



Eurobaromspecial 517
Report

The future of Europe

The work of the wanderer: September-
October 2021

Special Eurobarometer 517, the future of Europe p.2

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*Eŭropo
Demokratio
Esperanto*

Document prepared by Pierre Dieumegard

for Europe-Democracy-Esperanto

The objective of this “provisional” document is to enable more people in the European Union to understand the documents produced for the European Union (and financed by their contributions). The original document in French was formatted by the Libre Office software and then automatically translated by <https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/etranslation>. The result has been put in all the official languages of the European Union on <http://www.europokune.eu/>

We have done this work because of the need for better multilingualism in the European Union: without translations, a large part of the population is excluded from the debate. **It is desirable that the administration of the European Union should be responsible for translating important documents, so that all Europeans can understand what they are talking about and discuss their common future together.**

For good direct communication between European citizens, for reliable translations, the Esperanto international language would be very useful because of its simplicity, regularity and precision.

On the Internet:

European Federation-Demokratio-Esperanto: <http://e-d-e.org/> or <http://demokratio.eu>

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INTRODUCTION

This report presents the full results of Special Eurobarometer No 517 (EB96.1) on the Future of Europe, which was conducted between 16 September and 17 October 2021 in the 27 EU Member States.

This is the tenth report in the Future of Europe series following previous surveys in 2006¹, 2009, 2011², 2012³, 2014⁴, 2016⁵, 2017^{6,7}, 2018⁸ and 2020⁹. These surveys provide an overview of how Europeans perceive the EU and its future. This special Eurobarometer, as well as the 2020 Eurobarometer, is an inter-institutional survey conducted jointly by the European Parliament and the European Commission. The associated questionnaire includes questions from both institutions.

The European Parliament, the Council of the European Union and the European Commission agreed to implement, by the end of the legislature in 2024, an ambitious political and legislative agenda for recovery and renewed dynamism¹⁰.

Based on the political agenda of the President of the European Commission, Ursula von der Leyen¹¹, the three institutions have defined six strategic policy objectives for the European Union for the five-year period 2019-2024, which are as follows: I) establish the European Green Deal; preparing for the Digital Decade of Europe; to achieve a saving in the service of persons; IV) strengthening Europe's position on the international stage; to promote a free and secure Europe; VI) protect and strengthen our democracy by defending common European values.

On 14 July 2021, the European Commission adopted a set of proposals to adapt the EU's climate, energy, land use, transport and taxation policies to help reduce its net greenhouse gas emissions by at least 55 % by 2030 compared to 1990 levels. These proposals provide the legislative tools to achieve the objectives of EU climate regulation and the ambitions of the European Green Deal¹². As co-legislators, the European Parliament and the Council of the European Union are responsible for discussing and examining this package of measures for negotiations to reach a common agreement, which will pave the way for the final adoption of legislative acts stemming from these proposals.

The Conference on the Future of Europe is one of the elements of the component "Strengthening democracy and defending European values". This is a joint project between the European Parliament, the Council of the European Union and the European Commission. This conference provides an opportunity for European citizens to express their views on the future they want for the European Union¹³.

The conference's multilingual digital platform was launched on 19 April at the inaugural session of the conference held on 9 May 2021, after being postponed due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Panels of European citizens will make recommendations that will be presented and discussed at the plenary session of the conference, where the conference's proposals will be determined. Panels, plenary sessions and various events will take place throughout 2022.

The final outcome of the conference will be presented in a report to the Presidents of the three European institutions concerned. They will then examine without delay how to effectively follow up on this report, in the areas within their competence.

1 Special Eurobarometer 251: <http://ec.europa.eu/COMMFrontOffice/publicopinion/index.cfm/Survey/getSurveyDetail/instruments/SPECIAL/surveyKy/586/p/4>

2 Standard Eurobarometer 71 Spring 2009 — Report on the Future of Europe: <http://ec.europa.eu/COMMFrontOffice/publicopinion/index.cfm/Survey/getSurveyDetail/instruments/STANDARD/surveyKy/829>

3 Special Eurobarometer 379: <http://ec.europa.eu/COMMFrontOffice/publicopinion/index.cfm/Survey/getSurveyDetail/instruments/SPECIAL/surveyKy/1059/p/2>

4 Special Eurobarometer 394: <http://ec.europa.eu/COMMFrontOffice/publicopinion/index.cfm/Survey/getSurveyDetail/search/future/surveyKy/1070>

5 Special Eurobarometer 413: <http://ec.europa.eu/COMMFrontOffice/publicopinion/index.cfm/Survey/getSurveyDetail/instruments/SPECIAL/surveyKy/2038>

6 Special Eurobarometer 451: <http://ec.europa.eu/commfrontoffice/publicopinion/index.cfm/Survey/getSurveyDetail/instruments/SPECIAL/surveyKy/2131>

7 Special Eurobarometer 467: <http://ec.europa.eu/commfrontoffice/publicopinion/index.cfm/Survey/getSurveyDetail/instruments/SPECIAL/surveyKy/2179>

8 Special Eurobarometer 479: <https://ec.europa.eu/commfrontoffice/publicopinion/index.cfm/Survey/getSurveyDetail/search/future/surveyKy/2217>

9 Special Eurobarometer 500: <https://europa.eu/eurobarometer/surveys/detail/2256>

10 [Common priorities of the European institutions 2021-2024 | European Commission \(europa.eu\)](#)

11 [political-guidelines-next-commission_en_0.pdf \(europa.eu\)](#)

12 https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/fr/IP_21_3541

13 <https://futureu.europa.eu/pages/about>

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In this context, this survey focuses on the Conference on the Future of Europe and seeks to measure attitudes towards this initiative and opinion towards the main topics addressed by the Conference.

This survey was conducted at a time when the coronavirus pandemic was still very prevalent in the various European Member States, which were still suffering from the health and economic consequences, as well as restrictions on many areas of the daily lives of Europeans.

Contamination rates have changed since the previous survey on the future of Europe in autumn 2020, but despite the recent acceleration in the number of global cases, death rates have remained broadly stable. The emergence of the 'Omicron' variant was noted at the end of November 2021; it spread extremely rapidly, with the majority of contamination now attributable to this variant¹⁴.

On 14 November 2021, shortly after the fieldwork, the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC) reported 1.46 million deaths in Europe and more than 5 million deaths worldwide. On the same date, the vaccination rate with at least one dose in the EU/EEA was 70 % of the total population, while 65 % of the population had a complete vaccination regimen¹⁵.

The COVID-19 pandemic continues to seriously affect the European economy, although recent analyses point to a faster-than-expected recovery in the European economy after the pandemic recession. The European economy is expected to maintain growth over the forecast period, reaching a growth rate of 5 % in 2021, 4.3 % in 2022 and 2.5 % in 2023¹⁶. The unemployment rate also declined to 6.7 % in September 2021, from 6.9 % in August 2021 and 7.7 % in September 2020¹⁷.

The objective of this survey is to measure the views of Europeans throughout the EU and in each Member State, on the EU in general and on the European Green Deal, the future of Europe and the Conference on the Future of Europe in particular. This report is divided into seven chapters:

1. Attitudes towards the EU — this section presents the context by looking at the general attitudes of citizens towards the EU.
2. Living in the EU — this part seeks to understand if Europeans are happy in the EU in 2021.
3. The EU in 2021 — this section examines perceptions of the EU's main strengths, the challenges it faces and the EU's key values.
4. The European Green Deal — this part seeks to understand the importance of the different objectives of the European Green Deal, as well as broader attitudes towards environmental issues and climate change.
5. Attitudes towards Europe's future — this section explores, among other things, opinions on Europe's future global challenges and how to deal with them.
6. General questions related to the Conference on the Future of Europe — which examine the various ways in which citizens' voices can be taken into account at national and EU level.
7. Opinions on the Conference on the Future of Europe — this part aims to measure the willingness of Europeans to participate in the Conference on the Future of Europe and to define the main issues to be discussed, the role of youth in the conference and its impact on democracy.

14 <https://covid19-country-overviews.ecdc.europa.eu/>

15 <https://www.ecdc.europa.eu/en/geographical-distribution-2019-ncov-cases>

16 https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/fr/ip_21_5883

17 https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/statistics-explained/index.php?title=Unemployment_statistics#Unemployment_in_the_EU_and_the_euro_area

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Impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on fieldwork

The methodology used is that of the Eurobarometer surveys of the Directorates-General for Communication of the European Commission and the European Parliament (Media Monitoring Unit and Eurobarometer Unit and the Public Opinion Monitoring Unit respectively). However, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, it has been difficult, if not impossible, to conduct face-to-face interviews in some countries. Where possible, interviews were conducted face-to-face with interviewees or at their doorsteps, in their national language. In all countries where face-to-face interviews were possible, the Computer Assisted Personal Interview (CAPI) system was used. All face-to-face interviews followed hygiene and physical distancing measures in accordance with national regulations. Where possible, interviews were conducted outside the home, in the footsteps of the door, in order to remain in the open air and to respect social distancing. When the number of face-to-face interviews was insufficient to reach the target, or when they were impossible, they were conducted online using CAWI (Computer-Assisted Web Interviewing). In Finland, all interviews were conducted online. In Belgium, Czechia, Denmark and Malta, part of the interviews were conducted online, while the others were conducted using the usual face-to-face method. A technical note on the methodology used for interviews conducted by the Kantar Institutes is attached as an annex to this report. It also specifies maintenance methods and confidence intervals.

Note: in this report, the EU Member States are designated by their official abbreviation, as shown in the table below:

Belgium	BE	Latvia	LV
Bulgaria	BG	Lithuania	LT
Czech Republic	CZ	Luxembourg	READ
Denmark	DK	Hungary	HU
Germany	OF	Malta	MT
Estonia	EE	Netherlands	NL
Greece	EL	Austria	AT
Spain	ES	Poland	PL
France	FR	Portugal	PT
Croatia	HR	Romania	RO
Ireland	IE	Slovenia	IF
Italy	IT	Slovakia	SK
Republic of Cyprus *	CY	Finland	FI
		Sweden	SE

European Union — weighted average for the 27 Member States EU27

* Cyprus in its entirety is one of the 27 EU Member States. However, the “acquis communautaire” has been suspended in the part of the country which is not controlled by the Government of the Republic of Cyprus. For practical reasons, only interviews conducted in the part of the country under the control of the Government of the Republic of Cyprus are included in the results of “CY” and in the EU27 averages.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank all the people in the European Union who took the time to participate in this survey.

Without their active participation, this study would not have been possible.

SUMMARY

The majority of Europeans believe that their country's membership of the EU is a good thing, and a clear majority is in favour of the EU. More than half of Europeans have a positive image of the EU

About six out of ten Europeans (62 %) believe that their country's membership of the EU is a good thing, while one in ten (10 %) think it is a bad thing and 27 % say it is "neither a good nor a bad thing". Attitudes have remained stable since autumn 2020.

Overall, 73 % are in favour of the EU, of which 27 % are in favour of the EU and the way it currently works, while 46 % are in favour of the EU but not the way it works today. A quarter is either opposed to the idea of the EU in general (4 %), or rather skeptical, but could change its mind if the way it works were actually changed (21 %).

More than half (54 %) of Europeans have a positive image of the EU, while only 11 % of Europeans have a negative image, while others say they are neutral in this regard (34 %).

A large majority of Europeans say they are happy with their family life, living in their country and in the EU

A large majority of respondents agree to be happy with their family life (89 %), and an equivalent proportion of respondents say they are happy to live in their country.

Two thirds (66 %) agree to be happy with their current job.

More than eight in ten (81 %) also say they are happy to live in the EU.

To address its main challenges, the EU should prioritise the environment and climate change, as well as equality and social justice.

The EU's main assets are respect for democracy, human rights and the rule of law and its economic, industrial and commercial power. However, these two assets are now less likely to be cited than they were in October-November 2020.

The three most cited challenges facing the EU are social inequalities (36 %), unemployment and environmental problems and climate change (32 % for all). The fourth most cited challenge, migration issues, is mentioned by a quasi-equivalent proportion (31 %).

Almost half (49 %) believe that peace is better embodied by the EU than by other countries, 47 % cite freedom of expression, 45 % say social equality and solidarity, while 44 % believe that the EU best embodies tolerance and openness to others. Few variations are observed compared to 2020.

To address the EU's main global challenges, respondents believe that the environment and climate change (39 %), equality and social justice (37 %), health and safety (32 %) should be addressed as a priority.

The majority of Europeans believe that the EU offers stability in the world and future prospects for European youth

Nearly seven out of ten respondents (68 %) agree that the EU is a place of stability in a troubled world and almost as much (67 %) believe that the European project offers future prospects for European youth.

In addition, 62 % of respondents consider globalisation to be an opportunity for economic growth. Although 44 per cent believe that globalisation threatens the identity of their country, the majority disagree with this statement (47 per cent).

More than four in ten (45 %) believe that the interests of people like them are well taken into account by their country's political system, but the majority (50 %) disagrees.

In the context of the European Green Deal, many Europeans consider environmental objectives important. It is also widely recognised that tackling climate change can bring a range of benefits, including health and well-being.

At least eight out of ten Europeans think that environmental objectives are very or "rather important" to them personally. In particular, more than half (58 %) believe that restoring forests, soils, wetlands and peatlands in Europe to increase the absorption of CO₂ pollution is "very important".

About half (49 %) consider it "very important" to increase the share of renewable energy in the European economy and to improve energy efficiency to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. The renovation of buildings to use more renewable energy and to be more energy efficient is considered "very important" by 46 % of Europeans.

Nearly nine out of ten Europeans (87 %) agree that combating climate change can help them improve their health and well-being. Finally, 85 % agree that tackling climate change can create new opportunities for innovation, investment and employment, and 83 % can help reduce the costs of greater environmental damage in the future.

The opinion is more divided about the impact on the economy: while 47 % disagree with the claim that the fight against climate change can harm the economy, a similar proportion (45 %) agrees with this statement.

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Europeans favour a model where all EU Member States work and find solutions together to key global challenges

Environmental issues and climate change (49 %) are seen as the main global challenge for the future of the EU, followed by health risks (34 %), forced migration and displacement (30 %) and terrorism (26 %). Terrorism has fallen by 12 points since 2020.

Respondents believe that the best way to make progress on these key global challenges is for all EU Member States to work and find solutions together (76 %) rather than individual EU Member States (20 %). This opinion is also the majority at national level in all Member States.

The most useful elements for Europe's future would be to enjoy comparable standards of living (31 %), a common health policy (22 %), stronger solidarity between EU Member States (21 %) and energy independence (20 %).

For a majority of Europeans, the best level to manage different policies is both national and European level

Surveyed on various policy areas, at least half of the respondents believe that these policies would be managed at both national and European level.

For almost all the policy areas proposed, respondents are also more likely to think that they would be better managed solely or mainly at EU level, rather than only or mainly at national level, in particular with regard to the fight against terrorism (34 % versus 8 %), migration and refugees (33 % versus 14 %) and the environment and climate change (31 % versus 10 %).

Almost four out of ten respondents (39 %) would prefer that in ten years more decisions be taken at EU level than today, while almost as many (36 %) would say that they would prefer about the same number of decisions to be taken at EU level as it is today.

In 2030, it would be preferable for European society to give more importance to solidarity than to individualism. At the same time, the importance to be given to individual freedoms or order divides opinion

When asked about their preferences for European society in 2030, more than eight out of ten Europeans (83 %) favoured solidarity, while 13 % would prefer society to place more emphasis on individualism.

If asked if they would prefer a European society in 2030 where more emphasis would be placed on individual order or freedoms, 46 % cite individual freedoms and 45 % mention order.

Interviewees are very broadly in favour of the voice of EU citizens being taken more into account in decisions on the future of Europe and also clearly recognise that much more needs to be done to strengthen and protect democracy in the EU

Voting in the European elections is considered to be the most effective way to make citizens' voices heard among decision-makers at European level (55 %), followed by voting in other elections (30 %) and signing a petition (21 %).

Nine out of ten Europeans (90 %) consider that the voice of EU citizens should be more taken into account in decisions on the future of Europe (-2 points since autumn 2020).

About nine out of ten respondents (89 %, stable since autumn 2020) agree that there is still much to be done to strengthen democracy in the EU and a similar proportion (88 %, -1) agrees that there is still much to be done to protect democracy in the EU.

Europeans say they want to discuss the future of the EU first with friends, family or colleagues (36 %), while about a quarter (26 %) would prefer to discuss it with European politicians, 22 % with national politicians and 18 % with politicians at local or regional level. One in five (20 %) indicated that they would like to discuss the future of the EU with citizens from other EU countries.

A large majority of Europeans say they want their opinion to be taken more into account in important decisions about where they live (82 %), their country (79 %) and the EU (70 %).

Europeancitizens express an interest in participating in the Conference on the Future of Europe, most often by answering a survey. The most important topics for this conference are climate change and environment, health and economy, social justice and employment

More than half of Europeans (59 %) say they want to participate in the Conference on the Future of Europe by answering a survey. The other ways of participating most are by participating in meetings in their region (46 %) or in online consultations (40 %), sharing their ideas and proposals with national and European politicians (39 %) and taking part in European cultural and sporting events related to the conference (39 %).

The participation of interviewees at the conference would be encouraged if they were convinced that their participation would have a real impact (53 %). The other response options are mentioned by less than one third of respondents.

Europeans consider that the main benefit of young people's participation in the conference is to focus on topics of great interest to them (43 %). The other benefits are that young people can use their energy and motivation for reforms and change (35 %) and make Europe's future more responsive to the challenges of today's society (33 %).

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Europeans believe that the most important topics for this conference are climate change and the environment (44 %), health (40 %), and a stronger economy, social justice and employment (40 %).

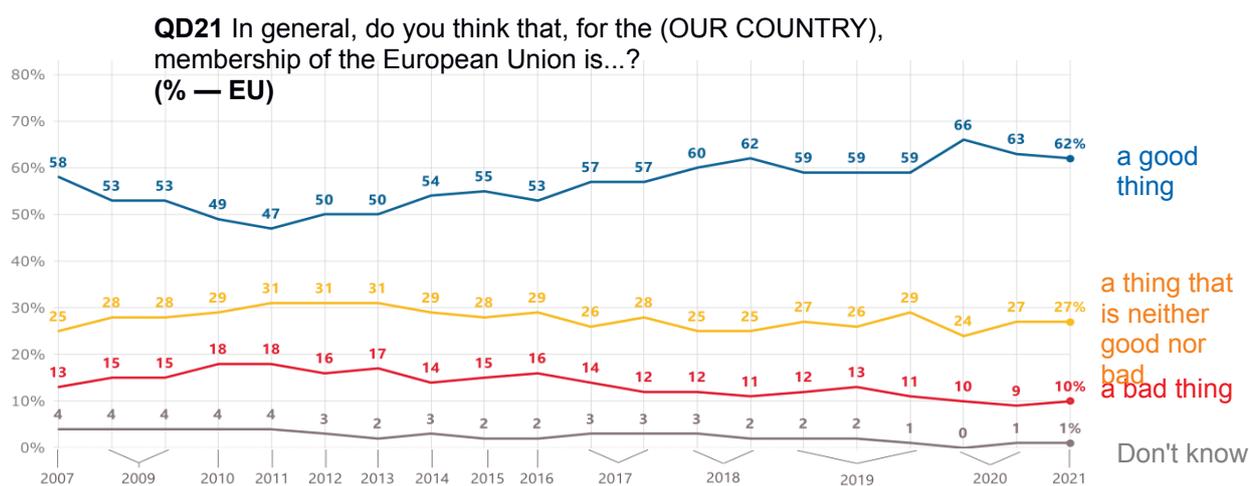
I. EUROPEAN CITIZENS AND THE EU (CONTEXT QUESTIONS)

Six out of ten Europeans think their country's membership of the EU is a good thing, down slightly from its highest level in 2020

This first chapter presents the general attitudes of Europeans towards the EU, in particular by asking them about their views on their country's membership of the EU, the current functioning of the EU and their positive or negative image of the EU.

About six out of ten Europeans (62 %) think their country's membership of the EU is a good thing, while one in ten (10 %) thinks it is a bad thing and one in four (27 %) considers it neutral.

Attitudes towards the EU are slightly less positive than in autumn 2020 (Special Eurobarometer 500 on the future of Europe)¹⁸, as there is a decrease in the proportion of Europeans who consider their country's membership to the EU to be positive (-4 points). However, it should be noted that the result observed in spring 2020 was the highest ever recorded on this aspect, and that the current level remains relatively high compared to previous years.



¹⁸Special Eurobarometer 500: <https://europa.eu/eurobarometer/surveys/detail/2256>

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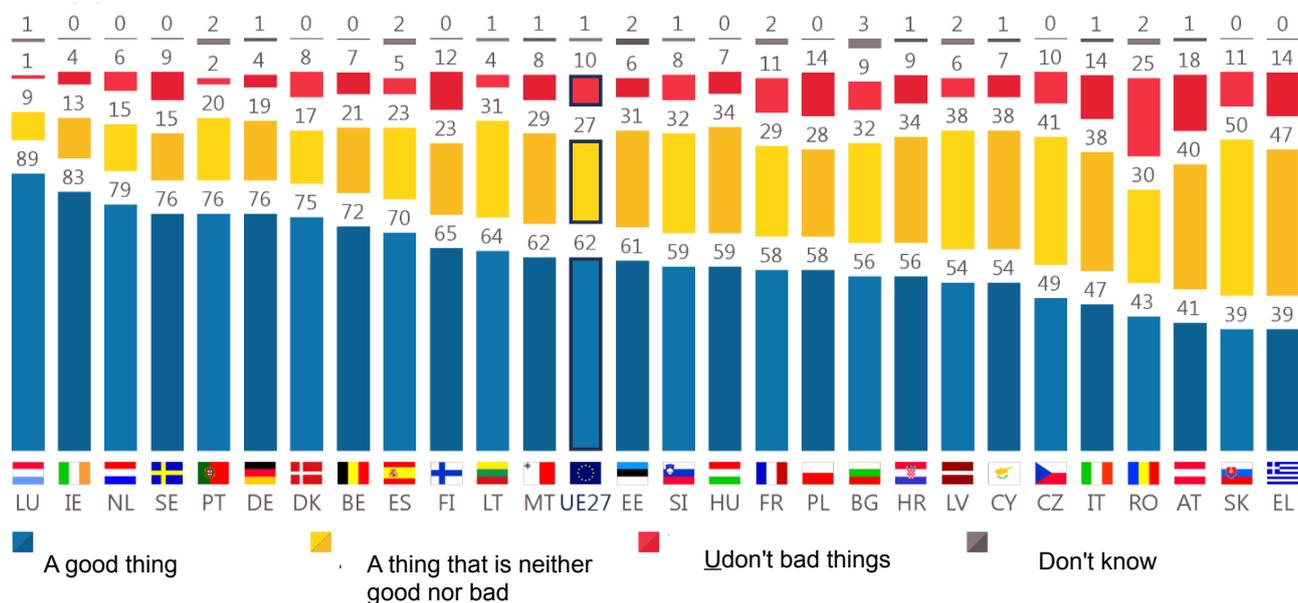
In all but two Member States, the majority of respondents say that their country's membership of the EU is a good thing (see graph below).

The only exceptions are Slovakia and Greece, where the majority view is that EU membership is neither a good nor a bad thing (50 % versus 47 % respectively).

Respondents are most likely to regard EU membership as a good thing in Luxembourg (89 %), Ireland (83 %) and the Netherlands (79 %), while the lowest proportions are found in Greece, Slovakia (39 % for both), Austria (41 %) and Romania (43 %).

The proportions who think EU membership is a bad thing ranges from 25 % in Romania to only 1 % in Luxembourg.

D21 in general, do you think that, for the (OUR COUNTRY), the fact of being part of the European Union is... (%)



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In seven Member States, there are significant increases in the proportion of those who believe that their country's membership of the EU is a good thing compared to autumn 2020. The highest increases were observed in Luxembourg, Sweden and Italy (+ 8 points).

In 14 Member States, on the contrary, positive opinion has declined since autumn 2020. The largest declines were recorded in Greece (39 %, -17), Czechia (49 %, -16), Estonia (61 %, -15), Slovenia (59 %, -14) and Poland (58 %, -12). Attitudes have remained stable since autumn 2020 in the other six Member States.

D21 In general, do you think that, for the (OUR COUNTRY), membership of the European Union is...? (%)

	A good thing	September/ October 2021 — November/December 2020	A bad thing	September/ October 2021 — November/December 2020	Something neither good nor bad	September/ October 2021 — November/December 2020	Don't know
EU27	62	—1	10	1	27	0	1
BE	72	—9	7	3	21	6	0
BG	56	0	9	0	32	—1	3
CZ	49	—16	10	2	41	14	0
DK	75	3	8	—3	17	1	0
OF	76	—5	4	0	19	4	1
EE	61	—15	6	—1	31	14	2
IE	83	—4	4	0	13	4	0
EL	39	—17	14	—1	47	18	0
ES	70	4	5	—3	23	—2	2
FR	58	0	11	0	29	—1	2
HR	56	5	9	0	34	—6	1
IT	47	8	14	—2	38	—6	1
CY	54	—1	7	—3	38	3	1
LV	54	—8	6	—2	38	9	2
LT	64	—7	4	—2	31	8	1
READ	89	8	1	—5	9	—4	1
HU	59	0	7	2	34	—1	0
MT	62	0	8	0	29	0	1
NL	79	0	6	1	15	—1	0
AT	41	0	18	2	40	—3	1
PL	58	—12	14	6	28	6	0
PT	76	—2	2	0	20	1	2
RO	43	—6	25	6	30	—1	2
IF	59	—14	8	3	32	10	1
SK	39	—8	11	4	50	4	0
FI	65	1	12	—5	23	4	0
SE	76	8	9	—3	15	—5	0

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Socio-demographic data show that men are slightly more likely than women to¹⁹ think that their country's membership in the EU is a good thing (64 % vs. 60 %), while younger respondents are more likely than older respondents to agree (72 % of those aged 15-24 versus 59 % of those aged 55 and over).

Respondents who dropped out of school at the age of 20 or older are more likely to think that their country's membership of the EU is a good thing (74 %) than those who arrested them at the age of 15 or under (50 %).

There is another difference in socio-occupational category, as managers and students (75 % for both) are most likely to think that their country's membership of the EU is a good thing, while householders are the least likely to share this opinion (47 %).

Respondents who have difficulty paying their bills most of the time are less likely to consider their country's membership of the EU to be a good thing (45 % versus 69 % of those who never or almost never have difficulty paying their bills).

	A good thing	A bad thing	A thing that is neither good nor bad	Don't know
EU27	62	10	27	1
Gender				
Man	64	10	25	1
Woman	60	9	30	1
Age				
15-24	72	7	20	1
25-39	65	9	25	1
40-54	60	11	29	0
55+	59	10	30	1
School leaving age				
15—	50	10	37	3
16-19	54	12	33	1
20+	74	7	19	0
Always student	75	6	18	1
Socio-professional category				
Independents	63	9	28	0
Senior management	75	7	18	0
Other employees	62	10	27	1
Workers	55	12	32	1
Women/Men in the Home	47	11	40	2
Unemployed	55	13	32	0
Pensioners	60	10	29	1
Students	75	6	18	1
Difficulties in paying your bills				
Most of the time	45	17	36	2
From time to time	47	16	36	1
Almost never/never	69	6	24	1

¹⁹ The socio-demographic question on the gender of the interviewee proposes three categories of answer: man, woman and "No/non binary/not recognised in the proposed categories".

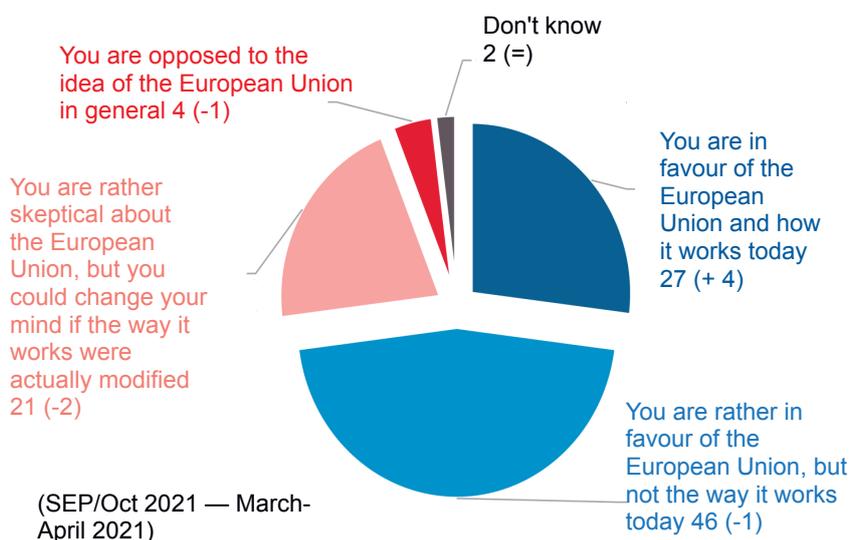
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Seven out of ten Europeans say they are in favour of the EU, although almost half say they are in favour of it but not the way it works today

More than seven out of ten respondents say they are in favour of the EU (73 %, + 3 points since the European Parliament's Spring 2021 Eurobarometer²⁰²¹). In detail, 27 % say they are in favour of the EU and how it works today (+ 4 points) and 46 % say they are in favour of the EU but not the way it works today (-1 point).

A quarter (25 %, -3) has a more negative opinion, which is divided into two categories: 21 % (-2 points) said they were rather sceptical about the EU, but could change if radical reform were proposed, and 4 % (-1) said they were opposed to the idea of the EU in general.

In all Member States, a clear majority of respondents indicated that they were in favour of the EU, ranging from 88 % in Ireland to 59 % in Greece. In particular, more than half of the respondents in Ireland (63 %) say they are in favour of the EU "and how it works today", as well as at least four out of ten respondents in Portugal (44 %), Malta (43 %) and Bulgaria (40 %).

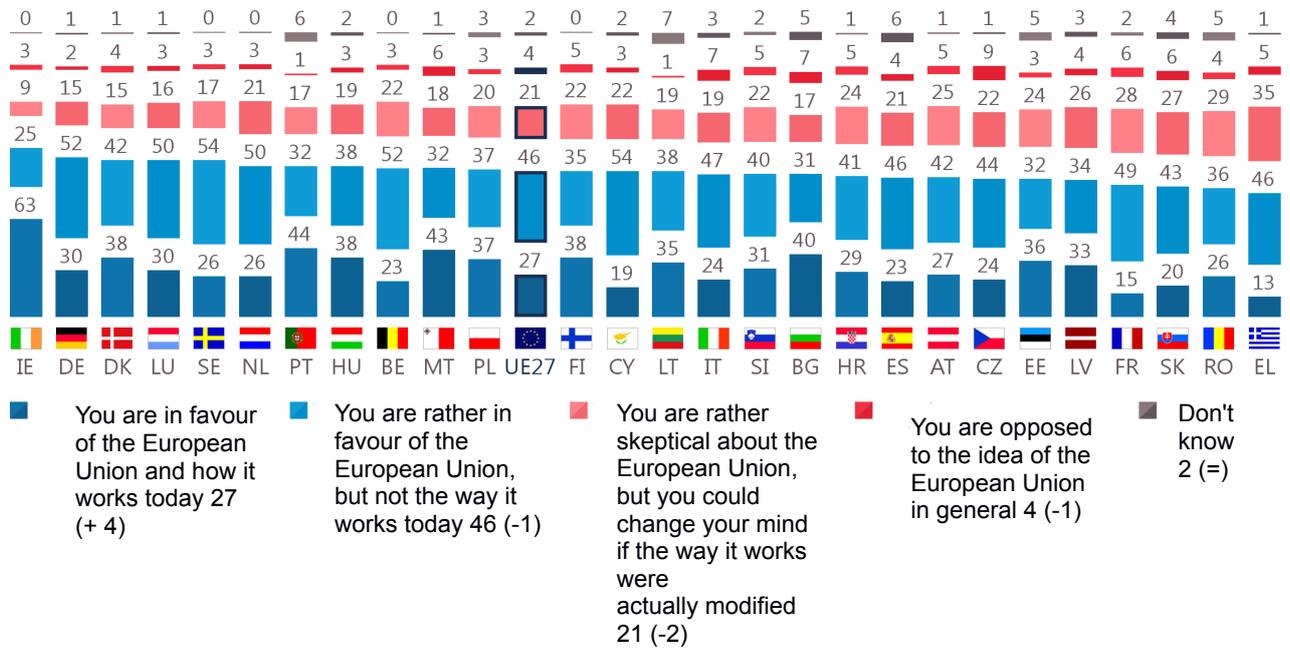


20 Spring 2021 Parlemeter — <https://www.europarl.europa.eu/at-your-service/fr/be-heard/eurobarometer/spring-2021-survey>

21 Please note that the wording of the response options has been changed from previous surveys: I am in favour of the European Union as it has been achieved so far/I am rather in favour of the European Union, but not as it has been achieved so far/I am rather sceptical about the European Union, but I could change my mind if radical reform was proposed/I am opposed to the idea of the European Union in general.

Special Eurobarometer 517, the future of Europe p.15

QA31 What of the following statements about the European Union is closest to your opinion? (% — EU27)



Socio-demographic variables show that younger respondents are more likely to be in favour of the EU than older respondents. The proportion of people who say they are in favour of the EU and how it works today is higher among respondents aged 15-24 than those aged 55 and over (34 % versus 24 %), while the proportions who are skeptical or opposed to the idea of the EU in general range from 17 % among those aged 15-24 and 27 % among those aged 55 and over.

There is a difference in level of education: indeed, those who completed their studies at the age of 20 or older are more likely to be in favour of the EU (80 % versus 63 % of those who left school at the age of 15 years or younger) and are less likely to be skeptical or opposed to the EU (19 % versus 29 %).

Respondents who have difficulty paying their bills most of the time are more likely to be skeptical or opposed to the idea of the EU (42 % versus 21 % of those who never or almost have such difficulties), and are less likely to be in favour of the EU and how it works today (14 % versus 30 %).

Special Eurobarometer 517, the future of Europe p.16

QA31 What of the following statements about the European Union is closest to your opinion?
(% — EU)

	You are in favour of the European Union and how it works today	You are rather in favour of the European Union, but not the way it works today	You are rather skeptical about the European Union, but you could change your mind if the way it works were actually changed	You are opposed to the idea of the European Union in general	Don't know
EU27	27	46	21	4	2
Gender					
Man	26	47	20	5	2
Woman	28	44	21	4	3
Age					
15-24	34	46	15	2	3
25-39	29	47	20	3	1
40-54	27	46	22	4	1
'55+	24	45	22	5	4
School leaving age					
—15	25	38	22	7	8
16-19	25	44	25	5	1
20+	29	51	17	2	1
Always student	35	47	13	2	3
Socio-professional category					
Independents	25	50	20	4	1
Senior management	30	53	14	2	1
Other employees	30	46	19	3	2
Workers	24	44	26	5	1
Women/Men in the Home	23	38	27	5	7
Unemployed	23	39	28	7	3
Pensioners	25	44	21	6	4
Students	35	47	13	2	3
Difficulties in paying your bills					
Most of the time	14	41	33	9	3
From time to time	22	42	27	6	3
Almost Never/Never	30	47	18	3	2

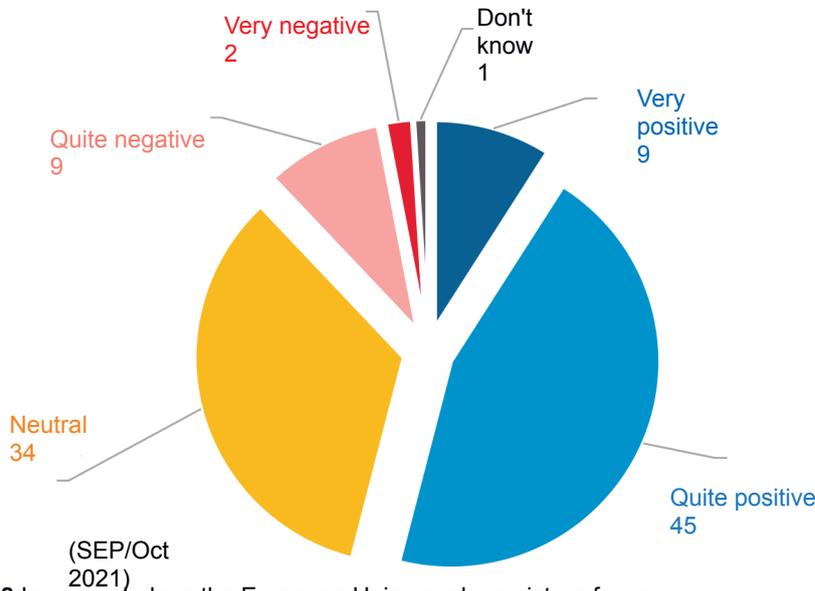
Special Eurobarometer 517, the future of Europe p.17

More than half of Europeans have a positive image of the EU and citizens are more likely to be positive than negative in all Member States

More than half (54 %) of Europeans have a positive image of the EU, while only 11 % of Europeans have a negative image of it. One third of Europeans (34 %) have a “neutral” image of the EU.

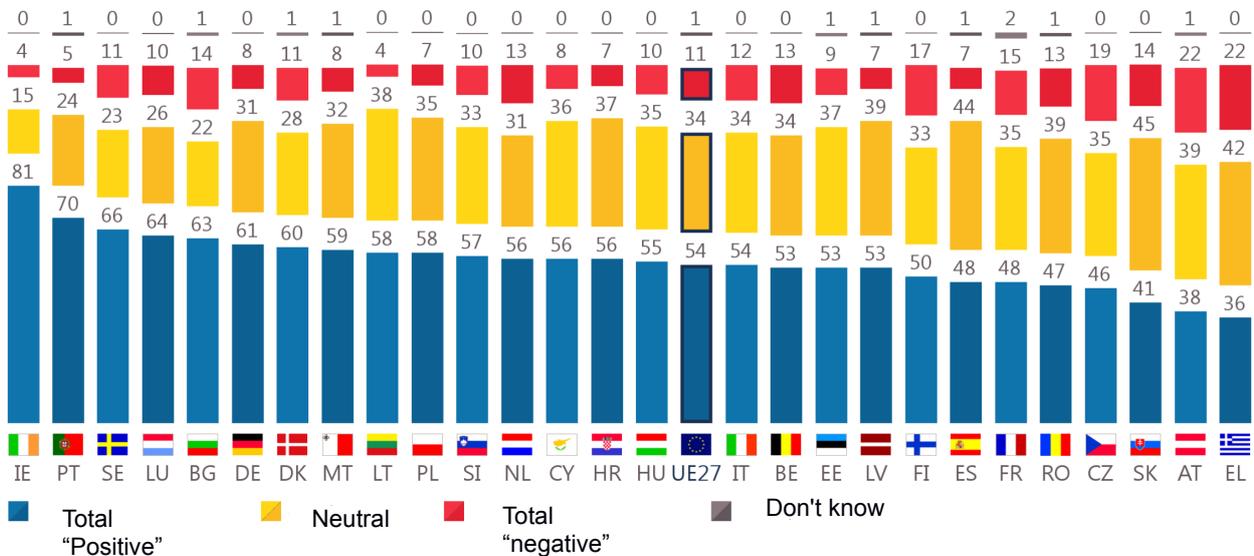
In all countries, respondents are more likely to be positive than negative. In 20 of the 27 Member States, at least half has a positive image of the EU. The countries with the highest level of positive opinion in the EU are Ireland (81 %), Portugal (70 %) and Sweden (66 %), where at least two thirds have a positive view of the EU. The countries with the least positive opinion on the EU are Greece (36 %), Austria (38 %) and Slovakia (41 %).

In most countries, positive opinion dominates. However, the majority of respondents have a neutral image of the EU in Slovakia (45 %), Greece (42 %) and Austria (39 %).



D78 In general, does the European Union evoke a picture for you very positive, quite positive, neutral, rather negative or very negative? (% — EU27)

D78 Does the European Union generally evoke a very positive, rather positive, neutral, rather negative or very negative image for you? (% — EU27)



Special Eurobarometer 517, the future of Europe p.18

Socio-demographic data show age differences, as younger respondents are more likely to have a positive image of the EU than older respondents (65 % of those aged 15-24 compared to 50 % of those aged 55 and over).

Respondents who dropped out of school at the age of 20 or older were more likely to have a positive image of the EU (63 %) than those who stopped them at the age of 15 or under (43 %).

Differences also appear depending on the socio-occupational category, as managers (65 %) and students (69 %) are more likely to have a positive image of the EU than those surveyed without a job (44 %), household (45 %) or manual workers (48 %).

Respondents who have difficulty paying their bills most of the time are less likely to have a positive image than those who never or almost never have such difficulties (37 % versus 59 %).

D78 Does the European Union generally evoke a very positive, rather positive, neutral, rather negative or very negative image for you? (% — EU27)

	Total "Positive"	Neutral	Total "negative"	Don't know
EU27	54	34	11	1
Gender				
Man	55	32	13	0
Woman	53	37	9	1
Age				
15-24	65	30	5	0
25-39	58	33	9	0
40-54	54	34	12	0
'55+	50	37	12	1
School leaving age				
—15	43	43	12	2
16-19	48	39	13	0
20+	63	27	10	0
Always student	69	27	4	0
Socio-professional category				
Independents	59	30	11	0
Senior management	65	27	8	0
Other employees	55	36	9	0
Workers	48	39	13	0
Women/Men in the Home	45	43	11	1
Unemployed	44	41	15	0
Pensioners	50	36	13	1
Students	69	27	4	0
Difficulties in paying your bills				
Most of the time	37	41	22	0
From time to time	46	40	14	0
Almost Never/Never	59	32	9	0

II. LIFE IN THE EUROPEAN UNION

More than eight out of ten Europeans are happy with their family life and living in the EU

This chapter examines the level of satisfaction of respondents with different aspects of their lives in the EU, including their family and working life.

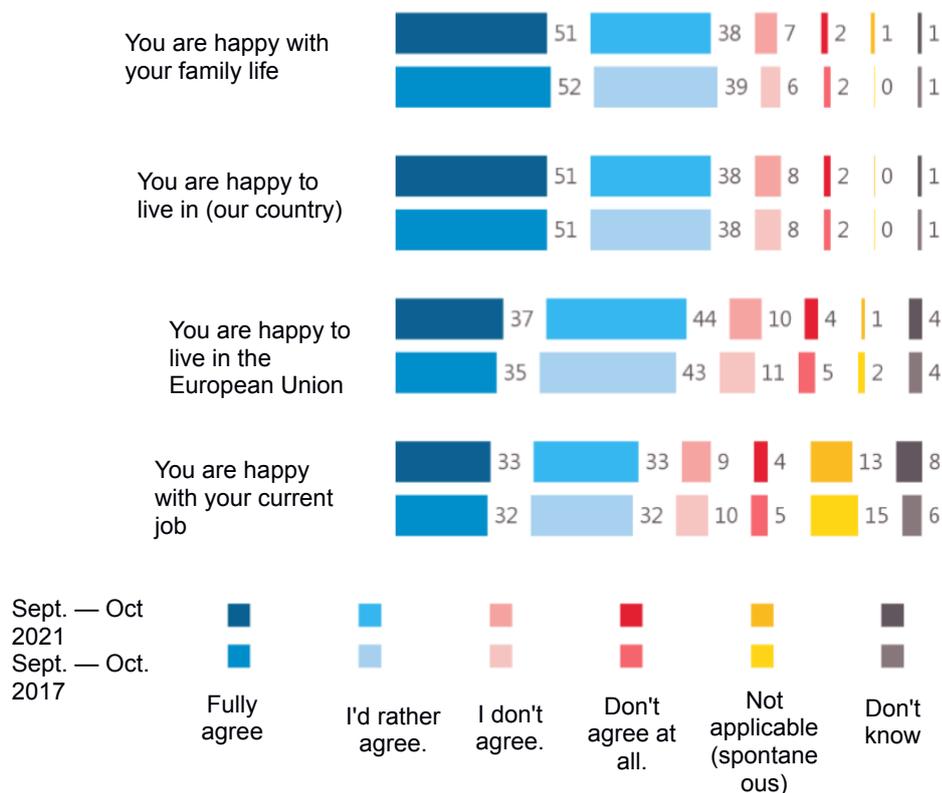
A large majority of respondents say they are happy with their family life (89 %) and live in their country (89 %)²². Indeed, in all cases, more than half of the respondents say they “strongly agree”. Just over eight out of ten (81 %) agree that they are happy to live in the EU, with 37 % saying they “strongly agree”.

Two-thirds (66 %) agree to be happy with their current job, of which (33 %) say they “strongly agree”. However, it should be noted that only 13 % disagree, 13 % state that this question does not apply to their case and 8 % say they do not know.

There has been little variation since September-October 2017 (Special Eurobarometer 467 on the future of Europe) –²³ the largest increase, by three points, in the proportion of people who feel happy to live in the EU²⁴.

At the national level, at least three quarters of the respondents in all countries say they are happy with their family life, ranging from 97 % in Denmark and Ireland and 96 % in Spain to 75 % in Romania and Bulgaria and 83 % in Poland and Lithuania.

QA30: Could you tell me to what extent you agree or disagree with each of the successful proposals? (% EU27)



22 Q30 Could you tell me to what extent you agree or disagree with each of the following proposals 30.1 You are happy with your family life; 30.2 You are happy with your current job; 30.3 You are happy to live in (OUR COUNTRY); 30.4 You are happy to live in the European Union.

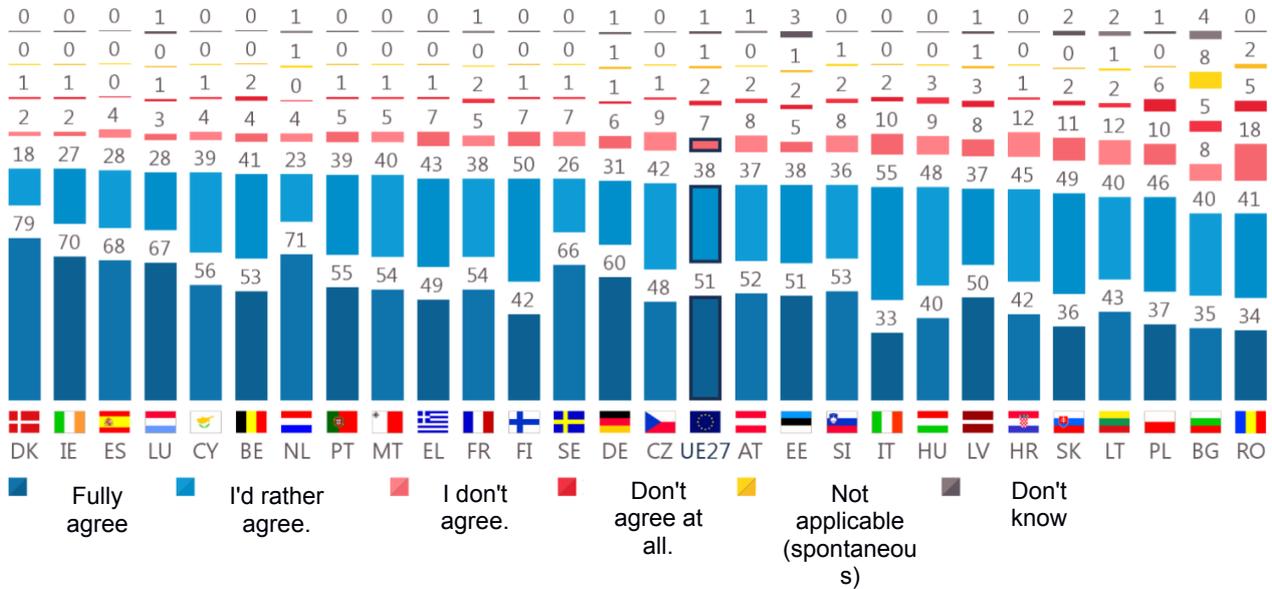
23 Special Eurobarometer 467: <http://ec.europa.eu/commfrontoffice/publicopinion/index.cfm/Survey/getSurveyDetail/instruments/SPECIAL/surveyKy/2179>

24 The interpretation of trends should be treated with caution, as the 2017 results are based on the EU28 while this survey concerns the EU27.

Special Eurobarometer 517, the future of Europe p.20

In 16 Member States, at least half of the respondents “strongly agree” with the claim that they are happy with their family life.

QA30.1 Could you tell me to what extent you agree or disagree with each of the following proposals?
You are happy with your family life (%)



Only minor variations have generally been observed in this regard since September-October 2017. The total level of agreement increased in 12 countries, the largest increases being recorded in Greece and the Czech Republic (+ 6 for both).

In 11 countries, the level of agreement declined, notably in Poland and Romania (both 8 points). The level of agreement has also remained stable in Ireland, Latvia, the Netherlands and Portugal.

Special Eurobarometer 517, the future of Europe p.21

QA30.1 Could you tell me to what extent you agree or disagree with each of the following proposals? **You are happy with your family life (%)**

	Total "Agree"	September October 2021 — September October 2017	Total "No agreement"	September October 2021 — September October 2017	Don't know
EU27	89	—2	9	—1	1
CZ	90	6	10	—5	0
EL	92	6	8	—6	0
LT	83	4	14	—2	2
HU	88	4	12	—3	0
SK	85	4	13	—4	2
ES	96	3	4	—3	0
BE	94	2	6	—2	0
EE	89	2	7	—3	3
BG	75	1	13	=	4
FR	92	1	7	1	1
CY	95	1	5	—1	0
READ	95	1	4	=	1
IE	97	=	3	=	0
LV	87	=	11	=	1
NL	94	=	4	=	1
PT	94	=	6	=	0
FI	92	—1	8	2	0
SE	92	—1	8	2	0
DK	97	—2	3	2	0
HR	87	—2	13	2	0
IT	88	—2	12	3	0
OF	91	—3	7	2	1
MT	94	—3	6	3	0
IF	89	—3	10	2	0
AT	89	—4	10	3	1
PL	83	—8	16	9	1
RO	75	—8	23	6	0

Special Eurobarometer 517, the future of Europe p.22

Socio-demographic data do not reveal any gender or age differences. Respondents who completed their studies at the age of 20 or older are the most likely to agree, particularly when compared to those who completed them at the age of 15 or younger (92 % versus 87 %).

With regard to socio-occupational categories, unemployed persons (81 %) are less likely than other groups — especially managers (94 %) — to agree that they are happy with their family life. Finally, the less difficult a person has to pay their bills, the more likely they are to be happy with their family life.

QA30.1 Could you tell me to what extent you agree or disagree with each of the following proposals? **You are happy with your family life** (% — EU)

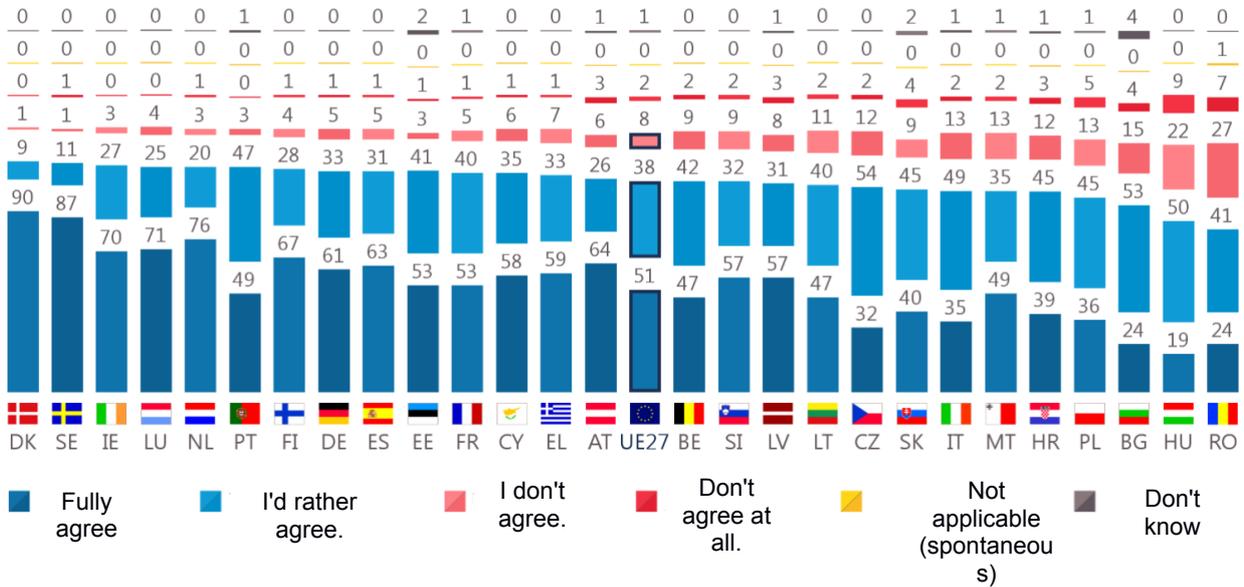
	Total "Agree"	Total "No agreement"	Not applicable (spontaneous)	Don't know
EU27	89	9	1	1
Gender				
Man	90	9	0	1
Woman	89	9	1	1
Age				
15-24	90	8	1	1
25-39	91	8	0	1
40-54	90	9	0	1
'55+	88	10	1	1
School leaving age				
—15	87	12	0	1
16-19	88	10	1	1
20+	92	7	1	0
Always student	92	6	1	1
Socio-professional category				
Independents	93	5	1	1
Senior management	94	6	0	0
Other employees	90	9	0	1
Workers	89	10	0	1
Women/Men in the Home	92	8	0	0
Unemployed	81	18	1	0
Pensioners	87	11	1	1
Students	92	6	1	1
Difficulties in paying your bills				
Most of the time	73	25	1	1
From time to time	84	15	1	0
Almost Never/Never	93	6	0	1

Special Eurobarometer 517, the future of Europe p.23

More than six out of ten respondents in all Member States say they are happy to live in their country, with the highest levels of agreement being recorded in Denmark (99 %), Sweden (98 %) and Ireland (97 %), while they are only 65 % in Romania, 69 % in Hungary and 77 % in Bulgaria. In 15 countries, more than half say they “strongly agree” with the assertion that they are happy to live in their country.

QA30.3 Could you tell me to what extent you agree or disagree with each of the following proposals?

You are happy to live in (OUR COUNTRY) (%)



Special Eurobarometer 517, the future of Europe p.24

In 13 countries, including Lithuania (+ 12 points) and Bulgaria (+ 11 points), respondents are now more likely to say they are happy to live in their country.

In nine countries, on the other hand, respondents are less likely to agree, with the largest declines in Malta (-12 points) and Poland (-9). There are no variations in the remaining five countries.

QA30.3 Could you tell me to what extent you agree or disagree with each of the following proposals? **You are happy to live in (OUR COUNTRY) (%)**

	Total "Agree"	September/ October 2021 — September/ October 2017	Total "No agreement"	September/ October 2021 — September/ October 2017	Don't know
EU27	89	=	10	=	1
LT	87	12	13	—11	0
BG	77	11	19	—13	4
CZ	86	9	14	—9	0
HU	69	7	31	—6	0
ES	94	6	6	—6	0
EL	92	4	8	—4	0
IT	84	4	15	—3	1
CY	93	3	7	—3	0
EE	94	2	4	—2	2
HR	84	2	15	—2	1
PT	96	2	3	—3	1
LV	88	1	11	—1	1
SE	98	1	2	—1	0
DK	99	=	1	=	0
FR	93	=	6	=	1
READ	96	=	4	1	0
IF	89	=	11	1	0
FI	95	=	5	1	0
BE	89	—1	11	1	0
OF	94	—1	6	2	0
IE	97	—1	3	1	0
NL	96	—1	4	1	0
SK	85	—1	13	4	2
RO	65	—2	34	3	0
AT	90	—4	9	3	1
PL	81	—9	18	9	1
MT	84	—12	15	11	1

Special Eurobarometer 517, the future of Europe p.25

Given the high level of overall agreement, it is not surprising that socio-demographic data show little differences, particularly in terms of gender, age or educational level. Unemployed people (82 %) are the least likely to agree with the assertion that they are happy to live in their country, particularly in comparison with managers (93 %).

The most important differences appear depending on the financial situation, since the less difficult a person has to pay their bills, the more likely they are to be happy to live in their country.

QA30.3 Could you tell me to what extent you agree or disagree with each of the following proposals? **You are happy to live in (OUR COUNTRY)** (% — EU)

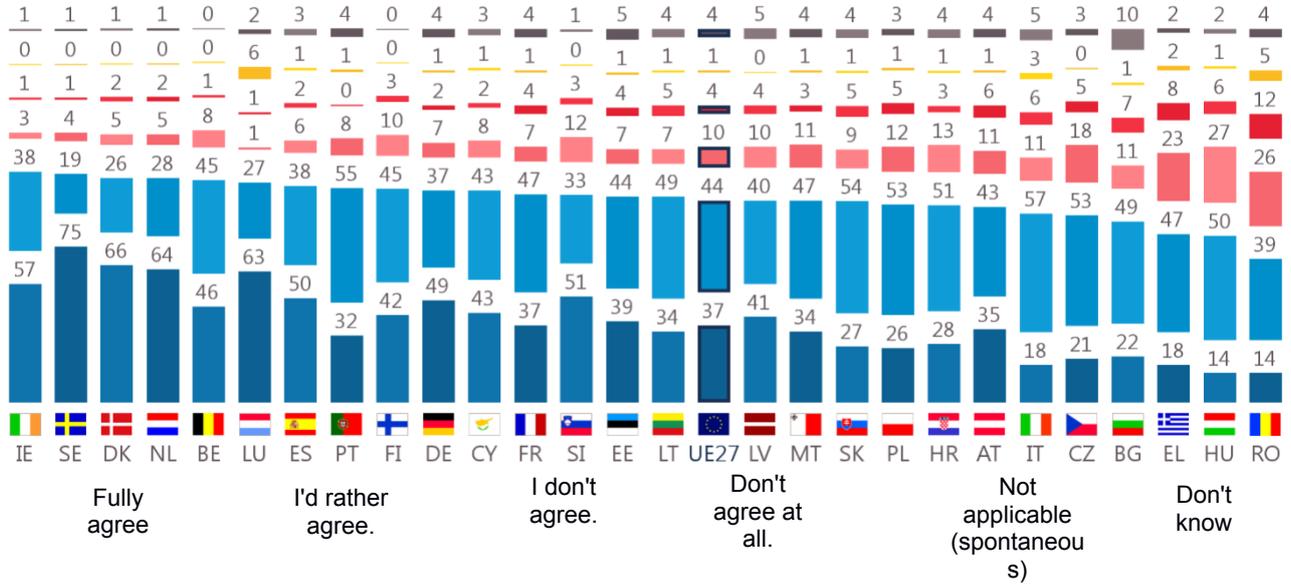
	Total "Agree"	Total "No agreement"	Not applicable (spontaneous)	Don't know
EU27	89	10	0	1
Gender				
Man	88	11	0	1
Woman	89	10	0	1
Age				
15-24	88	11	0	1
25-39	86	13	0	1
40-54	87	12	0	1
'55+	90	9	0	1
School leaving age				
—15	89	11	0	0
16-19	86	13	0	1
20+	91	8	0	1
Always student	90	10	0	0
Socio-professional category				
Independents	89	11	0	0
Senior management	93	7	0	0
Other employees	88	11	0	1
Workers	85	15	0	0
Women/Men in the Home	86	13	0	1
Unemployed	82	17	0	1
Pensioners	91	8	0	1
Students	90	10	0	0
Difficulties in paying your bills				
Most of the time	75	24	0	1
From time to time	83	17	0	0
Almost Never/Never	91	8	0	1

Special Eurobarometer 517, the future of Europe p.26

The majority of respondents in all Member States say they are happy to live in the EU. The proportions are between 95 % of respondents in Ireland, 94 % in Sweden, 92 % in Denmark and the Netherlands, 53 % in Romania, 64 % in Hungary and 65 % in Greece.

In seven countries, at least half say they “strongly agree” with this statement: Sweden, Denmark, the Netherlands, Luxembourg, Ireland, Slovenia and Spain.

QA30.4 Could you tell me to what extent you agree or disagree with each of the following proposals? **You are happy to live in the European Union (%)**



Special Eurobarometer 517, the future of Europe p.27

Compared to September-October 2017, respondents are now more likely in 18 countries to say they are happy to live in the EU, notably in Czechia (+ 16 points), Cyprus and Malta (+ 11 for both).

On the other hand, the level of agreement declined in seven countries, with the largest decreases in Romania (-9 points) and Luxembourg (-7). Agreement rates remained stable in Denmark and the Netherlands.

	Total "Agree"	September/ October 2021 — September/ October 2017	Total "No agreement"	September/ October 2021 — September/ October 2017	Don't know
EU27	81	3	14	—2	4
CZ	74	16	23	—13	3
CY	86	11	10	—10	3
MT	81	11	14	—7	4
IT	75	9	17	—8	5
HR	79	7	16	—4	4
HU	64	7	33	=	2
BG	71	6	18	—5	10
PT	87	4	8	—5	4
SE	94	4	5	—2	1
EL	65	3	31	—3	2
ES	88	3	8	—2	3
FR	84	3	11	—2	4
LT	83	3	12	=	4
SK	81	3	14	1	4
BE	91	2	9	—2	0
LV	81	2	14	—2	5
AT	78	2	17	—2	4
IE	95	1	4	=	1
DK	92	=	7	1	1
NL	92	=	7	1	1
IF	84	—1	15	2	1
FI	87	—1	13	4	0
EE	83	—2	11	1	5
OF	86	—3	9	3	4
PL	79	—4	17	8	3
READ	90	—7	2	=	2
RO	53	—9	38	10	4

Special Eurobarometer 517, the future of Europe p.28

Socio-demographic data show that people aged 15-24 (87 %) are most likely to agree to be happy to live in the EU, especially in comparison with those aged 55 and over (79 %).

In addition, those who completed their studies at the age of 20 or over (88 %) are more likely to agree with this view than younger respondents, particularly those who completed their studies at the age of 15 or younger (74 %).

As regards the employment of respondents, managers and students are most likely to be satisfied with living in the EU (frameworks: 89 %, students: 88 %), especially in relation to persons in the household (75 %).

Socio-demographic data show that the less difficult a person has to pay their bills, the more likely they are to be happy to live in the EU. For example, 87 % of people who never or almost never have difficulty paying their bills are happy to live in the EU, compared to 65 % of those who have difficulty paying their bills most of the time.

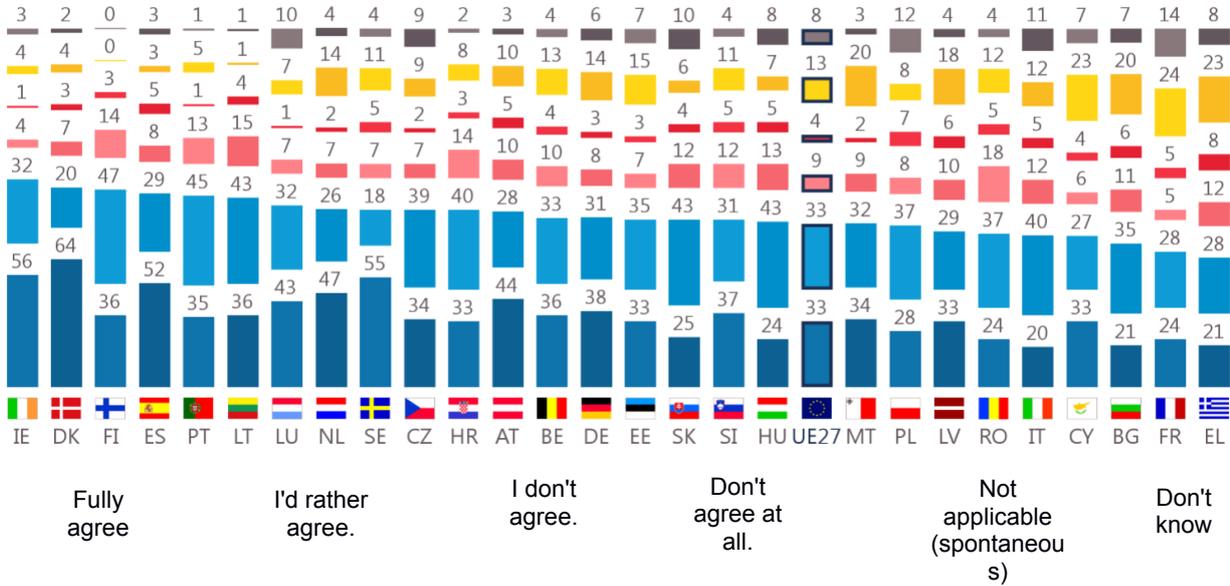
QA30.4 Could you tell me to what extent you agree or disagree with each of the following proposals? **You are happy to live in the European Union** (% — EU)

	Total "Agree"	Total "No agreement"	Not applicable (spontaneous)	Don't know
EU27	81	14	1	4
Gender				
Man	81	15	1	3
Woman	82	12	2	4
Age				
15-24	87	10	1	2
25-39	84	13	1	2
40-54	81	16	1	2
'55+	79	14	2	5
School leaving age				
—15	74	16	3	7
16-19	77	18	1	4
20+	88	9	1	2
Always student	88	8	1	3
Socio-professional category				
Independents	83	13	1	3
Senior management	89	9	0	2
Other employees	83	13	2	2
Workers	78	18	1	3
Women/Men in the Home	75	16	3	6
Unemployed	77	18	2	3
Pensioners	79	14	2	5
Students	88	8	1	3
Difficulties in paying your bills				
Most of the time	65	28	3	4
From time to time	72	22	2	4
Almost Never/Never	87	9	1	3

Special Eurobarometer 517, the future of Europe p.29

The majority of respondents in all Member States say they are happy with their current job, ranging from 88 % of respondents in Ireland, 84 % in Denmark and 83 % in Finland to 49 % in Greece, 52 % in France and 56 % in Bulgaria. In four countries, at least half say they “strongly agree” with this statement: Denmark (64 %), Ireland (56 %), Sweden (55 %) and Spain (52 %).

QA30.2 Could you tell me to what extent you agree or disagree with each of the following proposals? **You are happy with your current job** (%)



Special Eurobarometer 517, the future of Europe p.30

The level of satisfaction with current employment increased in 22 countries, with the largest increases being in the Netherlands, Luxembourg (+ 13 points for both), Malta, Greece (+ 12 for both) and Cyprus (+ 11).

On the other hand, the proportion of people who say they are happy with their current employment has declined in three countries, particularly in Austria (-7). There are no variations in Germany or Slovenia.

QA30.2 Could you tell me to what extent you agree or disagree with each of the following proposals? **You are happy with your current job** (%)

	Total "Agree"	September/ October 2021 — September/ October 2017	Total "No agreement"	September/ October 2021 — September/ October 2017	Don't know
EU27	66	2	13	—2	8
READ	75	13	8	=	10
NL	73	13	9	1	4
EL	49	12	20	—6	8
MT	66	12	11	3	3
CY	60	11	10	—7	7
CZ	73	9	9	—11	9
ES	81	9	13	—7	3
BG	56	7	17	—4	7
SK	68	7	16	—4	10
IT	60	6	17	—6	11
LT	79	6	19	—3	1
PT	80	6	14	—7	1
EE	68	5	10	—3	6
FI	83	5	17	9	0
BE	69	4	14	=	4
IE	88	4	5	—5	3
LV	62	4	16	—1	4
DK	84	3	10	2	2
FR	52	3	10	—4	14
SE	73	3	12	5	4
HU	67	1	18	—1	8
PL	65	1	15	2	12
OF	69	=	11	—1	6
IF	68	=	17	1	4
HR	73	—1	17	—2	2
RO	61	—4	23	—1	4
AT	72	—7	15	4	3

Special Eurobarometer 517, the future of Europe p.31

Socio-demographic data show that men are more likely than women to be happy with their current job (70 % versus 64 % of women). They also show that the longer a person has been educated, the more likely they are to be happy with their current job: 76 % of those who continued their education until the age of 20 years or older compared to 51 % of those who completed their studies before the age of 16.

There are important differences depending on the employment situation: managers are most likely to agree.

QA30.2 Could you tell me to what extent you agree or disagree with each of the following proposals? **You are happy with your current job (%)**

	Total "Agree"	Total "No agreement"	Not applicable (spontaneous)	Don't know
EU27	66	13	13	8
Gender				
Man	70	13	11	6
Woman	64	13	14	9
Age				
15-24	63	14	15	8
25-39	78	17	3	2
40-54	78	17	3	2
'55+	54	9	23	14
School leaving age				
—15	51	13	22	14
16-19	64	16	13	7
20+	76	11	8	5
Always student	63	10	17	10
Socio-professional category				
Independents	88	9	2	1
Senior management	91	8	1	0
Other employees	84	14	1	1
Workers	78	20	1	1
Women/Men in the Home	50	16	22	12
Unemployed	28	48	16	8
Pensioners	42	7	32	19
Students	63	10	17	10
Difficulties in paying your bills				
Most of the time	38	37	16	9
From time to time	61	22	10	7
Almost Never/Never	71	8	13	8

III. THE EUROPEAN UNION IN 2021

1. The EU's main assets

The EU's main assets are respect for democracy, human rights and the rule of law and its economic, industrial and commercial power

This chapter focuses on the current opinion on the EU, including its main strengths and challenges, as well as the values they embody. It will also present the views of interviewees on the priorities that should be adopted to address global challenges.

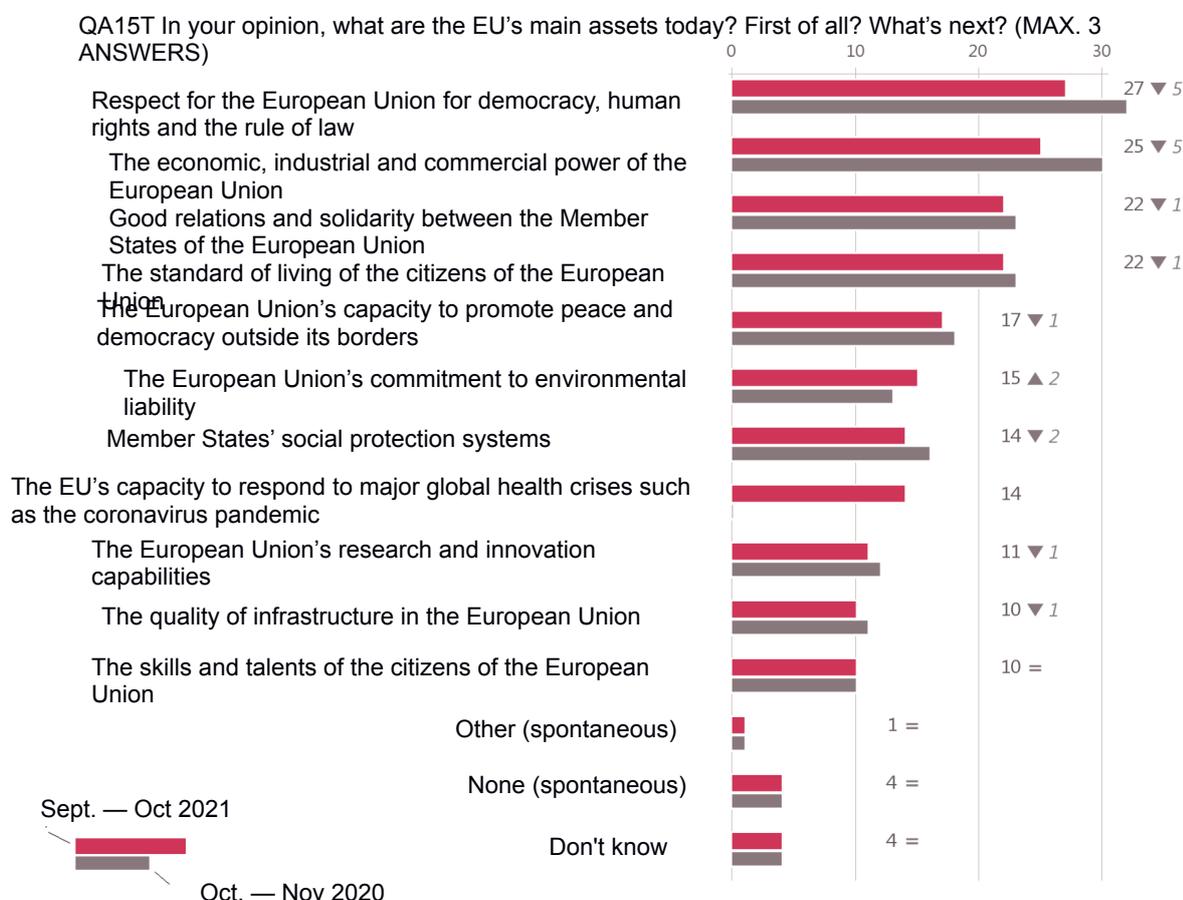
According to Europeans, the EU's main assets are respect for democracy, human rights and the rule of law (27 %), as well as its economic, industrial and commercial strength (25 %)²⁵. More than one in five also mentions good relations and solidarity between EU Member States and the standard of living of EU citizens (22 % for both).

All other assets proposed are cited by less than one in ten interviewees.

Almost one in five (17 %) mentioned the EU's ability to promote peace and democracy outside its borders, while 15 % cited the EU's commitment to environmental responsibility. The other main assets most cited are the social protection systems of the Member States and the EU's ability to respond to major global health crises such as the coronavirus pandemic (14 % for both).

Finally, around one in ten Europeans cite the EU's research and innovation capacities (11 %), the quality of infrastructure in the EU and the skills and talents of EU citizens (10 % for both).

While respect for democracy, human rights and the rule of law, and the EU's economic, industrial and commercial power remain the first and second most cited assets respectively (as well as in the Special Eurobarometer 500 on the Future of Europe in 2020²⁶), they are now somewhat less likely to be mentioned (-5 points). The other assets show little change (between 0 and 2 points). The EU's ability to respond to major global health crises such as the COVID-19 pandemic is a new response option proposed for the first time in this wave, so there is no trend data.



In 16 Member States, the standard of living of European citizens ranks first (single or equal) of the EU's main assets, with the highest proportions recorded in Latvia (46 %) and Lithuania (43 %). In eight countries, EU respect for democracy, human rights and the rule of law ranks first (alone or on an equal footing), particularly in Sweden (51 %).

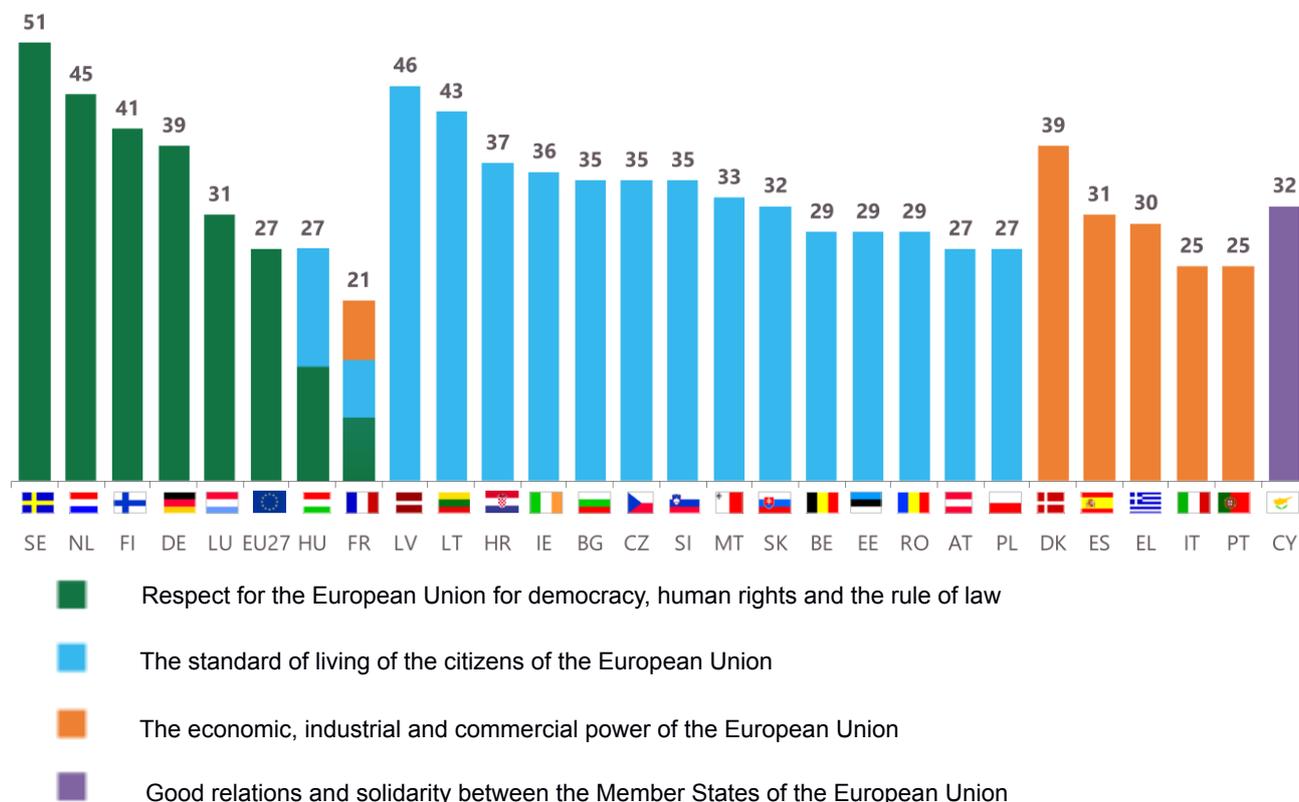
25 QA15T. In your opinion, what are the main assets of the European Union today? First of all? What about second?

26 Special Eurobarometer 500: <https://europa.eu/eurobarometer/surveys/detail/2256>

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The EU's economic, industrial and commercial power comes first (single or equal) in six countries, notably Denmark (39 %), while in Cyprus (32 %), respondents are most likely to cite good relations and solidarity between EU Member States as its main asset.

QA15T In your opinion, what are the EU's main assets today? First of all? What's next? (MAX. 3 ANSWERS)
(% — THE MOST CITED ANSWER BY COUNTRY)



In the EU as a whole, results have remained stable since October-November 2020, although more marked variations can be observed at national level. Variations of more than ten points on this aspect are presented below.

With the exception of the Netherlands (stable), respondents in all countries are now less likely to cite EU respect for democracy, human rights and the rule of law as the EU's main asset. In seven countries, this decline is at least ten points: Estonia (-22 points), Ireland, Lithuania (21 for both), Slovenia (-14), Malta (-11), France and Denmark (-10 for both).

Compared to October-November 2020, there are now 24 countries where respondents are less likely to mention the EU's economic, industrial and commercial strength among its main strengths, with the largest decreases in Portugal (-17 points), Estonia, Ireland (-16 for both), Luxembourg (-12), Lithuania and Slovenia (-11 for both) and Finland (-10).

The rate of mention of good relations and solidarity between EU Member States shows significant declines, notably in Estonia (-12 points) and Lithuania (-11), while the standard of living of European citizens is now cited more in Ireland, with an increase of 11 points.

The only other downward trend since October-November 2020 concerns the proportion of respondents in Cyprus citing the EU's research and innovation capacity as the EU's main asset (-10).

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QA15T In your opinion, what are the EU's main assets today? First of all? What's next? (MAX. 3 RESPONSES) (%)

		Respect for the European Union for democracy, human rights and the rule of law	September/October 2021 — October/November 2020	economic, industrial and commercial power of the European Union	September/October 2021 — October/November 2020	Good relations and solidarity between the Member States of the European Union	September/October 2021 — October/November 2020	The standard of living of the citizens of the European Union	September/October 2021 — October/November 2020	The European Union's capacity to promote peace and democracy outside its borders	September/October 2021 — October/November 2020	The European Union's commitment to environmental liability	September/October 2021 — October/November 2020	The EU's capacity to respond to major global health crises such as the coronavirus pandemic	Member States' social protection systems	September/October 2021 — October/November 2020	The European Union's research and innovation capabilities	September/October 2021 — October/November 2020	The skills and talents of the citizens of the European Union	September/October 2021 — October/November 2020	The quality of infrastructure in the European Union	September/October 2021 — October/November 2020
EU27	27	-5	25	-5	22	-1	22	-1	17	-1	15	2	14	14	-2	11	-1	10	=	10	-1	
BE	27	-6	24	-9	24	2	29	7	12	-3	17	=	13	19	-2	8	-5	11	-3	9	1	
BG	15	-5	27	-1	22	-5	35	-6	13	=	11	3	14	17	-3	9	-1	8	-1	11	1	
CZ	22	-7	29	-6	33	-3	35	3	16	5	11	-3	10	15	7	8	-5	9	2	7	-4	
DK	33	-10	39	-3	25	-1	17	-1	14	1	22	3	10	9	2	8	-2	5	=	7	-2	
OF	39	-5	23	=	26	1	19	-2	22	-2	13	-1	10	14	-3	8	1	8	=	8	-2	
EE	19	-22	28	-16	24	-12	29	5	11	2	8	-3	13	15	5	10	-2	7	1	12	6	
IE	20	-21	20	-16	26	-9	36	11	16	6	16	3	15	12	=	7	1	19	9	10	=	
EL	15	-7	30	2	26	2	17	-4	17	-6	12	3	7	10	-6	16	3	12	3	15	-1	
ES	18	-1	31	-7	16	-4	22	=	11	-2	10	=	18	13	-5	13	-3	9	=	10	-3	
FR	21	-10	21	-4	19	-2	21	=	19	-1	15	2	12	18	3	10	-1	9	-1	9	=	
HR	26	-1	25	-6	22	1	37	-8	16	1	9	3	16	18	-1	10	-1	11	3	9	-1	
IT	23	-7	25	-5	20	=	15	-1	15	-4	16	4	20	11	-5	16	=	12	-1	10	-2	
CY	26	-2	16	=	32	3	21	-2	19	-5	17	1	17	18	3	6	-10	5	-1	9	-2	
LV	22	-6	17	-3	25	-1	46	3	12	=	12	=	10	21	=	4	-2	6	-1	10	=	
LT	21	-21	17	-11	27	-11	43	8	18	=	9	1	13	17	5	11	3	8	4	7	1	
REA D	31	-9	16	-12	22	=	25	2	18	-3	16	4	18	17	-3	10	=	10	=	12	-1	
HU	27	-2	25	-1	18	3	27	-1	19	-3	14	1	13	15	-3	13	1	13	-5	13	-1	
MT	24	-11	21	-7	16	-6	33	-1	13	=	25	9	21	8	-4	12	2	8	-3	7	=	
NL	45	=	37	-5	26	-2	17	1	14	-3	25	6	9	10	=	5	-2	3	-3	5	-2	
AT	23	-7	23	-1	18	2	27	2	15	=	17	5	11	18	-2	9	-3	10	-4	16	3	
PL	24	-2	23	-3	19	-4	27	-6	16	=	16	4	17	19	1	9	-3	10	1	14	-2	
PT	24	-6	25	-17	19	1	18	-6	18	2	19	6	22	11	1	7	=	19	2	5	1	
RO	18	-2	26	-5	20	-3	29	1	17	-2	11	=	16	18	1	12	-1	11	1	14	-3	
IF	28	-14	24	-11	22	-7	35	2	9	-1	17	4	11	19	4	9	-1	6	1	10	4	
SK	15	-1	23	-9	24	-7	32	3	15	-2	13	1	16	15	1	10	-2	8	-2	16	3	
FI	41	-3	35	-10	26	-2	20	4	9	-3	14	2	14	5	-2	9	-3	12	=	7	=	
SE	51	-7	22	-7	23	2	8	=	18	2	30	4	7	8	1	14	4	6	-3	7	2	

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Comparing socio-demographic categories, there is no age difference, and the only variation observed is gender-based, as men are more likely than women to cite the EU's economic, industrial and commercial strength among the EU's major strengths (28 % versus 23 % of women).

Managers, long-student respondents and those with low financial difficulties are more likely to mention the EU's respect for democracy, human rights and the rule of law as one of its main assets.

This is the case for 31 % of those who completed their education at the age of 20 or older, compared with 21 % of those who completed their education at the age of 15 or younger. Almost one third (30 %) of respondents with the least financial difficulties cite respect for democracy, human rights and the rule of law, compared to 21 % of those who have the most difficulty paying their bills.

QA15T In your opinion, what are the EU's main assets today? First of all? What's next? (% — EU)

	Respect for the European Union for democracy, human rights and the rule of law	The economic, industrial and commercial power of the European Union	The standard of living of the citizens of the European Union	Good relations and solidarity between the Member States of the European Union	The European Union's capacity to promote peace and democracy outside its borders	The European Union's commitment to environmental liability	The EU's capacity to respond to major global health crises such as the coronavirus pandemic	Member States' social protection systems	The European Union's research and innovation capabilities	The skills and talents of the citizens of the European Union	The quality of infrastructure in the European Union
EU27	27	25	22	22	17	15	14	14	11	10	10
Gender											
Man	26	28	23	22	16	14	13	14	11	10	11
Woman	28	23	21	22	17	15	14	15	10	9	9
Age											
15-24	24	25	25	23	16	13	14	15	11	10	12
25-39	27	26	24	22	14	17	13	15	11	12	12
40-54	26	27	22	22	18	15	14	13	12	10	10
55+	28	24	20	21	18	14	14	15	10	8	8
School leaving age											
—15	21	24	23	20	17	10	16	13	9	8	8
16-19	25	24	23	20	17	14	15	16	11	10	11
20+	31	27	20	24	17	18	12	13	11	10	9
Always student	26	24	23	24	16	15	14	16	12	10	11
Socio-professional category											
Independents	27	28	21	23	16	15	14	13	12	11	9
Senior management	32	28	22	23	17	16	12	13	12	10	10
Other employees	28	26	21	22	16	17	15	14	11	12	12
Workers	24	26	24	20	15	15	14	14	11	11	12
Women/Men in the Home	21	27	22	19	17	12	15	14	10	8	9
Unemployed	23	25	24	20	15	12	14	14	10	11	12
Pensioners	27	23	21	22	19	14	14	16	9	7	7
Students	26	24	23	24	16	15	14	16	12	10	11
Difficulties in paying your bills											
Most of the time	21	22	24	20	16	11	14	13	11	13	7
From time to time	20	24	23	21	16	14	16	16	12	11	11
Almost Never/Never	30	26	21	22	17	15	13	14	10	9	10

2. The EU's main challenges

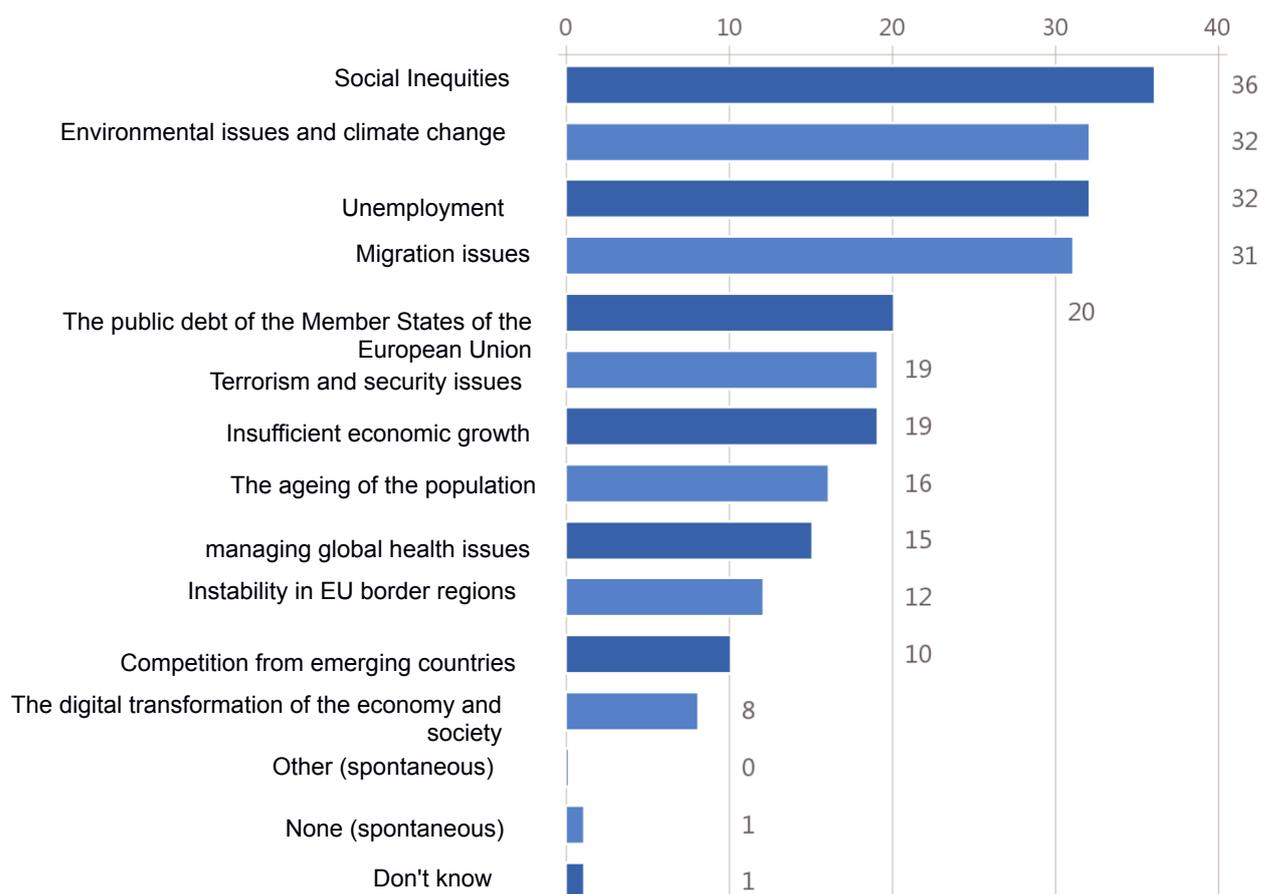
Social inequalities, unemployment, environmental issues and climate change, as well as migration are among the main challenges facing the EU

According to interviewees, the most cited major challenges facing the EU are social inequalities (36 %), unemployment and environmental problems and climate change (32 % for all), while migration issues are cited by an almost equivalent proportion (31 %)²⁷. These are the only challenges that are mentioned by more than three out of ten respondents.

One in five (20 %) considers the public debt of EU Member States to be one of the EU's main challenges, while 19 % mention insufficient economic growth and terrorism and security issues (19 % for all). Population ageing is considered one of the main challenges by 16 %, while 15 % cite global health management and 12 % instability in border regions of the European Union. One in ten (10 %) cited competition from emerging countries as one of the major challenges for the EU.

Just under one in ten (8 %) considers the digital transformation of the economy and society to be one of the major challenges for the EU.

QA16 And, in your opinion, what of the following are the main challenges for the EU? (MAX. 3 REPLIES) (%- EU27)



²⁷ This question was asked during the previous survey on the future of Europe (Special Eurobarometer 500) in September-October 2020, but respondents were given the opportunity to choose several answer options (not limited to three answers as for this survey). This is why developments are not analysed here.

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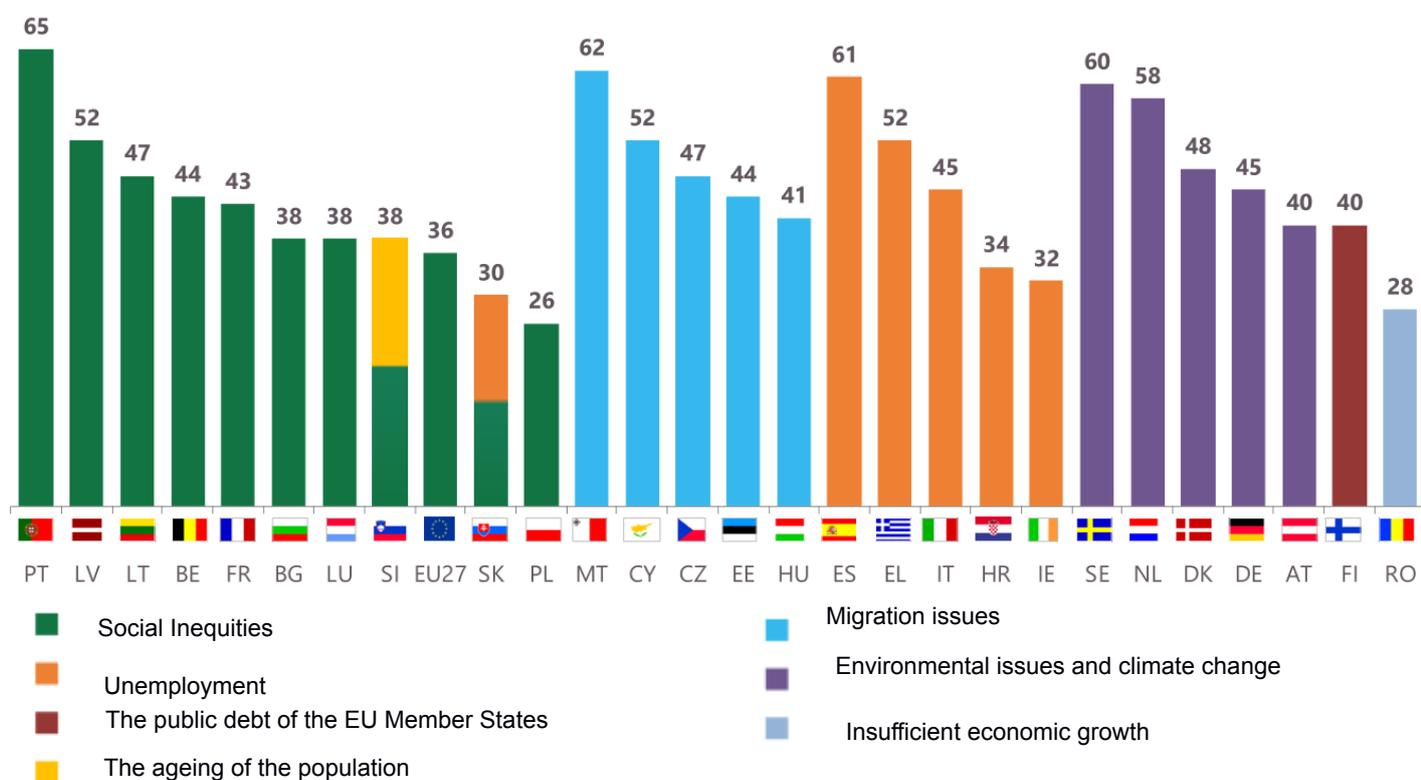
There are some variations at national level regarding the major challenges identified for the EU.

In ten countries, social inequalities are the most cited challenge (single or equal), although the proportions range from 65 % in Portugal to 26 % in Poland. In five countries, in particular Malta (52 %), migration issues are at the top of the EU's challenges. Unemployment is seen as the EU's main challenge for respondents in five countries, in particular in Spain (61 %).

In five countries, notably Sweden (60 %) and the Netherlands (58 %), environmental issues and climate change are considered the EU's main challenge.

Finland (40 %) is the only country where the public debt of EU Member States is cited as one of the main challenges, while Slovenia (38 %, as well as social inequalities) is the only country where population ageing is considered one of the EU's major challenges. In Romania (28 %), insufficient economic growth is cited as the EU's main challenge.

QA16 And, in your opinion, what of the following are the main challenges for the EU? (MAX. 3 ANSWERS)
(% — THE MOST CITED ANSWER BY COUNTRY)



Special Eurobarometer 517, the future of Europe p.38

Social inequality is the most mentioned challenge in the EU as a whole, the most mentioned (single or equal) in ten countries, and ranks second or third of the most mentioned challenges in 12 other countries. However, there are significant variations between Member States, ranging from 65 % of respondents in Portugal, 52 % in Latvia and 49 % in Sweden to only 18 % in Italy, 21 % in Romania and 24 % in Malta and Ireland.

More than half of the respondents in Spain (61 %) and Greece (52 %) believe that unemployment is one of the main challenges, compared to 9 % in the Netherlands, 13 % in the Czech Republic and 14 % in Denmark. This is the most cited (or equal with another) challenge in five countries, and the second or third most cited in nine other countries.

Environmental issues and climate change are the most mentioned challenge in five countries, and are ranked second or third in 12 others. The proportions quoting this challenge are between 60 % of respondents in Sweden, 58 % in the Netherlands, 48 % in Denmark, compared with 14 % in Latvia, 15 % in Bulgaria and 16 % in Greece.

Respondents in Malta (62 %), Cyprus (52 %), and Greece (49 %) are the most likely to cite migration issues, while those in Portugal (17 %), Spain (20 %) and Romania (21 %) have the lowest rates for this response. This is the most cited challenge in five countries, and the second or third most cited challenge in 16 Member States.

Finland (40 %), Austria (28 %) and Germany (27 %) are the only countries where more than a quarter consider the public debt of EU Member States to be one of the EU's main challenges. In addition, this is the challenge most mentioned by interviewees in Finland. In contrast, only 6 % of respondents in Estonia, 7 % in Bulgaria and 9 % in Lithuania share this view.

Insufficient economic growth is cited among the EU's major challenges by 38 % of respondents in Greece, 32 % in Italy and 28 % in Romania (where this is the most mentioned challenge), compared with only 5 % in Denmark and the Netherlands and 7 % in Sweden, Luxembourg and Germany.

The proportions of respondents who cite terrorism and security issues range from 32 % in Finland, 31 % in the Netherlands and 26 % in Sweden to 9 % in Spain.

Regarding the challenges cited less frequently at EU level as a whole, the ageing of the EU population is most mentioned by respondents in Slovenia (38 %, the most mentioned challenge), Finland (33 %) and Estonia (32 %). It is mentioned by at least one in five people in 12 countries.

Respondents in Slovenia, Romania (26 % for both), Lithuania and Greece (25 % for both) are most likely to consider global health management as one of the EU's main challenges, while instability in EU border regions is most often mentioned by those in Denmark (30 %), Finland (28 %) and the Netherlands (23 %).

Competition from emerging countries is the most cited by respondents in Poland (17 %), Hungary and Greece (15 % for both), while those in Germany (15 %) are the most likely to cite the digital transformation of the economy and society.

Special Eurobarometer 517, the future of Europe p.39

QA16 And, in your opinion, what of the following are the main challenges for the EU? (MAX. 3 RESPONSES) (%)

	Social Inequities	Unemployment	Environmental issues and climate change	Migration issues	The public debt of the Member States of the European Union	Insufficient economic growth	Terrorism and security issues	The ageing of the population	Managing global health issues	Instability in EU border regions	Competition from emerging countries	The digital transformation of the economy and society
EU27	36	32	32	31	20	19	19	16	15	12	10	8
BE	44	26	41	36	20	13	18	21	13	8	14	6
BG	38	26	15	34	7	20	20	26	24	14	11	4
CZ	26	13	23	47	25	15	23	22	13	16	10	8
DK	35	14	48	32	13	5	22	16	11	30	12	8
OF	43	18	45	37	27	7	22	13	10	14	5	15
EE	27	22	19	44	6	13	19	32	17	11	6	5
IE	24	32	30	27	24	15	19	24	20	15	10	6
EL	33	52	16	49	19	38	12	15	25	10	15	5
ES	47	61	20	20	15	27	9	21	16	6	5	5
FR	43	36	38	28	17	14	23	18	14	8	10	4
HR	31	34	25	22	23	25	16	22	13	16	14	8
IT	18	45	24	31	20	32	19	9	15	7	14	10
CY	36	48	25	52	12	20	24	13	23	10	8	3
LV	52	35	14	26	13	25	17	19	23	15	3	6
LT	47	28	20	39	9	20	17	21	25	13	5	7
READ	38	31	36	35	17	7	18	20	13	10	13	6
HU	28	23	27	41	18	25	21	18	17	14	15	8
MT	24	17	32	62	13	15	19	18	19	13	8	5
NL	47	9	58	37	18	5	31	19	10	23	12	9
AT	29	38	40	36	28	18	14	16	15	17	10	10
PL	26	19	23	25	19	22	14	17	16	21	17	6
PT	65	51	20	17	24	21	20	15	21	5	6	9
RO	21	25	18	21	20	28	12	14	26	15	6	10
IF	38	22	32	31	18	14	12	38	26	10	8	8
SK	30	30	25	23	23	23	16	20	17	14	10	8
FI	33	15	38	27	40	13	32	33	5	28	6	3
SE	49	22	60	43	13	7	26	13	10	19	8	6

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There are no differences in opinion on this subject as a function of age in the sociodemographic data, but some variations are noticeable in relation to age groups: people aged 15-24 are more likely than other age groups to cite unemployment among the main challenges and, together with those aged 25 to 39, are also the most likely to mention environmental problems and climate change. Indeed, 37 % of the youngest respondents consider unemployment to be one of the EU's main challenges, compared to 32 % of those aged 55 and over. On the other hand, the youngest are the least likely to cite the public debt of EU Member States: 15 % cite this challenge, compared to at least one in five people among the higher age groups.

The level of education shows even more marked differences. Indeed, the longer a person has studied, the more likely they are to cite environmental problems and climate change, migration issues or instability in EU border regions, and the less likely they are to mention unemployment, insufficient economic growth or global health management among the EU's main challenges.

For example, 48 % of people who completed their education at the age of 15 years or less, compared with 24 % of those who completed them at the age of 20 or over. On the other hand, environmental problems and climate change are cited by 41 % of those who continued their studies until the age of 20 years or older, but only 21 % of those who completed their studies at the age of 15 or younger.

For socio-occupational categories, unemployed people are more likely than other groups to cite social inequalities (46 %) and unemployment (50 %). Managers (44 %) and students (41 %) are also more likely than other categories to cite environmental issues and climate change, while managers (36 %) are also more likely to cite migration issues.

People with the most financial difficulties are also the most likely to mention social inequalities: 43 % cite them against 37 % of those who have the least difficulty in paying their bills.

Special Eurobarometer 517, the future of Europe p.41

QA16 And, in your opinion, what of the following are the main challenges for the EU? (MAX. 3 REPLIES (% — EU))

	Social Inequities	Unemployment	Environmental issues and climate change	Migration issues	The public debt of the Member States of the European Union	Terrorism and security issues	Insufficient economic growth	The ageing of the population	Managing global health issues	Instability in EU border regions	Competition from emerging countries	The digital transformation of the economy and society
EU27	36	32	32	31	20	19	19	16	15	12	10	8
Gender												
Man	35	31	32	32	22	18	19	16	13	13	11	10
Woman	38	33	33	30	19	20	18	16	16	11	9	7
Age												
15-24	33	37	37	30	15	15	18	14	15	11	10	13
25-39	37	30	36	30	20	17	19	16	13	13	10	10
40-54	36	31	31	31	23	18	21	16	13	13	10	9
55+	37	32	30	31	20	21	17	17	16	11	9	6
School leaving age												
—15	38	48	21	27	19	19	21	16	20	7	6	5
16-19	34	33	28	31	21	21	21	15	15	12	10	8
20+	39	24	41	33	21	18	16	19	12	15	11	9
Always student	34	34	41	29	16	15	16	14	15	11	11	14
Socio-professional category												
Independents	35	26	32	30	24	18	21	16	14	14	11	11
Senior management	36	20	44	36	23	18	17	18	11	15	12	11
Other employees	34	30	33	30	21	18	21	16	14	14	11	9
Workers	36	34	27	29	21	20	21	15	15	12	10	8
Women/Men in the Home	34	44	24	29	16	19	21	16	17	12	7	6
Unemployed	46	50	28	31	14	16	24	13	11	7	9	6
Pensioners	38	33	30	31	20	22	16	18	17	11	8	5
Students	34	34	41	29	16	15	16	14	15	11	11	14
Difficulties in paying your bills												
Most of the time	43	45	20	28	21	17	21	13	14	8	9	7
From time to time	32	38	26	30	19	21	24	13	15	12	10	7
Almost Never/Never	37	28	36	32	21	19	17	18	15	13	10	9
Considers to belong to												
The working class	42	42	23	28	17	17	19	18	19	9	7	6
Lower middle class	39	33	31	31	20	22	18	15	16	11	10	7
The middle class	33	30	34	31	22	19	20	16	14	13	11	9
The upper middle class	36	17	49	36	24	18	14	17	9	18	11	12
The upper class	38	13	45	34	25	18	12	15	10	19	9	13

3. EU values

The values of peace, freedom of opinion, social equality and solidarity, tolerance and openness to others are better embodied by the EU

A list of seven values were presented to interviewees and asked whether they were better represented by the EU, other countries or both for each value²⁸.

Almost half (49 %) believe that peace is better embodied in the EU, 47 % cite freedom of opinion, 45 % say social equality and solidarity, while 44 % believe that the EU best embodies tolerance and openness to others.

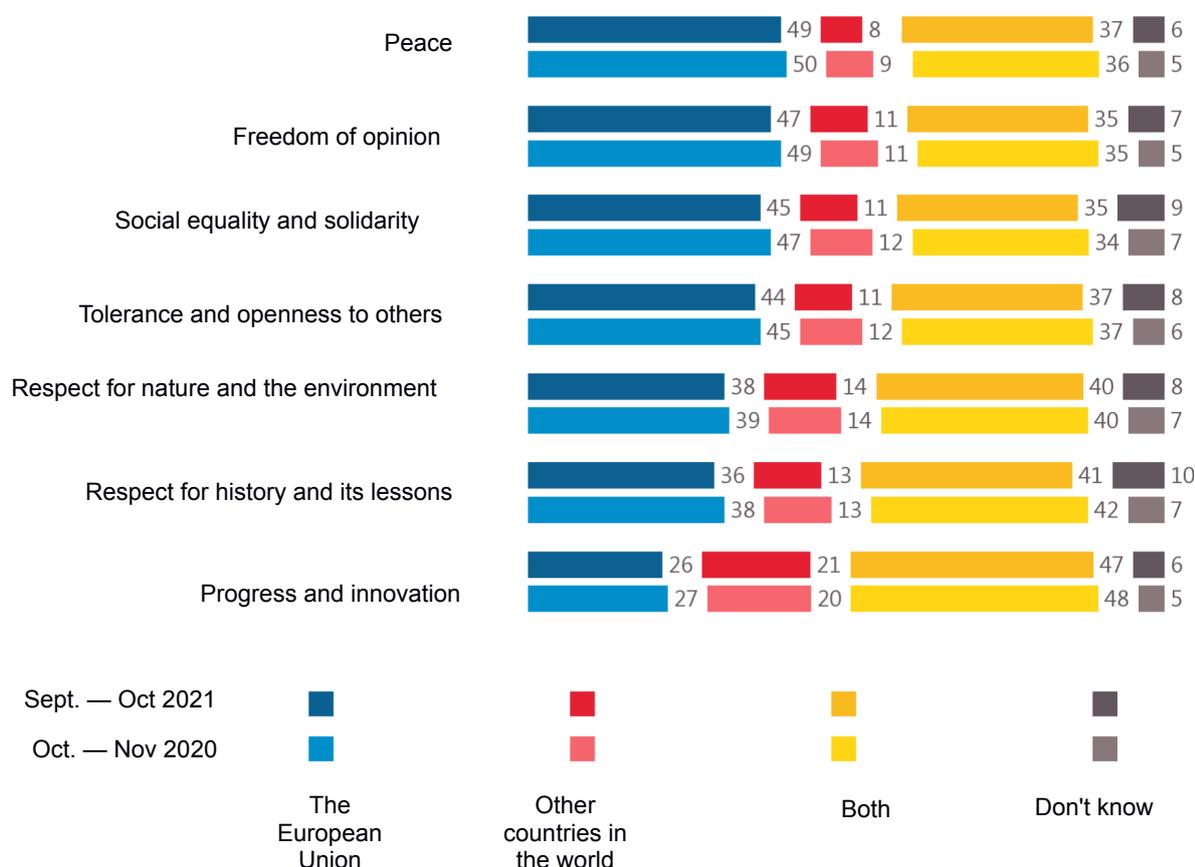
Nearly four out of ten (38 %) say that the EU best embodies respect for nature and the environment, 36 % believe that the EU best embodies respect for history and its lessons, and 26 % cite progress and innovation.

More than a third of respondents believe that all the values proposed are best embodied by the EU, other countries or groups of countries, with the proportions ranging from 47 % quoting progress and innovation to 35 % mentioning freedom of opinion, and social equality and solidarity.

Progress and innovation are the only value for which at least one in five people consider that they are better represented by other countries or groups of countries (21 %). On the other hand, only 8 per cent of this view is concerned with peace.

Few developments have been observed since October-November 2020 (special Eurobarometer 500 on the future of Europe)²⁹ (between 0 and 2 points).

QA21 For each of these values, can you tell me if they are better embodied by the European Union, by other countries (or groups of countries) in the world or by both? (% — EU27)



28 QA21 For each of these values, can you tell me if they are better embodied by the European Union, by other countries (or groups of countries) in the world or by both? 21.1 respect for nature and the environment; 21.2 social equality and solidarity; 21.3 peace; 21.4 progress and innovation; 21.5 freedom of opinion; 21.6 tolerance and openness to others; 21.7 Respect for history and its lessons.

29 Special Eurobarometer 500: <https://europa.eu/eurobarometer/surveys/detail/2256>

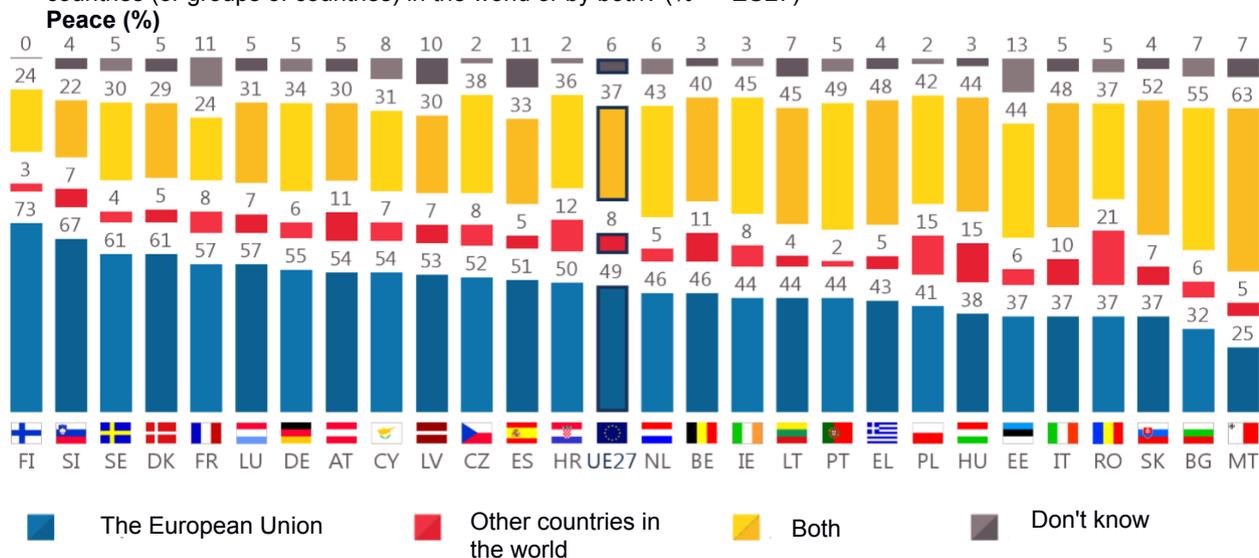
Special Eurobarometer 517, the future of Europe p.43

Peace

In 15 countries, the majority of respondents believe that peace is better embodied in the EU, with the highest proportions in Finland (73 %), Slovenia (67 %), Denmark and Sweden (61 % for both). On the other hand, respondents in 11 countries consider peace to be better embodied by the EU and other countries, particularly in Malta (63 %), Bulgaria (55 %) and Slovakia (52 %).

In Romania, opinion is divided between the EU and the EU and other countries (37 % for both). Romania also has the highest proportion of respondents who believe that peace is better embodied by other countries (21 %).

QA21.3 For each of these values, can you tell me if they are better embodied by the European Union, by other countries (or groups of countries) in the world or by both? (% — EU27)

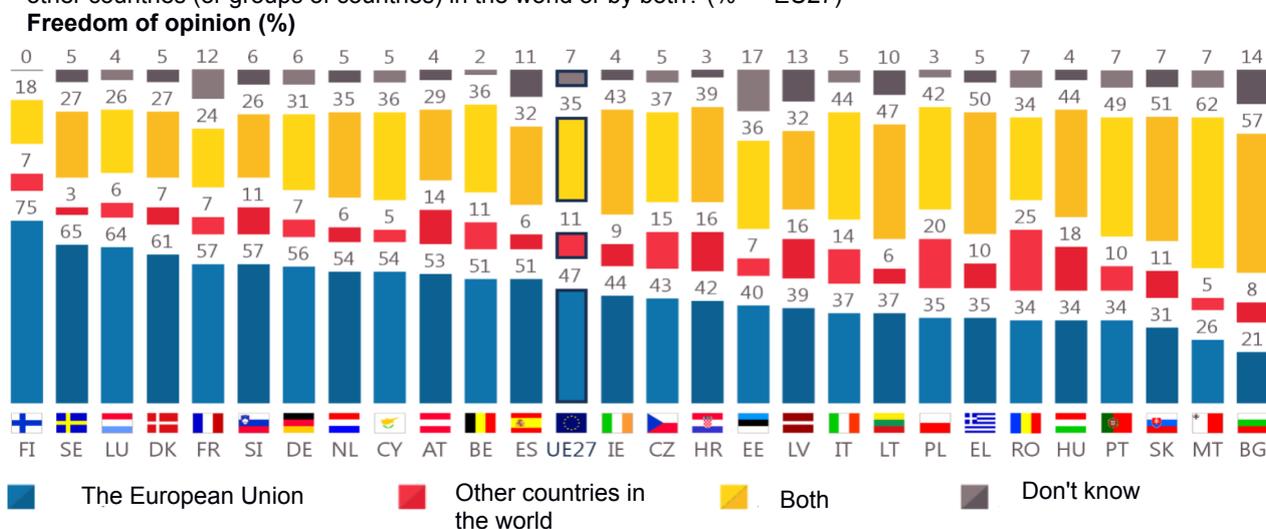


Freedom of opinion

In 17 Member States, the majority of respondents believe that freedom of opinion is better represented by the EU, with the highest proportions recorded in Finland (75 %), Sweden (65 %) and Luxembourg (64 %). In the remaining ten countries, the majority consider peace to be better embodied by the EU and other countries, particularly in Malta (62 %), Bulgaria (57 %) and Slovakia (51 %).

In Romania (25 %) and Poland (20 %), at least one in five people think that freedom of opinion is better embodied by other countries in the world.

QA21.5 For each of these values, can you tell me if they are better embodied by the European Union, other countries (or groups of countries) in the world or by both? (% — EU27)



Special Eurobarometer 517, the future of Europe p.44

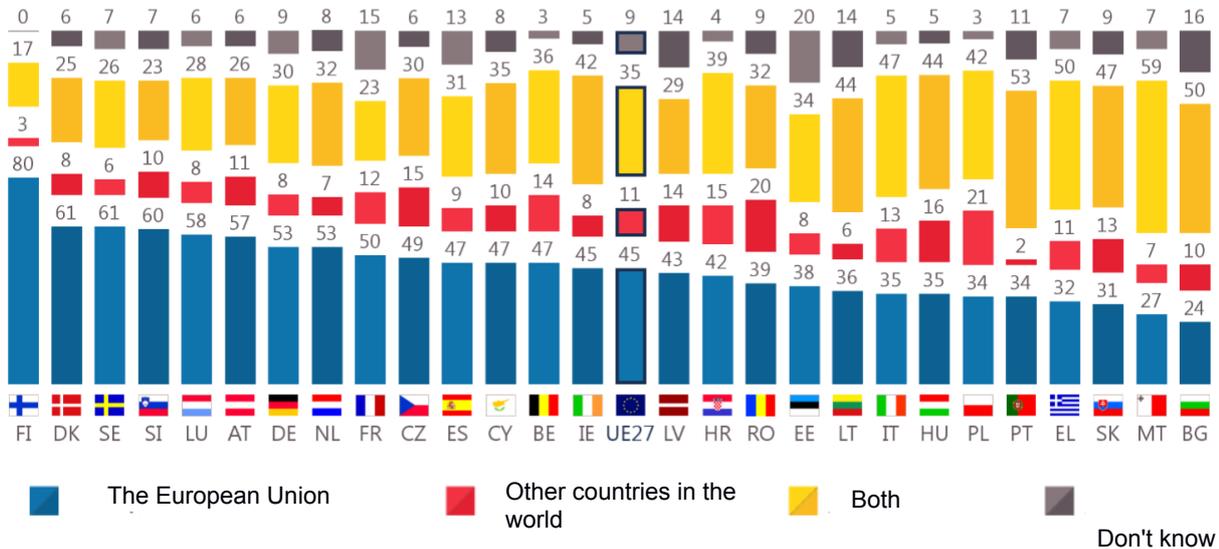
Social equality and solidarity

The EU best embodies social equality and solidarity for a majority of respondents in 18 Member States, with the highest proportions in Finland (80 %), Denmark and Sweden (61 % for both). In the remaining nine countries, respondents are more likely to think that this value is better represented by the EU and other countries, notably Malta (59 %), Portugal (53 %), Greece and Bulgaria (50 % for both).

At least one in five respondents in Poland (21 %) and Romania (20 %) say that social equality and solidarity are better embodied by other countries.

QA21.2 For each of these values, can you tell me if they are better embodied by the European Union, by other countries (or groups of countries) in the world or by both? (% — EU27)

Social equality and solidarity (%)



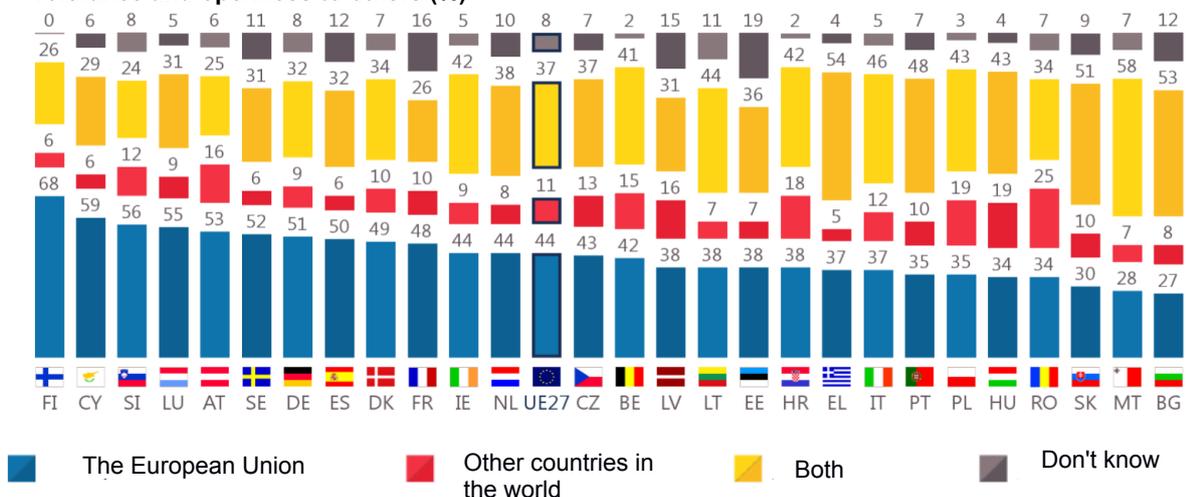
La tolerance and openness to others

Respondents in Finland (68 %), Cyprus (59 %) and Slovenia (56 %) are most likely to believe that the EU better embodies tolerance and openness to others; this is the majority opinion in 16 Member States. In ten Member States, notably Malta (58 %), Bulgaria (53 %), Greece (54 %) and Slovakia (51 %), the majority believe that this value is better represented by the EU and other countries.

In Romania, opinion is divided (EU: 34 %, the EU and other countries: 34 %). Romania (25 %) is also the only country where at least one in five respondents believe that tolerance and openness to others are better embodied by other countries.

QA21.6 For each of these values, can you tell me if they are better embodied by the European Union, by other countries (or groups of countries) in the world or by both? (% — EU27)

Tolerance and openness to others (%)



Respect for nature and the environment

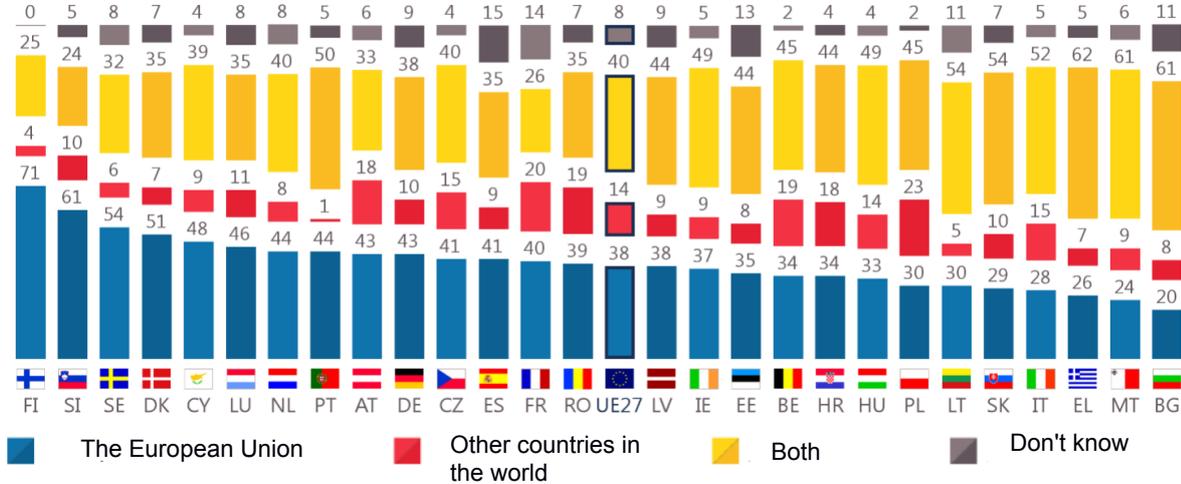
Special Eurobarometer 517, the future of Europe p.45

In 13 countries, the majority of respondents believe that respect for nature and the environment is better represented by the EU, with the highest proportions observed in Finland (71 %), Slovenia (61 %) and Sweden (54 %). On the other hand, the majority of respondents in Greece (62 %), Bulgaria, Malta (61 % for both) and 11 other countries believe that this value is better represented by the EU and other countries.

At least one in five respondents in Poland (23 %) and France (20 %) say that respect for nature and the environment is better embodied by other countries.

QA21.1 For each of these values, can you tell me if they are better embodied by the European Union, by other countries (or groups of countries) in the world or by both? (% — EU27)

Respect for nature and the environment (%)



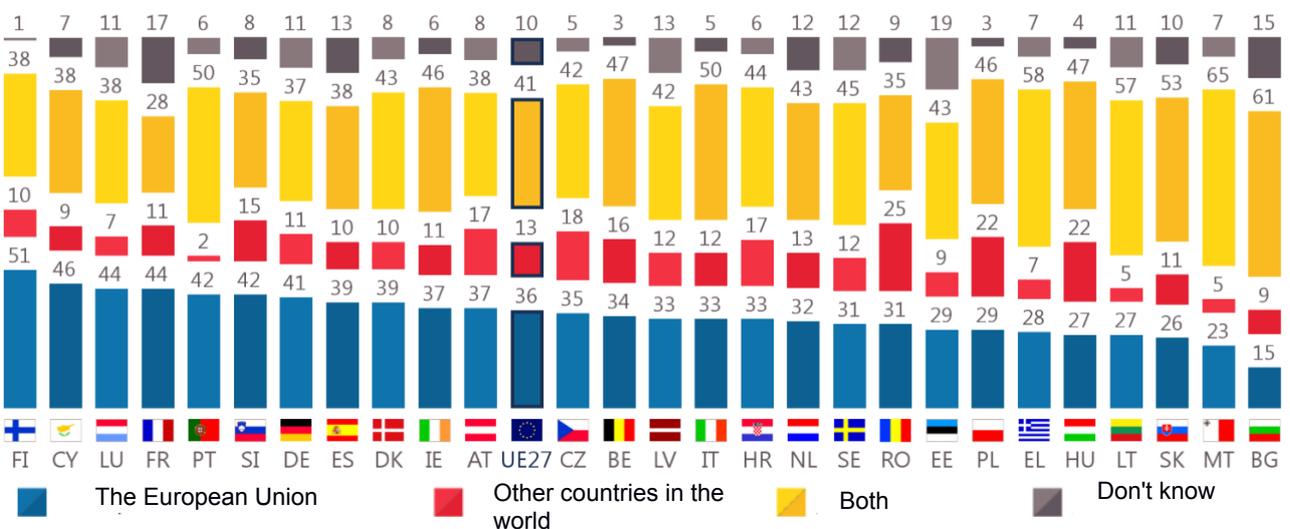
Respect for history and its lessons

In seven Member States, the majority of respondents believe that respect for history and its lessons is better represented by the EU, with the highest proportions being observed in Finland (51 %), Cyprus (46 %), France and Luxembourg (44 % for both). In the remaining 20 countries, the majority consider that respect for history and its lessons is better embodied by the EU and other countries, particularly in Malta (65 %), Bulgaria (61 %) and Greece (58 %).

At least one in five respondents in Romania (25 %), Hungary and Poland (22 % for both) consider that other countries better embody respect for history and its lessons.

QA21.7 For each of these values, can you tell me if they are better embodied by the European Union, by other countries (or groups of countries) in the world or by both? (% — EU27)

Respect for history and its lessons (%)



Special Eurobarometer 517, the future of Europe p.46

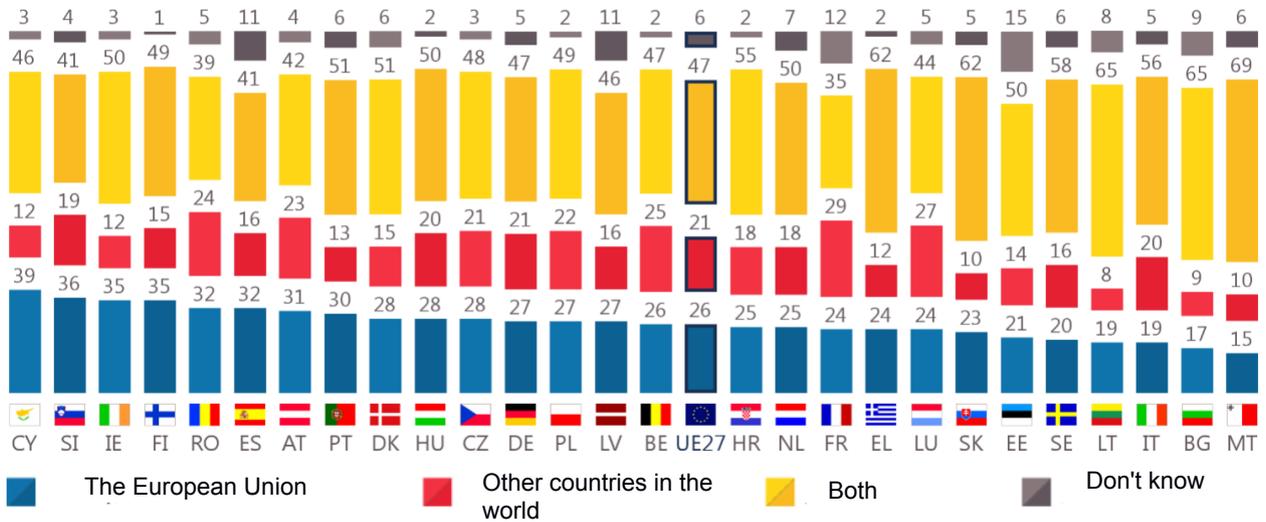
Progress and innovation

Only a minority of respondents in all Member States believe that the EU is a better embodiment of progress and innovation, with those in Cyprus (39 %), Slovenia (36 %), Ireland and Finland (35 % for both) most likely to agree. The majority in all countries believe that this value is better represented by the EU and other countries, with the highest proportions being observed in Malta (69 %), Bulgaria and Lithuania (65 % for both).

In ten countries, at least one in five people consider progress and innovation to be better embodied by other countries, notably in France (29 %), Luxembourg (27 %) and Belgium (25 %).

QA21.4 For each of these values, can you tell me if they are better embodied by the European Union, by other countries (or groups of countries) in the world or by both? (% — EU27)

Progress and innovation (%)



Special Eurobarometer 517, the future of Europe p.47

Sociodemographic data show the following trend: No significant changes can be seen by gender. However, men are more likely than women to think that the EU is a better embodiment of social equality and solidarity (48 % versus 42 %).

Respondents who completed their studies at the age of 20 or older, as well as managers, are generally more likely to think that the different values proposed are better embodied by the EU than those who have completed their younger studies and those in the home.

Similarly, those who have the least difficulty in paying their bills are more likely to consider that the EU embodies the different values offered better than those experiencing more financial difficulties.

It should be noted that the variations in respect for nature and the environment are greater than for other values: men, people aged 15 to 39, those who completed their studies at the age of 20 or over, self-employed workers, managers, students and those who have the least difficulty in paying their bills are most likely to think that respect for nature and the environment is best embodied in the EU. For all other categories, respondents are more likely to think that this value is better embodied by the EU and other countries. For example, 41 % of men believe that respect for nature and the environment is better embodied in the EU, while 38 % say it is better represented by the EU and other countries.

Among women, 35 % believe that it is better represented by the EU and 42 % by the EU and other countries. Finally, unlike other values, the majority of respondents in all socio-demographic categories believe that respect for history and its lessons and progress and innovation are better embodied by the EU and other countries.

	Peace	Freedom of opinion	Social equality and solidarity	Tolerance and openness to others	Respect for nature and the environment	Respect for history and its lessons	Progress and innovation
EU27	49	47	45	44	38	36	26
Gender							
Man	50	49	48	46	41	37	27
Woman	47	46	42	42	35	35	25
Age							
15-24	52	48	48	45	42	34	27
25-39	49	49	47	44	41	36	26
40-54	47	45	43	43	36	36	26
55+	48	47	44	44	37	37	26
School leaving age							
—15	45	42	39	40	34	35	28
16-19	47	44	42	42	37	35	27
20+	53	53	50	48	41	39	25
Always student	52	50	51	46	42	35	26
Socio-professional category							
Independents	50	48	47	46	42	38	28
Senior management	51	52	50	49	41	39	23
Other employees	47	48	46	43	39	36	27
Workers	46	43	40	40	35	33	26
Women/Men in the Home	45	38	38	39	33	34	24
Unemployed	44	44	44	42	35	33	22
Pensioners	49	48	45	45	38	38	28
Students	52	50	51	46	42	35	26
Difficulties in paying your bills							
Most of the time	43	37	37	36	32	32	23
From time to time	42	40	37	37	32	31	25
Almost Never/Never	51	51	49	47	41	38	27

4. The EU in the world

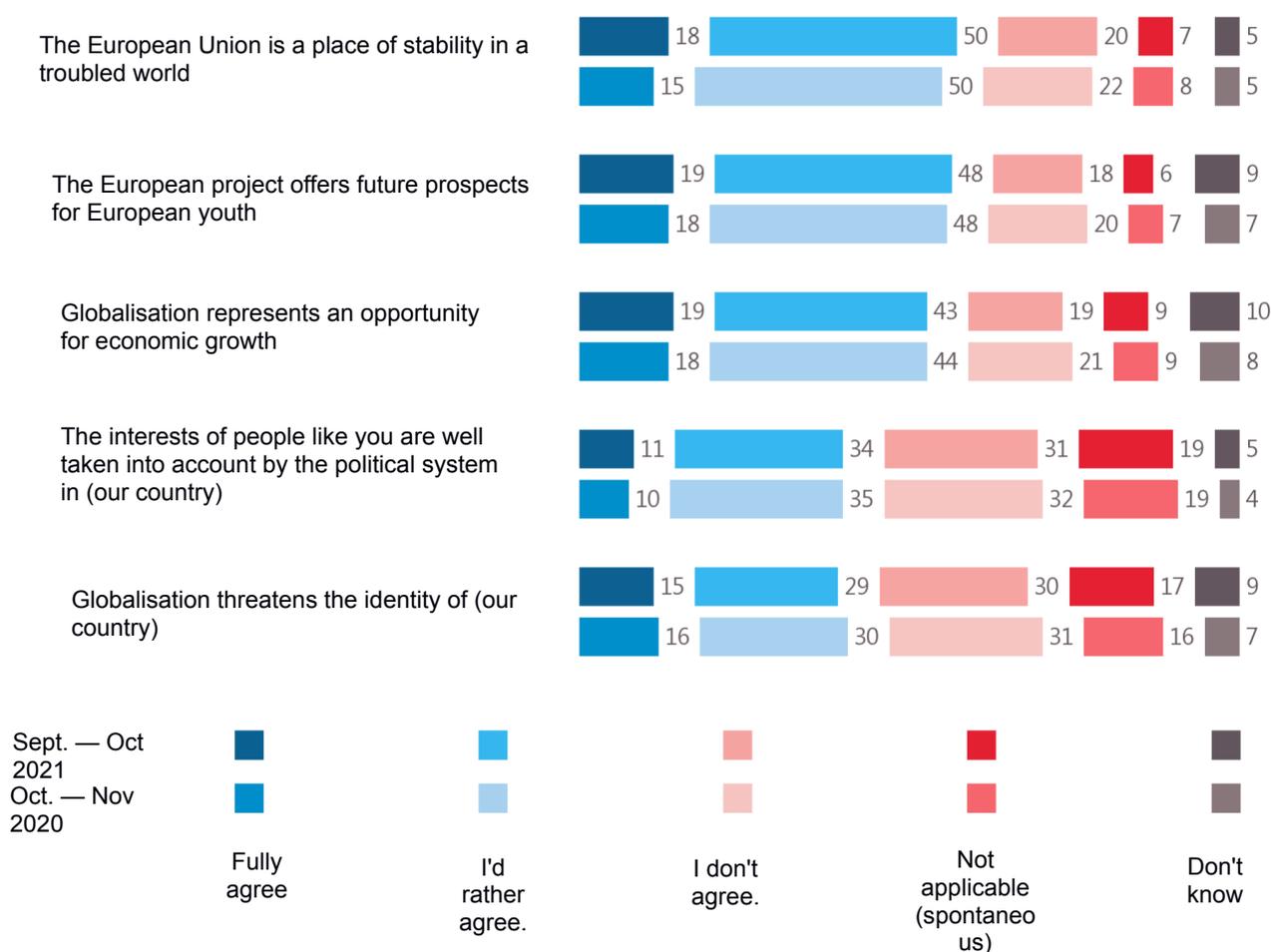
More than two thirds of Europeans believe that the EU offers stability and future prospects for European youth

Almost seven out of ten respondents (68 %) agree that the EU is a place of stability in a troubled world and almost as much (67 %) believe that the European project offers future prospects for European youth³⁰. Just over six out of ten (62 per cent) agree that globalisation represents an opportunity for economic growth, although 44 per cent believe that globalisation threatens their country's identity.

More than four in ten (45 %) believe that the interests of people like them are well taken into account by their country's political system, but 50 % disagree.

Few developments have been observed since October-November 2020 (Special Eurobarometer 500 on the future of Europe)³¹, the largest increase, by three points, is observed for the proportion that thinks the EU is a place of stability in a troubled world.

QA19 To what extent do you agree or disagree with each of the following proposals?
(% EU 27)



30 Q19 To what extent do you agree or disagree with each of the following proposals? 19.1 The European Union E is a place of stability in a troubled world; 19.2 Globalisation represents an opportunity for economic growth; 19.3 Globalisation threatens the identity of (OUR COUNTRY); 19.4 The European project offers future prospects for European youth; 19.5 The interests of people like you are well taken into account by the political system in (OUR COUNTRY).

31 Special Eurobarometer 500: <https://europa.eu/eurobarometer/surveys/detail/2256>

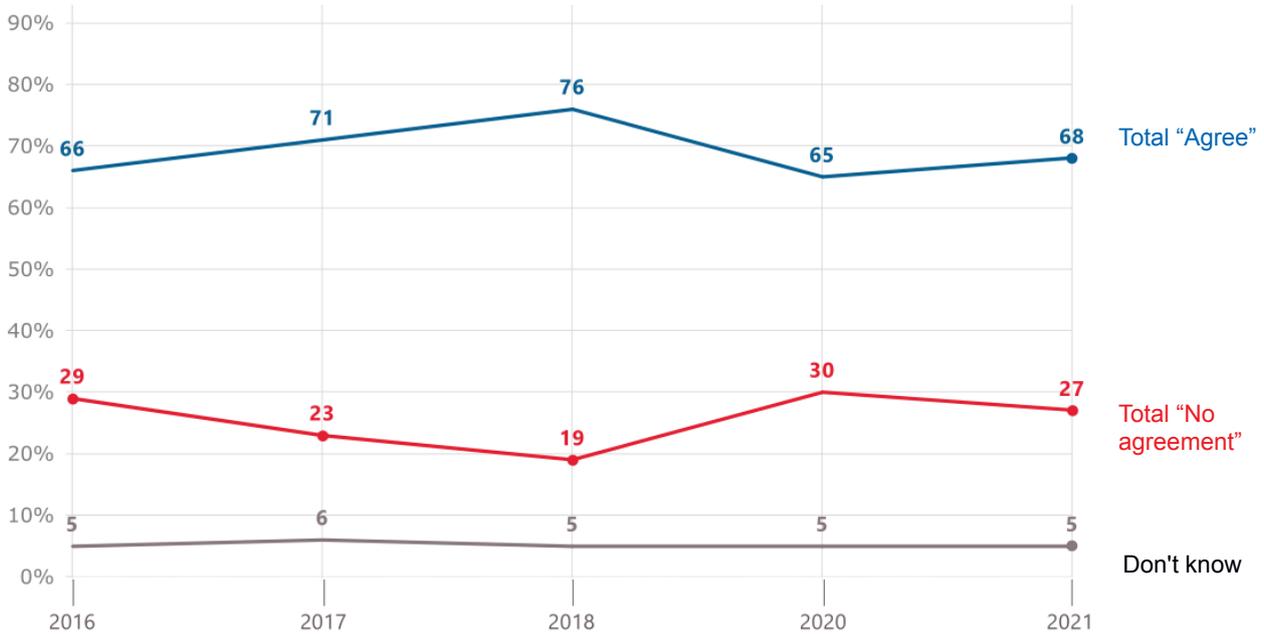
Special Eurobarometer 517, the future of Europe p.49

The EU is a place of stability in a troubled world

Almost one in five respondents (18 %) is “strongly agreed” with the claim that “the EU is a place of stability in a troubled world”, while 50 % say they “rather agree”. These results are very similar to those observed in 2016 and show a three-point increase in the total level of agreement compared to the previous survey on the future of Europe in October-November 2020.

Analysis of longer-term trends reveals that the overall agreement rate has almost returned to its 2016 level after reaching its lowest level in October-November 2020.

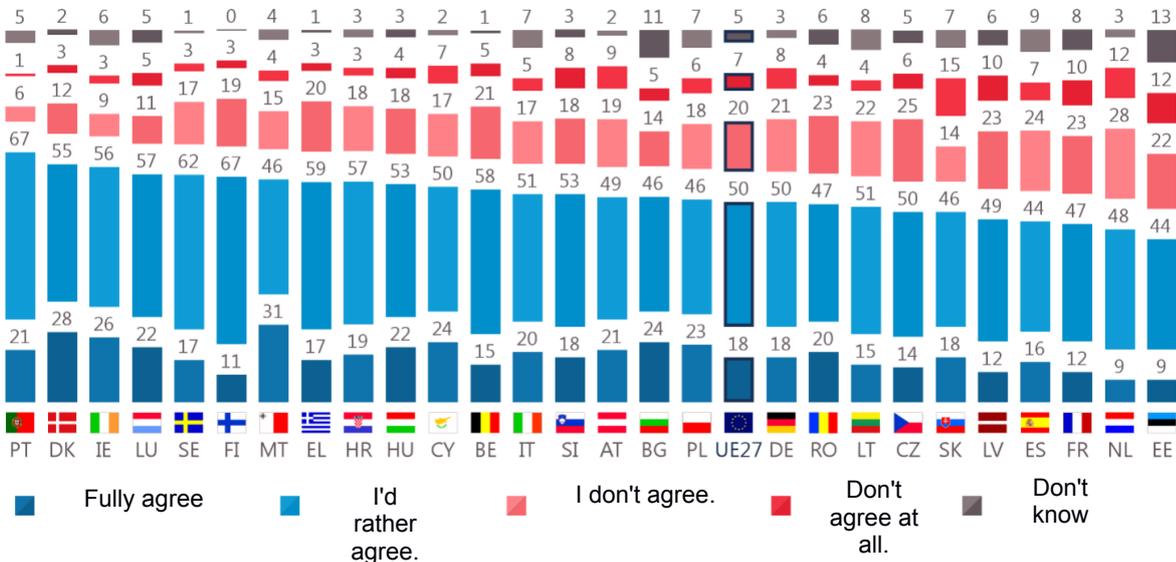
QA19.1 To what extent do you agree or disagree with each of the following proposals?
The European Union is a place of stability in a troubled world (% — EU)



At EU level, more than two thirds of respondents (68 %) agree that the EU is a place of stability in a troubled world, of which 18 % say they “strongly agree”. More than a quarter (27 %) said they did not agree to some extent.

The majority of respondents in all countries agree that the EU is a place of stability in a troubled world, ranging from 88 % in Portugal, 83 % in Denmark and 82 % in Ireland to 53 % in Estonia, 57 % in the Netherlands and 59 % in France. Respondents in the Netherlands (40 %), Estonia (34 %) in Latvia and France (33 % for both) are most likely to disagree.

QA19.1 To what extent do you agree or disagree with each of the following proposals?
The European Union is a place of stability in a troubled world (%)



Special Eurobarometer 517, the future of Europe p.50

The proportion of respondents who agree that the EU is a place of stability in a troubled world has increased slightly (+ 3 points) at EU level since October-November 2020.

The agreement rate also increased in 20 countries, with the largest increases in Italy and Malta (+ 10 points for both). On the contrary, it declined by 14 points in Estonia.

QA19.1 To what extent do you agree or disagree with each of the following proposals?

The European Union is a place of stability in a troubled world (%)

	Total 'Agree'	September/October 2021 — October/November 2020	Total 'No agreement'	September/October 2021 — October/November 2020	Don't know
EU27	68	3	27	-3	5
IT	71	10	22	-9	7
MT	77	10	19	=	4
HU	75	8	22	-8	3
EL	76	6	23	-6	1
CY	74	6	24	-6	2
PT	88	6	7	-4	5
DK	83	5	15	-5	2
ES	60	5	31	-7	9
CZ	64	4	31	-9	5
FI	78	4	22	-4	0
BE	73	3	26	-4	1
HR	76	3	21	-4	3
READ	79	3	16	-8	5
RO	67	3	27	-5	6
IF	71	3	26	-6	3
LV	61	2	33	-2	6
BG	70	1	19	-4	11
NL	57	1	40	-2	3
PL	69	1	24	-1	7
SE	79	1	20	-1	1
FR	59	=	33	-1	8
AT	70	=	28	=	2
SK	64	=	29	-4	7
OF	68	-1	29	=	3
IE	82	-3	12	-3	6
LT	66	-4	26	-4	8
EE	53	-14	34	1	13

Special Eurobarometer 517, the future of Europe p.51

Socio-demographic data show that the younger the interviewee, the more likely they agree with the claim that the EU is a place of stability in a troubled world. Indeed, 70 % of those between the ages of 15 and 24 share this opinion, compared with only 65 % of those aged 55 and over. On the other hand, the longer a person has studied, the more likely they are to agree with this statement: more than seven out of ten respondents (71 %) who continued their education until the age of 20 or older agreed, compared to 61 % of those who completed them earlier.

As far as socio-occupational categories are concerned, managers are most likely to agree with this statement, in particular in relation to manual workers and housewives (75 % vs. 63 %). The data also show that the less difficult a person has to pay their invoices, the more likely they are to agree with this statement: 70 % of those with the least difficulty, compared to 58 % of those with the most financial difficulties. The data also confirm that respondents with a positive image of the EU are much more likely to agree than those with a negative image (82 % versus 37 %).

QA19.1 To what extent do you agree or disagree with each of the following proposals?

The European Union is a place of stability in a troubled world (% — EU)

	Total "Agree"	Total "No agreement"	Don't know
EU27	68	27	5
Gender			
Man	69	27	4
Woman	66	27	7
Age			
15-24	70	23	7
25-39	71	26	3
40-54	68	29	3
55+	65	27	8
School leaving age			
—15	61	27	12
16-19	65	30	5
20+	71	26	3
Always student	74	20	6
Socio-professional category			
Independents	71	26	3
Senior management	75	23	2
Other employees	71	26	3
Workers	63	33	4
Women/Men in the Home	63	27	10
Unemployed	64	31	5
Pensioners	64	27	9
Students	74	20	6
Difficulties in paying your bills			
Most of the time	58	36	6
From time to time	65	30	5
Almost Never/Never	70	25	5
Image of the EU			
Positive	82	15	3
Neutral	57	34	9
Negative	37	59	4

Special Eurobarometer 517, the future of Europe p.52

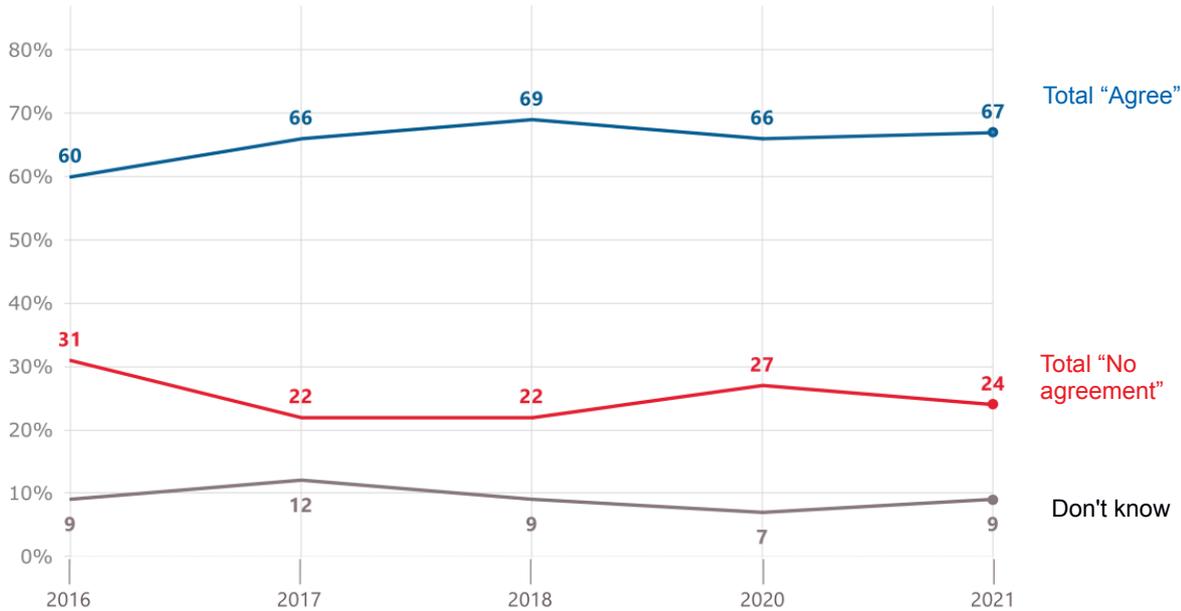
The European project offers future prospects for European youth

Just over two thirds (67 %) of respondents across the EU agree that the European project offers future prospects for European youth, of which 19 % say they “strongly agree”. Almost a quarter (24 %) disagreed, of which 6 % said they “nothing at all”.

Almost no change in the level of agreement has been observed since October-November 2020 (+ 1 point) and, in the longer term, it has also remained relatively stable since 2017

QA19.4 To what extent do you agree or disagree with each of the following proposals?

The European project offers future prospects for European youth (% — EU)

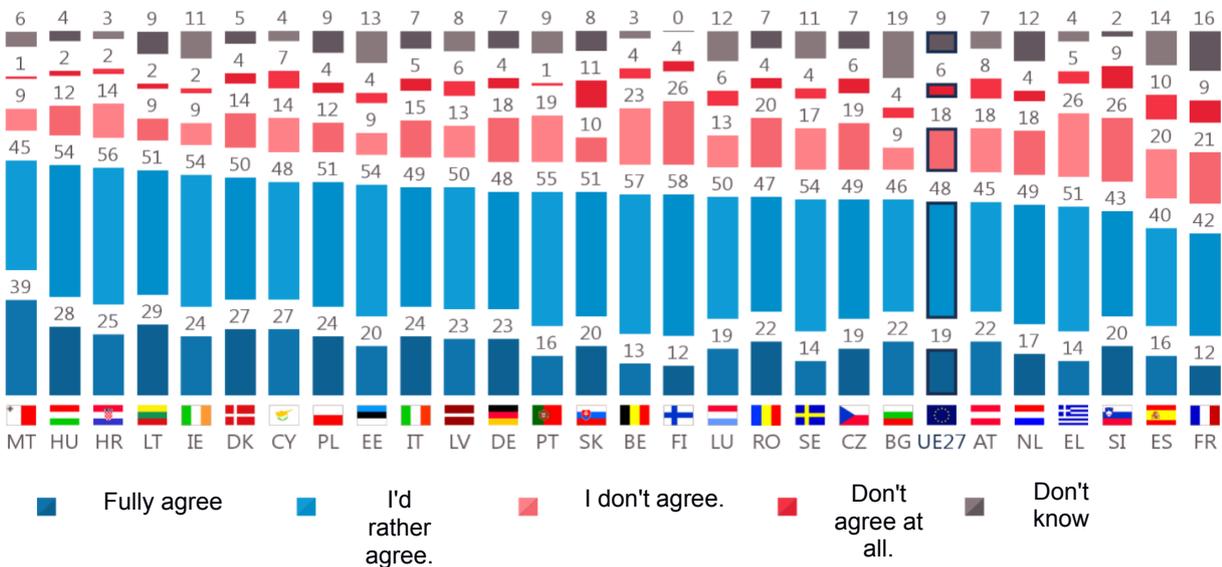


In all Member States, the majority of respondents agree that the European project offers future prospects for European youth,

the proportions ranged from 84 % in Malta, 82 % in Hungary, 81 % in Croatia and 54 % in France, 56 % in Spain and 63 % in Slovenia.

QA19.4 To what extent do you agree or disagree with each of the following proposals?

The European project offers future prospects for European youth (%)



Special Eurobarometer 517, the future of Europe p.53

The level of agreement with the assertion that the European project offers future prospects for young people Europe has grown in 13 countries since October-November 2020, with the largest increases in Italy (+ 11 points) and Cyprus (+ 9). The largest drop in the agreement rate is observed in Lithuania (-7 points).

QA19.4 To what extent do you agree or disagree with each of the following proposals?

The European project offers future prospects for European youth (%)

	Total 'Agree'	September/October 2021 — October/November 2020	Total 'No agreement'	September/October 2021 — October/November 2020	Don't know
EU27	67	1	24	-3	9
IT	73	11	20	-10	7
CY	75	9	21	-11	4
PT	71	6	20	-5	9
HU	82	5	14	-5	4
MT	84	5	10	3	6
EL	65	4	31	-4	4
BG	68	3	13	-3	19
ES	56	3	30	-8	14
SE	68	3	21	-10	11
HR	81	2	16	-3	3
PL	75	2	16	-2	9
RO	69	2	24	-3	7
FI	70	1	30	-1	0
LV	73	=	19	-1	8
IF	63	=	35	-1	2
BE	70	-1	27	-2	3
DK	77	-1	18	-1	5
READ	69	-1	19	-11	12
CZ	68	-3	25	-4	7
OF	71	-3	22	=	7
FR	54	-3	30	-3	16
SK	71	-3	21	-1	8
AT	67	-4	26	2	7
NL	66	-5	22	-1	12
EE	74	-6	13	-7	13
IE	78	-6	11	-5	11
LT	80	-7	11	-2	9

Special Eurobarometer 517, the future of Europe p.54

Socio-demographic data show little differences in age or sex, but highlight the fact that the longer a person has been educated, the more likely they are to agree with this statement. For example, 71 % of people who completed their studies at the age of 20 or older agree that the European project offers future prospects for European youth, compared with 58 % of those who complete their studies at the age of 15 or younger.

Managers (75 %) and students (74 %) are most likely to agree, particularly in relation to unemployed people (57 %) and those in the home (59 %). The data also show that the less difficult a person has to pay their invoices, the more likely they are to agree with this claim.

QA19.4 To what extent do you agree or disagree with each of the following proposals?

Globalisation threatens the identity of (OUR COUNTRY) (% — EU)

	Total 'Agree'	Total 'No agreement'	Don't know
EU27	67	24	9
Gender			
Man	68	24	8
Woman	67	23	10
Age			
15-24	70	21	9
25-39	69	23	8
40-54	68	25	7
55+	65	23	12
School leaving age			
—15	58	25	17
16-19	66	26	8
20+	71	21	8
Always student	74	18	8
Socio-professional category			
Independents	69	23	8
Senior management	75	20	5
Other employees	71	22	7
Workers	64	28	8
Women/Men in the Home	59	25	16
Unemployed	57	34	9
Pensioners	65	22	13
Students	74	18	8
Difficulties in paying your bills			
Most of the time	50	36	14
From time to time	65	27	8
Almost Never/Never	70	21	9

Special Eurobarometer 517, the future of Europe p.55

Globalisation represents an opportunity for economic growth

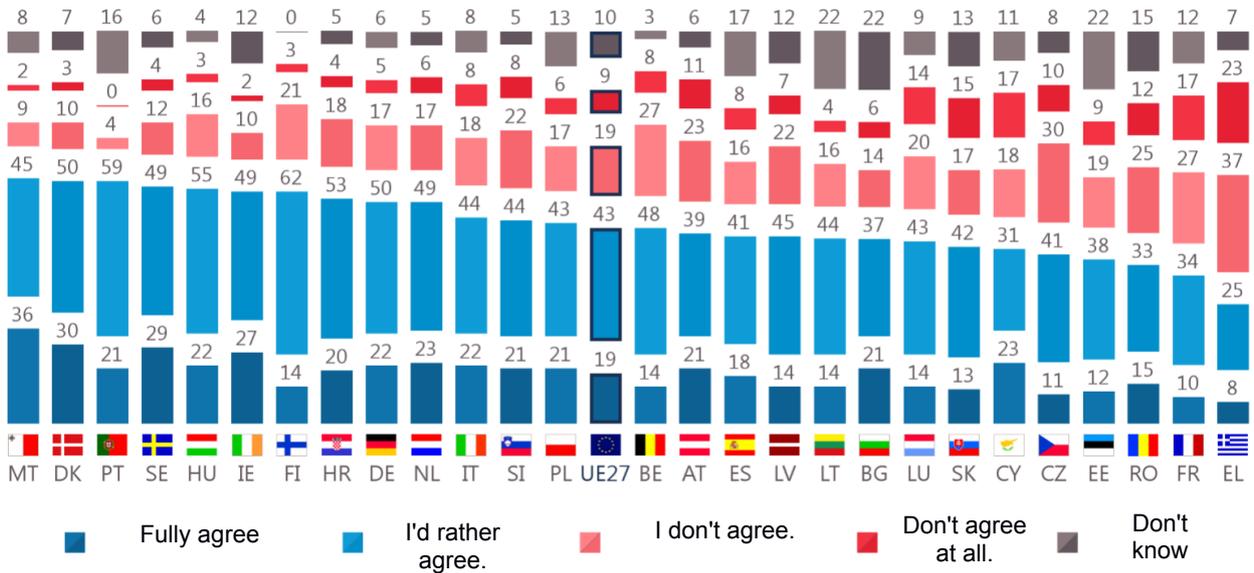
Just over six out of ten respondents in the EU (62 %) believe that globalisation represents an opportunity for economic growth, of which 19 % say they “strongly agree”. More than a quarter (28 %) said they did not agree.

The level of agreement has remained fairly stable since spring 2019 and, with the exception of March 2019 (the first reference date of 2019 for data), the period starting in autumn 2017 (2nd reference date) was marked by an increase in the agreement rate, which reached its highest level since autumn 2009 (2nd reference date).

There are significant variations at national level. The proportions of respondents who agree that globalisation represents an opportunity for economic growth ranges from 81 % in Malta and 80 % in Denmark and Portugal to 33 % in Greece, 44 % in France and 48 % in Romania. However, despite these variations, Greece is the only country where the majority disagrees with this statement (60 %), while in France the opinion is divided on this subject (44 % agree against 44 % no agreement).

QA19.2 To what extent do you agree or disagree with each of the following proposals:

Globalisation represents an opportunity for economic growth (%)



Special Eurobarometer 517, the future of Europe p.56

Trends at national level since October-November 2020 (Special Eurobarometer on the Future of Europe)³² have been heterogeneous.

On the one hand, the level of agreement increased in 11 countries, notably Malta (+ 14 points) and Italy (+ 12), while the level of agreement increased in 11 countries, in particular Malta (+ 14 points) and Italy (+ 12).
decreased in 15 countries, such as Estonia (-13) and Lithuania (-12). No variation is observed in Germany.

QA19.2 To what extent do you agree or disagree with each of the following proposals?

Globalisation represents an opportunity for economic growth (%)

	Total 'Agree'	September/October 2021 — October/November 2020	Total 'No agreement'	September/October 2021 — October/November 2020	Don't know
EU27	62	=	28	-2	10
MT	81	14	11	-4	8
IT	66	12	26	-11	8
CY	54	9	35	-11	11
PT	80	8	4	-7	16
SK	55	8	32	-10	13
HU	77	7	19	-5	4
BG	58	5	20	-4	22
HR	73	4	22	-5	5
LV	59	3	29	-1	12
AT	60	2	34	-3	6
PL	64	1	23	-2	13
OF	72	=	22	-1	6
IE	76	-1	12	-11	12
RO	48	-2	37	-3	15
IF	65	-2	30	-3	5
FI	76	-2	24	2	0
DK	80	-3	13	-1	7
ES	59	-3	24	1	17
BE	62	-4	35	1	3
EL	33	-4	60	1	7
NL	72	-4	23	2	5
SE	78	-5	16	=	6
CZ	52	-6	40	-1	8
FR	44	-6	44	4	12
READ	57	-6	34	-3	9
LT	58	-12	20	-10	22
EE	50	-13	28	9	22

Special Eurobarometer 517, the future of Europe p.57

Sociodemographic data show that the younger a person is, the more they tend to think that the globalisation represents an opportunity for economic growth: for example, 74 % of the youngest respondents agree with this statement, compared to 55 % of those aged 55 and over.

Opinion also varies according to level of education, as respondents who dropped out of school at the age of 15 or under (49 %) were significantly less likely to agree than those who continued their studies later, particularly when compared to those who completed their studies at the age of 20 or over (66 %).

As regards socio-occupational categories, students (77 %) and managers (74 %) are much more likely to agree with this statement than those in the home and pensioners (52 % for both). With regard to the financial situation, the less difficult a person has to pay their invoices, the more likely they are to agree.

QA19.2 To what extent do you agree or disagree with each of the following proposals?

Globalisation represents an opportunity for economic growth (% — EU)

	Total "Agree"	Total "No agreement"	Don't know
EU27	62	28	10
Gender			
Man	64	29	7
Woman	60	27	13
Age			
15-24	74	17	9
25-39	69	25	6
40-54	63	31	6
55+	55	30	15
School leaving age			
—15	49	27	24
16-19	60	31	9
20+	66	28	6
Always student	77	15	8
Socio-professional category			
Independents	67	27	6
Senior management	74	22	4
Other employees	66	28	6
Workers	61	32	7
Women/Men in the Home	52	30	18
Unemployed	55	35	10
Pensioners	52	31	17
Students	77	15	8
Difficulties in paying your bills			
Most of the time	50	36	14
From time to time	57	33	10
Almost Never/Never	65	25	10

Special Eurobarometer 517, the future of Europe p.58

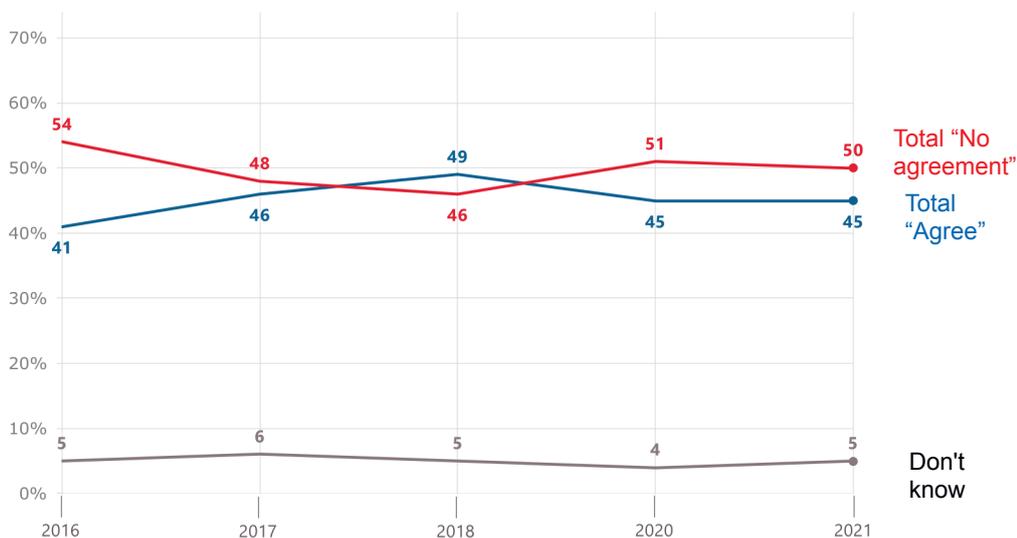
The interests of people like you are well taken into account by the political system in (OUR COUNTRY)

Only a minority (45 %) believes that the interests of people like them are well taken into account by their country's political system, of which 11 % say they "strongly agree". Half of the respondents (50 %) disagreed with this statement, and 19 % said that they did not agree at all.

There has been little change since October 2020 (Special Eurobarometer 500 on the future of Europe)³³, the level of agreement is now at its second lowest level since 2016 (Special Eurobarometer 451 on the future of Europe)³⁴. Between 2016 and 2021, 2018 (Special Eurobarometer 479 on the Future of Europe)³⁵ is the only period in which the dominant opinion was to agree.

QA19.5 To what extent do you agree or disagree with each of the following proposals?

The interests of people like you are well taken into account by the political system in (OUR COUNTRY) (% — EU)

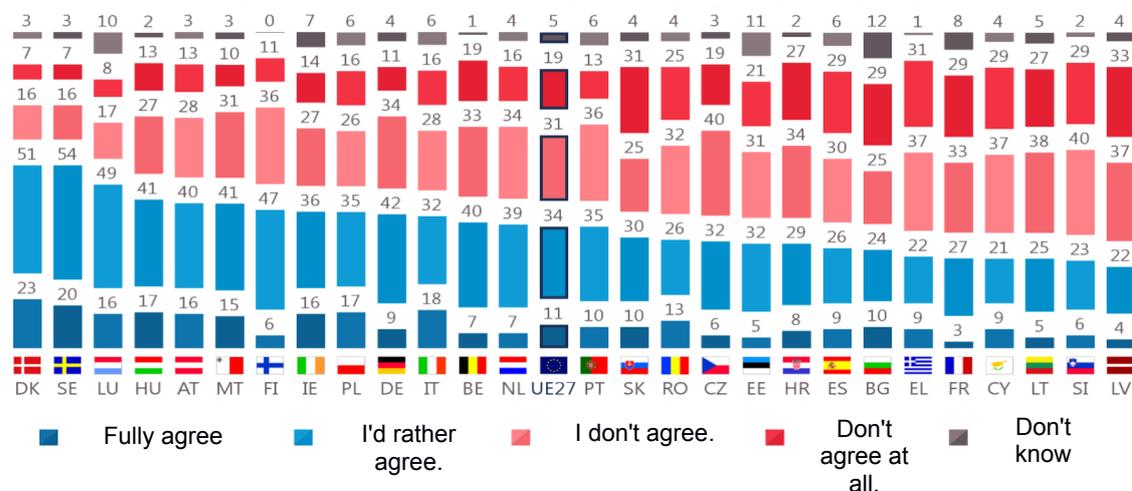


The general opinion at EU level masks significant variations at national level. In 11 countries, the majority is in agreement with this statement, the highest proportions were observed in Denmark, Sweden (74 % for both) and Luxembourg (65 %).

In 16 countries, on the other hand, the majority disagrees with the assertion that the interests of people like them are well taken into account by their country's political system; this view is particularly widespread in Latvia (70 %), Slovenia (69 %) and Greece (68 %).

QA19.5 To what extent do you agree or disagree with each of the following proposals?

The interests of people like you are well taken into account by the political system in (OUR COUNTRY) (%)



33 Special Eurobarometer 500: <https://europa.eu/eurobarometer/surveys/detail/2256>

34 Special Eurobarometer 451: <http://ec.europa.eu/commfrontoffice/publicopinion/index.cfm/Survey/getSurveyDetail/instruments/SPECIAL/surveyKy/2131>

35 Special Eurobarometer 479: <https://ec.europa.eu/commfrontoffice/publicopinion/index.cfm/Survey/getSurveyDetail/search/future/surveyKy/2217>

Special Eurobarometer 517, the future of Europe p.60

The stability of overall results at EU level masks significant disparities between Member States on this issue. In 13 countries, respondents are now more likely to agree that the interests of people like them are well taken into account by their country's political system, notably in Malta (+ 20 points) and Hungary (+ 10).

On the other hand, in the Netherlands (-10) and in ten other countries, respondents are now less likely to agree with this statement; Finland, Germany, Austria and Denmark recorded declines of six points or more. Opinion remains stable in Ireland, Greece and Poland.

QA19.5 To what extent do you agree or disagree with each of the following proposals?

The interests of people like you are well taken into account by the political system in (OUR COUNTRY) (%)

	Total 'Agree'	September/October 2021 — October/November 2020	Total 'No agreement'	September/October 2021 — October/November 2020	Don't know
EU27	45	=	50	-1	5
MT	56	20	41	-10	3
HU	58	10	40	-9	2
IT	50	9	44	-10	6
BG	34	8	54	-9	12
IF	29	6	69	-7	2
SK	40	5	56	-7	4
BE	47	4	52	-5	1
SE	74	4	23	-5	3
HR	37	2	61	-2	2
CY	30	2	66	-4	4
LV	26	2	70	-3	4
PT	45	2	49	-3	6
READ	65	1	25	-11	10
IE	52	=	41	-7	7
EL	31	=	68	=	1
PL	52	=	42	2	6
FR	30	-1	62	-2	8
EE	37	-2	52	-9	11
ES	35	-2	59	1	6
CZ	38	-3	59	=	3
RO	39	-4	57	4	4
LT	30	-5	65	=	5
DK	74	-6	23	5	3
AT	56	-6	41	5	3
OF	51	-8	45	6	4
FI	53	-8	47	8	0
NL	46	-10	50	9	4

Special Eurobarometer 517, the future of Europe p.61

Socio-demographic data do not reveal significant differences in opinion by age or sex, but the level of education, occupation, financial situation and perceived image of the EU are key factors in public opinion.

The longer a person has studied, the more likely they are to agree with this statement: this is the case for 50 % of those who completed their studies at the age of 20 and over, compared with 37 % of those who completed their studies at the age of 20.

As far as socio-occupational categories are concerned, managers are most likely to agree with this statement, particularly in relation to those in the home (56 % versus 33 %). The level of agreement varies depending on the financial situation, as those who have difficulty paying their bills most of the time (26 %) are much less likely to agree than those with less difficulty.

QA19.5 To what extent do you agree or disagree with each of the following proposals?

Globalisation threatens the identity of (OUR COUNTRY) (% — EU)

	Total "Agree"	Total "No agreement"	Don't know
EU27	45	50	5
Gender			
Man	46	50	4
Woman	44	50	6
Age			
15-24	48	46	6
25-39	48	48	4
40-54	45	51	4
55+	43	51	6
School leaving age			
—15	37	54	9
16-19	43	53	4
20+	50	46	4
Always student	49	44	7
Socio-professional category			
Independents	46	50	4
Senior management	56	41	3
Other employees	48	48	4
Workers	43	53	4
Women/Men in the Home	36	57	7
Unemployed	33	62	5
Pensioners	41	52	7
Students	49	44	7
Difficulties in paying your bills			
Most of the time	26	68	6
From time to time	42	54	4
Almost Never/Never	48	47	5
Image of the EU			
Positive	57	39	4
Neutral	34	60	6
Negative	24	73	3

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Globalisation threatens the identity of (OUR COUNTRY)

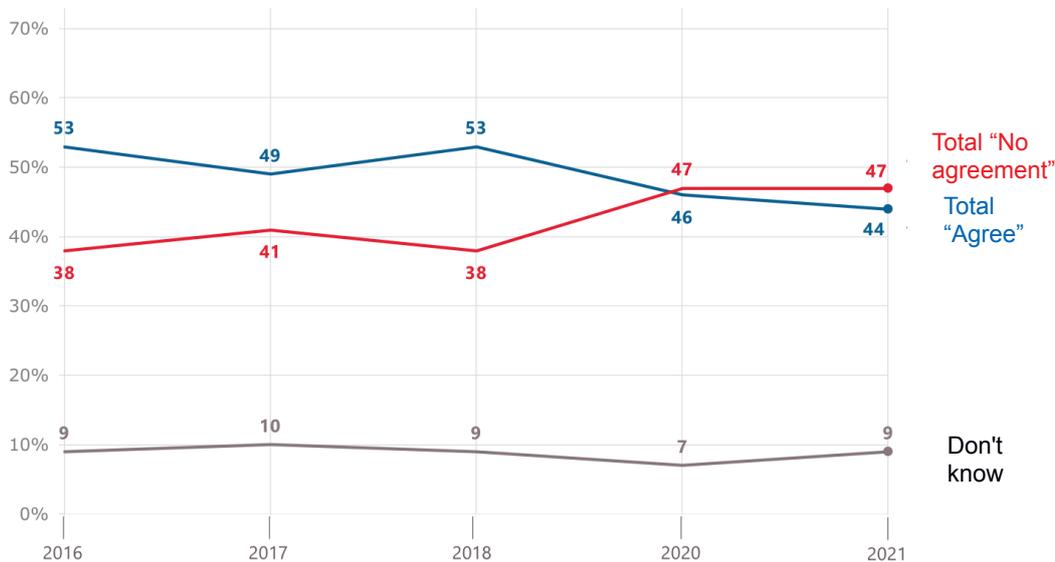
Across the EU as a whole, 44 % of respondents agree that globalisation threatens the identity of their country, of which 15 % say they “strongly agree”. The majority of respondents (47 %) disagreed with this statement and 17 % did not agree at all.

Although the overall level of agreement has fallen by only two points since October-November 2020 (Special Eurobarometer 500 on the future of Europe)³⁶, it now has its lowest historical level, as well as the proportion saying that it is “strongly agree”.

Disagreement with this statement constitutes the majority opinion for the second time in a row, the gap between those who agree and those who do not agree by three additional points.

QA19.3 To what extent do you agree or disagree with each of the following proposals?

Globalisation threatens the identity of the (OUR COUNTRY) (% — EU)

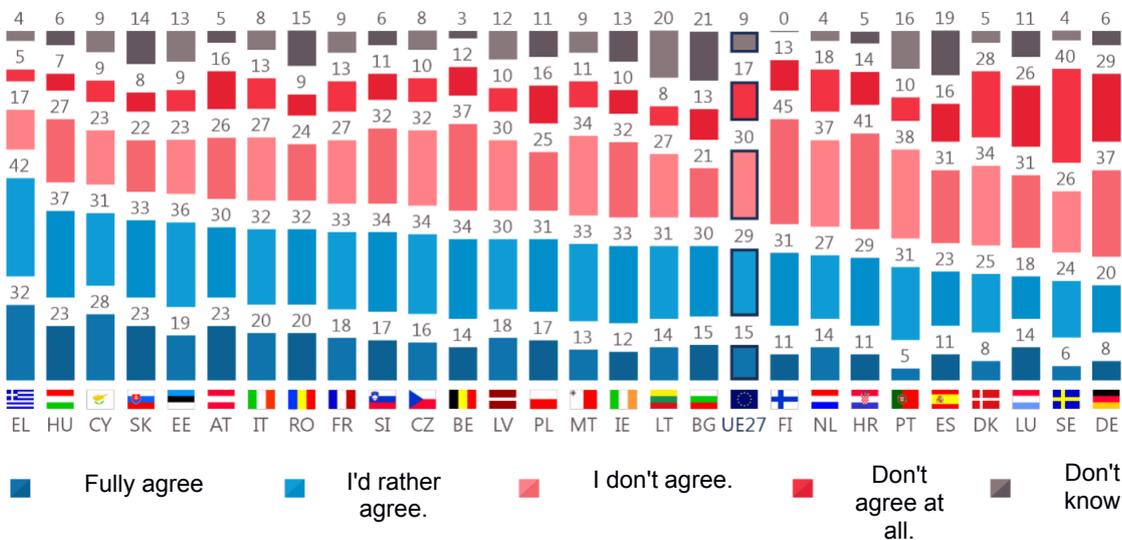


In 17 countries, the majority of respondents believe that globalisation threatens their country's identity, with the highest proportions observed in Greece (74 %), Hungary (60 %) and Cyprus (59 %). In contrast, 28 % of respondents in Germany, 30 % in Sweden and 32 % in Luxembourg agree with this statement.

In ten countries, the majority disagreed, particularly in Germany, Sweden (66 % for both) and Denmark (62 %).

QA19.3 To what extent do you agree or disagree with each of the following proposals?

Globalisation threatens the identity of (OUR COUNTRY) (%)



36 Special Eurobarometer 500: <https://europa.eu/eurobarometer/surveys/detail/2256>

Special Eurobarometer 517, the future of Europe p.63

In 18 countries, respondents are less likely to agree than they were in 2020, with the largest decreases in Czechia (-13 points) and Luxembourg (-12). No significant increase in the level of agreement is observed.

QA19.3 To what extent do you agree or disagree with each of the following proposals?

Globalisation threatens the identity of (OUR COUNTRY) (%)

	Total 'Agree'	September/October 2021 — October/November 2020	Total 'No agreement'	September/October 2021 — October/November 2020	Don't know
EU27	44	-2	47	=	9
EL	74	4	22	-5	4
HU	60	4	34	-3	6
PT	36	4	48	-3	16
PL	48	3	41	-2	11
FI	42	3	58	-3	0
BG	45	=	34	=	21
DK	33	=	62	-3	5
IE	45	=	42	-13	13
RO	52	=	33	-7	15
IT	52	-1	40	2	8
BE	48	-2	49	-1	3
MT	46	-2	45	9	9
NL	41	-2	55	=	4
SK	56	-2	30	-2	14
EE	55	-4	32	-9	13
ES	34	-4	47	=	19
AT	53	-4	42	3	5
OF	28	-5	66	3	6
HR	40	-5	55	5	5
FR	51	-6	40	3	9
CY	59	-7	32	5	9
IF	51	-7	43	1	6
SE	30	-7	66	4	4
LT	45	-8	35	-12	20
LV	48	-9	40	7	12
READ	32	-12	57	1	11
CZ	50	-13	42	5	8

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Socio-demographic data show that the older a person is, the more likely they agree with this statement. This is the case, for example, for 46 % of people aged 40 and over, compared with 35 % of those aged 15-24. Data also show that students (32 %) and managers (38 %) are less likely to agree with the assertion that globalisation threatens their country's identity than other socio-professional groups, especially manual workers (49 %).

Respondents who have difficulty paying their bills from time to time or more often (50-51 %) are more likely to agree than those who rarely have such problems (40 %).

QA19.3 To what extent do you agree or disagree with each of the following proposals?

Globalisation threatens the identity of (OUR COUNTRY) (% — EU)

	Total "Agree"	Total "No agreement"	Don't know
EU27	44	47	9
Gender			
Man	44	49	7
Woman	43	45	12
Age			
15-24	35	56	9
25-39	41	54	5
40-54	46	49	5
55+	46	40	14
School leaving age			
—15	44	32	24
16-19	49	43	8
20+	41	55	4
Always student	32	60	8
Socio-professional category			
Independents	45	50	5
Senior management	38	59	3
Other employees	46	48	6
Workers	49	44	7
Women/Men in the Home	42	39	19
Unemployed	47	43	10
Pensioners	45	39	16
Students	32	60	8
Difficulties in paying your bills			
Most of the time	50	36	14
From time to time	51	40	9
Almost Never/Never	40	51	9

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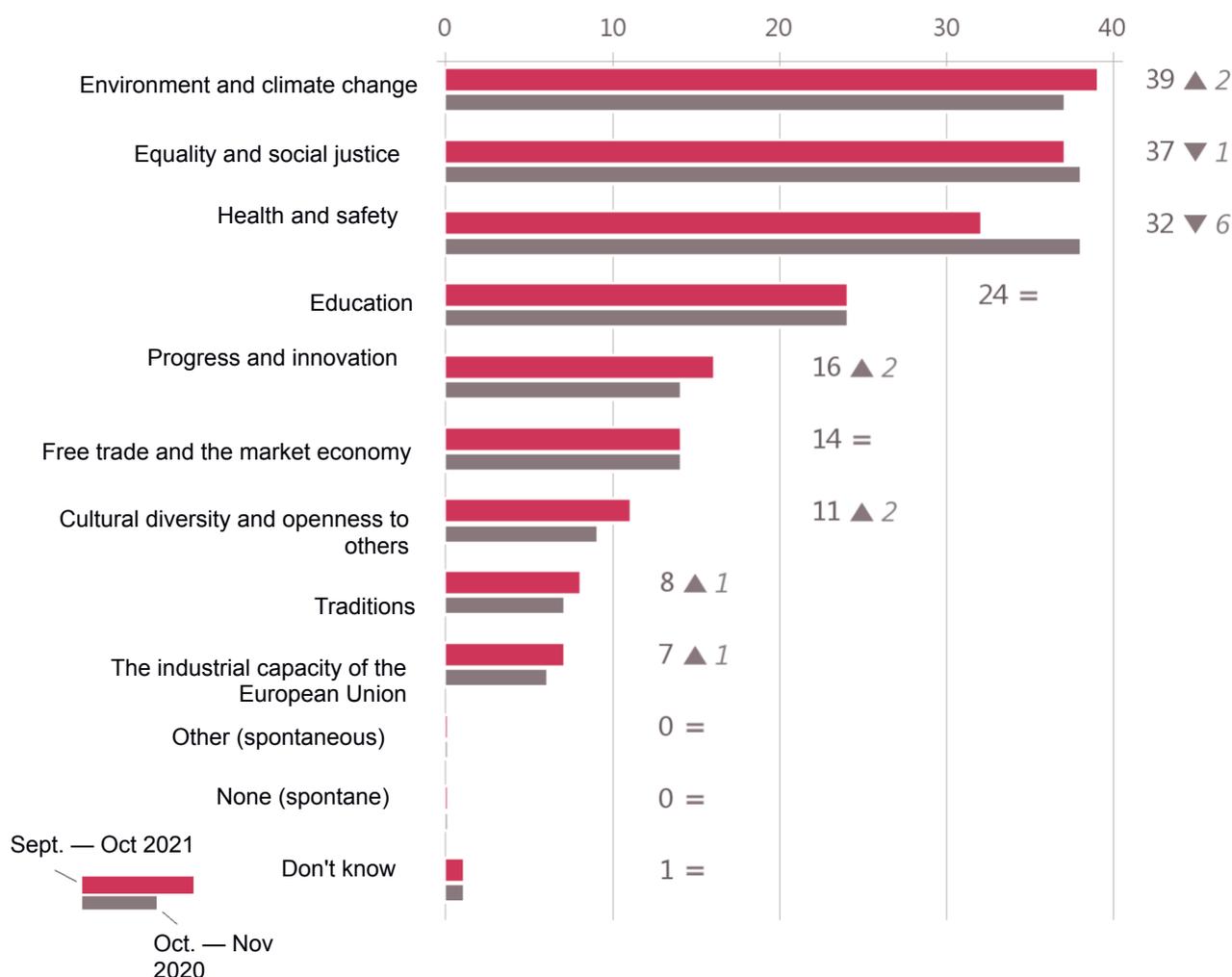
Environment and climate change, equality and social justice, and health and safety should be the top priorities for addressing global challenges

According to interviewees, the two main priorities for addressing global challenges should be environment and climate change (39 %) and equality and social justice (37 %)³⁷. Health and safety (32 %) is the only other global challenge identified by at least a quarter of respondents. These three response options were also the ones most cited in the previous survey on the future of Europe in October-November 2020 (Special Eurobarometer 500 on the Future of Europe)³⁸, but the environment and climate change moved from third to first.

Almost a quarter of respondents (24 %) felt that education should be a priority. Progress and innovation (16 %) or free trade and market economy (14 %) are less cited. Just over one in ten believes that cultural diversity and openness to others (11 %) should be a priority, while 8 % cite traditions and 7 % EU industrial capacity.

Few developments have been observed since October-November 2020, with the exception of a six-point decrease in the health and safety reporting rate.

QA20. Of the following, what are the two elements that our society should focus on to address key global challenges? (MAX. 2 ANSWERS)



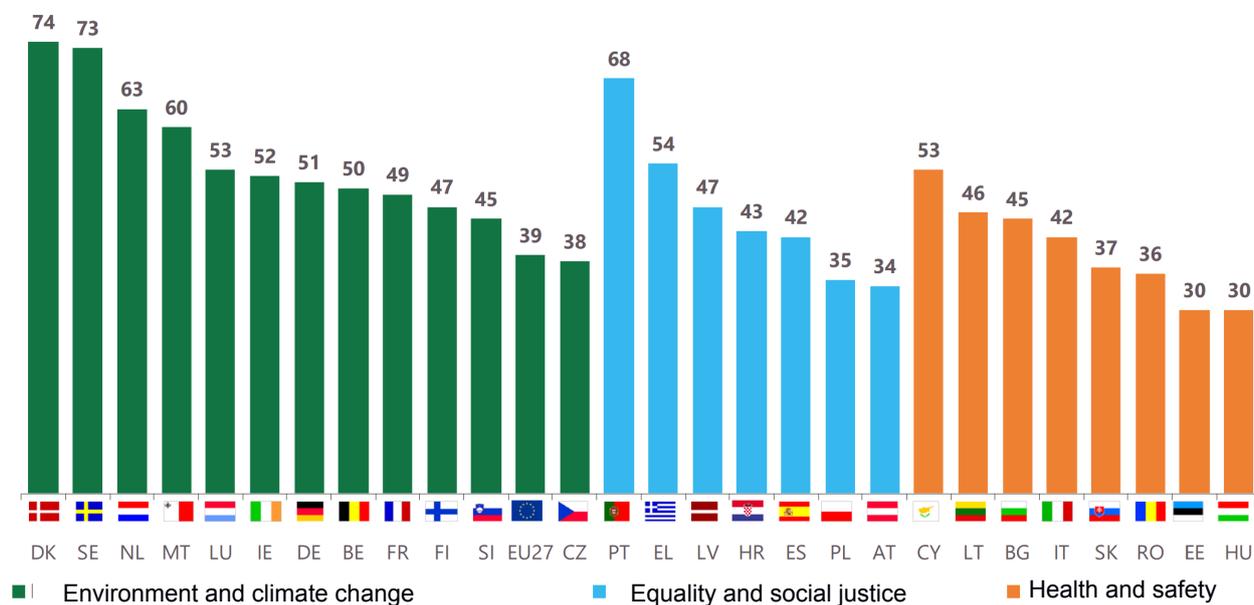
37 QA20. Of the following, what are the two elements that our society should focus on to address key global challenges? (Max. 2 RESPONSES) 20.1 Environment and climate change; 20.2 Equality and social justice; 20.3 Free trade and market economy; 20.4 Cultural diversity and openness to others; 20.5 Progress and innovation; 20.6 Traditions; 20.7 Education; 20.8 Health and safety; 20.9 The EU's industrial capacity.

38 Special Eurobarometer 500: <https://europa.eu/eurobarometer/surveys/detail/2256>

Special Eurobarometer 517, the future of Europe p.66

For respondents in 12 countries, environment and climate change should be a priority to address major global challenges, although the proportions range from 74 % in Denmark and 73 % in Sweden to 38 % in Czechia. In seven countries, equality and social justice are the highest priority, with the highest proportion in Portugal (68 %). In the remaining eight countries, health and safety topped, with the highest proportion in Cyprus (53 %).

QA20 What of the following elements should our society focus on to address key global challenges? (MAX. 2 RESPONSES) (% — THE MOST CITED BY COUNTRY)



Special Eurobarometer 517, the future of Europe p.67

The proportion of respondents who believe that environment and climate change should be a priority varies considerably from country to country, from 74 % in Denmark, 73 % in Sweden and 63 % in the Netherlands to only 12 % in Romania and 19 % in Greece and Bulgaria. This is one of the three most mentioned priorities in 22 countries.

Equality and social justice are one of the three most mentioned priorities in 26 Member States. This is the most cited priority by respondents in Portugal (68 %), Greece (54 %) and Latvia (47 %), while it is less mentioned by those in Romania (19 %), Italy (22 %) and Estonia (24 %).

More than half of the respondents in Portugal and Cyprus (53 % for both) and 46 % in Lithuania believe that health and safety should be a priority to address major global challenges. On the other hand, only 4 % in Croatia, 14 % in Sweden and 20 % in Denmark share this view. This is one of the three most mentioned priorities in 21 countries.

Education is mentioned by less than four out of ten respondents in all countries, ranging from 38 % in Spain, 35 % in France and 34 % in Luxembourg to 11 % in Hungary, 13 % in Slovenia and 15 % in Denmark, Poland and Portugal. This is the second or third most mentioned priority in 10 countries.

In four countries, at least one in five people believe that progress and innovation should be a priority: Hungary(28 %), Italy (27 %), Greece (21 %) and Croatia (20 %). Conversely, only 7 % in Latvia and Denmark think the same. The proportions of respondents who believe that free trade and market economy should be a priority range from 32 % in Croatia, 25 % in Poland and 24 % in Hungary and Czechia to only 3 % in Luxembourg, 5 % in France and 6 % in Spain.

Looking at the least mentioned policy areas at EU level, it appears that respondents in Croatia and Hungary (17 % for both) are most likely to think that cultural diversity and openness to others should be a priority, while those in Romania (18 % and Austria (17 %) are the most likely to cite traditions. Bulgaria (11 %) and Romania (10 %) are the only two countries where at least one in ten people believe that EU industrial capacity should be a priority.

Special Eurobarometer 517, the future of Europe p.68

QA20 What of the following elements should our society focus on to address key global challenges? (MAX. 2 RESPONSES) (%)

	Environment and climate change	Equality and social justice	Health and safety	Education	Progress and innovation	Free trade and the market economy	Cultural diversity and openness to others	Traditions	The industrial capacity of the European Union
EU27	39	37	32	24	16	14	11	8	7
BE	50	36	32	28	12	12	10	7	7
BG	19	40	45	21	13	17	4	12	11
CZ	38	29	34	22	17	24	7	13	6
DK	74	33	20	15	7	19	13	3	3
OF	51	44	21	22	17	13	12	3	7
EE	27	24	30	21	18	20	11	8	9
IE	52	30	26	29	10	18	13	7	5
EL	19	54	45	23	21	9	5	13	6
ES	36	42	41	38	10	6	7	2	7
FR	49	37	32	35	8	5	9	6	9
HR	30	43	4	22	20	32	17	12	7
IT	27	22	42	17	27	20	14	10	5
CY	39	43	53	31	14	7	3	2	4
LV	26	47	42	25	7	19	7	5	5
LT	28	39	46	22	16	12	6	8	9
READ	53	36	33	34	10	3	10	4	6
HU	26	28	30	11	28	24	17	16	5
MT	60	27	30	29	14	11	8	5	2
NL	63	44	24	18	13	11	15	5	4
AT	33	34	28	22	19	17	15	17	5
PL	24	35	27	15	16	25	14	15	6
PT	20	68	53	15	11	8	7	5	2
RO	12	19	36	30	18	17	15	18	10
IF	45	42	37	13	17	13	9	7	6
SK	29	30	37	19	13	19	13	10	8
FI	47	36	32	18	13	18	10	8	9
SE	73	46	14	18	15	12	14	1	3

Across the EU, results have remained stable since October-November 2020, with the exception of health and safety (-6 points). However, some Member States show greater variations.

In 16 countries, respondents are now more likely to cite the environment and climate change among the priorities, with the largest increases being observed in Malta and Spain (+ 12 points). However, the rate of mention in this area has declined in nine countries, particularly in Estonia (-21) and Lithuania (-19).

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Equality and social justice are less likely to be cited in 17 countries, notably in Slovakia (-11). However, they are more likely to be cited today by respondents in Greece (+ 8).

In 22 countries, respondents are now less likely to think that health and safety should be a priority, representing a decrease of at least 10 points in five countries: Poland (-18 points), Portugal (-14), Slovakia (-11), Czechia and Spain (-10 for both).

Respondents in Lithuania and Ireland (+ 10 points for both) are now more likely to think they should be a priority.

The developments observed for the other response options are less than one point, but the following should be noted:

Respondents in Luxembourg (+ 8) are now more likely to cite education.

Respondents in Hungary (+ 9 points) are now more likely to cite free trade and market economy, while those in Luxembourg and Greece (-7 for both) are now less likely to mention it.

Interviewees in Hungary (+ 9) are now more likely to cite cultural diversity and openness to others as priorities.

QA20 What of the following elements should our society focus on to address key global challenges? (MAX. 2 RESPONSES) (%)

	Environment and climate change	September/October 2021 — October/November 2020	Equality and social justice	September/October 2021 — October/November 2020	Health and safety	September/October 2021 — October/November 2020	Education	September/October 2021 — October/November 2020	Progress and innovation	September/October 2021 — October/November 2020	Free trade and the market economy	September/October 2021 — October/November 2020	Cultural diversity and openness to others	September/October 2021 — October/November 2020	Traditions	September/October 2021 — October/November 2020	The industrial capacity of the European Union	September/October 2021 — October/November 2020
EU27	39	2	37	-1	32	-6	24	0	16	2	14	0	11	2	8	1	7	1
BE	50	-2	36	-1	32	0	28	6	12	-1	12	2	10	-1	7	-1	7	1
BG	19	1	40	1	45	-8	21	0	13	0	17	-3	4	-2	12	4	11	2
CZ	38	-2	29	-2	34	-10	22	-1	17	4	24	2	7	3	13	3	6	4
DK	74	8	33	-3	20	-5	15	-4	7	-1	19	0	13	2	3	-2	3	1
OF	51	-2	44	2	21	-4	22	-6	17	5	13	0	12	3	3	-2	7	2
EE	27	-21	24	-4	30	8	21	-4	18	-4	20	4	11	-1	8	-4	9	-3
IE	52	-7	30	-8	26	10	29	6	10	-5	18	0	13	-4	7	2	5	0
EL	19	0	54	8	45	-8	23	4	21	3	9	-7	5	-1	13	2	6	-2
ES	36	12	42	-1	41	-10	38	3	10	-5	6	-1	7	4	2	2	7	0
FR	49	-1	37	-2	32	-6	35	5	8	0	5	0	9	2	6	0	9	1
HR	30	4	43	-6	4	-1	22	1	20	3	32	1	17	1	12	0	7	-4
IT	27	5	22	-6	42	-1	17	0	27	3	20	0	14	1	10	3	5	-2
CY	39	8	43	-5	53	2	31	3	14	-1	7	0	3	-2	2	-1	4	1
LV	26	0	47	3	42	-1	25	-3	7	-3	19	1	7	2	5	0	5	-2
LT	28	-19	39	5	46	10	22	1	16	-4	12	-3	6	1	8	3	9	1
READ	53	2	36	-4	33	-2	34	8	10	-2	3	-7	10	-1	4	1	6	1
HU	26	-3	28	-2	30	-7	11	0	28	-2	24	9	17	9	16	-1	5	0
MT	60	12	27	1	30	-6	29	3	14	1	11	-4	8	-3	5	-2	2	-2
NL	63	5	44	0	24	-5	18	-1	13	4	11	-1	15	0	5	-1	4	0
AT	33	4	34	-3	28	-4	22	1	19	4	17	0	15	-1	17	4	5	-1
PL	24	1	35	1	27	-18	15	1	16	4	25	4	14	2	15	3	6	-2
PT	20	6	68	2	53	-14	15	-3	11	4	8	0	7	0	5	2	2	-2
RO	12	-3	19	3	36	-6	30	2	18	1	17	-3	15	-1	18	4	10	4
IF	45	2	42	-6	37	-7	13	0	17	1	13	2	9	3	7	1	6	-1
SK	29	1	30	-11	37	-11	19	-3	13	5	19	1	13	7	10	2	8	0
FI	47	6	36	-2	32	-2	18	-2	13	1	18	-3	10	1	8	-2	9	1
SE	73	6	46	4	14	-8	18	-3	15	0	12	-3	14	5	1	-3	3	0

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Socio-demographic data show that women are more likely than men to cite health and safety as one of the areas that should be emphasised (35 % versus 29 % of men). No difference does not appear for other response options.

The younger an interviewee, the less likely they are to prioritise health and safety, but the more likely they are to cite education. Indeed, 26 % of the 15-24 year-olds surveyed share this view, compared with 37 % of those aged 55 and over. The 15-24 age group is also less likely than other categories to prioritise equality and social justice.

The longer a person has studied, the more likely they are to cite the environment and climate change, and the less likely they are to mention health and safety. For example, 48 % of people who completed their studies at the age of 20 or older believe that environment and climate change should be a priority, compared to 28 % of those who completed their studies at the age of 15 or younger. Those who completed their studies at the age of 16 or older are more likely to mention progress and innovation (17 % versus 11 % of those who completed them at the age of 15 or younger).

There are several notable differences depending on the employment situation. Frameworks (48 %) are more likely than other categories to believe that environment and climate change should be a priority. Unemployed persons (44 %) are the most likely to mention equality and social justice, while those in the home (41 %) are more likely than other categories to cite health and safety.

Respondents with the least financial difficulties are most likely to think that environment and climate change should be a priority (44 %), but those who are least likely to cite health and safety (30 %). Those who have difficulty paying their bills most of the time are more likely than those who have less financial difficulties to cite equality and social justice (45 %).

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QA20 What of the following elements should our society focus on to address key global challenges? (MAX. 2 REPLIES)
(% — EU)

	Environment and climate change	September/October 2021 — October/November 2020	Equality and social justice	September/October 2021 — October/November 2020	Health and safety	September/October 2021 — October/November 2020	Education	September/October 2021 — October/November 2020	Progress and innovation	September/October 2021 — October/November 2020	Free trade and the market economy	September/October 2021 — October/November 2020	Cultural diversity and openness to others	September/October 2021 — October/November 2020	Traditions	September/October 2021 — October/November 2020	The industrial capacity of the European Union	September/October 2021 — October/November 2020
EU27	39	2	37	-1	32	-6	24	0	16	2	14	0	11	2	8	1	7	1
BE	50	-2	36	-1	32	0	28	6	12	-1	12	2	10	-1	7	-1	7	1
BG	19	1	40	1	45	-8	21	0	13	0	17	-3	4	-2	12	4	11	2
CZ	38	-2	29	-2	34	-10	22	-1	17	4	24	2	7	3	13	3	6	4
DK	74	8	33	-3	20	-5	15	-4	7	-1	19	0	13	2	3	-2	3	1
OF	51	-2	44	2	21	-4	22	-6	17	5	13	0	12	3	3	-2	7	2
EE	27	-21	24	-4	30	8	21	-4	18	-4	20	4	11	-1	8	-4	9	-3
IE	52	-7	30	-8	26	10	29	6	10	-5	18	0	13	-4	7	2	5	0
EL	19	0	54	8	45	-8	23	4	21	3	9	-7	5	-1	13	2	6	-2
ES	36	12	42	-1	41	-10	38	3	10	-5	6	-1	7	4	2	2	7	0
FR	49	-1	37	-2	32	-6	35	5	8	0	5	0	9	2	6	0	9	1
HR	30	4	43	-6	4	-1	22	1	20	3	32	1	17	1	12	0	7	-4
IT	27	5	22	-6	42	-1	17	0	27	3	20	0	14	1	10	3	5	-2
CY	39	8	43	-5	53	2	31	3	14	-1	7	0	3	-2	2	-1	4	1
LV	26	0	47	3	42	-1	25	-3	7	-3	19	1	7	2	5	0	5	-2
LT	28	-19	39	5	46	10	22	1	16	-4	12	-3	6	1	8	3	9	1
READ	53	2	36	-4	33	-2	34	8	10	-2	3	-7	10	-1	4	1	6	1
HU	26	-3	28	-2	30	-7	11	0	28	-2	24	9	17	9	16	-1	5	0
MT	60	12	27	1	30	-6	29	3	14	1	11	-4	8	-3	5	-2	2	-2
NL	63	5	44	0	24	-5	18	-1	13	4	11	-1	15	0	5	-1	4	0
AT	33	4	34	-3	28	-4	22	1	19	4	17	0	15	-1	17	4	5	-1
PL	24	1	35	1	27	-18	15	1	16	4	25	4	14	2	15	3	6	-2
PT	20	6	68	2	53	-14	15	-3	11	4	8	0	7	0	5	2	2	-2
RO	12	-3	19	3	36	-6	30	2	18	1	17	-3	15	-1	18	4	10	4
IF	45	2	42	-6	37	-7	13	0	17	1	13	2	9	3	7	1	6	-1
SK	29	1	30	-11	37	-11	19	-3	13	5	19	1	13	7	10	2	8	0
FI	47	6	36	-2	32	-2	18	-2	13	1	18	-3	10	1	8	-2	9	1
SE	73	6	46	4	14	-8	18	-3	15	0	12	-3	14	5	1	-3	3	0

IV. THE EUROPEAN GREEN DEAL

High proportions of Europeans consider environmental objectives important, including forest restoration, soil, wetlands and peatlands in Europe to increase the uptake of CO2 pollution

This chapter examines Europeans' attitudes towards environmental objectives and the measures provided for in the European Green Deal. First, interviewees were asked to indicate the personal importance they attach to the different environmental objectives. They were then asked to express their views on the impact of the fight against climate change on health and well-being, the economy and the future.

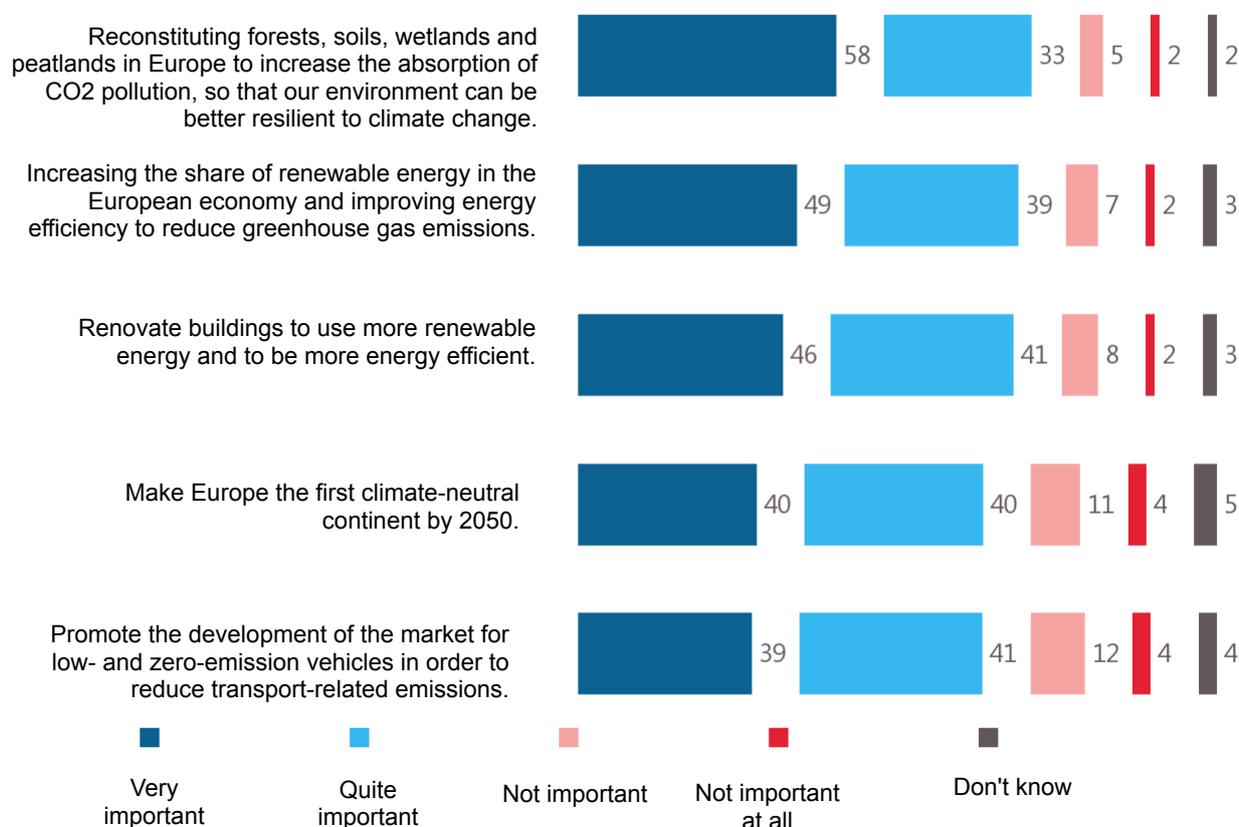
Europeans consider the various environmental objectives to be important to them personally, since at least eight out of ten consider each of the proposed objectives to be very or "rather important". First, more than half (58 %) believe that restoring forests, soils, wetlands and peatlands in Europe to increase the absorption of CO2 pollution is "very important", while one third (33 %) consider this objective "rather important".

About half (49 %) consider it "very important" to increase the share of renewable energy in the European economy and to improve energy efficiency to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and 39 % to be a "rather important" target.

Renovating buildings to use more renewable energy and to be more energy efficient is considered "very important" by 46 % of Europeans, and 41 % say this is "rather important". About four out of ten (40 %) believe that it is "very important" to make Europe the first climate-neutral continent by 2050, while a similar proportion (39 %) considers it "very important" to promote the development of the market for low- and zero-emission vehicles in order to reduce transport-related emissions. In all cases, about four out of ten consider these targets to be "rather important" (40 % and 41 % respectively).

For each of these objectives, a minority of respondents consider them "rather than important" or "not important at all", ranging from 7 % to replenish forests, soils, wetlands and peatlands in Europe to increase CO2 pollution absorption to 16 % to promote the development of the market for low- and zero-emission vehicles.

QA26 Please tell me whether each of the following objectives is important to you personally, and to what extent. (% — EU27)



Special Eurobarometer 517, the future of Europe p.73

Re-establishing forests, soils, wetlands and peatlands in Europe to increase the absorption of CO2 pollution, so that our environment can be better resilient to climate change

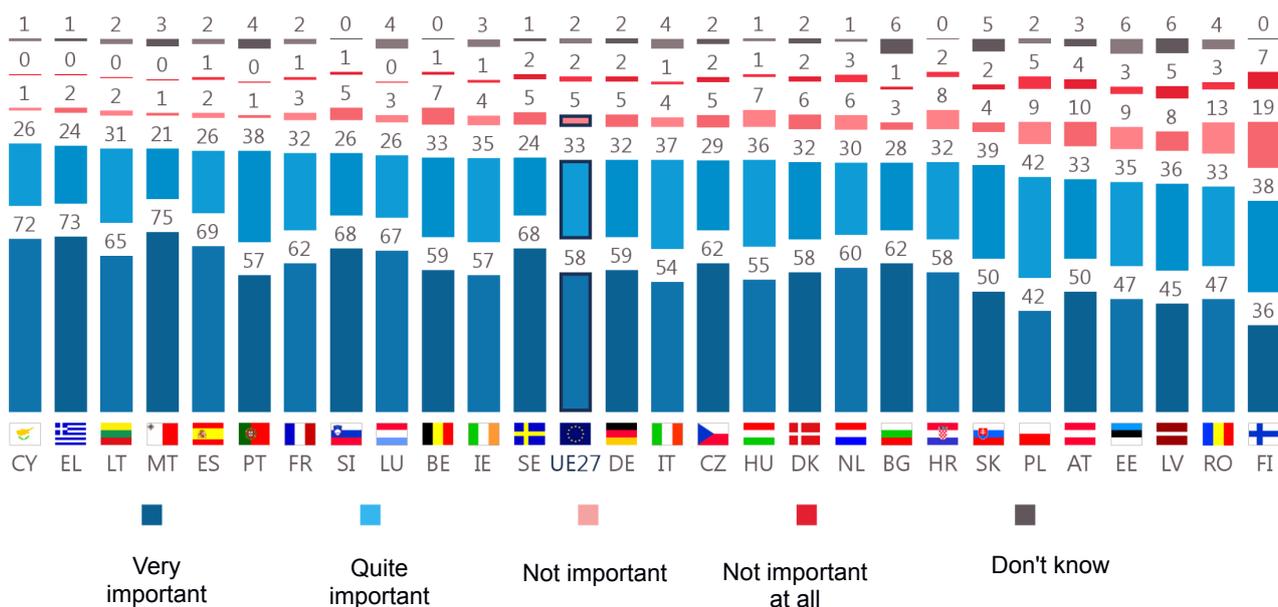
In all Member States, at least three quarters of respondents believe it is important to rebuild forests, soils, wetlands and peatlands in Europe to increase the uptake of CO2 pollution. This target is even considered “very important” by at least half of respondents in 22 countries.

Respondents in Cyprus (98 %), Greece (97 %), Lithuania and Malta (96 % for both) are most likely to consider this target important. More than seven out of ten respondents consider it to be “very important” in Malta (75 %), Greece (73 %) and Cyprus (72 %).

Respondents in Finland, on the other hand, are least likely to think that this target is important to them personally (74 % important, 26 % not important). The countries where respondents consider this objective to be less important after Finland are: Romania (80 %), Latvia (81 %), Estonia (82 %), Austria (83 %) and Poland (84 %).

QA26.4 Please tell me whether and to what extent each of the following objectives is important to you personally.

Rebuilding forests, soils, wetlands and peatlands in Europe to increase the absorption of CO2 pollution, so that our environment is better resilient to climate change (%)



Special Eurobarometer 517, the future of Europe p.74

Increasing the share of renewable energy in the European economy and improving energy efficiency to reduce greenhouse gas emissions

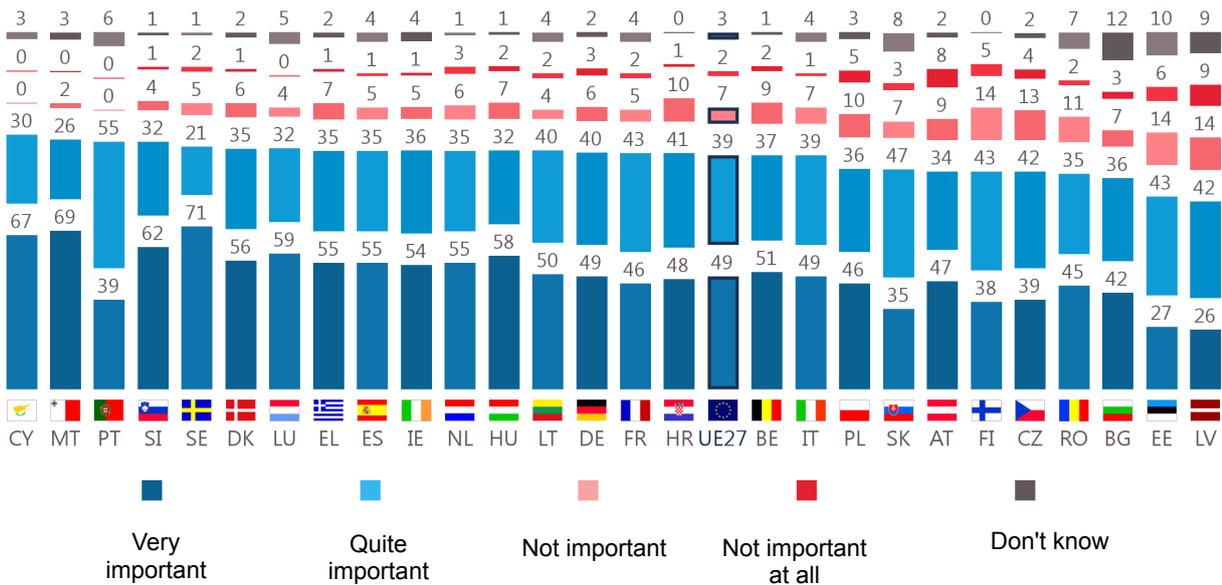
In 24 out of 27 Member States, at least eight out of ten respondents believe it is important for them personally to increase the share of renewable energy in the European economy and to improve energy efficiency to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. This target is even considered “very important” by at least half of the respondents in 13 countries.

Respondents in Cyprus (97%), Malta (95%), Portugal and Slovenia (94% for both) are most likely to consider this target important. Respondents in Sweden are the most likely to consider it “very important” (71%), followed by those in Malta (69%) and Cyprus (67%).

Increasing the share of renewable energy and improving energy efficiency is least likely to be considered important by respondents in Latvia (68%) and Estonia (70%).

QA26.2 Please tell me whether each of the following objectives is important to you personally, and to what extent.

Increasing the share of renewable energy in the European economy and improving energy efficiency to reduce greenhouse gas emissions (%)



Special Eurobarometer 517, the future of Europe p.75

Renovating buildings to use more renewable energy and to be more energy efficient

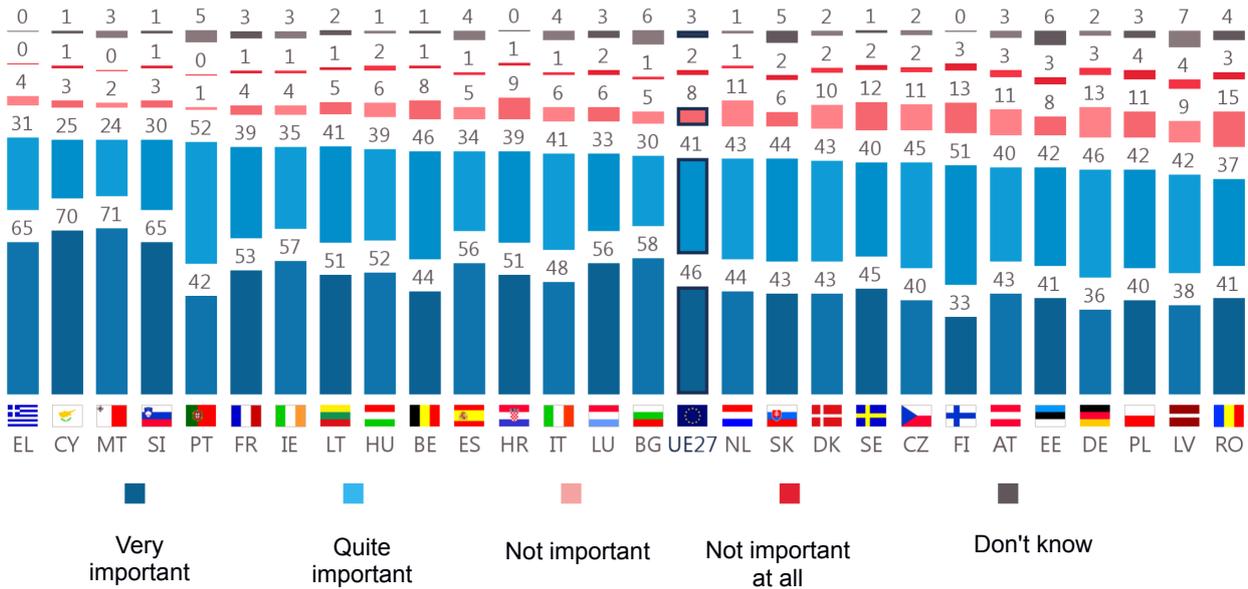
In all Member States, more than three quarters of respondents consider it important for them personally to renovate buildings to use more renewable energy and to be more energy efficient. In 12 countries, more than half of the respondents consider this objective to be “very important”.

Respondents in Greece (96%), Cyprus, Malta, Slovenia (95% of the three) and Portugal (94%) are most likely to consider this target important. About seven out of ten respondents consider it to be “very important” in Malta (71%) and Cyprus (70%).

Renovation of buildings to use more renewable energy and to be more energy efficient is considered less important by respondents in Romania (78%), Latvia (80%), Germany and Poland (both 82%).

QA26.5 Please tell me whether each of the following objectives is important to you personally, and to what extent.

Renovating buildings to use more renewable energy and to be more energy efficient (%)



Special Eurobarometer 517, the future of Europe p.76

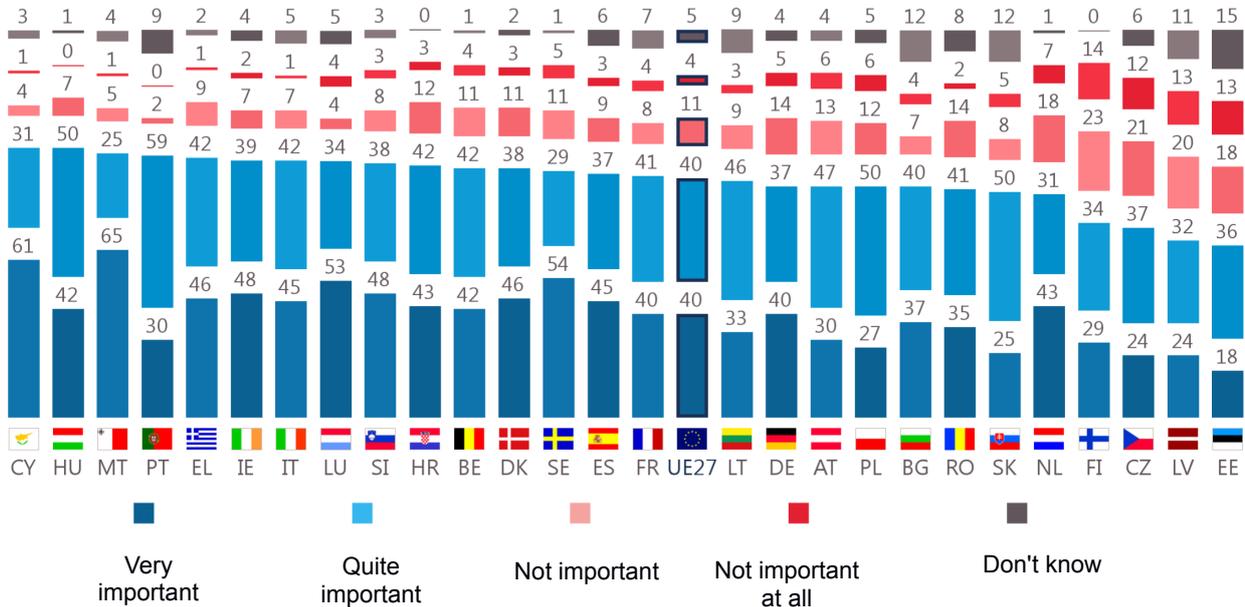
Making Europe the first climate-neutral continent by 2050

In 15 Member States, more than eight out of ten respondents think it is important for them personally to make Europe the first climate-neutral continent by 2050. Respondents in Cyprus, Hungary (92 % for both) and Malta (90 %) are most likely to consider this target important, while those in Malta (65 %) and Cyprus (61 %) are also the most likely to call it “very important”.

In four Member States, less than two thirds of respondents consider this important objective: Estonia (54 %), Latvia (56 %), Czechia (61 %) and Finland (63 %).

QA26.1 Please tell me whether and to what extent each of the following objectives is important to you personally.

Making Europe the first climate-neutral continent by 2050 (%)



Special Eurobarometer 517, the future of Europe p.77

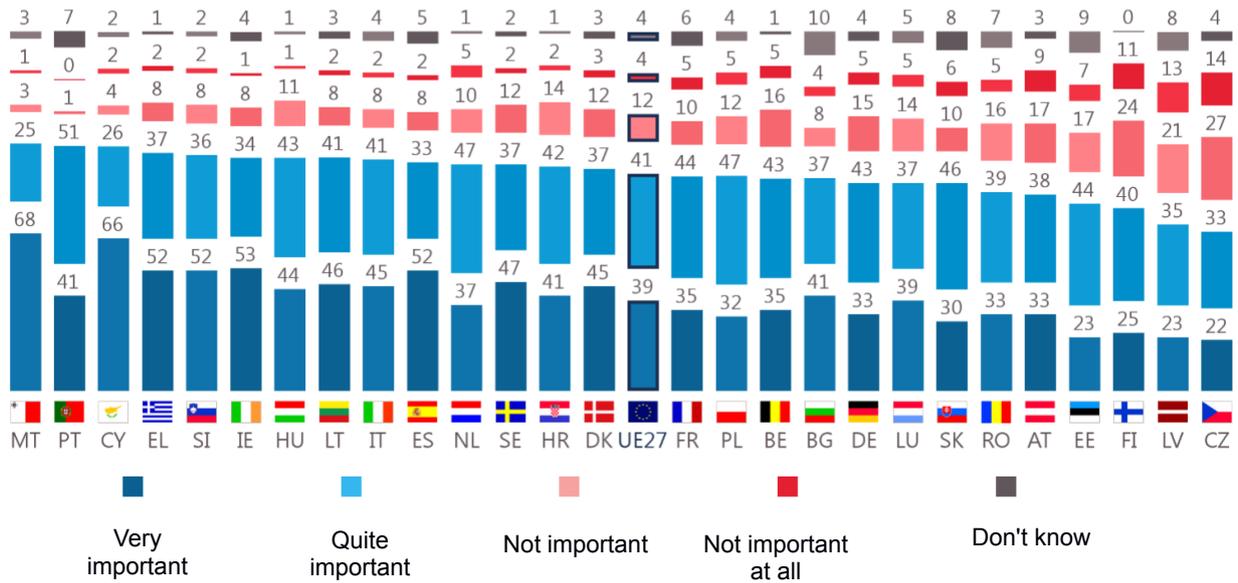
Promote the development of the market for low- and zero-emission vehicles in order to reduce transport-related emissions

This proposal is considered to be “very important” personally by more than half of the respondents in six Member States: Malta (68 %), Cyprus (66 %), Ireland (53 %), Greece, Slovenia and Spain (52 % in all three). Respondents in Malta (93 %), Cyprus, Portugal (92 % for both) and Greece (89 %) are most likely to consider this “very” or “rather important” objective.

Respondents who were least likely to share this opinion were those in Czechia (55 %), Latvia (58 %), Finland (65 %) and Estonia (67 %).

QA26.3 Please tell me whether each of the following objectives is important to you personally, and to what extent.

Promote the market development of low- and zero-emission vehicles to reduce transport emissions (%)



Special Eurobarometer 517, the future of Europe p.78

Socio-demographic data show a broadly homogeneous picture of opinion, but with some differences between categories. Younger respondents are slightly more likely than older respondents to consider the different important objectives. For example, 87 % of young people aged between 15 and 24 feel that making Europe the first climate-neutral continent by 2050 is important, compared to 77 % of those aged 55 and over.

Interviewees who have undergone lengthy studies are more likely to consider the various important proposals. For example, 90 % of people who dropped out of school at the age of 20 or older say it is important to increase the share of renewable energy in the European economy and improve energy efficiency to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, compared to 81 % of those who left their studies at the age of 15 or younger.

Interviewees who have difficulty paying their bills most of the time find some of these proposals less important. Indeed, promoting the development of the market for low- and zero-emission vehicles in order to reduce transport-related emissions is considered important by 75 % of those who have difficulty paying their bills most of the time, compared to 81 % of those who never or almost never have difficulty paying their bills.

Interviewees who have a generally positive image of the EU are more likely to consider the different proposals important and, in particular, three of them: make Europe the first climate-neutral continent by 2050 (87 % vs. 60 % of those with a negative image of the EU), increase the share of renewable energy in the European economy and improve energy efficiency to reduce greenhouse gas emissions (94 % versus 71 %) and promote the market development of low- and zero-emission vehicles in order to reduce transport-related emissions (88 % versus 61 %).

Special Eurobarometer 517, the future of Europe p.79

QA26 Please tell me if each of the following objectives is important to you personally, and to what extent.(% — Total 'Important')

	Reconstituting forests, soils, wetlands and peatlands in Europe to increase the absorption of CO2 pollution, so that our environment can be better resilient to climate change.	Increasing the share of renewable energy in the European economy and improving energy efficiency to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.	Renovate buildings to use more renewable energy and to be more energy efficient.	Make Europe the first climate-neutral continent by 2050.	Promote the development of the market for low- and zero-emission vehicles in order to reduce transport-related emissions.
EU27	91	88	87	80	80
Gender					
Man	91	87	87	80	80
Woman	91	88	87	80	80
Age					
15-24	93	92	88	87	86
25-39	91	88	88	83	81
40-54	91	89	87	81	82
55+	90	86	86	77	77
School leaving age					
—15	87	81	84	76	76
16-19	90	86	86	79	78
20+	93	90	89	82	81
Always student	94	94	90	89	88
Socio-professional category					
Independents	94	90	89	82	81
Senior management	93	91	88	84	82
Other employees	91	89	88	82	82
Workers	89	86	85	78	78
Women/Men in the Home	87	83	83	76	78
Unemployed	92	86	88	81	80
Pensioners	89	85	87	76	76
Students	94	94	90	89	88
Difficulties in paying your bills					
Most of the time	88	82	83	75	75
From time to time	89	85	85	78	79
Almost Never/Never	92	89	88	81	81
Image of the EU					
Positive	95	94	92	87	88
Neutral	87	85	83	75	75
Negative	82	71	78	60	61

Special Eurobarometer 517, the future of Europe p.80

The idea that tackling climate change has a range of potential benefits, particularly in the area of health and well-being, has a high level of agreement

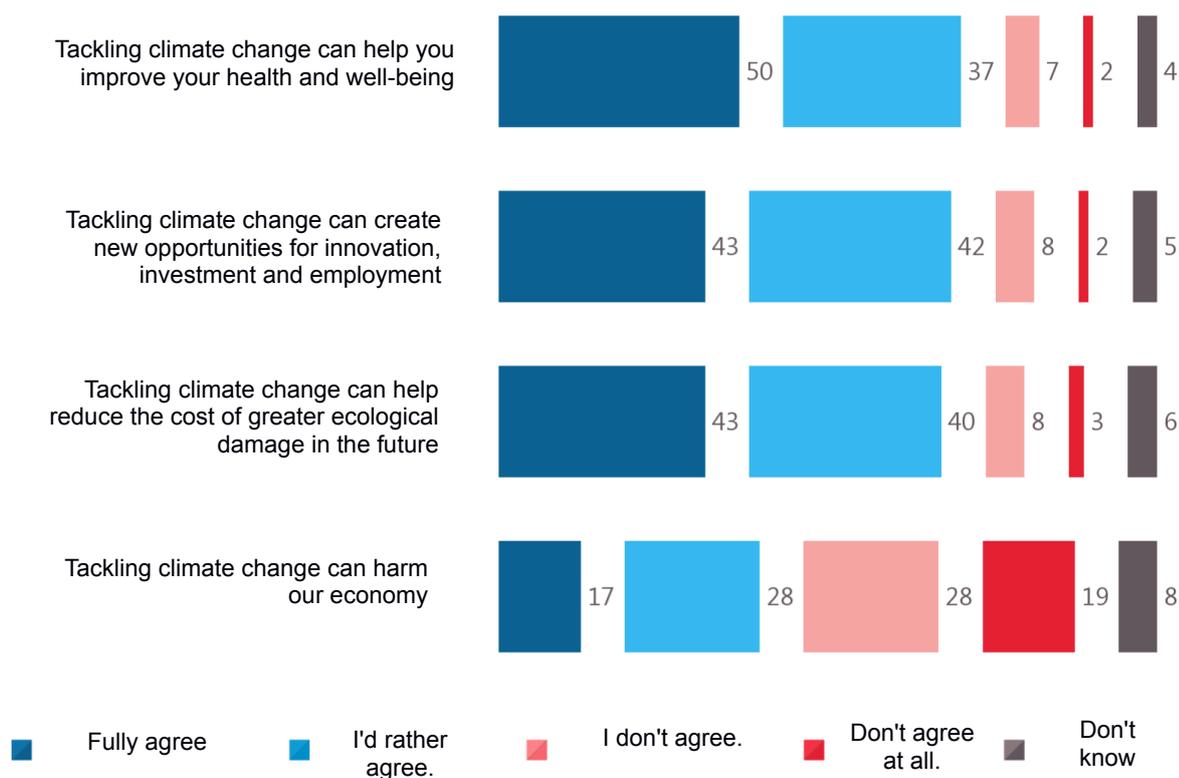
Nearly nine out of ten Europeans (87 %) agree that the fight against climate change can help them improve their health and well-being, of which half (50 %) is “strongly agreed”. Only 9 % disagreed with this statement.

More than eight in ten (85 %) agree that tackling climate change can create new opportunities for innovation, investment and employment, of which 43 % say they “strongly agree”, while 10 % disagree.

A similar proportion (83 %) believe that tackling climate change can also help reduce the costs of higher environmental damage in the future, of which 43 % say they “strongly agree”, and 11 % disagree.

There is less consensus on the impact of the fight against climate change on the economy. For example, 47 % disagree with the assertion that tackling climate change can harm our economy, while an equivalent proportion (45 %) agrees.

QA27 To what extent do you agree or disagree with each of the following statements (% — EU27)



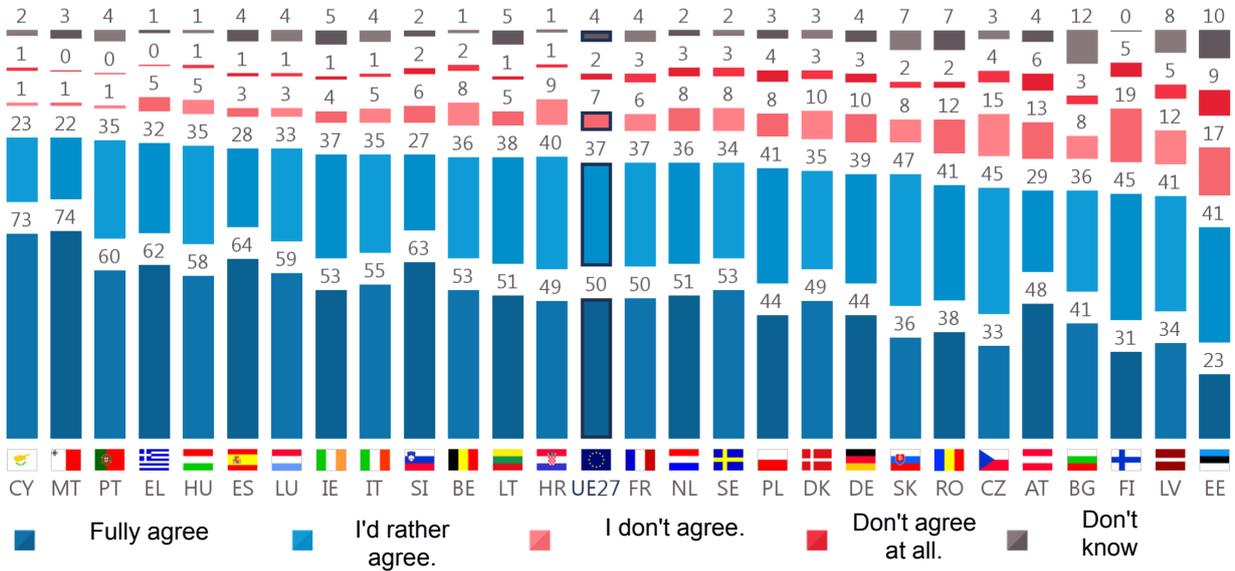
Special Eurobarometer 517, the future of Europe p.81

Tackling climate change can help you improve your health and well-being

In all Member States, a clear majority of respondents agree that tackling climate change can help them improve their health and well-being. In ten countries, at least nine out of ten Europeans agree with this statement, notably in Cyprus, Malta (96 % for both), Portugal (95 %), Greece (94 %) and Hungary (93 %). Respondents who are most likely to “strongly agree” are those in Malta (74 %) and Cyprus (73 %).

Respondents in Estonia are least likely to agree that tackling climate change can help them improve their health and well-being (64 %), followed by those in Latvia (75 %), Finland (76 %), Austria and Bulgaria (77 % for both).

QA27.2 To what extent do you agree or disagree with each of the following statements: **Tackling climate change can help you improve your health and well-being (%)**



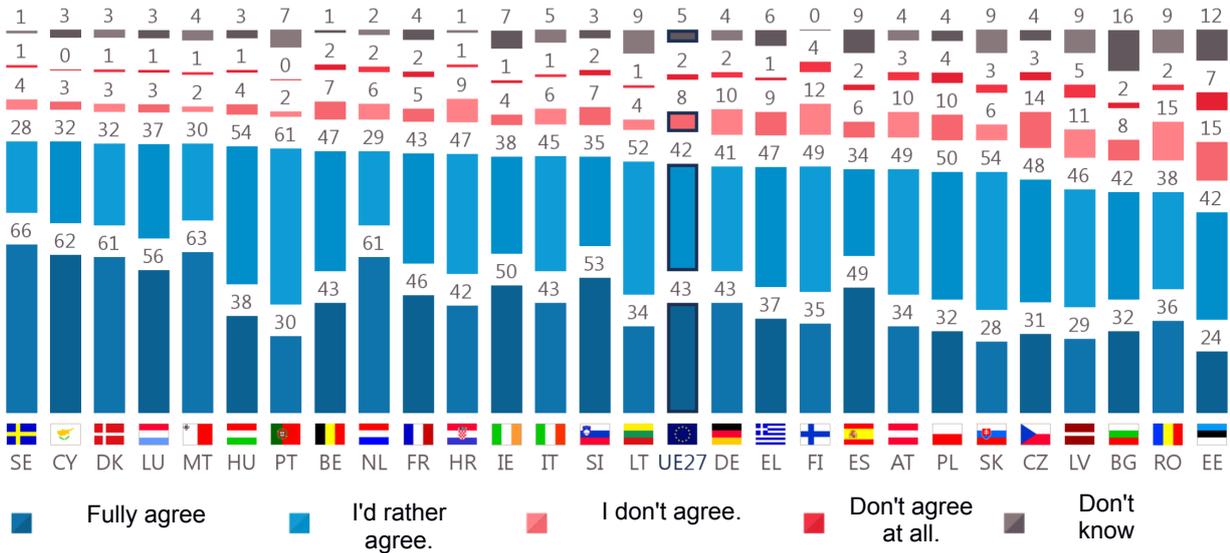
Special Eurobarometer 517, the future of Europe p.82

Tackling climate change can create new opportunities for innovation, investment and employment

There is a clear consensus in all EU Member States that tackling climate change can create new opportunities for innovation, investment and employment. In nine Member States, at least nine out of ten respondents agree with this statement, with the highest proportions in Sweden, Cyprus (94 % for both), Denmark, Luxembourg and Malta (93 % for all). The respondents most likely to be “wholly” agree were those in Sweden (66 %), Malta (63 %), Cyprus (62 %), Denmark and the Netherlands (61 % for both).

Respondents in Estonia are least likely to agree that tackling climate change can create new opportunities for innovation, investment and employment (66 %). Agreement levels are relatively low in Bulgaria, Romania (74 % for both) and Latvia (75 %).

QA27.1 To what extent do you agree or disagree with each of the following statements: **Tackling climate change can create new opportunities for innovation, investment and employment (%)**



Special Eurobarometer 517, the future of Europe p.83

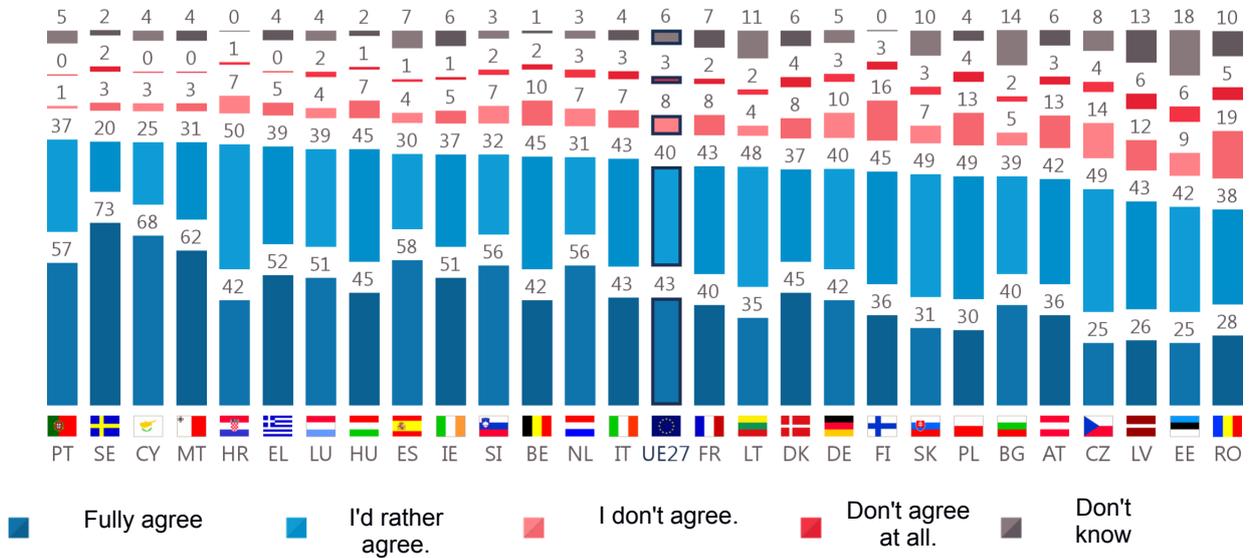
Tackling climate change can help reduce the costs of greater ecological damage in the future

In 23 of the 27 Member States, more than three quarters of respondents agree that tackling climate change can help reduce the costs of higher environmental damage in the future.

Respondents most likely to agree with this statement are found in Portugal (94 %), Sweden, Cyprus and Malta (93 % for all), while the proportion of people "strongly agreed" is highest in Sweden (73 %), Cyprus (68 %) and Malta (62 %).

Agreement levels are lowest in Romania (66 %), Estonia (67 %), Latvia (69 %) and the Czech Republic (74 %).

QA27.4 To what extent do you agree or disagree with each of the following statements: **Tackling climate change can help reduce the costs of higher ecological damage in the future (%)**

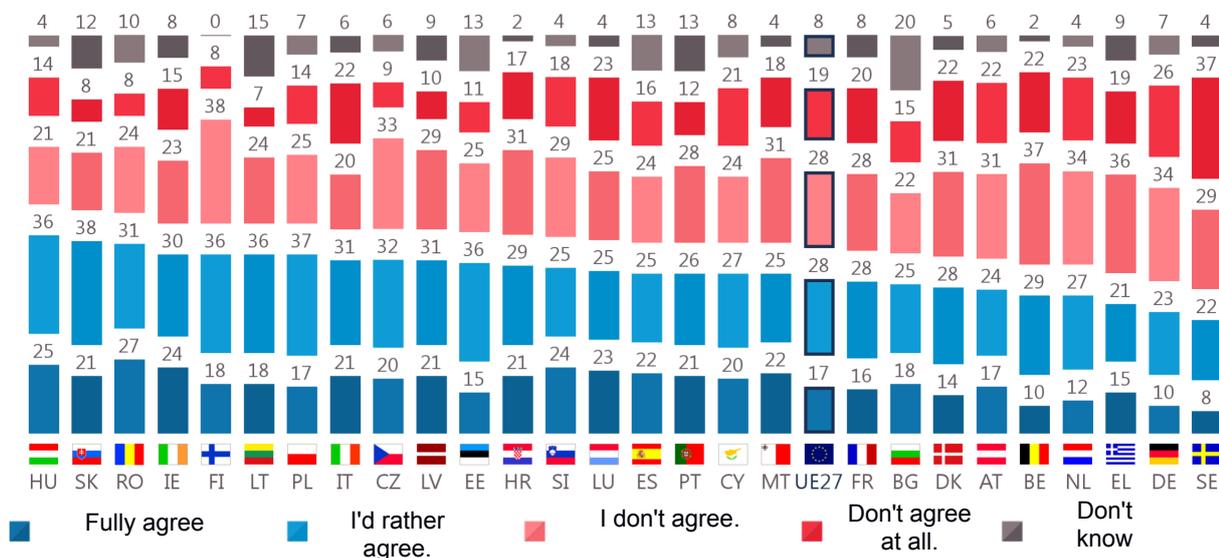


Special Eurobarometer 517, the future of Europe p.84

Tackling climate change can harm our economy

In 17 EU Member States, the majority of respondents agree that tackling climate change can harm our economy. Respondents most likely to agree with this statement are those in Hungary (61%), Slovakia (59%) and Romania (58%). The opinion is very divided in Luxembourg (48% agree against 48% no agreement), while in the remaining nine Member States the majority disagrees with this statement. Respondents most likely to disagree were Sweden (66%), Germany (60%), Belgium (59%) and the Netherlands (57%). More than a third of those surveyed in Sweden say they “nothing at all” (37%).

QA27.3 To what extent do you agree or disagree with each of the following statements: **Tackling climate change can harm our economy (%)**



With regard to socio-demographic differences, common trends appear between the different groups, but certain specificities deserve to be noted.

In terms of age, younger respondents are generally more likely than older respondents to believe that combating climate change has various benefits. Indeed, they are more likely to agree that combating climate change can help them improve their health and well-being (91% of 15-24 year olds versus 84% of those aged 55 and over).

A similar trend appears depending on the level of education: respondents who dropped out of school at the age of 20 or older are more likely to think that combating climate change can help them improve their health and well-being than those who dropped out of school at the age of 15 or younger (88% versus 82%).

At the same time, respondents who have completed long studies are much more likely to disagree with the claim that tackling climate change can harm the economy, compared to those who left their studies at the age of 15 or younger (54% versus 38%).

Data broken down by socio-occupational category show variations in opinion by occupation. While the majority of managers disagree that the fight against climate change can harm the economy (40% vs. 57% disagree), the agreement is the majority opinion among employees (50% agree against 45% no agreement), manual workers (50% agree against 43% no agreement) and people at home (45% agree against 41% no agreement).

Special Eurobarometer 517, the future of Europe p.85

QA27 To what extent do you agree or disagree with each of the following statements? (% — EU)

	Tackling climate change can help you improve your health and well-being		Tackling climate change can create new opportunities for innovation, investment and employment		Tackling climate change can help reduce the costs of greater ecological damage in the future		Tackling climate change can harm our economy	
	Total 'Agree'	Total 'No agreement'	Total 'Agree'	Total 'No agreement'	Total 'Agree'	Total 'No agreement'	Total 'Agree'	Total 'No agreement'
EU27	87	9	85	10	83	11	45	47
Gender								
Man	85	12	86	10	83	12	47	47
Woman	87	8	85	9	83	10	44	47
Age								
15-24	91	7	89	7	86	10	45	48
25-39	89	9	88	10	86	11	47	48
40-54	87	11	86	11	85	12	46	49
55+	84	10	83	9	80	11	43	46
School leaving age								
—15	82	9	76	10	78	10	44	38
16-19	85	11	84	11	82	13	50	43
20+	88	10	90	8	87	10	41	54
Always student	91	7	91	6	88	9	43	51
Socio-professional category								
Independents	87	11	86	11	84	13	46	49
Senior management	89	10	91	8	89	9	40	57
Other employees	87	10	88	9	84	12	50	45
Workers	86	11	82	14	81	14	50	43
Women/Men in the Home	85	9	79	11	80	11	45	41
Unemployed	88	9	84	11	84	10	43	50
Pensioners	82	10	83	8	81	10	42	45
Students	91	7	91	6	88	9	43	51
Difficulties in paying your bills								
Most of the time	84	11	77	15	77	15	46	44
From time to time	87	10	83	12	81	14	51	42
Almost Never/Never	87	9	87	8	85	10	43	49

V. THE FUTURE OF EUROPE

1. The challenges of the EU

The main global challenges for the future of the EU are climate change and environmental problems

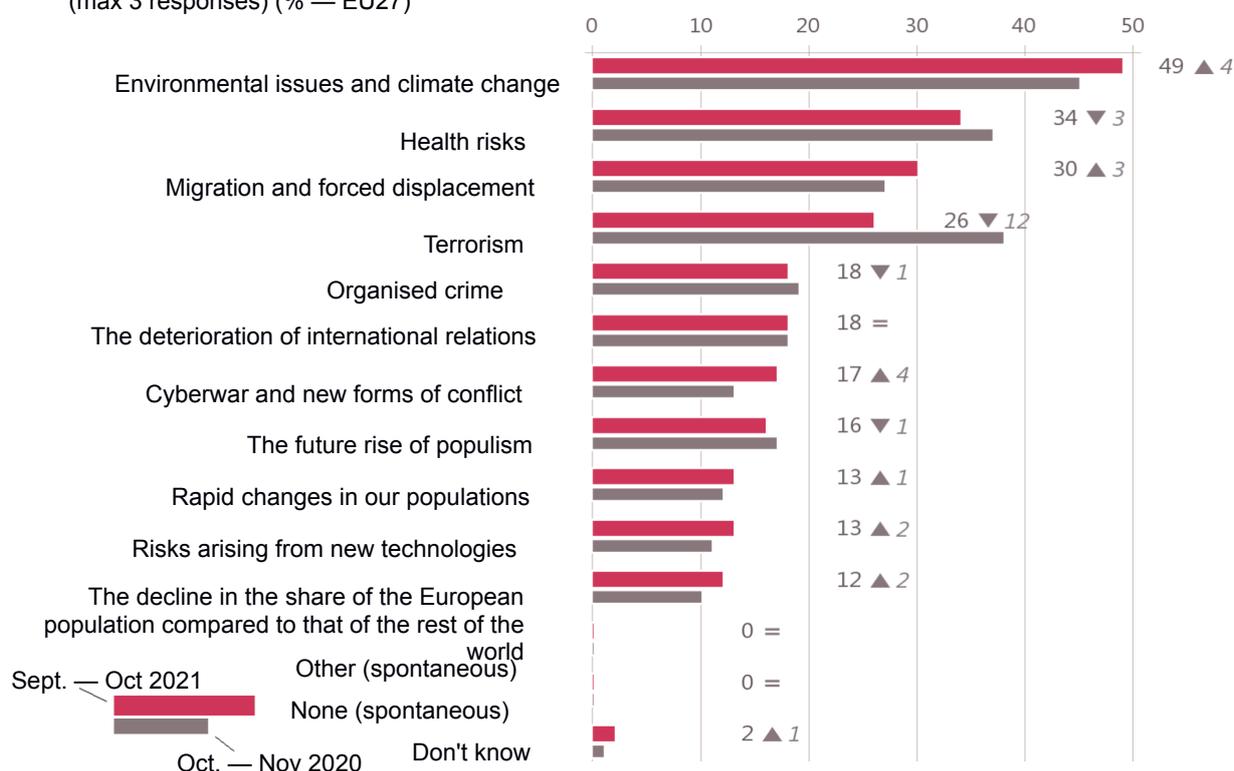
In this chapter, we look at Europeans' perceptions of the major global challenges that may affect the EU in the future and how best to address these challenges, including the most appropriate level of governance to address them. We will also discuss ideas that could be most useful for Europe's future, as well as the preferences of respondents for European society by 2030.

Environmental issues and climate change (49 %) are seen as the main global challenge for the future of the EU, followed by health risks (34 %), migration and forced displacement (30 %)³⁹.

Just over a quarter (26 %) cites terrorism, which has gone from second to fourth since the last survey (-12 points). Almost one in five people mention organised crime or the deterioration of international relations (18 % for both) among the EU's main global challenges, while 17 % cite cyber war and new forms of conflict and 16 % the future rise of populism.

Respondents are less likely to cite rapid changes in our populations, risks arising from new technologies (13 % for both) or a decline in the share of the European population compared to that of the rest of the world (12 %) among the main global challenges for the future of the EU⁴⁰.

QA17 In your opinion, which of the following are the main global challenges for the future of the EU (max 3 responses) (% — EU27)



39 QA12 In your opinion, which of the following are the main global challenges for the future of the EU? (Max. 3 RESPONSES) Risks arising from new technologies; Environmental problems and climate change; Migration and forced displacement; Rapid changes in our populations; The future rise of populism; Terrorism; Cyberwar and new forms of conflict; Organised crime; The deterioration of international relations; Health risks; The decline in the share of the European population compared to that of the rest of the world.

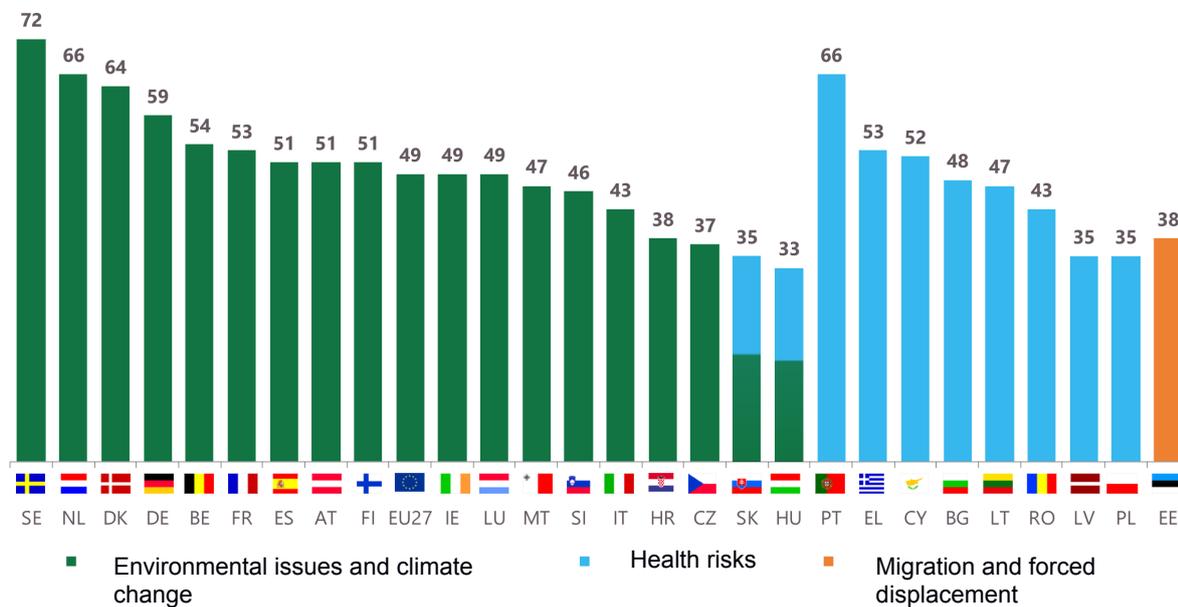
40 This question was compared to Special Eurobarometer 500: <https://europa.eu/eurobarometer/surveys/detail/2256>

Special Eurobarometer 517, the future of Europe p.87

Climate change is the most mentioned global challenge in 16 countries, and on an equal footing with another challenge in two other countries, however, the proportions range from 72 % in Sweden to 33 % in Hungary. Health risks are the most mentioned or equal challenge in ten countries, particularly in Portugal (66 %).

Estonia (38 %) is the only country where migration and forced displacement are considered the main global challenge for the future of the EU.

QA17 In your opinion, which of the following are the main global challenges for the future of the EU?
(MAX. 3 RESPONSES) (% — THE MOST CITED BY COUNTRY)



Special Eurobarometer 517, the future of Europe p.88

Environmental issues and climate change are the most commonly cited challenge in the EU. This is the most cited by respondents in Sweden (72 %), the Netherlands (66 %) and Denmark (64 %), while it is less mentioned by those in Romania (25 %), Latvia (28 %) and Estonia (30 %). Estonia is the only country where this challenge is not among the three most cited.

In three countries, at least half of the respondents consider health risks to be the main global challenge for the EU's future: Portugal (66 %), Greece (53 %) and Cyprus (52 %). Health-related risks are the least cited by those in Sweden (10 %), Finland and the Netherlands (12 % for both). This challenge is one of the three most cited challenges in 19 countries.

Migration and forced displacement are considered the main global challenge by at least one in five respondents in all countries, most notably in Greece (44 %), Malta (43 %) and Cyprus (42 %). Respondents in Finland (20 %), Lithuania (21 %), Bulgaria and Portugal (24 % for both) are least likely to cite it as one of the EU's main challenges. This is one of the three most mentioned challenges in 22 countries.

Terrorism is cited by 26 % of respondents in total but is more likely to be considered one of the main challenges by those in France (39 %), Czechia (35 %) and Cyprus (34 %). On the other hand, only 16 % in Latvia and Slovenia and 17 % in Poland and Romania mention terrorism. This is one of the three most mentioned challenges in seven countries.

The deterioration of international relations is more likely to be seen as a challenge for the EU by respondents in Sweden (37 %), the Netherlands and Lithuania (36 % for both) but is less likely to be cited by those in Cyprus (8 %), Portugal and Italy (10 % for both).

Sweden (35 %) and Finland (30 %) are the only countries where at least three out of ten people believe that organised crime is one of the main challenges for the future of the EU. Cyber warfare and new forms of conflict are the most mentioned by respondents in Ireland (34 %), Finland (32 %), Estonia (31 %) and the Netherlands (30 %). This is one of the three main challenges most mentioned in eight countries.

Among the least cited challenges at EU level, the future rise of populism is most mentioned by respondents in Sweden (34 %) and Finland (33 %), while Slovakia (20 %) is the only country where at least one in five people consider the risks posed by new technologies to be a global challenge for the future of the EU.

Respondents in Austria, Hungary (21 % for both) and Greece (20 %) are most likely to see rapid changes in our populations as one of the main challenges, while the decline of the European population relative to that of the rest of the world is cited among the main challenges by at least one in five people in Croatia (26 %), Hungary (24 %) and Greece (21 %).

Special Eurobarometer 517, the future of Europe p.89

QA17 In your opinion, which of the following are the main global challenges for the future of the EU? (MAX. 3 RESPONSES) (%)

	Environmental issues and climate change	Health risks	Migration and forced displacement	Terrorism	Organised crime	The deterioration of international relations	Cyberwar and new forms of conflict	The future rise of populism	Risks arising from new technologies	Rapid changes in our populations	The decline in the share of the European population compared to that of the rest of the world
EU27	49	34	30	26	18	18	17	16	13	13	12
BE	54	33	30	29	15	21	18	19	11	12	10
BG	31	48	24	26	19	15	18	11	15	18	14
CZ	37	26	33	35	22	18	24	18	11	11	16
DK	64	16	35	26	17	25	26	16	7	8	9
OF	59	20	29	28	25	19	19	23	11	13	8
EE	30	34	38	25	10	15	31	12	13	8	11
IE	49	31	26	25	18	21	34	16	12	13	8
EL	46	53	44	22	17	17	13	8	19	20	21
ES	51	47	29	23	10	15	12	13	11	9	10
FR	53	33	34	39	9	23	16	14	11	8	7
HR	38	30	31	19	22	20	18	8	15	19	26
IT	43	42	33	22	21	10	16	12	17	16	14
CY	49	52	42	34	24	8	14	4	16	14	14
LV	28	35	30	16	15	21	28	13	14	17	17
LT	36	47	21	19	10	36	23	8	10	12	16
READ	49	28	38	28	15	22	18	20	10	6	7
HU	33	33	31	27	22	17	16	13	14	21	24
MT	47	29	43	22	28	14	21	14	14	12	9
NL	66	12	30	24	24	36	30	28	11	10	5
AT	51	33	29	20	27	15	17	19	16	21	16
PL	33	35	25	17	15	19	15	14	15	17	15
PT	56	66	24	22	20	10	9	10	9	11	11
RO	25	43	26	17	12	15	15	13	18	19	17
IF	46	42	27	16	18	19	16	17	15	13	16
SK	35	35	26	20	17	13	21	12	20	16	17
FI	51	12	20	28	30	19	32	33	4	18	14
SE	72	10	30	23	35	37	20	34	6	7	3

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The comparison of the results at national level between this wave and the October-November 2020 wave is presented in the tables below. Presentation shall be limited to variations of at least 10 percentage points.

Compared to October-November 2020 (i.e. compared to the Special Eurobarometer 500 on the Future of Europe)⁴¹, there are now 17 countries where respondents are more likely to regard environmental issues and climate change as one of the main global challenges for the future of the EU. The largest increases were in Portugal (+ 20 points), Cyprus (+ 16) and Spain (+ 11). Conversely, those in Estonia (-16) in Lithuania and Luxembourg (-11 for both) are now less likely to mention this challenge.

Health risks are now much more likely to be seen as a challenge by respondents in Estonia (+ 14), Slovenia, Lithuania (+ 13 for both) and Ireland (+ 10), but less so in Poland (-15).

Compared to October-November 2020, migration and forced displacement are now much less likely to be cited among the major global challenges by respondents in Slovenia (-16), Ireland (-13), Malta (-11) and Estonia (-10).

In all Member States, respondents are now less likely to cite terrorism as one of the main challenges for the future of the EU, and in 19 countries the trend is at least ten points. The largest decreases were recorded in Slovenia (-28), Slovakia, Estonia (21 for both) and France (-20).

Respondents in Slovakia (-11) are now less likely to mention organised crime than in 2020.

Those in Sweden (+ 10) are more likely to cite the deterioration of international relations, while those in Ireland (-10) are less likely to cite this challenge.

Respondents in Ireland (+ 17) are now much more likely to consider cyberwar and new forms of conflict to be one of the EU's major challenges, but are less likely to mention the future rise of populism (-11). Respondents in Luxembourg and Estonia are also much less likely to cite the future rise of populism than in October-November 2020 (-16 and -15 respectively).

Socio-demographic data show that women are more likely than men to cite health risks as one of the major challenges for the future of the EU (36 % versus 31 %). There are several differences depending on age: the older the interviewee, the less likely they are to mention environmental problems and climate change. Older respondents are also least likely to mention the deterioration of international relations (15 %).

The level of education shows even more marked differences in opinion. The longer a person has studied, the more likely they are to cite the deterioration of international relations, cyber warfare and new forms of conflict or the future rise of populism, but the less likely they tend to cite terrorism or health risks. Those who completed their studies at the age of 20 or older are the least likely to think that organised crime is one of the main global challenges for the future of the EU (16 %).

Managers are most likely to cite environmental problems and climate change (58 %), but are less likely to mention health risks, especially when compared to those in the home (22 % vs. 43 %). Unemployed persons (36 %) are more likely than other socio-occupational groups to cite migration and forced displacement.

Compared to those with financial difficulties, respondents with less difficulty in paying their bills are most likely to cite environmental problems and climate change (52 %) but are less likely to mention health risks (31 %).

41 Special Eurobarometer 500: <https://europa.eu/eurobarometer/surveys/detail/2256>

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QA17 In your opinion, which of the following are the main global challenges for the future of the EU? (MAX. 3 REPLIES)
(% — EU)

	Environmental issues and climate change	Health risks	Migration and forced displacement	Terrorism	Organised crime	The deterioration of international relations	Cyberwar and new forms of conflict	The future rise of populism	Risks arising from new technologies	Rapid changes in our populations	The decline in the share of the European population compared to that of the rest of the world
EU27	49	34	30	26	18	18	17	16	13	13	12
Gender											
Man	48	31	31	24	18	20	19	18	13	14	12
Woman	49	36	30	27	18	17	16	15	13	12	11
Age											
15-24	53	34	28	22	13	19	23	14	13	13	10
25-39	51	30	31	23	16	22	21	17	13	13	12
40-54	49	32	32	25	18	20	18	18	14	14	11
55+	46	37	29	29	21	15	14	16	12	13	12
School leaving age											
—15	42	50	27	31	22	9	9	10	11	13	11
16-19	44	36	30	28	21	16	16	13	14	15	13
20+	56	25	32	23	16	24	21	23	12	12	11
Always student	56	31	31	21	12	21	23	18	13	12	9
Socio-professional category											
Independents	48	29	29	20	18	21	22	19	13	14	14
Senior management	58	22	32	21	17	23	22	26	13	13	11
Other employees	48	31	32	24	18	20	20	16	15	14	12
Workers	46	37	28	27	18	18	17	13	13	14	13
Women/Men in the Home	42	43	29	28	20	13	13	13	12	14	8
Unemployed	49	38	36	27	21	19	17	10	11	9	11
Pensioners	46	38	29	31	21	15	12	15	11	13	11
Students	56	31	31	21	12	21	23	18	13	12	9
Difficulties in paying your bills											
Most of the time	44	38	30	26	19	17	14	12	15	14	12
From time to time	41	39	30	26	21	14	16	14	15	16	14
Almost Never/Never	52	31	30	26	18	20	18	18	12	12	11

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There is a strong preference for all Member States to work and find solutions together

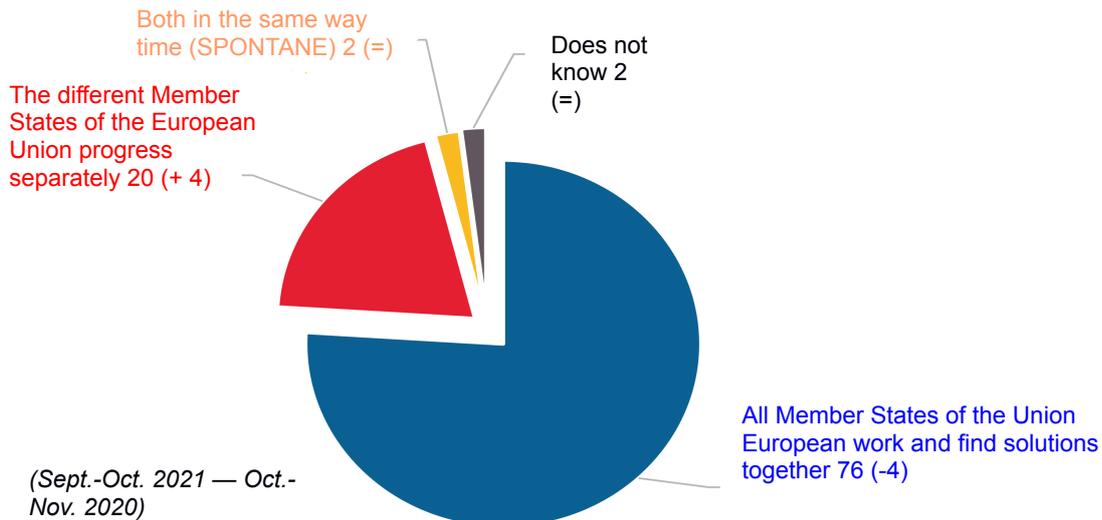
In order to make progress on these key global challenges for the future of the EU, respondents are much more likely to think that all EU Member States should work and find solutions together (76 %) rather than focus on progress by individual Member States (20 %) separately⁴². A small proportion (2 %) spontaneously responds to both approaches at the same time

Compared to October-November 2020 (Special Eurobarometer 500 on the Future of Europe)⁴³, respondents are now less likely to be in favour of EU Member States working and finding solutions together (-4 points) and are more likely to think that different EU Member States should progress separately (+ 4).

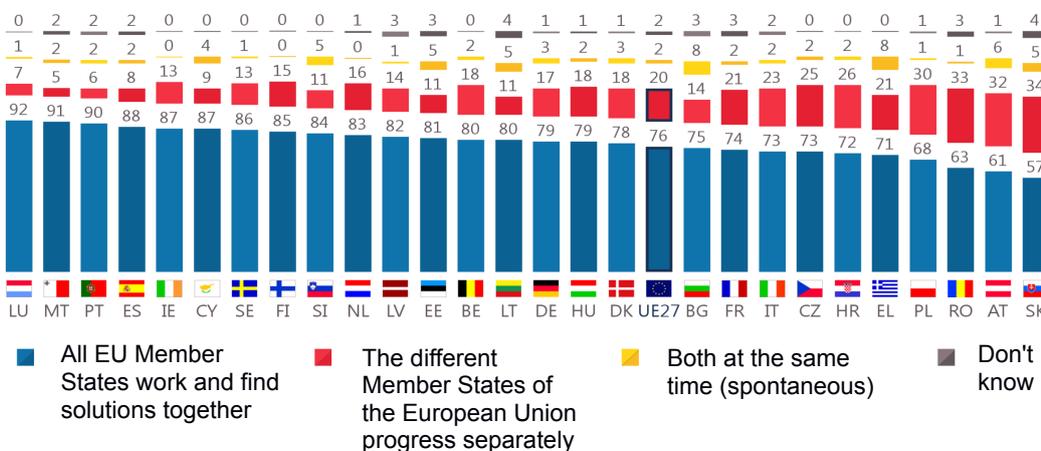
In all Member States, the majority of respondents believe that if all EU Member States worked and found solutions together, this would make the most progress on key global challenges, ranging from 92 % in Luxembourg 91 % in Malta and 90 % in Portugal to 57 % in Slovakia, 61 % in Austria and 63 % in Romania.

In four countries, at least three out of ten respondents are in favour of individual Member States progressing separately: Slovakia (34 %), Romania (33 %), Austria (32 %) and Poland (30 %).

QA18 What of the following would make the most progress on these main global challenges for the future of the European Union? (% — EU27)



QA18 What of the following would make the most progress on these main global challenges for the future of the European Union? (% — EU27)



42 What of the following would make the most progress on these main global challenges for the future of the European Union? All EU Member States work and find solutions together; The different EU Member States are progressing separately; Both at the same time (SPONTANATED)

43 Special Eurobarometer 500: <https://europa.eu/eurobarometer/surveys/detail/2256>

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Overall, respondents are slightly less likely to focus on working and finding solutions together than they were in October-November 2020. However, national trends show more marked developments. Respondents in Austria (+ 25) and Malta (+ 20) are now much more likely to favour this approach, while those in Lithuania (-10) are less likely to cite this problem today. At EU level, there are 20 countries where respondents are now less likely to prefer this approach.

Respondents in Austria are now more likely to think that Member States should progress separately (+ 14) and are less likely to opt for the reverse approach (-38).

QA18 What of the following would make the most progress on these main global challenges for the future of the European Union? (%)

	All EU Member States work and find solutions together	September/October 2021 — October/November 2020	The different Member States of the European Union progress separately	September/October 2021 — October/November 2020	Both at the same time (Sontané)	September/October 2021 — October/November 2020	Don't know
EU27	76	-4	20	4	2	=	2
AT	61	25	32	14	6	-38	1
MT	91	20	5	-4	2	-15	2
READ	92	6	7	-7	1	1	0
CY	87	3	9	-5	4	2	0
FI	85	1	15	=	0	-1	0
DK	78	=	18	=	3	=	1
ES	88	=	8	-1	2	1	2
OF	79	-1	17	=	3	1	1
SE	86	-1	13	=	1	1	0
BG	75	-2	14	-4	8	5	3
HR	72	-2	26	3	2	=	0
PT	90	-2	6	1	2	1	2
CZ	73	-3	25	2	2	2	0
IE	87	-3	13	4	0	-1	0
LV	82	-3	14	2	1	=	3
HU	79	-3	18	2	2	1	1
IT	73	-4	23	6	2	=	2
NL	83	-4	16	3	0	=	1
EL	71	-6	21	=	8	7	0
FR	74	-6	21	5	2	1	3
PL	68	-6	30	6	1	=	1
BE	80	-7	18	6	2	2	0
IF	84	-7	11	2	5	5	0
EE	81	-8	11	=	5	5	3
RO	63	-8	33	7	1	=	3
SK	57	-9	34	3	5	3	4
LT	80	-10	11	1	5	5	4

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Given this strong preference for working and finding solutions together at EU level, it may not be surprising that this preference is dominant in all socio-demographic categories.

At least seven out of ten respondents in all categories of sex, age, education and occupation choose this option — those with the highest preference being those who studied up to 20 years of age or older, executives and students (80 % out of all three).

QA18 What of the following would make the most progress on these main global challenges for the future of the European Union? (% — EU)

	All EU Member States work and find solutions together	The different Member States of the European Union progress separately	Both at the same time (Spontané)	Don't know
EU27	76	20	2	2
Gender				
Man	75	21	2	2
Woman	77	18	3	2
Age				
15-24	79	18	2	1
25-39	77	20	2	1
40-54	76	21	2	1
55+	76	19	3	2
School leaving age				
—15	76	18	2	4
16-19	73	23	2	2
20+	80	17	2	1
Always student	80	17	2	1
Socio-professional category				
Independents	77	19	3	1
Senior management	80	18	2	0
Other employees	76	21	2	1
Workers	73	23	2	2
Women/Men in the Home	74	20	2	4
Unemployed	79	17	2	2
Pensioners	76	18	3	3
Students	80	17	2	1
Difficulties in paying your bills				
Most of the time	75	19	4	2
From time to time	70	26	2	2
Almost Never/Never	79	17	2	2

2. The future of Europe

Benefiting from comparable living standards would be most useful for the future of Europe

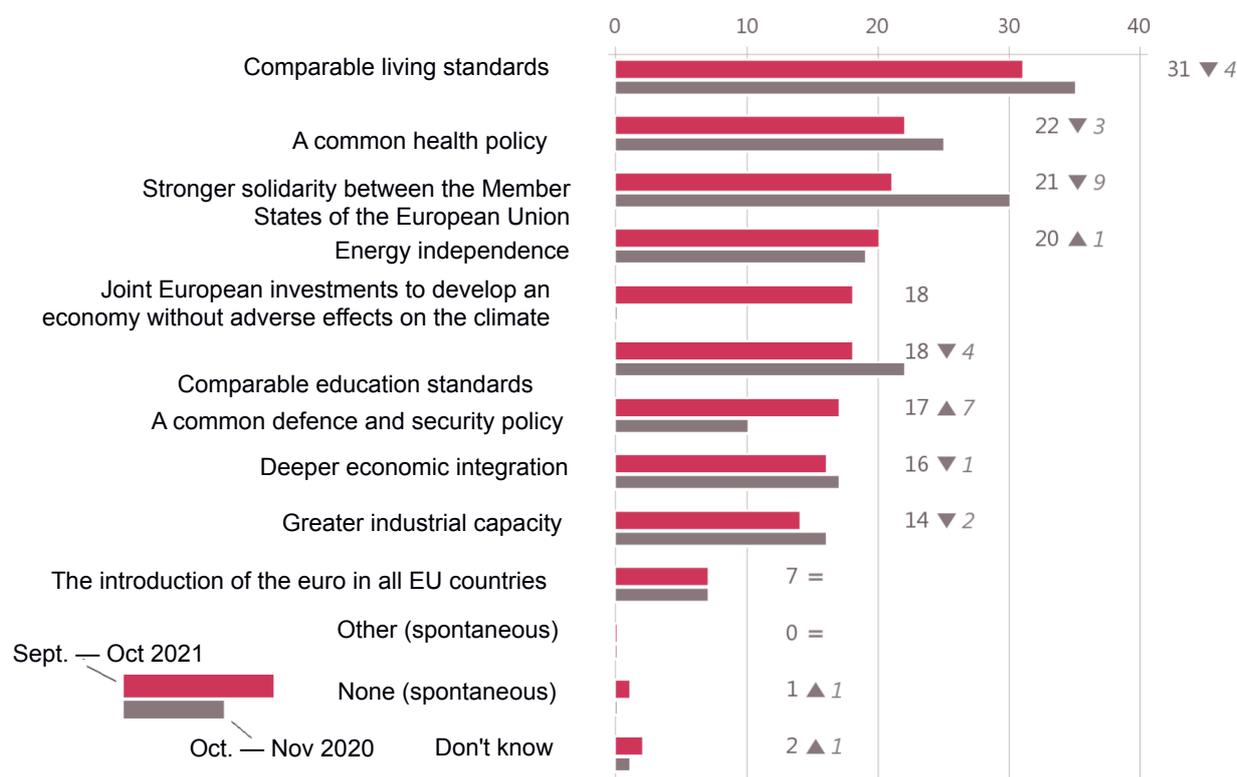
Surveyed on what could be most useful for Europe's future, respondents tend mainly to cite comparable living standards (31 %), followed by a common health policy (22 %), stronger solidarity between EU Member States (21 %) and energy independence (20 %)⁴⁴.

Almost one in five people cites common European investments to develop an economy with no adverse effects on the climate or comparable education standards (18 % for both), while 17 % believe that a common defence and security policy would be the most useful and 16 % cite deeper economic integration.

More than one in ten (14 %) considers that more industrial capacity would be most useful, while 7 % cite the introduction of the euro in all EU countries.

With the exception of a common security and defence policy (+ 7 points), energy independence (+ 1) and the introduction of the Euro in all EU countries (=), respondents are less likely to cite all other response options than they were in October-November 2020⁴⁵ (Special Eurobarometer 500 on the Future of Europe)⁴⁶. The largest decreases are higher solidarity between EU Member States (-9), comparable education standards and comparable living standards (-4 for both).

QA22 Of the following, what do you think would be the two most useful for the future of Europe? (Max. 2 replies) (% — EU27)



44 Q22 Of the following, what do you think would be the two most useful for the future of Europe? Comparable education standards; Energy independence; Greater industrial capacity; The introduction of the Euro in all EU countries; Comparable living standards; A common defence and security policy; Deeper economic integration; A common health policy; Stronger solidarity between EU Member States; Joint European investments to develop an economy without adverse effects on the climate.

45 Excluding a common security and defence policy, which is a new response option for this investigation.

46 Special Eurobarometer 500: <https://europa.eu/eurobarometer/surveys/detail/2256>

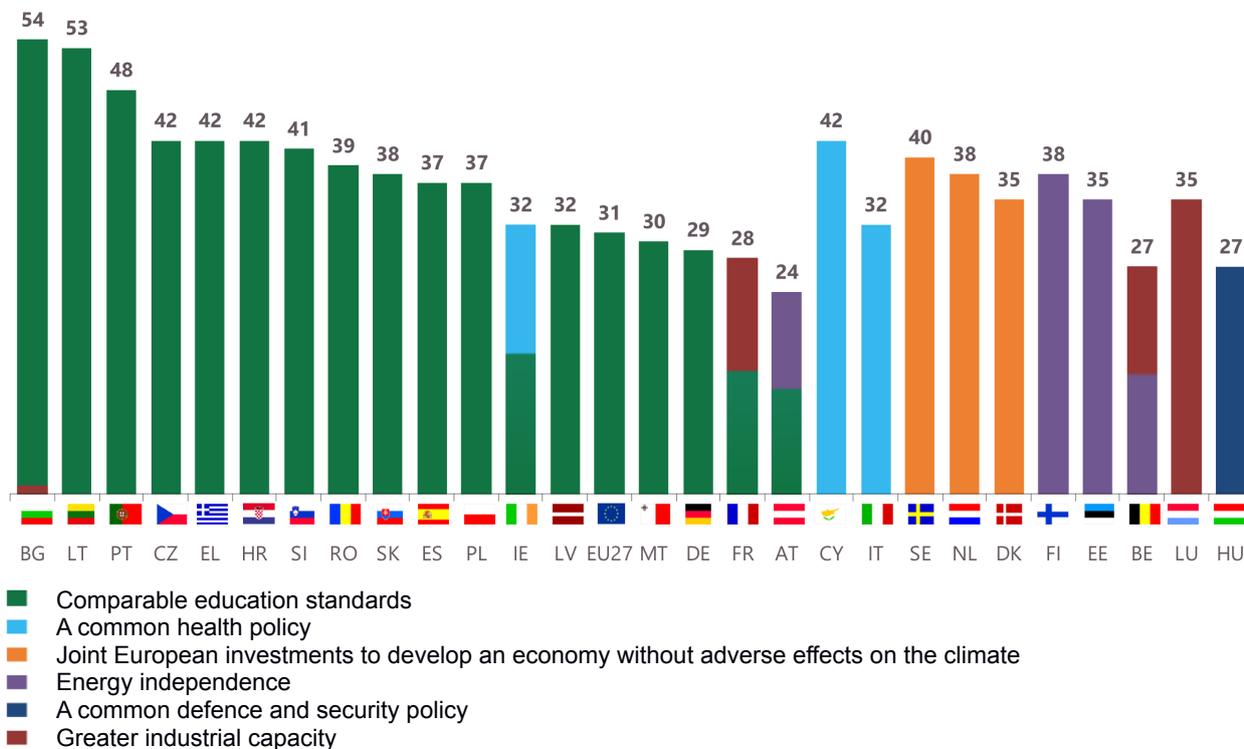
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In 17 countries, comparable standards of living are the most mentioned (or on an equal basis) as the most useful element for the future of Europe, with the highest proportions being observed in Bulgaria (54 %) and Lithuania (53 %). In Cyprus (42 %), Italy (32 %) and Ireland (32 %, equal to comparable standards of living), the common health policy is the most cited option, while in Sweden (40 %), the Netherlands (38 %) and Denmark (35 %), the most mentioned answer, which comes first, concerns joint European investments to develop an economy with no adverse effects on the climate.

In three countries, notably Finland (38 %), energy independence is the most cited (or equal) response option and stronger solidarity between Member States is also the most mentioned (or equal) response.

A common security and defence policy is the answer most mentioned by respondents in Hungary, and the most cited in Austria (24 %, equal to comparable standards of living).

QA22 Of the following, what do you think would be the two most useful for the future of Europe? (% — the most cited answer by country)



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At EU level, the most useful element for Europe's future is "comparable standards of living" is mentioned by more than half of the respondents in Bulgaria (54 %) and Lithuania (53 %) and by 48 % in Portugal. In contrast, 14 % of respondents in Denmark, 15 % in Finland and 21 % in Italy cite this response, which is among the three most cited in 23 countries.

A common health policy is the most frequently mentioned answer in Cyprus (42 %), Portugal (34 %), Ireland and Italy (32 % for both), and the least cited by those in Finland (8 %), Sweden (12 %) and the Netherlands (13 %). This proposal is among the three most cited in 17 countries.

The proportions reporting stronger solidarity between EU Member States ranged from 38 % in Sweden and 35 % in Luxembourg and the Netherlands to only 10 % in Hungary, 11 % in Bulgaria and 12 % in Poland and Portugal. This response is among the three most cited in eight countries.

Energy independence is more likely to be considered useful by respondents in Finland (38 %), Estonia (35 %), Denmark and Czechia (32 % for both), while those in Portugal (5 %), Romania (9 %), Malta and Greece (11 % for both) are the least likely to cite it. This proposal is among the three most cited in 15 countries.

Respondents in Spain (36 %), Germany (28 %) and Malta (27 %) are most likely to think that comparable education standards would be the most useful for the future of Europe, while those in Italy, Hungary (5 % for both) and Estonia (8 %) are least likely to cite them. This proposal is ranked second or third in six countries.

Common European investments to develop an economy without adverse effects on the climate are mentioned by 40 % in Sweden, 38 % in the Netherlands and 35 % in Denmark, compared with only 5 % in Lithuania, Portugal and Cyprus. This proposal is among the three most cited in ten countries.

The proportions referring to a common security and defence policy range from 36 % in Cyprus, 31 % in Finland and 27 % in Hungary and Latvia to only 9 % in Spain and 10 % in Bulgaria and Slovenia. This is one of the three most mentioned proposals in seven countries.

In five countries, at least one in five people cites deeper economic integration (Portugal: 29 %, Italy: 28 %, Hungary: 26 %, Slovenia: 23 % and Romania: 20 %) and in five others, at least one in five considers that more industrial capacity would be most useful (Italy: 23 %, Poland and Croatia: 22 % for both Romania and Slovakia: 20 % for both).

Finally, respondents in Hungary, Austria (17 % for both) and Croatia (16 %) are most likely to cite the introduction of the euro in all EU countries.

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QA22 Of the following, what do you think would be the two most useful for the future of Europe? (MAX. 2 RESPONSES)
(%)

	Comparable living standards	A common health policy	Stronger solidarity between the Member States of the European Union	Energy independence	Comparable education standards	Joint European investments to develop an economy without adverse effects on the climate	A common defence and security policy	Deeper economic integration	Greater industrial capacity	The introduction of the Euro in all the countries of the European Union
EU27	31	22	21	20	18	18	17	16	14	7
BE	25	22	27	27	15	26	16	11	11	7
BG	54	27	11	19	16	8	10	18	14	5
CZ	42	16	14	32	11	13	26	13	11	7
DK	14	14	25	32	15	35	23	8	9	4
OF	29	15	26	21	28	26	18	11	5	6
EE	28	16	13	35	8	10	25	14	14	7
IE	32	32	21	22	25	15	11	9	10	11
EL	42	26	34	11	19	8	20	18	13	2
ES	37	23	18	13	36	7	9	17	15	3
FR	28	23	28	23	15	24	17	7	11	5
HR	42	19	16	15	11	12	16	16	22	16
IT	21	32	16	20	5	15	14	28	23	8
CY	31	42	27	13	20	5	36	9	9	4
LV	32	25	18	24	16	6	27	10	15	6
LT	53	24	17	23	11	5	19	17	12	3
READ	22	22	35	24	22	24	16	5	4	8
HU	23	26	10	21	5	10	27	26	18	17
MT	30	24	21	11	27	24	11	13	12	10
NL	24	13	35	20	16	38	24	10	8	3
AT	24	17	17	24	21	19	17	14	14	17
PL	37	21	12	21	9	7	19	19	22	11
PT	48	34	12	5	13	5	13	29	19	5
RO	39	23	13	9	11	7	19	20	20	13
IF	41	20	17	24	14	12	10	23	12	10
SK	38	20	13	18	13	10	17	15	20	11
FI	15	8	26	38	11	30	31	5	14	6
SE	25	12	38	27	21	40	17	5	5	2

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An examination of the differences between socio-demographic groups shows that women are more likely than men to consider that a common health policy would be the most useful (24 % versus 19 %), but are less likely to mention energy independence (18 % versus 23 %).

The younger an interviewee is, the less likely they tend to cite comparable education standards or common European investments to develop an economy with no adverse effects on the climate. However, those aged 15-24 are the least likely to mention energy independence (15 %). Respondents aged 55 and over are the most likely to cite a common health policy (25 %).

The longer a person has studied, the more likely they are to cite energy independence, comparable education standards or common European investments to develop an economy with no adverse effects on the climate, and the less he tends to mention a common health policy. Indeed, 23 % of those who completed their studies at the age of 20 and older cite energy independence, compared with 15 % of those who completed them at the age of 15 or younger.

Managers and students (26 % for both) are more likely than other socio-professional categories to mention joint European investments.

People who have difficulty paying their bills most of the time are also most likely to think that comparable living standards would be the most useful for the future of Europe (39 %).

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QA22 Of the following, what do you think would be the two most useful for the future of Europe? (MAX. 2 REPLIES) (% — EU)

	Comparable living standards	A common health policy	Stronger solidarity between the Member States of the European Union	Energy independence	Comparable education standards	Joint European investments to develop an economy without adverse effects on the climate	A common defence and security policy	Deeper economic integration	Greater industrial capacity	The introduction of the Euro in all the countries of the European Union
EU27	31	22	21	20	18	18	17	16	14	7
Gender										
Man	29	19	21	23	17	17	18	17	16	7
Woman	32	24	22	18	19	18	16	14	12	7
Age										
15-24	30	19	20	15	23	23	14	17	13	8
25-39	31	18	21	21	19	21	15	17	15	7
40-54	30	20	21	21	18	18	18	17	15	7
55+	31	25	22	20	15	15	18	14	13	6
School leaving age										
—15	34	31	19	15	14	8	16	15	15	6
16-19	32	23	19	21	16	14	17	17	15	8
20+	29	17	24	23	20	24	18	14	13	6
Always student	27	18	23	16	24	26	13	16	13	8
Socio-professional category										
Independents	28	18	21	25	16	19	18	18	15	6
Senior management	26	14	24	22	19	26	18	17	14	7
Other employees	33	20	19	23	16	18	17	18	14	7
Workers	32	24	19	19	17	15	16	17	16	8
Women/Men in the Home	30	29	19	17	16	14	17	15	13	5
Unemployed	32	21	22	20	23	16	15	17	14	5
Pensioners	32	26	22	19	16	14	19	11	12	7
Students	27	18	23	16	24	26	13	16	13	8
Difficulties in paying your bills										
Most of the time	39	22	19	15	17	12	16	17	15	8
From time to time	31	26	18	17	15	12	17	20	16	8
Almost Never/Never	30	20	22	22	19	20	17	14	13	6

The majority of respondents believe that these policies would be managed at both national and European level.

A list of 11 policy areas was presented to interviewees who were asked to indicate whether each of them should be dealt with solely or mainly at EU level, both at European and national level, or only or mainly at national level⁴⁷.

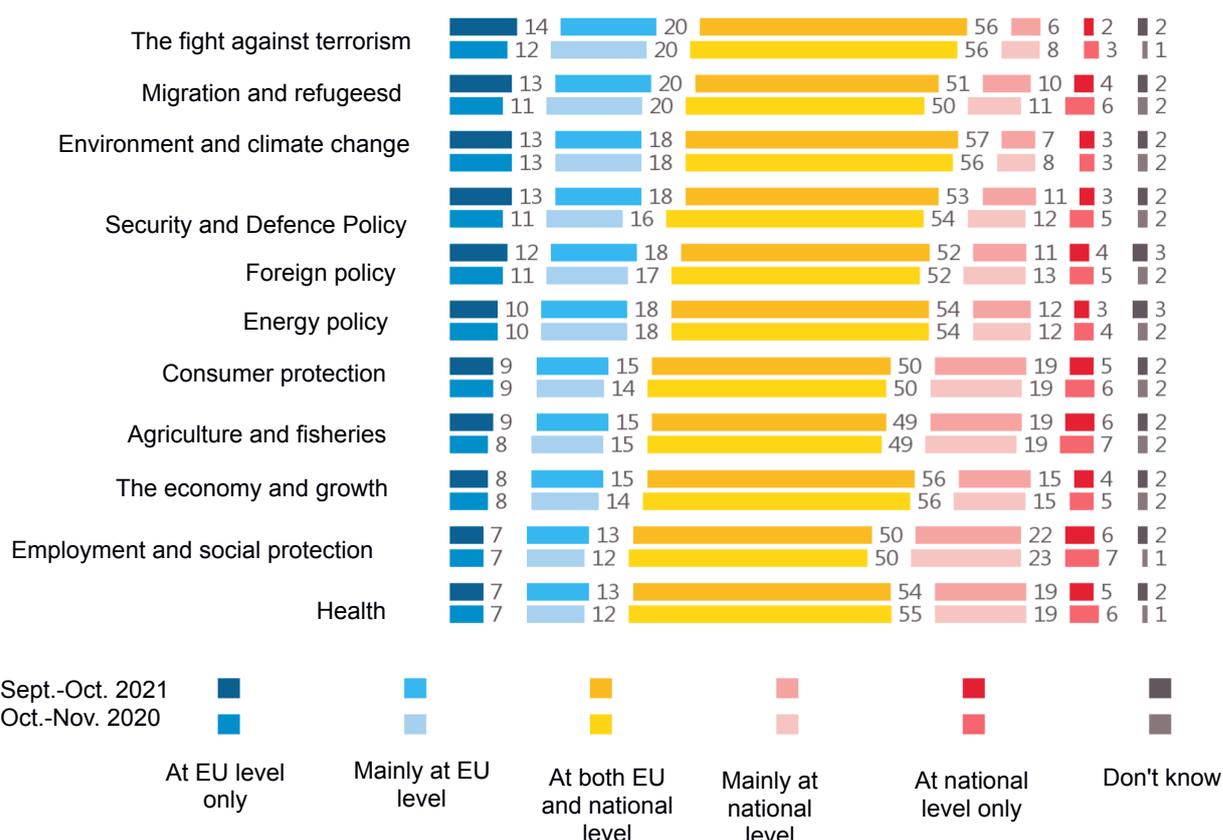
For all the areas presented, the majority of respondents believe that it would be more effective for it to be managed “both at EU and national level”. The proportions range from 57 % for environment and climate change to 49 % for agriculture and fisheries.

In seven of the 11 areas, respondents are more likely to think that the issue should be addressed only or mainly at EU level, rather than only or mainly at national level: the fight against terrorism (34 % versus 8 %), migration and refugees (33 % vs. 14 %), the environment and climate change (31 % versus 10 %), security and defence policy (31 % versus 14 %), foreign policy (30 % vs. 15 %), energy policy (28 % vs. 15 %) and the economy and growth (23 % versus 19 %).

For three of the proposed areas, respondents are more likely to think that they would be better managed solely or mainly at national level, rather than only or mainly at EU level: agriculture and fisheries (25 % vs. 24 %), employment and social protection (28 % versus 20 %) and health (24 % versus 20 %).

As regards consumer protection, opinion is divided (24 % for each)⁴⁸.

QA23 in your opinion, at what level would the management of each of the following areas be the most effective? (% — EU27)



47 Q23 In your opinion, at what level would the management of each of the following areas be the most effective? 23.1 Migration and refugees; 23.2 Combating terrorism; 23.3 Employment and social protection; 23.4 Energy policy; 23.5 Environment and climate change; 23.6 Consumer protection; 23.7 The economy and growth; 23.8 Agriculture and fisheries; 23.9 Foreign policy; 23.10 Security and defence policy; 23.11 Health.

48 This question was compared to Special Eurobarometer 500: <https://europa.eu/eurobarometer/surveys/detail/2256>

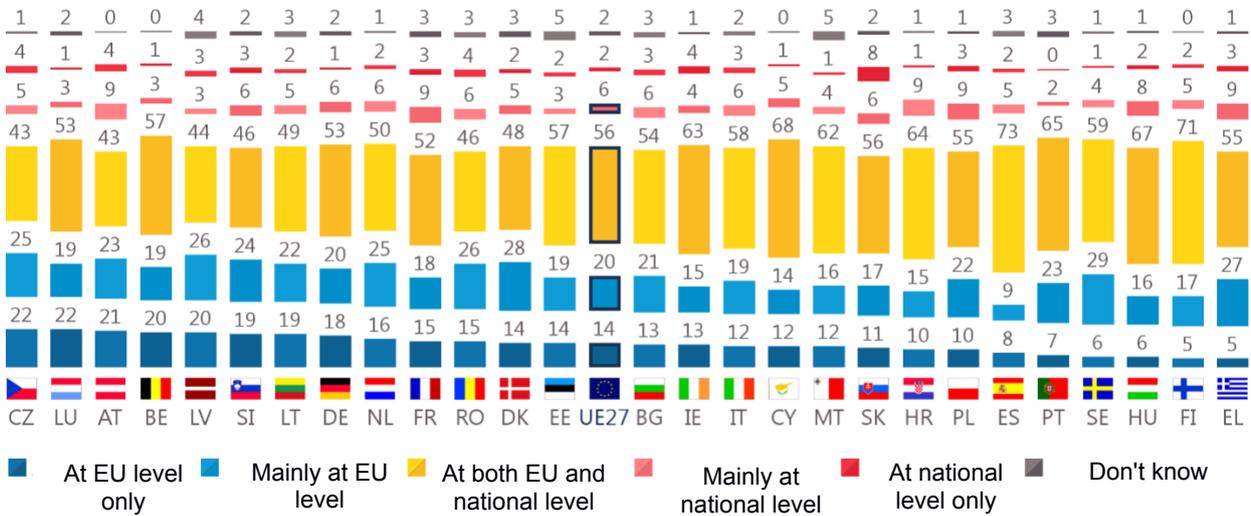
The fight against terrorism

In all Member States, respondents are more likely to think that the fight against terrorism would be more effective mainly or solely at national level; the largest proportions favouring the European level are observed in Czechia (47 %), Latvia (46 %) and Austria (44 %). This is the most cited answer in these three countries.

In the remaining 24 Member States, respondents most often believe that the fight against terrorism would be more effective at both EU and national level, with the highest proportions recorded in Spain (73 %), Finland (71 %) and Cyprus (68 %).

QA23.2 In your opinion, at what level would the management of each of the following areas be the most effective?

The fight against terrorism (%)



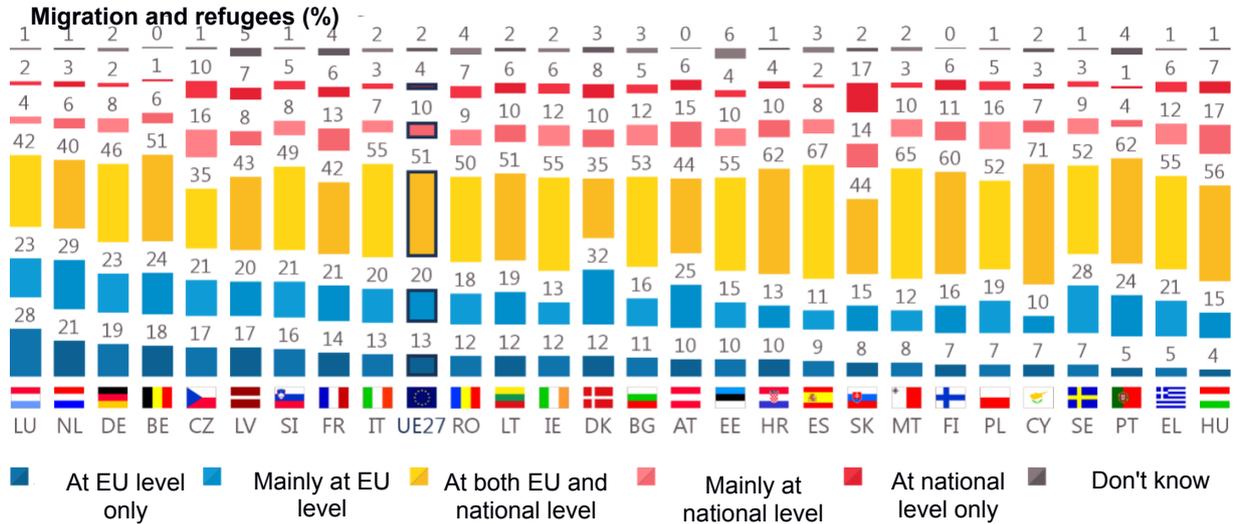
Migration and refugees

In 25 EU Member States, respondents are more likely to think that migration and refugees would be managed more effectively only or mainly at EU level, rather than only or mainly at national level, with the preference for the European level being the most pronounced in Luxembourg (51 %), the Netherlands (50 %) and Denmark (44 %).

In two countries, respondents are more likely to think that migration and refugees would be better managed at national level than at EU level: Slovakia (31 % versus 23 %) and Hungary (24 % versus 19 %).

In all but four countries, the most common answer is that the issue of migration and refugees would be managed more effectively at both national and EU level. This view is most common in Cyprus (71 %), Spain (67 %) and Malta (65 %). In Luxembourg (51 %), the Netherlands (50 %), Denmark (44 %) and the Czech Republic (38 %), respondents are more likely to consider that migration and refugee management would be more effective solely or mainly at EU level.

QA23.1 In your opinion, at what level would the management of each of the following areas be the most effective?



Environment and climate change

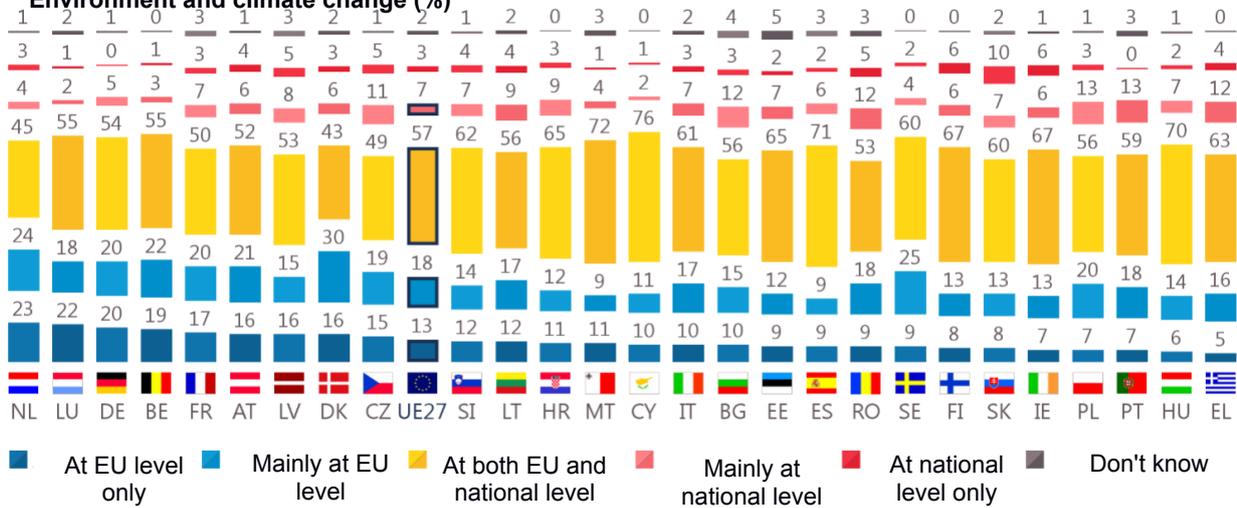
In the Netherlands (47 %) and Denmark (46 %), respondents most often responded that environment and climate change would be managed more effectively only or mainly at EU level. In fact, with the exception of Spain (18 %), at least one in five respondents in all countries agrees with this view.

In all countries, respondents are more likely to prefer management only or mainly at EU level rather than solely or mainly at national level, particularly in the Netherlands, Denmark and Belgium (41 %).

In 25 Member States, the most common response is that European and national levels are equally effective in addressing the environment and climate change, with the highest proportions observed in Cyprus (76 %), Malta (72 %) and Spain (71 %).

QA23.5 In your opinion, at what level would the management of each of the following areas be the most effective?

Environment and climate change (%)



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Security and Defence Policy

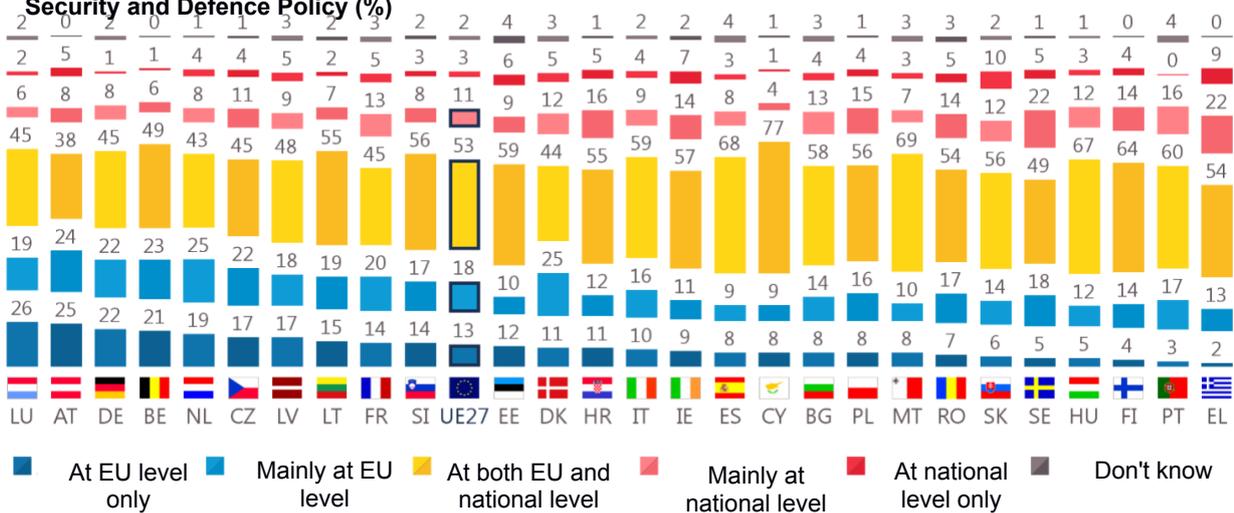
In 22 Member States, respondents were more likely to think that security and defence policy would be managed more effectively only or mainly at EU level rather than only or mainly at national level, with the highest proportions being observed in Austria (49 %), Luxembourg (45 %), Belgium, Germany and the Netherlands (44 % in all three).

In four countries, the preference is for management only or mainly at national level rather than solely or mainly at EU level: Greece (31 %), Sweden (27 %), Slovakia (22 %) and Ireland (21 %). The opinion is divided in Finland.

In 24 countries, the most common response is that security and defence policy would be managed most effectively at both EU and national level, notably in Cyprus (77 %), Malta (69 %) and Spain (68 %).

QA23.10 In your opinion, at what level would the management of each of the following areas be the most effective?

Security and Defence Policy (%)



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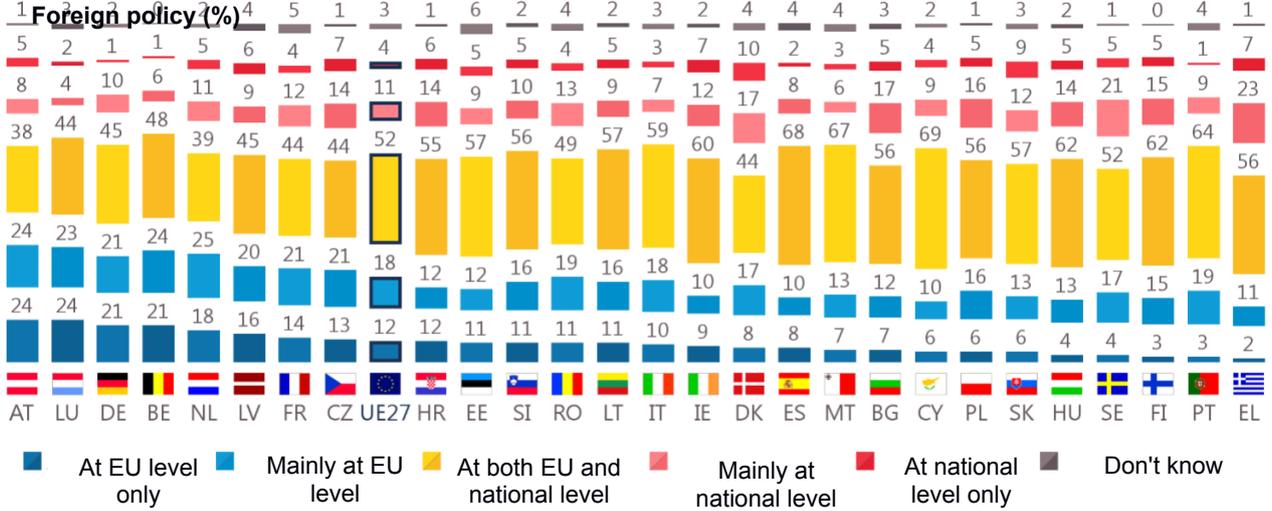
Foreign policy

In 19 countries, respondents are more likely to think that foreign policy management would be more effective solely or mainly at EU level rather than solely or mainly at national level. The countries with the highest preference for the European level are Austria (48%), Luxembourg (47%) and Belgium (45%). Moreover, this is the most frequently cited answer in Austria, Luxembourg and the Netherlands (43%).

In seven countries, including Greece (30%), Denmark (27%) and Sweden (26%), the preference is for management only or mainly at national level rather than solely or mainly at EU level. Opinion is divided in Ireland.

The most common response in 24 countries is that foreign policy can be managed most effectively both at EU and national level, with the highest proportions being observed in Cyprus (69%), Spain (68%) and Malta (67%).

QA23.9 In your opinion, at what level would the management of each of the following areas be the most effective?



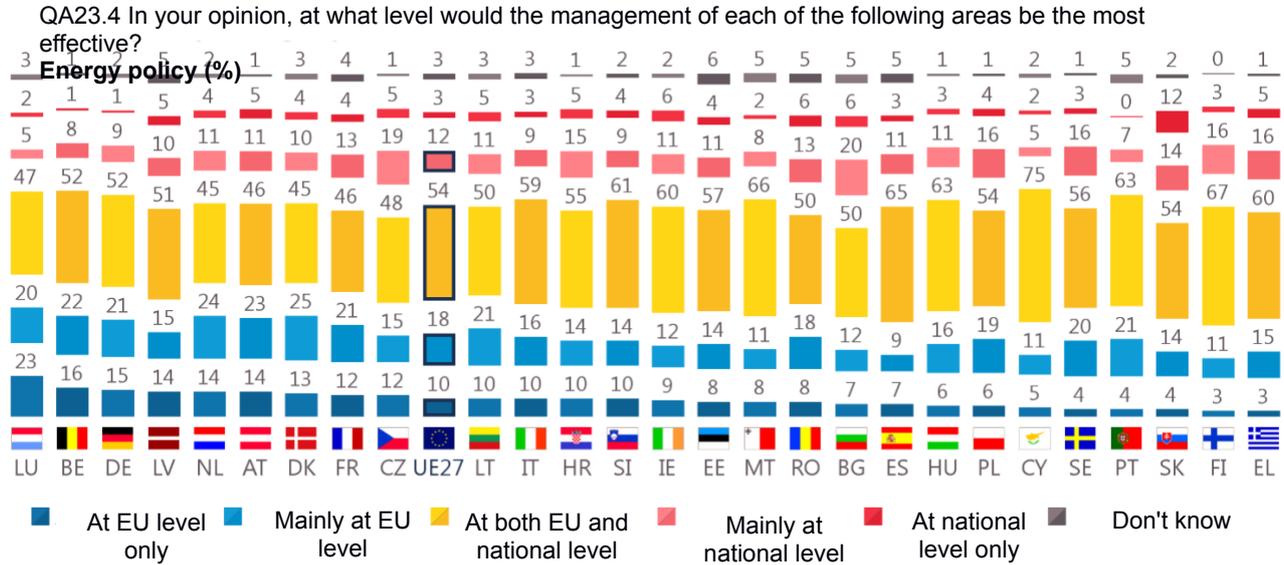
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Energy policy

In 23 countries, respondents are more likely to think that the European level is only or mainly the most effective in managing energy policy than the national level, with the highest preferences being observed in Luxembourg (43 %), Belgium, Denmark and the Netherlands (38 % in all three).

In four countries, the preference is for management only or mainly at national level rather than solely or mainly at EU level: Slovakia (26 % vs. 18 %), Bulgaria (26 % versus 19 %), Finland (19 % versus 14 %) and Greece (21 % versus 18 %).

However, the most common response in all Member States is that the European and national levels are equally effective in dealing with energy policy, with the highest proportions being observed in Cyprus (75 %), Finland (67 %) and Malta (66 %).



Consumer protection

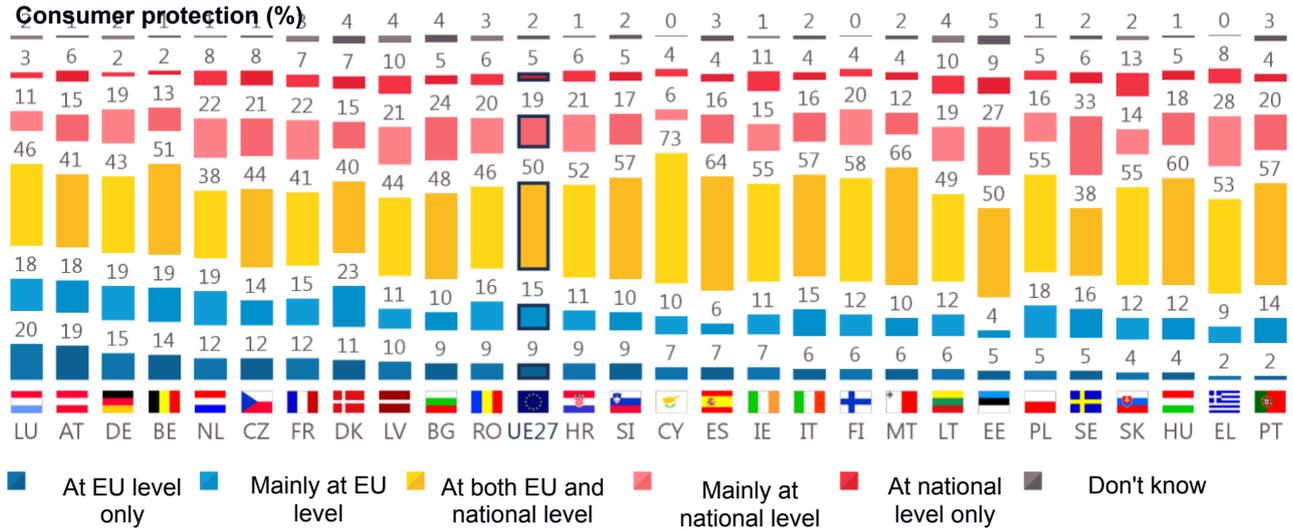
In the case of consumer protection, there are nine countries where respondents are more likely to think that it would be managed more effectively only or mainly at EU level, rather than only or mainly at national level, with the highest proportions for this response being observed in Luxembourg (38 %), Austria (37 %), Denmark and Germany (34 % for both). In 18 countries, Europeans favour management only or mainly at national level, with the highest proportions being observed in Sweden (39 %), Greece and Estonia (36 % for both).

In addition, Sweden is the only country where the most common response is management only or mainly at the national level.

In the remaining 26 Member States, the most common answer is that the European and national levels are equally effective in addressing consumer protection issues, with the highest proportions in Cyprus (73 %), Malta (66 %) and Spain (64 %).

QA23.6 In your opinion, at what level would the management of each of the following areas be the most effective?

Consumer protection (%)



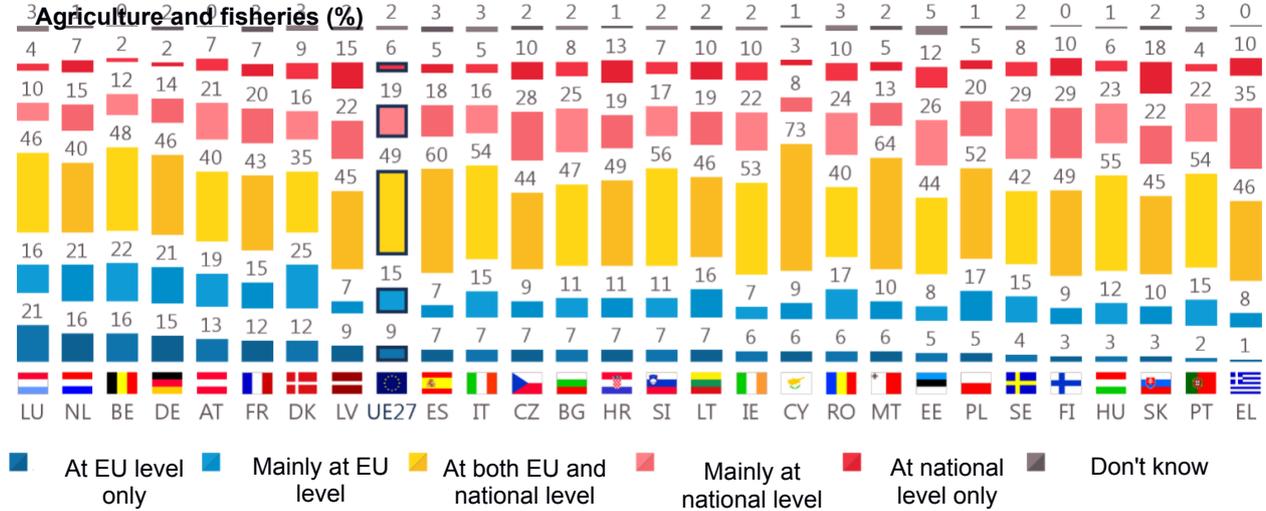
■ At EU level only
 ■ Mainly at EU level
 ■ At both EU and national level
 ■ Mainly at national level
 ■ At national level only
 ■ Don't know

Agriculture and fisheries

In eight countries, respondents are more likely to think that management of agriculture and fisheries would be more effective solely or mainly at EU level rather than solely or mainly at national level. The highest proportions are found in Belgium (38 %), Luxembourg, the Netherlands and Denmark (37 % for all). In 18 countries preference is reversed and the highest proportions for management alone or mainly at national level are recorded in Greece (45 %), Slovakia (40 %) and Finland (39 %). The opinion is divided between the two possibilities in France.

In all Member States except Denmark, the most common answer is that the European and national levels are equally effective in addressing agriculture and fisheries issues, with the highest proportions observed in Cyprus (73 %), Malta (64 %) and Spain (60 %). In Denmark (37 %), the preference is for management only or mainly at EU level.

QA23.8 In your opinion, at what level would the management of each of the following areas be the most effective?–

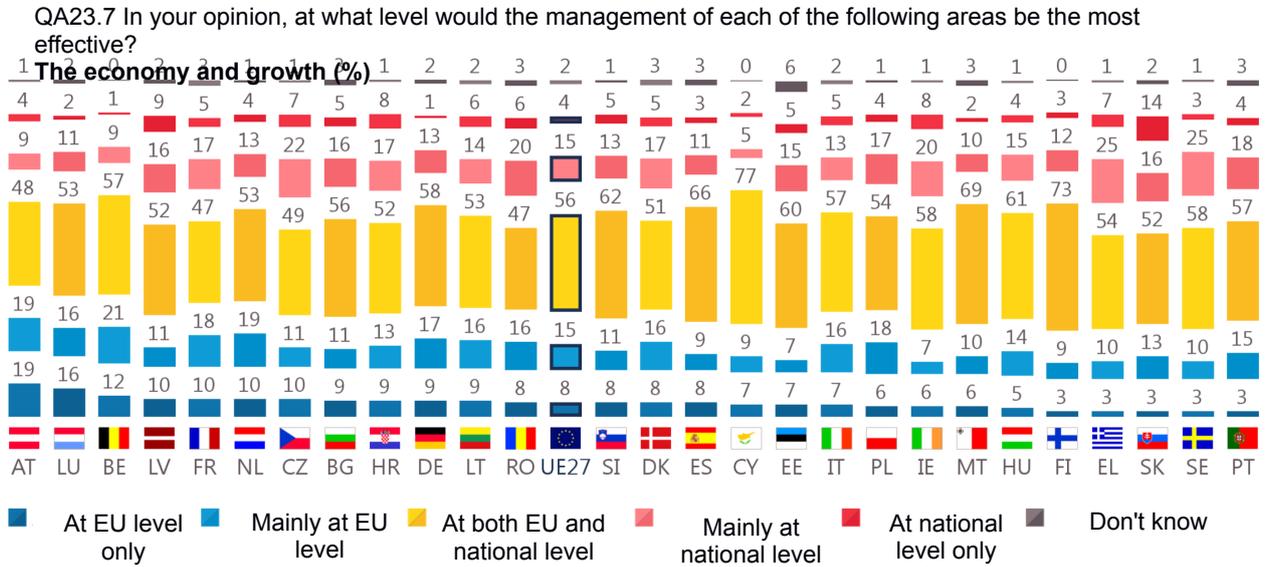


Special Eurobarometer 517, the future of Europe p.111

The economy and growth

In 14 countries, respondents are more likely to think that the EU level is only or mainly more effective in dealing with economic and growth issues, with the highest proportions being observed in Austria (38%), Belgium (33%) and Luxembourg (32%). In 12 countries preference is reversed and the highest proportions for management only or mainly at national level are recorded in Greece (32%), Slovakia (30%), Czechia (29%), Sweden and Ireland (both 28%). In Hungary, opinion is divided between the two possibilities.

However, the most common answer in all Member States is that the European and national levels are equally effective in addressing economic and growth issues, with the highest proportions being observed in Cyprus (77%), Finland (73%), and Malta (69%).



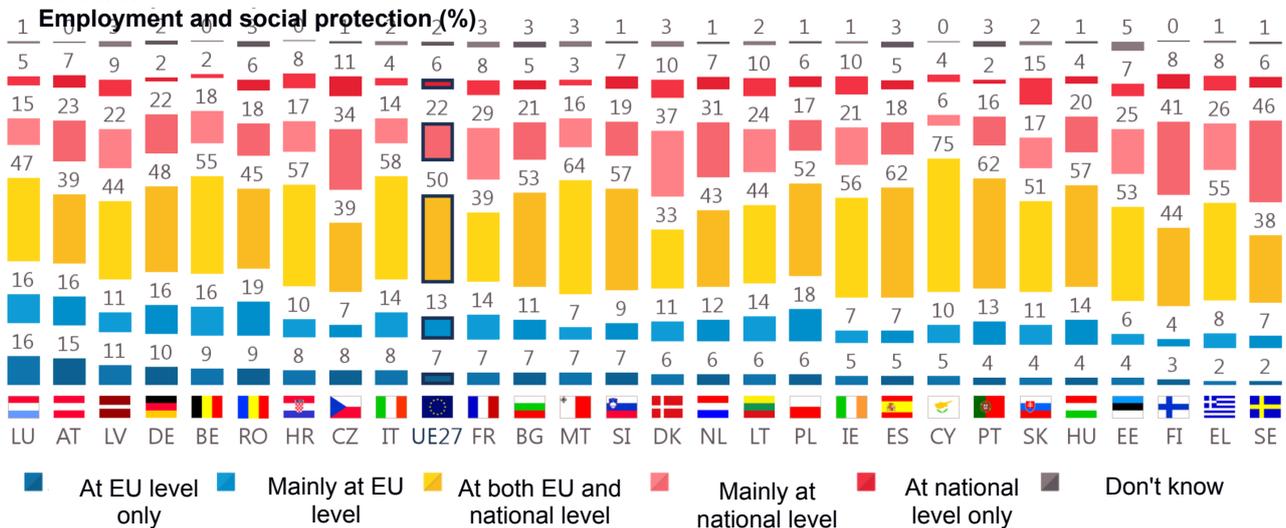
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Employment and social protection

In eight countries, the preference is that employment and social protection issues would be managed more effectively only or mainly at EU level rather than solely or mainly at national level, with the highest proportions being observed in Luxembourg (32 %), Austria (31 %) and Romania (28 %). In the remaining 19 countries, respondents are in favour of management only or mainly at the national level, with the highest proportions in Sweden (52 %), Finland (49 %), Denmark (47 %) and the Czech Republic (45 %).

Respondents in 23 countries, notably Cyprus (75 %), Malta (64 %), Spain and Portugal (62 % for both) are more likely to think that the national and European levels are equally effective in addressing employment and social protection issues. In Sweden (52 %), Finland (49 %), Denmark (47 %) and the Czech Republic (45 %), on the other hand, the most common answer is that the national level would be the most effective in this regard.

QA23.3 In your opinion, at what level would the management of each of the following areas be the most effective?



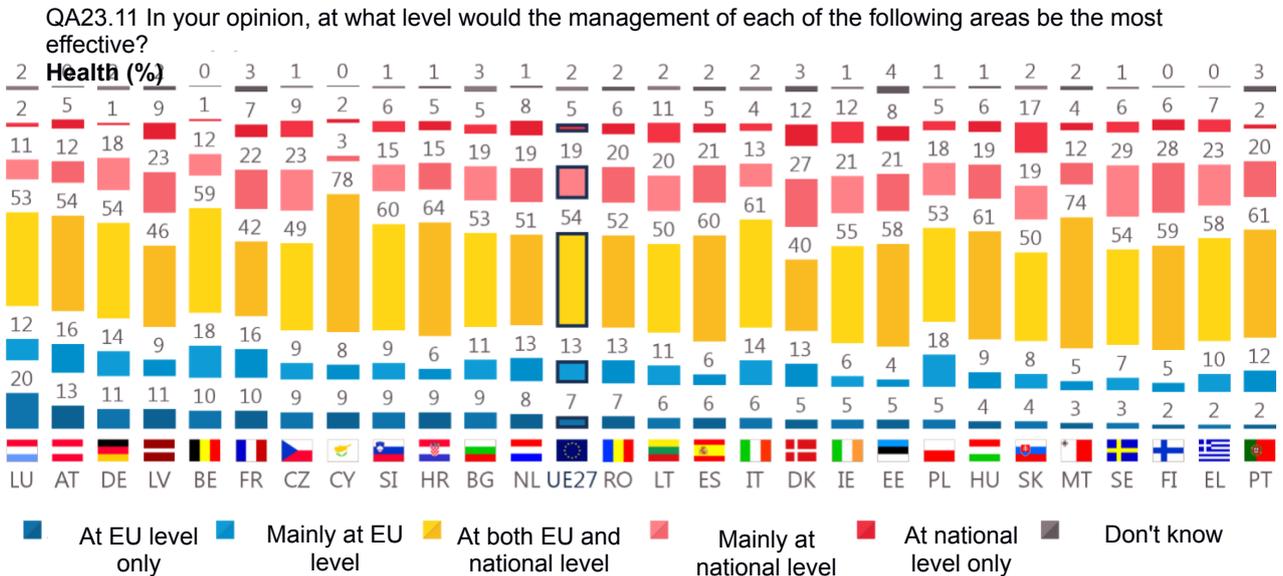
Special Eurobarometer 517, the future of Europe p.113

Health

In six countries, respondents believe that it would be more effective to manage health issues solely or mainly at EU level rather than solely or mainly at national level, with the highest proportions being recorded in Luxembourg (32 %), Austria (29 %) and Belgium (28 %).

In 20 countries, the preference is for management only or mainly at national level rather than solely or mainly at EU level, with this preference being particularly pronounced among respondents in Denmark (39 %), Slovakia (36 %) and Sweden (35 %). Opinion is divided in Poland.

However, respondents are more likely in all Member States to think that health would benefit from as effective management at EU level as at national level, particularly in Cyprus (78 %), Malta (74 %), Croatia (64 %), Hungary, Portugal and Italy (61 % in all three).



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Sociodemographic data also confirm that respondents tend to think that the management of the various proposed areas would be more effective at both EU and national level.

Data show that, in general, men are more likely than women to think that all proposed areas should be addressed only or mainly at EU level. This is also the case for interviewees who have completed long-term studies, managers or students.

Finally, the less a person has financial difficulties, the more he tends to favour the European level, for all (or almost) the fields. There is one exception to this trend in employment and social protection: manual workers, housewives and those who have difficulty paying their bills are somewhat more likely to think that these issues would be managed more effectively at EU level.

QA23 In your opinion, at what level would the management of each of the following areas be the most effective? (% — total 'At EU level only')

	The fight against terrorism	Migration and refugees	Environment and climate change	Security and Defence Policy	Foreign policy	Energy policy	Consumer protection	Agriculture and fisheries	The economy and growth	Employment and social protection	Health
EU27	34	33	31	31	30	28	24	24	23	20	20
Gender											
Man	35	35	35	33	33	30	27	26	25	21	22
Woman	31	30	28	28	28	26	22	23	21	21	19
Age											
15-24	36	35	35	33	35	33	28	26	27	25	25
25-39	34	35	33	30	32	29	26	26	23	21	21
40-54	33	34	32	32	31	30	26	24	24	21	21
55+	32	31	28	29	28	26	21	24	22	20	19
School leaving age											
—15	28	26	25	26	27	22	19	19	19	18	17
16-19	34	32	30	29	30	28	23	23	25	22	21
20+	34	37	35	33	32	31	27	28	23	19	21
Always student	36	34	35	34	35	31	29	26	25	22	22
Socio-professional category											
Independents	35	38	33	34	31	28	25	26	23	19	21
Senior management	38	39	38	35	35	33	31	29	24	20	22
Other employees	35	34	31	30	31	29	23	23	25	20	20
Workers	32	30	30	29	29	28	24	23	24	23	21
Women/Men in the Home	32	33	27	28	28	25	21	25	24	22	19
Unemployed	28	31	26	26	26	27	23	22	23	21	23
Pensioners	31	30	28	29	28	26	21	24	21	19	19
Students	36	34	35	34	35	31	29	26	25	22	22
Difficulties in paying your bills											
Most of the time	29	28	27	23	24	26	22	20	20	23	18
From time to time	32	30	28	26	27	26	23	21	22	21	19
Almost Never/Never	34	34	33	33	32	30	26	27	25	21	21

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With the exception of taxes, the vast majority of respondents believe that these other policies would be managed at both national and European level.

A list of six additional policy areas was presented to interviewees who were asked again to indicate whether each of them should be dealt with solely or mainly at EU and national level, or only or mainly at national level⁴⁹.

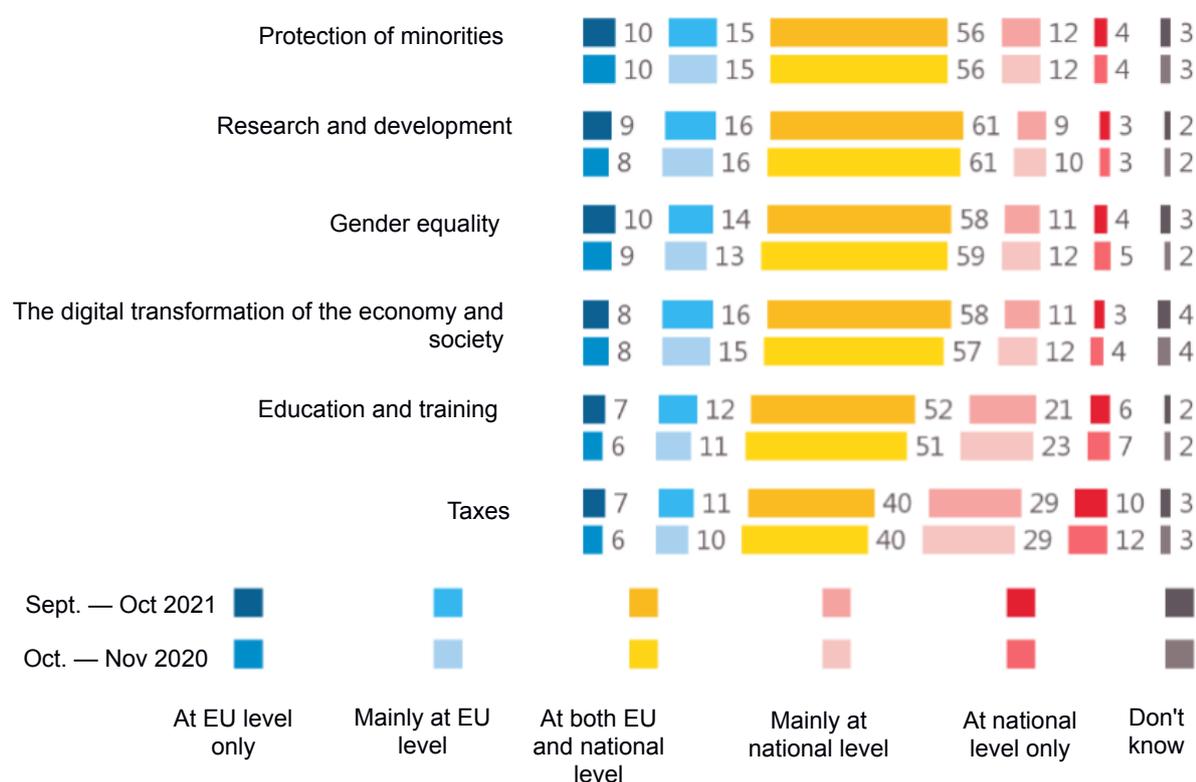
For all the areas presented, the majority of respondents believe that it would be more effective for it to be managed “both at EU and national level”. The proportions range from 61 % for research and development to 40 % for taxes. However, for taxes, it should be noted that an almost equivalent proportion thinks that they would be managed more effectively at national level (39 % versus 18 % for the European level).

For four of the six proposed areas, respondents are more likely to think that they would be managed more effectively only or mainly at EU level, rather than only or mainly at national level: protection of minorities (25 % vs. 16 %), research and development (25 % vs. 12 %), gender equality (24 % vs. 15 %) and digital transformation of the economy and society (24 % vs. 14 %).

For education and training, there is a tendency for more effective management only or mainly at national level, rather than solely or mainly at EU level (27 % versus 19 %).

Few developments have been observed since October-November 2020 (between 0 and 2 points) (Special Eurobarometer 500 on the future of Europe)⁵⁰.

QA24 And in your opinion, at what level would the management of each of the following areas be the most effective? (% — EU27)



49 Q24 And in your opinion, at what level would the management of each of the following areas be the most effective? 24.1 The digital transformation of the economy and society; 24.2 Gender equality; 24.3 Taxes; 24.4 Research and development; 24.5 Education and training; 24.6 Protection of minorities (N).

50 Special Eurobarometer 500: <https://europa.eu/eurobarometer/surveys/detail/2256>

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Protection of minorities

More than one in ten respondents in all Member States believe that the protection of minorities would be managed more effectively only or mainly at EU level, with this view being particularly widespread in Luxembourg (37 %), Germany and Austria (36 % for both).

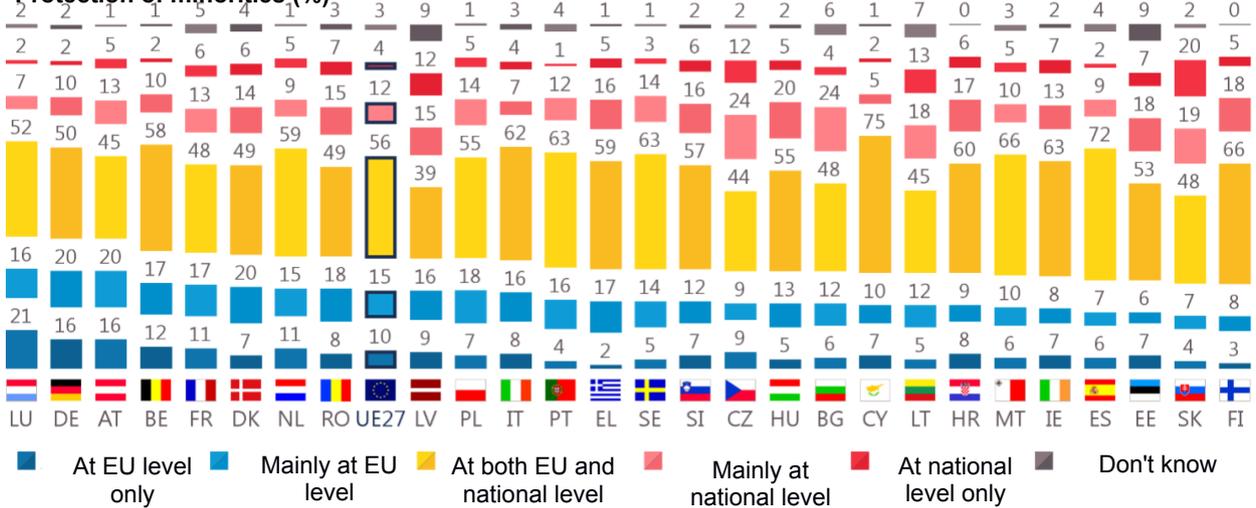
In 15 countries, respondents are more likely to think that it would be more effective to manage minority protection issues solely or mainly at European level, rather than only or mainly at national level, with particular emphasis in Luxembourg, Germany and Austria.

In the remaining 12 countries, respondents are in favour of management only or mainly at the national level, with the highest proportions in Slovakia (39 %), Czechia (36 %) and Lithuania (31 %).

The most common response, however, remains in all countries that the protection of minorities would be dealt with most effectively at both national and EU level, with the proportions ranging from 75 % in Cyprus, 72 % in Spain and 66 % in Malta and Finland to 39 % in Latvia.

QA24.6 And in your opinion, at what level would the management of each of the following areas be the most effective?

Protection of minorities (%)



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Research and development

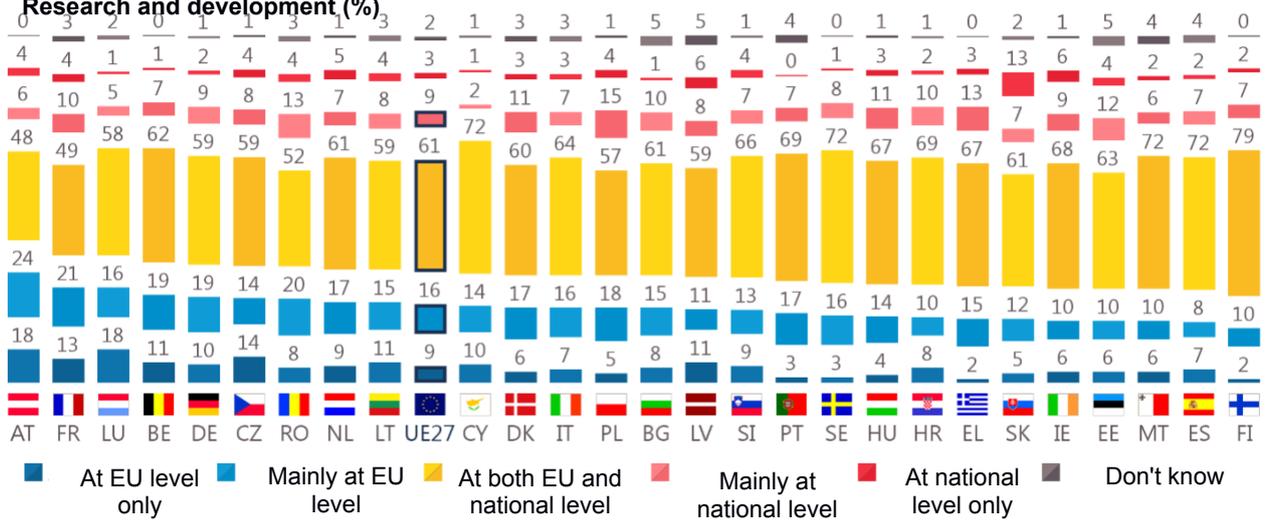
More than one in ten respondents in all Member States believe that R & D would be managed more effectively only or mainly at EU level, with this view being particularly widespread in Austria (42 %), France and Luxembourg (34 % for both). They are only 12 % in Finland to share this opinion.

In 25 countries, respondents are more likely to think that it would be more effective to manage research and development issues solely or mainly at European level, rather than only or mainly at national level, with this preference being particularly pronounced in Austria (42 %), France and Luxembourg (34 % for both). In Slovakia, there is a slight preference for management only or mainly at national level (20 % vs. 17 %), while opinion is divided in Estonia on this point.

However, the most common response remains in all countries that R & D would be treated most effectively at both national and EU level, with the proportions ranging from 79 % in Finland, 72 % in Cyprus, Sweden, Malta and Spain to 48 % in Austria and 49 % in France.

QA24.4 And in your opinion, at what level would the management of each of the following areas be the most effective?

Research and development (%)



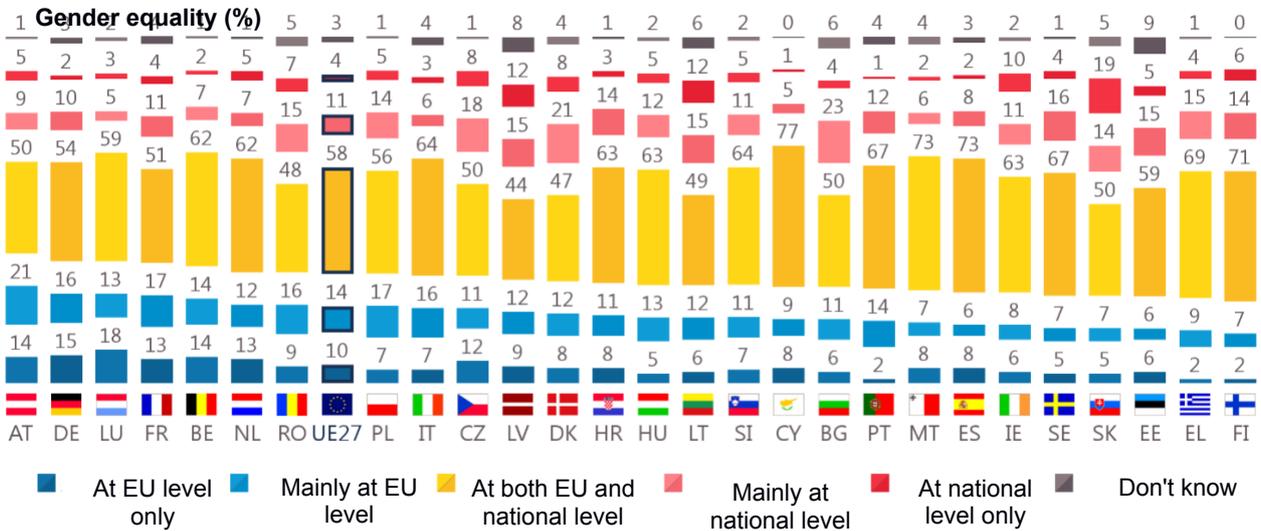
Special Eurobarometer 517, the future of Europe p.118

Gender equality

In 16 countries, respondents are more likely to think that the European level is only or mainly the most effective in managing gender equality issues than the national level, with the highest preference in Austria (35%), Germany, Luxembourg (31% for both) and France (30%). In 11 countries preference is reversed and the highest proportions for management alone or mainly at national level are recorded in Slovakia (33%), Denmark (29%) and Latvia (27%).

However, in all Member States, the most common answer is that the European and national levels are equally effective in addressing gender issues, with the highest proportions being observed in Cyprus (77%), Malta and Spain (73% for both).

QA24.2 And in your opinion, at what level would the management of each of the following areas be the most effective?



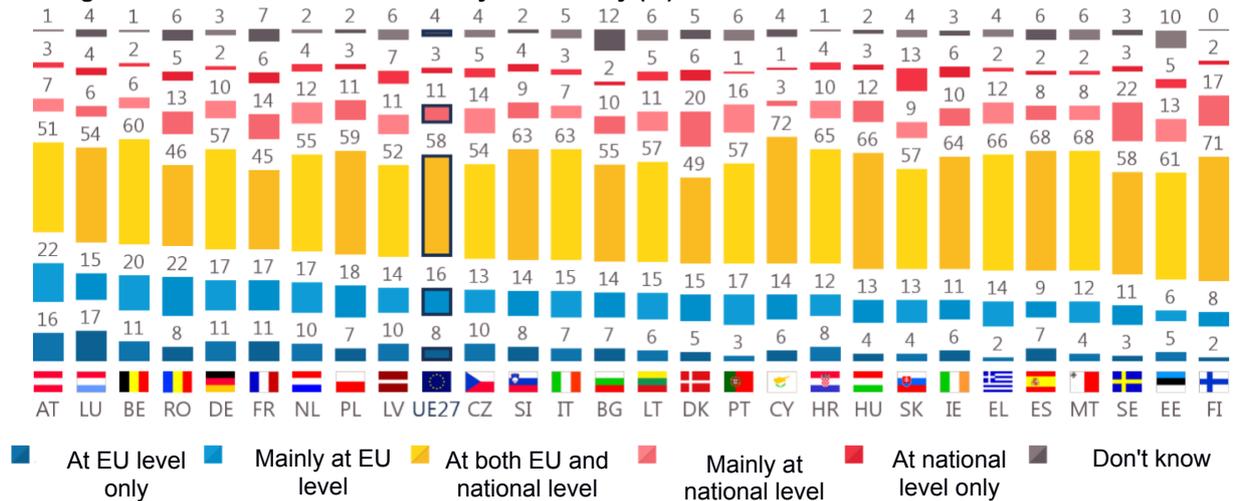
The digital transformation of the economy and society

In 22 countries, respondents expressed a preference for management only or mainly at European level, rather than only or mainly at the national level of the digital transformation of the economy and society. The highest proportions in favour of the EU level are observed in Austria (38 %), Luxembourg (32 %) and Belgium (31 %). In the remaining five countries, management alone or mainly at national level is preferred, particularly in Denmark (26 %), Sweden (25 %) and Slovakia (22 %).

Again, however, the majority of respondents in all countries believe that the digital transformation of the economy and society would be managed most effectively at both EU and national level, with the highest preference in Cyprus (72 %), Finland (71 %), Malta and Spain (68 %).

QA24.1 And in your opinion, at what level would the management of each of the following areas be the most effective?

The digital transformation of the economy and society (%)



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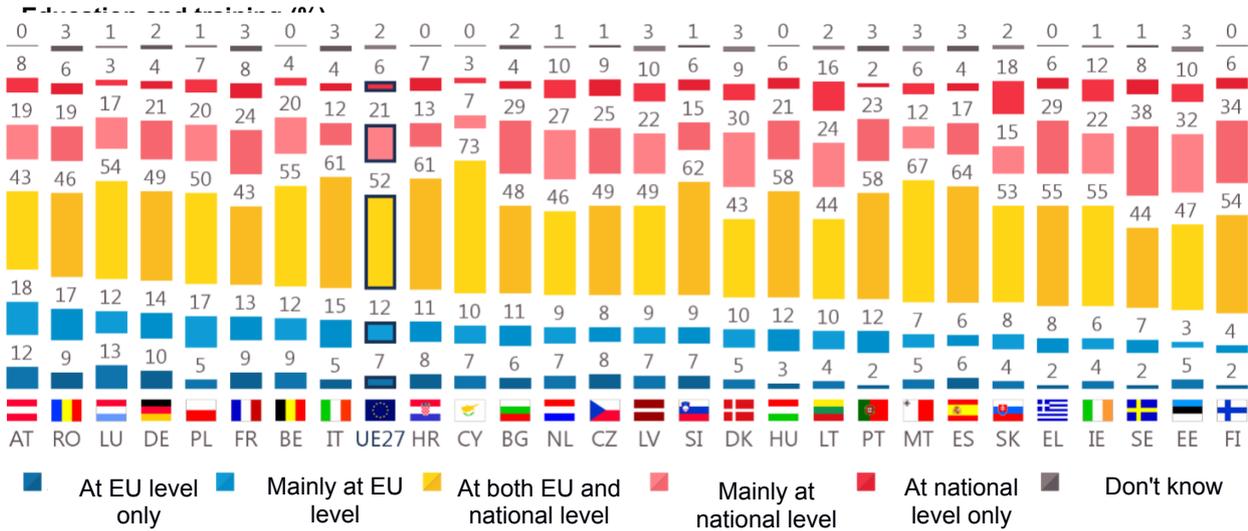
Education and training

In five countries, respondents are more likely to think that education and training management would be more effective solely or mainly at EU level rather than solely or mainly at national level: Austria (30 %), Romania (26 %), Luxembourg (25 %), Italy (20 %) and Cyprus (17 %).

In the other countries respondents favour management only or mainly at the national level, with this view being particularly widespread in Sweden (46 %), Estonia (42 %), Finland and Lithuania (40 % for both). Moreover, the preference for the national level is the dominant opinion in Sweden.

In all Member States except Sweden, however, respondents are more likely to think that education and training would benefit from effective management at both EU and national level, with this view being particularly prevalent in Cyprus (73 %), Malta (67 %) and Spain (64 %).

QA24.5 And in your opinion, at what level would the management of each of the following areas be the most effective?



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Taxes

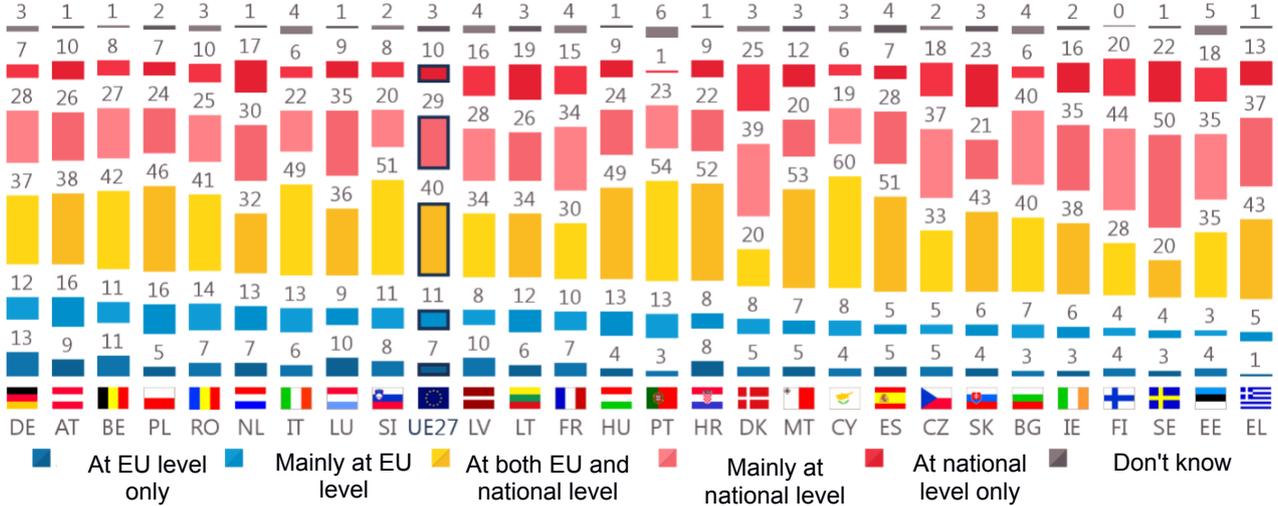
For taxes, a quarter or less of the respondents consider that the most efficient management of taxation would be solely or mainly at EU level, with the highest proportions recorded in Germany, Austria (25 % for both) and Belgium (22 %).

In all countries, respondents are more likely to think that the national level is only or mainly the most effective in managing taxes than the European level, with Sweden (72 %), Denmark and Finland (64 % in both) most likely to prefer. Moreover, in 14 countries, the most common response is for management only or mainly at the national level.

In the remaining 13 countries, respondents are more likely to think that tax management would be as effective at EU level as at national level, particularly in Cyprus (60 %), Portugal (54 %), Malta (53 %) and Croatia (52 %).

QA24.3 And in your opinion, at what level would the management of each of the following areas be the most effective?

Taxes (%)



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For most of the proposed areas, the sociodemographic data show the same trend as for the previous question (Q23): the majority of respondents in all categories believe that the different areas can be managed most effectively at both EU and national level.

The data also show that, in all cases, the younger the interviewee, the more likely they are to favour management only or mainly at EU level (total "at EU level"). This is also the case for most areas, people who have studied up to 20 years of age and older, managers and students, who are more likely to favour management only or mainly at EU level.

Finally, the less financially difficult a person is, the more likely they are to prefer the EU level regarding research and development, as well as the digital transformation of the economy and society.

There are several exceptions to this general trend: people who have dropped out of school between 16 and 19 years of age, people at home and those who have difficulty paying their bills from time to time are more likely to think that taxes would be treated most effectively at EU level. This is also the case for people who have dropped out of school between the ages of 16 and 19, manual workers and those who have difficulty paying their bills most of the time for education and training.

QA24 And in your opinion, at what level would the management of each of the following areas be the most effective? (% — total 'At national level only')

	Protection of minorities	Research and development	Gender equality	The digital transformation of the economy and society	Education and training	Taxes
EU27	25	25	24	24	19	18
Gender						
Man	27	27	26	26	20	19
Woman	23	24	21	23	19	16
Age						
15-24	29	30	28	31	24	21
25-39	27	27	25	25	20	19
40-54	27	26	25	25	20	19
55+	23	22	22	21	18	16
School leaving age						
—15	21	20	20	20	17	14
16-19	25	25	24	24	21	18
20+	27	26	25	25	18	17
Always student	28	28	28	30	22	21
Socio-professional category						
Independents	27	25	23	24	20	18
Senior management	29	26	26	26	20	18
Other employees	24	25	22	23	18	16
Workers	27	27	25	26	22	21
Women/Men in the Home	21	25	23	24	21	19
Unemployed	23	25	25	22	20	17
Pensioners	23	22	21	22	17	15
Students	28	28	28	30	22	21
Difficulties in paying your bills						
Most of the time	23	22	22	20	21	18
From time to time	24	23	23	23	20	19
Almost Never/Never	26	26	24	25	19	17

Preference for decision-making at EU or national level in the future

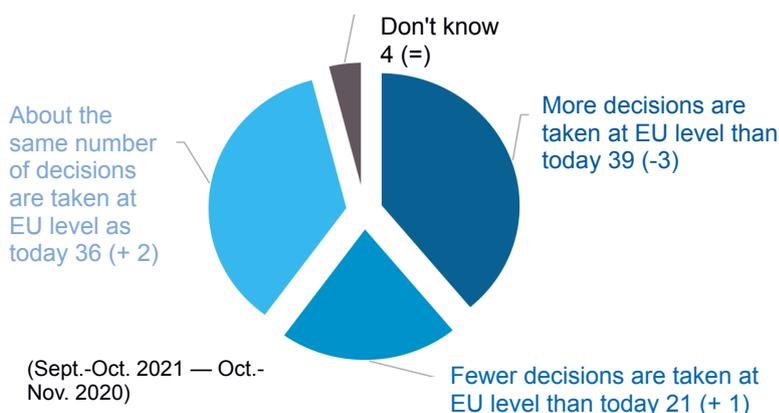
Almost four out of ten respondents (39 %) would prefer more decisions at EU level in ten years' time, while almost as many (36 %) would prefer to make around the same number of decisions at EU level as it is today.⁵¹ Just over one in five (21 %) would prefer fewer decisions at EU level in ten years' time.

The preference for increased decision-making at EU level in ten years has declined by three points since October-November 2020 (Special Eurobarometer 500 on the Future of Europe)⁵².

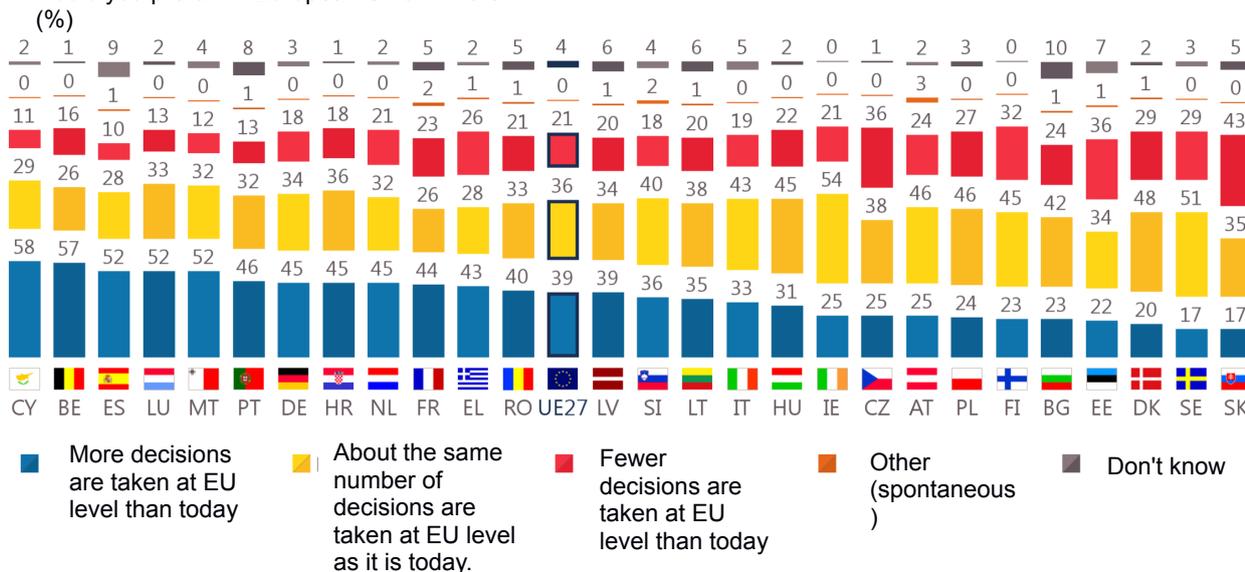
There are significant variations between countries at the national level. In 13 countries, the majority would prefer more decisions at European level, but the proportions range from 58 % in Cyprus and 57 % in Belgium to 39 % in Latvia and 40 % in Romania.

In 11 countries, including Ireland (54 %), Sweden (51 %) and Denmark (48 %), respondents are most often in favour of EU-level decision-making equivalent to today.

Slovakia (43 %) and Estonia (36 %) are the only countries where the most common response is that fewer decisions should be taken at EU level in the future.



QA25 Thinking about the long term, if you imagine how the European Union will be ten years from now, what would you prefer? A European Union where...



51 Q25 Thinking about the long term, if you imagine how the European Union will be ten years from now, what would you prefer? A European Union where... More decisions are taken at EU level than today; Fewer decisions are taken at EU level than today; About the same number of decisions are taken at EU level as it is today.

52 Special Eurobarometer 500: <https://europa.eu/eurobarometer/surveys/detail/2256>

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There has been little change in opinion at EU level since October-November 2020, but there are more marked variations at the national level.

In ten countries, respondents are now more likely to think that more decisions should be taken at EU level in ten years, with the largest increase being recorded in Malta (+ 11 points).

On the other hand, in 15 countries, notably Slovenia (-15) and Lithuania (-14), they are less likely to share this view. There are no variations in Croatia or Czechia.

QA25 Thinking about the long term, if you imagine how the European Union will be in ten years' time, what would you prefer? A European Union where... (%)

	More decisions are taken at EU level than today	September/October 2021 — October/November 2020	Fewer decisions are taken at EU level than today	September/October 2021 — October/November 2020	About the same number of decisions are taken at EU level as it is today.	September/October 2021 — October/November 2020
EU27	39	-3	21	1	36	2
MT	52	11	12	-3	32	1
CY	58	7	11	-5	29	-1
NL	45	5	21	=	32	-5
FI	23	4	32	-4	45	1
LV	39	3	20	-1	34	-4
SE	17	2	29	-6	51	3
DK	20	1	29	-4	48	2
EL	43	1	26	4	28	-5
AT	25	1	24	-4	46	8
PT	46	1	13	3	32	-3
CZ	25	=	36	-5	38	4
HR	45	=	18	=	36	=
OF	45	-2	18	=	34	1
READ	52	-2	13	1	33	=
IT	33	-3	19	-1	43	3
RO	40	-3	21	1	33	-1
EE	22	-4	36	2	34	-5
ES	52	-4	10	-2	28	3
HU	31	-4	22	1	45	3
PL	24	-4	27	3	46	1
BE	57	-5	16	2	26	3
FR	44	-7	23	5	26	1
SK	17	-7	43	3	35	1
BG	23	-8	24	1	42	3
IE	25	-8	21	2	54	6
LT	35	-14	20	2	38	5
IF	36	-15	18	4	40	6

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Socio-demographic data show that the younger the interviewee, the more likely they are to want more decisions at EU level in ten years' time. 43 % of people aged 15-24, for example, are of this opinion, compared to 36 % of older people. Respondents who studied up to 20 years of age or older (43 %) are also more likely to share this view than those who stopped them at the age of 19 years or younger. Managers and students (45 % for both) are more likely to favour more decision-making at EU level than other socio-occupational categories.

QA25 Thinking about the long term, if you imagine how the European Union will be in ten years' time, what would you prefer? A European Union where... (%)

	More decisions are taken at EU level than today	Fewer decisions are taken at EU level than today	About the same number of decisions are taken at EU level as it is today.	Don't know
EU27	39	21	36	4
Gender				
Man	40	22	34	3
Woman	38	19	37	5
Age				
15-24	43	16	37	4
25-39	42	18	36	3
40-54	38	21	37	3
55+	36	22	35	6
School leaving age				
—15	35	19	35	11
16-19	36	23	37	3
20+	43	20	34	2
Always student	45	14	37	4
Socio-professional category				
Independents	37	25	36	2
Senior management	45	16	37	2
Other employees	35	21	41	2
Workers	38	23	35	3
Women/Men in the Home	37	19	32	11
Unemployed	42	19	32	6
Pensioners	36	23	34	6
Students	45	14	37	4
Difficulties in paying your bills				
Most of the time	37	26	30	6
From time to time	36	22	36	5
Almost Never/Never	40	19	36	4

3. The EU in 2030: citizens' preferences for their society

More than eight out of ten people want solidarity in 2030 to be more important than individualism

Surveyed on their preferences for society in 2030, more than eight out of ten respondents (83 %) would like to see greater emphasis on solidarity, while 13 % would prefer greater emphasis on individualism⁵³. Only 3 % responded spontaneously that they preferred a society where both would have the same importance.

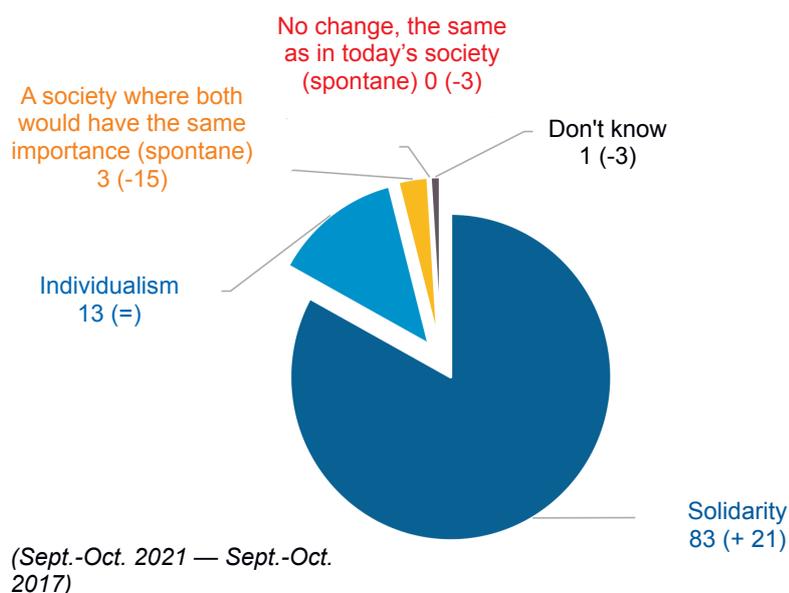
Compared to 2017, (Special Eurobarometer 467 on the future of Europe) respondents⁵⁴ are now much more likely to want European society to focus on solidarity in 2030 (+ 21 points), and fewer people want a society where solidarity and individualism would be of equal importance (-15).

Recalculating the results without taking into account spontaneous responses shows a slight increase in the preference for solidarity (from 83 % in 2017 to 87 %) and a decline in preference for individualism (from 17 % to 13 %).

In each Member State, the majority of respondents want solidarity to be more important in European society in 2030, ranging from 94 % in Spain, 93 % in Greece and 91 % in France and Luxembourg, to 58 % in Austria, 62 % in Slovakia and 68 % in Finland.

There are six countries in which at least one in five people want greater emphasis on individualism: Austria and Finland (31 % in both countries), Slovakia (25 %), Romania (24 %), Poland (22 %) and Ireland (21 %).

Bulgaria is the only country where at least one in ten respondents want a society where solidarity and individualism would be of the same importance (12 %).

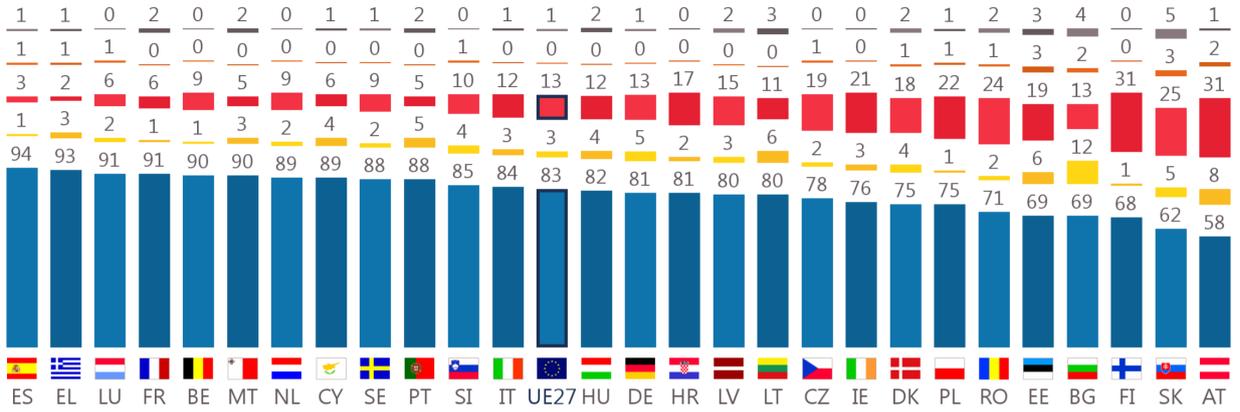


53 Q28 Let us now discuss what you want, not what you plan, for the future. In 2030, in the European Union, would you prefer a society where more importance would be given to solidarity, or more to individualism?

54 Special Eurobarometer 467: <http://ec.europa.eu/commfrontoffice/publicopinion/index.cfm/Survey/getSurveyDetail/instruments/SPECIAL/surveyKy/2179>

Special Eurobarometer 517, the future of Europe p.127

QA28 Let's now discuss what you want, not what you plan, for the future. In 2030, in the European Union, would you prefer a society where more importance would be given to solidarity, or more to individualism? (%)



Special Eurobarometer 517, the future of Europe p.128

Given the large proportion of people who wish to place more emphasis on solidarity than individualism, it may not be surprising that socio-demographic data show only rare nuances.

There were no significant differences of opinion based on age, gender, educational attainment, occupation, financial situation or social class indicated by the interviewee.

QA28 Let's now discuss what you want, not what you plan, for the future. In 2030, in the European Union, would you prefer a society where more importance would be given to solidarity, or more to individualism? (% — EU)

	Solidarity	Individualism	A society where both would have the same importance (Spontané)	No change, the same as in today's society (Spontané)	Don't know
EU27	83	13	3	0	1
Gender					
Man	81	15	3	0	1
Woman	85	11	3	0	1
Age					
15-24	82	14	3	0	1
25-39	81	15	3	0	1
40-54	83	13	3	0	1
55+	84	11	3	0	2
School leaving age					
—15	85	9	4	0	2
16-19	81	14	3	1	1
20+	85	11	3	0	1
Always student	83	13	3	0	1
Socio-professional category					
Independents	83	13	3	0	1
Senior management	85	12	3	0	0
Other employees	83	13	3	0	1
Workers	79	17	2	1	1
Women/Men in the Home	83	11	3	1	2
Unemployed	84	11	2	1	2
Pensioners	85	9	4	0	2
Students	83	13	3	0	1
Difficulties in paying your bills					
Most of the time	82	13	3	1	1
From time to time	79	17	2	1	1
Almost Never/Never	85	11	3	0	1
Considers to belong to					
The working class	83	11	3	1	2
Lower middle class	80	16	4	0	0
The middle class	84	12	3	0	1
The upper middle class	84	12	2	1	1
The upper class	82	16	0	0	2

Special Eurobarometer 517, the future of Europe p.129

As regards preference for individual order or freedom in the EU of 2030, no clear trend emerges even if there is an accentuation of the polarisation of opinions.

As to whether they would prefer European society in 2030 to give greater importance to individual order or freedom, no clear consensus emerged among the respondents⁵⁵. More than four in ten (46 %) prefer greater emphasis on individual freedom, while 45 % prefer order. More than one in twenty (7 %) spontaneously responded that they would prefer a society where both would have the same importance.

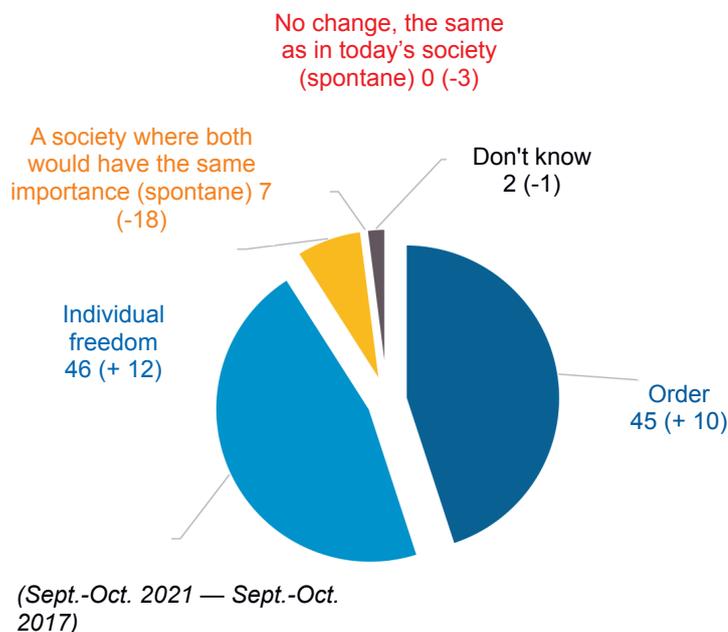
Compared to 2017 (Special Eurobarometer 467 on the Future of Europe)⁵⁶, more respondents are now more likely to favour individual freedom (+ 12 points) or order (+ 10), to the detriment of those who prefer a society where both would be of the same importance (-18).

By excluding spontaneous responses from the calculation, there is a great similarity with the results obtained in 2017: in both cases, opinions are almost equitably divided between those who prefer order and those who prefer individual freedom (2017: 51 % versus 49 %; 2021: 49 % versus 51 %).

In 14 Member States, the majority of respondents prefer that European society in 2030 place greater emphasis on order, particularly in Malta (59 %), Spain and Finland (56 % in both countries) and Poland (55 %).

In 12 countries, most respondents want greater emphasis on individual freedom, especially in Greece and the Netherlands (59 % in both countries) and Austria (58 %).

QA28 And in 2030, in the European Union, would you prefer a society where more importance would be given to order, or to individual freedom? (% — EU27)

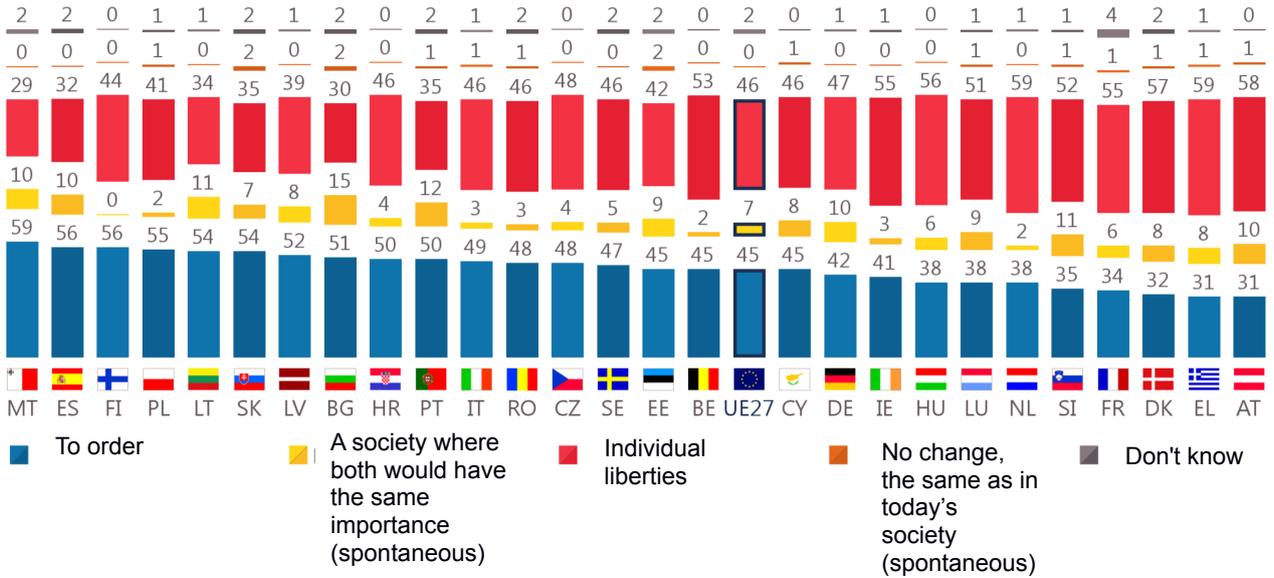


55 Q29 And in 2030, in the European Union, would you prefer a society where more importance would be given to order, or to individual freedom?

56 Special Eurobarometer 467: <http://ec.europa.eu/commfrontoffice/publicopinion/index.cfm/Survey/getSurveyDetail/instruments/SPECIAL/surveyKy/2179>

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QA29 And in 2030, in the European Union, would you prefer a society where more importance would be given to order, or to individual freedom? (%)



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Socio-demographic data confirm that in most socio-demographic groups, respondents want individual freedom to be more important than order in European society in 2030. This trend is observed among men (48 %), respondents aged 15 to 54, those who completed their studies at the age of 20 or over (49 %), those with the greatest difficulty in paying their bills (47 %), and in all occupations except home and retirement.

The categories that are exceptional, and want greater attention to be given to order, are those over 55 years of age (52 %), those who have dropped out of school at the age of 15 or less (56 %), retired persons (54 %) and those in the household (48 %).

Opinions are perfectly balanced or almost balanced among women, those who have completed their studies between the ages of 16 and 19, and those who have time and time, almost never or never difficulty paying their bills.

QA29 And in 2030, in the European Union, would you prefer a society where more importance would be given to order, or to individual freedom? (% — EU)

	To order	Individual liberties	A society where both would have the same importance (Spontané)	No change, the same as in today's society (Spontané)	Don't know
EU27	45	46	7	0	2
Gender					
Man	44	48	6	1	1
Woman	46	45	7	0	2
Age					
15-24	36	56	6	0	2
25-39	38	55	6	0	1
40-54	44	48	6	1	1
55+	52	39	7	0	2
School leaving age					
—15	56	34	7	1	2
16-19	46	47	6	0	1
20+	42	49	8	0	1
Always student	37	56	6	0	1
Socio-professional category					
Independents	42	50	6	0	2
Senior management	42	51	6	0	1
Other employees	44	51	5	0	0
Workers	43	49	6	1	1
Women/Men in the Home	48	43	6	0	3
Unemployed	39	50	8	1	2
Pensioners	54	36	8	0	2
Students	37	56	6	0	1
Difficulties in paying your bills					
Most of the time	43	47	7	2	1
From time to time	46	47	5	1	1
Almost Never/Never	45	46	7	0	2

VI. GENERAL ISSUES RELATED TO THE FUTURE OF EUROPE

1. Democracy

Citizens believe that voting in elections is the best way to ensure that their vote is heard

This chapter focuses on general issues that are relevant to the Conference on the Future of Europe. It begins by discussing issues related to democracy in the European Union, such as how citizens can make their voice heard at national and EU level, whether decisions on the future of Europe should take more account of citizens' views, and whether there is still much to be done to strengthen democracy in the European Union. The chapter then addresses citizens' participation in debates on the future of the European Union, and in particular the people with whom Europeans would like to discuss the future of Europe, and whether they would like their views to be taken more into account in decisions taken at local, national and European level.

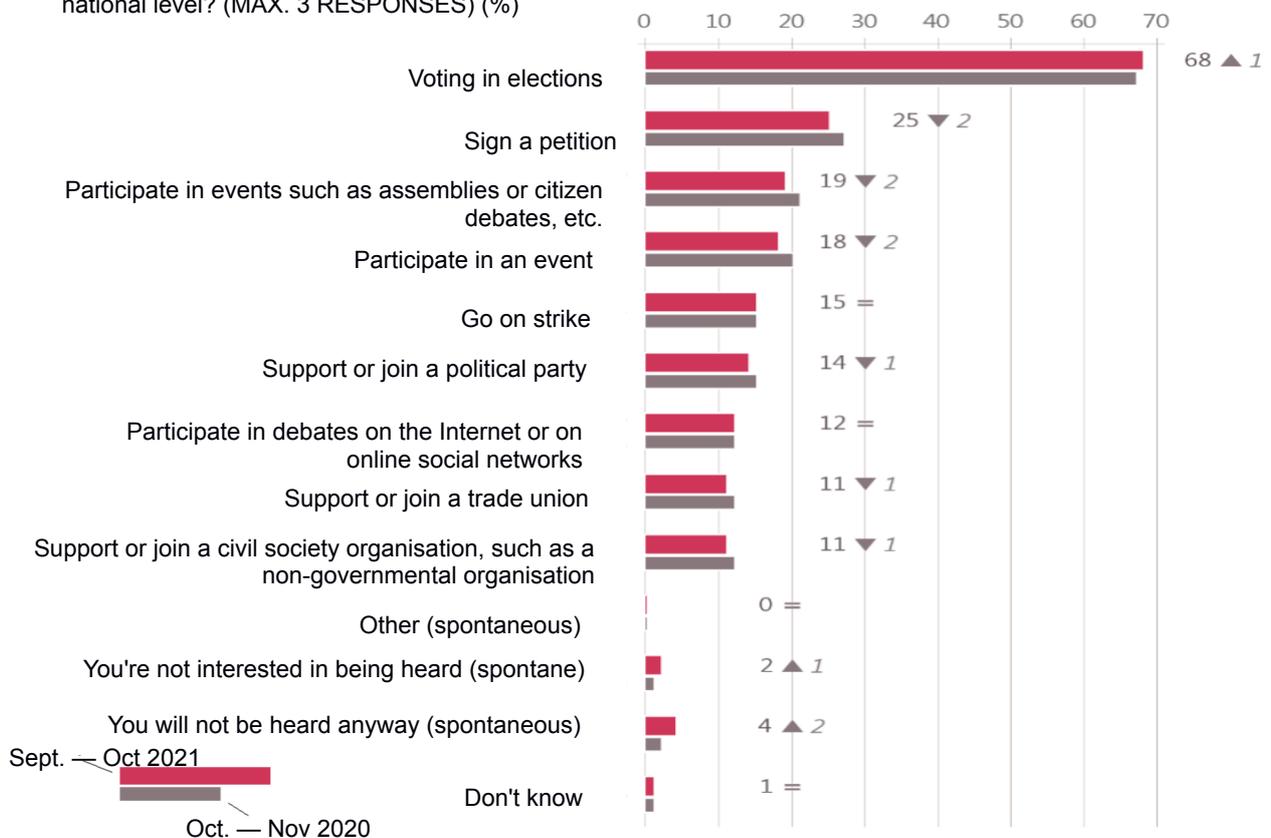
Interviewees were asked to indicate what they see as the best ways to ensure that their voice is heard by decision-makers at the national level, selecting three responses from a list of nine.

Two thirds of the respondents (68 %, + 1 point compared to the Special Eurobarometer 500 on the Future of Europe⁵⁷) say that voting in elections is the best way to ensure that their vote is heard, making it by far the best answer. For one in four (25 %, -2), it is "signing a petition", while about one in five responds to "participating in events such as assemblies or debates" (19 %, -2) or "participate in an event" (18 %, -2).

Strike is the best way for 15 % of respondents (=), while a similar proportion (14 %, -1) quotes "Supporting or joining a political party". The other responses are each popular with about one in ten respondents: participate in online debates (12 %, =), support or join a civil society organisation, such as a non-governmental organisation (11 %, -1) and support or join a trade union (11 %, -1).

Overall, 6 % of Europeans spontaneously replied that they "would not be heard anyway" or that "it does not interest them to be heard" (+ 3).

QA1 Of the following, what are the best ways to ensure that your voice is heard by decision-makers at the national level? (MAX. 3 RESPONSES) (%)



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In all Member States, voting in elections is considered the best way to ensure that citizens' votes are heard by decision-makers at national level. Respondents in Finland (91 %), Sweden (87 %), Denmark (86 %) and the Netherlands (82 %) were the most likely to have chosen this answer. Respondents in Slovakia (51 %), Italy, Poland and Romania (52 % in these three countries) are the lowest.

Respondents in the Netherlands (40 %) and Finland (38 %) are most likely to say that signing a petition is one of the best ways to ensure that their voice is heard. Participation in events such as assemblies or debates is most frequently cited by people in Germany (29 %) and Denmark (27 %).

	Voting in elections	Sign a petition	Participate in events such as assemblies or citizen debates, etc.	Participate in an event	Go on strike	Support or join a political party	Participate in debates on the internet or on online social networks	Support or join a trade union	Support or join a civil society organisation, such as a non-governmental organisation	You will not be heard anyway (Spontane)	You're not interested in being heard (Spontane)
EU27	68	25	19	18	15	14	12	11	11	4	2
BE	68	31	21	15	13	17	14	16	14	2	1
BG	62	17	11	20	13	18	14	6	8	9	2
CZ	71	34	19	14	12	17	11	5	12	2	1
DK	86	29	27	8	9	22	13	28	10	1	1
OF	78	29	29	19	9	17	12	9	10	2	1
EE	67	8	16	5	6	12	12	6	12	9	2
IE	77	33	13	17	12	13	13	11	11	0	0
EL	67	23	23	18	17	8	19	6	9	8	4
ES	70	14	12	22	20	7	9	7	4	6	2
FR	71	28	14	22	17	8	10	10	11	5	1
HR	60	33	21	18	13	14	18	10	16	2	1
IT	52	20	20	20	24	16	11	14	14	5	2
CY	64	19	13	16	12	11	12	8	7	12	2
LV	64	14	10	7	9	7	16	7	10	9	1
LT	62	24	14	12	10	5	19	6	7	9	2
READ	72	34	12	14	8	11	12	12	11	1	1
HU	74	23	11	8	7	11	12	9	9	2	2
MT	78	32	7	15	11	21	13	9	10	2	1
NL	82	40	24	11	6	31	13	22	20	1	0
AT	66	25	22	17	13	20	12	16	14	3	3
PL	52	24	17	21	15	9	14	12	15	2	3
PT	61	12	12	19	16	14	8	12	3	13	3
RO	52	18	19	20	13	12	15	11	15	4	3
IF	69	26	13	13	10	11	10	9	12	4	4
SK	51	34	20	13	18	11	15	6	9	5	7
FI	91	38	14	7	10	24	11	24	15	0	0
SE	87	21	14	12	8	42	15	27	26	0	0

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Socio-demographic results are generally similar among men and women, although women are slightly more likely than men to declare that signing a petition is one of the best ways to ensure that their voice is heard by decision-makers at national level (26 % vs. 23 %).

Differences are also noted by age. Young people surveyed are more likely to respond to an event (33 % of people aged 15-24 compared to 13 % of those aged 55 or over), while older respondents are more likely to say that voting in elections is the best way for citizens to have their votes heard (72 % of people aged 55 or over versus 55 % of those aged 15-24).

Differences also occur depending on the level of education. Respondents who continued their studies until the age of 20 or older are more likely to choose multiple responses, including signing a petition (28 % versus 16 % of those who dropped out of school at the age of 15) and participate in events such as assemblies or debates (23 % vs. 12 %).

Respondents who have difficulty paying their bills most of the time are less likely to vote in elections (53 % versus 72 %).

QA1 Of the following, what are the best ways to ensure that your voice is heard by decision-makers at the national level? (MAX. 3 REPLIES) (% — EU)

	Voting in elections	Sign a petition	Participate in events such as assemblies or citizen debates, etc.	Participate in an event	Go on strike	Support or join a political party	Participate in debates on the internet or on online social networks	Support or join a trade union	Support or join a civil society organisation, such as a non-governmental organisation	You will not be heard anyway (Spontane)	You're not interested in being heard (Spontane)
EU27	68	25	19	18	15	14	12	11	11	4	2
Gender											
Man	67	23	20	19	17	16	13	12	12	4	1
Woman	68	26	18	18	13	12	11	11	11	4	2
Age											
15-24	55	25	18	33	22	15	21	9	10	3	2
25-39	65	26	20	22	17	17	16	14	14	3	1
40-54	68	27	21	19	17	15	12	13	14	4	1
55+	72	23	18	13	11	12	8	10	9	5	3
School leaving age											
—15	67	16	12	13	13	9	6	8	4	8	5
16-19	65	25	19	18	16	12	11	11	10	4	2
20+	74	28	23	18	13	18	13	14	16	3	1
Always student	59	26	20	34	22	17	23	10	11	1	1
Socio-professional category											
Independents	67	27	22	18	15	17	14	8	14	3	1
Senior management	73	27	26	19	12	20	13	17	19	2	1
Other employees	69	27	20	19	16	15	16	13	15	2	2
Workers	64	24	18	21	19	12	12	14	9	5	2
Women/Men in the Home	62	21	14	16	15	10	8	9	9	8	3
Unemployed	55	24	17	25	19	13	12	13	9	8	2
Pensioners	74	23	17	11	9	11	7	8	8	5	3
Students	59	26	20	34	22	17	23	10	11	1	1
Difficulties in paying your bills											
Most of the time	53	21	15	21	19	13	10	10	12	10	3
From time to time	59	21	17	21	19	14	13	13	11	5	2
Almost Never/Never	72	27	20	17	13	14	12	11	12	3	2

Voting in the European elections is considered the best way to ensure that its voice is heard by decision-makers at EU level

Interviewees were presented with a range of ways in which EU citizens could potentially ensure that their voice is heard by decision-makers at EU level, and were able to select up to three answers to describe which ones seemed to be the best methods. Overall, the findings are similar to those found at the national level above. In other words, Europeans believe that the best ways for citizens to make their voices heard are the same at European level as at national level.

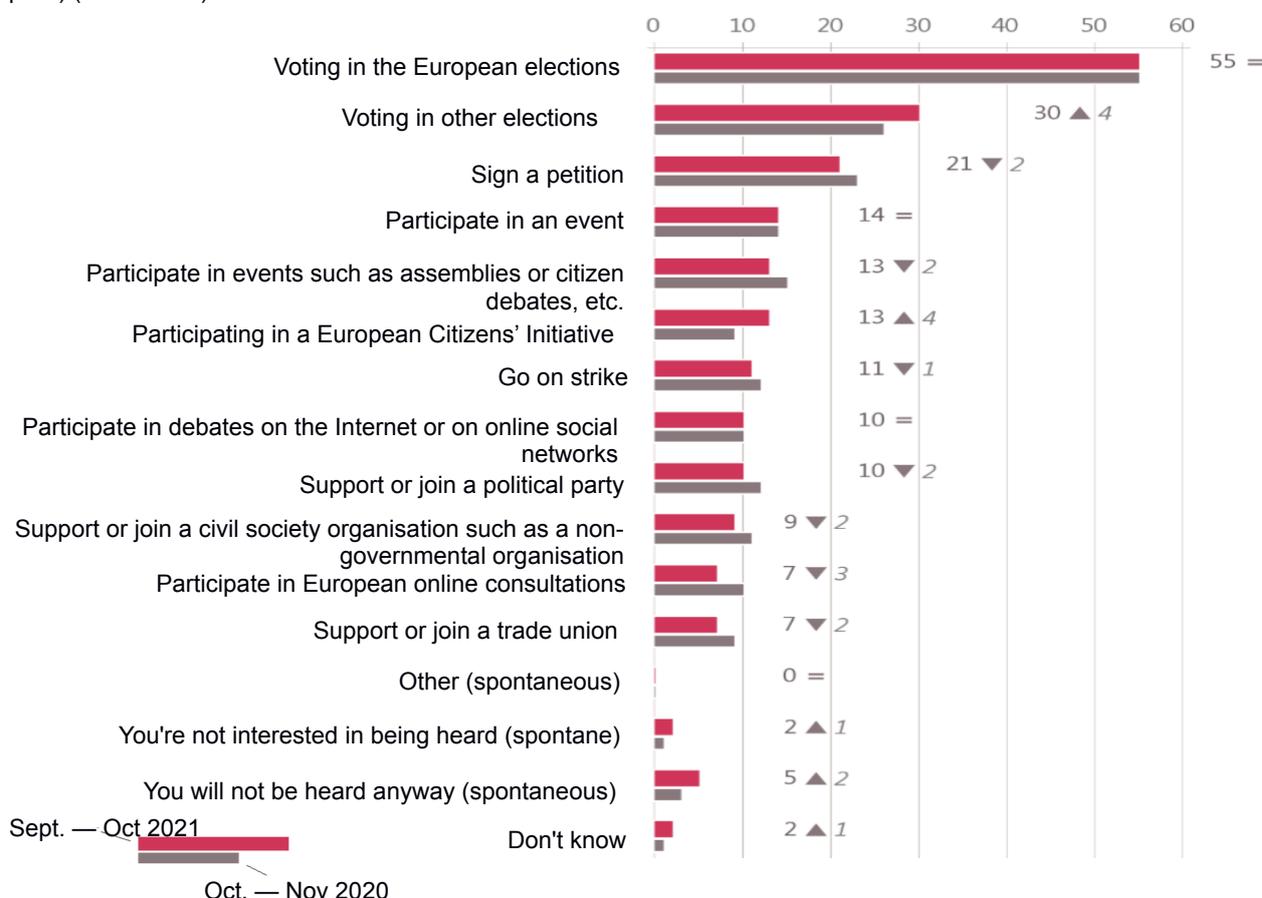
Voting in the European elections is clearly seen as the best way to ensure that its voice is heard by decision-makers at EU level, as evidenced by the 55 % of Europeans who chose this answer (no change since the Special Eurobarometer 500 on the future of Europe carried out in 2020)⁵⁸.

The lead platoon was completed by voting in other elections (30 %, + 4 points) and signed a petition (21 %, -2), cited by at least one in five respondents.

Other forms of political participation, cited by more than 10 % of Europeans, are as follows: participate in an event (14 %, =), participate in events such as assemblies or debates (13 %, -2) and participate in a European Citizens' Initiative (13 %, + 4) and go on strike (11 %, -1).

According to one in ten people, the best way to make their voice heard is to support or join a political party (10 %, -2), to participate in debates on the internet or online social networks (10 %, =) or to support or join a civil society organisation, such as a non-governmental organisation (9 %, -2). Participating in European online consultations (7 %, -3) or supporting or joining a trade union (7 %, -2) is mentioned by less than one in ten. Overall, 7 % of Europeans feel that they would not be heard anyway or that they are not interested in being heard (+ 3).

QA2 Of the following, what are the best ways to ensure that your voice is heard by decision-makers at EU level? (Max. 3 replies) (% — EU27)

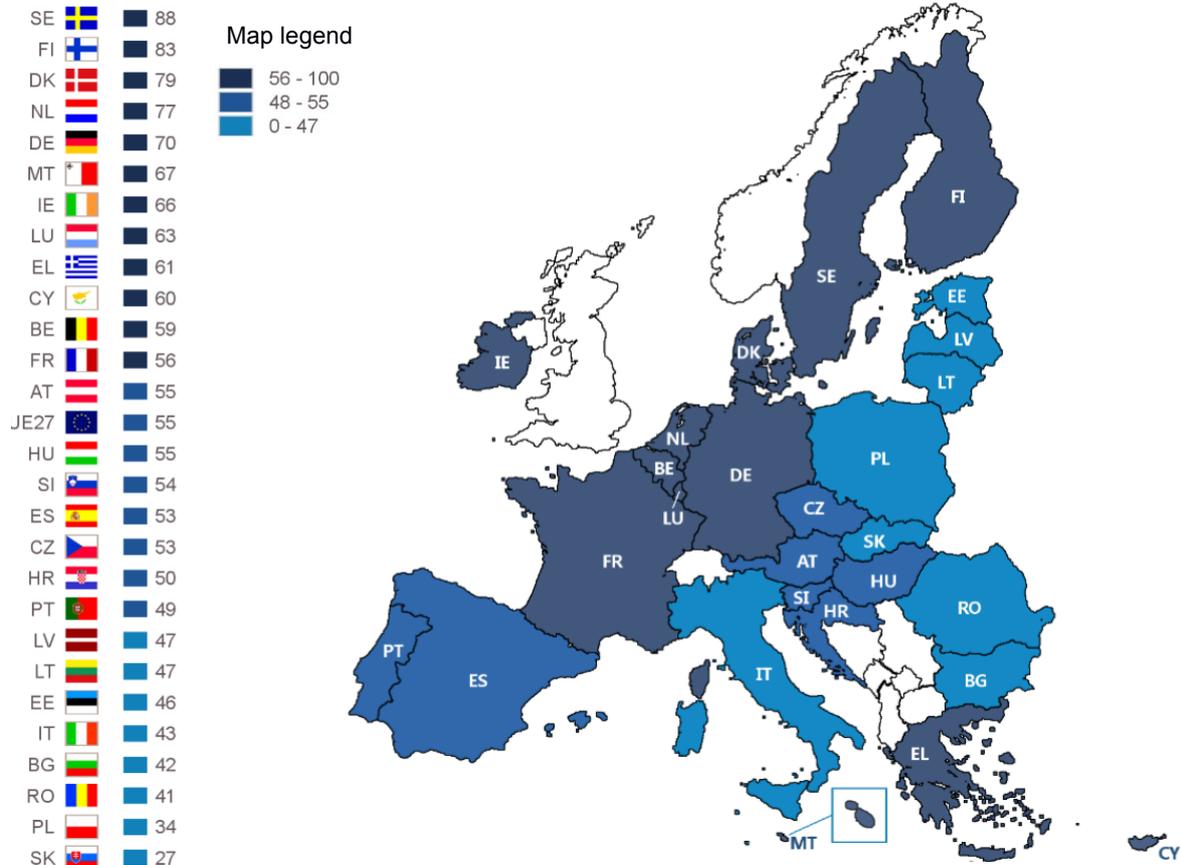


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Across the European Union, most respondents say that voting in the European elections is the best way to ensure that their voice is heard by decision-makers at EU level. This response is also the most cited in each of the Member States, except for Slovakia (where “signing a petition” is the most cited answer, 33 %). However, the proportion of respondents who chose this response varies considerably from country to country.

Northern Europe is the largest proportion of respondents reporting that this is the best way to make their voices heard, particularly in Sweden (88 %), Finland (83 %), Denmark (79 %) and the Netherlands (77 %). The lowest proportions are observed in Slovakia (27 %), Poland (34 %), Romania (41 %), Bulgaria (42 %) and Italy (43 %).

QA2 Of the following, what are the best ways to ensure that your voice is heard by decision-makers at EU level? (MAX. 3 RESPONSES) (%)



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As mentioned above, voting in the European elections in 26 Member States is considered the best way for citizens to ensure that their voice is heard by decision-makers at EU level. Voting in other elections, which is among the top three responses in each country, has the highest proportions in Ireland (42 %), Cyprus, Finland and Malta (40 % in these three countries). It has the lowest proportions in Portugal and the Czech Republic (18 %) in these two countries.

In addition to being the most cited answer in Slovakia, signing a petition appears in the top trio in 19 other countries. It has the highest proportions in Slovakia (33 %), the Czech Republic (32 %) and Malta (30 %), and the lowest in Estonia (7 %) and Portugal (9 %).

Moreover, in some countries, a significant proportion of respondents refer to other responses. In Sweden, for example, 34 % say they support or join a political party, while in Finland 32 % of respondents report participating in a European Citizens' Initiative. In Portugal, 18 % of respondents spontaneously replied that their voice would not be heard anyway, a proportion well above the European average (5 %).

QA2 Of the following, what are the best ways to ensure that your voice is heard by decision-makers at EU level? (MAX. 3 RESPONSES) (%)

	Voting in the European elections	Voting in other elections	Sign a petition	Participate in an event	Participate in events such as assemblies or citizen debates, etc.	Participating in a European Citizens' Initiative	Go on strike	Support or join a trade union	Participate in debates on the internet or on online social networks	Support or join a civil society organisation, such as a non-governmental organisation	Support or join a trade union	Participate in European online consultations	You will not be heard anyway (Spontane)	You're not interested in being heard (Spontane)
EU27	55	30	21	14	13	13	11	10	10	9	7	7	5	2
BE	59	23	27	11	12	16	7	11	11	10	9	15	2	2
BG	42	33	15	14	11	10	10	11	13	8	5	7	11	2
CZ	53	18	32	13	13	17	10	10	10	7	4	8	2	1
DK	79	36	19	6	11	13	2	15	8	10	8	7	1	1
OF	70	38	26	14	17	14	6	12	10	8	5	5	3	1
EE	46	27	7	4	10	10	4	9	11	8	4	5	12	3
IE	66	42	28	14	9	10	7	10	10	7	7	6	1	0
EL	61	30	21	14	20	12	11	4	15	9	5	6	11	4
ES	53	30	14	14	7	9	16	4	7	4	5	5	7	3
FR	56	25	22	15	10	10	12	6	8	7	7	5	7	2
HR	50	30	29	14	15	17	9	8	15	13	7	8	2	2
IT	43	24	18	16	14	16	19	13	10	14	11	8	5	2
CY	60	40	18	11	9	12	7	7	10	5	3	6	12	3
LV	47	21	12	6	9	9	8	6	13	7	5	5	11	3
LT	47	33	21	7	9	16	7	3	13	4	4	6	10	2
READ	63	30	27	11	8	8	8	7	12	7	8	8	1	1
HU	55	34	20	6	10	11	5	7	9	7	7	8	3	3
MT	67	40	30	12	5	9	6	17	13	6	7	10	1	3
NL	77	28	27	5	9	23	2	20	10	12	8	17	2	0
AT	55	38	20	10	15	16	10	12	13	10	9	7	5	2
PL	34	30	24	18	15	13	10	9	11	11	10	11	3	4
PT	49	18	9	14	9	7	11	10	7	3	9	4	18	4
RO	41	34	17	15	14	13	11	6	11	11	7	10	6	3
IF	54	23	22	10	10	11	7	8	10	10	5	6	5	5
SK	27	22	33	11	15	10	14	7	12	8	5	8	6	7
FI	83	40	25	5	5	32	5	13	6	12	6	6	1	0
SE	88	35	16	8	8	12	3	34	10	17	8	4	1	0

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Variations from one socio-demographic group to another are similar to those noted above in terms of how to make themselves heard at the national level.

Older people are more likely to cite "voting in the European elections" (58 % of people aged 55 or over compared to 46 % of those aged 15-24) and "voting in other elections" (33 % versus 23 %). Younger respondents are more likely to opt for other responses, such as "participating in a demonstration" (24 % of those between 15 and 24 years of age compared with 10 % of those aged 55 or over). There are no gender differences.

However, differences arise depending on the level of education. Respondents who continued their studies until the age of 20 or older are more likely to cite several answers, such as "voting in the European elections" (64 % versus 50 % of those who left school at the age of 15) and sign a petition (23 % vs. 15 %).

For socio-professional groups, voting in the European elections obtained its highest proportion among managers (64 %) and the lowest among unemployed people (43 %).

Respondents who have difficulty paying their bills most of the time are less likely to answer "vote in the European elections" (40 % versus 61 %) or "other elections" (23 % versus 32 %).

Respondents with a generally positive image of the European Union are more likely to say that "voting in the European elections" is one of the best ways to make one's voice heard (63 % versus 38 % of those who have a negative image of the European Union), and are also more likely to cite "voting in other elections" (33 % vs. 23 %).

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QA2 Of the following, what are the best ways to ensure that your voice is heard by decision-makers at EU level? (MAX. 3 REPLIES) (% — EU)

	Voting in the European elections	Voting in other elections	Sign a petition	Participate in an event	Participate in events such as assemblies or citizen debates, etc.	Participating in a European Citizens' Initiative	Go on strike	Support or join a political party	Participate in debates on the internet or on online social networks	Support or join a civil society organisation, such as a non-governmental organisation	Support or join a trade union	Participate in European online consultations	You will not be heard anyway (Spontane)	You're not interested in being heard (Spontane)	Don't know
EU27	55	30	21	14	13	13	11	10	10	9	7	7	5	2	2
Gender															
Man	55	30	20	15	12	14	12	11	11	10	8	8	5	2	2
Woman	55	30	22	13	13	13	10	9	9	8	6	7	5	3	2
Age															
15-24	46	23	23	24	13	14	17	11	17	9	7	8	3	2	3
25-39	54	28	23	15	13	16	12	11	13	12	8	10	4	1	1
40-54	56	30	22	13	14	16	11	11	9	11	8	9	5	1	1
55+	58	33	19	10	12	10	8	8	6	7	6	5	6	3	2
School leaving age															
—15	50	32	15	12	9	7	12	7	4	4	6	3	8	6	3
16-19	51	31	22	14	13	12	12	9	10	8	8	6	5	2	2
20+	64	29	23	11	14	18	8	12	11	13	7	10	4	1	1
Always student	50	23	23	24	14	16	17	13	18	10	7	8	2	1	2
Socio-professional category															
Independents	59	29	23	15	14	14	9	12	11	11	6	8	5	2	2
Senior management	64	30	22	11	13	20	8	14	12	15	7	11	2	1	1
Other employees	56	31	24	12	12	16	13	10	11	10	7	10	2	2	1
Workers	50	29	21	15	13	13	14	8	10	8	9	7	6	2	1
Women/Men in the Home	45	30	18	14	12	9	13	9	7	7	6	7	8	4	4
Unemployed	43	24	23	20	12	13	12	9	10	9	9	5	8	3	3
Pensioners	60	34	19	9	11	9	7	8	5	6	5	4	6	4	3
Students	50	23	23	24	14	16	17	13	18	10	7	8	2	1	2
Difficulties in paying your bills															
Most of the time	40	23	16	16	12	11	15	9	9	8	10	6	13	3	2
From time to time	45	27	20	15	13	13	15	10	11	10	9	7	6	3	2
Almost Never/Never	61	32	22	13	13	14	9	10	9	9	6	7	4	2	2
Image of the EU															
Positive	63	33	22	13	14	16	10	11	10	10	7	8	2	1	2
Neutral	49	28	20	13	11	11	11	8	9	8	7	6	7	3	3
Negative	38	23	21	17	11	10	17	9	10	8	7	6	11	4	2

Many European citizens would like their views to be taken more into account in decisions on the future of Europe, and believe that much more needs to be done to strengthen and protect democracy in the European Union.

A very large majority of Europeans (90 %, -2 points compared to the Special Eurobarometer 500 on the future of Europe carried out in 2020⁵⁹) agree that the voices of EU citizens should be more taken into account in decisions on the future of Europe. Overall, about half (52 %, -3) “strongly agree” with this statement, while 38 % (+ 1) are “rather agree” and only 7 % (+ 1) disagree.

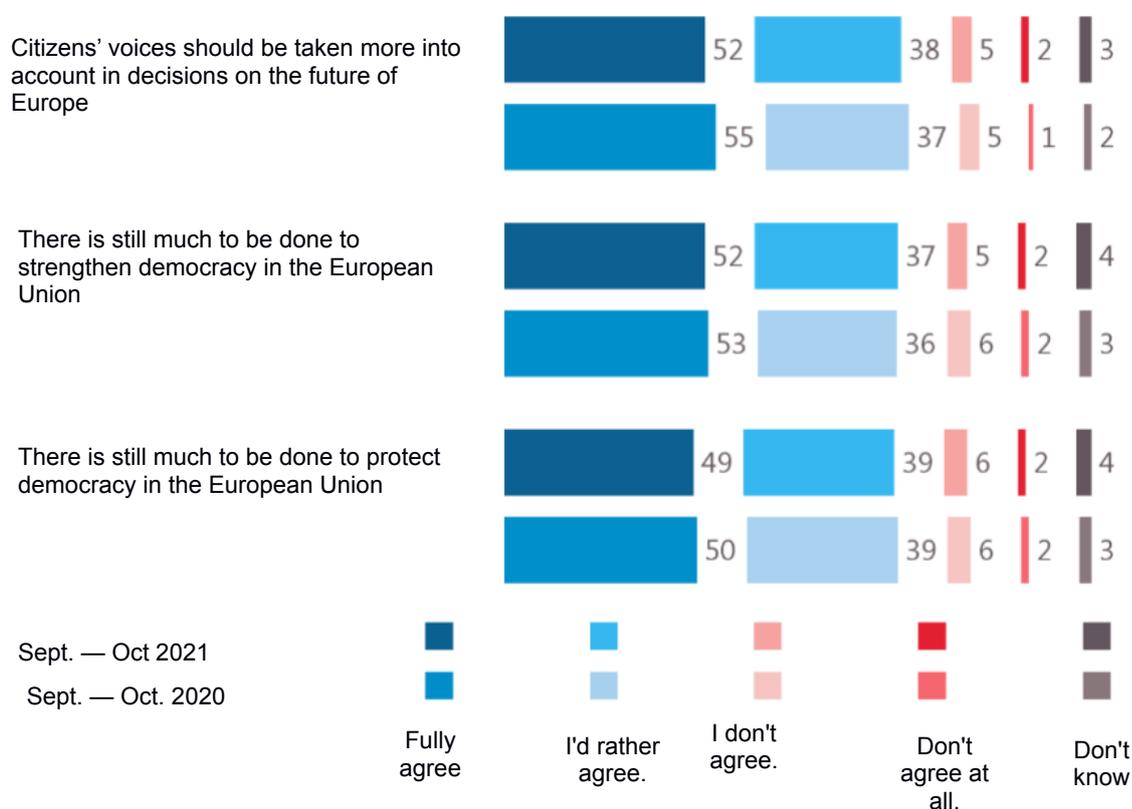
About nine out of ten respondents (89 %, =) agree that there is still much to be done to strengthen democracy in the European Union, and 7 % (-1) disagree. A similar proportion (88 %, -1) agrees that there is still much to be done to protect democracy in the European Union, while 8 % (=) disagree.

The voices of the citizens of the European Union should be taken more into account in decisions on the future of Europe

In the EU Member States, interviewees agree that the voices of EU citizens should be more taken into account when deciding on the future of Europe. In all countries, more than eight out of ten respondents agree with this statement.

This view is particularly shared in Greece (97 %), Portugal, Finland (96 % in both countries), Slovakia and Croatia (94 % in both countries). The countries with the lowest number of votes were Romania (81 %), Estonia (84 %) and the Netherlands (85 %). The proportion of people “strongly agreed” with this statement is highest in Cyprus (73 %), Greece (70 %) and Malta (68 %), and the lowest in Poland and Denmark (41 % in both countries).

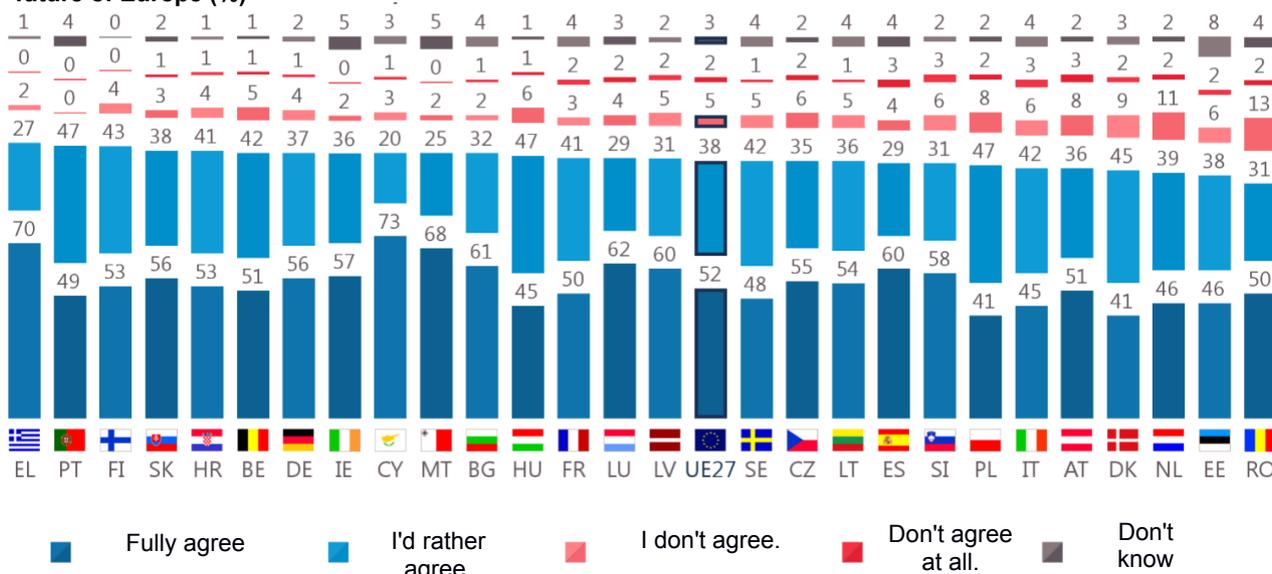
QA4 To what extent do you agree or disagree with each of the following statements? (% — EU27)



59 Special Eurobarometer 500: <https://europa.eu/eurobarometer/surveys/detail/2256>

QA4.1 To what extent do you agree or disagree with each of the following statements?

The voice of the citizens of the European Union should be taken more into account in decisions on the future of Europe (%)



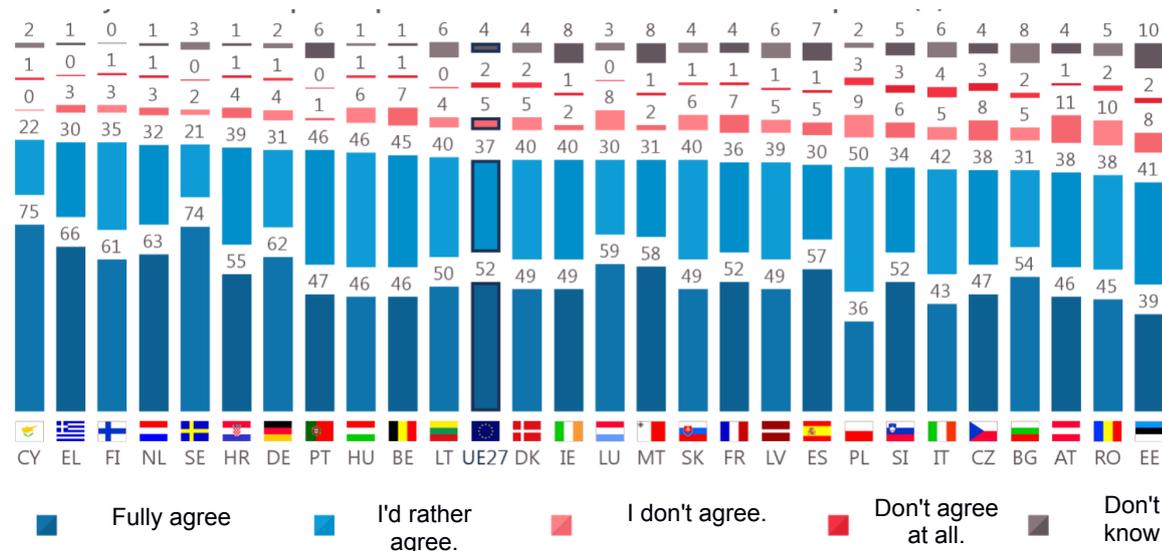
There is still much to be done to strengthen democracy in the European Union

In all EU Member States, at least eight out of ten respondents agree that there is still much to be done to strengthen democracy in the European Union. The proportion of respondents sharing this view is highest in Cyprus (97 %), Greece, Finland (96 % in both countries), the Netherlands and Sweden (95 % in both countries), and the lowest in Estonia (80 %), Romania (83 %) and Austria (84 %).

The proportion of people who “strongly agree” with this statement ranges from 75 % in Cyprus to 36 % in Poland.

QA4.2 To what extent do you agree or disagree with each of the following statements?

There is still much to be done to strengthen democracy in the European Union (%)



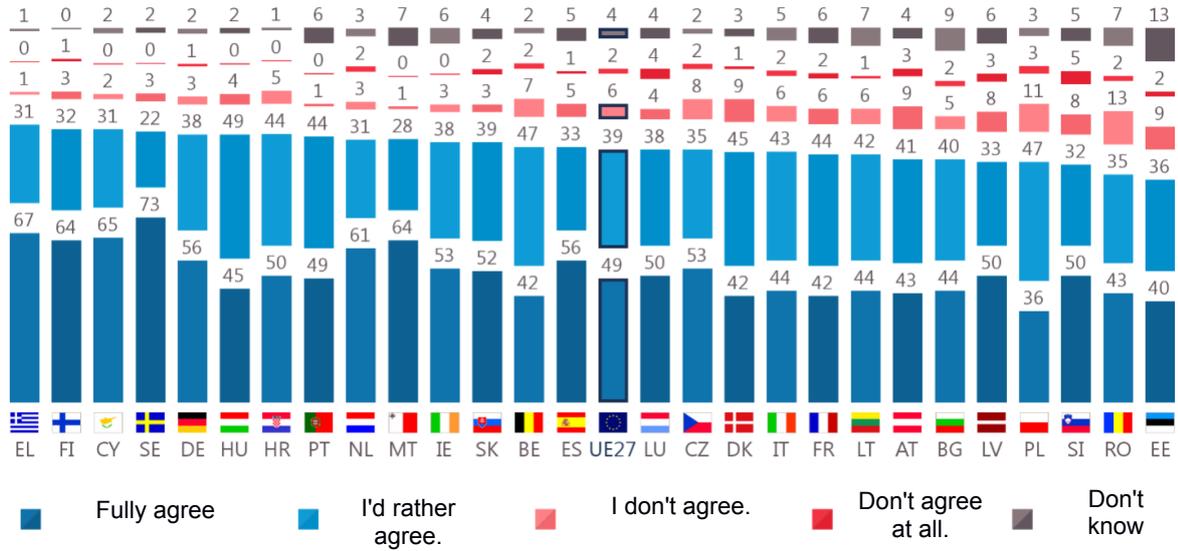
There is still much to be done to protect democracy in the European Union

In all countries, at least three quarters of those interviewed believe that there is still much to be done to protect democracy in the European Union. This proportion is highest in Greece (98 %), Finland, Cyprus (96 % in both countries) and Sweden (95 %), and the lowest in Estonia (76 %), Romania (78 %) and Slovenia (82 %).

The countries with the highest proportion of respondents who “strongly agree” with this statement are Sweden (73 %), Greece (67 %), Cyprus (65 %), Finland and Malta (64 % in both countries), and the lowest are Poland (36 %) and Estonia (40 %).

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QA4.3 To what extent do you agree or disagree with each of the following statements?
There is still much to be done to protect democracy in the European Union (%)



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In general, socio-demographic data show that the proportion of people who support these three claims remains high across groups.

It can be noted, however, that this proportion is slightly higher among those surveyed with long studies (up to the age of 20 years or older).

QA4 To what extent do you agree or disagree with each of the following statements? (% — total “Agree”)

	The voice of the citizens of the European Union should be taken more into account in decisions on the future of Europe	There is still much to be done to strengthen democracy in the European Union	There is still much to be done to protect democracy in the European Union
EU27	90	89	88
Gender			
Man	90	90	89
Woman	89	88	88
Age			
15-24	90	84	83
25-39	90	91	91
40-54	91	89	90
55+	89	88	89
School leaving age			
—15	86	84	85
16-19	90	89	90
20+	92	92	91
Always student	91	86	83
Socio-professional category			
Independents	90	93	91
Senior management	91	93	92
Other employees	91	89	93
Workers	89	89	87
Women/Men in the Home	88	79	86
Unemployed	89	89	90
Pensioners	89	88	89
Students	91	86	83
Difficulties in paying your bills			
Most of the time	89	88	89
From time to time	86	86	85
Almost Never/Never	91	90	90

2. Citizens' participation in the debate on the future of the European Union

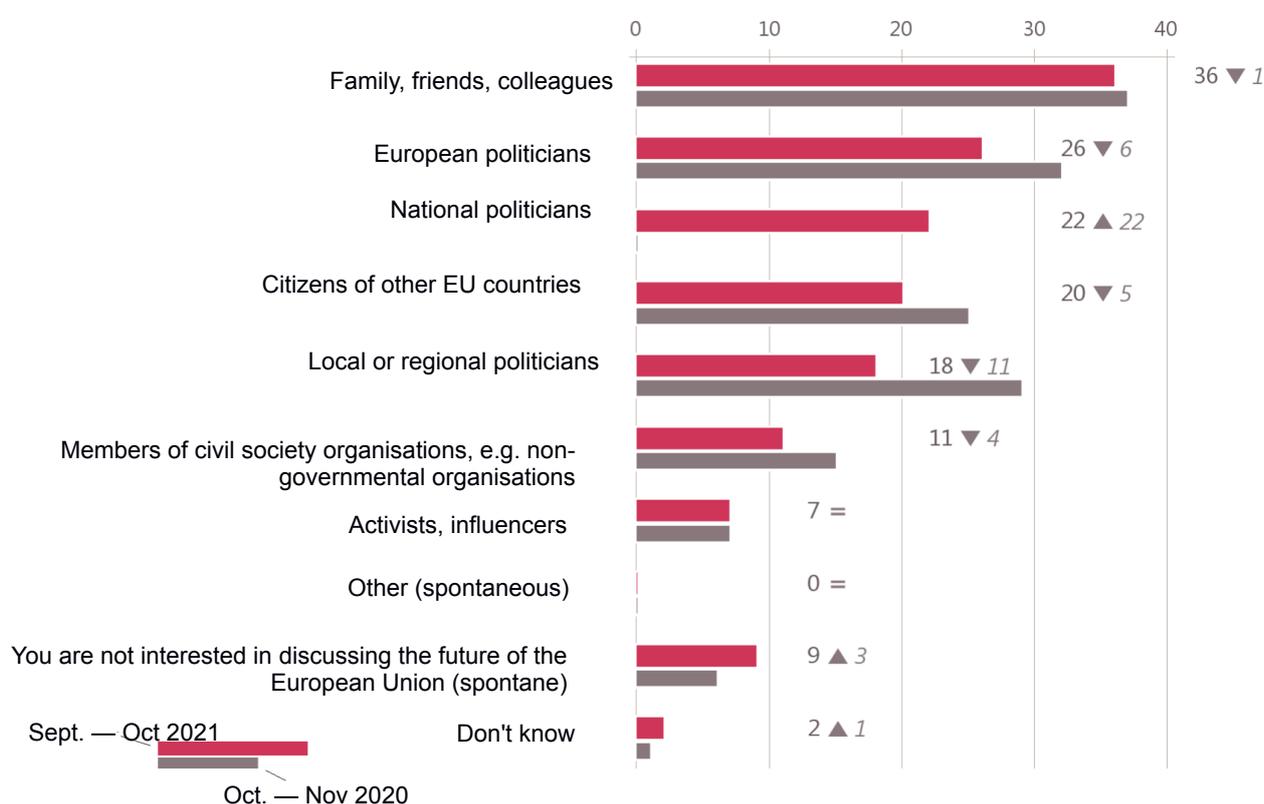
Europeans would like to discuss the future of the European Union with friends, family and colleagues, as well as with politicians

Europeans are more likely to say that they would like to discuss the future of the European Union with friends, family or colleagues (36 %, -1 point compared to the Special Eurobarometer 500 on the future of Europe achieved in 2020)⁶⁰, while about a quarter (26 %, -6) would like to discuss it with European politicians, and a little less with national politicians (22 %, new answer) or local or regional politicians (18 %, -11).

One in five (20 %, -5) said they would like to discuss the future of the European Union with citizens from other EU countries.

Fewer respondents would like to discuss the future of the European Union with members of civil society organisations (11 %, -4) or with activists or influencers (7 %, =). A small proportion (9 %, +3) spontaneously declares that it does not interest him to discuss the future of the European Union.

QA3 With whom would you like to discuss the future of the European Union? (Max. 2 replies) (% — EU27)

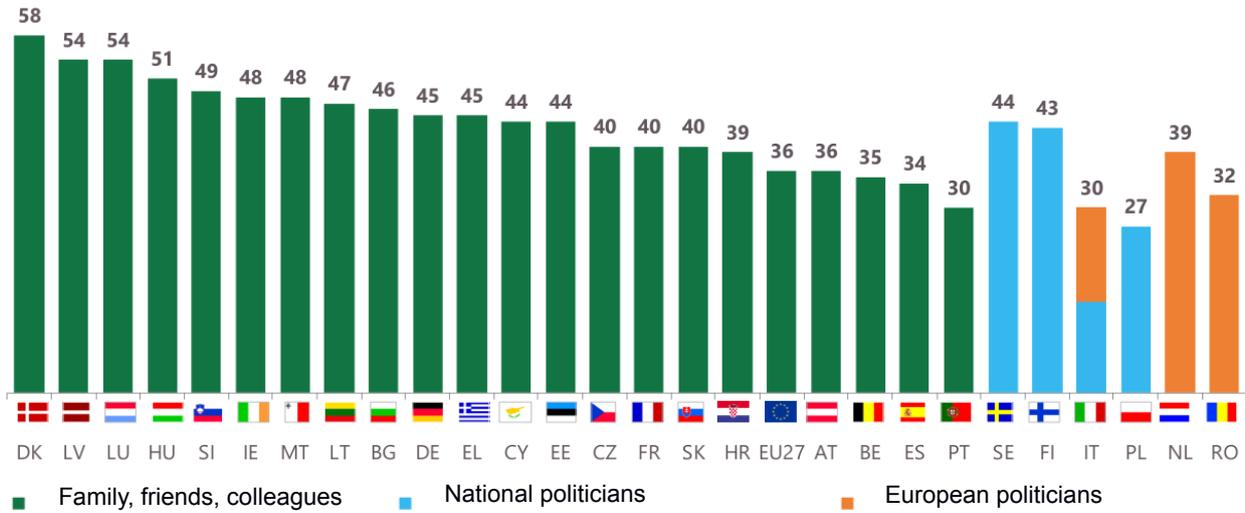


60 Special Eurobarometer 500: <https://europa.eu/eurobarometer/surveys/detail/2256>

Special Eurobarometer 517, the future of Europe p.145

In 21 Member States, respondents are more likely to say that they would like to discuss the future of the European Union with friends, family or colleagues, while in four countries they prefer to discuss it with national politicians: Sweden, Finland, Italy and Poland. In the Netherlands and Romania, most prefer to discuss the future of the European Union with European politicians.

QA3 With whom would you like to discuss the future of the European Union? (MAX. 2 RESPONSES) (% — THE MOST CITED BY COUNTRY)



In Portugal, 36 % of respondents responded spontaneously that “it is not interesting to discuss the future of the European Union”.

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More Europeans across the EU say they would like to discuss the future of the EU with friends, family or colleagues. This response is most frequently given by respondents in Denmark (58 %), Latvia, Luxembourg (54 % in both countries) and Hungary (51 %), and the least frequently in Poland (22 %) and Italy (24 %).

Respondents in the Netherlands, Sweden (39 % in both countries) and Finland (36 %) are the most likely to want to discuss the future of the EU with European politicians, while Hungary (12 %), Latvia and Portugal (13 % in both countries) and Estonia (14 %) are the lowest.

The opportunity to discuss the future of the EU with national politicians also scores higher among respondents in Sweden (44 %), Finland (43 %) and the Netherlands (38 %), and the lowest in Estonia (10 %), Latvia (11 %), Cyprus, Portugal and Slovenia (12 % in these three countries).

QA3 With whom would you like to discuss the future of the European Union? (MAX. 2 RESPONSES) (%)

	Family, friends, colleagues	European politicians	National politicians	Citizens of other EU countries	Local or regional politicians	Members of civil society organisations, e.g. non-governmental organisations	You are not interested in discussing the future of the European Union (Spontane)	Activists, influencers
EU27	36	26	22	20	18	11	9	7
BE	35	31	24	23	16	11	3	11
BG	46	17	21	14	20	10	11	7
CZ	40	28	22	21	19	8	4	4
DK	58	26	27	17	12	5	5	2
OF	45	31	21	27	19	7	5	4
EE	44	14	10	8	13	6	15	11
IE	48	21	28	13	26	8	2	7
EL	45	16	20	25	20	14	14	10
ES	34	22	18	16	13	10	13	5
FR	40	19	15	21	19	10	11	8
HR	39	26	18	30	17	15	5	5
IT	24	30	30	17	21	16	9	8
CY	44	20	12	24	11	9	10	10
LV	54	13	11	16	9	7	10	6
LT	47	17	16	16	15	5	14	6
READ	54	23	22	19	13	12	1	6
HU	51	12	16	11	19	15	6	6
MT	48	16	20	14	18	8	8	6
NL	35	39	38	26	12	11	2	6
AT	36	24	23	19	22	10	13	10
PL	22	23	27	15	23	20	11	8
PT	30	13	12	10	10	5	36	3
RO	31	32	16	22	18	15	6	9
IF	49	18	12	15	15	11	11	12
SK	40	25	15	15	17	8	9	17
FI	31	36	43	15	14	8	2	11
SE	33	39	44	30	16	12	1	2

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Socio-demographic results are similar between men and women, although the former are more likely to say that they would like to discuss the future of the European Union with European politicians (29 % versus 23 %) or national politicians (25 % vs. 20 %), while a higher proportion of women than men quote friends, family or colleagues (38 % versus 34 %).

Overall, the results are stable across age groups. However, respondents aged 55 or over are slightly more likely to mention friends, family or colleagues (39 % versus 33-37 % among younger age groups), and less likely to mention European politicians (21 % versus 27-30 %) or citizens of other EU countries (15 % vs. 23-25 %).

Differences arise depending on the level of education. Respondents who completed their studies at the age of 20 or older are more likely to mention European politicians (34 % versus 16 %), national politicians (27 % versus 18 %) and citizens from other EU countries (25 % vs. 11 %). On the other hand, those who left school at the age of 15 are more likely to mention friends, family or co-workers (38 % versus 33 % of those who completed their education at the age of 20 or over).

Fewer respondents who have difficulty paying their bills would like to discuss the future of the European Union with different groups of people. For example, 20 % of people who have difficulties most of the time would like to discuss the future of the European Union with European politicians, compared to 28 % of those who never or almost never have any difficulties.

QA3 With whom would you like to discuss the future of the European Union? (MAX. 2 REPLIES) (% — EU)

	Family, friends, colleagues	European politicians	National politicians	Citizens of other EU countries	Local or regional politicians	Members of civil society organisations, e.g. non-governmental organisations	You are not interested in discussing the future of the European Union (Spontane)	Activists, influencers	Don't know
EU27	36	26	22	20	18	11	9	7	2
Gender									
Man	34	29	25	21	19	12	7	7	2
Woman	38	23	20	19	17	11	10	6	2
Age									
15-24	37	27	21	24	12	13	7	13	2
25-39	34	30	23	25	17	13	6	9	1
40-54	33	30	25	23	20	12	6	7	2
55+	39	21	21	15	20	10	12	4	3
School leaving age									
—15	38	16	18	11	18	6	20	3	4
16-19	38	22	20	19	21	11	9	7	2
20+	33	34	27	25	17	13	4	7	2
Always student	36	30	23	26	13	14	5	12	2
Socio-professional category									
Independents	30	30	28	23	22	13	5	8	1
Senior management	29	39	27	28	18	14	3	7	1
Other employees	34	30	23	24	19	14	6	8	2
Workers	38	23	21	19	20	11	9	8	2
Women/Men in the Home	33	20	21	15	15	10	18	6	3
Unemployed	38	22	18	21	16	11	11	9	3
Pensioners	42	19	20	14	19	8	13	3	3
Students	36	30	23	26	13	14	5	12	2
Difficulties in paying your bills									
Most of the time	35	20	17	19	19	9	16	7	2
From time to time	36	23	21	18	20	12	10	8	2
Almost Never/Never	37	28	24	21	18	11	7	6	2

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At least seven out of ten respondents want their views to be taken more into account in important decisions about where they live, their country and the EU

Eight out of ten Europeans (82 %) said they would like their opinion to be taken more into account in important decisions about where they live, and this figure includes the 41 % who answered “yes, quite”.

The figures are similar for “the country as a whole”. About eight out of ten (79 per cent) said they would like their opinion to be taken more into account in important decisions concerning their country as a whole, and that figure included the 37 per cent who responded “yes, quite”.

Fewer respondents say they would like their views to be taken more into account in decisions concerning the European Union as a whole. Seven out of ten (70 %) would like their opinion to be taken more into account, and this figure includes the 27 % who answered “yes, quite”.

In all cases, a minority of respondents indicated that they did not want their views to be taken more into account, by responding “rather not” or “not at all”. This is 16 % for decisions about where they live, 19 % for decisions concerning their country as a whole and 27 % for decisions concerning the European Union as a whole.

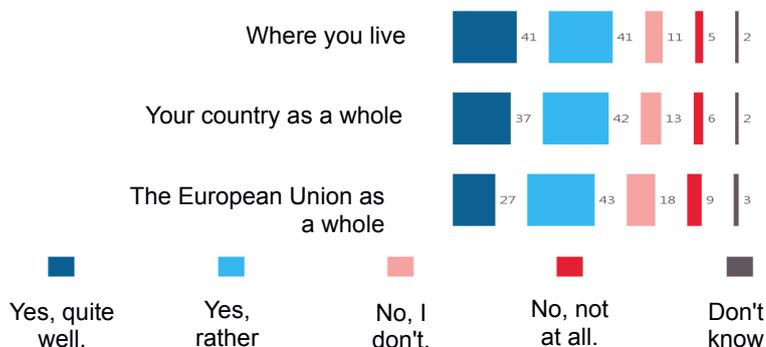
Where you live

In each of the 27 Member States, the majority of respondents said they would like their views to be taken more into account in important decisions about where they live. This proportion is highest in Slovakia (88 %), Italy (87 %), Belgium, Ireland, Finland, Cyprus and Latvia (86 % in these five countries). This proportion reached its lowest levels in Lithuania (62 %) and Croatia (71 %).

In three Member States, more than half of the respondents respond “yes, quite” to the question of whether they would like their opinion to be more taken into account in important decisions about where they live: Cyprus (58 %), Latvia (53 %) and Malta (52 %), while Lithuania (23 %), Croatia (27 %), Poland (30 %) and Hungary (31 %) are the lowest.

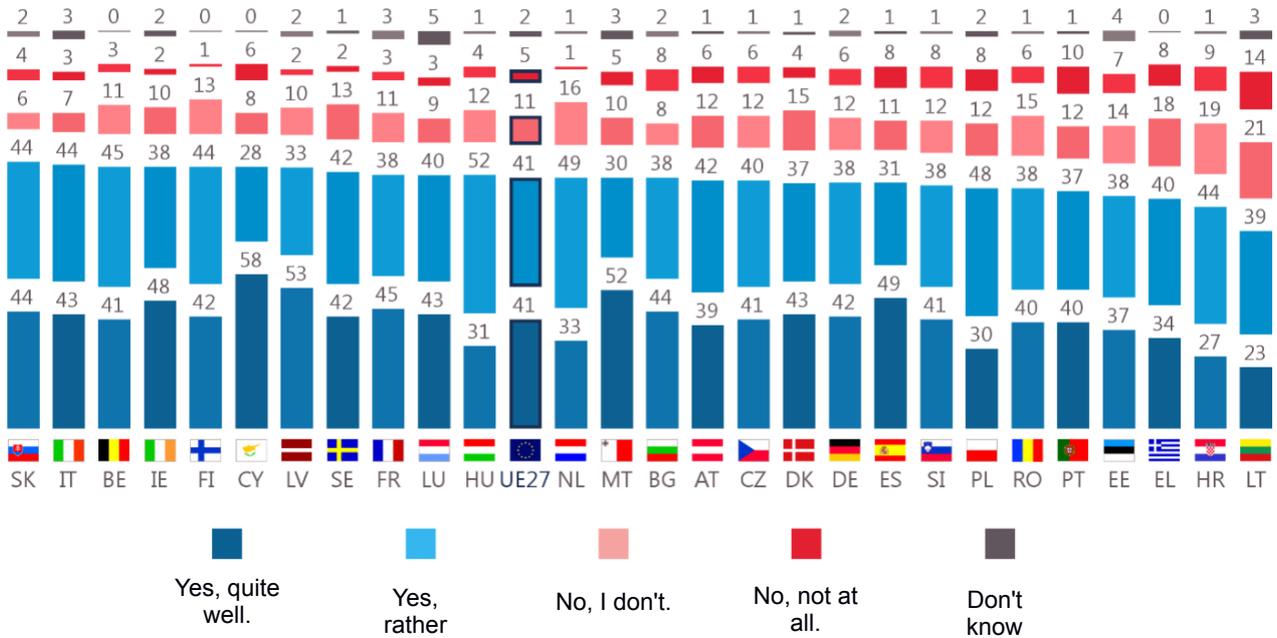
Respondents in Lithuania are most likely to want to participate more in decisions about where they live (35 %), followed by those in Croatia (28 %) and Greece (26 %). Only one in ten respondents say the same in Slovakia and Italy (10 % in both countries).

QA5 To what extent does each of the following statements correspond to your opinion? You would like your opinion to be taken more into account in important decisions concerning: (% — EU27)



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QA5.1 To what extent does each of the following statements correspond to your opinion? You would like your opinion to be taken more into account in important decisions concerning: **Where you live (%)**



Your country as a whole

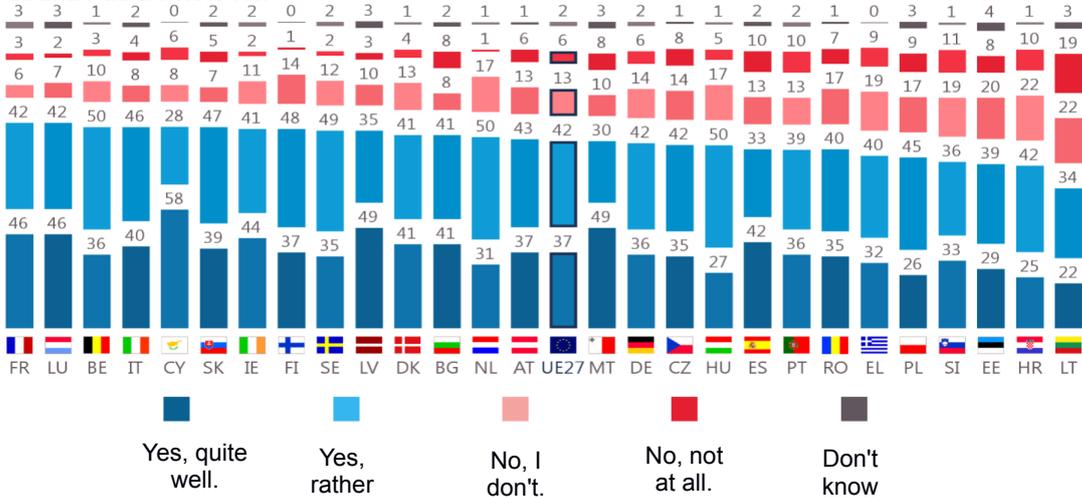
More than half of the respondents in all Member States indicate that they want their views to be taken more into account in important decisions concerning their country as a whole. The proportion of respondents surveyed is highest in France, Luxembourg (88 % in both countries), Belgium, Italy, Cyprus and Slovakia (86 % in these four countries). The lowest proportions are observed among respondents in Lithuania (56 %), followed by Croatia (67 %), Estonia (68 %) and Slovenia (69 %).

Respondents in Cyprus are the most likely to say that, “yes, quite”, they want their opinion to be taken more into account in the important decisions concerning their country (58 %), followed by those in Latvia and Malta (49 % in both countries).

This proportion is lowest in Lithuania (22 %), Croatia (25 %), Poland (26 %) and Hungary (27 %).

Respondents in Lithuania are most likely to want to participate more in decisions concerning their country (41 %), followed by those in Croatia (32 %), Slovenia (30 %), Estonia and Greece (28 % in these two countries). This proportion is the lowest in France and Luxembourg (9 % in these two countries).

QA5.2 To what extent does each of the following statements correspond to your opinion? You would like your opinion to be taken more into account in important decisions concerning: **Your country as a whole (%)**



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The European Union as a whole

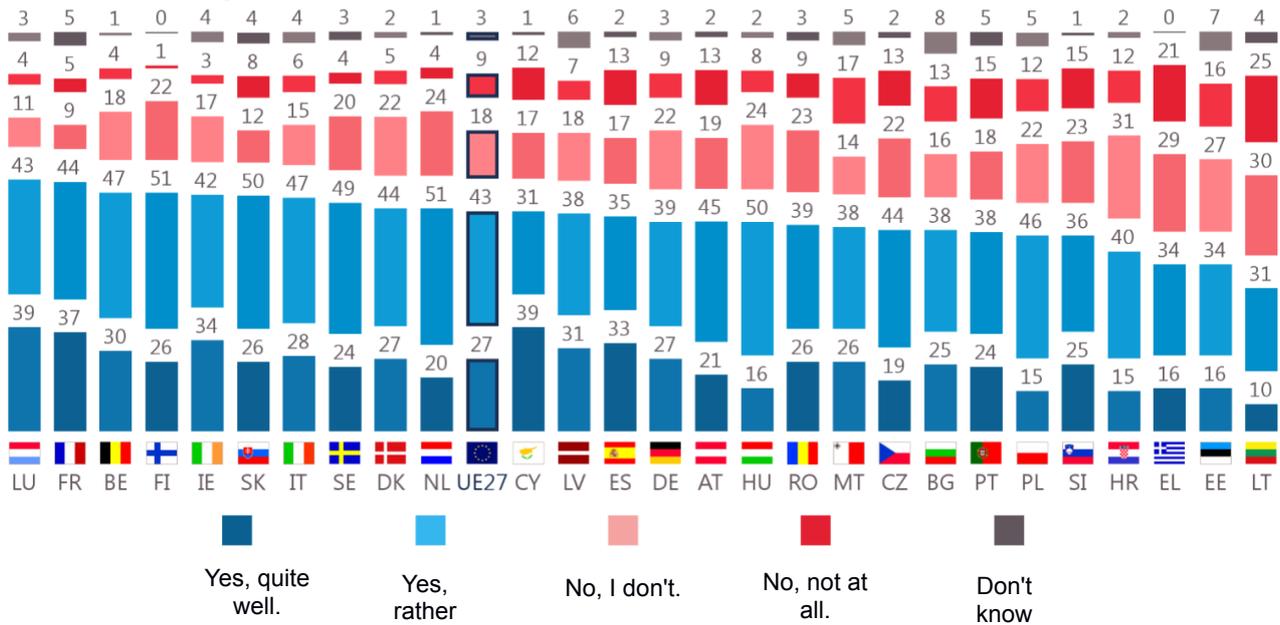
In 25 Member States, a majority of respondents said they would like their views to be taken more into account in important decisions concerning the European Union as a whole. The exceptions are Lithuania (where 41 % would like their opinion to be taken more into account, but 55 % would not) and Greece (50 % would like it, 50 % would not).

Respondents are more likely to want their views to be taken more into account in decisions concerning the European Union in Luxembourg (82 %), France (81 %), Belgium and Finland (77 % in both countries). This proportion is lowest in Lithuania (41 %), Estonia, Greece (50 % in both countries) and Croatia (55 %).

Respondents are more likely to say that, "yes, quite" they would like their opinion to be taken more into account in the important decisions concerning the European Union in Luxembourg, Cyprus (39 % in both countries) and France (37 %). This proportion is at its lowest level in Lithuania (10 %), Poland and Croatia (15 % in both countries).

Respondents are more likely to want to participate more in EU decisions in Lithuania (55 %), Greece (50 %), Estonia and Croatia (43 % in both countries). This proportion is lowest in France (14 %) and Luxembourg (15 %).

QA5.3 To what extent does each of the following statements correspond to your opinion? You would like your opinion to be taken more into account in important decisions concerning: **The European Union as a whole (%)**



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Sociodemographic data show some stability from one group to another. Men are slightly more likely than women to want their views to be taken more into account in important decisions, in particular those concerning their country (82 % versus 77 %) and the EU (72 % versus 67 %).

Respondents from middle age groups are more likely to want their views to be taken more into account in decisions, and those 55 years of age or older are the least likely to want their views to be taken more into account. For example, with regard to decisions relating to the European Union, 75 % of 25-39 and 74 % of 40-54 year olds would like their opinion to be taken more into account, compared with 64 % of people aged 55 or over.

A net difference is to be increased depending on the level of education. More respondents with a higher level of education would like their views to be taken more into account when deciding where they live, their country and the European Union. For example, the proportion of decisions relating to their country varies from 85 % among those who completed their studies at the age of 20 or over, to 69 % of those who stopped them at the age of 15 or younger.

The results are broadly homogeneous from one socio-occupational category to another, although a discrepancy is to be noted in relation to decisions concerning the European Union. Managers are more likely to want their views to be taken more into account in these decisions (79 %), while this proportion is the lowest among those in the home (59 %) and at retirement (61 %).

QA5 To what extent does each of the following statements correspond to your opinion? You would like your opinion to be taken more into account in important decisions concerning: (% — total 'Yes')

	Where you live	Your country as a whole	The European Union as a whole
EU27	82	79	70
Gender			
Man	83	82	72
Woman	80	77	67
Age			
15-24	81	79	71
25-39	84	83	75
40-54	86	84	74
55+	79	76	64
School leaving age			
—15	73	69	54
16-19	83	79	67
20+	86	85	77
Always student	81	81	74
Socio-professional category			
Independents	87	84	75
Senior management	88	87	79
Other employees	87	86	76
Workers	83	79	70
Women/Men in the Home	77	74	59
Unemployed	81	79	66
Pensioners	76	73	61
Students	81	81	74
Difficulties in paying your bills			
Most of the time	80	77	63
From time to time	81	77	66
Almost Never/Never	82	80	71

VII. CONFERENCE ON THE FUTURE OF EUROPE

1. Opinion on the Conference on the Future of Europe

Europeans say they are interested in participating in the Conference on the Future of Europe in various ways, most often by answering a survey

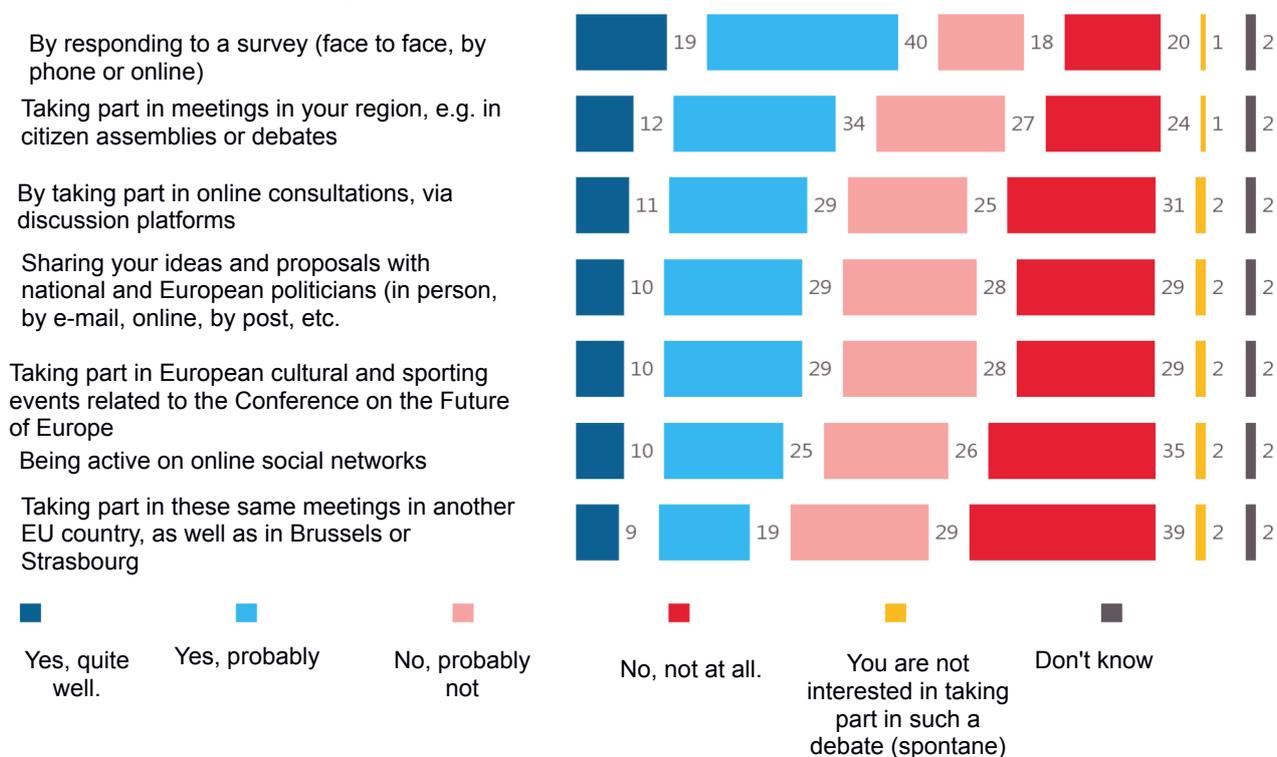
This chapter is devoted to the Conference on the Future of Europe⁶¹. It first assesses the extent to which Europeans are willing to participate in the Conference in various ways and then examines what would encourage them to participate. It then discusses the benefits of the participation of younger generations, the main themes of inclusion and attitudes towards the impact of the Conference. He then asked Europeans whether they had read or heard anything about the Conference in the media or online, and what sources they had inquired about. Interviewees were asked whether they were willing to participate in the activities of the Conference on the Future of Europe in various ways. More than half of respondents (59 %) say they are willing to respond to a survey, and one in five (19 %) say they are “fully” willing to participate in this way.

The second most cited form of participation is to take part in meetings in their regions, for example in citizen assemblies or debates. Almost half (46 %) indicate that they are willing to participate in this way, 12 % of whom say they are “fully” willing to do so.

Approximately four out of ten respondents would be willing to participate by taking part in online consultations, via discussion platforms (40 %), sharing their ideas and proposals with national and European politicians (39 %) and taking part in European cultural and sporting events related to the Conference (39 %). In any case, about one in ten people claim to be “very” willing to participate in this way (11 %, 10 % and 10 %, respectively).

Just over one third say they are willing to be active on social networks (35 %), including 10 % who would be “fully” willing to do so, while at full over a quarter would take part in meetings in another EU country, as well as in Brussels or Strasbourg (28 %, of which 9 % would be “fully” willing to do so).

QA11 Would you personally be willing to participate as a citizen in the activities of the Conference on the Future of Europe in each of the following ways? (% — EU27)



61 Before being asked about this topic, participants learned the following explanations on the Conference on the Future of Europe (COFE): the EU has launched various events, debates and consultations entitled “Conference on the Future of Europe” whose aim is to discuss and define the future of Europe and the European Union.

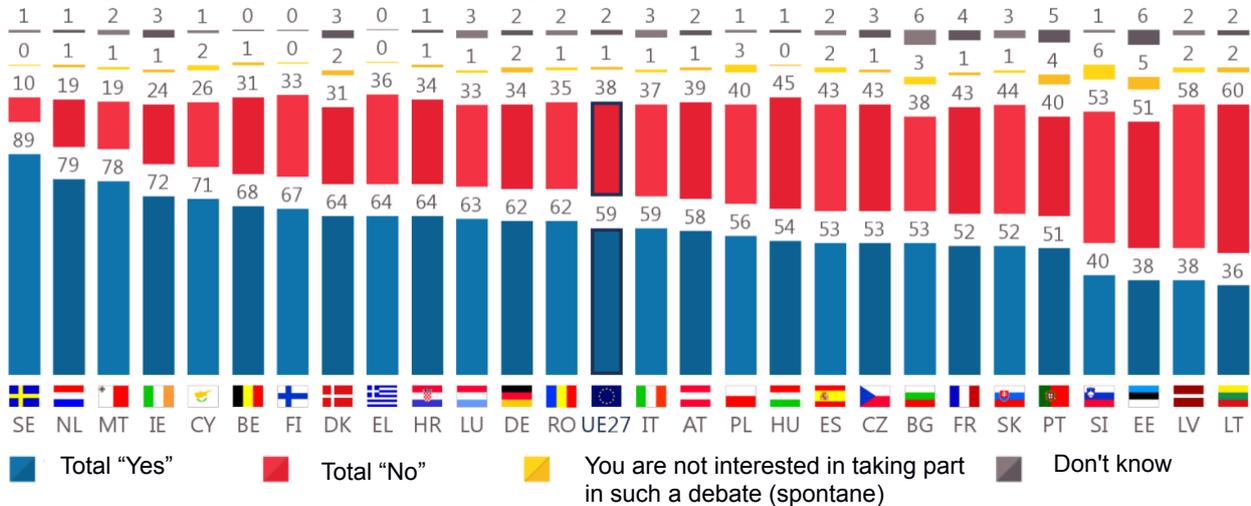
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By responding to a survey

Across the European Union, the most popular form of participation in the activities of the Conference on the Future of Europe is by answering a survey. It is particularly popular among respondents in Sweden (where 89 % would be willing to participate in this way), followed by those in the Netherlands (79 %), Malta (78 %), Ireland (72 %) and Cyprus (71 %). On the other hand, less than half of respondents say they are willing to respond to a survey in Lithuania (36 %), Estonia, Latvia (38 % in both countries) and Slovenia (40 %).

QA11.4 Would you personally be willing to participate as a citizen in the activities of the Conference on the Future of Europe in each of the following ways?

By responding to a survey (face to face, by phone or online) (%)



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Sociodemographic analysis shows that older people (55 years of age or older) are less likely to be willing to respond to a survey as part of the activities of the Conference on the Future of Europe (51 % versus 62 %-67 % among younger groups).

Respondents who completed their studies at the age of 20 or over were significantly more likely to say that they would be willing to respond to a survey, compared to those who dropped out of school at age 15 or under (69 % versus 39 %).

Among the different socio-occupational categories, managers are the most likely to respond to a survey (73 %), while the least inclined are those in retirement (48 %) and at home (52 %).

When interviewees have a positive view of the impact of the Conference, they are more likely to be willing to respond to a survey. Of those who agree that “the Conference represents real progress for democracy in the European Union”, 69 % would be willing to answer a survey, compared with 58 % of those who agree that “the Conference will not have a real impact, that it will not change much”.

QA11.4 Would you personally be willing to participate as a citizen in the activities of the Conference on the Future of Europe in each of the following ways?

Taking part in online consultations, via discussion platforms (% — EU)

	Total 'Yes'	Total 'No'	Don't know
EU27	59	38	2
Gender			
Man	60	37	2
Woman	58	37	3
Age			
15-24	65	30	4
25-39	67	30	2
40-54	62	35	2
55+	51	44	3
16-19	57	40	2
20+	69	28	2
Always student	69	27	3
Socio-professional category			
Independents	65	33	1
Senior management	73	26	1
Other employees	65	32	2
Workers	58	39	2
Women/Men in the Home	52	42	3
Unemployed	56	41	2
Pensioners	48	47	3
Students	69	27	3
Difficulties in paying your bills			
Most of the time	51	45	2
From time to time	56	41	2
Almost Never/Never	60	36	2
Opinion of the Conference on the Future of Europe			
Conference represents real progress for democracy in the EU	69	29	1
The Conference will not have a real impact, it will not change much	58	40	1

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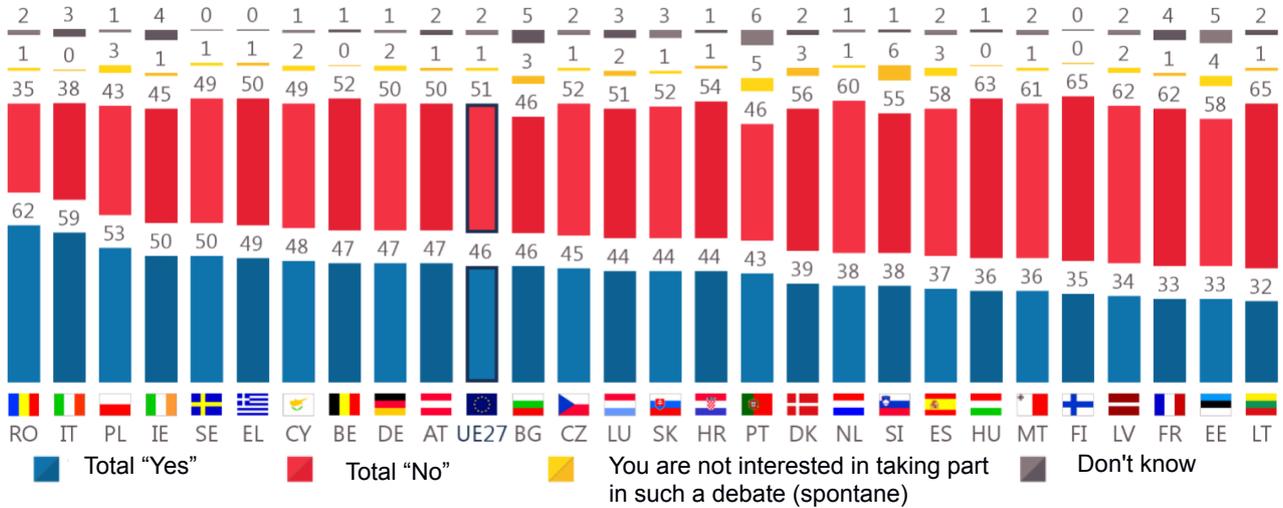
Taking part in meetings in your region, e.g. in citizen assemblies or debates

Respondents in Romania (62 %) and Italy (59 %) are more likely to be willing to participate in meetings in their regions, e.g. in citizen assemblies or debates, in the framework of the Conference. This form of participation is also popular among respondents in Poland (53 %), Ireland and Sweden (50 % in both countries).

However, only about one third of the respondents would be willing to participate in such meetings in Lithuania (32 %), Estonia, France (33 % in both countries) and Latvia (34 %).

QA11.1 Would you personally be willing to participate as a citizen in the activities of the Conference on the Future of Europe in each of the following ways?

Taking part in meetings in your region, e.g. in citizen assemblies or debates (%)



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Socio-demographic data show that men are more likely than women to take part in meetings in their regions, e.g. in assemblies or citizen debates (48 % versus 43 %).

In terms of age groups, interest in local meetings is highest among those aged 40-54 (52 %) and 25-39 (51 %), and the lowest among people aged 55 or over (39 %).

Differences arise depending on the level of education. Respondents who completed their studies at the age of 20 or older were more likely to say that they would be willing to attend a meeting in their region (51 %) than those who arrested them at the age of 15 or under (34 %).

Among the socio-professional categories, this interest ranges from 58 % for executives to 34 % for retired people.

The willingness to participate in local meetings is stronger among those interviewed who believe that “the Conference represents real progress for democracy in the European Union” (56 %, compared to 45 % of those who say that “the Conference will not have a real impact, that it will not change much”).

QA11.1 Would you personally be willing to participate as a citizen in the activities of the Conference on the Future of Europe in each of the following ways?

Taking part in meetings in your region, e.g. in citizens' assemblies or debates (% — EU)

	Total 'Yes'	Total 'No'	Don't know
EU27	46	51	2
Gender			
Man	48	49	2
Woman	43	53	2
Age			
15-24	47	47	4
25-39	51	47	1
40-54	52	46	1
55+	39	57	2
School leaving age			
—15	34	60	3
16-19	44	52	2
20+	51	46	2
Always student	49	47	3
Socio-professional category			
Independents	53	45	1
Senior management	58	40	1
Other employees	52	45	2
Workers	46	50	2
Women/Men in the Home	37	57	3
Unemployed	44	53	2
Pensioners	34	61	3
Students	49	47	3
Difficulties in paying your bills			
Most of the time	41	55	2
From time to time	48	49	2
Almost Never/Never	45	52	2
Opinion of the Conference on the Future of Europe			
Conference represents real progress for democracy in the EU	56	42	1
The Conference will not have a real impact, it will not change much	45	53	1

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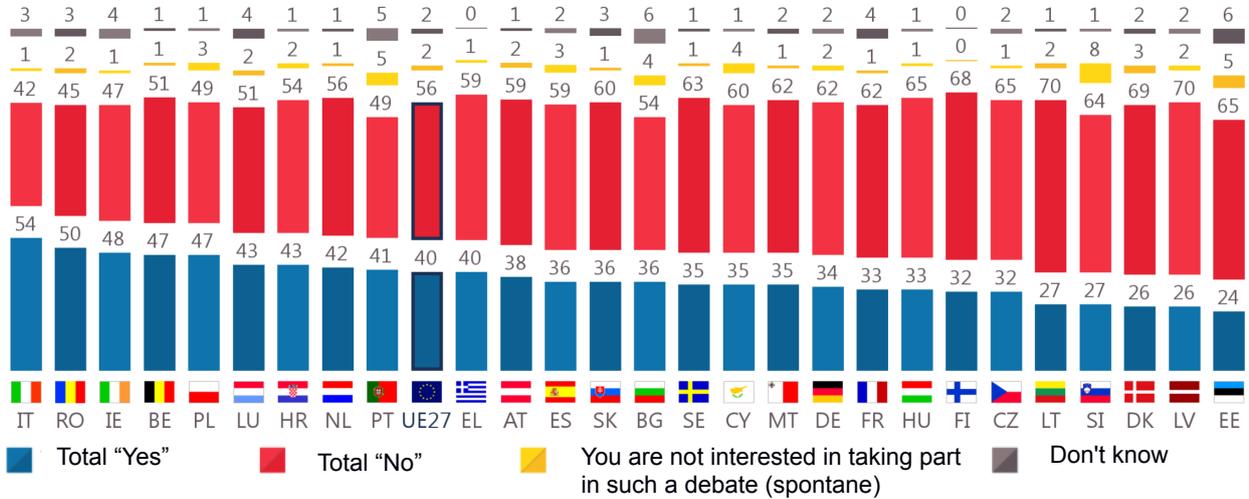
By taking part in online consultations, via discussion platforms

More than half of those interviewed in Italy (54 %) say they are willing to take part in online consultations in the framework of the Conference on the Future of Europe. This form of participation is also popular among respondents in Romania (50 %), Ireland (48 %), Belgium and Poland (47 % in both countries).

Respondents are less willing to take part in online consultations in Estonia (24 %), Denmark, Latvia (26 % in both countries), Lithuania and Slovenia (27 % in both countries).

QA11.3 Would you personally be willing to participate as a citizen in the activities of the Conference on the Future of Europe in each of the following ways?

By taking part in online consultations, via discussion platforms (%)



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Sociodemographic analysis shows that men are more likely than women to take part in online consultations (43 % versus 37 %).

There are clear differences between age groups. In fact, younger respondents are more likely to opt for this method of participation (54 % of 15-24-year-olds). In particular, this interest is significantly lower among respondents aged 55 or over (25 %).

Respondents who completed their studies at the age of 20 or older were more likely to say they would be willing to take part in online consultations compared to those who completed their studies at the age of 15 or under (47 % versus 20 %).

Since interviewees say that “the Conference represents real progress for democracy in the European Union”, they are more willing to take part in online consultations (51 % versus 40 % of those who agree that “the Conference will not have a real impact, that it will not change much”).

QA11.3 Would you personally be willing to participate as a citizen in the activities of the Conference on the Future of Europe in each of the following ways?

Taking part in online consultations, via discussion platforms (% — EU)

	Total 'Yes'	Total 'No'	Don't know
EU27	40	56	2
Gender			
Man	43	54	2
Woman	37	58	3
Age			
15-24	54	40	4
25-39	52	46	1
40-54	46	51	2
55+	25	69	3
School leaving age			
—15	20	72	4
16-19	37	59	2
20+	47	50	2
Always student	56	39	3
Socio-professional category			
Independents	48	50	1
Senior management	54	43	2
Other employees	52	45	2
Workers	40	56	2
Women/Men in the Home	31	63	2
Unemployed	41	56	2
Pensioners	20	73	4
Students	56	39	3
Difficulties in paying your bills			
Most of the time	35	60	2
From time to time	43	53	2
Almost Never/Never	38	57	3
Opinion of the Conference on the Future of Europe			
Conference represents real progress for democracy in the EU	51	47	1
The Conference will not have a real impact, it will not change much	40	58	1

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As noted above, interviewees in Italy and Romania are more likely to be willing to participate in regional meetings and online consultations in the framework of the Conference on the Future of Europe. Respondents in these countries are also more likely to express interest in other types of activities, for example by sharing their ideas and proposals with national and European politicians (55 % in Italy, 52 % in Romania). Interest in this type of activity is also high in Ireland (50 %) and Poland (48 %), with the lowest level in Estonia (19 %) and Lithuania (20 %).

Respondents in Italy (55 %), Romania (52 %) and Poland (48 %) are also most willing to take part in European cultural and sporting events related to the Conference, the least willing being in Denmark, Hungary (28 % in both countries) and Finland (29 %).

Being active on online social networks is a preferred method of participation primarily by respondents in Italy (52 %), Romania (49 %), Croatia (48 %), Ireland and Poland (47 % in both countries), and last but not least those in Finland (19 %), Lithuania and the Netherlands (21 % in both countries).

Finally, respondents in Romania (49 %), Italy (46 %) and Poland (42 %) are most willing to take part in meetings in another EU country, the least willing being in Denmark (14 %), Finland (15 %), Estonia and Spain (17 % in both countries).

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QA11 Would you personally be willing to participate as a citizen in the activities of the Conference on the Future of Europe in each of the following ways? Total 'Yes' (%)

	By responding to a survey (face to face, by phone or online)	Taking part in meetings in your region, e.g. in citizen assemblies or debates	By taking part in online consultations, via discussion platforms	Sharing your ideas and proposals with national and European politicians (in person, by e-mail, online, by post, etc.)	Taking part in European cultural and sporting events related to the Conference on the Future of Europe	Being active on online social networks	Taking part in these same meetings in another EU country, as well as in Brussels or Strasbourg
EU27	59	46	40	39	39	35	28
BE	68	47	47	44	43	36	28
BG	53	46	36	40	34	44	30
CZ	53	45	32	31	32	31	19
DK	64	39	26	25	28	25	14
OF	62	47	34	36	35	27	21
EE	38	33	24	19	37	29	17
IE	72	50	48	50	43	47	31
EL	64	49	40	34	31	40	23
ES	53	37	36	31	35	35	17
FR	52	33	33	30	32	23	19
HR	64	44	43	43	38	48	29
IT	59	59	54	55	55	52	46
CY	71	48	35	38	40	40	34
LV	38	34	26	24	34	23	18
LT	36	32	27	20	30	21	20
READ	63	44	43	40	42	34	25
HU	54	36	33	30	28	35	23
MT	78	36	35	41	32	36	22
NL	79	38	42	29	33	21	18
AT	58	47	38	38	35	38	28
PL	56	53	47	48	48	47	42
PT	51	43	41	42	41	42	33
RO	62	62	50	52	52	49	49
IF	40	38	27	25	30	28	19
SK	52	44	36	32	34	41	23
FI	67	35	32	32	29	19	15
SE	89	50	35	34	41	28	22

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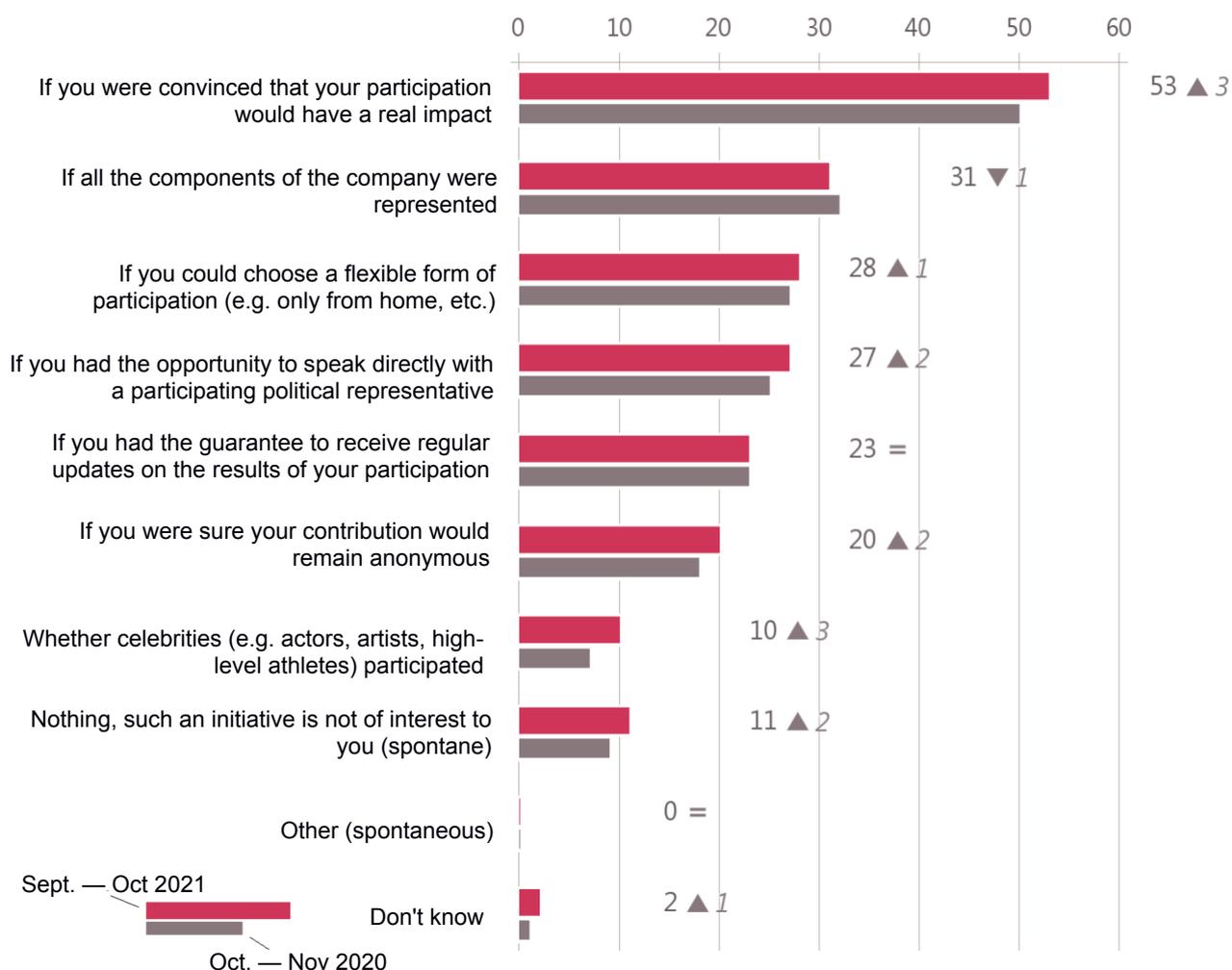
The best way to encourage citizens to participate in the Conference would be to convince them that their participation will have a real impact

Respondents were asked what would encourage them to take part in the activities of the Conference on the Future of Europe. The most common answer given, by just over half of the respondents, is to be convinced that their participation would have a real impact (53 %, + 3 points compared to the Special Eurobarometer 500 on the future of Europe achieved in 2020⁶²). About one third (31 %, -1 point) claim that they would be willing to participate if all the components of the company were represented.

About a quarter of respondents say they would be willing to participate if they could choose a flexible form of participation (e.g. only from home, etc.) (28 %, + 1 point), if they had the opportunity to speak directly with a participating political representative (27 %, + 2 points) or if they were guaranteed to receive regular updates on the results of their participation (23 %, stable).

One in five (20 %, + 2 points) states that they would be encouraged to participate if they were sure that their contribution would remain anonymous, while only one in ten (10 %, + 3 points) would be influenced by the participation of celebrities (e.g. actors, artists, high-level athletes). About one in six people (11 %, + 2 points) said that he would not be encouraged because he was not interested in such an initiative.

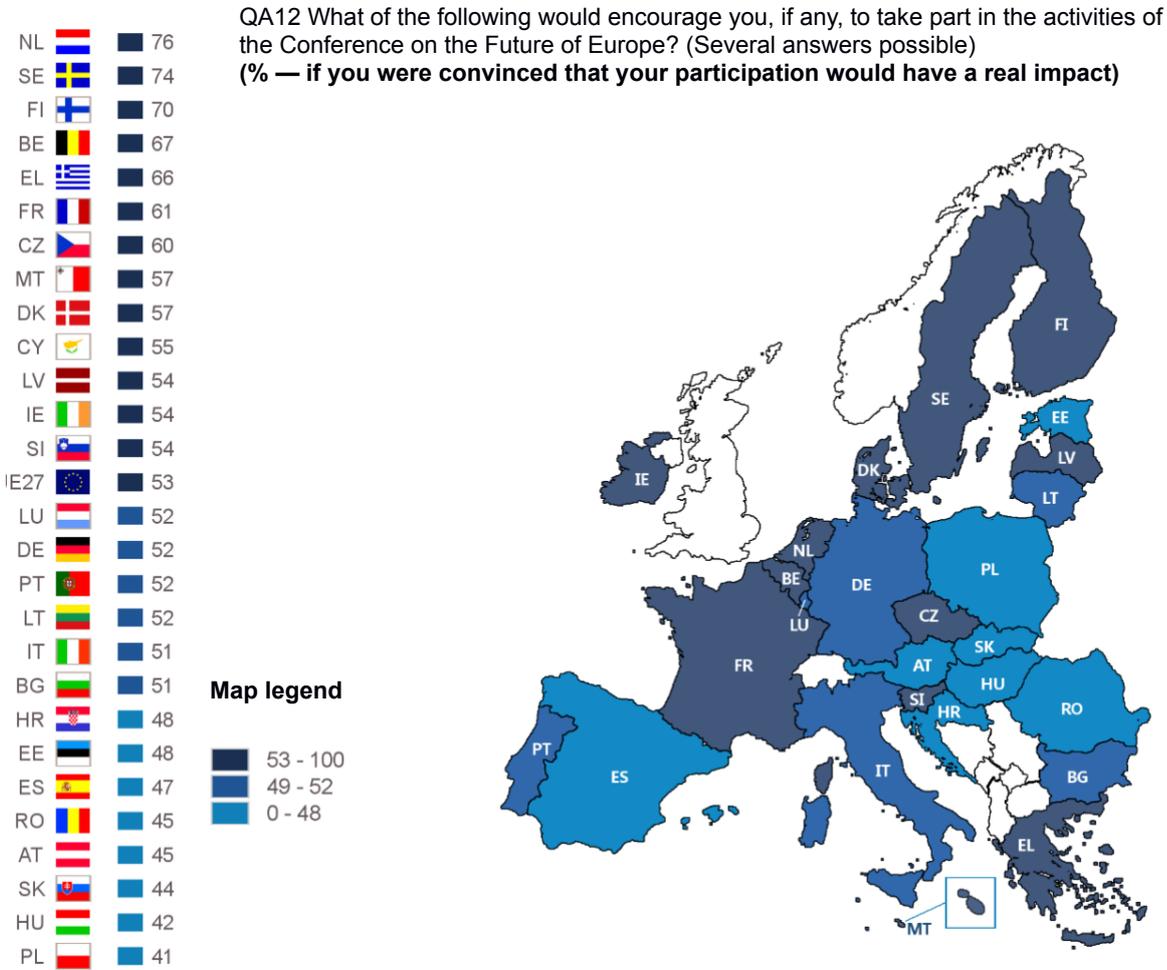
QA12 What of the following would encourage you, if any, to take part in the activities of the Conference on the Future of Europe? (several answers possible) (% — EU27)



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In 19 EU Member States, more than half of the respondents say they would like to participate in the Conference on the Future of Europe if they were convinced that their participation would have a real impact. This proportion is highest in the Netherlands (76 %), Sweden (74 %), Finland (70 %), Belgium (67 %) and Greece (66 %).

Respondents in Poland (41 %), Hungary (42 %), Slovakia (44 %), Austria and Romania (45 % in both countries) are least likely to consider this as a reason for participation.



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The proportion of respondents who are willing to take part in the Conference on the Future of Europe if all components of society were represented is the highest in Greece, Sweden (42 % in both countries), Germany and Ireland (41 % in both countries). Respondents in Latvia (14 %), Lithuania (16 %) and Estonia (17 %) are the least willing to consider this as a reason for participation.

In Sweden and Finland, more than half of the respondents say that their desire to participate would be increased if they could choose a flexible form of participation (52 % and 51 %, respectively). This proportion is also high in the Netherlands (48 %), with its lowest level in Latvia (16 %), Spain and Slovenia (19 % in both countries).

QA12 What of the following would encourage you, if any, to take part in the activities of the Conference on the Future of Europe? (MULTIPLE RESPONSES POSSIBLE) (%)

	If you were convinced that your participation would have a real impact	If all the components of the company were represented	If you could choose a flexible form of participation (e.g. only from home, etc.)	If you had the opportunity to speak directly with a participating political representative	If you had the guarantee to receive regular updates on the results of your participation	If you were sure your contribution would remain anonymous	Whether celebrities (e.g. actors, artists, high-level athletes) participated	Nothing, such an initiative is not of interest to you (Spontané)
EU27	53	31	28	27	23	20	10	11
BE	67	35	36	26	35	21	8	3
BG	51	21	25	18	16	16	12	15
CZ	60	20	24	23	14	21	12	6
DK	57	28	41	27	19	15	4	10
OF	52	41	38	34	21	20	8	10
EE	48	17	20	13	17	13	9	17
IE	54	41	29	29	28	24	8	4
EL	66	42	25	30	29	17	6	18
ES	47	28	19	19	16	14	4	20
FR	61	26	20	24	21	17	7	14
HR	48	34	29	21	19	23	11	8
IT	51	32	26	32	25	24	16	7
CY	55	33	26	29	23	23	8	18
LV	54	14	16	13	17	15	8	16
LT	52	16	24	15	18	14	7	20
READ	52	25	28	27	25	19	10	2
HU	42	28	27	14	17	30	12	8
MT	57	27	24	23	15	23	8	9
NL	76	35	48	34	35	15	4	3
AT	45	34	35	33	27	26	15	15
PL	41	24	24	22	20	22	15	12
PT	52	27	21	22	18	27	7	25
RO	45	32	22	31	29	20	19	10
IF	54	29	19	16	21	13	7	17
SK	44	22	22	23	20	22	10	16
FI	70	21	51	16	26	17	3	3
SE	74	42	52	42	38	14	5	3

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Socio-demographic data show differences between the sexes. Men are more likely than women to say that two factors would encourage them to take part in the Conference on the Future of Europe, for example, the opportunity to speak directly with a political representative participating (30 % vs. 43 %) and if they were convinced that their participation would have a real impact (55 % versus 51 %).

From an age group perspective, younger respondents are much more likely to respond than being convinced that their participation would have a real impact would encourage them to participate in the Conference, as opposed to older age groups (48 % of respondents aged 55 or over versus 56-59 % of younger age groups). Younger people are also more likely to say that their desire to participate would be increased if they were guaranteed to receive regular updates on the results of their participation (18 % of respondents aged 55 or over compared to 25-26 % of younger groups).

On the other hand, older respondents are more likely to respond that there would be no incentive to participate because they are not interested in this type of initiative (18 % of people 55 years of age or older compared with 5-7 % of younger age groups).

The answers also differ depending on the level of education. Interviewees who completed their studies at the age of 20 or older are more likely to cite several factors. For example, 62 % say that their desire to participate would be increased if they were convinced that their participation would have a real impact, a proportion that reached its lowest level (39 %) of those who dropped out of school at the age of 15 or younger. Respondents who completed their studies earlier are more willing to say that nothing would encourage them (27 % of those who completed their studies at 15 years of age or less compared to 6 % of those who completed them at 20 years of age or older).

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QA12 What of the following would encourage you, if any, to take part in the activities of the Conference on the Future of Europe? (SEVERAL ANSWERS POSSIBLE) (% — EU)

	If you were convinced that your participation would have a real impact	If all the components of the company were represented	If you could choose a flexible form of participation (e.g. only from home, etc.)	If you had the opportunity to speak directly with a participating political representative	If you had the guarantee to receive regular updates on the results of your participation	If you were sure your contribution would remain anonymous	Whether celebrities (e.g. actors, artists, high-level athletes) participated	Other (Spontane)	Nothing, such an initiative is not of interest to you (Spontané)	Don't know
EU27	53	31	28	27	23	20	10	0	11	2
Gender										
Man	55	32	29	30	24	19	10	0	10	1
Woman	51	31	28	24	21	20	10	0	13	2
Age										
15-24	57	34	30	30	25	22	14	0	7	1
25-39	59	34	34	30	26	22	11	0	5	1
40-54	56	33	31	30	26	21	10	0	7	1
55+	48	28	24	23	18	17	7	0	18	2
School leaving age										
—15	39	22	16	19	12	17	7	0	27	3
16-19	50	31	27	25	20	22	10	0	12	1
20+	62	35	35	32	29	18	9	0	6	1
Always student	59	36	33	34	26	21	13	0	5	1
Socio-professional category										
Independents	61	34	33	32	26	20	9	0	6	1
Senior management	62	38	40	37	29	19	9	0	4	1
Other employees	58	33	33	27	27	21	11	0	6	1
Workers	52	31	26	25	22	22	11	0	10	1
Women/Men in the Home	45	24	21	24	18	18	8	0	19	2
Unemployed	52	29	24	25	20	23	12	0	14	1
Pensioners	46	27	22	22	17	17	7	0	21	2
Students	59	36	33	34	26	21	13	0	5	1
Difficulties in paying your bills										
Most of the time	51	28	22	27	21	19	12	0	15	2
From time to time	49	30	26	27	23	23	12	0	11	1
Almost Never/Never	55	32	30	27	23	18	8	0	11	2

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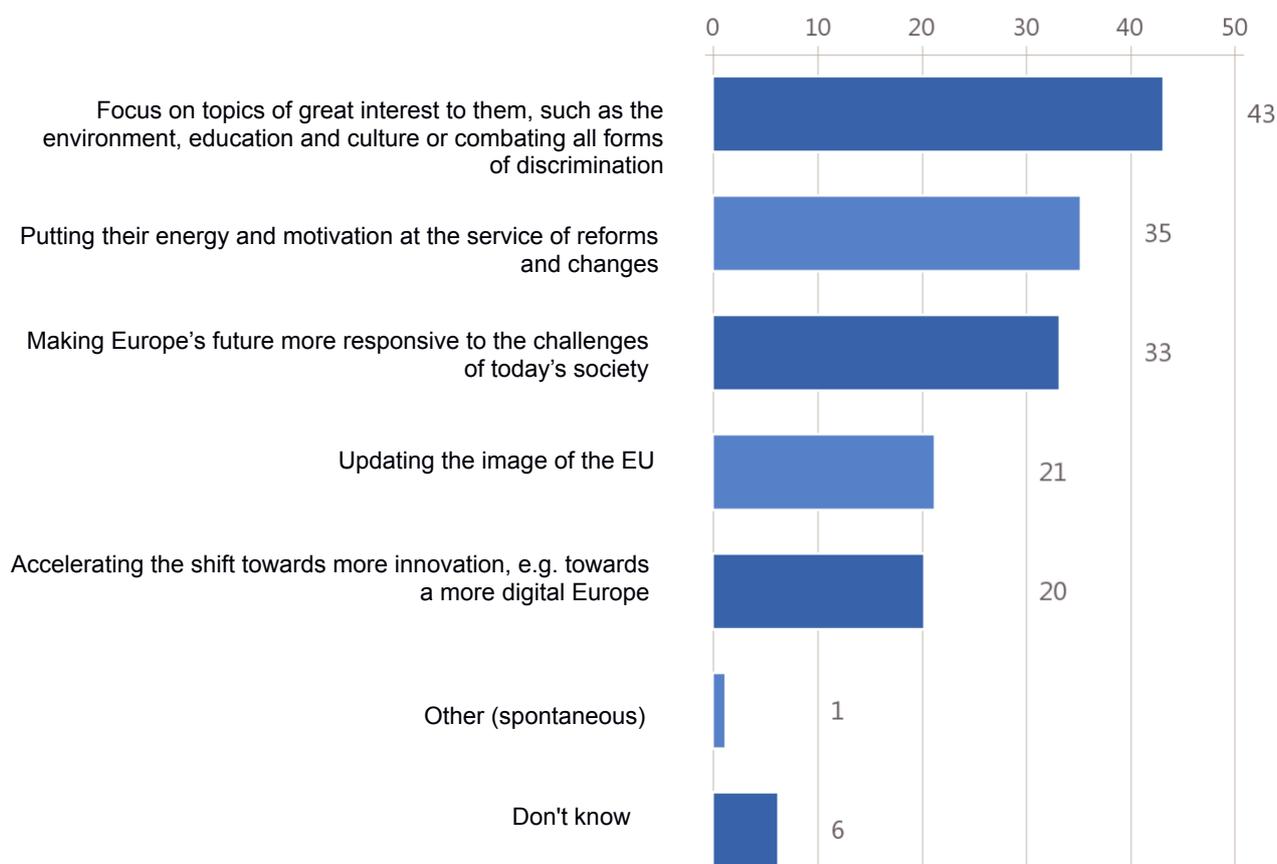
The most important benefit of the participation of younger generations in the Conference is the focus on topics of great interest to them.

For more than four out of ten citizens of the European Union (43 %), the most important benefit of the participation of younger generations in the Conference on the Future of Europe is the focus on topics of great interest to them, such as the environment, education and culture or the fight against all forms of discrimination.

About one third of respondents believe that putting their energy and motivation for reforms and change (35 %) and making Europe's future more responsive to the challenges of today's society (33 %) are among the important benefits.

One in five respondents said that updating the image of the European Union (21 %) and accelerating the change towards more innovation, for example towards a more digital Europe (20 %) are important benefits.

QA13 What are the most important benefits of the participation of younger generations in the Conference on the Future of Europe? (Max. 2 replies) (% — EU27)

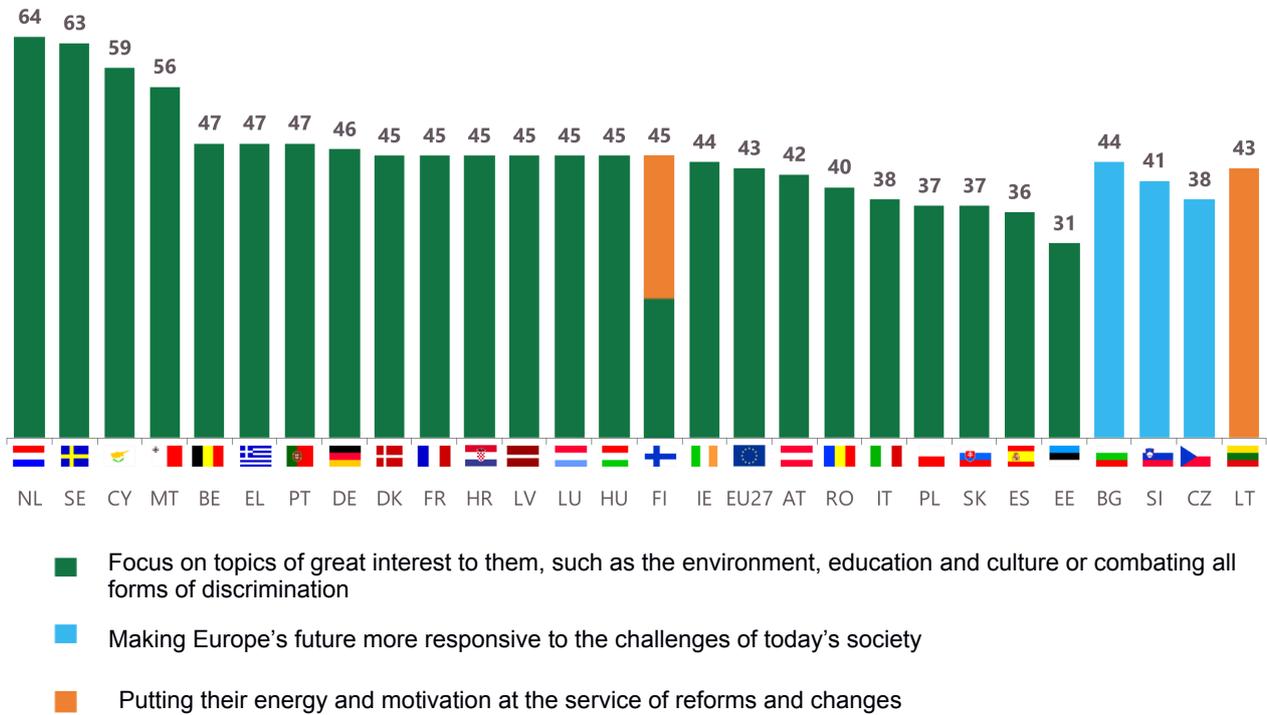


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In 22 Member States, respondents are more likely to consider that the focus on topics of great interest to the younger generation is one of the most important benefits of younger generation participation. Making Europe's future more responsive to the challenges of today's society is seen as the main benefit in three countries: Bulgaria, Slovenia and the Czech Republic.

In Lithuania, the most important benefit is to put their energy and motivation at the service of reforms and changes. In Finland, two answers come in the lead ex aequo: focus on topics of great interest to the younger generation, and use their energy and motivation for reform and change.

QA13 What are the most important benefits of the participation of younger generations in the Conference on the Future of Europe? (MAX. 2 RESPONSES) (% — THE MOST CITED BY COUNTRY)



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In four Member States, more than half of the respondents say that the focus on topics of great interest to the younger generation is one of the important benefits of their participation in the Conference: the Netherlands (64 %), Sweden (63 %), Cyprus (59 %) and Malta (56 %). Respondents in Bulgaria (30 %), Estonia (31 %), Czechia and Slovenia (33 % in both countries) are the least likely to agree.

Respondents in Finland (45 %) say that one of the main benefits of young generation participation is to use their energy and motivation for reforms and changes, followed by those in Germany (44 %), Lithuania (43 %) and Greece (42 %). This proportion is lowest in Romania (23 %), Estonia (26 %), Denmark and Malta (28 % in both countries).

Making Europe's future more responsive to the challenges of today's society is seen as a benefit mainly in Portugal (46 %), Bulgaria (44 %), Sweden (43 %) and France (42 %). Respondents in Lithuania (20 %), Latvia (25 %) and Germany (26 %) are those who perceive it least as a benefit.

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QA13 What are the most important benefits of the participation of younger generations in the Conference on the Future of Europe? (MAX. 2 RESPONSES) (%)

	Focus on topics of great interest to them, such as the environment, education and culture or combating all forms of discrimination	Putting their energy and motivation at the service of reforms and changes	Making Europe's future more responsive to the challenges of today's society	Updating the image of the EU	Accelerating the shift towards more innovation, e.g. towards a more digital Europe
EU27	43	35	33	21	20
BE	47	32	41	22	19
BG	30	37	44	18	17
CZ	33	36	38	15	22
DK	45	28	41	27	15
OF	46	44	26	25	24
EE	31	26	30	17	20
IE	44	32	40	28	16
EL	47	42	35	21	17
ES	36	32	27	25	16
FR	45	29	42	17	13
HR	45	39	29	15	28
IT	38	37	31	22	28
CY	59	40	31	20	19
LV	45	33	25	9	19
LT	42	43	20	20	17
READ	45	31	33	30	16
HU	45	31	28	22	28
MT	56	28	41	13	20
NL	64	41	32	21	17
AT	42	35	35	29	18
PL	37	29	34	18	22
PT	47	41	46	8	13
RO	40	23	30	26	21
IF	33	32	41	27	20
SK	37	31	30	20	22
FI	45	45	38	14	15
SE	63	41	43	14	14

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Sociodemographic data are mostly homogeneous between different age groups. However, respondents between the ages of 15 and 24 are more likely than older people to cite as important benefits of younger generation participation “focusing on topics of great interest to them” (49 % versus 40 % of people 55 years of age or older) and “accelerating the change towards more innovation” (25 % vs. 16 %).

There are differences depending on the level of education: interviewees who completed their studies at the age of 20 or older are more likely to consider all responses as benefits. The difference is more pronounced in the focus on subjects of great interest to the younger generation (47 % compared to 35 % of those who dropped out of school at the age of 15 or under).

QA13 What are the most important benefits of the participation of younger generations in the Conference on the Future of Europe? (MAX. 2 REPLIES) (% — EU)

	Focus on topics of great interest to them, such as the environment, education and culture or combating all forms of discrimination	Putting their energy and motivation at the service of reforms and changes	Making Europe's future more responsive to the challenges of today's society	Updating the image of the EU	Accelerating the shift towards more innovation, e.g. towards a more digital Europe	Other (Spontane)	Don't know
EU27	43	35	33	21	20	1	6
Gender							
Man	40	35	34	22	22	1	6
Woman	45	36	31	20	19	1	7
Age							
15-24	49	33	33	20	25	1	3
25-39	45	35	36	21	24	1	3
40-54	43	36	35	21	22	1	4
55+	40	36	30	22	16	1	10
School leaving age							
—15	35	32	27	22	14	2	15
16-19	40	35	33	22	21	1	6
20+	47	38	35	21	22	1	3
Always student	51	35	33	21	25	1	2
Socio-professional category							
Independents	40	38	37	22	23	1	3
Senior management	48	39	37	20	24	1	1
Other employees	46	36	35	20	23	1	4
Workers	42	33	34	22	21	1	6
Women/Men in the Home	38	34	25	20	19	2	13
Unemployed	42	34	32	21	19	1	7
Pensioners	39	35	29	22	15	1	11
Students	51	35	33	21	25	1	2
Difficulties in paying your bills							
Most of the time	37	35	33	20	18	2	9
From time to time	41	33	35	21	21	1	7
Almost Never/Never	44	36	32	22	21	1	6

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Europeans believe that climate change and the environment, health and the economy, social justice and employment are the most important topics of the Conference and for the future of Europe

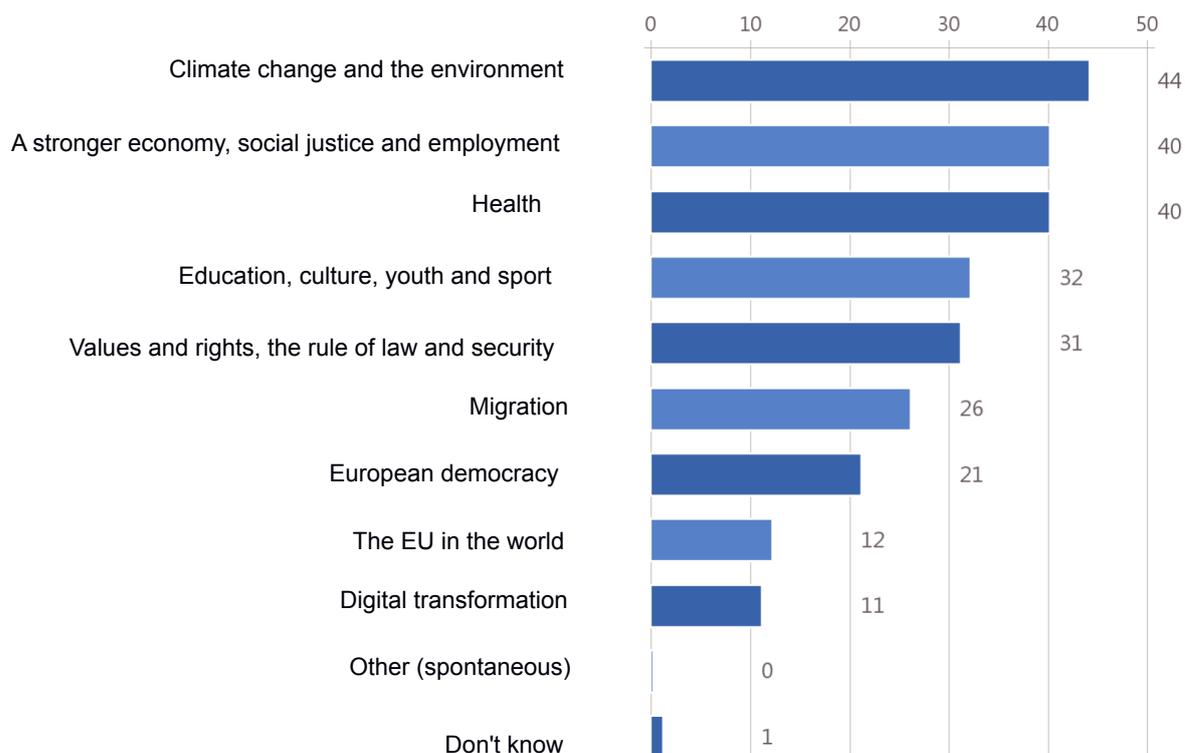
Interviewees were asked to list, from a list of nine topics, the three most important to them for the Conference on the Future of Europe.

Three topics stand out with a similar level of importance: climate change and the environment (selected by 44 %), followed by health, and a stronger economy, social justice and employment (40 % for both).

About three out of ten respondents cite education, culture, youth and sport (32 %), on the one hand, and values and rights, the rule of law and security (31 %), on the other. About a quarter (26 per cent) said migration was an important topic for the Conference.

One in five (21 %) cites European democracy as an important topic, while about one in ten mentions the EU in the world (12 %) and the digital transformation (11 %).

QA14 The Conference on the Future of Europe is currently discussing a number of topics. Of these, in your opinion, which are important for the future of Europe (Max. 3 replies) (% — EU27)

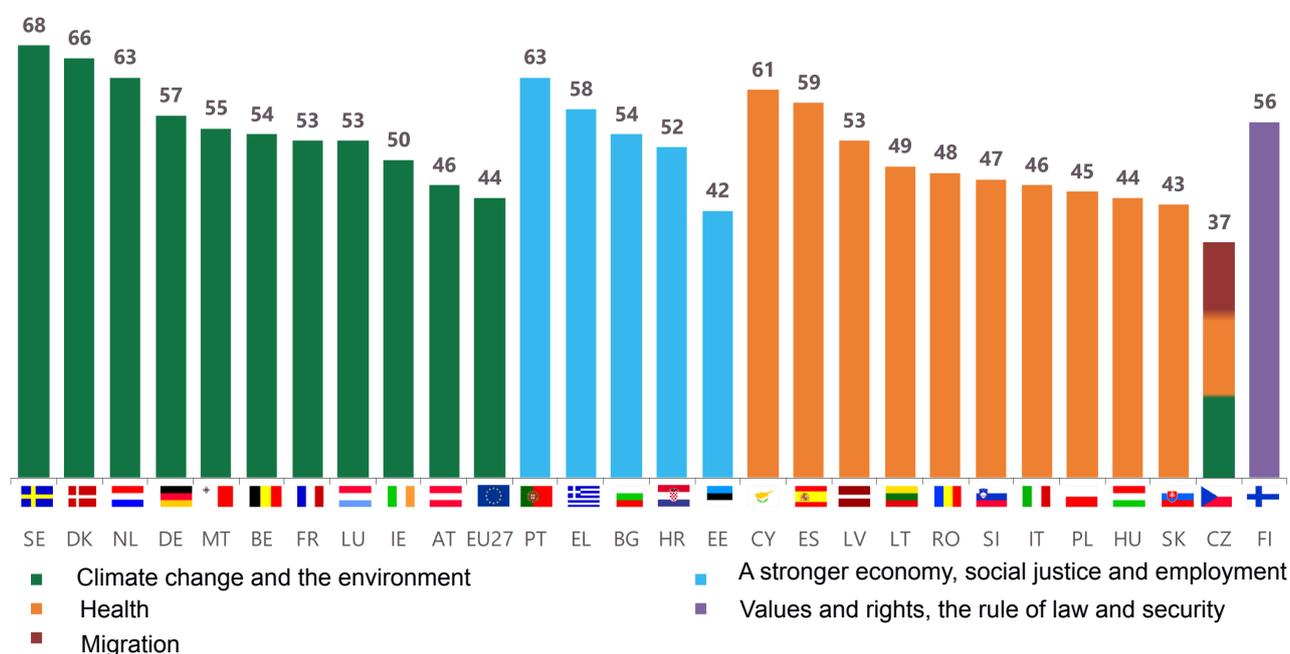


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Climate change and environment and health are both considered the most important topics for the Conference on the Future of Europe in 10 Member States. In five Member States, the most important issue is a stronger economy, social justice and employment.

Respondents in Finland are more likely to choose values and rights, the rule of law and security, while three subjects come first in the Czech Republic: climate change and environment, health and migration.

QA14 The Conference on the Future of Europe is currently discussing a number of topics. Of these, in your opinion, which are important for the future of Europe? (MAX. 3 RESPONSES) (% — THE MOST CITED BY COUNTRY)



In eight Member States, more than half of the respondents say climate change and the environment are one of the most important topics for the Conference on the Future of Europe. This proportion is highest in Sweden (68 %), Denmark (66 %) and the Netherlands (63 %), and the lowest in Romania (16 %) and Bulgaria (19 %).

Respondents in Cyprus (61 %), Portugal (60 %) and Spain (59 %) are more likely to say that health is an important topic, while those in Sweden (14 %) and Finland (18 %) are the least likely to share this opinion.

Respondents in Portugal are most likely to say that a stronger economy, social justice and employment is an important subject (63 %), followed by those in Greece (58 %), Bulgaria (54 %) and Croatia (52 %). Respondents in Luxembourg (28 %) and Malta (30 %) are the least likely to choose this answer.

Another interesting lesson is the high proportion of respondents who in some countries believe that values and rights, the rule of law and security are an important topic. While 31 % of respondents in the European Union as a whole put forward this response, it is by at least half of them in Finland (56 %), Sweden (52 %) and the Netherlands (49 %).

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QA14 The Conference on the Future of Europe is currently discussing a number of topics. Of these, in your opinion, which are important for the future of Europe? (MAX. 3 RESPONSES) (%)

	Climate change and the environment	Health	A stronger economy, social justice and employment	Education, culture, youth and sport	Values and rights, the rule of law and security	Migration	European democracy	The EU in the world	Digital transformation
EU27	44	40	40	32	31	26	21	12	11
BE	54	42	38	33	34	28	19	13	7
BG	19	50	54	32	35	18	12	9	7
CZ	33	37	36	29	37	37	25	13	11
DK	66	28	36	17	31	36	23	15	12
OF	57	23	34	27	33	29	32	14	22
EE	27	39	42	35	27	32	9	7	11
IE	50	49	39	37	25	21	17	10	7
EL	31	48	58	36	42	39	15	9	5
ES	40	59	48	43	25	23	12	5	4
FR	53	42	34	42	29	28	17	12	5
HR	37	41	52	34	34	16	17	11	9
IT	39	46	42	25	25	27	16	11	13
CY	41	61	42	39	38	33	8	3	6
LV	28	53	47	40	29	23	8	6	6
LT	31	49	43	38	23	37	8	8	6
READ	53	42	28	35	27	30	26	10	7
HU	31	44	37	30	30	33	25	10	10
MT	55	45	30	30	29	39	14	7	10
NL	63	22	38	29	49	32	23	23	6
AT	46	38	35	29	30	31	25	16	17
PL	27	45	37	25	29	17	21	13	10
PT	32	60	63	39	31	11	12	8	6
RO	16	48	39	34	27	13	19	10	12
IF	43	47	44	32	37	11	18	7	12
SK	29	43	40	34	36	21	14	8	9
FI	48	18	47	20	56	24	27	25	7
SE	68	14	39	19	52	40	35	11	6

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The sociodemographic analysis shows that women are more likely than men to say that health (43 % versus 37 %) and education, culture, youth and sport (34 % versus 30 %) are among the important topics for the Conference. Men are slightly more likely to mention "migration" (28 % versus 25 %).

At the age group level, the main divergence is education, culture, youth and sport, a subject much more cited by the youngest (43 % of 15-24 year olds compared to 28 % of those aged 55 or over). Younger people are also more likely to cite climate change and the environment (49 % of those aged 15-24 compared with 41 % of those aged 55 or older), while older people are more likely to cite health (44 % of people aged 55 or over compared with 36-38 % of younger age groups). Respondents aged 15-24 are less willing to cite "a stronger economy, social justice and employment" (33 % versus 40-42 % in other age groups).

Differences arise depending on the level of education. The most striking observation concerns respondents who completed their studies at the age of 20 or over, who are the most likely to say that "climate change and the environment" is an important topic for the Conference (52 % versus 34 % of those who have dropped out of school at the age of 15 or less), but are the least likely to respond to "health" (31 % versus 58 %).

Respondents who have difficulty paying their bills most of the time are most likely to cite "a stronger economy, social justice and employment" (49 % versus 39 % of those who never or almost never have any difficulties) and "education, culture, youth and sport" (38 % versus 31 %). However, fewer respondents cite "climate change and the environment" (33 % versus 48 %).

Climate change and the environment are more frequently cited as an important topic for the Conference by respondents who have a positive image of the European Union (51 % versus 29 % of those with a negative image). On the other hand, people with a negative image of the European Union are more likely to cite "migration" (32 % versus 25 % of those with a positive image). These figures confirm the answers given on the main challenges of the EU (see Section IV).

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QA14 The Conference on the Future of Europe is currently discussing a number of topics. Of these, in your opinion, which are important for the future of Europe? (MAX. 3 REPLIES) (% — EU)

	Climate change and the environment	Health	A stronger economy, social justice and employment	Education, culture, youth and sport	Values and rights, the rule of law and security	Migration	European democracy	The EU in the world	Digital transformation
EU27	44	40	40	32	31	26	21	12	11
Gender									
Man	43	37	40	30	31	28	21	14	14
Woman	45	43	39	34	32	25	20	10	8
Age									
15-24	49	36	33	43	28	23	19	11	16
25-39	46	36	41	35	31	26	18	12	15
40-54	44	38	42	30	32	27	21	14	11
55+	41	44	40	28	32	27	22	10	7
School leaving age									
—15	34	58	43	28	27	24	16	7	4
16-19	39	43	41	31	31	27	20	10	11
20+	52	31	39	32	34	28	24	15	13
Always student	52	32	31	42	29	24	21	12	18
Socio-professional category									
Independents	45	36	42	28	34	26	22	14	14
Senior management	55	28	39	29	33	28	24	15	16
Other employees	44	36	41	31	33	27	21	14	12
Workers	39	43	43	33	31	25	18	11	9
Women/Men in the Home	36	52	38	35	30	26	15	8	8
Unemployed	39	44	47	37	32	27	15	9	10
Pensioners	42	46	39	28	30	27	22	9	6
Students	52	32	31	42	29	24	21	12	18
Image of the EU									
Positive	51	37	40	33	32	25	22	13	13
Neutral	38	45	40	31	29	27	18	10	9
Negative	29	39	41	29	35	32	20	7	7

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Views are divided on the impact of the Conference on democratic progress and concrete changes

The majority of Europeans (55 %) believe that the Conference represents a real step forward for democracy in the European Union, of which 13 % are “strongly agreed”. However, three out of ten (30 %) disagree with this statement.

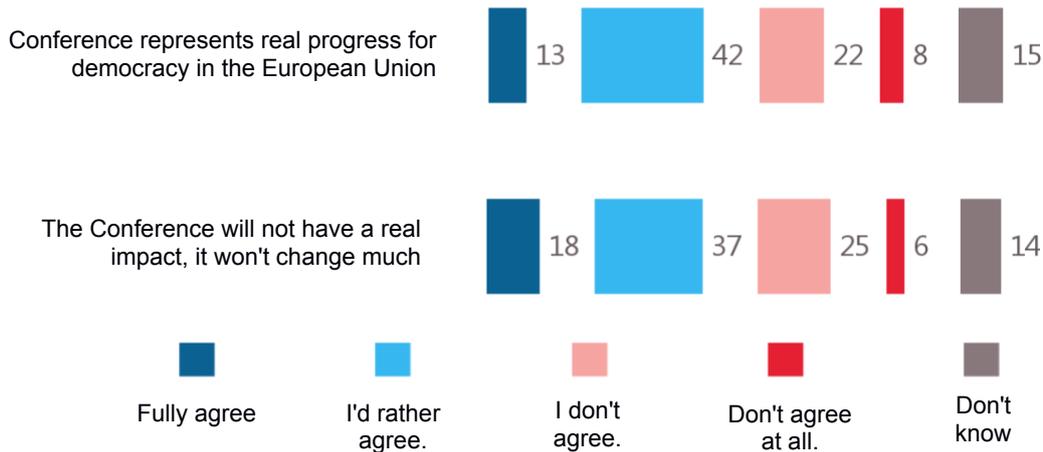
At the same time, the same proportion of Europeans (55 %) agree that the Conference will not have a real impact, that this will not change much, and this figure includes 18 % of people who “strongly agree”. About three out of ten people (31 %) disagree.

In all countries, the majority of respondents agree that the Conference on the Future of Europe represents real progress for democracy in the European Union. This proportion is highest in Cyprus (74 %), Sweden (71 %) and Italy (70 %). The countries with the highest disagreement with this statement are Finland (46 %), Czechia and Slovenia (42 % in these two countries).

In all the Member States of the European Union, the majority of respondents agree that the Conference will not have a real impact, that it will not change much. This proportion is highest in Finland (68 %), Slovenia (64 %), Belgium and Greece (63 % in both countries).

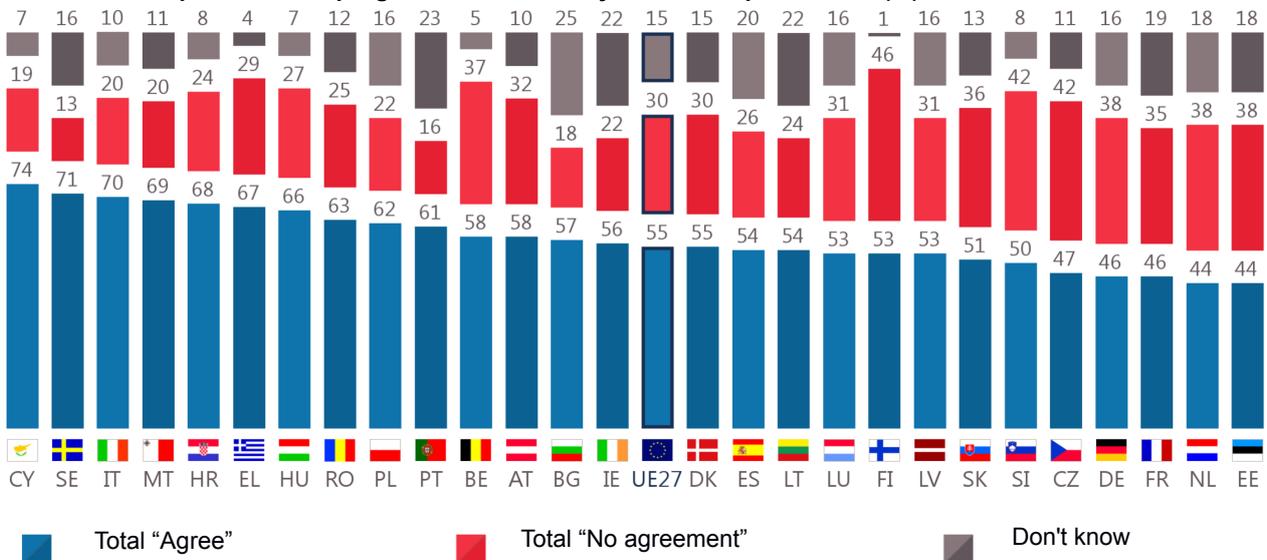
Respondents are more likely to disagree with this statement in Croatia (45 %), Malta (42 %), Estonia (39 %), Ireland and Romania (37 % in both countries).

QA10 To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements regarding the Conference on the Future of Europe: (% — EU27)



QA10.1 To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements regarding the Conference on the Future of Europe:

Conference represents real progress for democracy in the European Union (%)



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Socio-demographic data show that younger respondents are more likely to see the Conference as a real step forward for democracy in the European Union (61 % of 15-24-year-olds versus 52 % of people aged 55 or over).

Adherence to this statement is higher among those with long-term education (58 % of those who completed their studies at 20 years of age or older compared with 50 % of those who completed them at 15 or less).

Data also show that students (63 %), executives (60 %) and other office workers (61 %) validate this claim more frequently, as opposed to those in the home (47 %).

The membership rate is lower among respondents who have difficulty paying their bills most of the time (46 % versus 56 % of those who never or almost never have any difficulties).

Finally, it should be noted that those who would be willing to participate in the activities of the Conference on the Future of Europe in different ways are more likely to believe that the Conference represents real progress for democracy: for example, 65 % of those who would agree to participate in a survey, and 69 % of those who would attend meetings in their region, agree that the Conference represents real progress for democracy in the European Union.

QA10.1 To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements regarding the Conference on the Future of Europe:

Conference represents real progress for democracy in the European Union (% — EU)

	Total "Agree"	Total "No agreement"	Don't know
EU27	55	30	15
Gender			
Man	55	31	14
Woman	56	28	16
Age			
15-24	61	24	15
25-39	58	29	13
40-54	57	31	12
55+	52	30	18
School leaving age			
—15	50	27	23
16-19	55	32	13
20+	58	29	13
Always student	63	22	15
Socio-professional category			
Independents	58	31	11
Senior management	60	28	12
Other employees	61	28	11
Workers	56	33	11
Women/Men in the Home	47	29	24
Unemployed	49	34	17
Pensioners	50	30	20
Students	63	22	15
Difficulties in paying your bills			
Most of the time	46	39	15
From time to time	57	31	12
Almost Never/Never	56	29	15

2. The Conference on the Future of Europe in the Media

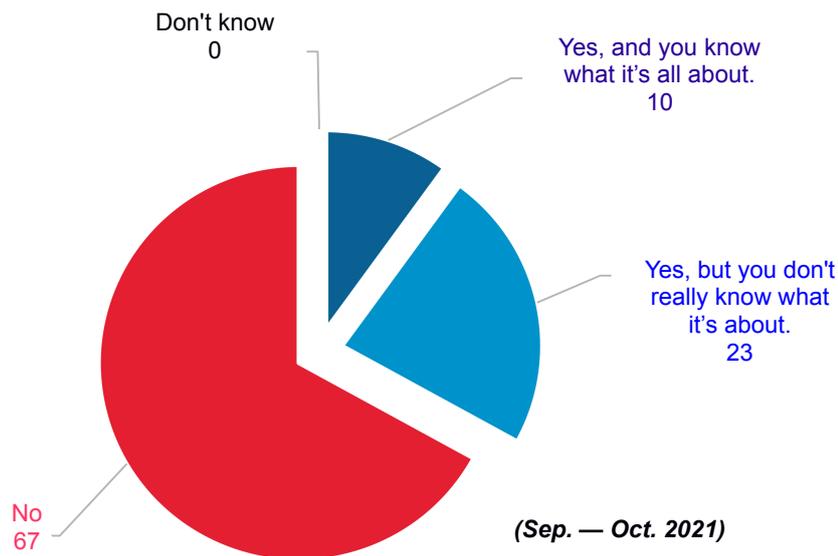
A third of Europeans have recently read or heard something about the Conference

One in three Europeans (33 %) said they had recently read, seen or heard something about the Conference on the Future of Europe. This proportion includes one in ten (10 %) who saw or heard something knowing what it is, and 23 % who don't really know what it is.

The proportion of people who have read, seen or heard something about the Conference varies from one Member State to another. In Finland, more than half of the respondents (54 %) saw or heard something, which is also relatively high in Malta (49 %), Croatia and Hungary (45 % in both countries). On the other hand, only 20 % of respondents in France saw or heard something, slightly less than in Bulgaria (22 %), Denmark and Lithuania (26 % in both countries).

The proportion of respondents who say they have seen or heard something and know what this is about varies from 17 % in Malta to 4 % in France.

QA6 Have you recently read in the press, seen on the Internet or on television or heard something on the radio about the Conference on the Future of Europe? (% — EU27)



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The sociodemographic analysis shows that men are more likely than women to say that they have recently read, seen or heard something about the Conference on the Future of Europe (35 % versus 31 %). Among age groups, 40-54 year-olds are more likely to remember reading, seeing or hearing something (36 % versus 31-34 % in other age groups).

Differences arise depending on the level of education. Interviewees who completed their studies at the age of 20 more often remember reading, seeing or hearing something about the Conference (38 % versus 23 % of those who completed them at the age of 15 or less). For socio-occupational categories, managers (43 %) and self-employed (40 %) are more likely to report that they have recently read, seen or heard something about the Conference, while those interviewed at home (23 %) and unemployed (24 %) are the least likely to say so.

QA6 Have you recently read in the press, seen on the Internet or on television or heard something on the radio about the Conference on the Future of Europe? (% — EU)

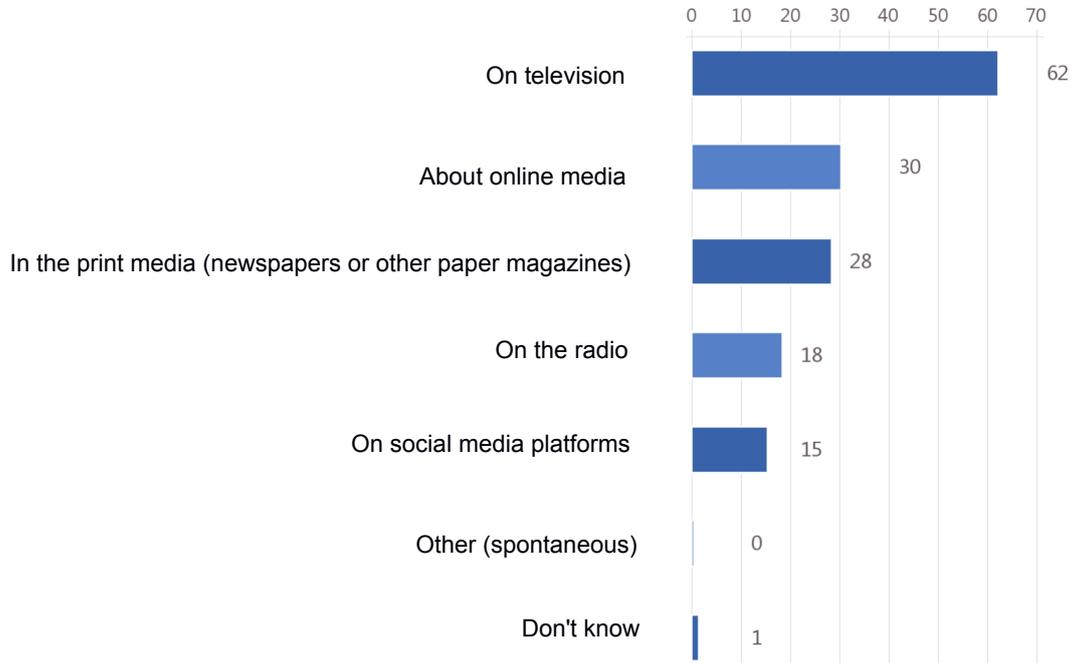
	Yes, and you know what it's all about.	Yes, but you don't really know what it's about.	No	Don't know
EU27	10	23	67	0
Gender				
Man	12	23	65	0
Woman	8	23	69	0
Age				
15-24	10	22	68	0
25-39	11	23	66	0
40-54	11	25	64	0
55+	9	22	69	0
School leaving age				
—15	5	18	77	0
16-19	9	24	67	0
20+	13	25	62	0
Always student	12	21	67	0
Socio-professional category				
Independents	14	26	60	0
Senior management	15	28	57	0
Other employees	10	27	63	0
Workers	8	23	69	0
Women/Men in the Home	6	17	77	0
Unemployed	6	18	76	0
Pensioners	10	20	70	0
Students	12	21	67	0
Internet use				
Every day	11	25	64	0
Often/sometimes	8	24	68	0
Never	4	15	81	0

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Of the respondents who previously stated that they had seen, read or heard something about the Conference on the Future of Europe, 62 % felt that they had obtained information on television, 30 % in online media and 28 % in the print media.

Radio (18 %) and social media platforms (15 %) are the least cited.

QA17 Where did you see, read or hear anything about the Conference on the Future of Europe? (several answers possible) (% — EU27)



Respondents who recently read, seen or heard something about the Conference on the Future of Europe (33 % of the total sample)

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Respondents in Portugal (81 %), Italy (74 %) and Bulgaria (72 %) were the most likely to have seen something about the Conference on the Future of Europe on TV. This proportion is lowest in Luxembourg (39 %) and Estonia (46 %).

Cyprus (51 %), Greece (50 %) and Lithuania (49 %) hold the highest proportions of respondents reporting having seen something in online media. On the other hand, respondents in Portugal (13 %) and France (19 %) are the least likely to say so.

For those interviewed who saw something about the Conference in the print press, such as newspapers or magazines, Austria (47 %), Belgium (39 %), and Germany, Italy, Portugal and Finland (35 % in these four countries) are the largest proportions. On the other hand, respondents in Latvia (5 %), Bulgaria (7 %) and Lithuania (9 %) are the least likely to report this.

	On television	About online media	In the print media (newspapers or other paper magazines)	On the radio	On social media platforms	Other (Spontane)	Don't know
EU27	62	30	28	18	15	0	1
PT	81	13	35	12	14	1	3
IT	74	28	35	13	22	0	1
BG	72	38	7	10	35	0	1
CY	69	51	16	10	17	0	2
HU	66	35	15	11	18	0	1
IF	64	41	26	21	11	0	1
FR	63	19	18	23	13	0	3
EL	62	50	17	7	22	1	1
PL	62	23	27	16	13	0	1
ES	61	33	14	13	9	1	1
DK	60	23	22	21	11	1	2
OF	59	34	35	25	14	0	1
SK	59	38	26	18	16	0	2
NL	57	43	33	17	13	0	0
FI	57	28	35	15	10	0	0
HR	55	41	21	12	17	0	2
LT	55	49	9	10	25	1	0
SE	54	33	33	29	17	2	0
MT	52	46	18	12	37	0	0
BE	51	27	39	24	18	0	0
CZ	49	44	14	19	16	0	1
AT	49	26	47	17	13	1	3
IE	48	23	18	33	13	0	0
LV	48	31	5	18	29	2	2
RO	48	23	22	14	13	2	1
EE	46	40	12	18	19	0	5
READ	39	35	29	24	18	1	0

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Socio-demographic data show some clear differences between age groups. Older respondents were more likely to have seen something on the television conference (71 % of people aged 55 or over compared to 51 % of those aged 15-24) and in the print media (34 % versus 16 %). However, younger people report more frequently than older people to have seen something in online media (43 % of 15-24 year olds versus 19 % of people 55 years of age or older) or on social media platforms (34 % versus 6 %).

Respondents who completed their studies at the age of 20 or over reported that they had seen or heard something about the source differences, including the online media (38 % versus 12 % of those who dropped out of school at the age of 15 or younger). Television is an exception: it is cited more frequently by respondents who completed their studies at 15 years of age less (80 % versus 57 % of those who completed their studies at the age of 20 or over).

Respondents with a positive image of the European Union are more likely than those who have a negative image to have seen something on TV (64 % versus 51 %) or in the print media (30 % vs. 24 %). However, there are no significant differences in other types of media.

Finally, there are some significant variations in the level of knowledge of the Conference among interviewees. Those who have seen something about it, and know what it is, are more likely to have seen something on all media than those who also saw something, but without knowing what it is about. This is particularly true of seeing something on the online media (40 % versus 26 % respectively) and in the print media (36 % versus 24 % respectively).

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QA7 Where did you see, read or hear anything about the Conference on the Future of Europe? (Several answers possible) (% — EU)

	On television	About online media	In the print media (newspapers or other paper magazines)	On the radio	On social media platforms
EU27	62	30	28	18	15
Gender					
Man	60	34	29	19	15
Woman	63	27	27	18	15
Age					
15-24	51	43	16	15	34
25-39	53	39	24	18	21
40-54	59	34	26	18	16
55+	71	19	34	19	6
School leaving age					
—15	80	12	21	17	5
16-19	64	25	28	17	15
20+	57	38	31	19	14
Always student	50	46	17	15	35
Socio-professional category					
Independents	63	35	33	18	16
Senior management	51	39	34	22	14
Other employees	58	38	22	14	19
Workers	59	28	25	19	16
Women/Men in the Home	68	21	21	16	14
Unemployed	73	30	17	16	18
Pensioners	74	16	34	19	5
Students	50	46	17	15	35
Knowledge of the Conference on the Future of Europe					
Saw something about it but don't know what it's about	66	40	36	22	18
Has seen something about it and knows what it is about	60	26	24	16	14

CONCLUSION

This Eurobarometer survey explores a variety of topics related to the future of Europe. It was carried out in the midst of the coronavirus pandemic, which disrupted the lives of Europeans throughout 2020 and 2021. Therefore, it is important to examine views on the future of Europe in the light of this unprecedented health context.

Europeans remain in favour of the European Union. More than half say they have a positive image of the EU, and more than six out of ten are satisfied that their country is a member of the EU. At the same time, although almost three quarters are in the European Union, almost half of them are in favour of its existence, but not in its current mode of operation.

The vast majority of Europeans are satisfied with their family and daily lives, and more than eight out of ten are happy to live in the European Union. Moreover, more than two thirds believe that the EU offers future prospects for young people, and that the EU is a place of stability in a troubled world.

Europeans believe that the European Union faces many challenges, the most cited being social inequalities, unemployment, environmental problems and climate change, and migration issues. Globally, climate change and environmental problems are by far the most cited challenges for the future of the European Union, followed by health risks and forced migration and displacement. In order to respond to these challenges, Europeans believe that there is a need to focus on climate change, equality and social justice, and health and safety. In support of these views, comparable living standards, a common health policy and stronger solidarity among EU Member States are considered to be the most useful elements for the future of Europe.

Europeans believe that to make as much progress as possible, all EU Member States must work and find solutions together. This preference for joint action at European and national level encompasses a variety of areas, including environment and climate change, taxation, employment, social protection and migration and refugees. At least one third considers that the management of the fight against terrorism and the issue of migration and refugees are more effective when carried out at EU level.

Europeans are very broadly in favour of a set of environmental objectives enshrined in the European Green Deal. For the vast majority of them, many objectives are important to them personally, including the restoration of forests, soils, wetlands and peatlands in Europe to increase the uptake of CO₂ pollution. In fact, almost six out of ten Europeans say this is very important to them. A large proportion also agrees on the individual and collective benefits of combating climate change, including improving their health and well-being, and helping to reduce the costs of greater ecological damage in the future. Although more than eight out of ten Europeans believe that the fight against climate change can create new opportunities for innovation, investment and employment, opinions differ as to its impact on the economy.

By looking ahead, more than eight out of ten Europeans prefer that the 2030 society should give more importance to solidarity than to individualism. However, the opinions of Europeans are shared when asked to choose between order and individual freedom. Almost four out of ten respondents would prefer to see more decisions taken at EU level in ten years, while about the same proportion would favour a status quo in this regard.

Europeans want to be heard when decisions are made about the future of Europe. Nine out of ten Europeans believe that the voices of European citizens should be taken more into account in decisions related to the future of Europe, and seven out of ten would like their views to be taken more into account in important decisions concerning the European Union. More than half believe that voting in the European elections is the best way to ensure that the voices of European citizens are heard by decision-makers at EU level.

Interest in the future of Europe is also manifested by the willingness of Europeans to participate in the Conference on the Future of Europe, in particular by responding to a survey or taking part in meetings in their regions.

Among the topics of the Conference, many were considered important by interviewees, primarily climate change and environment, health, and a stronger economy, social justice and employment. About nine out of ten respondents believe that there is still much to be done to strengthen and protect democracy in the European Union.

TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS

Between 16 September and 17 October 2021, Kantar carried out Special Eurobarometer No 517 (EB96.1), at the request of the Directorates-General for Communication of the European Parliament and the European Commission (Media Monitoring and Eurobarometer Unit and Public Opinion Monitoring Unit).

Wave 96.1 covers the national population aged 15 years and older with the nationality of one of the Member States of the European Union and residing in one of the 27 Member States of the European Union.

The sampling principle applied in all countries and territories is a random (probabilistic) multi-phase selection. In each country, various fall points were drawn by lot with a probability proportional to the size of the population (to cover the whole country) and population density.

These fall points were systematically drawn in each of the “regional administrative units”, after having been stratified by individual unit and by type of region. They thus represent the whole territory of the countries studied, according to EUROSTAT-NUTS II (or equivalent) and according to the distribution of the population living in the country in terms of metropolitan, urban and rural areas.⁶³

At each of the selected drop points, a starting address was selected randomly. Other addresses (each Nth address) were then selected by “random route” procedures from the initial address. In each household, the interviewee was selected randomly (following the “nearest birthday” rule). If no household member responded to the surveyor, or when the selected person was not available (absent or occupied), the interviewer contacted the same household for up to three additional times (a total of four contact attempts). The investigators never mention beforehand that the study is being carried out on behalf of the European Commission; they may provide this information upon completion of the study, upon request.

The recruitment phase was slightly different in the Netherlands and Sweden, where a sample of addresses from each regional fall point (a grid of 1 km²) was selected from the directory. Address selection was done randomly. Households were then contacted by telephone and recruited to participate in the study.

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Dates of fieldwork

	Country	Institutes	Number of interviews	Land Dates		Population 15+	EU27 proportion
BE	Belgium	Mobiel Centre Market Research	1070	17/09/21	13/10/21	9188369	2.45%
BG	Bulgaria	Kantar TNS BBSS	1032	16/09/21	12/10/21	5995194	1.60%
CZ	Czech Republic	Kantar CZ	1017	17/09/21	11/10/21	8956740	2.39%
DK	Denmark	Kantar Gallup	1009	17/09/21	13/10/21	4848611	1.29%
OF	Germany	Kantar Deutschland	1557	16/09/21	11/10/21	71728398	19.10%
EE	Estonia	Norstat Estonia	1004	18/09/21	15/10/21	1073224	0.29%
IE	Ireland	B and A Research	1007	16/09/21	14/10/21	3896482	1.04%
EL	Greece	Kantar Greece	1014	16/09/21	11/10/21	9187524	2.45%
ES	Spain	TNS Investigación de Mercados y Opinión	1009	18/09/21	10/10/21	40006943	10.65%
FR	France	Kantar Public France	1004	16/09/21	07/10/21	52732499	14.04%
HR	Croatia	Hendal	1010	16/09/21	12/10/21	3488460	0.93%
IT	Italy	Kantar Italia	1027	16/09/21	12/10/21	52397331	13.95%
CY	Cyprus Rep.	CYMAR Market Research	504	16/09/21	07/10/21	734695	0.20%
LV	Latvia	Kantar TNS Latvia	1002	16/09/21	10/10/21	1568124	0.42%
LT	Lithuania	TNS LT	1012	16/09/21	09/10/21	2300257	0.61%
READ	Luxembourg	Kantar Belgium	506	16/09/21	11/10/21	503275	0.13%
HU	Hungary	Kantar Hoffmann	1013	17/09/21	05/10/21	8351017	2.22%
MT	Malta	Misco International	534	16/09/21	14/10/21	426055	0.11%
NL	Netherlands	Kantar Netherlands	1011	16/09/21	11/10/21	14165638	3.77%
AT	Austria	Das Österreichische Gallup Institute	1012	16/09/21	06/10/21	7580083	2.02%
PL	Poland	Kantar Polska	1036	16/09/21	10/10/21	32139021	8.56%
PT	Portugal	Markttest — Marketing Organização e Formação	1020	17/09/21	12/10/21	8869051	2.36%
RO	Romania	Centrul Pentru Studierea Opiniei si Pietei (CSOP)	1060	16/09/21	12/10/21	16372216	4.36%
IF	Slovenia	Mediana DOO	1004	16/09/21	10/10/21	1767202	0.47%
SK	Slovakia	Kantar Czechia	1020	16/09/21	03/10/21	4592379	1.22%
FI	Finland	Kantar TNS Oy	1010	17/09/21	17/10/21	4488064	1.20%
SE	Sweden	Kantar Sifo	1026	16/09/21	15/10/21	8149850	2.17%
		Total EU27	26530	16/09/21	17/10/21	375506702	100%*

* It should be noted that the total percentages shown in this table may exceed 100 % due to rounding

** Recruitments for online interviews in Belgium and Czechia are carried out by Kantar Belgium and Kantar CZ respectively*

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Interviews

	Country	Number of CAPI interviews	Number of interviews CAWI	Total number of interviews
BE	Belgium	707	363	1070
BG	Bulgaria	1032		1032
CZ	Czech Republic	760	257	1017
DK	Denmark	769	240	1009
OF	Germany	1557		1557
EE	Estonia	1004		1004
IE	Ireland	1007		1007
EL	Greece	1014		1014
ES	Spain	1009		1009
FR	France	1004		1004
HR	Croatia	1010		1010
IT	Italy	1027		1027
CY	Rep._de_Cyprus	504		504
LV	Latvia	1002		1002
LT	Lithuania	1012		1012
READ	Luxembourg	506		506
HU	Hungary	1013		1013
MT	Malta	358	176	534
NL	Netherlands	1011		1011
AT	Austria	1012		1012
PL	Poland	1036		1036
PT	Portugal	1020		1020
RO	Romania	1060		1060
IF	Slovenia	1004		1004
SK	Slovakia	1020		1020
FI	Finland		1010	1010
SE	Sweden	1026		1026
	TOTAL_UE27	24484	2046	26530

CAPI: Computer-assisted face-to-face survey

CAWI: Computer-assisted online survey

Impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on fieldwork

- Face-to-face interviews

As far as possible, interviews were conducted in front of the home of the interviewees or at their doorstep, in the appropriate national language. In all the countries and territories where face-to-face interviews were possible, the Computer Assisted Personal Interview (CAPI) system was used. For all face-to-face interviews, hygiene and physical distancing measures have been complied with at all times in accordance with the requirements of the public authorities. Where possible, interviews were carried out outside the dwellings, in the footstep of the door, in order to take place in the open air and in accordance with social distancing measures.

- Face-to-face and online interviews

In Belgium, Czechia, Denmark and Malta, it was possible to conduct face-to-face interviews, but not to reach the number of interviews planned during the time allocated to field work due to the impact of COVID-19 restrictions: many people were reluctant to welcome investigators to their homes, although hygiene rules and social distancing (e.g. wearing masks and the use of hydro-alcoholic gel) were respected.

Thus, in order to carry out the number of interviews planned during the fieldwork, additional interviews were carried out online using the CAWI (Computer-Assisted Web Interviewing) technique.

- Online interviews

In Finland, it was formally impossible to conduct face-to-face interviews. As a result, all interviews were conducted online using the CAWI technique.

Recruitment for online interviews

Online interviews were not designed in the same way in all countries, but based on what was possible within the time available for fieldwork. Where possible, the online sample was based on probabilistic sampling. Individuals recruited to respond to the online survey were recruited using a random dialing process (RDD) of mobile phones, or mixed (mobile and fixed) numbers. In this way, all people with telephones in each country were equally likely to be interviewed. The choice of using a sample of mobile telephone numbers only, or mixed telephone numbers (mobile and fixed), depended on the fixed telephony infrastructure of the country in question. When this infrastructure was sufficiently modern to cover a significant number of households with fixed telephones, the sample was for mixed numbers. This mixed sampling makes it possible to optimise the representation within the sample of interviewees. The sample by random composition, both for the mobile and the fixed sample, was extracted from the national telephone numbering plans. The drawing of the sample of fixed lines shall be stratified by NUTS3 regions on the basis of prefixes and the sample of mobile phones on the basis of the operator, before generating a systematic random sample of numbers whose size is proportional to the total number that can be generated in each stratum. Interviewees were recruited through this sampling process in Belgium, Czechia and Malta.

In Finland and Denmark, no RDD samples were used and the telephone sample was drawn from the national telephone directory. In these countries, telephone directories cover the entire population with a telephone, and specify the fixed and mobile number of each person.

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Response rate

In each country, a comparison was made between the sample of respondents and the universe (i.e. the total population of the country). Weights were applied to match the sample to the universe in terms of gender, age, region and degree of urbanisation. As regards the European estimates (i.e. the EU-wide average), the weight of each country has been adjusted upwards or downwards to take account of the proportion of its population 15 years of age or older compared to the population of 15 years or more in the European Union.

Response rates are calculated by dividing the total number of full interviews by the total number of addresses visited, excluding addresses that are not eligible, but including those where eligibility is unknown. For Eurobarometer 96.1, the response rates for the 27 countries of the European Union, calculated by Kantar, are as follows:

BE	38.6 %	EE	32.3 %	LV	44.1 %	PL	42.2 %
BE*	21.0 %	IE	33.8 %	LT	40.5 %	PT	38.5 %
BG	45.9 %	EL	27.5 %	READ	19.4 %	RO	62.0 %
CZ	39.1 %	ES	33.4 %	HU	61.1 %	IF	47.8 %
CZ*	24.9 %	FR	27.5 %	MT	83.6 %	SK	66.8 %
DK	37.3 %	HR	39.6 %	MT*	33.0 %	FI*	32.8 %
DK*	19.7 %	IT	21.9 %	NL	71.3 %	SE	62.9 %
OF	19.7 %	CY	44.4 %	AT	43.0 %		

*CAWI and without taking into account the recruitment phase

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Margins of error

Readers are reminded that the results of a study are estimates whose accuracy, all other things equal, depends on the size of the sample and the percentage observed.

For samples of approximately 1,000 interviews, the actual percentages oscillate in the following confidence intervals:

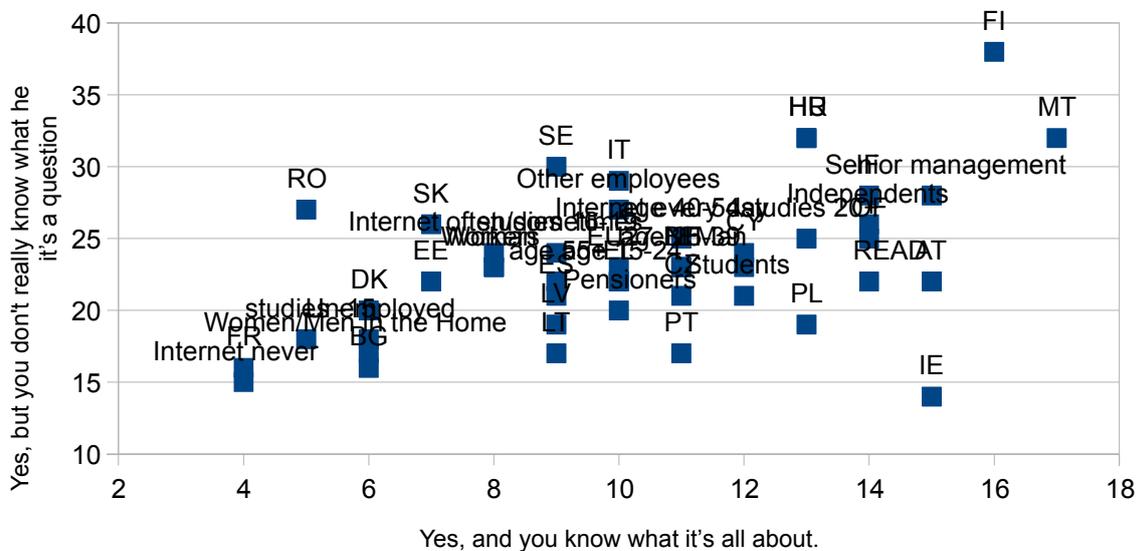
Statistical margins due to the sampling process (95% confidence level)											
sample sizes in line						results observed in columns					
	5,00 %	10,00 %	15,00 %	20,00 %	25,00 %	30,00 %	35,00 %	40,00 %	45,00 %	50,00 %	
	95,00 %	90,00 %	85,00 %	80,00 %	75,00 %	70,00 %	65,00 %	60,00 %	55,00 %	50,00 %	
N=50	6.0	8.3	9.9	11.1	12.0	12.7	13.2	13.6	13.8	13.9	N=50
N=500	1.9	2.6	3.1	3.5	3.8	4.0	4.2	4.3	4.4	4.4	N=500
N=1000	1.4	1.9	2.2	2.5	2.7	2.8	3.0	3.0	3.1	3.1	N=1000
N=1500	1.1	1.5	1.8	2.0	2.2	2.3	2.4	2.5	2.5	2.5	N=1500
N=2000	1.0	1.3	1.6	1.8	1.9	2.0	2.1	2.1	2.2	2.2	N=2000
N=3000	0.8	1.1	1.3	1.4	1.5	1.6	1.7	1.8	1.8	1.8	N=3000
N=4000	0.7	0.9	1.1	1.2	1.3	1.4	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	N=4000
N=5000	0.6	0.8	1.0	1.1	1.2	1.3	1.3	1.4	1.4	1.4	N=5000
N=6000	0.6	0.8	0.9	1.0	1.1	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.3	1.3	N=6000
N=7000	0.5	0.7	0.8	0.9	1.0	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.2	1.2	N=7000
N=7500	0.5	0.7	0.8	0.9	1.0	1.0	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.1	N=7500
N=8000	0.5	0.7	0.8	0.9	0.9	1.0	1.0	1.1	1.1	1.1	N=8000
N=9000	0.5	0.6	0.7	0.8	0.9	0.9	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	N=9000
N=10000	0.4	0.6	0.7	0.8	0.8	0.9	0.9	1.0	1.0	1.0	N=10000
N=11000	0.4	0.6	0.7	0.7	0.8	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9	N=11000
N=12000	0.4	0.5	0.6	0.7	0.8	0.8	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9	N=12000
N=13000	0.4	0.5	0.6	0.7	0.7	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.9	0.9	N=13000
N=14000	0.4	0.5	0.6	0.7	0.7	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8	N=14000
N=15000	0.3	0.5	0.6	0.6	0.7	0.7	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8	N=15000
	5,00 %	10,00 %	15,00 %	20,00 %	25,00 %	30,00 %	35,00 %	40,00 %	45,00 %	50,00 %	
	95,00 %	90,00 %	85,00 %	80,00 %	75,00 %	70,00 %	65,00 %	60,00 %	55,00 %	50,00 %	

SOME ADDITIONAL OBSERVATIONS AND INTERPRETATIONS

The following was not in the initial official report, but was added to allow further reflection on the basis of the figures given in the report.

The Conference on the Future of Europe has not been passionate about Europeans

Question QA6 asked “Did you recently read in the press, seen on the Internet or on television or heard something on the radio about the Conference on the Future of Europe?”. It is not surprising that senior managers and those with long studies are better informed than people who never use the internet. On the other hand, it is remarkable that people in some countries are much better informed than others, and that the dispersal of results by country is greater than among social categories. Finnish and Maltese say much more (three or four times more) that they have been informed of this Conference than the French. The latter, on average, are at the same level as Europeans never using the Internet, below the unemployed, people with little education or people in the home.



Europeans are very divided about the fight against climate change

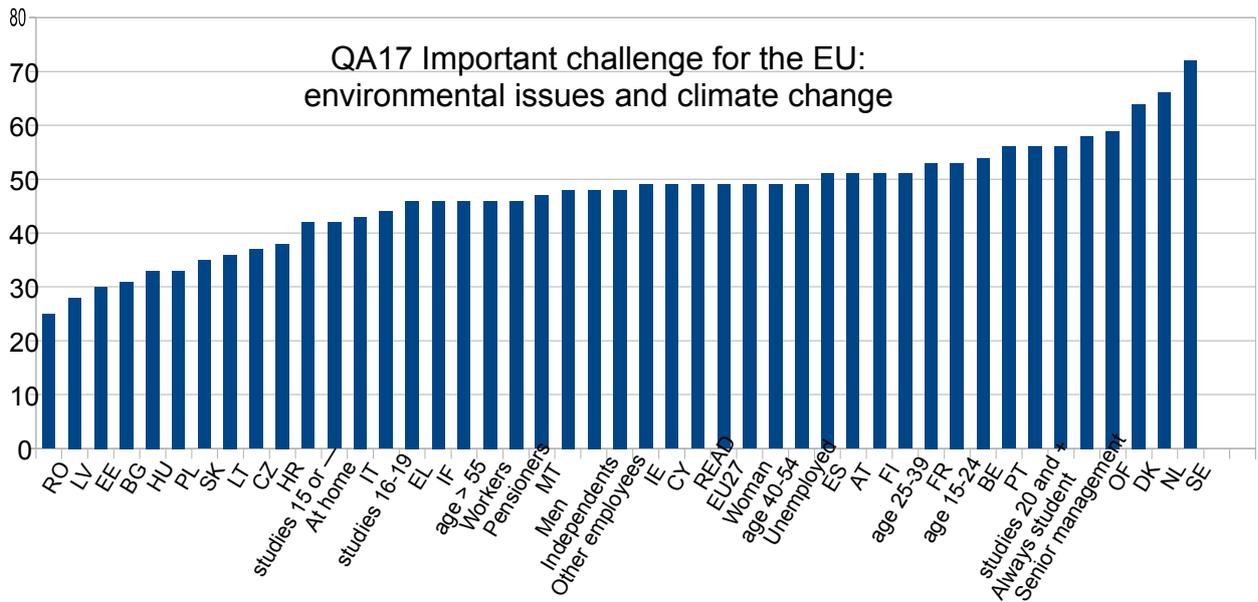
Question QA17 asked: “In your opinion, which of the following are the main global challenges for the future of the EU?”.

The list of possible responses was [Environmental Problems and Climate Change, Health Risks, Migration and Forced Displacement, Terrorism, Organised Crime, Deteriorating International Relations, Cyber Warfare and New Forms of Conflict, The Future Rising of Populism, Risks Resulting from New Technologies, Rapid Changes in Population, Regression of the European Population from the rest of the World]

The most frequently cited response was on environmental issues and climate change (49 % for the EU as a whole).

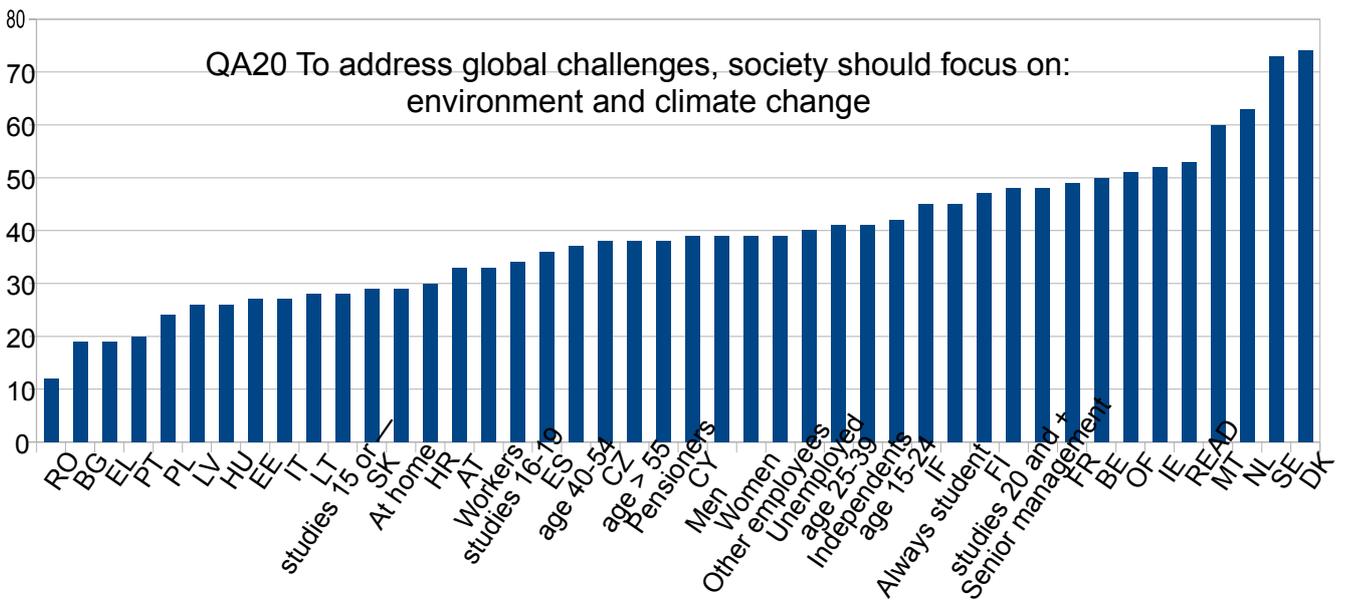
But this average hides great disparities: the “Eastern countries” are much less motivated by the fight against climate change than others.

Romanians are only 25 % giving importance to the environment compared to 72 % of Swedes, three times less. In comparison, there is no difference between the sexes: women have the same opinion as men. Although young people are somewhat more concerned about the environment than older people, the difference is only a few percentage points.



Question QA20 dealt with the same theme, but with a somewhat different wording, more action-oriented: **Of the following, what are the two elements that our society should focus on to address the main global challenges? (Maximum 2 replies)**.

The list was: [Environment and climate change, Equality and social justice, Health and safety Education, Progress and Innovation, Free Trade and Market Economy, Cultural Diversity and Openness to Others, Traditions, Industrial Capacity of the European Union].



Again, the differences between countries are greater than between social groups. Only 12 % of Romanians want firm action for the environment and climate change, compared to 74 % of Danes, six times more. Even though senior managers give more importance to the fight against climate change than the unemployed, the difference is only a few percentage points.

Conclusion: it is difficult to get all Europeans into a common environmental policy. The differences between countries are much greater than between social groups: the inhabitants of one country do not understand the concerns of the inhabitants of another country.

It is likely that these differences between countries are linked to differences between languages. Public opinion at European level requires a public debate at European level, and therefore a common language. The best common language would be Esperanto, a simple language to learn, precise and fair.

