



Special Eurobarometer 534

Citizens' attitudes towards corruption in the EU in 2023

Report

Fieldwork: April-May 2023

Survey conducted by 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)

Project title

Special Eurobarometer 534
"Citizens' attitudes towards corruption in the EU in 2023"

Language version

EN

Catalogue number

DR-05-23-201-EN-N

ISBN

978-92-68-04080-5

doi: 10.2837/5674

© European Union, 2023

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

Photo credit: Kantar

TABLE OF CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION	4
MAIN FINDINGS	7
I. GENERAL PERCEPTIONS OF CORRUPTION	10
1. Acceptability of corruption	11
2. How widespread is corruption?	17
3. How widespread is corruption in different areas of society?	21
4. Level of corruption in daily life	28
5. Level of corruption over the last three years	32
II. ATTITUDES TO CORRUPTION IN DETAIL	36
1. Corruption in public institutions	39
2. Corruption in business	44
3. Dealing with corruption	51
III. EXPERIENCE OF BRIBERY	58
1. Personal experience of bribery	59
2. Contact with institutions and incidence of bribery	62
IV. REPORTING CORRUPTION	70
1. Personal experience of corruption	71
2. Reporting of corruption	74
3. Awareness of where to report corruption	76
4. Reasons for not reporting corruption	79
5. Level of trust in authorities	85
V. BRIBERY AND HEALTHCARE	91
1. Experience of healthcare	92
2. Additional payments	94
3. Details of bribery	96
CONCLUSION	97
TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS	TS1
QUESTIONNAIRE	QA1

INTRODUCTION



Special Eurobarometer 534 (99.2) Corruption April – May 2023

INTRODUCTION

Corruption is broadly defined as the abuse of entrusted power for private gain. Corruption takes many forms, from bribery and trading in influence to less obvious forms such as nepotism, conflicts of interest, or revolving doors between the private sector and government. 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. In addition, it adversely affects government objectives that focus on diminishing income disparity and improving environmental protection. Corruption has serious and widespread consequences 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 finances¹.

The EU Rule of Law Report, published in 2020, 2021, 2022 and 2023 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.²

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

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

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

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.
- Bribery and corruption in the healthcare sector.

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 2022, and where relevant with earlier surveys. In 2019, the United Kingdom was part of the EU and therefore any EU average referenced from that period or before included the UK at that time.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Special Eurobarometer 534 (99.2)
Corruption
April – May 2023

METHODOLOGY

This survey was carried out by the Kantar network in the 27 EU Member States between the 11th of April and the 16th of May. Some 26,404 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 analysis” 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	FR	Slovenia	SI
Croatia	HR	Slovakia	SK
Italy	IT	Finland	FI
Republic of Cyprus*	CY*	Sweden	SE
Latvia	LV		
European Union - weighted average for the 27 Member States of the European Union			EU27
BE, FR, IT, LU, DE, AT, ES, PT, IE, NL, FI, EL, EE, SI, CY, MT, SK, LV, LT, HR			euro area
BG, CZ, DK, HU, PL, RO, SE			Non-euro area

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

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

MAIN FINDINGS



Special Eurobarometer 534 (99.2)

Corruption

April – May 2023

More than six in ten Europeans think corruption is unacceptable

- The majority (64%) of Europeans still think corruption is unacceptable, with a small increase of one percentage point compared to 2022.
- In 20 EU Member States, more than half of all respondents consider that corruption is unacceptable, with the highest percentages found in Luxembourg (82%), while less than four in ten respondents agree with this position in Slovakia (38%) and Croatia (39%).
- Fewer than three in ten respondents think it is acceptable to give a gift (27%) or do a favour (26%) in order to get something from a public administration or a public service, while 16% 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

- Over two thirds (70%) believe corruption is prevalent in their country, marking an uptick of two percentage points since 2022.
- Perceptions regarding the extent of corruption in their country significantly differ across EU Member States, with the figures ranging from 97% in Greece and 96% in Croatia to 13% in Finland and 21% in Denmark.
- Compared to 2022, the proportion of respondents who think corruption is widespread in their country has increased in 14 countries, with the biggest rise seen in Malta (92%, +13%), Romania (79%, +7), and Belgium (62%, +6).
- More than three quarters (78%) agree that too close links between business and politics lead to corruption. Almost two thirds (66%) agree that favouritism and corruption hamper business competition. Six in ten (60%) think that corruption is part of the business culture in their country, while 57% agree that in their country the only way to succeed in business is to have political connections.
- Respondents are most likely to think that corruption is rampant amongst political parties (59%), amongst politicians at local, regional or national levels (56%), officials who award public tenders (44%) or officials granting building permits (43%).
- Almost three quarters (74%) think there is corruption in the national public institutions in their country, while 71% think there is corruption in the local or regional public institutions in their country.
- More than two thirds (67%) believe that bribery and the use of connections is often the easiest way to obtain certain public services.

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.
- This perception varies considerably among Member States, ranging from 63% in Malta to 4% in the Netherlands.

A small minority of 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

- More than half of the respondents (54%) affirm not knowing where to report corruption if they experience or observe it. This outcome varies significantly at the country level; respondents are most likely to know where to report a corruption case in Malta (63%) and Slovenia (62%), and least likely in Poland (32%) and Hungary (33%).
- Among those who experienced or witnessed corruption, 14% lodged a report, marking a decrease of one percentage point since 2022.
- Just slightly over one in ten respondents (11%) personally know someone who accepts or has accepted bribes, with country scores ranging from 36% in Greece to 6% in Ireland and Italy.
- Less than one in ten (7%) express that someone in their country has asked for or expected them to offer a gift, favour or additional money in exchange for their services in the past 12 months. The country-level results range from 18% in Bulgaria to 1% in Denmark and Malta.
- 4% of Europeans report they have personally encountered or witnessed a case of corruption in the last 12 months. At the national level, results range from 18% in Croatia to 3% in Denmark, Poland, and Sweden.

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 64% in France to 31% in Malta.
- Almost half (47%) 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 (45%) think the level of corruption in their country has increased in the past three years, while 41% think it has stayed the same.
- Since 2022 the proportion of respondents who think corruption has increased in their country over the last three years has risen in 16 EU Member States with the biggest increase seen

Special Eurobarometer 534 (99.2)
Corruption
April – May 2023

in Malta (76%, +26 percentage points), Portugal (66%, +15), and Belgium (49%, +15).

- Across all countries, the proportion of respondents who think the level of corruption in their country has increased has risen in 15 countries since October 2017, most notably in Malta (76%, +22) and Greece (56%, +16), and decreased in 11 countries, with the sharpest decrease registered in Italy (40%, -15) and Finland (15%, -14).
- Respondents are pessimistic about national efforts to combat corruption. Only a minority think measures against corruption are applied impartially and without ulterior motives (35%), that there are enough successful prosecutions to deter people from corrupt practices (32%), that their national government's efforts to combat corruption are effective (30%) or that there is sufficient transparency and supervision of the financing of political parties in their country (29%).
- 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 slightly decreased

- More than six in ten (61%) Europeans say they most trust the police to deal with a case of corruption, a decrease of two points since 2022. The police rank well above the justice system (24%), which is the only other institution or body mentioned by at least one in five respondents.
- The police are the most trusted institution in all 27 EU Member States, while the justice system is the second or third-most trusted institution in 15 countries, most notably in Sweden (59%), which is the only country where a majority think this way.

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 3% 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).
- One in four (25%) say they were asked to pay for a preferential treatment, while fewer than one in five (17%) were asked to go for a private consultation in order to be treated in a public hospital, with a similar proportion (16%) saying that the doctor/ nurse requested an extra payment or a valuable gift in advance.

I. GENERAL PERCEPTIONS OF CORRUPTION



1. Acceptability of corruption

While the vast majority considers it unacceptable to offer a gift, do a favour, or provide money in return for a public service, the number of respondents who, in turn, believe this practice to be acceptable is decreasing compared to last year.

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 service¹¹.

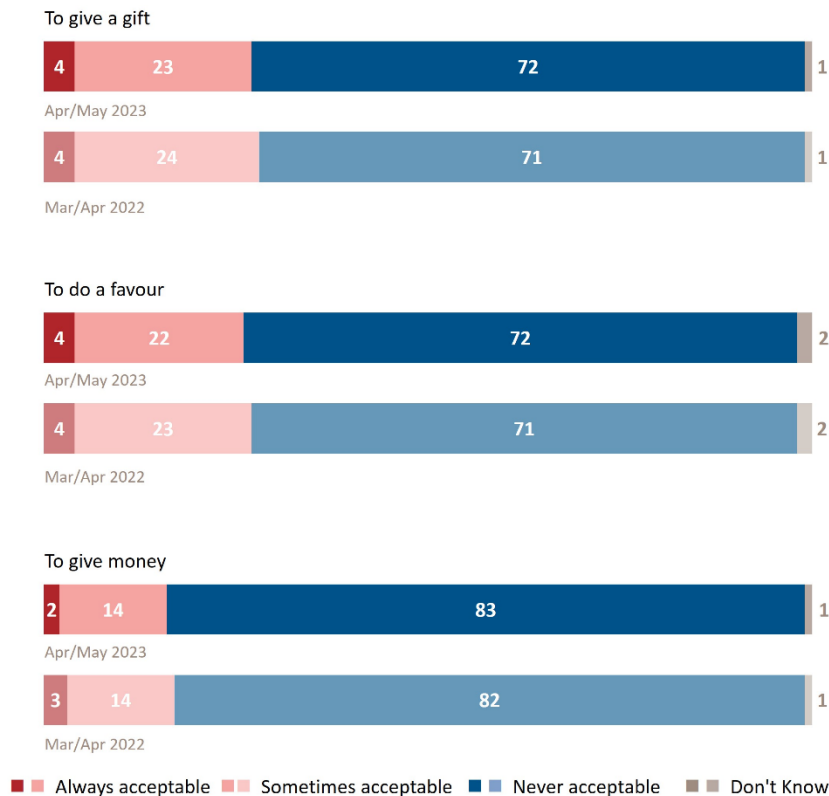
Almost three in ten (27%, -1 percentage point since 2022) think it is acceptable to **give a gift** to get something from the public administration or public service: 4% (=) think this is “always acceptable” and 23% (-1) think it is “sometimes acceptable”. However, the majority (72%, +1) think that this behaviour is “never acceptable”.

More than one quarter (26%, -1) think it is acceptable to **do a favour** in these circumstances, with 4% (=) saying it is “always acceptable” and 22% (-1) that it is “sometimes acceptable”. Most (72%, +1), however, think that this behaviour is “never acceptable”.

Fewer than one in five (16%, -1) think it is acceptable to **give money** with 2% (-1) saying this is “always acceptable” and 14% (=) that it is “sometimes acceptable”. The majority (83%, +1) think this behaviour is “never acceptable”.

Although it remains the minority opinion, the belief that it is acceptable to give a gift, do a favour, or give money to get something from a public administration or a public service has decreased minimally compared to 2022.

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? (% - EU27)



¹¹ 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.

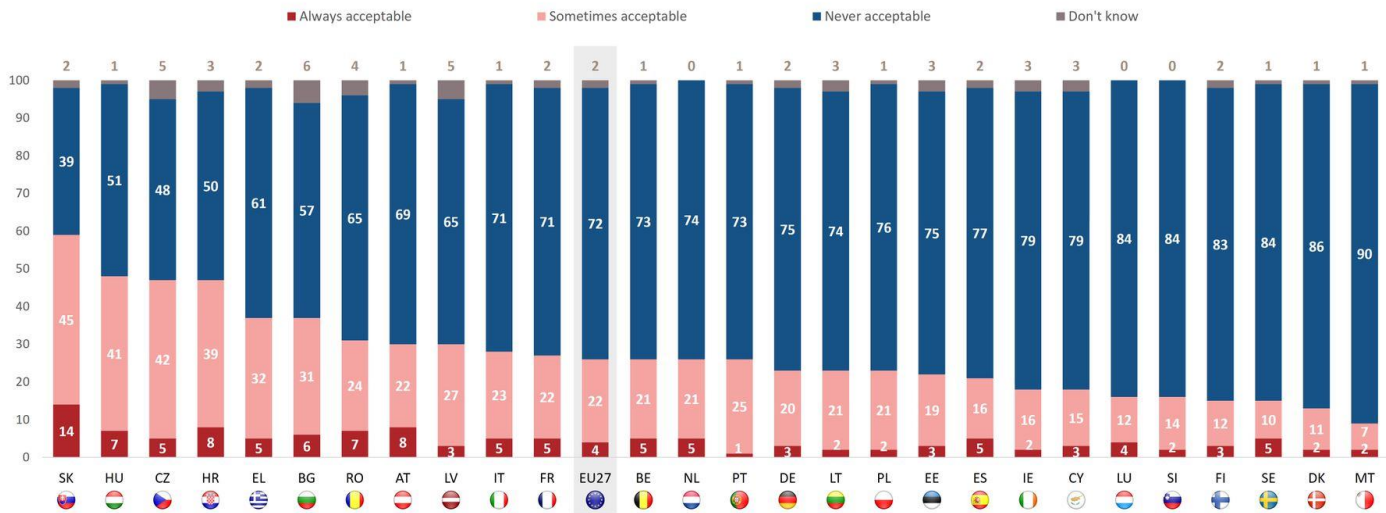
Special Eurobarometer 534 (99.2) Corruption April – May 2023

Doing a favour

Slovakia (59%) is the only EU Member State where a majority think it is acceptable to do a favour in return for receiving something from the public administration or public service. Slightly less than half of the respondents think this way in Hungary (48%), as well

as in Croatia and Czechia (both 47%). In the remaining EU Member States only a minority think this behaviour is acceptable, with the lowest levels of acceptability for this behaviour seen in Malta (9%), Denmark (13%), and Finland and Sweden (both 15%).

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)



Compared to 2022, respondents have become more likely to think it is acceptable to do a favour to get something from the public administration or public service in seven EU Member States, with the sharpest increases seen in Slovakia (49%, +10), Croatia (40%, +7), and Portugal (20%, +6). Belief that this behaviour is acceptable has remained stable in France (27%). Conversely, respondents in 19 countries are now less likely to think this way, with the largest decreases registered in Latvia (45%, -15 percentage points), Malta (22%, -13), and Lithuania (32%, -9).

Regional analysis shows that respondents in the 13 EU Member States that joined the European Union in or after 2004¹² are more likely than those in the other 14 EU Member States already part of the EU in 2004¹³ to think it is acceptable to do a favour to get something from a public administration or a public service (32% vs. 23%). The same pattern applies comparing respondents in countries outside the euro area to those within the euro area (34% vs. 25%).

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	MT	LV	LT	BE	NL	AT	SE	HU	EL	CY	FI	BG	LU	RO	SI	DK	ES	DE	CZ	FR	IT	EE	PL	IE	PT	HR	SK	
Total 'Acceptable'	Apr/May 2023	26	9	30	23	26	26	30	15	48	37	18	15	37	16	31	16	13	21	23	47	27	28	22	23	18	26	47	59
	Δ Mar/Apr 2022	▼1	▼13	▼15	▼9	▼6	▼5	▼4	▼6	▼5	▼4	▼5	▼4	▼1	▼1	▼5	▼1	▼1	▼1	▼1	▼2	=	▲1	▲2	▲3	▲4	▲6	▲7	▲10
Never acceptable	Apr/May 2023	72	90	65	74	73	74	69	84	51	61	79	83	57	84	65	84	86	77	75	48	71	71	75	76	79	73	50	39
	Δ Mar/Apr 2022	▲1	▲16	▲13	▲10	▲6	▲6	▲6	▲6	▲5	▲4	▲4	▲4	▲3	▲3	▲3	▲2	▲1	▲1	=	▼1	▼1	▼1	▼2	▼2	▼4	▼4	▼9	▼9
Don't know	Apr/May 2023	2	1	5	3	1	0	1	1	1	2	3	2	6	0	4	0	1	2	2	5	2	1	3	1	3	1	3	2
	Δ Mar/Apr 2022	=	▼3	▲2	▼1	=	▼1	▼2	=	=	=	▲1	=	▼2	▼2	▲2	▼1	=	=	▲1	▲3	▲1	=	=	▼1	=	▼2	▲2	▼1

¹² 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

¹³ 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.

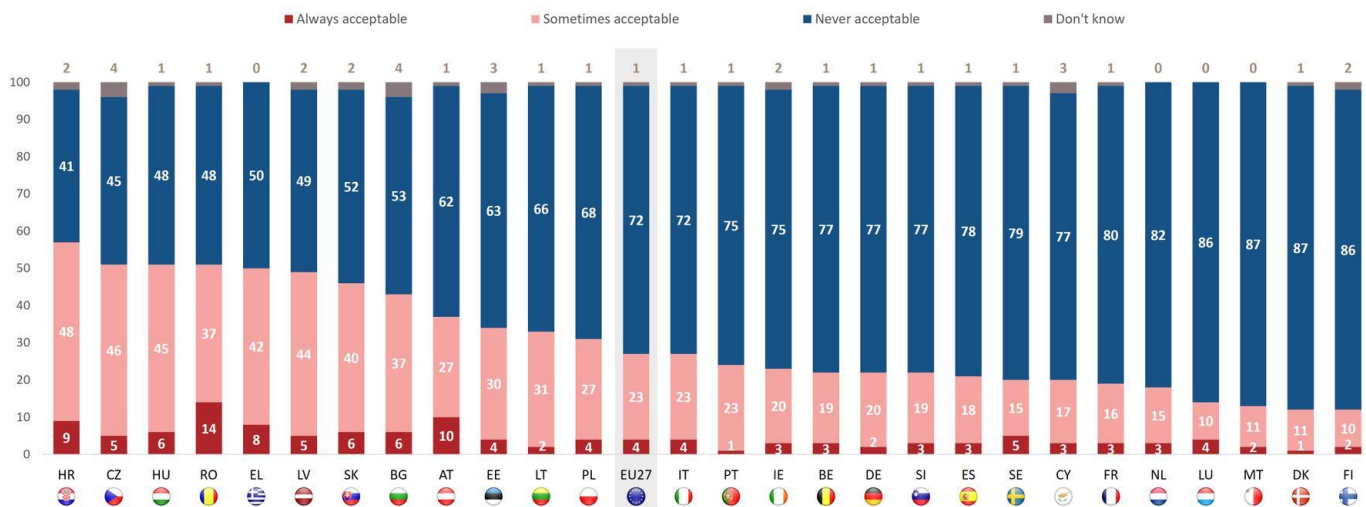
Special Eurobarometer 534 (99.2) Corruption April - May 2023

Giving a gift

In five countries, at least half of those surveyed think it is acceptable to give a gift in order to get something from the public administration or public service: Croatia (57%), Czechia, Hungary, and Romania (51% all), and Greece (50%). In Romania, more than one in ten (14%) think it is “always acceptable” to do this, while in Austria, one in ten (10%) think this.

In the rest of the Member States, only a minority think this behaviour is acceptable, with the lowest scores registered in Finland and Denmark (both 12%), Malta (13%), and Luxembourg (14%).

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)



Compared to 2022, there are seven 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, with the biggest increases seen in Poland (31%, +8), Croatia (57%, +8), Slovakia (46%, +7), and Ireland (23%, +5).

Conversely, the view this behaviour is acceptable has declined in 17 countries, with the largest in decreases seen in Malta (13%, -16), Latvia (49%, -14), and the Netherlands (18%, -6). There has been no change in opinion in Italy (27%), Belgium (22%), and France (19%).

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 (39% vs.. 23%). The same can be said when comparing respondents in countries outside the euro area to those within the euro area (38% vs.. 28%).

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	MT	LV	LT	NL	EL	LU	HU	DE	CY	FI	BG	RO	AT	SE	BE	CZ	SI	DK	ES	FR	IT	PT	EE	IE	SK	PL	HR
Total 'Acceptable'	Apr/May 2023	27	13	49	33	18	50	14	51	22	20	12	43	51	37	20	22	51	22	12	21	19	27	24	34	23	46	31	57
	Δ Mar/Apr 2022	▼1	▼16	▼14	▼7	▼6	▼5	▼5	▼5	▼5	▼5	▼5	▼3	▼3	▼1	▼2	=	▼4	▼1	▼1	▲1	=	=	▲2	▲1	▲5	▲7	▲8	▲8
Never acceptable	Apr/May 2023	72	87	49	66	82	50	86	48	77	77	86	53	48	62	79	77	45	77	87	78	80	72	75	63	75	52	68	41
	Δ Mar/Apr 2022	▲1	▲18	▲13	▲7	▲7	▲6	▲6	▲5	▲4	▲4	▲4	▲3	▲3	▲2	▲2	▲1	▲1	▲1	▲1	=	=	=	=	=	▼1	▼5	▼6	▼7
Don't know	Apr/May 2023	1	0	2	1	0	0	0	1	1	3	2	4	1	1	1	1	4	1	1	1	1	1	1	3	2	2	1	2
	Δ Mar/Apr 2022	=	▼2	▲1	=	▼1	▼1	▼1	=	▲1	▲1	▲1	=	=	▼1	=	▼1	▲3	=	▲1	▼1	=	=	▼2	=	=	▼1	▼1	▲2

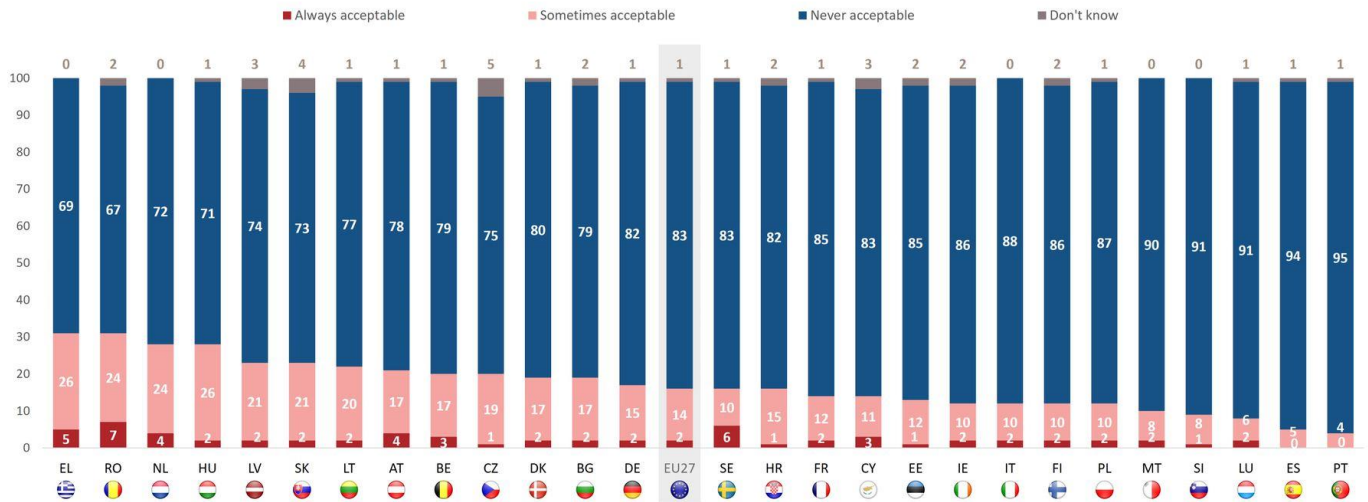
Special Eurobarometer 534 (99.2)
Corruption
April – May 2023

Giving money

Giving money is the least acceptable behaviour next to offering gifts or doing a favour. In four countries, around three in ten respondents think it is acceptable to give money if they want something from the public administration or public service: Greece

and Romania (both 31%) and the Netherlands and Hungary (both 28%). In three countries, less than one in ten think this: Portugal (4%), Luxembourg (8%), and Slovenia (9%).

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)



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 2022 in seven countries, though the increases are fairly limited in scope; the largest being Slovakia (23%, +3), and Croatia (16%, +3). Conversely, belief that this behaviour is acceptable has declined in 20 countries, most notably in Latvia (23%, -9).

Regional analysis shows that respondents from the 13 Member States that joined the EU in or after 2004 are only slightly 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 (18% vs. 16%). The difference between countries outside the euro area and those within the euro area is more pronounced (21% vs. 16%).

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	LV	MT	RO	SI	CY	HU	FI	BG	LT	NL	SE	BE	DK	DE	EL	ES	LU	AT	CZ	PL	PT	EE	FR	IE	IT	SK	HR
Total 'Acceptable'	Apr/May 2023	16	23	10	31	9	14	28	12	19	22	28	16	20	19	17	31	5	8	21	20	12	4	13	14	12	12	23	16
	Δ Mar/Apr 2022	▼1	▼9	▼6	▼6	▼5	▼5	▼4	▼4	▼3	▼2	▼2	▼3	▼2	▼3	▼3	▼1	▼2	▼2	▼1	▼4	▼1	▲1	▲1	▲1	▲2	▲2	▲3	▲3
Never acceptable	Apr/May 2023	83	74	90	67	91	83	71	86	79	77	72	83	79	80	82	69	94	91	78	75	87	95	85	85	86	88	73	82
	Δ Mar/Apr 2022	▲1	▲8	▲8	▲5	▲5	▲4	▲4	▲4	▲3	▲3	▲3	▲3	▲2	▲2	▲2	▲2	▲2	▲2	▲2	▲1	▲1	=	▼1	▼1	▼2	▼2	▼3	▼4
Don't know	Apr/May 2023	1	3	0	2	0	3	1	2	2	1	0	1	1	1	1	0	1	1	1	5	1	1	2	1	2	0	4	2
	Δ Mar/Apr 2022	=	▲1	▼2	▲1	=	▲1	=	=	=	▼1	▼1	=	=	▲1	▲1	▼1	=	=	▼1	▲3	=	▼1	=	=	=	=	=	▲1

Special Eurobarometer 534 (99.2) Corruption April – May 2023

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’¹⁴.

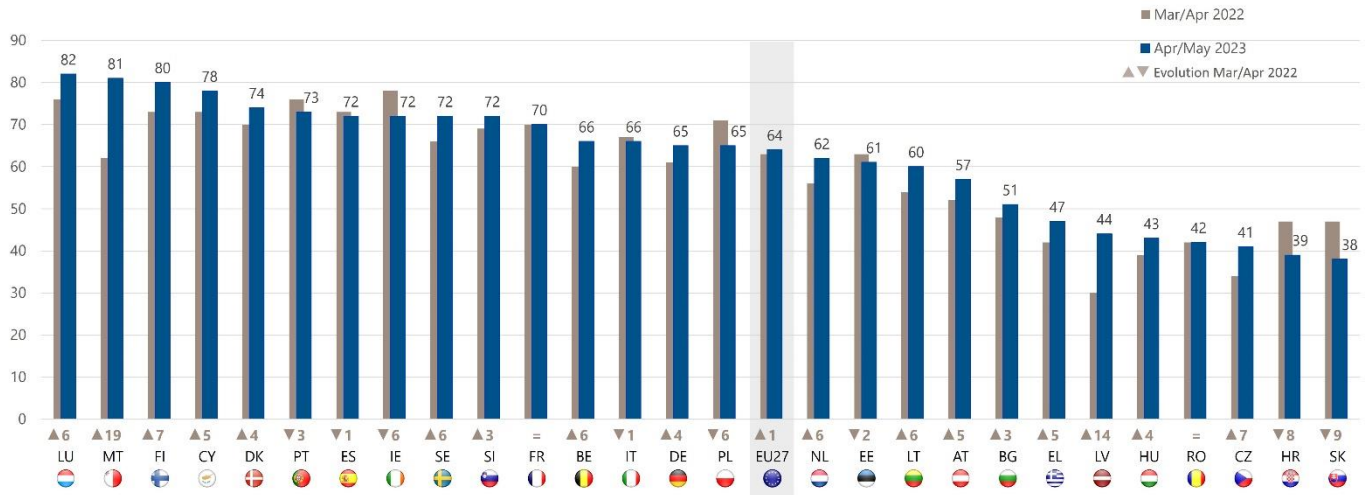
Close to two thirds (64%, +1) of surveyed Europeans think corruption is unacceptable¹⁵. In twenty EU Member States, more than half share this view, with the highest percentages found in Luxembourg (82%), Malta (81%), and Finland (80%). Conversely, less than four in ten respondents agree with this position in Slovakia (38%) and Croatia (39%).

Romania stands out as the only EU Member State where at least one in ten (14%) think corruption is acceptable.

Since 2022, the proportion of respondents who think corruption is unacceptable has increased in 17 Member States, with the largest increase seen in Malta (81%, +19), Latvia (44%, +14), and Finland (80%, +7). In contrast, the proportion who think corruption is unacceptable has decreased in eight countries, most notably in Slovakia (38%, -9), Croatia (39%, -8), and Ireland (72%, -6). There has been no change in France (70%), and Romania (42%).

As a result of these changes the view that corruption is unacceptable has gone from being the minority to the majority view in Bulgaria.

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



¹⁴ 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.

¹⁵ This means respondents who answered “never acceptable” to the three questions.

Special Eurobarometer 534 (99.2)
Corruption
April – May 2023



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: 30% vs. 24%; gift: 29% vs. 25%; money: 24% vs. 12%).
- Students, particularly compared to retired persons (money: 24% vs. 11%), house persons, compared to managers (gift: 34% vs. 22%), self-employed, compared to managers (favour: 31% vs. 22%).
- Respondents who have experienced or witnessed corruption in the past 12 months. For example, 28% who experienced corruption and 27% who witnessed it think it is acceptable to give money, compared to 15% who have not experienced or witnessed corruption.
- Respondents who know someone who takes or has taken bribes, compared with those who do not (favour: 37% vs. 25%; gift: 40% vs. 26%; money: 24% vs. 15%).

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	27	26	16
 Gender			
Man	27	27	16
Woman	28	26	15
 Age			
15-24	29	30	24
25-39	30	29	19
40-54	27	27	14
55 +	25	24	12
Socio-professional category			
Self-employed	27	31	16
Managers	22	22	14
Other white collars	29	28	18
Manual workers	30	29	17
House persons	34	29	19
Unemployed	27	27	13
Retired	25	23	11
Students	27	28	24
Experienced or witnessed corruption			
Yes, experienced	39	38	28
Yes, witnessed	41	37	27
No	27	26	15
You know someone who takes bribes			
Yes	40	37	24
No	26	25	15

Special Eurobarometer 534 (99.2)
Corruption
April – May 2023

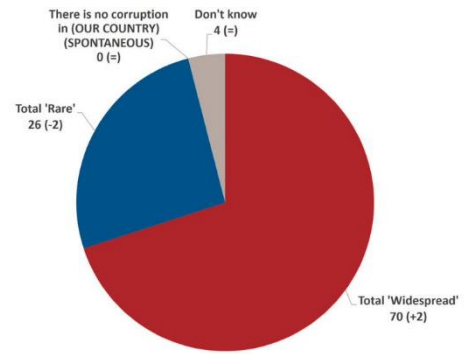
2. How widespread is corruption?

Over two thirds of respondents still believe corruption is widespread in their country, being slightly more pessimistic about its spread than they were in 2022

More than two thirds of respondents (70%, +2 percentage points since 2022) believe corruption is widespread in their country.¹⁶ Just over one in five (22%, =) think corruption is “very widespread”, while 48% (+2) think it is “fairly widespread”. Overall, 26% (-2) think corruption is rare in their country, with 22% (-5) saying it is “fairly rare” and 4% (-1) that it is very rare. Just 4% (=) say they “don’t know”.

The results show that respondents have a slightly more pessimistic view of the spread of corruption in their country than those in 2022, with a majority still thinking the problem is widespread.

QA5 How widespread do you think the problem of corruption is in (OUR COUNTRY)? (% - EU27)

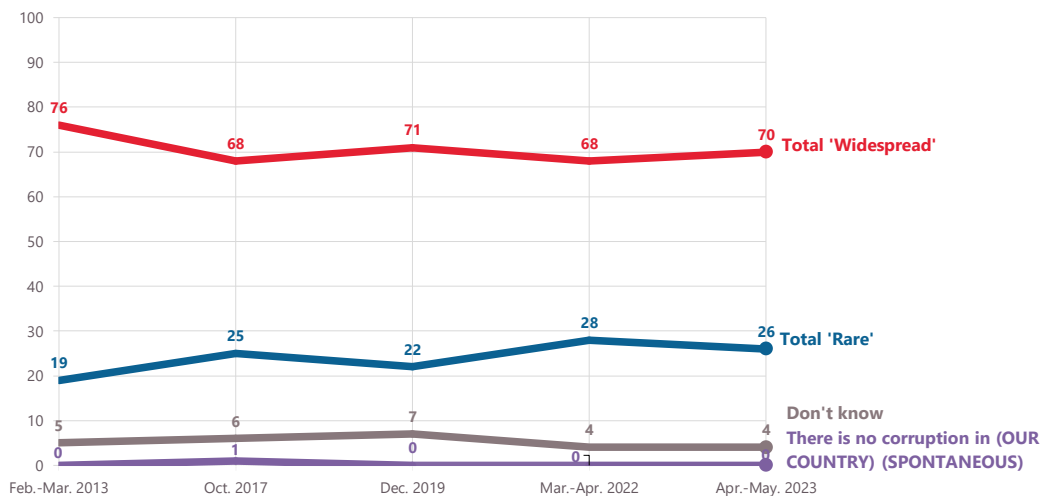


(Apr/May 2023 – Mar/Apr 2022)

After dropping slightly (-3 percentage points) between 2019 and 2022, the proportion who thinks corruption in their country is widespread has again increased two percentage points back to 70% - roughly on par with the level as it was in 2019. This is six points lower than it was in 2013.

The proportion who thinks corruption in their country is rare has dropped slightly from the high mark it had reached in 2022 (28%), but is still seven points higher than it was in 2013.

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



¹⁶ 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

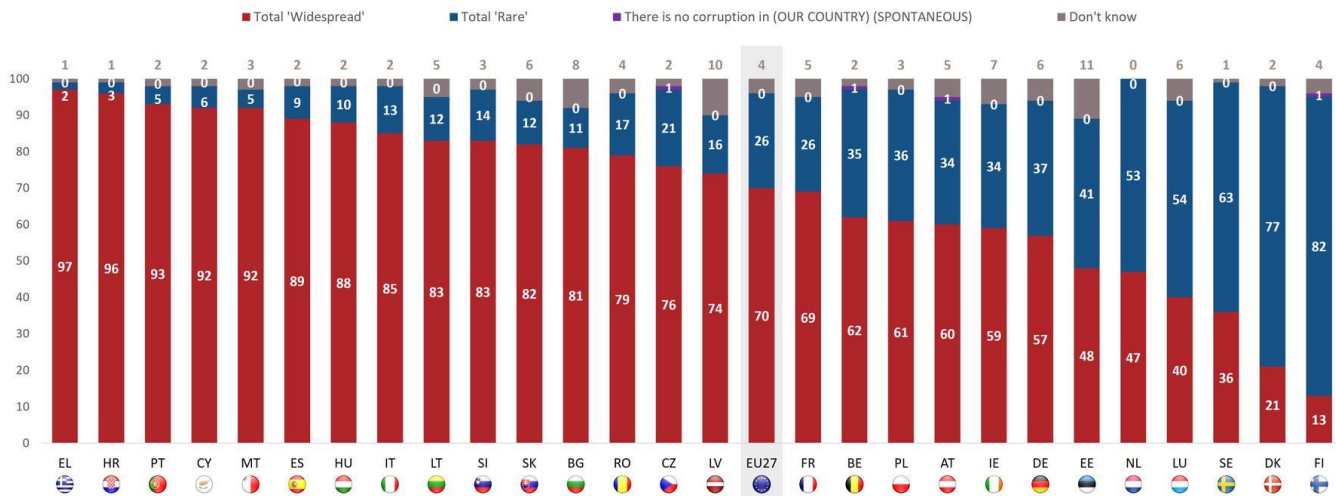
abuse of power for private gain”. They were also requested to base their answers on their own experience.

Special Eurobarometer 534 (99.2) Corruption April - May 2023

In 21 EU Member States the majority of respondents think corruption is widespread in their country. Almost all respondents say this in Greece (97%) and Croatia (96%), with at least nine in ten respondents saying the same in Portugal (93%), and Cyprus and Malta (both 92%). Greece is the only country where more than half of the respondents (54%) think corruption is “very widespread”.

In six countries, fewer than half think corruption is widespread: Finland (13%), Denmark (21%), Sweden (36%), Luxembourg (40%), the Netherlands (47%), and Estonia (48%).

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



Special Eurobarometer 534 (99.2)
Corruption
April - May 2023

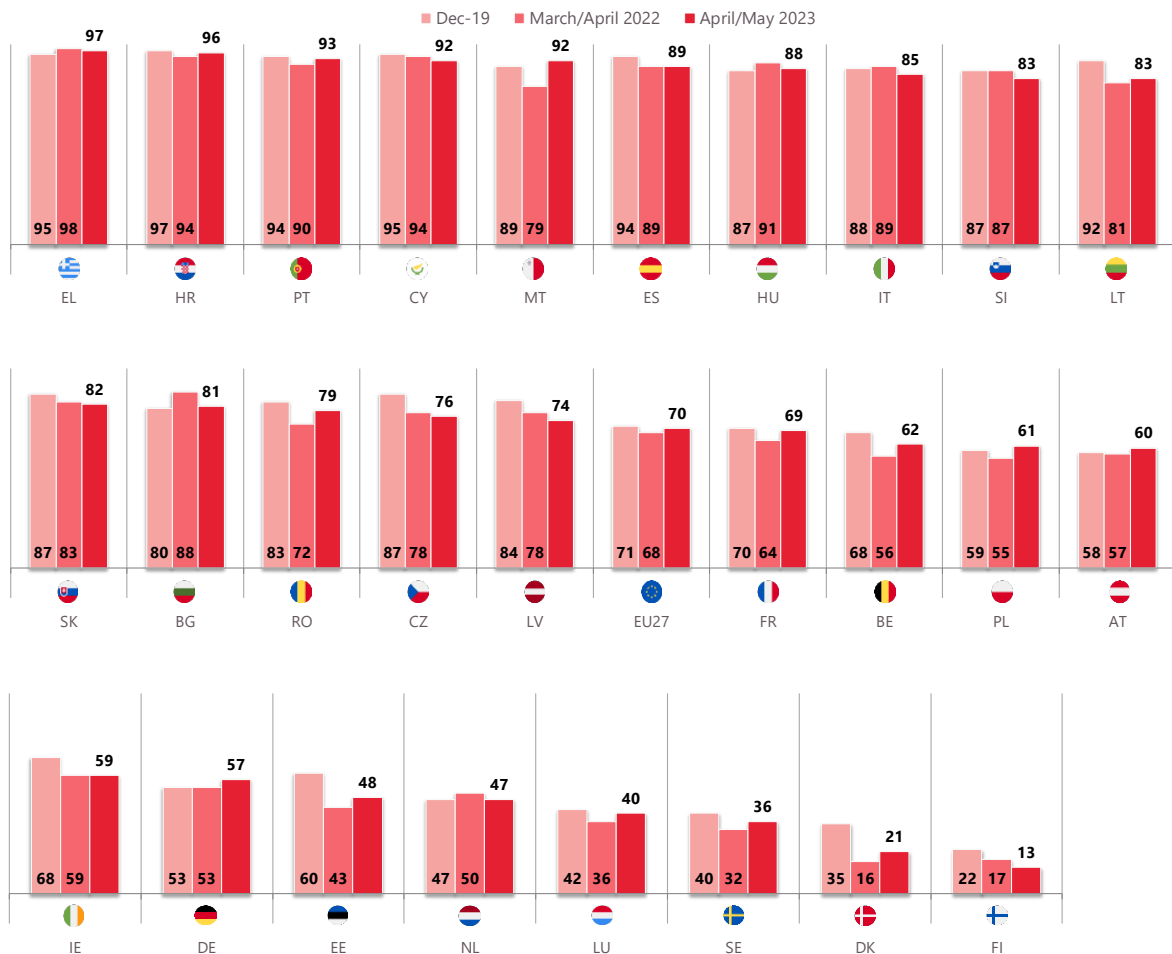
Compared to 2022, the proportion of respondents who think corruption is widespread in their country has increased in 14 countries, with the biggest rise seen in Malta (92%, +13%), Romania (79%, +7), and Belgium (62%, +6). Belief that corruption is widespread has decreased in 11 countries, most notably in Bulgaria (81%, -7), Italy (85%, -4), Slovenia (83%, -4), and Finland (13%, -4). There has been no change in opinion in Ireland (59%), and Spain (89%).

Since 2017 the proportion thinking corruption in their country is widespread has declined in 17 EU Member States, increased in nine, and remained unchanged in one.

A regional analysis shows respondents in euro area countries are more or less equally likely to consider that corruption is widespread in their country compared to those in non-euro area countries (69%-70%).

Only a few countries show somewhat consistent trends over the past four waves of the survey. For instance, between October 2017 and 2022, in Estonia the proportion who think corruption in their country is widespread has decreased by at least three points each wave, rising from 67% to 43%, but rising again in the current survey to 48%. In contrast, the proportion has consistently increased in the Netherlands, up from 44% in 2017 to 50% in 2022, but since then dropping again to 47%.

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



Special Eurobarometer 534 (99.2)
Corruption
April – May 2023

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:

- Older respondents are overall more likely to think that corruption is widespread. More than seven in ten (72%-73%) of those aged 40 and up think this way, compared to two thirds (67%) of those aged 25-39, and just over of six in ten (61%) of those aged 15-24.
- The earlier a respondent left education, the more likely they are to think corruption is widespread: 76% who left education aged 15 or younger think this way, compared to 63% who completed their education aged 20 or older.
- The unemployed (80%) are the most likely to say corruption is widespread, particularly compared to managers and students (both 60%).
- The more difficulties a respondent has paying bills, the more likely they are to think corruption is widespread: 79% with the most difficulties think this way, compared to 66% of those who never or almost never experience difficulties.
- Respondents who have experienced (91%) or witnessed (88%) corruption are more likely to think it is widespread than those who have not (68%).
- 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 (87% vs. 28%).

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

	Total 'Widespread'	Total 'Rare'	There is no corruption in (OUR COUNTRY) (SPONTANEOUS)	Don't know
EU27	70	26	0	4
Gender				
Man	68	30	0	2
Woman	71	24	0	5
Age				
15-24	61	33	0	6
25-39	67	30	0	3
40-54	73	25	0	2
55 +	72	24	0	4
Education (End of)				
15-	76	19	0	5
16-19	75	22	0	3
20+	63	34	0	3
Still studying	60	34	0	6
Socio-professional category				
Self-employed	73	25	0	2
Managers	60	37	0	3
Other white collars	71	27	0	2
Manual workers	72	25	0	3
House persons	76	20	0	4
Unemployed	80	17	0	3
Retired	71	24	0	5
Students	60	34	0	6
Difficulties paying bills				
Most of the time	79	18	0	3
From time to time	76	21	0	3
Almost never/ Never	66	30	0	4
Experienced or witnessed corruption				
Yes, experienced	91	8	0	1
Yes, witnessed	88	12	0	0
No	68	28	0	4
You know someone who takes bribes				
Yes	87	12	0	1
No	68	28	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.¹⁷

Almost six in ten (59%, +1 percentage points) think these behaviours are widespread amongst political parties, and almost as many say this about local, regional or national politicians (56%, +1). Mentions of politicians and political parties have increased slightly since 2022, after more substantial increases seen between December 2019 and 2022 (+5 and +6 respectively).

More than four in ten think this behaviour is widespread amongst officials awarding public tenders (44%, -1) or officials issuing building permits (43%, -2). These represent slight decreases since 2022 after large increases recorded between 2019 and 2022. More than one in three (34, -3) say this behaviour is widespread in private companies.

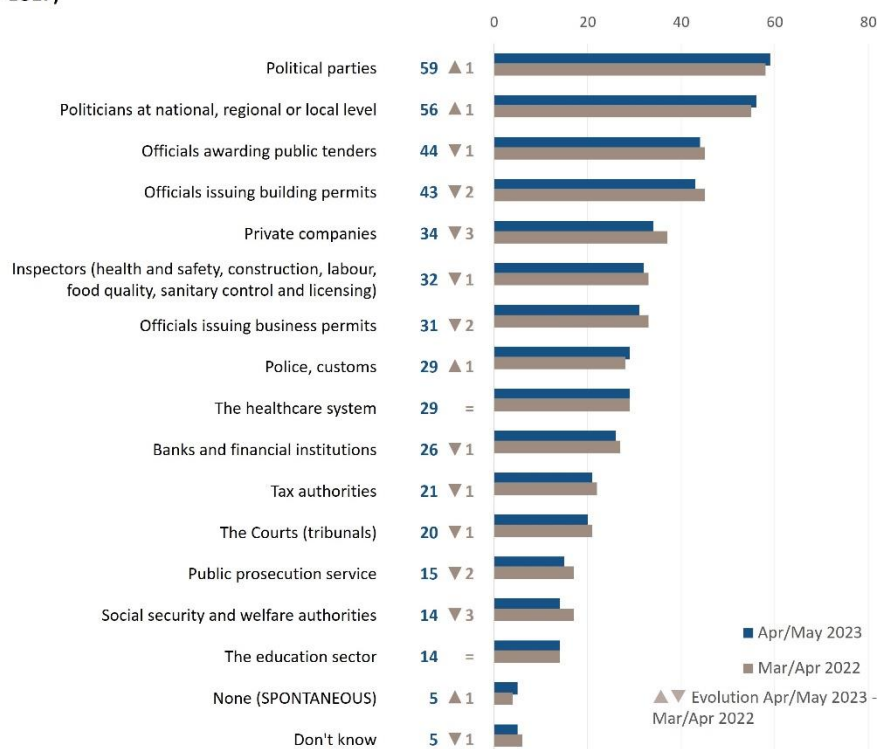
Nearly a third say giving and taking bribes and the abuse of power for personal gain are widespread amongst inspectors (health and safety, construction, labour, food quality, sanitary control and licensing) (32%, -1) or officials issuing business permits (31%, -2).

Close to three in ten think this behaviour is widespread in the healthcare system (29%, =), in the police and customs (29%, +1) and in banks and financial institutions (26%, -1), while just over one in five think this way about the tax authorities (21%, -1) or the courts (20%, -1).

More than one in ten mention the public prosecution service (15%, -2), social security and welfare authorities (14%, -3), or the education sector (14%, =).

Finally, 5% (+1) of Europeans *spontaneously*¹⁸ say corruption is not widespread in any of these areas, while 5% (-1) 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) (% - EU27)



¹⁷ 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)

¹⁸ *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 534 (99.2)
Corruption
April – May 2023

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 private companies (35% vs. 27%), and in banks and financial institutions (26% vs. 17%).

In contrast, those in the countries that joined the EU in or after 2004 are more likely to say corruption is widespread among officials awarding public tenders (51% vs. 42% in the Member States already part of the EU in 2004), in the healthcare system (46% vs. 28%), amongst police and customs (40% vs. 30%), the courts (34% vs. 20%), the public prosecution service (26% vs. 16%), or the education sector (18% vs. 15%).

Respondents living in euro area countries are less likely than those in non-euro area countries to say corruption is widespread in officials awarding public tenders (42% vs. 51%), the courts (20% vs. 34%), police and customs (30% vs. 40%), or the healthcare system (28% vs. 46%). The reverse is true with regard to private companies (35% vs. 27%), or in banks and financial institutions (28% vs. 17%).

Special Eurobarometer 534 (99.2)

Corruption

April – May 2023

The national analysis highlights that in 14 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 (85%), Malta (79%), and France (71%). In Denmark political parties rank equal first with politicians (both 54%). Political parties are one of the three most mentioned answers in 24 countries, and in 18 countries at least half think corruption is widespread in this area.

In five countries, respondents most often mention corruption being widespread amongst **politicians**: Hungary (62%), Croatia (61%), Austria (55%), Germany (54%), and Finland (32%). Politicians are also mentioned by more than six in ten in Spain (72%), Greece (68%) and Portugal (66%), and France (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 (88%), Lithuania (69%), Slovakia (59%), and Romania (53%).

Officials awarding public tenders ranks first of all areas for respondents in Czechia (62%), and they are also mentioned by at least half of all respondents in a further seven countries, most notably Malta (72%), Italy (57%), and Croatia (56%). Officials awarding public tenders is one of the three most mentioned areas in 13 EU Member States.

Although **officials issuing building permits** is the most mentioned area in the Netherlands (61%). In addition, this item ranks second or third in another ten EU Member States. It is mentioned by at least half of all respondents in Malta (78%), Cyprus (59%), Italy (57%), Croatia (53%), and Slovenia (50%).

Bulgaria (59%) is the only country where the **police and customs** is the area most mentioned as having widespread corruption, although at least half in Malta and Cyprus (both 55%), and Greece (54%) think the same way. It is the second or third most mentioned area in Romania (42%) and Latvia (41%).

Respondents in Sweden (54%) most often say corruption is widespread in **private companies**, and this area is also mentioned by at least four in eight countries, most notably in the Netherlands (50%) and Denmark (46%).

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

- At least half in Malta (65%), Greece (59%), and Cyprus (55%) think corruption is widespread amongst **officials issuing business permits**.
- Greece (64%) is the only country where over six in ten mentions **inspectors**, though half (50%) think the same in Lithuania.
- Portugal (53%) is the only country where more than half think corruption is widespread in **banks and financial institutions**.
- Croatia (53%) and Malta (51%) are the only countries where at least half mention the **courts**.
- In four countries, more than one in three mention **tax authorities** as the institution where corruption is widespread: Greece (61%), Cyprus (44%), Croatia (42%), Portugal (38%), and Bulgaria (37%).
- Respondents are the most likely to mention **social security and welfare authorities** in Greece (45%) and Portugal (34%).
- The **public prosecution service** is most mentioned in Cyprus (36%).
- More than one in four respondents mention the **education sector** in Slovakia and Portugal (both 30%), and Cyprus (27%).

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	59	58	43	55	43	54	52	51	67	85	71	57	63	68	43	56	45	59	79	55	52	41	68	44	64	50	23	40
Politicians at national, regional or local level	56	57	46	54	36	54	51	49	68	72	63	61	55	54	34	57	37	62	71	60	55	35	66	44	60	54	32	49
Officials awarding public tenders	44	41	48	62	23	39	37	32	63	41	47	56	57	55	41	52	35	49	73	54	38	33	49	33	50	47	25	37
Officials issuing building permits	43	39	43	42	29	42	39	37	63	46	40	53	57	59	40	52	44	35	78	61	37	28	48	36	50	42	22	37
Private companies	34	33	16	29	46	40	25	29	25	41	43	27	28	32	23	25	40	26	39	50	30	16	45	18	37	28	25	54
Inspectors (health and safety, construction, labour, food quality, sanitary control and licensing)	32	34	39	30	19	33	24	19	64	25	27	46	42	45	28	50	15	27	48	41	27	25	43	30	41	36	8	25
Officials issuing business permits	31	31	40	18	11	32	29	26	59	37	24	45	42	55	28	34	19	29	65	43	28	13	41	30	36	29	12	28
Police, customs	29	37	59	30	10	13	19	29	54	34	40	50	27	55	41	41	15	29	55	39	15	27	39	42	32	45	6	13
The healthcare system	29	11	45	36	10	19	18	17	88	17	17	45	41	61	33	69	13	43	40	19	28	40	33	53	48	59	3	8
Banks and financial institutions	26	24	12	9	28	23	16	34	25	39	34	22	28	38	10	14	28	16	36	38	20	9	53	18	30	20	5	26
Tax authorities	21	23	37	15	8	11	11	12	61	24	23	42	27	44	22	17	13	22	41	23	14	13	38	29	26	28	2	5
The Courts (tribunals)	20	18	39	28	5	7	11	15	39	26	19	53	23	40	22	41	7	23	51	11	13	20	39	27	39	46	3	8
Public prosecution service	15	15	26	18	4	6	8	10	33	17	14	29	19	36	15	30	7	22	49	16	11	15	29	20	26	31	2	8
Social security and welfare authorities	14	13	21	8	11	8	13	11	45	14	10	25	20	31	11	23	11	12	28	16	15	10	34	19	21	25	3	11
The education sector	14	6	19	18	6	9	10	9	19	12	9	22	26	27	13	15	8	13	22	8	20	11	30	25	19	30	3	14
None (SPONTANEOUS)	5	6	1	3	21	7	6	9	0	1	3	1	2	4	2	3	10	3	1	7	8	3	2	3	4	1	30	20
Don't know	5	5	9	6	3	5	12	14	1	3	6	3	5	7	13	6	8	3	5	1	9	8	5	6	4	5	11	1

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

Special Eurobarometer 534 (99.2)

Corruption

April – May 2023

Since 2022, 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 16 EU Member States, most notably in Malta (79%, +19 percentage points) Sweden (40%, +11), and Luxembourg (45%, +8). Proportions have declined in ten countries, with the sharpest decreases seen in Latvia (43%, -12) and Finland (23%, -9), and stayed the same in Italy (63%).

In 15 countries, respondents are now more likely to say corruption is widespread amongst **politicians**, with the largest increases seen in Malta (71%, +18), Sweden (49%, +7), and Luxembourg (37%, +8). Proportions have declined in nine countries, with the largest decreases seen in Latvia (34%, -12) and Finland (32%, -9). There has been no change in Denmark (36%) and Cyprus (54%).

The proportion of respondents mentioning **officials awarding public tenders** has increased in eight countries, most notably in Malta (73%, +28) and Luxembourg (35%, +10). Proportions have decreased in 15 countries with the largest decreases seen in Latvia (41%, -14), Bulgaria (48%, -12), and Slovenia (50%, -9). There has been no change in Germany (39%) and Ireland (32%).

In ten EU Member States, the proportion mentioning **officials issuing building permits** has increased, with the largest seen in Malta (78%, +24), Luxembourg (44%, +17), and Ireland (37%, +6). Proportions have declined in 14 countries with the largest decrease seen in Latvia (40%, -13) and Bulgaria (43%, -11).

Mentions of **private companies** have increased in 12 countries, with the sharpest rise registered in Malta (39%, +16), and declined in 15 countries, with the sharpest drop seen in Italy (28%, -7), Denmark (40%, -5), Hungary (26%, -5), and Bulgaria (16%, -5). The results remain unchanged in Poland (16%).

Changes in mentions of **inspectors** are relatively small, except in Malta (65%, +25), and Bulgaria (40%, -11). Mentions remained stable in Denmark (11%).

In ten countries the proportion who thinks corruption is widespread amongst **officials issuing business permits** has increased, with the largest increase seen in Malta (48%, +15). Mentions have declined in 16 countries, with the sharpest decreases noted in Latvia (28%, -11), Bulgaria (39%, -9), and Finland (8%, -6). There has been no change in Portugal (43%).

The proportions who think corruption is widespread in the **healthcare system** have increased in 11 countries. Here too, the biggest increase is seen in Malta (40%, +23), with increases elsewhere being relatively limited. Notable decreases are registered in Latvia (33%, -7) and Bulgaria (45%, -6), with no change seen in Slovenia (48%), Croatia (45%), and Sweden (8%).

The proportion of respondents mentioning the **police and customs** has increased in 14 countries with the largest increase seen in Malta (55%, +22), France (40%, +9), and Belgium (37%, +8), and Estonia (19%, +8). Mentions have declined in ten countries with the largest in Slovakia (45%, -9) and Latvia (41%, -8). Opinion is unchanged in Austria (15%), Germany (13%), and Denmark (10%).

The proportion of respondents who think corruption is widespread in **banks and financial institutions** has increased in 12 EU Member States, with the biggest rise seen in Malta (36%, +25), Ireland (34%, +11), and Luxembourg (28%, +7). Decreases are seen in 12 countries, most notably in Portugal (53%, -8) and

Sweden (26%, -6). Opinion remains unchanged in Belgium (24%), Latvia (10%), and Poland (9%).

Mentions of the **tax authorities** have increased in seven countries, most notably in Malta (41%, +14). They have declined in 11 countries, with the largest decreases seen in Bulgaria (37%, -7), Slovenia (26%, -7), and Greece (61%, -6). There has been no change in Denmark (8%), Germany (11%), Cyprus (44%), Lithuania (17%), Hungary (22%), Romania (29%), and Finland (2%).

In seven countries mentions of the **courts** have increased, with the largest in Malta (51%, +14). Mentions have decreased slightly in 12 countries, most notably in Bulgaria (39%, -7) and Greece (39%, -6), while in eight countries the proportions have remained stable.

Changes in mentions of **social security and welfare authorities** are generally small. Mentions have increased slightly in eight countries, and substantially in Malta (28%, +11) and Greece (45%, +6). They have decreased in 15 countries, most notably in Italy (20%, -8) and Romania (19%, -6). Mentions are stable in France (10%) and Belgium (13%).

Mentions of the **public prosecution service** have increased in ten countries, most notably in Malta (49%, +35). In 15 countries there have been small decreases, the largest being in Romania (20%, -8), Slovenia (26%, -7), Latvia (15%, -7), and Spain (17%, -6). There has been no change in Belgium (15%).

Finally, mentions of the **education sector** have increased in 16 countries, most notably in Malta (22%, +13), and Cyprus (27%, +6). They have declined in nine countries including Greece (19%, -5), and have remained stable in Belgium (6%) and Italy (26%).

Special Eurobarometer 534 (99.2)
Corruption
April – May 2023

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	Apr/May 2023	59	58	43	55	43	54	52	51	67	85	71	57	63	68	43	56	45	59	79	55	52	41	68	44	64	50	23	40
	Δ Mar/Apr 2022	▲1	▲5	▼3	▲3	▲5	▼4	▲2	▲3	▲2	▲2	▲6	▼4	=	▼2	▼12	▼1	▲8	▲3	▲19	▲1	▼2	▲8	▲2	▲3	▼1	▼4	▼9	▲11
Politicians at national, regional or local level	Apr/May 2023	56	57	46	54	36	54	51	49	68	72	63	61	55	54	34	57	37	62	71	60	55	35	66	44	60	54	32	49
	Δ Mar/Apr 2022	▲1	▲4	▼6	▼6	=	▼3	▲2	▲6	▲3	▲5	▲7	▲1	▼5	=	▼12	▲1	▲8	▲5	▲18	▼2	▲3	▲3	▲3	=	▼7	▼5	▼9	▲7
Police, customs	Apr/May 2023	29	37	59	30	10	13	19	29	54	34	40	50	27	55	41	41	15	29	55	39	15	27	39	42	32	45	6	13
	Δ Mar/Apr 2022	▲1	▲8	▼8	▼2	=	=	▲8	▲3	▲2	▲2	▲9	▼2	▼4	▲1	▼8	▲1	▲4	▲4	▲22	▼4	=	▲4	▼2	▲2	▼5	▼9	▼1	▲2
The healthcare system	Apr/May 2023	29	11	45	36	10	19	18	17	88	17	17	45	41	61	33	69	13	43	40	19	28	40	33	53	48	59	3	8
	Δ Mar/Apr 2022	=	▼2	▼6	▼2	▲3	▼2	▲4	▲4	▼3	▼3	▼3	=	▲2	▲1	▼7	=	▲2	▼3	▲23	=	▲7	▼1	▲3	▲3	=	▲1	▼2	=
The education sector	Apr/May 2023	14	6	19	18	6	9	10	9	19	12	9	22	26	27	13	15	8	13	22	8	20	11	30	25	19	30	3	14
	Δ Mar/Apr 2022	=	=	▼2	▲3	▲1	▲1	▲4	▲1	▼5	▼4	▲2	▼3	=	▲6	▲1	▼2	▲1	▲2	▲13	▼1	▲9	▲1	▲4	▼1	▲1	▲3	▼1	▼2
Officials awarding public tenders	Apr/May 2023	44	41	48	62	23	39	37	32	63	41	47	56	57	55	41	52	35	49	73	54	38	33	49	33	50	47	25	37
	Δ Mar/Apr 2022	▼1	▼5	▼12	▼6	▲4	=	▲6	=	=	▼5	▲5	▼1	▼1	▼3	▼14	▼4	▲10	▼1	▲28	▼7	▲3	▲2	▲1	▼3	▼9	▼3	▼4	▼6
Inspectors (health and safety, construction, labour, food quality, sanitary control and licensing)	Apr/May 2023	32	34	39	30	19	33	24	19	64	25	27	46	42	45	28	50	15	27	48	41	27	25	43	30	41	36	8	25
	Δ Mar/Apr 2022	▼1	▼1	▼9	▼3	▼2	▲2	▲2	▲2	▲2	▼4	▲3	▼2	▼4	▲5	▼11	▲1	▲1	▼3	▲15	▼3	▼1	▲1	=	▼5	▼7	▼4	▼6	▼4
Banks and financial institutions	Apr/May 2023	26	24	12	9	28	23	16	34	25	39	34	22	28	38	10	14	28	16	36	38	20	9	53	18	30	20	5	26
	Δ Mar/Apr 2022	▼1	=	▼3	▲1	▲2	▼2	▲4	▲11	▲3	▼5	▲1	▼1	▼1	▲2	=	▲3	▲7	▼1	▲25	▲1	▲1	=	▼8	▼5	▼1	▼2	▼1	▼6
Tax authorities	Apr/May 2023	21	23	37	15	8	11	11	12	61	24	23	42	27	44	22	17	13	22	41	23	14	13	38	29	26	28	2	5
	Δ Mar/Apr 2022	▼1	▲4	▼7	▼3	=	=	▲3	▲2	▼6	▼3	▲4	▼1	▼5	=	=	▼2	▲4	=	▲14	▼3	▼2	▲1	▼1	=	▼7	▼2	=	=
The Courts (tribunals)	Apr/May 2023	20	18	39	28	5	7	11	15	39	26	19	53	23	40	22	41	7	23	51	11	13	20	39	27	39	46	3	8
	Δ Mar/Apr 2022	▼1	▲2	▼6	▼5	▲1	▼1	▲1	▲1	▲8	▼6	=	▲3	▼6	▲1	▼7	▼4	=	▲5	▲21	▲1	▲3	▲1	▼1	▼1	▼6	▼7	▼1	▲1
Officials issuing building permits	Apr/May 2023	43	39	43	42	29	42	39	37	63	46	40	53	57	59	40	52	44	35	78	61	37	28	48	36	50	42	22	37
	Δ Mar/Apr 2022	▼2	▼3	▼11	▼7	▲2	▼1	▲4	▲6	▼2	▼5	▲2	=	▼1	▲2	▼13	▼1	▲17	▼1	▲24	=	▲2	=	▲1	▼2	▼2	▼4	▼2	▲1
Officials issuing business permits	Apr/May 2023	31	31	40	18	11	32	29	26	59	37	24	45	42	55	28	34	19	29	65	43	28	13	41	30	36	29	12	28
	Δ Mar/Apr 2022	▼2	▼2	▼11	▼1	=	▲1	▲5	▲1	▼2	▼7	▲5	▼3	▼7	▲3	▼5	▼1	▲8	▼3	▲25	▲2	▼1	▼3	▲3	▼4	▼3	▼2	▼2	▼2
Public prosecution service	Apr/May 2023	15	15	26	18	4	6	8	10	33	17	14	29	19	36	15	30	7	22	49	16	11	15	29	20	26	31	2	8
	Δ Mar/Apr 2022	▼2	=	▼7	▼5	▲1	▼3	▲1	▼1	▲4	▼6	▲1	▼5	▼4	▲3	▼7	▼4	▲3	▲2	▲35	=	▼1	▲2	▼1	▼8	▼7	▼5	▼2	▲2
Social security and welfare authorities	Apr/May 2023	14	13	21	8	11	8	13	11	45	14	10	25	20	31	11	23	11	12	28	16	15	10	34	19	21	25	3	11
	Δ Mar/Apr 2022	▼3	=	▼4	▼3	▲2	▼1	▲3	▲3	▲6	▼4	=	▼2	▼8	▲4	▼1	▲1	▲4	▼4	▲11	▼3	▲2	▼1	▲1	▼6	▼2	▼6	▼2	▼3
Private companies	Apr/May 2023	34	33	16	29	46	40	25	29	25	41	43	27	28	32	23	25	40	26	39	50	30	16	45	18	37	28	25	54
	Δ Mar/Apr 2022	▼3	▼3	▼5	▼2	▲5	▼5	▲3	▲4	▼2	▼3	▲1	▼2	▼7	▲1	▲1	▲1	▲1	▼5	▲16	▼2	▲3	=	▲4	▼1	▼1	▼3	▼3	▼1
None (SPONTANEOUS)	Apr/May 2023	5	6	1	3	21	7	6	9	0	1	3	1	2	4	2	3	10	3	1	7	8	3	2	3	4	1	30	20
	Δ Mar/Apr 2022	▲1	=	=	▲2	▼2	=	=	▲2	▼1	=	▼1	=	▲1	▼1	=	▲1	▼4	=	▼1	=	=	▲1	=	=	▲1	=	▲6	▲6
Don't know	Apr/May 2023	5	5	9	6	3	5	12	14	1	3	6	3	5	7	13	6	8	3	5	1	9	8	5	6	4	5	11	1
	Δ Mar/Apr 2022	▼1	▲1	▲4	▲3	▼1	▲1	▼3	▼2	▼1	▼2	▼3	▲2	▲1	▲3	▲7	▲1	▼7	▼2	▼8	=	▲2	▼2	▼3	=	▲1	▼1	▲5	▼2

Special Eurobarometer 534 (99.2)

Corruption

April – May 2023

The **sociodemographic analysis** illustrates a range of differences:




- Respondents aged 15-54 are more likely (32%-33%) to think corruption is widespread among politicians compared to those aged 55 and up (25%). The same holds with regard to the education sector (15-16% vs. 12%). When it comes to the healthcare system, it's older respondents who are more concerned, with 29%-32% of those aged 25 and up citing corruption there compared to 23% of those aged 15-24. When it comes to officials awarding public tenders, respondents aged 40-54 are more concerned (50%), compared to 46% of those aged 55 and up, 45% of those aged 25-39, and 29% of those aged 15-24.
- The longer a respondent remained in education, the more likely they are to think corruption is widespread in private companies (40% of those who finished their studies after the age of 20 vs. 31% of those who finished before 16), and to a lesser degree among officials awarding public tenders (47% vs. 43%). Respondents who left school aged 16-19 are most likely (33%) to think corruption is widespread in the healthcare system, compared with 27% of those who finished their education before 16 and 26% of those who received a higher education.
- The unemployed are the most likely to say corruption is widespread in political parties (68%), amongst politicians (62%) or in banks and financial institutions (31%). The self-employed are the most likely to think corruption is widespread amongst officials issuing public tenders (56%) or building permits (51%), inspectors (38%) or the healthcare system (35%). House persons are the most likely to say corruption is widespread in the courts (25%), social security and welfare authorities (18%), and the public prosecution service (19%).
- Respondents who experience difficulties paying their bills most of the time are the most likely to think corruption is widespread in each area. This is most notably the case for political parties (67%), politicians (61%), officials awarding public tenders (47%) or building permits (48%), and inspectors (42%).
- Respondents who have experienced corruption are consistently more likely to think corruption is widespread. This is particularly striking for the healthcare system (49% vs. 28% who have not experienced corruption) and police and customs (46% vs. 28%). The same pattern applies for those who have witnessed corruption. For instance, those who have witnessed corruption are more likely to think that it is widespread in private companies compared to those who haven't (48% vs. 34%).

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	Police, customs	Tax authorities	The Courts (tribunals)	Public prosecution service	Social security and welfare authorities
EU27	59	56	44	43	29	21	20	15	14
Age									
15-24	55	49	29	30	32	22	20	14	11
25-39	60	55	45	43	33	24	21	17	15
40-54	62	60	50	49	32	22	22	17	16
55 +	58	55	46	44	25	19	18	14	14
Education (End of)									
15-	61	58	43	44	28	21	21	16	18
16-19	59	54	47	45	29	21	21	16	14
20+	60	58	47	45	30	20	19	15	14
Still studying	54	51	31	32	30	24	18	15	12
Socio-professional category									
Self-employed	60	61	56	51	32	26	22	18	16
Managers	58	55	48	45	26	17	16	12	11
Other white collars	60	55	48	47	33	23	22	17	17
Manual workers	61	56	43	44	31	22	22	18	16
House persons	64	59	44	41	36	23	25	19	18
Unemployed	68	62	44	44	34	22	22	15	14
Retired	57	55	44	43	25	18	17	13	13
Students	54	51	31	32	30	24	18	15	12
Difficulties paying bills									
Most of the time	67	61	47	48	38	28	28	22	23
From time to time	61	57	47	46	33	26	24	18	19
Almost never/ Never	58	55	43	42	27	18	18	14	11
Experienced or witnessed corruption									
Yes, experienced	68	67	61	56	46	39	35	32	29
Yes, witnessed	71	66	60	59	49	38	32	28	27
No	59	55	43	42	28	20	19	14	13
Tolerance index to corruption									
Acceptable	48	46	33	33	32	29	23	21	19
Tolerated	59	56	47	45	33	25	23	18	16
Unacceptable	60	56	44	43	28	19	18	14	13
You know someone who takes bribes									
Yes	69	70	63	61	47	35	34	29	28
No	58	54	42	41	27	19	18	14	13

Special Eurobarometer 534 (99.2)
Corruption
April – May 2023

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)

	Private companies	Inspectors (health and safety, construction, labour, food quality, sanitary control and licensing)	Officials issuing business permits	The healthcare system	Banks and financial institutions	The education sector	None (SPONTANEOUS)	Don't know
EU27	34	32	31	29	26	14	5	5
 Age								
15-24	32	27	24	23	24	16	4	8
25-39	35	33	31	29	29	15	4	3
40-54	36	37	35	32	28	16	4	4
55 +	33	31	32	29	24	12	5	6
 Education (End of)								
15-	31	34	35	27	29	15	4	9
16-19	32	34	32	33	25	14	3	4
20+	40	32	31	26	28	14	6	4
Still studying	36	28	25	22	26	18	4	9
Socio-professional category								
Self- employed	35	38	37	35	28	16	4	4
Managers	40	32	31	25	27	13	6	3
Other white collars	33	34	34	34	28	16	5	3
Manual workers	33	33	34	30	27	15	4	5
House persons	31	36	31	33	26	17	4	5
Unemployed	35	33	29	24	31	13	4	4
Retired	33	30	30	28	23	11	5	7
Students	36	28	25	22	26	18	4	9
 Difficulties paying bills								
Most of the time	37	42	37	36	34	19	2	4
From time to time	34	37	34	35	28	17	3	5
Almost never/ Never	35	29	30	26	25	13	5	6
Experienced or witnessed corruption								
Yes, experienced	39	46	47	49	34	27	1	1
Yes, witnessed	48	53	49	45	37	26	0	0
No	34	31	30	28	26	14	5	6
You know someone who takes bribes								
Yes	48	52	48	46	36	26	1	1
No	33	30	29	27	25	13	5	6

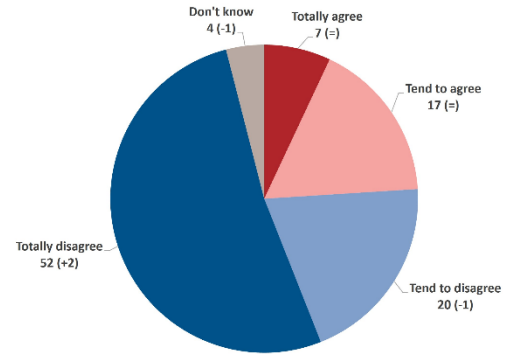
4. Level of corruption in daily life

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

Almost one quarter (24%, the same as in 2022) say they are personally affected by corruption in their daily life, with 7% (=) saying they “totally agree” this is the case.¹⁹ In contrast the majority (72%, +1 percentage point) say they disagree, with 52% (+2) 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 (35% vs. 21%). There is no difference comparing those living outside the euro area with those living in euro area countries (27% both).

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)

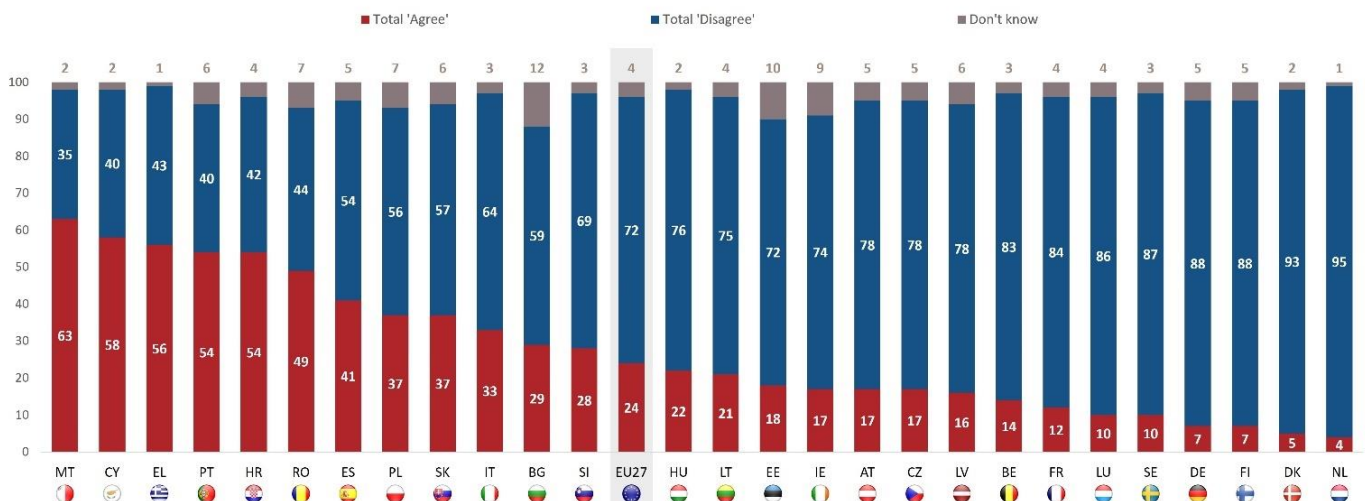


(Apr/May 2023 – Mar/Apr 2022)

There is a wide variation between countries in the proportion of those surveyed who say they are personally affected by corruption. In five countries, a majority of the respondents say they are affected: Malta (63%), Cyprus (58%), Greece (56%), and Portugal and Croatia (both 54%).

Respondents are least likely to say this in the Netherlands (4%), Denmark (5%), and Germany and Finland (both 7%).

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



¹⁹ 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 534 (99.2)
Corruption
April - May 2023

Compared to 2022, in 11 countries, respondents are now more likely to say they are personally affected by corruption, with the biggest increases seen in Malta (63%, +29), Portugal (54%, +10), and Estonia (18%, +6). The proportion of respondents saying this has decreased in 14 Member States, most notably in Croatia (54%, -6), Latvia (16%, -6), and Spain (41%, -5).

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

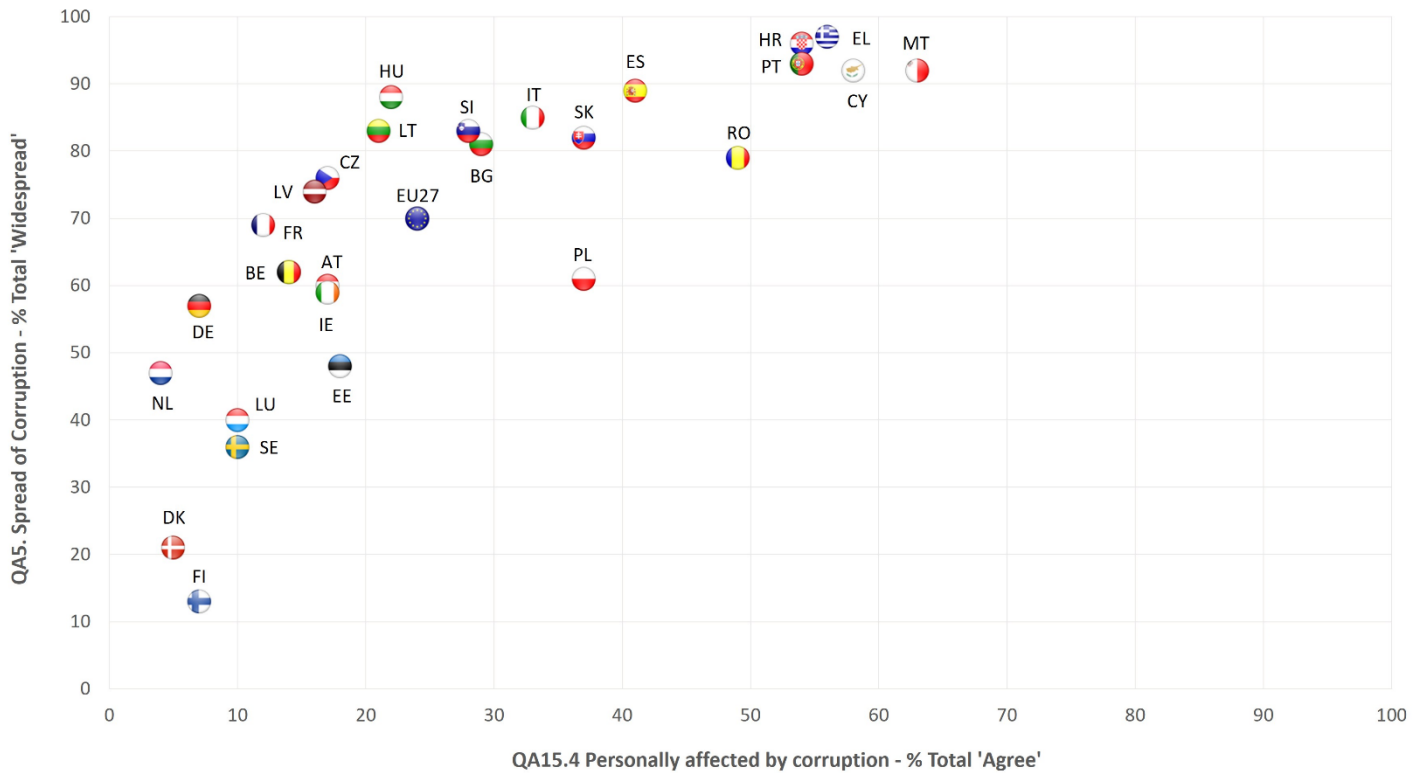


		EU27	MT	PT	EE	FR	RO	IE	IT	CY	LU	SK	SE	DK	LT	BG	DE	BE	PL	CZ	EL	AT	SI	FI	NL	ES	HU	HR	LV
Total 'Agree'	April/May 2023	24	63	54	18	12	49	17	33	58	10	37	10	5	21	29	7	14	37	17	56	17	28	7	4	41	22	54	16
	Δ Mar/Apr 2022	=	▲29	▲10	▲6	▲5	▲3	▲1	▲1	▲1	▲1	▲1	▲1	=	=	▼1	▼1	▼2	▼2	▼3	▼3	▼3	▼3	▼3	▼4	▼5	▼5	▼6	▼6
Total 'Disagree'	April/May 2023	72	35	40	72	84	44	74	64	40	86	57	87	93	75	59	88	83	56	78	43	78	69	88	95	54	76	42	78
	Δ Mar/Apr 2022	▲1	▼26	▼5	▼5	▼5	▼1	=	▲1	▼2	=	▲2	▼3	=	▲1	▲1	▲1	▲1	▲3	▲2	▲3	▲2	▲2	▲1	▲5	▲3	▲6	▲4	▲4
Don't know	April/May 2023	4	2	6	10	4	7	9	3	2	4	6	3	2	4	12	5	3	7	5	1	5	3	5	1	5	2	4	6
	Δ Mar/Apr 2022	▼1	▼3	▼5	▼1	=	▼2	▼1	▼2	▲1	▼1	▼3	▲2	=	▼1	=	=	▲1	▼1	▲1	=	▲1	▲1	▲2	▼1	▲2	▼1	▲2	▲2

Special Eurobarometer 534 (99.2)
Corruption
April - May 2023

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 97% think corruption is widespread in their country and 56% feel personally affected by corruption. In Malta, 92% think it is widespread, while 63% feel personally affected. In contrast, in Sweden 36% think corruption is widespread and 10% feel personally affected by it.

QA5 & Q15.4 How widespread do you think the problem of corruption is in (OUR COUNTRY)? vs. Please tell whether you agree or disagree with each of the following?



Special Eurobarometer 534 (99.2)

Corruption

April – May 2023




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

- Those aged 25-54 (29%) are the most likely to say they are personally affected, compared to those aged 40-54 (27%), those aged 55 and up (21%), and those aged 15-24 (18%).
- More than one in four (27%) of respondents who finished their education aged 15 or younger say they are personally affected by corruption, compared to less than one in four (23%) of those who left school aged 20 and up.
- The self-employed (32%) and the unemployed (30%) are the most likely socio-occupation groups to say they are affected, particularly compared to students (17%) and managers (18%).
- Those who experience financial difficulties most of the time (33%) or from time to time (31%) are more likely to say they are affected than those who never or almost never experience such problems (21%).
- Respondents who consider themselves as belonging to the upper class are the most likely (28%) to say they are personally affected by corruption, followed by those of the working class (27%), the middle class (24%), the lower middle class (23%), and the upper middle class (20%).

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	72	4
 Age			
15-24	18	76	6
25-39	29	68	3
40-54	27	69	4
55 +	21	74	5
 Education (End of)			
15-	27	67	6
16-19	25	71	4
20+	23	74	3
Still studying	17	75	8
Socio-professional category			
Self-employed	32	64	4
Managers	18	79	3
Other white collars	28	69	3
Manual workers	29	68	3
House persons	28	68	4
Unemployed	30	65	5
Retired	19	76	5
Students	17	75	8
 Difficulties paying bills			
Most of the time	33	63	4
From time to time	31	64	5
Almost never/ Never	21	75	4
Consider belonging to			
The working class	27	66	7
The lower middle class	23	72	5
The middle class	24	73	3
The upper middle class	20	78	2
The upper class	28	67	5

5. Level of corruption over the last three years

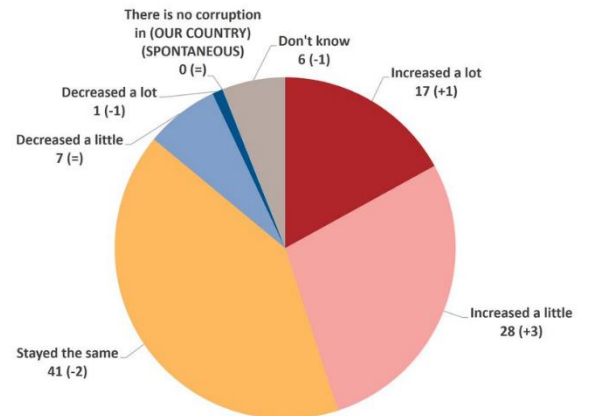
Around four in ten respondents say the level of corruption in their country has increased in the past three years

Just over four in ten (45%, +4 percentage point since 2022) respondents think the level of corruption in their country has increased in the past three years, with 17% (+1) saying it has “increased a lot”.²⁰ In contrast 8% (-1) think the level has decreased, with 1% (-1) saying it has “decreased a lot”. More than four in ten (41%, -2) think the level has stayed the same, while 6% (-1) say they don't know.

The proportion of respondents who think corruption in their country has increased has risen by four percentage points since 2022, after staying more or less steady since 2011, though still nine points lower than the peak in February-March 2013, and about the same level as in 2011 (43%). The proportion who thinks corruption levels have stayed the same has been steadily climbing since 2013, seeing a small decrease (-2) between 2022 and 2023.

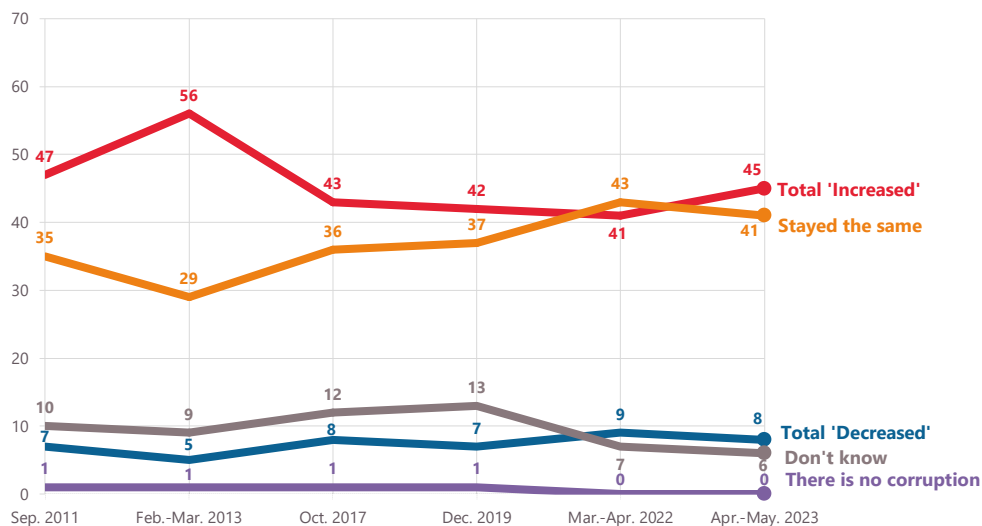
A regional analysis shows that respondents in the Member States already part of the EU in 2004 are slightly less likely to say that corruption in their country has increased (43%), compared to those living in the Member States which joined the EU in 2004 or afterwards (45%). Those living in euro-area countries are slightly more likely to say corruption has increased than those living in countries outside the euro area (45% vs. 41%).

QA6 In the past three years, would you say that the level of corruption in (OUR COUNTRY) has...? (% - EU27)



(Apr/May 2023 – Mar/Apr 2022)

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



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

Special Eurobarometer 534 (99.2)

Corruption

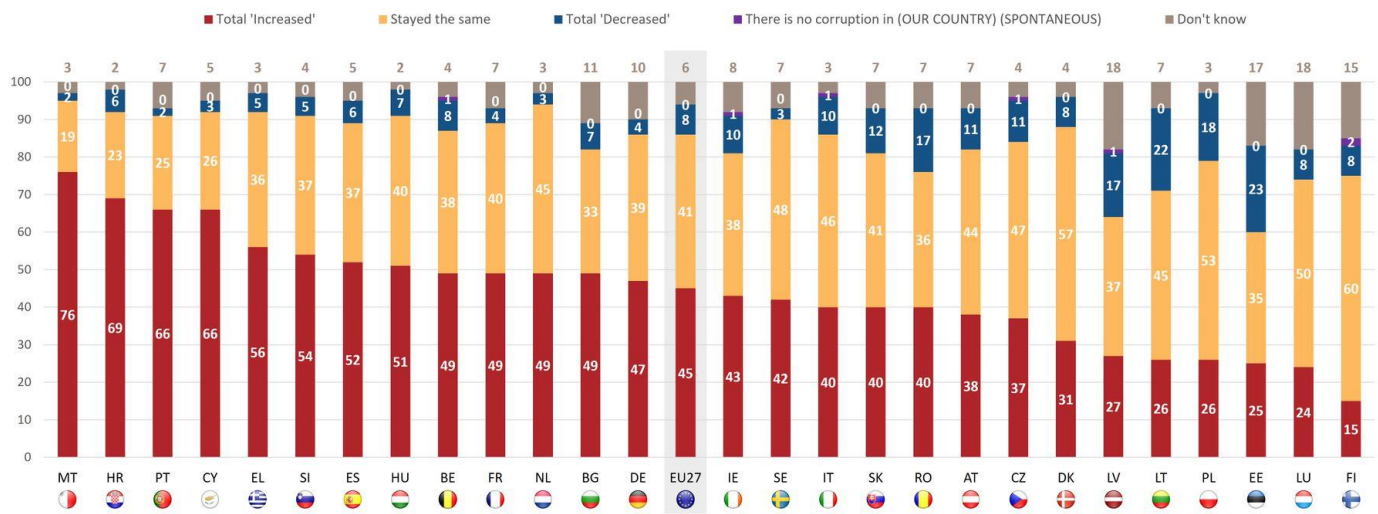
April - May 2023

In eight EU Member States the majority of respondents think the level of corruption in their country has increased in the past three years. This view is the most widespread in Malta (76%), Croatia (69%), and Cyprus (66%).

In any EU Member State, no more than one in four think that corruption in their country has decreased in the past three years, with the largest proportions seen in Estonia (23%), Lithuania (22%), and Poland (18%).

In four countries, at least half of the respondents think the level of corruption has stayed the same: Finland (60%), Denmark (57%), Poland (53%), and Luxembourg (50%).

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



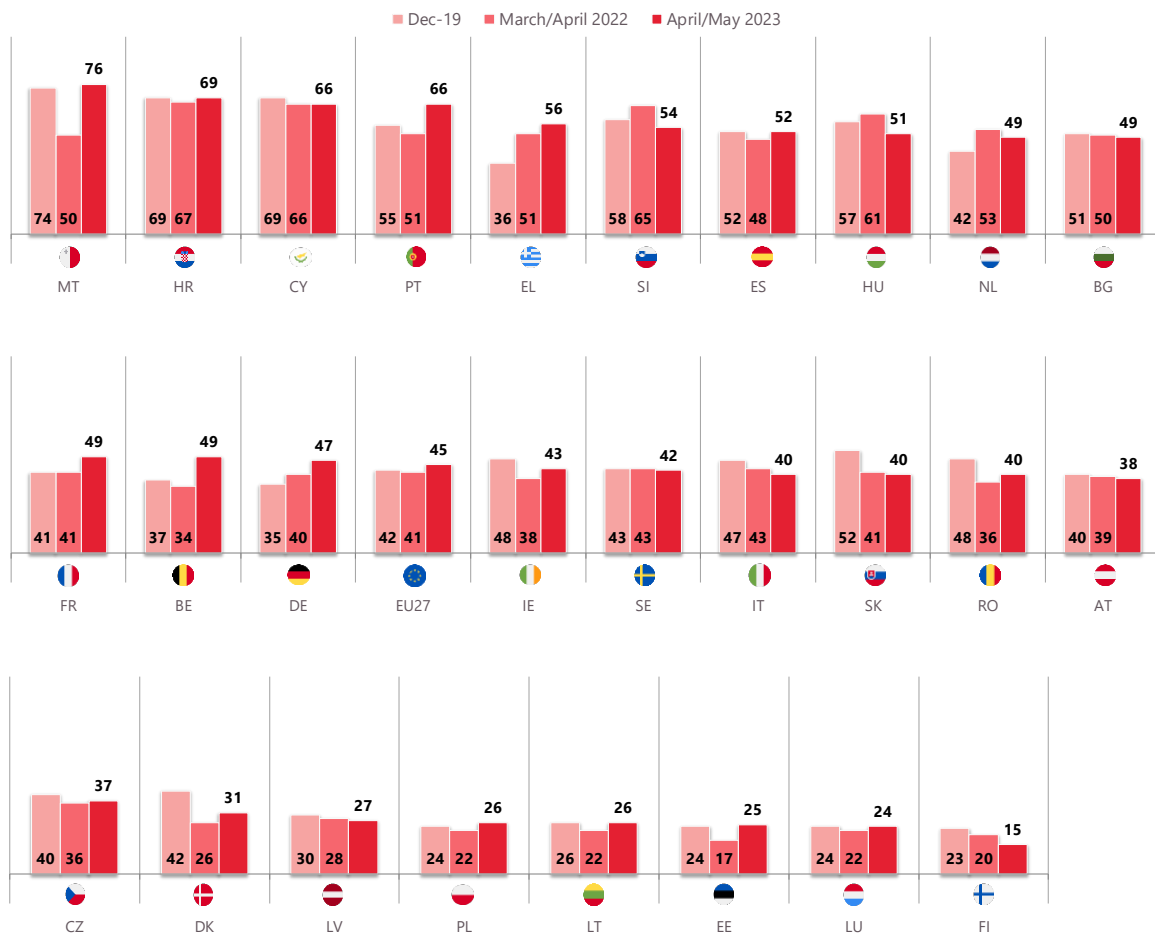
Special Eurobarometer 534 (99.2)
Corruption
April – May 2023

Since 2022, the proportion of respondents who think that corruption has increased in their country over the last three years has increased in 16 EU Member States, with the biggest increase seen in Malta (76%, +26 percentage points), Portugal (66%, +15), and Belgium (49%, +15). In nine countries, the proportion has decreased, most notably in Slovenia (54%, -11), Hungary (51%, -10), and Finland (15%, -5). It has stayed the same in Cyprus (66%).

Across all countries, the proportion of respondents who think the level of corruption in their country has increased has risen in 15 countries since October 2017, most notably in Malta (76%, +22) and Greece (56%, +16), and decreased in 11 countries, with the sharpest decrease registered in Italy (40%, -15) and Finland (15%, -14).

The chart below illustrates the national results for the last three waves of the survey and shows consistent trends in three 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: Italy (down from 55% to 40%), Latvia (down from 32% to 27%), and Finland (down from 29% to 15%).

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



Special Eurobarometer 534 (99.2)
Corruption
April – May 2023

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.

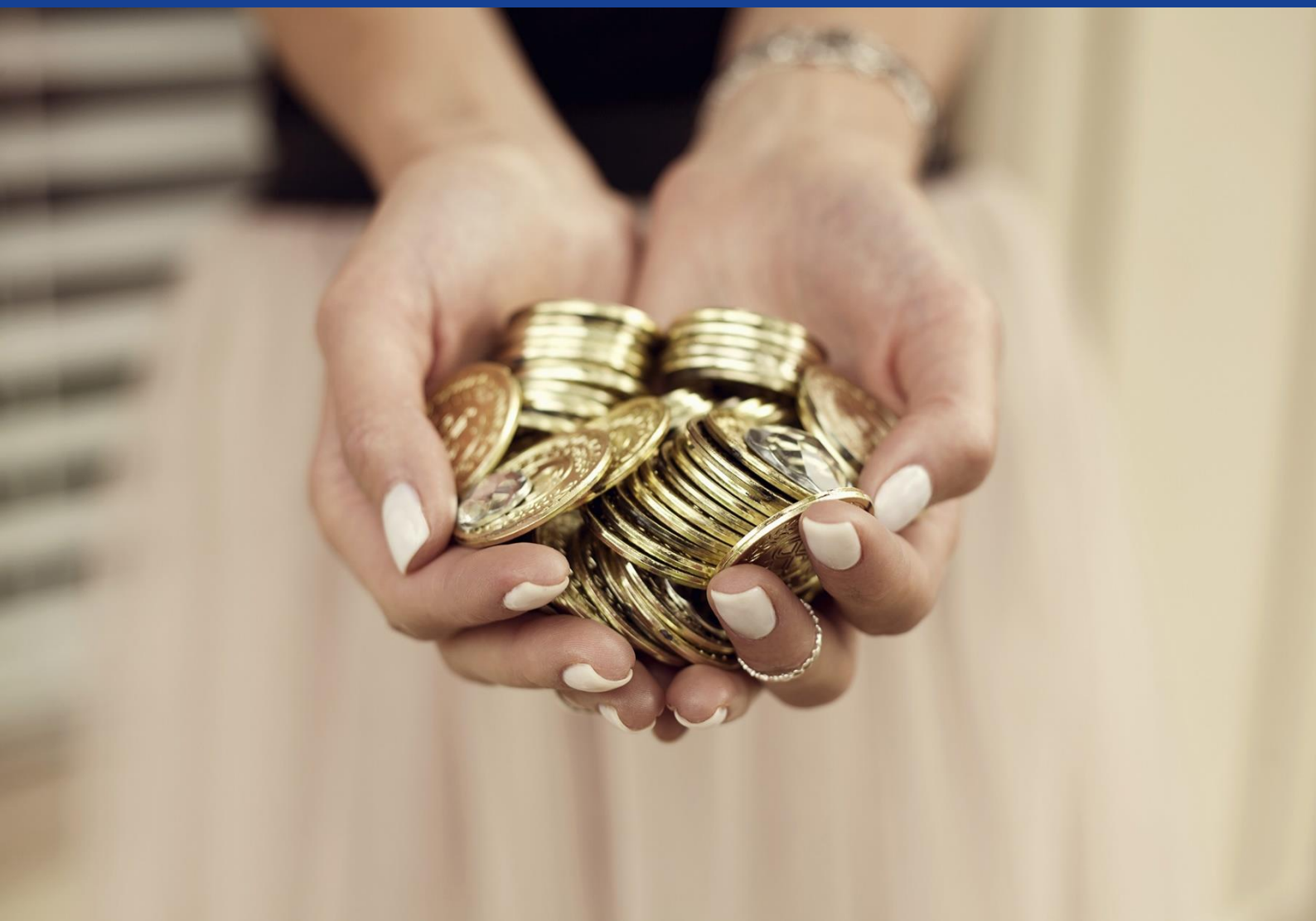
The analysis also highlights the following differences:

- The unemployed (55%) are the most likely to say corruption has increased, particularly compared to the self-employed (44%) and managers (37%).
- The more difficulties a respondent has paying bills, the more likely they are to say corruption has increased: 58% who experience difficulties most of the time say this, compared to 42% who never or almost never experience difficulties.
- Respondents who consider themselves belonging to the working class (48%) on the social scale are more likely to say corruption has increased than those belonging to the lower middle class (47%), the middle class (44%), the upper middle class (36%), and the upper class (32%).
- 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 (62%) or witnessed (57%) corruption are more likely to say it has increased than those who have not experienced or witnessed corruption (44%).
- Finally, respondents who know someone who takes bribes are more likely to think corruption has increased compared to those who do not (57% vs. 43%).

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	45	8	0	6
Socio-professional category				
Self- employed	44	9	0	4
Managers	37	7	0	7
Other white collars	43	8	0	4
Manual workers	46	8	0	6
House persons	50	8	0	5
Unemployed	55	6	0	4
Retired	46	7	0	8
Students	43	6	0	9
Difficulties paying bills				
Most of the time	58	9	0	4
From time to time	46	7	0	5
Almost never/ Never	42	8	0	7
Consider belonging to				
The working class	48	7	0	7
The lower middle class	47	7	0	7
The middle class	44	8	0	5
The upper middle class	36	9	0	5
The upper class	32	15	0	4
Experienced or witnessed corruption				
Yes, experienced	62	6	0	3
Yes, witnessed	57	6	0	2
No	44	8	0	6
You know someone who takes bribes				
Yes	57	6	0	2
No	43	8	0	7

II. ATTITUDES TO CORRUPTION IN DETAIL



Special Eurobarometer 534 (99.2)
Corruption
April – May 2023

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

Respondents were asked whether they agreed or disagreed with the statement about corruption in their country's local or regional public institutions²¹. The majority still agrees with the statement, although the proportions have seen changes.

More than three quarters (78%, +1 percentage point since 2022) agree that **too close links between business and politics lead to corruption**. One in seven (15%, =) disagree, while 7% (-1) say they 'don't know'

More than two thirds (71%, compared to 72% in 2022) agree that there is corruption in the **local or regional public institutions** in their country. One in five (20%, =) disagree, while 7% (-1) say they "don't know".

Close to three quarters (74%, =) of respondents in the EU27 believe there is **corruption in the national public institutions**, including 27% (+2) who totally agree and 47% (-6) who tend to agree. On the other hand, approximately one in five (19%, -1) disagree, with 14% (+3) tending to disagree and 5% (=) totally disagreeing. A small portion, 7% (+1), are uncertain.

Six in ten respondents (60%, -1) believe that **corruption is part of the business culture** of their country. A third (33%, +2)

disagree, while 7% (-1) are unsure.

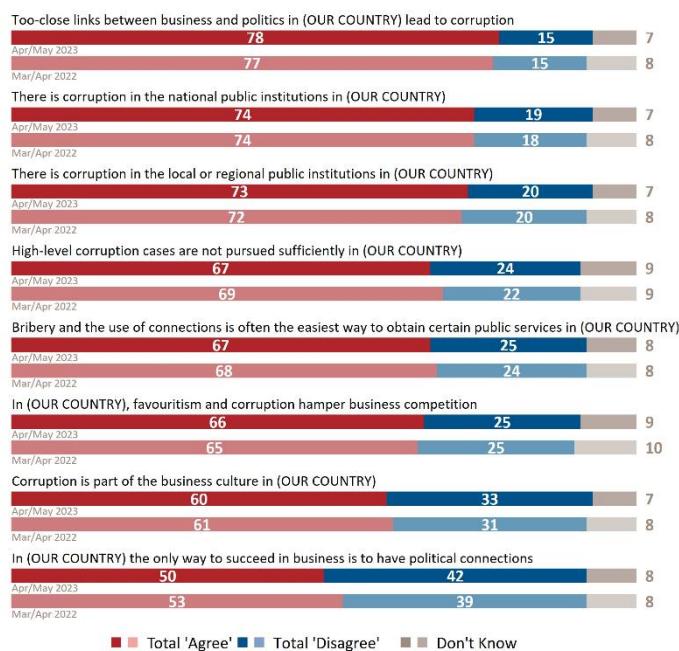
Two thirds of respondents (67%, -2) agree that **high-level corruption cases are not pursued sufficiently**. One in four (24%, +2) disagree, while 9% (=) say they 'don't know'.

Nearly seven in ten respondents (67%, -1) believe that **bribery and the use of connections is often the easiest way to obtain certain public services**, with one in four (25%, +1) disagreeing with this statement, and 8% (=) saying that they 'don't know'. Two thirds of respondents (66%, +1) agree that **favouritism and corruption hamper business competition**. On the other hand, one quarter (25%, =) disagree, and 9% (-1) say they don't know.

A slight majority (50%, -3) agree that in their country, **the only way to succeed in business is to have political connections**. However, more than four in ten (42%, +3) disagree, while 8% (=) say they don't know.

Broadly speaking, these results show agreement with the statements has remained more or less stable or decreased a little since 2022.

QA15. Please tell whether you agree or disagree with each of the following? (% - EU27)



²¹ 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); 15.5 There are enough
 successful prosecutions in (OUR COUNTRY) to deter people from corrupt practices;
 15.6 High-level corruption cases are not pursued sufficiently in (OUR COUNTRY);
 15.7 (NATIONALITY) Government efforts to combat corruption are effective; 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 534 (99.2)
Corruption
April - May 2023

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 2022.

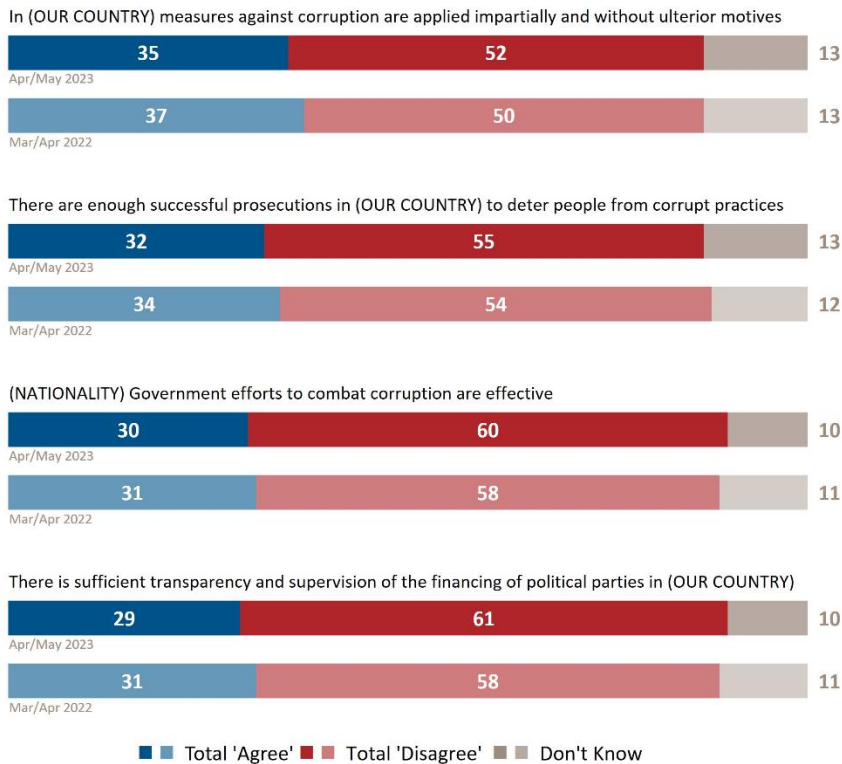
Compared to 2022, less than four in ten (35%, -2 percentage points since 2022) believe that **measures against corruption are applied impartially and without ulterior motives**. A majority (52%, +2) disagrees, while 13% (=) say they 'don't know'.

Just over one third (32%, -2) think that **there are enough successful prosecutions to deter people from corrupt practices**, while more than half (55%, +1) disagree. One in eight (13%, +1) did not express an opinion.

Three in ten respondents (30%, -1) agree that their **national government's efforts to combat corruption are effective**. However, a majority of six in ten (60%, +2) disagree - representing a significant increase of five percentage points since 2022. One in ten (10%, -1) say they don't know.

Approximately three in ten respondents (29%, -1) believe there is **sufficient transparency and supervision of the financing of political parties** in their country. However, an increased majority (61%, +3) hold a contrary view. Just one in ten (10%, -1) say they 'don't know'.

QA15. Please tell whether you agree or disagree with each of the following?
(% - EU27)



Special Eurobarometer 534 (99.2)
Corruption
April - May 2023

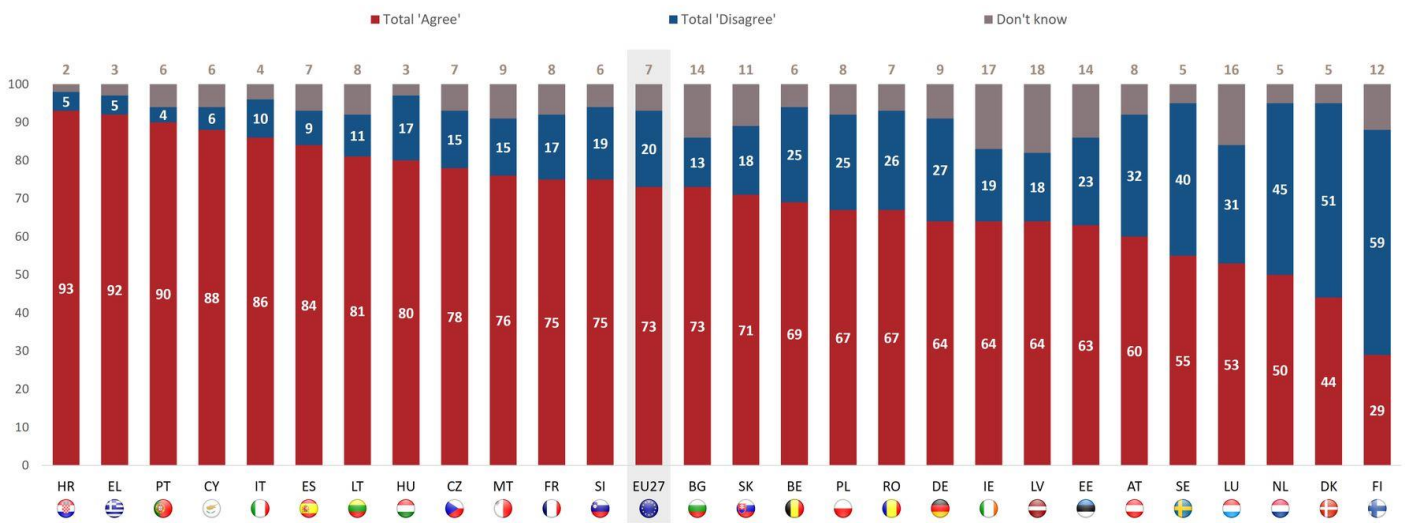
1. Corruption in public institutions

Corruption in local or regional level public institutions

In 24 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. At least nine in ten say so in Croatia (93%), Greece (92%), and Portugal (90%).

Respondents are least likely to think this way in Finland, where fewer people agree than disagree (29% vs. 59%) and Denmark (44% vs. 51%).

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))



In 12 EU Member States agreement that there is corruption in local or regional public institutions has increased since 2022, most notably in France (75%, +8 percentage points), and Malta (76%, +8). Conversely, in 11 countries respondents are less likely to think this way, with the largest decrease seen in Romania (67%, -11) and Latvia (64%, -8). There has been no change in opinion in Greece (92%), Croatia (93%), Spain (84%), and Slovakia (71%).

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	FR	MT	DK	EE	LU	PT	SE	BE	IE	DE	CY	AT	EL	ES	HR	SK	IT	LT	PL	SI	CZ	NL	HU	FI	BG	LV	RO
Total 'Agree'	Apr/May 2023	73	75	76	44	63	53	90	55	69	64	64	88	60	92	84	93	71	86	81	67	75	78	50	80	29	73	64	67
	Δ Mar/Apr 2022	▲1	▲8	▲8	▲6	▲6	▲5	▲5	▲4	▲3	▲3	▲2	▲1	▲1	=	=	=	=	▼1	▼2	▼3	▼3	▼4	▼4	▼5	▼5	▼8	▼8	▼11
Total 'Disagree'	Apr/May 2023	20	17	15	51	23	31	4	40	25	19	27	6	32	5	9	5	18	10	11	25	19	15	45	17	59	13	18	26
	Δ Mar/Apr 2022	=	▼2	▼2	▼6	▼2	▼4	=	▼6	▼4	▼1	▼1	=	▲1	=	▲1	▼2	▼1	▲2	▲2	▲4	▲4	▲2	▲5	▲6	=	▲7	▼1	▲11
Don't know	Apr/May 2023	7	8	9	5	14	16	6	5	6	17	9	6	8	3	7	2	11	4	8	8	6	7	5	3	12	14	18	7
	Δ Mar/Apr 2022	▼1	▼6	▼6	=	▼4	▼1	▼5	▲2	▲1	▼2	▼1	▼1	▼2	=	▼1	▲2	▲1	▼1	=	▼1	▼1	▲2	▼1	▼1	▲5	▲1	▲9	=

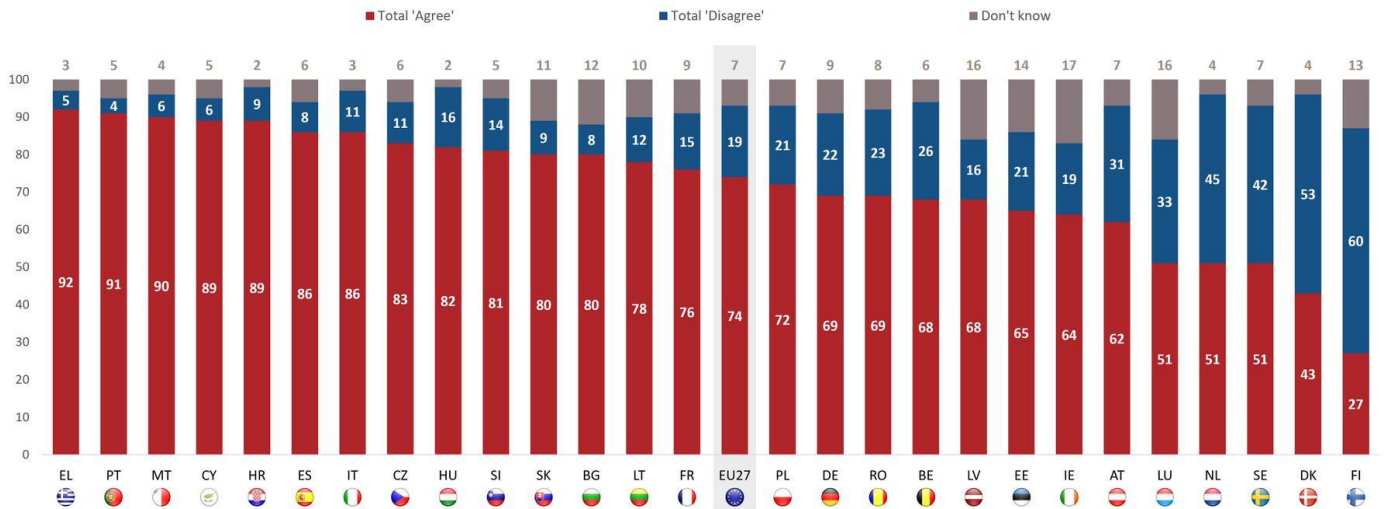
Special Eurobarometer 534 (99.2)
Corruption
April – May 2023

Corruption in the national level public institutions

In 25 EU Member States, a majority of respondents agree that there is corruption in the national public institutions in their country. Proportions vary across countries, ranging from 92% in Greece, 91% in Portugal, and 90% in Malta to 27% in Finland. Overall, there are 14 countries where at least three quarters of respondents agree.

There are two countries where only a minority of respondents agree that there is corruption in national public institutions. In Finland, 27% agree, while 60% disagree. Similarly, in Denmark, 43% agree, while 53% disagree.

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))



Compared to 2022, respondents in 12 countries are now more likely to agree there is corruption in national public institutions, with the largest increase seen in Malta (90%, +16) and Estonia (65%, +8). However, in 12 countries agreement has decreased, most notably in Romania (69%, -9) and Latvia (68%, -7). There has been no change in opinion in Slovakia (80%), Lithuania (78%), and Poland (72%).

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	MT	EE	DK	DE	LU	PT	SE	FR	BE	IE	ES	AT	LT	PL	SK	IT	EL	HU	SI	BG	CZ	CY	HR	NL	FI	LV	RO
Total 'Agree'	Apr/May 2023	74	90	65	43	69	51	91	51	76	68	64	86	62	78	72	80	86	92	82	81	80	83	89	89	51	27	68	69
	Δ Mar/Apr 2022	=	▲16	▲8	▲5	▲5	▲5	▲5	▲4	▲3	▲2	▲1	▲1	▲1	=	=	=	▼1	▼2	▼2	▼2	▼3	▼3	▼3	▼4	▼5	▼6	▼7	▼9
Total 'Disagree'	Apr/May 2023	19	6	21	53	22	33	4	42	15	26	19	8	31	12	21	9	11	5	16	14	8	11	6	9	45	60	16	23
	Δ Mar/Apr 2022	▲1	▼8	▼3	▼5	▼4	▼4	=	▼8	▲1	▼4	▲1	▲1	▲2	=	▲1	=	▲4	▲2	▲4	▲2	▲3	▲1	▲1	▲2	▲4	▲1	▼1	▲8
Don't know	Apr/May 2023	7	4	14	4	9	16	5	7	9	6	17	6	7	10	7	11	3	3	2	5	12	6	5	2	4	13	16	8
	Δ Mar/Apr 2022	▼1	▼8	▼5	=	▼1	▼1	▼5	▲4	▼4	▲2	▼2	▼2	▼3	=	▼1	=	▼3	=	▼2	=	▲2	▲2	▲2	▲1	▲5	▲8	▲1	

Special Eurobarometer 534 (99.2)
Corruption
April - May 2023

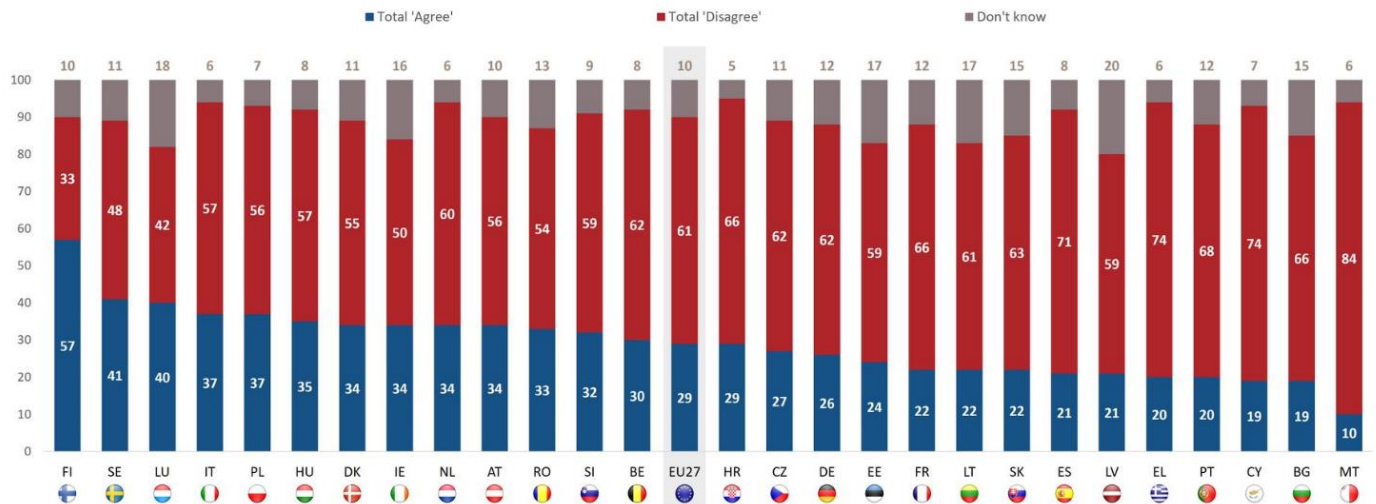
Transparency and supervision of the financing of political parties

There is only one EU Member State where a majority agrees there is sufficient transparency and supervision of the financing of political parties in their country: Finland (48% vs. 41%). In the remaining 26 countries only a minority agrees, with proportions ranging from 41% in Sweden, 40% in Luxembourg, and 37% in Italy and Poland to 10% in Malta and 19% in Cyprus and Bulgaria. Overall, in 23 countries more than half disagree.

It is also worth noting that one in five (20%) in Latvia are unable to answer.

A regional analysis shows those living in Member States that joined the EU in 2004 or later are much less likely to agree that there is sufficient transparency and supervision of the financing of political parties than those from the countries already members of the EU in 2004 (25% vs. 32%). Conversely, those living outside the euro area are slightly 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 (32% vs. 28%)

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))



Compared to 2022, respondents in nine countries are now more likely to agree there is sufficient transparency and supervision of the financing of political parties in their country, with the largest increase seen in Finland (57%, +10) and the Netherlands (34%, +8). However, in 17 countries agreement has decreased, most notably in Malta (10%, -19), Slovakia (22%, -12), and Poland (37%, -10). There has been no change in opinion in Ireland (34%).

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	FI	NL	SI	EE	BG	EL	CZ	IT	LU	IE	FR	LV	AT	DE	HR	DK	ES	HU	LT	PT	CY	RO	BE	PL	SK	SE	MT	
Total 'Agree'	Apr/May 2023	29	57	34	32	24	19	20	27	37	40	34	22	21	34	26	29	34	21	35	22	20	19	33	30	37	22	41	10
	Δ Mar/Apr 2022	▼2	▲10	▲8	▲7	▲5	▲3	▲3	▲2	▲1	▲1	=	▼1	▼1	▼1	▼3	▼3	▼4	▼4	▼4	▼5	▼5	▼6	▼7	▼9	▼10	▼12	▼12	▼19
Total 'Disagree'	Apr/May 2023	61	33	60	59	59	66	74	62	57	42	50	66	59	56	62	66	55	71	57	61	68	74	54	62	56	63	48	84
	Δ Mar/Apr 2022	▲3	▼12	▼7	▼10	▼3	▼4	▼6	▼6	▲1	▲6	▲3	▲5	▼10	=	▲2	=	▲2	▲4	▲3	▲2	▲8	▲6	▲6	▲6	▲14	▲9	▲7	▲25
Don't know	Apr/May 2023	10	10	6	9	17	15	6	11	6	18	16	12	20	10	12	5	11	8	8	17	12	7	13	8	7	15	11	6
	Δ Mar/Apr 2022	▼1	▲2	▼1	▲3	▼2	▲1	▲3	▲4	▼2	▼7	▼3	▼4	▲11	▲1	▲1	▲3	▲2	=	▲1	▲3	▼3	=	▲1	▲3	▼4	▲3	▲5	▼6

Special Eurobarometer 534 (99.2)
Corruption
April - May 2023

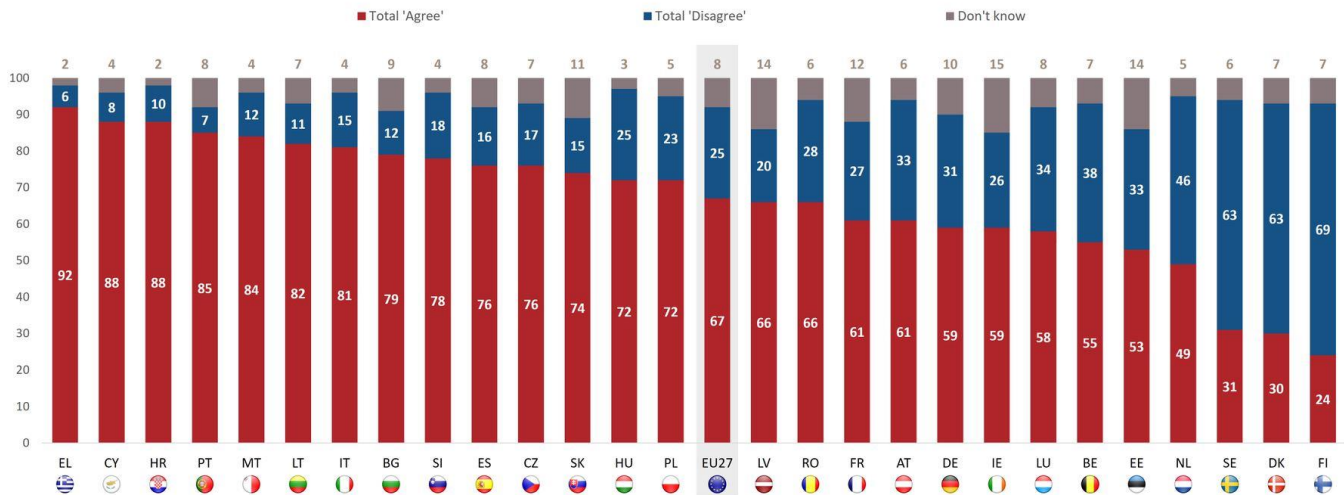
Bribery and the use of connections

In 23 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 (92%), and close to nine in ten in Cyprus and Croatia (both 88%) holding this opinion.

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 (75% vs. 59%).

In three EU Member States, a minority of respondents agree that bribery and the use of connections is often the easiest way to obtain certain public services: Finland (24% vs. 69% disagree), Denmark (30% vs. 63%) and Sweden (31% vs. 63%).

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))



In eight countries, respondents are more likely, compared to 2022, 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 Malta (84%, +7), and Portugal (7%, +4) and Estonia (59%, +4). In 18 countries, these proportions have decreased, most notably in Belgium (55%, -10), Latvia (66%, -10), and Romania (66%, -10). No change was registered in Italy (81%).

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) (%)



		EU27	MT	LU	EE	PT	DE	FR	LT	AT	IT	DK	IE	EL	ES	SK	SE	PL	CZ	HR	NL	SI	FI	CY	BG	HU	RO	BE	LV
Total 'Agree'	Apr/May 2023	67	84	58	53	85	59	61	82	61	81	30	59	92	76	74	31	72	76	88	49	78	24	88	79	72	66	55	66
	Δ Mar/Apr 2022	▼1	▲7	▲5	▲4	▲4	▲2	▲2	▲2	▲1	=	▼1	▼1	▼1	▼1	▼1	▼1	▼2	▼3	▼3	▼3	▼3	▼4	▼6	▼6	▼8	▼10	▼10	
Total 'Disagree'	Apr/May 2023	25	12	34	33	7	31	27	11	33	15	63	26	6	16	15	63	23	17	10	46	18	69	8	12	25	28	38	20
	Δ Mar/Apr 2022	▲1	▼1	▼2	▲3	=	▼3	▲1	▼3	▲2	▲2	▼1	▲5	=	▲1	=	▼1	▲5	▲3	▲1	▲3	▲2	▲2	▲4	▲5	▲7	▲9	▲6	▲6
Don't know	Apr/May 2023	8	4	8	14	8	10	12	7	6	4	7	15	2	8	11	6	5	7	2	5	4	7	4	9	3	6	7	14
	Δ Mar/Apr 2022	=	▼6	▼3	▼7	▼4	▲1	▼3	▲1	▼3	▼2	▲2	▼4	▲1	=	▲1	▲2	▼3	=	▲2	=	▲1	▲1	=	▲1	▼1	▼1	▲4	▲4

Special Eurobarometer 534 (99.2)
Corruption
April – May 2023

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

- Respondents who completed education aged 19 or younger are slightly more likely (77%-78%) than those who completed their education at an older age (72%) 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 (69%-71% vs. 63%). Respondents who have finished their education past the age of 20 are more likely (30%) to think that there is sufficient transparency and supervision of the financing of political parties in their country than those who finished before the age of 15 (26%).
- The proportion of respondents who agree there is corruption in local or regional public institutions is highest amongst the unemployed (82%). The same is true with regard to corruption in the national public institutions (84%), while the self-employed (73%) are the most likely to agree that bribery and the use of connections is often the easiest way to obtain certain public services in their country.
- 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.
- Respondents who consider themselves as belonging to the working or lower middle class are the most likely to agree there is corruption in local/regional (76%-77%) or national public institutions (79%). They are also more likely (69%-72%) to think that bribery and the use of connections is often the easiest way to obtain certain public services in their country. In contrast, it is those who say they belong to the upper class (52%) 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, 88% who have experienced corruption and 91% 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 (89% vs. 70%) or national public institutions (88% vs. 73%), or that bribery and the use of connections is the easiest way to obtain certain public services in their country (83% vs. 65%). They are, however, less likely to agree there is sufficient transparency and supervision of the financing of political parties in their country (23% vs. 29%).

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	73	67	29
Age				
15-24	69	65	62	28
25-39	76	75	68	31
40-54	78	78	70	29
55 +	73	70	66	28
Education (End of)				
15-	77	73	69	26
16-19	78	76	71	29
20+	72	71	63	30
Still studying	68	64	58	29
Socio-professional category				
Self-employed	78	77	73	30
Managers	70	70	61	30
Other white collars	76	75	69	31
Manual workers	79	76	71	29
House persons	79	77	71	25
Unemployed	84	82	70	25
Retired	71	69	66	27
Students	68	64	58	29
Difficulties paying bills				
Most of the time	81	81	73	26
From time to time	80	77	72	30
Almost never/ Never	72	70	64	28
Consider belonging to				
The working class	79	77	72	26
The lower middle class	79	76	69	27
The middle class	73	71	65	30
The upper middle class	68	66	59	34
The upper class	62	66	59	52
Experienced or witnessed corruption				
Yes, experienced	88	88	82	26
Yes, witnessed	87	91	84	26
No	74	71	66	29
You know someone who takes bribes				
Yes	88	89	83	23
No	73	70	65	29

Special Eurobarometer 534 (99.2)
Corruption
April - May 2023

2. Corruption in business

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

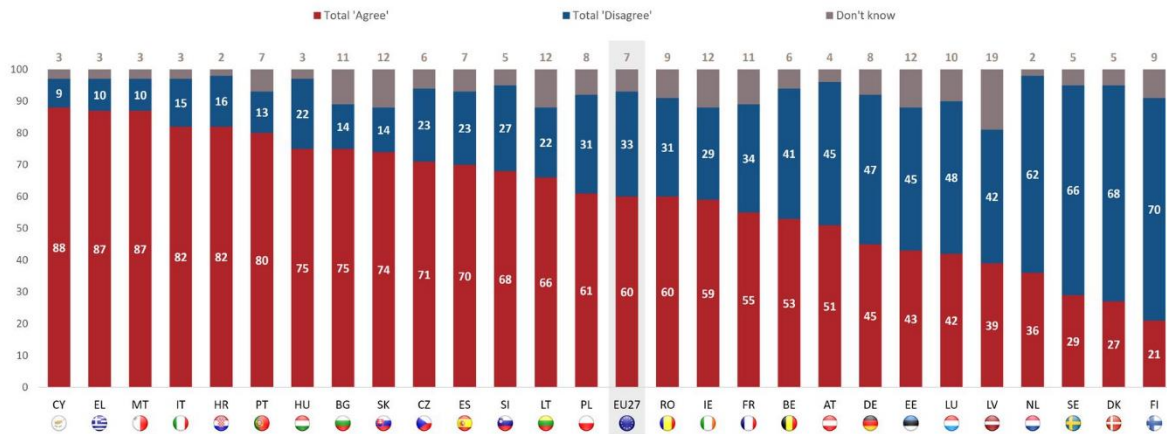
The majority of respondents in 19 EU Member States agree that corruption is part of the business culture in their country, with proportions ranging from 88% in Cyprus, 87% in Greece and Malta, and 82% in Croatia to 51% in Austria.

Opinion is more or less evenly divided in Germany (45% agree vs. 47% disagree) and in Estonia (43% agree vs. 45% disagree).

In further six countries only a minority agree: Denmark (27% vs. 68% disagree), Finland (21% vs. 70%), Sweden (29% vs. 66%), Luxembourg (42% vs. 48%) and the Netherlands (36% vs. 62%).

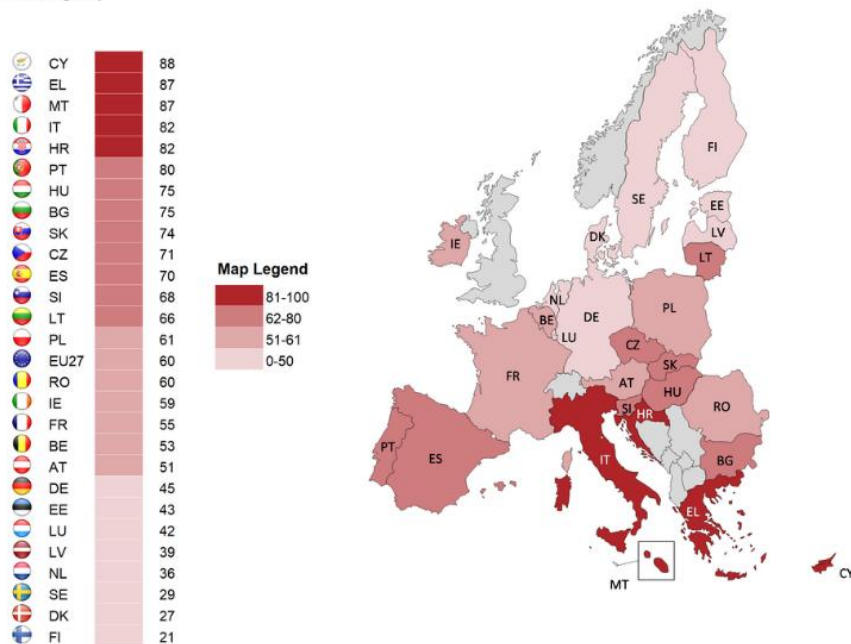
A regional analysis shows respondents living in the group of countries that joined the EU in or after 2004 (68%) are much more likely than those from the Member States already part of the EU in 2004 (53%) to agree corruption is part of the business culture in their country.

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



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.

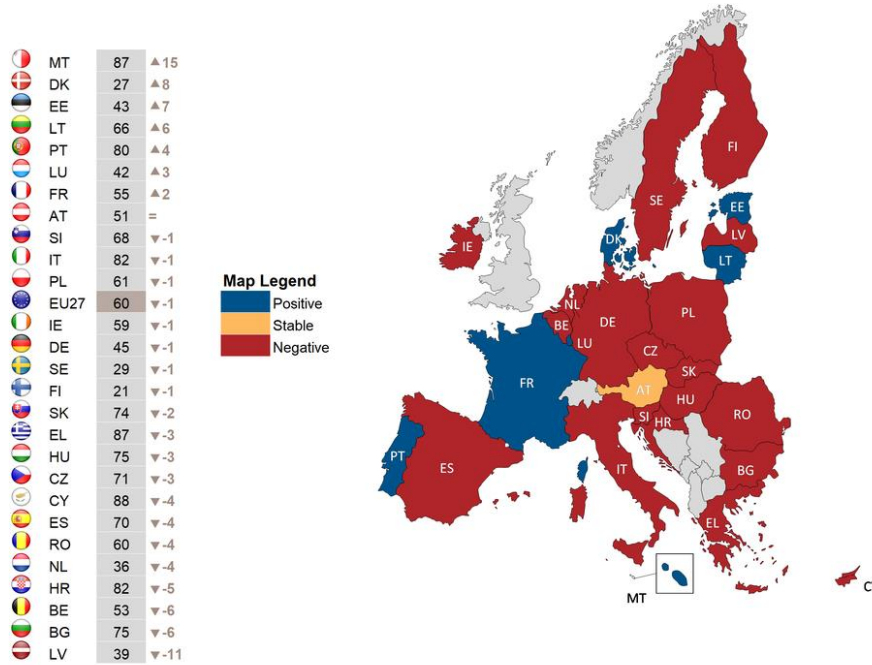
QA15.3 Please tell whether you agree or disagree with each of the following?
 Corruption is part of the business culture in (OUR COUNTRY)
 (% - Total 'Agree')



Special Eurobarometer 534 (99.2)
Corruption
April - May 2023

The map below illustrates the trend since March-April 2022

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')



Since 2022, agreement that corruption is part of the business culture in their country has declined amongst respondents in 19 EU Member States, with the largest decreases seen in Latvia (39%, -11), and Belgium (53%, -6), and Bulgaria (75%, -6). On the other hand, agreement has become slightly more widespread in seven countries, with a notable increase in Malta (87%, +15) and Denmark (27%, +8).

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

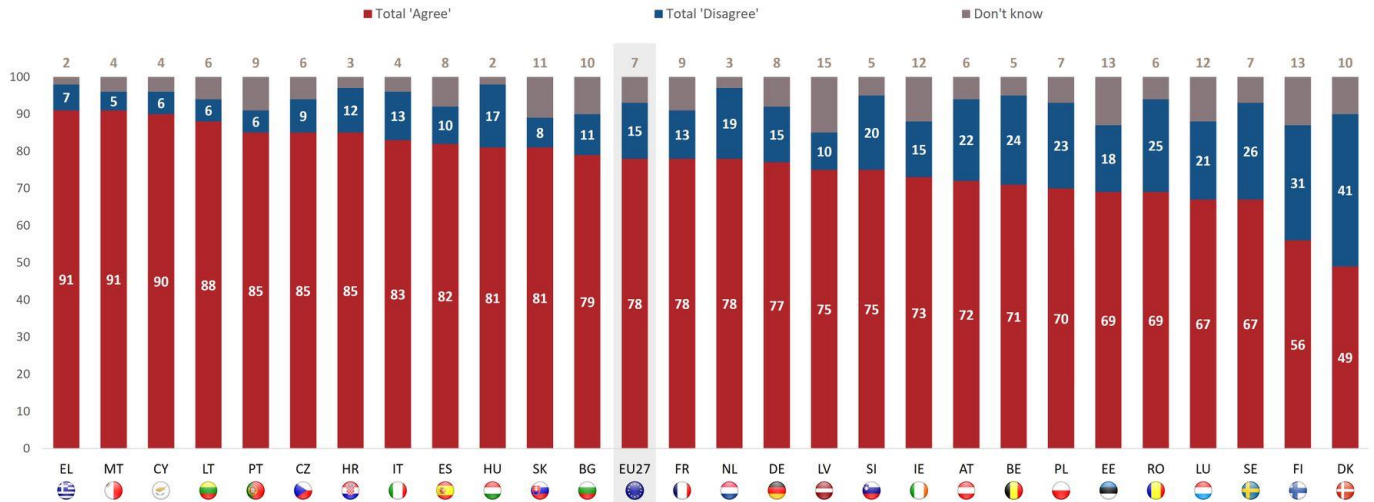


		EU27	MT	DK	EE	LT	PT	LU	FR	AT	DE	IE	IT	PL	SI	FI	SE	SK	CZ	EL	HU	ES	CY	NL	RO	HR	BE	BG	LV
Total 'Agree'	Apr/May 2023	60	87	27	43	66	80	42	55	51	45	59	82	61	68	21	29	74	71	87	75	70	88	36	60	82	53	75	39
	Δ Mar/Apr 2022	▼1	▲15	▲8	▲7	▲6	▲4	▲3	▲2	=	▼1	▼1	▼1	▼1	▼1	▼1	▼1	▼2	▼3	▼3	▼3	▼4	▼4	▼4	▼4	▼5	▼6	▼6	▼11
Total 'Disagree'	Apr/May 2023	33	10	68	45	22	13	48	34	45	47	29	15	31	27	70	66	14	23	10	22	23	9	62	31	16	41	14	42
	Δ Mar/Apr 2022	▲2	▼10	▼9	=	▼6	=	▼2	▲1	▲2	▲1	▲5	▲2	▲2	▲2	▼1	▼3	▲2	▲3	▲2	▲4	▲5	▲3	▲4	▲5	▲4	▲3	▲5	▲3
Don't know	Apr/May 2023	7	3	5	12	12	7	10	11	4	8	12	3	8	5	9	5	12	6	3	3	7	3	2	9	2	6	11	19
	Δ Mar/Apr 2022	▼1	▼5	▲1	▼7	=	▼4	▼1	▼3	▼2	=	▼4	▼1	▼1	▼1	▲2	▲4	=	=	▲1	▼1	▼1	▲1	=	▼1	▲1	▲3	▲1	▲8

Special Eurobarometer 534 (99.2) Corruption April – May 2023

In every EU Member State, a majority agrees that too-close links between business and politics in their country lead to corruption. At least nine in ten in Malta and Greece (both 91%) and Cyprus (90%) agree this is the case, while across the EU there are 21 countries where at least seven in ten think this way. Denmark is the only country where fewer than half agree, although agreement remains the majority view (49% vs. 41% 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)



In 12 EU Member States, respondents are now more likely to agree too-close links between business and politics lead to corruption, with the largest increases observed in Malta (91%, +7 percentage points compared to 2022). Among those polled agreement has decreased in 13 countries, with the sharpest decrease seen in Latvia (75%, -9) and Belgium (71%, -9).

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	LU	MT	PT	EE	FR	DE	ES	LT	SE	DK	AT	SK	IT	NL	CZ	RO	IE	EL	HR	HU	CY	SI	BG	PL	FI	BE	LV
Total 'Agree'	Apr/May 2023	78	67	91	85	69	78	77	82	88	67	49	72	81	83	78	85	69	73	91	85	81	90	75	79	70	56	71	75
	Δ Mar/Apr 2022	▲1	▲9	▲7	▲5	▲4	▲4	▲2	▲2	▲2	▲2	▲1	▲1	▲1	=	=	▼1	▼1	▼2	▼2	▼2	▼2	▼3	▼3	▼3	▼5	▼5	▼8	▼9
Total 'Disagree'	Apr/May 2023	15	21	5	6	18	13	15	10	6	26	41	22	8	13	19	9	25	15	7	12	17	6	20	11	23	31	24	10
	Δ Mar/Apr 2022	=	▼4	▼3	=	▲1	=	▼2	▼1	▼2	▼6	▼4	=	▼2	▲2	=	=	▲4	▲4	▲3	=	▲3	▲3	▲3	▲5	▲6	=	▲7	▲1
Don't know	Apr/May 2023	7	12	4	9	13	9	8	8	6	7	10	6	11	4	3	6	6	12	2	3	2	4	5	10	7	13	5	15
	Δ Mar/Apr 2022	▼1	▼5	▼4	▼5	▼5	▼4	=	▼1	=	▲4	▲3	▼1	▲1	▼2	=	▲1	▼3	▼2	▼1	▲2	▼1	=	=	=	▼1	▲5	▲1	▲8

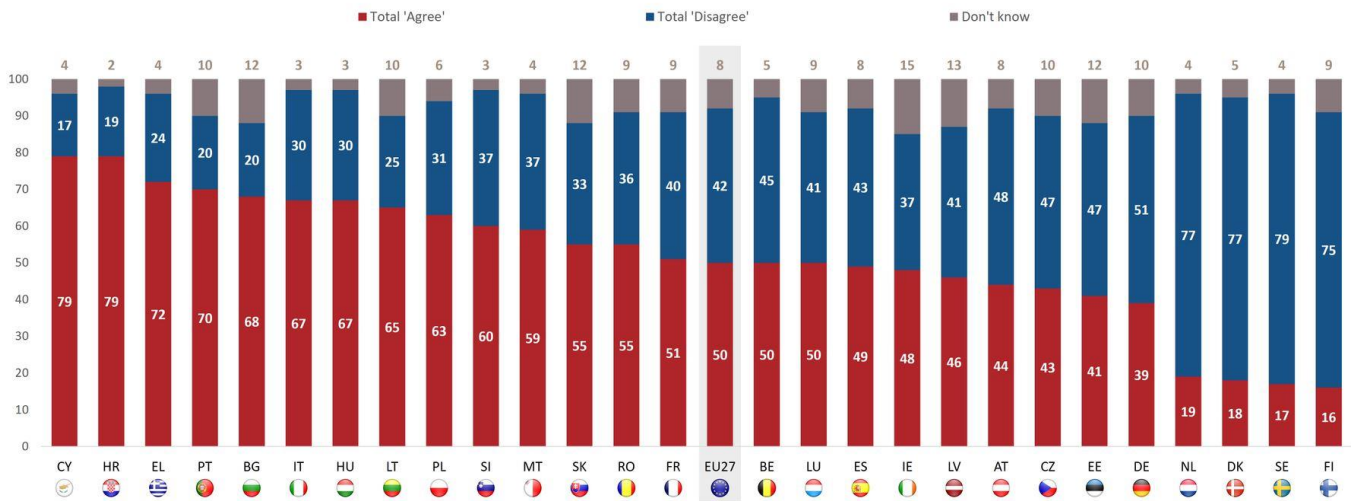
Special Eurobarometer 534 (99.2) Corruption April - May 2023

In 14 EU Member States, a majority of respondents agree the only way to succeed in business in their country is to have political connections. Around eight in ten in Cyprus and Croatia (both 79%) think this way, as do 72% in Greece.

In eight countries agreement is the minority opinion: Denmark (43% vs. 47% disagree), Sweden (17% vs. 79%), Finland (16% vs. 75%), Czechia (43% vs. 47%), the Netherlands (19% vs. 77%), Estonia (41% vs. 47%), Germany (39% vs. 51%) and Austria (44% vs. 48%).

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 (60% vs. 45%).

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)



Compared to 2022, agreement that the only way to succeed in business is to have political connections has declined in 19 EU Member States, with the largest decrease seen in Romania (55%, -15), Latvia (46%, -10), the Netherlands (19%, -7), and Cyprus (79%, -7). In four countries, most notably in Portugal (70%, +7), respondents are now more likely to agree. Opinion has remained stable in Denmark (18%), Germany (39%), Italy (67%), and Poland (63%).

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 (%)

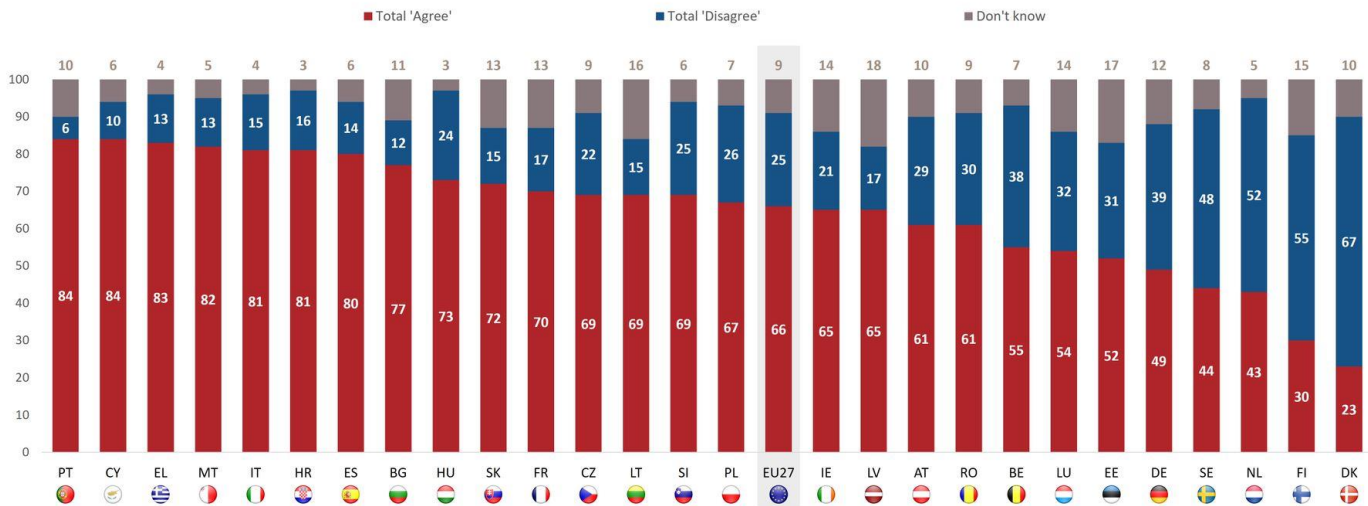
		EU27	PT	EE	LU	FR	DK	DE	IT	PL	EL	LT	AT	IE	HR	MT	CZ	ES	SK	SE	BE	FI	CY	HU	NL	BG	LV	SI	RO
Total 'Agree'	Apr/May 2023	50	70	41	50	51	18	39	67	63	72	65	44	48	79	59	43	49	55	17	50	16	79	67	19	68	46	60	55
	Δ Mar/Apr 2022	▼3	▲7	▲4	▲4	▲3	=	=	=	=	▼1	▼1	▼1	▼2	▼2	▼4	▼5	▼5	▼5	▼5	▼6	▼6	▼7	▼7	▼7	▼8	▼10	▼10	▼15
Total 'Disagree'	Apr/May 2023	42	20	47	41	40	77	51	30	31	24	25	48	37	19	37	47	43	33	79	45	75	17	30	77	20	41	37	36
	Δ Mar/Apr 2022	▲3	▼3	▲3	▲1	▼1	▼2	▲1	▲2	▲4	▲2	▼1	▲1	▲2	▲2	▲8	▲2	▲6	▲6	▲3	▲4	▲3	▲5	▲8	▲6	▲8	▲6	▲9	▲14
Don't know	Apr/May 2023	8	10	12	9	9	5	10	3	6	4	10	8	15	2	4	10	8	12	4	5	9	4	3	4	12	13	3	9
	Δ Mar/Apr 2022	=	▼4	▼7	▼5	▼2	▲2	▼1	▼2	▼4	▼1	▲2	=	=	=	▼4	▲3	▼1	▼1	▲2	▲2	▲3	▲2	▼1	▲1	=	▲4	▲1	▲1

Special Eurobarometer 534 (99.2) Corruption April - May 2023

In 22 countries, a majority of the respondents think that in their country favouritism and corruption hamper business competition. In six countries, more than eight in ten think this way: Portugal and Cyprus (both 84%), Greece (83%), Malta (82%), as well as Italy and Croatia (both 81%). A minority of the respondents think this way in Denmark (23%), Finland (30%), the Netherlands (43%), Sweden (44%), and Germany (49%).

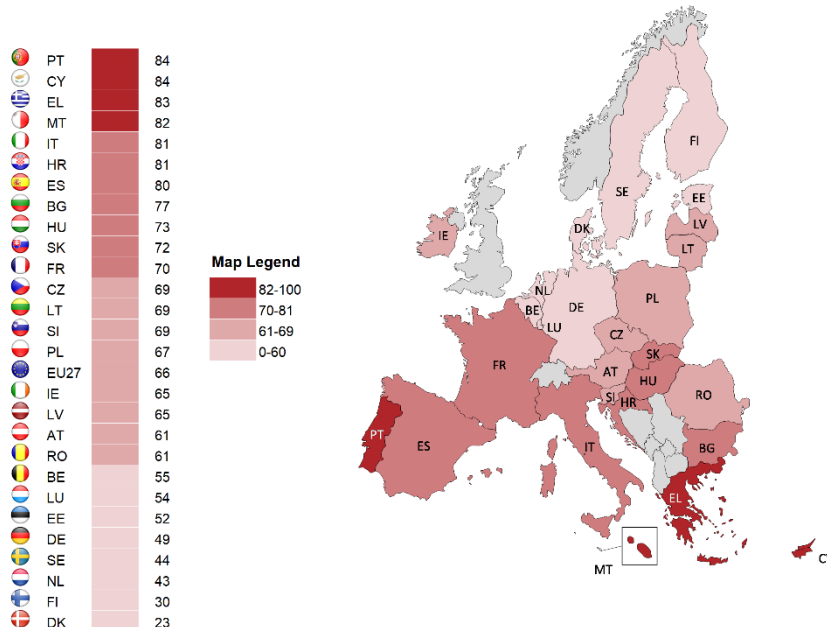
A regional analysis illustrates that those living in the 13 New Member States that joined the EU after 2004, are more likely than respondents from the Member States already part of the EU to agree that in their country favouritism and corruption hamper business competition (71% vs. 59%).

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



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.

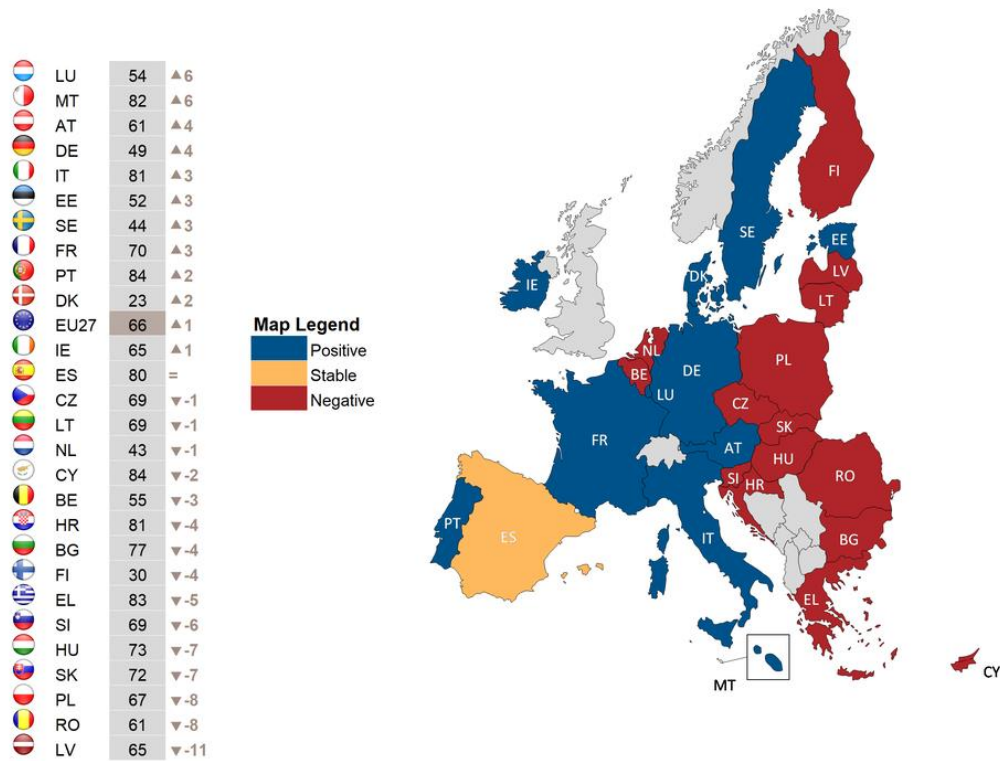
QA15.12 Please tell whether you agree or disagree with each of the following?
In (OUR COUNTRY), favouritism and corruption hamper business competition
(% - Total 'Agree')



Special Eurobarometer 534 (99.2)
Corruption
April - May 2023

The evolution map shows that since 2022 the view that favouritism and corruption hamper business competition has increased in some western, southern and northern areas of Europe but has declined in eastern Europe as well as in Finland, Latvia or Lithuania. In Spain, it has remained stable.

**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')**



In 11 countries, the proportion of respondents who agree that favouritism and corruption hamper business competition in their country has increased since 2022, most notably in Malta (82%, +6) and Luxembourg (54%, +6). These proportions have decreased in 15 countries, with the sharpest declines registered in Latvia (65%, -11), Poland (67%, -8), and Slovakia (72%, -7).

**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	MT	DE	AT	EE	FR	IT	SE	DK	PT	IE	ES	CZ	LT	NL	CY	BE	BG	HR	FI	EL	SI	HU	SK	PL	RO	LV
Total 'Agree'	Apr/May 2023	66	54	82	49	61	52	70	81	44	23	84	65	80	69	69	43	84	55	77	81	30	83	69	73	72	67	61	65
	Δ Mar/Apr 2022	▲1	▲6	▲6	▲4	▲4	▲3	▲3	▲3	▲3	▲2	▲2	▲1	=	▼1	▼1	▼1	▼2	▼3	▼4	▼4	▼4	▼5	▼6	▼7	▼7	▼8	▼8	▼11
Total 'Disagree'	Apr/May 2023	25	32	13	39	29	31	17	15	48	67	6	21	14	22	15	52	10	38	12	16	55	13	25	24	15	26	30	17
	Δ Mar/Apr 2022	=	▼1	▲1	▼1	▼5	▲1	=	▼1	▼7	▼6	▲3	▲2	▲3	=	=	=	▲3	=	▲6	▲2	=	▲5	▲6	▲8	▲5	▲9	▲8	▲3
Don't know	Apr/May 2023	9	14	5	12	10	17	13	4	8	10	10	14	6	9	16	5	6	7	11	3	15	4	6	3	13	7	9	18
	Δ Mar/Apr 2022	▼1	▼5	▼7	▼3	▲1	▼4	▼3	▼2	▲4	▲4	▼5	▼3	▼3	▲1	▲1	▲1	▼1	▲3	▼2	▲2	▲4	=	=	▼1	▲2	▼1	=	▲8

Special Eurobarometer 534 (99.2)

Corruption

April – May 2023

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

- Respondents who completed their education aged 19 or younger are more likely (63%-65%) than those who completed theirs aged 20 or older (55%) 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 (54%-56% vs. 45%) or that favouritism and corruption hamper business competition (68%-69% vs. 62%).
- The unemployed are the most likely to agree corruption is part of the business culture in their country (71%) or that too- close links between business and politics lead to corruption (84%). The unemployed are also the most likely to agree the only way to succeed in business is to have political connections (57%) or that favouritism and corruption hamper business competition (74%).
- Respondents who have difficulties paying their bills are more likely to agree corruption is part of the business culture in their country (67% vs. 57% of those who never have problems paying their bills), that the only way to succeed in business is to have political connections (62% vs. 46%) or that favouritism and corruption hamper business competition (75% vs. 63%).
- Respondents who consider themselves as belonging to the working class (66%) or lower middle class (64%) are more likely than those who place themselves higher to agree corruption is part of the business culture in their country. Members of the working and lower class are also more likely (55% both) to think that in their country the only way to succeed in business is to have political connections, compared to, for instance, those who view themselves as middle class (50%), or upper middle or upper class (both 38%).
- Respondents who have experienced or witnessed corruption are more likely to agree with each statement than those who have not. For example, 68% who have experienced corruption and 67% who have witnessed it agree the only way to succeed in business in their country is to have political connections, compared to 50% 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	78	66	60	50
Age				
15-24	71	62	53	45
25-39	78	66	60	51
40-54	81	68	64	51
55 +	77	64	60	51
Education (End of)				
15-	76	68	63	54
16-19	79	69	65	56
20+	78	62	55	45
Still studying	71	60	53	43
Socio-professional category				
Self-employed	81	71	62	50
Managers	80	61	54	44
Other white collars	78	67	64	53
Manual workers	77	68	63	54
House persons	76	66	62	53
Unemployed	84	74	71	57
Retired	77	64	58	51
Students	71	60	53	43
Difficulties paying bills				
Most of the time	81	75	67	62
From time to time	80	70	67	58
Almost never/ Never	77	63	57	46
Consider belonging to				
The working class	78	70	66	55
The lower middle class	80	69	64	55
The middle class	77	64	58	50
The upper middle class	76	57	50	38
The upper class	74	52	51	38
Experienced or witnessed corruption				
Yes, experienced	86	83	81	68
Yes, witnessed	89	79	80	67
No	77	64	59	50

3. Dealing with corruption

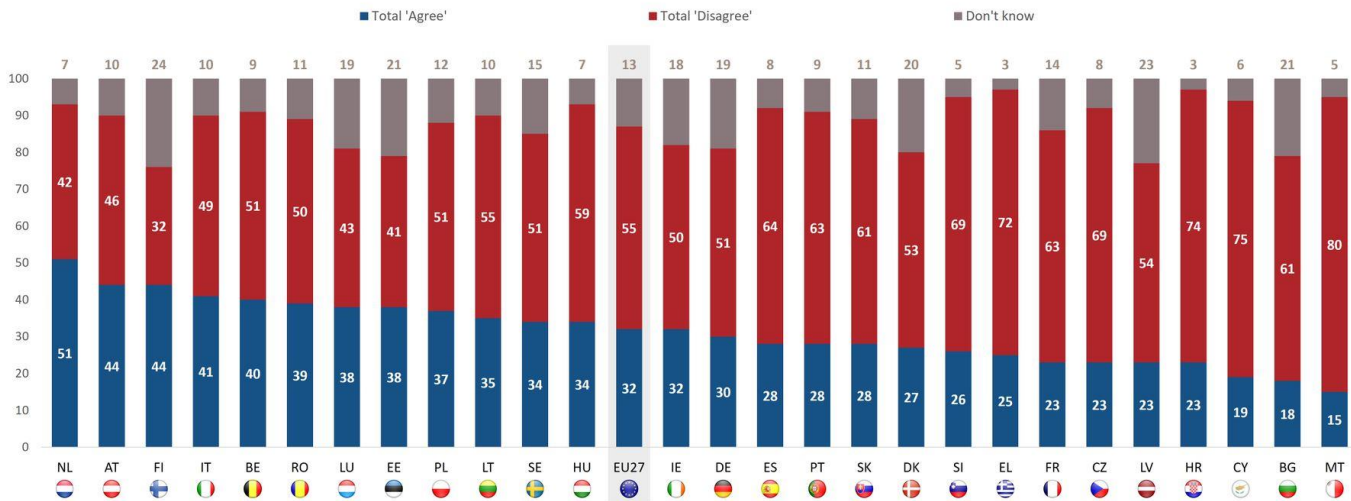
Europeans are pessimistic about their country's efforts to effectively combat corruption

Except in the Netherlands (51%), 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. There are only two countries where respondents are more likely to agree than disagree: the Netherlands (51% vs. 42% disagree) and Finland (44% vs. 32% disagree).

In the remaining countries only a minority agree, with the lowest levels seen in Malta (15% vs. 80% disagree), Bulgaria (18% vs. 61% disagree), and Cyprus (19% vs. 75% disagree).

More than one in five say they "don't know" Finland (24%), Latvia (23%), and Estonia and Bulgaria (both 21%).

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)



In six countries, respondents are more likely than they were in 2022 to agree that there are enough successful prosecutions in their country to deter people from corrupt practices, with the biggest increase seen in Slovenia (26%, +6). Conversely, in 18 EU Member States the proportions of people thinking this way has decreased, in some cases substantially: Malta (15%, -15), Poland (28%, -10), Cyprus (19%, -10), and Slovakia (28%, -8). Respondents' opinions have remained stable in Estonia (38%), Ireland (32%), and France (23%).

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 (%)

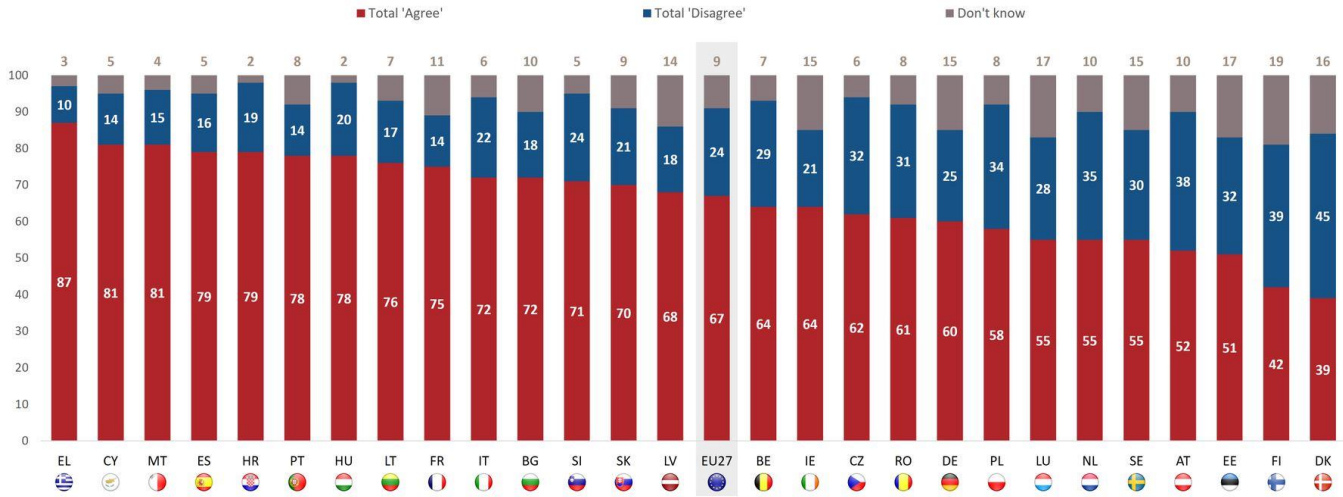
	EU27	SI	BG	NL	IT	CZ	LV	EE	IE	FR	DK	LT	LU	FI	SE	BE	HU	AT	DE	ES	PT	EL	RO	HR	SK	CY	PL	MT	
Total 'Agree'	Apr/May 2023	32	26	18	51	41	23	23	38	32	23	27	35	38	44	34	40	34	44	30	28	28	25	39	23	28	19	37	15
	Δ Mar/Apr 2022	▼2	▲6	▲3	▲3	▲2	▲1	▲1	=	=	=	▼1	▼1	▼2	▼2	▼2	▼3	▼3	▼3	▼4	▼4	▼4	▼5	▼5	▼8	▼8	▼10	▼10	▼15
Total 'Disagree'	Apr/May 2023	55	69	61	42	49	69	54	41	50	63	53	55	43	32	51	51	59	46	51	64	63	72	50	74	61	75	51	80
	Δ Mar/Apr 2022	▲1	▼7	▼4	▼2	▼3	▼4	▼12	▲5	▲2	=	▼3	▼1	▲7	▼6	▼6	▼1	▲4	▲1	▲2	▲5	▲10	▲5	▲8	▲6	▲7	▲7	▲11	▲22
Don't know	Apr/May 2023	13	5	21	7	10	8	23	21	18	14	20	10	19	24	15	9	7	10	19	8	9	3	11	3	11	6	12	5
	Δ Mar/Apr 2022	▲1	▲1	▲1	▼1	▲1	▲3	▲11	▼5	▼2	=	▲4	▲2	▼5	▲8	▲8	▲4	▼1	▲2	▲2	▼1	▼6	=	▼3	▲2	▲1	▲3	▼1	▼7

Special Eurobarometer 534 (99.2)
Corruption
April – May 2023

In all but two Member States the majority of respondents agree high-level corruption cases are not pursued sufficiently in their country. In three countries at least eight in ten agree: Greece (87%), and Cyprus and Malta (81% both).

In Denmark, respondents are more likely to disagree (45%) than to agree (39%), while in Finland opinions are more or less divided, with 39% disagreeing and 42% agreeing.

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))



In six countries, respondents are now more likely to agree that high-level corruption cases are not pursued sufficiently in their country than they were in 2022, with the most notable increases seen in Malta (81%, +9), Luxembourg (55%, +7) and Estonia (51%, +6). In 19 countries, agreement on this issue has decreased, in considerable measure in the Netherlands (55%, -13), Slovenia (71%, -10), and Belgium (64%, -8).

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) (%)



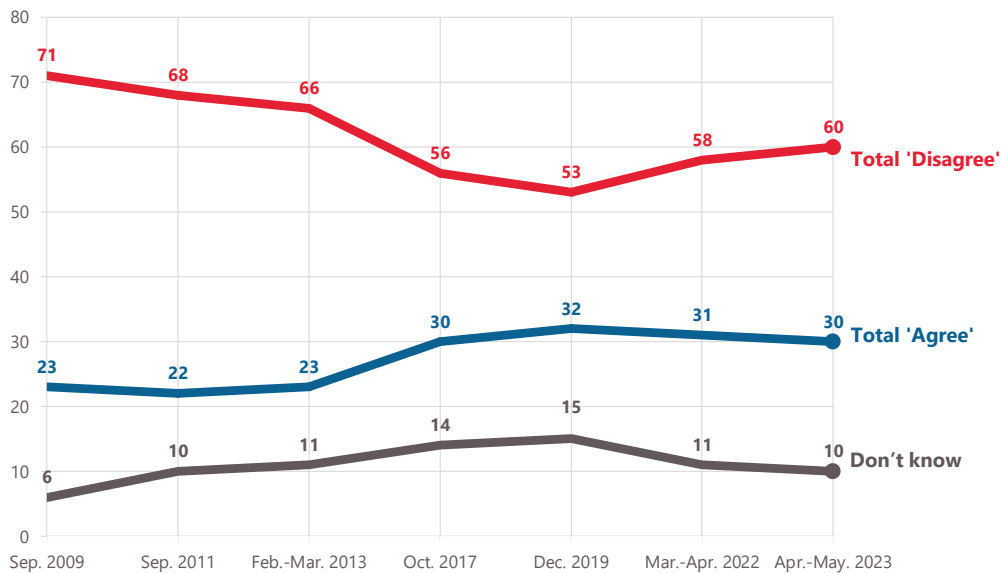
		EU27	MT	LU	EE	FR	PT	IE	CZ	DE	EL	ES	HR	CY	LT	RO	DK	AT	SK	IT	HU	FI	BG	LV	SE	PL	BE	SI	NL
Total 'Agree'	Apr/May 2023	67	81	55	51	75	78	64	62	60	87	79	79	81	76	61	39	52	70	72	78	42	72	68	55	58	64	71	55
	Δ Mar/Apr 2022	▼2	▲9	▲7	▲6	▲4	▲2	▲1	=	=	▼1	▼1	▼1	▼1	▼1	▼1	▼2	▼2	▼2	▼3	▼4	▼4	▼5	▼6	▼6	▼7	▼8	▼10	▼13
Total 'Disagree'	Apr/May 2023	24	15	28	32	14	14	21	32	25	10	16	19	14	17	31	45	38	21	22	20	39	18	18	30	34	29	24	35
	Δ Mar/Apr 2022	▲2	▼5	▼3	▲1	▼1	▲1	▲3	▼1	▼2	=	▲2	▼1	▼3	=	▲2	▼2	▲1	▲3	▲3	▲5	▼4	▲3	▲1	▼3	▲8	▲5	▲9	▲11
Don't know	Apr/May 2023	9	4	17	17	11	8	15	6	15	3	5	2	5	7	8	16	10	9	6	2	19	10	14	15	8	7	5	10
	Δ Mar/Apr 2022	=	▼4	▼4	▼7	▼3	▼3	▼4	▲1	▲2	▲1	▼1	▲2	▲4	▲1	▼1	▲4	▲1	▼1	=	▼1	▲8	▲2	▲5	▲9	▼1	▲3	▲1	▲2

Special Eurobarometer 534 (99.2)
Corruption
April - May 2023

Only a minority (30%, -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 seven percentage points to 60%. One in ten (10%) 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. Compared to September 2009 it is now seven percentage points higher. Although the proportion who disagrees has increased since December 2019, it remains 11 percentage points lower than its highest point in September 2009.

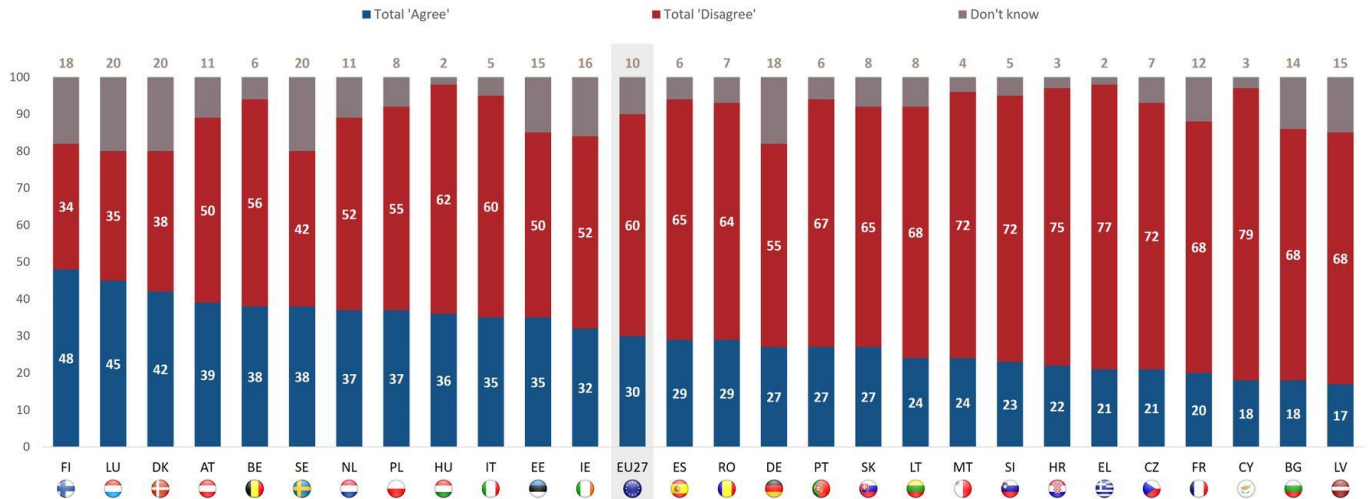
QA15.7 Please tell whether you agree or disagree with each of the following?
(NATIONALITY) Government efforts to combat corruption are effective



Special Eurobarometer 534 (99.2) Corruption April - May 2023

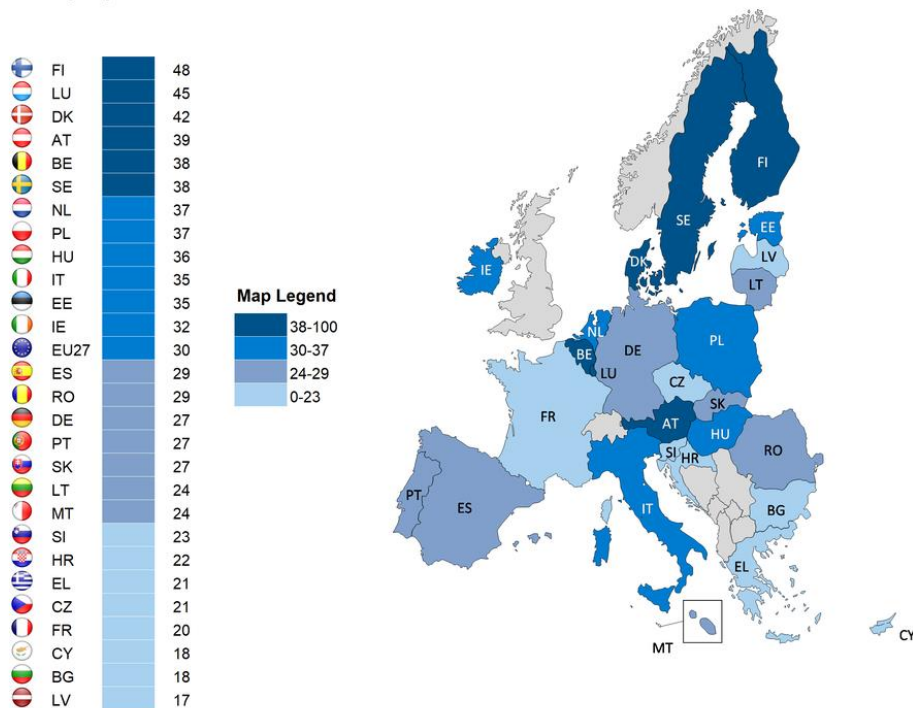
There are only three EU Member States where more respondents agree that their national government's efforts to combat corruption are effective: Finland (48% agree vs. 34% disagree), Luxembourg (45% vs. 35%) and Denmark (42% vs. 38%). In the remaining 24 countries, respondents are less likely to agree with this statement, with the lowest levels seen in Latvia (17% agree vs. 68% disagree), Bulgaria (18% vs. 68%), Cyprus (18% vs. 79%), and France (20% vs. 68%).

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.

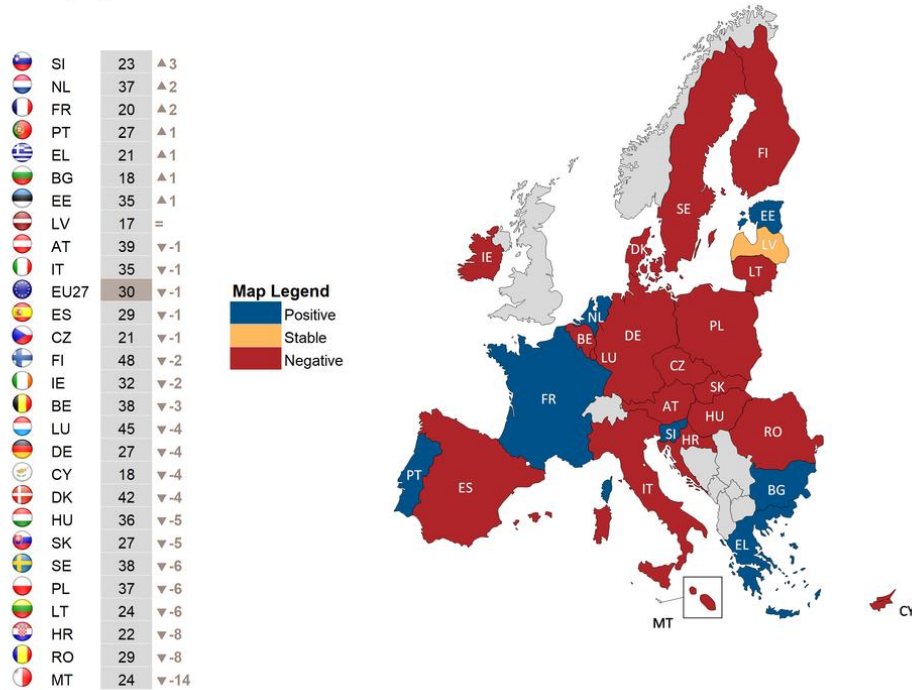
QA15.7 Please tell whether you agree or disagree with each of the following?
(NATIONALITY) Government efforts to combat corruption are effective
(% - Total 'Agree')



Special Eurobarometer 534 (99.2) Corruption April - May 2023

Since March-April 2022, the view that the national government's efforts to combat corruption are effective has become less widespread across Europe, including northern, central, eastern and southern areas. On the other side, it has become more widespread in countries as France or Portugal.

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



In seven countries, respondents are now, if slightly, more optimistic that their national government's efforts to combat corruption are effective than they were in 2022, with the largest increase seen in Slovenia (23%, +3). In 19 countries, the picture looks less rosy, with substantial decreases in respondents' belief in their national government's efforts to combat corruption registered in Malta (24%, -14), Croatia (22%, -8), Romania (29%, -8), and Sweden (38%, -6), and Lithuania (24%, -6). No change was noted in Latvia (17%).

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



		EU27	SI	FR	NL	BG	EE	EL	PT	LV	CZ	ES	IT	AT	IE	FI	BE	DK	DE	CY	LU	HU	SK	LT	PL	SE	HR	RO	MT
Total 'Agree'	Apr/May 2023	30	23	20	37	18	35	21	27	17	21	29	35	39	32	48	38	42	27	18	45	36	27	24	37	38	22	29	24
	Δ Mar/Apr 2022	▼1	▲3	▲2	▲2	▲1	▲1	▲1	▲1	=	▼1	▼1	▼1	▼1	▼2	▼2	▼3	▼4	▼4	▼4	▼4	▼5	▼5	▼6	▼6	▼6	▼8	▼8	▼14
Total 'Disagree'	Apr/May 2023	60	72	68	52	68	50	77	67	68	72	65	60	50	52	34	56	38	55	79	35	62	65	68	55	42	75	64	72
	Δ Mar/Apr 2022	▲2	▼4	▲4	▼4	▼3	▲6	=	▲3	▼6	▼2	▲3	▲2	▲1	▲3	▼3	▲2	▼2	▲1	▲3	▲5	▲7	▲7	▲5	▲8	▼7	▲6	▲11	▲18
Don't know	Apr/May 2023	10	5	12	11	14	15	2	6	15	7	6	5	11	16	18	6	20	18	3	20	2	8	8	8	20	3	7	4
	Δ Mar/Apr 2022	▼1	▲1	▼6	▲2	▲2	▼7	▼1	▼4	▲6	▲3	▼2	▼1	=	▼1	▲5	▲1	▲6	▲3	▲1	▼1	▼2	▼2	▲1	▼2	▲13	▲2	▼3	▼4

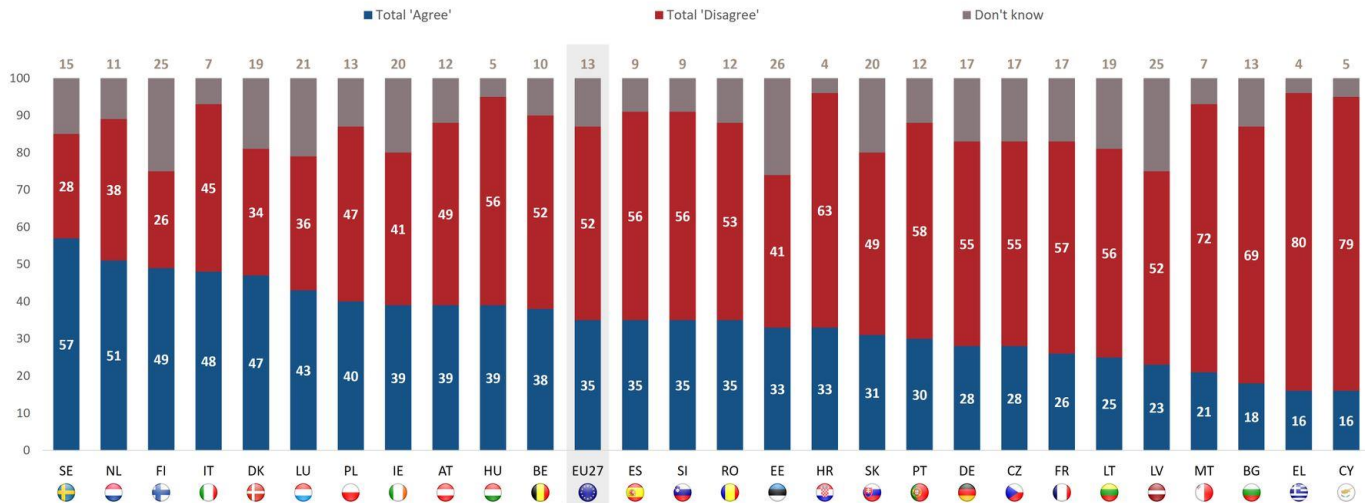
Special Eurobarometer 534 (99.2) Corruption April - May 2023

There are two Member States where a majority agree that measures against corruption are applied impartially and without ulterior motives in their country: Sweden (57%) and the Netherlands (51%). In 25 countries, less than half agree, with the lowest levels seen in Greece (16% agree vs. 80% disagree), Cyprus (16% vs. 79%), Bulgaria (18% vs. 69%), and Malta (21% vs. 72%).

Opinion is more or less evenly divided in Ireland (39% agree vs. 47% disagree) and Italy (48% vs. 45%).

It is also worth noting that at least a quarter say they don't know in Estonia (26%), as well as Finland and Latvia (both 25%).

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)



Since 2022 agreement that measures against corruption are applied impartially and without ulterior motives has increased slightly in five countries; substantially in the case of Slovenia (35%, +8) and Italy (48%, +6). However, in 20 countries, respondents are now, in some cases substantially, less likely to think this, most notably in Malta (21%, -24), Cyprus (16%, -13), and Romania (35%, -12). Opinions have remained unchanged in Greece (16%) and Bulgaria (18%).

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	SI	IT	NL	EE	FR	BG	EL	AT	CZ	IE	HU	DE	SE	ES	LT	LV	HR	LU	SK	FI	DK	PT	PL	BE	RO	CY	MT
Total 'Agree'	Apr/May 2023	35	35	48	51	33	26	18	16	39	28	39	39	28	57	35	25	23	33	43	31	49	47	30	40	38	35	16	21
	Δ Mar/Apr 2022	▼2	▲8	▲6	▲3	▲2	▲2	=	=	▼1	▼2	▼2	▼2	▼3	▼3	▼4	▼4	▼5	▼6	▼6	▼6	▼6	▼7	▼7	▼8	▼9	▼12	▼13	▼24
Total 'Disagree'	Apr/May 2023	52	56	45	38	41	57	69	80	49	55	41	56	55	28	56	56	52	63	36	49	26	34	58	47	52	53	79	72
	Δ Mar/Apr 2022	▲2	▼10	▼5	▼3	▲4	▲2	▼1	▼1	=	▼3	▲6	▲3	▲1	▼5	▲6	▲3	▼6	▲4	▲8	▲2	▼4	▲2	▲12	▲10	▲5	▲12	▲11	▲35
Don't know	Apr/May 2023	13	9	7	11	26	17	13	4	12	17	20	5	17	15	9	19	25	4	21	20	25	19	12	13	10	12	5	7
	Δ Mar/Apr 2022	=	▲2	▼1	=	▼6	▼4	▲1	▲1	▲1	▲5	▼4	▼1	▲2	▲8	▼2	▲1	▲11	▲2	▼2	▲4	▲10	▲5	▼5	▼2	▲4	=	▲2	▼9

Special Eurobarometer 534 (99.2)

Corruption

April – May 2023

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

- Managers are the most likely to agree that there are enough successful prosecutions to deter corruption (37%), compared to, for instance, the self-employed (31%) or manual workers (32%). The unemployed are the most likely to agree high-level corruption cases are not pursued sufficiently (73%). Managers and other white-collar workers are the most likely (32%) to agree that the national government's efforts to combat corruption are effective, for instance compared to house persons (27%) or retirees (28%), or that measures against corruption are applied impartially and without ulterior motives in their country (38%-39%), for instance compared to the unemployed or retirees (both 33%).
- 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 (76%) compared to those who never experience financial difficulties (66%). Conversely, those who never face financial trouble are more likely (36%) to agree that measures against corruption are applied impartially and without ulterior motives than those who face such issues most of the time (28%).
- Respondents who consider themselves as belonging to the upper class are the most likely (47%) to agree there are enough successful prosecutions to deter corruption than those who place themselves lower, for instance the lower middle class (28%) or the working class (27%). Respondents of the upper class are also more likely to agree that the national government's efforts to combat corruption are effective (47%) or that measures against corruption are applied impartially and without ulterior motives in their country (51%). On the other hand, those of the working or lower middle class are more likely (69%-71%) to agree high-level corruption cases are not pursued sufficiently, compared to those in the middle class (66%), the upper middle class (61%), and the upper class (58%).

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	There are enough successful prosecutions in (OUR COUNTRY) to deter people from corrupt practices	(NATIONALITY) Government efforts to combat corruption are effective
EU27	67	35	32	30
Age				
15-24	61	34	35	28
25-39	68	37	34	32
40-54	69	35	33	30
55+	67	34	30	29
Education (End of)				
15-	68	34	30	28
16-19	70	34	32	29
20+	66	38	32	31
Still studying	61	34	35	28
Socio-professional category				
Self-employed	71	35	31	30
Managers	64	38	37	32
Other white collars	68	39	32	32
Manual workers	70	35	32	30
House persons	69	34	32	27
Unemployed	73	33	29	28
Retired	66	33	30	28
Students	61	34	35	28
Difficulties paying bills				
Most of the time	76	28	28	24
From time to time	69	36	33	31
Almost never/ Never	66	36	32	29
Consider belonging to				
The working class	69	30	27	27
The lower middle class	71	28	28	24
The middle class	66	38	35	32
The upper middle class	61	45	38	33
The upper class	58	51	47	47
You know someone who takes bribes				
Yes	80	28	26	24
No	65	36	33	31

III. EXPERIENCE OF BRIBERY



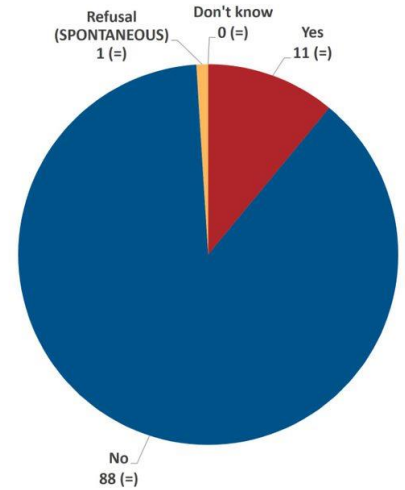
Special Eurobarometer 534 (99.2)
Corruption
April - May 2023

1. Personal experience of bribery

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

Across the EU, over one in ten respondents (11%, no change since 2022) know someone who takes or has taken bribes.²² The majority (88%, =) do not, while 1% (=) refused to answer.

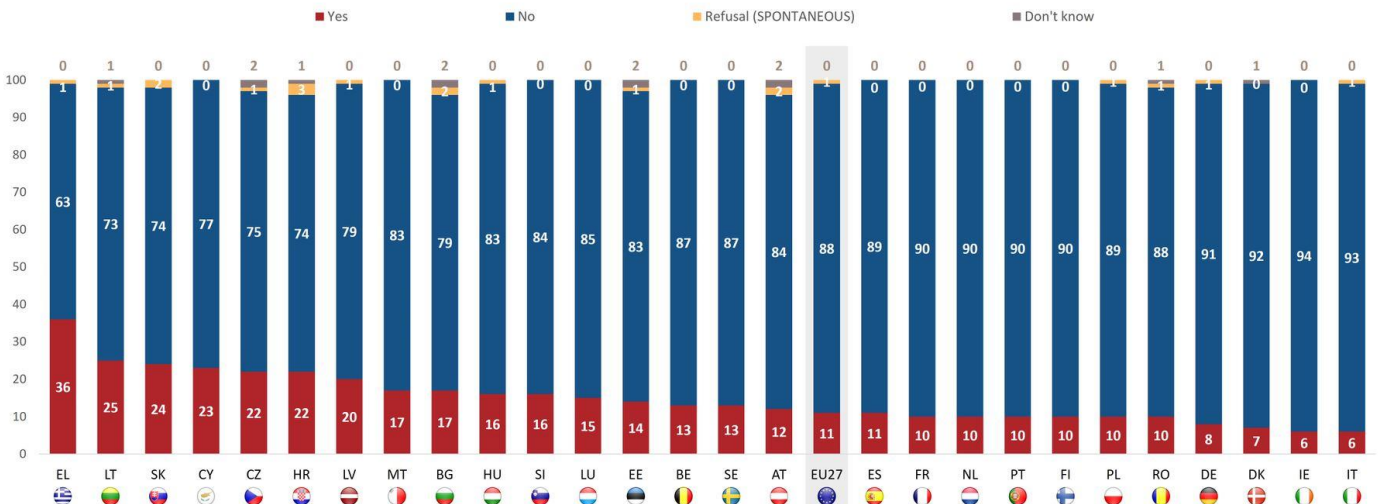
QA8 Do you personally know anyone who takes or has taken bribes? (% - EU27)



(Apr/May 2023 – Mar/Apr 2022)

Only a minority of respondents in each country say they personally know someone who takes bribes, however in six countries at least one in five say this: Greece (36%), Lithuania (25%), Slovakia (24%), Cyprus (23%), and Croatia and Czechia (both 22%). Less than one in ten respondents say this in Ireland and Italy (both 6%), Denmark (7%), and Germany (8%).

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

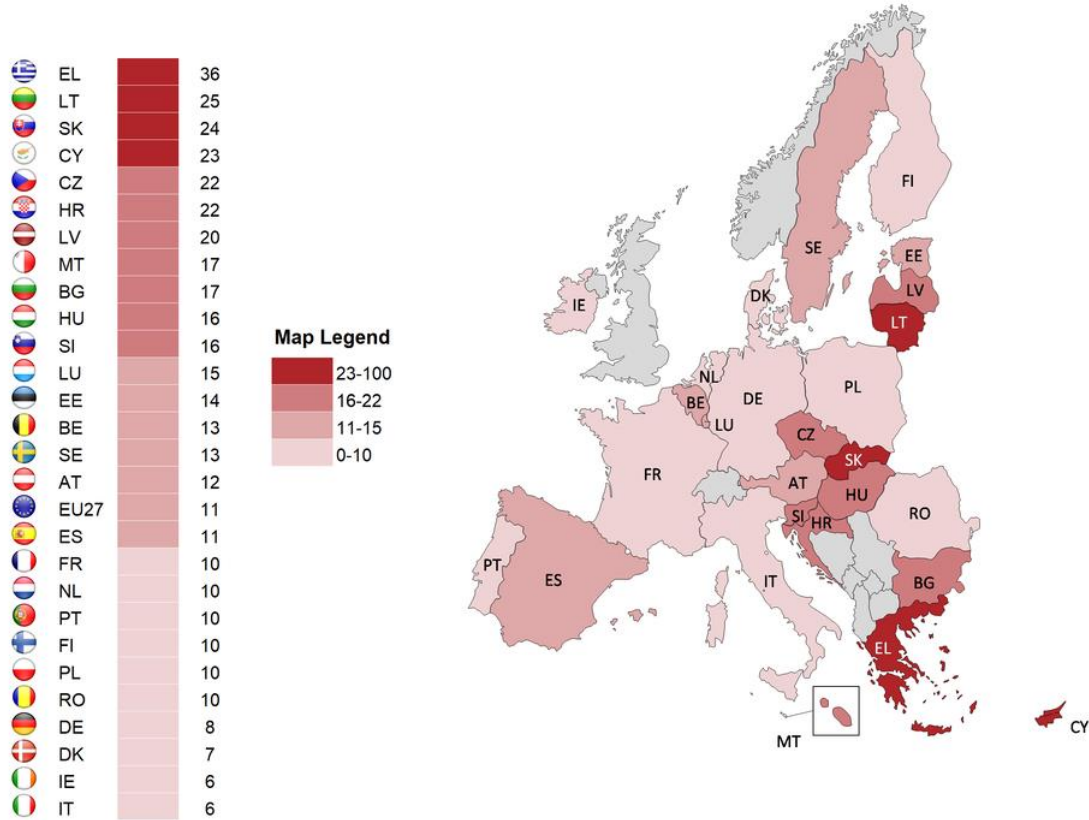


²² QA8. Do you personally know anyone who takes or has taken bribes?

Special Eurobarometer 534 (99.2)
Corruption
April - May 2023

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)



Special Eurobarometer 534 (99.2)




Corruption

April – May 2023

The **socio-demographic analysis** highlights that only a minority in any group personally know someone who takes or has taken bribes. However, the following differences can be noted:

- Men (13%) are more likely to know someone who takes or has taken bribes than women (9%).
- Respondents aged 40-54 are the most likely to report this (13%), particularly compared to those aged between 15 and 24 (8%).
- Those who finished their education past the age of 20 are more likely (13%) than those who finished school aged 15 or younger (8%) to personally know someone who takes or has taken bribes.
- The self-employed (21%) are the most likely to answer this question in the affirmative, particularly compared to students (7%), retirees (8%), and house persons (9%).
- Respondents who have difficulties paying their bills most of the time (19%) are more likely than those who never have such difficulties (10%) to personally know someone who takes or has taken bribes.
- Finally, respondents who have experienced (59%) or witnessed (62%) 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. This also applies when comparing respondents who consider that corruption is widespread in their country with those who say it is rare (14% vs. 5%).

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
 Gender				
Man	13	86	1	0
Woman	9	90	1	0
 Age				
15-24	8	92	0	0
25-39	12	87	1	0
40-54	13	86	1	0
55 +	10	89	1	0
Socio-professional category				
Self-employed	21	78	1	0
Managers	12	87	1	0
Other white collars	11	88	0	1
Manual workers	12	87	1	0
House persons	9	90	1	0
Unemployed	16	84	0	0
Retired	8	91	1	0
Students	7	93	0	0
 Difficulties paying bills				
Most of the time	19	80	1	0
From time to time	11	88	1	0
Almost never/ Never	10	89	1	0
Consider belonging to				
The working class	10	89	1	0
The lower middle class	12	87	1	0
The middle class	11	89	0	0
The upper middle class	13	87	0	0
The upper class	20	78	2	0
In (OUR COUNTRY) corruption is				
Widespread	14	85	1	0
Rare	5	95	0	0
Experienced or witnessed corruption				
Yes, experienced	59	39	2	0
Yes, witnessed	62	37	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 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** (63%, +2 percentage points) is the only institution mentioned by more than half of all respondents and contact with it has increased notably since 2022.

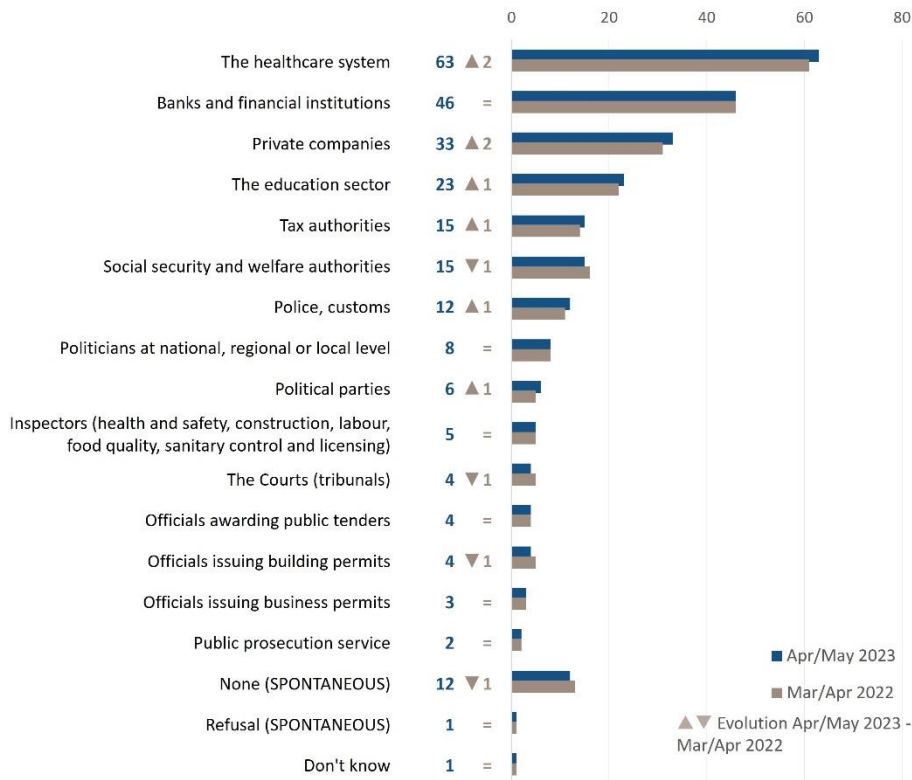
More than four in ten (46%, =) have had contact with **banks and financial institutions**, while one in three (33%, +2) mention **private companies** and 23% (+1) mention the **education sector**. These are the only institutions mentioned by at least one in five.

More than one in ten have had contact with **social security and welfare authorities** (15%, -1), **tax authorities** (15%, +1) or the **police or customs** (12%, +1).

Fewer than one in ten have had contact with the other eight institutions respondents were asked about: **politicians** (8%, =), **political parties** (6%, +1), **the courts** (5%, =), **inspectors** (5%, =), **officials issuing building permits** (4%, -1), **officials awarding public tenders** (4%, =), **officials issuing business permits** (3%, =) or **the public prosecution service** (2%, =).

More than one in ten (12%, -1) say they 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) (% - EU27)



Special Eurobarometer 534 (99.2)

Corruption

April – May 2023

In all but one EU Member State **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 77% in Sweden and 72% in Cyprus and Portugal to 47% in Romania, 51% in Italy, and 55% in Greece.

In Greece, respondents are most likely to have had contact with banks and **financial institutions** (65%), followed by the healthcare system (55%). In 23 EU Member States banks and financial institutions are the second most mentioned institutions. In 13 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 Malta (66%), Greece (65%), and Denmark (61%).

In 20 countries, **private companies** are the third most mentioned institution, most widely mentioned in Sweden (60%), the Netherlands (58%) and Greece (51%). They are the second most mentioned institution in Ireland (26%) and the Netherlands (58%).

The education sector is the third most mentioned in four countries: Belgium (28%), Slovenia (24%), Latvia (21%), and Romania (16%). The Netherlands (36%) and Sweden (34%) 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 are mentioned by at least one in four in Luxembourg (31%), Spain (27%), and Portugal and Greece (both 25%).

The **tax authorities** are the third most mentioned in Ireland (20%), and overall, by at least three in ten in the Netherlands (45%), Sweden (42%), Finland (38%), and Greece (34%).

The **police and customs** are mentioned by at least one in five in Sweden (29%) and Finland (20%).

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 nine countries where at least one in ten have had contact with **politicians**, with the highest proportions seen in Sweden (22%) and the Netherlands (20%), and there are four countries where respondents say the same about **political parties**: the Netherlands and Sweden (both 17%), Cyprus (13%), and Denmark (11%). In addition, there are two countries where at least one in ten have had contact with **inspectors**: the Netherlands (11%) and Sweden (10%).
- Officials awarding public tenders** are only mentioned by more than one in ten in Sweden (14%), while **the courts** are mentioned by one in ten (10%) in Cyprus and Malta. **Officials issuing building permits** are mentioned by 11% in Sweden, while those issuing **business permits** are not mentioned by more than 6% in any EU Member State. The **public prosecution service** is mentioned most in Cyprus (4%).

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	63	59	56	69	76	66	55	56	55	69	71	57	51	72	65	71	66	63	71	70	61	58	72	47	59	66	71	77
Banks and financial institutions	46	47	30	50	61	50	40	56	65	58	42	47	41	50	24	31	49	42	66	51	54	39	55	16	46	44	60	65
Private companies	33	25	14	31	52	39	32	26	51	35	31	20	26	23	15	26	31	22	29	58	48	21	39	12	22	28	48	60
The education sector	23	28	16	26	31	20	27	26	22	29	26	19	20	25	21	18	34	16	23	36	28	17	25	16	24	19	29	34
Tax authorities	15	13	15	13	32	21	20	20	34	4	9	11	7	11	15	15	19	15	15	45	16	9	18	14	10	16	38	42
Social security and welfare authorities	15	12	11	17	13	10	16	13	25	27	24	9	5	18	10	10	31	6	18	20	19	11	25	5	11	15	11	19
Police, customs	12	17	10	14	13	12	18	10	13	14	12	18	6	14	11	12	16	5	15	18	12	9	8	9	13	15	20	29
Politicians at national, regional or local level	8	12	4	9	14	7	12	9	5	6	8	6	5	11	5	4	13	3	10	20	15	2	5	5	5	9	15	22
Political parties	6	7	3	4	11	7	9	6	3	5	5	6	5	13	3	2	8	2	7	17	9	2	4	3	3	4	7	17
Inspectors (health and safety, construction, labour, food quality, sanitary control and licensing)	5	5	3	6	9	6	9	3	5	5	3	5	4	6	6	5	8	2	5	11	7	2	3	3	6	4	8	10
The Courts (tribunals)	4	7	3	3	5	3	4	2	4	5	6	7	2	10	2	2	3	2	10	7	5	4	5	3	7	3	4	6
Officials awarding public tenders	4	4	2	4	3	5	3	2	2	4	4	5	3	4	3	2	6	2	4	6	6	2	2	3	4	4	5	14
Officials issuing building permits	4	5	2	5	6	4	7	2	3	4	4	7	4	4	5	2	6	3	5	7	5	2	2	3	4	7	9	11
Officials issuing business permits	3	3	3	4	1	3	5	2	3	3	2	4	4	6	2	1	5	3	2	4	4	2	2	2	3	3	4	3
Public prosecution service	2	2	1	1	2	1	1	1	2	1	2	1	1	4	1	2	3	1	3	5	3	2	2	3	1	1	1	4
None (SPONTANEOUS)	12	13	18	8	6	11	16	16	5	12	11	10	18	10	18	15	7	14	6	6	5	13	7	22	15	7	5	4
Refusal (SPONTANEOUS)	1	1	1	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	3	1	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	3	0	2	1	4	0	0
Don't know	1	1	2	3	0	0	3	2	0	0	1	2	2	0	1	0	2	0	0	0	0	2	1	3	0	2	1	0

1st MOST FREQUENTLY MENTIONED ITEM

2nd MOST FREQUENTLY MENTIONED ITEM

3rd MOST FREQUENTLY MENTIONED ITEM

Special Eurobarometer 534 (99.2)
Corruption
April – May 2023

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

- Women are more likely than men to have had contact, in the past 12 months, with the healthcare system (67% vs. 59%), while men are more likely than women to have had contact with private companies (37% vs. 29%). The same is true regarding police and customs (14% vs. 9%).
- Older respondents are more likely to have had contact with the healthcare system, with those aged 55 and up the most likely (70%), followed by 64% of those aged 40-54, 58% of those aged 25-39, and half (50%) of those aged 15-24. The youngest demographic is the most likely (15%) to say they have not had contact with any of the aforementioned institutions. Contact with banks and financial institutions is most common amongst those aged 25+, and especially those aged 40-45 (54%).
- Those who completed education aged 20 or older are the most likely (18%) to say they have had contact with social security and welfare authorities, compared to those who finished school before the age of 15 (13%).
- Respondents who are self-employed or managers are the most likely (49%) to have had contact with private companies, for instance compared with 32% of manual workers. The self-employed are most likely (29%) to have had contact with the tax authorities, while the unemployed are most likely (25%) to have been in touch with social security and welfare authorities.
- Those who consider themselves as belonging to the upper class are the most likely among all the other classes to have been in contact with the healthcare system (68%), banks and financial institutions (64%), private companies (55%), the education sector (37%), along with the upper middle class), tax authorities (34%), police or customs (23%), politicians (18%), political parties (18%), inspectors (10%), courts (10%), and officials awarding public tenders (11%). The middle class is the most likely to say that they have not been in contact with any of the aforementioned institutions (13%).

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

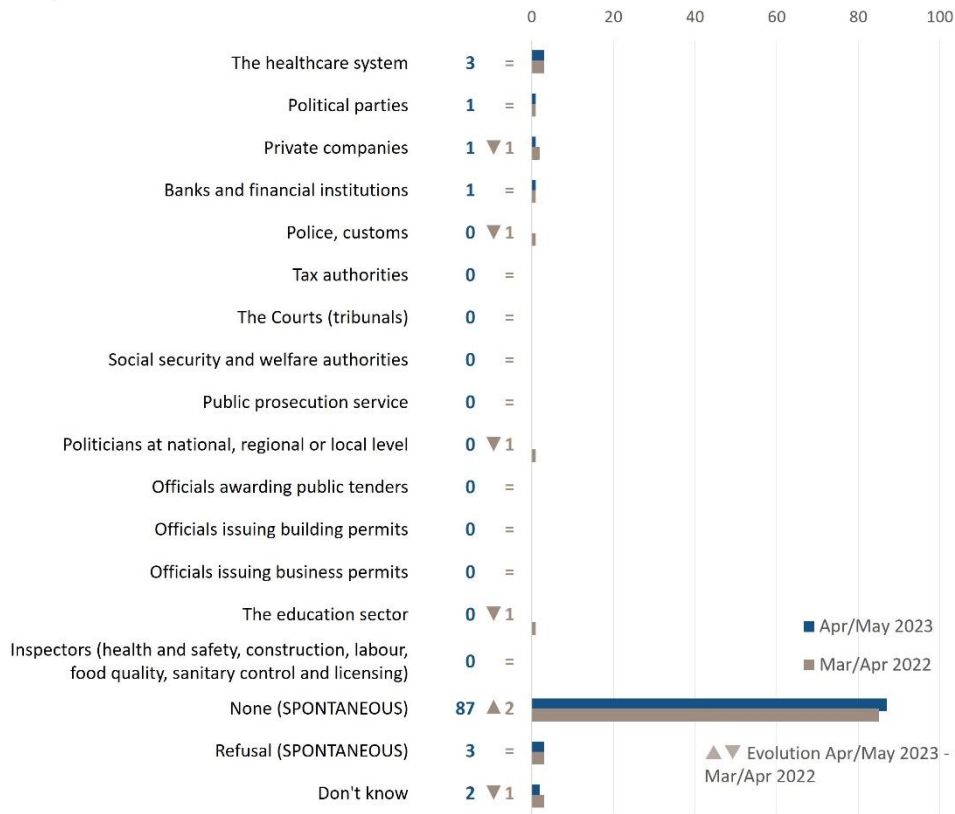
	The healthcare system	Banks and financial institutions	Private companies	The education sector
EU27	63	46	33	23
Gender				
Man	59	48	37	22
Woman	67	45	29	25
Age				
15-24	50	31	26	50
25-39	58	48	39	31
40-54	64	54	41	30
55 +	70	46	26	7
Education (End of)				
15-	69	41	23	6
16-19	63	43	29	15
20+	66	57	44	30
Still studying	53	33	28	63
Socio-professional category				
Self- employed	57	57	49	22
Managers	65	60	49	40
Other white collars	60	49	39	24
Manual workers	59	43	32	20
House persons	69	45	22	19
Unemployed	62	43	28	21
Retired	73	44	23	4
Students	53	33	28	63
Difficulties paying bills				
Most of the time	64	42	29	21
From time to time	60	42	30	22
Almost never/ Never	65	49	35	24
Consider belonging to				
The working class	66	43	25	15
The lower middle class	67	45	33	23
The middle class	61	47	33	25
The upper middle class	66	56	47	37
The upper class	68	64	55	37

Special Eurobarometer 534 (99.2)
Corruption
April - May 2023

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%, -2 percentage point since 2022) respondents say they have been asked or expected to give a gift, favour or extra money in return for services.²³ A large majority (87%, -1) say they have not been asked or expected to do this. Fewer than one in twenty (3%, =) *spontaneously* refused to answer the question and 2% (-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) (% - EU27)



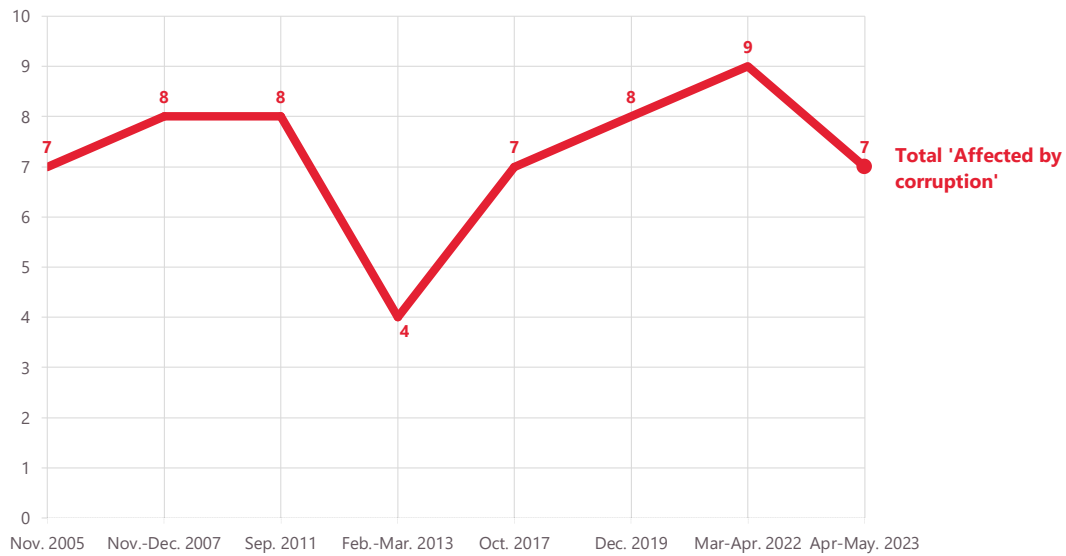
²³ QA9b. Thinking about these contacts in the past 12 months has anyone in (OUR COUNTRY) asked you or expected you to give a gift, favour, or extra money for his or her services? (MULTIPLE ANSWERS POSSIBLE)

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

Special Eurobarometer 534 (99.2) Corruption April - May 2023

The longer-term trend analysis shows relatively small changes in the proportion who have been asked or expected to give a gift, favour or extra money for services. The current level of 7% is two percentage points lower than the result from 2022, and more or less in line with the results from 2017 (7%), 2011 and 2007 (8%), and 2005 (7%). It is, however, three 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)



Special Eurobarometer 534 (99.2)

Corruption

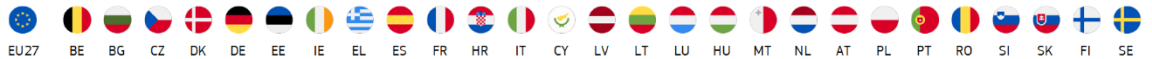
April – May 2023

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 eight countries at least one in ten say this has happened to them, with the largest proportions seen in Bulgaria (18%), Croatia and Romania (both 17%), and Belgium (14%). At the other end of the scale, respondents are least likely to say that they directly experienced corruption of this type in Denmark and Malta (both 1%), Finland (2%), and Spain, Luxembourg, and Sweden (3% all).

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 11% in Romania, 8% in Bulgaria and Greece, and 7% in Lithuania and Slovakia.

It is worth noting around one in ten respondents in Croatia (11%) and Romania (9%) *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	8	4	0	3	2	1	8	1	2	5	1	1	5	7	1	4	1	1	3	5	1	11	2	7	0	1
Political parties	1	3	1	1	0	0	1	1	0	0	1	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Private companies	1	3	1	2	1	2	2	1	0	1	1	2	2	0	1	2	1	1	1	1	2	1	0	1	1	2	1	1
Banks and financial institutions	1	1	1	1	0	1	1	1	0	0	0	2	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
Police, customs	0	1	3	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	2	0	1	1	1	0	0	0	2	1	0	1	0	1	0	0	0
Tax authorities	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	1	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0
The Courts (tribunals)	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Social security and welfare authorities	0	1	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	1	0	1	0	1	
Public prosecution service	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
Politicians at national, regional or local level	0	1	1	1	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	1	0	1	0	1	
Officials awarding public tenders	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
Officials issuing building permits	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	1	0	0	1	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Officials issuing business permits	0	1	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
The education sector	0	1	2	2	0	1	2	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	2	0	0	1	0	1	0	0
Inspectors (health and safety, construction, labour, food quality, sanitary control and licensing)	0	0	1	1	0	1	1	0	1	1	0	1	0	1	1	0	1	0	0	2	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0
None (SPONTANEOUS)	87	82	68	81	96	87	78	92	88	94	93	69	84	88	86	82	92	88	95	94	74	82	93	71	90	77	97	97
Refusal (SPONTANEOUS)	3	1	7	4	1	3	4	1	1	2	1	11	5	4	3	5	2	5	1	0	4	6	2	9	2	9	0	0
Don't know	2	3	7	3	1	2	10	2	1	2	1	3	2	3	3	2	3	2	3	1	4	3	2	3	2	2	1	0
Total 'Affected by corruption'	7	14	18	11	1	7	8	5	10	3	5	17	9	5	9	11	3	6	1	5	18	9	3	17	5	12	2	3

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

Special Eurobarometer 534 (99.2)
Corruption
April – May 2023

In seven 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 2022, but only to a limited degree, with the biggest increase seen in Austria (18%, +2 percentage points). In contrast, the proportion has declined in 19 countries, to a substantial degree in Malta (1%, -9), Hungary (6%, -8), and Latvia (9%, -8).

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 19 countries, with the largest observed in Hungary Malta (95%, +13), Latvia (86%, +8), and Slovenia (90%, +8).

It is worth noting that mentions of the healthcare system have increased five percentage points in Romania (11%) since 2022, after decreasing six percentage points between December 2019 and 2022. Meanwhile in Hungary, mentions of the healthcare system have decreased by 5 percentage points (4%) since 2022.

Special Eurobarometer 534 (99.2)

Corruption

April – May 2023

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	Apr/May 2023	3	3	8	4	0	3	2	1	8	1	2	5	1	1	5	7	1	4	1	1	3	5	1	11	2	7	0	1
	Δ Mar/Apr 2022	=	=	▼1	▼2	▼1	▼1	=	=	▲1	=	▼1	=	▼1	▼1	▼3	▼3	=	▼5	▼2	▼1	▼1	▲2	▲1	▲5	▼2	▼1	▼1	=
Political parties	Apr/May 2023	1	3	1	1	0	0	1	1	0	0	1	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Δ Mar/Apr 2022	=	▲2	=	=	=	▼1	=	=	=	=	=	=	▲1	▲1	▼1	=	▼1	=	▼4	▼1	▲1	=	=	=	▼1	▼1	=	▼1
Banks and financial institutions	Apr/May 2023	1	1	1	1	0	1	1	0	0	0	2	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
	Δ Mar/Apr 2022	=	▼1	▼1	=	▼1	=	▲1	=	=	=	▲1	▼1	=	=	▼1	=	=	=	=	=	▼2	=	▼1	=	▼1	=	=	
Tax authorities	Apr/May 2023	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	1	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	
	Δ Mar/Apr 2022	=	=	=	=	=	=	=	=	▲1	=	▼1	▲1	=	=	▲1	=	=	▲1	▼1	▼1	▲1	=	=	=	=	=	=	
The Courts (tribunals)	Apr/May 2023	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	
	Δ Mar/Apr 2022	=	▲1	=	=	=	=	=	=	=	=	=	=	=	=	=	=	=	=	=	=	=	=	=	=	▼1	▼1	=	
Social security and welfare authorities	Apr/May 2023	0	1	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	1	0	1	0	
	Δ Mar/Apr 2022	=	▼1	=	=	=	=	=	=	=	=	=	=	=	=	▼1	▼1	=	=	=	=	▲1	=	=	=	=	=	▲1	
Public prosecution service	Apr/May 2023	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0		
	Δ Mar/Apr 2022	=	▼2	=	=	=	=	=	=	=	=	▼1	=	=	=	=	=	=	=	=	=	▲1	=	▲1	=	=	=		
Officials awarding public tenders	Apr/May 2023	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	
	Δ Mar/Apr 2022	=	▼2	=	=	=	=	=	=	=	=	▼1	=	=	▼1	=	▼1	=	▼1	=	▼1	=	=	=	=	=	=		
Officials issuing building permits	Apr/May 2023	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	2	0	0	1	0	0	1	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0		
	Δ Mar/Apr 2022	=	▼1	=	▼1	=	=	=	=	=	=	▼1	=	=	▼1	▼1	=	=	=	=	=	=	▼1	=	▼1	=	▼2		
Officials issuing business permits	Apr/May 2023	0	1	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1		
	Δ Mar/Apr 2022	=	=	▼1	=	=	▲1	=	=	=	=	▼1	=	=	=	▼1	=	=	▼1	=	=	=	=	=	=	▲1	=		
Inspectors (health and safety, construction, labour, food quality, sanitary control and licensing)	Apr/May 2023	0	0	1	1	0	1	1	0	1	1	0	0	1	0	1	1	0	1	0	0	2	0	0	1	0	1		
	Δ Mar/Apr 2022	=	▼2	▼1	=	=	▲1	=	=	▲1	=	▼1	=	=	=	=	=	▲1	=	=	=	=	=	=	=	=	=		
Police, customs	Apr/May 2023	0	1	3	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	2	0	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	2	1	0	1	0	1			
	Δ Mar/Apr 2022	▼1	=	▼1	=	=	▲1	=	=	=	=	▼1	▲1	▼1	=	=	=	=	=	▲1	▲1	=	▼1	▲1	=	=			
Politicians at national, regional or local level	Apr/May 2023	0	1	1	1	0	0	1	1	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	1	0	1			
	Δ Mar/Apr 2022	▼1	▼1	=	=	▼1	▲1	=	▼1	=	▲1	▼1	▲1	▼1	=	=	▼3	▼1	=	▼1	=	▲1	▼1	=	=	=			
The education sector	Apr/May 2023	0	1	2	0	1	2	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	2	0	0	1	0	1			
	Δ Mar/Apr 2022	▼1	=	▼1	▲1	=	▲1	▲1	=	=	▼1	▼1	=	▼1	▲1	=	▼1	=	▼1	=	▲1	=	=	▼1	▼1	=			
Private companies	Apr/May 2023	1	3	1	2	1	2	2	1	0	1	1	2	2	0	1	2	1	1	1	1	2	1	0	1	1			
	Δ Mar/Apr 2022	▼1	=	▼1	=	=	▼1	=	=	=	=	=	=	▼1	▼1	▲1	▼1	▼1	▲1	▼1	▲1	▲1	▼1	▲1	▼1	▲1			
None (SPONTANEOUS)	Apr/May 2023	87	82	68	81	96	87	78	92	88	94	93	69	84	88	86	82	92	88	95	94	74	82	93	71	90			
	Δ Mar/Apr 2022	▲2	=	▲1	▲2	=	▼5	▲2	=	▲4	▲2	▲5	=	▼3	▲8	▲4	▲8	▲9	▲13	▲3	▼2	▲1	▼3	▲6	▲8	▲4			
Refusal (SPONTANEOUS)	Apr/May 2023	3	1	7	4	1	3	4	1	1	2	1	11	5	4	3	5	2	5	1	0	4	6	2	9	2			
	Δ Mar/Apr 2022	=	=	=	=	=	▲2	▲1	=	▼1	▲1	=	▲1	▲2	=	▲2	▲1	▼4	▲1	▼3	=	▼1	▼3	▲2	▼2	▼1			
Don't know	Apr/May 2023	2	3	7	3	1	2	10	2	1	2	1	3	2	3	3	2	3	2	3	1	4	3	2	3	2			
	Δ Mar/Apr 2022	▼1	▲2	▲3	▼1	▲1	=	▲2	▼2	=	▼3	▼2	▼2	=	▲1	▼1	▼2	▼1	▼1	▼1	=	▲2	=	▲1	▼11	=			

IV. REPORTING CORRUPTION



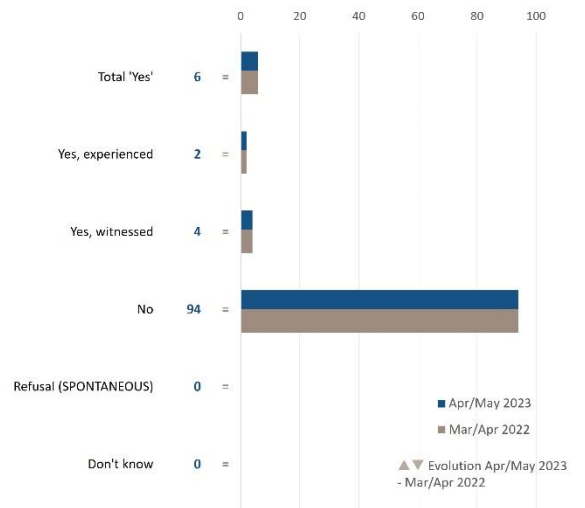
Special Eurobarometer 534 (99.2)
Corruption
April - May 2023

1. Personal experience of corruption

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

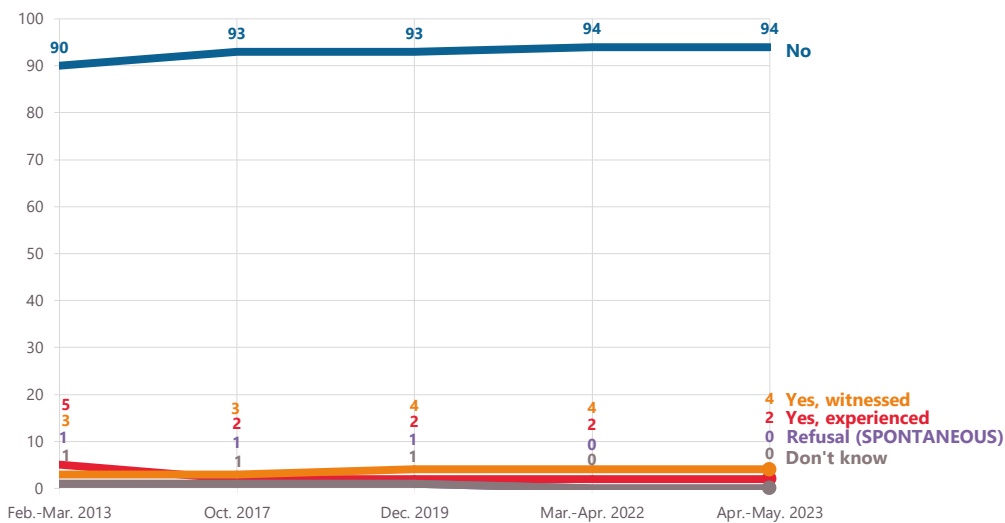
Fewer than one in twenty (4%, -2 percentage point since 2022) say they have experienced or witnessed a case of corruption in the last 12 months. A small minority 2% (-2) have witnessed corruption while 2% (=) have experienced it.²⁴ However, a large majority (94%, =), have neither experienced nor witnessed corruption in the past 12 months.

QA12 In the last 12 months have you experienced or witnessed any case of corruption? (MULTIPLE ANSWERS POSSIBLE) (% - EU27)



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)



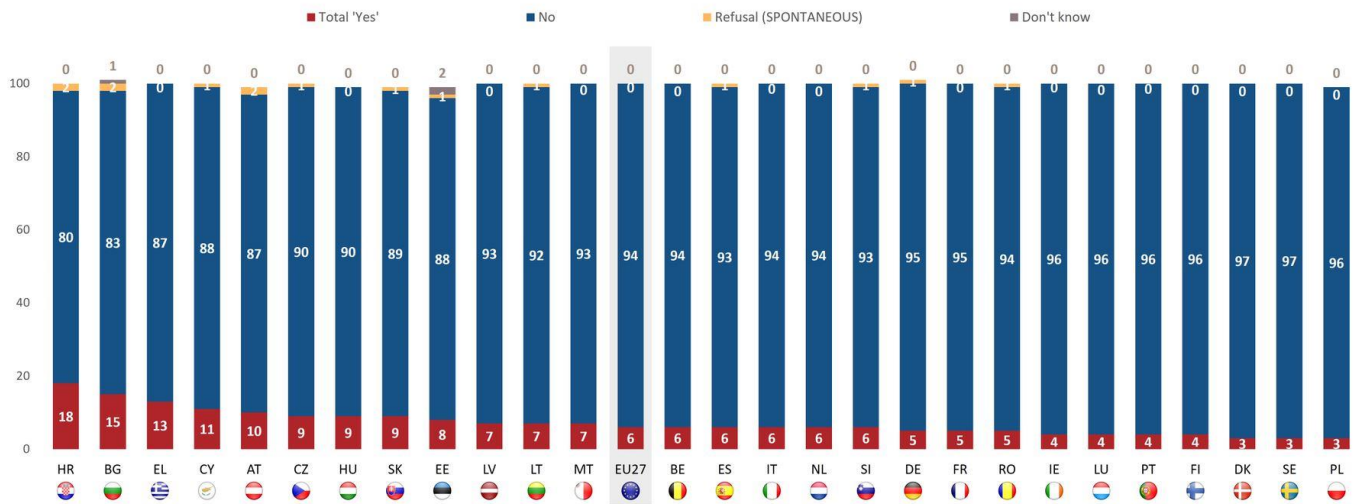
²⁴ QA12. In the last 12 months, have you experienced or witnessed any case of corruption? (MULTIPLE ANSWERS POSSIBLE)

Special Eurobarometer 534 (99.2) Corruption April - May 2023

In each EU Member State only a small minority of respondents have experienced or witnessed corruption in the past 12 months, although there are five countries where at least one in ten have done so: Croatia (18%), Bulgaria (15%), Greece (13%), Cyprus (11%), and Austria (10%). Respondents are least likely to report this in Denmark, Poland, and Sweden (3% all), Ireland, Portugal, Luxembourg, and Finland (4% all), and Romania (5%).

It is worth noting that Croatia is the only country where more than one in ten (11%) say they have witnessed corruption in the last 12 months. Among EU Member States, respondents are most likely to report experiencing corruption in Bulgaria (9%), as well as Greece and Croatia (both 8%).

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



Compared to 2022, proportions have increased in ten countries, with the sharpest uptick seen in Estonia (6%, +4). There has been no change in Bulgaria (9%), Hungary (8%), Malta and Slovakia (both 4%), Belgium and Latvia (both 3%), Spain and Italy (both 2%), and Denmark, Luxembourg, Finland, and Sweden (1% all). Conversely, the proportion of respondents who have experienced corruption has declined slightly in 3 countries, most notably in Austria (4%, -2).

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




		EU27	CY	EE	PT	SK	DE	IE	ES	FR	LU	NL	RO	FI	DK	HR	IT	LV	LT	BE	CZ	EL	HU	AT	SE	PL	SI	BG	MT
Total 'Yes'	Apr/May 2023	6	11	8	4	9	5	4	6	5	4	6	5	4	3	18	6	7	7	6	9	13	9	10	3	3	6	15	7
	Δ Mar/Apr 2022	=	▲5	▲4	▲2	▲2	▲1	▲1	▲1	▲1	▲1	▲1	▲1	▲1	=	=	=	=	=	▼1	▼1	▼1	▼1	▼1	▼1	▼2	▼2	▼4	▼5
No	Apr/May 2023	94	88	88	96	89	95	96	93	95	96	94	94	96	97	80	94	93	92	94	90	87	90	87	97	96	93	83	93
	Δ Mar/Apr 2022	=	▼5	▼7	▼2	▼2	=	▼1	=	▼1	=	▼1	▼1	▼1	=	▼1	=	=	=	▲1	=	▲2	=	=	▲1	▲1	▲1	▲3	▲5
Refusal (SPONTANEOUS)	Apr/May 2023	0	1	1	0	1	1	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	2	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	2	0	0	1	2	0
	Δ Mar/Apr 2022	=	=	▲1	=	▼1	▲1	=	▼1	=	=	=	=	=	=	▲1	=	=	=	▲1	=	=	=	=	=	=	▲1	▲1	=
Don't know	Apr/May 2023	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
	Δ Mar/Apr 2022	=	=	▲1	=	=	=	=	=	=	=	=	=	=	=	=	=	=	=	=	=	=	=	=	=	=	=	=	=

Special Eurobarometer 534 (99.2)
Corruption
April - May 2023

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, with only small differences between groups. A few examples:

- Men are slightly more likely than women (7% vs. 5%) to report having experienced or witnessed a case of corruption in the last 12 months.
- Those who went to school beyond the age of 20 are more likely (7%) to report this than those who finished school aged 15 or younger (4%).
- The self-employed (14%) are substantially more likely to report experiencing or witnessing corruption than other socio-occupation groups; twice as much as for example manual workers or managers (both 7%).
- Those who have difficulties paying their bills most of the time (11%) or from time to time (7%) are more likely to report this than those who rarely or never have these financial problems (5%).

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

	Total 'Yes'	No	Refusal (SPONTANEOUS)	Don't know
EU27	6	94	0	0
 Gender				
Man	7	92	0	0
Woman	5	95	0	0
 Education (End of)				
15-	4	96	1	0
16-19	7	93	0	0
20+	7	93	0	0
Still studying	4	96	0	0
Socio-professional category				
Self- employed	14	85	1	0
Managers	7	93	0	0
Other white collars	6	94	0	0
Manual workers	7	92	1	0
House persons	5	94	1	0
Unemployed	9	90	2	0
Retired	3	97	0	0
Students	4	96	0	0
 Difficulties paying bills				
Most of the time	11	87	1	0
From time to time	7	92	0	0
Almost never/ Never	5	95	0	0

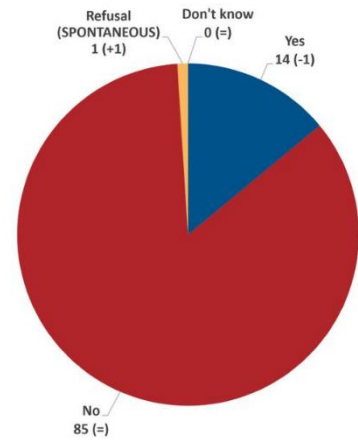
2. Reporting of corruption

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

Among the respondents who experienced or witnessed corruption in the last 12 months, 14% (-1 percentage point since 2022) say they reported the occurrence to someone.²⁵ The large majority (85%, =), however, did not report the case of corruption.

In six countries, more than a quarter of the respondents who experienced or witnessed corruption say they reported it, with the highest scores registered in Sweden (44%), the Netherlands (40%), and Belgium (33%). They are least likely to have done so in Germany and Slovakia (both 4%), Greece, Lithuania, and Malta (5% all), and Czechia (6%).

QA13 Did you report it to anyone or not?
(% - EU27)

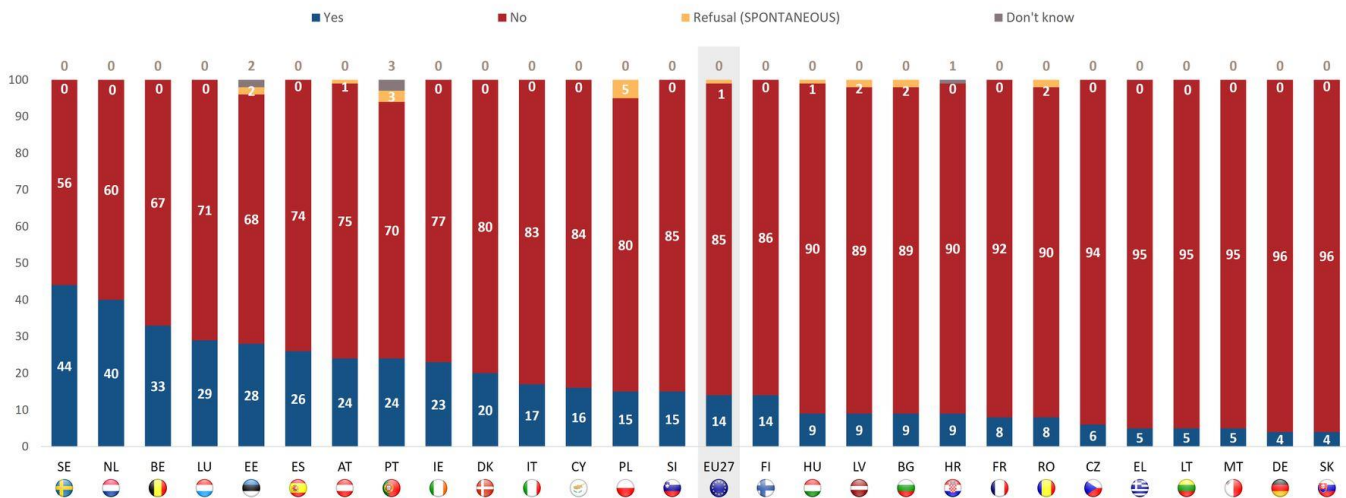


(Apr/May 2023 – Mar/Apr 2022)

A regional analysis illustrates that those respondents from Member States that were already part of the EU before 2004 (22%) are twice as likely to have reported the corruption they experienced or witnessed, compared to those from countries which joined the EU in 2004 or later (11%).

Those living in euro-area countries are only slightly more likely to have reported the corruption than those living outside the euro area (17% vs. 15%).

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



²⁵ QA13. Did you report it to anyone or not?

Special Eurobarometer 534 (99.2)




Corruption

April - May 2023

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

- Women are substantially more likely to say they reported the corruption that they encountered than men (18% vs. 12%).
- Younger respondents are also more likely to have done so, with 16% of those aged 15-24 reporting the corruption they experienced/ witnessed compared to 12% of those aged 55 and up.
- 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%).
- Managers are the most likely (20%) to say they reported the corruption, compared to 17% of other white-collar workers, 13% of the self-employed and students, and 11% of the unemployed.
- Those who consider themselves as belonging to the upper middle class (35%) are substantially more likely to have reported the corruption than those who place themselves on a lower social rung like those pertaining to the middle class (15%) and the working class (10%).

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

	Yes	No	Refusal (SPONTANEOUS)	Don't know
EU27	14	85	1	0
 Gender				
Man	12	87	1	0
Woman	18	82	0	0
 Age				
15-24	16	84	0	0
25-39	15	84	1	0
40-54	14	85	1	0
55 +	12	88	0	0
 Education (End of)				
15-	11	88	1	0
16-19	14	86	0	0
20+	15	84	1	0
Still studying	13	87	0	0
Socio-professional category				
Self- employed	13	87	0	0
Managers	20	79	0	1
Other white collars	17	81	2	0
Manual workers	12	88	0	0
House persons	17	83	0	0
Unemployed	11	88	1	0
Retired	12	88	0	0
Students	13	87	0	0
Consider belonging to				
The working class	10	90	0	0
The lower middle class	13	87	0	0
The middle class	15	84	1	0
The upper middle class	19	80	0	1
The upper class	35	65	0	0

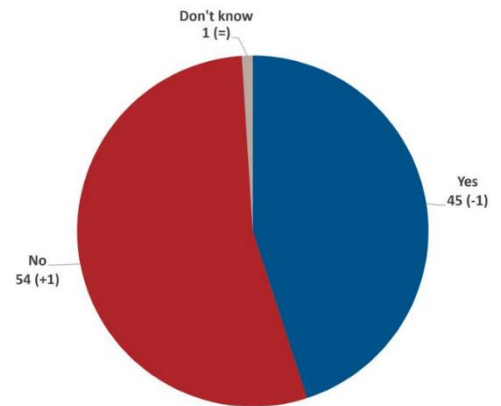
3. Awareness of where to report corruption

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 fewer than half (45%, -1 percentage point since 2022) saying that they do²⁶. The majority (54%, +1) don't know where to report corruption.

A regional analysis shows that those living in Member States of the EU already in 2004 (48%) are only slightly more likely to than respondents from the new Member States of the EU since 2004 or later (46%) to know where to report corruption. The difference is more pronounced comparing those living in the euro area (49%) with those living in countries outside the euro area (39%).

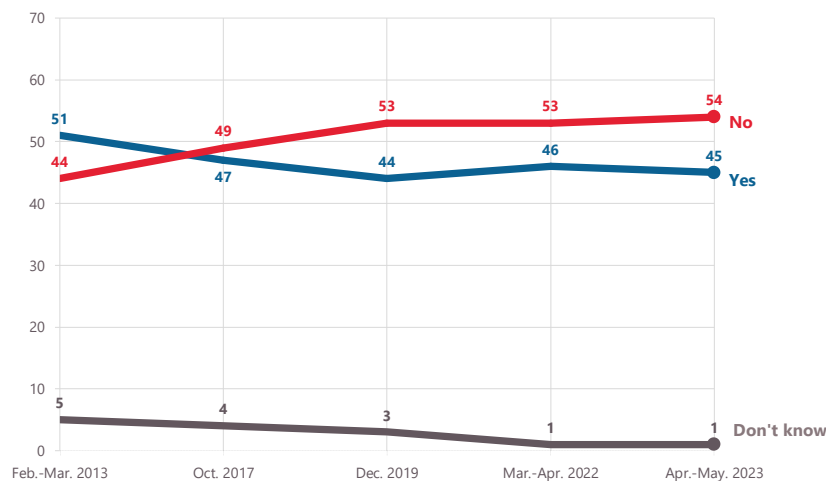
QA10 If you were to experience or witness a case of corruption, would you know where to report it to? (% - EU27)



(Apr/May 2023 – Mar/Apr 2022)

Although the proportion of respondents who would know where to report a case of corruption if they were to experience or witness it has decreased one percentage point since 2022, it remains six points lower than the highest level of 51% in February- March 2013. The proportion of respondents who don't know where to report corruption has steadily increased since 2013 (44%) to 54% today.

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



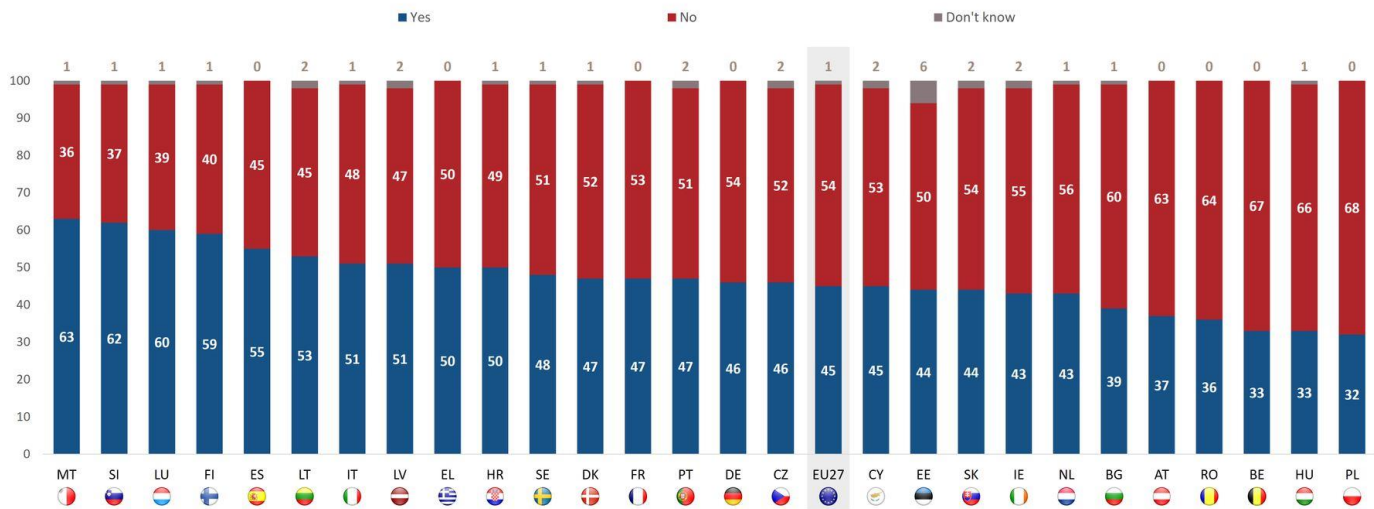
²⁶ QA10. If you were to experience or witness a case of corruption, would you know where to report it to?

Special Eurobarometer 534 (99.2) Corruption April - May 2023

In ten 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 (62%), and Luxembourg (60%).

In 17 countries, only a minority know where to report corruption, with the lowest scores registered in Poland (32%), Hungary (33%), and Romania (36%).

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



Compared to 2022, awareness of where to report corruption has increased in 16 EU Member States, with the largest increases observed in Malta (63%, +17), Finland (59%, +8), and Sweden (48%, +6). Awareness has declined slightly in ten countries, with the biggest decrease seen in Italy (51%, -4).

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




		EU27	MT	RO	FI	SI	SE	LU	DK	EE	LT	AT	SK	IE	FR	HR	LV	HU	NL	BE	CZ	DE	CY	BG	EL	ES	PT	IT	PL
Yes	Apr/May 2023	45	63	36	59	62	48	60	47	44	53	37	44	43	47	50	51	33	43	33	46	46	45	39	50	55	47	51	32
	Δ Mar/Apr 2022	▼1	▲17	▲8	▲8	▲7	▲6	▲5	▲3	▲3	▲2	▲2	▲2	▲1	▲1	▲1	▲1	▲1	=	▼1	▼1	▼1	▼2	▼3	▼3	▼3	▼3	▼4	▼4
No	Apr/May 2023	54	36	64	40	37	51	39	52	50	45	63	54	55	53	49	47	66	56	67	52	54	53	60	50	45	51	48	68
	Δ Mar/Apr 2022	▲1	▼16	▼8	▼8	▼7	▼6	▼5	▼4	▼5	▼2	▼1	▼2	▼2	=	▼2	▼3	▼1	=	▲1	▲1	▲2	▲1	▲3	▲4	▲3	▲3	▲4	▲5
Don't know	Apr/May 2023	1	1	0	1	1	1	1	1	6	2	0	2	2	0	1	2	1	1	0	2	0	2	1	0	0	2	1	0
	Δ Mar/Apr 2022	=	▼1	=	=	=	=	=	▲1	▲2	=	▼1	=	▲1	▼1	▲1	▲2	=	=	=	=	▼1	▲1	=	▼1	=	=	=	▼1

Special Eurobarometer 534 (99.2)
Corruption
April - May 2023

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

- Men (49%) 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 40-54 are the most likely (49%) to know where to report corruption, compared to those aged 55+ (47%), 25-39 (44%), and those aged 15-24 (33%).
- Those who completed their education aged 20+ (51%) are the most likely to know where to report corruption, particularly compared to those who finished aged 15 or younger (42%).
- The self-employed (50%), managers (49%) and the unemployed (48%) are the most likely to know where to report corruption, students the least (35%).
- A majority of those who consider themselves as belonging to the upper class (57%) know where to report corruption, compared to those pertaining to the upper middle class (50%), the middle class (46%), the working class (44%), and the lower middle class (43%).

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	45	54	1
 Gender			
Man	49	50	1
Woman	42	57	1
 Age			
15-24	33	66	1
25-39	44	55	1
40-54	49	50	1
55 +	47	52	1
 Education (End of)			
15-	42	57	1
16-19	45	54	1
20+	51	48	1
Still studying	35	64	1
Socio-professional category			
Self-employed	50	49	1
Managers	49	50	1
Other white collars	47	52	1
Manual workers	45	54	1
House persons	42	57	1
Unemployed	48	52	0
Retired	46	53	1
Students	35	64	1
Consider belonging to			
The working class	44	55	1
The lower middle class	43	57	0
The middle class	46	53	1
The upper middle class	50	50	0
The upper class	57	41	2

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.²⁷

Almost half (47%, -1 percentage point since 2022) 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 one in three.

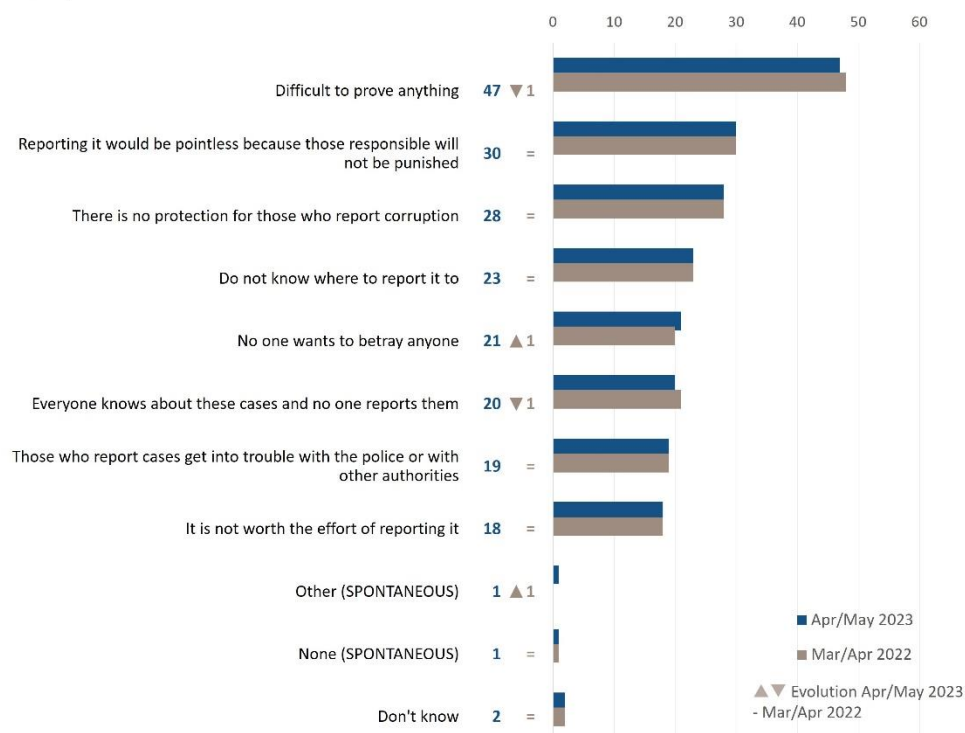
Three in ten say **reporting it would be pointless because those responsible will not be punished** (30%, =), while almost as many say **there is no protection for those who report corruption** (28%, =).

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

Finally, 18% (=) 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 (49% vs. 41%) or not knowing where to report it (25% 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 are substantially more likely than those from countries already Member States of the EU in 2004 to say people who report cases get into trouble with the police or with other authorities (25% vs. 17%).

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)



²⁷ 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)

Special Eurobarometer 534 (99.2)

Corruption

April – May 2023

In 23 EU Member States, **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. It ranks second or third in two countries: Croatia (38%), and Portugal (37%). This reason is most widely mentioned by respondents in France (64%), Luxembourg (58%), and Czechia (57%). Respondents are least likely to mention this reason in Malta (31%), Romania (33%), and Poland (36%).

Reporting it would be pointless because those responsible will not be punished ranks first in Cyprus (57%), Greece (50%), Portugal (42%), and Croatia (40%). In 17 countries it is the second or third-most important reason. It is mentioned by at least four in ten in Malta (49%), and Lithuania (40%). Respondents are least likely to mention this reason in Finland (18%), Luxembourg (20%), and Poland (21%).

Lack of protection for those who report corruption is the most important reason given in Malta (59%), and the second or third-most important reason in a further 13 EU Member States. After Malta, respondents are most likely to mention this reason in Portugal (43%), the Netherlands (42%), and Cyprus (38%), with the lowest scores in this regard registered in Finland (11%), Poland (17%), and Germany and Denmark (both 24%).

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.

- **Not knowing where to report corruption** is the second or third-most cited reason for not reporting corruption in six countries, with the highest scores seen in the Netherlands (37%), Belgium and Sweden (both 36%), and Denmark (33%).
- In six countries, **'no one wanting to betray anyone'** is cited as the second or third-most important reason. Nearly one in three (32%) say this in Poland.
- Greece (35%) and Croatia (34%) are the only countries where at least three in ten say **everyone knows about these cases and no one reports them**.
- In four countries at least three in ten say **those who report cases get into trouble with the police or with other authorities**: Cyprus and Malta (both 38%) and Greece (32%).
- In five countries, **'it is not worth the effort of reporting it'** is given as the third-most important reason not to report corruption. In seven countries, more than one in four say this, with the highest scores seen in Croatia (33%), Slovenia (31%), and Austria (28%).

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	47	55	45	57	53	48	48	41	50	40	64	38	40	34	39	42	58	46	31	53	51	36	37	33	47	43	50	53
Reporting it would be pointless because those responsible will not be punished	30	31	36	32	29	29	30	29	50	33	23	40	34	57	35	40	20	37	49	36	33	21	42	29	36	34	18	27
There is no protection for those who report corruption	28	25	30	27	24	24	20	31	38	27	26	27	34	39	24	34	31	25	59	42	21	17	43	27	23	33	11	30
Do not know where to report it to	23	36	21	13	33	20	19	22	18	22	30	11	19	12	14	15	18	25	13	37	27	18	18	19	17	22	28	36
No one wants to betray anyone	21	28	7	15	30	25	29	22	15	13	28	24	9	17	21	18	29	21	18	26	26	32	11	14	24	20	16	24
Everyone knows about these cases and no one reports them	20	17	23	19	12	18	15	18	35	18	17	34	27	22	18	21	17	24	21	10	22	19	14	26	23	24	12	13
Those who report cases get into trouble with the police or with other authorities	19	12	27	29	9	19	17	13	32	20	16	19	20	38	20	33	25	18	38	21	19	18	19	18	18	31	8	9
It is not worth the effort of reporting it	18	15	18	18	25	18	25	24	17	24	9	33	15	28	22	18	13	26	24	17	28	19	26	18	31	22	25	26
Other (SPONTANEOUS)	1	1	0	0	1	1	1	0	1	1	1	0	1	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	1	1
None (SPONTANEOUS)	1	1	0	1	2	4	1	2	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	1	1	0	1	2	0	0	1	0	1	7	2
Don't know	2	2	3	2	3	2	4	2	0	2	1	1	2	1	4	1	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	1	1	6	1

1st MOST FREQUENTLY MENTIONED ITEM

2nd MOST FREQUENTLY MENTIONED ITEM

3rd MOST FREQUENTLY MENTIONED ITEM

Special Eurobarometer 534 (99.2)
Corruption
April – May 2023

Compared to 2022, respondents in eight 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 France (64%, +9) and Estonia (48%, +6). The proportion has declined in 16 countries, with the biggest decrease registered in Finland (50%, -10) and Latvia (39%, -10).

The idea that reporting it would be pointless because those responsible will not be punished is mentioned in 11 countries, with the biggest increase seen in Malta (49%, +8), and Cyprus (57%, +4). In 11 countries, there has been a decrease, most notably in Finland (18%, -12) and Slovenia (36%, -10).

The proportion of respondents who say that there is no protection for those who report corruption has increased in 12 EU Member States, most markedly in Malta (59%, +24) and Luxembourg (31%, +6).

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. There has been a decrease in 14 countries, with the sharpest drop seen in Slovenia (23%, -13), Croatia (27%, -9), Poland (17%, -7), Bulgaria (21%, +4), and the Netherlands (42%, -7).

The proportion of respondents who do not report corruption because they don't know where to report it to has risen in 12 EU Member States, most notably in the Netherlands (37%, +5) and Slovakia (22%, +4). In 12 EU Member States, these proportions have declined, with the sharpest decrease seen in Finland (28%, -6) and Sweden (36%, -6).

In 15 countries, compared to 2022, the number of respondents who are now more likely to say they don't report corruption because no one wants to betray anyone has increased, with substantial rises noted in Sweden (24%, +8) and Slovenia (24%, +7). Proportions have declined in seven countries, including Greece (15%, -5).

Proportions of those who cite 'those who report cases get into trouble with the police or with other authorities' has increased in seven countries, most notably in Malta (38%, +16) and Luxembourg (25%, +8), with decreases in 13 countries, the biggest decrease is seen in Poland and Slovenia (both 18%, -5).

The proportions who mention it not being worth the effort of reporting corruption have increased in 15 countries including Sweden (26%, +5) and Denmark (25%, +5). Proportions have declined in ten countries including Portugal (26%, -11).

Special Eurobarometer 534 (99.2)
Corruption
April – May 2023

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
No one wants to betray anyone	Apr/May 2023	21	28	7	15	30	25	29	22	15	13	28	24	9	17	21	18	29	21	18	26	26	32	11	14	24	20	16	24
	Δ Mar/Apr 2022	▲1	▲4	▲2	▲3	▼1	▼2	=	=	▼5	=	▲5	▲5	▼1	▲3	=	▼5	▲3	▲2	▲2	▲4	=	▲4	▼1	▼3	▲7	▲1	▲2	▲8
Reporting it would be pointless because those responsible will not be punished	Apr/May 2023	30	31	36	32	29	29	30	29	50	33	23	40	34	57	35	40	20	37	49	36	33	21	42	29	36	34	18	27
	Δ Mar/Apr 2022	=	▼1	=	▼4	▲1	▲3	=	▲2	▼1	▲1	▲2	▲2	▲1	▲4	▼8	▲3	▼1	▲1	▲8	=	▼1	▼3	=	▼3	▼10	=	▼12	▼3
There is no protection for those who report corruption	Apr/May 2023	28	25	30	27	24	24	20	31	38	27	26	27	34	39	24	34	31	25	59	42	21	17	43	27	23	33	11	30
	Δ Mar/Apr 2022	=	▼2	▼6	▼2	▲5	▲1	▼2	▲1	▲6	▲2	▼2	▼9	▲3	▼4	▼6	▲4	▲6	▲3	▲24	▼7	=	▼7	▲6	▼1	▼13	▲3	▼2	▼2
Do not know where to report it to	Apr/May 2023	23	36	21	13	33	20	19	22	18	22	30	11	19	12	14	15	18	25	13	37	27	18	18	19	17	22	28	36
	Δ Mar/Apr 2022	=	▲2	▲4	=	▲2	▼3	▲2	▼2	=	▲1	▲2	▼1	=	▲3	▼1	▼1	▼1	▲4	▼5	▲5	▼2	▲2	▼2	▼2	▲2	▲4	▼6	▼6
Those who report cases get into trouble with the police or with other authorities	Apr/May 2023	19	12	27	29	9	19	17	13	32	20	16	19	20	38	20	33	25	18	38	21	19	18	19	18	18	31	8	9
	Δ Mar/Apr 2022	=	▼4	▼3	▼4	▲1	▼1	=	▼1	▲4	=	=	▼1	▲3	▲7	▼2	▲2	▲8	▲5	▲16	▼2	▼2	▼5	▼4	▼3	▼5	▲1	▼3	=
It is not worth the effort of reporting it	Apr/May 2023	18	15	18	18	25	18	25	24	17	24	9	33	15	28	22	18	13	26	24	17	28	19	26	18	31	22	25	26
	Δ Mar/Apr 2022	=	▼5	▼2	=	▲5	▼2	▲3	▲3	▲1	▲2	=	▲2	▲1	▼1	▲3	▲1	▼2	▲2	▼5	▲2	▼1	▲1	▼11	▼1	▲3	▼1	▲8	▲5
Difficult to prove anything	Apr/May 2023	47	55	45	57	53	48	48	41	50	40	64	38	40	34	39	42	58	46	31	53	51	36	37	33	47	43	50	53
	Δ Mar/Apr 2022	▼1	▼3	▼1	▼4	▼6	▼6	▲6	▼3	▲3	=	▲9	▲4	▼2	▼6	▼10	▼5	=	▼1	▼2	▼1	▲5	=	▼9	▲1	=	▲3	▼10	▼6
Everyone knows about these cases and no one reports them	Apr/May 2023	20	17	23	19	12	18	15	18	35	18	17	34	27	22	18	21	17	24	21	10	22	19	14	26	23	24	12	13
	Δ Mar/Apr 2022	▼1	▼1	▼6	▼2	▲4	▲3	▲1	=	▼6	▼1	▼2	▼2	▼5	▼7	=	=	▼3	=	▼6	▼4	▼2	▼2	▼4	▼1	▼6	▼4	▲3	▲2
Other (SPONTANEOUS)	Apr/May 2023	1	1	0	0	1	1	1	0	1	1	1	0	1	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	1	1
	Δ Mar/Apr 2022	▲1	=	=	=	=	=	=	=	▲1	▲1	▲1	=	▲1	=	▲1	▲1	▼1	=	▼1	=	=	=	=	=	▲1	=	▲1	▲1
None (SPONTANEOUS)	Apr/May 2023	1	1	0	1	2	4	1	2	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	1	1	0	1	2	0	0	1	0	1	7	2
	Δ Mar/Apr 2022	=	▲1	=	▲1	=	▲1	=	=	=	▼1	▼2	▼1	=	=	=	▲1	=	▲1	▼1	▼1	▲1	=	▼1	=	=	▲1	▲4	▼1
Don't know	Apr/May 2023	2	2	3	2	3	2	4	2	0	2	1	1	2	1	4	1	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	1	1	6	1
	Δ Mar/Apr 2022	=	▲2	▲1	▲1	▼1	▲1	▼2	▼1	=	=	▼2	▲1	▲1	▲1	▲2	=	=	=	▼3	=	=	▼1	▼2	=	=	▼1	▲3	=

Special Eurobarometer 534 (99.2)

Corruption

April – May 2023

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

- Women are more likely than men to say that they don't know where to report corruption to (26% vs. 20%).
- 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 (50%) or that people don't know where to report it (30%). In contrast, older respondents, particularly those aged 40-54 compared to those aged 15-24, are more likely (30% vs. 22%) to say there is no protection for those who report corruption.
- Managers are the most likely to say it is difficult to prove anything, particularly compared to house persons (52% vs. 42%). Students (32%) are more likely than other socio-occupation groups to say people don't know where to report corruption.
- Those who face financial difficulties most of the time are more likely (37%) to say reporting corruption would be pointless because those responsible will not be punished, compared to those who never face such issues (28%). However the latter group is more likely (24%) to say they don't know where to report it to than those who face such difficulties most of the time (20%).
- There is little difference according to one's social class, except that those who consider themselves as belonging to the upper middle class are the most likely (29%) to say they don't know where to report corruption to, particularly compared to those in the working or lower middle class (21%-22%).
- Respondents who know where to report corruption are more likely than those who do not to say it is difficult to prove anything (51% vs. 43%), that there is no protection for those who report corruption (30% vs. 25%) or that everyone knows about these cases and no one reports them (22% vs. 18%).

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)

	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	No one wants to betray anyone
EU27	47	30	28	23	21
Gender					
Man	48	30	27	20	22
Woman	46	30	28	26	20
Age					
15-24	50	30	22	30	24
25-39	49	31	27	22	21
40-54	47	31	30	22	19
55 +	45	30	28	22	21
Education (End of)					
15-	41	30	29	22	17
16-19	48	30	27	20	21
20+	48	31	30	25	22
Still studying	49	30	23	32	24
Socio-professional category					
Self-employed	44	35	30	20	19
Managers	52	30	29	26	19
Other white collars	47	31	30	22	20
Manual workers	45	29	28	20	22
House persons	42	29	24	24	18
Unemployed	50	36	26	20	17
Retired	46	29	28	23	21
Students	49	30	23	32	24
Difficulties paying bills					
Most of the time	47	37	32	20	18
From time to time	43	34	30	21	19
Almost never/ Never	49	28	26	24	22
Consider belonging to					
The working class	46	30	26	22	22
The lower middle class	46	32	28	21	20
The middle class	48	30	28	23	21
The upper middle class	49	31	27	29	21
The upper class	47	28	30	25	22
In (OUR COUNTRY) corruption is					
Widespread	46	34	30	21	20
Rare	49	22	23	27	24
Do you know to whom reporting corruption cases to?					
Yes	51	31	30	14	21
No	43	29	25	30	21

Special Eurobarometer 534 (99.2)
Corruption
April - May 2023

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)

	Everyone knows about these cases and no one reports them	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	1	1	2
Gender						
Man	20	20	20	0	1	1
Woman	20	18	17	1	1	2
Age						
15-24	18	18	20	0	1	2
25-39	21	19	18	1	1	1
40-54	20	20	18	1	1	1
55 +	20	19	18	0	2	2
Education (End of)						
15-	22	18	19	0	2	3
16-19	22	20	18	0	1	1
20+	18	19	18	1	2	1
Still studying	16	19	19	0	1	2
Socio-professional category						
Self- employed	23	21	18	1	1	1
Managers	17	18	17	1	2	1
Other white collars	22	18	18	1	2	1
Manual workers	21	20	20	1	1	1
House persons	20	17	19	1	1	3
Unemployed	20	19	23	0	1	2
Retired	20	19	17	0	2	2
Students	16	19	19	0	1	2
Difficulties paying bills						
Most of the time	23	20	18	0	1	1
From time to time	24	21	19	0	1	2
Almost never/ Never	18	18	18	1	1	2
Consider belonging to						
The working class	20	20	20	1	1	2
The lower middle class	22	21	17	0	1	1
The middle class	20	18	18	0	1	2
The upper middle class	15	19	19	1	2	1
The upper class	17	22	18	0	2	0
In (OUR COUNTRY) corruption is						
Widespread	23	21	18	0	1	1
Rare	12	16	19	1	2	2
Do you know to whom reporting corruption cases to?						
Yes	22	21	18	1	2	1
No	18	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 (61%, -2 percentage points compared to 2022) say they most trust **the police** to deal with a complaint about a case of corruption.²⁸ This is the only answer mentioned by more than half.

Just over one quarter trust **the Justice** (24%, -3) and this is the only other answer given by at least one in five.

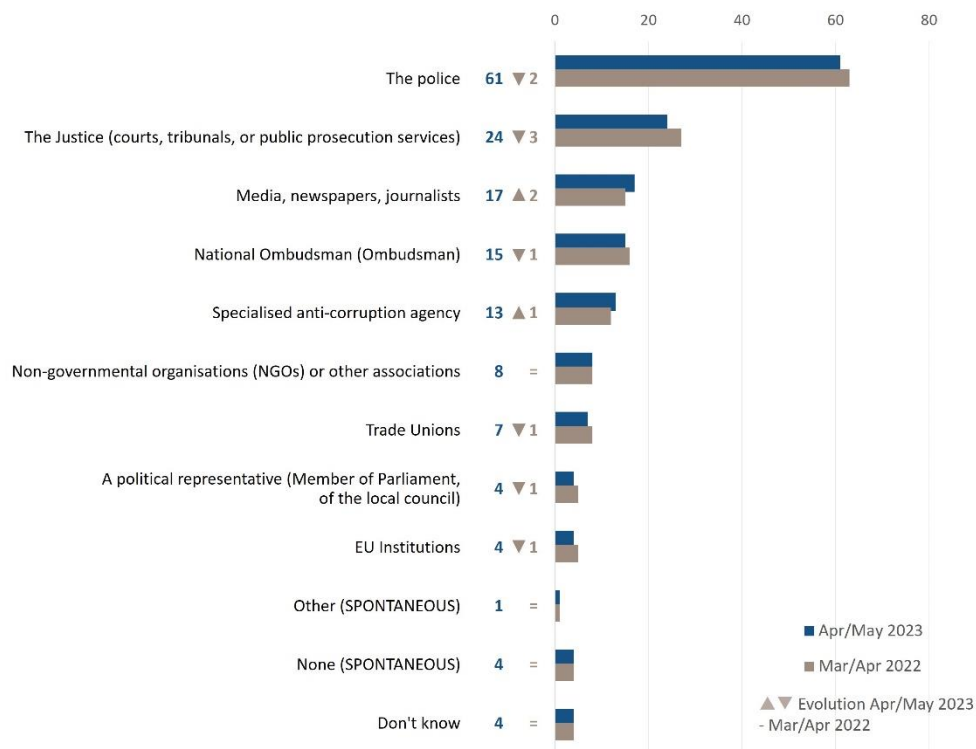
Close to one in five (17%, +2) say they would trust the **media, newspapers, or journalists**, followed by the **National Ombudsman** (16%, =), or a **specialised anti-corruption agency** (13%, -1).

Fewer than one in ten mention **non-governmental organisations or other associations** (8%, =), **trade unions** (7%, -1), a **political representative** (4%, -1) or **EU institutions** (4%, -1). Almost one in twenty (4%, =) say they trust none of the options given, the same proportion (4%, =) say they don't know.

A regional analysis illustrates respondents from the countries that were 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 (64% vs. 48%), the Justice (30% vs. 13%), and are more likely to trust trade unions (10% vs. 4%), however they are less likely to trust a specialised anti-corruption agency (22% vs. 27%).

Respondents living in euro area countries are more likely than those in non-euro area countries to trust the police (58% vs. 50%) or a specialised anti-corruption agency (26% vs. 21%).

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)

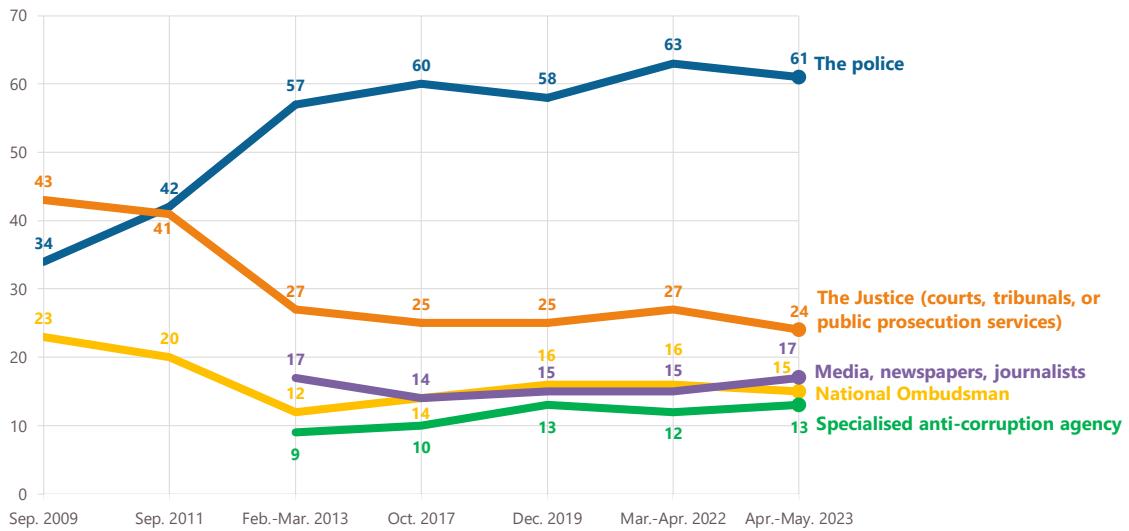


²⁸ QA11. And if you wanted to complain about this case of corruption, who would you trust most to deal with it? (MULTIPLE ANSWERS POSSIBLE)

Special Eurobarometer 534 (99.2)
Corruption
April - May 2023

After a slight increase between December 2019 and 2022, trust in the police has once again returned to the level of October 2017. Nonetheless, trust in the police is still higher than it was in 2013 (57%), and much higher than 2009 (34%). The proportions mentioning each other institution have remained relatively stable since February- March 2013. **However, over the longer term, the proportion of respondents trusting the justice system is 18 percentage points lower than in 2009**, while the proportion trusting the National Ombudsman is eight 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)



Special Eurobarometer 534 (99.2)
Corruption
April – May 2023

In 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 (77%), Denmark (73%), Luxembourg (72%), and Sweden (70%).

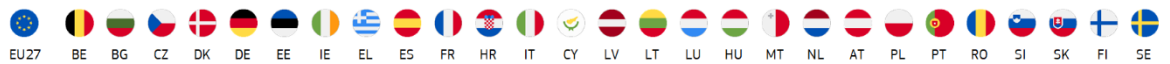
In Latvia (40%) the **specialised anti-corruption agency**²⁹ is the second-most trusted institution, while in 15 EU Member States it is the second or third most trusted institution, with the highest proportions found in Croatia (36%, Lithuania and Romania (both 35%), and Latvia (32%).

The justice system is the second or third-most trusted institution in 15 countries, most notably in Sweden (59%), which is the only country where a majority think this.

Highlights from the other seven institutions or bodies include:

- The Netherlands (52%) is the only country where more than half mention the **National Ombudsman**.
- Lithuania, Croatia and Slovakia (27% all) are the only countries where more than a quarter mention the **media, newspapers or journalists**. In 15 countries, this is the second or third-most trusted institution.
- Fewer than one in five in any country mention **NGOs or other associations**, with the largest proportion in Hungary (18%). It is the second-most trusted institution in that country along with the justice system.
- Around one in five would trust **trade unions** with their complaint in the Netherlands (22%), Denmark (21%), and Sweden (19%).
- The Netherlands (11%) are the only country where at least one in ten mention a **political representative**.
- Malta (16%), Sweden (11%), and the Netherlands (10%) are the only countries where at least 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)
 (%)



The police	61	55	40	60	73	60	62	59	60	62	60	39	60	41	41	42	72	39	60	61	48	56	60	37	50	55	77	70
The Justice (courts, tribunals, or public prosecution services)	24	26	12	10	39	27	25	8	41	29	27	11	17	15	8	7	31	18	19	45	29	17	16	10	12	8	25	59
Media, newspapers, journalists	17	21	21	21	22	17	17	13	12	9	21	27	15	16	17	27	15	13	12	22	22	12	19	16	12	27	11	21
National Ombudsman (Ombudsman)	15	20	11	19	21	19	15	23	31	11	11	7	4	19	13	1	14	17	16	52	23	9	9	11	24	16	15	36
Specialised anti-corruption agency	13	0	18	18	0	0	0	23	18	16	36	19	27	32	35	0	0	28	0	28	13	26	35	28	0	0	0	0
Non-governmental organisations (NGOs) or other associations	8	11	5	11	8	7	8	10	3	5	13	8	5	9	6	6	11	18	12	9	17	4	4	7	9	13	4	9
Trade Unions	7	13	2	4	21	5	9	7	3	5	13	3	5	2	4	2	12	3	5	22	9	4	2	4	5	3	9	19
A political representative (Member of Parliament, of the local council)	4	5	3	2	8	6	3	5	2	2	2	2	2	4	1	2	8	5	9	11	9	2	1	5	1	5	4	8
EU Institutions	4	4	4	4	8	3	4	4	5	4	3	9	2	9	8	5	6	9	16	10	6	3	3	5	5	5	5	11
Other (SPONTANEOUS)	1	1	1	0	3	2	1	1	1	1	1	0	1	1	2	1	1	1	0	0	1	0	0	1	1	1	1	1
None (SPONTANEOUS)	4	4	8	4	1	4	8	3	6	2	5	4	2	14	6	8	3	9	4	1	6	3	4	6	9	10	1	1
Don't know	4	2	14	7	2	4	5	7	1	3	5	4	4	5	6	3	3	7	2	0	4	5	6	6	3	8	3	1

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

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

Special Eurobarometer 534 (99.2)
Corruption
April – May 2023

In five EU Member States the proportions mentioning the police have increased since 2022, with the largest increase seen in Malta (60%, +13), Slovenia (48%, +11), and Latvia (41%, +10). The proportions have declined slightly in 19 countries with the largest decrease observed in Cyprus (41%, -11) and Greece (60%, -10).

Slight increases can be seen in six countries in the proportion of respondents mentioning the justice system, most notably in Greece (41%, +6), and Malta (19%, +6). In 19 countries there was a decline in these proportions, with the biggest decrease seen in Germany (39%, -5).






In seven countries respondents are now more likely to mention the National Ombudsman, with the largest increase observed in Greece (31%, +8) and Sweden (36%, +6). Mentions have declined in 13 countries including Cyprus (19%, -10) and remain unchanged in Bulgaria (11%), Croatia (7%), Hungary (17%), and Romania (11%).

Compared to 2022, respondents in Malta (28%, +8) and Spain (18%, +7) are now more likely to mention a specialised anti-corruption agency. Mentions have increased in five countries in total, declined in nine, and remain unchanged in one country.

For all other bodies the changes since 2022 are less than ten percentage points.

Special Eurobarometer 534 (99.2)
Corruption
April – May 2023

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

																													
Media, newspapers, journalists	Apr/May 2023	17	21	21	21	22	17	17	13	12	9	21	27	15	16	17	27	15	13	12	22	22	12	19	16	12	27	11	21
	Δ Mar/Apr 2022	▲2	▲1	=	▼3	▼2	=	▲3	▲2	▲1	▲1	▲5	▲1	▲5	▼5	▼5	▲3	▲3	=	▼6	▼2	▲1	▼3	▲9	▼1	▼8	▲5	▼4	▼7
Specialised anti-corruption agency	Apr/May 2023	13	0	18	18	0	0	0	0	23	18	16	36	19	27	32	35	0	0	28	0	28	13	26	35	28	0	0	0
	Δ Mar/Apr 2022	▲1	=	▼2	▼1	=	=	=	=	▼7	▲7	▼4	▼3	▲4	▲27	▼8	=	=	=	▲8	=	▼1	▼2	▲4	▲3	▼3	=	=	=
Non-governmental organisations (NGOs) or other associations	Apr/May 2023	8	11	5	11	8	7	8	10	3	5	13	8	5	9	6	6	11	18	12	9	17	4	4	7	9	13	4	9
	Δ Mar/Apr 2022	=	▼2	=	=	=	▼2	▲3	▲4	=	▲1	▲3	▼2	▲1	▼1	▼2	=	▲2	▲1	▼4	▼1	▲3	▼2	▲1	▼3	▼7	▲1	▼2	=
National Ombudsman (Ombudsman)	Apr/May 2023	15	20	11	19	21	19	15	23	31	11	11	7	4	19	13	1	14	17	16	52	23	9	9	11	24	16	15	36
	Δ Mar/Apr 2022	▼1	▼3	=	▼2	▼3	▼4	▲2	▼5	▲8	▲1	=	=	=	▼10	▼6	=	▲1	=	▼4	▲1	▲2	▼1	▼4	=	▼7	▼1	▼2	▲6
A political representative (Member of Parliament, of the local council)	Apr/May 2023	4	5	3	2	8	6	3	5	2	2	2	2	2	4	1	2	8	5	9	11	9	2	1	5	1	5	4	8
	Δ Mar/Apr 2022	▼1	▼2	▲1	▲1	=	▼1	▼1	=	▲1	▲1	▼2	▼2	▼1	▼1	=	▲1	▲4	▼1	▲3	▲1	▼2	▼3	▼1	▼3	=	=	▲2	▲3
Trade Unions	Apr/May 2023	7	13	2	4	21	5	9	7	3	5	13	3	5	2	4	2	12	3	5	22	9	4	2	4	5	3	9	19
	Δ Mar/Apr 2022	▼1	▼7	▲1	=	▲7	▼4	▲4	▲2	▲1	=	▲3	▼1	▲1	▼1	▲1	▼1	=	▼2	▲1	▼1	▼2	=	▼2	▼2	▼2	▲1	=	▲3
EU Institutions	Apr/May 2023	4	4	4	4	8	3	4	4	5	4	3	9	2	9	8	5	6	9	16	10	6	3	3	5	5	5	5	11
	Δ Mar/Apr 2022	▼1	▼3	=	▼1	▼1	▼2	▲1	▼2	▲2	=	▲1	▼1	=	▼2	▼7	=	▲2	=	=	▲3	▲1	▼1	▼2	▼3	▼5	▼5	▲1	▲3
The police	Apr/May 2023	61	55	40	60	73	68	62	59	60	62	60	39	68	41	41	42	72	39	60	61	48	56	60	37	58	55	77	70
	Δ Mar/Apr 2022	▼2	▼2	▼4	▲1	=	▼2	▼2	▼5	▼10	▼8	=	▼4	▼4	▼11	▲10	▼2	▼2	▼4	▲13	=	▼6	▼4	▼2	▼1	▲11	▼2	▼1	▲4
The Justice (courts, tribunals, or public prosecution services)	Apr/May 2023	24	26	12	10	39	27	25	8	41	29	27	11	17	15	8	7	31	18	19	45	29	17	16	10	12	8	25	59
	Δ Mar/Apr 2022	▼3	▼3	=	▲1	▼5	▼7	▲1	▼2	▲6	▼5	▼3	▼1	▼1	▼4	▼1	▼2	▼1	▼3	▲6	▲1	=	▼1	▼7	▼5	▼2	▼1	▼1	▲3
Other (SPONTANEOUS)	Apr/May 2023	1	1	1	0	3	2	1	1	1	1	1	0	1	1	2	1	1	1	0	0	1	0	0	1	1	1	1	1
	Δ Mar/Apr 2022	=	▲1	=	▼1	▲2	▲1	=	▲1	▲1	▲1	=	=	▲1	=	▲1	▼1	=	=	=	=	=	=	=	=	=	=	▲1	▲1
None (SPONTANEOUS)	Apr/May 2023	4	4	8	4	1	4	8	3	6	2	5	4	2	14	6	8	3	9	4	1	6	3	4	6	9	10	1	1
	Δ Mar/Apr 2022	=	▲2	▼3	=	=	=	▲2	=	▲1	▼3	=	▲1	=	▼2	▲1	▼1	▲2	▲1	=	=	▲1	=	▼1	▼1	▲4	▲1	=	=
Don't know	Apr/May 2023	4	2	14	7	2	4	5	7	1	3	5	4	4	5	6	3	3	7	2	0	4	5	6	6	3	8	3	1
	Δ Mar/Apr 2022	=	▼1	▲5	▲3	=	▲2	▼3	=	▼1	=	=	=	▼2	=	▲2	▼1	▲1	▼1	▼2	=	=	▼1	▼4	▲1	▲1	▲2	=	▼1

Special Eurobarometer 534 (99.2)
Corruption
April – May 2023

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

- The longer a respondent remained in education, the more likely they are to trust the justice system, the media, newspapers or journalists, the National Ombudsman, the specialised anti-corruption agency, NGOs, trade unions, or EU institutions. For instance, those who completed their education aged 20 or older are the most likely to trust the justice system, compared to those who completed school prior to age 16 (30% vs. 18%). In contrast, those who completed school aged 15 or younger are the most likely to trust the police (65%) than those who stayed in school past the age of 20 (61%).
- Managers are more likely than other socio-occupational groups to trust the justice system (32%) or the National Ombudsman (22%). Students are the most likely (8%) to trust EU institutions, for instance, compared to managers (6%), manual workers (3%), and house persons and retirees (both 2%).
- The fewer financial difficulties a respondent experiences, the more likely they are to trust the police, the justice system or the National Ombudsman.
- Those who consider themselves as belonging to the upper class are the most likely (70%) to trust the police, compared to around six in ten (60%-61%) among those pertaining to other social classes. The upper class is also more likely than other social classes to trust the justice system (35%), the media, newspapers or journalists (23%), or the National Ombudsman (30%).
- More than six in ten (62%) of the respondents who never experienced or witnessed corruption say they trust the police, compared to just over four in ten of those who have experienced (41%) or witnessed (43%) corruption. Those who have experienced or witnessed (28% both) are more likely than those have not (16%) to trust media, newspaper, or journalists.
- Close to half (47%) of the respondents who know someone who takes bribes say they trust the police, compared to just over six in ten (62%) of those who have not. In contrast, respondents who know someone who takes bribes are more likely (20%) to trust the National Ombudsman than those who don't (15%).

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)

	The police	The Justice (courts, tribunals, or public prosecution services)	Non-governmental organisations (NGOs) or other associations	Media, newspapers, journalists	National Ombudsman (Ombudsman)	A political representative (Member of Parliament, of the local council)	Specialised anti-corruption agency	Trade Unions	EU Institutions
EU27	61	24	8	17	15	4	13	7	4
Education (End of)									
15-	65	18	3	13	11	3	9	4	1
16-19	59	21	7	15	12	4	13	6	3
20+	61	30	10	19	21	4	14	10	6
Still studying	62	28	12	19	14	4	13	8	8
Socio-professional category									
Self-employed	55	28	9	20	18	7	17	7	6
Managers	62	32	10	19	22	4	15	12	6
Other white collars	60	25	9	17	16	3	16	8	5
Manual workers	58	21	7	16	13	3	14	8	3
House persons	61	20	5	12	11	2	11	6	2
Unemployed	59	20	8	20	13	3	9	7	3
Retired	63	22	5	14	14	4	9	4	2
Students	62	28	12	19	14	4	13	8	8
Difficulties paying bills									
Most of the time	56	22	8	21	14	3	14	9	2
From time to time	59	21	9	17	12	4	17	6	4
Almost never/ Never	62	26	8	16	16	4	11	7	5
Consider belonging to									
The working class	61	20	5	15	12	2	11	4	2
The lower middle class	60	21	9	18	11	4	12	8	3
The middle class	60	25	8	16	16	4	14	7	4
The upper middle class	61	33	10	21	27	6	14	11	9
The upper class	70	35	11	23	30	11	12	12	14
Experienced or witnessed corruption									
Yes, experienced	41	23	16	28	18	7	16	10	8
Yes, witnessed	43	25	15	28	18	7	24	12	6
No	62	24	7	16	15	4	12	7	4
You know someone who takes bribes									
Yes	47	25	13	25	20	5	18	8	6
No	62	24	7	15	15	4	12	7	4

V. BRIBERY AND HEALTHCARE



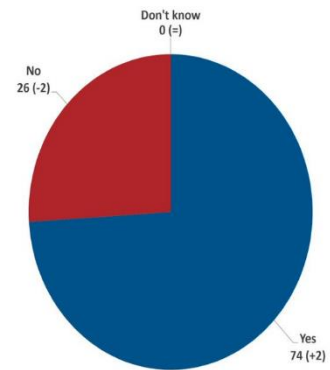
1. Experience of healthcare

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 (74%, +2 percentage points since 2022) 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 26% (-2) have not.³⁰

A regional analysis shows respondents from the Member States already part of the EU in 2004 are somewhat 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 (75% vs. 71%). The difference is much bigger comparing those in the euro area with those living in countries outside the euro area (75% vs. 67%).

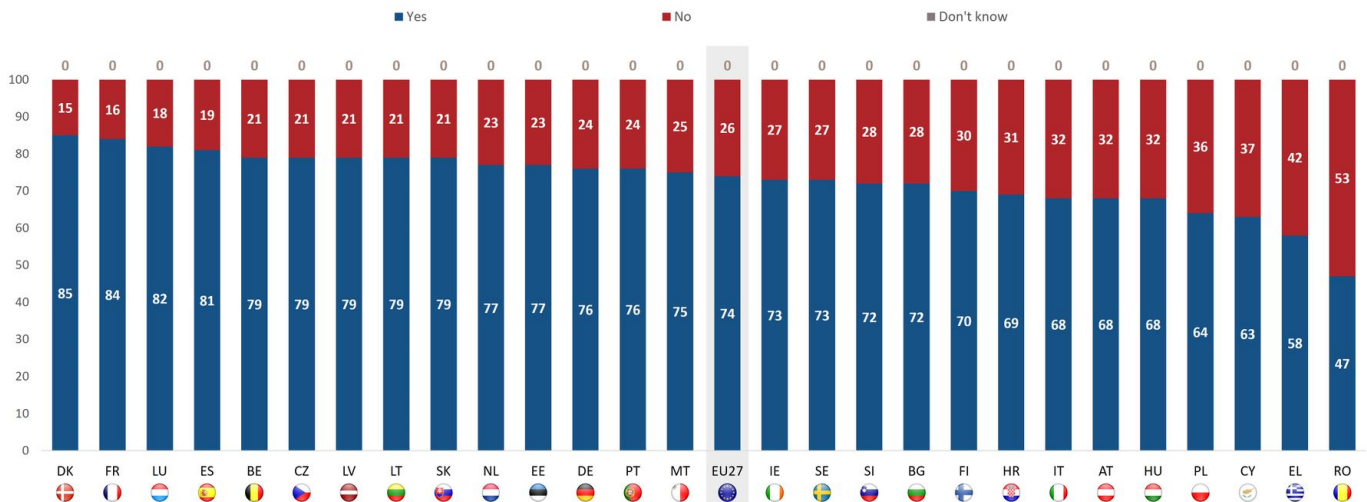
QA1 Have you been to a public healthcare practitioner such as a GP (general practitioner) or a public healthcare institution such as a public hospital in the past 12 months? (% - EU27)



(Apr/May 2023 - Mar/Apr 2022)

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, with the highest proportions found in Denmark (85%), France (84%), and Luxembourg (82%). In Romania 47% have been to one of these settings in the past 12 months and 53% have not.

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? (%)






³⁰ 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 534 (99.2)
Corruption
April - May 2023

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 (78%) are more likely to have visited one of these settings than men (70%).
- The older the respondent, the more likely they are to have visited: 83% aged 55+ have done so, compared to 61% of those aged 15-24.
- Respondents who finished school aged 15 or younger are the most likely (82%) to have been to a public healthcare practitioner or a public healthcare institution in the past 12 months, compared to three quarters (75%) of those who left school aged 20 and older, and 73% of those who left school aged 16-19.
- Retirees (86%) are the most likely to have visited a public healthcare practitioner or a public healthcare institution, particularly compared to manual workers (69%), the self-employed (66%), and 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)

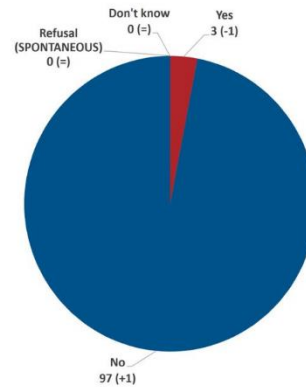
	Yes	No	Don't know
EU27	74	26	0
 Gender			
Man	70	30	0
Woman	78	22	0
 Age			
15-24	61	39	0
25-39	66	34	0
40-54	72	28	0
55 +	83	17	0
 Education (End of)			
15-	82	18	0
16-19	73	27	0
20+	75	25	0
Still studying	63	37	0
Socio-professional category			
Self- employed	66	34	0
Managers	73	27	0
Other white collars	70	30	0
Manual workers	69	31	0
House persons	82	17	1
Unemployed	70	30	0
Retired	86	14	0
Students	63	37	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 3% (-1 percentage point since 2022) 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).³¹ Almost all (97%, +1) say they have not had to do this.

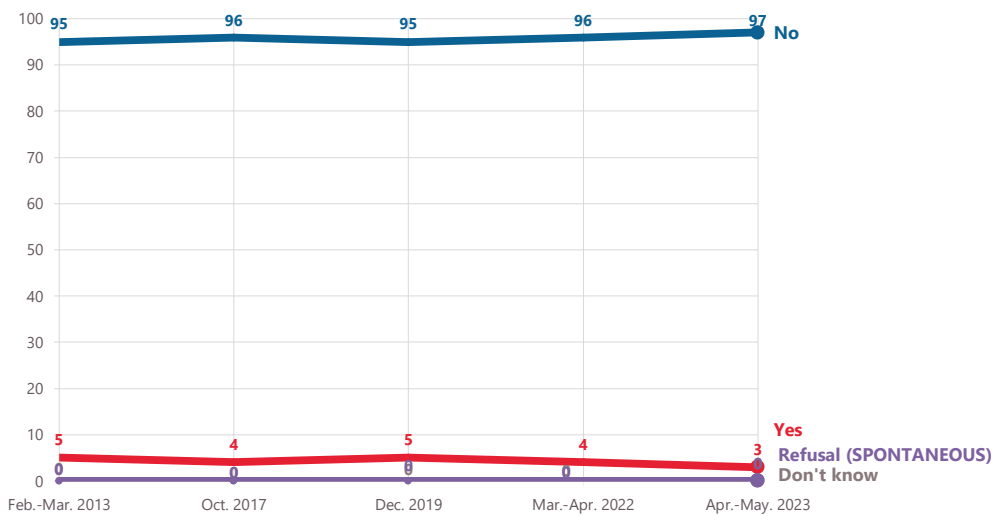
QA2 Apart from official fees did you have to give an extra payment or a valuable gift to a nurse or a doctor, or make a donation to the hospital? (% - EU27)



(Apr/May 2023 – Mar/Apr 2022)

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?



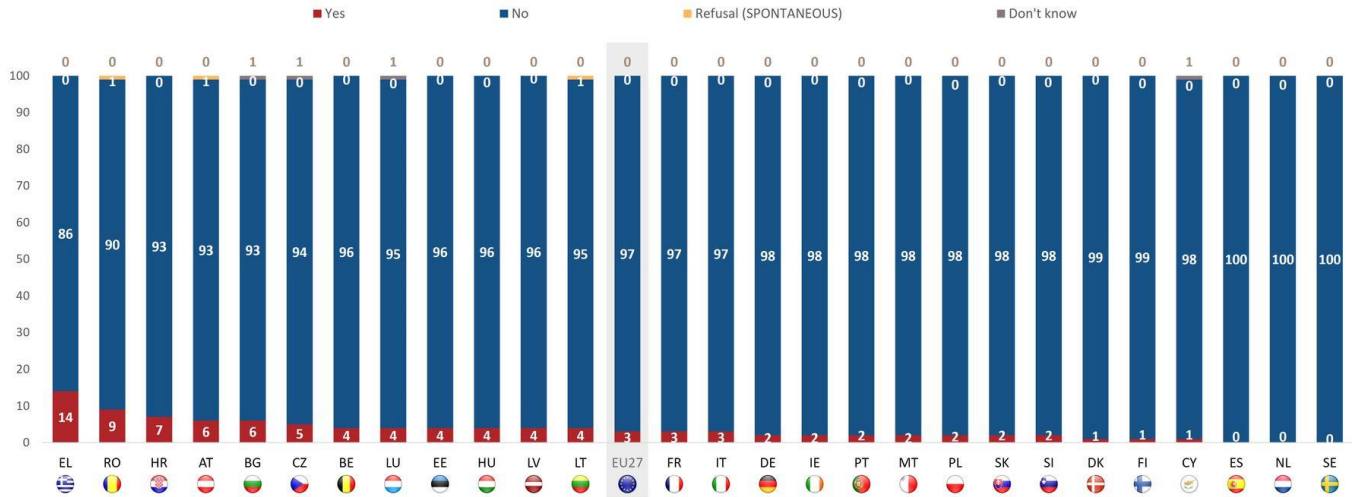
³¹ QA2. Apart from official fees did you have to give an extra payment or a valuable gift to a nurse or a doctor, or make a donation to the hospital?

Special Eurobarometer 534 (99.2) Corruption April – May 2023

Romania (9%) and Greece (14%) are the only countries where around one in ten or more 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 7% in Croatia, 6% in Austria and Bulgaria, to none in Sweden, the Netherlands, and Spain.

Compared to 2022, the proportion who had to give an extra payment or valuable gift has declined in 14 EU Member States, with the largest decrease registered in Romania (9%, -9), Slovakia (2%, -7), and Malta (2%, -4). There have been slight increases in five countries including, most notably in Estonia (4%, +3).

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? (%)



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**, except:

- Among socio-professional categories, the self-employed are more likely (5%) to report having to give an extra payment or a valuable gift to a nurse or a doctor or donate to the hospital than, for instance, managers or manual workers (both 3%), the unemployed (2%), or students (1%).

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	EE	HR	IE	EL	PT	BE	BG	FR	IT	CY	HU	PL	FI	CZ	ES	NL	SI	SE	DK	DE	LV	LU	AT	LT	MT	SK	RO
Yes	Apr/May 2023	3	4	7	2	14	2	4	6	3	3	1	4	2	1	5	0	0	2	0	1	2	4	4	6	4	2	2	9
	Δ Mar/Apr 2022	▼1	▲3	▲2	▲1	▲1	▲1	=	=	=	=	=	=	=	=	▼1	▼1	▼1	▼1	▼1	▼2	▼2	▼2	▼2	▼2	▼3	▼4	▼7	▼9
No	Apr/May 2023	97	96	93	98	86	98	96	93	97	97	98	96	98	99	94	100	100	98	100	99	98	96	95	93	95	98	98	90
	Δ Mar/Apr 2022	▲1	▼3	▼2	▼1	▼1	▼1	=	▼1	=	=	▼1	=	=	=	=	▲1	▲1	▲1	▲1	▲2	▲2	▲2	▲2	▲1	▲1	▲2	▲4	▲7
Refusal (SPONTANEOUS)	Apr/May 2023	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	1
	Δ Mar/Apr 2022	=	=	=	=	=	=	=	=	=	=	=	=	=	=	=	=	=	=	=	=	=	=	=	▲1	▲1	=	=	▼1
Don't know	Apr/May 2023	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
	Δ Mar/Apr 2022	=	=	=	=	=	=	=	▲1	=	=	▲1	=	=	=	▲1	=	=	=	=	=	=	=	▲1	=	=	=	=	=

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.³²

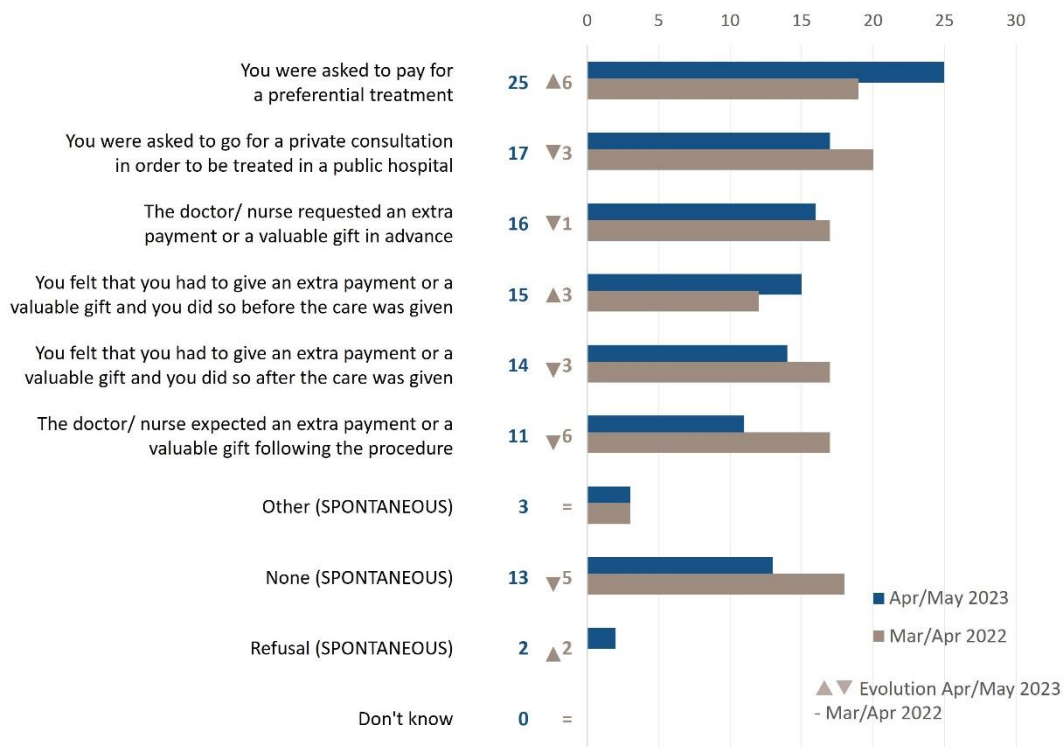
One in four (25%, +6 percentage points since 2022) say they were asked to pay for a preferential treatment. Fewer than one in five (17%, -3) say they were asked to go for a private consultation in order to be treated in a public hospital. A similar proportion (16%, -1) say the doctor/ nurse requested an extra payment or a valuable gift in advance, -1) say the doctor/ nurse requested an extra payment or a valuable gift in advance.

Around one in seven (15%, +3) say they felt they had to give an extra payment or a valuable gift and did so *before* the care was given, while 14% (-3) felt they had to give an extra payment or a valuable gift and did so *after* the care was given.

Around one in ten (11%, -6) say that the doctor/ nurse expected an extra payment or a valuable gift following the procedure.

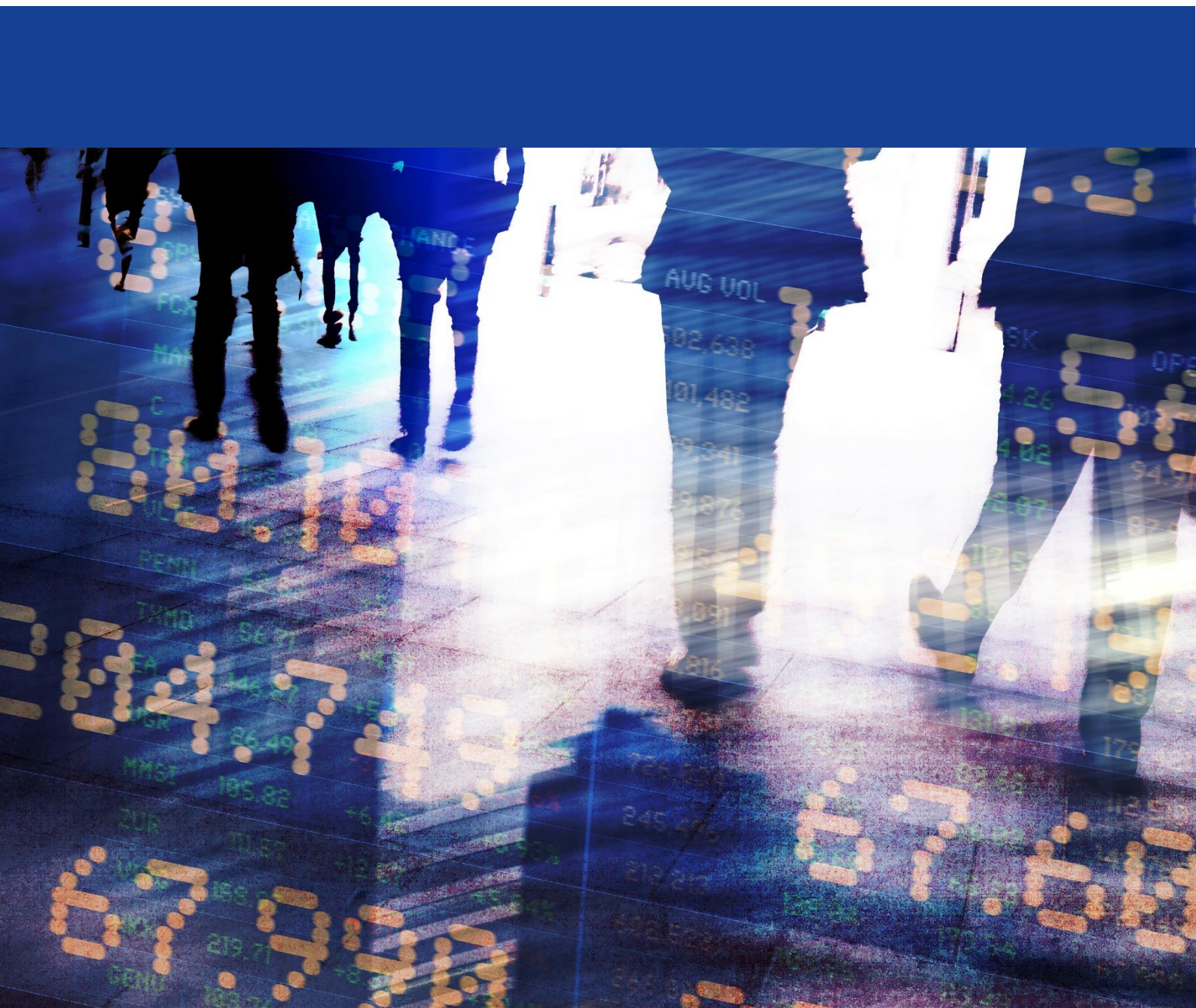
Respondents are less likely than they were in 2022 to say that none of the above had occurred (13%, -5).

**QA3 Which of the following describe what happened? (MULTIPLE ANSWERS POSSIBLE)
(% - EU27)**



³² QA3. Which of the following describe what happened? (MULTIPLE ANSWERS POSSIBLE)

CONCLUSION



Special Eurobarometer 534 (99.2) Corruption April – May 2023

The results from the current survey show that **the majority of Europeans continue to think corruption is unacceptable**. The proportion has increased slightly since 2022. During the same period, the belief has decreased somewhat that it is acceptable to give a gift or do a favour to get something from a public administration or a public service, while overall these views are held by fewer than three in ten.

Opinions on corruption differ significantly throughout the EU: over three quarters of individuals in Luxembourg, Malta, and Finland regard it as unacceptable, in contrast to less than four in ten in Slovakia and Croatia.

Encountering corruption often impacts perspectives. **Europeans who have been exposed to or have experienced corruption are less inclined to consider it as unacceptable, and more prone to deem it appropriate to offer a favour, present a gift or provide money** when desiring something from public administration or services. Furthermore, they are more likely to perceive corruption as prevalent in their Member State overall, as well as in the specific institutions and agencies inquired about – the healthcare system being a notable example.

Seven in ten Europeans (70%) think corruption is widespread in their country, a slight increase compared to 2022 (+1 percentage point). Since 2022 the proportion of respondents who think corruption is widespread in their country has declined in 11 countries. However, considerable national variation remains, with proportions ranging from more than nine in ten in Greece, Cyprus, Croatia, Malta and Portugal to fewer than one in five in Finland.

Europeans are most inclined to believe that corruption is pervasive in public institutions. Over half of them think that acts such as bribery and abuse of power for personal gains are rampant among political parties and politicians at national, regional, or local levels. More than four in ten hold this perception for officials who award public tenders or building permits. The belief in the prevalence of corruption among these groups is more or less on a par with the levels observed in 2022. More than seven out of ten believe there is corruption in national or local/regional public institutions, while nearly the same proportion thinks bribery and leveraging connections is often the most convenient way to obtain certain public services in their country. However, this perception doesn't extend to all public institutions, as fewer than one in five believe corruption is widespread in social security and welfare authorities, the public prosecution service, or the education sector.

Nearly three out of ten Europeans perceive that corruption is prevalent in the healthcare sector. However, less than one in twenty who have interacted with the sector in the past year report having to provide an additional payment or a valuable gift to a nurse or a doctor or make a donation to the hospital (excluding official fees). This ratio increases to a minimum of one in ten in countries like Romania and Greece. The most frequently encountered issues include being advised to opt for a private consultation for treatment in a public hospital or being requested to pay for preferential treatment.

Over four in ten believe that corruption has escalated in their country over the past three years. In eight EU Member States, most respondents perceive that corruption levels have risen in their country over the same timeframe. Since 2022, the fraction of respondents who believe corruption has intensified in their country over the preceding three years has surged in 16 EU Member States, with the most significant increase noted in Malta (76%, +26 percentage points).

Despite believing that corruption is ubiquitous, **fewer than one-fourth of respondents express that they are personally impacted by corruption in their everyday lives.** Nevertheless, there is significant variation at the national level. Over half of the respondents in Malta, Cyprus, Greece, Portugal, and Croatia claim to be personally affected, compared to less than one in ten in the Netherlands, Denmark, Germany, and Finland. In comparison to 2022, respondents in 11 countries are now more inclined to state that they are personally affected by corruption, with the most considerable increases observed in Malta and Portugal.

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.

In addition to national differences, clear socio-demographic trends are also apparent. **Europeans with less formal education, those who frequently struggle with bill payments, and those who identify themselves as belonging to the working class or middle/lower-middle class, are more inclined to perceive corruption as pervasive** in their country and to state that they are personally impacted by it. They are also more likely to believe that corruption in their country has risen.

Despite the perception that corruption is rampant, few Europeans report having a direct encounter with corruption. Nearly one in ten indicate they have been asked or expected to offer a gift, favour or additional money in exchange for their services. An even smaller fraction, about one in twenty, report having experienced or observed a corruption case in the past 12 months. Lastly, just slightly more than one in ten are acquainted with someone who has accepted or received bribes.

Corruption is perceived as having a detrimental influence on business, with two-thirds asserting that favouritism and corruption obstruct business competition. Moreover, six out of ten indicate that corruption is embedded in the business culture of their country.

Europeans exhibit pessimism regarding the effectiveness of their government's attempts to tackle corruption. Less than four in ten believe that anti-corruption measures are enforced impartially and without ulterior motives, or that there are sufficient successful prosecutions to dissuade individuals from engaging in corrupt activities. Only three in ten concur that their national government's endeavours to fight corruption are effective, and this level has seen minimal fluctuation since 2022. **Almost seven in**

Special Eurobarometer 534 (99.2)
Corruption
April – May 2023

ten agree that high-level corruption cases are not pursued sufficiently in their country.

Among those who have experienced or witnessed corruption, the ratio who reported it has remained roughly stable since 2022 at about one in seven. **More than half of respondents (54%) indicate they are uncertain where to report corruption** should they encounter it. In 17 countries, only a minority are aware of where to report corruption, with the lowest figures seen in Poland (32%), Hungary (33%), and Romania (36%). Nearly half of all Europeans believe that it is challenging to establish evidence in corruption cases, leading individuals to choose not to report it. **Approximately three in ten assume corruption goes unreported because those accountable will not face punishment, or due to the absence of protection for those who expose corruption.**

The findings also underscore that **the police are by far the most trusted entity to handle a corruption complaint** – over six in ten have faith in the police, a figure significantly higher than that of the justice system, which is the next most cited, trusted by just under a quarter of Europeans.

As observed in previous iterations of this report, this survey's results depict national, regional, and socio-demographic variances in Europeans' attitudes towards and perceptions of corruption that underpin the overall EU outcomes. Despite some changes since the last wave, the prevalent consensus amongst Europeans persists: corruption is unacceptable, it is pervasive – especially within public bodies and institutions – and national government attempts to curtail it are largely ineffective.

TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS

Between 14 April and 16 May 2023, Kantar Public on behalf of Kantar Belgium carried out the wave 99.2 of the Eurobarometer survey, on request of the European Commission, Directorate-General for Communication, “Media monitoring and Eurobarometer” Unit.

Wave 99.2 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 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 areas³³.

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.

³³ Urban Rural classification based on DEGURBA
(<https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/web/degree-of-urbanisation/background>)

Special Eurobarometer 534 (99.2)
Technical Specifications
April – May 2023

COUNTRIES	INSTITUTES	N° INTERVIEWS	FIELDWORK DATES		POPULATION 15+	PROPORTION EU27	
BE	Belgium	Mobiel Centre Market Research	1,018	13/04/2023	03/05/2023	9,619,330	2.53%
BG	Bulgaria	Kantar TNS BBSS	1,014	13/04/2023	04/05/2023	5,917,534	1.56%
CZ	Czechia	STEM/MARK	1,025	18/04/2023	03/05/2023	8,982,036	2.36%
DK	Denmark	Mantle Denmark (Kantar Public)	1,019	13/04/2023	03/05/2023	4,891,261	1.29%
DE	Germany	Mantle Germany (Kantar Public)	1,525	13/04/2023	02/05/2023	71,677,231	18.87%
EE	Estonia	Norstat Eesti	1,009	13/04/2023	04/05/2023	1,111,597	0.29%
IE	Ireland	B and A Research	1,016	14/04/2023	02/05/2023	4,005,909	1.05%
EL	Greece	Kantar Greece	1,014	19/04/2023	02/05/2023	9,167,896	2.41%
ES	Spain	Mantle Spain (Kantar Public)	1,004	13/04/2023	28/04/2023	40,639,381	10.70%
FR	France	ESP (Leaderfield) and Societe d'Enquetes et Sondages	1,006	14/04/2023	16/05/2023	55,700,114	14.66%
HR	Croatia	Hendal	1,012	12/04/2023	01/05/2023	3,461,468	0.91%
IT	Italy	Testpoint Italia	1,027	16/04/2023	01/05/2023	51,599,668	13.58%
CY	Rep. Of Cyprus	CYMAR Market Research	504	18/04/2023	01/05/2023	752,304	0.20%
LV	Latvia	Kantar TNS Latvia	1,009	13/04/2023	02/05/2023	1,590,245	0.42%
LT	Lithuania	Norstat LT	1,005	13/04/2023	01/05/2023	2,373,312	0.62%
LU	Luxembourg	TNS Ilres	508	13/04/2023	29/04/2023	533,335	0.14%
HU	Hungary	Kantar Hoffmann	1,021	13/04/2023	28/04/2023	8,313,539	2.19%
MT	Malta	MISCO International	514	13/04/2023	01/05/2023	446,788	0.12%
NL	Netherlands	Kantar Netherlands	1,004	12/04/2023	02/05/2023	14,763,684	3.89%
AT	Austria	Das Österreichische Gallup Institut	1,012	12/04/2023	24/04/2023	7,647,176	2.01%
PL	Poland	Research Collective	1,015	12/04/2023	02/05/2023	31,982,941	8.42%
PT	Portugal	Marktest – Marketing, Organização e Formação	1,021	12/04/2023	30/04/2023	8,915,624	2.35%
RO	Romania	Centrul Pentru Studierea Opiniei si Pietei (CSOP)	1,053	16/04/2023	05/05/2023	16,174,719	4.26%
SI	Slovenia	Mediana DOO	1,000	12/04/2023	03/05/2023	1,791,246	0.47%
SK	Slovakia	MNFORCE	1,021	13/04/2023	30/04/2023	4,591,487	1.21%
FI	Finland	Taloustutkimus Oy	1,009	18/04/2023	07/05/2023	4,672,932	1.23%
SE	Sweden	Mantle Sweden (Kantar Public)	1,019	11/04/2023	01/05/2023	8,541,497	2.25%
TOTAL EU27			26,404	11/04/2023	16/05/2023	379,864,254	100%

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

Special Eurobarometer 534 (99.2)
Technical Specifications
April - May 2023

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	1,018		1,018
BG	Bulgaria	1,014		1,014
CZ	Czechia	802	223	1,025
DK	Denmark	792	227	1,019
DE	Germany	1,525		1,525
EE	Estonia	1,009		1,009
IE	Ireland	1,016		1,016
EL	Greece	1,014		1,014
ES	Spain	1,004		1,004
FR	France	1,006		1,006
HR	Croatia	1,012		1,012
IT	Italy	1,027		1,027
CY	Rep. Of Cyprus	504		504
LV	Latvia	1,009		1,009
LT	Lithuania	1,005		1,005
LU	Luxembourg	508		508
HU	Hungary	1,021		1,021
MT	Malta	349	165	514
NL	Netherlands	1,004		1,004
AT	Austria	1,012		1,012
PL	Poland	1,015		1,015
PT	Portugal	1,021		1,021
RO	Romania	1,053		1,053
SI	Slovenia	1,000		1,000
SK	Slovakia	1,021		1,021
FI	Finland	989	20	1,009
SE	Sweden	1,019		1,019
	TOTAL EU27	25,769	635	26,404

CAPI : Computer-Assisted Personal interviewing

CAVI : Computer-Assisted Video interviewing

Special Eurobarometer 534 (99.2)
Technical Specifications
April - May 2023

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 99.1 of the EUROBAROMETER survey, the response rates for the EU27 countries, calculated by Kantar Public, are:

	COUNTRIES	Response rates
BE	Belgium	46.5%
BG	Bulgaria	43.6%
CZ	Czechia	54.2%
DK	Denmark	37.8%
DE	Germany	22.1%
EE	Estonia	46.6%
IE	Ireland	45.7%
EL	Greece	31.5%
ES	Spain	35.3%
FR	France	43.9%
HR	Croatia	42.0%
IT	Italy	25.1%
CY	Rep. Of Cyprus	53.8%
LV	Latvia	35.7%
LT	Lithuania	46.7%
LU	Luxembourg	30.4%
HU	Hungary	66.2%
MT	Malta	83.5%
NL	Netherlands	65.2%
AT	Austria	41.3%
PL	Poland	50.0%
PT	Portugal	48.3%
RO	Romania	58.0%
SI	Slovenia	42.7%
SK	Slovakia	57.3%
FI	Finland	26.3%
SE	Sweden	63.2%

Special Eurobarometer 534 (99.2)
Technical Specifications
April - May 2023

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%	

QUESTIONNAIRE

Q1) 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? [INT.: If needed, explain to the respondent that a public healthcare institution includes all medical practices where the treatment is largely paid by the public social security funds or from taxes]

(ONE ANSWER ONLY)

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

1QU EB97.2 QA1

ASK Q2 AND Q3 IF "HAS HAD CONTACT WITH PUBLIC HEALTHCARE SECTOR IN THE LAST 12 MONTHS", CODE 1 IN Q1 – OTHERS GO TO Q4

Q2) 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?

(ONE ANSWER ONLY)

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

1QU EB97.2 QA2

ASK Q3 IF "EXTRA PAYMENT", CODE 1 IN Q2 – OTHERS GO TO Q4

Q3) Which of the following describe what happened?

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

- 1 You felt that you had to give an extra payment or a valuable gift and you did so before the care was given
- 2 You felt that you had to give an extra payment or a valuable gift and you did so after the care was given
- 3 The doctor/ nurse requested an extra payment or a valuable gift in advance
- 4 The doctor/ nurse expected an extra payment or a valuable gift following the procedure
- 5 You were asked to go for a private consultation in order to be treated in a public hospital
- 6 You were asked to pay for a preferential treatment
- 7 Other (SPONTANEOUS)
- 8 None (SPONTANEOUS)
- 9 Refusal (SPONTANEOUS)
- 10 Don't know

1QU EB97.2 QA3

Special Eurobarometer 534 (99.2)
Questionnaire
April – May 2023

ASK ALL

Q4) 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
---	---	---	---

1.5QU EB97.2 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.

Q5) 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

1QU EB97.2 QA5

Q6) 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

1QU EB97.2 QA6

Special Eurobarometer 534 (99.2)
Questionnaire
April – May 2023

Q7) 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

1QU EB97.2 QA7

Q8) 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

1QU EB97.2 QA8

Q9a) 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

1QU EB97.2 QA9a

Special Eurobarometer 534 (99.2)
Questionnaire
April – May 2023

ASK Q9b FOR EACH ANSWER GIVEN IN Q9a – OTHERS GO TO Q10

Q9b) 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 |

1QU EB97.2 QA9b

ASK Q9c FOR EACH MENTIONED IN Q9b – OTHERS GO TO Q10

Q9c) 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 | | | | |
| 16 | None (SPONTANEOUS) | | | | |
| 17 | Refusal (SPONTANEOUS) | | | | |
| 18 | DK | | | | |

Special Eurobarometer 534 (99.2)
Questionnaire
April – May 2023

10	Officials issuing business permits	Q11) 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	
11	The healthcare system	1	The police
12	The education sector	2	The Justice (courts, tribunals, or public prosecution services)
13	Inspectors (health and safety, construction, labour, food quality, sanitary control and licensing)	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
14	Private companies	9	EU institutions
		10	Other (SPONTANEOUS)
15	Banks and financial institutions	11	None (SPONTANEOUS)
		12	Don't know
7.5QU EB97.2 QA9c		1QU EB97.2 QA11	

Q10) 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

1QU EB97.2 QA10

Q12) 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

1QU EB97.2 QA12

Special Eurobarometer 534 (99.2)
Technical Specifications
April – May 2023

ASK Q13 IF "HAS EXPERIENCED OR WITNESSED A CASE OF CORRUPTION", CODE 1 OR 2 IN Q12 – OTHERS GO TO Q14

Q13) Did you report it to anyone or not?

(ONE ANSWER ONLY)

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

1QU EB97.2 QA13

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

ASK ALL

Q14) 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

1QU EB97.2 QA14

Special Eurobarometer 534 (99.2)
Technical Specifications
April – May 2023

Q15) Please tell whether you agree or disagree with each of the following?

1 2 3 4 5

(SHOW SCREEN – ONE ANSWER PER LINE)

In (OUR COUNTRY) the only way to succeed in business is to have political connections

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

1 2 3 4 5

There is corruption in the local or regional public institutions in (OUR COUNTRY)

In (OUR COUNTRY), favouritism and corruption hamper business competition

1 2 3 4 5

1 2 3 4 5

There is corruption in the national public institutions in (OUR COUNTRY)

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

1 2 3 4 5

1 2 3 4 5

Corruption is part of the business culture in (OUR COUNTRY)

6.5QU EB97.2 QA15

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)

