

# OPINION SURVEY HUNGARY: Corruption and Hungary's role in the EU



*Study conducted by Institut für Motivforschung in April 2024 on behalf of Daniel Freund MEP and the Greens/EFA Group in the European Parliament*

## **Methodology and processing of the data**

The *Institut für Motivforschung* conducted a representative survey (n=1010) in Hungary in April 2024. The study participants were asked about several domestic and foreign policy issues. A particular emphasis was placed on the perception of corruption in Hungary and the understanding of Hungary in the EU. The questionnaire consists of 11 questions and three follow-up questions to questions number 5, 10 and 13. The surveys were conducted online.

## **Question 1: First of all, we would like to know to what extent you consider the following issues to be a problem for Hungary!**

### 1. Crime

a big problem	41,4%
somewhat of a problem	38,2%
hardly a problem	18,0%
not a problem at all	2,4%

### 2. Corruption in Hungarian society

a big problem	64,6%
somewhat of a problem	22,7%
hardly a problem	11,3%
not a problem at all	1,5%

### 3. Corruption in the Hungarian National government

a big problem	71,6%
somewhat of a problem	14,5%
hardly a problem	9,6%
not a problem at all	4,4%

#### 4. Unemployment in Hungary

a big problem	41,0%
somewhat of a problem	30,2%
hardly a problem	22,2%
not a problem at all	6,6%

#### 5. Inflation in Hungary

a big problem	74,8%
somewhat of a problem	17,4%
hardly a problem	6,9%
not a problem at all	0,9%

#### 6. EU membership in Hungary

a big problem	9,1%
somewhat of a problem	22,2%
hardly a problem	25,0%
not a problem at all	43,7%

#### 7. Abuse of power in politics

a big problem	72,1%
somewhat of a problem	15,0%
hardly a problem	10,1%

not a problem at all	2,8%
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**Question 2: Now we would like to know how much trust and confidence you have in the following institutions to do a good job in Hungary whilst carrying out their responsibilities.**

1. The national government (including politicians, public servants or any kind of government agency)

no trust at all	52,0%
not very much trust	23,5%
some trust	19,4%
a lot of trust	5,1%

2. The local government

no trust at all	15,1%
not very much trust	30,5%
some trust	45,0%
a lot of trust	9,3%

3. The institutions of the European Union

no trust at all	16,6%
not very much trust	21,3%
some trust	44,1%
a lot of trust	18,0%

4. The courts

no trust at all	15,9%
not very much trust	31,0%

some trust	46,3%
a lot of trust	6,7%

5. The police

no trust at all	11,8%
not very much trust	25,2%
some trust	51,3%
a lot of trust	11,7%

**Question 3: How well or badly is the current government in Hungary handling the task of fighting corruption?**

very badly	50,0%
fairly badly	29,0%
fairly well	16,5%
very well	4,5%

**Question 4: How many of the following people in Hungary do you think are involved in corruption?**

1. The president and officials in his office

all of them	22,6%
most of them	32,3%
some of them	31,9%
none	13,3%

2. The prime minister and officials in his office

all of them	37,2%
most of them	29,5%
some of them	23,9%
none	9,4%

3. Members of parliament

all of them	18,7%
most of them	50,3%
some of them	29,0%
none	2,0%

#### 4. National government officials

all of them	22,0%
most of them	40,8%
some of them	32,1%
none	5,1%

#### 5. Local government representatives, including mayors

all of them	9,2%
most of them	36,7%
some of them	48,2%
none	5,8%

#### 6. Police

all of them	6,3%
most of them	16,5%
some of them	66,6%
none	10,5%

#### 7. Judges and prosecutors

all of them	8,6%
most of them	23,0%
some of them	59,6%
none	8,8%

#### 8. Business executives

all of them	8,4%
most of them	31,9%
some of them	55,2%

none	4,5%
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#### 9. Bankers

all of them	15,1%
most of them	32,3%
some of them	47,5%
none	5,0%

#### 10. Non-governmental organizations (NGOs)

all of them	5,0%
most of them	17,7%
some of them	63,6%
none	13,7%

**Question 5: Next, I want to ask you some questions about your experience with various public services. Can you tell me whether you have had contact with any of the following services in the past 12 months in Hungary?**

#### 1. A public school

yes	27,3%
no	72,7%

#### 2. A public clinic or hospital

yes	77,8%
no	22,2%

3. A government office in order to get an official document, such as a birth certificate, driver's license, passport or voter's card, or a permit

yes	65,2%
no	34,8%

4. A government office in order to get unemployment or other social security benefits

yes	22,3%
no	77,7%

5. The police

yes	16,1%
no	83,9%

6. The courts

yes	7,7%
no	92,3%

**Follow-up on question 5, for everybody that answered yes:**

**Question 6: And taking into account the public services that you have contacted in the last 12 months in Hungary, did you have to use personal connections at least once in order to get assistance or services you needed from ...?**

1. A public school

yes	38,8%
no	61,2%

2. A public clinic or hospital

yes	48,0%
no	52,0%

3. A government office in order to get an official document, such as a birth certificate, driver's license, passport or voter's card, or a permit

yes	30,2%
no	69,8%

4. A government office in order to get unemployment or other social security benefits

yes	41,8%
no	58,2%

5. The police

yes	42,9%
no	57,1%

6. The courts

yes	46,2%
no	53,8%

**Question 7: In your opinion, do you think that citizens can report incidents of corruption without fear in Hungary?**

Yes, they can report without fear	32,2%
No, they fear reprisals	67,8%

**Question 8: How often do you think the following situations happen in Hungary?**

1. Companies using money or connections to secure profitable government contracts

never	1,3%
rarely	8,3%
occasionally	26,6%
often	38,1%
very often	25,6%

2. Appropriate actions being taken against officials who engage in corruption

never	16,0%
rarely	45,4%
occasionally	23,6%
often	11,1%
very often	3,9%

3. Big companies avoid paying their taxes



never	3,8%
rarely	16,2%
occasionally	40,5%
often	27,9%
very often	11,6%

**Question 9: What do you think about the idea, that the allocation of EU funds amounting to 10.500 Forints per month and per capita being distributed directly to Hungarian citizens, instead of being channeled through the government?**

doesn't sound reasonable at all	18,0%
sounds less reasonable	28,3%
sounds somewhat reasonable	29,3%
sounds very reasonable	24,4%

**Question 10: Do you believe Hungary should continue to use its veto power in EU politics?**

yes	37,4%
no	36,4%
I don't know	26,1%

**Follow-up on question 10, for everybody that answered yes:**

**Question 11: Should Hungary use its veto power in EU politics even if it negatively affects the progression of EU policies?**

yes	71,7%
no	13,5%
I don't know	14,8%

**Question 12: How should Hungary behave in the Russia-Ukraine conflict:**

support Ukraine	22,7%
support Russia	3,1%
remain neutral	68,8%
I don't know	5,4%

**Question 13: Should Hungary take over the EU presidency, despite the negative comments on the EU institutions by the government of Hungary?**

yes	32,4%
no	46,3%
I don't know	21,3%

***Follow-up on question 13, for everybody that answered yes:***

***Question 14: Should Hungary represent its own interests in the EU presidency or those of the EU?***

interests of Hungary	41,3%
interests of EU	8,6%
both	49,8%
I don't know	0,3%