

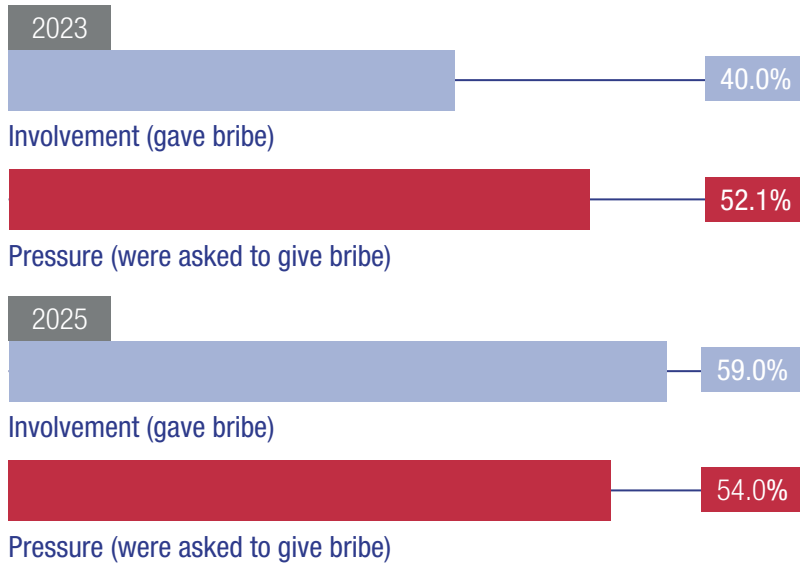
# CORRUPTION PRESSURE AND INVOLVEMENT IN CORRUPTION

Citizens' experiences with corruption are linked to two main indicators of administrative corruption: involvement, meaning giving a bribe, and pressure, which refers to being asked for a bribe. The data show that **59.0%** of citizens admit to having given a bribe, either directly or indirectly, to public officials.

This indicator **has increased by approximately 19% compared to 2023**, indicating a significant deterioration in the situation. The pressure indicator follows the same trend, with **54.0%** of respondents reporting that they were asked for a bribe.

## Corruption pressure and involvement in corruption

% of citizens aged +18 who were asked to give or gave a bribe (money, services, gifts) — in the past year



- ▶ In 2025, 54% of citizens were exposed to corruption pressure, while 59.0% were involved in corrupt practices.
- ▶ Compared to 2023, the level of involvement has increased by approximately 19%.
- ▶ An important element is the narrowing of the gap between pressure and involvement.
- ▶ While in previous years, for example in 2023, pressure (52.1%) was significantly higher than involvement (40.0%), in 2025 citizens are participating more broadly in corrupt practices even when pressure is not higher. This indicates a gradual normalization of bribery as a means to expedite or resolve administrative matters.

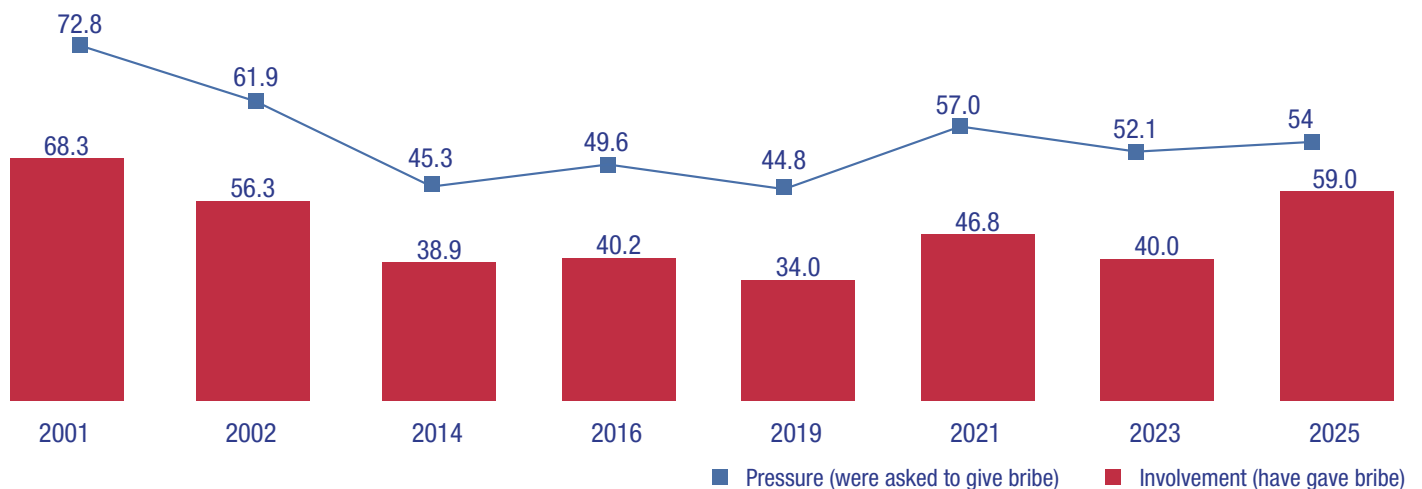
## Projections of pressure and involvement in corruption

Survey result		Population number (projection):
54.0%	Pressure	1,276,188
59.0%	People	1,395,555

- ▶ If a projection is made based on the latest population estimate, in 2025, almost **1,276,188** adult citizens were asked for a bribe at least once, and over **1,395,555** citizens gave bribe at least once in the past year, indicating widespread administrative corruption.

## Corruption Pressure & Involvement in corruption

ACER, CMS 2025

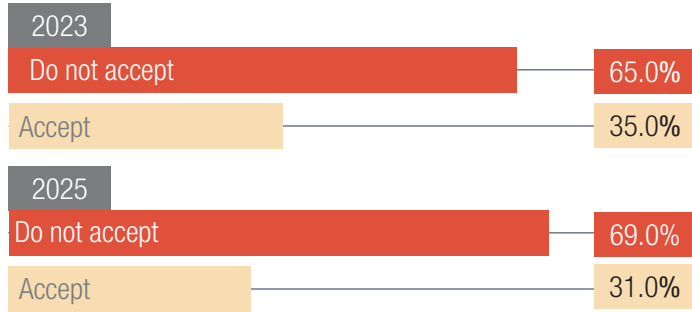


# ATTITUDES TOWARD CORRUPTION

## ACCEPTANCE OF CORRUPTION (%)

The index reflects whether citizens consider it acceptable for members of parliament, the government, or officials in ministries and municipalities to receive gifts, money, favors, or free meals in exchange for resolving a citizen's personal issue.

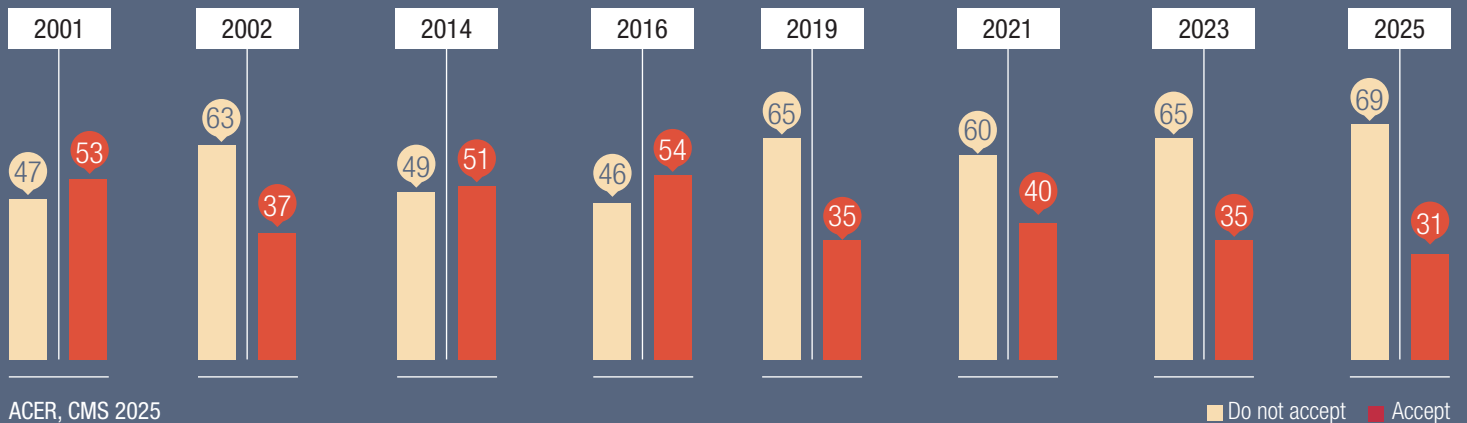
% of citizens 18+ who accept different forms of corruption:



The results show that the majority of citizens (**69%**) do not consider this type of practice acceptable, marking an increase of **4%** compared to **2023**. **31%** of respondents consider bribery acceptable, a notable decrease compared to **35%** in **2023**.

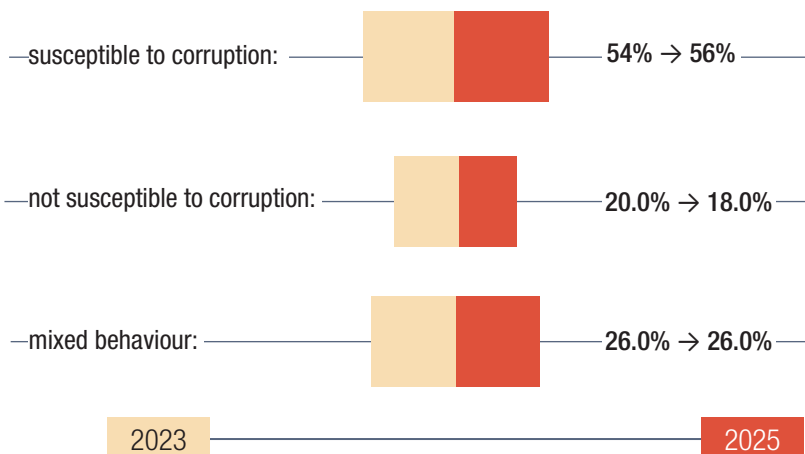
The projection shows that for approximately **733,627** adult citizens, corruption is an acceptable way of behavior, a significant decrease from previous surveys. This change indicates a growing public awareness of corruption and a more critical stance toward unfair practices.

## Acceptability of corruption



## SUSCEPTIBILITY TO CORRUPTION (%)

The susceptibility index assesses the extent to which citizens are likely to compromise their values when under pressure, particularly in real-life situations where they must decide whether to engage in corrupt practices, fully aware of the immediate consequences of their choice.

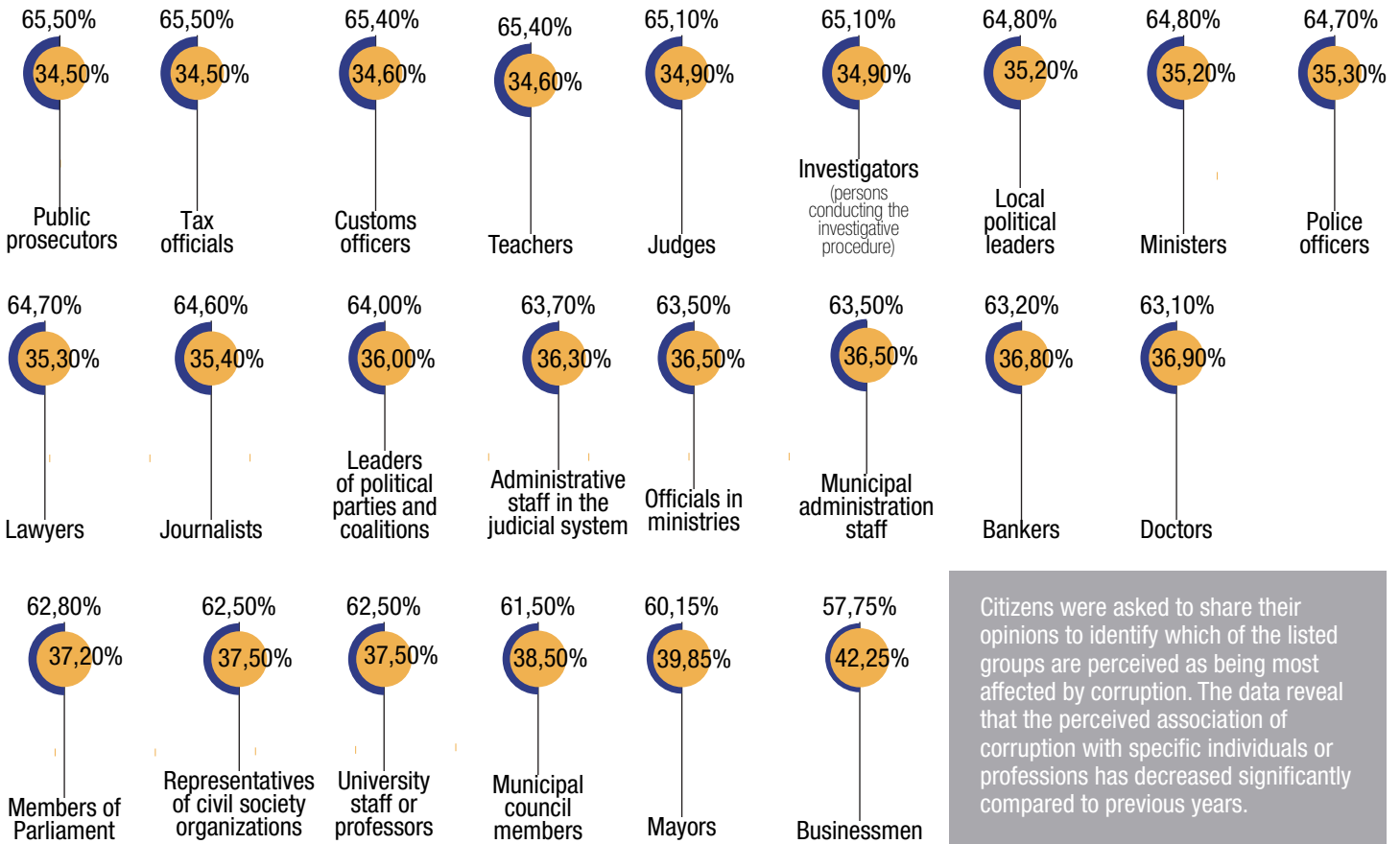


- ▶ The year **2025** represents a continuation of the trend observed in **2023**, without significant structural changes in attitudes toward corruption. **56%** of respondents are classified as sensitive to corruption.
- ▶ At the same time, **18%** of respondents remain insensitive to corruption, indicating that a segment of society continues to exhibit tolerance or indifference toward these practices.
- ▶ Although this percentage has not increased, its presence signals a structural problem that remains persistent over time.
- ▶ Mixed-behavior respondents make up **26%** of those surveyed, confirming the existence of an intermediate group with ambivalent attitudes, shifting between rejecting and justifying corruption depending on the circumstances.



# PERCEPTION OF CORRUPTION

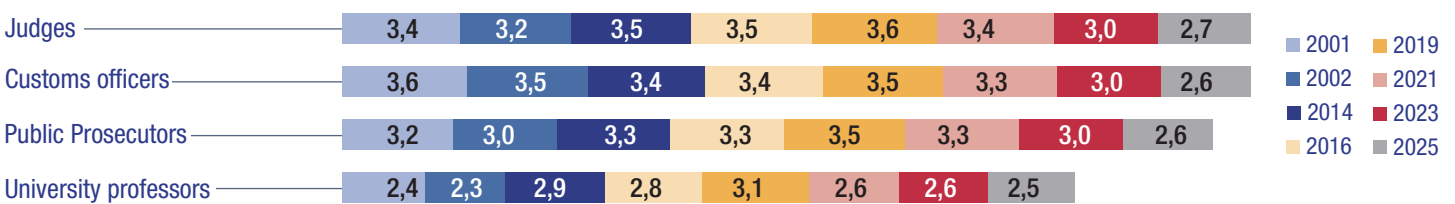
## CITIZENS' PERCEPTION OF CORRUPTNESS BY PROFESSIONS



Citizens were asked to share their opinions to identify which of the listed groups are perceived as being most affected by corruption. The data reveal that the perceived association of corruption with specific individuals or professions has decreased significantly compared to previous years.

■ Almost everyone is involved/ Most are involved ■ Few are involved/ Scarcely anyone is involved

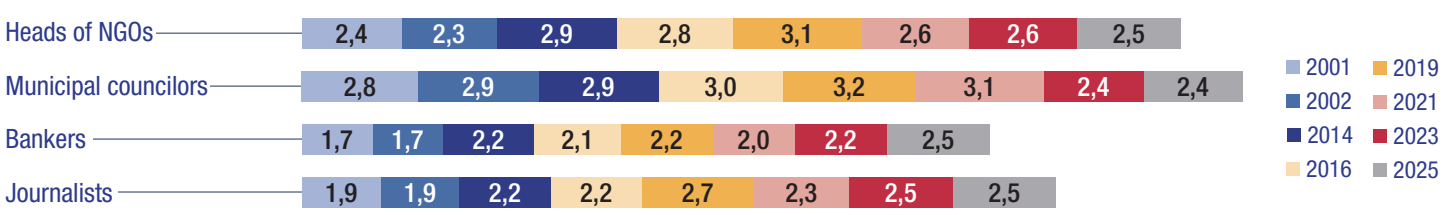
### Perceptions of corruption for public officials – the most corrupt



► In past years, citizens identified judges, customs officers, public prosecutors, court officials, and political leaders as the most corrupt groups. This year, the last two categories have been replaced by tax officials and university lecturers.

► This change is significant and represents a distinctive phenomenon, as university lecturers were previously perceived as one of the groups least affected by corruption.

### Perceptions of corruption for public officials – least corrupted



► The groups perceived by citizens as the least corrupt remain journalists and municipal councilors, maintaining the same classification as in previous years.

► This year the group also includes two new categories, replacing teachers and university lecturers: bankers and leaders of non-governmental organizations.

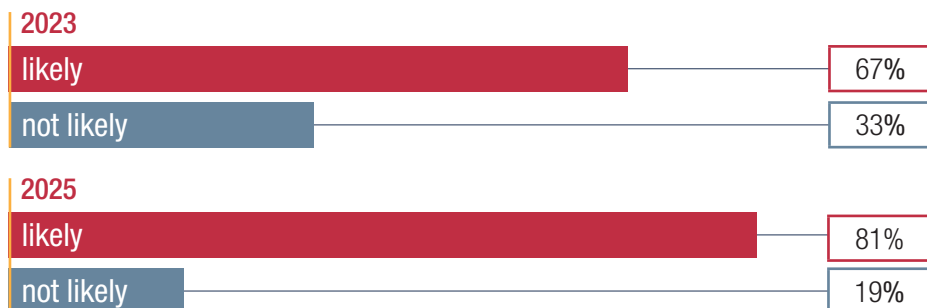


# PERCEPTION OF CORRUPTION

## LIKELIHOOD OF CORRUPTION PRESSURE

Perceptions of likelihood of corruption pressure - % of citizens 18+ who consider corruption pressure is very likely or likely v/s not likely or not likely at all

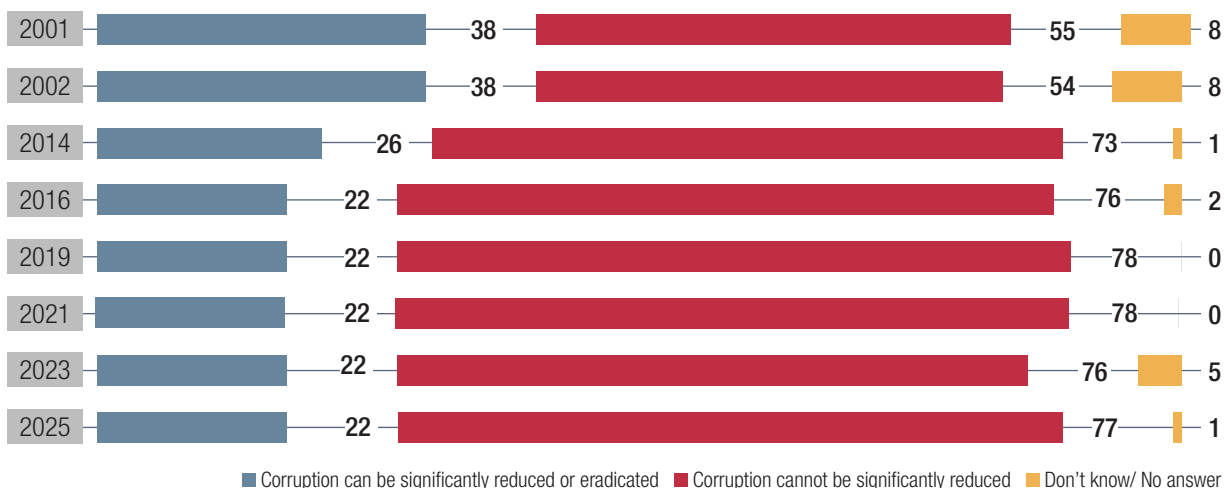
### Perceptions of the likelihood of corruption pressure (%)



- ▶ A parallel trend is the decline in the share of respondents who do not consider using bribery for necessary services, from **33%** in **2023** to **19%** in **2025**, indicating an increased likelihood of corruption pressure.
- ▶ The rise in the probability of using bribery and the decline in confidence that services can be obtained without corrupt involvement highlight the need for a strengthened institutional framework.

## FEASIBILITY OF POLICY RESPONSES TO CORRUPTION

### Perceptions of feasibility of policy responses to corruption (%)



The results show that citizens remain quite pessimistic about the future: **77%** believe that the current situation will continue, while only **22%** hope for a future with lower levels of corruption.

This trend aligns with assessments from previous years and highlights a gap between improving individual citizen behavior and institutional actions, which still appear insufficient to fully meet citizens' expectations and interests.

When citizens assess the decision-making process in their country, the majority appear skeptical about the representation of public interest.

Only **10%** believe that government decisions reflect citizens' needs, while the largest share, around **44%**, thinks that decisions favor political parties.

This indicates a clear perception that decision-making is not focused on the general interest but rather on the private interests of the most powerful groups in society.

### Government decisions serving private interests

