



Special Eurobarometer 523  
March-April 2022

# Corruption

Report

Fieldwork: March-April 2022

Survey conducted by Kantar for Kantar Belgium  
at the request of the European Commission, Directorate-General for Migration and Home Affairs (DG HOME)

Survey coordinated by the European Commission, Directorate-General for Communication  
(DG COMM "Media monitoring and Eurobarometer" Unit)

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# INTRODUCTION



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### Corruption

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#### INTRODUCTION

Corruption is the abuse of entrusted power for private gain. It takes many forms, from bribery and trading in influence to less obvious forms such as nepotism, conflict of interest or revolving doors between the public and the private sectors. Corruption deepens inequalities, erodes citizens' trust in public institutions, undermines good governance and social justice, and constitutes a serious threat to the rule of law, democracy and fundamental rights. It also adversely affects government objectives that focus on improving income disparity and environmental protection. Corruption has serious and widespread effects including slowing prosperity and economic growth by creating uncertainty for business, slowing processes and imposing additional costs. It harms the European Union (EU) as a whole by lowering investment levels, hampering the fair operation of the Internal Market and reducing public finances.<sup>1</sup>

The EU Rule of Law Report, published in 2020, 2021 and next in July 2022, demonstrates that the nature and scope of corruption varies between countries, and the effectiveness of anti-corruption policies is quite different across the Union. The EU Rule of Law Report serves as the basis for dialogue with national authorities and parliaments while also informing broader debates across Europe. Together with the anti-corruption experience-sharing programme launched by the Commission in 2015, these efforts have encouraged national authorities to better implement laws and policies against corruption.<sup>2</sup>

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

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

This Eurobarometer survey is designed to explore the level of corruption perceived and experienced by European citizens. It was first conducted in 2005<sup>3</sup>, and has been repeated in 2007<sup>4</sup>, 2009<sup>5</sup>, 2011<sup>6</sup>, 2013<sup>7</sup>, 2017<sup>8</sup> and 2019<sup>9</sup>.

This survey covers the following areas:

- General perceptions of corruption including acceptability, its extent and the perceived changes in incidence in recent years.
- Detailed attitudes to corruption in public institutions and business, and the effectiveness of government, the judicial system and institutions in tackling corruption.
- Personal experience of bribery, and the incidence of corruption in contact with institutions.

- Bribery and corruption in the healthcare sector.
- 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 results have been analysed at EU level (including all 27 EU Member States), by country, and by socio-demographic category. The questionnaire used in the current survey is based on the survey first implemented in the 2013 Special Eurobarometer survey. Current results have been compared with those from 2019, and in some cases with earlier surveys. In 2019, the United Kingdom was part of the EU and therefore the EU average included the UK at that time.

<sup>1</sup>[https://ec.europa.eu/home-affairs/policies/internal-security/organised-crime-and-human-trafficking/corruption\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/home-affairs/policies/internal-security/organised-crime-and-human-trafficking/corruption_en)

<sup>2</sup>[https://ec.europa.eu/home-affairs/policies/internal-security/organised-crime-and-human-trafficking/corruption\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/home-affairs/policies/internal-security/organised-crime-and-human-trafficking/corruption_en)

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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**METHODOLOGY**

This survey was carried out by the Kantar network in the 27 EU Member States between the 22<sup>nd</sup> of March and the 18<sup>th</sup> of April 2022. Some 26,509 respondents from different social and demographic groups were interviewed in their mother tongue. This survey was commissioned by the European Commission, Directorate-General for Migration and Home Affairs (DG HOME).

The methodology used is that of Eurobarometer surveys as carried out for the Directorate-General for Communication (“Media monitoring and Eurobarometer” Unit). However, in order to run fieldwork during the COVID pandemic, it was necessary to change the methodology in some countries (total or partial online interviews in some countries). A technical note on the way the interviews were conducted by the institutes within the Kantar network is annexed to this report. Also included are the interview methods and confidence intervals.

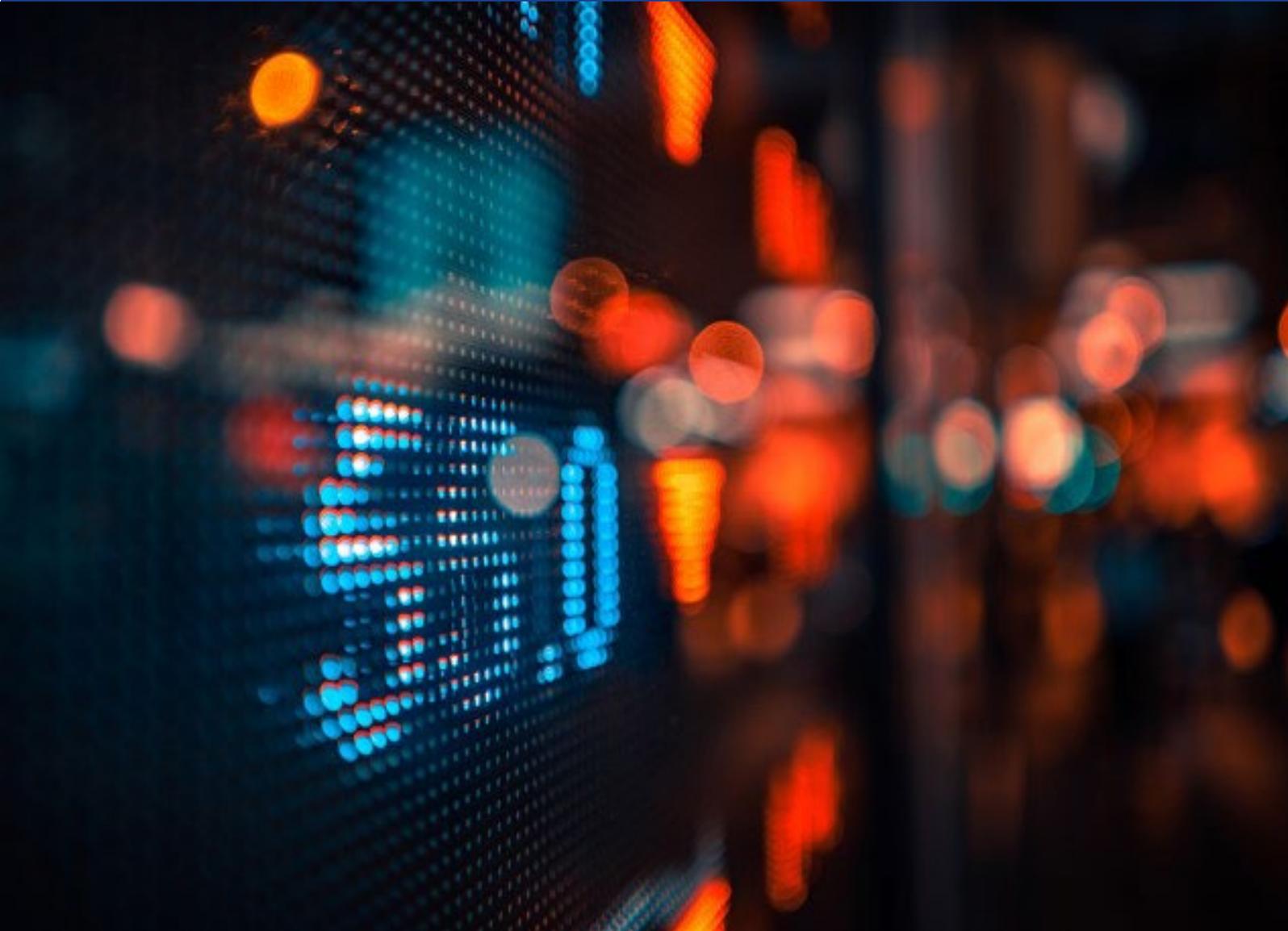
**Note:** In this report, Member States are referred to by their official abbreviation, as listed below:

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

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

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

# MAIN FINDINGS



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**More than six in ten Europeans (63%) think corruption is unacceptable**

- The majority (63%) of Europeans still think corruption is unacceptable, although there is a decline of six percentage points compared to December 2019.
- In 19 EU Member States, more than half of all respondents consider that corruption is unacceptable. Amongst those countries, the proportion varies from 78% in Ireland and 76% in both Luxembourg and Portugal to 52% in Austria.
- In the remaining eight countries less than half see corruption as unacceptable, with the lowest proportions in Latvia (30%) and Czechia (34%).
- Fewer than three in ten respondents think it is acceptable to give a gift (28%) or do a favour (27%) in order to get something from a public administration or a public service, while 17% think it is acceptable to give money for this reason.

**More than two thirds of Europeans believe corruption is widespread in their country, with considerable variation among EU Member States**

- More than two thirds (68%) think corruption is widespread in their country, a decrease of three percentage points since 2019.
- Opinions on how widespread corruption is in their country vary significantly between EU Member States, with results ranging from 98% in Greece and 94% in Cyprus and Croatia to 16% in Denmark and 17% in Finland.
- Respondents are most likely to say corruption is widespread amongst political parties (58%), amongst local, regional or national politicians (55%), officials awarding public tenders (45%) or officials issuing building permits (45%).
- Almost three quarters (74%) think there is corruption in the national public institutions in their country, while 72% think there is corruption in the local or regional public institutions in their country.
- More than two thirds (68%) believe that bribery and the use of connections is often the easiest way to obtain certain public services.
- More than three quarters (77%) agree that too close links between business and politics lead to corruption. Almost two thirds (65%) agree that favouritism and corruption hamper business competition. Just over six in ten (61%) think that corruption is part of the business culture in their country, while 53% agree that in their country the only way to succeed in business is to have political connections.
- The proportion of respondents who say that corruption is widespread decreased in 20 EU Member States compared to 2019. The largest decreases are recorded in Denmark (16%, -19 percentage points) and in Estonia (43%, -17%).

**Around a quarter of Europeans feel they are personally affected by corruption in their daily life**

- Almost one quarter of respondents (24%) say that they are personally affected by corruption in their daily life.
- The perception varies considerably among Member States, ranging from 60% in Croatia to 5% in Denmark.

**Fewer than one in ten Europeans say they have experienced corruption in the past 12 months, but more than half of them do not know where to report corruption if they experience or witness it**

- Fewer than one in ten (9%) say that someone in their country has asked for or expected them to give a gift, favour or extra money in return for their services in the past 12 months. At country level results range from 22% in Bulgaria to 3% in Finland, Portugal, Cyprus and Denmark.
- Just over one in ten respondents (11%) personally knows someone who takes or has taken bribes, with countries' scores varying from 34% in Greece to 5% in Ireland.
- 6% of Europeans say they have personally experienced or witnessed a case of corruption in the last 12 months. At the national level, results range from 19% in Bulgaria to 2% in Portugal.
- Amongst those who experienced or witnessed corruption, 15% reported it: a decline of six percentage points since December 2019.
- More than half of the respondents (53%) declare not knowing where to report corruption if they experience or witness it. This result varies broadly at country level, ranging from 72% in Romania to 42% in Spain.

**Fewer than one in twenty have had to make an extra payment or give a gift or donation in addition to official fees for medical care**

- Just 4% of respondents who have had contact with the public healthcare sector in the past 12 months say they had to give an extra payment or a valuable gift to a nurse or a doctor or donate to the hospital (not including official fees).
- Amongst this group of respondents 20% say they were asked to go for a private consultation in order to be treated in a public hospital, while almost as many (19%) say they were asked to pay for a preferential treatment.

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

- In 23 EU Member States, difficulty in proving anything is the most mentioned reason for not reporting corruption, although results differ widely across countries: from 61% in Czechia to 32% in Romania.
- Almost half (48%) say the difficulty in proving corruption is an important reason people do not report it. Three in ten say reporting it would be pointless because those responsible will not be punished, while almost as many (28%) say there is no protection for those who report corruption.

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

- Just over four in ten (41%) think the level of corruption in their country has increased in the past three years, while 43% think it has stayed the same.
- Since December 2019 the proportion of respondents who think corruption has increased in their country over the last three years has declined in 20 EU Member States with the largest

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Malta (50%, -24 percentage points), Denmark (26%, -16). Romania (36%, -12), Slovakia (41%, -11) and Ireland (38%, -10).

- Over the last three waves of this survey, the proportion of respondents who think the level of corruption in their country has increased in the past three years has risen continuously in the Netherlands, but has declined continuously in Spain, Italy, Belgium, Latvia, Lithuania and Finland.
- Respondents are pessimistic about national efforts to combat corruption. Only a minority think measures against corruption are applied impartially and without ulterior motives (37%), that there are enough successful prosecutions to deter people from corrupt practices (34%), that their national government's efforts to combat corruption are effective (31%) or that there is sufficient transparency and supervision of the financing of political parties in their country (31%).
- Almost seven in ten (69%) agree that high-level corruption cases are not pursued sufficiently in their country.

**The police are by far the most trusted body to deal with corruption, and trust in them has increased since December 2019**

- More than six in ten (63%) Europeans say they most trust the police to deal with a case of corruption, an increase of five points since December 2019. The police rank well above the Justice (27%), which is the only other institution or body mentioned by at least one in five respondents.
- The police are the most trusted institution in 26 EU Member States, while in Latvia respondents most trust the specialised anti-corruption agency to deal with a case of corruption.

# I. GENERAL PERCEPTIONS OF CORRUPTION



## 1. Acceptability of corruption

### Although large majorities think it is unacceptable to give a gift, do a favour or give money in exchange for a public service, giving gifts or doing favours are increasingly seen as acceptable

Respondents were asked to what extent they thought it was acceptable to give money, a gift or do a favour when they want something from a public administration or a public service<sup>10</sup>.

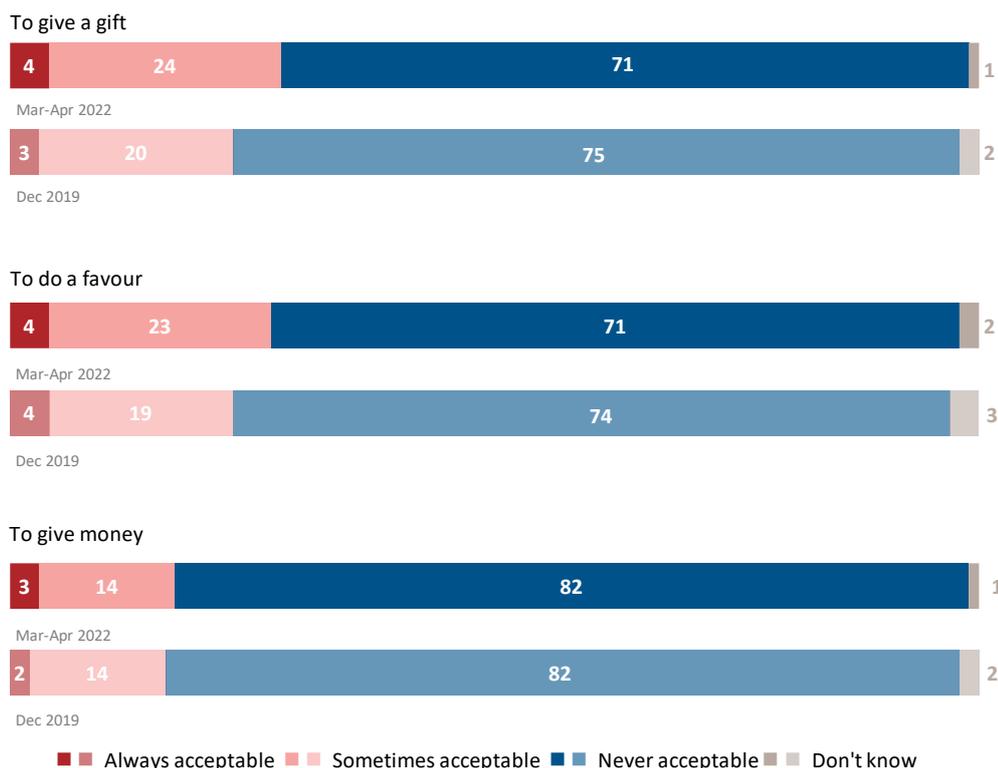
Almost three in ten (28%, +5 percentage points since December 2019) think it is acceptable to **give a gift** to get something from the public administration or public service: 4% (+1) think this is “always acceptable” and 24% (+4) think it is “sometimes acceptable”. However, the majority (71%, -4) think that this behaviour is “never acceptable”.

More than one quarter (27%, +4) think it is acceptable to **do a favour** in these circumstances, with 4% (=) saying it is “always acceptable” and 23% (+4) that it is “sometimes acceptable”. Most (71%, -3), however, think that this behaviour is “never acceptable”.

Fewer than one in five (17%, +1) think it is acceptable to **give money** with 3% (+1) saying this is “always acceptable” and 14% (=) that it is “sometimes acceptable”. The majority (82%, =) think this behaviour is “never acceptable”.

Although it remains the minority opinion, belief that it is acceptable to give a gift or do a favour to get something from a public administration or a public service is more widespread than it was in December 2019.

#### QA4. 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? (% - EU)



Base: all respondents (n = 26,509)

<sup>10</sup> QA4. 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.

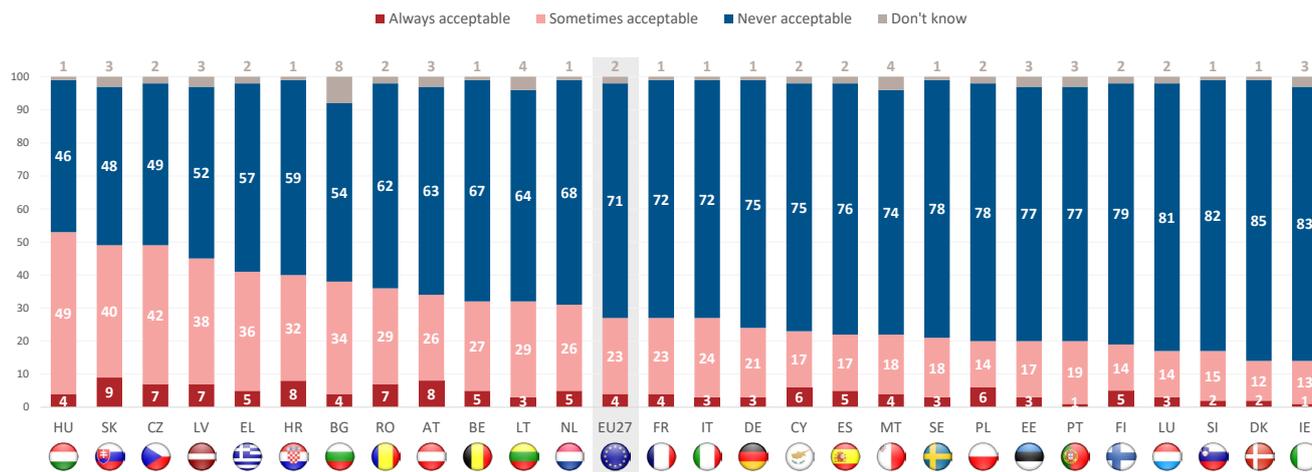
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### Doing a favour

Hungary (53%) and Slovakia (49% vs 48% “never acceptable”) are the only EU Member States where a majority think it is acceptable to do a favour in return for receiving something from the public administration or public service. Opinion is evenly divided in Czechia, with 49% thinking it is acceptable and 49% that it is never acceptable.

In the remaining 24 EU Member States only a minority think this behaviour is acceptable, although proportions range from 45% in Latvia, 41% in Greece and 40% in Croatia to 14% in Ireland and Denmark and 17% in Slovenia and Luxembourg.

QA4.3 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)



Base: all respondents (n = 26,509)

Compared to December 2019, respondents in 20 countries are now more likely to think it is acceptable to do a favour to get something from the public administration or public service, with the largest increases observed in Bulgaria (38%, +12 percentage points), Portugal (20%, +12) and the Netherlands (31%, +10). In contrast, belief that this behaviour is acceptable has declined in five countries, most notably in Luxembourg (17%, -7). There has been no change in Croatia or France.

Regional analysis shows that respondents in the 13 EU Member States that joined the European Union in or after 2004<sup>11</sup> are more likely than those in the other 14 EU Member States already part of the EU in 2004<sup>12</sup> to think it is acceptable to do a favour to get something from a public administration or a public service (33% vs 26%). The same pattern applies comparing respondents in countries outside the euro area to those within the euro area (31% vs 26%).

QA4.3 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	BG	PT	NL	EL	SE	MT	ES	LV	FI	DE	IT	DK	CZ	EE	BE	SK	CY	PL	SI	LT	FR	HR	RO	HU	IE	AT	LU	
Total 'Acceptable'	Feb/Mar 2022	27	38	20	31	41	21	22	22	45	19	24	27	14	49	20	32	49	23	20	17	32	27	40	36	53	14	34	17
	Δ Dec 2019	▲4	▲12	▲12	▲10	▲9	▲9	▲8	▲8	▲7	▲7	▲5	▲5	▲4	▲2	▲2	▲2	▲1	▲1	▲1	▲1	▲1	=	=	▼1	▼2	▼4	▼5	▼7
Never acceptable	Feb/Mar 2022	71	54	77	68	57	78	74	76	52	79	75	72	85	49	77	67	48	75	78	82	64	72	59	62	46	83	63	81
	Δ Dec 2019	▼3	▼13	▼14	▼10	▼9	▼9	▼6	▼8	▼5	▼7	▼3	▼5	▼4	▲1	=	▼1	▲1	=	=	▼1	▼2	▲2	▲1	▲2	▲2	▲5	▲5	▲9
Don't know	Feb/Mar 2022	2	8	3	1	2	1	4	2	3	2	1	1	1	2	3	1	3	2	2	1	4	1	1	2	1	3	3	2
	Δ Dec 2019	▼1	▲1	▲2	=	=	=	▼2	=	▼2	=	▼2	=	=	▼3	▼2	▼1	▼2	▼1	▼1	=	▲1	▼2	▼1	▼1	=	▼1	=	▼2

Base: all respondents (n = 26,509)

<sup>11</sup> This country group refers to the weighted average of the 13 'new Member States' which joined the European Union during the 2004, 2007 and 2013 enlargements. BG, CZ, EE, HR, CY, LT, LV, MT, HU, PL, RO, SI, SK

<sup>12</sup> This country group refers to the weighted average of the 14 Member States forming the European Union before the enlargements of 2004, 2007 and 2013. BE, IT, FR, DE, LU, NL, DK, IE, PT, ES, EL, AT, SE, FI.

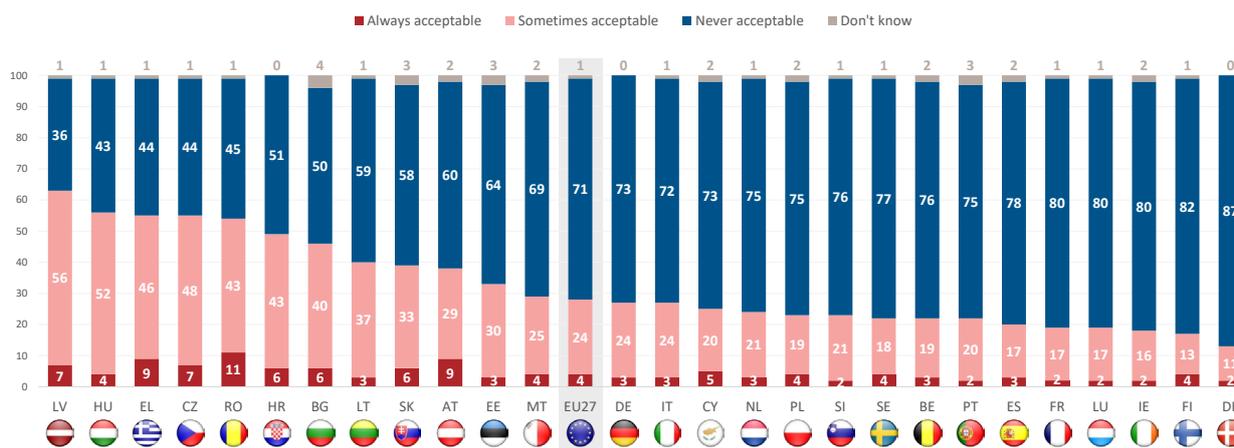
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### Giving a gift

There are five countries where the majority of respondents think it is acceptable to give a gift in order to get something from the public administration or public service: Latvia (63%), Hungary (56%), Czechia and Greece (55% each) and Romania (54%). In fact, in Romania 11% think it is “always acceptable” to do this, and Romania is the only country where more than one in ten thinks this way.

In the remaining 22 Member States only a minority think this behaviour is acceptable, with proportions ranging from 49% in Croatia, 46% in Bulgaria and 40% in Lithuania to 13% in Denmark, 17% in Finland and 18% in Ireland.

QA4.2 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)



Base: all respondents (n = 26,509)

Compared to December 2019, there are 19 countries where respondents are now more likely to say it is acceptable to give a gift to get something from the public administration or public service, and in six countries the increase is at least ten percentage points: Greece (55%, +14 percentage points), Bulgaria (46%, +13), Portugal (22%, +12), Malta (29%, +10), Germany (27%, +10) and Sweden (22%, +10).

In contrast, the view this behaviour is acceptable has declined in five countries, with the largest in Austria (38%, -6). There has been no change in opinion in Hungary, Croatia or Slovakia.

Regional analysis shows that respondents from the 13 Member States that joined the EU in or after 2004 are much more likely than those in the Member States already part of the EU in 2004 to think it is acceptable to give a gift to get something from a public administration or a public service (40% vs. 25%). The same pattern applies comparing respondents in countries outside the euro area to those within the euro area (37% vs 25%).

QA4.2 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	EL	BG	PT	MT	DE	SE	RO	NL	ES	EE	FI	LV	CZ	DK	IT	FR	LT	LU	CY	HR	HU	SK	BE	SI	IE	PL	AT	
Total 'Acceptable'	Feb/Mar 2022	28	55	46	22	29	27	22	54	24	20	33	17	63	55	13	27	19	40	19	25	49	56	39	22	23	18	23	38
	Δ Dec 2019	▲5	▲14	▲13	▲12	▲10	▲10	▲10	▲9	▲9	▲7	▲7	▲7	▲6	▲5	▲5	▲5	▲3	▲3	▲2	▲2	=	=	=	▼1	▼2	▼3	▼3	▼6
Never acceptable	Feb/Mar 2022	71	44	50	75	69	73	77	45	75	78	64	82	36	44	87	72	80	59	80	73	51	43	58	76	76	80	75	60
	Δ Dec 2019	▼4	▼14	▼11	▼14	▼6	▼7	▼10	▼8	▼9	▼6	▼7	▼7	▼6	▼1	▼4	▼5	▼3	▼3	=	▼2	▲1	=	=	▲1	▲1	▲3	▲3	▲6
Don't know	Feb/Mar 2022	1	1	4	3	2	0	1	1	1	2	3	1	1	1	0	1	1	1	1	2	0	1	3	2	1	2	2	2
	Δ Dec 2019	▼1	=	▼2	▲2	▼4	▼3	=	▼1	=	▼1	=	=	=	▼4	▼1	=	=	=	▼2	=	▼1	=	=	=	▲1	=	=	=

Base: all respondents (n = 26,509)

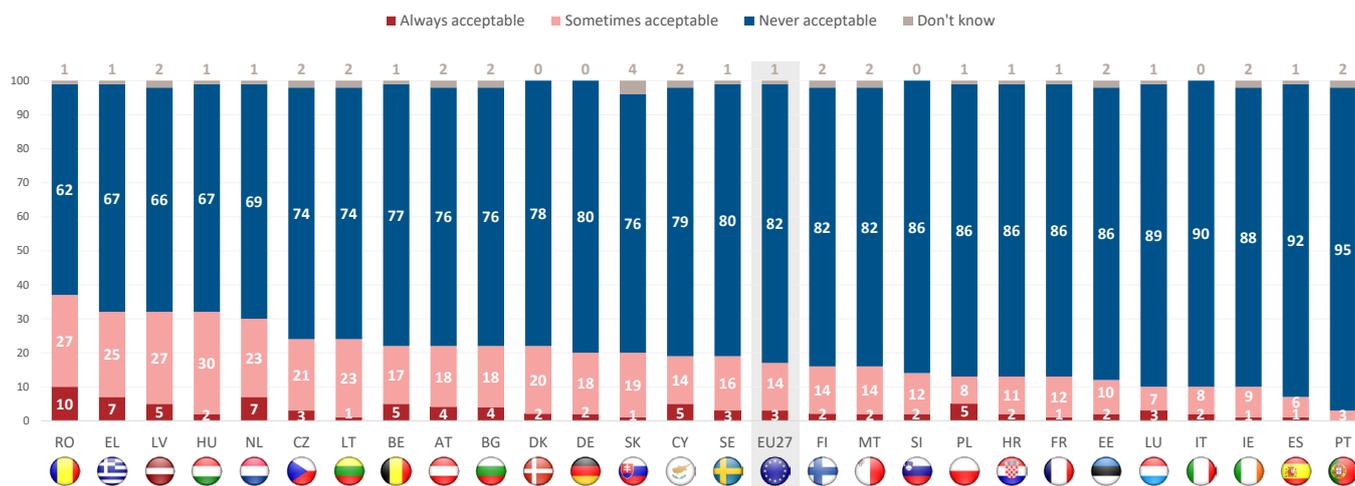
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### Giving money

Fewer than four in ten respondents in any Member State think it is acceptable to give money if they want something from the public administration or public service, with proportions ranging from 37% in Romania and 32% in Greece, Latvia and Hungary to 3% in Portugal, 7% in Spain and 10% in Luxembourg, Italy and Ireland.

Romania (10%) is the only country where at least one in ten think this behaviour is “always acceptable”.

**QA4.1 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)



Base: all respondents (n = 26,509)

There are 18 countries where respondents are now more likely to think it is acceptable to give money if they want to get something from the public administration or a public service, compared to December 2019. The largest increases are observed in Greece (32%, +13 percentage points), the Netherlands (30%, +9) and Bulgaria (22%, +9). In contrast, belief that this behaviour is acceptable has declined in six countries, particularly in Hungary (32%, -11). There has been no change in opinion in Romania, Slovakia or Italy.

Regional analysis shows that respondents from the 13 Member States that joined the EU in or after 2004 are more likely than their counterparts from the Member States already part of the EU in 2004 to think it is acceptable to give money in order to get something from a public administration or a public service (22% vs 15%). The same pattern applies comparing respondents in countries outside the euro area to those within the euro area (22% vs 15%).

**QA4.1 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	EL	BG	NL	SE	MT	CZ	DK	LV	SI	FI	DE	PL	CY	BE	ES	PT	HR	LT	IT	RO	SK	LU	EE	FR	IE	AT	HU
Total 'Acceptable'	Feb/Mar 2022	17	32	22	30	19	16	24	22	32	14	16	20	13	19	22	7	3	13	24	10	37	20	10	12	13	10	22	32
	Δ Dec 2019	▲1	▲13	▲9	▲9	▲8	▲7	▲7	▲7	▲7	▲5	▲5	▲3	▲3	▲3	▲2	▲2	▲2	▲1	▲1	=	=	=	▼1	▼1	▼1	▼5	▼6	▼11
Never acceptable	Feb/Mar 2022	82	67	76	69	80	82	74	78	66	86	82	80	86	79	77	92	95	86	74	90	62	76	89	86	86	88	76	67
	Δ Dec 2019	=	▼13	▼7	▼9	▼8	▼3	▼6	▼6	▼7	▼5	▼6	=	▼2	▼3	▼1	▼1	▼3	=	▼2	▲1	▲1	▼1	▲4	▲2	▲1	▲5	▲6	▲11
Don't know	Feb/Mar 2022	1	1	2	1	1	2	2	0	2	0	2	0	1	2	1	1	2	1	2	0	1	4	1	2	1	2	2	1
	Δ Dec 2019	▼1	=	▼2	=	=	▼4	▼1	▼1	=	=	▲1	▼3	▼1	=	▼1	▼1	▲1	▼1	▲1	▼1	▲1	▼3	▼1	=	=	=	=	

Base: all respondents (n = 26,509)

## Special Eurobarometer 523 Corruption March-April 2022

Based on the answers to each of the three questions above a “tolerance to corruption index” has been calculated, categorising respondents according to whether they primarily regard corruption as ‘acceptable’, ‘tolerated’, or ‘unacceptable’<sup>13</sup>.

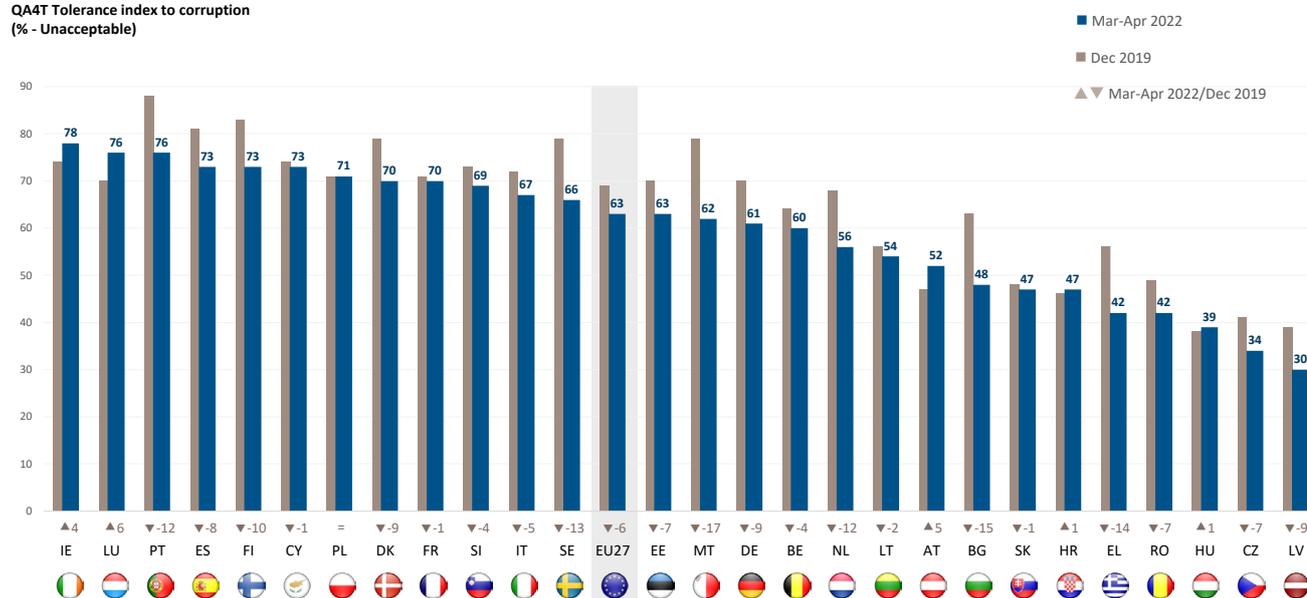
More than six in ten (63%) Europeans think corruption is unacceptable<sup>14</sup>. This view is shared by more than half in 19 Member States, with the highest levels seen in Ireland (78%), and Luxembourg and Portugal (76% each). At the other end of the spectrum fewer than four in ten in Latvia (30% vs 62% “tolerated”), Czechia (34% vs 60%) and Hungary (39% vs 57%) think the same way.

There are two EU Member States where at least one in ten think corruption is acceptable: Romania (18% “acceptable”) and Greece (10%).

Since 2019 the proportion who think corruption is unacceptable has declined by six percentage points in the EU as a whole<sup>15</sup>. It has also declined in 21 EU Member States, with the largest seen in Malta (62%, -17), Bulgaria (48%, -15), Greece (42%, -14), Sweden (66%, -13), Portugal (76%, -12) and Finland (73%, -10). In contrast, the proportion who think corruption is unacceptable has increased in five countries, most notable in Luxembourg (76%, +6). There has been no change in Poland.

As a result of these changes the view that corruption is unacceptable has gone from being the majority to the minority view in Bulgaria and Greece, but it has become the majority view in Austria.

**QA4T Tolerance index to corruption  
(% - Unacceptable)**



Base: all respondents (n = 26,509)

<sup>13</sup> The index is calculated based on the answers given to QA4.1, 2 and 3. Points are attributed depending on the answers to those three questions: “never acceptable” (0 points), “sometimes acceptable” (1 point) and “always acceptable” (2 points). Respondents who received 0 points in total (i.e. they answered never acceptable to all questions) are classified in the index as answering “unacceptable”, while those who scored 1 to 3 points are classified as “tolerated” and those who scored 4 to 6 points

are classified as “acceptable”. Based on this scoring system, the index shows the percentage of respondents who find corruption “unacceptable” overall.

<sup>14</sup> This means respondents who answered “never acceptable” to the three questions.

<sup>15</sup> As explained in the introduction, the EU average included the United Kingdom in 2019 so this may impact the results and comparison

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The socio-demographic analysis highlights that only a minority in any group thinks it is acceptable to give money, a gift or to do a favour when they want something from the public administration or a public service. However, some groups are more likely to think this is acceptable:

- Respondents aged 15-24, particularly compared to those aged 55+ (favour: 35% vs 24%; gift: 34% vs 25%; money: 25% vs 14%).
- Students, particularly compared to retired persons (favour: 32% vs 23%; gift: 32% vs 24%; money: 23% vs 13%).
- Respondents who have experienced or witnessed corruption in the past 12 months. For example, 47% who experienced corruption and 39% who witnessed it think it is acceptable to do a favour, compared to 26% who have not experienced or witnessed corruption.
- Respondents who know someone who takes or has taken bribes, compared with those who do not (favour: 36% vs 26%; gift: 38% vs 27%; money: 23% vs 16%).

**QA4** 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?

**Total 'Acceptable'**

(% - EU)

	To give a gift	To do a favour	To give money
EU27	28	27	17
 <b>Age</b>			
15-24	34	35	25
25-39	31	29	20
40-54	28	28	16
55 +	25	24	14
 <b>Socio-professional category</b>			
Self-employed	30	29	19
Managers	26	25	17
Other white collars	30	29	17
Manual workers	29	29	18
House persons	36	30	18
Unemployed	26	28	15
Retired	24	23	13
Students	32	32	23
<b>Experienced or witnessed corruption</b>			
Yes, experienced	50	47	33
Yes, witnessed	41	39	29
No	27	26	16
<b>You know someone who takes bribes</b>			
Yes	38	36	23
No	27	26	16

## 2. How widespread is corruption?

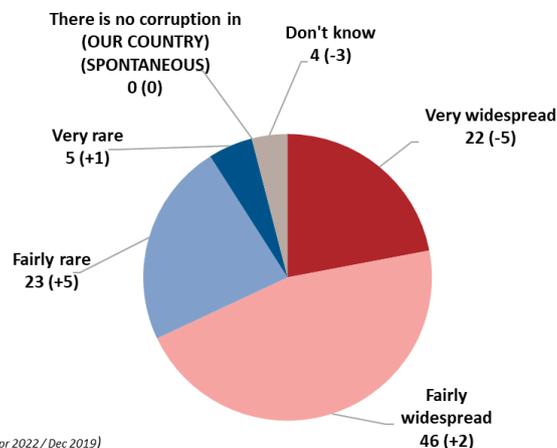
**Over two thirds of respondents still believe corruption is widespread in their country, though they are more optimistic about it than they were in 2019**

More than two thirds of respondents (68%, -3 percentage points since December 2019) believe corruption is widespread in their country.<sup>16</sup> Just over one in five (22%, -5) think corruption is “very widespread”, while 46% (+2) think it is “fairly widespread”. Overall, 28% (+6) think corruption is rare in their country, with 23% (+5) saying it is “fairly rare” and 5% (+1) that it is very rare. Just 4% (-3) say they “don’t know”.

The results illustrate respondents have a more optimistic view of the spread of corruption in their country than those in December 2019, even though the majority still think the problem is widespread.

After rising between 2017 and 2019, the proportion who thinks corruption in their country is widespread has declined three percentage points back to 68% - the same level as it was October 2017. This is eight points lower than it was in 2013.

QA5 How widespread do you think the problem of corruption is in (OUR COUNTRY)? (% - EU)

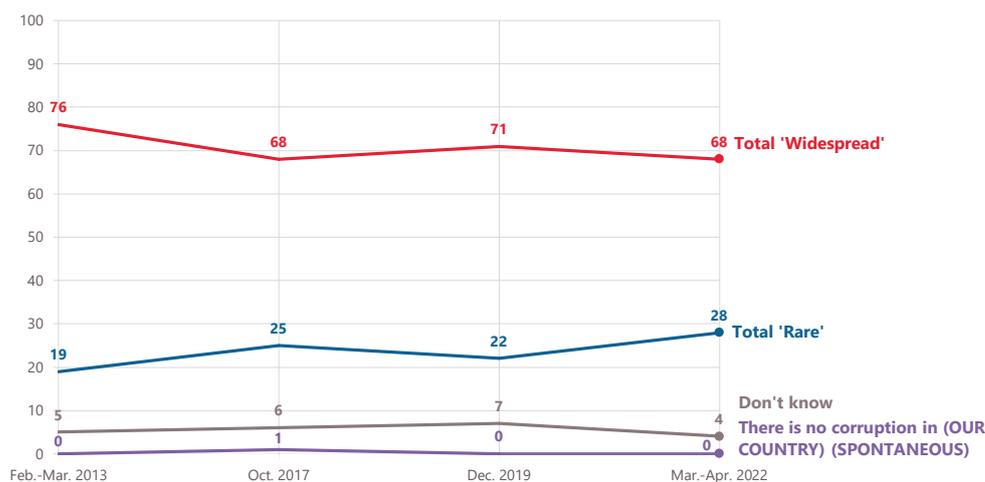


(Mar-Apr 2022 / Dec 2019)

Base: all respondents (n = 26,509)

The proportion who thinks corruption in their country is rare is at its highest level (28%) and is nine points higher than it was in 2013.

QA5 How widespread do you think the problem of corruption is in (OUR COUNTRY)?



Base: all respondents (n = 26,509)

<sup>16</sup> Before answering whether corruption is widespread in their country, respondents were given a detailed definition of corruption: “offering, giving, requesting and accepting bribes or kickbacks, valuable gifts and important favours, as well as any

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

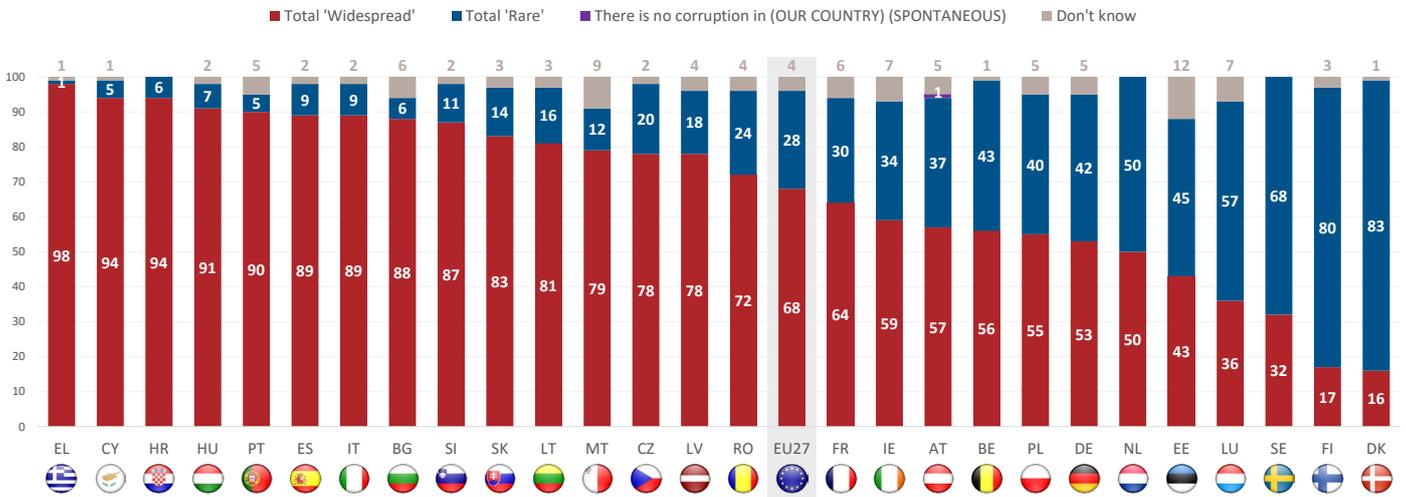
**Special Eurobarometer 523**  
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In 21 EU Member States the majority of respondents think corruption is widespread in their country. Almost all respondents in Greece (98%) say this, as do at least nine in ten in Croatia and Cyprus (94% each), Hungary (91%) and Portugal (90%). In fact, in Greece and Croatia 50% say corruption is “very widespread”.

In the Netherlands opinion is divided: 50% think corruption is widespread and 50% say that it is rare.

In the remaining five countries, fewer than half think corruption is widespread: Denmark (16%), Finland (17%), Sweden (32%), Luxembourg (36%) and Estonia (43%).

**Q45 How widespread do you think the problem of corruption is in (OUR COUNTRY)?**  
 (%)



*Base: all respondents (n = 26,509)*

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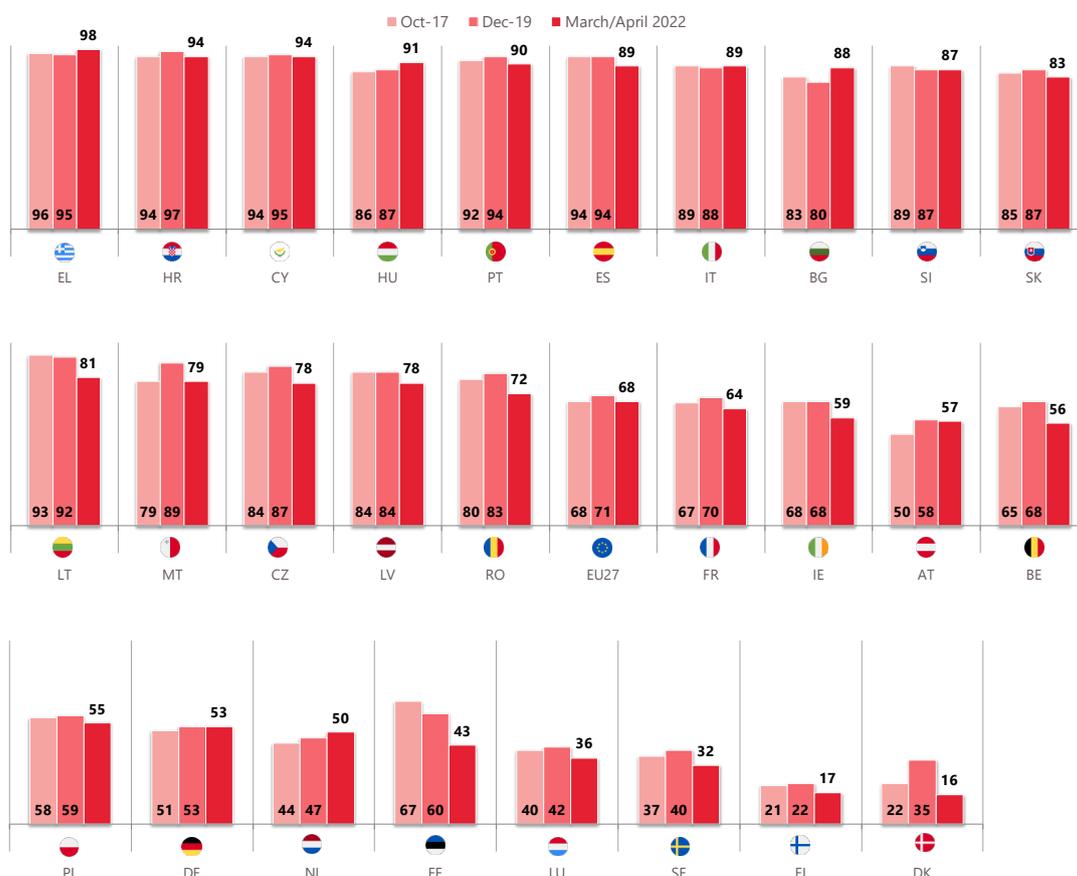
Since December 2019 the proportion of respondents who think corruption is widespread in their country has declined in 20 countries, and in six countries the decline is of at least ten percentage points: Denmark (16%, -19 percentage points), Estonia (43%, -17), Belgium (56%, -12), Lithuania (81%, -11), Romania (72%, -11) and Malta (79%, -10). Belief that corruption is widespread has increased in five countries, with the largest seen in Bulgaria (88%, +8). There has been no change in opinion in Slovenia or Germany.

Since 2017 the proportion who think corruption in their country is widespread has declined in 17 EU Member States, increased in six, and remained unchanged in four.

A regional analysis shows respondents in-euro area countries are more likely to consider that corruption is widespread in their country compared to those in non-euro area countries (70% vs 63%).

Only four countries show consistent trends over the past three waves of the survey. In the Netherlands the proportion who think corruption in their country is widespread has increased by at least three points each wave, rising from 44% in October 2017 to 50% in the current survey. In Hungary the proportion has also increased year on year, but by much smaller increments (up from 86% to 91%). In contrast, the proportion has consistently declined in Estonia, down from 67% in 2013 to 43% in the current survey. There has also been a consistent decline in Lithuania (from 93% to 81%), although most of this was in the period from December 2019 to March-April 2022.

**QA5** How widespread do you think the problem of corruption is in (OUR COUNTRY)?  
 (% - TOTAL 'WIDESPREAD')



Base: all respondents (n = 26,509)

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The socio-demographic analysis shows the majority of respondents in each group think corruption in their country is widespread. However, this belief is more widely held in some groups:

- Respondents aged 25 and older are more likely to think corruption is widespread than those aged 15-24. For example, 70% of those aged 55+ think corruption is widespread, compared to 62% of 15–24-year-olds.
- The earlier a respondent left education, the more likely they are to think corruption is widespread: 79% who left education aged 15 or younger think this way, compared to 62% who completed aged 20 or older.
- The unemployed (76%) are the most likely to say corruption is widespread, particularly compared to managers (59%) and students (61%).
- The more difficulties a respondent has paying bills, the more likely they are to think corruption is widespread: 80% with the most difficulties think this way, compared to 65% who never or almost never experience difficulties.

- Respondents who have experienced (88%) or witnessed (81%) corruption are more likely to think it is widespread than those who have not (67%).
- Respondents who know someone who takes bribes are more likely to think corruption is widespread than those who do not know anyone who does this (84% vs 66%).

**QA5** How widespread do you think the problem of corruption is in (OUR COUNTRY)?

	Total 'Widespread'	Total 'Rare'	There is no corruption in (OUR COUNTRY) (SPONTANEOUS)	Don't know
EU27	68	28	0	4
<b>Age</b>				
15-24	62	32	0	6
25-39	67	30	0	3
40-54	69	27	0	4
55 +	70	27	0	3
<b>Education (End of)</b>				
15-	79	17	0	4
16-19	71	25	0	4
20+	62	36	0	2
Still studying	61	32	0	7
<b>Socio-professional category</b>				
Self-employed	69	28	0	3
Managers	59	39	0	2
Other white collars	69	28	0	3
Manual workers	72	25	0	3
House persons	73	22	0	5
Unemployed	76	21	0	3
Retired	68	28	0	4
Students	61	32	0	7
<b>Difficulties paying bills</b>				
Most of the time	80	16	0	4
From time to time	75	21	0	4
Almost never/ Never	65	32	0	3
<b>Experienced or witnessed corruption</b>				
Yes, experienced	88	10	0	2
Yes, witnessed	81	18	0	1
No	67	29	0	4
<b>You know someone who takes bribes</b>				
Yes	84	15	0	1
No	66	30	0	4

### 3. How widespread is corruption in different areas of society?

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

Respondents were asked whether they thought that giving and taking bribes and the abuse of power for personal gain are widespread amongst officials, politicians and political parties as well as public and private services and institutions.<sup>17</sup>

Almost six in ten (58%, +5 percentage points) think these behaviours are widespread amongst political parties, and almost as many say this about local, regional or national politicians (55%, +6). Mentions of politicians and political parties have increased notably since December 2019,

More than four in ten think this behaviour is widespread amongst officials awarding public tenders (45%, +7) or officials issuing building permits (45%, +8). These are the largest increases recorded since 2019. Almost four in ten say this behaviour is widespread in private companies (37%, =).

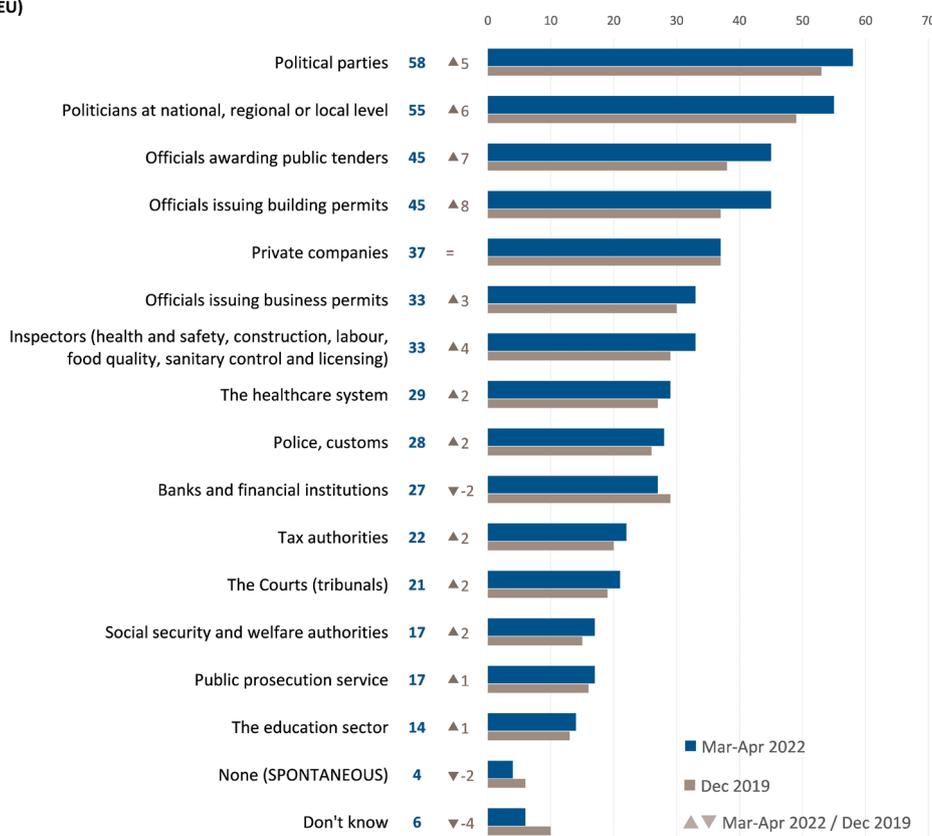
One third say giving and taking bribes and the abuse of power for personal gain are widespread amongst officials issuing business permits (33%, +3) or inspectors (health and safety, construction, labour, food quality, sanitary control and licensing) (33%, +4).

More than one quarter think this behaviour is widespread in the healthcare system (29%, +2), in the police and customs (28%, +2) and in banks and financial institutions (27%, -2), while just over one in five think this way about the tax authorities (22%, +2) or the courts (21%, +2).

More than one in ten mention social security and welfare authorities (17%, +2), the public prosecution service (17%, +1) or the education sector (14%, +1).

Finally, 4% (-2) of Europeans *spontaneously*<sup>18</sup> say corruption is not widespread in any of these areas, while 6% (-4) say they “don’t know”.

QA7 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)



Base: all respondents (n = 26,509)

<sup>17</sup> QA7. 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)

<sup>18</sup> *Spontaneously* means that the option was not presented as a possible answer by the interviewer, but respondents mentioned it when asked the question.

**Special Eurobarometer 523**  
**Corruption**  
**March-April 2022**

A regional analysis shows that respondents living in the Member States already part of the EU in 2004 are more likely than those from the Member States that joined the EU since 2004 to say corruption is widespread in political parties (62% vs 44%), amongst politicians (58% vs 45%), officials issuing building permits (46% vs 38%), private companies (41% vs 22%), officials issuing business permits (35% vs 27%) or in banks and financial institutions (31% vs 15%).

In contrast, those in the countries that joined the EU in or after 2004 are more likely to say corruption is widespread in the healthcare system (45% vs 25% in the Member States already part of the EU in 2004), amongst police and customs (34% vs 26%), the courts (28% vs 19%), or the public prosecution service (22% vs 16%).

Respondents living in euro area countries are more likely than those in non-euro area countries to say corruption is widespread in political parties (63% vs 41%), amongst politicians (59% vs 43%), officials awarding public tenders (46% vs 41%), officials issuing building permits (47% vs 36%), private companies (40% vs 26%), officials issuing business permits (35% vs 26%) or in banks and financial institutions (31% vs 16%). The reverse is true in the case of the healthcare system (27% vs 39%).

## Special Eurobarometer 523

### Corruption

#### March-April 2022

The national analysis highlights that in 13 EU Member States respondents rank **political parties** as the area where the giving and taking of bribes and the abuse of power for personal gain is the most widespread, with the largest proportions observed in Spain (83%, Cyprus (70%) and Portugal (66%). In Belgium political parties rank equal first with politicians (both 53%). Political parties are one of the three most mentioned answers in 25 countries, and in 19 countries at least half think corruption is widespread in this area.

In six countries, respondents most often mention corruption being widespread amongst **politicians**: Slovenia (67%), the Netherlands (62%), Slovakia (59%), Hungary (57%), Belgium (53%) and Finland (41%). Politicians are also mentioned by more than six in ten in Spain (67%), Greece (65%) and Portugal (63%). Politicians are one of the three most mentioned answers in 24 EU Member States.

The **healthcare system** ranks first for widespread corruption in four countries: Greece (91%), Lithuania (69%), Romania (50%) and Poland (41%). It is also mentioned by at least half in Cyprus (60%), Slovakia (58%) and Bulgaria (51%).

Respondents in Sweden (55%), Denmark (41%) and Luxembourg (39%) most often say corruption is widespread in **private companies**, and this area is also mentioned by at least four in ten in the Netherlands (52%), Germany (45%), Spain (44%), France (42%) and Portugal (41%).

**Officials awarding public tenders** ranks first of all areas for respondents in Czechia (68%) and Latvia (55%) and they are also mentioned by at least half of all respondents in a further ten countries including Greece (63%) and the Netherlands (61%). Officials awarding public tenders is one of the three most mentioned areas in 16 EU Member States.

Bulgaria (67%) is the only country where the **police and customs** is the area most mentioned as having widespread corruption, although at least half in Cyprus and Slovakia (both 54%) and Croatia and Greece (both 52%) think the same way. It is the third most mentioned area in Slovakia and Latvia (49%).

Although **officials issuing building permits** is not the most mentioned area in any country, it ranks second or third in ten EU Member States. It is mentioned by at least half of all respondents in 11 countries including Greece (65%), the Netherlands (61%) and Italy (58%).

**Tax authorities** is the only other area that ranks in the top three in any EU Member State, placing third in Greece (67%). Greece is the only country where tax authorities are mentioned by at least half, although more than four in ten in Cyprus and Bulgaria (both 44%) and Croatia (43%) think corruption is widespread in this area.

None of the remaining seven areas feature on the three most mentioned areas in any country.

- At least half in Greece (61%), Cyprus (52%) and Bulgaria (51%) think corruption is widespread amongst **officials issuing business permits**.
- Greece (62%) is the only country where over six in ten mentions **inspectors**.
- Portugal (61%) is the only country where over six in ten think corruption is widespread in **banks and financial institutions**.
- Slovakia (53%) and Croatia (50%) are the only countries where at least half mention the **courts**.
- Fewer than four in ten in any country mention **social security and welfare authorities**, with those in Greece (39%) the most likely to do so.
- The **public prosecution service** is most mentioned in Slovakia (36%).
- Fewer than three in ten in any country mention the **education sector**, with those in Slovakia (27%) the most likely to do so.

QA7 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	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
Political parties	58	53	46	52	38	58	50	48	65	83	65	61	63	70	55	57	37	56	60	54	54	33	66	41	65	54	32	29
Politicians at national, regional or local level	55	53	52	60	36	57	49	43	65	67	56	60	60	54	46	56	29	57	53	62	52	32	63	44	67	59	41	42
Officials awarding public tenders	45	46	60	68	19	39	31	32	63	46	42	57	58	58	55	56	25	50	45	61	35	31	48	36	59	50	29	43
Officials issuing building permits	45	42	54	49	27	43	35	31	65	51	38	53	58	57	53	53	27	36	54	61	35	28	47	38	52	46	24	36
Private companies	37	36	21	31	41	45	22	25	27	44	42	29	35	31	22	24	39	31	23	52	27	16	41	19	38	31	28	55
Officials issuing business permits	33	33	51	19	11	31	24	25	61	44	19	48	49	52	33	35	11	32	40	41	29	16	38	34	39	31	14	30
Inspectors (health and safety, construction, labour, food quality, sanitary control and licensing)	33	35	48	33	21	31	22	17	62	29	24	48	46	40	39	49	14	30	33	44	28	24	43	35	48	40	14	29
The healthcare system	29	13	51	38	7	21	14	13	91	20	20	45	39	60	40	69	11	46	17	19	21	41	30	50	48	58	5	8
Police, customs	28	29	67	32	10	13	11	26	52	32	31	52	31	54	49	40	11	25	33	43	15	23	41	40	37	54	7	11
Banks and financial institutions	27	24	15	8	26	25	12	23	22	44	33	23	29	36	10	11	21	17	11	37	19	9	61	23	31	22	6	32
Tax authorities	22	19	44	18	8	11	8	10	67	27	19	43	32	44	22	19	9	22	27	26	16	12	39	29	33	30	2	5
The Courts (tribunals)	21	16	45	33	4	8	10	14	31	32	19	50	29	39	29	45	7	18	30	10	10	19	40	28	45	53	4	7
Social security and welfare authorities	17	13	25	11	9	9	10	8	39	18	10	27	28	27	12	22	7	16	17	19	13	11	33	25	23	31	5	14
Public prosecution service	17	15	33	23	3	9	7	11	29	23	13	34	23	33	22	34	4	20	14	16	12	13	30	28	33	36	4	16
The education sector	14	6	21	15	5	8	6	8	24	16	7	25	26	21	12	17	7	11	9	9	11	10	26	26	18	27	4	6
None (SPONTANEOUS)	4	6	1	1	23	7	6	7	1	1	4	1	1	5	2	2	14	3	2	7	8	2	2	3	3	1	24	14
Don't know	6	4	5	3	4	4	15	16	2	5	9	1	4	4	6	5	15	5	13	1	7	10	8	6	3	6	6	3

1st MOST FREQUENTLY MENTIONED ITEM
2nd MOST FREQUENTLY MENTIONED ITEM
3rd MOST FREQUENTLY MENTIONED ITEM

Base: all respondents (n = 26,509)

**Special Eurobarometer 523**  
**Corruption**  
**March-April 2022**

Since December 2019, the proportion of respondents who say the giving and taking bribes and the abuse of power for personal gain are widespread in **political parties** has increased in 15 EU Member States, most notably in Germany (58%, +12 percentage points) and the Netherlands (54%, +11). Proportions have declined slightly in eight countries including Finland (32%, -6) and have stayed the same in four.

In 20 countries, respondents are now more likely to say corruption is widespread amongst **politicians**, with the largest increases seen in Germany (57%, +17), the Netherlands (62%, +13), Slovakia (59%, +10) and Hungary (57%, +10). Proportions have declined in five countries, with the largest in Portugal (63%, -7). There has been no change in Finland or Ireland.

The proportion of respondents mentioning **officials awarding public tenders** has increased in 21 countries, and particularly in Czechia (68%, +12), the Netherlands (61%, +11), Latvia (55%, +10) and Germany (39%, +10). Proportions have decreased in four countries with the largest in Portugal (48%, -7) and Denmark (19%, -7). There has been no change in Ireland and Finland.

In 22 EU Member States, the proportion mentioning **officials issuing building permits** has increased, with the largest seen in Italy (58%, +10) and Germany (43%, +10). Proportions have declined slightly in four countries with the largest in Portugal (47%, -4) and Denmark (27%, -4).

Mentions of **private companies** have increased in eight countries including the Netherlands (52%, +7), declined in eighteen countries including Ireland (25%, -12), Denmark (41%, -9) and Portugal (41%, -7) and Malta (23%, -7). This result remains unchanged in Croatia.

Changes in mentions of **inspectors** are also relatively small, with the largest increase in Italy (46%, +6), and increases in 14 countries overall. Mentions declined in nine countries with the largest seen in Luxembourg (14%, -8). Proportions remained stable in Bulgaria, Croatia, Estonia and Poland.

In 12 countries the proportion who thinks corruption is widespread amongst **officials issuing business permits** has increased, with the largest observed in Italy (49%, +8). Mentions have declined in 11 countries including Czechia (19%, -7) and Luxembourg (11%, -7). There has been no change in Sweden, the Netherlands, Spain and France.

Trends for widespread corruption in the **healthcare system** are mixed. Mentions have increased in 13 countries including Greece (91%, +10), and have declined in 14 countries with the largest in Portugal (30%, -15).

The proportion of respondents mentioning the **police and customs** has increased in 12 countries with the largest in Slovakia (54%, +9) and the Netherlands (43%, +9). Mentions have declined in 13 countries with the largest in Portugal (41%, -6) and Luxembourg (11%, -6). Opinion is unchanged in Finland and Denmark.

The proportion of respondents who think corruption is widespread in **banks and financial institutions** has decreased in 20 EU Member States, and the declines are particularly large in Denmark (26%, -18), Ireland (23%, -12) and Slovenia (31%, -10). There are no notable increases, and opinion is unchanged in France, Bulgaria and Czechia.

Mentions of the **tax authorities** have increased in 13 countries including Bulgaria (44%, +8). They have declined in 13 countries, with the largest in Portugal (39%, -15) and Denmark (8%, -13). There has been no change in Sweden.

In 16 countries mentions of the **courts** have declined slightly, with the largest in Greece (31%, -5). Mentions have increased slightly in nine countries including Italy (29%, +5) and Latvia (29%, +5), while the proportion has remained stable in Slovakia and Finland.

Changes in mentions of **social security and welfare authorities** are generally small. Mentions have declined in 12 countries with the largest in Portugal (33%, -18), and they have increased slightly in nine countries including Italy (28%, +4) and the Netherlands (19%, +4). Mentions are stable in Belgium, Cyprus, Latvia, Hungary, Austria and Romania.

Mentions of the **public prosecution service** have declined in 14 countries including Slovenia (33%, -8) and Malta (14%, -8). In ten countries there have been small increases, with the largest in Czechia (23%, +5). There has been no change in Cyprus, Austria or Romania.

Finally, trends are mixed for mentions of the **education sector**. They have declined in 14 countries including Portugal (26%, -15), and have increased in ten countries including Italy (26%, +6) and Greece (24%, +6).

## Special Eurobarometer 523

### Corruption

### March-April 2022

QA7 In (OUR COUNTRY), do you think that the giving and taking of bribes and the abuse of power for personal gain are widespread among any of the following? (MULTIPLE ANSWERS POSSIBLE) (%)

Political parties	Feb/Mar 2022	58	53	46	52	38	58	50	48	65	83	65	61	63	70	55	57	37	58	60	54	54	33	66	41	65	54	32	29	
	Δ Dec 2019	▲5	▼2	▲5	▼3	▼3	▲12	=	▼1	▲6	▲3	▼3	=	▲9	▲7	▲9	▲5	▲1	▲4	=	▲11	▲3	▲2	▼4	=	▲2	▲1	▼6	▼3	
Politicians at national, regional or local level	Feb/Mar 2022	55	53	52	60	36	57	49	43	65	67	56	60	60	54	46	56	29	57	53	62	52	32	63	44	67	59	41	42	
	Δ Dec 2019	▲8	▲4	▲6	▲9	▲1	▲17	▲5	=	▲7	▼1	▼3	▲2	▲8	▲6	▲8	▲7	▼3	▲10	▲5	▲13	▲4	▲2	▼7	▲6	▲8	▲10	=	▼1	
Officials awarding public tenders	Feb/Mar 2022	45	46	60	68	19	39	31	32	63	46	42	57	58	58	55	56	25	50	45	61	35	31	48	36	59	50	29	43	
	Δ Dec 2019	▲7	▲7	▲9	▲12	▼7	▲10	▼2	=	▲7	▲2	▲5	▲4	▲9	▲6	▲10	▲4	▲1	▲8	▲2	▲11	▲4	▲1	▼7	▲3	▲3	▲2	=	▼1	
Officials issuing building permits	Feb/Mar 2022	45	42	54	49	27	43	35	31	65	51	38	53	58	57	53	53	27	36	54	61	35	28	47	38	52	46	24	36	
	Δ Dec 2019	▲8	▲8	▲6	▲8	▼4	▲10	▼1	▼2	▲8	▲2	▲7	▲8	▲10	▲4	▲8	▲5	▲3	▲5	▲5	▲6	▲4	=	▼4	▲6	▲1	▲8	▲4	▲1	
Private companies	Feb/Mar 2022	37	38	21	31	41	45	22	25	27	44	42	29	35	31	22	24	39	31	23	52	27	16	41	19	38	31	28	55	
	Δ Dec 2019	=	▼4	▲1	▼2	▼9	▲2	▼3	▼12	▼2	▼3	▲2	=	▲3	▼3	▼3	▼4	▲3	▲4	▼7	▲7	▼6	▼3	▼7	▼6	▼4	▼5	▲4	▼1	
Inspectors (health and safety, construction, labour, food quality, sanitary control and licensing)	Feb/Mar 2022	33	35	48	33	21	31	22	17	62	29	24	48	46	40	39	49	14	30	33	44	28	24	43	35	48	40	14	29	
	Δ Dec 2019	▲4	▲3	=	▼2	▼3	▲4	=	▼2	▲4	▼3	▲3	=	▲6	▼5	▲1	▼1	▼8	▲2	▲4	▲2	▲5	=	▼6	▲1	▼4	▲2	▲2	▲2	
Officials issuing business permits	Feb/Mar 2022	33	33	51	19	11	31	24	25	61	44	19	48	49	52	33	35	11	32	40	41	29	16	38	34	39	31	14	30	
	Δ Dec 2019	▲3	▲4	▲3	▼7	▼4	▲7	▼1	▼3	▲4	=	=	▲4	▲8	▼2	▼3	▲3	▼7	▲3	▲1	=	▲2	▼5	▼6	▲1	▼6	▼1	▲2	=	
The healthcare system	Feb/Mar 2022	29	13	51	38	7	21	14	13	91	20	20	45	39	60	40	69	11	46	17	19	21	41	30	50	48	58	5	8	
	Δ Dec 2019	▲2	▼1	▼2	▼3	▼4	▲2	▼6	▼5	▲10	▼3	▲4	▲3	▲2	▲1	▲1	▼2	▼2	▲2	▼4	▲6	▼1	▲1	▼15	▲2	▼5	▲4	▲1	▼2	
Police, customs	Feb/Mar 2022	28	29	67	32	10	13	11	26	52	32	31	52	31	54	49	40	11	25	33	43	15	23	41	40	37	54	7	11	
	Δ Dec 2019	▲2	▼1	▲6	▲3	=	▲1	▼3	▼4	▲7	▼1	▲2	▲4	▲5	▲1	▲7	▼5	▼6	▼2	▼1	▲9	▼1	▼5	▼6	▼1	▲1	▲9	=	▼1	
Banks and financial institutions	Feb/Mar 2022	27	24	15	8	26	25	12	23	22	44	33	23	29	36	10	11	21	17	11	37	19	9	61	23	31	22	6	32	
	Δ Dec 2019	▼2	▼3	=	=	▼18	▲1	▼6	▼12	▼5	▼6	=	▼1	▲1	▼6	▼3	▼3	▼5	▲1	▼11	▼4	▼6	▼2	▼1	▲1	▼10	▼2	▼2	▼5	
Tax authorities	Feb/Mar 2022	22	19	44	18	8	11	8	10	67	27	19	43	32	44	22	19	9	22	27	26	16	12	39	29	33	30	2	5	
	Δ Dec 2019	▲2	▼2	▲8	▲1	▼13	▲1	▼1	▼4	▲4	▼1	▲3	▲4	▲7	▲6	▲2	▼5	▼3	▼1	▲6	▲5	▲2	▼2	▼15	▲1	▼5	▼3	▼1	=	
The Courts (tribunals)	Feb/Mar 2022	21	16	45	33	4	8	10	14	31	32	19	50	29	39	29	45	7	18	30	10	10	19	40	28	45	53	4	7	
	Δ Dec 2019	▲2	▼3	▲2	▼3	▼1	▲3	▼3	▼3	▼5	▲1	▲4	▼2	▲5	▲2	▲5	▼1	▼4	▼4	▼1	▲2	▼1	▼1	▼1	▼2	▼3	=	=	▲2	
Social security and welfare authorities	Feb/Mar 2022	17	13	25	11	9	9	10	8	39	18	10	27	28	27	12	22	7	16	17	19	13	11	33	25	23	31	5	14	
	Δ Dec 2019	▲2	=	▼5	▲1	▼6	▲3	▼5	▼8	▼4	▼3	▲2	▲2	▲4	=	=	▼2	▼3	=	▼5	▲4	=	▲1	▼18	=	▼3	▼1	▲2	▲4	
Public prosecution service	Feb/Mar 2022	17	15	33	23	3	9	7	11	29	23	13	34	23	33	22	34	4	20	14	16	12	13	30	28	33	36	4	6	
	Δ Dec 2019	▲1	▼1	▲1	▲5	▼6	▲3	▼4	▼2	▲3	▼2	▼1	▲3	▲2	=	▲3	▼4	▼5	▼1	▼8	▲2	=	▼3	▼6	=	▼8	▲3	▲1	▼1	
The education sector	Feb/Mar 2022	14	6	21	15	5	8	6	8	24	16	7	25	26	21	12	17	7	11	9	9	11	10	26	26	18	27	4	16	
	Δ Dec 2019	▲1	▼2	▲1	▲2	▼3	▲1	▼4	▼5	▲6	▼1	▲3	▲1	▲6	▼2	=	▼5	▼4	=	▼5	▲1	▼3	=	▼15	▼3	▼9	▼3	▲3	▲2	
None (SPONTANEOUS)	Feb/Mar 2022	4	6	1	1	23	7	6	7	1	1	4	1	1	5	2	2	14	3	2	7	8	2	2	3	3	1	24	14	
	Δ Dec 2019	▼2	▲1	=	▲1	▲2	▼2	=	▼1	=	=	▼3	=	▼1	▲1	▼4	=	▼5	▼1	▲3	▼4	▲1	▼2	▼1	▼1	▼2	▼5	▼5		
Don't know	Feb/Mar 2022	6	4	5	3	4	4	15	16	2	5	9	1	4	4	6	5	15	5	13	1	7	10	8	6	3	6	6	3	
	Δ Dec 2019	▼4	▼1	▼5	▼3	▲1	▼11	▼1	▲1	▼2	=	=	▼2	▼3	▼5	▼6	▼1	▼2	▲1	=	▼2	▼2	▼7	▼2	▼7	▼4	▼3	▼2	▲1	

Base: all respondents (n = 26,509)

**Special Eurobarometer 523**  
**Corruption**  
**March-April 2022**

The socio-demographic analysis illustrates a range of differences.

- Respondents aged 15-24 are less likely than older age groups to think corruption is widespread amongst politicians, officials awarding public tenders, officials issuing building permits, officials issuing business permits or the police and customs.
- The longer a respondent remained in education, the more likely they are to think corruption is widespread in private companies (41% of those who finished their studies after the age of 20 vs 34% of those who finished before 16) and amongst politicians (57% vs 55%) and officials awarding public tenders (48% vs 43%), but they are less likely to think it is widespread in the healthcare system (27% vs 32%), the courts (18% vs 26%) or amongst tax authorities (20% vs 25%).
- The unemployed are the most likely to say corruption is widespread in political parties (68%), amongst politicians (61%) or in banks and financial institutions (33%). The self-employed are the most likely to think corruption is widespread amongst officials issuing building (51%) or business permits (38%), inspectors (41%) or the healthcare system (36%). Along with managers they are also the most likely to think corruption is widespread amongst officials awarding public tenders (both 50%).
- Respondents who experience difficulties paying their bills most of the time are the most likely to think corruption is widespread in each area, and this is particularly the case for political parties (68%), politicians (61%), police and customs (42%) and inspectors (39%).
- Respondents who have experienced corruption are consistently more likely to think corruption is widespread, and this is particularly striking for the healthcare system (58% vs 28% who have not experienced corruption) and police and customs (54% vs 27%). The same pattern applies for those who have witnessed corruption.
- Finally, respondents who know someone who has taken bribes are more likely to think corruption is widespread in each area than those who do not.

**QA7** In (OUR COUNTRY), do you think that the giving and taking of bribes and the abuse of power for personal gain are widespread among any of the following? (MULTIPLE ANSWERS POSSIBLE)

	Political parties	Politicians at national, regional or local level	Officials awarding public tenders	Officials issuing building permits	Private companies	Officials issuing business permits	Inspectors (health and safety, construction, labour, food quality, sanitary control and licensing)	The healthcare system	Police, customs
EU27	58	55	45	45	37	33	33	29	28
<b>Age</b>									
15-24	54	49	32	35	35	27	30	25	33
25-39	60	55	44	45	37	33	35	30	30
40-54	61	58	49	48	39	36	36	33	29
55 +	56	55	47	46	36	33	31	29	25
<b>Education (End of)</b>									
15-	62	55	43	43	34	35	32	32	29
16-19	59	55	46	46	36	34	34	32	28
20+	57	57	48	47	41	32	34	27	26
Still studying	52	52	35	37	36	31	32	25	32
<b>Socio-professional category</b>									
Self-employed	60	60	50	51	41	38	41	36	28
Managers	57	57	50	50	42	34	36	26	25
Other white collars	58	53	46	46	37	35	35	32	30
Manual workers	61	56	44	44	38	33	34	30	32
House persons	58	51	41	42	27	29	31	29	25
Unemployed	68	61	48	46	36	36	37	31	35
Retired	55	55	46	44	35	32	29	29	24
Students	52	52	35	37	36	31	32	25	32
<b>Difficulties paying bills</b>									
Most of the time	68	61	46	45	37	38	39	39	42
From time to time	59	54	45	45	34	34	37	35	33
Almost never/ Never	56	55	45	45	38	32	31	26	25
<b>Experienced or witnessed corruption</b>									
Yes, experienced	65	67	63	62	49	50	55	58	54
Yes, witnessed	64	68	56	52	50	44	45	47	45
No	57	54	44	44	36	32	32	28	27
<b>You know someone who takes bribes</b>									
Yes	68	69	65	60	52	48	51	50	45
No	57	53	43	43	35	31	31	27	26

**Special Eurobarometer 523**  
**Corruption**  
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**QA7** 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)

	Banks and financial institutions	Tax authorities	The Courts (tribunals)	Social security and welfare authorities	Public prosecution service	The education sector	None (SPONTANEOUS)	Don't know
EU27	27	22	21	17	17	14	4	6
 <b>Age</b>								
15-24	26	22	22	15	18	17	4	8
25-39	30	24	22	18	18	15	4	4
40-54	30	24	23	18	19	16	4	4
55 +	25	20	20	16	16	11	5	7
 <b>Education (End of)</b>								
15-	30	25	26	19	19	15	4	9
16-19	26	22	22	18	18	14	3	5
20+	28	20	18	15	15	12	6	4
Still studying	28	24	22	16	19	18	4	8
 <b>Socio-professional category</b>								
Self-employed	29	22	22	18	18	15	3	2
Managers	28	18	15	13	14	13	6	3
Other white collars	27	22	22	16	17	14	5	4
Manual workers	31	26	25	19	21	16	2	5
House persons	23	22	23	17	13	13	3	9
Unemployed	33	25	24	23	21	15	3	7
Retired	24	18	19	15	15	11	5	7
Students	28	24	22	16	19	18	4	8
 <b>Difficulties paying bills</b>								
Most of the time	37	36	34	25	28	19	2	4
From time to time	29	27	25	21	21	17	3	7
Almost never/ Never	26	19	19	14	15	12	5	5
<b>Experienced or witnessed corruption</b>								
Yes, experienced	37	44	41	39	36	29	1	0
Yes, witnessed	34	34	31	28	26	28	0	0
No	27	21	20	16	16	13	5	6
<b>You know someone who takes bribes</b>								
Yes	35	37	35	28	28	23	1	1
No	26	20	20	15	16	13	5	6

## 4. Level of corruption in daily life

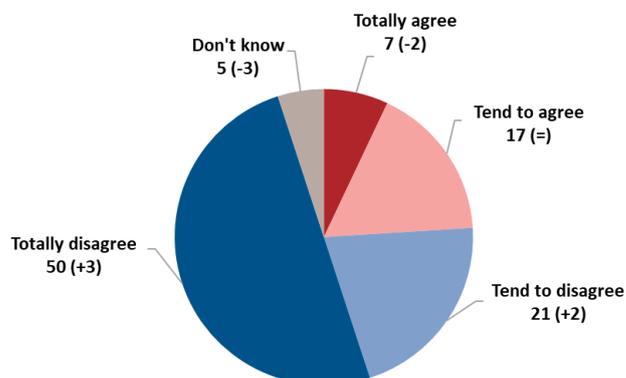
### Almost a quarter say they are personally affected by corruption in their daily life

Almost one quarter (24%, -2 percentage points since December 2019) say they are personally affected by corruption in their daily life, with 7% (-2) saying they “totally agree” this is the case.<sup>19</sup> In contrast the majority (71%, +5) say they disagree, with 50% (+3) totally disagreeing that they are personally affected by corruption.

A regional analysis shows respondents living in the 13 Member States that joined the EU in or after 2004 are more likely than those from the Member States already part of the EU in 2004 to agree they are personally affected by corruption in their daily life (36% vs 21%). The same pattern applies comparing those living outside the euro area with those living in euro area countries (33% vs 22%).

There is a wide variation between countries in the proportion who say they are personally affected by corruption. Six in ten in Croatia (60%) say they are affected, as do 59% in Greece and 57% in Cyprus. At the other end of the scale 5% in Denmark, 7% in France and 8% in the Netherlands and Germany say the same.

QA15.4 Please tell whether you agree or disagree with each of the following?  
You are personally affected by corruption in your daily life  
(% - EU)



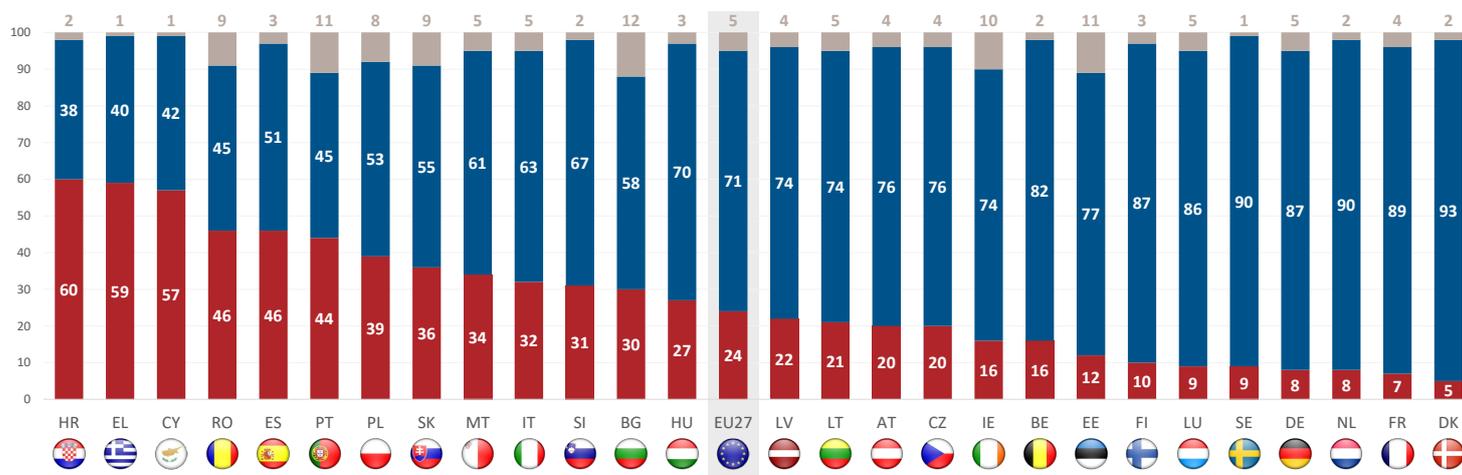
(Mar-Apr 2022/Dec 2019)

Base: all respondents (n = 26,509)

Apart from Croatia, Greece and Cyprus, a slight majority in Romania say they are personally affected by corruption in their daily life (46% agree vs 45% disagree).

QA15.4 Please tell whether you agree or disagree with each of the following?  
(% - You are personally affected by corruption in your daily life)

■ Total 'Agree' ■ Total 'Disagree' ■ Don't know



Base: all respondents (n = 26,509)

<sup>19</sup> QA15.4. Please tell me whether you agree or disagree with each of the following?  
You are personally affected by corruption in your daily life

**Special Eurobarometer 523**  
**Corruption**  
**March-April 2022**

Compared to December 2019, respondents in 18 countries are now less likely to say they are personally affected by corruption, and in four countries the decline is of more than ten percentage points: Malta (34%, -20 percentage points), Romania (46%, -18), Portugal (44%, -15), Spain 46%, -12). In contrast, the proportion has increased in eight countries, most notably in Croatia (60%, +6). There has been no change in Sweden.

**QA15.4 Please tell whether you agree or disagree with each of the following?**

**You are personally affected by corruption in your daily life (%)**

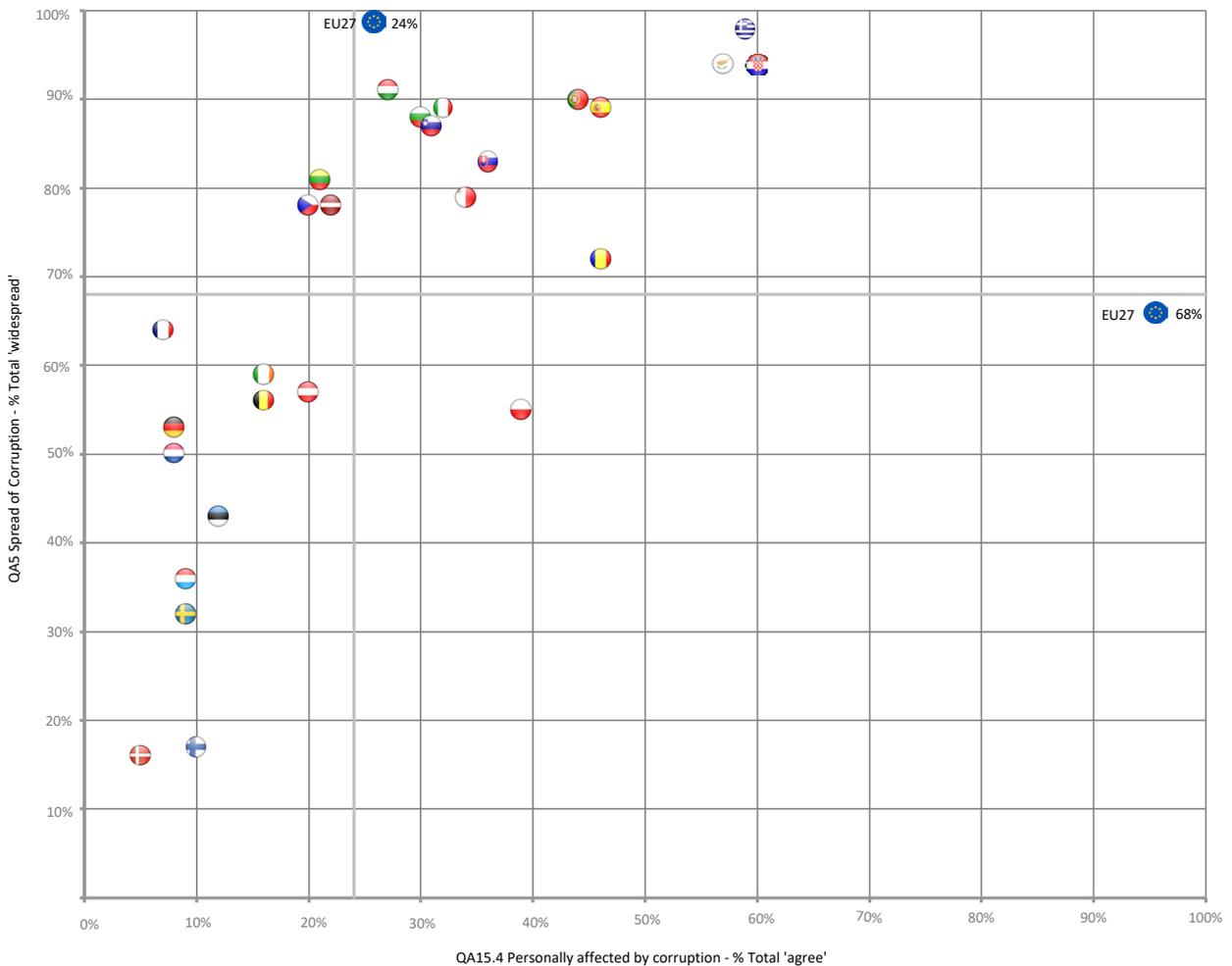


		EU27	HR	LV	NL	LU	BG	EL	PL	FI	SE	DE	CZ	DK	EE	AT	BE	FR	IT	CY	LT	HU	SI	SK	IE	ES	PT	RO	MT
Total 'Agree'	Feb/Mar 2022	24	60	22	8	9	30	59	39	10	9	8	20	5	12	20	16	7	32	57	21	27	31	36	16	46	44	46	34
	Δ Dec 2019	▼2	▲6	▲4	▲4	▲3	▲2	▲2	▲2	▲2	=	▼1	▼2	▼2	▼2	▼2	▼3	▼3	▼3	▼3	▼5	▼5	▼5	▼5	▼9	▼12	▼15	▼18	▼20
Total 'Disagree'	Feb/Mar 2022	71	38	74	90	86	58	40	53	87	90	87	76	93	77	76	82	89	63	42	74	70	67	55	74	51	45	45	61
	Δ Dec 2019	▲5	▼5	▼2	▼3	▲9	=	▼2	▲1	▲2	▲3	▲4	▲4	▲4	▲3	▲3	▲5	▲5	▲3	▲5	▲5	▲4	▲7	▲7	▲14	▲14	▲12	▲16	▲26
Don't know	Feb/Mar 2022	5	2	4	2	5	12	1	8	3	1	5	4	2	11	4	2	4	5	1	5	3	2	9	10	3	11	9	5
	Δ Dec 2019	▼3	▼1	▼2	▼1	▼12	▼2	=	▼3	▼4	▼3	▼3	▼2	▼2	▼1	▼1	▼2	▼2	=	▼2	=	▲1	▼2	▼2	▼5	▼2	▲3	▲2	▼6

*Base: all respondents (n = 26,509)*

Special Eurobarometer 523  
Corruption  
March-April 2022

An additional national analysis highlights a strong link between the proportion of respondents who think corruption is widespread in their country and the proportion who feel personally affected by corruption in their daily life. Higher proportions of respondents who think corruption is widespread are associated with higher proportions who feel affected by corruption in their daily life. For example, in Greece 98% think corruption is widespread in their country and 59% feel personally affected by corruption. In contrast, in Denmark 16% think corruption is widespread and 5% feel personally affected by it.



**Special Eurobarometer 523**  
**Corruption**  
**March-April 2022**

The socio-demographic analysis illustrates that only a minority in each demographic group say they are personally impacted by corruption in their daily life, although there are some notable differences.

- Those aged 25-54 (28%) are more likely than younger (22%) or older (21%) respondents to say they are personally affected.
- The self-employed (32%) and house persons (31%) are the most likely socio-occupation groups to say they are affected, particularly compared to retired persons (18%).
- Those who experience financial difficulties from time to time (35%) or most of the time (39%) are more likely to say they are affected than those who never or almost never experience such problems (19%).
- Respondents who consider themselves as belonging to the middle class or lower (both 25%) on the social scale are more likely to say they are personally affected by corruption than those who say they belong to the upper middle (18%) or upper class (13%).

**QA15.4** Please tell whether you agree or disagree with each of the following?

**You are personally affected by corruption in your daily life**

(% - EU)

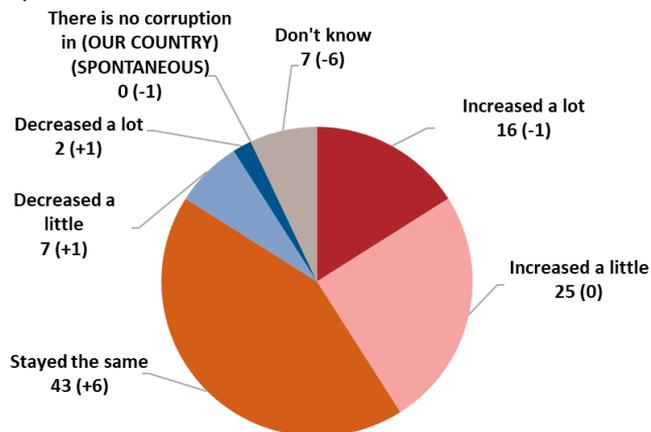
	Total 'Agree'	Total 'Disagree'	Don't know
EU27	24	71	5
 <b>Age</b>			
15-24	22	72	6
25-39	28	68	4
40-54	28	68	4
55 +	21	73	6
 <b>Socio-professional category</b>			
Self-employed	32	66	2
Managers	22	75	3
Other white collars	26	69	5
Manual workers	29	67	4
House persons	31	64	5
Unemployed	26	71	3
Retired	18	76	6
Students	21	73	6
 <b>Difficulties paying bills</b>			
Most of the time	39	57	4
From time to time	35	60	5
Almost never/ Never	19	76	5
 <b>Consider belonging to</b>			
The working class	28	65	7
The lower middle class	25	69	6
The middle class	25	72	3
The upper middle class	18	79	3
The upper class	13	82	5

## 5. Level of corruption over the last three years

### Around four in ten respondents say the level of corruption in their country has increased in the past three years

Just over four in ten (41%, -1 percentage point since December 2019) respondents think the level of corruption in their country has increased in the past three years, with 16% (-1) saying it has “increased a lot”.<sup>20</sup> In contrast 9% (+2) think the level has decreased, with 2% (+1) saying it has “decreased a lot”. More than four in ten (43%, +6) think the level has stayed the same, while 7% (+6) say they don’t know.

QA6 In the past three years, would you say that the level of corruption in (OUR COUNTRY) has...?  
(% - EU)



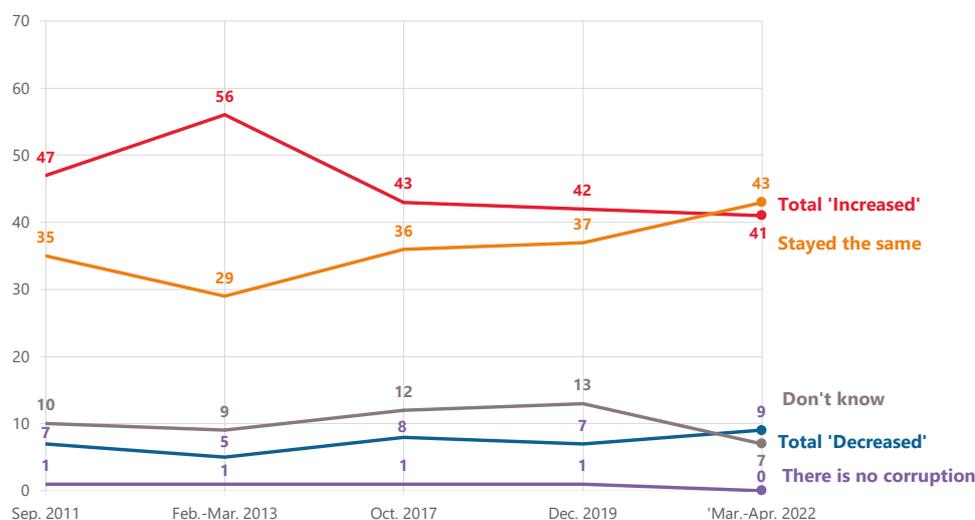
(Mar-Apr 2022/ Dec 2019)

Base: all respondents (n = 26,509)

The proportion of respondents who think corruption in their country has increased has fallen by one percentage point since 2019 and is now at its lowest level. It is 15 points lower than the peak in February-March 2013, and six points lower than in 2011. The proportion who thinks corruption levels have stayed the same has been steadily climbing since 2017 and is now at its highest level – eight points higher than in 2011.

A regional analysis shows that respondents in the Member States already part of the EU in 2004 are more likely to say that corruption in their country has increased (42%), compared to those living in the Member States which had joined the EU in 2004 or afterwards (36%). Finally, those living in euro-area countries are more likely to say corruption has increased than those living in countries outside the euro area (42% vs 35%).

QA6 In the past three years, would you say that the level of corruption in (OUR COUNTRY) has...?



Base: all respondents (n = 26,509)

<sup>20</sup> QA6. In the past three years, would you say that the level of corruption in (OUR COUNTRY) has... ?

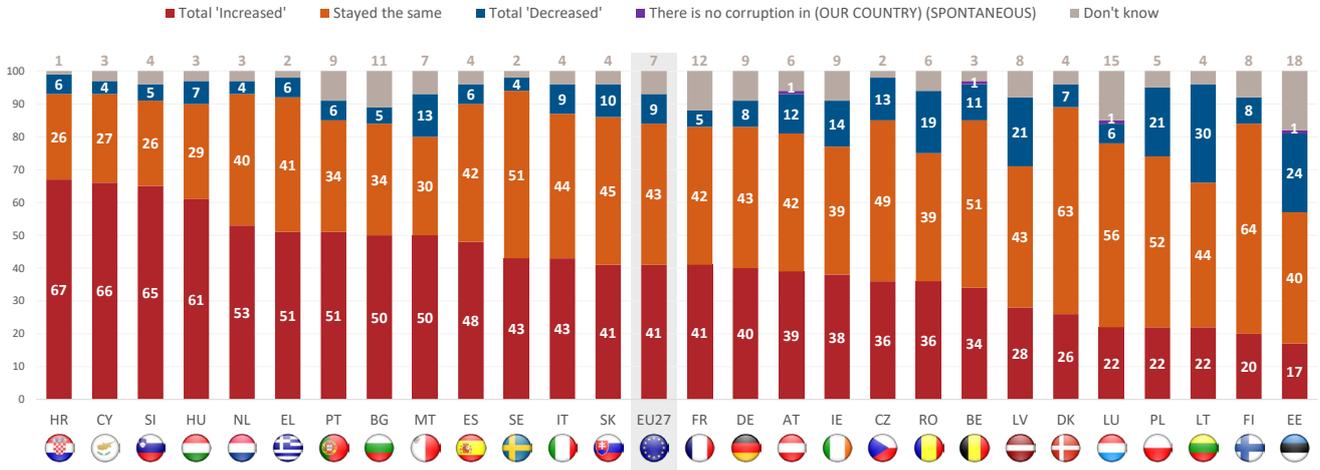
**Special Eurobarometer 523**  
**Corruption**  
**March- April 2022**

In ten EU Member States the majority of respondents think the level of corruption in their country has increased in the past three years, and this view is the most widespread in Croatia (67%), Cyprus (66%) and Slovenia (65%).

In the remaining 17 countries the majority think the level of corruption has stayed the same, with the largest proportions observed in Finland (64%), Denmark (63%) and Luxembourg (56%).

No more than three in ten respondents in any EU Member State think corruption in their country has decreased in the past three years, with the largest shares in Lithuania (30%), Estonia (24%) and Poland (21%).

**QA6 In the past three years, would you say that the level of corruption in (OUR COUNTRY) has...?**  
 (%)



Base: all respondents (n = 26,509)

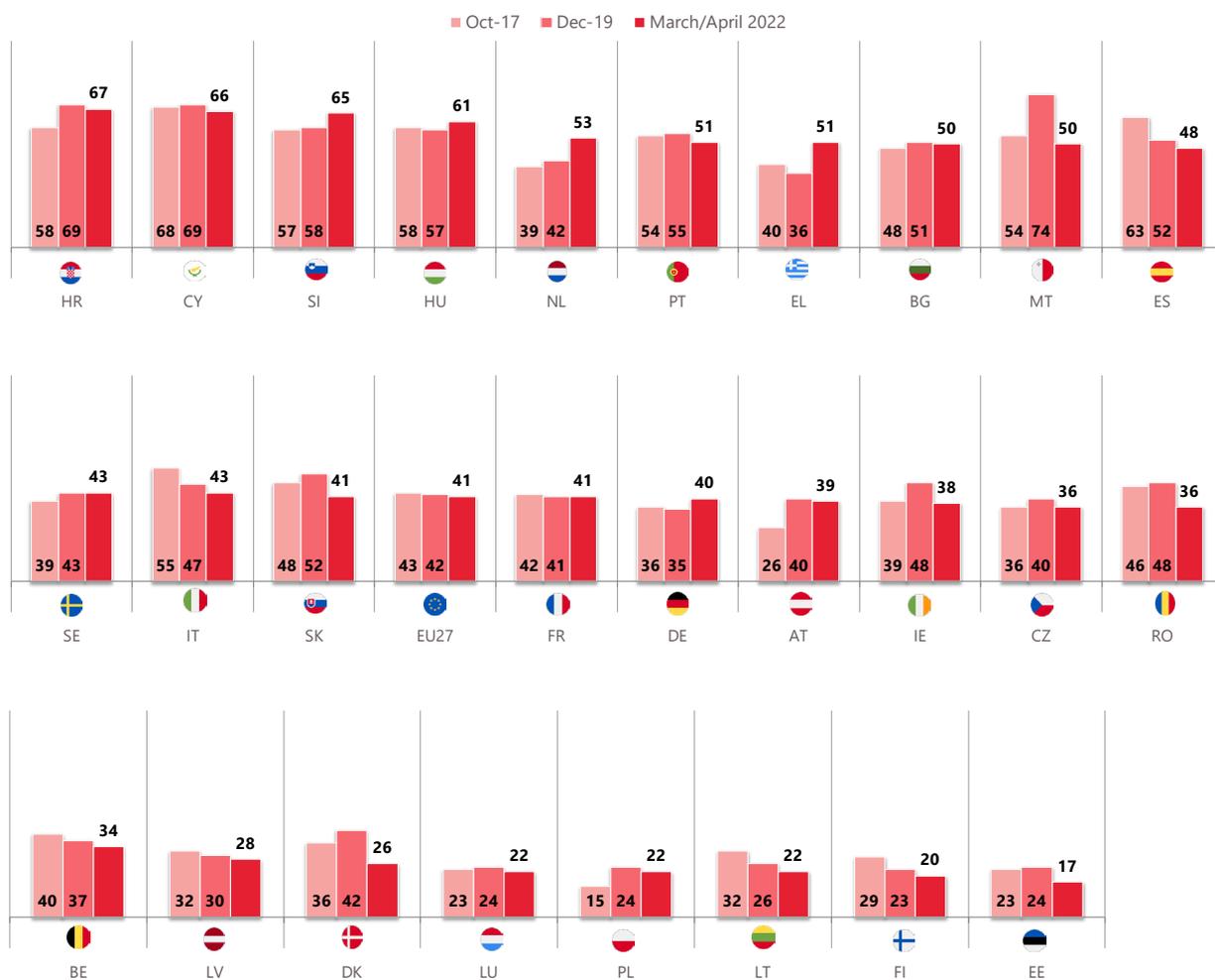
**Special Eurobarometer 523**  
**Corruption**  
**March- April 2022**

Since December 2019 the proportion of respondents who think corruption has increased in their country over the last three years has declined in 20 EU Member States, with the largest seen in Malta (50%, -24 percentage points), Denmark (26%, -16), Romania (36%, -12), Slovakia (41%, -11) and Ireland (38%, -10). In contrast the proportion has increased in five countries including Greece (51%, +15) and the Netherlands (53%, +11). There has been no change in France and Sweden.

Across all countries, the proportion of respondents who think the level of corruption in their country has increased has fallen in 16 countries since October 2017, increased in ten countries and remained the same in Czechia.

The chart below illustrates the national results for the last three waves of the survey and shows consistent trends in seven EU Member States. The proportion of respondents who think the level of corruption in their country has increased in the past three years has risen continuously since October 2017 in the Netherlands (from 39% to 53%). In the other six countries the proportion has continuously declined: Spain (down from 63% to 48%), Italy (down from 55% to 43%), Belgium (down from 55% to 43%), Bulgaria (down from 48% to 51%), Lithuania (down from 32% to 28%), Latvia (down from 32% to 22%) and Finland (down from 29% to 20%).

**QA6** In the past three years, would you say that the level of corruption in (OUR COUNTRY) has...?  
 (% - TOTAL 'INCREASED')



Base: all respondents (n = 26,509)

**Special Eurobarometer 523**  
**Corruption**  
**March- April 2022**

The socio-demographic analysis illustrates that the earlier a respondent left education, the more likely they are to say corruption has increased: 46% who left school aged 15 or younger think this way, compared to 38% who left school aged 20 or older.

The analysis also highlights the following differences:

- Manual workers and the unemployed (both 45%) are the most likely to say corruption has increased, particularly compared to managers (35%) and students (36%).
- The more difficulties a respondent has paying bills, the more likely they are to say corruption has increased: 55% who experience difficulties most of the time think this way, compared to 38% who never or almost never experience difficulties.
- Respondents who consider themselves belonging to the middle class (40%) or lower (45%) on the social scale are more likely to say corruption has increased than those belonging to the upper middle (34%) or upper class (29%).

- Respondents who say corruption is widespread in their country are much more likely to think it has increased than those who say it is rare (53% vs 16%).
- Those who have experienced (64%) or witnessed (56%) corruption are more likely to say it has increased than those who have not experienced or witnessed corruption (40%).
- Finally, respondents who know someone who takes bribes are more likely to think corruption has increased compared to those who do not (54% vs 39%).

**QA6** In the past three years, would you say that the level of corruption in (OUR COUNTRY) has...?

	Total 'Increased'	Total 'Decreased'	There is no corruption in (OUR COUNTRY) (SPONTANEOUS)	Don't know
EU27	41	9	0	7
<b>Socio-professional category</b>				
Self-employed	41	12	0	2
Managers	35	9	0	5
Other white collars	40	8	0	6
Manual workers	45	9	0	5
House persons	41	10	0	8
Unemployed	45	7	0	9
Retired	41	10	0	8
Students	36	8	1	11
<b>Difficulties paying bills</b>				
Most of the time	55	10	0	6
From time to time	42	9	0	7
Almost never/ Never	38	10	0	6
<b>Consider belonging to</b>				
The working class	41	10	0	9
The lower middle class	45	8	0	8
The middle class	40	10	0	5
The upper middle class	34	11	0	4
The upper class	29	21	2	1
<b>In (OUR COUNTRY) corruption is</b>				
Widespread	53	5	0	3
Rare	16	20	0	7
<b>Experienced or witnessed corruption</b>				
Yes, experienced	64	5	0	2
Yes, witnessed	56	7	0	1
No	40	9	0	7
<b>You know someone who takes bribes</b>				
Yes	54	6	0	3
No	39	10	0	7

## **II. ATTITUDES TO CORRUPTION IN DETAIL**



Special Eurobarometer 523  
Corruption  
March- April 2022

**More than seven in ten Europeans think there is corruption in local, regional and national public institutions in their country**

Respondents were asked whether they agreed or disagreed with 12 statements about corruption in their country.<sup>21</sup> The majority agree with eight of the statements, although the proportions vary.

More than three quarters (77%, +1 percentage point since December 2019) agree that **too close links between business and politics lead to corruption**. More than one in ten (15%, +2) disagree, while 8% (-3) say they “don’t know”.

Almost three quarters (74%, +4) think **there is corruption in the national public institutions** in their country. Fewer than one in five (18%, +1) disagree, while 8% (-5) say they “don’t know”. Almost as many (72%, +4) consider that **there is corruption in the local or regional public institutions** in their country. One in five (20%, +1) disagree while 8% (-5) say they “don’t know”. Belief that there is corruption in all levels of public institutions has increased compared to 2019.

Almost seven in ten (69%, +3) agree that **high-level corruption cases are not pursued sufficiently**. More than one in five (22%, +2) disagree, while 9% (-5) say they “don’t know”.

More than two thirds (68%, +4) believe that **bribery and the use of connections is often the easiest way to obtain certain public services**. Nearly one quarter (24%, +1) disagree with this statement, while 8% (-5) are unable to answer.

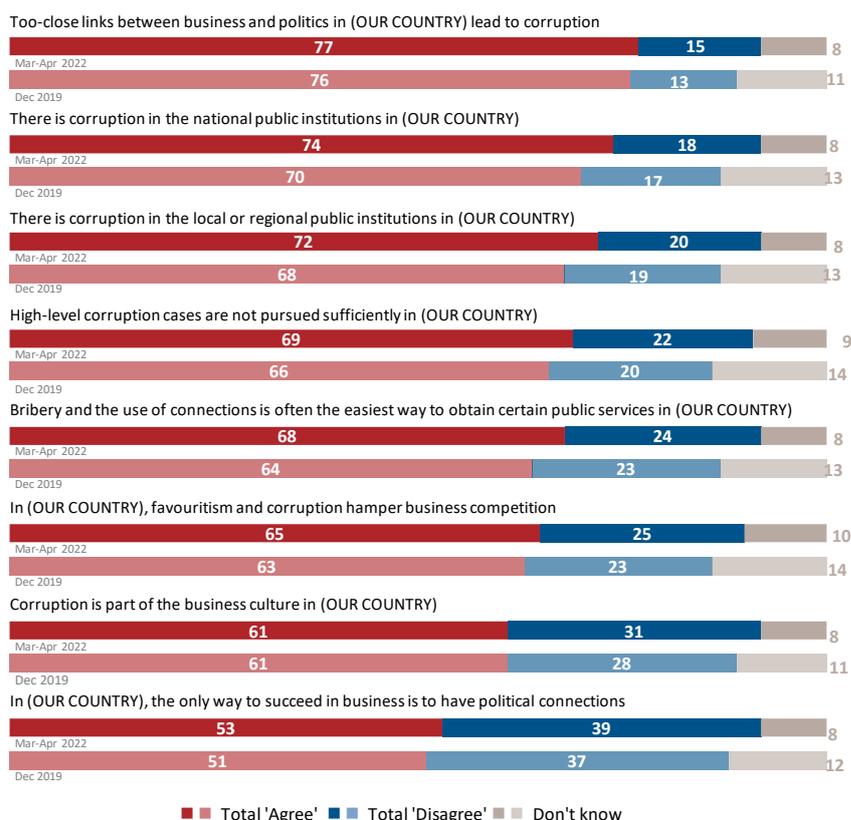
Almost two thirds (65%, +2) agree that **favouritism and corruption hamper business competition**. On the other hand, one quarter (25%, +2) disagree and 10% (-4) say they don’t know.

Just over six in ten respondents (61%, =) think that **corruption is part of the business culture** in their country. More than three in ten (31%, +3) disagree, while 8% (-3) say they “don’t know”.

A slightly increased majority (53%, +2) agree that in their country **the only way to succeed in business is to have political connections**. However, almost four in ten (39%, +2) disagree, while 8% (-4) say they don’t know.

A broad overview of these results shows agreement with almost all statements has increased since December 2019.

QA15. Please tell whether you agree or disagree with each of the following?  
(% - EU)



Base: all respondents (n = 26,509)

<sup>21</sup> QA15. Please tell me whether you agree or disagree with each of the following? 15.1 There is corruption in the local or regional public institutions in (OUR COUNTRY); 15.2 There is corruption in the national public institutions in (OUR COUNTRY); 15.3 Corruption is part of the business culture in (OUR COUNTRY); 15.4 There are enough successful prosecutions in (OUR COUNTRY) to deter people from corrupt practices; 15.5 High-level corruption cases are not pursued sufficiently in (OUR COUNTRY); 15.6 In (OUR COUNTRY), favouritism and corruption hamper business competition; 15.7 In (OUR COUNTRY), bribery and the use of connections is often the easiest way to obtain certain public services; 15.8 Too-close

links between business and politics in (OUR COUNTRY) lead to corruption; 15.9 Bribery and the use of connections is often the easiest way to obtain certain public services in (OUR COUNTRY); 15.10 There is sufficient transparency and supervision of the financing of political parties in (OUR COUNTRY); 15.11 In (OUR COUNTRY) the only way to succeed in business is to have political connections; 15.12 In (OUR COUNTRY), favouritism and corruption hamper business competition; 15.13 In (OUR COUNTRY), measures against corruption are applied impartially and without ulterior motives.

**Special Eurobarometer 523**  
**Corruption**  
**March- April 2022**

Only a minority of respondents agree with the four statements relating to the fight against corruption, and respondents are more likely to disagree with each statement than they were in December 2019.

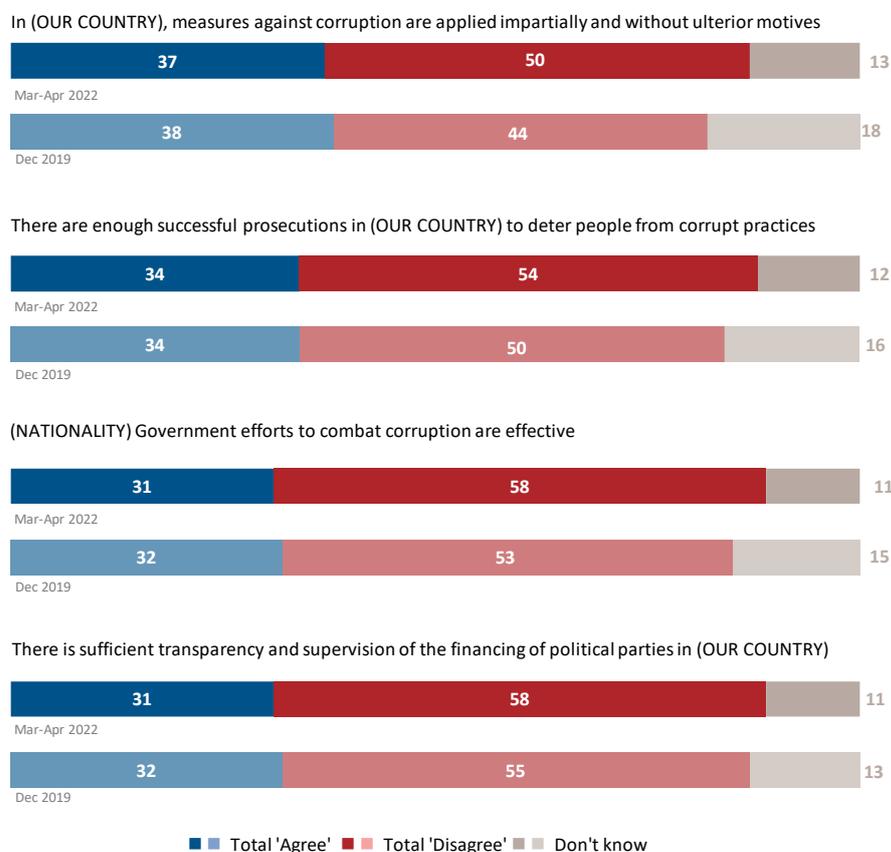
Almost four in ten (37%, -1 percentage point since December 2019) believe that **measures against corruption are applied impartially and without ulterior motives**. An increased majority (50%, +6), however, disagrees. More than one in ten (13%, -5) say they “don’t know”.

Just over one third (34%, =) think that **there are enough successful prosecutions to deter people from corrupt practices**, while more than half (54%, +4) disagrees. Just over one in ten (12%, -4) did not express an opinion.

More than three in ten respondents (31%, -1) agree that their **national government’s efforts to combat corruption are effective**. However, almost six in ten (58%) disagree – an increase of five percentage points since December 2019. Just over one in ten say they “don’t know” (11%, -4).

Almost one third (31%, -1) think **there is sufficient transparency and supervision of the financing of political parties** in their country. An increased majority (58%, +3), however, disagree. Just over one in ten (11%, -2) say they don’t know.

**QA15. Please tell whether you agree or disagree with each of the following?**  
 (% - EU)



*Base: all respondents (n = 26,509)*

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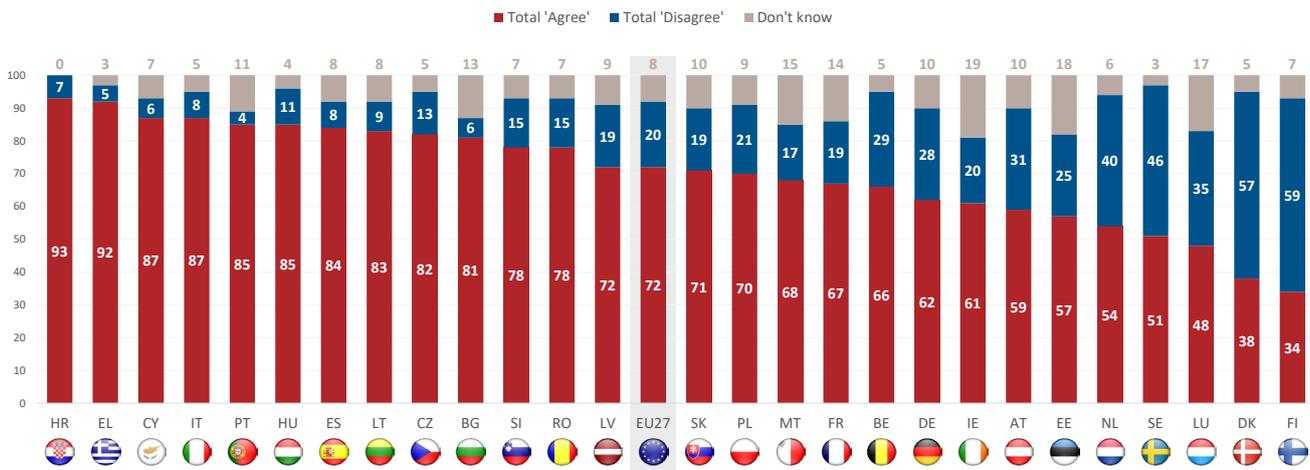
# 1. Corruption in public institutions

## Corruption in local or regional level public institutions

In 25 EU Member States, a majority of respondents agree that there is corruption in the local or regional public institutions in their country, although proportions vary considerably: from 93% in Croatia, 92% in Greece and 87% in Italy and Cyprus to 48% in Luxembourg (vs 35% disagree).

Agreement is the minority position in Finland (34% vs 59% disagree) and Denmark (38% vs 57%).

QA15.1 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))



Base: all respondents (n = 26,509)

In 13 EU Member States agreement that there is corruption in local or regional public institutions has decreased since December 2019, most notably in Denmark (38%, -10 percentage points). In contrast, agreement has increased in 12 countries with the largest seen in the Netherlands (54%, +13). There has been no change in opinion in Croatia and Romania.

QA15.1 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	NL	HU	IT	PL	LU	DE	EL	BG	CZ	FI	LV	LT	HR	RO	CY	IE	FR	MT	AT	SI	SK	SE	BE	EE	ES	PT	DK
Total 'Agree'	Feb/Mar 2022	72	54	85	87	70	48	62	92	81	82	34	72	83	93	78	87	61	67	68	59	78	71	51	66	57	84	85	38
	Δ Dec 2019	▲4	▲13	▲6	▲5	▲5	▲4	▲3	▲3	▲2	▲2	▲2	▲1	▲1	=	=	▼1	▼2	▼2	▼3	▼3	▼3	▼3	▼3	▼4	▼5	▼5	▼5	▼10
Total 'Disagree'	Feb/Mar 2022	20	40	11	8	21	35	28	5	6	13	59	19	9	7	15	6	20	19	17	31	15	19	46	29	25	8	4	57
	Δ Dec 2019	▲1	▼7	▼5	▼5	▲2	▲14	▲5	=	▲1	▲2	▲6	▲6	▲4	▲1	▲2	▲1	=	▲2	▲8	▲2	▲4	▲9	▲7	▲9	▲9	▲3	▲1	▲13
Don't know	Feb/Mar 2022	8	6	4	5	9	17	10	3	13	5	7	9	8	0	7	7	19	14	15	10	7	10	3	5	18	8	11	5
	Δ Dec 2019	▼5	▼6	▼1	=	▼7	▼18	▼8	▼3	▼3	▼4	▼8	▼7	▼5	▼1	▼2	=	▲2	=	▼5	▲1	▼1	▼6	▼4	▼5	▼4	▲2	▲4	▼3

Base: all respondents (n = 26,509)

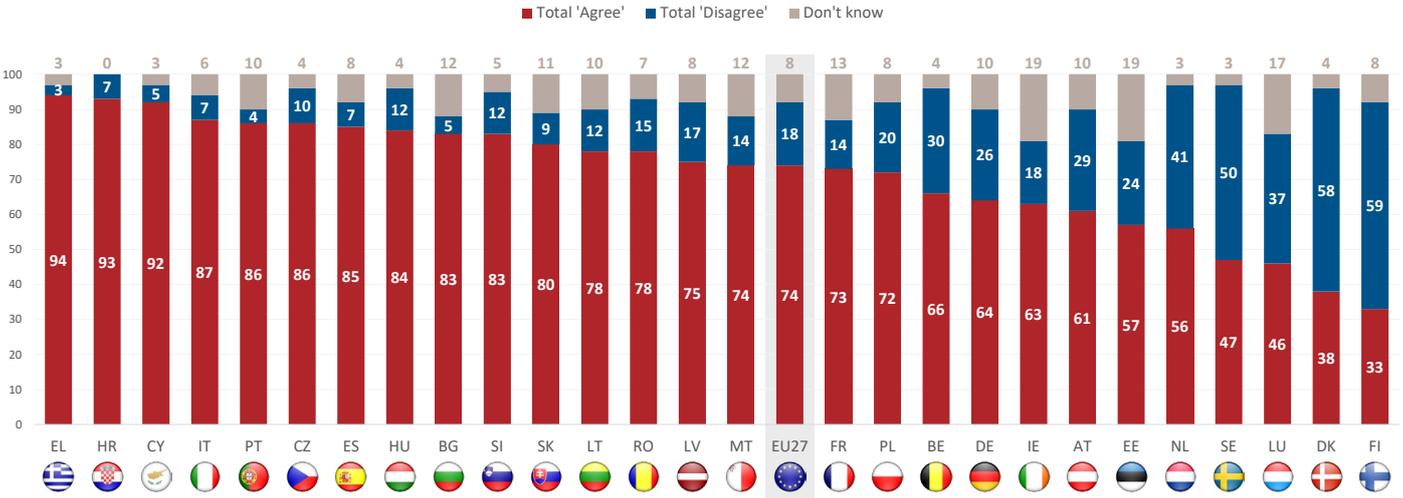
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Corruption in the national level public institutions

In 25 EU Member States, a majority of respondents agree there is corruption in the national public institutions in their country, although proportions vary from 94% in Greece, 93% in Croatia and 92% in Cyprus to 46% in Luxembourg (vs 37% disagree). Overall, there are 14 countries where at least three quarters agree.

There are two countries where only a minority agree there is corruption in national public institutions: Finland (33% vs 59% disagree) and Denmark (38% vs 58%).

QA15.2 Please tell whether you agree or disagree with each of the following?  
(% - There is corruption in the national public institutions in (OUR COUNTRY))



Base: all respondents (n = 26,509)

Compared to December 2019, respondents in 12 countries are now less likely to agree there is corruption in national public institutions, with the largest decline seen in Denmark (38%, -15 percentage points). However, in ten countries agreement has increased, with the largest observed in the Netherlands (56%, +11). There has been no change in opinion in Ireland, France, Poland, Romania and Slovakia.

QA15.2 Please tell whether you agree or disagree with each of the following?  
There is corruption in the national public institutions in (OUR COUNTRY) (%)

	EU27	NL	HR	DE	LU	IT	HU	EL	CY	CZ	LV	IE	FR	PL	RO	SK	BG	LT	AT	FI	BE	EE	PT	SI	SE	ES	MT	DK	
Total 'Agree'	Feb/Mar 2022	74	56	93	64	46	87	84	94	92	86	75	63	73	72	78	80	83	78	61	33	66	57	86	83	47	85	74	38
	Δ Dec 2019	▲4	▲11	▲6	▲5	▲5	▲4	▲4	▲3	▲3	▲2	▲1	=	=	=	=	=	▼1	▼1	▼1	▼2	▼3	▼3	▼3	▼4	▼5	▼5	▼15	
Total 'Disagree'	Feb/Mar 2022	18	41	7	26	37	7	12	3	5	10	17	18	14	20	15	9	5	12	29	59	30	24	4	12	50	7	14	58
	Δ Dec 2019	▲1	▼3	▼4	▲3	▲15	▼5	▼2	▼1	▲1	▲3	▲6	▼2	▲1	▲6	▲3	▲3	▲3	▲5	=	▲8	▲7	▲6	▼1	▲4	▲8	▲3	▲9	▲17
Don't know	Feb/Mar 2022	8	3	0	10	17	6	4	3	3	4	8	19	13	8	7	11	12	10	10	8	4	19	10	5	3	8	12	4
	Δ Dec 2019	▼5	▼8	▼2	▼8	▼20	▲1	▼2	▼2	▼4	▼5	▼7	▲2	▼1	▼6	▼3	▼3	▼2	▼4	▲1	▼7	▼5	▼3	▲4	▼1	▼4	▲2	▼4	▼2

Base: all respondents (n = 26,509)

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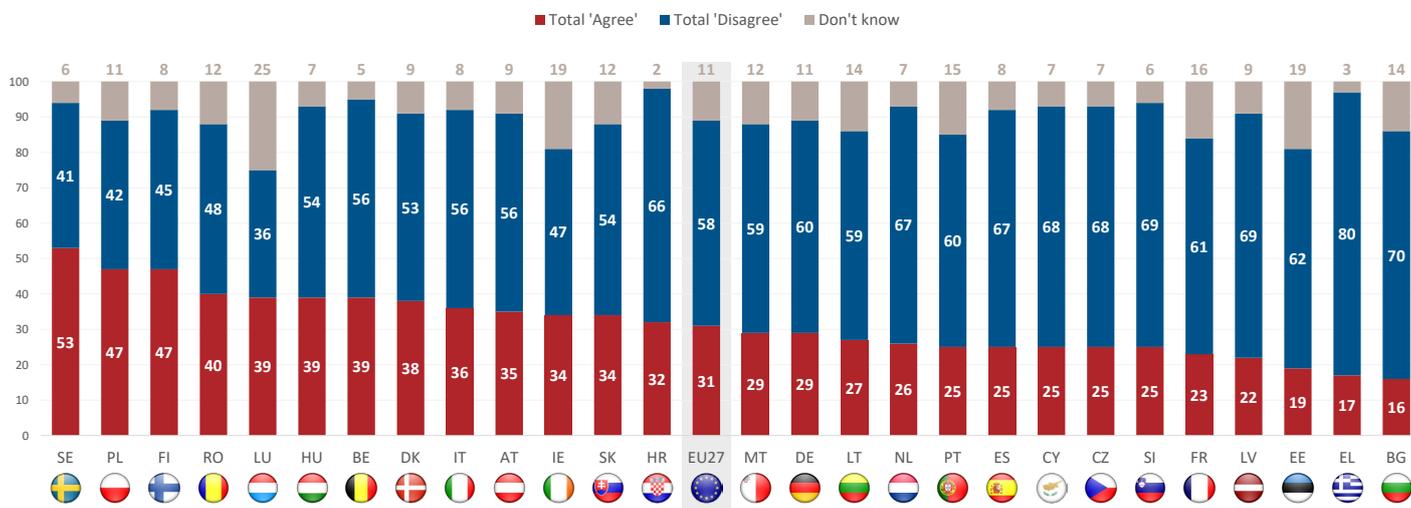
Transparency and supervision of the financing of political parties

There are only three EU Member States where a majority agrees there is sufficient transparency and supervision of the financing of political parties in their country: Sweden (53% vs 41%), Poland (47% vs 42%) and Finland (47% vs 42% disagree) and Finland (47% vs 45%). In the remaining 24 countries only a minority agrees, with proportions ranging from 40% in Romania and 39% in Belgium, Luxembourg and Hungary to 16% in Bulgaria, 17% in Greece and 19% in Estonia. In fact, in 20 countries more than half disagree.

It is also worth noting that one in four (25%) in Luxembourg are unable to answer.

A regional analysis shows those living outside the euro area are much more likely to agree that there is sufficient transparency and supervision of the financing of political parties than those living in countries within the euro area (40% vs 29%). The same pattern applies to a lesser extent comparing those living in Member States that joined the EU in 2004 or later to those from the countries already members of the EU in 2004 (37% vs 30%).

QA15.10 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))



Base: all respondents (n = 26,509)

Trends since December 2019 are mixed. Agreement that there is sufficient transparency and supervision of the financing of political parties in their country has increased in 11 countries including Luxembourg (39%, +12 percentage points). However, it has declined in 11 countries, with the largest seen in the Netherlands (26%, -12) and Romania (40%, -10). There has been no change in opinion in five countries: Bulgaria, Estonia, Spain, Cyprus and Hungary.

QA15.10 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	LU	FI	PL	DK	HR	SE	BE	LV	PT	DE	LT	BG	EE	ES	CY	HU	IE	SK	IT	SI	CZ	FR	MT	AT	EL	RO	NL
Total 'Agree'	Feb/Mar 2022	31	39	47	47	38	32	53	39	22	25	29	27	16	19	25	25	39	34	34	36	25	25	23	29	35	17	40	26
	Δ Dec 2019	▼1	▲12	▲7	▲5	▲4	▲4	▲4	▲3	▲3	▲3	▲1	▲1	=	=	=	=	▼1	▼1	▼2	▼2	▼3	▼3	▼3	▼4	▼5	▼10	▼12	
Total 'Disagree'	Feb/Mar 2022	58	36	45	42	53	66	41	56	69	60	60	59	70	62	67	68	54	47	54	56	69	68	61	59	56	80	48	67
	Δ Dec 2019	▲3	=	▼1	▼3	▼1	▼1	=	▲1	▲3	▼5	▲5	=	▲2	▲2	▼2	▲2	=	▼1	▲4	▲1	▲4	▲7	▲1	▲10	▲2	▲7	▲9	▲17
Don't know	Feb/Mar 2022	11	25	8	11	9	2	6	5	9	15	11	14	14	19	8	7	7	19	12	8	6	7	16	12	9	3	12	7
	Δ Dec 2019	▼2	▼12	▼6	▼2	▼3	▼3	▼4	▼4	▼6	▲2	▼6	▼1	▼2	▼2	▲2	▼2	=	▲2	▼3	▲1	▼2	▼4	▲2	▼7	▲2	▼2	▲1	▼5

Base: all respondents (n = 26,509)

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**Bribery and the use of connections**

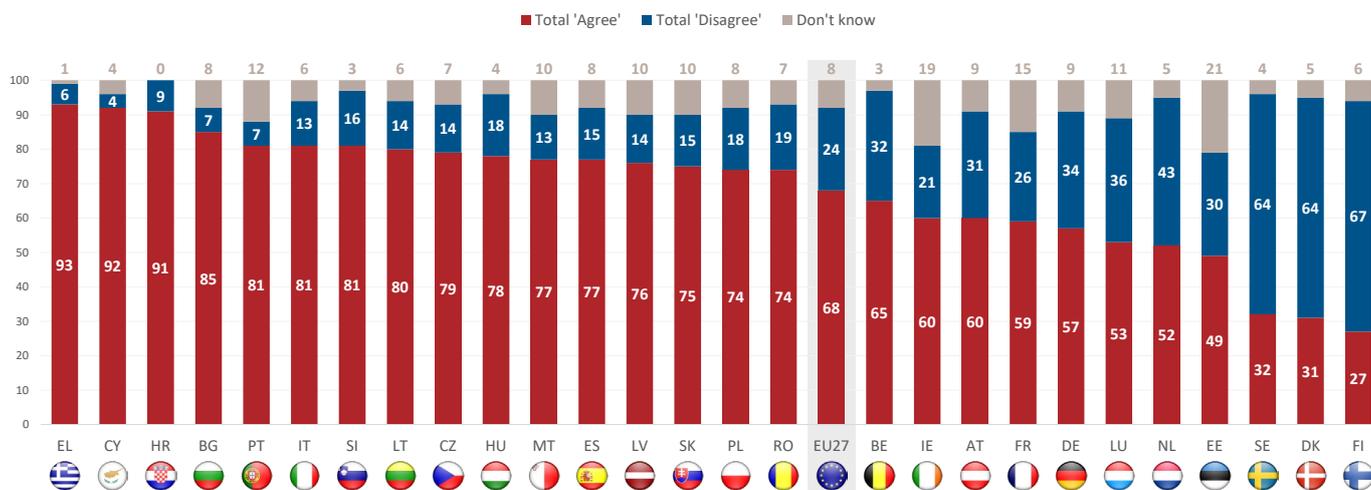
In 24 EU Member States, a majority of respondents think that bribery and the use of connections is often the easiest way to obtain certain public services in their country, with at least nine in ten in Greece (93%), Cyprus (92%) and Croatia (91%) holding this opinion. In contrast 49% in Estonia (vs 30% agree), 52% in the Netherlands and 53% in Luxembourg think this way.

A minority of respondents in three EU Member States agree that bribery and the use of connections is often the easiest way to obtain certain public services: Finland (27% vs 67% disagree), Denmark (31% vs 64% disagree) and Sweden (32% vs 64%).

A regional analysis shows that respondents from the Member States that joined the EU in 2004 or afterwards are much more likely than those from the countries already part of the EU in 2004 to agree the use of connections is often the easiest way to obtain certain public services in their country (77% vs 65%).

QA15.9 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))



Base: all respondents (n = 26,509)

There are 14 EU Member States where respondents are now more likely to agree bribery and the use of connections is often the easiest way to obtain certain public services in their country, with the largest increase seen in Luxembourg (53%, +12 percentage points). In 11 countries the proportion who agree has declined, with the largest seen in Spain (77%, -6).

There has been no change in opinion in Bulgaria and Italy.

QA15.9 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) (%)



	Feb/Mar 2022	LU	NL	LV	HU	DE	BE	EL	HR	SE	MT	PL	CZ	CY	AT	BG	IT	DK	FR	RO	FI	EE	IE	SK	LT	PT	SI	ES
Total 'Agree'	68	53	52	76	78	57	65	93	91	32	77	74	79	92	60	85	81	31	59	74	27	49	60	75	80	81	81	77
Δ Dec 2019	▲4	▲12	▲7	▲5	▲5	▲4	▲3	▲3	▲3	▲3	▲2	▲2	▲1	▲1	▲1	=	=	▼1	▼1	▼1	▼1	▼2	▼2	▼3	▼4	▼4	▼4	▼6
Total 'Disagree'	24	36	43	14	18	34	32	6	9	64	13	18	14	4	31	7	13	64	26	19	67	30	21	15	14	7	16	15
Δ Dec 2019	▲1	▲8	▼3	=	▼4	▲3	=	▼2	▼2	=	▲3	▲1	=	▼1	▼3	▲3	=	▲6	▲2	▲1	▲7	▲2	▼2	▲6	▲8	=	▲6	▲6
Don't know	8	11	5	10	4	9	3	1	0	4	10	8	7	4	9	8	6	5	15	7	6	21	19	10	6	12	3	8
Δ Dec 2019	▼5	▼20	▼4	▼5	▼1	▼7	▼3	▼1	▼1	▼3	▼5	▼3	▼1	=	▲2	▼3	=	▼5	▼1	=	▼6	=	▲4	▼3	▼4	▲4	▼2	=

Base: all respondents (n = 26,509)

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For each statement, the socio-demographic analysis focuses on those with the highest levels of agreement. It shows the following:

- Respondents aged 25+ are the most likely to agree with each statement. For example, 70% aged 25-54 and 67% aged 55+ agree bribery and the use of connections is the easiest way to obtain certain public services in their country, compared to 60% of those aged 15-24.
- Respondents who completed education aged 19 or younger are more likely than those who completed their education at an older age to agree that there is corruption in national public institutions, or that bribery and the use of connections is the easiest way to obtain certain public services in their country.
- The proportion who agrees there is corruption in local or regional public institutions is highest amongst the self-employed (79%), while the unemployed (80%) and manual workers (79%) are the most likely to agree there is corruption in national public institutions.
- The more difficulties a respondent experiences paying bills, the more like they are to agree there is corruption in local/regional or national public institutions, or that bribery and the use of connections is the easiest way to obtain certain public services in their country. However, it is those who experience fewer financial difficulties who are most likely to agree there is sufficient transparency and supervision of the financing of political parties in their country.
- Respondents who consider themselves as belonging to the middle class or lower are the most likely to agree there is corruption in local/regional or national public institutions. However, it is those who say they belong to the upper class (58%) who are the most likely to agree there is sufficient transparency and supervision of the financing of political parties in their country.
- Respondents who have experienced or witnessed corruption are more likely to agree there is corruption in local/regional or national public institutions, or that bribery and the use of connections is the easiest way to obtain certain public services in their country. For example, 92% who have experienced corruption and 87% who have witnessed it say there is corruption in local/regional public institutions, compared to 71% who have done neither.
- Respondents who know someone who has taken bribes are more likely than those who do not to agree there is corruption in local/regional (88% vs 70%) or national public institutions (87% vs 72%), or that bribery and the use of connections is the easiest way to obtain certain public services in their country (81% vs 65%). They are, however, less likely to agree there is sufficient transparency and supervision of the financing of political parties in their country (25% vs 32%).

**QA15** Please tell whether you agree or disagree with each of the following?  
**Total 'Agree'**  
(% - EU)

	There is corruption in the national public institutions in (OUR COUNTRY)	There is corruption in the local or regional public institutions in (OUR COUNTRY)	Bribery and the use of connections is often the easiest way to obtain certain public services in (OUR COUNTRY)	There is sufficient transparency and supervision of the financing of political parties in (OUR COUNTRY)
EU27	74	72	68	31
<b>Age</b>				
15-24	69	67	60	29
25-39	76	74	70	34
40-54	76	75	70	32
55 +	73	71	67	31
<b>Education (End of)</b>				
15-	76	73	70	29
16-19	77	75	72	31
20+	71	70	64	33
Still studying	68	66	59	30
<b>Socio-professional category</b>				
Self-employed	75	79	73	31
Managers	71	69	60	35
Other white collars	76	74	70	34
Manual workers	79	76	72	32
House persons	72	68	70	31
Unemployed	80	76	73	26
Retired	71	69	66	29
Students	68	66	59	30
<b>Difficulties paying bills</b>				
Most of the time	84	80	79	24
From time to time	79	77	72	33
Almost never/ Never	72	70	65	32
<b>Consider belonging to</b>				
The working class	75	72	69	27
The lower middle class	77	74	70	29
The middle class	75	73	68	33
The upper middle class	65	64	56	38
The upper class	57	59	67	58
<b>Experienced or witnessed corruption</b>				
Yes, experienced	92	92	85	26
Yes, witnessed	87	87	84	28
No	73	71	67	32
<b>You know someone who takes bribes</b>				
Yes	87	88	81	25
No	72	70	65	32

## 2. Corruption in business

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

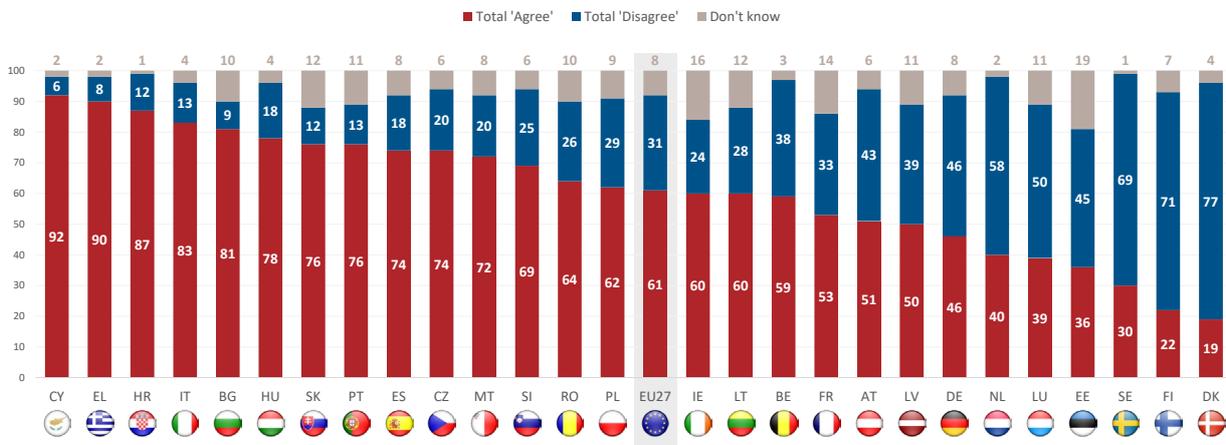
The majority of respondents in 20 EU Member States agree that corruption is part of the business culture in their country, with proportions ranging from 92% in Cyprus, 90% in Greece and 87% in Croatia to 50% in Latvia.

Opinion is evenly divided in Germany (46% agree vs 46% disagree).

In further six countries only a minority agree: Denmark (19% vs 77% disagree), Finland (22% vs 71% disagree), Sweden (30% vs 69% disagree), Estonia (36% vs 45% disagree), Luxembourg (39% vs 50% disagree) and the Netherlands (40% vs 58% disagree).

A regional analysis shows respondents living in the group of countries that joined the EU in or after 2004 (68%) are much more likely than those from the Member States already part of the EU in 2004 (58%) to agree corruption is part of the business culture in their country.

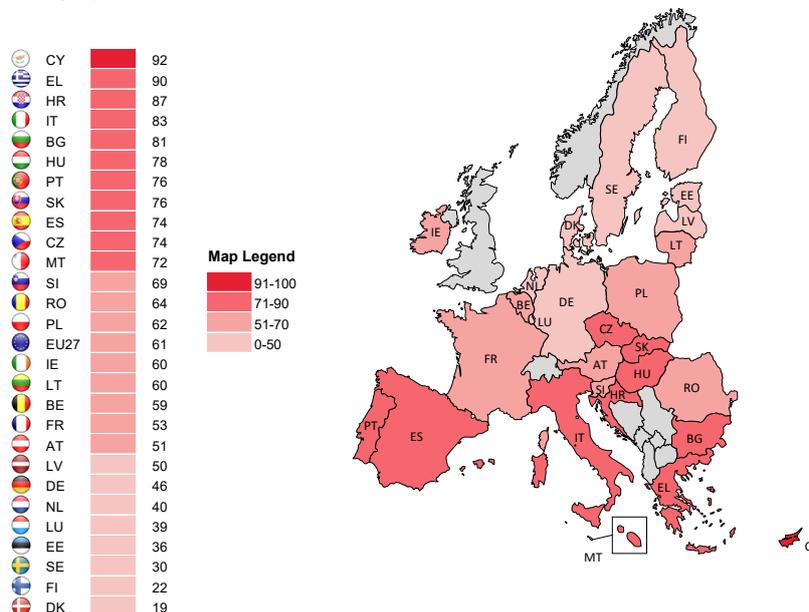
QA15.3 Please tell whether you agree or disagree with each of the following?  
(% - Corruption is part of the business culture in (OUR COUNTRY))



Base: all respondents (n = 26,509)

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

QA15.3 Please tell whether you agree or disagree with each of the following?  
Corruption is part of the business culture in (OUR COUNTRY)  
(% - Total 'Agree')

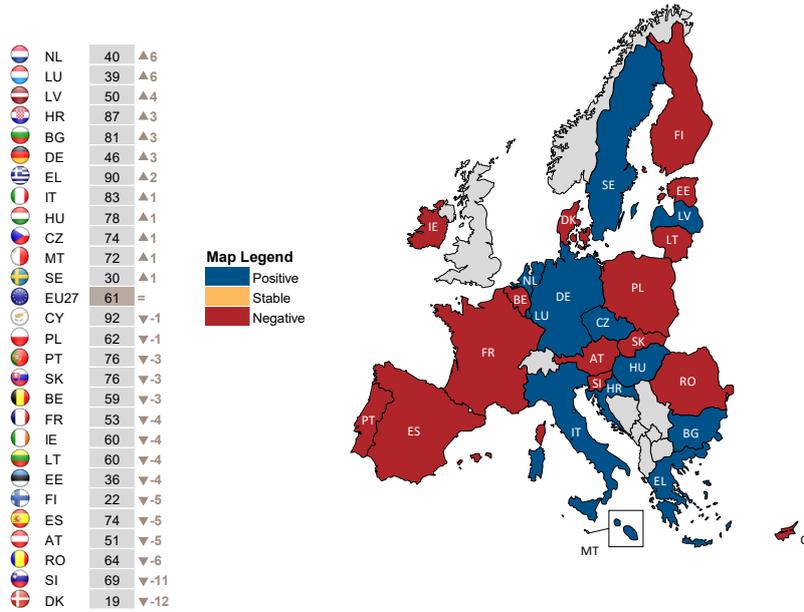


Base: all respondents (n = 26,509)

Special Eurobarometer 523  
Corruption  
March- April 2022

The map below illustrates the trend since December 2019. It shows that there is no clear geographical difference in the change of opinions regarding the view that corruption is part of the business culture. It has decreased, however, in many southern and eastern countries with a few exceptions (Greece, Italy, Malta, Bulgaria, Croatia, Hungary, Czechia and Latvia where it actually increased).

QA15.3 Please tell whether you agree or disagree with each of the following?  
Corruption is part of the business culture in (OUR COUNTRY)  
(% - Total 'Agree')



Base: all respondents (n = 26,509)

Agreement that corruption is part of the business culture in their country has declined amongst respondents in 15 EU Member States since December 2019, with the largest decreases seen in Denmark (19%, -12 percentage points) and Slovenia (69%, -11). On the other hand, agreement has become slightly more widespread in 12 countries, with the largest increase in Luxembourg (39%, +6) and the Netherlands (40%, +6).

QA15.3 Please tell whether you agree or disagree with each of the following?  
Corruption is part of the business culture in (OUR COUNTRY) (%)

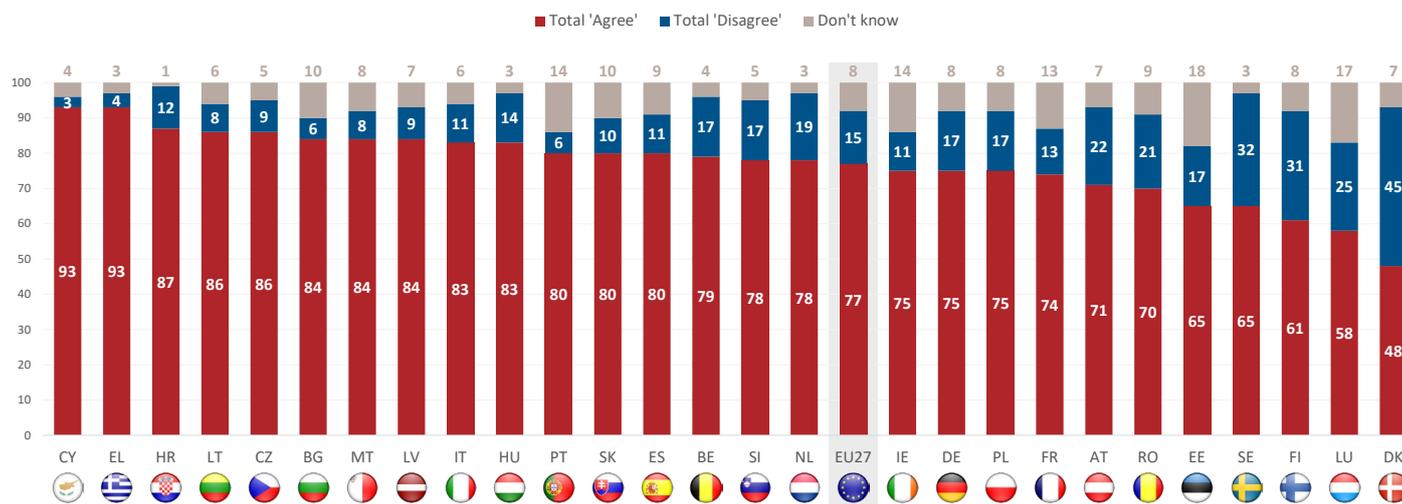
	EU27	LU	NL	LV	BG	DE	HR	EL	CZ	IT	HU	MT	SE	CY	PL	BE	PT	SK	EE	IE	FR	LT	ES	AT	FI	RO	SI	DK	
Total 'Agree'	Feb/Mar 2022	61	39	40	50	81	46	87	90	74	83	78	72	30	92	62	59	76	76	36	60	53	60	74	51	22	64	69	19
	Δ Dec 2019	=	▲6	▲6	▲4	▲3	▲3	▲3	▲2	▲1	▲1	▲1	▲1	▼1	▼1	▼3	▼3	▼3	▼4	▼4	▼4	▼4	▼5	▼5	▼5	▼6	▼11	▼12	
Total 'Disagree'	Feb/Mar 2022	31	50	58	39	9	46	12	8	20	13	18	20	69	6	29	38	13	12	45	24	33	28	18	43	71	26	25	77
	Δ Dec 2019	▲3	▲13	▼3	▲5	▲1	▲4	▼2	=	▲1	=	▼1	▲4	▲2	▲4	▲5	▲6	▲3	▲5	▲5	▲3	▲3	▲10	▲4	▲6	▲9	▲6	▲11	▲15
Don't know	Feb/Mar 2022	8	11	2	11	10	8	1	2	6	4	4	8	1	2	9	3	11	12	19	16	14	12	8	6	7	10	6	4
	Δ Dec 2019	▼3	▼19	▼3	▼9	▼4	▼7	▼1	▼2	▼2	▼1	=	▼5	▼3	▼3	▼4	▼3	=	▼2	▼1	▲1	▲1	▼6	▲1	▼1	▼4	=	=	▼3

Base: all respondents (n = 26,509)

Special Eurobarometer 523  
Corruption  
March- April 2022

In every EU Member State, a majority agrees that too-close links between business and politics in their country lead to corruption. More than nine in ten in Greece and Cyprus (both 93%) as well as 87% in Croatia agree this is the case, and across the EU there are 22 countries where at least seven in ten this way. Denmark is the only country where fewer than half agree, although agreement remains the majority view (48% vs 45% disagree).

QA15.8 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)



Base: all respondents (n = 26,509)

Compared to December 2019, respondents in 14 EU Member States are now more likely to agree too-close links between business and politics lead to corruption, with the largest increases observed in Latvia (84%, +8 percentage points) and Luxembourg (58%, +8). Agreement has declined in eight countries including Spain (80%, -8) and remains unchanged in Belgium, Bulgaria, Greece, Italy and Lithuania.

QA15.8 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	LV	LU	NL	CZ	CY	HR	DE	IE	MT	AT	FI	DK	HU	PL	BE	BG	EL	IT	LT	FR	SI	SE	SK	EE	RO	PT	ES
Total 'Agree'	Feb/Mar 2022	77	84	58	78	86	93	87	75	75	84	71	61	48	83	75	79	84	93	83	86	74	78	65	80	65	70	80	80
	Δ Dec 2019	▲1	▲8	▲8	▲7	▲6	▲5	▲4	▲3	▲3	▲2	▲2	▲2	▲1	▲1	▲1	=	=	=	=	=	▼2	▼2	▼2	▼3	▼5	▼5	▼6	▼8
Total 'Disagree'	Feb/Mar 2022	15	9	25	19	9	3	12	17	11	8	22	31	45	14	17	17	6	4	11	8	13	17	32	10	17	21	6	11
	Δ Dec 2019	▲2	▼2	▲9	▼2	▼4	▼2	▼2	▲3	▼4	▲3	▼3	▲4	▲3	=	▲2	▲2	▲2	=	▼1	▲3	▲4	▲5	▲6	▲4	▲6	▲4	=	▲5
Don't know	Feb/Mar 2022	8	7	17	3	5	4	1	8	14	8	7	8	7	3	8	4	10	3	6	6	13	5	3	10	18	9	14	9
	Δ Dec 2019	▼3	▼6	▼17	▼5	▼2	▼3	▼2	▼6	▲1	▼5	▲1	▼6	▼4	▼1	▼3	▼2	▼2	=	▲1	▼3	▼2	▼3	▼4	▼1	▼1	▲1	▲6	▲3

Base: all respondents (n = 26,509)

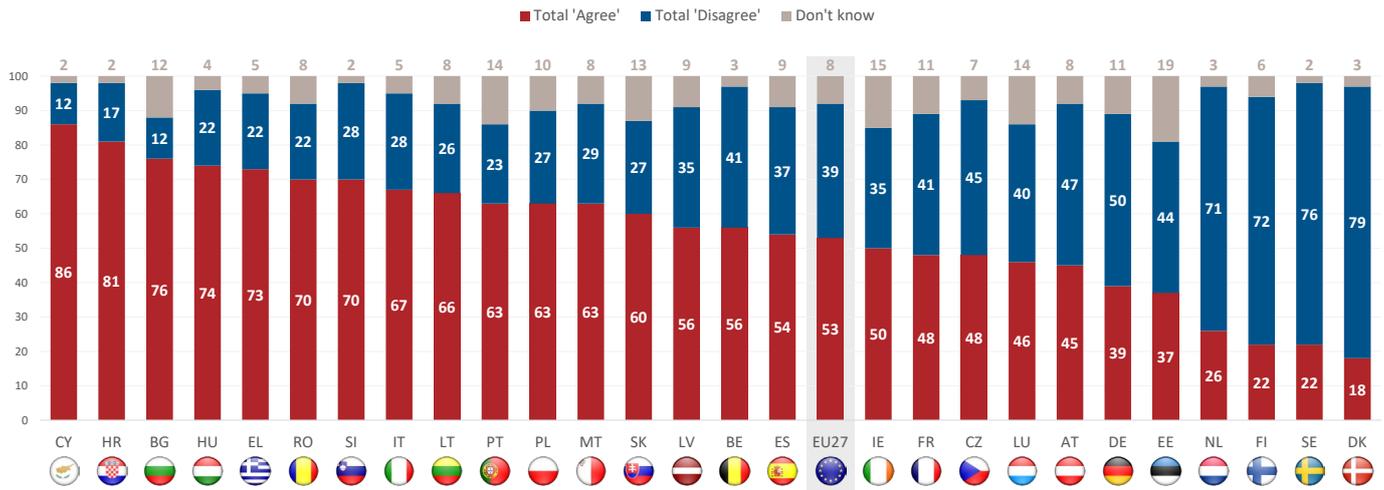
Special Eurobarometer 523  
Corruption  
March- April 2022

A majority of respondents in 20 EU Member States agree the only way to succeed in business in their country is to have political connections. At least eight in ten in Cyprus (86%) and Croatia (81%) think this way, as do 76% in Bulgaria.

In the remaining seven countries agreement is the minority opinion: Denmark (18% vs 79% disagree), Sweden (22% vs 76%), Finland (22% vs 72%), the Netherlands (26% vs 71%), Estonia (37% vs 44%), Germany (39% vs 50%) and Austria (45% vs 47%).

A regional analysis shows that respondents living in the countries that joined the EU in or after 2004 are much more likely to agree the only way to succeed in business in their country is to have political connections than those living in the Member States already part of the EU in 2004 (66% vs 48%). The same pattern applies comparing those living outside the euro area to those living within the euro area (59% vs 50%).

QA15.11 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)



Base: all respondents (n = 26,509)

Compared to December 2019, agreement that the only way to succeed in business is to have political connections has declined in 18 EU Member States, with the largest seen in Spain (54%, -9 percentage points). In eight countries, and particularly the Netherlands (26%, +10), respondents are now more likely to agree. Opinion has remained stable in Finland.

QA15.11 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 (%)

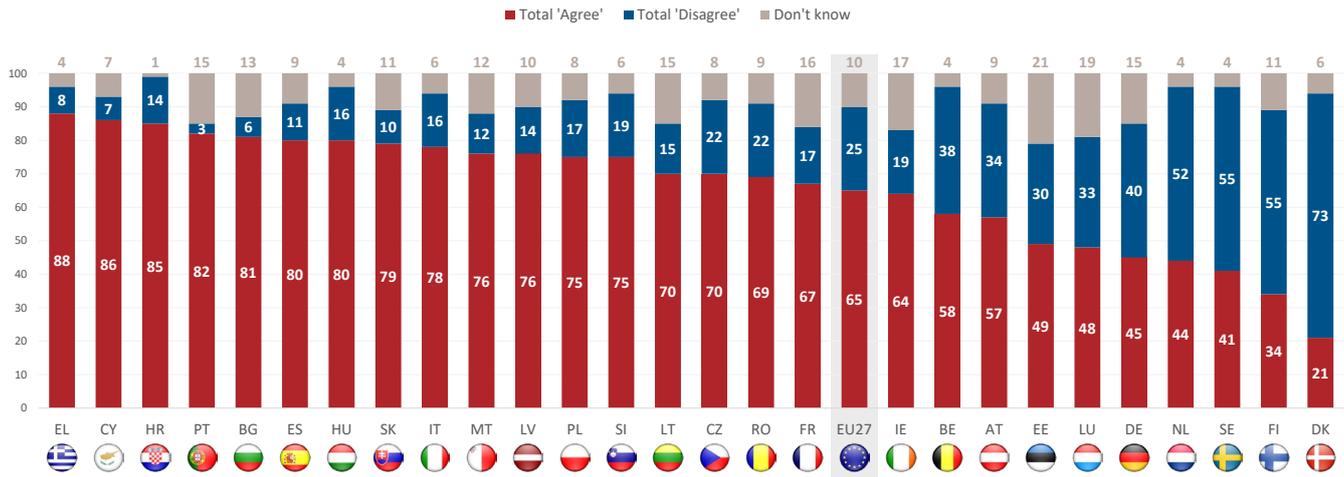
		EU27	NL	SE	DE	LV	LU	PL	HR	HU	FI	DK	CY	LT	RO	BG	BE	IE	EL	FR	IT	SI	AT	PT	EE	SK	MT	CZ	ES
Total 'Agree'	Feb/Mar 2022	53	26	22	39	56	46	63	81	74	22	18	86	66	70	76	56	50	73	48	67	70	45	63	37	60	63	48	54
	Δ Dec 2019	▲2	▲10	▲7	▲5	▲5	▲5	▲3	▲1	▲1	=	▼1	▼1	▼1	▼1	▼2	▼3	▼3	▼3	▼3	▼4	▼4	▼5	▼5	▼6	▼6	▼7	▼8	▼9
Total 'Disagree'	Feb/Mar 2022	39	71	76	50	35	40	27	17	22	72	79	12	26	22	12	41	35	22	41	28	28	47	23	44	27	29	45	37
	Δ Dec 2019	▲2	▼6	▼5	▼1	=	▲7	=	▼1	▼1	▲6	▲6	▲3	▲7	▲2	▲3	▲6	▲5	▲1	▲3	▲5	▲7	▲5	=	▲5	▲6	▲12	▲11	▲8
Don't know	Feb/Mar 2022	8	3	2	11	9	14	10	2	4	6	3	2	8	8	12	3	15	5	11	5	2	8	14	19	13	8	7	9
	Δ Dec 2019	▼4	▼4	▼2	▼4	▼5	▼12	▼3	=	=	▼6	▼5	▼2	▼6	▼1	▼1	▼3	▼2	▲2	=	▼1	▼3	=	▲5	▲1	=	▼5	▼3	▲1

Base: all respondents (n = 26,509)

**Special Eurobarometer 523**  
**Corruption**  
**March- April 2022**

A majority in 23 EU Member States agree that in their country favouritism and corruption hamper business competition. In 13 countries at least three quarters agree, with the largest proportions in Greece (88%), Cyprus (86%) and Croatia (85%). In contrast, in four countries only a minority agree with this statement: Denmark (21% vs 73% agree), Finland (34% vs 55%), Sweden (41% vs 55%) and the Netherlands (44% vs 52%).

**QA15.12 Please tell whether you agree or disagree with each of the following?**  
 (% - In (OUR COUNTRY), favouritism and corruption hamper business competition)



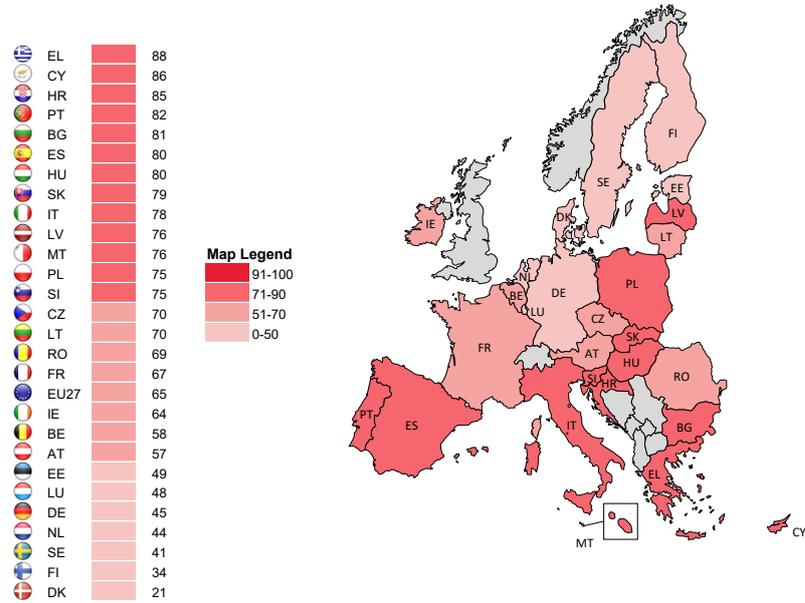
*Base: all respondents (n = 26,509)*

A regional analysis illustrates that those living in the 13 New Member States that joined the EU after 2004, are more likely than respondents from the Member States already part of the EU to agree that in their country favouritism and corruption hamper business competition (75% vs 62%).

**Special Eurobarometer 523**  
**Corruption**  
**March- April 2022**

The map below illustrates that the opinion that favouritism and corruption hamper business competition in their country is particularly widespread among respondents in southern and eastern Europe. This view is generally less widespread in western and northern Europe.

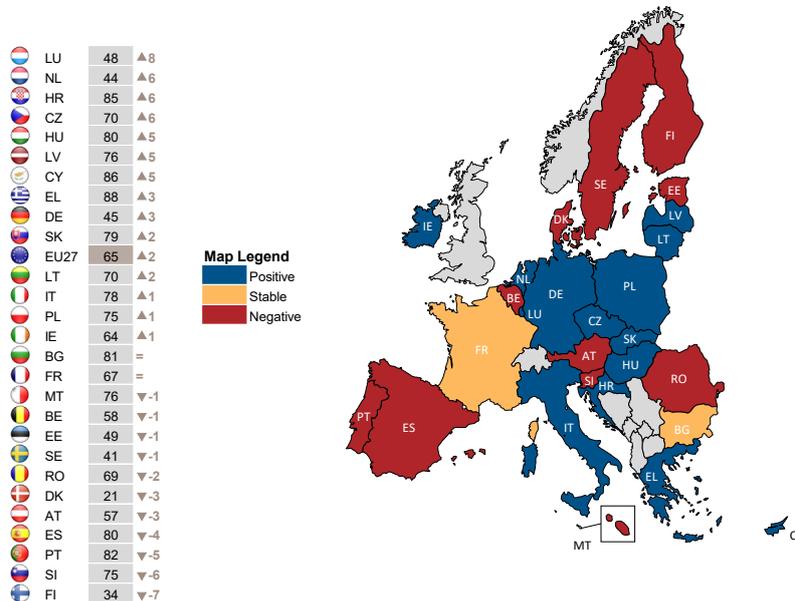
QA15.12 Please tell whether you agree or disagree with each of the following?  
 In (OUR COUNTRY), favouritism and corruption hamper business competition (% - Total 'Agree')



Base: all respondents (n = 26,509)

The evolution map shows that since 2019 the view that favouritism and corruption hamper business competition has increased in some western, eastern and southern areas of Europe but has declined in northern Europe as well as in Portugal and Spain.

QA15.12 Please tell whether you agree or disagree with each of the following?  
 In (OUR COUNTRY), favouritism and corruption hamper business competition (% - Total 'Agree')



Base: all respondents (n = 26,509)

**Special Eurobarometer 523**  
**Corruption**  
**March- April 2022**

There are 14 countries where respondents are now more likely to agree favouritism and corruption hamper business competition in their country than they were in December 2019, with the largest increase seen in Luxembourg (48%, +8 percentage points). Conversely, agreement has declined in 11 countries including Finland (34%, -7). There has been no change in opinion in Bulgaria or France.

**QA15.12 Please tell whether you agree or disagree with each of the following?**  
**In (OUR COUNTRY), favouritism and corruption hamper business competition (%)**



		EU27	LU	CZ	HR	NL	CY	LV	HU	DE	EL	LT	SK	IE	IT	PL	BG	FR	BE	EE	MT	SE	RO	DK	AT	ES	PT	SI	FI
Total 'Agree'	Feb/Mar 2022	65	48	70	85	44	86	76	80	45	88	70	79	64	78	75	81	67	58	49	76	41	69	21	57	80	82	75	34
	Δ Dec 2019	▲2	▲8	▲6	▲6	▲6	▲5	▲5	▲5	▲3	▲3	▲2	▲2	▲1	▲1	▲1	=	=	▼1	▼1	▼1	▼1	▼2	▼3	▼3	▼4	▼5	▼6	▼7
Total 'Disagree'	Feb/Mar 2022	25	33	22	14	52	7	14	16	40	8	15	10	19	16	17	6	17	38	30	12	55	22	73	34	11	3	19	55
	Δ Dec 2019	▲2	▲8	▼3	▼2	▼1	=	▲2	▼4	▲2	▼1	▲5	▲1	▼3	=	▲1	▲3	▼1	▲7	▲2	▲4	▲5	▲4	▲8	▲1	▲3	▼3	▲6	▲12
Don't know	Feb/Mar 2022	10	19	8	1	4	7	10	4	15	4	15	11	17	6	8	13	16	4	21	12	4	9	6	9	9	15	6	11
	Δ Dec 2019	▼4	▼16	▼3	▼4	▼5	▼5	▼7	▼1	▼5	▼2	▼7	▼3	▲2	▼1	▼2	▼3	▲1	▼6	▼1	▼3	▼4	▼2	▼5	▲2	▲1	▲8	=	▼5

*Base: all respondents (n = 26,509)*

**Special Eurobarometer 523**  
**Corruption**  
**March- April 2022**

The socio-demographic analysis highlights a range of differences:

- Respondents aged 25+ are the most likely to agree with each statement. For example, 78% aged 25-39, 80% aged 40-54 and 78% aged 55+ agree too-close links between business and politics lead to corruption, compared to 71% of those aged 15-24.
- Respondents who completed their education aged 19 or younger are more likely than those who completed theirs aged 20 or older to agree corruption is part of the business culture in their country, that the only way to succeed in business is to have political connections or that favouritism and corruption hamper business competition.
- The self-employed are the most likely to agree corruption is part of the business culture in their country (67%) or that too-close links between business and politics lead to corruption (83%). The unemployed are the most likely to agree the only way to succeed in business is to have political connections (59%) or that favouritism and corruption hamper business competition (73%).
- Respondents who have difficulties paying their bills are more likely to agree corruption is part of the business culture in their country, that the only way to succeed in business is to have political connections or that favouritism and corruption hamper business competition, compared to those who never or almost never have problems paying their bills.
- Respondents who consider themselves as belonging to the middle class or lower are more likely than those who place themselves higher to agree corruption is part of the business culture in their country, or that favouritism and corruption hamper business competition in their country. For example, 66% who place themselves in the working class agree corruption is part of business culture, compared to 39% who place themselves in the upper class.
- Respondents who have experienced or witnessed corruption are more likely to agree with each statement than those who have not. For example, 73% who have experienced corruption and 66% who have witnessed it agree the only way to succeed in business in their country is to have political connections, compared to 52% who have neither witnessed nor experienced corruption.

**QA15** 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	53
<b>Age</b>				
15-24	71	60	55	47
25-39	78	68	61	52
40-54	80	67	63	53
55 +	78	65	62	54
<b>Education (End of)</b>				
15-	75	68	68	58
16-19	78	69	65	56
20+	80	62	56	47
Still studying	70	58	54	43
<b>Socio-professional category</b>				
Self-employed	83	67	67	52
Managers	81	61	54	45
Other white collars	80	68	62	52
Manual workers	77	69	65	57
House persons	74	66	64	56
Unemployed	78	73	65	59
Retired	76	64	60	52
Students	70	58	54	43
<b>Difficulties paying bills</b>				
Most of the time	80	76	72	63
From time to time	78	72	69	62
Almost never/ Never	77	62	57	48
<b>Consider belonging to</b>				
The working class	75	69	66	56
The lower middle class	78	67	63	56
The middle class	78	66	61	51
The upper middle class	78	52	49	40
The upper class	76	60	39	54
<b>Experienced or witnessed corruption</b>				
Yes, experienced	88	80	83	73
Yes, witnessed	85	82	80	66
No	76	64	59	52

### 3. Dealing with corruption

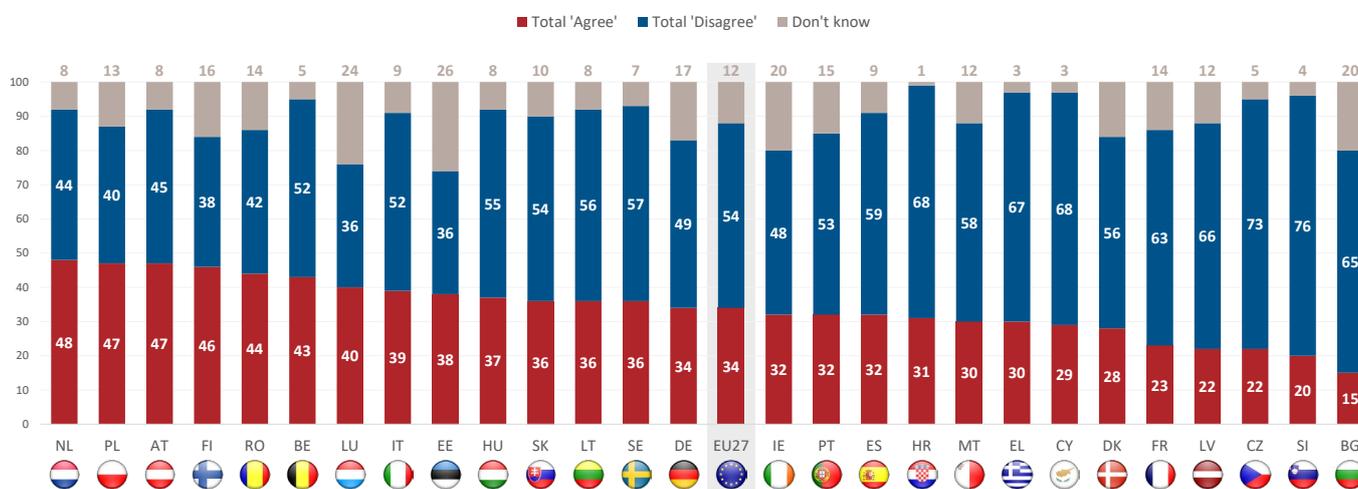
#### Europeans are pessimistic about their country's efforts to effectively combat corruption

Fewer than half of the respondents in any EU Member State think there are enough successful prosecutions in their country to deter people from corrupt practices, and there are only seven countries where respondents are more likely to agree than disagree: the Netherlands (48% vs 44% disagree), Austria (47% vs 45%), Poland (47% vs 40%), Finland (46% vs 38%), Romania (44% vs 42%), Luxembourg (40% vs 36%) and Estonia (38% vs 36%).

In the remaining countries only a minority agree, with the lowest levels seen in Bulgaria (15% vs 65% disagree), Slovenia (20% vs 76%), Latvia (22% vs 66%) and Czechia (22% vs 73%).

More than one quarter in Estonia (26%) and almost one quarter in Luxembourg (24%) say they "don't know".

QA15.5 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)



Base: all respondents (n = 26,509)

The trends since December 2019 are mixed. In 14 countries respondents are now less likely to agree there are enough successful prosecutions in their country to deter people from corrupt practices, with the largest decrease seen in Romania (44%, -14 percentage points). In the remaining 13 countries respondents are now more likely to agree with this statement, with the most notable increases in Luxembourg (40%, +15) and Sweden (36%, +10).

QA15.5 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	LU	SE	FI	CY	NL	PL	BE	DK	HR	LV	LT	DE	EE	SK	BG	ES	HU	PT	IE	FR	IT	SI	EL	AT	CZ	MT	RO	
Total 'Agree'	Feb/Mar 2022	34	40	36	46	29	48	47	43	28	31	22	36	34	38	36	15	32	37	32	32	23	39	20	30	47	22	30	44
	Δ Dec 2019	=	▲15	▲10	▲8	▲5	▲5	▲4	▲3	▲3	▲3	▲2	▲1	▲1	▼1	▼2	▼2	▼2	▼2	▼3	▼3	▼3	▼3	▼6	▼6	▼7	▼7	▼14	
Total 'Disagree'	Feb/Mar 2022	54	36	57	38	68	44	40	52	56	68	66	56	49	36	54	65	59	55	53	48	63	52	76	67	45	73	58	42
	Δ Dec 2019	▲4	=	▲2	▼1	▼2	=	▼2	▲1	▲1	▼2	▲5	▲4	▲6	▲2	▲3	▲2	=	▲1	▼3	▼1	▲3	▲4	▲4	▲9	▲8	▲11	▲10	▲12
Don't know	Feb/Mar 2022	12	24	7	16	3	8	13	5	16	1	12	8	17	26	10	20	9	8	15	20	14	9	4	3	8	5	12	14
	Δ Dec 2019	▼4	▼15	▼12	▼7	▼3	▼5	▼2	▼4	▼4	▼1	▼8	▼6	▼7	▼3	▼2	=	▲2	▲1	▲5	▲4	=	▼1	▼1	▼3	▼2	▼4	▼3	▲2

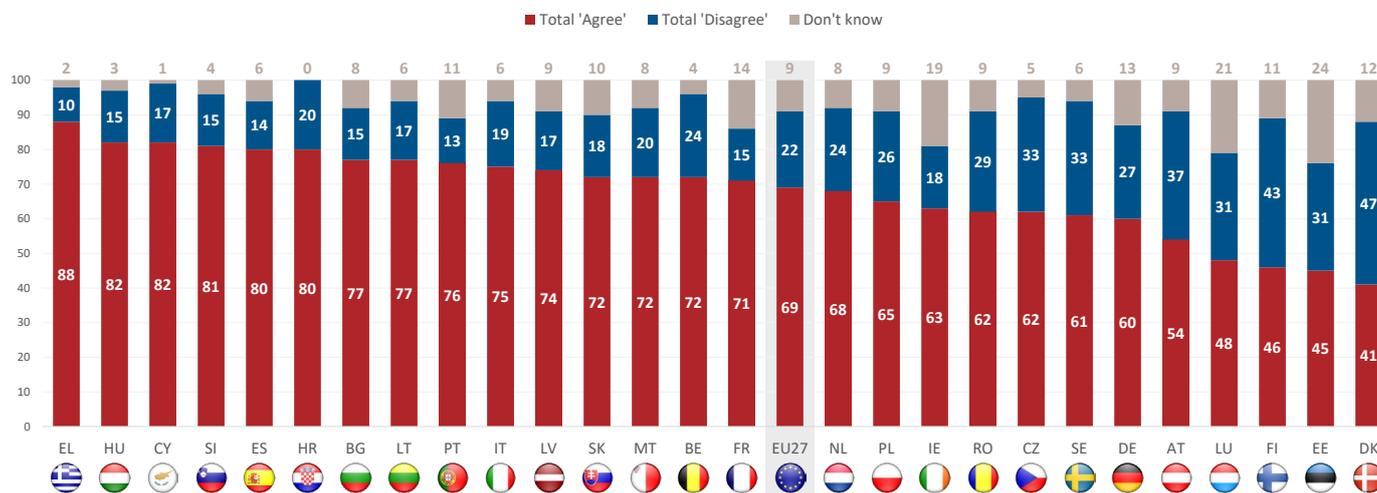
Base: all respondents (n = 26,509)

## Special Eurobarometer 523 Corruption March- April 2022

In all but one Member State the majority of respondents agree high-level corruption cases are not pursued sufficiently in their country. In six countries at least eight in ten agree: Greece (88%), Cyprus and Hungary (both 82%), Slovenia (81%), and Spain and Croatia (both 80%).

The exception is Denmark, where 41% agree and 47% disagree.

**QA15.6 Please tell whether you agree or disagree with each of the following?**  
(% - High-level corruption cases are not pursued sufficiently in (OUR COUNTRY))



Base: all respondents (n = 26,509)

Since December 2019 agreement that high-level corruption cases are not pursued sufficiently in their country has increased in 13 EU Member States including in the Netherlands (68%, +15 percentage points). It must be noted that increases are observed in many other questions in the Netherlands where more respondents think now that corruption is more widespread than in 2019 and that it has increased over the years.

Agreement has declined in 11 countries including Romania (62%, -9) and has remained stable in Belgium, Spain and Croatia.

**QA15.6 Please tell whether you agree or disagree with each of the following?**  
High-level corruption cases are not pursued sufficiently in (OUR COUNTRY) (%)



		EU27	NL	LU	DE	CY	EL	SE	MT	SI	IT	SK	FI	LV	HU	BE	ES	HR	BG	CZ	IE	LT	AT	PL	DK	PT	FR	EE	RO
Total 'Agree'	Feb/Mar 2022	69	68	48	60	82	88	61	72	81	75	72	46	74	82	72	80	80	77	62	63	77	54	65	41	76	71	45	62
	Δ Dec 2019	▲3	▲15	▲8	▲7	▲7	▲6	▲6	▲5	▲5	▲4	▲4	▲3	▲2	=	=	=	=	▼1	▼2	▼2	▼3	▼3	▼3	▼4	▼4	▼5	▼8	▼9
Total 'Disagree'	Feb/Mar 2022	22	24	31	27	17	10	33	20	15	19	18	43	17	15	24	14	20	15	33	18	17	37	26	47	13	15	31	29
	Δ Dec 2019	▲2	▼9	▲8	▲2	▼2	▼4	▲7	▲2	▼5	▼4	▼3	▲4	▲1	▼2	▲2	▼1	▲2	▲5	▲6	▼2	▲5	▲2	▲5	▲7	=	▲4	▲6	▲9
Don't know	Feb/Mar 2022	9	8	21	13	1	2	6	8	4	6	10	11	9	3	4	6	0	8	5	19	6	9	9	12	11	14	24	9
	Δ Dec 2019	▼5	▼6	▼16	▼9	▼5	▼2	▼13	▼7	=	=	▼1	▼8	▼4	=	▼2	▲1	▼2	▼4	▼4	▲4	▼2	▲1	▼2	▼3	▲4	▲1	▲2	=

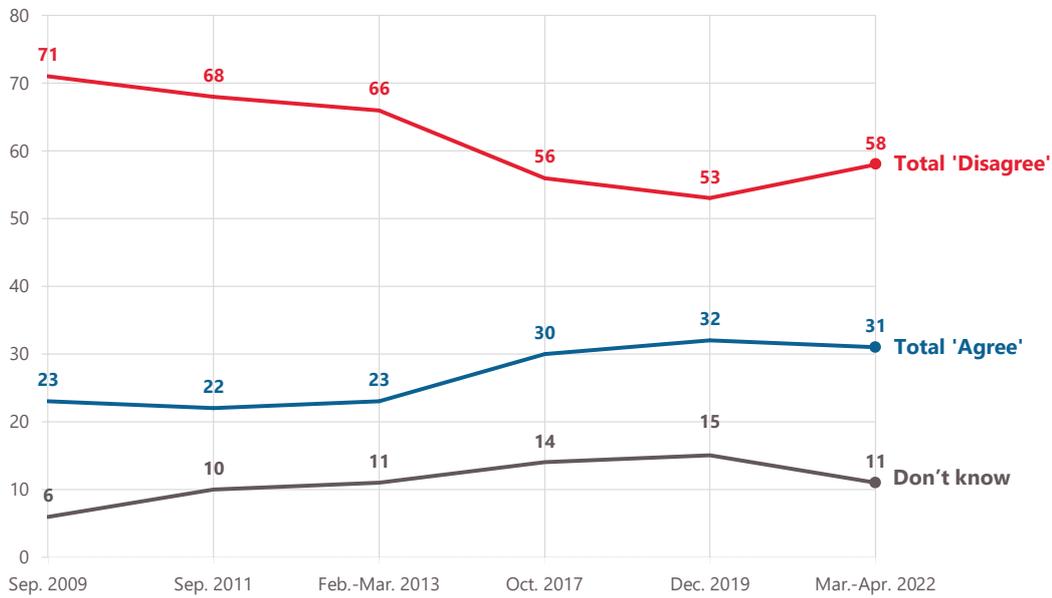
Base: all respondents (n = 26,509)

**Special Eurobarometer 523**  
**Corruption**  
**March- April 2022**

Only a minority (31%, -1) agree that their national government’s efforts to combat corruption are effective. Respondents have become more pessimistic since 2019, with the proportion that disagrees increasing by five percentage points to 58%. Just over one in ten (11%) say they don’t know.

Over the longer term, agreement that their national government’s efforts to combat corruption are effective has remained relatively stable since October 2017 and is eight points higher than it was in September 2009. Although the proportion who disagrees has increased since December 2019, it remains 13 percentage points lower than its highest point in September 2009.

**QA15.7** Please tell whether you agree or disagree with each of the following?  
**(NATIONALITY) Government efforts to combat corruption are effective**

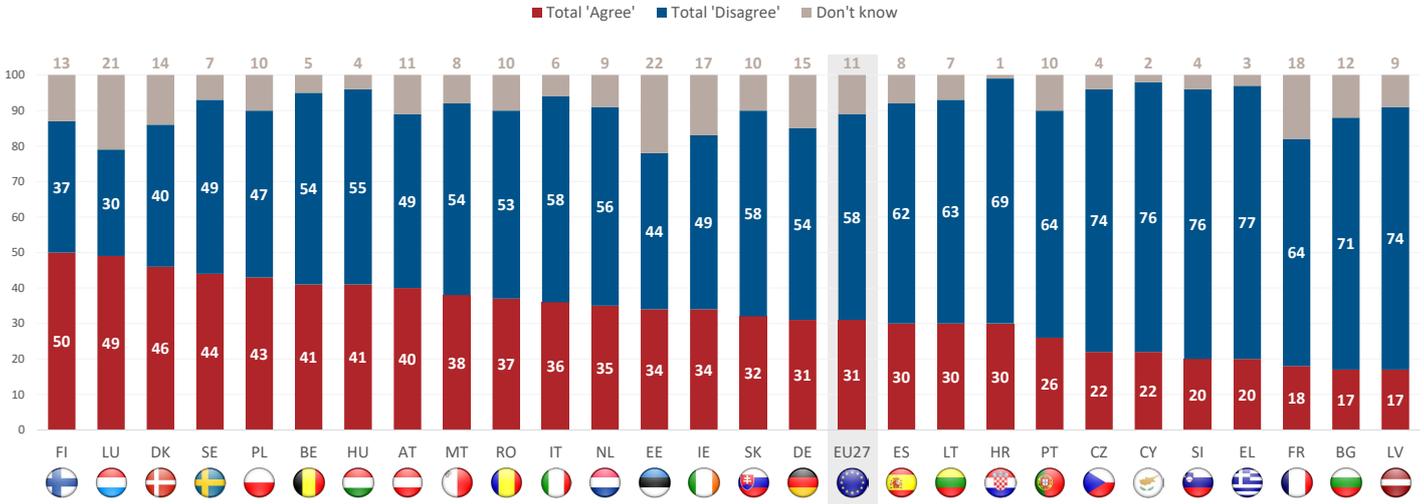


Base: all respondents (n = 26,509)

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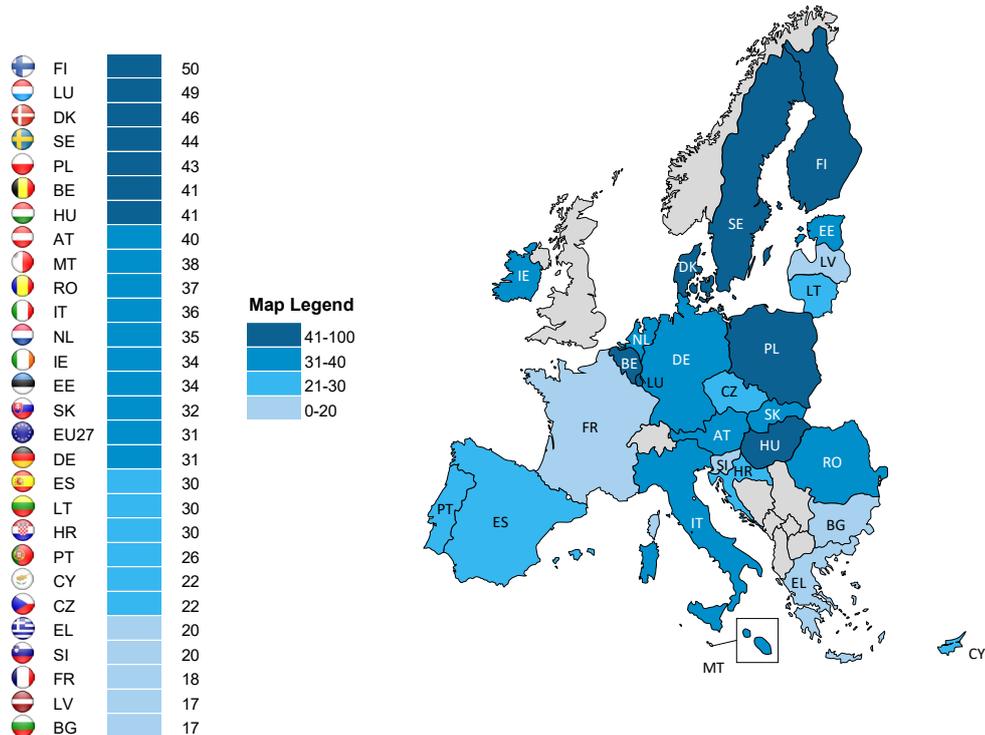
There are only three EU Member States where more respondents agree that their national government's efforts to combat corruption are effective: Finland (50%), Luxembourg (49% vs 30% disagree) and Denmark (46% vs 40%). In the remaining 24 countries, respondents are less likely to agree with this statement, with the lowest levels seen in Latvia (17% vs 74% disagree), Bulgaria (17% vs 71%) and France (18% vs 64%).

**QA15.7 Please tell whether you agree or disagree with each of the following?**  
 (% - (NATIONALITY) Government efforts to combat corruption are effective)



Belief that the national government's efforts to combat corruption are effective is strongest in the northern areas of Europe.

**QA15.7 Please tell whether you agree or disagree with each of the following?**  
 (NATIONALITY) Government efforts to combat corruption are effective  
 (% - Total 'Agree')

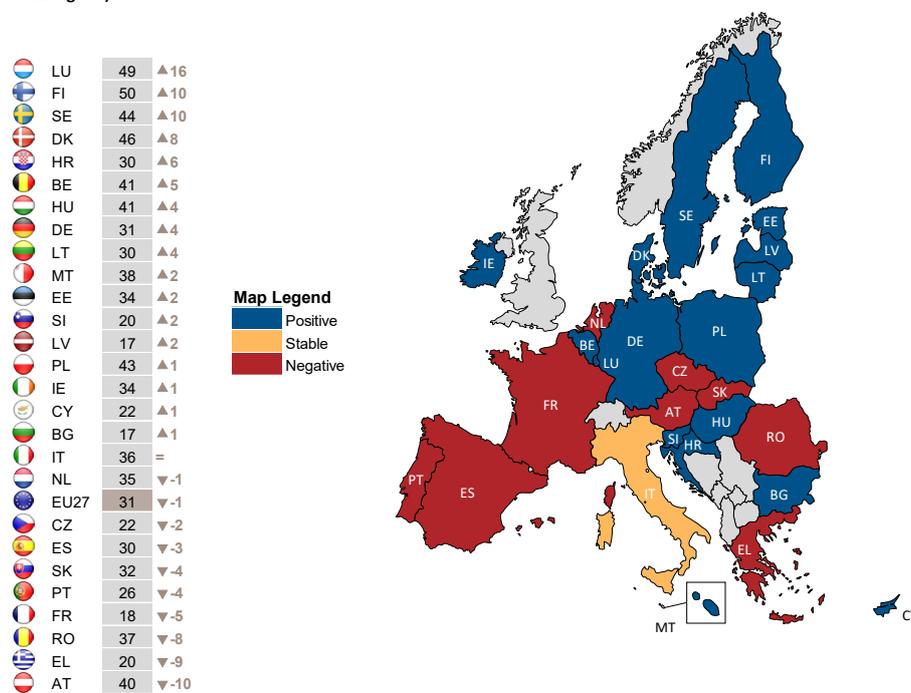


Base: all respondents (n = 26,509)

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Corruption  
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Since December 2019, the view that the national government's efforts to combat corruption are effective has become more widespread in northern and some central areas of Europe but has declined in the south-west.

QA15.7 Please tell whether you agree or disagree with each of the following?  
(NATIONALITY) Government efforts to combat corruption are effective  
(% - Total 'Agree')



Base: all respondents (n = 26,509)

In 17 countries respondents are now more optimistic that their national government's efforts to combat corruption are effective than they were in December 2019, with particularly large increases in agreement recorded in Luxembourg (49% +16 percentage points), Finland (50%, +10) and Sweden 44% (+10). In contrast agreement has declined in nine countries, particularly in Austria (40%, -10). There has been no change in opinion in Italy.

QA15.7 Please tell whether you agree or disagree with each of the following?  
(NATIONALITY) Government efforts to combat corruption are effective (%)



		EU27	LU	FI	SE	DK	HR	BE	DE	LT	HU	EE	LV	MT	SI	BG	IE	CY	PL	IT	NL	CZ	ES	PT	SK	FR	RO	EL	AT
Total 'Agree'	Feb/Mar 2022	31	49	50	44	46	30	41	31	30	41	34	17	38	20	17	34	22	43	36	35	22	30	26	32	18	37	20	40
	Δ Dec 2019	▼1	▲16	▲10	▲10	▲8	▲6	▲5	▲4	▲4	▲4	▲2	▲2	▲2	▲2	▲1	▲1	▲1	▲1	=	▼1	▼2	▼3	▼4	▼4	▼5	▼8	▼9	▼10
Total 'Disagree'	Feb/Mar 2022	58	30	37	49	40	69	54	54	63	55	44	74	54	76	71	49	76	47	58	56	74	62	64	58	64	53	77	49
	Δ Dec 2019	▲5	▲1	▼2	▲6	▼2	▼5	▲1	▲7	▼2	▼3	▼3	▲2	▲5	▼1	▼1	▼3	▲2	▲2	=	▲8	▲5	▲1	▲2	▲7	▲2	▲7	▲10	▲8
Don't know	Feb/Mar 2022	11	21	13	7	14	1	5	15	7	4	22	9	8	4	12	17	2	10	6	9	4	8	10	10	18	10	3	11
	Δ Dec 2019	▼4	▼17	▼8	▼16	▼6	▼1	▼6	▼11	▼2	▼1	▲1	▼4	▼7	▼1	=	▲2	▼3	▼3	=	▼7	▼3	▲2	▲2	▼3	▲3	▲1	▼1	▲2

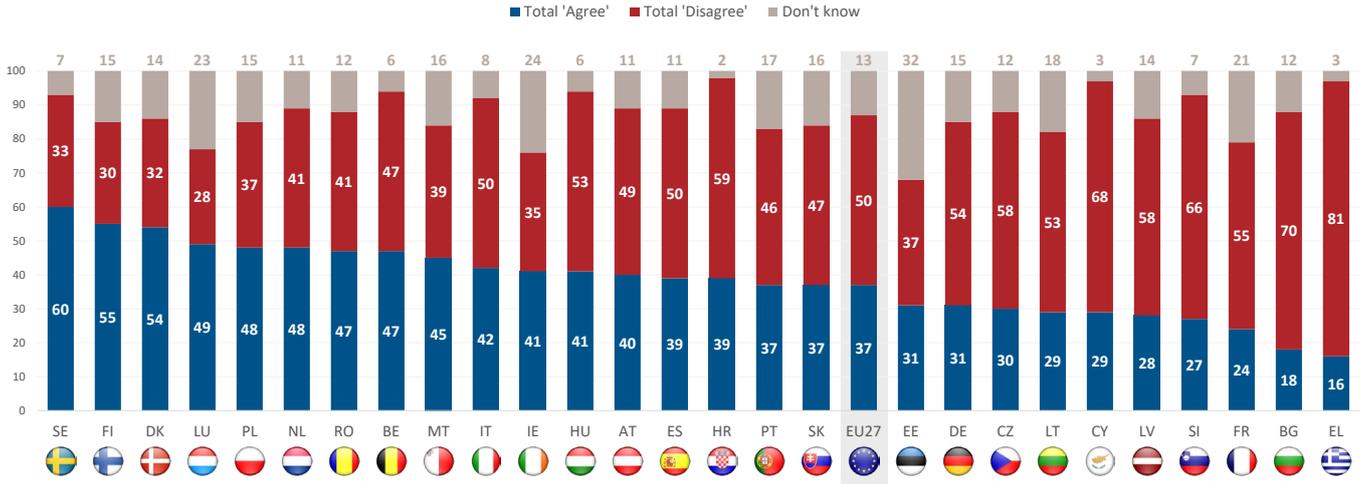
Base: all respondents (n = 26,509)

Special Eurobarometer 523  
Corruption  
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There are nine countries where a majority agree measures against corruption are applied impartially and without ulterior motives in their country, but only three where at least half agrees: Sweden (60%), Finland (55%) and Denmark (54%). In 17 countries, only a minority agree, with the lowest levels seen in Greece (16% vs 81% disagree), Bulgaria (18% vs 70% disagree) and France (24% vs 55%).

Opinion is evenly divided in Belgium (47% agree vs 47% disagree).  
It is also worth noting that more than three in ten (32%) in Estonia say they don't know.

QA15.13 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)



Base: all respondents (n = 26,509)

Since 2019 agreement that measures against corruption are applied impartially and without ulterior motives has increased in ten countries, particularly in Luxembourg (49%, +21) and Finland (55%, +12). Agreement has declined in 15 countries, with the largest seen in Slovenia (27%, -7), Romania (47%, -7) and Greece (16%, -7). There has been no change in opinion in Bulgaria and Malta.

QA15.13 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	LU	FI	DK	LV	SE	HR	PT	LT	BE	EE	BG	MT	IE	IT	HU	PL	DE	CY	NL	CZ	ES	SK	FR	AT	EL	RO	SI
Total 'Agree'	Feb/Mar 2022	37	49	55	54	28	60	39	37	29	47	31	18	45	41	42	41	48	31	29	48	30	39	37	24	40	16	47	27
	Δ Dec 2019	▼1	▲21	▲12	▲7	▲7	▲7	▲6	▲5	▲4	▲3	▲2	=	=	▼1	▼1	▼1	▼1	▼2	▼2	▼2	▼4	▼4	▼4	▼5	▼6	▼7	▼7	▼7
Total 'Disagree'	Feb/Mar 2022	50	28	30	32	58	33	59	46	53	47	37	70	39	35	50	53	37	54	68	41	58	50	47	55	49	81	41	66
	Δ Dec 2019	▲6	▼3	▼2	▲4	=	▲4	▼4	▼9	=	▲2	=	▲4	▲6	▼4	▲2	▲2	▲5	▲9	▲8	▲5	▲11	▲4	▲10	▲4	▲7	▲10	▲7	▲10
Don't know	Feb/Mar 2022	13	23	15	14	14	7	2	17	18	6	32	12	16	24	8	6	15	15	3	11	12	11	16	21	11	3	12	7
	Δ Dec 2019	▼5	▼18	▼10	▼11	▼7	▼11	▼2	▲4	▼4	▼5	▼2	▼4	▼6	▲5	▼1	▼1	▼4	▼7	▼6	▼3	▼7	=	▼6	▲1	▼1	▼3	=	▼3

Base: all respondents (n = 26,509)

**Special Eurobarometer 523**  
**Corruption**  
**March- April 2022**

The socio-demographic analysis illustrates the following differences:

- Respondents aged 25+ are more likely than the youngest respondents to agree high-level corruption cases are not pursued sufficiently in their country. Those aged 25-54 are more likely than older or younger respondents to agree measures against corruption are applied impartially and without ulterior motives in their country.
- The longer a respondent remained in education, the more likely they are to agree measures against corruption are applied impartially and without ulterior motives in their country: 40% who completed education aged 20+ agree, compared to 34% who completed their education aged 15 or younger.
- The unemployed are the most likely to agree high-level corruption cases are not pursued sufficiently (76%), but they are the least likely to agree there are enough successful prosecutions to deter corruption (26%), that the national government's efforts to combat corruption are effective (24%) or that measures against corruption are applied impartially and without ulterior motives in their country (28%).
- Respondents who experience difficulties paying their bills most of the time are the most likely to agree high-level corruption cases are not pursued sufficiently (78%), but they are the least likely to agree with the other three statements.
- Respondents who consider themselves as belonging to the upper class are much more likely than those who place themselves lower to agree there are enough successful prosecutions to deter corruption (61%), that the national government's efforts to combat corruption are effective (62%) or that measures against corruption are applied impartially and without ulterior motives in their country (63%).
- Respondents who know someone who takes bribes are more likely to agree high-level corruption cases are not pursued sufficiently (82% vs 68% who do not know anyone who takes bribes), and they are less likely to agree there are enough successful prosecutions to deter corruption (27% vs 35%) or that the national government's efforts to combat corruption are effective (22% vs 32%).

**QA15** 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	High-level corruption cases are not pursued sufficiently in (OUR COUNTRY)	(NATIONALITY) Government efforts to combat corruption are effective
EU27	69	37	34	31
<b>Age</b>				
15-24	64	35	32	31
25-39	70	40	37	34
40-54	70	39	35	31
55 +	69	35	34	30
<b>Education (End of)</b>				
15-	70	34	33	28
16-19	70	36	36	32
20+	69	40	35	33
Still studying	62	36	34	31
<b>Socio-professional category</b>				
Self-employed	71	36	38	31
Managers	69	42	37	36
Other white collars	70	40	37	34
Manual workers	71	38	34	31
House persons	66	37	37	33
Unemployed	76	28	26	24
Retired	69	34	33	31
Students	62	36	34	31
<b>Difficulties paying bills</b>				
Most of the time	78	27	27	24
From time to time	71	37	37	33
Almost never/ Never	67	38	35	33
<b>Consider belonging to</b>				
The working class	69	31	31	28
The lower middle class	70	33	30	27
The middle class	69	39	36	34
The upper middle class	65	45	42	39
The upper class	64	63	61	62
<b>You know someone who takes bribes</b>				
Yes	82	30	27	22
No	68	38	35	32

### **III. EXPERIENCE OF BRIBERY**

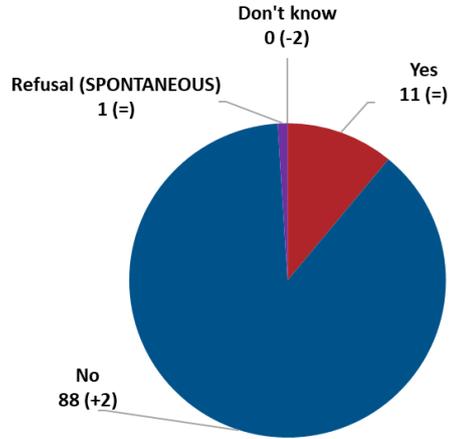


## 1. Personal experience of bribery

### Around one in ten know someone who takes or has taken bribes

Across the EU, just over one in ten respondents (11%, no change since December 2019) know someone who takes or has taken bribes.<sup>22</sup> The majority (88%, +2 percentage points) do not, while 1% (=) refused to answer.

QA8 Do you personally know anyone who takes or has taken bribes? (% - EU)

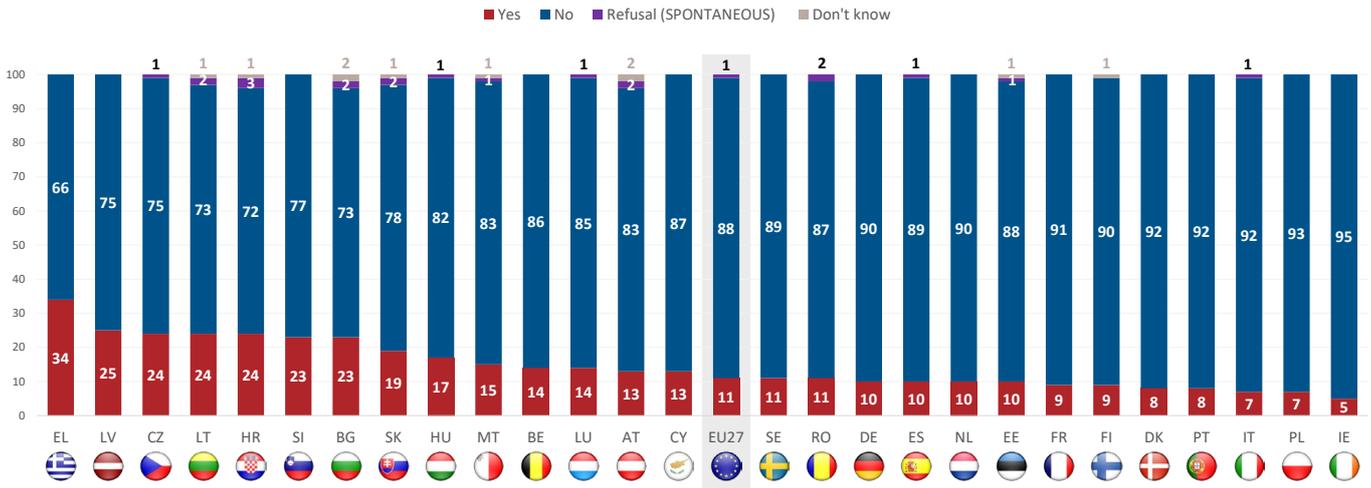


(Mar-Apr 2022/Dec 2019)

Base: all respondents (n = 26,509)

Only a minority of respondents in each country say they personally know someone who takes bribes, however there are seven countries where at least one in five say this: Greece (34%), Latvia (25%), Czechia, Croatia and Lithuania (all 24%) and Bulgaria and Slovenia (both 23%). At the other end of the scale 5% in Ireland and 7% in Poland and Italy know someone who takes or has taken bribes.

QA8 Do you personally know anyone who takes or has taken bribes? (%)



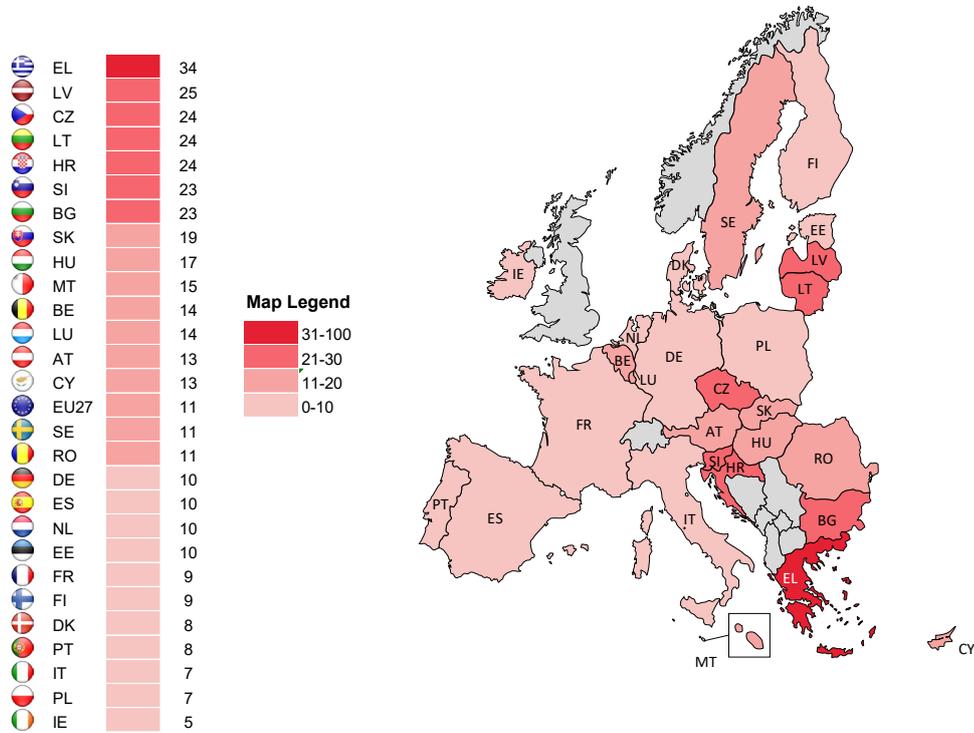
Base: all respondents (n = 26,509)

<sup>22</sup> QA8. Do you personally know anyone who takes or has taken bribes?

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Corruption  
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The map illustrates a tendency for respondents in eastern areas of Europe to be more likely to know someone who takes or has taken bribes.

QA8 Do you personally know anyone who takes or has taken bribes?  
(% - Yes)



Base: all respondents (n = 26,509)

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**Corruption**  
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The socio-demographic analysis highlights that only a minority in any group personally know someone who takes or has taken bribes. However, this proportion is higher amongst the following:

- Men (13%) compared to women (9%)
- Respondents aged between 40-54 (13%), particularly compared to those aged between 15 and 24 (7%)
- The self-employed (18%), particularly compared to house persons or students (both 7%)
- Respondents who have difficulties paying their bills most of the time (18%), compared with those who have never or almost never such difficulties (9%)
- Finally, respondents who have experienced (71%) or witnessed (58%) corruption in the past 12 months are far more likely than those who have not (8%) to personally know someone who takes or has taken bribes. The also applies when comparing respondents who consider that corruption is widespread in their country with those who say it is rare (13% vs 6%).

**QA8** Do you personally know anyone who takes or has taken bribes?  
(% - EU)

	Yes	No	Refusal (SPONTANEOUS)	Don't know
EU27	11	88	1	0
 <b>Gender</b>				
Man	13	86	1	0
Woman	9	91	0	0
 <b>Age</b>				
15-24	7	93	0	0
25-39	11	88	1	0
40-54	13	86	1	0
55 +	10	89	1	0
 <b>Socio-professional category</b>				
Self-employed	18	81	1	0
Managers	12	87	1	0
Other white collars	11	88	1	0
Manual workers	10	89	1	0
House persons	7	92	1	0
Unemployed	15	84	1	0
Retired	10	89	1	0
Students	7	93	0	0
 <b>Difficulties paying bills</b>				
Most of the time	18	80	1	1
From time to time	12	87	1	0
Almost never/ Never	9	90	1	0
<b>In (OUR COUNTRY) corruption is</b>				
Widespread	13	86	1	0
Rare	6	94	0	0
<b>Experienced or witnessed corruption</b>				
Yes, experienced	71	27	2	0
Yes, witnessed	58	41	1	0
No	8	92	0	0

## 2. Contact with institutions and incidence of bribery

### Europeans are much more likely to have had contact with the healthcare system in the last 12 months than any other institution

Respondents were asked about their contact with 15 public or private institutions in their country over the last 12 months.<sup>23</sup>

The **healthcare system** (61%, +5 percentage points) is the only institution mentioned by more than half of all respondents and contact with it has increased notably since December 2019.

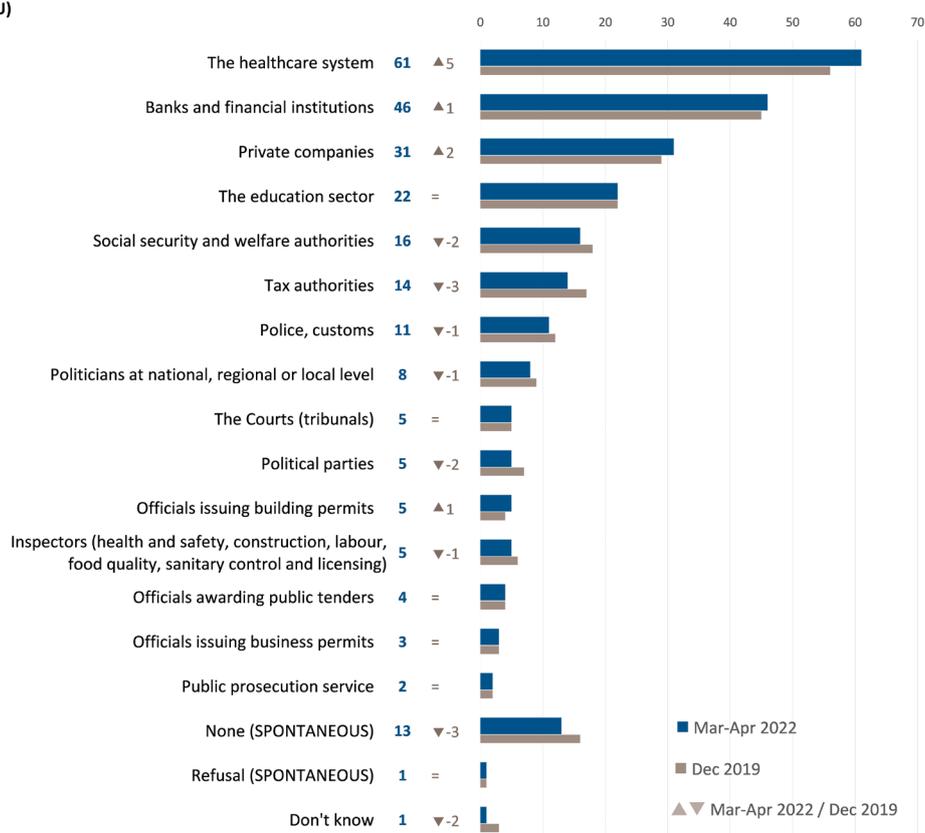
More than four in ten (46%, +1) have had contact with **banks and financial institutions**, while 31% (+2) mention **private companies** and 22% (=) mention the **education sector**. These are the only institutions mentioned by at least one in five.

More than one in ten have had contact with **social security and welfare authorities** (16%, -2), **tax authorities** (14%, -3) or the **police or customs** (11%, -1).

Fewer than one in ten have had contact with the other eight institutions asked about: **politicians** (8%, -1), **the courts** (5%, =), **political parties** (5%, -2), **officials issuing building permits** (5%, +1), **inspectors** (5%, -1), **officials awarding public tenders** (4%, =), **officials issuing business permits** (3%, =) or the **public prosecution service** (2%, =).

Just over one in ten (13%, -3) have not had contact with any of these institutions in their country in the past 12 months.

QA9a Over the last 12 months, have you had any contact with any of the following in (OUR COUNTRY)? (MULTIPLE ANSWERS POSSIBLE) (% - EU)



Base: all respondents (n = 26,509)

<sup>23</sup> QA9a. 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 but one EU Member State **the healthcare system** is the most mentioned institution, and in 24 Member States more than half have had contact with it in the last 12 months. Proportions range from 76% in Sweden and 73% in Czechia and Denmark to 42% in Romania, 45% in Malta and 46% in Ireland.

In Greece, respondents are most likely to have had contact with **banks and financial institutions** (63%), followed by the healthcare system (53%). In the remaining 26 countries banks and financial institutions are the second most mentioned institutions. In ten countries including Greece and Portugal (61%) and Cyprus (59%) at least half of all respondents have had contact with banks and financial institutions in the last 12 months.

**Private companies** are the second or third most mentioned institution in 21 countries and are most widely mentioned in Sweden (52%), the Netherlands (48%) and Greece (45%).

The **education sector** is the third most mentioned in five countries. The Netherlands (36%) and Spain (30%) are the only countries where at least three in ten say they have had contact with the education sector in the last 12 months.

**Social security and welfare authorities** is the third most mentioned area in France (31%), and France is the only country where more than one quarter mentioned these areas.

The **tax authorities** are mentioned by at least three in ten in the Netherlands (39%), Sweden (33%), and Greece and Finland (both 32%), and this is the third most mentioned area in the Netherlands and Romania (16%).

The **police and customs** is the only other area asked about that ranks in the top three in any country, placing third in Croatia (19%). However, those in Finland are the most likely to mention police and customs (23%).

The other 11 institutions do not rank in the top three in any EU Member State in terms of contact over the last 12 months. Results of note for the remaining institutions include:

- There are seven countries where at least one in ten have had contact with **politicians**, with the highest proportions seen in Malta (20%) and the Netherlands (18%).
- There are only two other institutions where at least 10% in any country have had contact. 18% in Malta, 12% in the Netherlands and 10% in Austria say they have had contact with **political parties** in the last 12 months, while 10% in Sweden say this about **officials awarding public tenders**.

QA9a Over the last 12 months, have you had any contact with any of the following in (OUR COUNTRY)? (MULTIPLE ANSWERS POSSIBLE)  
(%)

	EU27	BE	BG	CZ	DK	DE	EE	IE	EL	ES	FR	HR	IT	CY	LV	LT	LU	HU	MT	NL	AT	PL	PT	RO	SI	SK	FI	SE
The healthcare system	61	62	58	73	73	61	59	46	53	65	69	51	51	71	67	63	58	58	45	70	58	54	67	42	53	63	64	76
Banks and financial institutions	46	50	32	52	58	46	37	44	63	57	47	43	41	59	29	26	46	36	43	48	53	42	61	19	49	44	53	54
Private companies	31	32	13	34	44	38	29	17	45	36	28	19	22	26	19	21	34	19	22	48	42	22	28	13	23	25	38	52
The education sector	22	27	18	27	29	21	23	18	24	30	21	17	18	29	23	15	29	16	21	36	24	20	24	16	21	19	20	28
Social security and welfare authorities	16	18	11	23	12	12	13	11	25	21	31	12	6	14	16	8	21	8	16	16	19	10	21	7	10	11	8	15
Tax authorities	14	19	17	17	28	20	16	14	32	3	8	12	7	13	20	13	14	13	15	39	16	11	19	16	14	15	32	33
Police, customs	11	17	15	13	10	12	17	9	16	11	14	19	7	12	12	11	13	4	13	13	14	9	6	10	15	15	23	17
Politicians at national, regional or local level	8	12	2	9	12	9	7	7	3	5	8	6	6	7	6	2	8	4	20	18	15	4	5	8	7	8	11	14
The Courts (tribunals)	5	6	3	3	5	5	2	1	5	4	7	7	3	7	2	2	5	1	8	6	7	5	5	5	8	7	3	4
Political parties	5	7	2	3	8	8	6	7	2	5	4	7	4	9	4	1	6	4	18	12	10	3	3	7	5	5	7	9
Officials issuing building permits	5	7	3	7	6	5	4	2	3	3	2	7	5	3	4	3	5	4	7	8	7	4	3	9	5	6	7	9
Inspectors (health and safety, construction, labour, food quality, sanitary control and licensing)	5	8	5	5	6	8	6	3	5	4	3	7	4	3	6	6	5	2	7	7	9	4	3	7	8	5	6	9
Officials awarding public tenders	4	6	2	3	2	5	2	2	1	4	2	6	3	3	4	1	5	2	5	5	7	3	1	6	6	3	4	10
Officials issuing business permits	3	4	4	3	1	4	2	1	2	2	2	5	4	4	2	2	4	3	3	3	5	3	2	7	3	3	2	2
Public prosecution service	2	5	1	1	2	2	1	1	1	2	1	3	2	4	1	1	2	2	2	4	5	2	2	5	1	1	1	2
None (SPONTANEOUS)	13	8	18	4	6	14	14	21	11	11	12	10	17	11	14	19	14	20	14	9	7	13	9	19	14	10	8	4
Refusal (SPONTANEOUS)	1	0	1	1	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	2	1	0	0	2	1	0	1	0	1	1	0	1	1	2	0	0
Don't know	1	1	1	0	1	1	4	2	0	1	1	2	1	0	0	1	2	0	3	1	1	3	1	1	1	3	1	1

1st MOST FREQUENTLY MENTIONED ITEM
2nd MOST FREQUENTLY MENTIONED ITEM
3rd MOST FREQUENTLY MENTIONED ITEM

Base: all respondents (n = 26,509)

**Special Eurobarometer 523**  
**Corruption**  
**March-April 2022**

The socio-demographic analysis focusses on the four institutions respondents are most likely to have had contact with.

- Respondents who have had contact with the healthcare system in the last 12 months are most likely to be women (61%), those aged 55+ (66%), retired persons (70%), or those who say they belong to the upper class (71%).
- Contact with banks and financial institutions is most common amongst those aged 25+, and especially those aged 40-45 (52%), and with those who completed education aged 20 or older (56%), the self-employed (57%) or managers (55%), those with the least financial difficulties (48%), and those who see themselves as part of the upper middle (58%) or upper class (62%).
- Respondents who have had contact with private companies are most often found amongst men (36%), those aged 25-54 (36% to 39%), those who completed education aged 20 or older (42%), students (63%), those with the least financial difficulties (33%), or those who see themselves as part of the upper middle or upper class (49% each).
- Contact with the education sector is most often reported by 15–24-year-olds (50%), those who completed education aged 20 or older (28%), students (63%), managers (36%), or those who see themselves as belonging to the upper middle class (33%).

**QA9a** Over the last 12 months, have you had any contact with any of the following in (OUR COUNTRY)?

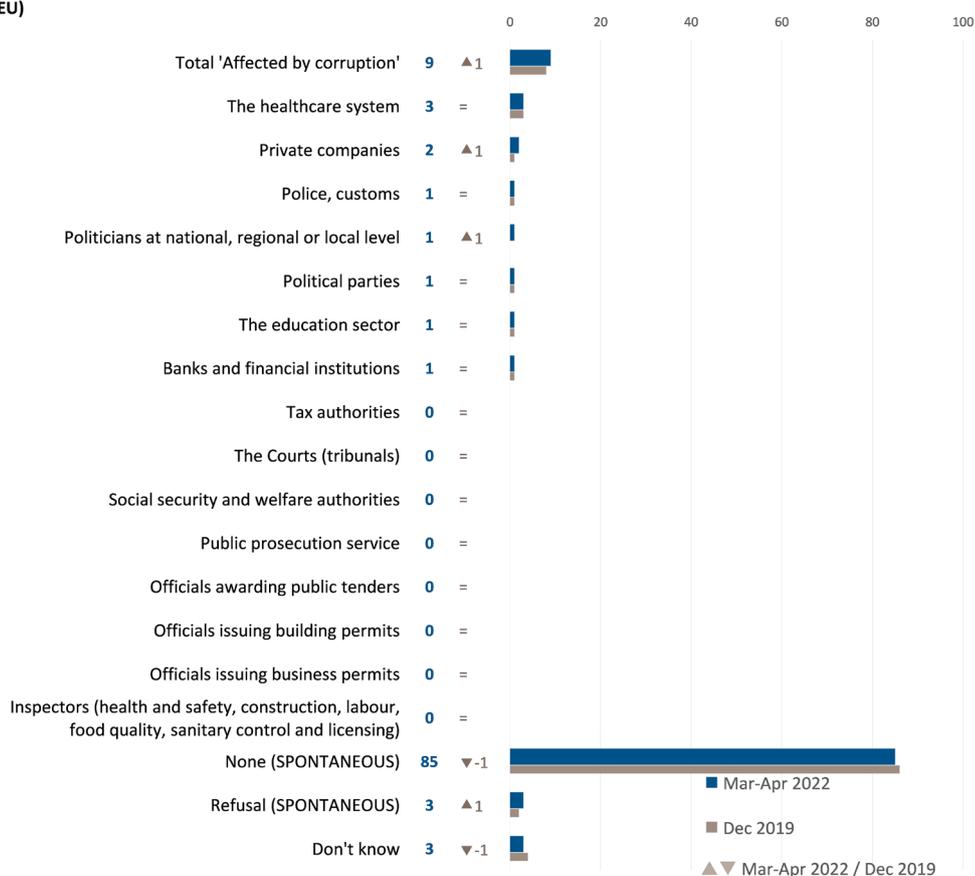
	The healthcare system	Banks and financial institutions	Private companies	The education sector
EU27	61	46	31	22
<b>Gender</b>				
Man	57	47	36	21
Woman	64	45	26	24
<b>Age</b>				
15-24	49	32	26	50
25-39	57	47	36	31
40-54	60	52	39	29
55 +	66	46	24	6
<b>Education (End of)</b>				
15-	66	41	18	6
16-19	58	43	28	15
20+	65	56	42	28
Still studying	52	33	27	63
<b>Socio-professional category</b>				
Self-employed	57	57	44	22
Managers	63	55	48	36
Other white collars	57	52	39	25
Manual workers	55	44	29	20
House persons	62	38	21	17
Unemployed	60	42	28	20
Retired	70	46	20	4
Students	52	33	27	63
<b>Difficulties paying bills</b>				
Most of the time	63	43	23	22
From time to time	56	42	28	21
Almost never/ Never	62	48	33	23
<b>Consider belonging to</b>				
The working class	62	42	23	15
The lower middle class	60	41	26	20
The middle class	59	48	33	24
The upper middle class	64	58	49	33
The upper class	71	62	49	26

**Special Eurobarometer 523**  
**Corruption**  
**March-April 2022**

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

Fewer than one in ten (9%, +1 percentage point since December 2019) respondents say they have been asked or expected to give a gift, favour or extra money in return for services.<sup>24</sup> The large majority (85%, -1) have not been asked or expected to do this. Fewer than one in twenty (3%, +1) *spontaneously* refused to answer the question and 3% (-1) say they don't know.

**QA9b 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) (% - EU)**



*Base: respondents who had any contact with any of these institutions (n=22,618; 85% of the sample)*

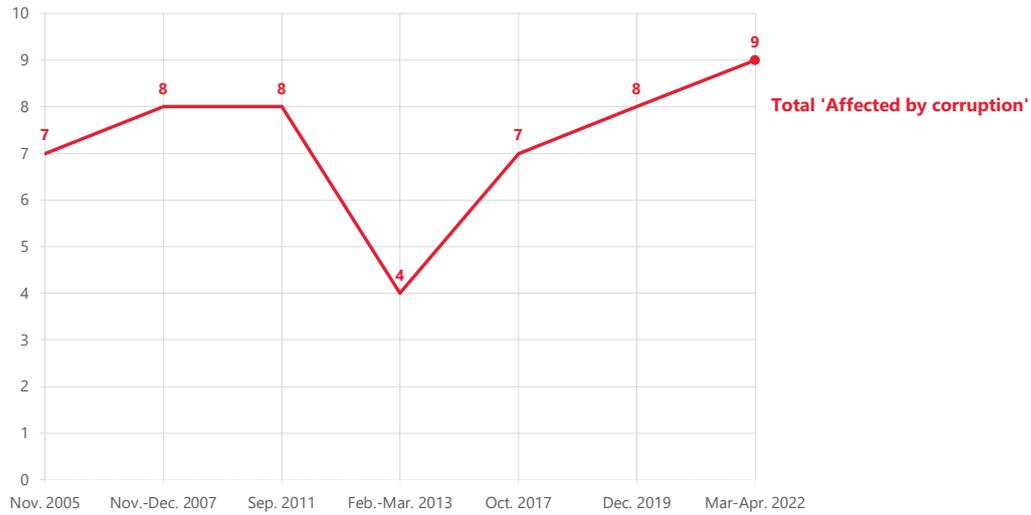
<sup>24</sup> QA9b. Thinking about these contacts in the past 12 months has anyone in (OUR COUNTRY) asked you or expected you to give a gift, favour, or extra money for his or her services? (MULTIPLE ANSWERS POSSIBLE)

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

Special Eurobarometer 523  
Corruption  
March-April 2022

The longer-term trend analysis shows relatively small changes in the proportion who have been asked or expected to give a gift, favour or extra money for services. The current level of 9% is the highest recorded, although it is only two percentage points higher than the result from 2005. It is, however, five points higher than the lowest point of 4% in 2013.

**QA9b** 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)



*Base: respondents who had any contact with any of these institutions (n=22,618; 85% of the sample)*

Special Eurobarometer 523  
Corruption  
March-April 2022

Only a minority of respondents in each EU Member State say someone has asked them or expected them to give a gift, favour, or extra money in exchange for services in the past 12 months. However, in 14 countries at least one in ten say this has happened to them, with the largest proportions seen in Bulgaria (22%), Croatia (21%), and Latvia and Slovakia (17% each). At the other end of the scale 3% in Finland, Portugal, Cyprus and Denmark have directly experienced corruption of this type.

In the four countries with the highest proportions of respondents who have been directly affected by corruption, by far the most common setting to experience this is the healthcare system. It is mentioned by 9% in Bulgaria, 8% in Latvia and Slovakia and 5% in Croatia. The proportion mentioning the healthcare system is also relatively high in Lithuania (10%), Hungary (9%), Greece (7%), and Romania and Czechia (both 6%).

It is worth noting that at least one in ten respondents in Romania (11%) and Croatia (10%) spontaneously refused to answer.

QA9b 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	BE	BG	CZ	DK	DE	EE	IE	EL	ES	FR	HR	IT	CY	LV	LT	LU	HU	MT	NL	AT	PL	PT	RO	SI	SK	FI	SE	
The healthcare system	3	3	9	6	1	4	2	1	7	1	3	5	2	2	8	10	1	9	3	2	4	3	0	6	4	8	1	1	
Private companies	2	3	2	2	1	3	2	1	0	1	1	2	2	1	2	1	2	2	0	2	1	0	1	0	2	1	0	2	
Police, customs	1	1	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	1	0	2	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	
Politicians at national, regional or local level	1	2	1	1	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	3	1	2	1	0	0	1	1	0	1
Political parties	1	1	1	1	0	1	1	1	0	0	1	1	0	0	1	0	1	0	4	1	1	0	0	0	1	1	0	1	
The education sector	1	1	3	1	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	2	1	0	1	0	0	0	1	1	1	0	0	1	1	2	0	1	
Banks and financial institutions	1	2	2	1	1	1	0	1	0	0	0	1	2	0	1	0	1	0	0	1	1	2	0	1	1	1	0	0	
Tax authorities	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	
The Courts (tribunals)	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	
Social security and welfare authorities	0	2	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	
Public prosecution service	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Officials awarding public tenders	0	2	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	
Officials issuing building permits	0	1	1	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	2	1	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	0	1	0	1	0	2	0	
Officials issuing business permits	0	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	
Inspectors (health and safety, construction, labour, food quality, sanitary control and licensing)	0	2	2	1	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	1	1	0	1	1	0	0	0	2	0	0	2	0	1	0	1	0	
None (SPONTANEOUS)	85	82	67	79	96	87	83	90	88	90	91	64	84	91	78	78	84	79	82	91	76	81	96	65	82	73	93	93	
Refusal (SPONTANEOUS)	3	1	7	4	1	1	3	1	2	1	1	10	3	4	1	4	6	4	4	0	5	9	0	11	3	7	0	1	
Don't know	3	1	4	4	0	2	8	4	1	5	3	5	2	2	4	4	4	3	4	1	2	3	1	14	2	3	4	1	
Total 'Affected by corruption'	9	16	22	13	3	10	7	4	9	4	6	21	11	3	17	14	6	14	10	7	16	8	3	10	12	17	3	6	
1st MOST FREQUENTLY MENTIONED ITEM																													
2nd MOST FREQUENTLY MENTIONED ITEM																													
3rd MOST FREQUENTLY MENTIONED ITEM																													

Base: respondents who had any contact with any of these institutions (n=22,618; 85% of the sample)

**Special Eurobarometer 523**  
**Corruption**  
**March-April 2022**

In 14 countries, the proportion of respondents who say they have been asked or expected to give a gift, favour or extra money exchange for services in the past 12 months has increased since December 2019, most notably in Bulgaria (22%, +8 percentage points) and Croatia (21%, +6). In contrast, the proportion has declined in 13 countries, particularly in Romania (10%, -17) and Hungary (14%, -13). Opinion has remained unchanged in Estonia.

At the same time, the proportion of respondents who say they have not been asked or expected to give a gift, favour, or extra money in exchange for services in the past 12 months has increased in 13 countries, with the largest observed in Hungary (79%, +16) and Belgium (82%, +15).

It is worth noting mentions of the healthcare system have declined six percentage points in Romania (6%) since December 2019.

**QA9b 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)**  
(%)



	Feb/Mar 2022	3	9	5	3	4	8	2	0	8	1	3	1	1	4	1	2	6	1	3	7	2	2	1	4	10	3	9	6		
The healthcare system	Δ Dec 2019	=	▲1	▲2	▲2	▲3	=	▲1	=	▲4	▲1	▲1	▲1	=	▲1	=	=	▼1	=	▼2	=	=	▼1	▲1	▼2	▼3	▼4	▼6			
Private companies	Feb/Mar 2022	2	2	2	0	3	2	2	1	1	1	1	1	2	1	2	0	2	2	1	0	0	2	1	2	1	1	3	2	0	
Banks and financial institutions	Δ Dec 2019	▲1	▲1	▲1	▼1	▲1	▲1	▲1	▲1	=	▲1	=	=	▼2	=	▲1	=	=	▼1	=	=	▼1	=	▼1	▼1	=	▼1	▼2			
The education sector	Feb/Mar 2022	1	3	2	1	0	1	1	0	2	0	0	1	0	1	0	1	1	1	1	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	1	0	1	
Police, customs	Δ Dec 2019	=	▲2	▲2	=	=	▲1	=	▲1	=	▲1	=	▲1	=	▲1	=	=	▲1	=	▲1	▼1	=	=	▼1	▼1	=	▼1	▼1			
Politicians at national, regional or local level	Feb/Mar 2022	1	1	0	3	1	1	1	0	1	0	0	1	1	1	0	0	1	1	1	0	1	1	0	0	2	0	2	0	0	
Political parties	Δ Dec 2019	▲1	=	▼1	▲3	▲1	▲1	▲1	=	▲1	=	▲1	=	▲1	=	▲1	=	▼1	=	▲1	▲1	▼1	▲1	=	▼1	▲1	▼1	=	▼1	▼2	
Tax authorities	Feb/Mar 2022	1	1	1	4	1	1	1	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	1	1	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	0	0	0	
The Courts (tribunals)	Δ Dec 2019	=	▲1	▼1	▲3	▲1	▲1	▲1	=	=	▲1	▲1	▼1	=	▲1	▲1	=	=	▼1	▼1	=	=	▼1	▼1	=	=	▼1	▼1			
Social security and welfare authorities	Feb/Mar 2022	0	1	1	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	2	0	1	
Public prosecution service	Δ Dec 2019	=	=	▼1	=	▲1	=	=	=	=	=	=	=	=	=	=	=	▼1	=	▼1	▼1	▼1	=	=	▲1	▲1	▼1	=			
Officials awarding public tenders	Feb/Mar 2022	0	1	2	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	2	1	0
Officials issuing building permits	Δ Dec 2019	=	▲1	▼1	=	▲1	=	=	=	=	=	=	=	=	▼1	▼1	▼1	▲1	=	=	▼1	=	▼1	=	▼1	▼1	=	▼1	▲1		
Officials issuing business permits	Feb/Mar 2022	0	1	2	1	0	1	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	1	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	
Inspectors (health and safety, construction, labour, food quality, sanitary control and licensing)	Δ Dec 2019	=	▲1	▲1	=	▲1	=	▲1	=	▲1	=	▲1	=	▲1	=	▲1	=	▼1	▼1	=	▼1	▲1	=	=	=	▲1	▼1	=			
None (SPONTANEOUS)	Feb/Mar 2022	85	67	64	82	87	78	91	96	73	96	91	93	90	82	93	83	79	90	81	88	84	91	84	76	78	82	79	65		
Refusal (SPONTANEOUS)	Δ Dec 2019	▼1	▼4	▼13	▼7	▲2	▼1	▼3	▼2	▼3	▼3	▼2	▼3	▼4	▲3	▼3	▼6	▲4	▲1	=	▲2	▲4	▲6	▲1	▲3	▲2	▲15	▲16	▲4		
Don't know	Feb/Mar 2022	3	4	5	4	2	4	1	3	0	3	1	5	2	4	8	4	4	4	3	1	2	2	4	2	4	1	3	14		
Total 'Affected by corruption'	Δ Dec 2019	▼1	▼3	▲2	▲1	▼5	▲1	▼2	=	▼1	=	▲1	▲1	▲3	▼3	▲3	▲5	▼4	▲1	▼3	=	=	▼1	▼1	▼3	▲2	▼5	▲1	▲7		
	Feb/Mar 2022	9	22	21	10	10	17	7	3	17	3	6	6	4	12	3	7	13	4	8	9	11	3	6	16	14	16	14	10		
	Δ Dec 2019	▲1	▲8	▲6	▲5	▲4	▲4	▲4	▲3	▲3	▲2	▲2	▲2	▲1	▲1	▲1	=	▼1	▼1	▼1	▼3	▼3	▼3	▼3	▼4	▼5	▼8	▼13	▼17		

*Base: respondents who had any contact with any of these institutions (n=22,618; 85% of the sample)*

**Special Eurobarometer 523**  
**Corruption**  
**March-April 2022**

Given the small proportion of respondents who have been direct victims of corruption, it is not surprising the **socio-demographic analysis** reveals few differences. However, it does illustrate the self-employed (14%) and those who have difficulties paying their bills from time to time (12%) or most of the time (11%) are the most likely to have been victims of this behaviour.

**QA9b** 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) (% - EU)

	Total 'Affected by corruption'	None (SPONTANEOUS)	Refusal (SPONTANEOUS)	Don't know
EU27	9	85	3	3
<b>Socio-professional category</b>				
Self-employed	14	79	3	4
Managers	10	86	3	2
Other white collars	8	87	2	3
Manual workers	10	82	4	4
House persons	7	87	3	3
Unemployed	11	83	2	3
Retired	7	88	2	3
Students	7	89	2	2
<b>Difficulties paying bills</b>				
Most of the time	11	81	4	4
From time to time	12	79	4	5
Almost never/ Never	7	88	2	2

## **IV. BRIBERY AND HEALTHCARE**



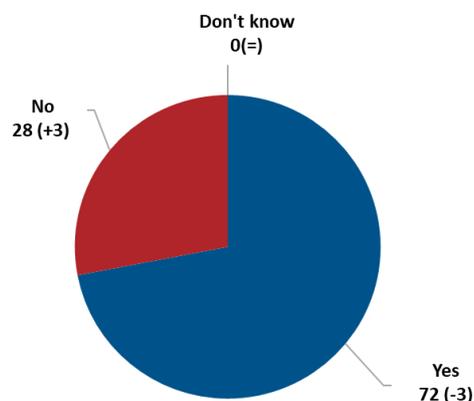
## 1. Experience of healthcare

### Almost three quarters have been to a public healthcare practitioner or a public healthcare institution in the past 12 months

More than seven in ten respondents (72%, -3 percentage points since December 2019) have been to a public healthcare practitioner, such as a GP (general practitioner), or a public healthcare institution, such as a public hospital, in the past 12 months, while 28% (+3) have not.<sup>25</sup>

A regional analysis shows respondents from the Member States already part of the EU in 2004 are more likely than those from the countries who joined the EU in or after 2004 to have had contact with public healthcare practitioners or institutions in the past 12 months (74% vs 63%). The same pattern applies comparing those in the euro area with those living in countries outside the euro area (74% vs 64%).

QA1 Have you been to a public healthcare practitioner such as a GP (general practitioner) or a public healthcare institution such as a public hospital in the past 12 months?  
(% - EU)

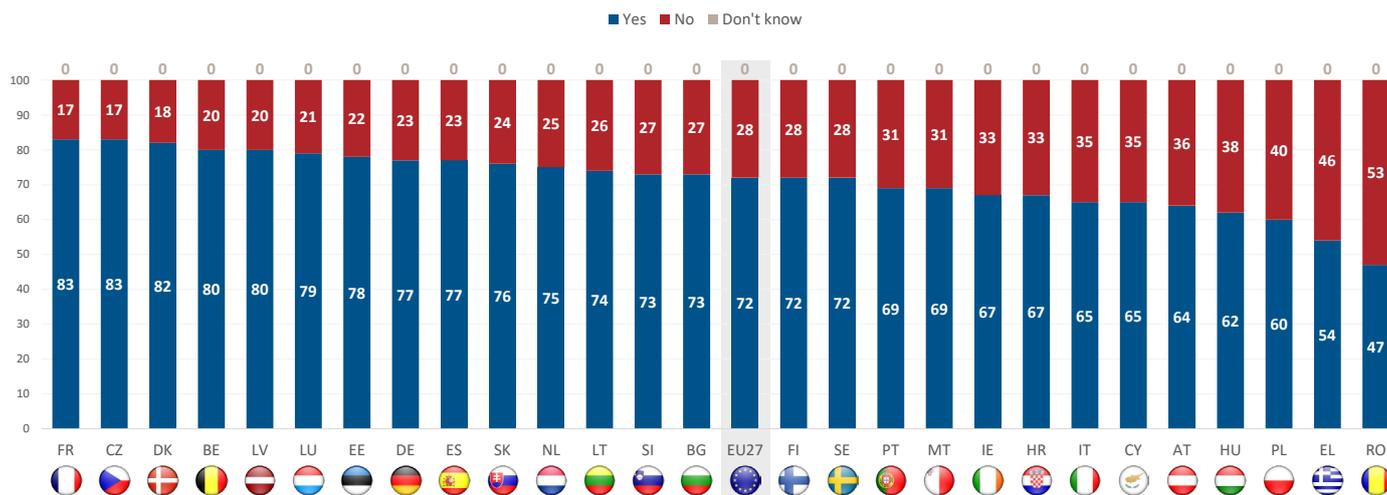


(Mar-Apr 2022 / Dec 2019)

With the exception of Romania, the majority of respondents in each EU Member State have been to a public healthcare practitioner or public healthcare institution in the past 12 months. Proportions range from 83% in Czechia and France and 82% in Denmark to 54% in Greece, 60% in Poland and 62% in Hungary. In Romania 47% have been to one of these settings in the past 12 months and 53% have not.

Base: all respondents (n = 26,509)

QA1 Have you been to a public healthcare practitioner such as a GP (general practitioner) or a public healthcare institution such as a public hospital in the past 12 months?  
(%)



Base: all respondents (n = 26,509)

<sup>25</sup> QA1. Have you been to a public healthcare practitioner such as a GP (general practitioner) or a public healthcare institution such as a public hospital in the past 12 months?

**Special Eurobarometer 523**  
**Corruption**  
**March- April 2022**

The socio-demographic analysis shows more than six in ten respondents in each group have been to a public healthcare practitioner or a public healthcare institution in the past 12 months, although there are some notable differences.

- Women (75%) are more likely to have visited one of these settings than men (68%).
- The older the respondent, the more likely they are to have visited: 80% aged 55+ have done so compared to 59% of those aged 15-24.
- Retired persons (84%) are the most likely to have visited a public healthcare practitioner or a public healthcare institution, particularly compared to students (62%).

**QA1** Have you been to a public healthcare practitioner such as a GP (general practitioner) or a public healthcare institution such as a public hospital in the past 12 months?  
 (% - EU)

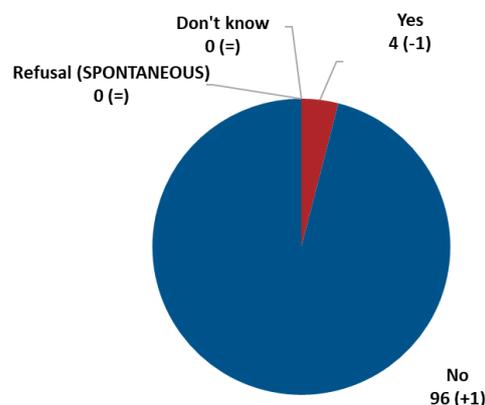
	Yes	No	Don't know
EU27	72	28	0
 <b>Gender</b>			
Man	68	32	0
Woman	75	25	0
 <b>Age</b>			
15-24	59	41	0
25-39	65	35	0
40-54	71	29	0
55 +	80	20	0
 <b>Socio-professional category</b>			
Self-employed	67	33	0
Managers	75	25	0
Other white collars	67	33	0
Manual workers	65	35	0
House persons	74	26	0
Unemployed	68	32	0
Retired	84	16	0
Students	62	38	0

## 2. Additional payments

### Fewer than one in twenty have had to make an extra payment or give a gift or donation in addition to official fees for medical care

Just 4% (-1 percentage point since December 2019) of respondents who have had contact with the public healthcare sector in the past 12 months say they had to give an extra payment or a valuable gift to a nurse or a doctor or donate to the hospital (not including official fees).<sup>26</sup> Almost all (96%, +1) say they have not had to do this.

QA2 Apart from official fees did you have to give an extra payment or a valuable gift to a nurse or a doctor, or make a donation to the hospital? (% - EU)

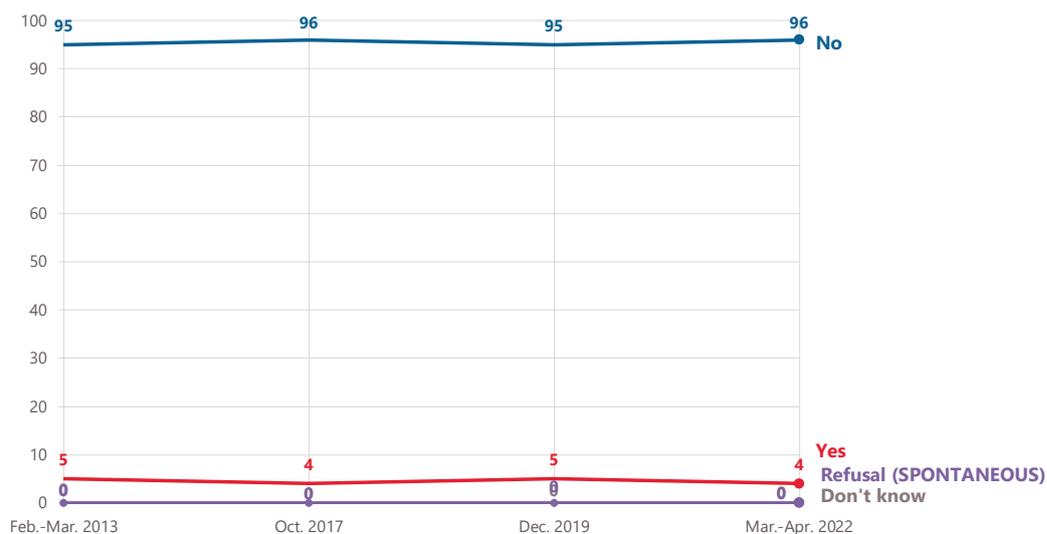


(Mar-Apr 2022 / Dec 2019)

Base: respondents who say that they have been to a public healthcare practitioner in the last 12 months (n=19,063; 72% of the sample)

The longer-term trend shows there has been almost no change in the proportion of respondents who have had contact with the public healthcare sector in the past 12 months and had to give an extra payment or a valuable gift to a nurse or a doctor or donate to the hospital, varying by only one percentage point between 2013 and the current survey.

QA2 Apart from official fees did you have to give an extra payment or a valuable gift to a nurse or a doctor, or make a donation to the hospital?



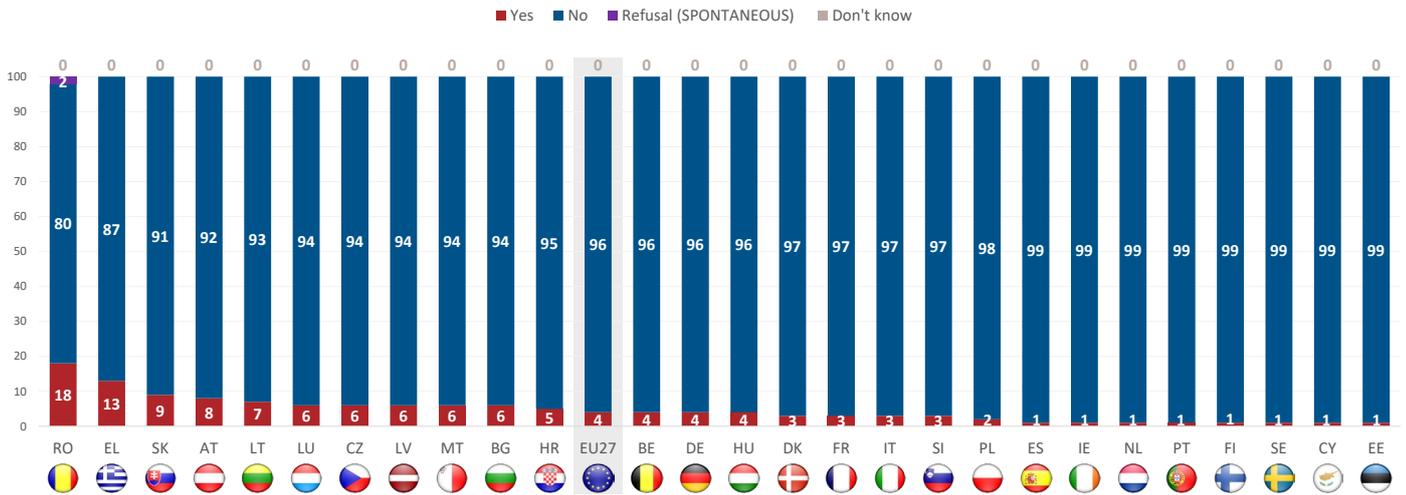
Base: respondents who say that they have been to a public healthcare practitioner in the last 12 months (n=19,063; 72% of the sample)

<sup>26</sup> QA2. Apart from official fees did you have to give an extra payment or a valuable gift to a nurse or a doctor, or make a donation to the hospital?

Special Eurobarometer 523  
Corruption  
March- April 2022

Romania (18%) and Greece (13%) are the only countries where at least one in ten respondents say they had to give an extra payment or a valuable gift to a nurse or a doctor or donate to the hospital (not including official fees) when visiting a public healthcare setting. In the remaining countries the proportions range from 9% in Slovakia to 1% in Sweden, Finland, Portugal, Ireland, the Netherlands, Cyprus, Spain and Estonia.

QA2 Apart from official fees did you have to give an extra payment or a valuable gift to a nurse or a doctor, or make a donation to the hospital? (%)



Base: respondents who say that they have been to a public healthcare practitioner in the last 12 months (n=19,063; 72% of the sample)

Compared to December 2019, the proportion who had to give an extra payment or valuable gift has declined in 19 EU Member States, with the largest seen in Hungary (4%, -10). There have been slight increases in five countries including Slovakia (9%, +4), and no change in the Netherlands, Slovenia and Finland.

No more than 5% in any socio-demographic category say they had to give an extra payment or a valuable gift to a nurse or a doctor or donate to the hospital (apart from official fees), and there are no notable differences in the **socio-demographic analysis**.

QA2 Apart from official fees did you have to give an extra payment or a valuable gift to a nurse or a doctor, or make a donation to the hospital? (%)

		EU27	SK	MT	CZ	DK	SE	NL	SI	FI	EL	ES	IT	CY	PT	RO	BE	EE	IE	FR	HR	DE	LT	LU	PL	BG	LV	AT	HU
Yes	Feb/Mar 2022	4	9	6	6	3	1	1	3	1	13	1	3	1	1	18	4	1	1	3	5	4	7	6	2	6	6	8	4
	Δ Dec 2019	▼1	▲4	▲2	▲1	▲1	▲1	=	=	=	▼1	▼1	▼1	▼1	▼1	▼1	▼2	▼2	▼2	▼2	▼2	▼3	▼3	▼3	▼3	▼4	▼4	▼9	▼10
No	Feb/Mar 2022	96	91	94	94	97	99	99	97	99	87	99	97	99	99	80	96	99	99	97	95	96	93	94	98	94	94	92	96
	Δ Dec 2019	▲1	▼4	▼2	▼1	▼1	▼1	▲1	=	=	▲1	▲1	▲1	▲1	▲1	▼1	▲2	▲2	▲2	▲2	▲2	▲3	▲4	▲3	▲4	▲6	▲4	▲10	▲11
Refusal (SPONTANEOUS)	Feb/Mar 2022	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Δ Dec 2019	=	=	=	=	=	=	=	=	=	=	=	=	=	=	▲2	=	=	=	=	=	=	=	=	=	▼1	▼1	=	▼1
Don't know	Feb/Mar 2022	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Δ Dec 2019	=	=	=	=	=	=	▼1	=	=	=	=	=	=	=	=	=	=	=	=	=	=	=	=	=	▼1	=	=	=

Base: respondents who say that they have been to a public healthcare practitioner in the last 12 months (n=19,063; 72% of the sample)

### 3. Details of bribery

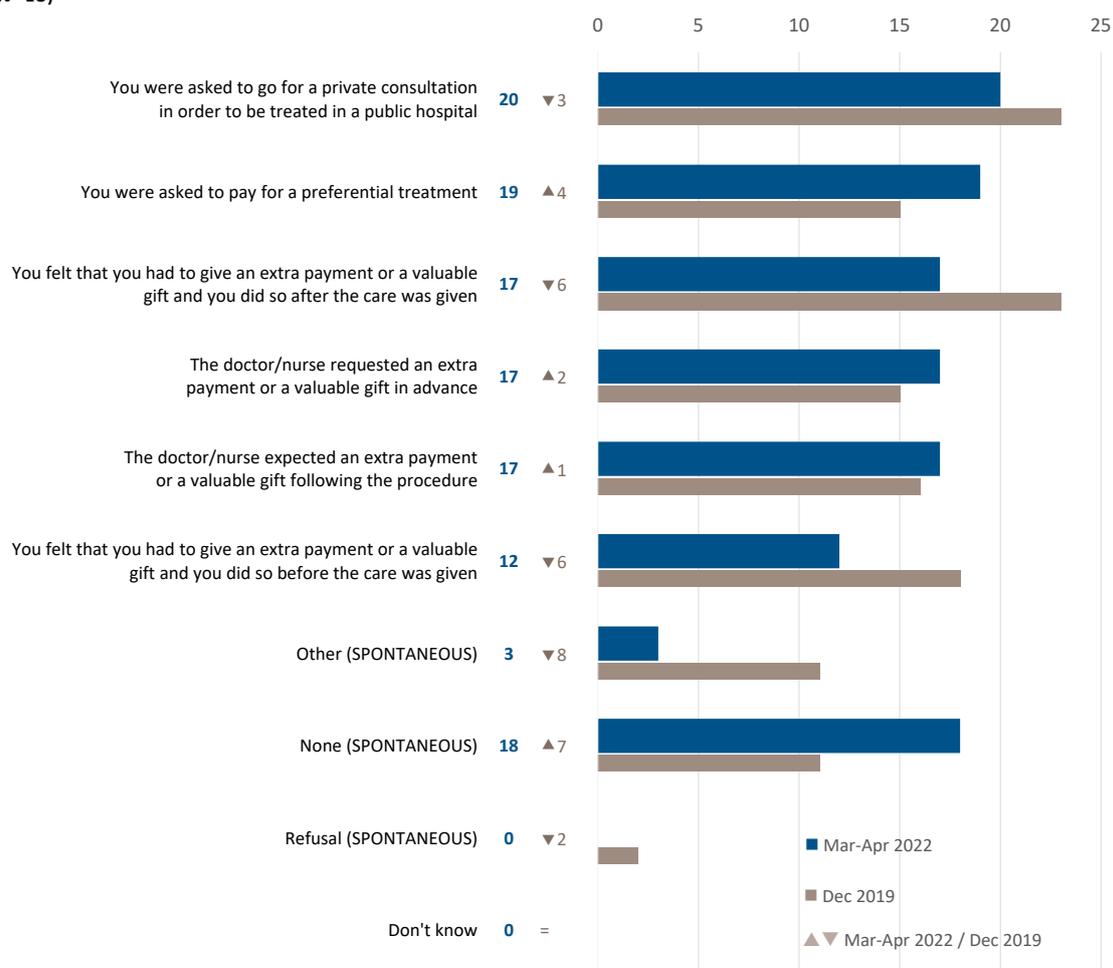
**Of those asked to pay extra or give a gift, one in five say they were asked to go for a private consultation in order to be treated in a public hospital**

Respondents who say they have had to give an extra payment or a valuable gift to a nurse or a doctor or make a donation to the hospital apart from official fees were asked what happened by choosing as many answers as they wished from a list of six options.<sup>27</sup>

One in five (20%, -3 percentage points since December 2019) say they were asked to go for a private consultation in order to be treated in a public hospital, while almost as many (19%, +4) say they were asked to pay for a preferential treatment. Compared to 2019, respondents are now less likely to say they felt they had to give an extra payment or a valuable gift and did so after the care was given (17%, -6).

Fewer than one in five say the doctor/ nurse requested an extra payment or a valuable gift in advance (17%, +2) or that the doctor/ nurse expected an extra payment or a valuable gift following the procedure (17%, +1). Respondents are also less likely than they were in December 2019 to say they felt that they had to give an extra payment, or a valuable gift and they did so before the care was given (12%, -6).

QA3 Which of the following describe what happened? (MULTIPLE ANSWERS POSSIBLE)  
(% - EU)



Base: respondents who say that they were asked to give an extra payment or valuable gift to a nurse or doctor, or to make a donation to the hospital (n=705; 3% of the sample)

<sup>27</sup> QA3. Which of the following describe what happened? (MULTIPLE ANSWERS POSSIBLE)

**Special Eurobarometer 523**  
**Corruption**  
**March- April 2022**

A regional analysis shows respondents in the 13 Member States that joined the EU in or after 2004 are more likely to say they felt that they had to give an extra payment or a valuable gift and they did so before the care was given (21% vs 8%), that the doctor/ nurse expected an extra payment or a valuable gift following the procedure (21% vs 14%) or that they were asked to go for a private consultation in order to be treated in a public hospital (23% vs 18%). Those living in the Member States that were part of the EU already in 2004 are more likely than those from countries that joined the EU in 2004 or afterwards to say the doctor/ nurse requested an extra payment or a valuable gift in advance (20% vs 12%).

Respondents living outside the euro area are more likely than their euro area counterparts to say they felt that they had to give an

extra payment or a valuable gift and they did so before the care was given (20% vs 9%), that they felt they had to give an extra payment or a valuable gift and did so after the care was given (20% vs 15%), that the doctor/ nurse expected an extra payment or a valuable gift following the procedure (24% vs 13%) or that they were asked to go for a private consultation in order to be treated in a public hospital (25% vs 17%). Those living in the euro area are more likely than those outside the euro area to say the doctor/ nurse requested an extra payment or a valuable gift in advance (19% vs 13%).

## V. REPORTING CORRUPTION

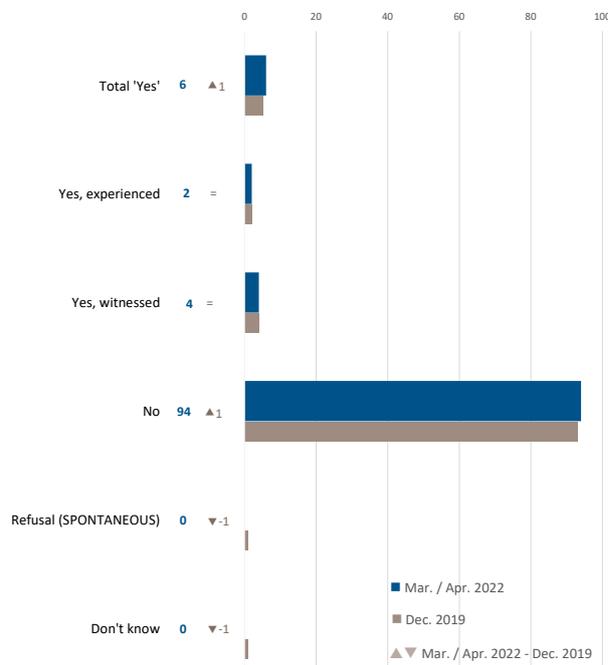


## 1. Personal experience of corruption

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

Just over one in twenty (6%, +1 percentage point since December 2019) say they have experienced or witnessed a case of corruption in the last 12 months. Fewer than one in twenty 4% (=) have witnessed corruption while 2% (=) have experienced it.<sup>28</sup> The large majority (94%, +1), however, have neither experienced nor witnessed corruption in the past 12 months.

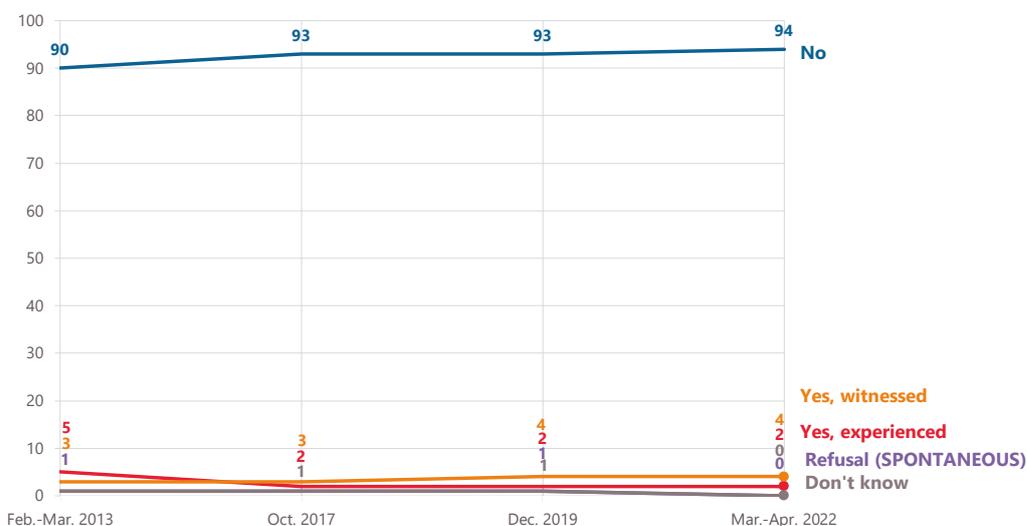
QA12 In the last 12 months have you experienced or witnessed any case of corruption? (MULTIPLE ANSWERS POSSIBLE) (% - EU)



Base: all respondents (n = 26,509)

The longer term trend shows there has been an increase of four percentage points since 2013 in the proportion who have not witnessed or experienced any case of corruption. The proportion of respondents who have experienced corruption has declined by three points during the same period.

QA12 In the last 12 months, have you experienced or witnessed any case of corruption? (MULTIPLE ANSWERS POSSIBLE)



Base: all respondents (n = 26,509)

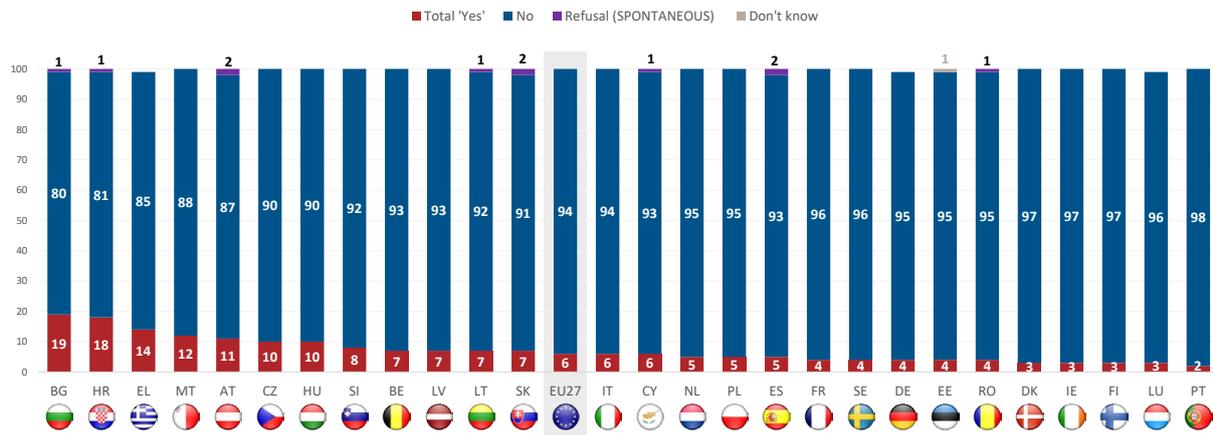
<sup>28</sup> QA12. In the last 12 months, have you experienced or witnessed any case of corruption? (MULTIPLE ANSWERS POSSIBLE)

## Special Eurobarometer 523 Corruption March-April 2022

In each EU Member State only a small minority of respondents have experienced or witnessed corruption in the past 12 months, although there are seven countries where at least one in ten have done so: Bulgaria (19%), Croatia (18%), Greece (14%), Malta (12%), Austria (11%), and Czechia and Hungary (both 10%). In contrast 2% in Portugal and 3% in Finland, Luxembourg, Denmark and Ireland say the same.

It is worth noting that in both Bulgaria and Croatia 11% of respondents say they have witnessed corruption in the last 12 months, and they are the only countries where at least one in ten respondents say this. Respondents in Bulgaria are also the most likely in the EU to report experiencing corruption (9%).

QA12 In the last 12 months have you experienced or witnessed any case of corruption? (MULTIPLE ANSWERS POSSIBLE) (%)



Base: all respondents (n = 26,509)

Since December 2019 the proportion of respondents who have experienced corruption has declined slightly in 14 countries with the largest seen in Romania (4%, -5). In contrast, proportions have increased in nine countries including Bulgaria (19%, +8). There has been no change in Belgium, Spain, the Netherlands and Poland.

QA12 In the last 12 months have you experienced or witnessed any case of corruption? (MULTIPLE ANSWERS POSSIBLE) (%)

	EU27	BG	EL	MT	CZ	HR	DE	LV	FI	SE	BE	ES	NL	PL	DK	EE	FR	IT	LT	PT	HU	SI	IE	CY	LU	AT	SK	RO	
Total 'Yes'	Feb/Mar 2022	6	19	14	12	10	18	4	7	3	4	7	5	5	5	3	4	4	6	7	2	10	8	3	6	3	11	7	4
	Δ Dec 2019	▲1	▲8	▲5	▲5	▲3	▲3	▲2	▲2	▲1	▲1	=	=	=	▼1	▼1	▼1	▼1	▼1	▼1	▼2	▼2	▼3	▼3	▼3	▼3	▼3	▼5	
No	Feb/Mar 2022	94	80	85	88	90	81	95	93	97	96	93	95	95	97	95	96	94	92	98	90	92	97	93	96	87	91	95	
	Δ Dec 2019	▲1	▼1	▼6	▲4	▼1	▼1	▼2	▼1	=	▼1	=	▼1	=	▲2	▲2	▲1	▲1	▲3	▲2	▲2	▲4	▲4	▲5	▲2	▲4	▲3	▲5	▲7
Refusal (SPONTANEOUS)	Feb/Mar 2022	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	2	2	1	
	Δ Dec 2019	▼1	▼4	▼1	▼4	▼1	▼1	=	▼1	=	=	▲2	=	▼1	=	▼1	=	▼1	▼1	=	▼2	▼2	▼1	▲1	▼1	▲1	=	▼1	
Don't know	Feb/Mar 2022	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
	Δ Dec 2019	▼1	▼2	=	▼5	▼1	▼1	=	▼1	▼1	=	=	=	▼1	=	=	=	▼1	=	=	▼1	=	=	=	▼1	▼1	▼2	▼1	

Base: all respondents (n = 26,509)

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**Corruption**  
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The **socio-demographic analysis** shows only a small minority in each group have experienced or witnessed a case of corruption in the last 12 months. However, it is worth noting the self-employed (11%) are more likely to report experiencing corruption than other socio-occupation groups. In addition, those who have difficulties paying their bills most of the time (10%) or from time to time (8%) are more likely to report this than those who rarely or never have these financial problems (4%).

**QA12** In the last 12 months have you experienced or witnessed any case of corruption?  
(MULTIPLE ANSWERS POSSIBLE) (% - EU)

	Total 'Yes'	No	Refusal (SPONTANEOUS)	Don't know
EU27	6	94	0	0
 <b>Socio-professional category</b>				
Self-employed	11	88	1	0
Managers	7	93	0	0
Other white collars	6	93	0	0
Manual workers	6	93	0	0
House persons	3	96	1	0
Unemployed	6	93	1	0
Retired	4	96	0	0
Students	4	96	0	0
 <b>Difficulties paying bills</b>				
Most of the time	10	89	1	0
From time to time	8	91	1	0
Almost never/ Never	4	96	0	0

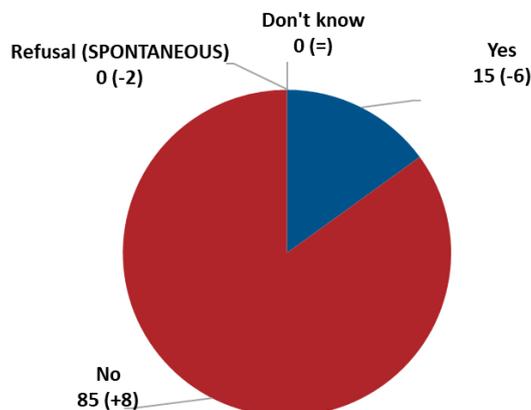
## 2. Reporting of corruption

### More than eight in ten of those who experience corruption did not report it

Amongst respondents who experienced or witnessed a case of corruption in the last 12 months, 15% (-6 percentage points since December 2019) say they reported the corruption to someone.<sup>29</sup> The large majority (85%, +8), however, did not report the corruption, and this is a notable increase since December 2019.

A regional analysis illustrates that those from Member States part of the EU already in 2004 (19%) are more likely to have reported the corruption they experienced or witnessed, compared to those from countries which joined the EU in 2004 or later (5%). Those living in euro-area countries are also more likely to have reported the corruption than those living outside the euro area (19% vs 6%).

QA13 Did you report it to anyone or not?  
(% - EU)

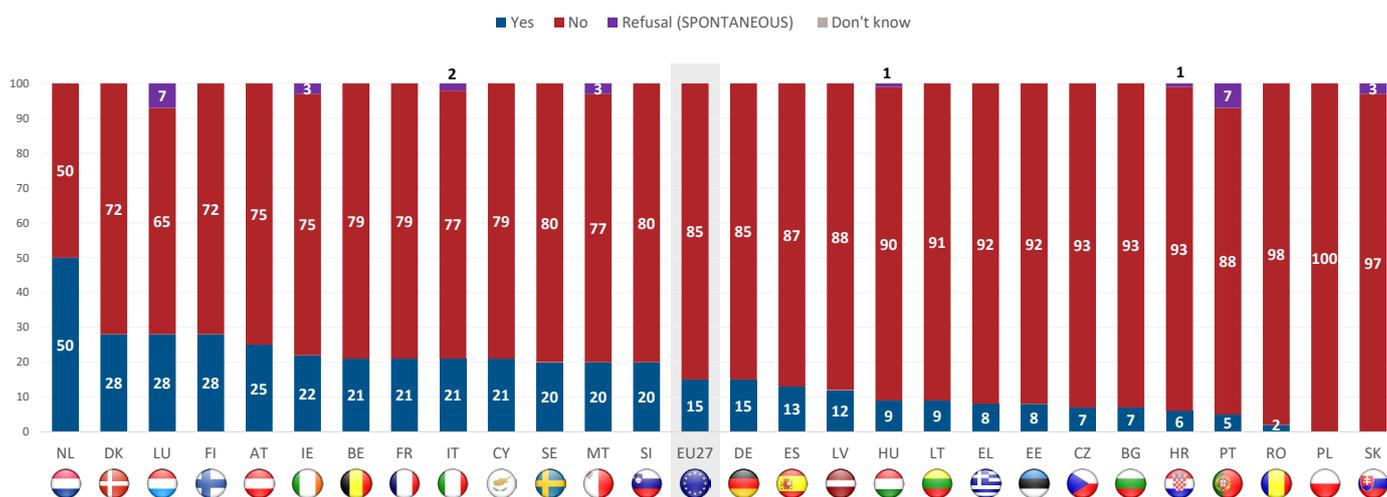


(Mar-Apr 2022 / Dec 2019)

Respondents in the Netherlands (50%) who experienced or witnessed corruption are much more likely to have reported it than those in other countries where proportions range from 25% in Austria and 21% in Belgium and Italy to 6% in Croatia and 7% in Bulgaria and Czechia.<sup>30</sup>

Base: respondents who say they have witnessed or experienced a case of corruption in the past 12 months (n=1479; 6% of the sample)

QA13 Did you report it to anyone or not?  
(%)



Base: respondents who say they have witnessed or experienced a case of corruption in the past 12 months (n=1479; 6% of the sample)

<sup>29</sup> QA13. Did you report it to anyone or not?

<sup>30</sup> Results from the following countries are not included in the discussion due to very low sample size (<50): ES, FR, RO, EE, SE, IE, CY, DK, FI, PT, LU. The following countries

have low sample size (50-99) and their results should be interpreted with caution: CZ, SI, BE, LV, DE, SK, LT, MT, IT, PL, NL.

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

- Those who finished their education aged 16 or older (17%) are more likely to have reported the corruption than those who completed education aged 15 or younger (7%).
- Students, house persons (both 6%) and the unemployed (9%) are much less likely to have reported corruption than other socio-occupation groups.
- Those who consider themselves as belonging to the upper middle class (28%) are much more likely to have reported the corruption than those who place themselves lower on the social staircase.<sup>31</sup>

**QA13** Did you report it to anyone or not?  
(% - EU)

	Yes	No	Refusal (SPONTANEOUS)	Don't know
EU27	15	85	0	0
 <b>Education (End of)</b>				
15-	7	93	0	0
16-19	17	83	0	0
20+	17	83	0	0
Still studying	6	91	3	0
 <b>Socio-professional category</b>				
Self-employed	13	87	0	0
Managers	15	84	1	0
Other white collars	16	84	0	0
Manual workers	17	83	0	0
House persons	6	94	0	0
Unemployed	9	91	0	0
Retired	19	81	0	0
Students	6	91	3	0
 <b>Consider belonging to</b>				
The working class	11	89	0	0
The lower middle class	14	86	0	0
The middle class	14	86	0	0
The upper middle class	28	69	3	0
The upper class	38	62	0	0

<sup>31</sup> Due to very low sample size, upper class was not included in the discussion, and the results for this group should be treated with caution.

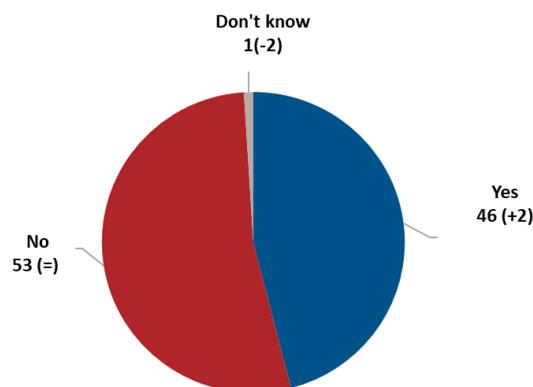
### 3. Awareness of where to report corruption

#### Almost half are aware of where to report a case of corruption if they experience or witness one

All respondents were asked if they knew where to report a case of corruption if they were to experience or witness it, with fewer than half (46%, +2 percentage points since December 2019) saying that they do<sup>32</sup>. The majority (53%, =) don't know where to report corruption, while 1% (-2) did not have an opinion.

A regional analysis shows that those living in Member States of the EU already in 2004 (49%) are more likely to than respondents from the new Member States of the EU since 2004 or later (38%) to know where to report corruption. The same pattern applies comparing those living in the euro area (49%) with those living in countries outside the euro area (37%).

QA10 If you were to experience or witness a case of corruption, would you know where to report it to?  
(% - EU)

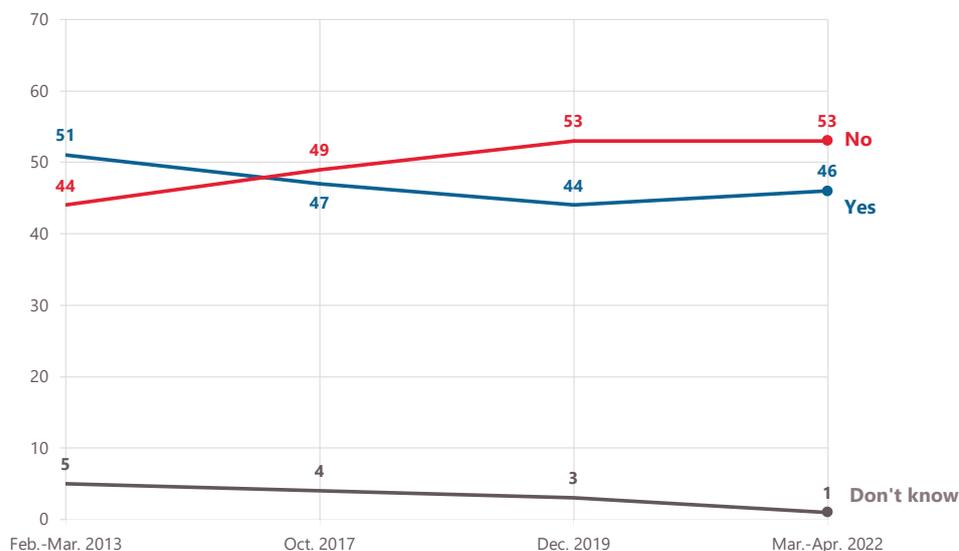


(Mar-Apr 2022 / Dec 2019)

Although the proportion of respondents who would know where to report a case of corruption if they were to experience or witness it has increased two percentage points since December 2019, it remains five points lower than the highest level of 51% in February-March 2013.

Base: all respondents (n = 26,509)

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



Base: all respondents (n = 26,509)

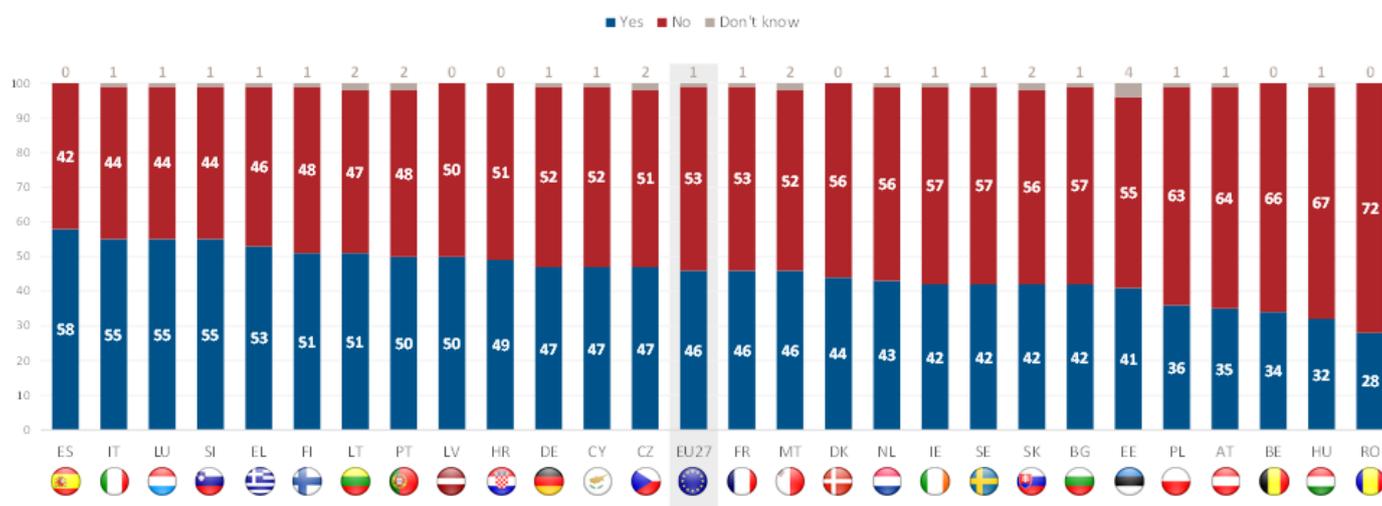
<sup>32</sup> QA10. If you were to experience or witness a case of corruption, would you know where to report it to?

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In nine EU Member States the majority of respondents say they know where to report a case of corruption if they witness or experience it, with the largest proportions seen in Spain (58%), and Italy, Luxembourg and Slovenia (55% each).

In the remaining 18 countries, only a minority know where to report corruption. In 13 countries at least four in ten say they know, with the largest shares in Croatia (49%), and Czechia, Germany and Cyprus (47% each). In contrast fewer than one third in Romania (28%) and Hungary (32%) know where to report corruption if they experience or witness it.

QA10 If you were to experience or witness a case of corruption, would you know where to report it to? (%)



Base: all respondents (n = 26,509)

Awareness of where to report corruption has increased in 19 EU Member States since December 2019, with the largest increases observed in Malta (46%, +13), Bulgaria (42%, +11), Croatia (49%, +9) and Ireland (42%, +9). Awareness has declined in eight countries, and particularly in Greece (53%, -12).

QA10 If you were to experience or witness a case of corruption, would you know where to report it to? (%)



	Feb/Mar 2022	MT	BG	IE	HR	LT	LU	SI	CZ	DE	IT	AT	ES	HU	SK	FR	NL	BE	DK	CY	LV	RO	EE	PT	FI	PL	SE	EL	
Yes	46	46	42	42	49	51	55	55	47	47	55	35	58	32	42	46	43	34	44	47	50	28	41	50	51	36	42	53	
Δ Dec 2019	▲2	▲13	▲11	▲9	▲9	▲7	▲7	▲7	▲6	▲6	▲6	▲6	▲5	▲5	▲5	▲4	▲3	▲3	▲1	▲1	▲1	▼1	▼1	▼3	▼5	▼5	▼6	▼8	▼12
No	53	52	57	57	51	47	44	44	51	52	44	64	42	67	56	53	56	66	56	52	50	72	55	48	48	63	57	46	
Δ Dec 2019	=	▼4	▼2	▼6	▼7	▼6	▼2	▼7	▼4	▼5	▼2	▼4	▼4	▼4	▼1	▼3	▼2	=	▲1	▼1	▲2	▲4	▲3	▲6	▲5	▲12	▲9	▲12	
Don't know	1	2	1	1	0	2	1	1	2	1	1	1	0	1	2	1	1	0	0	1	0	0	4	2	1	1	1	1	
Δ Dec 2019	▼2	▼9	▼9	▼3	▼2	▼1	▼5	=	▼2	▼1	▼4	▼2	▼1	▼1	▼4	▼1	▼1	▼1	▼2	=	▼1	▼3	=	▼1	=	▼6	▼1	=	

Base: all respondents (n = 26,509)

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

- Men (50%) are more likely than women (42%) to know where to report a case of corruption if they were to witness or experience one.
- Respondents aged 25+, and particularly those aged 40-54 (50%), are more likely to know where to report corruption than those aged 15-24 (38%).
- Those who completed their education aged 20+ (52%) are the most likely to know where to report corruption, particularly compared to those who finished aged 15 or younger (43%).
- The self-employed (54%), managers (53%) and the unemployed (52%) are the most likely to know where to report corruption.
- Those with the least financial difficulties are the most likely to know where to report corruption (48%).
- The majority of respondents who consider themselves as belonging to the upper (58%) or upper middle class (52%) know where to report corruption, compared to a minority of those who place themselves lower on the social staircase.
- The majority of respondents who have witnessed (57%) or experienced (54%) corruption in the past 12 months know where to report it, compared to 46% who have neither witnessed nor experienced it.
- Those who think corruption is unacceptable are much more likely to know where to report it than those who say it is acceptable (48% vs 32%).
- Finally, those who know someone who takes bribes are more likely to know where to report corruption (59% vs 45% who don't know someone who does this).

**QA10** 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	46	53	1
<b>Gender</b>			
Man	50	49	1
Woman	42	57	1
<b>Age</b>			
15-24	38	61	1
25-39	44	55	1
40-54	50	49	1
55 +	48	51	1
<b>Education (End of)</b>			
15-	43	56	1
16-19	45	54	1
20+	52	47	1
Still studying	36	63	1
<b>Socio-professional category</b>			
Self-employed	54	46	0
Managers	53	47	0
Other white collars	47	52	1
Manual workers	44	55	1
House persons	38	61	1
Unemployed	52	47	1
Retired	47	52	1
Students	36	63	1
<b>Difficulties paying bills</b>			
Most of the time	43	56	1
From time to time	42	57	1
Almost never/ Never	48	51	1
<b>Consider belonging to</b>			
The working class	45	54	1
The lower middle class	42	57	1
The middle class	48	51	1
The upper middle class	52	48	0
The upper class	58	42	0
<b>Experienced or witnessed corruption</b>			
Yes, experienced	54	46	0
Yes, witnessed	57	43	0
No	46	53	1
<b>Tolerance index to corruption</b>			
Acceptable	32	68	0
Tolerated	44	55	1
Unacceptable	48	51	1
<b>You know someone who takes bribes</b>			
Yes	59	40	1
No	45	54	1

## 4. Reasons for not reporting corruption

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

All 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 they thought were the most important.<sup>33</sup>

Almost half (48%, +3 percentage points since December 2019) think the fact that it is **difficult to prove anything** is one of the most important reasons why people decide not to report corruption. This is the only reason given by more than three in ten.

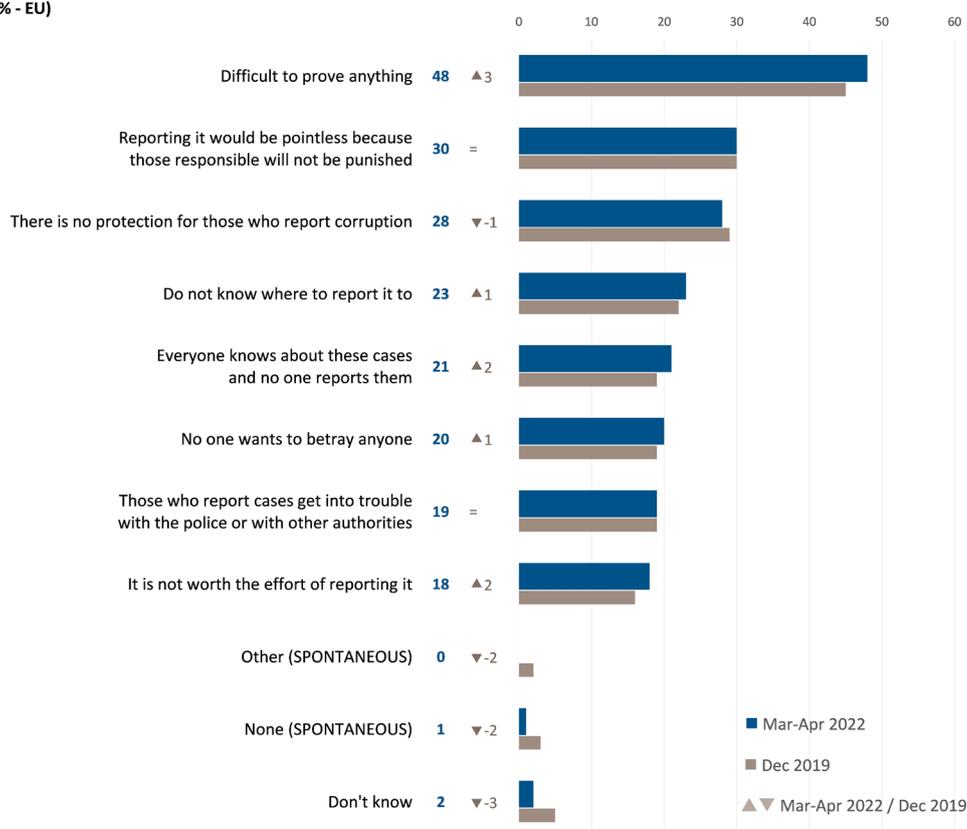
Three in ten say **reporting it would be pointless because those responsible will not be punished** (30%, =), while almost as many say **there is no protection for those who report corruption** (28%, -1).

At least one in five say they **do not know where to report it to** (23%, +1), that **everyone knows about these cases and no one reports them** (21%, +2) or that **no one wants to betray anyone** (20%, +1). Almost one in five say **those who report cases get into trouble with the police or with other authorities** (19%, =).

Finally, 18% (+2) say people don't report corruption because **it is not worth the effort of reporting it**.

A regional analysis shows respondents from the Member States part of the EU already in 2004 are much more likely than those from the new Member States of the EU since 2004 and afterwards to say the difficulty in proving anything (50% vs 40%) or not knowing where to report it (24% vs. 17%) are the most important reasons why people may decide not to report a case of corruption. Those in countries that became EU Member States in 2004 or afterwards (24%) are more likely than those from countries already Member States of the EU in 2004 (18%) to say people who report cases get into trouble with the police or with other authorities.

QA14 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)



Base: all respondents (n = 26,509)

<sup>33</sup> QA14. I am going to read out some possible reasons why people may decide not to report a case of corruption. Please tell me those which you think are the most important? (MAX. 3 ANSWERS)

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In 23 EU Member States, **difficulty in proving anything** is the most mentioned reason why people may choose not to report corruption, and it also ranks second or third in the remaining four countries. This reason is most widely mentioned by respondents in Czechia (61%), Finland (60%) and Denmark and Sweden (both 59%). In contrast, 32% in Romania, 33% in Malta and 34% in Croatia give this as an important reason for not reporting corruption.

**Reporting it would be pointless because those responsible will not be punished** ranks first in five countries: Cyprus (53%), Greece (51%), Malta (41%), Croatia (38%) and Romania (32%). It is also mentioned by at least four in ten in Slovenia (46%), Latvia (43%) and Portugal (42%). In contrast 21% in France and Luxembourg also give this as an important reason why people do not report corruption.

None of the other reasons rank first in any EU Member State, and no other reason is mentioned by at least half of all respondents.

- At least four in ten in the Netherlands (49%) and Cyprus (43%) say a **lack of protection for those who report corruption** is a reason people do not report it.
- Sweden (42%) is the only country where at least four in ten mention **not knowing where to report corruption**.
- Greece (41%), Croatia (36%) and Italy (32%) are the only countries where at least three in ten say **everyone knows about these cases and no one reports them**.
- Denmark (31%) is the only country where at least three in ten mention **no one wanting to betray anyone**.
- There are five countries where at least three in ten say **those who report cases get into trouble with the police or with other authorities**: Czechia (33%), Lithuania and Cyprus (both 31%), and Slovakia and Bulgaria (both 30%).
- Portugal (37%) and Croatia (31%) are the only countries where at least three in ten say **it is not worth the effort of reporting it**.

QA14 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	BE	BG	CZ	DK	DE	EE	IE	EL	ES	FR	HR	IT	CY	LV	LT	LU	HU	MT	NL	AT	PL	PT	RO	SI	SK	FI	SE
Difficult to prove anything	48	58	46	61	59	54	42	44	47	40	55	34	42	40	49	47	58	47	33	54	46	36	46	32	47	40	60	59
Reporting it would be pointless because those responsible will not be punished	30	32	36	36	28	26	30	27	51	32	21	38	33	53	43	37	21	36	41	36	34	24	42	32	46	34	30	30
There is no protection for those who report corruption	28	27	36	29	19	23	22	30	32	25	28	36	31	43	30	30	25	22	35	49	21	24	37	28	36	30	13	32
Do not know where to report it to	23	34	17	13	31	23	17	24	18	21	28	12	19	9	15	16	19	21	18	32	29	16	20	21	15	18	34	42
Everyone knows about these cases and no one reports them	21	18	29	21	8	15	14	18	41	19	19	36	32	29	18	21	20	24	27	14	24	21	18	27	29	28	9	11
No one wants to betray anyone	20	24	5	12	31	27	29	22	20	13	23	19	10	14	21	23	26	19	16	22	26	28	12	17	17	19	14	16
Those who report cases get into trouble with the police or with other authorities	19	16	30	33	8	20	17	14	28	20	16	20	17	31	22	31	17	13	22	23	21	23	23	21	23	30	11	9
It is not worth the effort of reporting it	18	20	20	18	20	20	22	21	16	22	9	31	14	29	19	17	15	24	29	15	29	18	37	19	28	23	17	21
Other (SPONTANEOUS)	0	1	0	0	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
None (SPONTANEOUS)	1	0	0	0	2	3	1	2	0	1	2	1	1	0	0	0	1	0	1	2	1	0	1	1	0	0	3	3
Don't know	2	0	2	1	4	1	6	3	0	2	3	0	1	0	2	1	2	1	4	1	1	2	3	2	1	2	3	1
1st MOST FREQUENTLY MENTIONED ITEM																												
2nd MOST FREQUENTLY MENTIONED ITEM																												
3rd MOST FREQUENTLY MENTIONED ITEM																												

Base: all respondents (n = 26,509)

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Compared to December 2019, respondents in 21 EU Member States are now more likely to say difficulty proving anything is an important reason why people do not report corruption. The largest increases are seen in Austria (46%, +10 percentage points) and Italy (42%, +10). The proportion has declined in six countries including Estonia (42%, -9).

In 13 countries including Malta (27%, +12) respondents are now more likely to say everyone knows about these cases and no one reports them. In contrast the proportion mentioning this reason has declined slightly in 11 countries, and remains unchanged in Hungary, Germany and Estonia.

The proportions who mention it not being worth the effort of reporting corruption have increased in 17 countries including Portugal (37%, +13) and Malta (29%, +12). Proportions have declined in seven countries including Finland (17%, -10).

Changes in mentions of other reasons are all less than ten percentage points, with the largest a nine-point increase in the proportion who says not knowing where to report corruption is an important reason in Germany (23%).

QA14 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	BE	BG	CZ	DK	DE	EE	IE	EL	ES	FR	HR	IT	CY	LV	LT	LU	HU	MT	NL	AT	PL	PT	RO	SI	SK	FI	SE		
Difficult to prove anything	Feb/Mar 2022	48	58	46	61	59	54	42	44	47	40	55	34	42	40	49	47	58	47	33	54	46	36	46	32	47	40	60	59		
	Δ Dec 2019	▲3	▲5	▲8	▲5	▲4	▲6	▼9	▲1	▲2	▼2	▲3	▼1	▲10	▲2	▲1	▼2	▲1	▲2	▲8	▲2	▲10	▲4	▲5	▲5	▲3	▼4	▲2	▼2		
Reporting it would be pointless because those responsible will not be punished	Feb/Mar 2022	30	32	36	36	28	26	30	27	51	32	21	38	33	53	43	37	21	36	41	36	34	24	42	32	46	34	30	30		
	Δ Dec 2019	=	▼1	▼3	▲1	▲2	▲3	▼2	▼7	▲8	▲1	▼5	▼2	▼4	=	=	=	▲1	▼3	▲8	▼3	▲5	▲3	▲4	▲5	▲5	▲6	▲3	▲1		
There is no protection for those who report corruption	Feb/Mar 2022	28	27	36	29	19	23	22	30	32	25	28	36	31	43	30	30	25	22	35	49	21	24	37	28	36	30	13	32		
	Δ Dec 2019	▼1	▲1	▼3	▲4	▼6	▲2	▼2	▼2	=	▼5	▼4	▼3	▼1	=	▲5	▼1	▼4	▼2	=	=	▲1	▲4	▲3	▲3	▲3	▼1	▼2	▲1		
Do not know where to report it to	Feb/Mar 2022	23	34	17	13	31	23	17	24	18	21	28	12	19	9	15	16	19	21	18	32	29	16	20	21	15	18	34	42		
	Δ Dec 2019	▲1	▲5	▼1	▼1	=	▲9	▼5	=	▲3	▼2	▼5	=	▲3	▼3	=	▼1	▼2	▼1	▲5	=	▲5	▲3	▲6	▲2	▼1	▼2	▲6	▲5		
Everyone knows about these cases and no one reports them	Feb/Mar 2022	21	18	29	21	8	15	14	18	41	19	19	36	32	29	18	21	20	24	27	14	24	21	18	27	29	28	9	11		
	Δ Dec 2019	▲2	▼1	▲4	▼3	▼5	=	=	▼1	▲5	▲4	▲3	▲2	▲1	▼1	▼2	▼3	▲4	=	▲12	▲3	▲6	▲1	▼5	▼1	▲2	▲3	▼4	▼4		
No one wants to betray anyone	Feb/Mar 2022	20	24	5	12	31	27	29	22	20	13	23	19	10	14	21	23	26	19	16	22	26	28	12	17	17	19	14	16		
	Δ Dec 2019	▲1	▲3	▼1	▼5	▼6	▲5	▲4	▲1	▲2	▼1	▼1	▲1	=	=	=	▼3	▲5	▼1	▲2	▼3	▼2	▼2	▲1	=	=	▼3	▼7	▼8		
Those who report cases get into trouble with the police or with other authorities	Feb/Mar 2022	19	16	30	33	8	20	17	14	28	20	16	20	17	31	22	31	17	13	22	23	21	23	23	21	23	30	11	9		
	Δ Dec 2019	=	▼1	▼2	▲5	=	=	▲1	▼3	▼2	▼1	▼1	▼1	▼1	▼2	▲3	▲6	▼4	▼7	▼3	▼2	=	▲1	▲3	▲2	=	▲3	▲1	▲1		
It is not worth the effort of reporting it	Feb/Mar 2022	18	20	20	18	20	20	22	21	16	22	9	31	14	29	19	17	15	24	29	15	29	15	29	18	37	19	28	23	17	21
	Δ Dec 2019	▲2	=	▲2	▼2	▼5	▲5	▲3	=	▲2	▲4	▲2	▲4	▼2	▲7	▼5	=	▲5	▲3	▲12	▼2	▲5	▲1	▲13	▲2	▼1	▲3	▼10	▲2		
Other (SPONTANEOUS)	Feb/Mar 2022	0	1	0	0	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		
	Δ Dec 2019	▼2	=	▼1	▼3	▼3	▼4	▼2	=	▼2	▼3	▼1	▼1	▼1	▼1	▼2	▼2	▼1	▼1	▼1	▼2	▼4	▼3	▼5	▼3	▼3	▼1	▼1	▼1		
None (SPONTANEOUS)	Feb/Mar 2022	1	0	0	0	2	3	1	2	0	1	2	1	1	0	0	1	0	1	2	1	0	1	1	0	1	0	3	3		
	Δ Dec 2019	▼2	▼1	=	▼1	▼2	▼2	▼1	=	▼1	▼1	▼2	=	▼2	▼1	▼1	▼1	▼5	▼3	▼5	▲1	▼2	▼2	=	▼3	▼1	▼2	▼1	=		
Don't know	Feb/Mar 2022	2	0	2	1	4	1	6	3	0	2	3	0	1	0	2	1	2	1	4	1	1	2	3	2	1	2	3	1		
	Δ Dec 2019	▼3	▼2	▼3	=	=	▼8	▼3	▼2	▼2	▼1	▼1	▼1	▼5	▼2	=	=	▼5	▼1	▼6	▲1	▼2	▼4	▼1	▼5	▲1	▼1	▼1	▼1		

Base: all respondents (n = 26,509)

**Special Eurobarometer 523**  
**Corruption**  
**March-April 2022**

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

- Those aged 15-24 are more likely than older age groups to say people don't report corruption because it is difficult to prove anything (53%) or that people don't know where to report it (30%).
- The longer a respondent spent in education, the more likely they are to mention it being difficult to prove anything or that people don't know where to report it.
- The self-employed are the most likely to say it is difficult to prove anything, particularly compared to house persons (50% vs 38%). Students (33%) are more likely than other socio-occupation groups to say people don't know where to report corruption.
- The more financial difficulties a respondent experiences, the more likely they are to mention it is difficult to prove anything or that reporting it would be pointless because those responsible will not be punished, and the less likely they are to say no one wants to betray anyone.
- Respondents who think corruption in their country is widespread are more likely than those who think it is rare to say reporting would be pointless because those responsible will not be punished (34% vs 23%), that there is no protection for those who report corruption (30% vs 23%) or that everyone knows about these cases and no one reports them (25% vs 13%). The reverse is true for not knowing where to report corruption (20% vs 27%) or no one wants to betray anyone (18% vs 24%).
- Respondents who know where to report corruption are more likely than those who do not to say it is difficult to prove anything (52% vs 44%), that there is no protection for those who report corruption (31% vs 25%) or that everyone knows about these cases and no one reports them (24% vs 19%).

**QA14** 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?

	Difficult to prove anything	Reporting it would be pointless because those responsible will not be punished	There is no protection for those who report corruption	Do not know where to report it to	Everyone knows about these cases and no one reports them
EU27	48	30	28	23	21
<b>Age</b>					
15-24	53	28	26	30	19
25-39	47	32	27	24	21
40-54	48	32	30	21	22
55 +	46	28	27	21	21
<b>Education (End of)</b>					
15-	40	30	27	17	22
16-19	47	29	28	21	23
20+	52	31	28	24	19
Still studying	52	29	29	33	20
<b>Socio-professional category</b>					
Self-employed	50	33	29	21	26
Managers	53	30	28	25	18
Other white collars	48	32	28	24	22
Manual workers	46	30	29	20	22
House persons	38	31	29	20	24
Unemployed	49	35	28	20	21
Retired	46	27	26	21	21
Students	52	29	29	33	20
<b>Difficulties paying bills</b>					
Most of the time	44	41	31	20	23
From time to time	44	32	29	21	26
Almost never/ Never	50	28	27	24	19
<b>In (OUR COUNTRY) corruption is</b>					
Widespread	47	34	30	20	25
Rare	51	23	23	27	13
<b>Do you know to whom reporting corruption cases to?</b>					
Yes	52	32	31	14	24
No	44	28	25	30	19

**Special Eurobarometer 523**  
**Corruption**  
**March-April 2022**

**QA14** 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?

	No one wants to betray anyone	Those who report cases get into trouble with the police or with other authorities	It is not worth the effort of reporting it	Other (SPONTANEOUS)	None (SPONTANEOUS)	Don't know
EU27	20	19	18	0	1	2
 <b>Age</b>						
15-24	23	17	18	0	0	2
25-39	22	20	20	0	1	1
40-54	19	20	19	0	1	1
55 +	19	20	17	1	2	2
 <b>Education (End of)</b>						
15-	19	20	18	1	1	2
16-19	20	20	17	0	1	2
20+	20	19	19	1	2	1
Still studying	21	16	17	1	0	1
 <b>Socio-professional category</b>						
Self-employed	17	19	20	0	2	0
Managers	20	20	20	1	2	1
Other white collars	21	18	18	0	1	2
Manual workers	21	20	19	0	1	2
House persons	17	22	19	0	1	3
Unemployed	20	23	18	0	0	1
Retired	20	19	16	1	2	3
Students	21	16	17	1	0	1
 <b>Difficulties paying bills</b>						
Most of the time	15	22	20	0	1	1
From time to time	19	22	18	0	1	1
Almost never/ Never	21	18	18	1	2	2
<b>In (OUR COUNTRY) corruption is</b>						
Widespread	18	21	19	0	1	1
Rare	24	17	17	0	2	2
<b>Do you know to whom reporting corruption cases to?</b>						
Yes	20	21	17	1	2	1
No	20	18	19	0	1	2

## 5. Level of trust in authorities

### The police are the only institution trusted by more than three in ten to deal with complaints about corruption

More than six in ten respondents (63%) say they most trust the **police** to deal with a complaint about a case of corruption.<sup>34</sup> This is an increase of five percentage points since 2019 and the only answer mentioned by at least three in ten.

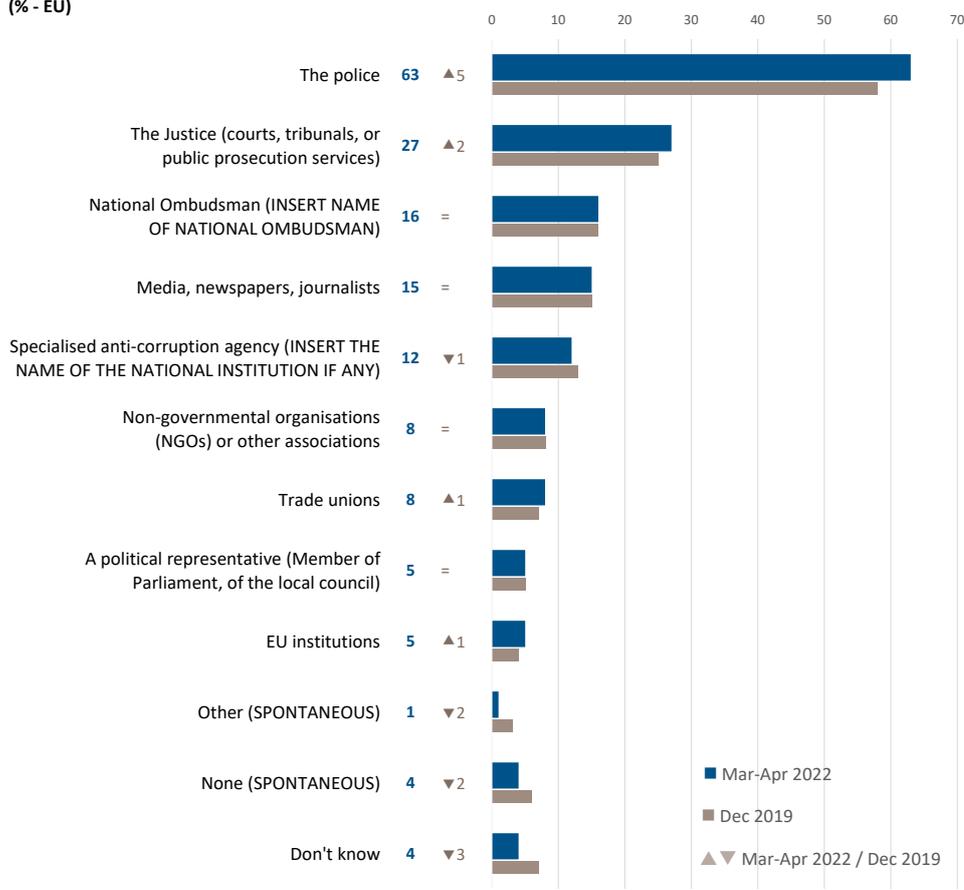
Just over one quarter trust the **Justice** (27%, +2 percentage points) and this is the only other answer given by at least one in five.

More than one in ten would trust the **National Ombudsman** (16%, =), **the media, newspapers, journalists** (15%, =) or a **specialised anti-corruption agency** (12%, -1).

Fewer than one in ten mention **non-governmental organisations or other associations** (8%, =), **trade unions** (8%, +1), a **political representative** (5%, =) or **EU institutions** (5%, +1). Almost one in twenty (4%, -2) say they trust none of the options given, while 4% (-3) say they don't know.

Regional analysis illustrates respondents from the countries already EU Member States in 2004 are far more likely than those from the 13 Member States that joined the EU in 2004 or afterwards to trust the police (67% vs 51%), the Justice (31% vs 15%), and are more likely to trust trade unions (9% vs 4%). Respondents living in euro area countries are more likely than those in non-euro area countries to trust the police (66% vs 54%) or the Justice (29% vs 21%), but they are less likely to trust a specialised anti-corruption agency (11% vs 16%).

QA11 And if you wanted to complain about this case of corruption, who would you trust most to deal with it?  
(MULTIPLE ANSWERS POSSIBLE)  
(% - EU)



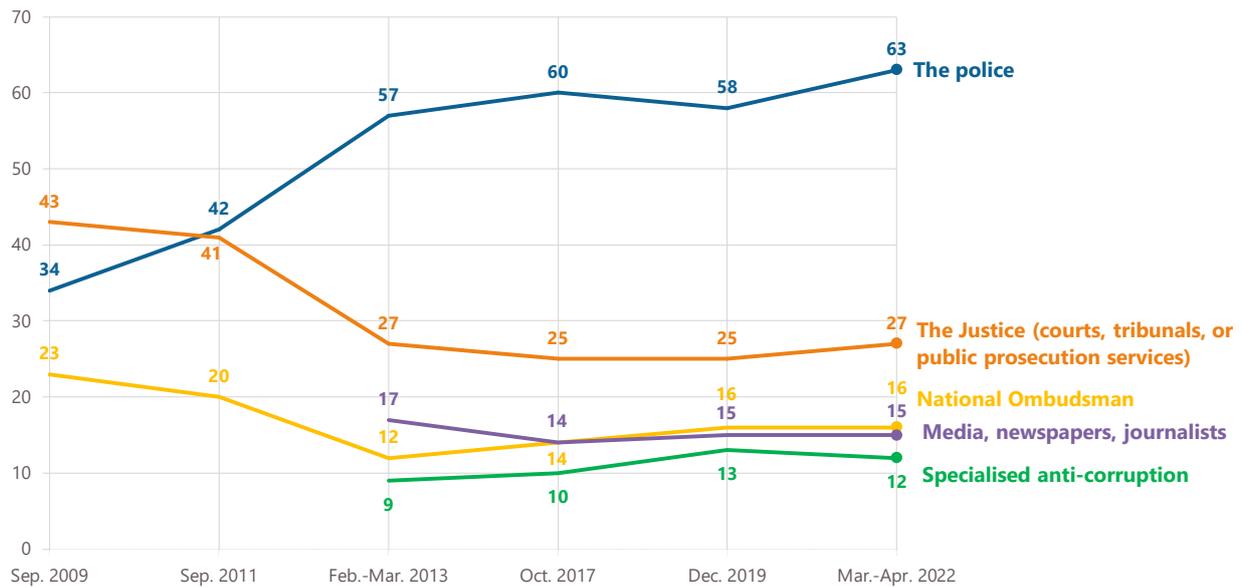
Base: all respondents (n = 26,509)

<sup>34</sup> QA11. And if you wanted to complain about this case of corruption, who would you trust most to deal with it? (MULTIPLE ANSWERS POSSIBLE)

**Special Eurobarometer 523**  
**Corruption**  
**March-April 2022**

After a slight decrease between October 2017 and December 2019, trust in the police has once again increased. Trust in the police is now at its highest ever level (63%), 29 percentage points higher than it was in September 2009. The proportions mentioning each other institution have remained relatively stable since February-March 2013. Over the longer term, the proportion trusting the Justice is 16 percentage points lower than in September 2009, while the proportion trusting the National Ombudsman is seven points lower.

**QA11** And if you wanted to complain about this case of corruption, who would you trust most to deal with it?  
(MULTIPLE ANSWERS POSSIBLE)  
(% EU)



*Base: all respondents (n = 26,509)*

Special Eurobarometer 523  
Corruption  
March-April 2022

In 26 EU Member States respondents are most likely to say they would trust the **police** to deal with their complaint about a case of corruption, with the highest proportions seen in Finland (78%), Luxembourg (74%), Denmark (73%) and Italy (72%).

In Latvia (40%) the **specialised anti-corruption agency**<sup>35</sup> is the most trusted, and this is also mentioned by more than one third in Croatia (39%) and Lithuania (35%). This is the only other institution that ranks first in any EU Member State.

Highlights from the other seven institutions or bodies include:

- More than half (56%) in Sweden trust **the Justice** system, and it is the only country where the majority mention this.
- The Netherlands (51%) is the only country where more than one third mention the **National Ombudsman**.
- Sweden (28%) and Croatia (26%) are the only countries where more than one quarter mention the **media, newspapers or journalists**.
- Fewer than one in five in any country mention **NGOs or other associations**, with the largest proportion in Hungary (17%).
- At least one in five in the Netherlands (23%) and Belgium (20%) would trust **trade unions** with their complaint.
- Austria (11%) and the Netherlands (10%) are the only country where at least one in ten mention a **political representative**.
- Malta (16%), Latvia (15%) and Cyprus (11%) are the only countries where more than one in ten mention **EU institutions**.

QA11 And if you wanted to complain about this case of corruption, who would you trust most to deal with it? (MULTIPLE ANSWERS POSSIBLE)  
(%)

	EU27	BE	BG	CZ	DK	DE	EE	IE	EL	ES	FR	HR	IT	CY	LV	LT	LU	HU	MT	NL	AT	PL	PT	RO	SI	SK	FI	SE
The police	63	57	44	59	73	70	64	64	70	70	60	43	72	52	31	44	74	43	47	61	54	60	62	38	47	57	78	66
The Justice (courts, tribunals, or public prosecution services)	27	29	12	9	44	34	24	10	35	34	30	12	18	19	9	9	32	21	13	44	29	18	23	15	14	9	26	56
National Ombudsman (INSERT NAME OF NATIONAL OMBUDSMAN)	16	23	11	21	24	23	13	28	23	10	11	7	4	29	19	1	13	17	20	51	21	10	13	11	31	17	17	30
Media, newspapers, journalists	15	20	21	24	24	17	14	11	11	8	16	26	10	21	22	24	12	13	18	24	21	15	10	17	20	22	15	28
Specialised anti-corruption agency (INSERT THE NAME OF THE NATIONAL INSTITUTION IF ANY)	12	0	20	19	0	0	0	0	30	11	20	39	15	0	40	35	0	0	20	0	29	15	22	32	31	0	0	0
Non-governmental organisations (NGOs) or other associations	8	13	5	11	8	9	5	6	3	4	10	10	4	10	8	6	9	17	16	10	14	6	3	10	16	12	6	9
Trade unions	8	20	1	4	14	9	5	5	2	5	10	4	4	3	3	3	12	5	4	23	11	4	4	6	7	2	9	16
A political representative (Member of Parliament, of the local council)	5	7	2	1	8	7	4	5	1	1	4	4	3	5	1	1	4	6	6	10	11	5	2	8	1	5	2	5
EU institutions	5	7	4	5	9	5	3	6	3	4	2	10	2	11	15	5	4	9	16	7	5	4	5	8	10	10	4	8
Other (SPONTANEOUS)	1	0	1	1	1	1	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	1	2	1	1	0	0	1	0	0	1	1	1	0	0
None (SPONTANEOUS)	4	2	11	4	1	4	6	3	5	5	5	3	2	16	5	9	1	8	4	1	5	3	5	7	5	9	1	1
Don't know	4	3	9	4	2	2	8	7	2	3	5	4	6	5	4	4	2	8	4	0	4	6	10	5	2	6	3	2
1st MOST FREQUENTLY MENTIONED ITEM																												
2nd MOST FREQUENTLY MENTIONED ITEM																												
3rd MOST FREQUENTLY MENTIONED ITEM																												

Base: all respondents (n = 26,509)

<sup>35</sup> This item was not asked in Belgium, Denmark, Germany, Estonia, Ireland, Cyprus, Luxembourg, Hungary, the Netherlands, Slovakia, Finland and Sweden as there are no such agency

**Special Eurobarometer 523**  
**Corruption**  
**March-April 2022**

In 23 EU Member States the proportions mentioning the police have increased since December 2019, with the largest seen in Luxembourg (74%, +23), France (60%, +12), Bulgaria (44%, +12), Slovakia (57%, +11) and Italy (72%, +10). The proportions have declined slightly in the remaining four countries with the largest observed in Sweden (66%, -5).

In 14 countries respondents are now more likely to mention the National Ombudsman, with the largest increase observed in Slovenia (31%, +12). Mentions have declined in 12 countries including Luxembourg (13%, -8) and remain unchanged in Croatia.

Compared to 2019, respondents in Greece (30%, +13) and Portugal (22%, +12) are now more likely to mention a specialised anti-corruption agency. Apart from Czechia<sup>36</sup>, mentions have increased in 12 countries in total, declined in two, and remain unchanged in 12 countries.

For all other bodies the changes since 2019 are less than ten percentage points.

QA11 And if you wanted to complain about this case of corruption, who would you trust most to deal with it? (MULTIPLE ANSWERS POSSIBLE) (%)

		EU27	BE	BG	CZ	DK	DE	EE	IE	EL	ES	FR	HR	IT	CY	LV	LT	LU	HU	MT	NL	AT	PL	PT	RO	SI	SK	FI	SE
The police	Feb/Mar 2022	63	57	44	59	73	70	64	64	70	70	60	43	72	52	31	44	74	43	47	61	54	60	62	38	47	57	78	66
	Δ Dec 2019	▲5	▲1	▲12	▼3	▼3	▲1	▲2	▲12	▲1	▲8	▲12	▲5	▲10	▲8	▼6	▲13	▲23	▲3	▲4	▲1	▲10	▲5	▲6	▲1	▲5	▲11	▲3	▼5
The Justice (courts, tribunals, or public prosecution services)	Feb/Mar 2022	27	29	12	9	44	34	24	10	35	34	30	12	18	19	9	9	32	21	13	44	29	18	23	15	14	9	26	56
	Δ Dec 2019	▲2	▲3	▲3	▲1	▲5	▲1	▼1	▼6	▲5	▼1	▼1	▲3	=	▲1	▲1	=	▼3	▼1	▲1	▼2	▲3	▲4	=	▲4	▲7	=	▼2	▼5
National Ombudsman (INSERT NAME OF NATIONAL OMBUDSMAN)	Feb/Mar 2022	16	23	11	21	24	23	13	28	23	10	11	7	4	29	19	1	13	17	20	51	21	10	13	11	31	17	17	30
	Δ Dec 2019	=	▲3	▼2	▲4	▼4	▲4	▲1	▲3	▼4	▼5	▼3	=	▲1	▼2	▲4	▼1	▼8	▲2	▲2	▼2	▼1	▼3	▲3	▲5	▲12	▲5	▲1	▼5
Media, newspapers, journalists	Feb/Mar 2022	15	20	21	24	24	17	14	11	11	8	16	26	10	21	22	24	12	13	18	24	21	15	10	17	20	22	15	28
	Δ Dec 2019	=	▲2	▲1	▲7	▼4	▲1	▲2	▼3	▲1	▼8	=	▼3	▼3	▼1	▼3	▼9	▼4	▼4	▲7	▲3	▲2	▲1	▼3	▲2	▲1	▼7	▲4	▲1
Specialised anti-corruption agency (INSERT THE NAME OF THE NATIONAL INSTITUTION IF ANY)	Feb/Mar 2022	12	0	20	19	0	0	0	0	30	11	20	39	15	0	40	35	0	0	20	0	29	15	22	32	31	0	0	0
	Δ Dec 2019	▼1	=	▲2	▲19	=	=	=	=	▲13	▼4	▼6	▲6	▲2	=	▲8	▲6	=	=	▲7	=	▲4	▲4	▲12	▲2	▲4	=	=	=
Trade unions	Feb/Mar 2022	8	20	1	4	14	9	5	5	2	5	10	4	4	3	3	3	12	5	4	23	11	4	4	6	7	2	9	16
	Δ Dec 2019	▲1	▲3	▼1	=	▼5	▲3	▲1	▼2	=	▼2	=	▲2	▼2	=	▼2	=	▼2	▼1	▲1	▲5	=	=	▲2	▲2	▲2	▼1	▼3	▼2
Non-governmental organisations (NGOs) or other associations	Feb/Mar 2022	8	13	5	11	8	9	5	6	3	4	10	10	4	10	8	6	9	17	16	10	14	6	3	10	16	12	6	9
	Δ Dec 2019	=	▲2	▲1	▲4	▲1	▲2	▲1	▼4	▼1	▼2	▼2	▼3	▼2	▼2	▲1	=	▲1	▲2	▲8	▲4	▼2	▲1	=	▲4	▲7	▲2	=	▼1
EU institutions	Feb/Mar 2022	5	7	4	5	9	5	3	6	3	4	2	10	2	11	15	5	4	9	16	7	5	4	5	8	10	10	4	8
	Δ Dec 2019	▲1	▲1	=	▲3	▲3	▲3	▼2	▲1	▼1	▼1	=	=	▼2	▲1	▲4	▼1	=	▼5	▲2	=	=	▼1	▲2	▲2	▲2	▲4	=	▼2
A political representative (Member of Parliament, of the local council)	Feb/Mar 2022	5	7	2	1	8	7	4	5	1	1	4	4	3	5	1	1	4	6	6	10	11	5	2	8	1	5	2	5
	Δ Dec 2019	=	▲2	▲1	▼2	▼3	▲3	▲1	▼3	=	▲2	▲2	▼1	▼2	▼1	=	▼2	▼1	▲4	▼3	▲1	▲1	=	▲3	=	=	▼2	▼3	
Other (SPONTANEOUS)	Feb/Mar 2022	1	0	1	1	1	1	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	1	2	1	1	0	0	1	0	0	1	1	0
	Δ Dec 2019	▼2	▼4	▼1	▼5	▼8	▼2	▼4	▼2	▼3	▼2	▼2	▼2	▼2	▼1	▼2	▼4	▼4	▼1	▼3	▼2	▼1	▼4	▼4	▼2	▼2	▼3	▼2	▼1
None (SPONTANEOUS)	Feb/Mar 2022	4	2	11	4	1	4	6	3	5	5	5	3	2	16	5	9	1	8	4	1	5	3	5	7	5	9	1	1
	Δ Dec 2019	▼2	▼2	▼1	▲1	▼1	▲1	▼1	=	▼2	▲1	▼4	▼3	▼2	▲3	▼4	▼4	▼9	▼5	▼7	=	▼2	▼2	▼8	▼5	▼12	▼1	▼1	▼1
Don't know	Feb/Mar 2022	4	3	9	4	2	2	8	7	2	3	5	4	6	5	4	4	2	8	4	0	4	6	10	5	2	6	3	2
	Δ Dec 2019	▼3	▲1	▼14	▼5	=	▼3	▼2	▼7	=	▼4	▼1	▼2	▼3	▼2	▼1	▼1	▼2	▲1	▼7	▼1	▼4	=	▼5	▼2	▼6	▼4	=	

Base: all respondents (n = 26,509)

<sup>36</sup> This item was asked for the first time in Czechia in this edition of the survey

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The socio-demographic analysis illustrates the following:

- Men (30%) are more likely than women (25%) to trust the Justice if they wanted to complain about a case of corruption.
- The longer a respondent remained in education, the more likely they are to trust the National Ombudsman, the media, newspapers or journalists, NGOs or trade unions. In addition, those who completed education aged 20 or older are the most likely to trust the Justice, particularly compared to those who completed school prior to age 16 (33% vs 21%). In contrast, those who completed school aged 15 or younger are the most likely to trust the police (69%).
- Managers are more likely than other socio-occupation groups to trust the Justice (37%) or the National Ombudsman (24%).
- The fewer financial difficulties a respondent experiences, the more likely they are to trust the police, the Justice or the National Ombudsman.
- Those who consider themselves as belonging to the upper middle class are more likely than other social classes to trust the Justice (42%), the National Ombudsman (30%) or the media, newspapers or journalists (22%). Those who put themselves in the upper class are the most likely to trust the police (72%) or a specialised anti-corruption agency (26%).

**QA11** And if you wanted to complain about this case of corruption, who would you trust most to deal with?  
(MULTIPLE ANSWERS POSSIBLE) (% - EU)

	The police	The Justice (courts, tribunals, or public prosecution services)	National Ombudsman (INSERT NAME OF NATIONAL OMBUDSMAN)	Non-governmental organisations (NGOs) or other associations	Media, newspapers, journalists	National Ombudsman (INSERT NAME OF NATIONAL OMBUDSMAN)	A political representative (Member of Parliament, of the local council)	Specialised anti-corruption agency (INSERT THE NAME OF THE NATIONAL INSTITUTION IF ANY)	Non-governmental organisations (NGOs) or other associations	Trade unions	A political representative (Member of Parliament, of the local council)	EU institutions
EU27	63	27	16	8	15	16	5	12	8	8	5	5
<b>Gender</b>												
Man	62	30	16	8	17	16	5	13	8	7	5	5
Woman	64	25	16	7	14	16	4	12	7	8	4	4
<b>Education (End of)</b>												
15-	69	21	9	4	8	9	3	8	4	3	3	3
16-19	61	24	13	7	15	13	4	13	7	6	4	4
20+	64	33	22	10	20	22	5	14	10	10	5	6
Still studying	63	31	16	11	18	16	7	14	11	12	7	8
<b>Socio-professional category</b>												
Self-employed	61	28	18	10	17	18	5	14	10	5	5	6
Managers	67	37	24	11	18	24	5	16	11	11	5	7
Other white collars	63	27	17	8	16	17	4	14	8	8	4	5
Manual workers	61	26	13	8	15	13	5	12	8	8	5	4
House persons	67	21	11	6	12	11	4	10	6	5	4	3
Unemployed	60	26	13	6	17	13	2	13	6	7	2	3
Retired	64	24	15	5	14	15	4	9	5	5	4	3
Students	63	31	16	11	18	16	7	14	11	12	7	8
<b>Difficulties paying bills</b>												
Most of the time	55	20	13	5	15	13	3	14	5	7	3	3
From time to time	60	23	12	8	16	12	5	15	8	7	5	5
Almost never/ Never	65	30	18	8	16	18	5	11	8	8	5	5
<b>Consider belonging to</b>												
The working class	62	23	11	5	12	11	3	10	5	5	3	3
The lower middle class	61	23	13	7	14	13	4	11	7	7	4	3
The middle class	64	28	16	8	16	16	5	13	8	8	5	5
The upper middle class	65	42	30	12	22	30	8	13	12	13	8	9
The upper class	72	29	22	5	16	22	6	26	5	3	6	6

# CONCLUSION



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### Corruption

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Results from the current survey show that the majority of Europeans think corruption is unacceptable. However, although more than six in ten Europeans think this way, the proportion has declined since December 2019. During the same period, the belief has become more widespread that it is acceptable to give a gift or do a favour to get something from a public administration or a public service, although these views are still held by fewer than three in ten.

Attitudes to corruption vary considerably across the EU: more than three quarters in Ireland, Luxembourg and Portugal think it is unacceptable, compared to fewer than four in ten in Latvia, Czechia and Hungary.

Exposure to corruption also influences attitudes. Europeans who have witnessed or experienced corruption are less likely to view corruption as unacceptable, and more likely to think it is acceptable to do a favour, give a gift or give money when they want something from the public administration or public service. They are also more likely to think corruption is widespread in their country in general, and also in the specific institutions and bodies asked about – particularly the healthcare system.

Almost seven in ten Europeans (68%) think corruption is widespread in their country, a slight decline compared to 2019 (-3 percentage points) but notably lower than in 2013 (-8 pp). Since December 2019 the proportion of respondents who think corruption is widespread in their country has declined in 20 countries. However, considerable national variation remains, with proportions ranging from more than nine in ten in Greece, Cyprus, Croatia, Hungary and Portugal to fewer than one in five in Denmark and Finland.

Europeans are most likely to think corruption is widespread in public institutions. More than half believe that the giving and taking of bribes and the abuse of power for personal gain are widespread among political parties and politicians at national, regional or local level, and more than four in ten think this way about officials awarding public tenders or building permits. Europeans are now more likely to believe corruption is widespread amongst these groups than they were in 2019. More than seven in ten think there is corruption in national or local/regional public institutions and almost seven in ten think bribery and the use of connections is often the easiest way to obtain certain public services in their country. However, not all public institutions are viewed this way, with fewer than one in five thinking corruption is widespread in social security and the welfare authorities, the public prosecution service as well as in the education sector.

Almost three in ten Europeans believe that corruption is widespread in the health sector. However, fewer than one in twenty who have had contact with the sector in the last 12 months say they had to give an extra payment or a valuable gift to a nurse or a doctor or donate to the hospital (not including official fees). This proportion increases to almost one in five in Romania and more than one in ten in Greece. The most common issues are being asked to go for a private consultation in order to be treated in a public hospital or being asked to pay for a preferential treatment.

More than four in ten think corruption has increased in their country in the last three years, and this is the majority view in ten EU Member States. However, the proportion of respondents who think corruption has increased in their country over the last three years has declined in 20 EU Member States since December 2019.

Although they think corruption is widespread, less than one quarter of respondents say they are personally affected by corruption in their daily lives. Once again, however, there is considerable

variation at a national level. More than half in Croatia, Greece and Cyprus say they are personally affected, compared to fewer than one in ten in Denmark, France, the Netherlands, Germany, Sweden and Luxembourg. At a national level this view has become less widespread in 18 countries compared to December 2019, and in four countries the decline is more than ten percentage points: Malta, Romania, Portugal and Spain.

The results also highlight a strong link between the proportion of respondents who think corruption is widespread in their country and the proportion who feel personally affected by corruption in their daily life. Higher proportions of respondents who think corruption is widespread are associated with higher proportions who feel affected by corruption in their daily life.

Besides national variations, there are also clear socio-demographic patterns. Europeans with lower levels of education, those who regularly have difficulties paying their bills and those who see themselves as belonging to the working class or middle/ lower middle class, are more likely to see corruption as widespread in their country, and to say they are personally affected by it. They are also more likely to think that corruption in their country has increased.

In spite of the view that corruption is widespread, few Europeans say they have direct experience of corruption. Almost one in ten say they have been asked or expected to give a gift, favour or extra money in return for their services. Even fewer, around one in twenty, say they have experienced or witnessed a case of corruption in the past 12 months. Finally, just over one in ten knows someone who has taken or received bribes.

Corruption is seen to have a negative impact on business, with almost two thirds saying favouritism and corruption hamper business competition, and more than six in ten saying corruption is part of the business culture in their country.

Europeans are pessimistic about the success of their government's efforts to combat corruption. Fewer than four in ten think measures against corruption are applied impartially and without ulterior motives or that there are enough successful prosecutions to deter people from corrupt practices. Just over three in ten agree that their national government's efforts to combat corruption are effective, and there has been little change in this level since October 2017.

Amongst those who experienced or witnessed corruption, the proportion who reported it has dropped from more than one in five in December 2019 to around one in seven. More than half of respondents (53%) say they do not know where to report corruption if they experience it, with Romania (72%) and Hungary (67%) as the top two countries for lack of awareness on the topic. Almost half of all Europeans think it is difficult to prove anything in cases of corruption, meaning people decide not to report it. Around three in ten think corruption is not reported because those responsible will not be punished, or due to the lack of protection for those who report corruption.

The results also highlight that the police are by far the most trusted body to deal with a complaint about corruption – more than six in ten trust the police, far higher than the Justice system which is the next most mentioned at just over one quarter of Europeans.

As has been the case in previous waves, the results of this survey illustrate national, regional and socio-demographic differences in Europeans' attitudes towards and perceptions of corruption that lie beneath the overall EU results. Although there have been changes since the last wave, the general consensus amongst Europeans remains that corruption is unacceptable, that it is widespread -

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particularly in public bodies and institutions - and that national government efforts to curb it are not effective.

## Technical Specifications

Between the 21<sup>st</sup> of March and 20<sup>th</sup> of April 2022, Kantar carried out wave 97.2 of the EUROBAROMETER survey, at the request of the European Commission, Directorate-General for Communication, "Media monitoring and Eurobarometer" Unit.

Wave 97.2 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 and territories is a multi-stage, random (probability) one. In each country, a number of sampling points were drawn with probability proportional to population size (for a total coverage of the country) and to population density.

In order to do so, the sampling points were drawn systematically from each of the "administrative regional units", after stratification by individual unit and type of area. They 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 areas<sup>1</sup>.

In each of the selected sampling points, a starting address was drawn, at random. 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 (following the "closest birthday rule"). If no one answered the interviewer in a household, or if the respondent selected was not available (not present or 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 these countries, a sample of addresses within each areal sampling point (1km<sup>2</sup> grid) 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. The selection of numbers on both frames is done in a random manner with each

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

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number getting an equal probability of selection. Unlike Sweden and Finland, the sample is un-clustered.

COUNTRIES		INSTITUTES	N° INTERVIEWS	FIELDWORK DATES		POPULATION 15+	PROPORTION EU27
BE	Belgium	Mobiel Centre Market Research	1,019	22/03/2022	11/04/2022	9,915,439	2.53%
BG	Bulgaria	Kantar TNS BBSS	1,040	22/03/2022	17/04/2022	6,094,974	1.55%
CZ	Czechia	Kantar Czechia	1,034	22/03/2022	08/04/2022	9,190,342	2.34%
DK	Denmark	Kantar Gallup	1,058	22/03/2022	14/04/2022	4,994,008	1.27%
DE	Germany	Kantar Deutschland	1,519	22/03/2022	19/04/2022	74,162,306	18.89%
EE	Estonia	Kantar Estonia	1,008	22/03/2022	18/04/2022	1,145,208	0.29%
IE	Ireland	B and A Research	1,011	26/03/2022	19/04/2022	4,039,401	1.03%
EL	Greece	Kantar Greece	1,013	22/03/2022	16/04/2022	9,568,462	2.44%
ES	Spain	TNS Investigación de Mercados y Opinión	1,003	24/03/2022	18/04/2022	42,022,835	10.70%
FR	France	Kantar Public France	1,034	22/03/2022	12/04/2022	57,553,554	14.66%
HR	Croatia	Hendal	996	22/03/2022	18/04/2022	3,569,904	0.91%
IT	Italy	Kantar Italia	1,018	21/03/2022	14/04/2022	54,102,101	13.78%
CY	Rep. Of Cyprus	CYMAR Market Research	505	21/03/2022	10/04/2022	759,844	0.19%
LV	Latvia	Kantar TNS Latvia	1,014	22/03/2022	19/04/2022	1,649,459	0.42%
LT	Lithuania	TNS LT	1,006	22/03/2022	20/04/2022	2,445,153	0.62%
LU	Luxembourg	TNS Ilres	507	22/03/2022	15/04/2022	538,288	0.14%
HU	Hungary	Kantar Hoffmann	1,016	22/03/2022	07/04/2022	8,547,786	2.18%
MT	Malta	MISCO International	553	22/03/2022	19/04/2022	455,041	0.12%
NL	Netherlands	Kantar Netherlands	1,004	22/03/2022	20/04/2022	15,067,518	3.84%
AT	Austria	Das Österreichische Gallup Institut	1,011	22/03/2022	11/04/2022	7,844,329	2.00%
PL	Poland	Kantar Polska	1,009	22/03/2022	13/04/2022	32,904,839	8.38%
PT	Portugal	Marktest – Marketing, Organização e Formação	1,006	22/03/2022	16/04/2022	9,221,533	2.35%
RO	Romania	Centrul Pentru Studierea Opiniei si Pteei (CSOP)	1,038	22/03/2022	15/04/2022	16,701,193	4.25%
SI	Slovenia	Mediana DOO	1,006	22/03/2022	12/04/2022	1,834,195	0.47%
SK	Slovakia	Kantar Czechia	1,009	21/03/2022	10/04/2022	4,677,729	1.19%
FI	Finland	Taloustutkimus Oy	1,011	22/03/2022	18/04/2022	4,805,266	1.22%
SE	Sweden	Kantar Sifo	1061	22/03/2022	18/04/2022	8,756,024	2.23%
TOTAL EU27			26,509	21/03/2022	20/04/2022	392,566,731	100%

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

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	COUNTRIES	N° OF CAPI INTERVIEWS	N° OF CAWI INTERVIEWS	TOTAL N° INTERVIEWS
BE	Belgium	719	300	1,019
BG	Bulgaria	1,040		1,040
CZ	Czechia	608	426	1,034
DK	Denmark	654	404	1,058
DE	Germany	1,519		1,519
EE	Estonia	1,008		1,008
IE	Ireland	1,011		1,011
EL	Greece	1,013		1,013
ES	Spain	1,003		1,003
FR	France	1,034		1,034
HR	Croatia	996		996
IT	Italy	1,018		1,018
CY	Rep. Of Cyprus	505		505
LV	Latvia	583	431	1,014
LT	Lithuania	909	97	1,006
LU	Luxembourg	507		507
HU	Hungary	1,016		1,016
MT	Malta	382	171	553
NL	Netherlands	809	195	1,004
AT	Austria	1,011		1,011
PL	Poland	1,009		1,009
PT	Portugal	1,006		1,006
RO	Romania	1,038		1,038
SI	Slovenia	675	331	1,006
SK	Slovakia	1,009		1,009
FI	Finland	507	504	1,011
SE	Sweden	469	592	1,061
	<b>TOTAL EU27</b>	<b>23,058</b>	<b>3,451</b>	<b>26,509</b>

CAPI : Computer-Assisted Personal interviewing  
CAWI : Computer-Assisted Web interviewing

## Consequences of the coronavirus pandemic on fieldwork

### Face-to-face interviewing

Where feasible, interviews were conducted face to face in people's homes or on their doorstep and in the appropriate national language. In all countries and territories where face-to-face interviewing was not feasible CAWI (Computer-Assisted Web Interviewing) was used.

For face-to-face all interviews conducted, hygiene and physical distancing measures were respected at all times in line with government regulations, and whenever possible, interviews were conducted outside homes, on doorsteps, in order to stay outside and maintain social distance.

### Face-to-face and online interviewing

In Belgium, Czechia, Denmark, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, the Netherlands, Slovenia, Finland and Sweden, face-to-face interviewing was feasible, but it was not possible to reach the target number of face-to-face interviews within the fieldwork period due to the impact of COVID-19 restrictions: many potential respondents are reluctant to open their homes to interviewers, even if they respect hygiene rules and physical distancing, such as wearing masks and using hydroalcoholic gel. Therefore, to hit the target number of interviews within the fieldwork period, additional interviews were conducted online with Computer-Assisted Web Interviewing (CAWI) technique.

## Recruitment for online interviews

The online design in each country differed based on what was feasible within the fieldwork period. Where feasible, the online sample was based on a probabilistic sample design. Those recruited to the online survey were recruited through a single mobile frame or dual frame Random Digit Dialling (RDD) design. In this way the entire phone owning population in each country had a non-zero chance of being sampled. The choice of whether to use a single mobile frame or dual frame (mobile and landline) was dependent on the countries' landline infrastructure. Where the landline infrastructure is suitably advanced to support a significant minority of residential households with landline phones a dual frame design is employed. The mix of mobile and landline sample is designed to maximise the representation of the responding sample. The RDD sample for both the mobile and landline sample is drawn from the country's telephone numbering plan. The landline sample frame is stratified by NUTS3 regions based on their prefix and the mobile by operator before a systematic random sample of numbers is generated proportional in size to the total generatable numbers in each stratum. Respondents were recruited using this sample design in Belgium, Czechia, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta and Slovenia.

In Finland, Denmark, and Sweden, RDD samples were not used, instead the telephone sample was drawn from the country telephone directory. In these three countries the telephone directories offer comprehensive coverage of the phone owning population, storing both landline and mobile phone numbers for each individual.

In the Netherlands, two survey modes were used to collect responses, face to face and online. For the online mode, the respondents were initially recruited to take part through an offline mode of recruitment via a probability-based dual frame overlapping RDD sample design. In this way the entire phone owning population in the Netherlands had a non-zero chance of being sampled. The mix of mobile and landline sample is designed to maximise the representation of the responding sample. The RDD sample for both the mobile and landline sample is drawn from the country's telephone numbering plan. The landline sample frame is stratified by NUTS3 regions based on their prefix and the mobile by operator before a systematic random sample of numbers is generated proportional in size to the total generatable numbers in each stratum.

## 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 97.2 of the EUROBAROMETER

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survey, the response rates for the EU27 countries, calculated by Kantar, are:

COUNTRIES		CAPI Response rates	CAWI Response rates
BE	Belgium	53.2%	17.5%
BG	Bulgaria	47.6%	
CZ	Czechia	44.9%	28.2%
DK	Denmark	41.0%	14.2%
DE	Germany	24.5%	
EE	Estonia	38.8%	
IE	Ireland	46.8%	
EL	Greece	29.1%	
ES	Spain	34.4%	
FR	France	31.9%	
HR	Croatia	40.1%	
IT	Italy	22.9%	
CY	Rep. Of Cyprus	43.1%	
LV	Latvia	44.2%	24.0%
LT	Lithuania	43.0%	26.8%
LU	Luxembourg	22.8%	
HU	Hungary	59.8%	
MT	Malta	90.5%	25.6%
NL	Netherlands	70.9%	30.3%
AT	Austria	45.0%	
PL	Poland	43.8%	
PT	Portugal	39.6%	
RO	Romania	58.5%	
SI	Slovenia	46.5%	29.0%
SK	Slovakia	66.0%	
FI	Finland	25.5%	30.0%
SE	Sweden	63.6%	19.7%

CAPI : Computer-Assisted Personal interviewing

CAWI : Computer-Assisted Web interviewing (CAWI RRs do not include the recruitment phase)

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**Margins of error**

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

Statistical Margins due to the sampling process  
(at the 95% level of confidence)

*various sample sizes are in rows*

*various observed results are in columns*

	5%	10%	15%	20%	25%	30%	35%	40%	45%	50%	
	95%	90%	85%	80%	75%	70%	65%	60%	55%	50%	
N=50	6,0	8,3	9,9	11,1	12,0	12,7	13,2	13,6	13,8	13,9	N=50
N=500	1,9	2,6	3,1	3,5	3,8	4,0	4,2	4,3	4,4	4,4	N=500
<b>N=1000</b>	<b>1,4</b>	<b>1,9</b>	<b>2,2</b>	<b>2,5</b>	<b>2,7</b>	<b>2,8</b>	<b>3,0</b>	<b>3,0</b>	<b>3,1</b>	<b>3,1</b>	<b>N=1000</b>
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%	

