



Special Eurobarometer 523  
March-April 2022

# Corruption

Summary

Fieldwork: March-April 2022

Survey conducted by Kantar for Kantar Belgium  
at the request of the European Commission, Directorate-General for Migration and Home Affairs (DG HOME)  
Survey coordinated by the European Commission, Directorate-General for Communication  
(DG COMM "Media monitoring and Eurobarometer" Unit)

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## TABLE OF CONTENTS

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INTRODUCTION	4
I. GENERAL PERCEPTIONS OF CORRUPTION	7
II. ATTITUDES TO CORRUPTION IN DETAIL	15
III. EXPERIENCE OF BRIBERY	19
IV. BRIBERY AND HEALTHCARE	22
V. REPORTING CORRUPTION	24
CONCLUSION	29



# INTRODUCTION



## Special Eurobarometer 523

### Corruption

#### March-April 2022

#### INTRODUCTION

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

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

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

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

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

This survey covers the following areas:

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

- Bribery and corruption in the healthcare sector.
- Whether corruption was reported, awareness of where to report corruption and the level of trust in various authorities to deal with it. Reasons for not reporting corruption are also considered.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**METHODOLOGY**

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

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

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

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

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

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

# I. GENERAL PERCEPTIONS OF CORRUPTION



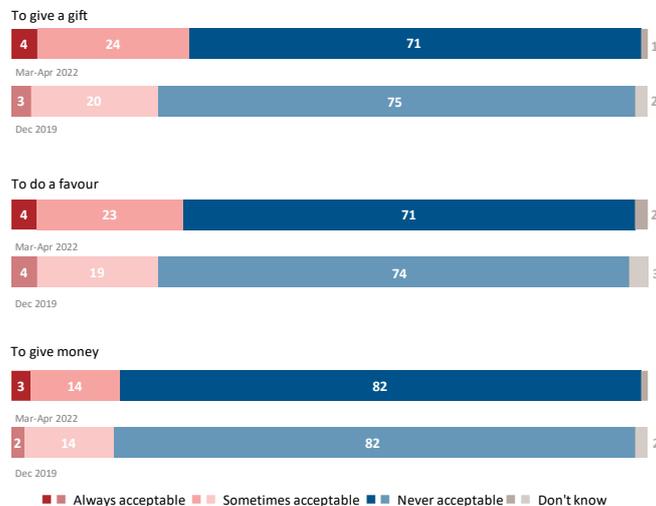
Special Eurobarometer 523  
Corruption  
March-April 2022

## 1. Acceptability of corruption

**Although large majorities think it is unacceptable to give a gift, do a favour or give money in exchange for a public service, giving gifts or doing favours are increasingly seen as acceptable<sup>10</sup>**

Almost three in ten (28%, +5 percentage points since December 2019) think it is acceptable to **give a gift** or **do a favour** (27%, +4) to get something from the public administration or public service: Fewer than one in five (17%, +1) share the same view about **giving money**.

QA4. Talking more generally, if you wanted to get something from the public administration or a public service, to what extent do you think it is acceptable to do any of the following? (% - EU)

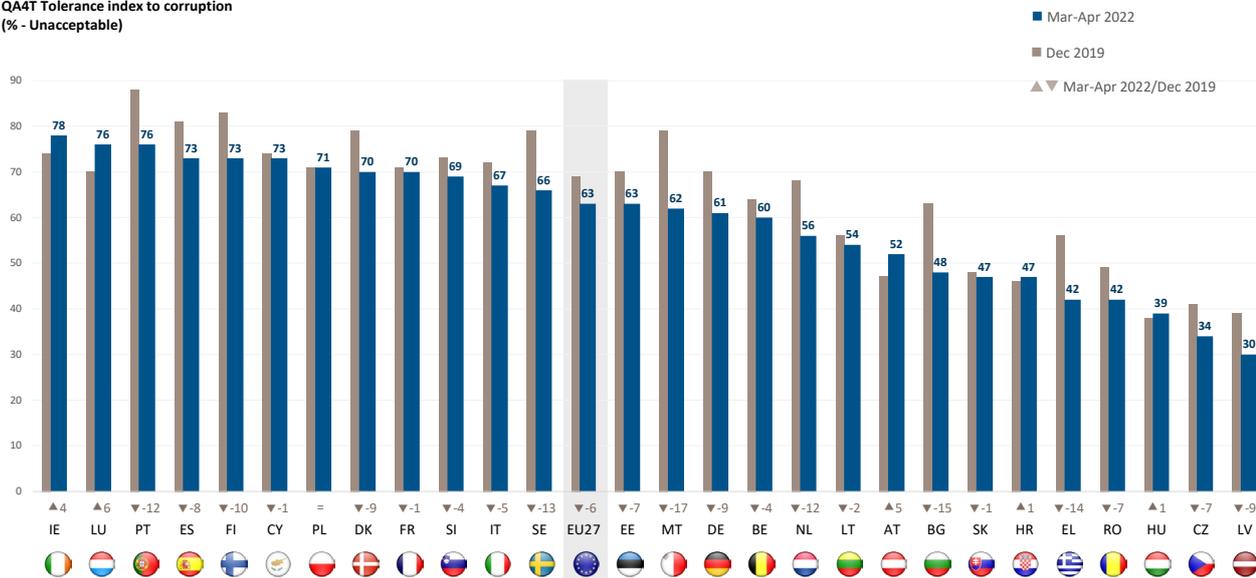


Base: all respondents (n = 26,509)

In total, more than six in ten (63%)<sup>11</sup> Europeans think corruption is unacceptable<sup>12</sup>, with a decrease of six percentage points since 2019<sup>13</sup>.

This view is shared by more than half in 19 Member States, with the highest levels seen in Ireland (78%). At the other end of the spectrum fewer than four in ten in Latvia (30% vs 62% “tolerated”) think the same way.

QA4T Tolerance index to corruption (% - Unacceptable)



<sup>10</sup> QA4. Talking more generally, if you wanted to get something from the public administration or a public service, to what extent do you think it is acceptable to do any of the following? 1. To give money; 2. To give a gift; 3. To do a favour.

<sup>11</sup> The index is calculated based on the answers given to QA4.1, 2 and 3. Points are attributed depending on the answers to those three questions: “never acceptable” (0 points), “sometimes acceptable” (1 point) and “always acceptable” (2 points). Respondents who received 0 points in total (i.e. they answered never acceptable to all

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

<sup>12</sup> This means respondents who answered “never acceptable” to the three questions.

<sup>13</sup> As explained in the introduction, the EU average included the United Kingdom in 2019 so this may impact the results and comparison

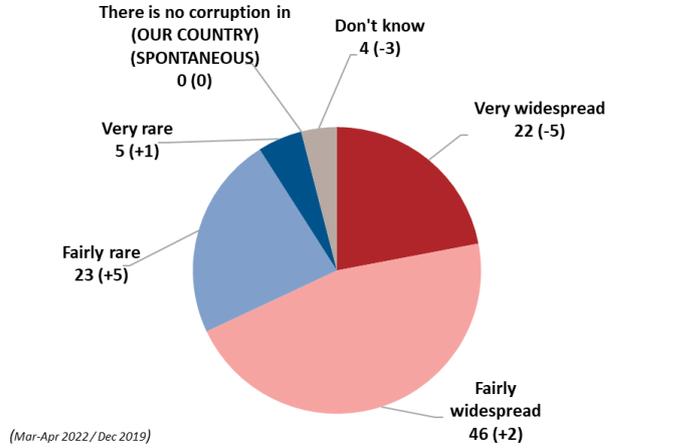
Special Eurobarometer 523  
Corruption  
March- April 2022

## 2. How widespread is corruption?

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

More than two thirds of respondents (68%, -3 percentage points since December 2019) believe corruption is widespread in their country.<sup>14</sup>

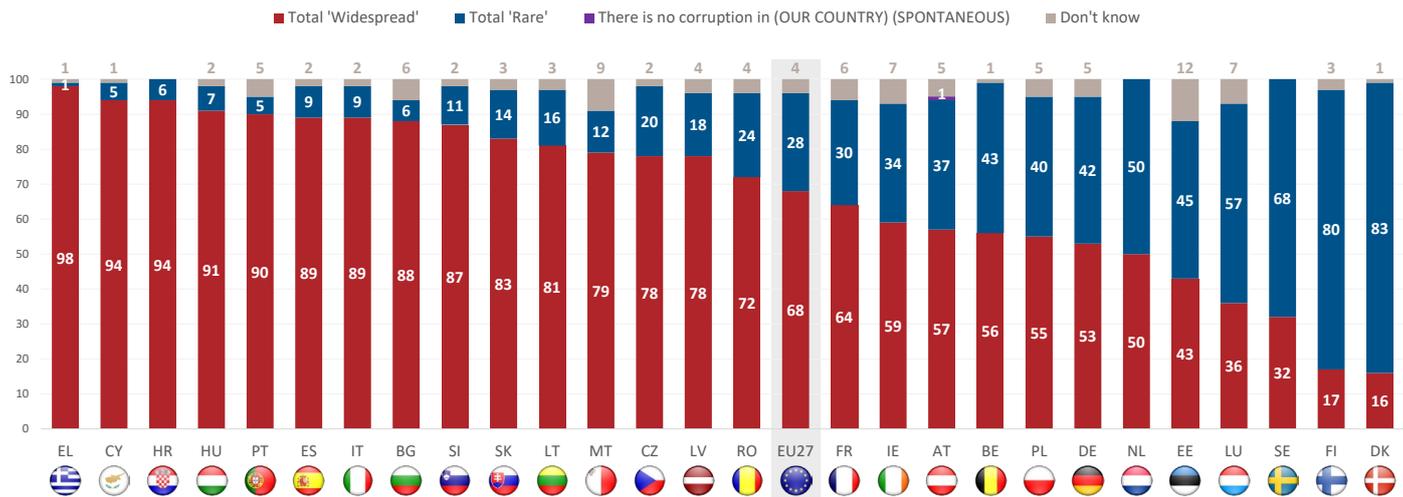
QA5 How widespread do you think the problem of corruption is in (OUR COUNTRY)? (% - EU)



Base: all respondents (n = 26,509)

In 21 EU Member States the majority of respondents think corruption is widespread in their country. Almost all respondents in Greece (98%) say this. In the Netherlands opinion is divided: 50% think corruption is widespread and 50% say that it is rare. In the remaining five countries, fewer than half think corruption is widespread.

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



Base: all respondents (n = 26,509)

<sup>14</sup> Before answering whether corruption is widespread in their country, respondents were given a detailed definition of corruption: “offering, giving, requesting and accepting bribes or kickbacks, valuable gifts and important favours, as well as any

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

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

Since December 2019 the proportion of respondents who think corruption is widespread in their country has declined in 20 countries. Belief that corruption is widespread has increased in five countries. There has been no change in opinion in Slovenia or Germany.

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

The socio-demographic analysis shows that respondents who left education at the age of 15 or younger (79%), the unemployed (76%) and those who experience difficulties in paying bills most of the time (80%) are more likely to think that corruption is widespread in their country.

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



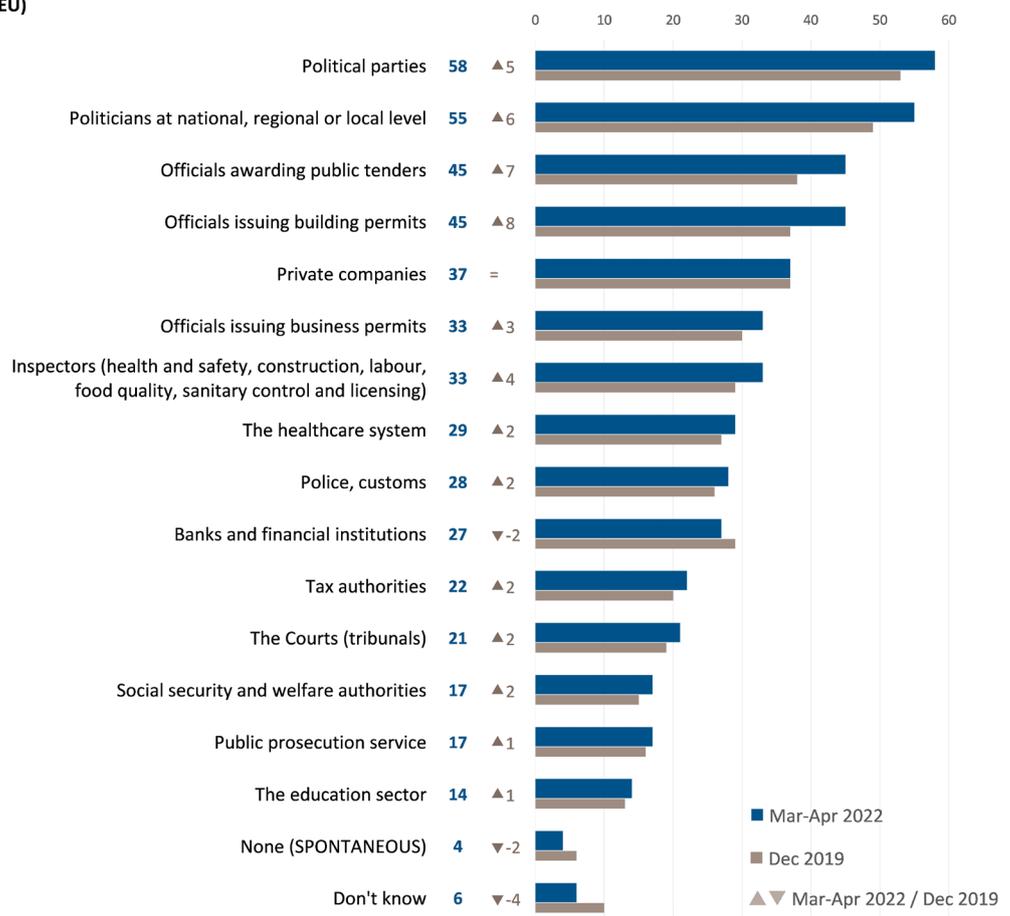
Base: all respondents (n = 26,509)

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

**An increasing majority think that the giving and taking bribes and the abuse of power for personal gain are widespread among political parties and politicians<sup>15</sup>**

Almost six in ten (58%, +5 percentage points) think that corruption is widespread amongst **political parties**, and almost as many say this about **local, regional or national politicians** (55%, +6). More than four in ten think this behaviour is widespread amongst **officials awarding public tenders** (45%, +7) or **officials issuing building permits** (45%, +8). The largest increases recorded since 2019 are also observed for these items.

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



Base: all respondents (n = 26,509)

<sup>15</sup> QA7. In (OUR COUNTRY), do you think that the giving and taking of bribes and the abuse of power for personal gain are widespread among any of the following? (MULTIPLE ANSWERS POSSIBLE)

## 4. Level of corruption in daily life

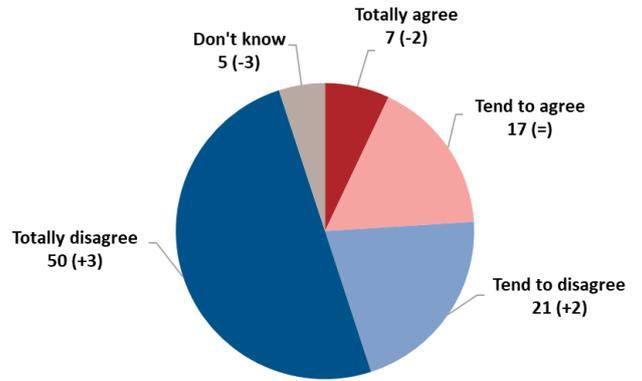
### Almost a quarter say they are personally affected by corruption in their daily life

Almost one quarter (24%, -2 percentage points since December 2019) say they are personally affected by corruption in their daily life.<sup>16</sup> In contrast the majority (71%, +5) say they disagree.

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

Those who experience financial difficulties most of the time (39%) are more likely to say they are affected than those who never or almost never experience such problems (19%).

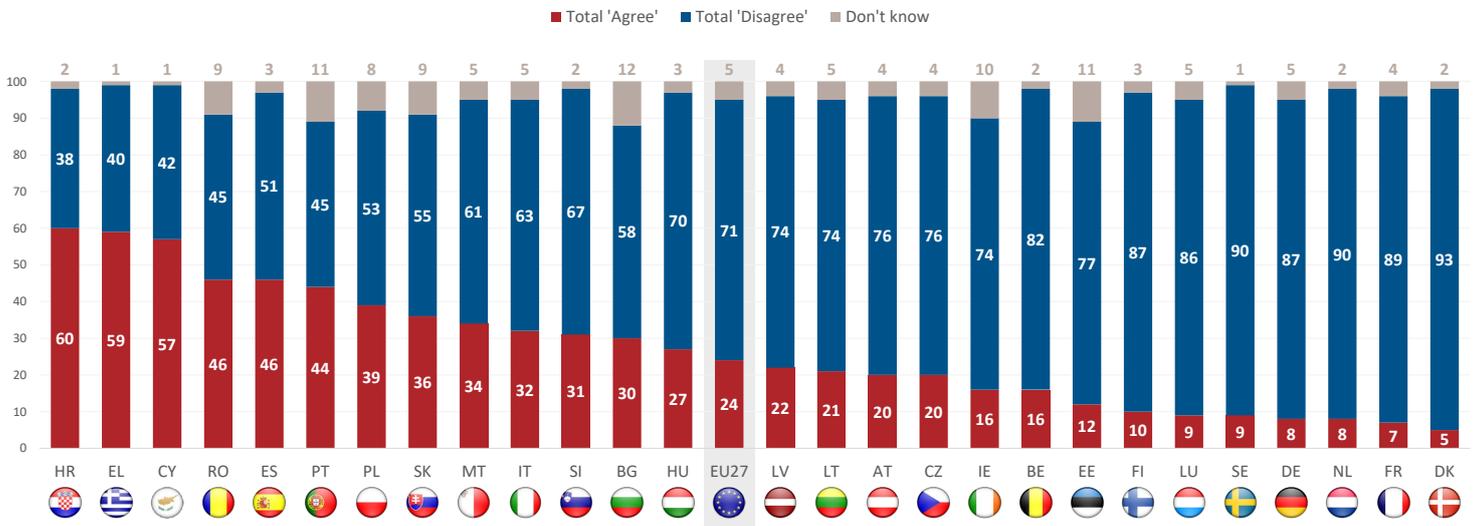
QA15.4 Please tell whether you agree or disagree with each of the following?  
You are personally affected by corruption in your daily life  
(% - EU)



(Mar-Apr 2022 / Dec 2019)

Base: all respondents (n = 26,509)

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



Base: all respondents (n = 26,509)

<sup>16</sup> QA15.4. Please tell me whether you agree or disagree with each of the following?  
You are personally affected by corruption in your daily life

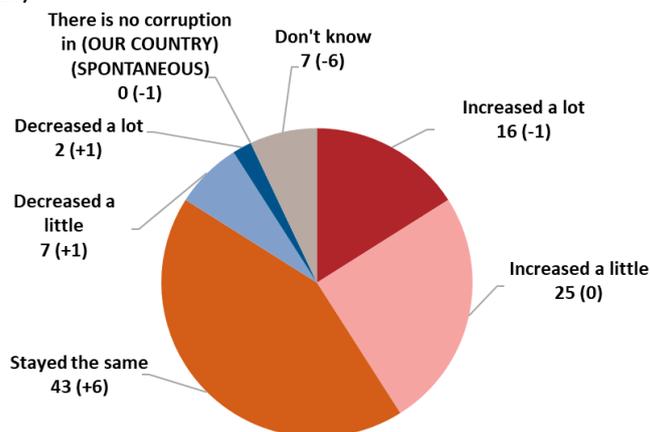
## 5. Level of corruption over the last three years

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

Just over four in ten (41%, -1 percentage point since December 2019) respondents think the level of corruption in their country has increased in the past three years<sup>17</sup>. In contrast 9% (+2) think the level has decreased. More than four in ten (43%, +6) think the level has stayed the same.

The proportion of respondents who think corruption in their country has increased has fallen by one percentage point since 2019 and is now at its lowest level. It is 15 points lower than the peak in February-March 2013, and six points lower than in 2011.

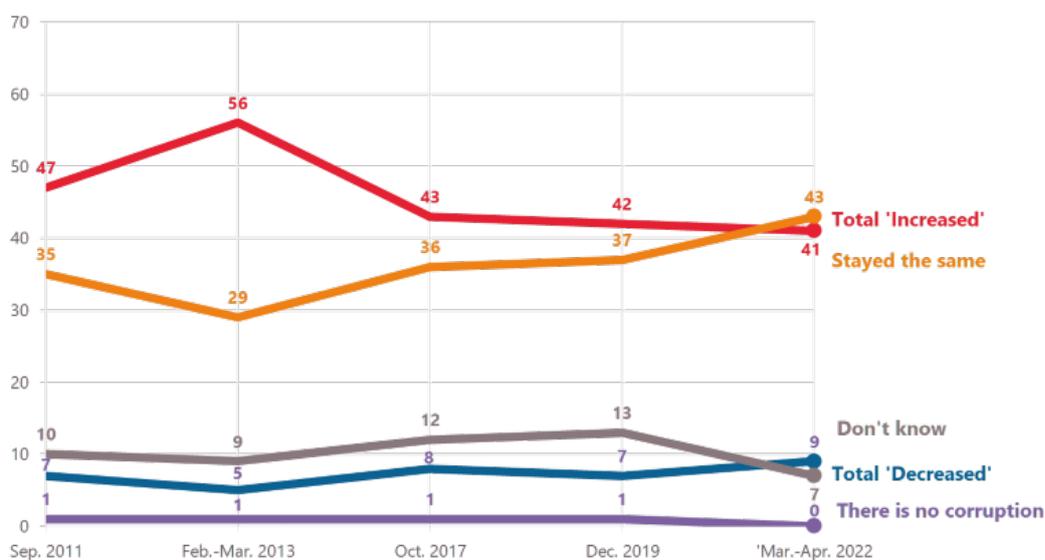
QA6 In the past three years, would you say that the level of corruption in (OUR COUNTRY) has...? (% - EU)



(Mar-Apr 2022 / Dec 2019)

Base: all respondents (n = 26,509)

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



Base: all respondents (n = 26,509)

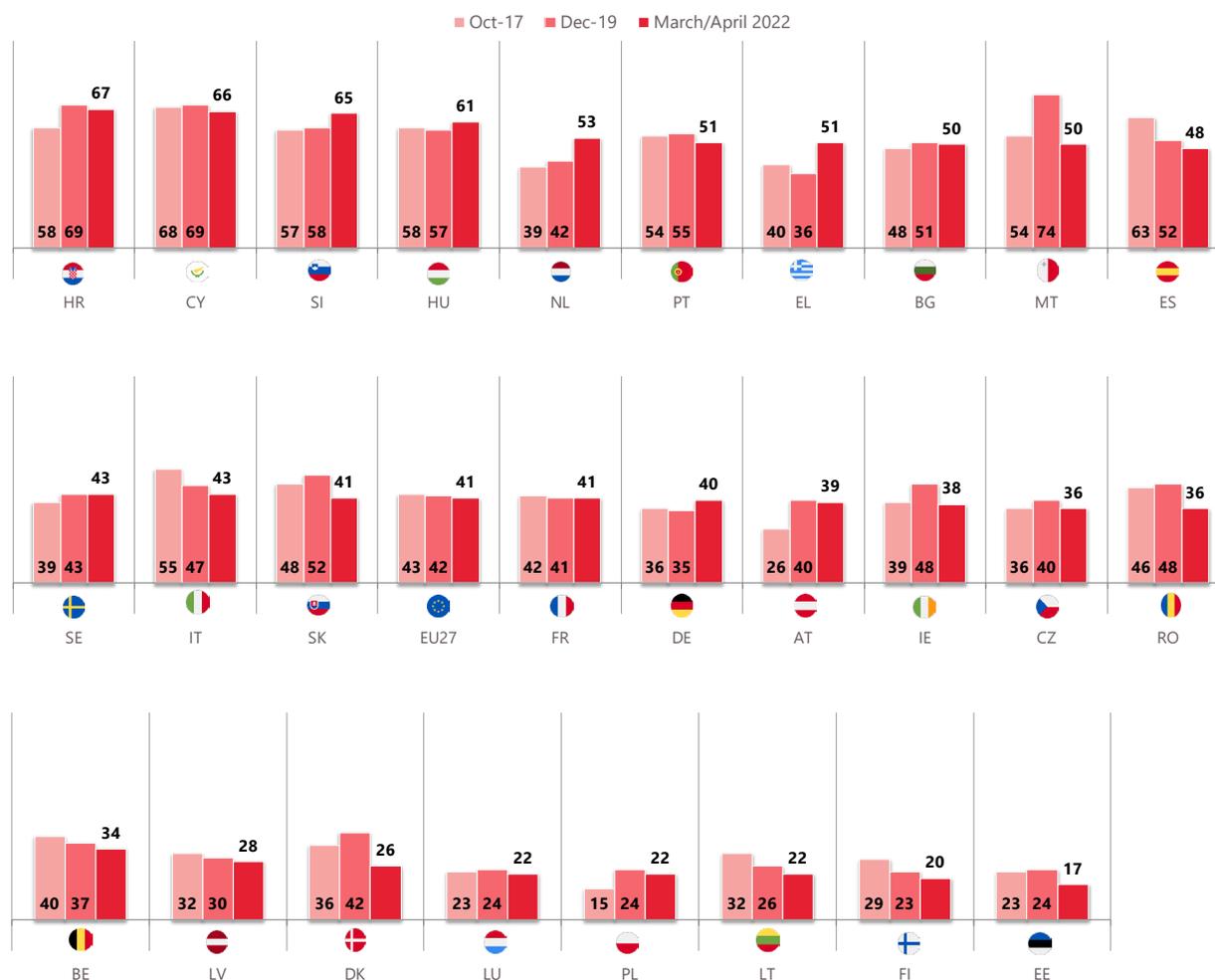
<sup>17</sup> QA6. In the past three years, would you say that the level of corruption in (OUR COUNTRY) has... ?

Special Eurobarometer 523  
Corruption  
March- April 2022

Since December 2019 the proportion of respondents who think corruption has increased in their country over the last three years has declined in 20 EU Member States, with the largest seen in Malta (50%, -24 percentage points) and Denmark (26%, -16).

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

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



Base: all respondents (n = 26,509)

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



Special Eurobarometer 523  
Corruption  
March- April 2022

**More than seven in ten Europeans think there is corruption in local, regional and national public institutions in their country<sup>18</sup>**

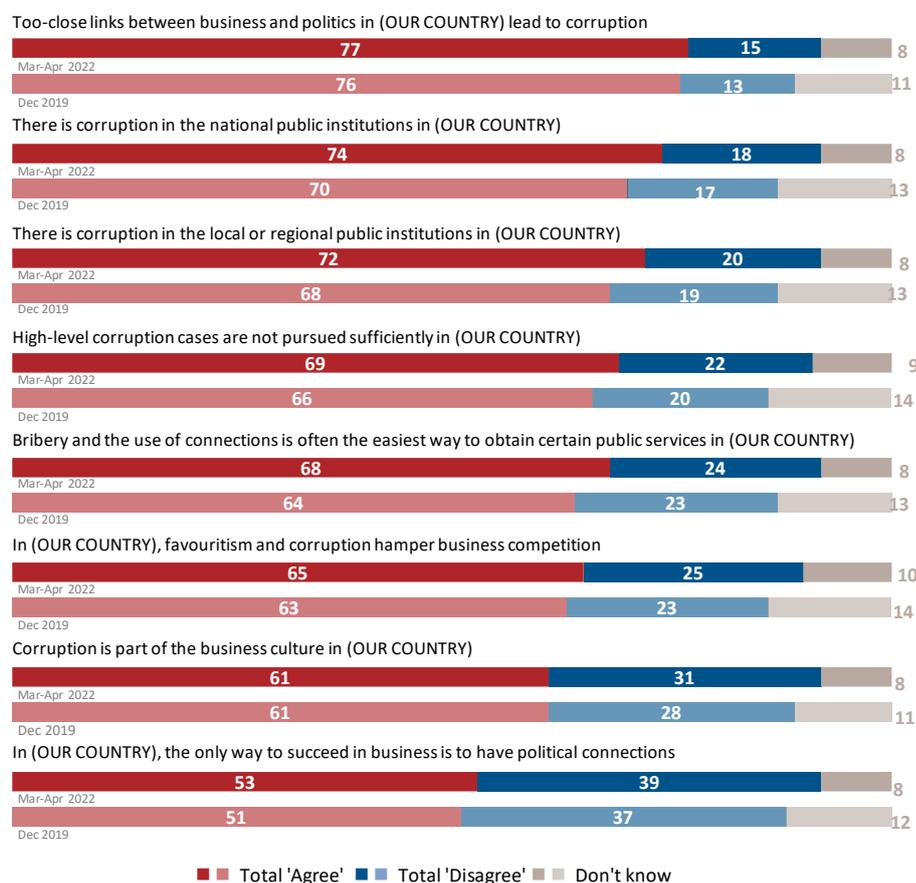
More than three quarters (77%, +1 percentage point since December 2019) agree that **too close links between business and politics lead to corruption**. Almost three quarters (74%, +4) think **there is corruption in the national public institutions** in their country. Almost as many (72%, +4) consider that **there is corruption in the local or regional public institutions** in their country.

Almost seven in ten (69%, +3) agree that **high-level corruption cases are not pursued sufficiently**. More than two thirds (68%, +4) believe that **bribery and the use of connections is often the easiest way to obtain certain public services**.

Similarly, almost two thirds (65%, +2) agree that **favouritism and corruption hamper business competition**. Just over six in ten respondents (61%, =) think that **corruption is part of the business culture** in their country. A slightly increased majority (53%, +2) agree that in their country **the only way to succeed in business is to have political connections**.

In 25 EU Member States, a majority of respondents agree there is corruption in the national public institutions in their country. Proportions vary from 94% in Greece to 46% in Luxembourg (vs 37% disagree).

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



Base: all respondents (n = 26,509)

<sup>18</sup> QA15. Please tell me whether you agree or disagree with each of the following? 15.1 There is corruption in the local or regional public institutions in (OUR COUNTRY); 15.2 There is corruption in the national public institutions in (OUR COUNTRY); 15.3 Corruption is part of the business culture in (OUR COUNTRY); 15.4 There are enough successful prosecutions in (OUR COUNTRY) to deter people from corrupt practices; 15.5 High-level corruption cases are not pursued sufficiently in (OUR COUNTRY); 15.6 Bribery and the use of connections is often the easiest way to obtain certain public services in (OUR COUNTRY); 15.7 In (OUR COUNTRY), favouritism and corruption hamper business competition; 15.8 Too-close

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

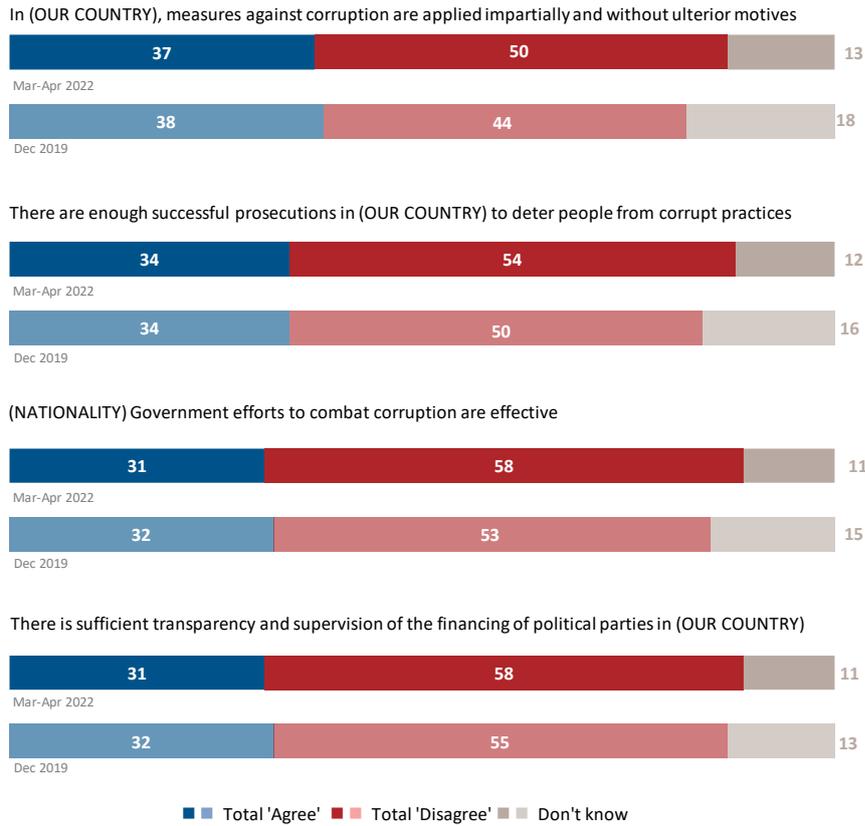
**Special Eurobarometer 523**  
**Corruption**  
**March- April 2022**

Almost four in ten (37%, -1 percentage point since December 2019) believe that **measures against corruption are applied impartially and without ulterior motives.**

Just over one third (34%, =) think that **there are enough successful prosecutions to deter people from corrupt practices,** while more than half (54%, +4) disagrees.

Almost one third (31%, -1) think **there is sufficient transparency and supervision of the financing of political parties** in their country.

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



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

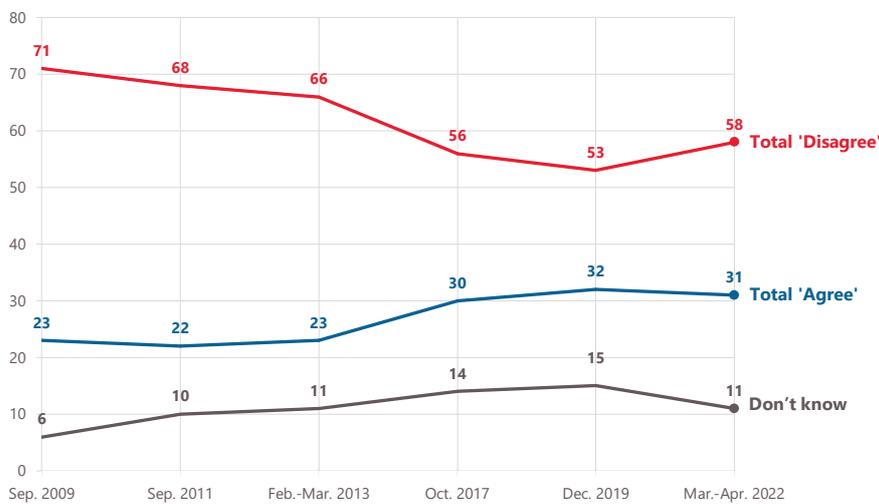
## 1. Dealing with corruption

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

Respondents have become more pessimistic since 2019, only a minority (31%, -1) agree that their national government's efforts to combat corruption are effective.

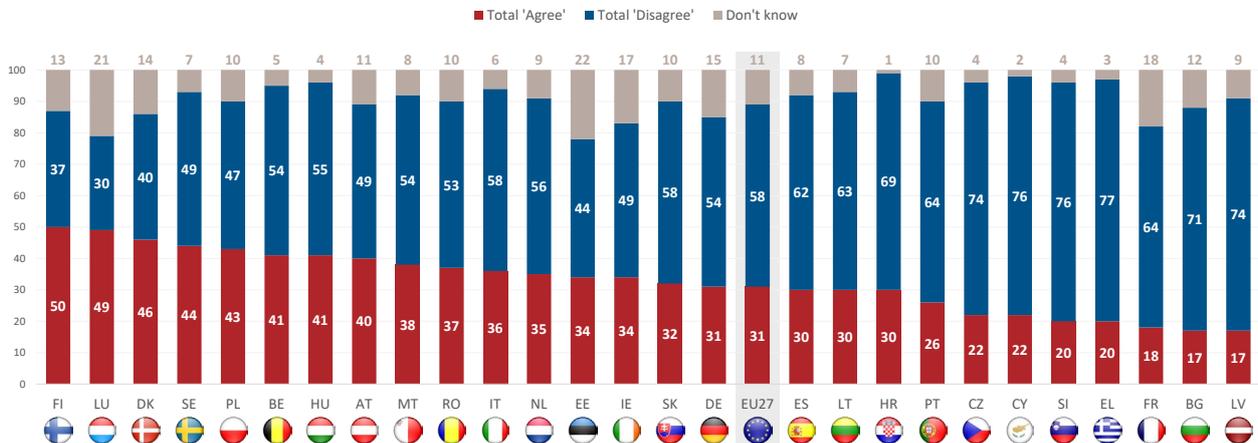
Over the longer term, agreement that their national government's efforts to combat corruption are effective has remained relatively stable since October 2017. Although the proportion who disagree has increased since December 2019, it remains 13 percentage points lower than its highest point in September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

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



There are only three EU Member States where more respondents agree that their national government's efforts to combat corruption are effective: Finland (50%), Luxembourg (49% vs 30% disagree) and Denmark (46% vs 40%). In the remaining 24 countries, respondents are more likely to disagree than agree with this statement.

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



Base: all respondents (n = 26,509)

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



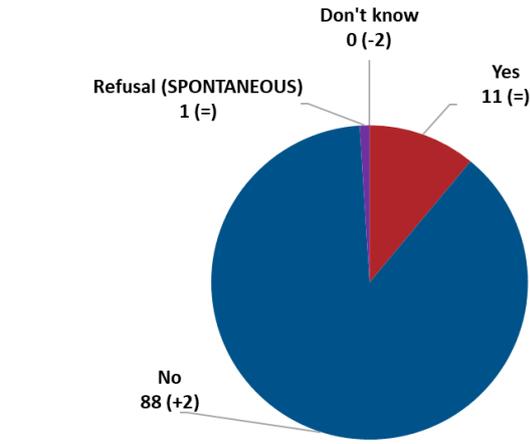
# 1. Personal experience of bribery

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

Across the EU, just over one in ten respondents (11%, no change since December 2019) know someone who takes or has taken bribes.<sup>19</sup>

Only a minority of respondents in each country say they personally know someone who takes bribes, with results varying from 34% in Greece (34%) to 5% in Ireland.

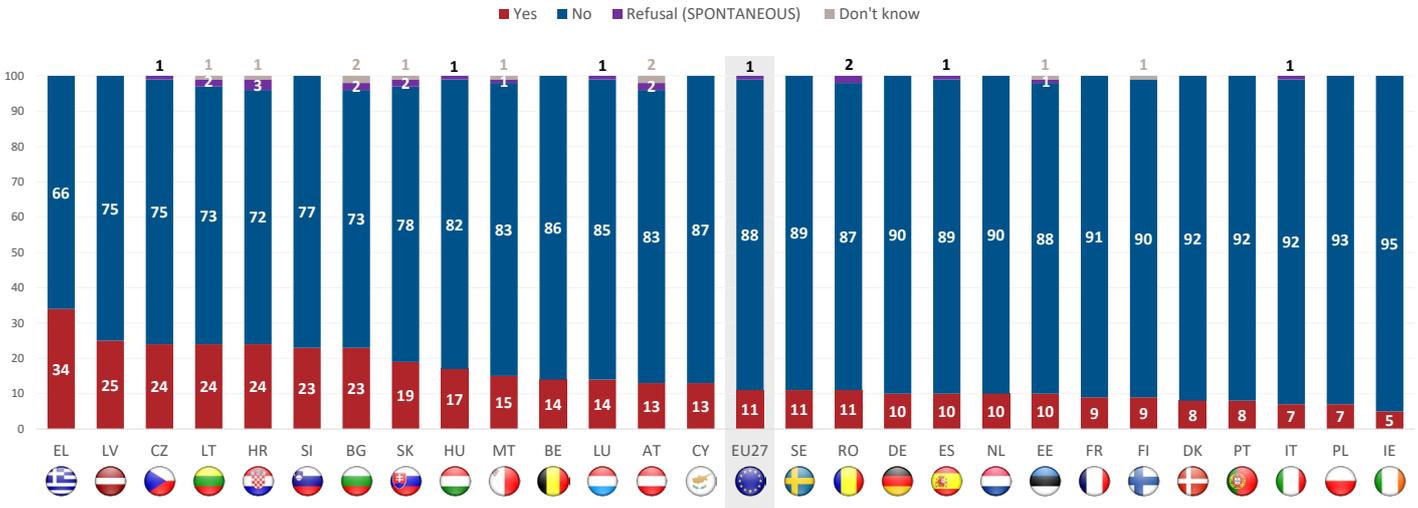
QA8 Do you personally know anyone who takes or has taken bribes? (% - EU)



(Mar-Apr 2022/Dec 2019)

Base: all respondents (n = 26,509)

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



Base: all respondents (n = 26,509)

<sup>19</sup> QA8. Do you personally know anyone who takes or has taken bribes?

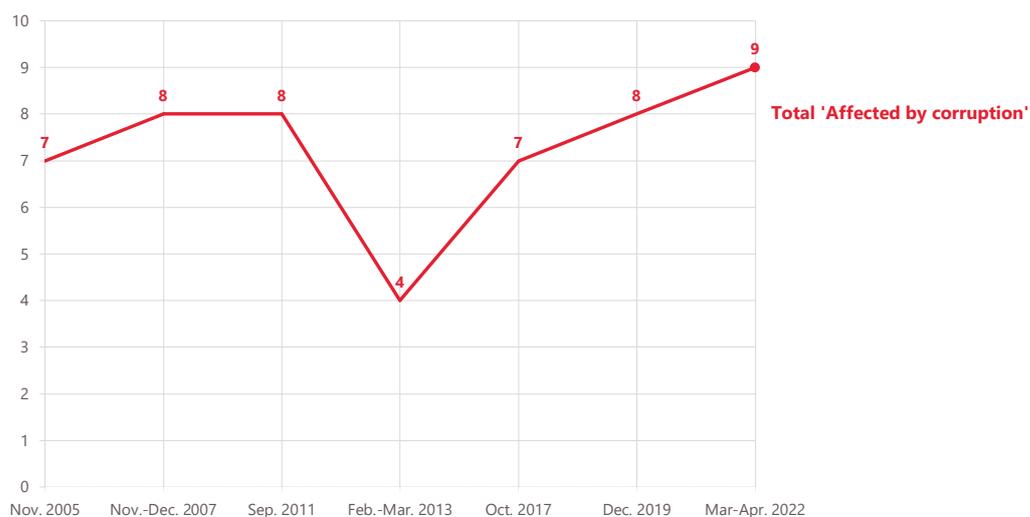
Special Eurobarometer 523  
Corruption  
March-April 2022

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

Fewer than one in ten (9%, +1 percentage point since December 2019) respondents say they have been asked or expected to give a gift, favour or extra money in return for services.<sup>20</sup>

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

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



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

<sup>20</sup> QA9b. Thinking about these contacts in the past 12 months has anyone in (OUR COUNTRY) asked you or expected you to give a gift, favour, or extra money for his or her services? (MULTIPLE ANSWERS POSSIBLE)

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

## **IV. BRIBERY AND HEALTHCARE**

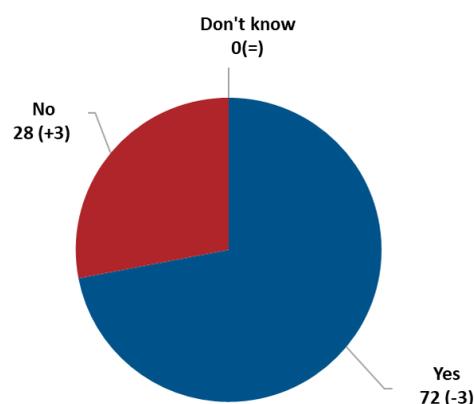


## 1. Experience of healthcare

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

More than seven in ten respondents (72%, -3 percentage points since December 2019) have been to a public healthcare practitioner, such as a GP (general practitioner), or a public healthcare institution, such as a public hospital, in the past 12 months.<sup>21</sup>

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



(Mar-Apr 2022 / Dec 2019)

Base: all respondents (n = 26,509)

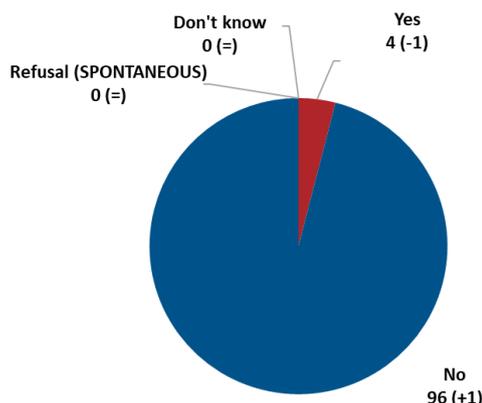
## 2. Additional payments

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

Just 4% (-1 percentage point since December 2019) of respondents who have had contact with the public healthcare sector in the past 12 months say they had to give an extra payment or a valuable gift to a nurse or a doctor or donate to the hospital (not including official fees).<sup>22</sup>

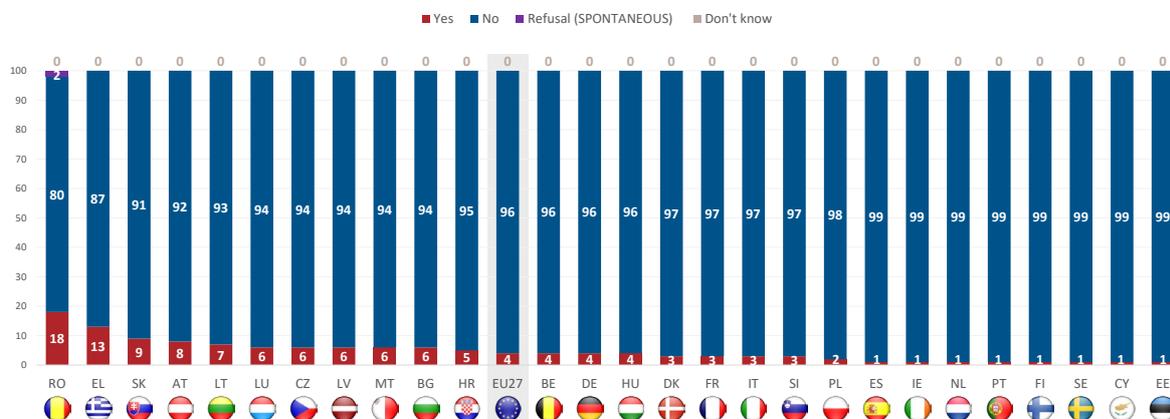
Romania (18%) and Greece (13%) are the only countries where at least one in ten respondents say they had to give an extra payment or a valuable gift to a nurse or a doctor or donate to the hospital (not including official fees) when visiting a public healthcare setting.

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



(Mar-Apr 2022 / Dec 2019)

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



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

<sup>21</sup> QA1. Have you been to a public healthcare practitioner such as a GP (general practitioner) or a public healthcare institution such as a public hospital in the past 12 months?

<sup>22</sup> QA2. Apart from official fees did you have to give an extra payment or a valuable gift to a nurse or a doctor, or make a donation to the hospital?

## V. REPORTING CORRUPTION



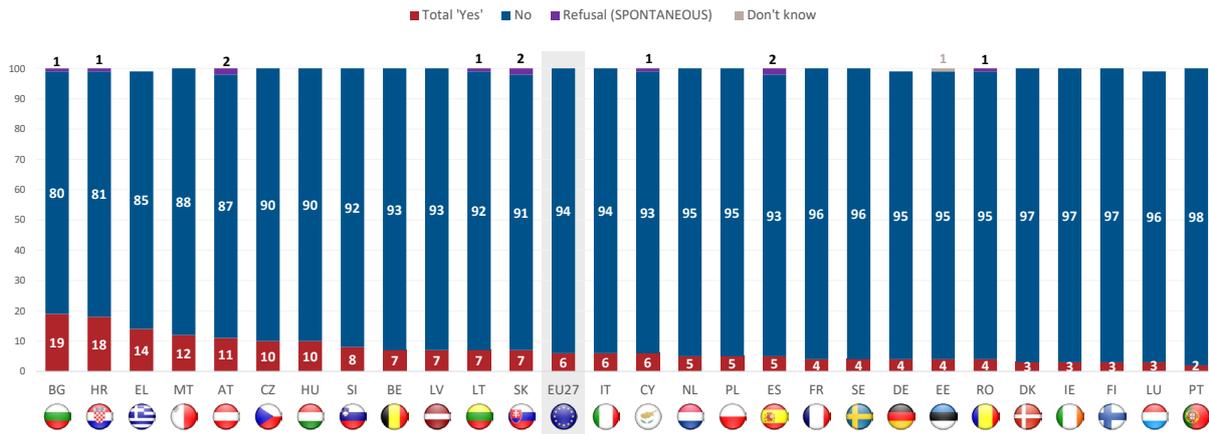
## 1. Personal experience of corruption

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

Just over one in twenty (6%, +1 percentage point since December 2019) say they have experienced or witnessed a case of corruption in the last 12 months.<sup>23</sup>

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

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



Base: all respondents (n = 26,509)

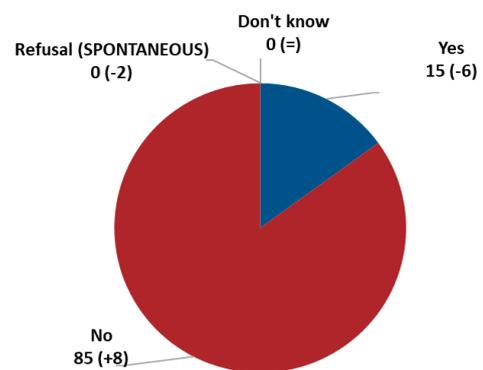
## 2. Reporting of corruption

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

Amongst respondents who experienced or witnessed a case of corruption in the last 12 months, 15% (-6 percentage points since December 2019) say they reported the corruption to someone.<sup>24</sup>

The socio-demographic analysis reveals that students, house persons (both 6%) and the unemployed (9%) are much less likely to have reported corruption than other socio-occupation groups.

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



(Mar-Apr 2022 / Dec 2019)

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

<sup>23</sup> QA12. In the last 12 months, have you experienced or witnessed any case of corruption? (MULTIPLE ANSWERS POSSIBLE)

<sup>24</sup> QA13. Did you report it to anyone or not?

### 3. Awareness of where to report corruption

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

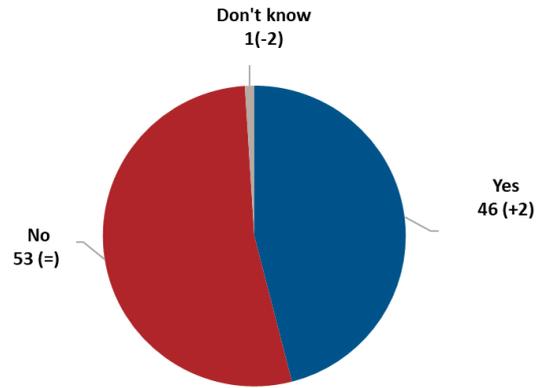
All respondents were asked if they knew where to report a case of corruption if they were to experience or witness it<sup>25</sup>. The majority (53%, =) don't know where to report corruption,

A regional analysis shows those living in the euro area (49%) with know where to report corruption, compared to those living in countries outside the euro area (37%).

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

In 18 countries, the majority of respondents do not know where to report corruption if they experience or witness it. This result ranges from 72% in Romania to 42% in Spain.

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

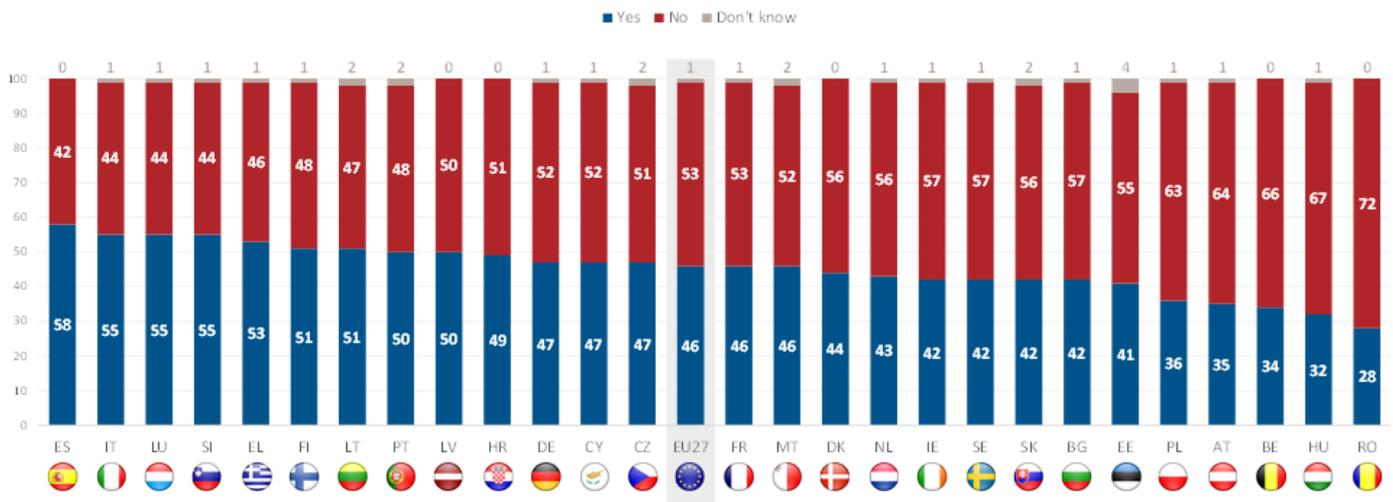


(Mar-Apr)

Base: all respondents (n = 26,509)

Respondents aged 25+, and particularly those aged 40-54 (50%), are more likely to know where to report corruption than those aged 15-24 (38%).

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



Base: all respondents (n = 26,509)

<sup>25</sup> QA10. If you were to experience or witness a case of corruption, would you know where to report it to?

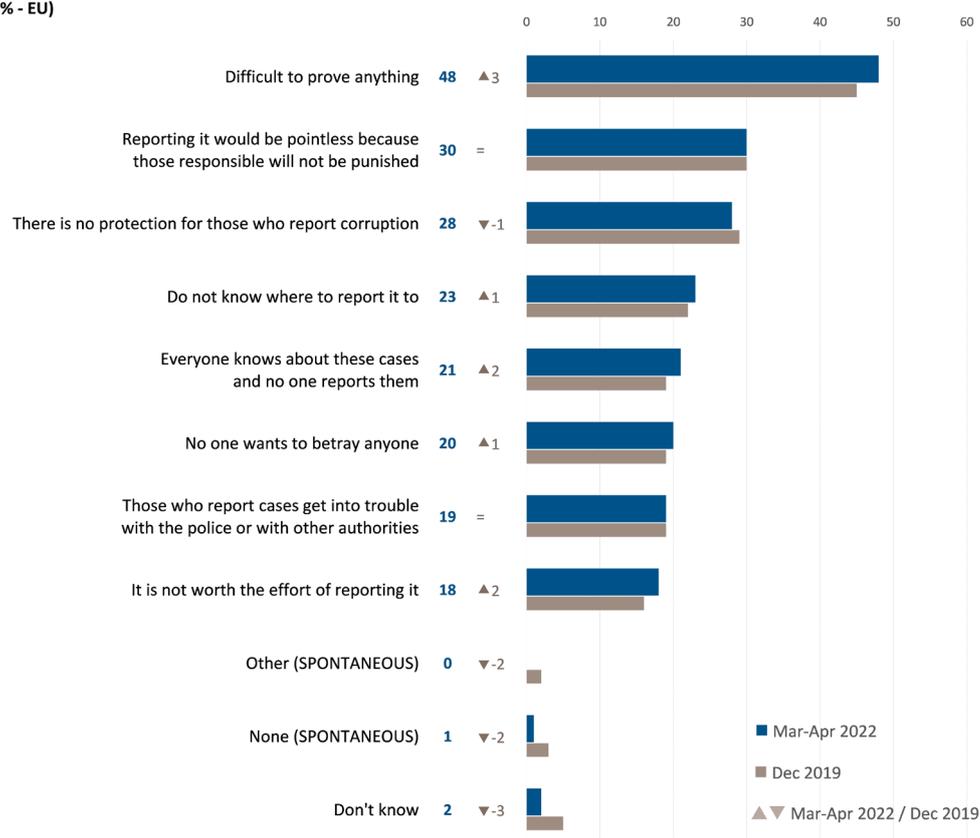
## 4. Reasons for not reporting corruption

### Difficulty in proving anything is the main reason Europeans think people do not report corruption<sup>26</sup>

Almost half (48%, +3 percentage points since December 2019) think the fact that it is **difficult to prove anything** is one of the most important reasons why people decide not to report corruption. This is the most mentioned reason in 23 EU Member States, ranging from 61% in Czechia to 32% in Romania.

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

QA14 Below are some possible reasons why people may decide not to report a case of corruption. Please tell those which you think are the most important? (MAX. 3 ANSWERS)  
(% - EU)



Base: all respondents (n = 26,509)

<sup>26</sup> QA14. I am going to read out some possible reasons why people may decide not to report a case of corruption. Please tell me those which you think are the most important? (MAX. 3 ANSWERS)

Special Eurobarometer 523  
Corruption  
March-April 2022

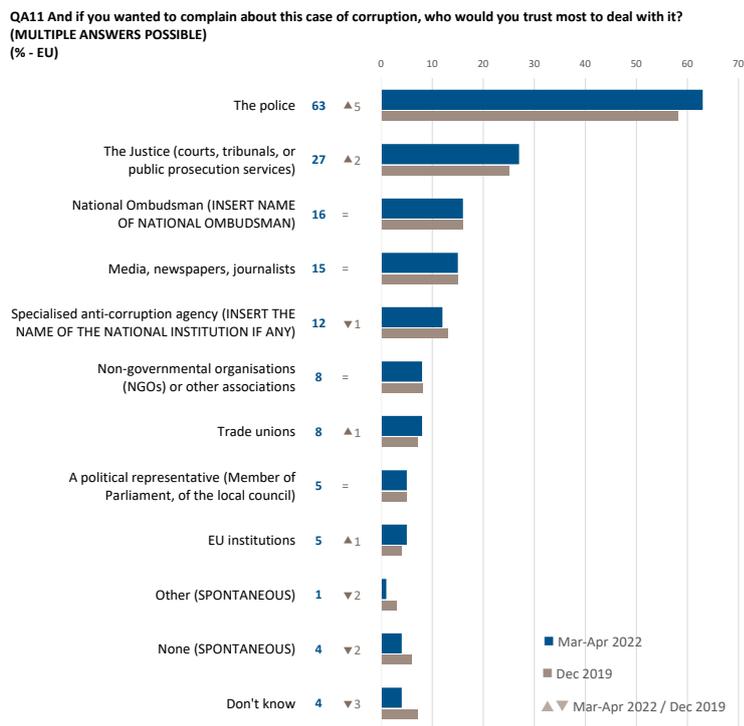
## 5. Level of trust in authorities

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

More than six in ten respondents (63%) say they most trust the **police** to deal with a complaint about a case of corruption.<sup>27</sup> This is an increase of five percentage points since 2019 and the only answer mentioned by at least three in ten. Just over one quarter trust the **Justice** (27%, +2 percentage points) and this is the only other answer given by at least one in five.

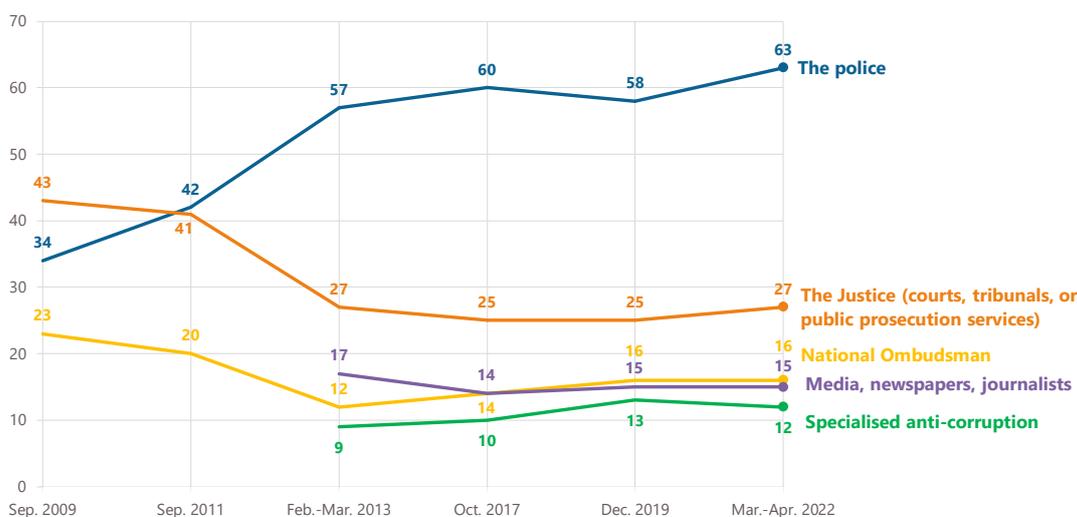
After a slight decrease between October 2017 and December 2019, trust in the police has once again increased. Trust in the police is now at its highest ever level (63%), 29 percentage points higher than it was in September 2009.

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



Base: all respondents (n = 26,509)

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



Base: all respondents (n = 26,509)

<sup>27</sup> QA11. And if you wanted to complain about this case of corruption, who would you trust most to deal with it? (MULTIPLE ANSWERS POSSIBLE)

# CONCLUSION



## Special Eurobarometer 523

### Corruption

#### March- April 2022

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

## Technical Specifications

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

Wave 97.2 covers the population of the respective nationalities of the European Union Member States, resident in each of the 27 Member States and aged 15 years and over.

The basic sample design applied in all countries and territories is a multi-stage, random (probability) one. In each country, a number of sampling points were drawn with probability proportional to population size (for a total coverage of the country) and to population density.

In order to do so, the sampling points were drawn systematically from each of the “administrative regional units”, after stratification by individual unit and type of area. They thus represent the whole territory of the countries surveyed according to the EUROSTAT NUTS II (or equivalent) and according to the distribution of the resident population of the respective nationalities in terms of metropolitan, urban and rural areas<sup>1</sup>.

In each of the selected sampling points, a starting address was drawn, at random. Further addresses (every Nth address) were selected by standard “random route” procedures, from the initial address. In each household, the respondent was drawn, at random (following the “closest birthday rule”). If no one answered the interviewer in a household, or if the respondent selected was not available (not present or busy), the interviewer revisited the same household up to three additional times (four contact attempts in total). Interviewers never indicate that the survey is conducted on behalf of the European Commission beforehand; they may give this information once the survey is completed, upon request.

The recruitment phase was slightly different in the Netherlands, Finland, and Sweden. In these countries, a sample of addresses within each areal sampling point (1km<sup>2</sup> grid) were selected from the address or population register (in Finland, selection is not done in all sample points, but in some where response rates are expected to improve). The selection of addresses was done in a random manner. Households were then contacted by telephone and recruited to take part in the survey. In the Netherlands a dual frame RDD sample (mobile and landline numbers) are used. The selection of numbers on both frames is done in a random manner with each

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

**Special Eurobarometer 523**  
**Technical Specifications**  
**March – April 2022**

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

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

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

**Special Eurobarometer 523**  
**Technical Specifications**  
**March – April 2022**

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

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

## Consequences of the coronavirus pandemic on fieldwork

### Face-to-face interviewing

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

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

### Face-to-face and online interviewing

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

## Recruitment for online interviews

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

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

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

## Response rates

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

The response rates are calculated by dividing the total number of complete interviews with the number of all the addresses visited, apart from ones that are not eligible but including those where eligibility is unknown. For wave 97.2 of the EUROBAROMETER

**Special Eurobarometer 523**  
**Technical Specifications**  
**March – April 2022**

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

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

CAPI : Computer-Assisted Personal interviewing

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

**Special Eurobarometer 523**  
**Technical Specifications**  
**March – April 2022**

**Margins of error**

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

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

*various sample sizes are in rows*

*various observed results are in columns*

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

