

Lithuanian Map of Corruption 2026: BUSINESS

Presentation of research data

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About the Study

TARGET GROUP

700

business executives

Sampling: quota sampling by company size and region

Survey methods: telephone and internet

Period: 2026 01 19–2026 02 25

Margin of error: ±3,7 %

THEMATIC BLOCKS

- Corruption perception
- Experience of corruption
- Transparency of decision-making
- Anti-corruption potential

SAMPLE: distribution of companies by number of employees and company age



Business executives: 2026 survey. Latest data for residents and civil servants: 2025.

Different indicators - different measures

PERCEPTION	EXPERIENCE	WILLINGNESS TO ACT
• Prevalence of corruption • Reputation of institutions • Assessment of the situation and trends	• Experience of bribery • Public services • Public procurement and use of connections	• Tolerance of bribery • Willingness to report • Perceived likelihood of punishment
TRANSPARENCY AND COMMUNICATION	**PROCESS IMPROVEMENT**	**CLEAR RULES, PROTECTION, FEEDBACK**

KEY INSIGHTS

1. While corruption is still perceived as widespread, business view anti-corruption efforts favorably.
2. Transparency in municipal procedures and service provision remains one of the most problematic areas.
3. Decision-making is viewed as less transparent, and instances of influence are reported more frequently.
4. Business resilience to corruption is growing, particularly in larger companies.
5. Corruption reporting remains low – it is limited by the burden of legal proceedings, uncertainty and doubts regarding its effectiveness.

CORRUPTION PERCEPTION



Corruption is still considered a significant problem…

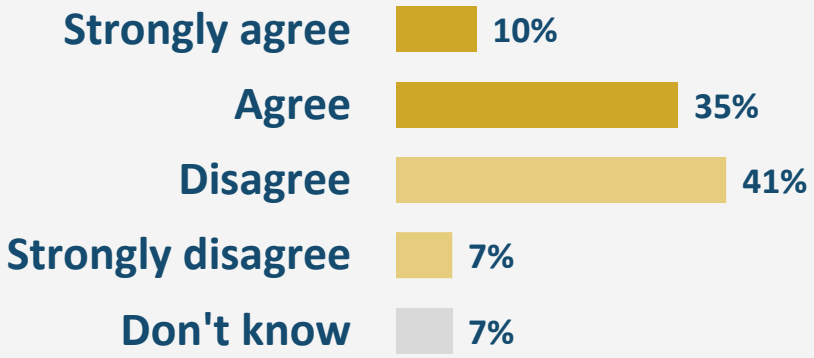
47%

perceive corruption in Lithuania to be widespread



45%

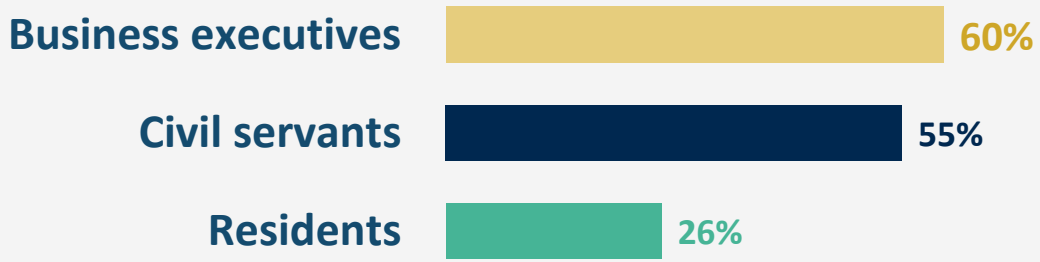
consider corruption a serious problem when doing business in Lithuania



…however, businesses favorably view state anti-corruption efforts and future prospects

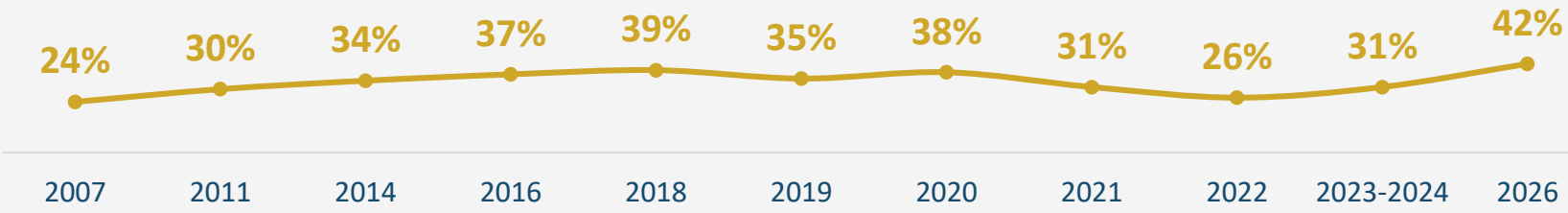
60%

agree that Lithuania is successfully addressing corruption issues



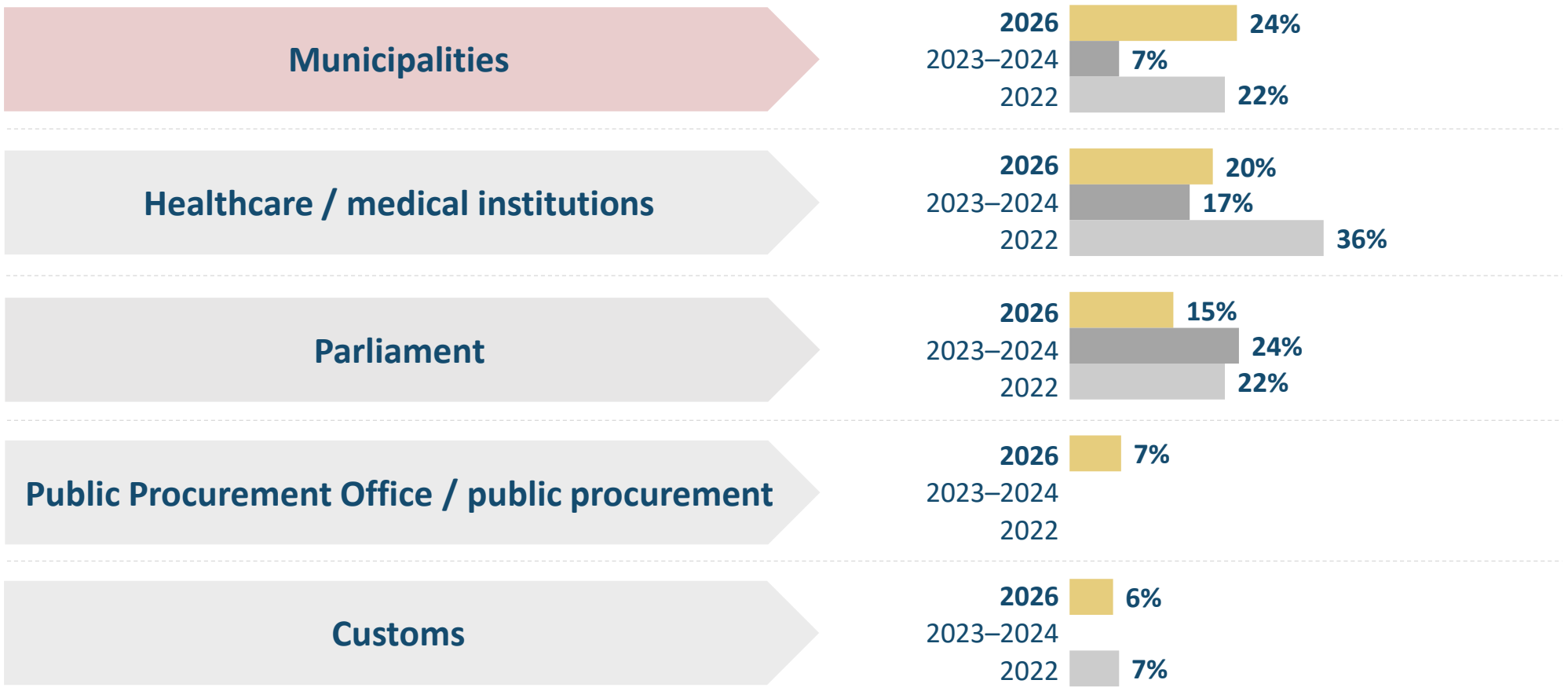
42%

believe that the level of corruption in their sector of activity will decrease over the next 3 years

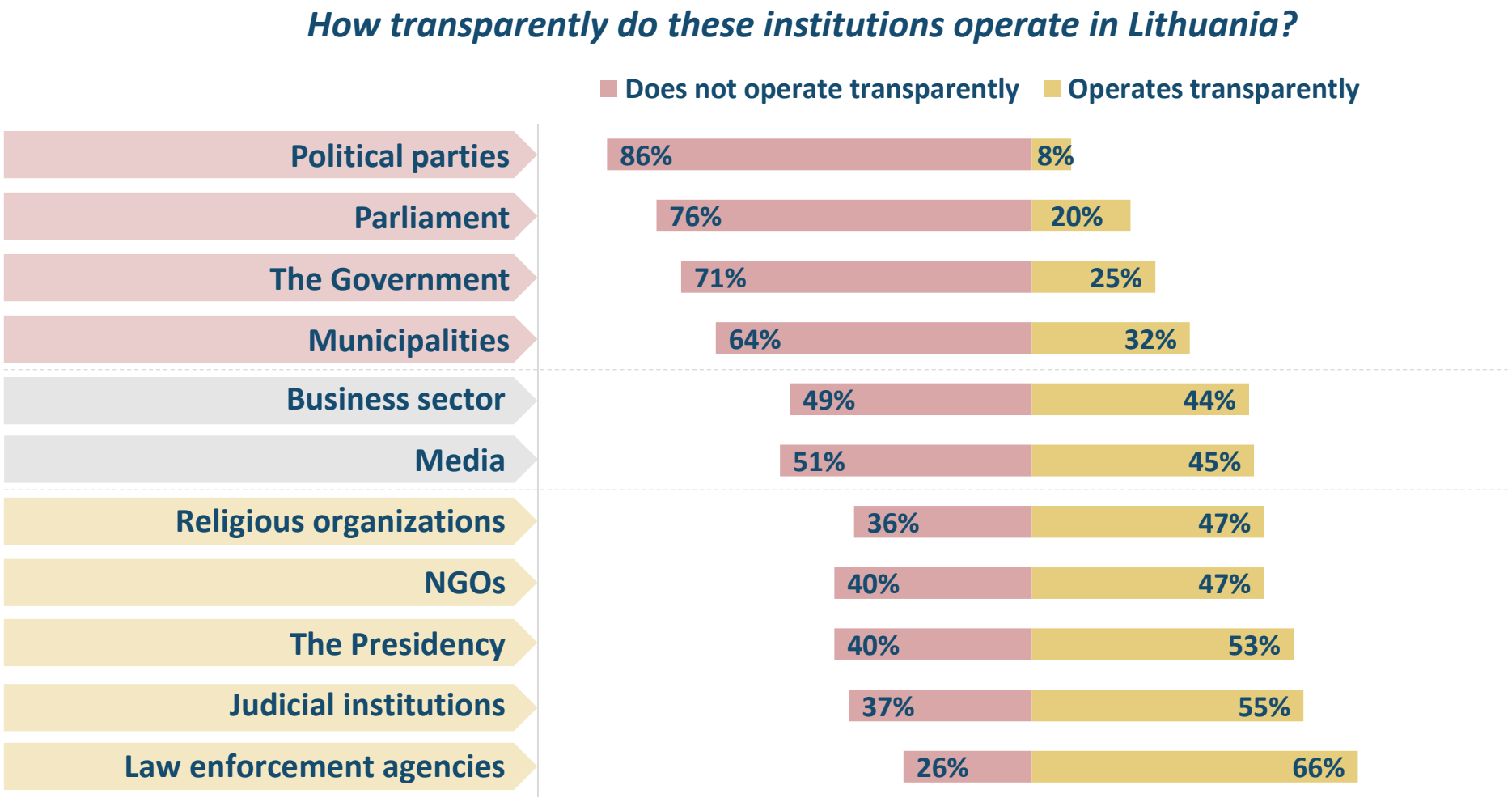


Municipalities are most often spontaneously mentioned among the most corrupt institutions

Could you name 5 institutions or agencies that are currently the most corrupt in Lithuania?



Businesses are most critical of the transparency of political and municipal institutions



EXPERIENCE OF CORRUPTION



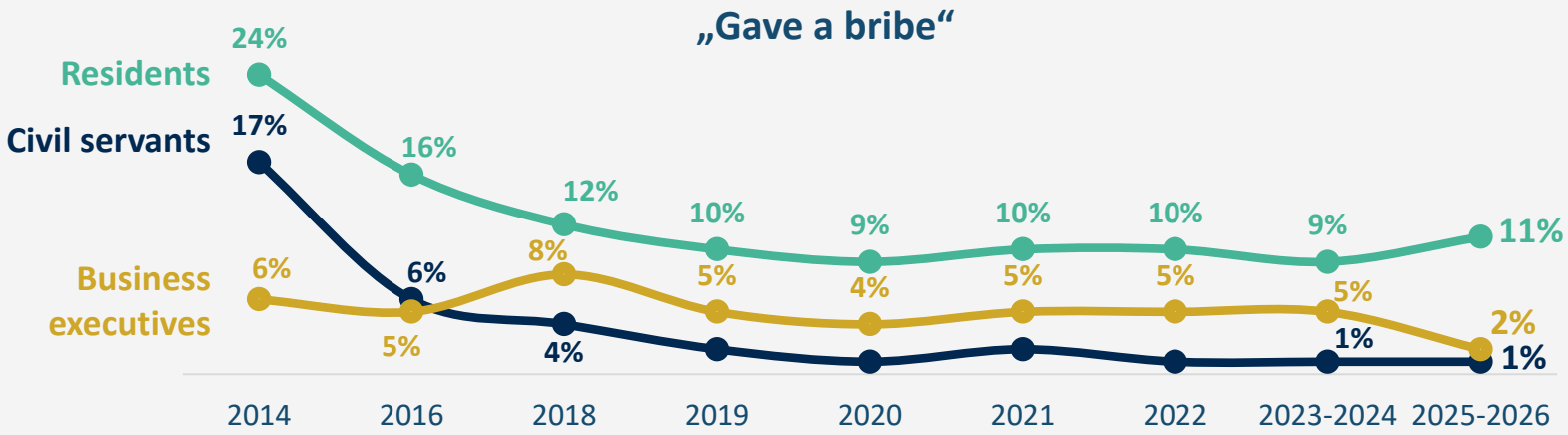
Bribery experience is declining, but the highest risk remains in municipal services

Giving a bribe or using connections in state or municipal institutions over the past 12 months

2% gave a bribe

6% used personal connections

1% used political connections



Services where personal connections were most frequently used or expectations of a bribe were encountered

	Sample	Thought that a bribe was expected from them	Used personal connections
Municipality: construction-related procedures	N=214	11%	6%
Municipality: land management procedures	N=194	9%	4%
Municipality: decision making on infrastructure and the environment	N=127	9%	5%
Other public services: allocation of support and soft loans for business	N=118	8%	5%
Other public services: customs procedures and export/import permits	N=192	7%	2%
Municipality: public procurement organized by institutions	N=233	6%	3%
Municipality: procedures related to business permits and licenses	N=108	6%	4%

**Target group: used a specific service in the past 3 years (showing services used by more than 100 respondents).*

Almost one in three companies that participated in public procurement encountered deliberately restrictive conditions

48%

participated in at least one public procurement tender over the last 2 years

5%

participated in other government projects over the past 2 years

Encountered non-transparent practices in public procurement*



42%

Observed at least one non-transparent practice

**Target group: business executives of companies participating in public procurement, N=335. Arrows indicate changes exceeding the statistical margin of error compared to 2023-2024.*

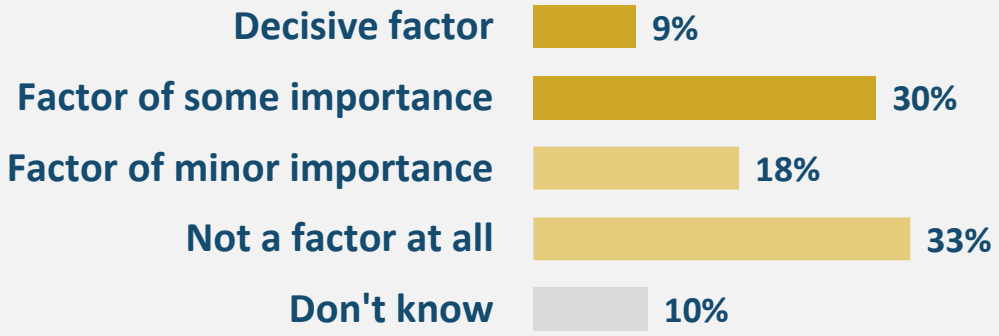
TRANSPARENCY OF DECISION-MAKING



Decision-making lacks openness

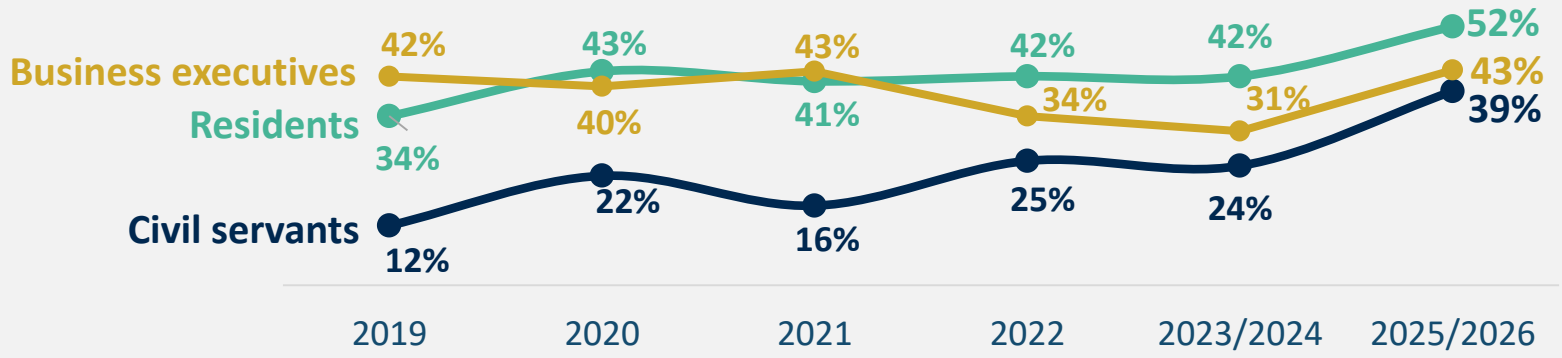
39%

believe that political connections influence the awarding of government contracts or projects



43%

believe that decision-making in Lithuania lacks openness

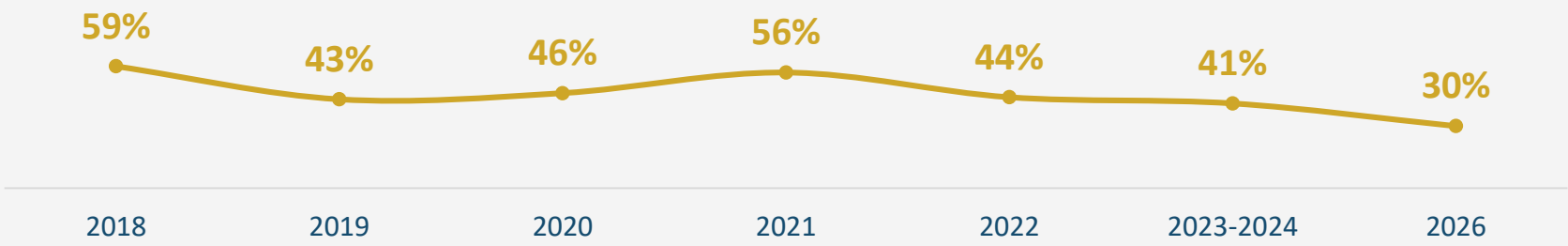


Fewer specific cases of undue influence are reported

Encountered a corrupt situation in the past 3 years in which politicians or civil servants:

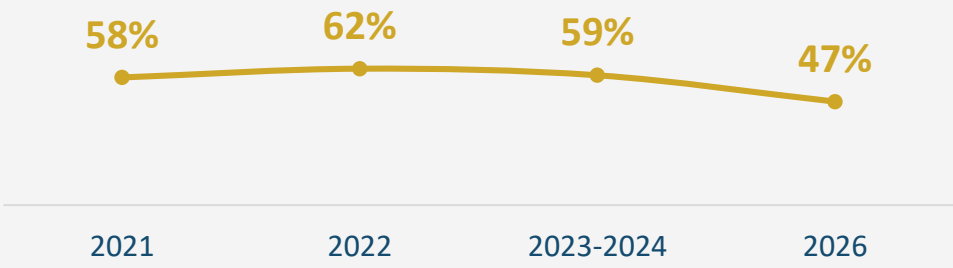
30%

received private-sector positions after leaving office in return for past decisions



47%

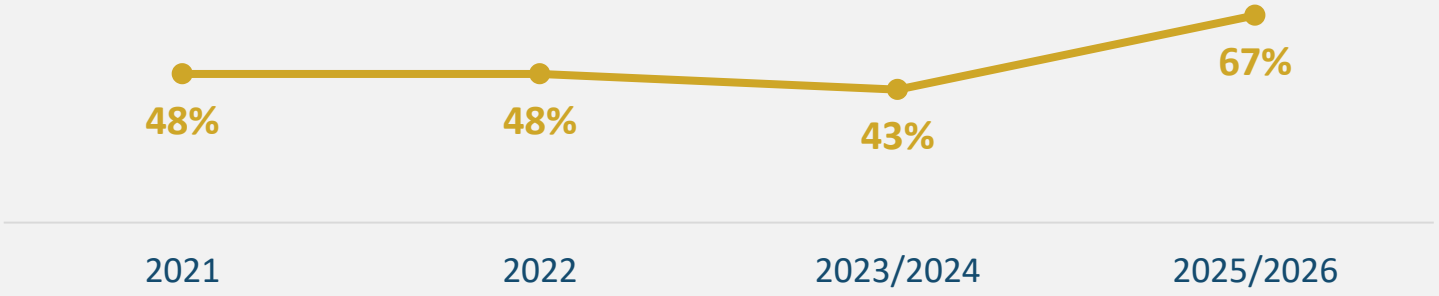
made decisions to benefit a specific interest group



However, attempts to exert influence are reported more frequently

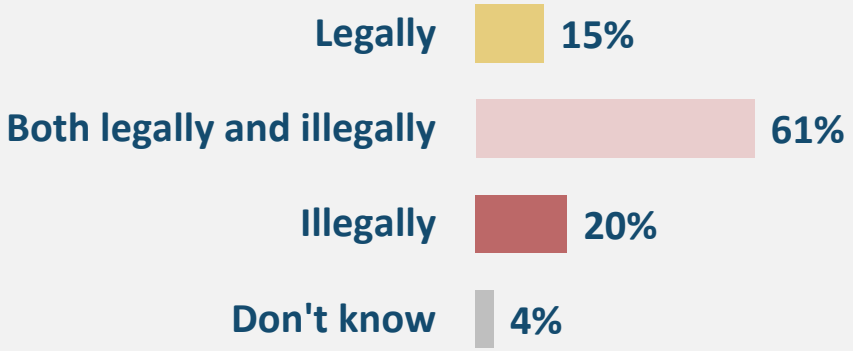
67%

have heard of cases involving attempts to influence decision-making



81%

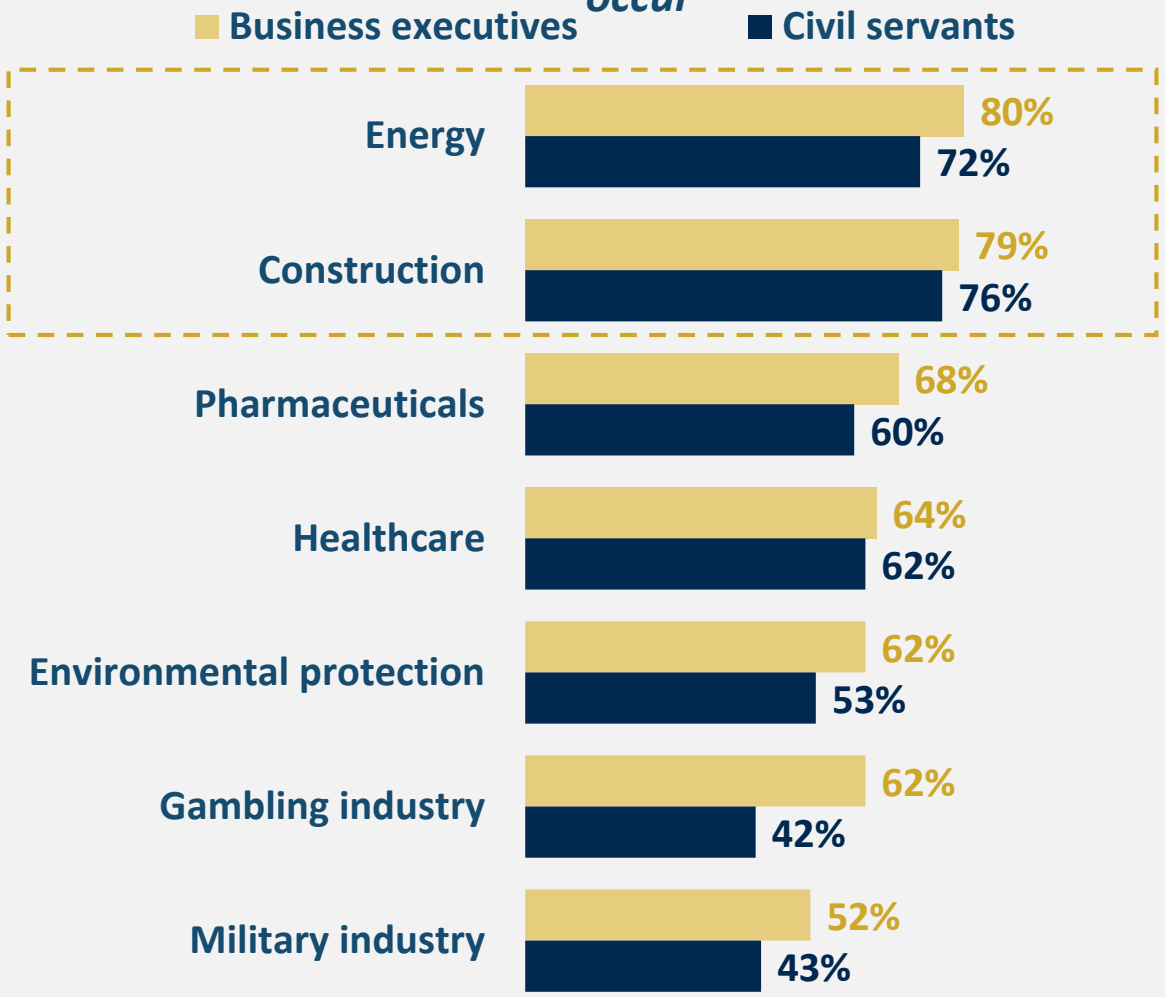
believe that the influence was exerted, at least in part, through unlawful means



Target group: business executives who are aware of cases where attempts were made to influence decision-making, N=466.

Attempts to influence decision-making are most common in the energy and construction sectors

Areas where the most frequent efforts to influence decision-making occur



Methods most commonly used to influence decision-making

84%

informal meetings and proposals

82%

using personal connections

82%

financial support for political parties and/or campaigns

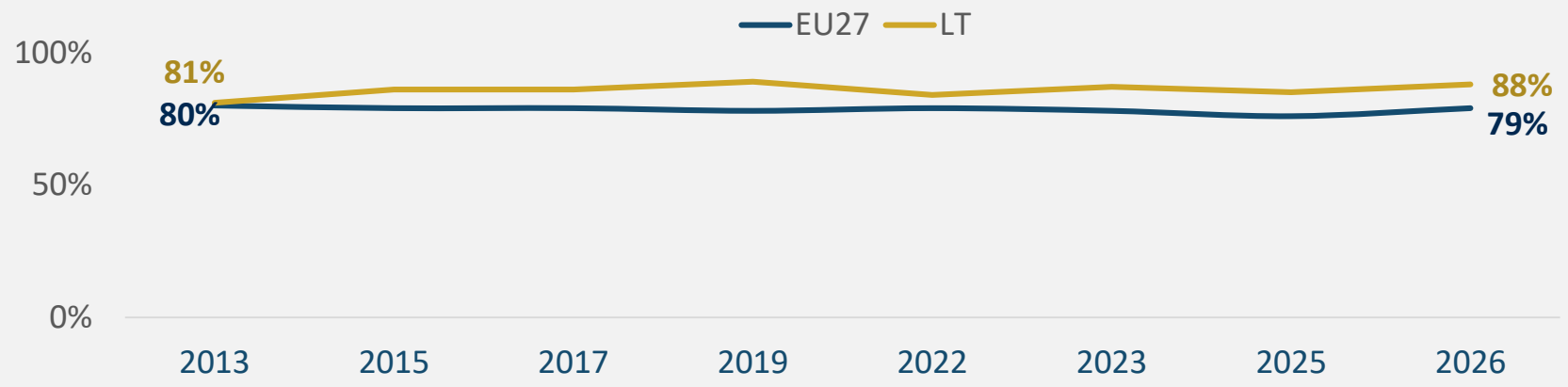
Target group: are aware of cases where attempts were made to influence decision-making, businesses executives, N=466, and civil servants, N=250.

Eurobarometer findings complement the Lithuanian Map of Corruption: political transparency risks remain a concern

Agree that:

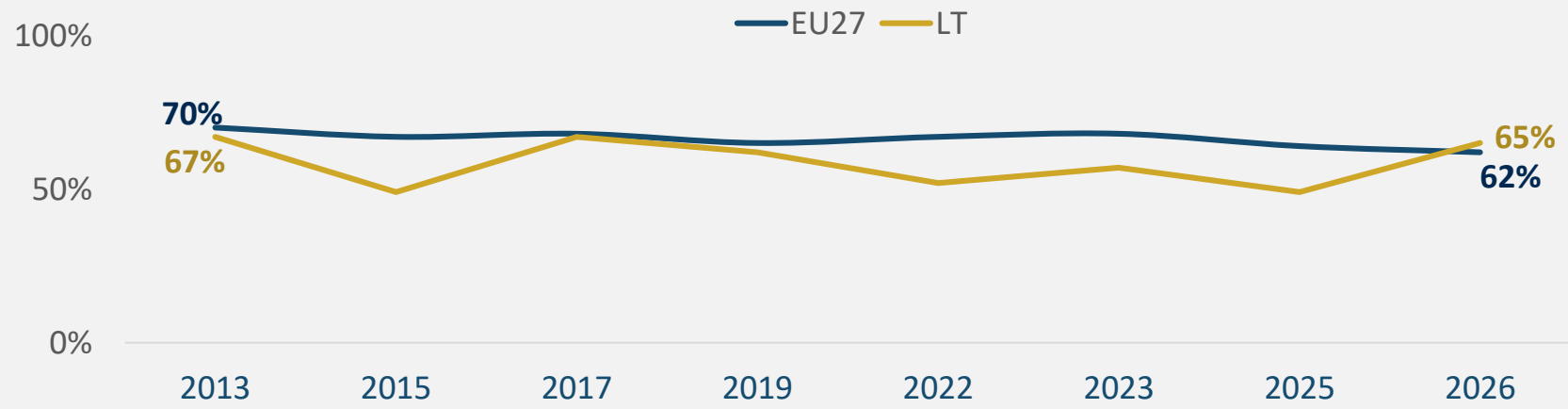
88%

in Lithuania, the overly close ties between business and politics lead to corruption



65% (+16 p.p)

the financing of political parties lacks sufficient transparency and oversight



Source: European Commission, Flash Eurobarometer, 582, 2026

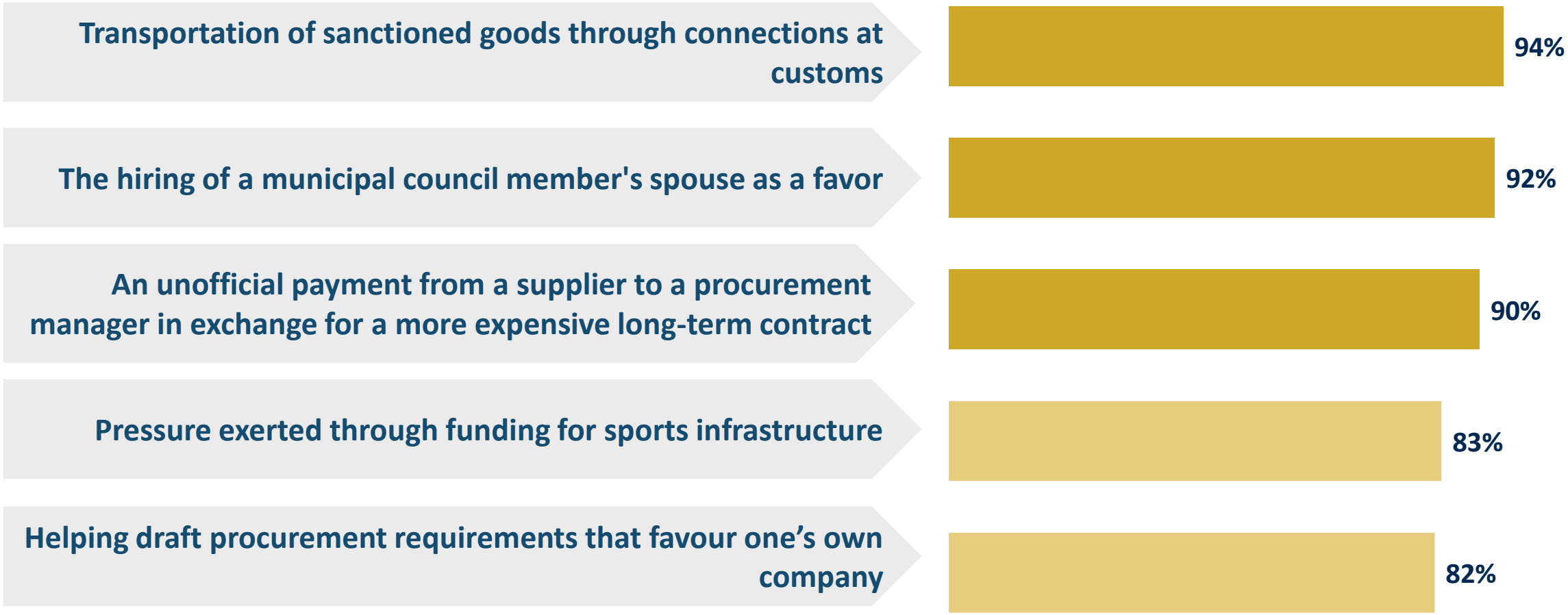
The wording of questions and methodology used in the Eurobarometer and the Lithuanian Map of Corruption differ; the indicators are used for international context and are not directly comparable.

ANTI-CORRUPTION POTENTIAL



Cases of corruption are widely recognized, but more complex forms of influence are harder to detect

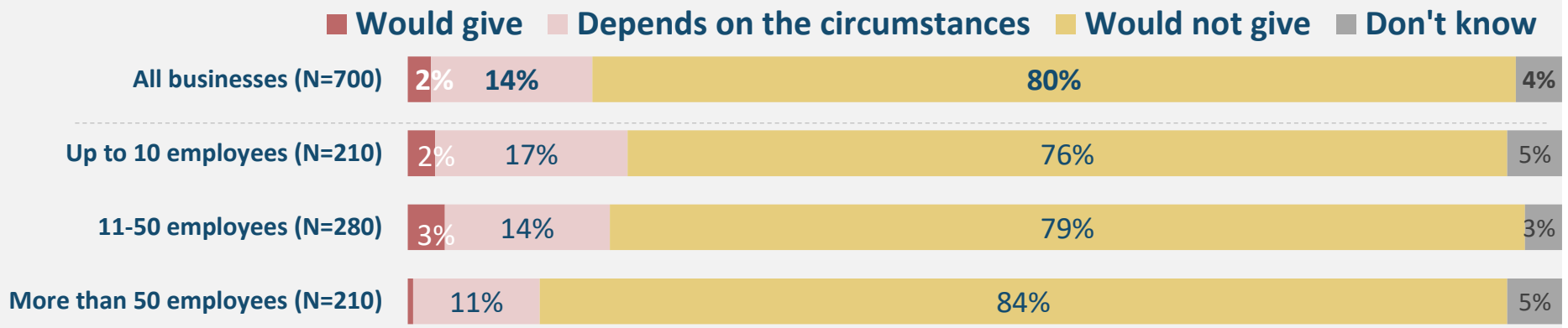
Do you think this is a case of corruption or not?
"Yes, it is corruption"

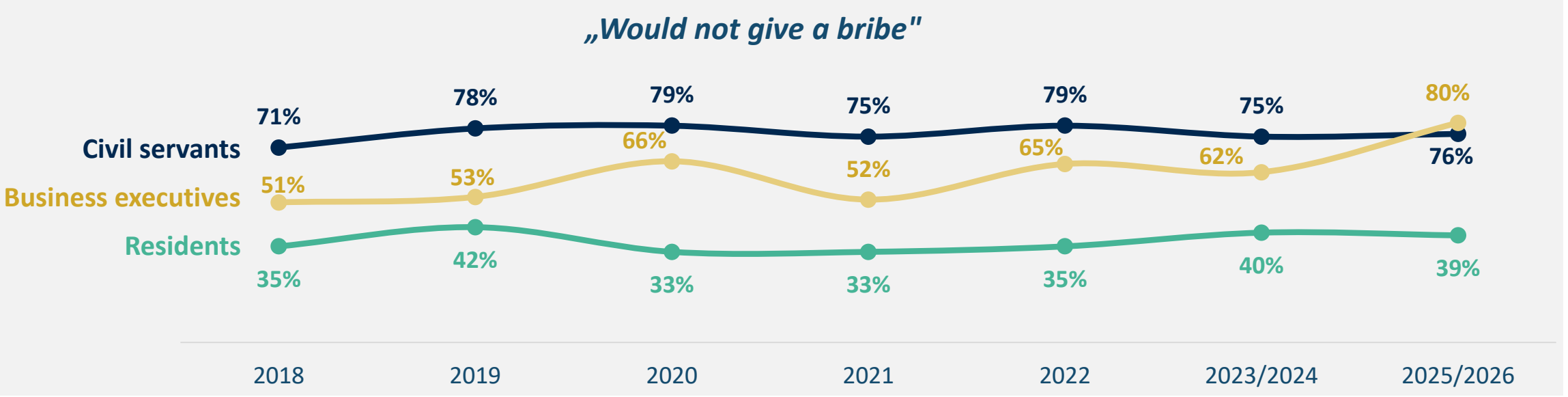


Businesses are becoming more reluctant to give bribes

80%

believe that their company representatives would not give a bribe under any circumstances

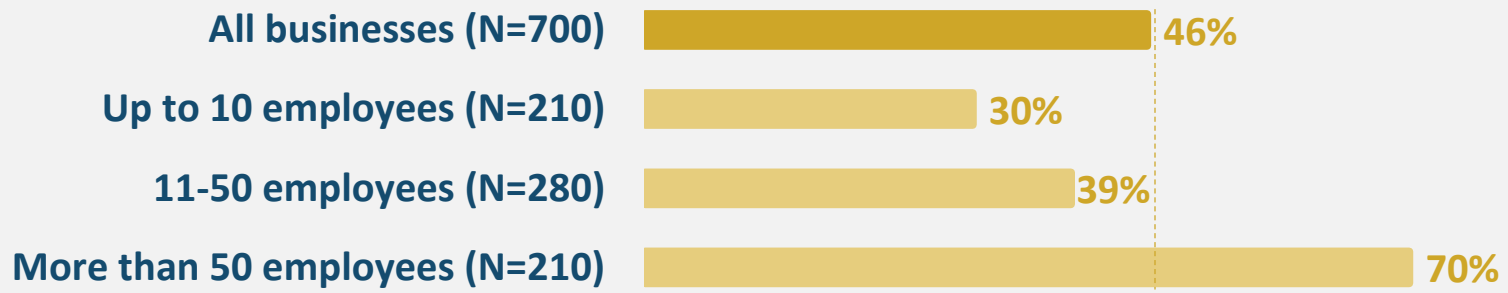




Anti-corruption measures are implemented much more frequently in larger companies

46%

implement at least one anti-corruption measure



What anti-corruption measures does your company implement?*

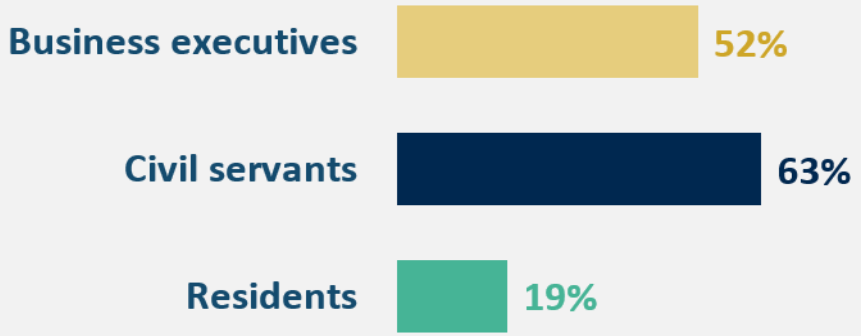


**Target group: Business executives at companies that implement anti-corruption measures, N=319.*

A significant gap remains between willingness to report corruption and actual action

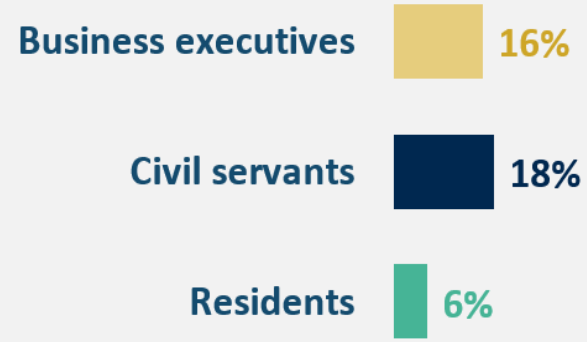
52%

would report corruption if they encountered it*



16%

of those who encountered suspected corruption reported it to the authorities**



Eurobarometer

82% **66%**

employee reports to the competent authorities contribute to the effective resolution of corruption cases.

37% **32%**

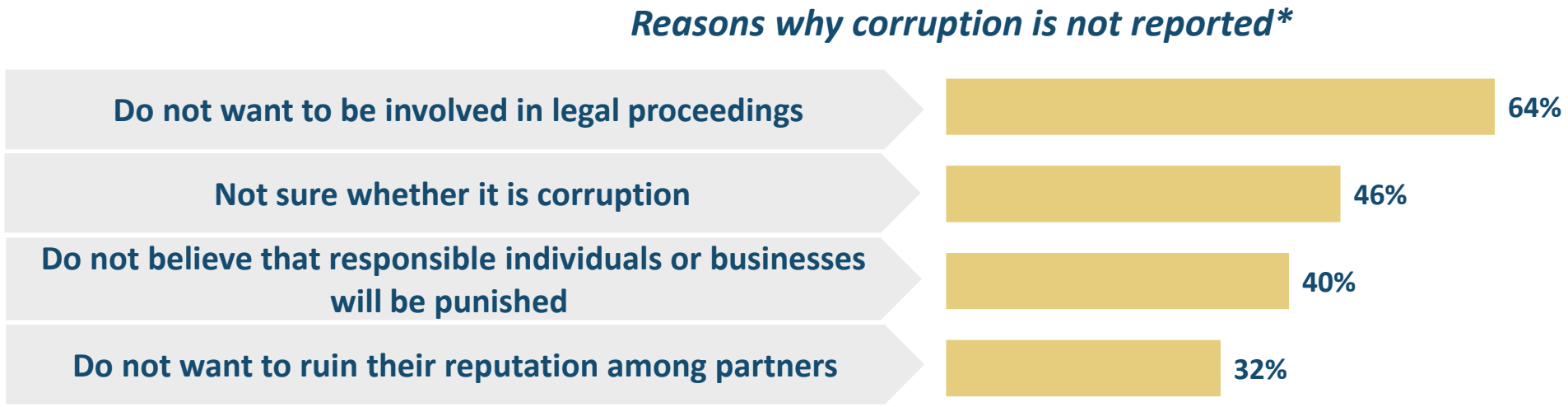
employees who report corruption are effectively protected from retaliation

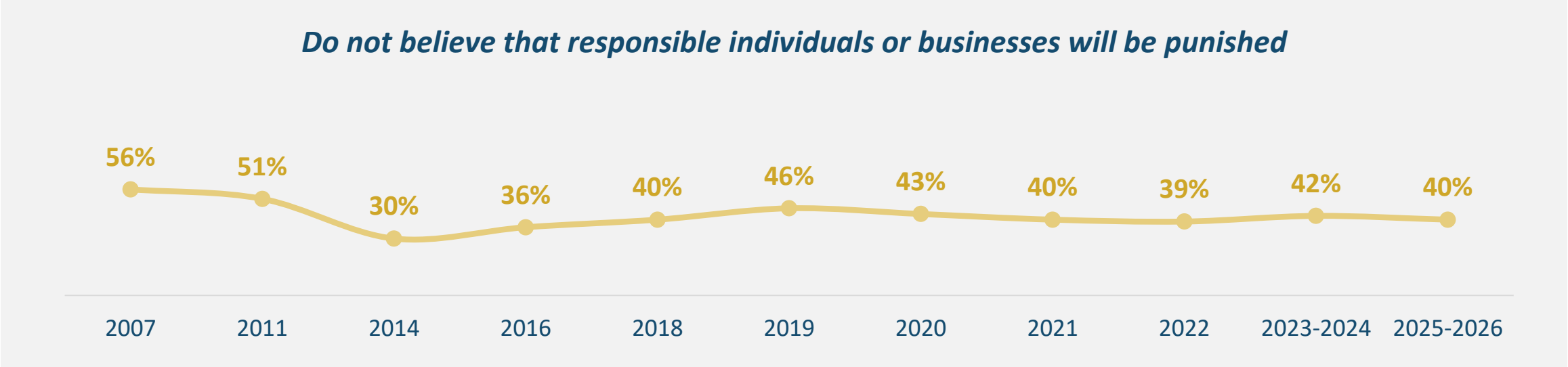
**In 2026, the wording of the question was changed from "Would you personally report a case of corruption that you are aware of?" to "Would you report corruption in the future if you encountered it?".*

***Target group: those who have encountered a potentially corrupt situation, N=143*

Arrows indicate changes exceeding the statistical margin of error compared to 2023-2024.

The main obstacles to reporting are the burden of legal proceedings, uncertainty and doubts regarding liability





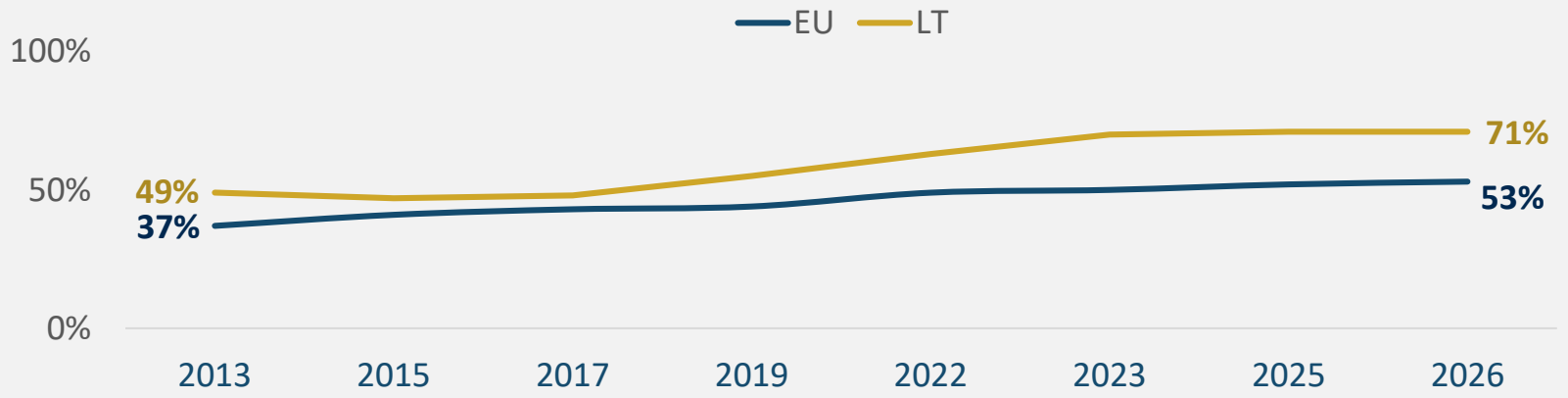
Arrows indicate changes that exceed the statistical margin of error compared to 2023–2024.

Eurobarometer: confidence in uncovering corruption is growing, yet there is considerably less trust in appropriate punishment

Agree that:

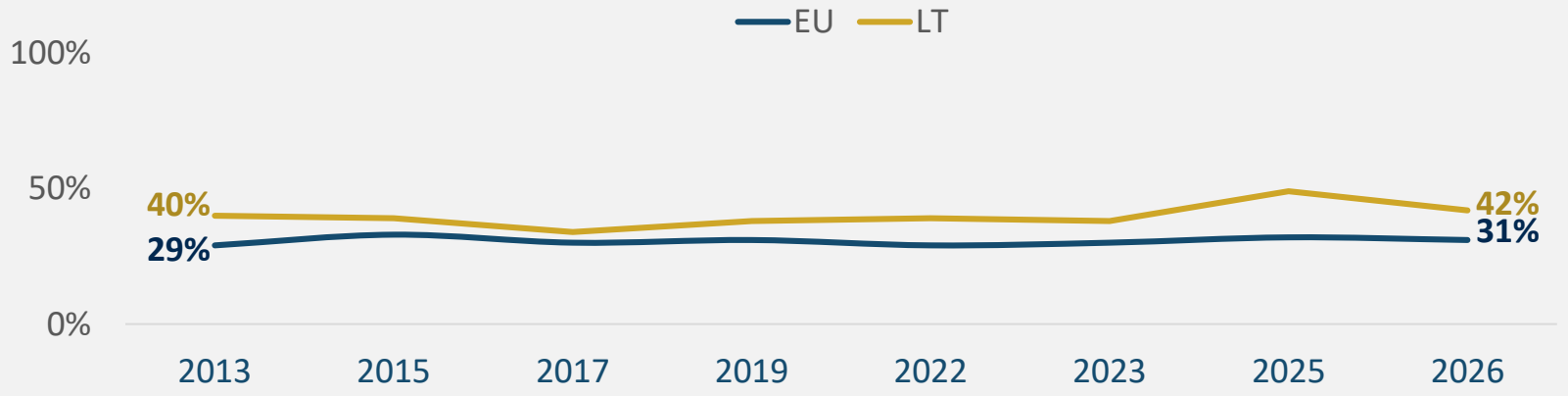
71%

believe that individuals or companies engaged in corrupt practices would be identified or reported to the police or the prosecutor's office



42%

think that those caught for giving a bribe to a high-ranking or responsible official are appropriately punished



Source: European Commission, Flash Eurobarometer, 582, 2026

The wording of questions and methodology used in the Eurobarometer and the Lithuanian Map of Corruption differ; the indicators are used for international context and are not directly comparable.

Business executives trust in STT increased up to 85 percent

99%
know STT



85%
trust STT*



**Respondents who have heard of STT*
Arrows indicate changes that exceed the statistical margin of error compared to 2023–2024.

Business resistance profiles

46%

Resistant

Would not give a bribe and would report any corruption encounter

- More often >50 employees
- **59%** implement anti-corruption measures
- **90%** trust STT
- Only **3%** used personal / political connections
- Corruption is encountered less often, but if it is faced, businesses tend to report it more often

29%

Partially resistant

Would not give a bribe, but reporting would depend on the circumstances

- Based on the indicators of most companies, close to the average
- Only **2%** of those who encountered corruption reported it
- **55%** do not report because of not being sure whether it is corruption
- Main gap – decision to act when faced with corruption

9%

Pragmatic

Both giving the bribe and reporting would depend on the circumstances

- **39%** experience financial difficulties
- Only **21%** implement anti-corruption measures
- Less often trusts STT
- **20%** used connections
- **41%** encountered situation of corruption

5%

Low resistance

Would give a bribe or would not report corruption

- More often <50 employees
- **47%** experience financial difficulties
- Only **17%** implement anti-corruption measures
- **33%** do not trust STT
- **22%** used connections
- More frequently faced a situation of corruption (**53%**) and more often did not believe that related individuals / businesses will be punished (**83%**)

RECOMMENDATIONS

For national and municipal decision-makers

1 Strengthen the transparency of services provided by municipalities to business

Clear criteria, terms, reasoning behind decisions and traceability – firstly in construction, land management, infrastructure, permit and other procedures involving greater discretion.

Data: highest bribe expectation indicators – local government procedures related to construction (11 %), land management (9 %), infrastructure decisions (9 %).

2 Increase the transparency of decision-making and the traceability of influence

Publicize consultations, meetings and the reasoning behind decisions more consistently, strengthen the management of conflicts of interest and clearly distinguish the legitimate representation of interests from the unlawful influence.

Data: 67 % had heard about instances of influence and 81 % of them believe that the actions were carried out, at least in part, unlawfully.

3 Strengthen the protection of whistleblowers

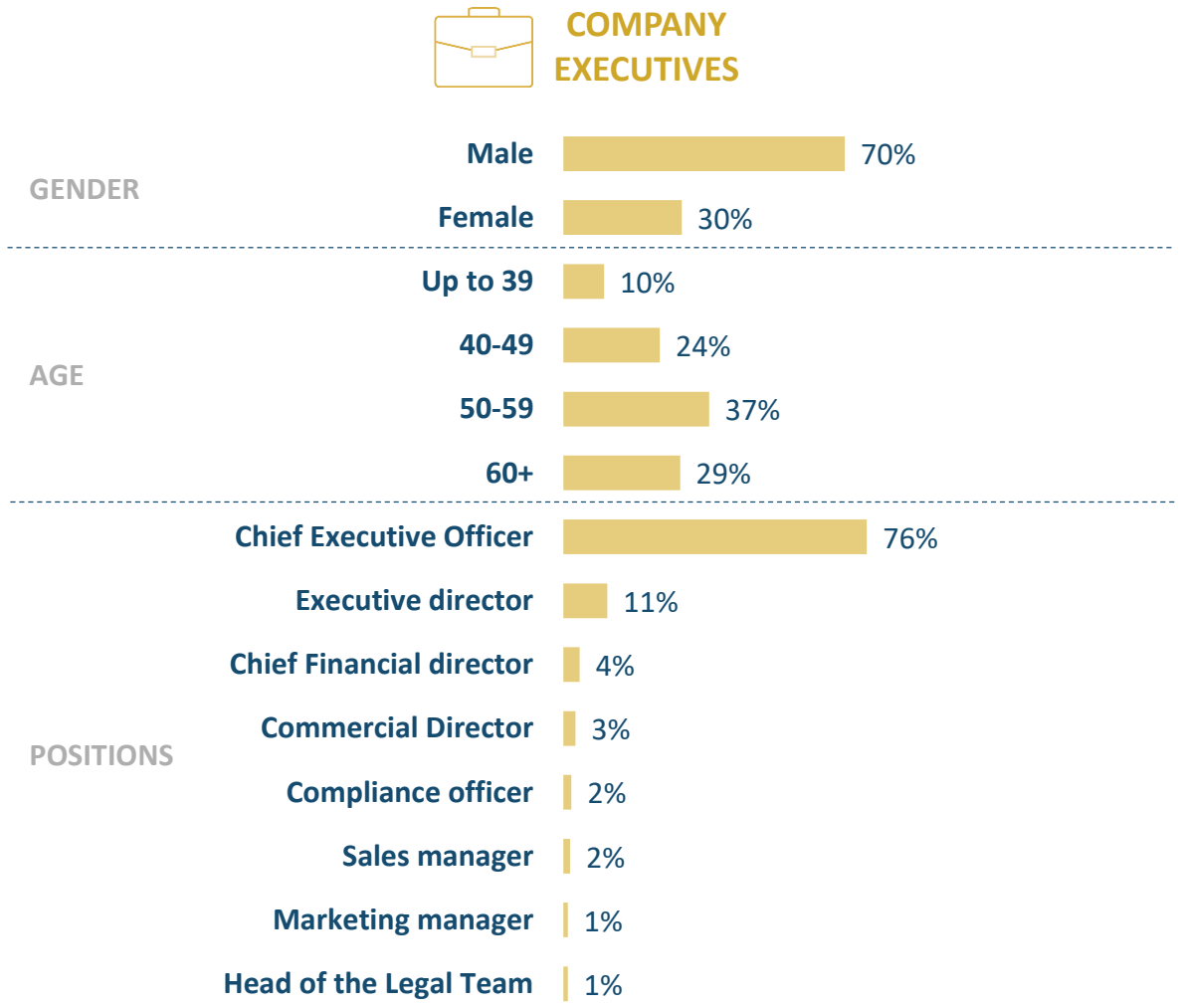
A clearer reporting process, accompanied by information about the reporter's role, protection and potential feedback should reduce the fear of legal proceedings and doubt about whether reporting corruption is worthwhile.

Data: 64 % of those who do not report corruption do not want to get involved in legal processes; 46 % are not sure whether it is corruption; 40 % doubt that those responsible will be punished.

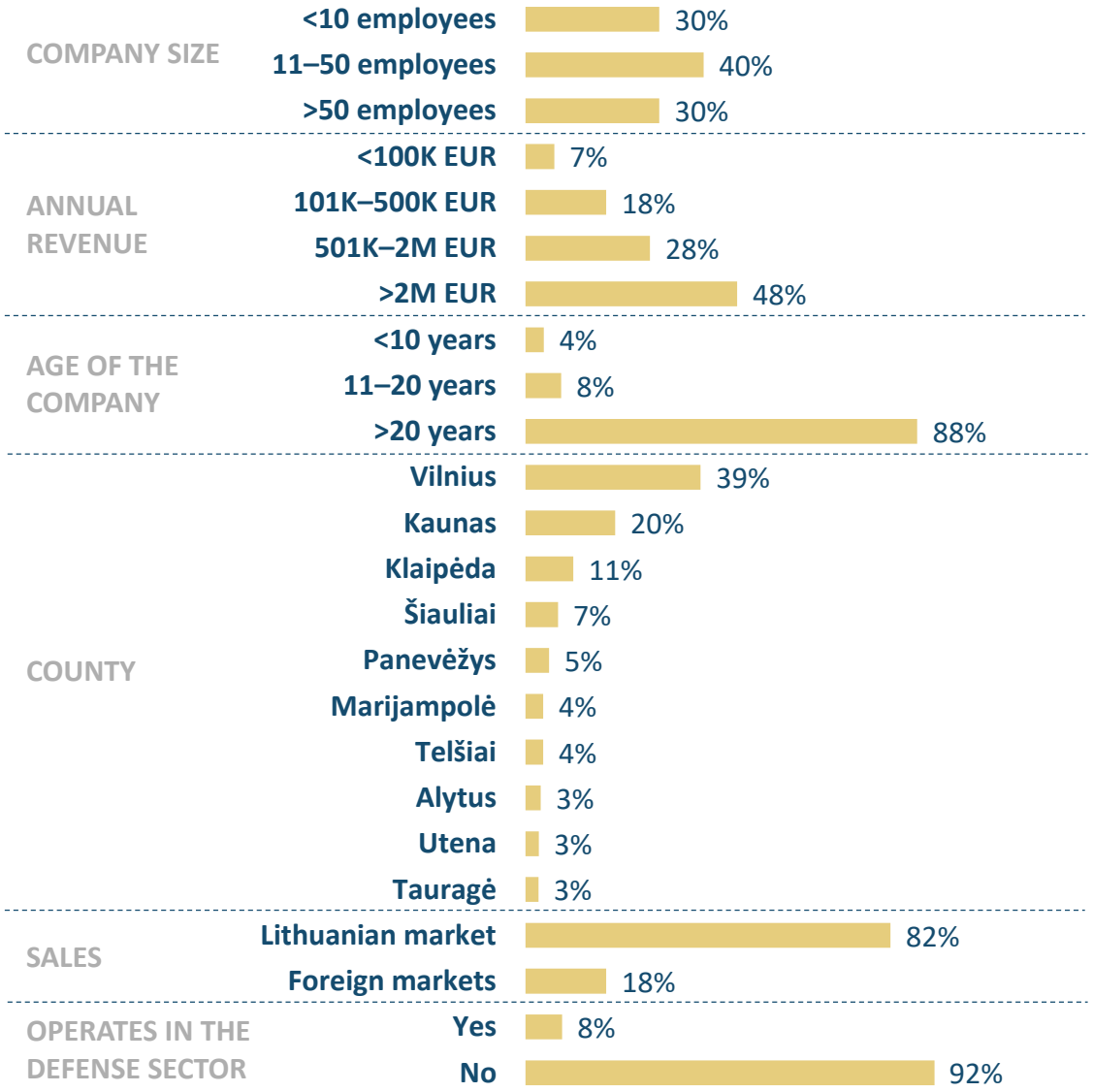
Thank you!

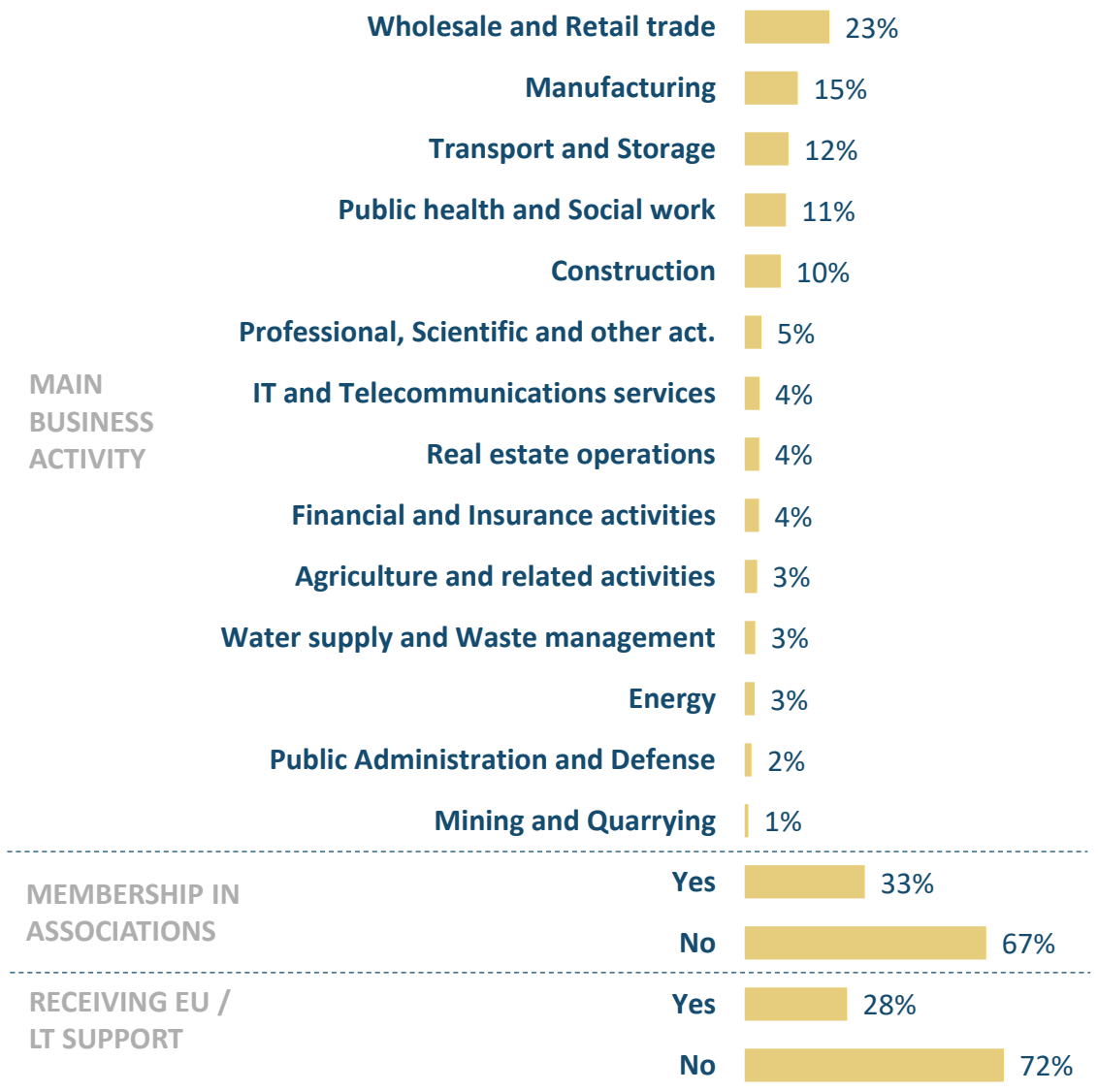
APPENDICES

Socio-demographic characteristics of the respondents:



Characteristics of business enterprises:



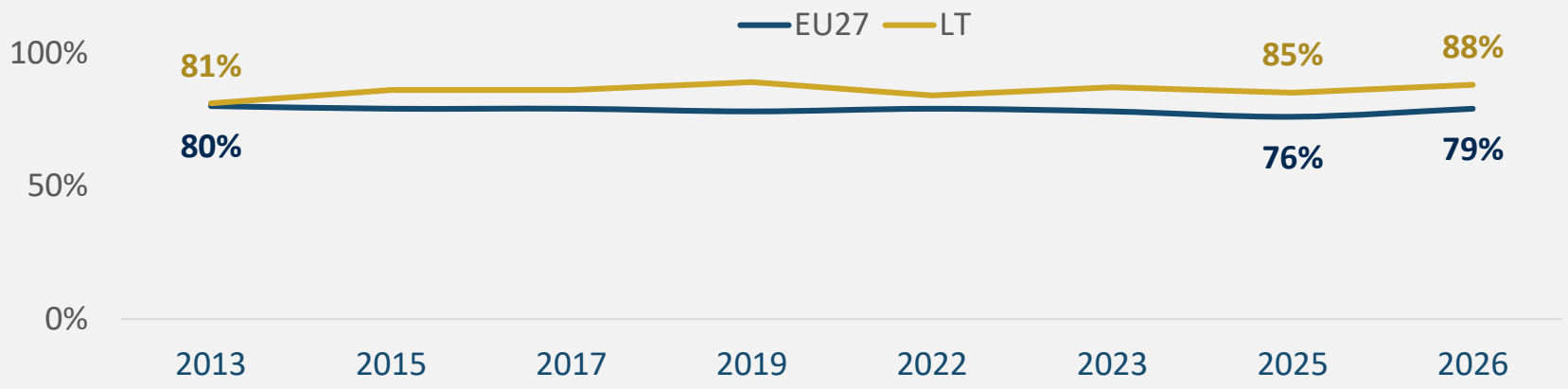


Eurobarometer findings complement the Lithuanian Map of Corruption: political transparency risks remain a concern

Agree that:

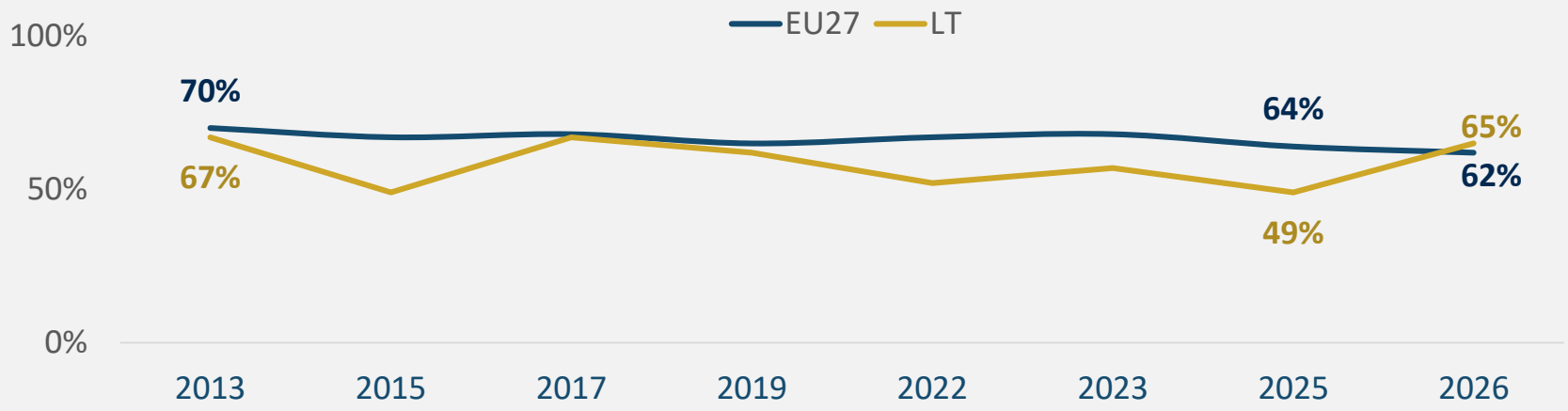
88%

in Lithuania, the overly close ties between business and politics lead to corruption



65% **(+16 p.p)**

the financing of political parties lacks sufficient transparency and oversight



Source: European Commission, Flash Eurobarometer, 582, 2026

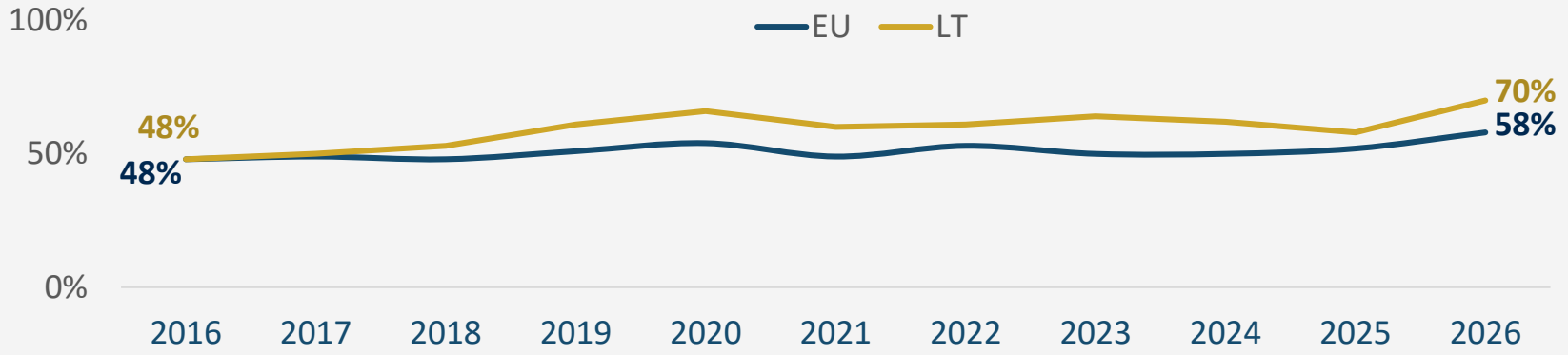
The wording of questions and methodology used in the Eurobarometer and the Lithuanian Map of Corruption differ; the indicators are used for international context and are not directly comparable.

Eurobarometer: the assessment of the independence of courts and other decision-making bodies in Lithuania is more favorable than EU average

70% +12 p.p.

58% +6 p.p.

have a favorable view of the **justice system** in terms of the independence of courts and judges



Assessment of the independence of public procurement and competition oversight institutions

65% +16 p.p.

54% -5 p.p.

positively assesses the independence of **regional courts** that hear public procurement cases

59% +18 p.p.

54% -8 p.p.

positively assesses the independence of the **Competition Council** when making decisions in competition cases

Source: European Commission, Flash Eurobarometer, 582, 2026

The wording of questions and methodology used in the Eurobarometer and the Lithuanian Map of Corruption differ; the indicators are used for international context and are not directly comparable.