



**NÉZŐPONT INTÉZET**

# THE MAJORITY OF HUNGARIANS SUPPORT ONLINE CASH REGISTERS

NÉZŐPONT INTÉZET'S ECONOMIC TRANSPARENCY  
PRESS RELEASE

## THE MAJORITY OF HUNGARIANS SUPPORT ONLINE CASH REGISTERS

Budapest, August 15, 2016. – The Hungarian population supports measures that aim to roll back the shadow economy, therefore the Hungarian people are content with the extension of electronic financial transactions (88 percent are satisfied with the use of bank cards), as they also embrace the use of online cash registers (four times more consider it more efficient than not) and the introduction of EKÁÉR (three times more people consider it more useful than not) – indicates a poll completed through the Economic Transparency Roundtable organized by Nézőpont Intézet. Based on this survey, it is also apparent that there are still improvements that could be made in terms of the effectiveness of the battle against the grey economy.

The domestic population supports and understands the government measures launched against the grey and black economies, however, it does not think that the necessary infrastructure to implement such measures is adequate in all areas, denotes a recent public opinion poll completed by Nézőpont Intézet's Economic Transparency Roundtable.

### THE RATIO OF THOSE WHO ENCOUNTERED SITUATIONS WHEREAS THEY **DID NOT RECEIVE AN INVOICE OR A RECEIPT** IN A GIVEN SECTOR (WITHIN THE TOTAL ADULT POPULATION)



The research confirms that a decisive majority of Hungarians encounter various forms of tax avoidance schemes from taking on undeclared jobs, receiving bribes and gratuity payments all the way to missing invoices. According to the poll, a majority of the people, 59 percent have encountered situations whereas during domestic household service calls, such as plumbing, masonry, or cleaning services, they did not receive any invoices. The ratio of missing

invoices is registered to be 53 percent in the small retail trade sector, while it is recorded at 19 percent in restaurants and catering establishments, therefore the survey confirms that along these parameters the service sector is the one most infected.

People generally consider online services as the most effective tool to roll back abuses, e.g., they are pleased with the expansion of electronic financial transactions. The poll ascertained that despite the fact that the majority of Hungarians seem to be satisfied with the payment opportunities afforded to them through bank cards and 88 percent of respondents have reiterated this, it is still a widespread complaint that although they would like to use one of their plastic cards, they are not given the opportunity to do so. 53 percent of those surveyed said that it happened to them over the past year that they would have liked to use their card, but they were not able to.

The number of financial transactions completed through bank cards has increased by 22.1 percent during the first quarter of 2016 compared to the same period of the previous year, according to statistics provided by the Hungarian National Bank, however, the ratio of bank card transactions in various sectors of the economy is not balanced at all. While 79 percent of respondents stated that they regularly use bank cards in supermarkets and shopping malls, only 36 percent reported using their cards in smaller shops and even worse, in food service establishments (restaurants) this ratio further shrinks to 21 percent. In certain services sectors the use of bank cards is negligible, such as barbershops, hairdressers and/or taxi cabs, in which service areas the ratio of those who use bank cards only account for 5 percent.

Respondents are also supportive of online cash registers and EKÁER: 53 percent think the use of online cash registers would be the adequate solution to reduce incidents whereas proper invoices or receipts are not provided, while 45 percent consider EKÁER an effective tool in providing oversight in the area of public road transport. On the other hand, 13-15 percent of those asked surmised that the systems in place are not yet effective enough. It is a noteworthy outcome of the assessment that in people's view the compulsory use of online cash registers should be extended to professions generating larger incomes as well, such as law practices, dental offices and plastic surgery practices.

It is apparent from this poll that Hungarians consider online cash registers, EKÁER and electronic payments as the best overall solution to battle the grey economy. People tend to feel the infected status of the Hungarian economy, but they also sense and appreciate what needs to be done against it.

*The Economic Transparency Roundtable of Nézőpont Intézet was created in 2016 by Nézőpont Intézet with the purpose of tackling transparency, corruption, scaling back the grey economy and improving the allocation of public spending. Financial organizations, scientific institutions, civic and government organizations will participate in the work of this forum (Roundtable), among them the State Audit Office, the Hungarian National Bank, MKB Bank, the National Economic Ministry and the Central Statistical Office as counselors. During the Summer, the Economic*

*Transparency Roundtable has already published two studies indicating the attitude of Hungarians with respect to the black and grey economies and/or the grey economy associated with health care.*

**Methodology:**

*This poll was prepared on a 1000 people nationally representative sample, using a personal questionnaire. The base of this research was the population age 18 and older, collection of the data was completed during May 2-18, 2016. The statistical margin of error of this sample is +/- 3.2 percent, i.e. any deviation from the results attained can only occur to this extent, which results can be projected to the entire Hungarian adult population.*