



European
Commission



SPECIAL EUROBAROMETER 573

Citizens' attitudes towards corruption in the EU in 2026

EUROBAROMETER REPORT

February - March 2026



Eurobarometer Special 573
Citizens' attitudes towards corruption in the EU in 2026

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

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

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*Eŭropo
Demokratio
Esperanto*

Document prepared by Pierre Dieumegard for [Europokune](#) (Europe Together) and [Europe-Democracy-Esperanto](#).

The purpose of this "provisional" document is to enable more people in the European Union to become aware of documents produced by the European Union (and financed by their taxes).

If there are no translations, citizens are excluded from the debate.

This document "Eurobarometer" only [existed in English](#), in a pdf-file. From the initial file, we created a odt-file, prepared by Libre Office software, for machine translation to other languages. The results are now available [in all official languages](#).

It is desirable that the EU administration takes over the translation of important documents. "Important documents" are not only laws and regulations, but also the important information needed to make informed decisions together.

In order to discuss our common future together, and to enable reliable translations, the international language Esperanto would be very useful because of its simplicity, regularity and accuracy.

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Introduction

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

The EU Rule of Law Report, published annually since 2020, details the varied nature and extent of corruption across Member States, highlighting the differing levels of success in anti-corruption efforts throughout the EU. Supported by the anti-corruption experience-sharing programme launched by the Commission in 2015 and continued as thematic workshops under the EU Anti-Corruption Network since 2024¹, these initiatives have encouraged national bodies to strengthen the enforcement of anti-corruption laws and policies.

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

- Mainstreaming anti-corruption provisions in EU horizontal and sectorial legislation and policy.
- Monitoring the efforts of Member States in preventing and fighting corruption.
- Supporting the implementation of anti-corruption measures at national level through funding, technical assistance, and experience-sharing.
- Improving the quantitative evidence base for anti-corruption policy.
- Promoting the fight against corruption globally.

This Eurobarometer survey is designed to explore the level of corruption perceived and experienced by EU citizens. It was first conducted in 2005², and has been repeated in 2007³, 2009⁴, 2011⁵, 2013⁶, 2017⁷, 2019⁸, 2022⁹, 2023¹⁰, 2024¹¹ and 2025¹².

This survey covers the following areas:

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

The findings are described at the EU level, encompassing all 27 Member States, and are broken down by country and socio-demographic group. This year's results have been benchmarked against those from 2025 and, when pertinent, against data from prior surveys¹³.

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

2 <https://europa.eu/eurobarometer/surveys/detail/14>

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

12 <https://europa.eu/eurobarometer/surveys/detail/3361>

13 As a reminder: in 2019, the United Kingdom was a member of the EU, so any reference to the EU average from that year or earlier includes data from the UK.

Methodology

This Special Eurobarometer 573 survey on Citizens' attitudes towards corruption in the EU in 2026 was part of the Eurobarometer wave 105.1 and was conducted between February and March 2026. Some 26 494 respondents from different social and demographic groups were interviewed in their national language. This survey was commissioned by the European Commission, Directorate-General for Justice and Consumers (DG JUST).

The methodology used is that of the Standard Eurobarometer surveys carried out by the Directorate - General for Communication ('Public Opinion and Citizens Engagement' Unit)¹⁴ Interviews were conducted face -to-face, either physically in people's homes or through remote video. Interviews with remote video interaction ("online face-to-face" or CAVI, Computer Assisted Video Interviewing), which were only conducted in in Republic of Cyprus, Denmark, Malta, Netherlands, Finland and Sweden. A technical note concerning the interviews conducted by the member institutes of the Verian network is annexed to this report. It also specifies the confidence intervals¹⁵.

Following the EU General Data Protection Regulation 3F16¹⁶ (GDPR), respondents were asked whether or not they would agree to be asked questions on issues that could be considered 'sensitive'.

Note: In this report, EU countries are referred to by their official abbreviation. The abbreviations used in this report correspond to:

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

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

We wish to thank the people throughout the Europe an Union who have given their time to take part in this survey.

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

¹⁴ <https://www.europa.eu/eurobarometer>

¹⁵ The results tables are annexed. It should be noted that the total of the percentages indicated in the tables in this report may exceed 100% when the respondent was able to choose several answers to the same question.

¹⁶ 2016/679

Key findings

Just over seven in ten Europeans (71%) believe that corruption is widespread in their country, an increase of two percentage points since 2025

- Almost eight in ten respondents (79%) agree that too-close links between business and politics lead to corruption, continuing an upward trend. Around two thirds believe that favouritism and corruption hamper business competition (67%, +2 pp) and that corruption is part of the business culture in their country (63%, +2 pp), while more than half (54%, +3 pp) agree that the only way to succeed in business is to have political connections.
- More than half believe corruption is widespread among political parties (53%, +2 pp), while around half say the same about politicians at national, regional or local level (49%, +3 pp). In addition, around four in ten consider corruption widespread among officials awarding public tenders (39%, +1 pp) and officials issuing building permits (36%, unchanged).
- Seven in ten Europeans (70%, +4 pp) agree that bribery or the use of connections is often the easiest way to obtain certain public services, highlighting persistent concerns about fairness, integrity and equal access in interactions with public administration.

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

- In 12 Member States, more than half of respondents say that the level of corruption in their country has increased over the past three years.
- A growing number of respondents are pessimistic about national efforts to combat corruption. A minority (40%, +1 pp) agree that measures against corruption are applied impartially and without ulterior motives, that there are enough successful prosecutions to deter corruption (38%, +2 pp), that their national government's efforts to combat corruption are effective (35%, +3 pp) or that there is sufficient transparency and supervision of the financing of political parties in their country (35%, +2 pp). ▪ Nearly seven in ten respondents (69%, +3 pp) agree that high level corruption cases are not pursued sufficiently in their country.

At least three in ten Europeans feel personally affected by corruption and many believe it has increased

- Three in ten respondents (30%, unchanged) say they are personally affected by corruption in their daily lives.
- Almost half of Europeans (48%, +4 pp) believe that the level of corruption has increased in their country over the past three years.
- More than half (52%, +5 pp) of respondents living inside the euro area think that corruption has increased in their country, compared to 36% (unchanged) of respondents living outside the euro area.

The majority of Europeans continue to find corrupt practices unacceptable, yet tolerance has increased

- Six in ten respondents (60%, -4 pp) consider corruption to be unacceptable, while almost one third (32%, +2 pp) say it is tolerated and 8% (+2 pp) find it acceptable.
- Around two thirds (67%, -4 pp) say that doing a favour to obtain something from public administration is never acceptable.
- Just above seven in ten respondents (71%, -3 pp) believe it is never acceptable to give gifts, and over three quarters (77%, -3 pp) say the same about giving money.
- The acceptability of all three practices has increased since 2025, and there is a decline in the share considering them never acceptable.

The police remain the most trusted institution to deal with corruption

- Almost six in ten Europeans (59%, -2 pp) say they would trust the police most to deal with a complaint about corruption, making it the only institution trusted by a majority.
- The justice system ranks second, trusted by around one quarter (24%, +1 pp) of respondents.

Most cases go unreported, as more than half of Europeans do not know where to report corruption if they experience or witness it

- Five per cent of EU citizens report having experienced or witnessed corruption in the last 12 months, a share unchanged since 2025.
- Among those who had contact with public or private institutions, 7% (-1 pp) say they were asked or expected to give a gift, favour or extra money.
- One in ten respondents (10%, +1 pp) say they know someone who takes or has taken bribes.
- More than half of respondents (54%) say they would not know where to report corruption if they experienced or witnessed it.

- Among those who experienced or witnessed corruption, only around one in five (21%, +1 pp) say they reported the case, while almost eight in ten (78%, -1 pp) did not.

Difficulty in proving corruption remains the main reason why cases are not reported

- More than four in ten respondents (44%, +1 pp) cite the difficulty in proving corruption as the main reason why people do not report it.
- Around three in ten mention fear of retaliation (31%, +4 pp) or believe that reporting would be pointless because those responsible would not be punished (29%, +2 pp).
- Just over one in five (21%) say people do not report corruption because they do not know where to report it.

I. General perceptions of corruption

1. How widespread is corruption?

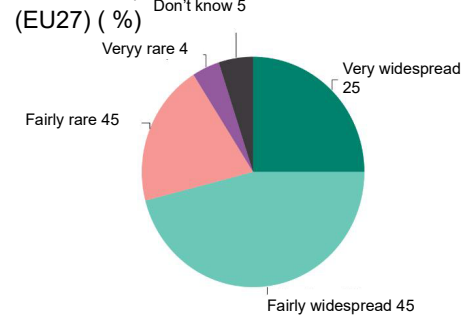
Nearly seven in ten Europeans believe corruption is widespread in their country.

Respondents were asked to assess how widespread they believe corruption is in their country¹⁷.

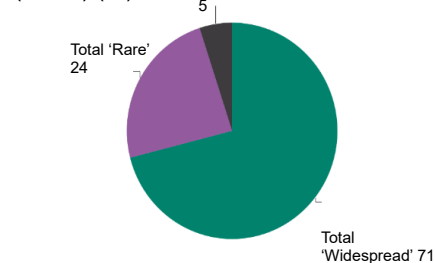
Across Member States, just over seven in ten Europeans (71%, +2 percentage points since 2025) consider that corruption is widespread in their country¹⁸. One quarter of respondents (25%) say that corruption is very widespread, while 46% believe it is fairly widespread. By contrast, around one quarter of Europeans (24%, -2 pp) perceive corruption as rare in their country, with 20% saying it is fairly rare and 4% considering it very rare. 5% of respondents say that they do not know.

Despite some fluctuations since 2017, perceptions that corruption is widespread have remained broadly stable across respondents. Over the last two years, corruption perception has risen gradually, reaching 71% in 2026, its highest level since 2019. Over the same period, the proportion of respondents who consider corruption to be rare has declined to 24% in 2026.

QC2: How widespread do you think the problem of corruption is in (OUR COUNTRY)?

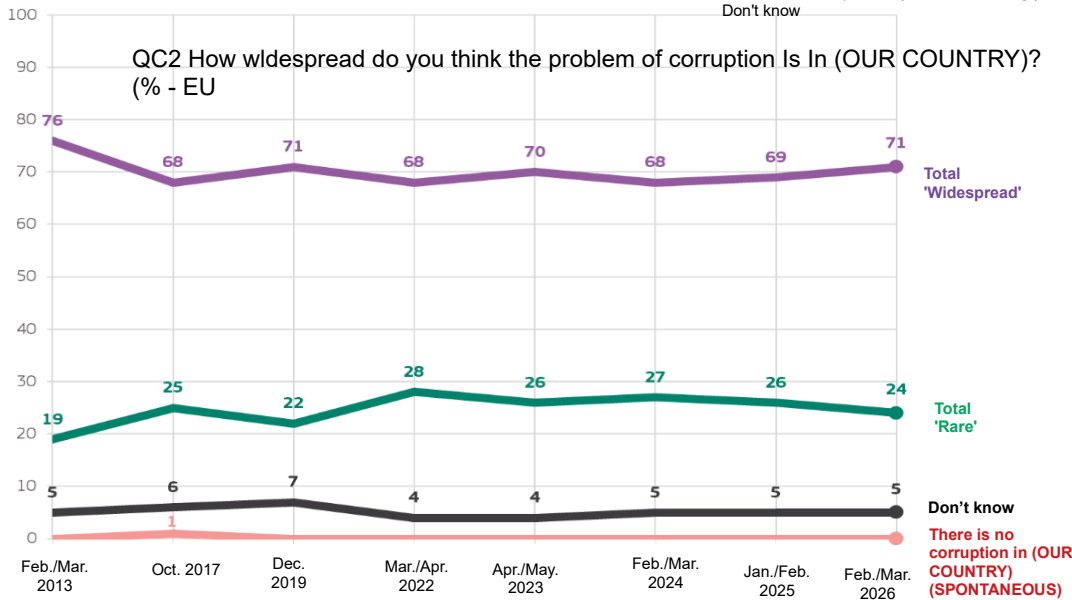


QC2: How widespread do you think the problem of corruption is in (OUR COUNTRY)?



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

▲2
▼2
=
=



17 QC2. How widespread do you think the problem of corruption is in (OUR COUNTRY)?

18 Before answering whether corruption is widespread in their country, respondents were given a definition of corruption: "From now on, when we mention corruption, we mean it in a broad sense, including offering, giving, requesting and accepting bribes or kickbacks, valuable gifts or important favours, as well as any abuse of power for private gain". They were also requested to base their answers on their own experience.

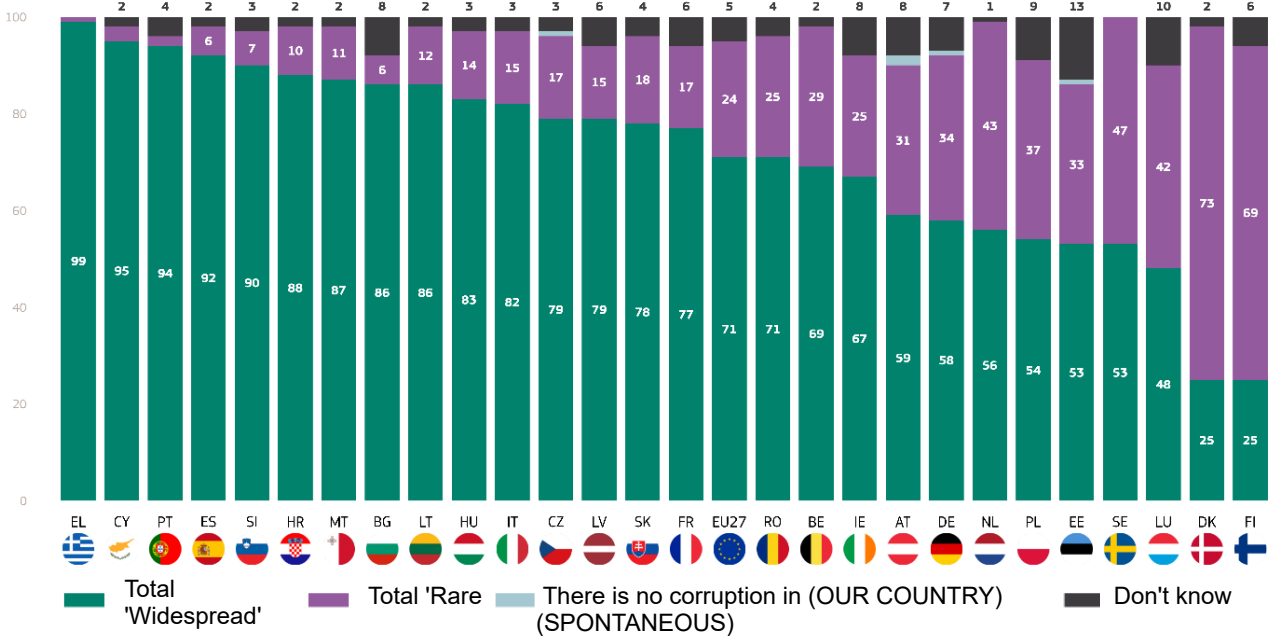
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At national level, Greece stands out, with 99% of respondents considering corruption to be widespread in their country. This is followed by Cyprus (95%), Portugal (94%) and Spain (92%). A large majority of respondents perceive corruption as widespread also in Slovenia (90%) and Croatia (88%). At the other end of the scale, Finland and Denmark (both 25%) record the lowest percentage of

Since 2025, the proportion of respondents who believe that corruption is widespread in their country increased in 17 Member States. The largest increases are observed in Belgium (69%, +10 pp) and France (77%, +9 pp), followed by Bulgaria (86%, +6 pp) and Germany (58%, +6 pp).

In seven Member States, fewer people perceive corruption

QC2: How widespread do you think the problem of corruption is in (OUR COUNTRY)? (%)



respondents who believe that corruption is widespread in their country. Overall, a majority of respondents in 25 Member States consider corruption to be widespread in their country. In two Member States, a majority of respondents perceive corruption as rare rather than widespread: Denmark (73% vs. 25%) and Finland (69% vs. 25%).

as widespread decreased, most notably in Hungary (83%, -5 pp), Romania (71%, -4 pp), Luxembourg (48%, -4 pp), and Croatia (88%, -4 pp). Smaller declines are also observed in other countries, including Latvia (79%, -1 pp) and Poland (54%, -1 pp).

QC2: How widespread do you think the problem of corruption is in (OUR COUNTRY)? (%)

| | EU27 | BE | FR | BG | DE | LT | CY | SI | CZ | EE | FI | IE | MT | ES | PT | EL | SE | AT | IT | NL | SK | LV | PL | DK | HR | LU | RO | HU |
|---|------|-----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| Total 'Widespread' | 71 | 69 | 77 | 86 | 58 | 86 | 95 | 90 | 79 | 53 | 25 | 67 | 87 | 87 | 94 | 99 | 53 | 59 | 82 | 56 | 78 | 79 | 54 | 25 | 88 | 48 | 71 | 83 |
| Δ Jan/Feb 2025 | +2 | +10 | +9 | +6 | +6 | +6 | +5 | +5 | +4 | +4 | +4 | +4 | +4 | +4 | +3 | +2 | +2 | +1 | - | - | - | -1 | -1 | +3 | +4 | +4 | +4 | +5 |
| Total 'Rare' | 24 | 29 | 17 | 6 | 34 | 12 | 3 | 7 | 17 | 33 | 69 | 25 | 11 | 6 | 2 | 1 | 47 | 31 | 15 | 43 | 18 | 15 | 37 | 73 | 10 | 42 | 25 | 14 |
| Δ Jan/Feb 2025 | +2 | +9 | +8 | +5 | +4 | +2 | +5 | +3 | +2 | +3 | +5 | +5 | +2 | +3 | +2 | +1 | +1 | +2 | = | = | = | = | +5 | = | +2 | +2 | +6 | +3 |
| There is no corruption in (OUR COUNTRY) (SPONTANEOUS) | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Δ Jan/Feb 2025 | - | -1 | - | +1 | - | - | - | -1 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Don't know | 5 | 2 | 6 | 8 | 7 | 2 | 2 | 3 | 3 | 13 | 6 | 8 | 2 | 2 | 4 | 0 | 8 | 3 | 1 | 4 | 6 | 9 | 2 | 2 | 10 | 4 | 3 | |
| Δ Jan/Feb 2025 | = | = | +1 | = | +3 | +4 | = | +2 | +1 | +1 | +1 | +1 | +1 | +5 | = | +1 | +1 | +1 | +3 | = | = | +4 | +1 | +1 | +2 | +2 | +1 | +1 |

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The socio-demographic analysis shows that the majority of respondents in each group think that corruption in their country is widespread. Across Member States, this view is shared by around seven in ten respondents, and at least more than six in ten respondents in all socio-demographic groups. However, this belief is more widely held in some groups than in others:

- Men (71%) and women (72%) show very similar perceptions thinking that corruption is widespread in their country.
- Older respondents are more likely to think that corruption is widespread. Around three quarters of respondents aged 40 –54 (74%) and those aged 55 and over (73%) share this view, compared with seventy percent of respondents aged 25 –39 (70%) and around two thirds of those aged 15 –24 (65%).
- Respondents who have experienced or witnessed corruption are much more likely to believe that corruption is widespread. This is the case of 92% of those who say they have experienced corruption and 81% of those who say they have witnessed it, compared with 71% of respondents who report no such experience.
- Similarly, respondents who know someone who takes bribes are more likely to think corruption is widespread in their country than those who report not knowing anyone who does this (87% vs. 70%).

QC2 How widespread do you think the problem of corruption is in (OUR COUNTRY)?

| | Total 'Rare' | Total 'Widespread' | Don't know |
|--|-----------------|-----------------------|---------------|
| EU27 | 24 | 71 | 5 |
| Gender | | | |
| Man | 25 | 71 | 4 |
| Woman | 23 | 72 | 5 |
| Age | | | |
| 15-24 | 26 | 65 | 9 |
| 25-39 | 25 | 70 | 5 |
| 40-54 | 23 | 74 | 3 |
| >=55 | 23 | 73 | 4 |
| Education (End of) | | | |
| <=15 | 13 | 82 | 4 |
| 16-19 | 21 | 74 | 5 |
| >=20 | 29 | 68 | 3 |
| Still Studying | 28 | 63 | 9 |
| Socio-professional category | | | |
| Self-employed | 24 | 73 | 3 |
| Managers | 32 | 65 | 3 |
| Other white collars | 23 | 73 | 4 |
| Manual workers | 22 | 74 | 4 |
| House persons | 20 | 75 | 4 |
| Unemployed | 17 | 78 | 5 |
| Retired | 22 | 73 | 5 |
| Students | 25 | 65 | 9 |
| Difficulties paying bills | | | |
| Most of the time | 14 | 81 | 4 |
| From time to time | 21 | 75 | 4 |
| Almost never/ Never | 26 | 69 | 5 |
| Experienced or witnessed corruption | | | |
| Yes, experienced | 8 | 92 | 0 |
| Yes, witnessed | 19 | 81 | 0 |
| No | 24 | 71 | 5 |
| You know someone who takes bribes | | | |
| Yes | 12 | 87 | 1 |
| No | 25 | 70 | 5 |

2. Level of corruption in daily life

Close to nine in ten Europeans do not know anyone who takes or has taken bribes.

Respondents were asked whether they personally know someone who takes or has taken bribes¹⁹.

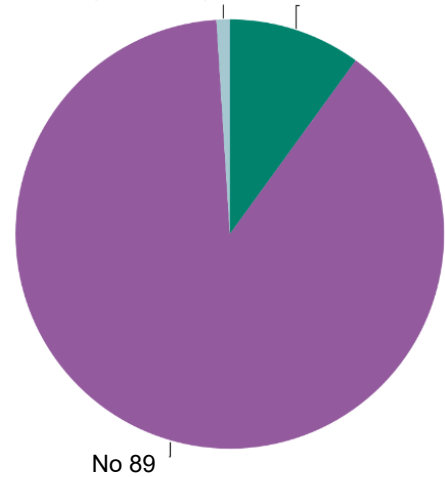
Across EU, one in ten respondents (10%, +1 pp) report knowing someone who takes or has taken bribes. A large majority of 89% (-1 pp) say that they do not know anyone who takes or has taken bribes, while 1% of respondents refused to answer (unchanged).

At country level, the analysis of the survey results provides a more granular view of the responses. In all Member States, but Lithuania and Greece, at least seven in ten respondents report not knowing anyone who has taken bribes. The highest proportions of respondents answering "Yes" are recorded in Greece (32%), Lithuania (27%), Malta (23%), Cyprus and Latvia (both 22%).

Conversely, the highest percentage of people surveyed reporting that they do not know anyone who has taken bribes are observed in Poland, Portugal and Ireland (all 94%), Italy (93%), and Spain (92%).

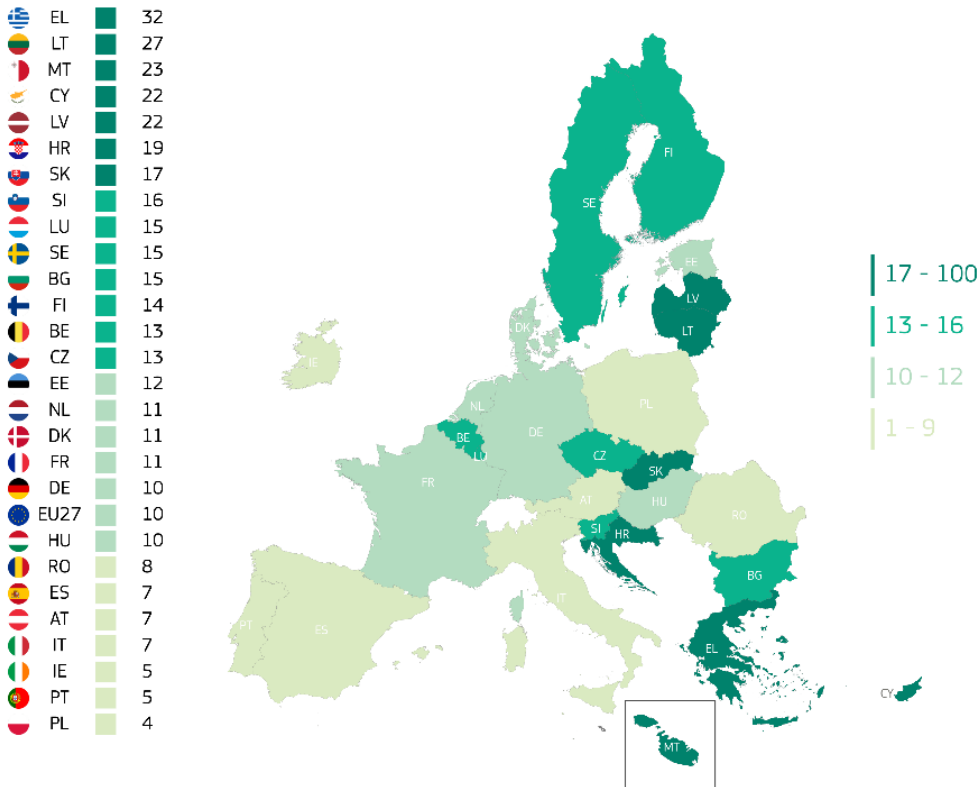
QC5: Do you personally know anyone who takes or has taken bribes? (EU27) (%)

Refusal (SPONTANEOUS) 1 Yes 10



YES ▲ 1
 No ▼ 1
 Refusal (SPONTANEOUS) =
 Don't know =
 ▲ ▼ (Feb/Mar 2026 - Jan/Feb 2025)

QC5: Do you personally know anyone who takes or has taken bribes? - Yes (EU27) (%)



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At the country level, changes are observed compared to 2025: In 17 countries, more respondents say that they know someone who takes or has taken bribes, most notably in Lithuania (27%, +9 pp), Bulgaria (15%, +3 pp) and Cyprus (22%, +3 pp). While decreases were recorded in four countries, none of these exceed three percentage points.

QC5: Do you personally know anyone who takes or has taken bribes? (%)

| | | EU27 | LT | BG | CY | BE | DE | DK | EL | HU | IE | IT | LV | SI | EE | FI | FR | PL | RO | CZ | ES | HR | LU | MT | PT | AT | NL | SE | SK |
|--|----------------|------|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| | | 10 | 27 | 15 | 22 | 13 | 10 | 11 | 32 | 10 | 5 | 7 | 22 | 16 | 12 | 14 | 11 | 4 | 8 | 13 | 7 | 19 | 15 | 23 | 5 | 7 | 11 | 15 | 17 |
| Total 'Widespread' | Feb/Mar 2026 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | Δ Jan/Feb 2025 | ↑1 | ↑9 | ↑3 | ↑3 | ↑2 | ↑2 | ↑2 | ↑2 | ↑2 | ↑2 | ↑2 | ↑2 | ↑2 | ↑1 | ↑1 | ↑1 | ↑1 | ↑1 | = | = | = | = | = | = | ↓2 | ↓2 | ↓3 | ↓3 |
| Total 'Rare' | Feb/Mar 2026 | 89 | 69 | 80 | 77 | 86 | 88 | 88 | 67 | 90 | 94 | 93 | 77 | 82 | 85 | 86 | 89 | 94 | 87 | 85 | 92 | 78 | 84 | 76 | 94 | 88 | 89 | 84 | 82 |
| | Δ Jan/Feb 2025 | ↓1 | ↓9 | ↓3 | ↓4 | ↓3 | ↓2 | ↓3 | ↓3 | ↓1 | ↓2 | ↓2 | ↓2 | ↓3 | ↓1 | = | ↓1 | ↓2 | ↓1 | = | = | = | ↓1 | ↑2 | = | = | ↑2 | ↑2 | ↑4 |
| There is no corruption in (OUR COUNTRY) (SPONTANEOUS) | Feb/Mar 2026 | 1 | 3 | 4 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 3 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| | Δ Jan/Feb 2025 | = | = | ↑2 | ↑1 | = | = | = | ↑1 | = | ↑1 | = | ↑1 | ↑1 | ↑1 | = | = | = | = | = | = | = | = | = | = | ↑1 | = | = | |
| | Feb/Mar 2026 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| Don't know | Δ Jan/Feb 2025 | = | = | ↓2 | = | ↑1 | = | ↑1 | = | ↓1 | ↓1 | = | ↓1 | ↓1 | ↓1 | = | ↑1 | = | = | = | = | = | ↑1 | ↓2 | = | ↑1 | = | ↓1 | |

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

- Men (12%) are more likely than women (8%) to personally know someone who takes or has taken bribes.
- Among socio-professional groups, the self-employed are the most likely to personally know someone who takes or has taken bribes (15%), particularly when compared with house persons (6%).
- Furthermore, more educated respondents are more likely to know someone who takes or has taken bribes (12%) than those who stopped their education at fifteen years old or that are still studying (both 8%).

QC5 Do you personally know anyone who takes or has taken bribes? (% - EU)

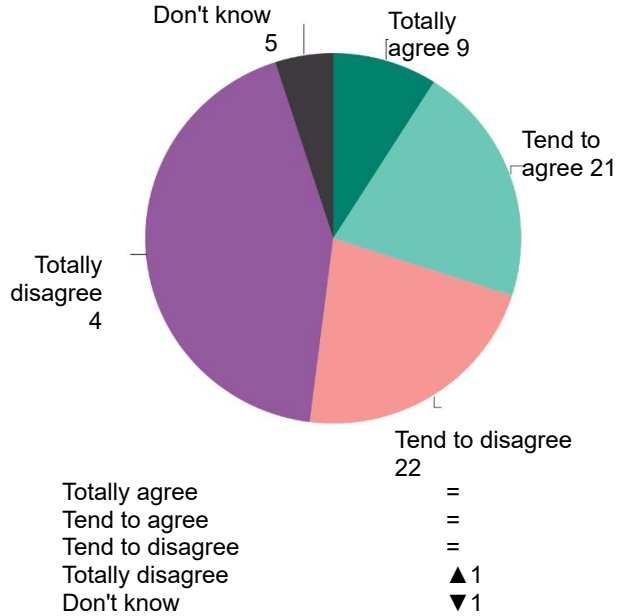
| | Yes | No | Refusal (SPONTANEOUS) | Don't know |
|--|-----|----|--------------------------|---------------|
| EU27 | 10 | 89 | 1 | 0 |
| Gender | | | | |
| Man | 12 | 87 | 1 | 0 |
| Woman | 8 | 91 | 1 | 0 |
| Age | | | | |
| 15-24 | 9 | 91 | 0 | 0 |
| 25-39 | 9 | 90 | 1 | 0 |
| 40-54 | 11 | 88 | 1 | 0 |
| >=55 | 10 | 88 | 1 | 1 |
| Education (End of) | | | | |
| <=15 | 8 | 91 | 0 | 1 |
| 16-19 | 9 | 89 | 1 | 1 |
| >=20 | 12 | 87 | 1 | 0 |
| Still Studying | 8 | 92 | 0 | 0 |
| Socio-professional category | | | | |
| Self-employed | 15 | 83 | 1 | 1 |
| Managers | 11 | 88 | 1 | 0 |
| Other white collars | 9 | 89 | 1 | 1 |
| Manual workers | 10 | 90 | 0 | 0 |
| House persons | 6 | 92 | 1 | 1 |
| Unemployed | 12 | 86 | 2 | 0 |
| Retired | 10 | 89 | 1 | 0 |
| Students | 8 | 92 | 0 | 0 |
| Difficulties paying bills | | | | |
| Most of the time | 19 | 80 | 1 | 0 |
| From time to time | 11 | 87 | 1 | 1 |
| Almost never/ Never | 9 | 90 | 1 | 0 |
| Experienced or witnessed corruption | | | | |
| Yes, experienced | 64 | 35 | 1 | 0 |
| Yes, witnessed | 60 | 37 | 3 | 0 |
| No | 7 | 92 | 1 | 0 |

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Further, respondents were asked whether they feel personally affected by corruption in their daily lives²⁰. Three in ten respondents (30%, unchanged) say that they are personally affected, including 9% (unchanged) who totally agree and 21% (unchanged) who tend to agree. However, a majority of 65% (+1 pp) report not feeling affected, including 22% (unchanged) who tend to disagree and 43% (+1 pp) who totally disagree. 5% of respondents say that they do not know (-1 pp).

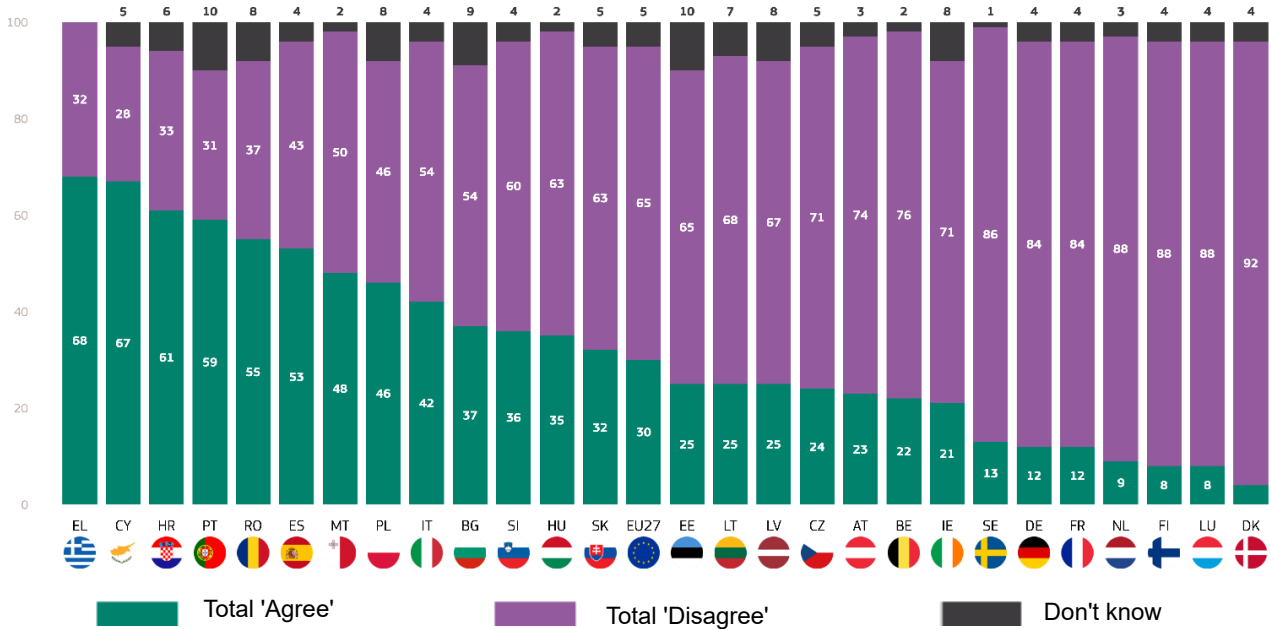
There is a wide variation between countries in the proportion of respondents who say they are personally affected by corruption: While almost seven in ten respondents feel personally affected in Greece (68%), Cyprus (67%) and more than six in ten in Croatia (61%), fewer than one in ten respondents feel affected in Luxembourg, Finland (both 8%) and Denmark (4%).

QC12A4: Please tell whether you agree or disagree with each of the following? - You are personally affected by corruption in your daily life (EU27) (%)



▲▼Feb/Mar 2026 - Jan/Feb 2025)

QC12a.4: Please tell whether you agree or disagree with each of the following? - You are personally affected by corruption in your daily life (%)



20 QC12a.4. Please tell whether you agree or disagree with each of the following? You are personally affected by corruption in your daily life

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Compared to 2025, in 13 Member States, respondents are now more likely to say that they are personally affected by corruption in their daily lives. The largest increases are recorded in Cyprus (67%, + 7 pp), Bulgaria (37%, +5 pp) and Latvia (25%, +5 pp).

By contrast, the proportion of respondents saying that they are personally affected by corruption decreased in ten Member States, most notably in Romania (55%, -5 pp), Portugal (59%, -5 pp) and Austria (23%, -5 pp).

QC12a.4: Please tell whether you agree or disagree with each of the following? - You are personally affected by corruption in your daily life (%)

| | | EU27 | CY | BG | LV | BE | FR | HU | SI | EL | ES | LT | IT | SE | SK | CZ | DK | EE | HR | DE | FI | PL | IE | LU | NL | MT | AT | PT | RO |
|------------------|----------------|------|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|-----|----|----|----|
| Total 'Agree' | Feb/Mar 2025 | 30 | 67 | 37 | 25 | 22 | 12 | 35 | 36 | 68 | 53 | 25 | 42 | 13 | 32 | 24 | 4 | 25 | 61 | 12 | 8 | 46 | 21 | 8 | 9 | 48 | 23 | 59 | 55 |
| | Δ Jan/Feb 2025 | = | ▲7 | ▲5 | ▲5 | ▲4 | ▲4 | ▲3 | ▲3 | ▲2 | ▲2 | ▲2 | ▲1 | ▲1 | ▲1 | = | = | = | = | ▼1 | ▼1 | ▼1 | ▼2 | ▼2 | ▼2 | ▼4 | ▼5 | ▼5 | ▼5 |
| Total 'Disagree' | Feb/Mar 2025 | 65 | 28 | 54 | 67 | 76 | 84 | 63 | 60 | 32 | 43 | 68 | 54 | 86 | 63 | 71 | 92 | 65 | 33 | 84 | 88 | 46 | 71 | 88 | 88 | 50 | 74 | 31 | 37 |
| | Δ Jan/Feb 2025 | ▲1 | ▼6 | ▼3 | ▼3 | ▼3 | ▼3 | ▼1 | ▼1 | ▼1 | = | ▼1 | ▼1 | ▲1 | ▲2 | ▲3 | ▼2 | = | ▼1 | ▲6 | ▲1 | ▲1 | ▲6 | ▲4 | ▲3 | ▲10 | ▲5 | ▲5 | ▲4 |
| Don't know | Feb/Mar 2025 | 5 | 5 | 9 | 8 | 2 | 4 | 2 | 4 | 0 | 4 | 7 | 4 | 1 | 5 | 5 | 4 | 10 | 6 | 4 | 4 | 8 | 8 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 3 | 10 | 8 |
| | Δ Jan/Feb 2025 | ▼1 | ▼1 | ▼2 | ▼2 | ▼1 | ▼1 | ▼2 | ▼2 | ▼1 | ▼2 | ▼1 | = | ▼2 | ▼3 | ▼3 | ▲2 | = | ▲1 | ▼5 | = | = | ▼4 | ▼2 | ▼1 | ▼6 | = | = | ▲1 |

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The socio-demographic analysis highlights the following differences:

- Respondents aged 40-54 (34%) are more likely to say they are personally affected by corruption, compared to those aged 15 -24 (28%) and those aged 55 and up (27%).
- Around one third of respondents who finished their education aged 15 or younger (34%) and those who finished aged 16 –19 (32%) say they are personally affected by corruption, compared with 28% of those who left education aged 20 or over.
- The self-employed and manual workers are the most likely to feel personally affected by corruption (36%), compared to other socio-professional groups.
- Those who experience financial difficulties paying their bills most of the time (42%) or from time to time (39%) are more likely to say they are affected than those who never or almost never experience such difficulties (26%).

QC12a4 Please tell whether you agree or disagree with each of the following?

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

| | Total 'Agree' | Total 'Disagree' | Don't know |
|--|---------------|------------------|------------|
| EU27 | 30 | 65 | 5 |
| Gender | | | |
| Man | 31 | 65 | 4 |
| Woman | 29 | 66 | 5 |
| Age | | | |
| 15-24 | 28 | 65 | 7 |
| 25-39 | 33 | 63 | 4 |
| 40-54 | 34 | 62 | 4 |
| >=55 | 27 | 69 | 4 |
| Education (End of) | | | |
| <=15 | 34 | 60 | 6 |
| 16-19 | 32 | 63 | 5 |
| >=20 | 28 | 69 | 3 |
| Still Studying | 23 | 70 | 7 |
| Socio-professional category | | | |
| Self-employed | 36 | 60 | 4 |
| Managers | 25 | 72 | 3 |
| Other white collars | 35 | 61 | 4 |
| Manual workers | 36 | 60 | 4 |
| House persons | 33 | 60 | 7 |
| Unemployed | 33 | 63 | 4 |
| Retired | 24 | 71 | 5 |
| Students | 25 | 68 | 7 |
| Difficulties paying bills | | | |
| Most of the time | 42 | 52 | 6 |
| From time to time | 39 | 57 | 4 |
| Almost never/ Never | 26 | 70 | 4 |
| Experienced or witnessed corruption | | | |
| Yes, experienced | 72 | 27 | 1 |
| Yes, witnessed | 53 | 45 | 2 |
| No | 28 | 67 | 5 |
| You know someone who takes bribes | | | |
| Yes | 44 | 54 | 2 |
| No | 28 | 67 | 5 |

3. Acceptability of corruption

Most respondents across the European Union consider corrupt practices such as doing favours, giving gifts or giving money to public administrations or public services to be unacceptable. However, the acceptability of these practices has increased since 2025.

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

When it comes to doing a favour²¹ to receive something from a public administration or a public service, around two thirds of Europeans (67%, -4 pp) consider this practice never acceptable, while 31% (+3 pp) find it acceptable. Among the latter, 25% (+2 pp) say that it is sometimes acceptable, and 6% (+1 pp) believe that it is always acceptable.

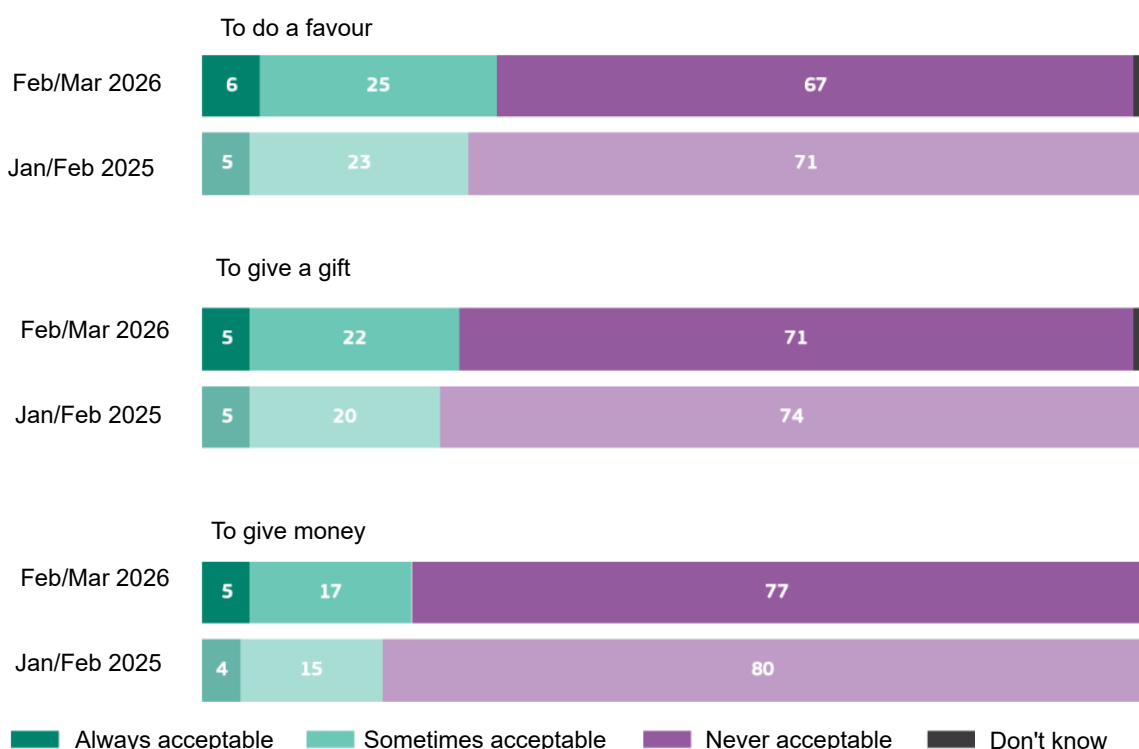
respondents (71%, -3 pp) say that this practice is never acceptable. By contrast, 27% (+2 pp) consider it acceptable, including 22% (+2 pp) who say it is sometimes acceptable and 5% (unchanged) who think it is always acceptable.

As regards giving money to obtain something from a public administration or a public service, over three quarters of respondents (77%, -3 pp) consider this practice never acceptable. At the same time, 22% (+3 pp) find it acceptable, including 17% (+2 pp) who say it is sometimes acceptable and 5% (+1 pp) who believe it is always acceptable.

Following a decline between 2025 and 2026 in the proportion considering these practices never acceptable, acceptance of doing a favour, giving a gift or giving money to obtain something from the public administration or a public service has increased for all three practices. The results for these three practices are analysed at country level below.

Regarding the acceptability of giving gifts to a public

QC1: 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) (%)



administration or a public service, around seven in ten

21 QC1: Talking more generally, if you wanted to get something from the public administration or a public service to what extent do you think it is acceptable to do any of the following? 1. To give money 2. To give a gift 3. To do a favour

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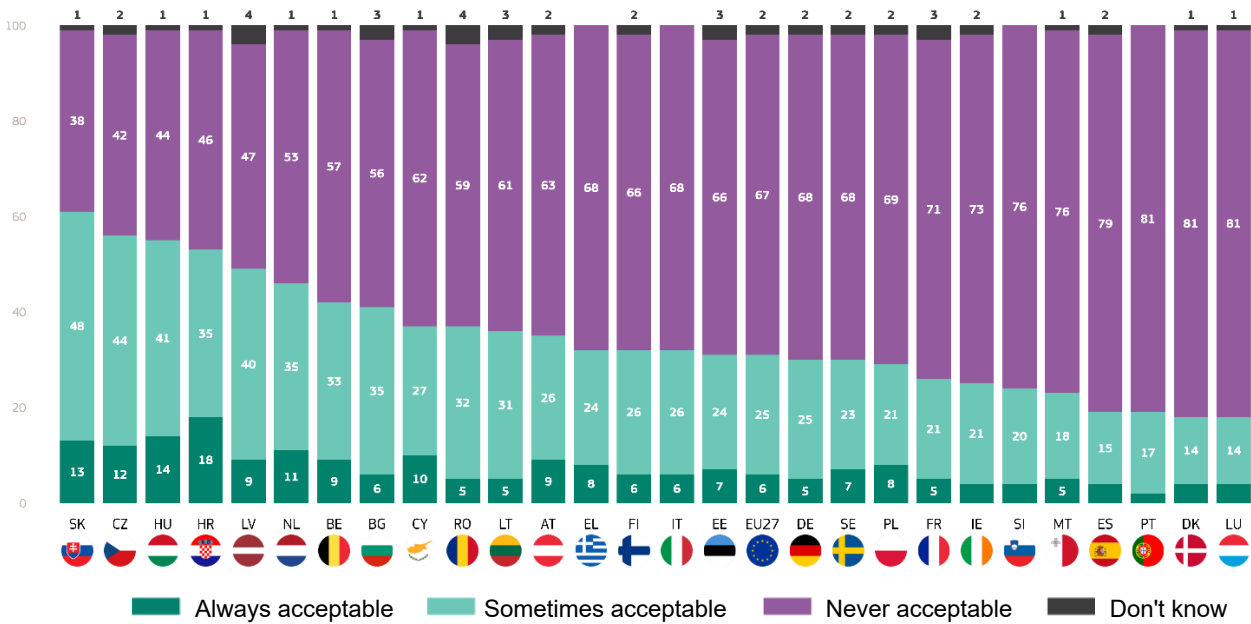
Doing a favour

More than half of respondents in Slovakia (61%), Czechia (56%), Hungary (55%) and Croatia (53%), believe that it is acceptable to do a favour to get something from the public administration or a public service.

in 2025. The largest decreases are observed in Luxembourg (18%, -7 pp) and Slovakia (61%, -6 pp).

Moreover, in eight countries, respondents believe less that doing a favour in exchange for a service from the public administration or public service is sometimes acceptable.

QC13: 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 (%)



In all other Member States except for Latvia, a minority of respondents consider this behaviour acceptable. The lowest levels of acceptability are recorded in Luxembourg and Denmark (both 18%), Portugal and Spain (both 19%).

The most notable increases occurred in the Netherlands (35%, +7 pp), Lithuania (31%, + 7 pp) and Portugal (17%, +7 pp).

QC1.3: 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 | LU | SK | HU | SI | DK | EL | BG | CZ | AT | EE | IT | RO | HR | DE | ES | FI | PL | SE | IE | CY | FR | MT | LT | LV | NL | PT | BE |
|----------------------|----------------|------|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| Always acceptable | Feb/Mar 2026 | 6 | 4 | 13 | 14 | 4 | 4 | 8 | 6 | 12 | 9 | 7 | 6 | 5 | 18 | 5 | 4 | 6 | 8 | 7 | 4 | 10 | 5 | 5 | 5 | 9 | 11 | 2 | 9 |
| | Δ Jan/Feb 2025 | ▲1 | ▼1 | ▼1 | ▼4 | ▼3 | ▼1 | ▲2 | ▲2 | ▲2 | = | ▲1 | ▲1 | ▼2 | ▲5 | ▲1 | = | ▲2 | ▲3 | ▲1 | ▲1 | ▲5 | ▲2 | ▲3 | ▼1 | ▲2 | ▲1 | ▲1 | = |
| Sometimes acceptable | Feb/Mar 2026 | 25 | 14 | 48 | 41 | 20 | 14 | 24 | 35 | 44 | 26 | 24 | 26 | 32 | 35 | 25 | 15 | 26 | 21 | 23 | 21 | 27 | 21 | 18 | 31 | 40 | 35 | 17 | 33 |
| | Δ Jan/Feb 2025 | ▲2 | ▼6 | ▼5 | ▼1 | = | ▼2 | ▼5 | ▼2 | ▼1 | = | ▲1 | = | ▲1 | ▼2 | ▲3 | ▲3 | ▲3 | ▲1 | ▲3 | ▲5 | ▲2 | ▲2 | ▲3 | ▲7 | ▲6 | ▲7 | ▲7 | ▲9 |
| Never acceptable | Feb/Mar 2026 | 67 | 81 | 38 | 44 | 76 | 81 | 68 | 56 | 42 | 63 | 66 | 68 | 59 | 46 | 68 | 79 | 66 | 69 | 68 | 73 | 62 | 71 | 76 | 61 | 47 | 53 | 81 | 57 |
| | Δ Jan/Feb 2025 | ▼4 | ▲6 | ▲6 | ▲5 | ▲4 | ▲3 | ▲3 | = | = | ▼1 | ▼1 | ▼1 | ▼2 | ▼3 | ▼4 | ▼4 | ▼4 | ▼4 | ▼4 | ▼4 | ▼5 | ▼6 | ▼6 | ▼7 | ▼8 | ▼8 | ▼8 | ▼9 |
| Don't know | Feb/Mar 2026 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 3 | 2 | 2 | 3 | 0 | 4 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 1 | 3 | 1 | 3 | 4 | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| | Δ Jan/Feb 2025 | ▲1 | ▲1 | = | = | ▼1 | = | = | = | ▼1 | ▲1 | ▼1 | = | ▲3 | = | = | ▲1 | ▼1 | = | = | ▼1 | ▼1 | ▲2 | = | ▲1 | = | = | = | = |

In Croatia (18%), Hungary (14%), Slovakia (13%), Czechia (12%), and the Netherlands (11%), more than one respondent in ten consider that doing a favour is always acceptable.

In seven Member States, respondents are now less likely to think that doing a favour is always acceptable than they were

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Giving a gift

In three Member States, at least half of respondents think it is acceptable to give a gift to get something from the public administration or a public service: Czechia and Latvia (both 55%) and Croatia (50%).

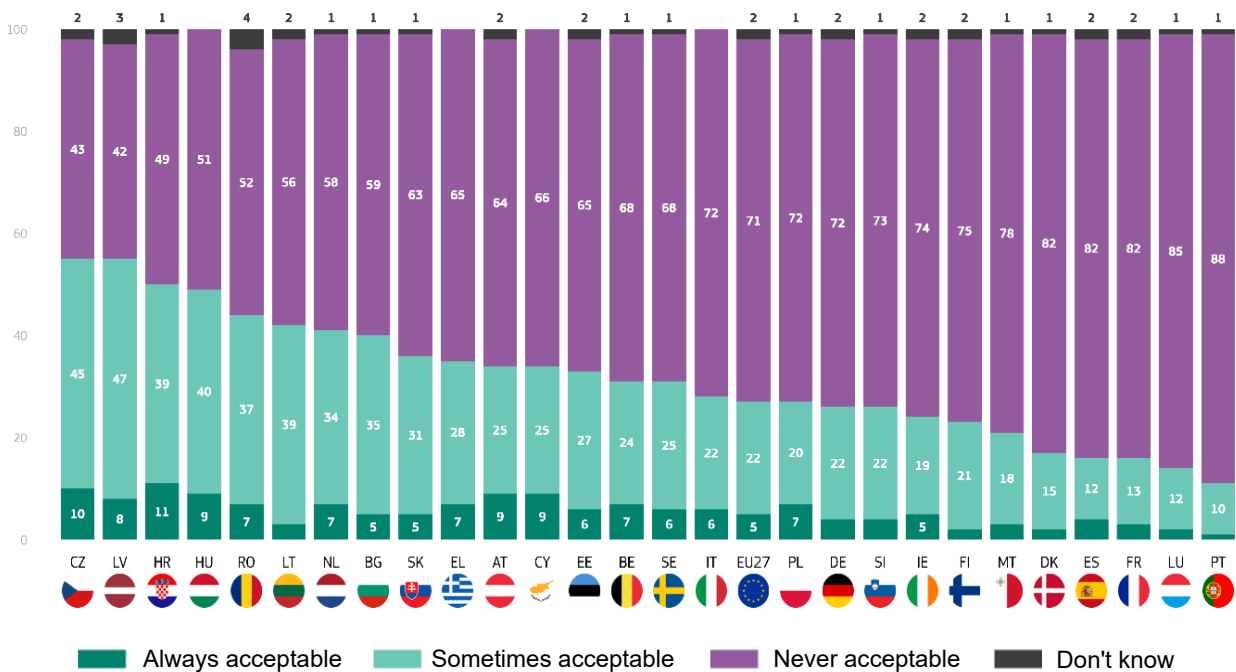
Looking specifically at respondents who say that this behaviour is always acceptable, the highest proportion is recorded in Croatia (11%), Czechia (10%), followed by Hungary, Austria and Cyprus (all at 9%).

By contrast, respondents are most likely to find this behaviour never acceptable in Portugal (88%), Luxembourg (85%), France and Spain (both at 82%).

Compared to 2025, acceptance levels for giving a gift to get something from the public administration or a public service decreased in seven Member States. The highest decreases are recorded in Hungary (49%, -7 pp), Slovakia (36%, -6 pp) and Greece (35%, -6 pp).

At the same time, more respondents say that giving a gift is never acceptable, with an increased number of citizens stating so in nine Member States. The largest increase is observed in Hungary (51%, +8 pp), followed by Greece (65%, +6 pp) and Slovakia (63%, +6 pp). The biggest drop is registered in the Netherlands (58%, -11 pp).

QC1.2: 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 (%)



QC1.2: 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 | HU | EL | SK | LU | SI | AT | HR | CZ | EE | IT | PL | DK | PT | BG | DE | ES | FI | IE | MT | RO | SE | BE | FR | LV | LT | CY | NL |
|----------------------|----------------|------|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|-----|
| Always acceptable | Feb/Mar 2026 | 5 | 9 | 7 | 5 | 2 | 4 | 9 | 11 | 10 | 6 | 6 | 7 | 2 | 1 | 5 | 4 | 4 | 2 | 5 | 3 | 7 | 6 | 7 | 3 | 8 | 3 | 9 | 7 |
| | Δ Jan/Feb 2025 | = | ▼1 | ▼1 | ▼1 | ▲1 | ▼2 | ▼3 | ▲1 | ▲1 | = | ▲1 | ▲2 | = | = | ▲2 | = | ▲1 | ▼1 | ▲2 | = | = | ▲1 | = | ▲1 | = | ▼1 | ▲4 | = |
| Sometimes acceptable | Feb/Mar 2026 | 22 | 40 | 28 | 31 | 12 | 22 | 25 | 39 | 45 | 27 | 22 | 20 | 15 | 10 | 35 | 22 | 12 | 21 | 19 | 18 | 37 | 25 | 24 | 13 | 47 | 39 | 25 | 34 |
| | Δ Jan/Feb 2025 | ▲2 | ▼6 | ▼5 | ▼5 | ▼5 | ▼2 | = | ▼3 | ▼1 | = | = | ▼2 | ▲1 | ▲1 | ▲2 | ▲2 | ▲1 | ▲4 | ▲1 | ▲3 | ▲1 | ▲3 | ▲6 | ▲4 | ▲6 | ▲8 | ▲6 | ▲11 |
| Never acceptable | Feb/Mar 2026 | 71 | 51 | 65 | 63 | 85 | 73 | 64 | 49 | 43 | 65 | 72 | 72 | 82 | 88 | 59 | 72 | 82 | 75 | 74 | 78 | 52 | 68 | 68 | 82 | 42 | 56 | 66 | 58 |
| | Δ Jan/Feb 2025 | ▼3 | ▲8 | ▲6 | ▲6 | ▲4 | ▲4 | ▲2 | ▲2 | ▲1 | ▲1 | = | = | ▼1 | ▼2 | ▼3 | ▼3 | ▼3 | ▼3 | ▼3 | ▼3 | ▼3 | ▼4 | ▼4 | ▼6 | ▼6 | ▼6 | ▼8 | ▼9 |
| Don't know | Feb/Mar 2026 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 1 | 4 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 2 | 0 | 1 |
| | Δ Jan/Feb 2025 | ▲1 | ▼1 | = | = | = | = | ▲1 | = | ▼1 | ▼1 | ▼1 | = | = | ▲1 | ▼1 | ▲1 | ▲1 | = | = | = | ▲3 | = | = | ▲1 | = | ▲1 | ▼1 | = |

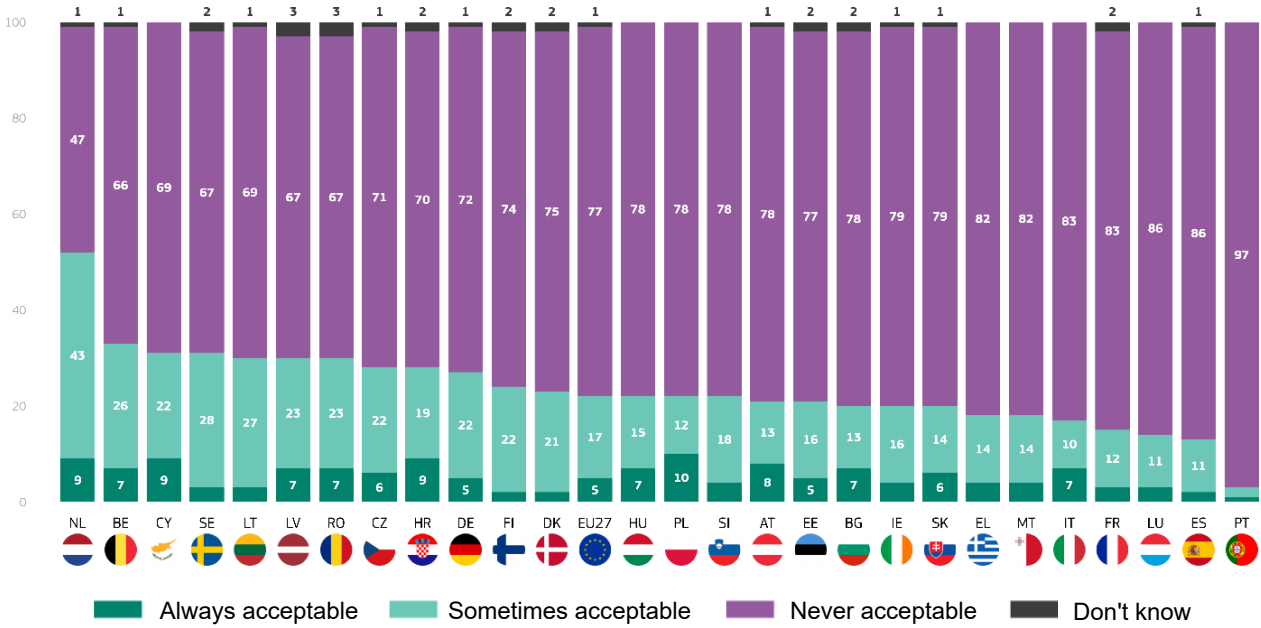
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Giving money

In seven Member States, at least three in ten respondents find it acceptable to give money if they want something from the public administration or a public service, notably in the Netherlands (52%), Belgium (33%), Cyprus and Sweden (both

In a majority of countries, more respondents now consider this practice acceptable, particularly in Cyprus, where acceptance rose by 13 percentage points (31%).

QC1.1: 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 (%)



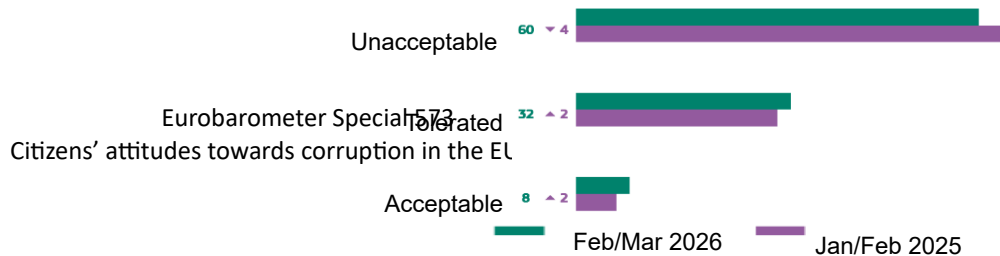
31%). The highest proportions of those who view the giving of money as always acceptable are observed in Poland (10%), followed by Croatia, Cyprus and the Netherlands (all at 9%).

By contrast, fewer than one in ten respondents consider this behaviour acceptable in Portugal (3%), while around one in ten do so in Spain (13%) and Luxembourg (14%).

Compared to 2025, fewer respondents consider giving money to obtain something from the public administration or a public service to be acceptable in eight Member States. The largest decreases are observed in Denmark (23%, -9 pp) and Hungary (22%, -7 pp).

QC1.1: 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 | DK | HU | EL | SK | CZ | AT | SI | RO | LU | PT | BG | IT | DE | EE | FI | ES | LV | PL | HR | IE | NL | SE | BE | MT | FR | LT | CY |
|----------------------|----------------|------|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|-----|
| Always acceptable | Feb/Mar 2026 | 5 | 2 | 7 | 4 | 6 | 6 | 8 | 4 | 7 | 3 | 1 | 7 | 7 | 5 | 5 | 2 | 2 | 7 | 10 | 9 | 4 | 9 | 3 | 7 | 4 | 3 | 3 | 9 |
| | Δ Jan/Feb 2025 | ▲1 | ▼1 | ▲1 | ▼2 | ▲3 | ▲1 | ▼3 | ▼3 | ▲1 | ▲1 | ▲1 | ▲5 | ▲2 | ▲1 | ▲1 | ▼1 | ▼1 | ▲2 | ▲4 | ▲3 | ▲1 | ▲2 | ▼1 | = | ▲3 | ▲2 | ▲1 | ▲5 |
| Sometimes acceptable | Feb/Mar 2026 | 17 | 21 | 15 | 14 | 14 | 22 | 13 | 18 | 23 | 11 | 2 | 13 | 10 | 22 | 16 | 22 | 11 | 23 | 12 | 19 | 16 | 43 | 28 | 26 | 14 | 12 | 27 | 22 |
| | Δ Jan/Feb 2025 | ▲2 | ▼8 | ▼8 | ▼4 | ▼7 | ▼5 | ▼1 | ▲2 | ▼3 | = | = | ▼3 | = | ▲2 | ▲2 | ▲5 | ▲5 | ▲3 | = | ▲1 | ▲5 | ▲3 | ▲6 | ▲6 | ▲3 | ▲4 | ▲6 | ▲8 |
| Never acceptable | Feb/Mar 2026 | 77 | 75 | 78 | 82 | 79 | 71 | 78 | 78 | 67 | 86 | 97 | 78 | 85 | 72 | 77 | 74 | 86 | 67 | 78 | 70 | 79 | 47 | 67 | 66 | 82 | 83 | 69 | 69 |
| | Δ Jan/Feb 2025 | ▼3 | ▲8 | ▲8 | ▲6 | ▲6 | ▲5 | ▲4 | ▲2 | = | ▼1 | ▼1 | ▼2 | ▼2 | ▼3 | ▼3 | ▼3 | ▼4 | ▼4 | ▼4 | ▼5 | ▼5 | ▼5 | ▼5 | ▼6 | ▼6 | ▼7 | ▼7 | ▼12 |
| Don't know | Feb/Mar 2026 | 1 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 1 | 3 | 0 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 0 | 2 | 1 | 0 |
| | Δ Jan/Feb 2025 | = | ▲1 | ▼1 | = | ▼2 | ▼1 | = | ▼1 | ▲2 | = | = | = | = | = | = | ▼1 | = | ▼1 | = | ▲1 | ▼1 | = | = | = | = | ▲1 | = | ▼1 |



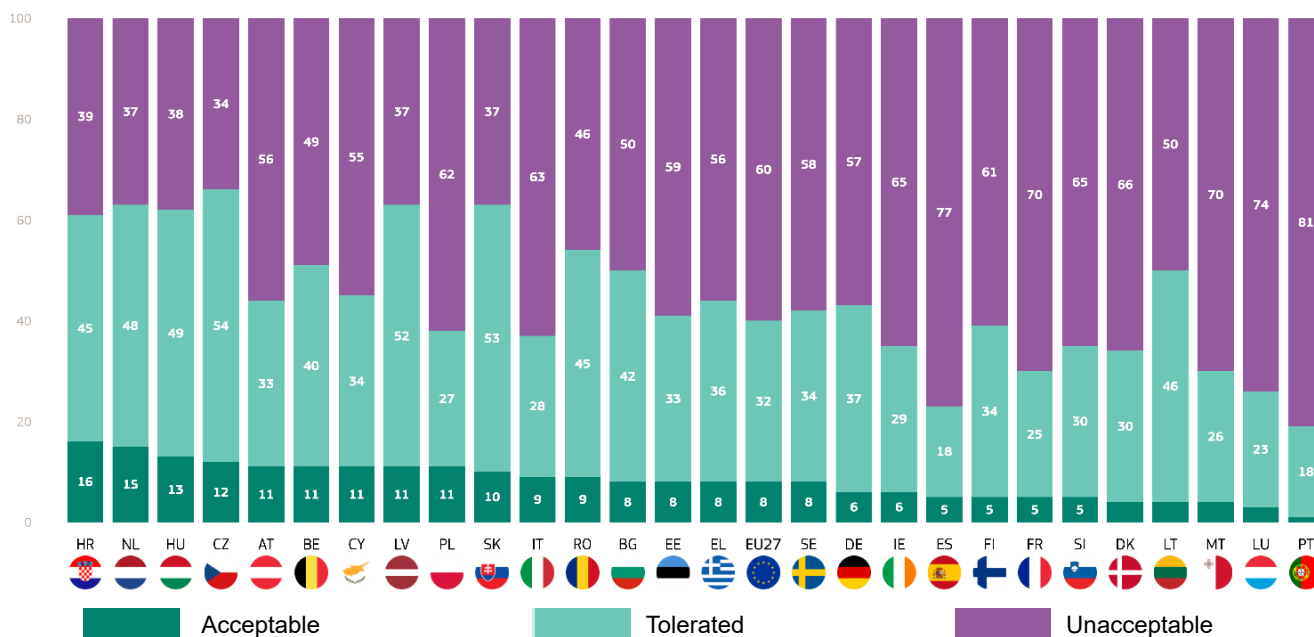
Overall acceptability

Based on the answers to the three questions above, a “tolerance index to corruption” is calculated²², categorising respondents according to whether they regard corruption as ‘acceptable’, ‘tolerated’ or ‘unacceptable’.

Across Member States, six in ten respondents (60%, -4 pp) consider corruption to be unacceptable. In 19 Member States, at least half of respondents share this view. The highest proportions are recorded in Portugal (81%), Spain (77%) and Luxembourg (74%). By contrast, Czechia records the lowest share of respondents who consider corruption to be unacceptable (34%), followed by the Netherlands, Latvia and Slovakia (all at 37%).

Across the European Union, less than one in ten respondents (8%, +2 pp) consider corruption to be acceptable, while almost one third (32%, +2 pp) say that it is tolerated. At a country level, the highest proportions of respondents considering corruption ‘acceptable’ are measured in Croatia (16%), the Netherlands (15%) and Hungary (13%).

QC1T: Tolerance index to corruption (%)



22 The index is calculated based on the answers given to Q C.1,2 and 3. Points are attributed depending on the answers to those three questions: “never acceptable” (0 points), “sometimes acceptable” (1 point) and “always acceptable” (2 points). Respondents who received 0 points in total are classified in the index as answering “unacceptable”, while those who scored 1 to 3 points are classified as “tolerated” and those who scored 4 to 6 points are classified as “acceptable”.

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The proportion of respondents who find corruption unacceptable has decreased in 20 Member States compared to 2025. The largest decreases are observed in Cyprus (55%, -11 pp) and Belgium (49%, -10 pp). By contrast, Denmark records a marked increase, with 66% now finding corruption unacceptable (+9 pp).

Several countries also show notable changes in the number of respondents who consider corruption acceptable. The largest increase is observed in Cyprus (11%, + 6 pp).

As regards tolerance towards corruption, the largest increases since 2025 are observed in Belgium (40%, + 9 pp), and Lithuania (46%, +9 pp), while the largest decrease is recorded in Denmark (30%, -9 pp).

QC 1T: Tolerance index to corruption (%)

| | EU27 | DK | SK | HU | LU | SI | AT | EL | EE | IT | RO | SE | BG | CZ | HR | PL | ES | MT | DE | FI | FR | LT | LV | NL | PT | IE | BE | CY |
|----------------|------|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|-----|-----|
| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Acceptable | 8 | 4 | 10 | 13 | 3 | 5 | 11 | 8 | 8 | 9 | 9 | 8 | 8 | 12 | 16 | 11 | 5 | 4 | 6 | 5 | 5 | 4 | 11 | 15 | 1 | 6 | 11 | 11 |
| Δ Jan/Feb 2025 | ▲2 | = | ▼1 | ▼2 | ▼1 | ▼3 | ▼2 | ▼1 | ▲2 | ▲2 | ▼2 | ▲2 | ▲4 | ▲1 | ▲3 | ▲3 | ▲2 | ▲2 | ▲1 | = | ▲3 | ▼2 | ▲2 | ▲4 | = | ▲3 | ▲1 | ▲6 |
| Tolerated | 32 | 30 | 53 | 49 | 23 | 30 | 33 | 36 | 33 | 28 | 45 | 34 | 42 | 54 | 45 | 27 | 18 | 26 | 37 | 34 | 25 | 46 | 52 | 48 | 18 | 29 | 40 | 34 |
| Δ Jan/Feb 2025 | ▲2 | ▼9 | ▼4 | ▼2 | ▼3 | ▼1 | = | ▼1 | ▼1 | = | ▲4 | = | ▼1 | ▲2 | = | ▲2 | ▲2 | ▲4 | ▲6 | ▲3 | ▲9 | ▲5 | ▲3 | ▲7 | ▲5 | ▲9 | ▲5 | |
| Unacceptable | 60 | 66 | 37 | 38 | 74 | 65 | 56 | 56 | 59 | 63 | 46 | 58 | 50 | 34 | 39 | 62 | 77 | 70 | 57 | 61 | 70 | 50 | 37 | 37 | 81 | 65 | 49 | 55 |
| Δ Jan/Feb 2025 | ▼4 | ▲9 | ▲5 | ▲4 | ▲4 | ▲4 | ▲2 | ▲2 | ▼1 | ▼2 | ▼2 | ▼2 | ▼3 | ▼3 | ▼3 | ▼3 | ▼4 | ▼4 | ▼5 | ▼6 | ▼6 | ▼7 | ▼7 | ▼7 | ▼7 | ▼8 | ▼10 | ▼11 |

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

- Men (58%) and women (62%) show similar levels of considering corruption unacceptable.
- Older respondents are more likely to find corruption unacceptable. This is particularly the case for those aged 55 and over (65%), compared with 52% of respondents aged 15–24.
- Respondents who ended their education aged 15 or younger are the most likely to consider corruption unacceptable (71%), compared with 59% of those who ended education aged 20 or over, and 54% of those who are still studying.
- Among socio-professional groups, retired respondents (66%), house persons (64%), as well as manual workers and unemployed respondents (both 60%), are the most likely to find corruption unacceptable, compared with students (53%).
- Respondents who almost never or never have difficulties paying their bills are most likely to consider corruption unacceptable (63%), followed by those who experience such difficulties from time to time (53%), and those who face them most of the time (57%).
- Four in ten respondents who have experienced corruption and 38% of those who have witnessed it consider corruption unacceptable, compared with 61% of those who have neither experienced nor witnessed corruption.

| | QC1T Tolerance index to corruption (% - EU) | | |
|--|--|-----------|--------------|
| | Acceptable | Tolerated | Unacceptable |
| EU27 | 8 | 32 | 60 |
| Gender | | | |
| Man | 9 | 33 | 58 |
| Woman | 7 | 31 | 62 |
| Age | | | |
| 15-24 | 14 | 34 | 52 |
| 25-39 | 8 | 34 | 58 |
| 40-54 | 8 | 33 | 59 |
| >=55 | 5 | 30 | 65 |
| Education (End of) | | | |
| 15<= | 5 | 24 | 71 |
| 16-19 | 8 | 33 | 59 |
| >=20 | 7 | 34 | 59 |
| Still Studying | 12 | 34 | 54 |
| Socio-professional category | | | |
| Self-employed | 8 | 35 | 57 |
| Managers | 6 | 35 | 59 |
| Other white collars | 9 | 35 | 56 |
| Manual workers | 8 | 32 | 60 |
| House persons | 7 | 29 | 64 |
| Unemployed | 7 | 33 | 60 |
| Retired | 4 | 30 | 66 |
| Students | 14 | 33 | 53 |
| Difficulties paying bills | | | |
| Most of the time | 11 | 32 | 57 |
| From time to time | 10 | 37 | 53 |
| Almost never/ Never | 6 | 31 | 63 |
| Experienced or witnessed corruption | | | |
| Yes, experienced | 15 | 45 | 40 |
| Yes, witnessed | 17 | 45 | 38 |
| No | 7 | 32 | 61 |
| You know someone who takes bribes | | | |
| Yes | 12 | 41 | 47 |
| No | 7 | 31 | 62 |

4. How widespread is corruption in different areas of society

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

Respondents were asked whether they think that the giving and taking of bribes and the abuse of power for personal gain are widespread in certain sectors and institutions in their country²³.

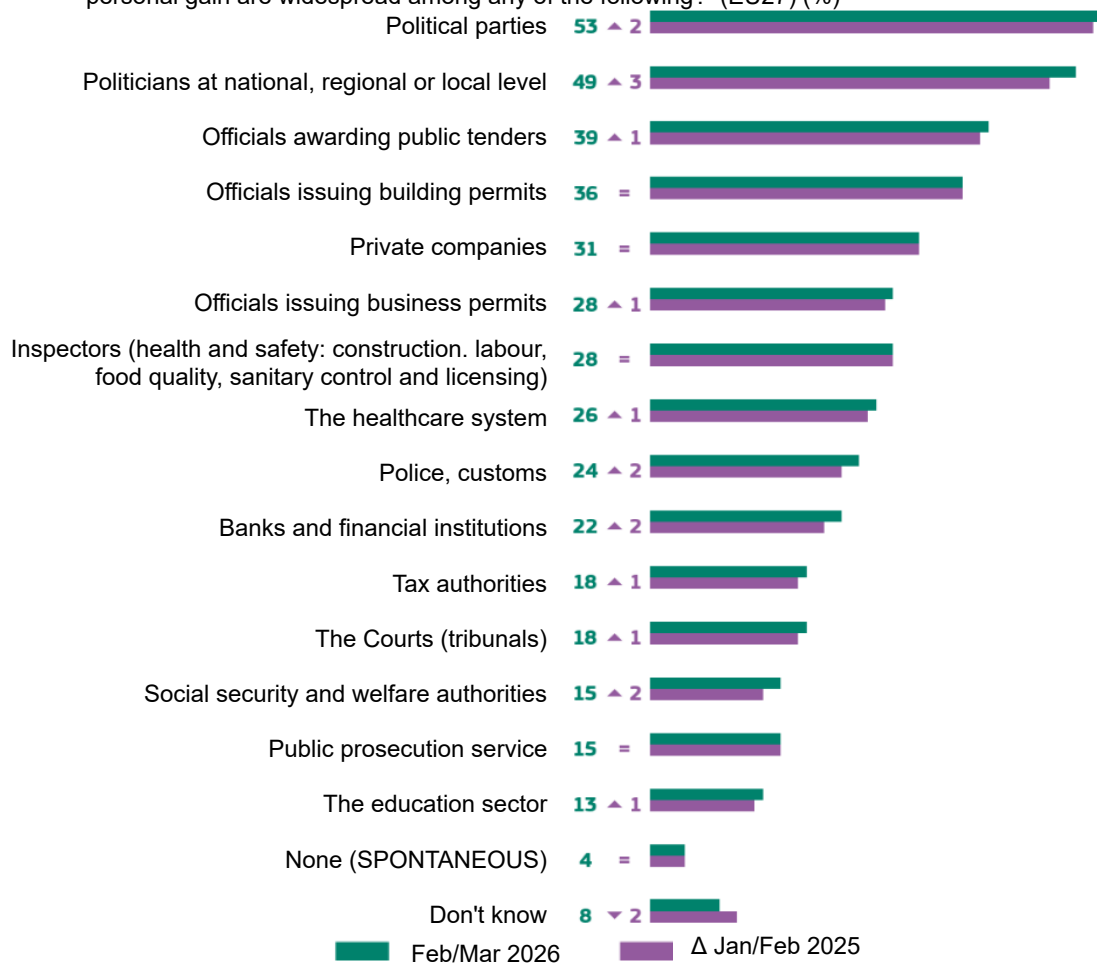
More than half of Europeans (53%, +2 pp) believe that corruption is widespread among political parties, while just under half (49%, +3 pp) consider these behaviours to be widespread among politicians at national, regional or local level. Around four in ten respondents think that the giving and taking of bribes and the abuse of power are widespread among officials awarding public tenders (39%, +1 pp) and 36% share this view about officials issuing building permits

(unchanged). Around three in ten hold this view for private companies (31%, unchanged).

Over a quarter of respondents say that giving and taking bribes and the abuse of power are widespread among officials issuing business permits (28%, +1 pp) and inspectors in the field of health, safety and others (28%, unchanged). Just over one quarter also say this is the case in the healthcare system (26%, +1 pp), while 24% share this view for the police and customs (+2 pp).

Around one in five respondents think that corruption is widespread in banks and financial institutions (22%, +2 pp). Slightly fewer mention the courts and tax authorities (both 18%, +1 pp), while 15% say this about the social security and welfare authorities (+2 pp) and the public prosecution service (unchanged). The education sector is mentioned by 13% of respondents (+1 pp).

QC4: 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? (EU27) (%)



²³ QC4. In (OUR COUNTRY), do you think that the giving and taking of bribes and the abuse of power for personal gain are widespread among any of the following? (MULTIPLE ANSWERS POSSIBLE)

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The national analysis shows that in 15 Member States; political parties are the most frequently mentioned sector in relation to the giving and taking of bribes and the abuse of

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

QC4: 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? (%)

| | 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 | 53 | 47 | 45 | 48 | 35 | 47 | 39 | 48 | 78 | 75 | 64 | 46 | 52 | 69 | 44 | 66 | 49 | 53 | 65 | 43 | 51 | 29 | 67 | 41 | 62 | 48 | 39 | 37 |
| Politicians at national, regional or local level | 49 | 45 | 44 | 45 | 34 | 45 | 38 | 40 | 80 | 67 | 56 | 45 | 50 | 54 | 35 | 58 | 46 | 50 | 61 | 41 | 51 | 27 | 60 | 38 | 64 | 50 | 48 | 53 |
| Officials awarding public tenders | 39 | 37 | 50 | 47 | 15 | 32 | 28 | 35 | 75 | 39 | 39 | 43 | 51 | 55 | 46 | 46 | 27 | 45 | 59 | 38 | 34 | 25 | 42 | 29 | 53 | 31 | 32 | 42 |
| Officials issuing building permits | 36 | 34 | 44 | 31 | 23 | 33 | 26 | 38 | 72 | 45 | 32 | 40 | 50 | 58 | 43 | 48 | 35 | 30 | 67 | 45 | 31 | 14 | 37 | 29 | 48 | 26 | 21 | 32 |
| Private companies | 31 | 32 | 17 | 23 | 40 | 35 | 17 | 30 | 42 | 31 | 36 | 20 | 31 | 38 | 20 | 27 | 44 | 22 | 37 | 41 | 28 | 12 | 44 | 16 | 38 | 26 | 33 | 56 |
| Officials issuing business permits | 28 | 22 | 40 | 18 | 6 | 25 | 20 | 32 | 72 | 36 | 20 | 39 | 41 | 55 | 30 | 33 | 16 | 26 | 52 | 33 | 24 | 14 | 29 | 26 | 39 | 16 | 15 | 26 |
| Inspectors (health and safety, construction, labour, food quality, sanitary control and licensing) | 28 | 27 | 37 | 21 | 25 | 25 | 19 | 20 | 70 | 27 | 25 | 37 | 39 | 46 | 34 | 45 | 19 | 26 | 45 | 30 | 20 | 12 | 40 | 27 | 46 | 34 | 12 | 24 |
| The healthcare system | 26 | 15 | 44 | 36 | 6 | 16 | 15 | 15 | 91 | 18 | 15 | 36 | 37 | 58 | 39 | 67 | 13 | 29 | 34 | 15 | 25 | 34 | 37 | 40 | 46 | 50 | 5 | 9 |
| Police, customs | 24 | 32 | 52 | 15 | 8 | 11 | 11 | 23 | 58 | 30 | 26 | 33 | 25 | 53 | 33 | 35 | 15 | 21 | 39 | 27 | 12 | 19 | 37 | 33 | 36 | 40 | 5 | 10 |
| Banks and financial institutions | 22 | 23 | 13 | 6 | 16 | 18 | 11 | 26 | 44 | 32 | 24 | 16 | 28 | 38 | 10 | 16 | 29 | 15 | 27 | 27 | 22 | 6 | 43 | 21 | 34 | 15 | 5 | 22 |
| Tax authorities | 18 | 19 | 34 | 11 | 5 | 9 | 8 | 15 | 60 | 24 | 16 | 27 | 23 | 36 | 19 | 20 | 12 | 16 | 35 | 16 | 10 | 8 | 38 | 26 | 34 | 23 | 2 | 5 |
| The Courts (tribunals) | 18 | 18 | 45 | 22 | 3 | 7 | 12 | 15 | 47 | 25 | 13 | 36 | 23 | 41 | 19 | 40 | 12 | 16 | 38 | 11 | 9 | 12 | 29 | 32 | 41 | 43 | 3 | 8 |
| Social security and welfare authorities | 15 | 12 | 19 | 8 | 10 | 10 | 12 | 11 | 55 | 17 | 10 | 24 | 23 | 27 | 13 | 24 | 10 | 9 | 43 | 12 | 13 | 6 | 35 | 18 | 26 | 19 | 3 | 14 |
| Public prosecution service | 15 | 10 | 41 | 16 | 3 | 6 | 8 | 14 | 36 | 23 | 22 | 25 | 13 | 30 | 14 | 31 | 9 | 13 | 34 | 15 | 8 | 7 | 25 | 21 | 33 | 26 | 2 | 7 |
| The education sector | 13 | 8 | 18 | 12 | 3 | 7 | 9 | 11 | 35 | 12 | 9 | 14 | 21 | 26 | 14 | 21 | 8 | 9 | 31 | 8 | 15 | 9 | 24 | 21 | 23 | 26 | 4 | 14 |
| None (SPONTANEOUS) | 4 | 7 | 1 | 4 | 23 | 6 | 7 | 6 | 0 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 3 | 0 | 2 | 2 | 5 | 3 | 3 | 4 | 11 | 6 | 1 | 6 | 2 | 2 | 17 | 12 |
| Don't know | 8 | 5 | 8 | 10 | 6 | 9 | 24 | 14 | 1 | 5 | 9 | 8 | 4 | 10 | 12 | 4 | 13 | 7 | 8 | 2 | 11 | 16 | 10 | 10 | 5 | 6 | 10 | 3 |

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

power for personal gain. The highest proportions are recorded in Greece (78%), Spain (75%), and Cyprus (69%). By contrast, this view is least widespread in Poland (29%), Denmark (35%) and Sweden (37%).

Politicians at national, regional or local level are the most frequently mentioned group in Slovenia (64%), Slovakia (50%) and Finland (48%), and rank joint first together with political parties in Austria (51%).

Officials awarding public tenders rank first in Latvia (46%). In addition, at least half of respondents mention this group in six Member States, most notably in Greece (75%).

Officials issuing building permits ranks first in Malta (67%) and the Netherlands (45%) only.

In Sweden (56%) and Denmark (40%), private companies are the most frequently mentioned sector.

The healthcare system ranks first in four Member States, namely Greece (91%), Lithuania (67%), Slovakia (50%) and Poland (34%). By contrast, fewer than one in ten respondents in Finland (5%) and Sweden (9%) believe that corruption is widespread in the healthcare system.

Finally, Bulgaria (52%) is the only country in which police and customs rank first. This sector is also mentioned by more than half of respondents in Greece (58%) and Cyprus (53%).

- In Greece, 72% of respondents believe that corruption is widespread among officials issuing business permits.
- In eleven countries, at least one third of respondents say that there is widespread corruption among inspectors, most notably in Greece (70%).
- In ten countries, at least one in four respondents say that corruption is widespread in banks and financial institutions. This value is highest in Greece (44%).
- Respondents are most likely to mention the courts in Greece (47%), Bulgaria (45%) and Slovakia (43%).

Tax authorities are mentioned the most in Greece (60%) and the least in Finland (2%).

- The public prosecution service is mentioned by fewer than half of the respondents in all 27 Member States, ranging from 41% in Bulgaria to 2% in Finland.
- Social security and welfare authorities are mentioned by fewer than one in five respondents in 19 countries. More than half (55%) provide this answer in Greece.

Across all Member States, responses vary regarding the mention of the education sector, with proportions ranging from 35% in Greece to 3% in Denmark.

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Compared to 2025, the proportion of respondents who say that the giving and taking of bribes and the abuse of power for personal gain are widespread among political parties increased in 20 Member States, while it decreased in six. The largest increase is observed in Lithuania (66%, +17 pp), while the largest decrease is recorded in Croatia (46%, -6 pp).

The number of respondents who view corruption as widespread among politicians at national, regional or local level increased in 21 and decreased in five Member States. The highest increase is registered in Cyprus (54%, +13 pp), while the largest decrease is again recorded in Croatia (45%, -8 pp).

In 16 Member States, respondents are now more likely to think that corruption among officials awarding public tenders is widespread than they were in 2025 most notably in Greece (75%, + 8 pp). By contrast, a decrease is observed in ten Member States, most notably in Croatia (43%, -8 pp).

As regards officials issuing building permits, perceptions of widespread corruption increased in 14 Member States, while a decline is observed in ten. The largest increase is recorded in Spain (45%, + 11 pp), while the largest decrease is observed in Portugal (37%, -14 pp).

For private companies, the proportion of respondents who believe corruption is widespread increased in 12 Member States, while it decreased in 11. The largest increases are observed in Greece (42%, + 8 pp), and Slovenia (38%, +8 pp) while the largest decrease is recorded in Hungary (22%, - 11 pp).

Compared to 2025, inspectors (health and safety, construction, labour, food quality, sanitary control and licensing) are more likely to be mentioned in 13 Member States, most notably in Slovenia (46%, + 11 pp). This proportion decreased in nine Member States, with the largest decrease observed in Hungary (26%, -7 pp).

Regarding officials issuing business permits, perceptions of widespread corruption increased in 18 Member States and declined in eight. The largest increase is recorded in Greece (72%, +11 pp), while the largest decrease is observed in Hungary (26%, -8 pp).

In 16 Member States, respondents are now more likely to perceive corruption as widespread in the healthcare system than they were in 2025, most notably in Slovenia (46%, + 6 pp). In ten Member States, fewer respondents now hold this view, with Hungary recording the largest decline (29%, -11 pp).

The proportion of respondents who say that corruption is widespread among the police and customs increased in 14 Member States, most notably in Slovenia (36%, +9 pp). This

share decreased in 11 Member States, with the largest increases observed in Croatia (33%, -10 pp).

For banks and financial institutions, perceptions of widespread corruption increased in 15 Member States and decreased in eight. The largest increase is observed in Greece (44%, +12 pp), while the largest decrease is recorded in Croatia (16%, -6 pp).

Perceptions of widespread corruption in the courts increased in 15 countries, most notably in Lithuania (40%, +9 pp), while a decrease is recorded in nine Member States. The largest decrease occurred in Croatia, Portugal and Austria all with a decrease of four percentage points and respectively at 36%, 29% and 9%.

For the tax authorities, the proportion of respondents who believe that corruption is widespread has increased in 17 countries, most notably in Slovenia (34%, +11 pp). By contrast, it has decreased in nine countries, the largest decrease being by eight percentage points to 16% in Hungary.

For the public prosecution service, increases were observed in 15 countries, most notably in Slovenia (33%, +9 pp), and it has decreased in ten countries, most notably in Croatia (25%, -5 pp).

The proportion mentioning social security and welfare authorities increased in 18 Member States, while it decreased in six. The largest increase occurred in Greece (55%, + 7 pp), the largest decrease in Hungary (9%, -6 pp).

Lastly, for the education sector, perceptions of widespread corruption increased in 16 countries and declined in eight. The largest increase is observed in Slovenia (23%, +8 pp), while the largest decrease is recorded in Croatia (14%, -8 pp).

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QC4: 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 | Feb/Mar 2025 | 53 | 47 | 45 | 48 | 35 | 47 | 39 | 48 | 78 | 75 | 64 | 46 | 52 | 69 | 44 | 66 | 49 | 53 | 65 | 43 | 51 | 29 | 67 | 41 | 62 | 48 | 39 | 37 |
| | ΔJan/Feb 2025 | ▲2 | ▲4 | ▲7 | ▲3 | ▲4 | ▲3 | ▲2 | ▲7 | ▲9 | ▼4 | ▼1 | ▼6 | ▲1 | ▲2 | ▼2 | ▲17 | ▼4 | ▼2 | ▲5 | = | ▲3 | ▲1 | ▲3 | ▲4 | ▲5 | ▲6 | ▲9 | ▲8 |
| Politicians at national, regional or local level | Feb/Mar 2025 | 49 | 45 | 44 | 45 | 34 | 45 | 38 | 40 | 80 | 67 | 56 | 45 | 50 | 54 | 35 | 58 | 46 | 50 | 61 | 41 | 51 | 27 | 60 | 38 | 64 | 50 | 48 | 53 |
| | ΔJan/Feb 2025 | ▲3 | ▲4 | ▲6 | = | ▲5 | ▲9 | ▲1 | ▲4 | ▲10 | ▲1 | ▲4 | ▼8 | ▲2 | ▲13 | ▼2 | ▲12 | ▲5 | ▼3 | ▲5 | ▼4 | ▲3 | ▲2 | ▼3 | ▲1 | ▲5 | ▲5 | ▲9 | ▲10 |
| Officials awarding public tenders | Feb/Mar 2025 | 39 | 37 | 50 | 47 | 15 | 32 | 28 | 35 | 75 | 39 | 39 | 43 | 51 | 55 | 46 | 46 | 27 | 45 | 59 | 38 | 34 | 25 | 42 | 29 | 53 | 31 | 32 | 42 |
| | ΔJan/Feb 2025 | ▲1 | ▲6 | ▲7 | ▼2 | ▼1 | ▲4 | = | ▲3 | ▲8 | ▲6 | ▼2 | ▼8 | ▼6 | ▲11 | ▼1 | ▲5 | ▼7 | ▼1 | ▲9 | ▼5 | ▲3 | ▲3 | ▼4 | ▲2 | ▲2 | ▲3 | ▲7 | ▲2 |
| Officials issuing building permits | Feb/Mar 2025 | 36 | 34 | 44 | 31 | 23 | 33 | 26 | 38 | 72 | 45 | 32 | 40 | 50 | 58 | 43 | 48 | 35 | 30 | 67 | 45 | 31 | 14 | 37 | 29 | 48 | 26 | 21 | 32 |
| | ΔJan/Feb 2025 | = | ▲2 | ▲10 | = | ▼2 | ▲5 | ▼2 | ▲5 | ▲8 | ▲11 | = | ▼7 | ▼5 | ▲10 | ▼2 | ▲7 | ▲1 | ▼7 | ▲9 | ▼5 | ▼1 | ▼3 | ▼14 | ▲1 | ▲7 | ▲2 | ▲2 | = |
| Private companies | Feb/Mar 2025 | 31 | 32 | 17 | 23 | 40 | 35 | 17 | 30 | 42 | 31 | 36 | 20 | 31 | 38 | 20 | 27 | 44 | 22 | 37 | 41 | 28 | 12 | 44 | 16 | 38 | 26 | 33 | 56 |
| | ΔJan/Feb 2025 | = | ▲7 | ▲3 | = | ▼1 | ▼2 | ▼2 | ▲5 | ▲8 | = | ▼1 | ▼2 | ▲3 | ▲6 | ▼3 | ▲4 | ▲1 | ▼11 | ▲2 | ▼3 | ▼1 | ▼1 | ▼1 | = | ▲8 | = | ▲7 | ▲5 |
| Officials issuing business permits | Feb/Mar 2025 | 28 | 22 | 40 | 18 | 6 | 25 | 20 | 32 | 72 | 36 | 20 | 39 | 41 | 55 | 30 | 33 | 16 | 26 | 52 | 33 | 24 | 14 | 29 | 26 | 39 | 16 | 15 | 26 |
| | ΔJan/Feb 2025 | ▲1 | ▲3 | ▲5 | ▲2 | ▼2 | ▲1 | ▲1 | ▲4 | ▲11 | ▲6 | = | ▼4 | ▼3 | ▲10 | ▼2 | ▲6 | ▼1 | ▼8 | ▲5 | ▼1 | ▲1 | ▲3 | ▼6 | ▲2 | ▲8 | ▲2 | ▲5 | ▲1 |
| Inspectors (health and safety, labour, food quality, sanitary control and licensing) | Feb/Mar 2025 | 28 | 27 | 37 | 21 | 25 | 19 | 20 | 70 | 27 | 25 | 37 | 39 | 46 | 34 | 45 | 19 | 26 | 45 | 30 | 20 | 12 | 40 | 27 | 46 | 34 | 12 | 24 | |
| | ΔJan/Feb 2025 | = | ▲2 | ▲1 | = | = | ▼1 | ▲3 | ▲5 | ▲6 | ▲2 | ▼6 | = | ▲8 | ▲1 | ▲3 | ▲1 | ▼7 | ▲4 | ▼1 | ▼5 | ▼4 | ▼5 | ▼1 | ▲11 | ▼1 | ▲2 | = | |
| The healthcare system | Feb/Mar 2025 | 26 | 15 | 44 | 36 | 6 | 16 | 15 | 15 | 91 | 18 | 15 | 36 | 37 | 58 | 39 | 67 | 13 | 29 | 34 | 15 | 25 | 34 | 37 | 40 | 46 | 50 | 5 | 9 |
| | ΔJan/Feb 2025 | ▲1 | ▲5 | ▲2 | = | ▲1 | ▲2 | ▼2 | ▼1 | ▲2 | ▲4 | ▼1 | ▼10 | ▲1 | ▲2 | ▲2 | ▲5 | ▲2 | ▼11 | ▲4 | ▼4 | ▲1 | ▼2 | ▼6 | ▼4 | ▲6 | ▼5 | ▲1 | ▲1 |
| Police, customs | Feb/Mar 2025 | 24 | 32 | 52 | 15 | 8 | 11 | 11 | 23 | 58 | 30 | 26 | 33 | 25 | 53 | 33 | 35 | 15 | 21 | 39 | 27 | 12 | 19 | 37 | 33 | 36 | 40 | 5 | 10 |
| | ΔJan/Feb 2025 | ▲2 | ▲6 | ▲2 | ▼4 | ▲1 | ▲3 | = | ▲3 | ▲3 | ▲6 | = | ▼10 | ▲2 | ▲2 | ▼3 | ▲6 | ▼3 | ▼2 | ▼2 | ▼4 | ▲2 | ▼7 | ▼2 | ▲9 | ▼2 | ▲1 | ▲3 | |
| Banks and financial institutions | Feb/Mar 2025 | 22 | 23 | 13 | 6 | 16 | 18 | 11 | 26 | 44 | 32 | 24 | 16 | 28 | 38 | 10 | 16 | 29 | 15 | 27 | 27 | 22 | 6 | 43 | 21 | 34 | 15 | 5 | 22 |
| | ΔJan/Feb 2025 | ▲2 | ▲6 | ▲4 | ▼1 | ▼3 | = | ▲1 | ▲12 | ▲5 | ▲3 | ▼6 | ▲3 | ▲1 | ▼3 | ▲4 | ▲4 | ▼4 | ▲1 | ▲3 | ▼1 | ▼1 | ▼1 | ▼4 | ▲6 | ▲9 | = | ▲2 | = |
| Tax authorities | Feb/Mar 2025 | 18 | 19 | 34 | 11 | 5 | 9 | 8 | 15 | 60 | 24 | 16 | 27 | 23 | 36 | 19 | 20 | 12 | 16 | 35 | 16 | 10 | 8 | 38 | 26 | 34 | 23 | 2 | 5 |
| | ΔJan/Feb 2025 | ▲1 | ▲1 | ▲6 | ▲1 | ▼1 | ▲1 | ▲4 | ▲1 | ▲5 | ▲2 | ▼5 | = | ▲1 | ▼3 | ▲4 | ▲1 | ▼8 | ▲2 | ▼2 | ▼2 | ▼1 | ▼4 | ▲4 | ▲11 | ▼3 | ▲1 | ▲2 | |
| The Courts (tribunals) | Feb/Mar 2025 | 18 | 18 | 45 | 22 | 3 | 7 | 12 | 15 | 47 | 25 | 13 | 36 | 23 | 41 | 19 | 40 | 12 | 16 | 38 | 11 | 9 | 12 | 29 | 32 | 41 | 43 | 3 | 8 |
| | ΔJan/Feb 2025 | ▲1 | ▲4 | ▲4 | ▼2 | = | = | ▲2 | = | ▲6 | ▲1 | ▼2 | ▼4 | ▲1 | ▼1 | ▼3 | ▲9 | ▲4 | ▼3 | ▲3 | ▼1 | ▼4 | ▲1 | ▼4 | ▲3 | ▲8 | ▲2 | ▲2 | ▲2 |
| Social security and welfare authorities | Feb/Mar 2025 | 15 | 12 | 19 | 8 | 10 | 10 | 12 | 11 | 55 | 17 | 10 | 24 | 23 | 27 | 13 | 24 | 10 | 9 | 43 | 12 | 13 | 6 | 35 | 18 | 26 | 19 | 3 | 14 |
| | ΔJan/Feb 2025 | ▲2 | ▲5 | ▲1 | = | ▲2 | ▲2 | ▲1 | = | ▲7 | ▲4 | ▲2 | ▼3 | = | ▲2 | ▼2 | ▲5 | ▲1 | ▼6 | ▲5 | ▼4 | ▼4 | ▲1 | ▼3 | ▲3 | ▲7 | ▲2 | ▲1 | ▲5 |
| Public prosecution service | Feb/Mar 2025 | 15 | 10 | 41 | 16 | 3 | 6 | 8 | 14 | 36 | 23 | 22 | 25 | 13 | 30 | 14 | 31 | 9 | 13 | 34 | 15 | 8 | 7 | 25 | 21 | 33 | 26 | 2 | 7 |
| | ΔJan/Feb 2025 | = | ▼1 | ▲5 | ▲1 | = | ▲1 | ▲2 | ▲3 | ▲6 | ▲2 | ▲2 | ▼5 | ▼1 | ▲6 | ▼4 | ▲4 | ▲2 | ▼4 | ▲3 | ▼1 | ▼4 | ▼4 | ▼4 | ▲4 | ▲5 | ▲9 | ▼3 | = |
| The education sector | Feb/Mar 2025 | 13 | 8 | 18 | 12 | 3 | 7 | 9 | 11 | 35 | 12 | 9 | 14 | 21 | 26 | 14 | 21 | 8 | 9 | 31 | 8 | 15 | 9 | 24 | 21 | 23 | 26 | 4 | 14 |
| | ΔJan/Feb 2025 | ▲1 | ▲4 | ▲3 | ▲2 | ▼1 | = | = | ▲1 | ▲5 | ▲1 | ▲3 | ▼8 | ▼3 | ▲4 | ▼3 | ▲5 | ▲1 | ▼3 | ▲7 | ▼1 | ▲1 | ▲2 | ▼4 | ▼1 | ▲8 | = | ▲2 | ▲3 |
| None (SPONTANEOUS) | Feb/Mar 2025 | 4 | 7 | 1 | 4 | 23 | 6 | 7 | 0 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 3 | 0 | 2 | 5 | 3 | 3 | 4 | 11 | 6 | 1 | 6 | 2 | 1 | 6 | 2 | 17 | 12 |
| | ΔJan/Feb 2025 | = | ▼2 | ▼1 | ▲1 | ▲1 | = | ▲1 | ▼2 | = | ▲1 | = | = | ▲1 | ▼2 | ▲1 | = | ▲2 | ▼1 | ▲1 | ▼1 | ▲1 | = | = | ▲2 | ▲1 | = | ▼4 | ▼4 |
| Don't know | Feb/Mar 2025 | 8 | 5 | 8 | 10 | 6 | 9 | 24 | 14 | 1 | 5 | 9 | 8 | 4 | 10 | 12 | 4 | 13 | 7 | 8 | 2 | 11 | 16 | 10 | 10 | 5 | 6 | 10 | 3 |
| | ΔJan/Feb 2025 | ▼2 | ▼4 | ▼1 | ▼2 | = | ▼4 | = | ▼5 | = | ▼1 | ▼3 | ▲3 | ▼3 | ▼4 | ▼5 | ▼6 | ▼1 | ▼2 | ▼4 | ▼1 | ▼1 | ▲1 | ▼1 | ▲1 | ▼4 | ▼6 | ▼5 | ▼1 |

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

- The longer a respondent remained in education, the more likely they are to think corruption is widespread among politicians (57% of those who finished their studies before 16 vs 49% of those who finished their studies aged 20 or older), in political parties (60% of those who finished their studies before 16 vs 52% of those who finished their studies aged 20 or older) and among officials issuing business permits (42% of those who finished their studies before 16 vs 36% of those who finished their studies aged 20 or older).
- Unemployed are the socio-professional groups with the highest proportion of people who believe that corruption is widespread in any institution, but in officials awarding public tenders and building permits, where the first socio-professional group is the one of self-employed.
- Respondents who have experienced corruption are consistently more likely to think corruption is widespread than those who have neither witnessed nor experienced corruption. The difference between these groups is most striking for the officials issuing business permit (50% vs 28%) as well as the healthcare system (48% vs 25%). At the same time, those who have witnessed corruption are also consistently more likely to think that corruption is widespread than those who have not. The biggest difference between the two groups can be found for the healthcare system (40% vs 25%).

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| QC4 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? (% - EU) | | | | | | | | | | |
|--|-------------------|--|-----------------------------------|------------------------------------|-------------------|--|------------------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------|----------------------------------|
| | Political parties | Politicians at national, regional or local level | Officials awarding public tenders | Officials issuing building permits | Private companies | Inspectors (health and safety, construction, labour, food quality, sanitary control and licensing) | Officials issuing business permits | The healthcare system | Police, customs | Banks and financial institutions |
| EU27 | 53 | 49 | 39 | 36 | 31 | 28 | 28 | 26 | 24 | 22 |
| Gender | | | | | | | | | | |
| Man | 54 | 51 | 41 | 38 | 33 | 29 | 30 | 26 | 24 | 23 |
| Woman | 52 | 48 | 36 | 35 | 29 | 27 | 27 | 26 | 23 | 22 |
| Age | | | | | | | | | | |
| 15-24 | 49 | 42 | 29 | 25 | 29 | 23 | 22 | 20 | 26 | 20 |
| 25-39 | 54 | 49 | 37 | 34 | 34 | 28 | 28 | 26 | 26 | 25 |
| 40-54 | 53 | 50 | 40 | 39 | 33 | 31 | 30 | 28 | 24 | 23 |
| >=55 | 53 | 51 | 42 | 39 | 29 | 28 | 30 | 26 | 21 | 21 |
| Education (End of) | | | | | | | | | | |
| 15<= | 60 | 57 | 41 | 42 | 28 | 32 | 33 | 28 | 26 | 27 |
| 16-19 | 52 | 49 | 39 | 37 | 29 | 29 | 29 | 28 | 23 | 20 |
| >=20 | 52 | 49 | 39 | 36 | 35 | 27 | 27 | 23 | 23 | 23 |
| Still Studying | 49 | 44 | 31 | 27 | 33 | 24 | 22 | 20 | 26 | 23 |
| Socio-professional category | | | | | | | | | | |
| Self-employed | 52 | 52 | 44 | 43 | 32 | 32 | 30 | 30 | 24 | 25 |
| Managers | 52 | 51 | 38 | 36 | 36 | 27 | 27 | 22 | 22 | 23 |
| Other white collars | 51 | 45 | 39 | 37 | 32 | 29 | 30 | 30 | 24 | 22 |
| Manual workers | 53 | 49 | 37 | 35 | 30 | 28 | 28 | 25 | 25 | 22 |
| House persons | 53 | 50 | 41 | 36 | 23 | 30 | 31 | 27 | 25 | 24 |
| Unemployed | 60 | 56 | 40 | 39 | 38 | 33 | 31 | 28 | 30 | 27 |
| Retired | 53 | 51 | 42 | 39 | 29 | 27 | 29 | 26 | 21 | 21 |
| Students | 51 | 44 | 30 | 26 | 32 | 25 | 23 | 20 | 26 | 22 |
| Difficulties paying bills | | | | | | | | | | |
| Most of the time | 58 | 56 | 42 | 37 | 34 | 35 | 31 | 34 | 33 | 29 |
| From time to time | 56 | 50 | 39 | 39 | 31 | 32 | 32 | 32 | 28 | 26 |
| Almost never/ Never | 51 | 49 | 38 | 35 | 31 | 26 | 27 | 23 | 21 | 20 |
| Experienced or witnessed corruption | | | | | | | | | | |
| Yes, experienced | 70 | 61 | 59 | 55 | 45 | 47 | 50 | 48 | 42 | 37 |
| Yes, witnessed | 59 | 54 | 51 | 46 | 39 | 41 | 39 | 40 | 36 | 33 |
| No | 52 | 49 | 38 | 36 | 31 | 27 | 28 | 25 | 23 | 22 |
| You know someone who takes bribes | | | | | | | | | | |
| Yes | 64 | 64 | 58 | 51 | 46 | 45 | 42 | 44 | 38 | 35 |
| No | 52 | 48 | 37 | 35 | 30 | 26 | 27 | 23 | 22 | 21 |

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

5. Level of corruption over the last three years

Nearly half of respondents believe corruption has increased in their country over the past three years.

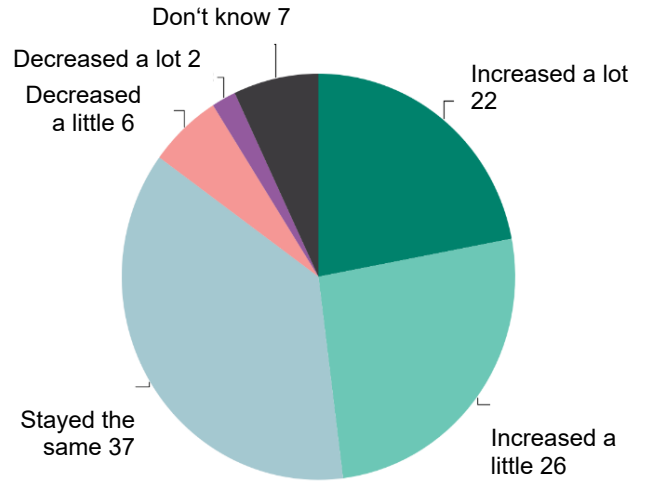
Respondents were asked whether they think that the level of corruption in their country has changed over the past three years²⁴.

Across the EU, nearly half of respondents (48%, +4 pp) say that the level of corruption has increased in their country over this period, including 22% who believe it has increased a lot and 26% who say it has increased a little.

Over one third of respondents (37%, -3 pp) consider that the level of corruption has stayed the same. Less than one in ten respondents (8%, -1 pp) believe that corruption has decreased, including 6% who say it has decreased a little and 2% who think it has decreased a lot.

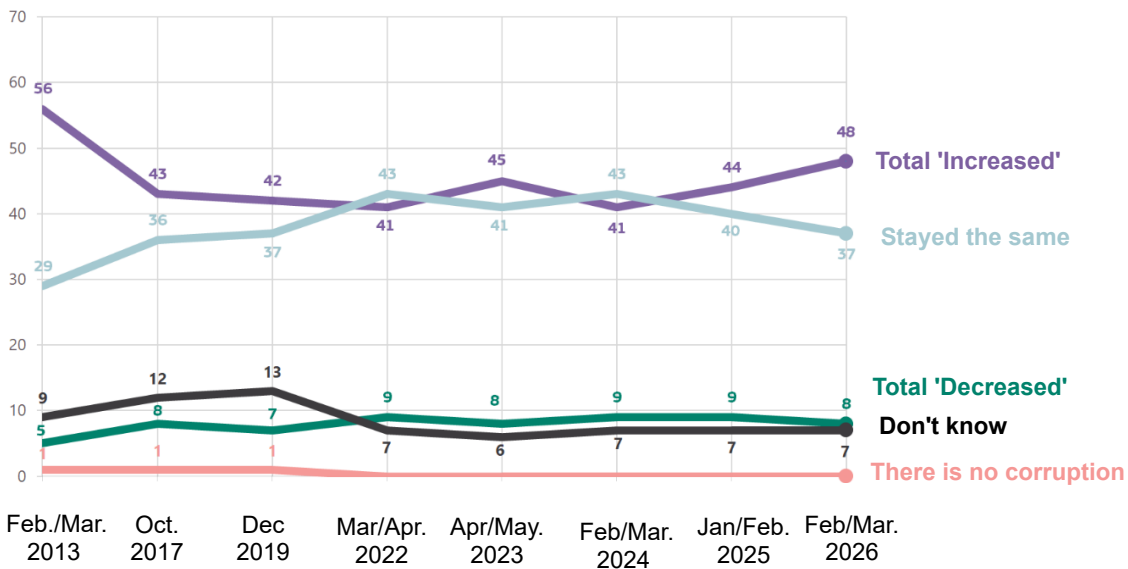
With regard to trends over time, the number of respondents who say that the level of corruption has "decreased" declined by just one percentage point compared to 2025. By contrast, more respondents say corruption has increased to 44% in 2025, and 48% in 2026, the highest level observed since 2013.

QC3: In the past three years, would you say that the level of corruption in (OUR COUNTRY) has...? (EU27) (%)



| | |
|---|----|
| Increased a lot | ▲4 |
| Increased a little | = |
| Stayed the same | ▼3 |
| Decreased a little | ▼1 |
| Decreased a lot = | |
| There is no corruption in (OUR COUNTRY) (SPONTANEOUS) | = |
| Don't know | = |
| ▲▼(Feb/Mar 2026 - Jan/Feb 2025) | |

QC3 In the past three years, would you say that the level of corruption in (OUR COUNTRY) has...? (% - EU)



²⁴ QC3: In the past three years, would you say that the level of corruption in (OUR COUNTRY) has...?

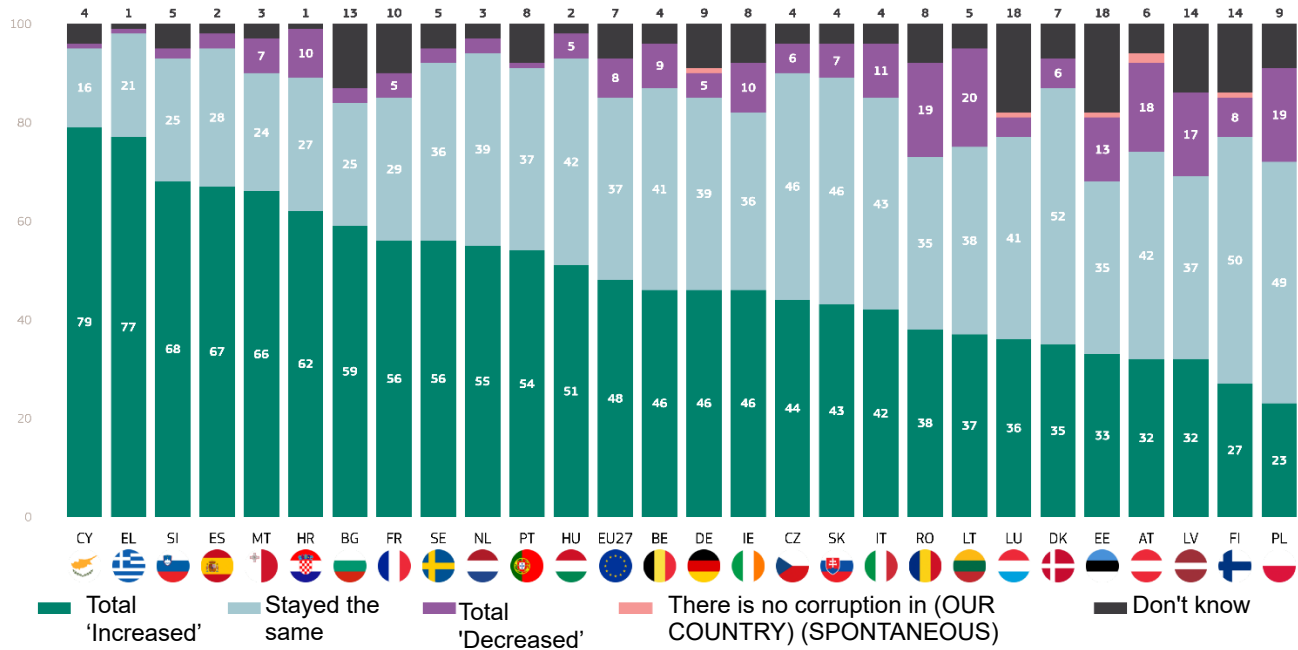
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In 12 Member States, more than half of respondents say that the level of corruption in their country has increased over the past three years. This view is most widespread in Cyprus (79%), Greece (77%) and Slovenia (68%), followed by Spain (67%), Malta (66%), Croatia (62%), Bulgaria (59%), France and Sweden (both 56%), the Netherlands (55%) and Hungary (51%).

recorded in Greece (77%, +20 pp) and Slovakia (43%, +13 pp).

By contrast, the level decreased in seven Member States, most notably in Croatia (62%, -10 pp).

QC3: In the past three years, would you say that the level of corruption in (OUR COUNTRY) has...? (%)



In two Member States, at least half of respondents think that the level of corruption has stayed the same over the past three years: Denmark (52%) and Finland (50%).

In Lithuania, one fifth of respondents (20%) say that the level of corruption has decreased over the past three years.

Compared to 2025, in 18 Member States, more respondents think that the level of corruption in their country has increased either a lot or a little. The largest increases are

QC3: In the past three years, would you say that the level of corruption in (OUR COUNTRY) has...? (%)

| | 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 | |
|---|------|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|-----|-----|----|-----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|-----|----|----|-----|----|----|---|
| Increased a lot | 22 | 19 | 34 | 20 | 7 | 15 | 12 | 22 | 57 | 45 | 27 | 33 | 17 | 60 | 12 | 11 | 8 | 27 | 41 | 18 | 9 | 7 | 18 | 20 | 39 | 20 | 3 | 16 | |
| ΔJan/Feb 2025 | +4 | +5 | +5 | +5 | - | +4 | +2 | +4 | +22 | +10 | +5 | +12 | +2 | +5 | +3 | +6 | +4 | +3 | +1 | - | +3 | +4 | +5 | +2 | +7 | +10 | - | +3 | |
| Increased a little | 26 | 27 | 25 | 24 | 28 | 31 | 21 | 24 | 20 | 22 | 29 | 29 | 25 | 19 | 20 | 26 | 28 | 24 | 25 | 37 | 23 | 16 | 36 | 18 | 29 | 23 | 24 | 40 | |
| ΔJan/Feb 2025 | = | +2 | +2 | +3 | +1 | +5 | +1 | +2 | +3 | +4 | +2 | +1 | +1 | +2 | +7 | +1 | +5 | +5 | +1 | +1 | +1 | +2 | +2 | +2 | +2 | +3 | +3 | +3 | |
| Stayed the same | 37 | 41 | 25 | 46 | 52 | 39 | 35 | 36 | 21 | 28 | 29 | 27 | 43 | 16 | 37 | 38 | 41 | 42 | 24 | 39 | 42 | 49 | 37 | 35 | 25 | 46 | 50 | 36 | |
| ΔJan/Feb 2025 | +3 | +1 | +2 | +2 | +1 | +1 | +7 | +3 | +13 | +6 | +6 | +8 | +2 | +1 | +1 | +3 | +3 | +7 | +3 | +1 | +1 | +9 | +11 | +8 | +4 | +4 | +8 | = | |
| Decreased a little | 6 | 7 | 3 | 5 | 6 | 5 | 9 | 8 | 1 | 3 | 4 | 7 | 7 | 1 | 15 | 18 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 3 | 15 | 16 | 1 | 14 | 1 | 6 | 7 | 3 | |
| ΔJan/Feb 2025 | +1 | +1 | +3 | +2 | +1 | - | +1 | +1 | +5 | +1 | +2 | +2 | +4 | +3 | +3 | +6 | = | = | = | +5 | = | +1 | +4 | +4 | +5 | +2 | = | | |
| Decreased a lot | 2 | 2 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 4 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 3 | 4 | 0 | 2 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 0 | 3 | 3 | 0 | 5 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 0 | |
| ΔJan/Feb 2025 | = | +2 | +3 | +1 | = | +1 | = | +2 | = | +1 | = | = | +2 | +1 | +1 | +2 | = | = | +1 | = | +1 | = | +1 | +2 | +1 | +1 | = | | |
| There is no corruption in (OUR COUNTRY) (SPONTANEOUS) | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| ΔJan/Feb 2025 | = | +1 | = | +1 | = | +1 | = | = | = | = | = | = | = | = | = | = | = | +1 | = | +1 | = | = | = | = | = | = | = | +1 | |
| Don't know | 7 | 4 | 13 | 4 | 7 | 9 | 18 | 8 | 1 | 2 | 10 | 1 | 4 | 4 | 14 | 5 | 18 | 2 | 3 | 3 | 6 | 9 | 8 | 8 | 5 | 4 | 14 | 5 | |
| ΔJan/Feb 2025 | +2 | +1 | +1 | +3 | +2 | +1 | +1 | +1 | +2 | +1 | +2 | = | +1 | +1 | = | +2 | +5 | +1 | +5 | +2 | +3 | +4 | +2 | +2 | +2 | +3 | +2 | = | |

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The socio-demographic analysis illustrates the following:

- Men and women show very similar perceptions : just under five in ten women (49%) say that the level of corruption in their country has increased, compared with 48% of men.
- Older respondents are slightly more likely to say that corruption has increased over the past three years. This is the case for 49% of respondents aged 40 and over, compared with 47% of respondents aged 15 – 24.
- Over three quarters of respondents who say they have experienced corruption (77%) and six in ten of those who have witnessed it (61%) believe that corruption has increased, compared with 47% of those who have neither experienced nor witnessed corruption.
- Similarly, respondents who know someone who takes bribes are more likely to think that corruption has increased (67%) than those who do not (46%).

QC3 In the past three years, would you say that the level of corruption in (OUR COUNTRY) has...?

| | Total 'Increased' | Stayed the same | Total 'Decreased' | Don't know |
|--|----------------------|--------------------|----------------------|---------------|
| EU27 | 48 | 37 | 8 | 7 |
| Gender | | | | |
| Man | 48 | 39 | 7 | 6 |
| Woman | 49 | 36 | 7 | 8 |
| Age | | | | |
| 15-24 | 47 | 35 | 8 | 10 |
| 25-39 | 46 | 39 | 8 | 7 |
| 40-54 | 49 | 38 | 8 | 5 |
| >=55 | 49 | 36 | 8 | 7 |
| Education (End of) | | | | |
| <=15 | 54 | 32 | 5 | 8 |
| 16-19 | 49 | 36 | 9 | 6 |
| >=20 | 47 | 40 | 8 | 5 |
| Still Studying | 42 | 38 | 8 | 12 |
| Socio-professional category | | | | |
| Self-employed | 48 | 41 | 7 | 4 |
| Managers | 44 | 42 | 9 | 5 |
| Other white collars | 46 | 40 | 8 | 6 |
| Manual workers | 49 | 37 | 8 | 6 |
| House persons | 55 | 29 | 9 | 6 |
| Unemployed | 57 | 31 | 6 | 6 |
| Retired | 49 | 36 | 7 | 8 |
| Students | 47 | 35 | 8 | 10 |
| Difficulties paying bills | | | | |
| Most of the time | 61 | 27 | 5 | 6 |
| From time to time | 50 | 36 | 8 | 6 |
| Almost never/ Never | 46 | 39 | 8 | 7 |
| Experienced or witnessed corruption | | | | |
| Yes, experienced | 77 | 18 | 3 | 2 |
| Yes, witnessed | 61 | 29 | 8 | 2 |
| No | 47 | 38 | 8 | 7 |
| You know someone who takes bribes | | | | |
| Yes | 67 | 24 | 6 | 3 |
| No | 46 | 39 | 8 | 7 |

II. Attitudes to corruption in detail

1. Corruption in public institutions

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

Respondents were asked whether they agree or disagree with a series of statements about corruption in their country's public institutions²⁵. Concerns of EU citizens about corruption in public institutions rose across all statements since 2025 :

Across the EU, nearly eight in ten respondents (79%, +2 percentage points) agree that too close links between business and politics lead to corruption, while 14% (unchanged) disagree and 7% say they do not know (-2 pp).

Regarding national public institutions, around three quarters of respondents (76%, +3 pp) agree that there is corruption. By contrast, 17% (-2 pp) disagree and 7% answer "don't know" (-1 pp)

A similar pattern is observed for local or regional public institutions. Nearly three quarters of respondents (74%, +4 pp) agree that there is corruption. In contrast, 19% (-3 pp) disagree and 7% (-1 pp) do not express an opinion.

Furthermore, seven in ten say that bribery and the use of connections are often the easiest way to obtain certain public services (70%, +4 pp). Slightly less than seven in ten Europeans say that high -level corruption cases are not pursued sufficiently in their country (69%, +3 pp). A similar proportion agree that favouritism and corruption hamper business competition (67%, +2 pp).

Finally, more than six in ten respondents (63%, +2 pp) agree that corruption is part of the business culture in their country, while more than half (54%, +3 pp) agree that the only way to succeed in business is to have political connections.

25 QC12a Please tell whether you agree or disagree with each of the following?

1. There is corruption in the local or regional public institutions in (OUR COUNTRY)
2. There is corruption in the national public institutions in (OUR COUNTRY)
3. Corruption is part of the business culture in (OUR COUNTRY)
6. High-level corruption cases are not pursued sufficiently in (OUR COUNTRY)
8. Too-close links between business and politics in (OUR COUNTRY) lead to corruption
9. Bribery and the use of connections is often the easiest way to obtain certain public services in (OUR COUNTRY)
11. In (OUR COUNTRY) the only way to succeed in business is to have political connections
12. In (OUR COUNTRY), favouritism and corruption hamper business competition

Perceptions regarding the effectiveness of the fight against corruption remain low, when asked about statements related to the fight against corruption²⁶

Almost half of respondents (47%, unchanged) disagree that measures against corruption are applied impartially and without ulterior motives, while four in ten (40%, +1 pp) agree.

One half of respondents (50%, -2 pp) disagree that there are enough successful prosecutions to deter people from engaging in corrupt practices in their country, while just over a third (38%, +2 pp) agree.

More than half of respondents (54%, -2 pp) disagree that the national government's efforts to combat corruption are effective, while just over a third (35%, +3 pp) consider them to be effective.

Perceptions are also negative regarding political parties : Around one third of respondents (35%, +2 pp) agree that there is sufficient transparency and supervision of the financing of political parties in their country, while a majority (55%, -2 pp) disagree

Finally, three in ten respondents (30%, unchanged) think that corruption affects their daily lives. By contrast, a clear majority (65%, +1 pp) disagree with this statement.

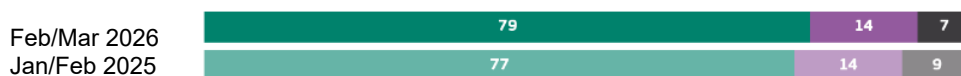
26 QC12a Please tell whether you agree or disagree with each of the following?

5. There are enough successful prosecutions in (OUR COUNTRY) to deter people from corrupt practices
7. (NATIONALITY) Government efforts to combat corruption are effective
10. There is sufficient transparency and supervision of the financing of political parties in (OUR COUNTRY)
13. In (OUR COUNTRY) measures against corruption are applied impartially and without ulterior motives

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QC12a: Please tell whether you agree or disagree with each of the following? (EU27) (%)

Too-close links between business and politics in (OUR COUNTRY) lead to corruption



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)



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



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 connection



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



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



(NATIONALITY) Government efforts to combat corruption are effective



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



You are personally affected by corruption in your daily life



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

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Across Member States, more than three quarters of respondents (77%, +3 pp) agree that high-level public servant positions are highly politicised²⁷ in their country, while 15% (-2 pp) disagree and 8% (-1 pp) say they do not know.

Regarding access to public resources, almost two thirds of respondents (65%, +1 pp) agree that bribery or the use of connections are the common way for companies to receive public contracts, including 18% who totally agree (unchanged). By contrast, 27% disagree with this statement (unchanged), while 8% do not know (-1 pp).

A similar proportion, 63% (+3 pp) of respondents, agree that bribery or the use of connections are the common way to obtain a position in the public administration, including 21%

(+2 pp) who totally agree. By contrast, 29% disagree (-1 pp), while 8% answer "don't know" (-2 pp).

Furthermore, as regards efforts to combat corruption, just under half of respondents (49%, +1 pp) agree that there is political will to tackle corruption in their country. By contrast, 44% disagree (-1 pp), while 7% say they do not know (-2 pp).

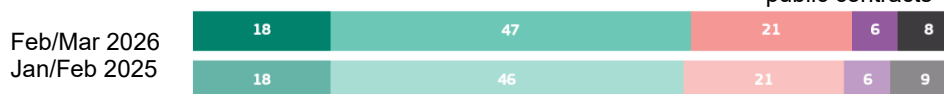
Finally, around four in ten respondents (41%, +3 pp) agree that national anti-corruption strategies are effectively implemented in their country. However, a relative majority (47%, -1 pp) disagree with this statement, while 12% (-2 pp) do not know.

QC12b: Please tell whether you agree or disagree with each of the following? (EU27) (%)

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



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



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



There is political will to tackle corruption



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



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

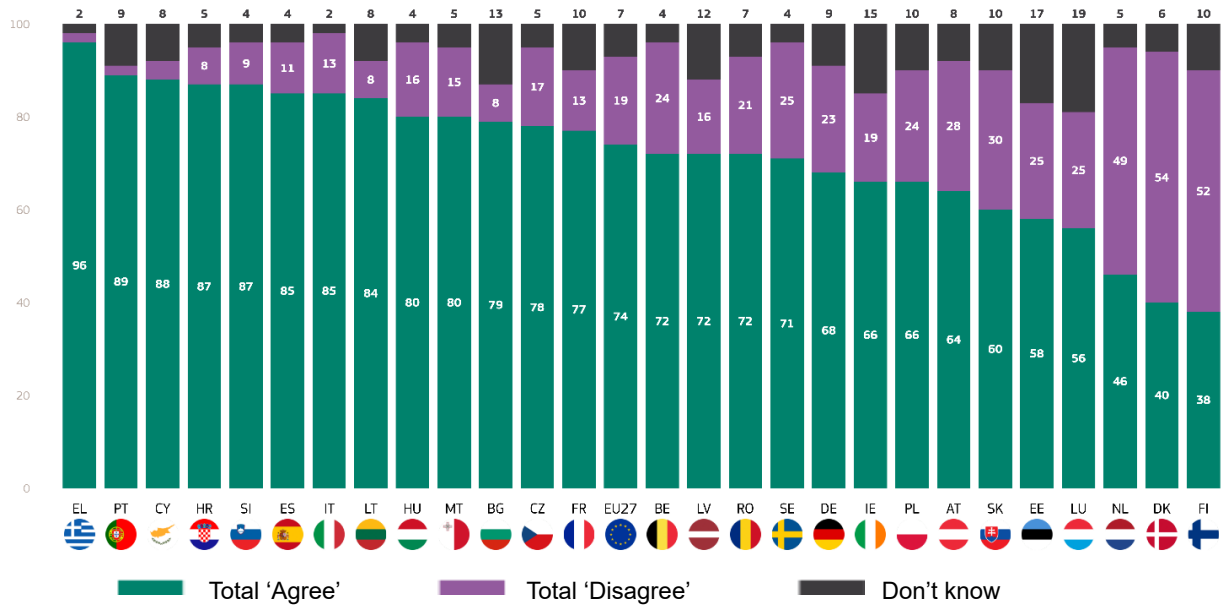
²⁷ QC12b Please tell whether you agree or disagree with each of the following?

1. In (OUR COUNTRY), bribery or the use of connections are the common way for the companies to receive public contracts
2. In (OUR COUNTRY), bribery or the use of connections are the common way to get a position in the public administration
3. In (OUR COUNTRY), high-level public servant positions nominations are highly politicised
4. In (OUR COUNTRY), national anti-corruption strategies are effectively implemented
5. There is political will to tackle corruption

Corruption in local or regional level public institutions

In all Member States except Finland (38%), Denmark (40%) and the Netherlands (46%), at least half of the respondents are of the opinion that there is corruption in the local or regional public institutions in their country. This portion is highest in Greece (96%), Portugal (89%) and Cyprus (88%).

QC12a.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) (%)



The percentage of respondents that agree that there is corruption in the local or regional public institutions in their country increased in 18 countries, most notably in Germany (68%, + 8 pp) and Sweden (71%, +8 pp). On the other hand, this share decreased in three countries, most notably in Luxembourg (56%, -8 pp) and Croatia (87%, -5 pp).

QC12a.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) (%)

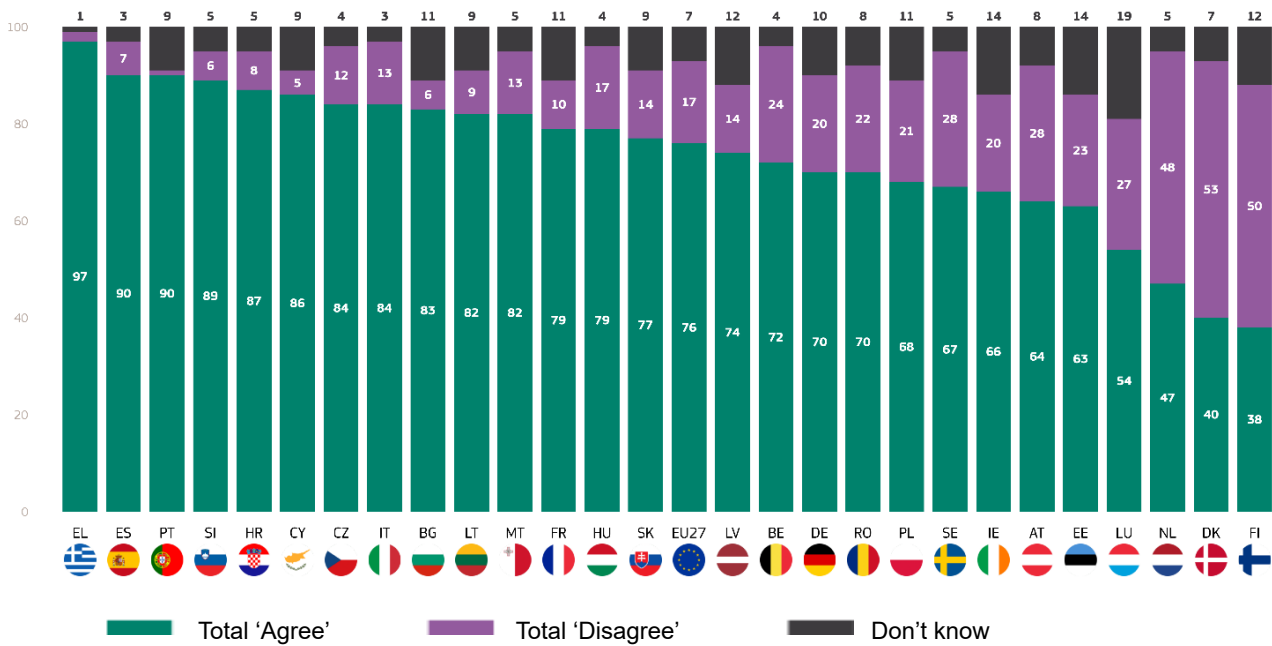
| | EU27 | DE | SE | SI | BE | LT | CY | FR | SK | IE | IT | BG | EL | LV | NL | RO | AT | EE | MT | CZ | DK | ES | FI | PL | PT | HU | HR | LU |
|------------------|------|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| Total 'Agree' | 74 | 68 | 71 | 87 | 72 | 84 | 88 | 77 | 60 | 66 | 85 | 79 | 96 | 72 | 46 | 72 | 64 | 58 | 80 | 78 | 40 | 85 | 38 | 66 | 89 | 80 | 87 | 56 |
| Jan/Feb 2025 | ▲4 | ▲8 | ▲8 | ▲7 | ▲6 | ▲6 | ▲5 | ▲5 | ▲5 | ▲4 | ▲4 | ▲3 | ▲2 | ▲2 | ▲2 | ▲2 | ▲1 | ▲1 | ▲1 | = | = | = | = | = | = | ▼4 | ▼5 | ▼8 |
| Total 'Disagree' | 19 | 23 | 25 | 9 | 24 | 8 | 4 | 13 | 30 | 19 | 13 | 8 | 2 | 16 | 49 | 21 | 28 | 25 | 15 | 17 | 54 | 11 | 52 | 24 | 2 | 16 | 8 | 25 |
| Jan/Feb 2025 | ▼3 | ▼7 | ▼8 | ▼4 | ▼4 | ▼2 | ▼3 | ▼4 | ▼5 | ▼4 | ▼2 | ▼4 | ▼1 | ▼1 | ▼3 | ▼2 | ▼1 | ▼3 | ▼5 | ▼3 | ▼1 | ▲1 | = | ▼1 | = | ▲4 | ▲2 | ▲5 |
| Don't know | 7 | 9 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 8 | 8 | 10 | 10 | 15 | 2 | 13 | 2 | 12 | 5 | 7 | 8 | 17 | 5 | 5 | 6 | 4 | 10 | 10 | 9 | 4 | 5 | 19 |
| Jan/Feb 2025 | ▼1 | ▼1 | = | ▼3 | ▼2 | ▼4 | ▼2 | ▼1 | = | = | ▼2 | ▲1 | ▼1 | ▼3 | ▼1 | ▲1 | ▼3 | = | ▼4 | ▼3 | ▲1 | ▼1 | = | ▲1 | = | ▲3 | ▲3 | |

Corruption in national level public institutions

In all Member States except Finland (38%), Denmark (40%) and the Netherlands (47%), at least half of the respondents take the view that there is corruption in the national public institutions in their country. This percentage is highest in Greece (97%), Spain and Portugal (both 90%).

The part of respondents that agree that there is corruption

QC12a2: Please tell whether you agree or disagree with each of the following? - There is corruption in the national public institutions in (OUR COUNTRY) (%)



in the national public institutions in their country increased in 16 countries, most notably in Germany (70%, + 8 pp) and Slovakia (77%, +8 pp). On the other hand, this share decreased in five countries, most notably in Luxembourg (54%, -6 pp) and Croatia (87 %, -3 pp).

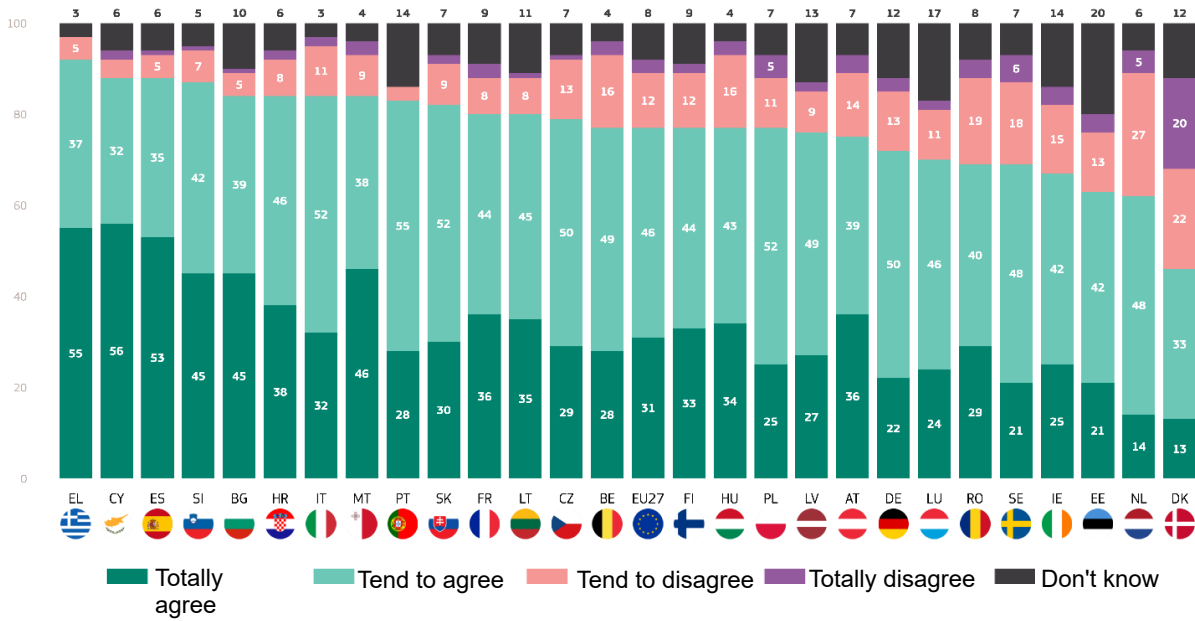
QC12a.2: Please tell whether you agree or disagree with each of the following? — There is corruption in the national public institutions in (OUR COUNTRY) (%)

| | EU27 | DE | SK | FR | BG | LT | SE | AT | BE | IE | SI | CZ | ES | EE | EL | CY | FI | DK | IT | MT | PL | PT | RO | LV | NL | HU | HR | LU | |
|------------------|------|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| Total 'Agree' | 76 | 70 | 77 | 79 | 83 | 82 | 67 | 64 | 72 | 66 | 89 | 84 | 90 | 65 | 97 | 86 | 38 | 40 | 84 | 82 | 68 | 90 | 70 | 74 | 47 | 79 | 87 | 54 | |
| Jan/Feb 2025 | +3 | +8 | +8 | +6 | +5 | +5 | +5 | +4 | +4 | +4 | +4 | +3 | +3 | +2 | +2 | +1 | +1 | = | = | = | = | = | = | -1 | -1 | -2 | -3 | -6 | |
| Total 'Disagree' | 17 | 20 | 14 | 10 | 6 | 9 | 28 | 28 | 24 | 20 | 6 | 12 | 7 | 23 | 2 | 5 | 50 | 55 | 13 | 13 | 21 | 1 | 22 | 14 | 48 | 17 | 8 | 27 | |
| Jan/Feb 2025 | -2 | -6 | -8 | -5 | -5 | -2 | -4 | = | -2 | -2 | -2 | -1 | -1 | -1 | = | -1 | -1 | -1 | -1 | -4 | -2 | -1 | -1 | -3 | -2 | -3 | = | +4 | |
| Don't know | 7 | 10 | 9 | 11 | 11 | 9 | 5 | 8 | 4 | 14 | 5 | 4 | 3 | 14 | 1 | 9 | 12 | 7 | 3 | 5 | 11 | 9 | 8 | 12 | 5 | 4 | 5 | 19 | |
| Jan/Feb 2025 | -1 | -2 | = | -1 | = | -3 | -1 | -4 | -2 | -2 | -2 | -4 | -2 | -3 | -2 | = | = | = | +1 | -1 | -4 | +2 | +1 | +1 | -2 | -1 | -1 | +3 | +2 |

Politicisation of high-level public servant position nominations

Across 26 Member States, more than half of Europeans say that nominations to high level public servant positions in their country are highly politicised. Agreement is most widespread in Greece (92%), Cyprus (88%) and Spain (88%), while respondents are least likely to share this view in Denmark (46%), the Netherlands (62%) and Estonia (63%).

QC12b3: Please tell whether you agree or disagree with each of the following? - In (OUR COUNTRY).
 high-level public servant positions nominations are highly politicised (%)



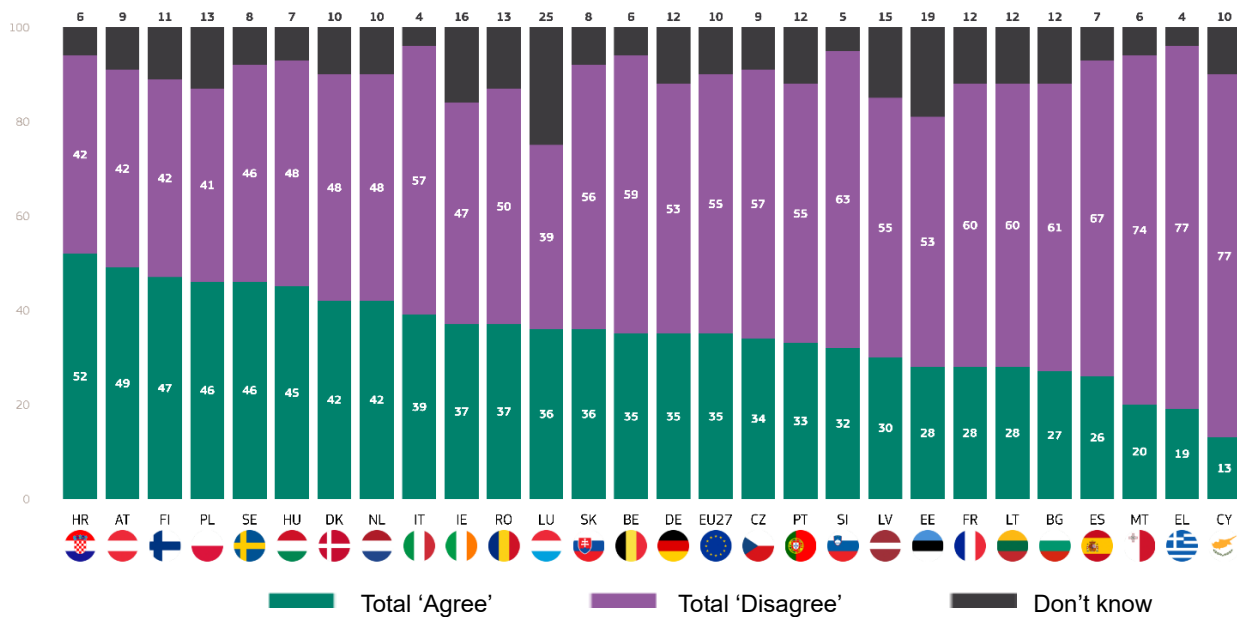
Transparency and supervision of the financing of political parties

In 17 Member States, at least half of respondents disagree that there is sufficient transparency and supervision of the financing of political parties in their country. This view is most widespread in Cyprus and Greece (both 77%), followed by Malta (74%).

By contrast, a majority of respondents in Croatia (52%) and a relative majority in Austria (49%), Finland (47%) and Poland (46%) agree with this statement. In Sweden (46%), opinions are evenly divided, with an equal proportion of respondents agreeing and disagreeing.

Agreement that there is sufficient transparency and supervision of political party financing increased in 20 countries, most strikingly in Hungary (45%, +11 pp) and Latvia (30%, +10 pp). By contrast, this view became less common in seven countries, most notably in Cyprus (13%, -6 pp) and Greece (19%, -5 pp).

QC12a.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) (%)



QC12a.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) (%)

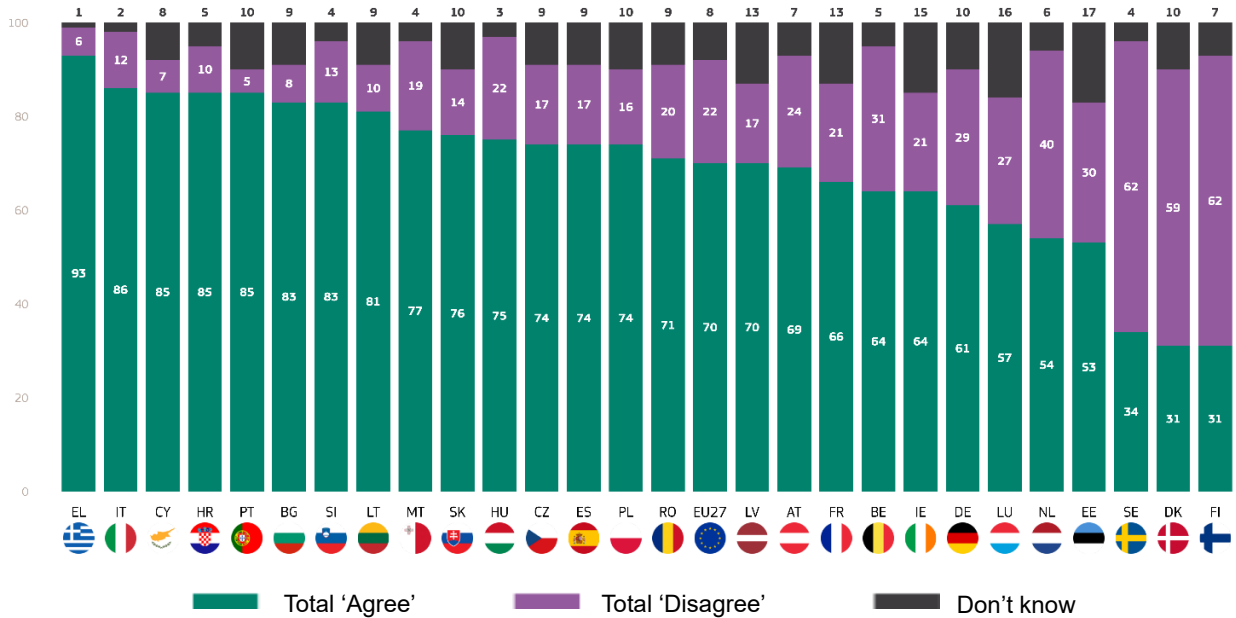
| | EU27 | HU | LV | BG | HR | DK | FR | LT | LU | PT | SK | CZ | DE | ES | NL | AT | EE | IE | PL | SE | SI | MT | BE | FI | RO | IT | EL | CY |
|------------------|------|-----|-----|----|-----|----|----|----|-----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| Total 'Agree' | 35 | 45 | 30 | 27 | 52 | 42 | 28 | 28 | 36 | 33 | 36 | 34 | 35 | 26 | 42 | 49 | 28 | 37 | 46 | 46 | 32 | 20 | 35 | 47 | 37 | 39 | 19 | 13 |
| | +2 | +11 | +10 | +8 | +7 | +5 | +5 | +5 | +5 | +5 | +5 | +4 | +4 | +4 | +4 | +3 | +3 | +2 | +2 | +2 | +2 | +1 | +3 | +3 | +3 | +4 | +5 | +6 |
| Total 'Disagree' | 55 | 48 | 55 | 61 | 42 | 48 | 60 | 60 | 39 | 55 | 56 | 57 | 53 | 67 | 48 | 42 | 53 | 47 | 41 | 46 | 63 | 74 | 59 | 42 | 50 | 57 | 77 | 77 |
| | -2 | -10 | -5 | -7 | -10 | -3 | -5 | - | -11 | -6 | -2 | -1 | -2 | -4 | -5 | - | -2 | -1 | -3 | -3 | -4 | -5 | -4 | -5 | -1 | -5 | -7 | -5 |
| Don't know | 10 | 7 | 15 | 12 | 6 | 10 | 12 | 12 | 25 | 12 | 8 | 9 | 12 | 7 | 10 | 9 | 19 | 16 | 13 | 8 | 5 | 6 | 6 | 11 | 13 | 4 | 4 | 10 |
| | = | -1 | +5 | -1 | +3 | -2 | = | +5 | +6 | +1 | +3 | +3 | -2 | = | +1 | +3 | -1 | -1 | +1 | +1 | +6 | +4 | -1 | +2 | +4 | +1 | +2 | +1 |

Bribery and the use of connections

In 24 Member States, at least half of the respondents have the perception that that bribery and the use of connections is often the easiest way to obtain certain public services in their country. This percentage is highest in Greece (93%), Italy (86%), Cyprus, Croatia, and Portugal (all at 85%). The Nordic countries stand out, with around a third of respondents sharing this view : Finland and Denmark (both 31%) and Sweden (34%).

Agreement that bribery and the use of personal connections are often the easiest way to obtain certain public services increased in 19 countries, most notably in the Netherlands

QC12a9: 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) (%)



(54%, +7 pp), Belgium (64%, +6 pp), Ireland (64%, +6 pp) and Lithuania (81%, + 6 pp). By contrast, a decrease is observed in five countries, especially in Luxembourg (57%, -5 pp), Romania (71%, -4 pp) and Croatia (85%, -4 pp).

QC12a.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) (%)

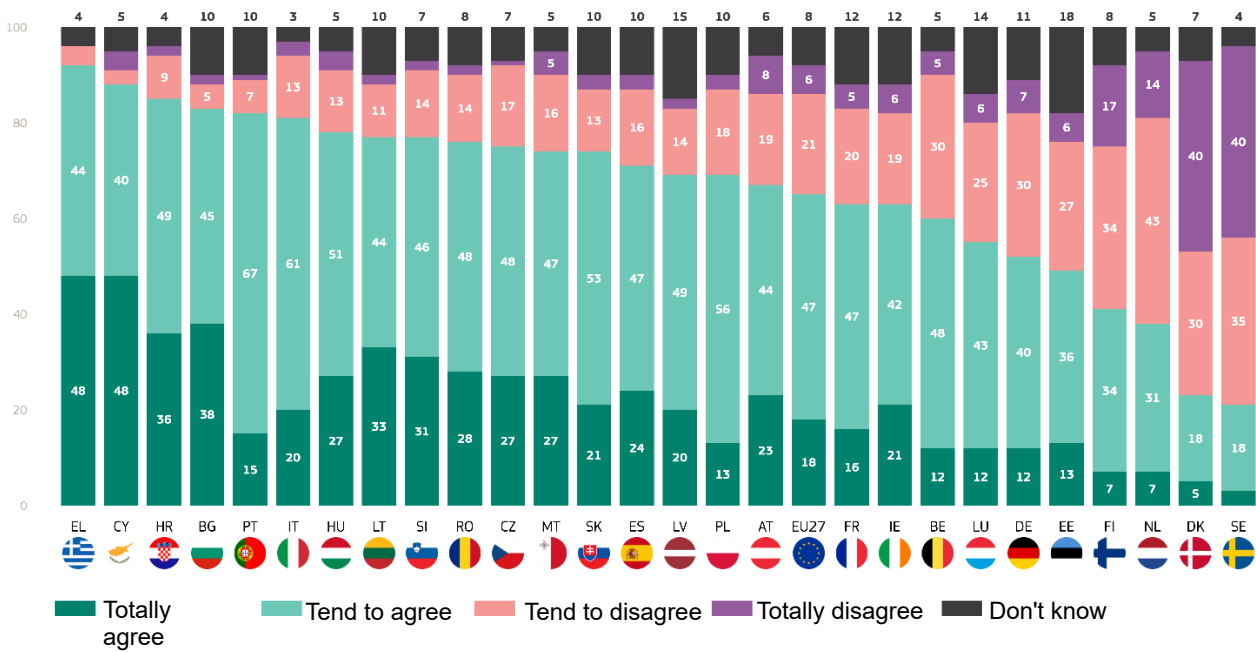
| | EU27 | NL | BE | IE | LT | DE | IT | SI | SK | CZ | ES | FR | PL | BG | LV | AT | FI | PT | EL | SE | CY | DK | MT | EE | HU | HR | RO | LU | |
|------------------|------|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| Total 'Agree' | 70 | 54 | 64 | 64 | 81 | 61 | 86 | 83 | 76 | 74 | 74 | 66 | 74 | 83 | 70 | 69 | 31 | 85 | 93 | 34 | 85 | 31 | 77 | 53 | 75 | 85 | 71 | 57 | |
| Jan/Feb 2025 | +4 | +7 | +6 | +6 | +6 | +5 | +5 | +5 | +5 | +4 | +4 | +4 | +4 | +3 | +3 | +2 | +2 | +2 | +1 | +1 | = | = | = | = | -1 | -3 | -4 | -4 | -5 |
| Total 'Disagree' | 22 | 40 | 31 | 21 | 10 | 29 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 17 | 17 | 21 | 16 | 8 | 17 | 24 | 62 | 5 | 6 | 62 | 7 | 59 | 19 | 30 | 22 | 10 | 20 | 27 | |
| Jan/Feb 2025 | +2 | +6 | +5 | +3 | +2 | = | +3 | +2 | +2 | +3 | = | +4 | +5 | +3 | +3 | +1 | = | +1 | = | = | = | = | +5 | +2 | +5 | +1 | = | +5 | |
| Don't know | 8 | 6 | 5 | 15 | 9 | 10 | 2 | 4 | 10 | 9 | 9 | 13 | 10 | 9 | 13 | 7 | 7 | 10 | 1 | 4 | 8 | 10 | 4 | 17 | 3 | 5 | 9 | 16 | |
| Jan/Feb 2025 | +2 | +1 | +1 | +3 | +4 | +5 | +2 | +3 | +3 | +1 | +4 | = | +1 | = | +6 | +1 | +2 | +1 | +1 | +1 | = | = | +5 | +1 | +2 | +3 | +4 | = | |

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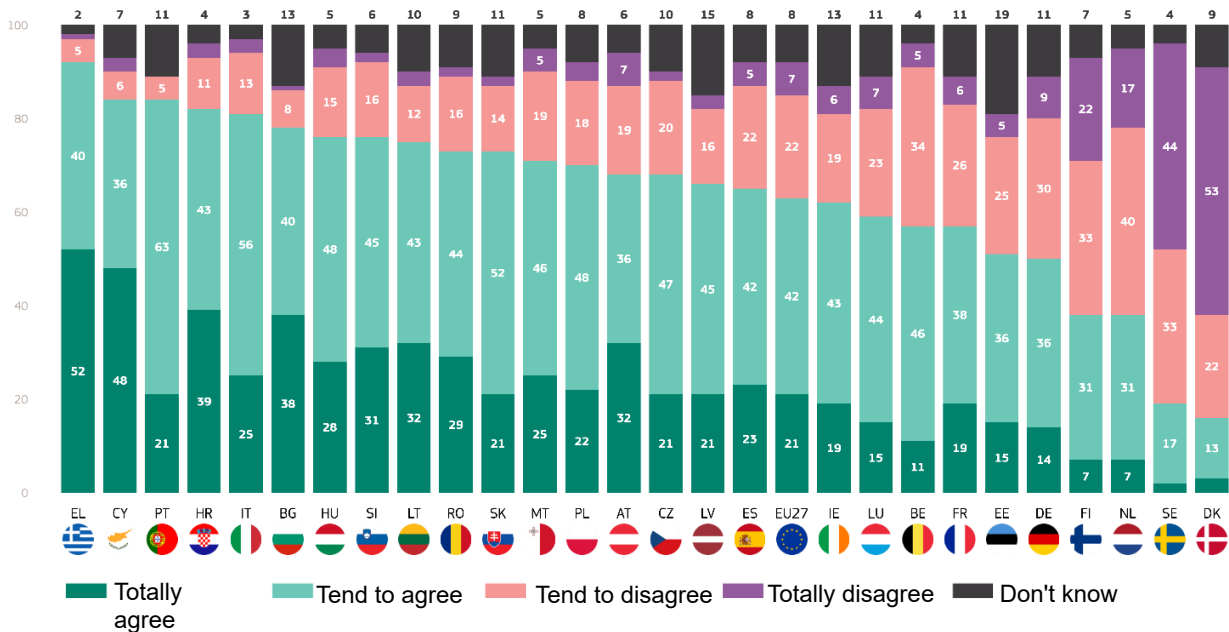
For the statement that bribery or the use of connections are the common way for companies to receive public contracts, agreement levels vary strongly: while more than half of respondents in 22 Member States agree, most notably in Greece (92%), Cyprus (88%) and Croatia (85%), respondents are least likely to agree in Sweden (21%), Denmark (23%) and the Netherlands (38%).

A similar picture emerges when examining the national agreement levels with the statement "bribery or the use of connections are the common way to get a position in the public administration". Agreement is highest in Greece (92%), Cyprus and in Portugal (both 84%). Conversely, fewer than half of respondents agree in four Member States: Denmark (16%), Sweden (19%), Finland and the Netherlands (both 38%).

QC12b.1: Please tell whether you agree or disagree with each of the following? - In [OUR COUNTRY], bribery or the use of connections are the common way for the companies to receive public contracts (%)



QC12b.2: Please tell whether you agree or disagree with each of the following? - In (OUR COUNTRY), bribery or the use of connections are the common way to get a position in the public administration (%)



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The socio-demographic analysis reveals the following patterns:

- Men (26%) are slightly more likely than women (23%) to agree that bribery and the use of connections are often the easiest way to obtain certain public services.
- Older respondents are more likely than younger respondents to believe that corruption exists in local or regional public institutions and in national public institutions. Between 27% and 32% of respondents aged 25 –54 totally agree that corruption exists in these institutions, compared with 23% and 26% respectively among those aged 15 –24.
- Respondents who ended their education aged 20 or over, as well as those who are still studying, are less likely to totally agree that there is corruption in local or regional public institutions, national public institutions, and that bribery and the use of connections are the easiest way to obtain certain public services.
- Experience of corruption is strongly associated with perceptions. A large majority of respondents who have experienced corruption (63%), and almost half of those who have witnessed it (48%), totally agree that there is corruption in local or regional public institutions, compared with 25% of those who have neither experienced nor witnessed corruption. A similar pattern is observed for national public institutions (65% vs. 28%) and for bribery and the use of connections as a way to obtain public services (49% vs. 24%).

QC12a Please tell whether you agree or disagree with each of the following? 'Total agree' (% - EU)

| | There is corruption in the local or regional public institutions in (OUR COUNTRY) | There is corruption in the national public institutions in (OUR COUNTRY) | Bribery and the use of connections is often the easiest way to obtain certain public services in (OUR COUNTRY) |
|--|---|--|--|
| EU27 | 26 | 30 | 25 |
| Gender | | | |
| Man | 27 | 31 | 26 |
| Woman | 24 | 29 | 23 |
| Age | | | |
| 15-24 | 23 | 26 | 25 |
| 25-39 | 27 | 31 | 23 |
| 40-54 | 27 | 32 | 27 |
| >=55 | 25 | 29 | 24 |
| Education (End of) | | | |
| <=15 | 32 | 37 | 29 |
| 16-19 | 26 | 30 | 26 |
| >=20 | 24 | 28 | 22 |
| Still Studying | 21 | 24 | 23 |
| Socio-professional category | | | |
| Self-employed | 27 | 30 | 25 |
| Managers | 24 | 27 | 21 |
| Other white collars | 25 | 30 | 24 |
| Manual workers | 27 | 32 | 27 |
| House persons | 27 | 30 | 26 |
| Unemployed | 36 | 38 | 30 |
| Retired | 25 | 28 | 24 |
| Students | 21 | 25 | 23 |
| Difficulties paying bills | | | |
| Most of the time | 43 | 44 | 36 |
| From time to time | 29 | 32 | 29 |
| Almost never/ Never | 23 | 27 | 22 |
| Experienced or witnessed corruption | | | |
| Yes, experienced | 63 | 65 | 49 |
| Yes, witnessed | 48 | 51 | 39 |
| No | 25 | 28 | 24 |
| You know someone who takes bribes | | | |
| Yes | 48 | 50 | 42 |
| No | 23 | 27 | 23 |

2. Corruption in business

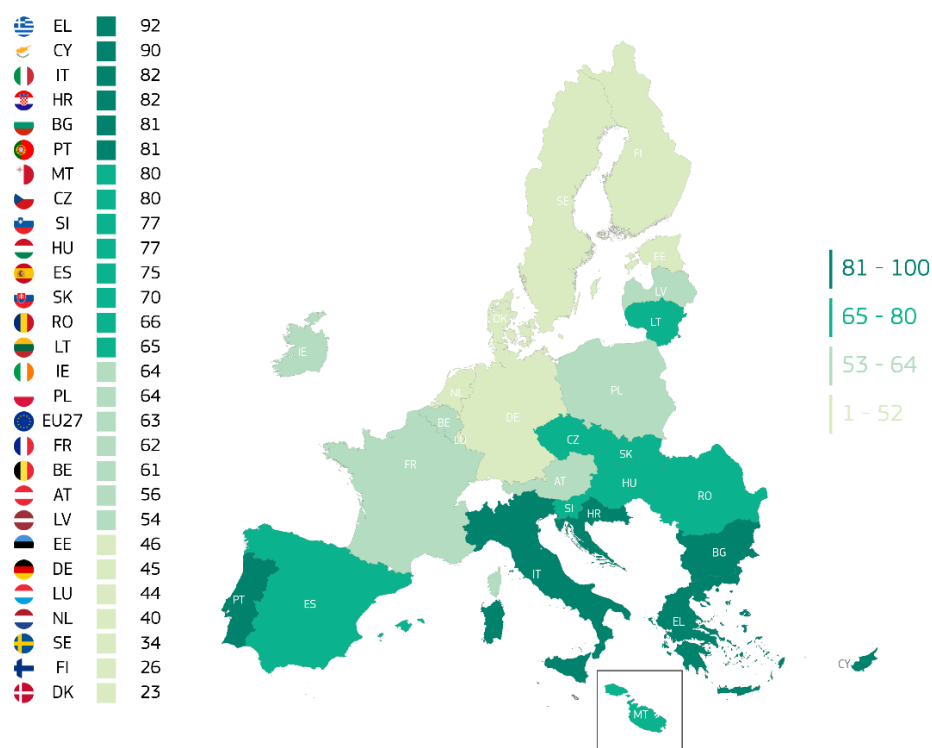
More than six in ten respondents believe that corruption is part of the business culture in their country.

The perception of corruption in business remains widespread among respondents across the European Union. Respondents were asked whether they agree or disagree with the statement that corruption is part of the business culture in their country²⁸.

Across the EU, almost two thirds of respondents (63%) agree with this statement.

At national level, in 20 Member States, more than half of respondents perceive that corruption is part of the business culture in their country. The highest proportions are recorded in Greece (92%), Cyprus (90%), Italy and Croatia (both 82%) as well as Bulgaria and Portugal (both 81%).

QC12a.3: Please tell whether you agree or disagree with each of the following?:
 Corruption is part of the business culture in (OUR COUNTRY) - Total 'Agree' (EU27) (%)



The map illustrates clear geographical differences. Respondents in southern Europe and parts of eastern Europe are more likely to agree that corruption is part of the business culture in their country, while respondents in northern Europe are generally less likely to share this view.

²⁸ Q12a.3. Please tell whether you agree or disagree with each of the following? Corruption is part of the business culture in (OUR COUNTRY)

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Compared to 2025, agreement that corruption is part of the business culture increased in 17 Member States, most notably in Slovenia (77%, +9 pp), Czechia (80%, +8 pp) and Slovakia (70%, +8 pp). Among the six Member States where agreement declined, the largest decrease is observed in Portugal (81%, -4 pp).

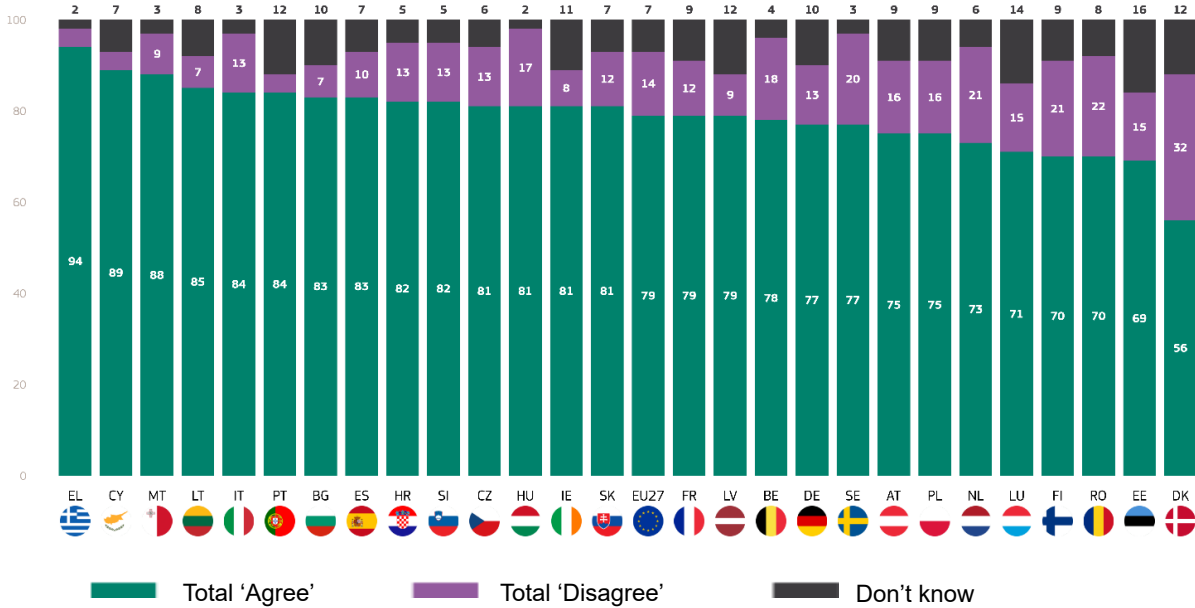
QC12.a3: Please tell whether you agree or disagree with each of the following? - Corruption is part of the business culture in (OUR COUNTRY) [%]

| | | EU27 | SI | CZ | SK | FR | BE | CY | EL | IE | SE | BG | LT | NL | DE | IT | ES | LV | PL | AT | EE | MT | RO | HR | DK | LU | FI | HU | PT |
|------------------|--------------|------|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| | Feb/Mar 2026 | 63 | 77 | 80 | 70 | 62 | 61 | 90 | 92 | 64 | 34 | 81 | 65 | 40 | 45 | 82 | 75 | 54 | 64 | 56 | 46 | 80 | 66 | 82 | 23 | 44 | 26 | 77 | 81 |
| Total 'Agree' | Jan/Feb 2025 | ▲2 | ▲9 | ▲8 | ▲8 | ▲7 | ▲6 | ▲5 | ▲5 | ▲5 | ▲5 | ▲4 | ▲4 | ▲3 | ▲2 | ▲2 | ▲1 | ▲1 | ▲1 | - | - | - | - | ▼1 | ▼2 | ▼2 | ▼3 | ▼3 | ▼4 |
| Total 'Disagree' | Feb/Mar 2026 | 30 | 18 | 15 | 18 | 27 | 34 | 3 | 7 | 23 | 63 | 9 | 22 | 57 | 46 | 16 | 18 | 32 | 26 | 39 | 40 | 16 | 25 | 13 | 71 | 41 | 64 | 20 | 8 |
| | Jan/Feb 2025 | ▼1 | ▼7 | ▼5 | ▼7 | ▼6 | ▼6 | ▼4 | ▼1 | ▼4 | ▼5 | ▼4 | ▼1 | ▼2 | - | - | - | ▲6 | ▼3 | ▲4 | ▲1 | ▲4 | ▼2 | ▼1 | - | ▲3 | ▲1 | ▲5 | ▲3 |
| Don't know | Feb/Mar 2026 | 7 | 5 | 5 | 12 | 11 | 5 | 7 | 1 | 13 | 3 | 10 | 13 | 3 | 9 | 2 | 7 | 14 | 10 | 5 | 14 | 4 | 9 | 5 | 6 | 15 | 10 | 3 | 11 |
| | Jan/Feb 2025 | ▼1 | ▼2 | ▼3 | ▼1 | ▼1 | = | ▼1 | ▼4 | ▼1 | = | = | ▼3 | ▼1 | ▼2 | ▼2 | ▼1 | ▼7 | ▼2 | ▼4 | ▼1 | ▼4 | ▲2 | ▲2 | ▲2 | ▼1 | ▲2 | ▼2 | ▲1 |

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Furthermore, in every Member State, more than half of respondents have the perception that too -close links between business and politics in their country lead to corruption²⁹. More than nine in ten (94%) in Greece hold this view, followed by Cyprus (89%), and Malta (88%). The only country in which fewer than six in ten agree is Denmark (56%).

QC12 a8: 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 20 Member States, respondents are now more likely than in 2025 to agree that too -close links between business and politics lead to corruption, with the largest increases observed in Finland (70%, + 7 pp), Ireland (81%, +7 pp) and Sweden (77%, +7 pp). Agreement decreased in five countries, with the sharpest decrease seen in Croatia (82%, - 4 pp).

QC12a8: 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 | FI | IE | SE | BE | CY | DE | MT | SI | LT | LV | PL | BG | CZ | EE | IT | SK | EL | LU | DK | FR | ES | HU | AT | NL | PT | RO | HR |
|------------------|------|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| Total 'Agree' | 79 | 70 | 81 | 77 | 78 | 89 | 77 | 88 | 82 | 85 | 79 | 75 | 83 | 81 | 69 | 84 | 81 | 94 | 71 | 56 | 79 | 83 | 81 | 75 | 73 | 84 | 70 | 82 |
| Jan/Feb 2025 | +2 | +7 | +7 | +7 | +5 | +5 | +5 | +5 | +5 | +4 | +4 | +4 | +3 | +3 | +3 | +3 | +3 | +2 | +2 | +1 | +1 | = | = | +2 | +2 | +2 | +3 | +4 |
| Total 'Disagree' | 14 | 21 | 8 | 20 | 18 | 4 | 13 | 9 | 13 | 7 | 9 | 16 | 7 | 13 | 15 | 13 | 12 | 4 | 15 | 32 | 12 | 10 | 17 | 16 | 21 | 4 | 22 | 13 |
| Jan/Feb 2025 | = | +5 | +3 | +4 | +3 | +4 | +2 | = | +2 | +1 | = | +5 | +3 | = | +1 | +1 | +2 | +1 | +1 | +3 | +2 | +1 | +2 | = | +1 | = | +2 | |
| Don't know | 7 | 9 | 11 | 3 | 4 | 7 | 10 | 3 | 5 | 8 | 12 | 9 | 10 | 6 | 16 | 3 | 7 | 2 | 14 | 12 | 9 | 7 | 2 | 9 | 6 | 12 | 8 | 5 |
| Jan/Feb 2025 | +2 | +2 | +4 | +3 | +2 | +1 | +3 | +5 | +3 | +3 | +4 | +1 | = | +3 | +2 | +2 | +1 | +1 | +1 | +1 | +2 | +3 | +1 | +2 | +2 | +1 | +2 | +2 |

29 QC12a.8. Please tell whether you agree or disagree with each of the following? Too-close links between business and politics in (OUR COUNTRY) lead to corruption

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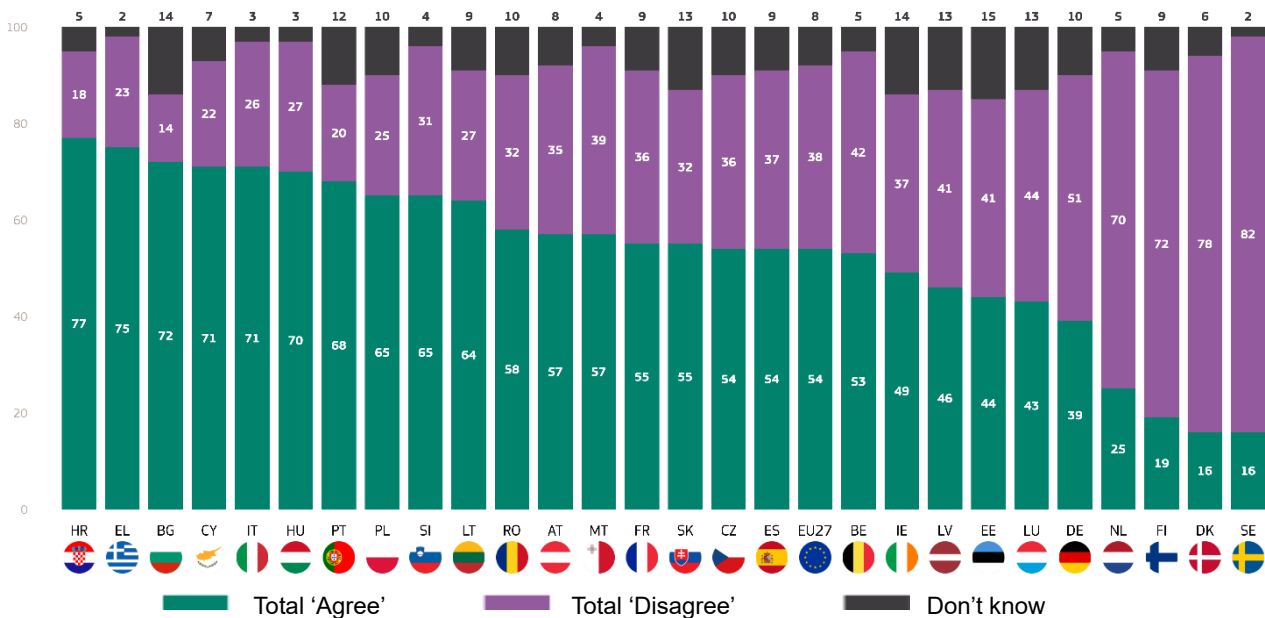
Moreover, when asked whether the only way to succeed in business in their country is to have political connections³⁰, more than half of respondents (54%) agree that this is the case.

The largest increases occurred in Slovakia (55%, + 9 pp) and Czechia (54%, + 8 pp). The largest decreases happened in Luxembourg (43%, -10 pp) and Romania (58%, -7 pp).

In 18 Member States, more than half of respondents perceive that the only way to succeed in business in their country is to have political connections. At least seven in ten share this opinion in Croatia (77%), Greece (75%), Bulgaria (72%), Cyprus and Italy (both 71%) and Hungary (70%).

At the other end of the scale, fewer than one in five respondents agree with the statement in three countries : Sweden, Denmark (both 16%) and Finland (19%).

QC12a.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 (%)



Since 2025, the proportion of respondents agreeing that the only way to succeed in business in their country increased in 13 Member States, while it decreased in nine.

QC12a11 : 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 | SK | CZ | PL | SI | EL | IT | LT | FR | AT | BG | NL | DK | ES | BE | DE | FI | IE | SE | PT | MT | LV | CY | EE | HR | HU | RO | LU |
|------------------|------|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|-----|
| Total 'Agree' | 54 | 55 | 54 | 65 | 65 | 75 | 71 | 64 | 55 | 57 | 72 | 25 | 16 | 54 | 53 | 39 | 19 | 49 | 16 | 68 | 57 | 46 | 71 | 44 | 77 | 70 | 58 | 43 |
| Jan/Feb 2025 | ▲3 | ▲9 | ▲8 | ▲7 | ▲6 | ▲5 | ▲5 | ▲5 | ▲4 | ▲2 | ▲2 | ▲2 | ▲1 | ▲1 | = | = | = | = | = | ▼1 | ▼2 | ▼3 | ▼4 | ▼4 | ▼5 | ▼5 | ▼7 | ▼10 |
| Total 'Disagree' | 38 | 32 | 36 | 25 | 31 | 23 | 26 | 27 | 36 | 35 | 14 | 70 | 78 | 37 | 42 | 51 | 72 | 37 | 82 | 20 | 39 | 41 | 22 | 41 | 18 | 27 | 32 | 44 |
| Jan/Feb 2025 | ▼1 | ▼6 | ▼4 | ▼6 | ▼3 | ▼3 | ▼3 | = | ▼1 | ▼3 | ▼4 | ▼1 | = | ▲3 | ▲1 | ▲5 | ▼1 | ▲1 | ▲2 | ▲2 | ▲6 | ▲7 | ▲5 | ▲2 | ▲2 | ▲6 | ▲4 | ▲11 |
| Don't know | 8 | 13 | 10 | 10 | 4 | 2 | 3 | 9 | 9 | 8 | 14 | 5 | 6 | 9 | 5 | 10 | 9 | 14 | 2 | 12 | 4 | 13 | 7 | 15 | 5 | 3 | 10 | 13 |
| Jan/Feb 2025 | ▼2 | ▼3 | ▼4 | ▼1 | ▼3 | ▼2 | ▼2 | ▼5 | ▼3 | ▲1 | ▲2 | ▼1 | ▼1 | ▼4 | ▼1 | ▼5 | ▲1 | ▼1 | ▼2 | ▼1 | ▼4 | ▼4 | ▼1 | ▲2 | ▲3 | ▼1 | ▲3 | ▼1 |

30 QC12a.11. Please tell whether you agree or disagree with each of the following? In (OUR COUNTRY) the only way to succeed in business is to have political connections

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Additionally, respondents were asked whether they agree or disagree that, in their country, favouritism and corruption hamper business competition³¹.

Across Member States, close to two thirds of respondents (67%, +2 pp) agree with this statement. By contrast, around one quarter of respondents (23%, -1 pp) disagree, while 10% (-1 pp) say they do not know.

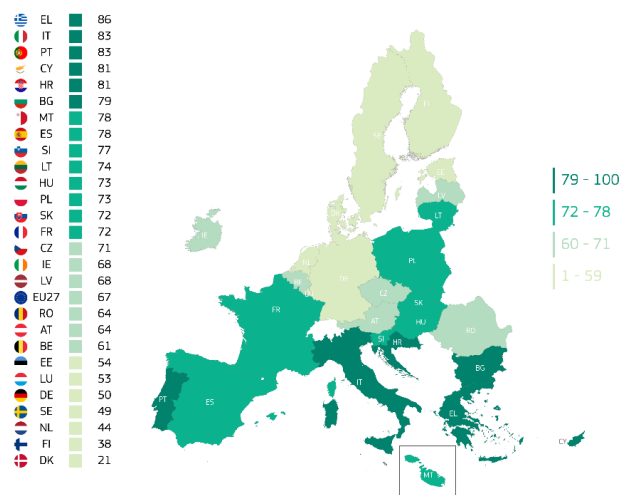
At national level, in 22 Member States, more than half of respondents believe that favouritism and corruption hamper business competition. This view is most widespread in Greece (86%), Italy and Portugal (both 83%), Cyprus and Croatia (both 81%) where more than eight in ten respondents share this opinion.

By contrast, respondents are least likely to agree with this statement in Denmark (21%), Finland (38%) and the Netherlands (44%).

The map shows clear geographical differences, with the perception that favouritism and corruption hamper business competition being more widespread in southern Europe than in northern Europe.

Compared to 2025, the portion of respondents who believe that favouritism and corruption hamper business competition in their country increased in 19 Member States. The largest increases are observed in Lithuania (74%, +10 pp) and Slovakia (72%, +10 pp). By contrast, this share decreased in five Member States, most notably in Luxembourg (53%, -7 pp) and Romania (64%, -5 pp).

QC12a.12: Please tell whether you agree or disagree with each of the following?: In (OUR COUNTRY), favouritism and corruption hamper business competition - Total 'Agree' (EU27) (%)



QC12a.12: Please tell whether you agree or disagree with each of the following? - In (OUR COUNTRY), favouritism and corruption hamper business competition (%)

| | EU27 | LT | SK | CY | FR | SI | BE | BG | EL | IT | PL | AT | CZ | SE | FI | IE | NL | PT | DE | MT | DK | ES | LV | EE | HR | HU | RO | LU |
|------------------|--------------|----|-----|-----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| | 67 | 74 | 72 | 81 | 72 | 77 | 61 | 79 | 86 | 83 | 73 | 64 | 71 | 49 | 38 | 68 | 44 | 83 | 50 | 78 | 21 | 78 | 68 | 54 | 81 | 73 | 64 | 53 |
| Total 'Agree' | Feb/Mar 2026 | 74 | 72 | 81 | 72 | 77 | 61 | 79 | 86 | 83 | 73 | 64 | 71 | 49 | 38 | 68 | 44 | 83 | 50 | 78 | 21 | 78 | 68 | 54 | 81 | 73 | 64 | 53 |
| | Jan/Feb 2025 | +2 | +10 | +10 | +7 | +6 | +5 | +4 | +4 | +4 | +4 | +3 | +3 | +3 | +2 | +2 | +2 | +2 | +1 | +1 | = | = | = | +2 | +3 | +5 | +5 | +7 |
| Total 'Disagree' | Feb/Mar 2026 | 23 | 13 | 17 | 9 | 16 | 32 | 8 | 10 | 14 | 18 | 27 | 20 | 46 | 47 | 17 | 49 | 4 | 37 | 18 | 69 | 13 | 16 | 27 | 13 | 22 | 25 | 27 |
| | Jan/Feb 2025 | -1 | -2 | -6 | -3 | -5 | -4 | -4 | -3 | -3 | -5 | -1 | = | -1 | -3 | = | -1 | -1 | -2 | -3 | -4 | -2 | -4 | = | = | -5 | -2 | -7 |
| Don't know | Feb/Mar 2026 | 10 | 13 | 11 | 10 | 12 | 7 | 7 | 13 | 4 | 3 | 9 | 9 | 5 | 15 | 15 | 7 | 13 | 13 | 4 | 10 | 9 | 16 | 19 | 6 | 5 | 11 | 20 |
| | Jan/Feb 2025 | -1 | +8 | +4 | +4 | +1 | +1 | = | +1 | +1 | +1 | +2 | +3 | +2 | +1 | +2 | +1 | +1 | +3 | +4 | +4 | +2 | +4 | +2 | +3 | = | +3 | = |

31 QC12a.12. Please tell whether you agree or disagree with each of the following? In (OUR COUNTRY), favouritism and corruption hamper business competition

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

Gender:

- Large majority of men agree that too close links between business and politics lead to corruption (80%)
- 69% of men agree that favouritism and corruption hamper business competition, while only few less (65%) agree that corruption is part of the business culture of their country.

Age at the end of education:

- Respondents who ended their education aged 15 or younger are more likely to agree that political connections are necessary to succeed in business (60%) while those who finished education aged 20 or over agree the least (47%).
- Respondents who ended their education aged 15 or younger agree that favouritism and corruption hamper business competition (69%), more than those who finished education aged 20 or over (64%).
- Also concerning corruption is part of the business culture those who ended their education aged 15 or younger have a higher level of agreement (71%) with the statement compared to those who finished education at 20 or older (57%)

Socio-professional categories:

- Manual workers show high levels of agreement across all four statements, particularly regarding too close links between business and politics leading to corruption (80%), favouritism and corruption hampering business competition (73%) and corruption is part of the business culture of the country (68%).
- Students are less likely to agree with these statements (76% for business-politics links, 62% for hampered competition, 56 for corruption is part of the business culture and 46% for political connections)

Satisfaction with democracy

- Respondents who are not satisfied with the way democracy works in their country are more likely than those who are satisfied to agree with all four statements, notably that favouritism and corruption hamper business competition (75% vs. 63%), that corruption is part of the business culture (74% vs.

56%), and that political connections are necessary to succeed in business (61% vs. 48%).

Voice counting

- Respondents who feel that their voice does not count in their country are more likely than those who feel it does to agree with all four statements, with particularly large differences regarding corruption being part of the business culture (73% vs. 57%), the view that political connections are necessary for business success (60% vs. 50%) and favouritism and corruption hampering business competition (73% vs. 64%).

Having experienced or witnessed corruption

- Agreement with all four statements is highest among respondents who have experienced or witnessed corruption, especially concerning favouritism and corruption hampering business competition (84% among those who experienced corruption and 78% among witnesses, compare with 67% among those with no experience), and the belief that political connections are necessary to succeed in business (65% and 60% vs 53%)

Knowing someone who takes bribes

- Respondents who know someone who takes bribes are more likely, than those who do not, to agree with all four statements, particularly that close links between business and politics lead to corruption (88% vs. 78%), that favouritism and corruption hamper business competition (79% vs. 66%), and that political connections are necessary for business success (62% vs. 53%).

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| QC12a 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 | 79 | 67 | 63 | 54 |
| Gender | | | | |
| Man | 80 | 69 | 65 | 54 |
| Woman | 78 | 66 | 62 | 54 |
| Age | | | | |
| 15-24 | 74 | 63 | 58 | 51 |
| 25-39 | 79 | 67 | 62 | 52 |
| 40-54 | 81 | 71 | 66 | 56 |
| >=55 | 79 | 66 | 63 | 54 |
| Education (End of) | | | | |
| 15<= | 78 | 69 | 71 | 60 |
| 16-19 | 80 | 71 | 68 | 59 |
| >=20 | 80 | 64 | 57 | 47 |
| Still Studying | 24 | 60 | 55 | 45 |
| Socio-professional category | | | | |
| Self-employed | 81 | 69 | 64 | 50 |
| Managers | 27 | 46 | 55 | 47 |
| Other white collars | 81 | 70 | 68 | 57 |
| Manual workers | 80 | 73 | 68 | 58 |
| House persons | 74 | 67 | 65 | 59 |
| Unemployed | 79 | 69 | 68 | 54 |
| Retired | 78 | 66 | 63 | 53 |
| Students | 76 | 62 | 56 | 46 |
| Difficulties paying bills | | | | |
| Most of the time | 80 | 71 | 73 | 62 |
| From time to time | 79 | 72 | 69 | 62 |
| Almost never/ Never | 79 | 65 | 60 | 50 |
| Satisfaction with democracy in one's country | | | | |
| Satisfied | 78 | 63 | 56 | 48 |
| Not satisfied | 82 | 75 | 74 | 61 |
| My voice counts in (OUR COUNTRY) | | | | |
| Total 'Agree' | 78 | 64 | 57 | 50 |
| Total 'Disagree' | 82 | 73 | 73 | 60 |
| Experienced or witnessed corruption | | | | |
| Yes, experienced | 84 | 84 | 82 | 65 |
| Yes, witnessed | 85 | 78 | 78 | 60 |
| No | 79 | 67 | 62 | 53 |
| You know someone who takes bribes | | | | |
| Yes | 88 | 79 | 79 | 62 |
| No | 78 | 66 | 61 | 53 |

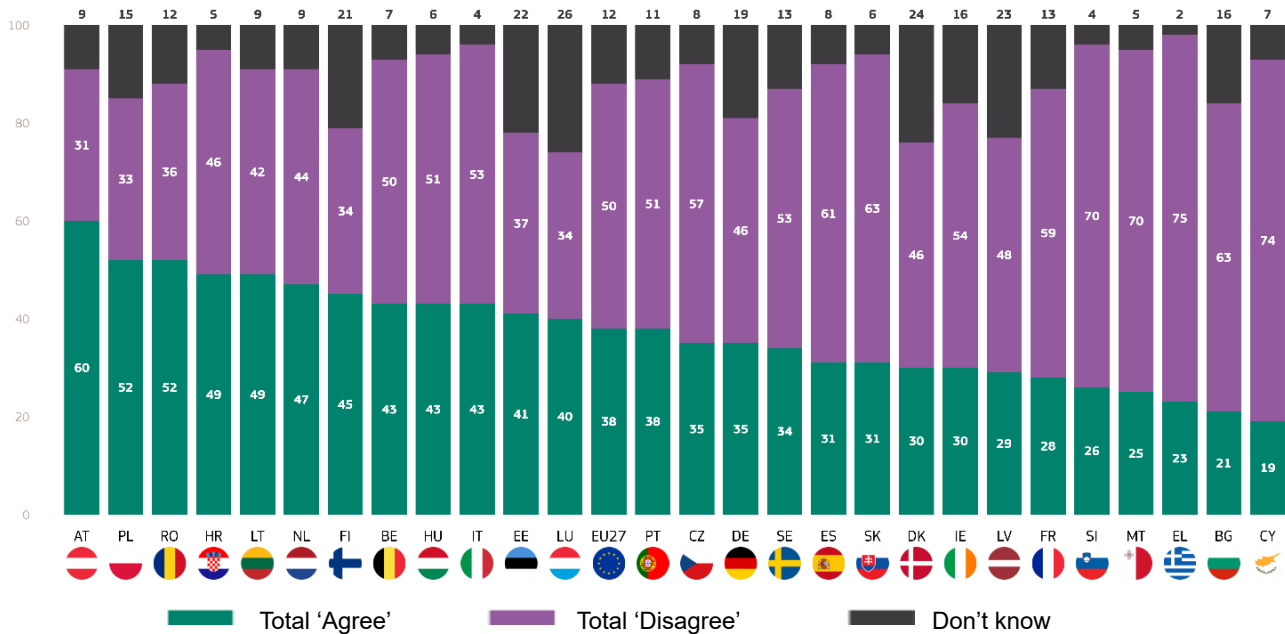
3. Dealing with corruption

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

Respondents are least likely to agree in Cyprus (19%), Bulgaria (21%) and Greece (23%).

Compared to 2025, more respondents agree that there are

QC12a5: 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 (%)



Perceptions of the effectiveness of anti-corruption measures remain low among respondents in the European Union. Respondents were asked whether they agree or disagree that there are enough successful prosecutions in their country to deter people from corrupt practices.

enough successful prosecutions to deter people from corrupt practices, with an increase in 19 Member States and a decrease in five. The largest increases are recorded in Croatia (49%, +9 pp) and Hungary (43% +9 pp). By contrast, the most notable decreases and thus deterioration are observed in Greece (23%, -10 pp) and Malta (25%, -7 pp).

Across the EU, half of respondents (50%) disagree, while just over one third of respondents (38%) agree with this statement.

In 24 Member States, fewer than half of respondents think that there are enough successful prosecutions to deter corrupt practices. Austria (60%) Poland and Romania (both 52%) are the only three Member States where more than one in two respondents agree with this statement.

QC12a5: 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 | HR | HU | LV | PL | PT | AT | LU | SE | SK | CY | FR | LT | BG | EE | CZ | DK | ES | IE | RO | IT | NL | SI | DE | FI | BE | MT | EL |
|------------------|------|-----|----|----|-----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|-----|-----|
| Total 'Agree' | 38 | 49 | 43 | 29 | 52 | 38 | 60 | 40 | 34 | 31 | 19 | 28 | 49 | 21 | 41 | 35 | 30 | 31 | 30 | 52 | 43 | 47 | 26 | 35 | 45 | 43 | 25 | 23 |
| Jan/Feb 2025 | ▲2 | ▲9 | ▲9 | ▲6 | ▲6 | ▲6 | ▲5 | ▲5 | ▲5 | ▲5 | ▲4 | ▲4 | ▲4 | ▲3 | ▲3 | ▲1 | ▲1 | ▲1 | ▲1 | = | = | = | ▼3 | ▼4 | ▼6 | ▼7 | ▼10 | |
| Total 'Disagree' | 50 | 46 | 51 | 48 | 33 | 51 | 31 | 34 | 53 | 63 | 74 | 59 | 42 | 63 | 37 | 57 | 46 | 61 | 54 | 36 | 53 | 44 | 70 | 46 | 34 | 50 | 70 | 75 |
| Jan/Feb 2025 | ▼2 | ▼11 | ▼7 | ▼4 | ▼10 | ▼6 | ▼4 | ▼5 | ▼6 | ▼2 | ▼5 | ▼4 | ▼2 | ▼2 | = | ▲1 | = | ▼2 | = | ▼5 | ▲3 | ▲1 | ▲3 | ▲3 | ▲2 | ▲5 | ▲11 | ▲11 |
| Don't know | 12 | 5 | 6 | 23 | 15 | 11 | 9 | 26 | 13 | 6 | 7 | 13 | 9 | 16 | 22 | 8 | 24 | 8 | 16 | 12 | 4 | 9 | 4 | 19 | 21 | 7 | 5 | 2 |
| Jan/Feb 2025 | = | ▲2 | ▼2 | ▼2 | ▲4 | = | ▼1 | = | ▲1 | ▼3 | ▲1 | = | ▼2 | ▼1 | ▼3 | ▼2 | ▼1 | ▲1 | ▼1 | ▲4 | ▼3 | ▼1 | ▼3 | = | ▲2 | ▲1 | ▼4 | ▼1 |

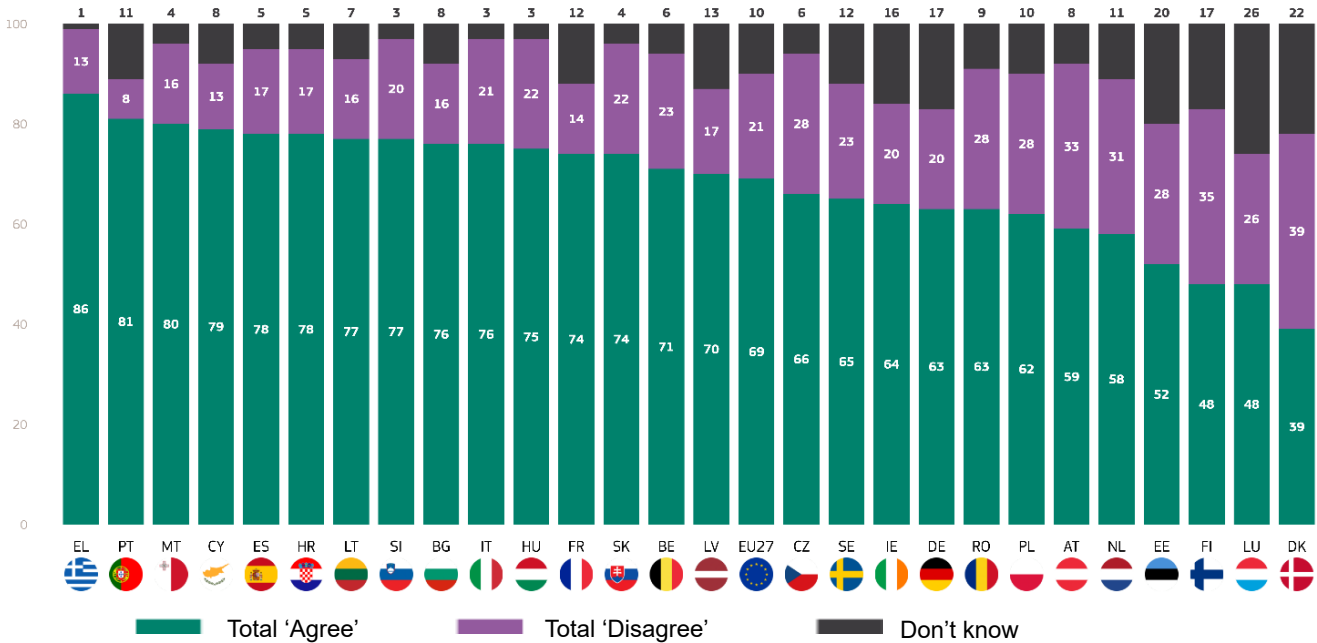
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Nearly seven in ten citizens (69%, + 3 pp) agree that high -level corruption cases are not pursued sufficiently in their country. On the other hand, 21% (-3 pp) disagree with the statement.

By contrast, the most important increase of citizens disagreeing with this statement occurred in Hungary (22%, + 4 pp).

In 24 Member States, more than half of the population believe that high -level corruption cases are not adequately pursued in their country. However, Denmark (39%), as well as Luxembourg and Finland (both 48%) are the only exceptions to this trend, where less than half of the population shares this view. In three countries, at least eight in ten respondents agree with the statement that high -level corruption cases are not adequately pursued in their country: Greece (86%), Portugal (81%), and Malta (80%).

QC12a6: Please tell whether you agree or disagree with each of the following? - High-level corruption cases are not pursued sufficiently in (OUR COUNTRY) (%)



Compared to 2025, agreement that high -level corruption cases are not pursued sufficiently increased in 19 Member States, while it declined in four. The largest increases are recorded in Malta (80%, +10 pp) and Belgium (71%, +9 pp).

QC12a6: Please tell whether you agree or disagree with each of the following? - High-level corruption cases are not pursued sufficiently in (OUR COUNTRY) (%)

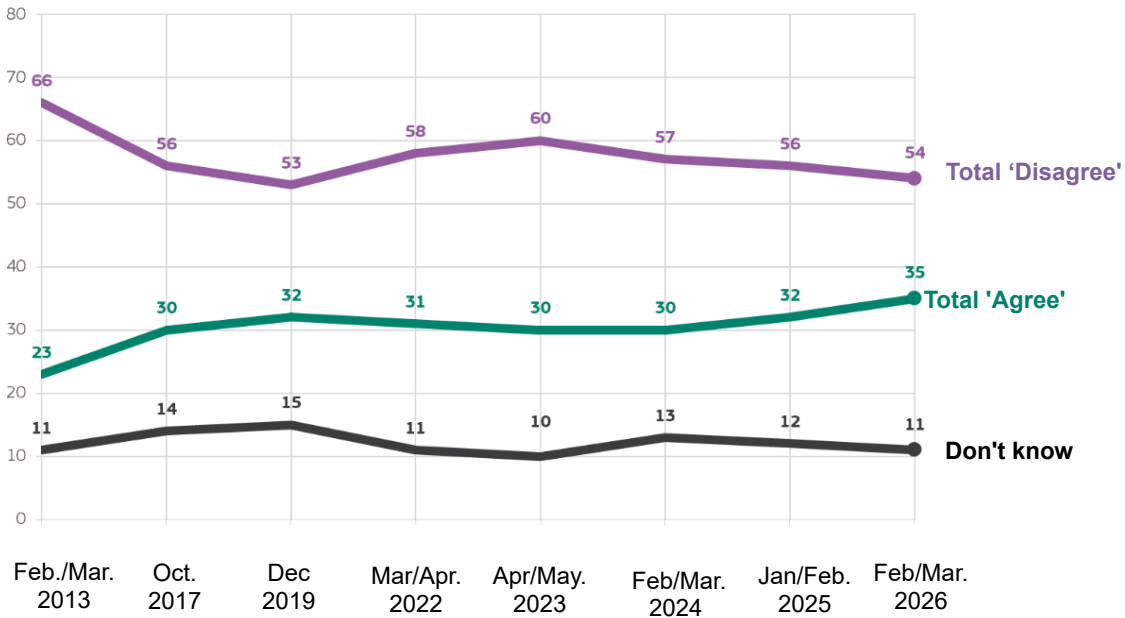
| | EU27 | MT | BE | DE | PT | EL | CZ | FI | SE | LT | SK | IT | LV | NL | RO | BG | EE | IE | PL | SI | AT | DK | ES | FR | CY | HR | HU | LU |
|------------------|------|-----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| Total 'Agree' | 69 | 80 | 71 | 63 | 81 | 86 | 66 | 48 | 65 | 77 | 74 | 76 | 70 | 58 | 63 | 76 | 52 | 64 | 62 | 77 | 59 | 39 | 78 | 74 | 79 | 78 | 75 | 48 |
| Jan/Feb 2025 | ▲3 | ▲10 | ▲9 | ▲7 | ▲7 | ▲6 | ▲5 | ▲5 | ▲5 | ▲4 | ▲4 | ▲3 | ▲2 | ▲2 | ▲2 | ▲1 | ▲1 | ▲1 | ▲1 | = | = | = | = | = | ▼1 | ▼2 | ▼3 | ▼6 |
| Total 'Disagree' | 21 | 16 | 23 | 20 | 8 | 13 | 28 | 35 | 23 | 16 | 22 | 21 | 17 | 31 | 28 | 16 | 28 | 20 | 28 | 20 | 33 | 39 | 17 | 14 | 13 | 17 | 22 | 26 |
| Jan/Feb 2025 | ▼3 | ▼5 | ▼9 | ▼7 | ▼7 | ▼4 | ▼2 | ▼6 | ▼5 | ▼1 | = | ▼1 | ▲2 | ▼2 | ▼4 | ▼1 | ▼2 | = | ▼1 | ▲2 | ▲2 | = | = | = | ▼2 | = | ▲4 | ▲3 |
| Don't know | 10 | 4 | 6 | 17 | 11 | 1 | 6 | 17 | 12 | 7 | 4 | 3 | 13 | 11 | 9 | 8 | 20 | 16 | 10 | 3 | 8 | 22 | 5 | 12 | 8 | 5 | 3 | 26 |
| Jan/Feb 2025 | = | ▼5 | = | = | = | ▼2 | ▼3 | ▲1 | = | ▼3 | ▼4 | ▼2 | ▼4 | = | ▲2 | = | ▲1 | ▼1 | = | ▼3 | ▼2 | = | = | = | ▲3 | ▲2 | ▼1 | ▲3 |

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Across Member States, over half of respondents (54%, –2 pp) disagree that their national government's efforts to combat corruption are effective, while more than one third (35%, +3 pp) agree with this statement.

Looking at trends over time, the level of agreement that national governments are effectively combating corruption has remained broadly stable since 2019, with a slight increase in recent surveys (+2 pp between 2024 and 2025, +3 pp between 2025 and 2026). By contrast, the percentage of respondents who disagree has shown more variation: after peaking at 60% in 2023, it has declined steadily since, reaching 54% in the current wave.

QC 12a.7 Please tell whether you agree or disagree with each of the following? (NATIONALITY)
Government efforts to combat corruption are effective (%)



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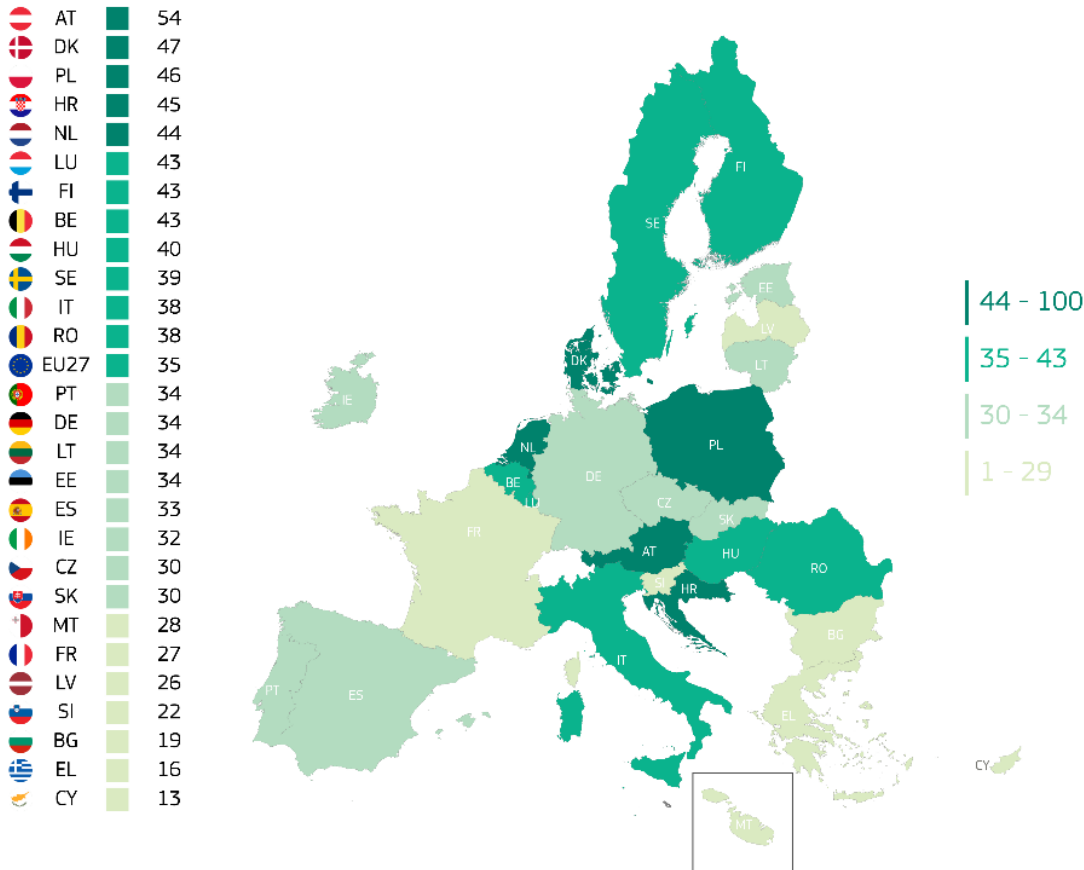
Austria is the only Member State where at least half of the respondents believe that their government's efforts to combat corruption are effective (54%).

observed in Croatia (45%, + 11 pp) and Hungary (40%, + 8 pp).

In the other 26 Member States, less than half of respondents agree with this statement. Disagreement is most widespread in Greece (83%), Cyprus (81%) and Slovenia (74%).

By contrast, agreement declined in three Member States, most notably in Greece (16%, -8 pp).

QC12a.7: Please tell whether you agree or disagree with each of the following?: (NATIONALITY)
Government efforts to combat corruption are effective - Total 'Agree' (EU27) (%)



Compared to 2025, the share of respondents who agree that their government's efforts to combat corruption are effective increased in 20 Member States. The largest increases are

QC12a.7: Please tell whether you agree or disagree with each of the following? - (NATIONALITY) Government efforts to combat corruption are effective (%)

| | EU27 | HR | HU | FR | LU | LV | DK | PL | SE | AT | CZ | ES | LT | PT | BG | DE | EE | NL | SI | SK | MT | BE | CY | FI | IE | IT | RO | EL |
|------------------|------|-----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|-----|
| Total 'Agree' | 35 | 45 | 40 | 27 | 43 | 26 | 47 | 46 | 39 | 54 | 30 | 33 | 34 | 34 | 19 | 34 | 34 | 44 | 22 | 30 | 28 | 43 | 13 | 43 | 32 | 38 | 38 | 16 |
| Jan/Feb 2025 | +3 | +11 | +8 | +7 | +7 | +7 | +5 | +5 | +5 | +4 | +4 | +4 | +4 | +4 | +3 | +3 | +3 | +2 | +2 | +2 | +1 | = | = | = | = | +1 | +1 | +8 |
| Total 'Disagree' | 54 | 50 | 56 | 60 | 31 | 59 | 30 | 41 | 46 | 35 | 62 | 61 | 57 | 58 | 71 | 46 | 46 | 43 | 74 | 63 | 68 | 50 | 81 | 39 | 52 | 59 | 53 | 83 |
| Jan/Feb 2025 | +2 | +13 | +6 | +4 | +6 | +5 | +6 | +6 | +2 | +2 | +4 | +4 | +1 | +4 | +1 | +4 | +2 | +1 | +2 | +1 | +2 | +1 | = | +2 | +1 | +2 | +1 | +10 |
| Don't know | 11 | 5 | 4 | 13 | 26 | 15 | 23 | 13 | 15 | 11 | 8 | 6 | 9 | 8 | 10 | 20 | 20 | 13 | 4 | 7 | 4 | 7 | 6 | 18 | 16 | 3 | 9 | 1 |
| Jan/Feb 2025 | +1 | +2 | +2 | +3 | +1 | +2 | +1 | +1 | +1 | +2 | +2 | = | +3 | = | +2 | +1 | +1 | +1 | +4 | +1 | +3 | +1 | = | +2 | +1 | +1 | +2 | +2 |

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Citizens' attitudes towards corruption in the EU in 2026

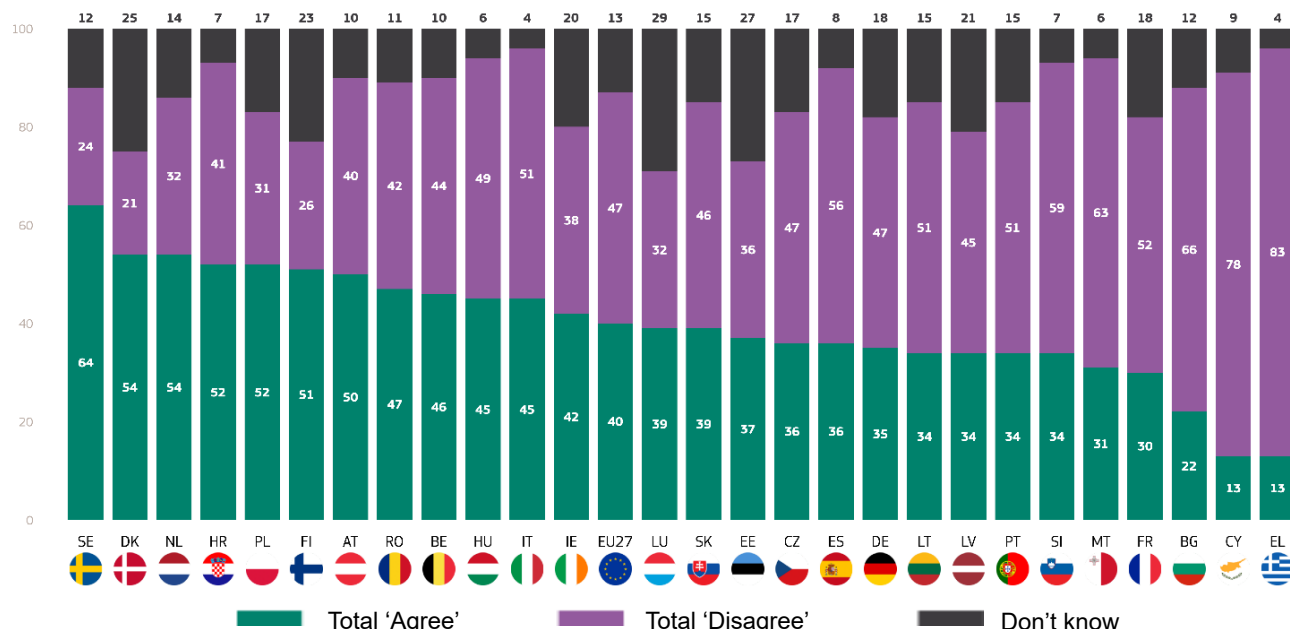
When asked whether they agree that measures against corruption are applied impartially and without ulterior motives in their country, four in ten respondents across Member States (40%) agree with this statement. By contrast, almost half of respondents (47%) disagree, while 13% say that they do not know.

without ulterior motives in their country increased in 18 Member States. The largest increases are observed in Sweden (64%, + 11 pp), Lithuania (34%, + 9pp), Croatia (52%, + 6 pp) and Latvia (34%, + 6 pp).

At national level, at least half of respondents agree that measures against corruption are applied impartially in seven Member States: Sweden (64%), Denmark and the Netherlands (both 54%), Croatia and Poland (both 52%), Finland (51%) and Austria (50%).

By contrast, respondents are most likely to disagree with this statement in Greece (83%), Cyprus (78%) and Bulgaria (66%).

QC12a.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 (%)



It is also noteworthy that in six Member States, at least one in five respondents answer “don't know”, with the highest proportions recorded in Luxembourg (29%), Estonia (27%) and Denmark (25%).

QC 12a.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 | SE | LT | HR | LV | HU | IE | LU | PL | PT | SI | SK | BG | DK | ES | AT | CZ | DE | FR | CY | NL | FI | IT | RO | EE | MT | BE | EL |
|------------------|------|-----|----|-----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| Total 'Agree' | 40 | 64 | 34 | 52 | 34 | 45 | 42 | 39 | 52 | 34 | 34 | 39 | 22 | 54 | 36 | 50 | 36 | 35 | 30 | 13 | 54 | 51 | 45 | 47 | 37 | 31 | 46 | 13 |
| Jan/Feb 2025 | +1 | +11 | +9 | +6 | +6 | +4 | +4 | +4 | +4 | +4 | +4 | +4 | +3 | +3 | +3 | +2 | +2 | +1 | +1 | - | - | -1 | -1 | -1 | -2 | -2 | -4 | +8 |
| Total 'Disagree' | 47 | 24 | 51 | 41 | 45 | 49 | 38 | 32 | 31 | 51 | 59 | 46 | 66 | 21 | 56 | 40 | 47 | 47 | 52 | 78 | 32 | 26 | 51 | 42 | 36 | 63 | 44 | 83 |
| Jan/Feb 2025 | - | +8 | +4 | +10 | +1 | +4 | - | +5 | +3 | +6 | +1 | +1 | +2 | +6 | +2 | +1 | +1 | - | +1 | +2 | - | - | +3 | +2 | +4 | +7 | +3 | +8 |
| Don't know | 13 | 12 | 15 | 7 | 21 | 6 | 20 | 29 | 17 | 15 | 7 | 15 | 12 | 25 | 8 | 10 | 17 | 18 | 18 | 9 | 14 | 23 | 4 | 11 | 27 | 6 | 10 | 4 |
| Jan/Feb 2025 | -1 | +3 | +5 | +4 | +5 | - | +4 | +1 | +1 | +2 | +3 | +5 | +1 | +3 | +1 | +1 | +3 | +1 | +2 | +2 | - | +1 | +2 | +3 | +2 | +5 | +1 | - |

Compared to 2025, the share of respondents who agree that measures against corruption are applied impartially and

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

Gender

- Men are slightly more likely than women to agree that high-level corruption cases are not pursued sufficiently in their country (71% vs. 68%).
- Gender differences are very limited regarding perceptions of sufficient prosecutions (38% of men vs. 37% of women) and the effectiveness of government efforts to combat corruption (36% vs. 35%).

Socio-professional groups

- The belief that high-level corruption cases are not pursued sufficiently is most widespread among the unemployed (75%), followed by manual workers and other white-collar workers (both 71%). Students are the least likely to agree with this statement (66%).
- Agreement that there are enough successful prosecutions to deter corrupt practices is highest among other white-collar workers (41%), managers and manual workers (40% each), and students (40%), while it is lowest among the unemployed (28%).
- Perceptions of effective government action are most common among other white-collar workers (39%) and managers (38%), and least common among the self-employed (31%).

Satisfaction with democracy

- Respondents satisfied with the way democracy works in their country are more likely than those who are dissatisfied to agree that measures against corruption are applied impartially (48% vs. 30%), that there are enough successful prosecutions (45% vs. 29%), and that government efforts to combat corruption are effective (44% vs. 24%).
- By contrast, respondents who are not satisfied with democracy are more likely to agree that high-level corruption cases are not pursued sufficiently (76% vs. 65%).

Perception of voice counting

- Respondents who feel that their voice does not count in their country are more likely to agree that high-level corruption cases are not pursued sufficiently (74% vs. 67%).
- Those who feel their voice counts are considerably more likely to agree that measures against corruption are applied impartially (47% vs. 29%), that there are enough successful prosecutions (44% vs. 28%), and

that government efforts to combat corruption are effective (42% vs. 24%).

Experience of corruption

- Respondents who have experienced corruption are much more likely to agree that high-level corruption cases are not pursued sufficiently (82%) than those who have not experienced or witnessed corruption (69%).
- These respondents are less likely to agree that measures are applied impartially (32% vs. 41%), that there are enough successful prosecutions (30% vs. 38%), or that government efforts to combat corruption are effective (24% vs. 36%).

Knowledge of bribery

- Respondents who know someone who takes bribes are more likely than those who do not to believe that high-level corruption cases are not pursued sufficiently (83% vs. 67%).
- They are also less likely to view anti-corruption measures as impartial (32% vs. 41%), to believe there are enough successful prosecutions (28% vs. 39%), or to consider government efforts effective (24% vs. 36%).

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| QC12a 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 | 69 | 40 | 38 | 35 |
| Gender | | | | |
| Man | 71 | 40 | 38 | 36 |
| Woman | 68 | 40 | 37 | 35 |
| Age | | | | |
| 15-24 | 67 | 38 | 40 | 34 |
| 25-39 | 69 | 41 | 39 | 37 |
| 40-54 | 71 | 43 | 40 | 36 |
| >=55 | 69 | 38 | 35 | 34 |
| Education (End of) | | | | |
| 15<= | 71 | 34 | 33 | 32 |
| 16-19 | 70 | 39 | 38 | 35 |
| >=20 | 68 | 43 | 38 | 36 |
| Still Studying | 66 | 36 | 40 | 34 |
| Socio-professional category | | | | |
| Self-employed | 67 | 36 | 36 | 31 |
| Managers | 67 | 43 | 40 | 38 |
| Other white collars | 71 | 46 | 41 | 39 |
| Manual workers | 71 | 42 | 40 | 37 |
| House persons | 69 | 37 | 34 | 32 |
| Unemployed | 75 | 35 | 28 | 32 |
| Retired | 69 | 37 | 36 | 33 |
| Students | 66 | 38 | 40 | 36 |
| Difficulties paying bills | | | | |
| Most of the time | 75 | 31 | 31 | 28 |
| From time to time | 71 | 40 | 39 | 35 |
| Almost never/ Never | 68 | 41 | 38 | 36 |
| Satisfaction with democracy in one's country | | | | |
| Satisfied | 65 | 48 | 45 | 44 |
| Not satisfied | 76 | 30 | 29 | 24 |
| My voice counts in (OUR COUNTRY) | | | | |
| Total 'Agree' | 67 | 47 | 44 | 42 |
| Total 'Disagree' | 74 | 29 | 28 | 24 |
| Experienced or witnessed corruption | | | | |
| Yes, experienced | 82 | 32 | 30 | 24 |
| Yes, witnessed | 77 | 30 | 34 | 25 |
| No | 69 | 41 | 38 | 36 |
| You know someone who takes bribes | | | | |
| Yes | 83 | 32 | 28 | 24 |
| No | 67 | 41 | 39 | 36 |

III. Experience of bribery

1. Personal experience of bribery

A small minority of Europeans report having experienced or witnessed corruption in the last 12 months.

Respondents were asked whether they had experienced or witnessed any case of corruption in the last 12 months³².

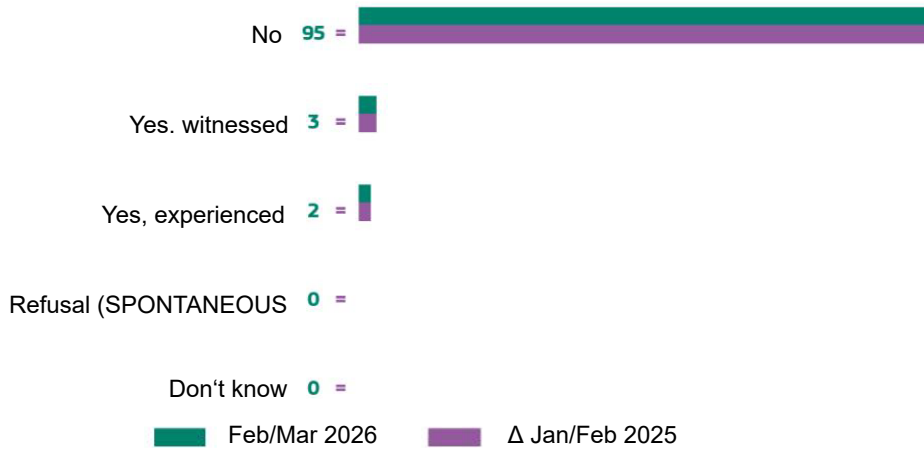
Across the EU, a small minority of respondents (5%) report having experienced and/or witnessed corruption, a portion that is unchanged compared to 2025. More specifically, 2% of respondents say they have personally experienced corruption, while 3% report having witnessed corruption.

Both figures remain stable compared with the previous survey.

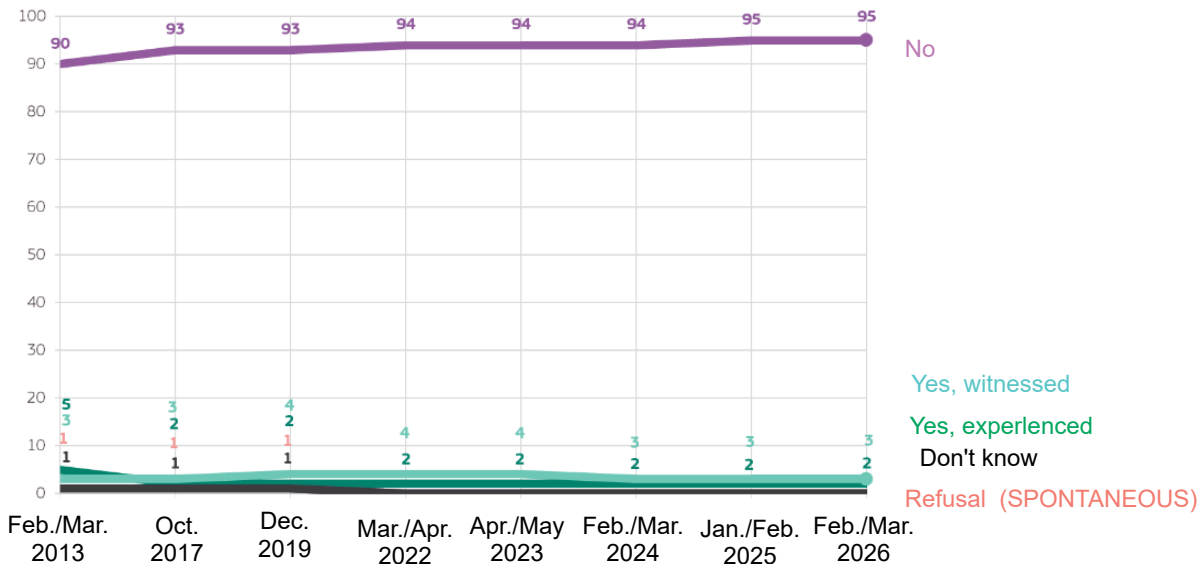
The vast majority of respondents (95% unchanged) say that they have neither experienced nor witnessed any case of corruption in the last 12 months.

Looking at trends over time, the proportion of respondents who report not having experienced or witnessed corruption has remained at a consistently high level since 2017, fluctuating only marginally over the period

QC9a: In the last 12 months have you experienced or witnessed any case of corruption? (EU27) (%)



QC9a In the last 12 months, have you experienced or witnessed any case of corruption? (MULTIPLE ANSWERS POSSIBLE) (% — EU)



32 QC9a. In the last 12 months have you experienced or witnessed any case of corruption? (MULTIPLE ANSWERS POSSIBLE)

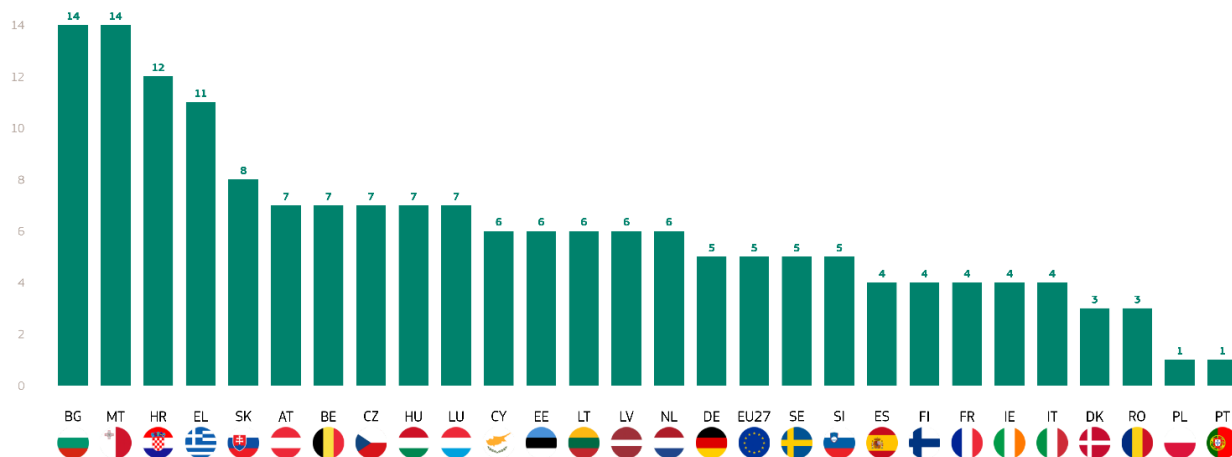
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Citizens' attitudes towards corruption in the EU in 2026

In four countries, at least one in ten have witnessed and/or experienced a case of corruption in the last 12 months: Bulgaria and Malta (both 14%), Croatia (12%) and Greece (11%). Respondents are least likely to report having witnessed or experienced a case of corruption in Portugal, Poland (both 1%), Romania and Denmark (both 3%).

In all Member States, more than eight in ten respondents say they have not witnessed or experienced a case of corruption in the last 12 months. Respondents are most likely to say they have neither witnessed nor experienced a case of corruption in Portugal, Poland (both 99%), Romania and Denmark (both 97%).

Proportions having witnessed and/or experienced a case of corruption since 2025 have increased slightly in 12 countries, most notably in Malta (14%, + 5 pp). On the other hand, fewer respondents do so in eight countries, with the largest declines in Slovakia (8%, -3 pp), Poland (1%, -3 pp) and Cyprus (6%, -3 pp).

QC9a: In the last 12 months have you experienced or witnessed any case of corruption? - Total 'Yes' (%)



QCQaNET: In the last 12 months have you experienced or witnessed any case of corruption? (%)

| | EU27 | MT | BG | EL | LV | DE | EE | HU | IE | LT | LU | SE | SI | BE | CZ | DK | ES | HR | IT | PT | AT | FI | FR | RO | NL | CY | PL | SK |
|------------------------------|------|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| Total 'Yes' | 5 | 14 | 14 | 11 | 6 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 4 | 6 | 7 | 5 | 5 | 7 | 7 | 3 | 4 | 12 | 4 | 1 | 7 | 4 | 4 | 3 | 6 | 6 | 1 | 8 |
| Jan/Feb 2025 | = | ▲5 | ▲2 | ▲2 | ▲2 | ▲1 | ▲1 | ▲1 | ▲1 | ▲1 | ▲1 | ▲1 | ▲1 | = | = | = | = | = | = | = | ▼1 | ▼1 | ▼1 | ▼1 | ▼2 | ▼3 | ▼3 | ▼3 |
| No | 95 | 86 | 82 | 89 | 94 | 95 | 91 | 92 | 95 | 90 | 93 | 95 | 95 | 93 | 92 | 96 | 96 | 87 | 96 | 99 | 91 | 96 | 96 | 94 | 94 | 93 | 98 | 91 |
| Jan/Feb 2025 | = | ▼4 | ▼3 | ▼2 | ▼2 | ▼1 | ▼1 | ▼1 | ▼1 | ▼3 | ▼1 | ▼1 | ▼1 | = | = | ▼1 | ▲1 | ▲1 | = | ▲1 | ▲1 | ▲1 | ▲1 | ▲1 | ▲2 | ▲2 | ▲2 | ▲4 |
| Refusal (SPONTANEOUS) | 0 | 0 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 1 | 4 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Jan/Feb 2025 | = | ▼1 | ▲1 | = | = | ▲1 | = | ▲1 | ▲2 | = | = | = | = | ▼1 | = | ▼1 | ▼1 | = | ▼1 | = | = | = | = | ▲1 | = | ▲1 | ▼1 | |
| Don't know | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Jan/Feb 2025 | = | = | = | = | = | = | ▼1 | ▼1 | = | = | = | = | = | = | ▲1 | ▲1 | = | = | = | = | = | = | = | ▲1 | = | = | = | = |

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Citizens' attitudes towards corruption in the EU in 2026

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

| QC9a In the last 12 months have you experienced or witnessed any case of corruption? | | | |
|--|-------------|----|-----------------------|
| | Total 'Yes' | No | Refusal (SPONTANEOUS) |
| EU27 | 5 | 95 | 0 |
| Gender | | | |
| Man | 6 | 93 | 1 |
| Woman | 4 | 96 | 0 |
| Age | | | |
| 15-24 | 5 | 95 | 0 |
| 25-39 | 6 | 94 | 0 |
| 40-54 | 6 | 93 | 1 |
| >=55 | 3 | 96 | 1 |
| Education (End of) | | | |
| <=15 | 2 | 97 | 1 |
| 16-19 | 5 | 95 | 0 |
| >=20 | 5 | 94 | 1 |
| Still Studying | 4 | 95 | 1 |
| Socio-professional category | | | |
| Self-employed | 5 | 94 | 1 |
| Managers | 5 | 95 | 0 |
| Other white collars | 5 | 95 | 0 |
| Manual workers | 3 | 97 | 0 |
| House persons | 8 | 1 | 1 |
| Unemployed | 3 | 96 | 1 |
| Retired | 4 | 96 | 0 |
| Students | | | |
| Difficulties paying bills | | | |
| Most of the time | 12 | 86 | 1 |
| From time to time | 6 | 93 | 1 |
| Almost never/ Never | 4 | 96 | 0 |
| You know someone who takes bribes | | | |
| Yes | 28 | 71 | 1 |
| No | 2 | 98 | 0 |

2. Experiencing bribery at work

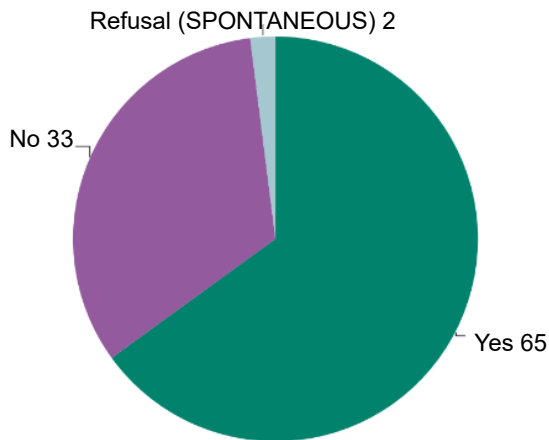
Witnessing corruption occurs primarily in work - related contexts.

Respondents who indicated that they had experienced or witnessed a case of corruption in the last 12 months were then asked whether this occurred in the context of their own or someone else's work³³³⁴.

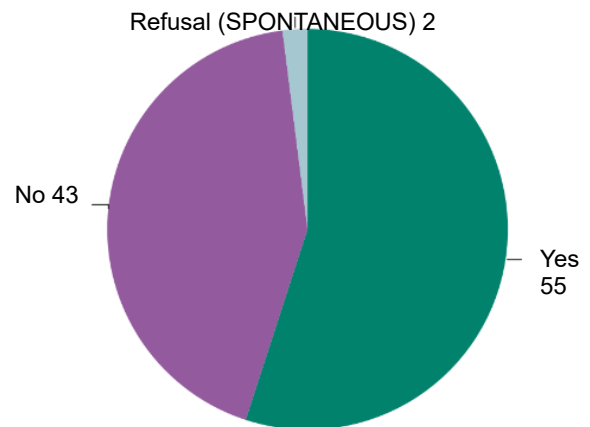
Among respondents who say they have experienced a case of corruption, a majority across the European Union (65%) indicate that this experience was work -related, while 33% say that it occurred outside the context of work.

Similarly, among respondents who report having witnessed a case of corruption in the last 12 months, perceptions are almost evenly divided. More than half of respondents (55%) say that the case they witnessed was work -related, while 43% indicate that it occurred outside the work context.

QC9b: You said that you experienced a case of corruption: Was this (experience) in the context of your or someone else's work? (EU27) (%)



QC9c: You said that you witnessed a case of corruption Was this (witnessing) in the context of your or someone else's work? (EU27) (%)



33 QC9b. You said that you experienced a case of corruption: Was this (experience) in the context of your or someone else's work?

34 It must be mentioned that the majority of respondents from this survey (95%) have not been exposed to this question since they did not experience nor witness any case of corruption in the last 12 months. Therefore, national samples are very small. For instance, in Ireland, only 11 respondents experience any case of corruption and therefore are exposed to the questions presented in this section. Results must be interpreted carefully, particularly for the national results below.

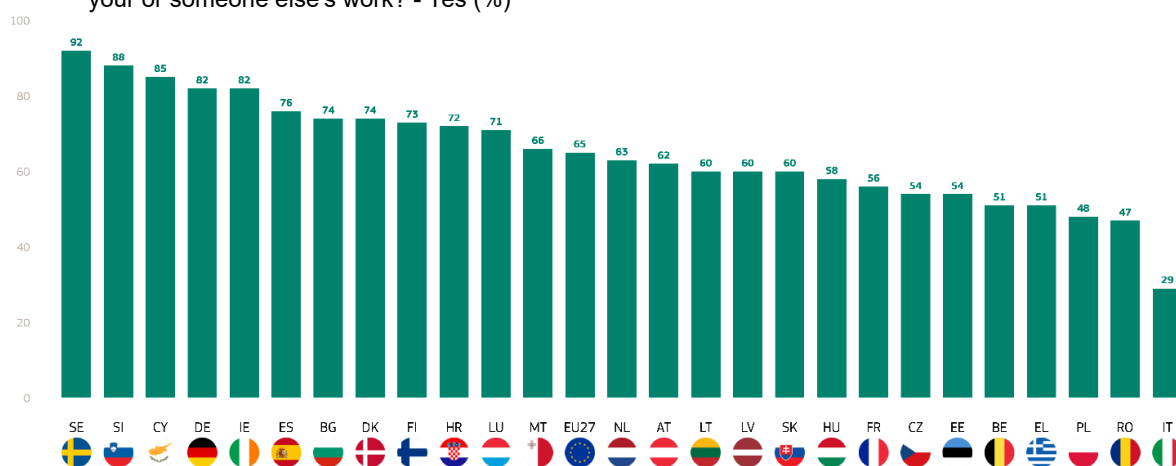
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At national level, among respondents who report having experienced a case of corruption in the last 12 months, there are marked differences regarding whether this experience occurred in a work-related context. Respondents in Sweden (92%), Slovenia (88%) and Cyprus (85 %) are the most likely to say that the case of corruption they experienced took place in the context of their own or someone else's work.

By contrast, among those who experienced corruption, respondents are more likely to report a non-work-related context in Italy (71%), Romania (53%) and Poland (52%).

Overall, a majority of respondents in 24 Member States indicate that the case of corruption they experienced was work-related, while in three Member States a majority say that the experienced case of corruption occurred outside a work-related context.

QC9b You said that you experienced a case of corruption: Was this (experience) in the context of your or someone else's work? - Yes (%)

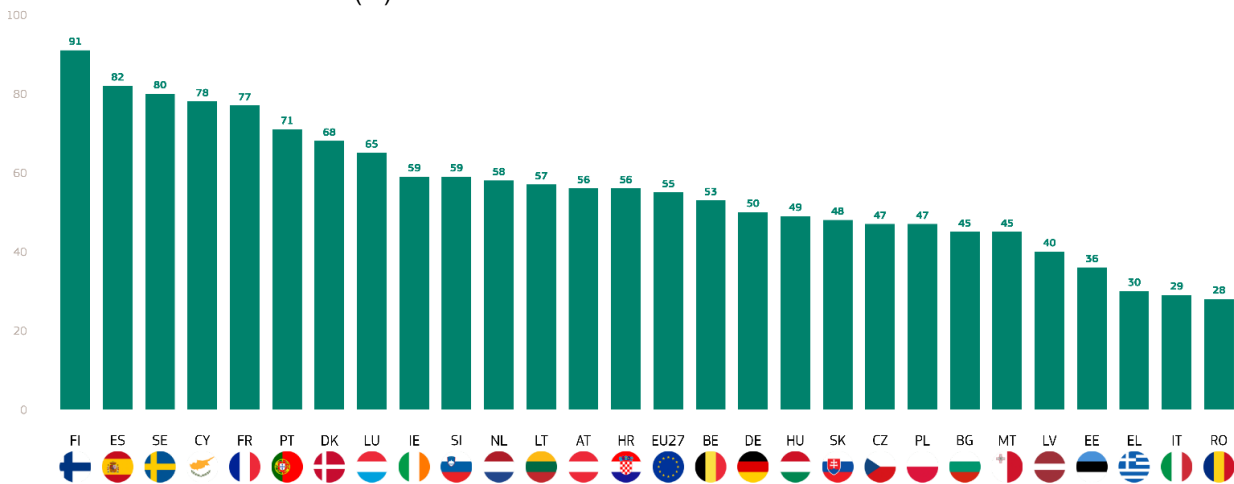


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Among those respondents who witnessed a case of corruption in the last 12 months, 55% indicate that this case was work-related. The highest scores are observed in Finland (91%), Spain (82%), Sweden (80%). Conversely, 45% of respondents across the EU report that their witnessing is not work-related, with the highest scores in Romania (72%), Italy (71%) and Greece (70%).

Overall, a majority of respondents in 16 Member States indicate that the case of corruption that they witnessed was work-related, while a majority in 11 Member States indicate that this was outside of the work context.

QC9c: You said that you witnessed a case of corruption Was this (witnessing) in the context of your or someone else's work? - Yes (%)



4. Contact with institutions and incidence of bribery

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

Respondents were asked whether they had had contact with a range of public or private institutions in their country during the past year³⁵.

Across the EU, the healthcare system is the most frequently mentioned institution, with more than six in ten respondents (61%, +1 pp) reporting contact. It is also the only institution with which at least half of respondents report having had contact.

The next most mentioned institutions are banks and financial institutions, cited by 46% of respondents (+2 pp), followed by private companies (35%, +4 pp) and the education sector

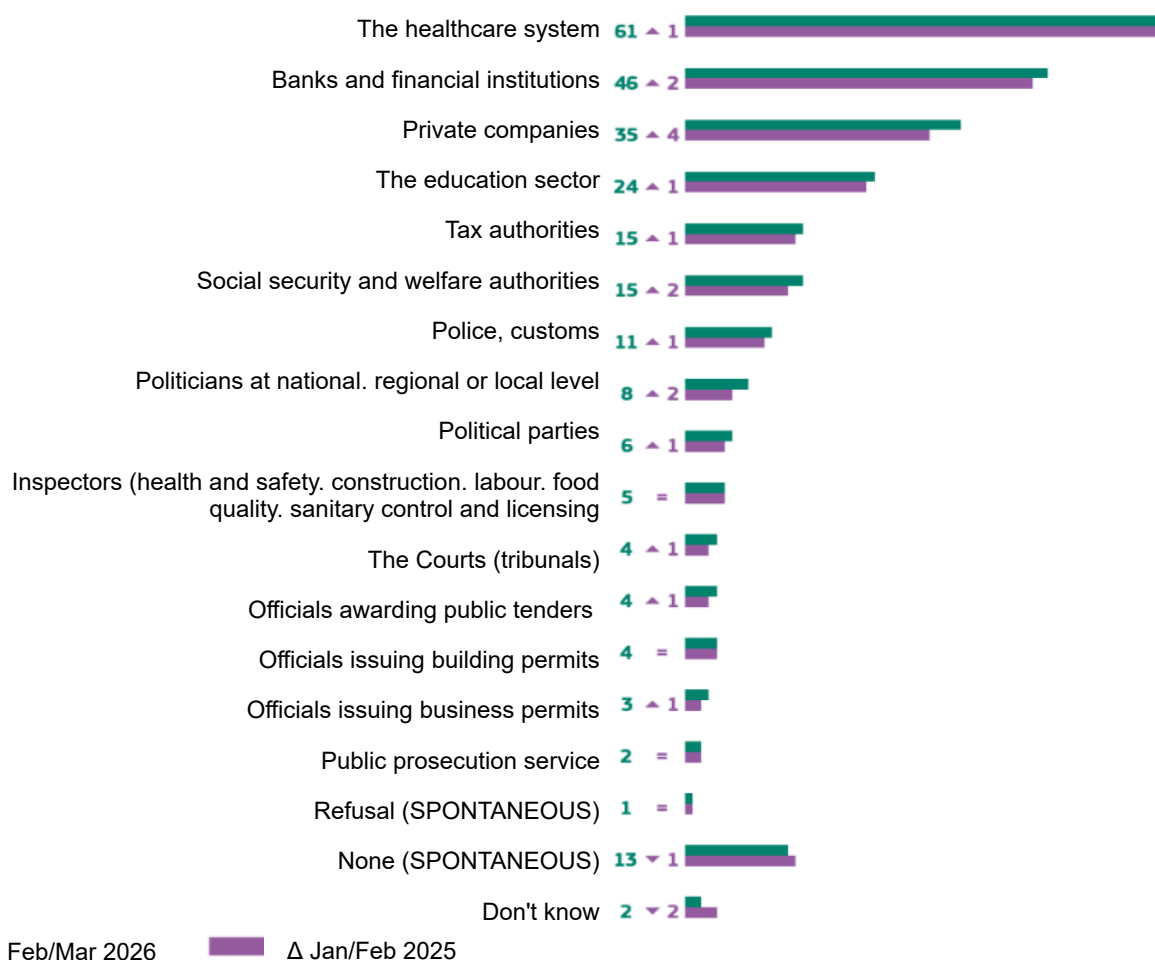
(24%, +1 pp). All other institutions are mentioned by fewer than one in five respondents.

At least one in ten respondents report having been in contact with tax authorities (15%, +1 pp), social security and welfare authorities (15%, +2 pp), and police and customs (11%, +1 pp) over the last 12 months.

Contact with the remaining institutions is less common. Fewer than one in ten respondents say they have had contact with politicians at national, regional or local level (8%, +2 pp), political parties (6%, +1 pp), inspectors (health and safety, construction, labour, food quality, sanitary control and licensing) (5%, unchanged), the courts (4%, +1 pp), officials issuing building permits (4%, unchanged), officials awarding public tenders (4%, +1 pp), officials issuing building permit (4%, unchanged) officials issuing business permits (3%, +1 pp) and the public prosecution service (2%, unchanged).

Finally, nearly one in five respondents (15%, -3 pp)

QC6a: Over the last 12 months, have you had any contact with any of the following in (OUR COUNTRY)? (EU27) (%)



35 QC6a. Over the last 12 months, have you had any contact with any of the following in (OUR COUNTRY)? (MULTIPLE ANSWERS POSSIBLE)

spontaneously say that they have not been in contact with any of these institutions or answer "don't know" (2%, -2 pp).

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At national level, the healthcare system is the most frequently mentioned institution in all Member States except Austria, and in 26 Member States at least half of respondents report having had contact with it in the last 12 months. The proportions range from 83% in Sweden and Portugal, 82% in Finland and 75% in Denmark, to 51% in Malta and 42% in Romania.

In Austria, respondents are most likely to report contact with banks and financial institutions (58%), followed closely by the healthcare system (57%). A similar situation is observed in Ireland, where banks and financial institutions and the healthcare system are equally mentioned (both 56%). In 24 Member States, banks and financial institutions rank as the second most frequently mentioned institution, while they rank third in Latvia. Contact with banks and financial institutions is most commonly reported in Sweden (72%), Denmark and Finland (both 68%), while respondents are least likely to mention this institution in Romania (18%).

Private companies rank third in 21 Member States. This institution is most frequently mentioned by respondents in Sweden (66%), Greece and Finland (both 58%), while respondents in Bulgaria and Romania (both 13%) and Slovenia (17%) are least likely to report contact with private companies.

The education sector is the third most frequently mentioned institution in six Member States and ranks second in Ireland (33%) and Latvia (25%). Overall, respondents in Luxembourg and Sweden (both 37%), as well as in Ireland (33%), are most likely to report contact with the education sector. By

Tax authorities rank third in Bulgaria (16%) and are mentioned by more than four out of ten respondents in Finland (47%), the Netherlands and Sweden (both 43%).

Police and customs rank third in Croatia (20%) and are mentioned by at least one fifth of respondents in three Member States.

Social security and welfare authorities are mentioned by at least two in ten respondents in four countries: Luxembourg (30%), France (28%), Sweden and Spain (both 20%).

In eight Member States, more than one in ten respondents report having been in contact with politicians at national, regional or local level, with proportions ranging from 23% in Sweden to 2% in Lithuania.

At least one in ten respondents say they have been in contact with political parties in five Member States, with proportions ranging from 16% in Sweden to 1% in Greece.

Only in Sweden (11%) and Finland (10%) do at least one in ten respondents report contact with inspectors.

Sweden is the only Member State where more than one in ten respondents report contact with officials awarding public tenders (16%) and officials issuing building permits (11%).

All remaining institutions, namely the public prosecution service and officials issuing business permits, are mentioned by fewer than one in ten respondents in every Member State.

QC6a: Over the last 12 months, have you had any contact with any of the following in (OUR COUNTRY)? (%)

| | EU27 | BE | BG | CZ | DK | DE | EE | IE | EL | ES | FR | HR | IT | CY | LV | LT | LU | HU | MT | NL | AT | PL | PT | RO | SI | SK | FI | SE |
|--|------|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| The healthcare system | 61 | 54 | 54 | 57 | 75 | 54 | 53 | 56 | 69 | 61 | 65 | 55 | 54 | 69 | 62 | 65 | 65 | 66 | 51 | 65 | 57 | 67 | 83 | 42 | 54 | 70 | 82 | 83 |
| Banks and financial Institutions | 46 | 43 | 34 | 34 | 68 | 52 | 37 | 56 | 59 | 50 | 44 | 42 | 39 | 50 | 24 | 32 | 53 | 42 | 44 | 48 | 58 | 37 | 59 | 18 | 38 | 49 | 68 | 72 |
| Private companies | 35 | 29 | 13 | 18 | 54 | 44 | 30 | 32 | 58 | 39 | 35 | 20 | 27 | 23 | 18 | 19 | 41 | 21 | 27 | 46 | 55 | 21 | 45 | 13 | 17 | 36 | 58 | 66 |
| The education sector | 24 | 28 | 16 | 19 | 27 | 23 | 25 | 33 | 26 | 25 | 26 | 20 | 19 | 28 | 25 | 16 | 37 | 18 | 25 | 30 | 28 | 19 | 28 | 16 | 23 | 25 | 30 | 37 |
| Tax authorities | 15 | 17 | 16 | 6 | 34 | 23 | 19 | 22 | 25 | 3 | 11 | 14 | 8 | 9 | 12 | 16 | 26 | 12 | 15 | 43 | 18 | 7 | 14 | 13 | 9 | 13 | 47 | 43 |
| Social security and welfare authorities | 15 | 14 | 11 | 13 | 13 | 15 | 14 | 15 | 19 | 20 | 28 | 9 | 7 | 8 | 12 | 9 | 30 | 7 | 12 | 18 | 15 | 10 | 17 | 3 | 7 | 13 | 12 | 20 |
| Police, customs | 11 | 18 | 13 | 9 | 12 | 10 | 16 | 11 | 13 | 12 | 9 | 20 | 5 | 14 | 15 | 11 | 20 | 5 | 10 | 18 | 12 | 8 | 5 | 13 | 10 | 16 | 22 | 28 |
| Politicians at national, regional or local level | 8 | 11 | 3 | 5 | 17 | 12 | 9 | 9 | 3 | 6 | 8 | 7 | 5 | 9 | 5 | 2 | 13 | 4 | 8 | 16 | 12 | 3 | 5 | 4 | 4 | 9 | 13 | 23 |
| Political parties | 6 | 8 | 2 | 5 | 12 | 10 | 7 | 10 | 1 | 5 | 4 | 7 | 6 | 8 | 4 | 3 | 9 | 3 | 8 | 14 | 7 | 5 | 2 | 3 | 3 | 5 | 6 | 16 |
| Inspectors (health and safety, construction, labour, food quality, sanitary control and licensing) | 5 | 6 | 3 | 3 | 8 | 6 | 8 | 4 | 2 | 4 | 3 | 6 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 4 | 8 | 2 | 5 | 7 | 6 | 3 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 8 | 10 | 11 |
| The Courts (tribunals) | 4 | 4 | 3 | 4 | 3 | 4 | 4 | 3 | 1 | 4 | 2 | 5 | 4 | 5 | 4 | 1 | 5 | 3 | 5 | 7 | 6 | 3 | 2 | 2 | 4 | 3 | 4 | 16 |
| Officials awarding public tenders | 4 | 6 | 3 | 6 | 7 | 5 | 6 | 3 | 2 | 3 | 2 | 7 | 4 | 6 | 4 | 3 | 7 | 4 | 6 | 7 | 6 | 3 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 4 | 6 | 11 |
| Officials issuing building permits | 3 | 5 | 3 | 3 | 1 | 4 | 4 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 1 | 6 | 3 | 4 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 3 | 4 | 3 | 3 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 5 | 3 | 3 | 5 |
| Officials issuing business permits | 2 | 2 | 2 | 1 | 3 | 3 | 1 | 2 | 0 | 2 | 4 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 5 | 1 | 2 | 5 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 3 |
| Public prosecution service | 1 | 0 | 3 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 3 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Refusal (SPONTANEOUS) | 13 | 12 | 20 | 9 | 5 | 13 | 16 | 13 | 8 | 17 | 12 | 9 | 18 | 11 | 16 | 20 | 14 | 15 | 11 | 7 | 13 | 9 | 4 | 29 | 22 | 7 | 3 | 2 |
| None (SPONTANEOUS) | 2 | 1 | 3 | 8 | 2 | 1 | 4 | 3 | 0 | 3 | 2 | 4 | 2 | 4 | 4 | 3 | 3 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 6 | 2 | 5 | 1 | 3 | 0 | 0 |
| Don't know | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

contrast, this institution is least often mentioned in Bulgaria and Romania (both 16%).

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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 months³⁶.

Among those who have had contact with any of the institutions mentioned above in the past 12 months, 7% of respondents (-1 pp) report that someone in their country has asked them or expected them to give a gift, favour or extra money for his or her services.

A large majority of 84% (-1 pp) report that they have not been asked for a gift, favour, or extra money. A small proportion of respondents spontaneously refused to answer (4%, +1 pp) and 5% (+1 pp) say they "don't know".

When examining specific institutions³⁷, one in ten respondents across the EU who report having had contact with officials awarding public tenders (10%, +1 pp) and with officials issuing building permits (10%, +3 pp) say that they have been asked or expected to give a gift, favour or extra money for these services in the last 12 months.

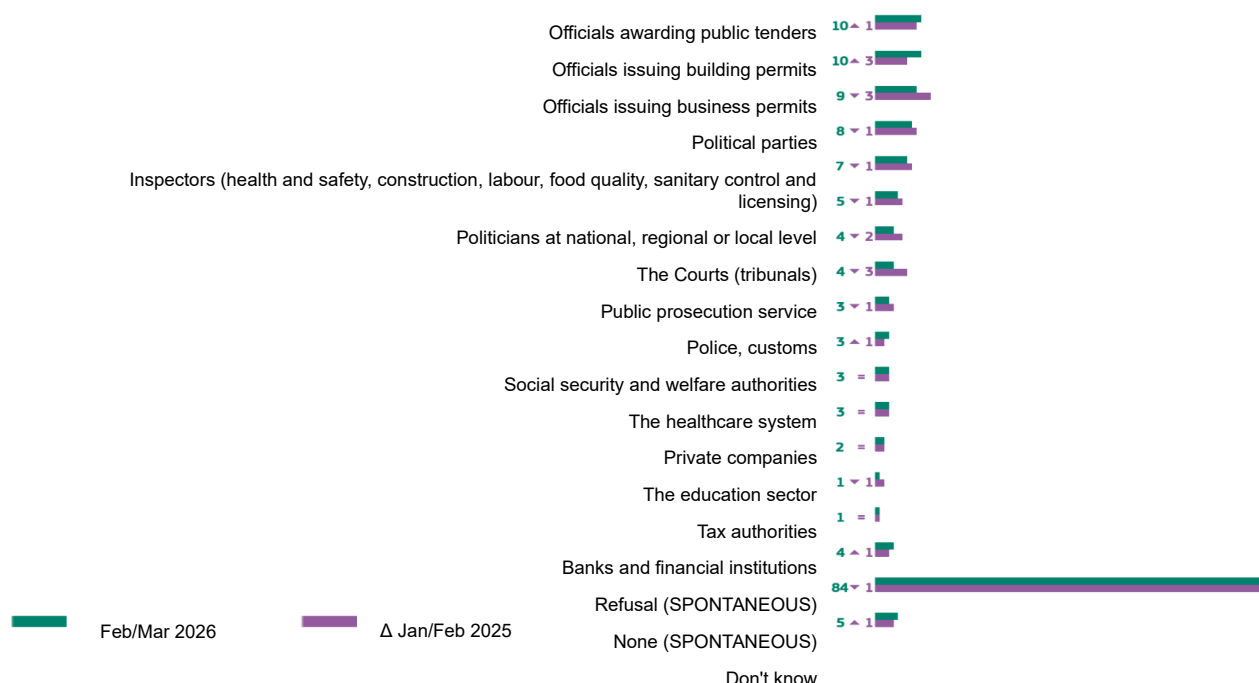
A slightly smaller proportion of respondents who had contact with officials issuing business permits report having been affected by such practices (9%, -3 pp). This is also the case for 8% of respondents who had contact with political

parties (-1 pp) and 7% of those who had contact with inspectors (health and safety, construction, labour, food quality, sanitary control and licensing) (-1 pp).

Finally, 5% of respondents who had contact with politicians at national, regional or local level report having been asked or expected to give a gift, favour or extra money (-1 pp).

All other institutions are mentioned by fewer than one in twenty respondents.

QC6b: 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? (EU27) (%)



36 QC6b. 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)

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

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Respondents are most likely to have been affected by corruption in their interactions with these institutions in the last 12 months in Bulgaria (20%), Belgium and Croatia (both 17%) as well as Slovenia (15%) and Lithuania (14%). The highest shares of respondents who have not had such an experience in the last 12 months are found in Portugal (100%), as well as Finland, Ireland and Denmark (all 98%).

QC6b: 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? (%)

| | 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 |
|--|------|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| Officials awarding public tenders | 10 | 24 | 21 | 19 | 0 | 11 | 9 | 7 | 19 | 9 | 6 | 13 | 14 | 0 | 4 | 31 | 0 | 6 | 0 | 4 | 11 | 15 | 0 | 3 | 16 | 23 | 2 | 3 |
| Officials issuing building permits | 10 | 5 | 28 | 21 | 3 | 7 | 9 | 13 | 20 | 10 | 12 | 16 | 21 | 7 | 14 | 11 | 0 | 17 | 4 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 3 | 2 | 9 | 9 | 0 | 4 |
| Officials issuing business permits | 9 | 10 | 36 | 13 | 0 | 5 | 11 | 0 | 5 | 13 | 0 | 18 | 17 | 20 | 21 | 4 | 0 | 7 | 5 | 10 | 11 | 20 | 0 | 4 | 15 | 6 | 0 | 0 |
| Political parties | 8 | 14 | 20 | 44 | 1 | 7 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 13 | 5 | 16 | 6 | 2 | 0 | 14 | 0 | 5 | 2 | 8 | 8 | 17 | 0 | 3 | 8 | 7 | 2 | 1 |
| Inspectors (health and safety, construction, labour, food quality, sanitary control and licensing) | 7 | 17 | 20 | 15 | 1 | 10 | 5 | 6 | 9 | 7 | 4 | 9 | 4 | 0 | 10 | 19 | 7 | 12 | 0 | 8 | 8 | 0 | 0 | 11 | 14 | 6 | 1 | 3 |
| Politicians at national, regional or local level | 5 | 16 | 9 | 17 | 0 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 8 | 7 | 3 | 8 | 7 | 2 | 3 | 7 | 3 | 7 | 4 | 4 | 12 | 7 | 0 | 7 | 12 | 9 | 1 | 2 |
| The Courts (tribunals) | 4 | 11 | 15 | 0 | 3 | 6 | 10 | 3 | 0 | 4 | 0 | 8 | 9 | 0 | 8 | 10 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 4 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 13 | 3 | 0 | 0 |
| Public prosecution service | 4 | 12 | 26 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 5 | 3 | 15 | 9 | 34 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 17 | 0 | 3 | 0 | 5 | 0 | 4 | 21 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Police, customs | 3 | 7 | 15 | 4 | 1 | 3 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 9 | 6 | 4 | 5 | 4 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 2 | 11 | 6 | 0 | 4 | 5 | 2 | 0 | 0 |
| Social security and welfare authorities | 3 | 12 | 6 | 2 | 1 | 3 | 4 | 1 | 0 | 2 | 2 | 7 | 12 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 1 | 3 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 5 | 0 | 3 | 3 | 5 | 0 | 0 |
| The healthcare system | 3 | 5 | 15 | 6 | 0 | 4 | 1 | 1 | 9 | 1 | 2 | 9 | 3 | 2 | 9 | 11 | 0 | 5 | 2 | 2 | 4 | 4 | 0 | 7 | 13 | 8 | 0 | 0 |
| Private companies | 3 | 8 | 9 | 6 | 1 | 3 | 2 | 1 | 0 | 2 | 3 | 5 | 3 | 3 | 6 | 0 | 3 | 8 | 5 | 4 | 5 | 2 | 0 | 2 | 12 | 5 | 2 | 3 |
| The education sector | 2 | 7 | 6 | 3 | 0 | 3 | 3 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 5 | 1 | 1 | 3 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 3 | 7 | 1 | 0 | 2 | 14 | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Tax authorities | 1 | 7 | 6 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 8 | 7 | 3 | 1 | 0 | 2 | 3 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 5 | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| Banks and financial institutions | 1 | 3 | 2 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 1 | 0 | 2 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 10 | 2 | 0 | 0 |
| Total 'Affected by corruption' | 8 | 17 | 20 | 13 | 2 | 9 | 6 | 2 | 9 | 4 | 5 | 17 | 9 | 5 | 11 | 14 | 3 | 8 | 5 | 11 | 12 | 6 | 0 | 9 | 15 | 12 | 2 | 4 |

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

IV. Reporting corruption

1. Reporting of corruption

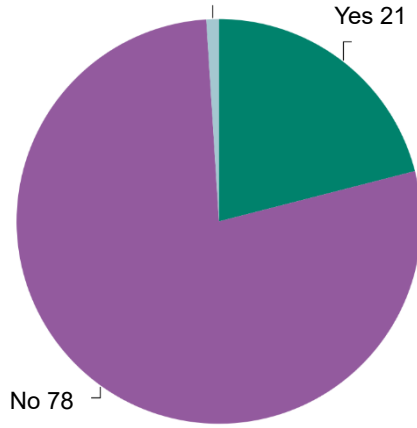
A large majority of those who experienced or witnessed corruption did not report it.

Respondents who said they had experienced corruption were asked whether they reported the case to anyone³⁸. Across Member States, just over one in five respondents (21%, +1 pp) say that they reported the case, while a large majority (78%, -1 pp) indicate that they did not report it.

In all Member States, a majority of respondents say that they did not report the corruption case they experienced or witnessed. The proportion of respondents who did not report ranges from 97% in Greece, 90% in Slovakia and 89% in Lithuania, to 53% in Denmark, and 54% both in the Netherlands and Spain.

By contrast, in four Member States, at least four in ten of respondents report that they did report the corruption case, namely in the Denmark (47%), the Netherlands (46%), as well as in Luxembourg (44%) and Spain (43%).

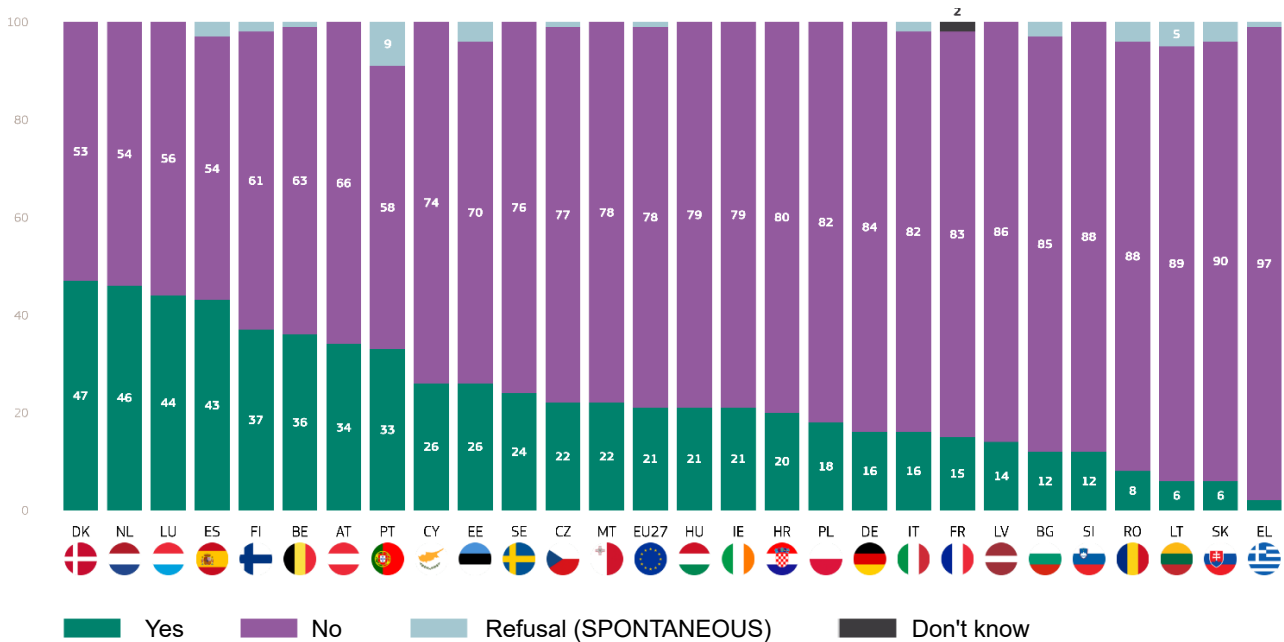
QC10: Did you report it to anyone or not? (EU27) (%)
 Refusal (SPONTANEOUS) 1



Yes ▲ 1
 No ▼ 1
 Refusal [SPONTANEOUS] =
 Don't know =

▲▼ (Feb/Mar 2026 – Jan/Feb 2025)

QC10: Did you report it to anyone or not? (%)



38 QC10. Did you report it to anyone or not?

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

- Respondents who finished their education aged 20 or over are more likely to say they reported the case (23%) than those who ended their education earlier (20% among those who finished aged 15 or younger and among those aged 16 –19).
- Unemployed (24%) are the most likely to say that they reported the corruption case. By contrast, house persons (16%), students (18%) and retired respondents (19%) are less likely to report the case.
- Respondents who experience difficulties paying their bills most of the time are more likely to say they reported the case (24%) than those who experience such difficulties from time to time (17%).

QC10 Did you report it to anyone or not? (% - EU)

| | Yes | No | Refusal (SPONTAN EOUS) | Don't know |
|--|-----|----|------------------------------|---------------|
| EU27 | 21 | 78 | 1 | 0 |
| Gender | | | | |
| Man | 20 | 78 | 2 | 0 |
| Woman | 22 | 77 | 0 | 1 |
| Age | | | | |
| 15-24 | 23 | 77 | 0 | 0 |
| 25-39 | 22 | 76 | 1 | 1 |
| 40-54 | 21 | 78 | 1 | 0 |
| >=55 | 20 | 78 | 2 | 0 |
| Education (End of) | | | | |
| <=15 | 20 | 79 | 1 | 0 |
| 16-19 | 20 | 78 | 2 | 0 |
| >=20 | 23 | 76 | 0 | 1 |
| Still Studying | 19 | 81 | 0 | 0 |
| Socio-professional category | | | | |
| Self-employed | 21 | 79 | 0 | 0 |
| Managers | 22 | 76 | 0 | 2 |
| Other white collars | 23 | 76 | 1 | 0 |
| Manual workers | 22 | 77 | 1 | 0 |
| House persons | 16 | 84 | 0 | 0 |
| Unemployed | 24 | 71 | 5 | 0 |
| Retired | 19 | 79 | 2 | 0 |
| Students | 18 | 81 | 1 | 0 |
| Difficulties paying bills | | | | |
| Most of the time | 24 | 75 | 1 | 0 |
| From time to time | 17 | 81 | 2 | 0 |
| Almost never/ Never | 23 | 76 | 1 | 0 |
| Experienced or witnessed corruption | | | | |
| Yes, experienced | 25 | 72 | 2 | 1 |
| Yes, witnessed | 20 | 79 | 1 | 0 |
| You know someone who takes bribes | | | | |
| Yes | 23 | 76 | 1 | 0 |
| No | 17 | 80 | 2 | 1 |

2. Awareness of where to report corruption

More than half of Europeans say they would not know where to report a case of corruption.

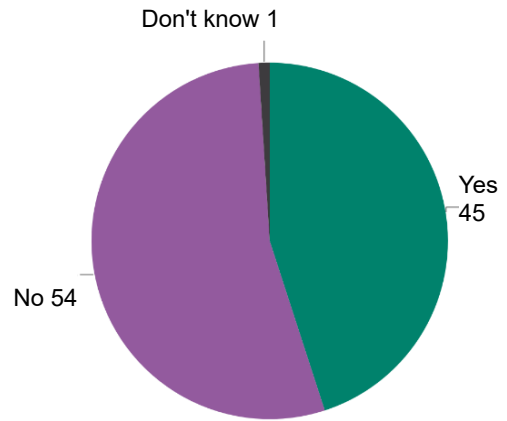
All respondents were asked whether they would know where to report a case of corruption if they were to experience or witness one³⁹.

Across Member States, a majority (54%, -1 pp) of respondents say that they would know where to report a case of corruption.

As to trends, less respondents say that they would not know where to report corruption, gradually increasing over the years.

Since December 2019, an absolute majority of respondents have consistently held this view, with only limited variation over time.

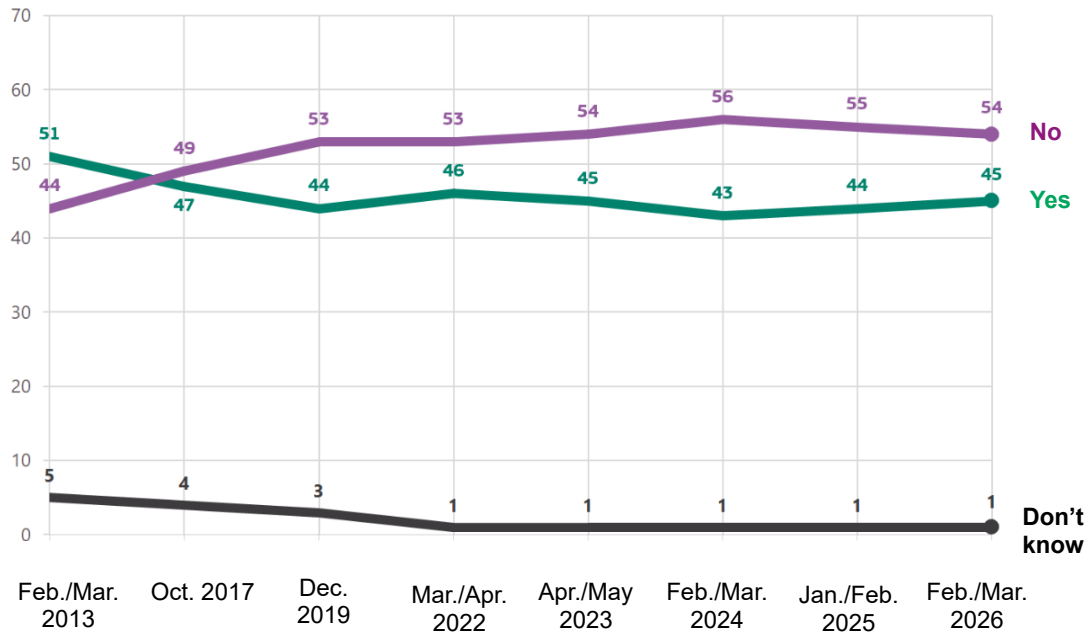
QC7: If you were to experience or witness a case of corruption, would you know where to report it to? (EU27) (%)



Yes ▲ 1
 No ▼ 1
 Don't know =

▲ ▼ (Feb/Mar 2025 - Jan/Feb 2025)

QC7 If you were to experience or witness a case of corruption, would you know where to report it to? (% - EU)



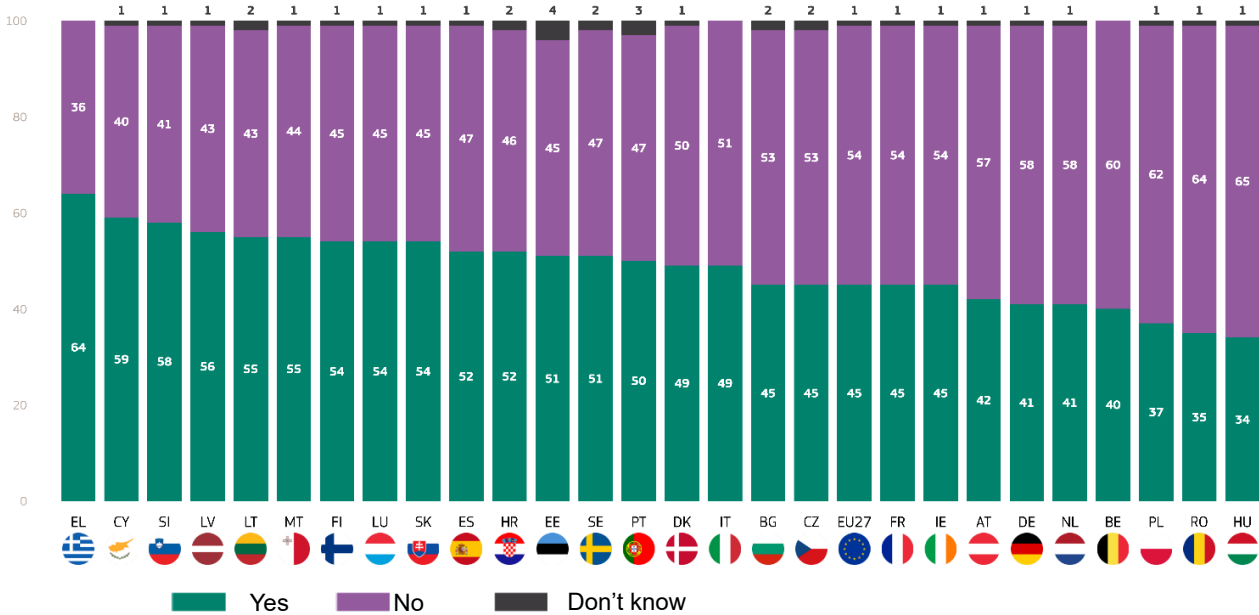
39 QC7. If you were to experience or witness a case of corruption, would you know where to report it to?

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In 14 Member States, at least half of respondents say that they would know where to report a case of corruption if they were to experience or witness one. This view is most widespread in Greece (64%), Cyprus (59%) and Slovenia (58%)

By contrast, in the remaining 14 Member States, at least half of respondents indicate that they would not know where to report corruption. This lack of awareness is most pronounced in Hungary (65%) and Romania (64%), which record the highest proportions of respondents saying that

QC7: If you were to experience or witness a case of corruption, would you know where to report it to? (%)



they would not know where to report a corruption case.

Compared to 2025, more respondents say they would know where to report a case of corruption if they were to experience or witness one in 16 Member States. The largest increase is observed in Estonia (51%, + 6 pp), followed by Latvia (56%, + 5 pp) and Poland (37%, + 5 pp).

By contrast, awareness of where to report corruption has declined in six Member States. The most notable decreases are recorded in the Malta (55%, -5 pp), the Netherlands (41%, -4pp) and Spain (52%, -4 pp).

QC7: If you were to experience or witness a case of corruption, would you know where to report it to? (%)

| | EU27 | EE | LV | PL | CZ | EL | LT | PT | DE | IT | SK | FI | FR | HU | SI | BG | LU | AT | BE | CY | HR | SE | DK | IE | RO | ES | NL | MT |
|---------------|------|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| Yes | 45 | 51 | 56 | 37 | 45 | 64 | 55 | 50 | 41 | 49 | 54 | 54 | 45 | 34 | 58 | 45 | 54 | 42 | 40 | 59 | 52 | 51 | 49 | 45 | 35 | 52 | 41 | 55 |
| ΔJan/Feb 2025 | ▲1 | ▲6 | ▲5 | ▲5 | ▲4 | ▲4 | ▲4 | ▲4 | ▲3 | ▲3 | ▲3 | ▲2 | ▲2 | ▲2 | ▲2 | ▲1 | ▲1 | = | = | = | = | = | ▼1 | ▼1 | ▼1 | ▼4 | ▼4 | ▼5 |
| No | 54 | 45 | 43 | 62 | 53 | 36 | 43 | 47 | 58 | 51 | 45 | 45 | 54 | 65 | 41 | 53 | 45 | 57 | 60 | 40 | 46 | 47 | 50 | 54 | 64 | 47 | 58 | 44 |
| ΔJan/Feb 2025 | ▼1 | ▼5 | ▼5 | ▼5 | ▼4 | ▼3 | ▼5 | ▼5 | ▼3 | ▼2 | ▼3 | ▼1 | ▼2 | ▼2 | ▼2 | ▼2 | = | = | = | = | ▼1 | ▼1 | ▲2 | ▲2 | ▲1 | ▲4 | ▲4 | ▲5 |
| Don't know | 1 | 4 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 0 | 2 | 3 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| ΔJan/Feb 2025 | = | ▼1 | = | = | = | ▼1 | ▲1 | ▲1 | = | ▼1 | = | ▼1 | = | = | = | ▲1 | ▼1 | = | = | = | ▲1 | ▲1 | ▼1 | ▼1 | = | = | = | = |

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Citizens' attitudes towards corruption in the EU in 2026

The socio-demographic analysis shows the following:

- Men (47%) are slightly more likely than women (43%) to report knowing where to do so.
- Respondents aged 40–54 are the most likely to say they would know where to report a case of corruption (48%). By contrast, younger respondents aged 15–24 are least likely to report knowing where to report corruption (37%).
- Half of respondents who finished their education aged 20 or over (50%) compared to 41% of those who ended their education aged 15 or younger.

QC7 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 | 47 | 52 | 1 |
| Woman | 43 | 56 | 1 |
| Age | | | |
| 15-24 | 37 | 62 | 1 |
| 25-39 | 43 | 56 | 1 |
| 40-54 | 48 | 51 | 1 |
| >=55 | 47 | 52 | 1 |
| Education (End of) | | | |
| <=15 | 41 | 57 | 2 |
| 16-19 | 44 | 55 | 1 |
| >=20 | 50 | 49 | 1 |
| Still Studying | 34 | 65 | 1 |
| Socio-professional category | | | |
| Self-employed | 52 | 47 | 1 |
| Managers | 49 | 50 | 1 |
| Other white collars | 46 | 53 | 1 |
| Manual workers | 45 | 54 | 1 |
| House persons | 37 | 62 | 1 |
| Unemployed | 48 | 51 | 1 |
| Retired | 45 | 53 | 2 |
| Students | 37 | 62 | 1 |
| Difficulties paying bills | | | |
| Most of the time | 44 | 58 | 1 |
| From time to time | 45 | 54 | 1 |
| Almost never/ Never | 45 | 54 | 1 |
| Experienced or witnessed corruption | | | |
| Yes, experienced | 68 | 32 | 0 |
| Yes, witnessed | 52 | 47 | 1 |
| No | 45 | 54 | 1 |
| You know someone who takes bribes | | | |
| Yes | 58 | 40 | 2 |
| No | 44 | 55 | 1 |

3. Reasons for not reporting corruption

Difficulty in proving corruption is the main reason why Europeans think cases are not reported.

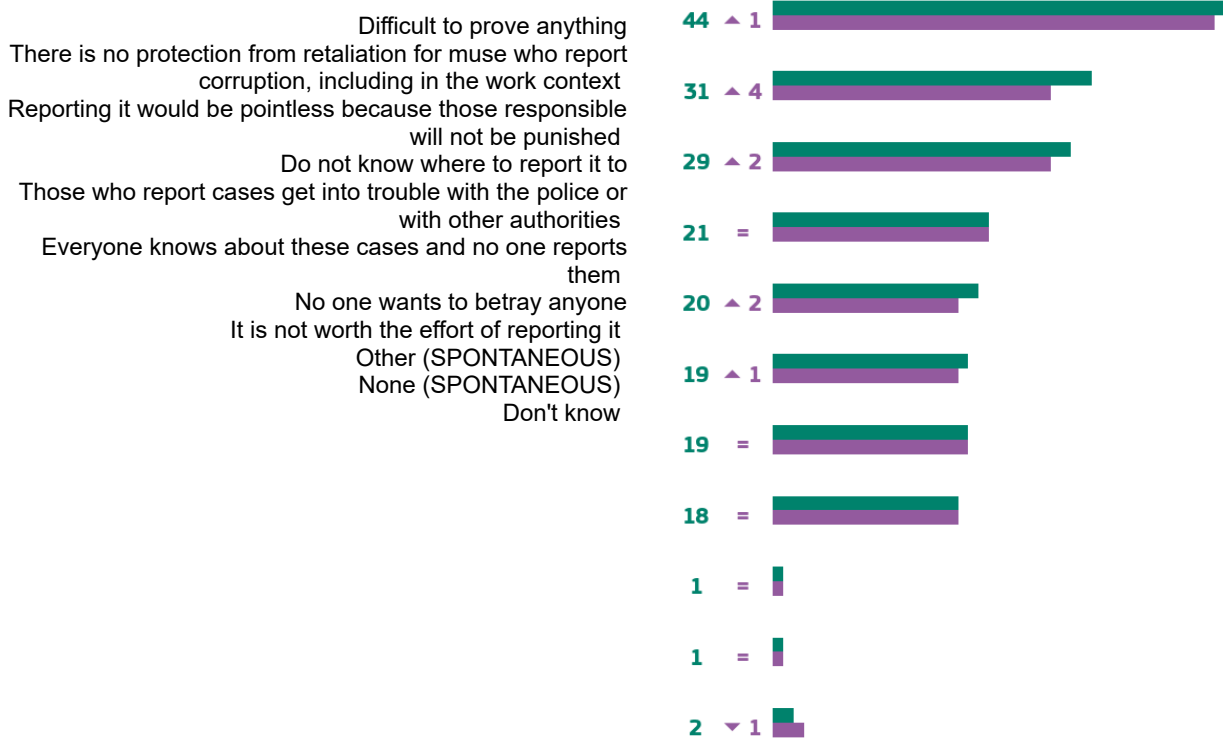
Respondents were presented with a list of possible reasons why people may decide not to report a case of corruption and were asked to select up to three reasons they consider the most important⁴⁰.

Across the EU, the most frequently mentioned reason is the difficulty in proving anything in corruption cases, cited by more than four in ten respondents (44%, +1 pp) This reason reflects widespread doubts about the effectiveness of reporting corruption.

Over one third say that there is no protection from retaliation for those who report corruption, including in the work context (31%, +4 pp), while nearly the same proportion believe that reporting corruption would be pointless because those responsible would not be punished (29%, +2 pp),

Just over one in five respondents say they would not report a case of corruption because they would not know where to report it (21%, unchanged). The remaining reasons are each selected by around one in five respondents. One fifth say that those who report corruption get into trouble with the police or other authorities (20%, +2 pp). Almost the same proportion of respondents say that everyone knows about these cases, and no one reports them (19%, +1 pp), or that no one wants to betray anyone (19%, unchanged). A similar number of respondents believe that it is not worth the effort of reporting corruption (18%, unchanged).

QC11: 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? (EU27) (%)



40 QC11. 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)

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In all but four Member States (Bulgaria, Cyprus, Malta and Portugal), the difficulty to prove anything is the most frequently mentioned reason why people may choose not to report corruption. This reason is most frequently mentioned by respondents in Luxembourg (60%), Sweden (59 %) and France (55%) and least frequently mentioned in Poland (29%), Romania (30 %) and Spain (36%).

There is no protection from retaliation for those who report corruption, including in the work context, is the most frequently mentioned item in Cyprus (54%) and in Malta (42%) and the second most important item in 11 Member States. Apart from Cyprus and Malta, respondents chose this reason most frequently in the Netherlands (43%) as well as Sweden (41%) and Greece (38%).

Reporting it would be pointless because that responsible will not be punished ranks first only in Bulgaria (42%) and Portugal (44%). Respondents are most likely to mention this item in Greece (48%) and Cyprus (49%). Moreover, it ranks second in 12 Member States.

The five remaining reasons do not rank first in any Member State. Notable observations for these reasons include:

Do not know where to report ranks second or third in four Member States. It is mentioned by around three in ten respondents in the Netherlands and Sweden (both 30%), France (29%), Finland (28%) and Austria (27%).

- Those who report cases get into trouble with the police or with other authorities, ranks second or third by eight Member States, and it is mentioned by at least one third of respondents in Cyprus (44%), Bulgaria (32%), Slovakia (35%), Lithuania and Malta (both 31%).
- While being mentioned by 20 % of Europeans, those who do not report cases since everybody knows

about corruption, but no one reports it, is mentioned by more than one fourth of respondents in Greece (38%), Croatia, Malta all 28%) and Italy (26%).

- The proportion of people citing that no one wants to betray anyone, ranges from 31% of Denmark to 8% in Bulgaria and Spain. This item ranks also second or third in four Member States.
- It is not worth the effort of reporting it ranks second in Austria (29%) and third in Portugal (29%), and Finland (26%).

QC11: 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? (%)

| | 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 | 44 | 49 | 38 | 49 | 50 | 48 | 39 | 44 | 50 | 36 | 55 | 36 | 37 | 38 | 41 | 42 | 60 | 40 | 36 | 50 | 50 | 29 | 39 | 30 | 42 | 43 | 54 | 59 |
| There is no protection from retaliation for those who report corruption, including in the work context | 31 | 31 | 31 | 25 | 28 | 30 | 26 | 30 | 38 | 32 | 31 | 25 | 33 | 54 | 32 | 30 | 33 | 30 | 42 | 43 | 23 | 28 | 17 | 25 | 29 | 28 | 22 | 41 |
| Reporting it would be pointless because those responsible will not be punished | 29 | 30 | 42 | 28 | 30 | 27 | 27 | 29 | 48 | 32 | 22 | 34 | 32 | 49 | 32 | 28 | 24 | 35 | 41 | 37 | 29 | 22 | 44 | 27 | 36 | 33 | 25 | 27 |
| Do not know where to report it to | 21 | 25 | 16 | 12 | 27 | 20 | 15 | 21 | 14 | 20 | 29 | 13 | 17 | 11 | 16 | 13 | 19 | 20 | 11 | 30 | 27 | 13 | 21 | 16 | 16 | 19 | 28 | 30 |
| Those who report cases get into trouble with the police or with other authorities | 20 | 17 | 32 | 25 | 10 | 20 | 21 | 17 | 27 | 25 | 14 | 21 | 21 | 44 | 22 | 31 | 26 | 24 | 31 | 21 | 23 | 24 | 17 | 18 | 24 | 35 | 9 | 9 |
| Everyone knows about these cases and no one reports them | 19 | 16 | 25 | 23 | 10 | 14 | 13 | 17 | 38 | 14 | 17 | 28 | 26 | 21 | 19 | 19 | 13 | 25 | 28 | 12 | 22 | 19 | 15 | 24 | 23 | 28 | 14 | 15 |
| No one wants to betray anyone | 19 | 20 | 8 | 17 | 31 | 26 | 21 | 19 | 21 | 8 | 23 | 24 | 10 | 10 | 23 | 25 | 24 | 19 | 16 | 19 | 27 | 24 | 13 | 17 | 19 | 20 | 17 | 19 |
| It is not worth the effort of reporting it | 18 | 17 | 19 | 17 | 20 | 18 | 18 | 25 | 18 | 24 | 8 | 27 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 17 | 12 | 25 | 26 | 18 | 29 | 16 | 29 | 20 | 25 | 22 | 26 | 21 |
| Other (SPONTANEOUS) | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| None (SPONTANEOUS) | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Don't know | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| | 1 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 3 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 3 |
| | 2 | 2 | 3 | 3 | 6 | 4 | 8 | 3 | 0 | 2 | 3 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 3 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 4 | 3 | 5 | 2 | 1 | 2 | 6 | 2 |

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

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Compared to 2025, changes at national level vary by reason.

Respondents selecting “do not know where to report it” increased in eight Member States, most notably in Cyprus (11%, +5 pp), and Portugal (21%, +5 pp). This proportion decreased in 13 Member States, with Italy (17%, -4 pp), Malta (11%, -4 pp) and Sweden (30%, -4 pp) recording the largest drops.

For “difficult to prove anything”, respondents selecting this item increased in 17 Member States, most notably in Austria (50%, +8 pp). By contrast, it decreased in eight Member States, with the largest decrease recorded in Denmark (50%, -9 pp).

The reason “reporting it would be pointless because those responsible will not be punished” is mentioned more frequently than in 2025 in 17 Member States, with the largest increases observed in Bulgaria (42%, +8 pp) and Cyprus (49%, +8 pp). This share decreased in six Member States, most notably in France (22%, -3 pp), Latvia (32%, -3 pp) and Austria (29%, -3 pp).

Respondents citing “those who report cases get into trouble with the police or with other authorities” increased in 17 Member States, most notably in Slovakia (35%, +10 pp), Luxembourg (26%, +9 pp) and Cyprus (44%, +7 pp). It decreased in eight Member States, with the largest decrease registered in Romania (18%, -4 pp).

Compared to 2025, respondents in 13 Member States are more likely to cite “everyone knows about these cases, and no one reports them”, with the largest increase recorded in Malta (28%, +8 pp). Conversely, this proportion decreased in ten Member States, with the largest decreases observed in Cyprus (21%, -5 pp) and Luxembourg (13%, -5 pp).

The reason “it is not worth the effort of reporting it” is cited more frequently in five Member States, with the largest increase observed in Portugal (29%, +4 pp). By contrast, it decreased in 19 Member States, most notably in Cyprus (17%, -10 pp) and Latvia (18%, -6 pp).

The belief that “there is no protection from retaliation for those who report corruption, including in the work context” is cited more often than in 2025 in 20 Member States, most notably in Ireland (30%, +11 pp). At the same time, this share decreased in three Member States, with the largest decrease recorded in Portugal (17%, -13 pp).

Finally, for the reason “no one wants to betray anyone”, agreement increased in nine Member States, most notably in Denmark (31%, +4 pp). By contrast, it decreased in 13 Member States, with the largest decreases recorded in Finland (17%, -4 pp) and Sweden (19%, -4 pp).

QC11: 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? (%)

| | | EU27 | BE | BG | CZ | DK | DE | EE | IE | EL | ES | FR | HR | IT | CY | LV | LT | LU | HU | MT | NL | AT | PL | PT | RO | SI | SK | FI | SE |
|--|---------------|------|----|----|----|----|----|----|-----|----|----|----|----|----|-----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|-----|----|----|-----|----|----|
| Do not know where to report it to | Feb/Mar 2026 | 21 | 25 | 16 | 12 | 27 | 20 | 15 | 21 | 14 | 20 | 29 | 13 | 17 | 11 | 16 | 13 | 19 | 20 | 11 | 30 | 27 | 13 | 21 | 16 | 16 | 19 | 28 | 30 |
| | ΔJan/Feb 2025 | = | = | ▼2 | ▲2 | ▼2 | ▲2 | ▼1 | = | = | ▼1 | ▼2 | ▲2 | ▼4 | ▲5 | ▲1 | ▼1 | ▲1 | ▼3 | ▼4 | ▲2 | = | = | ▲5 | ▼2 | ▼2 | ▼3 | = | ▼4 |
| | Feb/Mar 2026 | 44 | 49 | 38 | 49 | 50 | 48 | 39 | 44 | 50 | 36 | 55 | 36 | 37 | 38 | 41 | 42 | 60 | 40 | 36 | 50 | 50 | 29 | 39 | 30 | 42 | 43 | 54 | 59 |
| Difficult to prove anything | Feb/Mar 2026 | ▲1 | ▲1 | ▼3 | ▲3 | ▼9 | ▼1 | ▲1 | ▲1 | ▲6 | ▼2 | ▲2 | ▼1 | ▼2 | ▲5 | ▲4 | ▼4 | ▲2 | ▼1 | ▲6 | ▲2 | ▲8 | ▲2 | ▲3 | ▲1 | ▲3 | = | = | ▲4 |
| | ΔJan/Feb 2025 | 29 | 30 | 42 | 28 | 30 | 27 | 27 | 29 | 48 | 32 | 22 | 34 | 32 | 49 | 32 | 28 | 24 | 35 | 41 | 37 | 29 | 22 | 44 | 27 | 36 | 33 | 23 | 27 |
| | Feb/Mar 2026 | ▲2 | ▲6 | ▲8 | ▲3 | ▲1 | ▲3 | ▼1 | ▲3 | ▲5 | ▲3 | ▼3 | ▼2 | ▲4 | ▲8 | ▼3 | ▼2 | ▲1 | ▲2 | ▲5 | ▲2 | ▼3 | ▲3 | ▲3 | ▲1 | = | = | = | = |
| Reporting it would be pointless because those responsible will not be punished | ΔJan/Feb 2025 | 20 | 17 | 32 | 25 | 10 | 20 | 21 | 17 | 27 | 25 | 14 | 21 | 21 | 44 | 22 | 31 | 26 | 24 | 31 | 21 | 23 | 24 | 17 | 18 | 24 | 35 | 9 | 9 |
| | Feb/Mar 2026 | ▲2 | ▲5 | ▲2 | ▼2 | ▲3 | = | ▲1 | ▲2 | ▲3 | ▲6 | ▲2 | ▼1 | ▲2 | ▲7 | ▼1 | ▼3 | ▲9 | ▲6 | ▼4 | ▲1 | = | ▲4 | ▼2 | ▼4 | ▲4 | ▲10 | ▼1 | ▲2 |
| | ΔJan/Feb 2025 | 19 | 16 | 25 | 23 | 10 | 14 | 13 | 17 | 38 | 14 | 17 | 28 | 26 | 21 | 19 | 19 | 13 | 25 | 28 | 12 | 22 | 19 | 15 | 24 | 23 | 28 | 14 | 15 |
| Those who report cases get into trouble with the police or with other authorities | Feb/Mar 2026 | ▲1 | = | ▼2 | ▲4 | ▼4 | ▼1 | ▼1 | = | ▲1 | ▲1 | ▲1 | ▼3 | ▲1 | ▼5 | ▲1 | ▼5 | ▲1 | ▲8 | = | ▲5 | ▲1 | ▼1 | = | ▼1 | ▼2 | ▲2 | ▲2 | |
| | ΔJan/Feb 2025 | 18 | 17 | 19 | 17 | 20 | 18 | 18 | 25 | 18 | 24 | 8 | 27 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 17 | 12 | 25 | 26 | 18 | 29 | 16 | 29 | 20 | 25 | 22 | 26 | 21 |
| | Feb/Mar 2026 | = | ▼3 | ▼1 | ▼1 | ▼1 | = | ▼5 | ▼1 | ▼2 | = | ▼2 | ▼3 | ▲1 | ▼10 | ▼6 | ▼2 | ▼2 | = | ▲1 | ▼2 | ▼1 | ▲1 | ▲4 | ▼2 | ▼1 | ▼2 | ▲1 | ▼3 |
| Everyone knows about these cases and no one reports them | ΔJan/Feb 2025 | 31 | 31 | 31 | 25 | 28 | 30 | 26 | 30 | 38 | 32 | 31 | 25 | 33 | 54 | 32 | 30 | 33 | 30 | 42 | 43 | 23 | 28 | 17 | 25 | 29 | 28 | 22 | 41 |
| | Feb/Mar 2026 | ▲4 | ▲8 | ▲7 | ▲1 | ▲2 | ▲5 | = | ▲11 | ▲9 | ▲6 | ▲3 | ▲1 | ▲2 | ▲8 | ▲4 | ▼3 | = | ▲4 | ▲2 | = | ▼1 | ▲7 | ▼13 | = | ▲3 | ▲3 | ▲3 | ▲9 |
| | ΔJan/Feb 2025 | 19 | 20 | 8 | 17 | 31 | 26 | 21 | 19 | 21 | 8 | 23 | 24 | 10 | 10 | 23 | 25 | 24 | 19 | 16 | 19 | 27 | 24 | 13 | 17 | 19 | 20 | 17 | 19 |
| It is not worth the effort of reporting it | Feb/Mar 2026 | = | ▼3 | = | ▼1 | ▲4 | ▲3 | = | ▼1 | ▼2 | ▼3 | ▲2 | ▼1 | = | ▼3 | ▲1 | ▲4 | ▼1 | ▲1 | = | ▼3 | = | ▼2 | ▲1 | ▼1 | ▲1 | ▼2 | ▲4 | ▼4 |
| | ΔJan/Feb 2025 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | = | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| | Feb/Mar 2026 | = | ▼1 | = | = | ▲1 | ▲2 | = | = | = | ▼1 | ▲1 | ▲1 | = | = | = | = | = | = | = | ▼1 | = | = | ▼1 | ▼1 | ▼1 | = | ▲1 | |
| There is no protection from retaliation for those who report corruption, including in the work context | ΔJan/Feb 2025 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 3 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 3 |
| | Feb/Mar 2026 | = | ▼1 | ▲1 | ▲1 | ▼1 | = | = | = | = | ▲1 | ▲1 | = | ▲1 | = | ▲1 | = | ▲1 | = | ▼2 | = | ▲1 | = | = | = | ▼1 | = | = | = |
| | ΔJan/Feb 2025 | 2 | 2 | 3 | 3 | 6 | 4 | 8 | 3 | 0 | 2 | 3 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 3 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 4 | 3 | 5 | 2 | 1 | 2 | 6 | 2 |
| No one wants to betray anyone | Feb/Mar 2026 | ▼1 | ▼1 | ▲1 | ▼2 | ▲3 | ▼1 | = | = | = | ▼1 | ▼2 | = | ▼2 | ▼2 | ▼1 | = | ▼1 | = | ▼4 | = | ▲1 | ▼1 | ▲2 | = | = | = | = | = |
| | ΔJan/Feb 2025 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Other (SPONTANEOUS) | Feb/Mar 2026 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | ΔJan/Feb 2025 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| None (SPONTANEOUS) | Feb/Mar 2026 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | ΔJan/Feb 2025 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Don't know | Feb/Mar 2026 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | ΔJan/Feb 2025 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

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

- Those who stopped studying aged 20+ are most likely to say people may decide not to report corruption because it is difficult to prove anything (46%). Managers (49%) and student (47%) are similarly likely to give this response
- Those who have difficulties paying bills most of the time (33%), the unemployed and managers (both 34%) are most likely to say that there is no protection from retaliation for those who report corruption, including in the work context.
- Those who have difficulties paying bills most of the time (33%) and the self-employed (34%) are most likely to say reporting corruption would be pointless because those responsible will not be punished.
- Lastly, those aged 15 -24 (25%), students (24%) and managers (23%) are more likely than other groups to say that people do not know where to report the cases.

QC11 Below are some possible reasons why people may decide not to report a case of corruption. Please tell those which you think are the most important?

| | Difficult to prove anything | There is no protection from retaliation for those who report corruption, including in the work context | Reporting it would be pointless because those responsible will not be punished | Do not know where to report it to |
|--|-----------------------------|--|--|-----------------------------------|
| EU27 | 44 | 31 | 29 | 21 |
| Gender | | | | |
| Man | 44 | 31 | 30 | 19 |
| Woman | 43 | 30 | 29 | 22 |
| Age | | | | |
| 15-24 | 46 | 27 | 29 | 25 |
| 25-39 | 45 | 32 | 30 | 22 |
| 40-54 | 43 | 3 | 31 | 19 |
| >=55 | 42 | 31 | 28 | 20 |
| Education (End of) | | | | |
| <=15 | 38 | 27 | 31 | 20 |
| 16-19 | 42 | 30 | 29 | 19 |
| >=20 | 46 | 34 | 29 | 22 |
| Still Studying | 50 | 30 | 30 | 26 |
| Socio-professional category | | | | |
| Self-employed | 43 | 32 | 34 | 19 |
| Managers | 49 | 34 | 28 | 23 |
| Other white collars | 42 | 32 | 30 | 18 |
| Manual workers | 42 | 28 | 29 | 2 |
| House persons | 37 | 28 | 28 | 21 |
| Unemployed | 44 | 34 | 30 | 22 |
| Retired | 43 | 3 | 28 | 20 |
| Students | 47 | 29 | 30 | 24 |
| Difficulties paying bills | | | | |
| Most of the time | 39 | 33 | 35 | 21 |
| From time to time | 42 | 3 | 32 | 20 |
| Almost never/ Never | 45 | 31 | 27 | 21 |
| Experienced or witnessed corruption | | | | |
| Yes, experienced | 35 | 36 | 38 | 13 |
| Yes, witnessed | 39 | 34 | 34 | 14 |
| No | 44 | 31 | 29 | 21 |
| You know someone who takes bribes | | | | |
| Yes | 43 | 36 | 40 | 16 |
| No | 44 | 30 | 28 | 21 |

4. Level of trust in authorities

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

Respondents were also asked which institution they would trust most to deal with a complaint about a case of corruption⁴¹.

Overall, the police are the most trusted authority across the European Union. Close to six in ten respondents say they would trust the police to deal with such a complaint (59%, -2 pp). This is the only institution trusted by a majority of respondents.

Around one quarter trust the justice system, including courts, tribunals and public prosecution services (24%, +1 pp). Specialised anti-corruption agencies are trusted by one in five respondents (20%, +1 pp).

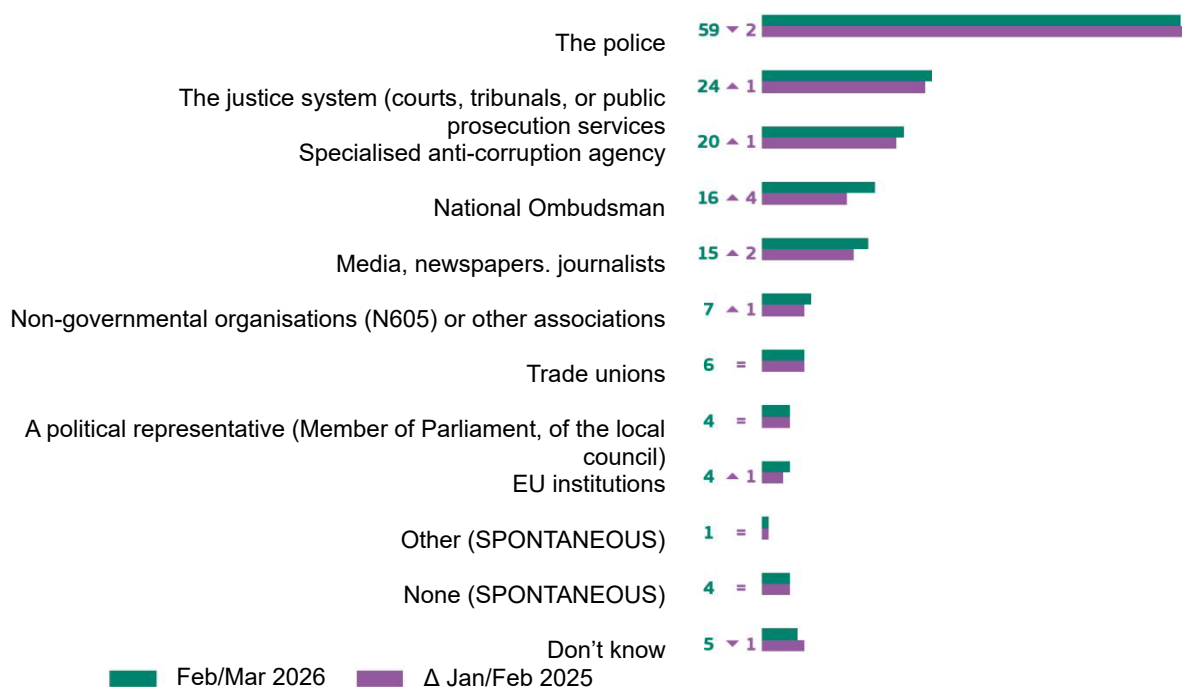
Lower levels of trust are expressed for other institutions. Around one in six respondents mention the national ombudsman (16%, +4 pp), while the media, including newspapers and journalists, are trusted by 15% (+2 pp).

All remaining institutions are trusted by fewer than one in ten respondents: non-governmental organisations (NGOs) or other associations (7%, +1 pp), trade unions (6%, unchanged), a political representative, such as a Member of

Parliament or a local councillor (4%, unchanged), and EU institutions (4%, +1 pp).

Finally, 4% of respondents say that they do not trust any of the institutions listed (unchanged), while 5% say they do not know (-1 pp).

QC8: And if you wanted to complain about this case of corruption, who would you trust most to deal with it? (%)



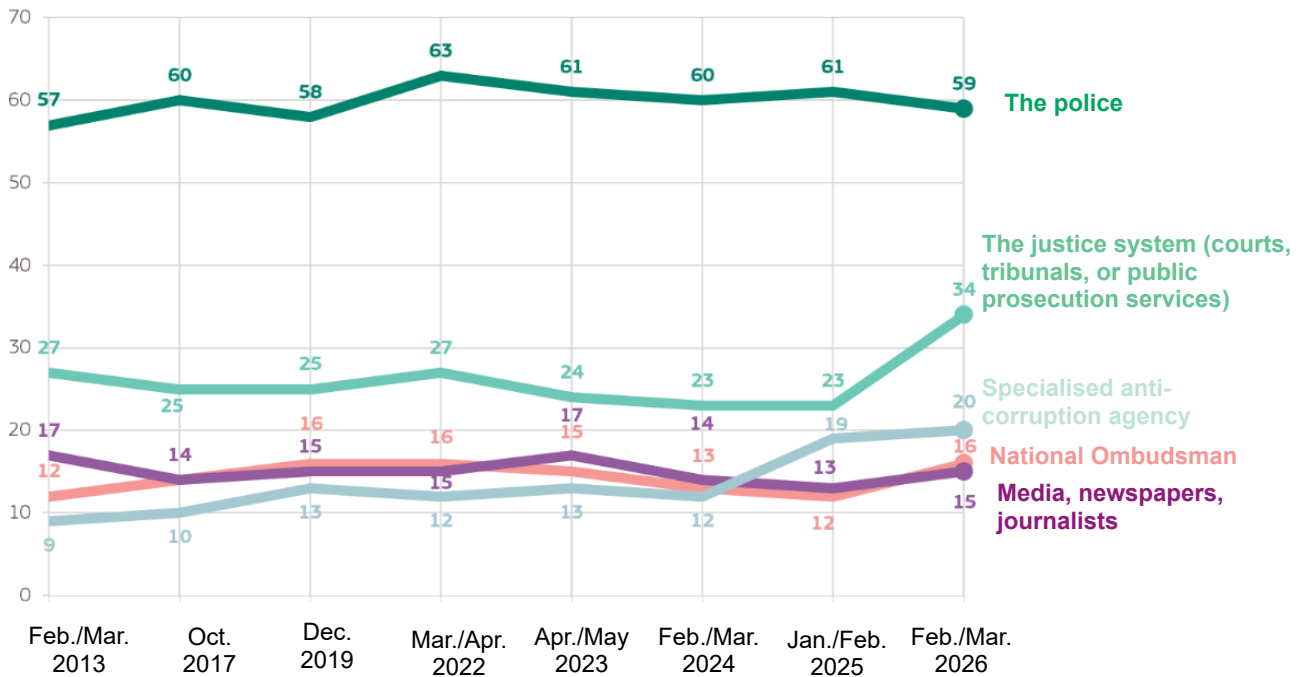
41 QC8. And if you wanted to complain about this case of corruption, who would you trust most to deal with it?

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While levels of trust in most institutions have remained broadly stable since 2013, trust in specialised anti-corruption agencies has increased markedly over this period, rising by ten percentage points overall. This increase is particularly pronounced since 2024 (from 12% up to 19% in 2026).

Finally, trust in the justice system registered an important rise of 11 percentage points since 2025.

QC8 And if you wanted to complain about this case of corruption, who would you trust most to deal with it? (MULTIPLE ANSWERS POSSIBLE) (% EU)



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In all Member States, respondents are most likely to say that they would trust the police most if they wanted to complain about a case of corruption. The highest proportions expressing trust in the police are recorded in Finland (79%), Denmark (73%) and Czechia (70%).

In 20 Member States, at least half of respondents say they would trust the police to deal with their complaint. By contrast, respondents are least likely to express such trust in Malta (39%), Bulgaria (40%) and Latvia (43%).

The justice system (courts, tribunals or public prosecution services) ranks as the second - or third -most trusted institution in 16 Member States. Trust in the justice system is particularly high in Sweden (63%), which is the only country where a majority of respondents mention this institution.

Specialised anti-corruption agencies⁴² rank second or third in 11 Member States, with particularly high levels recorded in Croatia (38%).

The national ombudsman ranks second or third in 13 Member States, most notably in the Netherlands, where 39% mention it.

In 15 Member States, the media, including newspapers and journalists, rank second or third among the institutions most trusted to deal with complaints about corruption. The highest proportions mentioning the media are observed in Cyprus (29%), Denmark (27%), followed by Bulgaria and Slovakia (both 26%).

NGOs rank third in Hungary (17%). After Hungary, NGOs are most frequently mentioned in Slovakia (16%).

All remaining institutions, trade unions, political representatives (Members of Parliament or local councillors) and EU institutions — do not rank among the top three most frequently mentioned institutions in any Member State. Nevertheless, it is worth noting that, the relative high number of respondents mentioning 'trade unions' in Sweden (21%).

QAC8: And if you wanted to complain about this case of corruption, who would you trust most to deal with it? (%)

| | EU27 | BE | BG | CZ | DK | DE | EE | IE | EL | ES | FR | HR | IT | CY | LV | LT | LU | HU | MT | NL | AT | PL | PT | RO | SI | SK | FI | SE |
|---|------|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| The police | 59 | 58 | 40 | 70 | 73 | 60 | 62 | 56 | 67 | 58 | 58 | 44 | 64 | 51 | 43 | 47 | 66 | 44 | 39 | 55 | 54 | 62 | 56 | 44 | 54 | 54 | 79 | 67 |
| The justice system (courts, tribunals, or public prosecution services) | 24 | 26 | 10 | 6 | 41 | 28 | 19 | 10 | 34 | 33 | 25 | 15 | 15 | 17 | 7 | 9 | 30 | 20 | 12 | 35 | 28 | 16 | 22 | 9 | 10 | 13 | 32 | 63 |
| Specialised anti—corruption agency | 20 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 15 | 22 | 38 | 20 | 0 | 34 | 31 | 0 | 0 | 25 | 0 | 30 | 10 | 22 | 28 | 32 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| National Ombudsman | 16 | 14 | 13 | 15 | 23 | 23 | 10 | 30 | 32 | 9 | 9 | 11 | 9 | 22 | 16 | 1 | 12 | 17 | 23 | 39 | 19 | 9 | 9 | 6 | 15 | 26 | 20 | 37 |
| Media, newspapers, journalists | 15 | 19 | 26 | 17 | 27 | 15 | 17 | 12 | 14 | 9 | 16 | 19 | 12 | 29 | 18 | 21 | 16 | 15 | 19 | 19 | 25 | 11 | 16 | 12 | 10 | 26 | 10 | 26 |
| Non-governmental organisations (NGOs) or other associations | 7 | 9 | 7 | 6 | 9 | 9 | 4 | 11 | 7 | 2 | 10 | 9 | 5 | 11 | 5 | 5 | 9 | 17 | 12 | 7 | 15 | 3 | 2 | 9 | 8 | 16 | 5 | 13 |
| Trade unions | 6 | 13 | 3 | 4 | 17 | 5 | 4 | 6 | 5 | 4 | 8 | 2 | 5 | 4 | 5 | 1 | 9 | 5 | 5 | 17 | 7 | 2 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 3 | 11 | 21 |
| A political representative (Member of Parliament, of the local council) | 4 | 6 | 4 | 3 | 6 | 6 | 3 | 7 | 2 | 2 | 3 | 3 | 2 | 8 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 7 | 6 | 7 | 12 | 4 | 2 | 6 | 1 | 6 | 4 | 7 |
| EU institutions | 4 | 5 | 7 | 2 | 7 | 3 | 3 | 4 | 8 | 4 | 2 | 10 | 2 | 14 | 7 | 5 | 4 | 13 | 13 | 4 | 6 | 3 | 1 | 4 | 7 | 7 | 6 | 10 |
| Other (SPONTANEOUS) | 1 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 1 | 2 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| None (SPONTANEOUS) | 4 | 3 | 14 | 5 | 1 | 3 | 6 | 5 | 6 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 3 | 8 | 6 | 11 | 1 | 7 | 9 | 1 | 6 | 5 | 1 | 10 | 11 | 2 | 1 | 1 |
| Don't know | 5 | 3 | 9 | 8 | 2 | 3 | 7 | 6 | 1 | 5 | 5 | 7 | 4 | 5 | 5 | 3 | 3 | 7 | 3 | 1 | 4 | 9 | 10 | 8 | 3 | 6 | 3 | 1 |

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

42 It is important to note that this item was only proposed to respondents in Austria, Spain, France, Croatia, Italy, Lithuania, Latvia, Malta, Poland

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Compared to 2025, the proportion of respondents saying they would trust the police to deal with complaints about cases of corruption has increased in 11 Member States. The largest increases are observed in Poland (62%, +6 pp), Greece (67%, +5 pp) and Hungary (44%, +5 pp). In 15 Member States, fewer respondents now hold this view, most notably in Germany (60%, -9 pp).

In 17 Member States, respondents are more likely than in 2025 to say they would trust the justice system to deal with a complaint about corruption, while this share has declined in seven Member States. The strongest increase is recorded in Portugal (22%, +7 pp), while the largest decreases are observed in the Netherlands (35%, -3 pp) and (Malta (12%, -3 pp).

NGOs are trusted by an increased number of respondents in 19 Member States. The highest increase is registered in Slovakia (16%, +7 pp), while the highest decrease is in Malta (12%, -4pp).

The proportion of respondents mentioning the media, including newspapers and journalists, has increased in 17 Member States and decreased in six Member States. The most substantial increase is observed in Cyprus (29%, +7 pp), while the largest decrease is recorded in Slovenia (10%, -4 pp).

Mentions of the national ombudsman have increased in 20 Member States, with the largest rise seen in Greece (32%, +10 pp). By contrast, a decrease is observed in six Member States, although all declines remain limited, at between one and two percentage points.

Other notable changes compared to 2025 include:

- Trust in a political representative (Member of Parliament or local councillor) has not changed by more than three percentage points in any Member State.
- The number of respondents mentioning specialised anti-corruption agencies increased by six percentage points (32%) in Slovenia and dropped by seven percentage points in Croatia (38%).
- In Luxembourg and Austria, trust in trade unions has dropped by four percentage points (9% and 7% respectively) and gained four percentage points in the Netherlands (17%).
- Trust in EU institutions to deal with complaints about corruption has increased by four percentage points in Greece (8%).

QC8: And if you wanted to complain about this case of corruption, who would you trust most to deal with it? (%)

| | | EU27 | BE | BG | CZ | DK | DE | EE | IE | EL | ES | FR | HR | IT | CY | LV | LT | LU | HU | MT | NL | AT | PL | PT | RO | SI | SK | FI | SE |
|---|---------------|------|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|-----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| The police | Feb/Mar 2026 | 59 | 58 | 40 | 70 | 73 | 60 | 62 | 56 | 67 | 58 | 58 | 44 | 64 | 51 | 43 | 47 | 66 | 44 | 39 | 55 | 54 | 62 | 56 | 44 | 54 | 54 | 79 | 67 |
| | ΔJan/Feb 2025 | ▼2 | ▲2 | ▲2 | ▲4 | ▼3 | ▼9 | ▼1 | ▼1 | ▲5 | ▼5 | ▼1 | = | ▼2 | ▼6 | ▼2 | ▼5 | ▼6 | ▲5 | ▼2 | ▼7 | ▼1 | ▲6 | ▲2 | ▲1 | ▲3 | ▼8 | ▲1 | ▲1 |
| The justice system (courts, tribunals, or public prosecution services) | Feb/Mar 2026 | 24 | 26 | 10 | 6 | 41 | 28 | 19 | 10 | 34 | 33 | 25 | 15 | 15 | 17 | 7 | 9 | 30 | 20 | 12 | 35 | 28 | 16 | 22 | 9 | 10 | 13 | 32 | 63 |
| | ΔJan/Feb 2025 | ▲1 | ▲3 | ▲3 | = | ▲1 | ▲4 | ▼1 | ▲1 | = | ▼1 | = | ▲4 | ▲1 | ▲4 | ▼1 | ▲4 | ▲2 | ▼1 | ▼3 | ▼3 | ▲1 | ▲3 | ▲7 | ▼1 | ▲2 | ▲1 | ▲3 | ▲5 |
| Non-governmental organisations (NGOs) or other associations | Feb/Mar 2026 | 7 | 9 | 7 | 6 | 9 | 9 | 4 | 11 | 7 | 2 | 10 | 9 | 5 | 11 | 5 | 5 | 9 | 17 | 12 | 7 | 15 | 3 | 2 | 9 | 8 | 16 | 5 | 13 |
| | ΔJan/Feb 2025 | ▲1 | ▲2 | ▲1 | ▲1 | ▲3 | ▲4 | ▼1 | ▲3 | ▲3 | = | ▲2 | ▲3 | ▲1 | ▲3 | ▲1 | ▲2 | ▲2 | ▲2 | ▼4 | ▼1 | ▼1 | ▼1 | = | = | ▲1 | ▲7 | ▼1 | ▲6 |
| Media, newspapers, journalists | Feb/Mar 2026 | 15 | 19 | 26 | 17 | 27 | 15 | 17 | 12 | 14 | 9 | 16 | 19 | 12 | 29 | 18 | 21 | 16 | 15 | 19 | 19 | 25 | 11 | 16 | 12 | 10 | 26 | 10 | 26 |
| | ΔJan/Feb 2025 | ▲2 | ▼3 | ▲3 | ▲3 | ▲1 | ▲5 | ▲1 | = | ▲3 | = | ▲3 | ▼2 | ▲1 | ▲7 | ▲2 | ▲3 | ▲4 | ▼1 | ▼2 | ▼1 | ▲2 | ▲3 | ▲6 | ▲2 | ▼4 | = | = | ▲1 |
| National Ombudsman | Feb/Mar 2026 | 16 | 14 | 13 | 15 | 23 | 23 | 10 | 30 | 32 | 9 | 9 | 11 | 9 | 22 | 16 | 1 | 12 | 17 | 23 | 39 | 19 | 9 | 9 | 6 | 15 | 26 | 20 | 37 |
| | ΔJan/Feb 2025 | ▲4 | ▼2 | ▲1 | ▲4 | ▲5 | ▲7 | ▼1 | ▲3 | ▲10 | ▲3 | ▲2 | ▲3 | ▲2 | ▲2 | ▲6 | = | ▲4 | ▲4 | ▼2 | ▼2 | ▲3 | ▲1 | ▲4 | ▼1 | ▼1 | ▲1 | ▲5 | ▲7 |
| A political representative (Member of Parliament, of the local council) | Feb/Mar 2026 | 4 | 6 | 4 | 3 | 6 | 6 | 3 | 7 | 2 | 2 | 3 | 3 | 2 | 8 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 7 | 6 | 7 | 12 | 4 | 2 | 6 | 1 | 6 | 4 | 7 |
| | ΔJan/Feb 2025 | = | ▲1 | ▲2 | ▲1 | ▲1 | ▲2 | ▼1 | ▲3 | = | ▲1 | ▲1 | ▼1 | = | ▲1 | ▼1 | ▲1 | ▼2 | ▲1 | ▼2 | ▼2 | = | = | = | ▼2 | ▲1 | ▲2 | ▲1 | ▲3 |
| Specialised anti-corruption agency | Feb/Mar 2026 | 20 | | | | | | | | | 15 | 22 | 38 | 20 | | 34 | 31 | | 25 | | 30 | 10 | 22 | 28 | 32 | | | | |
| | ΔJan/Feb 2025 | ▲1 | = | = | = | = | = | = | = | = | ▲2 | ▲2 | ▼7 | = | = | ▲3 | ▲1 | = | ▼5 | = | ▲2 | ▲1 | ▼2 | ▼4 | ▲6 | = | = | = | = |
| Trade unions | Feb/Mar 2026 | 6 | 13 | 3 | 4 | 17 | 5 | 4 | 6 | 5 | 4 | 8 | 2 | 5 | 4 | 5 | 1 | 9 | 5 | 5 | 17 | 7 | 2 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 3 | 11 | 21 |
| | ΔJan/Feb 2025 | = | ▲1 | ▲1 | = | ▲2 | ▲1 | ▼2 | ▲2 | ▲2 | ▲1 | = | ▼2 | = | ▲2 | ▲2 | ▼1 | ▼4 | = | = | ▲4 | ▼4 | = | ▲1 | = | ▲1 | = | = | ▲2 |
| EU institutions | Feb/Mar 2026 | 4 | 5 | 7 | 2 | 7 | 3 | 3 | 4 | 8 | 4 | 2 | 10 | 2 | 14 | 7 | 5 | 4 | 13 | 13 | 4 | 6 | 3 | 1 | 4 | 7 | 7 | 6 | 10 |
| | ΔJan/Feb 2025 | ▲1 | ▲1 | ▲3 | ▲1 | ▲2 | ▲1 | ▼1 | ▲2 | ▲4 | ▲2 | ▲1 | ▲3 | = | ▲7 | ▲1 | ▲3 | = | ▲3 | ▲2 | ▼1 | = | ▲1 | = | ▲1 | ▲3 | ▼1 | = | ▲3 |
| Other {SPONTANEOUS} | Feb/Mar 2026 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 1 | 2 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| | ΔJan/Feb 2025 | = | = | = | = | = | ▲1 | = | ▲1 | ▲1 | = | ▲1 | ▲1 | ▼1 | ▲1 | ▼1 | = | = | = | ▼1 | = | = | = | = | ▼1 | ▲2 | ▲1 | = | = |
| None {SPONTANEOUS} | Feb/Mar 2026 | 4 | 3 | 14 | 5 | 1 | 3 | 6 | 5 | 6 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 3 | 8 | 6 | 11 | 1 | 7 | 9 | 1 | 6 | 5 | 1 | 10 | 11 | 2 | 1 | 1 |
| | ΔJan/Feb 2025 | = | = | ▲4 | = | = | = | = | ▲1 | ▼1 | = | = | ▲3 | = | ▼5 | ▲1 | ▼1 | ▼2 | ▼2 | ▲1 | = | ▲1 | ▼2 | ▼1 | ▲2 | ▲2 | ▼1 | ▲1 | ▼1 |
| Don't know | Feb/Mar 2026 | 5 | 3 | 9 | 8 | 2 | 3 | 7 | 6 | 1 | 5 | 5 | 7 | 4 | 5 | 5 | 3 | 3 | 7 | 3 | 1 | 4 | 9 | 10 | 8 | 3 | 6 | 3 | 1 |
| | ΔJan/Feb 2025 | ▼1 | ▼2 | ▼1 | ▼3 | = | ▼2 | = | ▼2 | ▼1 | = | ▼1 | ▲4 | ▼2 | ▲2 | ▼2 | ▼1 | ▲1 | ▼1 | ▼2 | ▼1 | ▼1 | ▲2 | ▼2 | ▲2 | = | = | ▼1 | = |

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The socio-demographic analysis provides the following insights:

- The longer a respondent remained in education, the more likely they are to trust various institutions, apart from the police. Trust in the police is highest among those who ended education aged 15 or younger (65%).
- Trust in various institutions to deal with corruption across socio-professional groups is mixed. While, for example, house persons and the retired are the groups that are most likely to trust the police (61% and 63%), managers are most likely to trust the justice system (30%). Managers are also the group most likely to trust specialised anti-corruption agencies (24%).

| QC8: And if you wanted to complain about this case of corruption, who would you trust most to deal with it? (%) | | | | | |
|---|------------|---|--|-----------------------------------|--------------------|
| | The police | The Justice system (courts, tribunals, or public prosecution services) | Specialised anti- corruption agency | Media, newspapers, journalists | National Ombudsman |
| EU27 | 59 | 24 | 20 | 15 | 16 |
| Gender | | | | | |
| Man | 58 | 26 | 24 | 7 | 16 |
| Woman | 60 | 22 | 19 | 13 | 15 |
| Age | | | | | |
| 15-24 | 56 | 24 | 21 | 18 | 12 |
| 25-39 | 54 | 26 | 2 | 16 | 16 |
| 40-54 | 60 | 24 | 20 | 16 | 7 |
| >=55 | 62 | 23 | 18 | 13 | 15 |
| Education (End of) | | | | | |
| <=15 | 65 | 18 | 14 | 9 | 8 |
| 16-19 | 59 | 2 | 19 | 14 | 14 |
| >=20 | 57 | 29 | 24 | 18 | 21 |
| Still Studying | 58 | 24 | 19 | 18 | 14 |
| Socio-professional category | | | | | |
| Self-employed | 60 | 26 | 23 | 19 | 17 |
| Managers | 57 | 30 | 24 | 7 | 20 |
| Other white collars | 58 | 24 | 22 | 16 | 18 |
| Manual workers | 57 | 23 | 20 | 14 | 14 |
| House persons | 61 | 19 | 15 | 11 | 10 |
| Unemployed | 55 | 25 | 20 | 19 | 14 |
| Retired | 63 | 22 | 16 | 12 | 18 |
| Students | 58 | 24 | 20 | 18 | 13 |
| Difficulties paying bills | | | | | |
| Most of the time | 52 | 19 | 28 | 18 | 13 |
| From time to time | 58 | 21 | 19 | 15 | 13 |
| Almost never/ Never | 60 | 26 | 19 | 15 | 17 |
| Experienced or witnessed corruption | | | | | |
| Yes, experienced | 46 | 24 | 26 | 15 | 17 |
| Yes, witnessed | 41 | 24 | 28 | 22 | 17 |
| No | 60 | 24 | 19 | 15 | 15 |
| You know someone who takes bribes | | | | | |
| Yes | 49 | 25 | 28 | 23 | 20 |
| No | 60 | 24 | 19 | 44 | 15 |

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

Conclusion

The findings of the 2026 survey show that over seven in ten Europeans continue to believe that corruption is widespread in their country. This marks a further increase by two percentage points compared to the previous year. Since last year, the perception of widespread corruption has increased in 17 Member States, with the largest rises observed in Belgium and France. Perceptions vary across the EU, with nearly all respondents in Greece believing corruption is widespread, while only about two in ten say the same in Finland and Denmark.

Europeans largely perceive corruption to be widespread in political and administrative institutions. More than half of respondents believe that corruption is widespread among political parties, and almost as many say the same about politicians at national, regional and local level. Public procurement and construction-related activities, such as the awarding of public tenders and the issuing of permits, are also commonly cited. Although perceptions of corruption in these areas fluctuate between survey waves, they continue to dominate respondents' views, underlining persistent concerns about integrity in decision-making processes that involve political influence and public resources.

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

Three in ten Europeans report feeling personally affected by corruption in their daily lives. This share remains stable across the EU but conceals wide national variation, with much higher levels in several southern and eastern Member States and far lower levels in northern Europe.

Results show a clear association between perceiving corruption as widespread and feeling personally affected by it : in countries where corruption is seen as more prevalent, respondents are also more likely to say that it affects their daily lives.

Around six in ten Europeans say that giving money, gifts, or favours to obtain something from public services is never acceptable. Respondents are most likely to reject these practices in Portugal, Spain and France.

However, around one third of respondents, an increase of two percentage points compared to 2025, consider at least one of these practices acceptable in certain circumstance, marking a reversal of last year's decrease in acceptability.

Attitudes towards corruption vary by personal exposure. Respondents who have experienced or witnessed corruption are less likely to say that such practices are unacceptable, while among those with no direct exposure, one in six consider corruption to be never acceptable.

Only a minority of Europeans consider their country's efforts to combat corruption to be effective, with fewer than one in four respondents holding this view. At the same time, a large share believe that high-level corruption cases are not pursued sufficiently, a perception shared by nearly seven in ten respondents.

Europeans remain sceptical about the effectiveness of national anti-corruption efforts. Fewer than four in ten believe that measures are applied impartially, that prosecutions effectively deter corrupt behaviour, or that national governments are succeeding in tackling corruption. A majority consider that high-level corruption cases are not adequately pursued. These views are reinforced by widespread agreement that bribery and personal connections remain common ways of accessing public contracts and positions, pointing to persistent concerns about fairness, accountability and enforcement in public life.

Corruption is widely perceived as a barrier to fair competition. A large majority of respondents believe that too-close links between business and politics lead to corruption, and more than two thirds say that favouritism and corruption hamper business competition. Almost two thirds also agree that corruption is part of the business culture in their country, and more than half believe that political connections are necessary to succeed in business. These perceptions remain particularly strong in several southern and eastern Member States, while being less widespread in northern Europe.

The police remain the most trusted institution to deal with corruption. Almost six in ten Europeans (59%, -2 pp) say they would trust the police most to deal with a complaint about corruption, making it the only institution trusted by a majority.

Reporting corruption remains the exception rather than the rule. Almost eight in ten respondents who experienced or witnessed corruption did not report it, and more than half of Europeans say they would not know where to report a case if it occurred. Reporting is particularly rare in countries such as Greece, Latvia and Slovakia, where fewer than one in ten came forward. In contrast, at least one in three reported the case in Denmark, the Netherlands and Luxembourg, suggesting stronger trust in reporting mechanisms or a greater sense of civic responsibility.

The difficulty of proving corruption remains the most frequently cited reason why people do not report cases, followed by concerns about retaliation and the belief that reporting would be pointless because those responsible would not be punished. Other barriers include lack of knowledge about where to report, fear of negative consequences and social pressure. These findings point to

structural and perceptual obstacles that continue to undermine reporting.

Although many Europeans perceive corruption as widespread, direct encounters remain relatively uncommon. One in twenty respondents say they experienced or witnessed a case of corruption incidents in the past year.

Across socio-demographic groups, perceptions of corruption are broadly shared, but important differences persist. Older respondents, those with lower levels of education and individuals facing financial difficulties are more likely to perceive corruption as widespread and to feel personally affected by it. Experience of corruption—whether direct or indirect—is consistently associated with higher levels of concern and lower confidence in institutions. While men and women express largely similar views overall, differences remain in areas such as awareness of reporting channels and trust in institutions.

Taken together, the findings show that corruption remains a central concern for European citizens. While most continue to reject corrupt practices, tolerance persists in certain contexts, and confidence in the effectiveness of anti-corruption efforts remains limited. The results underline the importance of visible enforcement, effective protection for those who report corruption, clearer reporting channels and sustained efforts to strengthen integrity and accountability, in order to close the gap between citizens' expectations and their assessment of how corruption is addressed across the European Union.

Technical specifications

Between 5 February and 5 March 2026, Verian Belgium carried out the wave 105.1 of the Eurobarometer survey, on request of the European Commission, Directorate -General for Communication, "Public Opinion & Citizens Engagement" Unit.

The Wave 105.1 covers the population of the respective nationalities of the European Union Member States, resident in each of the 27 Member States and aged 15 years and over.

The basic sample design applied in all countries is a stratified multi -stage, random (probability) one. In each country, the sample frame is first stratified by NUTS regions and within each region by a measure of urbanity (DEGURBA). The number of sample points selected in each strata reflects the stratum population 15+. At the second stage sampling points were drawn with probability proportional to their 0+ population size from within each stratum. The samples thus represent the whole territory of the countries surveyed according to the EUROSTAT NUTS II (or equivalent) and according to the distribution of the resident population of the respective nationalities in terms of metropolitan, urban and rural areas⁴³.

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.

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

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| COUNTRIES | INSTITUTES | N° INTERVIEWS | FIELDWORK DATES | | POPULATION 15+ | PROPORTION EU27 |
|----------------|---|---------------|-----------------|----------|----------------|-----------------|
| Belgium | MCM Belgium | 1 011 | 05/02/26 | 23/02/26 | 9892796 | 2.6% |
| Bulgaria | Kantar TNS BBSS | 1 036 | 06/02/26 | 25/02/26 | 5534456 | 1.4% |
| Czechia | STEM/MARK | 1 085 | 05/02/26 | 18/02/26 | 9172797 | 2.4% |
| Denmark | Mantle Denmark (Verian) | 1 015 | 05/02/26 | 01/03/26 | 5022981 | 1.3% |
| Germany | Mantle Germany (Verian) | 1 513 | 05/02/26 | 24/02/26 | 71818299 | 18.7% |
| Estonia | B&B Research OÜ | 1 003 | 05/02/26 | 24/02/26 | 1154359 | 0.3% |
| Ireland | B and A Research | 1 007 | 06/02/26 | 25/02/26 | 4338938 | 1.1% |
| Greece | Kantar Greece | 1 020 | 05/02/26 | 22/02/26 | 9041201 | 2.4% |
| Spain | Mantle Spain (Verian) | 1 017 | 05/02/26 | 25/02/26 | 42189318 | 11.0% |
| France | MCM France | 1 007 | 05/02/26 | 25/02/26 | 56855864 | 14.8% |
| Croatia | Hendal | 1 025 | 05/02/26 | 23/02/26 | 3319752 | 0.9% |
| Italy | Testpoint Italia | 1 028 | 05/02/26 | 19/02/26 | 51784963 | 13.5% |
| Rep. of Cyprus | CYMAR Market Research | 506 | 05/02/26 | 25/02/26 | 818909 | 0.2% |
| Latvia | Kantar TNS Latvia | 1 005 | 05/02/26 | 25/02/26 | 1579066 | 0.4% |
| Lithuania | Norstat LT | 1 013 | 05/02/26 | 23/02/26 | 2467008 | 0.6% |
| Luxembourg | ILRES | 506 | 05/02/26 | 21/02/26 | 566303 | 0.1% |
| Hungary | Kantar Hoffmann | 1 019 | 06/02/26 | 19/02/26 | 8199448 | 2.1% |
| Malta | MISCO International | 518 | 05/02/26 | 24/02/26 | 493961 | 0.1% |
| Netherlands | MCM Netherlands Das | 1 003 | 05/02/26 | 25/02/26 | 15228902 | 4.0% |
| Austria | Österreichische Gallup Ins Research Collective | 1 005 | 05/02/26 | 24/02/26 | 7842929 | 2.0% |
| Poland | Intercampus SA | 1 032 | 05/02/26 | 25/02/26 | 9275958 | 2.4% |
| Portugal | CSOP SRL | 1 037 | 06/02/26 | 24/02/26 | 16034437 | 4.2% |
| Romania | Mediana DOO | 1 014 | 05/02/26 | 25/02/26 | 1811104 | 0.5% |
| Slovenia | MNFORCE | 1 002 | 05/02/26 | 19/02/26 | 4557290 | 1.2% |
| Slovakia | Taloustutkimus Oy | 1 002 | 05/02/26 | 27/02/26 | 4771619 | 1.2% |
| Finland | Mantle Sweden (Verian) | 1 040 | 05/02/26 | 25/02/26 | 8748126 | 2.3% |
| Sweden | | 26 494 | 05/02/26 | 01/03/26 | 383,603,764 | 100,00 % |

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

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Interviewing mode per country

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

| | COUNTRIES | N° OF CAPI INTERVIEWS | N° OF CAVI INTERVIEWS | TOTAL N° INTERVIEWS |
|----|----------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|---------------------|
| BE | Belgium | 1011 | | 1011 |
| BG | Bulgaria | 1036 | | 1036 |
| CZ | Czechia | 1085 | | 1085 |
| DK | Denmark | 706 | 309 | 1015 |
| DE | Germany | 1513 | | 1513 |
| EE | Estonia | 1003 | | 1003 |
| IE | Ireland | 1007 | | 1007 |
| EL | Greece | 102 | | 102 |
| ES | Spain | 1017 | | 1017 |
| FR | France | 1007 | | 1007 |
| HR | Croatia | 1025 | | 1025 |
| IT | Italy | 1028 | | 1028 |
| CY | Rep. Of Cyprus | 413 | 93 | 506 |
| LV | Latvia | 1005 | | 1005 |
| LT | Lithuania | 1013 | | 1013 |
| LU | Luxembourg | 506 | | 506 |
| HU | Hungary | 1019 | | 1019 |
| MT | Malta | 354 | 164 | 518 |
| NL | Netherlands | 1003 | | 1003 |
| AT | Austria | 1005 | | 1005 |
| PL | Poland | 1025 | | 1025 |
| PT | Portugal | 1032 | | 1032 |
| RO | Romania | 1037 | | 1037 |
| SI | Slovenia | 1014 | | 1014 |
| SK | Slovakia | 1002 | | 1002 |
| FI | Finland | 702 | 300 | 1002 |
| SE | Sweden | 732 | 308 | 104 |
| | TOTAL EU27 | 25320 | 1174 | 26494 |

CAPI : Computer-Assisted Personal interviewing

CAVI : Computer-Assisted Video interviewing

Eurobarometer Special 573
Citizens' attitudes towards corruption in the EU in 2026

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

| | COUNTRIES | CAPI RESPONSE RATE |
|----|----------------|--------------------|
| BE | Belgium | 52.3% |
| BG | Bulgaria | 43.4% |
| CZ | Czechia | 62.7% |
| DK | Denmark | 49.3% |
| DE | Germany | 31.4% |
| EE | Estonia | 59.8% |
| IE | Ireland | 56.8% |
| EL | Greece | 32.3% |
| ES | Spain | 42.7% |
| FR | France | 37.4% |
| HR | Croatia | 47.4% |
| IT | Italy | 31.5% |
| CY | Rep. Of Cyprus | 73.0% |
| LV | Latvia | 63.2% |
| LT | Lithuania | 44.4% |
| LU | Luxembourg | 26.6% |
| HU | Hungary | 57.2% |
| MT | Malta | 80.8% |
| NL | Netherlands | 92.1% |
| AT | Austria | 46.9% |
| PL | Poland | 47.2% |
| PT | Portugal | 48.3% |
| RO | Romania | 47.8% |
| SI | Slovenia | 51.2% |
| SK | Slovakia | 52.8% |
| FI | Finland | 20.7% |
| SE | Sweden | 82.1% |

CAPI : Computer-Assisted Personal Interviewing

Comments

(Pierre Dieumegard)

The illustrations in the original are very stereotypical. Apart from the allegorical depictions of Justice with her scales and gavel, there are only photographs of men in suits and ties, as if corruption were a male-only issue. There was no need to perpetuate such sexist imagery, which is why only the cover photograph has been retained.

The abbreviation for Cyprus is normally CY, but in various documents it is shown as 'CY_TCC' (with the small flag of the Republic of Cyprus).

Perceptions of corruption vary greatly from country to country. The perception of being personally affected by corruption is nearly 20 times higher in Greece or Cyprus than in Denmark (QC12a4). The perception that one needs the right political connections to succeed in business is four times higher in Greece and Cyprus than in Denmark (QC12a11). There is a strong correlation between these two variables.

We can feel sympathy for the Greeks or the Cypriots, who are trying to keep their countries afloat despite this corruption.

QC12a: Perceptions of corruption

