





selected findings at the country level: **Sweden**

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.

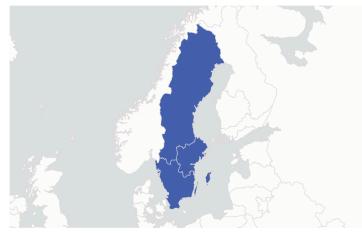
² For all indicators, country-level data, when presented, is calculated using weighted averages of region-level scores based on population size.

Regions analyzed and completed surveys per EU country

	ц	001/01/0000	Household surveys			
COUNTRY	# OF REGIONS ANALYZED	COMPLETED EXPERT 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	lpsos	2,024	02/26-04/10/24
Denmark	5	148	Online	Bilendi & Respondi	2,522	03/01-04/23/24
Estonia	1	56	Online	lpsos	1,044	02/26-04/11/24
Finland	4*	115	Online	lpsos	2,218	02/26-04/14/24
France	13*	489	Online	lpsos	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	lpsos	1,019	02/26-04/10/24
Spain	7	858	Online	lpsos	3,536	02/26-04/17/24
Sweden	3	197	Online	lpsos	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).

Sweden



Region	Code
Eastern Sweden	SE1
Southern Sweden	SE2
Northern Sweden	SE3

Democracy & Fundamental Rights

CHECKS ON GOVERNMENT POWERS*

	EU	Sweden
Legislative oversight	0.59	0.73
Judicial independence	0.67	0.81
Independent oversight	0.57	0.73
Independent prosecution	0.60	0.82
Free, fair, and secure elections	0.75	0.83
Non-governmental checks	0.70	0.82

*Only at national level

CIVIC PARTICIPATION

Civic p	articipat	tion	EU 0.70	Sweden 0.82
SE1 0.85	SE2 0.79	010		

GOVERNMENT RESPECT FOR CHECKS ON POWER*

Government respect for	EU	Sweden
The constitution and political opponents	0.71	0.82
Judicial independence	0.68	0.84
Independent oversight	0.63	0.81
Independent prosecution	0.62	0.88
The electoral system	0.76	0.90
Civil liberties	0.69	0.82

*Only at national level

FUNDAMENTAL RIGHTS

Prohibition of torture and inhuman treatmentSE1SE2SE30.960.960.98	EU Sweden 0.82 0.96	Prohibition of slavery and forced laborSE1SE2SE30.760.600.77	EU Sweden 0.74 0.69
Freedom of thought, conscience, and religionSE1SE2SE30.860.780.82	EU Sweden 0.80 0.82	Freedom of assembly and associationSE1SE2SE30.900.800.83	EU Sweden 0.75 0.85
Freedom of opinion and expressionSE1SE2SE30.870.820.83	EU Sweden 0.70 0.84	Right to propertySE1SE2SE30.850.78NA	EU Sweden 0.66 0.82

Right to asylum	EU Sweden 0.69 0.70	Equality before the law	EU Sweden 0.71 0.79
SE1SE2SE30.760.670.65		SE1SE2SE30.810.810.70	
Workers' rights	EU Sweden 0.67 0.85	Right to vote and to stand as a candidate at elections	EU Sweden 0.79 0.83
SE1 SE2 SE3 0.86 0.83 NA		SE1SE2SE30.880.820.75	
Right of access to documents	EU Sweden 0.67 0.83	Right to petition	EU Sweden 0.80 0.86
SE1SE2SE30.850.81NA		SE1SE2SE30.890.820.87	
Right of movement and of residence	EU Sweden 0.85 0.88	Due process of law	EU Sweden 0.63 0.74
SE1SE2SE30.920.840.87		SE1SE2SE30.750.730.76	

Freedom to vote without harassment or pressure

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

EU 77%	S 8	veden 1%
SE1	SE2	SE3
82%	81%	77%

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%	S v 67	veden 7%
SE1	SE2	SE3
67%	68%	64%

Freedom to express opinions against the government

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

EU 71%		Sw 849	e den %
SE1	SE2	2	SE3
82%	85%	%	89%

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%	S N 64	veden 4%
SE1	SE2	SE3
64%	64%	66%

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.

	Sweden 65%
SE2	SE3
66%	64%
	SE2

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%		Sweden 52%
SE1	SE2	SE3
48%	55%	54%

Government collaboration with civil society

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

EU 44%	S	weden 4%
SE1	SE2	SE3
53%	53%	59%

Experiences of discrimination

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

EU 36%		Sw 399	eden %
SE1	SE2	2	SE3
39%	38%	6	41%

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

Justice & Safety

CIVIL JUSTICE

Legal capability	EU 0.58	Sweden 0.67	SE1 0.67	SE2 0.66	SE3 NA
Access to legal aid and representation in civil disputes	EU 0.64	Sweden 0.62	SE1 0.63	SE2 0.62	SE3 NA
Accessible, appropriate, and timely dispute resolution	EU 0.49	Sweden 0.57	SE1 0.58	SE2 0.56	SE3 NA
Impartial and independent dispute resolution	EU	Sweden	SE1	SE2	SE3
	0.70	0.83	0.84	0.82	NA
Effective and outcome-	EU	Sweden 0.70	SE1	SE2	SE3
oriented dispute resolution	0.57		0.70	0.70	NA
Alternative dispute resolution mechanisms	EU	Sweden	SE1	SE2	SE3
	0.58	0.65	0.65	0.65	NA

CRIMINAL JUSTICE

Effective and impartial criminal investigation		Effective and impartial prosecution and pre-trial proceedings		
EU 0.60	0.72	EU Sweden 0.60 0.75		
	SE3 0.70	SE1SE2SE30.740.750.75		

Effective and impartial criminal adjudication

EU 0.63		Sweden 0.78
SE1	SE2	SE3
0.78	0.78	0.78

Victims' rights

	Sweden 0.56
SE2	SE3
0.55	0.53
	SE2

Alternative criminal justice mechanisms

EU 0.52		Sweder 0.43
SE1	SE2	SE3
0.43	0.43	NA

Due process of law		
EU 0.63		Sweden 0.74
SE1	SE2	SE3
0.75	0.73	0.76

Rights of persons deprived of liberty

EU 0.66		Sweden 0.77
SE1	SE2	SE3
0.76	0.75	0.85

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 36%		Sweden 37%
	SE1	SE2	SE3
ļ	38%	37%	37%

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 24%		Sweden 20%	
SE1	SE2	SE3	
23%	18%	21%	

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 47%		Sweden 50%
SE1	SE2	SE3
54%	48%	48%

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 40%		Sweden 45%
SE1	SE2	SE3
47%	43%	46%

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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 37%		Sweden 42%
SE1	SE2	SE3
40%	41%	47%

Respect for the rights of victims

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

EU 51%		Sweden 50%
SE1	SE2	SE3
54%	47%	48%

Respect for suspects' basic rights

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

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

EU 66%		Sweden 76%
SE1	SE2	SE3
75%	76%	76%

people deprived of their liberty.

SE2

63%

Sweden 63%

SE3

65%

EU

54% **SE1**

62%

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 54%		Sweden 62%
SE1	SE2	SE3
64%	61%	62%

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		Sweden 44%
48%		44%
SE1	SE2	SE3
47%	44%	41%

Perceptions of safety when walking in the neighborhood at night

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

EU 71%		Sweden 71%	
SE1	SE2	SE3	
67%	72%	77%	

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 40%		Sweden 38%
SE1	SE2	SE3
38%	36%	43%

Source: World Justice Project EUROVOICES 2024.

Transparency & Corruption

CONTROL OF CORRUPTION

Absence of bribery	EU 0.74	Sweden 0.96	SE1 0.96	SE2 0.97	SE3 NA
Absence of corrupt procurement practices Only at national level	EU 0.54	Sweden 0.86			
Absence of embezzlement	EU 0.60	Sweden 0.86	SE1 0.86	SE2 0.86	SE3 NA
Absence of favoritism	EU 0.53	Sweden 0.84	SE1 0.87	SE2 0.81	SE3 NA
Absence of corrupt electoral practices	EU 0.57	Sweden 0.86	SE1 0.88	SE2 0.85	SE3 NA

TRANSPARENCY AND ACCESS TO INFORMATION

Transparency and access	EU	Sweden	SE1	SE2	SE3
to information	0.67	0.83	0.85	0.81	NA

ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEEDINGS, REGULATORY ENFORCEMENT, AND RIGHT TO PROPERTY

Simple, predictable, and timely administrative proceedings	EU	Sweden	SE1	SE2	SE3
	0.61	0.77	0.76	0.78	NA
Right to property	EU 0.66	Sweden 0.82	SE1 0.85	SE2 0.78	SE3 NA
Regulatory enforcement	EU	Sweden	SE1	SE2	SE3
	0.66	0.78	0.79	0.77	NA

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%		Sweden 12%	
SE1	SE2	SE3	
13%	13%	11%	

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%		Sweden 14%
SE1	SE2	SE3
14%	14%	14%

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%		Sweden 7%
SE1	SE2	SE3
8%	7%	6%

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%	Sweden 13%
SE1SE2SE313%14%10%		

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%		Sweden 8%
SE1	SE2	SE3
8%	9%	6%

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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%		Sweden 11%
SE1	SE2	SE3
12%	12%	8%

Perception of corruption of police officers

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

EU 17%		Sweden 5%
SE1	SE2	SE3
6%	5%	4%

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 18%		Sweden 5%
SE1	SE2	SE3
6%	6%	4%

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 16%		Sweden 5%
SE1	SE2	SE3
6%	6%	4%

Perception of corruption in political parties

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

EU 53%		Sweden 21%
SE1	SE2	SE3
19%	24%	21%

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 29%		Sweden 15%
SE1	SE2	SE3
13%	16%	17%

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 58%		Sweden 72%
SE1	SE2	SE3
69%	74%	74%

Effectiveness of measures against corruption

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

EU 24%		Sweden 19%
SE1	SE2	SE3
19%	20%	17%

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 47%		Sweden 56%	
SE1	SE2	SE3	
55%	55%	58%	

Access to information on people's rights

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

EU 51%		Sweden 61%
SE1	SE2	SE3
60%	62%	62%

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