

World Justice Project **EUROVOICES 2024**

Insights



World Justice Project EUROVOICES

World Justice Project EUROVOICES evaluates, analyzes, and maps out national and regional variations in how people in the European Union (EU) perceive and experience democratic governance, fundamental rights, justice, safety, corruption, transparency, regulatory enforcement, and the business climate.

It is an independent research project conducted by the World Justice Project, with the support of the European Commission Directorate General for Regional and Urban Policy (DG REGIO).

World Justice Project

The World Justice Project (WJP) is an independent, multidisciplinary, organization working to advance the rule of law worldwide.

As the leading source for original rule of law data, our research products are used to advance rule of law reforms, inform development strategies, and guide business investment around the globe.

Our flagship *WJP Rule of Law Index*® offers a unique comparative analysis of adherence to universal rule of law principles in 142 countries and jurisdictions. *World Justice Project EUROVOICES 2024* complements the Index with its deeper, tailored analysis of the rule of law in the EU at the national and subnational levels.

World Justice Project EUROVOICES at glance

A massive data collection exercise on people's perceptions and experiences of the rule of law.

Based on in-depth surveys to over

72,000
Local people

64,000+
People's voices

PEOPLE'S VOICES

- Answers to 280 questions, that can be disaggregated by age, sex, income and urbanization.
- Data presented in percentages.

8,000+
Expert opinions

EXPERT SCORECARD

- Evaluation of 49 dimensions of the rule of law by our network of legal practitioners and academics.
- Scores from 0 to 1.
- 600 questions, 4 questionnaires.





27 EU Member States

110 Subnational regions

3

In-Depth Reports

Democracy & Fundamental Rights

Justice & Safety

Transparency & Corruption



REGULATORY ENFORCEMENT

CIVIL JUSTICE

FREEDOM OF MEDIA

CORRUPTION

ACCESS TO JUSTICE

ADRS

TRANSPARENCY

DUE PROCESS

CRIMINAL JUSTICE

ELECTIONS

EQUAL RIGHTS

POLICE

CIVIC PARTICIPATION

DISCRIMINATION

SAFETY

SURVEYS

5 questionnaires

880 questions

20+ languages translated

Map of Indicators

2. Government Respect for Checks on Power

- 2.1 Government respect for the constitution and political opponents
- 2.2 Government respect for judicial independence
- 2.3 Government respect for independent oversight
- 2.4 Government respect for independent prosecution
- 2.5 Government respect for the electoral system
- 2.6 Government respect for civil liberties

3. Civic Participation

- 3.1 Civic participation

4. Fundamental Rights

- 4.1 Prohibition of torture and inhuman treatment
- 4.2 Prohibition of slavery and forced labor
- 4.3 Freedom of thought, conscience and religion
- 4.4 Freedom of peaceful assembly and association
- 4.5 Freedom of opinion and expression
- 4.6 Right to property
- 4.7 Right to asylum
- 4.8 Equality before the law
- 4.9 Workers' rights
- 4.10 Right to vote and to stand as a candidate at elections
- 4.11 Right of access to documents
- 4.12 Right to petition
- 4.13 Right of movement and of residence
- 4.14 Due process of law

1. Checks on Government Powers

- 1.1 Legislative oversight
- 1.2 Judicial independence
- 1.3 Independent oversight
- 1.4 Independent prosecution
- 1.5 Free, fair, and secure elections
- 1.6 Non-governmental checks



5. Civil Justice

- 5.1 Legal capability
- 5.2 Access to legal aid and representation in case of civil disputes
- 5.3 Accessible, appropriate, and timely dispute resolution
- 5.4 Impartial and independent dispute resolution
- 5.5 Effective and outcome-oriented dispute resolution
- 5.6 Alternative dispute resolution mechanisms

7. Safety

- 7.1 Perceptions of safety*
- 7.2 Control of violence*

8. Control of Corruption

- 8.1 Absence of bribery
- 8.2 Absence of corrupt procurement practices
- 8.3 Absence of embezzlement
- 8.4 Absence of favoritism
- 8.5 Absence of corrupt electoral practices

9. Transparency and Access to Information

- 9.1 Transparency and access to information

10. Administrative Proceedings, Regulatory Enforcement, and Right to Property

- 10.1 Clear, predictable, and timely administrative proceedings
- 10.2 Right to property
- 10.3 Regulatory enforcement

6. Criminal Justice

- 6.1 Effective and impartial criminal investigation
- 6.2 Effective and impartial prosecution and pre-trial proceedings
- 6.3 Effective and impartial criminal adjudication
- 6.4 Alternative criminal justice mechanisms
- 6.5 Victims' rights
- 6.6 Due process of law
- 6.7 Rights of persons deprived of liberty

*Only measured through People's Voices.



People can vote freely

Most people in EU regions agree that they can vote freely, without feeling harassed or pressured.



Fundamental freedoms are protected

The freedoms of assembly, association, and expression are well-protected across most EU regions; however, some regions are falling short in upholding these essential rights.



People worry about misinformation

Most people in EU regions believe senior government officials use misinformation to shape public opinion in their favor.



Discrimination is a challenge across the EU regions

Over 25% of people faced discrimination during the past year in approximately 80% of EU regions.

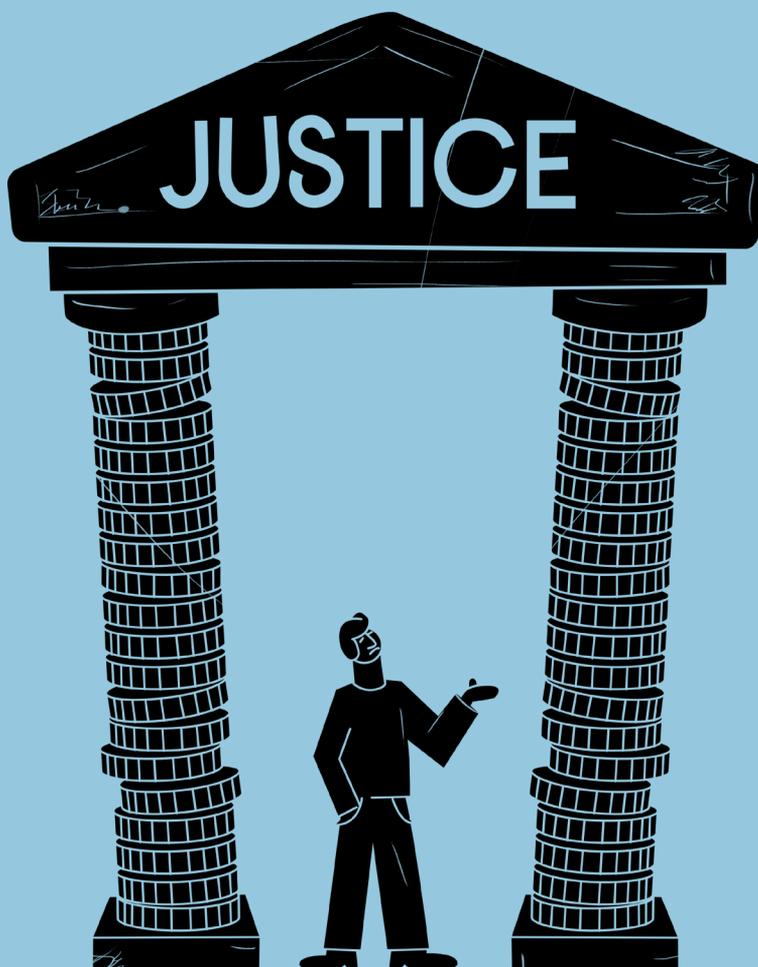
Most people who experienced legal problems got the advice they needed

Legal problems are ubiquitous across EU regions. People facing legal problems have access to quality information and advice, and, to a lesser extent, appropriate assistance and representation, with important variations between regions.



In general, people believe that justice is expensive

Across EU regions, respondents think that most people cannot easily afford the costs of legal assistance and representation, or the costs of dispute resolution mechanisms if they face a legal problem, with significant variations between regions.



Criminal justice is generally considered effective, but not everyone feels they benefit equally

Most people in EU regions agree that the criminal justice system is effective and respects the rights of both victims and the accused, though there are important variations between regions. However, many believe that not everyone is treated equally.





For the most part, people do not think that state institutions are corrupt

Across EU regions, most people do not believe courts, parliaments, or other state institutions are corrupt. However, concerns exist regarding national governments and parliaments in regions of about a third of EU countries. Additionally, in regions of more than half of EU countries, people believe that political parties are the most corrupt compared to other state institutions.



Anticorruption measures are seen as ineffective

Across EU regions, most people believe government efforts to control corruption have been ineffective so far.



Authorities are perceived as transparent and providing information

Expert assessments of transparency and access to information at local level across EU regions are to a large extent positive, and most people believe that local authorities provide accessible information.

Governance is important for development

Across EU regions, where democratic governance
is stronger, so is economic development.



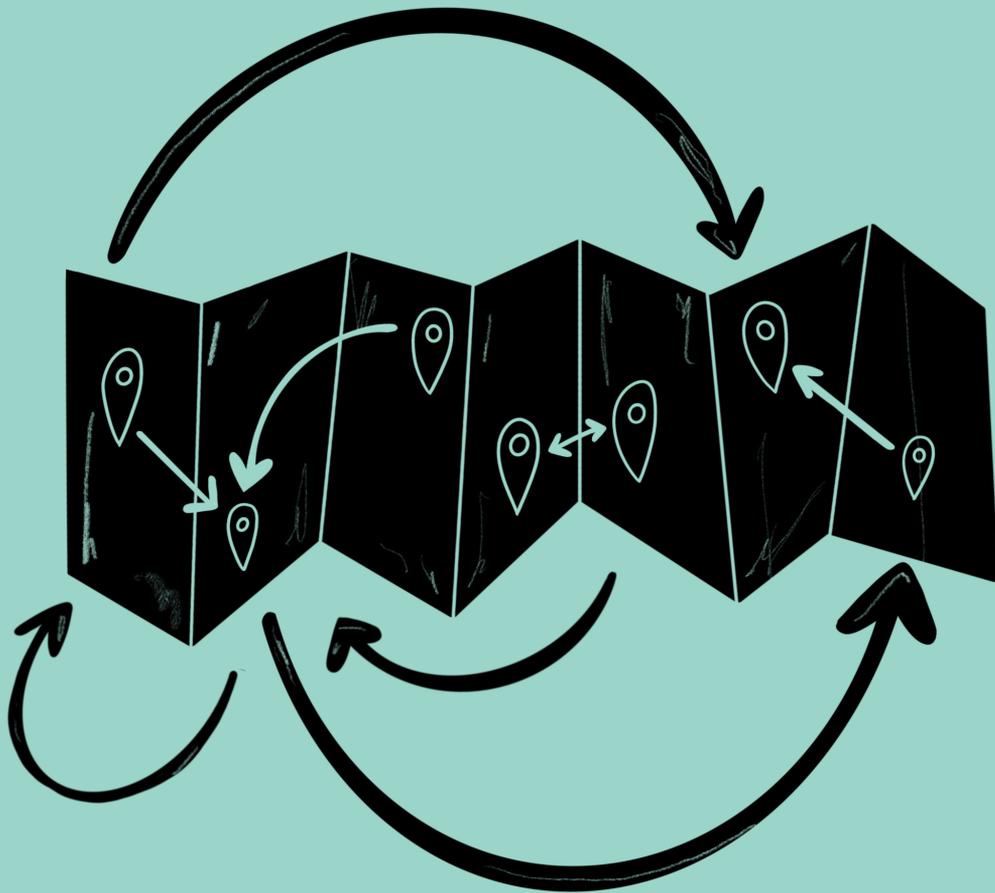
People have more trust in local authorities

Public trust is higher in local authorities than in national governments across EU regions, with 52% of respondents trusting local governments compared to 41% for national ones.



Governance varies less within countries than across them

Public perceptions of the rule of law vary more between countries than across regions of the same country.



People in urban and rural areas largely agree on justice and the rule of law, with some exceptions

Across EU regions, urban and rural residents generally share similar views on issues related to justice and the rule of law, though differences emerge in specific regions, countries, population groups, and topics.



Gender inequality persists

Across EU regions, women generally share similar views to men on justice and the rule of law but hold more negative opinions regarding gender equality in both public and private life.



How we measure

1

DESIGN

- Review of WJP and EU rule of law literature (300+ sources)
- Consultations with 15 experts
- Adaptation of WJP questionnaires to include new categories and questions
- 51 indicators organized into 3 thematic baskets

2 DATA COLLECTION

Expert scorecard

- 4 questionnaires
- 600+ questions
- Online
- 8,042 completed surveys

People's voices

- 1 questionnaire
- 280+ questions
- Face-to-face and online
- 64,089 completed surveys



3

CROSS-CHECKS

- Comparing our data against third-party sources and official databases
- Reviewing qualitative reports
- Analyzing thousands of news articles using AI
- Conducting interviews with experts

What words
come to mind
when you hear
the rule of law?



Our Materials

Expert Scorecard

Draws on our network of legal practitioners and academics to evaluate 49 dimensions of the rule of law.

People's Voices

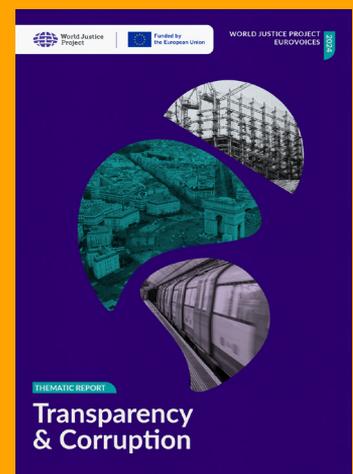
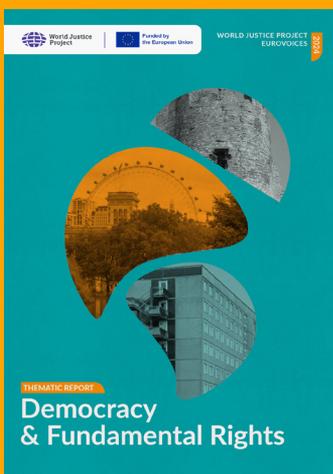
Captures how people perceive and experience the rule of law. Answers to 280 questions can be disaggregated by sex, age, income and urbanization.



Explore the
interactive data

eurovoices.worldjusticeproject.org

Thematic Reports





**World Justice
Project**



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