

2025 CORRUPTION PERCEPTIONS INDEX

- **Cyprus'** score on the Corruption Perceptions Index (CPI) has decreased by one point this year, falling to **55**. Since 2012, the country's score has significantly declined by 11 points. Over the past decade, perceptions of corruption have increased, and experts and business professionals continue to view corruption levels as high.
- Cyprus continues to be one of the lower performing countries in the European Union (EU) in this year's CPI, performing below the European average score of **64**. Ranking **18th** in the EU and **49th** globally.
- The country has taken steps to strengthen its anti-corruption and integrity frameworks in recent year, particularly in areas such as whistleblowing, standards for asset declarations for public officials and lobbying transparency.
- Cyprus's CPI score reflects, however, the loopholes that remain in the country's anti-corruption system and the failure to reform and implement several laws intended to ensure a clear separation between business and government.
- Significant challenges persist in the implementation and monitoring of reforms. These include ensuring the operational and functional independence of the recently established Authority against Corruption, making the lobbying register fully open to the public, and addressing weaknesses in the investigation and prosecution of corruption cases.
- A key area requiring reform is **political finance transparency**¹. This has become especially evident following the recent alleged influence-peddling and campaign finance scandal that led to the resignation of the President's Chief of Staff².
- Without fully disclosing donors' identities, voters cannot assess to whom candidates and representatives are ultimately accountable. Countries like Cyprus are particularly vulnerable when political parties and candidates are not legally required to disclose their sources of income.
- To detect undue influence in the public sector, national authorities must have full visibility into the sources of influence exerted on public officials. The legal framework should require political parties, candidates, and campaigns to legally

¹ https://files.transparencycdn.org/images/2412_PP_IntegrityStandardsPolFin_FIN_EN.pdf

² <https://www.politico.eu/article/cyprus-corruption-scandal-snowballs-as-presidents-top-aide-charalambos-charalambous-resigns/>

disclose their sources of income, and ensure that income and expenditure through dedicated bank accounts are open to public scrutiny, enabling effective financial tracing.

- As Cyprus prepare to transpose the EU Anti-Corruption Directive, which requires them to develop anti-corruption strategies within the next three years in consultation with civil society, they should treat it as a springboard for ambitious reform and enforcement.

KEY FINDINGS FOR EUROPE

The CPI ranks 182 countries and territories by their perceived levels of public sector corruption on a scale of zero (highly corrupt) to 100 (very clean).

- Top scorers in the Western Europe & EU are Denmark (89), Finland (88) Norway (81). These are among the top performers globally.
- Hungary (40), Bulgaria (40) and Romania (45) are the lowest scorers.
- Public frustration over corruption is growing, with Bulgaria (40) and Spain (55) seeing their largest protests in years. In Bulgaria, widespread private influence over the state has fuelled calls for action against kleptocracy.
- Among the biggest improvers since 2012 are Greece (50) up 14 and Czechia (59) up 10.
- Among the biggest decliners since 2012 are Spain (55) down 10 and Malta (49) down 8. The UK (70) has experienced one of the most dramatic declines, down 12 since 2017.
- Estonia (76), Latvia (60) and Lithuania (65), have all raised their CPI scores over the past decade and continue to stand out for their commitments to open government and anti-corruption reforms. However, important gaps remain, particularly in lobbying transparency, whistleblower protection and clarity about who funds politics.
- Across the region we are seeing a trend in backsliding scores in traditionally well performing democracies like France (66), Sweden (80) and Netherlands (78).

GLOBAL CORRUPTION KEY FINDINGS

The CPI ranks 182 countries and territories by their perceived levels of public sector corruption on a scale of zero (highly corrupt) to 100 (very clean).

The global average score stands at 42 out of 100, its lowest level in more than a decade, pointing to a concerning downward trend that will need to be monitored over time.

The vast majority of countries are failing to keep corruption under control: more than two thirds - 122 out of 180 - score under 50.

For the eighth year in a row, Denmark obtains the highest score on the index (89) and is closely followed by Finland (88) and Singapore (84).

Countries with the lowest scores overwhelmingly have severely repressed civil societies and high levels instability like South Sudan (9), Somalia (9) and Venezuela (10).

Since 2012, 50 countries have seen their scores significantly decline in the index: those which dropped the most include Türkiye (31), Hungary (40) and Nicaragua (14). They reflect a decade-long, structural weakening of integrity mechanisms, fuelled by democratic backsliding, conflict, institutional fragility, and entrenched patronage networks. These declines are sharp, enduring, and difficult to reverse, as corruption becomes systemic and deeply embedded in both political and administrative structures.

Since 2012, 31 countries have significantly improved their scores on the index: among the biggest improvers were Estonia (76), South Korea (63) and Seychelles (68). The long-term improvements in democratic countries like these reflect sustained momentum with reforms, strengthened oversight institutions and broad political consensus in favour of clean governance. Success in these areas has been attributed to among other things, digitising public services, professionalising the civil service, and embedding regional and global governance standards.

ABOUT THE CORRUPTION PERCEPTIONS INDEX

Since its inception in 1995, Transparency International's Corruption Perceptions Index has become the leading global indicator of public sector corruption. The index scores 182 countries and territories around the world based on perceptions of public sector corruption, using data from 13 external sources, including the World Bank, World Economic Forum, private risk and consulting companies, think tanks and others. The scores reflect the views of experts and businesspeople.

The process for calculating the CPI is regularly reviewed to make sure it is as robust and coherent as possible, most recently by the European Commission's Joint Research Centre in 2017. All the CPI scores since 2012 are comparable from one year to the next. For more information, see this article: [The ABCs of the CPI: How the Corruption Perceptions Index is calculated.](#)