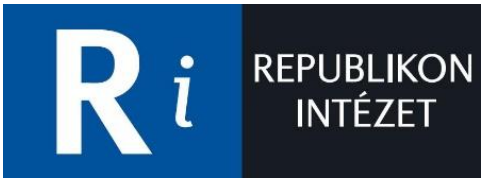
Opinions about accountability and a Fidesz-KDNP successor party

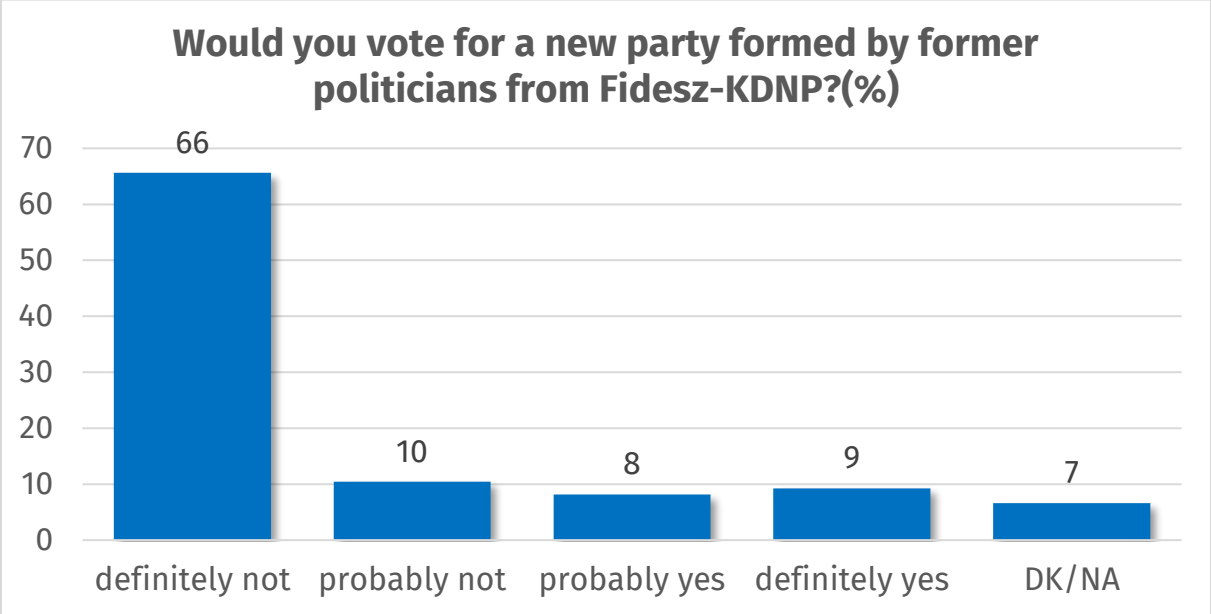
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Research from Republikon Institute



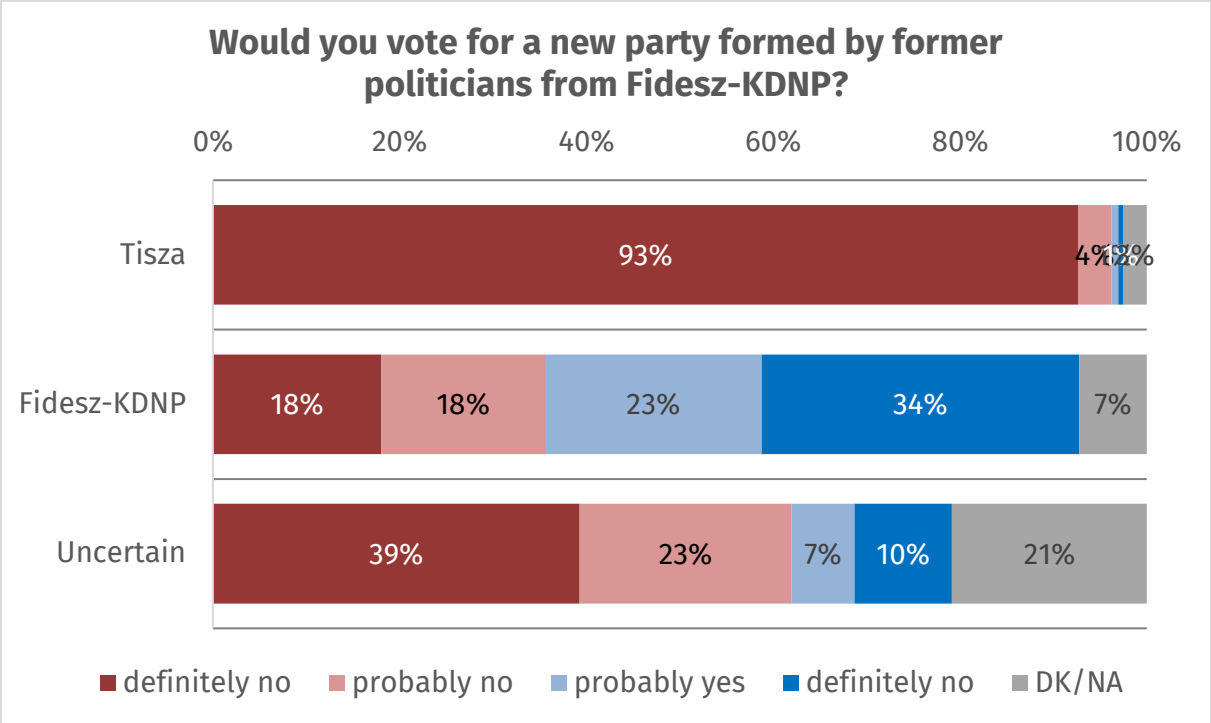
THE QUESTION OF A SUCCESOR PARTY

As part of our research on party preference in August, we asked participants whether they would hypothetically vote for a party that emerges from Fidesz-KDNP and is led by politicians from this coalition. ⅔ of the Hungarian population would not vote for a party like this, and 10 percent would most likely not vote for it. Only 17 percent of the surveyed people have answered yes to this question. This alone does not reveal whether this party would perform just as "well" if its predecessors, Fidesz and the KDNP, were still in the running, or whether the 17 percent level of trust is directed toward Fidesz-KDNP itself. What is certain, however, is that respondents also view a party split and realignment as a realistic scenario, as there appears to be some demand for a potential splinter party.



Amongst the current Fidesz-KDNP voters, only 57 percent would vote for such a new party, and only 1 in 3 would vote for it for certain. 36 percent of the current voter base would not vote for such a new formation. Thus, the party split would certainly come with a split in the voter base, based on how it looks now; this new party could aim for the above 5 percent if there were elections now. In the current voting system, this step would mean giving up governing ambitions, but it would also ensure, for some, political survival and a building block for the future. The future of the former ruling party, just like that of Viktor Orbán, remains unclear for the time being, so

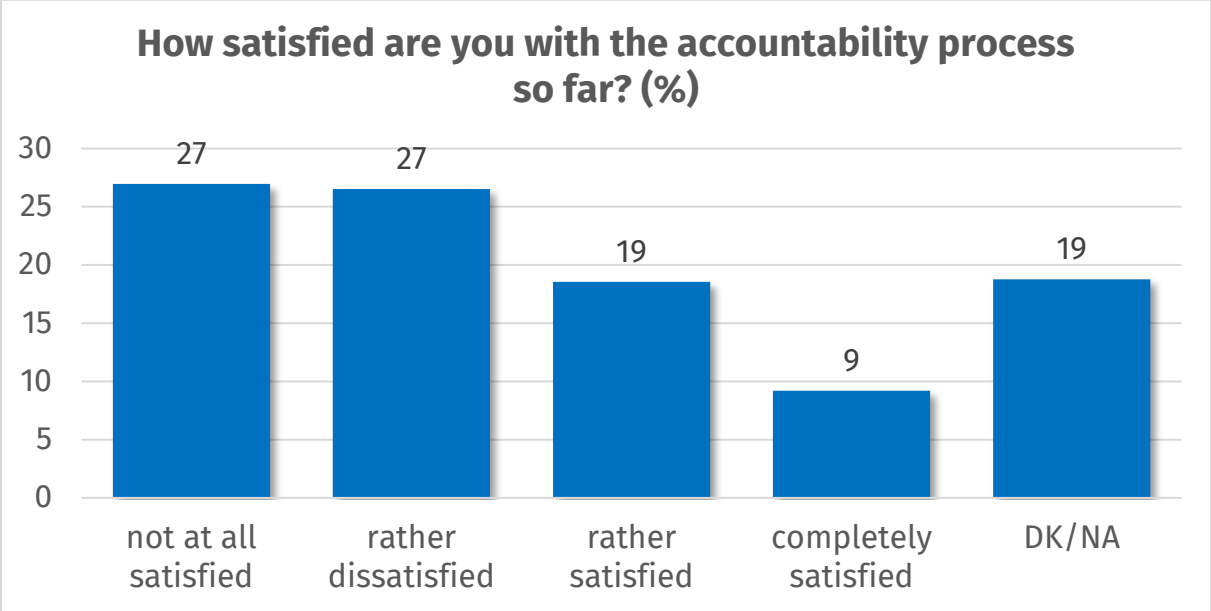
breaking up the Fidesz-KDNP alliance could easily be a hasty move; at the same time, a split is time-sensitive, especially given the downward trend in Fidesz's support; it is worth moving forward while the voter base can still be meaningfully divided and there is time to build a new party before the next election.



Among Tisza's voter base, 93 percent would definitely not vote for a party that has emerged from Fidesz-KDNP. Of those who are unsure, 62 percent wouldn't vote for them, and 17 percent could be convinced to vote for them; however, that 17 percent accounts for only 2.5-3 percent of the total population. All in all, it is shown that a party break would be a realistic alternative for the old party's politicians, and in the current voting system it would be enough to get into parliament, and in the case of a new voting system, it could mean a strong and actually competitive party which could bring strong opportunities with it. It is no surprise that in the last KDNP congress the option of a break came up and the fight for the 5 percent. Naturally, the risk is large, and if Fidesz, the KDNP, and a new party all compete for roughly 20 percent of voters who previously supported the former ruling parties, this could easily fragment the right-wing vote.

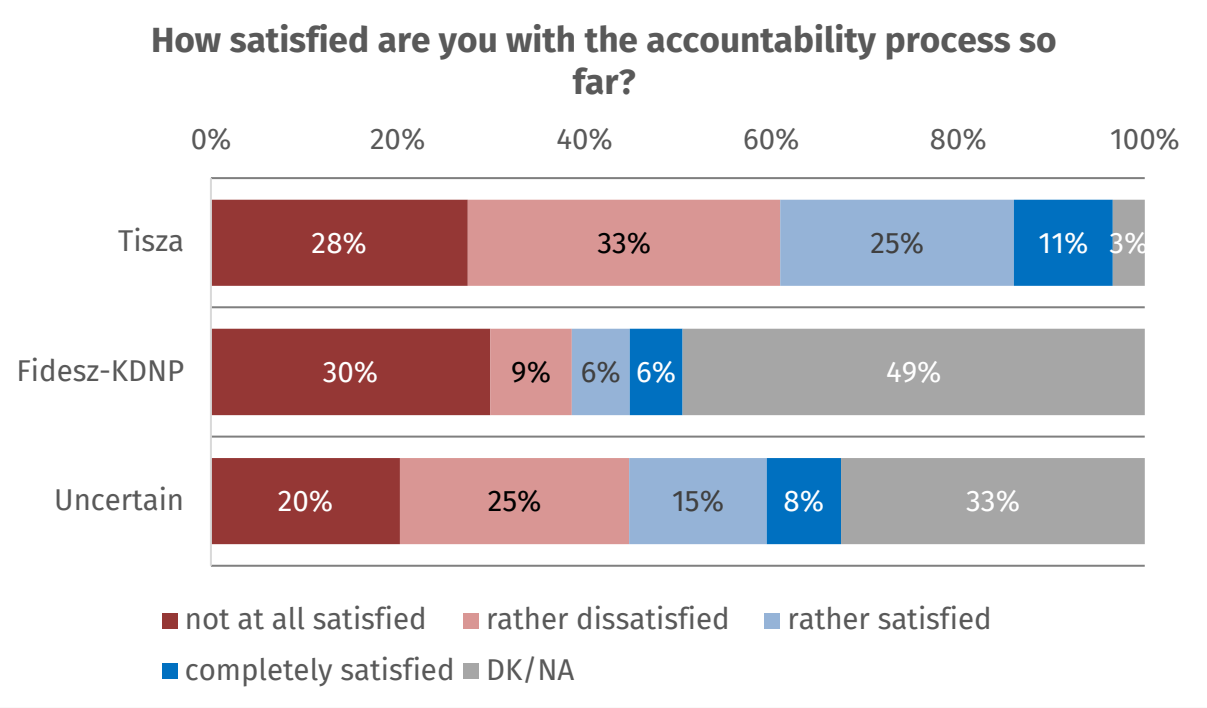
OPINIONS ABOUT THE ACCOUNTABILITY ACTIONS

In August, when we asked about party preference, we also asked how satisfied people are with the accountability actions taken so far. One of the Tisza Party's most important campaign promises was to ensure that those responsible are held accountable, and its voters expect nothing less than to see handcuffs on the leading politicians of the previous regime. Although the NER has started collapsing rapidly after April, the big players in the Orbán regime have not yet been prosecuted for their actions. Based on our research, some voters' tolerance and patience are running out. 27 percent of the voters are not satisfied at all with how the retribution and accountability actions are going so far; 27 percent are simply not satisfied, meaning the majority is unsatisfied. Only 28 percent of them are actually satisfied with what's been happening so far.



Among Tisza voters, 61 percent are somewhat dissatisfied with accountability efforts to date, while only 36 percent are satisfied, meaning even supporters of the ruling party are critical of this issue. It is not easy to interpret the response from the Fidesz-KDNP camp, since accountability concerns the crimes of the Orbán regime, a regime that these voters would prefer to see in power; although Fidesz spokespeople have also spoken out against certain elements of the system (e.g., "luxury spending") during the campaign and since then, which, aside from being

infinitely cynical, has also allowed Fidesz voters to reflect critically on the past 16 years. Thus, when they say they are not satisfied with the accountability measures, this can mean either a lack of accountability for the oligarchs or criticism of the measures used by the Tisza government, which the opposition considers “arbitrary.” Of Fidesz-KDNP voters, 39 percent are not satisfied with the accountability process, 12 percent are satisfied, and half did not answer the question, which is understandable because answering it would legitimize the need for accountability.



Of those who are undecided, 45 percent are dissatisfied with the accountability process so far, 23 percent are satisfied, and one-third did not answer the question.

After the Tisza party's historic win, it faces historic expectations: it must hold the Orbán party's sinners accountable while also restoring the rule of law in a democratic way through large-scale public discourse. Half of the Tisza camp, which comprises ⅔ of Hungarians, urges accountability processes, while the other half supports a calmer approach. Because of the few fights and conflicts between party voters, the Tisza camp will become much more homogeneous and smaller. Through gradual consolidation, the “true Tisza voter” may emerge, someone who does not

want a country shaped in his own image, but simply wants a country that functions well, and trusts that Tisza is working toward that goal as well.

Methodology: The survey was conducted via telephone interviews with 1,000 respondents between August 29 and September 1, 2026. The survey is representative of the country's adult population by gender, age, educational attainment, and settlement type. The margin of error is +/- 3.5%.