



NÉZŐPONT INTÉZET

WE DO NOT PAY GRATUITY OUT OF GRATITUDE

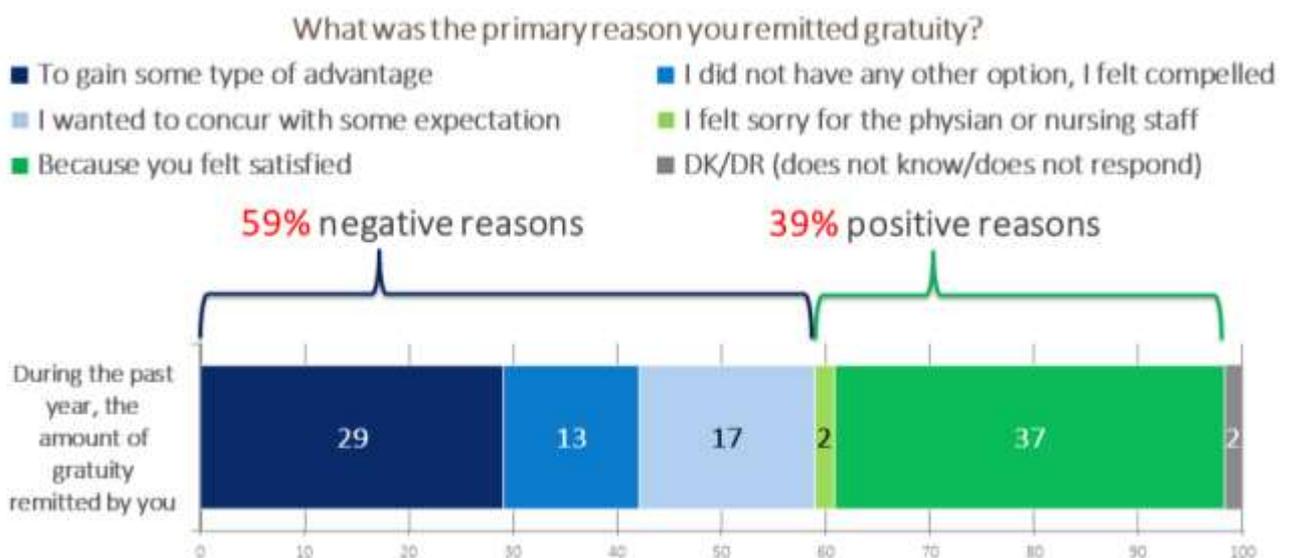
**NÉZŐPONT INTÉZET'S ECONOMIC TRANSPARENCY
PRESS RELEASE**

WE DO NOT PAY GRATUITY OUT OF GRATITUDE

Budapest, August 4, 2016. – The continued application of gratuity-based services in the Hungarian health care system are hinged more on adverse causes, such as gaining some type of advantage, duress or simple expectation; gratitude (as the Hungarian word implies) has only a limited role – according to Nézőpont Intézet’s Economic Transparency Roundtable public opinion poll, noting that the majority of people decidedly oppose the use of the state infrastructure in the private practice of medical doctors.

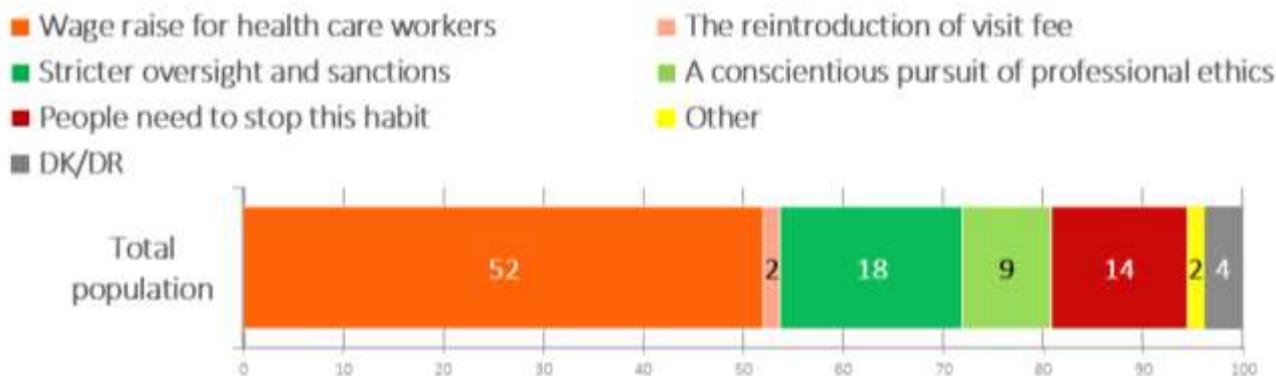
The majority of Hungarians think that higher wages for physicians and health care workers would be the best way to roll back gratuity money – according to Nézőpont Intézet’s Economic Roundtable public opinion poll, which was completed recently.

During the past year, half of those polled had some kind of experience with the health care system either personally or via a relative, while approximately half of them paid some kind of gratuity in relation to some medical treatment they received. Of those who paid gratuity, 59 percent stated that there was some sort of negative factor behind slipping the envelope to the service provider - they hoped to gain some advantage out of this action, felt compelled to do so, or simply wanted to fulfill some general social expectation. Only 37 percent paid gratuity because they were satisfied with the treatment they received and 2 percent remitted some gratuity because they felt sorry for the physician or the nursing staff.



52 percent of respondents thought that raising wages may be the best way to scale back the gratuity system, while 18 percent simply surmised that oversight needs to be strengthened to get rid of this practice. 14 percent of the people think that gratuity is a measure that mostly patients need to stop resorting to, while 9 percent contemplate that the ultimate solution would be a conscious pursuit of professional ethics and a persistent commitment to healing as a priority. The reintroduction of the visit fee was chosen by only 2 percent of the people as one of the alternatives to improve the system.

In your opinion, what would it take to eliminate dependence on gratuity in the health care system?



From this research it can be seen that the grey market in the health care system does not narrow down to the payment of gratuities only. Two-thirds of Hungarians think that it should not be permitted that physicians use state infrastructure and equipment in their private practice: 69 percent reject this practice and only 22 percent was more lenient in this regard (another 9 percent did not respond to this question). The majority – 51 percent – would like to see the state to implement tougher measures in stemming out this practice, while only 16 percent would oppose tougher sanctions and 27 percent was uncertain in how to respond.

„From this survey it is obvious that people expect quality improvements and the sector’s transparency in exchange for wage raises” – delineated Ágoston Sámuel Mráz, a senior analyst at Nézőpont Intézet. He emphasized that according to the poll, the health care sector is one of the most corrupt area of the grey economy and voters would support all measures that would aim to roll back such corruption. According to KSH statistics, gross average wages in the health care sector were 25 percent higher at the end of the first quarter in 2016 than in the same period of 2012. This significant real wage increase will be followed by another wage improvement cycle, whereas the wages of

certain health-care specialists will be raised by 26.5 percent this year on average, then during the forthcoming years will continue to be improved by another 12 and 8 percent, respectively. Ágoston Sámuel Mráz stressed that the government will increase the budget for health care sector wage increases by a 100 billion forints over the next four years, therefore it is likely that there will be a rising need for the scaling back of gratuity-based services.

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.

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.