



SPECIAL EUROBAROMETER 548

Citizens' attitudes towards corruption in the EU in 2024

EUROBAROMETER **SUMMARY REPORT**

FIELDWORK: February – March 2024



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

This document does not represent the point of view of the European Commission. The interpretations and opinions contained in it are solely those of the authors.

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Introduction

Introduction

Corruption is typically understood as the misuse of power entrusted to individuals for personal advantage. This malpractice not only deepens social inequalities and erodes trust in governmental institutions but also undermines effective governance and social equity. Furthermore, corruption detrimentally impacts governmental goals aimed at narrowing the wealth gap and enhancing environmental sustainability.

The EU Rule of Law Report, released annually since 2020, reveals the diverse nature and extent of corruption across EU Member States, highlighting the varying success of anti-corruption measures throughout the EU. Complemented by the anti-corruption experience-sharing program initiated by the Commission in 2015 and continued as thematic workshops under the EU Anti-Corruption Network since 2024, these initiatives have spurred national bodies to enhance the enforcement of anti-corruption legislation and policies.¹

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 2005², and has been repeated in 2007³, 2009⁴, 2011⁵, 2013⁶, 2017⁷, 2019⁸, 2022⁹, and 2023¹⁰.

This survey covers the following areas:

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

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

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

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

² <https://ec.europa.eu/commfrontoffice/publicopinion/index.cfm/Survey/getSurveyDetail/instruments/SPECIAL/surveyKy/1490>

³ <https://ec.europa.eu/commfrontoffice/publicopinion/index.cfm/Survey/getSurveyDetail/instruments/SPECIAL/surveyKy/636>

⁴ <https://ec.europa.eu/commfrontoffice/publicopinion/index.cfm/Survey/getSurveyDetail/instruments/SPECIAL/surveyKy/814>

⁵ <https://ec.europa.eu/commfrontoffice/publicopinion/index.cfm/Survey/getSurveyDetail/instruments/SPECIAL/surveyKy/1010>

⁶ <https://ec.europa.eu/commfrontoffice/publicopinion/index.cfm/Survey/getSurveyDetail/instruments/SPECIAL/surveyKy/1076>

⁷ <https://ec.europa.eu/commfrontoffice/publicopinion/index.cfm/Survey/getSurveyDetail/instruments/SPECIAL/surveyKy/2176>

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

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

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

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Methodology

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

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

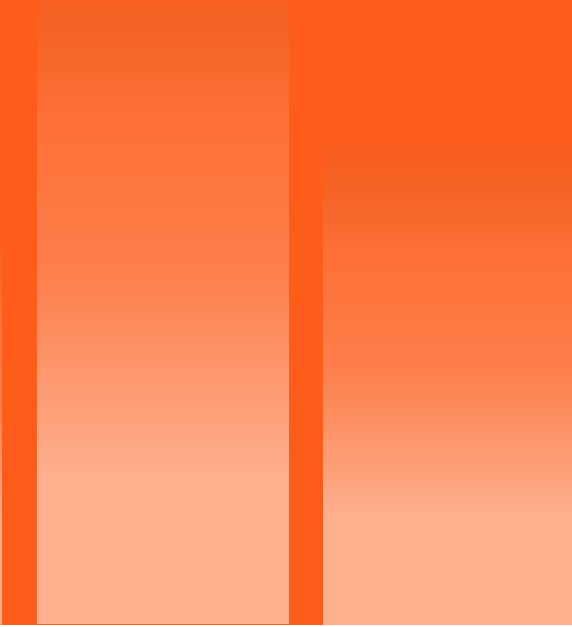
Belgium	BE	Lithuania	LT
Bulgaria	BG	Luxembourg	LU
Czechia	CZ	Hungary	HU
Denmark	DK	Malta	MT
Germany	DE	Netherlands	NL
Estonia	EE	Austria	AT
Ireland	IE	Poland	PL
Greece	EL	Portugal	PT
Spain	ES	Romania	RO
France	EN	Slovenia	SI
Croatia	HR	Slovakia	SK
Italy	IT	Finland	FI
Republic of Cyprus*	CY*	Sweden	SE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

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

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



Key findings



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

- Over two thirds (68%) believe corruption is prevalent in their country.
- At least half of respondents agree that too-close links between business and politics lead to corruption, that favouritism and corruption hinder business competition, that corruption is part of the business culture in their country and that in their country, the only way to succeed in business is to have political connections.
- More than six in ten (63%) believe that bribery and the use of connections is often the easiest way to obtain certain public services.

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

- Just over one quarter of respondents (27%) say that they are personally affected by corruption in their daily life.

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

- A majority of Europeans (61%) continue to view corruption as unacceptable.
- Around a third of respondents think it is acceptable to do a favour (33%) or give a gift (30%) in order to get something from a public administration or a public service, while just over one in five think it is acceptable to give money (21%) for this reason.

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

- Over four in ten (41%) think the level of corruption in their country has increased in the past three years, and 43% think it has stayed the same.
- Only a minority think measures against corruption are applied impartially, there are enough successful prosecutions to deter corruption, that government's

efforts to combat corruption are effective or that there is sufficient transparency and supervision of the financing of political parties in their country.

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

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

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

- Five per cent of Europeans report they have personally encountered or witnessed a case of corruption in the last 12 months.
- Of those that have had contact with various services, fewer than one in ten (7%) express that someone asked for or expected them to offer a gift, favour or additional money in exchange for their services.
- One in ten respondents (10%) personally know someone who accepts or has accepted bribes.
- More than half of the respondents (56%) state they do not know where to report corruption if they experience or observe it, similar levels to 2023 (54%).
- Among those who experienced or witnessed corruption, 18% reported it (+4).

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

- In 23 EU Member States, difficulty in proving anything is the most mentioned reason for not reporting corruption.
- Overall, more than four in ten respondents (43%) say that the difficulty in proving corruption is an important reason they do not report it. Close to three in ten (28%) say reporting it would be pointless because those responsible will not be punished, while as many (28%) say there is no protection for those who report corruption.



I. General perceptions of corruption

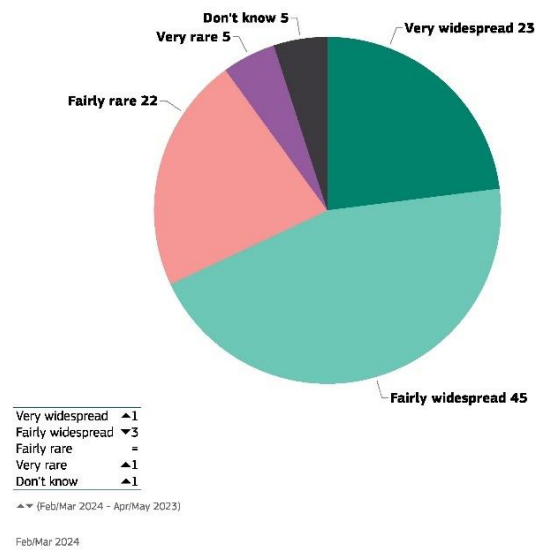
1 How widespread is corruption?

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

More than two thirds of respondents (68%, -2 percentage points since 2023) believe corruption is widespread in their country.¹¹ More than one in four (27%, +1) consider corruption rare.

In 23 EU Member States, the majority of respondents believe that corruption is widespread in their country. At least nine out of ten respondents share this view in seven of the Member States: Greece (98%), Portugal (96%), Slovenia and Malta (both 95%), Croatia (92%), Cyprus (91%) and Spain (90%). In four countries, fewer than half think corruption is widespread: Finland (18%), Denmark (26%), Luxembourg (43%), and Sweden (49%).

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



¹¹ 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.

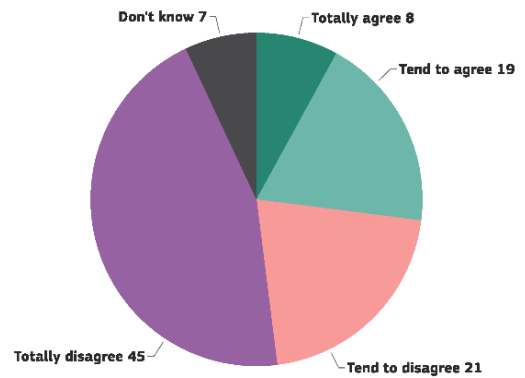
2 Level of corruption in daily life

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

More than a quarter (27%, +3 percentage points compared to 2023) say they are personally affected by corruption in their daily lives. Conversely, the majority (66%, =) indicate they disagree that they are personally affected by corruption.

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

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



Totally agree	▲1
Tend to agree	▲2
Tend to disagree	▲1
Totally disagree	▼7
Don't know	▲3

▲▼ (Feb/Mar 2024 – Apr/May 2023)

Feb/Mar 2024

3 Level of corruption in daily life

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

Regarding **doing a favour** to receive a service from public administration, one-third of the respondents (+7 percentage points from 2023) find this practice acceptable. Conversely, more than two-thirds (65%, -7) assert that such behaviour is “never acceptable”.

Across the EU, Czechia (65%), Slovakia (61%) and Hungary (50%), stand out as the only countries where at least half of the respondents believe it is acceptable to do a favour in exchange for a service from public administration or public service. They are followed by Croatia (49%). In the other Member States, only a minority consider this behaviour acceptable, with Malta (17%), Spain (18%), and Denmark (19%) showing the lowest acceptance levels for such action.

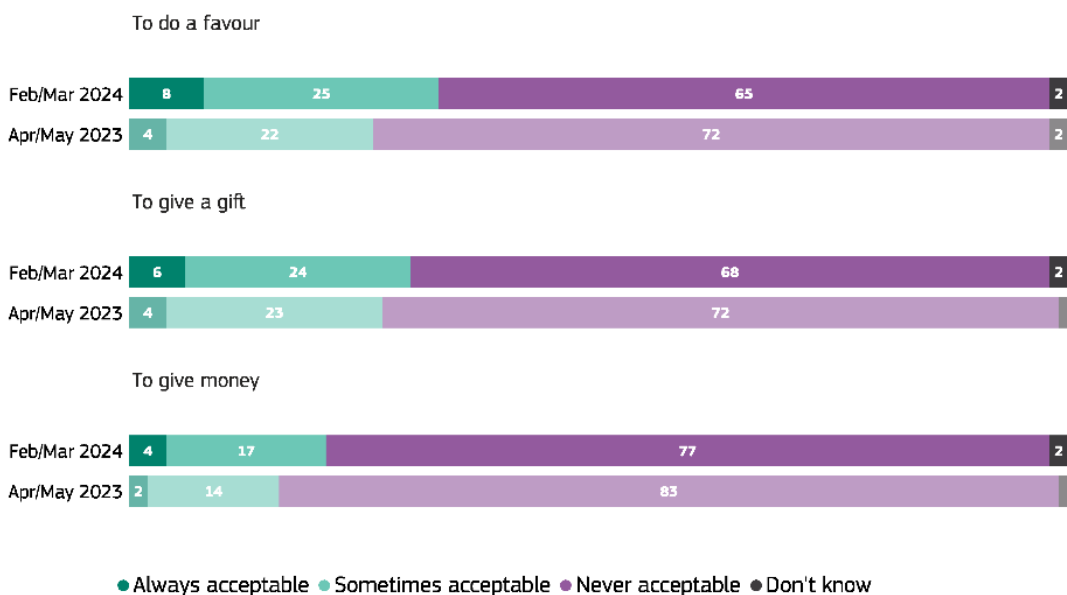
Around one in five (21%, +5) think it is acceptable to **give money** with 4% (+2) saying this is “always acceptable” and 17% (+3) that it is “sometimes acceptable”. The majority (77%, -6) think this behaviour is “never acceptable”.

In four countries, a third or more of respondents think it is acceptable to give money if they want something from the public administration or public service: the Netherlands (44%), Czechia (41%), Sweden (34%) and Belgium (33%). Portugal is the only country where fewer than one in ten (8%) say this, with similarly low scores registered in Spain (10%), Ireland (12%) and Italy (12%).

Three in ten respondents (+3) believe it is acceptable to **give a gift** to receive something from public administration or public service. However, the majority, 68% (-4), view this behaviour as “never acceptable”.

In three countries, at least half of those surveyed think it is acceptable to give a gift to secure a service from the public administration or public service: Czechia (65%), Romania (55%), and Croatia (50%). The lowest scores are found in Denmark (13%), Spain (14%), and France and Malta (both 18%).

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



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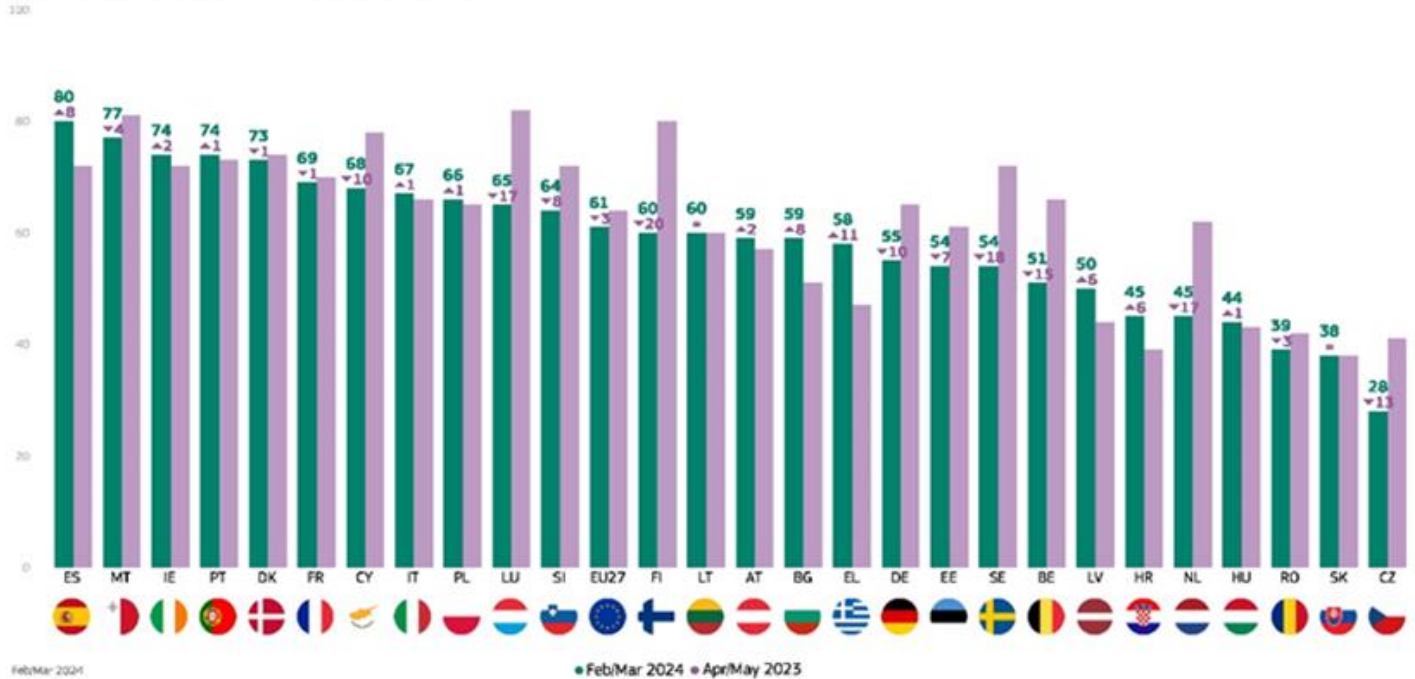
Based on the answers to each of the three questions above a “tolerance to corruption index” is calculated, categorising respondents according to whether they primarily regard corruption as 'acceptable', 'tolerated', or 'unacceptable'.¹²

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

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

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

QD1T. Tolerance index to corruption - Unacceptable (%)



¹² The index is calculated based on the answers given to QD1.1, 2 and 3. Points are attributed depending on the answers to those three questions: “never acceptable” (0 points), “sometimes acceptable” (1 point) and “always acceptable” (2 points). Respondents who received 0 points in total (i.e. they answered never acceptable to all questions) are classified in the index as answering “unacceptable”, while those

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

4 How widespread is corruption in different areas of society?

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

More than half of respondents (53%, -6 percentage points) consider these behaviours widespread among **political parties**, with nearly the same proportion (50%, -6) regarding **local, regional, or national politicians** in the same light.

More than one in three think the abuse of power is widespread amongst **officials awarding public tenders** (37%, -7) or **officials issuing building permits** (36%, -7).

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

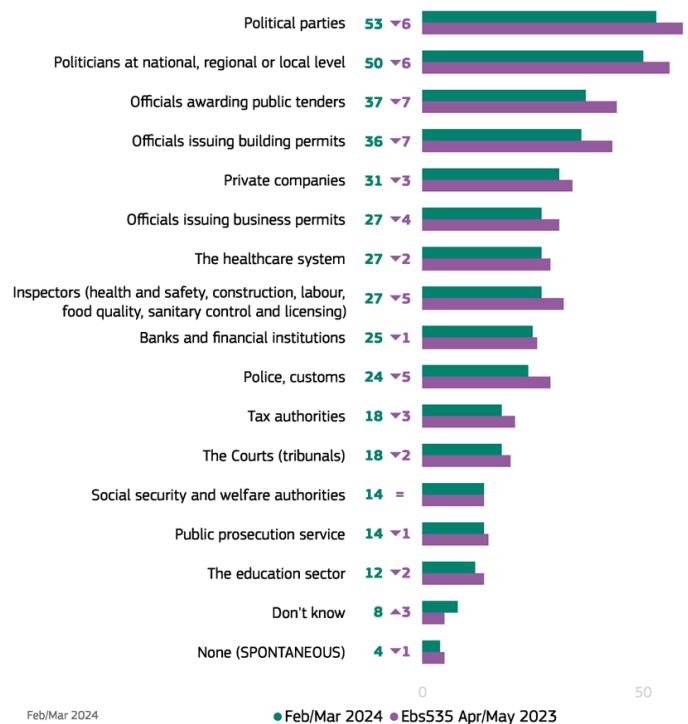
One in four think this behaviour is widespread in **banks and financial institutions** (-1), with similar proportions found regarding the **police and customs** (24%, -5).

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

The national analysis reveals that in 14 EU Member States, respondents identify political parties as the primary perpetrators of the giving and taking of bribes and the abuse of power for personal gain. They additionally rank second or third in an additional eleven countries. The highest proportions are recorded in Spain (77%), Malta (73%), and Greece and Slovenia (71%). Conversely, this view was lowest in Finland and Poland (both 28%), Sweden (30%), and Denmark (32%).

In Portugal, political parties rank equal first with **politicians at national, regional, or local level** (both 69%). The same is true Hungary (52%) and in Austria (47%).

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



In total, politicians are the most or second-most mentioned in 17 countries, with the overall highest proportions registered in Slovenia (73%), Portugal (69%), and Greece (68%). In 11 countries, at least half of the respondents say this. The lowest scores are found in Poland (25%), Denmark (33%) and Latvia (36%).

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

5 Level of corruption over the last three years

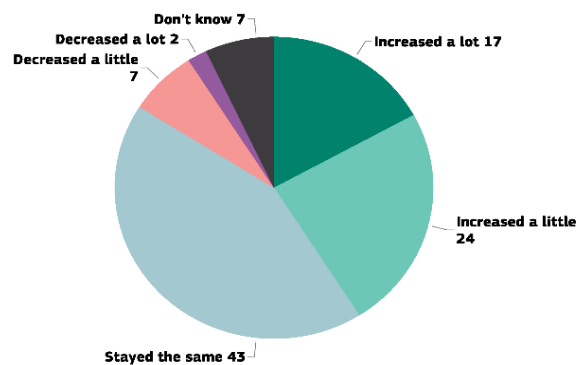
Four in ten respondents say the level of corruption in their country has increased in the past three years.

Just over four in ten (41%, -4 percentage points since 2023) think the level of corruption in their country has increased in the past three years, 9% (+1) think the level has decreased and more than four in ten (43%, +2) it has stayed the same.

In ten EU Member States at least half think the level of corruption in their country has increased in the past three years. This view is the most widespread in Portugal (78%), Slovenia (73%), Croatia (72%) and Malta (70%). In three EU Member States, at least one in five think that corruption in their country has decreased in the past three years: Lithuania (22%), Poland (21%), and Estonia (20%).

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

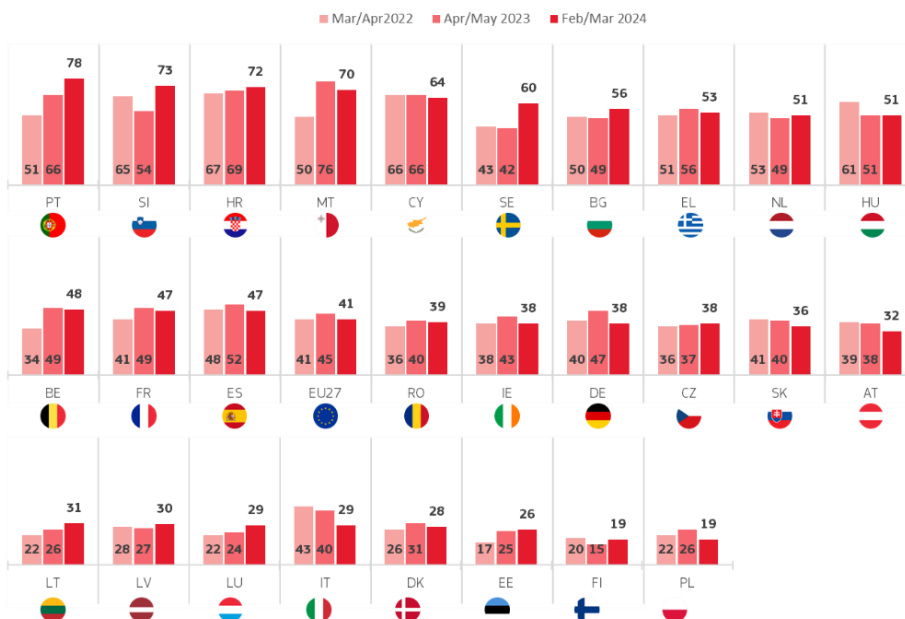
QD3. In the past three years, would you say that the level of corruption in (OUR COUNTRY) has...? (EU27) (%)



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

▲▼ (Feb/Mar 2024 - Apr/May 2023)
 Feb/Mar 2024

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





II. Attitudes to corruption in detail

6 Corruption in public institutions and business

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

Three quarters (75%, -3 percentage points since 2023) agree that **too close links between business and politics lead to corruption**.

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

At least seven in 10 agree that there is corruption in the **national (71% -3) and local or regional institutions (70% -3)**. In each case, disagreement levels are similar to 2023 (between 15 and 19%).

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

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

Almost two thirds of respondents (65%, -2) agree that **high-level corruption cases are not pursued sufficiently**.

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

Over six in ten felt that **bribery and the use of connections is often the easiest way to obtain certain public services (63% -4)**.

In 22 EU Member States, at least half think that bribery and the use of connections is often the easiest way to obtain certain public services in their country, with at least eight in ten in Greece (89%), Croatia (85%), Portugal (84%), Slovenia (83%) Cyprus (82%), and Bulgaria (81%) holding this opinion. The five EU Member States where fewer than half of the respondents agree are Finland (24%), Sweden and Denmark (both 30%), Luxembourg (46%), and the Netherlands (49%).

Sixty-three per cent (-3) believe that **favouritism and corruption hamper business competition**.

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

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Almost six in ten (59% -1) believe that **corruption is part of the business culture** in their country.

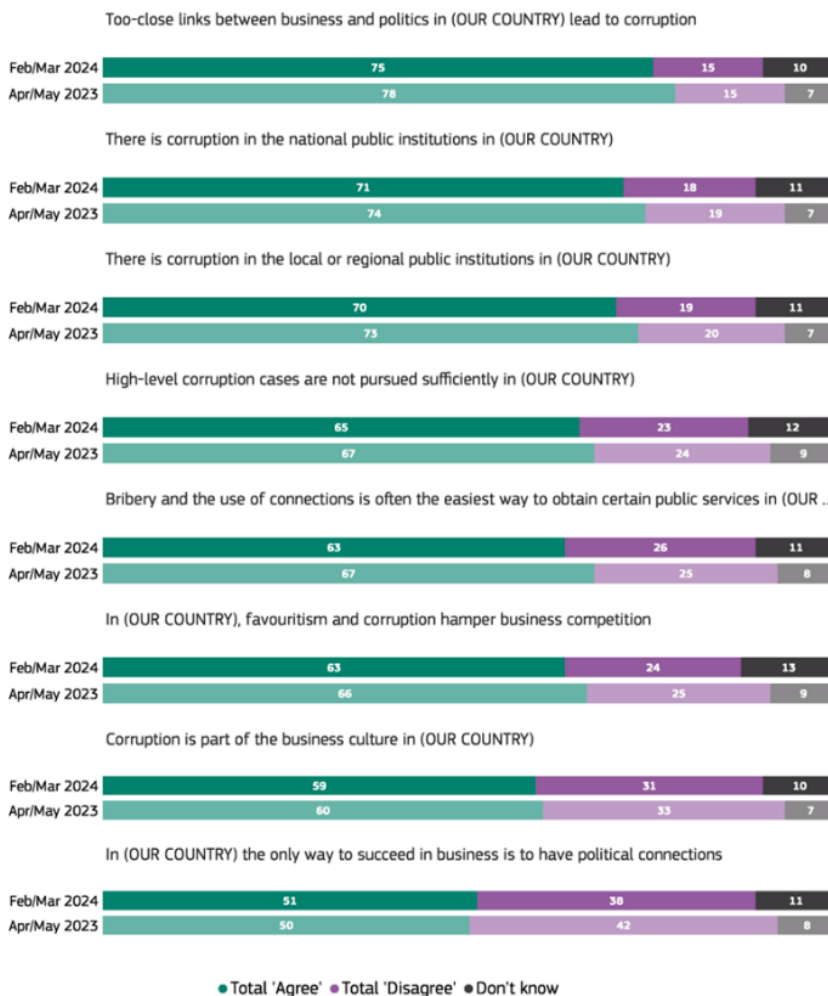
In 18 Member States, more than half in agree that **corruption is part of the business culture** in their country, with the highest proportions in Greece (89%), Cyprus (85%), Croatia (84%) and Portugal and Slovenia (83%).

In four countries, fewer agree than disagree: Finland (21% vs. 68% disagree), Denmark (24% vs. 70%), Sweden (31% vs. 65%), and the Netherlands (36% vs. 60%). The map below illustrates the trend since April-May 2023 and shows that respondents in southern and some areas of eastern Europe are generally more likely to agree that corruption is part of the business culture in their country. Respondents in countries in northern Europe are generally less likely to agree.

Just over half (51% -1) agree **the only way to succeed in business is to have political connections** has stayed similar levels since 2023.

In 17 EU Member States, at least half of those surveyed agree that the only way to succeed in business in their country is to have political connections. At least seven in ten think this in Croatia (79%), Cyprus (77%), Bulgaria (73%), Hungary (72%), and Greece (70%). In four countries, a fifth or fewer agree with the statement: Denmark (15%), Finland (17%), the Netherlands (18%) and Sweden (20%).

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



7 Dealing with corruption

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

Fewer than four in ten (35% no change since 2023) believe that **measures against corruption are applied impartially and without ulterior motives**. Close to half (49%, -3) disagree.

There are two Member States where more than half agree that measures against corruption are applied impartially and without ulterior motives in their country: Sweden (55%) and Finland (52%). In 25 countries, fewer than half agree, with the lowest levels seen in Bulgaria (17% vs. 71% disagreement), Greece (20% vs. 76%), Cyprus (21% vs. 72%), Latvia (22% vs. 51%) and France (22% vs. 55%). It is also worth noting that at least a quarter say they don't know in Luxembourg (35%), Estonia (31%), Latvia (27%), and Denmark and Finland (both 25%).

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

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

Three in ten respondents (=) agree that their **national government's efforts to combat corruption are effective**. However, more than half (57%, -3) disagree.

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

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

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

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

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

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



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



(NATIONALITY) Government efforts to combat corruption are effective



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



Feb/Mar 2024



III. Experience of bribery

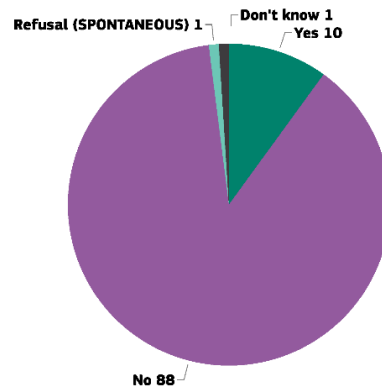
8 Personal experience of bribery

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

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

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

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



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

▲▼ (Feb/Mar 2024 – Apr/May 2023)

Feb/Mar 2024

9 Contact with institutions and incidence of bribery

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

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

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

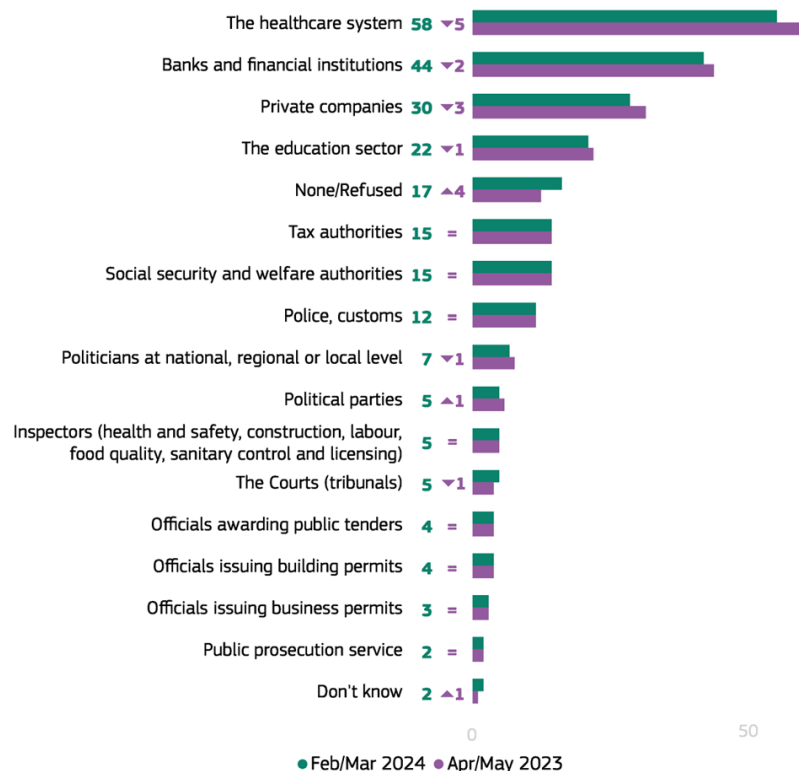
More than four in ten (44%, -2) have had contact with **banks and financial institutions**, while three in ten (33%, -3) mention **private companies** and 22% (-1) mention the **education sector**. These are the only institutions mentioned by at least one in five.

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Results of note for the remaining institutions include:

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

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

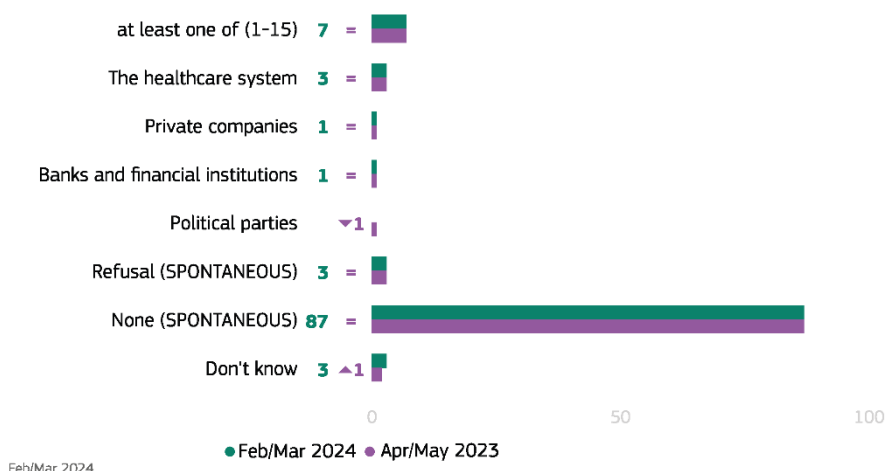
Fewer than one in ten, 7% (the same level it was in 2023), say they have been asked or expected to give a gift, favour, or extra money in return for services. A large majority (87%, =) say they have not been asked or expected to do this. Fewer than one in twenty (3%, =) *spontaneously* refused to answer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

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

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

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

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





IV. Reporting corruption

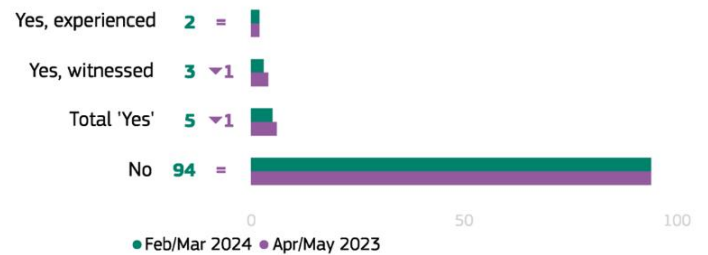
10 Personal experience of corruption

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

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

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

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



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11 Reporting of corruption

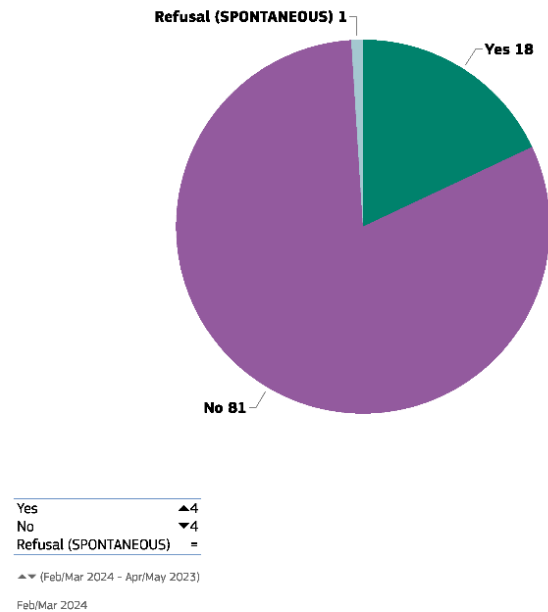
Eight in ten of those who experienced corruption did not report it.

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

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

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

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



12 Awareness of where to report corruption

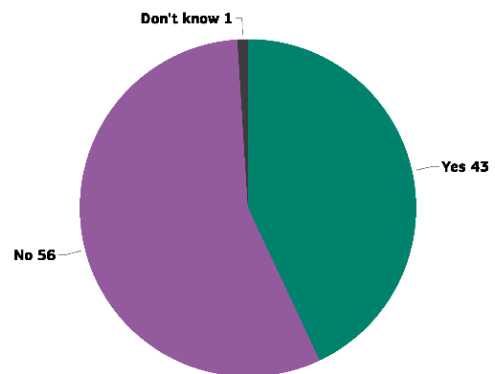
More than half are not aware of where to report a case of corruption if they experience or witness one.

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

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

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

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



Yes ▼2
No ▲2
Don't know =

▲▼ (Feb/Mar 2024 - Apr/May 2023)

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13 Reasons for not reporting corruption

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

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

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

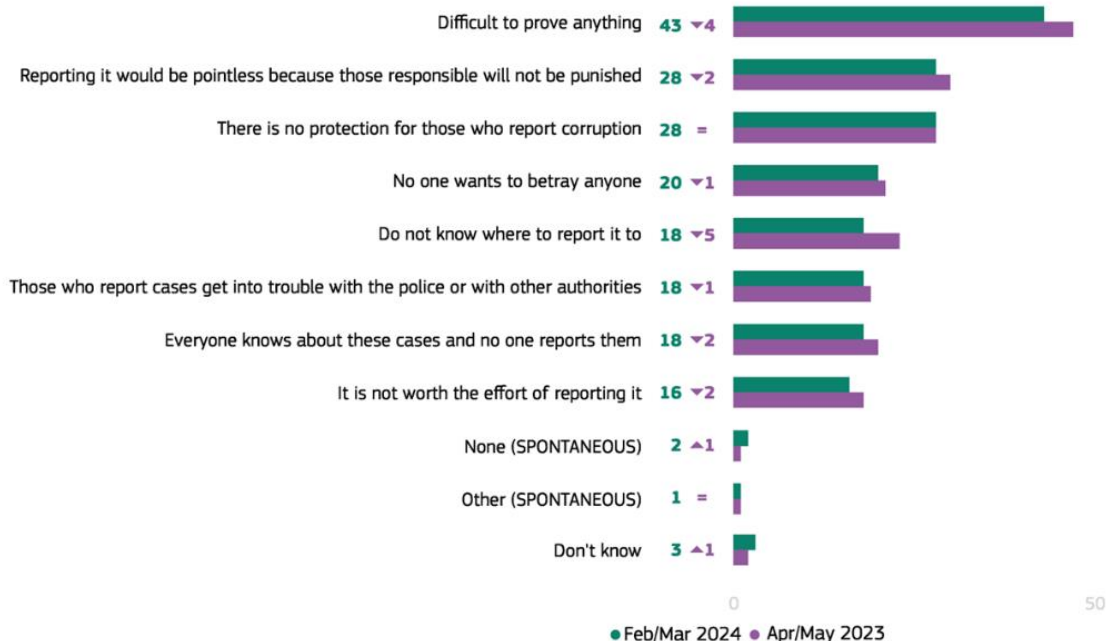
In all but four of the EU Member States (Cyprus, Malta, Portugal, and Slovenia), **difficulty in proving anything** is the most mentioned reason (in Greece along with 'reporting it would be pointless because those responsible will not be punished') why people may choose not to report corruption.

This reason is most widely mentioned by respondents in Finland (60%), Sweden (59%), and Denmark (57%) and less likely to be mentioned in Romania (29%), Poland (31%), and Malta (33%).

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

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

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



14 Level of trust in authorities

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

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

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

In all but one (Latvia) of the 27 EU Member States, respondents are most likely to say they would trust the **police** to deal with their complaint about a case of corruption, with the highest proportions seen in Finland (79%), Denmark (70%), Sweden (67%), and Italy (66%).

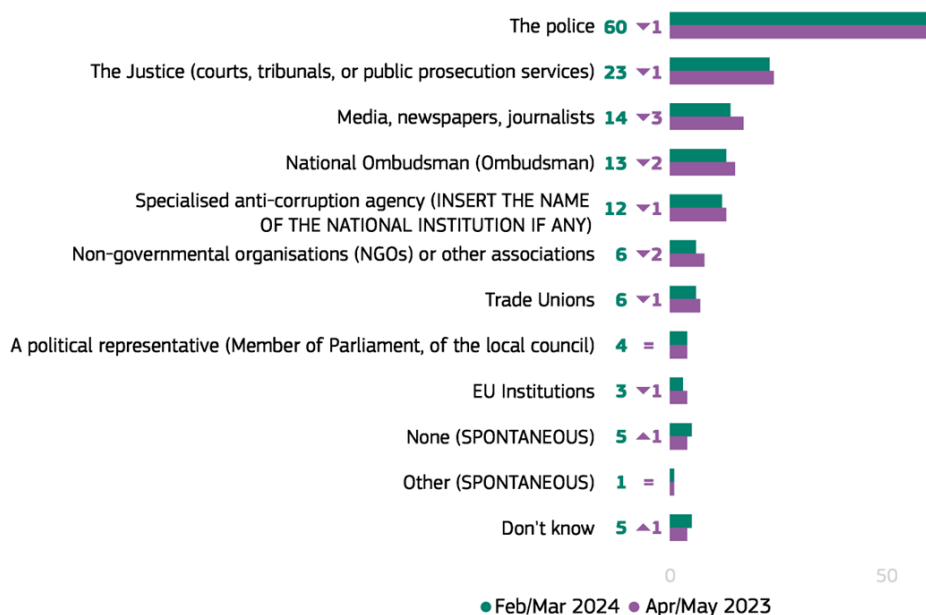
In seven countries, fewer than half trust the police in this regard, with the lowest scores registered in Latvia (34%), Croatia (39%), and Bulgaria and Romania (both 43%).

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

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

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

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

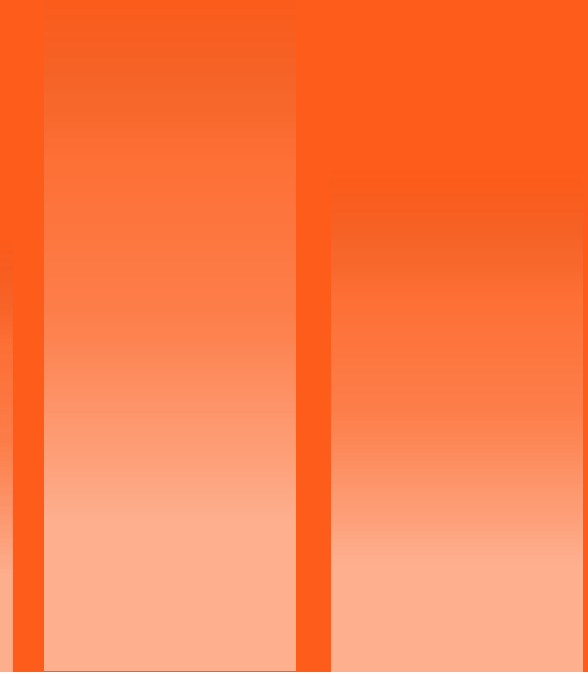


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¹³ This item was not asked in Belgium, Denmark, Germany, Estonia, Ireland, Cyprus, Luxembourg, Hungary, the Netherlands, Slovakia, Finland, and Sweden as there is no such agency.



Conclusion



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

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

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

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

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

The majority of Europeans continue to regard corruption as unacceptable, although this represents a slight decline since 2023, and **views vary significantly across the EU**. In 21 EU Member States, at least half of all respondents consider corruption to be unacceptable, while fewer than four in ten respondents agree with this position in three countries (Czechia, Slovakia, and Romania).

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

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

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

Europeans maintain a **pessimistic outlook regarding their government's efforts to combat corruption**. Fewer than four in ten respondents believe that anti-corruption measures are enforced impartially and without underlying motives, or that successful prosecutions are adequate deterrents against corrupt behaviour. The perception of effectiveness in national governments' anti-corruption efforts remains low, with only three in ten respondents agreeing that their country's endeavours to tackle corruption are successful, showing no change since 2023. Furthermore, more than six in ten respondents agree that **high-level corruption cases are inadequately pursued** in their country, indicating persistent concerns about the efficacy and fairness of anti-corruption measures across the European Union.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Technical specifications

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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Interviewing mode per country

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

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

CAPI : Computer-Assisted Personal interviewing

CAVI : Computer-Assisted Video interviewing

Response rates

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

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

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

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Margins of error

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

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

various sample sizes are in rows

various observed results are in columns

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

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Questionnaire
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Questionnaire

ASK ALL

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

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

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

TREND EB99.2 QA4

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

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

(READ OUT – ONE ANSWER ONLY)

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

TREND EB99.2 QA5

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

(READ OUT – ONE ANSWER ONLY)

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

TREND EB99.2 QA6

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

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

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

TREND EB99.2 QA7

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

(ONE ANSWER ONLY)

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

TREND EB99.2 QA8

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

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

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

TREND EB99.2 QA9a

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

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

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

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

TREND EB99.2 QA9b

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

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

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

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

TREND EB99.2 QA9c

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

(ONE ANSWER ONLY)

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

TREND EB99.2 QA10

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

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

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

TREND EB99.2 QA11

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

(READ OUT – MULTIPLE ANSWERS POSSIBLE)

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

TREND EB99.2 QA12

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

Q10) Did you report it to anyone or not?

(ONE ANSWER ONLY)

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

TREND EB99.2 QA13

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

ASK ALL

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

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

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

TREND EB99.2 QA14

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

(SHOW SCREEN – ONE ANSWER PER LINE)

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

TREND EB99.2 QA15





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