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# EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT EUROBAROMETER

## DEFENDING DEMOCRACY | EMPOWERING CITIZENS

### PUBLIC OPINION AT THE LEGISLATURE'S MIDPOINT

European Parliament

# IMPRESSUM


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# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The European Parliament's Autumn 2021 Eurobarometer (EB) survey is the third EB survey conducted during the Covid-19 pandemic. While certain adaptations in the methodology were still necessary due to national restrictions in place[11], a trend analysis delivers **six significant insights**.

First among those is that **citizens' positive attitudes towards the European Union and the European Parliament** in particular, **have remained at least stable during the Covid-19 pandemic**. In contrast to previous severe crises over the course of the past decade, Eurobarometer data shows several indicators with a significant positive trend over the course of the pandemic.

In line with this trend, **citizens have reinforced their positive view of the European Parliament** over the past two years, also reflected by the European Commission's Standard Eurobarometer[12] - showing that the Parliament continuously enjoys the highest levels of trust among all EU institutions. This seamlessly translates into citizens' expectations regarding the Parliament's future role within the EU: those with a positive image of the EP (36%) are simultaneously more likely to call for a more prominent role for Parliament in the future– with more than half of EU citizens overall (58%) wanting a stronger role for the EP.

Third key observation: **democracy is the essential value that citizens want the European Parliament to defend**. Democracy has faced a multitude of challenges over the past years, not only in the EU. Be it rising extremism, the spread of manipulative information or the ongoing public discourse on the weakening of the Rule of Law. These tests have placed a strain on democracy – and citizens call upon the Parliament to defend it above all else (32%).

The fourth key observation touches on which issues are paramount to citizens. While it is not surprising that public health leads the list (42%), the **fight against climate change (39%) retains its position among the top priorities for European citizens in third place**. Indeed, primarily younger respondents prioritise the fight against climate change, in combination with their focus on the future of Europe.

Another piece of insight worth mentioning is the **clear connection between the knowledge level of the European Union and the European Parliament and the support for the EU**. The more citizens know about the work of the European Parliament, the more likely they are to hold a positive image, to support a stronger role for the Parliament as well as vote in the next European elections, for that matter. 'Knowledge is power', Francis Bacon's Enlightenment era insight, could well apply here. **The more citizens know about the workings of the EU and its institutions, the more they feel empowered to support the European Parliament as the heart of European Union democracy**.

Last, but not least, the present survey gives a **first glimpse into European citizens' voting predisposition regarding European elections**. A majority of citizens (58%) say they would likely vote, 'if the elections were held next week', with 30% on EU average saying they are 'very likely (10 on a scale from 1-10). With 2024 still too far away, this must not serve as an

[11] For more details, please see the 'technical specifications' at the end of this report.
[12] Standard Eurobarometer 95, Spring 2021, europa.eu/eurobarometer/surveys/detail/2532

attempt to predict turnout. Yet, in comparison to similar 2017 and 2018 data, the share of citizens who say they would vote if the European elections were next week is reassuringly high, pointing towards a **continued strong interest and engagement of citizens in and with the European Parliament** since the last European elections in 2019.

## Europeans and EU democracy: satisfied with the way it works, dissatisfied with how much they influence it

Citizens' perception of how much their voice counts in the EU, as well as in their respective countries, remains relatively stable since the last period of measuring: 43% (-2 pp since November-December 2020) agree their voice counts in the EU while 52% (+2 pp) disagree. Sweden (66%), Denmark (65%) and the Netherlands (62%) lead in agreeing with this statement, while the highest levels of disagreement appear in Latvia (85%), Greece (76%) and Czechia (75%).

Fifty-eight percent of respondents agree that their voice counts in their country and 39% disagree (no change since Nov.-Dec. 2020). The largest proportions of those who agree with that statement are in Denmark (93%), Sweden (92%) and the Netherlands (83%), while the respondents who agreed the least are in Latvia (23%), Lithuania (29%) and Cyprus (30%). On average, respondents are more likely to agree that their voice counts in the EU, as well as in their country, if they have a higher education, report that they do not have financial difficulties and have a rather positive image of the EU. Furthermore, those who report to know a lot about the European Parliament are more likely to say their voice counts in the EU.

A similar trend stability can be observed when respondents are asked about their satisfaction with the way democracy works in the EU and in their country. A majority of respondents (53%, - 2pp since Nov.-Dec. 2020) are satisfied with the way democracy works in the EU, compared to 41% (+ 1pp) who are not satisfied. With regard to the way democracy works in their own countries, a clear majority (57%) of respondents report they are satisfied, while 41% are not satisfied (no change since Nov.-Dec. 2020). Citizens are most satisfied with the way democracy works in the EU in Ireland (84%), Denmark (72%), Luxembourg (70%) and Poland (69%). The highest levels of satisfaction with democracy in their own countries appear in Luxembourg (88%), Denmark (87%), Ireland and Sweden (both 86%).

On average, younger respondents tend to be more satisfied with the way democracy works in the EU (63% of 15-24 year olds, compared to 48% of those aged 55 and above). From an age perspective, satisfaction with the way democracy works in their countries is rather similar (60% of 15-24 year olds, compared to 56% of the 55+ segment). Higher shares of respondents satisfied with democracy in the EU can also be found among those with higher levels of education (58% of those who have remained in education for 20 or more years for the EU) as well as with those who report having no financial difficulties (58% for the EU).

There is a crucial observation, lastly: the more citizens know about the European Union - or in the case of this survey, the work of the European Parliament - the more they seem to be satisfied with the way democracy works in the EU. Two-thirds (65%) of those respondents who say they know a lot about the work of the European

Parliament are also satisfied with EU democracy. On the other hand, only 42% of those who say not to know a lot about the work of the EP are satisfied with democracy in the EU.

The long-term trend for the question of whether things in the EU are going in the right or wrong direction is one insightful indicator of how citizens see the EU's capacity to act during crises. Since 2010, more respondents were seeing things going in the wrong, rather than right direction for the EU. Significant peaks appeared during the most noteworthy flashpoints over the past decade: 2011, at the high point of the financial and economic crisis; 2016, during the migrant crisis; and again in 2018/19, because of the polycrisis surrounding i.a. Brexit and EU/US relations. Yet during this whole time, the share of respondents seeing things going in the right direction for the EU slowly but steadily increased, culminating in the most significant increase during the first pandemic year. From 2019 to 2020 the share of respondents seeing things going in the right direction increased by 12 points, while the 'wrong direction' view fell by 6 points.

The current survey shows a four-point dip to 35% for those who would see things in the EU going in the right direction. At the same time, the share of citizens believing things are going in the wrong direction for the EU remains stable at 44% (-1 pp) compared to the year before. On the other hand, the share of respondents saying 'neither right nor wrong direction' increased by 3 points (to 9%), thus perhaps reflecting rather the pervasive feeling of insecurity about one's future during the ongoing pandemic.

Similar trends appear in answers to a question asking how things are going in the respondent's own country. Since this query's first appearance in 2007, respondents have always been more critical towards the direction of their own country than the EU's. In the present survey, 52% say that things are going in the wrong direction in their own countries, a four point decrease compared to 2020 and eight points more than the average result for 'wrong direction in the EU'. Thirty-three percent (=) say that things are going in the right direction in their own country.

Respondents from Ireland (61%), Denmark (47%) and Luxembourg, Latvia and Malta (all 46%) are most likely to respond that things are going in the right direction in the EU, as opposed to those from France (19%), Cyprus and Slovakia (both 23%). Younger respondents are more likely to say things are going in the right direction in the EU and their countries, and similar trends appear with more highly educated or economically better off respondents. Again, knowledge on the EP seems to affect how respondents assess the direction of the EU: Those who report knowing more about the EP are more likely to say things are going in the right direction (48% compared to 22% of those who say they know little about the work of the EP). Those who report they know more about the work of the EP are also most likely to say their country has mainly benefitted from the EU contributing economic growth to their country and from co-operation between their country and other EU member states.

## Europeans and the European Parliament: strengthened by a positive image, citizens want it to have a stronger role and to defend democracy

Europeans hold a rather positive image of the European Parliament. Thirty-six percent of respondents stated that they hold a positive image of the EP, whereas for 17% it is negative and it is neutral for a majority of 45%. While the Parliament's positive image has increased by 12 points since 2015 (including an upwards jump of 4 points during the pandemic), the 'neutral image' remained relatively stable with very little oscillation since 2007.

The highest rate of positive responses are found in Ireland (62%), Sweden (48%) and Portugal (47%), and the lowest in France (22%) and Slovakia (25%). Those who know more about the work of the European Parliament are also more likely to hold a 'fairly positive' (61%) or even 'very positive' image (14%) of it. On the other hand - which in itself is an interesting result - those who have little or very little knowledge of the Parliament's work are more likely to hold a neutral image of the EP (58%). From a topical point of view, respondents with a positive image of the EP are more likely to say their country has benefitted from the EU's contribution to economic growth in their country (36%; EU average: 30%), improving people's standard of living (23%; EU average: 17%) and its involvement in maintaining peace and strengthening security (35%; EU average: 30%). In the same vein, they are more likely to call on the EP to prioritise climate change (45%; EU average: 39%) as well as democracy and the rule of law (30%; EU average: 25%).

The overall positive image of the European Parliament (which is equally reflected in the fact that the Parliament continuously enjoys the highest trust levels compared to all other EU institutions, as shown in the European Commission's Standard Eurobarometer[13]), translates also how citizens see the EP's future role. Those who hold a positive image are, at the same time, more likely to say that the Parliament's role should be more important in the future. Overall, more than half of EU citizens (58%) want a more important role for the EP, a continuation of the previous years' high ratings. Around a quarter of Europeans (27%) would like the EP to play a less important role, a largely stable result over the past five years. Respondents in Cyprus (89%), Spain (77%) and Belgium (74%) are most likely to say the EP should have a more important role, while Czechia (54%), Slovakia (52%) and Denmark (47%) have the highest share of respondents who want the EP to play a less important role.

As already shown above, the level of knowledge about the work of the European Parliament seems to have a direct influence on how citizens express themselves in a range of other questions on the EU and the European Parliament. With a 63% share, most Europeans say they have a "medium" level of knowledge of the work of the EP. A small proportion say they have a high level (8%), while 29% say it is low. The share of respondents saying their knowledge about the EP is high is greatest in Poland (18%) and Ireland (14%), lowest, on the other hand, in France and Latvia (both 3%). Men are more likely than women to claim a high (men: 10%; women: 7%) or medium (men: 66%; women: 60%) level of knowledge, while from an age perspective the 40-54 year old segment reports the largest share of high knowledge (10%), being closely followed by those between the ages of 25-39 (9%). Citizens with a low level of knowledge about the work of the EP are most likely to say they would not vote in the next European elections, while those with at least average knowledge are more likely to respond they are very likely to vote.

A significant result in this survey is the importance citizens give to democracy, freedom of speech and the protection of human rights.

[13] Standard Eurobarometer 95, Spring 2021, europa.eu/eurobarometer/surveys/detail/2532

Democracy as a value was added for the first time in this survey and was chosen as the most important one to be defended by the European Parliament by a plurality of respondents in eleven countries (Sweden, Germany, Finland, Italy, Denmark, Austria, Luxembourg, Malta and Poland). Respondents in Czechia and Hungary put democracy and the protection of human rights in the EU and worldwide in shared first place.

In addition, on EU average, democracy is the most important value citizens want the European Parliament to defend: 32% of respondents chose it, followed by freedom of speech and thought (27%) and the protection of human rights in the EU and worldwide (25%). In addition to Czechia and Hungary, the protection of human rights in the EU and worldwide is the most important value for respondents in Cyprus, Latvia, the Netherlands, Lithuania, Slovenia and Ireland. Freedom of movement is the most important value for citizens in Slovakia, Bulgaria (equally with the rule of law), Estonia, Romania and Croatia (together with freedom of speech and thought). In Belgium, freedom of speech and thought is the most important value, while equality between women and men is the top answer in France (37%), Spain (35%) and Portugal (32%). On average, women are more likely to prioritise equality between men and women than men are (Women: 28%, Men: 19%).

Looking at European Parliament policy priorities, the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic seems to affect citizens' choices. Top of the list is public health (42%), followed by the fight against poverty and social exclusion (40%), action against climate change (39%) and support for the economy and creation of new jobs (32%). Public health is the top EP priority for citizens in eleven Member States (Portugal, Cyprus, Spain, Italy, Ireland, Bulgaria, Romania, Slovakia, Poland, Estonia and Hungary). Action against climate change comes top in eight countries overall (Sweden, Netherlands, Denmark, Germany, Belgium, Malta, Austria, Finland), whereas respondents from five countries (Lithuania, Croatia, France, Slovenia and Luxembourg) want the Parliament to focus on the fight against poverty and social exclusion. On average, older age groups are more likely to prioritise public health (55+ years old: 44%; 15-24 years old: 39%), migration and asylum (55+ years old: 25%; 15-24 years old: 19%), as well as the fight against terrorism and organised crime (55+ years old: 27%; 15-24 years old: 17%). Younger respondents, on the other hand, prioritise action against climate change (15-24 years old: 48%; 55+ years old: 36%), the future of Europe (15-24 years old: 29%; 55+ years old: 22%) and gender equality, inclusion and diversity (15-24 years old: 26%; 55+ years old: 10%).

## Europeans and the EU: public image of the EU and importance of EU membership remain high

The image of the EU among European citizens remains close to its highest level since 2008. Indeed, during the first year of the pandemic, the EU's image on average rose from 40% in Oct. 2019 to 50% in Nov./Dec. 2020. The current survey returns a positive EU image among 49% of respondents, while 37% have a neutral and 14% a negative one. Other surveys like the Standard Eurobarometer[14] show a similar trend. Citizens of Ireland (76%), Portugal (67%), Luxembourg, Sweden (both 63%) and Poland (58%) are most likely to hold a positive image of the EU, while a negative one is most often found among respondents in Austria and Greece (both 25%).

[14] Standard Eurobarometer 95, Spring 2021, europa.eu/eurobarometer/surveys/detail/2532

On average, more highly educated respondents are more likely to hold a positive image of the EU, as do younger respondents and those who are economically better off. Respondents with a very or fairly positive image of the European Parliament are more likely to also hold a more positive image of the EU.

A majority of EU citizens (62%) consider that it is a good thing that their country is a member of the European Union, with only 9% seeing EU membership as bad. This trend shows a stable upwards development since 2011, with the highest results recorded since 2007 over the past two years. Respondents in Luxembourg (88%), Ireland (86%) and the Netherlands (81%) are most likely to see their country's membership in the EU as a good thing, while those in Slovakia (39%), Austria (41%) and Greece (42%) and are the least likely.

Closely connected to the question of whether citizens see their country's EU Membership as a good or bad thing, are the questions as to whether they believe their country has benefitted from EU membership and why. On EU average, nearly three quarters of respondents (72%) would say that their country has benefitted from EU membership, with only 23% believing the opposite. The reasons Europeans feel their country has benefitted from being a member of the EU include improved cooperation between their country and other EU countries, coming first at 32%. The EU's contribution to their country's economic growth and the EU contributing to maintaining peace and strengthening security follow in shared second place with 30% of citations each.

In line with the unbroken image of the EU throughout the pandemic and the overall positive assessment of how one's country benefits from being a Member of the EU, a majority of respondents (63%) also say they are optimistic about the future of the EU. With nearly two thirds of citizens sharing this sentiment, with only three out of ten respondents (34%) saying they are not optimistic. The highest levels of optimism come from respondents in Ireland (89%), Denmark (78%), Malta (74%) and Poland (73%). On the other hand, levels of pessimism are highest among respondents in Greece (53%), France (48%) and Czechia (47%). With this indicator too, younger respondents return more positive results, as 74% of 15-24 years old are more likely to be optimistic about the future of the EU than older respondents (55+ years old: 59%). And again, information and knowledge seem to play a crucial part, as those following what is going on in European politics are most likely to say they are optimistic about the future of the EU (71%).

## Europeans and democratic engagement: concrete information and a real option to engage may further increase voter participation

With the start of the second half of the European Parliament's legislature upon us, the EP Eurobarometer surveys will increasingly analyse citizens' attitudes towards societal engagement, information interests and – with a view to the 2024 European elections – voting behaviour.

A majority of Europeans (61%) state they are personally involved in what is going on in society, while 58% say they follow what is going on in EU politics – a result more pronounced among respondents aged between 40 and 54 years or more highly educated ones. The level of engagement and interest is also showing in a linked indicator, as those who follow EU politics are more likely to discuss it with friends and family (83%, compared to 48% who say they do not follow EU politics).

Asked about which topics they would like to know more about, 43% of respondents mentioned the way EU funds are concretely spent in their country. Thirty percent of respondents would like to know more about the tangible impact of European politics and decisions in their country as well, as about the actual work of their national MEPs (29%). Younger respondents are more interested in their rights as citizens of the EU and how citizens like them can participate in decisions taken at the EU level – indicating a higher level of potential activation and engagement. On the other hand, older respondents seem to be more interested in learning about the work done, i.e., how EU funds are spent in their countries, what the EU is doing to overcome the Covid-19 pandemic, and what their national MEPs are doing in the EP.

With the next European elections too far away yet to provide meaningful voter intention insight, respondents were asked rather - as an indication of their potential engagement - whether they would vote if EP elections were held next week. Asked to give their reply on a scale from 1 (not at all likely) to 10 (very likely), a majority of citizens (58%) say they would likely vote (scale 7-10), with 30% on EU average saying 'very likely' (10). Another 18% say they would be moderately likely to vote (scale 5-6) and 22% say they would not be likely to vote (scale 1-4). Eighty-two percent of respondents from the Netherlands, 78% from Denmark and 76% from Sweden said they would likely vote, as opposed to respondents in Slovakia (38%), Croatia (43%) and France (44%).

Respondents with higher education levels, as well as those economically better off, seem to hold a higher voting propensity than those who left education earlier and encounter difficulties paying bills. Respondents with a positive image of the EP or the EU, as well as a higher level of knowledge about the work of the EP are most likely to say they would vote in the European elections if they took place next week.

# CONTEXT

The fieldwork for the European Parliament's Autumn 2021 Eurobarometer survey was carried out by Kantar between 1st November and 2nd December 2021 in all 27 EU Member States. It is a fundamental rule for correctly analysing survey results to take the political and societal context at the time of fieldwork into consideration. This rule has proven even more pertinent during the past years, with public opinion clearly following developments in the Covid-19 pandemic. All national results for the questions asked in this survey – and in consequence also the European average results – must be seen under the light of the situation and public debate at the time of fieldwork.

In November 2021, the **Covid-19 pandemic** continued to have a major impact on EU citizens' everyday life. After a relatively calm period over the summer, infection rates started rising again with the cold season approaching. Just as in 2020, the pandemic **was developing at different speeds, affecting EU Member States unevenly**. Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Estonia, Germany, Greece, Hungary Ireland, Latvia, Lithuania, the Netherlands, Poland, Romania, Slovakia and Slovenia were among those countries, which during the time of fieldwork experienced important spikes in the infection rates, leading to partial or even complete lockdowns, the latter being the case in Austria. On the other hand, some Member States, such as Italy, Malta, Spain, and Sweden, had a rather low rate of new infections[1].

As the Covid-19 situation was gradually worsening in most Member States, governments decided to expand and accelerate its **Covid-19 booster shot programmes**, reinforced remote work and several introduced **restrictions for the unvaccinated**. Protests against sanitary measures and the Covid-19 certificate as a prerequisite for participating in public life occurred in several Member States.

**Excess mortality** in the EU increased again in early autumn. Following a minimum of +5% in July, this indicator rose to +8% in August, +12% in September and +17% in October 2021 (compared with the averages of the same months in 2016 – 2019). The situation continued to vary in most of the Member States, from +110% in Romania to not more than 2% in Italy and Sweden in October 2021[2].

On 24 November 2021, South Africa reported a new variant of SARS-CoV-2, the **Omicron variant**, to the World Health Organization (WHO)[3]. At the time, little was known about this new variant apart from indications of very high transmissibility, leading to precautionary measures - such as banning flights to and from South Africa and several neighbouring nations - being taken.

### Economic context

According to the European Commission's Autumn 2021 Economic Forecast[4], the EU **economy was recovering from the pandemic recession quicker than expected**. Most Member States were forecasted to reach the pre-pandemic volume of output by the end of 2021, while a few others would fully recover in 2022. This suggests that the EU has been able to overcome the economic impact of the pandemic thanks to a more appropriate and more ambitious EU strategy compared to the one employed during crises in earlier years.

[1] covid19-surveillance-report.ecdc.europa.eu/archive-COVID19-reports/index.html
[2] ec.europa.eu/eurostat/en/web/products-eurostat-news/-/ddn-20211215-2
[3] who.int/news/item/26-11-2021-classification-of-omicron-(b.1.1.529)-sars-cov-2-variant-of-concern
[4] ec.europa.eu/info/business-economy-euro/economic-performance-and-forecasts/economic-forecasts/autumn-2021-economic-forecast_en

However, on the downside, **high inflation** and its potential consequences are worrisome. Following several years of low inflation, the strong resumption of economic activity has been accompanied by a pick-up in inflationary pressures, which exceeded expectations. The euro area annual inflation rate was 5.0% in December 2021, up from 4.9% in November. A year earlier, the rate was -0.3%. European Union annual inflation was 5.3% in December 2021, up from 5.2% in November. A year earlier, the rate was 0.3%. The lowest annual rates were registered in Malta (2.6%), Portugal (2.8%) and Finland (3.2%). The highest annual rates were recorded in Estonia (12.0%), Lithuania (10.7%) and Poland (8.0%)[5].

The European Commission in its Autumn 2021 Economic Forecast also warned that **supply chain bottlenecks and rising energy costs** threatened to constrain the EU's recovery. In addition, many countries saw surging energy prices in the build-up to the winter months, most notably for natural gas and electricity, which are expected to dampen the growth momentum in the short term. High wholesale energy prices are making their way to retail prices for households and producers, though at a varying degree and pace across countries, with potential knock on effects on consumption and business investment.

At the time of fieldwork, **labour market conditions** were improving, with the creation of new jobs and a swift rebound in hours worked. In November 2021, the euro area seasonally-adjusted unemployment rate was 7.2%, down from 7.3% in October 2021 and from 8.1% in November 2020. The EU unemployment rate was 6.5% in November 2021, down from 6.7% in October 2021 and from 7.4% in November 2020[6]. **Pockets of labour market shortages** were also emerging, particularly in sectors where activity was surging most.

In the third quarter of 2021, the seasonally adjusted **general government deficit to GDP ratio** stood at 4.0% in the euro area and 3.7% in the EU. Significant decreases in the deficits compared to the second quarter of 2021 were observed, but the **deficits remained at a high level compared to the pre-pandemic period**. The deficit to GDP ratio decreased due to increases in total revenue, decreases in the total expenditure as well as due to a higher GDP in comparison with the second quarter of 2021. Total revenue and total expenditure continued to be influenced by policy responses to the Covid-19 pandemic. In the third quarter of 2021, most Member States continued to record a government deficit[7].

## Political context on national and international level

The 2021 **United Nations Climate Change Conference**[8], more commonly referred to as COP26, was held in Glasgow from 31 October to 13 November 2021 amid significant media reporting and public interest. Owing to late interventions from India and China, that weakened a move to end coal power and fossil fuel subsidies, the conference ended with the adoption of a less stringent resolution than some anticipated. Nevertheless, the pact was the first climate deal to explicitly commit to reducing the use of coal. It included wording that encouraged more urgent greenhouse gas emissions cuts and promised more climate finance for developing countries to adapt to climate impacts.

The **rule of law spat between the EU and its Member States Poland and Hungary** continued in the last quarter of 2021. On 7 October 2021, Poland's Constitutional Court had ruled against the primacy

[5] ec.europa.eu/eurostat/documents/2995521/14176359/2-20012022-AP-EN.pdf/ce642dc8-1f96-fb6e-a7fc-a667762c5d37
[6] ec.europa.eu/eurostat/documents/2995521/14084165/3-10012022-AP-EN.pdf/53ac483e-71d9-3093-5bd8-12f1ea89683a
[7] ec.europa.eu/eurostat/documents/2995521/14176365/2-21012022-BP-EN.pdf/76140a97-e846-2eea-7bce-97c0a3260189
[8] unfccc.int/conference/glasgow-climate-change-conference-october-november-2021

of EU law with respect to several articles of EU treaties, in a major escalation of the rule-of-law dispute between Warsaw and the EU. With regard to Hungary, concerns of systemic deficiencies and weaknesses in public procurement, risks of conflict of interests, ineffective investigation, and deficiencies in the judicial independence have been raised. Hence, the EU has held up the approval of EU recovery funds over concern regarding the rule of law in Poland and Hungary.

During the fieldwork period, the **humanitarian and political crisis at the Poland-Belarus border** worsened and tensions escalated with thousands of migrants gathering in freezing temperatures on the border. The Belarusian regime has been accused by the EU of instrumentalising migrants for political purposes, by deliberately encouraging illegal migrants to enter first Lithuania and then, to a far larger degree, Poland via Belarusian territory as a means to put pressure on the bloc over sanctions. The European Union responded with a new package of sanctions against personalities and organisations linked to the regime of Belarusian President Alexander Lukashenko. Poland's Prime Minister Morawiecki, in particular, accused Russia of pulling the strings and said the attack had its mastermind in Moscow.

Fears of a possible **Russian invasion of Ukraine** started also emerging due to a massive Russian military build-up on the border with the Ukraine.

Still on migration, on 25 November, **27 migrants drowned in the Channel** during an attempt to cross from France over to Britain, with the two states blaming each other in the worst known incident of clandestine small-boat crossings between the two countries.

## Legislative context on EU level

MEPs on 23 November voted in favour of the new **Common Agriculture Policy (CAP) for 2023-2027** without the support of Green lawmakers, who criticised the lack of stricter environmental requirements and the flexibility awarded to Member States. The CAP accounts for around €387bn, nearly a third of the EU budget[9].

While the European Parliament's Internal Market and Consumer Protection Committee (IMCO) reached an agreement on the **Digital Markets Act (DMA)**, taking the bill to the December plenary for an approval of the negotiating mandate, negotiations for the **Digital Services Act (DSA)** continued during the fieldwork period[10].

The **Conference on the Future of Europe** continued its work. Following the first round of sessions that took place in the European Parliament in Strasbourg in September and October, the European Citizens' Panels continued their work online and put forward citizens' priorities and recommendations.

## Elections

**Parliamentary and presidential elections took place in Bulgaria** on 14 November, with Bulgaria attempting for a third time this year to elect a government after a drawn-out executive paralysis. The party "We Continue the Change" won the most seats, although not a majority. Shortly after the election, they announced to hold coalition talks. On 10 December negotiators had agreed to form a

[9] europarl.europa.eu/news/en/press-room/20211118IPR17613/common-agricultural-policy-reform-gets-final-approval-from-meps
[10] europarl.europa.eu/news/en/press-room/20211118IPR17636/digital-markets-act-ending-unfair-practices-of-big-online-platforms

coalition that would end a months-long political crisis, which had brought nationwide turnout in the parliamentary and first presidential round down to 38%, Bulgaria's lowest participation rate in 30 years for both presidential and legislative elections.

In the second round for the presidential elections on 21 November, Rumen Radev was re-elected Bulgaria's President for a second term. Rumen Radev, a firm supporter of last year's anti-corruption protests, received over 66% of the votes, while his opponent, Anastas Gerdzhikov, won 32%.

After the **German federal elections** in September, Social-Democrats (SPD), Greens and the liberal party FDP announced having reached a governing coalition deal with Olaf Scholz (SPD) becoming the new chancellor during the period of fieldwork.

The **Czech Republic** was also trying to **form a government** after legislative elections on 8/9 October 2021. Petr Fiala, chair of the Civic Democratic Party (ODS) was appointed as new Prime Minister on 28 November 2021, heading a multi-party coalition government formed of the winning electoral alliance SPOLU.

On 10 November, Swedish Prime Minister Stefan Löfven (Social Democratic Party), in office since 2014, handed his resignation letter to the speaker of Parliament opening the way for Finance Minister, **Magdalena Andersson to become Sweden's first female Prime Minister.** However, Magdalena Andersson suffered a budget defeat in Parliament and resigned hours after taking the job. She was again named Sweden's Prime Minister for the second time five days later, on 29 November, after lawmakers accepted her plan to lead a single-party government, attempting to strike issue-by-issue deals with a disparate range of allies to drive forward her agenda.

In **France campaigning for the presidential elections** in April 2022 gathered steam during the fieldwork period as Éric Zemmour, a controversial far-right TV pundit, announced his presidential candidacy.

# METHODOLOGY

The methodology used in this Parlemeter, carried out in wave 96.2 of the Eurobarometer, is that of Eurobarometer surveys as carried out by the European Parliament's Directorates-General for Communication ("Public Opinion Monitoring Unit").

Given the impact of Covid-19 and subsequent health protection measures, the face-to-face methodology was not always possible, or only to a certain extent in some countries. Where feasible, interviews were conducted face-to-face in people's homes or on their doorstep and in the appropriate national language. In all countries where face-to-face interviewing was feasible, CAPI (Computer Assisted Personal Interviewing) was used.

Where face-to-face interviews were not enough to reach the target audience or were not feasible at all, interviews were conducted online with the Computer-Assisted Web Interviewing (CAWI) technique. In Belgium, Czechia, Denmark, Malta, Slovenia and Finland, face to face interviews were complemented by online interviews with the Computer-Assisted Web Interviewing (CAWI) technique.

In Latvia, all interviews were conducted online with the CAWI technique. Due to the coronavirus pandemic, in some countries **alternative interview modes** to face-to-face were necessary as a result of the situation.

## Caveat

In this survey, several trend questions are compared with the European Parliament's Autumn 2020 survey from Eurobarometer wave 94.2, conducted in November-December 2020. At that time, the European Union was struck by the second wave of the Covid-19 pandemic, with all the subsequent consequences in terms of impact on public opinion, and on difficulties to conduct face to face interviews. At that time, in Denmark, Germany, Latvia, Malta, Slovakia and Sweden, face to face mode was complemented with online interviews. In Belgium, Czechia, Estonia, Finland, Greece, Ireland, Lithuania, Luxembourg and Slovenia, all interviews were conducted online.

This change in mode can have an impact on the results, in particular for questions with spontaneous choices. By definition, these codes are not shown on the first screen displayed to the respondent, only appearing in a second screen if the respondent decides not to choose one of the initially prompted items. As a consequence, spontaneous answers are only marginally selected by those who participate in the survey online.

It is important to take this into consideration when analysing evolutions, specifically for those countries where all (or a clear majority of) interviews were conducted online in 94.2, but were subsequently fully (or mainly) face to face in 96.2, these being: Belgium, Czechia, Estonia, Ireland, Greece, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Slovenia and Sweden.

Nonetheless, national evolutions have multiple explanations, with contextual changes playing a major role.

Following the EU General Data Protection Regulation[15] (GDPR), respondents were asked whether or not they would agree to be asked questions on issues that could be considered "sensitive".

Note: In this report, EU countries are referred to by their official abbreviation. The abbreviations used in this report correspond to:

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

| | |
|---|---|
| European Union – weighted average for the 27 Member States | EU27 |
| BE, FR, IT, LU, DE, AT, ES, PT, IE, NL, FI, EL, EE, SI, CY, MT, SK, LV, LT | euro area |
| BG, CZ, DK, HR, HU, PL, RO, SE | non euro area |

*Cyprus as a whole is one of the 27 European Union 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 the interviews carried out in the part of the country controlled by the government of the Republic of Cyprus are included in the 'CY' category and in the EU27 average.

[15] 2016/679

# I. EUROPEANS AND DEMOCRACY: Satisfied with the way democracy works in the EU, but rather dissatisfied with how much their voice counts

**This section of the report takes a measure of the current mood in the EU, gauging citizens' views on democracy in the EU, and their views on whether things are going in the right direction. Overall, citizens are positive towards the way democracy is working in the EU at the same time as a gradual negative shift of the indicator 'my voice counts in the EU' is observed since June 2019. The trend analysis shows that the perception that 'my voice counts' is strongly linked to the momentum of elections and seems to evolve in accordance with the timing of legislative life cycles. This section's results also show that Europeans are less likely to say that things are going in the right direction in their country or in the EU now than a year ago, and that perceptions of the direction at the EU level remain more positive than for the national level.**

## 1. My voice counts in my country/ the EU

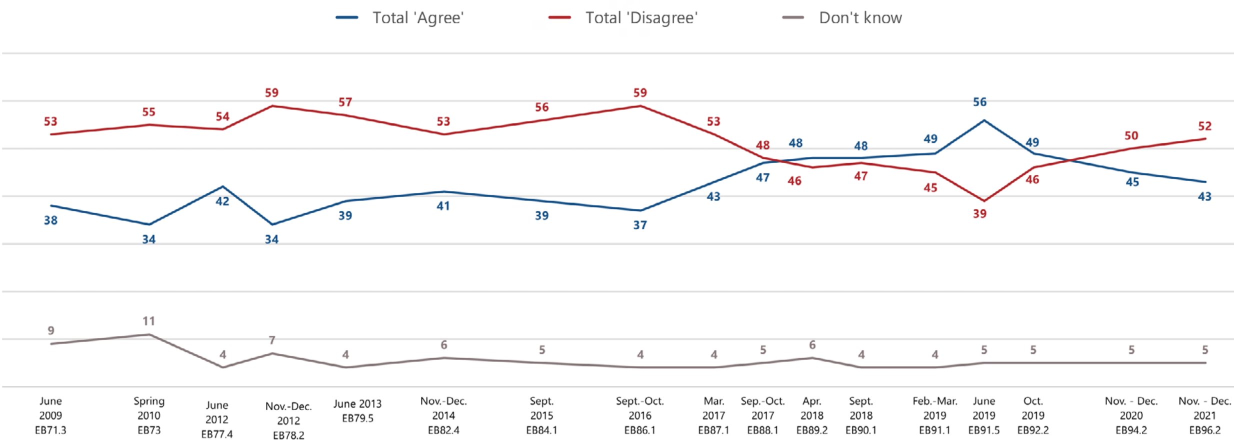
Previous research has stressed the importance citizens give to their voice being heard in the EU. In the most recent Standard Eurobarometer[16], nine in ten Europeans said that EU citizens' voices should be more taken into account for decisions relating to the future of Europe.

In this survey, more than four in ten citizens agree that their voice counts in the EU (43%, -2 pp since November-December 2020), while just over half disagree (52%, +2 pp). There has been a gradual negative shift since June 2019, and as a result, citizens are now more likely to disagree than agree that their voice counts in the EU, a return to the pattern seen in 2017 and before.

While this trend may be partly seen as a sign of disenchantment, the patterns for this indicator can be better understood when examined over time alongside the timing of legislative life cycles. Findings demonstrate that the perception that 'my voice counts' is strongly linked to the momentum of elections, which represent by definition the opportunity to express voices and expectations directly through the vote. Indeed, the most recent Future of Europe survey found that voting in European elections is seen as the most effective way of ensuring that citizens' voices are heard by decision-makers at EU level[17]. The analysis of the trends for this question shows that European elections and their preceding campaigns have certainly helped to shape these trends. For example, a progressive strengthening of the feeling that 'my voice counts' is evident during the months preceding the European ballot both for the 2004 and 2009 elections[18].

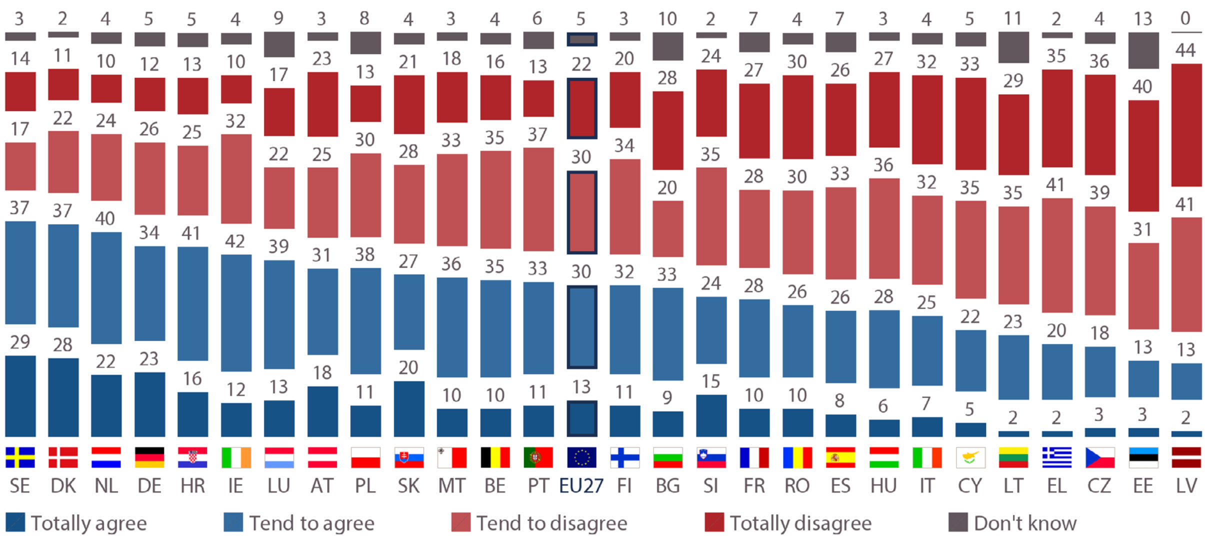
[16] Standard Eurobarometer 95, europa.eu/eurobarometer/surveys/detail/2532
[17] Future of Europe survey, October-November 2021, europa.eu/eurobarometer/surveys/detail/2554
[18] Parlemeter 2019, europarl.europa.eu/at-your-service/en/be-heard/eurobarometer/parlemeter-2019-heeding-the-call-beyond-the-vote

**D72.1. To what extent do you agree or disagree with each of the following statements:**
My voice counts in the EU (% - EU)




In nine Member States, the majority of respondents agree that their voice counts in the EU, led by Sweden (66%), Denmark (65%) and the Netherlands (62%). However, the majority disagree that their voice counts in 18 countries, with levels of disagreement highest in Latvia (85%), Greece (76%), Czechia (75%) and Estonia (71%).

**D72.1. To what extent do you agree or disagree with each of the following statements:**
My voice counts in the EU (%)




In 12 EU Member States, there has been a decrease of at least three percentage points since November-December 2020 in the proportion of respondents who agree that their voice counts in the EU. The largest declines can be seen in Lithuania (25%, -12 pp), Romania (36%, -9 pp) and Latvia (15%, -8 pp). Slovenia (39%, +12 pp) shows a substantial increase in agreement, which could be related to its Presidency of the Council of the European Union at the time of the survey. There were also increases in agreement in Bulgaria (42%, +5 pp) and Italy (32%, +5 pp).

The proportion of respondents who disagree that their voice counts in the EU has increased by at least three percentage points in nine Member States. The largest increases can be noted in Latvia (85%, +9 pp), and Hungary (63%), Romania (60%), and Poland (43%) (all three +8 pp). On the other hand, the most substantial decrease in disagreement is seen in Slovenia (59%, -14 pp), possibly also related to its Presidency of the Council of the European Union at the time the survey was conducted. Other large decreases are seen in Luxembourg (39%, -11 pp), and Estonia (71%, -10 pp).

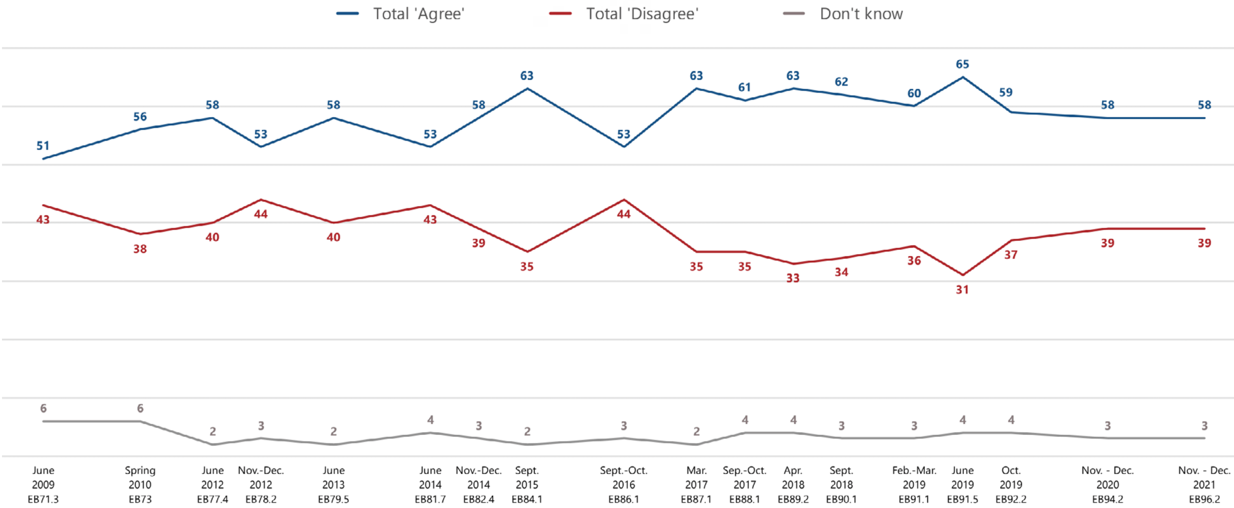
*NB: Some of the large shifts since November-December 2020 may be attributable to a change in the mode of data collection. Lithuania, Luxembourg and Estonia all show large shifts in agreement or disagreement, and this is partly due to the fact that spontaneous codes and 'don't know' are less mentioned by online respondents. At the same time, there have been some large shifts in other countries (such as Romania, Poland and Hungary) where the data collection mode has stayed the same (and the proportion of 'don't know' answers has remained stable), indicating that attitudes have changed significantly in some countries in the last 12 months.*

**D72.1. To what extent do you agree or disagree with each of the following statements:**
My voice counts in the EU (%)

| | Total 'Agree' | Diff. November/December 2021 - November/December 2020 | Total 'Disagree' | Diff. November/December 2021 - November/December 2020 | Don't know |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| EU27 | 43 | ▼ 2 | 52 | ▲ 2 | 5 |
| SI | 39 | ▲ 12 | 59 | ▼ 14 | 2 |
| BG | 42 | ▲ 5 | 48 | ▼ 3 | 10 |
| IT | 32 | ▲ 5 | 64 | ▼ 3 | 4 |
| LU | 52 | ▲ 2 | 39 | ▼ 11 | 9 |
| SE | 66 | ▲ 2 | 31 | ▼ 4 | 3 |
| BE | 45 | ▲ 1 | 51 | ▼ 5 | 4 |
| HR | 57 | ▲ 1 | 38 | ▼ 3 | 5 |
| CY | 27 | ▲ 1 | 68 | ▼ 2 | 5 |
| MT | 46 | ▲ 1 | 51 | ▲ 5 | 3 |
| ES | 34 | = | 59 | ▼ 2 | 7 |
| SK | 47 | = | 49 | ▲ 1 | 4 |
| DK | 65 | ▼ 1 | 33 | ▲ 1 | 2 |
| IE | 54 | ▼ 2 | 42 | ▼ 2 | 4 |
| NL | 62 | ▼ 2 | 34 | ▲ 1 | 4 |
| FI | 43 | ▼ 2 | 54 | ▼ 1 | 3 |
| CZ | 21 | ▼ 3 | 75 | ▼ 1 | 4 |
| EE | 16 | ▼ 3 | 71 | ▼ 10 | 13 |
| FR | 38 | ▼ 3 | 55 | ▲ 5 | 7 |
| EL | 22 | ▼ 4 | 76 | ▲ 2 | 2 |
| DE | 57 | ▼ 5 | 38 | ▲ 3 | 5 |
| PT | 44 | ▼ 5 | 50 | ▲ 5 | 6 |
| HU | 34 | ▼ 7 | 63 | ▲ 8 | 3 |
| AT | 49 | ▼ 7 | 48 | ▲ 6 | 3 |
| PL | 49 | ▼ 7 | 43 | ▲ 8 | 8 |
| LV | 15 | ▼ 8 | 85 | ▲ 9 | 0 |
| RO | 36 | ▼ 9 | 60 | ▲ 8 | 4 |
| LT | 25 | ▼ 12 | 64 | ▲ 1 | 11 |

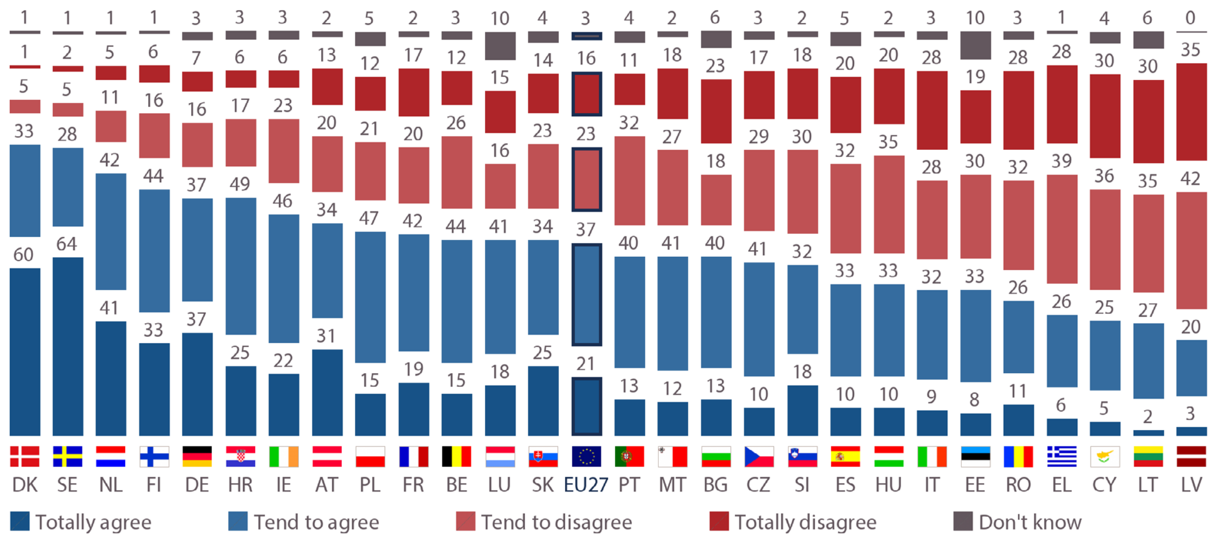
The majority of citizens agree that their voice counts in their country (58%, no change since November-December 2020), while 39% disagree (=). Findings have been broadly stable on this measure in recent years, with a consistent proportion of citizens (around six in ten) agreeing that their voice counts in their country.

**D72.2. To what extent do you agree or disagree with each of the following statements:**
My voice counts in (OUR COUNTRY) (% - EU)




These overall findings disguise some large variations between Member States. In 18 Member States, the majority of respondents agree that their voice counts in their country, while the majority disagree in nine countries. In four countries, more than three-quarters of respondents agree that their voice counts: Denmark (93%), Sweden (92%), the Netherlands (83%) and Finland (77%). However, this applies to less than a third of respondents in Latvia (23%), Lithuania (29%), Cyprus (30%) and Greece (32%).

**D72.2. To what extent do you agree or disagree with each of the following statements:**
My voice counts in (OUR COUNTRY) (%)



In eight EU Member States, there has been an increase of at least three percentage points since November-December 2020 in the proportion who agree that their voice counts in their country. The largest increases can be seen in Belgium (59%, +9 pp), Bulgaria (53%, +8 pp) and Slovenia (50%, +7 pp).

There have been equivalent decreases in 12 Member States, most notably Austria (65%, -13 pp), Lithuania (29%, -11 pp), Latvia (23%, -9 pp), Luxembourg (59%, -8 pp) and Germany (74%, -7 pp).

*NB: As noted above, some of the large shifts since November-December 2020 may be attributable to a change in the mode of data collection. This may apply in particular to the results in Estonia and Lithuania, where the data collection changed from online (2020) to face-to-face (2021). In Belgium and Slovenia data collection was carried out using a mixed modality consisting primarily face-to-face in the current survey, while it was fully online in 2020. However, there was no change in data collection in Austria, which shows the largest change in the last year. This change may relate to public attitudes to the restrictions introduced during the Covid-19 pandemic, with Austria seeing major protests in autumn 2021 over lockdown measures and mandatory vaccination.*

**D72.2. To what extent do you agree or disagree with each of the following statements:**
My voice counts in (OUR COUNTRY) (%)

| | Total 'Agree' | Diff. November/December 2021 - November/December 2020 | Total 'Disagree' | Diff. November/December 2021 - November/December 2020 | Don't know |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| EU27 | 58 | = | 39 | = | 3 |
| BE | 59 | ▲ 9 | 38 | ▼ 12 | 3 |
| BG | 53 | ▲ 8 | 41 | ▼ 6 | 6 |
| SI | 50 | ▲ 7 | 48 | ▼ 9 | 2 |
| EE | 41 | ▲ 5 | 49 | ▼ 15 | 10 |
| PL | 62 | ▲ 4 | 33 | ▼ 3 | 5 |
| CZ | 51 | ▲ 3 | 46 | ▼ 6 | 3 |
| IT | 41 | ▲ 3 | 56 | ▼ 1 | 3 |
| SE | 92 | ▲ 3 | 7 | ▼ 4 | 1 |
| DK | 93 | ▲ 2 | 6 | ▼ 2 | 1 |
| IE | 68 | ▲ 2 | 29 | ▼ 5 | 3 |
| ES | 43 | ▲ 2 | 52 | ▼ 4 | 5 |
| CY | 30 | ▲ 2 | 66 | ▼ 4 | 4 |
| FR | 61 | ▲ 1 | 37 | ▲ 2 | 2 |
| HR | 74 | = | 23 | ▼ 2 | 3 |
| FI | 77 | = | 22 | ▼ 1 | 1 |
| EL | 32 | ▼ 3 | 67 | ▲ 2 | 1 |
| HU | 43 | ▼ 3 | 55 | ▲ 4 | 2 |
| MT | 53 | ▼ 3 | 45 | ▲ 8 | 2 |
| PT | 53 | ▼ 3 | 43 | ▲ 4 | 4 |
| SK | 59 | ▼ 3 | 37 | ▲ 3 | 4 |
| RO | 37 | ▼ 4 | 60 | ▲ 4 | 3 |
| NL | 83 | ▼ 5 | 16 | ▲ 6 | 1 |
| DE | 74 | ▼ 7 | 23 | ▲ 6 | 3 |
| LU | 59 | ▼ 8 | 31 | ▼ 2 | 10 |
| LV | 23 | ▼ 9 | 77 | ▲ 10 | 0 |
| LT | 29 | ▼ 11 | 65 | ▲ 5 | 6 |
| AT | 65 | ▼ 13 | 33 | ▲ 12 | 2 |

The **socio-demographic analysis** shows similar patterns at the EU and national level. In both cases, more highly educated respondents are more likely to say that their voice counts: 50% of those who finished education aged 20 or above agree that their voice counts in the EU, and 68% in their country. Agreement is also higher among those who never or rarely have difficulties paying bills (48% in relation to the EU, 64% in relation to their country), and those who hold a positive image of the EU (59% in relation to the EU, 40% in relation to their country).

Looking at the different occupational groups, agreement is highest among managers (53% for the EU, 70% for the country) and lowest among unemployed respondents (32% and 43% respectively) and house persons (34% and 46% respectively).

**D72 To what extent do you agree or disagree with each of the following statements:**
(% - Total 'Agree')

| | My voice counts in the EU | My voice counts in (OUR COUNTRY) |
|---|---|---|
| EU27 | 43 | 30 |
| **Education (End of)** | | |
| 15- | 32 | 23 |
| 16-19 | 40 | 29 |
| 20+ | 50 | 34 |
| Still studying | 49 | 34 |
| **Socio-professional category** | | |
| Self- employed | 42 | 29 |
| Managers | 53 | 35 |
| Other white collars | 47 | 34 |
| Manual workers | 38 | 29 |
| House persons | 34 | 23 |
| Unemployed | 32 | 24 |
| Retired | 43 | 29 |
| Students | 49 | 34 |
| **Difficulties paying bills** | | |
| Most of the time | 25 | 19 |
| From time to time | 33 | 26 |
| Almost never/ Never | 48 | 33 |
| **Image of the EU** | | |
| Total 'Positive' | 59 | 40 |
| Neutral | 32 | 24 |
| Total 'Negative' | 17 | 12 |
| **Your living conditions** | | |
| Better | 54 | 36 |
| Worse | 30 | 22 |
| The same | 45 | 32 |

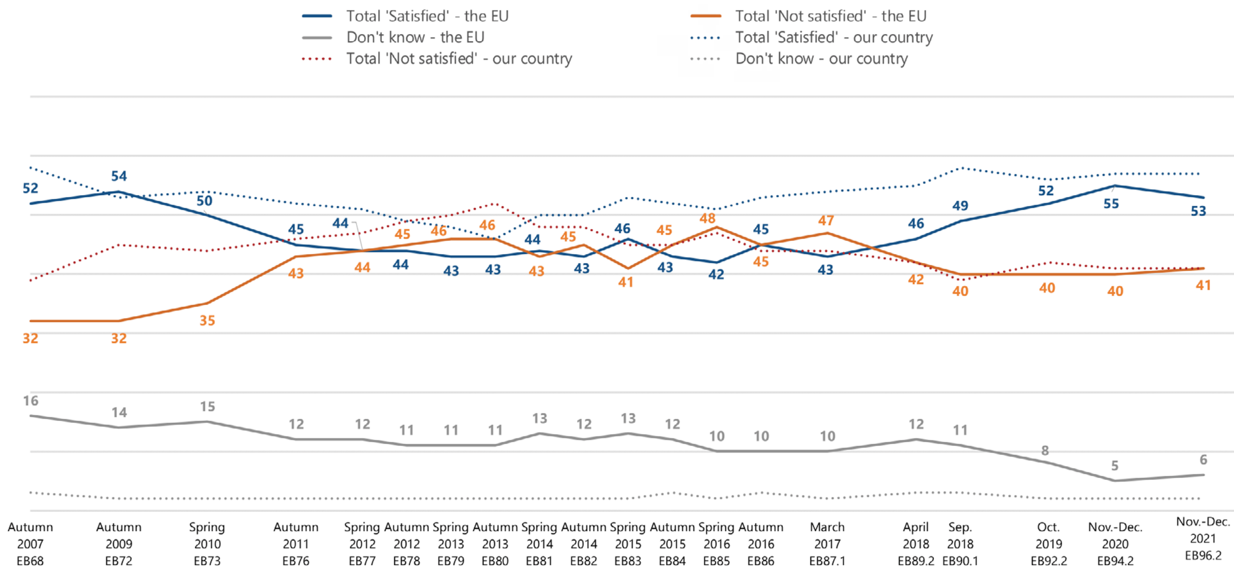
## 2. Satisfaction with democracy in my country/the EU

This section looks at public perceptions of how democracy is working, both in the respondent's own country and in the EU as a whole.

**Overall, just over half (53%) of respondents say they are satisfied with the way democracy works in the EU** (-2 pp since November-December 2020), while 41% (+1 pp) are not satisfied. The slight negative shift since November-December 2020 follows a consistently positive trend since 2017, and positive ratings continue to outweigh negative ones. While a majority of citizens are satisfied with democracy in the EU, it is clear from the latest Future of Europe survey that this is a topic of concern. That survey found that nine in ten Europeans agree that there is still work to be done to strengthen democracy in the EU[19].

There has been little change regarding satisfaction with the way democracy works at the national level. More than half of citizens (57%, no change since November-December 2020) are satisfied with the way democracy works in their own country, while around four in ten (41%, =) are not satisfied.

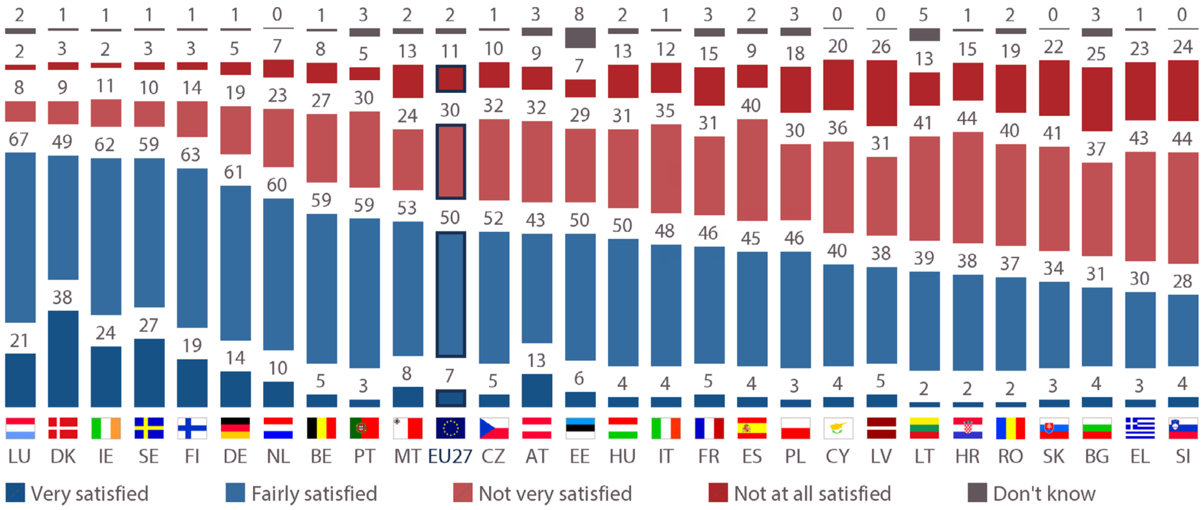
**D80 On the whole, are you very satisfied, fairly satisfied, not very satisfied or not at all satisfied with the way democracy works in (OUR COUNTRY)? And how about the way democracy works in the EU?** (% - EU)




The country analysis shows considerable variation in assessments of how the domestic political system is functioning. In 16 Member States, the majority of respondents are satisfied with democracy in their country, led by Luxembourg (88%), Denmark (87%), Ireland, Sweden (both 86%) and Finland (82%). In Spain, there is an even split between satisfaction and dissatisfaction (both 49%), while the majority are not satisfied in the other nine Member States. The highest levels of dissatisfaction are seen in Slovenia (68%), Greece (66%), Slovakia (63%) and Bulgaria (62%).

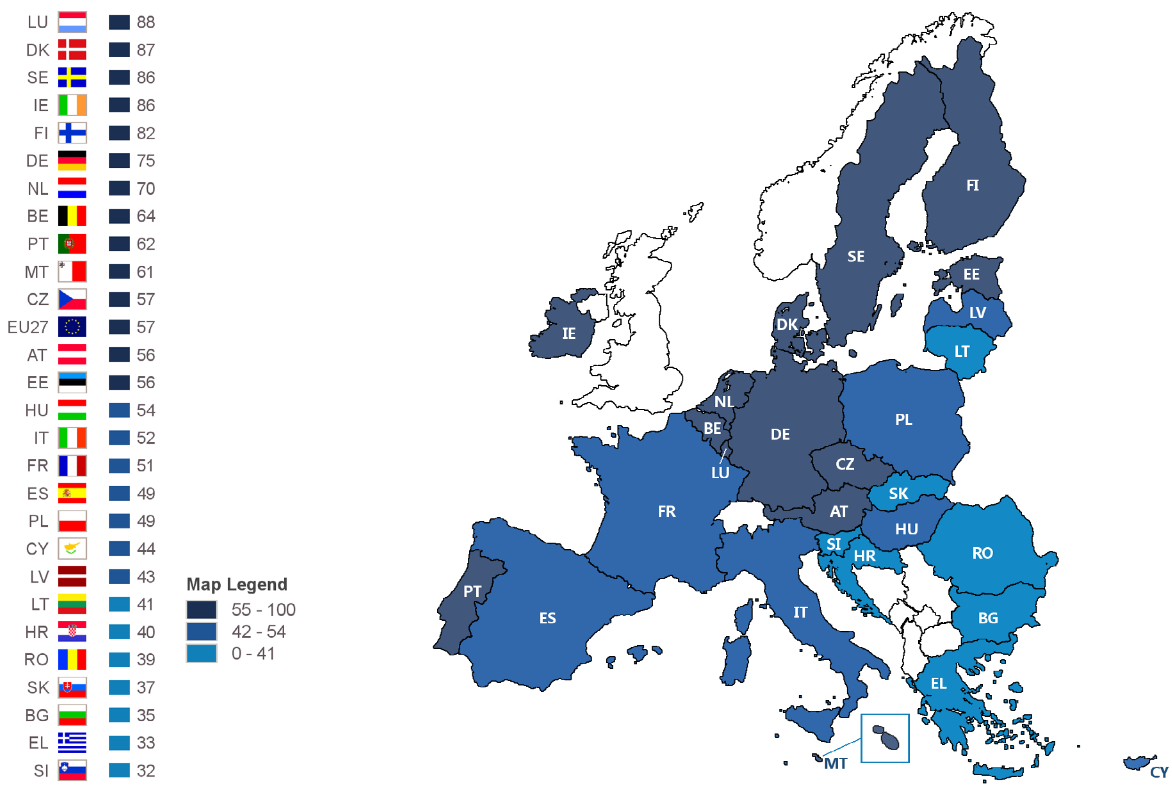
[19] Future of Europe survey, October-November 2021, europa.eu/eurobarometer/surveys/detail/2554

**D80a** **On the whole, are you very satisfied, fairly satisfied, not very satisfied or not at all satisfied with the way democracy works in (OUR COUNTRY)?** (%)




Perceptions of democracy at the national level vary considerably between Member States, with more than eight in ten satisfied in Luxembourg (88%), Denmark (87%), Ireland, Sweden (both 86%) and Finland (82%). By contrast, less than four in ten are satisfied in Slovenia (32%), Greece (33%), Bulgaria (35%), Slovakia (37%) and Romania (39%).

**D80a** **On the whole, are you very satisfied, fairly satisfied, not very satisfied or not at all satisfied with the way democracy works in (OUR COUNTRY)?** (% - Total 'Satisfied')



In total, 11 Member States show a positive shift of at least three percentage points since November-December 2020 in terms of how democracy is viewed at the national level, most notably Belgium (64%, +12 pp), Czechia (57%, +9 pp), Ireland (86%, +9 pp) and Sweden (86%, +8 pp). There have been decreases in satisfaction (of at least three points) in 12 countries, the largest being in Austria (56%, -19 pp), Lithuania (41%, -13 pp), the Netherlands (70%, -12 pp) and Romania (39%, -11 pp).

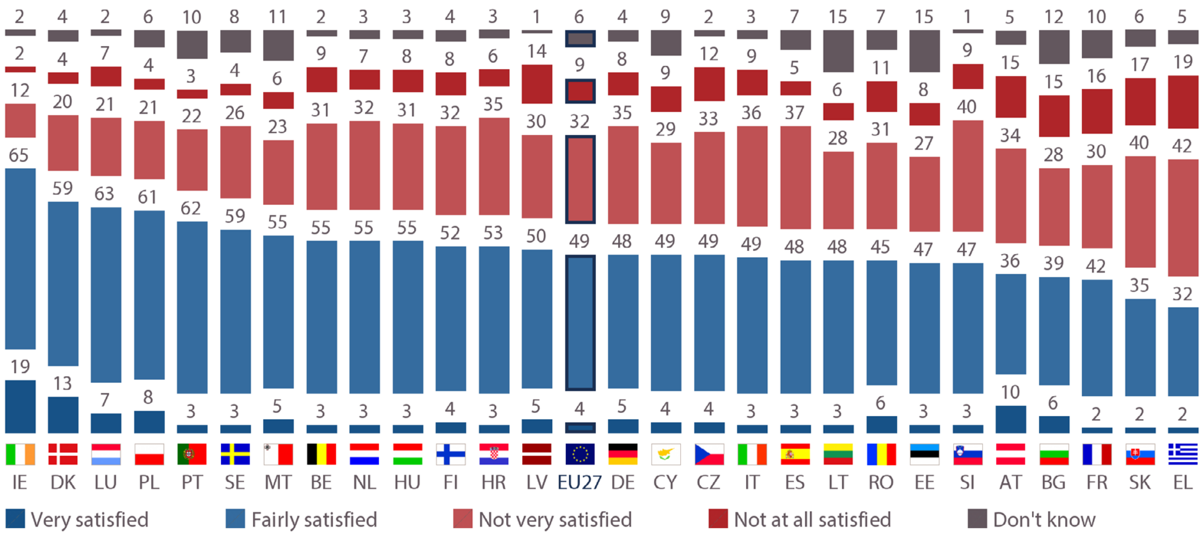
*NB: Some of the large shifts since November-December 2020 may be related changes in the mode of data collection. In Belgium, Czechia, Ireland, Estonia and Lithuania, the data collection changed from online (2020) to either full face-to-face, or primarily face-to-face within a mixed mode approach (2021). However, other Member States that show large changes did not change the data collection mode. The shifts in these countries are therefore likely to reflect changes in attitudes and/or the social or political context at the time of the survey waves.*

**D80a** **On the whole, are you very satisfied, fairly satisfied, not very satisfied or not at all satisfied with the way democracy works in (OUR COUNTRY)?** (%)

| | Total 'Satisfied' | Diff. November/December 2021 - November/December 2020 | Total 'Not satisfied' | Diff. November/December 2021 - November/December 2020 | Don't know |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| EU27 | 57 | = | 41 | = | 2 |
| BE | 64 | ▲ 12 | 35 | ▼ 13 | 1 |
| CZ | 57 | ▲ 9 | 42 | ▼ 10 | 1 |
| IE | 86 | ▲ 9 | 13 | ▼ 10 | 1 |
| SE | 86 | ▲ 8 | 13 | ▼ 8 | 1 |
| LU | 88 | ▲ 6 | 10 | ▼ 8 | 2 |
| FI | 82 | ▲ 5 | 17 | ▼ 6 | 1 |
| EE | 56 | ▲ 4 | 36 | ▼ 11 | 8 |
| FR | 51 | ▲ 4 | 46 | ▼ 5 | 3 |
| ES | 49 | ▲ 3 | 49 | ▼ 4 | 2 |
| HU | 54 | ▲ 3 | 44 | ▼ 5 | 2 |
| MT | 61 | ▲ 3 | 37 | ▼ 1 | 2 |
| PL | 49 | ▲ 2 | 48 | ▼ 2 | 3 |
| SI | 32 | = | 68 | = | 0 |
| DK | 87 | ▼ 1 | 12 | = | 1 |
| DE | 75 | ▼ 2 | 24 | ▲ 2 | 1 |
| BG | 35 | ▼ 3 | 62 | ▲ 3 | 3 |
| PT | 62 | ▼ 3 | 35 | ▲ 2 | 3 |
| EL | 33 | ▼ 4 | 66 | ▲ 3 | 1 |
| IT | 52 | ▼ 4 | 47 | ▲ 4 | 1 |
| CY | 44 | ▼ 5 | 56 | ▲ 6 | 0 |
| LV | 43 | ▼ 6 | 57 | ▲ 6 | 0 |
| SK | 37 | ▼ 6 | 63 | ▲ 7 | 0 |
| HR | 40 | ▼ 7 | 59 | ▲ 7 | 1 |
| RO | 39 | ▼ 11 | 59 | ▲ 11 | 2 |
| NL | 70 | ▼ 12 | 30 | ▲ 13 | 0 |
| LT | 41 | ▼ 13 | 54 | ▲ 8 | 5 |
| AT | 56 | ▼ 19 | 41 | ▲ 17 | 3 |

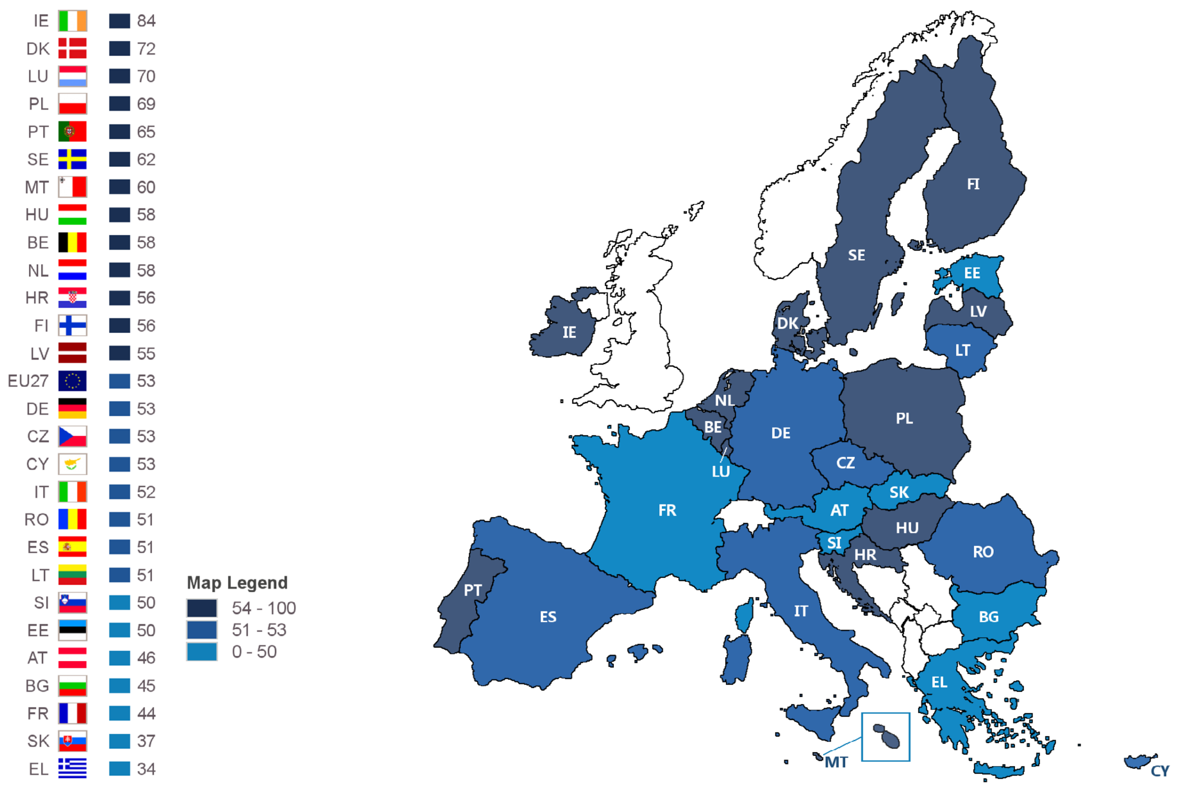
In all but four Member States, the majority of respondents are satisfied with the way democracy works in the EU, with the highest proportions observed in Ireland (84%), Denmark (72%), Luxembourg (70%) and Poland (69%). A majority are not satisfied in Greece (61%), Slovakia (57%), Austria (49%) and France (46%).

**D80b** **And how about the way democracy works in the EU?** (%)




Satisfaction with the way democracy works in the EU ranges from 84% in Ireland to 34% in Greece. There are some Member States where respondents are more likely to be satisfied with democracy in the EU than in their own country, most notably Poland (69% vs. 49%), Slovenia (50% vs. 32%) and Croatia (56% vs. 40%). However, there are also countries where respondents are more satisfied with the way democracy is working in their own country than in the EU. The largest differences are seen in Finland (82% vs. 56%), Sweden (86% vs. 62%) and Germany (75% vs. 53%).

**D80b** **And how about the way democracy works in the EU?** (% - Total 'Satisfied')



There are just six Member States that show a positive trend since November-December 2020 (of three or more percentage points) in terms of how democracy in the EU is perceived. The largest increases can be found in Luxembourg (70%, +7 pp), the Netherlands (58%, +7 pp), Finland (56%, +6 pp) and Belgium (58%, +5 pp).

There are 17 Member States that show a decline of at least three points in the way democracy works in the EU. Two-digit decreases can be found in Lithuania (51%, -16 pp), Estonia (50%, -14 pp), Latvia (55%, -12 pp), Slovenia (50%, -11 pp), Austria (46%, -11 pp) and Slovakia (37%, -10 pp).

*NB: The large shifts since November-December 2020 in Estonia, Lithuania, and Slovenia are likely (at least in part) to reflect a change in data collection mode from online (2020) to full or primarily face-to-face (2021). In particular, in the 2020 survey, 'don't know' answers were chosen by few respondents, but 15% in each country answered 'don't know' in the current survey. In other countries, however, large changes have been seen despite a consistent data collection mode being used.*

**D80b** **And how about the way democracy works in the EU?** (%)

| | Total 'Satisfied' | Diff. November/December 2021 - November/December 2020 | Total 'Not satisfied' | Diff. November/December 2021 - November/December 2020 | Don't know |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| EU27 | 53 | ▼ 2 | 41 | ▲ 1 | 6 |
| LU | 70 | ▲ 7 | 28 | ▼ 9 | 2 |
| NL | 58 | ▲ 7 | 39 | ▼ 7 | 3 |
| FI | 56 | ▲ 6 | 40 | ▼ 9 | 4 |
| BE | 58 | ▲ 5 | 40 | ▼ 6 | 2 |
| IE | 84 | ▲ 4 | 14 | ▼ 6 | 2 |
| SE | 62 | ▲ 3 | 30 | ▼ 8 | 8 |
| DK | 72 | ▲ 2 | 24 | ▼ 3 | 4 |
| ES | 51 | ▲ 1 | 42 | ▼ 3 | 7 |
| FR | 44 | ▲ 1 | 46 | = | 10 |
| PL | 69 | ▼ 2 | 25 | ▲ 2 | 6 |
| IT | 52 | ▼ 3 | 45 | ▲ 3 | 3 |
| CY | 53 | ▼ 4 | 38 | ▲ 2 | 9 |
| HU | 58 | ▼ 4 | 39 | ▲ 3 | 3 |
| DE | 53 | ▼ 5 | 43 | ▲ 4 | 4 |
| EL | 34 | ▼ 6 | 61 | ▲ 1 | 5 |
| MT | 60 | ▼ 6 | 29 | ▲ 6 | 11 |
| BG | 45 | ▼ 8 | 43 | ▲ 5 | 12 |
| HR | 56 | ▼ 8 | 41 | ▲ 8 | 3 |
| CZ | 53 | ▼ 9 | 45 | ▲ 8 | 2 |
| PT | 65 | ▼ 9 | 25 | ▲ 7 | 10 |
| RO | 51 | ▼ 9 | 42 | ▲ 6 | 7 |
| SK | 37 | ▼ 10 | 57 | ▲ 9 | 6 |
| AT | 46 | ▼ 11 | 49 | ▲ 10 | 5 |
| SI | 50 | ▼ 11 | 49 | ▲ 10 | 1 |
| LV | 55 | ▼ 12 | 44 | ▲ 13 | 1 |
| EE | 50 | ▼ 14 | 35 | ▼ 1 | 15 |
| LT | 51 | ▼ 16 | 34 | ▲ 1 | 15 |

On a **socio-demographic** level, young people aged 15-24 are more likely than older people to be satisfied with the way democracy is working, both in their country and in the EU. The difference is particularly pronounced in relation to the EU (63% of 15-24 year olds compared with 48% of those aged 55 or over).

There are also differences by financial position and level of education. Respondents who never or almost never have difficulties paying bills are more likely to approve of the way democracy is working, both in their country (63%) and in the EU (58%). Respondents who finished education at the age of 20 or above are also more likely to be satisfied, both at the national and EU level (64% and 58% respectively). By occupational group, satisfaction is highest among managers and students and lowest among unemployed respondents.

**D80** **On the whole, are you very satisfied, fairly satisfied, not very satisfied or not at all satisfied with the way democracy works in...** (% - Total 'Satisfied')

| | (OUR COUNTRY) | The EU |
|---|---|---|
| EU27 | 57 | 53 |
| **Age** | | |
| 15-24 | 60 | 63 |
| 25-39 | 58 | 57 |
| 40-54 | 58 | 54 |
| 55 + | 56 | 48 |
| **Education (End of)** | | |
| 15- | 48 | 42 |
| 16-19 | 53 | 50 |
| 20+ | 64 | 58 |
| Still studying | 66 | 66 |
| **Socio-professional category** | | |
| Self- employed | 59 | 53 |
| Managers | 68 | 63 |
| Other white collars | 60 | 60 |
| Manual workers | 52 | 50 |
| House persons | 51 | 47 |
| Unemployed | 38 | 38 |
| Retired | 57 | 47 |
| Students | 66 | 66 |
| **Difficulties paying bills** | | |
| Most of the time | 32 | 32 |
| From time to time | 47 | 45 |
| Almost never/ Never | 63 | 58 |

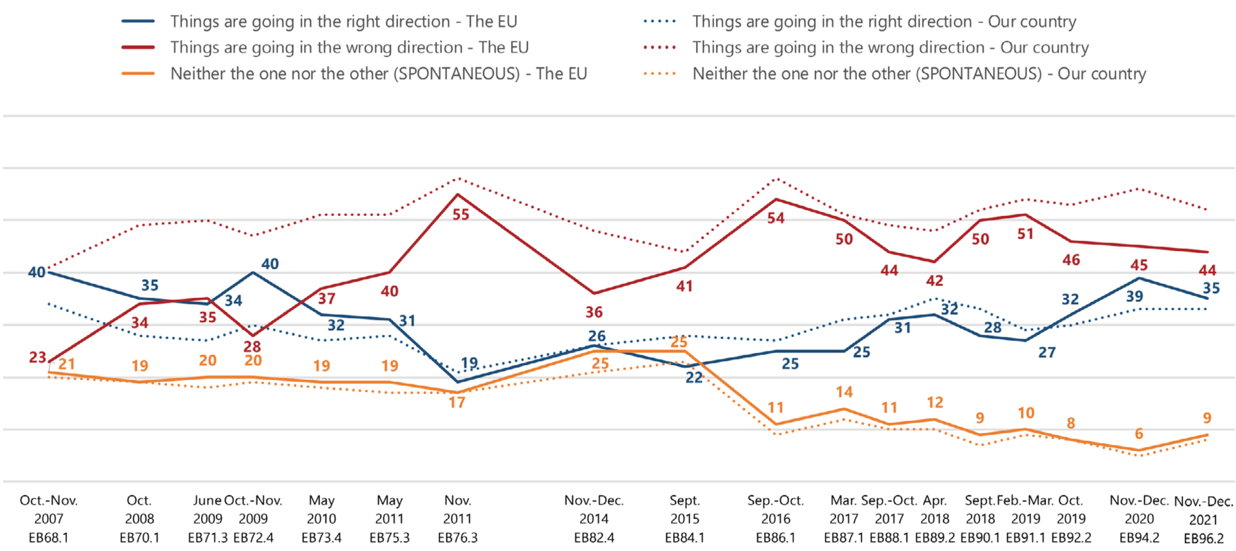
## 3. Things are going in the right/wrong direction in your country/ the EU

**Around one in three citizens (35%) believe that things are going in the right direction in the EU**. That is a decrease of 4 percentage points compared with November-December 2020, although there has been a positive longer-term trend since November 2011. The share of citizens feeling that things are going in the wrong direction in the EU is fairly stable since November-December 2020 (44%, -1 pp), and this proportion has been broadly consistent in recent years.

Looking at the national level, just over half of EU citizens (52%, -4 pp since November-December 2020) think that things are going in the wrong direction in their country, while a third say that things are going in the right direction (33%, =). In recent years, the gap between negative and positive ratings has remained broadly stable.

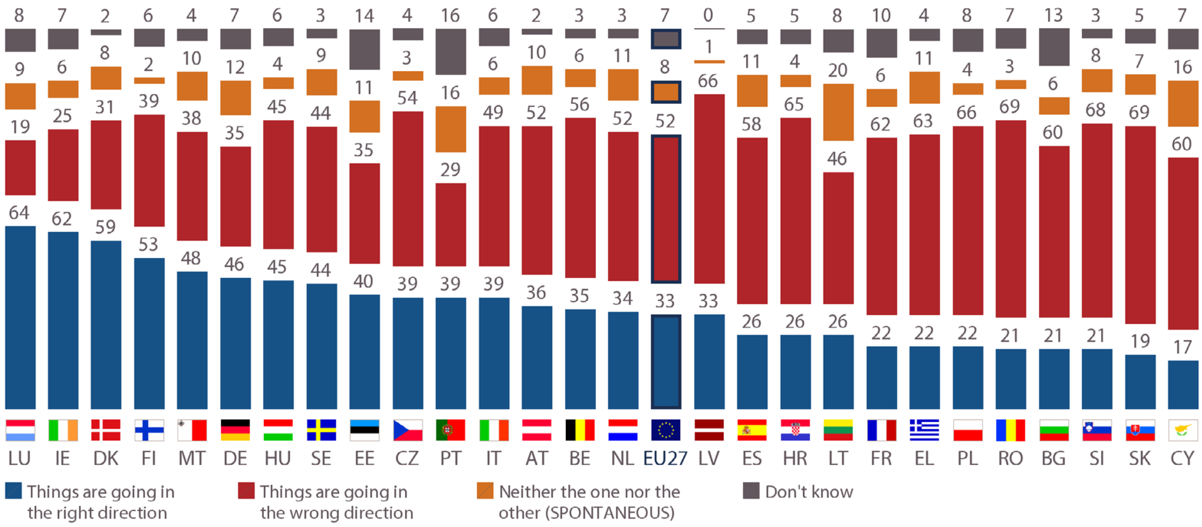
Despite the recent changes, perceptions of the direction at the EU level remain more positive than for the national level. In particular, respondents are more likely to feel things are going in the wrong direction in their country than in the EU (52% compared with 44%).

**D73 At the present time, would you say that, in general, things are going in the right direction or in the wrong direction, in...? (OUR COUNTRY)** (% - EU)




There are eight Member States where a majority of respondents think things are going in the right direction in their country, led by Luxembourg (64%), Ireland (62%), Denmark (59%) and Finland (53%). There is an even split of positive and negative ratings in Hungary (both 45%) and Sweden (both 44%), while in the other 17 Member States, a majority think that things are going in the wrong direction. This view is most widely held by respondents in Romania, Slovakia (both 69%), Slovenia (68%), Latvia, Poland (both 66%) and Croatia (65%).

**D73.1 At the present time, would you say that, in general, things are going in the right direction or in the wrong direction, in...?** (OUR COUNTRY) (%)




There have been some large changes since November-December 2020 in terms of whether countries are seen as going in the right direction. A positive shift of three or more percentage points is seen in nine Member States, with the largest increases in Czechia (39%, +14 pp), Spain (26%, +12 pp), Italy (39%, +11 pp) and Croatia (26%, +10 pp). Among the 14 countries that show a decrease, the largest are in Lithuania (26%, -28 pp), Greece (22%, -22 pp), Austria (36%, -12 pp) and the Netherlands (34%, -12 pp).

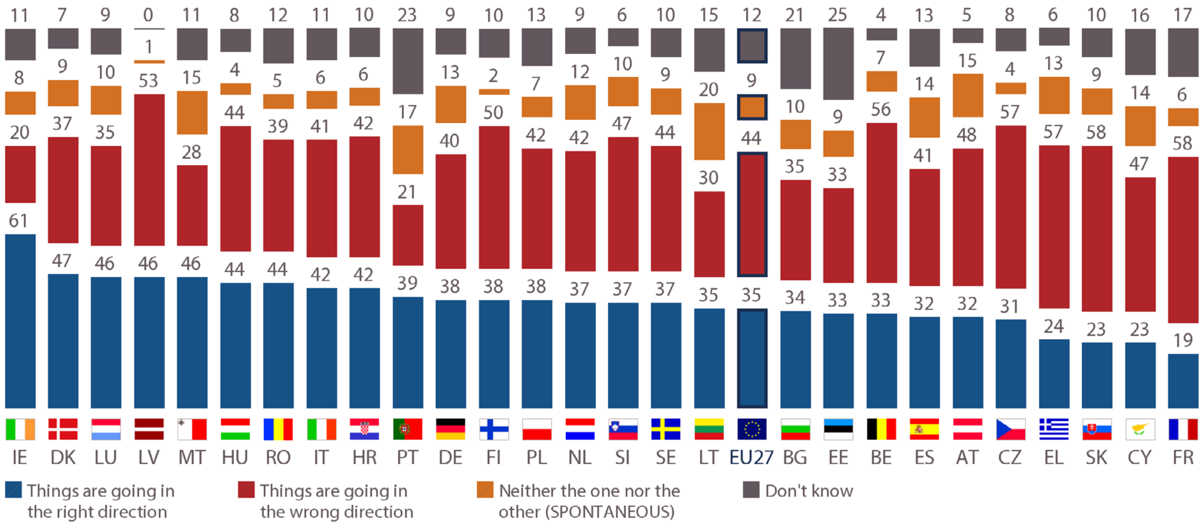
*NB: The large shifts since November-December 2020 in Greece and Lithuania are possibly (at least in part) reflecting a change in data collection mode from online (2020) to face-to-face (2021). In particular, in the 2020 results, answers 'neither the one nor the other' and 'don't know' were marginally chosen, but substantial proportions gave these answers in the current survey. In other countries, however (such as Croatia, Spain and the Netherlands), large changes have been seen despite a consistent data collection mode being used.*

**D73.1 At the present time, would you say that, in general, things are going in the right direction or in the wrong direction, in...?** (OUR COUNTRY) (%)

| Things are going in the right direction | Diff. November/December 2021 - November/December 2020 | Things are going in the wrong direction | Diff. November/December 2021 - November/December 2020 | Neither the one nor the other (SPONTANEOUS) | Diff. November/December 2021 - November/December 2020 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 33 | = | 52 | ▼ 4 | 8 | ▲ 3 |
| 39 | ▲ 14 | 54 | ▼ 21 | 3 | ▲ 3 |
| 26 | ▲ 12 | 58 | ▼ 18 | 11 | ▲ 5 |
| 39 | ▲ 11 | 49 | ▼ 10 | 6 | ▲ 1 |
| 26 | ▲ 10 | 65 | ▼ 13 | 4 | ▲ 3 |
| 22 | ▲ 6 | 62 | ▼ 8 | 6 | ▲ 1 |
| 53 | ▲ 6 | 39 | ▼ 13 | 2 | ▲ 2 |
| 59 | ▲ 5 | 31 | ▼ 8 | 8 | ▲ 3 |
| 40 | ▲ 5 | 35 | ▼ 29 | 11 | ▲ 10 |
| 45 | ▲ 5 | 45 | ▼ 6 | 4 | = |
| 22 | ▲ 1 | 66 | ▼ 3 | 4 | ▲ 2 |
| 44 | ▲ 1 | 44 | ▼ 11 | 9 | ▲ 7 |
| 21 | = | 60 | = | 6 | ▼ 1 |
| 21 | = | 68 | ▼ 11 | 8 | ▲ 8 |
| 33 | ▼ 3 | 66 | ▲ 5 | 1 | = |
| 48 | ▼ 3 | 38 | ▲ 6 | 10 | ▲ 3 |
| 17 | ▼ 4 | 60 | ▲ 3 | 16 | = |
| 64 | ▼ 4 | 19 | ▼ 12 | 9 | ▲ 8 |
| 35 | ▼ 5 | 56 | ▼ 3 | 6 | ▲ 6 |
| 46 | ▼ 7 | 35 | = | 12 | ▲ 5 |
| 39 | ▼ 8 | 29 | ▲ 4 | 16 | ▲ 6 |
| 21 | ▼ 8 | 69 | ▲ 9 | 3 | ▼ 1 |
| 62 | ▼ 9 | 25 | ▼ 4 | 6 | ▲ 6 |
| 19 | ▼ 9 | 69 | ▲ 9 | 7 | ▲ 1 |
| 34 | ▼ 12 | 52 | ▲ 16 | 11 | ▼ 4 |
| 36 | ▼ 12 | 52 | ▲ 14 | 10 | ▼ 1 |
| 22 | ▼ 22 | 63 | ▲ 7 | 11 | ▲ 11 |
| 26 | ▼ 28 | 46 | = | 20 | ▲ 20 |

There is considerable variation in the proportion who think that things are going in the right direction in the EU, ranging from 61% in Ireland to 19% in France. In total, there are eight Member States where the majority think that things are on the right track in the EU, while 16 countries have a majority that think things are going in the wrong direction. There is an even split of positive and negative ratings in the other three Member States (Hungary, Croatia and Estonia).

**D73.2 At the present time, would you say that, in general, things are going in the right direction or in the wrong direction, in...?** The European Union (%)




The overall shift since November-December 2020 is negative, with a 4-point decrease in the proportion of EU citizens who think things are going in the right direction in the EU. Just three Member States show a clear upward trend (of three or more percentage points): Italy (42%, +11 pp), Spain (32%, +10 pp) and Croatia (42%, +5 pp).

Among the 21 countries that shows a decrease of at least three percentage points, there are some large changes: Lithuania (35%, -35 pp), Estonia (33%, -28 pp), Slovenia (37%, -23 pp), Greece (24%, -20 pp), Belgium (33%, -19 pp), Ireland (61%, -16 pp) and Czechia (31%, -15 pp).

*NB: As noted above, the large shifts since November-December 2020 in some countries are likely (at least in part) to reflect a change in data collection mode from online (2020) to face-to-face (2021). In particular, the codes 'neither the one nor the other' and 'don't know' answers were marginally mentioned by online respondents, but substantial proportions gave these answers in the current survey (in particular in Lithuania, Estonia, Slovenia and Greece).*

**D73.2 At the present time, would you say that, in general, things are going in the right direction or in the wrong direction, in...?** The European Union (%)

| | Things are going in the right direction | Diff. November/December 2021 - November/December 2020 | Things are going in the wrong direction | Diff. November/December 2021 - November/December 2020 | Neither the one nor the other (SPONTANEOUS) | Diff. November/December 2021 - November/December 2020 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | 35 | ▼ 4 | 44 | ▼ 1 | 9 | ▲ 3 |
| | 42 | ▲ 11 | 41 | ▼ 9 | 6 | = |
| | 32 | ▲ 10 | 41 | ▼ 18 | 14 | ▲ 6 |
| | 42 | ▲ 5 | 42 | ▼ 9 | 6 | ▲ 1 |
| | 38 | ▼ 1 | 50 | ▼ 10 | 2 | ▲ 2 |
| | 47 | ▼ 2 | 37 | ▼ 1 | 9 | ▲ 2 |
| | 44 | ▼ 2 | 44 | ▲ 4 | 4 | ▼ 2 |
| | 37 | ▼ 3 | 42 | ▲ 4 | 12 | ▼ 3 |
| | 32 | ▼ 3 | 48 | ▲ 3 | 15 | = |
| | 19 | ▼ 4 | 58 | ▲ 4 | 6 | = |
| | 23 | ▼ 4 | 47 | ▲ 2 | 14 | ▼ 2 |
| | 46 | ▼ 6 | 35 | ▼ 12 | 10 | ▲ 9 |
| | 44 | ▼ 6 | 39 | ▲ 2 | 5 | = |
| | 38 | ▼ 8 | 40 | ▲ 2 | 13 | ▲ 5 |
| | 39 | ▼ 8 | 21 | = | 17 | ▲ 8 |
| | 34 | ▼ 9 | 35 | ▲ 6 | 10 | ▲ 3 |
| | 46 | ▼ 9 | 28 | ▲ 8 | 15 | ▲ 7 |
| | 37 | ▼ 9 | 44 | ▼ 7 | 9 | ▲ 7 |
| | 38 | ▼ 10 | 42 | ▲ 12 | 7 | ▲ 1 |
| | 46 | ▼ 13 | 53 | ▲ 17 | 1 | = |
| | 23 | ▼ 14 | 58 | ▲ 11 | 9 | ▲ 3 |
| | 31 | ▼ 15 | 57 | ▲ 4 | 4 | ▲ 4 |
| | 61 | ▼ 16 | 20 | ▼ 3 | 8 | ▲ 8 |
| | 33 | ▼ 19 | 56 | ▲ 9 | 7 | ▲ 7 |
| | 24 | ▼ 20 | 57 | ▲ 1 | 13 | ▲ 13 |
| | 37 | ▼ 23 | 47 | ▲ 7 | 10 | ▲ 10 |
| | 33 | ▼ 28 | 33 | ▼ 5 | 9 | ▲ 9 |
| | 35 | ▼ 35 | 30 | = | 20 | ▲ 20 |

There are consistent **socio-demographic** differences, when looking at perceptions of whether things are going in the right direction. Younger respondents are more likely than older respondents to say that things are going in the right direction both in their country and in the EU, and men are more likely than women to say this.

More highly educated respondents and those who do not have difficulties paying bills are more likely to say that things are going in the right direction both in their country and in the EU. Looking at occupational group, managers and students are the most likely to say things are going in the right direction at both national and EU level, while unemployed respondents are the least likely to say so.

Attitudes are linked with expectations with regards to living conditions: respondents who think their personal situation will be better in a year's time are more likely to think things are going in the right direction, both nationally and in the EU.

**D73** **At the present time, would you say that, in general, things are going in the right direction or in the wrong direction, in...?** (% - Things are going in the right direction)

| | (OUR COUNTRY) | The European Union |
|---|---|---|
| EU27 | 33 | 35 |
| **Age** | | |
| 15-24 | 39 | 44 |
| 25-39 | 34 | 37 |
| 40-54 | 33 | 35 |
| 55 + | 31 | 31 |
| **Education (End of)** | | |
| 15- | 28 | 27 |
| 16-19 | 30 | 32 |
| 20+ | 39 | 39 |
| Still studying | 42 | 46 |
| **Socio-professional category** | | |
| Self- employed | 38 | 39 |
| Managers | 44 | 45 |
| Other white collars | 35 | 41 |
| Manual workers | 28 | 30 |
| House persons | 26 | 27 |
| Unemployed | 20 | 20 |
| Retired | 31 | 30 |
| Students | 42 | 46 |
| **Difficulties paying bills** | | |
| Most of the time | 16 | 20 |
| From time to time | 25 | 28 |
| Almost never/ Never | 38 | 38 |
| **Your living conditions** | | |
| Better | 52 | 51 |
| Worse | 13 | 18 |
| The same | 36 | 36 |

# II. EUROPEANS AND THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT: Backed by a positive image, there is a call for a stronger role and to defend democracy

**This section focuses on the image of the European Parliament, how its future role is perceived, and how citizens view its priorities and core values. The results show that the image of the European Parliament has remained at a high level, with strong demands for its role to be enhanced.**

The previous section showed positive views of democracy in the EU, while highlighting the importance of citizens' voices being heard. In this section, we see that democracy is foremost among the values that citizens think the European Parliament should defend as a matter of priority. Freedom of speech and thought, the protection of human rights in the EU and worldwide, gender equality and the rule of law are other values that citizens want the European Parliament to defend.

Along with public health and the fight against poverty and social exclusion, citizens see action against climate change as one of the European Parliament's priorities. This survey probes further on this issue, by identifying priority measures at the EU level to tackle climate change. Citizens prioritise the protection of forests and planting of trees, the switch to renewable energy sources, and reductions in carbon emissions in the industrial sector.

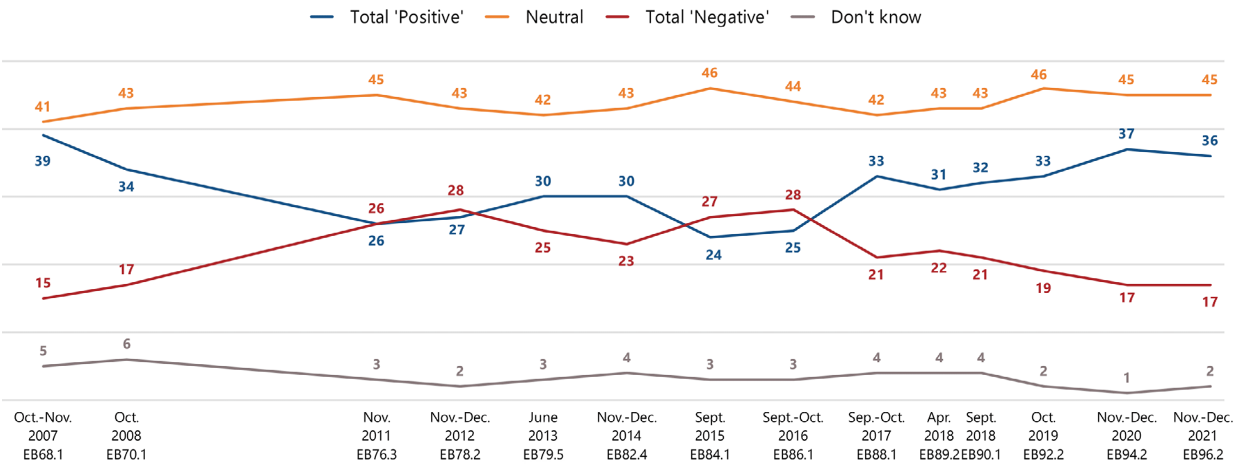
Knowledge of the work of the European Parliament has increased since October 2019, especially among those who say they have a 'medium' level of knowledge (+8 pp respectively). In parallel, there has been a fall in the proportion of Europeans who say they have a 'low' level of knowledge of the EP's work (-9 pp).

## 1. General image of the European Parliament

Parlemeter surveys measure citizens' views on the European Parliament both by looking at the image they have of the institution and by questioning citizens' views on Parliament's future role. Both of these measures continue to show positive results.

**The image of the European Parliament has remained stable in the last year**. Although citizens are still most likely to express a neutral image of the European Parliament (45%, no change since November-December 2020), the trend shows a continuing gap between Europeans with a positive image (36%, -1 pp) and those with a negative one (17%, =). The distance between the two curves remains at a high level relative to previous years, and is currently close to the level seen in October-November 2007 before the economic downturn that started in 2008. **Notably it seems that the image of the EP is now better compared to its level before the start of the pandemic**.

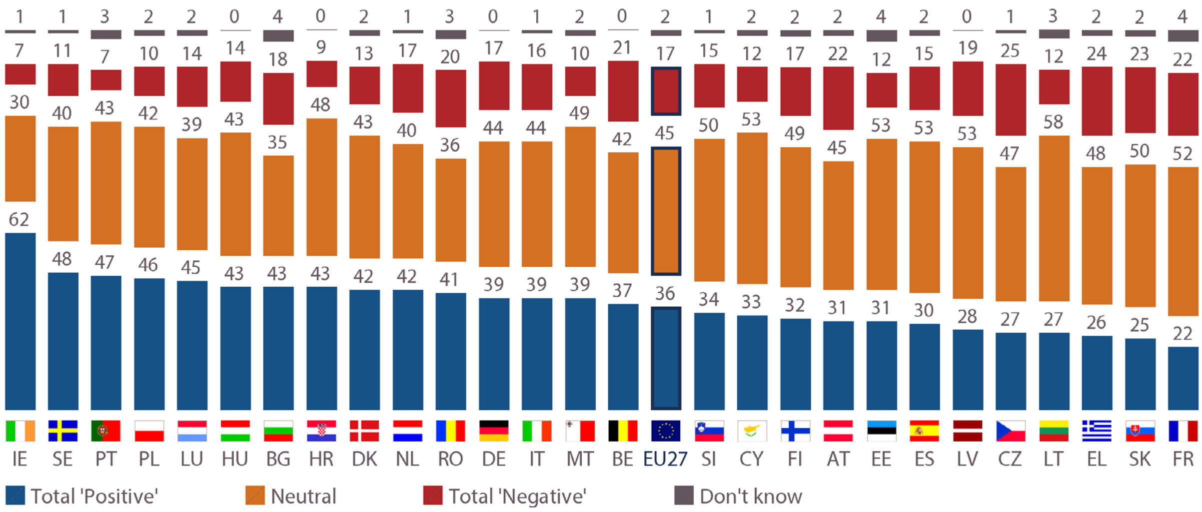
**QA2 In general, do you have a very positive, fairly positive, neutral, fairly negative or very negative image of the European Parliament?** (% - EU)




Looking at the country results, we see that in all Member States except France, positive ratings for the European Parliament outweigh negative ones. In France there is an equal share of positive and negative ratings (both 22%).

As in previous years, Ireland shows the highest results for a positive image of the European Parliament (62%), followed by Sweden (48%), Portugal (47%), Poland (46%) and Luxembourg (45%). France has the lowest 'positive' score (22%), followed by Slovakia (25%) and Greece (26%).

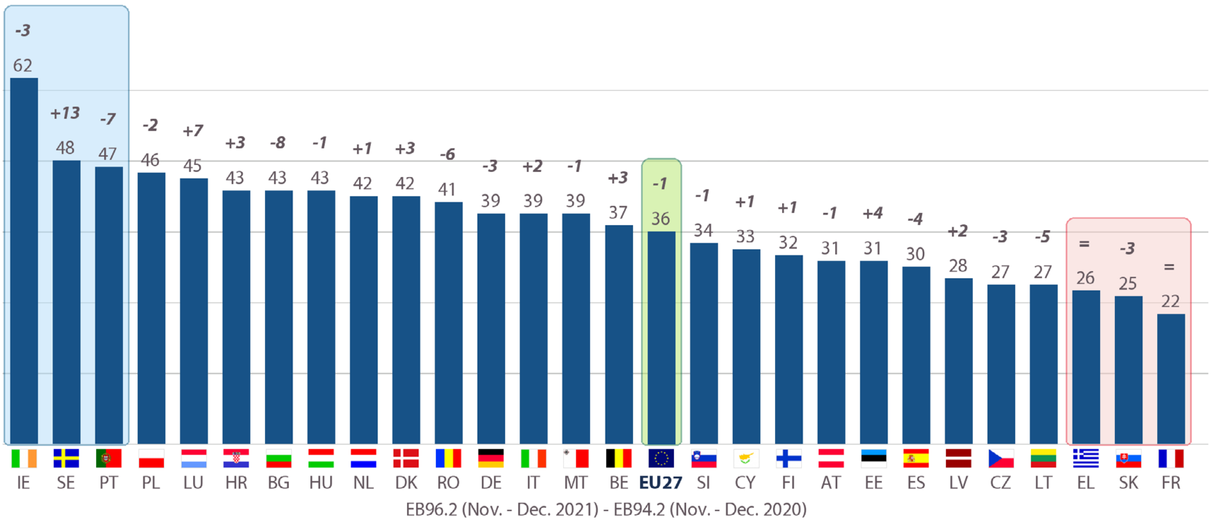
**QA2 In general, do you have a very positive, fairly positive, neutral, fairly negative or very negative image of the European Parliament?** (%)



There has been an increase in positive views of the European Parliament in several Member States since November-December 2020. The increases are most notable in Sweden (48%, +13pp), Luxembourg (45%, +7 pp) and Estonia (31%, +4 pp). In total, six Member States show an increase of at least three percentage points. At the other end, a matching decrease of at least three percentage points is observed in nine countries, most notably Bulgaria (43%, -8 pp), Portugal (47%, -7 pp) and Romania (41%, -6 pp).

*NB: Some of these changes may be partly related to a change in data collection mode. In Sweden and Luxembourg, for example, there was shift from either fully online or mixed face-to-face and online data collection in 2020 to face-to-face interviews only in the current survey. Moreover, the political crisis in Sweden that started in the second half of 2020 might have impacted negatively the image of political institutions in general, including the EP, in the previous survey (94.2).*

**QA2** **In general, do you have a very positive, fairly positive, neutral, fairly negative or very negative image of the European Parliament?** (% - Total 'Positive')




**Socio-demographic** groups show some variation in perceptions regarding the European Parliament. Younger people tend to have a more favourable image, and this can be seen most clearly in the proportions who say their image is negative: just 10% among 15-24 year olds, but almost twice as high (19%) among those aged 55 or over. Citizens that were educated to a higher level and those in managerial or white collar occupations and students also hold a more positive image of the institution.

Citizens are most likely to have a negative image of the European Parliament if they struggle with their bills most of the time (26%) or if they expect their living conditions to be worse in a year's time (29%). Furthermore, respondents who have a positive image of the European Parliament are more likely to also have a positive image of the EU.

**QA2** **In general, do you have a very positive, fairly positive, neutral, fairly negative or very negative image of the European Parliament?** (% - EU)

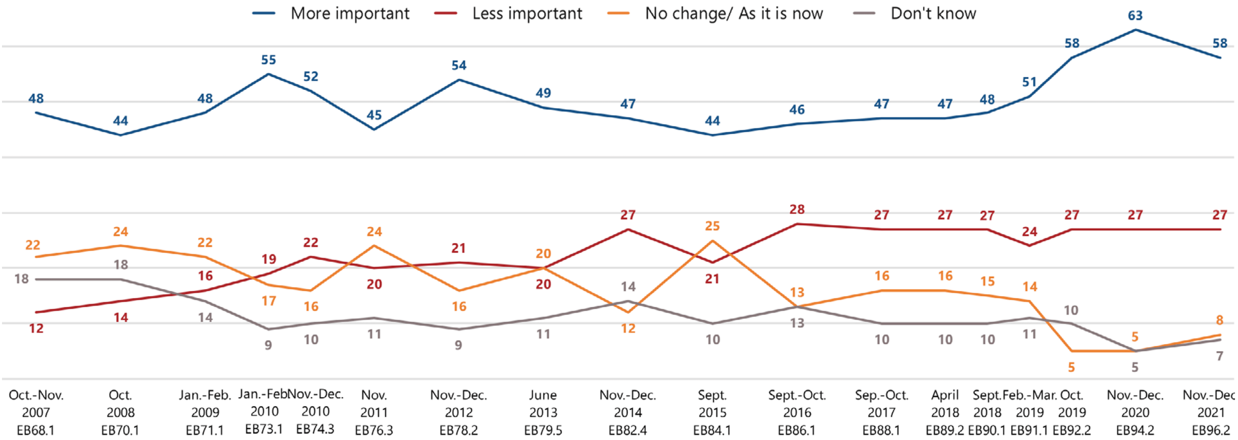
| | Total 'Positive' | Neutral | Total 'Negative' | Don't know |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| EU27 | 36 | 45 | 17 | 2 |
| **Age** | | | | |
| 15-24 | 41 | 46 | 10 | 3 |
| 25-39 | 37 | 48 | 14 | 1 |
| 40-54 | 37 | 44 | 18 | 1 |
| 55 + | 35 | 44 | 19 | 2 |
| **Education (End of)** | | | | |
| 15- | 24 | 53 | 19 | 4 |
| 16-19 | 33 | 46 | 20 | 1 |
| 20+ | 43 | 41 | 15 | 1 |
| Still studying | 45 | 46 | 6 | 3 |
| **Socio-professional category** | | | | |
| Self- employed | 40 | 41 | 18 | 1 |
| Managers | 47 | 40 | 13 | 0 |
| Other white collars | 42 | 43 | 14 | 1 |
| Manual workers | 30 | 49 | 19 | 2 |
| House persons | 28 | 53 | 16 | 3 |
| Unemployed | 23 | 53 | 23 | 1 |
| Retired | 33 | 44 | 20 | 3 |
| Students | 45 | 46 | 6 | 3 |
| **Difficulties paying bills** | | | | |
| Most of the time | 23 | 46 | 26 | 5 |
| From time to time | 31 | 49 | 19 | 1 |
| Almost never/ Never | 39 | 44 | 15 | 2 |
| Never | 22 | 56 | 18 | 4 |
| **Your living conditions** | | | | |
| Better | 43 | 44 | 11 | 2 |
| Worse | 25 | 44 | 29 | 2 |
| The same | 38 | 47 | 13 | 2 |

## 2. Role of the European Parliament in the future

The positive image that citizens have of the European Parliament is reflected not only by the European Commission's Standard Eurobarometer showing Parliament continuously enjoying the highest amount of trust among all EU institutions[20], but also in the call for greater prominence as shown in the present survey: Citizens want to see **the only EU institution they can directly vote for and which they trust most to be invested with a more important role**. This is the position of most Europeans (58%), and while this represents a decrease in the last year (-5 pp since November-December 2020), the longer-term trend is positive, with ratings from the last two years higher than at any point since 2007.

This increase comes alongside a rise in the proportion that are neutral or have no opinion, while those wanting a less important role for the European parliament have remained constant at around a quarter (27%, =).

**QA3 Would you personally like to see the European Parliament play a more important or less important role?** (% - EU)

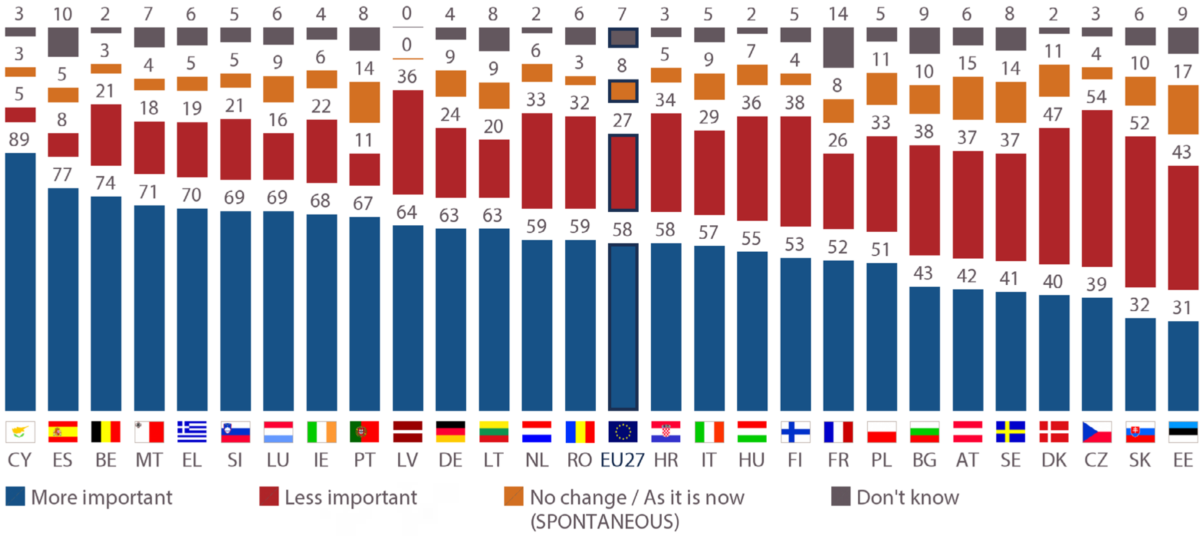



The desire for a more important role for the European Parliament is seen in 23 Member States, where a relative majority of citizens want a more influential institution, ranging from 89% in Cyprus to 41% in Sweden. In the other four countries, a majority of respondents would like the European Parliament to play a less important role in the future: Czechia (54% less important), Slovakia (52%), Denmark (47%) and Estonia (43%).

It is useful to compare responses to this question on the role of the European Parliament with those on its general image among citizens. The broad message across the EU is that those who have a positive image of the European Parliament are much more likely to want it to play a more important role. Following the relationship between these two views, those who have a negative image of the institution are more likely to want it to play a less important role. At the same time, individual situations can be found at country level, such as in Greece, where the image of the European Parliament is not particularly high, although respondents would like it to play a more important role. By contrast, the overall image is positive in Bulgaria, but it is below average in terms of wanting to see a more prominent role. Compared with November-December 2020, support for a more important role for the European Parliament has grown by at least three percentage points in three countries: Finland (53%, +5 pp), Latvia (64%, +4 pp) and Malta (71%, +3 pp).

[20] Standard Eurobarometer 95, Spring 2021, europa.eu/eurobarometer/surveys/detail/2532

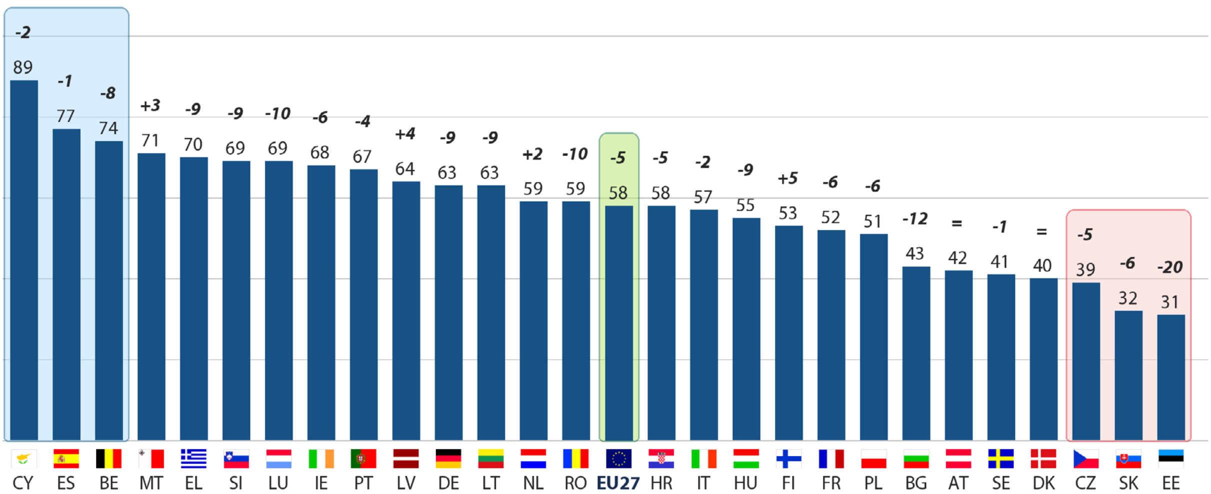
**QA3 Would you personally like to see the European Parliament play a more important or less important role?** (%)




There are 17 Member States where support for a more important role for the European Parliament has fallen since November-December 2020 (by three points or more). The most significant decreases can be found in Estonia (31%, -20 pp), Bulgaria (43%, -12 pp), Luxembourg (69%, -10 pp) and Romania (59%, 10 pp).

*NB: The large shifts since November-December 2020 in Belgium, Greece, Slovenia, Luxembourg, Lithuania, and Estonia are likely (at least in part) to reflect a change in data collection mode from online (2020) to full or primarily face-to-face (2021). In particular, spontaneous answers such as 'no change', but also 'don't know' answers were only marginally given (in countries where the survey was online), but a substantial proportion gave these answers in the current survey. In other countries, however (such as Bulgaria, Hungary and Romania), large changes have been seen despite a consistent data collection mode being used.*

**QA3 Would you personally like to see the European Parliament play a more important or less important role?** (% - More important)




EB96.2 (Nov. - Dec. 2021) - EB94.2 (Nov. - Dec. 2020)

In the **socio-demographic** analysis, notable differences can be seen among those who have a positive image of the European Parliament, where eight in ten with a positive image of the institution want to play a more important role (80%), compared to a third of those with a negative image (33%). Additionally, more educated respondents express a stronger desire for a more important role for the European Parliament (65% of those who left education at the age of 20 or over), as do managers (68%) and students (65%). There is also a difference by age, with younger respondents more likely to want a more prominent role for the European Parliament (63% of 15-24 year olds compared with 56% of those aged 55 or over).

**QA3** **Would you personally like to see the European Parliament play a more important or less important role?** (% - EU)

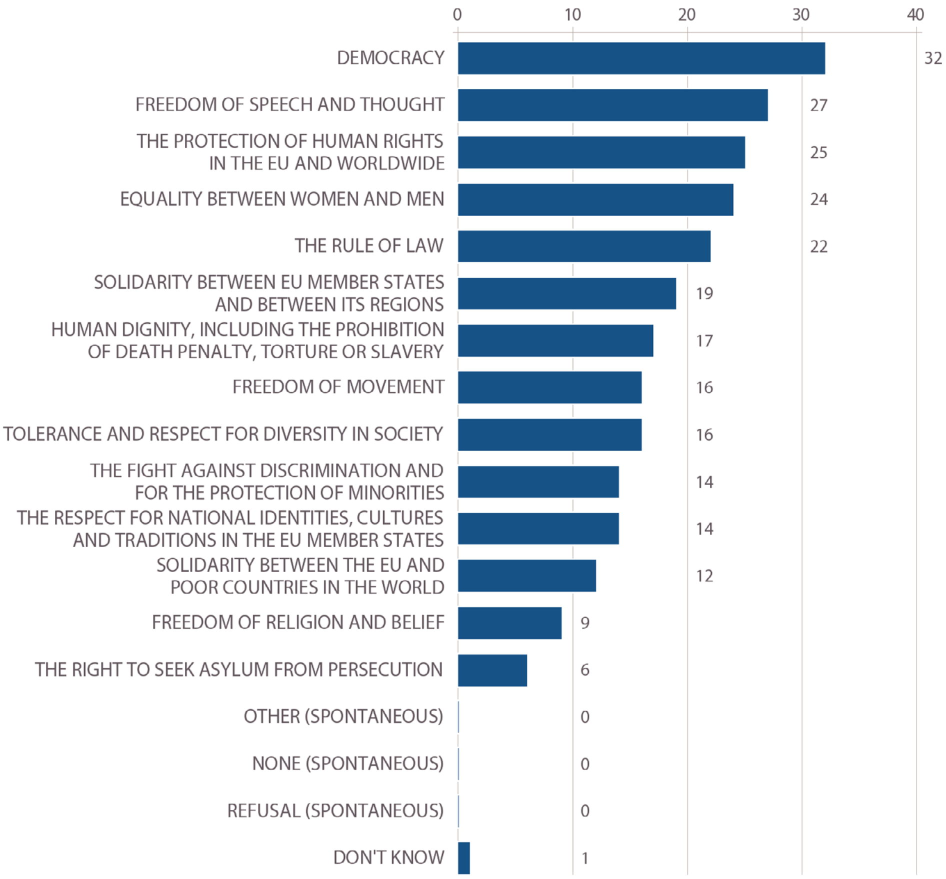
| | More important | Less important | No change / As it is now (SPONTANEOUS) | Don't know |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| EU27 | 58 | 27 | 8 | 7 |
| **Age** | | | | |
| 15-24 | 63 | 20 | 7 | 10 |
| 25-39 | 60 | 27 | 7 | 6 |
| 40-54 | 59 | 28 | 9 | 4 |
| 55 + | 56 | 29 | 8 | 7 |
| **Education (End of)** | | | | |
| 15- | 51 | 29 | 9 | 11 |
| 16-19 | 55 | 31 | 8 | 6 |
| 20+ | 65 | 23 | 8 | 4 |
| Still studying | 65 | 17 | 9 | 9 |
| **Socio-professional category** | | | | |
| Self- employed | 62 | 27 | 7 | 4 |
| Managers | 68 | 21 | 8 | 3 |
| Other white collars | 63 | 26 | 7 | 4 |
| Manual workers | 53 | 33 | 8 | 6 |
| House persons | 52 | 24 | 10 | 14 |
| Unemployed | 54 | 30 | 7 | 9 |
| Retired | 55 | 29 | 8 | 8 |
| Students | 65 | 17 | 9 | 9 |

## 3. Values to defend as a priority for the European Parliament

**Europeans see democracy as the first value the European Parliament should defend as a matter of priority, chosen by around a third of respondents (32%). It is followed by freedom of speech and thought (27%), the protection of human rights in the EU and worldwide (25%), gender equality (24%) and the rule of law (22%).**

The list of values was modified in this survey, with items such as democracy added to the list. As a result, it is not possible to make direct comparisons with results from previous years. However, a broad assessment of the ranking of priorities indicates that freedom of speech and thought appears to have gained prominence this year, in comparison with November-December 2020. By contrast, some issues seem to have lost ground slightly in the last year, probably in favour of 'democracy'. Values that are lower in the ranking compared to previous surveys are the protection of human rights in the EU and worldwide (the top priority in 2020) and solidarity between Member States (which saw a large increase between 2019 and 2020).

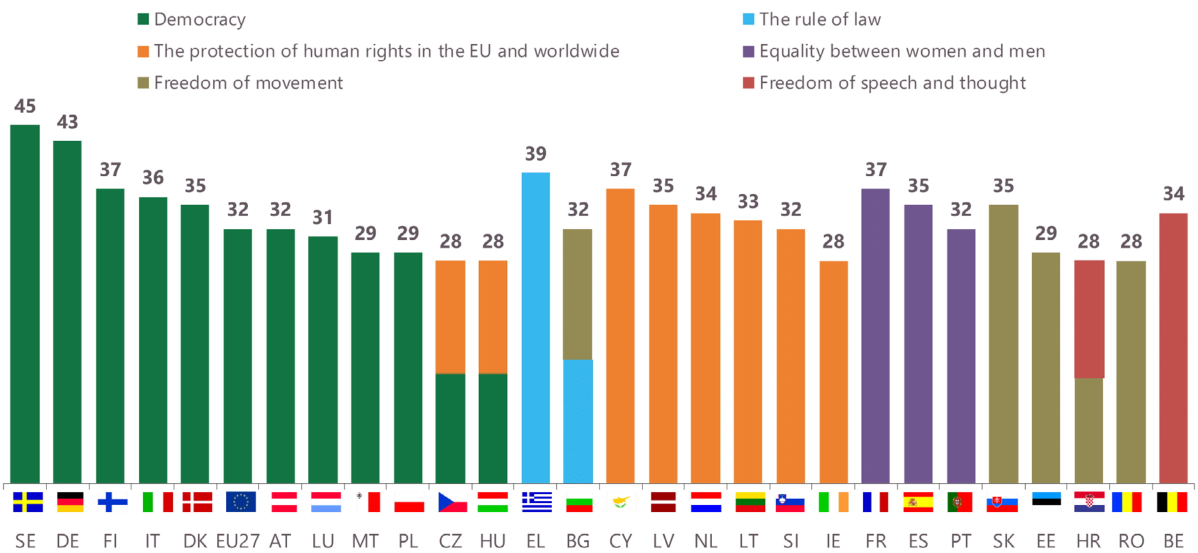
**QA5** **In your opinion, which of the following values should the European Parliament defend as a matter of priority? (MAX. 3 ANSWERS)** (% - EU27)



Democracy is chosen most frequently as a value that the European Parliament should defend as a matter of priority in nine Member States (Sweden, Germany, Finland, Italy, Denmark, Austria, Luxembourg, Malta, Poland Czechia and Hungary), while the protection of human rights is the top priority in six (Cyprus, Latvia, Netherlands, Lithuania, Slovenia and Ireland). These two values rank joint highest in Czechia and Hungary.

Freedom of movement is chosen most frequently in three countries (Slovakia, Estonia and Romania), while also being the joint top priority in Bulgaria (along with the rule of law) and Croatia (along with freedom of speech and thought). Equality between men and women ranks highest in France, Spain and Portugal. The top priority in Belgium is freedom of speech and thought, while in Greece it is the rule of law.

**QA5 In your opinion, which of the following values should the European Parliament defend as a matter of priority? (MAX. 3 ANSWERS)** (% - The most mentioned answer by country)




Democracy is mentioned by respondents in almost all individual Member States, and it is chosen most frequently in Sweden (45%) and Germany (43%). Respondents in Estonia and Portugal (both 19%) are the least likely to see democracy as a priority value.

The proportion who think freedom of speech and thought is a priority does not variate highly across Member States, ranging from 35% in Greece to 17% in Portugal. Similarly, the protection of human rights in the EU and worldwide is viewed as a priority by a consistent proportion, ranging from 37% in Cyprus to 19% in Luxembourg and Poland.

Equality between men and women is chosen most frequently by respondents in France (37%) and Spain (35%), while the rule of law is most commonly seen as an important value in Greece (39%).

The value that shows the most variation between Member States is freedom of movement, chosen by more than three in ten in Slovakia (35%) and Bulgaria (32%), but by less than one in ten in Portugal (5%), the Netherlands (6%) and Germany (8%).

**QA5 In your opinion, which of the following values should the European Parliament defend as a matter of priority? (MAX. 3 ANSWERS)** (%)

| | Democracy | Freedom of speech and thought | The protection of human rights in the EU and worldwide | Equality between women and men | The rule of law | Solidarity between EU Member States and between its regions | Human dignity, including the prohibition of death penalty, torture or slavery | Tolerance and respect for diversity in society | Freedom of movement | The fight against discrimination and for the protection of minorities | The respect for national identities, cultures and traditions in the EU Member States | Solidarity between the EU and poor countries in the world | Freedom of religion and belief | The right to seek asylum from persecution | Other (SPONTANEOUS) | None (SPONTANEOUS) | Refusal (SPONTANEOUS) | Don't know |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| EU27 | 32 | 27 | 25 | 24 | 22 | 19 | 17 | 16 | 16 | 14 | 14 | 12 | 9 | 6 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| BE | 31 | 34 | 24 | 31 | 17 | 23 | 15 | 16 | 14 | 15 | 12 | 12 | 10 | 6 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| BG | 23 | 21 | 23 | 11 | 32 | 24 | 11 | 14 | 32 | 7 | 25 | 10 | 11 | 4 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 |
| CZ | 28 | 25 | 28 | 12 | 21 | 22 | 15 | 10 | 23 | 6 | 25 | 8 | 4 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| DK | 35 | 27 | 30 | 18 | 18 | 13 | 23 | 17 | 12 | 14 | 17 | 10 | 7 | 8 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| DE | 43 | 28 | 32 | 15 | 31 | 21 | 20 | 18 | 8 | 11 | 11 | 9 | 6 | 7 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| EE | 19 | 24 | 20 | 11 | 20 | 14 | 11 | 14 | 29 | 12 | 26 | 5 | 8 | 4 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 2 |
| IE | 22 | 24 | 28 | 27 | 13 | 14 | 14 | 15 | 27 | 19 | 17 | 9 | 11 | 11 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| EL | 38 | 35 | 31 | 9 | 39 | 34 | 22 | 8 | 14 | 12 | 20 | 19 | 8 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| ES | 31 | 25 | 20 | 35 | 21 | 15 | 15 | 18 | 12 | 15 | 8 | 15 | 4 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 3 |
| FR | 26 | 32 | 20 | 37 | 12 | 12 | 16 | 20 | 12 | 17 | 11 | 13 | 12 | 7 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 2 |
| HR | 22 | 28 | 25 | 14 | 21 | 20 | 19 | 14 | 28 | 14 | 17 | 16 | 12 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| IT | 36 | 29 | 20 | 25 | 15 | 21 | 19 | 14 | 21 | 17 | 16 | 11 | 9 | 9 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| CY | 31 | 24 | 37 | 25 | 31 | 24 | 19 | 5 | 11 | 14 | 20 | 21 | 10 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| LV | 26 | 26 | 35 | 5 | 32 | 33 | 11 | 11 | 20 | 14 | 27 | 5 | 4 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| LT | 27 | 29 | 33 | 10 | 15 | 17 | 11 | 17 | 18 | 12 | 14 | 8 | 7 | 4 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 2 |
| LU | 31 | 22 | 19 | 23 | 16 | 18 | 19 | 17 | 16 | 19 | 11 | 13 | 7 | 6 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| HU | 28 | 21 | 28 | 15 | 21 | 19 | 14 | 15 | 20 | 17 | 20 | 11 | 12 | 7 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| MT | 29 | 18 | 28 | 21 | 21 | 16 | 14 | 15 | 15 | 17 | 15 | 13 | 10 | 6 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 2 |
| NL | 32 | 31 | 34 | 25 | 25 | 18 | 18 | 25 | 6 | 18 | 17 | 9 | 12 | 5 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| AT | 32 | 30 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 19 | 16 | 19 | 19 | 16 | 15 | 12 | 9 | 8 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| PL | 29 | 19 | 19 | 15 | 24 | 18 | 14 | 13 | 24 | 15 | 14 | 11 | 12 | 6 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 |
| PT | 19 | 17 | 27 | 32 | 8 | 30 | 27 | 16 | 5 | 22 | 23 | 20 | 7 | 6 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 |
| RO | 24 | 22 | 24 | 14 | 23 | 20 | 11 | 12 | 28 | 12 | 18 | 16 | 14 | 8 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 |
| SI | 26 | 31 | 32 | 15 | 31 | 19 | 13 | 23 | 24 | 8 | 13 | 9 | 5 | 3 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| SK | 25 | 28 | 21 | 19 | 26 | 20 | 13 | 10 | 35 | 10 | 15 | 9 | 15 | 3 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| FI | 37 | 26 | 30 | 15 | 32 | 14 | 23 | 15 | 17 | 14 | 17 | 6 | 7 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| SE | 45 | 30 | 39 | 33 | 18 | 12 | 23 | 19 | 12 | 12 | 8 | 11 | 5 | 10 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |

1st MOST FREQUENTLY MENTIONED ITEM | 2nd MOST FREQUENTLY MENTIONED ITEM | 3rd MOST FREQUENTLY MENTIONED ITEM

Attitudes are mainly consistent across **socio-demographic** groups, in terms of the values that citizens think the European Parliament should defend as a matter of priority. Women are more likely than men to give a higher priority to equality between men and women, while men are slightly more likely to choose solidarity between Member States, freedom of movement and the rule of law as important values. Young people are the most inclined to mention freedom of speech and thought, and the fight against discrimination and for the protection of minorities, while older people are more likely to opt for solidarity between EU Member States and the rule of law.

More highly educated respondents are slightly more likely to mention most of the values, particularly the rule of law, tolerance and respect for diversity in society, and the protection of human rights in the EU and worldwide.

Respondents who have a positive or neutral image of the European Parliament are also more likely to say that most of the different values are important. The one exception is freedom of speech and thought, which is more likely to be chosen as an important value by those who hold a negative image of the European Parliament.

**QA5 In your opinion, which of the following values should the European Parliament defend as a matter of priority? (MAX. 3 ANSWERS)** (% - EU)

| | Democracy | Freedom of speech and thought | The protection of human rights in the EU and worldwide | Equality between women and men | The rule of law | Solidarity between EU Member States and between its regions | Human dignity, including the prohibition of death penalty, torture or slavery | Freedom of movement | Tolerance and respect for diversity in society |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| EU27 | 32 | 27 | 25 | 24 | 22 | 19 | 17 | 16 | 16 |
| **Gender** | | | | | | | | | |
| Man | 34 | 28 | 25 | 19 | 24 | 21 | 16 | 18 | 16 |
| Woman | 31 | 27 | 25 | 28 | 20 | 17 | 19 | 14 | 16 |
| **Age** | | | | | | | | | |
| 15-24 | 30 | 32 | 24 | 26 | 17 | 15 | 17 | 18 | 18 |
| 25-39 | 31 | 27 | 24 | 25 | 21 | 18 | 18 | 18 | 18 |
| 40-54 | 33 | 28 | 25 | 23 | 23 | 20 | 16 | 17 | 17 |
| 55 + | 34 | 26 | 25 | 23 | 23 | 20 | 18 | 13 | 15 |
| **Education (End of)** | | | | | | | | | |
| 15- | 33 | 24 | 23 | 25 | 19 | 18 | 18 | 14 | 14 |
| 16-19 | 32 | 28 | 23 | 24 | 21 | 18 | 17 | 17 | 16 |
| 20+ | 34 | 27 | 28 | 22 | 25 | 21 | 17 | 14 | 18 |
| Still studying | 30 | 32 | 26 | 25 | 17 | 16 | 19 | 16 | 20 |
| **Image of European Parliament** | | | | | | | | | |
| Positive | 34 | 25 | 26 | 21 | 25 | 22 | 18 | 16 | 18 |
| Neutral | 32 | 27 | 25 | 26 | 20 | 17 | 18 | 15 | 17 |
| Negative | 32 | 32 | 23 | 21 | 21 | 18 | 14 | 15 | 13 |

| | The fight against discrimination and for the protection of minorities | The respect for national identities, cultures and traditions in the EU Member States | Solidarity between the EU and poor countries in the world | Freedom of religion and belief | The right to seek asylum from persecution | Other (SPONTANEOUS) | None (SPONTANEOUS) | Refusal (SPONTANEOUS) | Don't know |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| EU27 | 14 | 14 | 12 | 9 | 6 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| **Gender** | | | | | | | | | |
| Man | 14 | 15 | 11 | 9 | 6 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| Woman | 15 | 13 | 12 | 9 | 7 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| **Age** | | | | | | | | | |
| 15-24 | 20 | 12 | 13 | 11 | 8 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| 25-39 | 15 | 12 | 10 | 9 | 6 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| 40-54 | 15 | 15 | 11 | 7 | 6 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 55 + | 12 | 15 | 12 | 9 | 6 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 2 |
| **Education (End of)** | | | | | | | | | |
| 15- | 14 | 12 | 13 | 10 | 6 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 3 |
| 16-19 | 14 | 14 | 11 | 9 | 6 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| 20+ | 14 | 15 | 11 | 7 | 7 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Still studying | 20 | 11 | 13 | 9 | 7 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| **Image of European Parliament** | | | | | | | | | |
| Positive | 15 | 14 | 13 | 8 | 8 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Neutral | 15 | 14 | 11 | 10 | 6 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| Negative | 12 | 15 | 10 | 9 | 6 | 1 | 2 | 0 | 1 |

## 4. Main policy priorities for the EP

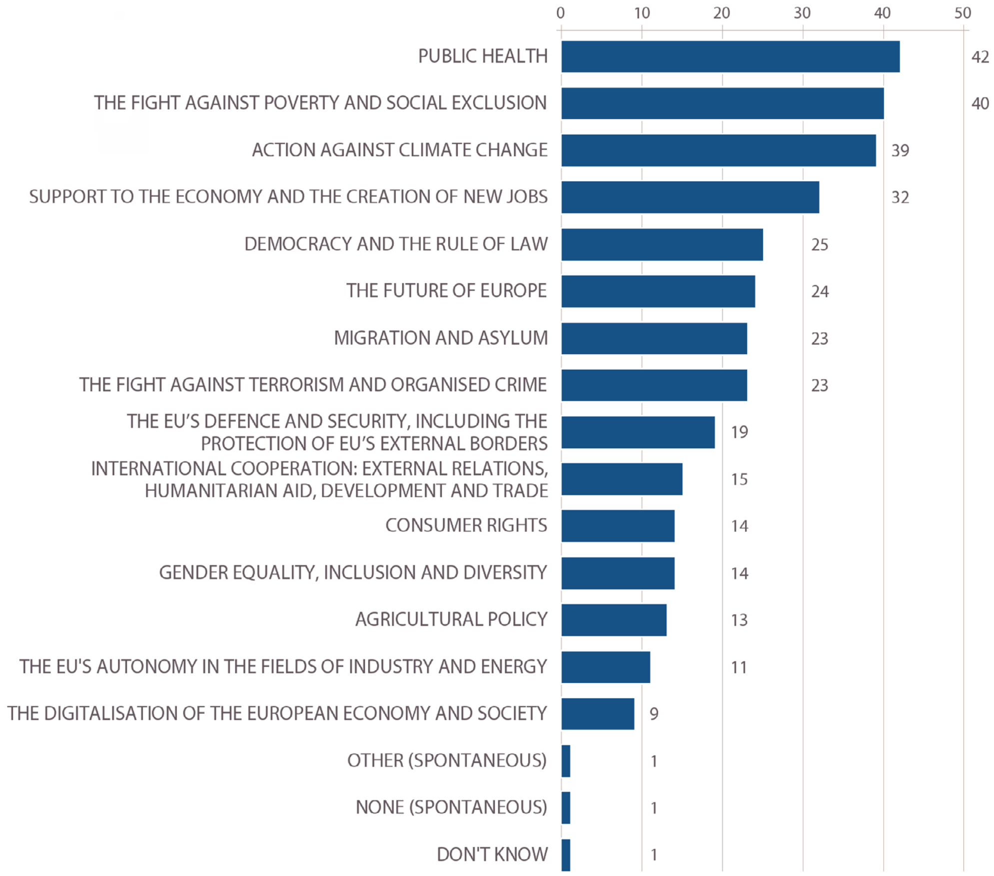
**Public health is considered the top priority for the European Parliament (42%), followed closely by the fight against poverty and social exclusion (40%) and action against climate change (39%).**

Around a third of citizens (32%) say that support for the economy and job creation should be a priority, while several topics are chosen by around one in four: democracy and the rule of law (25%), the future of Europe (24%), migration and asylum (23%) and the fight against terrorism and organised crime (23%).

The list of policy topics was modified in this survey, to include new challenges and topics of public debate, which makes a direct comparison with similar policy priority questions from previous years not possible.

These priorities broadly reflect the most important challenges of Europeans, as identified, in a different order, in the recent Special Eurobarometer survey on the Future of Europe[21]. Its findings put the economic situation and unemployment as the main issue facing EU regions, followed by health, the cost of living and the environment and climate change.

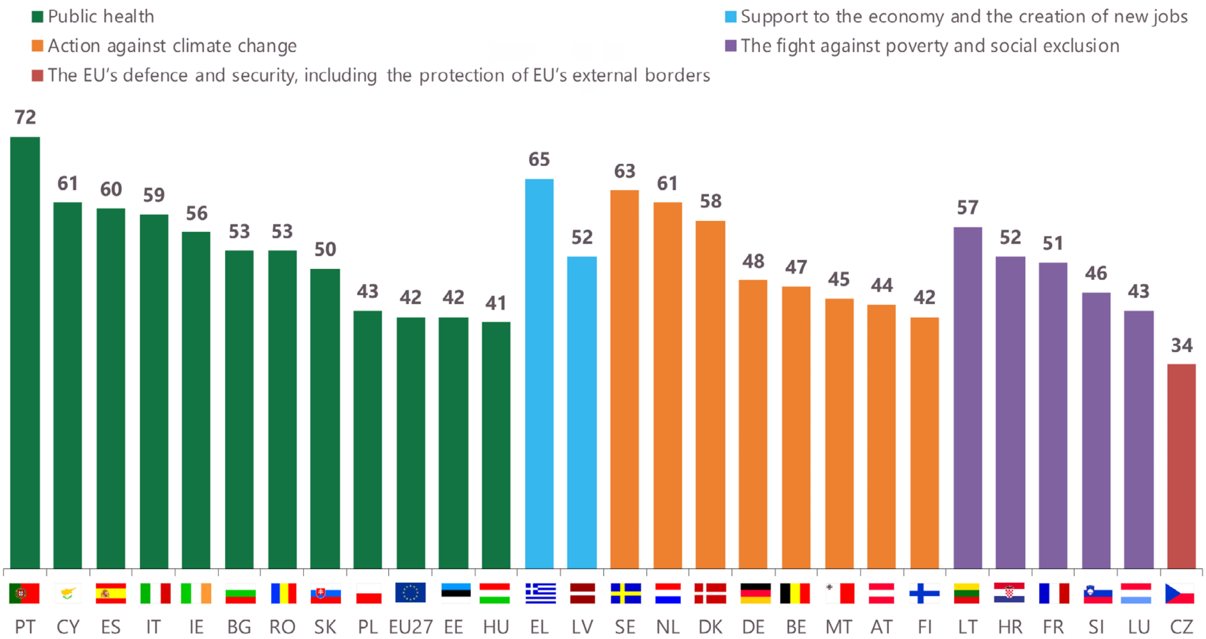
**QA4ab Which of the following topics would you like to see addressed in priority by the European Parliament? Firstly? And then? (MAX. 3 ANSWERS)** (% - EU27)




[21] Future of Europe survey, September-October 2021. Which of the following should be prioritised in order to face major global challenges? Environment and climate change (39%); Social fairness and equality (37%) and Health and safety (32%)

In 11 Member States, public health ranks as the highest priority for the European Parliament. In eight countries, the main priority is action against climate change, while there are five Member States where the fight against poverty and social exclusion is seen as the highest priority. Support to the economy and the creation of new jobs is the main priority in Greece and Latvia, while the main priority in Czechia is the EU's defence and security, including the protection of external borders.

**QA4ab Which of the following topics would you like to see addressed in priority by the European Parliament? Firstly? And then? (MAX. 3 ANSWERS)** (% - The most mentioned answer by country)




There is a wide variation in the proportion of respondents who think public health should be a priority for the European Parliament. This item is chosen by as many as 72% of respondents in Portugal, 61% in Cyprus and 60% in Spain, but by just 14% in Denmark and 17% in Sweden.

In six countries, more than half of respondents say that the fight against poverty and social exclusion is a priority for the European Parliament: Portugal (61%), Greece (58%), Lithuania (57%), Croatia (52%), France and Bulgaria (both 51%). By contrast, this is chosen by just a quarter of respondents in Czechia and Estonia (both 26%).

More than half of respondents think that action against climate change should be a priority for the European Parliament in Sweden (63%), the Netherlands (61%) and Denmark (58%), but only around one in six share this view in Bulgaria (16%) and Romania (17%). Respondents in Greece and Portugal are the most likely to prioritise measures to support the economy and create new jobs (65% and 60% respectively).

Respondents in Sweden are the most likely to mention democracy and the rule of law (41%), and they are also the most likely to prioritise the fight against terrorism and organised crime (also 41%). Migration and asylum also features as an important priority in Sweden (36%), as well as in in Lithuania (42%), Malta (37%), Cyprus and the Netherlands (both 34%).

The future of Europe is mentioned most frequently as a priority by respondents in Czechia, Luxembourg (both 33%) and Germany (32%). The EU's defence and security is also seen as a priority in Czechia (34%), second only to Finland (38%).

**QA4ab Which of the following topics would you like to see addressed in priority by the European Parliament? Firstly? And then? (MAX. 3 ANSWERS)** (%)

| | Public health | The fight against poverty and social exclusion | Action against climate change | Support to the economy and the creation of new jobs | Democracy and the rule of law | The future of Europe | Migration and asylum | The fight against terrorism and organised crime | The EU's defence and security, including the protection of EU's external borders | International cooperation: external relations, humanitarian aid, development and trade | Consumer rights | Gender equality, inclusion and diversity | Agricultural policy | The EU's autonomy in the fields of industry and energy | The digitalisation of the European economy and society | Other (SPONTANEOUS) | None (SPONTANEOUS) | Don't know |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| EU27 | 42 | 40 | 39 | 32 | 25 | 24 | 23 | 23 | 19 | 15 | 14 | 14 | 13 | 11 | 9 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| BE | 46 | 43 | 47 | 24 | 22 | 28 | 27 | 26 | 15 | 13 | 12 | 12 | 10 | 16 | 7 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| BG | 53 | 51 | 16 | 48 | 24 | 24 | 8 | 20 | 16 | 19 | 20 | 5 | 18 | 13 | 7 | 1 | 0 | 2 |
| CZ | 29 | 26 | 21 | 24 | 23 | 33 | 24 | 28 | 34 | 21 | 11 | 9 | 18 | 28 | 6 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| DK | 14 | 31 | 58 | 13 | 27 | 26 | 27 | 34 | 27 | 28 | 7 | 17 | 8 | 10 | 6 | 0 | 1 | 1 |
| DE | 23 | 33 | 48 | 17 | 37 | 32 | 28 | 30 | 25 | 18 | 12 | 10 | 11 | 8 | 14 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| EE | 42 | 26 | 22 | 37 | 12 | 26 | 24 | 17 | 27 | 16 | 8 | 6 | 18 | 18 | 6 | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| IE | 56 | 38 | 43 | 34 | 20 | 21 | 21 | 18 | 9 | 12 | 17 | 19 | 16 | 9 | 8 | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| EL | 56 | 58 | 26 | 65 | 39 | 17 | 17 | 14 | 23 | 13 | 13 | 7 | 21 | 9 | 5 | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| ES | 60 | 48 | 37 | 47 | 18 | 18 | 17 | 12 | 9 | 9 | 11 | 18 | 13 | 10 | 5 | 0 | 1 | 2 |
| FR | 40 | 51 | 43 | 23 | 11 | 18 | 25 | 32 | 14 | 9 | 15 | 19 | 7 | 11 | 3 | 1 | 3 | 2 |
| HR | 34 | 52 | 29 | 48 | 28 | 24 | 7 | 23 | 14 | 19 | 19 | 13 | 16 | 10 | 10 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| IT | 59 | 36 | 37 | 46 | 19 | 21 | 23 | 21 | 14 | 11 | 19 | 15 | 11 | 11 | 11 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| CY | 61 | 50 | 29 | 46 | 32 | 12 | 34 | 17 | 21 | 8 | 22 | 12 | 8 | 5 | 6 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| LV | 46 | 49 | 22 | 52 | 25 | 27 | 11 | 22 | 30 | 25 | 10 | 5 | 12 | 16 | 7 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| LT | 47 | 57 | 29 | 41 | 12 | 18 | 42 | 9 | 27 | 10 | 11 | 6 | 17 | 8 | 6 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| LU | 35 | 43 | 40 | 19 | 24 | 33 | 25 | 24 | 14 | 13 | 13 | 17 | 8 | 12 | 6 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| HU | 41 | 31 | 34 | 37 | 29 | 28 | 26 | 22 | 25 | 14 | 13 | 11 | 15 | 12 | 12 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| MT | 39 | 34 | 45 | 20 | 21 | 18 | 37 | 25 | 12 | 11 | 22 | 13 | 9 | 7 | 7 | 2 | 1 | 1 |
| NL | 25 | 39 | 61 | 12 | 32 | 26 | 34 | 29 | 21 | 26 | 9 | 9 | 16 | 13 | 11 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| AT | 38 | 33 | 44 | 32 | 27 | 27 | 23 | 21 | 24 | 15 | 19 | 16 | 18 | 15 | 13 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| PL | 43 | 31 | 20 | 33 | 33 | 27 | 18 | 14 | 26 | 23 | 11 | 15 | 13 | 13 | 9 | 0 | 0 | 2 |
| PT | 72 | 61 | 41 | 60 | 9 | 13 | 8 | 13 | 12 | 11 | 11 | 14 | 7 | 18 | 9 | 1 | 0 | 2 |
| RO | 53 | 41 | 17 | 44 | 28 | 20 | 8 | 16 | 12 | 15 | 22 | 11 | 24 | 16 | 11 | 0 | 0 | 2 |
| SI | 45 | 46 | 39 | 36 | 30 | 30 | 13 | 16 | 12 | 14 | 12 | 9 | 17 | 10 | 8 | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| SK | 50 | 38 | 33 | 37 | 20 | 25 | 9 | 16 | 26 | 15 | 12 | 7 | 34 | 9 | 8 | 0 | 2 | 1 |
| FI | 18 | 33 | 42 | 33 | 32 | 29 | 20 | 34 | 38 | 18 | 10 | 13 | 11 | 7 | 8 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| SE | 17 | 37 | 63 | 13 | 41 | 15 | 36 | 41 | 18 | 30 | 4 | 32 | 7 | 5 | 4 | 0 | 1 | 1 |

1st MOST FREQUENTLY MENTIONED ITEM | 2nd MOST FREQUENTLY MENTIONED ITEM | 3rd MOST FREQUENTLY MENTIONED ITEM

A **socio-demographic** analysis reveals differences in terms of gender, age and level of education.

Women are more likely than men to say that priority should be given to public health, the fight against poverty and social exclusion, and gender equality, inclusion and diversity. However, men are more likely than women to prioritise the future of Europe, the digitalisation of the European economy and society, and the EU's autonomy in the fields of industry and energy.

There are also some differences by age group. Older respondents are more likely to want to prioritise public health, migration and asylum, the fight against terrorism and organised crime, the EU's defence and security and agricultural policy. By contrast, younger respondents are more likely to prioritise action against climate change, the future of Europe, and gender equality, inclusion and diversity.

More highly educated respondents are more likely to want the European Parliament to prioritise action against climate change, as well as issues such as international cooperation, migration and asylum, and democracy and the rule of law. By contrast, less educated respondents are more likely to want to prioritise public health, as well as the fight against poverty and social exclusion, and support to the economy and the creation of new jobs.

There are also differences depending on respondents' image of European Parliament. Those who have a positive image are more likely to prioritise action against climate change (Positive image: 45%; Negative image: 29%) and the future of Europe (Positive image: 27%; Negative image: 19%), while respondents who hold a negative image are more likely to prioritise the fight against terrorism and organised crime (Negative image: 27%; positive image: 20%).

Looking into even more detailed results regarding the relationship between respondents' image of the EP and their policy priorities, it becomes even clearer that respondents with a 'very positive' image of the EP are more likely to mention public health ('Very positive' image 44%), action against climate change ('Very positive' image 40%), and democracy and the rule of law ('Very positive' image 36%), while those who have a fairly positive image are more likely to choose action against climate change ('Fairly positive' image: 46%), in addition to public health ('Fairly positive' image: 40%). In contrast, those with a fairly negative image of the EP are more likely to see the fight against poverty and social exclusion ('Fairly negative' image: 42%) as a priority.

The choice between the different priorities is also related to the answer given on which future role the European Parliament should play. Those who would like to see the EP play a more important role are above average concerned by action against climate change ('More important': 43%; 'Less important': 30%) and the future of Europe ('More important': 27%%; 'Less important': 19%%), while those who would like to see the EP play a less important role are more likely to mention the fight against terrorism and organised crime ('Less important': 28%; 'more important': 21%) and the EU's defence and security ('Less important': 25%; 'more important': 17%).

**QA4ab Which of the following topics would you like to see addressed in priority by the European Parliament? Firstly? And then? (MAX. 3 ANSWERS)** (% - EU)

| | Public health | The fight against poverty and social exclusion | Action against climate change | Support to the economy and the creation of new jobs | Democracy and the rule of law | The future of Europe | Migration and asylum | The fight against terrorism and organised crime |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| EU27 | 42 | 40 | 39 | 32 | 25 | 24 | 23 | 23 |
| **Gender** | | | | | | | | |
| Man | 38 | 37 | 38 | 34 | 26 | 27 | 23 | 22 |
| Woman | 46 | 44 | 39 | 31 | 24 | 21 | 22 | 24 |
| **Age** | | | | | | | | |
| 15-24 | 39 | 43 | 48 | 32 | 22 | 29 | 19 | 17 |
| 25-39 | 39 | 39 | 38 | 36 | 25 | 25 | 21 | 21 |
| 40-54 | 42 | 38 | 40 | 34 | 25 | 23 | 22 | 23 |
| 55 + | 44 | 41 | 36 | 30 | 26 | 22 | 25 | 27 |
| **Education (End of)** | | | | | | | | |
| 15- | 57 | 48 | 32 | 38 | 19 | 17 | 19 | 25 |
| 16-19 | 44 | 40 | 34 | 35 | 24 | 24 | 21 | 25 |
| 20+ | 34 | 37 | 45 | 28 | 29 | 25 | 27 | 23 |
| Still studying | 40 | 42 | 51 | 30 | 24 | 30 | 20 | 16 |
| **Image of European Parliament** | | | | | | | | |
| Positive | 40 | 37 | 45 | 32 | 30 | 27 | 23 | 20 |
| Neutral | 44 | 43 | 38 | 33 | 22 | 23 | 21 | 25 |
| Negative | 40 | 42 | 29 | 32 | 24 | 19 | 24 | 27 |

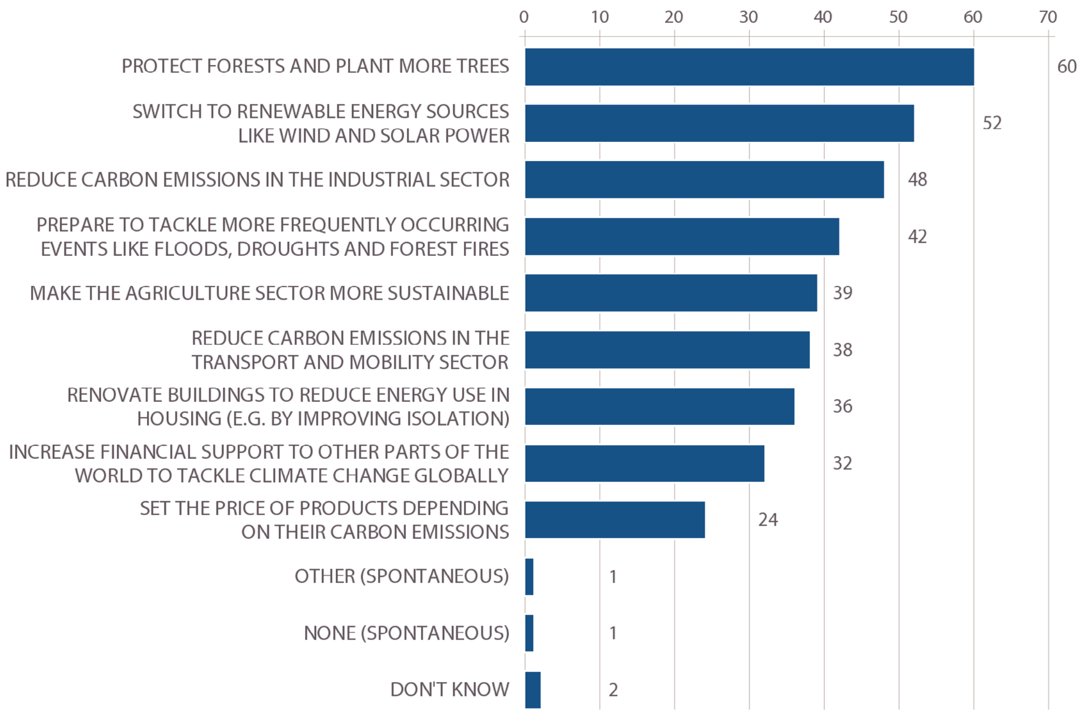
| | The EU's defence and security, including th protection of EU's external borders | International cooperation: external relation humanitarian aid, development and trade | Consumer rights | Gender equality, inclusion and diversity | Agricultural policy | The EU's autonomy in the fields of industr and energy | The digitalisation of the European econom and society | Other (SPONTANEOUS) | None (SPONTANEOUS) | Don't know |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| EU27 | 19 | 15 | 14 | 14 | 13 | 11 | 9 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| **Gender** | | | | | | | | | | |
| Man | 20 | 16 | 14 | 12 | 13 | 13 | 11 | 0 | 1 | 1 |
| Woman | 17 | 15 | 13 | 16 | 12 | 9 | 7 | 1 | 1 | 2 |
| **Age** | | | | | | | | | | |
| 15-24 | 11 | 16 | 12 | 26 | 8 | 8 | 13 | 0 | 0 | 2 |
| 25-39 | 18 | 17 | 15 | 17 | 10 | 12 | 11 | 0 | 1 | 1 |
| 40-54 | 19 | 16 | 14 | 14 | 13 | 14 | 11 | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| 55 + | 21 | 14 | 14 | 10 | 15 | 10 | 5 | 1 | 1 | 2 |
| **Education (End of)** | | | | | | | | | | |
| 15- | 14 | 7 | 16 | 11 | 16 | 6 | 5 | 0 | 1 | 3 |
| 16-19 | 21 | 14 | 16 | 13 | 13 | 11 | 8 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| 20+ | 20 | 19 | 10 | 15 | 11 | 15 | 10 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Still studying | 10 | 18 | 10 | 24 | 8 | 9 | 15 | 1 | 0 | 2 |
| **Image of European Parliament** | | | | | | | | | | |
| Positive | 18 | 18 | 11 | 16 | 12 | 14 | 12 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Neutral | 18 | 14 | 14 | 15 | 12 | 10 | 7 | 0 | 1 | 1 |
| Negative | 23 | 12 | 16 | 9 | 15 | 11 | 6 | 1 | 3 | 1 |

## 5. Priority measures to tackle climate change

With climate change consistently listed at the top of Europeans' concerns over the past years, a question about what they think the most urgent measures that the European Union should take to tackle it was included in this survey. Results show that **Europeans are most likely to prioritise the protection of forests and planting of trees (60%), the switch to renewable energy sources (52%) and reductions in carbon emissions in the industrial sector (48%)**.

Renewable energy is also seen as a priority for a European Green Deal. According to the latest Standard Eurobarometer[22], the two main priorities for a European Green Deal are "developing renewable energy" and "fighting against plastic waste and being a leader on the issue of single use plastic."

**QA14ab In your opinion, which of the following measures should be taken most urgently by the EU to tackle climate change and its consequences? Firstly? And then? (MAX. 3 ANSWERS)** (% - EU27)

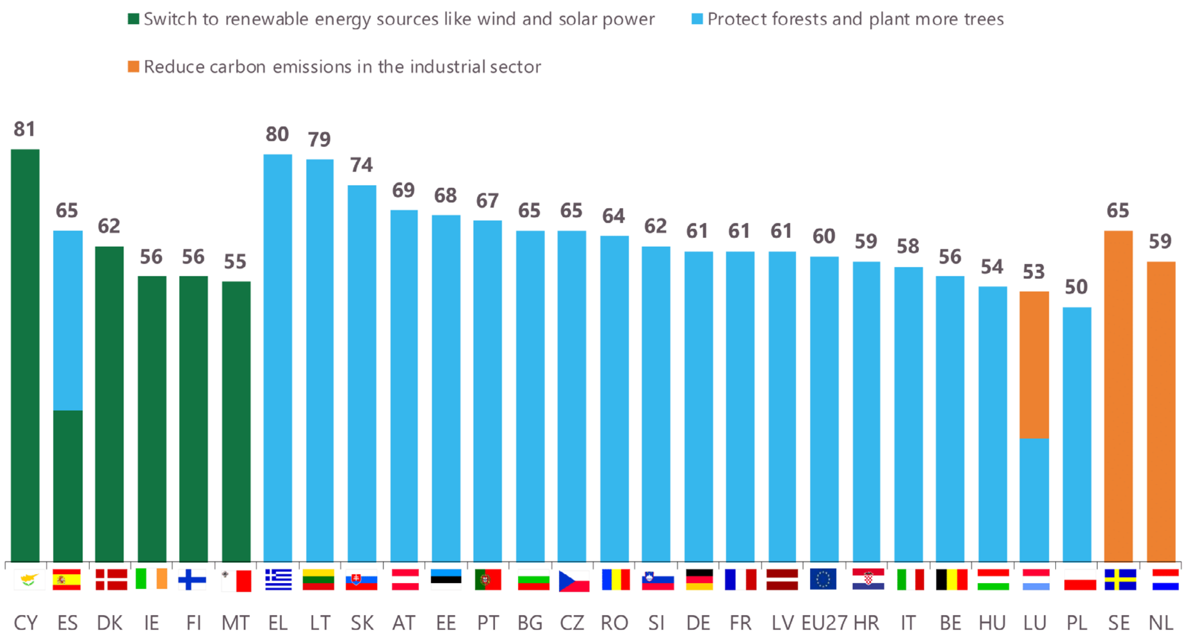



In 18 Member States, respondents are most likely to name the protection of forests and planting of trees as a priority measure for the EU to tackle climate change. This is also the joint highest priority in Spain (along with the switch to renewable energy sources) and Luxembourg (along with carbon emissions in the industrial sector).

The switch to renewable energy sources is the main choice in five Member States, while in Sweden and the Netherlands the priority is reducing carbon emissions in the industrial sector.

[22] Standard Eurobarometer 95, europa.eu/eurobarometer/surveys/detail/2532

**QA14ab In your opinion, which of the following measures should be taken most urgently by the EU to tackle climate change and its consequences? Firstly? And then? (MULTIPLE ANSWERS POSSIBLE)**
(% - The most mentioned answer by country)




The protection of forests and planting of trees is one of the three top priorities in every Member State except Sweden. Respondents are most likely to choose this as a priority measure in Greece (80%), Lithuania (79%), Slovakia (74%) and Cyprus (73%), while Finland (38%) and Sweden (44%) are the only countries where less than half of respondents see this as a priority.

Respondents in Cyprus (81%) are most likely to say that the EU should prioritise the switch to renewable energy sources, followed by those in Spain (65%), Portugal (64%), Denmark (62%) and Slovenia (61%). This is least frequently mentioned by respondents in France (31%), Bulgaria and Luxembourg (both 36%).

Respondents in Sweden (65% and Portugal (64%) are most likely to want the EU to prioritise reductions in carbon emissions. When it comes to prioritising reductions in carbon emissions in the transport and mobility sector, respondents in Sweden (65%) are also most likely to select this option, followed by those in Cyprus (51%).

The other clear feature in the analysis is that Greece, where wildfires and other natural disasters have multiplied in recent years, ranks highest on three of the priorities: measures to tackle more frequently occurring events like floods, droughts and forest fires (77%), making the agriculture sector more sustainable (61%) and renovating buildings to reduce energy use in housing (57%).

**QA14ab In your opinion, which of the following measures should be taken most urgently by the EU to tackle climate change and its consequences? Firstly? And then? (MULTIPLE ANSWERS POSSIBLE)**
(%)

| | Protect forests and plant more trees | Switch to renewable energy sources like wind and solar power | Reduce carbon emissions in the industrial sector | Prepare to tackle more frequently occurring events like floods, droughts and forest fires | Make the agriculture sector more sustainable | Reduce carbon emissions in the transport and mobility sector | Renovate buildings to reduce energy use in housing (e.g. by improving isolation) | Increase financial support to other parts of the world to tackle climate change globally | Set the price of products depending on their carbon emissions | Other (SPONTANEOUS) | None (SPONTANEOUS) | Don't know |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| EU27 | 60 | 52 | 48 | 42 | 39 | 38 | 36 | 32 | 24 | 1 | 1 | 2 |
| BE | 56 | 47 | 54 | 46 | 37 | 45 | 40 | 27 | 20 | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| BG | 65 | 36 | 40 | 50 | 44 | 39 | 54 | 21 | 21 | 0 | 1 | 3 |
| CZ | 65 | 42 | 38 | 42 | 50 | 28 | 30 | 25 | 17 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| DK | 50 | 62 | 47 | 24 | 38 | 40 | 22 | 33 | 23 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| DE | 61 | 58 | 46 | 46 | 39 | 33 | 28 | 37 | 24 | 1 | 2 | 1 |
| EE | 68 | 38 | 37 | 25 | 34 | 29 | 45 | 12 | 12 | 2 | 5 | 5 |
| IE | 50 | 56 | 50 | 38 | 41 | 41 | 44 | 34 | 29 | 0 | 1 | 1 |
| EL | 80 | 60 | 54 | 77 | 61 | 44 | 57 | 50 | 34 | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| ES | 65 | 65 | 49 | 35 | 40 | 40 | 32 | 34 | 23 | 0 | 1 | 3 |
| FR | 61 | 31 | 49 | 36 | 34 | 37 | 36 | 22 | 21 | 1 | 3 | 3 |
| HR | 59 | 55 | 46 | 42 | 36 | 36 | 38 | 30 | 22 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| IT | 58 | 56 | 51 | 44 | 36 | 48 | 39 | 33 | 28 | 1 | 1 | 2 |
| CY | 73 | 81 | 44 | 59 | 43 | 51 | 48 | 44 | 32 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| LV | 61 | 40 | 36 | 34 | 38 | 25 | 46 | 17 | 9 | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| LT | 79 | 51 | 50 | 30 | 29 | 33 | 37 | 20 | 15 | 1 | 2 | 2 |
| LU | 53 | 36 | 53 | 36 | 34 | 40 | 33 | 32 | 26 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| HU | 54 | 52 | 52 | 45 | 37 | 48 | 45 | 28 | 24 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| MT | 51 | 55 | 47 | 25 | 34 | 46 | 34 | 33 | 29 | 1 | 0 | 4 |
| NL | 51 | 55 | 59 | 34 | 46 | 38 | 35 | 41 | 29 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| AT | 69 | 60 | 49 | 53 | 46 | 41 | 45 | 34 | 32 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| PL | 50 | 47 | 38 | 40 | 27 | 31 | 36 | 33 | 26 | 0 | 1 | 4 |
| PT | 67 | 64 | 64 | 49 | 48 | 50 | 45 | 38 | 27 | 1 | 1 | 2 |
| RO | 64 | 45 | 32 | 42 | 44 | 31 | 44 | 31 | 27 | 1 | 0 | 2 |
| SI | 62 | 61 | 50 | 45 | 37 | 41 | 37 | 26 | 21 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| SK | 74 | 44 | 34 | 51 | 48 | 30 | 34 | 27 | 20 | 0 | 2 | 1 |
| FI | 38 | 56 | 51 | 34 | 38 | 29 | 24 | 20 | 20 | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| SE | 44 | 60 | 65 | 37 | 39 | 55 | 17 | 52 | 26 | 1 | 2 | 2 |

1st MOST FREQUENTLY MENTIONED ITEM | 2nd MOST FREQUENTLY MENTIONED ITEM | 3rd MOST FREQUENTLY MENTIONED ITEM

Attitudes towards measures that tackle climate change are broadly consistent across different socio-demographic groups. The main difference is by level of education, with more highly educated respondents more likely to prioritise the switch to renewable energy sources, reductions in carbon emissions (in the industrial sector and in the transport and mobility sector) and increased financial support to other parts of the world to tackle climate change globally.

Respondents who often have difficulties paying household bills are more likely than those who rarely or never have problems to mention measures to tackle more frequently occurring events like floods, droughts and forest fires. They are less likely to mention the switch to renewable energy sources.

There are also some differences by age group, with younger respondents more likely to prioritise reductions to carbon emissions, in both the industrial sector and the transport and mobility sector.

**QA14ab In your opinion, which of the following measures should be taken most urgently by the EU to tackle climate change and its consequences? Firstly? And then? (MULTIPLE ANSWERS POSSIBLE)** (%)

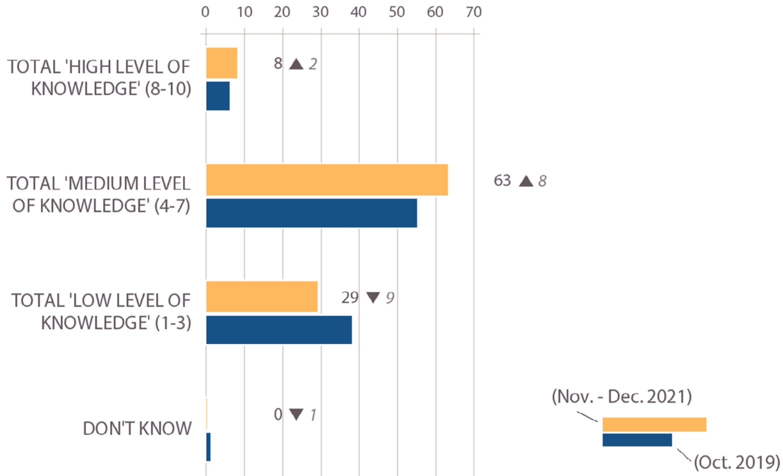
| | Protect forests and plant more trees | Switch to renewable energy sources like wind and solar power | Reduce carbon emissions in the industrial sector | Prepare to tackle more frequently occurring events like floods, droughts and forest fires | Make the agriculture sector more sustainable | Reduce carbon emissions in the transport and mobility sector |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| EU27 | 60 | 52 | 48 | 42 | 39 | 38 |
| **Gender** | | | | | | |
| Man | 57 | 54 | 49 | 40 | 40 | 40 |
| Woman | 62 | 50 | 47 | 44 | 38 | 37 |
| **Age** | | | | | | |
| 15-24 | 61 | 54 | 53 | 38 | 35 | 44 |
| 25-39 | 56 | 53 | 49 | 40 | 38 | 39 |
| 40-54 | 59 | 54 | 50 | 44 | 40 | 40 |
| 55 + | 62 | 49 | 44 | 43 | 39 | 36 |
| **Education (End of)** | | | | | | |
| 15- | 65 | 48 | 42 | 42 | 38 | 34 |
| 16-19 | 61 | 50 | 44 | 44 | 37 | 36 |
| 20+ | 56 | 55 | 53 | 41 | 41 | 42 |
| Still studying | 62 | 60 | 57 | 37 | 37 | 46 |

| | Renovate buildings to reduce energy use in housing (e.g. by improving isolation) | Increase financial support to other parts of the world to tackle climate change globally | Set the price of products depending on their carbon emissions | Other (SPONTANEOUS) | None (SPONTANEOUS) | Don't know |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| EU27 | 36 | 32 | 24 | 1 | 1 | 2 |
| **Gender** | | | | | | |
| Man | 36 | 32 | 26 | 1 | 2 | 1 |
| Woman | 35 | 33 | 23 | 1 | 1 | 2 |
| **Age** | | | | | | |
| 15-24 | 35 | 35 | 25 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| 25-39 | 38 | 34 | 26 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| 40-54 | 36 | 32 | 28 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| 55 + | 35 | 31 | 22 | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| **Education (End of)** | | | | | | |
| 15- | 36 | 28 | 22 | 1 | 2 | 5 |
| 16-19 | 36 | 31 | 24 | 1 | 1 | 2 |
| 20+ | 36 | 35 | 26 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Still studying | 34 | 35 | 26 | 1 | 1 | 1 |

# 6. Knowledge of the European Parliament's work

Subjective knowledge of Parliament's work has increased since the last time this question was asked in October 2019, that is, shortly after the European elections and right before the Covid-19 pandemic. While only a small proportion of citizens (8%) say they have a 'high' level of knowledge about the work of the European Parliament, more than six in ten (63%) say they have a 'medium' level of knowledge, an eight-point increase since October 2019, and three in ten (29%, -9 pp) say their level of knowledge is 'low'[23].

**QA11 On a scale of 1 to 10, where "1" means that "you know nothing at all" and "10" that "you know a lot", how much do you think you know about the work of the European Parliament?** (% - EU27)

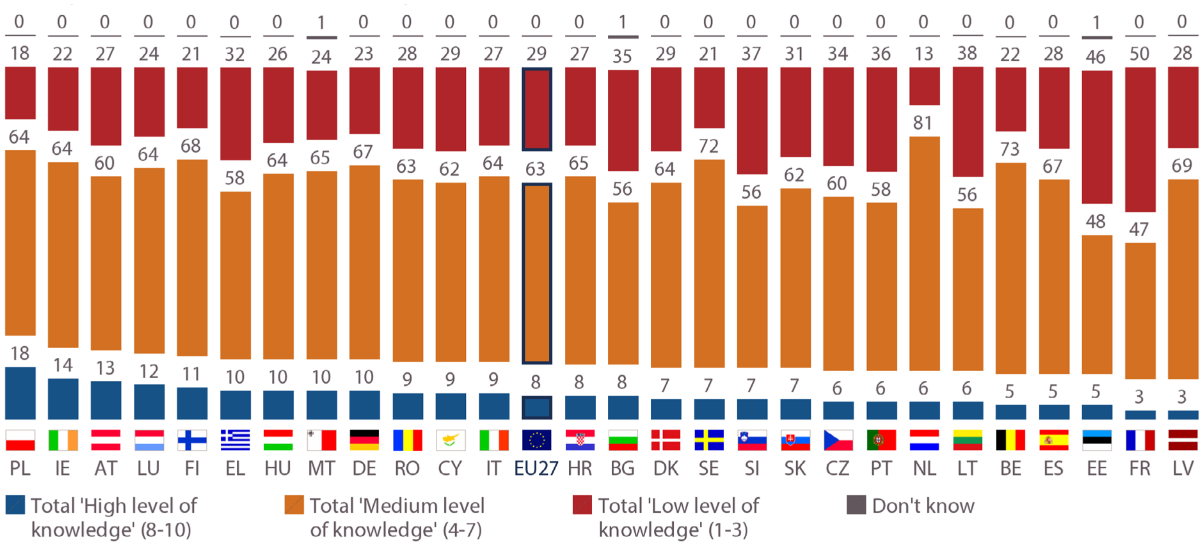



The largest proportions of 'high' level of knowledge about the work of the European Parliament are observed in five countries: Poland (18%), Ireland (14%), Austria (13%), Luxembourg (12%) and Finland (11%). Respondents in France and Latvia (both 3%) are the least likely to say they have a 'high' level of knowledge.

Combining respondents who express either a 'high' or 'medium' level of knowledge, the proportions are highest in the Netherlands (87%), Poland (82%), Finland, Sweden (both 79%) Belgium and Ireland (both 78%). By contrast, a third of respondents or more say they have a 'low' level of knowledge in France (50%), Estonia (46%), Lithuania (38%), Slovenia (37%), Portugal (36%), Bulgaria (35%) and Czechia (34%).

[23] Respondents answered on a scale of 1 to 10, where "1" means that "you know nothing at all" and "10" that "you know a lot". Those who gave a score of 8-10 are classified as having a 'high' level of knowledge, those giving a score of 4-7 a 'medium' level of knowledge, and those giving a score of 1-3 a 'low' level of knowledge.

**QA11 On a scale of 1 to 10, where "1" means that "you know nothing at all" and "10" that "you know a lot", how much do you think you know about the work of the European Parliament?** (% - EU27)




Knowledge about the work of the European Parliament has increased in most countries since October 2019. The proportion that say they have a 'high' level of knowledge has increased (by three or more percentage points) in 14 Member States, most notably Poland (18%, +7 pp), Finland (11%, +6 pp) and Luxembourg (12%, +5 pp).

The proportion of 'low' level of knowledge has decreased or stayed the same in every Member State. Large reductions can be seen in Malta (24%, -20 pp), Belgium (22%, -18 pp), the Netherlands (13%, -17 pp), Latvia (28%, -15 pp) and Spain (28%, -15 pp).

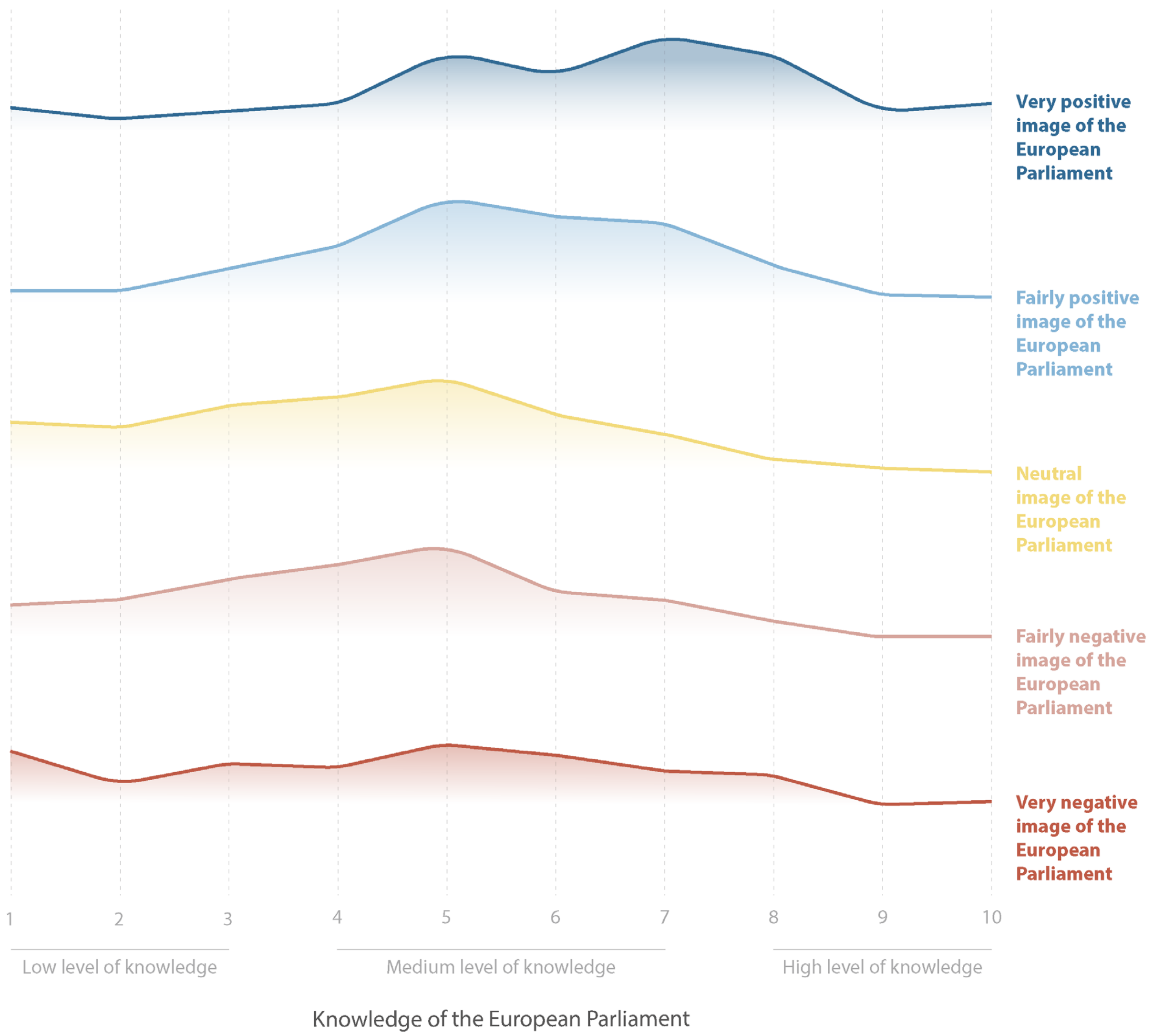
**QA11 On a scale of 1 to 10, where "1" means that "you know nothing at all" and "10" that "you know a lot", how much do you think you know about the work of the European Parliament?** (%)

| | Total 'High level of knowledge' (8-10) | Diff. November/December 2021 - October 2019 | Total 'Medium level of knowledge' (4-7) | Diff. November/December 2021 - October 2019 | Total 'Low level of knowledge' (1-3) | Diff. November/December 2021 - October 2019 | Don't know |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| EU27 | 8 | ▲ 2 | 63 | ▲ 8 | 29 | ▼ 9 | 0 |
| PL | 18 | ▲ 7 | 64 | ▲ 5 | 18 | ▼ 11 | 0 |
| FI | 11 | ▲ 6 | 68 | ▲ 4 | 21 | ▼ 10 | 0 |
| LU | 12 | ▲ 5 | 64 | ▲ 6 | 24 | ▼ 10 | 0 |
| DE | 10 | ▲ 4 | 67 | ▲ 5 | 23 | ▼ 8 | 0 |
| IE | 14 | ▲ 4 | 64 | ▲ 7 | 22 | ▼ 11 | 0 |
| CY | 9 | ▲ 4 | 62 | ▲ 10 | 29 | ▼ 14 | 0 |
| LT | 6 | ▲ 4 | 56 | ▼ 3 | 38 | ▼ 1 | 0 |
| MT | 10 | ▲ 4 | 65 | ▲ 18 | 24 | ▼ 20 | 1 |
| BG | 8 | ▲ 3 | 56 | ▲ 4 | 35 | ▼ 7 | 1 |
| EE | 5 | ▲ 3 | 48 | ▼ 3 | 46 | = | 1 |
| EL | 10 | ▲ 3 | 58 | ▲ 4 | 32 | ▼ 7 | 0 |
| HR | 8 | ▲ 3 | 65 | ▲ 10 | 27 | ▼ 13 | 0 |
| PT | 6 | ▲ 3 | 58 | ▲ 5 | 36 | ▼ 7 | 0 |
| SE | 7 | ▲ 3 | 72 | ▲ 5 | 21 | ▼ 8 | 0 |
| DK | 7 | ▲ 2 | 64 | ▲ 3 | 29 | ▼ 5 | 0 |
| ES | 5 | ▲ 2 | 67 | ▲ 13 | 28 | ▼ 15 | 0 |
| IT | 9 | ▲ 2 | 64 | ▲ 11 | 27 | ▼ 12 | 0 |
| NL | 6 | ▲ 2 | 81 | ▲ 15 | 13 | ▼ 17 | 0 |
| SI | 7 | ▲ 2 | 56 | ▲ 8 | 37 | ▼ 10 | 0 |
| BE | 5 | ▲ 1 | 73 | ▲ 17 | 22 | ▼ 18 | 0 |
| CZ | 6 | ▲ 1 | 60 | ▲ 8 | 34 | ▼ 9 | 0 |
| FR | 3 | ▲ 1 | 47 | ▲ 3 | 50 | ▼ 4 | 0 |
| AT | 13 | = | 60 | ▲ 1 | 27 | ▼ 1 | 0 |
| SK | 7 | = | 62 | ▲ 1 | 31 | = | 0 |
| LV | 3 | ▼ 1 | 69 | ▲ 16 | 28 | ▼ 15 | 0 |
| HU | 10 | ▼ 1 | 64 | ▲ 11 | 26 | ▼ 10 | 0 |
| RO | 9 | ▼ 2 | 63 | ▲ 4 | 28 | ▼ 2 | 0 |

In the socio-demographic analysis, men are more likely than women to say they have a 'high' or 'medium' level of knowledge about the work of the European Parliament, while the youngest respondents are the most likely to say they have a 'low' level of knowledge (36% compared to 28-30% in the other age groups). More highly educated respondents also express higher levels of knowledge, along with managers, self-employed workers and white collar workers.

There is a connection between knowledge about the European Parliament and attitudes towards the institution. Respondents who express a high level of knowledge of the European Parliament are also more likely to have a positive image of it and want it to play a more important role. Respondents with low knowledge of the work of the European Parliament are more likely to have a neutral image of it. The level of knowledge of the European Parliament also influences respondents' view of the direction in which the EU is heading, how much their voice counts in the EU and in their country, satisfaction with democracy, voting likelihood and whether their country has benefitted from being an EU member.

Those who report to know a lot about the institution are more likely to say things are going in the right direction (48% compared to 22% of those who say they know little about the work of the EP), are more likely to feel like their voice counts in the EU (62% vs. 29%) and more likely to say they are satisfied with democracy in the EU (65% vs 42%). Respondents with a low level of knowledge about the work of the European Parliament are most likely to say they would not vote in the next European elections (43% vs. 8% of those with high knowledge about the work of the EP). Finally, those who report they know a lot about the work of the EP are also most likely to say their country has benefitted from the EU by its contribution to the economic growth in their country (High knowledge: 34%; low knowledge: 25%), by improving people's standard of living (23% vs. 15%) and by contributing to democracy in their country (16% vs. 9%).



**QA11** **On a scale of 1 to 10, where "1" means that "you know nothing at all" and "10" that "you know a lot", how much do you think you know about the work of the European Parliament?** (% - EU)

| | Total 'Low level of knowledge' (1-3) | Total 'Medium level of knowledge' (4-7) | Total 'High level of knowledge' (8-10) | Don't know |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| EU27 | 29 | 63 | 8 | 0 |
| **Gender** | | | | |
| Man | 24 | 66 | 10 | 0 |
| Woman | 33 | 60 | 7 | 0 |
| **Age** | | | | |
| 15-24 | 36 | 59 | 5 | 0 |
| 25-39 | 28 | 63 | 9 | 0 |
| 40-54 | 23 | 67 | 10 | 0 |
| 55 + | 30 | 62 | 8 | 0 |
| **Education (End of)** | | | | |
| 15- | 45 | 51 | 4 | 0 |
| 16-19 | 30 | 63 | 7 | 0 |
| 20+ | 20 | 69 | 11 | 0 |
| Still studying | 31 | 63 | 6 | 0 |
| **Socio-professional category** | | | | |
| Self- employed | 22 | 67 | 11 | 0 |
| Managers | 16 | 70 | 14 | 0 |
| Other white collars | 21 | 70 | 9 | 0 |
| Manual workers | 32 | 61 | 7 | 0 |
| House persons | 42 | 52 | 6 | 0 |
| Unemployed | 38 | 57 | 5 | 0 |
| Retired | 32 | 60 | 8 | 0 |
| Students | 31 | 63 | 6 | 0 |
| **Likelyhood to vote in the next EP elections** | | | | |
| Likely | 57 | 40 | 3 | 0 |
| Not likey | 18 | 70 | 12 | 0 |
| **Follow European politics** | | | | |
| Follow | 13 | 74 | 13 | 0 |
| Not follow | 50 | 47 | 3 | 0 |

# III. EUROPEANS AND THE EU: Public image of the EU and importance of EU membership remain high

**This section of the report examines attitudes to the EU and how they have changed over time. In particular, citizens are asked to consider what they see as the benefits of EU membership, as well as the reasons why some people think countries have not benefited from EU membership.**

**Just as attitudes towards the European Parliament have remained positive in the last year, the image of the EU also maintains a strong position, with a clear majority of citizens positive about EU membership and optimistic about the future of the EU.**

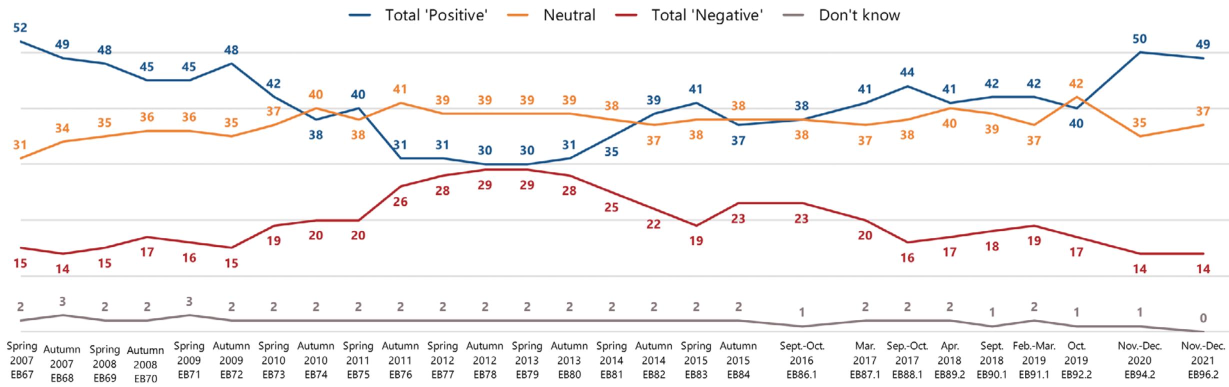
**Underpinning these positive views are clear perceptions of the benefits that EU membership brings. The three main benefits are seen as the EU's contribution to improved co-operation between Member States, maintaining peace and strengthening security, and economic growth at the national level.**

## 1. Overall image of the EU

**The image of the EU has stayed at a very high level over the past year.** Around half of EU citizens (49%) say their general image of the EU is positive. This is fairly stable since November-December 2020 (-1 pp); the ratings in 2020 and 2021 have remained at a consistently high level, and the highest seen since 2009. One in seven respondents now say their image of the EU is negative (14%, no change since November-December 2020), maintaining the gap between positive and negative ratings which has widened over the last seven years. Neutral ratings have increased slightly since November-December 2020 (37%, +2 pp), but a positive image remains the clear majority view.

The long-term pattern is similar to what we saw in relation to the European Parliament, with positive ratings remaining stable at a higher level than in previous years.

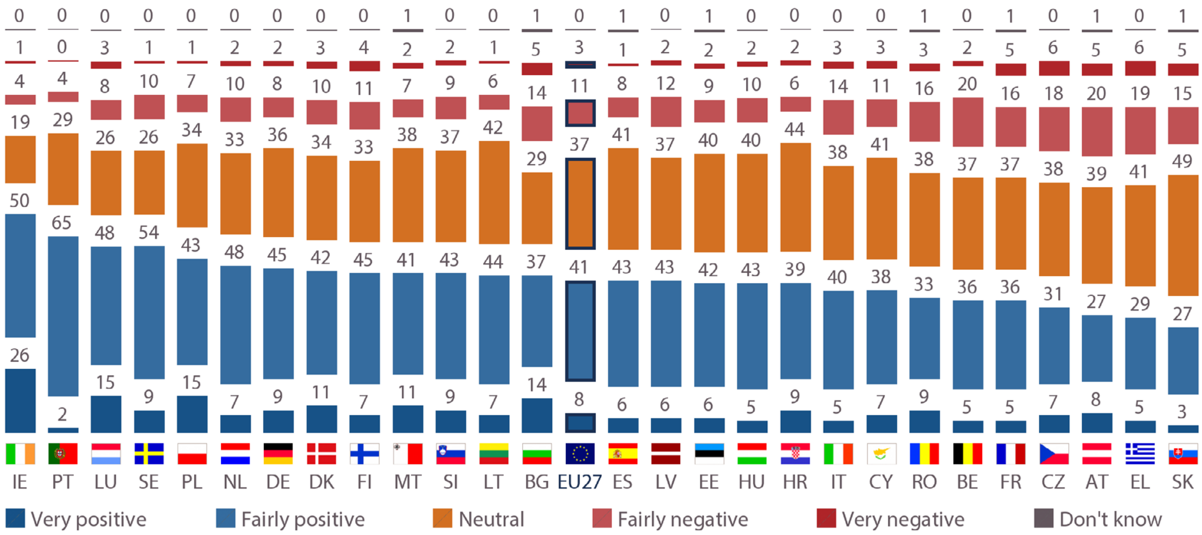
**SD15** **In general, does the EU conjure up for you a very positive, fairly positive, neutral, fairly negative or very negative image?** (% - EU)



In all EU Member States, respondents are more likely to have a positive rather than a negative image of the EU, and in nearly all countries the prevailing view is positive rather than neutral. The only exceptions are Slovakia, Greece and Austria, where neutral ratings are more prevalent, and Czechia, which has an equal share of positive and neutral ratings.

Respondents in Ireland are by far the most likely to have a positive image of the EU (76%, including 26% whose image is 'very positive'), followed by those in Portugal (67%), Luxembourg, Sweden (both 63%) and Poland (58%). Negative ratings are most common in Austria, Greece (both 25%), Czechia (24%), Belgium (22%), France (21%) and Slovakia (20%).

**SD15 In general, does the EU conjure up for you a very positive, fairly positive, neutral, fairly negative or very negative image?** (%)




There are six Member States that show a clear increase in the image of the EU since November-December 2020 (increase of at least three percentage points). The largest increases are in Sweden (63%, +13 pp) and Finland (52%, +10 pp). In total, 14 countries have seen a decrease of at least three percentage points since November-December 2020, most notably Czechia (38%, -15 pp) and Romania (42%, -10 pp).

In 13 Member States there has been an increase of at least three percentage points of respondents stating that they have a neutral image of the EU. The largest increases are seen in Czechia (38%, +14 pp), Lithuania (42%, +11 pp), and Estonia (40%, +10 pp). On the other hand, decrease in neutrality is largest in Spain (41%), Italy and Malta (both 38%), and Sweden (26%) (all -3 pp).

With regards to holding a negative opinion of the EU, there have been four Member States where an increase of at least three percentage points can be seen. The largest increase is seen in Romania (19%, +6 pp), followed by Bulgaria (19%), Slovenia (11%), and Poland (8%) (all +3 pp). In seven Member States there has been a decrease of at least three percentage points, with Finland (15%, -11 pp), Sweden (11%, -10 pp), Denmark (13%), and the Netherlands (12%) (both -4 pp) showing the highest changes.

*NB: As with other questions, some of the shifts since November-December 2020 may be related to a change in data collection mode. In this case, there has been a change in Sweden, Czechia, Lithuania and Estonia from a fully or mainly online interview mode to a fully or mainly face-to-face one. On the other hand, other large changes occurred within countries where the interview mode has remained the same. The shifts in these countries are therefore likely to reflect changes in attitudes and/or the social or political context at the time of the survey waves.*

**SD15 In general, does the EU conjure up for you a very positive, fairly positive, neutral, fairly negative or very negative image?** (%)

| | Total 'Positive' | Diff. November/December 2021 - November/December 2020 | Total 'Negative' | Diff. November/December 2021 - November/December 2020 | Don't know |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| EU27 | 49 | ▼ 1 | 14 | = | 0 |
| SE | 63 | ▲ 13 | 11 | ▼ 10 | 0 |
| FI | 52 | ▲ 10 | 15 | ▼ 11 | 0 |
| LU | 63 | ▲ 5 | 11 | ▼ 3 | 0 |
| ES | 49 | ▲ 4 | 9 | ▼ 2 | 1 |
| DK | 53 | ▲ 3 | 13 | ▼ 4 | 0 |
| NL | 55 | ▲ 3 | 12 | ▼ 4 | 0 |
| IT | 45 | ▲ 2 | 17 | ▲ 2 | 0 |
| MT | 52 | ▲ 2 | 9 | ▲ 1 | 1 |
| HR | 48 | ▲ 1 | 8 | ▼ 3 | 0 |
| CY | 45 | = | 14 | = | 0 |
| PT | 67 | = | 4 | ▲ 1 | 0 |
| IE | 76 | ▼ 1 | 5 | ▼ 2 | 0 |
| AT | 35 | ▼ 1 | 25 | ▲ 2 | 1 |
| FR | 41 | ▼ 3 | 21 | ▲ 1 | 1 |
| LV | 49 | ▼ 3 | 14 | = | 0 |
| PL | 58 | ▼ 3 | 8 | ▲ 3 | 0 |
| BE | 41 | ▼ 4 | 22 | ▼ 1 | 0 |
| HU | 48 | ▼ 5 | 12 | ▲ 2 | 0 |
| DE | 54 | ▼ 6 | 10 | ▲ 1 | 0 |
| EL | 34 | ▼ 6 | 25 | ▼ 1 | 0 |
| SI | 52 | ▼ 6 | 11 | ▲ 3 | 0 |
| SK | 30 | ▼ 7 | 20 | ▲ 2 | 1 |
| BG | 51 | ▼ 8 | 19 | ▲ 3 | 1 |
| EE | 48 | ▼ 8 | 11 | ▼ 3 | 1 |
| LT | 51 | ▼ 9 | 7 | ▼ 2 | 0 |
| RO | 42 | ▼ 10 | 19 | ▲ 6 | 1 |
| CZ | 38 | ▼ 15 | 24 | ▲ 1 | 0 |

The main differences in the socio-demographic analysis are by level of education and household finances. Citizens who are more highly educated are much more likely to have a positive image of the EU (58% among those who finished education aged 20 or above compared with 38% of those who left education by the age of 15). The image of the EU is also more positive among those who rarely or never have difficulties paying household bills (54%), compared with those who often have problems (32%). In terms of occupation, managers and students (61% and 62% respectively) are the most positive of the groups, while unemployed respondents are the least positive (34%).

There is also a difference by age group, with younger people aged 15-24 most likely to have a positive image of the EU (59% compared with 46%-50% in the older age groups).

The image of the EU is also linked with respondents' expectations of their future living conditions. Those who say their living conditions will be better are more likely to have a positive image of the EU (58%) than those who say they will be worse (33%).

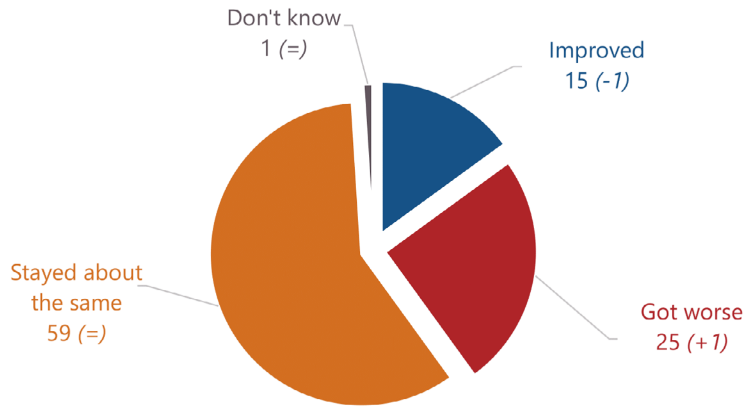
**SD15** **In general, does the EU conjure up for you a very positive, fairly positive, neutral, fairly negative or very negative image?** (% - EU)

| | Total 'Positive' | Neutral | Total 'Negative' | Don't know |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| EU27 | 49 | 37 | 14 | 0 |
| **Age** | | | | |
| 15-24 | 59 | 33 | 8 | 0 |
| 25-39 | 50 | 39 | 11 | 0 |
| 40-54 | 48 | 36 | 16 | 0 |
| 55 + | 46 | 37 | 16 | 1 |
| **Education (End of)** | | | | |
| 15- | 38 | 45 | 16 | 1 |
| 16-19 | 42 | 40 | 18 | 0 |
| 20+ | 58 | 30 | 12 | 0 |
| Still studying | 62 | 32 | 6 | 0 |
| **Socio-professional category** | | | | |
| Self- employed | 53 | 32 | 15 | 0 |
| Managers | 61 | 29 | 10 | 0 |
| Other white collars | 54 | 34 | 12 | 0 |
| Manual workers | 40 | 42 | 18 | 0 |
| House persons | 41 | 43 | 15 | 1 |
| Unemployed | 34 | 46 | 20 | 0 |
| Retired | 45 | 37 | 17 | 1 |
| Students | 62 | 32 | 6 | 0 |
| **Difficulties paying bills** | | | | |
| Most of the time | 32 | 42 | 24 | 2 |
| From time to time | 38 | 43 | 19 | 0 |
| Almost never/ Never | 54 | 34 | 12 | 0 |
| **Your living conditions** | | | | |
| Better | 58 | 32 | 10 | 0 |
| Worse | 33 | 40 | 27 | 0 |
| The same | 52 | 37 | 11 | 0 |

## 2. Development of the EU image

As seen in the previous section, the image of the EU has remained at a stable level since November-December 2020. This is reinforced by perceptions of how things have changed in the last year, which are unchanged from the 2020 survey. **The majority of EU citizens** (59%, =) **say that their image of the EU has stayed about the same over the last year**. However, when their image has changed, they are more likely to say it has got worse (25%, +1 pp) rather than improved (15%, -1 pp).

**SD19 Over the last year, would you say that this image you have of the EU improved, got worse or stayed about the same?** (% - EU27)



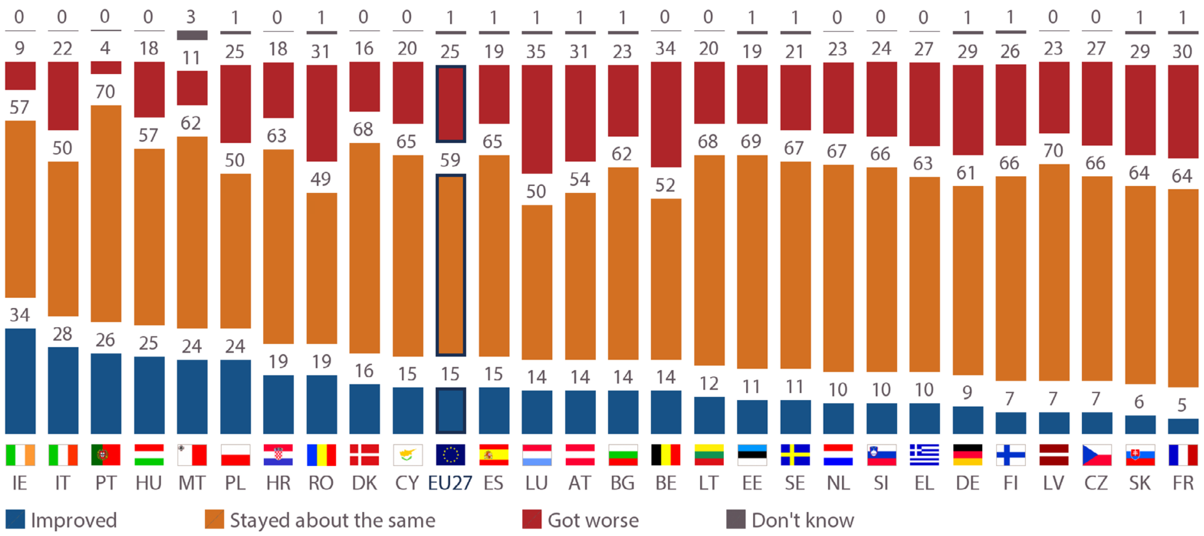

*(Nov. - Dec. 2021 - Nov. - Dec. 2020)*

In all EU Member States, the majority view is that people's image of the EU has stayed about the same over the last year. This view is most common among respondents in Portugal and Latvia (both 70%).

There are six countries where respondents are more likely to say their image of the EU has improved rather than got worse: Ireland (34% improved, 9% got worse), Italy (28% and 22%), Portugal (26% and 4%), Hungary (25% and 18%), Malta (24% and 11%) and Croatia (19% and 18%). In Denmark, respondents are equally likely to say their image has improved as to say it has got worse (both 16%).

In the other 20 Member States, respondents are more likely to say their image has got worse rather than got better. The countries where respondents are most likely to say their image has got worse are Luxembourg (35%), Belgium (34%), Austria, Romania (both 31%) and France (30%).

**SD19 Over the last year, would you say that this image you have of the EU improved, got worse or stayed about the same?** (%)




In four Member States, there has been a positive shift (of three percentage points or more) in the perception of whether people's image of the EU has improved in the last year: Italy (28%, +6 pp), Spain (15%, +4 pp), Malta (24%, +4 pp) and Estonia (11%, +3 pp). Other countries also show a 'net' positive change, with a substantial decrease in those saying their image has got worse: Greece (27%, -13 pp) and Finland (26%, -6 pp).

In nine countries, there has been a clear increase (of three percentage points or more) in the proportion that say their image of the EU has got worse in the last year. The largest increases are in Slovakia (29%, +8 pp), Czechia (27%, +5 pp), Latvia (23%, +5 pp), Bulgaria (23%, +5 pp) and Poland (25%, +5 pp).

Lastly, in six Member States there has been an increase of at least three percentage points of respondents saying that their image of the EU has stayed about the same in over the last year. The largest increases are seen in Greece (63%, +19 pp) and Portugal (70%, +8 pp). On the other hand, the largest decreases are seen in Slovakia, (64%, -6 pp), Spain (65%, -5 pp), and Sweden (67%, -4 pp).

*NB: As with other questions, note that there was a change in the data collection mode in some countries from 2020 to 2021, and this may have a bearing on some of the shifts in percentages between the two years. This is especially the case with Greece, where interview modality has changed from being fully online in 2020 to fully face-to-face in 2021.*

**SD19** **Over the last year, would you say that this image you have of the EU improved, got worse or stayed about the same?** (%)

| | Improved | Diff. November/December 2021 - November/December 2020 | Got worse | Diff. November/December 2021 - November/December 2020 | Stayed about the same | Diff. November/December 2021 - November/December 2020 | Don't know |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| EU27 | 15 | ▼ 1 | 25 | ▲ 1 | 59 | = | 1 |
| IT | 28 | ▲ 6 | 22 | ▼ 2 | 50 | ▼ 3 | 0 |
| ES | 15 | ▲ 4 | 19 | ▲ 1 | 65 | ▼ 5 | 1 |
| MT | 24 | ▲ 4 | 11 | ▼ 6 | 62 | ▲ 1 | 3 |
| EE | 11 | ▲ 3 | 19 | ▼ 3 | 69 | ▼ 1 | 1 |
| SE | 11 | ▲ 2 | 21 | ▲ 1 | 67 | ▼ 4 | 1 |
| DK | 16 | ▲ 1 | 16 | ▲ 1 | 68 | ▼ 2 | 0 |
| LU | 14 | ▲ 1 | 35 | ▼ 2 | 50 | = | 1 |
| HU | 25 | ▲ 1 | 18 | ▲ 2 | 57 | ▼ 2 | 0 |
| FI | 7 | ▲ 1 | 26 | ▼ 6 | 66 | ▲ 4 | 1 |
| HR | 19 | = | 18 | ▲ 2 | 63 | ▼ 2 | 0 |
| CY | 15 | = | 20 | = | 65 | = | 0 |
| AT | 14 | = | 31 | ▲ 2 | 54 | ▼ 3 | 1 |
| IE | 34 | ▼ 1 | 9 | ▼ 2 | 57 | ▲ 3 | 0 |
| FR | 5 | ▼ 1 | 30 | ▼ 4 | 64 | ▲ 5 | 1 |
| BE | 14 | ▼ 2 | 34 | ▲ 4 | 52 | ▼ 2 | 0 |
| CZ | 7 | ▼ 2 | 27 | ▲ 5 | 66 | ▼ 3 | 0 |
| LV | 7 | ▼ 2 | 23 | ▲ 5 | 70 | ▼ 3 | 0 |
| SI | 10 | ▼ 2 | 24 | ▲ 2 | 66 | = | 0 |
| PL | 24 | ▼ 3 | 25 | ▲ 5 | 50 | ▼ 3 | 1 |
| SK | 6 | ▼ 3 | 29 | ▲ 8 | 64 | ▼ 6 | 1 |
| BG | 14 | ▼ 4 | 23 | ▲ 5 | 62 | ▼ 1 | 1 |
| DE | 9 | ▼ 4 | 29 | ▲ 3 | 61 | = | 1 |
| RO | 19 | ▼ 4 | 31 | ▲ 4 | 49 | = | 1 |
| LT | 12 | ▼ 5 | 20 | ▲ 3 | 68 | ▲ 2 | 0 |
| NL | 10 | ▼ 5 | 23 | = | 67 | ▲ 5 | 0 |
| EL | 10 | ▼ 6 | 27 | ▼ 13 | 63 | ▲ 19 | 0 |
| PT | 26 | ▼ 8 | 4 | = | 70 | ▲ 8 | 0 |

The **socio-demographic** analysis shows a broadly consistent picture across the various groups, although younger respondents are slightly more likely than older respondents to say their image of the EU has improved over the last year (17% of 15-24 year olds vs. 13% of those aged 55 or over). Certain groups are more likely to say that their image of the EU has got worse over the last year, specifically manual workers (30%), unemployed respondents (32%), those who have difficulties paying their bills most of the time (34%) and those who expect their living conditions to get worse (39%).

**SD19 Over the last year, would you say that this image you have of the EU improved, got worse or stayed about the same?** (% - EU)

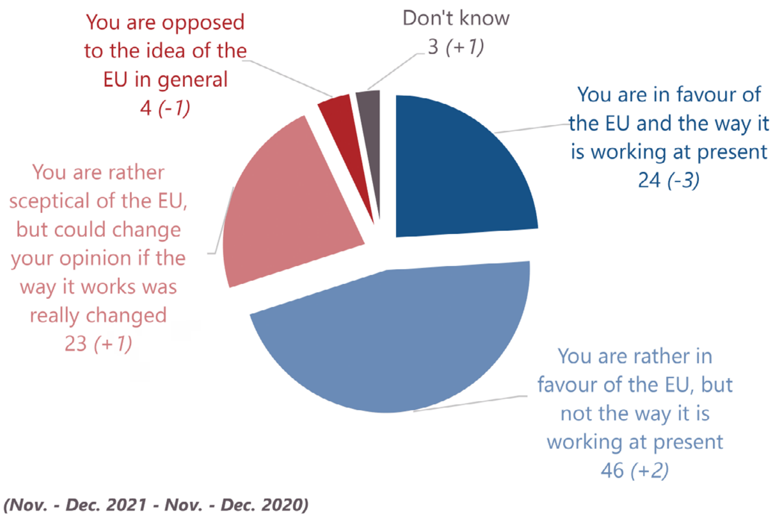
| | Improved | Got worse | Stayed about the same | Don't know |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| EU27 | 15 | 25 | 59 | 1 |
| **Gender** | | | | |
| Man | 15 | 26 | 58 | 1 |
| Woman | 14 | 24 | 61 | 1 |
| **Age** | | | | |
| 15-24 | 17 | 24 | 58 | 1 |
| 25-39 | 16 | 25 | 58 | 1 |
| 40-54 | 16 | 26 | 58 | 0 |
| 55 + | 13 | 25 | 61 | 1 |
| **Education (End of)** | | | | |
| 15- | 14 | 23 | 62 | 1 |
| 16-19 | 14 | 27 | 58 | 1 |
| 20+ | 16 | 24 | 60 | 0 |
| Still studying | 17 | 20 | 62 | 1 |
| **Socio-professional category** | | | | |
| Self- employed | 18 | 26 | 56 | 0 |
| Managers | 17 | 24 | 59 | 0 |
| Other white collars | 19 | 22 | 59 | 0 |
| Manual workers | 13 | 30 | 56 | 1 |
| House persons | 14 | 24 | 61 | 1 |
| Unemployed | 13 | 32 | 54 | 1 |
| Retired | 12 | 24 | 63 | 1 |
| Students | 17 | 20 | 62 | 1 |
| **Difficulties paying bills** | | | | |
| Most of the time | 10 | 34 | 54 | 2 |
| From time to time | 16 | 30 | 54 | 0 |
| Almost never/ Never | 15 | 23 | 62 | 0 |
| **Your living conditions** | | | | |
| Better | 24 | 22 | 53 | 1 |
| Worse | 10 | 39 | 50 | 1 |
| The same | 13 | 21 | 65 | 1 |

# 3. Opinion of the EU

As we have seen in this chapter, attitudes towards the EU have been stable this year, and this also applies to underlying opinions of the EU and the way it is working.

In total, **seven in ten respondents (70%) say they are in favour of the EU**, with 24% (-3 pp since November-December 2020) saying they are in favour of the EU and the way it is working at present, and 46% (+2 pp) in favour, but not the way it is working at present. Around a quarter (27%) have more negative views, including 23% (+1 pp) who say they are rather sceptical of the EU, but could change their opinion if the way it works was really changed, and 4% (-1 pp) who say they are opposed to the idea of the EU in general[24].

**QA6 Which of the following statements regarding the EU is closest to your opinion?** (% - EU27)

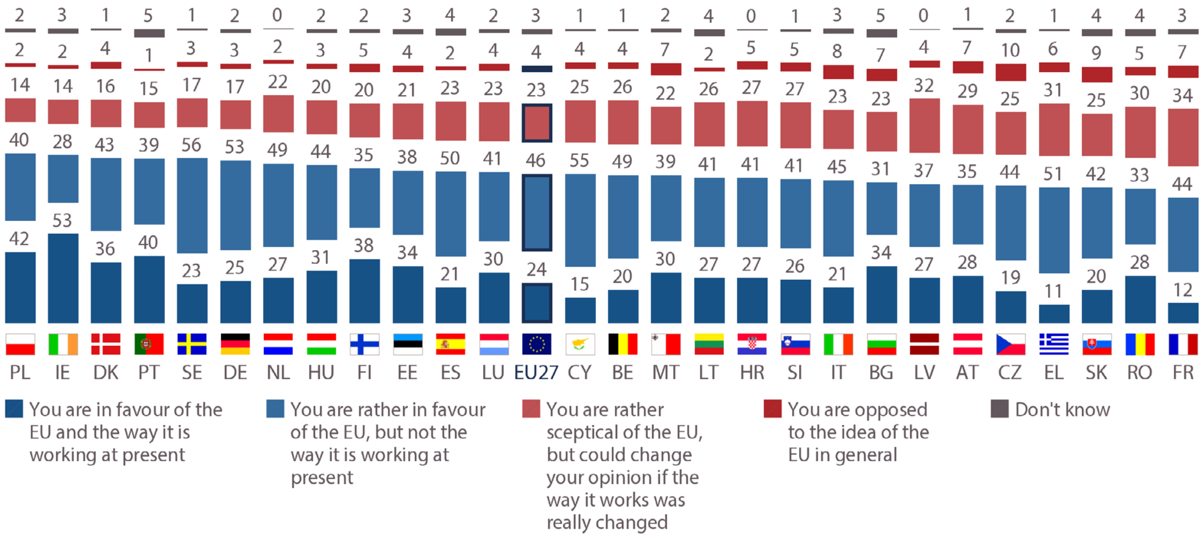



In every Member State, more than half of respondents say they are in favour of the EU, with the highest proportions in Poland (82%), Ireland (81%), Denmark, Portugal and Sweden (all 79%). Respondents in France (56%), Romania (61%), Greece and Slovakia (both 62%) are least likely to be in favour of the EU.

Negative views are most prevalent in France (where 41% oppose the idea of the EU or are sceptical towards it), Greece (37%), Austria, Latvia (both 36%), Czechia and Romania (both 35%).

[24] The wording of the response categories has changed slightly in this survey, but this does not prevent trend comparisons with previous years.

**QA6 Which of the following statements regarding the EU is closest to your opinion?** (%)




In five Member States, there has been an increase of at least three percentage points since November-December 2020 in the proportion of respondents who say they are 'in favour' of the EU. The largest increases can be seen in Cyprus (70%, + 12 pp), Greece (62%, +6 pp) and Sweden (79%, +5 pp). There are 12 countries showing a negative shift of at least three percentage points, most notably Romania (61%, -11 pp), Belgium (69%, -9 pp), Luxembourg (71%, -8 pp) and Portugal (79%, -7 pp).

*NB: As with other questions, note that there was a change in the data collection mode in some countries from 2020 to 2021, and this may have a bearing on some of the shifts in percentages between the two years. At the same time, some of the largest shifts have taken place in countries where there has been no change in data collection mode (Cyprus and Romania).*

**QA6 Which of the following statements regarding the EU is closest to your opinion?** (%)

| | Total 'In favour' | Diff. November/December 2021 - November/December 2020 | Total 'Opposed' | Diff. November/December 2021 - November/December 2020 | Don't know |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| EU27 | 70 | ▼ 1 | 27 | = | 3 |
| CY | 70 | ▲ 12 | 29 | ▼ 12 | 1 |
| EL | 62 | ▲ 6 | 37 | ▼ 7 | 1 |
| SE | 79 | ▲ 5 | 20 | ▼ 6 | 1 |
| HU | 75 | ▲ 3 | 23 | ▼ 2 | 2 |
| FI | 73 | ▲ 3 | 25 | ▼ 5 | 2 |
| DK | 79 | ▲ 2 | 20 | ▼ 2 | 1 |
| HR | 68 | ▲ 2 | 32 | ▼ 1 | 0 |
| IT | 66 | ▲ 2 | 31 | ▼ 3 | 3 |
| NL | 76 | ▲ 2 | 24 | ▼ 2 | 0 |
| AT | 63 | ▲ 2 | 36 | ▼ 2 | 1 |
| ES | 71 | ▲ 1 | 25 | = | 4 |
| MT | 69 | ▲ 1 | 29 | ▲ 1 | 2 |
| PL | 82 | ▲ 1 | 16 | ▼ 1 | 2 |
| FR | 56 | ▼ 2 | 41 | ▲ 2 | 3 |
| LT | 68 | ▼ 2 | 28 | ▼ 2 | 4 |
| BG | 65 | ▼ 4 | 30 | ▲ 3 | 5 |
| CZ | 63 | ▼ 4 | 35 | ▲ 2 | 2 |
| DE | 78 | ▼ 4 | 20 | ▲ 3 | 2 |
| IE | 81 | ▼ 5 | 16 | ▲ 2 | 3 |
| LV | 64 | ▼ 5 | 36 | ▲ 5 | 0 |
| SI | 67 | ▼ 5 | 32 | ▲ 4 | 1 |
| EE | 72 | ▼ 6 | 25 | ▲ 3 | 3 |
| SK | 62 | ▼ 6 | 34 | ▲ 5 | 4 |
| PT | 79 | ▼ 7 | 16 | ▲ 8 | 5 |
| LU | 71 | ▼ 8 | 27 | ▲ 6 | 2 |
| BE | 69 | ▼ 9 | 30 | ▲ 8 | 1 |
| RO | 61 | ▼ 11 | 35 | ▲ 10 | 4 |

The **socio-demographic** analysis shows a familiar pattern by age group, with younger respondents more likely to be in favour of the EU than older respondents. The proportion who say they are in favour of the EU and the way it is working at present is highest among 15-24 year olds (32%) and lowest among those aged 55 or over (22%).

There is a difference by level of education: those who finished their education at the age of 20 or above are more likely to say they are in favour of the EU (77% compared with 61% of those who left education by the age of 15) and are less likely to say they are sceptical or opposed to the idea of the EU (22% compared with 33%).

Respondents who have difficulties paying bills most of the time are more likely to be sceptical or opposed to the idea of the EU (40% vs. 23% of those who never or almost never have difficulties) and are less likely to be in favour of the EU and the way it is working at present (13% vs. 27%).

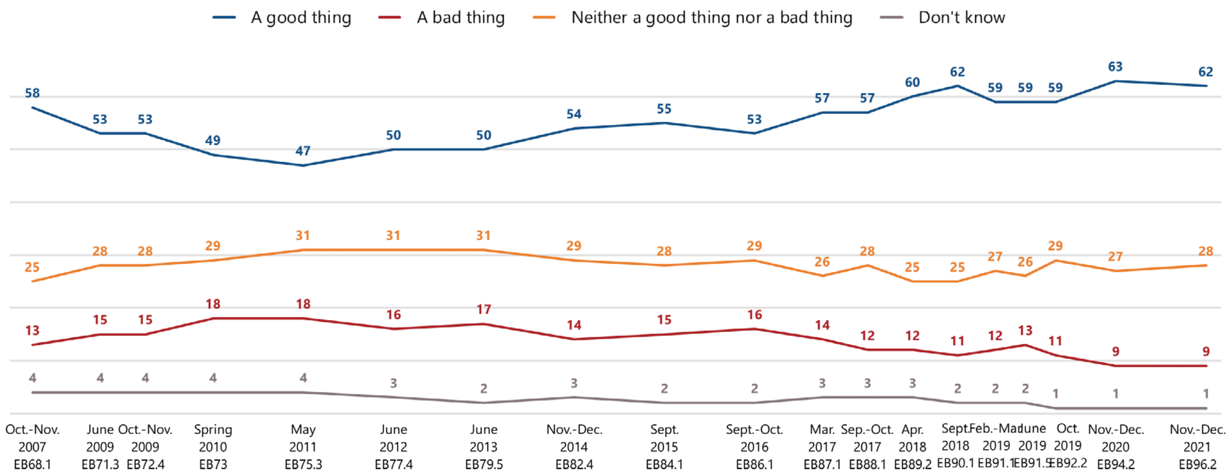
**QA6** **Which of the following statements regarding the EU is closest to your opinion?** (% - EU)

| | You are in favour of the EU and the way it is working at present | You are rather in favour of the EU, but not the way it is working at present | You are rather sceptical of the EU, but could change your opinion if the way it works was really changed | You are opposed to the idea of the EU in general | Don't know |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| EU27 | 24 | 46 | 23 | 4 | 3 |
| **Age** | | | | | |
| 15-24 | 32 | 43 | 19 | 2 | 4 |
| 25-39 | 26 | 46 | 22 | 4 | 2 |
| 40-54 | 23 | 47 | 24 | 5 | 1 |
| 55 + | 22 | 46 | 24 | 5 | 3 |
| **Education (End of)** | | | | | |
| 15- | 21 | 40 | 26 | 7 | 6 |
| 16-19 | 22 | 44 | 26 | 6 | 2 |
| 20+ | 27 | 50 | 19 | 3 | 1 |
| Still studying | 34 | 45 | 16 | 1 | 4 |
| **Difficulties paying bills** | | | | | |
| Most of the time | 13 | 42 | 31 | 9 | 5 |
| From time to time | 19 | 41 | 30 | 7 | 3 |
| Almost never/ Never | 27 | 48 | 20 | 3 | 2 |

# 4. Membership of the EU

As observed with other indicators, such as image of the EU or image of the European Parliament, citizen support for EU membership has remained fairly stable since November-December 2020, and maintains a strong position in recent years and a long-term positive trend since 2011. More than six in ten Europeans (62%, -1 pp) are in favour of their country's EU membership. The proportion of respondents who see EU membership as a bad thing remains in single figures (9%, =) and has been steadily decreasing in the past years.

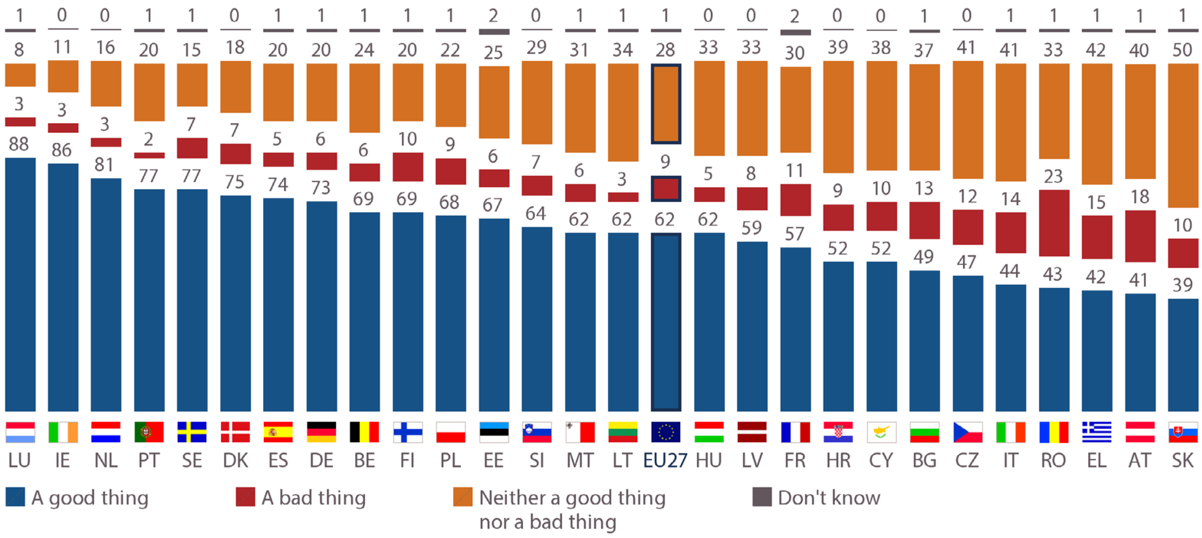
**QA7 Generally speaking, do you think that (OUR COUNTRY)'s membership of the EU is...?** (% - EU)




**A majority of respondents in 25 Member States think that their country's membership is a good thing**, although this level of support does vary considerably, from 88% in Luxembourg to 41% in Austria. In Slovakia, the prevailing view is that EU membership is neither good nor bad for their country (50% compared with 39% who think it is a good thing), while in Greece an equal proportion (42%) say that EU membership is a good thing as say it is neither good nor bad.

The proportion of respondents who believe EU membership is a bad thing for their country is as low as 2% in Portugal and is highest at 23% in Romania.

**QA7 Generally speaking, do you think that (OUR COUNTRY)'s membership of the EU is...? (%)**




Compared with the last survey in November-December 2020, seven Member States show a rise in support for EU membership of three percentage points or more, while 12 register an equivalent decrease. The largest increases in support can be seen in Sweden (77%, +9 pp), Spain (74%, +8 pp) and Luxembourg (88%, +7 pp), while the largest decreases are found in Czechia (47%, -18 pp), Greece (42%, -14 pp) and Belgium (69%, -12 pp).

In four Member States an increase of at least three percentage points can be seen for respondents stating that their country's membership of the EU is a bad thing, with the largest being in Romania (23%), Bulgaria (13%), and Czechia (12%) (all +4 pp). Decreases of at least three percentage points of respondents providing this answer are seen in six EU countries, the largest being in Finland (10%, -7 pp), Sweden (7%, -5 pp), and Denmark (4%, -4 pp).

Finally, with regards to respondents stating the EU membership of their country is neither a good thing nor a bad thing, significant increases are seen in 11 Member States, with Czechia (41%, +14 pp), Greece (42%, 13 pp), and Lithuania (34%, 11 pp) showing the largest ones. In Spain (20%), Sweden (15%), and Luxembourg (8%), there has been a decrease of 5 percentage points for this response.

*NB: As with other questions, note that there was a change in the data collection mode in some countries from 2020 to 2021, and this may have a bearing on some of the shifts in percentages between the two years. In particular, Czechia, Greece and Belgium all had either a full change in data collection mode (from online to face-to-face) or a partial change (involving a mixture of online and face-to-face interviewing).*

**QA7** **Generally speaking, do you think that (OUR COUNTRY)'s membership of the EU is...?** (%)

| | A good thing | Diff. November/December 2021 - November/December 2020 | A bad thing | Diff. November/December 2021 - November/December 2020 | Neither a good thing nor a bad thing | Diff. November/December 2021 - November/December 2020 | Don't know |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| EU27 | 62 | ▼1 | 9 | = | 28 | ▲1 | 1 |
| SE | 77 | ▲9 | 7 | ▼5 | 24 | ▼5 | 1 |
| ES | 74 | ▲8 | 5 | ▼3 | 37 | ▼5 | 1 |
| LU | 88 | ▲7 | 3 | ▼3 | 41 | ▼5 | 0 |
| IT | 44 | ▲5 | 14 | ▼2 | 18 | ▼3 | 0 |
| FI | 69 | ▲5 | 10 | ▼7 | 20 | ▲1 | 1 |
| DK | 75 | ▲3 | 7 | ▼4 | 25 | ▲2 | 2 |
| HU | 62 | ▲3 | 5 | = | 11 | ▼2 | 0 |
| NL | 81 | ▲2 | 3 | ▼2 | 42 | = | 1 |
| HR | 52 | ▲1 | 9 | = | 20 | ▼1 | 1 |
| MT | 62 | = | 6 | ▼2 | 30 | ▲2 | 2 |
| AT | 41 | = | 18 | ▲2 | 39 | ▼3 | 0 |
| IE | 86 | ▼1 | 3 | ▼1 | 41 | ▲2 | 1 |
| FR | 57 | ▼1 | 11 | = | 38 | = | 0 |
| PT | 77 | ▼1 | 2 | = | 33 | ▲1 | 0 |
| PL | 68 | ▼2 | 9 | ▲1 | 34 | = | 1 |
| CY | 52 | ▼3 | 10 | = | 8 | ▲3 | 1 |
| LV | 59 | ▼3 | 8 | = | 33 | ▲4 | 0 |
| RO | 43 | ▼6 | 23 | ▲4 | 31 | ▲2 | 1 |
| BG | 49 | ▼7 | 13 | ▲4 | 16 | ▲4 | 0 |
| DE | 73 | ▼8 | 6 | ▲2 | 40 | ▲5 | 1 |
| SK | 39 | ▼8 | 10 | ▲3 | 22 | ▲4 | 1 |
| EE | 67 | ▼9 | 6 | ▼1 | 20 | ▲8 | 1 |
| LT | 62 | ▼9 | 3 | ▼3 | 33 | ▲11 | 1 |
| SI | 64 | ▼9 | 7 | ▲2 | 29 | ▲7 | 0 |
| BE | 69 | ▼12 | 6 | ▲2 | 50 | ▲9 | 1 |
| EL | 42 | ▼14 | 15 | = | 20 | ▲13 | 1 |
| CZ | 47 | ▼18 | 12 | ▲4 | 15 | ▲14 | 1 |

The socio-demographic analysis shows a clear difference by level of education, with more highly educated people more likely to say that their country's membership of the EU is a good thing (74% of those who finished education at the age of 20 or above). Support is also particularly high among mangers (75%) and students (76%), while unemployed respondents (50%), house persons (52%) and manual workers (53%) are least likely to support EU membership.

Respondents who have difficulties paying bills most of the time are also less likely to support EU membership (44%), along with those who expect their living conditions to get worse in the next 12 months (43%).

As seen in previous years, younger people tend to support EU membership more than older people, the proportion ranging from 71% among 15-24 year olds to 60% of people aged 55 or over.

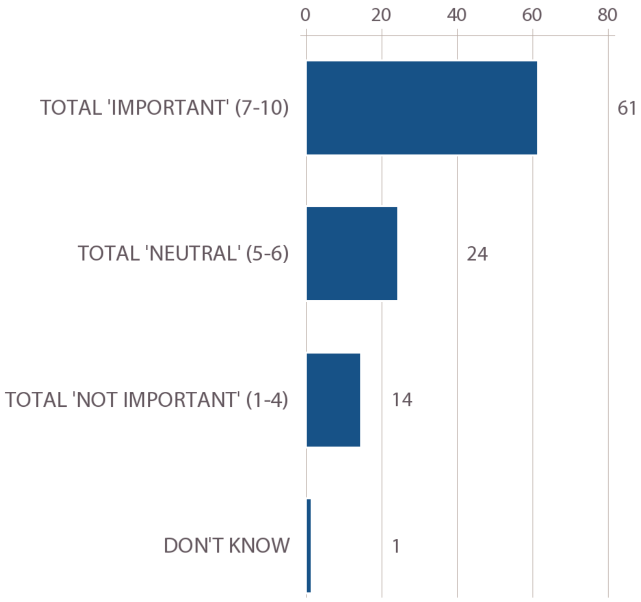
**QA7** **Generally speaking, do you think that (OUR COUNTRY)'s membership of the EU is...?** (% - EU)

| | A good thing | A bad thing | Neither a good thing nor a bad thing | Don't know |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| EU27 | 62 | 9 | 28 | 1 |
| **Gender** | | | | |
| Man | 64 | 10 | 25 | 1 |
| Woman | 60 | 9 | 30 | 1 |
| **Age** | | | | |
| 15-24 | 71 | 6 | 22 | 1 |
| 25-39 | 63 | 9 | 28 | 0 |
| 40-54 | 61 | 11 | 27 | 1 |
| 55 + | 60 | 10 | 29 | 1 |
| **Education (End of)** | | | | |
| 15- | 51 | 11 | 36 | 2 |
| 16-19 | 54 | 12 | 33 | 1 |
| 20+ | 74 | 7 | 19 | 0 |
| Still studying | 76 | 4 | 19 | 1 |
| **Socio-professional category** | | | | |
| Self- employed | 63 | 10 | 26 | 1 |
| Managers | 75 | 7 | 17 | 1 |
| Other white collars | 65 | 8 | 27 | 0 |
| Manual workers | 53 | 13 | 33 | 1 |
| House persons | 52 | 9 | 37 | 2 |
| Unemployed | 50 | 12 | 37 | 1 |
| Retired | 61 | 10 | 28 | 1 |
| Students | 76 | 4 | 19 | 1 |
| **Difficulties paying bills** | | | | |
| Most of the time | 44 | 17 | 37 | 2 |
| From time to time | 45 | 16 | 38 | 1 |
| Almost never/ Never | 70 | 6 | 23 | 1 |
| **Your living conditions** | | | | |
| Better | 71 | 6 | 22 | 1 |
| Worse | 43 | 20 | 36 | 1 |
| The same | 67 | 6 | 26 | 1 |

## 5. Importance of membership of the EU

**Six in ten EU citizens (61%) say it is important that their country is a Member State of the EU** (giving a score from 7 to 10 on a 10-point scale), while one in seven (14%) feel it is not important (scores 1 to 4), and one in four (24%) say it is 'moderately important' (score 5 or 6)[25].

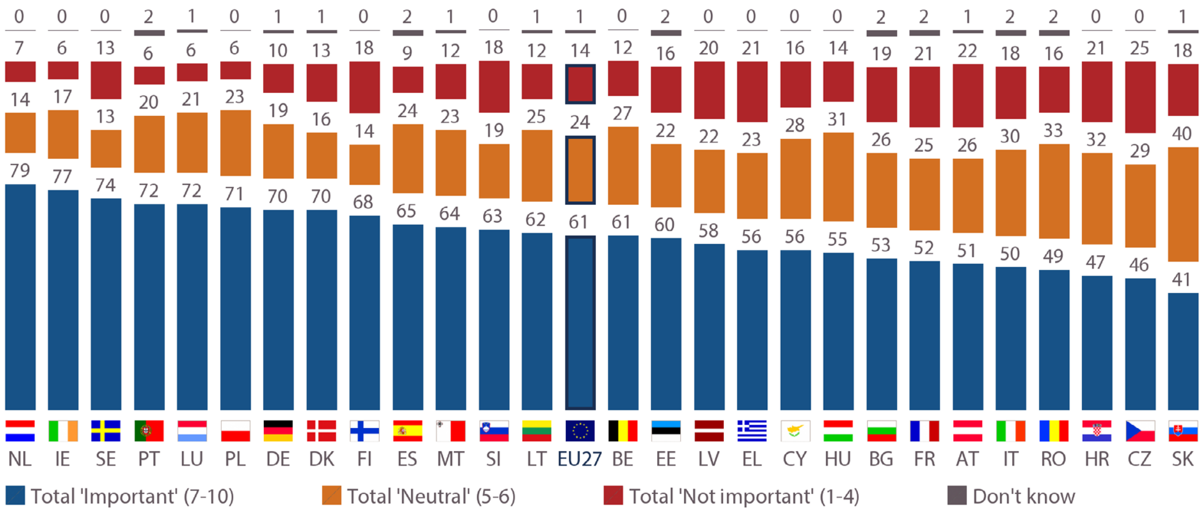
**QA18 How important is it for you that (OUR COUNTRY) is a Member State of the EU? Please use a scale from 1 to 10 where 1 means "not at all important" and 10 means "extremely important"?** (% - EU27)




In every country, a majority of respondents think it is important that their country is a Member State of the EU. Respondents in the Netherlands (79%), Ireland (77%), Sweden (74%), Luxembourg and Portugal (both 72%) are most likely to think it is important their country is a Member State of the EU. There are four countries where less than half of respondents consider their country's membership as important: Slovakia (41%), Czechia (46%), Croatia (47%) and Romania (49%).

[25] Respondents were asked to use a scale from 1 to 10, where "1" means "not at all important" and 10 means "extremely important". In this analysis, "important" includes those giving a score of 7-10, "not important" a score of 1-4 and "moderately important" a score of 5 or 6.

**QA18 How important is it for you that (OUR COUNTRY) is a Member State of the EU? Please use a scale from 1 to 10 where 1 means "not at all important" and 10 means "extremely important"?** (% - EU27)




As seen earlier in relation to the overall image of the EU, the main differences in the **socio-demographic** analysis are by level of education and household finances. Citizens who are more highly educated are much more likely to think their country's membership of the EU is important (73% among those who finished education aged 20 or above compared with 45% of those who left education by the age of 15). This view is also more common among those who rarely or never have difficulties paying household bills (67%), compared with those who often have problems (44%). Moreover, those who consider their living conditions will be better are also more likely to consider their country's membership of the EU to be important (69% vs. 45% of those who think their living conditions will be worse).

Finally, there is also a slight difference by age group, with younger people aged 15-24 most likely to think their country's membership of the EU is important (64% compared with 59%-62% in the older age groups).

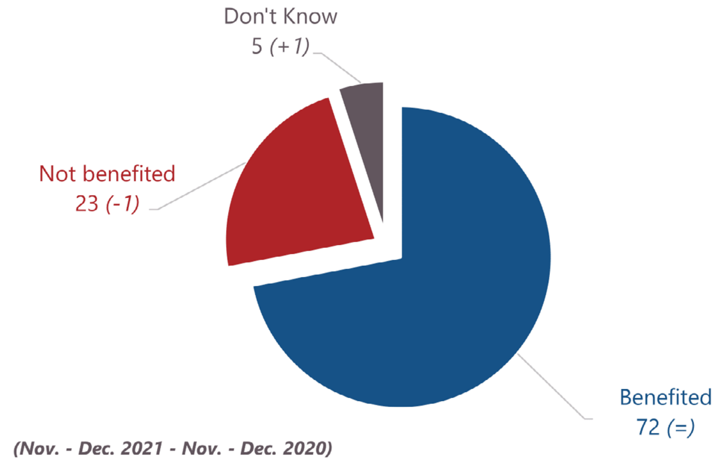
**QA18 How important is it for you that (OUR COUNTRY) is a Member State of the EU? Please use a scale from 1 to 10 where 1 means "not at all important" and 10 means "extremely important"?** (% - EU27)

| | Total 'Not important' (1-4) | Total 'Neutral' (5-6) | Total 'important' (7-10) | Don't know |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| EU27 | 14 | 24 | 61 | 1 |
| **Age** | | | | |
| 15-24 | 8 | 26 | 64 | 2 |
| 25-39 | 14 | 25 | 60 | 1 |
| 40-54 | 15 | 22 | 62 | 1 |
| 55 + | 15 | 25 | 59 | 1 |
| **Education (End of)** | | | | |
| 15- | 21 | 31 | 45 | 3 |
| 16-19 | 17 | 27 | 55 | 1 |
| 20+ | 9 | 18 | 73 | 0 |
| Still studying | 9 | 21 | 68 | 2 |
| **Difficulties paying bills** | | | | |
| Most of the time | 27 | 26 | 44 | 3 |
| From time to time | 20 | 32 | 47 | 1 |
| Almost never/ Never | 10 | 22 | 67 | 1 |
| **Image of the EU** | | | | |
| Total 'Positive' | 3 | 12 | 85 | 0 |
| Neutral | 15 | 38 | 45 | 2 |
| Total 'Negative' | 52 | 28 | 19 | 1 |
| **Your living conditions** | | | | |
| Better | 9 | 21 | 69 | 1 |
| Worse | 23 | 31 | 45 | 1 |
| The same | 12 | 22 | 65 | 1 |

## 6. Benefits of membership

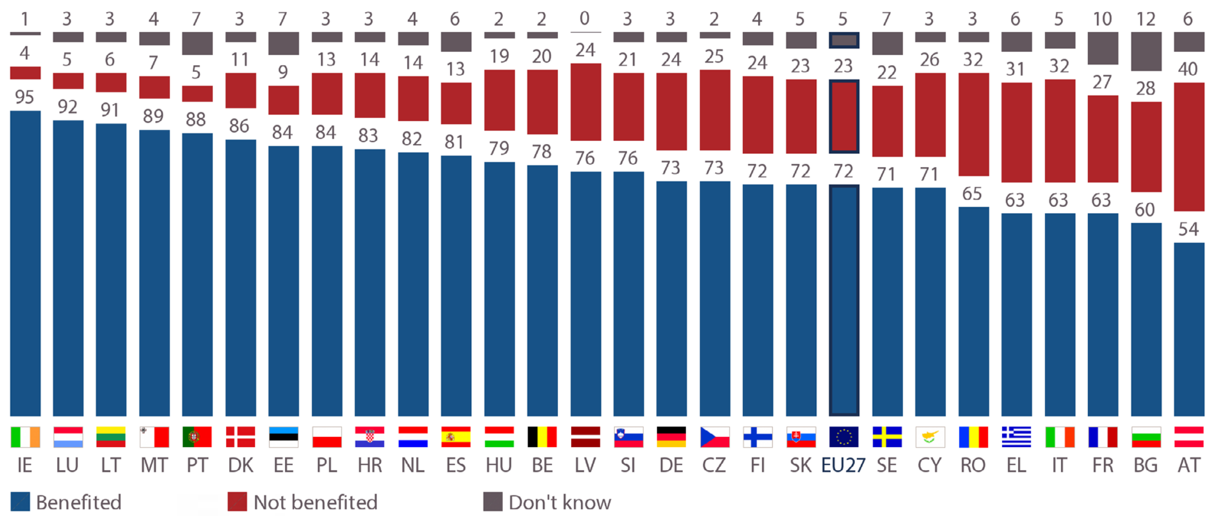
Reflecting their views on membership of the EU being a good thing, **more than seven in ten EU citizens (72%, no change since November-December 2020) think that, on balance, their country has benefited from being part of the EU**. Around one in four (23%, -1 pp) say their country has not benefited from its membership.

**QA8 Taking everything into account, would you say that (OUR COUNTRY) has on balance benefited or not from being a member of the EU?** (% - EU27)




**In every EU Member State, more than half of respondents say that their country has benefited from being a member of the EU**, and this applies to more than nine in ten respondents in Ireland (95%), Luxembourg (92%) and Lithuania (91%). This proportion is lowest, although still significant, in Austria (54%), followed by Bulgaria (60%), Greece, Italy, France (all 63%) and Romania (65%). Austria has the highest proportion of those who think their country has not benefited from EU membership (40%).

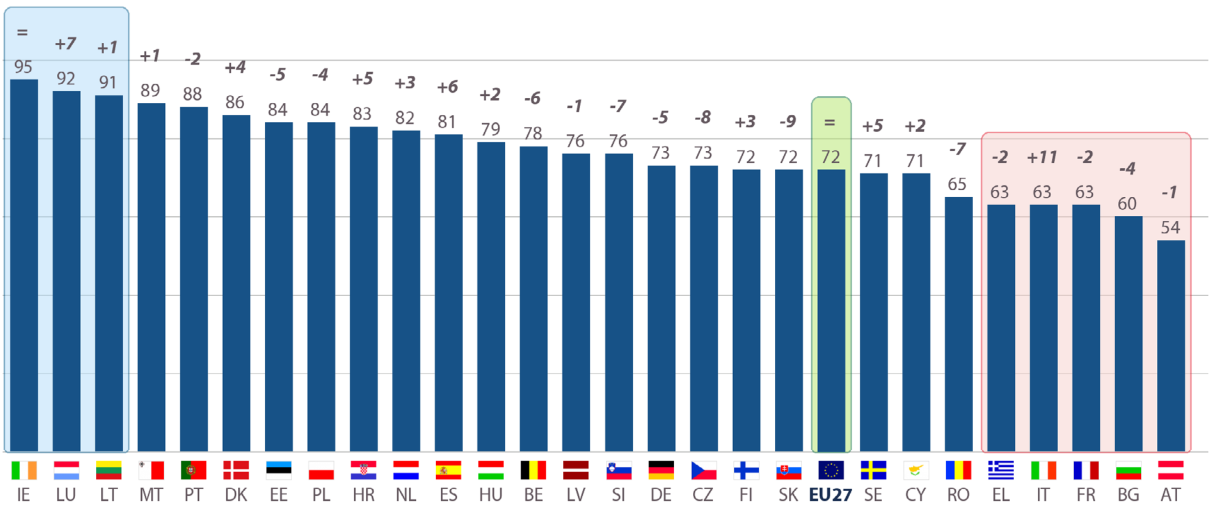
**QA8 Taking everything into account, would you say that (OUR COUNTRY) has on balance benefited or not from being a member of the EU?** (%)



In eight Member States, there has been a clear increase since November-December 2020 (of at least three percentage points) in the proportion who say their country has benefited from EU membership. The largest increases can be seen in Italy (63%, +11 pp), Luxembourg (92%, +7 pp), and Spain (81%, +6 pp). Nine Member States register a decrease of at least three percentage points, led by Slovakia (72%, -9 pp), Czechia (73%, -8 pp), Slovenia (76%, -7 pp) and Romania (65%, -7 pp).

*NB: It should be noted that there was a change in the data collection mode in some countries from 2020 to 2021, and this may have a bearing on some of the shifts in percentages between the two years. For example, in Czechia and Slovenia there has been a change from the usage of a full online interview modality to a predominantly face-to-face mode. However, some of the largest shifts on this question occurred in countries where there has been no change in data collection mode (such as Italy, Spain and Romania). The shifts in these countries are therefore likely to reflect changes in attitudes and/or the social or political context at the time of the survey waves.*

**QA8 Taking everything into account, would you say that (OUR COUNTRY) has on balance benefited or not from being a member of the EU?** (% - Benefited)




EB96.2 (Nov. - Dec. 2021) - EB94.2 (Nov. - Dec. 2020)

**Socio-demographic** differences closely mirror those already seen in relation to whether EU membership is seen as a good thing. The view that their country has benefited from EU membership is strongest among more highly educated people (80% of those who finished education at the age of 20 or above), managers and students (both 83%) and those who rarely or never have difficulties with bills (77%), as well as those who expect their living conditions to get better in the next 12 months (81%). The familiar age difference applies, with younger people more likely to see the benefits of EU membership than older people (81% of 15-24 year olds compared with 69% of those aged 55 or over).

**QA8 Taking everything into account, would you say that (OUR COUNTRY) has on balance benefited or not from being a member of the EU?** (% - EU)

| | Benefited | Not benefited | Don't know |
|---|---|---|---|
| EU27 | 72 | 23 | 5 |
| **Age** | | | |
| 15-24 | 81 | 13 | 6 |
| 25-39 | 74 | 21 | 5 |
| 40-54 | 73 | 24 | 3 |
| 55 + | 69 | 25 | 6 |
| **Education (End of)** | | | |
| 15- | 63 | 28 | 9 |
| 16-19 | 68 | 27 | 5 |
| 20+ | 80 | 16 | 4 |
| Still studying | 83 | 11 | 6 |
| **Socio-professional category** | | | |
| Self- employed | 75 | 22 | 3 |
| Managers | 83 | 15 | 2 |
| Other white collars | 78 | 19 | 3 |
| Manual workers | 67 | 28 | 5 |
| House persons | 65 | 27 | 8 |
| Unemployed | 62 | 31 | 7 |
| Retired | 68 | 25 | 7 |
| Students | 83 | 11 | 6 |
| **Difficulties paying bills** | | | |
| Most of the time | 57 | 33 | 10 |
| From time to time | 63 | 32 | 5 |
| Almost never/ Never | 77 | 18 | 5 |
| **Your living conditions** | | | |
| Better | 81 | 15 | 4 |
| Worse | 58 | 37 | 5 |
| The same | 76 | 19 | 5 |

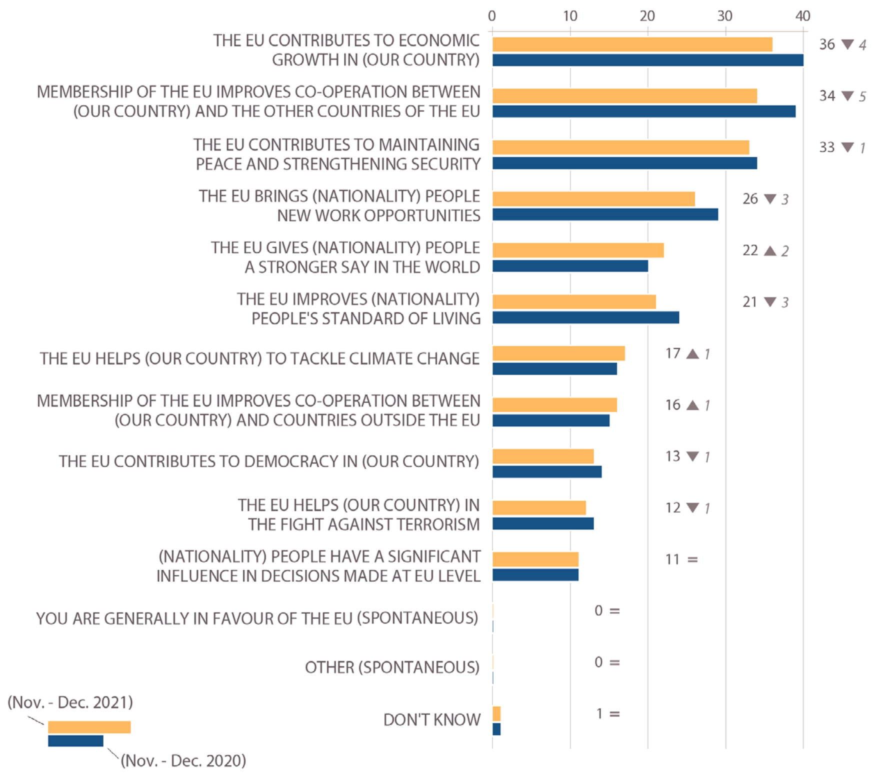
## 7. Main reasons why the country benefited

**There are three main reasons that citizens consider as to why their country has benefited from membership of the EU: the fact that the EU improves cooperation between their country and other countries of the EU (32%), that the EU contributes to their country's economic growth (30%) and that the EU contributes to maintaining peace and strengthening security (30%).** In this survey, all respondents were asked to consider the main benefits of EU membership, regardless of their overall view of whether their country has benefited or not.

The next most important benefits of EU membership are that the EU brings people new work opportunities (24%) and that the EU gives people in their country a stronger say in the world (20%).

The Future of Europe survey looked at this issue slightly differently, by asking citizens what they thought were the main assets of the EU. Its main assets were seen as its respect for democracy, human rights and the rule of law, and its economic, industrial and trading power. These findings confirm the key position of democracy as an important asset and value for the EU, as discussed in a previous section[26].

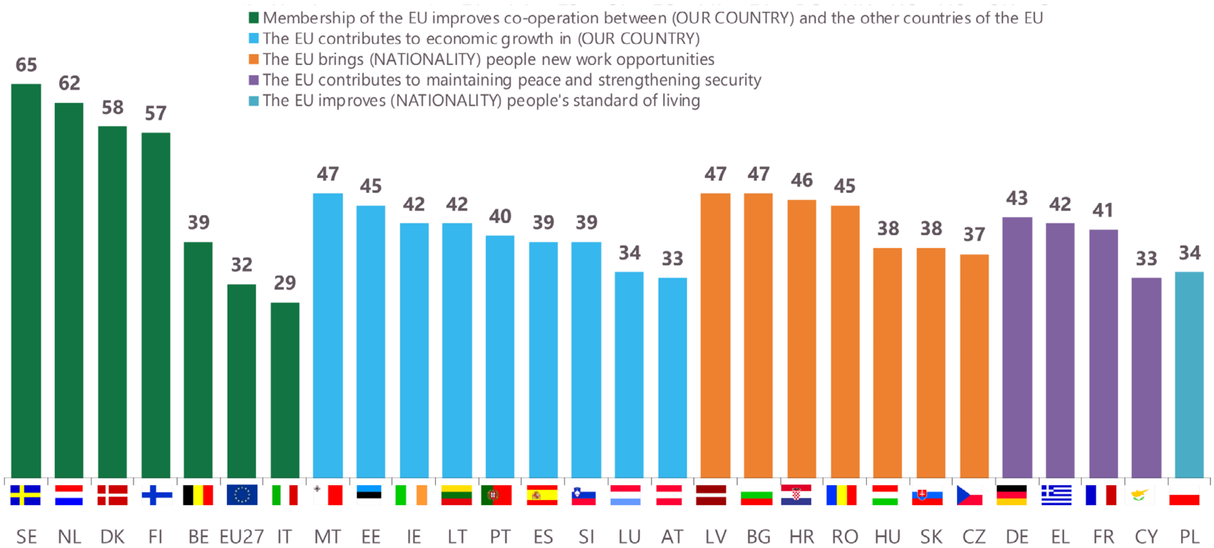
**QA9** **Regardless of whether you think (OUR COUNTRY) has benefited or not from being a member of the EU, which of the following are the main reasons why people think (OUR COUNTRY) has benefited from being a member of the EU? (MAX. 3 ANSWERS)** (% - EU27)




[26] Future of Europe survey, October-November 2021, europa.eu/eurobarometer/surveys/detail/2554

Still considering all respondents' answers, **the EU's contribution to economic growth** is seen as the most important benefit of EU membership in nine Member States, while in seven countries the main benefit is that **it brings people new work opportunities**. In six countries, the main benefit is that **the EU improves cooperation between their country and other Member States**. There are four countries where **the EU's contribution to maintaining peace and strengthening security** is seen as its main benefit, while in Poland the main benefit is the EU's **positive impact on people's standard of living**.

**QA9** **Regardless of whether you think (OUR COUNTRY) has benefited or not from being a member of the EU, which of the following are the main reasons why people think (OUR COUNTRY) has benefited from being a member of the EU? (MAX. 3 ANSWERS)** (% - The most mentioned answer by country)




Before analysing the country results in more detail, it is interesting to see which are the main selected benefits were based on whether respondents think their country has benefited or not by its EU membership.

Three reasons emerge with clear distance to the others among those respondents who think their country has benefited from being a member of the EU: They choose mostly that the EU contributes to economic growth in their country (36%), that membership of the EU improves co-operation between their country and the other countries of the EU (34%) and that the EU contributes to maintaining peace and strengthening security (33%).

Those who had previously said their country has not benefited, share two of the same reasons when asked why people would think that their country had benefitted from membership, namely the improvement of cooperation with other EU countries (25%) and the EU's contribution to peace and security (24%). The contribution to the economic growth is not part of their top answers, instead they selected the new work opportunities for their people (17%).

| | Country has benefited | Country has not benefited |
|---|---|---|
| The EU contributes to democracy in (OUR COUNTRY) | 13% | 8% |
| The EU contributes to maintaining peace and strengthening security | **33%** | **24%** |
| The EU contributes to economic growth in (OUR COUNTRY) | **36%** | 14% |
| Membership of the EU improves co-operation between (OUR COUNTRY) and the other countries of the EU | **34%** | **25%** |
| Membership of the EU improves co-operation between (OUR COUNTRY) and countries outside the EU | 16% | 14% |
| (NATIONALITY) people have a significant influence in decisions made at EU level | 11% | 8% |
| The EU gives (NATIONALITY) people a stronger say in the world | 22% | 16% |
| The EU improves (NATIONALITY) people's standard of living | 21% | 8% |
| The EU helps (OUR COUNTRY) in the fight against terrorism | 12% | 16% |
| The EU helps (OUR COUNTRY) to tackle climate change | 17% | 15% |
| The EU brings (NATIONALITY) people new work opportunities | 26% | **17%** |
| You are generally in favour of the EU | - | 1% |
| Other (SPONTANEOUS) | - | 4% |
| Don't know | 1% | 12% |

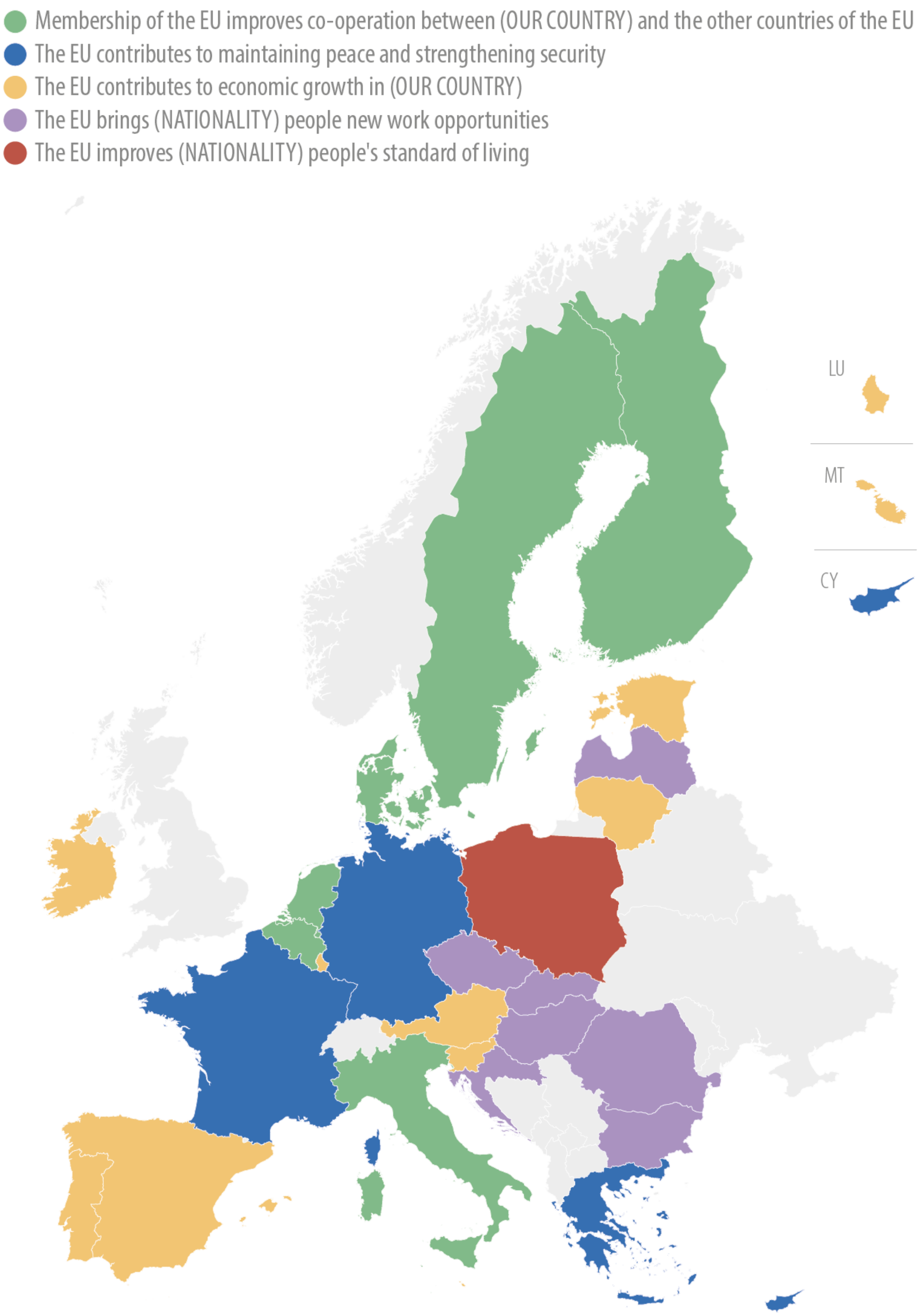
Moving to the detailed country analysis, we find that the EU's contribution to cooperation between Member States is seen as the most important benefit of EU membership overall, and this is highlighted by more than half of respondents in Sweden (65%), the Netherlands (62%), Denmark (58%) and Finland (57%). This is least likely to be seen as a benefit of membership by respondents in Romania (17%), Hungary (18%), Ireland and Poland (both 19%).

Respondents in Greece (43%), Germany (42%) and Cyprus (41%) are most likely to mention the EU's contribution to maintaining peace and strengthening security, while this benefit is least likely to be mentioned in Malta (10%).

The EU's contribution to economic growth is seen as an important benefit of EU membership in the Netherlands (49%), Malta (47%) and Estonia (45%). This is least likely to be seen as a benefit of membership by respondents in Bulgaria (18%) and Greece (20%).

The analysis also shows some large figures for other benefits. The EU's contribution to new work opportunities is mentioned by 47% in both Latvia and Bulgaria, 46% in Croatia and 45% in Romania. A large proportion in Greece (39%) say that the EU gives people in their country a stronger say in the world. In Ireland, 41% say a benefit of EU membership is that it improves people's standard of living.

**QA9** **Regardless of whether you think (OUR COUNTRY) has benefited or not from being a member of the EU, which of the following are the main reasons why people think (OUR COUNTRY) has benefited from being a member of the EU? (MAX. 3 ANSWERS)** (% - The most mentioned answer by country)



At the country level, there have been some large changes since November-December 2020 in the proportions mentioning various benefits of EU membership. This analysis is based only on respondents who said their country has benefitted from EU membership.

The EU's contribution to maintaining peace and strengthening security is more likely to be mentioned now than in November-December 2020 in Greece (48%, +17 pp) and Czechia (32%, +10 pp), while the proportion has fallen in Luxembourg (26%, -12 pp).

The EU's contribution to economic growth is much less likely to be mentioned in Greece (25%, -31 pp), Czechia (35%, -26 pp), Ireland (44%, -23 pp), Lithuania (44%, -18 pp), Luxembourg (34%, -14 pp) and Slovenia (45%, -12 pp)[27].

In most countries, there has been a decrease in the proportion mentioning the EU's contribution to cooperation between Member States. The largest decreases are seen in Ireland (19%, -27 pp), Estonia (25%, -22 pp), Belgium (41%, -19 pp), Luxembourg (32%, -19 pp), Lithuania (23%, -16 pp), Czechia (33%, -14 pp) and Slovenia (40%, -14 pp). There has also been a decrease in Estonia (10%, -10 pp) in the proportion that say EU membership provides co-operation between Member States and other countries.

There has been a large increase in Greece (46%, +30 pp) in the proportion that say the EU gives people in their country a stronger say in the world, and there has also been an increase in Czechia (16%, +10 pp).

The EU's role in improving people's standard of living is mentioned less frequently than in 2020 in Greece (13%, -16 pp), while there has also been a decrease in the proportion that say the EU brings people new work opportunities in Bulgaria (52%, -10 pp) and Estonia (39%, -10 pp). There has been an increase in Portugal (19%, +10 pp) in the proportion mentioning the EU's role in helping countries to tackle climate change.

The **socio-demographic** analysis shows some differences based on education level: more highly educated respondents are more likely to mention most of the benefits, particularly improved co-operation between Member States and the benefits of economic growth. The one exception is the EU's role in the fight against terrorism, which is mentioned more frequently by less educated respondents.

Results are very consistent across age groups. However, those who have a positive image of the European Parliament are more likely to say their country has benefitted from the EU's contribution to economic growth in their country (36%, compared to the EU average of 30%), improving people's standard of living (23%, compared to the EU average of 17%) and its contribution to maintaining peace and strengthening security (35%, compared to the EU average of 30%).

[27] In each of these countries, there was a change in the data collection mode from 2020 to 2021, and this may have a bearing on some of the shifts in percentages between the two years. This issue applies to the analysis for this question generally.

**QA9** **Regardless of whether you think (OUR COUNTRY) has benefited or not from being a member of the EU, which of the following are the main reasons why people think (OUR COUNTRY) has benefited from being a member of the EU? (MAX. 3 ANSWERS)** (% - EU)

| | Membership of the EU improves co-operation between (OUR COUNTRY) and the other countries of the EU | The EU contributes to maintaining peace and strengthening security | The EU contributes to economic growth in (OUR COUNTRY) | The EU brings (NATIONALITY) people new work opportunities | The EU gives (NATIONALITY) people a stronger say in the world | The EU improves (NATIONALITY) people's standard of living | Membership of the EU improves co-operation between (OUR COUNTRY) and countries outside the EU |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| EU27 | 32 | 30 | 30 | 24 | 20 | 17 | 16 |
| **Gender** | | | | | | | |
| Man | 33 | 31 | 33 | 24 | 21 | 18 | 16 |
| Woman | 31 | 30 | 26 | 23 | 20 | 17 | 16 |
| **Age** | | | | | | | |
| 15-24 | 34 | 30 | 32 | 25 | 20 | 20 | 17 |
| 25-39 | 33 | 27 | 33 | 26 | 21 | 17 | 17 |
| 40-54 | 33 | 30 | 31 | 24 | 21 | 17 | 16 |
| 55 + | 29 | 32 | 27 | 22 | 20 | 17 | 15 |
| **Education (End of)** | | | | | | | |
| 15- | 20 | 28 | 23 | 21 | 21 | 16 | 13 |
| 16-19 | 28 | 28 | 27 | 25 | 20 | 18 | 15 |
| 20+ | 40 | 34 | 34 | 23 | 21 | 17 | 17 |
| Still studying | 36 | 31 | 35 | 26 | 21 | 20 | 17 |

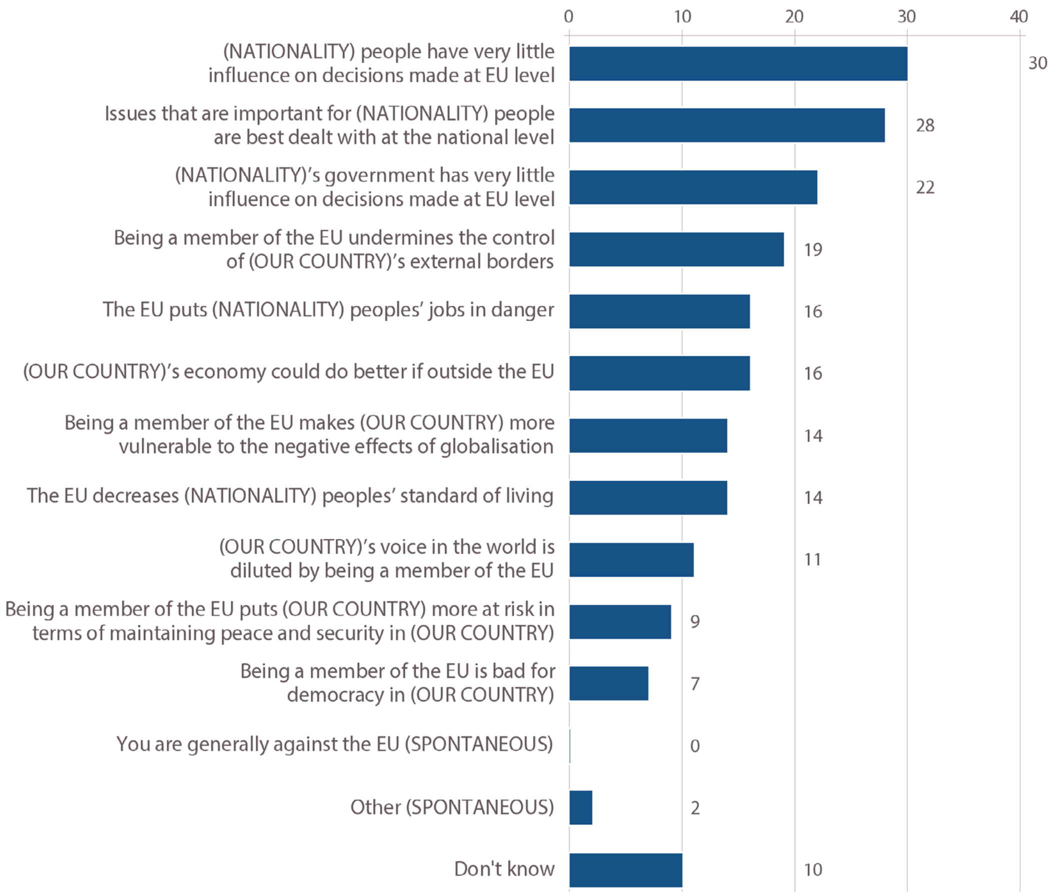
| | The EU helps (OUR COUNTRY) to tackle climate change | The EU contributes to democracy in (OUR COUNTRY) | The EU helps (OUR COUNTRY) in the fight against terrorism | (NATIONALITY) people have a significant influence in decisions made at EU level | You are generally in favour of the EU | Other (SPONTANEOUS) | Don't know |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| EU27 | 16 | 12 | 12 | 10 | 1 | 1 | 5 |
| **Gender** | | | | | | | |
| Man | 15 | 12 | 12 | 10 | 0 | 1 | 4 |
| Woman | 17 | 12 | 13 | 11 | 1 | 1 | 6 |
| **Age** | | | | | | | |
| 15-24 | 18 | 14 | 12 | 11 | 0 | 1 | 4 |
| 25-39 | 16 | 13 | 11 | 11 | 1 | 1 | 4 |
| 40-54 | 15 | 10 | 12 | 10 | 0 | 1 | 4 |
| 55 + | 16 | 11 | 14 | 9 | 1 | 1 | 7 |
| **Education (End of)** | | | | | | | |
| 15- | 16 | 12 | 17 | 8 | 1 | 1 | 10 |
| 16-19 | 16 | 12 | 13 | 10 | 0 | 1 | 5 |
| 20+ | 15 | 11 | 11 | 11 | 1 | 1 | 3 |
| Still studying | 20 | 14 | 10 | 10 | 0 | 0 | 3 |
| **Image of European Parliament** | | | | | | | |
| Positive | 19 | 15 | 11 | 12 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| Neutral | 16 | 11 | 14 | 10 | 0 | 1 | 5 |
| Negative | 12 | 8 | 12 | 7 | 1 | 4 | 12 |

## 8. Main reasons why the country has not benefited

For the first time in this series, respondents were also asked to think of reasons why their country may have not benefited from being a member of the EU, regardless of their own views on the subject. **The main reasons why people think their country has not benefited from EU membership are that national citizens have very little influence on decisions made at EU level (30%), and that issues that are important for their country are best dealt with at the national level (28%)**. Around one in five say that the national government has very little influence on decisions made at EU level (22%) and that being a member of the EU undermines the control of their country's external borders (19%).

These responses reflect a more general debate over whether policy decisions should be made at the EU or national level. In the Future of Europe survey[28], the majority view was that various policy areas should be dealt with equally at the EU level and national level. For many policy areas, respondents were more likely to say the issue should be dealt with at the EU level than the national level; these included fighting terrorism, the environment and climate change, and migration and refugees. The issues that citizens were more likely to be want dealt with at the national level rather than the EU level were taxation, education and training, employment and social protection and health.

**QA10 Still regardless of whether you think (OUR COUNTRY) has benefited or not from being a member of the EU, which of the following are the main reasons why people think (OUR COUNTRY) has not benefited from being a member of the EU? (MAX. 3 ANSWERS)** (% - EU27)

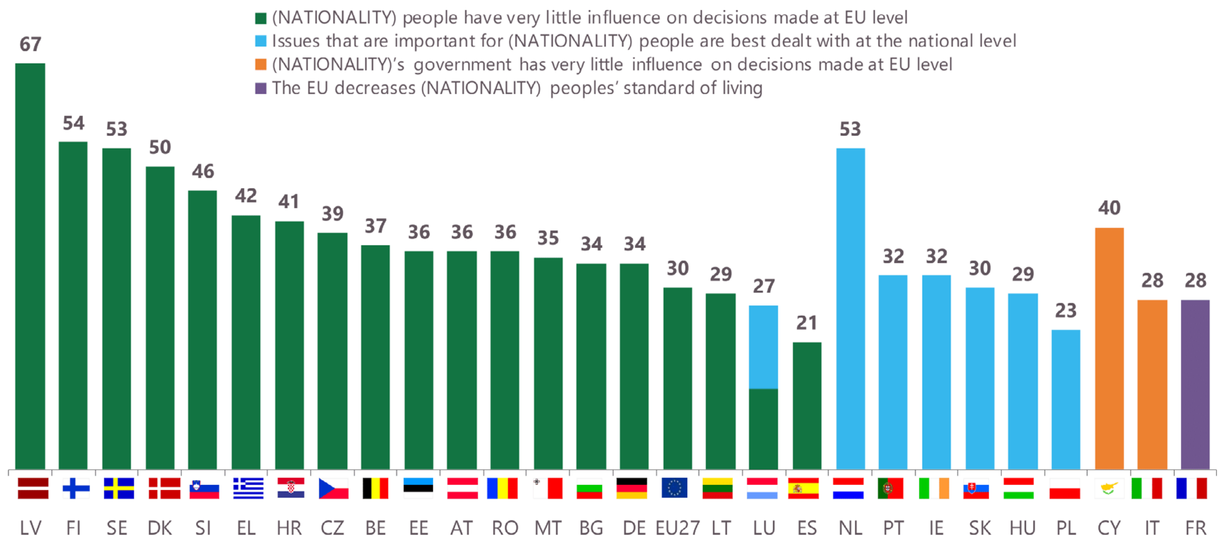



[28] Future of Europe survey, October-November 2021, europa.eu/eurobarometer/surveys/detail/2554

In 17 Member States, the main reason given as to why their country has not benefited from EU membership is that national citizens have very little influence on decisions made at the EU level. In six countries, the most common response is that important issues are best dealt with at the national level. In addition, these two reasons rank joint highest in Luxembourg.

In Cyprus and Italy, the reason given most frequently is that the national government has very little influence on decisions made at EU level, while the main reason in France is that the EU decreases the standard of living of national citizens.

**QA10 Still regardless of whether you think (OUR COUNTRY) has benefited or not from being a member of the EU, which of the following are the main reasons why people think (OUR COUNTRY) has not benefited from being a member of the EU? (MAX. 3 ANSWERS)** (% - The most mentioned answer by country)




A comparison of reasons why one's country might not have benefitted from EU-membership between those who believe that their country has benefitted and those who do not believe so, again yields some interesting results. Those who think their country has benefited, gave as main three reasons in which area their country would not have benefitted: national citizens have very little influence on decisions made at EU level (31%), issues that are important for national citizens are best dealt with at the national level (29%) and the governments of Member States have very little influence on decisions made at EU level (22%).

For those who think their country has not benefited, the main reasons fall into two groups: On the one hand, there are the reasons on the lack of influence for people (31%) and national governments (26%) in EU decisions The second thematic grouping could be circumscribed as 'better off outside': the EU decreases national citizens' standard of living (25%), the national economy could do better if outside the EU (24%), issues important to national citizens are best dealt with at the national level (24%), as well as the EU puts national citizens' jobs in danger (23%).

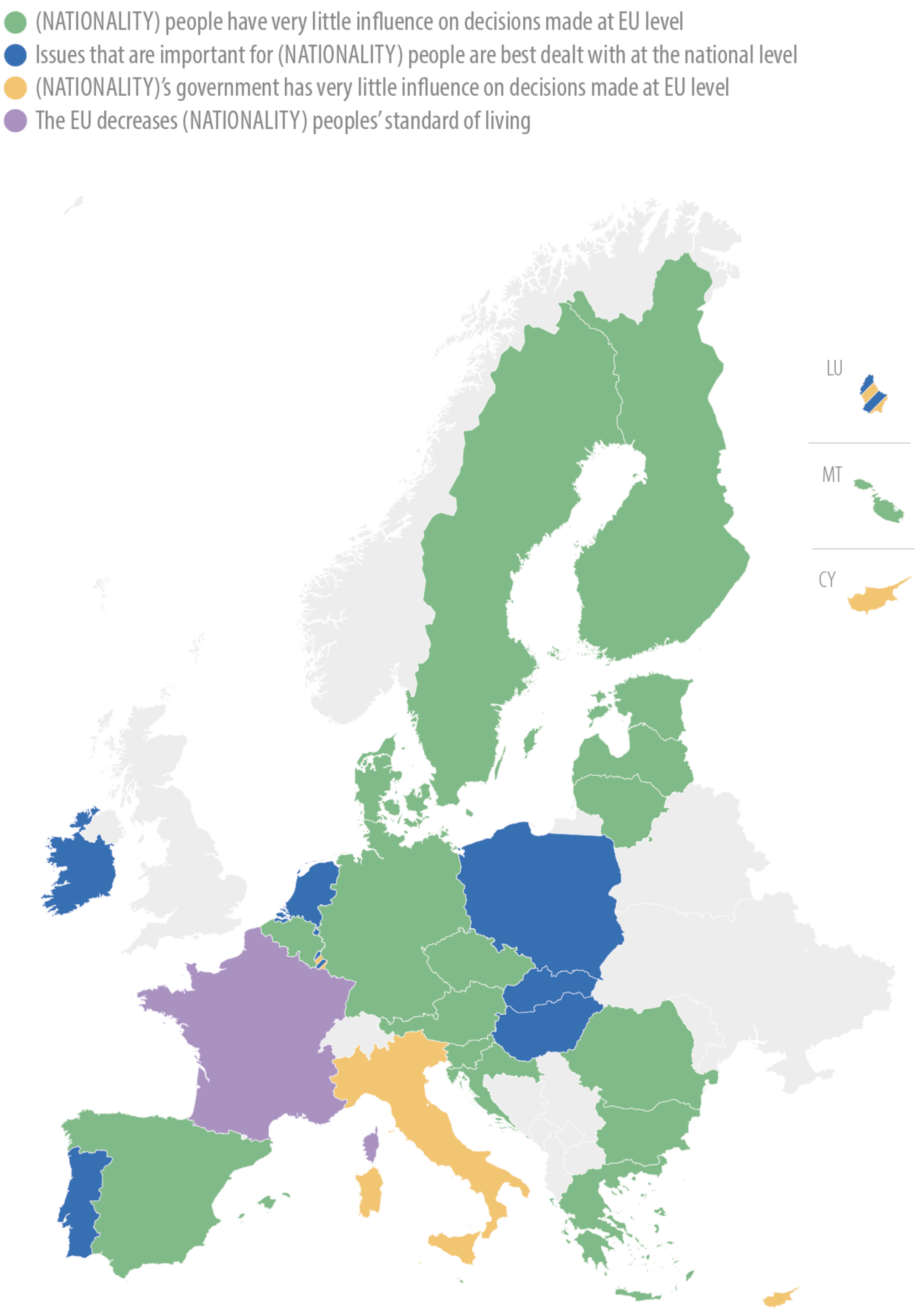
| | Country has benefited | Country has not benefited |
|---|---|---|
| Being a member of the EU is bad for democracy in (OUR COUNTRY) | 6% | 10% |
| Being a member of the EU puts (OUR COUNTRY) more at risk in terms of maintaining peace and security in (OUR COUNTRY) | 8% | 11% |
| (OUR COUNTRY)'s economy could do better if outside the EU | 14% | 24% |
| Issues that are important for (NATIONALITY) people are best dealt with at the national level | 29% | 24% |
| Being a member of the EU undermines the control of (OUR COUNTRY)'s external borders | 18% | 20% |
| (NATIONALITY) people have very little influence on decisions made at EU level | 31% | 31% |
| (NATIONALITY)'s government has very little influence on decisions made at EU level | 22% | 26% |
| (OUR COUNTRY)'s voice in the world is diluted by being a member of the EU | 10% | 13% |
| The EU decreases (NATIONALITY) peoples' standard of living | 11% | 25% |
| Being a member of the EU makes (OUR COUNTRY) more vulnerable to the negative effects of globalisation | 14% | 15% |
| The EU puts (NATIONALITY) peoples' jobs in danger | 14% | 23% |
| You are generally against the EU (SPONTANEOUS) | - | 1% |
| Other (SPONTANEOUS) | 3 | 1% |
| Don't know | 11% | 3% |

Moving to the country analysis, we see that in the EU as a whole, the main reason why people think their country has not benefited from EU membership is that national citizens have very little influence on decisions made at EU level. Respondents in Latvia (67%) are most likely to mention this, followed by those in Finland (54%), Sweden (53%), the Netherlands (51%) and Denmark (50%). Only around one in five give this answer in Spain (21%), France and Poland (both 22%).

More than half of respondents in the Netherlands (53%) say that important issues are best dealt with at the national level, and this is also mentioned by a large proportion in Sweden (49%), Denmark (42%) and Finland (41%). Respondents in Latvia (47%) and Cyprus (40%) are most likely to say that the national government has very little influence on decisions made at EU level.

The view that their country could do better outside of the EU is given by a relatively large proportion in Sweden (32%), while respondents in France are the most likely to say that the EU decreases people's standard of living (28%). The view that the EU puts people's jobs in danger is also mentioned with some frequency in France (25%), second only to Cyprus (27%).

**QA10** **Still regardless of whether you think (OUR COUNTRY) has benefited or not from being a member of the EU, which of the following are the main reasons why people think (OUR COUNTRY) has not benefited from being a member of the EU? (MAX. 3 ANSWERS)** (% - The most mentioned answer by country)



In the **socio-demographic** analysis, findings are broadly consistent by age group, although those aged 15-24 are less likely to say that national citizens have very little influence on decisions made at EU level (25% vs. 31%-32% in older age groups) and that the EU decreases the standard of living of national citizens (10% vs. 14%-16%).

The results are similar in terms of education level, except that more highly educated respondents are more likely to say that national citizens have very little influence on decisions made at EU level, and that issues that are important for their country are best dealt with at the national level.

Most of the reasons are generally given more frequently by respondents who have a negative image of the EU than those who have a positive image. This applies in particular to the view that the country's economy could do better if outside the EU, that the EU decreases people's standard of living and that the EU puts people's jobs in danger.

**QA10** **Still regardless of whether you think (OUR COUNTRY) has benefited or not from being a member of the EU, which of the following are the main reasons why people think (OUR COUNTRY) has not benefited from being a member of the EU? (MAX. 3 ANSWERS)** (% - EU)

| | (NATIONALITY) people have very little influence on decisions made at EU level | Issues that are important for (NATIONALITY) people are best dealt with at the national level | (NATIONALITY)'s government has very little influence on decisions made at EU level | Being a member of the EU undermines the control of (OUR COUNTRY)'s external borders | (OUR COUNTRY)'s economy could do better if outside the EU | The EU puts (NATIONALITY) peoples' jobs in danger | The EU decreases (NATIONALITY) peoples' standard of living |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| EU27 | 30 | 28 | 22 | 19 | 16 | 16 | 14 |
| **Gender** | | | | | | | |
| Man | 32 | 29 | 23 | 20 | 16 | 16 | 14 |
| Woman | 29 | 27 | 22 | 17 | 16 | 16 | 14 |
| **Age** | | | | | | | |
| 15-24 | 25 | 26 | 22 | 17 | 16 | 15 | 10 |
| 25-39 | 32 | 28 | 22 | 20 | 17 | 16 | 14 |
| 40-54 | 31 | 28 | 22 | 19 | 16 | 18 | 16 |
| 55 + | 31 | 27 | 23 | 18 | 15 | 16 | 14 |
| **Education (End of)** | | | | | | | |
| 15- | 25 | 22 | 22 | 18 | 15 | 18 | 14 |
| 16-19 | 29 | 26 | 22 | 19 | 16 | 17 | 16 |
| 20+ | 36 | 32 | 23 | 19 | 16 | 16 | 13 |
| Still studying | 27 | 30 | 22 | 19 | 17 | 15 | 10 |

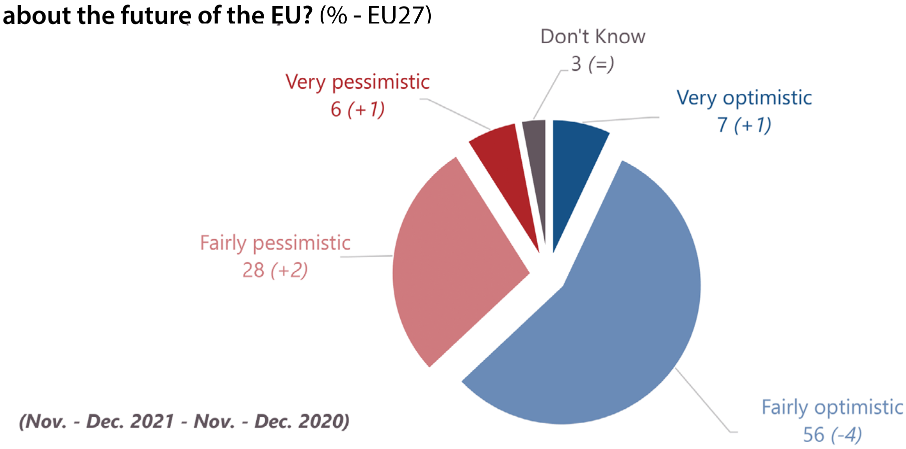
| | Being a member of the EU makes (OUR COUNTRY) more vulnerable to the negative effects of globalisation | (OUR COUNTRY)'s voice in the world is diluted by being a member of the EU | Being a member of the EU puts (OUR COUNTRY) more at risk in terms of maintaining peace and security in (OUR COUNTRY) | Being a member of the EU is bad for democracy in (OUR COUNTRY) | You are generally against the EU (SPONTANEOUS) | Other (SPONTANEOUS) | Don't know |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| EU27 | 14 | 11 | 9 | 7 | 0 | 2 | 10 |
| **Gender** | | | | | | | |
| Man | 14 | 11 | 8 | 7 | 0 | 2 | 9 |
| Woman | 14 | 10 | 9 | 6 | 0 | 2 | 12 |
| **Age** | | | | | | | |
| 15-24 | 16 | 13 | 10 | 7 | 0 | 3 | 13 |
| 25-39 | 16 | 11 | 9 | 7 | 0 | 2 | 8 |
| 40-54 | 14 | 10 | 9 | 7 | 0 | 3 | 9 |
| 55 + | 13 | 10 | 8 | 6 | 0 | 2 | 12 |
| **Education (End of)** | | | | | | | |
| 15- | 11 | 9 | 9 | 5 | 0 | 2 | 16 |
| 16-19 | 14 | 11 | 10 | 7 | 0 | 2 | 9 |
| 20+ | 15 | 10 | 7 | 6 | 0 | 3 | 8 |
| Still studying | 15 | 11 | 8 | 7 | 0 | 3 | 12 |

# 9. Optimism for the future of the EU

**More than six in ten Europeans (63%, -3 pp since November-December 2020) say they are optimistic about the future of the EU**, while one in three (34%, +3 pp) are pessimistic.

The Future of Europe survey provides some detail as to why some citizens feel pessimistic, by highlighting the main challenges facing the EU: social inequalities, unemployment and migration issues[29].

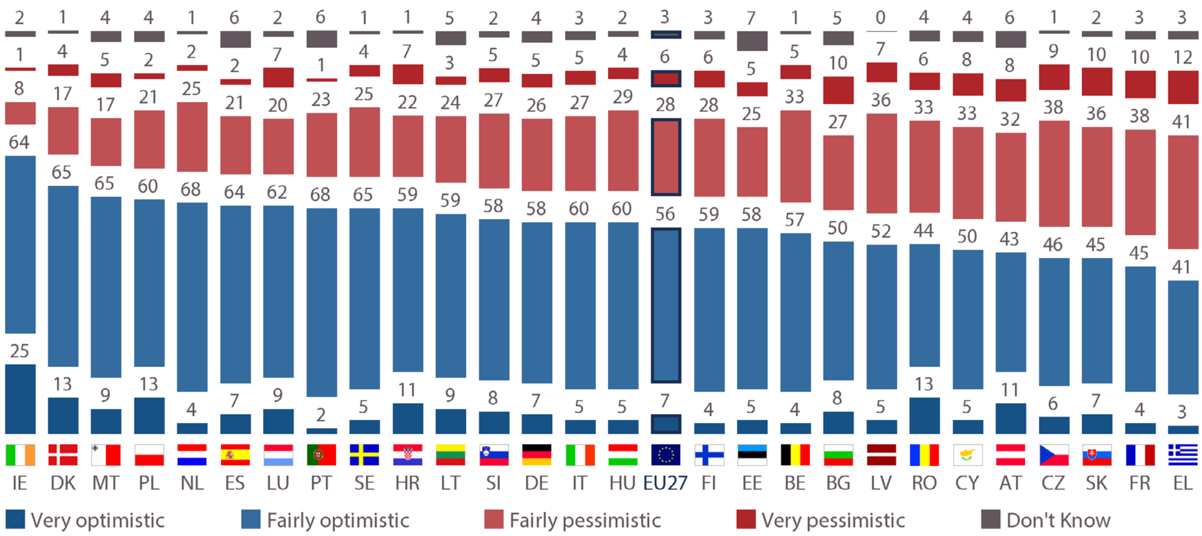
**SD17** **Would you say that you are very optimistic, fairly optimistic, fairly pessimistic or very pessimistic about the future of the EU?** (% - EU27)




In all Member States except Greece, the majority of respondents say they are optimistic about the future of the EU. The proportion is highest in Ireland (89%), Denmark (78%), Malta (74%), Poland (73%), the Netherlands (72%), Spain and Luxembourg (both 71%).

In Greece, 44% are optimistic and 53% are pessimistic. Levels of pessimism are also high in France (48%), Czechia (47%) and Slovakia (46%).

**SD17** **Would you say that you are very optimistic, fairly optimistic, fairly pessimistic or very pessimistic about the future of the EU?** (%)




[29] Future of Europe survey, October-November 2021, europa.eu/eurobarometer/surveys/detail/2554

In three Member States, optimism for the future of the EU has increased by at least three percentage points since November-December 2020: Spain (71%, +6 pp), Sweden (70%, +4 pp) and Luxembourg (71%, +3 pp). Optimism has decreased by at least three points in 18 countries. Two-digit declines can be seen in Greece (44%, -17 pp), Czechia (52%, -15 pp, Slovenia (66%, -13 pp), Romania (57%, -13 pp) and Slovakia (52%, -12 pp).

*As with other questions, note that there was a change in the data collection mode in some countries from 2020 to 2021, and this may have a bearing on some of the shifts in percentages between the two years. This applies in particular to countries such as Greece which saw a change from online to face-to-face data collection. However, in other countries (such as Romania), large changes have been seen despite a consistent data collection mode being used.*

**SD17** **Would you say that you are very optimistic, fairly optimistic, fairly pessimistic or very pessimistic about the future of the EU?** (%)

| | Total 'Optimistic' (1-2) | Diff. November/December 2021 - November/December 2020 | Total 'Pessimistic' (3-4) | Diff. November/December 2021 - November/December 2020 | Don't Know |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| EU27 | 63 | ▼ 3 | 34 | ▲ 3 | 3 |
| ES | 71 | ▲ 6 | 23 | ▼ 7 | 6 |
| SE | 70 | ▲ 4 | 29 | ▼ 4 | 1 |
| LU | 71 | ▲ 3 | 27 | ▼ 5 | 2 |
| HU | 65 | ▲ 1 | 33 | ▼ 1 | 2 |
| DK | 78 | = | 21 | = | 1 |
| IE | 89 | = | 9 | ▼ 2 | 2 |
| IT | 65 | = | 32 | = | 3 |
| NL | 72 | = | 27 | ▲ 1 | 1 |
| FI | 63 | = | 34 | ▼ 3 | 3 |
| BG | 58 | ▼ 3 | 37 | ▲ 3 | 5 |
| FR | 49 | ▼ 3 | 48 | ▲ 4 | 3 |
| HR | 70 | ▼ 3 | 29 | ▲ 4 | 1 |
| CY | 55 | ▼ 3 | 41 | ▲ 4 | 4 |
| PT | 70 | ▼ 3 | 24 | ▲ 2 | 6 |
| PL | 73 | ▼ 4 | 23 | ▲ 4 | 4 |
| EE | 63 | ▼ 5 | 30 | ▼ 1 | 7 |
| MT | 74 | ▼ 5 | 22 | ▲ 8 | 4 |
| AT | 54 | ▼ 5 | 40 | ▲ 2 | 6 |
| BE | 61 | ▼ 6 | 38 | ▲ 5 | 1 |
| DE | 65 | ▼ 7 | 31 | ▲ 6 | 4 |
| LV | 57 | ▼ 9 | 43 | ▲ 10 | 0 |
| LT | 68 | ▼ 9 | 27 | ▲ 4 | 5 |
| SK | 52 | ▼ 12 | 46 | ▲ 11 | 2 |
| RO | 57 | ▼ 13 | 39 | ▲ 12 | 4 |
| SI | 66 | ▼ 13 | 32 | ▲ 11 | 2 |
| CZ | 52 | ▼ 15 | 47 | ▲ 15 | 1 |
| EL | 44 | ▼ 17 | 53 | ▲ 14 | 3 |

In the **socio-demographic** analysis, younger people are more likely than older people to say they are optimistic about the future of the EU (74% of 15-24 year olds compared with 59% of those aged 55 or over). An optimistic outlook is also more prevalent among managers (72%), students (75%), people who stayed in education until the age of 20 or over (69%) and respondents who never or almost never have difficulties paying bills (68%).

**SD17 Would you say that you are very optimistic, fairly optimistic, fairly pessimistic or very pessimistic about the future of the EU?** (% - EU)

| | Total 'Optimistic' | Total 'Pessimistic' | Don't Know |
|---|---|---|---|
| EU27 | 63 | 34 | 3 |
| **Age** | | | |
| 15-24 | 74 | 22 | 4 |
| 25-39 | 65 | 32 | 3 |
| 40-54 | 64 | 33 | 3 |
| 55 + | 59 | 37 | 4 |
| **Education (End of)** | | | |
| 15- | 54 | 40 | 6 |
| 16-19 | 59 | 37 | 4 |
| 20+ | 69 | 30 | 1 |
| Still studying | 75 | 20 | 5 |
| **Socio-professional category** | | | |
| Self- employed | 65 | 33 | 2 |
| Managers | 72 | 26 | 2 |
| Other white collars | 69 | 29 | 2 |
| Manual workers | 57 | 39 | 4 |
| House persons | 61 | 33 | 6 |
| Unemployed | 54 | 43 | 3 |
| Retired | 57 | 38 | 5 |
| Students | 75 | 20 | 5 |
| **Difficulties paying bills** | | | |
| Most of the time | 43 | 51 | 6 |
| From time to time | 56 | 41 | 3 |
| Almost never/ Never | 68 | 29 | 3 |

# IV. EUROPEANS AND THEIR DEMOCRATIC ENGAGEMENT: Concrete information and a real option to engage might further increase voting likelihood

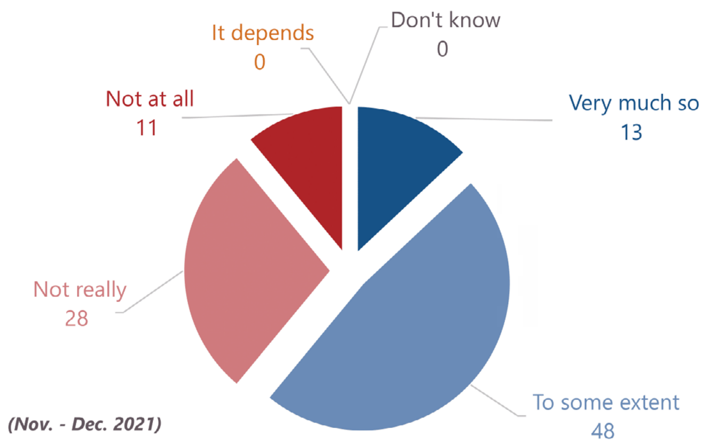
**This section of the report focuses on citizen engagement in general, but also with the European Parliament and EU politics. It explores which issues EU citizens would like to know more about and ways to get them more engaged with the activities of their MEPs. The last part of the report also gives a current snapshot of respondents' voting attitudes in the different Member States.**

## 1. Involvement in societal affairs

The first section of the report examined the extent to which citizens feel that their voice counts in the EU, in the context of democratic participation. This section picks up this theme more broadly by asking citizens whether they feel personally involved in what's happening in society.

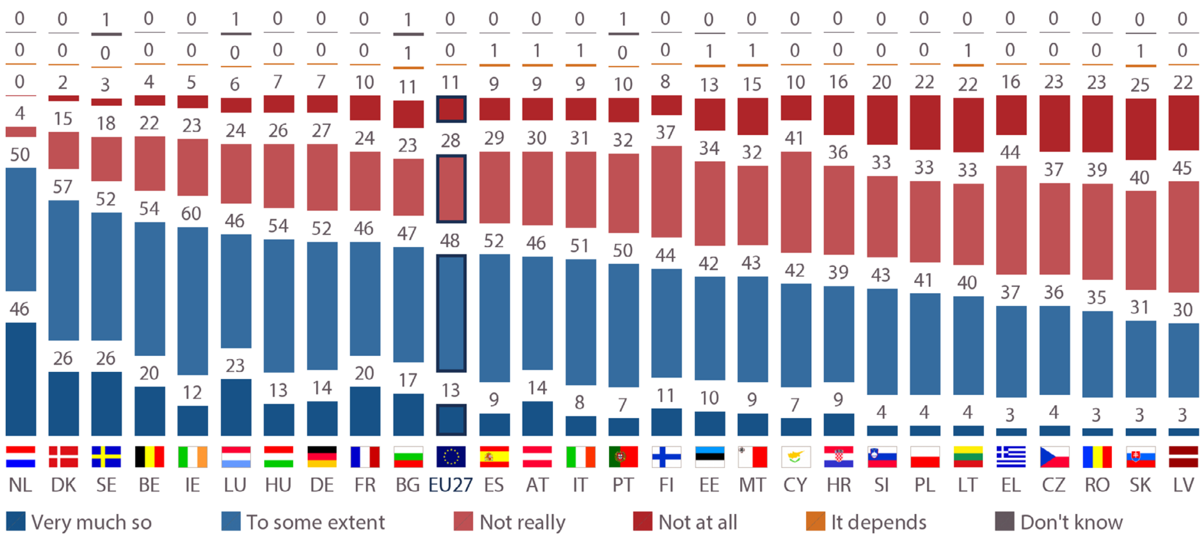
**Six in ten respondents (61%) say they feel personally involved in what's going on in society**, including 13% who feel 'very much' involved. Around four in ten (39%) do not feel personally involved, including 11% who do not feel involved at all.

**QA16 To what extent do you feel personally involved in what's going on in society?** (% - EU27)




More than seven in ten respondents feel personally involved with societal affairs in the Netherlands (96%), Denmark (83%), Sweden (78%), Belgium (74%), and Ireland (72%). In the Netherlands, almost half (46%) feel 'very much' involved. Respondents are least likely to feel involved in what is happening in society in Latvia (33%), Slovakia (34%), Romania (38%), Czechia and Greece (both 40%).

**QA16 To what extent do you feel personally involved in what's going on in society?** (%)




In the **socio-demographic** analysis, men are more likely than women to feel personally involved in what's going on in society (64% vs. 59%), while those aged 40-54 are more likely to feel involved than those in other age groups (66% vs. 58%-61%).

There is a clear difference by level of education. Those who left education at the age of 20 or above are more likely to feel involved with societal affairs (73% vs. 46% of those who left education by the age of 15). Respondents who follow European politics (78%) and those with a strong political interest (79%) are also more likely to feel personally involved in what's going on in society.

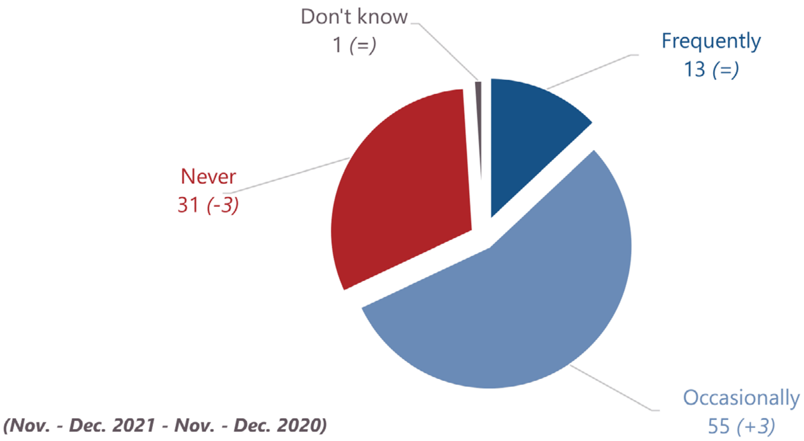
**QA16 To what extent do you feel personally involved in what's going on in society?** (% - EU)

| | Total 'Involved' | Total 'Not involved' | Don't know |
|---|---|---|---|
| EU27 | 61 | 39 | 0 |
| **Gender** | | | |
| Man | 64 | 36 | 0 |
| Woman | 59 | 41 | 0 |
| **Age** | | | |
| 15-24 | 58 | 42 | 0 |
| 25-39 | 61 | 39 | 0 |
| 40-54 | 66 | 34 | 0 |
| 55 + | 59 | 41 | 0 |
| **Education (End of)** | | | |
| 15- | 46 | 53 | 0 |
| 16-19 | 57 | 43 | 0 |
| 20+ | 73 | 27 | 0 |
| Still studying | 61 | 39 | 0 |
| **Political interest index** | | | |
| Strong | 79 | 21 | 0 |
| Medium | 64 | 36 | 0 |
| Low | 53 | 47 | 0 |
| Not at all | 39 | 61 | 0 |
| **Follow European politics** | | | |
| Follow | 78 | 22 | 0 |
| Not follow | 36 | 64 | 0 |

## 2. Interest in European politics

**Most respondents say they discuss occasionally European political matters with friends and relatives (55%, +3 pp). Just over one in ten citizens (13%, no change since November-December 2020) say that they frequently discuss European political matters** and around a third (31%, -3 pp) never discuss such matters.

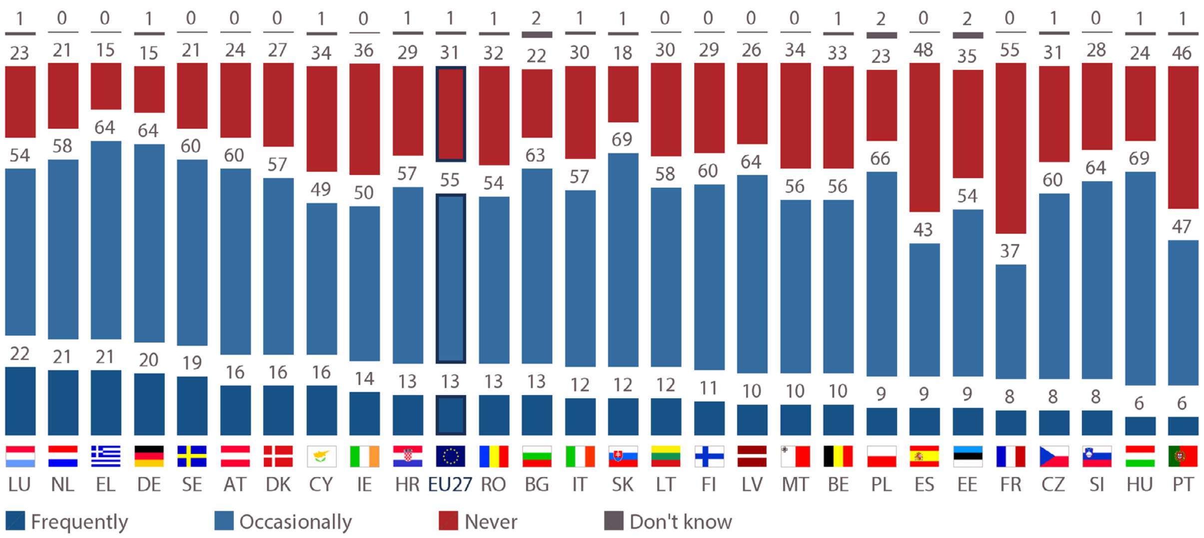
**D71.2 When you get together with friends or relatives, would you say you discuss frequently, occasionally or never about...?** European political matters (% - EU27)




In four countries, at least one in five respondents say that they frequently discuss European political matters when they get together with friends or relatives: Luxembourg (22%), the Netherlands, Greece (both 21%) and Germany (20%). Respondents are least likely to discuss European political matters frequently in Portugal, Hungary (both 6%), France, Czechia and Slovenia (all 8%).

The proportion who say they never discuss European political matters is highest in France (55%), followed by Spain (48%) and Portugal (46%).

**D71.2 When you get together with friends or relatives, would you say you discuss frequently, occasionally or never about...?** European political matters (%)



In four Member States, there has been an increase since November-December 2020 (of at least three percentage points) in the proportion who say they frequently discuss European political matters: Sweden (19%, +7 pp), Lithuania (12%, +4 pp), Latvia (10%, +3 pp) and Slovenia (8%, +3 pp). The only substantial decrease has been in Poland (9%, -7 pp).

The proportion of respondents who never discuss European political matters has increased substantially in Ireland (36%, +9 pp), while large decreases are seen in Slovenia (28%, -11 pp) and the Netherlands (21%, -8 pp).

As with other questions, it should be noted that there was a change in the data collection mode in some countries from 2020 to 2021, and this may have a bearing on some of the shifts in percentages between the two years.

**D71.2** **When you get together with friends or relatives, would you say you discuss frequently, occasionally or never about...?** European political matters (%)

| | Frequently | Diff. November/December 2021 - November/December 2020 | Occasionally | Diff. November/December 2021 - November/December 2020 | Never | Diff. November/December 2021 - November/December 2020 | Don't know |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| EU27 | 13 | = | 55 | ▲ 3 | 31 | ▼ 3 | 1 |
| SE | 19 | ▲ 7 | 60 | ▼ 2 | 21 | ▼ 5 | 0 |
| LT | 12 | ▲ 4 | 58 | ▼ 1 | 30 | ▼ 3 | 0 |
| LV | 10 | ▲ 3 | 64 | ▼ 2 | 26 | ▼ 1 | 0 |
| SI | 8 | ▲ 3 | 64 | ▲ 8 | 28 | ▼ 11 | 0 |
| EL | 21 | ▲ 2 | 64 | ▲ 2 | 15 | ▼ 4 | 0 |
| IT | 12 | ▲ 2 | 57 | ▲ 2 | 30 | ▼ 4 | 1 |
| MT | 10 | ▲ 2 | 56 | ▲ 2 | 34 | = | 0 |
| RO | 13 | ▲ 2 | 54 | ▲ 2 | 32 | ▼ 4 | 1 |
| SK | 12 | ▲ 2 | 69 | = | 18 | ▼ 2 | 1 |
| FI | 11 | ▲ 2 | 60 | ▲ 2 | 29 | ▼ 4 | 0 |
| BE | 10 | ▲ 1 | 56 | = | 33 | ▼ 2 | 1 |
| DK | 16 | ▲ 1 | 57 | ▼ 1 | 27 | = | 0 |
| HR | 13 | ▲ 1 | 57 | ▲ 3 | 29 | ▼ 5 | 1 |
| CY | 16 | ▲ 1 | 49 | ▲ 1 | 34 | ▼ 2 | 1 |
| LU | 22 | ▲ 1 | 54 | ▲ 1 | 23 | ▼ 3 | 1 |
| BG | 13 | = | 63 | ▲ 1 | 22 | = | 2 |
| FR | 8 | = | 37 | ▲ 2 | 55 | ▼ 2 | 0 |
| PT | 6 | = | 47 | ▼ 5 | 46 | ▲ 4 | 1 |
| DE | 20 | ▼ 1 | 64 | ▲ 3 | 15 | ▼ 2 | 1 |
| IE | 14 | ▼ 1 | 50 | ▼ 8 | 36 | ▲ 9 | 0 |
| ES | 9 | ▼ 1 | 43 | ▲ 6 | 48 | ▼ 5 | 0 |
| HU | 6 | ▼ 1 | 69 | ▲ 6 | 24 | ▼ 5 | 1 |
| AT | 16 | ▼ 1 | 60 | ▼ 3 | 24 | ▲ 4 | 0 |
| CZ | 8 | ▼ 2 | 60 | ▼ 1 | 31 | ▲ 2 | 1 |
| EE | 9 | ▼ 2 | 54 | ▼ 6 | 35 | ▲ 6 | 2 |
| NL | 21 | ▼ 2 | 58 | ▲ 10 | 21 | ▼ 8 | 0 |
| PL | 9 | ▼ 7 | 66 | ▲ 11 | 23 | ▼ 4 | 2 |

In the **socio-demographic** analysis, the main difference is by level of education. Respondents who stayed in education until the age of 20 or above are more likely to say they frequently discuss European political matters (19% compared with 6% of those who left education by the age of 15) and are less likely to say that they never do so (21% vs. 50%). Managers (22%) and self-employed respondents (23%) are also more likely to discuss European politics frequently.

Men are more likely than women to say that they frequently discuss European political matters (15% vs. 11%) and are less likely to say that they never do so (27% vs. 36%). Respondents aged 15-24 are the most likely of the age groups to say they never discuss European political matters (41% vs. 26%-33%).

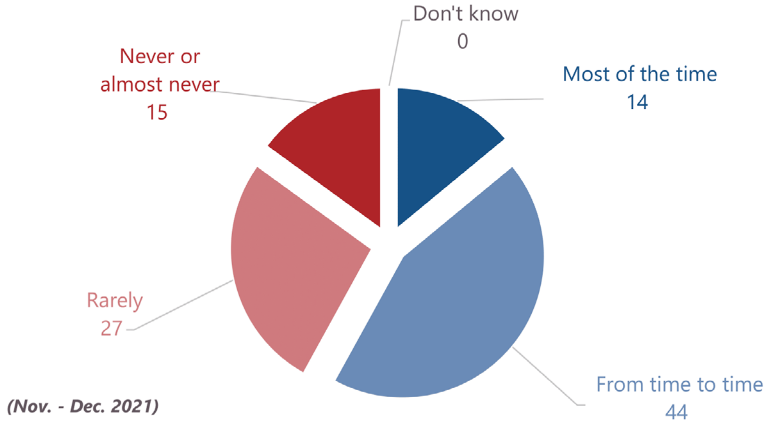
**D71.2 When you get together with friends or relatives, would you say you discuss frequently, occasionally or never about...?** European political matters (%)

| | Frequently | Occasionally | Never | Don't know |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| EU27 | 13 | 55 | 31 | 1 |
| **Gender** | | | | |
| Man | 15 | 57 | 27 | 1 |
| Woman | 11 | 53 | 36 | 0 |
| **Age** | | | | |
| 15-24 | 10 | 48 | 41 | 1 |
| 25-39 | 12 | 58 | 30 | 0 |
| 40-54 | 15 | 59 | 26 | 0 |
| 55 + | 13 | 53 | 33 | 1 |
| **Education (End of)** | | | | |
| 15- | 6 | 43 | 50 | 1 |
| 16-19 | 10 | 57 | 32 | 1 |
| 20+ | 19 | 60 | 21 | 0 |
| Still studying | 12 | 50 | 37 | 1 |
| **Socio-professional category** | | | | |
| Self- employed | 23 | 58 | 18 | 1 |
| Managers | 22 | 60 | 17 | 1 |
| Other white collars | 12 | 63 | 24 | 1 |
| Manual workers | 9 | 57 | 34 | 0 |
| House persons | 7 | 45 | 47 | 1 |
| Unemployed | 8 | 45 | 47 | 0 |
| Retired | 12 | 52 | 35 | 1 |
| Students | 12 | 50 | 37 | 1 |
| **Involved in society** | | | | |
| Involved | 17 | 59 | 24 | 0 |
| Not involved | 7 | 49 | 43 | 1 |
| **Follow European politics** | | | | |
| Follow | 19 | 64 | 17 | 0 |
| Not follow | 5 | 43 | 51 | 1 |

## 3. Engagement with EU politics

A majority of EU citizens say that they follow what is going on in EU politics (58%), with 14% saying that they do so most of the time, and 44% from time to time. Around a quarter (27%) say they rarely follow what is going on in EU politics, and 15% never or almost never do so.

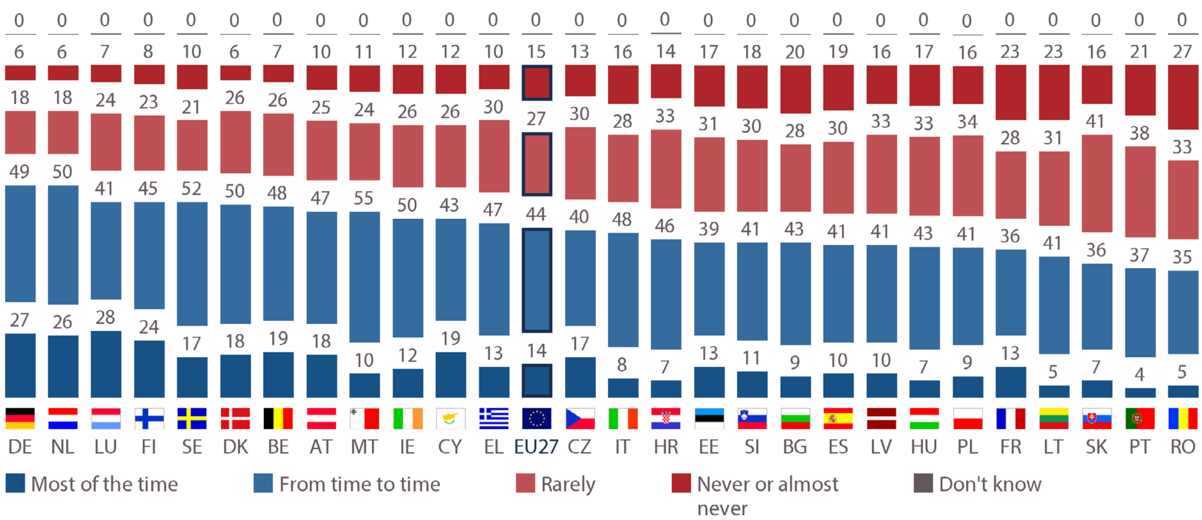
**QA17 Some people follow what's going on in EU politics, whether there's an election going on or not. Others aren't that interested. Would you say you follow what's going on in EU politic:** (% - EU27)




There are large variations in the proportions of respondents who follow EU politics between Member States. In seven countries, at least two-thirds of respondents say they follow EU politics. The highest proportions are seen in Germany and the Netherlands (both 76%), Luxembourg, Finland and Sweden (all 69%). By contrast, less than half follow EU politics in Romania (40%), Portugal (41%), Slovakia (43%), Lithuania (46%) and France (49%).

More than a quarter of respondents follow EU politics 'most of the time' in Luxembourg (28%), Germany (27%), and the Netherlands (26%), but this applies to just 4% in Portugal and 5% in both Lithuania and Romania.

**QA17 Some people follow what's going on in EU politics, whether there's an election going on or not. Others aren't that interested. Would you say you follow what's going on in EU politic:** (%)




| | DE | NL | LU | FI | SE | DK | BE | AT | MT | IE | CY | EL | EU27 | CZ | IT | HR | EE | SI | BG | ES | LV | HU | PL | FR | LT | SK | PT | RO |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Don't know | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Never or almost never | 6 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 10 | 6 | 7 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 12 | 10 | 15 | 13 | 16 | 14 | 17 | 18 | 20 | 19 | 16 | 17 | 16 | 23 | 23 | 16 | 21 | 27 |
| Rarely | 18 | 18 | 24 | 23 | 21 | 26 | 26 | 25 | 24 | 26 | 26 | 30 | 27 | 30 | 28 | 33 | 31 | 30 | 28 | 30 | 33 | 33 | 34 | 28 | 31 | 41 | 38 | 33 |
| From time to time | 49 | 50 | 41 | 45 | 52 | 50 | 48 | 47 | 55 | 50 | 43 | 47 | 44 | 40 | 48 | 46 | 39 | 41 | 43 | 41 | 41 | 43 | 41 | 36 | 41 | 36 | 37 | 35 |
| Most of the time | 27 | 26 | 28 | 24 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 18 | 10 | 12 | 19 | 13 | 14 | 17 | 8 | 7 | 13 | 11 | 9 | 10 | 10 | 7 | 9 | 13 | 5 | 7 | 4 | 5 |

The **socio-demographic** analysis shows men are more likely than women to say they follow EU politics, either most of the time or from time to time (63% vs. 54%). Older respondents are more likely than younger respondents to follow EU politics (63% of 40-54 year olds and 60% of those aged 55 or over, vs. 49% of 15-24 year olds).

Respondents who stayed in education until the age of 20 or above are also more likely to say they follow EU politics (71% vs. 45% of those who left education by the age of 15). Of the occupational groups, this is highest among managers (75%) and lowest among house persons (42%).

There is a close link between following EU politics and talking about it with friends or family. Among those who discuss European politics frequently, 85% say they follow EU politics, compared with 32% of those who never talk about European politics.

**QA17 Some people follow what's going on in EU politics, whether there's an election going on or not. Others aren't that interested. Would you say you follow what's going on in EU politic:** (% - EU)

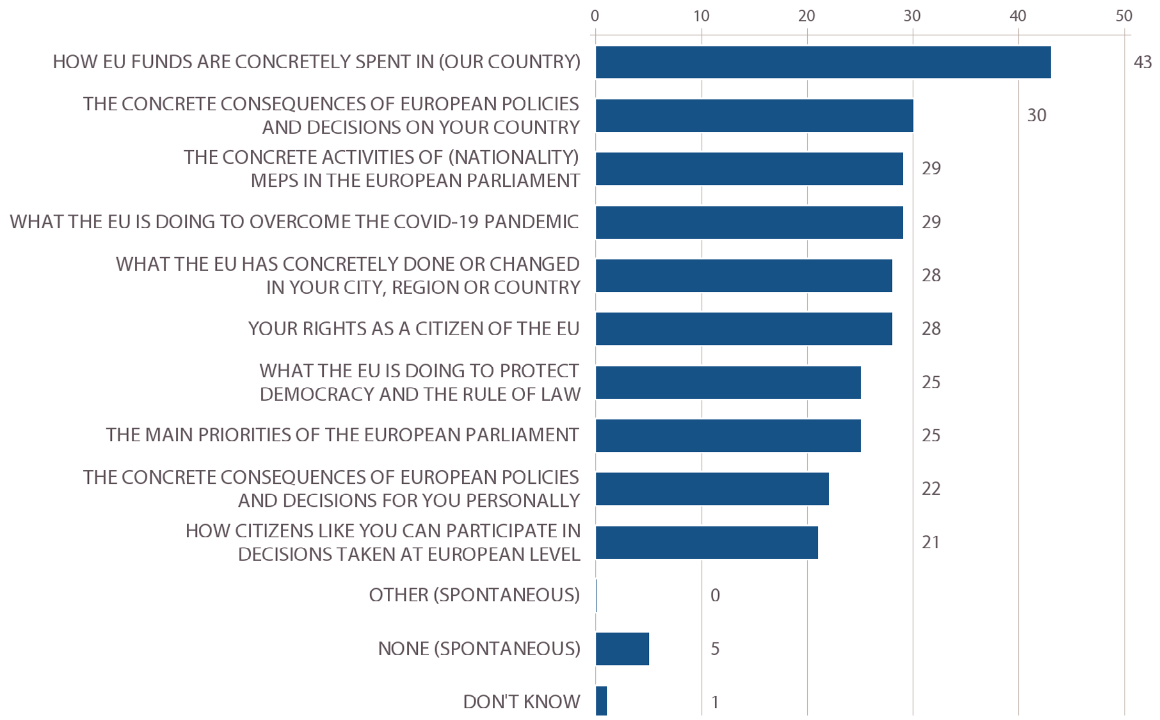
| | Total 'Follow' | Total 'Not follow' | Don't know |
|---|---|---|---|
| EU27 | 58 | 42 | 0 |
| **Gender** | | | |
| Man | 63 | 37 | 0 |
| Woman | 54 | 46 | 0 |
| **Age** | | | |
| 15-24 | 49 | 51 | 0 |
| 25-39 | 54 | 46 | 0 |
| 40-54 | 63 | 37 | 0 |
| 55 + | 60 | 40 | 0 |
| **Education (End of)** | | | |
| 15- | 45 | 55 | 0 |
| 16-19 | 54 | 46 | 0 |
| 20+ | 71 | 29 | 0 |
| Still studying | 54 | 46 | 0 |
| **Socio-professional category** | | | |
| Self- employed | 67 | 33 | 0 |
| Managers | 75 | 25 | 0 |
| Other white collars | 62 | 38 | 0 |
| Manual workers | 51 | 49 | 0 |
| House persons | 42 | 57 | 1 |
| Unemployed | 49 | 51 | 0 |
| Retired | 59 | 41 | 0 |
| Students | 54 | 46 | 0 |
| **Talk about European political matters** | | | |
| Frequently | 85 | 15 | 0 |
| Occasionally | 67 | 33 | 0 |
| Never | 32 | 68 | 0 |

## 4. Desire for information on EU topics

In this survey we also asked Europeans which EU-related topics they would like to get more information on. **The most mentioned topic is the way EU funds are concretely spent in their country (43%)**. Each of the other topics is mentioned by between 21% and 30% of respondents, with 30% wanting more information on the concrete consequences of European policies and decisions on their country, 29% on the concrete activities of MEPs in the European Parliament and 29% on what the EU is doing to overcome the COVID-19 pandemic.

Similar proportions say they want more information on what the EU has concretely done or changed in their city, region or country (28%), or on their rights as an EU citizen (28%). One in four would like more information on what the EU is doing to protect democracy and the rule of law (25%) or on the main priorities of the European Parliament (25%). Over one in five said they wanted information on the concrete consequences of European policies and decisions for them personally (22%) or information on how citizens can participate in decisions taken at European level (21%).

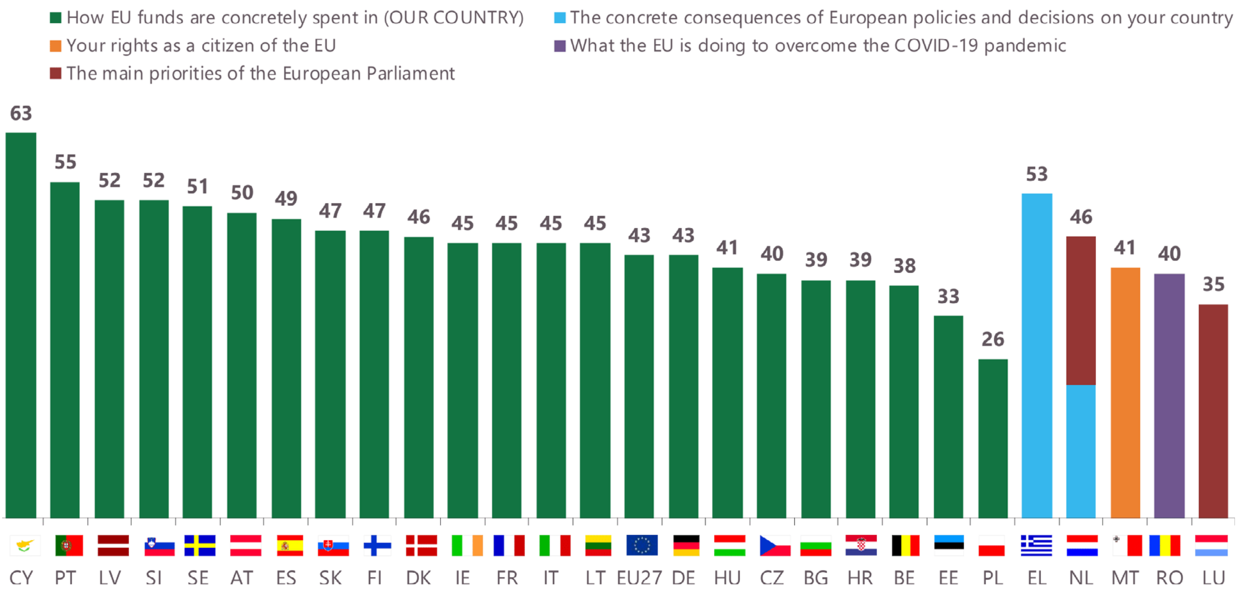
**QA12 Thinking about the EU, on which topics would you like more information about? (MULTIPLE ANSWERS POSSIBLE)** (% - EU27)




**In all but five countries, respondents are most likely to want more information on how EU funds are spent in their country**. In Malta, the most common request is for information on their rights as citizens of the EU, while respondents in Romania are most likely to want information on what the EU is doing to overcome the Covid-19 pandemic.

In Greece, the most mentioned item is on the concrete consequences of EU policies on their country, while in Luxembourg the most requested topic is information on the main priorities of the European Parliament. In the Netherlands, these two items rank joint highest.

**QA12 Thinking about the EU, on which topics would you like more information about? (MULTIPLE ANSWERS POSSIBLE)** (% - The most mentioned answer by country)




**In every Member State, more than three in ten respondents say they would like more information on how EU funds are concretely spent in their country**. This is highest in Cyprus (63%), Greece, Latvia and Slovenia (all 52%), while the lowest proportions requesting this information are in Poland (26%) and Luxembourg (31%).

Respondents are most likely to want more information on **the concrete consequences of European policies and decisions in their country** in Greece (53%), the Netherlands (46%) and Sweden (42%). Those in Greece and Sweden (both 42%) are also the most likely to want information on the concrete activities of MEPs in the European Parliament.

Respondents in Greece are the most likely to request information on what the EU is doing to overcome the Covid-19 pandemic (48%), followed by those in Austria (41%) and Romania (40%). Cyprus has the highest proportion of respondents would like information on their rights as citizens of the EU (58%).

Greece also ranks highest in mentions of other topics: what the EU has concretely done or changed in their city, region or country (52%), what the EU is doing to protect democracy and the rule of law (46%) and the concrete consequences of European policies and decisions for respondents personally (45%). Respondents in Sweden (47%) and the Netherlands (46%) are most likely to want information on the main priorities of the European Parliament. Information on how citizens can participate in decisions taken at European level is also most frequently requested by those in the Netherlands (32%) and Sweden (31%), as well as those in Austria (30%).

**QA12 Thinking about the EU, on which topics would you like more information about? (MULTIPLE ANSWERS POSSIBLE)** (%)

| | How EU funds are concretely spent in (OUR COUNTRY) | The concrete consequences of European policies and decisions on your country | The concrete activities of (NATIONALITY) MEPs in the European Parliament | What the EU is doing to overcome the COVID-19 pandemic | Your rights as a citizen of the EU | What the EU has concretely done or changed in your city, region or country | What the EU is doing to protect democracy and the rule of law | The main priorities of the European Parliament | The concrete consequences of European policies and decisions for you personally | How citizens like you can participate in decisions taken at European level | Other (SPONTANEOUS) | None (SPONTANEOUS) | Don't know |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| EU27 | 43 | 30 | 29 | 29 | 28 | 28 | 25 | 25 | 22 | 21 | 0 | 5 | 1 |
| BE | 38 | 32 | 33 | 32 | 31 | 26 | 21 | 30 | 23 | 22 | 0 | 1 | 1 |
| BG | 39 | 32 | 31 | 29 | 34 | 36 | 21 | 22 | 25 | 16 | 0 | 5 | 2 |
| CZ | 40 | 31 | 34 | 38 | 21 | 25 | 17 | 24 | 23 | 19 | 0 | 3 | 0 |
| DK | 46 | 39 | 30 | 15 | 24 | 22 | 27 | 32 | 18 | 21 | 0 | 3 | 2 |
| DE | 43 | 29 | 29 | 32 | 25 | 31 | 30 | 23 | 20 | 24 | 1 | 6 | 1 |
| EE | 33 | 25 | 24 | 23 | 17 | 28 | 10 | 12 | 10 | 11 | 1 | 13 | 4 |
| IE | 45 | 24 | 25 | 32 | 40 | 25 | 20 | 29 | 19 | 23 | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| EL | 52 | 53 | 42 | 48 | 48 | 52 | 46 | 38 | 45 | 26 | 0 | 4 | 0 |
| ES | 49 | 24 | 21 | 29 | 26 | 23 | 19 | 21 | 19 | 13 | 0 | 5 | 2 |
| FR | 45 | 30 | 32 | 22 | 32 | 22 | 19 | 27 | 19 | 23 | 0 | 6 | 2 |
| HR | 39 | 31 | 28 | 28 | 37 | 34 | 21 | 17 | 25 | 21 | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| IT | 45 | 29 | 31 | 36 | 32 | 31 | 26 | 28 | 25 | 23 | 0 | 2 | 1 |
| CY | 63 | 32 | 33 | 37 | 58 | 32 | 42 | 28 | 23 | 24 | 0 | 2 | 0 |
| LV | 52 | 37 | 36 | 19 | 28 | 27 | 17 | 16 | 16 | 21 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| LT | 45 | 28 | 28 | 25 | 29 | 28 | 12 | 16 | 11 | 13 | 0 | 9 | 2 |
| LU | 31 | 26 | 24 | 28 | 30 | 18 | 22 | 35 | 17 | 28 | 0 | 1 | 1 |
| HU | 41 | 25 | 27 | 30 | 22 | 26 | 18 | 16 | 23 | 19 | 0 | 4 | 0 |
| MT | 40 | 21 | 27 | 26 | 41 | 18 | 25 | 27 | 18 | 21 | 0 | 7 | 2 |
| NL | 39 | 46 | 32 | 24 | 19 | 21 | 30 | 46 | 25 | 32 | 0 | 2 | 0 |
| AT | 50 | 36 | 37 | 41 | 34 | 40 | 34 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 1 | 3 | 0 |
| PL | 26 | 20 | 18 | 21 | 21 | 21 | 20 | 17 | 16 | 16 | 0 | 9 | 4 |
| PT | 55 | 34 | 19 | 34 | 25 | 39 | 16 | 18 | 18 | 11 | 1 | 4 | 2 |
| RO | 37 | 31 | 29 | 40 | 31 | 33 | 28 | 27 | 27 | 24 | 1 | 3 | 1 |
| SI | 52 | 26 | 32 | 28 | 32 | 25 | 29 | 18 | 16 | 19 | 0 | 3 | 1 |
| SK | 47 | 23 | 26 | 29 | 27 | 30 | 22 | 19 | 25 | 23 | 0 | 3 | 2 |
| FI | 47 | 37 | 37 | 13 | 17 | 21 | 23 | 30 | 18 | 15 | 0 | 2 | 1 |
| SE | 51 | 42 | 42 | 11 | 24 | 32 | 40 | 47 | 19 | 31 | 1 | 1 | 1 |

**Highest percentage per country** *Lowest percentage per country*

Highest percentage per item Lowest percentage per item

In the **socio-demographic** analysis, findings are broadly consistent by gender, although men are more likely than women to request information on the concrete consequences of European policies and decisions for respondents personally (24% vs. 20%), while women are more likely to want information on what the EU is doing to overcome the Covid-19 pandemic (32% vs. 27%).

There are differences by age group. Younger respondents are more likely to ask for information on how citizens can participate in decisions taken at European level, and information on their rights as a citizen of the EU. However, older respondents are more likely to want information on the concrete activities of MEPs in the European Parliament.

Respondents who stayed in education until the age of 20 or above are more likely to mention many of the topics. This applies in particular to information on the main priorities of the European Parliament and the concrete consequences of European policies and decisions on their country. However, those who left education at an earlier age are more likely to want information on what the EU is doing to overcome the Covid-19 pandemic.

Respondents who have a positive image of the European Parliament are more likely than those whose image is negative to want information on the main priorities of the European Parliament (30% vs. 20%). Otherwise, however, there is very little difference in responses according to the image of the European Parliament.

It is interesting to note that more information on how EU funds are spent nationally is mentioned quite uniformly in most socio-demographics groups. Where there are some differences is when it comes to opinions on EU membership and interest in EU affairs. For example, those who think their country's membership of the EU is important are more likely to wish more information on EU funds than those who think it is not important (45% against 38%). It is also more likely to be the case among those who follow EU politics compared to those who do not (46% vs 39%).

**QA12 Thinking about the EU, on which topics would you like more information about? (MULTIPLE ANSWERS POSSIBLE)** (% - EU)

| | How EU funds are concretely spent in (OUR COUNTRY) | The concrete consequences of European policies and decisions on your country | The concrete activities of (NATIONALITY) MEPs in the European Parliament | What the EU is doing to overcome the COVID-19 pandemic | What the EU has concretely done or changed in your city, region or country | Your rights as a citizen of the EU | What the EU is doing to protect democracy and the rule of law |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| EU27 | 43 | 30 | 29 | 29 | 28 | 28 | 25 |
| **Gender** | | | | | | | |
| Man | 44 | 31 | 30 | 27 | 28 | 27 | 25 |
| Woman | 42 | 29 | 28 | 32 | 28 | 28 | 24 |
| **Age** | | | | | | | |
| 15-24 | 39 | 30 | 24 | 29 | 30 | 34 | 25 |
| 25-39 | 42 | 31 | 28 | 27 | 30 | 29 | 25 |
| 40-54 | 43 | 33 | 30 | 27 | 28 | 28 | 25 |
| 55 + | 44 | 28 | 30 | 32 | 26 | 25 | 24 |
| **Education (End of)** | | | | | | | |
| 15- | 42 | 21 | 25 | 36 | 29 | 27 | 20 |
| 16-19 | 42 | 28 | 27 | 32 | 28 | 29 | 23 |
| 20+ | 46 | 36 | 35 | 24 | 28 | 25 | 28 |
| Still studying | 40 | 32 | 25 | 29 | 33 | 33 | 27 |
| **Image of European Parliament** | | | | | | | |
| Positive | 44 | 31 | 31 | 30 | 27 | 28 | 28 |
| Neutral | 43 | 29 | 27 | 30 | 28 | 28 | 22 |
| Negative | 45 | 31 | 30 | 27 | 29 | 25 | 25 |
| **Importance of country's membership of the EU** | | | | | | | |
| Important | 45 | 33 | 31 | 30 | 29 | 28 | 27 |
| Neutral | 41 | 26 | 25 | 29 | 27 | 28 | 22 |
| Not important | 38 | 25 | 24 | 26 | 25 | 26 | 20 |
| **Follow European politics** | | | | | | | |
| Follow | 46 | 34 | 33 | 29 | 29 | 28 | 29 |
| Not follow | 39 | 25 | 23 | 30 | 27 | 28 | 19 |

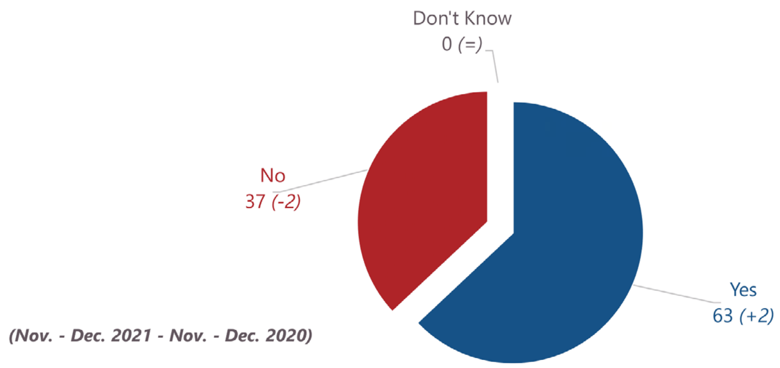
| | The main priorities of the European Parliament | The concrete consequences of European policies and decisions for you personally | How citizens like you can participate in decisions taken at European level | Other (SPONTANEOUS) | None (SPONTANEOUS) | Don't know |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| EU27 | 25 | 22 | 21 | 0 | 5 | 1 |
| **Gender** | | | | | | |
| Man | 27 | 24 | 22 | 0 | 4 | 1 |
| Woman | 24 | 20 | 20 | 0 | 5 | 2 |
| **Age** | | | | | | |
| 15-24 | 28 | 23 | 25 | 1 | 4 | 2 |
| 25-39 | 28 | 25 | 24 | 0 | 3 | 1 |
| 40-54 | 27 | 23 | 22 | 0 | 4 | 1 |
| 55 + | 22 | 19 | 19 | 0 | 6 | 2 |
| **Education (End of)** | | | | | | |
| 15- | 18 | 19 | 17 | 0 | 8 | 2 |
| 16-19 | 21 | 21 | 20 | 0 | 5 | 1 |
| 20+ | 33 | 22 | 25 | 0 | 3 | 1 |
| Still studying | 30 | 26 | 25 | 1 | 2 | 1 |
| **Image of European Parliament** | | | | | | |
| Positive | 30 | 22 | 24 | 0 | 3 | 1 |
| Neutral | 24 | 20 | 20 | 0 | 5 | 2 |
| Negative | 20 | 24 | 21 | 1 | 7 | 1 |
| **Importance of country's membership of the EU** | | | | | | |
| Important | 30 | 23 | 23 | 0 | 3 | 1 |
| Neutral | 21 | 20 | 18 | 0 | 4 | 2 |
| Not important | 17 | 21 | 19 | 1 | 10 | 1 |
| **Follow European politics** | | | | | | |
| Follow | 30 | 23 | 25 | 0 | 2 | 0 |
| Not follow | 19 | 20 | 17 | 1 | 8 | 2 |

## 5. Information about the European Parliament

Before exploring the results of this sub-section, it is worth noting that other recent surveys have shown that there are very high levels of awareness of the European Parliament and other European institutions. In the Standard Eurobarometer for example, around nine in ten citizens say they have heard of the European Parliament, and this has been consistent over time[30].

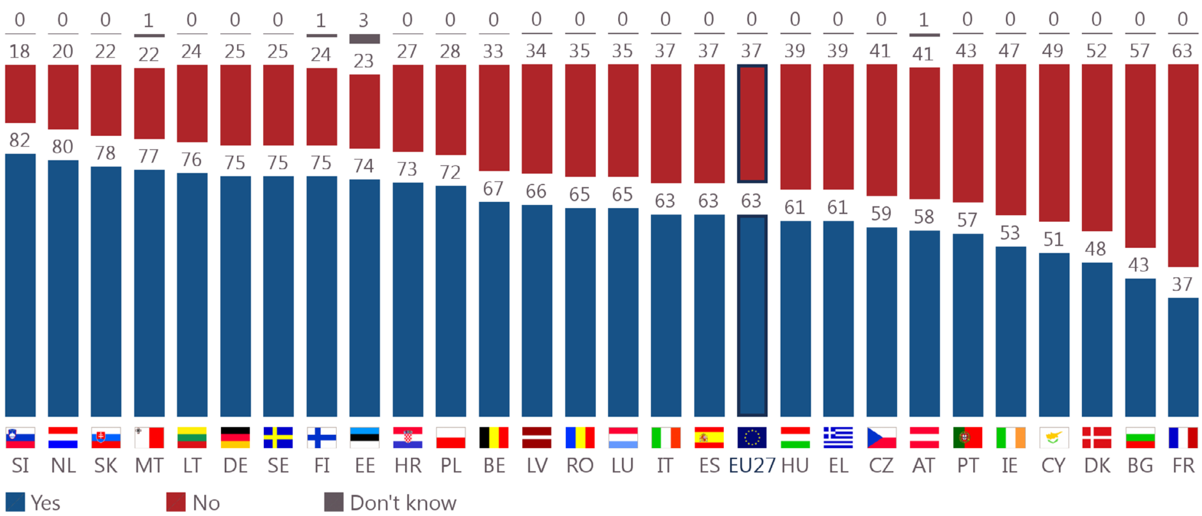
**In this survey, more than six in ten EU citizens** (63%, +2 pp since November-December 2020) **say that they have recently read, seen or heard something about the European Parliament**, either from the Internet, television or radio.

**QA1** **Have you recently read in the press, seen on the Internet or on television or heard on the radio something about the European Parliament?** (% - EU27)




There is some variation across the EU: in 11 Member States, more than two-thirds of respondents say they have read, seen or heard something recently about the EP, led by Slovenia (82%), the Netherlands (80%), Slovakia (78%), Malta (77%) and Lithuania (76%). However, this is the case for less than half of respondents in France (37%), Bulgaria (43%) and Denmark (48%).

**QA1** **Have you recently read in the press, seen on the Internet or on television or heard on the radio something about the European Parliament?** (%)

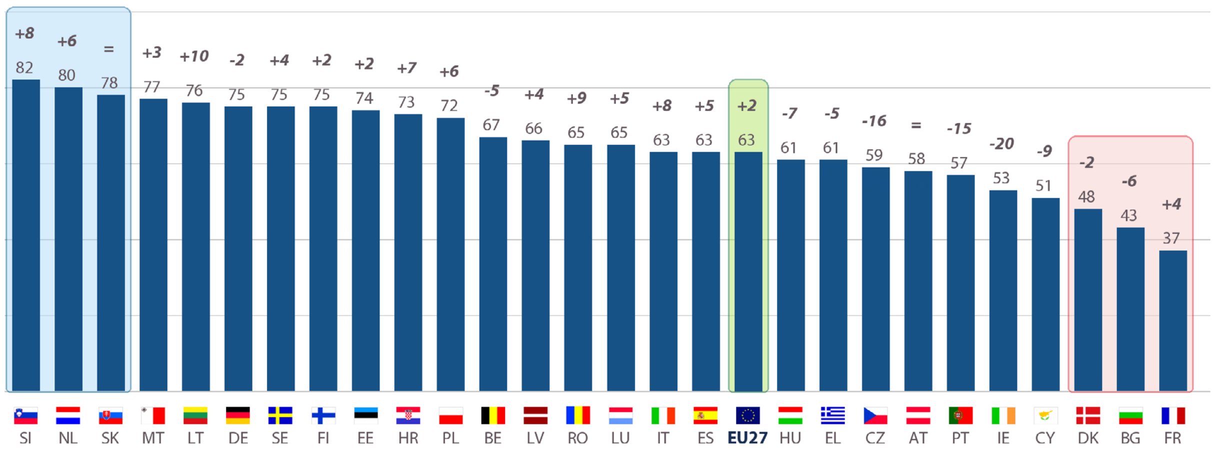



[30] Standard Eurobarometer 95 - Spring 2021 - September 2021 - - Eurobarometer survey (europa.eu)

While there has been little change at the overall EU level since November-December 2020, there have been some substantial changes at the country level. Large increases can be seen in Lithuania (76%, +10 pp), Romania (65%, +9 pp), Slovenia (82%, +8 pp) and Italy (63%, +8 pp). There have also been some very large decreases in Ireland (53%, -20 pp), Czechia (59%, -16 pp), Portugal (57%, -15 pp).

*NB: As noted earlier in the report, there was a change in the data collection mode in some countries from 2020 to 2021, and this may have a bearing on some of the shifts in percentages between the two years. Some countries that show a large shift in the last year (such as Ireland and Lithuania) changed from an online method in 2020 to face-to-face interviewing in 2021. However, other countries showing a large change (such as Portugal and Romania) used the same data collection mode. It is also important to note that media coverage of the European Parliament has varied over the last year or so, in particular because of the rotating Presidency of the Council, held successively by Portugal (first semester of 2021) and Slovenia (second semester).*

**QA1 Have you recently read in the press, seen on the Internet or on television or heard on the radio something about the European Parliament?** (% - Yes)




EB96.2 (Nov. - Dec. 2021) - EB94.2 (Nov. - Dec. 2020)

The **socio-demographic** findings indicate that men are more likely than women to say they have recently read, seen or heard something about the European Parliament (67% compared with 59%), while the proportion increases with age, from 50% among 15-24 year olds to 67% among those aged 40-54 and 55 or over. More highly educated people are more likely to say they have read, seen or heard something recently (70% of those who finished their education at the age of 20 or above).

Respondents who have a positive image of the European Parliament are most likely to say they have read, seen or heard something recently (75%), followed by those who have a negative image (62%), while the lowest level is among those with a neutral image of the European Parliament (55%). This suggests that there is a relationship between the image people have and the amount that they read, see or hear about the European Parliament, although it is not clear how the two factors interact – i.e. whether receiving information leads to a stronger or more positive image, or whether people who hold a stronger image are more likely to look for information.

**QA1** **Have you recently read in the press, seen on the Internet or on television or heard on the radio something about the European Parliament?** (% - EU)

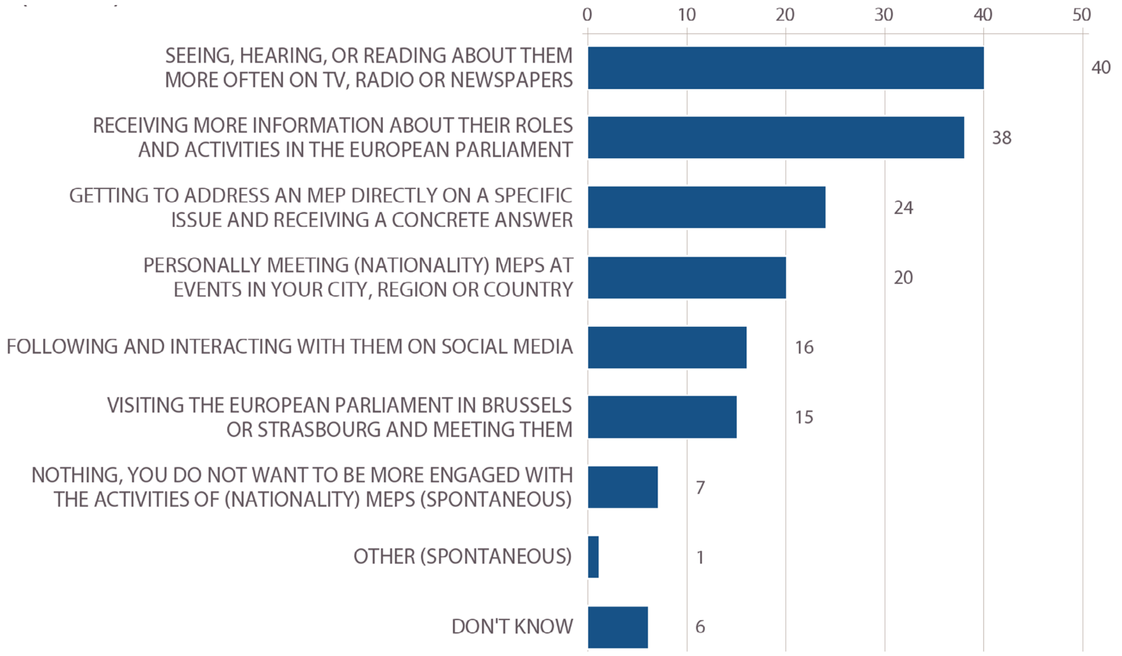
| | Yes | No | Don't know |
|---|---|---|---|
| EU27 | 63 | 37 | 0 |
| **Gender** | | | |
| Man | 67 | 33 | 0 |
| Woman | 59 | 41 | 0 |
| **Age** | | | |
| 15-24 | 50 | 50 | 0 |
| 25-39 | 58 | 42 | 0 |
| 40-54 | 67 | 33 | 0 |
| 55 + | 67 | 33 | 0 |
| **Education (End of)** | | | |
| 15- | 55 | 45 | 0 |
| 16-19 | 63 | 37 | 0 |
| 20+ | 70 | 30 | 0 |
| Still studying | 54 | 46 | 0 |
| **Image of European Parliament** | | | |
| Positive | 75 | 25 | 0 |
| Neutral | 55 | 45 | 0 |
| Negative | 62 | 38 | 0 |

## 6. Engagement with MEPs within the European Parliament

**The two main ways to encourage EU citizens to get more engaged with the activities of their country's MEPs are seeing, hearing or reading about them more often in the media (40%) and receiving more information about their roles and activities in the European Parliament (38%).** Around one in four (24%) say they would get more engaged if they could address an MEP directly on a specific issue, and one in five (20%) say a personal meeting with an MEP at an event would help to get them more engaged.

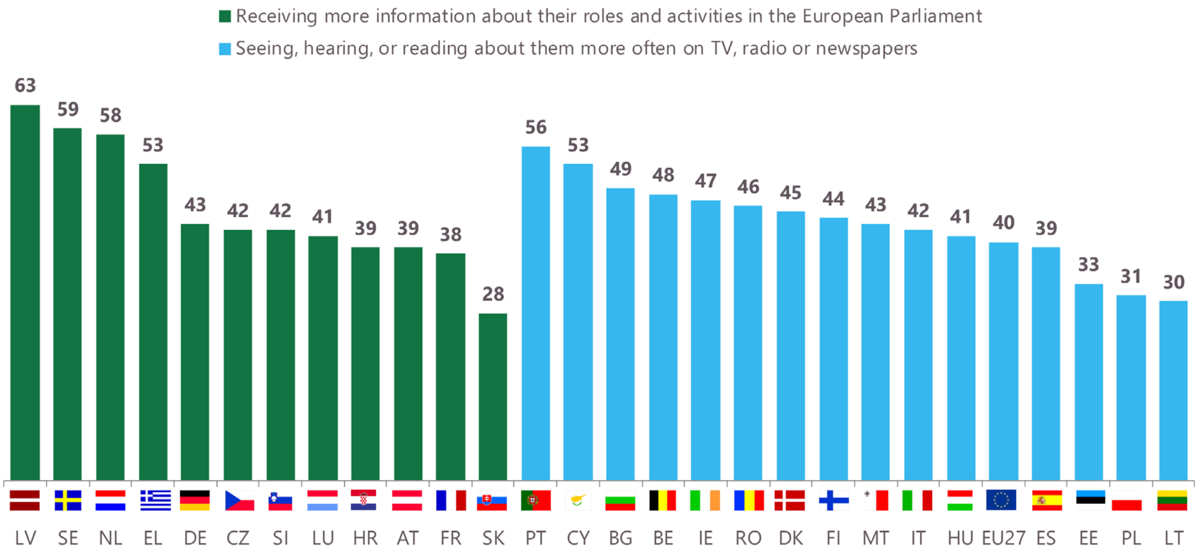
Between 10% and 20% of respondents say they would be encouraged to get more engaged with their MEPs by following and interacting with them in on social media (16%), or by visiting the European Parliament in Brussels of Strasbourg and meeting them (15%), and 7% spontaneously said they do not want to be more engaged with the activities of their national MEPs.

**QA13 Which of the following, if any, would encourage you to get more engaged with the activities of (NATIONALITY) MEPs within the European Parliament? (MULTIPLE ANSWERS POSSIBLE)** (% - EU27)




In 15 Member States, respondents are most likely to say they would get more engaged with the activities of their country's MEPs by seeing, hearing or reading about them more often in the media. In the other 12 countries, the most frequent response is that their engagement would be increased by receiving more information about their roles and activities in the European Parliament.

**QA13 Which of the following, if any, would encourage you to get more engaged with the activities of (NATIONALITY) MEPs within the European Parliament? (MULTIPLE ANSWERS POSSIBLE)**
(% - The most mentioned answer by country)




In the EU as a whole, the main thing that would encourage EU citizens to get more engaged with the activities of their country's MEPs is by seeing, hearing or reading about them more often in the media. This is mentioned by at least a quarter of respondents in every country, and by over half in the Netherlands, Portugal (both 56%) and Cyprus (53%).

In four countries, more than half of respondents say they would get more engaged by receiving more information about MEPs' roles and activities in the European Parliament: Latvia (63%), Sweden (59%), the Netherlands (58%) and Greece (53%).

Getting to address an MEP directly on a specific issue would be most likely to engage respondents in Cyprus (40%), Austria (38%) and Greece (36%). Respondents in Cyprus (36%) are also most likely to say they would be engaged by having a personal meeting with an MEP at an event.

A high proportion of respondents in Ireland (30%) say that they would get more engaged by following and interacting with MEPs on social media. Respondents in Estonia and Slovakia (both 20%) are most likely to say that nothing would encourage them to get more engaged.

**QA13 Which of the following, if any, would encourage you to get more engaged with the activities of (NATIONALITY) MEPs within the European Parliament? (MULTIPLE ANSWERS POSSIBLE)**
(%)

| | Seeing, hearing, or reading about them more often on TV, radio or newspapers | Receiving more information about their roles and activities in the European Parliament | Getting to address an MEP directly on a specific issue and receiving a concrete answer | Personally meeting (NATIONALITY) MEPs at events in your city, region or country | Following and interacting with them on social media | Visiting the European Parliament in Brussels or Strasbourg and meeting them | Nothing, you do not want to be more engaged with the activities of (NATIONALITY) MEPs (SPONTANEOUS) | Other (SPONTANEOUS) | Don't know | Total 'At least one activity' |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| EU27 | 40 | 38 | 24 | 20 | 16 | 15 | 7 | 1 | 6 | 85 |
| BE | 48 | 46 | 27 | 20 | 18 | 16 | 2 | 0 | 2 | 95 |
| BG | 49 | 34 | 17 | 24 | 15 | 12 | 6 | 1 | 10 | 83 |
| CZ | 40 | 42 | 20 | 20 | 19 | 15 | 8 | 0 | 2 | 90 |
| DK | 45 | 36 | 20 | 20 | 16 | 15 | 5 | 2 | 7 | 87 |
| DE | 39 | 43 | 27 | 20 | 15 | 17 | 6 | 2 | 5 | 87 |
| EE | 33 | 26 | 13 | 14 | 13 | 12 | 20 | 2 | 8 | 70 |
| IE | 47 | 32 | 26 | 30 | 30 | 17 | 1 | 0 | 3 | 96 |
| EL | 42 | 53 | 36 | 25 | 21 | 7 | 11 | 1 | 2 | 86 |
| ES | 39 | 29 | 21 | 10 | 9 | 9 | 14 | 2 | 8 | 77 |
| FR | 35 | 38 | 23 | 18 | 14 | 14 | 7 | 1 | 11 | 80 |
| HR | 35 | 39 | 28 | 25 | 20 | 16 | 4 | 1 | 4 | 90 |
| IT | 42 | 40 | 26 | 28 | 18 | 21 | 5 | 1 | 5 | 90 |
| CY | 53 | 44 | 40 | 36 | 22 | 14 | 7 | 2 | 2 | 88 |
| LV | 35 | 63 | 28 | 11 | 11 | 12 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 99 |
| LT | 30 | 27 | 23 | 21 | 14 | 14 | 11 | 2 | 7 | 80 |
| LU | 40 | 41 | 22 | 25 | 19 | 17 | 1 | 3 | 4 | 92 |
| HU | 41 | 37 | 22 | 23 | 15 | 17 | 7 | 0 | 3 | 90 |
| MT | 43 | 33 | 21 | 16 | 20 | 12 | 7 | 1 | 5 | 88 |
| NL | 56 | 58 | 22 | 18 | 20 | 14 | 2 | 1 | 2 | 96 |
| AT | 38 | 39 | 38 | 29 | 22 | 21 | 8 | 2 | 3 | 88 |
| PL | 31 | 25 | 16 | 19 | 18 | 13 | 7 | 1 | 14 | 78 |
| PT | 56 | 21 | 10 | 13 | 9 | 11 | 16 | 2 | 5 | 76 |
| RO | 46 | 28 | 27 | 22 | 19 | 19 | 6 | 1 | 4 | 89 |
| SI | 38 | 42 | 18 | 16 | 10 | 16 | 10 | 2 | 4 | 84 |
| SK | 26 | 28 | 21 | 22 | 17 | 15 | 20 | 1 | 7 | 73 |
| FI | 44 | 42 | 26 | 17 | 12 | 18 | 1 | 1 | 5 | 93 |
| SE | 48 | 59 | 32 | 28 | 17 | 17 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 96 |

1st MOST FREQUENTLY MENTIONED ITEM | 2nd MOST FREQUENTLY MENTIONED ITEM | 3rd MOST FREQUENTLY MENTIONED ITEM

The **socio-demographic** analysis shows that younger respondents are much more likely than older respondents to say they would get more engaged with MEPs' activities by following and interacting with them on social media. Older respondents (55 or over) are also less likely to say they would get more engaged by getting to address an MEP directly on a specific issue, or by visiting the European Parliament in Brussels or Strasbourg. However, older people are slightly more likely than younger people to say that seeing, hearing or reading about MEPs more often in the media would help to engage them.

More highly educated people are more likely to mention most of the items, especially following and interacting with MEPs on social media, receiving more information about MEPs' roles and activities in the European Parliament, and getting to address an MEP directly on a specific issue.

Respondents who have a positive image of the European Parliament are more likely than those with a negative image to say that most of the things would get them more engaged, and this applies in particular to seeing, hearing, or reading about them more often on TV, the radio or in newspapers.

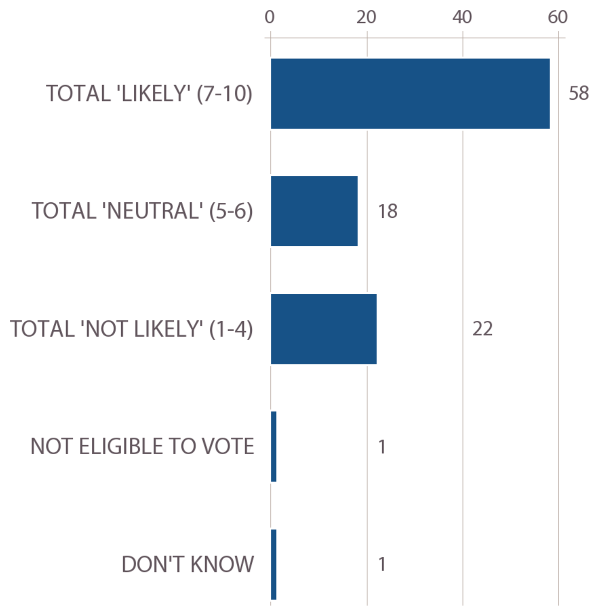
**QA13 Which of the following, if any, would encourage you to get more engaged with the activities of (NATIONALITY) MEPs within the European Parliament? (MULTIPLE ANSWERS POSSIBLE)** (% - EU)

| | Seeing, hearing, or reading about them more often on TV, radio or newspapers | Receiving more information about their roles and activities in the European Parliament | Getting to address an MEP directly on a specific issue and receiving a concrete answer | Personally meeting (NATIONALITY) MEPs at events in your city, region or country | Following and interacting with them on social media | Visiting the European Parliament in Brussels or Strasbourg and meeting them | Nothing, you do not want to be more engaged with the activities of (NATIONALITY) MEPs (SPONTANEOUS) | Other (SPONTANEOUS) | Don't know |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| EU27 | 40 | 38 | 24 | 20 | 16 | 15 | 7 | 1 | 6 |
| **Age** | | | | | | | | | |
| 15-24 | 37 | 39 | 26 | 20 | 27 | 21 | 4 | 1 | 6 |
| 25-39 | 39 | 39 | 26 | 22 | 22 | 17 | 6 | 1 | 5 |
| 40-54 | 39 | 40 | 26 | 21 | 17 | 17 | 7 | 1 | 5 |
| 55 + | 42 | 36 | 21 | 19 | 9 | 12 | 9 | 2 | 8 |
| **Education (End of)** | | | | | | | | | |
| 15- | 39 | 27 | 18 | 15 | 7 | 11 | 13 | 2 | 11 |
| 16-19 | 41 | 36 | 22 | 20 | 15 | 14 | 8 | 1 | 7 |
| 20+ | 42 | 45 | 28 | 23 | 17 | 18 | 5 | 1 | 4 |
| Still studying | 38 | 40 | 29 | 21 | 30 | 21 | 3 | 1 | 5 |
| **Socio-professional category** | | | | | | | | | |
| Self- employed | 41 | 41 | 28 | 27 | 18 | 14 | 6 | 1 | 4 |
| Managers | 41 | 46 | 31 | 24 | 19 | 20 | 3 | 1 | 3 |
| Other white collars | 42 | 41 | 27 | 22 | 20 | 18 | 5 | 1 | 4 |
| Manual workers | 38 | 36 | 23 | 19 | 17 | 16 | 8 | 2 | 6 |
| House persons | 39 | 33 | 16 | 15 | 12 | 10 | 13 | 2 | 7 |
| Unemployed | 34 | 34 | 24 | 19 | 15 | 14 | 10 | 1 | 9 |
| Retired | 43 | 35 | 19 | 18 | 7 | 11 | 9 | 1 | 10 |
| Students | 38 | 40 | 29 | 21 | 30 | 21 | 3 | 1 | 5 |
| **Political interest index** | | | | | | | | | |
| Strong | 43 | 45 | 33 | 28 | 16 | 18 | 3 | 1 | 3 |
| Medium | 43 | 41 | 24 | 21 | 17 | 16 | 5 | 1 | 5 |
| Low | 38 | 36 | 21 | 15 | 13 | 13 | 9 | 2 | 8 |
| Not at all | 31 | 24 | 17 | 14 | 13 | 12 | 16 | 2 | 14 |
| **Involved in society** | | | | | | | | | |
| Involved | 43 | 42 | 27 | 23 | 17 | 17 | 4 | 1 | 4 |
| Not involved | 36 | 31 | 20 | 16 | 14 | 12 | 11 | 2 | 10 |

## 7. Likelihood to vote in European elections

As seen earlier in the report, there is a link between voter participation in European elections and citizens' feeling that their voice counts and is being heard. This final chapter provides a snapshot of current voting attitudes. It does not intend to give a prediction of how Europeans will vote in the 2024 European elections. Indeed, with more than two years prior to the next European elections, it is not possible to yield reliable information on what might happen in the next elections.

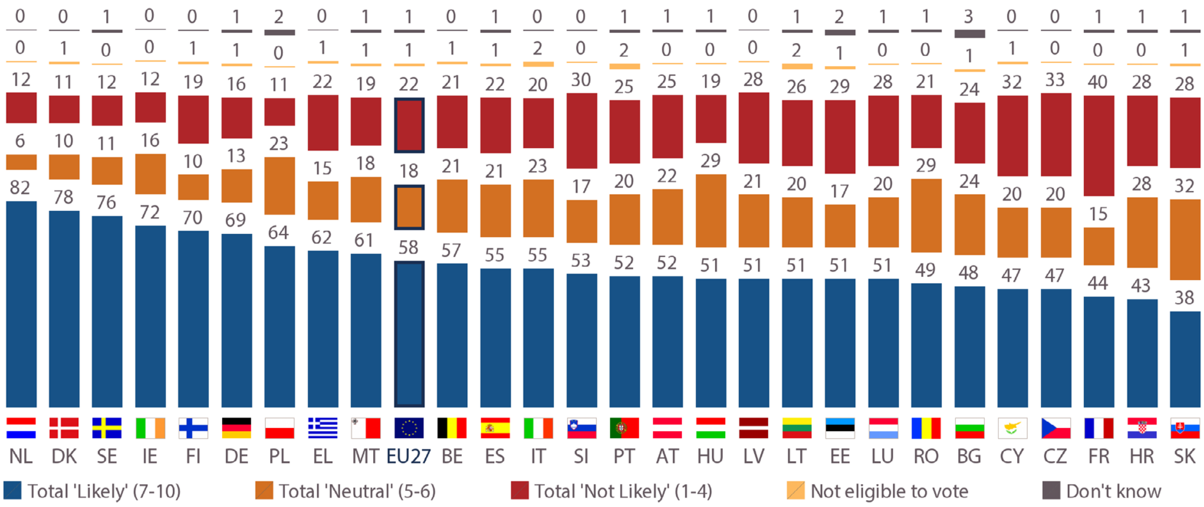
**QA15 If the next European Parliament elections were to be held next week, how likely would you vote in these elections? Please use a scale from 1 to 10, where "1" means "not at all likely" and "10" means "very likely".** (% - EU27)




Respondents were thus asked how likely it was they would vote if European elections were held next week. Responses were given on a scale from 1 to 10, which is to say, on a ten-point scale where "1" means "not at all likely" and "10" means "very likely". A majority of EU citizens (58%) say that they would be likely to vote (grouping scores 7 to 10), while around one in five (22%) say they would not be likely to vote (grouping scores 1-4), and 18% are "moderately likely" (grouping scores 5 and 6) to vote.

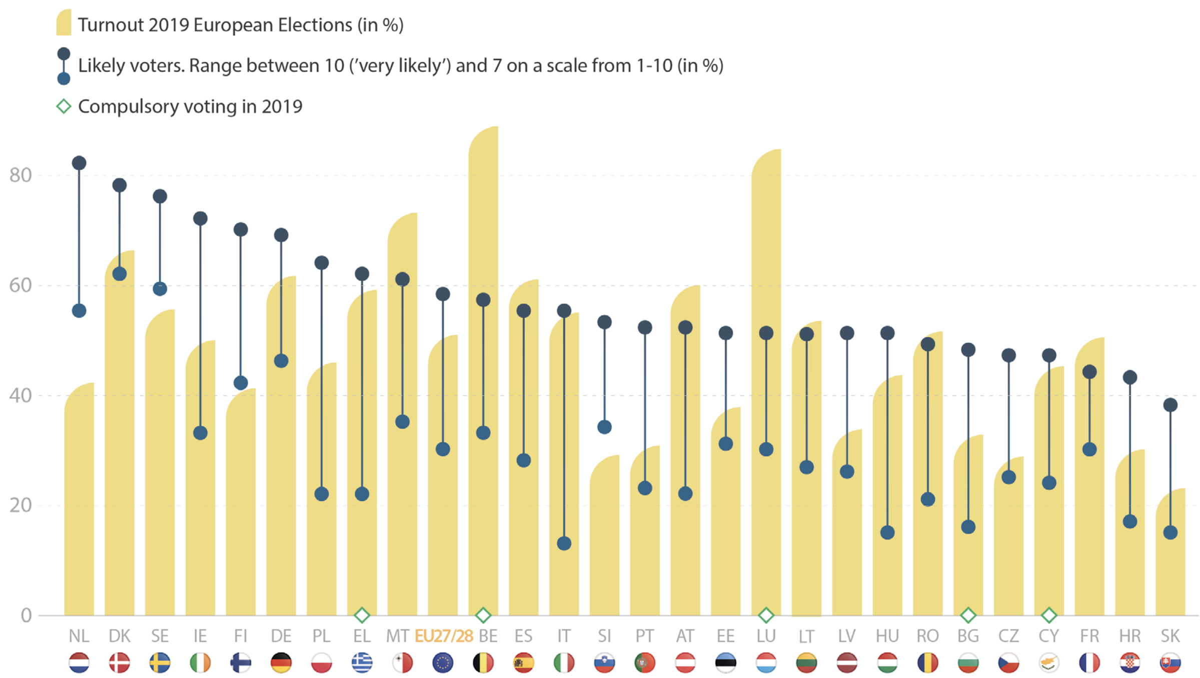
As expected, there is significant variation between Member States in the proportion who say they would be likely to vote in European elections. At least seven in ten respondents declare themselves likely to vote in the Netherlands (82%), Denmark (78%), Sweden (76%), Ireland (72%) and Finland (70%). By contrast, less than half of respondents say they would be likely to vote in Slovakia (38%), Croatia (43%), France (44%), Czechia, Cyprus (both 47%), Bulgaria (48%) and Romania (49%). Respondents in France are most likely to say that they would not be likely to vote (40%), if European elections were held next week.

**QA15** **If the next European Parliament elections were to be held next week, how likely would you vote in these elections? Please use a scale from 1 to 10, where "1" means "not at all likely" and "10" means "very likely".** (%)




For reference, the actual turnout at the last European Parliament elections in 2019 was 51%[31]. When comparing the share of "very likely voters" (scoring 10 on the scale) and "likely voters" (scoring between 7 and 10 on the scale) to the actual 2019 European Election turnout, striking differences can be observed in various Member States. In Luxembourg (-33 pp), Belgium (-31 pp) and Malta (-12 pp), the share of "likely voters" (7-10 points) is significantly lower than the previous turnout. A possible explanation for those differences could be existing compulsory voting laws in these Member States, which might be a particular incentive to make citizens go to vote even though they respond with a rather low propensity to vote when being asked in surveys. In contrast, the share of respondents which declare themselves as "likely voters" is much higher than the 2019 turnout in the Netherlands (+40 pp), Finland (+29pp) and Slovenia (+24pp).

**Propensity to vote compared to actual turnout of 2019 European Elections**




[31] europarl.europa.eu/election-results-2019/en/turnout

The main differences in the **socio-demographic** analysis are by level of education and household finances. Citizens who are more highly educated are more likely to say they would vote in European Parliament elections (72% among those who finished education aged 20 or above compared with 47% of those who left education by the age of 15). The proportion of respondents who would be likely to vote is also higher among those who rarely or never have difficulties paying household bills (63%), compared with those who face those difficulties more often (42%). In terms of occupation, managers (74%) and self-employed workers (66%) are the most likely to say they would vote, while unemployed respondents are the least likely (40%).

There is also a difference by age group, with younger people aged 15-24 least likely to say they would vote (50% compared with 58%-59% in the older age groups). Men are slightly more likely than women to say they would vote (61% compared with 55%).

The likelihood to vote in European elections is also linked with the image of the European Parliament. Those who say they have a positive image of the European Parliament are more likely to say they would vote, compared with those whose image is negative (75% compared with 44%).

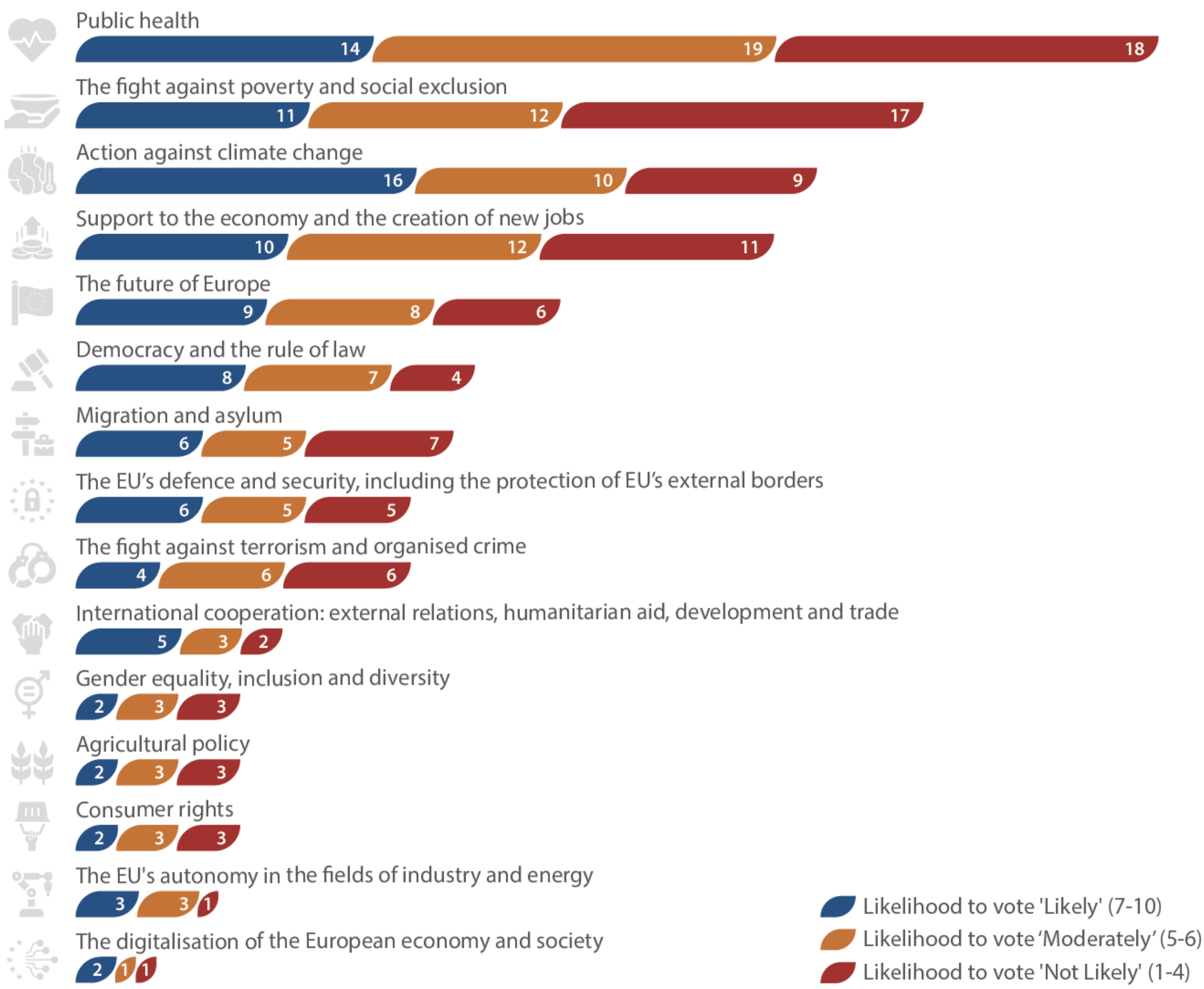
**QA15 If the next European Parliament elections were to be held next week, how likely would you vote in these elections? Please use a scale from 1 to 10, where "1" means "not at all likely" and "10" means "very likely".** (% - EU)

| | Total 'Not Likely' (1-4) | Total 'Moderately likely (5-6) | Total 'Likely' (7-10) | Not eligible to vote | Don't know |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| EU27 | 22 | 18 | 58 | 1 | 1 |
| **Age** | | | | | |
| 15-24 | 25 | 18 | 50 | 6 | 1 |
| 25-39 | 22 | 19 | 58 | 0 | 1 |
| 40-54 | 21 | 19 | 59 | 0 | 1 |
| 55 + | 22 | 18 | 59 | 0 | 1 |
| **Education (End of)** | | | | | |
| 15- | 31 | 21 | 47 | 0 | 1 |
| 16-19 | 25 | 21 | 53 | 0 | 1 |
| 20+ | 15 | 13 | 72 | 0 | 0 |
| Still studying | 21 | 16 | 55 | 7 | 1 |
| **Socio-professional category** | | | | | |
| Self- employed | 18 | 16 | 66 | 0 | 0 |
| Managers | 13 | 13 | 74 | 0 | 0 |
| Other white collars | 17 | 20 | 62 | 0 | 1 |
| Manual workers | 26 | 23 | 50 | 0 | 1 |
| House persons | 27 | 22 | 49 | 0 | 2 |
| Unemployed | 38 | 22 | 40 | 0 | 0 |
| Retired | 23 | 16 | 60 | 0 | 1 |
| Students | 21 | 16 | 55 | 7 | 1 |
| **Difficulties paying bills** | | | | | |
| Most of the time | 37 | 19 | 42 | 1 | 1 |
| From time to time | 27 | 24 | 48 | 0 | 1 |
| Almost never/ Never | 18 | 17 | 63 | 1 | 1 |
| **Image of European Parliament** | | | | | |
| Positive | 9 | 15 | 75 | 1 | 0 |
| Neutral | 25 | 22 | 51 | 1 | 1 |
| Negative | 39 | 16 | 44 | 0 | 1 |

It is interesting to cross the likelihood to vote with the respondents' expressed interests in policy priorities. It becomes apparent that there are different preferences between those who are "likely" and those who are "not likely" to vote[32]. "Not likely" voters would like to see public health (18%), the fight against poverty and social exclusion (17%) and support to the economy and the creation of new jobs (11%) addressed in priority by the European Parliament. "Likely voters" are much more likely to rate action against climate change (16%) as a priority, followed by public health (14%) and the fight against poverty and social exclusion (11%).

As already discussed in this report, action against climate change is perceived as the most important topic by younger Europeans (15-24 years old: 20%; 55+ years old: 12%). This holds particularly true with young Europeans who are likely to vote (15-24 years old "likely voters": 26%; 15-24 years old "unlikely voters": 14%). However, there are striking differences between EU Member States. While action against climate change is by far the most picked item by 15-24 years old in Sweden (42%), Denmark (42%) and Germany (31%), it is ranked much lower in Cyprus (0%), Bulgaria (2%) and Romania (6%).

**Topics which should be addressed in priority by the European Parliament (QA4a, first answer only) by likelihood to vote (QA15) (in %)**




[32] When asked to name multiple policy priorities, "likely voters" tend to pick more items than "not likely" voters. In order to compare both groups, only the first chosen topic is taken into account in the following paragraph

# CONCLUSIONS

The European Parliament and the European Union continue to receive widespread and sustained support from citizens. **Attitudes to the European Parliament and the EU have become increasingly positive in recent years, and these high levels have remained stable in the current survey.** Despite the continued uncertainty of the Covid-19 pandemic and the challenges it has presented, **more than six in ten EU citizens say they are optimistic about the future of the EU, and more than seven in ten think that their country has benefited from being part of the EU**. In line with this view, a majority of Europeans would like to see the European Parliament play a more important role in the future.

Although the Parlemeter a year ago (November-December 2020) presented a somewhat pessimistic assessment of the economic situation by citizens, the economic climate has changed over the last year, with positive forecasts for economic recovery from the pandemic, but also a sharp increase in inflation. When asked where the European Parliament should focus its attention, **citizens continue to place a high priority on public health, the fight against poverty and social exclusion, as well as support for the economy and creation of new jobs**. This indicates that these priorities remain high on the agenda of citizens, despite any changes in the economic outlook. Nonetheless, **Europeans also consider that taking action against climate change should be in the top three of the European Parliament's priority list**.

A key theme of the report is the critical role of democracy in the EU. **Democracy is seen as the value that citizens think the European Parliament should defend most as a matter of priority**. In this context, it is encouraging that a majority of EU citizens continue to express satisfaction with democracy in the EU. Closely linked to this point, **a majority of Europeans consider that their country's membership to the EU is a good thing**, mainly because it improves cooperation between Member States, and maintains peace and security.

At the same time, a substantial proportion do not think their voice is being heard, and in other recent surveys, EU citizens express a strong desire for their voice to be heard more in future decision-making. In view of this, when citizens are asked about the ways that their country has not benefited from EU membership; the greatest concern is that national citizens have very little influence on decisions made at EU level.

One way in which this can be addressed is to provide clearer information on EU-level decision-making and how this affects individual Member States and their citizens. When asked what they would like more information on regarding the EU, **the main requests are for information on how EU funds are concretely spent in their country, and the concrete consequences of European policies and decisions on their country**.

As a last, yet important finding, the current survey presents an initial view into EU citizens' voting propensity for the European Parliament elections. **A majority say they would likely vote 'if the elections were to be held next week', with 30% saying they would "very likely" do so (10 on a scale from 1-10)**. Although the data should not be considered a prediction of turnout, it points to a high level of engagement for the 2024 elections, a topic that will continue to be closely observed in future Parlemeter surveys.

[33] Future of Europe survey, October-November 2021, europa.eu/eurobarometer/surveys/detail/2554

# TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS

Between the 1st November and 2nd December 2021, Kantar carried out the wave 96.2 of the Eurobarometer survey. The wave 96.2 includes the European Parliament's Autumn 2021 Eurobarometer survey ('Parlemeter') and covers the population of the respective nationalities of the European Union Member States, resident in each of the 27 Member States and aged 15 years and over.

The basic sample design applied in all countries and territories is a multi-stage, random (probability) one. In each country, a number of sampling points was drawn with probability proportional to population size (for a total coverage of the country) and to population density.

In order to do so, the sampling points were drawn systematically from each of the "administrative regional units", after stratification by individual unit and type of area. They thus represent the whole territory of the countries surveyed according to the EUROSTAT NUTS II (or equivalent) and according to the distribution of the resident population of the respective nationalities in terms of metropolitan, urban and rural areas[34].

In each of the selected sampling points, a starting address was drawn, at random. Further addresses (every nth address) were selected by standard "random route" procedures, from the initial address. In each household, the respondent was drawn, at random (following the "closest birthday rule"). If no one answered the interviewer in a household, or if the respondent selected was not available (not present or busy), the interviewer revisited the same household up to three additional times (four contact attempts in total). Interviewers never indicate that the survey is conducted on behalf of the European institutions beforehand; they may give this information once the survey is completed, upon request.

The recruitment phase was slightly different in the Netherlands and Sweden. In these countries, a sample of addresses within each areal sampling point (1km2 grid) were selected from the address or population register. The selection of addresses was done in a random manner. Households were then contacted by telephone and recruited to take part in the survey.

[34] Future of Europe survey, October-November 2021, europa.eu/eurobarometer/surveys/detail/2554

| | COUNTRIES | INSTITUTES | N° INTERVIEWS | FIELDWORK DATES | | POPULATIO 15+ | PROPORTIO EU27 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| BE | Belgium | Mobiel Centre Market Research | 1,016 | 02-11-21 | 02-12-21 | 9,915,439 | 2.53% |
| BG | Bulgaria | Kantar TNS BBSS | 1,020 | 03-11-21 | 28-11-21 | 6,094,974 | 1.55% |
| CZ | Czechia | Kantar CZ | 1,035 | 04-11-21 | 29-11-21 | 9,190,342 | 2.34% |
| DK | Denmark | Kantar Gallup | 1,023 | 01-11-21 | 26-11-21 | 4,994,008 | 1.27% |
| DE | Germany | Kantar Deutschland | 1,516 | 02-11-21 | 02-12-21 | 74,162,306 | 18.89% |
| EE | Estonia | Norstat Estonia | 1,018 | 03-11-21 | 28-11-21 | 1,145,208 | 0.29% |
| IE | Ireland | B and A Research | 1,004 | 03-11-21 | 29-11-21 | 4,039,401 | 1.03% |
| EL | Greece | Kantar Greece | 1,014 | 02-11-21 | 26-11-21 | 9,568,462 | 2.44% |
| ES | Spain | TNS Investigación de Mercados y Opinión | 1,008 | 03-11-21 | 29-11-21 | 42,022,835 | 10.70% |
| FR | France | Kantar Public France | 1,006 | 03-11-21 | 27-11-21 | 57,553,554 | 14.66% |
| HR | Croatia | Hendal | 1,039 | 02-11-21 | 24-11-21 | 3,569,904 | 0.91% |
| IT | Italy | Kantar Italia | 1,020 | 03-11-21 | 26-11-21 | 54,102,101 | 13.78% |
| CY | Rep. Of Cyprus | CYMAR Market Research | 504 | 01-11-21 | 28-11-21 | 759,844 | 0.19% |
| LV | Latvia | Kantar TNS Latvia | 1,001 | 03-11-21 | 17-11-21 | 1,649,459 | 0.42% |
| LT | Lithuania | TNS LT | 1,004 | 03-11-21 | 29-11-21 | 2,445,153 | 0.62% |
| LU | Luxembourg | TNS Ilres | 505 | 02-11-21 | 26-11-21 | 538,288 | 0.14% |
| HU | Hungary | Kantar Hoffmann | 1,017 | 03-11-21 | 19-11-21 | 8,547,786 | 2.18% |
| MT | Malta | MISCO International | 505 | 02-11-21 | 29-11-21 | 455,041 | 0.12% |
| NL | Netherlands | Kantar Netherlands | 1,006 | 02-11-21 | 23-11-21 | 15,067,518 | 3.84% |
| AT | Austria | Das Österreichische Gallup Institut | 1,005 | 02-11-21 | 21-11-21 | 7,844,329 | 2.00% |
| PL | Poland | Kantar Polska | 1,037 | 02-11-21 | 28-11-21 | 32,904,839 | 8.38% |
| PT | Portugal | Marktest – Marketing, Organização e Formação | 1,004 | 02-11-21 | 28-11-21 | 9,221,533 | 2.35% |
| RO | Romania | Centrul Pentru Studierea Opiniei si Pietei (CSOP) | 1,057 | 02-11-21 | 26-11-21 | 16,701,193 | 4.25% |
| SI | Slovenia | Mediana DOO | 1,000 | 02-11-21 | 25-11-21 | 1,834,195 | 0.47% |
| SK | Slovakia | Kantar Czechia | 1,001 | 02-11-21 | 29-11-21 | 4,677,729 | 1.19% |
| FI | Finland | Taloustutkimus Oy | 1,075 | 04-11-21 | 29-11-21 | 4,805,266 | 1.22% |
| SE | Sweden | Kantar Sifo | 1,070 | 02-11-21 | 29-11-21 | 8,756,024 | 2.23% |
| | | TOTAL EU27 | 26,510 | 01-11-21 | 02-12-21 | 392,566,731 | 100%* |

* It should be noted that the total percentage shown in this table may exceed 100% due to rounding

** Recruitments for online interviews in Belgium, Czechia and Estonia are carried out by Kantar Belgium, Kantar Czechia and Kantar Estonia respectively

**Consequences of the coronavirus pandemic on fieldwork**

- **Face-to-face interviewing**
  Where feasible, interviews were conducted face-to-face in people's homes or on their door step and in the appropriate national language. In all countries and territories where face-to-face interviewing was feasible CAPI (Computer Assisted Personal Interviewing) was used. For all interviews conducted face-to-face, hygiene and physical distancing measures have been respected at all times in line with government regulations, and whenever possible, interviews were conducted outside homes, on doorsteps, to remain in open air and maintain social distance.

- **Face-to-face and online interviewing**
  In Belgium, Czechia, Denmark, Malta, Slovenia and Finland face-to-face interviewing was feasible but it was not possible to reach the target number of face-to-face interviews within the fieldwork period due to the impact of Covid-19 restrictions: many potential respondents are reluctant to open their homes to interviewers, even if they respect hygiene rules and physical distancing, such as wearing masks and using hydroalcoholic gel. Therefore, to hit the target number of interviews within the fieldwork period, additional interviews were conducted online with Computer-Assisted Web Interviewing (CAWI) technique.

- **Online interviewing**
  In Latvia, face-to-face interviews were not feasible at all. Therefore all interviews were conducted online with CAWI technique.

| | COUNTRIES | N° OF CAPI INTERVIEWS | N° OF CAWI INTERVIEWS | TOTAL N° INTERVIEWS |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| BE | Belgium | 849 | 167 | 1,016 |
| BG | Bulgaria | 1,020 | | 1,020 |
| CZ | Czechia | 739 | 296 | 1,035 |
| DK | Denmark | 560 | 463 | 1,023 |
| DE | Germany | 1,516 | | 1,516 |
| EE | Estonia | 1,018 | | 1,018 |
| IE | Ireland | 1,004 | | 1,004 |
| EL | Greece | 1,014 | | 1,014 |
| ES | Spain | 1,008 | | 1,008 |
| FR | France | 1,006 | | 1,006 |
| HR | Croatia | 1,039 | | 1,039 |
| IT | Italy | 1,020 | | 1,020 |
| CY | Rep. Of Cyprus | 504 | | 504 |
| LV | Latvia | | 1,001 | 1,001 |
| LT | Lithuania | 1,004 | | 1,004 |
| LU | Luxembourg | 505 | | 505 |
| HU | Hungary | 1,017 | | 1,017 |
| MT | Malta | 336 | 169 | 505 |
| NL | Netherlands | 1,006 | | 1,006 |
| AT | Austria | 1,005 | | 1,005 |
| PL | Poland | 1,037 | | 1,037 |
| PT | Portugal | 1,004 | | 1,004 |
| RO | Romania | 1,057 | | 1,057 |
| SI | Slovenia | 632 | 368 | 1,000 |
| SK | Slovakia | 1,001 | | 1,001 |
| FI | Finland | 598 | 477 | 1,075 |
| SE | Sweden | 1070 | | 1,070 |
| | TOTAL EU27 | 23,569 | 2,941 | 26,510 |

CAPI : Computer-Assisted Personal interviewing
CAWI : Computer-Assisted Web interviewing

**Recruitment for online interviews**

The online design in each country differed based on what was feasible within the fieldwork period. Where feasible, the online sample was based on a probabilistic sample design. Those recruited to the online survey were recruited through a single mobile frame or dual frame Random Digit Dialling (RDD) design. In this way the entire phone owning population in each country had a non-zero chance of being sampled. The choice of whether to use a single mobile frame or dual frame (mobile and landline) was dependent on the countries' landline infrastructure. Where the landline infrastructure is suitably advanced to support a significant minority of residential households with landline phones a dual frame design is employed. The mix of mobile and landline sample is designed to maximise the representation of the responding sample. The RDD sample for both the mobile and landline sample is drawn from the country's telephone numbering plan. The landline sample frame is stratified by NUTS3 regions based on their prefix and the mobile by operator before a systematic random sample of numbers is generated proportional in size to the total generatable numbers in each stratum. Respondents were recruited using this sample design in **Belgium**, **Czechia**, **Malta**, **Latvia** and **Slovenia**.

In **Finland** and **Denmark**, RDD samples were not used, instead the telephone sample was drawn from the country telephone directory. In these countries the telephone directories offer comprehensive coverage of the phone owning population, storing both landline and mobile phone numbers for each individual.

### Response rates

For each country a comparison between the responding sample and the universe (i.e. the overall population in the country) is carried out. Weights are used to match the responding sample to the universe on gender by age, region and degree of urbanisation. For European estimates (i.e. EU average), an adjustment is made to the individual country weights, weighting them up or down to reflect their 15+ population as a proportion of the EU 15+ population.

The response rates are calculated by dividing the total number of complete interviews with the number of all the addresses visited, apart from ones that are not eligible but including those where eligibility is unknown. For Eurobarometer 96.2, the response rates for the EU27 countries, calculated by Kantar, are:

| | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| BE | 48.7% | EE | 41.1% | LV* | 25.2% | PL | 43.9% |
| BE* | 10.5% | IE | 36.5% | LT | 42.1% | PT | 37.9% |
| BG | 45.4% | EL | 28.1% | LU | 24.2% | RO | 60.8% |
| CZ | 43.7% | ES | 34.2% | HU | 64.0% | SI | 45.5% |
| CZ* | 53.9% | FR | 32.1% | MT | 81.8% | SI* | 33.5% |
| DK | 40.7% | HR | 42.9% | MT* | 28.0% | SK | 64.0% |
| DK* | 14.2% | IT | 22.3% | NL | 72.2% | FI* | 28.3% |
| DE | 20.5% | CY | 46.5% | AT | 44.1% | SE | 67.3% |

* CAWI response rates, without taking into account recruitment phase.

### Margins of error

Readers are reminded that survey results are estimations, the accuracy of which, everything being equal, rests upon the sample size and upon the observed percentage. With samples of about 1,000 interviews, the real percentages vary within the following confidence limits:

Statistical Margins due to the sampling process

(at the 95% level of confidence)

*various sample sizes are in rows* *various observed results are in columns*

| | 5% | 10% | 15% | 20% | 25% | 30% | 35% | 40% | 45% | 50% | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | 95% | 90% | 85% | 80% | 75% | 70% | 65% | 60% | 55% | 50% | |
| 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% | 10% | 15% | 20% | 25% | 30% | 35% | 40% | 45% | 50% | |
| | 95% | 90% | 85% | 80% | 75% | 70% | 65% | 60% | 55% | 50% | |

The European Parliament's Autumn 2021 Eurobarometer survey (Parlemeter) examines how citizens view the European Parliament and its role in the European Union. It analyses the most essential European values citizens want the Parliament to defend, and looks into the policy issues of paramount importance to them. Reasons as to why countries would have benefited from EU membership also form part of this survey, together with an analysis of citizens' satisfaction with democracy at home and in the EU.

The survey 96.2 was carried out by KANTAR PUBLIC between 1st November and 2nd December 2021 in all 27 EU Member States. The survey was conducted face-to-face and completed with online interviews where necessary as a result of Covid-19 related restrictions. 26,510 interviews were conducted in total, with EU results weighted according to the size of the population in each country.

For the full report and data please visit **europa.eu/eurobarometer/surveys/detail/2612**

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