲2	▲1	▼2	▲1	▼1	▲1	▲1	▲5	▼1	▲2	▼1	▲3	▲5	▲2	▲1	▲9	▼3

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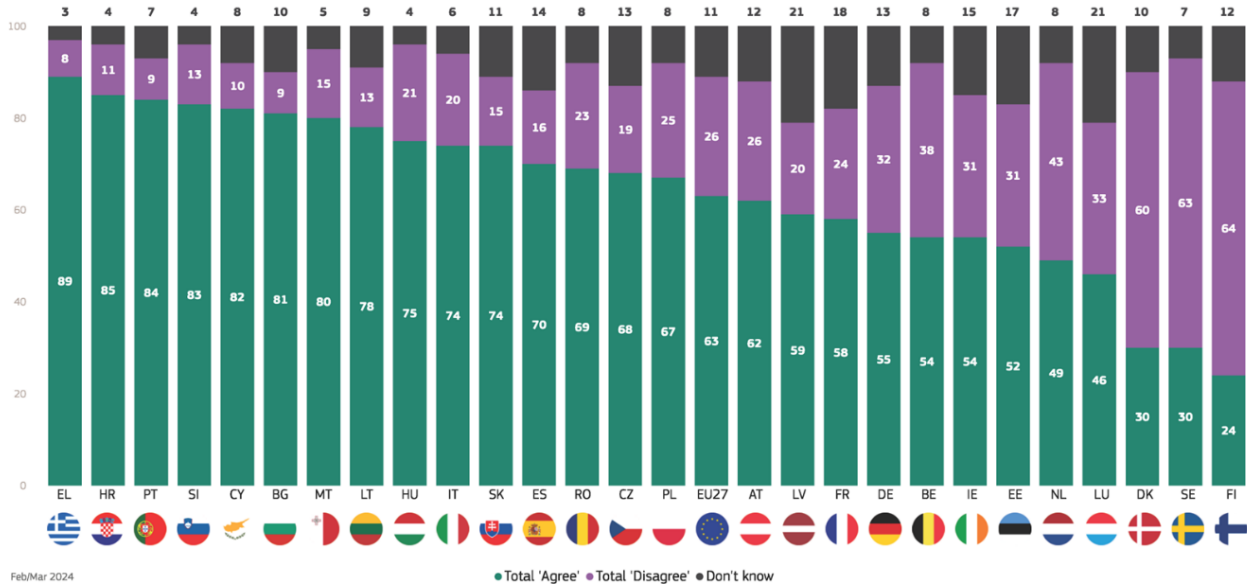
Bribery and the use of connections.

In 22 EU Member States, at least half think that bribery and the use of connections is often the easiest way to obtain certain public services in their country, with at least eight in ten in Greece (89%), Croatia (85%), Portugal (84%), Slovenia (83%) Cyprus (82%), and Bulgaria (81%) holding this opinion.

The five EU Member States where fewer than half of the respondents agree are Finland (24%), Sweden and Denmark (both 30%), Luxembourg (46%), and the Netherlands (49%).

The regional analysis shows that respondents from the Member States that joined the EU in 2004 or afterwards are more likely than those from the countries already members to agree that the use of connections is often the easiest way to obtain certain public services in their country, although in both cases, proportions have decreased (70% vs. 60% compared to 73% vs. 65% in 2023). Respondents living in the euro area countries are equally likely than those living in the non-euro area (63%) to think this, which differs slightly from the 2023 findings where it was 68% and 65%, respectively.

QD12.9. Please tell whether you agree or disagree with each of the following? :-Bribery and the use of connections is often the easiest way to obtain certain public services in (OUR COUNTRY) (%)



In five countries respondents are more likely, compared to 2023, to agree that bribery and the use of connections is often the easiest way to obtain certain public services in their country, with the largest increase seen in Slovenia (83%, +5).

In 18 countries, these proportions have decreased, most notably in Luxembourg (46%, -12), Czechia (68%, -8), Latvia (59%, -7) and Italy (74% -7). No change was registered in Slovakia (74%), the Netherlands (49%), Denmark (30%), and Finland (24%).

QD12.9 Please tell whether you agree or disagree with each of the following?

Bribery and the use of connections is often the easiest way to obtain certain public services in (OUR COUNTRY)(%)



		EU27SIHURONLSEELFRHRDELTMTIEPLESCYITLV CZLULU																												
		Feb/Mar 2024	63	83	75	69	81	62	30	49	74	24	54	52	84	30	89	58	85	55	78	80	54	67	70	82	74	59	68	46
Total 'Agree'		Δ Sept/Oct 2023	▼4	▲5	▲3	▲3	▲2	▲1	=	=	=	=	▼1	▼1	▼1	▼1	▼3	▼3	▼3	▼4	▼4	▼4	▼5	▼5	▼6	▼6	▼7	▼7	▼8	▼12
Total 'Disagree'	Feb/Mar 2024	26	13	21	23	9	26	60	43	15	64	38	31	9	63	8	24	11	32	13	15	31	25	16	10	20	20	19	33	
	Δ Sept/Oct 2023	▲1	▼5	▼4	▼5	▼3	▼7	▼3	▼3	=	▼5	=	▼2	▲2	=	▲2	▼3	▲1	▲1	▲2	▲3	▲5	▲2	=	▲2	▲5	=	▲2	▼1	
Don't know	Feb/Mar 2024	11	4	4	8	10	12	10	8	11	12	8	17	7	7	3	18	4	13	9	5	15	8	14	8	6	21	13	21	
	Δ Sept/Oct 2023	▲3	=	▲1	▲2	▲1	▲6	▲3	▲3	=	▲5	▲1	▲3	▼1	▲1	▲1	▲6	▲2	▲3	▲2	▲1	=	▲3	▲6	▲4	▲2	▲7	▲6	▲13	



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For each statement, the **socio-demographic analysis** shows the following themes:

- The younger age groups (15–24-year-olds) are the least likely among the age groups to agree with the statements about the existence of corruption in public institutions.
- Those who continued their education after the age of 20 and those who are still studying were less likely to agree that corruption exists in public institutions and that bribery supports access to them.
- The self-employed are most likely to agree that there is corruption in local or regional public institutions (79%), especially compared to the retired (68%), managers (68%) and students (63%). The same is true with regard to the national public institutions (78% vs. 69%, 66% and 64%) and for the statement regarding bribery (70% vs. 62%, 58% and 57%).
- The more difficulties a respondent experiences paying bills, the more like they are to agree there is corruption in local/regional (81% vs. 67% of those who rarely or never experience difficulties) or national (80% vs. 69%) public institutions, or that bribery and the use of connections is the easiest way to obtain certain public services in their country (73% vs. 61%).
- Respondents who consider themselves as belonging to the lower middle class are the most likely to agree there is corruption in local/regional (75%) or national public institutions (76%). In contrast, it is those who say they belong to the upper class who are the most likely to agree there is sufficient transparency and supervision of the financing of political parties in their country (42%), especially compared to those in the working class (23%).

- Respondents who have experienced or witnessed corruption are more likely to agree that there is corruption in local/regional or national public institutions, or that bribery and the use of connections is the easiest way to obtain certain public services in their country. For example, 91% of those who have experienced corruption and 86% of those who have witnessed it say that there is corruption in local/regional public institutions, compared to 69% who have done neither. Similar proportions agree regarding national institutions (90% and 85% vs. 70%).
- Respondents who know someone who has taken bribes are more likely than those who do not to agree there is corruption in local/regional (87% vs. 68%) or national public institutions (85% vs. 69%), or that bribery and the use of connections is the easiest way to obtain certain public services in their country (76% vs. 62%). They are less likely to agree there is sufficient transparency and supervision of the financing of political parties in their country (24% vs. 31%).

QD12 Please tell whether you agree or disagree with each of the following?
Total 'Agree'
 (% - EU)

	There is corruption in the national public institutions in (OUR COUNTRY)	There is corruption in the local or regional public institutions in (OUR COUNTRY)	Bribery and the use of connections is often the easiest way to obtain certain public services in (OUR COUNTRY)	There is sufficient transparency and supervision of the financing of political parties in (OUR COUNTRY)
EU27	71	70	63	30
 Age				
15-24	66	63	58	28
25-39	72	71	63	33
40-54	75	74	67	29
55 +	70	69	62	29
 Education (End of)				
15-	74	73	64	27
16-19	74	73	68	30
20+	69	67	58	32
Still studying	64	63	57	27
Socio-professional category				
Self-employed	78	79	70	29
Managers	66	68	58	33
Other white collars	74	73	65	34
Manual workers	74	73	65	30
House persons	74	75	68	29
Unemployed	73	70	67	24
Retired	69	68	62	29
Students	64	63	57	27
Difficulties paying bills				
Most of the time	80	81	73	24
From time to time	75	74	66	31
Almost never/ Never	69	67	61	30
Consider belonging to				
The working class	73	72	65	23
The lower middle class	76	75	66	24
The middle class	71	70	63	34
The upper middle class	63	61	58	33
The upper class	64	64	57	42
Experienced or witnessed corruption				
Yes, experienced	90	91	83	28
Yes, witnessed	85	86	76	31
No	70	69	62	30
You know someone who takes bribes				
Yes	85	87	76	24
No	69	68	62	31

7 Corruption in business

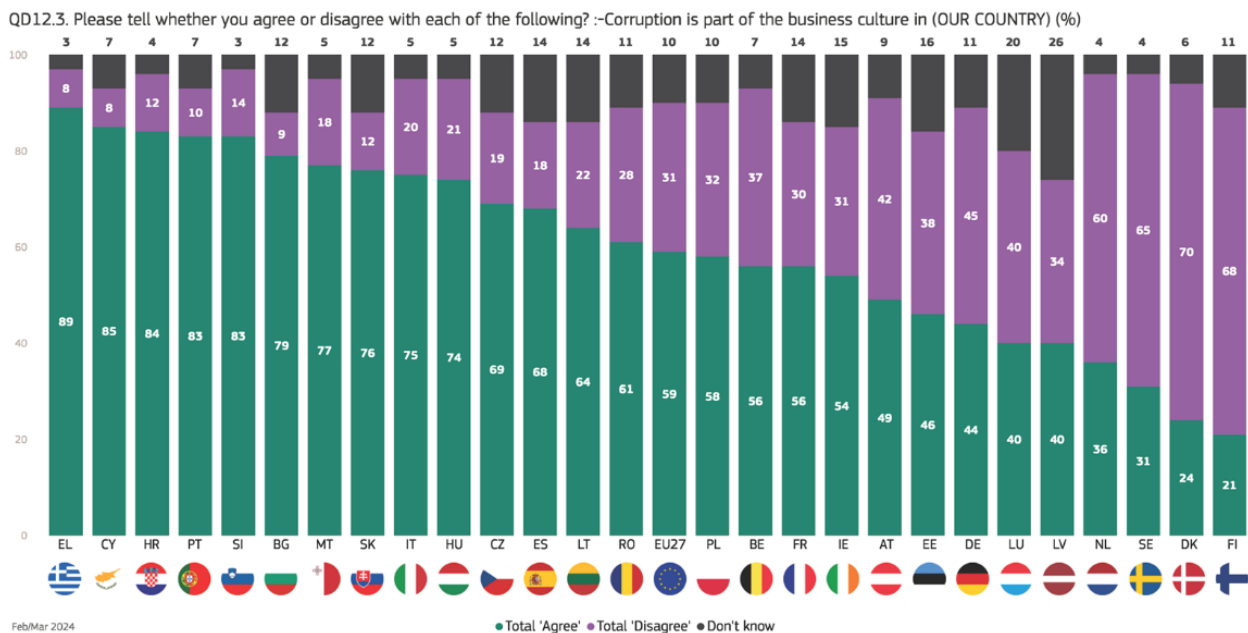
Almost six in ten agree corruption is part of the business culture in their country, and that it hampers business competition.

In 18 Member States, more than half in agree that corruption is part of the business culture in their country, with the highest proportions in Greece (89%), Cyprus (85%), Croatia (84%) and Portugal and Slovenia (83%).

Opinion is more or less evenly divided in Luxembourg (40% agree vs. 40% disagree) and in Germany (44% agree vs. 45% disagree).

In four countries, fewer agree than disagree: Finland (21% vs. 68% disagree), Denmark (24% vs. 70%), Sweden (31% vs. 65%), and the Netherlands (36% vs. 60%).

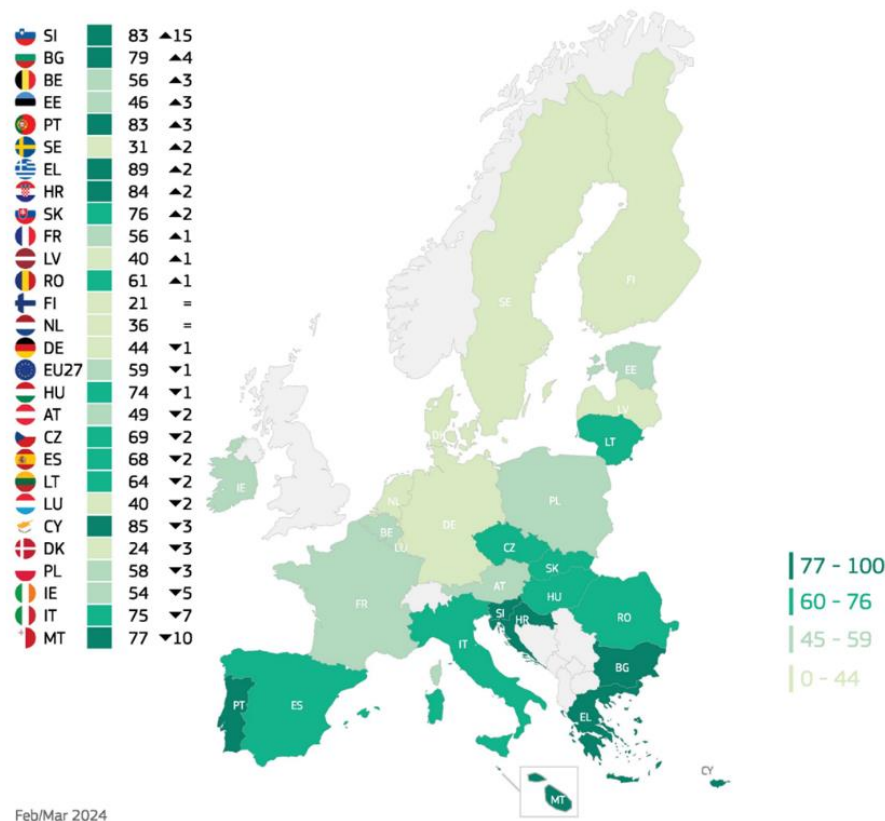
The regional analysis shows respondents living in countries that joined the EU in or after 2004 are more likely (65%) than those from the Member States already part of the EU (57%) to agree corruption is part of the business culture in their country. Similar levels of those living within both euro area and non-euro area countries feel this way (59% vs. 58%).



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The map below illustrates the trend since April-May 2023 and shows that respondents in southern and some areas of eastern Europe are generally more likely to agree that corruption is part of the business culture in their country. Respondents in countries in northern Europe are generally less likely to agree.

QD12.3. Please tell whether you agree or disagree with each of the following? :-Corruption is part of the business culture in (OUR COUNTRY) - Total 'Agree' (%)



Since 2023, agreement that corruption is part of the business culture in respondents' countries has increased in 12 EU Member States, most notably in Slovenia (83%, +15) and Bulgaria (79%, +4).

On the other hand, a slightly smaller share of respondents agree with the statement in 12 countries, with a notable decrease in Malta (77%, -10), Italy (75%, -7), and Ireland (54%, -5). No change has occurred in the Netherlands (36%) and Finland (21%).

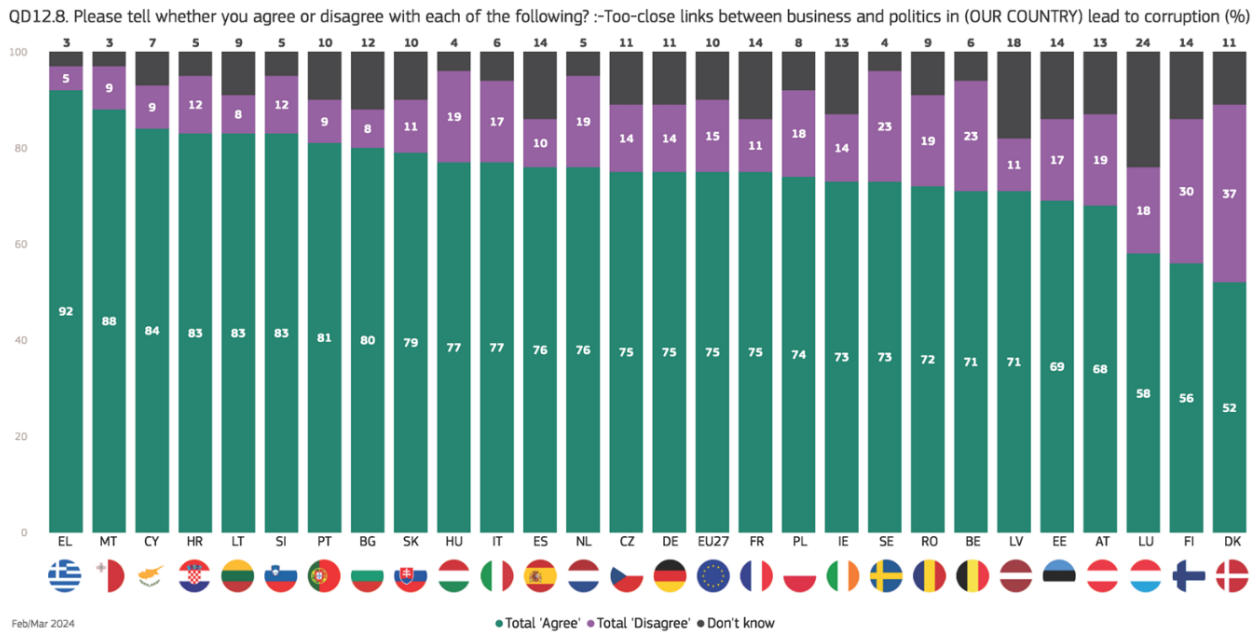
QD12.3 Please tell whether you agree or disagree with each of the following?
Corruption is part of the business culture in (OUR COUNTRY)(%)



Total 'Agree'	Feb/Mar 2024	59	83	79	56	46	83	89	84	76	31	56	40	61	36	21	44	74	69	68	64	40	49	24	85	58	54	75	77
	Δ Sept/Oct 2023	▼1	▲15	▲4	▲3	▲3	▲3	▲2	▲2	▲2	▲2	▲1	▲1	▲1	=	=	▼1	▼1	▼2	▼2	▼2	▼2	▼2	▼3	▼3	▼3	▼5	▼7	▼10
Total 'Disagree'	Feb/Mar 2024	31	14	9	37	38	10	8	12	12	65	30	34	28	60	68	45	21	19	18	22	40	42	70	8	32	31	20	18
	Δ Sept/Oct 2023	▼2	▼13	▼5	▼4	▼7	▼3	▼2	▼4	▼2	▼1	▼4	▼8	▼3	▼2	▼2	▼2	▼1	▼4	▼5	=	▼8	▼3	▲2	▼1	▲1	▲2	▲5	▲8
Don't know	Feb/Mar 2024	10	3	12	7	16	7	3	4	12	4	14	26	11	4	11	11	5	12	14	14	20	9	6	7	10	15	5	5
	Δ Sept/Oct 2023	▲3	▼2	▲1	▲1	▲4	=	=	▲2	=	▼1	▲3	▲7	▲2	▲2	▲2	▲3	▲2	▲6	▲7	▲2	▲10	▲5	▲1	▲4	▲2	▲3	▲2	▲2

Special Eurobarometer 548
Citizens' attitudes towards corruption in 2024
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In every EU Member State, a more than half agree that too-close links between business and politics in their country lead to corruption. At least nine in ten in Greece believe this (92%), followed by Malta (88%), and Cyprus (84%). Across the EU there are 22 countries where at least seven in ten think this way.



In seven EU Member States, respondents are now more likely than in 2023 to agree that too-close links between business and politics lead to corruption, with the largest increase observed in Slovenia (83%, +8) and Sweden (73%, +6).

Agreement has decreased in 16 countries, with the sharpest decrease seen in Czechia (75%, -10) and Luxembourg (58%, -9).

QD12.8 Please tell whether you agree or disagree with each of the following?
Too-close links between business and politics in (OUR COUNTRY) lead to corruption(%)

																													
Total 'Agree'	Feb/Mar 2024	75	83	73	74	52	72	80	92	71	69	73	56	75	83	76	79	75	88	71	77	68	81	83	76	77	84	58	75
	Δ Sept/Oct 2023	▼3	▲8	▲6	▲4	▲3	▲3	▲1	▲1	=	=	=	=	▼2	▼2	▼2	▼2	▼3	▼3	▼4	▼4	▼4	▼4	▼5	▼6	▼6	▼6	▼9	▼10
Total 'Disagree'	Feb/Mar 2024	15	12	23	18	37	19	8	5	23	17	14	30	14	12	19	11	11	9	11	19	19	9	8	10	17	9	18	14
	Δ Sept/Oct 2023	=	▼8	▼3	▼5	▼4	▼6	▼3	▼2	▼1	▼1	▼1	▼1	▼1	=	=	▲3	▼2	▲4	▲1	▲2	▼3	▲3	▲2	=	▲4	▲3	▼3	▲5
Don't know	Feb/Mar 2024	10	5	4	8	11	9	12	3	6	14	13	14	11	5	5	10	14	3	18	4	13	10	9	14	6	7	24	11
	Δ Sept/Oct 2023	▲3	=	▼3	▲1	▲1	▲3	▲2	▲1	▲1	▲1	▲1	▲1	▲3	▲2	▲2	▼1	▲5	▼1	▲3	▲2	▲7	▲1	▲3	▲6	▲2	▲3	▲12	▲5

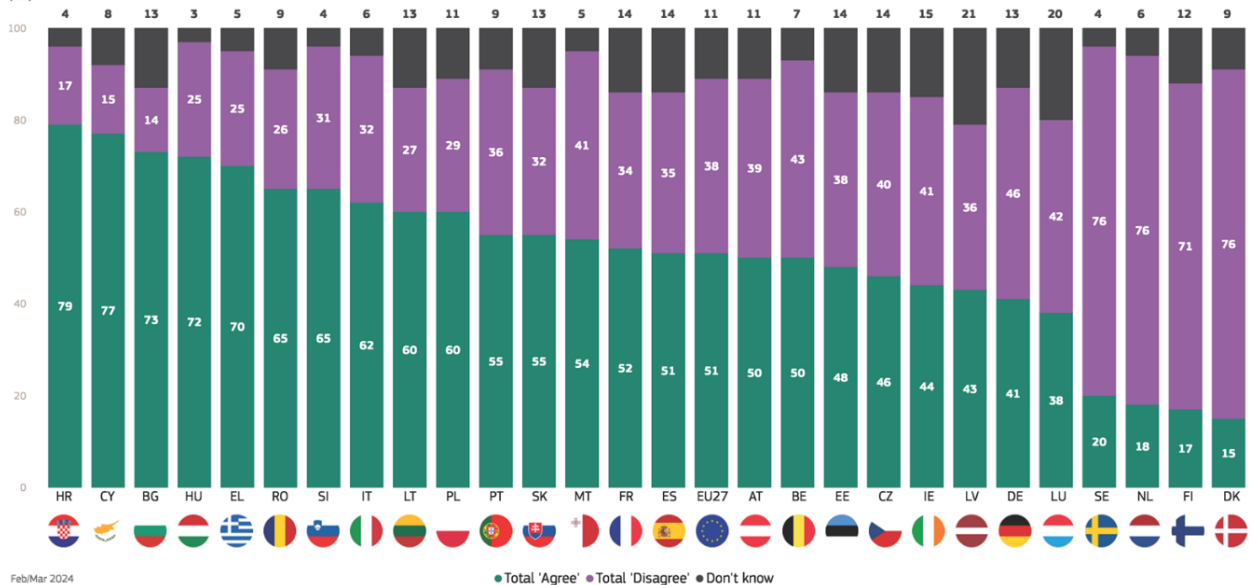
Special Eurobarometer 548
Citizens' attitudes towards corruption in 2024
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In 17 EU Member States, at least half of those surveyed agree that the only way to succeed in business in their country is to have political connections. At least seven in ten think this in Croatia (79%), Cyprus (77%), Bulgaria (73%), Hungary (72%), and Greece (70%).

In four countries, a fifth or fewer agree with the statement: Denmark (15%), Finland (17%), the Netherlands (18%) and Sweden (20%).

The regional analysis shows that respondents living in the countries that joined the EU in or after 2004 are much more likely to agree that the only way to succeed in business in their country is to have political connections than those living in the Member States that were already part of the EU in 2004 (62% vs. 47%), roughly in line with the proportions seen in 2023: 60% vs. 48%.

QD12.11. Please tell whether you agree or disagree with each of the following? :-In (OUR COUNTRY) the only way to succeed in business is to have political connections (%)



Compared to 2023, agreement that the only way to succeed in business is to have political connections has increased in 12 EU Member States, with the largest increase seen in Romania (65%, +10), Estonia (48% +7) and Austria (50%, +6). In 12 countries, respondents are now less likely to agree, most notably in Portugal (55%, -15) and Luxembourg (38%, -12). Opinion has remained stable in Croatia (79%), Slovakia (55%), and Belgium (50%).

QD12.11 Please tell whether you agree or disagree with each of the following?
In (OUR COUNTRY) the only way to succeed in business is to have political connections(%)



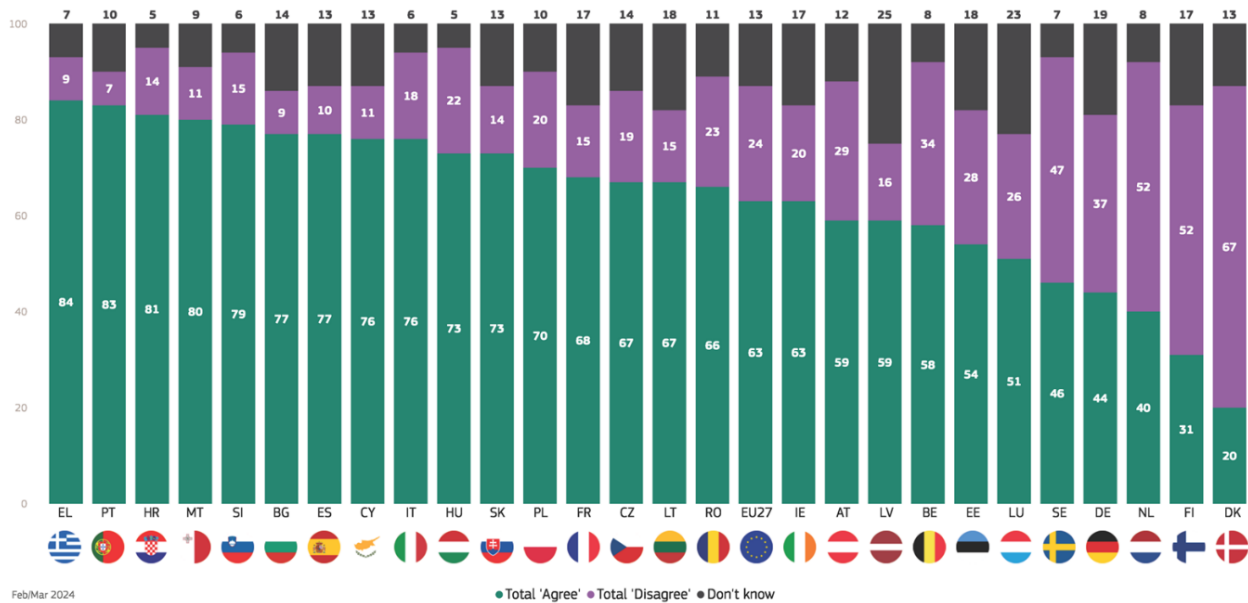
Total 'Agree'	Feb/Mar 2024	51	65	48	50	73	72	65	46	20	41	51	52	17	50	79	55	18	70	77	15	43	60	44	62	60	54	38	55
	Δ Sept/Oct 2023	▲1	▲10	▲7	▲6	▲5	▲5	▲5	▲3	▲3	▲2	▲2	▲1	▲1	=	=	=	▼1	▼2	▼2	▼3	▼3	▼3	▼4	▼5	▼5	▼5	▼12	▼15
Total 'Disagree'	Feb/Mar 2024	38	26	38	39	14	25	31	40	76	46	35	34	71	43	17	32	76	25	15	76	36	29	41	32	27	41	42	36
	Δ Sept/Oct 2023	▼4	▼10	▼9	▼9	▼6	▼5	▼6	▼7	▼3	▼5	▼8	▼6	▼4	▼2	▼2	▼1	▼1	▲1	▼2	▼1	▼5	▼2	▲4	▲2	▲2	▲4	▲1	▲16
Don't know	Feb/Mar 2024	11	9	14	11	13	3	4	14	4	13	14	14	12	7	4	13	6	5	8	9	21	11	15	6	13	5	20	9
	Δ Sept/Oct 2023	▲3	=	▲2	▲3	▲1	=	▲1	▲4	=	▲3	▲6	▲5	▲3	▲2	▲2	▲1	▲2	▲1	▲4	▲4	▲8	▲5	=	▲3	▲3	▲1	▲11	▼1

Special Eurobarometer 548
Citizens' attitudes towards corruption in 2024
February – March 2024

In 22 countries, more than half think that in their country favouritism and corruption hamper business competition. In four countries, at least eight in ten think this way: Greece (84%), Portugal (83%), Croatia (81%), and Malta (80%). Fewer than half think this way in Denmark (20%), Finland (31%), the Netherlands (40%), Germany (44%) and Sweden (46%).

The regional analysis illustrates that those living in the Member States that joined the EU after 2004, are more likely than respondents from the Member States already part of the EU to agree that in their country favouritism and corruption hamper business competition (70% vs. 62%), in line with the results from 2022: 69% vs. 64%.

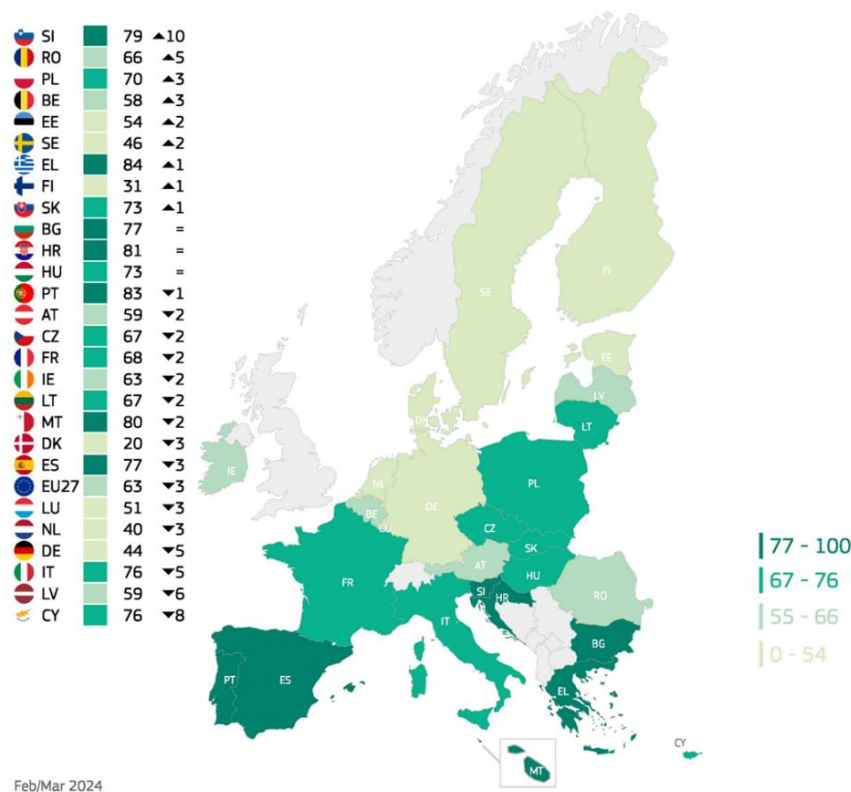
QD12.12. Please tell whether you agree or disagree with each of the following? :-In (OUR COUNTRY), favouritism and corruption hamper business competition (%)



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The map below illustrates that the perceptions that favouritism and corruption hampers business competition is more widespread among respondents in southern Europe. This view is generally less widespread in northern Europe.

QD12.12. Please tell whether you agree or disagree with each of the following? :-In (OUR COUNTRY), favouritism and corruption hamper business competition - Total 'Agree' (%)



The evolution and table below show that since 2023 the view that favouritism and corruption hamper business competition has increased in nine countries, most pronounced in Slovenia (79%, +10) and Romania (66%, +5). It has declined in 15 countries, with the sharpest decreases in Cyprus (76%, -8) and Latvia (59%, 6).

QD12.12 Please tell whether you agree or disagree with each of the following?
In (OUR COUNTRY), favouritism and corruption hamper business competition(%)





Total 'Agree'	Feb/Mar 2024	63	79	66	58	70	54	46	84	73	31	77	81	73	83	67	63	68	67	80	59	20	77	51	40	44	76	59	76
	Δ Sept/Oct 2023	▼3	▲10	▲5	▲3	▲3	▲2	▲2	▲1	▲1	▲1	=	=	=	▼1	▼2	▼2	▼2	▼2	▼2	▼3	▼3	▼3	▼3	▼5	▼5	▼6	▼8	
Total 'Disagree'	Feb/Mar 2024	24	15	23	34	20	28	47	9	14	52	9	14	22	7	19	20	15	15	11	29	67	10	26	52	37	18	16	11
	Δ Sept/Oct 2023	▼1	▼10	▼7	▼4	▼6	▼3	▼1	▼4	▼1	▼3	▼3	▼2	▼2	▲1	▼3	▼1	▼2	=	▼2	=	=	▼4	▼6	=	▼2	▲3	▼1	▲1
Don't know	Feb/Mar 2024	13	6	11	8	10	18	7	7	13	17	14	5	5	10	14	17	17	18	9	12	13	13	23	8	19	6	25	13
	Δ Sept/Oct 2023	▲4	=	▲2	▲1	▲3	▲1	▼1	▲3	=	▲2	▲3	▲2	▲2	=	▲5	▲3	▲4	▲2	▲4	▲2	▲3	▲7	▲9	▲3	▲7	▲2	▲7	▲7

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Citizens' attitudes towards corruption in 2024
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The **socio-demographic analysis** highlights a range of differences:

- Those aged 15-24 are least likely to agree that that too-close links between business and politics in their country lead to corruption (71% compared to around three - quarters of those aged 25+). At around two-thirds, those aged 25-54 are the more likely than other age groups to agree that in their country, favouritism, and corruption hamper business competition
- Respondents who consider themselves as belonging to the working class (61%) and lower middle classes (64%) are more likely to agree that corruption is part of the business culture in their country.
- Respondents who have experienced or witnessed corruption are more likely to agree with each statement than those who have not.

QD12 Please tell whether you agree or disagree with each of the following?
Total 'Agree'
 (% - EU)

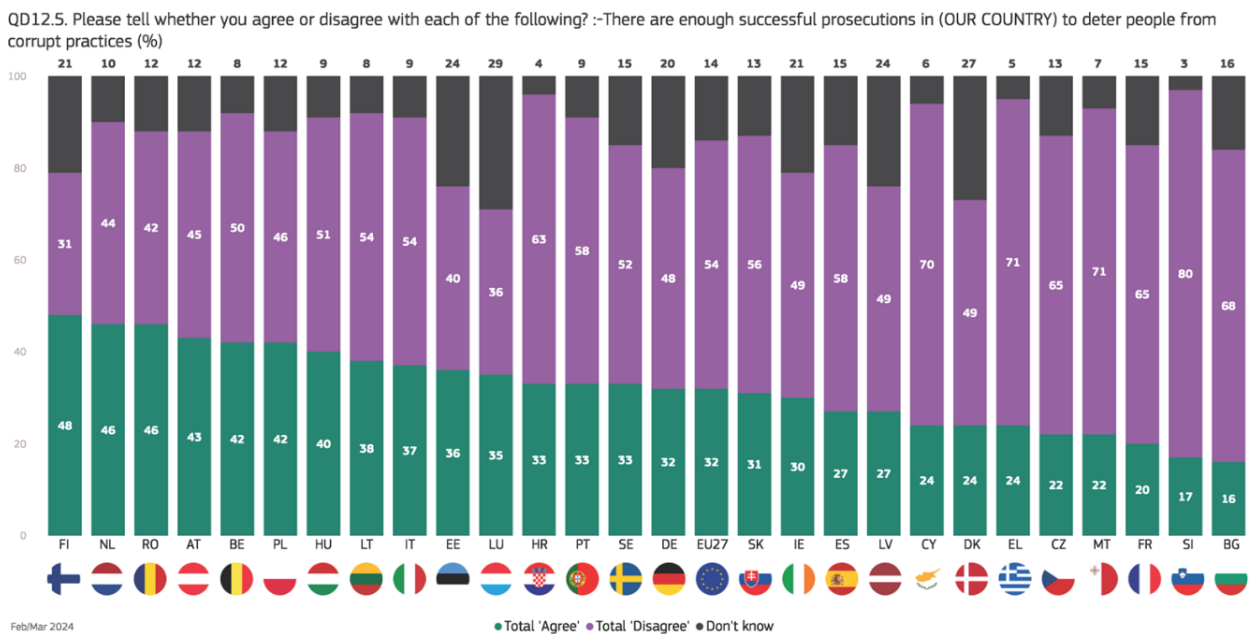
	Corruption is part of the business culture in (OUR COUNTRY)	Too-close links between business and politics in (OUR COUNTRY) lead to corruption	In (OUR COUNTRY) the only way to succeed in business is to have political connections	In (OUR COUNTRY), favouritism and corruption hamper business competition
EU27	59	75	51	63
 Age				
15-24	52	71	46	59
25-39	61	77	51	65
40-54	63	77	53	67
55 +	57	75	51	62
 Education (End of)				
15-	62	71	53	64
16-19	63	76	55	68
20+	55	77	46	61
Still studying	51	69	44	57
Socio-professional category				
Self-employed	71	81	55	71
Managers	52	78	44	59
Other white collars	61	78	52	66
Manual workers	62	74	55	67
House persons	62	75	52	66
Unemployed	61	75	54	69
Retired	56	74	50	60
Students	51	69	44	57
Difficulties paying bills				
Most of the time	75	78	62	73
From time to time	65	75	57	69
Almost never/ Never	54	75	47	60
Consider belonging to				
The working class	61	72	52	66
The lower middle class	64	78	52	65
The middle class	58	75	52	64
The upper middle class	51	79	41	54
The upper class	53	77	48	66
Experienced or witnessed corruption				
Yes, experienced	85	88	70	83
Yes, witnessed	76	83	65	74
No	58	75	50	63

8 Dealing with corruption

Europeans remain pessimistic about their country's efforts to effectively combat corruption.

Fewer than half of the respondents all EU Member States think there are enough successful prosecutions in their country to deter people from corrupt practices. There are only three countries where respondents are more likely to agree than disagree: Finland (48% vs. 31%), the Netherlands (46% vs. 44%) and Romania (46% vs. 42%).

The lowest levels of agreement are seen in Bulgaria (16% vs. 68% disagree), Slovenia (17% vs. 80%) France (20% vs. 65%).



In 13 EU Member States, respondents are more likely than they were in 2023 to agree that there are enough successful prosecutions in their country to deter people from corrupt practices, with the biggest increases seen in Croatia (33%, +10), Malta (22%, +7), Romania (46%, +7), and Hungary (40%, +6).

Conversely, in 14 countries the proportions of people thinking this way has decreased, most notably in Slovenia (17%, -9), the Netherlands (46%, -5), and Italy (37%, -4).

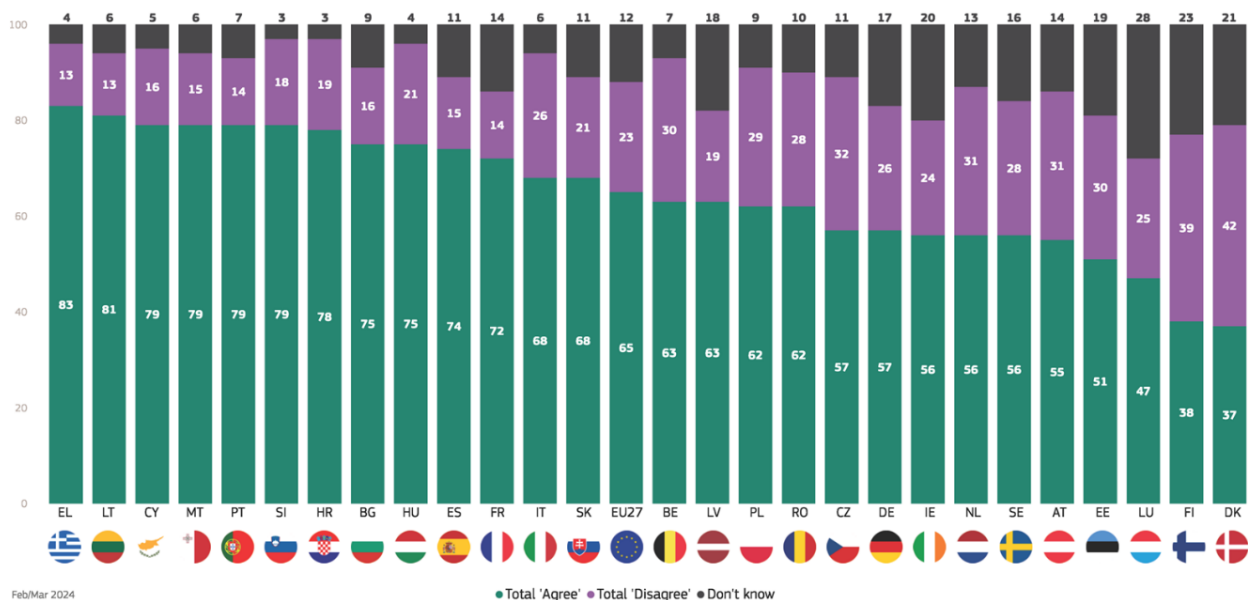
QD12.5 Please tell whether you agree or disagree with each of the following?
There are enough successful prosecutions in (OUR COUNTRY) to deter people from corrupt practices(%)

																													
Total 'Agree'	Feb/Mar 2024	32	33	22	46	40	24	42	33	27	48	38	31	42	32	22	24	27	43	33	16	36	30	24	20	35	37	46	17
	Δ Sept/Oct 2023	=	▲10	▲7	▲7	▲6	▲5	▲5	▲5	▲4	▲4	▲3	▲3	▲2	▲2	▼1	▼1	▼1	▼1	▼1	▼2	▼2	▼2	▼3	▼3	▼3	▼4	▼5	▼9
Total 'Disagree'	Feb/Mar 2024	54	63	71	42	51	70	46	58	49	31	54	56	50	48	65	71	58	45	52	68	40	49	49	65	36	54	44	80
	Δ Sept/Oct 2023	▼1	▼11	▼9	▼8	▼8	▼5	▼5	▼5	▼5	▼1	▼1	▼5	▼1	▼3	▼4	▼1	▼6	▼1	▲1	▲7	▼1	▼1	▼4	▲2	▼7	▲5	▲2	▲11
Don't know	Feb/Mar 2024	14	4	7	12	9	6	12	9	24	21	8	13	8	20	13	5	15	12	15	16	24	21	27	15	29	9	10	3
	Δ Sept/Oct 2023	▲1	▲1	▲2	▲1	▲2	=	=	=	▲1	▼3	▼2	▲2	▼1	▲1	▲5	▲2	▲7	▲2	=	▼5	▲3	▲3	▲7	▲1	▲10	▼1	▲3	▼2

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Citizens' attitudes towards corruption in 2024
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In all but three Member States (Denmark, 37% Finland, 38% and Luxembourg, 47%) more than half agree high-level corruption cases are not pursued sufficiently in their country. In nine countries at least three-quarters agree, the highest levels being in Greece (83%) and Lithuania (81%).

QD12.6. Please tell whether you agree or disagree with each of the following? :-High-level corruption cases are not pursued sufficiently in (OUR COUNTRY) (%)



In nine countries, there has been a rise in agreement that high-level corruption cases are not pursued sufficiently compared to 2023. The most notable increases include in Slovenia (79%, +8), Lithuania (81%, +5), and Poland (62%, +4). In 17 countries, agreement on this issue has decreased, the highest being in Luxembourg (47%, -8) and Ireland (56%, -8).

QD12.6 Please tell whether you agree or disagree with each of the following?

High-level corruption cases are not pursued sufficiently in (OUR COUNTRY)(%)



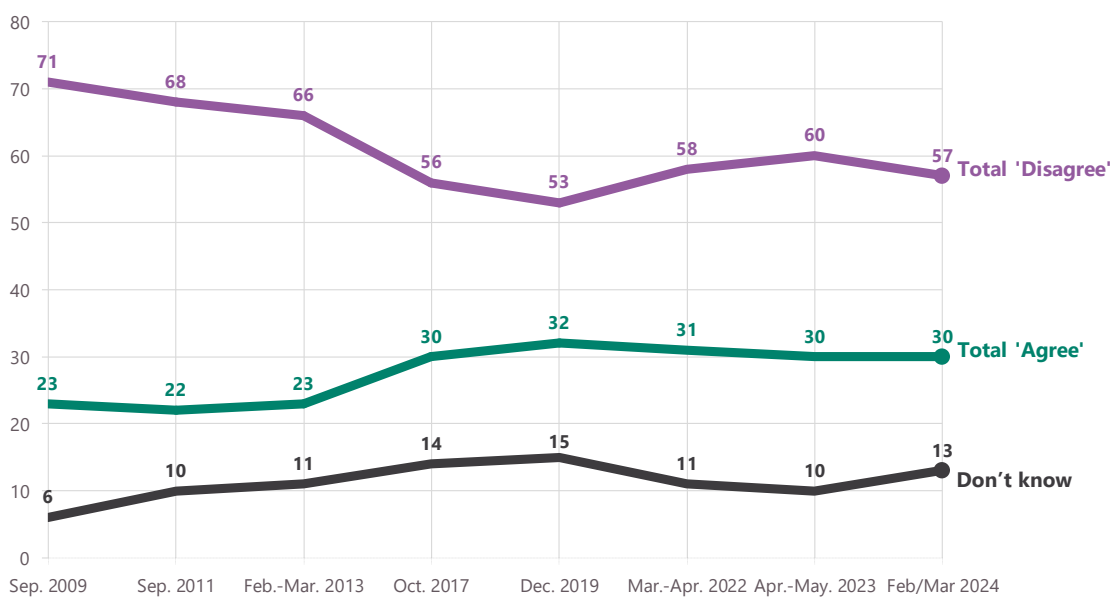
		EU27	SI	LT	PL	BG	AT	NL	PT	RO	SE	EE	BE	HR	DK	CY	MT	SK	DE	FR	HU	EL	IT	FI	CZ	ES	LV	IE	LU
Total 'Agree'	Feb/Mar 2024	65	79	81	62	75	55	56	79	62	56	51	63	78	37	79	79	68	57	72	75	83	68	38	57	74	63	56	47
	Δ Sept/Oct 2023	▼2	▲8	▲5	▲4	▲3	▲3	▲1	▲1	▲1	▲1	=	▼1	▼1	▼2	▼2	▼2	▼2	▼3	▼3	▼3	▼4	▼4	▼4	▼5	▼5	▼5	▼8	▼8
Total 'Disagree'	Feb/Mar 2024	23	18	13	29	16	31	31	14	28	28	30	30	19	42	16	15	21	26	14	21	13	26	39	32	15	19	24	25
	Δ Sept/Oct 2023	▼1	▼6	▼4	▼5	▼2	▼7	▼4	=	▼3	▼2	▼2	▲1	=	▼3	▲2	=	=	▲1	=	▲1	▲3	▲4	=	=	▼1	▲1	▲3	▼3
Don't know	Feb/Mar 2024	12	3	6	9	9	14	13	7	10	16	19	7	3	21	5	6	11	17	14	4	4	6	23	11	11	18	20	28
	Δ Sept/Oct 2023	▲3	▼2	▼1	▲1	▼1	▲4	▲3	▼1	▲2	▲1	▲2	=	▲1	▲5	=	▲2	▲2	▲2	▲3	▲2	▲1	=	▲4	▲5	▲6	▲4	▲5	▲11

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Just under a third (30%, -1) agree that their national government's efforts to combat corruption are effective, as was the case in 2023.

Since 2019, agreement that national governments' efforts to combat corruption are effective has remained relatively stable, although there has been some fluctuation in the levels of those disagreeing and stating they "don't know".

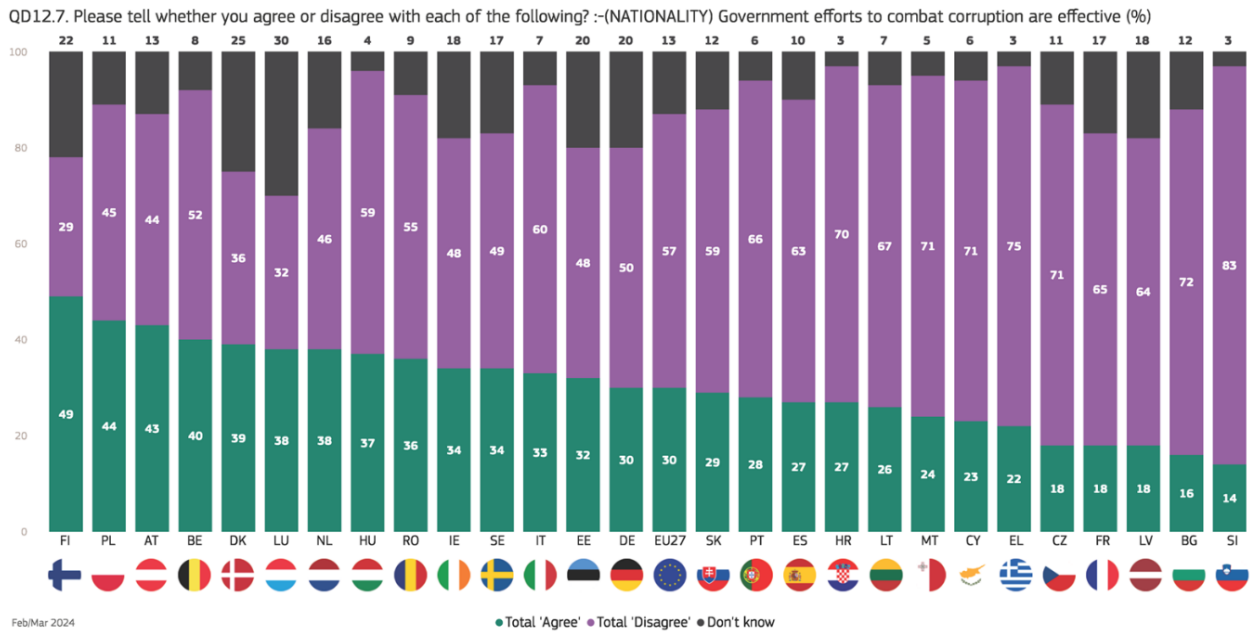
QD12.7 Please tell whether you agree or disagree with each of the following?
(NATIONALITY) Government efforts to combat corruption are effective (%)



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There are only three EU Member States where more respondents agree than disagree that their national government's efforts to combat corruption are effective. However, it is still fewer than half in each country: Finland (49% agree vs. 29% disagree), Denmark (39% vs. 36%), and Luxembourg (38% vs. 32%).

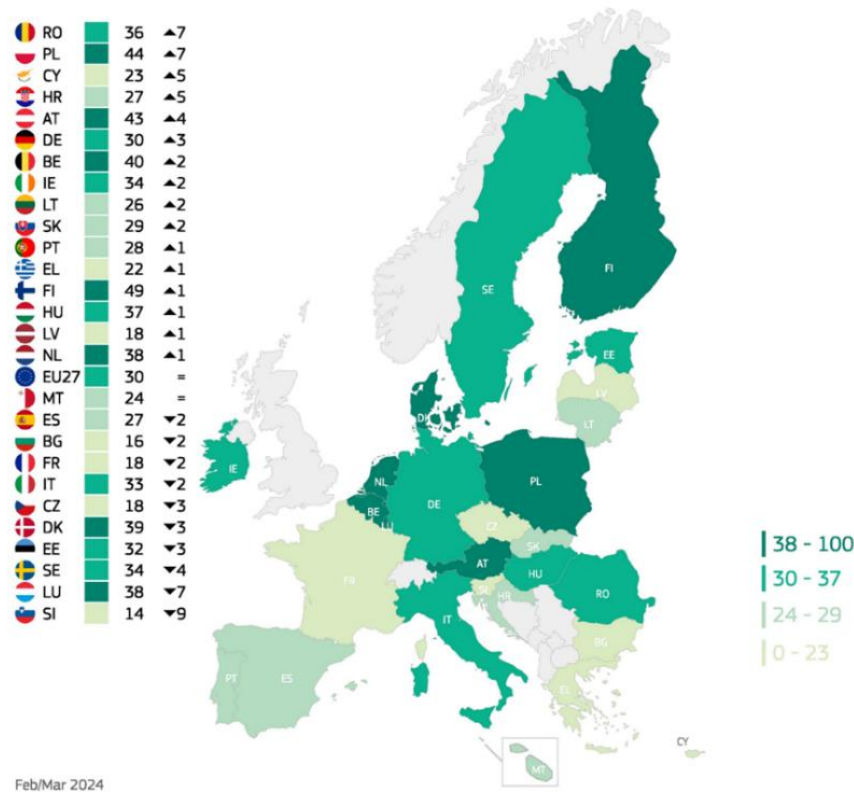
The relative proportions are more or less balanced in Poland (44% agree vs. 45% disagree) and Austria (43% vs. 44%). In the remaining 22 countries, respondents are more likely to disagree with this statement, with the highest disagreement levels seen in Slovenia (83%) and Bulgaria (72%).



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Since 2023, the belief that the national government's efforts to combat corruption are effective has increased in 16 countries, notably in more recent members of the European Union, such as Romania (36%, +7), Poland (36%, +7), Cyprus (23%, +5) and Croatia (27%, +5).

QD12.7. Please tell whether you agree or disagree with each of the following? :-(NATIONALITY)
 Government efforts to combat corruption are effective - Total 'Agree' (%)



In ten countries, the situation is less encouraging, with the steepest decreases in respondents' belief in their national government's efforts to combat corruption registered in Slovenia (14%, -9) and Luxembourg (38%, -7)

QD12.7 Please tell whether you agree or disagree with each of the following?
 (NATIONALITY) Government efforts to combat corruption are effective(%)

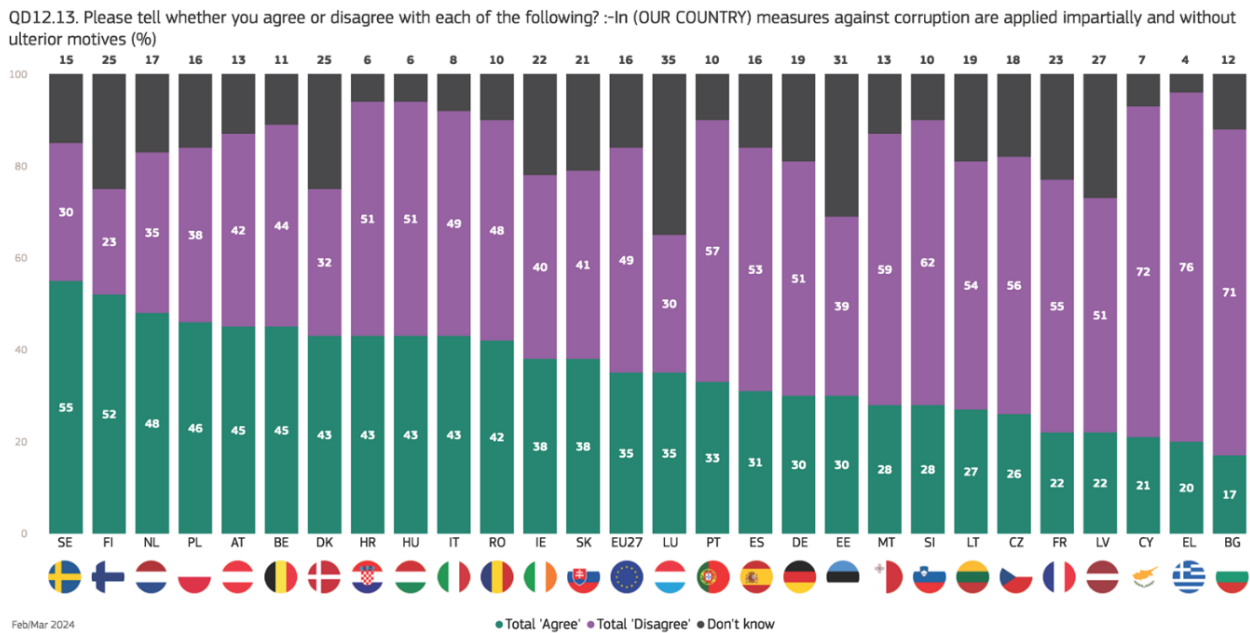


Total 'Agree'	Feb/Mar 2024	30	44	36	27	23	43	30	40	34	26	29	22	18	37	38	28	49	24	16	27	18	33	18	39	32	34	38	14
	Δ Sept/Oct 2023	=	▲7	▲7	▲5	▲5	▲4	▲3	▲2	▲2	▲2	▲2	▲1	▲1	▲1	▲1	▲1	=	▼2	▼2	▼2	▼2	▼3	▼3	▼3	▼3	▼4	▼7	▼9
Total 'Disagree'	Feb/Mar 2024	57	45	55	70	71	44	50	52	48	67	59	75	64	59	46	66	29	71	72	63	65	60	71	36	48	49	32	83
	Δ Sept/Oct 2023	▼3	▼10	▼9	▼5	▼8	▼6	▼5	▼4	▼4	▼1	▼6	▼2	▼4	▼3	▼6	▼1	▼5	▼1	▲4	▼2	▼3	=	▼1	▼2	▼2	▲7	▼3	▲11
Don't know	Feb/Mar 2024	13	11	9	3	6	13	20	8	18	7	12	3	18	4	16	6	22	5	12	10	17	7	11	25	20	17	30	3
	Δ Sept/Oct 2023	▲3	▲3	▲2	=	▲3	▲2	▲2	▲2	▲2	▼1	▲4	▲1	▲3	▲2	▲5	=	▲4	▲1	▼2	▲4	▲5	▲2	▲4	▲5	▲5	▼3	▲10	▼2

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Citizens' attitudes towards corruption in 2024
February – March 2024

There are two Member States where more than half agree that measures against corruption are applied impartially and without ulterior motives in their country: Sweden (55%) and Finland (52%). In 25 countries, fewer than half agree, with the lowest levels seen in Bulgaria (17% vs. 71% disagreement), Greece (20% vs. 76%), Cyprus (21% vs. 72%), Latvia (22% vs. 51%) and France (22% vs. 55%).

It is also worth noting that at least a quarter say they don't know in Luxembourg (35%), Estonia (31%), Latvia (27%), and Denmark and Finland (both 25%).



Since 2023 agreement that measures against corruption are applied impartially and without ulterior motives has increased in 14 countries particularly in the case of Croatia (43%, +10). For the 13 countries where agreement has declined, this is largely due to rise in uncertainty, rather than disagreement, with higher numbers expressing they don't know. However, Italy (49% +4) and Slovenia (62% +6%) saw an increase in respondents disagreeing with this statement.

QD12.13 Please tell whether you agree or disagree with each of the following?
 In (OUR COUNTRY) measures against corruption are applied impartially and without ulterior motives(%)



																													
Total 'Agree'	Feb/Mar 2024	35	43	45	28	42	38	45	46	21	20	43	33	52	30	27	17	38	22	26	55	30	48	43	31	22	43	28	35
	Δ Sept/Oct 2023	=	▲10	▲7	▲7	▲7	▲7	▲6	▲6	▲5	▲4	▲4	▲3	▲3	▲2	▲2	▼1	▼1	▼1	▼2	▼2	▼3	▼3	▼4	▼4	▼4	▼5	▼7	▼8
Total 'Disagree'	Feb/Mar 2024	49	51	44	59	48	41	42	38	72	76	51	57	23	51	54	71	40	51	56	30	39	35	32	53	55	49	62	30
	Δ Sept/Oct 2023	▼3	▼12	▼8	▼13	▼5	▼8	▼7	▼9	▼7	▼4	▼5	▼1	▼3	▼4	▼2	▲2	▼1	▼1	▲1	▲2	▼2	▼3	▼2	▼3	▼2	▲4	▲6	▼6
Don't know	Feb/Mar 2024	16	6	11	13	10	21	13	16	7	4	6	10	25	19	19	12	22	27	18	15	31	17	25	16	23	8	10	35
	Δ Sept/Oct 2023	▲3	▲2	▲1	▲6	▼2	▲1	▲1	▲3	▲2	=	▲1	▼2	=	▲2	=	▼1	▲2	▲2	▲1	=	▲5	▲6	▲6	▲7	▲6	▲1	▲1	▲14

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The **socio-demographic analysis** illustrates the following differences:

- Those who finished school aged 20 and up are more likely to agree (38%) that in their country measures against corruption are applied impartially and without ulterior motives, especially compared to those who left school before the age of 16 (30%).
- At just over 7 in 10 (72%), the self-employed are the most likely professional group to believe that high level corruption is not pursued effectively.
- Respondents who consider themselves as belonging to the upper class are the most likely (43%) to agree there are enough successful prosecutions to deter corruption than the lower middle class (28%) or the working class (26%).
- Respondents of the upper class are also substantially more likely to agree that the national government's efforts to combat corruption are effective (47%), while those of the upper-middle class are most likely to agree that measures against corruption are applied impartially and without ulterior motives in their country (46%).
- On the other hand, those of the lower middle class are more likely (69%) to agree high-level corruption cases are not pursued sufficiently, compared to those in the working and middle class (both 65%), the upper middle class (62%), and the upper class (64%).

QD12 Please tell whether you agree or disagree with each of the following?
Total 'Agree'
(% - EU)

	High-level corruption cases are not pursued sufficiently in (OUR COUNTRY)	In (OUR COUNTRY) measures against corruption are applied impartially and without ulterior motives	There are enough successful prosecutions in (OUR COUNTRY) to deter people from corrupt practices	(NATIONALITY) Government efforts to combat corruption are effective
EU27	65	35	32	30
 Age				
15-24	61	36	34	33
25-39	66	37	34	32
40-54	68	35	33	30
55 +	64	34	31	29
 Education (End of)				
15-	64	30	30	28
16-19	67	34	32	30
20+	65	38	33	31
Still studying	58	35	34	33
Socio-professional category				
Self-employed	72	35	36	30
Managers	63	41	36	32
Other white collars	63	39	35	35
Manual workers	68	33	30	29
House persons	63	37	32	32
Unemployed	69	28	26	25
Retired	64	32	31	28
Students	58	35	34	33
Difficulties paying bills				
Most of the time	74	23	24	23
From time to time	67	35	33	31
Almost never/ Never	63	36	33	31
Consider belonging to				
The working class	65	27	26	25
The lower middle class	69	29	28	26
The middle class	65	39	36	34
The upper middle class	62	46	42	34
The upper class	64	44	43	47
You know someone who takes bribes				
Yes	79	28	28	24
No	63	36	33	31



III. Experience of bribery

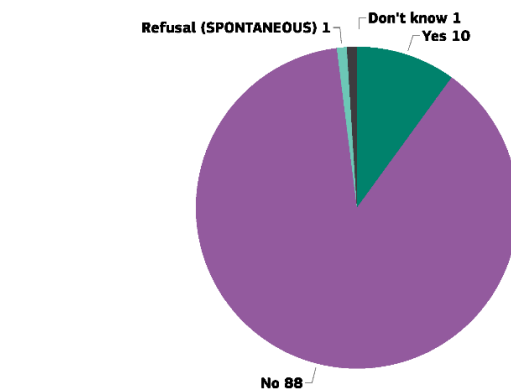
9 Personal experience of bribery

One in ten know someone who takes or has taken bribes.

Across the EU, one in ten respondents (~1 since 2023) know someone who takes or has taken bribes.²² The majority (88%, =) do not.

Whereas fewer than a third of respondents in every Member State say they personally know someone who takes bribes, proportions vary considerably. In six countries at least one in five say this: Greece (32%), Malta (26%), Lithuania (23%), and Latvia (22%). Fewer than one in ten respondents say this in Ireland (4%), Italy (5%), Romania (6%), Poland and Portugal (both 7%), and Denmark, Germany, and Austria (9%).

QD5. Do you personally know anyone who takes or has taken bribes? (EU27) (%)

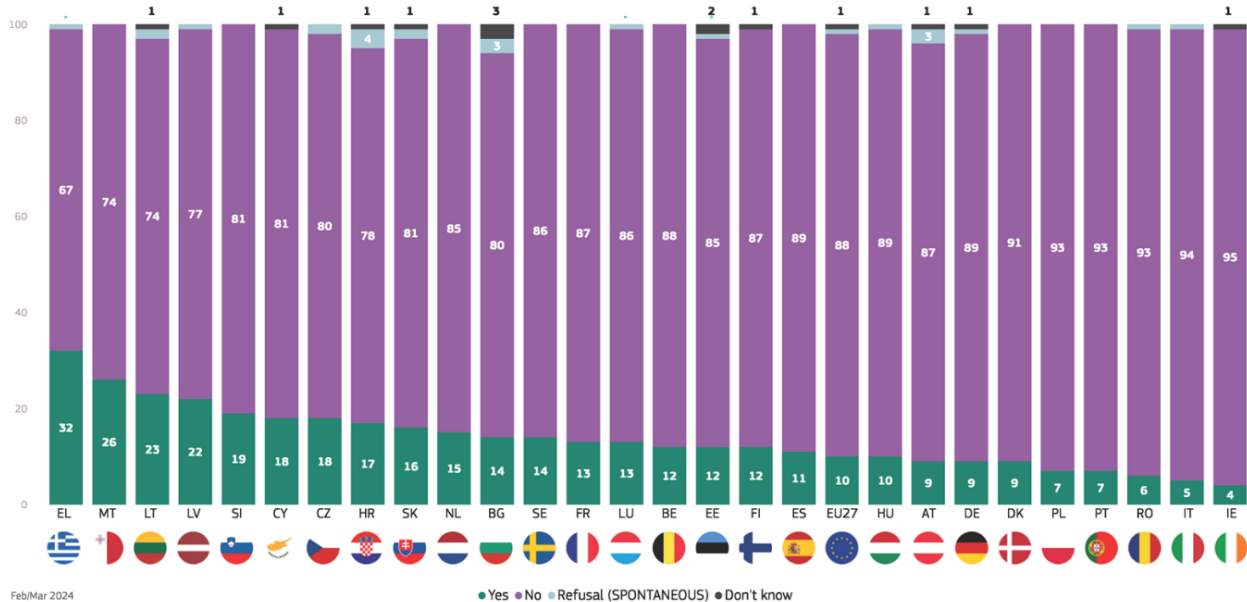


Yes ▼ 1
 No =
 Refusal (SPONTANEOUS) =
 Don't know ▲ 1

▲▼ (Feb/Mar 2024 – Apr/May 2023)

Feb/Mar 2024

QD5. Do you personally know anyone who takes or has taken bribes? (%)

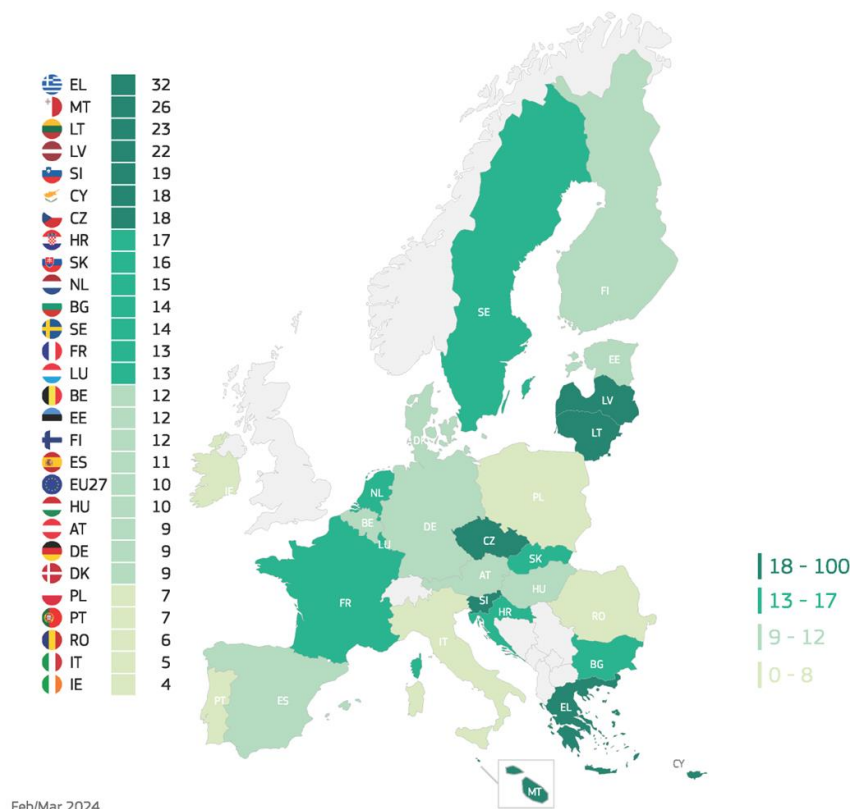


²² QD5. Do you personally know anyone who takes or has taken bribes?

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Whereas at the EU level, proportions of those who know someone who has taken bribes is similar to 2023 (10% - 1), there have been some interesting shifts within the countries. In nine countries, knowledge of bribery has increased, most notable in Malta (26% +9) and the Netherlands (15% +5). It has decreased in 17 countries, with the biggest drops in Slovakia (16% -8), Hungary (10% -6), Croatia (17% - 5) and Cyprus (18% -5).

QD5. Do you personally know anyone who takes or has taken bribes? - Yes (%)



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The **socio-demographic analysis** highlights that in most groups, around one in ten personally know someone who takes or has taken bribes. However, it is higher among the following groups:

- Men (13%) are more likely to know someone who takes or has taken bribes than women (8%).
- Respondents aged 40-54 are the most likely to report this (12%), particularly compared to those aged between 15 and 24 (8%).
- Those who finished their education past the age of 20 are more likely (13%) than those who finished school aged 15 or younger (7%).
- At almost twice the average, the self-employed (19%) the most likely socio-professional group to know someone who has taken bribes. Managers (14%), and the unemployed (13%) also have higher than average knowledge.

Respondents who have difficulties paying their bills most of the time (17%) are more likely than those who never have such difficulties (10%) to personally know someone who takes or has taken bribes.

- Finally, respondents who have experienced (69%) or witnessed (59%) corruption in the past 12 months are far more likely than those who have not (7%) to personally know someone who takes or has taken bribes. This also applies when comparing respondents who consider that corruption is widespread in their country with those who say it is rare (13% vs. 6%).

QD5 Do you personally know anyone who takes or has taken bribes?
(% - EU)

	Yes	No	Refusal (SPONTANEOUS)	Don't know
EU27	10	88	1	1
Gender				
Man	13	86	1	0
Woman	8	91	1	0
Age				
15-24	8	91	0	1
25-39	10	89	1	0
40-54	12	87	1	0
55 +	10	88	1	1
Socio-professional category				
Self-employed	19	80	1	0
Managers	14	86	0	0
Other white collars	9	91	0	0
Manual workers	10	88	1	1
House persons	7	92	1	0
Unemployed	13	85	1	1
Retired	9	89	1	1
Students	7	92	0	1
Difficulties paying bills				
Most of the time	17	81	1	1
From time to time	11	88	1	0
Almost never/ Never	10	89	1	0
Consider belonging to				
The working class	10	88	1	1
The lower middle class	10	88	1	1
The middle class	10	89	1	0
The upper middle class	13	86	1	0
The upper class	13	85	2	0
In (OUR COUNTRY) corruption is				
Widespread	13	86	1	0
Rare	6	93	1	0
Experienced or witnessed corruption				
Yes, experienced	69	29	1	1
Yes, witnessed	59	40	1	0
No	7	92	1	0

10 Contact with institutions and incidence of bribery

Europeans are most likely to have had contact with the healthcare system than any other institution in the last 12 months.

Respondents were asked about their contact with 15 public or private institutions in their country over the last 12 months.

The **healthcare system** (58%, -5 percentage points) is the only institution mentioned by more than half of all respondents and contact with it has decreased since 2023.

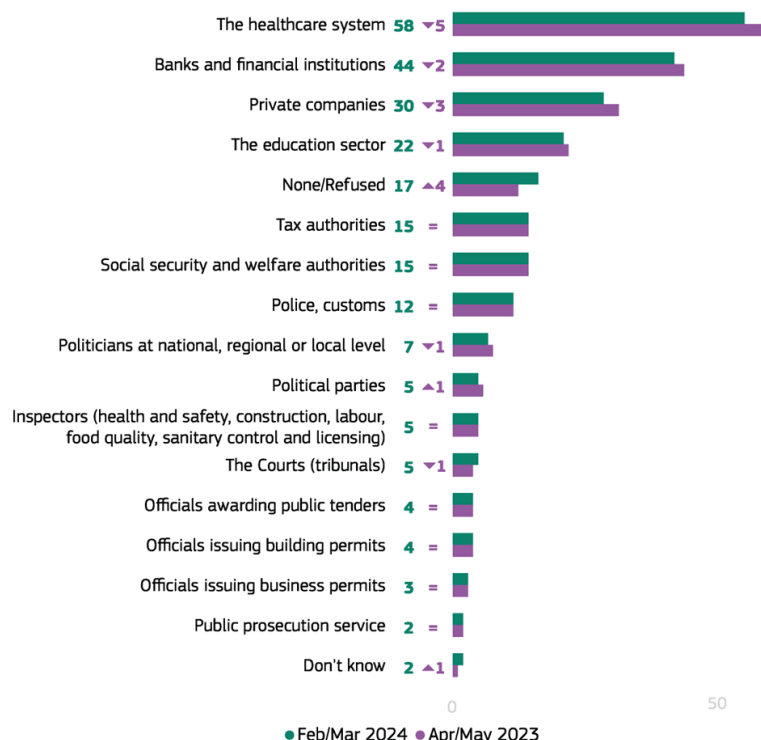
More than four in ten (44%, -2) have had contact with **banks and financial institutions**, while three in ten (33%, -3) mention **private companies** and 22% (-1) mention the **education sector**. These are the only institutions mentioned by at least one in five.

More than one in ten have had contact with **tax authorities** (15%, =), **social security and welfare authorities** (15%, =), or the **police or customs** (12%, =).

Fewer than one in ten have had contact with the other eight institutions: **politicians** (7%, -1), **political parties** (5%, -1), **the courts** (5%, =), **inspectors** (5%, =), **officials issuing building permits** (4%, =), **officials awarding public tenders** (4%, =), **officials issuing business permits** (3%, =) or **the public prosecution service** (2%, =).

Nearly one in five (19%, +5) say they have not had contact with any of these institutions in their country in the past 12 months or were unsure if they had.

QD6a. Over the last 12 months, have you had any contact with any of the following in (OUR COUNTRY)? (MULTIPLE ANSWERS POSSIBLE) (EU27) (%)



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In all but one EU Member State (Ireland) **the healthcare system** is the most mentioned institution, and in 26 Member States more than half have had contact with it in the last 12 months. Proportions range from over three-quarters in Sweden (81%), Finland (76%). Portugal and Lithuania (both 75%) to fewer than half in Romania (42%) and Belgium (44%).

In Ireland, respondents are most likely to have had contact with banks and **financial institutions** (54%), followed by the healthcare system (53%). In 25 EU Member States banks and financial institutions are the second most mentioned institutions and third in Romania. In 11 countries at least half of all respondents have had contact with banks and financial institutions in the last 12 months, with the highest scores seen in Sweden (69%), Finland (67%), and Denmark (63%). Respondents are least likely to mention this in Romania (14%), Latvia (24%), and Bulgaria (29%).

In 20 countries, **private companies** are the third most mentioned institution, most widely mentioned in Sweden (58%), the Netherlands (52%) and Finland (51%). Those surveyed are least likely to mention this in Romania (10%), Bulgaria (12%), and Latvia (15%).

The education sector is the third most mentioned in eight countries and second in Romania. Overall, respondents are most likely to mention this in Sweden and Luxembourg (both 35%) and the Netherlands (34%) and least likely in Poland (14%), Bulgaria, Romania Hungary, and Italy (16% all).

The **tax authorities** are mentioned by at least one in three in the Netherlands (48%), Finland (43%), Sweden (41%), and Denmark (33%).

Social security and welfare authorities are mentioned by at least one in four in Luxembourg (26%) and France (25%).

The **police and customs** are mentioned by at least one in five in Finland (31%), Sweden (26%), and Luxembourg (22%).

Results of note for the remaining institutions include:

- There are seven countries where at least one in ten have had contact with **politicians**, with the highest proportions seen in Sweden (20%) and the Netherlands (19%).
- At least one in ten have had contact with **political parties** in Sweden (15%), Luxembourg (12%), and the Netherlands (11%).
- In two countries, at least one in ten have had contact with **inspectors**: the Netherlands and Sweden (both 12%).
- Officials awarding public tenders** are only mentioned by more than one in ten in Sweden (13%), while **the courts** are mentioned by one in ten (10%) in Croatia.

QD6a. Over the last 12 months, have you had any contact with any of the following in (OUR COUNTRY)? (MULTIPLE ANSWERS POSSIBLE) (%)

	EU27	AT	BE	BG	CY	CZ	DE	DK	EE	EL	ES	FI	FR	HR	HU	IE	IT	LT	LU	LV	MT	NL	PL	PT	RO	SE	SI	SK
The healthcare system	58	58	44	54	67	63	52	71	56	65	67	76	60	50	64	53	51	75	58	60	64	64	61	75	42	81	51	63
Banks and financial institutions	44	56	33	29	44	49	50	63	58	61	56	67	43	40	37	54	34	32	45	24	55	55	30	56	14	69	44	40
Private companies	30	45	20	12	19	24	39	48	30	50	32	51	30	16	21	30	21	22	24	15	21	52	19	38	10	58	25	27
The education sector	22	28	23	16	26	22	20	27	24	24	27	30	24	18	16	27	16	22	35	18	23	34	14	23	16	35	21	22
Tax authorities	15	12	11	14	11	13	22	33	16	29	3	43	10	13	12	19	6	15	19	14	13	48	8	18	11	41	12	14
Social security and welfare authorities	15	18	12	10	13	16	12	15	14	19	21	12	25	10	8	15	5	12	26	13	12	21	10	21	5	21	8	15
Police, customs	12	15	17	12	10	14	12	14	19	17	12	31	13	18	4	12	6	11	22	10	13	21	10	7	9	26	14	16
Politicians at national, regional or local level	7	14	9	3	6	6	10	13	5	4	5	15	7	6	3	9	5	4	15	3	7	19	3	3	4	20	5	9
The Courts (tribunals)	5	7	8	3	6	5	6	5	4	6	4	3	5	10	3	3	3	5	6	2	9	8	4	4	2	6	8	6
Political parties	5	9	7	2	6	5	7	7	6	1	4	7	4	5	2	7	4	2	12	2	9	11	3	2	4	15	3	7
Inspectors (health and safety, construction, labour, food quality, sanitary control and licensing)	5	8	5	4	3	5	6	6	8	3	5	9	2	6	3	4	5	5	5	4	9	12	3	4	4	12	5	7
Officials awarding public tenders	4	6	3	2	2	3	4	2	4	1	4	5	2	7	2	2	3	2	5	2	3	7	4	2	3	13	4	3
Officials issuing building permits	4	5	4	2	2	5	4	5	6	3	3	9	2	8	4	3	5	3	6	4	5	8	3	2	2	9	5	4
Officials issuing business permits	3	4	4	3	2	3	2	1	4	2	2	4	2	7	4	2	3	1	4	1	2	5	4	2	3	4	4	5
Public prosecution service	2	3	4	1	3	1	3	2	1	1	1	2	1	3	2	1	3	1	3	1	2	5	2	2	2	3	1	2
None/Refused	17	10	20	22	16	13	20	7	14	8	11	5	13	18	17	18	25	14	15	21	9	7	18	9	31	5	23	12
Don't know	2	1	2	4	1	6	1	2	5	0	1	1	3	4	0	3	3	2	3	4	2	0	3	2	4	0	1	5

1st Most Frequently Mentioned Item
2nd Most Frequently Mentioned Item
3rd Most Frequently Mentioned Item

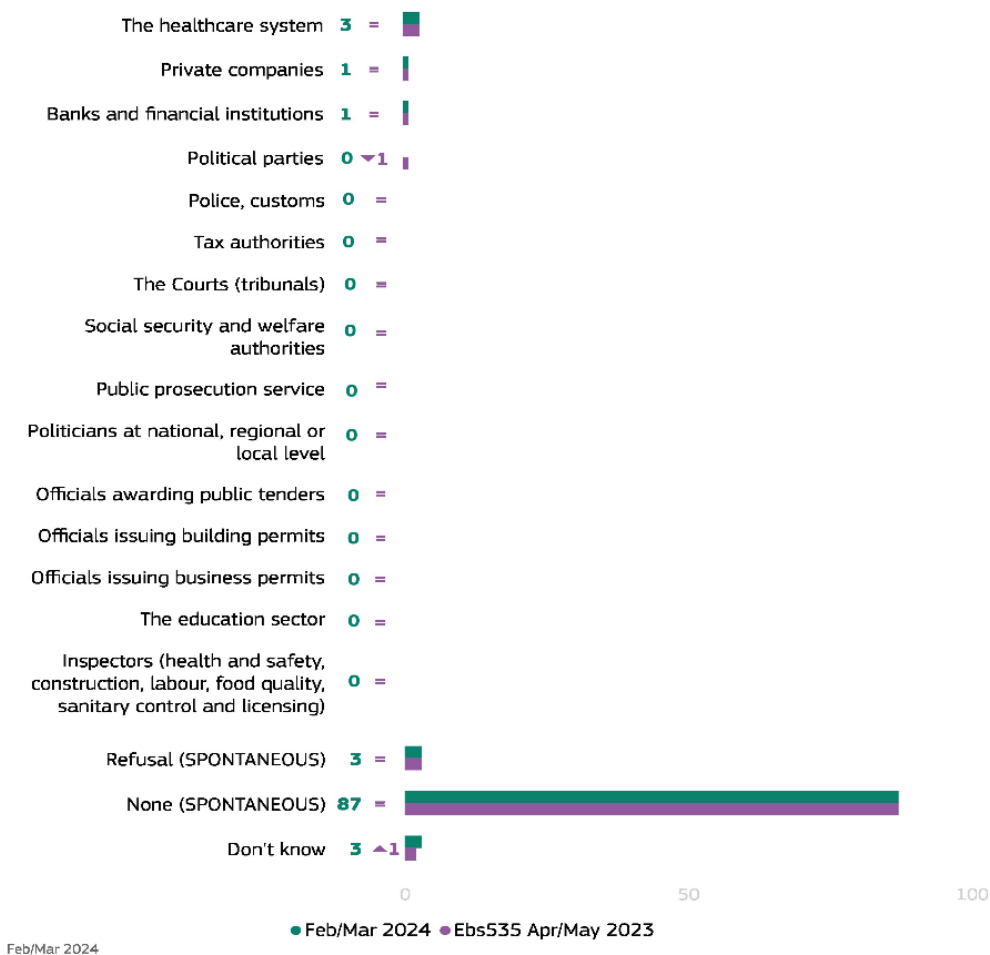
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Only a small minority of Europeans say that someone in their country has asked/expected them to give a gift, favour, or extra money for his/her services in the past 12 months.

Fewer than one in ten, 7%, the same level it was in 2023, say they have been asked or expected to give a gift, favour, or extra money in return for services.²³ A large majority (87%, =) say they have not been asked or expected to do this. Fewer than one in twenty (3%, =) *spontaneously* refused to answer the question and 3% (+1) say they don't know.

QD6b. Thinking about these contacts in the past 12 months has anyone in (OUR COUNTRY) asked you or expected you to give a gift, favour, or extra money for his or her services? (MULTIPLE ANSWERS POSSIBLE) (%)



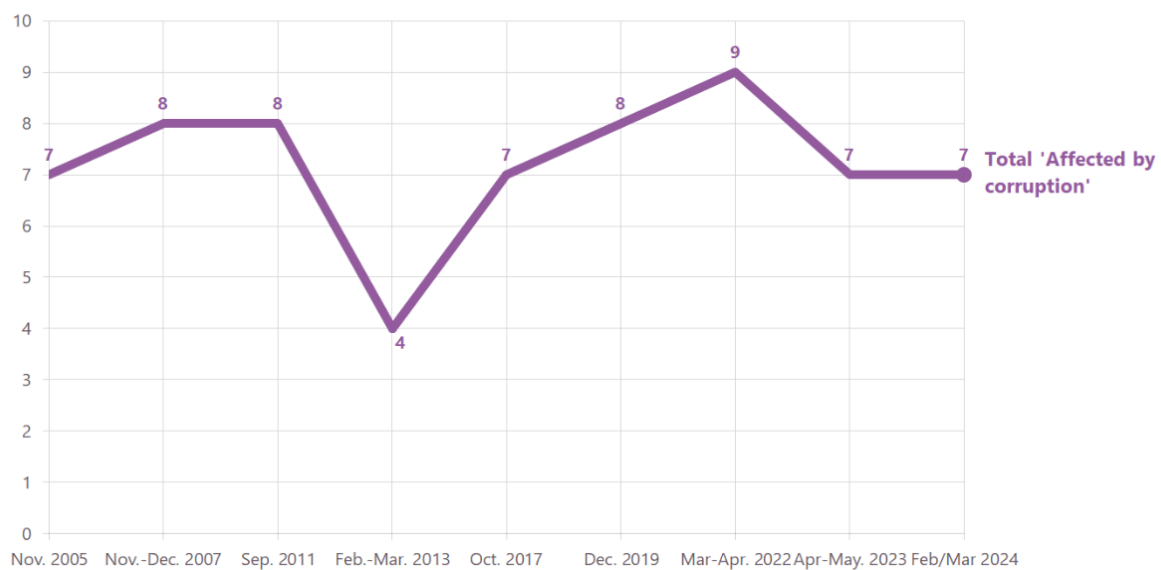
²³ QD6b. Thinking about these contacts in the past 12 months has anyone in (OUR COUNTRY) asked you or expected you to give a gift, favour, or extra money for his or her services? (MULTIPLE ANSWERS POSSIBLE)

This question was asked to respondents who had some contact with any of the institutions mentioned above in the past 12 months.

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The longer-term trend analysis shows relatively small changes in the proportion who have been asked or expected to give a gift, favour or extra money for services. The current level of 7% is the same level as it was in 2023, and slightly lower than the 9% in 2022 where it reached its highest point since the survey began.

QD6b Thinking about these contacts in the past 12 months has anyone in (OUR COUNTRY) asked you or expected you to give a gift, favour, or extra money for his or her services? (MULTIPLE ANSWERS)
 (% - EU)



Only a small minority of those surveyed in each EU Member State say someone has asked them or expected them to give a gift, favour, or extra money in exchange for services in the past 12 months. However, in three countries, of those that have had any contact with the various institutions, at least one in five have been asked this: Belgium (23%), Bulgaria and Croatia (both 20%). More than one in ten have also been asked in a further five countries: Austria (13%), Greece (12%), Latvia, Romania, and Slovenia (all 11%). At the other end of the scale, respondents are least likely to say that they directly experienced corruption of this type in Denmark (1%), Finland, Portugal, Spain, and Sweden (2% all).

The most common setting to experience this is the healthcare system. It is mentioned by 11% in Bulgaria, 10% in Greece, 7% in Lithuania and Romania and 5% in Latvia and Slovakia. In Slovenia, 5% of those surveyed say they have been asked or expected to give a gift, favour, or extra money for services in banks and financial institutions.

In 11 EU Member States, the proportion of respondents who say they have been asked or expected to give a gift, favour or extra money exchange for services in the past 12 months has increased since 2023, mostly to a limited degree, with substantial increases seen in Belgium (23%, +9 percentage points) and Slovenia (11%, +6). In contrast, the proportion has declined in 13 countries, most notably in Romania (11%, -6) and Austria (13%, -5), and stayed constant in Hungary (6%), Finland (2%), and Denmark (1%).

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QD6b Thinking about these contacts in the past 12 months has anyone in Ireland asked you or expected you to give a gift, favour, or extra money for his or her services? (MULTIPLE ANSWERS POSSIBLE)
(%)



		EU27	BE	BG	CZ	DK	DE	EE	IE	EL	ES	FR	HR	IT	CY	LV	LT	LU	HU	MT	NL	AT	PL	PT	RO	SI	SK	FI	SE
The healthcare system	Feb/Mar 2024	3	4	11	3	0	2	3	0	10	0	2	4	2	3	5	7	2	3	1	1	3	4	1	7	2	5	0	0
	Δ Sept/Oct 2023	=	▲1	▲3	▼1	=	▼1	▲1	▼1	▲2	▼1	=	▼1	▲1	▲2	=	=	▲1	▼1	=	=	=	▼1	=	▼4	=	▼2	=	▼1
Private companies	Feb/Mar 2024	1	3	1	2	1	2	1	0	0	1	1	1	2	0	1	0	1	2	1	2	2	1	0	1	1	1	0	1
	Δ Sept/Oct 2023	=	=	=	=	=	=	▼1	▼1	=	=	=	▼1	=	=	▼2	=	▲1	=	▲1	=	=	=	=	=	=	▼1	▼1	=
Banks and financial institutions	Feb/Mar 2024	1	3	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	1	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	5	1	0	0
	Δ Sept/Oct 2023	=	▲2	▼1	=	=	▼1	▼1	=	=	▲1	=	▼1	=	▲1	=	=	=	=	=	▼1	=	=	=	=	▲4	▲1	=	=
Police, customs	Feb/Mar 2024	0	2	3	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	1	1	0	0
	Δ Sept/Oct 2023	=	▲1	=	=	=	▲1	=	=	=	=	▲1	▼1	=	▼1	▲1	▼1	=	=	=	=	▼1	=	▼1	▲1	=	=	=	=
Tax authorities	Feb/Mar 2024	0	1	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
	Δ Sept/Oct 2023	=	=	=	=	=	▲1	=	=	▼1	=	=	=	▼1	=	▲1	▼1	=	=	▼1	▲1	=	▼1	=	=	=	=	=	=
The Courts (tribunals)	Feb/Mar 2024	0	1	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Δ Sept/Oct 2023	=	=	=	=	=	▲1	=	=	=	=	=	=	=	=	=	=	=	=	=	=	=	=	=	=	=	=	=	=
Social security and welfare authorities	Feb/Mar 2024	0	1	2	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Δ Sept/Oct 2023	=	=	▲1	=	=	=	=	=	=	=	=	=	=	=	=	=	=	=	=	=	▼1	▼1	=	▼1	=	▼1	=	▼1
Public prosecution service	Feb/Mar 2024	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Δ Sept/Oct 2023	=	▲1	=	=	=	▲1	=	=	=	=	=	▲1	=	=	=	=	=	=	=	=	▼1	=	=	▼1	=	=	=	=
Politicians at national, regional or local level	Feb/Mar 2024	0	2	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	1	1	0	1
	Δ Sept/Oct 2023	=	▲1	=	▼1	=	▲1	▼1	▼1	=	=	=	▲2	=	▼1	=	=	▲1	=	▲1	=	▼1	=	=	▼1	▲1	=	=	=
Officials awarding public tenders	Feb/Mar 2024	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Δ Sept/Oct 2023	=	▲1	▼1	▼1	=	=	=	=	=	=	=	▲1	=	▲1	=	=	=	=	=	=	=	=	=	=	=	▼1	=	=
Officials issuing building permits	Feb/Mar 2024	0	1	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	2	0	1	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
	Δ Sept/Oct 2023	=	▲1	=	=	=	=	=	=	=	=	=	=	=	▲1	=	=	=	▼1	=	▼1	=	=	=	=	=	▲1	=	=
Officials issuing business permits	Feb/Mar 2024	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Δ Sept/Oct 2023	=	=	=	=	=	=	▼1	=	=	=	=	=	=	▲1	=	=	=	▲1	=	▼1	=	=	=	=	▼1	=	=	=
The education sector	Feb/Mar 2024	0	2	3	1	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	1	0	1	1	0	0	2	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
	Δ Sept/Oct 2023	=	▲1	▲1	▼1	=	=	▼1	▼1	=	=	=	=	▲1	▲1	▲1	▼1	▲1	▲1	=	▼1	=	=	=	=	▼1	=	=	=
Inspectors (health and safety, construction, labour, food quality, sanitary control and licensing)	Feb/Mar 2024	0	1	1	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	2	1	0	1	1	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	1	0	1	0	0
	Δ Sept/Oct 2023	=	▲1	=	=	=	▼1	=	=	▼1	▼1	=	▲2	=	=	=	=	=	▼1	▲1	=	▼1	=	=	=	=	=	=	=
Political parties	Feb/Mar 2024	0	1	1	1	0	1	1	1	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Δ Sept/Oct 2023	▼1	▼2	=	=	=	▲1	=	=	=	=	=	▼1	▼1	=	=	▲1	=	=	=	▼2	=	=	=	=	=	=	=	=
None (SPONTANEOUS)	Feb/Mar 2024	87	73	67	86	96	85	75	94	84	93	90	63	87	84	81	80	89	87	92	94	77	81	95	76	84	79	95	98
	Δ Sept/Oct 2023	=	▼9	▼1	▲5	=	▼2	▼3	▲2	▼4	▼1	▼3	▼6	▲3	▼4	▼5	▼2	▼3	▼1	▼3	=	▲3	▼1	▲2	▲5	▼6	▲2	▼2	▲1
Refusal (SPONTANEOUS)	Feb/Mar 2024	3	2	8	3	1	3	5	1	4	2	1	10	2	5	4	8	2	4	1	1	6	7	1	7	2	8	1	0
	Δ Sept/Oct 2023	=	▲1	▲1	▼1	=	=	▲1	=	▲3	=	=	▼1	▼3	▲1	▲1	▲3	=	▼1	=	▲1	▲2	▲1	▼1	▼2	=	▼1	▲1	=
Don't know	Feb/Mar 2024	3	3	6	3	2	3	11	2	0	3	4	7	3	6	5	4	3	2	4	2	4	6	2	6	3	4	3	0
	Δ Sept/Oct 2023	▲1	=	▼1	=	▲1	▲1	▲1	=	▼1	▲1	▲3	▲4	▲1	▲3	▲2	▲2	=	=	▲1	▲1	=	▲3	=	▲3	▲1	▲2	▲2	=
at least one of (1-15)	Feb/Mar 2024	7	23	20	8	1	9	9	3	12	2	4	20	8	6	11	9	6	6	4	4	13	7	2	11	11	9	2	2
	Δ Sept/Oct 2023	=	▲9	▲2	▼3	=	▲2	▲1	▼2	▲2	▼1	▼1	▲3	▼1	▲1	▲2	▼2	▲3	=	▲3	▼1	▼5	▼2	▼1	▼6	▲6	▼3	=	▼1



IV. Reporting corruption

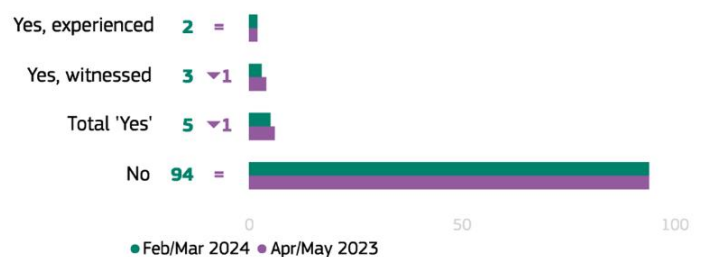
11 Personal experience of corruption

Only a small minority of Europeans have experienced or witnessed corruption in the last 12 months.

One in twenty (5%, -1 percentage point since 2023) say they have experienced or witnessed a case of corruption in the last 12 months. Three per cent (-1) have witnessed corruption while 2% (=) have experienced it.²⁴

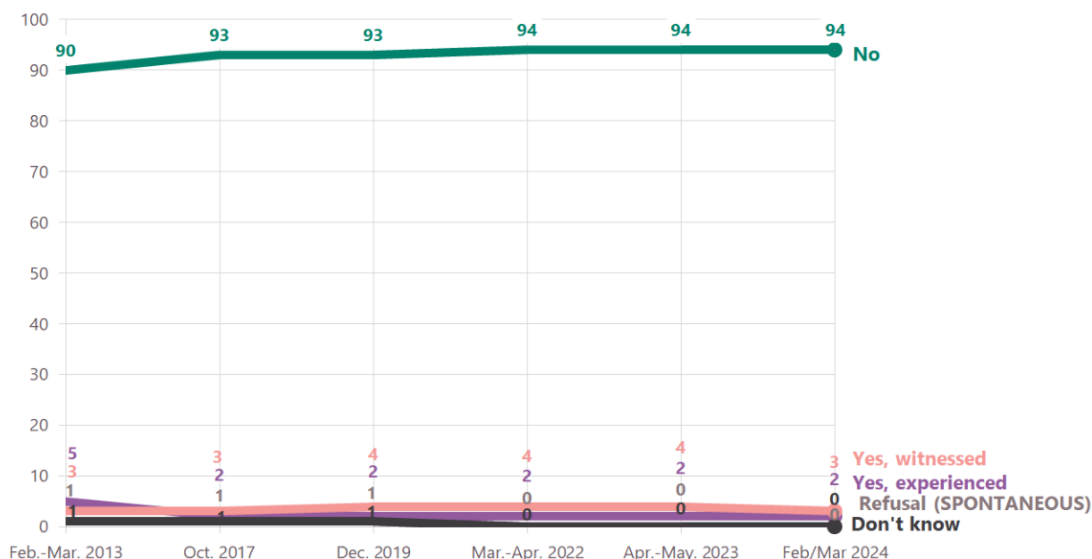
The longer-term trend shows that the proportion who have not witnessed or experienced any case of corruption has remained at similar levels since 2017.

QD9. In the last 12 months have you experienced or witnessed any case of corruption? (MULTIPLE ANSWERS POSSIBLE) (EU27) (%)



Feb/Mar 2024

QD9 In the last 12 months, have you experienced or witnessed any case of corruption? (MULTIPLE ANSWERS POSSIBLE) (% - EU)



²⁴ QD9. In the last 12 months, have you experienced or witnessed any case of corruption? (MULTIPLE ANSWERS POSSIBLE)

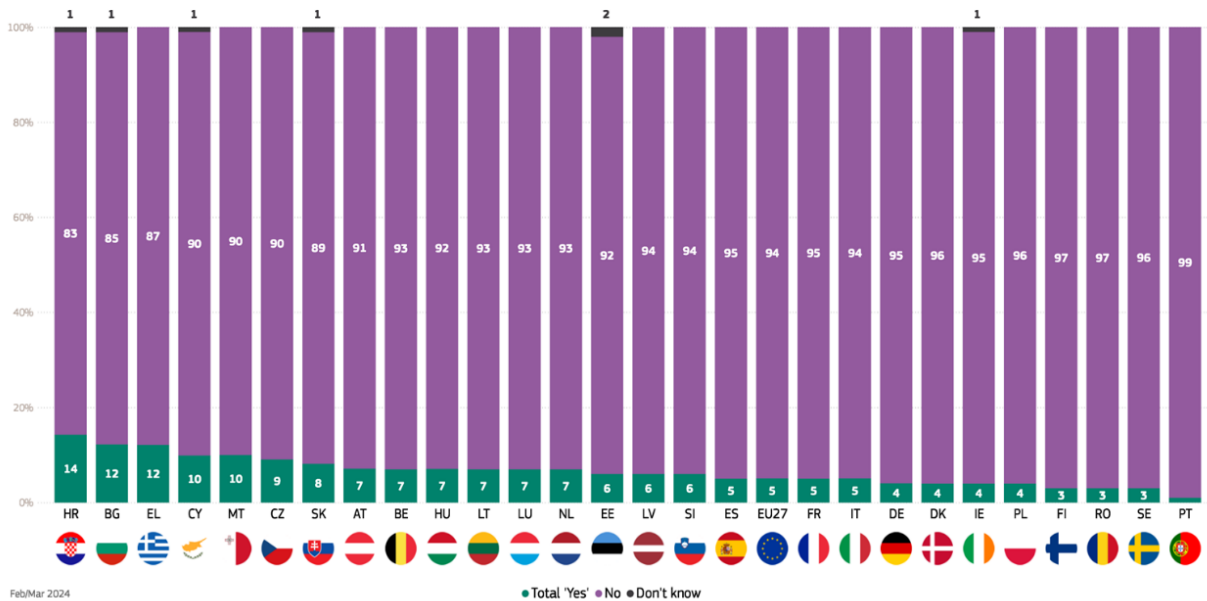
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While in each EU Member State only a minority of respondents have experienced or witnessed corruption in the past 12 months, in five countries at least one in ten have done so: Croatia (14%), Bulgaria and Greece (both 12%), and Cyprus and Malta (both 10%). Respondents are least likely to report this in Portugal (1%), Sweden Romania and Finland (3% all), and Ireland, Poland, Denmark, and Germany (4% all).

Among EU Member States, respondents are most likely to report experiencing corruption in Greece (8%), Malta and Bulgaria (both 7%), and Croatia and Hungary (both 6%).




Almost one in ten have witnessed corruption in Croatia (9%) and Bulgaria (7%).

QD9. In the last 12 months have you experienced or witnessed any case of corruption? (MULTIPLE ANSWERS POSSIBLE) (%)



Proportions witnessing or experiencing corruption have increased slightly in six countries since 2023, with +3 increases observed in Malta (10%) and +3 in Luxembourg (7%). There has been decreases in 15 countries, most notably in Croatia (14%, -4), and no change in Slovenia (6%), Lithuania (7%), France (5%), Ireland (4%), and Czechia

QD9 In the last 12 months have you experienced or witnessed any case of corruption? (MULTIPLE ANSWERS POSSIBLE) (%)

																													
Yes, experienced	Feb/Mar 2024	2	5	7	4	1	3	2	5	1	1	4	2	1	2	8	2	1	5	3	5	1	3	6	1	7	4	0	6
	Δ Sept/Oct 2023	=	▲4	▲3	▲1	=	=	▲1	▲2	▼1	▼1	▼1	=	=	=	=	=	▼1	=	=	▲1	=	▼3	▼2	▼2	▼2	=	▼1	▼2
Yes, witnessed	Feb/Mar 2024	3	2	4	4	3	5	2	5	3	4	3	4	2	3	5	3	4	4	3	4	2	2	3	1	7	4	1	9
	Δ Sept/Oct 2023	▼1	▼1	=	=	=	▲2	=	▼2	=	=	=	▼1	=	=	▼1	▼1	▼1	▼2	▼1	▼1	▼1	▼1	▲1	▼1	=	▼3	▼2	▼2
No	Feb/Mar 2024	94	93	90	93	96	93	96	90	95	95	93	94	96	95	87	95	94	90	94	89	97	92	92	97	85	91	99	83
	Δ Sept/Oct 2023	=	▼3	▼3	▼1	▼1	▼1	=	=	▼1	=	▲1	▲1	▼1	=	=	▲2	=	▲2	▲1	=	▲1	▲4	▲2	▲3	▲2	▲4	▲3	▲3
Refusal (SPONTANEOUS)	Feb/Mar 2024	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	1	0	0	2	2	0	2
	Δ Sept/Oct 2023	=	=	=	=	=	=	=	=	=	=	=	▼1	=	=	=	▼1	=	▼1	=	▲1	=	=	=	▼1	=	=	=	=
Don't know	Feb/Mar 2024	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	2	0	0	1	0	0	1
	Δ Sept/Oct 2023	=	=	=	=	=	=	=	=	▲1	=	=	=	=	=	=	=	=	▲1	=	▲1	=	=	=	=	=	=	=	▲1
Total 'Yes'	Feb/Mar 2024	5	7	10	7	4	7	4	9	4	5	7	6	3	4	12	5	5	10	6	8	3	6	7	3	12	7	1	14
	Δ Sept/Oct 2023	▼1	▲3	▲3	▲1	▲1	▲1	▲1	=	=	=	=	=	=	=	▼1	▼1	▼1	▼1	▼1	▼1	▼1	▼2	▼2	▼2	▼3	▼3	▼3	▼4



(9%).

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The **socio-demographic analysis** shows that only a small minority have experienced or witnessed a case of corruption in the last 12 months, with predominately small differences between the groups. However, proportions are higher among the self-employed (11%) and those who have difficulties paying their bills (10%).

T

QD9 In the last 12 months have you experienced or witnessed any case of corruption?
(MULTIPLE ANSWERS POSSIBLE)
(% - EU)

	Total 'Yes'	No	Refusal (SPONTANEOUS)	Don't know
EU27	5	94	0	0
 Gender				
Man	6	93	0	0
Woman	4	95	0	0
 Education (End of)				
15-	3	96	0	0
16-19	5	94	1	0
20+	6	93	0	0
Still studying	4	95	0	0
Socio-professional category				
Self- employed	11	88	0	0
Managers	7	93	0	0
Other white collars	5	95	0	0
Manual workers	5	94	1	0
House persons	3	97	0	0
Unemployed	8	91	1	0
Retired	3	96	1	0
Students	4	95	0	0
Difficulties paying bills				
Most of the time	10	89	1	0
From time to time	6	93	1	0
Almost never/ Never	4	95	0	0

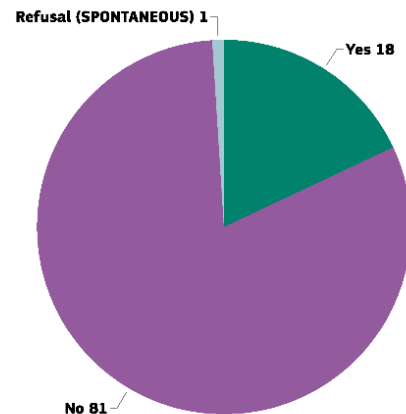
12 Reporting of corruption

Eight in ten of those who experienced corruption did not report it.

Among the respondents who experienced or witnessed corruption in the last 12 months, close to one in five (18%, +4 percentage point since 2023) say they reported the occurrence to someone.²⁵ The majority (81%, -4), however, did not.

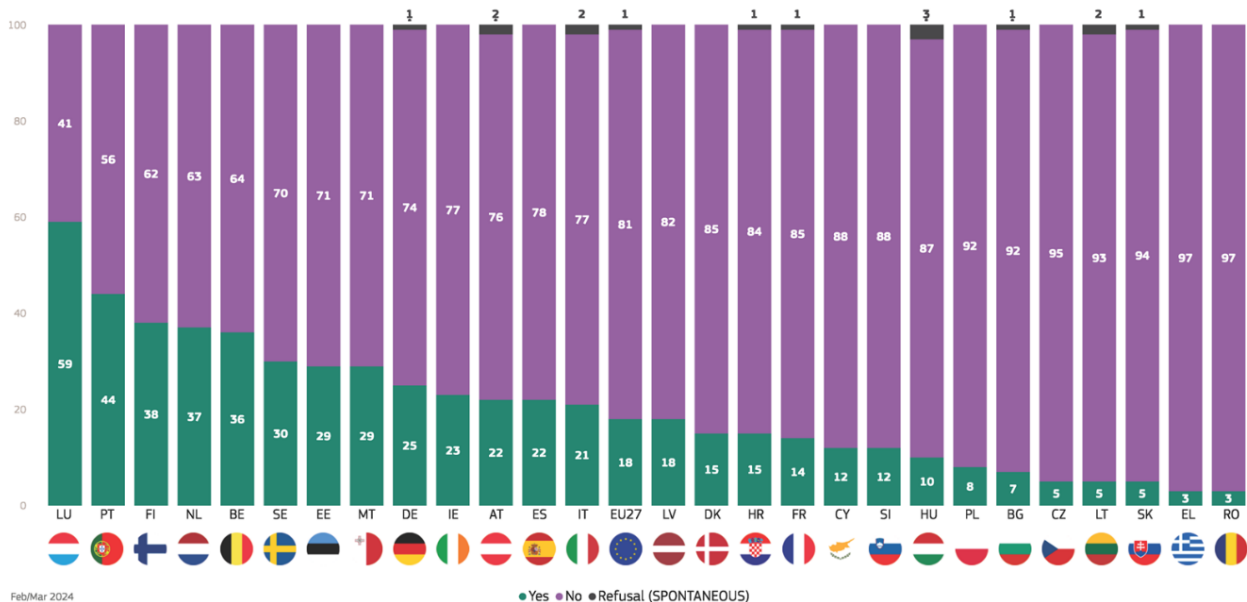
Luxembourg is the only country where more than half (59%) of the respondents who experienced or witnessed corruption say they reported it. In four countries, at least a third did so, Portugal (44%), Finland (38%), the Netherlands (37%) and Belgium (36%). Reporting corruption is least likely to be reported in Greece and Romania (both 3%) and, Czechia Lithuania and Slovakia (5% all).

QD10. Did you report it to anyone or not? (EU27) (%)



Yes ▲4
 No ▼4
 Refusal (SPONTANEOUS) =
 ▲▼ (Feb/Mar 2024 – Apr/May 2023)
 Feb/Mar 2024

QD10. Did you report it to anyone or not? (%)






²⁵ QD10. Did you report it to anyone or not?

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Although the proportion of respondents who reported the corruption they experienced or witnessed is relatively low, there are some notable differences in the **socio-demographic analysis**:

- Managers (24%) and retirees (23%) are the most likely socio-professional groups to say they reported the corruption, especially compared to 13% of the self-employed, and 11% of the unemployed.
- Those who consider themselves as belonging to the middle class (22%) are twice as likely to have reported the corruption than those pertaining to the working class (11%).

QD10 Did you report it to anyone or not?
 (% - EU)

	Yes	No	Refusal (SPONTANEOUS)
EU27	18	81	1
 Gender			
Man	17	82	1
Woman	20	80	0
 Age			
15-24	16	82	2
25-39	21	79	0
40-54	17	82	1
55 +	18	80	2
 Education (End of)			
15-	18	82	0
16-19	16	83	1
20+	21	78	1
Still studying	19	81	0
Socio-professional category			
Self- employed	13	84	3
Managers	24	76	0
Other white collars	17	82	1
Manual workers	19	80	1
House persons	4	96	0
Unemployed	11	89	0
Retired	23	77	0
Students	19	81	0
Consider belonging to			
The working class	11	88	1
The lower middle class	20	80	0
The middle class	22	77	1
The upper middle class	18	82	0
The upper class	20	80	0

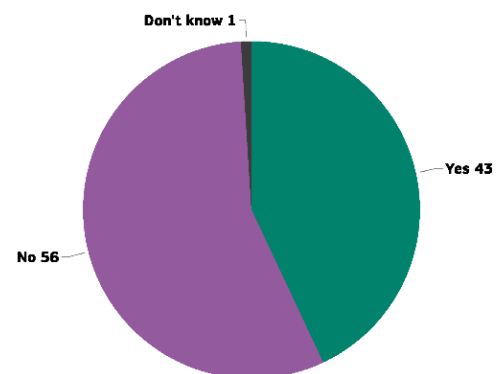
13 Awareness of where to report corruption

More than half are not aware of where to report a case of corruption if they experience or witness one.

All respondents were asked if they knew where to report a case of corruption if they were to experience or witness it, with just over four in ten (43%, -2 percentage point since 2023) saying that they do²⁶.

The trend over time shows there has been a gradual increase in the number of respondents saying they do not know where to report corruption. It has steadily risen 12 percentage points from 44% in 2013 to 56% in 2024.

QD7. If you were to experience or witness a case of corruption, would you know where to report it to? (EU27) (%)

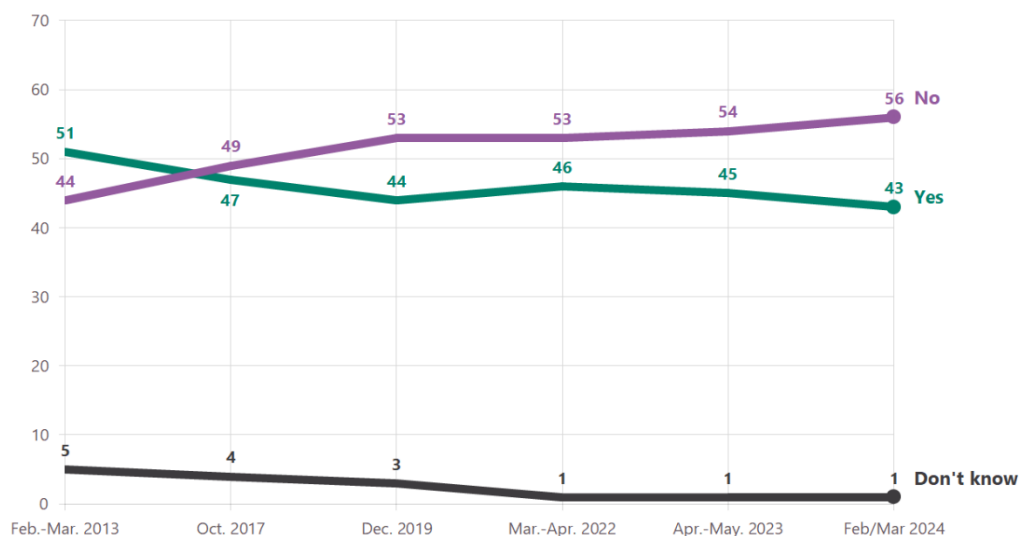


Yes ▼2
 No ▲2
 Don't know =

▲▼ (Feb/Mar 2024 - Apr/May 2023)

Feb/Mar 2024

QD7 If you were to experience or witness a case of corruption, would you know where to report it to? (% - EU)

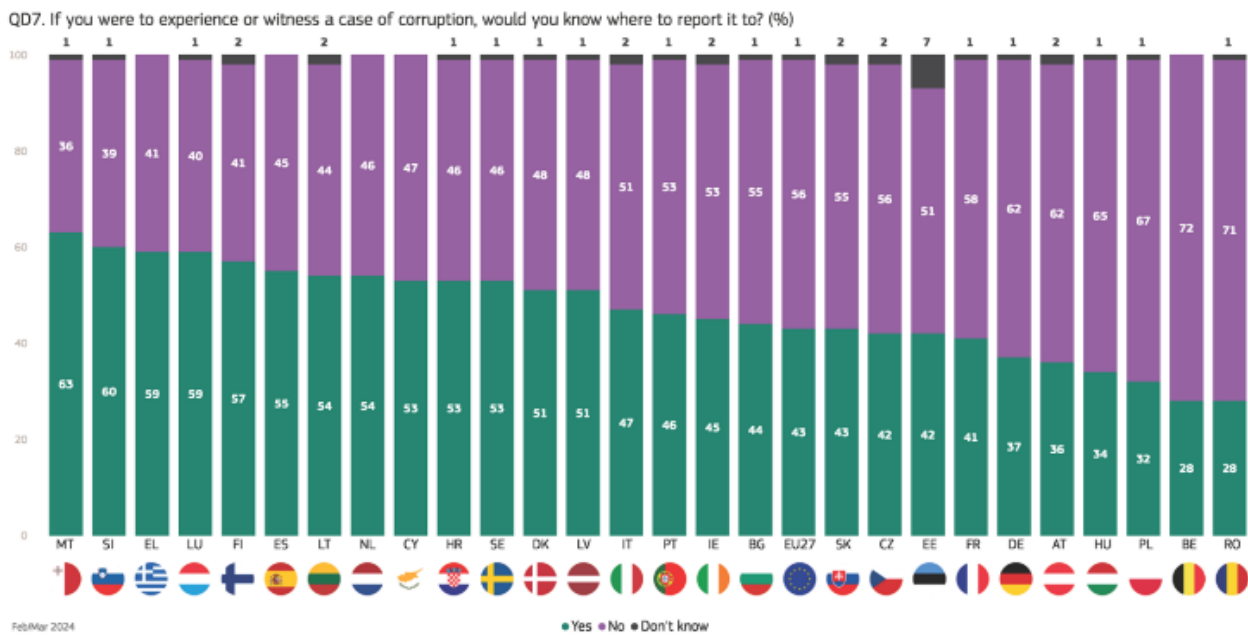


²⁶ QA10. If you were to experience or witness a case of corruption, would you know where to report it to?

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In 13 EU Member States at least half of the respondents say they know where to report a case of corruption if they witness or experience it, most notably in Malta (63%), Slovenia (60%), and Luxembourg and Greece (both 59%).

In the other 14 countries, where fewer than half know where to report corruption, the lowest scores are in Romania and Belgium (both 28%), Poland (32%), Hungary (34%), Austria (36%) and Germany (37%).






Compared to 2023, awareness of where to report corruption has increased in ten EU Member States, with the largest increases observed in the Netherlands (54%, +11), Greece (59%, +9), and Cyprus (53%, +8). Awareness has declined in 13 countries, most notably in Germany (37%, -9), Romania (28%, -8), and France (41%, -6).

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The **socio-demographic analysis** shows the following:

- Men (47%) are more likely than women (39%) to know where to report a case of corruption if they were to witness or experience one.
- Respondents aged 40-54 are the most likely to know (47%) and those aged 15-24 the least likely (35%).
- Those who completed their education aged 20+ (49%) are the most likely to know where to report corruption, particularly compared to those who finished aged 15 or younger (37%) or those who are still studying (36%).
- The self-employed (53%) and managers (49%) are the most likely to know where to report corruption across the socio-professional groups.
- Those who never have trouble paying their bills are more likely (45%) to know than those who face such issues most of the time (37%).
- Over half of those who consider themselves as belonging to the upper class (55%) and upper middle class (53%) know where to report corruption, compared to the middle class (44%), working class (41%), and the lower middle class (38%).

QD7 If you were to experience or witness a case of corruption, would you know where to report it to?
 (% - EU)

	Yes	No	Don't know
EU27	43	56	1
 Gender			
Man	47	52	1
Woman	39	60	1
 Age			
15-24	35	64	1
25-39	41	58	1
40-54	47	52	1
55 +	44	55	1
 Education (End of)			
15-	37	62	1
16-19	42	57	1
20+	49	50	1
Still studying	36	63	1
Socio-professional category			
Self-employed	53	47	0
Managers	49	50	1
Other white collars	42	57	1
Manual workers	43	56	1
House persons	36	63	1
Unemployed	42	57	1
Retired	42	57	1
Students	36	63	1
Difficulties paying bills			
Most of the time	37	62	1
From time to time	40	59	1
Almost never/ Never	45	54	1
Consider belonging to			
The working class	41	58	1
The lower middle class	38	61	1
The middle class	44	55	1
The upper middle class	53	46	1
The upper class	55	45	0

14 Reasons for not reporting corruption

Difficulty in proving anything is the main reason Europeans think people do not report corruption.

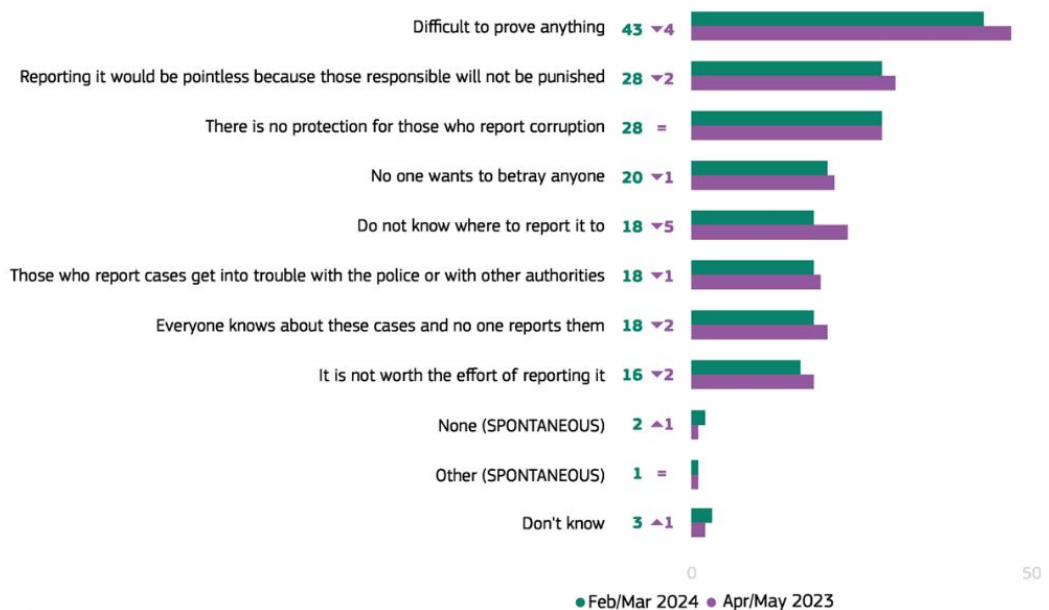
Respondents were given a list of eight reasons why people may decide not to report a case of corruption and were asked to choose the three most important reasons.²⁷

The top three answers relate to doubts in the value of reporting corruption and fear of reprisal. Over two-fifths (43%, -4 percentage point since 2023) believe that it would be **difficult to prove anything** and close to three in ten (28%, -2) say **reporting it would be pointless because those responsible will not be punished**, and there **is no protection for those who report corruption** (28%, =).

Around a fifth selected the remaining reasons relating to concerns about betrayal, lack of knowledge of where to go, fear of trouble from the authorities and apathetic attitudes.

The regional analysis shows respondents from the Member States part of the EU already in 2004 are more likely than those from the newer Member States to say that the difficulty in proving anything (45% vs. 36%), that there is no protection for those who do report corruption (29% vs. 24%), or that not knowing where to report it (19% vs. 14%) are the three most important reasons why people may decide not to report a case of corruption. Conversely, they are less likely to believe that a lack of reporting is due to not wanting to betray anyone (9% vs. 23%).

QD11. Below are some possible reasons why people may decide not to report a case of corruption. Please tell me those which you think are the most important? (MAX. 3 ANSWERS) (EU27) (%)



²⁷ QD11. I am going to read out some possible reasons why people may decide not to report a case of corruption. Please tell me those which you think are the most important? (MAX. 3 ANSWERS)

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In all but four of the EU Member States (Cyprus, Malta, Portugal, and Slovenia), **difficulty in proving anything** is the most mentioned reason (in Greece along with 'reporting it would be pointless because those responsible will not be punished') why people may choose not to report corruption. This reason is most widely mentioned by respondents in Finland (60%), Sweden (59%), and Denmark (57%) and less likely to be mentioned in Romania (29%), Poland (31%), and Malta (33%).

Reporting it would be pointless because those responsible will not be punished ranks first in Greece (49%), Slovenia (46%), Malta (44%), Cyprus (43%), and Portugal (42%). In 18 countries it is the second or third most important reason. Respondents are least likely to mention this reason in Luxembourg (19%), Finland (21%), and Poland (22%).

Lack of protection for those who report corruption is the joint most important reason given in Malta (44%), and the second or third-most important reason in a further 20 EU Member States. In addition to Malta, respondents are most likely to mention this reason in the Netherlands (48%), Portugal and Lithuania (both 38%), and Sweden (37%), with the lowest scores registered in Finland (13%), Poland (18%), and Austria (20%).

Other notable findings include:

- **No one wanting to betray anyone** is cited as the joint first most mentioned reason in Poland (31%) and second or third in seven other countries. Just over a third say this in Denmark (34%).
- **Not knowing where to report corruption** is the second or third-most cited reason for not reporting corruption in five countries. The highest scores are seen in Denmark and Sweden (both 31%).
- In Greece (40%), Croatia and Cyprus (both 27%), Italy and Slovenia (both 26%) and Hungary (25%) at least one in four say **everyone knows about these cases and no one reports them**.
- In five countries at least a quarter say **those who report cases get into trouble with the police or with other authorities**: Malta (35%), Lithuania (33%), Greece (26%), Cyprus (26%) and Bulgaria (25%).
- Respondents are most likely to say '**it is not worth the effort of reporting it**' in Croatia (32%), Slovenia (27%), and Portugal (25%).

QD11. Below are some possible reasons why people may decide not to report a case of corruption. Please tell me those which you think are the most important? (MAX. 3 ANSWERS) (%)

	EU27	AT	BE	BG	CY	CZ	DE	DK	EE	EL	ES	FI	FR	HR	HU	IE	IT	LT	LU	LV	MT	NL	PL	PT	RO	SE	SI	SK
Difficult to prove anything	43	43	46	38	35	52	50	57	47	49	39	60	51	37	38	40	34	46	52	38	33	49	31	40	29	59	43	41
Reporting it would be pointless because those responsible will not be punished	28	30	27	34	43	28	25	29	32	49	27	21	24	33	29	26	30	37	19	35	44	36	22	42	23	28	46	27
There is no protection for those who report corruption	28	20	22	36	36	25	25	23	23	31	22	13	34	28	25	27	31	38	33	26	44	48	18	38	23	37	29	32
No one wants to betray anyone	20	27	21	6	18	19	23	34	23	21	11	15	24	28	21	20	9	23	22	26	21	24	31	13	19	22	17	21
Do not know where to report it to	18	27	25	14	8	9	17	31	15	12	19	25	21	10	17	16	16	11	17	11	10	25	13	18	19	31	11	20
Those who report cases get into trouble with the police or with other authorities	18	20	12	25	26	23	18	8	16	26	17	10	16	19	15	13	19	33	18	17	35	23	19	13	16	8	20	19
Everyone knows about these cases and no one reports them	18	18	15	24	27	20	15	12	16	40	16	11	14	27	25	16	26	23	14	22	23	15	17	15	23	18	26	21
It is not worth the effort of reporting it	16	24	18	16	22	18	14	23	21	17	21	22	7	32	24	23	14	11	12	24	23	17	13	25	20	18	27	19
Don't know	3	4	2	2	2	3	4	4	4	0	4	7	4	2	0	5	4	1	2	3	1	1	3	2	4	1	1	2
None (SPONTANEOUS)	2	2	2	0	1	0	3	2	1	0	3	2	1	1	1	3	2	1	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	0	2
Other (SPONTANEOUS)	1	1	0	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	1	0	0	1	1	0	0

1st Most Frequently Mentioned Item
2nd Most Frequently Mentioned Item
3rd Most Frequently Mentioned Item

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Respondents are now more likely to give difficulty proving anything as an important reason why people do not report corruption in eight member states, compared to 2023. The largest increases are seen in Finland (60%, +10), Sweden (59%, +6), Denmark (57%, +4), and Lithuania (46%, +4). The proportion has declined in 19 countries, with the biggest decrease registered in France (51%, -13), Belgium (46%, -9), and Hungary (38%, -8).

The idea that reporting it would be pointless because those responsible will not be punished is mentioned more frequently in six countries, with the biggest increase seen in Slovenia (46%, +10). In 17 countries, there has been a decrease, most notably in Cyprus (43%, -14), Hungary (29%, -8), Slovakia (27%, -7), and Croatia (33%, -7).

The proportion of respondents who say that there is no protection for those who report corruption has increased in 13 EU Member States, most markedly in France (34%, +8), Sweden (37%, +7), the Netherlands (48%, +6), Bulgaria (36%, +6), and Slovenia (29%, +6).

The proportion of respondents who give not knowing where to report corruption has decreased or stayed the same in all EU Member States, with the most notable decreases registered in the Netherlands (25%, -12), Belgium (25%, -11), and France (21%, -9).

In 12 countries, since 2023, the proportion of respondents who say they don't report corruption because no one wants to betray anyone has increased, with the highest rises noted in Greece (21%, +6) and Romania (19%, +5). Proportions have declined in 13 countries, for instance in Slovenia (17%, -7), Belgium (21%, -7) and Luxembourg (22%, -7).





























In 13 countries respondents are now more likely to say everyone knows about these cases and no one reports them, for instance in Greece (40%), Cyprus (27%) Sweden (18%) and the Netherlands (15%), all +5 since 2023. In contrast, the proportion mentioning this reason has declined in 13 countries, most notably in Croatia (27%, -7).

Proportions of those who cite 'those who report cases get into trouble with the police or with other authorities' has increased slightly or remained the same in 10 countries. There has been decreases in 17 countries, most notably in Cyprus (26%, -12), Slovakia (19%, -12), and Luxembourg (18%, -7).

The proportions who mention it not being worth the effort of reporting corruption have declined in 21 countries since 2023, most substantially in Sweden (18%, -8), Lithuania (11%, -7), Poland (13%, -6), and Cyprus (22%, -6).

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QD11 Below are some possible reasons why people may decide not to report a case of corruption. Please tell me those which you think are the most important? (MAX. 3 ANSWERS)
 (%)

		 EU27	 BE	 BG	 CZ	 DK	 DE	 EE	 IE	 EL	 ES	 FR	 HR	 IT	 CY	 LV	 LT	 LU	 HU	 MT	 NL	 AT	 PL	 PT	 RO	 SI	 SK	 FI	 SE
Difficult to prove anything	Feb/Mar 2024	43	46	38	52	57	50	47	40	49	39	51	37	34	35	38	46	52	38	33	49	43	31	40	29	43	41	60	59
	Δ Sept/Oct 2023	▼4	▼9	▼7	▼5	▲4	▲2	▼1	▼1	▼1	▼1	▼13	▼1	▼6	▲1	▼1	▲4	▼6	▼8	▲2	▼4	▼8	▼5	▲3	▼4	▼4	▼2	▲10	▲6
There is no protection for those who report corruption	Feb/Mar 2024	28	22	36	25	23	25	23	27	31	22	34	28	31	36	26	38	33	25	44	48	20	18	38	23	29	32	13	37
	Δ Sept/Oct 2023	=	▼3	▲6	▼2	▼1	▲1	▲3	▼4	▼7	▼5	▲8	▲1	▼3	▼3	▲2	▲4	▲2	=	▼15	▲6	▼1	▲1	▼5	▼4	▲6	▼1	▲2	▲7
Reporting it would be pointless because those responsible will not be punished	Feb/Mar 2024	28	27	34	28	29	25	32	26	49	27	24	33	30	43	35	37	19	29	44	36	30	22	42	23	46	27	21	28
	Δ Sept/Oct 2023	▼2	▼4	▼2	▼4	=	▼4	▲2	▼3	▼1	▼6	▲1	▼7	▼4	▼14	=	▼3	▼1	▼8	▼5	=	▼3	▲1	=	▼6	▲10	▼7	▲3	▲1
No one wants to betray anyone	Feb/Mar 2024	20	21	6	19	34	23	23	20	21	11	24	28	9	18	26	23	22	21	21	24	27	31	13	19	17	21	15	22
	Δ Sept/Oct 2023	▼1	▼7	▼1	▲4	▲4	▼2	▼6	▼2	▲6	▼2	▼4	▲4	=	▲1	▲5	▲5	▼7	=	▲3	▼2	▲1	▼1	▲2	▲5	▼7	▲1	▼1	▼2
Those who report cases get into trouble with the police or with other authorities	Feb/Mar 2024	18	12	25	23	8	18	16	13	26	17	16	19	19	26	17	33	18	15	35	23	20	19	13	16	20	19	10	8
	Δ Sept/Oct 2023	▼1	=	▼2	▼6	▼1	▼1	▼1	=	▼6	▼3	=	=	▼1	▼12	▼3	=	▼7	▼3	▼3	▲2	▲1	▲1	▼6	▼2	▲2	▼12	▲2	▼1
Everyone knows about these cases and no one reports them	Feb/Mar 2024	18	15	24	20	12	15	16	16	40	16	14	27	26	27	22	23	14	25	23	15	18	17	15	23	26	21	11	18
	Δ Sept/Oct 2023	▼2	▼2	▲1	▲1	=	▼3	▲1	▼2	▲5	▼2	▼3	▼7	▼1	▲5	▲4	▲2	▼3	▲1	▲2	▲5	▼4	▼2	▲1	▼3	▲3	▼3	▼1	▲5
Do not know where to report it to	Feb/Mar 2024	18	25	14	9	31	17	15	16	12	19	21	10	16	8	11	11	17	17	10	25	27	13	18	19	11	20	25	31
	Δ Sept/Oct 2023	▼5	▼11	▼7	▼4	▼2	▼3	▼4	▼6	▼6	▼3	▼9	▼1	▼3	▼4	▼3	▼4	▼1	▼8	▼3	▼12	=	▼5	=	=	▼6	▼2	▼3	▼5
It is not worth the effort of reporting it	Feb/Mar 2024	16	18	16	18	23	14	21	23	17	21	7	32	14	22	24	11	12	24	23	17	24	13	25	20	27	19	22	18
	Δ Sept/Oct 2023	▼2	▲3	▼2	=	▼2	▼4	▼4	▼1	=	▼3	▼2	▼1	▼1	▼6	▲2	▼7	▼1	▼2	▼1	=	▼4	▼6	▼1	▲2	▼4	▼3	▼3	▼8
Other (SPONTANEOUS)	Feb/Mar 2024	1	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	1	0	0	1	1	0	1	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	1
	Δ Sept/Oct 2023	=	▼1	=	=	▼1	=	=	=	▼1	=	▼1	=	=	▲1	▼1	=	=	=	▲1	=	=	=	=	▲1	▼1	=	▼1	=
None (SPONTANEOUS)	Feb/Mar 2024	2	2	0	0	2	3	1	3	0	3	1	1	2	1	1	1	2	1	1	1	2	1	1	1	0	2	2	2
	Δ Sept/Oct 2023	▲1	▲1	=	▼1	=	▼1	=	▲1	=	▲3	▲1	▲1	▲1	▲1	▲1	=	▲1	=	▲1	=	=	▲1	▲1	=	=	▲1	▼5	=
Don't know	Feb/Mar 2024	3	2	2	3	4	4	4	5	0	4	4	2	4	2	3	1	2	0	1	1	4	3	2	4	1	2	7	1
	Δ Sept/Oct 2023	▲1	=	▼1	▲1	▲1	▲2	=	▲3	=	▲2	▲3	▲1	▲2	▲1	▼1	=	=	▼1	=	=	▲3	▲2	▲1	▲2	=	▲1	▲1	=

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Results are similar across the **socio-demographic** groups with some differences:

- Those aged 15-24 are more likely than older age groups to say people don't report corruption because do not know where to report it to.
- Managers and other white-collar workers are the most likely to say that the difficulty to proving anything is a reason corruption does not get reported.
- Those who face financial difficulties most of the time are more likely (36%) to say reporting corruption would be pointless because those responsible will not be punished, compared to those who never face such issues (26%).
- Respondents who know where to report corruption are more likely than those who do not to say it is difficult to prove anything (49% vs. 39%), that there is no protection for those who report corruption (31% vs. 25%) and that everyone knows about these cases, and no one reports them (21% vs. 16%).

QD11 Below are some possible reasons why people may decide not to report a case of corruption. Please tell me those which you think are the most important? (MAX. 3 ANSWERS)
 (% - EU)

	Difficult to prove anything	There is no protection for those who report corruption	Reporting it would be pointless because those responsible will not be punished	No one wants to betray anyone	Those who report cases get into trouble with the police or with other authorities	Everyone knows about these cases and no one reports them	Do not know where to report it to	It is not worth the effort of reporting it	Other (SPONTANEOUS)	None (SPONTANEOUS)	Don't know
EU27	43	28	28	20	18	18	18	16	1	2	3
Gender											
Man	44	28	28	20	18	19	17	17	0	2	3
Woman	43	28	28	19	18	18	20	15	1	2	4
Age											
15-24	44	26	27	21	17	16	23	15	1	1	4
25-39	44	27	27	21	17	18	20	16	1	1	3
40-54	43	29	30	21	18	20	16	16	0	2	2
55 +	43	28	27	18	18	18	17	16	0	2	4
Education (End of)											
15-	37	27	27	17	18	18	19	18	0	3	4
16-19	43	26	28	20	19	19	16	16	1	1	3
20+	46	30	28	21	17	18	19	16	1	2	3
Still studying	47	27	28	20	18	16	22	14	1	1	5
Socio-professional category											
Self-employed	41	31	34	19	23	22	15	20	0	2	2
Managers	44	33	26	21	16	17	20	16	1	2	3
Other white collars	45	25	28	19	16	17	18	16	1	2	3
Manual workers	42	28	29	21	18	19	17	14	1	2	3
House persons	38	27	25	19	18	19	22	15	1	2	3
Unemployed	41	25	30	23	17	21	19	16	0	3	2
Retired	43	27	27	19	18	18	17	16	0	2	4
Students	47	27	28	20	18	16	22	14	1	1	5
Difficulties paying bills											
Most of the time	41	33	36	16	19	22	17	16	1	2	2
From time to time	39	29	30	18	20	21	16	16	1	1	2
Almost never/ Never	46	27	26	21	17	17	19	16	0	2	4
Consider belonging to											
The working class	44	24	27	20	17	18	19	17	1	1	4
The lower middle class	43	29	28	20	18	18	16	14	1	2	4
The middle class	43	28	28	20	18	19	19	16	0	2	3
The upper middle class	46	35	28	20	16	16	20	17	1	3	2
The upper class	40	27	33	23	15	21	14	20	0	3	1
In (OUR COUNTRY) corruption is											
Widespread	44	30	31	19	19	21	17	17	1	1	2
Rare	43	25	22	23	16	13	21	15	0	3	4
Do you know to whom reporting corruption cases to?											
Yes	49	31	30	20	19	21	12	16	1	2	3
No	39	25	26	20	17	16	23	16	1	2	4

15 Level of trust in authorities

The police are the only institution trusted by more than half to deal with reports about corruption.

Overall, trust in the institutions to deal with corruption follows a similar pattern to the 2023 findings. Six in ten respondents (-1 percentage points compared to 2023) say they trust **the police** to deal with a complaint about a case of corruption.²⁸ This is the only answer mentioned by more than half.

Around a quarter (23%, -1) trust **the Justice** system. Over a tenth (14%, -3) say they would trust the **media, newspapers, or journalists**, followed by the **National Ombudsman** (13%, -3), or a **specialised anti-corruption agency** (12%, -1).

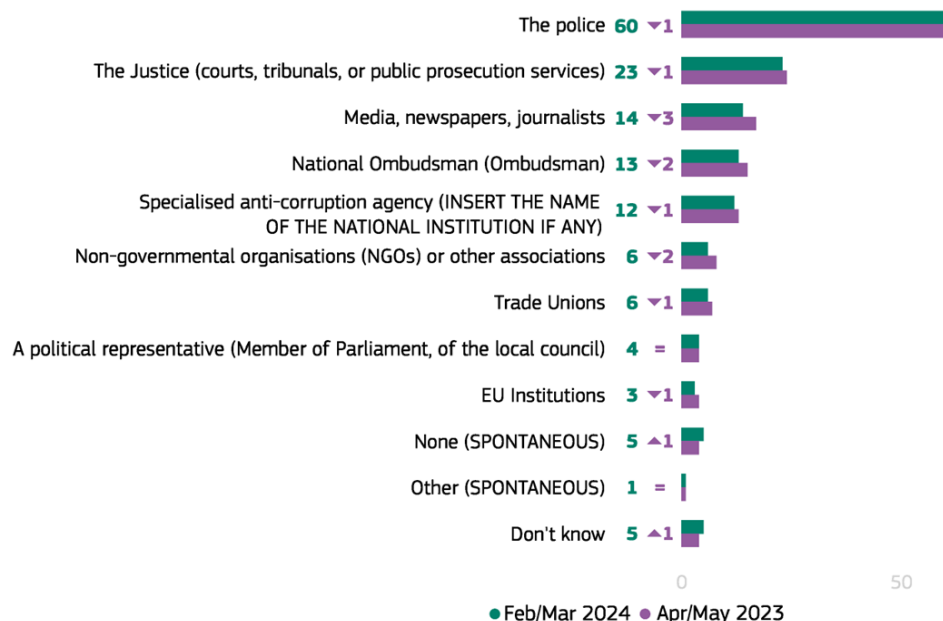
Fewer than one in ten mention **non-governmental organisations or other associations** (6%, -2), **trade unions** (6%, -1), a **political representative** (4%, =) or **EU institutions** (3%, -1).

One in twenty (5%, +1) say they trust none of the options given, while the same proportion (5%, +1) are unsure.

The regional analysis illustrates respondents from the countries that were already EU Member States in 2004 are more likely than those that joined in 2004 or afterwards to trust the police (62% vs. 52%) and the Justice system (25% vs. 14%). However, they are less likely to trust a specialised anti-corruption agency (11% vs. 16%).

Respondents living in euro area countries are also more likely than those in non-euro area countries to trust the police (61% vs. 55%).

QD8. And if you wanted to complain about this case of corruption, who would you trust most to deal with it? (MULTIPLE ANSWERS POSSIBLE) (EU27) (%)



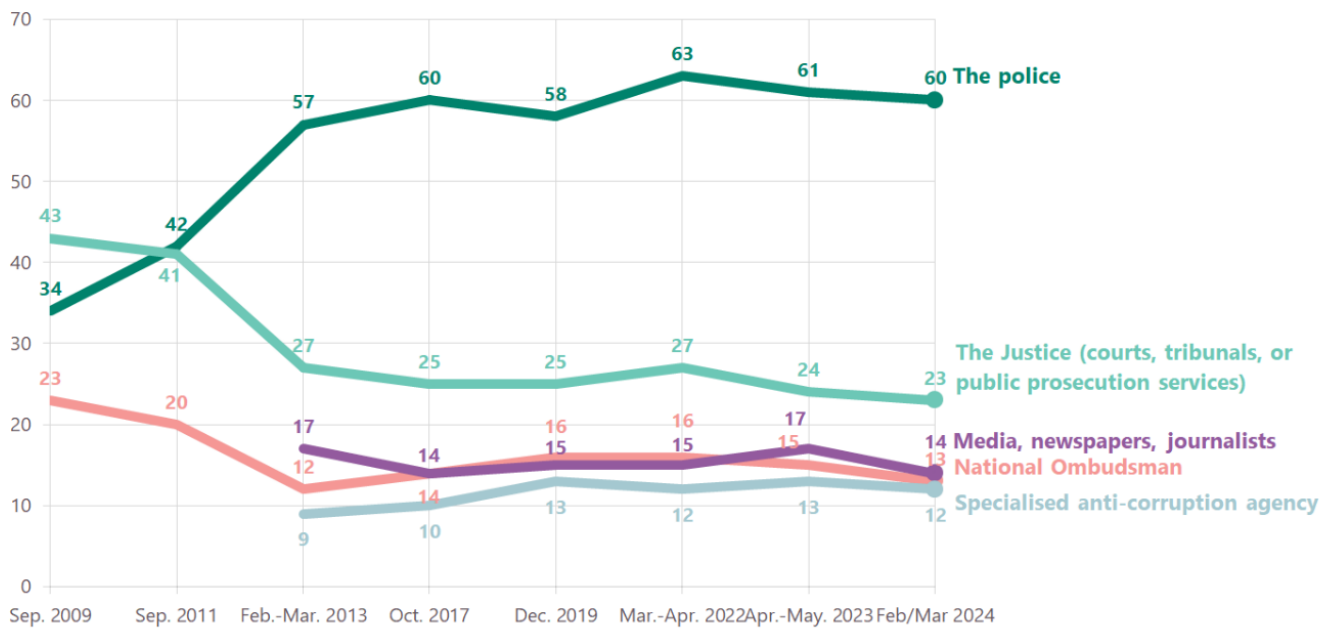
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²⁸ QD8. And if you wanted to complain about this case of corruption, who would you trust most to deal with it? (MULTIPLE ANSWERS POSSIBLE)

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After an increase between 2019 and 2022, trust in the police has dipped again slightly over the last two years. Trust in the other institution has remained relatively stable since February- March 2013.

QD8 And if you wanted to complain about this case of corruption, who would you trust most to deal with it?
(MULTIPLE ANSWERS POSSIBLE)
(% EU)



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In all but one (Latvia) of the 27 EU Member States, respondents are most likely to say they would trust the **police** to deal with their complaint about a case of corruption, with the highest proportions seen in Finland (79%), Denmark (70%), Sweden (67%), and Italy (66%). In seven countries, fewer than half trust the police in this regard, with the lowest scores registered in Latvia (34%), Croatia (39%), and Bulgaria and Romania (both 43%).

The **justice system** is the second or third-most trusted institution in 16 countries, most notably in Sweden (60%), which is the only country where a majority think this.

In 13 countries, the **media, newspapers, or journalists** are the second or third-most trusted institution, with respondents most likely to mention this in Denmark (25%), Sweden (24%), and Lithuania (23%) and least likely in Spain (8%) and Luxembourg and Poland (10%).

The **specialised anti-corruption agency**²⁹ is the most trusted institution in Latvia and second or third-most mentioned in 13 EU Member States, with the highest proportions found in Croatia (37%), Latvia (35%), and Lithuania (33%).

Highlights from the other seven institutions or bodies include:

- The Netherlands is the only country where more than a third (41%) mention the **National Ombudsman**. It is the second-most mentioned institution in Ireland (22%) and Malta (21%).
- The only countries where at least one in ten mention **NGOs or other associations** are Austria (14%) and Hungary (10%).
- More than one in ten would trust **trade unions** with their complaint in the Netherlands (17%), Sweden (16%), Denmark (14%), Belgium (13%), and Luxembourg (11%).
- Austria (11%) is the only country where at least one in ten mention a **political representative**.
- Malta (11%) is the only country where at least one in ten mention **EU institutions**.

QD8. And if you wanted to complain about this case of corruption, who would you trust most to deal with it? (MULTIPLE ANSWERS POSSIBLE) (%)

	EU27	AT	BE	BG	CY	CZ	DE	DK	EE	EL	ES	FI	FR	HR	HU	IE	IT	LT	LU	LV	MT	NL	PL	PT	RO	SE	SI	SK
The police	60	49	54	43	45	66	65	70	62	63	65	79	56	39	46	64	66	52	60	34	59	58	55	57	43	67	59	59
The Justice (courts, tribunals, or public prosecution services)	23	26	23	12	11	7	25	37	20	36	28	30	24	15	21	6	15	7	29	5	12	42	17	19	11	60	10	10
Media, newspapers, journalists	14	22	22	22	20	17	15	25	15	13	8	11	14	20	12	15	14	23	10	13	14	18	10	11	15	24	15	22
National Ombudsman (Ombudsman)	13	22	16	9	17	14	15	19	8	26	7	16	7	7	16	22	8	2	18	12	21	41	10	6	8	31	16	14
Specialised anti-corruption agency (INSERT THE NAME OF THE NATIONAL INSTITUTION IF ANY)	12	24	0	20	23	9	0	0	0	24	11	0	18	37	0	0	20	33	0	35	15	0	12	30	32	0	22	0
Non-governmental organisations (NGOs) or other associations	6	14	7	6	5	6	5	6	3	4	4	3	8	8	10	6	5	2	8	6	8	6	4	3	6	8	5	7
Trade Unions	6	9	13	2	1	5	5	14	4	4	5	8	7	3	7	3	6	1	11	3	5	17	4	2	3	16	3	3
None (SPONTANEOUS)	5	7	5	9	15	6	5	1	7	6	3	1	7	8	9	6	2	12	3	12	3	1	5	3	8	2	7	6
Don't know	5	6	3	10	3	9	6	4	9	1	6	4	6	5	6	7	3	3	3	9	3	1	7	7	4	2	2	8
A political representative (Member of Parliament, of the local council)	4	11	4	2	7	2	3	6	3	3	1	2	2	4	6	5	4	1	2	1	8	8	4	3	7	4	1	6
EU Institutions	3	5	7	3	5	2	2	3	3	3	2	3	1	8	7	2	2	4	3	6	11	4	3	2	3	6	5	6
Other (SPONTANEOUS)	1	1	0	1	1	0	2	3	1	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	2	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1

1st Most Frequently Mentioned Item
2nd Most Frequently Mentioned Item
3rd Most Frequently Mentioned Item

Feb/Mar 2024

²⁹ This item was not asked in Belgium, Denmark, Germany, Estonia, Ireland, Cyprus, Luxembourg, Hungary, the Netherlands, Slovakia, Finland and Sweden as there is no such agency

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In 13 EU Member States the proportions mentioning trusting the police to deal with corruption have increased since 2023, with the largest increase seen in Lithuania (52%, +10), Hungary (46%, +7), Czechia (66%, +6) and Romania (43%, +6). The proportions have declined in 12 countries, most notably in Luxembourg (60%, -12) and Lithuania (34%, -7).

Slight increases can be seen in seven countries in the proportion of respondents mentioning trust in the justice system, most notably in Finland (30%, +5) and Croatia (15%, +4). In 17 countries there was a decline in these proportions, with the biggest decrease seen in Malta (12%, -7) and Estonia (20%, -5) and Greece (36%, -5).

In nine countries, respondents are slightly more likely to mention media, newspapers, and journalists, with the biggest rise seen in Cyprus (20%, +4). In 16 countries trust decreased, notably in Portugal (11%, -8), France (14%, -7) and Croatia (20%, -7).

In six countries respondents are now more likely to mention the National Ombudsman, with the largest increase observed in Malta (21%, +5). Mentions have declined in 20 countries including the Netherlands (41%, -11) and Slovenia (16%, -8).

Among the 16 countries that have one, compared to 2023, respondents are now more likely to mention having trust in a specialised anti-corruption agency in seven, most notably in Portugal (30%, +4). Mentions have decreased in nine countries with the sharpest drops registered in Malta (15%, -13) and Czechia (9%, -9).

Other notable findings compared to 2023 included:

- Proportions mentioning NGOs declined in 21 Member States, with the highest drops in Hungary (10% -8) and Slovakia (7% -6).
- Trust in Trade Unions declined the most in Denmark (14% -7) and France (7% -6).
- Trust in EU institutions to deal with corruption decreased between -1 and -6 in 22 countries.

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QD8 And if you wanted to complain about this case of corruption, who would you trust most to deal with it? (MULTIPLE ANSWERS POSSIBLE)

(%)



The police	Feb/Mar 2024	60	54	43	66	70	65	62	64	63	65	56	39	66	45	34	52	60	46	59	58	49	55	57	43	59	59	79	67
	Δ Sept/Oct 2023	▼1	▼1	▲3	▲6	▼3	▼3	=	▲5	▲3	▲3	▼4	=	▼2	▲4	▼7	▲10	▼12	▲7	▼1	▼3	▲1	▼1	▼3	▲6	▲1	▲4	▲2	▼3
The Justice (courts, tribunals, or public prosecution services)	Feb/Mar 2024	23	23	12	7	37	25	20	6	36	28	24	15	15	11	5	7	29	21	12	42	26	17	19	11	10	10	30	60
	Δ Sept/Oct 2023	▼1	▼3	=	▼3	▼2	▼2	▼5	▼2	▼5	▼1	▼3	▲4	▼2	▼4	▼3	=	▼2	▲3	▼7	▼3	▼3	=	▲3	▲1	▼2	▲2	▲5	▲1
Media, newspapers, journalists	Feb/Mar 2024	14	22	22	17	25	15	15	15	13	8	14	20	14	20	13	23	10	12	14	18	22	10	11	15	15	22	11	24
	Δ Sept/Oct 2023	▼3	▲1	▲1	▼4	▲3	▼2	▼2	▲2	▲1	▼1	▼7	▼7	▼1	▲4	▼4	▼4	▼5	▼1	▲2	▼4	=	▼2	▼8	▼1	▲3	▼5	=	▲3
National Ombudsman (Ombudsman)	Feb/Mar 2024	13	16	9	14	19	15	8	22	26	7	7	7	8	17	12	2	18	16	21	41	22	10	6	8	16	14	16	31
	Δ Sept/Oct 2023	▼2	▼4	▼2	▼5	▼2	▼4	▼7	▼1	▼5	▼4	▼4	=	▲4	▼2	▼1	▲1	▲4	▼1	▲5	▼11	▼1	▲1	▼3	▼3	▼8	▼2	▲1	▼5
Specialised anti-corruption agency (INSERT THE NAME OF THE NATIONAL INSTITUTION IF ANY)	Feb/Mar 2024	12	0	20	9	0	0	0	0	24	11	18	37	20	23	35	33	0	0	15	0	24	12	30	32	22	0	0	0
	Δ Sept/Oct 2023	▼1	=	▲2	▼9	=	=	=	=	▲1	▼7	▲2	▲1	▲1	▼4	▲3	▼2	=	=	▼13	=	▼4	▼1	▲4	▼3	▼6	=	=	=
Trade Unions	Feb/Mar 2024	6	13	2	5	14	5	4	3	4	5	7	3	6	1	3	1	11	7	5	17	9	4	2	3	3	3	8	16
	Δ Sept/Oct 2023	▼1	=	=	▲1	▼7	=	▼5	▼4	▲1	=	▼6	=	▲1	▼1	▼1	▼1	▼1	▲4	=	▼5	=	=	=	▼1	▼2	=	▼1	▼3
Non-governmental organisations (NGOs) or other associations	Feb/Mar 2024	6	7	6	6	6	5	3	6	4	4	8	8	5	5	6	2	8	10	8	6	14	4	3	6	5	7	3	8
	Δ Sept/Oct 2023	▼2	▼4	▲1	▼5	▼2	▼2	▼5	▼4	▲1	▼1	▼5	=	=	▼4	=	▼4	▼3	▼8	▼4	▼3	▼3	=	▼1	▼1	▼4	▼6	▼1	▼1
A political representative (Member of Parliament, of the local council)	Feb/Mar 2024	4	4	2	2	6	3	3	5	3	1	2	4	4	7	1	1	2	6	8	8	11	4	3	7	1	6	2	4
	Δ Sept/Oct 2023	=	▼1	▼1	=	▼2	▼3	=	=	▲1	▼1	=	▲2	▲2	▲3	=	▼1	▼6	▲1	▼1	▼3	▲2	▲2	▲2	▲2	=	▲1	▼2	▼4
EU Institutions	Feb/Mar 2024	3	7	3	2	3	2	3	2	3	2	1	8	2	5	6	4	3	7	11	4	5	3	2	3	5	6	3	6
	Δ Sept/Oct 2023	▼1	▲3	▼1	▼2	▼5	▼1	▼1	▼2	▼2	▼2	▼2	▼1	=	▼4	▼2	▼1	▼3	▼2	▼5	▼6	▼1	=	▼1	▼2	=	▲1	▼2	▼5
Other (SPONTANEOUS)	Feb/Mar 2024	1	0	1	0	3	2	1	0	0	1	1	0	0	1	1	0	2	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	1	0	0
	Δ Sept/Oct 2023	=	▼1	=	=	=	=	=	▼1	▼1	=	=	=	▼1	=	▼1	▼1	▲1	▼1	=	=	=	=	=	=	▼1	=	▼1	▼1
None (SPONTANEOUS)	Feb/Mar 2024	5	5	9	6	1	5	7	6	6	3	7	8	2	15	12	12	3	9	3	1	7	5	3	8	7	6	1	2
	Δ Sept/Oct 2023	▲1	▲1	▲1	▲2	=	▲1	▼1	▲3	=	▲1	▲2	▲4	=	▲1	▲6	▲4	=	=	▼1	=	▲1	▲2	▼1	▲2	▼2	▼4	=	▲1
Don't know	Feb/Mar 2024	5	3	10	9	4	6	9	7	1	6	6	5	3	3	9	3	3	6	3	1	6	7	7	4	2	8	4	2
	Δ Sept/Oct 2023	▲1	▲1	▼4	▲2	▲2	▲2	▲4	=	=	▲3	▲1	▲1	▼1	▼2	▲3	=	=	▼1	▲1	▲1	▲2	▲2	▲1	▼2	▼1	=	▲1	▲1

Special Eurobarometer 548
Citizens' attitudes towards corruption in 2024
February – March 2024

The **socio-demographic analysis** illustrates the following:

- The longer a respondent remained in education, the more likely they are to trust various institutions, apart from the police.
- Trust in the various institutions to deal with corruption across the different socio-professional groups is mixed. For instance, trust in the police ranges from 54% and 55% for Managers and the unemployed to 62% for house persons and 64% for retirees.
- Those who consider themselves as belonging to the upper class are the least likely (54%) to trust the police, compared to around six in ten of those belonging to other social classes. However, the upper-middle and upper classes are more likely to trust the justice system (34%), the National Ombudsman and the media.
- Respondents who never have trouble paying their bills are more likely than those who face such issues most of the time to trust the police (62% vs. 54%), the justice system (25% vs. 16%). conversely, the former group are more likely to trust the specialised anti-corruption agency (16% vs. 10%).
- Those who have experienced or witnessed corruption are less likely to trust the police than those who have not, and more likely to trust the media and their national anti-corruption agency. Similarly, those who know someone who has taken bribes are less likely to trust the police to deal with corruption than those who do not. They are, however, more likely to trust the justice system, the media, and the National Ombudsman.



Conclusion

Special Eurobarometer 548
Citizens' attitudes towards corruption in 2024
February – March 2024

The findings from the latest survey indicate that the majority of Europeans continue to believe that **corruption is widespread in their country**, noting a slight decrease from 2023. Since last year, the perception of widespread corruption has increased in 16 and decreased in nine countries. There is considerable national variation, with figures ranging from more than nine in ten in Greece, Portugal, Malta Slovenia, Cyprus, and Spain to fewer than one in five in Finland.

Europeans largely perceive corruption as widespread in public institutions, with more than half (53%, -6 percentage points) convinced that practices like bribery and the abuse of power for personal gain are prevalent among political parties and politicians at all levels of government. More than one in three maintain this view regarding officials responsible for awarding public tenders or building permits. This sentiment is substantially lower compared to the figures from 2023, though a large segment of the population believes that bribery and leveraging connections remain common strategies for accessing public services in their country.

Despite these concerns, the perception of corruption is not uniformly applied across all public sectors. Fewer than one in five believe that corruption is widespread in areas such as social security and welfare authorities, the public prosecution service, or the education sector.

In addition to prevalent concerns about corruption, **more than a quarter of Europeans feel personally affected by corruption** in their daily lives, a slight increase compared to 2023. The national perspective reveals significant disparities: in countries like Greece, Cyprus, and Portugal, a substantial majority report being personally impacted by corruption, contrasting with the figures below the ten percent mark in Denmark, the Netherlands, Finland, and Luxembourg.

The findings also underscore a **correlation between the percentage of respondents who perceive corruption to be rampant in their country and those who feel personally impacted by corruption** in their day-to-day life. Larger percentages of respondents who believe corruption is widespread correspond with higher percentages of those who feel affected by corruption in their daily existence.

The majority of Europeans continue to regard corruption as unacceptable, although this represents an overall decline of three percentage points since 2023, and **views vary significantly across the EU**. In 21 EU Member States, at least half of all respondents consider corruption to be unacceptable, while fewer than four in ten

respondents agree with this position in three countries (Czechia, Slovakia, and Romania).

Around a third of respondents think it is acceptable to do a favour or give a gift in order to get something from a public administration or a public service, while just over one in five think it is acceptable to give money. Although a majority find it unacceptable to exchange favours, gifts or money for public services, there is an **increasing trend in the acceptability** of such actions.

The experience of corruption heavily influences attitudes. Europeans who have encountered or been exposed to corruption tend to view it as more acceptable to provide favours, gifts, or money for services from public administration or public services. These individuals are also more likely to perceive corruption as widespread in their country and specific institutions.

Only a **minority think the fight against corruption in their country is effective**. Just over four in ten respondents believe that the level of corruption in their country has increased over the past three years, reflecting a slight decrease in perception compared to previous years. In Portugal, Slovenia, Croatia, and Malta 70% or more of respondents perceive an increase in corruption levels within their country. Between 2023 and 2024, a notable change in perception was observed in several countries, with Slovenia, Sweden, and Portugal experiencing the largest increase in the number of respondents who believe corruption has intensified.

Europeans maintain a **pessimistic outlook regarding their government's efforts to combat corruption**. Fewer than four in ten respondents believe that anti-corruption measures are enforced impartially, or that successful prosecutions are adequate deterrents against corrupt behaviour. The perception of effectiveness in national governments' anti-corruption efforts remains low, with only three in ten respondents agreeing that their country's endeavours to tackle corruption are successful, showing no change since 2023. Furthermore, more than six in ten respondents agree that **high-level corruption cases are inadequately pursued** in their country, indicating persistent concerns about the efficacy and fairness of anti-corruption measures across the European Union.

A majority of Europeans believe that **corruption is ingrained in the business culture and that it hampers fair business competition**. The notion that political connections are essential for business success is widely acknowledged, suggesting a perceived inextricability of business success from political influence within the EU.

The police are by far the most trusted body to handle a corruption complaint. Six in ten have faith in the police, a figure significantly higher than that of the justice system, which is the next most cited, and is trusted by just under a quarter of Europeans.

More than half of those surveyed express uncertainty about where to report corruption if they encounter it. Moreover, the **proportion of individuals who report experiencing or witnessing corruption has remained relatively low** since 2023, with fewer than one in five among them choosing to report it. This lack of awareness is particularly pronounced in 14 countries, where only a minority of respondents are aware of the appropriate channels for reporting corruption, with the lowest levels – around a third or less – observed in Romania, Belgium, Poland, and Hungary.

The difficulty in proving corruption is the main reason for not reporting it. This is cited by over four in ten Europeans as a major hindrance to reporting, potentially contributing to underreporting. Additionally, close to three in ten respondents believe that corruption remains unreported due to the perceived lack of punishment for those responsible or inadequate protection for whistle blowers, underscoring ongoing challenges in addressing corruption effectively across the European Union.

Reluctance to report corruption is particularly pronounced in Greece and Romania, hinting at possible distrust in the effectiveness of reporting mechanisms or fear of repercussions. Conversely, Luxembourg stands out with a higher reporting rate, suggesting a more robust trust in anti-corruption mechanisms or a societal norm encouraging transparency and accountability.

Although there is a prevailing perception of widespread corruption, the actual incidence of direct encounters with corrupt practices among Europeans remains relatively low. Fewer than one in ten individuals acknowledge being solicited or anticipated to provide a gift, favour, or extra payment in return for services. An even smaller proportion, approximately one in twenty, claim to have either experienced or witnessed a corruption incident within the past year. Furthermore, just one in ten respondents admit to knowing someone who has accepted or received bribes.

In tandem with national disparities, discernible socio-demographic patterns emerge around perceptions and experiences of corruption. **Europeans with lower levels of formal education, individuals frequently encountering challenges with bill payments, and those identifying as belonging to the working class or middle/lower-middle class, exhibit a heightened propensity to view corruption as widespread in their nation.** Moreover, they are more prone to perceiving a rise in corruption levels within their country.

As in previous iterations of this report, the survey outcomes reveal a tapestry of distinctions across nations, regions, and socio-demographic groups, shaping the collective sentiment toward corruption within the EU. Despite slight changes since the last assessment, a prevailing consensus remains entrenched among Europeans: corruption is acknowledged as prevalent—especially within public institutions, deemed unacceptable and efforts by national governments to combat it are widely perceived as falling short.

Technical specifications

Between 7 February and 3 March 2024, Verian (former Kantar Public) on behalf of Kantar Belgium carried out the wave 101.1 of the Eurobarometer survey, on request of the European Commission, Directorate-General for Communication, “Media monitoring and Eurobarometer” Unit.

Wave 101.1 covers the population of the respective nationalities of the European Union Member States, resident in each of the 27 Member States and aged 15 years and over.

The basic sample design applied in all countries is a stratified multi-stage, random (probability) one. In each country, the sample frame is first stratified by NUTS regions and within each region by a measure of urbanity (DEGURBA). The number of sample points selected in each strata reflects the stratum population 15+. At the second stage sampling points were drawn with probability proportional to their 0+ population size from within each stratum. The samples thus represent the whole territory of the countries surveyed according to the EUROSTAT NUTS II (or equivalent) and according to the distribution of the resident population of the respective nationalities in terms of metropolitan, urban and rural areas¹.

In each of the selected sampling points, a starting coordinate was drawn at random, and a reverse geo-coding tool used to identify the closest address to the coordinate. This address was the starting address for the random walk. Further addresses (every Nth address) were selected by standard “random route” procedures, from the initial address. In each household, the respondent was drawn, at random.

The approach to the random selection was conditional on the household size. By way of example for households with two 15+ members the script was used to select either the informant (person responding to the screener questionnaire) or the other eligible member in the household. For households with three 15+ members the script was used to select either the informant (1/3 of the time) or the two other eligible members in the household (2/3 of the time).

Where the two other members were selected, the interviewer was then told to either ask for the youngest or oldest. The script would randomly assign the selection to youngest or oldest with equal probability. This process continues for four 15+ household members – randomly asking for the youngest, 2nd youngest and oldest. For households with five 15+ members we revert to the last birthday rule.

If no contact was made with anyone in the household, or if the respondent selected was not available (busy), the interviewer revisited the same household up to three additional times (four contact attempts in total). Interviewers never indicate that the survey is conducted on behalf of the European Commission beforehand; they may give this information once the survey is completed, upon request.

The recruitment phase was slightly different in the Netherlands, Finland, and Sweden. In the two latter countries, a sample of addresses within each sampling point were selected from the address or population register (in Finland, selection is not done in all sample points, but in some where response rates are expected to improve). The selection of addresses was done in a random manner. Households were then contacted by telephone and recruited to take part in the survey. In the Netherlands, a dual frame RDD sample (mobile and landline numbers) are used as there is no comprehensive population register with telephone numbers available. The selection of numbers on both frames is done in a random manner with each number getting an equal probability of selection. Unlike Sweden and Finland, the sample is un-clustered.

¹ Urban Rural classification based on DEGURBA
(<https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/web/degree-of-urbanisation/background>)

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COUNTRIES		INSTITUTES	N° INTERVIEWS	FIELDWORK DATES		POPULATION 15+	PROPORTION EU27
BE	Belgium	MCM Belgium	1,047	09-02-24	27-02-24	9,619,330	2.5%
BG	Bulgaria	Kantar TNS BBSS	1,035	07-02-24	27-02-24	5,917,534	1.6%
CZ	Czechia	STEM/MARK	1,011	07-02-24	22-02-24	8,982,036	2.4%
DK	Denmark	Mantle Denmark (Verian)	1,003	08-02-24	03-03-24	4,891,261	1.3%
DE	Germany	Mantle Germany (Verian)	1,521	08-02-24	26-02-24	71,677,231	18.9%
EE	Estonia	Norstat Eesti	1,007	07-02-24	26-02-24	1,111,597	0.3%
IE	Ireland	B and A Research	1,001	08-02-24	27-02-24	4,005,909	1.1%
EL	Greece	Kantar Greece	1,002	07-02-24	25-02-24	9,167,896	2.4%
ES	Spain	Mantle Spain (Verian)	1,002	09-02-24	27-02-24	40,639,381	10.7%
FR	France	MCM France	1,012	07-02-24	27-02-24	55,700,114	14.7%
HR	Croatia	Hendal	1,002	07-02-24	25-02-24	3,461,468	0.9%
IT	Italy	Testpoint Italia	1,025	07-02-24	20-02-24	51,599,668	13.6%
CY	Rep. Of Cyprus	CYMAR Market Research	500	07-02-24	26-02-24	752,304	0.2%
LV	Latvia	Kantar TNS Latvia	1,008	07-02-24	26-02-24	1,590,245	0.4%
LT	Lithuania	Norstat LT	1,002	09-02-24	27-02-24	2,373,312	0.6%
LU	Luxembourg	ILRES	506	08-02-24	26-02-24	533,335	0.1%
HU	Hungary	Kantar Hoffmann	1,019	08-02-24	26-02-24	8,313,539	2.2%
MT	Malta	MISCO International	506	08-02-24	28-02-24	446,788	0.1%
NL	Netherlands	Mantle Netherlands (Verian)	1,022	12-02-24	29-02-24	14,763,684	3.9%
AT	Austria	Das Österreichische Gallup Ins.	1,010	07-02-24	23-02-24	7,647,176	2.0%
PL	Poland	Research Collective	1,020	08-02-24	26-02-24	31,982,941	8.4%
PT	Portugal	Intercampus SA	1,032	09-02-24	27-02-24	8,915,624	2.3%
RO	Romania	CSOP SRL	1,046	07-02-24	25-02-24	16,174,719	4.3%
SI	Slovenia	Mediana DOO	1,004	07-02-24	25-02-24	1,791,246	0.5%
SK	Slovakia	MNFORCE	1,008	07-02-24	24-02-24	4,591,487	1.2%
FI	Finland	Taloustutkimus Oy	1,024	07-02-24	28-02-24	4,672,932	1.2%
SE	Sweden	Mantle Sweden (Verian)	1,036	07-02-24	27-02-24	8,541,497	2.2%
TOTAL EU27			26,411	07-02-24	03-03-24	379,864,254	100%

* It should be noted that the total percentage shown in this table may exceed 100% due to rounding.

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Interviewing mode per country

Interviews were conducted through face-to-face interviews, either physically in people's homes or through remote video interaction in the appropriate national language. Interviews with remote video interaction ("online face-to-face" or CAVI, Computer Assisted Video Interviewing, were conducted only in Czechia, Denmark, Malta, and Finland).

	COUNTRIES	N° OF CAPI INTERVIEWS	N° OF CAVI INTERVIEWS	TOTAL N° INTERVIEWS
BE	Belgium	1,047		1,047
BG	Bulgaria	1,035		1,035
CZ	Czechia	893	118	1,011
DK	Denmark	795	208	1,003
DE	Germany	1,521		1,521
EE	Estonia	1,007		1,007
IE	Ireland	1,001		1,001
EL	Greece	1,002		1,002
ES	Spain	1,002		1,002
FR	France	1,012		1,012
HR	Croatia	1,002		1,002
IT	Italy	1,025		1,025
CY	Rep. Of Cyprus	500		500
LV	Latvia	1,008		1,008
LT	Lithuania	1,002		1,002
LU	Luxembourg	506		506
HU	Hungary	1,019		1,019
MT	Malta	349	157	506
NL	Netherlands	1,022		1,022
AT	Austria	1,010		1,010
PL	Poland	1,020		1,020
PT	Portugal	1,032		1,032
RO	Romania	1,046		1,046
SI	Slovenia	1,004		1,004
SK	Slovakia	1,008		1,008
FI	Finland	757	267	1,024
SE	Sweden	1,036		1,036
	TOTAL EU27	25,661	750	26,411

CAPI : Computer-Assisted Personal interviewing

CAVI : Computer-Assisted Video interviewing

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Response rates

For each country, a comparison between the responding sample and the universe (i.e., the overall population in the country) is carried out. Weights are used to match the responding sample to the universe on gender by age, region, and degree of urbanisation. For European estimates (i.e., EU average), an adjustment is made to the individual country weights, weighting them up or down to reflect their 15+ population as a proportion of the EU 15+ population.

The response rates are calculated by dividing the total number of complete interviews with the number of all the addresses visited, apart from ones that are not eligible but including those where eligibility is unknown. For wave 101.1 of the EUROBAROMETER survey, the response rates for the EU27 countries, calculated by Verian (former Kantar Public), are:

	COUNTRIES	RESPONSE RATES
BE	Belgium	43.6%
BG	Bulgaria	48.7%
CZ	Czechia	49.8%
DK	Denmark	31.6%
DE	Germany	26.5%
EE	Estonia	29.3%
IE	Ireland	37.5%
EL	Greece	30.4%
ES	Spain	36.5%
FR	France	42.3%
HR	Croatia	41.8%
IT	Italy	25.6%
CY	Rep. Of Cyprus	52.2%
LV	Latvia	30.8%
LT	Lithuania	42.4%
LU	Luxembourg	27.6%
HU	Hungary	57.8%
MT	Malta	54.9%
NL	Netherlands	73.7%
AT	Austria	41.0%
PL	Poland	41.5%
PT	Portugal	57.2%
RO	Romania	50.2%
SI	Slovenia	40.0%
SK	Slovakia	50.8%
FI	Finland	25.3%
SE	Sweden	78.2%

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Margins of error

Readers are reminded that survey results are estimations, the accuracy of which, everything being equal, rests upon the sample size and upon the observed percentage. With samples of about 1,000 interviews, the real percentages vary within the following confidence limits:

Statistical Margins due to the sampling process

(at the 95% level of confidence)

various sample sizes are in rows

various observed results are in columns

	5%	10%	15%	20%	25%	30%	35%	40%	45%	50%	
	95%	90%	85%	80%	75%	70%	65%	60%	55%	50%	
N=50	6,0	8,3	9,9	11,1	12,0	12,7	13,2	13,6	13,8	13,9	N=50
N=500	1,9	2,6	3,1	3,5	3,8	4,0	4,2	4,3	4,4	4,4	N=500
N=1000	1,4	1,9	2,2	2,5	2,7	2,8	3,0	3,0	3,1	3,1	N=1000
N=1500	1,1	1,5	1,8	2,0	2,2	2,3	2,4	2,5	2,5	2,5	N=1500
N=2000	1,0	1,3	1,6	1,8	1,9	2,0	2,1	2,1	2,2	2,2	N=2000
N=3000	0,8	1,1	1,3	1,4	1,5	1,6	1,7	1,8	1,8	1,8	N=3000
N=4000	0,7	0,9	1,1	1,2	1,3	1,4	1,5	1,5	1,5	1,5	N=4000
N=5000	0,6	0,8	1,0	1,1	1,2	1,3	1,3	1,4	1,4	1,4	N=5000
N=6000	0,6	0,8	0,9	1,0	1,1	1,2	1,2	1,2	1,3	1,3	N=6000
N=7000	0,5	0,7	0,8	0,9	1,0	1,1	1,1	1,1	1,2	1,2	N=7000
N=7500	0,5	0,7	0,8	0,9	1,0	1,0	1,1	1,1	1,1	1,1	N=7500
N=8000	0,5	0,7	0,8	0,9	0,9	1,0	1,0	1,1	1,1	1,1	N=8000
N=9000	0,5	0,6	0,7	0,8	0,9	0,9	1,0	1,0	1,0	1,0	N=9000
N=10000	0,4	0,6	0,7	0,8	0,8	0,9	0,9	1,0	1,0	1,0	N=10000
N=11000	0,4	0,6	0,7	0,7	0,8	0,9	0,9	0,9	0,9	0,9	N=11000
N=12000	0,4	0,5	0,6	0,7	0,8	0,8	0,9	0,9	0,9	0,9	N=12000
N=13000	0,4	0,5	0,6	0,7	0,7	0,8	0,8	0,8	0,9	0,9	N=13000
N=14000	0,4	0,5	0,6	0,7	0,7	0,8	0,8	0,8	0,8	0,8	N=14000
N=15000	0,3	0,5	0,6	0,6	0,7	0,7	0,8	0,8	0,8	0,8	N=15000
	5%	10%	15%	20%	25%	30%	35%	40%	45%	50%	
	95%	90%	85%	80%	75%	70%	65%	60%	55%	50%	

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Questionnaire
February – March 2024

Questionnaire

ASK ALL

Q1) Talking more generally, if you wanted to get something from the public administration or a public service, to what extent do you think it is acceptable to do any of the following?

(SHOW SCREEN – READ OUT – ONE ANSWER PER LINE)

Always acceptable	Sometimes acceptable	Never acceptable	Don't know
To give money			
1	2	3	4
To give a gift			
1	2	3	4
To do a favour			
1	2	3	4

TREND EB99.2 QA4

READ) From now on, when we mention corruption, we mean it in a broad sense, including offering, giving, requesting, and accepting bribes or kickbacks, valuable gifts, and important favours, as well as any abuse of power for private gain. Please note, it is important that you consider the following answers based on your own experience.

Q2) How widespread do you think the problem of corruption is in (OUR COUNTRY)?

(READ OUT – ONE ANSWER ONLY)

- 1 Very widespread
- 2 Fairly widespread
- 3 Fairly rare
- 4 Very rare
- 5 There is no corruption in (OUR COUNTRY)
(SPONTANEOUS)
- 6 Don't know

TREND EB99.2 QA5

Q3) In the past three years, would you say that the level of corruption in (OUR COUNTRY) has...?

(READ OUT – ONE ANSWER ONLY)

- 1 Increased a lot
- 2 Increased a little
- 3 Stayed the same
- 4 Decreased a little
- 5 Decreased a lot
- 6 There is no corruption in (OUR COUNTRY)
(SPONTANEOUS)
- 7 Don't know

TREND EB99.2 QA6

Q4) In (OUR COUNTRY), do you think that the giving and taking of bribes and the abuse of power for personal gain are widespread among any of the following?

(SHOW SCREEN – READ OUT – ROTATE – MULTIPLE ANSWERS POSSIBLE)

- 1 Police, customs
- 2 Tax authorities
- 3 The Courts (tribunals)
- 4 Social security and welfare authorities
- 5 Public prosecution service*
- 6 Politicians at national, regional, or local level
- 7 Political parties
- 8 Officials awarding public tenders
- 9 Officials issuing building permits
- 10 Officials issuing business permits
- 11 The healthcare system
- 12 The education sector
- 13 Inspectors (health and safety, construction, labour, food quality, sanitary control, and licensing)
- 14 Private companies
- 15 Banks and financial institutions
- 16 None (SPONTANEOUS)
- 17 DK

TREND EB99.2 QA7

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Q5) Do you personally know anyone who takes or has taken bribes?

(ONE ANSWER ONLY)

- | | |
|---|-----------------------|
| 1 | Yes |
| 2 | No |
| 3 | Refusal (SPONTANEOUS) |
| 4 | Don't know |

TREND EB99.2 QA8

Q6a) Over the last 12 months, have you had any contact with any of the following in (OUR COUNTRY)?

(SHOW SCREEN – READ OUT – ROTATE – MULTIPLE ANSWERS POSSIBLE)

- | | |
|----|---|
| 1 | Police, customs |
| 2 | Tax authorities |
| 3 | The Courts (tribunals) |
| 4 | Social security and welfare authorities |
| 5 | Public prosecution service* |
| 6 | Politicians at national, regional, or local level |
| 7 | Political parties |
| 8 | Officials awarding public tenders |
| 9 | Officials issuing building permits |
| 10 | Officials issuing business permits |
| 11 | The healthcare system |
| 12 | The education sector |
| 13 | Inspectors (health and safety, construction, labour, food quality, sanitary control, and licensing) |
| 14 | Private companies |
| 15 | Banks and financial institutions |
| 16 | None (SPONTANEOUS) |
| 17 | Refusal (SPONTANEOUS) |
| 18 | Don't know |

TREND EB99.2 QA9a

ASK Q6b FOR EACH ANSWER GIVEN IN Q6a – OTHERS GO TO Q7

Q6b) Thinking about these contacts in the past 12 months has anyone in (OUR COUNTRY) asked you or expected you to give a gift, favour, or extra money for his or her services?

(SHOW SCREEN – READ OUT – ROTATE – MULTIPLE ANSWERS POSSIBLE)

- | | |
|----|---|
| 1 | Police, customs |
| 2 | Tax authorities |
| 3 | The Courts (tribunals) |
| 4 | Social security and welfare authorities |
| 5 | Public prosecution service* |
| 6 | Politicians at national, regional, or local level |
| 7 | Political parties |
| 8 | Officials awarding public tenders |
| 9 | Officials issuing building permits |
| 10 | Officials issuing business permits |
| 11 | The healthcare system |
| 12 | The education sector |
| 13 | Inspectors (health and safety, construction, labour, food quality, sanitary control, and licensing) |
| 14 | Private companies |
| 15 | Banks and financial institutions |
| 16 | None (SPONTANEOUS) |
| 17 | Refusal (SPONTANEOUS) |
| 18 | DK |

TREND EB99.2 QA9b

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Questionnaire
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ASK Q6c FOR EACH MENTIONED IN Q6b – OTHERS GO TO Q7

Q6c) How much was the gift, favour, or extra money asked for or expected by your contact in [ANSWER IN Q9b]?

(ONE ANSWER PER LINE - WRITE DOWN THE EXACT AMOUNT WITHOUT DECIMALS)

	€ (or local currency)	Do not remember (SPONTANEOUS)	Refusal (SPONTANEOUS)	Don't know
1	Police, customs			
2	Tax authorities			
3	The Courts (tribunals)			
4	Social security and welfare authorities			
5	Public prosecution service*			
6	Politicians at national, regional, or local level			
7	Political parties			
8	Officials awarding public tenders			
9	Officials issuing building permits			
10	Officials issuing business permits			
11	The healthcare system			
12	The education sector			
13	Inspectors (health and safety, construction, labour, food quality, sanitary control and licensing)			
14	Private companies			
15	Banks and financial institutions			

TREND EB99.2 QA9c

Q7) If you were to experience or witness a case of corruption, would you know where to report it to?

(ONE ANSWER ONLY)

- 1 Yes
- 2 No
- 3 Don't know

TREND EB99.2 QA10

Q8) And if you wanted to complain about this case of corruption, who would you trust most to deal with it?

(SHOW SCREEN – READ OUT – ROTATE – MULTIPLE ANSWERS POSSIBLE) ASK ITEM 7 ONLY IN AT, BG, ES, FR, HR, IT, LT, LV, MT, PL, PT, RO AND SI

- 1 The police
- 2 The Justice (courts, tribunals, or public prosecution services)
- 3 Non-governmental organisations (NGOs) or other associations
- 4 Media, newspapers, journalists
- 5 National Ombudsman (INSERT NAME OF NATIONAL OMBUDSMAN)
- 6 A political representative (Member of Parliament, of the local council)
- 7 Specialised anti-corruption agency (INSERT THE NAME OF THE NATIONAL INSTITUTION IF ANY)
- 8 Trade unions
- 9 EU institutions
- 10 Other (SPONTANEOUS)
- 11 None (SPONTANEOUS)
- 12 Don't know

TREND EB99.2 QA11

Q9) In the last 12 months have you experienced or witnessed any case of corruption?

(READ OUT – MULTIPLE ANSWERS POSSIBLE)

- 1 Yes, experienced
- 2 Yes, witnessed
- 3 No
- 4 Refusal (SPONTANEOUS)
- 5 Don't know

TREND EB99.2 QA12

Special Eurobarometer 548
Questionnaire
February – March 2024

ASK Q10 IF "HAS EXPERIENCED OR WITNESSED A CASE OF CORRUPTION", CODE 1 OR 2 IN Q9 – OTHERS GO TO Q11

Q10) Did you report it to anyone or not?

(ONE ANSWER ONLY)

- 1 Yes
- 2 No
- 3 Refusal (SPONTANEOUS)
- 4 Don't know

TREND EB99.2 QA13

(SHOW SCREEN- READ OUT – ROTATE – ONE ANSWER PER LINE)

ASK ALL

Q11) Below are some possible reasons why people may decide not to report a case of corruption. Please tell those which you think are the most important?

(SHOW SCREEN – READ OUT – ROTATE – MAX. 3 ANSWERS)

- 1 Do not know where to report it to
- 2 Difficult to prove anything
- 3 Reporting it would be pointless because those responsible will not be punished
- 4 Those who report cases get into trouble with the police or with other authorities
- 5 Everyone knows about these cases and no one reports them
- 6 It is not worth the effort of reporting it
- 7 There is no protection for those who report corruption
- 8 No one wants to betray anyone
- 9 Other (SPONTANEOUS)
- 10 None (SPONTANEOUS)
- 11 DK

TREND EB99.2 QA14

Q12) Please tell whether you agree or disagree with each of the following?

(SHOW SCREEN – ONE ANSWER PER LINE)

- | Totally agree | Tend to agree | Tend to disagree | Totally disagree | Don't know |
|--|---------------|------------------|------------------|------------|
| There is corruption in the local or regional public institutions in (OUR COUNTRY) | | | | |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| There is corruption in the national public institutions in (OUR COUNTRY) | | | | |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| Corruption is part of the business culture in (OUR COUNTRY) | | | | |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| You are personally affected by corruption in your daily life | | | | |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| There are enough successful prosecutions in (OUR COUNTRY) to deter people from corrupt practices | | | | |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| High-level corruption cases are not pursued sufficiently in (OUR COUNTRY) | | | | |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| (NATIONALITY) Government efforts to combat corruption are effective | | | | |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| Too-close links between business and politics in (OUR COUNTRY) lead to corruption | | | | |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| Bribery and the use of connections is often the easiest way to obtain certain public services in (OUR COUNTRY) | | | | |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| There is sufficient transparency and supervision of the financing of political parties in (OUR COUNTRY) | | | | |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| In (OUR COUNTRY) the only way to succeed in business is to have political connections | | | | |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| In (OUR COUNTRY), favouritism and corruption hamper business competition | | | | |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| In (OUR COUNTRY) measures against corruption are applied impartially and without ulterior motives | | | | |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |

TREND EB99.2 QA15



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