



SPECIAL EUROBAROMETER 561

Citizens' attitudes towards corruption in the EU in 2025

EUROBAROMETER **REPORT**
JANUARY – FEBRUARY 2025



This survey has been requested by the European Commission, Directorate-General for Justice and Consumers (DG JUST)
and co-ordinated by the European Commission, Directorate-General for Communication
(DG COMM 'Public Opinion & Citizens Engagement' Unit)

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<https://www.europa.eu/eurobarometer>

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Introduction

Introduction

Corruption is generally recognised as the misuse of power entrusted to individuals for personal gain. This behaviour can intensify social inequalities, reduce trust in governmental institutions, and weaken effective governance and social justice. Additionally, corruption can negatively impact governmental objectives aimed at reducing the wealth gap and promoting environmental sustainability.

The EU Rule of Law Report, published annually since 2020, details the varied nature and extent of corruption across EU Member States, highlighting the differing levels of success in anti-corruption efforts throughout the EU. Supported by the anti-corruption experience-sharing programme launched by the Commission in 2015, and continued as thematic workshops under the EU Anti-Corruption Network since 2024,¹ these initiatives have encouraged national bodies to strengthen the enforcement of anti-corruption laws and policies.

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 EU citizens. It was first conducted in 2005², and has been repeated in 2007³, 2009⁴, 2011⁵, 2013⁶, 2017⁷, 2019⁸, 2022⁹, 2023¹⁰, and 2024¹¹.

This survey covers the following areas:

- General perceptions of corruption including acceptability, its perceived 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;
- Corruption at the workplace;
- 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 are described at the EU level, encompassing all 27 Member States, and are broken down by country and socio-demographic group. This year's results have been benchmarked against those from 2024 and, when pertinent, against data from prior surveys¹².

¹ https://commission.europa.eu/strategy-and-policy/policies/justice-and-fundamental-rights/democracy-eu-citizenship-anti-corruption/anti-corruption/eu-network-against-corruption_en

² <https://europa.eu/eurobarometer/surveys/detail/1490>

³ <https://europa.eu/eurobarometer/surveys/detail/636>

⁴ <https://europa.eu/eurobarometer/surveys/detail/814>

⁵ <https://europa.eu/eurobarometer/surveys/detail/1010>

⁶ <https://europa.eu/eurobarometer/surveys/detail/1076>

⁷ <https://europa.eu/eurobarometer/surveys/detail/2176>

⁸ <https://europa.eu/eurobarometer/surveys/detail/2247>

⁹ <https://europa.eu/eurobarometer/surveys/detail/2658>

¹⁰ <https://europa.eu/eurobarometer/surveys/detail/2968>

¹¹ <https://europa.eu/eurobarometer/surveys/detail/3217>

¹² As a reminder: 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.

Methodology

This survey was carried out by the Verian Group in the 27 EU Member States between the 9th of January and the 4th of February. Some 26,354 respondents from different social and demographic groups were interviewed in their mother tongue. This survey was commissioned by the European Commission, Directorate-General for Justice and Consumers (DG JUST).

The methodology used was that of the Standard Eurobarometer surveys carried out by the Directorate-General for Communication ("Public Opinion & Citizens Engagement" Unit)¹³. Interviews were conducted face-to-face, 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), which were only conducted in Czechia, Denmark, Malta, and Finland. A technical note concerning the interviews conducted by the member institutes of the Verian network is annexed to this report.

Throughout the report, results are compared to Special Eurobarometer SP548 of 2024.

We would like to thank the people across the European Union who have offered their time to take part in this survey.

Without their active participation, this study would not have been possible.

Note: In this report, EU countries are referred to by their official abbreviations, as listed below:

Belgium	BE	Lithuania	LT
Bulgaria	BG	Luxembourg	LU
Czechia	CZ	Hungary	HU
Denmark	DK	Malta	MT
Germany	DE	The 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			EU27

* 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 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.

¹³ The Eurobarometer methodological approaches:
<https://europa.eu/eurobarometer/about/eurobarometer>



Key findings

More than two thirds of Europeans (69%) still believe corruption is widespread in their country, a slight increase of one percentage point since 2024.

- ♦ More than three-quarters (77%) agree that too-close links between business and politics lead to corruption, indicating a slight increase from the previous year's 75%. Around two-thirds (65%, +2 pp) believe that favouritism and corruption hinder business competition. 61% (+2 pp) believe corruption is part of the business culture in their country. Just over half (51%, unchanged) agree that the only way to succeed in business is to have political connections.
- ♦ More than half of Europeans (51%, -2 percentage points since 2024) believe that corruption is widespread among political parties, while 46% (-4 pp) say the same about politicians at local, regional, or national levels. Additionally, 38% (+1 pp) believe corruption is widespread among officials awarding public tenders, and 36% (unchanged) among those issuing building permits.
- ♦ Two-thirds of respondents (66%, +1 pp) agree that bribery or the use of connections is often the easiest way to obtain certain public services.

At least three in ten EU citizens feel personally affected by corruption and believe that it has increased in recent years.

- ♦ Three in ten respondents (30%, +3 percentage points compared to 2024) say they are personally affected by corruption in their daily lives. More than four in ten respondents (44%) think the level of corruption in their country has increased in the past three years.
- ♦ Those living in Member States which joined the EU in or after 2004 are more likely to say they are personally affected by corruption (41%) than those in Member States that joined before 2004 (26%). Similarly, respondents living outside the euro area are more likely to feel personally affected than those within it (35% vs. 27%).

The majority of EU citizens continue to find corrupt practices unacceptable.

- ♦ A majority of Europeans (64%, +3 percentage points since 2024) continue to view corruption as unacceptable, reversing the decline observed in the previous year.
- ♦ Just over seven in ten EU citizens (71%) consider it never acceptable to do a favour to receive something from public administration or public services.

- ♦ Around three in four respondents (74%) believe it is never acceptable to give gifts to public administration or public services.
- ♦ A majority of respondents (80%) find giving money to get something from the public administration or public service never acceptable.

A decreasing minority believe the fight against corruption in their country is effective.

- ♦ More than four in ten respondents (44%, +3 percentage points since 2024) think the level of corruption in their country has increased in the past three years, with 18% (+1 pp) saying it increased a lot and 26% (+2 pp) saying it increased a little. In contrast, 40% think the level has stayed the same.
- ♦ In eleven EU Member States, at least half of respondents think the level of corruption in their country has increased.
- ♦ A growing number of respondents are pessimistic about national efforts to combat corruption. A minority (39%, +4 pp since 2024) think measures against corruption are applied impartially and without ulterior motives, that there are enough successful prosecutions in their country to deter people from corrupt practices (36%, +4 pp), that their national government's efforts to combat corruption are effective (32%, +3 pp) or that there is sufficient transparency and supervision of the financing of political parties in their country (33%, +3 pp).
- ♦ In all but two Member States, a majority of respondents agree that high-level corruption cases are not pursued sufficiently in their country.

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

Six in ten Europeans (61%) say they most trust the police to deal with a case of corruption. This represents an increase of one percentage point compared to 2024. The police rank well above the justice system (23%, unchanged), which is the only other institution mentioned by at least one in five respondents.

More than half of EU citizens do not report corruption, if they experience or witness it.

- ♦ Five per cent of Europeans report having experienced or witnessed a case of corruption in the last 12 months. This figure remains unchanged compared to 2024.
- ♦ Among those who had contact with various services, fewer than one in ten (8%, +1 pp) report that someone asked for or expected a gift, favour, or extra money in exchange for services.

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- ♦ Slightly fewer than one in ten respondents (9%) say they personally know someone who takes or has taken bribes.
- ♦ A majority of respondents (55%) say they would not know where to report a case of corruption if they were to experience or witness one, a figure that remains almost unchanged compared to 2024 (-1 pp). Slightly more than four in ten (44%) say they would know where to report it.
- ♦ Despite these experiences, only one in five respondents (20%, +2 pp) who have experienced and/or witnessed corruption say they reported it. In contrast, close to eight in ten (79%, -2 pp) say they did not report the case.

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

- ♦ In 24 EU Member States, the difficulty in proving anything is the most mentioned reason for not reporting corruption, although results differ widely across countries.
- ♦ Just over four in ten respondents (43%, unchanged since 2024) identify the difficulty in proving corruption cases (43%) as an important reason for not reporting. Around one in four (27%, -1 pp) believe that reporting would be pointless because those responsible would not be punished, while an equal share (27%, -1 pp) cite the lack of protection from retaliation.



I. General perceptions of corruption

1. How widespread is corruption?

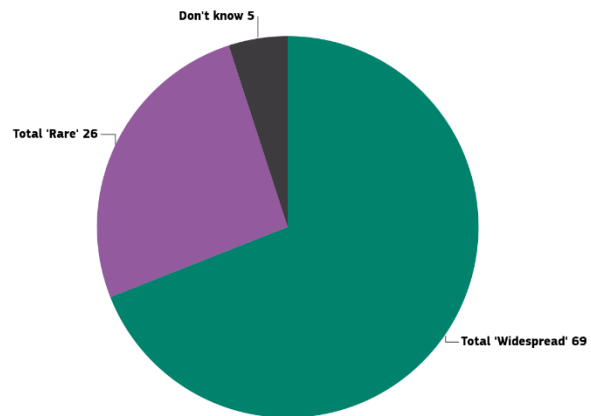
Nearly seven in ten Europeans believe corruption is widespread in their country.

Respondents were asked to assess how widespread they believe corruption is in their country.¹⁴

At the EU level, close to seven in ten Europeans (69%, +1 pp) believe that corruption is widespread in their country¹⁵, with 23% (unchanged) considering it very widespread and 46% (+1 pp) viewing it as fairly widespread. In opposition, around one-fourth of respondents (26%, -1 pp) perceive corruption as rare, with 22% (unchanged) stating it is fairly rare and 4% (-1 pp) believing it is very rare. 5% (unchanged) of respondents answered that they "Don't know".

Since 2017, there have been no large changes in the proportion of respondents perceiving corruption to be widespread in their country. Following an increase of six percentage points between 2019 and 2022, the share of respondents perceiving corruption as rare has remained stable as well.

QD5: How widespread do you think the problem of corruption is in (OUR COUNTRY)? (EU27) (%)

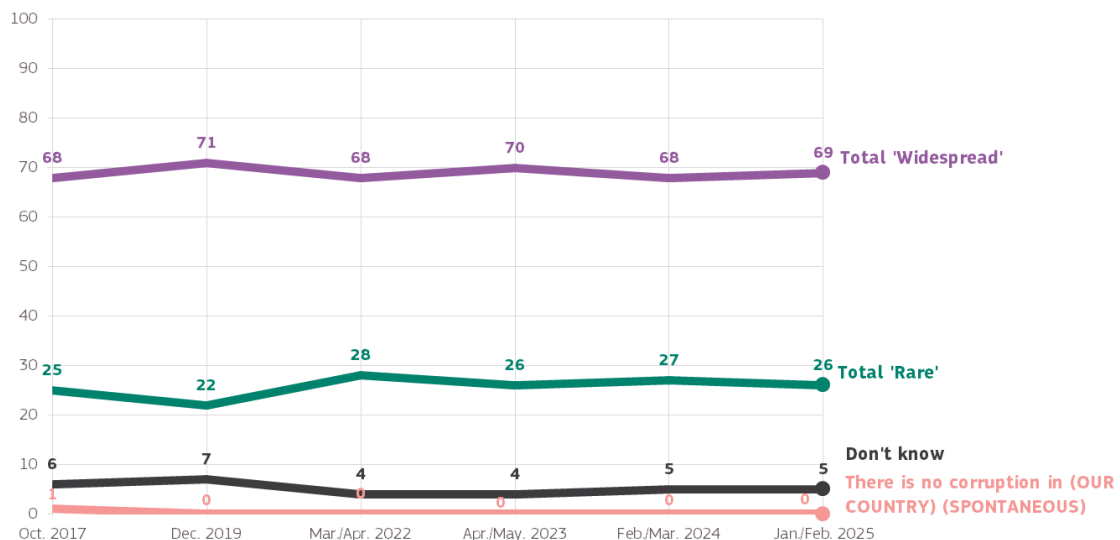


Total 'Widespread' ▲ 1
Total 'Rare' ▼ 1
There is no corruption in (OUR COUNTRY) (SPONTANEOUS) =
Don't know =

▲▼ (Jan/Feb 2025 - Feb/Mar 2024)

Jan/Feb 2025

QD5 How widespread do you think the problem of corruption is in (OUR COUNTRY)? (% - EU)



¹⁴ QD5. How widespread do you think the problem of corruption is in (OUR COUNTRY)?

¹⁵ Before answering whether corruption is widespread in their country, respondents were given a definition of corruption: "From now on, when we

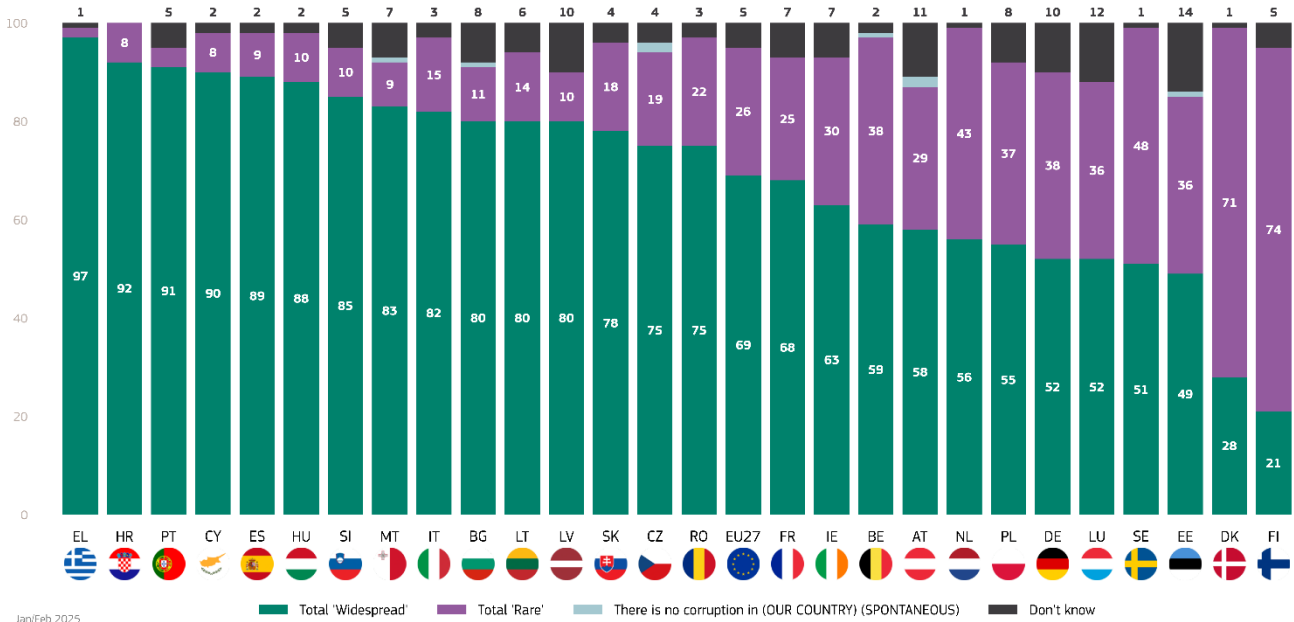
mention corruption, we mean it in a broad sense, including offering, giving, requesting and accepting bribes or kickbacks, valuable gifts or important favours, as well as any abuse of power for private gain". They were also requested to base their answers on their own experience.

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At the national level, Greece stands out with 97% considering corruption to be widespread, followed by Croatia (92%) and Portugal (91%). On the other hand, Finland (21%) and Denmark (28%) have the lowest total percentages of respondents perceiving corruption as widespread.

Overall, more than half of respondents in 24 EU Member States believe that corruption is widespread in their country. In two Member States a majority of respondents perceive corruption as rare: Denmark (71% vs 28% widespread) and Finland (74% vs 21% widespread).



























QD5: How widespread do you think the problem of corruption is in (OUR COUNTRY)? (%)



Since 2024, more respondents in 12 EU Member States believe that corruption is widespread in their country. The largest increases were in Luxembourg, where 52% of respondents now think corruption is widespread (+9 pp), and in Ireland, where 63% of respondents share this view (+6 pp).

Proportions of respondents finding corruption widespread in their country decreased in 13 Member States, most notably in Malta (83%, -12 pp) and Slovenia (86%, -9 pp).

QD5: How widespread do you think the problem of corruption is in (OUR COUNTRY)? (%)

		EU27	LU	IE	FI	IT	LV	AT	NL	PL	DK	SE	HU	SK	HR	RO	CY	DE	EL	ES	FR	EE	LT	CZ	BG	PT	BE	SI	MT
																													
Total 'Widespread'	Jan/Feb 2025	69	52	63	22	82	80	58	56	55	28	51	89	78	92	75	90	52	97	89	68	48	80	75	80	91	59	86	83
	Δ Feb/Mar 2024	▲1	▲9	▲6	▲4	▲4	▲4	▲3	▲3	▲3	▲2	▲2	▲1	▲1	=	=	▼1	▼1	▼1	▼1	▼2	▼3	▼3	▼4	▼5	▼5	▼7	▼9	▼12
Total 'Rare'	Jan/Feb 2025	26	36	30	73	14	10	29	43	37	71	48	9	18	8	22	8	38	2	9	25	37	14	19	11	4	38	9	9
	Δ Feb/Mar 2024	▼1	▼12	▼3	▼3	▼3	▼4	▼6	▼3	▼4	▼1	▼2	▼1	▲2	▲1	▲2	▲5	▼1	▲1	▲3	=	▲1	▲3	▲1	▲3	▲2	▲8	▲5	▲6
There is no corruption in (OUR COUNTRY) (SPONTANEOUS)	Jan/Feb 2025	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	2	1	0	1	0	1
	Δ Feb/Mar 2024	=	=	=	=	=	=	▲1	=	=	=	=	=	=	=	=	=	=	=	=	=	=	=	▲2	▲1	=	=	=	▲1
Don't know	Jan/Feb 2025	5	12	7	5	4	10	11	1	8	1	1	2	4	0	3	2	10	1	2	7	14	6	4	8	5	2	5	7
	Δ Feb/Mar 2024	=	▲3	▼3	▼1	▼1	=	▲2	=	▲1	▼1	=	=	▼3	▼1	▼2	▼4	▲2	=	▼2	▲2	▲2	=	▲1	▲1	▲3	▼1	▲4	▲5

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

- Men (69%) are only slightly more likely to think that corruption is widespread than women (68%).
- Older respondents are overall more likely to think that corruption is widespread. At least seven in ten (71%) of those aged 40 and older think this way, compared to close to two thirds (67%) of those aged 25-39 and just over six in ten (61%) of those aged 15-24.
- Respondents who have experienced or witnessed corruption are more likely to think it is widespread (90% and 85% respectively) than those who have not (68%).
- Similarly, respondents who know someone who takes bribes are more likely to think corruption is widespread in their country than those who report not knowing anyone who does this (87% vs 67%).

QD5 How widespread do you think the problem of corruption is in (OUR COUNTRY)?
(% - EU)

	Total 'Widespread'	Total 'Rare'	Don't know
EU27	69	26	5
Gender			
Man	69	27	4
Woman	68	25	7
Age			
15-24	61	29	10
25-39	67	27	6
40-54	71	25	4
55+	70	25	5
Education (End of)			
15-	78	16	6
16-19	72	22	6
20+	63	33	4
Still Studying	57	32	10
Socio-professional category			
Self-employed	68	29	3
Managers	63	33	4
Other white collars	69	26	5
Manual workers	73	22	5
House persons	79	15	6
Unemployed	75	18	7
Retired	68	26	6
Students	59	30	10
Difficulties paying bills			
Most of the time	81	15	4
From time to time	73	22	5
Almost never / Never	65	29	6
Experienced or witnessed corruption			
Yes, experienced	90	9	1
Yes, witnessed	85	15	0
No	68	26	6
You know someone who takes bribes			
Yes	87	12	1
No	67	27	6

2. Level of corruption in daily life

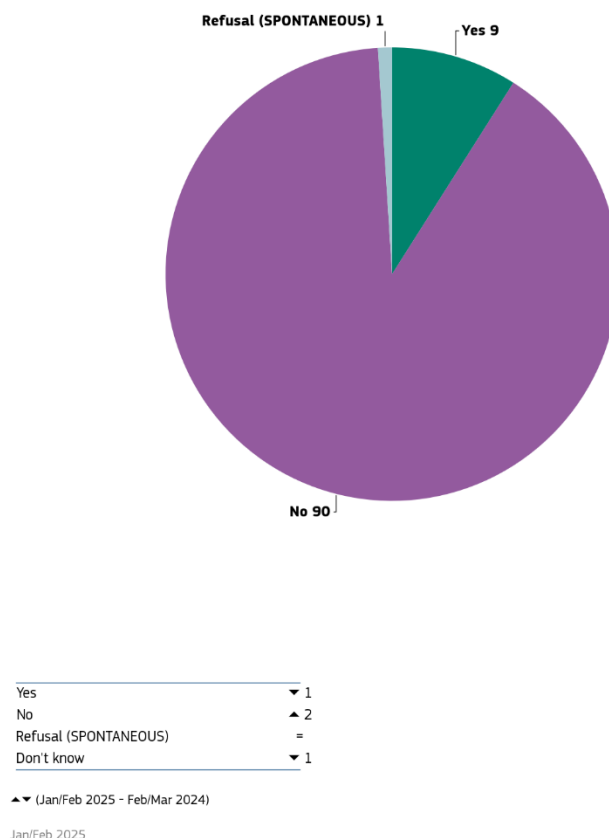
A large majority of Europeans do not know anyone who takes or has taken bribes.

Respondents were asked whether they personally know someone who takes or has taken bribes.¹⁶

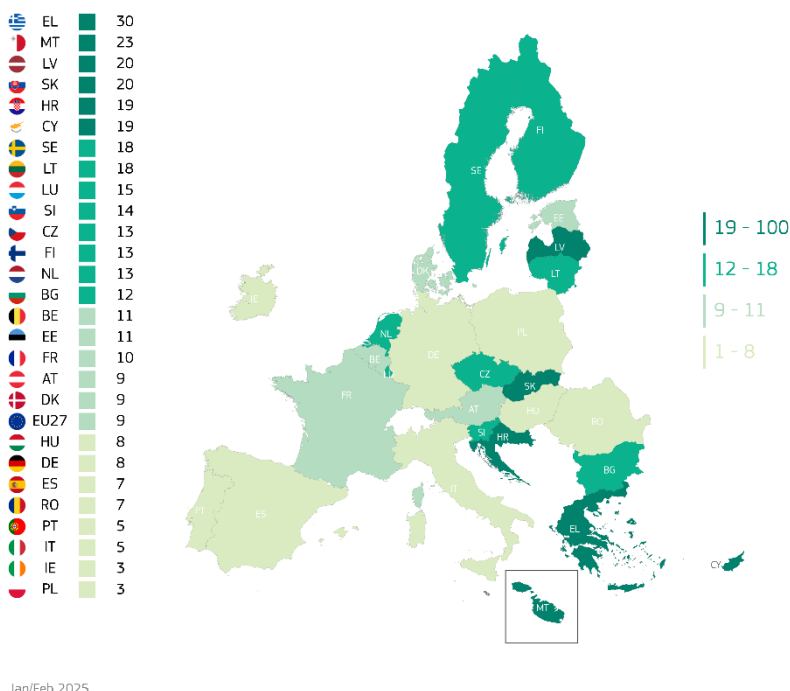
At the EU level, around one in ten respondents (9%, -1 pp) report knowing someone who takes or has taken bribes. A large majority of 90% (+2 pp) report not knowing anyone, while the percentage of respondents who refused to answer remained unchanged at 1%.

At the country level, the analysis of the survey results provides a more granular view of the responses. While in each EU Member State at least seven in ten respondents report not knowing anyone, countries with the highest shares of respondents answering "Yes" are Greece (30%), Malta (23%), Latvia and Slovakia (both 20%). Conversely, countries with the highest percentage scores for not knowing anyone who has taken bribes include Ireland (96%), Poland (96%), Italy (95%), Portugal (94%), and Spain (92%), while Greece (70%) and Malta (74%) as well as Slovakia, Lithuania and Croatia (each 78%) have the lowest shares in that category.

QD8: Do you personally know anyone who takes or has taken bribes? (EU27) (%)



QD8: Do you personally know anyone who takes or has taken bribes? - Yes (EU27) (%)



¹⁶ QD8. Do you personally know anyone who takes or has taken bribes?

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At the country level, there are changes compared to 2024: The share of respondents who report knowing someone who takes or has taken bribes decreased in 17 countries, most notably in Czechia (13%, -5 pp), Lithuania (18%, -5 pp) and Slovenia (14%, -5 pp). While increases were recorded in seven countries, none of these increases exceed four percent.

Additionally, there are 18 countries in which the proportion answering "No" increased and five countries in which it decreased. The largest increase occurred in Czechia (85%, +5 pp), the largest decrease in Romania (88%, -5 pp).

QD8: Do you personally know anyone who takes or has taken bribes? (%)

		EU27	SE	SK	HR	LU	CY	FI	RO	AT	DK	IT	BE	EE	IE	BG	DE	EL	HU	LV	NL	PT	FR	MT	ES	PL	CZ	LT	SI
Yes	Jan/Feb 2025	9	18	20	19	15	19	13	7	9	9	5	11	11	3	12	8	30	8	20	13	5	10	23	7	3	13	18	14
	Δ Feb/Mar 2024	▼1	▲4	▲4	▲2	▲2	▲1	▲1	▲1	=	=	=	▼1	▼1	▼1	▼2	▼2	▼2	▼2	▼2	▼2	▼2	▼3	▼3	▼4	▼4	▼5	▼5	▼5
No	Jan/Feb 2025	90	82	78	78	85	81	86	88	88	91	95	89	86	96	83	90	70	91	79	87	94	90	74	92	96	85	78	85
	Δ Feb/Mar 2024	▲2	▼4	▼3	=	▼1	=	▼1	▼5	▲1	=	▲1	▲1	▲1	▲1	▲3	▲2	▲3	▲2	▲2	▲2	▲1	▲3	=	▲3	▲3	▲5	▲4	▲4
Refusal (SPONTANEOUS)	Jan/Feb 2025	1	0	1	2	0	0	0	3	2	0	0	0	1	0	2	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	1	1	1	3	0
	Δ Feb/Mar 2024	=	=	▼1	▼2	▼1	=	=	▲2	▼1	=	▼1	=	=	=	▼1	▼1	▼1	▼1	▼1	=	▲1	=	▲1	▲1	▲1	▼1	▲1	=
Don't know	Jan/Feb 2025	0	0	1	1	0	0	1	2	1	0	0	0	2	1	3	1	0	1	1	0	0	0	2	0	0	1	1	1
	Δ Feb/Mar 2024	▼1	=	=	=	=	▼1	=	▲2	=	=	=	=	=	=	=	▲1	=	▲1	▲1	=	=	=	▲2	=	=	▲1	=	▲1

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An analysis of the **socio-demographic** data reveals the following notable differences:

- Men are more likely than women to personally know someone who takes or has taken bribes (11% vs 7%).
- Among socio-professional groups, the self-employed are most likely to personally know someone (15%), especially compared to students (6%).
- Furthermore, respondents who have difficulties paying their bills most of the time are more likely to know someone who takes or has taken bribes than those who rarely or never face such difficulties (18% vs 8%).

QD8 Do you personally know anyone who takes or has taken bribes?
(% - EU)

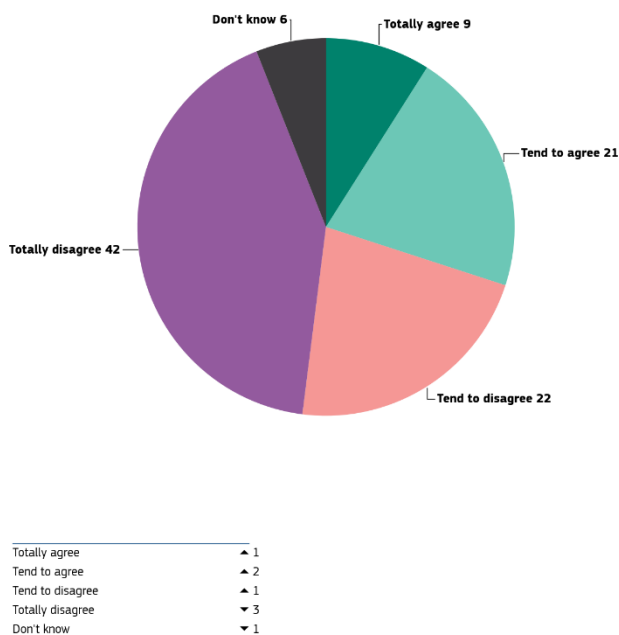
	Yes	No	Refusal (SPONTANEOUS)	Don't know
EU27	9	90	1	0
Gender				
Man	11	88	1	0
Woman	7	91	1	1
Age				
15-24	7	92	0	1
25-39	8	91	0	1
40-54	9	90	1	0
55+	10	89	1	0
Education (End of)				
15-	7	92	0	1
16-19	9	90	1	0
20+	11	88	1	0
Still Studying	5	94	0	1
Socio-professional category				
Self-employed	15	83	2	0
Managers	10	88	1	1
Other white collars	7	92	1	0
Manual workers	9	90	1	0
House persons	8	90	1	1
Unemployed	10	89	0	1
Retired	9	89	1	1
Students	6	94	0	0
Difficulties paying bills				
Most of the time	18	80	1	1
From time to time	9	89	1	1
Almost never / Never	8	91	1	0
Experienced or witnessed corruption				
Yes, experienced	64	34	2	0
Yes, witnessed	56	42	2	0
No	7	93	0	0

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Further, respondents were asked whether they feel personally affected by corruption in their daily lives.¹⁷ Three in ten (30%, + 3 pp) respondent say that they are personally affected, including 9% (+1 pp) who totally agree and 21% (+2 pp) who tend to agree. However, a majority of 64% (-2 pp) report not feeling affected, including 22% (+1 pp) who tend to disagree and 42% (-3 pp) who totally disagree. 6% say that they "Don't know".

There is a wide variation between countries of those who say they are personally affected by corruption: While at least six in ten respondents feel personally affected in Greece (66%), Portugal (64%), Croatia (61%), Cyprus and Romania (both 60%), fewer than one in ten respondents feels affected in Denmark (4%), France (8%) and Finland (9%). When considering only the answer option 'Totally agree', the countries with the highest percentages are Greece (28%), Croatia (28%), and Malta (27%). In contrast, Denmark (1%) and Finland (1%) have the lowest scores for this answer option.

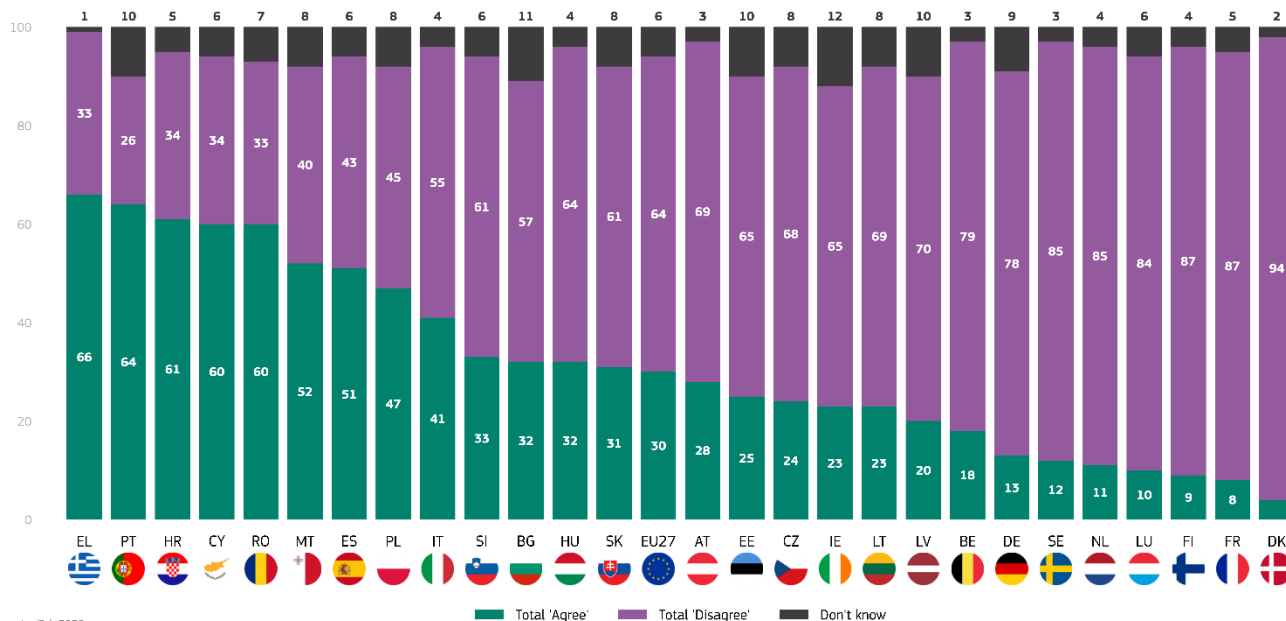
QD15a.4: Please tell whether you agree or disagree with each of the following? - You are personally affected by corruption in your daily life (EU27) (%)



▲▼ (Jan/Feb 2025 - Feb/Mar 2024)

Jan/Feb 2025

QD15a.4: Please tell whether you agree or disagree with each of the following? - You are personally affected by corruption in your daily life (%)



Jan/Feb 2025

¹⁷ QD15a.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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Compared to 2024, in 16 countries, respondents are now more likely to say they are personally affected by corruption, with the double-digit increases seen in Austria (28%, +11 percentage points) and Italy (41%, +10 pp). The proportion of respondents saying this decreased in seven EU Member States, most notably in Slovenia (33%, -11 pp).

QD15a.4: Please tell whether you agree or disagree with each of the following? – You are personally affected by corruption in your daily life (%)

		EU27	AT	IT	RO	HU	ES	NL	IE	CZ	EE	EL	FI	PT	DE	LU	PL	HR	BG	DK	LV	SE	BE	CY	LT	MT	SK	FR	SI
Total 'Agree'	Jan/Feb 2025	30	28	41	60	32	51	11	23	24	25	66	9	64	13	10	47	61	32	4	20	12	18	60	23	52	31	8	33
	Δ Feb/Mar 2024	▲3	▲11	▲10	▲9	▲8	▲6	▲6	▲5	▲4	▲4	▲3	▲3	▲3	▲2	▲2	▲2	▲1	=	=	=	=	▼1	▼1	▼1	▼4	▼4	▼5	▼11
Total 'Disagree'	Jan/Feb 2025	64	69	55	33	64	43	85	65	68	65	33	87	26	78	84	45	34	57	94	70	85	79	34	69	40	61	87	61
	Δ Feb/Mar 2024	▼2	▼8	▼8	▼7	▼10	▼1	▼7	▼8	▼3	▼3	▼3	▼1	▼4	▼4	▲2	▼1	▼1	▲4	▲3	▲3	=	▲1	=	▼2	=	▲9	▲7	▲7
Don't know	Jan/Feb 2025	6	3	4	7	4	6	4	12	8	10	1	4	10	9	6	8	5	11	2	10	3	3	6	8	8	8	5	6
	Δ Feb/Mar 2024	▼1	▼3	▼2	▼2	▲2	▼5	▲1	▲3	▼1	▼1	=	▼2	▲1	▲2	▼4	▼1	=	▼4	▼3	▼3	=	=	▲1	▲3	▲4	▼5	▼2	▲4

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

- Respondents aged 25-54 (33%-34%) are more likely to say they are personally affected by corruption, compared to those aged 15-24 (29%) and those aged 55 and up (26%).
- More than three in ten respondents who finished their education aged 15 or younger (33%) and aged 16 to 19 (32%) say they are personally affected by corruption, compared to 27% of those who left school aged 20 and up.
- At close to four in ten (38%), the self-employed felt the most affected by corruption compared to other socio-professional groups, especially the retired (22%).
- Those who experience difficulties paying their bills most of the time or from time to time are more likely to say they are affected than those who never or almost never experience such difficulties (44% vs 36% vs 25%).

QD15a.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	30	64	6
Gender			
Man	30	65	5
Woman	29	64	7
Age			
15-24	29	63	8
25-39	33	61	6
40-54	34	62	4
55+	26	67	7
Education (End of)			
15-	33	59	8
16-19	32	62	6
20+	27	69	4
Still Studying	22	68	10
Socio-professional category			
Self-employed	38	58	4
Managers	26	70	4
Other white collars	35	59	6
Manual workers	35	60	5
House persons	32	58	10
Unemployed	32	61	7
Retired	22	71	7
Students	26	65	9
Difficulties paying bills			
Most of the time	44	52	4
From time to time	36	58	6
Almost never / Never	25	69	6
Experienced or witnessed corruption			
Yes, experienced	67	32	1
Yes, witnessed	49	50	1
No	28	66	6
You know someone who takes bribes			
Yes	43	55	2
No	28	66	6

3. Acceptability of corruption

Most respondents across the European Union find corrupt practices like doing favours, giving gifts, or giving money to public administration increasingly unacceptable, with a notable decrease in acceptability since 2024.

This section presents an analysis of the extent to which respondents across the European Union find it acceptable to engage in corrupt practices, such as giving money, gifts, or doing favours when they want something from a public administration or a public service.

When it comes to **doing a favour**¹⁸ to receive something from public administration or public services, just over seven in ten Europeans (71%, +6 pp) consider it never acceptable, whereas 28% (-5 pp) find it acceptable. Among the latter, 23% consider this practice sometimes acceptable (-2 pp), and 5% (-3 pp) believe it is always acceptable.

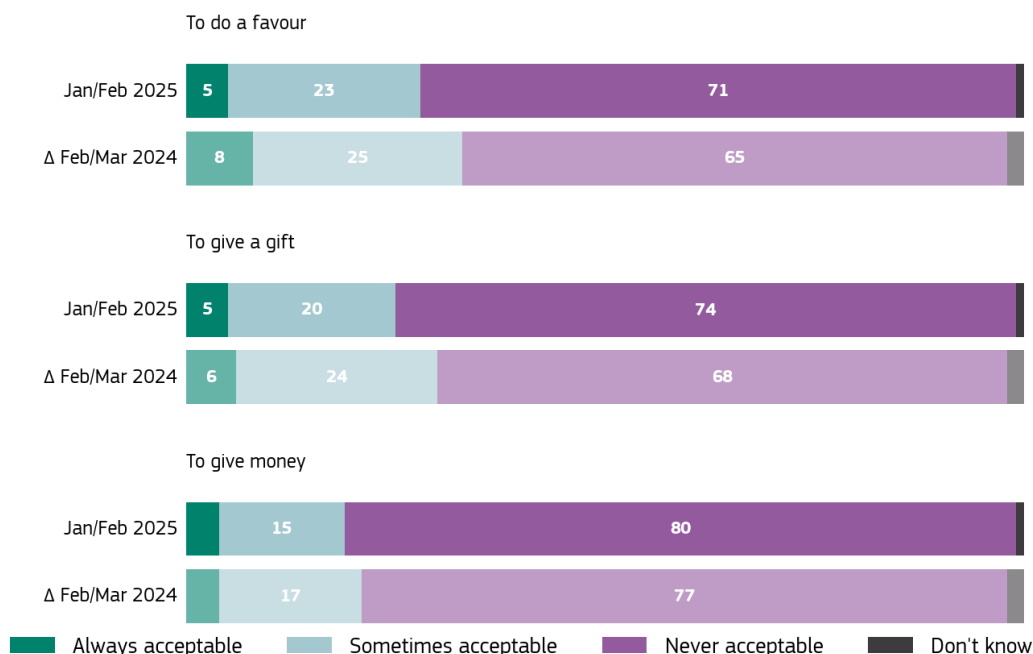
Regarding the acceptability of **giving gifts** to public administration or public services, the EU level data shows that a majority of around three in four respondents (74%, +6 pp) find it never acceptable. On the other hand, one quarter of respondents (-5 pp) believe it is acceptable to give a gift. Of these, 5% (-1 pp) think it is always acceptable and 20% (-4 pp) consider it acceptable sometimes.

Regarding **giving money** to get something from the public administration or public service, a majority of respondents find this practice never acceptable (80%, +3 pp). Conversely, 15% (-2 pp) consider it sometimes acceptable, and 4% (unchanged) find it always acceptable. Overall, around one in five respondents (19%, -2 pp) find giving money acceptable (either always or sometimes).

Following an increase in the acceptability of doing a favour, giving a gift or giving money to obtain something from the public administration or public service between 2023 and 2024, these levels have now decreased for all three practices.

The results for these three bribery practices are analysed at country level below.

QD4: 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? (%)



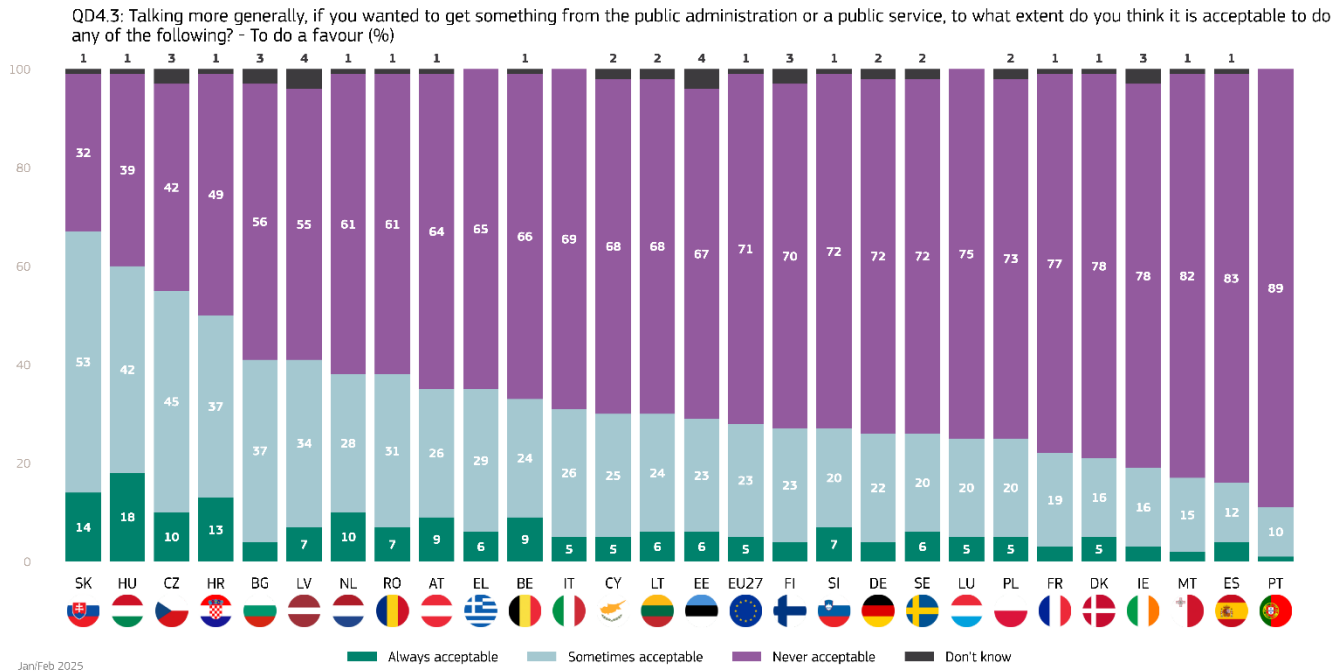
¹⁸ QD4 Talking more generally, if you wanted to get something from the public administration or a public service, to what extent do you think it is

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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Doing a favour

At least six in ten respondents in Slovakia (67%) and Hungary (60%) and at least half in Czechia (55%) and Croatia (50%) believe it is acceptable to do a favour in exchange for a service from the public administration or public service. In the other 23 Member States, a minority consider this behaviour acceptable, with Portugal (11%), Spain (16%), and Malta (17%) showing the lowest acceptability for such practices.



In 21 EU Member States, respondents are now less likely to think that doing a favour is always acceptable than they were in 2024. For instance, Czechia experienced a decrease of nine percentage points, and in Luxembourg agreement decreased by eight percentage points. Moreover, in 11 countries, respondents believe less that doing a favour in exchange for a service from the public administration or public service is sometimes acceptable.

The most notable changes occurred in Portugal (10%, -13 pp), Belgium (24%, -7 pp), and Sweden (20%, -6 pp). The largest increase in acceptance occurred in Slovakia (sometimes acceptable: 53%, +12 pp).

QD4.3: 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 (%)

		EU27	PT	BE	SE	CZ	NL	RO	DE	FI	EE	FR	LU	LV	PL	SI	IE	ES	HR	EL	IT	LT	MT	CY	DK	BG	SK	AT	HU
Always acceptable	Jan/Feb 2025	5	1	9	6	10	10	7	4	4	6	3	5	7	5	7	3	4	13	6	5	6	2	5	5	4	14	9	18
	Δ Feb/Mar 2024	▼3	▼1	▼5	▼7	▼9	▼6	▼1	▼4	▼7	▼2	▼5	▼8	▼2	=	▼6	▼2	▼2	▼3	▲1	▼1	▲1	▼2	▼3	▼1	=	▼6	▲3	▲4
Sometimes acceptable	Jan/Feb 2025	23	10	24	20	45	28	31	22	23	23	19	20	34	20	20	16	12	37	29	26	24	15	25	16	37	53	26	42
	Δ Feb/Mar 2024	▼2	▼13	▼7	▼6	▼1	▼3	▼6	▼5	▼2	▼5	▼2	▲2	▲3	▼5	▲2	=	=	▲4	=	▲2	=	▲2	▲6	▲3	▲7	▲12	▲4	▲6
Never acceptable	Jan/Feb 2025	71	89	66	72	42	61	61	72	70	67	77	75	55	73	72	78	83	49	65	69	68	82	68	78	56	32	64	39
	Δ Feb/Mar 2024	▲6	▲16	▲14	▲14	▲12	▲12	▲11	▲10	▲10	▲9	▲7	▲7	▲6	▲6	▲6	▲3	▲2	▲1	=	=	=	=	▼1	▼1	▼3	▼4	▼6	▼10
Don't know	Jan/Feb 2025	1	0	1	2	3	1	1	2	3	4	1	0	4	2	1	3	1	1	0	0	2	1	2	1	3	1	1	1
	Δ Feb/Mar 2024	▼1	▼2	▼2	▼1	▼2	▼3	▼4	▼1	▼1	▼2	=	▼1	▼7	▼1	▼2	▼1	=	▼2	▼1	▼1	▼1	=	▼2	▼1	▼4	▼2	▼1	=

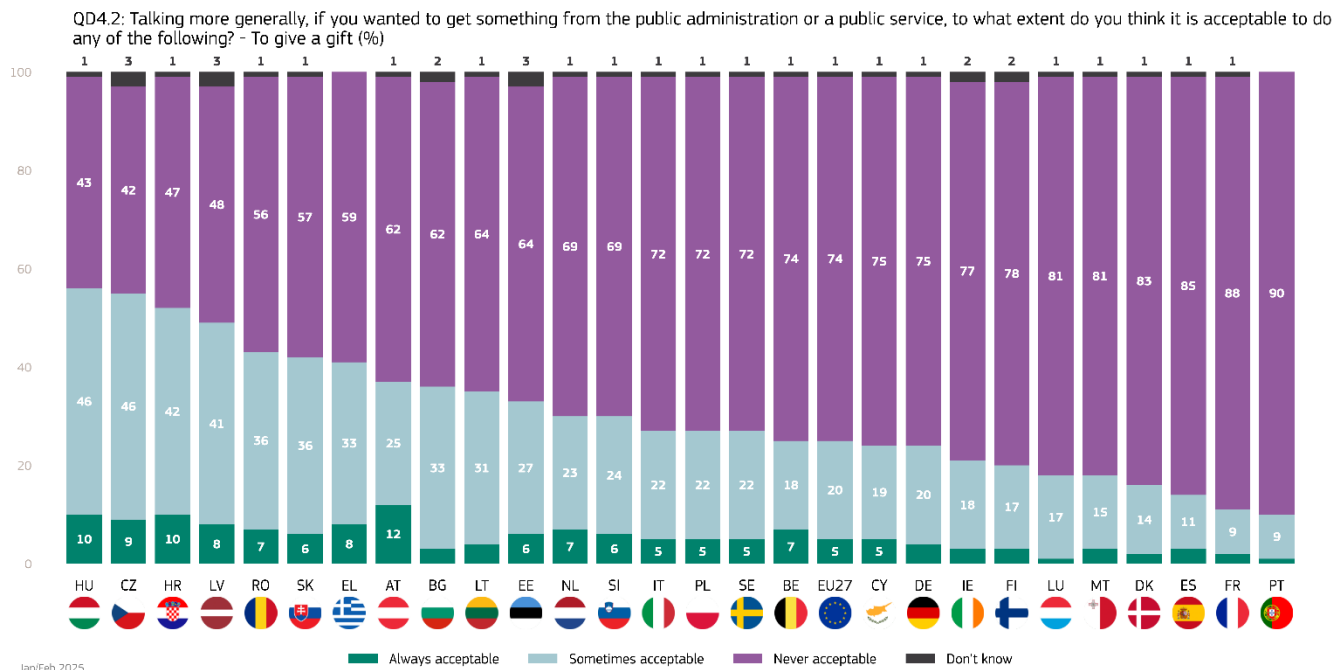
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Giving a gift

In three EU Member States, more than half of respondents think it is acceptable to give a gift to get something from the public administration or public service: Hungary (56%), Czechia (55%), and Croatia (52%).

In Austria (12%), Croatia and Hungary (both 10%), at least one in ten respondents think this behaviour is always acceptable. Respondents are least likely to find this behaviour acceptable in Portugal (10%), France (11%) and Spain (14%).



Compared to the last wave in 2024, acceptance levels for giving a gift decreased in 15 Member States, including decreases of more than ten percentage points in Romania (43%, -12 pp), Portugal (10%, -11 pp) and Germany (24%, -11 pp). An increase of ten percentage points was observed in Hungary (56%, +10 pp). Romania saw the highest increase in those who never find giving a gift acceptable (56%, +15 pp) compared to 2024, followed by Germany (75%, +13 pp) and Portugal (90%, +13 pp).

QD4.2: 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 (%)

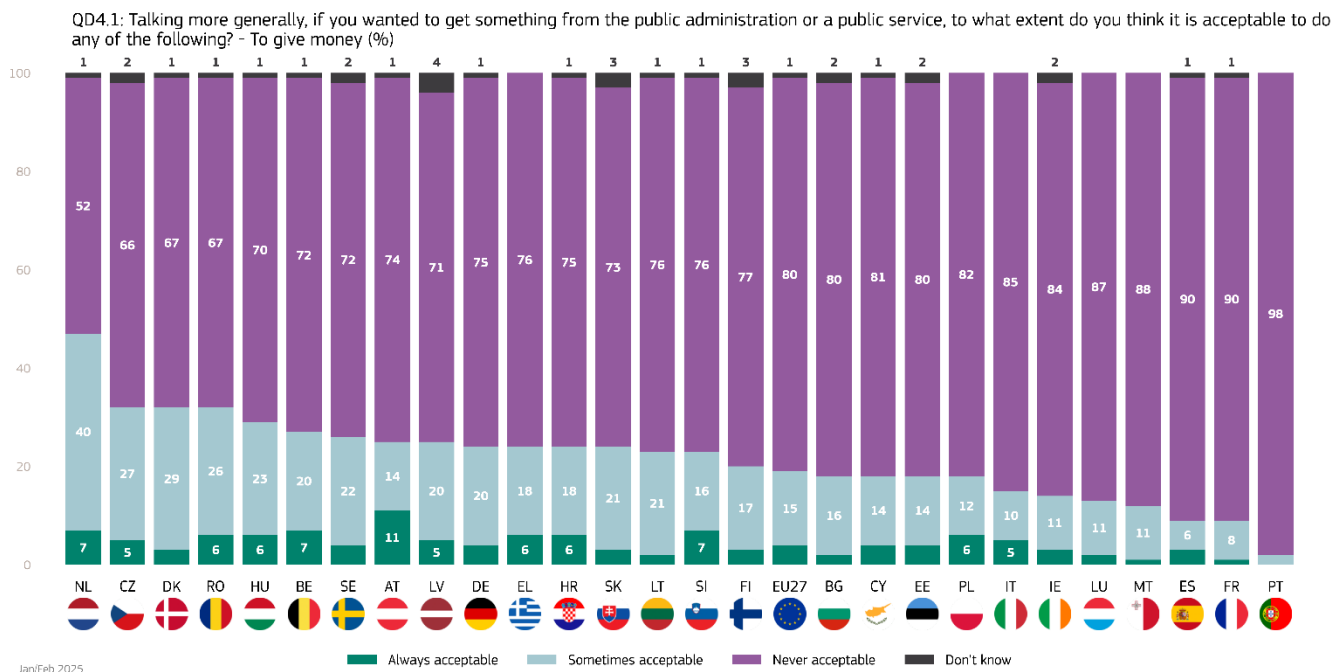
		EU27	RO	DE	PT	BE	NL	CZ	FI	EE	FR	LU	SE	CY	SK	BG	PL	SI	IE	ES	HR	LV	IT	MT	AT	DK	LT	EL	HU
Always acceptable	Jan/Feb 2025	5	7	4	1	7	7	9	3	6	2	1	5	5	6	3	5	6	3	3	10	8	5	3	12	2	4	8	10
	Δ Feb/Mar 2024	▼1	▼9	▼1	=	▼3	▼1	▼5	▼2	▼1	▼1	▼9	▼4	=	▼5	=	▼2	▼5	▼2	=	▼2	▲1	▲1	=	▲5	=	=	▲1	▲1
Sometimes acceptable	Jan/Feb 2025	20	36	20	9	18	23	46	17	27	9	17	22	19	36	33	22	24	18	11	42	41	22	15	25	14	31	33	46
	Δ Feb/Mar 2024	▼4	▼3	▼10	▼11	▼7	▼7	▼5	▼4	▼5	▼6	▲2	=	▼3	▲3	▲1	=	▲3	▲2	=	▲4	▲6	=	=	▼2	▲3	▲3	▲3	▲9
Never acceptable	Jan/Feb 2025	74	56	75	90	74	69	42	78	64	88	81	72	75	57	62	72	69	77	85	47	48	72	81	62	83	64	59	43
	Δ Feb/Mar 2024	▲6	▲15	▲13	▲13	▲12	▲11	▲9	▲8	▲7	▲7	▲7	▲6	▲5	▲4	▲3	▲3	▲3	▲1	=	=	=	▼1	▼1	▼2	▼2	▼2	▼3	▼9
Don't know	Jan/Feb 2025	1	1	1	0	1	1	3	2	3	1	1	1	1	1	2	1	1	2	1	1	3	1	1	1	1	1	0	1
	Δ Feb/Mar 2024	▼1	▼3	▼2	▼2	▼2	▼3	▲1	▼2	▼1	=	=	▼2	▼2	▼2	▼4	▼1	▼1	▼1	=	▼2	▼7	=	▲1	▼1	▼1	▼1	▼1	▼1

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Giving money





























Across the EU, more than one in three respondents in four countries think it is acceptable to give money if they want something from the public administration or public service: the Netherlands (47%) as well as Czechia, Romania and Denmark (32% each).

In three countries, the proportion of respondents finding giving money to get something from the public administration or public service acceptable is particularly low. Fewer than one in ten respondents in Portugal (2%), Spain and France (both 9%) find this practice acceptable. In contrast, the highest shares that think giving money is always acceptable are observed in Austria (11%) and the Netherlands, Belgium and Slovenia (all at 7%).



Compared to 2024, the shares of respondents who think that giving money is acceptable decreased in 15 Member States, most notably in Estonia (18%, -11 pp) and Czechia (32%, -9 pp). It is noteworthy that this proportion increased by 11 percentage points in Denmark (32%).

QD4.1: 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 (%)

		EU27	EE	CZ	FI	LU	PT	SE	BE	HR	SI	CY	FR	LV	SK	MT	DE	RO	BG	ES	HU	PL	LT	IE	NL	EL	IT	AT	DK
																													
Always acceptable	Jan/Feb 2025	4	4	5	3	2	0	4	7	6	7	4	1	5	3	1	4	6	2	3	6	6	2	3	7	6	5	11	3
	Δ Feb/Mar 2024	=	▼4	▼1	▼3	▼7	▼1	▼4	=	▼1	▼5	▼1	▼2	▼1	▼2	▼3	▼1	▼4	▲1	=	▲1	▲3	=	=	▼4	▲2	▲3	▲9	▼1
Sometimes acceptable	Jan/Feb 2025	15	14	27	17	11	2	22	20	18	16	14	8	20	21	11	20	26	16	6	23	12	21	11	40	18	10	14	29
	Δ Feb/Mar 2024	▼2	▼7	▼8	▼5	=	▼5	▼4	▼6	▼3	▲1	▼2	▼3	▲2	=	=	▼1	▲4	▲1	▼1	▼1	▼2	▲1	▲2	▲7	▲1	=	▼3	▲12
Never acceptable	Jan/Feb 2025	80	80	66	77	87	98	72	72	75	76	81	90	71	73	88	75	67	80	90	70	82	76	84	52	76	85	74	67
	Δ Feb/Mar 2024	▲3	▲13	▲12	▲9	▲9	▲9	▲9	▲8	▲7	▲6	▲5	▲5	▲5	▲5	▲4	▲3	▲2	▲1	▲1	▲1	▲1	=	▼1	▼1	▼2	▼2	▼5	▼10
Don't know	Jan/Feb 2025	1	2	2	3	0	0	2	1	1	1	1	1	4	3	0	1	1	2	1	1	0	1	2	1	0	0	1	1
	Δ Feb/Mar 2024	▼1	▼2	▼3	▼1	▼2	▼3	▼1	▼2	▼3	▼2	▼2	=	▼6	▼3	▼1	▼1	▼2	▼3	=	▼1	▼2	▼1	▼1	▼2	▼1	▼1	▼1	▼1

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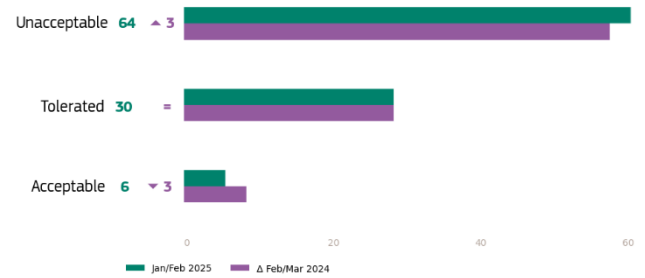
Overall acceptability

Based on the answer to each of the three questions above, a "tolerance index to corruption" is calculated¹⁹, categorising respondents according to whether they regard corruption as 'acceptable', 'tolerated' or 'unacceptable'.

At the EU level, more than six in ten (64%, +3 pp) find corruption unacceptable. In 20 EU Member States, at least half of respondents share this view, with the highest proportions observed in Portugal (88%), Spain (81%), and France (76%), where more than three in four respondents hold this opinion. The unacceptance shares are lowest in Slovakia (32%), Hungary (34%), and Croatia (42%).

Across the European Union, fewer than one in ten respondents (6%, -3 pp) find corruption acceptable, while three in ten respondents consider it tolerated (30%, unchanged). In 2025, fewer people in 16 EU countries think corruption is unacceptable compared to 2024. The highest drops were recorded in Denmark (57%, -16 pp) and Hungary (34%, -10 pp). In contrast, respondents in Portugal show a notable increase in finding bribery to get something from

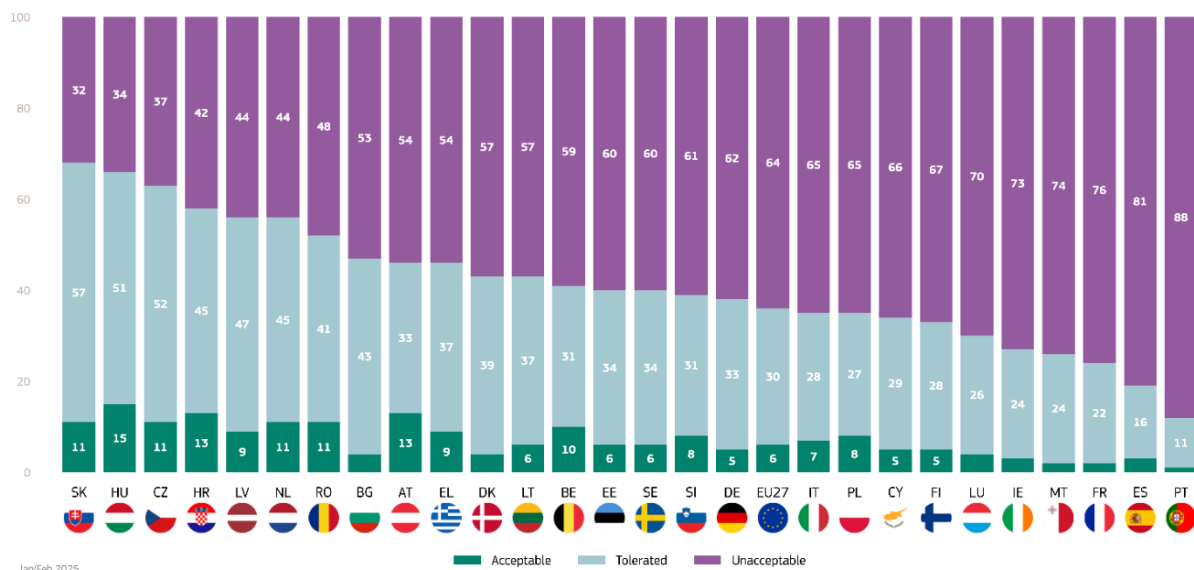
QD4T: Tolerance index to corruption (%)































the public administration or public service unacceptable (88%, +14 pp). Several countries also exhibited notable changes in the proportion of respondents who perceive corruption as acceptable. The largest increase was observed in Austria (13%, +8 pp), while the largest decrease occurred in Czechia (11%, -7 pp), Romania (11%, -7 pp), Sweden (6%, -7 pp) and Luxembourg (4%, -7 pp).

In terms of tolerance towards corruption, Denmark saw the biggest rise since 2024 (39%, +18 pp), while the highest drop was recorded in Portugal (11%, -13 pp).

QD4T: Tolerance index to corruption (%)



QD4T: Tolerance index to corruption (%)

		EU27	PT	CZ	RO	BE	FI	FR	DE	EE	SE	LU	ES	IE	NL	PL	CY	IT	HR	LT	MT	SI	EL	AT	BG	LV	SK	HU	DK
																													
Acceptable	Jan/Feb 2025	6	1	11	11	10	5	2	5	6	6	4	3	3	11	8	5	7	13	6	2	8	9	13	4	9	11	15	4
	Δ Feb/Mar 2024	▼3	▼1	▼7	▼7	▼4	▼6	▼4	▼3	▼3	▼7	▼7	▼2	▼2	▼7	▼1	▼3	▲2	=	▲1	▼3	▼6	▲2	▲8	▲1	=	▼3	▲4	▼2
Tolerated	Jan/Feb 2025	30	11	52	41	31	28	22	33	34	34	26	16	24	45	27	29	28	45	37	24	31	37	33	43	47	57	51	39
	Δ Feb/Mar 2024	=	▼13	▼2	▼2	▼4	▼1	▼3	▼3	▼3	▲1	▲2	▲1	▲3	▲8	▲2	▲5	=	▲3	▲2	▲6	▲9	▲2	▲3	▲5	▲6	▲9	▲6	▲18
Unacceptable	Jan/Feb 2025	64	88	37	48	59	67	76	62	60	60	70	81	73	44	65	66	65	42	57	74	61	54	54	43	44	32	34	57
	Δ Feb/Mar 2024	▲3	▲14	▲9	▲9	▲8	▲7	▲7	▲6	▲6	▲6	▲5	▲1	▼1	▼1	▼1	▼1	▼2	▼2	▼3	▼3	▼3	▼4	▼5	▼6	▼6	▼6	▼10	▼16

¹⁹ The index is calculated based on the answers given to QD4.1,2 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

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".

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The socio-demographic analysis of the tolerance index to corruption shows the following:

- Men (63%) and women (64%) both find corruption unacceptable in a similar manner.
- Overall, older respondents, especially those aged 55 and over, are more likely to find corruption unacceptable (67%) than younger respondents aged 15-24 (56%).
- Respondents who ended education aged 15 and younger are more likely to find corruption unacceptable than those who spent more time in education. For instance, 74% of those who ended education aged 15- consider corruption unacceptable, compared to 63% of those who spent 20+ years in education.
- Among socio-professional groups, retired (69%), managers (66%), unemployed and house persons (both 65%) find corruption most unacceptable, especially compared to self-employed (56%).
- Respondents who rarely or never have trouble paying their bills are most likely to find corruption unacceptable (66%), followed by those who face such difficulties from time to time (60%) and most of the time (58%).
- Those who experienced and those who witnessed corruption (both 46%) are less likely to find corruption unacceptable than those who neither witnessed nor experienced corruption (65%).

QD4T Tolerance index to corruption
(% - EU)

	Acceptable	Tolerated	Unacceptable
EU27	6	30	64
Gender			
Man	7	30	63
Woman	6	30	64
Age			
15-24	12	32	56
25-39	7	31	62
40-54	6	30	64
55+	4	29	67
Education (End of)			
15-	3	23	74
16-19	7	31	62
20+	6	31	63
Still Studying	10	30	60
Socio-professional category			
Self-employed	9	35	56
Managers	5	29	66
Other white collars	7	33	60
Manual workers	5	31	64
House persons	6	29	65
Unemployed	9	26	65
Retired	4	27	69
Students	12	31	57
Difficulties paying bills			
Most of the time	10	30	60
From time to time	9	33	58
Almost never / Never	5	29	66
Experienced or witnessed corruption			
Yes, experienced	17	37	46
Yes, witnessed	19	35	46
No	5	30	65
You know someone who takes bribes			
Yes	11	39	50
No	6	29	65

4. How widespread is corruption in different areas of society

More than half of Europeans believe corruption is widespread among political parties.

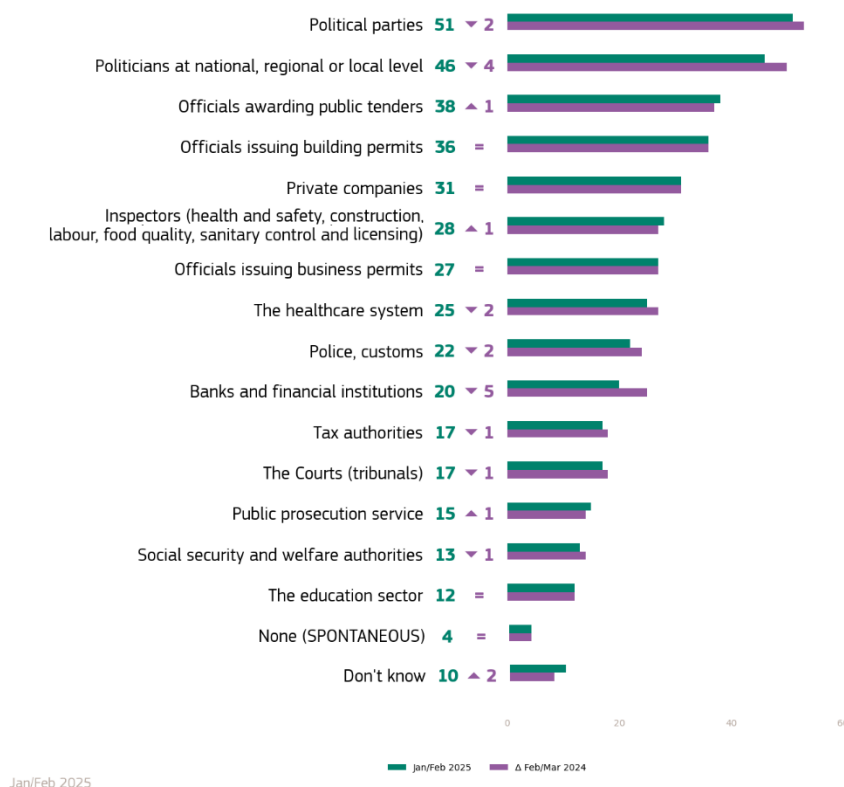
Respondents were asked whether they think that the giving and taking of bribes and the abuse of power for personal gain are widespread in certain sectors and institutions in their country.²⁰

More than half of Europeans (51%, -2 pp) believe that corruption is widespread among **political parties**, while slightly less than half (46%, -4 pp) consider these behaviours widespread among **politicians**. More than one in three think that the giving and taking of bribes and the abuse of power are widespread among **officials awarding public tenders** (38%, +1 pp), **officials issuing building permits** (36%, unchanged) as well as **private companies** (31%, unchanged).

Just over a quarter of respondents say giving and taking bribes and the abuse of power are widespread among **inspectors** (health and safety, construction, labour, food quality, sanitary control and licensing) (28%, +1 pp) and **officials issuing business permits** (27%, unchanged). While one quarter of respondents say these behaviours are widespread in the **healthcare system** (25%, -2 pp), slightly less share this view for **police, customs** (22%, -2 pp).

One in five think this way about **banks and financial institutions** (20%, -5 pp), 17% mention **the courts (tribunals)** (-1 pp), **tax authorities** (17%, -1 pp), the **public prosecution service** (15%, +1 pp), **social security and welfare authorities** (13%, -1 pp) and **the education sector** (12%, unchanged).

QD7: 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) (%)



²⁰ QD7. 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 national analysis reveals that in 12 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. The highest proportions are recorded in Spain (79%), Greece (69%) and Cyprus (67%). Conversely, this view is least common in Poland (28%), Sweden (29%) and Finland (30%).

Politicians at national, regional or local level are the most mentioned in Slovenia (59%), Croatia (53%) and Finland (39%) and ranks first together with political parties in Estonia (37%) and Austria (48%).

The healthcare system ranks first in five countries, namely Greece (89%), Lithuania (62%), Slovakia (55%), Romania (44%) and Poland (36%). In contrast, less than one in ten respondents in Sweden (8%) and Finland (4%) believe that corruption is widespread in the healthcare system.

Officials awarding public tenders rank first in Italy (57%), Czechia (49%) and Latvia (47%). They are also mentioned by at half of the respondents in five countries, most notably by 67% in Greece.

In Sweden (51%) and Denmark (41%), **private companies** are the most frequently mentioned item.

Officials issuing building permits are the most mentioned item in the Netherlands (50%) and are additionally mentioned by more than half of respondents in four Member States.

Bulgaria (50%) is the only country in which **police, customs** ranks first. However, this item is also mentioned by more than half in Greece (55%) and Cyprus (51%). Respondents in Finland (4%), Sweden and Denmark (both 7%) are least likely to hold this view.

None of the remaining eight institutions rank first in any EU Member State. Notable figures regarding these institutions include:

- In Greece, 61% of respondents believe that corruption is widespread among **officials issuing business permits**.
- In 12 countries, at least one third of respondents say that there is widespread corruption among **inspectors**, most notably in Greece (65%).
- In nine countries, at least one in four respondents say that corruption is widespread in **banks and financial institutions**. This share is highest in Portugal (47%).
- Respondents are most likely to mention **the courts** in Cyprus (42%), Bulgaria, Greece and Slovakia (each 41%), while they are least likely to do so in Finland (1%).
- **Tax authorities** are mentioned by fewer than one in five respondents in 15 countries, most notably in Finland (1%) and Sweden (3%). This item is mentioned most frequently in Greece (59%).
- The **public prosecution service** is mentioned by fewer than two in five respondents in all 27 Member States, ranging from 36% in Bulgaria to 2% in Finland.
- **Social security and welfare authorities** are mentioned by fewer than one in five respondents in 21 countries. Nearly half (48%) provide this answer in Greece.
- Across all EU Member States, responses vary regarding the mention of the education sector, with proportions ranging from 30% in Greece to 2% in Finland.

QD7. 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	51	48	43	38	67	45	44	31	37	69	79	30	65	52	55	41	51	50	52	46	60	43	28	64	37	29	57	42
Politicians at national, regional or local level	46	48	41	38	41	45	36	29	37	70	66	39	52	53	53	36	48	46	41	37	56	45	25	63	37	43	59	45
Officials awarding public tenders	38	31	31	43	44	49	28	16	28	67	33	25	41	51	46	32	57	41	34	47	50	43	22	46	27	40	51	28
Officials issuing building permits	36	32	32	34	48	31	30	25	27	64	34	19	32	47	37	33	55	41	34	45	58	50	17	51	28	32	41	24
Private companies	31	29	25	14	31	23	37	41	19	34	31	26	37	22	33	25	28	23	43	23	35	44	13	45	16	51	30	26
Inspectors (health and safety, construction, labour, food quality, sanitary control and licensing)	28	25	25	36	38	21	25	25	20	65	21	11	23	44	33	17	39	42	18	33	41	31	16	45	28	24	35	35
Officials issuing business permits	27	23	19	35	45	16	24	8	19	61	30	10	20	43	34	28	44	27	17	32	47	34	11	35	24	25	31	14
The healthcare system	25	24	10	42	56	36	14	5	17	89	14	4	16	46	40	16	36	62	11	38	30	19	36	43	44	8	40	55
Police, customs	22	16	26	50	51	19	8	7	11	55	24	4	26	43	23	20	23	29	18	36	41	29	17	44	35	7	27	42
Banks and financial institutions	20	23	17	9	37	7	18	19	11	32	27	3	21	22	19	25	25	12	25	13	26	24	7	47	15	22	25	15
Tax authorities	17	12	18	28	35	10	8	6	7	59	19	1	14	32	24	11	23	16	11	22	33	18	9	42	22	3	23	26
The Courts (tribunals)	17	13	14	41	42	24	7	3	10	41	24	1	15	40	19	15	21	31	9	22	35	12	11	33	29	6	33	41
Public prosecution service	15	12	11	36	24	15	5	3	6	30	21	2	19	30	17	11	14	27	7	18	31	16	11	29	16	5	24	29
Social security and welfare authorities	13	17	7	18	25	8	8	8	11	48	13	2	8	27	15	11	23	19	9	15	38	16	5	38	15	9	19	17
The education sector	12	14	4	16	22	10	7	4	9	30	12	2	6	22	12	10	24	16	8	17	24	9	7	28	22	11	15	26
Don't know	10	12	9	9	14	12	13	6	24	1	6	15	12	5	9	19	7	10	14	17	12	3	15	11	10	4	9	11

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

Special Eurobarometer 561

Citizens' attitudes towards corruption in 2025

Compared to 2024, the proportion of respondents who say the giving and taking of bribes and the abuse of power are widespread in **political parties** increased in seven countries, while it decreased in 16. The largest increase was observed in Cyprus (67%, +11 pp), the largest decrease in Slovenia (57%, -14 pp).

The share that views corruption as widespread among **politicians** increased in eight countries and decreased in 16. While no increase of five percentage points or larger occurred, the largest decrease was observed in Slovenia (59%, -14 pp).

In eight EU Member States, respondents are now more likely to think that corruption among **officials awarding public tenders** is more widespread than they were in 2024, most notably in Italy (57%, +7 pp). This share has decreased in 17 countries, most notably in Portugal (46%, -9 pp).

For **officials issuing building permits**, shares increased in nine countries while they decreased in 18 Member States. An increase of nine percentage points in Hungary (37%) marks the largest increase, while a ten-percentage point decrease in Lithuania (41%) marks the largest decrease.

For **private companies**, the share of respondents who perceive corruption as widespread increased in 13 Member States, while it decreased in 12. The proportion of respondents increased the most in Greece (34%, +10 pp) and decreased the most in Slovakia (26%, -8 pp).





























Compared to 2024, **inspectors** are more likely to be mentioned in 15 countries, most notably in Hungary (33%, +9 pp). This proportion decreased in 11 countries, with the largest decrease observed in Czechia (21%, -10 pp).

Regarding **officials issuing business permits**, the share of respondents who consider corruption to be widespread increased in nine countries and decreased in 14. The largest increase in this share can be observed in Hungary (34%, +11 pp), the largest decrease in Portugal (35%, -10 pp) and Lithuania (27%, -10 pp).

In five countries, respondents are more likely to perceive corruption as widespread in the **healthcare system** than they were in 2024, most notably in Portugal (43%, +7 pp) and Croatia (47%, +8 pp). This share has decreased in 16 countries, most notably in Slovenia (40%, -10 pp). The proportion of respondents who say the giving and taking of bribes and the abuse of power are widespread in the **police, customs** decreased in 18 countries, most notably in Poland (17%, -5 pp). This share increased in seven countries, most notably in Portugal (44%, +11 pp) and Cyprus (51%, +10 pp).

The share of respondents increased in four EU Member States for **banks and financial institutions**, while it decreased in 19 countries. The largest increase is observed in Cyprus (37%, +6 pp), while the largest decrease compared to 2024 occurred in the Netherlands (24%, -11 pp) and Spain (27%, -11 pp).

QD7: 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) - The healthcare system (%)

		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
																													
Police, customs	Jan/Feb 2025	22	26	50	19	7	8	11	20	55	24	26	43	23	51	36	29	18	23	41	29	16	17	44	35	27	42	4	7
	Δ Feb/Mar 2024	▼2	▼2	▼4	▼2	▼2	▼3	▼1	▼4	▼1	▼1	=	▲1	▼2	▲10	▼2	▼2	▲4	▲1	▲9	▼2	=	▼5	▲11	▼1	▼3	▲6	▼2	▼3
Tax authorities	Jan/Feb 2025	17	18	28	10	6	8	7	11	59	19	14	32	23	35	22	16	11	24	33	18	12	9	42	22	23	26	1	3
	Δ Feb/Mar 2024	▼1	▲2	▼9	▼7	=	▼3	=	▼4	▲2	▲1	▼2	▼1	▼1	▲5	▲1	=	▼2	▲4	▼2	=	▼1	▼1	▲2	▼2	▼6	▼3	▼1	▼2
The Courts (tribunals)	Jan/Feb 2025	17	14	41	24	3	7	10	15	41	24	15	40	21	42	22	31	9	19	35	12	13	11	33	29	33	41	1	6
	Δ Feb/Mar 2024	▼1	▼3	▼6	▼4	=	▼1	▼1	▲1	▲3	▲3	▼2	▼3	=	▲10	▼2	▼10	▲1	▼1	▼9	▲2	▲1	▼4	▼5	▲1	▼3	▲3	▼2	▼3
Social security and welfare authorities	Jan/Feb 2025	13	7	18	8	8	8	11	11	48	13	8	27	23	25	15	19	9	15	38	16	17	5	38	15	19	17	2	9
	Δ Feb/Mar 2024	▼1	=	▲2	▼4	=	▼2	=	▼2	▲10	▲1	▼3	▲3	▲2	▲4	▲5	▼1	▲4	▲3	▼4	▲4	▲1	▼2	▲2	▼2	▼5	▼6	=	▼3
Public prosecution service	Jan/Feb 2025	15	11	36	15	3	5	6	11	30	21	19	30	14	24	18	27	7	17	31	16	12	11	29	16	24	29	2	5
	Δ Feb/Mar 2024	▲1	=	▲7	▼1	▼1	▼3	▼3	▼1	▲1	▲4	▲8	▲4	▼5	▲1	▼1	▲2	▲1	▼3	▼2	▲5	=	▼1	▲1	▼5	▼6	▼2	▲1	▼5
Politicians at national, regional or local level	Jan/Feb 2025	46	41	38	45	29	36	37	36	70	66	52	53	48	41	37	46	41	53	56	45	48	25	63	37	59	45	39	43
	Δ Feb/Mar 2024	▼4	▼4	▼8	▼8	▼4	▼11	▼11	▼6	▲2	▲2	▼8	=	=	▲4	▲1	▼9	▲3	▲1	▼7	▼4	▲1	=	▼6	▼3	▼14	▼5	▲1	▼2
Political parties	Jan/Feb 2025	51	43	38	45	31	44	37	41	69	79	65	52	51	67	46	50	52	55	60	43	48	28	64	37	57	42	30	29
	Δ Feb/Mar 2024	▼2	▼6	▼8	▼12	▼1	▼5	▼10	▼6	▼2	▲2	▼2	=	▼3	▲11	=	▼6	▼7	▲3	▼13	▲6	▲1	=	▼5	=	▼14	▼1	▲2	▼1
Officials awarding public tenders	Jan/Feb 2025	38	31	43	49	16	28	28	32	67	33	41	51	57	44	47	41	34	46	50	43	31	22	46	27	51	28	25	40
	Δ Feb/Mar 2024	▲1	=	▼3	▼6	▼3	▼1	▼2	▼1	=	▼2	▲3	▲5	▲7	▼1	▲3	▼7	▲6	▲5	▼8	▼6	▼2	▼1	▼9	▲1	▼5	▼8	▼2	▼2
Officials issuing building permits	Jan/Feb 2025	36	32	34	31	25	30	27	33	64	34	32	47	55	48	45	41	34	37	58	50	32	17	51	28	41	24	19	32
	Δ Feb/Mar 2024	=	▲3	▼6	▼9	▼2	▼3	▼4	▼3	▲1	▼3	▼1	▲3	▲7	▲3	▲2	▼10	▼2	▼9	▼9	▲1	▼1	▼1	▼2	▲2	▼7	▼7	▼1	▼2
Officials issuing business permits	Jan/Feb 2025	27	19	35	16	8	24	19	28	61	30	20	43	44	45	32	27	17	34	47	34	23	11	35	24	31	14	10	25
	Δ Feb/Mar 2024	=	▼5	▼1	▼5	=	▼1	▼4	▼2	▲1	▼2	▲2	▲5	▲6	▲3	▲8	▼10	▲3	▲11	▲1	=	▼3	▼1	▼10	=	▼6	▼7	=	▼2
The healthcare system	Jan/Feb 2025	25	10	42	36	5	14	17	16	89	14	16	46	36	56	38	62	11	40	30	19	24	36	43	44	40	55	4	8
	Δ Feb/Mar 2024	▼2	=	▼7	▼4	▼1	▼2	=	▼2	=	▼1	▼2	▲7	▼1	▲3	▼2	▼2	=	▼3	▼8	▲1	▼6	=	▲7	▼1	▼10	▲2	=	▼4
The education sector	Jan/Feb 2025	12	4	16	10	4	7	9	10	30	12	6	22	24	22	17	16	8	12	24	9	14	7	28	22	15	26	2	11
	Δ Feb/Mar 2024	=	▼1	▼3	▼8	=	=	▲2	▼2	▲11	▲3	▼2	▲1	▲2	▼5	▲7	▲2	=	▲1	▲4	▲1	▼5	▼2	▲6	▼1	▼4	▼1	▼1	▼6
Inspectors (health and safety, construction, labour, food quality, sanitary control and licensing)	Jan/Feb 2025	28	25	36	21	25	25	20	17	65	21	23	44	39	38	33	42	18	33	41	31	25	16	45	28	35	35	11	24
	Δ Feb/Mar 2024	▲1	▲1	▼2	▼10	▲6	▼2	▼1	▼3	▲6	▼2	▲1	▲5	▲1	▲8	▲4	▼1	▲4	▲9	▲6	▼1	▲1	▲1	▼1	▲3	▼7	▲1	▲1	▼1
Private companies	Jan/Feb 2025	31	25	14	23	41	37	19	25	34	31	37	22	28	31	23	23	43	33	35	44	29	13	45	16	30	26	51	
	Δ Feb/Mar 2024	=	▼4	▲2	▼3	▲2	▲1	▼1	▼6	▲10	▼3	▲1	▲1	▼1	▲5	▲7	▼1	▲4	▲5	▲8	▲1	▲2	=	▼2	▼1	=	▼8	▼1	▼3
Banks and financial institutions	Jan/Feb 2025	20	17	9	7	19	18	11	25	32	27	21	22	25	37	13	12	25	19	26	24	23	7	47	15	25	15	3	22
	Δ Feb/Mar 2024	▼5	▼6	▼3	▼2	▼2	▼3	▼3	▼6	▲3	▼11	▼9	▲3	▼2	▲6	▲1	▼3	▼2	=	▲1	▼11	▼1	▼1	▼8	=	▼8	▼6	=	▼7
None (SPONTANEOUS)	Jan/Feb 2025	4	9	2	3	22	6	6	8	0	1	2	2	2	2	1	2	3	4	2	5	10	6	1	4	1	2	22	16
	Δ Feb/Mar 2024	=	▲4	▲1	=	▼1	▲1	=	▼1	=	=	▼1	▲2	=	▼1	▼1	▲1	▼5	=	▲1	▼1	▲4	▼2	=	▲1	=	=	▼1	▼1
Don't know	Jan/Feb 2025	10	9	9	12	6	13	24	19	1	6	12	5	7	14	17	10	14	9	12	3	12	15	11	10	9	11	15	4
	Δ Feb/Mar 2024	▲2	▲2	▲1	▲1	=	▲3	▲10	▲2	=	=	▲3	▼3	▼1	▲1	▲2	▲1	=	▲4	▲6	=	▼2	▲5	▲6	▲1	▲4	▲3	▲2	▲2

Special Eurobarometer 561
Citizens' attitudes towards corruption in 2025

The share that believes that corruption is widespread in the **courts** has increased in nine countries, most notably in Cyprus (42%, +10 pp), while it has decreased in 16 Member States. The largest decrease occurred in Lithuania (31%, -10 pp).

For the **tax authorities**, the proportion of respondents who believe that corruption is widespread has decreased in 17 countries, most notably in Bulgaria (28%, -9 pp). This share has increased in seven countries, the largest increase being by five percentage points to 35% in Cyprus.

For the **public prosecution service**, increases were observed in 11 countries, most notably in France (20%, +9 pp). These shares decreased in 14 countries, most notably in Slovenia (24%, -6 pp).

The proportion mentioning social **security and welfare authorities** increased in 12 Member States, while it decreased in 11. The largest increase occurred in Greece (48%, +10 pp), the largest decrease in Slovakia (17%, -6 pp).

Lastly, for the **education sector**, shares have increased in 11 countries and decreased in 14. The largest increase was observed in Greece (30%, +11 pp), the largest decrease in Czechia (10%, -7 pp).

Special Eurobarometer 561
Citizens' attitudes towards corruption in 2025

The **socio-demographic analysis** highlights a range of differences regarding the perception how widespread corruption is in different areas of society:

- The longer a respondents remained in education, the more less likely they are to think corruption is widespread among politicians (51% of those who finished their studies before 16 vs 45% of those who finished their studies aged 20 or older), in political parties (56% of those who finished their studies before 16 vs 50% of those who finished their studies aged 20 or older) and among official issuing business permits (33% of those who finished their studies before 16 vs 26% of those who finished their studies aged 20 or older).
- Both the self-employed and the unemployed are the socio-professional groups with the highest proportion of people who believe that corruption is widespread in any institution, compared to managers, other white-collar workers, manual workers, house persons, the retired, and students.
- Respondents who have experienced corruption are consistently more likely to think corruption is widespread than those who have neither witnessed nor experienced corruption. The difference between these groups is most striking for the police and customs (50% vs 21%) as well as the healthcare system (53% vs 24%). At the same time, those who have witnessed corruption are also consistently more likely to think that corruption is widespread than those who have not. The biggest difference between the two groups can be found for banks and financial institutions (37% vs 20%).

Special Eurobarometer 561

Citizens' attitudes towards corruption in 2025

QD7 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)

	Political parties	Politicians at national, regional or local level	Officials awarding public tenders	Officials issuing building permits	Private companies	Inspectors (health and safety, construction, labour, food quality, sanitary control and licensing)	Officials issuing business permits	The healthcare system	Police, customs	Banks and financial institutions
EU27	51	46	38	36	31	28	27	25	22	20
Gender										
Man	53	48	39	37	33	28	28	25	22	21
Woman	50	44	37	34	29	27	27	26	22	20
Age										
15-24	46	41	28	26	28	23	20	21	22	16
25-39	51	45	35	34	31	27	26	25	24	22
40-54	55	47	41	38	33	29	30	27	24	22
55+	50	47	40	37	31	28	28	26	20	19
Education (End of)										
15-	56	51	40	38	30	31	33	26	22	25
16-19	51	46	39	36	30	29	28	28	24	20
20+	50	45	38	36	33	27	26	24	21	21
Still Studying	46	41	31	28	28	22	20	20	19	16
Socio-professional category										
Self-employed	51	48	44	41	33	33	33	33	27	25
Managers	50	45	35	35	33	26	26	21	19	20
Other white collars	50	43	38	35	31	28	28	28	24	18
Manual workers	56	49	38	37	32	29	29	26	25	23
House persons	53	49	36	35	24	26	27	25	22	20
Unemployed	59	51	41	37	38	30	29	28	27	28
Retired	49	45	40	37	30	28	28	25	20	19
Students	46	41	28	26	27	20	19	19	19	15
Difficulties paying bills										
Most of the time	62	53	47	46	36	43	38	37	32	31
From time to time	54	45	40	36	30	29	29	30	26	23
Almost never / Never	49	46	35	34	31	25	25	22	19	18
Experienced or witnessed corruption										
Yes, experienced	63	57	53	52	44	47	40	53	50	38
Yes, witnessed	61	53	52	50	44	41	39	37	32	37
No	51	45	37	35	30	27	27	24	21	20
You know someone who takes bribes										
Yes	64	62	57	54	47	45	41	44	38	34
No	50	44	36	34	29	26	26	23	21	19

For reasons of readability, only those items are shown which were selected by at least 20% of the respondents at the EU level.

5. Level of corruption over the last three years

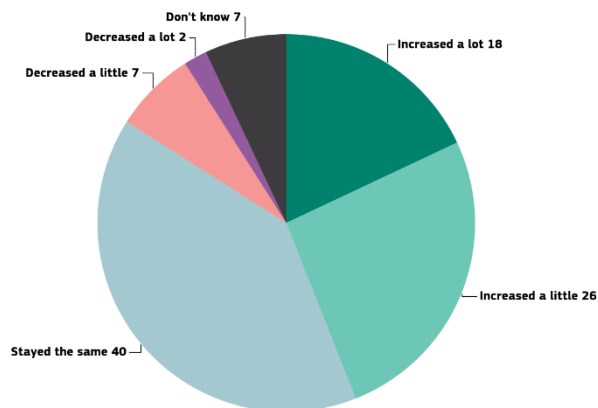
More than four in ten respondents believe corruption has increased in their country over the past three years.

More than four in ten respondents (44%, +3 percentage points since 2024) think the level of corruption in their country has increased in the past three years²¹, with 18% (+1 pp) saying it increased a lot and 26% (+2 pp) answering it increased a little.

Conversely, the percentage of respondents who feel that corruption has stayed the same decreased from 43% to 40%. Just under one in ten respondents 9% (unchanged) believe it has decreased, including 7% (unchanged) who believe that corruption has decreased a little and 2% (unchanged) who think it has decreased a lot. The percentage of respondents who answered 'Don't know' remained unchanged at 7%.

Over time, the proportion of respondents answering that the level of corruption has decreased has remained fairly stable, while the proportions for "increased" and "stayed the same" have fluctuated slightly.

QD6: In the past three years, would you say that the level of corruption in (OUR COUNTRY) has...? (EU27) (%)

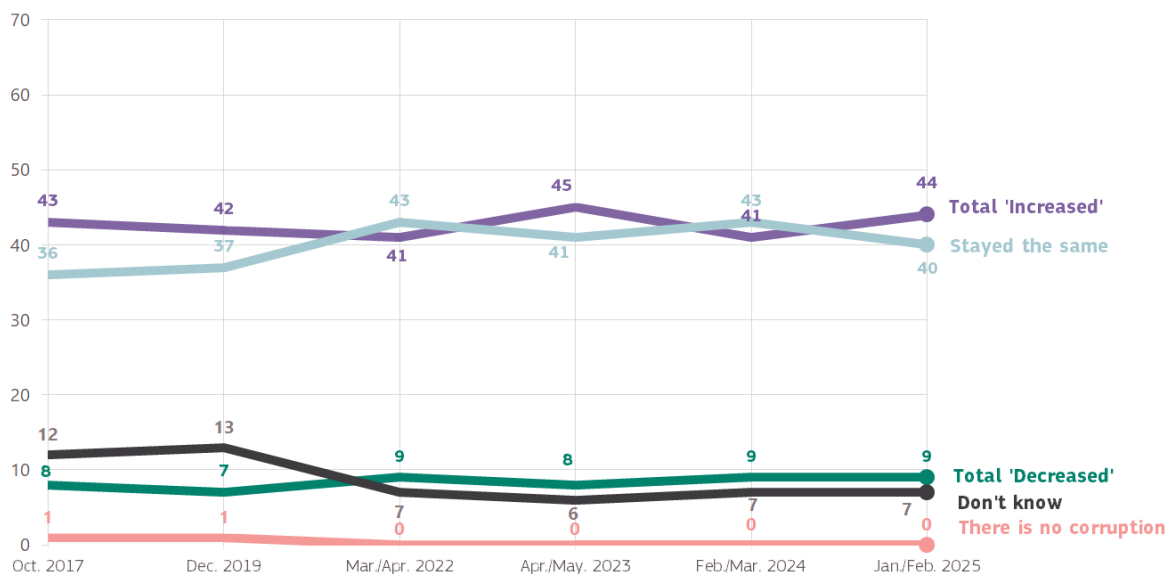


Increased a lot	▲ 1
Increased a little	▲ 2
Stayed the same	▼ 3
Decreased a little	=
Decreased a lot	=
There is no corruption in (OUR COUNTRY) (SPONTANEOUS)	=
Don't know	=

▲▼ (Jan/Feb 2025 - Feb/Mar 2024)

Jan/Feb 2025

QD6 In the past three years, would you say that the level of corruption in (OUR COUNTRY) has...? (% - EU)



²¹ QD6. In the past three years, would you say that the level of corruption in (OUR COUNTRY) has...?

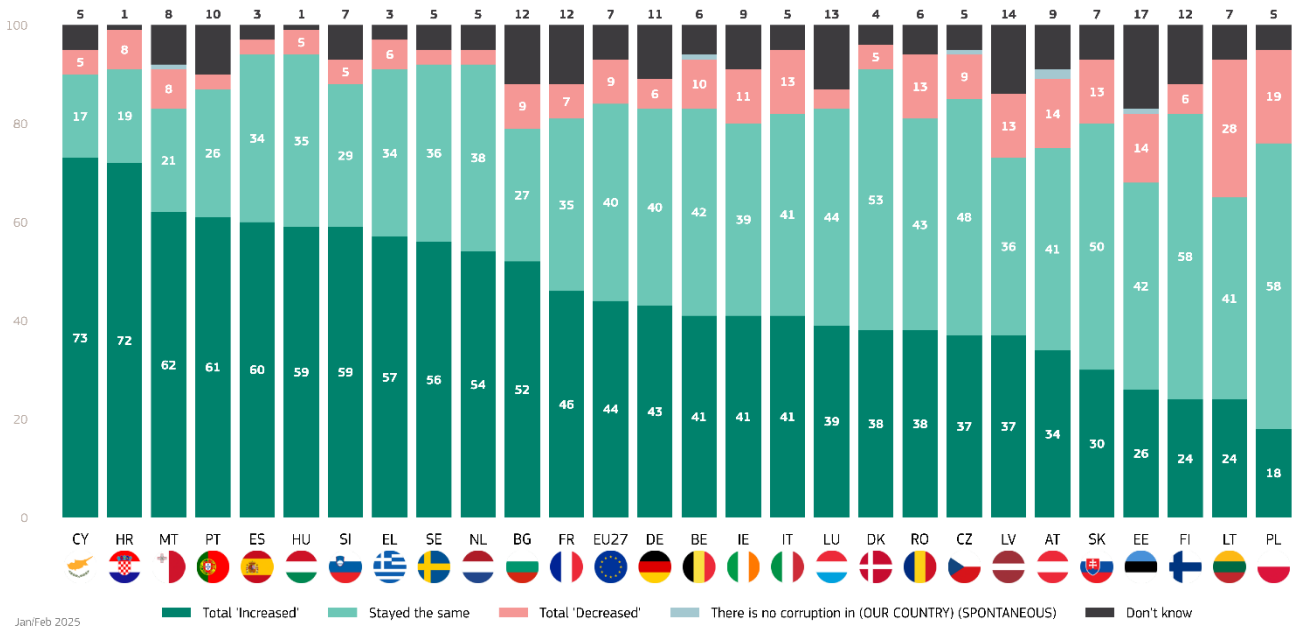
Special Eurobarometer 561 Citizens' attitudes towards corruption in 2025

In 11 EU Member States at least half of respondents think the level of corruption in their country has increased in the past three years. This view is most commonly held in Cyprus (73%), Croatia (72%) and Malta (62%).

In four countries at least half of the respondents think the level of corruption in their country has stayed the same: Poland, Finland (both 58%), Denmark (53%) and Slovakia (50%).



























In one EU Member State, Lithuania, more than one in four respondents (28%) think that corruption has decreased in the past three years.

QD6: In the past three years, would you say that the level of corruption in (OUR COUNTRY) has...? (%)



Compared to 2024, there are notable changes at the national level. Specifically, there are 14 countries in which the share that think that corruption increased in their county increased (both a lot and a little). The most notable changes occurred in Spain (60%, +13 pp) and Italy (41%, +12 pp). This share decreased in 13 EU Member states, most notably by 17 percentage points in Portugal (61%) and by 14 percentage points in Slovenia (59%).

QD6: In the past three years, would you say that the level of corruption in (OUR COUNTRY) has...? (%)

		EU27	ES	IT	DK	LU	CY	HU	LV	FI	EL	DE	IE	NL	AT	EE	HR	CZ	FR	PL	RO	BG	SE	SK	BE	LT	MT	SI	PT
																													
Increased a lot	Jan/Feb 2025	18	35	15	7	12	55	30	15	3	35	11	18	18	12	10	45	15	21	3	22	29	13	10	14	5	42	32	23
	Δ Feb/Mar 2024	▲1	▲8	▲5	▲3	▲3	▲6	▲3	▲1	▲1	▲5	▼1	▲1	▲1	▲3	▲1	▲1	▼3	▼1	▼3	▲2	▼3	▼3	▼2	▼3	▼5	▼6	▼17	▼7
Increased a little	Jan/Feb 2025	26	25	26	31	27	18	29	22	21	22	32	23	36	22	16	27	22	25	15	16	23	43	20	27	19	20	27	38
	Δ Feb/Mar 2024	▲2	▲5	▲7	▲7	▲7	▲3	▲5	▲6	▲4	▼1	▲4	▲2	▲2	▼1	▼1	▼1	▲2	=	▲2	▼3	▼1	▼1	▼4	▼4	▼2	▼2	▲3	▼10
Stayed the same	Jan/Feb 2025	40	34	41	53	44	17	35	36	58	34	40	39	38	41	42	19	48	35	58	43	27	36	50	42	41	21	29	26
	Δ Feb/Mar 2024	▼3	▼4	▼12	▼5	▼10	▼1	▼4	▼3	=	▼4	=	▲3	▼3	▼2	▲5	▼4	=	▼2	▲2	▲1	▼2	▲2	▲4	▲5	▼1	▼2	▲6	▲9
Decreased a little	Jan/Feb 2025	7	2	11	5	3	4	4	12	5	6	5	7	3	10	10	5	7	6	16	10	6	3	11	6	24	5	5	2
	Δ Feb/Mar 2024	=	▼6	▲3	▼2	=	▼6	▼2	▼2	▼3	▲1	▼1	▼1	▼2	=	▼4	▲2	▼1	▲3	▲1	▲1	▲3	▲1	=	=	▲3	▲2	▲3	▲1
Decreased a lot	Jan/Feb 2025	2	1	2	0	1	1	1	1	1	0	1	4	0	4	4	3	2	1	3	3	3	0	2	4	4	3	0	1
	Δ Feb/Mar 2024	=	=	▼2	▼1	=	▲1	▼1	▼2	▼1	=	=	▼1	=	=	▼2	▲2	=	=	▼3	▼1	▲3	=	▲1	=	▲3	▲2	=	▲1
There is no corruption in (OUR COUNTRY) (SPONTANEOUS)	Jan/Feb 2025	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0
	Δ Feb/Mar 2024	=	=	=	▼1	=	=	=	=	▼1	=	▼1	=	=	▲1	=	=	▲1	=	=	=	=	=	=	=	=	▲1	=	=
Don't know	Jan/Feb 2025	7	3	5	4	13	5	1	14	12	3	11	9	5	9	17	1	5	12	5	6	12	5	7	6	7	8	7	10
	Δ Feb/Mar 2024	=	▼3	▼1	▼1	=	▼3	▼1	=	=	▼1	▼1	▼4	▲2	▼1	▲1	=	▲1	=	▲1	=	=	▲1	▲1	▲2	▲2	▲5	▲5	▲6

Jan/Feb 2025

Special Eurobarometer 561

Citizens' attitudes towards corruption in 2025

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

- Men (41%) are more likely to think that corruption in their country will stay the same than women (38%).
- Respondents aged 40 and older are more likely to say that corruption has increased (46%), compared to 41% of those aged between 15 and 24.
- Those who have experienced (68%) or witnessed (63%) corruption are more likely to say it has increased than those who have neither experienced nor witnessed corruption (43%).
- Lastly, those who know someone who takes bribes are more likely to think corruption has increased than those who do not (62% vs 42%).

QD6 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'	Don't know
EU27	44	40	9	7
Gender				
Man	44	41	9	6
Woman	44	38	9	9
Age				
15-24	41	38	9	12
25-39	43	41	9	7
40-54	46	40	9	5
55+	46	39	8	7
Education (End of)				
15-	52	34	6	8
16-19	45	39	9	7
20+	42	43	9	6
Still Studying	34	41	9	16
Socio-professional category				
Self-employed	42	41	13	4
Managers	40	44	10	6
Other white collars	40	44	9	7
Manual workers	49	37	8	6
House persons	51	35	6	8
Unemployed	56	32	4	7
Retired	44	39	8	9
Students	38	40	9	13
Difficulties paying bills				
Most of the time	64	27	4	5
From time to time	44	40	9	7
Almost never / Never	42	41	9	8
Experienced or witnessed corruption				
Yes, experienced	68	27	4	1
Yes, witnessed	63	28	8	1
No	43	40	9	8
You know someone who takes bribes				
Yes	62	29	6	3
No	42	41	9	8



II. Attitudes to corruption in detail

1. Corruption in public institutions

Most respondents agree that too close business-politics links lead to corruption, while high-level corruption is not pursued sufficiently.

Respondents were asked whether they agree or disagree with statements about corruption in their country's public institutions.²²

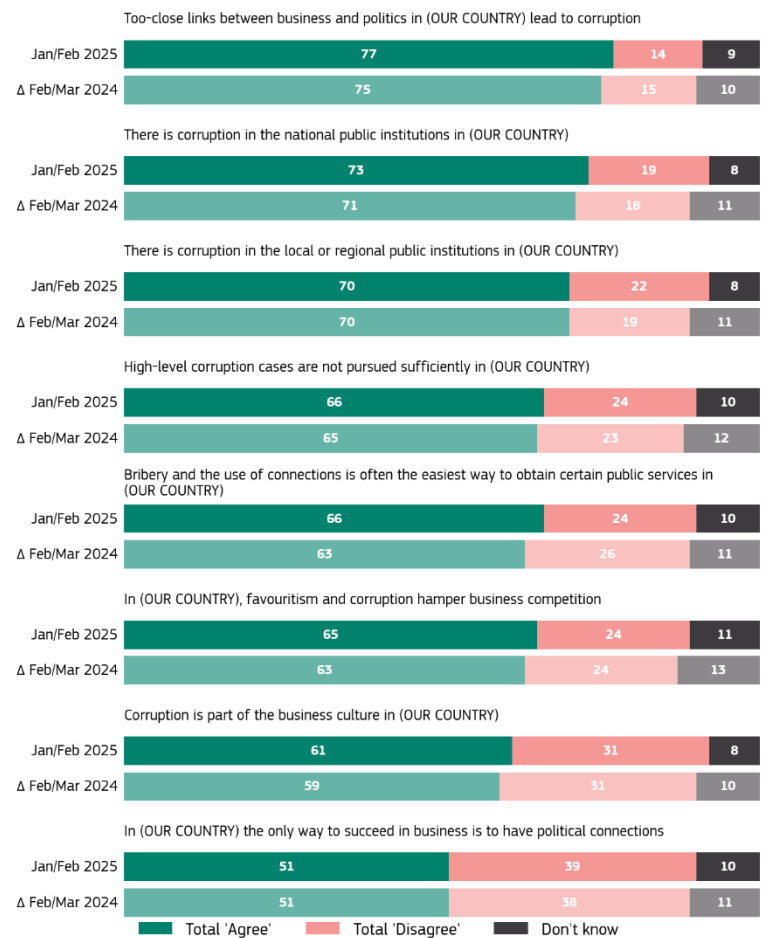
On the EU level, more than three-quarters of respondents (77%, +2 pp) agree that **too-close links between business and politics lead to corruption**, while a minority of 14% (-1 pp) disagree.

Regarding **national public institutions**, close to three quarters (73%, +2 pp) agree that there is corruption, including 27% (-1 pp) who totally agree with the statement. In 2025, 19% of respondents disagree (+1 pp). Seven in ten respondents (unchanged since 2024) agree that there is corruption in the **local or regional public institutions** in their country, including 23% (-1 pp) who totally agree. On the other hand, 22% of respondents in the EU disagree (+3 pp) of which 4% totally disagree (unchanged).

Furthermore, on the EU level, around two thirds of respondents (66%, +1 pp) agree that **high-level corruption cases are not pursued sufficiently in their country, bribery and the use of connections is often the easiest way to obtain certain public services** (66%, +3 pp) and that **favouritism and corruption hamper business competition in their country** (65%, +2 pp).

The belief that **corruption is part of the business culture** (61%, +2 pp) and **the only way to succeed in business is to have political connections** (51%, unchanged) are also widespread.

QD15a: Please tell whether you agree or disagree with each of the following? (%)



²² QD15a Please tell whether you agree or disagree with each of the following?

1. There is corruption in the local or regional public institutions in (OUR COUNTRY)
2. There is corruption in the national public institutions in (OUR COUNTRY)
3. Corruption is part of the business culture in (OUR COUNTRY)
6. High-level corruption cases are not pursued sufficiently in (OUR COUNTRY)

8. Too-close links between business and politics in (OUR COUNTRY) lead to corruption
9. Bribery and the use of connections is often the easiest way to obtain certain public services in (OUR COUNTRY)
11. In (OUR COUNTRY) the only way to succeed in business is to have political connections
12. In (OUR COUNTRY), favouritism and corruption hamper business competition

Special Eurobarometer 561

Citizens' attitudes towards corruption in 2025

A minority of respondents agree with the four statements related to the fight against corruption.²³

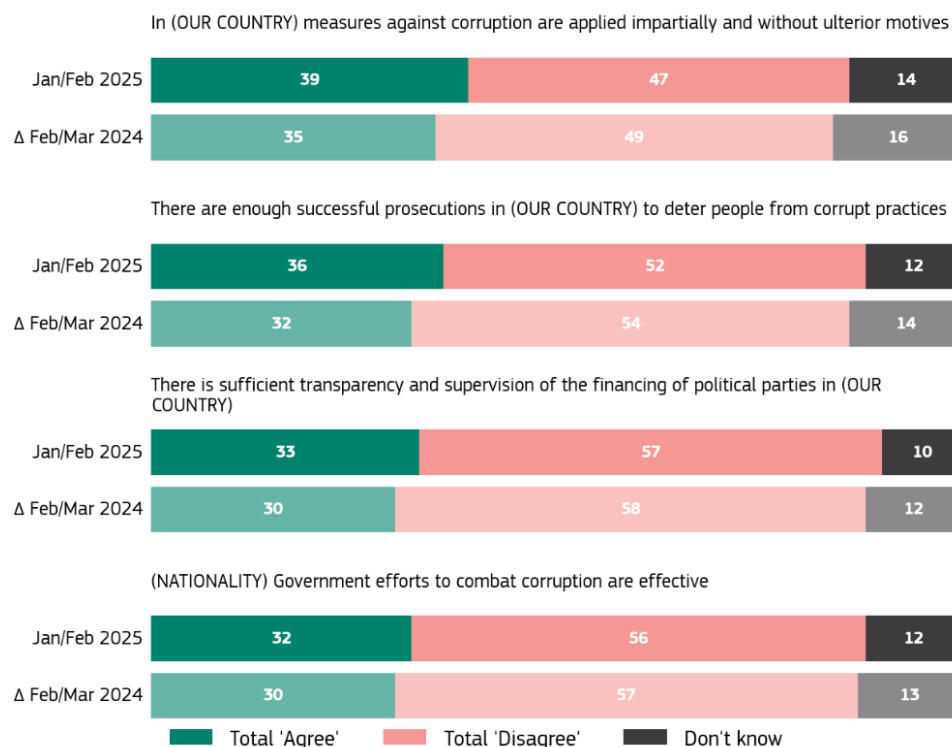
Just under four in ten respondents (39%, +4 pp) agree that in their country **measures against corruption are applied impartially and without ulterior motives**. Close to half (47%, -2 pp) disagree while 14% (-2 pp) say they “don’t know”.

Furthermore, 36% (+4 pp) say **there are enough successful prosecutions in their country to deter people from corrupt practices**, while more than half (52%, -2 pp) disagree.

One third of respondents (+3 pp) agree that **there is sufficient transparency and supervision of the financing of political parties in their country**, while a majority of 57% (-1 pp) disagree with the statement.

Close to a third of respondents (32%, +2 pp) think that the **national government’s efforts to combat corruption are effective**. One third of respondents agree that **there is sufficient transparency and supervision of the financing of political parties in their country** (+3 pp), while an absolute majority of 57% (-1 pp) disagree with the statement.

QD15a: Please tell whether you agree or disagree with each of the following? (%)



²³ QD15a Please tell whether you agree or disagree with each of the following?

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

7. (NATIONALITY) Government efforts to combat corruption are effective

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

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

Special Eurobarometer 561 Citizens' attitudes towards corruption in 2025

Furthermore, on the EU level, close to three in four respondents (74%) agree that in their country, **high-level public servant positions nominations are highly politicised**,²⁴ with 17% in disagreement.

Regarding corruption, 64% of respondents agree that **bribery or the use of connections are the common way for the companies to receive public contracts**. Similarly, six in ten respondents agree that **bribery or the use of connections are the common way to get a position in the public administration**, including close to one in five (19%) who totally agree.

Regarding efforts to combat corruption, 48% of Europeans agree that **there is political will to tackle corruption**, while 42% disagree. Lastly, close to four in ten respondents (38%) agree that in their country, **national anti-corruption strategies are effectively implemented**, while a majority disagree (48%) and 14% say they “don’t know”.

QD15b: Please tell whether you agree or disagree with each of the following? (%)

In (OUR COUNTRY), high-level public servant positions nominations are highly politicised



In (OUR COUNTRY), bribery or the use of connections are the common way to get a position in the public administration



In (OUR COUNTRY), bribery or the use of connections are the common way for the companies to receive public contracts



There is political will to tackle corruption



In (OUR COUNTRY), national anti-corruption strategies are effectively implemented



■ Totally agree
 ■ Tend to agree
 ■ Tend to disagree
 ■ Totally disagree
 ■ Don't know

²⁴ QD15b Please tell whether you agree or disagree with each of the following?

1. In (OUR COUNTRY), bribery or the use of connections are the common way for the companies to receive public contracts
 2. In (OUR COUNTRY), bribery or the use of connections are the common way to get a position in the public administration

3. In (OUR COUNTRY), high-level public servant positions nominations are highly politicised

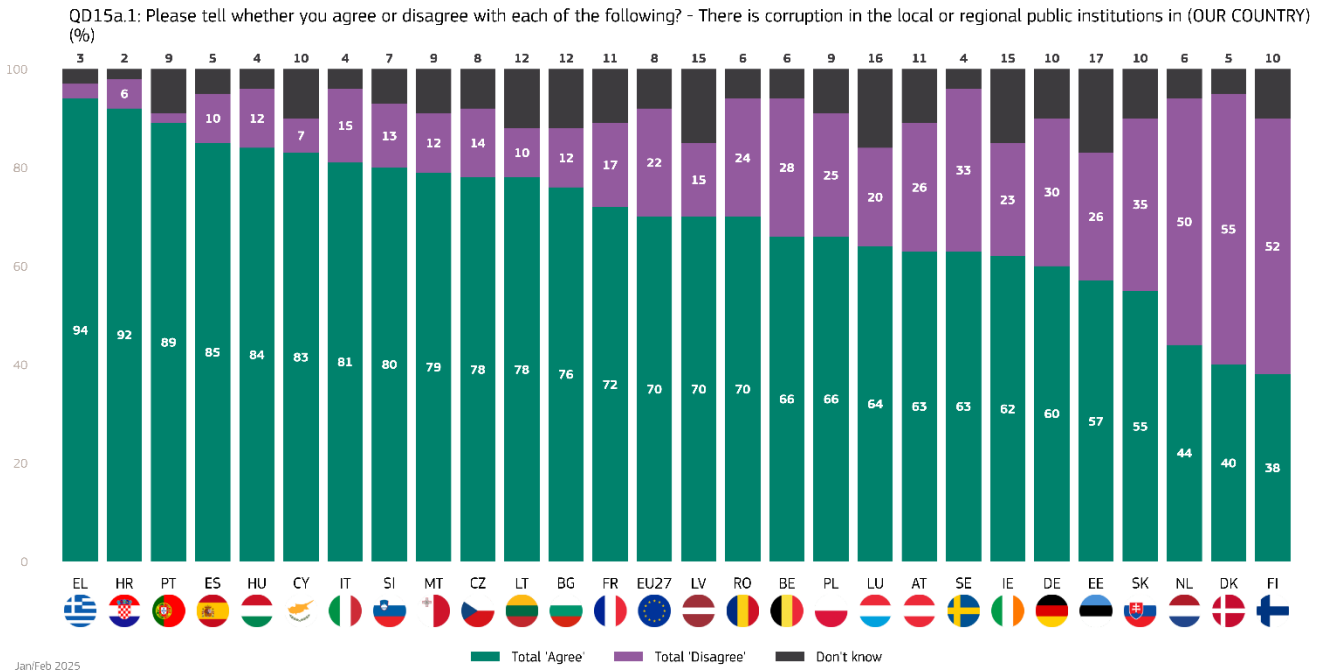
4. In (OUR COUNTRY), national anti-corruption strategies are effectively implemented

5. There is political will to tackle corruption

Special Eurobarometer 561 Citizens' attitudes towards corruption in 2025

Corruption in local or regional level public institutions

In all EU Member States except Finland (38%), Denmark (40%) and the Netherlands (44%), at least half of the respondents agree that there is corruption in the local or regional public institutions in their country. This share is highest in Greece (94%), Croatia (92%) and Portugal (89%).



The share of respondents that agree that there is corruption in the local or regional public institutions in their country increased in 12 countries, most notably in Luxembourg (64%, +16 pp since 2024) and Finland (38%, +8 pp). On the other hand, this share decreased in 13 countries, most notably in Slovakia (55%, -14 pp) and Slovenia (80%, -6 pp).

QD15a.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) (%)

		EU27	LU	FI	AT	LV	IE	CZ	ES	FR	HU	IT	HR	NL	DK	PL	CY	SE	BG	EL	LT	MT	BE	DE	PT	EE	RO	SI	SK
Total 'Agree'	Jan/Feb 2025	70	64	38	63	70	62	78	85	72	84	81	92	44	40	66	83	63	76	94	78	79	66	60	89	57	70	80	55
	Δ Feb/Mar 2024	=	▲16	▲8	▲5	▲5	▲4	▲3	▲3	▲3	▲2	▲2	▲1	▲1	=	=	▼1	▼1	▼2	▼2	▼2	▼2	▼3	▼3	▼3	▼4	▼4	▼6	▼14
Total 'Disagree'	Jan/Feb 2025	22	20	52	26	15	23	14	10	17	12	15	6	50	55	25	7	33	12	3	10	12	28	30	2	26	24	13	35
	Δ Feb/Mar 2024	▲3	▼9	▼5	▼1	▲3	▼2	▲1	▲3	▲2	▼2	=	▲1	▲4	▲4	▲4	▼1	=	▲4	▲1	▲2	▲2	▲4	▲7	▼1	▲4	▲7	▲4	▲16
Don't know	Jan/Feb 2025	8	16	10	11	15	15	8	5	11	4	4	2	6	5	9	10	4	12	3	12	9	6	10	9	17	6	7	10
	Δ Feb/Mar 2024	▼3	▼7	▼3	▼4	▼8	▼2	▼4	▼6	▼5	=	▼2	▼2	▼5	▼4	▼4	▲2	▲1	▼2	▲1	=	=	▼1	▼4	▲4	=	▼3	▲2	▼2

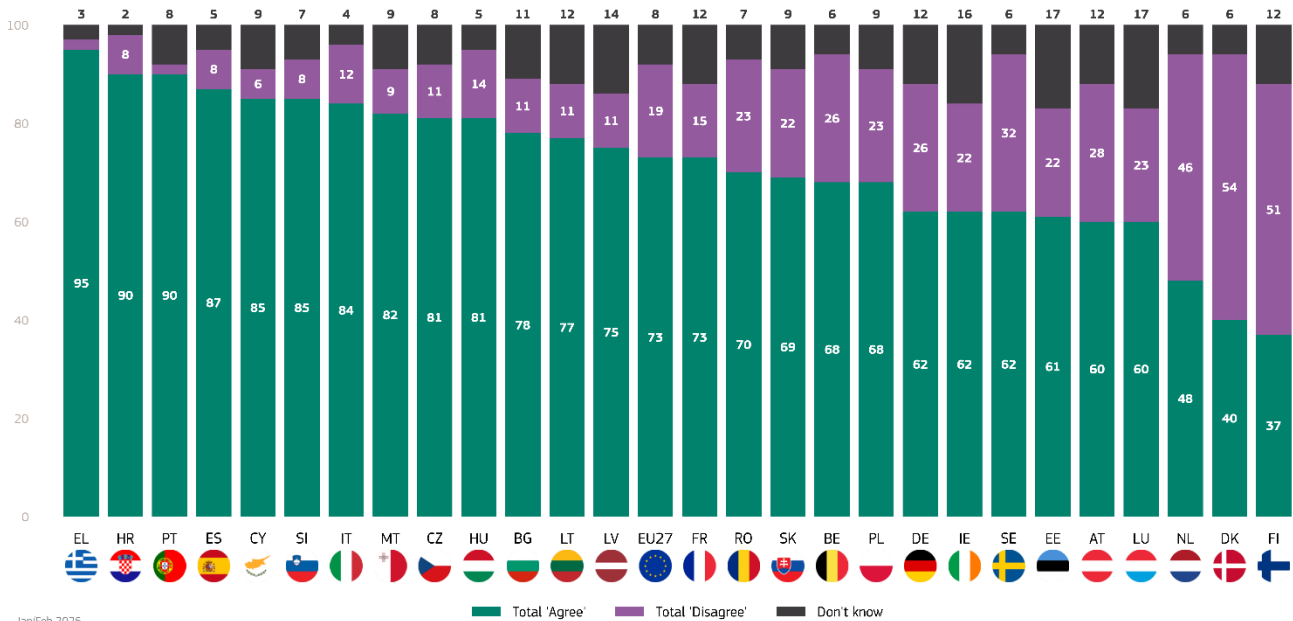
Jan/Feb 2025

Special Eurobarometer 561 Citizens' attitudes towards corruption in 2025

Corruption in national level public institutions




























In 24 EU Member States, at least half of respondents agree that there is corruption in the national public institutions in their country, most notably in Greece (95%), Croatia and Portugal (both 90%). Overall, there are 13 countries where at least three-quarters of respondents agree.

QD15a.2: Please tell whether you agree or disagree with each of the following? – There is corruption in the national public institutions in (OUR COUNTRY) (%)



The share of respondents who agree that there is corruption in the national public institution in their country increased in 14 Member States, while it decreased in 12. The largest increases occurred in Luxembourg (60%, +15 percentage points since 2024), Finland (37%, +10 pp) and Latvia (75%, +9 pp). The largest decreases were observed in Slovakia (69%, -8 pp) and Slovenia (85%, -7 pp).

QD15a.2: Please tell whether you agree or disagree with each of the following? – There is corruption in the national public institutions in (OUR COUNTRY) (%)

		EU27	LU	FI	LV	ES	IE	IT	NL	SE	AT	DK	FR	CZ	HU	BE	HR	CY	EE	EL	LT	PT	RO	DE	MT	PL	BG	SI	SK
																													
Total 'Agree'	Jan/Feb 2025	73	60	37	75	87	62	84	48	62	60	40	73	81	81	68	90	85	61	95	77	90	70	62	82	68	78	85	69
	Δ Feb/Mar 2024	▲2	▲15	▲10	▲9	▲5	▲5	▲5	▲5	▲4	▲3	▲3	▲3	▲2	▲2	▲1	=	▼1	▼1	▼1	▼1	▼1	▼1	▼4	▼4	▼4	▼5	▼7	▼8
Total 'Disagree'	Jan/Feb 2025	19	23	51	11	8	22	12	46	32	28	54	15	11	14	26	8	6	22	2	11	2	23	26	9	23	11	8	22
	Δ Feb/Mar 2024	▲1	▼8	▼7	▼2	▲1	▼3	▼3	▼2	▼6	=	▲1	▲2	=	▼3	=	▲2	▼1	▲1	=	▲1	▼1	▲3	▲6	▲3	▲6	▲6	▲3	▲10
Don't know	Jan/Feb 2025	8	17	12	14	5	16	4	6	6	12	6	12	8	5	6	2	9	17	3	12	8	7	12	9	9	11	7	9
	Δ Feb/Mar 2024	▼3	▼7	▼3	▼7	▼6	▼2	▼2	▼3	▲2	▼3	▼4	▼5	▼2	▲1	▼1	▼2	▲2	=	▲1	=	▲2	▼2	▼2	▲1	▼2	▼1	▲4	▼2

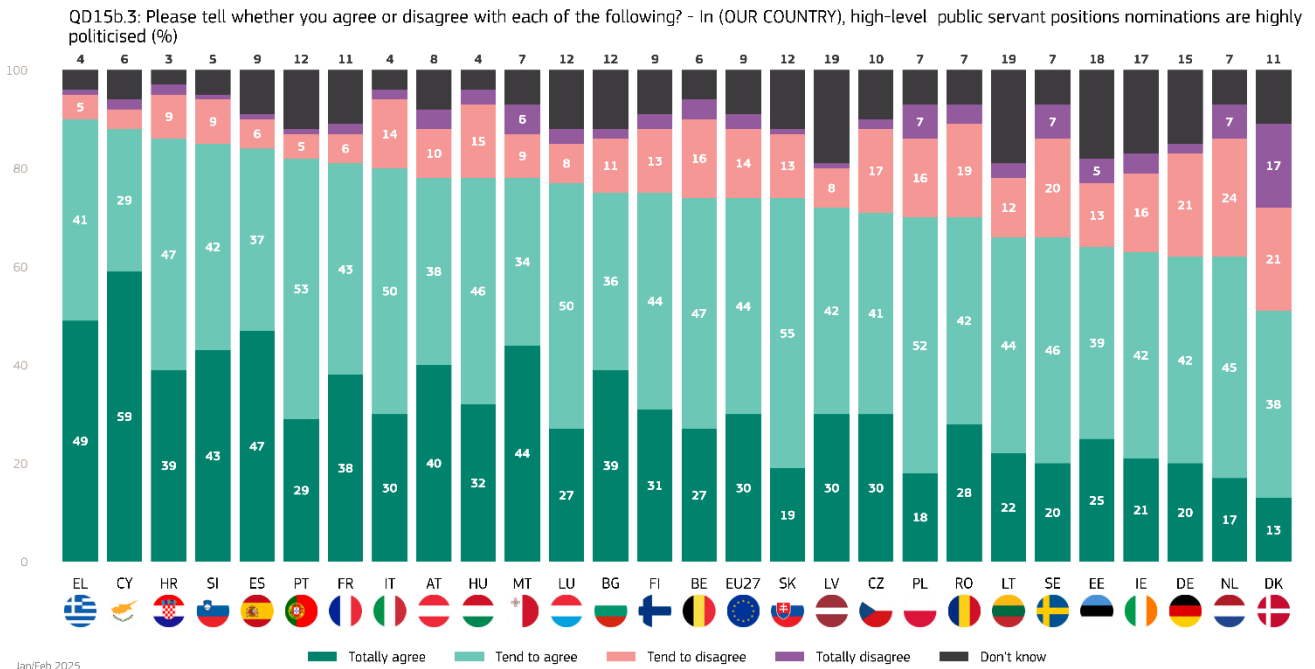
Jan/Feb 2025

Special Eurobarometer 561

Citizens' attitudes towards corruption in 2025

Politicisation of high-level public servant position nominations

In all 27 EU Member States, more every second respondent agrees that, in their country, high-level public servant positions nominations are highly politicised. Agreement is most widespread in Greece (90%), Cyprus (88%) and Croatia (86%), while respondents are least likely to agree in Denmark (51%), the Netherlands and Germany (62%). It is noteworthy that in Cyprus, close to six in ten respondents (59%) and in Greece around half (49%) totally agree with the statement.

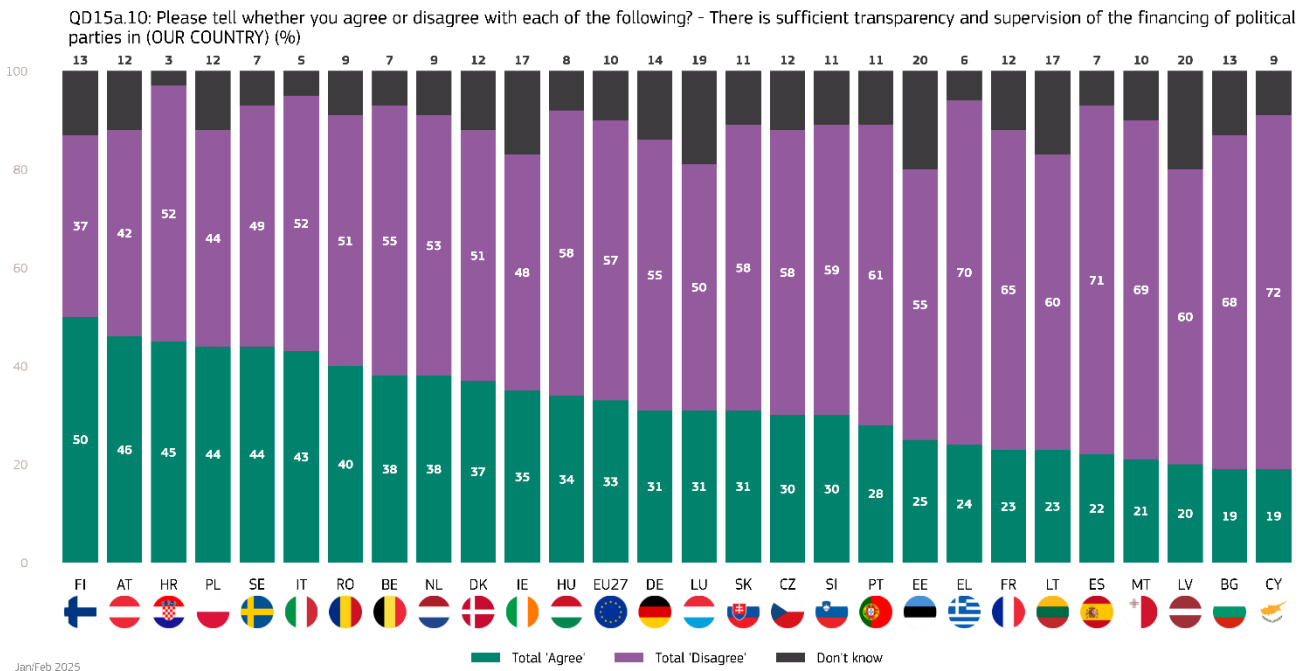


Special Eurobarometer 561
Citizens' attitudes towards corruption in 2025

Transparency and supervision of the financing of political parties

In 22 EU Member States, at least half of the respondents disagree that there is sufficient transparency and supervision of the financing of political parties in their country, most notably in Cyprus (72%), Spain (71%) and Greece (70%).

In two countries a majority agree with the statement: Finland (50% 'agree' vs 37% 'disagree') and Austria (46% vs 42%). Views are evenly split in Poland (44% vs 44%).



The share of respondents who agree that there is sufficient transparency and supervision of the financing of political parties in their country has increased in 19 Member States, while it has decreased in seven. This share increased the most in Croatia (45%, +9 percentage points since 2024), Czechia (30%, +7 pp) and Malta (21%, +7 pp). The largest decreases occurred in Slovakia (31%, -8 pp) and Cyprus (19%, -8 pp).

QD15a.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	HR	CZ	MT	AT	EL	IT	SI	DE	NL	BE	ES	FR	IE	PL	PT	DK	BG	RO	SE	LT	LV	EE	LU	FI	HU	CY	SK
Total 'Agree'	Jan/Feb 2025	33	45	30	21	46	24	43	30	31	38	38	22	23	35	44	28	37	19	40	44	23	20	25	31	50	34	19	31
	Δ Feb/Mar 2024	▲3	▲9	▲7	▲7	▲6	▲6	▲6	▲5	▲4	▲4	▲3	▲3	▲3	▲3	▲3	▲3	▲2	▲1	▲1	▲1	=	▼1	▼2	▼3	▼4	▼5	▼8	▼8
Total 'Disagree'	Jan/Feb 2025	57	52	58	69	42	70	52	59	55	53	55	71	65	48	44	61	51	68	51	49	60	60	55	50	37	58	72	58
	Δ Feb/Mar 2024	▼1	▼7	▼7	▼9	▼5	▼7	▼4	▼10	▼5	▼2	▼3	▲1	▲2	▼2	▼3	▼4	▼2	=	▲2	▲1	▼1	▲2	▲1	▲11	▲3	▲6	▲6	▲12
Don't know	Jan/Feb 2025	10	3	12	10	12	6	5	11	14	9	7	7	12	17	12	11	12	13	9	7	17	20	20	19	13	8	9	11
	Δ Feb/Mar 2024	▼2	▼2	=	▲2	▼1	▲1	▼2	▲5	▲1	▼2	=	▼4	▼5	▼1	=	▲1	=	▼1	▼3	▼2	▲1	▼1	▲1	▼8	▲1	▼1	▲2	▼4

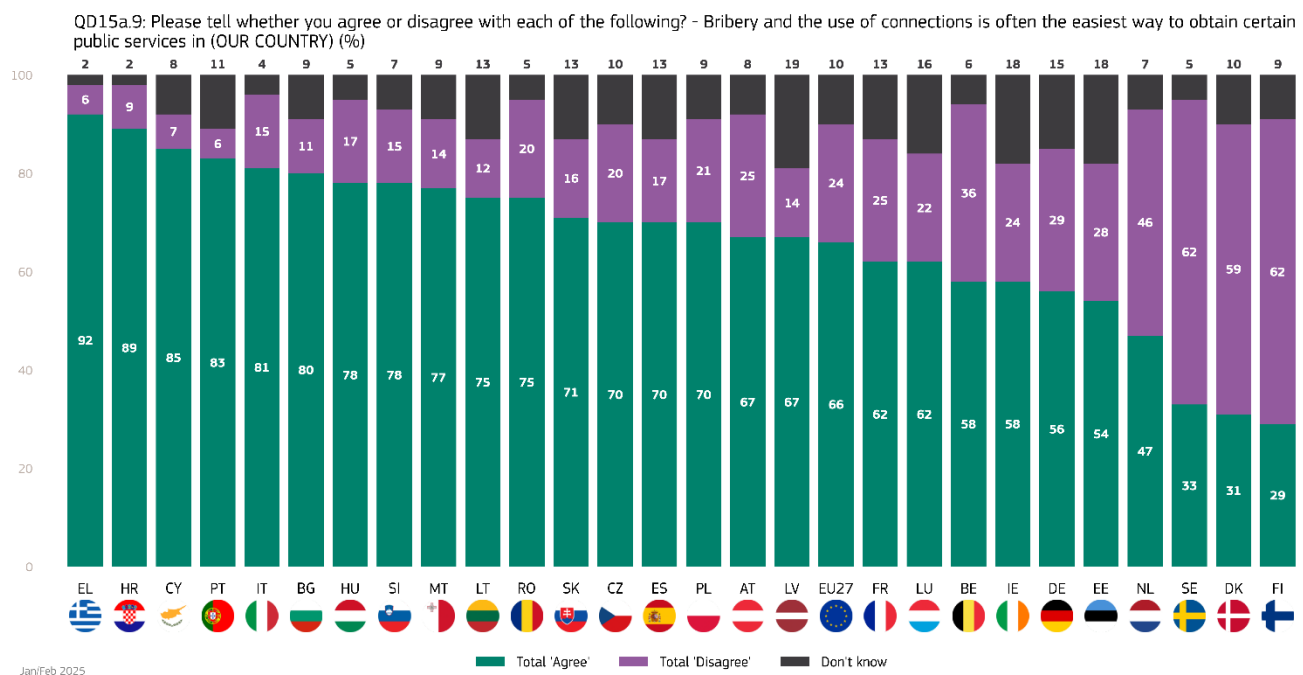
Jan/Feb 2025

Special Eurobarometer 561 Citizens' attitudes towards corruption in 2025

Bribery and the use of connections



























In 23 EU Member States, at least every second respondent thinks that bribery and the use of connections is often the easiest way to obtain certain public services in their country. More than eight in ten hold this view in Greece (92%), Croatia (89%), Cyprus (85%), Portugal (83%) and Italy (81%). It is noteworthy that in Cyprus, 53% of respondents totally agree with this statement.

The four countries, in which a minority agree with this statement, are the Netherlands (47%), Sweden (33%), Denmark (31%) and Finland (29%).



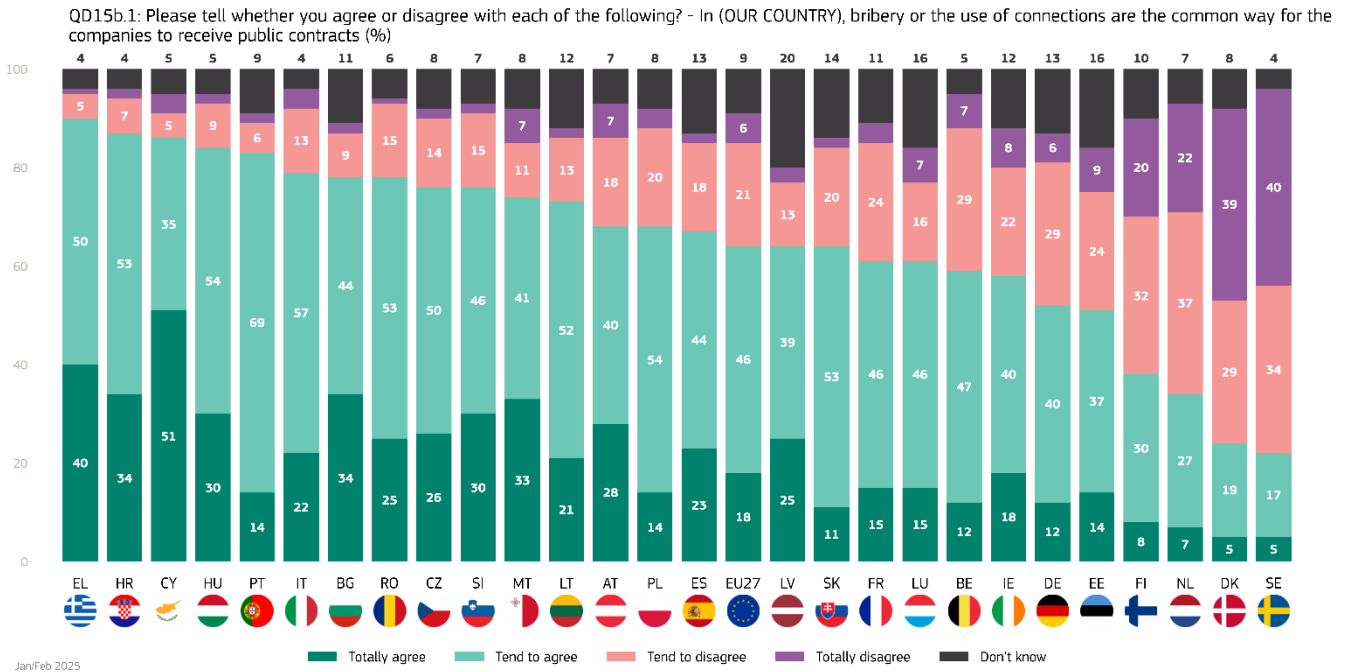
Compared to 2024, the share of respondents who say that bribery and the use of connection is often the easiest way to obtain certain public services in their country increased in 19 Member States of the European Union. These increases were strongest in Luxembourg (62%, +16 pp) and, to a lesser extent, in Latvia (67%, +8 pp) and Italy (81%, +7 pp). Decreases in this share occurred in seven countries, most notably in Slovenia (78%, -5 pp).

QD15a.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) (%)

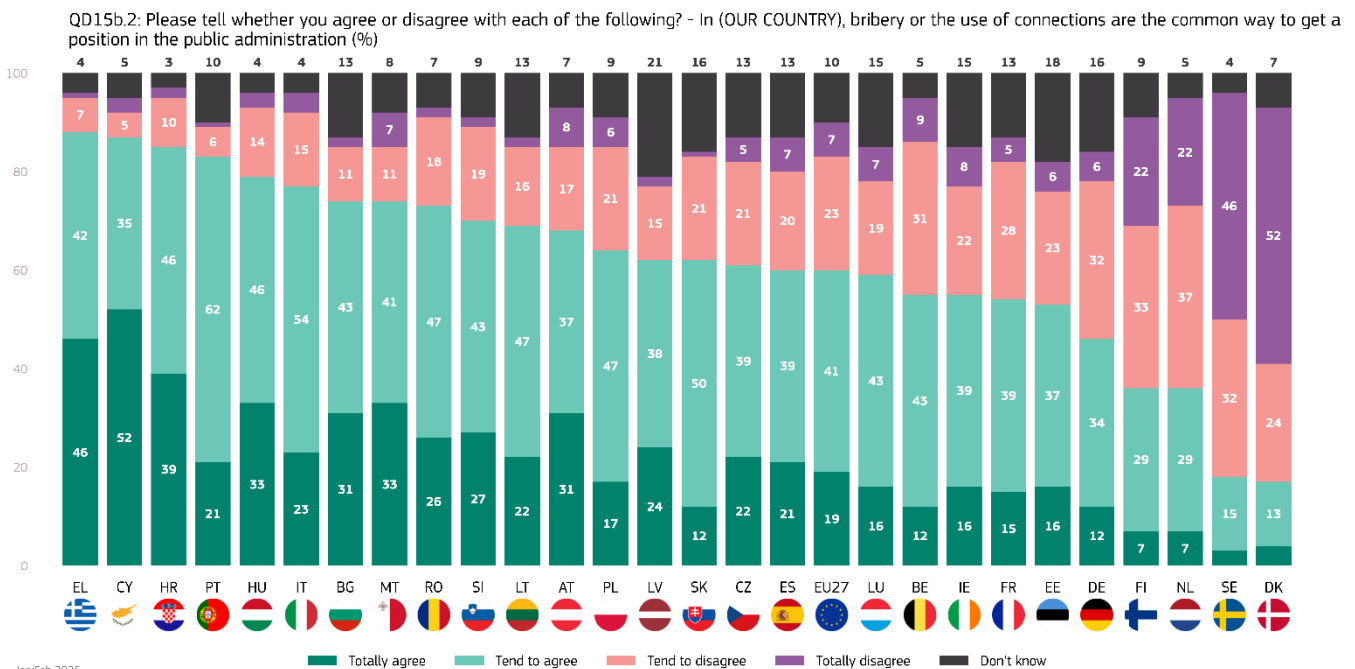
		EU27	LU	LV	IT	RO	AT	FI	BE	FR	HR	IE	CY	EL	HU	PL	SE	CZ	EE	DE	DK	ES	BG	PT	NL	LT	MT	SK	SI
																													
Total 'Agree'	Jan/Feb 2025	66	62	67	81	75	67	29	58	62	89	58	85	92	78	70	33	70	54	56	31	70	80	83	47	75	77	71	78
	Δ Feb/Mar 2024	▲3	▲16	▲8	▲7	▲6	▲5	▲5	▲4	▲4	▲4	▲4	▲3	▲3	▲3	▲3	▲3	▲2	▲2	▲1	▲1	=	▼1	▼1	▼2	▼3	▼3	▼3	▼5
Total 'Disagree'	Jan/Feb 2025	24	22	14	15	20	25	62	36	25	9	24	7	6	17	21	62	20	28	29	59	17	11	6	46	12	14	16	15
	Δ Feb/Mar 2024	▼2	▼11	▼6	▼5	▼3	▼1	▼2	▼2	▲1	▼2	▼7	▼3	▼2	▼4	▼4	▼1	▲1	▼3	▼2	▼1	▲1	▲2	▼3	▲3	▼1	▼1	▲1	▲2
Don't know	Jan/Feb 2025	10	16	19	4	5	8	9	6	13	2	18	8	2	5	9	5	10	18	15	10	13	9	11	7	13	9	13	7
	Δ Feb/Mar 2024	▼1	▼5	▼2	▼2	▼3	▼4	▼3	▼2	▼5	▼2	▲3	=	▼1	▲1	▲1	▼2	▼3	▲1	▲1	=	▼1	▼1	▲4	▼1	▲4	▲4	▲2	▲3

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For the statement that bribery or the use of connections are the common way for companies to receive public contracts, agreement levels vary strongly: While more than half of respondents in 23 EU Member States agree, most notably in Greece (90%), Croatia (87%) and Cyprus (86%), respondents are least likely to agree in Sweden (22%), Denmark (24%) and the Netherlands (34%).



A similar picture emerges when examining the national agreement levels with the statement “bribery or the use of connections are the common way to get a position in the public administration”. Agreement is highest in Greece (88%), Cyprus (87%) and in Croatia (85%). Conversely, fewer than half of respondents agree in five EU Member States: Denmark (17%), Sweden (18%), Finland and the Netherlands (both 36%) and Germany (46%).



Special Eurobarometer 561

Citizens' attitudes towards corruption in 2025

For the statements regarding corruption in public institutions and the way of obtaining public services, the **socio-demographic analysis** reveals the following patterns:

- Men are slightly more likely than women to believe that bribery and the use of connections are the easiest ways to obtain certain public services (67% vs 65%).
- Older respondents are more likely than younger respondents (aged 15-24) to think that corruption exists in local and regional public institutions (70%-75% vs 64%) as well as in national public institutions (71%-76% vs. 67%).
- Those who ended education aged 20 or older, and those still studying, are least likely to agree that there is corruption in their country's public institutions and that bribery and the use of connections is the easiest way to obtain certain public services.
- Respondents who have never experienced or witnessed corruption are less likely to believe that there is corruption in local/regional or national public institutions or that bribery and the use of connections are the easiest ways to obtain certain public services in their country. For example, 90% of those who have experienced corruption and 84% of those who have witnessed it say that there is corruption in national public institutions, compared to 71% of those who have neither witnessed nor experienced corruption.

QD15a 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)
EU27	73	70	66
Gender			
Man	74	72	67
Woman	71	69	65
Age			
15-24	67	64	63
25-39	74	71	65
40-54	76	75	68
55+	71	70	66
Education (End of)			
15-	77	75	71
16-19	76	73	71
20+	68	68	61
Still Studying	64	62	55
Socio-professional category			
Self-employed	72	73	68
Managers	69	65	60
Other white collars	75	73	68
Manual workers	77	77	71
House persons	74	72	70
Unemployed	80	75	67
Retired	70	68	65
Students	65	64	59
Difficulties paying bills			
Most of the time	83	82	78
From time to time	76	74	70
Almost never / Never	70	68	63
Experienced or witnessed corruption			
Yes, experienced	90	91	86
Yes, witnessed	84	84	78
No	71	70	65
You know someone who takes bribes			
Yes	87	86	80
No	71	69	65

2. Corruption in business

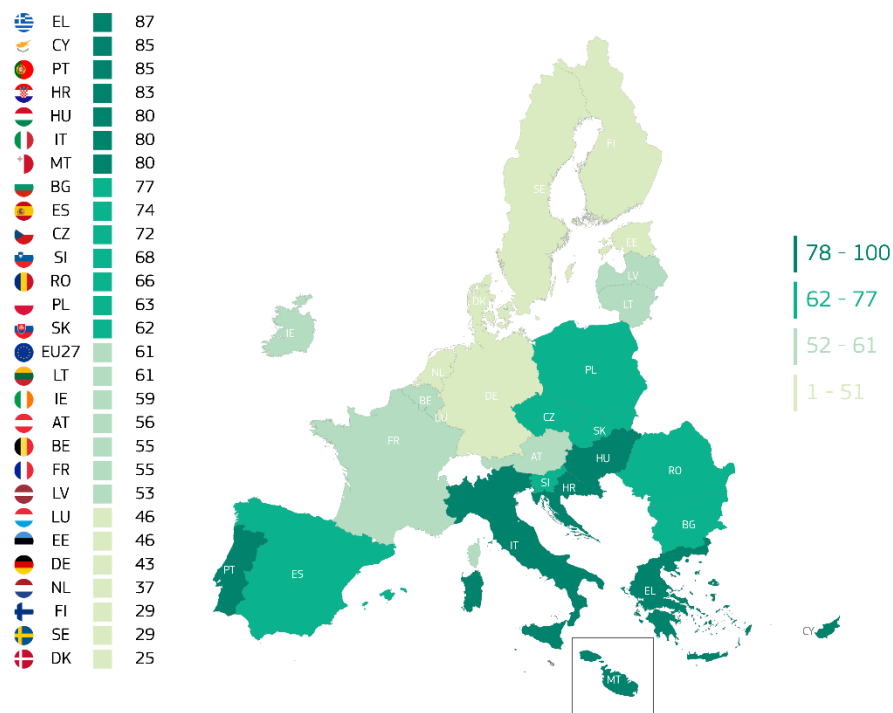
More than six in ten agree that corruption is part of business culture in their country and that it hampers business competition.

The perception of corruption in business is a concern among respondents from the European Union. Respondents were asked whether or not they agree that corruption is part of the business culture in their country.²⁵ Just over six in ten Europeans agree with this statement (61%, + 2 pp). This includes 20% (-1 pp) who totally agree.

In 19 EU Member States, more than every second respondent agrees that corruption is part of the business culture in their country, with the highest proportions in Greece at 87%, Portugal at 85%, Cyprus at 85% and Croatia at 83%.

The map below illustrates geographic differences: respondents in southern and some areas of eastern Europe are more likely to agree that corruption is part of the business culture in their country. Respondents in northern Europe are generally less likely to agree.

QD15a.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' (EU27) (%)



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²⁵ QD15a.3. Please tell whether you agree or disagree with each of the following? Corruption is part of the business culture in (OUR COUNTRY)

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Citizens' attitudes towards corruption in 2025

Compared to 2024, the share of respondents who agree that corruption is part of the business culture in their country increased in 15 Member States, most notably in Latvia (53%, +13 pp), Finland (29%, +8 pp) and Austria (56%, +7 pp). Among the ten EU Member States in which this share decreased, the largest changes occurred in Slovenia (68%, -15 pp) and Slovakia (62%, -14 pp).

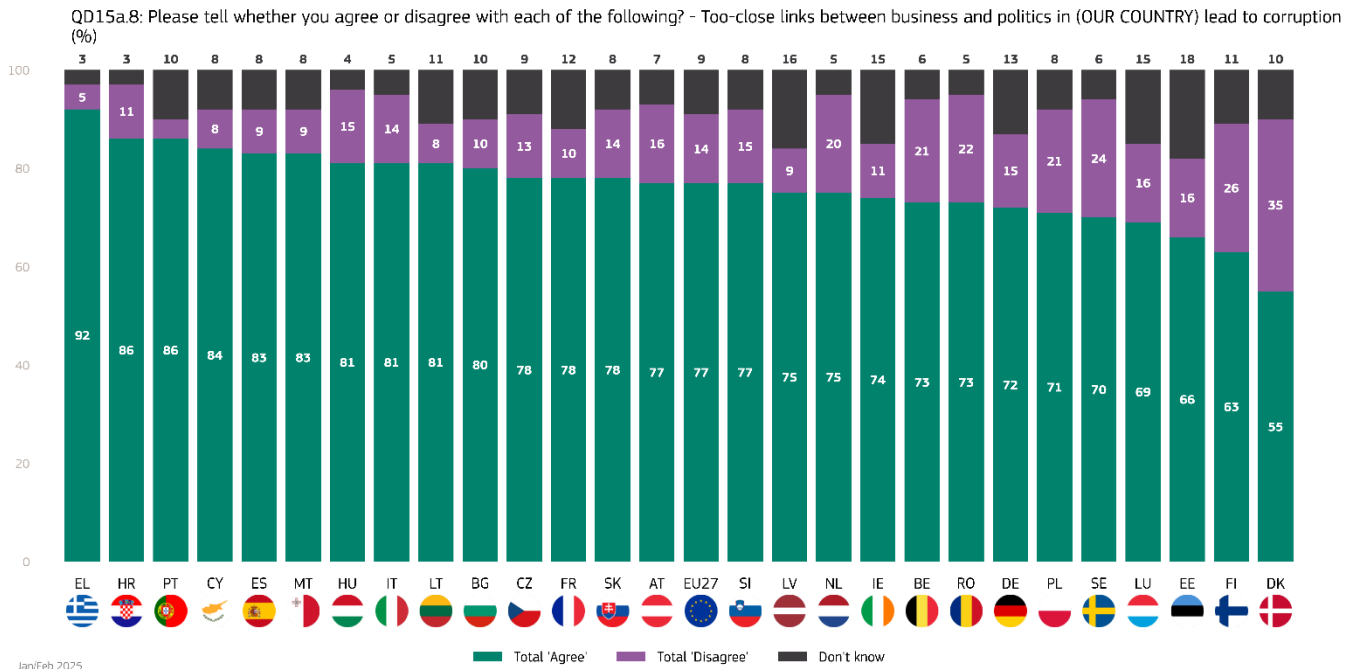
QD15a.3: Please tell whether you agree or disagree with each of the following? - Corruption is part of the business culture in (OUR COUNTRY) (%)

		EU27	LV	FI	AT	ES	HU	LU	IE	IT	PL	RO	CZ	MT	PT	DK	NL	CY	EE	BE	FR	HR	BG	DE	EL	SE	LT	SK	SI
Total 'Agree'	Jan/Feb 2025	61	53	29	56	74	80	46	59	80	63	66	72	80	85	25	37	85	46	55	55	83	77	43	87	29	61	62	68
	Δ Feb/Mar 2024	▲2	▲13	▲8	▲7	▲6	▲6	▲6	▲5	▲5	▲5	▲5	▲3	▲3	▲2	▲1	▲1	=	=	▼1	▼1	▼1	▼2	▼2	▼2	▼2	▼3	▼14	▼15
Total 'Disagree'	Jan/Feb 2025	31	26	63	35	18	15	38	27	16	29	27	20	12	5	71	59	7	39	40	33	14	13	46	8	68	23	25	25
	Δ Feb/Mar 2024	=	▼8	▼5	▼7	=	▼6	▼2	▼4	▼4	▼3	▼1	▲1	▼6	▼5	▲1	▼1	▼1	▲1	▲3	▲3	▲2	▲4	▲2	=	▲3	▲1	▲13	▲11
Don't know	Jan/Feb 2025	8	21	8	9	8	5	16	14	4	8	7	8	8	10	4	4	8	15	5	12	3	10	11	5	3	16	13	7
	Δ Feb/Mar 2024	▼2	▼5	▼3	=	▼6	=	▼4	▼1	▼1	▼2	▼4	▼4	▲3	▲3	▼2	=	▲1	▼1	▼2	▼2	▼1	▼2	=	▲2	▼1	▲2	▲1	▲4

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Furthermore, in every EU Member State, more than half of respondents agree that too-close links between business and politics in their country lead to corruption.²⁶ More than nine in ten (92%) in Greece hold this view, followed by Croatia and Portugal (86%). The only country in which fewer than six in ten agree is Denmark (55%).



In 15 EU Member States, respondents are now more likely than in 2024 to agree that too-close links between business and politics lead to corruption, with the largest increase observed in Luxembourg (69%, +12 pp). Agreement decreased in nine countries, with the sharpest decrease seen in Slovenia (77%, -6 pp).

QD15a.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 (%)

		EU27	LU	AT	ES	FI	PT	HU	IT	LV	CZ	DK	FR	HR	BE	IE	RO	BG	CY	EL	NL	SK	LT	DE	EE	PL	SE	MT	SI
Total 'Agree'	Jan/Feb 2025	77	69	77	83	63	86	81	81	75	78	55	78	86	73	74	73	80	84	92	75	78	81	72	66	71	70	83	77
	Δ Feb/Mar 2024	▲2	▲11	▲9	▲7	▲7	▲5	▲4	▲4	▲4	▲3	▲3	▲3	▲3	▲2	▲1	▲1	=	=	=	▼1	▼1	▼2	▼3	▼3	▼3	▼3	▼5	▼6
Total 'Disagree'	Jan/Feb 2025	14	16	16	9	26	4	15	14	9	13	35	10	11	21	11	22	10	8	5	20	14	8	15	16	21	24	9	15
	Δ Feb/Mar 2024	▼1	▼2	▼3	▼1	▼4	▼5	▼4	▼3	▼2	▼1	▼2	▼1	▼1	▼2	▼3	▲3	▲2	▼1	=	▲1	▲3	=	▲1	▼1	▲3	▲1	=	▲3
Don't know	Jan/Feb 2025	9	15	7	8	11	10	4	5	16	9	10	12	3	6	15	5	10	8	3	5	8	11	13	18	8	6	8	8
	Δ Feb/Mar 2024	▼1	▼9	▼6	▼6	▼3	=	=	▼1	▼2	▼2	▼1	▼2	▼2	=	▲2	▼4	▼2	▲1	=	=	▼2	▲2	▲2	▲4	=	▲2	▲5	▲3

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²⁶ QD15a.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

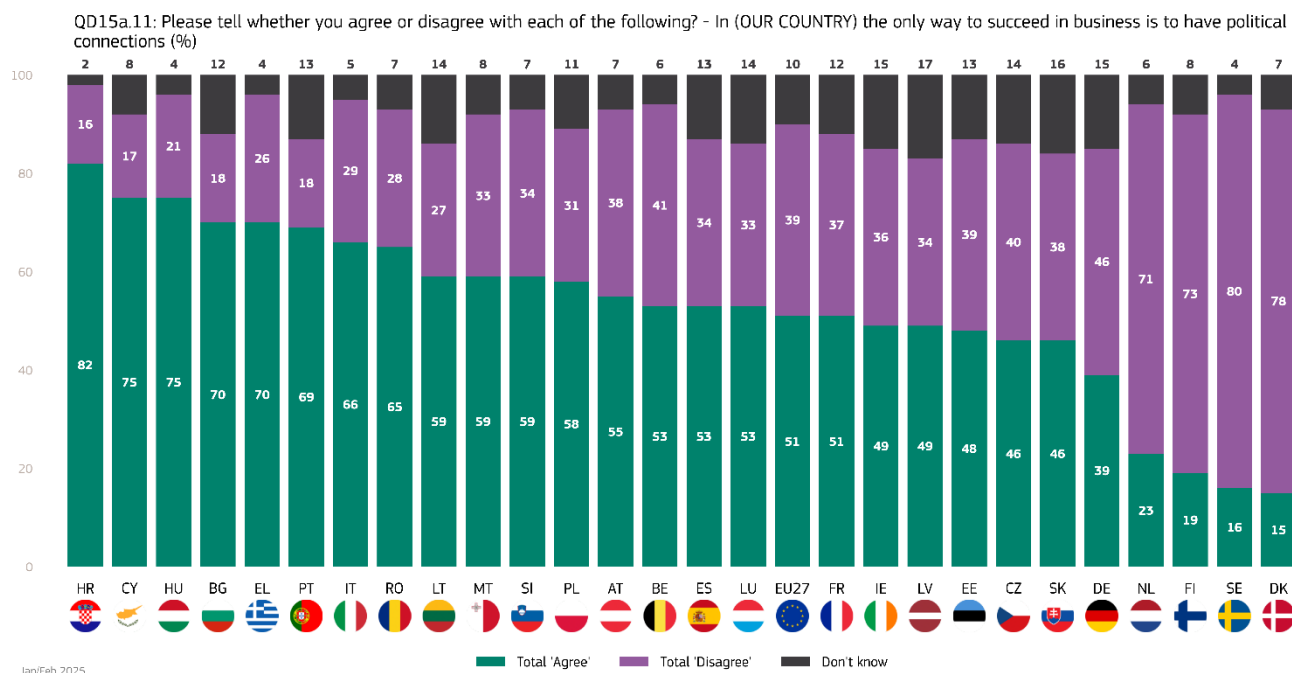
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Citizens' attitudes towards corruption in 2025

Moreover, when asked whether the only way to succeed in business in their country is to have political connections²⁷, around half of respondents (51%, unchanged since 2024) agree that this is the case, including 15% (-1 pp) who totally agree.

In 16 EU Member States, at least half of respondents agree that the only way to succeed in business in their country is to have political connections. At least seven in ten share this opinion in Croatia (82%), Cyprus and Hungary (both 75%) as well as Bulgaria and Greece (both 70%).




























In three countries, fewer than one in five respondents agree with the statement, namely in Denmark (15%), Sweden (16%) and Finland (19%).



Since 2024, the proportion of respondents agreeing that the only way to succeed in business in their country increased in 13 Member States, while it decreased in nine.

The largest increases occurred in Luxembourg (53%, +15 percentage points since 2024) and Portugal (69%, +14 pp). The largest decreases happened in Slovakia (46%, -9 pp) and Slovenia (59%, -6 pp).

QD15a.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 (%)

		EU27	LU	PT	LV	AT	IE	MT	NL	IT	BE	HR	HU	ES	FI	CZ	DK	EE	EL	RO	FR	LT	CY	PL	BG	DE	SE	SI	SK
																													
Total 'Agree'	Jan/Feb 2025	51	53	69	49	55	49	59	23	66	53	82	75	53	19	46	15	48	70	65	51	59	75	58	70	39	16	59	46
	Δ Feb/Mar 2024	=	▲15	▲14	▲6	▲5	▲5	▲5	▲5	▲4	▲3	▲3	▲3	▲2	▲2	=	=	=	=	=	▼1	▼1	▼2	▼2	▼3	▼4	▼4	▼6	▼9
Total 'Disagree'	Jan/Feb 2025	39	33	18	34	38	36	33	71	29	41	16	21	34	73	40	78	39	26	28	37	27	17	31	18	46	80	34	38
	Δ Feb/Mar 2024	▲1	▼9	▼18	▼2	▼1	▼5	▼8	▼5	▼3	▼2	▼1	▼4	▼1	▲2	=	▲2	▲1	▲1	▲2	▲3	=	▲2	▲2	▲4	▲2	▲4	▲3	▲6
Don't know	Jan/Feb 2025	10	14	13	17	7	15	8	6	5	6	2	4	13	8	14	7	13	4	7	12	14	8	11	12	15	4	7	16
	Δ Feb/Mar 2024	▼1	▼6	▲4	▼4	▼4	=	▲3	=	▼1	▼1	▼2	▲1	▼1	▼4	=	▼2	▼1	▼1	▼2	▼2	▲1	=	=	▼1	▲2	=	▲3	▲3

Jan/Feb 2025

²⁷ QD15a.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

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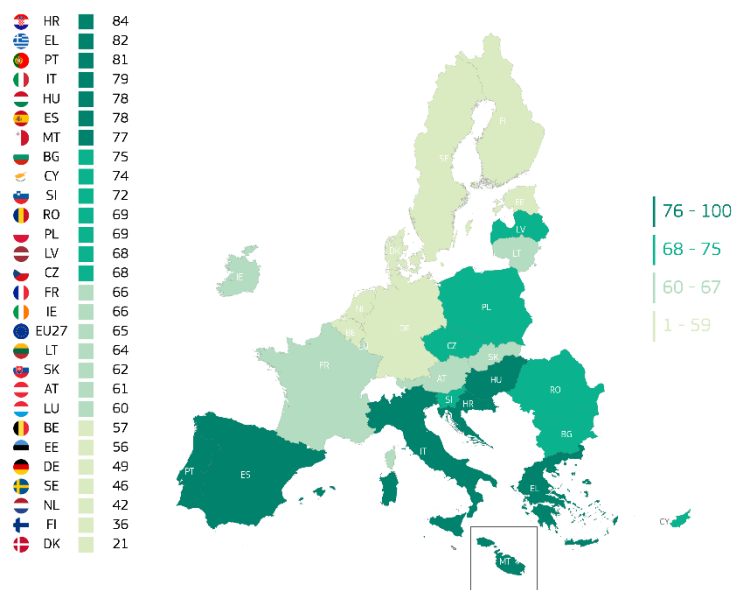
Citizens' attitudes towards corruption in 2025

Additionally, respondents are asked whether they agree or disagree that, in their country, favouritism and corruption hamper business competition.²⁸ Close to two in three respondents (65%, +2 pp) agree, including 21% (-1 pp) who totally agree, while 24% (unchanged) disagree with the statement.

In 22 countries, more than half think that in their country favouritism and corruption hamper business competition. In Croatia (84%), Greece (82%) and Portugal (81%) this is the case for more than eight in ten respondents. Respondents are least likely to hold this view in Denmark (21%), Finland (36%) and the Netherlands (42%).

The map below shows that the perception that favouritism and corruption hamper business competition is more widespread in southern Europe than in northern Europe.

QD15a.12: Please tell whether you agree or disagree with each of the following?: In (OUR COUNTRY), favouritism and corruption hamper business competition - Total 'Agree' (EU27) (%)



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The share of respondents that believe that favouritism and corruption hamper business competition in their country increased in 15 countries, most notably in Latvia (68%, +9 percentage points since 2024) and Luxembourg (60%, +9 pp).

On the other hand, this share decreased in 11 Member States, most notably among respondents in Slovakia (62%, -11 pp) and Slovenia (72%, -7 pp).

QD15a.12: Please tell whether you agree or disagree with each of the following? - In (OUR COUNTRY), favouritism and corruption hamper business competition (%)

		EU27	LU	LV	FI	HU	HR	IE	IT	RO	AT	DE	EE	NL	CZ	DK	ES	SE	BE	PL	BG	CY	EL	FR	PT	LT	MT	SI	SK
																													
Total 'Agree'	Jan/Feb 2025	65	60	68	36	78	84	66	79	69	61	49	56	42	68	21	78	46	57	69	75	74	82	66	81	64	77	72	62
	Δ Feb/Mar 2024	▲2	▲9	▲9	▲5	▲5	▲3	▲3	▲3	▲3	▲2	▲2	▲2	▲2	▲1	▲1	▲1	=	▼1	▼1	▼2	▼2	▼2	▼2	▼2	▼3	▼3	▼7	▼11
Total 'Disagree'	Jan/Feb 2025	24	20	12	50	17	13	17	17	23	28	35	27	50	20	65	11	47	36	23	11	12	13	21	5	15	15	20	23
	Δ Feb/Mar 2024	=	▼6	▼4	▼2	▼5	▼1	▼3	▼1	=	▼1	▲1	▼1	▼2	▲1	▼2	▲1	=	▲2	▲3	▲2	▲1	▲4	▲6	▼2	=	▲4	▲5	▲9
Don't know	Jan/Feb 2025	11	20	20	14	5	3	17	4	8	11	16	17	8	12	14	11	7	7	8	14	14	5	13	14	21	8	8	15
	Δ Feb/Mar 2024	▼2	▼3	▼5	▼3	=	▼2	=	▼2	▼3	▼1	▼3	▼1	=	▼2	▲1	▼2	=	▼1	▼2	=	▲1	▼2	▼4	▲4	▼3	▼1	▲2	▲2

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²⁸ QD15a.12. Please tell whether you agree or disagree with each of the following?: In (OUR COUNTRY), favouritism and corruption hamper business competition

Regarding the survey items asking about corruption in business, the **socio-demographic analysis** reveals the following differences across groups:

Gender:

- Men (79%) agree the most that political connections are needed for business success.
- Men (62%) also agree the most that corruption is part of the business culture, while those who finished at 20 or older agree the least (55%).

Age at end of education:

- Respondents who ended education at 15 or younger (58%) agree the most that political connections are needed for business success, while those who finished later (at 20 or older) agree the least (45%).
- Respondents who ended education at 15 or younger (68%) agree the most that corruption is part of the business culture, while those who finished at 20 or older agree the least (55%).

Socio-professional categories:

- Manual workers have the highest agreement that business-politics links lead to corruption (81%), favouritism and corruption hamper business competition (70%), and political connections are needed for business success (57%). They also agree that corruption is part of the business culture (64%).
- House persons and other white-collar workers follow closely in agreement on favouritism and corruption hampering competition (69% and 68% respectively). The unemployed (68%), self-employed (65%), manual workers, and house persons (each 64%) agree the most that corruption is part of the business culture.
- In contrast, students have the lowest agreement on these statements, with 70% for business-politics links, 57% for favouritism and corruption hampering competition, 45% for political connections needed for success, and 52% for corruption being part of the business culture.

Satisfaction with Democracy:

- Respondents dissatisfied with the state of democracy in their countries agree more that corruption is part of the business culture in their countries (70%) compared to those satisfied (54%).
- Respondents dissatisfied with the state of democracy in their country agree more that favouritism and corruption hamper business competition (72%) compared to those satisfied (60%).

Voice Counting:

- Respondents who feel their voice does not count in their country agree more that corruption is part of the business culture in their country (72%) compared to those who believe their voice counts (54%).
- Respondents who feel their voice does not count in their country agree more that political connections are necessary for business success (61%) compared to those who feel their voice counts (47% respectively).
- Respondents who feel their voice does not count in their country agree more that favouritism and corruption hamper business competition (74%) compared to those who feel their voice counts (60%).

Having experienced or witnessed corruption

- Those who experienced or witnessed corruption agree more on all statements than those who have not (Business-politics links lead to corruption: 90% vs 83% vs 76%; Favouritism and corruption hurt competition: 79% vs 76% vs 64%; Political connections needed for business success: 69% vs 59% vs 51%; Corruption is part of business culture: 83% vs 75% vs 60%).

Knowing someone who took bribes

- Those who know someone who took or has taken bribes agree more on all statements than those who do not (Business-politics links lead to corruption: 89% vs 75%; Favouritism and corruption hurt competition: 77% vs 63%; Political connections needed for business success: 60% vs 50%; Corruption is part of business culture: 78% vs 58%).

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Citizens' attitudes towards corruption in 2025

QD15a Please tell whether you agree or disagree with each of the following?

Total 'Agree'

(% - EU)

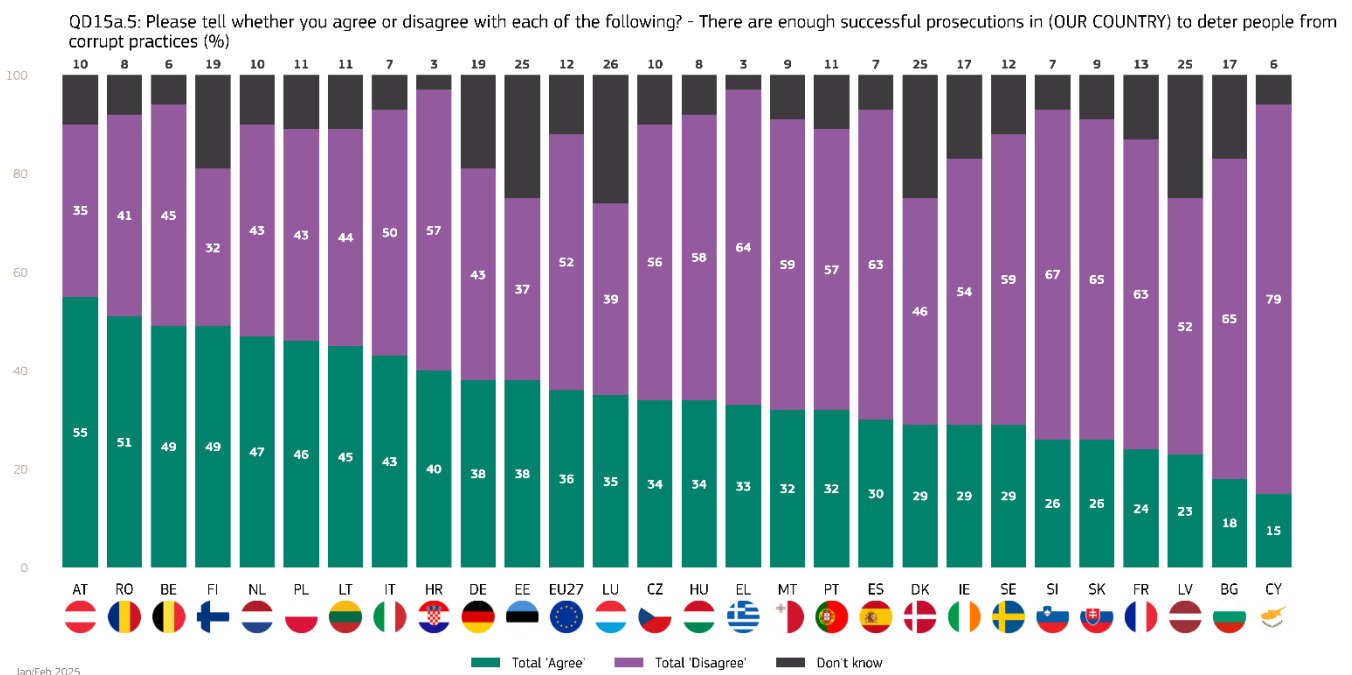
	Too-close links between business and politics in (OUR COUNTRY) lead to corruption	In (OUR COUNTRY), favouritism and corruption hamper business competition	Corruption is part of the business culture in (OUR COUNTRY)	In (OUR COUNTRY) the only way to succeed in business is to have political connections
EU27	77	65	61	51
Gender				
Man	79	66	62	52
Woman	75	64	59	51
Age				
15-24	70	59	55	46
25-39	77	66	61	52
40-54	79	69	65	53
55+	77	63	59	51
Education (End of)				
15-	76	68	68	58
16-19	79	68	64	56
20+	77	62	55	45
Still Studying	65	55	49	41
Socio-professional category				
Self-employed	78	66	65	50
Managers	75	61	53	44
Other white collars	78	68	65	51
Manual workers	81	70	64	57
House persons	74	69	64	57
Unemployed	77	66	68	57
Retired	76	62	57	52
Students	70	57	52	45
Difficulties paying bills				
Most of the time	84	77	73	63
From time to time	77	67	66	57
Almost never / Never	76	62	57	47
Satisfaction with democracy in one's country				
Satisfied	76	60	54	47
Not satisfied	79	72	70	59
My voice counts in (OUR COUNTRY)				
Total 'Agree'	75	60	54	47
Total 'Disagree'	80	74	72	61
Experienced or witnessed corruption				
Yes, experienced	90	79	83	69
Yes, witnessed	83	76	75	59
No	76	64	60	51
You know someone who takes bribes				
Yes	89	77	78	60
No	76	63	58	50

3. Dealing with corruption

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

The perception of corruption and the effectiveness of anti-corruption measures are issues among respondents from the European Union. Respondents were asked whether they agree or disagree that there are enough successful prosecutions in their country to deter people from corrupt practices. Just over one third of respondents (36%, +4 pp) agree with this statement, including 9% (+2 pp) who totally agree. More than half of respondents (52%, -2 pp) disagree with the statement, including 19% (-4 pp) who totally disagree.

While fewer than half of respondents in 25 EU Member States agree that there are enough successful prosecutions in their country to deter people from corrupt practices, more than half agree in Austria (55%) and Romania (51%). Respondents are least likely to agree in Cyprus (15%), Bulgaria (18%) and Latvia (23%).



Whereas agreement levels increased in 19 EU Member States, they decreased in seven. The largest increases occurred among respondents in Czechia (34%, +12 percentage points since 2024), Austria (55%, +12 pp) and Malta (32%, +10 pp). The most notable decreases occurred in Cyprus (15%, -9 pp) and Hungary (34%, -6 pp).

QD15a.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 (%)

		EU27	AT	CZ	MT	EL	SI	BE	HR	LT	DE	IT	DK	RO	FR	PL	ES	BG	EE	FI	NL	LU	IE	PT	LV	SE	SK	HU	CY
Total 'Agree'	Jan/Feb 2025	36	55	34	32	33	26	49	40	45	38	43	29	51	24	46	30	18	38	49	47	35	29	32	23	29	26	34	15
	Δ Feb/Mar 2024	▲4	▲12	▲12	▲10	▲9	▲9	▲7	▲7	▲7	▲6	▲6	▲5	▲5	▲4	▲4	▲3	▲2	▲2	▲1	▲1	=	▼1	▼1	▼4	▼4	▼5	▼6	▼9
Total 'Disagree'	Jan/Feb 2025	52	35	56	59	64	67	45	57	44	43	50	46	41	63	43	63	65	37	32	43	39	54	57	52	59	65	58	79
	Δ Feb/Mar 2024	▼2	▼10	▼9	▼12	▼7	▼13	▼5	▼6	▼10	▼5	▼4	▼3	▼1	▼2	▼3	▼5	▼3	▼3	▲1	▼1	▲3	▲5	▼1	▲3	▲7	▲9	▲7	▲9
Don't know	Jan/Feb 2025	12	10	10	9	3	7	6	3	11	19	7	25	8	13	11	7	17	25	19	10	26	17	11	25	12	9	8	6
	Δ Feb/Mar 2024	▼2	▼2	▼3	▲2	▼2	▲4	▼2	▼1	▲3	▼1	▼2	▼2	▼4	▼2	▼1	▼8	▲1	▲1	▼2	=	▼3	▼4	▲2	▲1	▼3	▼4	▼1	=

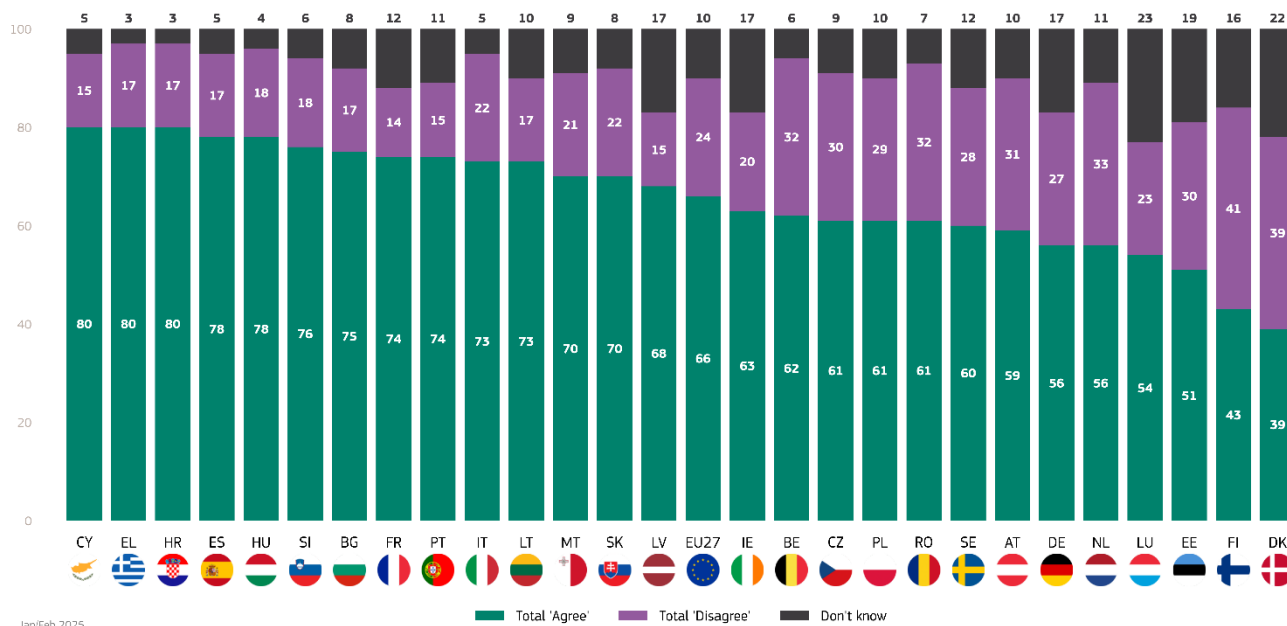
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Citizens' attitudes towards corruption in 2025

Two-thirds of respondents (66%, +1 pp) agree that high-level corruption cases are not pursued sufficiently in their country, including nearly three in ten respondents who totally agree (28%, -2 pp). On the other hand, 24% (+1 pp) disagree with the statement.

In most EU Member States, more than half of the population believes that high-level corruption cases are not adequately pursued in their country. However, Denmark (39%) and Finland (43%) are the only exceptions to this trend, where less than half of the population shares this view. In six countries, the share of respondents agreeing with the statement that high-level corruption cases are not adequately pursued in their country, are notably high. More than three-quarters of respondents agree, with Greece, Croatia, and Cyprus each having 80% of respondents in agreement.

QD15a.6: Please tell whether you agree or disagree with each of the following? - High-level corruption cases are not pursued sufficiently in (OUR COUNTRY) (%)



The share of respondents who agree that high-level corruption cases are not pursued sufficiently in their country increased in 15 Member States, while it has decreased in nine. Increases of seven percentage points occurred in Luxembourg (54%) and Ireland (63%), whereas the shares decreased most in Malta (70%, -9 pp) and Lithuania (73%, -8 pp).

QD15a.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	IE	LU	FI	IT	LV	AT	CZ	ES	SE	HU	DK	FR	HR	SK	CY	BG	EE	NL	BE	DE	PL	RO	EL	SI	PT	LT	MT
Total 'Agree'	Jan/Feb 2025	66	63	54	43	73	68	59	61	78	60	78	39	74	80	70	80	75	51	56	62	56	61	61	80	76	74	73	70
	Δ Feb/Mar 2024	▲1	▲7	▲7	▲5	▲5	▲5	▲4	▲4	▲4	▲4	▲3	▲2	▲2	▲2	▲2	▲1	=	=	=	▼1	▼1	▼1	▼1	▼3	▼3	▼5	▼8	▼9
Total 'Disagree'	Jan/Feb 2025	24	20	23	41	22	15	31	30	17	28	18	39	14	17	22	15	17	30	33	32	27	29	32	17	18	15	17	21
	Δ Feb/Mar 2024	▲1	▼4	▼2	▲2	▼4	▼4	=	▼2	▲2	=	▼3	▼3	=	▼2	▲1	▼1	▲1	=	▲2	▲2	▲2	=	▲4	▲4	=	▲1	▲4	▲6
Don't know	Jan/Feb 2025	10	17	23	16	5	17	10	9	5	12	4	22	12	3	8	5	8	19	11	6	17	10	7	3	6	11	10	9
	Δ Feb/Mar 2024	▼2	▼3	▼5	▼7	▼1	▼1	▼4	▼2	▼6	▼4	=	▲1	▼2	=	▼3	=	▼1	=	▼2	▼1	▼1	▲1	▼3	▼1	▲3	▲4	▲4	▲3

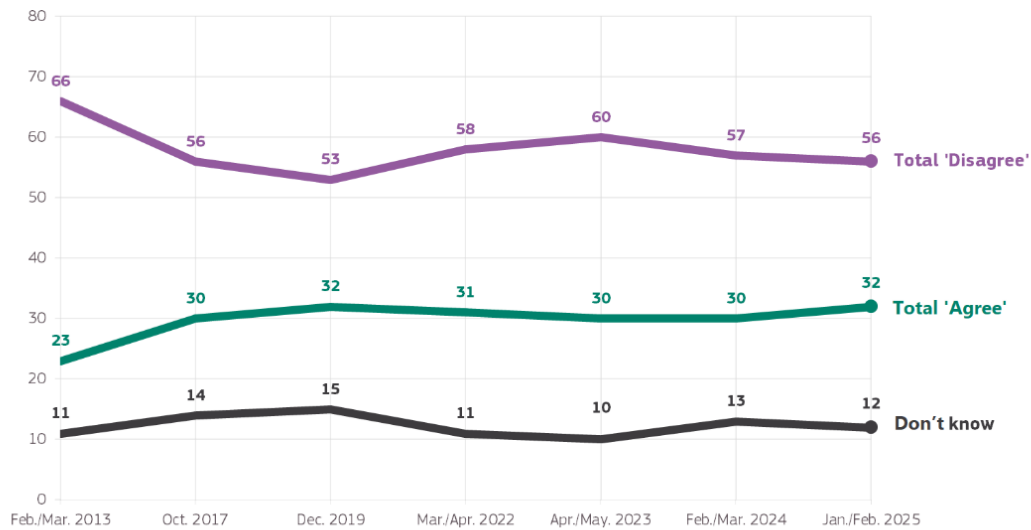
Special Eurobarometer 561

Citizens' attitudes towards corruption in 2025

Just under one third of respondents (32%, +2 pp) agree that their government's efforts to combat corruption are effective, whereas 56% (-1 pp) disagree with the statement, including 20% (-4 pp) who totally disagree.

Since 2019, respondents' agreement level about their national governments effectively combating corruption has stayed consistent, although there has been some fluctuation in the level of disagreement with the statement.

QD15a.7 Please tell whether you agree or disagree with each of the following?
(NATIONALITY) Government efforts to combat corruption are effective (%)



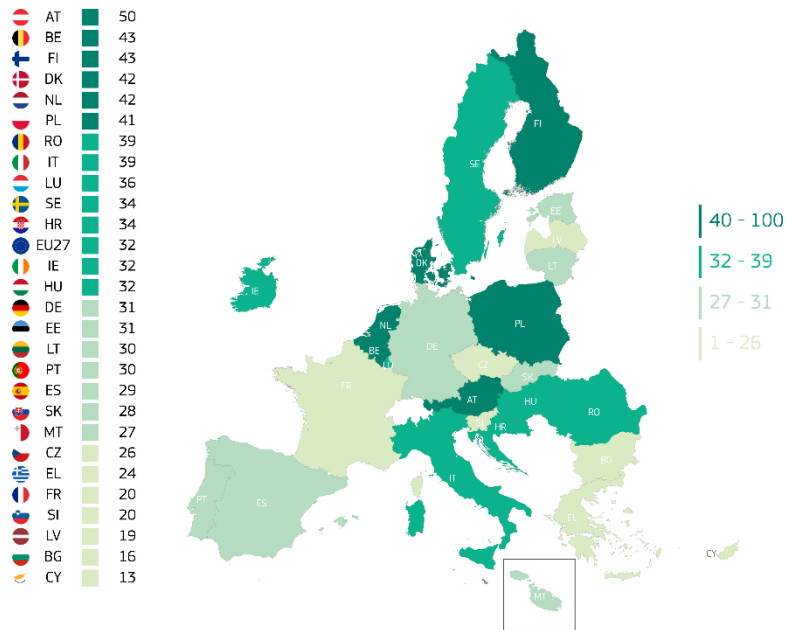
Special Eurobarometer 561

Citizens' attitudes towards corruption in 2025

There are three EU Member States where more respondents agree than disagree that their government's efforts to combat corruption are effective, namely Austria (50% 'agree' vs 37% 'disagree'), Finland (43% vs 37%) and Denmark (42% vs 36%).

In 19 Member States, at every second respondent disagrees, most notably in Cyprus (81%) and Greece (73%) as well as Bulgaria and Slovenia (both 72%).

QD15a.7: Please tell whether you agree or disagree with each of the following?: (NATIONALITY)
Government efforts to combat corruption are effective - Total 'Agree' (EU27) (%)



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Since 2024, agreement that the government's efforts to combat corruption are effective increased in 17 countries, particularly in Czechia (26%, +8 pp), Croatia (34%, +7 pp) and Austria (50%, +7 pp).

In eight countries agreement declined, most notably Cyprus (13%, -10 pp) and Finland (43%, -6 pp).

QD15a.7: Please tell whether you agree or disagree with each of the following?: (NATIONALITY) Government efforts to combat corruption are effective (%)

		EU27	CZ	AT	HR	IT	SI	LT	NL	BE	DK	MT	RO	DE	EL	ES	FR	PT	LV	BG	SE	EE	SK	IE	LU	PL	HU	FI	CY
Total 'Agree'	Jan/Feb 2025	32	26	50	34	39	20	30	42	43	42	27	39	31	24	29	20	30	19	16	34	31	28	32	36	41	32	43	13
	Δ Feb/Mar 2024	▲2	▲8	▲7	▲7	▲6	▲6	▲4	▲4	▲3	▲3	▲3	▲3	▲2	▲2	▲2	▲2	▲2	▲1	=	=	▼1	▼1	▼2	▼2	▼3	▼5	▼6	▼10
Total 'Disagree'	Jan/Feb 2025	56	64	37	63	57	72	58	44	49	36	66	54	50	73	65	64	62	64	72	52	48	64	51	37	47	62	37	81
	Δ Feb/Mar 2024	▼1	▼7	▼7	▼7	▼3	▼11	▼9	▼2	▼3	=	▼5	▼1	▼1	▼2	▲2	▼1	▼4	=	=	▲3	=	▲5	▲3	▲5	▲2	▲3	▲8	▲10
Don't know	Jan/Feb 2025	12	10	13	3	4	8	12	14	8	22	7	7	19	3	6	16	8	17	12	14	21	8	17	27	12	6	20	6
	Δ Feb/Mar 2024	▼1	▼1	=	=	▼3	▲5	▲5	▼2	=	▼3	▲2	▼2	▼1	=	▼4	▼1	▲2	▼1	=	▼3	▲1	▼4	▼1	▼3	▲1	▲2	▼2	=

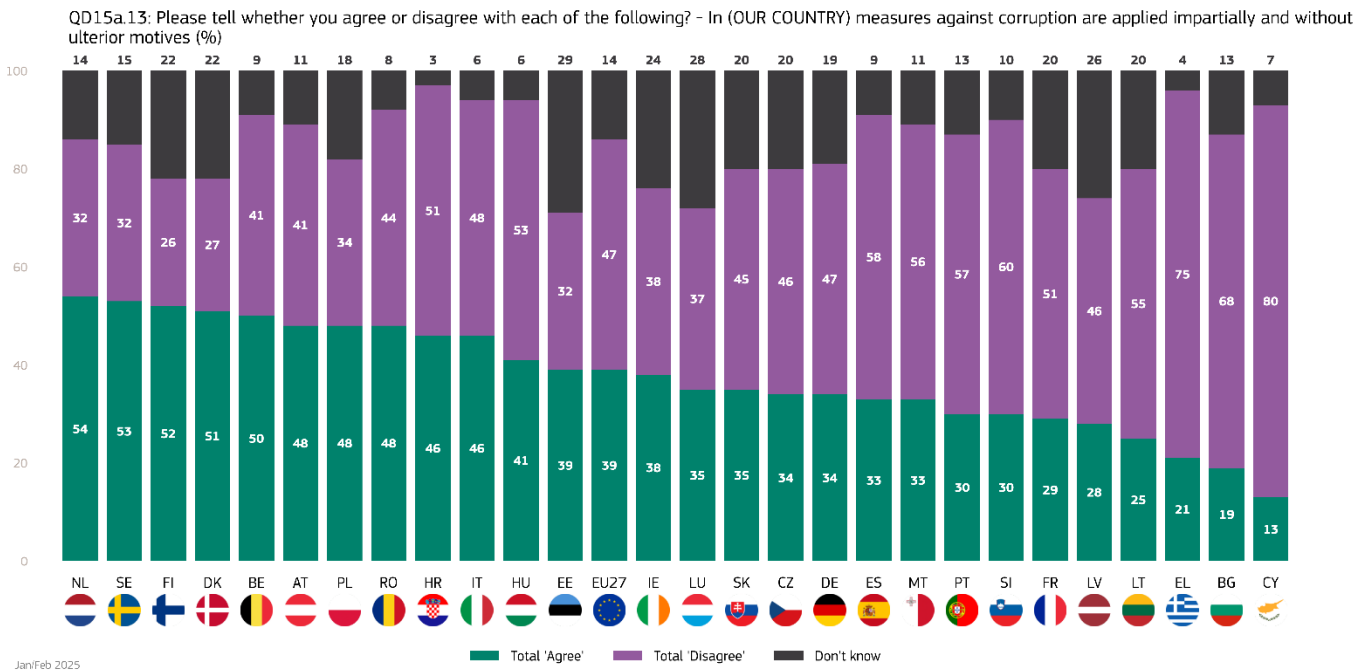
Jan/Feb 2025

Special Eurobarometer 561 Citizens' attitudes towards corruption in 2025

When asked whether they agree that measures against corruption are applied impartially and without ulterior motives in their countries, 39% (+4 pp) of respondents across the EU agree, while 47% (-2 pp) disagree with this statement.





























It is worth noting that in 10 countries, at least one in five respondents say they “don’t know”, most notably in Estonia (29%), Luxembourg (28%) and Latvia (26%).

Among the Member States of the European Union, there are five countries in which at every second respondent agrees: the Netherlands (54%), Sweden (53%), Finland (52%), Denmark (51%) and Belgium (50%). Respondents are most likely to disagree that measures against corruption are applied impartially and without ulterior motives in Cyprus (80%), Greece (75%) and Bulgaria (68%).



Compared to 2024, the share of respondents who agree that measures against corruption are applied impartially and without ulterior motives in their countries has increased in 18 countries, most notably in Estonia (39%, +9 pp), Denmark (51%, +8 pp) and Czechia (26%, +8 pp). In contrast, this share decreased in six EU Member States, most notably in Cyprus (13%, -8 pp).

QD15a.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 (%)

		EU27	EE	CZ	DK	FR	LV	NL	RO	BE	DE	MT	AT	HR	IT	BG	ES	PL	SI	EL	FI	IE	LU	HU	LT	SE	PT	SK	CY
																													
Total 'Agree'	Jan/Feb 2025	39	39	34	51	29	28	54	48	50	34	33	48	46	46	19	33	48	30	21	52	38	35	41	25	53	30	35	13
	Δ Feb/Mar 2024	▲4	▲9	▲8	▲8	▲7	▲6	▲6	▲6	▲5	▲5	▲5	▲3	▲3	▲3	▲2	▲2	▲2	▲2	▲1	=	=	=	▼2	▼2	▼2	▼3	▼3	▼8
Total 'Disagree'	Jan/Feb 2025	47	32	46	27	51	46	32	44	41	47	56	41	51	48	68	58	34	60	75	26	38	37	53	55	32	57	45	80
	Δ Feb/Mar 2024	▼2	▼7	▼10	▼5	▼4	▼5	▼3	▼4	▼3	▼5	▼3	▼1	=	▼1	▼3	▲5	▼4	▼2	▼1	▲3	▼2	▲7	▲2	▲1	▲2	=	▲4	▲8
Don't know	Jan/Feb 2025	14	29	20	22	20	26	14	8	9	19	11	11	3	6	13	9	18	10	4	22	24	28	6	20	15	13	20	7
	Δ Feb/Mar 2024	▼2	▼2	▲2	▼3	▼3	▼1	▼3	▼2	▼2	=	▼2	▼2	▼3	▼2	▲1	▼7	▲2	=	=	▼3	▲2	▼7	=	▲1	=	▲3	▼1	=

The **socio-demographic analysis** highlights the following variations among different groups:

Gender

- Men believe most that high-level corruption cases are not pursued sufficiently in their country (67%). Similarly, 65% of women agree with the statement.
- Men (37%) also agree more with the statement that there are enough successful prosecutions in their country to deter people from corrupt practices than women (36%).

Socio-professional groups

- Among socio-professional groups, manual workers believe most that high-level corruption cases are not pursued sufficiently in their country (70%), followed by house persons (69%) and other white collars (67%). In contrast, 58% of students agree with the statement.
- The self-employed (43%) and other white collars (40%) agree more with the statement that there are enough successful prosecutions in their country to deter people from corrupt practices than the unemployed (28%).

Satisfaction with Democracy

- Respondents satisfied with the state of democracy in their country (43%) agree more that there are enough successful prosecutions to deter corrupt practices than those dissatisfied with democracy (27%).
- Similarly, 41% of satisfied respondents believe the government's efforts to combat corruption are effective, compared to 20% of dissatisfied respondents.
- Those not satisfied with democracy (47%) agree more that measures against corruption are applied impartially and without ulterior motives than those dissatisfied (28%).
- Conversely, 60% of dissatisfied respondents disagree that measures are applied impartially, compared to 40% of satisfied respondents. Finally, 58% of satisfied respondents believe there is political will to tackle corruption, compared to 33% of dissatisfied respondents.

Perception of Voice Counting

- Respondents who believe their voice counts in their country (74%) agree more that corruption is widespread than those who feel their voice does count (64%).
- Additionally, 38% of respondents who believe their voice counts think the government's efforts to combat corruption are effective, compared to 23% of those who feel their voice does not count.
- Respondents who believe their voice counts (45%) agree more that measures against corruption are applied impartially and without ulterior motives than those who do not believe their voice counts (29%).
- Finally, 60% of respondents who report their voice is heard believe there is political will to tackle corruption, compared to 32% of those who report their voice is not heard.

Perception of Corruption

- Around two-thirds of respondents who find corruption acceptable (60%) agree that there are enough successful prosecutions to deter corrupt practices, compared to one-third of those who find corruption unacceptable (33%).
- Similarly, 52% of respondents who find corruption acceptable believe the government's efforts to combat corruption are effective, compared to 30% of those who find it unacceptable.
- Respondents who find corruption acceptable (60%) agree more that measures against corruption are applied impartially and without ulterior motives than those who find it unacceptable (35%).

Experience with Corruption

- Respondents who have experienced corruption (82%) agree more that corruption is widespread than those who have never experienced nor witnessed corruption (66%).

Knowledge of Bribery

- Respondents who know someone who takes bribes (73%) disagree more that the government's efforts to combat corruption are effective than those who do not know anyone who took bribes (55%).

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QD15a 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	66	39	36	32
Gender				
Man	67	38	37	33
Woman	65	38	36	32
Age				
15-24	62	39	36	32
25-39	65	40	36	34
40-54	68	40	39	33
55+	66	36	35	31
Education (End of)				
15-	67	34	31	28
16-19	68	37	36	31
20+	65	41	39	35
Still Studying	56	36	35	30
Socio-professional category				
Self-employed	66	39	43	35
Managers	63	44	39	36
Other white collars	67	42	40	36
Manual workers	70	38	36	32
House persons	69	40	34	32
Unemployed	72	30	28	24
Retired	66	35	34	30
Students	58	39	36	32
Difficulties paying bills				
Most of the time	73	30	30	22
From time to time	68	38	38	32
Almost never / Never	65	39	36	34
Satisfaction with democracy in one's country				
Satisfied	63	47	43	41
Not satisfied	72	28	27	20
My voice counts in (OUR COUNTRY)				
Total 'Agree'	62	44	42	38
Total 'Disagree'	74	30	29	23
Experienced or witnessed corruption				
Yes, experienced	82	36	32	27
Yes, witnessed	75	34	40	24
No	66	38	37	32
You know someone who takes bribes				
Yes	79	30	28	22
No	65	39	38	33



III. Experience of bribery

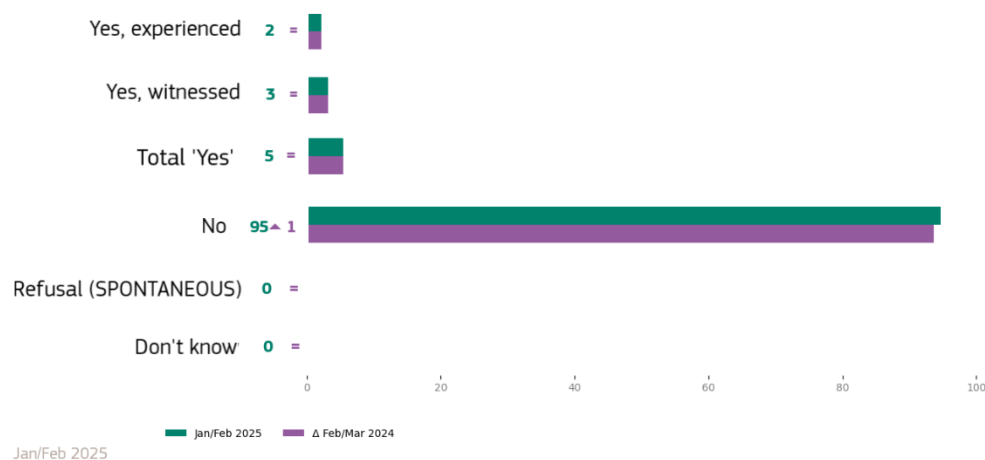
1. Personal experience of bribery

A small minority of Europeans report having experienced and/or witnessed a case of corruption.

At the EU level, 5% of respondents report having experienced and/or witnessed corruption in the last 12 months²⁹, which remains unchanged from the previous survey in 2024. Specifically, 2% (unchanged) of respondents report having **experienced corruption**, while 3% (unchanged) report having **witnessed corruption**.

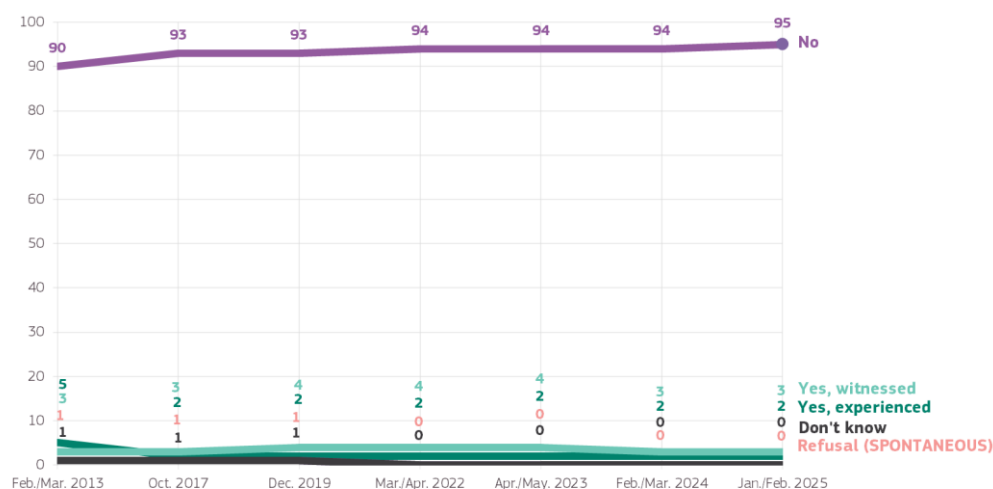
The majority of respondents (95%) report not experiencing or witnessing any corruption, an increase of one percentage point from the previous survey.

QD12a: In the last 12 months have you experienced or witnessed any case of corruption? (MULTIPLE ANSWERS POSSIBLE) (EU27) (%)



The long-term trend analysis shows that the proportion of respondents who have neither witnessed nor experienced any case of corruption has remained at a similar level since 2017.

QD12a In the last 12 months, have you experienced or witnessed any case of corruption? (MULTIPLE ANSWERS POSSIBLE) (% - EU)



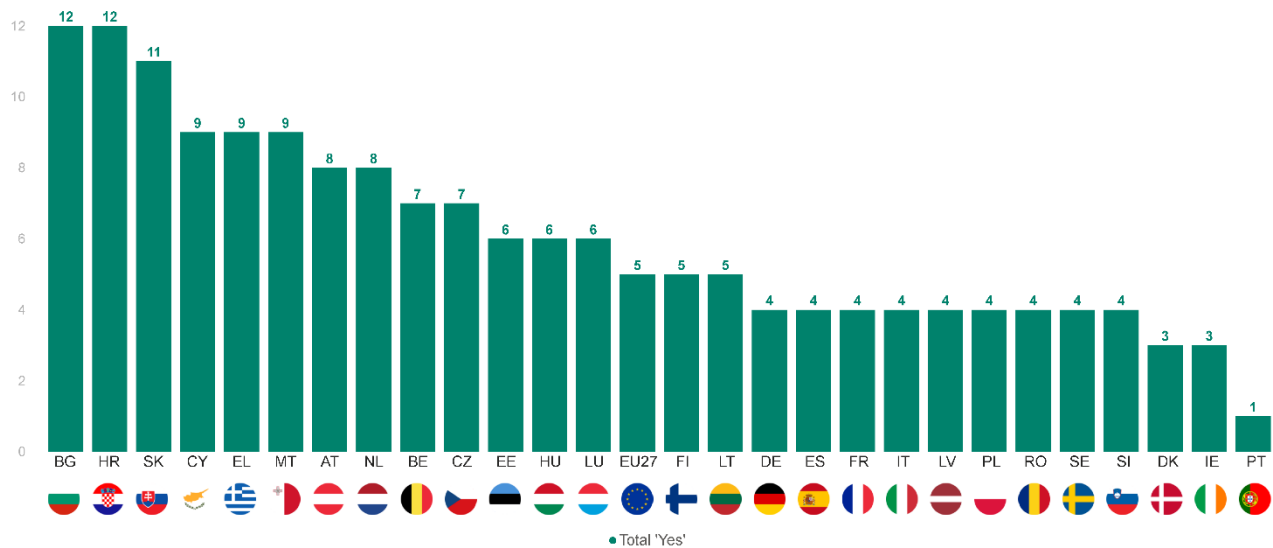
²⁹ QD12a. In the last 12 months have you experienced or witnessed any case of corruption? (MULTIPLE ANSWERS POSSIBLE)

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In three countries at least one in ten have witnessed and/or experienced a case of corruption in the last 12 months: Bulgaria, Croatia (both 12%) and Slovakia (11%). Respondents are least likely to report having witnessed or experienced a case of corruption in Portugal (1%), Ireland and Denmark (both 3%).

In all EU Member States, more than eight in ten respondents say they have not witnessed or experienced a case of corruption in the last 12 months. Respondents are most likely to say they have neither witnessed nor experienced a case of corruption in Portugal (98%) and Denmark (97%).

QD12a. In the last 12 months have you experienced or witnessed any case of corruption? (MULTIPLE ANSWERS POSSIBLE) (%)



Proportions having witnessed and/or experienced a case of corruption in the last 12 months have increased slightly in six countries, most notably in Slovakia (11%, +3 pp since 2024). The share decreased in 15 countries, most notably in Greece (9%, -3 pp).

QD12a: In the last 12 months have you experienced or witnessed any case of corruption? (MULTIPLE ANSWERS POSSIBLE) - Yes, witnessed (%)

		EU27	RO	EE	FI	SK	AT	NL	SE	BE	CY	PL	PT	BG	DE	DK	ES	FR	HR	IE	IT	LT	LU	MT	HU	LV	SI	CZ	EL
Yes, experienced	Jan/Feb 2025	2	2	3	2	7	4	4	1	3	5	1	1	7	1	1	2	1	7	1	1	3	3	3	5	2	2	4	5
	Δ Feb/Mar 2024	=	▲1	=	▲1	▲2	=	▲1	=	▼1	=	▼1	▲1	=	▼1	=	=	=	▲1	=	=	▼1	▼2	▼4	▼1	▼1	=	▼1	▼3
Yes, witnessed	Jan/Feb 2025	3	3	4	3	4	5	5	3	5	4	3	0	6	3	2	2	3	7	2	3	3	3	7	2	2	2	3	4
	Δ Feb/Mar 2024	=	▲2	▲2	▲1	=	▲1	=	▲1	▲1	=	▲1	▼1	▼1	=	▼1	▼1	▼1	▼2	▼1	▼1	=	▲1	▲3	▼1	▼1	▼2	▼2	▼1
No	Jan/Feb 2025	95	95	92	95	88	90	92	96	93	91	96	98	85	96	97	95	95	86	96	96	93	94	90	93	96	96	93	91
	Δ Feb/Mar 2024	▲1	▼2	=	▼2	▼1	▼1	▼1	=	=	▲1	=	▼1	=	▲1	▲1	=	=	▲3	▲1	▲2	=	▲1	=	▲1	▲2	▲2	▲3	▲4
Refusal (SPONTANEOUS)	Jan/Feb 2025	0	1	1	0	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
	Δ Feb/Mar 2024	=	▲1	=	=	=	=	=	=	=	=	=	=	▼1	=	▲1	=	▼1	=	=	▲1	=	=	=	=	=	=	=	=
Don't know	Jan/Feb 2025	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Δ Feb/Mar 2024	=	=	=	=	▼1	=	=	=	=	=	=	=	=	=	=	=	=	=	=	=	=	=	=	=	=	=	=	=

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The **socio-demographic analysis** reveals that only a small minority have experienced and/or witnessed a case of corruption in the last 12 months, with no large differences between the groups.

QD12a In the last 12 months have you experienced or witnessed any case of corruption?
(MULTIPLE ANSWERS POSSIBLE)

	Total 'Yes'	No	Refusal (SPONTANEOUS)	Don't know
EU27	5	95	0	0
Gender				
Man	5	94	0	0
Woman	4	95	0	0
Age				
15-24	6	94	0	0
25-39	5	94	0	0
40-54	5	94	1	0
55+	4	96	0	0
Education (End of)				
15-	3	96	0	0
16-19	5	95	0	0
20+	5	94	0	0
Still Studying	4	96	0	0
Socio-professional category				
Self-employed	8	91	1	0
Managers	7	93	0	0
Other white collars	4	96	0	0
Manual workers	4	95	0	0
House persons	4	96	0	0
Unemployed	8	91	0	0
Retired	3	96	0	0
Students	5	95	0	0
Difficulties paying bills				
Most of the time	11	88	1	0
From time to time	6	93	0	0
Almost never / Never	3	96	0	0
You know someone who takes bribes				
Yes	31	68	1	0
No	2	98	0	0

2. Experiencing bribery at work

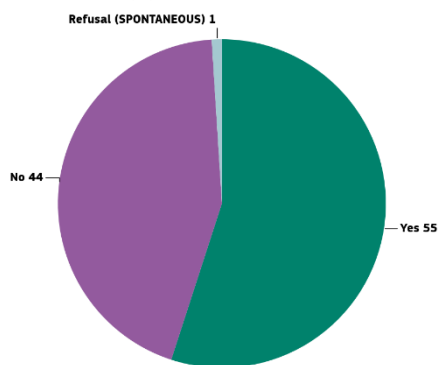
Witnessing corruption occurred almost equally in work-related and non-work-related contexts.

Respondents that indicated that they experienced or witnessed a case of corruption in the last 12 months, were then asked whether this occurred in the context of their or someone else's work.^{30,31}

Among those who have *experienced* a case of corruption in the last 12 months, 56% of respondents across the EU Member States indicate that this experience was work-related, while 44% say that it occurred outside of the work context.

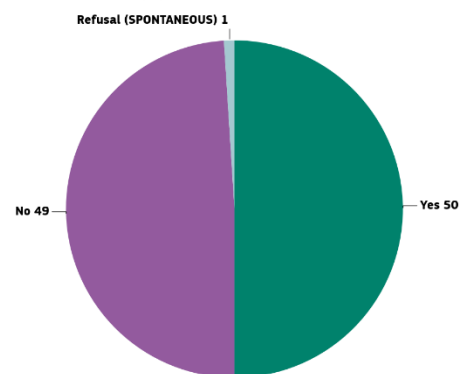
Among respondents who indicated having *witnessed* a case of corruption in the last 12 months, almost equal proportions indicate that this case was work-related (50%) and outside of the work context (49%).

QD12b: You said that you experienced a case of corruption: Was this (experience) in the context of your or someone else's work? (%)



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QD12c: You said that you witnessed a case of corruption: Was this (witnessing) in the context of your or someone else's work? (%)



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³⁰ QD12b. You said that you experienced a case of corruption: Was this (experience) in the context of your or someone else's work?

³¹ It must be mentioned that the majority of respondents from this survey (95%) have not been exposed to this question since they did not experience nor witness any case of corruption in the last 12 months.

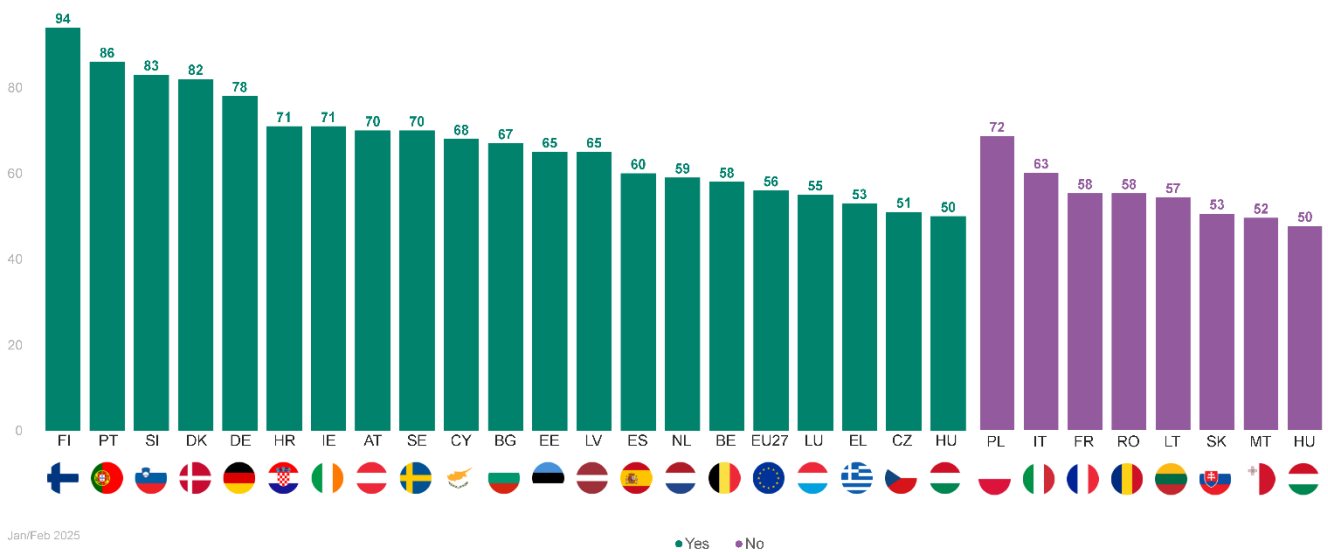
Therefore, national samples are very small. For instance, in Ireland, only 11 respondents experience any case of corruption and therefore are exposed to the questions presented in this section. Results must be interpreted carefully, particularly for the national results below.

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Among those who report having *experienced* a case of corruption in the last 12 months, respondents in Finland (94%), Portugal (86%) and Slovenia (83%) are most likely to have experienced this case in the context of their or someone else's work. On the other hand, among those who experienced a case of corruption, respondents are most likely to have experienced this case in a non-work-related context in Poland (72%) and Italy (63%) as well as France and Romania (both 58%).

Overall, a majority of respondents in 19 Member States indicate that the case of corruption that they experienced was in the context of their or someone else's work, while a majority in seven Member States say that the experienced case of corruption was not in a work-related context.

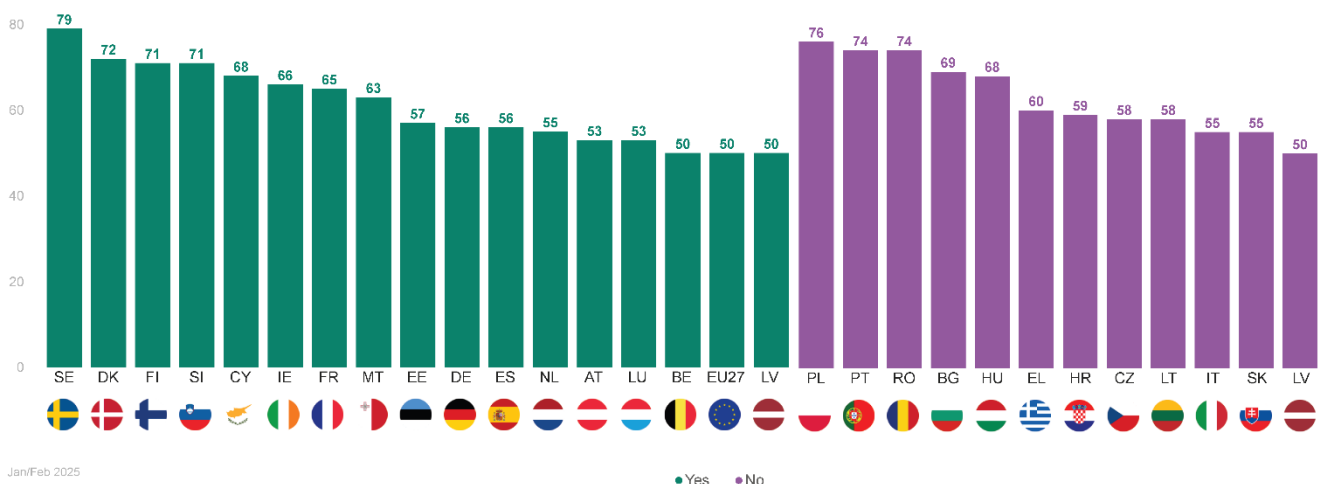
QD12b. You said that you experienced a case of corruption: Was this (experience) in the context of your or someone else's work? (%)



Among those respondents who *witnessed* a case of corruption in the last 12 months, 50% indicate that this case was work-related. The highest scores are observed in Sweden (79%), Denmark (72%), Slovenia and Finland (both 71%). Conversely, 49% of respondents across the EU report that their witnessing is not work-related, with the highest scores in Poland (76%), Portugal and Romania (both 74%).

Overall, a majority of respondents in 15 Member States indicate that the case of corruption that they witnessed was work-related, while a majority in 11 Member States indicate that this was outside of the work context.

QD12c. You said that you witnessed a case of corruption Was this (witnessing) in the context of your or someone else's work? (%)



3. Contact with institutions and incidence of bribery

Europeans are most likely to have been in contact with the healthcare system in the last 12 months.

Respondents were asked about their contact with 15 different public or private institutions in their country over the last 12 months.³²

The **healthcare system** (60%, +2 pp since 2024) is the most frequently mentioned institution across the EU Member States and the only institution mentioned by at least half of respondents.

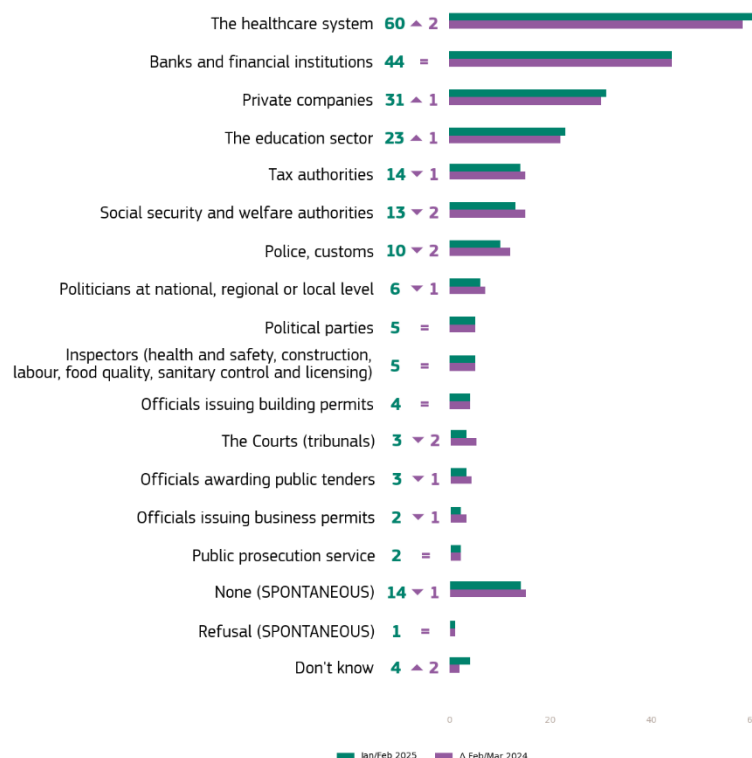
More than four in ten (44%, unchanged) have had contact with **banks and financial institutions**, while around three in ten (31%, +1 pp) mention **private companies** and 23% (+1 pp) mention **the education sector**. All other institutions are mentioned by fewer than one in five respondents.

At least one in ten respondents have been in contact with **tax authorities** (14%, -1 pp), **social security and welfare authorities** (13%, -2 pp) and **police, customs** (10%, -2 pp).

Fewer than one in ten have been in contact with the remaining eight institutions: **politicians** (6%, -1 pp), **political parties** (5%, unchanged), **inspectors** (5%, unchanged), **officials issuing building permits** (4%, unchanged), **the courts (tribunals)** (3%, -2 pp), **officials awarding public tenders** (3%, -1 pp), **officials issuing business permits** (2%, -1 pp) and the **public prosecution service** (2%, unchanged).

Nearly one in five respondents (18%, +1 pp) spontaneously say that they haven't been in contact with any of these institutions or answer "don't know".

QD9a: 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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³² QD9a. Over the last 12 months, have you had any contact with any of the following in (OUR COUNTRY)? (MULTIPLE ANSWERS POSSIBLE)

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In all EU Member States except Greece, **the healthcare system** is the most mentioned institution and in 26 Member States at least half of respondents have had contact with it in the last 12 months. Proportions range from 84% in Sweden, 78% in Portugal and 77% in Denmark to 42% in Romania and 51% in both Slovenia and Italy.

In Greece, respondents are most likely to have had contact with **banks and financial institutions** (68%), followed closely by the healthcare system (67%). In 25 EU Member States, banks and financial institutions are the second-most mentioned institution and is the third-most mentioned in Romania. Apart from Greece, respondents are most likely to have been in contact with banks and financial institutions in Sweden (73%), Denmark (68%) and Finland (66%). Respondents are least likely to mention this institution in Romania (13%), Latvia (27%) and Lithuania (29%).

In 19 Member States, **private companies** rank third. This item is most frequently mentioned by respondents in Sweden (62%), Greece (59%) and Finland (55%). Respondents in Bulgaria and Romania (both 10%) and Croatia (16%) are least likely to mention private companies.

The education sector is the third most mentioned item in eight countries and second in Romania (16%). Overall, respondents in Luxembourg and Sweden (37%) as well as Slovakia (31%) are most likely to mention this, while they are least likely in Croatia and Romania (both 16%) as well as in Czechia (17%).

Police and customs ranks third in Croatia (21%) and is mentioned by more than one in four in Sweden (33%) and Finland (26%).

All remaining items do not rank among the top three most frequently mentioned items in any of the EU Member States. For these items, noteworthy results are the following:

- **Tax authorities** are mentioned by more than three in ten in five countries: the Netherlands (47%), Finland (43%), Sweden (41%), Denmark (35%) and Greece (31%).
- In three countries, at least one in five respondents mention **social security and welfare authorities**, namely Luxembourg (29%), France (26%) and Portugal (20%).
- More than one in ten respondents have been in contact with **politicians** in eight countries. Proportions range from 18% in Sweden to 2% in Portugal.
- One in twenty respondents or fewer have been in contact with **political parties** in 14 Member States, while respondents are most likely to have been in contact with political parties in the Netherlands (15%).
- In 25 Member States, fewer than one in ten indicate that they have been in contact with **inspectors** in the last 12 months.
- In Poland, 16% of respondents report having been in contact with **officials awarding public tenders**.

All other items (public prosecution service and officials issuing business permits) were mentioned by fewer than one in ten in every Member State.

QD9a. 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	60	63	52	56	68	64	53	77	55	67	61	75	69	55	66	54	51	70	65	72	55	66	63	78	42	84	51	74
Banks and financial institutions	44	59	40	30	52	41	46	68	36	68	48	66	49	38	37	51	34	29	53	27	44	52	34	53	13	73	42	55
Private companies	31	48	23	10	20	22	35	47	33	59	34	55	33	16	24	32	21	23	32	19	26	50	18	41	10	62	19	31
The education sector	23	29	25	18	27	17	19	23	25	21	26	28	25	16	21	27	18	19	37	25	25	32	20	25	16	37	20	31
Tax authorities	14	15	14	17	8	6	21	35	13	31	3	43	12	11	15	18	5	13	18	16	18	47	4	13	12	41	6	16
Social security and welfare authorities	13	18	11	7	9	14	11	14	14	18	16	13	26	10	7	11	4	12	29	15	11	19	7	20	2	18	7	17
Police, customs	10	14	18	13	11	10	9	12	16	13	12	26	9	21	5	10	4	14	20	12	13	19	7	5	10	33	8	20
Politicians at national, regional or local level	6	12	12	3	4	4	7	12	8	3	4	11	8	7	2	12	3	4	11	3	9	17	2	2	4	18	4	9
Political parties	5	10	13	2	8	2	7	7	6	2	4	5	4	6	2	13	3	3	8	3	10	15	2	2	3	12	2	6
Inspectors (health and safety, construction, labour, food quality, sanitary control and licensing)	5	7	8	4	3	3	6	8	8	4	3	9	3	5	2	4	4	3	5	5	7	8	3	3	3	12	4	12
Officials issuing building permits	4	5	5	2	4	3	4	6	6	2	3	9	2	7	4	2	4	1	6	2	8	9	2	2	2	9	5	7
The Courts (tribunals)	3	6	8	3	6	3	4	7	3	5	2	4	3	7	1	2	2	1	4	3	9	6	1	4	3	7	6	6
Officials awarding public tenders	3	6	6	1	1	3	4	2	3	1	4	6	2	5	2	2	2	1	4	3	5	7	2	1	1	16	4	3
Public prosecution service	2	4	3	2	1	1	2	2	1	0	2	2	2	2	1	1	1	1	2	1	4	5	1	2	2	4	1	3
Officials issuing business permits	2	3	5	4	2	2	2	1	4	2	2	3	1	6	2	1	2	2	4	1	6	5	3	2	1	3	3	3
Don't know	4	1	1	3	5	8	5	1	7	0	1	1	3	8	2	6	5	4	4	2	8	0	7	2	7	0	2	3

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

Special Eurobarometer 561

Citizens' attitudes towards corruption in 2025

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.³³

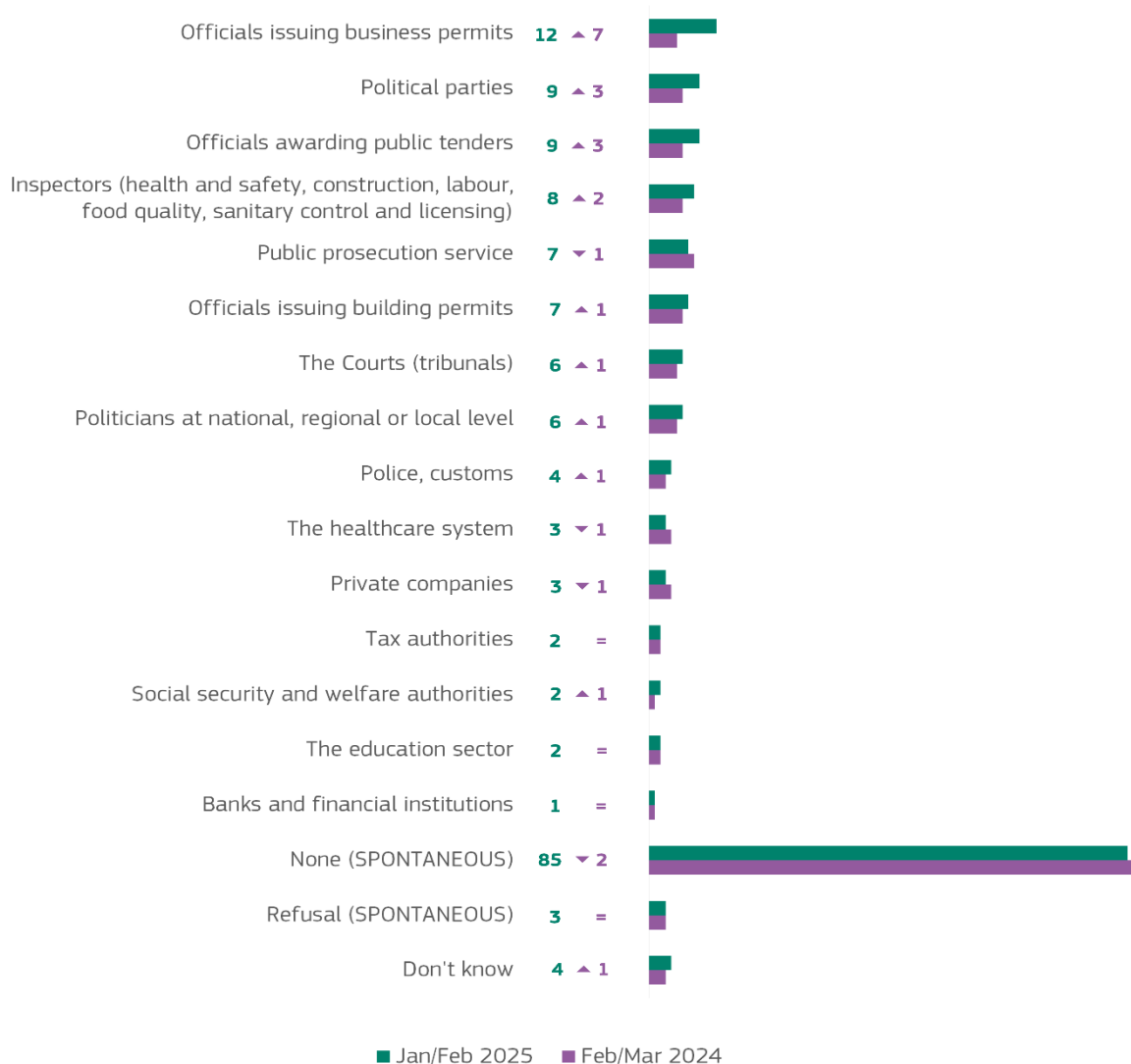
Among those that have had contact with any of the institutions mentioned above in the past 12 months, 8% of respondents (+1 pp) report that someone in their country has asked them or expected them to give a gift, favour or extra money for his or her services.

A large majority of 85% (-2 pp) report that they have **not been asked for a gift, favour, or extra money**. A small proportion of respondents spontaneously refused to answer (3%, unchanged) and 3% (+1 pp) say they "don't know".

When examining specific institutions³⁴, 12% (+7 pp) of respondents in the EU who said they had contact with **officials issuing business permits** report having been asked for a gift, favour, or extra money for their services in the past 12 months.

For **political parties** and **officials awarding public tenders** 9% of respondents report having been affected by corruption (both +3 pp). This is the case for 8% of respondents for **Inspectors** (+2 pp) as well as 7% for **public prosecution services** (-1 pp) and **officials issuing building permits** (+1 pp). Lastly, 6% mention **politicians** (+1 pp) and **the courts** (+1 pp). All other institutions are mentioned by fewer than one in twenty.

QD9b. 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) (%)



³³ QD9b. 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)

³⁴ Due the small sub-sample sizes per country, results have to be interpreted carefully.

Special Eurobarometer 561

Citizens' attitudes towards corruption in 2025

Respondents are most likely to have been affected by corruption in their interactions with these institutions in the last 12 months in Belgium (19%), Bulgaria (18%) and Austria (17%) as well as Croatia and Poland (both 14%). The highest shares of respondents who have not had such an experience in the last 12 months are in Denmark (96%), Sweden and Finland (both 95%) as well as France (94%).

QD9b. 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) (%)

	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
Officials issuing business permits	12	29	6	26	0	18	13	0	8	6	0	3	7	14	8	40	5	0	0	0	0	2	50	5	25	0	3	3
Political parties	9	10	27	22	18	22	8	0	3	0	0	0	10	8	6	2	6	7	2	6	0	6	23	5	22	0	24	1
Officials awarding public tenders	9	23	10	36	33	30	7	13	6	15	3	2	12	23	5	5	14	0	5	3	0	1	35	0	0	1	13	6
Inspectors (health and safety, construction, labour, food quality, sanitary control and licensing)	8	14	12	14	0	13	7	7	1	2	0	5	3	19	31	0	12	21	4	0	3	1	28	4	12	3	2	4
Total 'Affected by corruption'	8	17	19	18	6	10	9	3	5	9	1	2	2	14	8	5	11	12	3	5	3	7	14	2	9	2	5	9
Public prosecution service	7	20	3	20	0	21	12	0	0	0	0	0	5	20	13	0	29	0	0	0	0	9	17	4	4	0	0	0
Officials issuing building permits	7	16	9	23	5	13	4	5	2	12	0	1	9	9	17	18	14	27	7	21	8	5	24	0	0	0	6	4
The Courts (tribunals)	6	11	9	19	8	6	5	0	3	2	0	0	3	9	0	0	12	0	0	0	0	3	14	17	7	3	2	3
Politicians at national, regional or local level	6	6	24	14	0	4	9	3	3	17	5	2	4	7	11	0	9	3	1	8	4	2	6	0	2	1	6	4
Police, customs	4	18	8	14	7	6	6	2	1	2	2	0	2	3	6	1	5	2	3	0	0	1	5	4	4	1	7	6
The healthcare system	3	4	6	11	4	5	3	1	2	10	0	1	1	8	5	3	4	9	0	5	0	1	5	1	7	0	2	6
Private companies	3	4	8	2	4	4	5	3	2	0	1	1	1	6	7	2	9	2	2	2	4	3	4	1	1	2	4	1
Tax authorities	2	3	7	3	5	2	1	0	0	2	0	0	1	4	0	0	6	1	0	1	2	3	5	0	4	0	2	1
Social security and welfare authorities	2	1	5	19	2	2	2	1	3	0	0	0	0	5	2	3	10	2	0	2	0	2	8	0	8	0	1	8
The education sector	2	7	5	8	5	4	5	0	1	1	0	0	1	3	0	2	1	1	1	1	1	0	3	0	4	0	0	1
Banks and financial institutions	1	1	5	2	1	1	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	2	1	0	0	1	1	2	0	2	0	0	0
Don't know	4	2	10	7	12	10	5	1	16	2	3	2	3	14	4	5	3	5	4	10	2	5	6	3	8	2	4	4

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

Jan/Feb 2025



IV. Reporting corruption

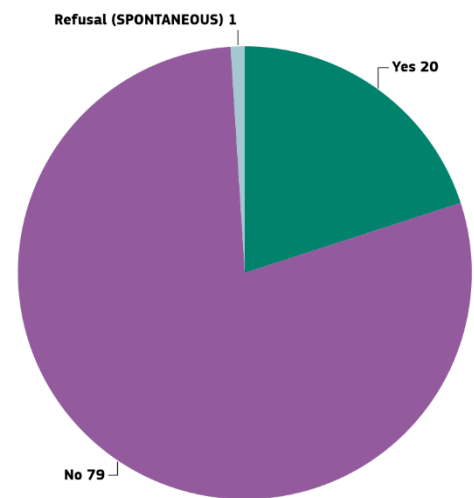
1. Reporting of corruption

A large majority of close to eight in ten of those who experienced and/or witnessed corruption did not report it.

Among the respondents who have experienced and/or witnessed any case of corruption in the last 12 months, one in five (20%, +2 pp since 2024) say they reported the case to someone. However, the majority of respondents (79%, -2 pp) did not.³⁵

In all countries, close to eight in ten respondents or more say they did not report the case (79%), with proportions ranging from 99% in Greece, 94% in Latvia and 93% in Slovakia to 58% in the Netherlands and 64% in Estonia and Sweden. In four countries, at least a third did report the corruption case, namely in the Netherlands (41%) and Sweden (36%) in the Netherlands and 64% in Estonia and Sweden. In four countries, at least a third did report the corruption case, namely in the Netherlands (41%) and Sweden (36%) as well as Belgium and Estonia (both 34%).

QD13: Did you report it to anyone or not? (EU27) (%)

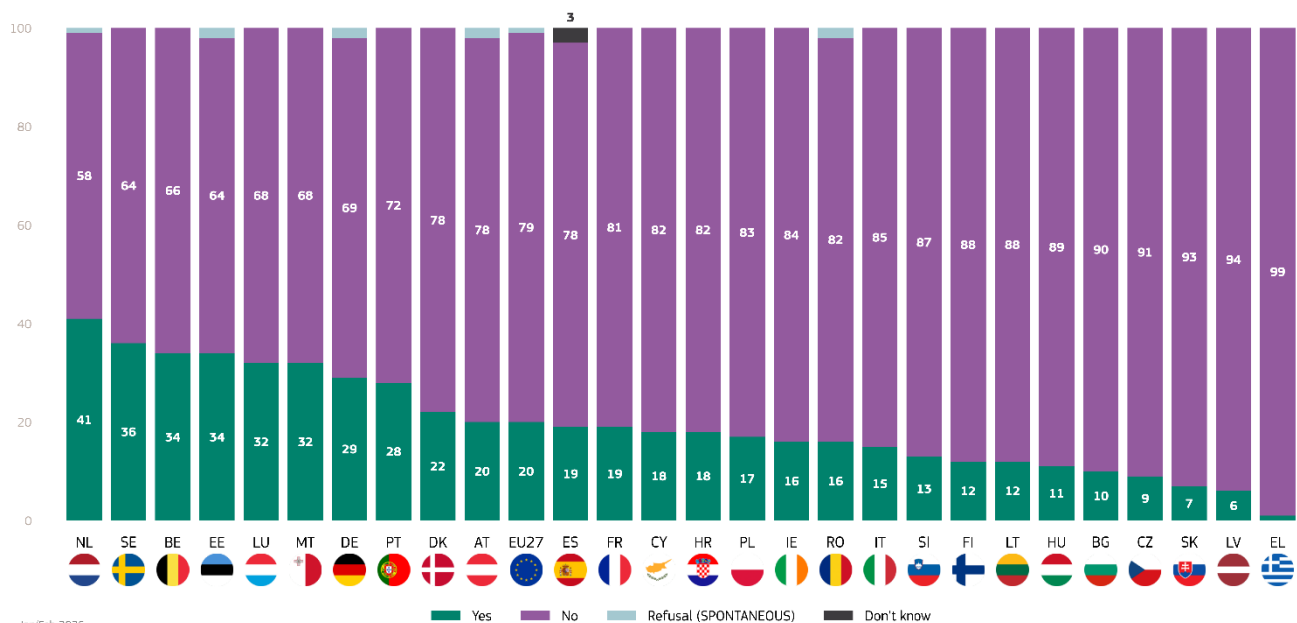


Yes	▲ 2
No	▼ 2
Refusal (SPONTANEOUS)	=
Don't know	=

▲▼ (Jan/Feb 2025 - Feb/Mar 2024)

Jan/Feb 2025

QD13: Did you report it to anyone or not? (%)



³⁵ QD13: Did you report it to anyone or not?

Special Eurobarometer 561

Citizens' attitudes towards corruption in 2025

Despite the proportion of respondents who reported the corruption they experienced or witnessed being relatively low, there are some notable differences across **socio-demographic** groups:

- Respondents who ended education at the age of 20 or older, are six percentage points more likely to have reported the case than those who finished their education earlier (24% vs 18%).
- House persons (28%) and the self-employed (27%) are the most likely socio-professional groups to say they reported the corruption, especially compared to the unemployed (14%).
- The less often respondents encounter difficulties paying their bills, the more likely they are to have reported the case of corruption (24% of those who almost never or never have difficulties vs 15% of those who most of the time have difficulties).

QD13 Did you report it to anyone or not?
(% - EU)

	Yes	No	Refusal (SPONTANEOUS)	Don't know
EU27	20	79	1	0
Gender				
Man	20	79	1	0
Woman	21	78	0	1
Age				
15-24	20	80	0	0
25-39	18	80	2	0
40-54	23	77	0	0
55+	18	81	0	1
Education (End of)				
15-	18	82	0	0
16-19	18	80	1	1
20+	24	76	0	0
Still Studying	5	95	0	0
Socio-professional category				
Self-employed	27	70	3	0
Managers	22	78	0	0
Other white collars	15	85	0	0
Manual workers	20	80	0	0
House persons	28	64	1	7
Unemployed	14	86	0	0
Retired	19	80	1	0
Students	19	81	0	0
Difficulties paying bills				
Most of the time	15	83	1	1
From time to time	18	81	1	0
Almost never / Never	24	76	0	0
Experienced or witnessed corruption				
Yes, experienced	25	74	0	1
Yes, witnessed	16	84	0	0
You know someone who takes bribes				
Yes	20	79	1	0
No	21	79	0	0

2. Awareness of where to report corruption

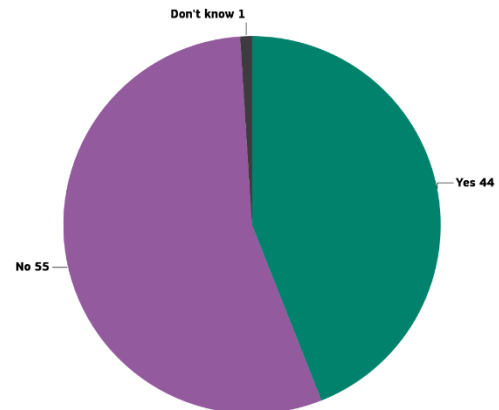
More than half are not aware of where to report a case of corruption if they were to experience or witness one.

All respondents were asked whether they knew where to report a case of corruption, if they were to experience or witness one.³⁶

At the EU level, 44% of respondents indicate that they would know where to report a case of corruption, showing a slight increase from the previous survey in 2024 (up from 43%, +1 pp). Conversely, 55% (-1 pp) of respondents indicate that they would not know where to report corruption.

The trend over time shows that there has been a gradual increase in the share of respondents saying they do not know where to report corruption. It has risen by six percentage points since 2018. Since 2020, an absolute majority of respondents hold this view.

QD10: If you were to experience or witness a case of corruption, would you know where to report it to? (EU27) (%)

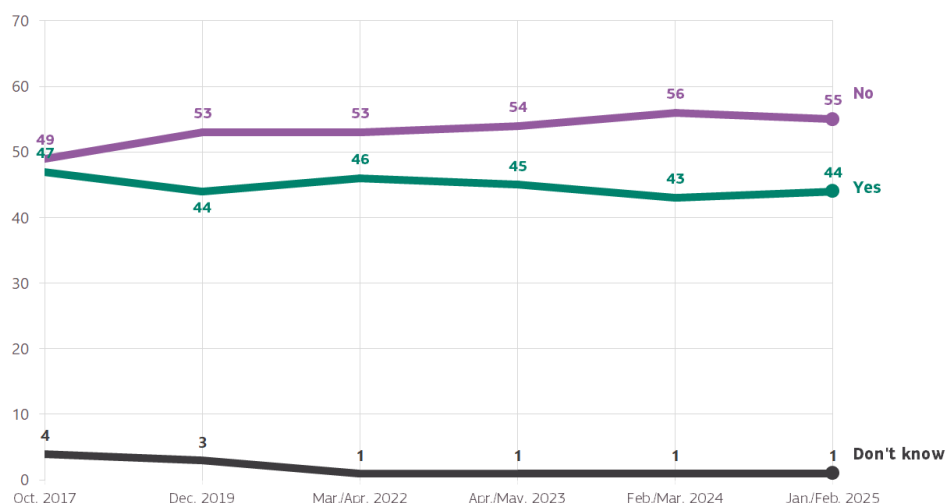


Yes ▲ 1
No ▼ 1
Don't know =

▲▼ (Jan/Feb 2025 - Feb/Mar 2024)

Jan/Feb 2025

QD10 If you were to experience or witness a case of corruption, would you know where to report it to? (% - EU)



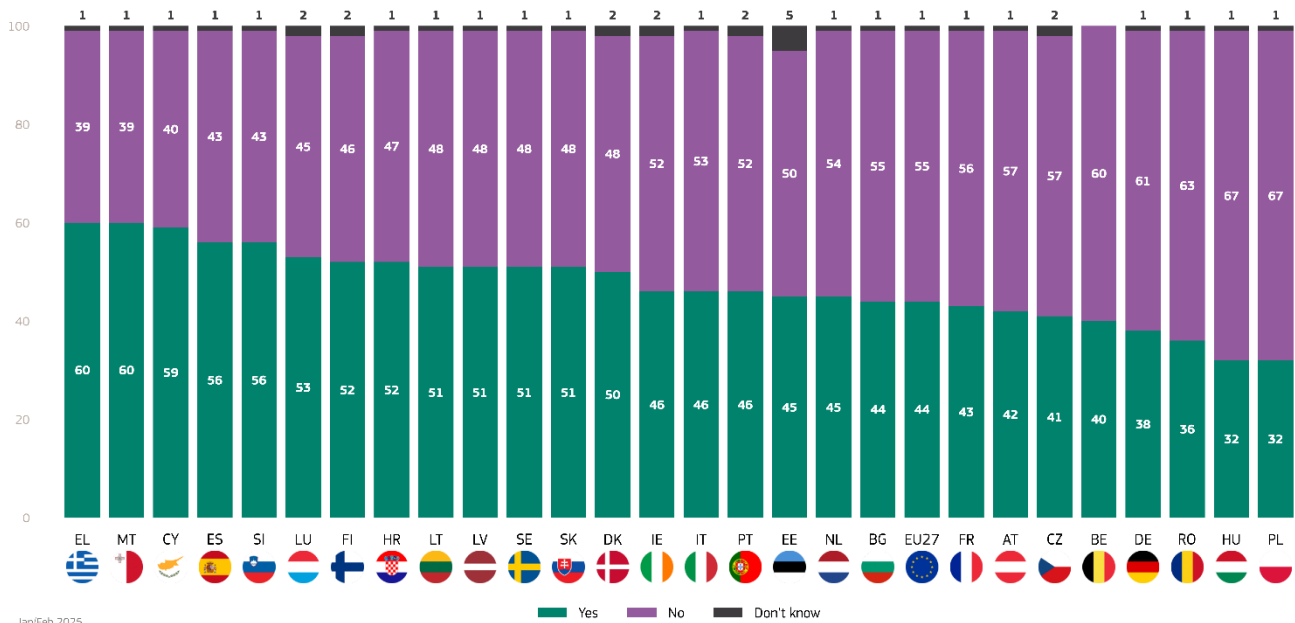
³⁶ QD10. If you were to experience or witness a case of corruption, would you know where to report it to?

Special Eurobarometer 561 Citizens' attitudes towards corruption in 2025

In 13 EU Member States, at least half of respondents indicate that they would know where to report a case of corruption, most notably in Greece and Malta (both 60%) as well as Cyprus (59%).

In the remaining 14 countries, at least half of the respondents are not aware of where to report corruption. Poland and Hungary have the highest percentages of respondents unaware of where to report corruption, both at 67%, followed by Romania at 63%.





























QD10: If you were to experience or witness a case of corruption, would you know where to report it to? (%)



Compared to 2024, the share of respondents who say they would know where to report a case of corruption if they were to experience or witness one increased in 11 Member States. The largest increases occurred in Belgium (40%, +12 percentage points since 2024), followed by Romania (36%, +8 pp) and Slovakia (51%, +8 pp).

Awareness has declined in 12 countries, most notably in the Netherlands (45%, -9 pp), Luxembourg (53%, -6 pp) and Finland (52%, -5 pp).

QD10: If you were to experience or witness a case of corruption, would you know where to report it to? (%)

		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
																													
Yes	Jan/Feb 2025	44	40	44	41	50	38	45	46	60	56	43	52	46	59	51	51	53	32	60	45	42	32	46	36	56	51	52	51
	Δ Feb/Mar 2024	▲1	▲12	=	▼1	▼1	▲1	▲3	▲1	▲1	▲1	▲2	▼1	▼1	▲6	=	▼3	▼6	▼2	▼3	▼9	▲6	=	=	▲8	▼4	▲8	▼5	▼2
No	Jan/Feb 2025	55	60	55	57	48	61	50	52	39	43	56	47	53	40	48	48	45	67	39	54	57	67	52	63	43	48	46	48
	Δ Feb/Mar 2024	▼1	▼12	=	▲1	=	▼1	▼1	▼1	▼2	▼2	▼2	▲1	▲2	▼7	=	▲4	▲5	▲2	▲3	▲8	▼5	=	▼1	▼8	▲4	▼7	▲5	▲2
Don't know	Jan/Feb 2025	1	0	1	2	2	1	5	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	1	1	1	1	2	1	1	1	2	1	
	Δ Feb/Mar 2024	=	=	=	=	▲1	=	▼2	=	▲1	▲1	=	=	▼1	▲1	=	▼1	▲1	=	=	▲1	▼1	=	▲1	=	=	▼1	=	=

Special Eurobarometer 561
Citizens' attitudes towards corruption in 2025

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

- Men (47%) are more likely than women (41%) to know where to report a case of corruption if they were to experience or witness one.
- Respondents aged 40-54 are most likely to know (47%), while those aged 15-24 are least likely to (36%).
- Half of those who completed their education aged 20+ know where to report a case of corruption, while less 38% of those who finished education aged 15 or younger do so.

QD10 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	44	55	1
Gender			
Man	47	52	1
Woman	41	58	1
Age			
15-24	36	63	1
25-39	43	56	1
40-54	47	52	1
55+	45	54	1
Education (End of)			
15-	38	61	1
16-19	42	57	1
20+	50	49	1
Still Studying	35	64	1
Socio-professional category			
Self-employed	48	51	1
Managers	48	51	1
Other white collars	48	51	1
Manual workers	43	56	1
House persons	35	63	2
Unemployed	40	59	1
Retired	43	55	2
Students	37	62	1
Difficulties paying bills			
Most of the time	42	57	1
From time to time	40	59	1
Almost never / Never	46	53	1
Experienced or witnessed corruption			
Yes, experienced	57	42	1
Yes, witnessed	50	49	1
No	43	56	1
You know someone who takes bribes			
Yes	57	42	1
No	42	57	1

3. Reasons for not reporting corruption

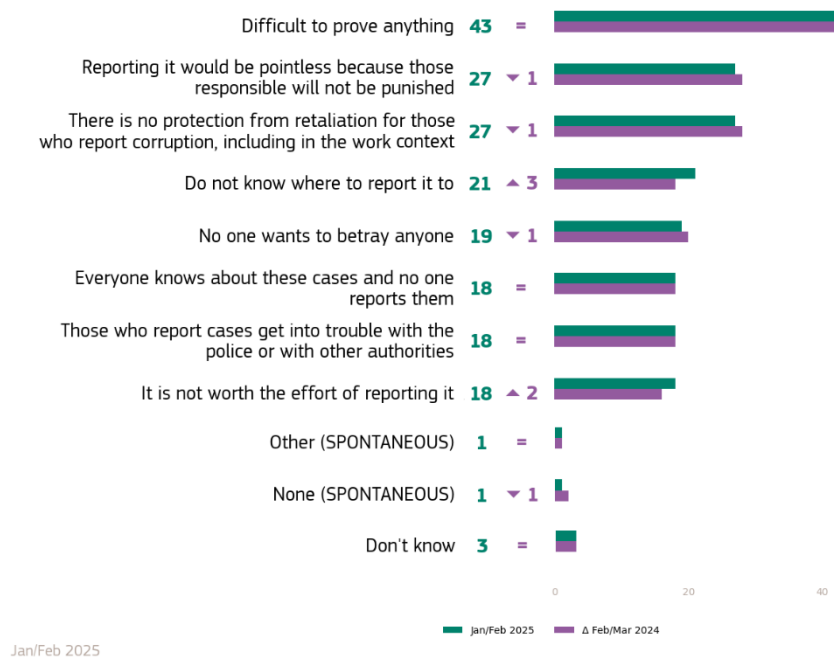
Difficulty in proving anything is the main reason Europeans think people do not report corruption.

Respondents were given a list of eight reasons why people may decide not to report a case of corruption and were asked to choose up to three reasons which they find deem most important.³⁷

The three most frequently cited reasons revolve around doubt about the value of reporting and the fear of retaliation. More than four in ten respondents (43%, unchanged since 2024) believe that one reason is the **difficulty in proving anything** in corruption cases. Close to three in ten (27%, -1 pp) cite that **reporting corruption would be pointless because those responsible would not be punished** and that **there is no protection from retaliation for those who report corruption, including in the work context** (27%, -1 pp).

Around one in five respondents select each of the remaining reasons: **no one wants to betray anyone** (19%, -1 pp), **everyone knows about these cases and no one reports them** (18%, unchanged), **those who report cases get into trouble with the police or with other authorities** (18%, unchanged) and **it is not worth the effort of reporting it** (18%, +2 pp).

QD14: 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? (MAX. 3 ANSWERS) (EU27) (%)



³⁷ QD14. 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? (MAX. 3 ANSWERS)

Special Eurobarometer 561

Citizens' attitudes towards corruption in 2025

In all but three EU Member States (Cyprus, Malta and Portugal), the **difficulty to prove anything** is the most frequently mentioned reason why people may choose not to report corruption. This reason is most frequently mentioned by respondents in Denmark (59%), Luxembourg (58%) and Sweden (55%) and least frequently mentioned in Romania (29%), Malta (30%) and Cyprus (33%).

Reporting it would be pointless because those responsible will not be punished ranks first in Portugal (41%) and comes in second or third place in 20 Member States. Apart from Portugal, respondents are most likely to mention this item in Greece (43%) and Cyprus (41%).

There is no protection from retaliation for those who report corruption, including in the work context is the most frequently mentioned item in Cyprus (46%) and in Malta (40%) and the second- or third-most important item in 15 Member States. Apart from Cyprus and Malta, respondents chose this reason most frequently in the Netherlands (43%) as well as Luxembourg and Lithuania (33%).

The five remaining reasons do not rank first in any of the EU Member States. Notable observations for these reasons include:

- **Do not know where to report it** is mentioned by around three in ten respondents in Sweden (34%), France (31%), Denmark (29%) and Finland (28%).
- **No one wants to betray anyone** is mentioned by more than one in four respondents in Austria and Denmark (both 27%) and Poland (26%).
- While being mentioned by 18% of Europeans, **those who report cases get into trouble with the police or with other authorities** is mentioned by more at least three in ten respondents in Cyprus (37%), Malta (35%), Lithuania (34%) and Bulgaria (30%).
- The proportion of people citing that **everyone knows about these cases and no one reports them** ranges from 37% in Greece to 12% in Finland and the Netherlands.
- **It is not worth the effort of reporting it** ranks second in Ireland (26%) and third in Austria (30%), Slovenia (26%) and Finland (25%).

Special Eurobarometer 561

Citizens' attitudes towards corruption in 2025

Since 2024, the share of respondents who cite the **difficulty to prove anything** has increased in nine Member States, most notably in Luxembourg (58%, +6 percentage points). Conversely, this share has decreased in 15 Member States, with the biggest decreases registered in Estonia (38%, -9 pp), Czechia (46%, -6 pp) and Finland (54%, -6 pp).

The reason that **reporting it would be pointless because those responsible will not be punished** is now mentioned more frequently than in 2024 in eight Member States, with the largest increase having occurred in Slovakia (33%, +6 pp). This share decreased in 14 Member States, most markedly in Slovenia (36%, -10 pp), Malta (36%, -8 pp) and Lithuania (30%, -7 pp).

That **there is no protection from retaliation for those who report corruption, including in the work context** is now cited more often than in 2024 in 11 Member States, most notably in Cyprus (46%, +10 pp). This share has decreased in 13 Member States, most notably in Bulgaria (24%, -12 pp).

Compared to 2024, the share of respondents citing **“do not know where to report it”** has increased in 20 Member States, most notably in France (31%, +10 pp), Slovenia (18%, +7 pp) and Hungary (23%, +6 pp). This share has decreased in five Member States, however none of these decreases exceed two percentage points.

In eight countries, the share of respondents citing **no one want to betray anyone** increased, most notably in Luxembourg (25%, +3 pp). Conversely, this share decreased in 14 Member States, with decreases of at least five percentage points observed in Denmark (27%, -7 pp) as well as in Cyprus (13%, -5 pp), Malta (16%, -5 pp) and Poland (26%, -5 pp).

The share of respondents answering that **those who report cases get into trouble with the police or with other authorities** increased in 16 Member States, most notably in Cyprus (37%, +11 pp), Latvia (23%, +6 pp), Portugal (19%, +6 pp), Romania (22%, +6 pp) and Slovakia (25%, +6 pp). This share decreased in seven Member States, with the largest decrease having occurred in France (12%, -4 pp).

Compared to 2024, respondents in 11 countries are now more likely to cite **“everyone knows about these cases and no one reports them”**, most notably in Slovakia (30%, +9 pp). Conversely, this share decreased in 14 Member States. The largest decrease occurred among respondents in Lithuania (17%, -6 pp).

Lastly, the reason **“it is not worth the effort of reporting it”** is now more frequently cited among respondents in 21 Member States. The largest increases occurred in Lithuania (19%, +8 pp), Austria (30%, +6 pp) and Sweden (24%, +6 pp). Decreases occurred in three countries but did not exceed two percentage points in any of them.

QD14: 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? (MAX. 3 ANSWERS) - Those who report cases get into trouble with the police or with other authorities (%)

		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
Do not know where to report it to	Jan/Feb 2025	21	25	18	10	29	18	16	21	14	21	31	11	21	6	15	14	18	23	15	28	27	13	16	18	18	22	28	34
	Δ Feb/Mar 2024	▲3	=	▲4	▲1	▼2	▲1	▲1	▲5	▲2	▲2	▲10	▲1	▲5	▼2	▲4	▲3	▲1	▲6	▲5	▲3	=	=	▼2	▼1	▲7	▲2	▲3	▲3
Difficult to prove anything	Jan/Feb 2025	43	48	41	46	59	49	38	43	44	38	53	37	39	33	37	46	58	41	30	48	42	27	36	29	39	43	54	55
	Δ Feb/Mar 2024	=	▲2	▲3	▼6	▲2	=	▼9	▲3	▼5	▼1	▲2	=	▲5	▼2	▼1	=	▲6	▲3	▼3	▼1	▼1	▼4	▼4	=	▼4	▲2	▼6	▼4
Reporting it would be pointless because those responsible will not be punished	Jan/Feb 2025	27	24	34	25	29	24	28	26	43	29	25	36	28	41	35	30	23	33	36	35	32	19	41	26	36	33	23	27
	Δ Feb/Mar 2024	▼1	▼3	=	▼3	=	▼2	▼4	=	▼6	▲2	▲1	▲3	▼2	▼2	=	▼7	▲4	▲4	▼8	▼1	▲2	▼3	▼1	▲3	▼10	▲6	▲2	▼1
Those who report cases get into trouble with the police or with other authorities	Jan/Feb 2025	18	12	30	27	7	20	20	15	24	19	12	22	19	37	23	34	17	18	35	20	23	20	19	22	20	25	10	7
	Δ Feb/Mar 2024	=	=	▲5	▲4	▼1	▲1	▲4	▲2	▼2	▲2	▼4	▲3	=	▲11	▲6	▲1	▼1	▲3	=	▼3	▲3	▲1	▲6	▲6	=	▲6	=	▼1
Everyone knows about these cases and no one reports them	Jan/Feb 2025	18	16	27	19	14	15	14	17	37	13	16	31	25	26	18	17	18	24	20	12	17	18	16	24	24	30	12	13
	Δ Feb/Mar 2024	=	▲1	▲3	▼1	▲2	=	▼2	▲1	▼3	▼3	▲2	▲4	▼1	▼1	▼4	▼6	▲4	▼1	▼3	▼3	▼1	▲1	▲1	▲1	▼2	▲9	▲1	▼5
It is not worth the effort of reporting it	Jan/Feb 2025	18	20	20	18	21	18	23	26	20	24	10	30	15	27	24	19	14	25	25	20	30	15	25	22	26	24	25	24
	Δ Feb/Mar 2024	▲2	▲2	▲4	=	▼2	▲3	▲2	▲3	▲3	▲3	▲3	▼2	▲1	▲5	=	▲8	▲2	▲1	▲2	▲3	▲6	▲2	=	▲2	▼1	▲5	▲3	▲6
There is no protection from retaliation for those who report corruption, including in the work context	Jan/Feb 2025	27	23	24	24	26	25	26	19	29	26	28	24	31	46	28	33	33	26	40	43	24	21	30	25	26	25	19	32
	Δ Feb/Mar 2024	▼1	▲1	▼12	▼1	▲3	=	▲3	▼8	▼2	▲4	▼6	▼4	=	▲10	▲2	▼5	=	▲1	▼4	▼5	▲4	▲3	▼8	▲2	▼3	▼7	▲6	▼5
No one wants to betray anyone	Jan/Feb 2025	19	23	8	18	27	23	21	20	23	11	21	25	10	13	22	21	25	18	16	22	27	26	12	18	18	22	13	23
	Δ Feb/Mar 2024	▼1	▲2	▲2	▼1	▼7	=	▼2	=	▲2	=	▼3	▼3	▲1	▼5	▼4	▼2	▲3	▼3	▼5	▼2	=	▼5	▼1	▼1	▲1	▲1	▼2	▲1
Other (SPONTANEOUS)	Jan/Feb 2025	1	1	0	0	0	0	2	0	1	1	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	1	1	0	2	1	1	0	0	0	0
	Δ Feb/Mar 2024	=	▲1	=	=	=	=	▼1	▲1	=	▲1	=	=	=	▼1	=	=	=	=	=	▼1	▲1	=	=	▲2	=	▲1	=	▼1
None (SPONTANEOUS)	Jan/Feb 2025	1	2	0	1	3	2	2	1	0	1	1	0	1	1	0	1	0	0	3	0	2	1	1	1	1	0	2	3
	Δ Feb/Mar 2024	▼1	=	=	▲1	▲1	▼1	▲1	▼2	=	▼2	=	▼1	▼1	=	▼1	=	▼2	▼1	▲2	▼1	=	=	=	=	▲1	▼2	=	▲1
Don't know	Jan/Feb 2025	3	3	2	5	3	5	8	3	0	3	5	1	3	3	4	1	3	1	6	1	3	4	3	2	1	2	6	2
	Δ Feb/Mar 2024	=	▲1	=	▲2	▼1	▲1	▲4	▼2	=	▼1	▲1	▼1	▼1	▲1	▲1	=	▲1	▲1	▲5	=	▼1	▲1	▲1	▼2	=	=	▼1	▲1

Jan/Feb 2025

Special Eurobarometer 561

Citizens' attitudes towards corruption in 2025

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

- Those who stopped studying aged 20+ are most likely to say people may decide not to report corruption because it is difficult to prove anything (47%). Managers are equally likely (47%) to give this response.
- Those who have difficulties paying bills most of the time (34%) and the unemployed (32%) are most likely to say reporting corruption would be pointless because those responsible will not be punished.
- Those who have difficulties paying bills most of the time (32%), the self-employed (31%) and managers (30%) are most likely to say that there is no protection from retaliation for those who report corruption, including in the work context.
- Lastly, students (27%), house persons (25%), those aged 15-24 (25%) and women (24%) are more likely than other groups to say that people do not know where to report the cases.

QD14 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? (MAX. 3 ANSWERS)
(% - EU)

	Difficult to prove anything	Reporting it would be pointless because those responsible will not be punished	There is no protection from retaliation for those who report corruption, including in the work context	Do not know where to report it to
EU27	43	27	27	21
Gender				
Man	44	27	27	19
Woman	43	27	27	24
Age				
15-24	43	24	22	25
25-39	44	29	26	22
40-54	44	30	30	21
55+	42	26	27	20
Education (End of)				
15-	37	28	25	21
16-19	42	27	26	19
20+	47	28	29	23
Still Studying	45	26	23	27
Socio-professional category				
Self-employed	41	27	31	18
Managers	47	29	30	22
Other white collars	44	29	29	22
Manual workers	43	29	28	20
House persons	37	24	25	25
Unemployed	45	32	25	21
Retired	43	25	26	20
Students	44	26	21	27
Difficulties paying bills				
Most of the time	41	34	32	17
From time to time	42	30	26	20
Almost never / Never	44	25	27	22
Experienced or witnessed corruption				
Yes, experienced	40	41	32	11
Yes, witnessed	42	35	27	11
No	43	27	27	22
You know someone who takes bribes				
Yes	45	34	36	14
No	43	26	26	22

For reasons of readability, only those items are shown which were selected by at least 20% of the respondents at the EU level.

4. Level of trust in authorities

The police are the only institution trusted by more than half to deal with complaints about a case of corruption.

Respondents were also asked, who they would trust most to handle a corruption complaint.³⁸

Overall, the **police** is the most trusted authority across the EU, with 61% (+1 percentage point since 2024) of respondents indicating their trust in the police in such a case. This is the only answer mentioned by more than half.

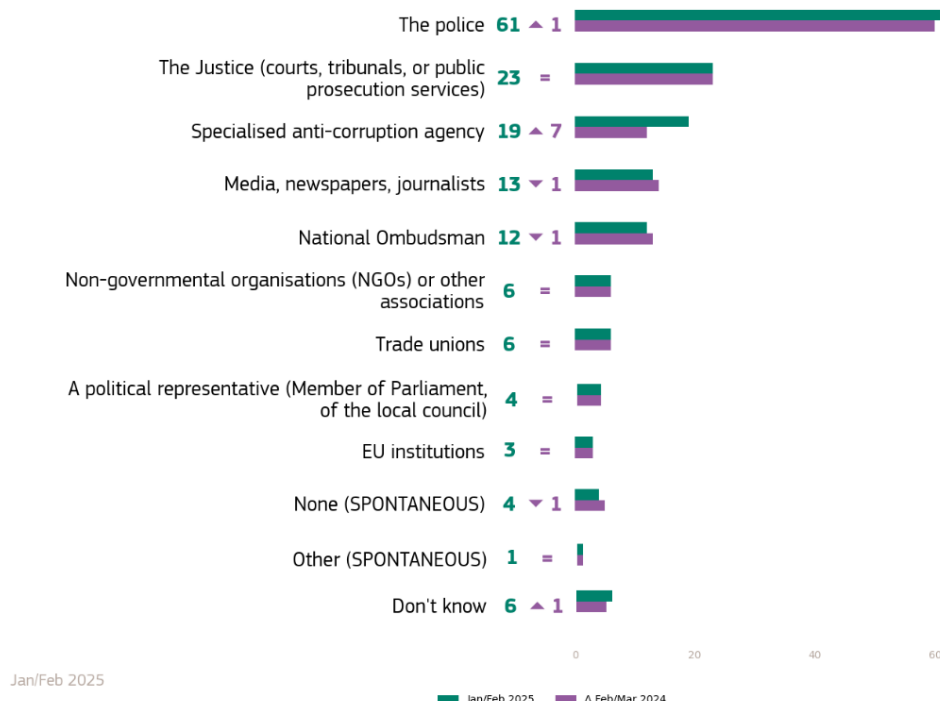
Around one quarter (23%, unchanged) trust the **justice system**, including courts, tribunals, and public prosecution services, whereas **specialised anti-corruption agencies** are trusted by 19% of respondents across the European Union, an increase of 7 percentage points since 2024.

Around one in ten (13%, -1 pp) respondents mention the **media, including newspapers and journalists**, while the **national ombudsman** is trusted by 12% of respondents across the EU (-1 pp).

The remaining institutions are all trusted by fewer than one in ten respondents: **Non-governmental organisations (NGOs) or other association** (6%, unchanged), **trade unions** (6%, unchanged), **a political representative (Member of Parliament, of the local council)** (4%, unchanged) and **EU institutions** (3%, unchanged).

Lastly, 4% (-1 pp) say they trust none of the options given, while 6% (+1 pp) say they don't know.

QD11: And if you wanted to complain about this case of corruption, who would you trust most to deal with it? (EU27) (%)

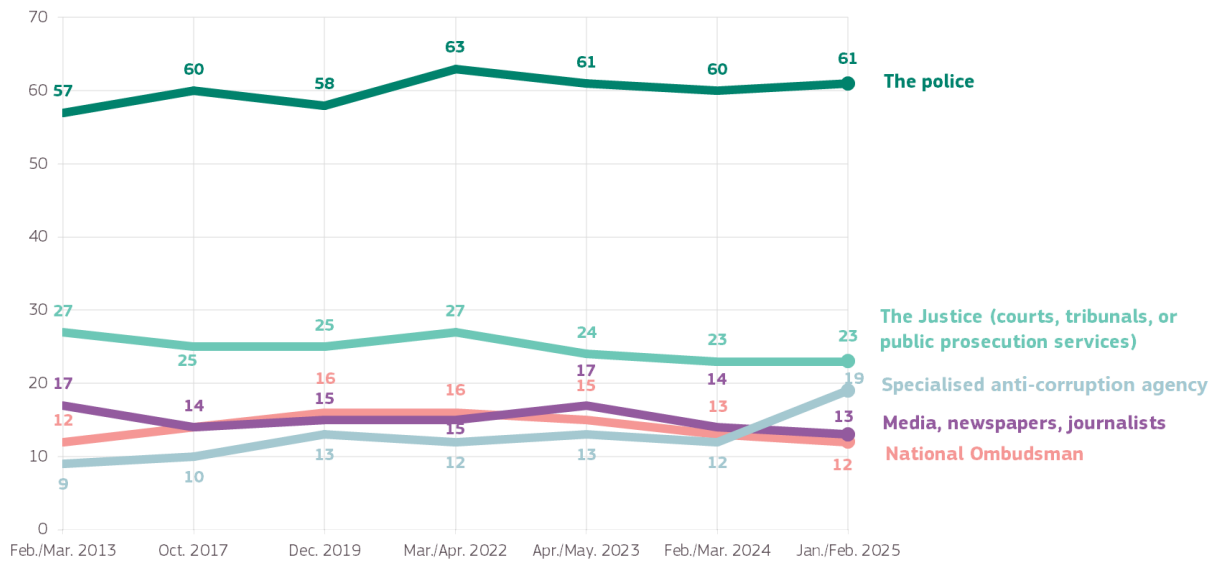


³⁸ QD11. And if you wanted to complain about this case of corruption, who would you trust most to deal with it?

Special Eurobarometer 561 Citizens' attitudes towards corruption in 2025

While the other institutions have remained relatively stable since February – March 2013, specialised anti-corruption agencies has increased by ten percentage points in this time span, most notably between 2024 and 2025 (+ 7 percentage points).

QD11 And if you wanted to complain about this case of corruption, who would you trust most to deal with it?
(MULTIPLE ANSWERS POSSIBLE)
(% EU)



Special Eurobarometer 561

Citizens' attitudes towards corruption in 2025

In all EU Member States except Croatia, respondents are most likely to say they would trust **the police** most if they wanted to complain about a case of corruption. The highest proportions are seen in Finland (78%), Denmark (76%) and Luxembourg (72%). In 21 Member States of the European Union, at least half of the respondents trust the police to deal with their complaint, whereas respondents are least likely to express such trust in Bulgaria (38%), Hungary (39%) and Malta (41%).

The **justice system** is the second- or third-most trusted institution in 17 countries, most notably in Sweden (58%), which is the only country where more than half of respondents cite this institution.

Specialised anti-corruption agencies³⁹ are the most frequently mentioned item in Croatia (45%), and rank second or third in 12 countries, most notably in Romania (32%). Accordingly, this item ranks in the top three most frequently mentioned items in all countries in which this item was proposed.

In 13 countries, the **media, including newspapers and journalists**, rank second or third, with respondents most likely to mention this in Slovakia and Denmark (both 26%) and Sweden (25%).

The **national ombudsman** ranks second or third in 11 Member States, with the largest shares observed in the Netherlands (41%).

Trade Unions rank third in Luxembourg (13%) and are most frequently mentioned in Sweden (19%).

All remaining items (non-governmental organisations (NGOs) or other associations, a political representative (Member of Parliament, of the local council, EU Institutions) do not rank among the top three most frequently mentioned items in any Member State.

QD11. And if you wanted to complain about this case of corruption, who would you trust most to deal with it? (%)

	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	61	55	56	38	57	66	69	76	63	62	63	78	59	44	39	57	66	52	72	45	41	62	56	54	43	66	51	62
The Justice (courts, tribunals, or public prosecution services)	23	27	23	7	13	6	24	40	21	34	34	29	25	11	21	9	14	5	28	8	15	38	13	15	10	58	8	12
Specialised anti-corruption agency	19	28	0	25	0	0	0	0	0	0	13	0	20	45	0	0	20	30	0	31	30	0	9	24	32	0	26	0
Media, newspapers, journalists	13	23	22	23	23	14	10	26	16	11	9	10	13	21	16	12	11	18	12	16	21	20	8	10	10	25	14	26
National Ombudsman	12	16	16	12	20	11	16	18	11	22	6	15	7	8	13	27	7	1	9	10	25	41	8	5	7	30	16	25
Non-governmental organisations (NGOs) or other associations	6	16	7	6	8	5	5	6	5	4	1	6	8	6	15	8	4	3	7	4	16	8	4	2	9	7	7	9
Trade Unions	6	11	12	2	2	4	4	15	6	3	3	11	8	4	5	4	5	2	13	3	5	12	2	1	3	19	3	3
A political representative (Member of Parliament, of the local council)	4	12	5	2	7	2	4	5	4	2	1	3	2	4	6	4	2	0	4	2	8	9	4	2	8	4	0	4
EU Institutions	3	6	3	4	7	1	2	5	4	4	2	6	1	8	10	2	2	2	4	6	11	5	2	1	3	7	4	8
Other (SPONTANEOUS)	1	2	1	1	0	0	1	1	2	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	1	2	2	1	1	0	1	2	0	0	0
Don't know	6	5	5	10	3	11	5	2	7	2	5	4	6	3	8	8	6	4	2	7	5	2	7	12	6	1	3	6

1st Most Frequently Mentioned Item

2nd Most Frequently Mentioned Item

3rd Most Frequently Mentioned Item

Jan/Feb 2025

³⁹ It is important to note that this item was only proposed to respondents in Austria, Bulgaria, Spain, France, Croatia, Italy, Lithuania, Latvia, Malta, Poland, Portugal, Romania and Slovenia)

Special Eurobarometer 561

Citizens' attitudes towards corruption in 2025

Compared to 2024, the proportion of respondents mentioning trusting the police to deal with their complaints about cases of corruption increased in 13 countries, most notably in Cyprus (57%, +12 percentage points), Luxembourg (72%, +12 pp) and Latvia (45%, +11 pp). Conversely, this share decreased in ten countries, most notably in Malta (41%, -18 pp).

In ten countries, respondents are more likely than they were in 2024 to cite the justice system, while respondents are less likely to do so in 15 countries. The strongest increase occurred in Spain (34%, +6 pp), the strongest decrease in Bulgaria (7%, -5 pp).

The share of respondents mentioning specialised anti-corruption agencies has increased in seven countries, most notably in Malta (30%, +15 pp). Conversely, this share has decreased in four countries, most notably in Portugal (24%, -6 pp).

Media, newspapers and journalists is now more likely to be mentioned by respondents in 14 countries and is less likely to be mentioned by respondents in 12 countries. The most notable increase occurred in Malta (21%, +7 pp), while the most notable decreases occurred in Germany (10%, -5 pp), Lithuania (18%, -5 pp) and Romania (10%, -5 pp).

The shares mentioning the national ombudsman increased in eight countries, with the largest increase seen in Slovakia (25%, +11 pp). This share decreased in 15 Member States, most notably in Luxembourg (8%, -10 pp).

Trade Unions are now more likely to be mentioned by respondents in 11 countries, while this share has decreased in ten countries. The only change of at least four percentage points occurred in the Netherlands (13%, -4 pp).

Other notable findings compared to 2024 include:

- The proportion mentioning non-governmental organisations (NGOs) or other associations increased by 8 percentage points in Malta (16%).
- Compared to 2024, the share trusting a political representative has not changed by more than two percentage points in any of the EU Member States.
- Trust in EU Institutions to deal with corruption decreased by three percentage points in Belgium (3%).

QD11: And if you wanted to complain about this case of corruption, who would you trust most to deal with it? - Trade unions (%)

		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	
Media, newspapers, journalists	The police	Jan/Feb 2025	61	56	38	66	76	69	63	57	62	63	59	44	66	57	45	52	72	39	41	62	55	56	54	43	51	62	78	66
		Δ Feb/Mar 2024	▲1	▲2	▼5	=	▲6	▲6	▲1	▼7	▼1	▼2	▲3	▲5	=	▲12	▲11	=	▲12	▼8	▼18	▲4	▲6	▲1	▼3	=	▼8	▲3	▼1	▼1
	The Justice (courts, tribunals, or public prosecution services)	Jan/Feb 2025	23	23	7	6	40	24	21	9	34	34	25	11	14	13	8	5	28	21	15	38	27	13	15	10	8	12	29	58
		Δ Feb/Mar 2024	=	=	▼5	▼1	▲3	▼1	▲1	▲3	▼2	▲6	▲1	▼4	▼1	▲2	▲3	▼2	▼1	=	▲3	▼4	▲1	▼4	▼4	▼1	▼2	▲2	▼1	▼2
	Non-governmental organisations (NGOs) or other associations	Jan/Feb 2025	6	7	6	5	6	5	5	8	4	1	8	6	4	8	4	3	7	15	16	8	16	4	2	9	7	9	6	7
		Δ Feb/Mar 2024	=	=	=	▼1	=	▼1	▲2	▲2	=	▼3	=	▼2	▼1	▲3	▼2	▲1	▼1	▲5	▲8	▲2	▲2	=	▼1	▲3	▲2	▲2	▲3	▼1
	Media, newspapers, journalists	Jan/Feb 2025	13	22	23	14	26	10	16	12	11	9	13	21	11	23	16	18	12	16	21	20	23	8	10	10	14	26	10	25
			Δ Feb/Mar 2024	▼1	=	▲1	▼3	▲1	▼5	▲1	▼3	▼2	▲1	▼1	▲1	▼3	▲3	▲3	▼5	▲2	▲4	▲7	▲2	▲1	▼2	▼1	▼5	▼1	▲4	▼1
	National Ombudsman	Jan/Feb 2025	12	16	12	11	18	16	11	27	22	6	7	8	7	20	10	1	9	12	25	41	16	8	5	7	16	25	15	30
			Δ Feb/Mar 2024	▼1	=	▲3	▼3	▼1	▲1	▲3	▲5	▼4	▼1	=	▲1	▼1	▲3	▼2	▼1	▼9	▼4	▲4	=	▼6	▼2	▼1	▼1	=	▲11	▼1
	A political representative (Member of Parliament, of the local council)	Jan/Feb 2025	4	5	2	2	5	4	4	4	2	1	2	4	2	7	2	0	4	6	8	9	12	4	2	8	0	4	3	4
			Δ Feb/Mar 2024	=	▲1	=	=	▼1	▲1	▲2	▼1	▼1	=	=	▲1	▼2	=	▲1	▼1	▲2	=	=	▲1	▲1	=	▼1	▲1	▼1	▼2	▲1
	Specialised anti-corruption agency	Jan/Feb 2025	19	0	25	0	0	0	0	0	0	13	20	45	20	0	31	30	0	0	30	0	28	9	24	32	26	0	0	0
			Δ Feb/Mar 2024	▲7	=	▲5	▼9	=	=	=	=	▼24	▲2	▲2	▲8	=	▼23	▼4	▼3	=	=	▲15	=	▲4	▼3	▼6	=	▲4	=	=
	Trade unions	Jan/Feb 2025	6	12	2	4	15	4	6	4	3	3	8	4	5	2	3	2	13	5	5	13	11	2	1	3	3	3	11	19
			Δ Feb/Mar 2024	=	▼1	=	▼1	▲1	▼1	▲2	▲1	▼1	▼1	▲1	▼1	▲1	=	▲1	▲2	▼2	=	▼4	▲2	▼2	▼1	=	=	▲3	▲3	=
EU institutions	Jan/Feb 2025	3	3	4	1	5	2	4	2	4	2	1	8	2	7	6	2	4	10	11	5	6	2	1	3	4	8	6	7	
		Δ Feb/Mar 2024	=	▼4	▲1	▼1	▲2	=	▲1	=	▲1	=	=	=	▲2	=	▼2	▲1	▲3	=	▲1	▲1	▼1	▼1	=	▼1	▲2	▲3	▲1	
Other (SPONTANEOUS)	Jan/Feb 2025	1	1	1	0	1	1	2	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	2	1	2	0	1	1	2	0	1	2	0	0	1	0	
		Δ Feb/Mar 2024	=	▲1	=	=	▼2	▼1	▲1	=	▲1	▼1	▼1	=	▲1	▼1	▲1	▲1	=	=	▲1	▲1	▲1	=	▲1	▲1	=	▼1	▲1	=
None (SPONTANEOUS)	Jan/Feb 2025	4	3	10	5	1	3	6	4	8	4	4	1	3	13	5	12	3	9	8	1	5	7	2	8	9	3	0	2	
		Δ Feb/Mar 2024	▼1	▼2	▲1	▼1	=	▼2	▼1	▼2	▲2	▲1	▼4	▼7	▲1	▼2	▼7	=	=	▲4	=	▼2	▲2	▼1	=	▲2	▼3	▼1	=	=
Don't know	Jan/Feb 2025	6	5	10	11	2	5	7	8	2	5	6	3	6	3	7	4	2	8	5	2	5	7	12	6	3	6	4	1	
		Δ Feb/Mar 2024	▲1	▲2	=	▲2	▼2	▼1	▼2	▲1	▲1	=	=	▼2	▲3	=	▼2	▲1	▼1	▲2	▲2	▲1	▼1	=	▲5	▲2	▲1	▼2	=	▼1

Jan/Feb 2025

Special Eurobarometer 561

Citizens' attitudes towards corruption in 2025

The **socio-demographic analysis** provides the following insights:

- The longer a respondent remained in education, the more likely they are to trust various institutions, apart from the police. Trust in the police is highest among those who ended education aged 15 or younger (66%).
- Trust in various institutions to deal with corruption across socio-professional groups is mixed. While, for example, house persons and the retired are the groups that are most likely to trust the police (64%), managers are most likely to trust the justice (29%). Managers are also the group most likely to trust specialised anti-corruption agencies (28%).

QD11 And if you wanted to complain about this case of corruption, who would you trust most to deal with it?
(% - EU)

	The police	The Justice (courts, tribunals, or public prosecution services)	Specialised anti-corruption agency	Media, newspapers, journalists	National Ombudsman
EU27	61	23	19	13	12
Gender					
Man	60	24	21	14	13
Woman	62	21	18	11	12
Age					
15-24	58	22	22	15	10
25-39	61	25	22	14	13
40-54	60	24	21	12	13
55+	63	21	16	12	13
Education (End of)					
15-	66	14	13	6	6
16-19	60	20	17	12	11
20+	61	29	23	16	18
Still Studying	60	24	23	16	9
Socio-professional category					
Self-employed	55	26	23	15	15
Managers	60	29	28	16	20
Other white collars	62	22	22	13	14
Manual workers	62	21	19	11	10
House persons	64	15	15	7	7
Unemployed	53	23	18	12	11
Retired	64	20	15	11	12
Students	60	25	21	15	10
Difficulties paying bills					
Most of the time	55	20	22	13	12
From time to time	59	18	17	12	10
Almost never / Never	63	25	20	13	14
Experienced or witnessed corruption					
Yes, experienced	40	24	15	21	12
Yes, witnessed	42	29	26	17	19
No	62	22	19	12	12
You know someone who takes bribes					
Yes	49	25	28	19	17
No	63	23	19	12	12

For reasons of readability, only those items are shown which were selected by at least 10% of the respondents at the EU level.



Conclusion

The findings from the latest survey show that roughly seven in ten Europeans believe that **corruption is widespread in their country**, a slight increase compared to 2024. Since last year, the perception of widespread corruption has increased in twelve EU Member States, with the largest rises observed in Luxembourg and Ireland, and decreased in thirteen, most notably in Malta and Slovenia. Perceptions vary across the EU, with nearly all respondents in Greece believing corruption is widespread, while only about two in ten say the same in Finland.

Europeans largely perceive corruption to be widespread in political and administrative institutions. More than half believe that giving and taking bribes and the abuse of power for personal gain are widespread among political parties, and nearly as many say the same about politicians at all levels. While these figures have slightly declined since 2024, they remain the most frequently mentioned groups in most Member States. Around four out of ten respondents also point to officials awarding public tenders, and about one in three mention those issuing building or business permits. Although slightly lower compared to 2024, a significant number still believe bribery and personal connections remain prevalent methods for accessing public services.

Corruption is also seen to affect public services, though less often than political institutions. About one in four mention healthcare, and one in five law enforcement. Fewer point to social welfare and education, but around one in ten still believe corruption exists in these sectors.

While corruption is perceived as widespread in many political and administrative institutions, it is less frequently associated with frontline services. These sectors, which involve direct service delivery to citizens, contrast with areas such as political parties, regional administration, public procurement, and construction, where systemic corruption is seen as more entrenched. Overall, perceptions of corruption in healthcare remain limited, though they vary across Member States.

Around three in ten Europeans feel personally affected by corruption in their daily lives, a slight increase compared to 2024. This perception varies widely across the EU, with majorities in several southern and eastern Member States, and far fewer respondents in northern and western Europe.

The results show a clear co-occurrence between the perception of widespread corruption and the feeling of being personally affected by it. In countries where corruption is seen as more prevalent, respondents are also

more likely to report that it impacts their daily lives, suggesting that perception may often reflect concrete, everyday concerns.

Around six in ten Europeans say that giving money, gifts, or favours to obtain something from public services is never acceptable, while about one in three still consider at least one of these practices acceptable in some situations, though this share has declined across all three practices since 2024. A majority of respondents in 20 Member States reject these practices, with the highest shares in Portugal, Spain and France. In contrast, the highest shares of tolerance are found in Slovakia, Hungary and Czechia.

Around one in three respondents think it is acceptable to do a favour or give a gift to obtain something from a public administration or public service, while about one in five say the same about giving money. Although a majority continue to reject these practices, **the 2025 results mark a reversal of last year's increase in acceptability**, with modest declines observed across all three.

Attitudes toward corruption differ depending on personal exposure. Respondents who have experienced or witnessed corruption are less likely to find it unacceptable, with fewer than half rejecting such practices. Among those with no direct exposure, nearly two-thirds say corruption is never acceptable.

Only **a minority of Europeans consider their country's efforts to combat corruption to be effective**, with just under one in three respondents holding this view. Many believe that corruption has worsened in recent years, a perception particularly widespread in countries such as Portugal, Slovenia, Croatia, and Malta.

Europeans remain sceptical about the effectiveness of national anti-corruption efforts. Fewer than four in ten believe that measures are applied impartially or that prosecutions deter corrupt practices. Only around one in three consider their government's efforts effective, with little change since 2024. A majority also doubt the transparency of political financing and believe **that high-level corruption cases are not adequately pursued**. These views are reinforced by widespread agreement that bribery and personal connections are common paths to public contracts and positions, highlighting persistent concerns about fairness and accountability in public life.

Corruption is widely perceived as a barrier to fair business practices and is also deeply embedded in

business culture. Many Europeans believe that favouritism and political connections distort competition, with around six in ten agreeing that corruption is embedded in business culture. Just over half also think that political ties are crucial for business success within the EU.

The police remain the most trusted institution for handling corruption complaints, with six out of ten respondents expressing confidence in their role. This figure remains well above that of the justice system, which is trusted by just under a quarter of respondents. Trust in specialised anti-corruption agencies has increased since 2024, though they remain less frequently cited overall

More than half of those surveyed say they would not know where to report a case of corruption, though awareness has slightly improved since 2024. Just over four in ten say they would know where to report it, yet only one in five of those who encountered corruption actually did so. In the remaining 14 countries, at least half of respondents are not aware of where to report corruption. Awareness is particularly low in Poland, Hungary and Romania, where fewer than four in ten know where to turn.

The difficulty in proving corruption remains the most common reason people believe cases go unreported, cited by more than four in ten respondents. In nearly all Member States, it ranks as the most frequently mentioned barrier. Close to three in ten say reporting would be pointless because those responsible would not be punished, or that there is no protection from retaliation. Other reasons include fear of consequences, social pressure, and the belief that reporting is not worth the effort. These findings highlight persistent barriers to reporting.

Reluctance to report corruption remains widespread across the EU, with nearly eight in ten respondents saying they did not report their experience. Reporting is particularly rare in countries such as Greece, Latvia and Slovakia, where fewer than one in ten came forward. In contrast, at least one in three reported the case in the Netherlands, Sweden, Belgium and Estonia, suggesting stronger trust in reporting mechanisms or a greater sense of civic responsibility.

Although many Europeans perceive corruption as widespread, direct encounters remain relatively uncommon. One in twenty respondents say they experienced or witnessed a case of corruption incidents in the past year. Slightly more, around one in twelve, report being asked or expected to give a gift, favour or extra payment for public services. Most of these incidents occurred in a work-related context.

While a majority of every socio-demographic group believe corruption is widespread, clear divides emerge across age, education and economic status. **The share rises to around seven in ten or more among older respondents, those with less formal education and individuals facing financial hardships.** Among those with direct or indirect exposure to corruption, such as having experienced or witnessed it, or know someone who takes bribes, nearly nine in ten share this view. These patterns underline how personal context and lived experience shape perceptions of corruption across the EU.

While men and women share broadly similar views on corruption, key differences remain. Men are more likely to perceive corruption as widespread, to know someone who has taken bribes, and to believe political connections are essential for business success. Women are more likely to say they don't know where to report corruption and show slightly lower trust in institutions. Yet both genders express nearly equal views on the unacceptability of corruption, experiences of bribery, and reporting behaviour, reflecting largely aligned attitudes overall.

As in the previous years, national, regional, and socio-demographic differences continue to shape how Europeans perceive corruption. While overall perceptions remain stable, most continue to view corruption as widespread, particularly in political and administrative institutions. A clear majority reject sustained corrupt practices, though tolerance persists in some contexts. These findings point to a continued gap between public expectations and the limited effectiveness of anti-corruption efforts, reinforcing the need for more visible, credible and coordinated action to strengthen enforcement, improve accountability and rebuild trust.

Technical Specifications

Between 9 January and 4 February 2025, Verian Belgium carried out the wave 103.1 of the Eurobarometer survey, on request of the European Commission, Directorate-General for Communication, "Public Opinion & Citizens Engagement" Unit.

The Wave 103.1 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 areas⁴⁰.

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.

⁴⁰ Urban Rural classification based on DEGURBA
(<https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/web/degree-of-urbanisation/background>)

Special Eurobarometer 561 Technical Specifications

	COUNTRIES	INSTITUTES	N°	FIELDWORK		POPULATION	PROPORTION
			INTERVIEWS	DATES		15+	EU27
BE	Belgium	MCM Belgium	1,006	10/01/2025	27/01/2025	9,801,547	2.6%
BG	Bulgaria	Kantar TNS BBSS	1,044	10/01/2025	29/01/2025	5,533,938	1.4%
CZ	Czechia	STEM/MARK	1,007	09/01/2025	27/01/2025	9,075,934	2.4%
DK	Denmark	Mantle Denmark (Verian)	1,003	09/01/2025	02/03/2025	4,984,048	1.3%
DE	Germany	Mantle Germany (Verian)	1,504	10/01/2025	28/01/2025	72,405,020	19.0%
EE	Estonia	Norstat Eesti	1,004	09/01/2025	28/01/2025	1,141,759	0.3%
IE	Ireland	B and A Research	1,007	09/01/2025	31/01/2025	4,250,998	1.1%
EL	Greece	Kantar Greece	1,011	09/01/2025	29/01/2025	9,019,518	2.4%
ES	Spain	Mantle Spain (Verian)	1,000	09/01/2025	29/01/2025	41,533,486	10.9%
FR	France	MCM France	1,006	09/01/2025	29/01/2025	56,365,353	14.8%
HR	Croatia	Hendal	1,011	11/01/2025	28/01/2025	3,301,831	0.9%
IT	Italy	Testpoint Italia	1,024	09/01/2025	21/01/2025	51,632,657	13.5%
CY	Rep. of Cyprus	CYMAR Market Research	502	09/01/2025	29/01/2025	772,320	0.2%
LV	Latvia	Kantar TNS Latvia	1,005	09/01/2025	29/01/2025	1,582,326	0.4%
LT	Lithuania	Norstat LT	1,004	09/01/2025	29/01/2025	2,429,823	0.6%
LU	Luxembourg	ILRES	503	09/01/2025	30/01/2025	555,900	0.1%
HU	Hungary	Kantar Hoffmann	1,011	09/01/2025	29/01/2025	8,205,783	2.1%
MT	Malta	MISCO International	503	09/01/2025	02/04/2025	473,015	0.1%
NL	Netherlands	MCM Netherlands	1,016	10/01/2025	30/01/2025	15,081,342	4.0%
AT	Austria	Das Österreichische Gallup Ins.	1,007	09/01/2025	28/01/2025	7,788,036	2.0%
PL	Poland	Research Collective	1,017	10/01/2025	28/01/2025	31,079,533	8.1%
PT	Portugal	Intercampus SA	1,040	09/01/2025	29/01/2025	9,113,419	2.4%
RO	Romania	CSOP SRL	1,031	10/01/2025	28/01/2025	15,981,575	4.2%
SI	Slovenia	Mediana DOO	1,005	09/01/2025	27/01/2025	1,799,078	0.5%
SK	Slovakia	MNFORCE	1,002	09/01/2025	24/01/2025	4,554,569	1.2%
FI	Finland	Taloustutkimus Oy	1,008	09/01/2025	29/01/2025	4,722,540	1.2%
SE	Sweden	Mantle Sweden (Verian)	1,073	09/01/2025	29/01/2025	8,541,497	2.2%
TOTAL EU27			26,354	09/01/2025	02/04/2025	381,726,845	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, Netherlands, Finland and Sweden).

	COUNTRIES	N° OF CAPI INTERVIEWS	N° OF CAVI INTERVIEWS	TOTAL N° INTERVIEWS
BE	Belgium	1,006		1,006
BG	Bulgaria	1,044		1,044
CZ	Czechia	990	17	1,007
DK	Denmark	692	311	1,003
DE	Germany	1,504		1,504
EE	Estonia	1,004		1,004
IE	Ireland	1,007		1,007
EL	Greece	1,011		1,011
ES	Spain	1,000		1,000
FR	France	1,006		1,006
HR	Croatia	1,011		1,011
IT	Italy	1,024		1,024
CY	Rep. Of Cyprus	502		502
LV	Latvia	1,005		1,005
LT	Lithuania	1,004		1,004
LU	Luxembourg	503		503
HU	Hungary	1,011		1,011
MT	Malta	326	177	503
NL	Netherlands	799	217	1,016
AT	Austria	1,007		1,007
PL	Poland	1,017		1,017
PT	Portugal	1,040		1,040
RO	Romania	1,031		1,031
SI	Slovenia	1,005		1,005
SK	Slovakia	1,002		1,002
FI	Finland	734	274	1,008
SE	Sweden	855	218	1,073
	TOTAL EU27	25,140	1,214	26,354

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 103.1 of the EUROBAROMETER survey, the response rates for the EU27 countries, calculated by Verian Belgium, are:

COUNTRIES		CAPI RESPONSE RATES
BE	Belgium	52.8%
BG	Bulgaria	43.8%
CZ	Czechia	59.1%
DK	Denmark	49.3%
DE	Germany	36.0%
EE	Estonia	52.6%
IE	Ireland	43.0%
EL	Greece	31.1%
ES	Spain	37.6%
FR	France	43.3%
HR	Croatia	43.2%
IT	Italy	31.3%
CY	Rep. Of Cyprus	69.8%
LV	Latvia	29.8%
LT	Lithuania	42.7%
LU	Luxembourg	27.3%
HU	Hungary	56.3%
MT	Malta	79.1%
NL	Netherlands	79.6%
AT	Austria	44.0%
PL	Poland	49.0%
PT	Portugal	47.0%
RO	Romania	47.5%
SI	Slovenia	38.8%
SK	Slovakia	53.3%
FI	Finland	32.9%
SE	Sweden	77.6%

CAPI : Computer-Assisted Personal interviewing

Special Eurobarometer 561

Technical Specifications

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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