



What European citizens have to say about science and technology

I. Views on the impact of science and technology

THE BENEFITS OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY



More than eight in ten (83%) respondents think the overall influence of science and technology on society is positive

The following groups are more likely than their counterparts to believe that the overall influence of science and technology is positive:





Particularly compared to those aged 55 and over – 79%

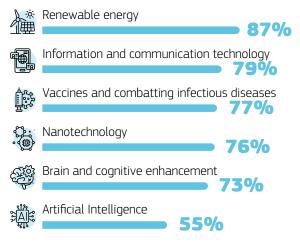


Respondents who finished education aged 20 or older 88%

Especially compared to those who left education at 15 or younger – 70% Additionally, a majority (67%) of EU citizens believe that science and technology benefit their lives

TECHNOLOGIES AND INNOVATIONS EUROPEANS THINK WILL HAVE A POSITIVE EFFECT ON THEIR WAY OF LIFE IN THE NEXT 20 YEARS

EU citizens have a generally **strong positive view** of most technologies currently being developed



of Europeans believe that new inventions will always be found to counteract any harmful consequences of scientific and technological development (+5 pp. since 2021)

On the other hand, they think that science and technology...



... mostly improve living conditions **in well-off** countries



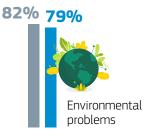
... mostly help companies **make money** while they could help improve the environment



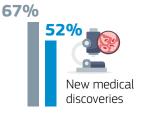
... mostly improve the lives of **people who are already better off**

II. Self-reported levels of information about science and technology subjects

Europeans report varying dearees of feeling informed about science and technology topics 2021 2024





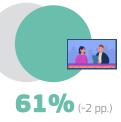


SOURCES OF INFORMATION ABOUT SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNOLOGICAL DEVELOPMENTS

10% (-3 pp.) Online encyclopaedias



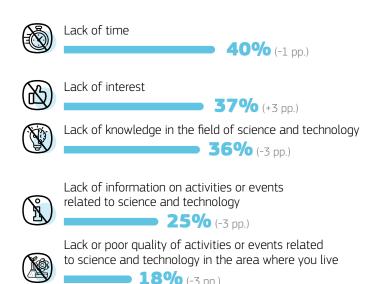
19% (-5 pp.) **31%** (+2 nn.) Social media Television Newspapers



HOW CITIZENS ENGAGE WITH SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Top 5 answers

Barriers to engage with science and technology



Willingness to engage with science and technology

Watching documentaries, or read science and technology-related publications, magazines books or podcasts



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43% (-5 pp.) Talking about science or technology-related issues with family or friends

39% (-7 pp.)

Visiting science and technology museums F

28% (-5 pp.)

Signing petitions or joining demonstrations on science and technology matters such as nuclear power, biotechnology, the environment or climate change



Attending public meetings or debates about science and technology



A significant share disagree that scientists spend sufficient time meeting lay citizens to explain their work

Strongly disagree

27% Tend to disagree 3% Don't know



6% Strongly agree

21% Tend to agree

22% Neither agree nor disagree

III. Inclusion and social responsibility in science and technology



77%

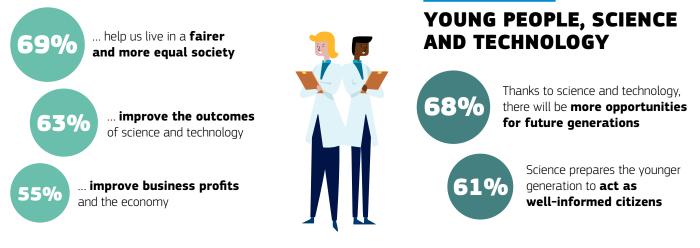
agree that science and technology **should consider the needs of all groups of people** when developing new solutions and products

AGE OF FINISHING EDUCATION	SUBJECTIVE URBANISATION
≤ 15 730	Rural areas 74%
16-19 779	Small/mid-size towns 77%
≥ 20 78	

While **48%** agree to a certain extent that scientists **only look at very specific issues** and do not consider problems from a wider social perspective

GENDER EQUALITY AND INCLUSION IN SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

EU citizens say gender equality would ...



EU CITIZENS AND SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY IN SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

EU citizens say that...

... the government should make private companies **tackle climate change**

... the **government should take responsibility** to ensure that new technologies benefit everyone



20/1

73%

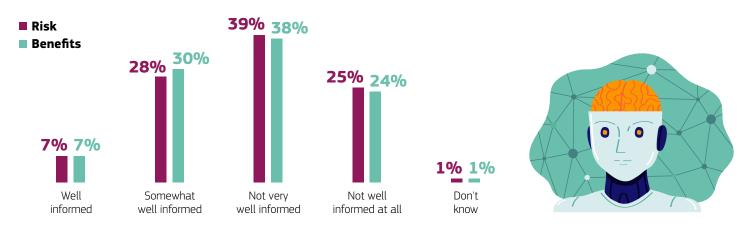
... the applications of science and technology **can threaten human rights**



IV. Views on Artificial Intelligence and its application to scientific work

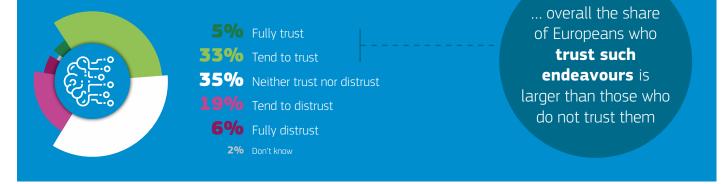
INFORMATION ON USING AI FOR SCIENTIFIC WORK

Levels of information regarding risks and benefits of using AI for scientific work converge, with larger shares reporting being not very well informed or not well informed at all



TRUST IN AI FOR SCIENTIFIC WORK

Additionally, there are varying degrees of **trust in scientific research and discoveries created with the help of AI**...



There is more agreement among EU citizens rather than disagreement that AI used in science advances scientific discoveries that **may lead to solutions for major challenges**

 9%
 Totally agree

 41%
 Tend to agree

 30%
 Neither agree nor disagree

 12%
 Tend to disagree

 4%
 Totally disagree

 4%
 Don't know

Special Eurobarometer 557 – 'European citizens' knowledge and attitudes towards science and technology', Fieldwork: September-October 2024