



World Justice
Project



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World Justice Project
EUROVOICES

2024

SELECTED FINDINGS
AT THE COUNTRY LEVEL:

Spain

Introduction

WORLD JUSTICE PROJECT EUROVOICES (WJP EUROVOICES) measures people's perceptions of and experiences with the rule of law, justice, and governance in 110 subnational regions across all 27 EU Member States.

WJP EUROVOICES draws upon two original data sources:

EXPERT SCORECARD

Reflecting more than 8,000 responses from local and independent legal experts in the EU.

Scores range from 0 to 1, where 1 signifies the highest possible score and 0 signifies the lowest possible score.¹

PEOPLE'S VOICES

Based on regionally representative surveys of over 64,000 respondents from the general population.

Data is presented at the question level, shown in percentages, and can be further disaggregated by income, gender, age, and degree of urbanization.

Noting the diversity of institutional designs across EU Member States, this project's survey questions focus on the individuals' experiences related to justice, governance, and the rule of law. These experiences and their ultimate outcomes result from their interactions with a complex network of institutions at local, national, and supranational level.

In this sense, the questionnaires minimized references to government institutions, focusing instead on the perceptions and experiences of people in the city, town, or village where they live. Regional information was produced following the framework of territorial divisions of the Nomenclature of Territorial Units for Statistics (NUTS) system.

WJP EUROVOICES builds upon the well-established and tested methodology of the WJP Rule of Law Index, but uses an expanded conceptual framework adapted to reflect the institutional architecture in the EU. In addition, it presents data from the public and legal experts separately (thus, **the WJP Rule of Law Index and WJP EUROVOICES are not comparable**).

WJP EUROVOICES features dozens of indicators organized into three thematic areas: "Democracy and Fundamental Rights", "Justice and Safety", and "Transparency and Corruption". This data, which can be analyzed both at the country² and local level, provides actionable insights to guide policymaking, strengthen institutions, and foster inclusive, and sustainable development across the EU.

WJP EUROVOICES reports with key findings, interactive dashboards, and full datasets, published in November 2024, are available at: <https://eurovoices.worldjusticeproject.org/>

¹ To ensure data reliability, expert scores for certain regions are excluded from the Expert Scorecard due to insufficient responses for robust calculations.

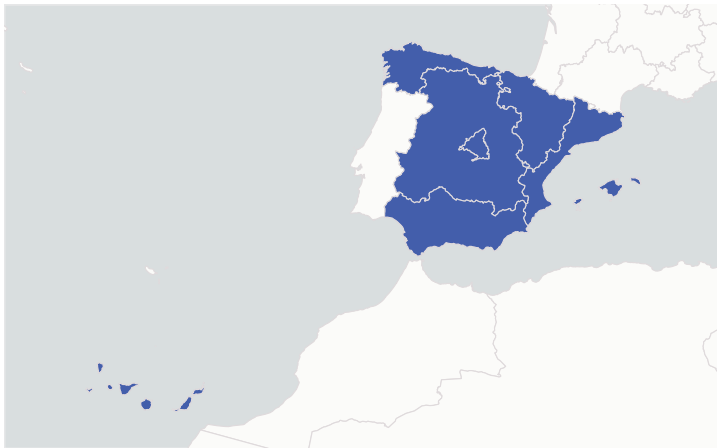
² For all indicators, country-level data, when presented, is calculated using weighted averages of region-level scores based on population size.

Regions analyzed and completed surveys per EU country

COUNTRY	# OF REGIONS ANALYZED	COMPLETED EXPERT SURVEYS	Household surveys			
			METHODOLOGY	POLLING PARTNER	COMPLETED SURVEYS	DATA COLLECTION PERIOD
Austria	3	122	Online	Bilendi & Respondi	2,310	02/27-04/09/24
Belgium	3	109	Online	Bilendi & Respondi	1,521	03/01-04/12/24
Bulgaria	2	420	Face-to-face	Alpha Research Ltd.	1,500	01/19-02/24/24
Croatia	4	198	Face-to-face	ACT	2,000	02/15-03/28/24
Cyprus	1	99	Face-to-face	Pulse Market Research	1,010	11/10/23 - 03/20/24
Czechia	4*	200	Online	Ipsos	2,024	02/26-04/10/24
Denmark	5	148	Online	Bilendi & Respondi	2,522	03/01-04/23/24
Estonia	1	56	Online	Ipsos	1,044	02/26-04/11/24
Finland	4*	115	Online	Ipsos	2,218	02/26-04/14/24
France	13*	489	Online	Ipsos	6,195	02/26-04/16/24
Germany	16	1,089	Online	Bilendi & Respondi	8,055	03/01-04/24/24
Greece	4	232	Face-to-face	D3 Systems, Inc.	2,009	01/08-04/04/24
Hungary	3	306	Online	Talk Online	1,750	02/07-02/29/24
Ireland	3	101	Online	RED C Research	1,288	02/01-04/30/24
Italy	5	1,368	Online	Bilendi & Respondi	3,844	03/01-04/01/24
Latvia	1	68	Face-to-face	ACT	1,003	03/01-03/31/24
Lithuania	2	90	Face-to-face	ACT	1,500	03/01-04/21/24
Luxembourg	1	38	Online	ILRES	605	02/02-02/23/24
Malta	1	42	Face-to-face	Misco International	500	01/02-03/13/24
Netherlands	4	148	Online	Bilendi & Respondi	3,050	03/01-04/17/24
Poland	7	434	Face-to-face	ACT	5,252	03/01-05/10/24
Portugal	3	277	Face-to-face	Intercampus	1,562	01/23-04/02/24
Romania	4	475	Face-to-face	ACT	3,018	03/09-05/12/24
Slovakia	4	264	Online	Talk Online	2,200	02/07-02/29/24
Slovenia	2	99	Online	Ipsos	1,019	02/26-04/10/24
Spain	7	858	Online	Ipsos	3,536	02/26-04/17/24
Sweden	3	197	Online	Ipsos	1,554	02/26-04/11/24
Total	110	8,042			64,089	

Note: Regions in Czechia merged from 8 to 4 and in Finland from 5 to 4. In France, the Départements d'Outre-Mer was dropped (reducing the number of regions from 14 to 13).

Spain



Region	Code
North-West	ES1
North-East	ES2
Madrid	ES3
Centre	ES4
East	ES5
South	ES6
Canary Islands	ES7

Democracy & Fundamental Rights

EXPERT SCORECARD

CHECKS ON GOVERNMENT POWERS*

	EU	Spain
Legislative oversight	0.59	0.58
Judicial independence	0.67	0.62
Independent oversight	0.57	0.58
Independent prosecution	0.60	0.58
Free, fair, and secure elections	0.75	0.76
Non-governmental checks	0.70	0.68

*Only at national level

GOVERNMENT RESPECT FOR CHECKS ON POWER*

Government respect for...	EU	Spain
The constitution and political opponents	0.71	0.62
Judicial independence	0.68	0.55
Independent oversight	0.63	0.58
Independent prosecution	0.62	0.58
The electoral system	0.76	0.74
Civil liberties	0.69	0.64

*Only at national level

CIVIC PARTICIPATION

Civic participation				EU 0.70	Spain 0.68	
ES1	ES2	ES3	ES4	ES5	ES6	ES7
0.77	0.66	0.73	0.70	0.68	0.64	0.59

FUNDAMENTAL RIGHTS

Prohibition of torture and inhuman treatment				EU	Spain	
				0.82	0.90	
ES1	ES2	ES3	ES4	ES5	ES6	ES7
0.89	0.84	0.95	0.93	0.85	0.92	0.96

Prohibition of slavery and forced labor				EU 0.74	Spain 0.76	
ES1	ES2	ES3	ES4	ES5	ES6	ES7
0.78	0.79	0.83	0.81	0.70	0.76	0.74

Freedom of thought, conscience, and religion				EU	Spain	
				0.80	0.85	
ES1	ES2	ES3	ES4	ES5	ES6	ES7
0.86	0.89	0.94	0.81	0.78	0.86	0.87

Freedom of assembly and association				EU 0.75	Spain 0.77	
ES1	ES2	ES3	ES4	ES5	ES6	ES7
0.82	0.77	0.82	0.76	0.76	0.75	0.69

Freedom of opinion and expression				EU	Spain	
				0.70	0.67	
ES1	ES2	ES3	ES4	ES5	ES6	ES7
0.77	0.64	0.73	0.70	0.66	0.63	0.55

Right to property				EU 0.66	Spain 0.61	
ES1	ES2	ES3	ES4	ES5	ES6	ES7
0.66	0.64	0.58	0.65	0.60	0.58	0.56

Right to asylum

				EU 0.69	Spain 0.75		
ES1	ES2	ES3	ES4	ES5	ES6	ES7	
0.79	0.77	0.84	0.77	0.69	0.75	0.67	

Workers' rights

				EU 0.67	Spain 0.68		
ES1	ES2	ES3	ES4	ES5	ES6	ES7	
0.63	0.69	0.71	0.73	0.67	0.70	0.61	

Right of access to documents

				EU 0.67	Spain 0.65		
ES1	ES2	ES3	ES4	ES5	ES6	ES7	
0.64	0.68	0.66	0.67	0.66	0.64	0.57	

Right of movement and of residence

				EU 0.85	Spain 0.88		
ES1	ES2	ES3	ES4	ES5	ES6	ES7	
0.91	0.89	0.92	0.87	0.86	0.86	0.88	

Equality before the law

				EU 0.71	Spain 0.70		
ES1	ES2	ES3	ES4	ES5	ES6	ES7	
0.73	0.69	0.73	0.75	0.65	0.71	0.64	

Right to vote and to stand as a candidate at elections

				EU 0.79	Spain 0.80		
ES1	ES2	ES3	ES4	ES5	ES6	ES7	
0.85	0.75	0.85	0.84	0.81	0.78	0.71	

Right to petition

				EU 0.80	Spain 0.81		
ES1	ES2	ES3	ES4	ES5	ES6	ES7	
0.86	0.79	0.86	0.83	0.81	0.79	0.76	

Due process of law

				EU 0.63	Spain 0.64		
ES1	ES2	ES3	ES4	ES5	ES6	ES7	
0.70	0.66	0.64	0.67	0.60	0.65	0.63	

Freedom to vote without harassment or pressure

Percentage of respondents who agree that people can vote freely without feeling harassed or pressured.

				EU 77%	Spain 76%		
ES1	ES2	ES3	ES4	ES5	ES6	ES7	
75%	80%	76%	76%	78%	73%	69%	

Freedom of the media to criticize government policies

Percentage of respondents who agree that the media can freely express opinions against government officials, policies, and actions without fear of retaliation.

				EU 55%	Spain 46%		
ES1	ES2	ES3	ES4	ES5	ES6	ES7	
47%	45%	49%	48%	45%	43%	45%	

Freedom of civil society organizations to criticize government policies

Percentage of respondents who agree that civil society organizations can freely express opinions against government policies and actions without fear of retaliation.

				EU 58%	Spain 55%		
ES1	ES2	ES3	ES4	ES5	ES6	ES7	
58%	55%	56%	54%	56%	51%	49%	

Political parties' freedom to express opposition to government policies

Percentage of respondents who agree that political parties can freely express opinions against government policies and actions without fear of retaliation.

				EU 64%	Spain 65%		
ES1	ES2	ES3	ES4	ES5	ES6	ES7	
68%	68%	68%	68%	62%	61%	61%	

Freedom to express opinions against the government

Percentage of respondents who agree that people can freely express opinions against the government.

				EU 71%	Spain 65%		
ES1	ES2	ES3	ES4	ES5	ES6	ES7	
69%	62%	71%	65%	65%	62%	64%	

Use of misinformation to shape public opinion

Percentage of respondents who agree that top government officials of the national government use misinformation to shape public opinion in their favor.

				EU 62%	Spain 74%		
ES1	ES2	ES3	ES4	ES5	ES6	ES7	
74%	73%	77%	73%	74%	72%	77%	

Government collaboration with civil society

Percentage of respondents who agree that the government collaborates with civil society organizations in designing public policy.

EU		Spain				
44%		37%				
ES1	ES2	ES3	ES4	ES5	ES6	ES7
37%	41%	35%	40%	38%	34%	38%

Experiences of discrimination

Percentage of respondents who reported experiencing discrimination or harassment during the past 12 months.

EU		Spain				
36%		43%				
ES1	ES2	ES3	ES4	ES5	ES6	ES7
36%	41%	42%	43%	45%	44%	55%

Source: World Justice Project EUROVOICES 2024.

Note: Some indicators are only shown at the national level.

Justice & Safety

CIVIL JUSTICE

Legal capability	EU	Spain	ES1	ES2	ES3	ES4	ES5	ES6	ES7
	0.58	0.54	0.53	0.52	0.54	0.57	0.53	0.54	0.54

Access to legal aid and representation in civil disputes	EU	Spain	ES1	ES2	ES3	ES4	ES5	ES6	ES7
	0.64	0.7	0.73	0.64	0.69	0.72	0.69	0.75	0.64

Accessible, appropriate, and timely dispute resolution	EU	Spain	ES1	ES2	ES3	ES4	ES5	ES6	ES7
	0.49	0.43	0.41	0.46	0.44	0.46	0.45	0.39	0.35

Impartial and independent dispute resolution	EU	Spain	ES1	ES2	ES3	ES4	ES5	ES6	ES7
	0.70	0.70	0.70	0.70	0.72	0.72	0.68	0.70	0.64

Effective and outcome-oriented dispute resolution	EU	Spain	ES1	ES2	ES3	ES4	ES5	ES6	ES7
	0.57	0.51	0.47	0.53	0.48	0.55	0.55	0.49	0.43

Alternative dispute resolution mechanisms	EU	Spain	ES1	ES2	ES3	ES4	ES5	ES6	ES7
	0.58	0.54	0.46	0.59	0.54	0.57	0.57	0.50	0.48

CRIMINAL JUSTICE

Effective and impartial criminal investigation

EU		Spain				
0.60		0.61				
ES1	ES2	ES3	ES4	ES5	ES6	ES7
0.68	0.65	0.62	0.68	0.57	0.61	0.56

Effective and impartial prosecution and pre-trial proceedings

EU		Spain				
0.60		0.62				
ES1	ES2	ES3	ES4	ES5	ES6	ES7
0.70	0.66	0.58	0.68	0.58	0.63	0.63

Effective and impartial criminal adjudication

EU		Spain				
0.63		0.59				
ES1	ES2	ES3	ES4	ES5	ES6	ES7
0.66	0.60	0.61	0.63	0.55	0.59	0.57

Alternative criminal justice mechanisms

EU		Spain				
0.52		0.48				
ES1	ES2	ES3	ES4	ES5	ES6	ES7
0.46	0.48	0.50	0.51	0.50	0.47	0.39

Victims' rights

EU		Spain				
0.52		0.62				
ES1	ES2	ES3	ES4	ES5	ES6	ES7
0.68	0.63	0.64	0.61	0.59	0.63	0.55

Due process of law

EU		Spain				
0.63		0.64				
ES1	ES2	ES3	ES4	ES5	ES6	ES7
0.70	0.66	0.64	0.67	0.60	0.65	0.63

Rights of persons deprived of liberty

EU		Spain				
0.66		0.74				
ES1	ES2	ES3	ES4	ES5	ES6	ES7
0.84	0.70	0.75	0.78	0.71	0.72	0.72

Awareness of legal rights

Percentage of respondents who agree that people in their country are aware of their rights when they face a legal problem.

EU		Spain				
36%		26%				
ES1	ES2	ES3	ES4	ES5	ES6	ES7
24%	19%	23%	29%	28%	27%	29%

Access to affordable legal assistance and representation

Percentage of respondents who agree that people in their country have access to affordable legal assistance and representation when they face a legal problem.

EU		Spain				
40%		46%				
ES1	ES2	ES3	ES4	ES5	ES6	ES7
48%	45%	45%	49%	47%	44%	47%

Affordability of state dispute resolution mechanisms

Percentage of respondents who agree that people in their country can easily meet the costs of turning to a state dispute resolution mechanism (courts, small claims courts, administrative agencies, etc.) when they face a legal problem.

EU		Spain				
24%		23%				
ES1	ES2	ES3	ES4	ES5	ES6	ES7
23%	23%	25%	26%	23%	21%	27%

Equality and fair treatment in the civil justice system

Percentage of respondents who agree that all parties are treated equally and fairly within the civil justice system of their country.

EU		Spain				
37%		29%				
ES1	ES2	ES3	ES4	ES5	ES6	ES7
35%	29%	30%	34%	26%	26%	33%

Effectiveness of criminal prosecution

Percentage of respondents who agree that the criminal justice system is effective in bringing people who commit crimes to justice.

EU		Spain				
47%		40%				
ES1	ES2	ES3	ES4	ES5	ES6	ES7
46%	39%	41%	42%	38%	39%	42%

Respect for the rights of victims

Percentage of respondents who agree that the criminal justice system respects the rights of victims.

EU		Spain				
51%		49%				
ES1	ES2	ES3	ES4	ES5	ES6	ES7
53%	44%	48%	53%	47%	50%	45%

Respect for suspects' basic rights

Percentage of respondents who agree that the basic rights of suspects are respected by the police.

EU	Spain					
66%	69%					
ES1	ES2	ES3	ES4	ES5	ES6	ES7
72%	65%	72%	71%	67%	71%	67%

Presumption of innocence

Percentage of respondents who agree that the criminal justice system treats those accused of a crime as 'innocent until proven guilty'.

EU	Spain					
54%	54%					
ES1	ES2	ES3	ES4	ES5	ES6	ES7
59%	47%	54%	62%	53%	51%	51%

Respect for the rights of persons deprived of liberty

Percentage of respondents who agree that the criminal justice system guarantees the safety and human rights of people deprived of their liberty.

EU	Spain					
54%	57%					
ES1	ES2	ES3	ES4	ES5	ES6	ES7
63%	54%	62%	61%	54%	54%	53%

Equal functioning of the justice system regardless of where people live

Percentage of respondents who agree the justice system functions the same regardless of where they live.

EU	Spain					
48%	34%					
ES1	ES2	ES3	ES4	ES5	ES6	ES7
36%	29%	35%	38%	34%	33%	30%

Perceptions of safety when walking in the neighborhood at night

Percentage of respondents who feel safe walking in their neighborhood at night.

EU	Spain					
71%	68%					
ES1	ES2	ES3	ES4	ES5	ES6	ES7
82%	74%	67%	73%	63%	64%	70%

Police and community safety

Percentage of respondents who agree that the police resolve safety problems in their communities and treat all people with kindness and respect.

EU	Spain					
40%	41%					
ES1	ES2	ES3	ES4	ES5	ES6	ES7
48%	33%	47%	47%	35%	42%	37%

Source: World Justice Project EUROVOICES 2024.

Transparency & Corruption

CONTROL OF CORRUPTION

Absence of bribery	EU	Spain	ES1	ES2	ES3	ES4	ES5	ES6	ES7
	0.74	0.78	0.83	0.77	0.81	0.78	0.78	0.74	0.74

Absence of corrupt procurement practices	EU	Spain
Only at national level	0.54	0.50

Absence of embezzlement	EU	Spain	ES1	ES2	ES3	ES4	ES5	ES6	ES7
	0.60	0.64	0.65	0.66	0.65	0.70	0.68	0.55	0.54

Absence of favoritism	EU	Spain	ES1	ES2	ES3	ES4	ES5	ES6	ES7
	0.53	0.51	0.45	0.52	0.47	0.57	0.58	0.46	0.47

Absence of corrupt electoral practices	EU	Spain	ES1	ES2	ES3	ES4	ES5	ES6	ES7
	0.57	0.56	0.55	0.55	0.52	0.65	0.61	0.49	0.44

TRANSPARENCY AND ACCESS TO INFORMATION

Transparency and access to information	EU 0.67	Spain 0.65	ES1 0.64	ES2 0.68	ES3 0.66	ES4 0.67	ES5 0.66	ES6 0.64	ES7 0.57
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ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEEDINGS, REGULATORY ENFORCEMENT, AND RIGHT TO PROPERTY

Simple, predictable, and timely administrative proceedings	EU 0.61	Spain 0.59	ES1 0.56	ES2 0.57	ES3 0.61	ES4 0.59	ES5 0.64	ES6 0.56	ES7 0.48
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Right to property	EU 0.66	Spain 0.61	ES1 0.66	ES2 0.64	ES3 0.58	ES4 0.65	ES5 0.60	ES6 0.58	ES7 0.56
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Regulatory enforcement	EU 0.66	Spain 0.67	ES1 0.62	ES2 0.73	ES3 0.66	ES4 0.74	ES5 0.68	ES6 0.66	ES7 0.57
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PEOPLE'S VOICES

Perception of corruption in Parliament/Congress

Percentage of respondents who believe that most or all members of Parliament/Congress are involved in corrupt practices.

EU 42%	Spain 44%					
ES1 39%	ES2 44%	ES3 41%	ES4 46%	ES5 44%	ES6 46%	ES7 47%

Perception of corruption in the national government

Percentage of respondents who believe that most or all officials working in the national government are involved in corrupt practices.

EU 33%	Spain 36%					
ES1 32%	ES2 35%	ES3 34%	ES4 36%	ES5 36%	ES6 40%	ES7 41%

Perception of corruption in the local government

Percentage of respondents who believe that most or all officials working in the local government are involved in corrupt practices.

EU 25%	Spain 32%					
ES1 27%	ES2 28%	ES3 33%	ES4 30%	ES5 34%	ES6 34%	ES7 38%

Perception of corruption of judges and magistrates

Percentage of respondents who believe that most or all judges and magistrates are involved in corrupt practices.

EU 23%	Spain 25%					
ES1 20%	ES2 26%	ES3 24%	ES4 24%	ES5 30%	ES6 23%	ES7 23%

Perception of corruption of criminal investigation prosecutors

Percentage of respondents who believe that most or all prosecutors in charge of criminal investigations are involved in corrupt practices.

EU 21%	Spain 24%					
ES1 19%	ES2 23%	ES3 23%	ES4 23%	ES5 27%	ES6 23%	ES7 23%

Perception of corruption of public defense attorneys

Percentage of respondents who believe that most or all public defense attorneys are involved in corrupt practices.

EU 20%	Spain 18%					
ES1 15%	ES2 14%	ES3 18%	ES4 18%	ES5 19%	ES6 19%	ES7 21%

Perception of corruption of police officers

Percentage of respondents who believe that most or all police officers are involved in corrupt practices.

EU	Spain					
17%	18%					
ES1	ES2	ES3	ES4	ES5	ES6	ES7
12%	18%	17%	16%	20%	17%	19%

Perception of corruption of land registry officers

Percentage of respondents who believe that most or all land registry officers are involved in corrupt practices.

EU	Spain					
18%	17%					
ES1	ES2	ES3	ES4	ES5	ES6	ES7
12%	17%	17%	15%	21%	15%	20%

Perception of corruption of car registration or driver license agency officers

Percentage of respondents who believe that most or all car registration or driver license agency officers are involved in corrupt practices.

EU	Spain					
16%	18%					
ES1	ES2	ES3	ES4	ES5	ES6	ES7
14%	16%	14%	17%	21%	17%	19%

Perception of corruption in political parties

Percentage of respondents who believe that most or all political parties are involved in corrupt practices.

EU	Spain					
53%	62%					
ES1	ES2	ES3	ES4	ES5	ES6	ES7
62%	58%	60%	63%	59%	69%	66%

Perception of corruption in EU's institutions and agencies

Percentage of respondents who believe that most or all officials working in the EU's institutions and agencies are involved in corrupt practices.

EU	Spain					
29%	31%					
ES1	ES2	ES3	ES4	ES5	ES6	ES7
27%	30%	30%	30%	33%	31%	33%

Perception that citizens can make a difference in the fight against corruption

Percentage of respondents who believe citizens can make a difference in the fight against corruption.

EU	Spain					
58%	58%					
ES1	ES2	ES3	ES4	ES5	ES6	ES7
61%	59%	60%	59%	56%	58%	66%

Effectiveness of measures against corruption

Percentage of respondents who agree that the national government's measures to combat corruption are effective.

EU	Spain					
24%	20%					
ES1	ES2	ES3	ES4	ES5	ES6	ES7
17%	19%	18%	22%	22%	18%	21%

Access to information on people's rights

Percentage of respondents who agree that local authorities provide people with information about their rights.

EU	Spain					
51%	48%					
ES1	ES2	ES3	ES4	ES5	ES6	ES7
46%	47%	48%	52%	50%	45%	45%

Access to information in simple formats

Percentage of respondents who agree that local authorities provide information for people in a simple, easy-to-read way.

EU	Spain					
47%	39%					
ES1	ES2	ES3	ES4	ES5	ES6	ES7
35%	42%	37%	43%	42%	37%	37%

Source: World Justice Project EUROVOICES 2024.
Note: Some indicators are only shown at the national level.