INTEGRITY AUTHORITY

KORR-KÉP

Corruption, integrity and the use of European Union funds, according to young Hungarians

Comprehensive results of a questionnaire-based, large-sample data collection

Impressum

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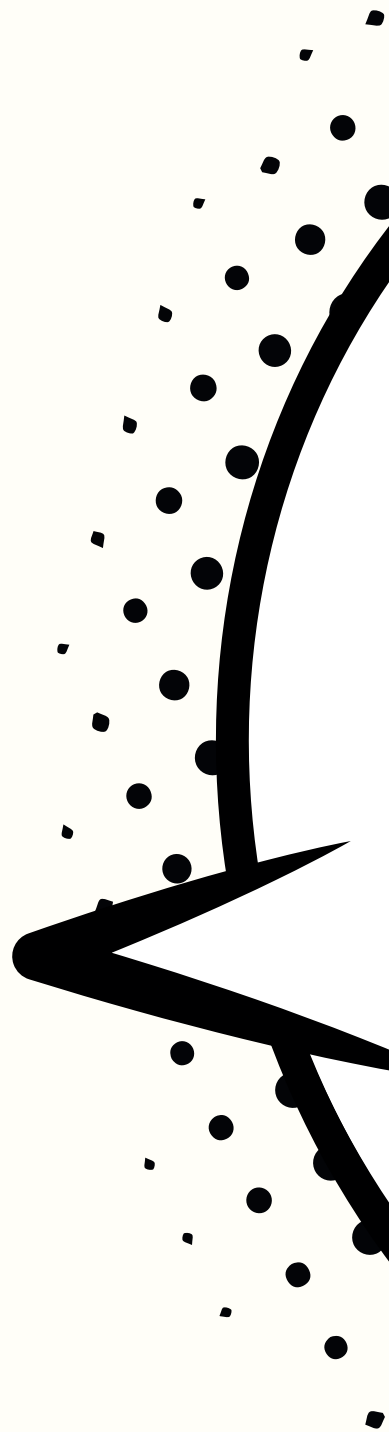
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Executive summary

What did we study?

The KORR-KÉP Youth Research is the Integrity Academy's (see framed text) first complex research programme. The KORR-KÉP research is intended to study the opinions, views and experience of Hungarian people aged 15 to 29, concerning the use of European Union funds, corruption and integrity, as well as other closely related concepts.

The results thus obtained will be used by the Academy to design its educational activities, and substantiate the findings revealed in its annual reports, thereby enabling the institute to implement and achieve the most well-founded and evidence-based interventions and improvements possible, and formulate the same kind of recommendations.

A brief description of the research methodology

This study presents the results of the second data collection period of the KORR-KÉP research programme in which young Hungarians aged 15 to 29 were surveyed with a methodologically elaborate **questionnaire-based data collection**, conducted through personal interviewing. The questionnaire-based data collection was preceded by **pre-survey focus group interviews**, intended to help design the key groups of questions in the questionnaire.

The proper sampling and the posterior weighting of the results ensure that the data represent the entire group of young Hungarians aged 15 to 29. **1,012 persons** belonging to the specified age group **participated** in the data collection.

Why was this research project necessary?

The Integrity Authority is an autonomous state administrative body, whose operation is governed by Act XXVII of 2022 on the control of the use of European Union budget funds. Its primary objective is to analyse developments involving the use of European Union funds, and to monitor the use of the funds concerned. The Authority has been performing these operations since its establishment in 2022, predominantly through reports and recommendations combining proposals and points of intervention based on investigation results and other practical experiences, as well as through complaints, motions for revision, and proceedings.

Aligning with international trends, in 2024 the Authority established a new organisational unit known as the **Integrity Academy**, adopting new **proactive** and **preventive** approaches to complement its practices, which had mostly been reactive in nature up to that point. The purpose of this is to ensure that through our **social attitude shaping** efforts, Hungarian citizens and specific groups thereof – such as members of the young generation, small and medium-sized enterprises, or public officials – learn to recognise and avoid situations involving corruption, that they actively engage in anti-corruption efforts by reporting such incidences to competent authorities, and that intolerance of corruption in Hungary can strengthen in the long term. To achieve this goal, the Academy develops training courses and workshops, as well as attitude-shaping and awareness-raising campaigns for numerous target groups.

What is corruption?

One of the key innovations of this research, which had been completely unprecedented in Hungary, was a new, all-encompassing definition of corruption, which – relying on earlier sources – took shape during the design of the research methodology. This definition is intended to grasp the concept of corruption in a broader, complex interpretation. This comprehensive definition is what we meant by corruption while conducting our data collection and data analysis, and what we also asked our research participants to understand by the word.

"Corruption is the abuse of entrusted power for private gain – whether by an individual, group, or institution – typically at the expense of the public interest, and involving violations of laws, regulations and/or integrity standards. Corruption also occurs when someone offers or provides a private gain to an individual, group or institution entrusted with power for the purpose of gaining an advantage. All such cases are considered corruption, even if they are carried out under the pretext of some perceived or actual public interest."

Through specific case examples, we explored which situations young people consider to be corruption and which they do not. Nevertheless, by the definition applied throughout the research, all the case examples presented to respondents did qualify as corruption. Young participants marked 79-87% of the cases presented to them as corruption, which means that a **high proportion of them classified each case example as corrupt practices.** 59.2% of the respondents regarded all the 11 case examples as corruption. The following five case examples showed the highest occurrence of corruption markings:

Acts of corruption
The five most frequently identified vases of corruption (n=1,012)

Acts of corruption	Corruption	Not corruption	Don't know
The leader of a foundation aiding disadvantaged children uses part of the incoming monetary donations to finance their own holiday.	**87.0%**	**12.3%**	**0.7%**
A high-ranking university professor offers to help the child of a family they know gain admission to a selected university degree programme in exchange for a small amount of money.	**85.1%**	**13.1%**	**1.8%**
Someone pays a public official to fast-track the processing of a request for planning permisison through their superior.	**84.2%**	**13.6%**	**2.2%**
A vehicle in poor condition passes a safety inspection because the owner gives money to the inspector.	**84.2%**	**14.4%**	**1.4%**
An influential local government representative arranges for the adoption of a municipal decree that benefits the construction company of a close friend.	**84.1%**	**13,.6%**	**2.3%**

Corruption is spreading and growing

According to young Hungarians, corruption is the second largest problem in Hungary. It came second only to the difficulties perceived in relation to general price increases, inflation, and the cost of living, as revealed by the problem map.

One of the key findings of the study is that **70% of the young generation think corruption is extremely or significantly widespread in Hungary**, while 25.4% reported that the problem was moderately or very scarcely widespread. Only 1.3% indicated that there was no corruption in the country[1]. Respondents considered corruption in the country to be more widespread in general terms than specifically in relation to European Union funds.

How widespread is corruption in Hungary both in general and in relation to European Union funds?

$(n_{hu}=1,012, n_{eu}=1,000)$

	Generally in Hungary	In relation to EU funds
Extremely	32.0%	25.6%
Significantly	38.0%	36.3%
Moderately	20.0%	22.4%
Scarcely	5.4%	7.0%
No corruption	1.3%	2.0%
Don't know	2.9%	6.0%
No response	0.4%	0.7%

[1] 3.3% of them could not or preferred not to answer the question.

In the opinion of more than half (67.1%) of young Hungarians, corruption has increased significantly (44.1%) or slightly (23%) over the past five years in the country.

Selecting from multiple options, they turned out to perceive that the strongest factor contributing to the presence of corruption was that the use of public funds was characterised by a lack of transparency, that the organisation of public administration was not based on merit, and that laws did not apply equally to everyone.
31.7% of young Hungarians reported that corruption affected their everyday lives either completely or to a great extent. In a county breakdown, respondents from Pest and Nógrád Counties indicated that the problem affected their everyday lives to the greatest extent.

Young Hungarians are more tolerant of corruption

In line with international results, young Hungarians also think that it is the **payment of bribes that is the least acceptable in public institutions and offices**, with 72.8% of the respondents indicating that such conduct was completely unacceptable or rather unacceptable. By contrast, gifts and doing favours were rejected consistently only by 52.4% and 41.8% of the respondents, respectively.

From the three questions about the acceptability of handing over bribes, offering gifts, and doing favours, a **corruption tolerance index was constructed**, which was also derived by the Special Eurobarometer 548[2] survey, using the same variables. The comparison of the respective corruption tolerance indexes of Hungarian and European youth reveals significant differences between the two groups. **The comparison with European results indicates that there are significantly fewer young Hungarians that think corruption is completely unacceptable.**

Bribery was perceived by respondents to be most prevalent in government institutions and ministries, the media, and public health institutions. At the same time, the level of corruption was perceived to be the lowest in civil society organisations (CSOs), educational institutions, government windows, registrar's offices, and government offices[3].

The results show that the greater the trust people have in a particular institution, and the more they think its employees will be held accountable for their mistakes, the lower the prevalence of bribery they perceive in that institution.

[2] Special Eurobarometer 548 „Citizens' attitude towards corruption"

[3] The grouped results presented in the executive summary were derived by merging individual groups of a 5-point Likert scale. The original data for each group are presented in the study.

To what extent does corruption affect young people in their everyday lives? (%) (n=1,012)

Government institutions and ministries
Widespread	47.5%
Moderately widespread	28.5%
Not widespread	20.3%
No response	3.7%

Courts
Widespread	31.8%
Moderately widespread	29.6%
Not widespread	34.4%
No response	4.2%

Media
Widespread	43.5%
Moderately widespread	28.8%
Not widespread	23.5%
No response	4.1%

Police
Widespread	34.0%
Moderately widespread	30.1%
Not widespread	32.3%
No response	3.6%

Public health institutions
Widespread	42.9%
Moderately widespread	29.9%
Not widespread	24.5%
No response	2.8%

Municipalities
Widespread	33.3%
Moderately widespread	33.6%
Not widespread	29.9%
No response	3.3%

Government windows, registrar's offices, government offices
Widespread	27.3%
Moderately widespread	23.6%
Not widespread	44.8%
No response	4.2%

Businesses, private firms
Widespread	31.2%
Moderately widespread	32.6%
Not widespread	32.7%
No response	3.5%

Educational institutions
Widespread	25.7%
Moderately widespread	27.4%
Not widespread	44.0%
No response	2.9%

Banks, financial institutions
Widespread	28.2%
Moderately widespread	25.6%
Not widespread	42.2%
No response	4.0%

Civil society organisations
Widespread	25.5%
Moderately widespread	26.8%
Not widespread	42.4%
No response	5.4%

Corruption in young Hungarians' lives

Asked about their specific corruption-related experiences, **17.3%** of young Hungarian respondents **affirmed that they personally knew** people, groups or organisations that had already accepted **favours, gifts or bribes against the rules while performing their work.** 11.5% of them responded by stating that over the year preceding the data collection, such favour, gift or bribe had been expected from them or from a relative or close acquaintance. In the case of the latter question, there was a high rate (8.3%) of those who preferred not to answer, which raises the possibility that non-respondents, prompted by the sensitivity of the question not to answer, also included people who had encountered – whether directly or indirectly – situations that involved corruption. **Most cases of corruption were experienced and indicated in relation to public institutions and offices:** 32.7% of those who had experienced corruption perceived such practices in these institutions. Nearly half of these respondents indicated that they had witnessed such occurrences at public health institutions. One fifth of them selected educational institutions and local authorities, while courts of law, government windows and government offices were associated with the least frequent incidence of corruption.

According to the results of the research, 4.1% of young Hungarians have already reported a suspected corruption case, but only half of these whistleblowers counted themselves among active actors who would be willing to report such a case once more, should they experience it again. According to young respondents, the primary reason for people not to report corruption is **the concern that by doing so, they might put themselves in a difficult situation (43.1%).** Also, in line with earlier findings, they indicated that they did not know where to file such a complaint (39.4%).

Besides the phenomena of favours, gifts and bribes, the incidence of **using personal connections** to speed up administration or make it more efficient **in public institutions** is a little bit of a grey area which 18.6% of respondents claimed to have experienced over the year preceding the survey, either personally or via a relative or acquaintance.

"Moral self-enhancement", which means that in specific situations, the respondent feels that they would act more ethically than others, also appeared in this research. Based on their answers, the respondents themselves would act much more in compliance with rules and ethical standards than people in general.

While young people consider themselves more honest than others, **responses from 54.5% of them demonstrate** that when compelled to choose, **helping relatives and acquaintances is more important to them** than adhering to laws and regulations.

Is helping relatives and acquaintances more important than abiding by the law?

If you had to choose, which one would you say is more important: helping relatives and acquaintances or abiding by the laws and other regulations? (n=1,012)

Clearly abiding by the laws and regulations

Rather abiding by the laws and regulations

Rather helping relatives and acquaintances

Clearly helping relatives and acquaintances

No response

Don't know

12.2%

27.7%

37.8%

16.7%

1.1%

4.5%
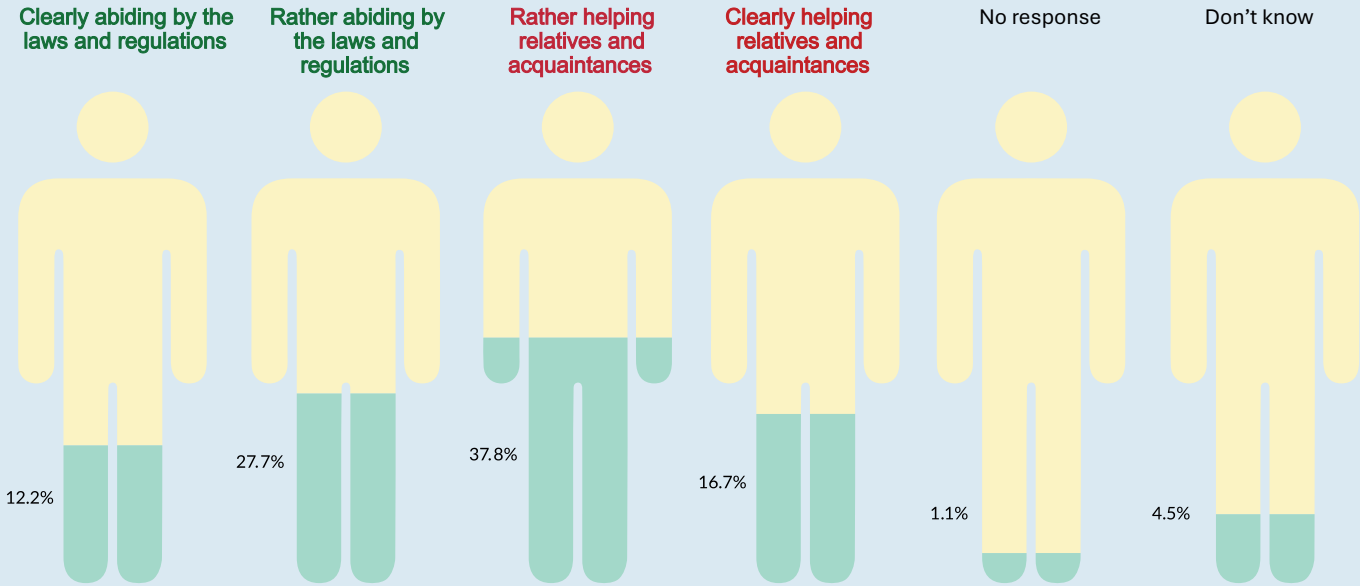
The impact of corruption on the quality of life

In addition to the highlighted groups of questions presented above, young people's social engagement, well-being, and trust in institutions were also subjects of the survey, as these topics are closely related to corruption, integrity, and anti-corruption efforts, according to academic literature. **Scientific research of the relationship between well-being and the perception of corruption counts as a novelty** in both international and Hungarian academic literature.

There was a significant correlation between young Hungarians' subjective well-being and the extent to which they felt the influence of corruption in their everyday lives. The less they felt the effects of corruption in their everyday lives, the higher their well-being levels rose.

Correlation between corruption and well-being

The correlation between corruption's impact on everyday life and subjective well-being (n = 1,012)

To what extent does corruption affect everyday life?

	Completely	Significantly	Slightly	Not at all	Don't know
Low well-being (0-5)	44.4%	38.1%	17.6%	15.2%	16.8%
Medium well-being (6-7)	33.8%	31.4%	40.8%	41.6%	21.8%
High well-being (8-10)	21.8%	30.4%	41.6%	43.2%	61.4%
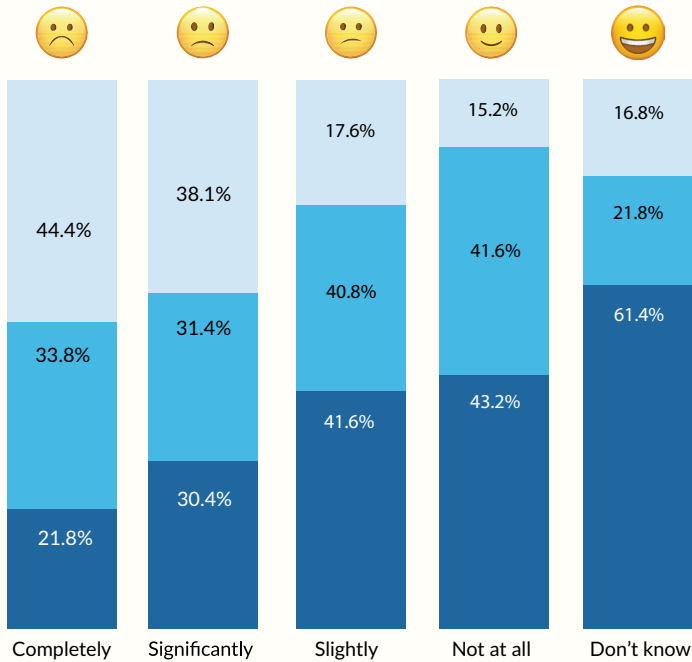
- High well-being (8-10)
- Medium well-being (6-7)
- Low well-being (0-5)

Whose duty is it to fight corruption?

What young Hungarians would do if they encountered corruption, how they assess their own roles in these situations, and who they think is in charge of acting against corruption are all important questions. **41.5% of respondents would do nothing if they experienced corruption.** This high rate of passivity may also derive from the fact that they may not know which organisation or person they could turn to in such situations, as the results demonstrated that **only 13% of them were aware of who they could report it to.**

For most of the listed institutions, a high proportion of young people indicated that fighting corruption was among their duties. The three institutions mentioned most frequently were the courts and prosecution offices, the police, and the national government. However, in terms of corruption prevention and shaping social attitudes, it is a particularly important finding that **taking action against corruption is less often regarded as a civic duty.**

Efficiency in the use of European Union funds

Most respondents **highlighted transportation, infrastructure development, and healthcare** as the areas in which they had experienced the **utilisation of European Union funds** in the past ten years. On the other hand, one third of young Hungarians **were not able to name a single such area** when answering the question.
More than half (53.8%) of young Hungarians think that the use of European Union funds is not efficient, while 32% thought that efficiency in the use of funds was adequate, with a somewhat higher rate (14.2%) of non-responses. The regional breakdown showed more significant differences among the opinions about efficiency in the use of funds. It is only in the case of the Southern Great Plain and the Pest regions of Hungary that the majority of respondents believed that European Union funds were used efficiently.

Anti-corruption training programmes are in high demand

Lastly, young people were given the opportunity to express their opinions about what sort of training programmes they would find practical if an educational programme on the topics discussed was organised for them. A cluster analysis based on young respondents' answers produced three distinct groups. The members of the first one considered almost all educational forms to be efficient, while the second group favoured more conventional methods, and the third preferred more creative and interactive ways of study. There were significant differences on the regional level. For instance, in the Western Transdanubia region, particularly in Győr-Moson-Sopron County, creative learning settings were the most popular, while in other regions, such as the Southern Transdanubia and Pest

regions, more conventional methods prevailed. In terms of the speakers invited to training courses, all sorts of possible speakers were regarded by the respondents as similarly efficient, but teachers and educators, professionals from anti-corruption authorities, staff members of public institutions fighting corruption, as well as young activists and influencers still stood out.

The purposes of guidance and shaping social attitudes through education that represents a proactive and preventive approach are particularly important for the young generation. The youth of today are the politicians, businesspersons, public officials and leaders of tomorrow, so **empowering this generation to recognise and avoid corrupt practices** and to report those to the designated institutions, taking the necessary steps whenever they experience such practices, is a priority. Based on the results of this research study, **stable training programmes combining conventional and interactive educational forms and involving professionals from diverse backgrounds, as well as follow-up efforts, will all be needed to achieve this goal.**

The necessity of such training programmes is supported by the fact that the members of the young generation themselves also perceive corruption as a serious problem in Hungary and have given account of a **considerable prevalence and a worsening trend of the phenomenon**. According to most of them, if it is up to their decision, **helping their own relatives and acquaintances is more important** for them than adhering to laws and regulations. In a situation involving suspected corruption, only a small proportion of them would know which organisation they could turn to. Also, **their attitudes** toward taking the opportunity to report such situations, should they encounter a suspected corruption case, is **characterised by a pronounced passivity. The role they should play in anti-corruption efforts is not clear to them:** they think that such actions fall within the competence of most of the relevant institutions, but citizens do not regard these efforts as their own duties in the least.

In summary: corruption has a negative influence on the quality of life of young people who are unsure of their own roles in anti-corruption efforts. Therefore, their active engagement in the fight against corruption and their related education are of key importance for preserving and improving their own well-being, as well as the future of the Hungarian nation.

Chapter I
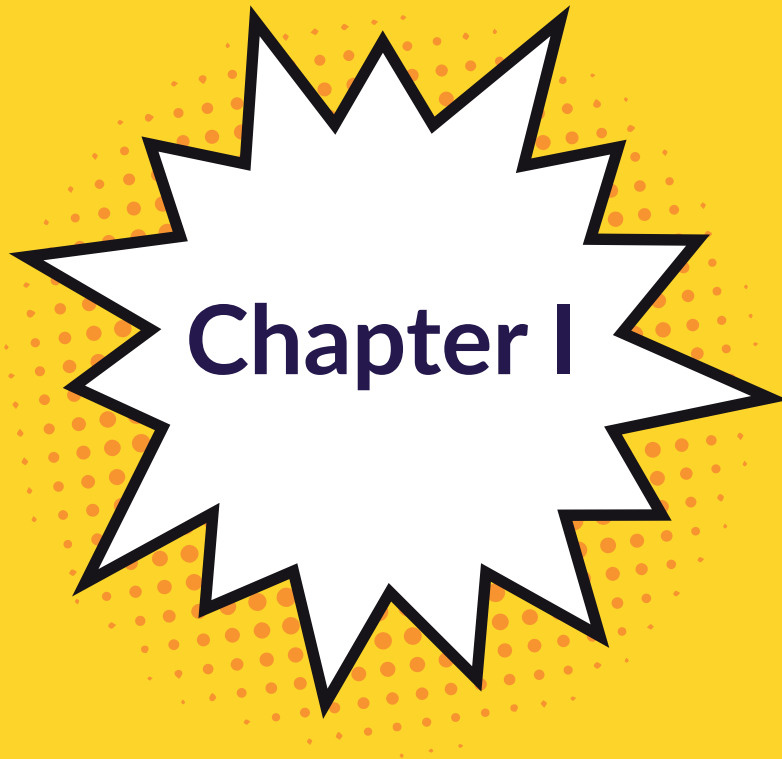
Justification for the topic

The introduction provides a brief overview of periodical international and Hungarian research projects conducted among young people and summarises the justification for the topic of the research and the prominent role education plays in shaping the attitudes of young people

Pursuant to Act XXVII of 2022 on the control of the use of European Union budget funds ("Integrity Authority Act"), the Integrity Authority, an autonomous state administrative body, is tasked with preparing reports and may issue recommendations as part of its analytical and proposal-making duties. The institution intends its research projects to further strengthen and support the performance of its statutory duties with data obtained through such projects. Furthermore, research findings are used to assist the evidence-based preparation and monitoring of efficient preventive approaches that are intended to prevent corrupt practices from occurring, shape social attitudes, and – through various educational and instruction activities – further solidify the possibility of prevention.

Scheduled to be repeated at regular intervals, KORR-KÉP is a complex research programme by the Integrity Academy, established within the framework of the Integrity Authority. By connecting multiple closely related research and data collection processes sequentially, the programme provides a comprehensive and reliable picture of the young Hungarian generation's perceptions, views, and experiences related to the use of European Union funds, corruption and integrity, as well as other strongly associated concepts. Investigating these topics is particularly important knowing that corruption undermines trust in public institutions and law-making, demoralises society, reduces efficiency in public services, and restricts equal access to them, thereby exacerbating social injustice (Toleikiené et al., 2020).

In addition to providing data-based support for preventive efforts and professional materials, like the entire KORR-KÉP research project, the large-sample, questionnaire-based data collection presented herein – which forms a prominent part of the research – is also intended to furnish at specified intervals a comprehensive and gap-bridging overview for the Authority and the Academy in performing their duties, for the Hungarian society, as well as for numerous other decision-makers, organisations active in the field, stakeholders, and scientific communities in Hungary and abroad that engage with the topic.

1. Briefly about domestic and international research projects conducted among young people

Studying young people has long been in the centre of attention of researchers, involving a wide variety of topics. They are the builders of tomorrow; so, it is crucial to explore what kinds of influences they are exposed to, how they think about certain issues, what sorts of opinions they form, and to what extent a particular topic affects their behaviour and actions. "Large-sample youth research projects" are present at national, European and global levels alike, and they are conducted regularly in several countries. With its Health Behaviour in School Aged Children (HBSC, 2024) research, the World Health Organization (WHO) has been collecting data with a set periodicity about the health

behaviour and well-being of the younger generation (aged 11 to 15) in a number of countries since as early as 1982, while the organisation's European School Survey Project on Alcohol and Other Drugs (ESPAD, 2024) has been studying young people aged 15 to 16 in more than 35 countries since 1995. The Young Europeans survey of the Eurobarometer series, which focused specifically on the young generation initially, surveyed young Europeans' political and social attitudes and values between 1982 and 2000. This survey was gradually integrated into larger Eurobarometer surveys, so nowadays the opinions of the 15–29 age group are collected within these frameworks – whether about general political or attitudinal issues or about specific subjects such as corruption[4] (European Commission, 2025). Among the recently published Eurobarometer surveys, special mention should be made of the Youth and Democracy survey[5] conducted ahead of the 2024 European Parliament elections. This survey examined young people's commitment to the EU and their social participation at Member State level (European Commission DG COMM, 2024). Results from a large-sample EU survey[6] conducted at the end of 2024 showed that human rights, democracy, and peace were seen as the three most important values for young Europeans, a view shared by more than half of young Hungarians as well (European Parliament, 2025). In addition to those specified above, there have also been some more recent research projects focusing on the young generation, which are specifically intended to collect international results and to provide updated analyses on their research topics through new rounds of data collection over time[7].

As far as Hungary is concerned, the "Ifjúság 2000" (Youth 2000) survey, launched in the early 2000s, provides data once in four years about the situation of young people in the country[8]. The research project is designed to survey at specified intervals the situation of the young Hungarian population in respect of several comprehensive sets of subjects (Székely, 2024). It was a key objective at the outset to provide researchers with comparable, long-term timeseries data. The latest survey from 2024, conducted with a methodology[9] slightly altered compared to the original data collection, provides insights into the situation of young Hungarians, covering many aspects of their lives through some shorter summaries published online (Székely&Kiss-Kozma, 2025:6).

Despite regularly conducted large-sample surveys, young Hungarians' opinions – specifically about corruption and integrity – were solicited less frequently. All this happened despite the fact that the younger generation is just as exposed to corruption as society as a whole (United Nations, 2021).

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[4] The Special Eurobarometer questionnaires specifically ask respondents about the perceptions and experiences of society – including young people – related to corruption.

[5] Flash Eurobarometer 545

[6] Flash Eurobarometer Youth Survey

[7] Gen Z: Global Cizitenship Survey since 2020, Eurodesk Youth Info Survey since 2024 (Varkey Foundation, 2024)

[8] Apart from young Hungarians inside the country, Hungarian youth outside Hungary's borders have also been recruited in the data collection recently.

[9] Contrary to earlier surveys, which collected data from the 15–29 age group, this time experts collected data among an extended group aged 15 to 34. The size of the sample also changed in 2024, as the number of respondents surveyed in Hungary was reduced to 5,000 from the 8,000 recruited in previous years' surveys.

This generation is at least equally or – in some cases – even more affected by corruption, for instance, in the educational system.

The exposure of the young generation is corroborated by the fact that ongoing corrupt activities may have a significant detrimental impact on the long-term outcomes of current investment projects aimed at improving public services for society, the users of which will eventually include members from today's young generation (United Nations, 2021; Bergin, 2024). Despite the low number of domestic studies on young people, corruption, and integrity, results from an international research project suggest that young Hungarians (depending on their level of education) are particularly concerned about the issue of corruption, much more so than their peers in other V4 countries participating in the research (Bíró-Nagy&Szabó, 2021).

An online questionnaire-based data collection was conducted in 2012 about young Hungarians' views on corruption and integrity (Burai, 2013). This research found that most of them considered honesty to be more important than individual interests, and that the vast majority thought corruption had a strong presence in both Hungary and across the world. In 2013, they were specifically asked about corruption in the higher education system (Csécsi et al., 2013). In the study, half of the respondents believed that corrupt practices occurred in the often opaque and excessively paper-based higher education funding systems. In addition to benefits – such as dormitory placements or social assistance – respondents identified another major risk which was related to the influx of European Union funds into higher education. They thought that the application for and spending of these funds clearly create an opportunity for corrupt practices to emerge.

In 2016, research conducted in Hungary examined young people's perception of corruption and their media use. According to the results, a considerable proportion of young people were already getting their information from online platforms at that time, and the large amount of information they had come across about corruption cases made them, on the one hand, more indifferent, while on the other hand, they felt that it made it more difficult to understand the course of events. (Bokor&Pulai, 2016).

2. Corruption, integrity, anti-corruption efforts: a hot topic?

Corruption, integrity, anti-corruption efforts, as well as numerous other, seemingly more distant but in fact related concepts – such as trust in various institutions and in one another, active participation in social processes, open governance and transparency that enable such participation, as well as well-being and trust, are all areas whose study is indispensable for society as a whole and particularly important in relation to the younger generation. Several research studies suggest that surveying young people in this regard, designing interventions based on such surveys, and thereby placing emphasis on preventive action may represent the future direction of curbing corruption (Stupnianek&Navickas, 2019; Zhu&Li, 2019; Ubani, 2020). The youth of today are the politicians, businesspersons, public officials, and leaders of tomorrow, so it is essential to get a clear picture of what young people in different age groups think about these topics. It is particularly important to identify the areas where their knowledge needs to be expanded, their attitudes and mindsets shaped, and their roles supported. All of this is essential for fostering a generation that genuinely stands against corruption and acts in accordance with integrity.

The detection and perception of corruption enable individuals to recognise situations involving corruption and corrupt practices – in other words, to decrypt them in the appropriate way and at the appropriate level (Gong&Wang, 2012). This constitutes the first step toward engagement in anti-corruption efforts, followed by an adequate level of intolerance, which then motivates the individual to take real action against corruption – that is, to proceed to the level of action. Raising awareness through perception, followed by active action arising from intolerance, becomes a sequence of actions in which each step is crucial, and the lack of any step thwarts actual and efficient intervention.

It is therefore fundamental to educate and actively involve young people in anti-corruption efforts.

While doing so, it is particularly important not only to recognise corruption and strengthen intervention, but also to adopt and internalise integrity as an inner norm which subconsciously guides and helps the individual in their everyday actions. Internalising integrity through education and training is inconceivable without regularly surveying a social group, using measurement and data collection tools. These surveys can serve as a compass for assessing what young people think about corruption and integrity, how much integrity characterises their actions, and where the most important points requiring intervention lie. If different programmes and educational contents are already being used to address the relevant topics, these surveys can help assess how effective these interventions are and locate areas of weakness that need changing in order to improve effectiveness.

The KORR-KÉP research programme – which also includes the large-sample survey conducted among Hungarian youth, presented herein – was primarily designed to carry out studies of young Hungarians at regular intervals. At the intervals specified by this research programme, the Integrity Academy, an organisational unit of the Integrity Authority, surveys young people's perceptions about and experience with corruption, their past actions against corruption, and their views about the use of European Union funds provided to Hungary. The information thus obtained is integrated into and utilised by the Authority in its reports and recommendations, as well as in the development and maintenance of the Integrity Academy's training programme.

Chapter II.

Methodology

The Methodology chapter presents the position of this survey within the overall research programme, the sampling method applied, the technique used to reach respondents, as well as the process of developing the measurement tool and formulating the related definitions

The presentation of the methodology primarily consists in presenting the methodology applied for the large-sample, questionnaire-based survey discussed herein. Nevertheless, it is indispensable to briefly introduce the overall methodology applied throughout this complex research programme in order to clarify how the various data collections build upon one another.

1. The methodological orientation of the complex research programme

While studying corruption and integrity, researchers are bound to encounter a number of difficulties. The meaning and definition of corruption are not universal; different research studies and surveys will use different concepts to define this phenomenon under discussion, thereby complicating the comparability of data (Fenyvesi, 2014; Kó, 2001). If the definitions of the concepts within a particular study are not clear to the respondents, or if they are incorrect, it will undermine the reliability of data even within a single research paper. In addition to difficulties related to the definitions, corruption is an extremely complex phenomenon, which is difficult to examine directly (Bello y Villarino, 2021). The multidimensional nature of the phenomenon (e.g. the fact that it appears in different forms at different levels, may differ from country to country or even from one region to the other, and that perceptions of which practices are considered corrupt, and which are not, differ) also reinforces the notion that complex measurement tools are the most suitable for grasping and therefore measuring the concept (Hart, 2019:4). The points listed clearly support the following approach: since the objective is to conduct a complex survey among the young generation, it is reasonable to rely on a research design that applies a complex, mixed methodology, capable of providing the most reliable data possible.

The application of a mixed methodology can help us benefit from the advantages of both the qualitative and the quantitative research methodological approaches. The results of the quantitative research, based on a massive and robust "random (probability) sampling", can be generalised to the overall study population. The information thus obtained, through the "in-depth" techniques of qualitative data collection, ensures a more profound analysis of sensitive issues and areas (of which research studies on corruption abound). Data collection based on qualitative interviews enables precise and accurate planning of the questionnaire beforehand, while after the questionnaire phase, it allows for the exploration of sensitive topics that are more difficult to examine using quantitative techniques. In the case of a study applying a mixed methodology, qualitative and quantitative surveys can take place either simultaneously or sequentially, with a temporal shift between them (Hesse-Bieber, 2010). The KORR-KÉP research programme used the latter, sequential data collection technique, with the three planned data collection phases taking place one after the other. Thus, both

the explanatory-sequential and exploratory-sequential models, as conceptualised by Creswell and Plano-Clark (2011), are reflected in the research methodology, complementing each other.

The data collection phase of the KORR-KÉP research study began with a data collection point consisting of qualitative focus group interviews, in line with the exploratory-sequential model. After the processing of the results thus obtained, they were used as input for the design of the quantitative questionnaire. All of this was necessary because of the relatively low number of earlier, domestically conducted studies available on the subject, as indicated previously. The "pre-survey focus group interviews" made it clear which areas and question groups might hold particular significance in the questionnaire-based data collection. Thus, the questionnaire was designed with these aspects in mind. Following the analysis of the questionnaire-based data collection, a "post-focus group data collection" is planned to provide a deeper examination of those key areas that emerged as particularly prominent during the quantitative data collection.

RESEARCH QUESTIONS

· What do young Hungarians think about their personal integrity and the integrity of specific institutions?

· What are their perceptions of corruption in Hungary, and are they experiencing any changes in this regard?

· What are their opinions about and experiences with the use of European Union funds?

· Do young Hungarians have any personal experiences with corruption, and if so, what sort of experiences do they have?

· Where and how do they see their own role in the fight against corruption?

2. Methodology applied for the questionnaire-based data collection

This data collection was carried out using a quantitative methodology through a questionnaire survey, which is complemented by earlier and subsequent data collections as described in Chapter II/1.

3. Designing the sampling process

Using a sample taken from the population, the questionnaire-based data collection aims to draw general conclusions about the entire population – in this case, the Hungarian generation aged 15 to 29. Such generalisation is possible if the sample has been designed carefully, meaning that it properly represents the entire population. What makes all of this possible in the present study is the application of random (probability) sampling. For this reason, designing the sample is one of the most important steps in research projects. If this step is not performed appropriately from a methodological point of view, the entire data collection and the reliability and interpretability of the results will be compromised. To ensure that all social strata within the group of young Hungarians are represented in the study, stratified multistage sampling was performed. In this method, selection is carried out in multiple stages, with researchers also taking into consideration aspects such as the individual proportions of the study population living in specific counties or types of settlement.

3.1 Steps of stratified multistage sampling in the research project:

⭐ **1. Designing the strata:** As the first step, the settlements inside Hungarian counties were divided into three strata, so all Hungarian settlements were classified into one of the following strata: county seat, town, or village. County seats and all 23 districts of the capital were included in the sample – these are known as "self-representing elements".

⭐ **2. Setting the number of settlements:** In the second step, the number of participants intended to be recruited in the target group was set for the type of settlement (county seat, town, or village) pertaining to the districts of the capital and to the specific stratum of the specific county. This was based on the fact that the proportion of the group aged 15 to 29 living in the districts of the capital and in the different types of settlements within a given county was taken into account. The greater this proportion was, the more participants were included in the specific stratum. The number of settlements representing a given stratum at the county level depended on the type of settlement and the sample size expected within that specific stratum. The capital and the county seats, naturally, cannot be subdivided –

they represent themselves alone. However, at the levels of the town and village strata, multiple settlements could be included per county. If the expected sample size assigned to a county's town or village stratum approached or exceeded 10 participants, data collection was carried out in two designated settlements rather than one for that county stratum, in order to avoid "overusing" a single settlement. The population data for the overall population and the distribution data per county and type of settlement were provided by the results of the 2022 census (HCSO, 2023d).

⭐ **3.** **The selection of the starting points at settlements:** in this research project, no personal address list was available for the reasons to be detailed later, so the starting points in the selected settlements were chosen randomly for starting the data collections. These starting points – meaning the streets – were selected using a database[10] containing the street names of Hungary at municipal level. Starting out from a given address, a maximum of five interviews could be conducted; for this reason, in settlements where the expected sample size exceeded five participants, at least two initial addresses were selected, and for expected sample sizes above ten, a minimum of three starting addresses were selected.

3.2 The number of strata created and the number of their participants[11]

The multistage stratification resulted in a list of settlements which adequately represented the distribution of the group aged 15 to 29 in Hungary across counties, according to the strata defined by the three selected types of settlements and the districts of the capital. The sample contained a total of 104 settlements/districts.

Figure 1

Settlements included
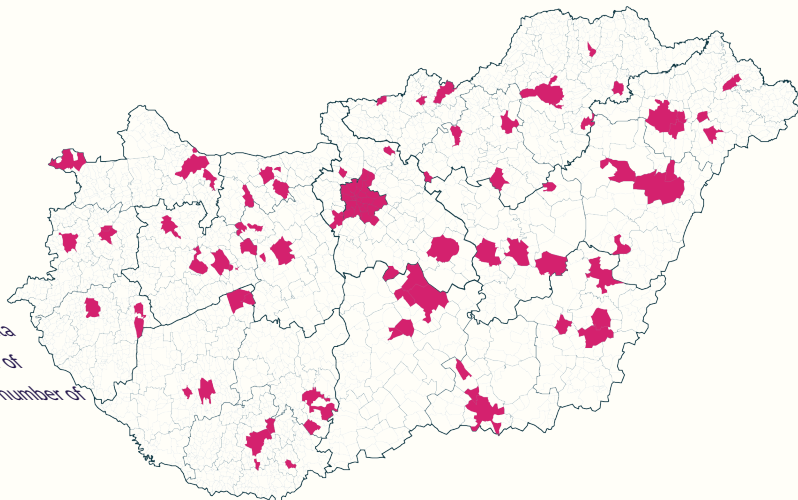
4. Reaching and recruiting respondents

After the sample was created and the starting points/streets selected, since a personal address list was not available, a different solution was needed to reach the persons representing the population and ensure that the chances of getting into the sample are equal for each member of the population. A fundamental principle when developing the research design was the necessity of random sampling, which could represent the entire generation of young Hungarians aged 15 to 29. Despite efforts, data collection using the originally planned personal address list could not be carried out. At present, requests for such databases and data in Hungary can be submitted to the competent department through the Ministry of Energy, and the requested information is provided upon a positive assessment. In response to the data request submitted for the purposes of the present study, a request for missing information was received, but due to the slow assessment and review process, a different solution had to be found to make sure that the data collection could take place before the summer period[12].

Retaining the random sample was a priority, and given the lack of a personal address list, this was possible after the design of the stratified multistage sampling, using the "random walk" method, which is an established technique employed in several international and European large-sample data surveys. The "random walk" technique involves reaching the households – and, within them, the participants to be recruited in the sample – in accordance with predefined rules, setting out from the addresses chosen earlier. Following these rules, if multiple persons belonging to the target group were available within a selected household, the respondent was chosen using the "birthday method". If the person selected in this way was not at home, the interviewers returned to that address at another time, thereby avoiding the bias inherent in the involvement of easily accessible respondents. If no person aged 15 to 29 lived in a household, the interviewers proceeded in accordance with the rules of the random walk method.

5. Monitoring interviewers

Monitoring played an important role during the survey administration, with the partner in charge of conducting the data collection closely overseeing the quality of the fieldwork. Each interview underwent a voice-based check, involving the review of 15 different aspects of verification. Interviews that did not meet the requirements set therein were excluded from the data collection.

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[12] Practice shows that fieldwork scheduled for the summer months is complicated by several factors. It often becomes more difficult to reach the people intended to be recruited than in other months of the year, and this is particularly true in the case of the young generation.

Each completed interview was checked using both GPS data and photos taken of the entrance doors of the visited addresses. In this way, 60% of the questionnaires underwent verification. As a result of the two types of verification, a total of 75 questionnaires were rejected.

6. Designing the measurement tool

In the design of the questionnaire-based data collection, it was a clear objective to have all the corruption-related topics that had been brought up during the analysis of earlier pre-survey focus group interviews covered by the questionnaire. Besides, it was also important to examine, on a larger sample, groups of questions and dimensions that appear less frequently in academic literature on corruption and integrity, represent a novelty in the Hungarian context, and which may be closely related to corruption, integrity, and the proper use of European Union funds.

Following the analysis of the pre-survey focus group interviews, it became clear that, for the selected target group, the study should place greater emphasis than usual on examining whether respondents, beyond their own experiences, had heard from acquaintances or relatives about any acts that could be associated with corruption, and whether they had any – even indirect – experience of this kind themselves. This approach was justified by the fact that, because of their age, members of this age group make direct use of public services only to a limited extent and do not always handle the related administrative procedures independently. Partly because of this, they may have learned about suspected acts of corruption indirectly, from hearsay, rather than their own experience.

The pre-survey focus group interviews revealed that healthcare institutions, educational institutions, and administrative support institutions stood out, as respondents had direct or indirect experiences mainly with these types of institutions. (Burai&Vajda, 2025). Nevertheless, they also expressed solid opinions about other types of institutions – specifically, how much they trust these institutions and, indirectly, to what extent they perceive them to be corrupt or feel that corruption may fast-track or facilitate the handling of different matters there.

Although the target group mostly rejected corruption during the focus group interviews, this tendency was by no means unanimous, and while some respondents showed a neutral attitude toward it, there were others who considered corruption downright desirable in certain situations. Based on experiences from the previous data collection, the questionnaire included a section where respondents were asked to classify specific case examples, marking them as either corrupt or non-corrupt. The listed case examples did not only include situations classified as corruption under the Criminal Code, but also others that, although not defined as corruption offences by the Criminal

Code, are regarded as corrupt acts in the academic literature on corruption, such as nepotism or the revolving door phenomenon.

All of this was indispensable for defining corruption within the framework of the research project. Through case examples and a brief summary that followed, respondents were informed about how corruption was defined for the purposes of this study, and what they should understand by the term when answering the subsequent questions. The case examples and the short summary covered the comprehensive definition of corruption, which was formulated during the conceptualisation phase of the study's methodological design, and which served as the foundation for the entire research, enabling a broad interpretation of the subject. The definition thus obtained, based partly on earlier sources (Dobson Phillips et al., 2021), was the following:

"Corruption is the abuse of entrusted power for private gain – whether by an individual, group, or institution – typically at the expense of the public interest, and involving violations of laws, regulations and/or integrity standards. Corruption also occurs when someone offers or provides a private gain to an individual, group or institution entrusted with power for the purpose of gaining an advantage. All such cases are considered corruption, even if they are carried out under the pretext of some perceived or actual public interest."

Regarding the set of questions inquiring about corruption-related opinions and perceptions, reviewing earlier studies that had also touched upon the subject made it clear that it was necessary at this point of the questionnaire to tell respondents what exactly was meant by "acts of corruption" and what they should understand by this term when answering the questions. If this had not been done, it would have been impossible to keep track of what individual respondents meant when they

were asked for their opinions about corruption through different questions. During the surveying process, they were not presented with any specific definition; instead, they were asked to indicate in 11 case examples whether they thought a particular case constituted an act of corruption or not. In line with the definition of corruption that was employed throughout the research, all the listed cases were classified as acts of corruption. The acts of corruption specified by the definition were adequately covered by the case examples. After listening to the case examples and deciding whether they qualified as corruption or not, a text was read to the respondents by the interviewers, confirming that all of the presented case examples were, in fact, classified as corruption for the purposes of this study. Therefore, they were asked to treat any such act as corruption when reflecting on their subsequent answers. The practices brought up by the case examples included:

- bribery related to public and private services,
- bribery by means of gifts,
- influence peddling,
- embezzlement,
- trading in influence,
- misappropriation of funds,
- nepotism[13],
- revolving door phenomenon[14],
- lobbying.

The examples covered a considerably wide spectrum of corrupt acts, including some that are also addressed in the Criminal Code. However, the Criminal Code does not cover all possible forms of corruption described herein. There are acts that, although categorised as corruption in academic literature, are not yet regulated by legislation. The broader interpretation of the concept of corruption allowed for the examination of a wider range of related acts, resulting in the acquisition of gap-filling data on which acts young Hungarians consider to be corrupt and which they do not, and whether there are any demonstrable links between the acts perceived as corruption and other variables. The research also included the development of predictive models capable of explaining the presence of topics associated with the perception of corruption and other important issues related to corruption. Before answering the case examples, young respondents had not been given any information about what qualified as corruption for the purposes of this research project; and up to this point of the questionnaire, no specific question had even made reference to corruption. The case examples served as "vignettes", so that respondents would not be presented with complex legal texts or given definitions that they might later interpret differently when answering subsequent questions. First, we explored whether respondents viewed the individual case examples as acts of

[13] When someone favours their relatives, family members, or close acquaintances.

[14] When a person changes positions between the public and the private sector – all while abusing their functions.

corruption. Afterwards, they were given a summary with guidance instructing them to place all the case examples within the conceptual framework of corruption and to regard them uniformly as such when answering the subsequent questions. The use of the vignette method is well known across various psychological and sociological studies, and it is often applied in the examination of more complex issues, including research on crime (Székely et al., 2012; Kása et al., 2024; Kerékgyártó, 2024).

Beyond the "core dimensions" – which directly studied the use of European Union funds, as well as the issues of corruption and integrity – the questionnaire also included sets of "soft" questions which are mentioned and studied alongside corruption in academic literature (such as trust in institutions, participation), as well as dimensions whose joint examination with corruption is still considered a new and innovative domain, such as well-being and its dimensions (Tavits, 2008; Bota-Avram, 2023). Another prominent part of the questionnaire was composed of questions addressing the fight against corruption, exploring where young people see their own role in these efforts, and identifying which forms of education respondents consider to be the most effective for educating the younger generation on this topic.

Figure 2

Dimensions covered by the study

- ☆ Well-being
- ☆ Trust
- ☆ Integrity
- ☆ Domestic problem map
- ☆ Corruption perception
- ☆ Experiences with corruption
- ☆ Anti-corruption efforts
- ☆ Participation
- ☆ Perception of the use of European Union funds
- ☆ Sources of information used, media
- ☆ Preferred educational approaches in anti-corruption efforts

7. Data collection and data processing

The data collection and fieldwork were conducted between 15 May and 16 June 2025, using stratified multistage sampling in the selected settlements. In line with the random walk methodology, interviewers carried out personal interviews (CAPI) with all respondents.

Prior to data analysis, the data were cleaned and weighted. During the data cleaning phase, the variables and responses were labelled, the logical consistency of responses was checked, skip patterns

were verified and tracked, and multiple-choice questions were structured. The weighting of data was likewise performed before data processing, so that the results would map the Hungarian population aged 15 to 29 as accurately as possible and provide a representative picture. Posterior weighting was carried out taking the following variables into account: gender, age group, type of settlement (Budapest/city or town/village), level of education (primary/secondary/tertiary education). During the weighting, the new weight variable was generated using the relative weighting technique[15].

The findings are interpretable with a ±3% margin of error at a 95% confidence interval, meaning that in 95 out of 100 repeated studies, the measured values would fall within the ±3% range of those measured in the present study.

8. Data processing method

The cleaned and weighted database was processed by the Integrity Academy's data analysis and research specialists, using the Python software. The analyses were interpreted at a 0.05 significance level.

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[15] The consequence of applying relative weighting is that the sample size remains the same in both the unweighted and the weighted sample. The minimum of the calculated weights was 0.639, while their maximum was 1.922 – which are considered appropriate. The standard deviation of the weights was 0.24568.
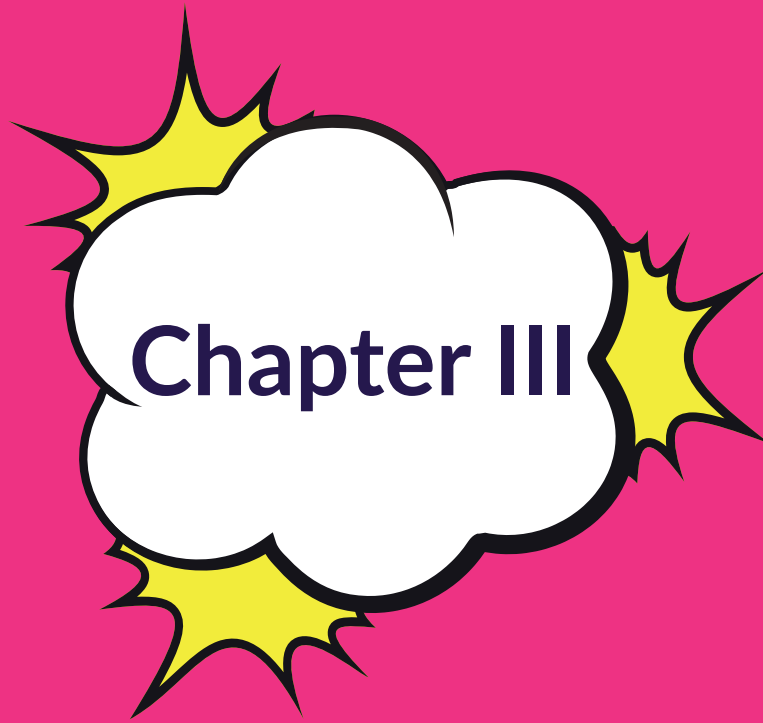
Chapter III

Results of the sample's socio-demographic, income-related, and political questions

This chapter presents the basic socio-demographic characteristics of the sample employed in the research and addresses baseline distributions of responses given to the political and income-related questions

3.1 Socio-demographic distributions and their interrelations

The appropriate stratified multistage probability sampling and weighting ensured that the sample, consisting of 1,012 participants, was representative of the age group, gender, grouped educational attainment level, and settlement. Thus, the conclusions presented and summarised in the results section can be generalised to the entire Hungarian population aged 15 to 29.

Table 1

Demographic data of respondents

Gender

Male | 520 Participants | 51.33%
Female | 492 Participants | 48.67%

Age group

15–19 | 315 Participants | 31.12%
20–24 | 364 Participants | 36.03%
25–29 | 333 Participants | 32.85%

Level of education

Elementary | 264 Participants | 20.04%
Secondary | 570 Participants | 56.35%
Tertiary | 178 Participants | 17.61%

Marital status

Single, unmarried
785 Participants | 77.60%

Married, living with spouse
144 Participants | 14.20%

Living with civil partner
75 Participants | 7.44%

Married but living separete from spouse
5 Participants | 0.45%

Divorced
3 Participants | 0.31%

Settlement

Budapest
183 Participants | 18.12%

Town/City
341 Participants | 33.72%

Village
303 Participants | 30.23%

County seat
181 Participants | 17.93%

Income

HUF 2 million maximum
8 Participants | 0.76%

HUF 1 million maximum
71 Participants | 7.11%

HUF 500,000 maximum
240 Participants | 23.74%

HUF 300,000 maximum
186 Participants | 18.40%

HUF 100,000 maximum
93 Participants | 9.17%

Don't know
100 Participants | 9.84%

No response
314 Participants | 30.98%

The gender distribution of respondents reveals a slight predominance of men, but the ratio between the genders is nearly equal. The sample shows a balanced distribution across the three age groups.

Following from the age-related peculiarities of the target group, the majority of the sample (77.6%) is made up of single or unmarried individuals. In terms of the groups created on the basis of educational attainment (primary/secondary/tertiary education), respondents with secondary education prevailed[16].

Most respondents live in Budapest (17.8%) and Pest County (12.8%). 69.77% of the sample was made up of people living in towns, county seats, or in the capital – which is in line with the overall concentration of young Hungarians in urban areas.

Figure 3
Respondent distribution by county
(n = 1,012)
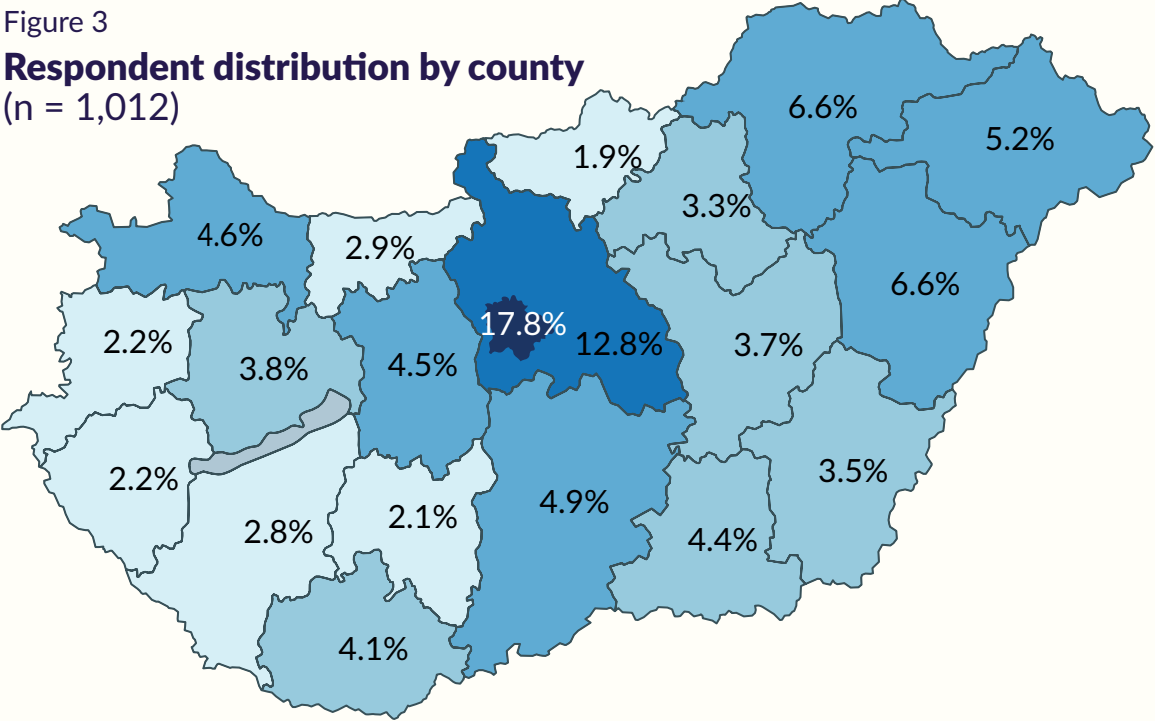
Most young Hungarians (56.35%) have a secondary level of education, which also follows from the life situation typical of this age group. They typically live in households of two to four persons (two persons: 29.3%, three persons: 28.7%, four persons: 24.1%). Most of them (69.79%) stated that two persons contributed to the income and expenses in their respective households.

The persons included in the sample primarily had domestic experience, with the majority (86.75%) indicating they had not lived or worked abroad for a period of three months or longer.

The assessment of young people's objective situation in the labour market showed that 65.3% of them had worked at least one hour during the week preceding the survey (61.6% for monetary compensation, 3.7% for non-monetary benefits or without compensation), while 35.2% had not engaged in any work during the specified period. A small percentage (7.9%) of respondents not working were either on sick leave, holiday, maternity leave or childcare allowance (GYES, GYED), or were unable to work for other health-related or family reasons during the reference period. Most of them (69.3%) were employed in the private sector, while a smaller percentage worked at public institutions or CSOs (Figure 4).

Figure 4
Employment sector

Respondent distribution by employment sector
(n = 1,012; total number of responses = 590))

- Competitive sector / market sector
- Public sector/ state sector
- Civil, religious or non-profit sector
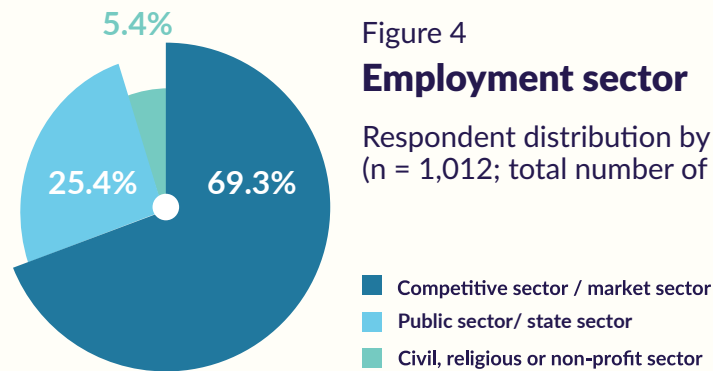
3.2 Income and subjective financial security

As part of the data collection, young respondents were also asked about sensitive topics such as the objective and subjective income status of their households, as well as about other variables reflecting social status. They were given options of income ranges to indicate their households' net monthly income, while their subjective income situation and their subjective social status based on

finances were assessed using questions applied in earlier European Union data collections[17]. To sum up, the questions about income and social status generated high non-response rates, which may have resulted from both the sensitivity of the question and the peculiarities of the target group.

Among respondents who did specify their households' net monthly income (meaning those who did not select the "Don't know" or "Prefer not to answer" options), 86.71% indicated that the total monthly net income of their respective households was below HUF 500,000; however, it must be emphasised that half of them (46.6%) reported a monthly net income of only HUF 300,000 or lower.

In terms of the overall sample, 9.8% did not know, while 31.0% left the question unanswered. It is also important to examine a household's net income in terms of how many people share this amount – meaning how many individuals make up a given household. In the sample under study, two-member (29.3%), three-member (28.7%) and four-member (24.1%) households were represented in almost identical proportions, while single-member households accounted for 5.1%, and households counting six or more members occurred at a rate below 1%. Respondents proved to live in households of 3.15 members on average.

One interesting finding from the examination of the demographic questions is the discrepancy observed between households' subjective assessment of their income situations and their actual capacity to build financial reserves. 57.2% of respondents indicated that the income of their households covered their regular expenses "relatively easily", "easily" or "very easily", while 3.2% could not and 6.7% preferred not to answer this question. At the same time, another question

addressed whether respondents would be able to cover an unexpected expense of HUF 170,000 using their own resources. This question revealed a higher non-response rate – 17% of respondents did not give an answer. 53.1% of those who did answer the question indicated that they would not be able to cover an expense of HUF 170,000 from their own resources.

Figure 5
According to respondents, can a household cover an unexpected expense of HUF 170,000 from its own resources? (n = 1,012)

According to respondents, how easy or difficult is it for a household to cover regular expenses? (n=1,012)

Very difficult	**2.3%**
Difficult	**4.4%**
Relatively difficult	**26.1%**
Relatively easy	**40.3%**
Easy	**14.7%**
Very easy	**2.2%**
Don't know	**3.3%**
No response	**6.7%**

According to respondents, how easy or difficult is it for a household to cover regular expenses? (n=1,012)

Yes 39.0%
No 44.2%
No answer 16.8%
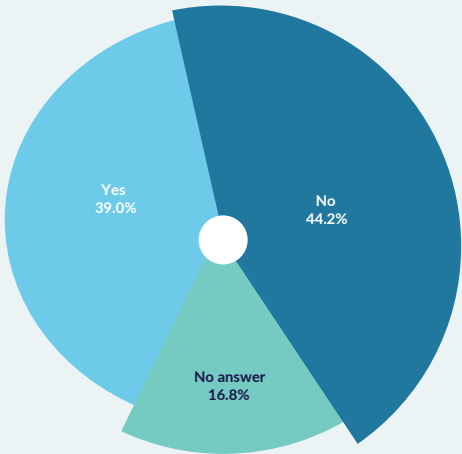
The relatively high non-response rate, particularly in relation to the question about unexpected expenses, may suggest that **financial vulnerability may be, in fact, even higher than estimated on the basis of the answers.** This raises the possibility that a subjective sense of financial security – reflecting the adaptability necessary for everyday livelihood – does not necessarily rely on actual financial reserves. Thus, the "we're getting by somehow" type of attitude observed in respondents' self-assessments may differ from the actual financial burden that an unforeseen life event – such as an illness, accident, or technical failure – would impose on the household.

There is a strong, statistically significant relationship between the two relevant questions above[18]. This relationship was also supported by the analysis of percentage distribution, as it is evident that those who consider themselves better able to manage regular expenses are more likely to have financial reserves that would allow them to cover unexpected expenses from their own resources.

It must be noted, however, that these two questions follow different logical threads: while one is intended as a subjective assessment about continuous adaptation, the other is about the hypothetical handling of a specific, larger one-off expense. Therefore, the relationship between them reflects more of an overlap between a subjective sense of financial security and actual resilience, rather than their complete correspondence. This discrepancy may be particularly significant for the younger generation, where financial vulnerability often remains hidden behind subjective assessments (Németh, Zsótér & Luksander, 2017; OECD 2020; Németh, Zsótér, & Béres, 2020).

3.3 Young Hungarians' interest in politics – and the lack thereof

Interest in politics, self-identification on the political map, and the willingness to vote are all key factors to understanding a society's democratic participation. This is particularly true for the young generation which represents the future voters, public engagement, and value system. For this reason, the study addressed political attitudes in a separate module, which may highlight the interpretation of perceptions related to corruption.

International literature also highlights the relationship between individuals' political attitudes or their stance toward the government and how they perceive the presence or severity of corruption (Agerberg, 2022; Ziller & Schübel, 2015). It is important to highlight, however, that this analysis does not aim to label political opinions, but rather examines them as social background variables which may present valuable correlations – for instance, with perceptions of corruption or trust in public institutions.

In terms of political interest, young respondents mostly selected neutral response options, with the majority indicating that they are either slightly interested (38.4%) or rather interested (38.2%) in politics.

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[18] sig = 0.000 ; Cramer's V = 0.497

As interest in politics increases, so does participation in elections, the perception of corruption's impact on everyday life, the likelihood of having a strong opinion on the use of public funds, and the tendency to take active – mostly alternative – action against corruption.

Based on the results of the analysis, political interest showed significant connections with several attitudes and behaviours investigated by the study.

The findings of this study have proved that the level of political interest correlates with the intention of political participation. Concurrently, as interest in politics grows, so does the proportion of those who "would definitely vote"[19].

Political interest is significantly connected to the perception of corruption's impact on everyday life. Those who are more interested in politics will have a higher perception of corruption's impact on everyday life[20].

Also, people who are interested in politics have more pronounced opinions on the efficiency of the use of European Union funds. People who are more interested in politics will express stronger opinions on efficiency in the use of funds[21]. An interesting pattern emerges in the group of those who are "very interested" in politics, as both extremely negative and extremely positive evaluations of the use of funds appear simultaneously in this group.

Taking action against corruption – meaning what respondents would do should they encounter a suspected case or situation of corruption – was also partly linked to political interest. The more interested a person is in politics, the more likely they are to take an active, primarily alternative course of action – that is, instead of or in addition to reporting the case to the press or an institution, they would do something else as well[22].

[19] p=0.000, Cramer's V=0.215

[20] sig=0.000, Kendall tau-b=0.260

[21] p=0.000, Cramer's V=0.231

[22] p=0.000, Cramer's V=0.206

Overall, interest in politics is a key factor that influences political participation, the perception of corruption's impact on everyday life, the evaluation of the use of European Union funds, and the ways in which one is willing to take proactive action. Based on the crosstabs, the increase of interest in politics brings about positive changes in all of these aspects.

The willingness to vote is relatively high. Almost three quarters of the respondents stated that they would almost definitely or probably vote (36.7% + 34.6% = 71.3%) if the elections were held the following Sunday. If we only consider eligible respondents aged 18 and over (793 participants), this proportion increases to 74.8%[23]. The political orientation of young Hungarians was examined through two questions, using a scale from 1 to 7 in both cases. The first question addressed political self-identification, where 1 expressed a clearly left-leaning tendency, while 7 meant a clearly right-leaning political orientation. The second question measured party political orientation, where 1 expressed a clearly pro-government position, while 7 meant a clearly pro-opposition orientation. On the political sides scale, 14.2% of respondents chose not to answer the question, while on the political orientation scale, 13.3% indicated the same.

Figure 6

Average values of political side by county

(1 = clearly left leaning,
7 = clearly right leaning)
n=868

1   left leaning

4   centre

7   right leaning

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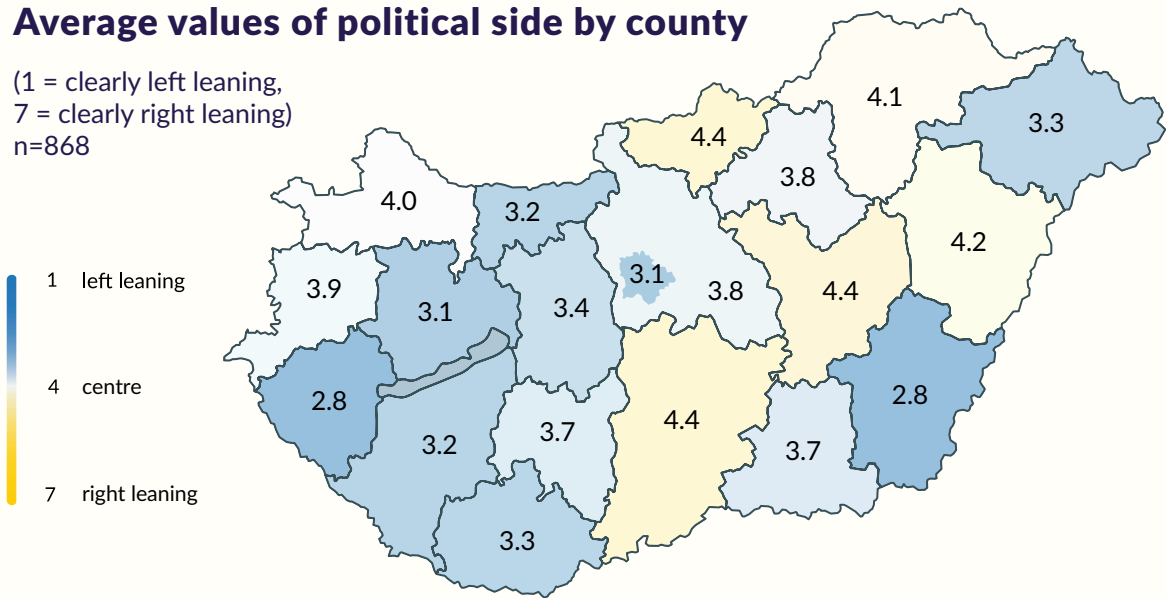
[23] Respondents aged 18 but not yet eligible to vote were also invited to answer this question.

The map above shows an interesting duality in the political self-identification of young respondents. The map reveals that in several counties – especially in the central and eastern regions of Hungary – the majority of young people considered themselves slightly right-leaning, as indicated by the yellowish shades. It is important to note that these values are typically close to the midpoint of the political scale (4), meaning that young people in these counties showed only a mild right-leaning orientation. In addition, there are also markedly more left-leaning counties appearing sporadically, such as Békés and Zala, where respondents on average marked a value of 2.8 on the scale. The large-sample Youth Research project, conducted in 2020 in Hungary, also studied left-right political affiliation, using the 1-7 scale, which is the most frequently used tool in academic literature. Compared to the results of the 2020 Youth Research, the KORR-KÉP study shows a minor increase in the proportion of young people who identify as left-leaning or rather left-leaning Társadalomkutató Kft., 2020)[24].

[24] In the KORR-KÉP study, respondents selected values 1-2-3 more frequently, while values 4-5-6-7 – associated with the political centre and considered rather right-leaning or right-leaning – were chosen less often.
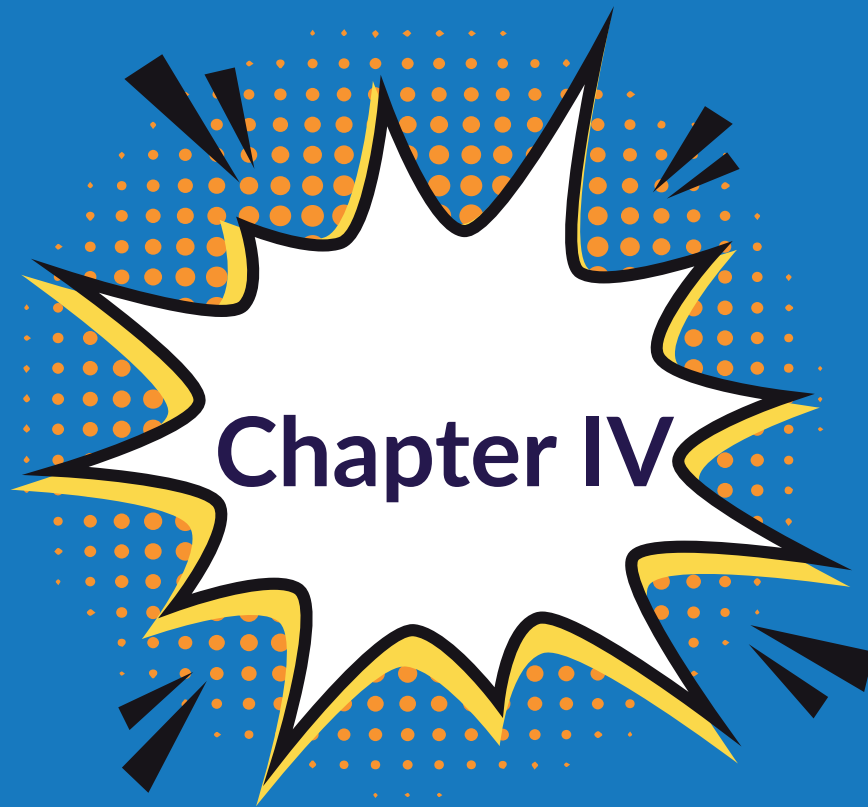
Chapter IV

Results

Chapter 4.1: Corruption and well-being: how does corruption affect the lives of young Hungarians?

This chapter aims to put corruption into context and shed light on the relationship between the opinions and perceptions about corruption and young Hungarians' subjective well-being and quality of life

Young Hungarians' subjective well-being is higher, but higher perception of corruption may nevertheless affect that well-being negatively.

The purpose of the questions was to gain insight into how young people aged 15 to 29 feel about their lives, how satisfied they are, and to what extent they believe their lives match their own ideal standards.

Subjective well-being may encompass several dimensions. One of the most important among them is the psychological dimension. In addition, the social, material and physical health-related cognitive and behavioural dimensions also have a significant impact on people's subjective well-being (Szántó et al., 2016). In this research project, following the hedonistic approach to subjective well-being, well-being was understood as the general and comprehensive positive assessment of life, where an individual's subjective well-being is primarily determined by a higher proportion of positive life events and a lower proportion of negative ones (Hajdu, 2014, Szántó et al., 2016). Well-being also includes welfare, which refers to material and tangible satisfaction and adequacy, and which is by no means the only dimension of well-being.

Using the questions on subjective well-being and the index constructed from them, the analysis explored whether there is any relationship between young people's perceptions or possible experiences of corruption and their subjective well-being. The study of the link between well-being and corruption is relatively new in the literature, with only a few previous studies addressing it. However, examining the connection between these aspects is extremely important: if a relationship can be demonstrated between people's satisfaction with life – in other words, their well-being – and their perception of corruption and its impact on everyday life, it becomes clear that

> **corruption not only entails economic and political disadvantages, but may also have severe psycho-social consequences.**

Some earlier studies have already pointed out that both the perception of corruption and actual involvement in corrupt situations may negatively affect individuals' quality of life (Tavits, 2008; Bota-Avram, 2023). The well-being set of questions measures three key factors of subjective quality of life, with young respondents providing their answers on a scale between 0 and 10:

- **How satisfied have you been with your life recently?**
  This question assesses general satisfaction, one of the best-known indicators of subjective well-being.

- **How close is your life to what you consider ideal?**
  This dimension demonstrates the extent to which one's individual ideal life materialises. In other words, it studies the consistency between living conditions and individual goals.

- **How excellent do you think your living conditions are?**
  This question addresses the assessment of more objective, everyday conditions: housing, financial security, quality of social contacts etc.

Taken together, the three questions provide an overall picture of young respondents' subjective well-being. Based on the individual responses, a well-being index can be constructed[25].

In all three questions, the most frequent response was a score of '8', indicating that the majority of young respondents assessed their well-being rather positively. The dominance of the value '8' across all items suggests that satisfaction levels are above average, but not maximal. In other words, many young people feel good about their lives, yet recognise that things could still be better.

The share of very low ratings was small in every case (the combined proportion of scores between 0 and 3 remained below 10%).

It is interesting to note that the response of '8' can be regarded as a point of equilibrium: not neutral (like 5 or 6) but not reflecting a state of euphoria (like 10), either. The evaluation of well-being shows a kind of realistic optimism – indicating a promising basis for future career management, autonomy and social embeddedness.

4.1.1 Formation of well-being groups

Figure 7

Distribution of well-being groups

Distribution by groups based on subjective well-being (n=1,012)

High well-being

Low well-being

24.6%

39.8%

35.6%
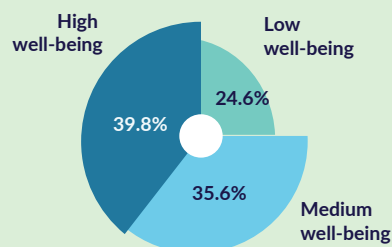
Medium well-being

The well-being values selected by respondents were divided into three categories.
- 0–5.49: low level of well-being,
- 5.5–7.49: medium level of well-being,
- 7.5–10: high level of well-being

For each respondent, the simple average of their three well-being responses was calculated, resulting in a subjective well-being score between 0 and 10.

[25] Cronbach alpha= 0.920

The resulting values were grouped into three categories: low well-being (1 to 5.49), medium well-being (5.5 to 7.49) and high well-being (7.5 to 10). The category boundaries were defined in line with the scale ranges and the interpretation of the responses. The lower category included the respondents who evaluated their quality of life more negatively, while the medium and high categories reflected a more positive self-assessment.

This categorisation made it possible for the researchers to study the regional and social patterns of well-being and to visualise them on maps.

4.1.2 Relationship between residence and the level of well-being

Figure 8

Average well-being scores and the most common well-being group by county

Most common well-being group

■ High well-being (8-10)
■ Medium well-being (6-7)
□ Low well-being (0-5)
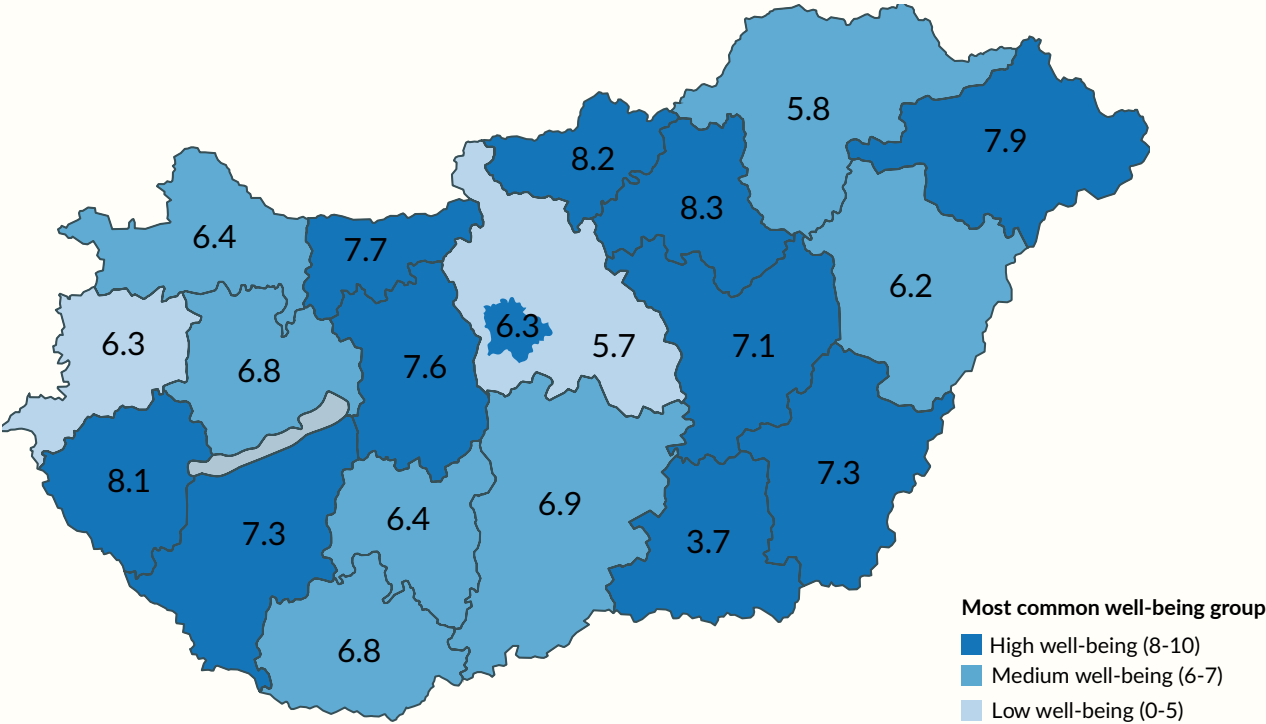
The results suggest that young people's subjective well–being is partly related to the county in which they live[26].

In other words, certain levels of well-being may be regionally concentrated (Figure 8).

High well-being (group of 8 to 10)
Young people living mainly in Budapest as well as in several counties in Eastern and Northern Hungary (such as Heves, Szabolcs, Nógrád, Jász-Nagykun-Szolnok, Komárom-Esztergom, Fejér, Csongrád, Békés, Zalaegerszeg) fall into this category. This finding is somewhat surprising since these regions are not generally regarded as among the economically more developed areas. This may suggest that the perception of well-being does not stem solely from financial circumstances, but may also be shaped by family, social and security-related factors. (HCSO, 2023c).

Medium well-being (group of 6 to 7)
This category includes, among others, Baranya, Borsod, Győr-Moson-Sopron, Hajdú-Bihar, Tolna, Bács-Kiskun, Somogy and Veszprém. These counties display more balanced levels of well-being, although relatively few respondents from these areas fall into the highest well-being group.

Low well-being (group of 0 to 5)
It can be observed that in Pest and Vas counties, the lowest levels of well-being are most prevalent, even though these regions belong to the economically stronger areas of the country, as reflected by their gross domestic product per capita (GDP per capita) indicators (Hungarian Central Statistical Office (HCSO, 2023c).

[26] sig=0.000; Cramer's V = 0.342

4.1.3 The relationship between the perception of the impact of corruption on everyday life and subjective well-being

Figure 9

Correlation between corruption and well-being

The correlation between corruption's impact on everyday life and subjective well-being
(n = 1,012)

To what extent does corruption affect everyday life?

	Completely	Significantly	Slightly	Not at all	Don't know
Low well-being (0-5)	44.4%	38.1%	17.6%	15.2%	16.8%
Medium well-being (6-7)	33.8%	31.4%	40.8%	41.6%	21.8%
High well-being (8-10)	21.8%	30.4%	41.6%	43.2%	61.4%

- High well-being (8-10)
- Medium well-being (6-7)
- Low well-being (0-5)
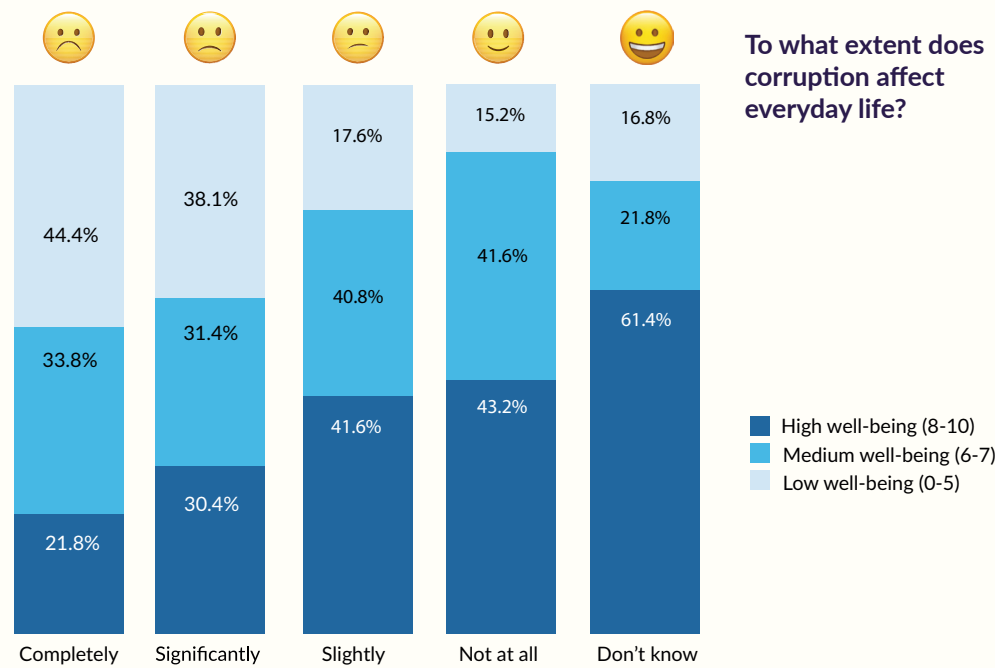
The figure shows how the distribution of the levels of subjective well-being varies, depending on the extent to which respondents believe corruption affects their everyday lives. (Figure 9)

Among those who believed that corruption affected their lives "to a great extent" or "completely", low levels of well-being were the most common of the three categories (high, medium, low).

By contrast, those who thought corruption affected them only "slightly", "did not affect them at all", or who were unable to assess the impact of corruption, high levels of well-being were the most common.

This relationship suggests that the perception of the impact of corruption on one's everyday life is associated with an individual's subjective well-being[27].

Examination of the social and corruption factors of subjective well-being

We studied the factors influencing subjective well-being, with particular attention to the roles played by corruption and socio-cultural characteristics. For this purpose, a regression model was developed based on seven questions of the research questionnaire. The model covered the following areas: 1) impact of corruption on everyday life, 2) income status of the household (2 questions), 3) trust in media, 4) factors influencing decisions, 5) community participation, and 6) the ethical evaluation of corruption.

Ordinal logistic regression was applied to analyse how these factors influenced whether individuals classified themselves as belonging to the low, medium or high well-being group.

The regression analysis shows that perceiving corruption as negatively affecting everyday life, lacking trust in the media, low levels of certain decision-influencing factors, and acceptance of the presented corruption case are all significantly associated with lower subjective well-being. Conversely, a higher household income is positively correlated with higher well-being categories.

[27] sig=0.000, Cramer's V=0.229

It is an interesting observation that the absence of community engagement shows a positive correlation with well-being, suggesting that individuals with a higher level of well-being are less inclined to take an active, advocacy-oriented role in their communities. The acceptance of one particular corruption scenario also plays an important role. Those who did not regard as corruption the situation of an influential representative using his or her work contacts and position to arrange a favour for an acquaintance reported lower levels of well-being. This suggests that recognising such situations as forms of corruption, alongside other variables included in the model, is positively related to higher levels of well-being. If somebody makes decisions driven by external circumstances or others' expectations rather than by personal convictions, this also appears to negatively influence their perceived quality of life.

The adequacy of the model fit is confirmed by the 2/3 threshold value, which clearly separates the medium and high well-being categories, demonstrating the model's ability to effectively distinguish between these groups.[28]

The results underline that subjective well-being does not depend solely on financial factors, but is determined by complex social and moral mechanisms. This is strong evidence that the recognition of corruption and adherence to ethical norms are not only social values, but also factors that directly influence an individual's psychological well-being.

Therefore, supporting both institutional and individual action against corruption may be crucial not only from the perspective of social justice, but also in terms of well-being.

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[28] The model contained 25 – for the most part dummy – variables, out of which 17 proved to be significant, which indicates a substantial contribution from an important part of them. The explanatory power of the model is indicated by the Nagelkerke R^2 = 0.31 value.

Chapter 4.2: Integrity and trust: What do young Hungarians think?

This chapter provides an overview of the most influential factors in young Hungarians' decision-making, their personal integrity, and a phenomenon known as "moral self-enhancement"

Young Hungarians believe they are more honest compared to others. Their trust in institutions is wavering, and in some cases – such as with the media, government institutions, public health institutions – it is particularly low.

In establishing the methodological foundation of the research, defining integrity as it applies to this study played a particularly important role during conceptualisation. The same concept is used across multiple fields of study; in this data collection, we expand upon the definition previously used by the Integrity Authority as follows:
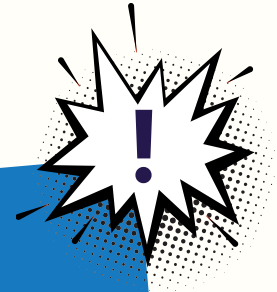
"The unity of thought, word and action, i.e. acting in line with professed and declared values" (Integrity Authority, 2024). In this study, integrity is understood at the personal level as the consistent adherence to ethical principles, honesty and decency, as well as a sense of responsibility that is evident in both decision-making and actions. For the purposes of this research, integrity at the organisational level is interpreted to mean whether an institution's goals and operations align with its founding purpose, whether it is characterised by ethical conduct, and whether accountability is enforced even at the highest levels of the organisation.

In the case of the integrity module, the questions raised aimed to explore the respondents' views on these issues through the dimensions of personal and organisational integrity, the extent to which their everyday actions are driven by personal integrity, and to what degree other factors are influencing them.

4.2.1 Reviewing everyday actions and the effects influencing them

A multiple-choice question[29] was used to explore which factors have the greatest influence on young Hungarians' everyday decision-making and actions. Of the eight response options, most respondents (87%) selected one to three options, with those who selected only one representing the largest proportion (38.4%).

Figure 10

What influences young people in their decisions? Factors that affect the everyday decisions of respondents (%)

(n=1,012; total number of responses=2,216)

Factor	%
Your own conviction on what is right and wrong	65.0%
Family expectations	57.4%
Your acquaintances' opinions about you	31.7%
Adherence to laws	29.0%
Political and economic context	12.5%
Others' opinions	10.8%
Your religion	8.8%
None of the above	3.8%

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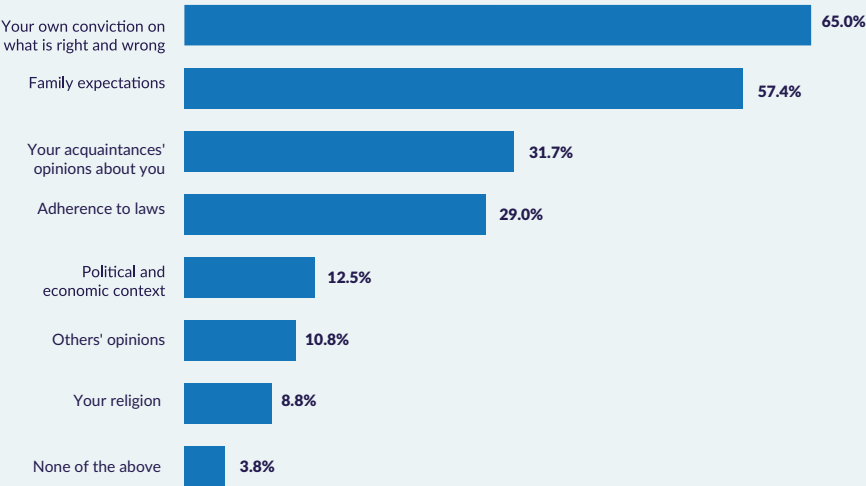
[29] Respondents had the option to select multiple answers for a given question – in this case, up to all seven options.

Their everyday decision-making and actions are primarily influenced by their own convictions, closely followed by family expectations. Somewhat trailing behind these options are acquaintances – presumably mostly feedback from peer groups – followed by adherence to laws, which ranks fourth in frequency.

When specifically looking at the response option most closely associated with personal integrity, the data reveal significant ties between regional affiliation and the "your own conviction on what is right and wrong"
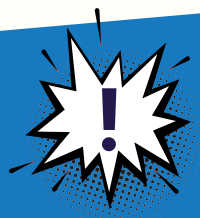
Young people from the Central Transdanubian (86.8%), Southern Great Plain (83.1%), Western Transdanubian (77.2%), and Northern Great Plain (75.8%) regions were more likely to report being influenced by their own convictions in their decision-making than their peers from the Southern Transdanubian (39.6%) and Pest[30] (28.5%) regions[31].

In respect of the question, there was a significant relationship between regional affiliation and each of the response options, though the strength of these associations differed. Regional affiliation had a weaker influence on the selection of "adherence to laws" and "political and economic context" as decision-shaping factors. These response options showed fewer outliers in the data across different regions, as young people generally assigned them a similar level of importance. However, the "none of the above" option was selected at a significantly higher rate by young people in the Southern Transdanubia region[32].

[30] In this study, the Pest region means Pest County. Following the dissolution of the Central Hungary region in 2018, its former constituent parts – namely Budapest capital and Pest County – are to be treated separately at the NUTS2 administrative level.

[31] sig=0.000; Cramer's V=0.418

[32] sig=0.000; Cramer's V=0.448

4.2.2 Young Hungarians' opinion on the behaviour of other people: moral self-enhancement

In the context of examining integrity, the aim was to gather information on how Hungarian youth perceive honest and moral behaviour – both in relation to themselves and to others – across certain situations. Examining the same questions through two different dimensions can yield exciting results, as many psychological and sociological questionnaire surveys have revealed a phenomenon known as **"moral self-enhancement"** – or, more simply, a positive bias in line with expected patterns of behaviour. Based on this, respondents often consider themselves more moral than others (moral superiority), a behavioural pattern they tend to reinforce through their behaviour in public settings. Research has shown that this kind of role is less consistently maintained in respondents' private actions, meaning that in situations where they feel unobserved, they do not necessarily follow the moral or socially expected behaviours they verbally endorse (Sík, 2001; Dong et al., 2019). This phenomenon can be observed in both Eastern and Western cultures, meaning that it cannot be attributed to distinct cultural differences (Liu, 2013). In this study, we used the same three questions to explore, on the one hand, the extent to which respondents claim they would behave morally in certain situations, and on the other hand, how they believe others would act in those same situations (Figure 11).

Figure 11
Who is more honest? Subjective opinions of young people on their own and others' behaviour (%)

If you found a wallet containing official documents and HUF 20,000, would you return it to its rightful owner, with the money still inside? (n=981)

3%
97% Respondent
49% / 51% Others

If you were selling used items, would you inform the buyer about any defects? (n=994)

7%
93% Respondent
49% / 51% Others

Would you report if you received more products than what you had actually paid for? (n=998)

11%
89% Respondent
51% / 45% Others

Typical
Not typical

In line with results from previous studies, in all three scenarios presented in the current research, young respondents were more likely to indicate that others would behave in a less morally appropriate manner, choosing responses such as "definitely not" or "rather not". By contrast, their subjective assessment of their own behaviour in the same situations appeared more favourable, as a much higher proportion of respondents believed they would act in accordance with social norms and morally appropriate behaviour.

During the examination of the two dimensions, indexes were constructed[33]. Although the correlation analysis revealed a significant but weak correlation between the two indexes, the paired sample t-test confirmed that "moral self-enhancement" had emerged among young people as well[34].

Young Hungarians gave significantly more positive evaluations of their own behaviour in the examined scenarios compared to the presumed behaviour of others.

4.2.3 Trust in institutions

Trust as a concept is particularly difficult to define, especially in the context of questionnaire-based data collections.

There are numerous factors that can influence the extent to which people trust certain institutions. Such factors include, for instance, social convictions, prior experience, moral evaluations, momentary emotions, and rational thoughts (Medgyesi&Boda, 2018). Despite challenges in exploring this area, numerous studies have attempted to understand whether people trust others[35] and different types of institutions. The latter question can indirectly reveal correlations in studies assessing corruption, as there may be a connection between the level of trust toward certain institutions and the extent to which they perceive them as corrupt or clean.

[33] When constructing the index, respondents who selected "don't know" in any of the variables used to form the index were removed from index formation. This means that the index includes the responses of only those who gave a valid answer (i.e. not NA or DK) in all cases.

[34] paired sample t-test sig=0.000; average=-1.012; t=-36. 294

[35] for example: ESS, Eurobarometer surveys, EU-SILC, EQLS etc.

In institutions where the level of trust from society is low, a higher incidence and certain forms of corruption may emerge, as service users want to ensure reliable access to the service at the expected level and quality. For this purpose, they would be willing to do favours, give gifts, or even pay an amount in excess of the standard fee for the service. Therefore, a low level of trust – arising out of perceptions or even prior experience – undermines the relationship between society and institutions, which may lead to legitimacy issues. This may indicate a reduction in civilian cooperation with institutions and potentially lead to the weakening of law-abiding behaviour (Boda, 2013).

As part of the study, respondents indicated whether they trusted a selected group of institutions – drawn from a list which, in most cases, has also been partly used in previous studies[36] but overall covers a broader spectrum (Figure 12).

Figure 12

What institutions do young Hungarians trust?

Hungarian youth's trust in various institutions and missing data by institution (n=1,012)
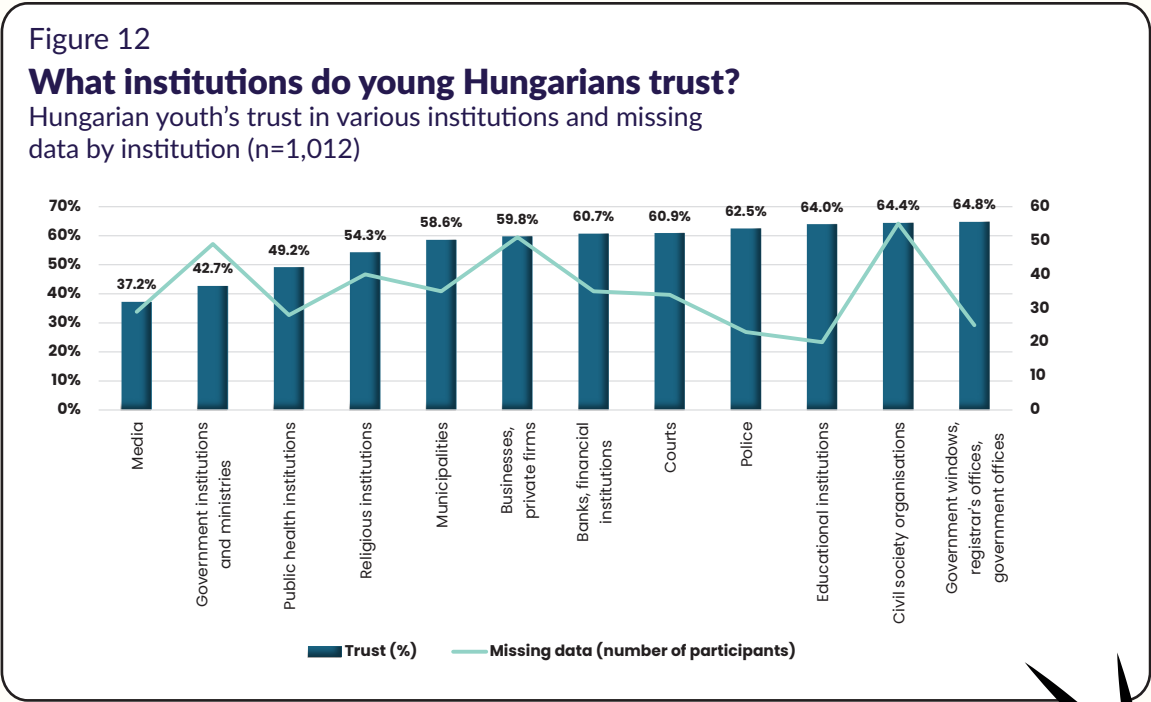
[36] OECD Survey on drivers of trust, European Social Survey, Transparency International Global Corruption Barometer, Special Eurobarometer 548 Citizens' attitudes towards corruption, a study titled "TÁRKI A gazdasági felemelkedés társadalmi-kulturális feltételei" [TÁRKI The socio-cultural conditions of economic development]

The level of trust was reported lowest in regard to the media, government institutions, ministries, and public health institutions.

The deterioration of trust toward the media is a long-term trend affecting not only young people but also the entire Hungarian society. A 2025 international study shows that besides Greece, trust in the media was measured to be the lowest in Hungary (Reuters Institute, 2025). Regarding the 12 examined institutions, it is evident that young people place the most trust in administrative and procedural regional public administration institutions – such as government windows/registrar's offices, government offices – followed by CSOs and educational institutions. With regard to CSOs, however, it must be noted that the share of the respondents who refused to answer – resulting in missing data – was relatively high.

It is worth noting in the latter case as well that there was a higher-than-average non-response rate[37] for government institutions and ministries. Only a few institutions showed a significant but weak correlation between age group distribution and the presence or absence of trust, primarily those in which young people tend to have lower levels of trust.

Even within the 15–29 target age group under examination, older subgroups exhibited lower levels of trust toward government institutions, ministries[38], state healthcare institutions[39] and the media[40].

With regard to regional affiliation, it can be noted that a number of institution types exhibited significant, weak or moderate relationship between the region and the presence of trust toward a specific institution.

[37] The average number of respondents who refused to answer was 35.

[38] sig=0.000, Cramer's V=0.132

[39] sig=0.021, Cramer's V=0.88

[40] sig=0.001, Cramer's V=0.116

Table 2

Significant connections between institutional trust and regional affiliation

Institutions	Highest proportion of trust	Lowest proportion of trust
Government institutions and ministries (Cramer's V=0.309)	Central Transdanubia	Western Transdanubia
Public health institutions (Cramer's V=0.301)	Southern Great Plain	Southern Transdanubia
Municipalities (Cramer V=0,320)	Southern Great Plain	Western Transdanubia
Businesses, private firms (Cramer's V=0.319)	Central Transdanubia	Western Transdanubia
Banks, financial institutions (Cramer's V=0.330)	Southern Great Plain	Western Transdanubia
Courts (Cramer V=0,345)	Southern Great Plain	Western Transdanubia
Police (Cramer's V=0.354)	Southern Great Plain	Pest
Educational institutions (Cramer's V=0.335)	Central Transdanubia	Pest
Civil society organisations (Cramer's V=0.336)	Central Transdanubia	Western Transdanubia
Government windows, registrar's offices, government offices (Cramer's V=0.377)	Southern Great Plain	Pest

A large-scale Youth Research conducted in 2020 also examined the level of trust young people have in certain institutions and public figures (Társadalomkutató Kft., 2020). In this context, the KORR-KÉP study shows a decline of a few percentage points in the level of trust toward the police. There has been, however, an increase in the level of trust in CSOs, religious institutions, banks, and courts. Although the two studies used different wording regarding government institutions and the government itself, a slight decline in the level of trust can also be observed in the current data collection[41].

4.2.4 One of the key factors defining organisational integrity: responsibility and accountability

Young Hungarians' perception of organisational integrity was also examined within the topic of integrity. Organisational integrity can be measured across several different dimensions, of which, given the time constraints of the questionnaire, the present data collection focused on a single selected dimension – accountability within institutions. Accountability is an integral part of organisational integrity, as integrity is based on the functioning of the organisation and its members in compliance with relevant values and rules. Uncovering flaws and enforcing accountability can ensure that individual conduct does not jeopardise the integrity of the organisation as a whole. This is precisely why, in terms of accountability, it might be a forward-looking step for the organisation to develop a system in which members can continuously provide feedback to one another as well. All this facilitates self-correction and thereby helps uphold integrity.

Enforcing accountability within an organisation – even in cases involving higher-ranking employees or executives – is central to organisational integrity, as it ensures

– transparency and accountability,
– the responsibility of individual and organisational conduct,
– the enforcement of organisational values and norms.

[41] While the KORR-KÉP study used the category "government institutions and ministries," the Youth Research employed the term "Government" when examining institutional trust.

As part of the study, following the section on institutional trust, Hungarian youth were asked to indicate – using the same list of institutions – whether, in their opinion, inadequate performance by an employee, including someone in a leadership position, would have any consequences for that individual within the organisation (Figure 13).

Figure 13

Are there consequences for inadequate performance?
(n=1,012)
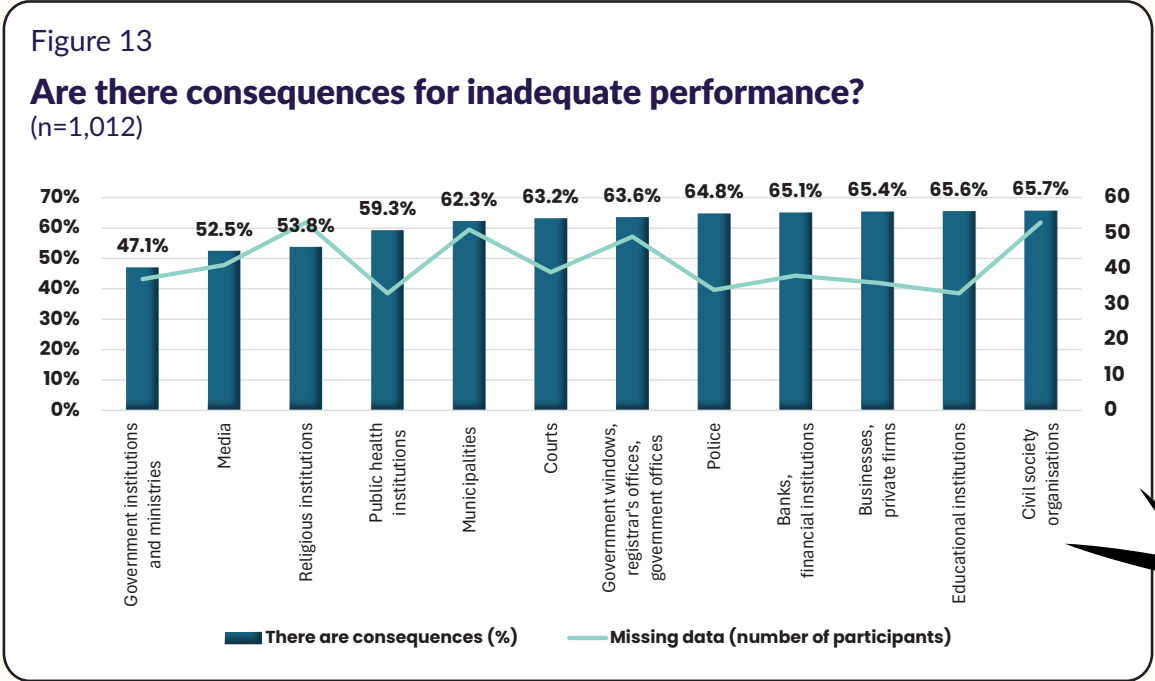
At the examined level of organisational integrity, a significant number of institutions showed similar results.

· Among the public service institutions examined, "educational institutions" were seen as the most likely to hold employees accountable for inadequate performance. might have been with this type of institution.

This result may be attributed in part to the fact that most of their personal encounters might have been with this type of institution.

· Furthermore, the highest values for this question were reported in relation to the private sector and "civil society organisations", meaning that respondents believe these are the institutions where mistakes have consequences.

Somewhat trailing behind the other institutions, "government institutions and ministries", the "media", and "religious institutions" are found on the other end of the list. In relation to the question concerning organisational integrity, responses given to individual institution types show a significant and close link for most of the institutions within the question[42]. This means that, for example, if someone believes that the police department holds every employee and high-ranking officer responsible for inadequate performance, they were more likely to indicate the same for courts as well. For all institutions, there was a significant link between whether the respondents trust that specific institution and whether they believe its employees are held accountable for inadequate performance.

Two indexes were constructed from the responses concerning trust in individual institutions and those given to accountability within them, with a significant link observed between the two[43]. All this means that the more institutions young people reported trusting, the more institutions they believed had functioning accountability mechanisms.

[42] sig=0.000, Cramer's V=0.4–0.67

[43] sig=0.000, Spearman correlation coefficient=0.792

Chapter 4.3: The most pressing issues in Hungary as perceived by young people

This chapter presents the areas the Hungarian youth perceive – based on their views – as the most problematic, and which therefore would require prompt intervention

In addition to subjectively perceived price increases and inflation, young people believe that corruption is the most significant issue in Hungary.

By drawing up a problem map, we gained a clear picture of which challenges young Hungarians see as most in need of being addressed in Hungary. The question allowed for the selection of multiple responses. Participants could select up to three areas from among those listed which they believed required urgent solutions, and they also had the option to indicate if they felt that none of the listed issues were a problem in Hungary at the time of the survey.

Figure 14

The most significant issues in Hungary(%)

The most pressing issues as perceived by young people (n=1,012; total number of responses=3,036)
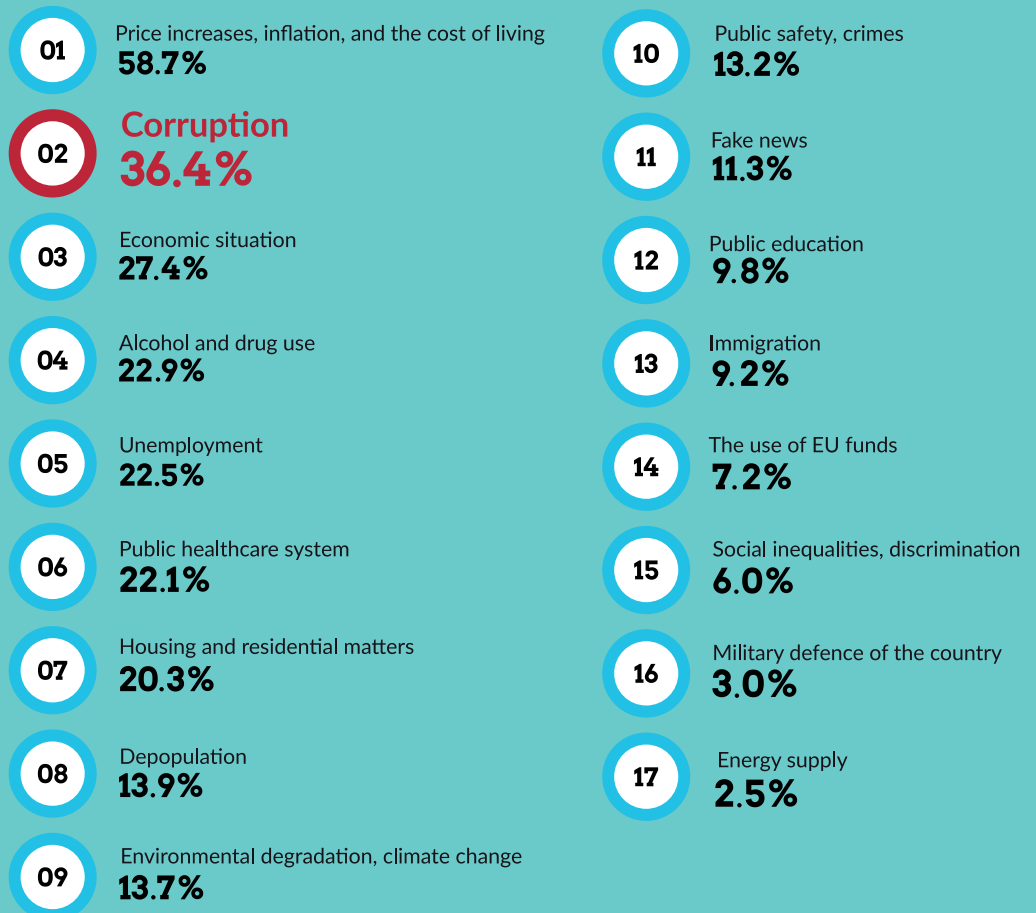
[44] Results are shown as percent of cases, indicating the share of respondents who chose each specific problem – in other words, how many people are affected by it.

01 Price increases, inflation, and the cost of living **58.7%**	**10** Public safety, crimes **13.2%**	
02 Corruption **36.4%**	**11** Fake news **11.3%**	
03 Economic situation **27.4%**	**12** Public education **9.8%**	
04 Alcohol and drug use **22.9%**	**13** Immigration **9.2%**	
05 Unemployment **22.5%**	**14** The use of EU funds **7.2%**	
06 Public healthcare system **22.1%**	**15** Social inequalities, discrimination **6.0%**	
07 Housing and residential matters **20.3%**	**16** Military defence of the country **3.0%**	
08 Depopulation **13.9%**	**17** Energy supply **2.5%**	
09 Environmental degradation, climate change **13.7%**		

All respondents opted to select three problem areas. The results show that "price increases, inflation, and the cost of living" was the one predominantly indicated as a problem area, with 58.7% of respondents including this option among the three most significant problems. Somewhat trailing behind this – but still representing a significant share – is "corruption", followed by "economic situation" in third place.

The three most commonly indicated problem areas are followed by "alcohol and drug use", "unemployment", "public healthcare system", and "housing and residential matters" – arranged in a practically unified block – with "military defence of the country" and "energy supply" indicated by young people as the least significant problems. Earlier international studies have also examined current issues in certain countries, with rising prices and inflation ranking first in multiple data collections according to more recent results. Beyond that, however, varying rankings emerged. In some surveys, rising prices and inflation were followed by poverty and social inequalities (OECD, 2024); while in others, high prices and inflation were followed by low wages and the state of the healthcare system, with corruption featuring among the first five positions (STT, 2024).

Among young people who listed corruption as one of the three most relevant problems, it was examined whether there is a connection between the media sources they consume and this issue. This line of inquiry was warranted by the fact that perceptions of corruption are often linked to media consumption and related habits. The study provided little support for a significant connection between the consumption of different information sources and the selection of corruption as a key issue. Significant connections were found only in those cases where young people indicated that they obtain information about world affairs and events in Hungary from "media personalities, influencers[45], and social media"[46]. However, even these links can be considered weak.

[45] sig=0.000, Cramer's V=0,144
[46] sig=0.000, Cramer's V=0.164

Chapter 4.4: Corruption as perceived by young people

This chapter provides a detailed overview of young people's views on and perceptions of corruption, addressing its prevalence, presumed causes, and effects on their everyday lives

A large fraction of young Hungarians believe that corruption is widely prevalent in Hungary – a trend which has further deteriorated over the past five years, significantly exacerbated by a lack of transparency in the use of public funds as well. Despite all this, young Hungarians are more tolerant of corruption compared to their European peers, with over 50% of them stating that if they had to choose, helping their relatives and acquaintances is more important to them than abiding by the law.

The various questions concerning perceptions of corruption represented one of the most important parts of the study. During methodological planning, we adopted the definition presented in the methodological description of this study to clearly specify what types of actions are understood as corruption in the context of the research. As clearly detailed in the methodological description of the study, respondents were not given one specific definition – which is often difficult to interpret in a survey context – but were instead presented with 11 case examples through which they could indicate which actions they considered to be acts of corruption. Subsequently, the interviewers provided a brief summary to the participants, explaining that each of the listed case examples covered a specific form of corruption according to the definition used in the study, and asked that they also consider these actions as corruption when giving their responses.

4.4.1 What do young people consider corruption?

Regarding the listed acts of corruption, 79% to 87% of young respondents considered each case example to constitute corruption. The fact that a significant proportion of the participants view the case examples as corruption suggests that there is a consensus within the target group in how this topic is perceived.

The number of respondents who selected "don't know" was somewhat higher in case examples involving less conventional forms of corruption – such as lobbying or the revolving door phenomenon – as well as in cases where a specific action – for example, accepting gifts – was considered corruption by a smaller proportion of participants (Table 3, Annex 6).

Table 3

The five most frequently identified cases of corruption (n=1,012)

1. The leader of a foundation aiding disadvantaged children uses part of the incoming monetary donations to finance their own holiday.

2. A high-ranking university professor offers to help the child of a family they know gain admission to a selected university degree programme in exchange for a small amount of money.

3. Someone pays a public official to fast-track the processing of a request for planning permisison through their superior.

4. A vehicle in poor condition passes a safety inspection because the owner gives money to the inspector.

5. An influential local government representative arranges for the adoption of a municipal decree that benefits the construction company of a close friend.

By recoding the responses given to the corruption case examples, we constructed an index in which the more examples respondents classified as corruption the higher index value they received. The values obtained could range between 0 and 11, with the latter indicating that the respondent classified all case examples as corruption. Only 23.8% of respondents in the sample had an index value of seven or lower, meaning that a small proportion of participants classified fewer case examples as corruption. More than half of the respondents (59.2%) classified all 11 case examples as corruption. By excluding those who classified all 11 case examples as corruption from the analysis, frequency distribution became somewhat more balanced. However, even in this sub-analysis, the highest proportion was still made up of respondents who classified 10 case examples as corruption, followed by those who selected five cases.

Even when excluding the participants who classified all 11 case examples as corruption from the examination[47], the ranking order of the five most frequently selected corruption cases did not change significantly. Even in these cases, respondents classified the case example "The leader of a foundation aiding disadvantaged children uses part of the incoming monetary donations to finance their own holiday" as corruption in the majority of responses, at 69.4%. The "revolving door phenomenon" was among the five most frequently selected corruption cases, while the case example titled "An influential local government representative arranges for the adoption of a municipal decree that benefits the construction company of a close friend" moved up one place in the list of cases classified as corruption.

Within the block dedicated to examining views on the perception of corruption and on corruption itself, it was revealed how prevalent young Hungarians feel the issue of corruption is in the country.

Based on the responses, 70% of the young generation believe that corruption is extremely or significantly prevalent in Hungary,

while 25.4% of them think it is moderately or very slightly prevalent. 3.3% of them could not, or preferred not to answer the question, and only 1.3% indicated that there is no corruption in the country (Figure 16). In the question examining the prevalence of corruption, there was only a weak connection – despite preconceptions – between the use of certain information sources (including different types of media) and young people's perception of how widespread corruption is[48]. Neither their income nor their status situations had any influence on their views concerning the prevalence of corruption, with their political affiliations – whether left-leaning or right-leaning[49], pro-government or pro-opposition[50]– weakly linked to whether or not they believed corruption is prevalent in Hungary.

[47] Of the entire sample of 1,012 participants, there were 413 individuals who did not classify all case examples as corruption.

[48] Only when examining sources such as media personalities-influencers, state media, teachers-educators, friends-acquaintances, online news portals, and podcasts was there a significant – though extremely weak – connection.

[49] sig=0.000, Cramer's V=0.206

[50] sig=0.000, Cramer's V=302

4.4.2. Driving factors behind corruption

Among respondents who indicated that some level of corruption is present in Hungary, we explored the causes they perceive to be behind this phenomenon. They had multiple options from which to select all those that they believed contributed to the presence of corruption in Hungary (Figure 15).

Figure 15
What causes corruption?
Distribution of factors contributing to corruption,
according to young people (%)
(n=1,012; total number of responses=4,535)

Factor	%
The way public funds are utilisied is not transparent	52.2%
Relatives or acquaintances are given jobs or positions in public administration	50.9%
There are laws that do not apply equally to everyone	50.4%
Politicians do little to counter corruption	50.0%
Corruption is the easiest way to access certain services	43.8%
There are authorities that fail to enforce laws	43.5%
People accept and consider corruption to be part of everyday life	41.9%
Close interconnections between business and political life	41.1%
Low penalties in corruption cases	40.2%
People supplement their low incomes and revenues with money obtained through corruption	38.1%
Don't know	3.4%
No response	0.8%

The 1,012 respondents selected over 4,500 response options, suggesting that they believe corruption in Hungary stems from a variety of causes.
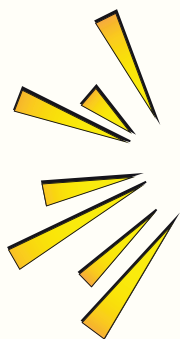
The largest proportion of the respondents selected

• the way public funds are utilised is not transparent (52.2%[52]),

• this was very closely followed by the belief that positions in public administration are given to relatives and acquaintances (50.9%).

• they felt as though the perceived circumstance that laws do not apply equally to everyone contributes to this phenomenon (50.4%),

• and politicians do little to counter corruption (50%).

Although selected by a high proportion, compared to the most frequently selected responses, fewer respondents chose the options that "people supplement their otherwise low incomes through corrupt means" (38.1% of all respondents) and that penalties in corruption cases are low, which contributes to the occurrence of this phenomenon (40.2%). In the multiple-choice question, young people could even select all options if they considered them relevant. Most respondents selected three causes out of the 10 response options (20.5%), followed by those who selected one cause (15.1%), while the third common group chose all 10 causes (11.2%). This means that respondents believed all the listed causes contribute to the presence of corruption in Hungary to some degree.

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[51] The share of "percent of cases" – meaning the proportion of cases in which a specific cause was selected, in relation to the total number of respondents.

contributes to the occurrence of this phenomenon (40.2%). In the multiple-choice question, young people could even select all options if they considered them relevant. Most respondents selected three causes out of the 10 response options (20.5%), followed by those who selected one cause (15.1%), while the third common group chose all 10 causes (11.2%). This means that respondents believed all the listed causes contribute to the presence of corruption in Hungary to some degree.

67.1% of young people experiencing corruption believe that its extent has increased over the past five years, with 44.1% reporting a significant increase and 23% indicating a slight increase. 17.1% of them believe it has not changed, 10.3% reported some reduction – with 8.3% reporting a slight reduction and 2.3% indicating a significant reduction – while 5.5% could not or did not want to respond to the question.

Young people who experience corruption in Hungary shared their views on how widespread they perceived it to be specifically in relation to European Union funds (Figure 16). Although to a minimal extent, participants perceived corruption to be less widespread in this specific area, while the proportion of uncertain respondents who could not answer this question was found to be slightly higher.
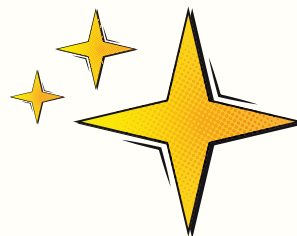
Figure 16
How widespread is corruption in Hungary?

Generally and in relation to European Union funds (%)
(nhu=1,012; neu=1,000)

	Generally in Hungary	In relation to EU funds
Extremely	32.0%	25.6%
Significantly	38.0%	36.3%
Moderately	20.0%	22.4%
Scarcely	5.4%	7.0%
No corruption	1.3%	2.0%
Don't know	2.9%	6.0%
No response	0.4%	0.7%

Corruption associated with the use of European Union funds was found to be weakly linked to county affiliation[52], as well as to a later question concerning efficiency[53] in the use of EU funds.

4.4.3 Corruption's impact on everyday life and trends in intolerance toward it

In addition to how widespread corruption is, a highly significant question is the extent to which young people perceive it as influencing their everyday lives. 24.6% of respondents felt that it had no impact on them, while **65.2% of them reported experiencing some degree of impact – most frequently a small one, at 33.5%** (Figure 17).

[52] sig=0.000, Cramer's V=0.23

[53] sig=0.000, Kendall tau-b=-0.25

Figure 17

To what extent does corruption affect young people in their everyday lives? (%)
(n=1,012)

Slightly
33.5%

Significantly
18.6%

Completely
13.1%

Not at all
24.6%

Don't know
10.2%
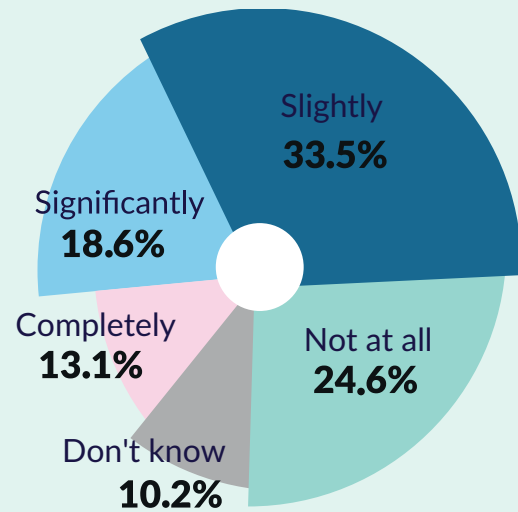
In terms of county affiliation, significantly more respondents in Nógrád, Győr-Moson-Sopron and Fejér Counties felt that corruption had "No impact at all" on their everyday lives, with the strongest impact reported in Pest and Tolna Counties[54].

An increase in political interest also showed a significant connection with the extent to which participants subjectively perceived corruption as affecting their everyday lives. The less apolitical person was, the more they perceived corruption as having an impact on their everyday life as well[55].

[54] sig=0.000, Cramer's V=0.33
[55] sig=0.000, Kendall tau-b=0.260

By further analysing the significant connections among variables, we used a binary logistic regression model in an attempt to construct a model capable of producing a relatively accurate estimate of the extent to which corruption impacts the everyday lives of young Hungarians. The responses to the dependent variable of the binary logistic regression model were divided into two groups: Group 1) corruption has no or only a small impact on their everyday lives; Group 2) corruption significantly or completely impacts their everyday lives. Respondents[56] who did not answer how corruption impacted their everyday lives were excluded from the analysis. Non-respondents were retained in the analysis for questions involved as independent variables[57]. The independent variables of the regression model were the following: 1) marital status, 2) how can the full income of your household cover the regular expenses necessary for the maintenance of your household?, 3) county affiliation, 4) interest in politics, 5) grouped variable of well-being, 6) age, 7) index constructed from the perception of the frequency of bribery and graft in relation to certain institutions. Based on the binary logistic regression model, the responses given to the seven questions outlined above can be used to adequately predict how corruption affects the lives of young people[58].

In line with prior expectations and earlier research findings, young people found paying bribes in public institutions and offices to be the least acceptable, with the highest level of intolerance reported in these cases.

According to 72.8% of respondents, offering a bribe in exchange for services is unacceptable (Figure 18). With regard to gifts – meaning the use of material items as bribes – they were somewhat more lenient, with 52.4% stating that such action is not acceptable. Participants were most lenient toward favours, with 58.2% of them considering it "completely acceptable" or "rather acceptable".

[56] 102 participants

[57] The "prefer not to answer" response given to questions involved as independent variables also provided valuable pieces of information (questions about politics and income status), and therefore this response was also treated as carrying informational value.

[58] The Area Under the Curve (AUC) value of the binary logistic regression model equalled 0.82, indicating the model's good discriminatory (isolating) capacity. The Nagelkerke r2 value was 0.42, indicating the model's stronger than moderate explanatory power.

Figure 18

Intolerance of corruption

To what extent are these acts of corruption in public institutions and offices considered acceptable for facilitating certain outcomes or gaining advantages? (%)

Giving money
(n=997)

41.0% **31.8%** 16.1% 11.1%

Giving gifts
(n=999)

19.3% **33.1%** **32.9%** **14.7%**

Doing favours
(n=999)

16.7% **25.1%** **42.2%** **16.0%**

■ Not at all   ■ Rather acceptable
■ Rather unacceptable   ■ Completely acceptable

In the previous Eurobarometer survey, 73.8% of young people indicated that paying a bribe is never acceptable, 63.9% said the same about gifts, while 61.2% completely rejected the option of doing favours (European Commission, 2024).

The difference between the corruption tolerance indexes in the KORR-KÉP and Special Eurobarometer studies was also examined. This was intended to illustrate eventual differences between the relevant findings concerning Hungarian and European youth.

We constructed the corruption tolerance index based on the three questions[59] examining tolerance toward corruption[60].

[59] How acceptable is it to engage in the following actions in order to facilitate certain outcomes in public institutions or offices, or to gain other advantages?
  - giving money on top of paying official costs
  - giving gifts
  - doing favours

[60] Cronbach alpha=0.826

When constructing the index, only cases in which responses were provided to all three actions by a given respondent were examined. To ensure more precise comparability, the index value created from the relevant KORR-KÉP survey items and the index based on the same three variables from the Special Eurobarometer were standardised[61]. This allowed us to eliminate the differences in results measured on scales of varying lengths. The standardised values from both surveys were then divided into four groups. The first group included those respondents who considered all listed forms of corruption completely unacceptable – representing the least tolerant attitudes toward corruption – while the fourth group comprised those with the highest level of tolerance. The results from KORR-KÉP and the Special Eurobarometer 548 survey – concerning Hungarian and European youth, respectively – show significant differences (Figure 19).

> While the European results indicate a high level of intolerance toward corruption among young people, the Hungarian findings do not reflect this trend, showing instead a much more evenly distributed range of tolerance levels.

Figure 19
Young people's intolerance of corruption in Hungary and across the European Union

To what extent is it acceptable to do favours, give gifts or money in order to handle or expedite certain matters?

	KORR-KÉP (n = 983)	Eurobarometer (n = 3,453)
Completely acceptable	15.0%	7.9%
Rather acceptable	27.2%	6.9%
Rather unacceptable	31.3%	24.3%
Not acceptable at all	26.5%	61.0%

[61] Using min–max transformation, the results of the two index variables in both studies were normalised in order to eliminate the differences arising from the measurement range of indexes measured on scales of varying lengths (Special Eurobarometer: 1–3; KORR-KÉP: 1–4). To ensure transparency, the values resulting from the transformation were grouped onto a scale of 1–4 in both studies to make sure that the newly formed categories were based on a common framework and could be compared more accurately.

These differences may stem from various factors that may be attributed in part to the country's economic, cultural, and social developments, as well as the related processes of socialisation. Looking back at the initial pre-survey focus group interviews of KORR-KÉP, a complex research programme, it was already evident that during this qualitative and exploratory data collection, a significant proportion of young respondents held a neutral stance toward corruption. Moreover, there were instances where some even associated positive meanings with it under certain circumstances.

The arguments for and against corruption largely depended on who benefited from it, and whether the gained advantage was used solely by the individual or shared with others (Burai&Vajda, 2025). In addition, a more accepting attitude toward corruption may be reinforced by the fact that – in this study as well – many respondents identified causes such as "There are laws that do not apply equally to everyone" and "Relatives or acquaintances are given jobs or positions in public administration", meaning that if corruption is perceived as accepted at higher levels, and even the laws meant to regulate conduct do not apply to everybody, individual-level motivation may also be lower. When identifying causes, findings from both the questionnaire and the pre-survey focus group interviews suggested young respondents thought that people saw corruption as being part of everyday life. While 41.9% of respondents selected the statement "People accept corruption and consider it part of everyday life" as the cause of corruption, focus groups indicated the following:
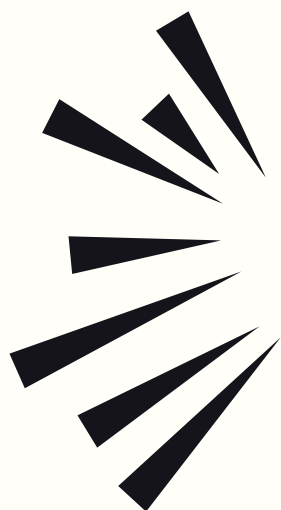
"And I've already accepted it to the point, this whole corruption thing… I think it's, how to say… that I've come to accept it – [trails off] So, it doesn't even bother me anymore. It's just part of life now". Furthermore: " … Maybe, there is something in society today that… that it is just part of our lives now, it has become normal…"

4.4.4 Bribery in different institutions

Among the questions examining tolerance of corruption, it is worth exploring which public and private institutions are perceived as being more frequently affected by bribery, and whether there are any types where its occurrence is particularly low.

Findings show that according to young Hungarians, "government institutions and ministries", "public health institutions", and the "media" stand out among the institutions listed, as these are perceived to have the strongest presence of bribery (Figure 20).

On the other side of the list we find "civil society organisations", "educational institutions", as well as government windows, registrar's offices, and government offices". Despite the assumption that, because of the characteristics of this age group, participants have more recent or fresher experiences with educational institutions, and that the initial data surveys of the KORR-KÉP research programme – consisting of focus group interviews – revealed that they also frequently interact with government windows handling local-level administrative matters, respondents still consider the prevalence of bribery to be low.

Interestingly, respondents attributed high potential for bribery to public health institutions, which they may also frequently interact with, either directly or indirectly through their relatives. Nonetheless, participants considered bribery to be less frequent in private sector institutions such as banks, financial institutions, or private firms.

Figure 20

How widespread is bribery across different institutions? (%) (n=1,012)

Government institutions and ministries

Significantly widespread	29.7%
Extremely widespread	17.8%
Moderately widespread	28.5%
Scarcely widespread	13.9%
Not widespread at all	6.4%
No response	3.7%

Media

Significantly widespread	29.1%
Extremely widespread	14.4%
Moderately widespread	28.8%
Scarcely widespread	16.5%
Not widespread at all	7.0%
No response	4.1%

Courts

Significantly widespread	24.6%
Extremely widespread	7.2%
Moderately widespread	29.6%
Scarcely widespread	21.3%
Not widespread at all	13.1%
No response	4.2%

Police

Significantly widespread	27.8%
Extremely widespread	6.2%
Moderately widespread	30.1%
Scarcely widespread	21.6%
Not widespread at all	10.7%
No response	3.6%

Public health institutions

Significantly widespread	29.5%
Extremely widespread	13.4%
Moderately widespread	29.9%
Scarcely widespread	17.1%
Not widespread at all	7.4%
No response	2.8%

Government windows, registrar's offices, government offices

Significantly widespread	21.9%
Extremely widespread	5.4%
Moderately widespread	23.6%
Scarcely widespread	22.2%
Not widespread at all	22.6%
No response	4.2%

Businesses, private firms

Significantly widespread	22.3%
Extremely widespread	8.9%
Moderately widespread	32.6%
Scarcely widespread	22.3%
Not widespread at all	10.4%
No response	3.5%

Municipalities

Significantly widespread	25.9%
Extremely widespread	7.4%
Moderately widespread	33.6%
Scarcely widespread	20.0%
Not widespread at all	9.9%
No response	3.3%

Educational institutions

Significantly widespread	21.4%
Extremely widespread	4.3%
Moderately widespread	27.4%
Scarcely widespread	27.3%
Not widespread at all	16.7%
No response	2.9%

Banks, financial institutions

Significantly widespread	21.2%
Extremely widespread	7.0%
Moderately widespread	25.6%
Scarcely widespread	21.3%
Not widespread at all	20.9%
No response	4.0%

Civil society organisations

Significantly widespread	18.8%
Extremely widespread	6.7%
Moderately widespread	26.8%
Scarcely widespread	26.4%
Not widespread at all	16.0%
No response	5.4%

The frequency of bribery in certain institutions, along with trust and accountability in institutions, were generally connected at the level of individual institutions (Table 4).

According to young Hungarians, bribery occurs less frequently in institutions that are more widely trusted and where employees – including those in executive positions – are perceived to be held accountable.

Table 4

Correlation between trust, accountability and bribery

Young people's perceptions of the prevalence of trust, accountability, and bribery across different institutions (%)

Government institutions and ministries
- 42.7%
- 47.1%
- 49.4%

Courts
- 60.9%
- 63.2%
- 33.3%

Media
- 37.2%
- 52.5%
- 45.4%

Police
- 62.5%
- 64.8%
- 35.3%

Public health institutions
- 49.2%
- 59.3%
- 44.1%

Municipalities
- 58.6%
- 62.3%
- 34.4%

Government windows, registrar's offices, government offices
- 64.8%
- 63.6%
- 28.5%

Businesses, private firms
- 59.8%
- 65.4%
- 32.3%

Religious institutions
- 54.3%
- 53.8%
- n.a

Educational institutions
- 64.0%
- 65.6%
- 26.5%

Civil society organisations
- 64.4%
- 65.7%
- 26.9%

Banks, financial institutions
- 60.7%
- 65.1%
- 29.4%

*Combined proportion of respondents selecting "significantly prevalent" or "extremely prevalent"

- Proportion of respondents who trust the institution (n=957-992)
- Proportion of respondents who believe employees are held accountable at the institution (n=950-979)
- Proportion of respondents who believe bribery is a serious issue within the institution* (n=957-983)

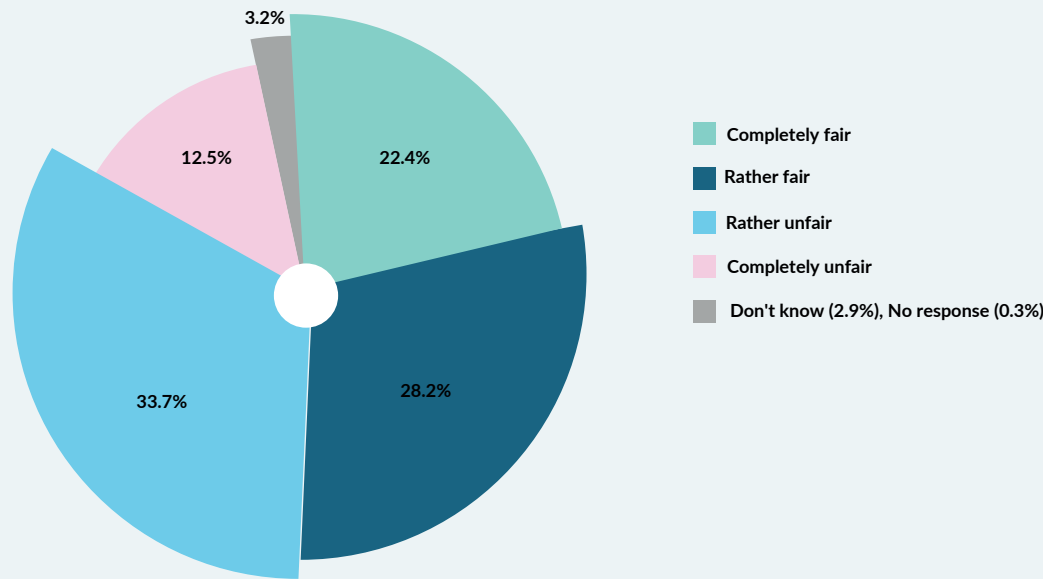We examined what sort of practices young Hungarians think private firms need to be successful (Figure 21). Nearly equal proportions of respondents believed that it is through fair practices that private firms can achieve success and that unfair practices may be better suited to that purpose.

Figure 21

Key to private firms' success

What sort of practices do private firms need to be successful? (n=1,012)

Legend:
- Completely fair
- Rather fair
- Rather unfair
- Completely unfair
- Don't know (2.9%), No response (0.3%)

Pie chart values: 3.2%, 22.4%, 28.2%, 33.7%, 12.5%

This question showed a significant but weak connection with regional affiliation[62]. Respondents in Budapest were the least likely to believe that private firms can succeed through fair practices, while those living in county seats were much more likely to view fair operation as a forward-looking path to success. In terms of well-being, higher levels were associated with choosing fair practices; while at the regional level, young people in Northern Hungary, the Southern Great Plain, as well as Central

[62] sig=0.000, Cramer's V=0.212

and Southern Transdanubia were the most likely to support the idea that it is through fair practices that private firms can be managed successfully. By contrast, those living in Budapest, Pest County and Western Transdanubia were more sceptical.

In addition to the issue of successful functioning, an important question was whether young people prioritised adherence to laws and other regulations or helping their relatives and acquaintances. The results show that young Hungarians tend to either prefer to act within formal legal frameworks or prioritise community and acquaintance relationships – which may suggest acceptance of corrupt practices and the prioritisation of personal relationships in connection with corruption.

When faced with a decision, young people tend to consider helping relatives and acquaintances to be somewhat more important, with 54.5% of them prioritising this over abiding by laws and regulations in such cases (Figure 22).

Among the socio-demographic factors, county affiliation – and therefore regional affiliation – showed the strongest connection to this question as well[63]. While abiding by the law was the dominant choice in the Pest Region and Northern Hungary, helping relatives and acquaintances was prioritised in Southern and Central Transdanubia, as well as in Budapest – with 76% of young respondents in Southern Transdanubia stating that they would rather help those close to them than adhere to the law when faced with a decision.

[63] sig=0.000, Cramer's V=0.2

Figure 22

Is helping relatives and acquaintances more important than abiding by the law?

If you had to choose, which one would you say is more important: helping relatives and acquaintances or abiding by the laws and other regulations? (n=1,012)

Clearly abiding by the laws and regulations	Rather abiding by the laws and regulations	Rather helping relatives and acquaintances	Clearly helping relatives and acquaintances	No response	Don't know
12.2%	27.7%	37.8%	16.7%	1.1%	4.5%
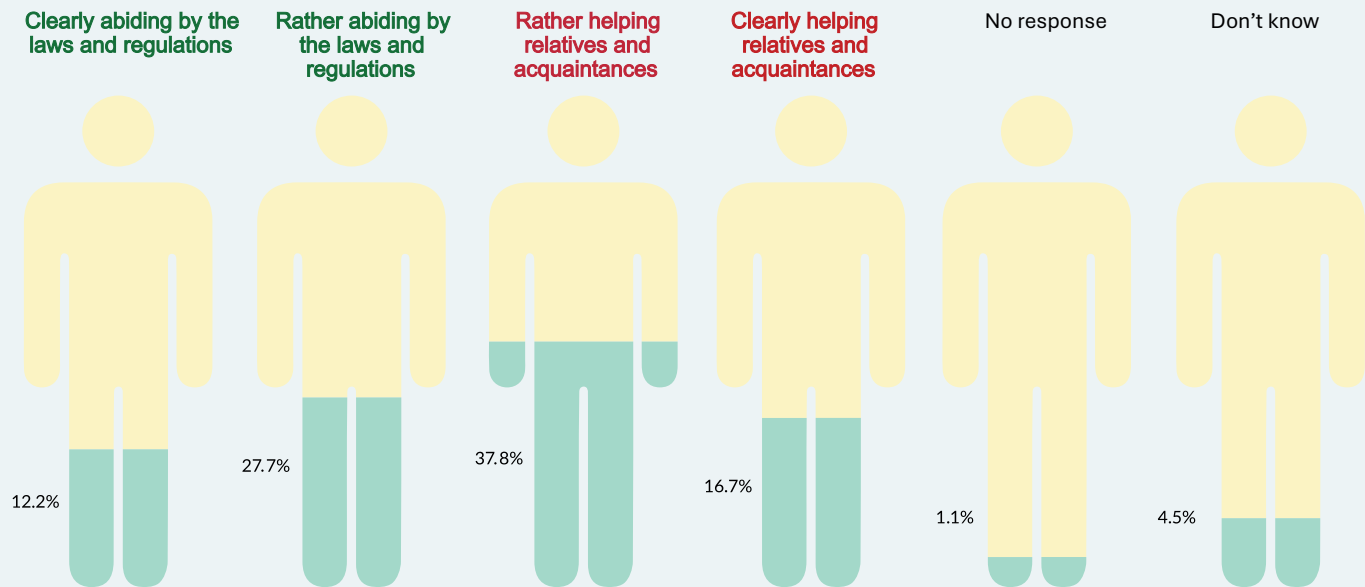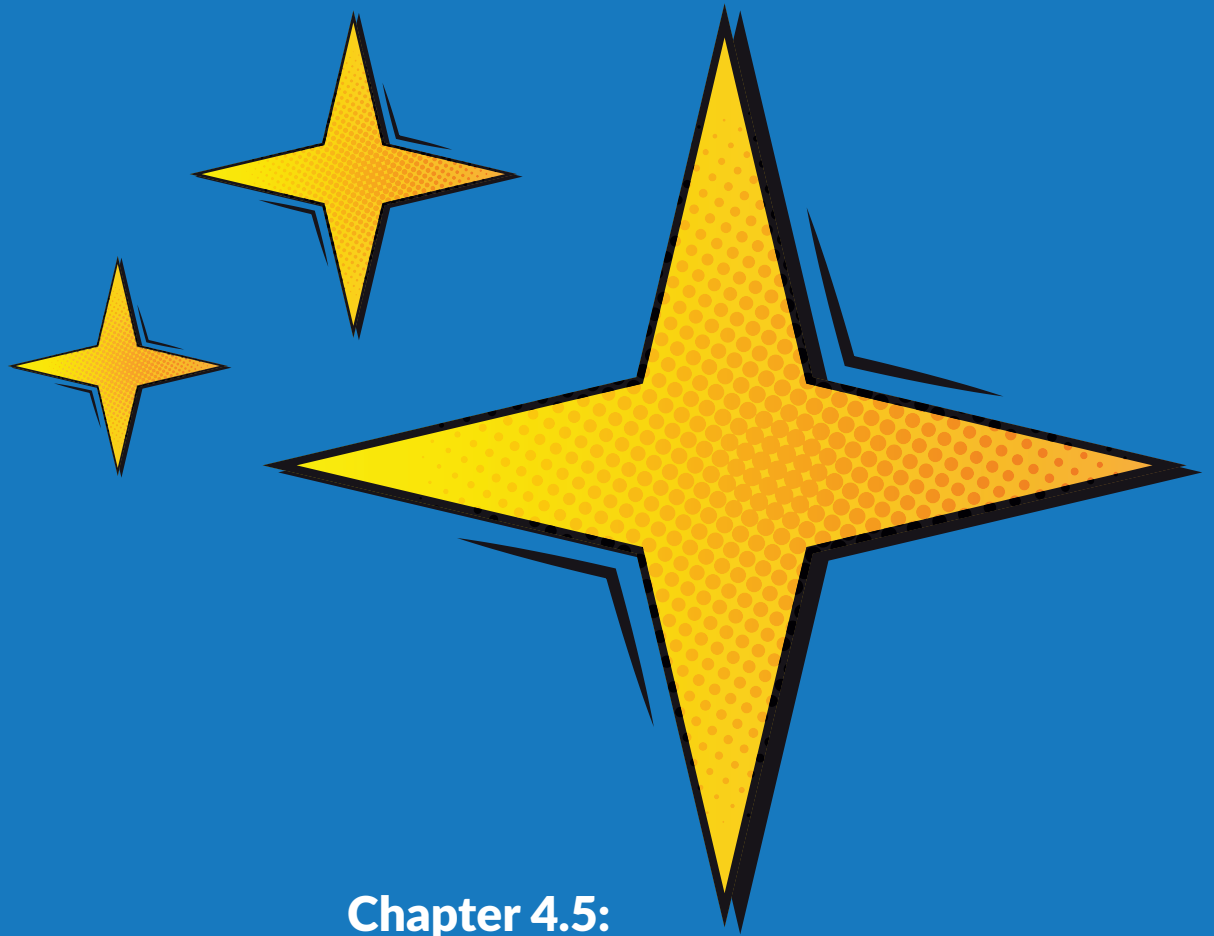
Chapter 4.5:
Corruption in the life of young people: direct and indirect experiences

This chapter focuses on young people's concrete, direct and indirect experiences with corruption – gathered either personally or through relatives and close acquaintances

Regarding the past year, a smaller proportion of young people reported cases in which others expected unlawful favours, gifts or bribes either from them or from their relatives or close acquaintances. With regard to public institutions, however – in addition to experiences with bribery – exploiting personal connections to handle or expedite certain matters was found to be nearly three times as frequent a scenario.

In addition to perceptions related to corruption, another important group of questions in the study was the block concerning concrete experiences with corruption. The significance of this question group lies, among other things, in the fact that examining only perceptions and opinions would approach the topic from just one side. An important addition to this is provided by those questions that specifically measure whether respondents – or their relatives and acquaintances – encountered any concrete cases or situations of corruption within a given time interval.

As this group of questions addressed a particularly sensitive topic, interviewers began with a brief introductory statement assuring respondents that all data would be processed in full anonymity, and that neither they nor their relatives or acquaintances could be identified in any way.

One of the questions explored whether the respondent personally knows any individuals, groups, or organisations that have accepted an unlawful favour, gift, or bribe in the course of their professional activities. It was examined whether in the 12 months prior to data collection, the respondent – or any of their relatives or acquaintances – had been expected to provide an illicit favour, gift, or bribe, and if so, to which sector the company or institution involved belonged. Beyond illicit favours, gifts and bribes, there is a greyer form of corruption that is more difficult to define – one in which individuals are able to handle matters or receive help more quickly by using personal connections and acquaintances. Even the results from the pre-survey focus group interviews supported the notion

that young people are more tolerant of such actions, making a clear distinction between paying a bribe and leveraging personal connections. Regarding public services – especially healthcare – they explicitly stated that if it was necessary, if it was their own health at stake, they would make the same decision even if they knew it would put other people at a disadvantage: "Well, if you are sick – with the current state of healthcare – we have unfortunately reached a point where you have to use your personal connections. And now, okay, you may put someone at a disadvantage, but your health is also important. So, you definitely have to use such means." Similarly to healthcare, the use of personal connections in education and employment also appeared during the focus group interviews – a practice through which they got better internship placements or job opportunities via acquaintances, and which they generally felt was acceptable:

–"Because I think if someone, let's say, gets a job through personal connections, it doesn't matter whether that's how they got it or not, especially in this day and age."

A smaller proportion of young Hungarians (17.3%) know personally individuals, groups, or organisations that have accepted illicit favours, gifts, or bribes. 3.9% of respondents in the sample preferred not to answer the question (Figure 23).

Figure 23

Do you personally know anyone who has been bribed before?

Do you personally know of any person, group or organisation that has accepted illicit favours, gifts or bribes in exchange for certain advantages? (n=1,012)

No
78.8%

Yes
17.3%

No response3 .9%
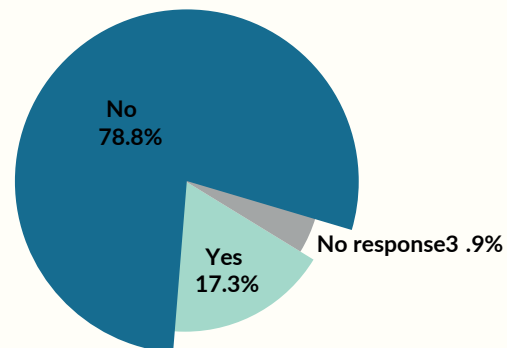
In the past 12 months, 11.5% of young people reported that either they or their relatives or close acquaintances, were expected to provide an illicit favour, gift, or bribe.

Modern corruption research and measurement clearly emphasise that in addition to respondents' own experiences with corruption, it is also worth examining – as part of quest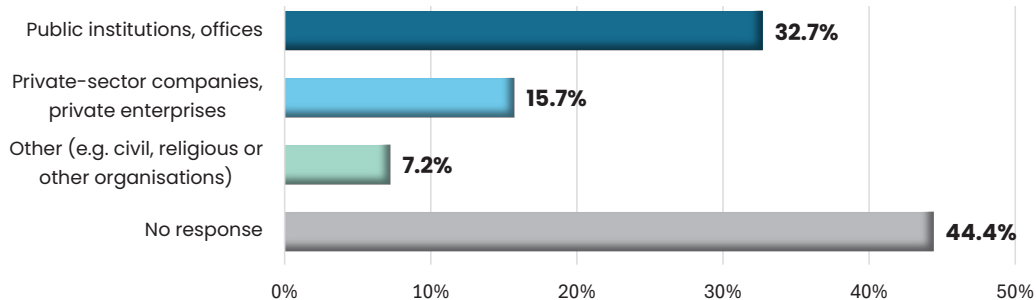ionnaires and research studies – the experiences of relatives, friends and acquaintances. This approach would provide a comprehensive understanding of corruption-related experiences (UNODC, 2024; Transparency International, 2021). Feedback from KORR-KÉP's preliminary pre-survey focus group interviews also confirmed that involving the experiences of relatives and close acquaintances offers strong added value, as the target group – given their age – comes into contact with many services only indirectly, meaning that they also learn about important and actual instances of corrupt actions in those areas through second-hand accounts. Because of the sensitive nature of the question, it is worth reviewing those who selected the "I don't answer" option (8.3%), as nearly as many respondents chose it as those who selected "yes".

Respondents who in the past year had experienced situations in which either they, their relatives or close acquaintances were expected to engage in such actions, as well as those who preferred not to answer this question, were given the option to indicate in which areas or sectors they had encountered bribery (Figure 24).

Figure 24

Over the past year, in which institutions have young people, their relatives or acquaintances been expected to perform illicit favours or give illegal gifts or bribes? (n=200)

- Public institutions, offices — **32.7%**
- Private-sector companies, private enterprises — **15.7%**
- Other (e.g. civil, religious or other organisations) — **7.2%**
- No response — **44.4%**
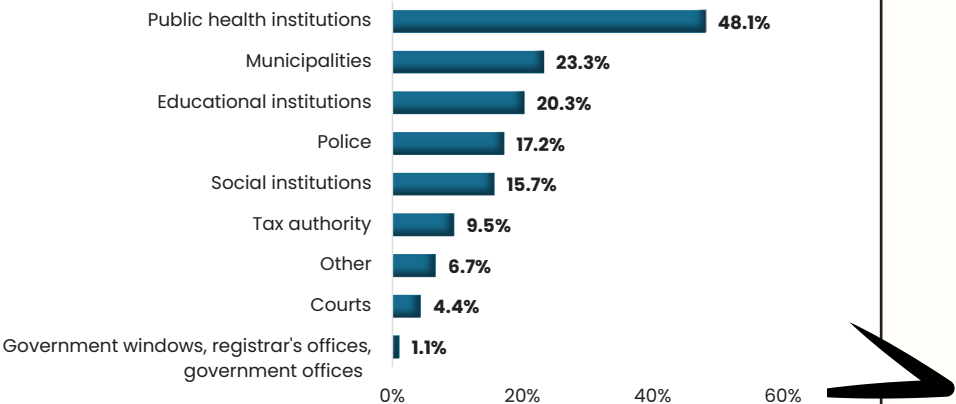
(Horizontal axis: 0%, 10%, 20%, 30%, 40%, 50%)

Of those respondents who in the past year experienced situations in which illicit favours, gifts or bribes were expected of them and/or their relatives or close acquaintances, or who preferred not to answer this question (accounting for 19.8% of the total sample), 32.7% indicated that such act had occurred in relation to a public institution or office, while 44.4% did not respond[64]. In terms of the types of public institutions, the low incidence of reported experiences meant that only a small number of respondents were affected. However, in terms of frequency, public health institutions were the most commonly selected in the question that allowed multiple answers, with 48.1% of respondents choosing this option. These were followed by municipalities (23.3%) and educational institutions (20.3%). Among the listed public institutions, government windows and courts were the least frequent choices (Figure 25).

[64] The high proportion of non-respondents is presumably due to the fact that non-respondents from the previous question also had the option to indicate whether bribery had occurred in any institution involving either themselves, their relatives or acquaintances. This option was intended to ensure that despite not selecting bribery ("Over the past 12 months, has it ever occurred that illicit favours, gifts or bribes were expected of either you, your relatives or close acquaintances?") in the previous question, respondents had the opportunity to indicate the type of institution where it had occurred.

Figure 25

Over the past year, in which public institutions have you directly or indirectly* encountered corruption?

(n=66; total number of responses=96)

Institution	Percentage
Public health institutions	48.1%
Municipalities	23.3%
Educational institutions	20.3%
Police	17.2%
Social institutions	15.7%
Tax authority	9.5%
Other	6.7%
Courts	4.4%
Government windows, registrar's offices, government offices	1.1%

Beyond cases involving illicit favours, gifts and bribes, the study also examined – for the reasons previously mentioned – whether respondents, or their relatives and acquaintances, in the year prior to the survey, experienced situations in which they were able to get certain things done or receive faster assistance in relation to a specific public service through personal connections. Since results from earlier data collections of the study also show that respondents were more accepting of this type of behaviour – in line with expectations – we expected a more significant increase in the number of "yes" responses regarding the use of personal connections. Because of the sensitive nature of the question, 9.2% of respondents preferred not to answer, while 18.6% reported that they or their relatives had experienced such cases over the past 12 months. Compared to respondents who experienced situations in which illicit favours, gifts or bribes were expected of them in the context of public institutions and offices, it is clear that the faster handling of administrative matters via personal connections occurred nearly three times as often (Figure 26)[65].

[65] When projecting the occurrence of illicit favours, gifts, and bribes onto the overall sample, only those respondents who selected public institutions (66 participants) in the question exploring the locations of such acts (Tk3) were considered in the "yes" responses, while those who were not asked this question – because they had already previously indicated in a filter question that no such act had occurred in the past 12 months, or that it had occurred but not within a public institution – were designated as non-respondents. In the case of expedited processes via personal connections, we involved the related question (Tk5) in the analysis.

Cases handled through personal connections

72.2%
18.6%
9.2%

Expected to perform illicit favours or offer bribes

84.7%
6.5%
8.8%

■ No ■ Yes ■ Prefer not to answer

Figure 26

Benefits obtained through favours, gifts or bribes in public institutions

Which forms of corruption have you encountered (directly or indirectly) over the past year?

Chapter 4.6:
Young people against corruption: Possibilities for change

This chapter explores young people's views and potential experiences related to anti-corruption efforts. It shows where they see their role is in this process

41.5% of young people would not do anything if they encountered a suspected case of corruption. This passivity may be due to the fact that only 13% of them know who to turn to in such cases. Only a very small proportion – 4.1% – of them had ever reported suspected cases of corruption before; and tellingly, only half of them would be active and take action again in the future.

We used a multiple-choice question to examine how young people would react in suspected cases of corruption[66]. The vast majority of respondents selected only one option from those listed. It is particularly significant that 41.5% of respondents stated that they would do nothing if they encountered a suspected case of corruption.

Response options were divided into two groups: **active action** (informing someone or taking other action) and **passive non-action** (wouldn't do anything, didn't know what they would do, or did not answer the question). Such grouping shows that a smaller proportion of young people selected at least one active action option.

young people are not aware of which institutions they can turn to in suspected cases of corruption.

[66] In the case of the multiple-choice question, respondents could select multiple answers only if they had not responded "don't know", "don't answer", "would not do anything".

Figure 27

Reactions toward corruption

Distribution of young people's reactions toward corruption (n=1,012; total number of responses=1,063)

"I would notify an institution, organisation, or their representatives"

"I would notify the press and the public"

"I would do something else"

14.6%

9.0%

4.1%

"I wouldn't do anything"

"Don't know"

"No response"

41.5%

26.8%

9.1%

■ Active action

■ Passive non-action
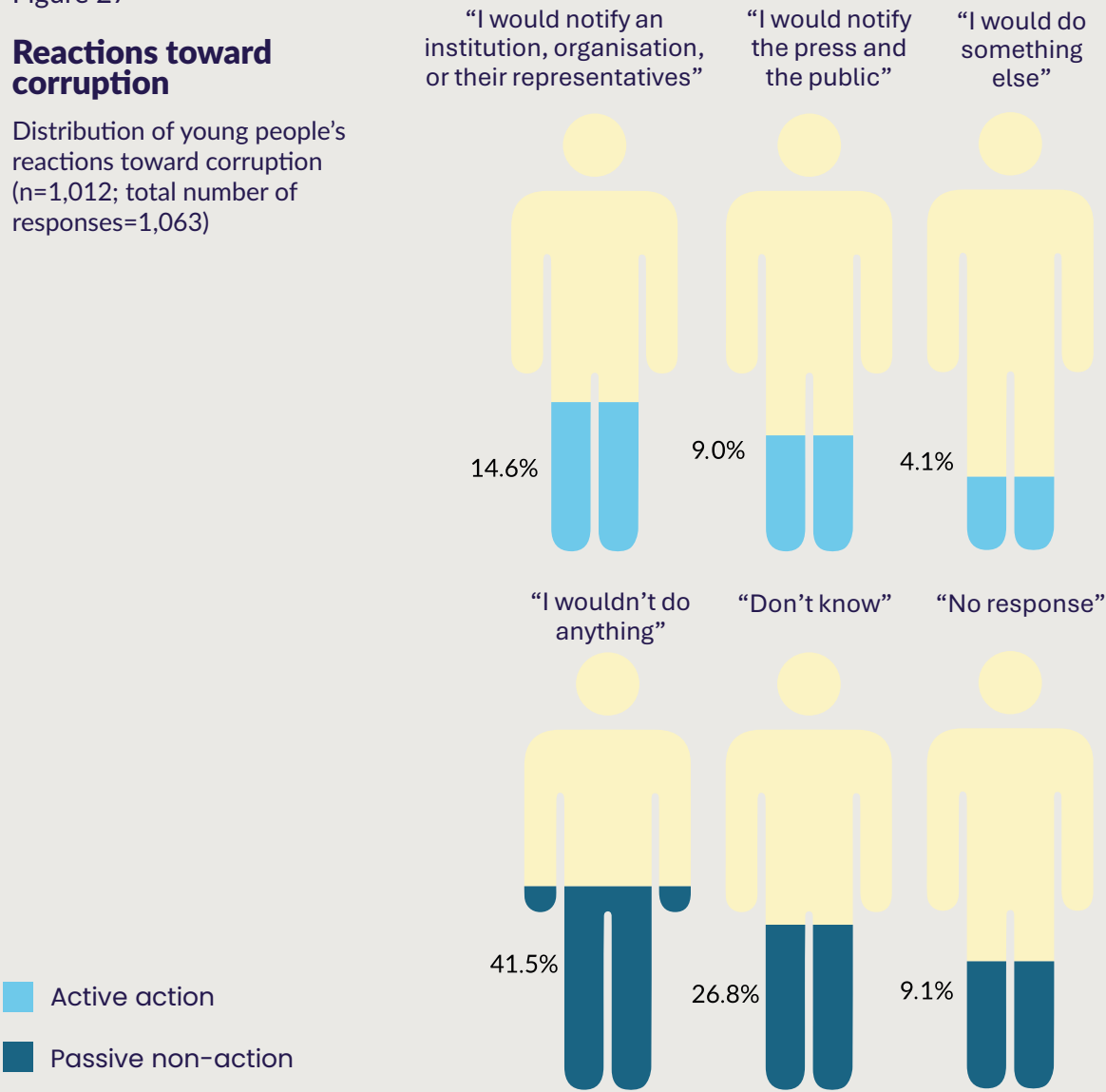
To uncover this, we compared the action type (active or passive) with whether respondents were able to name an organisation they would turn to in such situations (Table 5).

Table 5

Do you know where to report a suspected case of corruption?

Differences between active and passive participants (n=1,012)

	Active actors	Passive actors	Total
I know	5.0%	8.0%	**13.0%**
I don't know	21.1%	65.8%	**86.9%**

If we only consider active respondents – "active actor and knows who to turn to": 5%; "active actor, but doesn't know who to turn to": 21.1% – 19% of them can name a specific institution they could turn to in suspected cases of corruption. If we only consider the group of passive respondents – "passive actor, but knows who to turn to": 8%, "passive actor, and doesn't know who to turn to": 65.8% – this proportion is only 11%. This suggests that there is a weak but noticeable connection between awareness of the right organisations and a willingness to actively engage[67].
Only 13% of young people can name an institution which they can turn to in suspected cases of corruption. 65.8% of young people would not only take no action but also do not know who to turn to for help.

Those who knew who to turn to in such situations had the option to name the relevant institution(s) or individual. The vast majority of young people who knew who to turn to selected the police department. Several other responses also mentioned courts, the public prosecutor's office, the Office of the Commissioner for Fundamental Rights, as well as the National Protective Service and the National Tax and Customs Administration.

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[67] The connection between the willingness to take action and awareness of institutions is weak (sig=0.000, Cramer's V = 0.10). A substantial difference emerged only among active actors who knew where they could turn to; in this group, we found one and a half times as many cases as would be expected based on independence.

Another important question is what young people would do in theory in a potentially corrupt situation, and whether they are aware of any institution where they could turn to.

Only 4.1% of respondents stated they had previously reported suspected cases of corruption to an institution or organisation, while 7.6% preferred not to answer this question. By examining whether those who had previously reported suspected cases of corruption are now active or passive actors, it became clear that only half of the 4.1% who had reported such cases earlier considered themselves as active participants in the current survey. This may be because some of them had negative experiences during the reporting process, and therefore would not take action again in a similar situation.

We compared the responses of young people in Hungary and across the European Union to the question of why they thought someone[68] would not report a suspected case of corruption if they encountered one. Both the KORR-KÉP study and the Special Eurobarometer 548 survey used multiple-choice questionnaires; but in the KORR-KÉP study, respondents were allowed to choose a maximum of three reasons from the options provided[69].

	KORR-KÉP (n = 1,012)	Eurobarometer (n = 3,645)
They fear that reporting might get them into trouble with the authorities	43.1%	17.3%
They don't know where to report such cases	39.7%	20.5%
They believe it would be difficult to prove	33.8%	43.4%
Nothing happens even after reporting, so it's not worth the effort	30.8%	19.5%
They fear that those responsible might avoid punishment	29.8%	28.8%
They fear that those who report such cases are not protected	25.8%	25.3%
Others don't report such cases either	20.2%	18.6%
People don't want to betray each other	11.9%	21.7%
None of the above	1.7%	4.6%

Figure 28

Why do suspected cases of corruption remain unreported?

Percentages of young people's responses in Hungary and across the EU about why people do not report corruption

[68] Annex 8 to the study contains a table detailing which questions were aligned between the two data collections.

[69] The Eurobarometer worded the question as follows: "Below are listed some possible reasons as to why people might decide not to report cases of corruption. Please state which of these you think are the most important. Whereas in the KORR-KÉP study, it read as follows: Please select up to three reasons as to why – in your opinion – someone might not report suspected cases of corruption."

The results show significant differences between the responses of Hungarian and European youth. Among Hungarian respondents, the most frequently cited reason was "fear that reporting might get them in trouble with the authorities", with 43.1% selecting this option. By contrast, only 17.3% of young Europeans selected the same reason – which was the least frequently chosen option among them.

This suggests that fear of retaliation after reporting is more widespread among young Hungarians. Numerous factors might be behind this. On the one hand, it can be assumed that because of a lower level of trust in the enforcement of the law, young people fear that reporting would carry consequences for them. On the other hand, cultural factors – such as social attitudes toward corruption – can also play a role in places where the norms of "silence" or "non-intervention" have long been part of public consciousness. Furthermore, direct or indirect experiences – such as feedback from acquaintances – can also contribute to a perception among young people that this type of action carries risks.

The "they don't know where to report such cases" option also showed a striking difference. This was the second most frequently selected reason among young Hungarians, while it appeared much less frequently among EU respondents. This finding may suggest that young Hungarians believe the public is generally less informed about the options for reporting corruption. Nonetheless, it also cannot be excluded that respondents are projecting their own lack of information onto society as a whole – in other words, generalising their lack of awareness. Results from the crosstab analysis show that respondents who were able to name a specific institution where they could turn to in suspected cases of corruption were less likely to believe that the lack of reporting is due to people not knowing where to turn to. There was no connection between the two questions in the case of those who could not name a specific institution.

On average, Hungarian respondents selected 2.2 reasons for this question. We used cluster analysis to identify typical response patterns[70].

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[70] We decided to use the k-modes algorithm during the cluster analysis, as the dataset consisted of binary-type (Yes/No) variables. Accordingly, the centres of the clusters are also vectors that represent the most frequently occurring value (Yes or No) for each response option within a given cluster.

Figure 29

Why do suspected cases of corruption go unreported, according to young people?

Reasons for non-reporting, arranged in groups

Difficult to prove (367 participants)

- 33.0%
- 80.6%
- 18.8%
- 27.1%
- 15.5%
- 17.3%

Personal risk, without any meaningful impact (291 participants)

- 16.7%
- 12.9%
- 19.8%
- 80,7%
- 71.9%
- 16.3%

Lack of accountability, whistleblowers are not protected (134 participants)

- 9.5%
- 6.3%
- 82.4%
- 10.8%
- 11.8%
- 73.1%

Don't know where to report (219 participants)

- 100.0%
- 0.0%
- 29.1%
- 39.7%
- 13.7%
- 23.8%

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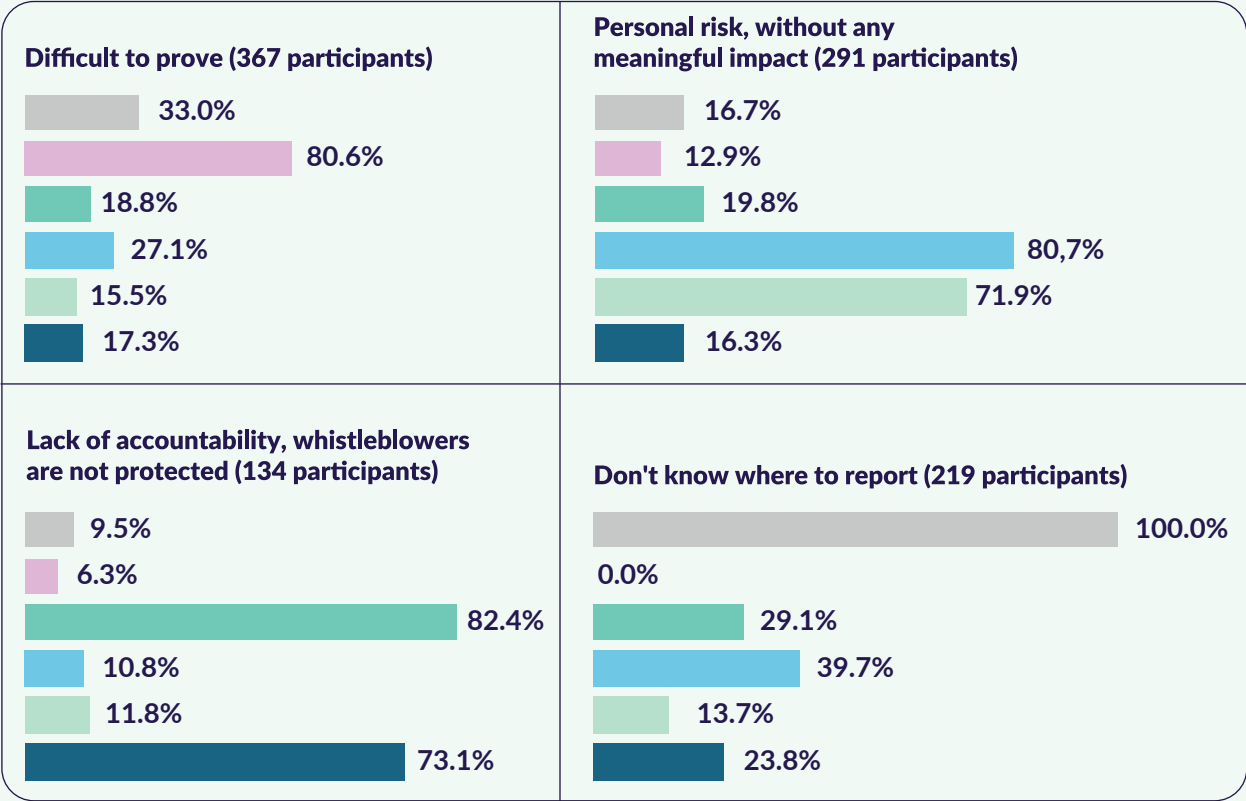
- Don't know where to report
- They believe it would be difficult to prove
- They fear that those responsible might avoid punishment
- They fear that reporting might get them in trouble
- Nothing happens even after reporting, so it's not worth the effort
- They fear that reporting might get them in trouble

The first cluster was centred exclusively around the reason "they believe it would be difficult to prove". Within the entire sample, the proportion of this cluster is significant: 367 participants – which means that nearly one-third of the respondents fall into this group, whose responses are very similar to those of young people in the European Union.

Given the strong similarity in content between the second and third clusters, they are best interpreted collectively. The second cluster was centred around the responses "They fear that reporting might get them into trouble" and "Nothing happens even after reporting, so it's not worth the effort". The third cluster is structured in a very similar fashion, with the defining reasons being "They fear that those responsible might avoid punishment" and "They fear that those who report such cases are not protected". A common characteristic of both clusters is that they highlight scepticism stemming from personal risks associated with reporting and its ineffectiveness. Young people who had previously reported suspected cases of corruption (41 participants) were one and a half times more likely than expected, under theoretical independence, to fall into either the second or third cluster. By contrast, their rate of occurrence in the other clusters reached only 60% of the expected value.

> This finding supports the assumption that negative experiences undergone during previous reporting may contribute to uncertainty and passivity in young people.

A unique feature of the fourth cluster is that every respondent in this group selected the reason "don't know where to report", highlighting the importance of information deficiency. Young people were given a list of institutions to indicate whether or not they believed fighting corruption is part of the listed institutions' responsibilities. It is noteworthy in itself that the organisation with the fewest "yes" responses among the institutions listed – namely, COSs – was still selected by 68.5% of respondents.

> Despite this, earlier results (Table 5, Figure 28) have shown that 86.9% of young people, by their own admission, would not be able to name an institution they could turn to in suspected cases of corruption. It is even more telling that 39.7% of young people believe the reason why others do not report suspected cases of corruption is because they do not know where they could turn to in such situations.

Looking at the data from all respondents, there were no major differences in how the institutions were viewed. The highest proportion of respondents assigned the role of fighting corruption to courts and public prosecutors (88.1%), while CSOs received the lowest proportion (68.5%). When we limited the examination to only those respondents who did not select all the options (respondents who did not select all options[71]) – in other words, those who do not believe fighting corruption is the responsibility of every institution listed – more pronounced differences emerged among the groups. In the latter case, fighting corruption was mainly seen as a task delegated to "courts, public prosecutors" (60.5%) and the "police" (59.9%), with the "national government" ranking third.

Figure 30

Whose duty is it to combat corruption?

	Those who did not select all (n=176)	All respondents (n=1,012)
Courts and prosecutor's offices	60.5%	88.1%
Police	59.9%	86.7%
National government	42.8%	87.0%
Municipalities and municipal representatives	35.9%	84.6%
Political parties	32.8%	83.7%
National Protective Service	32.2%	80.7%
Media, newspapers, journalists	27.4%	80.0%
European Union institutions	24.9%	81.6%
The Integrity Authority	21.0%	77.3%
Trade unions	18.9%	74.5%
Civil society organisations	18.3%	68.5%
Citizens under the age of 30	17.8%	71.5%
Citizens over the age of 30	13.9%	72.2%

[71] Selective respondents were identified through cluster analysis; on average, they selected four institutions, while the others selected eleven.

Both in general and with a perspective on the Integrity Academy's educational activity, it is an important finding that young people are least likely to see citizens over and under the age of 30 as having a role in fighting corruption.

Chapter 4.7:
Perceptions of and efficiency in the use of European Union funds

This chapter presents the views on efficiency in the use of European Union funds and most frequently observed areas of utilisation

Young Hungarians primarily perceived the use of European Union funds in the areas of transport and infrastructure, although a significant proportion reported not having experienced it in any area. More than half of the respondents believed that the use of funds is rather inefficient or not efficient at all. Only in the Pest Region and the Southern Great Plain did more people consider it to be efficient.

An important element of the questionnaire was the examination of the use of European Union funds. In the set of questions related to this topic, young people were asked to indicate the areas in which they had experienced the use of these funds in the 10 years prior to this survey, and to describe how efficient they perceived this use to be. Outside this set of questions, a question within the perception block has already explored respondents' views on the prevalence of corruption involving European Union funding in Hungary. Based on the results, corruption was perceived to be slightly less prevalent in this specific context compared to the general question regarding Hungary. However, the proportion of respondents selecting "don't know" was also higher (Figure 16).
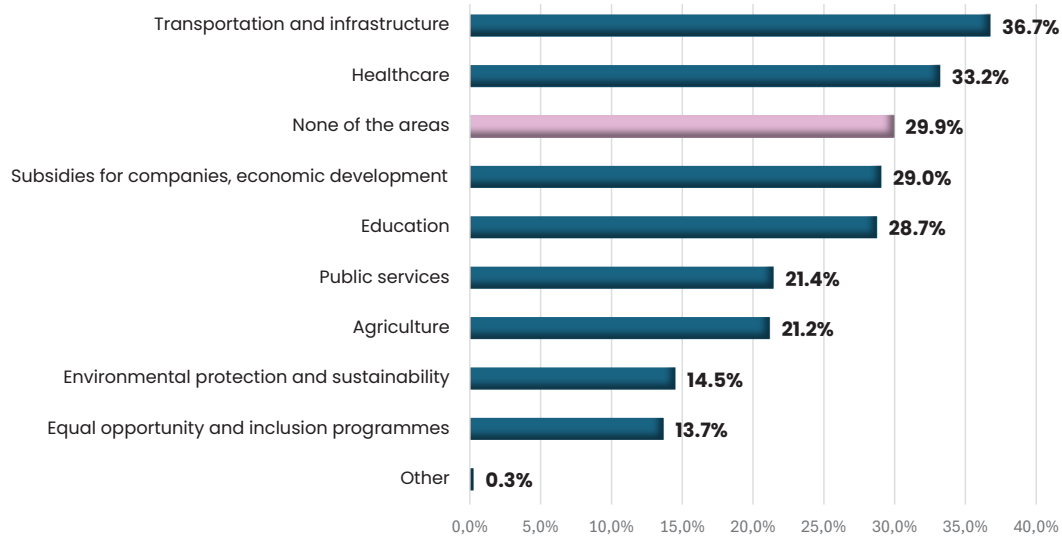
In one of the multiple-choice items in the questionnaire, young respondents were asked to name the areas in which – according to their own experiences – European Union funds had been used over the past 10 years (Figure 31).

Figure 31
Main areas of the use of European Union funds

In which areas have you observed the use of EU funds over the past 10 years?
(n = 1,012; total number of responses = 2,315)

Area	Percentage
Transportation and infrastructure	36.7%
Healthcare	33.2%
None of the areas	29.9%
Subsidies for companies, economic development	29.0%
Education	28.7%
Public services	21.4%
Agriculture	21.2%
Environmental protection and sustainability	14.5%
Equal opportunity and inclusion programmes	13.7%
Other	0.3%

The answering structure of respondents followed the pattern observed earlier in this case as well – meaning that respondents were grouped into distinct cluster groups based on the average number of areas they selected. The largest group – with 712 participants – consisted of young people who either had not observed the use of EU funds in any of the listed areas at all, or, even if they had, they typically selected only one area.

In addition, a smaller, narrowly defined group of 74 participants also emerged. These respondents selected nearly all of the listed areas, indicating that, based on their experiences, the use of EU funds is perceived to be widespread.

Between the two extremes was a medium-sized group of 226 participants, who primarily selected the option "subsidies for companies, economic development", transport and infrastructure development", and "healthcare development". On average, members of this group reported observing the use of EU funds in three distinct areas.

While 29.9% of respondents were unable to name an area where they had ever observed the use of European Union funds in the 10 years prior to the survey, it is not surprising that "transport and infrastructure development" was the most frequently mentioned category among respondents (36.7%), as publicly available data from the Electronic Public Procurement System (EPPS)[72] also support the notion that, in recent years, most EU-funded expenditure has been realised in this area.

Based on EPPS data, HUF 620.7 billion was spent on public works projects in 2023, and HUF 290.4 billion in 2024, making this the largest expenditure category in the period under review (Integrity Authority, 2025).

However, the geographical distribution of EU funds shows significant regional disparities. In 2024, a total of HUF 884.9[73] billion worth of EU financial support was utilised in Hungary. However, only around 73.16% of this amount – totalling HUF 646.8 billion – could be allocated to counties, as information on project implementation locations is not always available in the EPPS database.

Based on the county-level breakdown of identifiable fund use, Budapest stands out with by far the highest amount, where HUF 410.1 billion in EU support was spent in 2024. A distant second is Borsod-Abaúj-Zemplén County, where only HUF 30.9 billion in funds were identified. These figures clearly show that the use of EU funds is highly concentrated, suggesting the persistence of regional development disparities.
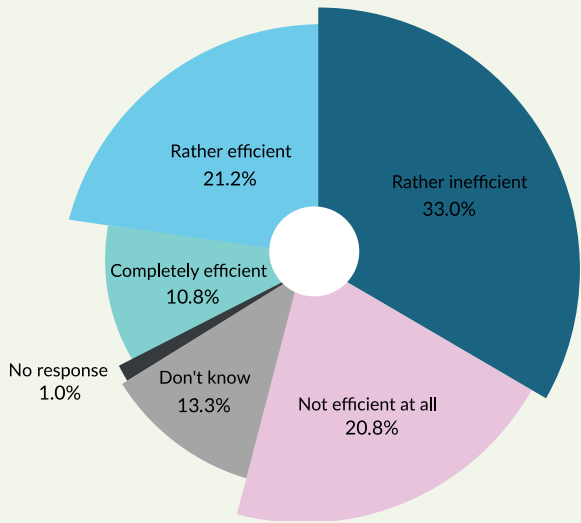
Young people's responses clearly show that the key areas where many typically observed the use of funds are transport and infrastructure development, as well as healthcare. Additionally, a significant fraction of respondents (29.9%) did not experience any use of EU funds.

Examining how young people viewed efficiency in the use of European Union funds was also of key importance (Figure 32).

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[72] The database is publicly available and downloadable. (https://ekr.gov.hu/portal/kozbeszerzes/eredmeny-tajekoztato-hirdetmenyek)
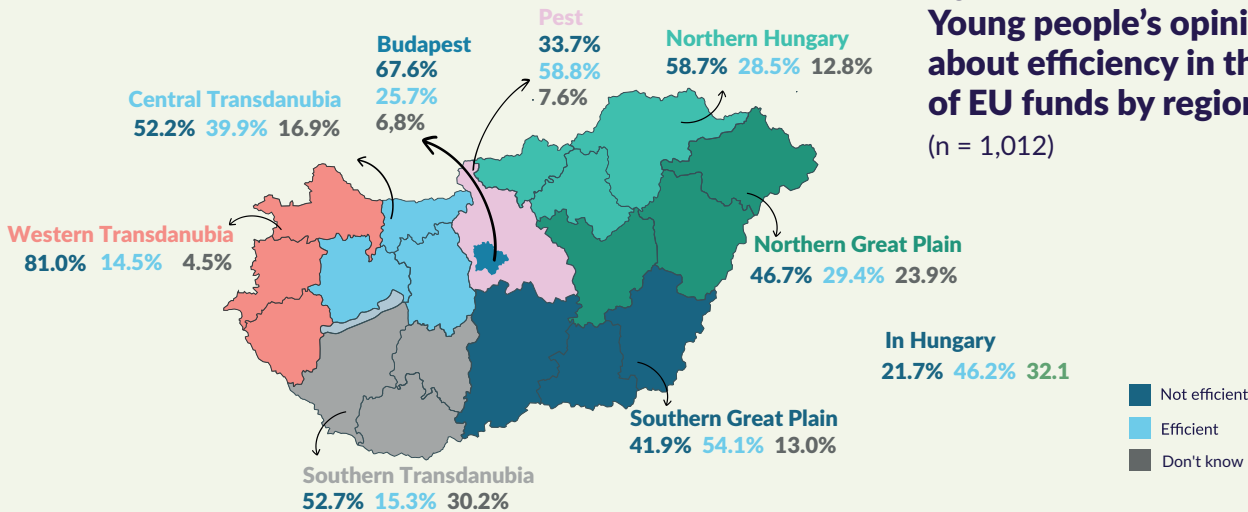
[73] The overall amount of framework agreements is not included in this amount.

Figure 32

How efficient is the use of EU funds in Hungary, according to young people?

(n = 1,012)

Rather efficient
21.2%

Rather inefficient
33.0%

Completely efficient
10.8%

No response
1.0%

Don't know
13.3%

Not efficient at all
20.8%

The figure shows that over half of young people (53.8%) consider the use of EU funds to be inefficient, while 32% hold the opposite view, and believe that these funds are used efficiently. The proportion of those who were unable to take a position on this matter was also **significant**. An analysis by regions shows significant differences in the views on the utilisation of funds.

Figure 33

Young people's opinion about efficiency in the use of EU funds by region

(n = 1,012)

Pest
33.7%
58.8%
7.6%

Budapest
67.6%
25.7%
6,8%

Central Transdanubia
52.2% 39.9% 16.9%

Northern Hungary
58.7% 28.5% 12.8%

Western Transdanubia
81.0% 14.5% 4.5%

Northern Great Plain
46.7% 29.4% 23.9%

In Hungary
21.7% 46.2% 32.1

Southern Great Plain
41.9% 54.1% 13.0%

Southern Transdanubia
52.7% 15.3% 30.2%

- Not efficient
- Efficient
- Don't know

Respondents who perceived the funds as being utilised efficiently were the majority only in Pest County and the Southern Grant Plain region. It might be important that in the Northern Great Plain and the Southern Transdanubia regions, a higher proportion of respondents chose to disregard the question or refrain from expressing an opinion. A significantly high proportion of respondents in the Western Transdanubia, Budapest, and Northern Hungary regions selected "not efficient" option.

To identify the underlying reasons for the differences in opinion, a logistic regression model was applied. In this process, we explored which factors influence whether someone sees the use of EU funds as either efficient or inefficient. Respondents who gave differing answers – namely, those who had selected the "don't know" or "prefer not to answer" options (14.3%) – as well as those who failed to fully complete any of the questions used for the model (explanatory variable), were excluded from the model. As a result, responses from 602 young people were used for the analysis.

The results of the model[74] support the existence of regional differences. For example, in the case of Western Transdanubia, the likelihood of selecting responses indicating inefficiency is significantly higher – consistent with the findings from the regional breakdown. In addition, the data from Hajdú-Bihar County stand out because the proportion of respondents indicating efficiency in this county was so defining that the county emerged as a standalone significant explanatory variable in the model, rather than being included as part of a region.

Beyond this, the model identified those additional factors that have a positive or negative influence on views regarding efficiency. Therefore, for example, among those who consider all of the presented suspected cases to be actual instances of corruption, both a high perception of corruption prevalence and an opposition political orientation significantly increase the likelihood of perceiving the use of funds as inefficient. By contrast, considering favours, gifts, or bribes to be acceptable in public institutions is positively correlated with the view that EU funds are being used efficiently.

[74] The logistic regression model shows moderate explanatory power for the target variable (Nagelkerke R^2 = 0.36). The AUC value is 0.82, indicating good classification accuracy. In the case of the optimal threshold, the connection between the estimated and actual values is moderate-strong Cramer's V = 0.51

Therefore, it is evident that those who are more tolerant of these forms of corruption are more likely to hold a more positive view of efficiency in the use of European Union funds.
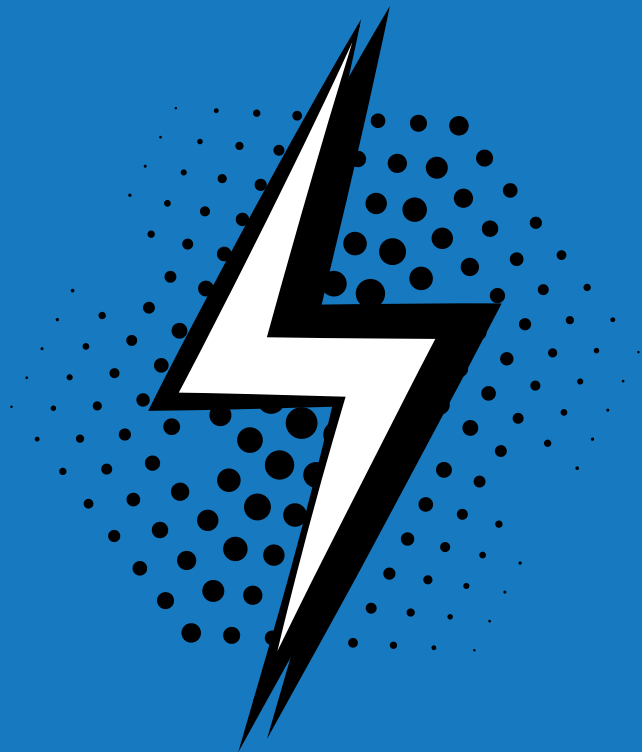
Chapter 4.8:
Public and social participation – a cornerstone of transparent and corruption-free operations

This chapter addresses the activity of young people related to public life and public affairs, presenting which forms of social engagement are the most widespread
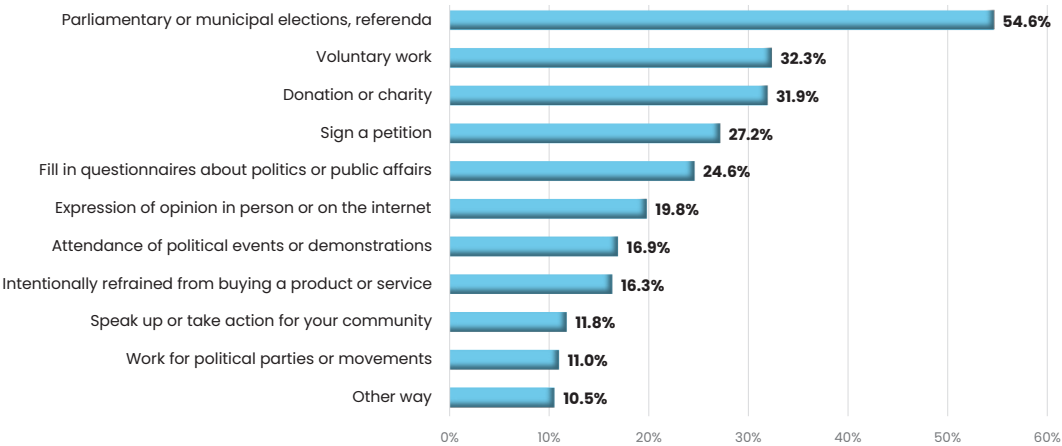
Young people's participation in activities related to public life and social engagement is generally low, with significant differences across counties. However, the number of participation types tends to increase with age.

Young people were asked in a multiple-choice question to indicate the ways in which they had participated in the public and political affairs of our society over the five years preceding this survey.

Figure 34
Young Hungarians' participation in public affairs

Respondents' active engagement in public and political affairs in the past five years
(n = 1,012; total number of responses = 2,600)

Participation type	Percentage
Parliamentary or municipal elections, referenda	54.6%
Voluntary work	32.3%
Donation or charity	31.9%
Sign a petition	27.2%
Fill in questionnaires about politics or public affairs	24.6%
Expression of opinion in person or on the internet	19.8%
Attendance of political events or demonstrations	16.9%
Intentionally refrained from buying a product or service	16.3%
Speak up or take action for your community	11.8%
Work for political parties or movements	11.0%
Other way	10.5%

Voting in parliamentary elections stands out among the other forms of participation examined, showing a strong correlation with age, as expected.

Respondents in the youngest age group selected an average of 1.5 participation forms, while this number rose to 2.9 and 2.97 among those aged 19–24 and 25–29, respectively. Nevertheless, the data also reveal that willingness to participate showed little substantial growth over the age of 19. The analysis found a connection between the extent of interest in politics and the index formed from the questions related to subjective well-being. Based on the results, the more intensely an individual is interested in politics, the more forms of social engagement they selected from the options provided. This correlation is further supported by the observation that, on average, respondents who defined their political affiliations in extreme terms – meaning either clearly pro-government or clearly pro-opposition – also reported having participated in multiple forms of engagement. A contrasting trend was observed in relation to the subjective well-being index:

the lower the group they belonged to in terms of subjective well-being, the greater their public activity was. This means that participation expanded in parallel with higher levels of unhappiness.

This may suggest that political and public participation do not derive solely from interest or commitment; instead, they can also serve as means to express social discontent or frustration.
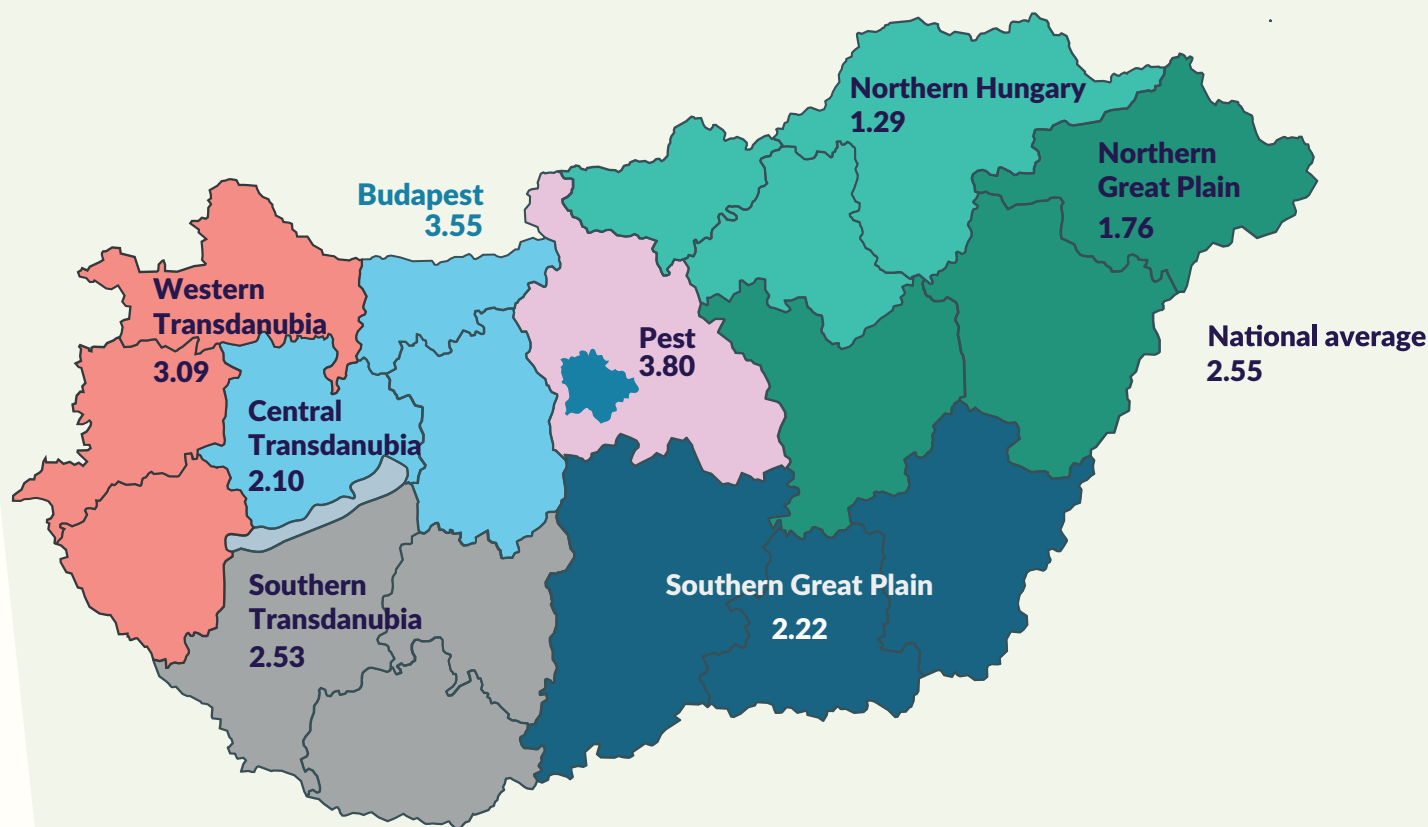
Participation patterns showed significant regional differences.

An examination based on regional and county breakdowns reveals that Vas and Pest Counties, as well as Budapest, showed the highest participation averages: Respondents selected an average of 5.5 participation forms in Vas County, 3.8 in Pest County, and 3.55 in Budapest. These values are well above the national average of 2.6. By contrast, the lowest willingness to participate was reported in Nógrád and Borsod-Abaúj-Zemplén Counties, where the average participation number barely exceeded one. Naturally, this result is somewhat more balanced at the regional level, although differentiation can be observed here as well. (Figure 35)

Figure 35

Where are young people the most active in public affairs?

Average level of young Hungarians' active engagement in public affairs and politics by region

Budapest
3.55

Western
Transdanubia
3.09

Central
Transdanubia
2.10

Southern
Transdanubia
2.53

Northern Hungary
1.29

Northern
Great Plain
1.76

Pest
3.80

National average
2.55

Southern Great Plain
2.22

Chapter 4.9:
Where do young people get their knowledge from?

The chapter provides an overview of the sources from which young people obtain information and gain knowledge about their immediate surroundings and the wider world

Social media is a significant source of information for young people. Although no strong or statistically significant correlation was found between the perception of corruption and media consumption, there are notable differences across counties in terms of the number of information sources used.

The research used a multiple-choice question to examine what sources young people rely on to obtain information about events taking place in the world, in Hungary and in their immediate surroundings. Exploring this topic is extremely important, since information-gathering habits fundamentally determine how, in what detail and through what content filters young people learn about public affairs. The information obtained from various sources (e.g. family members, friends, media) plays a central role not only in shaping opinions, but also in influencing how well young people perceive and understand socio-economic phenomena that directly affect them, such as the visibility of the use of European Union funds. The role of the media is particularly important, as it can bring corruption-related issues to public attention, raise citizen awareness and encourage anonymous reporting. For this reason, mapping citizens' media consumption and information-sourcing habits may play an important role in preparing interventions within the framework of anti-corruption efforts.
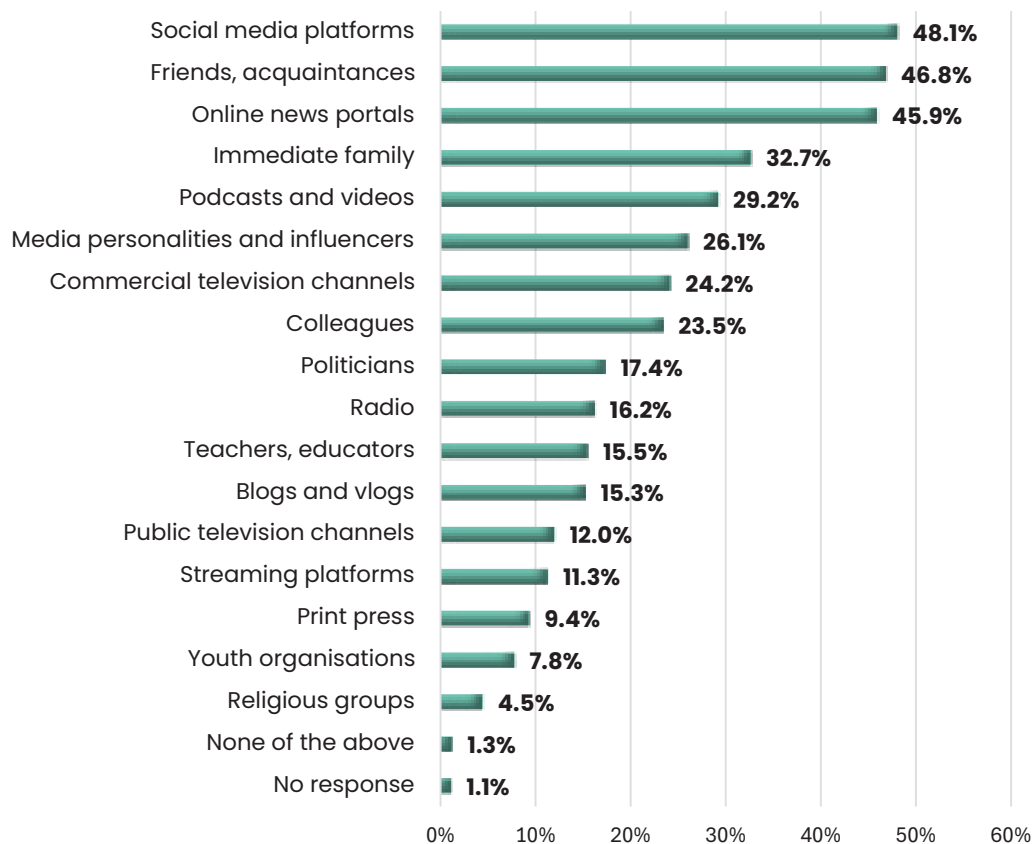
Sociological research has long devoted particular attention to young people's information consumption habits. According to the results of the Eurobarometer survey conducted in EU countries, young people's main sources of news are social media, television and various online platforms. European data show that among social media, Instagram, TikTok, YouTube, Facebook and Twitter stand out as the most popular platforms through which young people obtain information about political, social, cultural and other issues. This clearly illustrates that for the younger generations, social media have become not merely platforms for entertainment, but also one of the most important channels for staying informed about public affairs.

[75] Flash Eurobarometer FL545: The Youth and Democracy and the Eurobarometer Youth Survey 2024 surveys specifically asked respondents about sources of information on matters related to politics and the European Union.

Figure 36
Young people's information consumption habits

Sources most commonly used by young people to get information
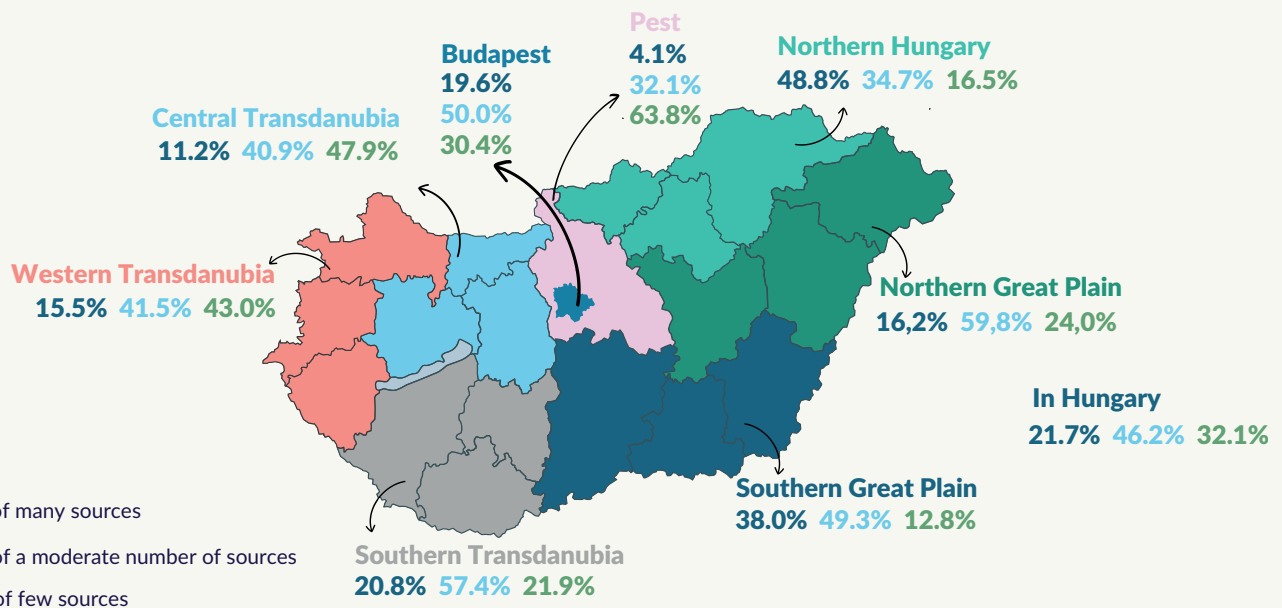(n = 1,012; total number of responses = 3,929)

Source	Percentage
Social media platforms	48.1%
Friends, acquaintances	46.8%
Online news portals	45.9%
Immediate family	32.7%
Podcasts and videos	29.2%
Media personalities and influencers	26.1%
Commercial television channels	24.2%
Colleagues	23.5%
Politicians	17.4%
Radio	16.2%
Teachers, educators	15.5%
Blogs and vlogs	15.3%
Public television channels	12.0%
Streaming platforms	11.3%
Print press	9.4%
Youth organisations	7.8%
Religious groups	4.5%
None of the above	1.3%
No response	1.1%

The results show that most respondents obtain their information primarily from "social media", "friends", "acquaintances" and "online news platforms".

Print media, youth organisations and religious groups rarely serve as regular sources of information. (Figure 36)

The diversity of information sources may strongly influence young people's knowledge. They may gather information on a given topic from multiple sources, or they may tend to rely on one or two familiar outlets that represent a less diverse narrative. To further examine respondents' source and media awareness, young people were classified into three categories based on how many sources they indicated in the multiple-choice question as the ones they usually use to stay informed. These categories were defined as follows: **users of few sources** (indicating up to two sources), **users of a moderate number of sources** (three to five sources) and **users of many sources** (six or more sources).

Figure 37
Amount of sources used by young people by region

Pest
4.1%
32.1%
63.8%

Budapest
19.6%
50.0%
30.4%

Northern Hungary
48.8% 34.7% 16.5%

Central Transdanubia
11.2% 40.9% 47.9%

Western Transdanubia
15.5% 41.5% 43.0%

Northern Great Plain
16,2% 59,8% 24,0%

In Hungary
21.7% 46.2% 32.1%

Southern Great Plain
38.0% 49.3% 12.8%

Southern Transdanubia
20.8% 57.4% 21.9%

■ Users of many sources
■ Users of a moderate number of sources
■ Users of few sources

Although the number of media types used did not appear as a significant variable in the regression model presented in the section on European Union fund utilisation, the regional breakdown revealed interesting correlations. In certain areas, such as Budapest, Pest County, Southern Transdanubia or the Northern Great Plain[76], an inverse correlation was observed between the intensity of media consumption and the perceived efficiency of EU fund usage. In these regions, consuming a higher number of information sources was associated with a significantly lower level of perceived efficiency. In other words, the greater the variety of sources a person uses to stay informed, the more critical they tend to be regarding the efficiency of EU fund utilisation. This phenomenon suggests that an increase in media literacy may be accompanied by a strengthening of critical attitudes on this topic.

The respondents who answered that they used social media platforms, were asked in a follow-up question to provide more details about the specific platforms they use to obtain information.

Figure 38

Social media platforms most commonly used by young Hungarians
(n = 486; total number of responses=2,063)

Leading global platforms – Instagram, Facebook, TikTok and YouTube – were the most frequently mentioned by respondents, indicating that for the target group under study, these platforms serve as the primary sources of information on public affairs. (Figure 38) The use of the Messenger app was cited at a particularly high rate, suggesting a strong reliance on Facebook/Messenger within the domestic digital communication culture. Telegram, LinkedIn and WhatsApp were the least frequently mentioned platforms used for obtaining information.

Facebook	TikTok	Instagram	Messenger	Youtube
84.6%	73.0%	62.5%	61.1%	57.5%
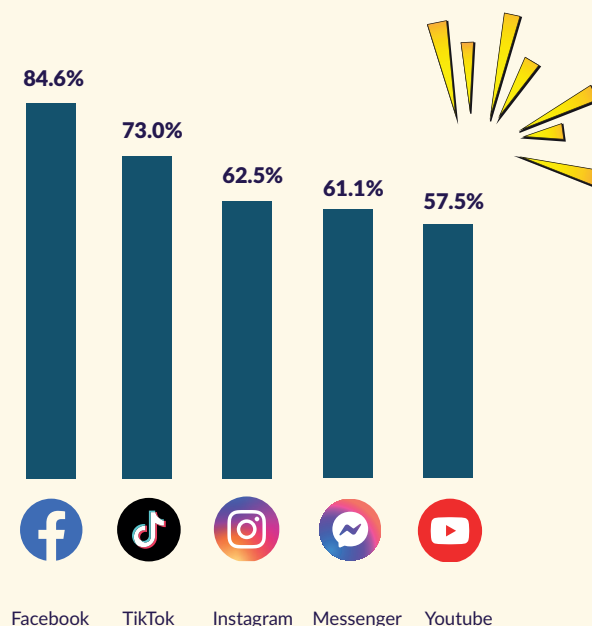
[76] To the relationship between media consumption and the perception of efficiency in the use of European Union funds, the Spearman's rank correlation coefficient and the Cramer's V indicator were applied. In Budapest, the value of the Spearman-correlation was −0.5, and the Cramer's V indicator was 0.46. In Pest County, the values were −0.31 and 0.435, in Southern Transdanubia −0.233 and 0.3, while in the Northern Great Plain region, they were −0.233 and 0.28, respectively.

Chapter 4.10:
Educational approaches related to the fight against corruption

The closing chapter presents the summary of the training and educational approaches organised for young people to strengthen the fight against corruption as well as the recommendations received from the target group

Young people are normally open to most educational formats. They can be divided into three main groups in this regard: those who accept all types of education, those who prefer conventional formats and those who favour more creative approaches to learning.

The education of young people regarding corruption and integrity is particularly important, since the members of this age group today will be the leaders and decision-makers of tomorrow. They will be in a position to influence the corruption-related attitudes of the entire society. Education on corruption at an early age may help reduce tolerance for corrupt practices, enhance the ability to recognise corruption, and strengthen commitment to integrity (Bergin, 2024; Goldin&Katz, 1998). The results of the pre-survey focus group interviews of the KORR-KÉP research programme also indicated that young people may be more accepting of certain forms of corruption in specific cases, particularly those practices that commonly occur in their own lives or the lives of their relatives. This, in the long term, may lead to negative social consequences (Burai&Vajda, 2025). Attitudes towards integrity and anti-corruption, cultivated through education, can therefore foster change not only at the individual level but also at the societal level (Leonard, 2013).

Another benefit of integrity education is that it can reinforce young people's civic awareness and ethical norms, thereby contributing to the reduction of corruption risks across various areas of life. In addition, well-structured and targeted teaching materials equip them with the knowledge and tools necessary to recognise and report corrupt practices, strengthening the rule of law and integrity in society (Bergin, 2024; Bokor&Pulai, 2016). Overall, education is a key factor in curbing corruption and sustaining social trust in the younger generation.

The research invited young people to indicate which of the listed educational options they considered effective, as well as how credible they found different types of speakers. The main aim of these questions was to provide the Integrity Academy with evidence-based insights to inform the design of its future training courses. Thus, in addition to offering an accurate picture of what young Hungarians think and perceive regarding corruption, integrity and the fight against corruption, the survey also provides knowledge that forms the foundation for developing educational materials tailored to them. It also supplies precise information on how the respondents themselves would

consider the proposed training formats to be most effective. The Integrity Academy intends to use these insights to design future training courses that are closely aligned with the needs of the target group, thereby enhancing their engagement and participation.
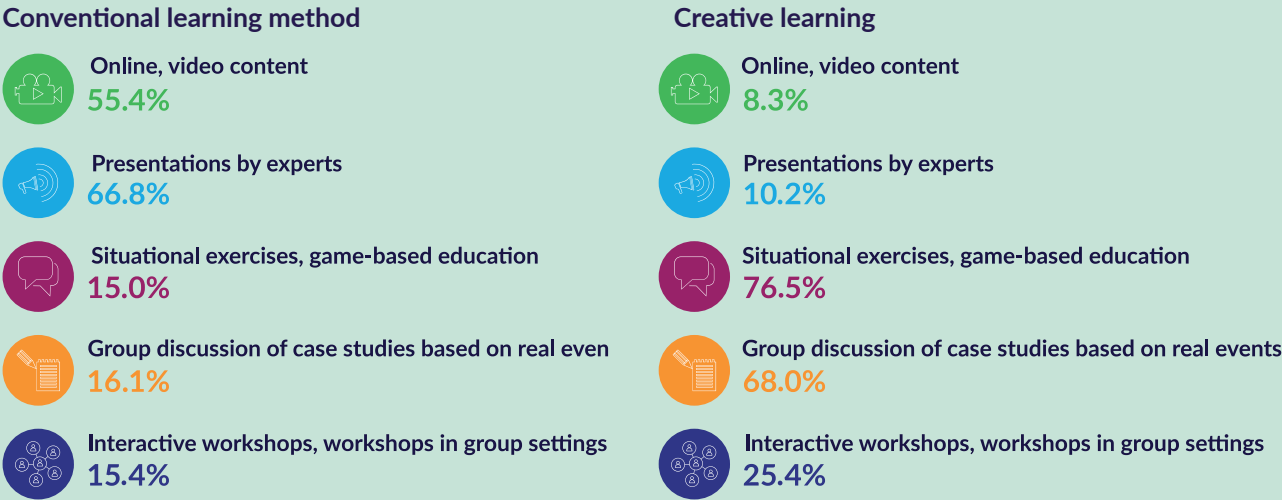
Figure 39
The most effective training formats, according to young people

(n = 1,012; total number of responses = 2,763)

Presentations by experts
62.7%

Situational exercises, game-based education
56.0%

Group discussion of case studies based on real events
53.5%

Online, video content
53.3%

Interactive workshops, workshops in group settings
47.2%

The analysis of young respondents' answers revealed three distinct groups (partly Figure 40). The members of the first group (375 participants) selected almost all the proposed educational formats. The members of the second group (404 participants) favoured more conventional approaches, such

as expert presentations and online video content. By contrast, the third group (232 participants) preferred more creative and interactive learning methods, including group discussions of case studies based on real events, situational exercises and game-based learning activities.

Figure 40

Training formats favoured by young people, arranged in groups

Conventional learning method

Online, video content
55.4%

Presentations by experts
66.8%

Situational exercises, game-based education
15.0%

Group discussion of case studies based on real even
16.1%

Interactive workshops, workshops in group settings
15.4%

Creative learning

Online, video content
8.3%

Presentations by experts
10.2%

Situational exercises, game-based education
76.5%

Group discussion of case studies based on real events
68.0%

Interactive workshops, workshops in group settings
25.4%

The analysis of the preferred learning methods across regions revealed significant differences. In Southern Transdanubia, Pest, Central Transdanubia and the Northern Great Plain regions conventional learning methods clearly predominated. By contrast, creative learning was most popular in Győr-Moson-Sopron County.

Figure 41

Regional distribution of training formats favoured by young people

Budapest
53.8% 22.3% 24.0%

6.0% 58.0% 36.0%

Northern Hungary
50.4% 30.2% 19.4%

Central Transdanubia
35.8% 50.4% 13.8%

Western Transdanubia
46.2% 20.2% 33.5%

Northern Great Plain
23.2% **46.4%** 30.4%

■ Most training formats are appropriate
■ Conventional learning methods
■ Creative learning

Southern Great Plain
53.7% 34.5% 11.8%

Southern Transdanubia
23.4% **65.3%** 11.3%

■ Most training formats are appropriate
■ Conventional learning methods
■ Creative learning

Young respondents were invited to express their opinions not only on the types of training but also on the competence and credibility of the speakers (Figure 42) for the relevant topics. The results indicate a strong correlation between the educational formats considered effective and the number of speakers perceived as credible: respondents who rated multiple training formats as effective generally also identified a greater number of credible speakers[77].

The three most frequently selected types of speakers were "Teachers, university professors", "Experts from anti-corruption authorities" and "Young activists, influencers".

[77] Spearman correlation value 0.69

Figure 42

The most credible speakers in different training programmes, according to young people

(n = 1,012)

Teachers, university professors	**53.9%**
Experts from anti-corruption authorities	**49.4%**
Young activists, influencers	**46.4%**
Experts from anti-corruption public institutions	46.1%
Investigative journalists	43.5%
Public figures, politicians	36.8%
Representatives of civil society organisations	29.9%

The distribution of speakers was also studied across different types of learning. A significant difference emerged only for investigative journalists, who were considered more credible by the group that preferred creative learning methods.

The perceived credibility of different types of speakers on topics of corruption, integrity and anti-corruption efforts showed significant, though relatively weak, correlations with several other questions. Public figures and politicians were regarded as credible instructors primarily by young respondents living in the capital[78]. Respondents from larger settlements, including the capital and county seats,[79] preferred instructors from anti-corruption authorities. Alongside authorities, young respondents living in Budapest were also interested in learning from experts representing institutions engaged in the fight against corruption[80].

[78] sig=0.000, Cramer's V=0.182

[79] sig=0.000, Cramer's V=0.162

[80] sig=0.000, Cramer's V=0.193

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Annexes

Annex 1

The strata created in a county breakdown, the number of types of settlement assigned to specific strata (pcs) and the number of respondents recruited for the particular type of settlement (persons)

STRATUM			POPULATION (Based on the data of a 2022 census)	SAMPLE		
Region	County or district	Type of settlement	young people (aged 15 to 29)	Number of communities selected	Number of interviewees per community	Total number of interviewees
Southern Great Plain	Bács–Kiskun	Town	2.29%	2	12	24
Southern Great Plain	Bács–Kiskun	Village	1.56%	2	8	16
Southern Great Plain	Kecskemét	County seat	1.17%	1	12	12
Southern Great Plain	Békés	Town	1.97%	2	10	20
Southern Great Plain	Békés	Village	0.79%	1	8	8
Southern Great Plain	Békéscsaba	County seat	0.59%	1	6	6
Southern Great Plain	Csongrád	Town	1.42%	1	14	14
Southern Great Plain	Csongrád	Village	0.98%	1	10	10
Southern Great Plain	Szeged	County seat	2.10%	1	21	21
Southern Transdanubia	Baranya	Town	0.90%	1	9	9
Southern Transdanubia	Baranya	Village	1.26%	2	7	14
Southern Transdanubia	Pécs	County seat	1.86%	1	19	19
Southern Transdanubia	Somogy	Town	0.89%	1	9	9
Southern Transdanubia	Somogy	Village	1.42%	2	7	14
Southern Transdanubia	Kaposvár	County seat	0.64%	1	6	6
Southern Transdanubia	Tolna	Town	0.89%	1	9	9
Southern Transdanubia	Tolna	Village	0.96%	1	10	10

Southern Transdanubia	Szekszárd	County seat	0.33%	1	3	3
Northern Great Plain	Hajdú-Bihar	Town	2.43%	2	13	26
Northern Great Plain	Hajdú-Bihar	Village	1.10%	1	11	11
Northern Great Plain	Debrecen	County seat	2.65%	1	27	27
Northern Great Plain	Szabolcs-Szatmár-Bereg	Town	1.97%	2	10	20
Northern Great Plain	Szabolcs-Szatmár-Bereg	Village	2.69%	3	9	27
Northern Great Plain	Nyíregyháza	County seat	1.31%	1	13	13
Northern Great Plain	Jász-Nagykun-Szolnok	Town	1.94%	2	10	20
Northern Great Plain	Jász-Nagykun-Szolnok	Village	1.10%	1	11	11
Northern Great Plain	Szolnok	County seat	0.72%	1	7	7
Northern Hungary	Borsod-Abaúj-Zemplén	Town	2.41%	2	12	24
Northern Hungary	Borsod-Abaúj-Zemplén	Village	3.04%	3	10	30
Northern Hungary	Miskolc	County seat	1.77%	1	18	18
Northern Hungary	Heves	Town	0.81%	1	8	8
Northern Hungary	Heves	Village	1.54%	2	8	16
Northern Hungary	Eger	County seat	0.64%	1	6	6
Northern Hungary	Nógrád	Town	0.46%	1	5	5
Northern Hungary	Nógrád	Village	1.11%	1	11	11
Northern Hungary	Salgótarján	County seat	0.33%	1	3	3
Central Transdanubia	Fejér	Town	1.51%	1	15	15
Central Transdanubia	Fejér	Village	1.80%	2	9	18
Central Transdanubia	Székesfehérvár	County seat	0.99%	1	10	10
Central Transdanubia	Komárom-Esztergom	Town	1.30%	1	13	13
Central Transdanubia	Komárom-Esztergom	Village	1.03%	1	10	10
Central Transdanubia	Tatabánya	County seat	0.68%	1	7	7
Central Transdanubia	Veszprém	Town	1.46%	2	8	16
Central Transdanubia	Veszprém	Village	1.28%	2	7	14
Central Transdanubia	Veszprém	County seat	0.71%	1	7	7

Central Hungary	Pest	Town	7.72%	5	16	80
Central Hungary	Pest	Village	4.02%	4	10	40
Central Hungary	Budapest 01	Capital	0.22%	1	2	2
Central Hungary	Budapest 02	Capital	0.73%	1	7	7
Central Hungary	Budapest 03	Capital	1.22%	1	12	12
Central Hungary	Budapest 04	Capital	1.00%	1	10	10
Central Hungary	Budapest 05	Capital	0.88%	1	9	9
Central Hungary	Budapest 06	Capital	0.28%	1	3	3
Central Hungary	Budapest 07	Capital	0.50%	1	5	5
Central Hungary	Budapest 08	Capital	0.77%	1	8	8
Central Hungary	Budapest 09	Capital	1.04%	1	10	10
Central Hungary	Budapest 10	Capital	0.86%	1	9	9
Central Hungary	Budapest 11	Capital	1.71%	1	17	17
Central Hungary	Budapest 12	Capital	0.49%	1	5	5
Central Hungary	Budapest 13	Capital	1.33%	1	13	13
Central Hungary	Budapest 14	Capital	1.32%	1	13	13
Central Hungary	Budapest 15	Capital	0.54%	1	5	5
Central Hungary	Budapest 16	Capital	0.76%	1	8	8
Central Hungary	Budapest 17	Capital	0.64%	1	6	6
Central Hungary	Budapest 18	Capital	0.79%	1	8	8
Central Hungary	Budapest 19	Capital	0.89%	1	9	9
Central Hungary	Budapest 20	Capital	0.57%	1	6	6
Central Hungary	Budapest 21	Capital	0.71%	1	7	7
Central Hungary	Budapest 22	Capital	0.53%	1	5	5
Central Hungary	Budapest 23	Capital	0.22%	1	2	2
Western Transdanubia	Győr-Moson-Sopron	Town	1.38%	1	14	14
Western Transdanubia	Győr-Moson-Sopron	Municipality	1.73%	2	9	18
Western Transdanubia	Győr	County seat	1.43%	1	14	14
					7	7

a

					7	7
Western Transdanubia	Vas	Town	0.73%	1	7	7
Western Transdanubia	Vas	Village	0.93%	1	9	9
Western Transdanubia	Szombathely	County seat	0.76%	1	8	8
Western Transdanubia	Zala	Town	0.87%	1	9	9
Western Transdanubia	Zala	Village	1.10%	1	11	11
Western Transdanubia	Zalaegerszeg	County seat	0.56%	1	6	6
Total			100%	104		1012

Annex 2

Groups according to educational attainment

Classification of Educational Attainment

Classification of educational attainment	
Elemantary education	Grade 8 or below
Secondary education	Only secondary vocational education (e.g. vocational school, trade school) Only secondary education with high school diploma (e.g. high school) Secondary education providing both vocational qualification and a high school diploma (e.g. vocational secondary school, technical school, vocational high school) Post-secondary vocational qualification based on a high school diploma
Higher education	Higher education vocational training certificate Bachelor's degree, BA, BSc Master's degree, MA, MSc Doctoral degree, PhD (* None of the respondents selected this option)

Annex 3

Ordinal regression results

Dependent variable: jollet_csoport

Independent variables: Kk6_2 + Kk6_3 + Kk6_4 + Kk6_88 + Zk2_2 + Zk2_3 + Zk2_4 + Zk2_5 + Zk2_6 + Zk2_88 + Zk2_99 + Ik4_10_2 + Ik4_10_99 + Ik1_7_2 + Rk1_10_2 + Rk1_10_99 + Zk1_2 + Zk1_3 + Zk1_4 + Zk1_5 + Zk1_88 + Zk1_99 + Kk1_11_2 + Kk1_11_88 + Ik1_1_2

Explanatory variables:
1. Kk6 – How does corruption affect your everyday life?

2. Zk2 – How can the full income of your household cover the regular expenses necessary for the maintenance of your household?

3. Ik4 – Do you trust the media?

4. Ik1 – We may take several factors into consideration in our everyday decisions and actions. Which ones of the following do you take into consideration when making your everyday decisions?

5. Rk1 – Have you ever......spoken up or taken action for any cause or in any matter that was important for your neighbourhood or your community over the past five years?

6. Zk1 – Think of the household where you live. What is the approximate monthly total net income of your household? Please select the first category that applies to you.

7. Kk1 – Do you think it constitutes corruption if... ...an influential local government representative arranges for the adoption of a municipal decree that benefits the construction company of a close friend

Indicator	Value
C-index (Harrell)	0.753
Somers D	0.506
Ordinal Brier Score	0.185
Classification accuracy	0.524
Log-Likelihood:	-929.110
Nagelkerke R^2	0.311
Cox & Snell R^2	0.275

OrderedModel Results						
McFadden R² = 0,149			Nagelkerke R² = 0,310			
	coef	std	z	P>|z|	[0.025	0.975]
Kk6_3	-0.3927	0.2	-1 960	0.050	-0.785	2.68E-05	*
Kk6_4	-0.5047	0.226	-2 236	0.025	-0.947	-0.062	*
Zk2_3	1.3337	0.471	2 833	0.005	0,411	2 256	**
Zk2_4	1.9152	0.468	4 095	0.000	0.999	2 832	***
Zk2_5	2.1392	0.491	4 360	0.000	1 178	3 101	***
Zk2_6	2.0008	0.652	3 070	0.002	0.724	3 278	**
Zk2_88	2.5597	0.621	4 121	0.000	1 342	3 777	***
Zk2_99	2.2236	0.538	4 134	0.000	1 169	3 278	***
Ik4_10_2	-0.6712	0.136	-4 933	0.000	-0,938	-0.405	***
Ik4_10_99	-0.9720	0.301	-3 229	0.001	-1 562	-0.382	***
Ik1_7_2	-0.7141	0.142	-5 034	0.000	-0.992	-0.436	***
Rk1_10_2	0.9967	0.209	4 767	0.000	0.587	1 406	***
Zk1_99	0.6830	0.252	2 706	0.007	0.188	1 178	**
Kk1_11_2	-0.7507	0.205	-3 659	0.000	-1 153	-0.349	***
Kk1_11_88	-1.0200	0.47	-2 170	0.030	-1 941	-0.099	*
Ik1_1_2	-0.5146	0.132	-3 889	0.000	-0.774	-0.255	***
2/3	0.7057	0.048	14 855	0.000	0.613	0.799	***
1/2	0.3926	0.546	0.719	0.472	-0.678	1 463	-
Rk1_10_99	0.5113	0.577	0.887	0.375	-0.619	1 642	-
Zk1_2	0.0461	0.261	0.176	0.860	-0.466	0.558	-
Zk1_3	-0.1041	0.253	-0.411	0.681	-0.601	0.393	-
Zk1_4	-0.0952	0.323	-0.294	0.769	-0.729	0.539	-
Zk1_5	0.2565	0.716	0.358	0.720	-1 146	1 659	-
Zk1_88	0.0318	0.316	0.101	0.920	-0.587	0.651	-
Kk6_88	0.4843	0.264	1 836	0.066	-0.033	1 001	-
Zk2_2	0.6981	0.547	1 277	0.202	-0.373	1 770	-
Kk6_2	-0.0097	0.168	-0.058	0.954	-0.338	0.319	-

Annex 4

The relationship between the answers to the questions about trust and accountability, established through the chi-squared test

Institution	Relation between trust and accountability
Police	sig=0.000 ; Cramer's V=0.624
Courts	sig=0.000 ; Cramer's V=0.637
Educational institutions	sig=0.000 ; Cramer's V=0.568
Municipalities	sig=0.000 ; Cramer's V=0.595
Government windows, registrar's offices, government offices	sig=0.000 ; Cramer's V=0.559
Banks, financial institutions	sig=0.000 ; Cramer's V=0.503
Government institutions, ministries	sig=0.000 ; Cramer's V=0.559
Public healthcare	sig=0.000 ; Cramer's V=0.531
Media	sig=0.000 ; Cramer's V=0.437
Businesses, private firms	sig=0.000 ; Cramer's V=0.547
Civil society organisations	sig=0.000 ; Cramer's V=0.544
Religious institutions	sig=0.000 ; Cramer's V=0.568

Annex 5

Result of the paired-sample t-test

Variables	Average	Standard deviation	t-value	Sig (2-tailed)	Degree of freedom
1. Index formed from three questions regarding personal integrity and honesty – in relation to others 2. Index formed from three questions regarding personal integrity and honesty – in relation to themselves	-1.012	0.848	36.294	0	925

Annex 6

All of the case examples that respondents were invited to indicate whether they consider them to be corruption:

Acts of corruption	Corruption (%)	Not corruption (%)	Don't know (%)
The leader of a foundation aiding disadvantaged children uses part of the incoming monetary donations to finance their own holiday.	87.00%	12.30%	0.70%
A high-ranking university professor offers to help the child of a family they know gain admission to a selected university degree programme in exchange for a small amount of money.	85.10%	13.10%	1.80%
An individual who had previously worked for a private pharmaceutical company takes a position in the Minstry of Health where they are involved in passing laws that may benefit their former employer.	84.00%	13.30%	2.70%
Someone pays a public official to fast-track the processing of a request for planning permisison through their superior.	84.20%	13.60%	2.20%
An influential local government representative arranges for the adoption of a municipal decree that benefits the construction company of a close friend.	84.10%	13.60%	2.30%
A vehicle in poor condition passes a safety inspection because the owner gives money to the inspector.	84.20%	14.40%	1.40%
A school hires a relative or acquaintance of the principal, even though there were more qualified candidates.	83.00%	15.30%	1.70%
A doctor accepts a foreign trip from a pharmaceutical distribution company in exchange for prescribing that company's medications to their patients.	82.30%	15.20%	2.50%
A driver caught speeding gives cash to the police officer in order to avoid a fine.	82.70%	16.10%	1.30%
A mayor gives excessively high year-end bonuses to office employees.	79.00%	18.00%	3.00%
A nurse accepts an expensive smartwatch from a patient or their relative in exchange for more attentive care.	79.30%	18.30%	2.40%

Annex 7

Binary logistic regression model

Dependent variable: recode_csop_kk6 (To what extent does corruption affect your everyday life? Grouped variable (0-not at all or slightly, 1-to a great extent or completely

Independent variables:
csalall (The respondent's marital status)

Zk2 - (How can the full income of your household cover the regular expenses necessary for the maintenance of your household?

county (county of the respondent's residence)

Zk4 (How much would you say you are interested in politics on the whole?)

round_wellb_csoportosított (grouped variable derived from the well-being index)

Age (the respondent's age)

Kk16_index (Index derived from the questions of How much do you think bribery and pay-offs are widespread in public institutions?).

Logistic regression results						
AUC = 0.82; Nagelkerke R2 = 0.42						
Feature	**coef**	**OR**	**std**	**z**	**P>|z|**	**VIF**
Zk4_4	2.06	7.84	0.41	5.06	0.00	1.14
megyenev_Szabolcs _Szatmár_Bereg	1.56	4.78	0.44	3.56	0.00	1.11
megyenev_Jász_Nag ykun_Szolnok	1.40	4.07	0.51	2.73	0.01	1.06
Zk4_3	1.28	3.60	0.22	5.75	0.00	1.16
Jk1_index_kat_1	1.17	3.24	0.25	4.76	0.00	1.19
megyenev_Pest	1.02	2.77	0.30	3.37	0.00	1.32
megyenev_Budapest	0.77	2.17	0.31	2.49	0.01	1.29
Kk16_index	0,47	1.61	0.12	3.79	0.00	1.25
kor	-0.03	0.97	0.03	-0.84	0.40	1.29
Zk2_4	-0.43	0.65	0.21	-2.03	0.04	1.04
csalall_1	-0.72	0.49	0.26	-2.77	0.01	1.28
megyenev_Borsod_A baúj_Zemplén	-0.91	0.40	0.38	-2.38	0.02	1.16
const	-1.71	0.18	0.89	-1.93	0.05	73.98
megyenev_Baranya	-1.90	0.15	0.79	-2.42	0.02	1.09
megyenev_Fejér	-2.36	0.09	0.78	-3.04	0.00	1.11

Annex 8

KORR–KÉP questionnaire response options	Special Eurobarometer response options
They fear that reporting might get them into trouble with the authorities	Those who report cases get into trouble with the police or with other authorities
They don't know where to report such cases	Do not know where to report it to
They believe it would be difficult to prove	Difficult to prove anything
Nothing happens even after reporting, so it's not worth the effort	It is not worth the effort of reporting it
They fear that those responsible might avoid punishment	Reporting it would be pointless because those responsible will not be punished
They fear that those who report such cases are not protected	There is no protection for those who report corruption
Others don't report such cases either	Everyone knows about these cases and no one reports them
People don't want to betray each other	No one wants to betray anyone
None of the above	Other

Annex 9

Binary logistic regression model

Dependent variable: How efficiently do you think the funds received for the developments accomplished? Grouped variable 0: Not at all or only slightly efficiently; 1: Fairly efficiently or completely efficiently. (With "Don't know" or "Prefer not to answer" filtered out).

Independent variables:
county (county of the respondent's residence)

Kk1_index_kat (1 if the respondent marked all of the corruption case examples as corruption)

Kk4 (How has the prevalence of corruption evolved over the past 5 years in Hungary)

Kk5 (What do you think about the prevalence of corruption related to European Union funds?)

Zk6 (Political leaning: 1 – clearly pro-government, 7 – clearly pro-opposition)

Zk7 (If elections were held this Sunday, would you cast your vote?)

Ik3_index: (Deriving index from the subjective opinion of other people in certain situations)

Kk16_index (Index derived from the questions of How much do you think bribery and pay-offs are widespread in public institutions?).

Logistic regression results						
AUC = 0.82; Nagelkerke R2 = 0.36						
Feature	coef	OR	std_err	z	p	VIF
regio_Nyugat_Dunántúl	1.24	3.47	0.44	2.79	0.01	1.07
Kk1_index_indik_1	0.89	2.43	0.26	3.36	0.00	1.34
Kk5	0.47	1.61	0.13	3.71	0.00	1.30
Zk6	0.30	1.35	0.08	3.75	0.00	1.22
Zk7	−0.12	0.89	0.13	−0.94	0.34	1.27
Ik3_index	−0.22	0.80	0.17	−1.27	0.20	1.46
Kk4	−0.30	0.74	0.12	−2.59	0.01	1.42
const	−0.41	0.66	0.99	−0.41	0.68	83.14
Kk15_index	−0.46	0.63	0.17	−2.80	0.01	1.33
megyenev_Hajdú_Bihar	−1.57	0.21	0.49	−3.19	0.00	1.03

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INTEGRITY ACADEMY

The Integrity Academy is a project of the Hungarian Integrity Authority aimed at shaping social attitudes.

For more information