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EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT EUROBAROMETER

RALLYING AROUND THE EUROPEAN FLAG

DEMOCRACY AS ANCHOR POINT IN TIMES OF CRISIS

European Parliament

IMPRESSUM

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

TABLE OF CONTENTS

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Spring 2022 Eurobarometer survey is the first one commissioned by the European Parliament since the start of the war in Ukraine. With fieldwork completed in April and May 2022, war has become a daily reality and its political and economic effect is tangible to many Europeans.

It is this very impact that the Parliament's Spring 2022 Eurobarometer sets out to assess. The survey focusses on three aspects. First, the war in Ukraine and its economic impact on European citizens (including readiness to face the consequences such as rising prices). Second, it looks at citizens' attitudes towards the EU, the importance of EU membership and the political priorities and values the European Parliament should focus on. Last but not least, it looks at citizen voting propensity two years ahead of the 2024 European elections.

Overall, the Eurobarometer survey results clearly suggest that citizens approve and support the actions taken by the EU since the beginning of Russia's war against Ukraine[1] and the crisis has further strengthened public support for Union. In fact, the European Commission's most recent Eurobarometer data[2] shows almost six in ten citizens are satisfied with the EU's response to the Russian invasion of Ukraine, while eight in ten agree with the economic sanctions imposed on Putin's regime. Democracy is increasingly seen as a key and core European Union value – and voting in (European) elections, in turn, becomes ever more important.

Nevertheless, there are uncertainties and worries on people's minds. Inflation, rising prices and their impact on people's living standards had already been felt before the start of the war as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. The invasion further exacerbates existing issues and citizens are not always yet ready to face its economic consequences: expectations of the EU and European Parliament to deal with the fall-out are increasing.

Uncertainty is the predominant feeling among European citizens, with 87% saying that the war has already or will affect their living standards. Six out of ten are not convinced that their life will continue unchanged, a similar proportion is not ready to face higher prices for food or energy.

In stark contrast to these worries, citizens show resilience in supporting common European values: six out of ten respondents prioritise defending common European ideals such as freedom and democracy over containing consumer prices. More than 80% agree that what brings the citizens of EU Member States together is more important than what separates them. And more than two thirds say it is important that their country is a Member State of the EU.

Indeed, citizens holding a positive impression of the EU is at 52% (+3 pp), its highest level since 2007, just as the image of the European Parliament has grown positively by 3 points since autumn 2021. Democracy (38%, +6pp) is by far the most mentioned value EU citizens want the European Parliament to defend. In terms of policy priorities, the fight against poverty is the new "number 1" (38%), followed by public health (35%) and democracy and rule of law (32%), the latter increasing - also as a policy priority - significantly by 7 pp.

[1] EU's response to the war in Ukraine, EC Flash Eurobarometer 506, https://europa.eu/eurobarometer/surveys/detail/2772
[2] Key challenges of our times: the EU in 2022, EC Special Eurobarometer 526, https://europa.eu/eurobarometer/surveys/detail/2694

Results are compared, wherever possible, to the Parliament's Autumn 2021 Parlemeter survey conducted in November/December 2021. At the time, Russia's invasion had not yet taken place and the pandemic's consequences were still a main concern for Europeans.

LIFE WILL NOT CONTINUE UNCHANGED - HOW THE WAR IN UKRAINE AFFECTS CITIZENS

The Russian war of aggression against Ukraine is very much on citizens' minds: close to three quarters of Europeans follow news related to the latter closely (72% overall), ranging from 55% in Bulgaria and Slovakia to 86% in Denmark. Interestingly, despite their geographical proximity to the conflict area, respondents in Bulgaria, Slovakia (both 55%), Romania and Slovenia (both 56%) are least likely to say that they follow developments closely. Men (77%) follow the situation more than women (69%), as do older respondents (77% of those aged 55+ versus 60% of 15-24-year-olds).

Uncertainty (50%), hope (47%) and confidence (32%) are the predominant feelings citizens across the EU express. At least two in ten respondents also claim to mostly feel helplessness (29%), fear (28%), frustration (24%), serenity or motivation (both 23%), helpfulness (22%) and anger (20%). It is also important to note that fear is mentioned by more than four out of ten respondents in Cyprus (45%), Greece (43%), Slovakia (42%) and France (41%). Furthermore, data suggests that the feeling of uncertainty seems to be linked to individual financial situations: 59% of respondents who say they often encounter difficulties paying bills identify uncertainty as their predominant emotional status, compared to 47% of those who never, or almost never, face such issues. Uncertainty is also much more likely to be mentioned by respondents who have already experienced a reduction of their standard of living due to the war (56%) or those who expect one in the coming months (48%) - compared to those who do not think the war will have an impact on their living standards (34%).

The fundamental change brought about by this war of aggression becomes equally clear when asking people how confident they are that their own life will continue unchanged: 61% of Europeans are not, with only around a third of respondents (37%) believing it will. This insecurity is in fact the most prevalent response in all countries except for Denmark (61% confident) and Ireland (52%). In all other Member States, results for 'not confident' range from 50% in Italy to 86% in Greece and Slovakia.

IMPACT ON STANDARD OF LIVING IS FELT WIDELY, YET DEFENDING FREEDOM AND DEMOCRACY REMAINS THE PRIORITY

Against this background, the survey focusses on the economic impact Europeans expect the war in Ukraine to have on them. While inflation and rising costs of living were already important issues before the war, and partially as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, the situation became exacerbated with the start of the Russian war of aggression against Ukraine. Respondents were asked about its perceived consequences on their standard of living, their readiness to accept food and energy price increases, as well as their opinion on whether it is more important to defend freedom and democracy, or to maintain prices and cost of living in the context of this war.

Almost nine in ten Europeans have either already experienced a reduction in living standards - which they expect to continue

(40%) or which will occur (47%) over the next year. Only one in ten (11%) do not think the war will have an impact on their standard of living. In this case, the country results are striking: in Bulgaria (62%), Cyprus (57%), Portugal (57%), Malta (55%), Greece (49%), Spain (49%), Slovakia (48%), Romania (46%), France (45%) and Poland (45%), respondents are most likely to say that the consequences of the war have already reduced their standard of living and they expect this to be the case over the next year. In almost all remaining countries, respondents are most likely to say that they expect it to happen over the coming months. In four countries, significant shares of the population do not expect the war to affect their standard of living: 30% in Denmark, 26% in both the Netherlands and Sweden, as well as 25% in Finland. In comparison, less than 15% have a similar optimistic outlook in any other EU country, going down as low as 2% of respondents in Malta. Further analysis reveals that consequences seem to be hitting rather more vulnerable socio-demographic segments for now: older respondents, citizens with less formal education, housepersons, those not in employment, single parents and those who often, or at times, encounter difficulties paying bills are more likely to already have felt the impact of the war on their standard of living.

A similar picture emerges when looking at the readiness of Europeans to face surging energy prices. 58% are not ready, while 40% say they are, at least to some degree. Respondents say they are not ready to face energy price increases in all but five Member States (Denmark, the Netherlands, Luxembourg, Finland and Sweden). In countries where a majority of citizens say they are not ready for higher energy prices, responses range from 50% in Germany to 88% in Bulgaria and 89% in Greece. Importantly, significant shares of respondents say they are 'not at all ready' in these countries, from 17% in Slovakia to 63% in Greece.

The same pattern emerges when it comes to readiness to face food price increases. At the EU level, 59% say they are not ready (among which 30% reply 'not very ready' and 29% 'not at all ready'), against 39% who are. As before, it is in the same countries that most respondents say they are ready to face increasing food prices: Denmark (83%), Sweden (77%), the Netherlands (72%), Finland (69%) and Luxembourg (55%). In the remaining Member States, majorities say they are not ready to face rising food prices with results ranging from 52% in Germany to 89% in Greece. In fact, readiness to face soaring prices does not depend on the type of commodity - results are similar or equal in all countries when it comes to both food and energy price increases.

From a socio-demographic point of view, findings are similar to results on the impact of the war on living standards: respondents with less formal education, house persons, those not in employment, single parents and those who often, or at times, encounter difficulties paying bills are more likely to say they are not ready to face food and energy price rises. In addition, 61% of women are more likely to say they are not ready to face a rise of prices.

The war in Ukraine has brought one vital question to the surface: should we prioritise the defence of common European values such as freedom and democracy or maintain prices and the cost of living, even if this compromises the defence of these values? According to this survey, Europeans are much more likely to consider that the defence of freedom and democracy must be a priority even if it impacts prices and cost of living. Nearly six out of ten respondents agree (59%), against 39% who would prioritise price stability. This picture also holds true at the country level, where it is the majority view in twenty Member States, with results ranging from 49% in Portugal to 85% in Denmark and Sweden. Yet in many cases, the choice seems difficult, with the difference between both answers being negligible. In some countries, price stability would be prioritised by a majority of respondents: this is the case in Bulgaria (70%), Hungary (67%), Malta (63%), Romania (62%), Greece (51%) and Cyprus (51%). The choice also seems to be closely linked to the impact of the war on living standards and readiness to face rising prices. Defending common values is much more likely to be mentioned by those who are ready to face food (74% versus 49% who are not ready) or energy (73% versus 50%) prices increases and by those who have not yet felt the impact of the war or do not expect to (64% in both cases against 52% of those who have already felt an impact). Interestingly, it is also more likely to be mentioned by respondents who follow news on the war closely (63% against 47% who do not follow closely). The opposite holds true for those who would prioritise price stability - they are more likely to have to deal with financial issues and to not follow the news on the war closely.

MORE THAN EVER, BEING A MEMBER OF THE EU IS SEEN AS THE RIGHT THING – AND CITIZENS REMAIN OPTIMISTIC FOR THE FUTURE OF THE EU

While this survey shows citizens' uncertainty and preoccupation with the war and its consequences on their personal lives, one important finding also emerges when looking at citizens' attitudes towards the European Union in this context. Very much as seen in previous surveys and especially since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, European attitudes towards EU membership and its importance have been increasingly positive.

Almost two thirds (65%) of Europeans now see EU membership as a good thing. Results for this question have been steadily increasing over the past years and are now reaching their highest level since autumn 2007, when it was at 58%. In contrast, EU membership is seen as 'neither good nor bad' by 26% of respondents and as a bad thing by just 8% surveyed. EU membership is seen as 'a good thing' by an absolute majority of citizens in all countries except Greece and Slovakia, where more respondents view it as 'neither a good nor a bad thing'. Proportions for the 'a good thing' answer range from 41% in Greece and Slovakia to 90% in Luxembourg. Compared to the Parliament's last survey, the 2021 Parlemeter conducted at the end of last year, results have increased significantly in most countries, particularly in Lithuania (+20 pp), Malta (+12 pp) and Estonia (+9 pp).

Asked to rate the importance of EU membership on a scale from 1 to 10, seven in ten Europeans say that membership is important (70%, an increase of 9 pp since the 2021 Parlemeter, score 7 to 10), among which 24% say it is extremely important (score 10 out of 10). Membership is considered important among respondents in all countries, with results ranging from 49% in Slovakia to 87% in Ireland. In several, more than a quarter of respondents say it is extremely important (score 10), with proportions reaching 49% in Luxembourg and 50% in Malta. Compared to the Autumn 2021 Parlemeter, importance has increased in almost all Member States, often reaching double digits: +20 pp in Lithuania, +16 pp in Malta, +15 pp in Hungary, +14 pp in Italy and Luxembourg, +13 pp in Belgium and Portugal, +12 pp in Poland, +11 pp in Czechia, Estonia, France, Croatia and Finland as well as +10 pp in Ireland.

In close relation with the war in Ukraine, respondents were also asked to share their opinion on whether the EU should speed up its efforts in letting new countries in: 58% would be in favour while 36% would be against. A majority of respondents disagree with this statement in Slovakia (55%), the Netherlands (52%), Slovenia (51%) and Austria (50%). In others, the difference between agreement and disagreement is small (Bulgaria: 40% agree and 42% disagree; Czechia: a draw at 47%; France: 47% agree and 46% disagree; Luxembourg: 49% agree and 48% disagree). In several countries, however, proportions of agreement are very high. This is the case in Poland (80%), Ireland (77%), Lithuania (75%), Spain (74%) and Croatia (71%).

Despite the changed context, optimism regarding the EU's future has remained stable since autumn 2021. 62% (-1 pp) of Europeans are optimistic versus 34% who are not. This is the majority view in all countries except Cyprus (45% are optimistic, 49% are pessimistic) and Greece (41% optimism versus 56% pessimism). The highest rates of optimism regarding the EU's future are found in Denmark (82%) and Ireland (86%). Country evolutions show some notable differences: optimism has significantly increased in eight countries and decreased in six. Increases are observed in Finland (+12 pp), Latvia (+10 pp), Lithuania (+6 pp), Czechia (+5 pp), France (+5 pp), Sweden (+5 pp), Denmark (+4 pp) and Poland (+4 pp). On the other hand, optimism has decreased in Hungary (-13 pp), Cyprus (-10 pp), Bulgaria (-8 pp), Portugal (-8 pp), Croatia (-5 pp) and Italy (-4 pp). Finally, the socio-demographic data shows that younger respondents are more optimistic than older ones (72% among 15-24-year-olds compared to 60% of 55+ year olds).

Compared to six months ago, the feeling that things are going in the right direction in the EU has increased by 10 pp, while the sentiment going the other way has fallen by 10 pp. For the first time over the past decade, positive feeling surpasses the negative: 43% of respondents now say that things are going in the right direction, just above the 40% who think they are going in the wrong direction. It is noteworthy that since the end of 2015, the perception that things are going in the right direction in the EU has been on the rise and has now reached its highest level since autumn 2007. This rather positive feeling towards the EU is also shown when comparing results with the question on whether things were going in the right or wrong direction in their own country: Europeans seem to consistently think that things are going better in the EU than at home.

In view of the current geopolitical context, this survey sees the return of a question not asked since March 2017, namely whether what brings Europeans together is more important than what separates them. Today, 81% of Europeans agree that what brings citizens together is more important than what separates them, against 16% who do not think so. This is a majority view with very high proportions in all Member States, with agreement ranging from 67% in Estonia and 68% in Romania to 92% in Malta and Sweden and 94% in Ireland. Since March 2017, agreement has risen from 74% to 81% at the EU level (+7 pp) and has significantly increased in 17 countries (as much as +18 pp in Spain, +16 pp in Cyprus, +14 pp in Italy and +11 pp in Belgium, Czechia and Luxembourg). In other countries, variations are within the margin of error.

EU IMAGE REMAINS STABLE AT HIGHEST LEVEL FOR FIFTEEN YEARS

The positive developments shown in citizens' attitudes towards EU membership are also reflected clearly in the general impression respondents have of the European Union. 52% of Europeans today hold a positive impression of the EU. This result is not only stable compared to November-December 2021 (+3 pp), more importantly, it is the best result for this indicator measured by EP Eurobarometer surveys since spring 2007. Around one third of respondents hold a neutral impression of the EU (36%) and 12% a negative one. In most Member States, respondents are most likely to hold a positive impression, with results ranging from 42% in Cyprus to 76% in Ireland. Three exceptions are Greece, Austria and Slovakia where more respondents hold a neutral impression of the EU. In Cyprus, positive and the neutral impressions of the EU are on a par.

Over the last six months, the EU's image has significantly improved in several countries such as Lithuania (+ 11 pp), Belgium (+10 pp) or Romania (+9 pp), among others). From a socio-demographic point of view, younger respondents are more likely to hold a positive impression of the EU, as well as those with a higher education level and who think EU membership is important. This is also the case among those who follow news about the war in Ukraine closely (58% against 39% of those who do not follow the news closely).

Recent events have also shaped the impression Europeans have of non-EU countries. The survey asks a question last used in 2018 on citizens' views of China, Russia, the USA and the UK, adding Turkey and India to the set. Results show not only a clear picture, but also interesting developments over these four years. According to the current survey, Europeans hold the most positive image of the UK (65%, 2018: 64%), followed by the USA at 58%. In 2018, under the Presidency of Donald Trump, only 45% on EU average held a positive image of the United States. India projects a positive image among 38% of respondents, followed by Turkey with 28%. China and Russia return the lowest positive rates with 22% and 10% respectively. In 2018, China and Russia still projected a positive images with 36% and 30% of respondents respectively.

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT IMPROVES POSITIVE IMAGE – DEFENDING DEMOCRACY AND THE FIGHT AGAINST POVERTY DOMINATE PRIORITY RANKING

A similar positive trend continues with citizens' impression of the European Parliament. Its image has steadily increased positively over the past years, reaching its highest level since autumn 2007: today it is at 39%. 43% hold a neutral impression of the EP and 16% a negative one. In parallel to the upwards trend for 'positive image', the negative image has been decreasing over the same period, with the neutral image remaining relatively stable. Compared to November-December 2021, the positive image of the EP has increased in a significant way in the following countries: Malta (+23 pp), Portugal (+10 pp), Spain (+6 pp), Lithuania (+6 pp), Italy (+5 pp), Poland (+5 pp), Slovakia (+5 pp), Germany

(+4 pp), Cyprus (+4 pp) and Romania (+4 pp). On the contrary, it has fallen in the Netherlands and Sweden (-7 pp in both countries) as well as in Estonia (-4 pp).

The context of the war in Ukraine seems also to reaffirm the types of values citizens want the European Parliament to defend as priority. By some margin, respondents are most likely to choose 'democracy' as their key value, mentioned by 38%, followed by 'freedom of speech and thought' and 'the protection of human rights in the EU and worldwide' (both 27%). These values make up the top three in most countries.

While EU level results for most of the values asked have remained stable since autumn 2021, 'democracy' saw a significant increase of 6 points up from 32% in November-December 2021. The importance given to democracy as a key and core EU value has in fact increased notably in several countries, such as Sweden (+13 pp), the Netherlands (+12 pp), Czechia (+11 pp) and Germany (+10 pp).

The past years' multiple crises as well as the sudden transition from a pandemic to war also impacts the choice of political priorities Europeans want the European Parliament to address. Public Health, with still 42% of mentions six months ago, now drops to second place with 35%, leaving the fight against poverty and social exclusion (38%) in first place. 'Democracy and the rule of law' (32%) comes after public health, 'action against climate change' (31%), 'support to the economy and the creation of new jobs' (30%), 'the future of Europe' (29%) and 'the EU's defence and security, including the protection of EU's external borders' (27%).

Several differences can be found between Member States on the issues that citizens want to prioritise:

- The fight against poverty and social exclusion comes first in Belgium, Bulgaria (equal with support to the economy and the creation of new jobs), France, Croatia, Lithuania, Austria (equal with action against climate change) Portugal and Slovakia.
- Public health remains a top priority for respondents in Ireland, Spain, Italy, Cyprus, Latvia, Luxembourg (equal with the future of Europe), Hungary, Romania and Slovenia.
- Action against climate change comes first in Denmark, Malta, the Netherlands, Austria (with the fight against poverty) and Sweden.
- Support to the economy and the creation of new jobs is the most mentioned topic in Bulgaria (with the fight against poverty) and Greece.
- Democracy and the rule of law is a priority for respondents in Germany, as is the EU's defence and security in Czechia, Estonia, Poland and Finland.

Comparing these results with the 2021 Parlemeter, where public health was first (42%), followed the by fight against poverty and social exclusion (40%) and action against climate change (39%), some policy priorities have seen a significant evolution: public health and migration and asylum have decreased by 7 pp and 9 pp respectively, as has action against climate change (-8 pp). On the other hand, the EU's defence and security, including the protection of the EU's external borders has gained significantly in importance (+8 pp), as have democracy and the rule of law (+7 pp), the EU's autonomy in the fields of industry and energy (+6 pp) and the future of Europe (+5pp).

Despite these clearly context-related changes, it is noteworthy that the fight against climate change has consistently remained a very important topic for Europeans overall in recent years. The socio-demographic analysis reveals some interesting age-related differences: While younger respondents prioritise gender equality and action against climate change, older generations are more likely to mention public health and the fight against poverty and social exclusion.

VOTING IS CITIZENS' FIRST CHOICE TO MAKE THEMSELVES HEARD - VOTING IMPORTANCE AND LIKELIHOOD TO VOTE RISE SIGNIFICANTLY

The final chapter of the report focusses on Europeans' perception and participation in the EU's democratic process. Here too, the EU's near seamless 'crisis-mode' transition from the COVID-19 pandemic to war, seems to affect results and affirm citizens' support for the European Union, the importance of democracy and the value of participating in democratic processes.

When asked whether they believe that 'their voice counts in the EU', respondents return the second best result since spring 2004 with 53% (the best result was measured in June 2019 with 56%, right after the 2019 European elections) - an eight-point increase since autumn 2021. Disagreement with this statement has decreased by seven points, from 50% in November-December 2021 to 43% in April-May 2022. There remain, however, some substantial differences among Member States, with cases where significant proportions say that their voice does not count in the EU. This is the case in Estonia (72% disagreement with the statement), Greece (71%), Latvia (64%), Cyprus (63%), Italy (62%), Czechia (61%), Hungary (50%), Slovenia (50%), Bulgaria (49%) and Lithuania (49%). Those with a higher education level or students are more likely to say that their voice counts in the EU, as well as those who are interested in politics, in general, and who think their voice also counts in their country.

Asked about various ways of ensuring their voice is heard by decision-makers at the EU level, 55% believe that voting in European elections is the best way, followed by 33% saying that voting in other elections is the most effective approach. Voting in European elections is the most mentioned item in all countries but Slovakia, where signing a petition comes first, and reaches scores as high as 83% in Sweden or 78% in Denmark.

This result is further bolstered by 59% of respondents considering voting in European elections as highly important. It is of medium importance to 31% of citizens and of low importance to 9%. The share of citizens assessing voting in the European elections as highly important has increased by 8 pp at the EU level and in almost all countries since autumn 2018, when this question was last asked: Portugal (+26 pp), Poland (+19 pp), Slovenia (+18 pp), Croatia (+18 pp), Czechia (+18 pp), Luxembourg (+13 pp), Ireland (+13 pp), Belgium (+11 pp), Cyprus (+11 pp), Spain (+11 pp), Greece (+10 pp), France (+10 pp) and Bulgaria (+10 pp).

Finally, two years ahead of the 2024 European elections, respondents were asked over the likelihood that they would vote 'if the European elections were held next week'. 71% of Europeans (+13 pp since the autumn 2021) would. Among them, 40% would be very likely to vote (score 10 out of 10), a 10 pp increase since November-December 2021. 14% would likely not vote, an eight-point decrease. At the country level, likelihood to vote ranges from over eight in ten in Denmark (90%), Sweden (86%), the Netherlands (85%) and Ireland (84%) to 58% in Croatia and 56% in Slovakia.

Looking at developments since the 2021 Parlemeter, voting propensity has increased significantly in all countries and remained relatively stable in the Netherlands (+3 pp). Increases range from +7 pp (Greece and Finland) to +24 pp in France, +22 pp in Hungary and +21pp in Luxembourg. While the age gap in voting propensity seems to narrow, socio-demographic analysis still shows that older Europeans are most likely to vote (scores 7-10) with 73% of 55+ year olds against 65% of 15-24-year-olds.

CONTEXT

Fieldwork: 19 April - 16 May 2022

The fieldwork for the European Parliament's Spring 2022 Eurobarometer survey was carried out by Kantar between 19 April and 16 May 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. All national results for the questions asked in this survey – and in continuation the European average results – must be seen under the light of the situation and public debate at the time of fieldwork.

Russian invasion of Ukraine

Public discourse at the time of fieldwork was dominated by the war in Ukraine, which started on 24 February when Russian President Vladimir Putin ordered his troops to invade Ukraine. This has quickly become Europe's greatest **security crisis** since the violent breakup of the Yugoslav Federation in the 1990s with many ripple effects on citizens' lives in- and outside Ukraine.

The Russian invasion of Ukraine brought swift condemnation from EU leaders, the U.S. President and other world leaders. The EU agreed very rapidly on several packages of sanctions against Russia in response to the aggression, which included an embargo on Russian coal and cutting-off certain Russian banks from SWIFT, an international payment system[3]. During the fieldwork period, Member States have been discussing a sixth sanctions package, overcoming gradually misgivings of several Member States but without being able to finalise it - mainly due to Hungary's persistent veto on a Russian oil embargo and the requirement of unanimity in the European Council on issues relating to common foreign and security policy.

The EU and its Member States have been providing **humanitarian and financial assistance** as well as **military support** to Ukraine since inception of the war. In a watershed moment for its defence policy, the EU agreed to unblock some €500 million to buy arms for Ukraine's armed forces - only days after Russia had invaded Ukraine. For the first time ever, the thus EU financed the purchase and delivery of weapons and other equipment to a country that is under attack. In March, Germany announced a big shift in its national defence policy in response to Russia's aggression, with Chancellor Olaf Scholz pledging a jump in military spending and a revamp of the armed forces. On 13 May, High Representative/Vice-President Josep Borrell stated that the European Union would provide a new tranche of €500 million to support the military of Ukraine taking the community bloc's total aid to about €2 billion[4]. Poland and other neighbouring countries have become logistical hubs for weapons supplies into Ukraine.

Reports of Russian forces targeting civilians have been multiplying since the beginning of the war, including the shelling of a children hospital and maternity ward in the besieged port city of Mariupol on 9 March. Allegations of Russian war crimes continued emerging in many towns, which had been occupied by Russian forces. In Bucha, hundreds of bodies of civilians were found shot dead. Human Rights Watch[5] and Amnesty International[6] have reported devastating evidence of rape, mass executions

[3] consilium.europa.eu/en/policies/sanctions/restrictive-measures-against-russia-over-ukraine
[4] ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_22_3121
[5] hrw.org/europe/central-asia/ukraine
[6] amnesty.org/en/latest/news/2022/03/latest-news-on-russias-war-on-ukraine

and the use of landmines by Russian forces. High-level talks to achieve a ceasefire to rescue civilians from besieged cities made little progress during fieldwork.

On 22 April, the Russian Government claimed that Russian forces had taken Mariupol yet the mayor denied by saying that Ukrainian soldiers were still defending the Azovstal steel plant. Hundreds of civilians were also hiding in the steel plant under gruesome conditions. First civilians could be evacuated from the steel plant under the protection of the UN and the Red Cross at the beginning of May. Only on 17 May, Ukrainian fighters surrendered to Russian forces after weeks of desperate resistance, ending the most devastating siege of Russia's war in Ukraine.

Russia, meanwhile, has also stepped up efforts to restrict the availability of information, **targeting independent reporting** on both sides of the border.

As Russia's war continues, **fears of potential conflict spill over effects** in Europe's neighbourhood persist. This has led **Finland and Sweden to officially apply for NATO membership** on 18 May, ignoring Russia's warning of serious consequences in such an event. If the applications are successful, Austria, Cyprus, Ireland and Malta will be the only non-aligned EU Member States left.

The war in Ukraine also triggered a severe **migration crisis**. According to the United Nations, around 13 million people are believed to have fled their homes in Ukraine since the conflict began. More than six million have left for neighbouring countries and at least another 6.5 million people are thought to be displaced inside the war-torn country itself[7]. Poland, together with other neighbouring countries, has been providing humanitarian assistance to the bulk of refugee. Citizens all over Europe have shown widespread solidarity and support for those able to flee. The United Nations' refugee agency, UNHCR, opened a special office in Kraków in response to the major influx of refugees from Ukraine trying to prevent Ukrainian women and children from falling into the hands of human traffickers. The UN warned of the heightened risks of human trafficking and exploitation caused by the rapid mass displacement of people.

In March, the EU activated the **Temporary Protection Directive**[8] assisting people fleeing the war. Ukrainian refugees are entitled to a residence permit as well as to access to education and to the labour market. The directive is valid for one year with the possibility of an extension for one or two more years.

As a further consequence of the war, **cost of living increased substantially** following a surge in energy and food prices. Russian Gazprom on 27 April materialised its threat and stopped to deliver natural gas to Bulgaria and Poland because the countries refused to pay in roubles, which led to a further price hike.

On 28 February, **Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy submitted an official request to allow his country to gain EU membership** as it defends itself from a Russian invasion. Due to the ongoing crisis, the President Zelenskyy requested immediate admission to the European Union under a special procedure. Eight central and eastern European nations signed a letter supporting an accelerated accession process for Ukraine. Georgia and Moldova subsequently also formally applied for EU membership. The European Commission is expected to provide its opinion on Ukraine's membership process in June.

[7] data2.unhcr.org/en/situations/ukraine
[8] schengenvisainfo.com/news/eu-countries-start-implementing-temporary-protection-directive-for-ukrainians

Ukraine has also seen many **political leaders travelling to the war-torn country**: to send a message of support but also to discuss sanctions against Russia, military and financial support for Ukraine and perspectives for Ukraine's membership in the EU. From the EU institutions, EP President Metsola was first to pay a visit to Kyiv on 1 April followed by EC President von der Leyen and HR/VP Borrell and later by Council President Michel. However, President Zelenskyy's initial refusal to receive German President Steinmeier created a diplomatic incident in mid-April. German media outlets broadly covered the story. German President Steinmeier and Ukraine's President Zelenskyy subsequently agreed to leave the past behind and to focus on future cooperation. Meanwhile, Ukraine's President Zelenskyy continued his diplomatic marathon addressing parliaments all over the world to garner support for Ukraine.

On 14 May, Kalush Orchestra from Ukraine won the **Eurovision Song Contest**. Ukraine received 439 points from the televote, which represents the most televoting points received from the public in the contest's history to date.

Economic context

The outlook for the EU economy before the outbreak of the war was for a prolonged and robust expansion recovering from the impact of the pandemic. However, the **war has brought renewed disruptions in global supply chains, increased further commodity prices and uncertainty**. The EU is first in line among advanced economies to take a hit, due to its geographical proximity to Russia and Ukraine, heavy reliance on imported fossil fuels, especially from Russia, and high integration in global value chains. The main threat to the global and EU economies comes through higher energy prices. However, pressure on prices is increasingly broadening beyond energy. **Higher energy and food prices reduce households' purchasing power, especially for lower income families** who spend a higher fraction of their income on these items. All of these factors have led the European Commission to **cut growth forecasts for 2022 and increase its inflation outlook** in the Spring 2022 Economic Forecast[9].

Real GDP growth in both the EU and the euro area is now expected at 2.7% in 2022 and 2.3% in 2023, down from 4.0% and 2.8% (2.7% in the euro area), respectively. **Inflation is now expected to average an all-time high of 6.8% in 2022**, before declining to 3.2% in 2023. In the euro area, inflation is projected at 6.1% in 2022 and 2.7% in 2023, according to the EC's latest Economic Forecast.

According to Eurostat data[10], the **euro area annual inflation rate was 7.4% in April 2022**, stable compared to March and up from 5.9% in February. A year earlier, the rate was 1.6%. **European Union annual inflation was 8.1% in April 2022**, up from 7.8% in March. A year earlier, the rate was 2.0%. The lowest annual rates were registered in France, Malta (both 5.4%) and Finland (5.8%). The highest annual rates were recorded in Estonia (19.1%), Lithuania (16.6%) and Czechia (13.2%). To counter inflation, the European Central Bank (ECB) has signalled it may raise interest rates in July, which would be the first rate rise since 2011.

Along the same lines, the International Monetary Fund predicts low growth and inflation, according to its latest "World Economic Outlook" report[11], published on 19 April 2022. It revised its forecast for global growth downwards to 3.6%. This is 0.8% less than its estimate of four months ago. Fuel and food

[9] ec.europa.eu/info/business-economy-euro/economic-performance-and-forecasts/economic-forecasts/spring-2022-economic-forecast_en
[10] ec.europa.eu/eurostat/documents/2995521/14636041/2-18052022-AP-EN.pdf/9ac63755-4fec-2a70-c149-32edbda92849
[11] imf.org/en/Publications/WEO

prices have increased rapidly, hitting vulnerable populations in low-income countries hardest. The IMF stressed that the level of uncertainty is considerable, and the situation could worsen significantly should the war be protracted, and an oil and gas embargo put in place. Germany and Italy are the hardest hit, with their large manufacturing sectors and their greater dependence on Russian energy imports.

As regards the **labour market**, last year, the EU economy created more than 5.2 million jobs and attracted nearly 3.5 million more people into the labour market. In March 2022, the euro area seasonally-adjusted unemployment rate was 6.8%, down from 6.9% in February 2022 and from 8.2% in March 2021. The EU unemployment rate was 6.2% in March 2022, down from 6.3% in February 2022 and from 7.5% in March 2021, according to Eurostat data[12]. With **unemployment rates at record-low levels**, a rapid **increase in unfilled vacancies** and a growing share of managers reporting **labour shortages** as a factor limiting their production, labour markets in the EU have tightened. This strong performance was broad-based across countries, sectors and socio-economic groups, with the exception of the low skilled who are still lagging behind. **However, job creation is expected to drop markedly this year, amidst signs of easing labour shortages**. Unemployment rates are forecast to decline further, to 6.7% this year and 6.5% in 2023 in the EU. People fleeing the war in Ukraine to the EU are expected to enter labour markets gradually, with tangible effects only from next year[13].

Other major events on national or international level

Not least because of the war in Ukraine, the **COVID-19 pandemic** has almost disappeared from the news, after it had been dominant for almost two years. In the EU, infection rates have been decreasing and detected cases showed milder symptoms[14]. Anti-COVID-19 restrictions have been gradually loosened in EU Member States. The EU has entered a new post-emergency phase of the pandemic, in which testing is more targeted and monitoring of COVID-19 cases is more in line with flu surveillance. However, China's zero-COVID policy continues posing a threat to international supply chains.

On a different note, on 29 April, **EU border agency chief Fabrice Leggeri resigned** after an investigation by the European Anti-Fraud Office (OLAF) looking into the agency's alleged role in illegally turning away migrants. On 4 May, MEPs delayed signing off on accounts of the EU border control agency Frontex[15].

In addition, **another Brexit crisis is looming** towards the end of the fieldwork period as the UK is threatening to unilaterally suspend the **Northern Ireland protocol**.

Legislative context on EU level

From a legislative perspective on EU level, digital files have been dominating the news. On 23 April, EU negotiators agreed on the **Digital Services Act**[16] (DSA), which contains landmark rules to effectively tackle the spread of illegal content online and protect people's fundamental rights in the digital sphere. The Digital Services Act aims at forcing platforms like Facebook, Google and Twitter to better police content or face steep fines. Together with the **Digital Markets Act**[17], the DSA will set the standards for

[12] ec.europa.eu/eurostat/documents/2995521/14613608/3-03052022-AP-EN.pdf/36631a07-778c-efb0-01f2-8a052bde985e
[13] ec.europa.eu/info/business-economy-euro/economic-performance-and-forecasts/economic-forecasts/spring-2022-economic-forecast_en
[14] covid19-surveillance-report.ecdc.europa.eu/archive-COVID19-reports/index.html
[15] europarl.europa.eu/news/en/press-room/20220429IPR28235/discharge-meps-delay-signing-off-on-accounts-of-frontex
[16] europarl.europa.eu/news/en/press-room/20220412IPR27111/digital-services-act-agreement-for-a-transparent-and-safe-online-environment
[17] europarl.europa.eu/news/en/press-room/20220315IPR25504/deal-on-digital-markets-act-ensuring-fair-competition-and-more-choice-for-users

a safer and more open digital space for users, giving citizens better control over how their data is used by online platforms and big tech companies, while it would strengthen the fight against illegal content and misinformation.

Around the same time, news broke that Elon Musk has become one of the biggest shareholders in Twitter after a filing revealed that the tech entrepreneur had taken a 9.2 per cent stake in the social media company. On 25 April, **Twitter's board accepted a $44bn (€41.3 billion) offer to sell the company to Elon Musk**, handing control of the influential social media platform to the world's richest man. Elon Musk said he would reverse Twitter's decision to ban former US President Donald Trump from the platform. Several European representatives expressed concern about his "libertarian" vision of freedom of expression, in contradiction with the provisions of the DSA agreed a couple of days earlier.

On 27 April, ahead of the **World Press Freedom Day** celebrated on 3 May, the European Commission announced plans to protect journalists and human rights defenders against abusive lawsuits.

The European Parliament has also started the **reform of the EU's Electoral Law Act**, seeking to turn the 27 separate elections and their diverging rules into a single European election. MEPs in plenary voted to change how Europe-wide elections are implemented, supporting transnational voting lists for European elections. Every voter would have two votes: one to select 705 MEPs through national systems and another to elect 28 supplementary MEPs through transnational lists[18].

The **Conference on the Future of Europe** symbolically ended on 9 May (Europe Day). Citizens presented a 50-page report with 49 proposals, including the review of the Treaties[19], a measure supported by EP President Metsola as well as EC President von der Leyen. In his closing speech of the Conference on the Future of Europe, French President Macron also backed treaty change and proposed to generalise qualified majority voting (QMV) in the European Council. President Macron, whose country is holding the rotating Presidency of the Council of the EU, announced that the reforms will be discussed at the European Council in June. However, 13 Member States opposed the proposal to review the European Treaties in an open letter, published on the same day.

Elections

Just ahead of fieldwork, **general elections took place in Hungary** on 3 April. Viktor **Orbán's right-wing Fidesz party won a fourth consecutive term**, getting 54.1% of the votes, and taking two-thirds of seats, i.e. 135 out of the 199-seat parliament. The united opposition "United for Hungary", including six opposition parties spanning from the once far-right Jobbik party to liberal urban Momentum, suffered a crushing defeat (34.4%, 57 seats). The new far-right radical party "Our Country" (Mi Hazánk) crossed the threshold and secured six seats. The National Self-Government of Germans in Hungary (NMOÖ) party repeated its 2018 electoral success and won one seat in the parliament. The party benefitted from the low threshold required for parties representing the various national minorities to gain seats in the National Assembly. Turnout was at 69.59%.

Many observers warned that the elections could not be considered "fair" because of changes to the electoral law, gerrymandering, campaign finance transparency issues, misuse of administrative resources, pliant media and overwhelming dominance of Fidesz in the reporting.

[18] europarl.europa.eu/news/en/press-room/20220429IPR28242/meps-begin-revising-rules-on-eu-elections-calling-for-pan-european-constituency
[19] futureu.europa.eu/pages/reporting

The Hungarian government failed to achieve the necessary number of valid votes in what it called a "child protection" referendum, widely considered to be targeting the LGBTQI community, held simultaneously with the elections.

Two days after the elections, European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen announced that the Commission would trigger the rule of law conditionality mechanism. It is the first time that the European Commission is applying new powers that would allow it — at a final stage — to withhold EU funds from a country in which breaches of the rule of law affect how the money might be spent.

In **France, presidential elections** took place on 10 and 24 April. In the first round, incumbent President Macron took the lead with 27.9% of votes, followed by Marine Le Pen with 23.2%, Jean-Luc Mélenchon of La France Insoumise with 22%, and Éric Zemmour of Reconquête with 7.1%. Valérie Pécresse of The Republicans took 4.8% of the vote, Yannick Jadot (Greens) 4.6%, while Anne Hidalgo, mayor of Paris and Socialist Party candidate, was trailing far behind with 1.8% of the votes. All three candidates finished below the threshold allowing for campaign cost reimbursement.

In the second round, **Macron beat his far-right rival Le Pen with 58.5% of the vote against 41.5%**. The margin between the two was much narrower this time than five years earlier in a first run-off between Macron and Le Pen. Le Pen's popularity surged as her focus on cost-of-living issues resonated with millions of French people struggling to make ends meet after a stark increase of energy prices over the last year. Turnout was at 72.0%, the lowest in a presidential election run-off since 1969.

The presidential election is followed by **legislative elections on 12 June** (with runoffs scheduled for 19 June) to elect the 577 members of the National Assembly, the lower house of the French parliament. On 02 May, a new left-wing political coalition between the Green Party and the far-left La France Insoumise was announced, lowering French President Macron's chances of winning a parliamentary majority at the upcoming elections. The new coalition cited a willingness to "disobey European rules" to reach their political objectives.

The 2022 Russian invasion of Ukraine had significant implications for the campaign. As media coverage switched to covering the war, Macron's polling improved significantly during the crisis, an effect often described as "rally 'round the flag effect." Le Pen and Zemmour on the contrary had to explain previous statements of praise for Vladimir Putin.

On 24 April, voters in **Slovenia** elected the 90 members of the Slovenian National Assembly. The **populist Prime Minister Janez Janša from the Slovenian Democratic Party (SDS) lost to his centrist rivals from Slovenia's Freedom Movement**, a newly created party. The Freedom Movement won 34.5% of the vote, against 23.5% for Janša's Slovenian Democratic Party.

The Freedom Movement, led by Robert Golob, a former executive of a state-owned energy company, won 41 seats. The Movement had billed the elections as a "referendum on democracy" and campaigned on a transition to green energy, an open society and the rule of law. Turnout stood at 70%, a substantial increase compared to previous two elections (52.63% in 2018 and 51.71% in 2014). Internationally, the election has been described as a defeat for Janša and right-wing populism, Janša being a supporter of former US President Donald Trump and an ally of Hungary's Prime Minister Viktor Orbán. On 11 May, Robert Golob told reporters that the Freedom Movement had agreed to form a government with both the Social Democrats and The Left.

Elections in **Schleswig-Holstein** (4 May) **and North-Rhine Westphalia** (15 May) produced a **landslide victory for the CDU, and record results for the Greens, while the SPD vote collapsed**.

Outside the EU but still with an important bearing on the bloc, on 5 May 2022, voters went to the polls to select local authority representatives in England, including all 32 London boroughs, as well as Scotland and Wales, and for Assembly seats in **Northern Ireland**. **Sinn Féin** (a party supporting the reunification of Ireland) **became the first nationalist party to win the most seats overall in a Northern Ireland election**, a fundamental shift in the political landscape of the region. The Democratic Unionist Party (DUP) lost seats, becoming the second largest party in the Assembly, while the Alliance Party had their best-ever result, becoming the third-largest party.

OVERVIEW OF PUBLICLY AVAILABLE SURVEYS ON UKRAINE

How the war in Ukraine has shifted public opinion in the EU

Since the start of the Russian invasion of Ukraine on 24 February 2022, public opinion across Europe has shifted remarkably. To provide a comprehensive overview, the European Parliament's Public Opinion Monitoring Unit is producing a weekly briefing on publicly available surveys across the EU[20], giving insight into citizens' assessment of the war, its consequences for the European Union and on their own personal lives.

Tracing the rapidly evolving situation, these surveys add an additional layer of context to the results of Parliament's Spring 2022 Eurobarometer survey.

This brief examination of European audience insight sources looks at the personal perceptions and emotional reactions of the public to the Russian invasion while it discusses citizens' attitudes towards the EU and its response to this war and the Russian aggressor.

Note to the reader: The European Parliament has neither commissioned nor conducted any of the surveys used in this section. The surveys quoted were conducted with various methodologies. Figures and findings presented here therefore cannot be compared directly to the results of the EP Spring Eurobarometer, but should rather be used as contrasting illustration.

Personal perceptions and emotions of the invasion

Public reaction to Russia's war in Ukraine was sombre right from the beginning of the invasion. At the end of February, 87% of Italians[21] said that they were worried about the situation between Russia and Ukraine – including 34% who were 'very worried'. There were similar shares of people worried in Germany (86%) and France (83%).

In addition, three quarters of Austrians[22] (74%) were emotionally rather or very negatively affected by the war in Ukraine, a share surpassing the 55% of Austrians who said to be negatively affected by COVID-19 in the same month. In the Netherlands[23], as many as 51% stated they were 'very worried' and another 39% had 'some concerns'. By way of comparison: in July 2021, when COVID-19 infections rose again, 47% had 'some concerns' about this, while only 23% were 'very worried'.

A month later, worries and fears have all but allayed: In March 2022, Europeans were mainly concerned about 'the price increase and the inflation' (85%), 'that the Ukraine conflict could turn into a world war' (78%), and 'that Russia could use nuclear weapons'[24]. At the same time, concerns about the coronavirus

[20] European Parliament (2022): Public opinion on the war in Ukraine, URL: https://www.europarl.europa.eu/at-your-service/en/be-heard/eurobarometer/public-opinion-on-the-war-in-ukraine
[21] YOUGOV (2022): European reaction to the Russian invasion of Ukraine, URL:https://yougov.co.uk/topics/politics/articles-reports/2022/02/28/european-reaction-russian-invasion-ukraine
[22] TQS Research & Consulting (2022): War in Ukraine – How are the Austrians doing?, URL: http://www.blog.tqs.at/2022/03/03/ukraine-so-denkt-osterreich/
[23] I&O Research (2022): Nederlanders maken zich grote zorgen om oorlog in Oekraïne, URL: https://www.ioresearch.nl/actueel/nederlanders-maken-zich-grote-zorgen-om-oorlog-in-oekraine/
[24] Gallup (2022): Public Opinion of European Citizens on the war in Ukraine, URL: https://www.gallup-international.com/fileadmin/user_upload/surveys/2022/PA_Charts_GI_Ukraine_25032022.pdf

pandemic dropped were pushed to last place: only 37% of the respondents were concerned about losing grip on the pandemic.

In April, the perceived risks (economic or war extending to other countries, for example) was the highest in Poland (77%), Sweden (75%), Italy (74%), Germany (69%) and Hungary (68%)[25]. As shown by various surveys, economic concerns now became paramount in the eyes of citizens. In France, 92% were worried about the economic consequences of the war in Ukraine, including 42% who were 'very worried' about it[26]. Concurrently, concerns about the conflict extending beyond Ukraine remained high (74%), although this had already decreased by 7 points since February.

In May, the European Commission published a dedicated Flash Eurobarometer report on the Ukraine war[27]. On EU average, more than eight in ten respondents said to be 'personally worried about the war in Ukraine' (37% totally agree and 44% tend to agree). More than two-thirds of respondents in each of the 27 Member States were personally worried about the war in Ukraine, with shares varying between 69% in Slovakia and 95% in Portugal.

Attitudes towards the EU's response to the invasion

In the first days of the invasion, the Council of the EU adopted almost immediately restrictive sanction packages toward Russia and its leadership. At that time, a majority of people were in favour of further economic sanctions against Russia, e.g. in Germany (65%), France (60%) and Italy (59%)[28]. Respondents were more sceptical though about sanctions affecting the general cost of living. Most notably, a majority in France (59%) and Italy (55%) were against such sanctions, while German respondents were divided on that matter (41% support and 40% opposed).

In March, 43% of Europeans supported even stricter sanctions against Russia, while 42% of respondents found the sanctions to be appropriate and 15% saw them as too harsh[29]. Bulgarians were the most critical of the sanctions, with 42% finding them too harsh and most Bulgarians believing that Bulgaria should remain neutral in Russia's war against Ukraine[30]. Two thirds (67%) of respondents were in favour of remaining 'neutral', while 16% believed that Bulgaria should actively support Ukraine.

The crisis again seemed to have strengthened public attitudes towards the EU institutions in a number of EU Member States. Dutch respondents were significantly more satisfied with the actions of the European Institutions, almost 49% were (very or fairly) satisfied, while 38% of respondents were not very or not at all satisfied. Two years ago, this attitude was the reverse: 37% satisfied versus 43% dissatisfied. In general, a majority of respondents (78%) were in favour of a more active role for the EU in the world[31].

[25] Ipsos (2022): The worlds response to the war in Ukraine, URL: https://www.ipsos.com/sites/default/files/ct/news/documents/2022-04/Global Advisor - War in Ukraine - April 2022 - Graphic Report.pdf
[26] Ipsos (2022): Enquête Electorale 2022 Vague 9, URL: https://www.ipsos.com/sites/default/files/ct/news/documents/2022-04/Ipsos%20-%20Enque%CC%82te%20Electorale%20-%20Vague%209%20-%206%20avril%202022.pdf
[27] European Commission (2022): Flash Eurobarometer. EU's response to the war in Ukraine, URL: https://europa.eu/eurobarometer/surveys/detail/2772
[28] YOUGOV (2022): European reaction to the Russian invasion of Ukraine, URL: https://yougov.co.uk/topics/politics/articles-reports/2022/02/28/european-reaction-russian-invasion-ukraine
[29] Gallup (2022): Public Opinion of European Citizens on the war in Ukraine, URL: https://www.gallup-international.com/fileadmin/user_upload/surveys/2022/PA_Charts_GI_Ukraine_25032022.pdf
[30] bTV (2022): Survey: 67% are for Bulgaria's Neutrality in the Russia-Ukraine Conflict, URL: https://www.novinite.com/articles/214545/Survey%3A+67+are+for+Bulgaria%27s+Neutrality+in+the+Russia-Ukraine+Conflict
[31] Gallup (2022): Public Opinion of European Citizens on the war in Ukraine, URL: https://www.gallup-international.com/fileadmin/user_upload/surveys/2022/PA_Charts_GI_Ukraine_25032022.pdf

In April, after the fifth rounds of increasing economic sanctions, a majority in most EU Member States supported additional economic sanctions against Russia[32]. The highest support was found in the Netherlands (72%) and Poland (70%), while support was lowest in Hungary (32%). In particular, the proposal to 'ban Russian oil and gas even if this leads to further price increases' was not approved by Hungarian respondents (18% approval). As a comparison, 48% in the Netherlands approved this measure.

In May, the Flash Eurobarometer published by the European Commission[33] showed an overall approval of the economic sanctions taken by the EU in a majority of EU Member States. The lowest acceptance rate was observed in Bulgaria, where only 44% of respondents agreed. In the same survey, respondents were asked about their support for EU measures aimed at securing energy supply and mitigating rising energy prices. Almost 90% of respondents agreed that 'measures should be taken at the European level to limit the impact of rising energy prices on consumers and companies' (55% totally agree, 35% tend to agree).

Enlargement policy: support for Ukraine's EU membership

Support for Ukraine's EU membership has increased significantly since the beginning of the invasion of Ukraine.

In March, a relative majority of Germans (46%), Italians (45%) and French (42%) supported Ukraine to join the EU[34]. Almost 30% of respondents in each of these countries are opposed to the accession. Spanish respondents were the most in favour, six out of ten wanting Ukraine to join the Union, while only 14% opposed Ukraine's membership. This result indicated significant shift in France and Germany since 2018. At the time, only 22% of French and 30% of Germans thought Ukraine should be allowed to join the EU. Conversely, 49% of the French and 47% of the Germans were opposed to it.

Also within Ukraine, the share of supporters for EU membership is growing, with 91% being in favour and nearly 80% believing that Ukraine could join the EU in no more than 5 years. Before the war, this percentage was only 68%[35].

In May, the Flash Eurobarometer report of the European Commission showed that a majority in every Member State except Hungary agreed, "that Ukraine should join the EU when it is ready". The largest proportions disagreeing that Ukraine should join the EU when it is ready are found in Luxembourg (38%), Greece (37%), Hungary (36%), Austria and Bulgaria (both 35%), and Cyprus and Slovakia (both 34%)[36].

[32] Ipsos (2022): The worlds response to the war in Ukraine, URL: https://www.ipsos.com/sites/default/files/ct/news/documents/2022-04/Global Advisor - War in Ukraine - April 2022 - Graphic Report.pdf
[33] European Commission (2022): Flash Eurobarometer. EU's response to the war in Ukraine, URL : https://europa.eu/eurobarometer/surveys/detail/2772
[34] YouGov (2022): Are Europeans in favour of Ukraine's accession to the EU?, URL: https://fr.yougov.com/news/2022/03/24/les-europeens-favorables-adhesion-de-lukraine/
[35] RatingGroup (2022): Seventh national survey: Ukraine in war, URL: https://ratinggroup.ua/research/ukraine/sedmoy_obschenacionalnyy_opros_ukraina_v_usloviyah_voyny_30-31_marta_2022.html
[36] European Commission (2022): Flash Eurobarometer. EU's response to the war in Ukraine, URL: https://europa.eu/eurobarometer/surveys/detail/2772

EU defence policy: support for a European army and military alignment

The creation of a European army remains a controversial topic after the invasion of Ukraine. In the beginning of March, 63% of respondents in Greece supported the idea, which indicated a 5% increase in comparison with February. In the Netherlands, support remained at 27% (+1%). There was however growing support in France and Spain, each with 51% (+13% and +19% respectively), but more opposition in Germany and Italy, with 36% (+9%) and 35% (+8%) respectively[37].

Support for NATO membership also rose in the countries that were already NATO members and has further increased since the Russian invasion. In Germany from 54% to 64% for the same months. In France, support for membership increased from 39% to 47%, while opposition remained constant (15-16%). The number who neither support nor oppose NATO membership is largely the same, at 25-27%, while the number of "unsure" answers has fallen from 20% to 12%[38].

Moreover, absolute majorities of Finnish respondents affirmed that they would support their country's application to join NATO. Support for NATO membership rose to 68%[39]. In Sweden, support for NATO membership has also steadily increased over the last months. The support for a Swedish NATO application had risen to 57%[40].

[37] Politico (2022): Europeans support Ukraine joining the EU — but not yet, URL: https://www.politico.eu/article/poll-show-european-back-ukraine-path-to-eu-membership/
[38] YouGov (2022): What impact has the Russian invasion of Ukraine had on European attitudes to NATO?, URL: https://yougov.co.uk/topics/international/articles-reports/2022/03/16/what-impact-has-russian-invasion-ukraine-had-europ
[39] Finish Ministry of Defence (2022): Finns' opinions on foreign and security policy, national defence and security, URL: https://www.defmin.fi/files/5407/Finns_opinions_on_Foreign_and_Security_policy_National_defence_and_Security_2022.pdf
[40] Dagens Nyheter (2022) : Majority for NATO after Finland's and Sweden's announcement, URL: https://www.dn.se/sverige/dn-ipsos-majoritet-for-nato-efter-finlands-och-s-besked/

METHODOLOGY

The methodology used in this Spring 2022 Eurobarometer, carried out in wave 97.3, 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 only possible 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, interviews were conducted online with the Computer-Assisted Web Interviewing (CAWI) technique. In Belgium, Czechia, Denmark, Estonia, Latvia, Malta, the Netherlands, Slovenia, Finland and Sweden, face-to-face interviews were complemented by online interviews with the Computer-Assisted Web Interviewing (CAWI) technique.

Caveat

In this survey, several trend questions are compared with the European Parliament's Autumn 2021 Parlemeter from Eurobarometer wave 96.2, conducted in November-December 2021. At that time, the European Union was still in the midst 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 Belgium, Czechia, Denmark, Malta, Slovenia and Finland, face-to-face mode was complemented with online interviews. In Latvia 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.

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

Following the EU General Data Protection Regulation[41] (GDPR), respondents were asked whether or not they would agree to be asked questions on issues that could be considered "sensitive".

[41] 2016/679

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.

I. THE WAR IN UKRAINE AND ITS IMPACT ON EUROPEANS: Most expect to be impacted by the war, if not already the case, but favour defence of European values over maintaining the cost of living

This chapter looks at how Europeans are personally experiencing the war in Ukraine and its consequences. The first section analyses how closely Europeans follow the news on the war, their current emotional status in this situation as well as their view on some big non-EU actors.

It then looks at the economic impact of the war on Europeans. Despite inflation and cost of living rising already since long before the start of the Russian invasion of Ukraine, the war further exacerbates citizens' standard of living.

Most citizens perceive the war in Ukraine as fundamental change, and only a minority of Europeans seems to believe that their lives would continue unchanged. It is a sign of European resilience and unity, that six out of ten Europeans see the defence of common European values such as freedom and democracy as a priority - even if that were to affect prices and the cost of living.

Despite the challenges the war presents, optimism in the future of the EU remains high and there is widespread confidence that what brings citizens of different Member States together is more important than what divides them.

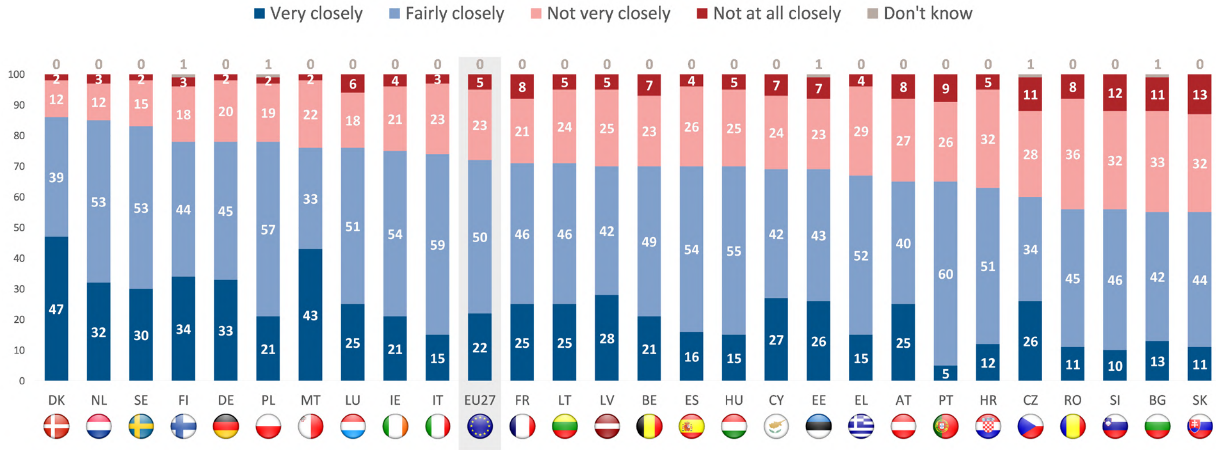
1. Perception of the war in Ukraine

1.1. Europeans' interest in the news related to the war

Almost three quarters of Europeans (72%) follow the news related to the war in Ukraine, with more than one in five (22%) following this news very closely. Almost three in ten (28%) do not follow news on the war closely.

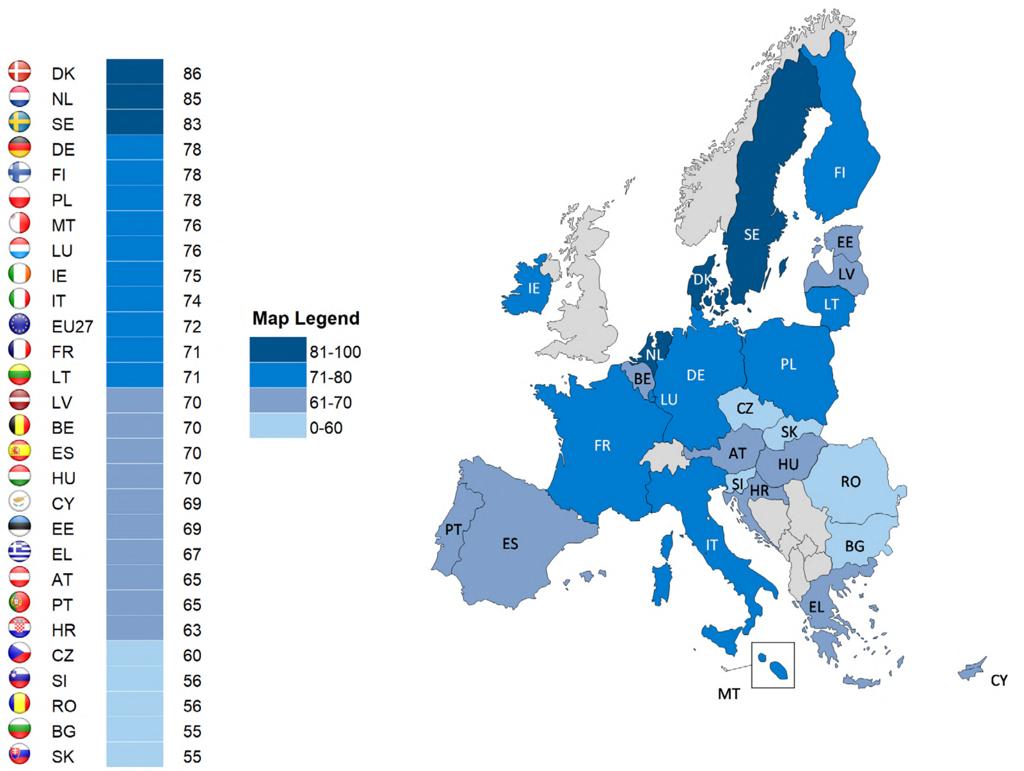
An absolute majority of respondents in each Member State follow the news related to the war in Ukraine. Proportions vary from 86% in Denmark, 85% in the Netherlands and 83% in Sweden to 55% in Slovakia and Bulgaria and 56% in Romania and Slovenia. It is worth noting more than four in ten in Denmark (47%) and Malta (43%) say they follow this news 'very closely'.

QA12 **How closely do you follow the news related to the war in Ukraine?**
(%)



The map illustrates respondents in countries in central and northern areas of Europe are the most likely to follow the news on the war closely.

QA12 **How closely do you follow the news related to the war in Ukraine?**
(% - Total ' Closely')



The **socio-demographic analysis** shows men are more likely than women to say they follow news on the war in Ukraine closely (77% vs 69%). It also highlights that the older the respondent, the more likely they are to follow this news closely: 77% of those aged 55 and older do so compared to 60% of respondents aged 15-24. The longer a respondent remained in education, the more likely they are to follow news on the war closely, with the largest difference between those who completed education aged 20+ (80%) and those who completed aged 15 or younger (68%).

Across socio-professional groups, the self-employed (81%) and managers (80%) are the most likely to follow the news closely, particularly compared to the unemployed (60%). Those who rarely or never have trouble paying bills (77%) are more likely to follow news on the war closely than those who have difficulties from time to time (64%) or most of the time (60%).

Respondents who never or almost never have difficulty paying bills (77%) are more likely to follow the news related to the war in Ukraine closely than those who have difficulty paying bills from time to time (64%) or most of the time (60%). The same can be seen for respondents with a strong political interest (89%) compared to those with a low political interest (62%).

Respondents who agree that their voice counts in the EU (80%) are more likely to follow the news related to the war in Ukraine than those who disagree (66%), and the same can be seen for those who follow European politics (85%) compared to those who do not follow it (48%).

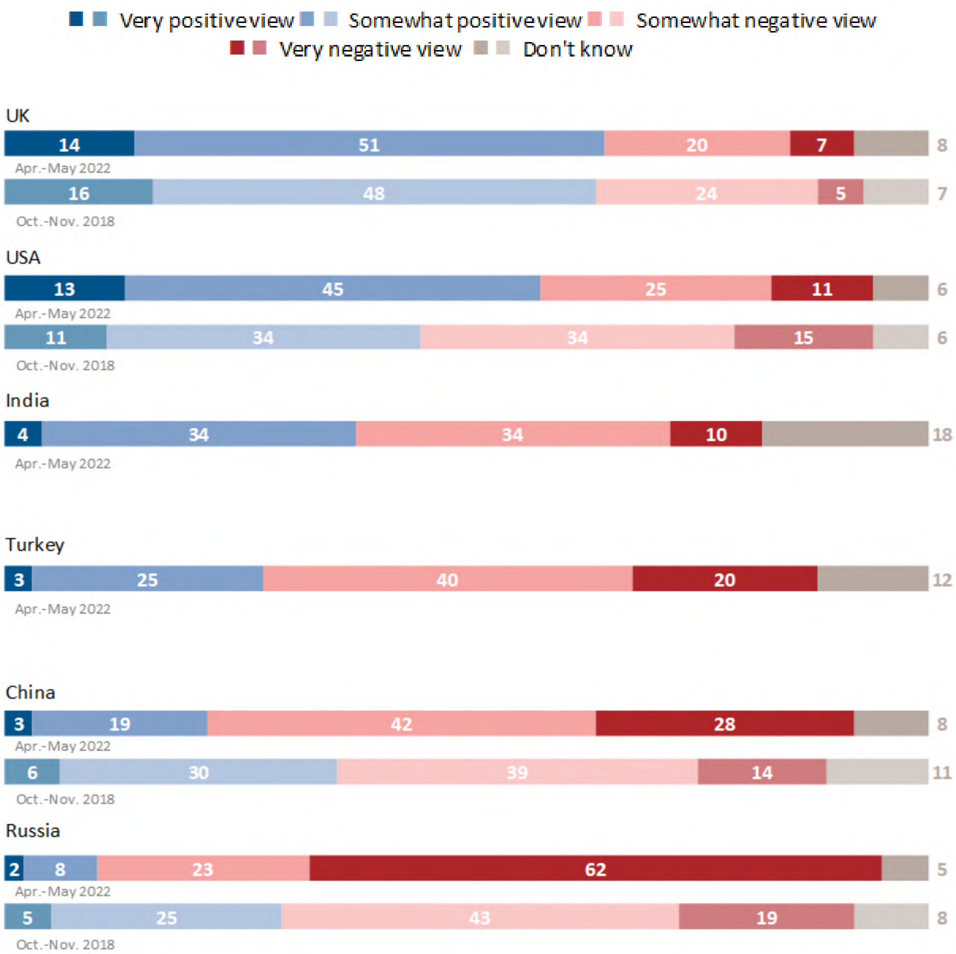
QA12 How closely do you follow the news related to the war in Ukraine?
(% - EU)

	Total Total 'Closely'	Total 'Not closely'	Don't know
EU27	72	28	0
Gender			
Man	77	23	0
Woman	69	31	0
Age			
15-24	60	40	0
25-39	69	31	0
40-54	74	26	0
55 +	77	23	0
Education (End of)			
15-	68	32	0
16-19	72	28	0
20+	80	20	0
Still studying	62	38	0
Socio-professional category			
Self-employed	81	19	0
Managers	80	20	0
Other white collars	73	27	0
Manual workers	68	32	0
House persons	65	35	0
Unemployed	60	39	1
Retired	78	22	0
Students	62	38	0
Difficulties paying bills			
Most of the time	60	40	0
From time to time	64	36	0
Almost never/ Never	77	23	0
Political interest index			
Strong	89	11	0
Medium	77	23	0
Low	62	37	1
Not at all	51	49	0
My voice counts in the EU			
Agree	80	20	0
Disagree	66	34	0
Follow European politics			
Follow	85	15	0
Not follow	48	52	0

1.2. Image of non-EU actors

The present survey repeats a question last asked in 2018 about citizens' views of China, Russia, the USA and the UK. In addition to these four countries, Turkey and India have been added in the current survey. Results show a clear picture as well as interesting developments over these four years. Considering the six countries asked about, Europeans hold the most positive image of the United Kingdom (65%, 2018: 64%), followed by the USA with 58%. In 2018[42], under the Presidency of Donald Trump, only 45% had a positive image of the USA. In the current survey India has a positive image among 38% of respondents, followed by Turkey with 28% having a positive image. China and Russia return the lowest positive rates with 22% and 10% respectively. In 2018, China had a positive image among 36% of respondents and Russia among 30%.

QA16 As regards each of the following countries do you have a positive or a negative view about it?
(% - EU)



The country results show that Europeans are consistently the most positive about the UK or the USA (except for Greece and Cyprus regarding the USA). India enjoys a better image than Turkey, which has

[42] European Commission (2018): Future of Europe2018, URL: https://europa.eu/eurobarometer/surveys/detail/2217

low levels of positive views, especially in Sweden (12%), Cyprus (9%) and Greece (4%). The bottom two countries in terms of image among Europeans are Russia followed by China. The highest share of citizens having a positive image of Russia is found in in Bulgaria with 49% (versus 40% for USA – the lowest result in Bulgaria) and in Cyprus with 36% (much higher than the 9% for Turkey). The lowest positive image respondents have of a given country are observed in Portugal and Sweden with 2% each, both for Russia.

QA16 As regards each of the following countries do you have a positive or a negative view about it?
(% - Total 'Positive')

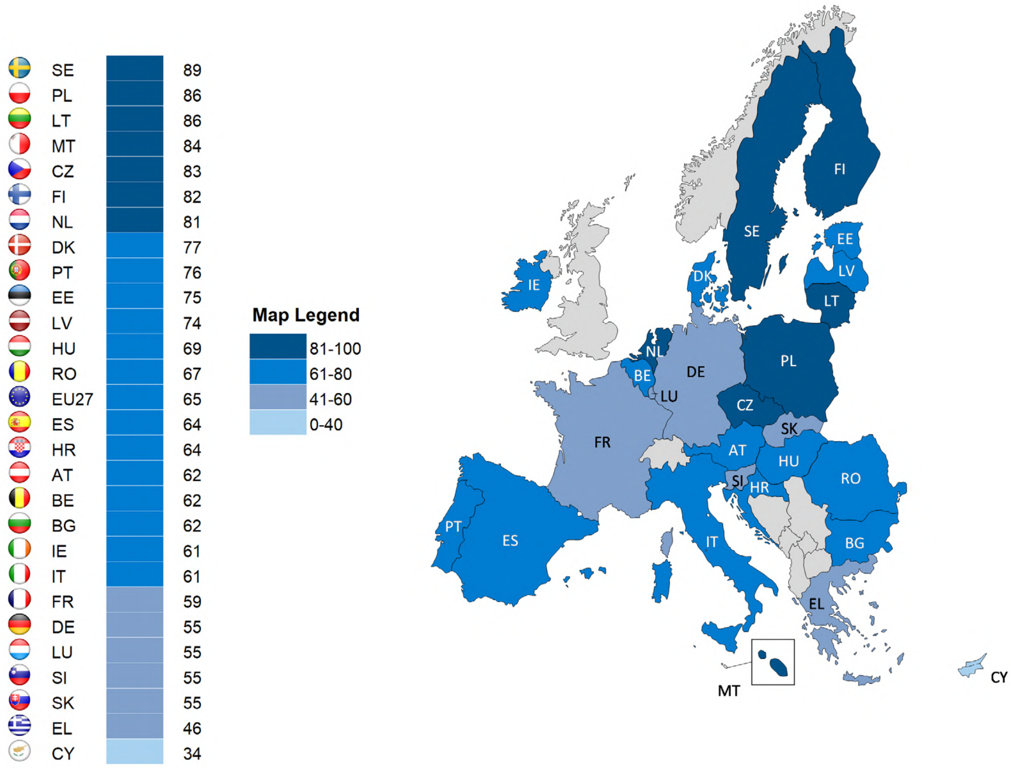
	China	Russia	USA	Turkey	India	UK
EU27	22%	10%	58%	28%	38%	65%
BE	22%	10%	64%	31%	44%	62%
BG	50%	49%	40%	47%	42%	62%
CZ	20%	9%	62%	35%	44%	83%
DK	18%	3%	70%	29%	41%	77%
DE	12%	8%	58%	17%	28%	55%
EE	28%	16%	65%	47%	35%	75%
IE	22%	5%	61%	37%	43%	61%
EL	36%	25%	34%	4%	46%	46%
ES	31%	8%	57%	39%	44%	64%
FR	17%	9%	53%	22%	35%	59%
HR	37%	13%	53%	52%	53%	64%
IT	22%	10%	48%	25%	42%	61%
CY	49%	36%	28%	9%	48%	34%
LV	39%	19%	66%	56%	37%	74%
LT	25%	5%	81%	52%	31%	86%
LU	13%	9%	46%	19%	32%	55%
HU	38%	17%	50%	41%	41%	69%
MT	44%	5%	68%	50%	51%	84%
NL	14%	5%	66%	21%	37%	81%
AT	18%	12%	46%	26%	39%	62%
PL	23%	9%	90%	39%	44%	86%
PT	27%	2%	73%	37%	30%	76%
RO	37%	18%	63%	55%	41%	67%
SI	32%	19%	38%	36%	44%	55%
SK	33%	20%	35%	31%	32%	55%
FI	16%	3%	72%	28%	35%	82%
SE	8%	2%	64%	12%	38%	89%

Image of the UK

In 25 EU Member States a majority of respondents have a positive view of the United Kingdom, with the highest proportions seen in Sweden (89%), Lithuania and Poland (both 86%). Greek opinion is more divided, with 46% having a positive view and 49% having a negative view, while in Cyprus just over one third of respondents (34%) have a positive view of the UK and 62% have a negative view.

The map highlights a positive view of the United Kingdom is most common in northern, eastern and some southern areas of Europe.

QA16.6 **As regards each of the following countries do you have a positive or a negative view about it?**
UK (% - Total ' Positive')



Changes in the positive view of the United Kingdom are mixed. In 14 countries respondents are now more likely to be positive than in October/November 2018, with the largest increases seen in Malta (84%, +32 percentage points), Sweden (89%, +17 pp) and the Netherlands (81%, +15 pp). In contrast there are ten countries including Cyprus (34%, -26 pp) where a positive view is less widespread. There has been no notable change in Ireland, Latvia or Portugal.

QA16.6 **As regards each of the following countries do you have a positive or a negative view about it?**
UK (%)

		EU27	MT	SE	NL	FR	LU	PL	BE	ES	DK	FI	DE	LT	EE	CZ	IE	LV	PT	IT	BG	AT	SI	HU	RO	EL	SK	HR	CY
Very positive view	Apr/May 2022	14	50	20	15	7	5	42	6	11	19	13	6	41	28	22	11	26	25	12	12	12	6	13	28	8	8	9	6
	Δ Oct/Nov 18	▼2	▲44	▼8	▼1	▼1	▼4	▲25	▼3	▼2	▼1	=	▼1	▲9	▲11	▼1	▼3	▲12	▲8	▼1	▼11	▼3	▼6	▼5	▼4	▼4	▼4	▼13	▼11
Some-what positive view	Apr/May 2022	51	34	69	66	52	50	44	56	53	58	69	49	45	47	61	50	48	51	49	50	50	49	56	39	38	47	55	28
	Δ Oct/Nov 18	▲3	▼12	▲25	▲16	▲10	▲13	▼16	▲11	▲10	▲8	▲7	▲7	▼3	▼6	▲5	▲6	▼10	▼7	▼5	▲4	▼4	▼1	▼3	▼7	▼8	▼8	=	▼15
Somewhat negative view	Apr/May 2022	20	8	10	16	22	29	5	31	20	19	13	27	6	9	10	26	9	9	23	19	20	30	20	16	27	18	23	32
	Δ Oct/Nov 18	▼4	▼14	▼12	▼13	▼12	▼4	▼7	▼5	▼7	▼1	▼6	▼9	▼8	▼9	▼3	▼4	▼5	▼6	▲2	▲3	=	▲4	▲5	▲2	=	▼2	▲5	▲10
Very negative view	Apr/May 2022	7	0	0	1	8	5	2	5	9	2	1	7	1	6	2	7	6	3	11	9	8	9	4	9	22	13	7	30
	Δ Oct/Nov 18	▲2	▼1	▼3	▼2	▲1	▼7	=	▼4	▲4	▼4	▼1	=	▼1	▲4	▼2	▼1	▲3	▲1	▲7	▲5	▲3	▲3	▲3	▲8	▲13	▲10	▲4	▲17
Don't know	Apr/May 2022	8	8	1	2	11	11	7	2	7	2	4	11	7	10	5	6	11	12	5	10	10	6	7	8	5	14	6	4
	Δ Oct/Nov 18	▲1	▼17	▼2	=	▲2	▲2	▼2	▲1	▼5	▼2	=	▲3	▲3	=	▲1	▲2	=	▲4	▼3	▼1	▲4	=	=	▲1	▼1	▲4	▲4	▼1
Total 'Positive'	Apr/May 2022	65	84	89	81	59	55	86	62	64	77	82	55	86	75	83	61	74	76	61	62	62	55	69	67	46	55	64	34
	Δ Oct/Nov 18	▲1	▲32	▲17	▲15	▲9	▲9	▲9	▲8	▲8	▲7	▲7	▲6	▲6	▲5	▲4	▲3	▲2	▲1	▼6	▼7	▼7	▼7	▼8	▼11	▼12	▼12	▼13	▼26
Total 'Negative'	Apr/May 2022	27	8	10	17	30	34	7	36	29	21	14	34	7	15	12	33	15	12	34	28	28	39	24	25	49	31	30	62
	Δ Oct/Nov 18	▼2	▼15	▼15	▼15	▼11	▼11	▼7	▼9	▼3	▼5	▼7	▼9	▼9	▼5	▼5	▼5	▼2	▼5	▲9	▲8	▲3	▲7	▲8	▲10	▲13	▲8	▲9	▲27

The **socio-demographic analysis** shows that younger respondents, students, those with higher education levels (20+) or fewer financial difficulties are the most likely to have a positive view of the United Kingdom. For example, 76% of those aged 15-24 have a positive view, compared to 59% of those aged 55 and older.

EU citizens with a positive view of the EU (73%) are also more likely to have a positive view of the UK, particularly compared to those that have a negative image of the EU (48%). Respondents who follow the news related to the war in Ukraine (67%) are also more likely to have a positive view of the UK compared to those who do not (59%).

QA16.6 As regards each of the following countries do you have a positive or a negative view about it?
UK (% - EU)

	Total 'Positive'	Total 'Negative'	Don't know
EU27	65	27	8
Gender			
Man	65	29	6
Woman	65	25	10
Age			
15-24	76	18	6
25-39	68	25	7
40-54	66	27	7
55 +	59	32	9
Education (End of)			
15-	53	35	12
16-19	65	27	8
20+	67	27	6
Still studying	76	18	6
Socio-professional category			
Self-employed	65	30	5
Managers	68	26	6
Other white collars	70	25	5
Manual workers	67	26	7
House persons	60	28	12
Unemployed	56	35	9
Retired	59	31	10
Students	76	18	6
Talk about European political matters			
Frequently	63	31	6
Occasionally	68	26	6
Never	61	26	13
Image of the EU			
Total 'Positive'	73	21	6
Neutral	59	31	10
Total 'Negative'	48	45	7
Follow the news related to the War in Ukraine			
Follow	67	27	6
Not follow	59	29	12

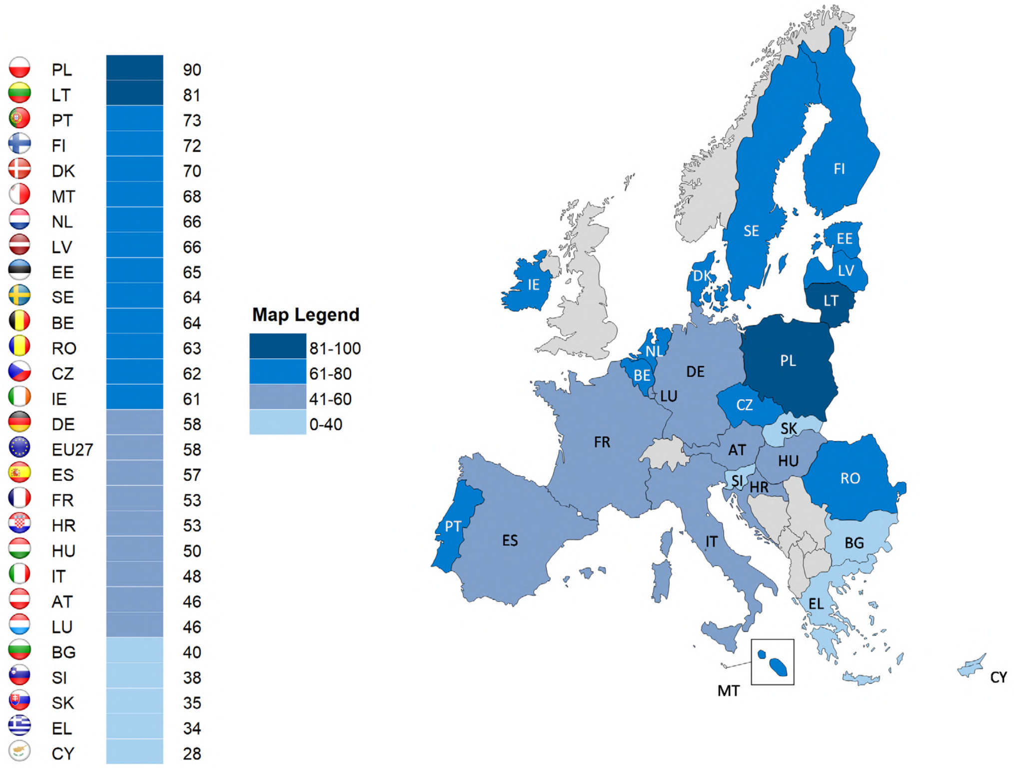
Image of the USA

A majority of respondents in 19 EU Member States have a positive image of the USA, particularly in Poland (90%), Lithuania (81%) and Portugal (73%). In contrast, there are five countries where only a minority have a positive view of the USA: Cyprus (28%), Greece (34%), Slovakia (35%), Slovenia (38%) and Bulgaria (40%).

Opinion is evenly divided in Italy (48% positive vs 48% negative), Luxembourg and Austria (both 46% positive and 46% negative).

The largest proportions of respondents with a positive view of the USA are generally found in northern and eastern areas of Europe.

QA16.3 As regards each of the following countries do you have a positive or a negative view about it? USA (% - Total 'Positive')



In almost all countries there has been considerable change in the positive image of the USA compared to October/November 2018. The positive view is more widespread in 18 countries with particularly large increases seen in Germany (58%, +37 percentage points), Malta (68%, +36 pp), the Netherlands (66%, +34 pp), Denmark (70%, +33 pp), Finland (72%, +32 pp) and Belgium (64%, +31 pp). In contrast, the positive view has declined in eight countries including Cyprus (28%, -23 pp) and Bulgaria (40%, -20 pp). Opinion has remained stable in Slovenia.

QA16.3 As regards each of the following countries do you have a positive or a negative view about it?
(% - EU)

		EU27	DE	MT	NL	DK	FI	BE	SE	FR	PT	LU	ES	LV	EE	IE	PL	CZ	LT	AT	SI	IT	SK	HR	RO	EL	HU	BG	CY
Very positive view	Apr/May 2022	13	9	36	8	15	12	8	8	5	25	7	12	20	22	11	47	13	37	9	4	10	7	8	25	4	10	9	5
	Δ Oct/Nov 18	▲2	▲6	▲30	▲4	▲9	▲8	▲1	▼1	=	▲18	▲2	▲4	▲10	▲12	=	▲27	▼1	▲8	▼3	▼3	▼4	▼3	▼10	▼5	▼8	▼4	▼11	▼7
Some-what positive view	Apr/May 2022	45	49	32	58	55	60	56	56	48	48	39	45	46	43	50	43	49	44	37	34	38	28	45	38	30	40	31	23
	Δ Oct/Nov 18	▲11	▲31	▲6	▲30	▲24	▲24	▲30	▲28	▲24	▲5	▲16	▲13	▲3	=	▲11	▼16	▲8	▼1	▲7	▲2	▼7	▼10	▼4	▼10	▼8	▼14	▼9	▼16
Somewhat negative view	Apr/May 2022	25	28	16	27	22	21	26	30	28	11	33	25	15	17	23	3	24	9	28	36	31	24	27	20	28	32	32	31
	Δ Oct/Nov 18	▼9	▼20	▼23	▼23	▼19	▼26	▼18	▼11	▼15	▼21	▼4	▼9	▼9	▼14	▼8	▼8	▼5	▼7	▼5	▼3	▲3	▼1	▲4	▲7	▼3	▲9	▲9	▲1
Very negative view	Apr/May 2022	11	8	6	6	6	3	8	6	10	4	13	12	10	10	7	2	9	3	18	21	17	29	14	10	35	12	21	37
	Δ Oct/Nov 18	▼4	▼19	▲2	▼11	▼13	▼6	▼13	▼14	▼10	▼5	▼15	▼5	▲1	▲3	▼8	▼1	▼3	▼2	▼3	▲3	▲10	▲12	▲6	▲8	▲18	▲9	▲12	▲24
Don't know	Apr/May 2022	6	6	10	1	2	4	2	0	9	12	8	6	9	8	9	5	5	7	8	5	4	12	6	7	3	6	7	4
	Δ Oct/Nov 18	=	▲2	▼15	=	▼1	=	=	▼2	▲1	▲3	▲1	▼3	▼5	▼1	▲5	▼2	▲1	▲2	▲4	▲1	▼2	▲2	▲4	=	▲1	=	▼1	▼2
Total 'Positive'	Apr/May 2022	58	58	68	66	70	72	64	64	53	73	46	57	66	65	61	90	62	81	46	38	48	35	53	63	34	50	40	28
	Δ Oct/Nov 18	▲13	▲37	▲36	▲34	▲33	▲32	▲31	▲27	▲24	▲23	▲18	▲17	▲13	▲12	▲11	▲11	▲7	▲7	▲4	▼1	▼11	▼13	▼14	▼15	▼16	▼18	▼20	▼23
Total 'Negative'	Apr/May 2022	36	36	22	33	28	24	34	36	38	15	46	37	25	27	30	5	33	12	46	57	48	53	41	30	63	44	53	68
	Δ Oct/Nov 18	▼13	▼39	▼21	▼34	▼32	▼32	▼31	▼25	▼25	▼26	▼19	▼14	▼8	▼11	▼16	▼9	▼8	▼9	▼8	=	▲13	▲11	▲10	▲15	▲15	▲18	▲21	▲25

Results of the **socio-demographic analysis** show a similar pattern to the United Kingdom, with younger respondents, students, those with higher education levels (20+) and those with the least financial difficulties being the most likely to have a positive view of the USA.

Respondents who talk about European political matters frequently or occasionally (60%) are slightly more likely to feel positively towards the USA than those who never talk about them (55%).

Respondents with a positive image of the EU (70%) are notably more likely to also have a positive view of the USA compared to those with a neutral (51%) or negative (31%) opinion of the EU. Respondents who follow the news related to the war in Ukraine (62%) are also more likely to have a positive view of the USA than those who do not follow such new (49%).

QA16.3 As regards each of the following countries do you have a positive or a negative view about it?
USA (% - EU)

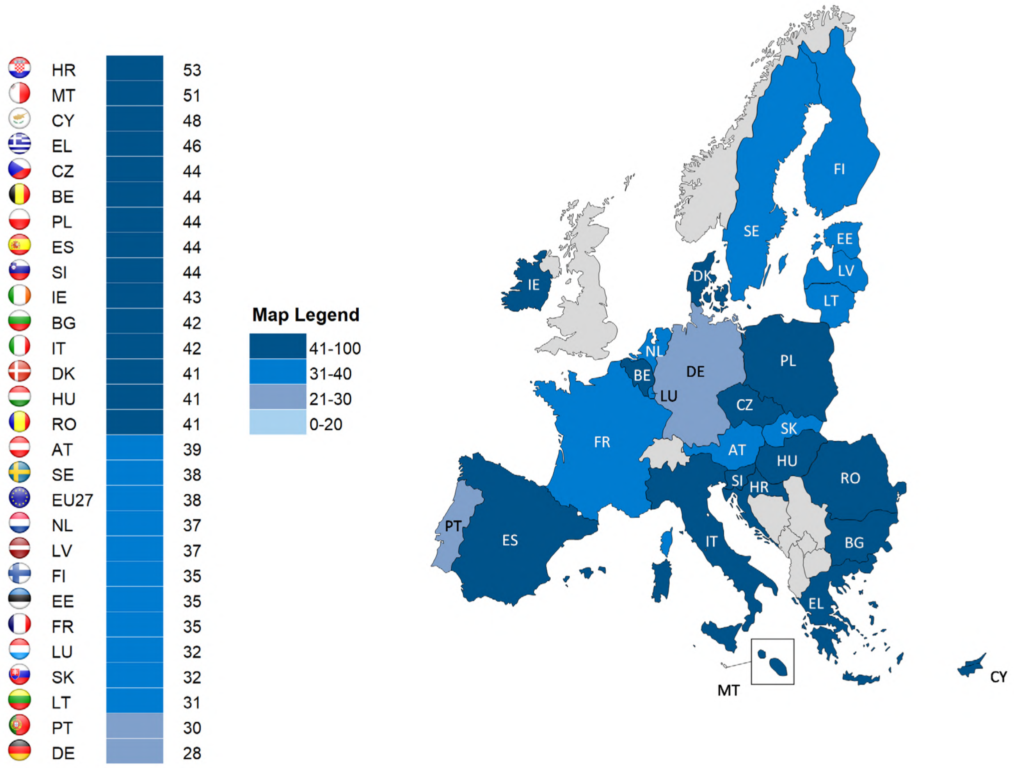
	Total 'Positive'	Total 'Negative'	Don't know
EU27	58	36	6
Gender			
Man	61	35	4
Woman	57	36	7
Age			
15-24	66	30	4
25-39	57	37	6
40-54	60	35	5
55 +	56	37	7
Education (End of)			
15-	53	39	8
16-19	57	37	6
20+	60	35	5
Still studying	66	30	4
Socio-professional category			
Self-employed	54	41	5
Managers	62	33	5
Other white collars	61	35	4
Manual workers	59	35	6
House persons	51	39	10
Unemployed	51	42	7
Retired	58	35	7
Students	66	30	4
Talk about European political matters			
Frequently	60	36	4
Occasionally	60	36	4
Never	55	35	10
Image of the EU			
Total 'Positive'	70	25	5
Neutral	51	41	8
Total 'Negative'	31	65	4
Follow the news related to the War in Ukraine			
Follow	62	34	4
Not follow	49	41	10

Image of India

There are 11 countries where a majority of respondents have a positive view of India, although proportions range from 53% in Croatia, 51% in Malta and 48% in Cyprus to 42% in Bulgaria (where 33% have a negative view). In 15 countries only a minority of respondents have a positive view of India, with the lowest levels seen in Germany (28%), Portugal (30%) and Lithuania (31%). Opinion is evenly divided in Latvia (37% positive vs 37% negative).

Positive attitudes towards India are more widespread, but overall respondents living in southern and eastern areas of Europe are the most likely to have a positive view of India.

QA16.5 As regards each of the following countries do you have a positive or a negative view about it?
India (% - Total 'Positive')



The **socio-demographic analysis** highlights that respondents aged under 55 and those with higher education levels are the most likely to have a positive view of India. In contrast, house persons, the unemployed and retired persons are less likely to have a positive view of India than other socio-professional groups.

Respondents who have a positive image of the EU (42%) are also more likely to have a positive view of India compared to those with a neutral (35%) or negative (33%) view of it.

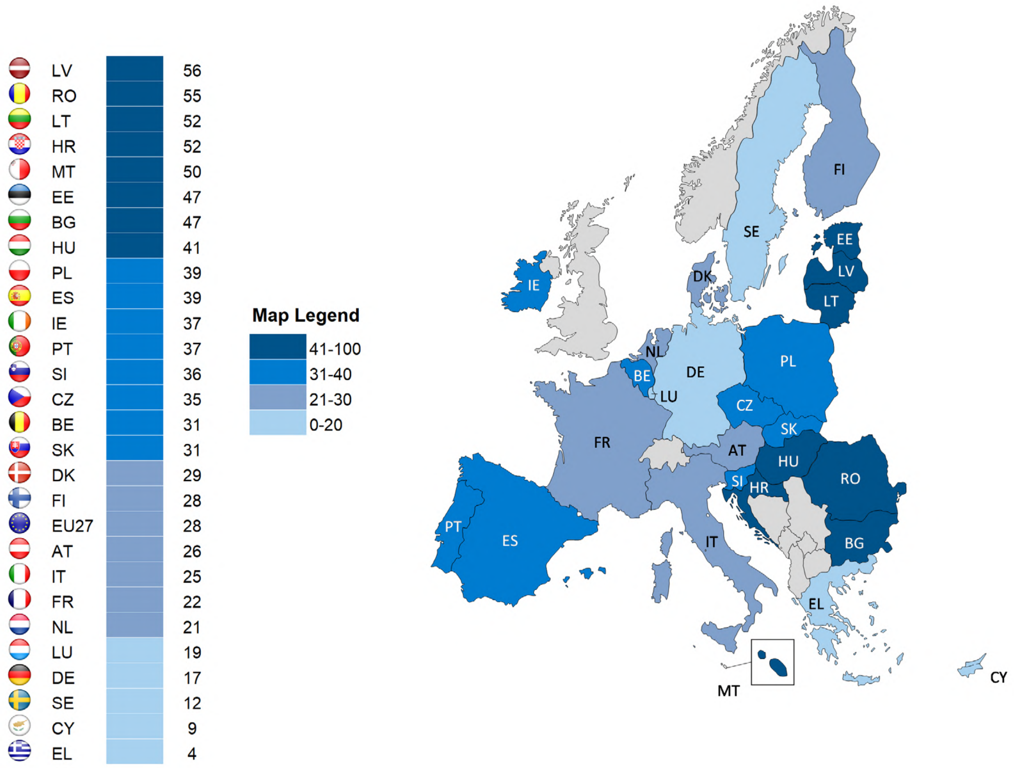
QA16.5 **As regards each of the following countries do you have a positive or a negative view about it?**
India (% - EU)

	Total 'Positive'	Total 'Negative'	Don't know
EU27	38	44	18
Gender			
Man	39	45	16
Woman	37	44	19
Age			
15-24	45	39	16
25-39	42	43	15
40-54	40	44	16
55 +	33	46	21
Education (End of)			
15-	32	46	22
16-19	37	44	19
20+	40	44	16
Still studying	45	40	15
Socio-professional category			
Self-employed	43	45	12
Managers	42	43	15
Other white collars	41	45	14
Manual workers	39	45	16
House persons	32	46	22
Unemployed	34	40	26
Retired	32	45	23
Students	45	40	15
Talk about European political matters			
Frequently	39	46	15
Occasionally	37	47	16
Never	39	38	23
Image of the EU			
Total 'Positive'	42	42	16
Neutral	35	44	21
Total 'Negative'	33	50	17
Follow the news related to the War in Ukraine			
Follow	38	46	16
Not follow	38	40	22

Image of Turkey

In eight EU Member States a majority of respondents have a positive view of Turkey, with the highest levels seen in Latvia (56%), Romania (55%), Croatia and Lithuania (both 52%). In the remaining countries a minority have a positive view of Turkey with the lowest levels seen in Greece (4%), Cyprus (9%) and Sweden (12%).

QA16.4 **As regards each of the following countries do you have a positive or a negative view about it?**
Turkey (% - Total 'Positive')



The **socio-demographic analysis** shows that the younger the respondent, the more likely they are to have a positive view of Turkey: 38% of 15-24 year-olds do so compared to 22% of those aged 55+. Students (36%) and manual workers (33%) are the most likely to have a positive view, particularly compared to retired persons (21%).

Respondents with a positive view of the EU (31%) are slightly more likely to also have a positive view of Turkey than those with a neutral (26%) or negative (23%) perception of it. There is also a small difference between respondents who do not follow the news related to the war in Ukraine (31%) compared to those who do follow such news (27%).

QA16.4 **As regards each of the following countries do you have a positive or a negative view about it?**
Turkey (% - EU)

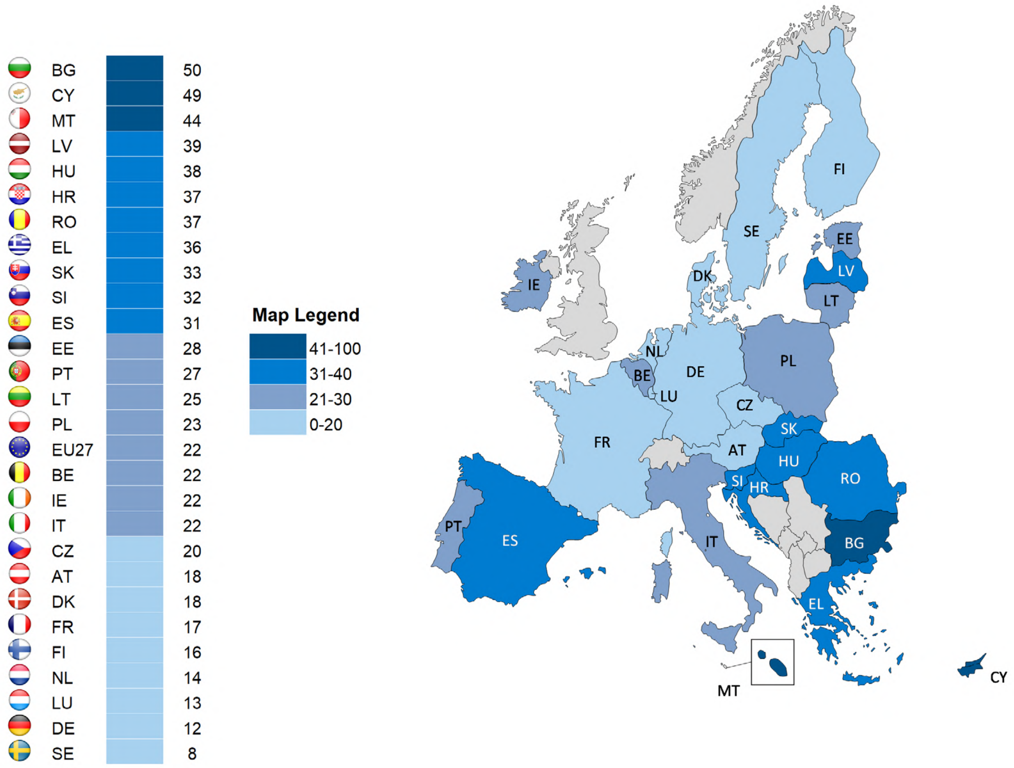
	Total 'Positive'	Total 'Negative'	Don't know
EU27	28	60	12
Gender			
Man	28	62	10
Woman	28	58	14
Age			
15-24	38	50	12
25-39	34	55	11
40-54	29	61	10
55 +	22	65	13
Education (End of)			
15-	24	59	17
16-19	28	59	13
20+	28	63	9
Still studying	36	52	12
Socio-professional category			
Self-employed	31	62	7
Managers	26	66	8
Other white collars	30	61	9
Manual workers	33	55	12
House persons	27	56	17
Unemployed	28	56	16
Retired	21	64	15
Students	36	52	12
Talk about European political matters			
Frequently	26	67	7
Occasionally	28	62	10
Never	30	51	19
Image of the EU			
Total 'Positive'	31	59	10
Neutral	26	59	15
Total 'Negative'	23	67	10
Follow the news related to the War in Ukraine			
Follow	27	63	10
Not follow	31	52	17

Image of China

Bulgaria (50%) and Cyprus (49%) are the only countries where a majority of respondents have a positive view of China, although opinion is almost evenly divided in Malta (44% positive, 45% negative). In the remaining 24 Member States only a minority have a positive view of China, with proportions ranging from 39% in Latvia to 8% in Sweden, 12% in Germany and 13% in Luxembourg.

The strongest positive views of China are concentrated in south-eastern areas of Europe.

QA16.1 As regards each of the following countries do you have a positive or a negative view about it?
China (% - Total 'Positive')



In all but one Member States opinion of China has worsened since October / November 2018, with the largest declines in a positive view seen in Romania (37%, -28 percentage points), Croatia (37%, -26 pp) and Lithuania (25%, -25 pp). The exception is Malta, where respondents are now much more likely to have a positive view (44%, +20 pp).

QA16.1 As regards each of the following countries do you have a positive or a negative view about it?
China (%)

		EU27	MT	HU	ES	FR	LV	BG	PT	DK	CY	LU	SK	CZ	DE	SI	IT	SE	EE	EL	AT	NL	PL	BE	IE	FI	LT	HR	RO
Very positive view	Apr/May 2022	3	34	3	5	2	5	6	4	1	10	1	1	1	1	3	3	0	4	4	3	1	4	2	2	1	3	4	10
	Δ Oct/Nov 18	▼3	▲29	▼3	▼3	=	▼3	▼8	▲1	▼2	▼4	▼3	▼9	▼4	▼2	▼5	▼3	▼4	▼2	▼1	▼5	▼1	▼2	▼3	▼6	▼1	▼9	▼11	▼8
Somewhat positive view	Apr/May 2022	19	10	35	26	15	34	44	23	17	39	12	32	19	11	29	19	8	24	32	15	13	19	20	20	15	22	33	27
	Δ Oct/Nov 18	▼11	▼9	▼3	▼4	▼7	▼4	▼1	▼10	▼9	▼7	▼8	▼2	▼9	▼11	▼8	▼12	▼12	▼15	▼16	▼13	▼18	▼17	▼18	▼15	▼20	▼16	▼15	▼20
Somewhat negative view	Apr/May 2022	42	29	39	32	44	39	25	42	53	26	44	35	42	48	43	40	50	42	34	33	51	37	53	37	59	43	38	35
	Δ Oct/Nov 18	▲3	▼8	▲1	▼3	=	▲11	▲5	▼1	▲10	▲6	▲1	▲1	▼3	▲2	▲8	=	▲3	▲9	▲3	▼9	▲7	▲3	▲15	▲3	▲10	▲15	▲10	▲14
Very negative view	Apr/May 2022	28	16	15	29	27	7	12	16	26	15	33	16	31	32	18	34	41	18	23	41	34	27	21	29	18	19	18	19
	Δ Oct/Nov 18	▲14	▲7	▲5	▲14	▲8	▲1	▲8	▲7	▲5	▲9	▲12	▲10	▲15	▲15	▲6	▲20	▲16	▲13	▲13	▲25	▲16	▲19	▲4	▲18	▲10	▲8	▲12	▲14
Don't know	Apr/May 2022	8	11	8	8	12	15	13	15	3	10	10	16	7	8	7	4	1	12	7	8	1	13	4	12	7	13	7	9
	Δ Oct/Nov 18	▼3	▼19	=	▼4	▼1	▼5	▼4	▲3	▼4	▼4	▼2	=	▲1	▼4	▼1	▼5	▼3	▼5	▲1	▲2	▼4	▼3	▲2	=	▲1	▲2	▲4	=
Total 'Positive'	Apr/May 2022	22	44	38	31	17	39	50	27	18	49	13	33	20	12	32	22	8	28	36	18	14	23	22	22	16	25	37	37
	Δ Oct/Nov 18	▼14	▲20	▼6	▼7	▼7	▼7	▼9	▼9	▼11	▼11	▼11	▼11	▼13	▼13	▼13	▼15	▼16	▼17	▼17	▼18	▼19	▼19	▼21	▼21	▼21	▼25	▼26	▼28
Total 'Negative'	Apr/May 2022	70	45	54	61	71	46	37	58	79	41	77	51	73	80	61	74	91	60	57	74	85	64	74	66	77	62	56	54
	Δ Oct/Nov 18	▲17	▼1	▲6	▲11	▲8	▲12	▲13	▲6	▲15	▲15	▲13	▲11	▲12	▲17	▲14	▲20	▲19	▲22	▲16	▲16	▲23	▲22	▲19	▲21	▲20	▲23	▲22	▲28

The results of the socio-demographic analysis show that the younger the respondent, the more likely they are to have a positive view of China: 29% of 15-24 year-olds do so compared to 18% of those aged 55+.

Respondents who talk about European political matters frequently (74%) or occasionally (73%) are more likely to have a negative opinion of China than those who never (62%) talk about it.

Respondents with a positive image of the EU (23%) are no more likely to have a positive view of China than those with a neutral (22%) or negative (22%) image of the EU. Respondents who do not follow the news related to the war in Ukraine (26%) are slightly more likely to say they have a positive view of China than those who do follow it (21%).

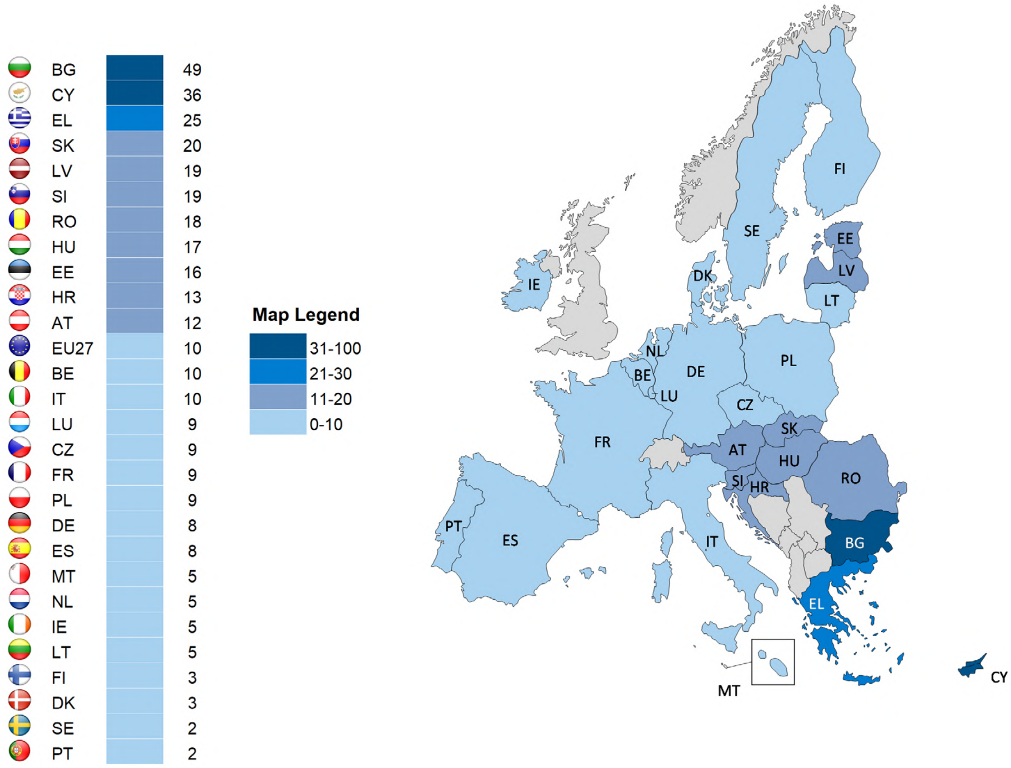
QA16.1 As regards each of the following countries do you have a positive or a negative view about it?
China (% - EU)

	Total 'Positive'	Total 'Negative'	Don't know
EU27	22	70	8
Gender			
Man	23	70	7
Woman	21	69	10
Age			
15-24	29	63	8
25-39	26	66	8
40-54	23	71	6
55 +	18	72	10
Education (End of)			
15-	22	66	12
16-19	21	70	9
20+	21	72	7
Still studying	29	64	7
Socio-professional category			
Self-employed	25	69	6
Managers	20	74	6
Other white collars	23	71	6
Manual workers	24	68	8
House persons	21	67	12
Unemployed	25	66	9
Retired	18	71	11
Students	29	64	7
Talk about European political matters			
Frequently	21	74	5
Occasionally	21	73	6
Never	24	62	14
Image of the EU			
Total 'Positive'	23	71	6
Neutral	22	67	11
Total 'Negative'	22	71	7
Follow the news related to the War in Ukraine			
Follow	21	72	7
Not follow	26	61	13

Image of Russia

There are only four Member States where at least one in five respondents have a positive view of Russia: Bulgaria (49%), Cyprus (36%), Greece (25%) and Slovakia (20%), and Bulgaria is the only country where this is the majority view (vs 43% negative). At the other end of the scale 2% in Sweden and Portugal and 3% in Denmark and Finland have a positive view of Russia.

QA16.2 As regards each of the following countries do you have a positive or a negative view about it?
Russia (% - Total 'Positive')



In every Member State the proportion with a positive view of Russia has declined, and in 17 countries the decline is at least 20 percentage points. The biggest drops in positive opinion are seen in Croatia (13%, -51 percentage points), Slovakia (20%, -42 pp) and Romania (18%, -42 pp).

QA16.2 As regards each of the following countries do you have a positive or a negative view about it? Russia (%)

		EU27	NL	DK	LU	FR	DE	MT	SE	EE	BE	ES	PL	IE	LV	AT	FI	HU	CZ	PT	BG	CY	SI	IT	LT	EL	RO	SK	HR
Very positive view	Apr/May 2022	2	1	0	1	1	1	0	0	5	1	1	3	1	5	4	0	2	2	0	13	9	4	1	1	4	5	2	2
	Δ Oct/Nov 18	▼3	=	▼1	▼3	▼2	▼1	▼4	▼3	▼2	▼3	▼4	▼1	▼4	▼8	▼3	▼2	▼5	▼5	▼3	▼17	▼8	▼6	▼5	▼9	▼7	▼15	▼11	▼14
Some-what positive view	Apr/May 2022	8	4	3	8	8	7	5	2	11	9	7	6	4	14	8	3	15	7	2	36	27	15	9	4	21	13	18	11
	Δ Oct/Nov 18	▼17	▼5	▼8	▼7	▼10	▼12	▼10	▼11	▼14	▼15	▼14	▼19	▼17	▼14	▼20	▼21	▼21	▼22	▼24	▼11	▼20	▼23	▼25	▼28	▼31	▼27	▼31	▼37
Somewhat negative view	Apr/May 2022	23	20	17	25	32	23	17	16	10	26	21	6	19	18	17	23	34	23	11	24	34	34	26	10	33	28	26	27
	Δ Oct/Nov 18	▼20	▼30	▼32	▼19	▼12	▼30	▼29	▼26	▼31	▼18	▼24	▼41	▼21	▼13	▼23	▼32	▼4	▼18	▼38	▲12	▲12	▼3	▼14	▼22	▲6	▲3	▲3	▲1
Very negative view	Apr/May 2022	62	74	78	59	50	65	72	81	69	62	67	83	71	55	66	73	43	63	81	19	24	42	60	81	38	48	41	54
	Δ Oct/Nov 18	▲43	▲36	▲43	▲33	▲27	▲46	▲64	▲42	▲49	▲36	▲49	▲67	▲48	▲36	▲46	▲57	▲32	▲45	▲72	▲16	▲17	▲32	▲48	▲59	▲31	▲41	▲38	▲46
Don't know	Apr/May 2022	5	1	2	7	9	4	6	1	5	2	4	2	5	8	5	1	6	5	6	8	6	5	4	4	4	6	13	6
	Δ Oct/Nov 18	▼3	▼1	▼2	▼4	▼3	▼3	▼21	▼2	▼2	=	▼7	▼6	▼6	▼1	=	▼2	▼2	=	▼7	=	▼1	=	▼4	=	▲1	▼2	▲1	▲4
Total 'Positive'	Apr/May 2022	10	5	3	9	9	8	5	2	16	10	8	9	5	19	12	3	17	9	2	49	36	19	10	5	25	18	20	13
	Δ Oct/Nov 18	▼20	▼5	▼9	▼10	▼12	▼13	▼14	▼14	▼16	▼18	▼18	▼20	▼21	▼22	▼23	▼23	▼26	▼27	▼27	▼28	▼28	▼29	▼30	▼37	▼38	▼42	▼42	▼51
Total 'Negative'	Apr/May 2022	85	94	95	84	82	88	89	97	79	88	88	89	90	73	83	96	77	86	92	43	58	76	86	91	71	76	67	81
	Δ Oct/Nov 18	▲23	▲6	▲11	▲14	▲15	▲16	▲35	▲16	▲18	▲18	▲25	▲26	▲27	▲23	▲23	▲25	▲28	▲27	▲34	▲28	▲29	▲29	▲34	▲37	▲37	▲44	▲41	▲47

Given the small proportion of respondents with a positive view of Russia, it is not surprising there are no notable differences in the **socio-demographic analysis** for age, gender or education.

Respondents with a positive image of the EU (7%), however, are less likely to have a positive view of Russia than those who are neutral (12%) or negative (21%) towards it. There is also a slight difference between those who do not follow the news related to the war in Ukraine (13%) compared to those who do (9%).

QA16.2 **As regards each of the following countries do you have a positive or a negative view about it?**
Russia (% - EU)

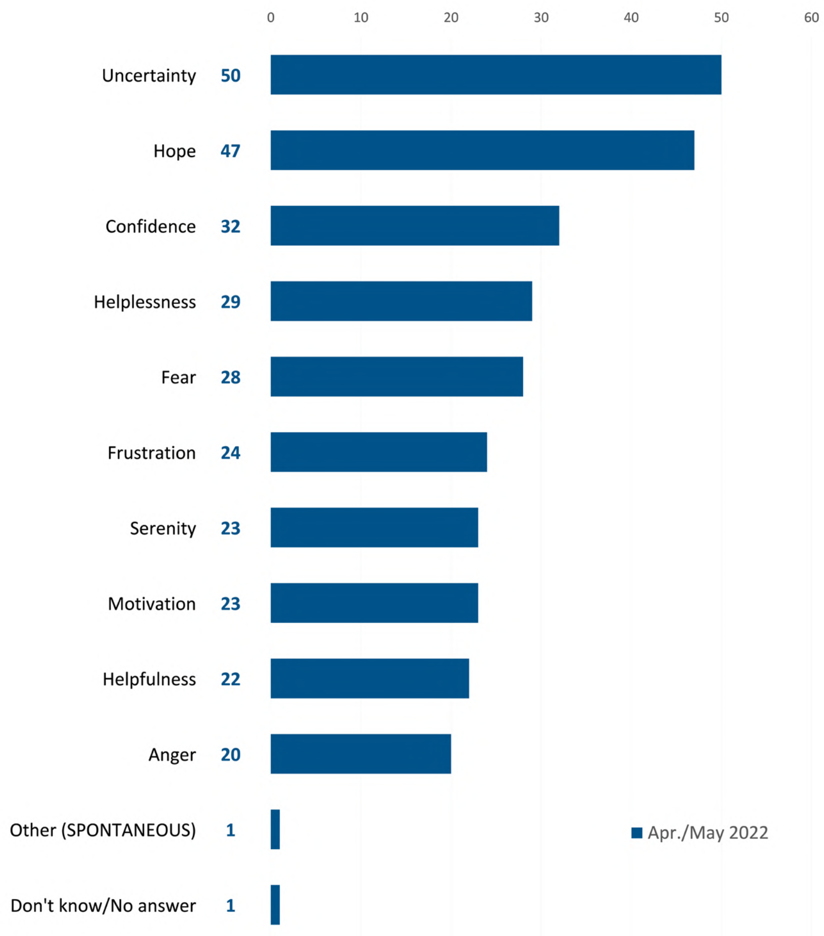
	Total 'Positive'	Total 'Négative'	Don't know
EU27	10	85	5
Gender			
Man	11	85	4
Woman	9	86	5
Age			
15-24	11	85	4
25-39	13	83	4
40-54	10	86	4
55 +	9	86	5
Education (End of)			
15-	8	87	5
16-19	11	84	5
20+	10	86	4
Still studying	11	85	4
Socio-professional category			
Self-employed	13	83	4
Managers	12	84	4
Other white collars	10	87	3
Manual workers	10	85	5
House persons	9	85	6
Unemployed	13	79	8
Retired	8	87	5
Students	11	85	4
Talk about European political matters			
Frequently	14	83	3
Occasionally	9	87	4
Never	10	82	8
Image of the EU			
Total 'Positive'	7	90	3
Neutral	12	82	6
Total 'Negative'	21	73	6
Follow the news related to the War in Ukraine			
Follow	9	88	3
Not follow	13	78	9

1.3. Emotional status of EU citizens

Asked about their current emotional state, uncertainty (50%) and hope (47%) emerge as the dominant emotions of citizens at the moment. Almost one third (32%) say they are feeling confidence, while more than one quarter say they are feeling helplessness (29%) or fear (28%).

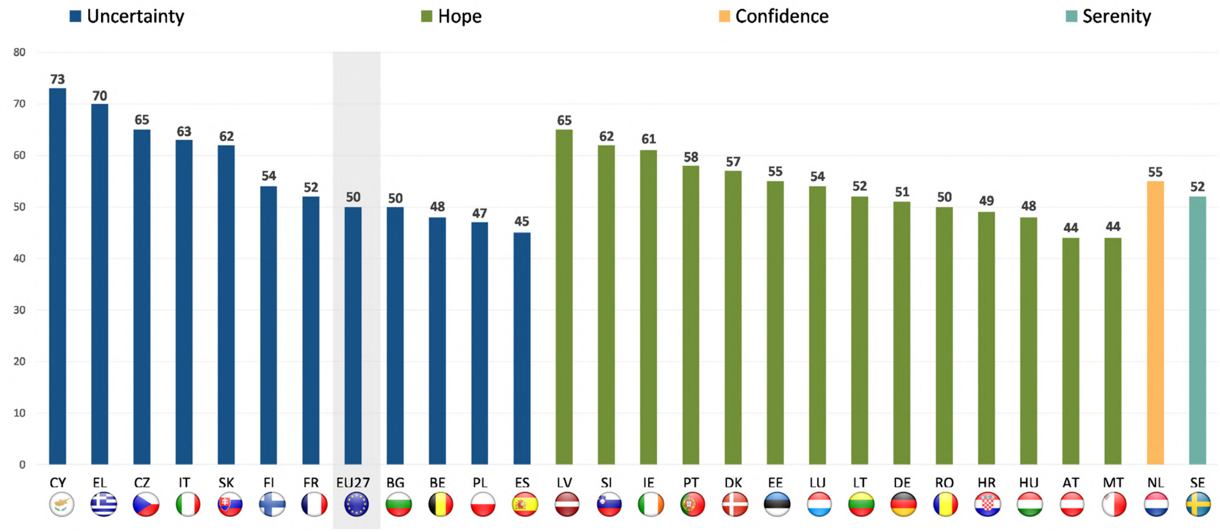
The other emotions asked about are currently felt by at least one in five.

QA10ab What feelings best describe your current emotional status? Firstly? And then?
(MAX. 4 ANSWERS) (% - EU)



Uncertainty and hope are the dominant emotions at an overall EU level. They also appear as one of the top emotions in almost all Member States. Hope is the most mentioned emotional state in 14 countries, and uncertainty is the most mentioned in eleven countries. In the Netherlands the most common emotional state is confidence, while in Sweden it is serenity.

QA10ab What feelings best describe your current emotional status? Firstly? And then?
(MAX. 4 ANSWERS) (% - The most mentioned answer by country)



The proportion of respondents who say their current emotional state is **uncertainty** ranges from 73% in Cyprus and 70% in Greece to 36% in Slovenia and 37% in Malta. Uncertainty appears in the top three emotions in 25 Member States.

Hope ranks in the top three in 24 Member States. It is most mentioned by respondents in Latvia (65%), Slovenia (62%) and Ireland (61%) and least mentioned in Slovakia, Cyprus (both 33%) and Greece (35%).

The Netherlands (55%) is the only country where at least half say they feel **confidence**. In other countries, proportions range from 48% in Portugal and 43% in Romania to 8% in Cyprus and 9% in Greece.

Sweden and the Netherlands are the only countries where at least four in ten say **serenity** is their current emotional state (both 52%). At the other end of the scale, 14% in Ireland and 15% in Cyprus and Poland say they are feeling serenity.

None of the other emotions rank first in any country, and frustration and helpfulness are the only other emotions mentioned by at least half in any country. More than six in ten (62%) in Cyprus and 57% in Greece say they are feeling **frustration**, while 51% in Slovenia are feeling **helpfulness**. Respondents in Cyprus and Greece (both 40%) are also more likely to say they are feeling **anger** than those in other countries.

Finally, **fear** is mentioned by at least four in ten respondents in Cyprus (45%), Greece (43%), Slovakia (42%) and France (41%).

QA10ab What feelings best describe your current emotional status? Firstly? And then?
(MAX. 4 ANSWERS) (%)

	EU27	BE	BG	CZ	DK	DE	EE	IE	EL	ES	FR	HR	IT	CY	LV	LT	LU	HU	MT	NL	AT	PL	PT	RO	SI	SK	FI	SE
Uncertainty	50	48	50	65	38	46	45	43	70	45	52	41	63	73	50	41	42	44	37	38	40	47	45	38	36	62	54	42
Hope	47	46	45	44	57	51	55	61	35	43	44	49	52	33	65	52	54	48	44	48	44	40	58	50	62	33	53	46
Confidence	32	35	23	17	38	40	22	39	9	33	29	20	28	8	22	39	41	23	34	55	38	15	48	43	38	18	41	19
Helplessness	29	22	21	38	16	25	17	15	30	36	31	29	41	25	17	23	24	26	12	9	32	32	8	34	20	43	17	16
Fear	28	28	22	30	15	28	20	19	43	20	41	28	36	45	15	22	28	23	25	9	29	28	22	17	14	42	16	13
Frustration	24	28	38	21	28	25	13	22	57	25	21	21	24	62	16	28	19	21	23	24	26	21	13	21	7	23	33	33
Serenity	23	26	17	18	32	24	27	14	21	20	18	17	16	15	33	30	24	28	37	52	23	15	35	24	19	16	30	52
Motivation	23	26	23	19	36	18	23	30	7	20	21	36	22	12	24	28	31	29	34	41	21	29	33	30	42	16	22	32
Helpfulness	22	21	16	14	29	32	32	18	17	23	7	39	13	11	23	14	12	35	24	40	34	26	13	18	51	17	16	24
Anger	20	15	17	23	10	20	14	10	40	21	21	24	28	40	15	16	15	10	15	7	24	22	6	16	10	32	9	13
Other (SPONTANEOUS)	1	1	1	1	1	1	4	0	2	1	1	1	0	0	1	2	0	0	1	0	5	0	1	1	1	1	0	1
Don't know/No answer	1	0	1	1	2	1	1	5	0	1	1	0	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	9	0	1	1	1	1

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

As shown in the chart below and discussed in detail in the socio-demographic analysis further below, self-reported emotional state seems to be somewhat connected to financial difficulties faced by some respondents. For example, uncertainty is more likely to be mentioned by those who are not ready to face increased energy prices, as are most of the negative emotions – especially when compared to emotions mentioned by those who are ready to face these price increases.

QA10/QA13.1 Europeans' emotions - depending on whether they are ready or not to face higher energy prices

The **socio-demographic analysis** shows women are more likely than men to report their current emotional state as fear (33% vs 24%) or helplessness (32% vs 27%). Across age groups it is 15-24 year-olds who are most likely to report feeling hope (51%), confidence (38%), motivation (40%), serenity or helpfulness (both 27%), and the least likely to report feeling each of the other emotions. In fact, the older the respondent, the more likely they are to report feeling uncertainty, helplessness and fear.

The analysis also clearly shows those with the highest levels of education, or the least financial difficulties are more likely to be feeling positive emotions of hope, confidence, serenity, motivation and helpfulness. In contrast, those who completed education aged 15 or younger or have trouble paying bills most of the time are the most likely to be feeling anger, fear, helplessness or uncertainty. Those who have the most financial difficulties are also more likely to be feeling frustration than those with the least difficulties (36% vs 22%).

Unemployed persons are the most likely to be feeling helplessness (41%), frustration (33%) or anger (29%), while students are the most likely to be feeling hope (55%), motivation (41%) or serenity (28%).

Respondents with a positive image of the EU are more likely to feel hope (56%), confidence (39%) and motivation (30%) than those who feel negatively towards the EU (26%, 16% and 14% respectively).

Respondents who say the consequences of the war in Ukraine have already reduced their standard of living are more likely to feel fear (36%), uncertainty (56%) and other negative emotions than those who do not think the war in Ukraine will impact their standard of living (16% and 34% respectively).

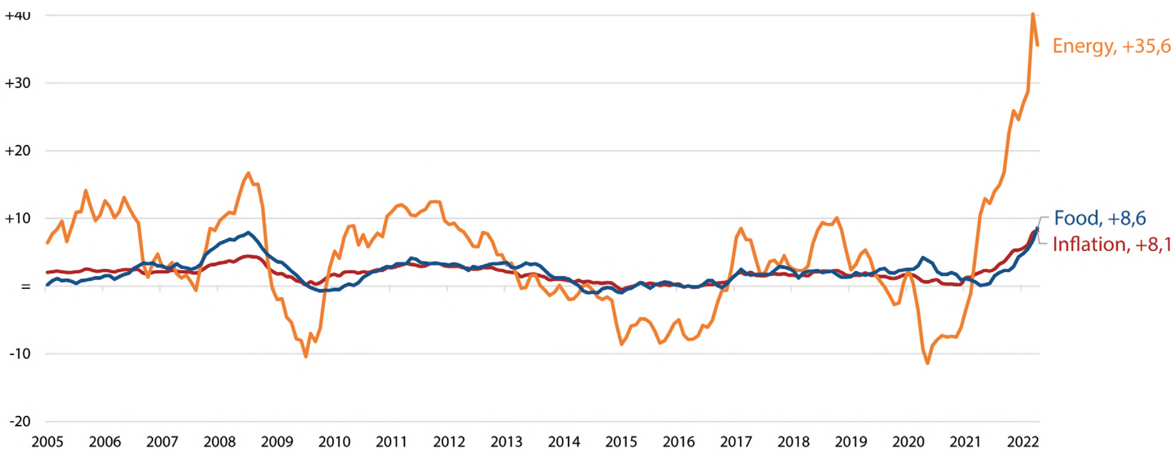
QA10ab **What feelings best describe your current emotional status? Firstly? And then?**
(MAX. 4 ANSWERS) (% - EU)

	Uncertainty	Hope	Confidence	Helplessness	Fear	Frustration	Serenity	Motivation	Helpfulness	Anger
EU27	50	47	32	29	28	24	23	23	22	20
Gender										
Man	48	47	33	27	24	25	26	26	22	21
Woman	51	47	30	32	33	24	20	22	21	20
Age										
15-24	41	51	38	20	20	20	27	40	27	12
25-39	47	46	32	27	25	27	23	28	24	18
40-54	52	47	31	30	27	26	21	24	20	23
55 +	52	47	30	33	33	24	22	16	19	22
Education (End of)										
15-	54	45	26	37	40	25	18	13	15	25
16-19	51	45	31	32	30	25	20	20	20	23
20+	49	50	33	25	24	24	26	27	23	17
Still studying	41	55	38	20	18	21	28	41	28	11
Socio-professional category										
Self-employed	52	45	33	27	24	26	24	26	19	22
Managers	49	52	36	24	23	23	26	28	26	17
Other white collars	50	48	30	27	26	27	24	26	25	22
Manual workers	48	43	32	29	29	25	21	25	22	21
House persons	53	47	27	37	38	28	15	15	16	22
Unemployed	50	41	23	41	29	33	18	19	15	29
Retired	52	47	30	34	34	23	22	15	18	21
Students	41	55	38	20	18	21	28	41	28	11
Image of the EU										
Total 'Positive'	46	56	39	24	24	19	26	30	25	15
Neutral	52	42	26	35	34	27	19	18	19	22
Total 'Negative'	56	26	16	37	34	43	16	14	14	38
Consequences of war in Ukraine...										
Already reduced standard of living	56	41	24	36	36	30	16	18	18	25
Have not yet reduced standard of living	48	52	35	26	25	21	24	25	24	18
Don't think that the war in Ukraine will impact standard of living	34	52	45	19	16	17	39	35	26	12

2. Consequences of the war in Ukraine on Europeans' standard of living

Eurostat data[43] clearly show that inflation had started increasing as a consequence of the pandemic and has been further exacerbated in the first quarter of 2022 as a result of the war in Ukraine. This is particularly the case for energy prices, which have risen by over 35 points compared to the same time last year. This has consequences on Europeans' finances, as is demonstrated by the results analysed in this section.

Inflation in the European Union
Harmonised Indices of Consumer Prices (HICP): monthly data (annual rate of change)
2005-April 2022



Eurostat: HICP - monthly data (annual rate of change), URL: https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/databrowser/bookmark/6fefdb95-d983-4b43-942e-305889229715?lang=en [Data retrieved 01 June 2022]

2.1. Impact of the war on citizens' standard of living

Four in ten citizens across the EU (40%) say that their standard of living has already been reduced and they expect this to still be the case over the next year. Almost half (47%) say that they expect such consequences over the next year, although they have not experienced such an impact yet. Just over one in ten (11%) do not expect the war in Ukraine to have an impact on their standard of living.

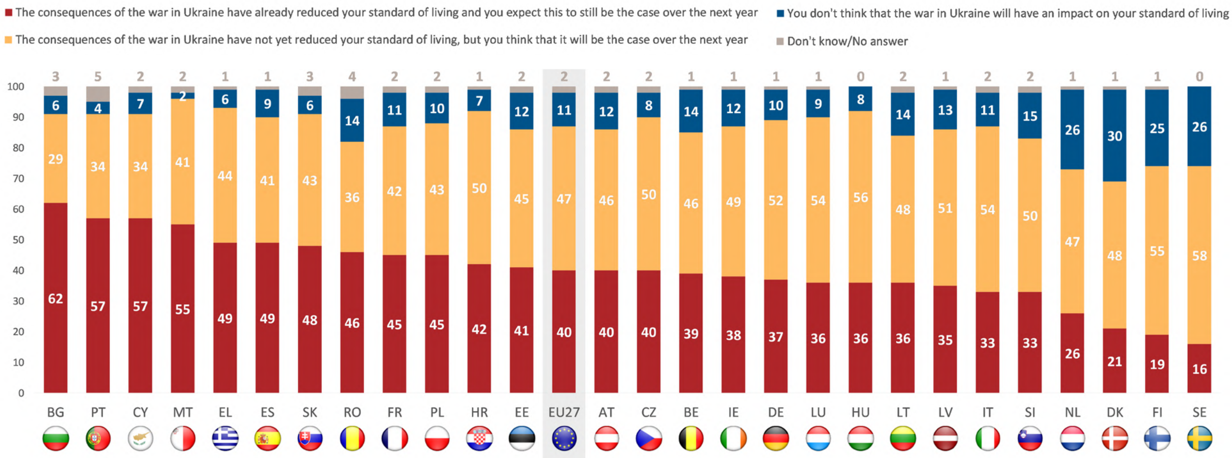
In ten countries overall the survey finds a majority saying the consequences of the war in Ukraine have already reduced their standard of living, with those in Bulgaria (62%), Cyprus and Portugal (both 57%) the most likely to have this opinion. In contrast only 16% in Sweden, 19% in Finland and 21% in Denmark say they have already been impacted by the consequences of the war in Ukraine.

In 17 EU Member States, the majority of respondents say the war has not reduced their standard of living yet but they expect it to happen over the next year, with the highest proportions seen in Sweden (58%), Hungary (56%) and Finland (55%). There are only four countries where more than one in five

[43] ec.europa.eu/eurostat/databrowser/view/PRC_HICP_MANR__custom_2880847/default/line?lang=en

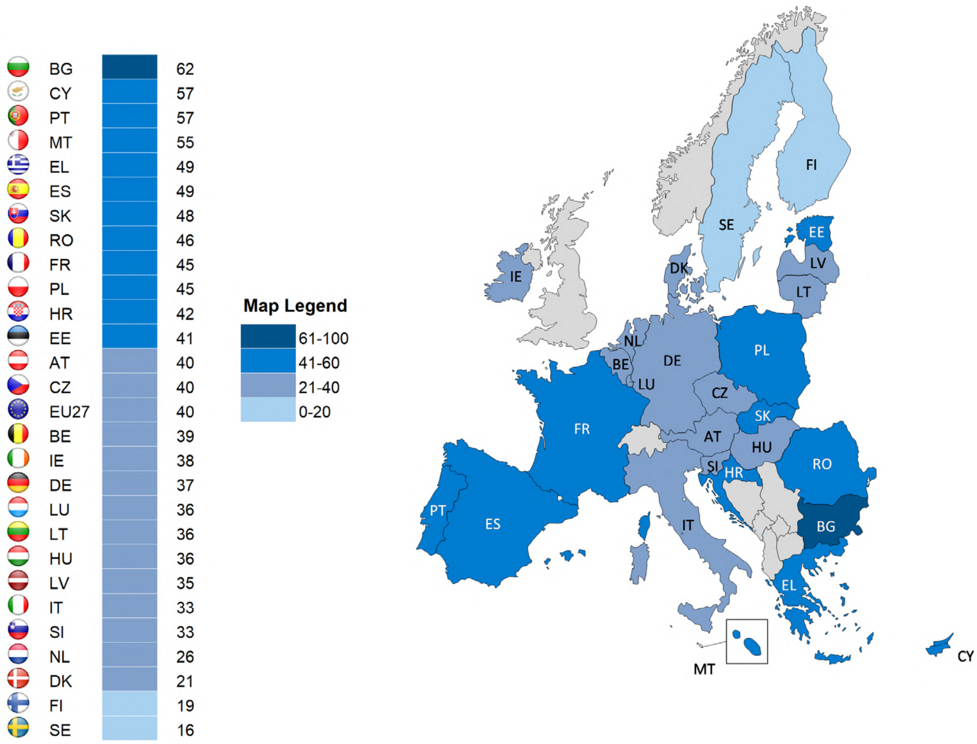
think the war in Ukraine will have no impact on their standard of living: Denmark (30%), Sweden (26%), the Netherlands (26%) and Finland (25%).

QA14 Thinking about your personal standard of living (e.g. goods and services you can afford), which one of these statements comes closest to your personal situation? (%)



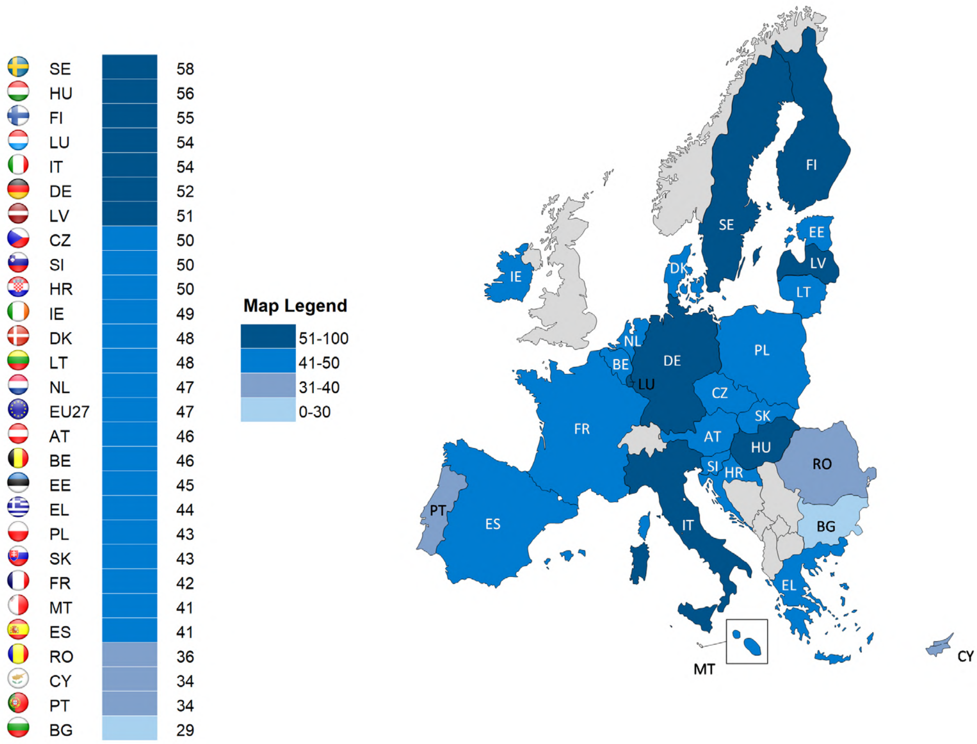
The map below shows the large differences within the EU when it comes to assessing the impact of the war on the standard of living.

QA14 Thinking about your personal standard of living (e.g. goods and services you can afford), which one of these statements comes closest to your personal situation? (% - The consequences of the war in Ukraine have already reduced your standard of living and you expect this to still be the case over the next year)



Looking at the geographical distribution of respondents expecting an impact on their standard of living to happen over the next year shows that with barely any exceptions citizens from each EU Member State expect an impact on their personal standard of living.

QA14 Thinking about your personal standard of living (e.g. goods and services you can afford), which one of these statements comes closest to your personal situation? (% - The consequences of the war in Ukraine have not yet reduced your standard of living, but you think that it will be the case over the next year)



The **socio-demographic analysis** shows that although the majority in each age group that say the war in Ukraine has not reduced their standard of living yet, those aged 15-24 are more likely than older age groups to say they don't think the war will have an impact (17% vs 10%-12%) and are less likely to say the war has already had an impact on their standard of living (32% vs 40%-42%).

The majority of respondents who completed education aged 15 or younger (50%) say the war has already impacted their standard of living, while those who finished aged 16 or older are most likely to say the war has not had an impact yet but they expect it will in the next year (46%-50%).

A majority of the unemployed (52%), house persons (50%) and manual workers (47%) say they have already felt a reduction of their standard of living, while the majority in other socio-professional groups say this has not happened yet but they expect it will over the next year.

The majority of respondents who have difficulties paying bills most (67%) or some of the time (51%) say the war has already impacted their standard of living, while the majority who rarely or never have problems say they expect to be impacted in the next year (51%).

Respondents who follow the news concerning the war in Ukraine are more likely to say the consequences of the war have not yet reduced their standard of living but will in the next year than those who do not follow such news (49% vs 41% respectively).

QA14 Thinking about your personal standard of living (e.g. goods and services you can afford), which one of these statements comes closest to your personal situation?
(% - EU)

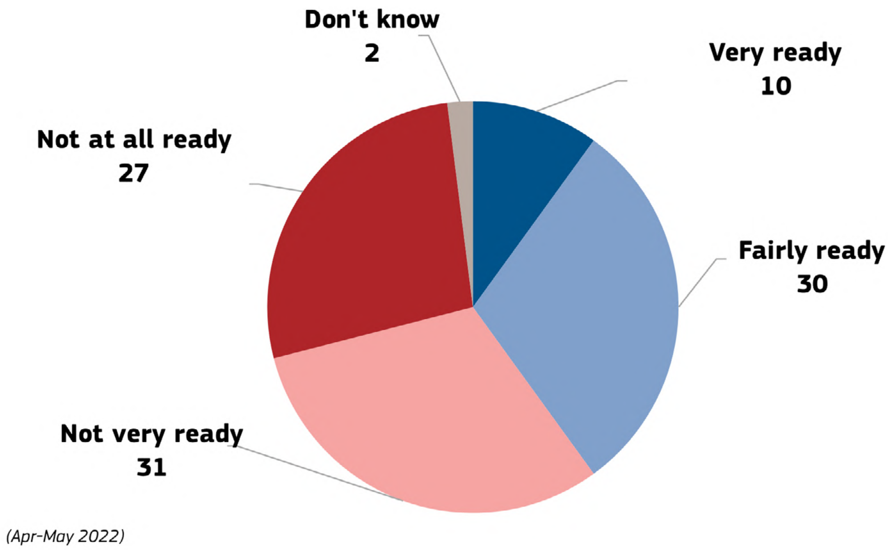
	The consequences of the war in Ukraine have already reduced your standard of living and you expect this to still be the case over the next year	The consequences of the war in Ukraine have not yet reduced your standard of living, but you think that it will be the case over the next year	You don't think that the war in Ukraine will have an impact on your standard of living	Don't know/No answer
EU27	40	47	11	2
Gender				
Man	39	47	13	1
Woman	41	46	11	2
Age				
15-24	32	48	17	3
25-39	40	46	12	2
40-54	42	47	10	1
55 +	42	46	11	1
Education (End of)				
15-	50	38	10	2
16-19	44	46	9	1
20+	35	50	14	1
Still studying	29	50	18	3
Socio-professional category				
Self-employed	35	51	13	1
Managers	30	53	15	2
Other white collars	38	50	11	1
Manual workers	47	42	9	2
House persons	50	37	11	2
Unemployed	52	37	8	3
Retired	42	47	10	1
Students	29	50	18	3
Difficulties paying bills				
Most of the time	67	25	6	2
From time to time	51	40	7	2
Almost never/ Never	33	51	14	2
Image of the EU				
Total 'Positive'	35	51	13	1
Neutral	43	45	10	2
Total 'Negative'	54	35	9	2
Follow the news concerning the war in Ukraine				
Follow	39	49	11	1
Not follow	42	41	14	3

2.2. Readiness to face rises in energy and food prices

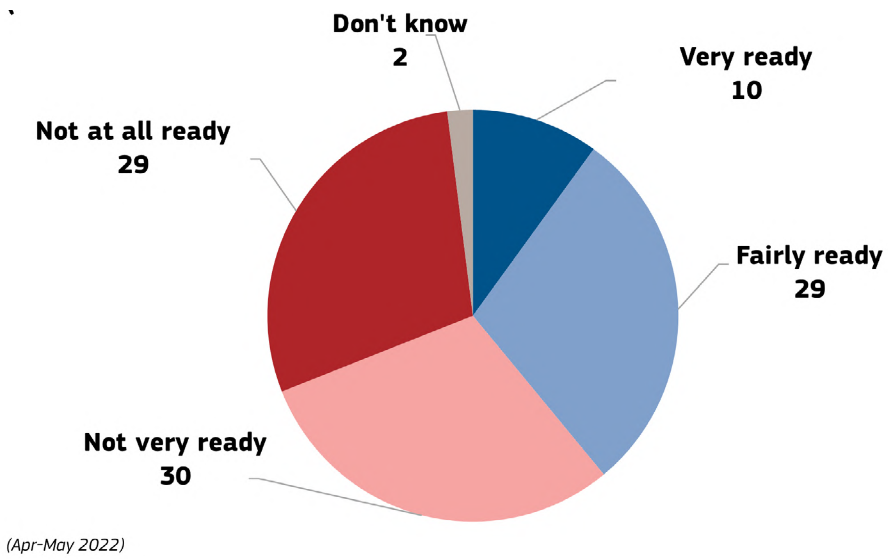
Only a minority of citizens feel they are ready to face the potential of rising energy or food prices. Four in ten (40%) say they are ready to face a rise in energy prices, with 10% saying they are 'very ready'. However, most say they are not ready (58%), with more than one quarter (27%) 'not at all ready'.

Similarly, almost four in ten (39%) feel ready to face a rise in food prices, with 10% saying they are 'very ready'. Most (59%) say they are not ready with 29% 'not at all ready'.

QA13.1 **The EU has taken a series of actions, including concrete sanctions against Russia, as a response to Russia's invasion of Ukraine. These actions could also have consequences on European economies and citizens. How ready would you say you are to face the following potential consequences? A rise of energy prices** (% - EU)

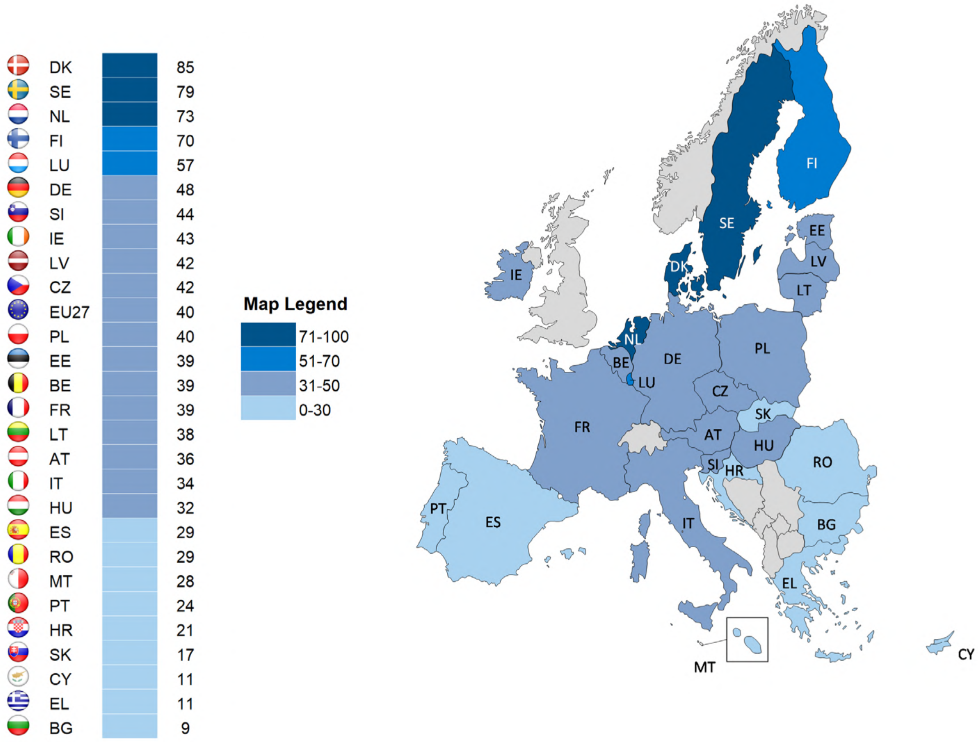


QA13.2 **The EU has taken a series of actions, including concrete sanctions against Russia, as a response to Russia's invasion of Ukraine. These actions could also have consequences on European economies and citizens. How ready would you say you are to face the following potential consequences? A rise in food prices** (% - EU)



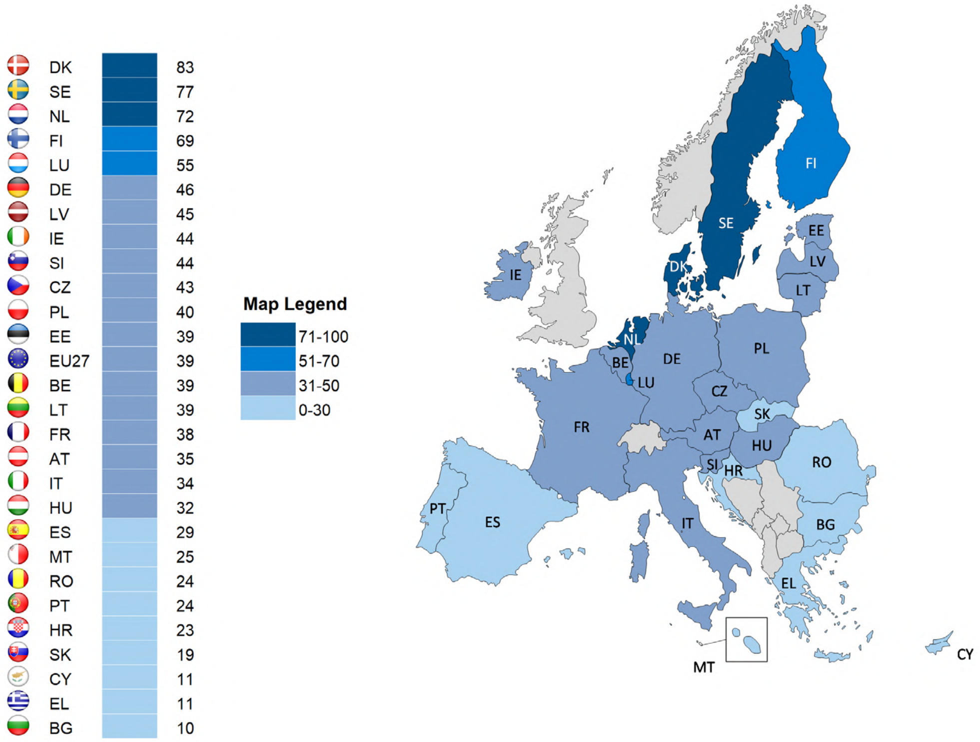
The proportion of respondents who feel ready for rises in energy prices varies strongly across the EU, as shown in the map below. There are only five countries where a majority feels ready: Denmark (85%), Sweden (79%), the Netherlands (73%), Finland (70%) and Luxembourg (57%). In contrast only around one in ten in Bulgaria (9%), Cyprus and Greece (both 11%) say they feel ready for energy price increases.

QA13.1 The EU has taken a series of actions, including concrete sanctions against Russia, as a response to Russia's invasion of Ukraine. These actions could also have consequences on European economies and citizens. How ready would you say you are to face the following potential consequences? A rise of energy prices (% - Total 'Ready')



There is also a large variation across the EU in the perceived readiness to face a rise in food prices. Once again there are only the same five countries where the majority feels ready for this potential: Denmark (83%), Sweden (77%), the Netherlands (72%), Finland (69%) and Luxembourg (55%). As is the case for energy, the lowest proportions are seen in Bulgaria (10%), Cyprus and Greece (both 11%).

QA13.2 The EU has taken a series of actions, including concrete sanctions against Russia, as a response to Russia's invasion of Ukraine. These actions could also have consequences on European economies and citizens. How ready would you say you are to face the following potential consequences? A rise in food prices (% - Total 'Ready')



The **socio-demographic analysis** shows that men, those with the highest levels of education, managers, and those with few or no financial difficulties are most likely to say they are prepared for a rise in energy or food prices. The same can be seen for respondents with a positive image of the EU, who are optimistic about the future of the EU and those who do not think the war in Ukraine will impact their standard of living.

For example:

- 42% of men are prepared for a rise in energy or food prices compared to 37% or women.
- More than half (52%) who completed education aged 20+ are prepared for a rise in food or energy prices, compared to 27% who completed education aged 15 or younger.
- Managers (55%) are much more likely to say they are prepared for a rise in energy prices than other occupation groups, particularly the unemployed (23%).
- The fewer financial difficulties a respondent experiences, the more likely they are to say they are prepared. For instance, 47% with the least difficulties are prepared for a rise in food prices, compared to 15% who have difficulties paying bills most of the time.
- Respondents who do not think that the war in Ukraine will impact their standard of living are most likely to say they are ready to face a rise in energy prices (61%) compared to those whose standard of living has not yet been impacted but who think this will happen in the next year (48%). The gap is even more pronounced with those who say the consequences of the war in Ukraine have already reduced their standard of living (24%).

In addition, respondents who feel ready to face one of the price increases are notably more likely to say they are ready to face the other—for example 91% of those who say they are ready to face a rise in energy prices are also ready to face a rise in food prices compared to 5% of those who are not ready to face a rise in energy prices.

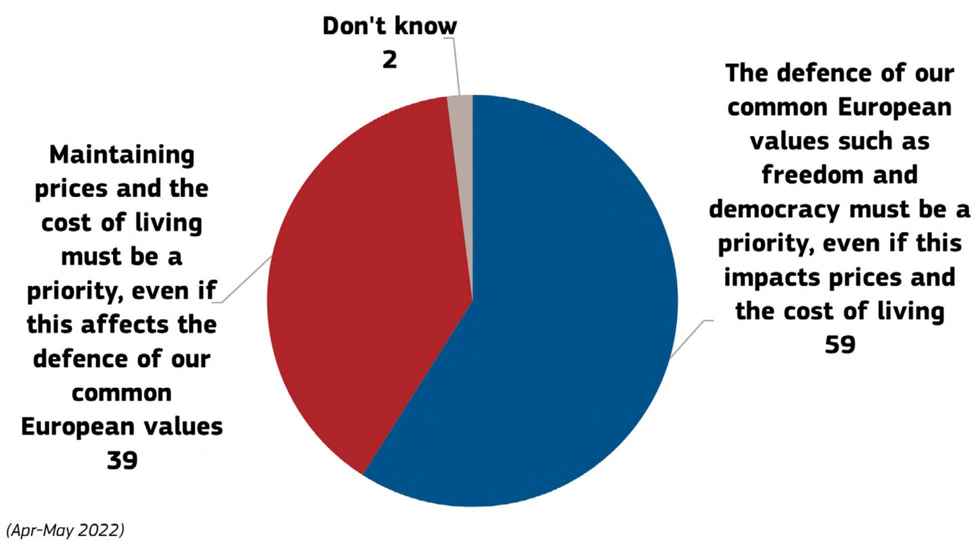
QA13.1-2 The EU has taken a series of actions, including concrete sanctions against Russia, as a response to Russia's invasion of Ukraine. These actions could also have consequences on European economies and citizens. How ready would you say you are to face the following potential consequences?
(% - Total 'Ready')

	A rise in food prices	A rise of energy prices
EU27	39	40
Gender		
Man	42	42
Woman	37	37
Age		
15-24	37	38
25-39	39	40
40-54	39	39
55 +	40	40
Education (End of)		
15-	27	27
16-19	33	34
20+	52	52
Still studying	40	41
Socio-professional category		
Self-employed	44	45
Managers	55	55
Other white collars	43	42
Manual workers	32	32
House persons	27	26
Unemployed	22	23
Retired	40	41
Students	40	41
Image of the EU		
Total 'Positive'	48	50
Neutral	30	31
Total 'Negative'	24	24
Optimism about the future of the EU		
Optimistic	47	48
Pessimiste	25	26
Readiness to face rise in energy prices		
Ready	91	100
Not ready	5	
Readiness to face rise in food prices		
Ready	100	92
Not ready		6
Consequences of war in Ukraine...		
Already reduced standard of living	23	24
Have not yet reduced standard of living	48	48
Don't think that the war in Ukraine will impact standard of living	59	61

2.3. The choice between 'defending freedom and democracy' or 'maintaining prices and the cost of living'

Respondents were given two statements and asked where they would position themselves on a scale between them. Almost six in ten (59%) position themselves closest to the statement 'The defence of our common European values such as freedom and democracy must be a priority, even if this impacts prices and the cost of living', while 39% position themselves closest to the statement 'Maintaining prices and the cost of living must be a priority, even if this affects the defence of our common European values'.

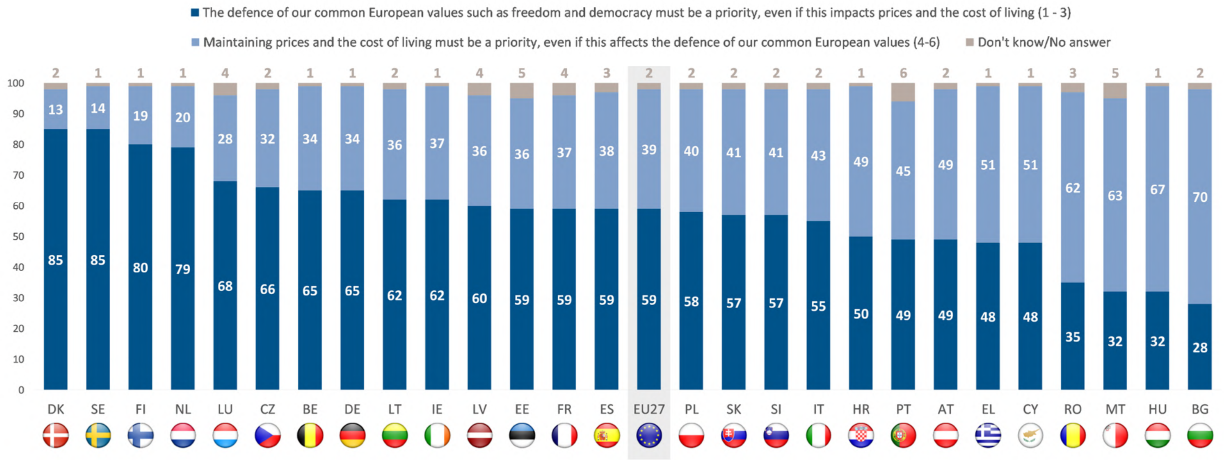
QA15 Thinking about the war in Ukraine and its consequences, where do you position yourself between these two statements? Please use this scale from 1 to 6, where "1" means that "the defence of our common European values such as freedom and democracy must be a priority, even if this impacts prices and the cost of living", and "6" means that "maintaining prices and the cost of living must be a priority, even if this affects the defence of our common European values". The remaining numbers indicates something in between these two positions. (% - EU)



In 20 EU Member States, a majority of respondents would prioritise the defence of common European values over maintaining prices and the cost of living, with proportions ranging from 85% in Denmark and Sweden to 49% in Portugal (vs 45% for maintaining prices and the cost of living must be a priority) and 50% in Croatia.

In six countries, a majority of respondents would prioritise maintaining prices and the cost of living, with proportions ranging from 70% in Bulgaria to 51% in Greece and Cyprus. Opinion in Austria is divided with 49% mentioning the defence of common values and maintaining prices and the cost of living.

QA15 Thinking about the war in Ukraine and its consequences, where do you position yourself between these two statements? Please use this scale from 1 to 6, where "1" means that "the defence of our common European values such as freedom and democracy must be a priority, even if this impacts prices and the cost of living", and "6" means that "maintaining prices and the cost of living must be a priority, even if this affects the defence of our common European values". The remaining numbers indicates something in between these two positions. (%)



The **socio-demographic analysis** shows that across almost all socio-demographic groups a majority of respondents prioritise the defence of common European values, even if it impacts the cost of living. Only a few groups prioritise maintaining prices and the cost of living over the defence of common values: those who experience difficulties paying bills most (50%) or at least some of the time (51%), and those who have a negative image of the EU (55%).

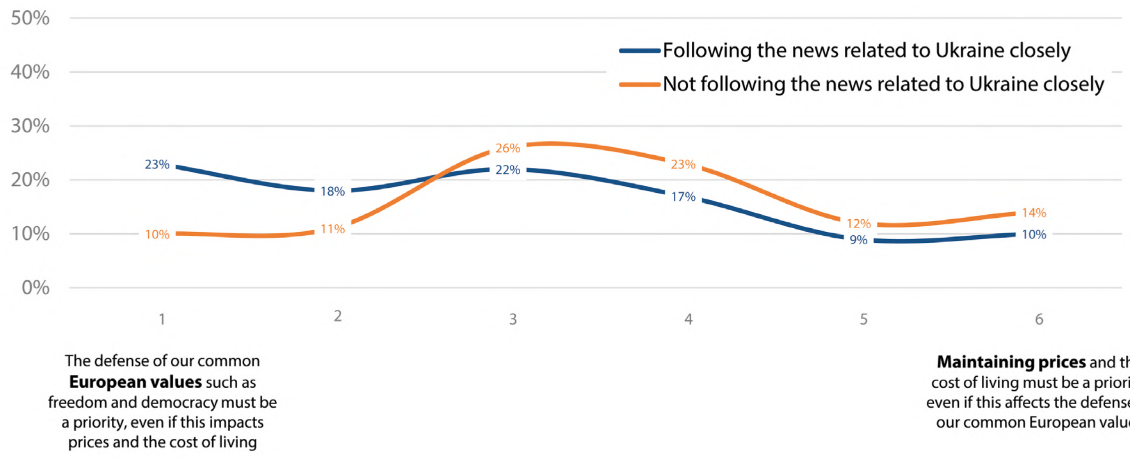
Although all other groups prioritise the defence of common values, there are some notable differences, with managers (68%) much more likely to think this way than house persons (49% vs 47% prioritising the cost of living), the unemployed (50%) and manual workers (54%). In addition, the longer a respondent remained in education, the more likely they are to prioritise the defence of common values: 68% who completed education aged 20+ think this way, compared to 49% who completed education aged 15 or younger (47% of this group prioritise maintaining prices and the cost of living).

EU citizens who almost never or never experience difficulties paying bills (65%) are more likely to say that the defence of our common European values must be a priority even if this impacts prices and the cost of living compared to those who have difficulties paying bills from time to time or most of the time (47% for both).

Respondents with a positive image of the EU (67%) are also more likely to say the defence of common European values matters more than maintaining prices and the cost of living than those with a neutral (53%) or negative (42%) image of it.

As illustrated below, respondents who closely follow news on the war are more likely to prioritise the defence of freedom and democracy than those who do not follow the news closely. The opposite holds for those who would prioritise maintaining prices and the cost of living, although the difference is smaller.

QA15/QA12 **Thinking about the war in Ukraine and its consequences, where do Europeans position themselves between the two statements -** depending on how closely they follow the news related to Ukraine (%)



Respondents who feel ready to face the rise in energy prices (73%) or food prices (74%) as a consequence of the war in Ukraine are more likely to say the defence of our common European values must be a priority even if this impacts prices and the cost of living compared of those who do not feel ready to face such increases (50% for energy prices and 49% for food prices).

Finally, respondents whose standard of living has not yet been reduced as a consequence of the war in Ukraine or who do not think the war in Ukraine will impact their standard of living at all (64% for both) are more likely to think common European values must be a priority than those whose standard of living has already been reduced (52%).

QA15 Thinking about the war in Ukraine and its consequences, where do you position yourself between these two statements? Please use this scale from 1 to 6, where "1" means that "the defence of our common European values such as freedom and democracy must be a priority, even if this impacts prices and the cost of living", and "6" means that "maintaining prices and the cost of living must be a priority, even if this affects the defence of our common European values". The remaining numbers indicates something in between these two positions.
(% - EU)

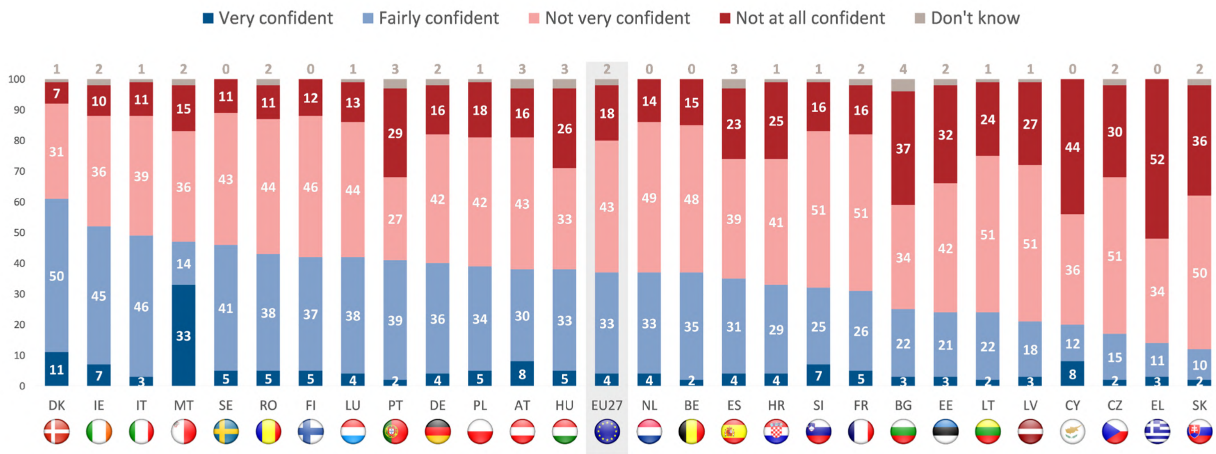
	The defence of our common European values such as freedom and democracy must be a priority, even if this impacts prices and the cost of living (1 - 3)	Maintaining prices and the cost of living must be a priority, even if this affects the defence of our common European values (4-6)	Don't know/No answer
EU27	59	39	2
Gender			
Man	60	38	2
Woman	59	39	2
Age			
15-24	61	37	2
25-39	59	39	2
40-54	58	40	2
55 +	59	38	3
Education (End of)			
15-	49	47	4
16-19	54	44	2
20+	68	30	2
Still studying	65	32	3
Socio-professional category			
Self-employed	62	37	1
Managers	68	30	2
Other white collars	60	38	2
Manual workers	54	45	1
House persons	49	47	4
Unemployed	50	46	4
Retired	60	37	3
Students	65	32	3
Difficulties paying bills			
Most of the time	47	50	3
From time to time	47	51	2
Almost never/ Never	65	33	2
Image of the EU			
Total 'Positive'	67	32	1
Neutral	53	44	3
Total 'Negative'	42	55	3
Follow the news concerning the war in Ukraine			
Follow	63	36	1
Not follow	47	49	4
Readiness to face rise in energy prices			
Ready	73	26	1
Not ready	50	47	3
Readiness to face rise in food prices			
Ready	74	25	1
Not ready	49	48	3
Consequences of war in Ukraine...			
Already reduced standard of living	52	46	2
Have not yet reduced standard of living	64	35	1
Don't think that the war in Ukraine will impact standard of living	64	33	3

2.4. Confidence that life will continue unchanged

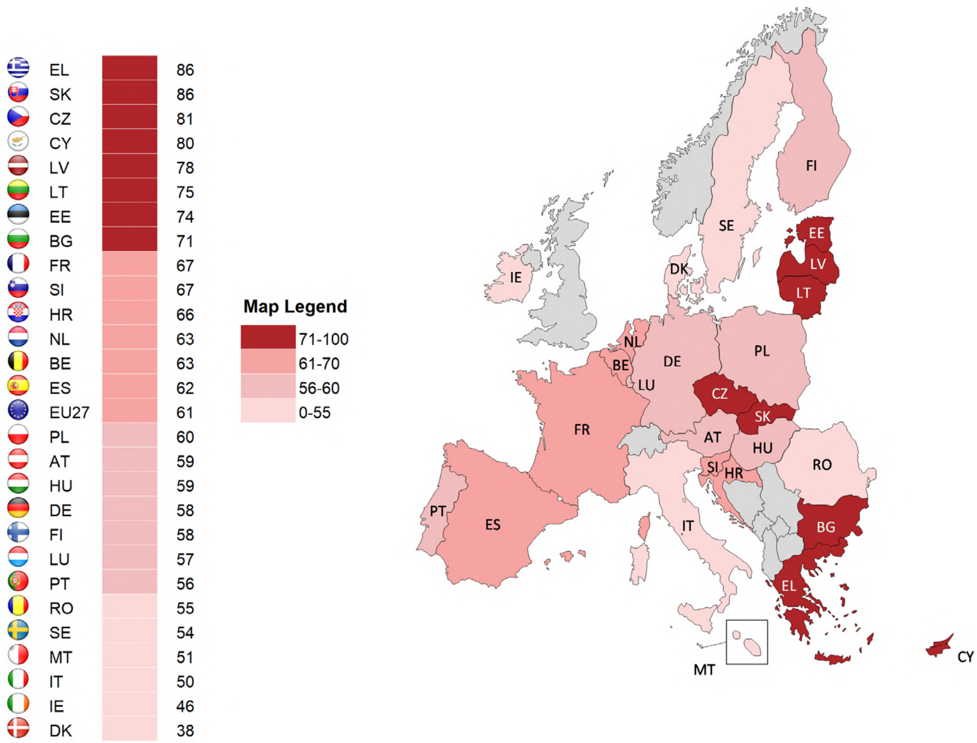
Only a minority of citizens (37%) are confident that their life will continue unchanged as a result of the war in Ukraine and its potential consequences, with just 4% being 'very confident' that this will be the case. The majority (61%) say that they are not confident that this will be the case, with 18% being 'not at all confident'.

Denmark (61%) and Ireland (52%) are the only two EU Member States where the majority of respondents are confident their life will continue unchanged as a result of the war in Ukraine and its potential consequences, although 49% in Italy and 47% in Malta also think this way. At the other end of the spectrum, only 12% in Slovakia, 14% in Greece and 17% in Czechia think their life will continue unchanged.

QA11 Thinking about the war in Ukraine and its potential consequences on your life, how confident do you feel that your life will continue unchanged? (%)

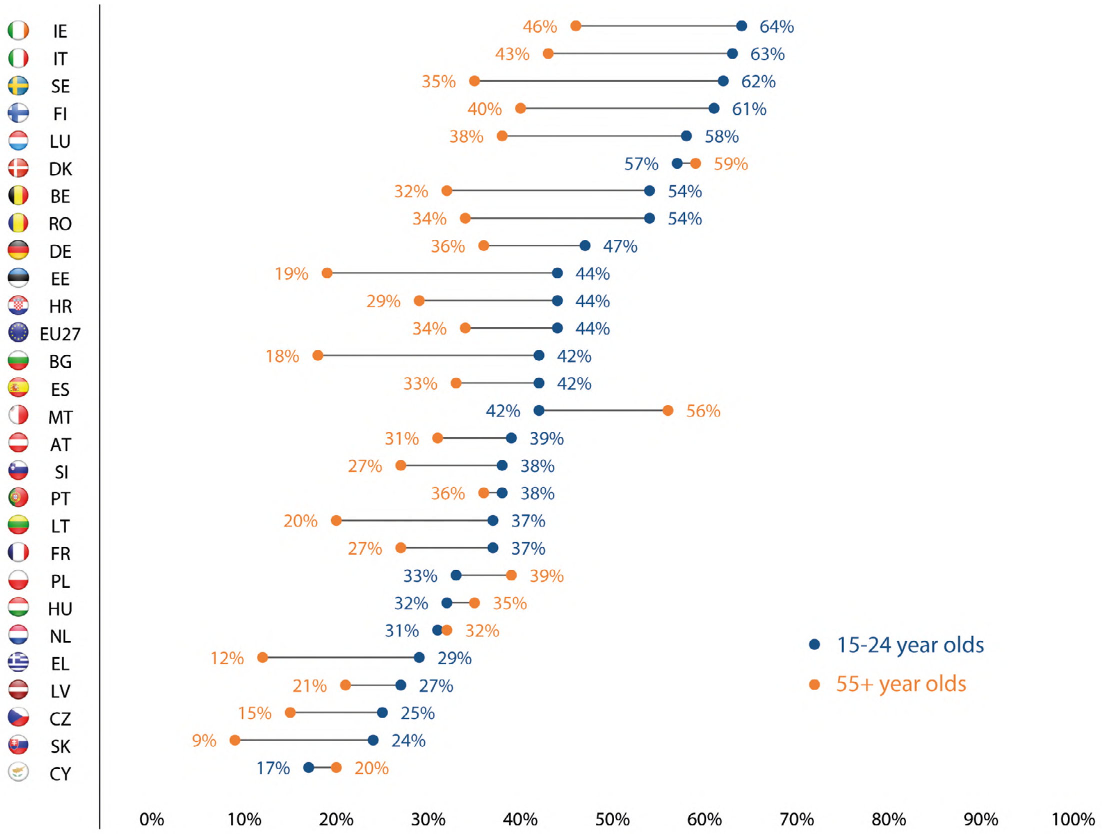


QA11 Thinking about the war in Ukraine and its potential consequences on your life, how confident do you feel that your life will continue unchanged? (% - Total 'Not confident')



Results from the socio-demographic analysis show men are slightly more likely than women to be confident their life will continue unchanged as a result of the war in Ukraine and its potential consequences (40% vs 35%). Those aged 15-24 are the most likely to have this confidence, particularly compared to those aged 55+ (44% vs 34%) and this is the case in almost all countries, as shown below. Students are also more likely to be confident than other socio-professional groups, and particularly the unemployed (48% vs 31%). Finally, the fewer financial difficulties a respondent experiences, the more likely they are to be confident their life will continue unchanged as a result of the war in Ukraine: 41% who experience the least difficulties are confident, compared to 23% who experience the most financial difficulties.

QA11 **Confidence that life will continue unchanged is more prevalent among younger Europeans in most Member States**



Respondents who feel ready to face a rise in energy or food prices (49% for both) are more likely to say they are confident their life will continue unchanged than those who do not fell ready (29% for energy prices and 30% for food prices).

Respondents who do not think that the war in Ukraine will impact their standard of living (66%) are more likely to be confident that their life will continue unchanged compared to those whose standard of living has not yet been impacted but who think it will happen in the next year (41%) and those whose standard of living has already been impacted by the consequences of the war in Ukraine (26%).

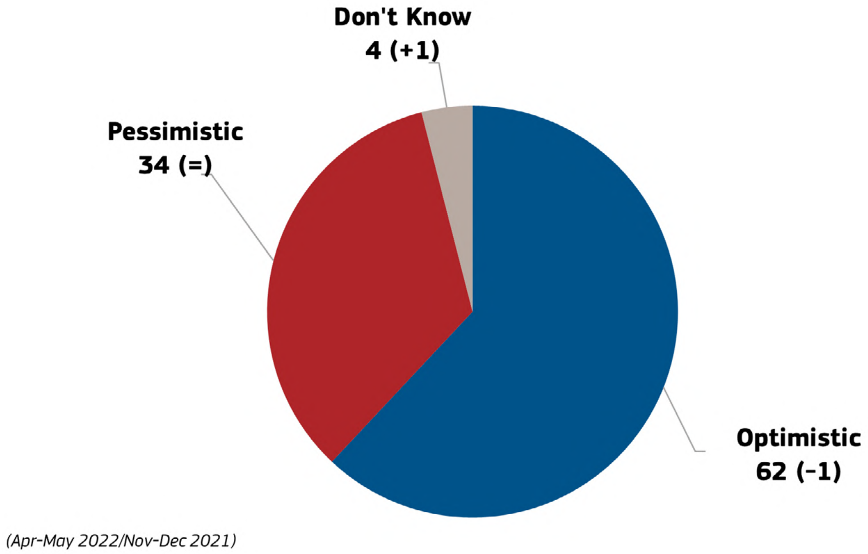
QA11 **Thinking about the war in Ukraine and its potential consequences on your life, how confident do you feel that your life will continue unchanged?**
(% - EU)

	Total 'Confident'	Total 'Not confident'	Don't know
EU27	37	61	2
Gender			
Man	40	58	2
Woman	35	63	2
Age			
15-24	44	54	2
25-39	40	59	1
40-54	39	59	2
55 +	34	64	2
Education (End of)			
15-	35	63	2
16-19	36	62	2
20+	39	60	1
Still studying	48	49	3
Socio-professional category			
Self-employed	40	59	1
Managers	44	55	1
Other white collars	41	58	1
Manual workers	35	64	1
House persons	34	61	5
Unemployed	31	67	2
Retired	33	65	2
Students	48	49	3
Difficulties paying bills			
Most of the time	23	75	2
From time to time	33	65	2
Almost never/ Never	41	57	2
Readiness to face rise in energy prices			
Ready	49	50	1
Not ready	29	69	2
Readiness to face rise in food prices			
Ready	49	50	1
Not ready	30	68	2
Consequences of war in Ukraine...			
Already reduced standard of living	26	73	1
Have not yet reduced standard of living	41	58	1
Don't think that the war in Ukraine will impact standard of living	66	32	2

2.5. Optimism about the future of the EU

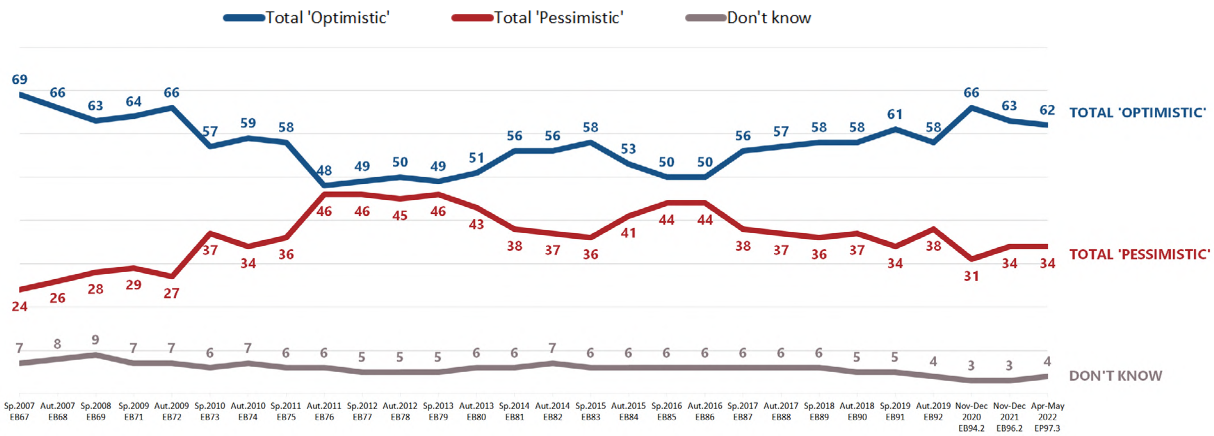
More than six in ten Europeans (62%, -1 percentage point since November-December 2021) say they are optimistic about the future of the EU, while 34% (no change) are pessimistic.

QA21 Would you say that you are very optimistic, fairly optimistic, fairly pessimistic or very pessimistic about the future of the EU? (% - EU)



While optimism about the future of the EU is still at a very high level and on par with results measured last in autumn 2009, it must be noted that optimism has been slowly declining since 2020, coinciding with the start of the COVID-19 pandemic.

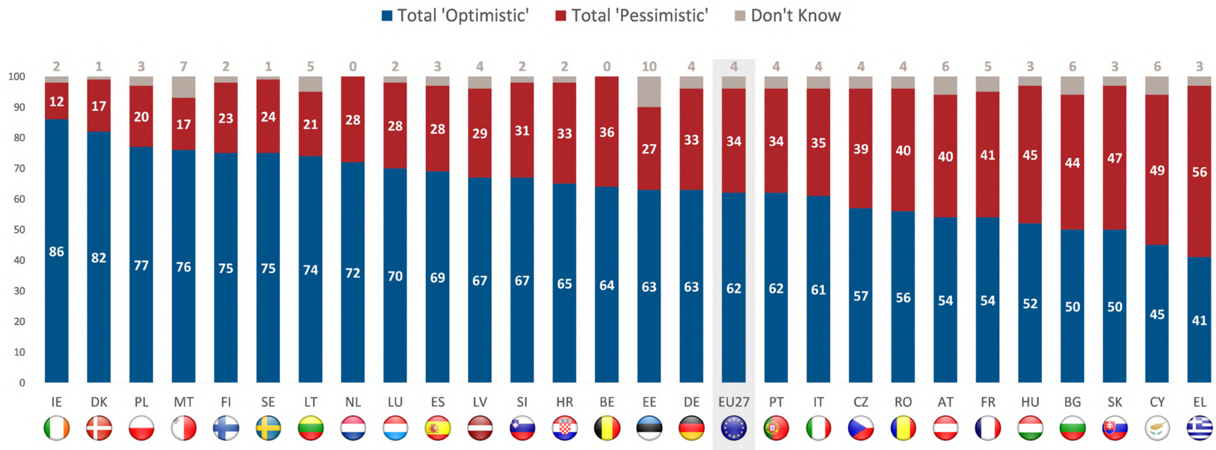
QA21 Would you say that you are very optimistic, fairly optimistic, fairly pessimistic or very pessimistic about the future of the EU? (% - EU)



With the exception of Greece and Cyprus, the majority of respondents in each Member State say they are optimistic about the future of the EU. At least three quarters of respondents think this way in Ireland (86%), Denmark (82%), Poland (77%), Malta (76%), Finland and Sweden (both 75%).

In Greece, 41% are optimistic and 56% pessimistic, while in Cyprus 45% are optimistic and 49% pessimistic about the future of the EU. Pessimism is also relatively high in Slovakia (47%), Hungary (45%) and Bulgaria (44%).

QA21 Would you say that you are very optimistic, fairly optimistic, fairly pessimistic or very pessimistic about the future of the EU? (%)



Although there has been little change in optimism at an overall EU level, this masks larger changes in some Member States. Optimism about the future of the EU has increased in 8 countries, most notably in Finland (75%, +12 percentage points) and Latvia (67%, +10 pp). In contrast optimism has declined in 6 countries, with the largest drops seen in Hungary (52%, -13pp) and Cyprus (45%, -10 pp). There has been no change in Estonia, the Netherlands or Austria.

As a result of these changes optimism has become the minority opinion in Cyprus.

QA21 Would you say that you are very optimistic, fairly optimistic, fairly pessimistic or very pessimistic about the future of the EU? (%)

		EU27	FI	LV	LT	CZ	FR	SE	DK	PL	BE	MT	SI	EE	NL	AT	LU	RO	DE	ES	SK	IE	EL	IT	HR	BG	PT	CY	HU
Total 'Optimistic'	Apr/May 22	62	75	67	74	57	54	75	82	77	64	76	67	63	72	54	70	56	63	69	50	86	41	61	65	50	62	45	52
	Δ Nov/Dec 21	▼1	▲12	▲10	▲6	▲5	▲5	▲5	▲4	▲4	▲3	▲2	▲1	=	=	=	▼1	▼1	▼2	▼2	▼2	▼3	▼3	▼4	▼5	▼8	▼8	▼10	▼13
Total 'Pessimistic'	Apr/May 22	34	23	29	21	39	41	24	17	20	36	17	31	27	28	40	28	40	33	28	47	12	56	35	33	44	34	49	45
	Δ Nov/Dec 21	=	▼11	▼14	▼6	▼8	▼7	▼5	▼4	▼3	▼2	▼5	▼1	▼3	▲1	=	▲1	▲1	▲2	▲5	▲1	▲3	▲3	▲3	▲4	▲7	▲10	▲8	▲12
Don't Know	Apr/May 22	4	2	4	5	4	5	1	1	3	0	7	2	10	0	6	2	4	4	3	3	2	3	4	2	6	4	6	3
	Δ Nov/Dec 21	▲1	▼1	▲4	=	▲3	▲2	=	=	▼1	▼1	▲3	=	▲3	▼1	=	=	=	=	▼3	▲1	=	=	▲1	▲1	▲1	▼2	▲2	▲1

The **socio-demographic analysis** illustrates that respondents in each socio-demographic group are optimistic about the future of the EU, but there are some notable differences. Those aged 15-24 (72%) are more likely to be optimistic about the future of the EU, particularly compared to those aged 55+

(60%). The analysis also shows that the longer a respondent remained in education, the more likely they are to be optimistic: 69% who completed education aged 20 or older are positive about the future of the EU, compared to 53% who completed education aged 15 or younger. Amongst socio-professional groups students (74%) and managers (71%) are the most likely to be optimistic, particularly compared to the unemployed (49%). Finally, respondents who rarely or never have difficulties paying bills (70%) are much more likely to be optimistic than those who have difficulties from time to time (52%) or most of the time (41%). Respondents who feel ready to face a rise in energy or food prices as a consequence of the war in Ukraine (76% for both) are more optimistic about the future of the EU compared to those not ready to face such a rise (54% for both).

Respondents who have a positive image of the EU (86%) are notably more likely to feel optimistic about its future than those with a neutral (48%) or negative (14%) view of the EU. Respondents who follow European politics (69%) are also more likely to feel optimistic about the future of the EU than those who do not follow such news (52%).

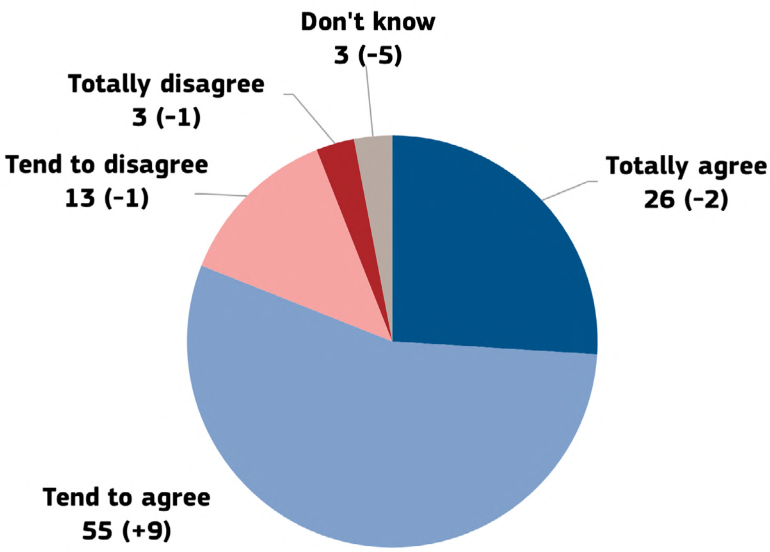
QA21 Would you say that you are very optimistic, fairly optimistic, fairly pessimistic or very pessimistic about the future of the EU?
(% - EU)

	Total 'Optimistic'	Total 'Pessimistic'	Don't Know
EU27	62	34	4
Gender			
Man	63	34	3
Woman	63	33	4
Age			
15-24	72	24	4
25-39	64	34	2
40-54	62	35	3
55 +	60	35	5
Education (End of)			
15-	53	41	6
16-19	59	37	4
20+	69	29	2
Still studying	74	23	3
Socio-professional category			
Self-employed	65	33	2
Managers	71	26	3
Other white collars	66	32	2
Manual workers	59	38	3
House persons	56	39	5
Unemployed	49	47	4
Retired	61	34	5
Students	74	23	3
Difficulties paying bills			
Most of the time	41	54	5
From time to time	52	44	4
Almost never/ Never	70	27	3
Image of the EU			
Total 'Positive'	86	13	1
Neutral	48	46	6
Total 'Negative'	14	84	2
Follow European politics			
Follow	69	29	2
Not follow	52	42	6
Readiness to face rise in energy prices			
Ready	76	22	2
Not ready	54	42	4
Readiness to face rise in food prices			
Ready	76	22	2
Not ready	54	42	4

2.6. What brings EU people together is more important than what separates them

Just over eight in ten (81%, +7 percentage points since March 2017) citizens agree that what brings the citizens of the different EU Member States together is more important than what separates them, with 26% (-2 pp) saying they totally agree. A minority (16%, -2 pp) disagree with this statement.

QA9 Can you tell us whether you agree or disagree with the following statement: What brings the citizens of the different EU Member States together is more important than what separates them.
(% - EU)

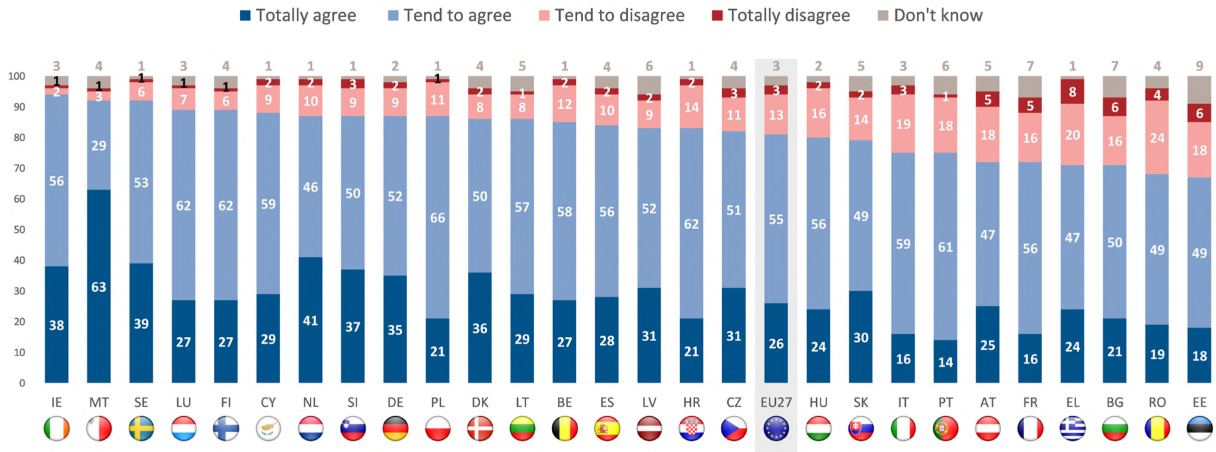


(Apr-May 2022/Mar 2017)

More than two thirds of respondents in each EU Member State agree that what brings the citizens of the different EU Member States together is more important than what separates them, with proportions ranging from 94% in Ireland and 92% in Malta and Sweden to 67% in Estonia and 68% in Romania.

It is worth noting that in Malta almost two thirds (63%) say they 'totally agree' with this statement.

QA9 Can you tell us whether you agree or disagree with the following statement: What brings the citizens of the different EU Member States together is more important than what separates them. (%)



Compared to March 2017, when this question was last asked, respondents in 17 countries are now more likely to agree with this statement, and in six countries the increase is more than ten percentage points: Spain (84%, +18 percentage points), Cyprus (88%, +16pp), Italy (75%, +14 pp), Belgium (85%, +11 pp), Czechia (82%, +11 pp) and Luxembourg (89%, +11 pp). Agreement has remained stable in the remaining countries.

QA9 Can you tell us whether you agree or disagree with the following statement: What brings the citizens of the different EU Member States together is more important than what separates them. (%)

		EU27	ES	CY	IT	BE	CZ	LU	HR	SI	EE	FR	DK	LV	EL	PL	SE	IE	MT	DE	FI	LT	PT	SK	HU	NL	AT	BG	RO
Totally agree	Apr/May 22	26	28	29	16	27	31	27	21	37	18	16	36	31	24	21	39	38	63	35	27	29	14	30	24	41	25	21	19
	Δ Mar 2017	▼2 =	▲11	▼3	▲3	▲4	▲11	▼7	=	▼3	▲1	▼4	▼3	=	▲1	▼4	▼8	▼4	▲9	▼7	▼8	▲1	▲1	▲7	=	▼3	▲2	▼9	▼11
Tend to agree	Apr/May 22	55	56	59	59	58	51	62	62	50	49	56	50	52	47	66	53	56	29	52	62	57	61	49	56	46	47	50	49
	Δ Mar 2017	▲9 =	▲7	▲19	▲11	▲7	=	▲18	▲9	▲12	▲7	▲12	▲10	▲7	▲5	▲9	▲13	▲8	▼5	▲10	▲11	▲1	=	▼6	=	▲3	▼3	▲7	▲9
Tend to disagree	Apr/May 22	13	10	9	19	12	11	7	14	9	18	16	8	9	20	11	6	2	3	9	6	8	18	14	16	10	18	16	24
	Δ Mar 2017	▼1 =	▼8	▼8	▼1	▼8	▼5	▼7	▼2	▼6	▼3	▼5	▼3	▼7	▼4	▲2	=	▼2	▼2	▼1	▼2	▼2	▲4	▲2	▲4	▲1	=	▲7	▲7
Totally disagree	Apr/May 22	3	2	2	3	2	3	1	2	3	6	5	2	2	8	1	1	1	1	2	1	1	1	2	2	2	5	6	4
	Δ Mar 2017	▼1 =	▼3	▼5	▼4	▼3	▼3	▼3	▼3	▼1	=	▼2	=	▼1	▼2	▼1	▼2	=	=	=	▼1	=	▼1	▼1	▼2	=	=	=	▼2
Don't know	Apr/May 22	3	4	1	3	1	4	3	1	1	9	7	4	6	1	1	1	3	4	2	4	5	6	5	2	1	5	7	4
	Δ Mar 2017	▼5 =	▼7	▼3	▼9	=	▼3	▼1	▼4	▼2	▼5	▼1	▼4	▲1	=	▼6	▼3	▼2	▼2	▼2	=	=	▼4	▼2	▼2	▼1	▲1	▼5	▼3
Total 'Agree'	Apr/May 22	81	84	88	75	85	82	89	83	87	67	72	86	83	71	87	92	94	92	87	89	86	75	79	80	87	72	71	68
	Δ Mar 2017	▲7 =	▲18	▲16	▲14	▲11	▲11	▲11	▲9	▲9	▲8	▲8	▲7	▲7	▲6	▲5	▲5	▲4	▲4	▲3	▲3	▲2	▲1	▲1	=	=	▼1	▼2	▼2
Total 'Disagree'	Apr/May 22	16	12	11	22	14	14	8	16	12	24	21	10	11	28	12	7	3	4	11	7	9	19	16	18	12	23	22	28
	Δ Mar 2017	▼2 =	▼11	▼13	▼5	▼11	▼8	▼10	▼5	▼7	▼3	▼7	▼3	▼8	▼6	▲1	▼2	▼2	▼2	▼1	▼3	▼2	▲3	▲1	▲2	▲1	=	▲7	▲5

Findings from the socio-demographic analysis show that while large majorities in each group agree with the statement, there are some interesting differences. The longer a respondent remained in education, the more likely they are to agree: 85% who completed education aged 20 or older agree, compared to 73% who completed age 15 or younger. Managers (86%), students (85%) and other white-collar

workers (84%) are the most likely to agree, particularly compared to the unemployed (70%). Finally, the fewer financial difficulties a respondent experiences, the more likely they are to agree: 85% with the least difficulties do so, compared to 64% who have the most difficulties.
EU citizens who situate themselves on the left (85%) or centre (83%) of the political scale are more likely to agree that what brings the citizens of different EU Member States together is more important than what separated them that respondents on the right of the political scale (77%).

The analysis also illustrates that those with a positive image of the EU are much more likely to agree than those with a negative image (92% vs 46%), as do those who think it is a good thing that their country is an EU member (93%) compared to those who think it is a bad thing (40%). The same can be seen for those who are optimistic about the future of the EU (91%) compared to those who are pessimistic about it (63%).

QA9 Can you tell us whether you agree or disagree with the following statement: What brings the citizens of the different EU Member States together is more important than what separates them.
(% - EU)

	Total 'Agree'	Total 'Disagree'	Don't know
EU27	81	16	3
Gender			
Man	81	16	3
Woman	80	16	4
Age			
15-24	84	12	4
25-39	81	17	2
40-54	80	18	2
55 +	80	16	4
Education (End of)			
15-	73	21	6
16-19	80	17	3
20+	85	13	2
Still studying	85	11	4
Socio-professional category			
Self-employed	81	17	2
Managers	86	12	2
Other white collars	84	14	2
Manual workers	77	20	3
House persons	74	20	6
Unemployed	70	25	5
Retired	81	15	4
Students	85	11	4
Difficulties paying bills			
Most of the time	64	31	5
From time to time	74	23	3
Almost never/ Never	85	12	3
Left-right political scale			
Left	85	13	2
Centre	83	14	3
Right	77	21	2
Image of the EU			
Total 'Positive'	92	6	2
Neutral	76	19	5
Total 'Negative'	46	50	4
Optimism about the future of the EU			
Optimistic	91	7	2
Pessimiste	63	34	3

II. PERCEPTION OF THE EU AND THE EP: Citizens are increasingly positive about the EU and their country's EU membership. Democracy is seen as a key and core value for Parliament to defend

The second chapter focuses on citizens' perceptions of the EU and the European Parliament. A key insight from this survey is the continuously growing positive image of the European Union and the European Parliament in the eyes of the citizens. The EP Spring Eurobarometer 2022 measures in several key indicators the most positive results since more than fifteen years, including a further increase over the past six months and thus since the beginning of the Russian invasion of Ukraine.

Citizens have not only become more positive about the EU, they are also more optimistic that the EU is heading in the right direction. These positive views are echoed by an increasing majority of citizens who think their own country's membership of the EU is a good thing, and that it is important. In fact, in light of the Russian invasion of Ukraine, almost six in ten think the EU should speed up efforts to let new countries join.

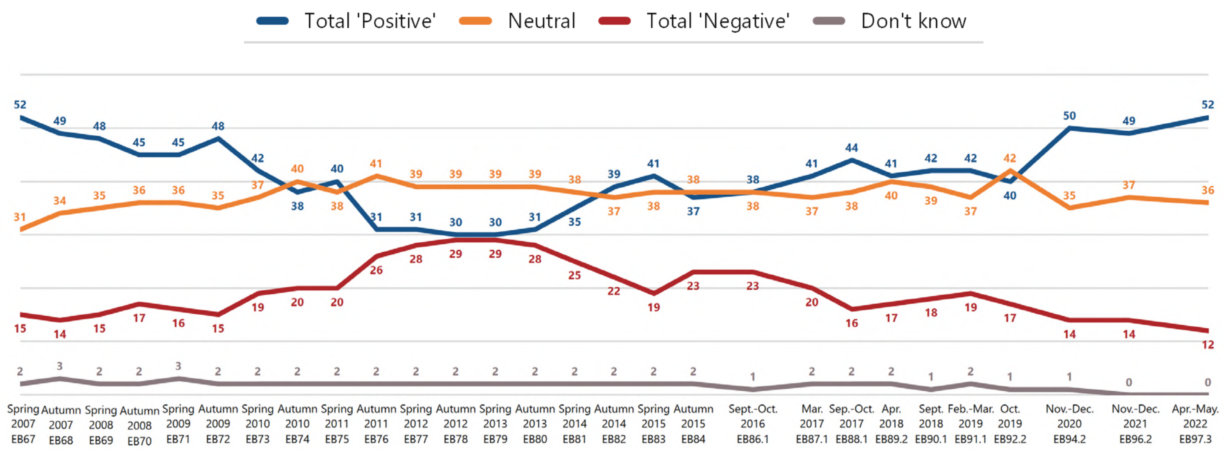
Citizens have also become more positive about the European Parliament, an indicator that has been steadily rising in the past years. Increasing numbers want Parliament to defend democracy as a key and core value. In terms of political priorities, citizens want Parliament to focus on the fight against poverty and social exclusion, the issue of public health as well as on democracy and the rule of law.

1. Perception of the EU

1.1. Image of the EU

The image of the EU has become slightly more positive over the past year, with 52% of citizens saying they have a positive view of the EU (+3 percentage point since November-December 2021). This increase puts the positive view at its highest level since Spring 2007 when it was also 52%. The proportion with a negative view is 12% and is now at its lowest ever level. These changes have increased the gap between the positive and negative views to 40 percentage points, which is the largest gap on record. Neutral ratings have remained stable since November-December 2021 (36%, -1 pp).

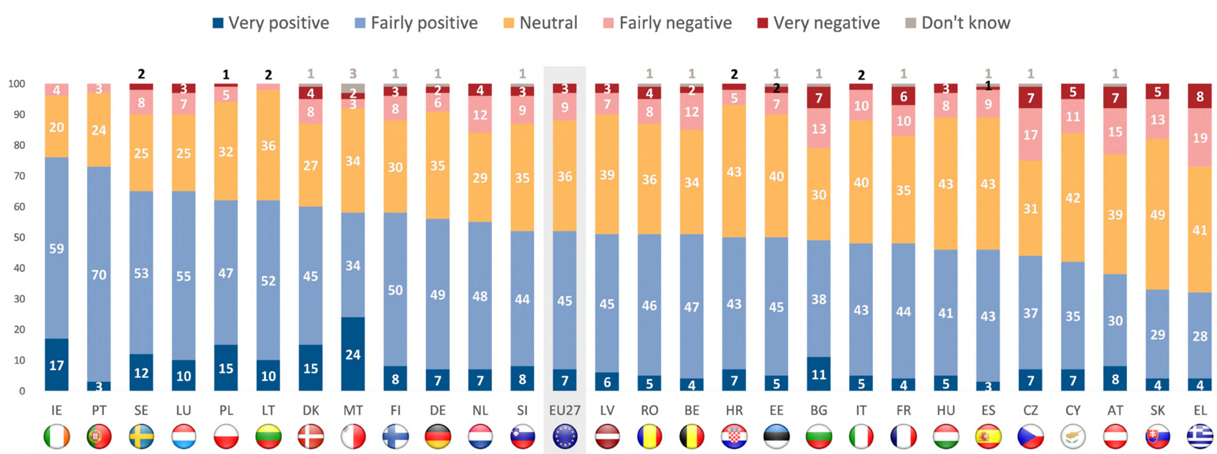
D78 In general, does the EU conjure up for you a very positive, fairly positive, neutral, fairly negative or very negative image? (% - EU)



In each EU Member State, a positive image of the EU is more prevalent than a negative image, and in 23 countries a positive image is dominant. In Cyprus equal proportions hold a positive or a neutral image of the EU (both 42%), while in Greece, Slovakia and Austria the neutral view is dominant.

Respondents in Ireland are by far the most likely to have a positive image of the EU (76%), followed by those in Portugal (73%), Luxembourg and Sweden (both 65%). A negative view is most common in Greece (27%), Czechia (24%), Austria (22%) and Bulgaria (20%).

D78 In general, does the EU conjure up for you a very positive, fairly positive, neutral, fairly negative or very negative image? (%)



Compared to November-December 2021, respondents in 10 countries are now more likely to say they have a positive image of the EU, with the largest increases seen in Lithuania (62%, +11 percentage points), Belgium (51%, +10 pp) and Romania (51%, +9 pp). The positive view has remained relatively stable in the remaining countries.

D78 In general, does the EU conjure up for you a very positive, fairly positive, neutral, fairly negative or very negative image? (%)

		EU27	LT	BE	RO	DK	FR	CZ	MT	PT	FI	PL	IT
Very positive	Apr/May 2022	7	10	4	5	15	4	7	24	3	8	15	5
	Δ Nov/Dec 2022	▼1	▲3	▼1	▼4	▲4	▼1	=	▲13	▲1	▲1	=	=
Fairly positive	Apr/May 2022	45	52	47	46	45	44	37	34	70	50	47	43
	Δ Nov/Dec 2022	▲4	▲8	▲11	▲13	▲3	▲8	▲6	▼7	▲5	▲5	▲4	▲3
Neutral	Apr/May 2022	36	36	34	36	27	35	31	34	24	30	32	40
	Δ Nov/Dec 2022	▼1	▼6	▼3	▼2	▼7	▼2	▼7	▼4	▼5	▼3	▼2	▲2
Fairly negative	Apr/May 2022	9	2	12	8	8	10	17	3	3	8	5	10
	Δ Nov/Dec 2022	▼2	▼4	▼8	▼8	▼2	▼6	▼1	▼4	▼1	▼3	▼2	▼4
Very negative	Apr/May 2022	3	0	2	4	4	6	7	2	0	3	1	2
	Δ Nov/Dec 2022	=	▼1	=	▲1	▲1	▲1	▲1	=	=	▼1	=	▼1
Don't know	Apr/May 2022	0	0	1	1	1	1	1	3	0	1	0	0
	Δ Nov/Dec 2022	=	=	▲1	=	▲1	=	▲1	▲2	=	▲1	=	=
Total 'Positive'	Apr/May 2022	52	62	51	51	60	48	44	58	73	58	62	48
	Δ Nov/Dec 2022	▲3	▲11	▲10	▲9	▲7	▲7	▲6	▲6	▲6	▲6	▲4	▲3
Total 'Negative'	Apr/May 2022	12	2	14	12	12	16	24	5	3	11	6	12
	Δ Nov/Dec 2022	▼2	▼5	▼8	▼7	▼1	▼5	=	▼4	▼1	▼4	▼2	▼5

		AT	SK	DE	EE	HR	LV	LU	SE	IE	NL	SI	BG	EL	HU	ES	CY
Very positive	Apr/May 2022	8	4	7	5	7	6	10	12	17	7	8	11	4	5	3	7
	Δ Nov/Dec 2022	=	▲1	▼2	▼1	▼2	=	▼5	▲3	▼9	=	▼1	▼3	▼1	=	▼3	=
Fairly positive	Apr/May 2022	30	29	49	45	43	45	55	53	59	48	44	38	28	41	43	35
	Δ Nov/Dec 2022	▲3	▲2	▲4	▲3	▲4	▲2	▲7	▼1	▲9	=	▲1	▲1	▼1	▼2	=	▼3
Neutral	Apr/May 2022	39	49	35	40	43	39	25	25	20	29	35	30	41	43	43	42
	Δ Nov/Dec 2022	=	=	▼1	=	▼1	▲2	▼1	▼1	▲1	▼4	▼2	▲1	=	▲3	▲2	▲1
Fairly negative	Apr/May 2022	15	13	6	7	5	7	7	8	4	12	9	13	19	8	9	11
	Δ Nov/Dec 2022	▼5	▼2	▼2	▼2	▼1	▼5	▼1	▼2	=	▲2	=	▼1	=	▼2	▲1	=
Very negative	Apr/May 2022	7	5	2	2	2	3	3	2	0	4	3	7	8	3	1	5
	Δ Nov/Dec 2022	▲2	=	=	=	=	▲1	=	▲1	▼1	▲2	▲1	▲2	▲2	▲1	=	▲2
Don't know	Apr/May 2022	1	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	1	0
	Δ Nov/Dec 2022	=	▼1	▲1	=	=	=	=	=	=	=	▲1	=	=	=	=	=
Total 'Positive'	Apr/May 2022	38	33	56	50	50	51	65	65	76	55	52	49	32	46	46	42
	Δ Nov/Dec 2022	▲3	▲3	▲2	▲2	▲2	▲2	▲2	▲2	=	=	=	▼2	▼2	▼2	▼3	▼3
Total 'Negative'	Apr/May 2022	22	18	8	9	7	10	10	10	4	16	12	20	27	11	10	16
	Δ Nov/Dec 2022	▼3	▼2	▼2	▼2	▼1	▼4	▼1	▼1	▼1	▲4	▲1	▲1	▲2	▼1	▲1	▲2

The **socio-demographic analysis** shows differences based on age, education level, occupation and financial situation. Respondents aged 15-24 are more likely than their older counterparts to have a positive image of the EU. For example, 60% of 15–24-year-olds have a positive image compared to 50% of those aged 55+. The analysis also shows respondents who completed education aged 20 or older are more likely to have a positive image than those who completed at a younger age, and particularly those who finished aged 15 or younger (60% vs 42%). Managers (64%) and students (63%) are the most likely to have a positive image of the EU, particularly compared to the unemployed (34%). Finally, the analysis also shows respondents with the least financial difficulties are the most likely to have a positive image (58%), especially compared to those who experience the most difficulties (34%).

Participants who talk about European political matters frequently (58%) or occasionally (55%) are more likely to have a positive image of the EU than those who never talk about this (41%).

Respondents who are ready to face rises in energy (64%) or food prices (65%) are more likely to have a positive image of the EU than those who do not (43% and 44% respectively). There are also some between respondents who do not think the war in Ukraine will impact their standard of living (58%), those who think it will in the coming year (57%) and those whose standard of living has already been impacted (45%).

Respondents who think the defence of common European values should be a priority (59%) also have a more positive image of the EU than those who think priority should be maintaining prices and those cost of living (41%).

D78 In general, does the EU conjure up for you a very positive, fairly positive, neutral, fairly negative or very negative image?
(% - EU)

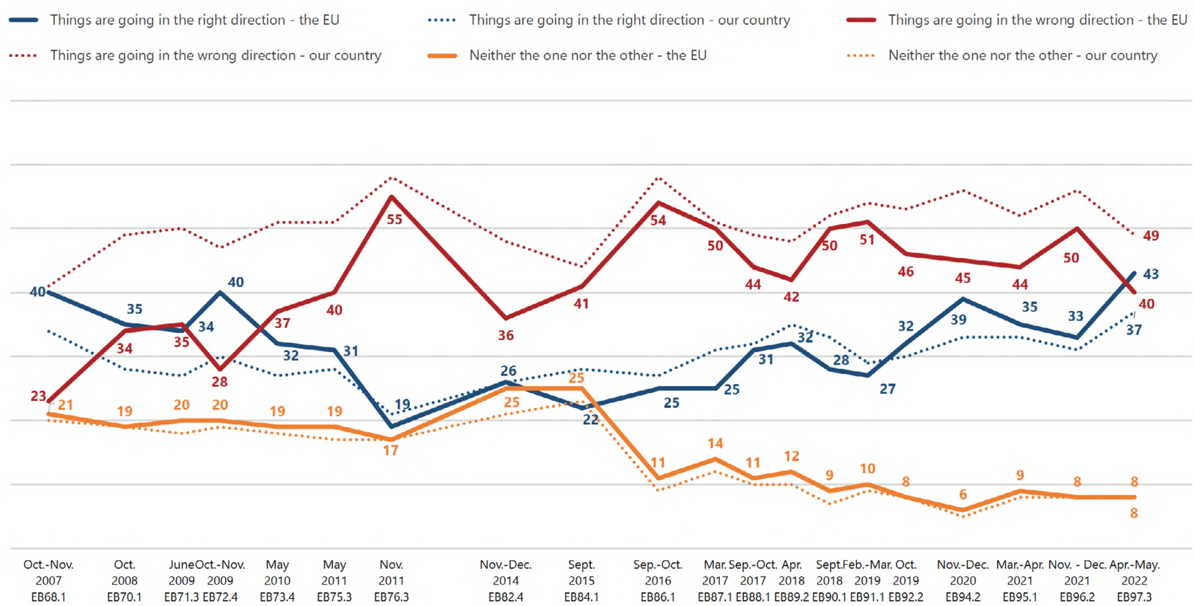
	Total 'Positive'	Neutral	Total 'Negative'	Don't know
EU27	52	36	12	0
Gender				
Man	53	33	14	0
Woman	50	39	10	1
Age				
15-24	60	32	7	1
25-39	50	37	13	0
40-54	51	36	13	0
55 +	50	36	13	1
Education (End of)				
15-	42	44	13	1
16-19	47	39	14	0
20+	60	29	11	0
Still studying	63	31	5	1
Socio-professional category				
Self-employed	54	31	15	0
Managers	64	26	10	0
Other white collars	55	34	11	0
Manual workers	45	42	13	0
House persons	41	47	11	1
Unemployed	34	43	23	0
Retired	51	36	12	1
Students	63	31	5	1
Most of the time	34	43	21	2
From time to time	41	44	14	1
Almost never/ Never	58	32	10	0
Talk about European political matters				
Frequently	58	27	15	0
Occasionally	55	34	11	0
Never	41	46	12	1
Readiness to face rise in energy prices				
Ready	64	28	8	0
Not ready	43	41	15	1
Readiness to face rise in food prices				
Ready	65	28	7	0
Not ready	44	41	15	0
Consequences of war in Ukraine...				
Already reduced standard of living	45	38	17	0
Have not yet reduced standard of living	57	34	9	0
Don't think that the war in Ukraine will impact standard of living	58	32	9	1
Defence of our common European values...				
Must be a priority	59	32	9	0
Comes after maintaining prices and the cost of living	41	41	17	1

1.2. The way things are going in the EU

The proportion of citizens who think things are going in the right direction in the EU has increased dramatically since November-December 2021. More than four in ten (43%) have a positive view about the direction of the EU – an increase of ten percentage points. This is the largest increase recorded and takes the positive view to its highest-ever level. The proportion who feels things are going in the wrong direction has declined by ten points to 40%, which is the lowest level since November-December 2014. As a result of these changes the positive view is dominant for the first time since November-December 2009.

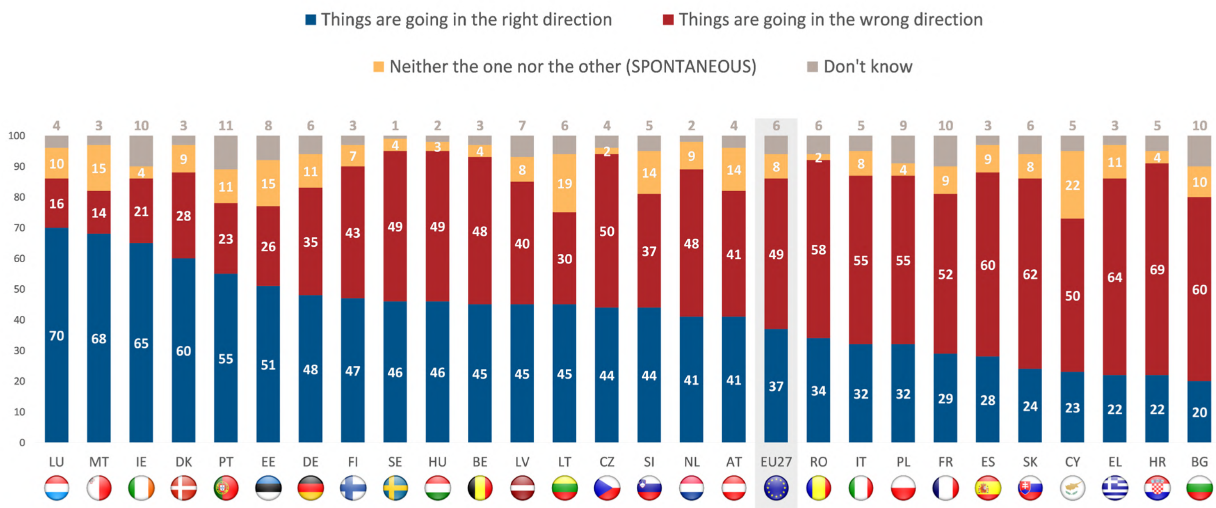
Citizens have also become more optimistic about the direction their country is going. Almost four in ten (37%, +6 percentage points since November-December 2021) think their country is headed in the right direction. Although a majority (49%) think things are going in the wrong direction, this view has declined by seven percentage points since 2021. In spite of this increasing optimism, respondents remain more positive about the direction of the EU than the direction of their country (43% vs 37%), continuing the longer-term trend.

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/ The European Union) (% - EU)



In 11 Member States a majority of respondents think things are going in the right direction in their country, with the largest proportions in Luxembourg (70%), Malta (68%), Ireland (65%) and Denmark (60%). In Austria opinion is divided with 41% saying things are going in the right direction and 41% that they are going in the wrong direction. In the remaining 15 countries, the majority think things in their country are going in the wrong direction, with this view most widespread in Croatia (69%), Greece (64%), Slovakia (62%), Spain and Bulgaria (both 60%).

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) (%)



In 21 countries respondents have become more optimistic since November-December 2021, and in six countries the proportion who think things are going in the right direction in their country has increased by more than ten percentage points: Slovenia (44%, +19 percentage points), Spain (28%, +13 pp), Portugal (55%, +13 pp), France (29%, +12 pp), Hungary (46%, +11 pp) and Malta (68%, +11 pp). The optimistic opinion has remained stable in the remaining six countries.

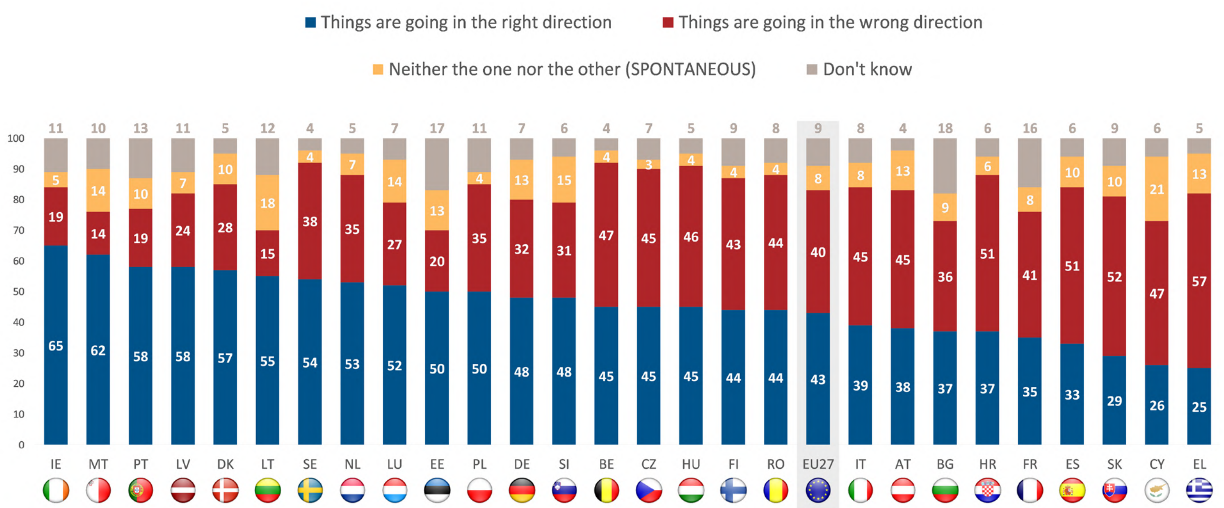
As a result of these changes the positive view is now the majority opinion in Latvia, Slovenia and Finland.

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) (%)

		EU27	SI	ES	PT	FR	HU	MT	BE	EE	IT	EL	CY	LU	NL	PL	FI	LT	AT	DK	IE	HR	RO	LV	DE	SE	SK	BG	CZ
Things are going in the right direction	Apr/May 22	37	44	28	55	29	46	68	45	51	32	22	23	70	41	32	47	45	41	60	65	22	34	45	48	46	24	20	44
	Δ Mar/Apr 22	▲6	▲19	▲13	▲13	▲12	▲11	▲11	▲8	▲8	▲8	▲7	▲7	▲6	▲6	▲6	▲6	▲5	▲5	▲4	▲4	▲4	▲4	▲3	▲1	▲1	=	▼1	▼1
Things are going in the wrong direction	Apr/May 22	49	37	60	23	52	49	14	48	26	55	64	50	16	48	55	43	30	41	28	21	69	58	40	35	49	62	60	50
	Δ Mar/Apr 22	▼7	▼23	▼14	▼7	▼14	▼5	▼13	▼8	▼2	▼11	▼8	▼14	▼5	▼4	▼5	▼5	▼9	▼3	▼4	▼4	▼6	▼2	▼6	▼4	▼1	▲1	▼1	=
Neither the one nor the other (SPONTANEOUS)	Apr/May 22	8	14	9	11	9	3	15	4	15	8	11	22	10	9	4	7	19	14	9	4	4	2	8	11	4	8	10	2
	Δ Mar/Apr 22	=	▲3	▲2	▼1	▲1	▼2	▲6	▼1	=	▲2	=	▲7	=	▼2	▼1	▲3	▲6	▼3	▼1	▼1	=	▼1	▲2	=	=	▲1	▲5	=
Don't know	Apr/May 22	6	5	3	11	10	2	3	3	8	5	3	5	4	2	9	3	6	4	3	10	5	6	7	6	1	6	10	4
	Δ Mar/Apr 22	▲1	▲1	▼1	▼5	▲1	▼4	▼4	▲1	▼6	▲1	▲1	=	▼1	=	=	▼4	▼2	▲1	▲1	▲1	▲2	▼1	▲1	▲3	=	▼2	▼3	▲1

A majority of respondents in 15 countries think that things are going in the right direction in the EU, and this view is most widely held in Ireland (65%), Malta (62%), Latvia and Portugal (both 58%). Opinion is divided in Czechia (45% right direction vs 45% wrong direction) and Romania (44% right vs 44% wrong). In the remaining 10 countries respondents are most likely to say things in the EU are going in the wrong direction, and this is particularly the case in Greece (57%), Spain and Croatia (both 51%).

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) (%)



In 22 Member States optimism that things are going in the right direction in the EU has increased, and in nine countries the increase has been at least ten percentage points, with the largest in France (35%, +16 percentage points), Estonia (50%, +15 pp), Spain (33%, +14 pp), Portugal (58%, +14 pp) and Slovenia (48%, +14 pp). The optimistic view has remained stable in the remaining five countries.

As a result of these changes the positive view is the majority opinion in Bulgaria, Germany, Poland, Slovenia and Finland.

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) (%)

		EU27	FR	EE	ES	PT	SI	IT	HU	PL	IE	HR	DK	LV	LT	DE	NL	AT	BE	LU	BG	CZ	EL	CY	FI	MT	RO	SK	SE
Things are going in the right direction	Apr/May 22	43	35	50	33	58	48	39	45	50	65	37	57	58	55	48	53	38	45	52	37	45	25	26	44	62	44	29	54
	Δ Mar/Apr 22	▲10	▲16	▲15	▲14	▲14	▲14	▲11	▲11	▲11	▲10	▲9	▲8	▲8	▲8	▲7	▲7	▲7	▲6	▲6	▲5	▲5	▲5	▲5	▲3	▲2	▲2	▲2	▲2
Things are going in the wrong direction	Apr/May 22	40	41	20	51	19	31	45	46	35	19	51	28	24	15	32	35	45	47	27	36	45	57	47	43	14	44	52	38
	Δ Mar/Apr 22	▼10	▼22	▼9	▼12	▼4	▼16	▼14	▼6	▼7	▼4	▼8	▼7	▼12	▼11	▼9	▼7	▼3	▼7	▼6	▼2	▼6	▼6	▼8	▼5	▼6	▼1	▲1	▼3
Neither the one nor the other (SPONTANEOUS)	Apr/May 22	8	8	13	10	10	15	8	4	4	5	6	10	7	18	13	7	13	4	14	9	3	13	21	4	14	4	10	4
	Δ Mar/Apr 22	=	▲2	▼1	▲2	▼3	▲2	▲2	▼2	▼2	▼1	▼1	▼1	▲2	▲3	▲1	▼1	▼3	=	=	=	=	▲1	▲7	▲2	▲5	▲1	=	=
Don't know	Apr/May 22	9	16	17	6	13	6	8	5	11	11	6	5	11	12	7	5	4	4	7	18	7	5	6	9	10	8	9	4
	Δ Mar/Apr 22	=	▲4	▼5	▼4	▼7	=	▲1	▼3	▼2	▼5	=	=	▲2	=	▲1	▲1	▼1	▲1	=	▼3	▲1	=	▼4	=	▼1	▼2	▼3	▲1

The **socio-demographic analysis** illustrates that the youngest respondents, those who stayed in education longer and those with fewer financial difficulties are more likely to say things are going in the right direction both in their country and in the EU. For example, 50% of 15–24-year-olds think things are going in the right direction in their country, compared to 41% of those aged 40+.

Looking at socio-professional groups shows 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. For example, 46% of students and 45% of managers think things are heading in the right direction in their country, compared to 22% of the unemployed. Respondent who never or almost never have difficulty paying bills are also more likely to think things are going in the right direction in their country (41%) or in the EU (47%) than those who have difficulty paying bills most of the time (21% and 28% respectively).

EU citizens with a positive image of the EU are also more likely to think things are going in the right direction in their country (52%) or in the EU (63%) than those with a negative perception of it (10% and 6% respectively).

Finally, respondents who follow European politics are more likely to think things are going in the right direction in their country (42%) or in the EU (48%) than those who do not (29% and 32% respectively).

D73.1-2 **At the present time, would you say that, in general, things are going in the right direction or in the wrong direction, in…?**
Total 'Things are going in the right dierction'
(% - EU)

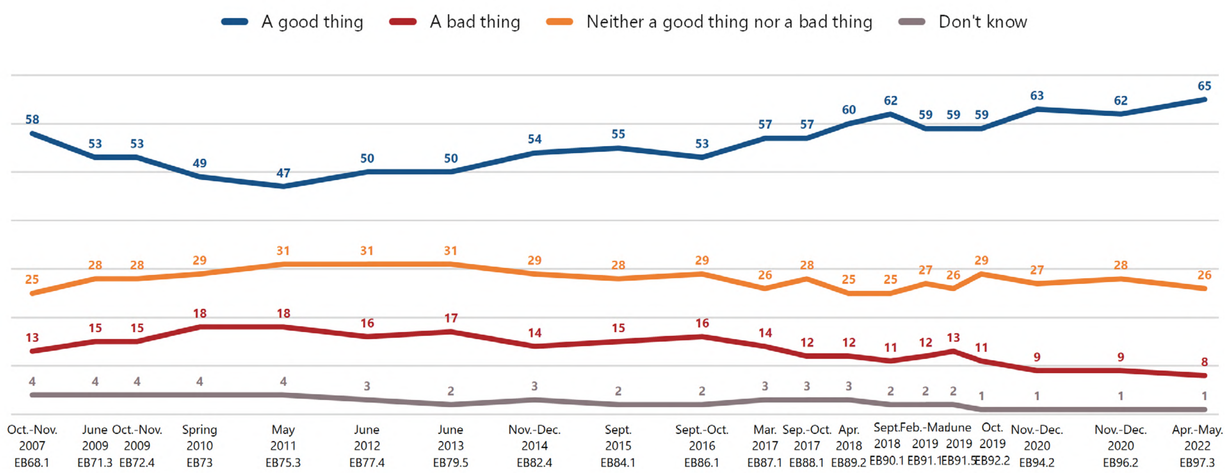
	(OUR COUNTRY)	The European Union
EU27	37	43
Gender		
Man	39	44
Woman	36	42
Age		
15-24	44	50
25-39	36	43
40-54	35	41
55 +	37	41
Education (End of)		
15-	32	35
16-19	34	40
20+	41	47
Still studying	46	52
Socio-professional category		
Self-employed	38	44
Managers	45	50
Other white collars	38	46
Manual workers	32	40
House persons	31	32
Unemployed	22	26
Retired	38	41
Students	46	52
Difficulties paying bills		
Most of the time	21	28
From time to time	31	35
Almost never/ Never	41	47
Image of the EU		
Total 'Positive'	52	63
Neutral	26	27
Total 'Negative'	10	6
Follow European politics		
Follow	42	48
Not follow	29	32

1.3. Opinion on Member States' membership of the EU

Almost two thirds of Europeans (65%, +3 percentage points) think their country's membership of the EU is a good thing. Over the longer-term, support has generally been increasing since 2011 and is now at its highest ever level.

Fewer than one in ten (8%, -1 pp) think EU membership is a bad thing for their country.

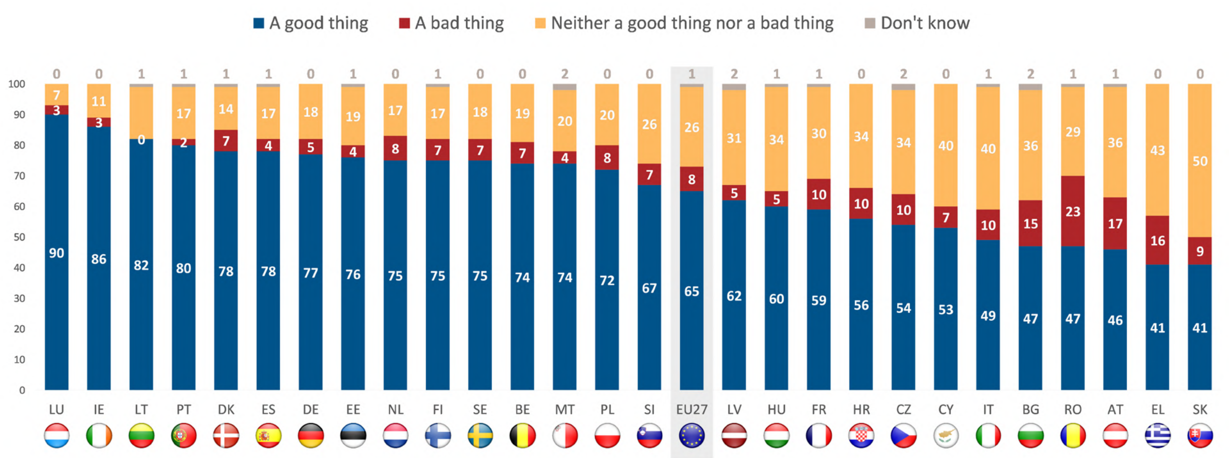
QA7 Generally speaking, do you think that (OUR COUNTRY)'s membership of the EU is...? (% - EU)



Although it is the majority view in 25 Member States, there is considerable variation in the view that the country's membership of the EU is a good thing. At least eight in ten in Luxembourg (90%), Ireland (86%), Lithuania (82%) and Portugal (80%) think EU membership is a good thing for their country, compared to 41% in Greece and Slovakia and 46% in Austria. In Slovakia and Greece respondents most often say membership is neither good nor bad for their country (50% and 43% respectively).

Romania (23%) is the only country where more than one in five think EU membership is a bad thing for their country, in Austria (17%), Greece (16%) and Bulgaria (15%) more than one in ten think the same way.

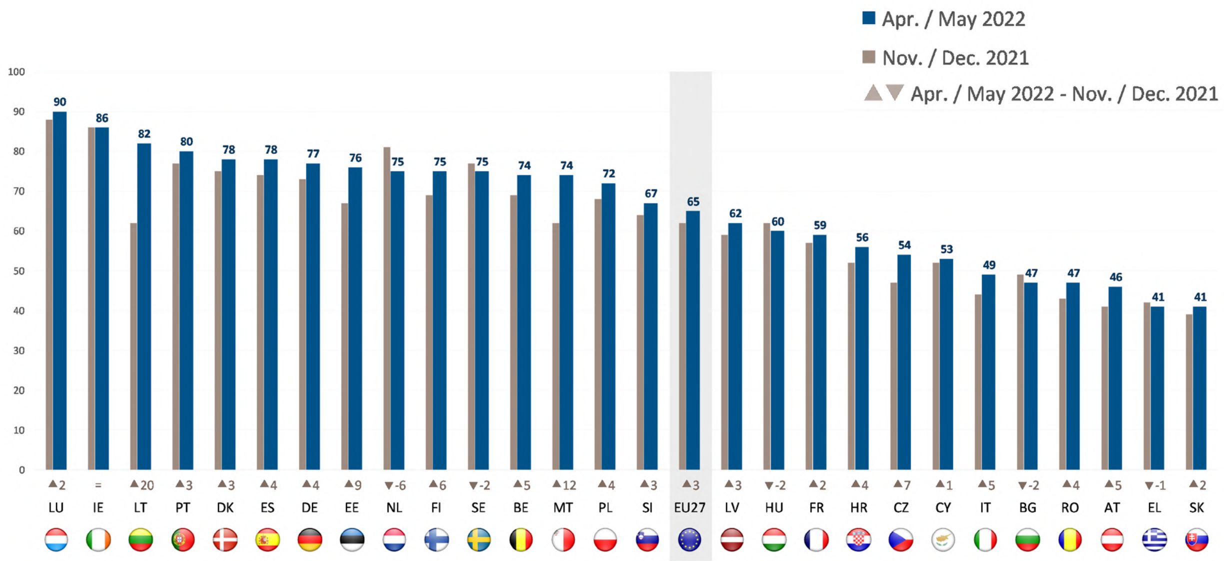
QA7 Generally speaking, do you think that (OUR COUNTRY)'s membership of the EU is...? (%)



A positive view of EU membership is most common in northern and south-western areas of Europe, and least common in southern and particularly south-eastern Europe.

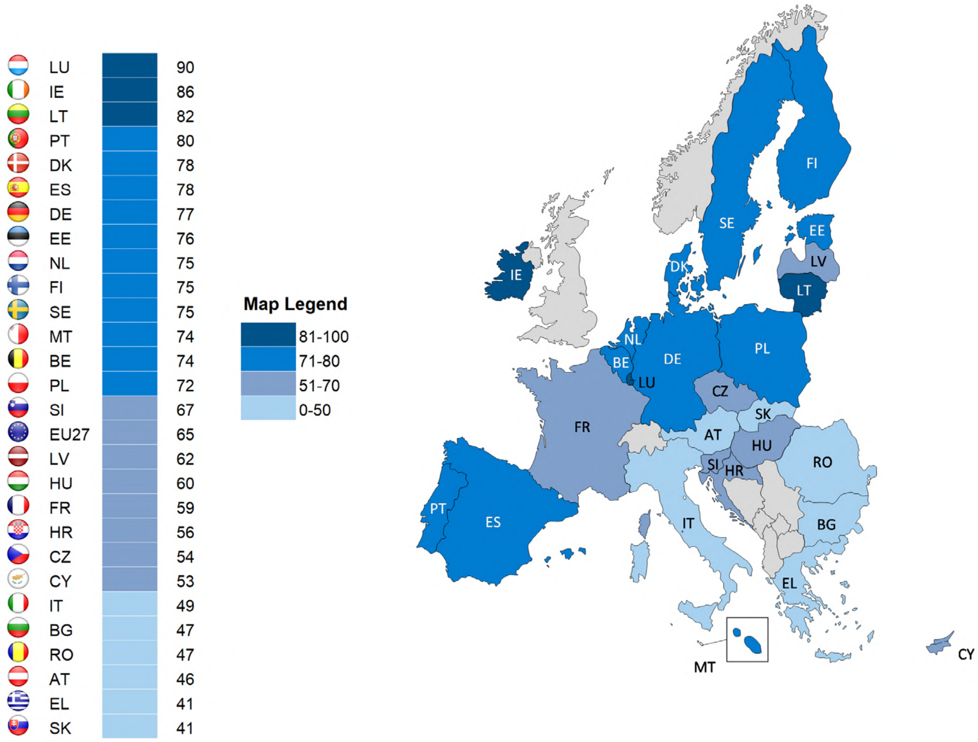
In 13 countries respondents are now more likely to hold a positive view of their country's membership of the EU than they were in November-December 2021, with the largest increases seen in Lithuania (82%, +20 percentage points), Malta (74%, +12 pp) and Estonia (76%, +9 pp). The positive view has declined in the Netherlands (75%, -6 pp), and has remained stable in 13 countries.

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



Northern European countries or Western European countries tend to have the most positive view of their country's membership in the EU, while Southern or Eastern European countries tend to have a less positive view of it.

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



As observed in previous years, the current **socio-demographic analysis** illustrates support for EU membership is stronger amongst younger respondents. Support is highest amongst those aged 15-24 (74%), and lowest amongst those 55 and older (63%). The analysis also shows that those who remained in education the longest (75%) are much more likely to think their country's EU membership is a good thing than those who left school aged 16-19 (60%) or aged 15 and younger (55%). Support is also high amongst managers (77%) and students (76%), particularly when compared to the unemployed and house persons (both 55%).

Support for EU membership is much higher amongst those who rarely/never have difficulties paying bills (73%) compared to those who have trouble from time to time (51%) or most of the time (49%).

Respondents who feel that things in the EU are going in the right direction (84%) are nearly twice as likely to say that their country's membership of the EU is a good thing compared to those who think things in the EU are going in the wrong direction (44%).

Finally, and perhaps not surprisingly, respondents who think it is important that their country belongs to the EU are much more likely to say their country's membership of the EU is a good thing (85% vs 7% who think membership is not important).

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

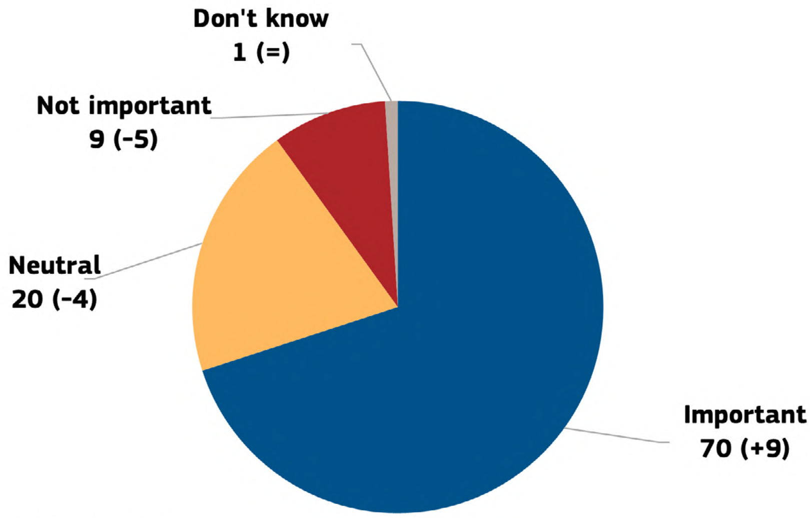
	A good thing	A bad thing	Neither a good thing nor a bad thing	Don't know
EU27	65	8	26	1
Gender				
Man	66	9	24	1
Woman	65	7	27	1
Age				
15-24	73	6	20	1
25-39	66	8	25	1
40-54	64	9	26	1
55 +	63	8	28	1
Education (End of)				
15-	55	8	35	2
16-19	60	10	30	0
20+	75	6	19	0
Still studying	76	6	17	1
Socio-professional category				
Self-employed	66	12	22	0
Managers	77	6	17	0
Other white collars	67	8	25	0
Manual workers	59	10	31	0
House persons	55	9	33	3
Unemployed	55	11	32	2
Retired	64	7	28	1
Students	76	6	17	1
Difficulties paying bills				
Most of the time	49	14	36	1
From time to time	51	13	35	1
Almost never/ Never	73	6	21	0
Things in the EU are going in...				
Right direction	84	4	12	0
Wrong direction	44	16	39	1
Neither	70	2	27	1
Belonging of the (OUR COUNTRY) to the EU				
Important	85	2	13	0
Neutral	27	9	62	2
Not important	7	53	39	1

1.4. Importance of Member States' EU membership

EU membership is increasingly important to citizens. Seven in ten (70%) say it is important for them that their country is a Member State of the EU, an increase of nine percentage points since November-December 2021[44]. Fewer than one in ten (9%, -5 pp) feel it is not important, and one in five (20%, -4 pp) are neutral.

[44] 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.

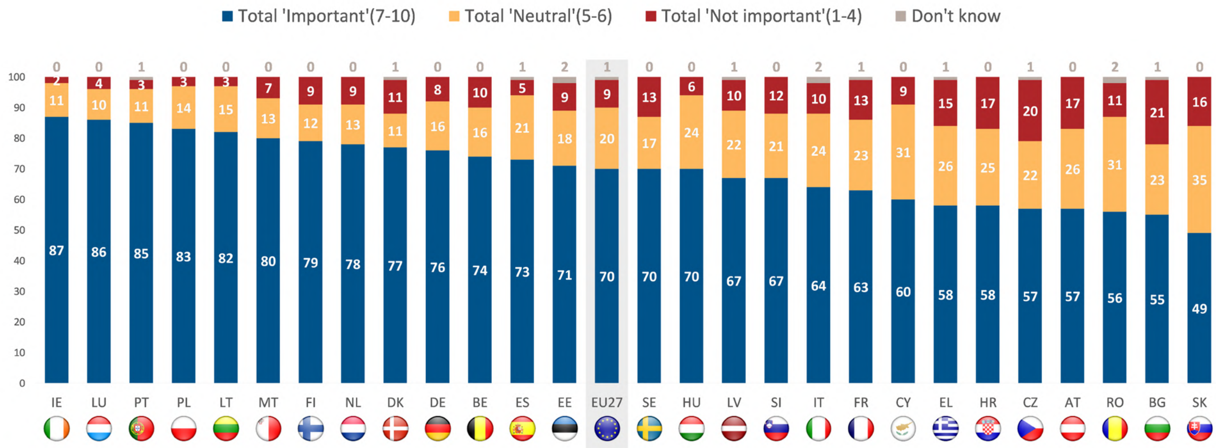
QA8 **How important is it for you that (OUR COUNTRY) is a Member State of the European Union?** Please use a scale from 1 to 10 where 1 means "not at all important" and 10 means "extremely important"? (% - EU)



(Apr -May 2022/Nov-Dec 2021)

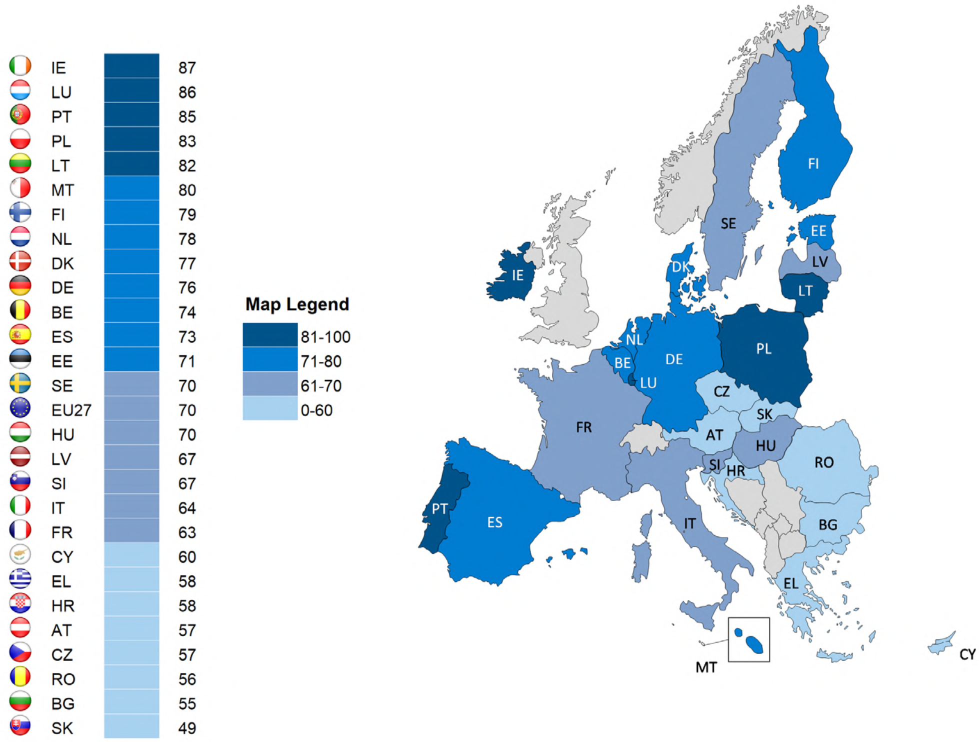
A majority of respondents in each Member State say it is important to them that their country is a member of the EU, although proportions vary considerably: from 87% in Ireland, 86% in Luxembourg and 85% in Portugal to 49% in Slovakia, 55% in Bulgaria and 56% in Romania. Bulgaria (21%) and Czechia (20%) are the only countries where around one in five say it is not important to them that their country is a member of the EU.

QA8 **How important is it for you that (OUR COUNTRY) is a Member State of the European Union?** Please use a scale from 1 to 10 where 1 means "not at all important" and 10 means "extremely important" (%)



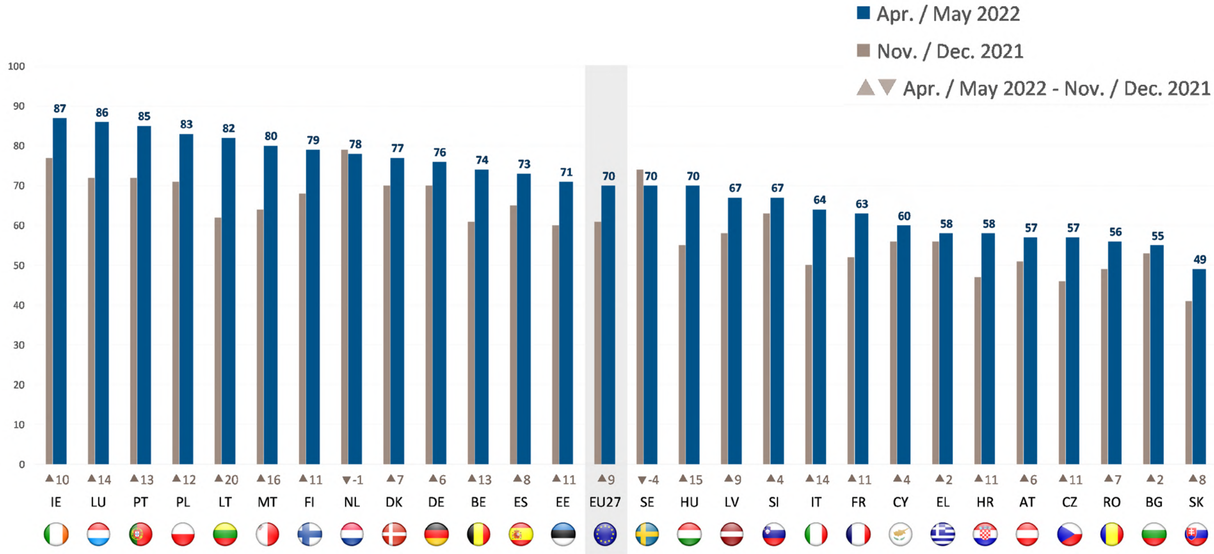
In South-Eastern countries such as Greece, Croatia, Romania and Bulgaria as well as some eastern European countries such as Czechia and Slovakia the importance of respondents' countries being a Member State of the EU is less marked than in others.

QA8 How important is it for you that (OUR COUNTRY) is a Member State of the European Union? Please use a scale from 1 to 10 where 1 means "not at all important" and 10 means "extremely important"? (% - Total 'Important' (7-10))



Membership of the EU has become more important in 23 countries. In fact, in 14 countries the importance of membership has increased by at least ten percentage points, with the largest seen in Lithuania (82%, +20 pp), Malta (80%, +16 pp) and Hungary (70%, +15 pp). Importance has decreased in Sweden (70%, -4 percentage points), and has remained stable in the remaining three countries.

QA8 How important is it for you that (OUR COUNTRY) is a Member State of the European Union? Please use a scale from 1 to 10 where 1 means "not at all important" and 10 means "extremely important" (% - Total 'Important' (7-10))



The **socio-demographic analysis** shows that the majority in each group say it is important to them their country is a member of the EU, but these views are held more strongly by those with higher education levels and fewer financial difficulties. This echoes the results from the previous question where these groups were more likely to think their country's membership of the EU was a good thing. For example, almost eight in ten (78%) who completed education aged 20 or older think their country's EU membership is important, compared to 66% who completed aged 16-19 and 62% who completed aged 15 or younger. The analysis also shows that amongst socio-occupation groups managers (80%) are the most likely to say EU membership is important, particularly compared to the unemployed (54%).

Not surprisingly, nine in ten (91%) respondents with a positive image of the EU say their country's membership is important to them, compared to 26% with a negative image. It is worth noting that these proportions have both increased since November-December 2021 when they were 85% and 19% respectively.

Respondents who agree that what brings the citizens of the different EU Member States together is more important than what separates them (79%) are more likely to say that is it is important for them that their country be an EU Member State than those who disagree with this idea (34%).

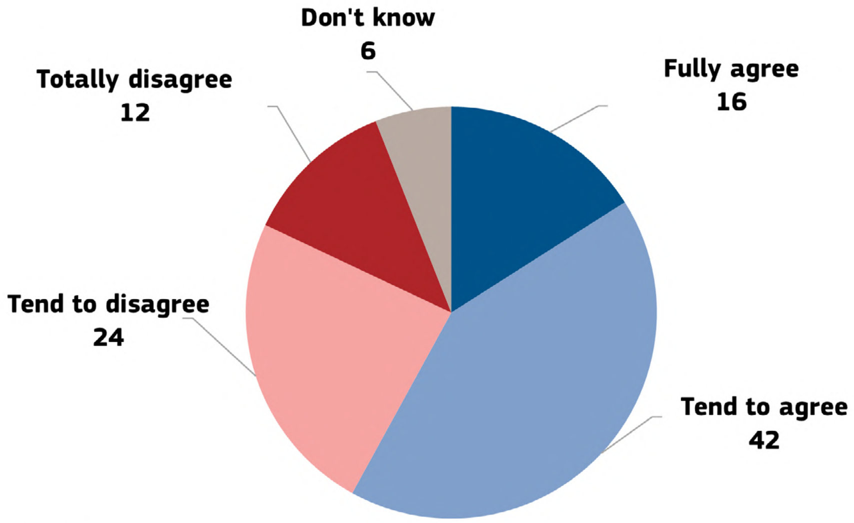
QA8 **How important is it for you that (OUR COUNTRY) is a Member State of the European Union?** Please use a scale from 1 to 10 where 1 means "not at all important" and 10 means "extremely important"
(% - EU)

	Total 'Important'(7-10)	Total 'Neutral'(5-6)	Total 'Not important'(1-4)	Don't know
EU27	70	20	9	1
Gender				
Man	70	19	10	1
Woman	69	21	9	1
Age				
15-24	75	19	4	2
25-39	69	21	9	1
40-54	72	19	9	0
55 +	69	21	9	1
Education (End of)				
15-	62	26	10	2
16-19	66	23	10	1
20+	78	14	8	0
Still studying	77	18	4	1
Socio-professional category				
Self-employed	74	15	11	0
Managers	80	13	7	0
Other white collars	72	18	9	1
Manual workers	65	23	11	1
House persons	62	26	10	2
Unemployed	54	30	14	2
Retired	69	21	9	1
Students	77	18	4	1
Image of the EU				
Total 'Positive'	91	8	1	0
Neutral	55	35	9	1
Total 'Negative'	26	28	45	1
What brings the citizens of the different EU Member States together is more important than what separates them.				
Agree	79	16	5	0
Disagree	34	34	31	1

1.5. EU enlargement in context of the Russian invasion of Ukraine

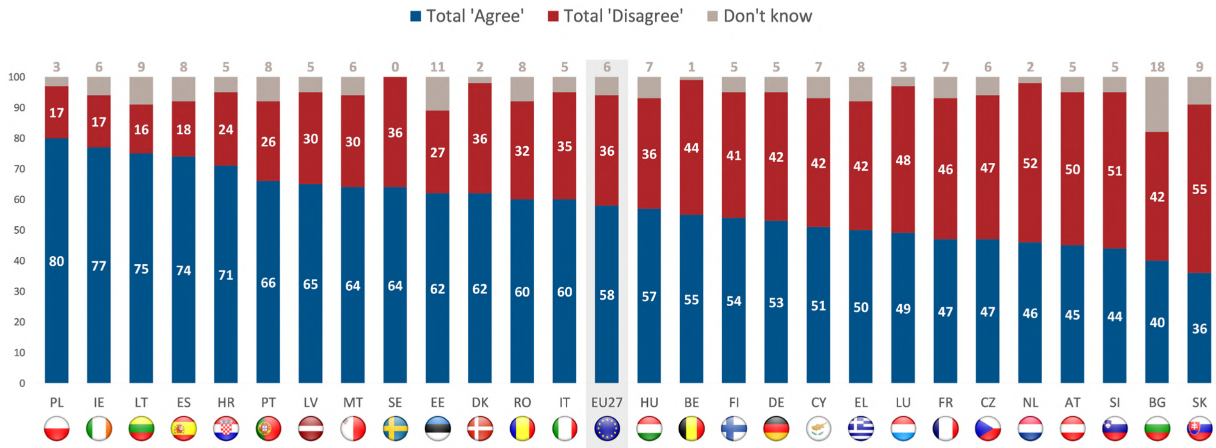
In view of the Russian invasion of Ukraine, almost six in ten (58%) citizens agree the European Union should speed up its efforts to let new countries join the EU. In fact, around one in six (16%) 'fully agree' with this. More than one third (36%), however, disagree with 12% saying they 'totally disagree'. Just over one in twenty (6%) say they don't know.

QA17 **Please tell to what extent you agree or disagree with this statement. In view of the Russian invasion of Ukraine, the European Union should speed up its efforts to let new countries join the EU** (% - EU)



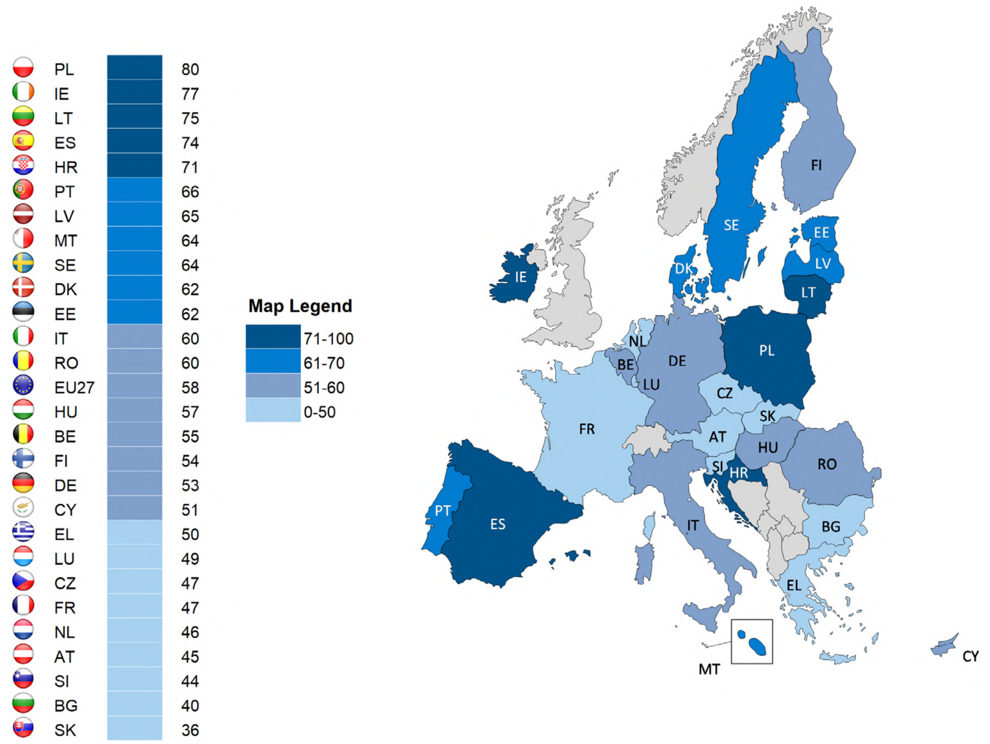
Support for speeding up efforts to let new countries join the EU varies considerably across Member States. At least seven in ten in Poland (80%), Ireland (77%), Lithuania (75%), Spain (74%) and Croatia (71%) agree this process should be sped up, while at the other end of the scale 36% in Slovakia, 40% in Bulgaria and 44% in Slovenia think the same way. Overall, there are 21 countries where the majority agree, and five where the majority disagree. Opinion is divided in Czechia (47% agree vs 47% disagree).

QA17 **Please tell to what extent you agree or disagree with this statement. In view of the Russian invasion of Ukraine, the European Union should speed up its efforts to let new countries join the EU**
(%)



	PL	IE	LT	ES	HR	PT	LV	MT	SE	EE	DK	RO	IT	EU27	HU	BE	FI	DE	CY	EL	LU	FR	CZ	NL	AT	SI	BG	SK
Don't know	3	6	9	8	5	8	5	6	0	11	2	8	5	6	7	1	5	5	7	8	3	7	6	2	5	5	18	9
Total 'Disagree'	17	17	16	18	24	26	30	30	36	27	36	32	35	36	36	44	41	42	42	42	48	46	47	52	50	51	42	55
Total 'Agree'	80	77	75	74	71	66	65	64	64	62	62	60	60	58	57	55	54	53	51	50	49	47	47	46	45	44	40	36

QA17 Please tell to what extent you agree or disagree with this statement. In view of the Russian invasion of Ukraine, the European Union should speed up its efforts to let new countries join the EU (% - Total 'Agree')



Although a majority in each **socio-demographic** group agree the European Union should speed up its efforts to let new countries join the EU, support is strongest amongst younger respondents and those who experience the least financial difficulty. Almost two thirds (65%) of 15–24-year-olds agree, compared to 56% of those aged 55 and older. The differences are stronger for financial situation, with 61% with the least difficulties agreeing compared to 48% of those who have trouble paying bills most of the time. The results for socio-professional groups show students (64%) and other white-collar workers (63%) are the most likely to agree, while the unemployed (52%) are the least likely to do so.

Respondents who think things in the EU are going in the right direction (71%) are more likely to agree that the EU should speed up its efforts to let new countries join it than those who think things are going in the wrong direction (47%).

The analysis also illustrates that respondents who follow the news about the war in Ukraine are much more likely to agree than those who do not (63% vs 45%), and those with a positive view of the EU are more likely to agree than those with a negative view (70% vs 28%). Those who think it is important their country belongs to the EU are much more likely to agree than those who think membership is not important (66% vs 27%), and the same can be seen for those who think their country's membership of the EU is a good thing (68%) compared to those who think it is a bad thing (31%).

Finally, respondents who feel ready to face a rise in energy or food prices (66% for both) as a consequence of the war in Ukraine are more likely to agree with the statement than those who do not (53% for both).

QA17 **Please tell to what extent you agree or disagree with this statement. In view of the Russian invasion of Ukraine, the European Union should speed up its efforts to let new countries join the EU**

(% - EU)

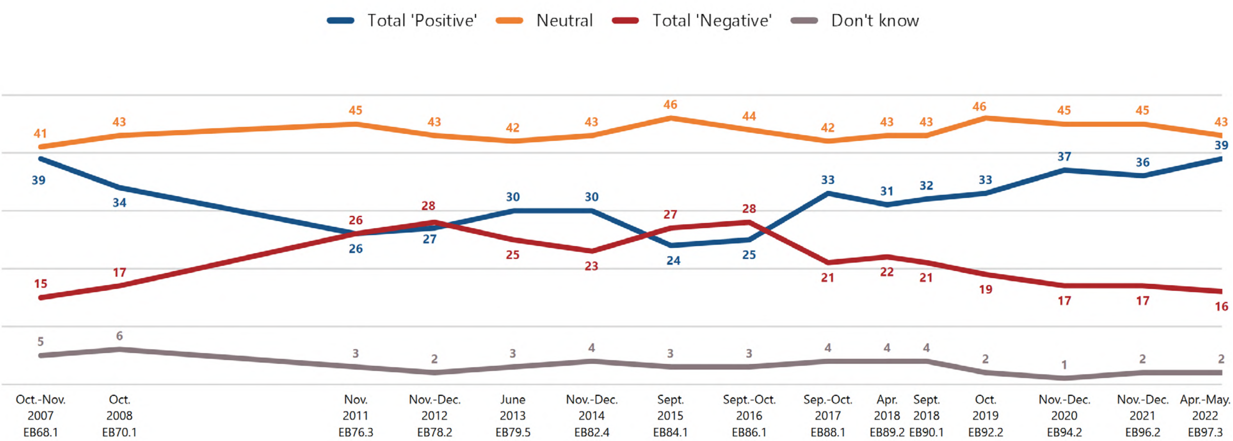
	Total 'Agree'	Total 'Disagree'	Don't know
EU27	58	36	6
Gender			
Man	57	38	5
Woman	59	34	7
Age			
15-24	65	29	6
25-39	59	37	4
40-54	59	37	4
55 +	56	37	7
Education (End of)			
15-	55	35	10
16-19	59	36	5
20+	57	39	4
Still studying	64	29	7
Socio-professional category			
Self-employed	60	37	3
Managers	57	39	4
Other white collars	63	33	4
Manual workers	58	38	4
House persons	55	36	9
Unemployed	52	42	6
Retired	55	37	8
Students	64	29	7
Image of the EU			
Total 'Positive'	70	26	4
Neutral	51	41	8
Total 'Negative'	28	68	4
Things in the EU are going in...			
Right direction	71	26	3
Wrong direction	47	49	4
Neither	53	36	11
Opinion about country's membership of the EU			
A good thing	68	27	5
A bad thing	31	66	3
Neither a good thing nor a bad thing	43	49	8
Belonging of the (OUR COUNTRY) to the EU			
Important	66	30	4
Neutral	45	46	9
Not important	27	68	5
Follow the news concerning the war in Ukraine			
Follow	63	33	4
Not follow	45	45	10
Readiness to face rise in energy prices			
Ready	66	31	3
Not ready	53	40	7
Readiness to face rise in food prices			
Ready	66	30	4
Not ready	53	40	7

2. Perception of the European Parliament

2.1. Image of and trust in the EP

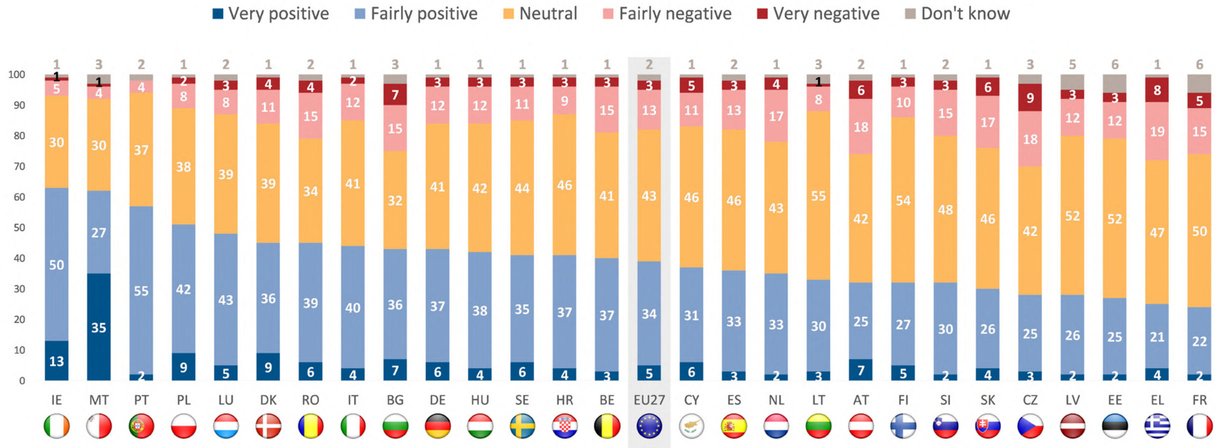
The image of the European Parliament has been continuously improving over recent years. Almost four in ten citizens (39%, +3 percentage points since November-December 20201) have a positive image of the European Parliament. This is the highest ever level of positive appraisal, equal to that seen in 2007. It is also only slightly lower than the proportion who have a neutral view (43%, -2 pp). Fewer than one in five (16%, -1 pp) have a negative image. The gap between those with a positive image and a negative image has increased in the last year to 23 points and is now one point less than the widest gap measured back in 2007.

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



In every Member State the positive view of the European Parliament is more widespread than the negative view. Continuing a long-term trend, the positive view is most widespread in Ireland (63%), and it is also the view of at least half in Malta (62%), Portugal (57%) and Poland (51%). At the other end of the scale 24% in France, 25% in Greece and 27% in Estonia have a positive view of the European Parliament. The positive view is dominant in 10 countries, while a neutral image is dominant in 16 countries. In Hungary opinion is split (42% positive vs 42% neutral).

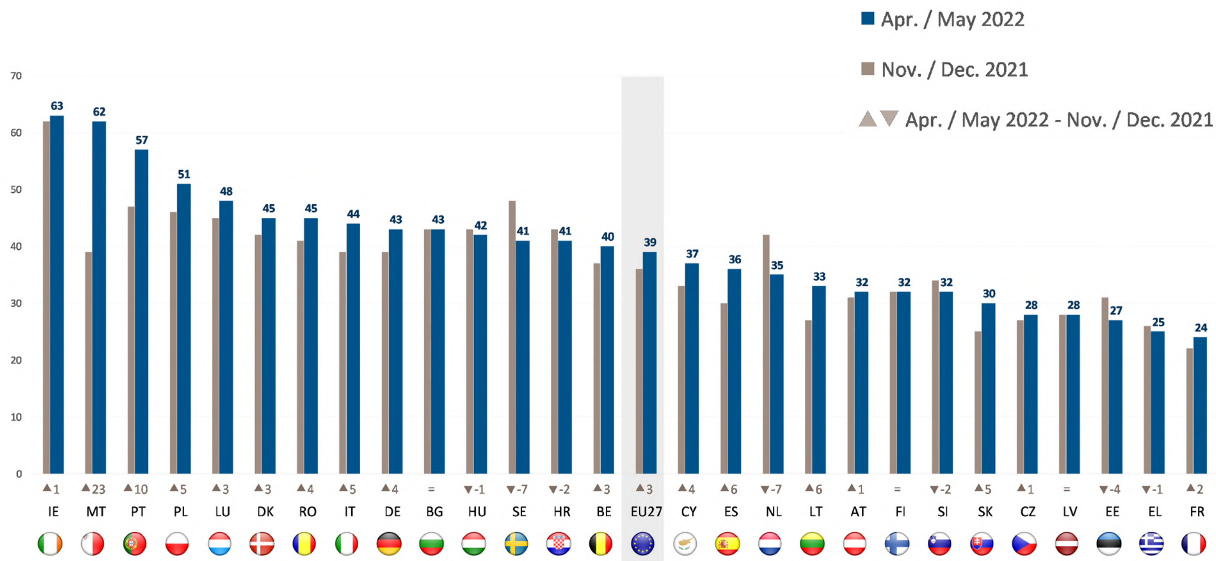
QA2 In general, do you have a very positive, fairly positive, neutral, fairly negative or very negative image of the European Parliament? (%)



In 11 countries respondents are now more likely to have a positive image of the European Parliament than in November-December 2021, with the largest increases seen in Malta (62%, +23 percentage points) and Portugal (57%, +10 pp). The proportion with a positive image has declined in three countries including the Netherlands (35%, -7 pp) and Sweden (41%, -7 pp), and has remained stable in the remaining 13 countries.

As a result of these changes the positive view is now the majority opinion in Denmark, Germany, Italy, Malta, but is now the minority view in Sweden and the Netherlands (in both cases neutral is now the majority opinion).

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



The **socio-demographic analysis** shows a familiar pattern, with youth, higher education levels and fewer financial difficulties most strongly associated with a positive view. For example, 44% who completed education aged 20 or older have a positive view of the European Parliament, compared to 32% who completed education age 15 or younger. As was the case in 2021, younger respondents have a more positive image of the EP, and are less likely to have a negative view (9% compared to 18% of those aged 55+). A positive image of the European Parliament is more widely held by managers (48%), the self-employed (47%) and other white-collar workers (45%), particularly compared to the unemployed (25%).

EU citizens who talk about European political matters frequently (49%) are also more likely to have a positive image of the European Parliament than those who talk about it occasionally (43%) or never (25%).

The analysis also illustrates that respondents with a positive image of the EU are more likely to also have a positive image of the European Parliament (66% vs 3% of those with a negative image of the EU). In addition, citizens who think things in the EU are going in the right direction (59%) are more likely to have a positive image of the European Parliament than those who think things are going in the wrong direction (21%).

Finally, respondents who are satisfied with democracy in the EU (54%) are more likely to have a positive image of the European Union than those who are not satisfied (16%).

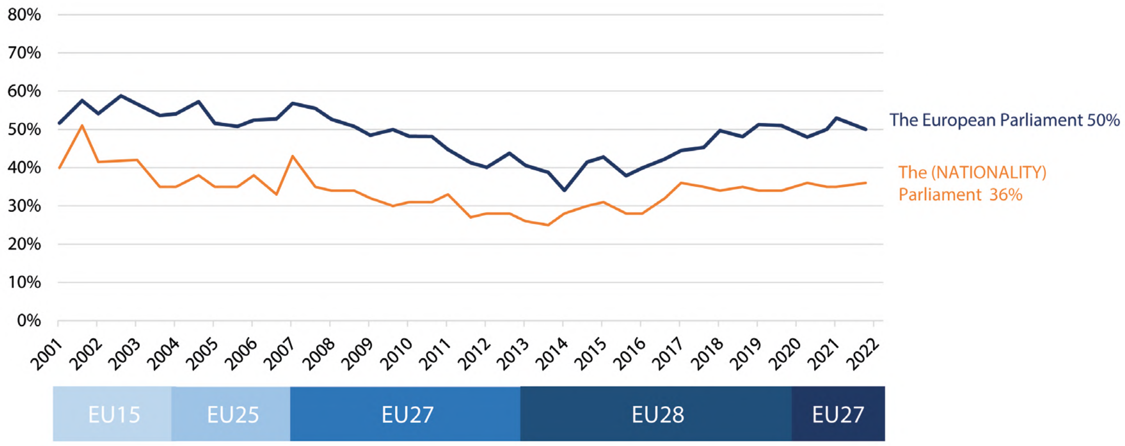
QA2 **In general, do you have a very positive, fairly positive, neutral, fairly negative or very negative image of the European Parliament?**
(% - EU)

	Total 'Positive'	Total 'Negative'	Don't know
EU27	39	16	2
Gender			
Man	40	18	2
Woman	38	15	2
Age			
15-24	41	9	3
25-39	40	17	1
40-54	40	17	1
55 +	37	18	3
Education (End of)			
15-	32	18	3
16-19	37	18	2
20+	44	15	1
Still studying	44	9	3
Socio-professional category			
Self-employed	47	19	0
Managers	48	13	0
Other white collars	45	14	1
Manual workers	33	18	1
House persons	31	17	3
Unemployed	25	25	4
Retired	37	18	3
Students	44	9	3
Difficulties paying bills			
Most of the time	26	26	2
From time to time	33	20	2
Almost never/ Never	42	14	2
Talk about European political matters			
Frequently	49	21	0
Occasionally	43	14	1
Never	25	18	5
Image of the EU			
Total 'Positive'	66	4	1
Neutral	13	13	2
Total 'Negative'	3	79	1
Things in the EU are going in...			
Right direction	59	4	1
Wrong direction	21	32	1
Neither	35	10	2
Satisfaction with democracy in the EU			
Satisfied	54	6	1
Not satisfied	16	34	2

Complementing the above results, data from the Standard Eurobarometer (EB 96.3) conducted in January-February of 2022[45] shows that trust in the European Parliament has remained relatively stable between 2021 and 2022 (50%, -3 percentage points). Over the years, it has consistently been more trusted than national Parliaments.

[45] europa.eu/eurobarometer/surveys/detail/2553

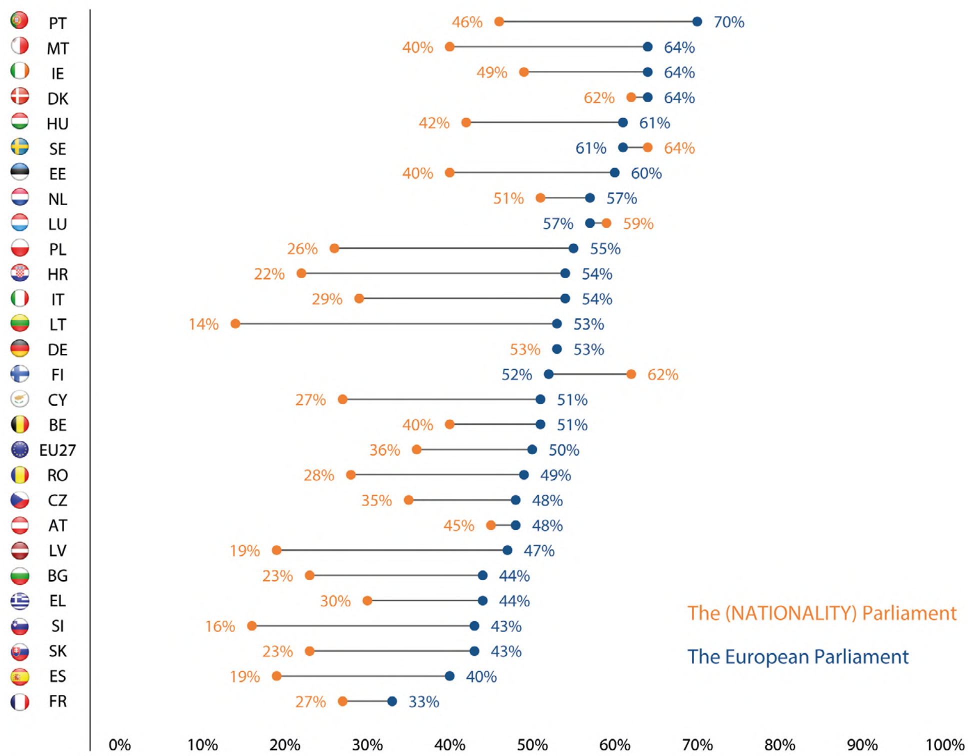
Do you tend to trust or tend not to trust...? (%)



European Commission: Standard Eurobarometer 2001 - 2022, URL: https://europa.eu/eurobarometer/about/other

The country analysis shows that with few exceptions Europeans are more likely to trust the EP than their national Parliament. The differences are especially large in Lithuania (53% trust the EP vs. 14% trust the national Parliament), Croatia (54% vs. 22%) and Poland (55% vs. 26%). The national Parliament is more trusted in three Member States: Finland (62% trust the national Parliament vs. 52% trust the EP), Sweden (64% vs. 61%) and Luxembourg (59% vs. 57%).

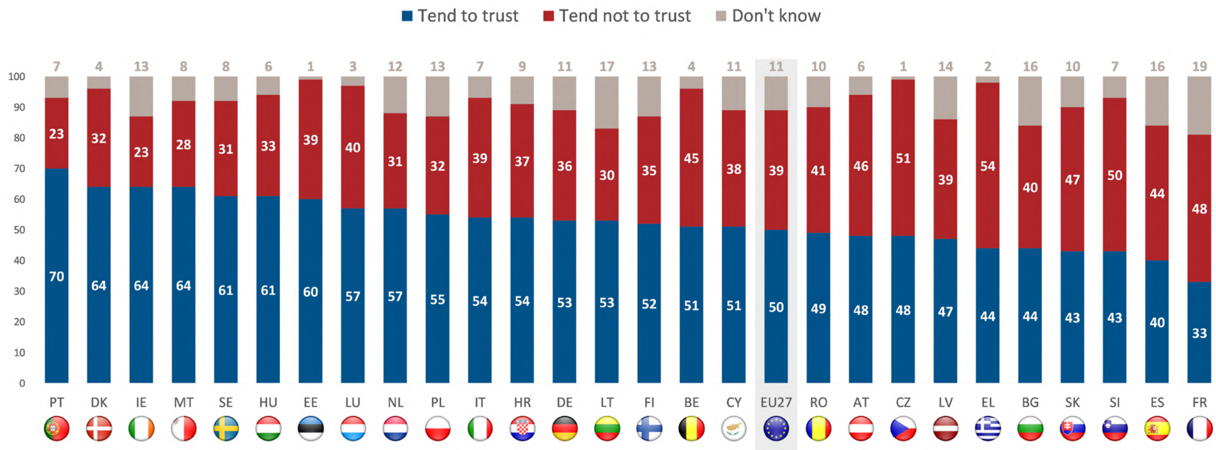
Please tell me if you tend to trust or tend not to trust...? (%)



European Commission (2022): Standard Eurobarometer 96 - Winter 2021-2022, URL: https://europa.eu/eurobarometer/surveys/detail/2553

Focusing on citizens' trust in the European Parliament, the results show trust is the majority position in 21 Member States, with the highest levels seen in Portugal (70%), Denmark, Ireland and Malta (all 64%). 'Tend not to trust' is the majority view in Greece (54%), Czechia (51%) and Slovenia (50%), and a relative majority in France (48% vs 33% tend to trust), Slovakia (47% vs 43% tend to trust) and Spain (44% vs 40% tend to trust) also trust the European Parliament.

QA8.1 Please tell if you tend or tend not to trust these European institutions?
(% - The European Parliament)

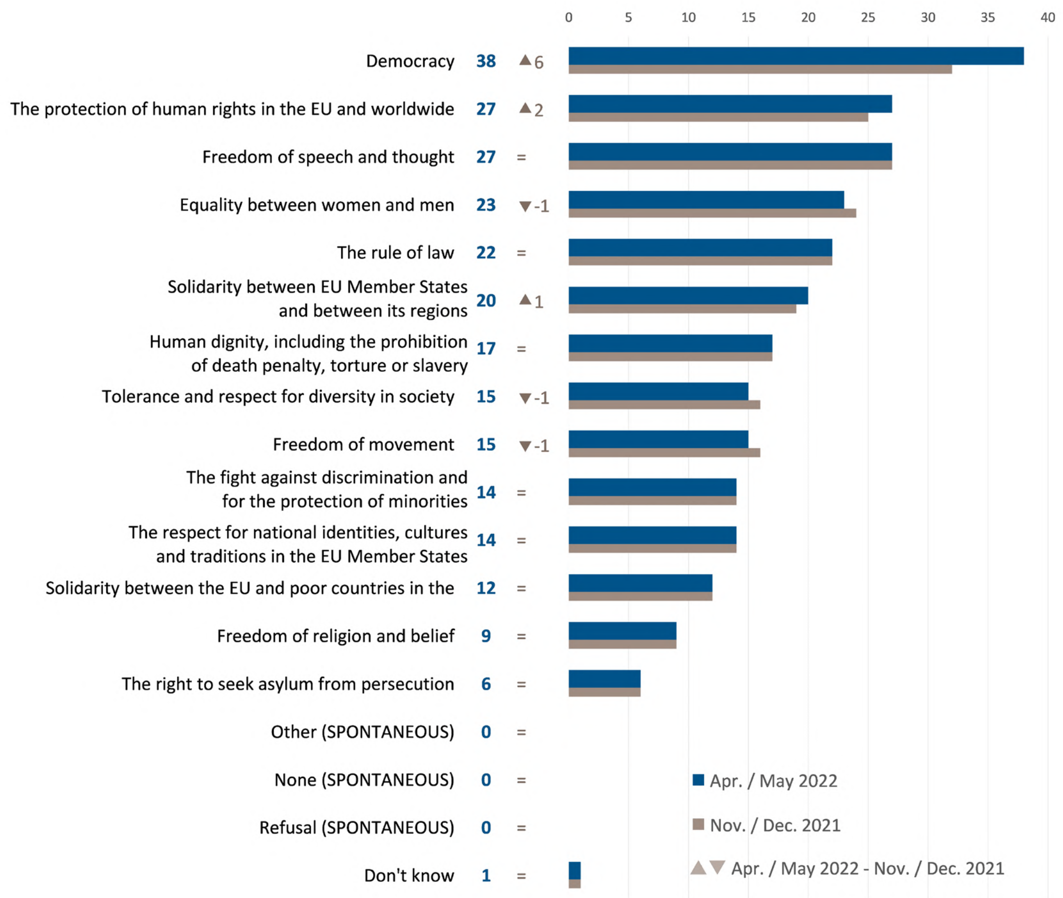


2.2. Values the EP should defend

The European Parliament should defend democracy as a matter of priority, and respondents are now more likely to say this than they were in November-December 2021 (38%, +6 percentage points), although in both years democracy has been the number one value for citizens At least one in five think the European Parliament should prioritise defending the protection of human rights in the EU and worldwide (27%, +2 pp), freedom of speech and thought (27%, =), equality between women and men (23%, -1 pp), the rule of law (22%, =) and solidarity between EU Member States and between its regions (20%, +1 pp).

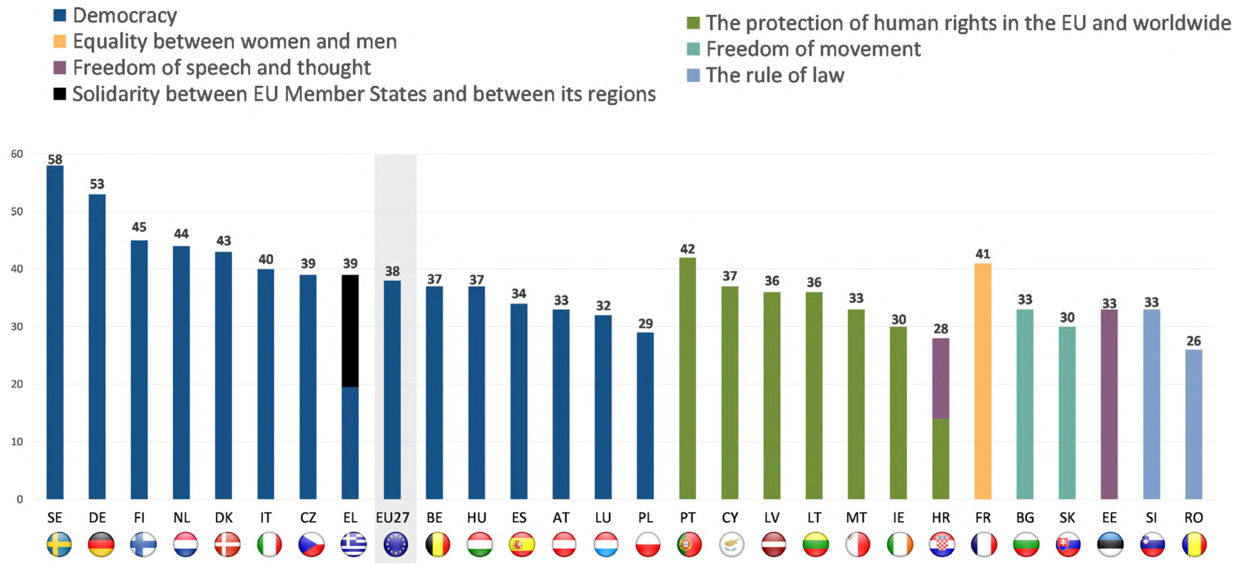
All other values are mentioned by fewer than one in five, and there has been no notable change compared to November-December 2021.

QA3 In your opinion, which of the following values should the European Parliament defend as a matter of priority? (MAX. 3 ANSWERS) (% - EU)



In 13 countries respondents think the European Parliament should defend democracy as a matter of priority. In Greece, the first place is shared between democracy and solidarity between EU Member States and between regions. The protection of human rights is considered the priority in six countries, and also ranks joint top with freedom of speech and thought in Croatia. Freedom of speech and thought is the most mentioned value in Estonia (33%). Respondents in Bulgaria (33%) and Slovakia (30%) most often say the European Parliament should defend freedom of movement, while the rule of law ranks top in Slovenia (33%) and Romania (26%). France (41%) is the only country where equality between men and women is the most mentioned priority.

QA3 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 ranks in the top three values in 23 countries. However, the proportions that mention it vary considerably, from 58% in Sweden, 53% in Germany and 45% in Finland to 20% in Slovakia, 22% in Bulgaria and 23% in Romania.

Defending the **protection of human rights in the EU and worldwide** ranks in the top three in 21 countries. This value is most widely mentioned in Portugal (42%), Sweden (39%), the Netherlands and Cyprus (both 37%), and least mentioned in Italy (19%) and Bulgaria (22%).

Freedom of speech and thought ranks in the top three in 18 countries. Mentions range from 36% in the Netherlands (36%) and 35% in Sweden and Latvia to 16% in Poland and 19% in Spain and Portugal.

Equality of men and women is the most mentioned value by respondents in France (41%) and is also mentioned by 31% in Belgium and 30% in Spain. In contrast 8% in Bulgaria and 9% in Estonia and Hungary think this should be the priority.

In Slovenia (33%) and Romania (26%) the **rule of law** is considered the priority value to defend, but it is also widely mentioned in Finland, Greece (both 33%), Bulgaria (32%) and Germany (31%). In contrast 9% in Portugal think this should be the priority.

Respondents in Greece (39%), Portugal (29%), Bulgaria and Cyprus (both 27%) most often think **solidarity between EU Member States and between its regions** should be defended as a priority, and this value is mentioned by more than one in ten in each country.

Freedom of movement is the only other value that ranks first in any country, attracting the largest share of mentions in Bulgaria (33%) and Slovakia (30%). It is also mentioned by 27% in Croatia and 26% in Ireland, but by only 6% in Portugal, 8% in Germany and 9% in the Netherlands and Greece.

In Estonia, respondents are much more likely than those in other countries to say the European Parliament should prioritise the **respect for national identities, cultures and traditions in the EU Member States** (32%).

QA3 In your opinion, which of the following values should the European Parliament defend as a matter of priority? (MAX. 3 ANSWERS) (%)

	EU27	BE	BG	CZ	DK	DE	EE	IE	EL	ES	FR	HR	IT	CY	LV	LT	LU	HU	MT	NL	AT	PL	PT	RO	SI	SK	FI	SE
Democracy	38	37	22	39	43	53	24	25	39	34	31	24	40	30	32	31	32	37	27	44	33	29	28	23	30	20	45	58
The protection of human rights in the EU and worldwide	27	28	22	29	34	34	29	30	27	24	24	28	19	37	36	36	25	27	33	37	31	24	42	25	32	27	32	39
Freedom of speech and thought	27	34	20	31	31	28	33	27	30	19	32	28	34	31	35	25	25	20	20	36	28	16	19	20	30	26	30	35
Equality between women and men	23	31	8	12	25	18	9	29	10	30	41	17	21	19	9	11	26	9	20	25	23	13	25	16	18	12	18	28
The rule of law	22	17	32	26	16	31	20	16	33	25	10	22	18	28	22	11	17	22	24	24	23	21	9	26	33	22	33	20
Solidarity between EU Member States and between its regions	20	22	27	26	15	19	19	15	39	15	15	18	22	27	25	23	20	17	15	24	17	26	29	19	18	18	17	15
Human dignity, including the prohibition of death penalty, torture or slavery	17	16	13	10	20	19	12	14	21	16	17	17	19	23	9	11	18	13	14	16	18	19	19	11	11	12	19	23
Tolerance and respect for diversity in society	15	18	16	8	17	16	16	16	8	14	21	17	12	10	10	17	15	15	19	21	18	13	17	9	18	11	16	16
Freedom of movement	15	15	33	22	16	8	25	26	9	13	14	27	20	12	18	15	18	21	19	9	16	21	6	23	23	30	22	14
The fight against discrimination and for the protection of minorities	14	16	6	3	12	12	8	16	17	14	20	15	13	12	10	8	15	15	18	15	14	12	21	9	7	12	14	9
The respect for national identities, cultures and traditions in the EU Member States	14	12	23	28	17	12	32	15	20	8	9	17	16	20	21	16	14	19	18	18	14	21	9	16	17	16	17	11
Solidarity between the EU and poor countries in the world	12	12	10	6	9	13	6	9	20	17	11	17	11	15	6	10	16	13	21	5	10	13	21	16	6	9	3	7
Freedom of religion and belief	9	10	9	4	8	6	6	17	5	6	13	11	10	8	6	5	5	9	12	11	8	11	7	11	7	19	6	3
The right to seek asylum from persecution	6	6	6	1	7	6	4	11	3	5	6	3	7	5	6	5	6	10	9	4	12	7	6	6	2	3	3	6
Other (SPONTANEOUS)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	1	0	1	0	1	2	0	1	0	0
None (SPONTANEOUS)	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	3	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0
Refusal (SPONTANEOUS)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0
Don't know	1	0	2	3	1	0	3	1	0	1	1	0	1	0	2	3	0	1	3	0	2	1	4	2	2	1	0	0

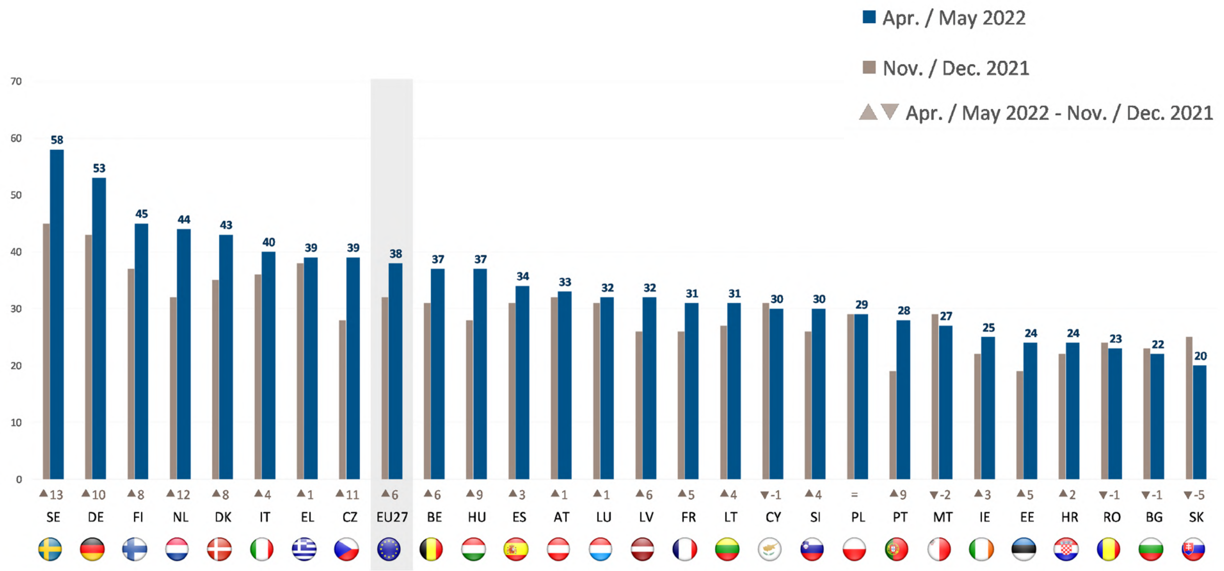
1st MOST FREQUENTLY MENTIONED ITEM

2nd MOST FREQUENTLY MENTIONED ITEM

3rd MOST FREQUENTLY MENTIONED ITEM

Compared to November-December 2021 and most likely as a result of the Russian invasion of Ukraine, prioritising the defence of democracy has become more important to respondents in 15 countries, including Sweden (58%, +13 percentage points), the Netherlands (44%, +12 pp), Czechia (39%, +11 pp) and Germany (53%, +10 pp). In contrast prioritising democracy is less widely mentioned in Slovakia (20%, -5 pp). There has been no change in the remaining 11 countries.

QA3 In your opinion, which of the following values should the European Parliament defend as a matter of priority? (MAX. 3 ANSWERS) (% - Democracy)



The **socio-demographic analysis** focuses on the top six values citizens think the European Parliament should prioritise defending. It illustrates that men are more likely than women to think the priority should be the rule of law (25% vs 19%), but the reverse is true in the case of equality between men and women (18% vs 28%). Those aged 15-24 are the most likely to say the priority should be freedom of speech and thought (32%) and equality between men and women (30%), but they are the least likely to mention democracy (32%) or the rule of law (15%).

Respondents who finished their education when they were 20 or older (18%) are more likely to think tolerance and respect for diversity in society should be a value the European Parliament defends as a priority compared to those who finished their education when they were 15 or younger (12%).

Respondents who think their country's membership of the EU is a good thing are more likely to think it should defend equality between women and men (24%), solidarity between EU Member States and between its regions (22%) and the protection of human rights in the EU and worldwide (30%) than those who think it is a bad thing (15%, 13% and 20% respectively). A large difference can also be seen for democracy (41% a good thing vs 29% a bad thing).

Respondents who think defending common European values must be a priority are more likely to think the European Parliament should prioritise defending democracy (42%) than those who prioritise maintaining prices and the cost of living (32%).

Finally, respondents with a positive image of the European Parliament are more likely than those with a negative image to mention each value. The exception is freedom of speech and thought, which is more likely to be considered a priority by those with a negative image (positive: 25% vs negative: 33%).

QA3 In your opinion, which of the following values should the European Parliament defend as a matter of priority?
(MAX. 3 ANSWERS) (% - EU)

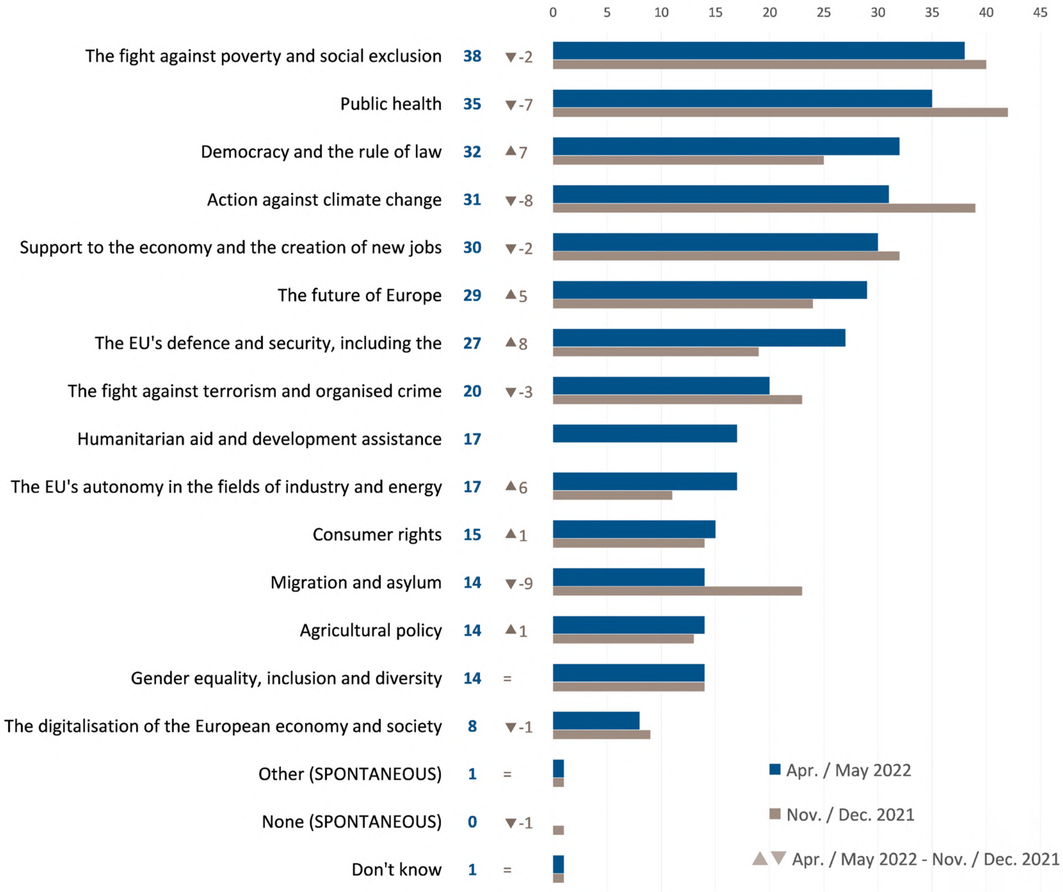
	Democracy	The protection of human rights in the EU and worldwide	Freedom of speech and thought	Equality between women and men	The rule of law	Solidarity between the EU and poor countries in the world
EU27	38	27	27	23	22	12
Gender						
Man	40	26	28	18	25	12
Woman	36	29	26	28	19	13
Age						
15-24	32	27	32	30	15	11
25-39	35	28	27	23	21	12
40-54	40	27	27	22	24	13
55 +	39	27	26	22	23	13
Education (End of)						
15-	36	26	24	21	19	15
16-19	38	26	26	22	23	13
20+	40	30	29	23	24	12
Still studying	34	28	33	29	16	8
Socio-professional category						
Self-employed	43	25	31	15	26	13
Managers	42	32	27	21	27	12
Other white collars	39	27	27	21	24	13
Manual workers	35	28	25	23	20	13
House persons	31	24	27	26	17	14
Unemployed	27	26	29	31	17	15
Retired	40	27	27	22	24	12
Students	34	28	33	29	16	8
Image of European Parliament						
Positive	41	28	25	21	25	14
Neutral	37	28	28	26	20	12
Negative	34	24	33	19	21	9
Opinion about country's membership of the EU						
A good thing	41	30	26	24	24	13
A bad thing	29	20	32	15	19	9
Neither a good thing nor a bad thing	34	24	29	23	19	11
Defence of our common European values...						
Must be a priority	42	30	28	23	24	11
Comes after maintaining prices and the cost of living	32	24	26	22	20	14

2.3. Priority topics for the EP

Citizens think the fight against poverty and social exclusion (38%, -2 percentage points since November-December 2021) should be the main priority for the European Parliament to address, followed by public health (35%, -7 pp), democracy and the rule of law (32%, +7 pp), action against climate change (31%, -8 pp) and support to the economy and the creation of new jobs (30%, -2 pp).

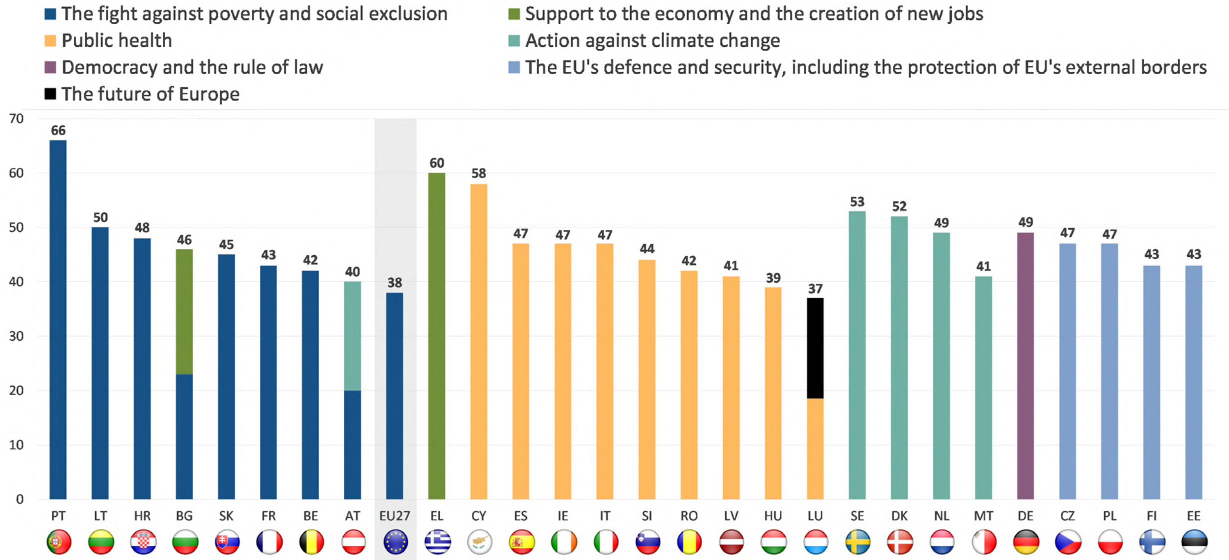
At least one in five think the priority should be the future of Europe (29%, +5 pp), the EU's defence and security, including the protection of EU's external borders (27%, +8 pp) and the fight against terrorism and organised crime (20%, -3 pp). Since Autumn 2021, there has also been a notable increase in the proportion mentioning the EU's autonomy in the fields of industry and energy (17%, +6 pp), but a decline in mentions of migration and asylum (14%, -9 pp).

QA4ab Which of the following topics would you like to see addressed in priority by the European Parliament? Firstly? And then? (MAX. 4 ANSWERS) (% - EU)



The priority topics for the European Parliament to address vary considerably across the EU. In eight countries respondents most want to see public health prioritised, with the strongest support in Cyprus (58%). Public health ranks joint first with the future of Europe in Luxembourg (both 37%). In six countries respondents most want to see the fight against poverty and social exclusion prioritised and this also ranks first in Bulgaria along with support to the economy and the creation of new jobs (both 46%), and first in Austria along with action against climate change (both 40%). Action against climate change is the top priority in four countries, and the EU's defence and security is also the top priority in four countries. In Greece the priority is support to the economy and the creation of new jobs (60%), while in Germany the priority is democracy and the rule of law (49%).

QA4ab Which of the following topics would you like to see addressed in priority by the European Parliament? Firstly? And then? (MAX. 4 ANSWERS) (% - The most mentioned answer by country)



The **fight against poverty and social exclusion** is one of the three most mentioned topics in 20 countries, and across the EU proportions range from 66% in Portugal, 59% in Greece and 50% in Lithuania to 24% in Poland and Czechia and 27% in Estonia.

Public health ranks in the top three topics in 18 countries. It is mentioned by at least half in Cyprus (58%), Portugal (53%) and Greece (52%) but by fewer than one in five in Czechia, Sweden and Germany (all 17%).

Germany (49%) is the only country where **democracy and the rule of law** is considered the priority topic for the European Parliament. It is also mentioned by at least four in ten in Sweden (45%), Finland and the Netherlands (both 41%), but by fewer than one in five in Portugal (12%) and Lithuania (15%).

The proportion of respondents who mention **action against climate change** is highest in Sweden (53%), Denmark (52%) and the Netherlands (49%) and lowest in Bulgaria (11%), Estonia (12%) and Romania (13%).

Support for the economy and the creation of new jobs is the priority topic for 60% in Greece, 52% in Portugal and 47% in Croatia, compared to 12% in Denmark, 14% in the Netherlands and 15% in Sweden.

Luxembourg (37%) is the only country where the **future of Europe** is the top priority (shared with public health), although this is also mentioned by at least four in ten in Germany (42%) and Czechia (40%). At the other end of the scale, it is mentioned by 17% in Portugal, 18% in Cyprus and 19% in Greece.

The proportion of respondents who think the priority topic to be addressed is the **EU's defence and security** ranges from 47% in Poland and Czechia and 45% in Lithuania to 12% in France, 14% in Spain and 16% in Portugal.

None of the other topics rank first in any country. However, it is worth noting respondents in Sweden (47%) are much more likely than those in other countries to mention the **fight against terrorism and organise crime**, while those in Czechia (44%) by far the most likely to mention the **EU's autonomy in the fields of industry and energy.** Respondents in Slovakia are more likely than those in other countries to prioritise **agricultural policy** (33%).

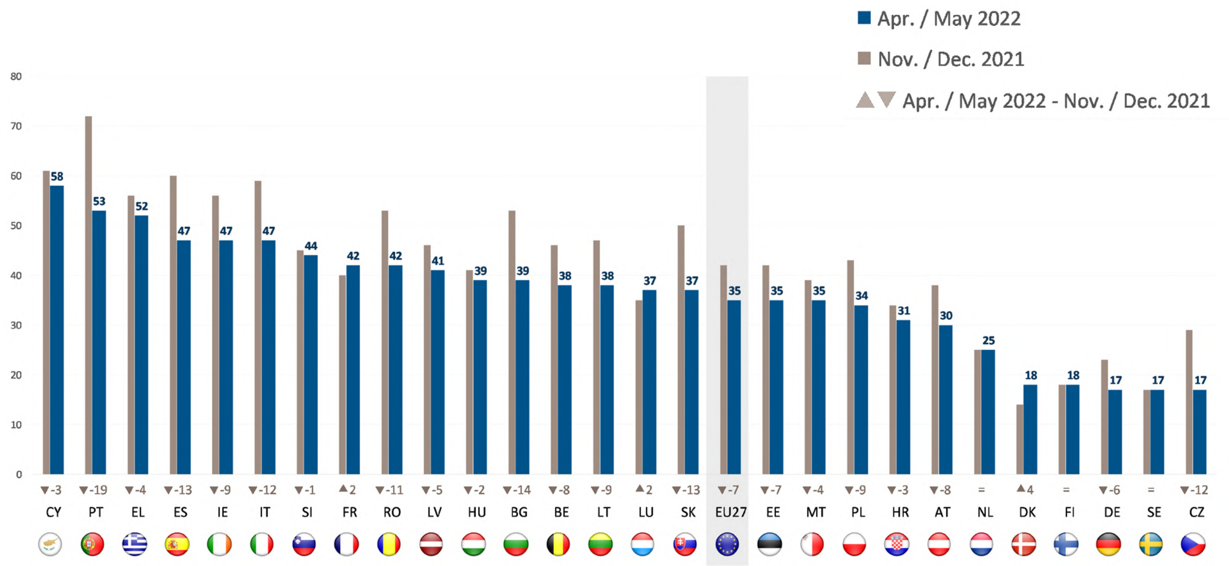
QA4ab **Which of the following topics would you like to see addressed in priority by the European Parliament? Firstly? And then?** (%)

	EU27	BE	BG	CZ	DK	DE	EE	IE	EL	ES	FR	HR	IT	CY	LV	LT	LU	HU	MT	NL	AT	PL	PT	RO	SI	SK	FI	SE
The fight against poverty and social exclusion	38	42	46	24	30	36	27	38	59	43	43	48	33	45	39	50	34	30	32	41	40	24	66	33	41	45	31	32
Public health	35	38	39	17	18	17	35	47	52	47	42	31	47	58	41	38	37	39	35	25	30	34	53	42	44	37	18	17
Democracy and the rule of law	32	30	28	30	37	49	21	26	35	30	20	29	26	34	24	15	21	33	24	42	28	32	12	28	33	24	42	45
Action against climate change	31	41	11	17	52	39	12	31	22	24	40	22	25	20	15	16	35	26	41	49	40	17	19	13	31	18	36	53
Support to the economy and the creation of new jobs	30	26	46	23	12	21	38	29	60	37	18	47	43	42	40	40	18	33	17	14	31	30	52	37	33	36	29	15
The future of Europe	29	25	28	40	33	42	36	24	19	26	22	29	23	18	30	30	37	33	27	34	36	26	17	25	29	29	35	26
The EU's defence and security, including the protection of EU's external borders	27	22	24	47	26	33	43	19	27	14	12	24	24	25	38	45	30	27	28	39	29	47	16	24	18	36	43	36
The fight against terrorism and organised crime	20	22	21	23	31	23	17	27	12	12	26	22	14	20	18	13	18	18	19	30	19	16	20	17	16	16	29	47
Humanitarian aid and development assistance	17	15	14	9	15	15	9	22	22	26	17	14	16	23	12	12	21	12	15	12	18	23	25	18	12	11	11	9
The EU's autonomy in the fields of industry and energy	17	21	16	44	11	15	30	11	15	13	13	14	23	8	14	16	19	13	12	19	20	17	23	17	13	15	9	12
Consumer rights	15	14	22	9	12	15	7	13	17	14	18	18	22	24	9	10	9	15	26	10	17	10	11	21	12	13	10	5
Migration and asylum	14	15	7	18	15	13	13	18	15	14	12	5	16	25	10	15	15	18	21	16	18	13	5	11	5	7	8	21
Agricultural policy	14	14	22	23	9	11	18	13	21	11	15	22	11	11	22	15	9	17	11	13	19	15	7	26	22	33	16	13
Gender equality, inclusion and diversity	14	16	6	6	22	11	7	21	8	14	19	15	18	13	5	6	14	12	20	12	14	11	20	11	12	11	13	27
The digitalisation of the European economy and society	8	7	8	6	7	10	8	8	5	4	4	11	12	7	5	8	7	12	17	7	10	11	7	11	9	9	6	5
Other (SPONTANEOUS)	1	0	0	0	1	1	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	1	1	0	0	0	0
None (SPONTANEOUS)	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	1	2	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0
Don't know	1	0	3	3	2	1	2	1	0	1	2	0	1	0	1	1	0	2	2	0	1	1	4	2	2	1	1	0

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

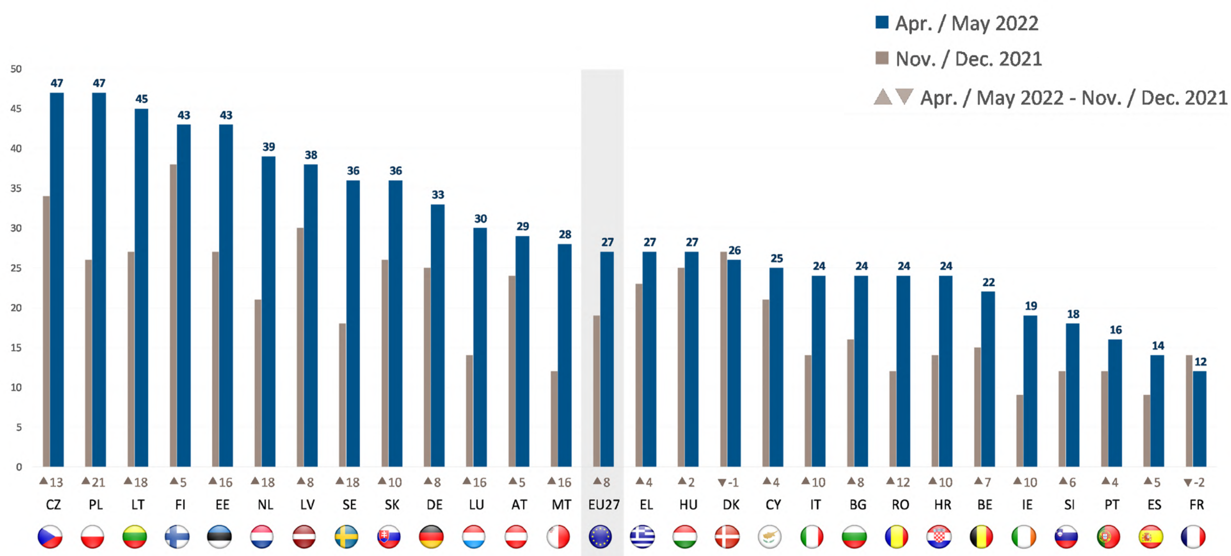
In 17 countries, respondents are now less likely to say public health should be addressed as a priority than they were in November-December 2021, with the largest declines observed in Portugal (53%, -19 percentage points), Bulgaria (39%, -14 pp), Spain (47%, -13 pp), Slovakia (37%, -13 pp), Italy (47%, -12 pp), Czechia (17%, -12 pp) and Romania (42%, -11 pp). Mentions of public health have increased slightly in Denmark (18%, +4 pp), and have remained unchanged in the remaining nine countries.

QA4ab Which of the following topics would you like to see addressed in priority by the European Parliament? Firstly? And then? (MAX. 4 ANSWERS) (% - Public health)



In every country except France (12%, -2 pp) and Denmark (26%, -1 pp), respondents are now more likely to say the EU's defence and security should be addressed as a priority by the European Parliament. In fact, in 13 countries the increase is at least ten percentage points, with the largest seen in Poland (47%, +21 pp), Lithuania (45%, +18 pp), the Netherlands (39%, +18 pp) and Sweden (36%, +18 pp).

QA4ab Which of the following topics would you like to see addressed in priority by the European Parliament? Firstly? And then? (MAX. 4 ANSWERS) (% - The EU's defence and security, including the protection of the EU's external borders)



The **socio-demographic analysis** focusses on the top eight priorities as defined by respondents and shows some of the largest differences are based on education levels and financial situation. The longer a respondent remained in education or the fewer their financial difficulties the more likely they are to say the European Parliament should prioritise democracy and the rule of law, action against climate change, the future of Europe and the EU's defence and security and the less likely they are to say the priority should be the fight against poverty and social exclusion, public health or support to the economy and the creation of new jobs.

The analysis also illustrates that women are more likely than men to say the fight against poverty and social inclusion (40% vs 35%) and public health (38% vs 32%) should be the main priority for the European Parliament. Age-based differences are generally small, but of note is that those aged 15-24 (39%) are more likely than older age groups to mention action against climate change, while public health is most important to those aged 55+ (39%). Mentions of democracy and the rule of law increase with age, although the change is relatively small.

Public health is more important to those who left education aged 15 or younger (48%) compared to those who left education later (29%), as is the fight against poverty and social exclusion (45% vs 36% respectively). On the other hand, respondents who left education aged 20 or older (37%) are more likely to prioritise action against climate change than their counterparts (21%).

House persons (45%) are more likely than other socio-professional groups to say public health should be a priority, but they are the least likely to mention the EU's defence and security (19%).

Respondents who think their country's membership of the EU is a good thing are more likely to want to see action against climate change addressed compared to those who think it is a bad thing (35% vs 19% respectively), and the same can be seen for the future of Europe (33% vs 20%).

Respondents who are not ready to face a rise in energy or food prices (41% for both) are more likely to want the European Parliament to prioritise public health than those who do feel ready (28% for both), and the same can be seen for support to the economy and the creation of new jobs (35% vs 23% respectively). On the contrary respondents who feel ready to face such price increases are more likely to want the European Parliament to prioritise action against climate change than those who do not feel ready (38% for energy prices and 39% for food prices vs 26% respectively for both).

Looking at respondents who do not think the consequences of the war in Ukraine will impact their standard of living, they are more likely to want the European Parliament to prioritise climate change, especially compared to those who say the war in Ukraine has already reduced their standards of living (36% vs 26% respectively). On the contrary, respondents who say their standards of living have already been reduced are slightly more likely to want the EP to prioritise supporting the economy and the creation of new jobs than those who do not think the war will impact their standards of living (34% vs 23% respectively).

Respondents who think defending our common European values must be a priority are more likely to think the European Parliament should prioritise defending action against climate change (36%) than those who prioritise maintaining prices and the cost of living (24%).

Finally, respondents with a positive view of the European Parliament are more likely to say Parliament should prioritise democracy and the rule of law (37% vs 28%), action against climate change (34% vs 23%), the future of Europe (33% vs 24%) or the EU's defence and security (32% vs 22%). Conversely, they are less likely to say this about the fight against poverty and social exclusion (34% vs 43%).

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

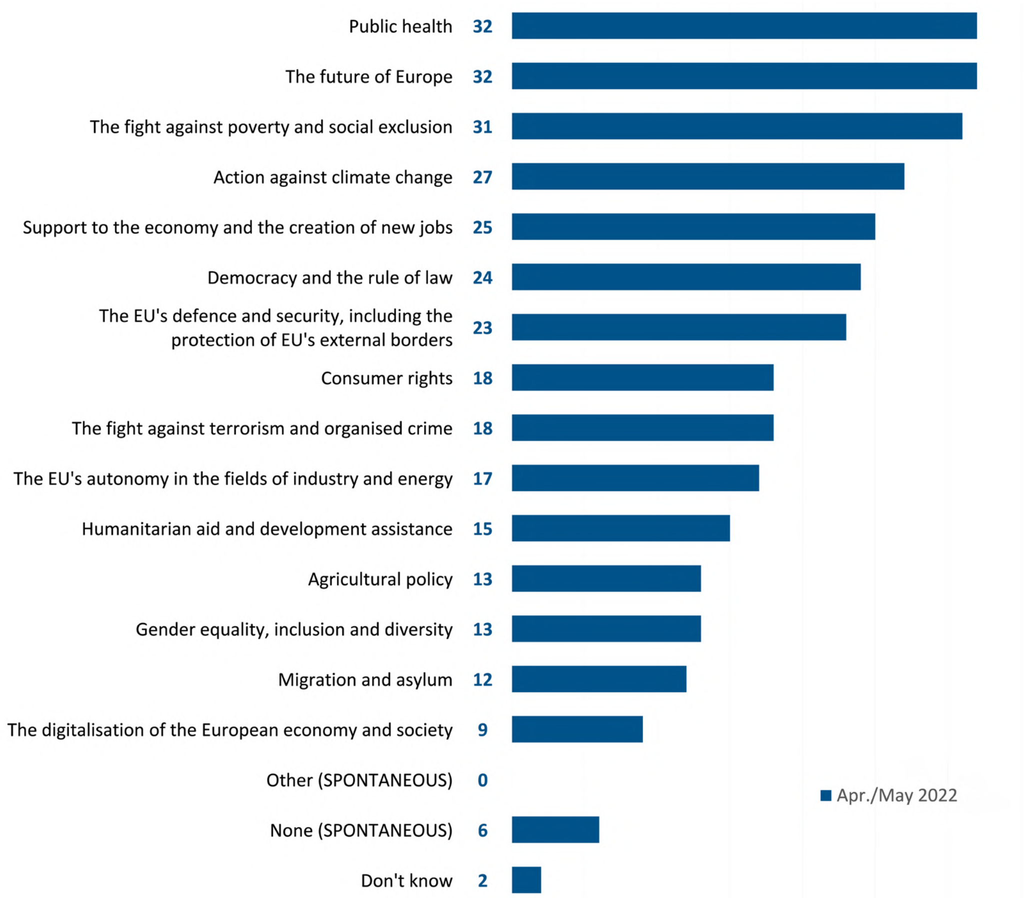
	Democracy	The protection of human rights in the EU and worldwide	Freedom of speech and thought	Equality between women and men	The rule of law	Solidarity between the EU and poor countries in the world
EU27	38	27	27	23	22	12
Gender						
Man	40	26	28	18	25	12
Woman	36	29	26	28	19	13
Age						
15-24	32	27	32	30	15	11
25-39	35	28	27	23	21	12
40-54	40	27	27	22	24	13
55 +	39	27	26	22	23	13
Education (End of)						
15-	36	26	24	21	19	15
16-19	38	26	26	22	23	13
20+	40	30	29	23	24	12
Still studying	34	28	33	29	16	8
Socio-professional category						
Self-employed	43	25	31	15	26	13
Managers	42	32	27	21	27	12
Other white collars	39	27	27	21	24	13
Manual workers	35	28	25	23	20	13
House persons	31	24	27	26	17	14
Unemployed	27	26	29	31	17	15
Retired	40	27	27	22	24	12
Students	34	28	33	29	16	8
Image of European Parliament						
Positive	41	28	25	21	25	14
Neutral	37	28	28	26	20	12
Negative	34	24	33	19	21	9
Opinion about country's membership of the EU						
A good thing	41	30	26	24	24	13
A bad thing	29	20	32	15	19	9
Neither a good thing nor a bad thing	34	24	29	23	19	11
Defence of our common European values...						
Must be a priority	42	30	28	23	24	11
Comes after maintaining prices and the cost of living	32	24	26	22	20	14

2.4. Priority topics Europeans wish to learn more about

Citizens are most interested in more information about what the European Parliament is doing in the areas of public health, the future of Europe (both 32%) and the fight against poverty and social exclusion (31%). More than one in five are interested in information about Parliament's activities in relation to action against climate change (27%), support to the economy and the creation of new jobs (25%), democracy and the rule of law (24%), and the EU's defence and security, including the protection of EU's external borders (24%). Fewer than one in five are interested in the other areas asked about.

Although the ranking differs, the six issues that respondents are most interested to have more information about are also the top six issues that they think should be a priority for the European Parliament.

QA5ab And on which of these topics would you like more information about what the European Parliament is doing? Firstly? And then? (MAX. 3 ANSWERS) (% - EU)



There is considerable variation at a national level in the topics respondents would like more information on.

Public health is the most mentioned in six countries (in Romania jointly with support for the economy and creation of new jobs). Interest in this topic varies considerably however, with the highest levels in Cyprus (51%), Portugal (48%) and Ireland and Greece (both 45%) and the lowest levels in Finland (16%) and Sweden and Denmark (both 17%).

In eight countries respondents are most interested in more information about the **future of Europe,** with the highest proportions in the Netherlands (48%), Germany (42%) and Luxembourg (41%). This compares to 18% in Portugal who are also interested in more information on this topic.

The **fight against poverty and social exclusion** is the topic of most interest in six countries including Portugal (59%), Greece (50%, along with support to the economy and the creation of new jobs) and Bulgaria (42%). In contrast 17% in Estonia also mention this.

There are five countries where **action against climate change** is most mentioned, including Sweden and Denmark (both 46%). At the other end of the scale, 12% in Estonia, Romania and Bulgaria are also interested in more information on this topic.

Support to the economy and the creation of new jobs is the most mentioned topic in Greece (50%, along with the fight against poverty and social exclusion), Croatia (44%) and Romania (37%), and is also widely mentioned in Portugal (46%) and Cyprus (44%). This compares to 11% in the Netherlands that also mention this topic.

There are only two other topics that rank first in any country. Respondents in Poland (36%) are most likely to be interested in more information about the **EU's defence and security**, while those in Czechia (41%) are most interested in the **EU's autonomy in the fields of industry and energy**. In fact, Czechia is the only country where at least one quarter are interested in more information on this topic.

Across the other topics it is worth noting respondents in Sweden are much more likely than those in other countries to mention the **fight against organised crime and terrorism** (41%).

QA5ab **And on which of these topics would you like more information about what the European Parliament is doing? Firstly? And then?** (%)

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

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

The **socio-demographic analysis** focuses on the seven areas respondents would like more information about.

Women are slightly more interested in information about what the European Parliament is doing about public health (35% vs 29% of men). The older the respondent, the more likely they are to want more information about public health, while 15-24 year olds are the most likely to want more information regarding the future of Europe (36%) or action against climate change (35%). The longer a respondent remained in education, the more likely they are to be interested in more information about the future of Europe, action against climate change, democracy and the rule of law and the EU's defence and security, and the less likely they are to be interested in more information about public health, the fight against poverty and social exclusion or support to the economy and the creation of new jobs.

The analysis also shows managers are the most likely to be interested in information about what the European Parliament is doing about the future of Europe (35%), but the least likely to be interested in public health (25%). Along with students (38%), managers (36%) are the most likely to be interested in more information about actions against climate change.

The fewer financial difficulties a respondent has, the more likely they are to be interested in information about the future of Europe, actions against climate change and the EU's defence and security, and the less likely they are to be interested in public health, the fight against poverty and social exclusion and support to the economy and the creation of new jobs.

Respondents who think their country's membership of the EU is a good thing are more likely to want more information about what the European Parliament is doing for climate change than those who think it is a bad thing (31% vs 16% respectively), and the same can be seen for the future of Europe (36% vs 20%) or the EU's defence and security (25% vs 15%).

Finally, respondents with a positive image of the European Parliament are more likely than those with a negative view to be interested in more information about the future of Europe (36% vs 26%) or the EU's defence and security (27% vs 18%).

QA5ab **Which of the following topics would you like to see addressed in priority by the European Parliament? Firstly? And then?**
(% - EU)

	Public health	The future of Europe	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 EU's defence and security, including the protection of EU's external borders
EU27	32	32	31	27	25	24	23
Gender							
Man	29	33	30	27	26	25	24
Woman	35	30	33	28	25	22	21
Age							
15-24	26	36	32	35	24	20	19
25-39	30	32	32	28	28	23	22
40-54	33	31	30	28	27	25	24
55 +	34	31	31	25	24	24	23
Education (End of)							
15-	41	26	34	19	28	20	18
16-19	33	31	33	23	27	23	23
20+	28	34	29	34	23	26	25
Still studying	26	34	31	38	25	23	18
Socio-professional category							
Self-employed	31	29	29	24	31	27	23
Managers	25	35	30	36	25	26	27
Other white collars	30	34	27	28	28	24	27
Manual workers	33	31	34	24	28	23	22
House persons	40	25	33	21	27	19	17
Unemployed	30	28	40	28	27	22	13
Retired	36	31	31	25	21	23	23
Students	26	34	31	38	25	23	18
Difficulties paying bills							
Most of the time	36	25	44	22	29	22	18
From time to time	37	28	35	24	29	21	20
Almost never/ Never	30	34	29	29	23	25	24
Image of European Parliament							
Positive	31	36	29	31	27	26	27
Neutral	33	31	33	27	25	22	21
Negative	32	26	34	20	25	23	18
Opinion about country's membership of the EU							
A good thing	30	36	31	31	25	25	25
A bad thing	31	20	32	16	25	21	15
Neither a good thing nor a bad thing	37	26	33	22	26	21	20

III. INTEREST IN EU AFFAIRS, IMPORTANCE OF VOTING AND PROPENSITY TO VOTE: Citizens are increasingly more satisfied with democracy in the EU - voting in European elections is seen as highly important

This final chapter discusses citizens' interest and participation in European democratic processes. Citizens are more and more aware of what is happening in the European Union. They are increasingly engaged with political matters and the majority discuss them with friends or relatives - at least occasionally.

The positive trend as seen with the image of the EU and the importance of EU membership also translates into citizens' satisfaction with the way national and European democracy works. In both cases the survey finds a continued increase, with satisfaction with democracy in the EU now at its highest ever level. An increasing proportion of citizens also agree their voice counts in the EU and in their country.

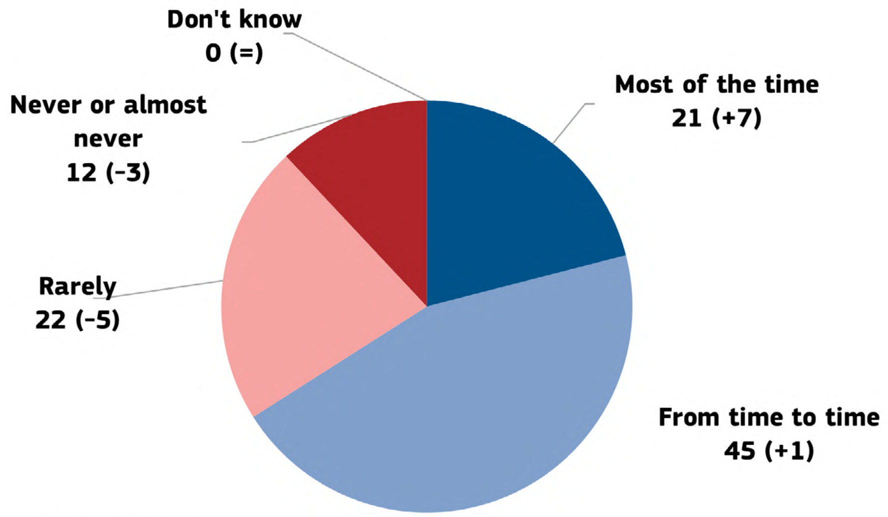
The growing positive attitudes towards the EU, Parliament and the importance of EU membership, the strengthened significance given to the defence of democracy in the EU as well as the increased satisfaction with the way democracy works in the EU leads to one final important insight from this survey: Citizens see voting in the European elections as the best way to make their voice heard. The perceived importance of voting in European elections is higher than in the last Parlemeter 2021, and the likelihood of voting in the next European elections has also increased dramatically.

1. Interest in EU affairs

1.1. Personal engagement with EU politics

Engagement with EU politics has increased in the past year, with 66% of citizens (+8 percentage points since November-December 2021) saying they follow what is going on in EU politics. More than one in five (21%, +7 pp) say they follow what is going on most of the time, and 45% (+1 pp) do so from time to time. Around one in five (22%) say they rarely follow what is going on in EU politics, and 12% (-3 pp) never or almost never do so.

QA1 Some people follow what's going on in European Union 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 European Union politics...? (% - EU)

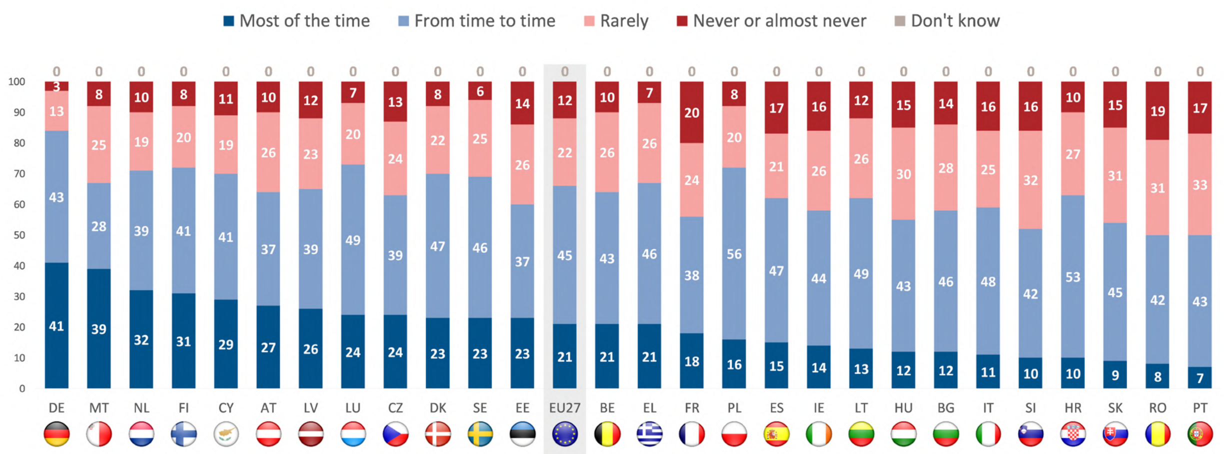


(Apr-May 2022/Nov-Dec 2021)

The majority of respondents in each Member State follow EU politics, and in ten EU Member States at least two thirds say they do this. The proportion that follows EU politics ranges from 84% in Germany, 73% in Luxembourg and 72% in Poland and Finland to 50% in Romania and Portugal and 52% in Slovenia.

At least three in ten in Germany (41%), Malta (39%), the Netherlands (32%) and Finland (31%) follow EU politics 'most of the time', compared to 7% in Portugal, 8% in Romania and 9% in Slovakia.

QA1 Some people follow what's going on in European Union 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 European Union politics...? (%)



In 17 EU Member States respondents are now more likely to follow EU politics most of the time, and in five countries the increase is at least ten percentage points: Malta (39%, +29 pp), Latvia (26%, +16 pp), Germany (41%, +14 pp), Estonia (23%, +10 pp) and Cyprus (29%, +10 pp).

QA1 Some people follow what's going on in European Union 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 European Union politics...? (%)

		EU27	MT	LV	DE	EE	CY	AT	EL	LT	CZ	PL	FI	NL	SE	DK	ES	FR	HU	BG	HR	IT	PT	RO	BE	IE	SK	SI	LU
Most of the time	Apr/May 22	21	39	26	41	23	29	27	21	13	24	16	31	32	23	23	15	18	12	12	10	11	7	8	21	14	9	10	24
	Δ Nov/Dec 21	▲7	▲29	▲16	▲14	▲10	▲10	▲9	▲8	▲8	▲7	▲7	▲7	▲6	▲6	▲5	▲5	▲5	▲5	▲3	▲3	▲3	▲3	▲3	▲2	▲2	▲2	▼1	▼4
From time to time	Apr/May 22	45	28	39	43	37	41	37	46	49	39	56	41	39	46	47	47	38	43	46	53	48	43	42	43	44	45	42	49
	Δ Nov/Dec 21	▲1	▼27	▼2	▼6	▼2	▼2	▼10	▼1	▲8	▼1	▲15	▼4	▼11	▼6	▼3	▲6	▲2	=	▲3	▲7	=	▲6	▲7	▼5	▼6	▲9	▲1	▲8
Rarely	Apr/May 22	22	25	23	13	26	19	26	26	26	24	20	20	19	25	22	21	24	30	28	27	25	33	31	26	26	31	32	20
	Δ Nov/Dec 21	▼5	▲1	▼10	▼5	▼5	▼7	▲1	▼4	▼5	▼6	▼14	▼3	▲1	▲4	▼4	▼9	▼4	▼3	=	▼6	▼3	▼5	▼2	=	=	▼10	▲2	▼4
Never or almost never	Apr/May 22	12	8	12	3	14	11	10	7	12	13	8	8	10	6	8	17	20	15	14	10	16	17	19	10	16	15	16	7
	Δ Nov/Dec 21	▼3	▼3	▼4	▼3	▼3	▼1	=	▼3	▼11	=	▼8	=	▲4	▼4	▲2	▼2	▼3	▼2	▼6	▼4	=	▼4	▼8	▲3	▲4	▼1	▼2	=
Don't know	Apr/May 22	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
	Δ Nov/Dec 21	=	=	=	=	=	=	=	=	=	=	=	=	=	=	=	=	=	=	=	=	=	=	=	=	=	=	=	=

The **socio-demographic analysis** focuses on those who follow EU politics most of the time or from time to time and shows that men are more likely to follow EU politics than women (70% vs 62%). It also shows those aged 40+ (70% of 40-54 year olds and 69% of 55+) are the most likely to follow, particularly compared to those aged 15-24 (52%). The longer a respondent remained in education, the more likely they are to follow EU politics, with the largest difference between those who stayed in education until age 20+ (76%) and those who finished aged 15 or younger (54%). Managers (79%) and the self-employed (76%) are more likely to follow EU politics than other socio-professional groups, and particularly the unemployed (51%).

Those who experience few financial difficulties (70%) are much more likely to follow EU politics than those who experience more difficulties.

Respondents with a positive image of the EU are more likely to follow what is going on in EU politics most of the time (26%) or at least some of the time (48%) than those with a neutral (14% and 42% respectively) or negative (21% and 36% respectively) image of it.

The analysis also shows a relationship between following European political matters, attitudes to the European Parliament and frequency of discussing European political matters. Respondents who have a positive image of the European Parliament are more likely to follow EU politics than those with a negative view (80% vs 58%), while 93% who frequently discuss European politics say they follow EU politics, compared with 32% who never talk about European politics.

Respondents who follow the war in Ukraine (77%) are also more likely to follow European politics than those who do not (35%).

QA1 Some people follow what's going on in European Union 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 European Union politics...?
(% - EU)

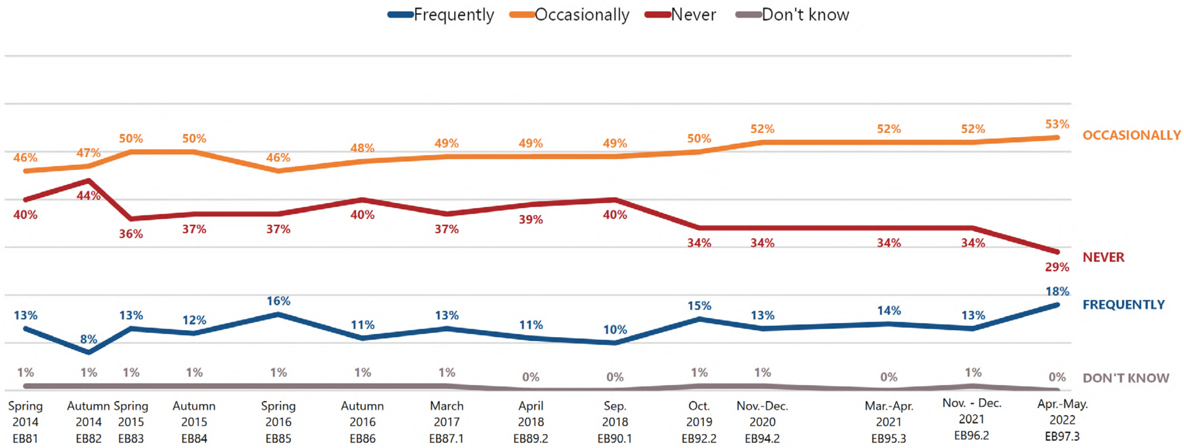
	Most of the time	From time to time	Rarely	Never or almost never	Don't know
EU27	21	45	22	12	0
Gender					
Man	25	45	20	10	0
Woman	18	44	24	14	0
Age					
15-24	12	40	28	20	0
25-39	17	46	25	12	0
40-54	20	50	21	9	0
55 +	27	42	19	12	0
Education (End of)					
15-	14	40	26	20	0
16-19	18	47	23	12	0
20+	31	45	17	7	0
Still studying	14	40	26	20	0
Socio-professional category					
Self-employed	27	49	18	6	0
Managers	30	49	16	5	0
Other white collars	17	51	23	9	0
Manual workers	15	47	26	12	0
House persons	14	38	26	22	0
Unemployed	16	35	28	21	0
Retired	28	41	19	12	0
Students	14	40	26	20	0
Difficulties paying bills					
Most of the time	17	36	27	20	0
From time to time	12	46	28	14	0
Almost never/ Never	25	45	20	10	0
Talk about European political matters					
Frequently	56	37	6	1	0
Occasionally	19	56	21	4	0
Never	5	27	34	34	0
Image of the EU					
Total 'Positive'	26	48	18	8	0
Neutral	14	42	27	17	0
Total 'Negative'	21	36	26	17	0
Image of European Parliament					
Positive	29	51	15	5	0
Neutral	15	42	28	15	0
Negative	21	37	25	17	0
Follow the news concerning the war in Ukraine					
Follow	28	49	17	6	0
Not follow	4	31	37	28	0

1.2. Frequency of political discussions

More than seven in ten citizens discuss European politics with friends or relatives at least occasionally. Just over half say they occasionally discuss European political matters with friends and relatives (53%, +1 pp since November-December 2021), while 18% (+5 pp) say they frequently discuss European political matters. Around three in ten (29%, -5 pp) never discuss such matters.

The longer-term trend shows the proportions who frequently discuss European political matters with friends or relatives is at its highest level, while the proportion who never do so is at its lowest. The proportion who occasionally discuss such matters has remained relatively stable since 2020.

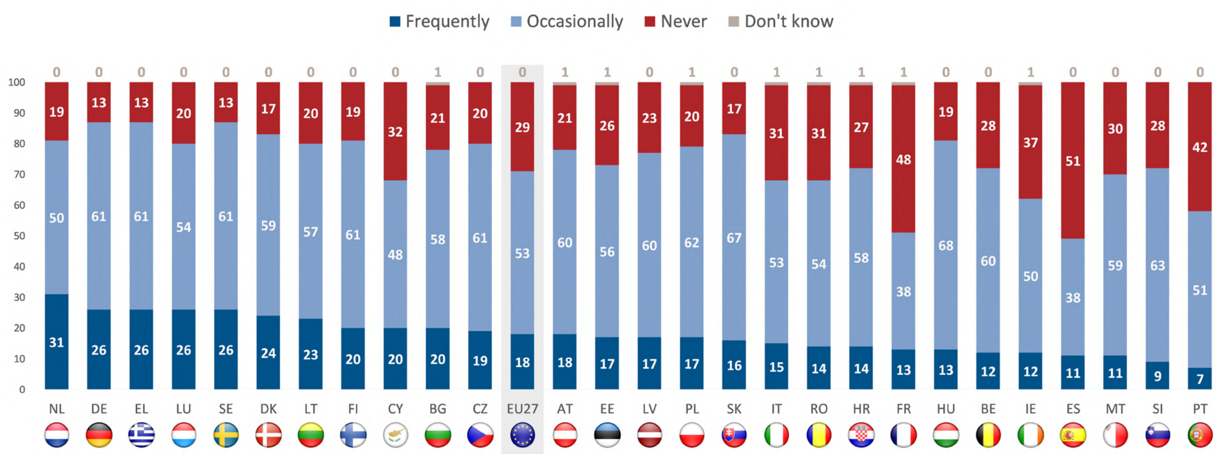
D71.2 **When you get together with friends or relatives, would you say you discuss frequently, occasionally or never about... (European political matters)** (% - EU)



In 25 countries respondents most often say they occasionally discuss European political matters, with proportions ranging from 68% in Hungary and 67% in Slovakia to50% in both Ireland and the Netherlands and 48% in Cyprus. In Spain (51%) and France (48%) respondents most often say they never discuss European political matters.

In ten countries at least one in five say they frequently discuss European political matters with friends and relatives, with the highest proportions in the Netherlands (31%), Germany, Greece, Sweden and Luxembourg (all 26%). In contrast 7% in Portugal and 9% in Slovenia say the same.

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



The socio-demographic analysis shows men (21%), those aged 25+ (17%-19%), those who stayed in education for longer (25%) and managers and the self-employed (both 26%) are most likely to frequently talk about European political matters with friends and relatives. Those who never talk about European political matters are most likely to be women (32%), those aged 15-24 (37%), those who completed education aged 15 or younger (45%), house persons (47%) and unemployed persons (45%), and those who experience the most financial difficulties (39%).

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

	Frequently	Occasionally	Never	Don't know
EU27	18	53	29	0
Gender				
Man	21	54	24	1
Woman	15	52	32	1
Age				
15-24	12	50	37	1
25-39	17	56	27	0
40-54	19	56	24	1
55 +	19	51	30	0
Education (End of)				
15-	9	45	45	1
16-19	16	54	29	1
20+	25	56	19	0
Still studying	14	51	34	1
Socio-professional category				
Self-employed	26	56	18	0
Managers	26	59	15	0
Other white collars	17	60	23	0
Manual workers	15	53	31	1
House persons	10	42	47	1
Unemployed	12	42	45	1
Retired	18	51	30	1
Students	14	51	34	1
Difficulties paying bills				
Most of the time	17	44	39	0
From time to time	14	52	33	1
Almost never/ Never	19	55	26	0

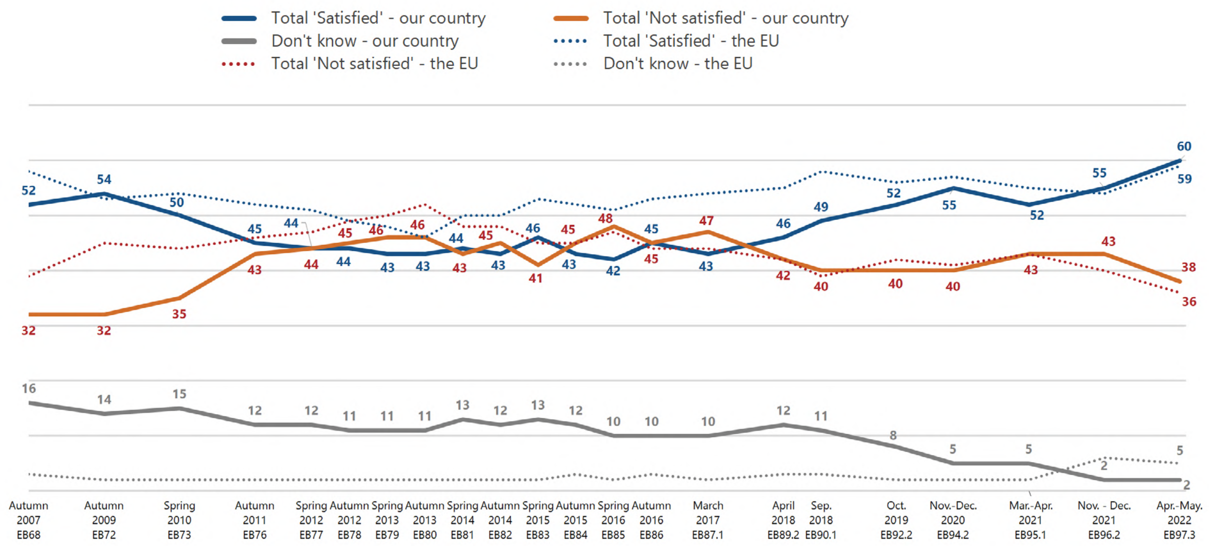
2. Democracy in the EU

2.1. Satisfaction with democracy in the EU and their country

Satisfaction with the way democracy works in the EU and nationally has increased since November-December 2021. Almost six in ten citizens (59%) say they are satisfied with the way democracy works in the EU (+5 percentage points), while 36% (-4 pp) are not satisfied. Satisfaction is now growing after generally declining since September 2018.

Six in ten respondents (60%, +5 pp) are satisfied with the way democracy works at a national level, while almost four in ten (38%, -5 pp) say they are not satisfied. Satisfaction with democracy at a national level is now at its highest ever level and has generally been growing since March 2017.

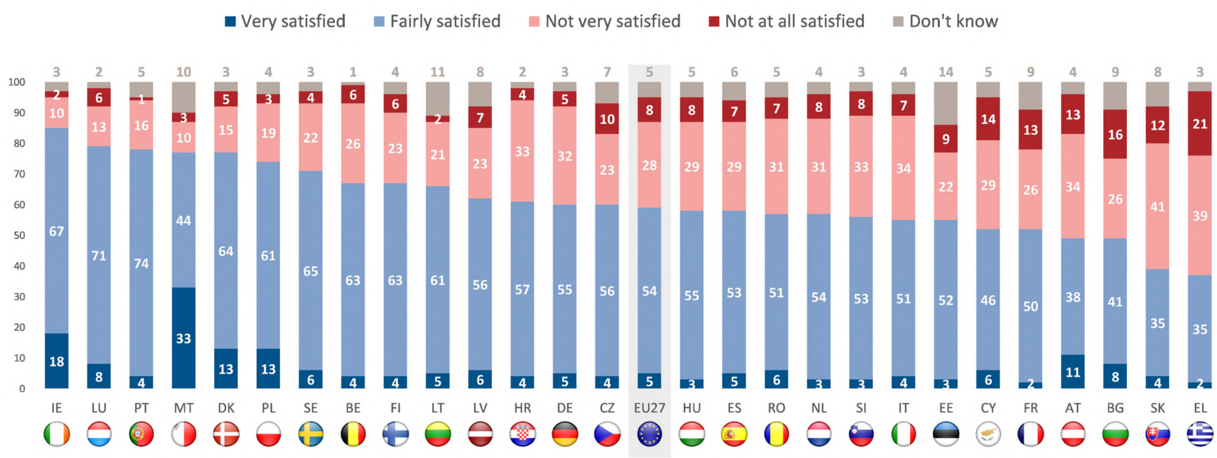
D18a/b On the whole, are you very satisfied, fairly satisfied, not very satisfied or not at all satisfied with the way democracy works in (OUR COUNTRY)? And how about the way democracy works in the EU? (% - EU)



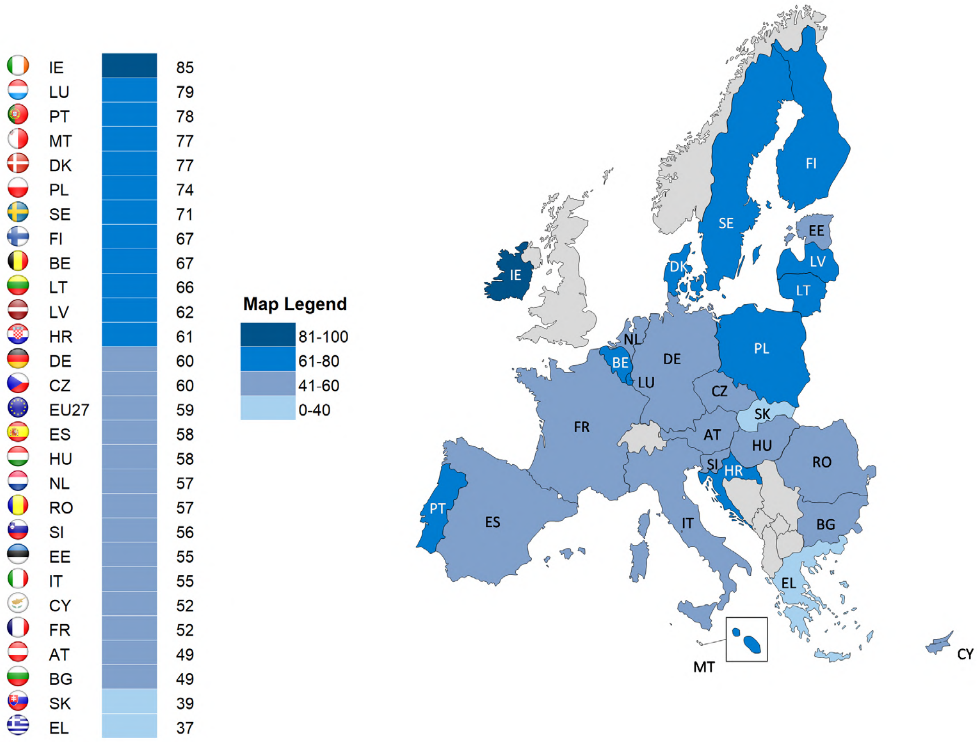
In all but two countries, the majority of respondents are satisfied with the way democracy is working in the EU, with the highest proportions seen in Ireland (85%), Luxembourg (79%) and Portugal (78%). The exceptions are Greece and Slovakia where 60% and 53% respectively are dissatisfied.

Malta (33%) is the only country where at least one in five are 'very satisfied'.

D18b And how about the way democracy works in the EU? (%)

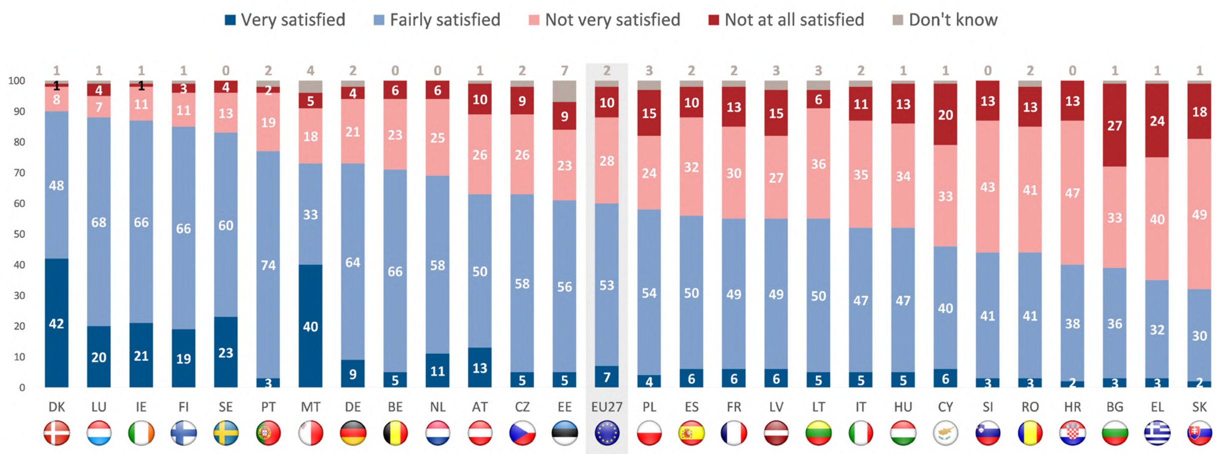


D18b **And how about the way democracy works in the EU?**
(% - Total 'Satisfied')



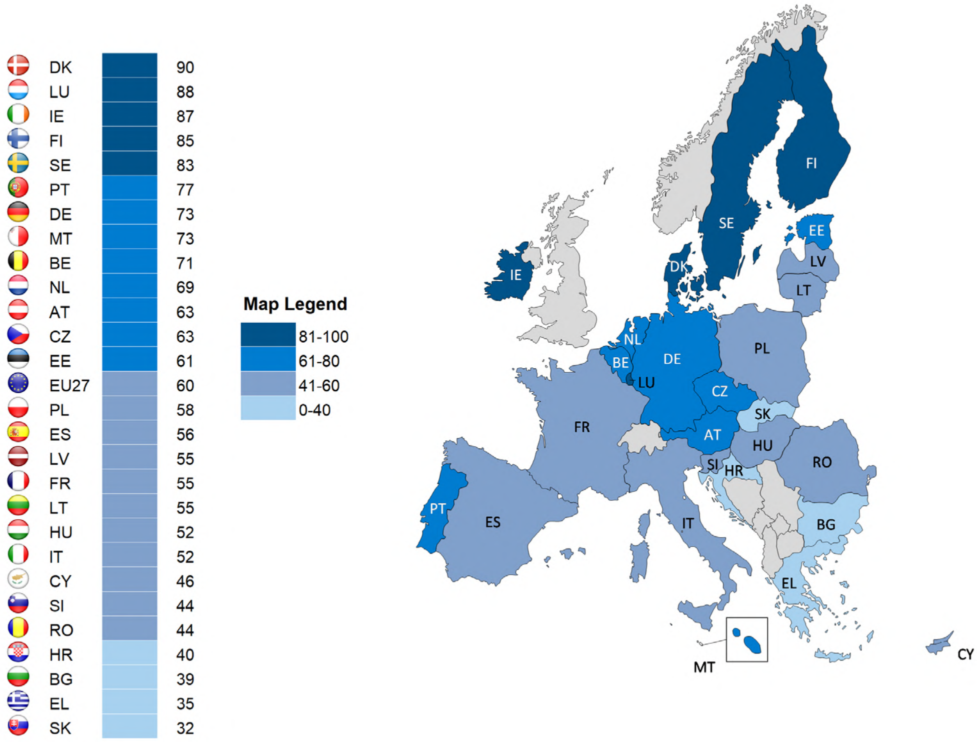
Satisfaction with the way democracy works at a national level varies dramatically across the EU. In six countries at least three quarters of respondents are satisfied with the way it is working, led by Denmark (90%), Luxembourg (88%) and Ireland (87%). In a considerable contrast, fewer than four in ten in Slovakia (32%), Greece (35%) and Bulgaria (39%) think the same way. Satisfaction is the majority view in 20 countries. In the remaining seven countries the majority are dissatisfied, with the highest levels in Slovakia (67%), Greece (64%), Bulgaria and Croatia (both 60%). In Bulgaria (27%), Greece (24%) and Cyprus (20%) at least one in five are 'not at all satisfied'.

D18a **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)?** (%)



Satisfaction with the way democracy works nationally is highest in the Nordic and central regions of Europe and tends to be lower in eastern and southern areas.

D18a **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')



The **socio-demographic analysis** shows the same pattern for satisfaction with democracy at both national and EU levels, with 15-24 year-olds, those who stayed in education the longest, students and managers and those with fewer financial difficulties the most likely to be satisfied. For example, 64% of those with the least financial difficulties are satisfied with the way democracy works in the EU, compared to 39% who experience the most difficulties.

The same pattern can be seen with those who have a positive image of the EU or of the European Parliament, both at the country and EU level. For example, 83% of respondents with a positive image of the European Parliament say they are satisfied with the way democracy works in the EU compared to 54% with a neutral opinion of it and 21% with a negative image of it.

In addition, those who are satisfied with the way democracy is working at one level are more likely to be satisfied at the way it is working at the other level. For example, 84% who are satisfied with the way democracy is working in their country are also satisfied at the EU level, compared to 22% of those who are not satisfied at the country level.

Finally, respondents who follow European politics are more likely to be satisfied with the way democracy works in their country (65%) or in the EU (64%) compared to those who do not follow European politics (51% and 50% respectively).

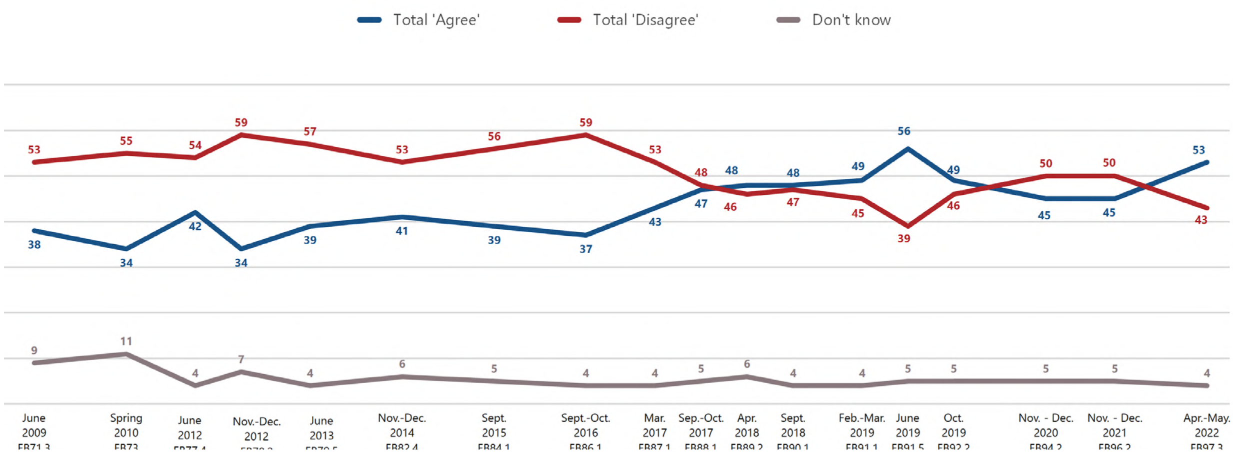
D18a/b **On the whole, are you very satisfied, fairly satisfied, not very satisfied or not at all satisfied with the way democracy works in (OUR COUNTRY)? And how about the way democracy works in the EU?**
(Total 'Satisfied')
(% - EU)

	(OUR COUNTRY)?	The EU
EU27	60	59
Gender		
Man	61	59
Woman	61	59
Age		
15-24	67	68
25-39	57	60
40-54	60	59
55 +	60	57
Education (End of)		
15-	56	51
16-19	57	56
20+	65	64
Still studying	71	71
Socio-professional category		
Self-employed	60	59
Managers	68	66
Other white collars	61	64
Manual workers	56	56
House persons	57	52
Unemployed	39	44
Retired	61	57
Students	71	71
Difficulties paying bills		
Most of the time	38	39
From time to time	51	52
Almost never/ Never	66	64
Image of the EU		
Total 'Positive'	77	82
Neutral	51	43
Total 'Negative'	21	12
Satisfaction with democracy in one's country		
Satisfied	100	84
Not satisfied		22
Satisfaction with democracy in the EU		
Satisfied	86	100
Not satisfied	22	
Image of European Parliament		
Positive	76	83
Neutral	58	54
Negative	29	21
Follow European politics		
Follow	65	64
Not follow	51	50

2.2. Feeling that respondents' voice counts in the EU / their country and that their country's voice counts in the EU

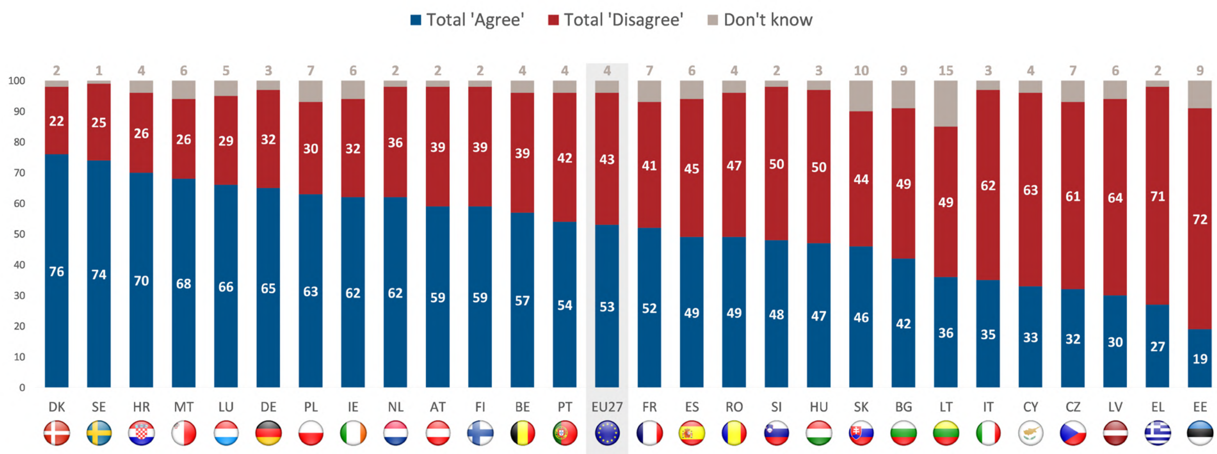
The proportion of citizens who agree that their voice counts in the EU has increased considerably since November-December 2021 and is now the view of more than half for the first time since June 2019 (53%, +8 percentage points since November-December 2021). This is the first time since October 2019 where agreement has been the majority opinion and it is also the second highest level of agreement ever recorded, after June 2019. The proportion who disagrees has also declined notably since 2021 and is now at 43% (-7 pp).

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



In 17 Member States a majority of respondents agree their voice counts in the EU, with the highest levels seen in Denmark (76%), Sweden (74%) and Croatia (70%). In the remaining ten countries a majority disagrees, with the strongest results seen in Estonia (72%) and Greece (71%).

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



In all but four Member States the proportion who agrees that their voice counts in the EU has increased. In seven countries the increase has been at least ten percentage points with the largest in Sweden (74%, +22 percentage points), Malta (68%, +21 pp) and Spain (49%, +16 pp). Agreement has remained stable in Portugal (54%, +3pp), Greece (27%, +2pp) and Bulgaria (42%, -1pp), and has declined slightly in Slovakia (46%, -4 pp).

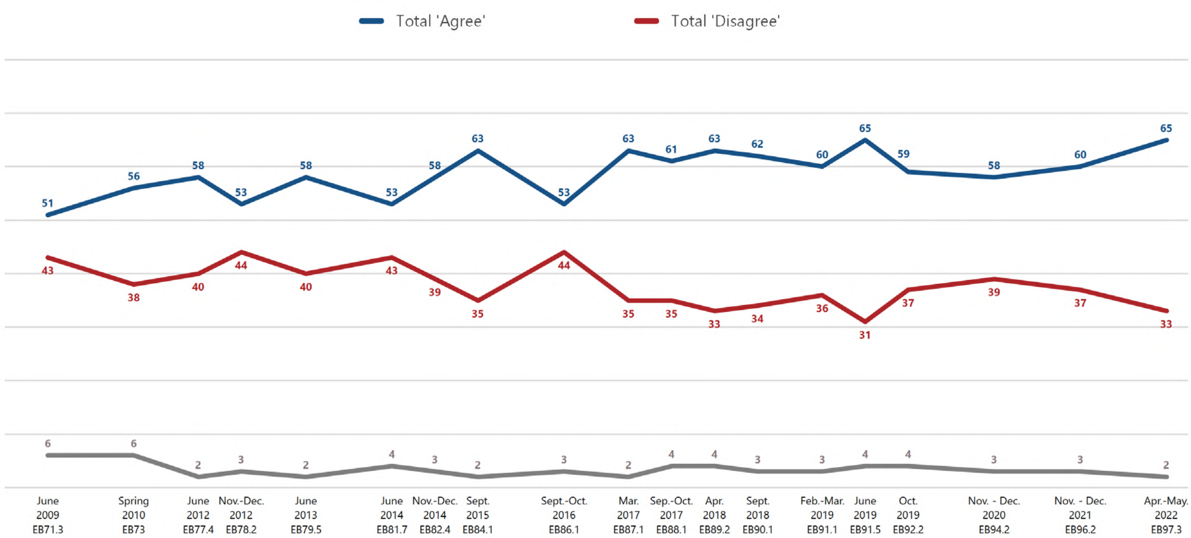
As a result of these changes, agreement has become the dominant opinion in Belgium, Spain, France, Malta, Romania and Finland.

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

		EU27	SE	MT	ES	FI	DK	BE	HU	DE	NL	HR	SI	EE	FR	LU	RO	IE	IT	LV	CZ	CY	LT	AT	PL	PT	EL	BG	SK
Total 'Agree'	Apr/May 22	53	74	68	49	59	76	57	47	65	62	70	48	19	52	66	49	62	35	30	32	33	36	59	63	54	27	42	46
	Δ Nov/Dec 21	▲8	▲22	▲21	▲16	▲15	▲11	▲10	▲10	▲9	▲9	▲8	▲8	▲7	▲7	▲7	▲7	▲6	▲6	▲6	▲5	▲5	▲4	▲4	▲4	▲3	▲2	▼1	▼4
Total 'Disagree'	Apr/May 22	43	25	26	45	39	22	39	50	32	36	26	50	72	41	29	47	32	62	64	61	63	49	39	30	42	71	49	44
	Δ Nov/Dec 21	▼7	▼21	▼21	▼15	▼14	▼10	▼11	▼8	▼7	▼9	▼8	▼6	▼3	▼6	▼5	▼6	▼5	▼5	▼6	▼8	▼4	▼8	▼1	▼5	▼2	▼2	▲4	▲4
Don't know	Apr/May 22	4	1	6	6	2	2	4	3	3	2	4	2	9	7	5	4	6	3	6	7	4	15	2	7	4	2	9	10
	Δ Nov/Dec 21	▼1	▼1	=	▼1	▼1	▼1	▲1	▼2	▼2	=	=	▼2	▼4	▼1	▼2	▼1	▼1	▼1	=	▲3	▼1	▲4	▼3	▲1	▼1	=	▼3	=

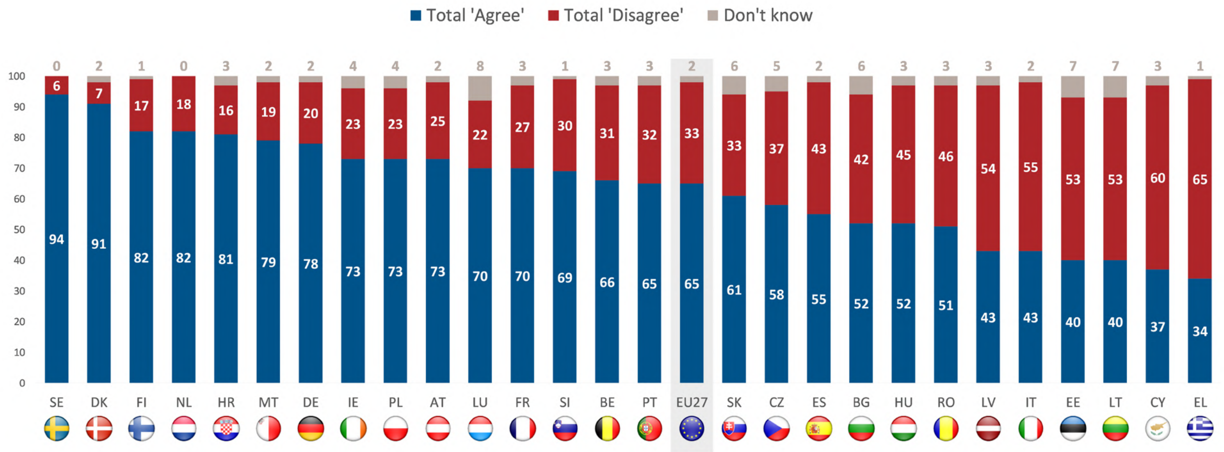
Echoing the increase seen at EU level, the proportion who agree that their voice counts in their country has increased five percentage points to 65%. Along with June 2019 this is the highest ever level of agreement. The proportion who disagrees has declined four points to 33%.

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



In 21 Member States the majority agree their voice counts in their country, with this view held by at least eight in ten in Sweden (94%), Denmark (91%), the Netherlands and Finland (both 82%) and Croatia (81%). In the remaining six countries the majority are dissatisfied, with the highest levels in Greece (65%) and Cyprus (60%).

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



Compared to November-December 2021, respondents in 17 countries are now more likely to agree their voice counts in their country, with the largest increase seen in Malta (79%, +15 percentage points), Slovenia (69%, +11 pp) and Spain (55%, +10 pp). Agreement has declined in Slovakia (61%, -5 pp), and has remained unchanged in nine countries.

As a result of these changes agreement is now the majority opinion in Spain, Hungary and Romania.

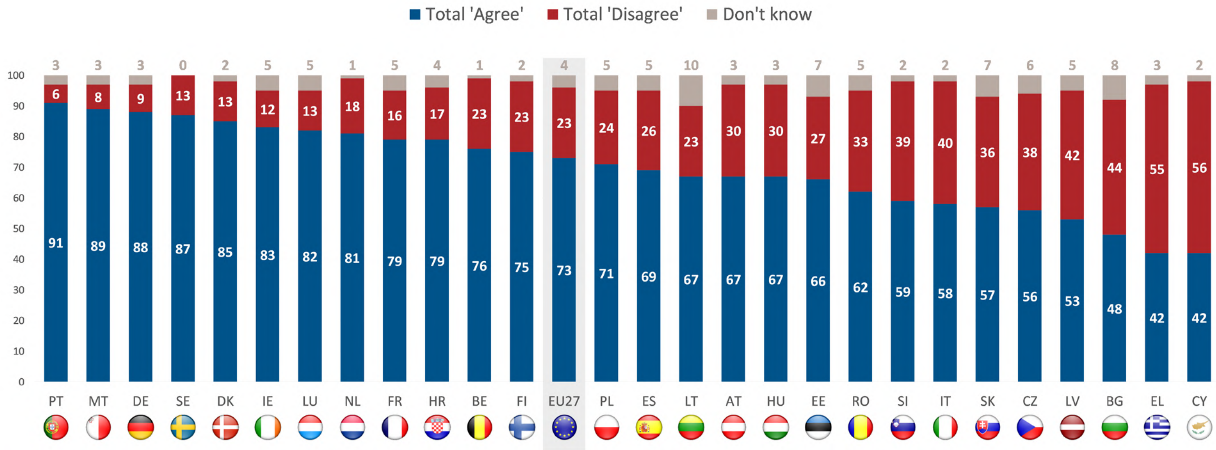
D72.2 To what extent do you agree or disagree with each of the following statemenst: My voice counts in (OUR COUNTRY) (%)

		EU27	MT	SI	ES	LV	LU	CZ	BE	HU	PL	RO	SE	IE	IT	DE	HR	CY	LT	EE	EL	FR	NL	PT	DK	FI	BG	AT	SK
Total 'Agree'	Apr/May 22	65	79	69	55	43	70	58	66	52	73	51	94	73	43	78	81	37	40	40	34	70	82	65	91	82	52	73	61
	Δ Nov/Dec 21	▲5	▲15	▲11	▲10	▲9	▲9	▲8	▲7	▲7	▲7	▲6	▲6	▲5	▲5	▲4	▲4	▲4	▲4	▲2	▲2	▲2	▲1	▲1	=	=	▼3	▼3	▼5
Total 'Disagree'	Apr/May 22	33	19	30	43	54	22	37	31	45	23	46	6	23	55	20	16	60	53	53	65	27	18	32	7	17	42	25	33
	Δ Nov/Dec 21	▼4	▼15	▼10	▼9	▼8	▼8	▼10	▼8	▼6	▼7	▼5	▼6	▼4	▼5	▼4	▼5	▼4	▼5	=	▼1	▼1	=	=	▼1	=	▲5	▲3	▲6
Don't know	Apr/May 22	2	2	1	2	3	8	5	3	3	4	3	0	4	2	2	3	3	7	7	1	3	0	3	2	1	6	2	6
	Δ Nov/Dec 21	▼1	=	▼1	▼1	▼1	▼1	▲2	▲1	▼1	=	▼1	=	▼1	=	=	▲1	=	▲1	▼2	▼1	▼1	▼1	▼1	▲1	=	▼2	=	▼1

Almost three quarters (73%) of respondents agree their country's voice counts in the EU, while 23% disagree.

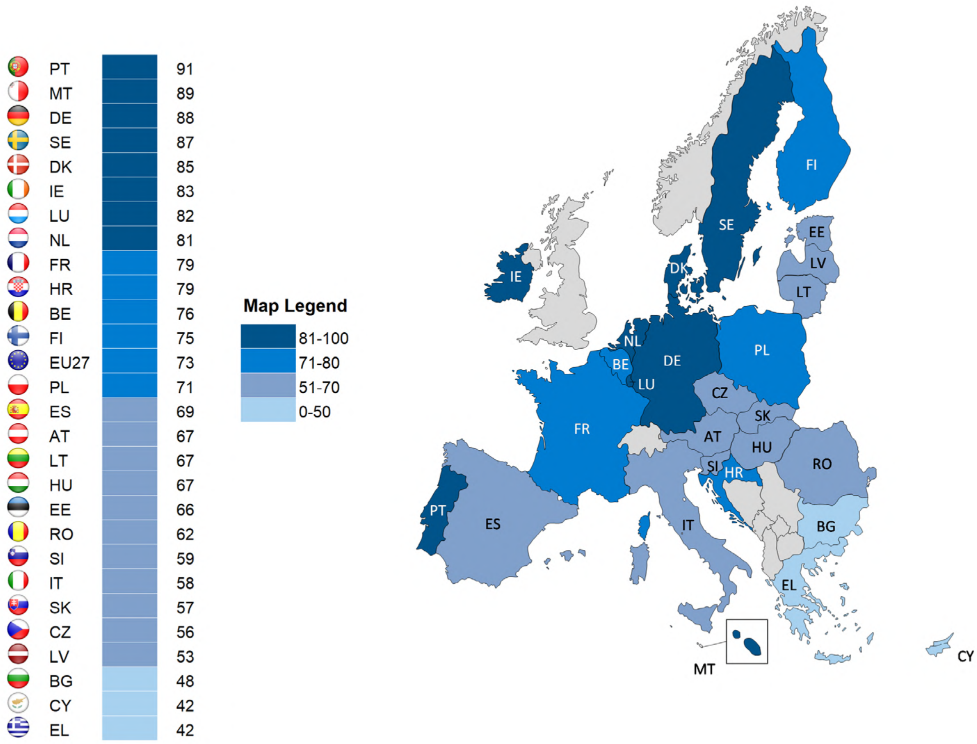
The strong EU level result masks considerable variation at a national level, with agreement ranging from 91% in Portugal, 89% in Malta and 88% in Germany, to 42% in Cyprus and Greece and 48% in Bulgaria. Agreement is the majority view in every country except Cyprus and Greece.

D72.3 To what extent do you agree or disagree with each of the following statements: (OUR COUNTRY)'s voice counts in the EU (%)



The map illustrates agreement is strongest in northern and central areas of Europe.

D72.3 To what extent do you agree or disagree with each of the following statements: (OUR COUNTRY)'s voice counts in the EU (% - Total 'Agree')



In 20 countries respondents are now more likely than in November-December 2021 to agree their country's voice counts in the EU, with the largest increases observed in Estonia (66%, +14 percentage points), Spain (69%, +14 pp), Malta (89%, +14 pp), Romania (62%, +14 pp), Hungary (67%, +13 pp) and Slovenia (59%, +11 pp).

As a result of these changes, agreement has become the dominant opinion in Czechia and Slovenia.

D72.3 To what extent do you agree or disagree with each of the following statements: (OUR COUNTRY)'s voice counts in the EU (%)

		EU27	EE	ES	MT	RO	HU	SI	IE	HR	IT	CZ	FI	EL	CY
Total 'Agree'	Apr/May 22	73	66	69	89	62	67	59	83	79	58	56	75	42	42
	Δ Nov/Dec 21	▲6	▲14	▲14	▲14	▲14	▲13	▲11	▲9	▲9	▲9	▲8	▲7	▲6	▲6
Total 'Disagree'	Apr/May 22	23	27	26	8	33	30	39	12	17	40	38	23	55	56
	Δ Nov/Dec 21	▼5	▼9	▼10	▼14	▼12	▼12	▼10	▼6	▼10	▼8	▼11	▼7	▼6	▼4
Don't know	Apr/May 22	4	7	5	3	5	3	2	5	4	2	6	2	3	2
	Δ Nov/Dec 21	▼1	▼5	▼4	=	▼2	▼1	▼1	▼3	▲1	▼1	▲3	=	=	▼2

		PT	BE	LU	DK	DE	NL	SE	LT	AT	PL	LV	FR	BG	SK
Total 'Agree'	Apr/May 22	91	76	82	85	88	81	87	67	67	71	53	79	48	57
	Δ Nov/Dec 21	▲6	▲5	▲5	▲4	▲4	▲4	▲4	▲2	▲2	▲2	▲1	=	▼1	▼3
Total 'Disagree'	Apr/May 22	6	23	13	13	9	18	13	23	30	24	42	16	44	36
	Δ Nov/Dec 21	▼3	▼5	▼4	▼4	▼4	▼4	▼4	▼2	▲1	▼2	=	▲1	▲3	▲6
Don't know	Apr/May 22	3	1	5	2	3	1	0	10	3	5	5	5	8	7
	Δ Nov/Dec 21	▼3	=	▼1	=	=	=	=	=	▼3	=	▼1	▼1	▼2	▼3

The **socio-demographic analysis** shows the most variation occurs by education and financial situation. The longer a respondent remained in education, the more likely they are to agree their voice counts in the EU, in their country and that their country's voice counts in the EU. For example, 60% who completed education aged 20+ agree that their voice counts in the EU compared to 41% who completed education aged 15 or younger. There are only small differences by age, with younger respondents aged 15-24 more likely to agree that their voice counts in the EU (55%) than those aged 55 and over (51%) and the same pattern is seen for the voice of respondents' country counting in the EU (76% vs 72%).

The analysis also shows that amongst socio-professional groups, managers are the most likely to agree with each statement, particularly compared to the unemployed. Finally, those with a positive view of the EU are more likely to agree with each statement than those with a negative view. For example, 88% with a positive image of the EU agree their country's voice counts in the EU, compared to 36% with a negative view.

The analysis also shows the fewer financial difficulties a respondent experiences, the more likely they are to agree with each statement, with the strongest effect in relation to their voice counting in their country: 72% with the least financial difficulty agree compared to 44% with the most difficulties.

Respondents who are satisfied with the way democracy works in their country or in the EU are more likely to agree that their voice counts in their country, the EU or that their country's voice counts in the EU than those who are not satisfied with the way democracy works in their country or the EU. For example, 68% of those who are satisfied with democracy in the EU agree that their voice counts in the EU compared to 31% who are not satisfied with democracy in the EU.

D72.1-3 To what extent do you agree or disagree with each of the following statements?

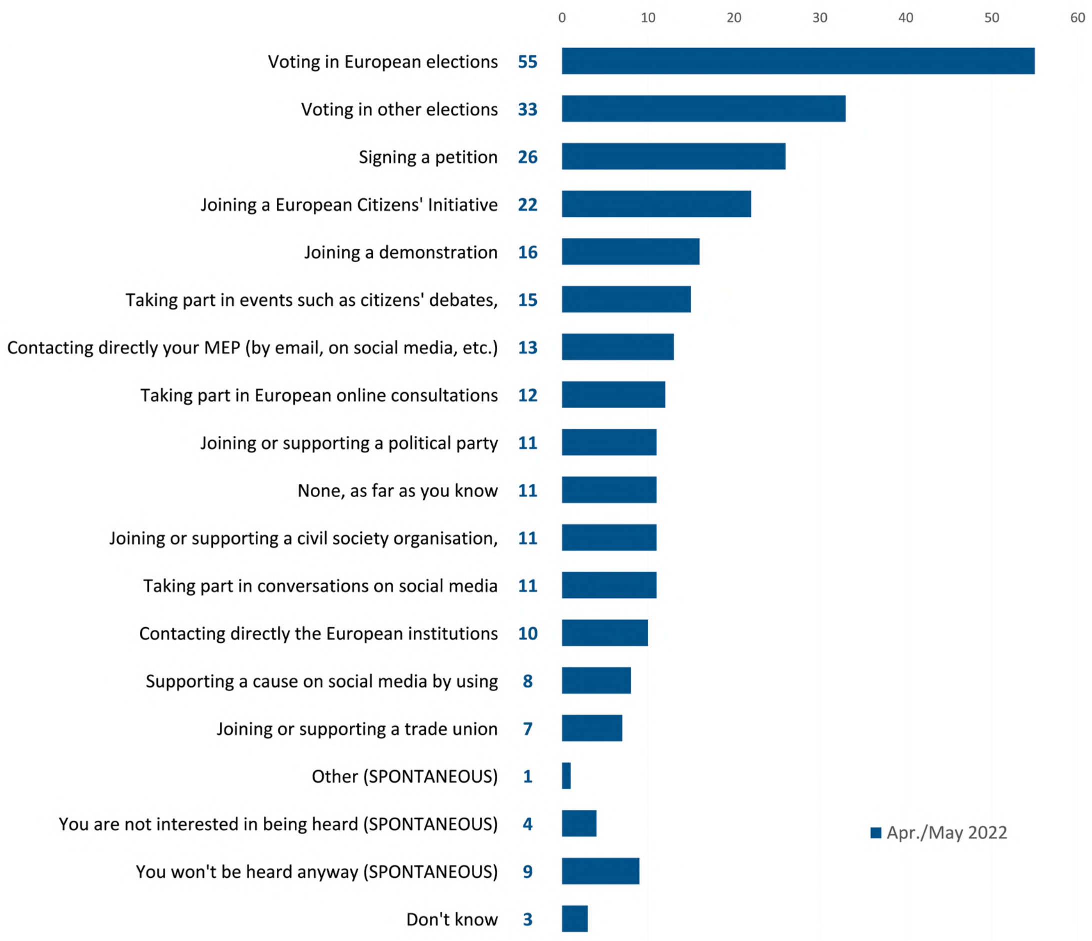
(% - EU)

	My voice counts in the EU	My voice counts in (OUR COUNTRY)	(OUR COUNTRY)'s voice counts in the EU
EU27	53	65	73
Gender			
Man	53	65	73
Woman	53	64	73
Age			
15-24	55	65	76
25-39	55	64	72
40-54	52	64	73
55 +	51	65	72
Education (End of)			
15-	41	53	63
16-19	50	63	71
20+	60	72	78
Still studying	56	66	77
Socio-professional category			
Self-employed	53	64	74
Managers	62	77	82
Other white collars	53	65	71
Manual workers	52	61	71
House persons	46	55	67
Unemployed	35	46	59
Retired	52	67	74
Students	56	66	77
Difficulties paying bills			
Most of the time	37	44	61
From time to time	44	55	64
Almost never/ Never	58	72	78
Satisfaction with democracy in the EU			
Satisfied	68	77	85
Not satisfied	31	46	55

2.3. Reaching EU decision-makers

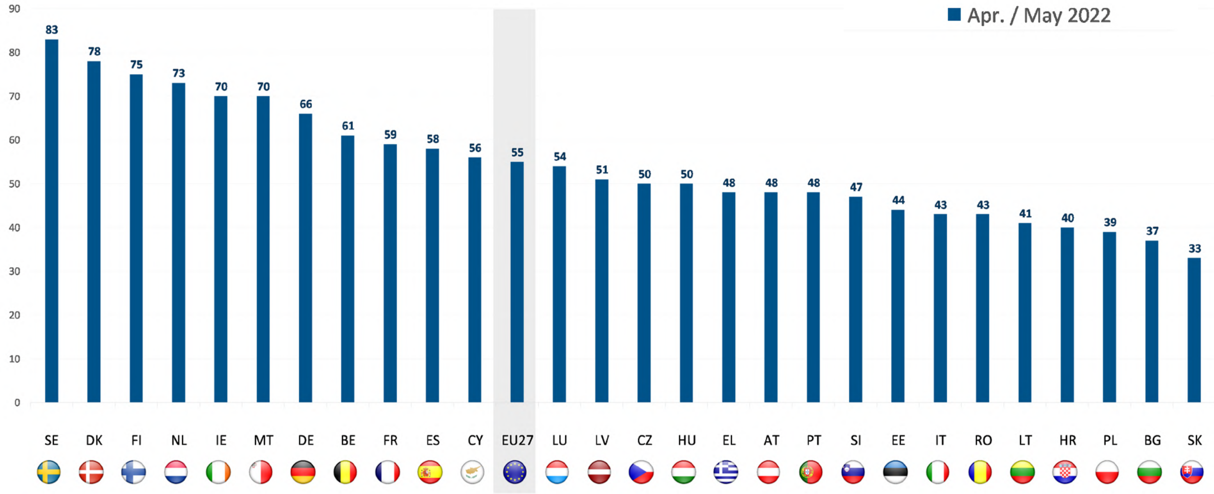
Respondents were asked to choose the best way to have their voice heard by EU decision makers. **The majority (55%) say that voting in European elections is the best way to ensure their voice is heard by EU decision-makers.** One third mention voting in other elections (33%), while 26% say signing a petition and 22% mention joining a European Citizens' Initiative. The remaining options are mentioned by less than one in five respondents.

QA18ab Which of the following do you think are the best ways of ensuring your voice is heard by decision-makers at EU level? Firstly? And then? (MAX. 4 ANSWERS) (% - EU)



With the exception of Slovakia, respondents in every country say that voting in European elections is the best way of ensuring their voice is heard by EU decision-makers. However, proportions vary considerably, from 83% in Sweden, 78% in Denmark and 75% in Finland to 33% in Slovakia, 37% in Bulgaria and 39% in Poland.

QA18ab Which of the following do you think are the best ways of ensuring your voice is heard by decision-makers at EU level? Firstly? And then? (MAX. 4 ANSWERS) (% - Voting in European elections)



Respondents in Slovakia (34%) most often say **signing a petition** is the best option. This is also mentioned by 37% in Malta, 36% in Austria and Czechia and 34% in the Netherlands. In contrast only 12% in Estonia and 18% in Portugal mention this.

Voting in other elections is the second or third most mentioned option in 24 countries, with proportions ranging from 45% in Denmark, 43% in Malta and 42% in Ireland to 19% in Slovakia, 21% in Czechia and 23% in Estonia.

Amongst the other options, the Netherlands (38%) and Finland (32%) are the only countries where at least three in ten mention **joining a European Citizens' Initiative**. It is also worth noting that respondents in Finland (32%) are much more likely than those in other countries to mention **contacting their MEP directly**, while those in the Netherlands (30%) and Belgium (27%) are more likely than respondents in other countries to mention **taking part in European online consultations**.

It is also worth highlighting that at least one in five in Portugal (27%) and Estonia (21%) spontaneously answer that they won't be heard anyway.

QA18ab **Which of the following do you think are the best ways of ensuring your voice is heard by decision-makers at EU level? Firstly? And then?** (%)

	EU27	BE	BG	CZ	DK	DE	EE	IE	EL	ES	FR	HR	IT	CY	LV	LT	LU	HU	MT	NL	AT	PL	PT	RO	SI	SK	FI	SE
Voting in European elections	55	61	37	50	78	66	44	70	48	58	59	40	43	56	51	41	54	50	70	73	48	39	48	43	47	33	75	83
Voting in other elections	33	31	30	21	45	40	23	42	24	33	34	24	28	40	25	31	29	35	43	34	38	26	24	32	27	19	36	39
Signing a petition	26	26	20	36	25	33	12	24	24	20	21	33	25	31	21	22	30	24	37	34	36	29	18	26	32	34	30	22
Joining a European Citizens' Initiative	22	29	17	23	22	24	18	19	25	19	18	26	25	21	23	22	20	20	12	38	26	18	15	19	26	20	32	18
Joining a demonstration	16	19	19	14	10	18	6	12	17	18	13	20	16	20	14	12	15	10	13	11	16	18	17	20	11	17	6	7
Taking part in events such as citizens' debates, citizens' assemblies, etc.	15	18	16	18	13	16	12	16	22	11	13	16	16	17	14	12	16	13	15	14	23	19	7	14	15	13	9	12
Contacting directly your MEP (by email, on social media, etc.)	13	12	11	23	14	15	13	25	12	5	8	15	14	12	13	16	12	11	17	15	15	16	4	12	20	13	32	23
Taking part in European online consultations	12	27	7	10	10	8	11	15	10	10	14	12	13	8	8	6	20	8	14	30	10	12	8	14	15	7	8	10
Joining or supporting a political party	11	15	14	11	23	11	9	17	8	5	7	10	11	9	10	5	12	10	21	21	16	7	13	12	9	8	10	29
None, as far as you know	11	11	14	9	5	8	5	6	14	17	10	12	16	12	8	9	11	7	5	5	13	10	9	10	9	22	4	5
Joining or supporting a civil society organisation, such as a non-governmental organisation	11	11	9	9	16	8	11	10	11	8	9	14	16	14	11	6	14	12	11	15	12	13	6	13	15	7	10	19
Taking part in conversations on social media	11	11	14	9	11	11	11	14	16	8	10	16	9	11	17	15	11	10	15	8	13	12	12	15	14	13	8	9
Contacting directly the European institutions (by email, on social media, etc.)	10	13	13	14	6	10	10	13	13	7	6	16	12	12	11	13	12	8	11	10	13	12	5	12	17	10	12	11
Supporting a cause on social media by using a specific hashtag or a specific image	8	9	7	8	8	4	9	8	8	7	8	11	10	13	7	6	9	9	8	8	14	13	5	11	7	6	4	6
Joining or supporting a trade union	7	8	5	5	11	6	6	7	4	6	7	9	9	6	7	3	8	11	8	9	14	6	7	9	6	4	6	8
Other (SPONTANEOUS)	1	0	0	1	0	1	2	0	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	1	0	1	0	1	1	1	0	1	1
You are not interested in being heard (SPONTANEOUS)	4	1	6	3	1	4	5	2	8	3	3	7	3	1	2	7	1	10	4	0	3	4	8	6	5	10	0	1
You won't be heard anyway (SPONTANEOUS)	9	4	13	8	1	6	21	3	17	11	11	6	12	13	7	14	4	8	3	2	9	6	27	6	6	11	3	1
Don't know	3	1	4	4	3	3	5	2	1	5	4	1	2	1	6	4	3	2	2	1	1	4	4	2	2	5	2	1

1st MOST FREQUENTLY MENTIONED ITEM

2nd MOST FREQUENTLY MENTIONED ITEM

3rd MOST FREQUENTLY MENTIONED ITEM

The **socio-demographic analysis** focuses on the four most mentioned actions. The older the respondent, the more likely they are to say voting in an election is the best way of ensuring their voice is heard by EU decision makers. This is true for both voting in European elections (15-24 years old: 52%; 55+ years old: 58%) and for voting in other elections (15-24 years old: 27%; 55+ years old: 35%). In addition, younger Europeans more often consider that joining a European Citizens' Initiative (15-24 years old: 26%; 55+ years old: 19%) is the best way to be heard.

Europeans with a higher education level are more likely to mention voting in European elections (63%) or joining a European Citizens' Initiative (27%) as a way to be heard by decision-makers. It is noteworthy that a higher share of Europeans with a lower level of education respond with 'You won't be heard anyway' (17% vs 6% among those who finished education at aged 20 or older) or 'not being interested in being heard' (7% vs 1%).

The analysis also shows managers are more likely than other socio-professional groups to mention voting in European elections (65%) or joining a European Citizens' Initiative (30%).

Respondents who experience fewer financial difficulties are more likely to mention voting in European or other elections or joining a European Citizens' Initiative.

Finally, respondents who think it is of high importance to vote in the European elections are more likely to mention voting in European elections (69%) or voting in other elections (40%) as one of the best ways of ensuring their voice is heard by EU-level decision-makers compared to those who put low importance on voting (18% and 14% respectively). They are also more likely to mention joining a European Citizens' initiative (25% vs 13% who put a low importance on voting).

QA18ab **Which of the following do you think are the best ways of ensuring your voice is heard by decision-makers at EU level? Firstly? And then?** (% - EU)

	Voting in European elections	Voting in other elections	Signing a petition	Joining a European Citizens' Initiative
EU27	55	33	26	22
Gender				
Man	55	32	26	24
Woman	55	33	27	21
Age				
15-24	52	27	29	26
25-39	51	30	28	23
40-54	56	33	27	24
55 +	58	35	25	19
Education (End of)				
15-	51	35	20	15
16-19	51	33	27	20
20+	63	33	27	27
Still studying	53	26	30	27
Socio-professional category				
Self-employed	55	32	25	27
Managers	65	36	27	30
Other white collars	56	34	28	23
Manual workers	50	32	27	21
House persons	48	32	23	16
Unemployed	42	23	25	18
Retired	59	36	25	18
Students	53	26	30	27
Difficulties paying bills				
Most of the time	40	28	24	16
From time to time	47	29	25	21
Almost never/ Never	60	34	27	23
Importance of voting to the European elections				
Low importance	18	14	20	13
Medium importance	40	25	24	19
High importance	69	40	29	25

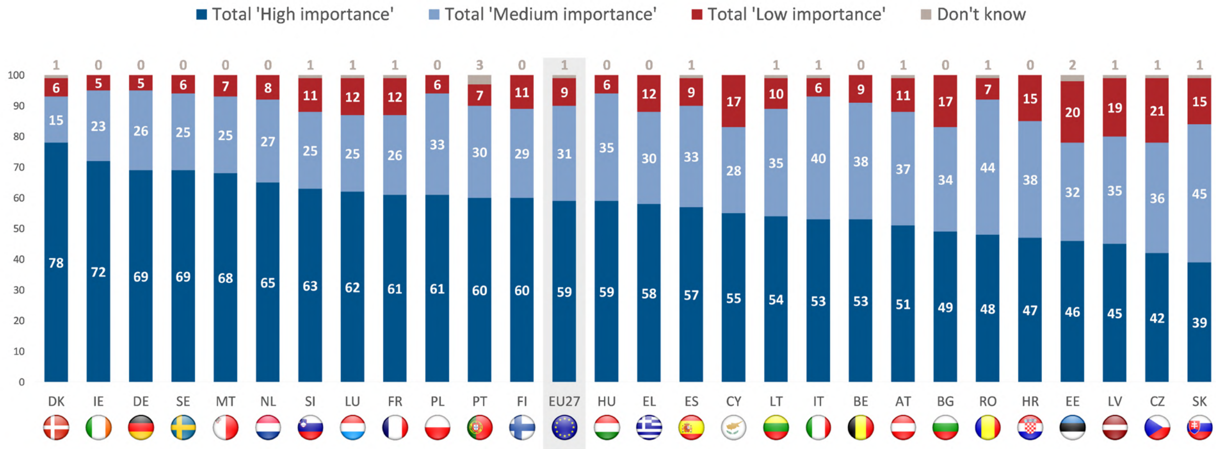
2.4. Importance of voting in European and national elections

The importance of voting in the European elections has increased since September 2018, with almost six in ten (59%) citizens now placing high importance on voting (+8 percentage points). Around three in ten (31%, -1 pp) say voting in these elections is of medium importance, while 9% (-7 pp) say it is of low importance to them.

With the exception of Slovakia, the majority of respondents in each Member State place high personal importance on voting in the European elections, although proportions range from 78% in Denmark, 72% in Ireland and 69% in Germany and Sweden to 42% in Czechia, 45% in Latvia and 46% in Estonia. In Slovakia, 39% place high importance on voting, with most (45%) placing medium importance on voting in European elections.

In 14 countries at least one in ten place low importance on voting in European elections, with the largest proportions seen in Czechia (21%) and Estonia (20%).

QA19a Please tell how important or not it is for you personally to vote in the European elections. Please use a scale from 1 to 10, when 1 means that voting is something that has no importance at all for you, and 10 means that voting is something you consider essential or that is a key duty for you as a citizen. The remaining numbers indicates something in between these two positions (%)



	DK	IE	DE	SE	MT	NL	SI	LU	FR	PL	PT	FI	EU27	HU	EL	ES	CY	LT	IT	BE	AT	BG	RO	HR	EE	LV	CZ	SK
Total 'High importance'	78	72	69	69	68	65	63	62	61	61	60	60	59	59	58	57	55	54	53	53	51	49	48	47	46	45	42	39
Total 'Medium importance'	15	23	26	25	25	27	25	25	26	33	30	29	31	35	30	33	28	35	40	38	37	34	44	38	32	35	36	45
Total 'Low importance'	6	5	5	6	7	8	11	12	12	6	7	11	9	6	12	9	17	10	6	9	11	17	7	15	20	19	21	15
Don't know	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	0	3	0	1	0	0	1		1	1	0	1	0	1	0	2	1	1	1

The proportion of respondents across the EU who say voting in the European elections is important for them personally has increased by eight points since September 2018 and has also increased in 23 countries. In fact, in 13 countries the increase has been at least ten percentage points, with the largest increases seen in Portugal (60%, +26 percentage points), Poland (61%, +19), Czechia (42%, +18 pp), Croatia (47%, +18 pp) and Slovenia (63%, +18 pp). In contrast the proportion who say voting is of high importance to them has declined in Sweden (69%, -7 pp). The results are stable in Denmark (+ 2 pp), Romania (-1 pp) and the Netherlands (-2 pp).

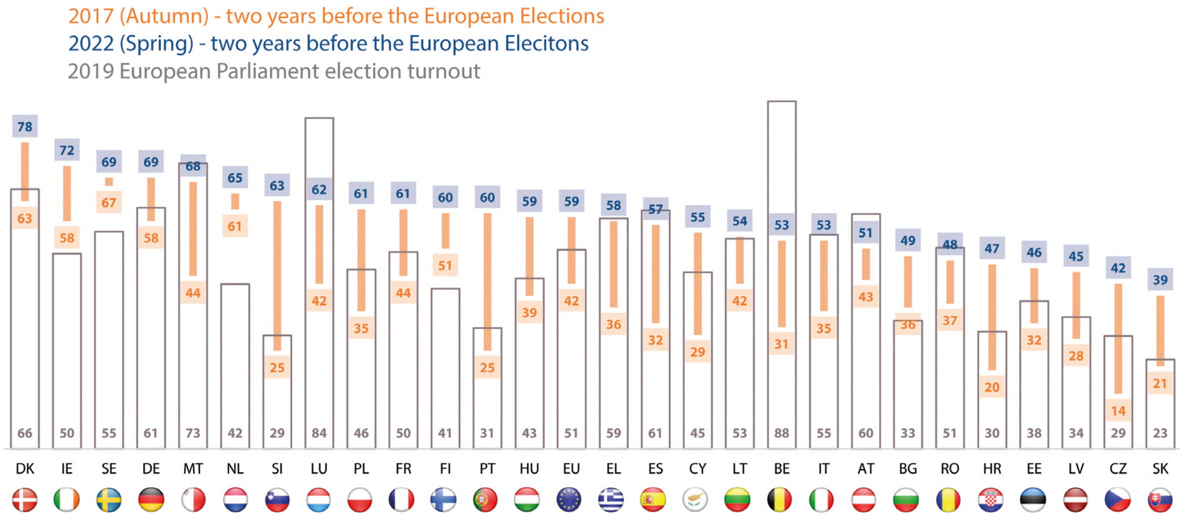
As a result of these changes, high importance has become the dominant opinion in Czechia, Croatia, Portugal.

QA19a **Please tell how important or not it is for you personally to vote in the European elections.** Please use a scale from 1 to 10, when 1 means that voting is something that has no importance at all for you, and 10 means that voting is something you consider essential or that is a key duty for you as a citizen. The remaining numbers indicates something in between these two positions (%)

		EU27		PT	PL	CZ	HR	SI	IE	LU	BE	ES	CY	BG	EL	FR	MT	SK	IT	AT	FI	DE	HU	LV	EE	LT	DK	RO	NL	SE
1 Voting has no importance at all for you	Apr/May 22	4		4	3	10	8	6	2	6	5	4	9	9	4	7	4	10	2	4	6	2	3	10	12	5	3	4	3	2
	Δ Sep 2018	▼6	=	▼6	▼8	▼11	▼8	▼12	▼4	▼4	▼7	▼10	▼8	▼4	▼6	▼7	▼3	▼6	▼5	▼2	▼3	▼5	▼5	▼5	▼2	▼6	▼1	▼4	▼2	▼1
2	Apr/May 22	2		1	1	5	2	2	1	2	2	2	3	3	3	2	1	1	1	2	2	1	1	3	4	2	1	1	2	2
	Δ Sep 2018	=	=	▼3	▼1	▼1	▼5	▼2	▼1	▼1	▼1	▼1	=	=	▼1	=	▼2	▼3	▼1	▼1	▼1	▼1	▼1	▼1	=	▼2	▼1	=	▲1	▲1
3	Apr/May 22	3		2	2	6	5	3	2	4	2	3	5	5	5	3	2	4	3	5	3	2	2	6	4	3	2	2	3	2
	Δ Sep 2018	▼1	=	▼5	▼2	▼4	▼3	▼1	▼2	▼2	▼2	▼1	▼1	▼1	=	▼2	=	▼2	▼1	▼1	▼1	▼1	▼1	▲2	▼2	▼2	=	=	▲2	=
4	Apr/May 22	3		4	2	6	5	2	1	2	4	2	2	4	3	2	2	3	4	5	4	3	1	4	4	4	2	4	3	3
	Δ Sep 2018	=	=	▼2	▼1	▲2	▼3	▼1	▼1	▼1	=	▼1	=	▼1	▼2	=	▼1	▼1	=	▼1	▲1	▲1	▼1	=	▲1	▲1	=	=	▲1	▲1
5	Apr/May 22	9		13	8	14	13	8	7	7	11	11	7	10	9	11	6	19	9	9	7	8	8	14	11	13	4	14	5	7
	Δ Sep 2018	▼2	=	▼6	▼3	▼4	=	▼6	▼2	▼5	▼3	▲1	▼9	▼2	▼2	▼1	▼4	▼1	▼1	▼3	▼2	▼1	▼5	▼1	▼3	=	▼2	▲1	▼1	▲2
6	Apr/May 22	7		5	8	6	10	6	6	6	9	8	8	8	7	4	6	10	10	9	8	6	11	7	6	6	3	13	6	6
	Δ Sep 2018	=	=	▼3	▼2	=	▲3	▲2	▼1	▲1	▲1	▲1	▲3	▼1	▲1	▼1	▲2	▲2	=	▼2	=	▲1	▲3	=	▼1	▲2	=	▲3	=	▲3
7	Apr/May 22	12		8	15	10	10	9	9	10	14	12	11	12	11	9	11	13	17	14	10	9	15	10	11	12	6	13	13	9
	Δ Sep 2018	▲1	=	▼2	▲1	=	▼1	▲1	▼2	▲1	▲1	=	▲4	▲2	▲1	▲1	▲2	▲5	▲1	▲1	▼1	▲1	▲5	=	▲4	▲3	▲2	▲2	▲1	▲1
8	Apr/May 22	16		22	21	11	12	14	19	10	13	17	16	15	20	12	9	15	22	13	17	13	16	11	10	14	9	14	15	11
	Δ Sep 2018	▲3	=	▲9	▲8	▲4	▲4	▲5	▲4	▼2	▲1	▲4	▲5	▲2	▲4	▲1	▼4	▲4	▲3	▼1	▲1	▲3	=	▲1	▲1	▲4	▲2	▲2	=	▼2
9	Apr/May 22	10		15	14	9	9	9	15	11	10	12	6	12	12	8	5	8	9	7	14	10	10	8	9	10	8	8	12	10
	Δ Sep 2018	▲3	=	▲10	▲6	▲5	▲4	▲4	▲6	▲6	▲6	▲4	▼1	▲6	=	▲3	▼3	▲2	▲2	▼1	▲5	▲3	▲1	▲4	▲5	▲4	▲4	=	▲3	▲4
10 Voting is something you consider essential, it is a key duty for you as a citizen (M)	Apr/May 22	33		23	26	22	26	40	38	41	30	28	33	22	26	41	54	16	22	31	29	46	33	26	27	30	61	26	38	48
	Δ Sep 2018	▲2	=	▲7	▲5	▲9	▲10	▲9	▲3	▲9	▲4	▲3	▲7	▲2	▲6	▲6	▲16	▲3	▲3	▲10	▲2	=	▲5	=	▼2	▼4	▼4	▼3	▼5	▼9
Don't know	Apr/May 22	1		3	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	1	1	1	0	0	0	1	2	1	1	1	0	0
	Δ Sep 2018	=	=	▲1	▼3	=	▼1	▲1	=	▼2	=	=	=	▼3	▼1	=	▼3	▼3	▼1	▲1	▼1	▼1	▼1	=	▼1	=	=	▼1	=	=
Total 'Low importance'	Apr/May 22	9		7	6	21	15	11	5	12	9	9	17	17	12	12	7	15	6	11	11	5	6	19	20	10	6	7	8	6
	Δ Sep 2018	▼7	=	▼14	▼11	▼16	▼16	▼15	▼7	▼7	▼10	▼12	▼9	▼5	▼7	▼9	▼5	▼11	▼7	▼4	▼5	▼7	▼7	▼4	▼4	▼10	▼2	▼4	▲1	=
Total 'Medium importance'	Apr/May 22	31		30	33	36	38	25	23	25	38	33	28	34	30	26	25	45	40	37	29	26	35	35	32	35	15	44	27	25
	Δ Sep 2018	▼1	=	▼13	▼5	▼2	▼1	▼4	▼6	▼4	▼1	▲1	▼2	▼2	▼2	▼1	▼1	▲5	=	▼5	▼2	▲2	▲2	▼1	▲1	▲6	=	▲6	▲1	▲7
Total 'High importance'	Apr/May 22	59		60	61	42	47	63	72	62	53	57	55	49	58	61	68	39	53	51	60	69	59	45	46	54	78	48	65	69
	Δ Sep 2018	▲8	=	▲26	▲19	▲18	▲18	▲18	▲13	▲13	▲11	▲11	▲11	▲10	▲10	▲10	▲9	▲9	▲8	▲8	▲8	▲6	▲6	▲5	▲4	▲4	▲2	▼1	▼2	▼7

Two years before the 2024 European Elections, there is an increased proportion of citizens considering voting in elections as important. Compared to the public opinion two years before the 2019 European elections (Parlemeter 2017), voting is now considered more important in nearly each Member State. This is especially the case in Slovenia (+38 pp), Portugal (+35 pp) and Czechia (+28 pp). While the 'importance to vote in European elections' cannot be used as a prediction for the 2024 European Election turnout, it is remarkable that the share of citizens considering voting as important is higher in 14 Member States. The biggest differences can be observed in Slovenia (+34 points higher than the 2019 European Election turnout), Portugal (+29 pp) and the Netherlands (+23 pp). The proportion is significantly lower in Belgium (35 points below the 2019 European Election turnout) and Luxembourg (-22 pp), where voting is compulsory However, this is also the case in three additional Member States: Austria (-9 pp), Malta (-5 pp) and Spain (-4 pp).

QA19a **Voting in the European Elections - considered 'important'** (7-10 on a 1-10 scale)

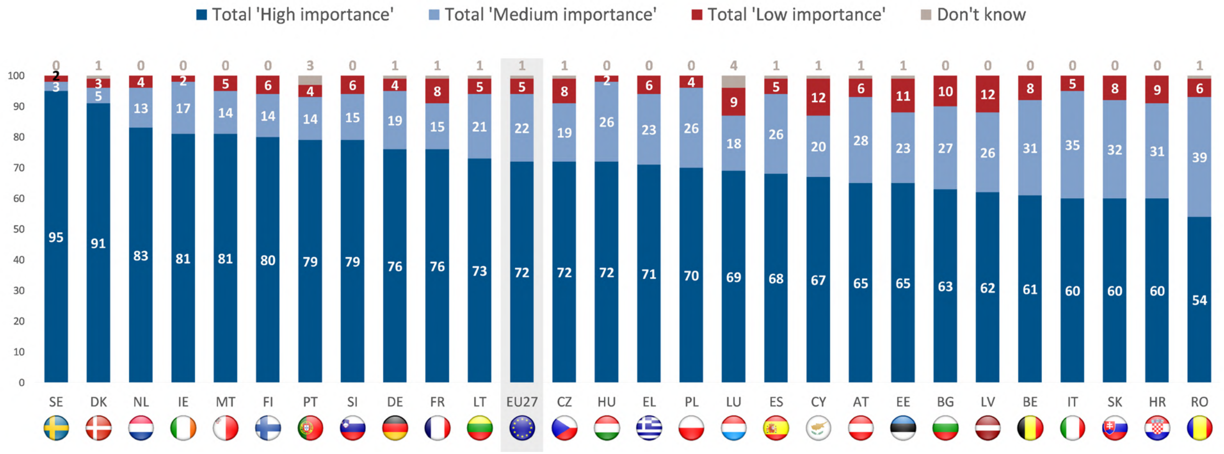


Almost three quarters (72%) of respondents say it is of high importance for them personally to vote in national elections. Around one in five (22%) say this is of medium importance to them while 5% say it is of low importance.

The majority of respondents in each country say voting in national elections is of high importance to them, although proportions vary from 95% in Sweden, 91% in Denmark and 83% in the Netherlands to 54% in Romania, 60% in Slovakia, Italy and Croatia. Cyprus, Latvia (both 12%), Estonia (11%) and Bulgaria (10%) are the only countries where at least one in ten say voting in these elections is of low importance to them.

In every country, respondents are more likely to place high importance on voting in national elections than they are in EU elections, but the disparity varies considerably. The lowest variations are seen in Romania (national 54%, EU 48%), Luxembourg (national 69%, EU 62%), Italy (national 63%, EU 53%) and Germany (national 76%, EU 69%) and the largest in Czechia (national 72%, EU 42%), Sweden (national 95%, EU 69%) and Slovakia (national 60%, EU 39%).

QA19b And how important or not is it for you to vote in the national elections in (OUR COUNTRY)? (%)



Compared to September 2018, respondents in 14 countries are now more likely to place high importance on voting in national elections with the largest increases seen in Slovenia (79%, +19 percentage points), Czechia (72%, +18 pp), Portugal (79%, +17 pp), Croatia (60%, +12 pp) and Slovakia (60%, +10 pp). The proportion has declined in four countries including the Netherlands (83%, -6 pp), and has remained stable in nine countries.

QA19b And how important or not is it for you to vote in the national elections in (OUR COUNTRY)? (%)

		EU27	SI	CZ	PT	HR	SK	BE	IE	CY	PL	LU	HU	BG	FR	IT	EL	MT	ES	LT	FI	AT	DK	SE	DE	EE	LV	RO	NL
1 Voting has no importance at all for you	Apr/May 22	3	4	5	3	4	5	5	1	7	2	6	1	6	4	2	2	3	3	3	3	3	2	1	2	7	7	3	2
	Δ Sep 2018	▼3	▼9	▼5	▼3	▼5	▼4	▼5	▼3	▼6	▼3	▼3	▼3	▼2	▼4	▼3	▼3	▼1	▼4	▼4	▼1	=	=	▲1	▼2	▲1	▼1	=	▼1
2	Apr/May 22	1	1	2	0	1	0	2	0	3	1	1	0	2	2	1	1	0	1	1	1	1	0	0	1	2	2	1	1
	Δ Sep 2018	=	▼1	=	▼2	▼2	▼1	=	▼1	▲1	=	▼1	▼1	▲1	▲1	=	▼1	▼1	=	▼1	▼1	=	=	=	=	▲1	▲1	=	▲1
3	Apr/May 22	1	1	1	1	4	3	1	1	2	1	2	1	2	2	2	3	2	1	1	2	2	1	1	1	2	3	2	1
	Δ Sep 2018	▼1	▼3	▼3	▼1	▼1	=	▼2	=	▼1	▼1	=	▼1	▼2	▲1	▼1	▲1	▲1	▼1	=	▲1	=	=	=	=	▼1	=	=	▲1
4	Apr/May 22	2	2	1	1	5	2	3	1	1	1	2	1	3	1	4	3	0	2	2	1	4	0	0	2	2	4	4	2
	Δ Sep 2018	=	▼1	▼2	▼2	▼1	=	▲1	=	▼1	▼1	▲1	=	=	=	▲1	▲2	▼1	=	▲1	=	=	=	=	▲1	=	▲2	▲1	▲2
5	Apr/May 22	6	5	6	6	8	13	9	5	7	5	6	5	6	6	6	7	5	8	8	3	6	2	1	5	8	9	12	2
	Δ Sep 2018	=	▼4	▼6	▼3	▼2	=	▼1	▼1	▼4	▼2	▼3	▼3	▼2	▼1	=	▲1	▼1	▲1	=	▼1	▼1	▲1	=	▲1	▲1	▲1	▲2	=
6	Apr/May 22	5	3	4	2	9	7	6	3	5	6	4	8	8	3	9	6	3	5	5	2	8	1	0	5	5	5	12	3
	Δ Sep 2018	=	=	▼1	▼4	▲1	▼3	▼2	▼3	▲2	▼2	▲1	=	▲2	=	=	=	▲2	▲1	▲2	▼2	▲1	=	▼1	▲2	▲1	▲1	▲3	▲1
7	Apr/May 22	9	5	8	5	9	10	13	8	7	14	6	12	10	5	16	7	6	11	6	8	10	2	2	7	8	8	11	6
	Δ Sep 2018	=	▼1	▼2	▼4	▼1	▲1	▲1	▲1	▲1	▲3	▲1	▲2	=	▼1	▲1	▼3	▲3	▲2	=	▲3	▼1	▼1	▲1	▲2	▲2	▲2	▼1	▲2
8	Apr/May 22	15	9	11	21	12	16	15	17	14	21	12	17	17	11	21	19	8	17	13	11	13	5	6	11	10	10	16	13
	Δ Sep 2018	▲2	=	▼2	▲6	=	▲5	▲1	▲4	▲4	▲8	▲3	▲3	▲2	▼2	=	▼2	▼2	▲2	▲2	▲1	=	=	▲4	▲2	▼2	▲2	▲4	▲1
9	Apr/May 22	13	10	14	17	12	10	11	19	10	13	12	11	14	12	12	16	7	15	14	16	13	11	11	11	10	11	8	16
	Δ Sep 2018	▲4	▲4	▲6	▲7	▲5	▼1	▲4	▲6	▲2	▲4	▲4	▲1	▲3	▲6	▲2	▼1	▼6	▲5	▲4	▲1	▼2	▲7	▲8	▲3	▲2	▲3	=	▲2
10 Voting is something you consider essential, it is a key duty for you as a citizen (M)	Apr/May 22	44	60	47	41	36	34	35	45	43	36	45	44	32	53	27	36	66	36	46	53	39	75	78	54	45	41	30	54
	Δ Sep 2018	▼2	▲15	▲14	▲4	▲7	▲6	▲3	▼2	▲1	▼5	▼1	▲2	=	=	▲1	▲6	▲1	▼6	▼5	▼1	▲2	▼8	▼13	▼8	▼5	▼10	▼9	▼9
Don't know	Apr/May 22	1	0	1	3	0	0	0	0	1	0	4	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	1	0	1	1	0	1	1	0	1	0
	Δ Sep 2018	=	=	▲1	▲2	▼1	▼3	=	▼1	▲1	▼1	▼2	=	▼2	=	▼1	=	▼4	=	▲1	=	▲1	▲1	=	▼1	=	▼1	=	=
Total 'Low importance'	Apr/May 22	5	6	8	4	9	8	8	2	12	4	9	2	10	8	5	6	5	5	5	6	6	3	2	4	11	12	6	4
	Δ Sep 2018	▼4	▼13	▼8	▼6	▼8	▼5	▼7	▼4	▼6	▼4	▼4	▼5	▼3	▼2	▼4	▼3	▼1	▼5	▼5	▼1	=	=	▲1	▼2	▲1	=	=	▲1
Total 'Medium importance'	Apr/May 22	22	15	19	14	31	32	31	17	20	26	18	26	27	15	35	23	14	26	21	14	28	5	3	19	23	26	39	13
	Δ Sep 2018	=	▼6	▼11	▼13	▼3	▼2	▼1	▼3	▼2	▼2	=	▼1	=	▼2	▲2	=	▲3	▲4	▲3	=	▼1	=	=	▲6	▲4	▲6	▲5	▲5
Total 'High importance'	Apr/May 22	72	79	72	79	60	60	61	81	67	70	69	72	63	76	60	71	81	68	73	80	65	91	95	76	65	62	54	83
	Δ Sep 2018	▲4	▲19	▲18	▲17	▲12	▲10	▲8	▲8	▲7	▲7	▲6	▲6	▲5	▲4	▲5	▲3	▲2	▲1	▲1	▲1	=	▼1	▼1	▼3	▼5	▼5	▼5	▼6

The **socio-demographic analysis** shows that older respondents, those with the highest education levels, managers and those with the least financial difficulties are the most likely to give high importance to voting in EU and in national elections, with the largest differences related to education level and financial situation. For example, 65% of those with the least financial difficulties rate voting in European elections as of high importance, compared to 40% who experience the most financial difficulties.

Having a positive image of the EU or the European Parliament is connected to a high importance on voting. For example, those who have a positive image of the EU are more likely to rate voting in either type of election as of high importance to them. Furthermore, those who agree their voice counts in the EU are more likely to place high importance on voting in European elections than those who don't think their voice counts (73% vs 45%).

Respondents who are satisfied with democracy in their country or in the EU are also more likely to think it is important to vote in national or European Parliament elections. For example, 69% of respondents who are satisfied with democracy in the EU say it is important for them to vote for European elections compared to 46% if those who are not satisfied with democracy in the EU.

QA19ab **Please tell how important or not it is for you personally to vote in the European elections.** Please use a scale from 1 to 10, when 1 means that voting is something that has no importance at all for you, and 10 means that voting is something you consider essential or that is a key duty for you as a citizen. The remaining numbers indicates something in between these two positions.
Total 'High importance' (% - EU)

	European elections	National elections
EU27	59	72
Gender		
Man	59	71
Woman	60	71
Age		
15-24	55	67
25-39	56	67
40-54	59	71
55 +	62	74
Education (End of)		
15-	53	64
16-19	56	67
20+	68	81
Still studying	58	71
Socio-professional category		
Self-employed	66	76
Managers	71	81
Other white collars	59	71
Manual workers	52	65
House persons	48	64
Unemployed	46	55
Retired	64	76
Students	58	71
Difficulties paying bills		
Most of the time	40	55
From time to time	50	62
Almost never/ Never	65	77
Image of the EU		
Total 'Positive'	73	81
Neutral	48	62
Total 'Negative'	37	56
My voice counts in the EU		
Agree	73	80
Disagree	45	61
Satisfaction with democracy in one's country		
Satisfied	69	79
Not satisfied	47	60
Satisfaction with democracy in the EU		
Satisfied	69	78
Not satisfied	46	61
Image of European Parliament		
Positive	74	81
Neutral	53	68
Negative	44	60

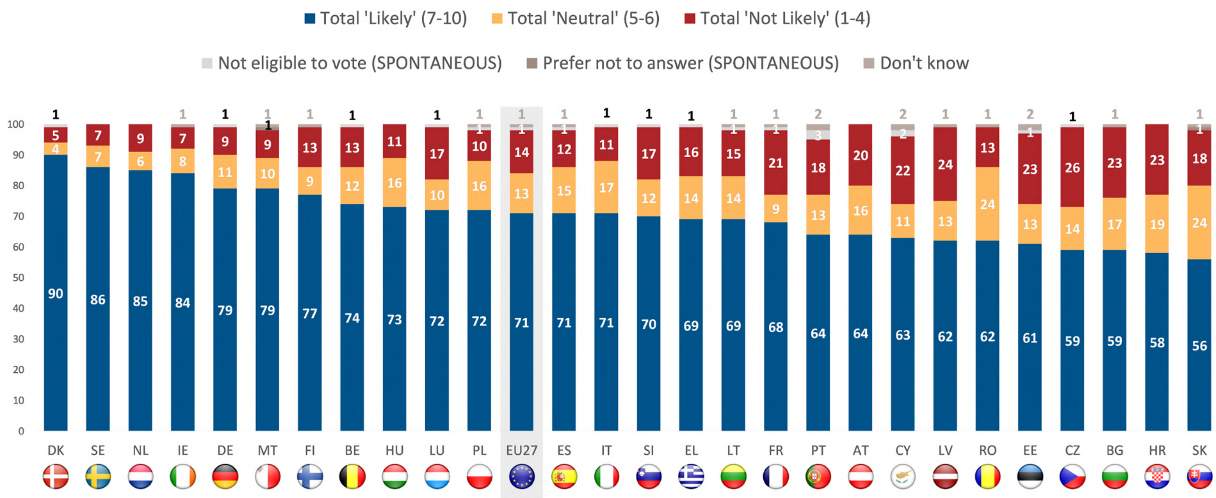
2.5. Likelihood to vote in European elections

The likelihood to vote in the next European elections has increased considerably since November-December 2021, with 71% (+13 percentage points) of citizens saying they would be likely to vote in such elections if they were held next week. Around one in seven (14%, -8 pp) say they would be unlikely to vote, while 13% (-5 pp) are neutral[46].

The majority of respondents in each Member State say they would be likely to vote in European elections if they were held next week, although proportions vary from 90% in Denmark, 86% in Sweden and 85% in the Netherlands to 56% in Slovakia, 58% in Croatia and 59% in Bulgaria and Czechia.

The largest shares of respondents who say they would not be likely to vote are seen in Czechia (26%), Latvia (24%), and Croatia, Bulgaria and Estonia (23% each).

QA20 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" (%)



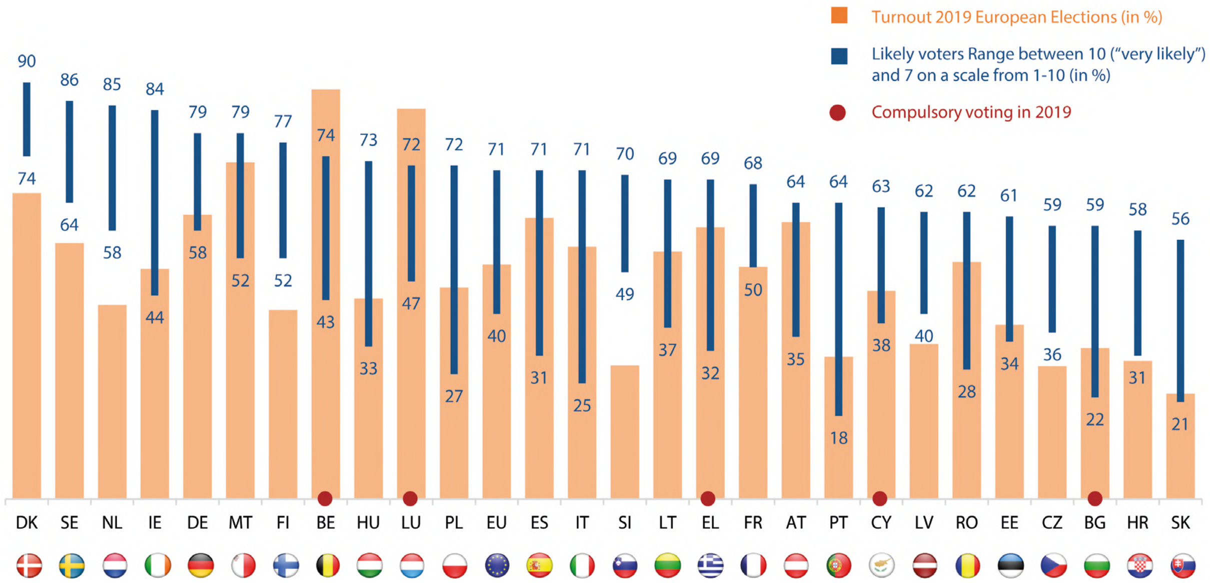
While these results are a snapshot of current attitudes to voting and should not be taken as a prediction of voting levels in the 2024 European elections, they are nevertheless a clear indication of the rising importance given by European citizens to democracy in general and the European elections in the context specifically – as already demonstrated in the section above.

As visualised in the chart below, the range of likely voters (scoring between 7 and 10) varies remarkably between Member States. The biggest range can be found in Italy (25% to 71%), Portugal (18% to 64%) and in Poland (27% to 72%). In some Member States, the proportion of likely voters is significantly higher than the turnout of the 2019 European elections. This is especially the case in the Netherlands (85% likely voters compared to 41.9% turnout), Slovenia (70% vs 28.9%) and Finland (77% vs 40.8%). The

[46] 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" and these results were grouped as follows : likely (7-10), neutral (5-6), not likely (1-4).

share of likely voters is only lower in two Member States: Belgium (74% vs 88.5%) and in Luxembourg (72% vs 84.2%). In both Member States, voting in elections is compulsory.

QA20 **Propensity to vote - compared to actual turnout at 2019 European Elections**



Age, education level and financial situation provide the main differences in the **socio-demographic analysis.** Those aged 15-24 years old are less likely to say they would vote in the European elections (65%) than Europeans aged 25 and above (71%-74%). In addition, those who completed education aged 20 or older (81%) are much more likely to say they would vote than those who completed education at a younger age, and particularly those who completed aged 15 or younger (64%).

The analysis also shows the fewer financial difficulties a respondent experiences, the more likely they are to say they would vote. For example, 77% with the least difficulties say they are likely to vote, compared to 53% with the most difficulties. Managers (84%) are more likely to say they would vote than other socio-occupation groups, and particularly the unemployed (55%).

Respondents who talk about European political matters frequently (84%) are more likely to vote if the next European Parliament elections were held next week than those who talk about it occasionally (76%) or never (58%). Respondents who follow European politics are also more likely to say they would vote than those who do not (82% vs 55%). In addition, citizens who think their voice counts in the EU (83%) are notably more likely to say they would vote than those who think it does not count (58%).

Respondents who are satisfied with EU democracy (81%) are more likely to vote than those who are not satisfied with it (61%), as are respondents who think it is important that their country is a member of the European Union (83%) are more likely to vote in the next European Parliament elections than those who say it is not important (42%).

The image of the European Parliament is also influential: those with a positive image are more likely to say they would vote than those with a negative image (84% vs 58%).

QA20 **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 'Neutral' (5-6)	Total 'Likely' (7-10)	Not eligible to vote (SPONTANEOUS)	Prefer not to answer (SPONTANEOUS)	Don't know
EU27	14	13	71	1	0	1
Gender						
Man	13	13	72	1	0	1
Woman	13	13	72	1	0	1
Age						
15-24	16	13	65	6	0	0
25-39	12	15	71	1	0	1
40-54	12	13	74	0	0	1
55 +	14	12	73	0	0	1
Education (End of)						
15-	18	17	64	0	0	1
16-19	15	15	69	0	0	1
20+	9	9	81	0	0	1
Still studying	13	13	67	7	0	0
Socio-professional category						
Self-employed	10	14	76	0	0	0
Managers	8	7	84	0	0	1
Other white collars	10	15	75	0	0	0
Manual workers	15	15	69	0	0	1
House persons	18	20	61	0	0	1
Unemployed	29	15	55	0	0	1
Retired	12	12	75	0	0	1
Students	13	13	67	7	0	0
Difficulties paying bills						
Most of the time	27	18	53	1	0	1
From time to time	15	18	66	0	0	1
Almost never/ Never	11	11	77	1	0	0
Talk about European political matters						
Frequently	8	8	84	0	0	0
Occasionally	10	14	76	0	0	0
Never	23	16	58	2	0	1
My voice counts in the EU						
Agree	6	10	83	1	0	0
Disagree	23	18	58	1	0	0
Satisfaction with democracy in the EU						
Satisfied	8	10	81	1	0	0
Not satisfied	21	17	61	0	0	1
Image of European Parliament						
Positive	6	9	84	1	0	0
Neutral	14	17	68	1	0	0
Negative	27	14	58	0	0	1
Belonging of the (OUR COUNTRY) to the EU						
Important	8	8	83	1	0	0
Neutral	21	28	49	1	0	1
Not important	41	16	42	0	0	1
Follow European politics						
Follow	8	10	82	0	0	0
Not follow	23	19	55	2	0	1

CONCLUSIONS

Results from the current Spring 2022 Eurobarometer survey shows that the war in Ukraine affects the perceptions and attitudes of Europeans. A large majority (72%) are following the news related to the war closely, and most citizens are sure that the war means that their life will not continue unchanged. The economic impact of the war is already felt by many citizens: 40% of Europeans say t their standard of living has already been impacted, and an additional 47% believe that they will be impacted within the next year. Furthermore, around six in ten say they are not prepared for increases in the cost of food and energy. Still, close to six in ten support the EU prioritising the defence of core values such as freedom and democracy even if this impacts prices and the cost of living.

Within this context, citizens' attitudes towards the EU have become increasingly positive since 2021, and they are more engaged in political matters than before. As already noted during the COVID-10 pandemic, support for EU membership is continuing to increase, reaching record levels with almost two thirds saying their country's membership is a good thing. There is also a considerable increase in the proportion who say it is important to them that their country is a member of the EU. In the context of the war in Ukraine, almost six in ten agree the EU should speed up the process of letting new members join.

The majority of citizens continue to have a positive image of the EU, and although there has been a slight decline in optimism about the future of the EU, the majority remain optimistic. General optimism is best reflected by a considerable increase in the proportion who think that things are going in the right direction in the EU, with this becoming the majority view for the first time since October-November 2009. Citizens have also become more optimistic that things are heading in the right direction in their country.

Satisfaction with democracy at the EU level is at an all-time high with six in ten saying they are satisfied. This increased satisfaction may be related to an increasing feeling amongst citizens that their voice counts in the EU: agreement with this statement is the majority opinion for the first time since October 2019. Similar patterns can be seen for national democracy. Furthermore, almost three quarters agree their country's voice counts in the EU.

A similar trend continues with citizens' image of the European Parliament. The positive image has been steadily increasing over the past years, reaching its highest level since autumn 2007 at 39%. In the current situation, citizens identify democracy as a key value which they want the European Parliament to defend as a matter of priority. This is a noteworthy increase since 2021 on an EU average (38%, +6 pp) and in several EU Member States.

When it comes to topics that the European Parliament should address as a priority, the fight against poverty and social exclusion, public health and democracy and the rule of law are considered most important.

Engagement with European politics has increased over the last year with more citizens following politics and more saying they frequently talk about it with friends and family. The majority think voting in European elections is the best way to make their voice heard by decision-makers at the EU level, and an increasing majority say that voting in European or national elections is highly important to them.

As evidence of this increasing importance there has been a considerable increase in the propensity to vote, with just over seven in ten now saying they would vote in European elections if they were held next week. Although this cannot be taken as indicative of voting turnout at the 2024 European elections, it does reflect the increasing engagement in European political matters suggested by the results of the current Spring Eurobarometer.

TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS

Between the 19th of April and 16th of May 2022, Kantar carried out wave 97.3 of the EUROBAROMETER survey, at the request of the European Parliament's Public Opinion Monitoring Unit and of the European Commission, Directorate-General for Communication, Media monitoring and Eurobarometer Unit.

Wave 97.3 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 were 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.

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 Commission beforehand; they may give this information once the survey is completed, upon request.

The recruitment phase was slightly different in the Netherlands, Finland, and Sweden. In these countries, a sample of addresses within each areal sampling point (1km2 grid) were selected from the address or population register (in Finland, selection is not done in all sample points, but in some where response rates are expected to improve). The selection of addresses was done in a random manner. Households were then contacted by telephone and recruited to take part in the survey. In the Netherlands, a dual frame RDD sample (mobile and landline numbers) are used. The selection of numbers on both frames is done in a random manner with each number getting an equal probability of selection. Unlike Sweden and Finland, the sample is un-clustered.

	COUNTRIES	INSTITUTES	N° INTERVIEWS	FIELDWORK DATES		POPULATION 15+	PROPORTION EU27
BE	Belgium	Mobiel Centre Market Research	1,101	19/04/2022	10/05/2022	9,915,439	2.53%
BG	Bulgaria	Kantar TNS BBSS	1,039	19/04/2022	16/05/2022	6,094,974	1.55%
CZ	Czechia	Kantar Czechia	1,073	20/04/2022	06/05/2022	9,190,342	2.34%
DK	Denmark	Kantar Gallup	1,005	20/04/2022	12/05/2022	4,994,008	1.27%
DE	Germany	Kantar Deutschland	1,514	19/04/2022	05/05/2022	74,162,306	18.89%
EE	Estonia	Kantar Estonia	1,030	19/04/2022	16/05/2022	1,145,208	0.29%
IE	Ireland	B and A Research	1,013	20/04/2022	16/05/2022	4,039,401	1.03%
EL	Greece	Kantar Greece	1,014	19/04/2022	15/05/2022	9,568,462	2.44%
ES	Spain	TNS Investigación de Mercados y Opinión	1,006	19/04/2022	15/05/2022	42,022,835	10.70%
FR	France	Kantar Public France	1,012	19/04/2022	14/05/2022	57,553,554	14.66%
HR	Croatia	Hendal	1,008	20/04/2022	12/05/2022	3,569,904	0.91%
IT	Italy	Kantar Italia	1,020	20/04/2022	12/05/2022	54,102,101	13.78%
CY	Rep. Of Cyprus	CYMAR Market Research	503	19/04/2022	09/05/2022	759,844	0.19%
LV	Latvia	Kantar TNS Latvia	1,013	19/04/2022	12/05/2022	1,649,459	0.42%
LT	Lithuania	TNS LT	1,003	19/04/2022	16/05/2022	2,445,153	0.62%
LU	Luxembourg	TNS Ilres	502	19/04/2022	10/05/2022	538,288	0.14%
HU	Hungary	Kantar Hoffmann	1,025	19/04/2022	05/05/2022	8,547,786	2.18%
MT	Malta	MISCO International	504	19/04/2022	16/05/2022	455,041	0.12%
NL	Netherlands	Kantar Netherlands	1,033	22/04/2022	15/05/2022	15,067,518	3.84%
AT	Austria	Das Österreichische Gallup Institut	1,005	19/04/2022	09/05/2022	7,844,329	2.00%
PL	Poland	Kantar Polska	1,013	19/04/2022	11/05/2022	32,904,839	8.38%
PT	Portugal	Marktest – Marketing, Organização e Formação	1,006	20/04/2022	15/05/2022	9,221,533	2.35%
RO	Romania	Centrul Pentru Studierea Opiniei si Pietei (CSOP)	1,057	19/04/2022	13/05/2022	16,701,193	4.25%
SI	Slovenia	Mediana DOO	1,023	19/04/2022	10/05/2022	1,834,195	0.47%
SK	Slovakia	Kantar Czechia	1,011	19/04/2022	15/05/2022	4,677,729	1.19%
FI	Finland	Taloustutkimus Oy	1,004	20/04/2022	16/05/2022	4,805,266	1.22%
SE	Sweden	Kantar Sifo	1043	20/04/2022	16/05/2022	8,756,024	2.23%
		TOTAL EU27	26,580	19/04/2022	16/05/2022	392,566,731	100%

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

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 doorstep and in the appropriate national language. In all countries and territories where face-to-face interviewing was not feasible CAWI (Computer-Assisted Web Interviewing) was used.

For face-to-face all interviews conducted, hygiene and physical distancing measures were respected at all times in line with government regulations, and whenever possible, interviews were conducted outside homes, on doorsteps, in order to stay outside and maintain social distance.

- Face-to-face and online interviewing

In Belgium, Czechia, Denmark, Estonia, Latvia, Malta, the Netherlands, Slovenia, Finland and Sweden, 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 long lasting impacts of COVID-19 pandemic, many potential respondents are still reluctant to open their homes to interviewers, even if they respect hygiene rules and physical distancing, such as wearing masks and using hydro alcoholic 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.

	COUNTRIES	N° OF CAPI INTERVIEWS	N° OF CAWI INTERVIEWS	TOTAL N° INTERVIEWS
BE	Belgium	775	326	1,101
BG	Bulgaria	1,039		1,039
CZ	Czechia	630	443	1,073
DK	Denmark	594	411	1,005
DE	Germany	1,514		1,514
EE	Estonia	880	150	1,030
IE	Ireland	1,013		1,013
EL	Greece	1,014		1,014
ES	Spain	1,006		1,006
FR	France	1,012		1,012
HR	Croatia	1,008		1,008
IT	Italy	1,020		1,020
CY	Rep. Of Cyprus	503		503
LV	Latvia	799	214	1,013
LT	Lithuania	1,003		1,003
LU	Luxembourg	502		502
HU	Hungary	1,025		1,025
MT	Malta	494	10	504
NL	Netherlands	691	342	1,033
AT	Austria	1,005		1,005
PL	Poland	1,013		1,013
PT	Portugal	1,006		1,006
RO	Romania	1,057		1,057
SI	Slovenia	593	430	1,023
SK	Slovakia	1,011		1,011
FI	Finland	491	513	1,004
SE	Sweden	402	641	1043
	TOTAL EU27	23,100	3,480	26,580

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, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta and Slovenia.

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

In the Netherlands, two survey modes were used to collect responses, face-to face and online. For the online mode, the respondents were initially recruited to take part through an offline mode of recruitment via a probability-based dual frame over-lapping RDD sample design. In this way the entire phone owning population in the Netherlands had a non-zero chance of being sampled. 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.

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 wave 97.3 of the EUROBAROMETER survey, the response rates for the EU27 countries, calculated by Kantar, are:

	COUNTRIES	CAPI Response rates	CAWI Response rates
BE	Belgium	51.5%	16.1%
BG	Bulgaria	44.0%	
CZ	Czechia	50.3%	26.1%
DK	Denmark	43.1%	16.0%
DE	Germany	21.6%	
EE	Estonia	40.0%	21.3%
IE	Ireland	50.3%	
EL	Greece	29.0%	
ES	Spain	30.5%	
FR	France	34.4%	
HR	Croatia	39.4%	
IT	Italy	23.0%	
CY	Rep. Of Cyprus	46.9%	
LV	Latvia	46.4%	20.6%
LT	Lithuania	43.7%	
LU	Luxembourg	25.4%	
HU	Hungary	63.1%	
MT	Malta	94.1%	10.2%
NL	Netherlands	70.1%	35.4%
AT	Austria	43.3%	
PL	Poland	44.6%	
PT	Portugal	39.6%	
RO	Romania	58.6%	
SI	Slovenia	45.1%	30.8%
SK	Slovakia	63.1%	
FI	Finland	29.9%	27.5%
SE	Sweden	70.3%	20.7%

CAPI : Computer-Assisted Personal interviewing

CAWI : Computer-Assisted Web interviewing (CAWI RRs do not include the 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 Spring 2022 Eurobarometer survey is the first one commissioned by the European Parliament since the start of the war in Ukraine. With fieldwork completed in April and May 2022, war has become a daily reality and its political and economic effect is tangible to many Europeans.

It is this very impact that the Parliament's Spring 2022 Eurobarometer sets out to assess. The survey focusses on three aspects. First, the war in Ukraine and its economic impact on European citizens (including readiness to face the consequences such as rising prices). Second, it looks at citizens' attitudes towards the EU, the importance of EU membership and the political priorities and values the European Parliament should focus on. Last but not least, it looks at citizen voting propensity two years ahead of the 2024 European elections.

The survey was carried out by KANTAR PUBLIC in all 27 EU Member States. 26,580 interviews were conducted primarily face-to-face and completed with online mode where necessary, with EU results weighted according to the size of the population in each country.

For more information on the full survey, scan the QR-code:

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