

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT EUROBAROMETER

USE YOUR VOTE
COUNTDOWN TO THE 2024 EUROPEAN ELECTIONS



European Parliament



IMPRESSUM

The report has been drafted for the European Parliament by Verian (formerly Kantar Public).

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Interest in the June 2024 European elections has risen to 60%, an 11-point increase from 2019, three months before the previous European elections. 71% of Europeans say they are likely to vote in the upcoming elections, 10 percentage points more than in 2019.



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The fight against poverty and social exclusion (33%), supporting public health (32%), boosting the economy and job creation, and strengthening the EU's defence and security (both 31%) are the main topics for the upcoming European elections campaign.



4 SECURE OUR SECURITY

Defence and security ranks highest among aspects the EU should focus on to reinforce its position in the world (37%). It is the top answer in 15 countries, most notably in Lithuania (60%) and Finland (57%). Energy issues and food security and agriculture share the second position at 30%.



5 REDISCOVERING OUR FOUNDING VALUES

Looking at the next legislative term, peace (47%), democracy (33%) and the protection of human rights (24%) are the key values the European Parliament should defend, with peace topping the list in 26 Member States.



VOTE INFORMED

60% of EU citizens say that they follow what is going on in EU politics, an increase in 24 countries when compared to similar responses received six months earlier. Interest in the European elections and likelihood to vote are higher among those who follow EU news.



EMPOWERED REPRESENTATION

A majority (56%) of EU citizens want the European Parliament to play a more important role in the future, an opinion shared by over three quarters of citizens in Cyprus (85%) and Spain (76%).



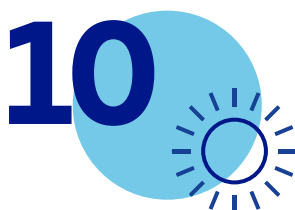
THUMBS UP

The proportion of Europeans holding a positive image of the European Parliament has increased, reaching 41%, a record result since the question was first asked in 2011. The neutral response follows at 40%.



MAKING AN IMPACT

73% of Europeans acknowledge that EU actions have an impact on their daily lives, with 60% considering EU membership positive for their country. 65% say that their country's membership of the EU is important and 71% believe that their country has benefited from EU membership.



OPTIMISM PREVAILS

61% of Europeans are optimistic about the future of the EU. Citizens in Denmark (83%), Ireland (81%) and Lithuania (78%) hold the most optimistic views, as do younger people overall.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The European Parliament's Spring 2024 Eurobarometer survey reveals a strong interest among citizens in the upcoming European elections (6–9 June 2024) and awareness of their significance in the current geopolitical context. Results show that Europeans are increasingly willing to vote in this year's European elections, with issues such as fighting poverty, supporting public health, strengthening the economy and the EU defence and security at the top of their minds. For the new legislature of the European Parliament, a majority of citizens would like to see the institution play a more important role with values such as peace and democracy the prime ones to defend. Most Europeans would like the EP to play a more important role, a majority view in 21 Member States. This result is noteworthy in the context of the upcoming European elections, which will take place across the EU between 6 and 9 June 2024. Democracy is again the most cherished value and the one the EP should defend as a matter of priority according to Europeans.

EU indicators remain strong and positive, with large shares of Europeans acknowledging the importance and benefits of EU membership, while still keeping a critical eye on the EU's response to some of the major crises of the past decades. Defence and security, energy issues and food security and agriculture are seen as key areas in order to strengthen the EU's role in the world, a role that is perceived stronger now than five years ago by a significant share of respondents.

The different crises that marked this past legislative term and the current geopolitical context have reinforced the EU's role in the eyes of citizens, as shown in Parliament's surveys. The positive image of the EU reached its highest historical levels during the COVID-19 pandemic and after Russia's invasion of Ukraine, as has the opinion that EU membership is beneficial for its Member States. In autumn 2023, the main benefits of EU membership according to its citizens were the EU's contribution to maintaining peace and strengthening security and the improved co-operation between countries of the Union. Over the past five years, the proportion of citizens who wish to see the European Parliament play a more important role has increased by five percentage points. Looking forward, this pre-electoral survey shows that Europeans remain optimistic about the future of the EU, especially among younger generations.

VOTING IS EVEN MORE IMPORTANT IN THE CURRENT INTERNATIONAL CONTEXT

This is clearly stated by 81% of citizens who say that voting is even more important considering the international situation, a statement endorsed by a large majority of respondents in all countries. This result may be one of many reasons for the higher voting indicators in comparison to autumn 2023, and especially to spring 2019, three months before the previous European elections.

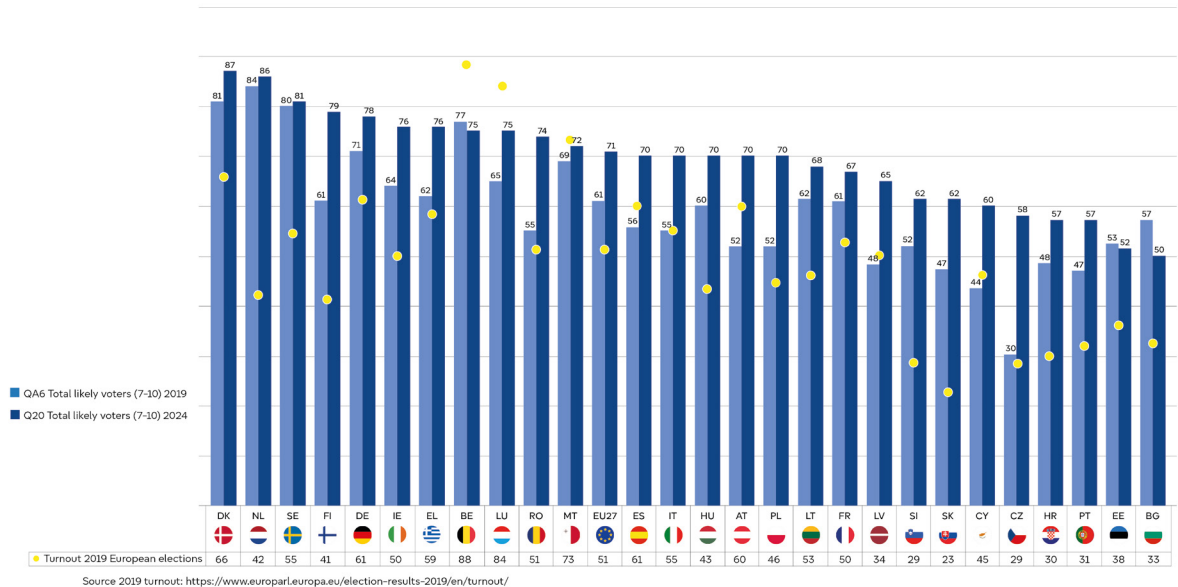
Indeed, 60% of Europeans (+3 p.p. compared to autumn 2023) say they are interested in the next European elections, an 11 point increase since February–March 2019. This increase in interest applies to all Member States, the largest being in Croatia (61%, +24 p.p. since

2019), Czechia (38%, +22 p.p.), Lithuania (56%, + 20%) and Finland (64%, +20 p.p.). Around half the citizens responding (53%, +6 p.p. compared to autumn 2023) say it is of high importance to vote in European elections, versus close to seven in ten (69%, +1 p.p. compared to autumn 2023) who say this about national elections. Close to three in ten (28%, +4 p.p. compared to autumn 2023) give the importance of voting in European elections a score of ten out of ten, stating that it is essential, a key duty as citizens. There is a noteworthy, significant upward trend in the importance of voting in European elections between September–October 2023 and February–March 2024 (+ 6 points), as we near the vote in June.

Across the EU, 71% say they are likely to vote in the European elections (scores 7 to 10 on a scale from 1 to 10). Five years on, since February–March 2019, 10 p.p. more citizens express a high likelihood of casting a ballot¹. Looking at the national level, the likelihood of voting in the upcoming European elections has become greater in 24 Member States, with some steep increases in several countries, such as in Czechia (58%, +28 p.p. since February–March 2019), Romania (74%, +19 p.p.) as well as Austria (70%, +18 p.p.), Finland (79%, +18 p.p.) and Poland (70%, +18 p.p.).

QA20

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



Interest and likelihood to vote are higher among Europeans with positive attitudes towards the EU and who are interested in EU politics. Indeed, this is the case among those who hold a positive image of the EU and EP, who would like to see the latter play a more important role while thinking the EU's has become more important in recent years globally. It is also true among citizens who follow EU news, discuss EU politics, think EU membership is good and

¹This comparison is based on a modified trend.

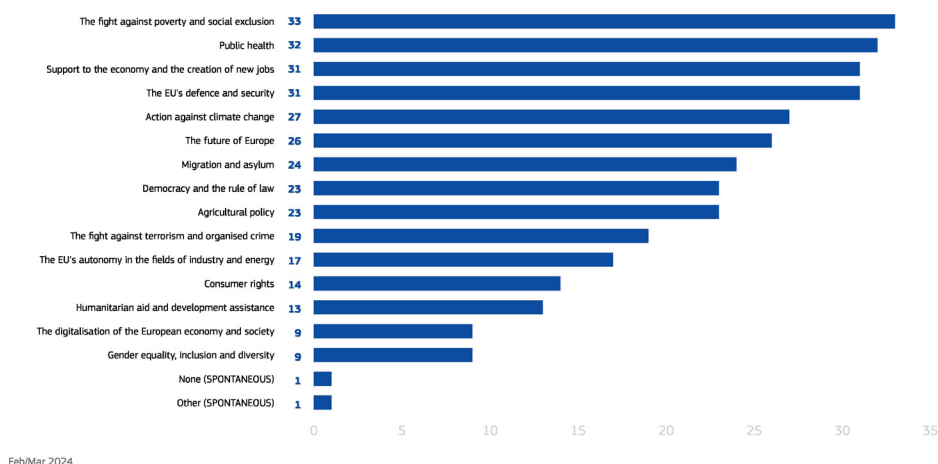
impacts their daily lives. In addition, those who are optimistic about the EU's future are much more likely to say they are both interested in the elections and likely to vote. When looking at the results by age, as observed in previous surveys, younger Europeans are less interested and likely to vote than older ones.

Fighting poverty, supporting public health, boosting the economy and strengthening EU defence and security are the main campaign issues for citizens heading into the June 2024 European elections.

Just three months ahead of the June 2024 European elections, citizens believe the fight against poverty and social exclusion (33%), supporting public health (32%), boosting the economy and creating new jobs as well as bolstering EU defence and security (both at 31%) should be the main issues for the electoral campaign. Two other important issues, action against climate change (27%) and the future of Europe (26%) follow closely.

QA14ab

Which of the following topics should be discussed as a matter of priority during the electoral campaign for the next European Parliament elections? Firstly? And then? (EU27) (%) (MAX 4 ANSWERS)



At the national level, the EU defence and security is mentioned first in nine countries and most significantly in Denmark (56%), while support to the economy is the top campaign topic (or shared first) in six countries, particularly in Portugal (55%). The fight against poverty and social exclusion is the main one in Bulgaria (48%), France (42%), Luxembourg (41%) and Belgium (34%). Other country results that stand out are public health, mentioned by 56% in Greece, migration and asylum, chosen by 50% in Malta and 41% in Cyprus, climate change in Sweden (58%) and the future of Europe in Austria (37%).

A similar question was asked in the spring of 2019, three months before the European elections that year and while a direct comparison cannot be made, some changes do stand out. For example, action against climate change is now the main topic only in Sweden, while in 2019 it came first in the latter as well as in the Netherlands, Denmark, Finland, Belgium, Luxembourg and Germany. Public health is now the most mentioned issue in Greece, Ireland,

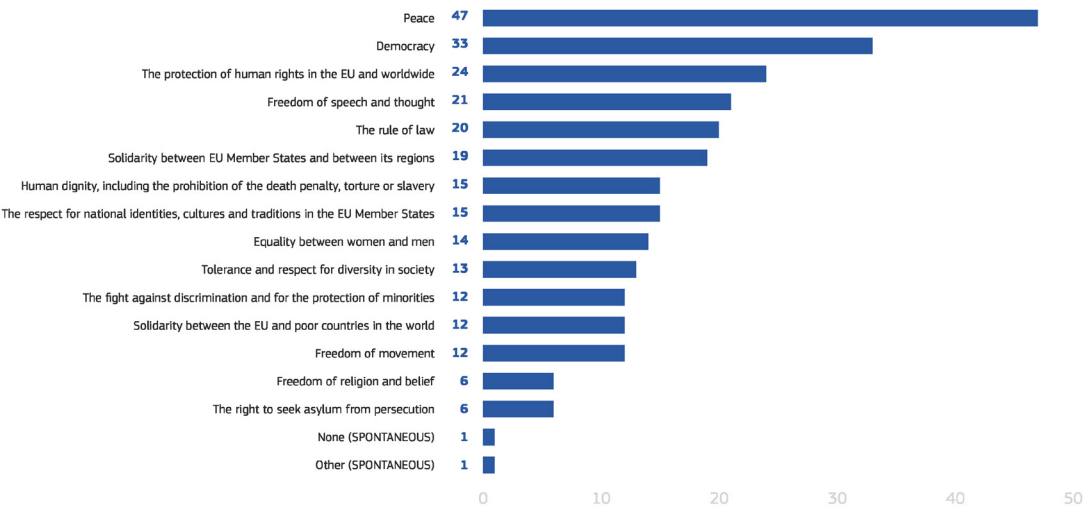
Spain, Hungary and Slovenia, while not appearing at all in spring 2019, before the Covid-19 pandemic. EU defence and security was far from a prominent issue five years ago in contrast to February and March 2024, before Russia’s February 2022 invasion of Ukraine.

Peace and democracy are the main values to defend in the coming years; defence and security, the areas to focus on at the EU level

Looking ahead at the next mandate, the main values Europeans would like the European Parliament to focus on are peace (47%), democracy (33%), the protection of human rights (24%), freedom of speech and thought (21%) and the rule of law (20%). Peace is the most mentioned answer in 26 Member States, with the highest proportions in Lithuania (64%), Latvia (62%), Estonia (60%) and Finland (60%). The exception is Sweden where democracy comes first at 45%.

QA15ab

In the upcoming European elections, the EU citizens will elect new Members of the European Parliament. In your opinion, which of the following values should the European Parliament defend as a matter of priority in the next 5 years? Firstly? And then? (EU27) (%) (MAX 3 ANSWERS)

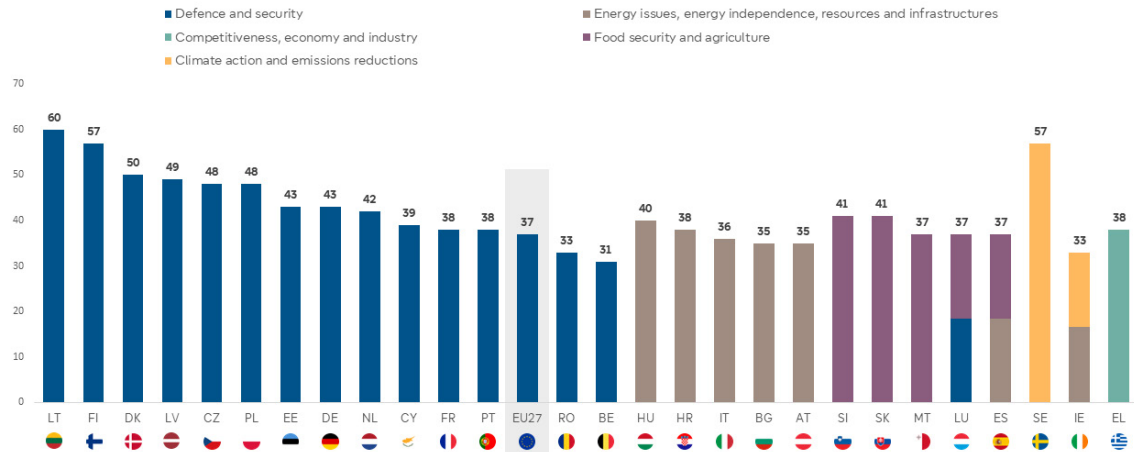


Feb/Mar 2024

The importance of defence and security is underlined again when asking citizens about the policy areas the EU should focus on to reinforce its standing globally. At the EU level, they come first (37%), followed by energy issues (30%) and food security and agriculture (30%). Competitiveness, the economy and industry are also mentioned by more than a quarter of respondents (27%). In this case, defence and security is the most mentioned concern in 15 countries, with the highest shares in Lithuania (60%) and Finland (57%) while being in the top three in 22 countries. When looking at these results by age, some interesting differences emerge. Older respondents are more likely to indicate that defence and security, food security and agriculture as well as competitiveness, the economy and industry should be EU priorities towards reinforcing its global standing. The youngest are more likely to say that education and research, climate action and emissions reductions, as well as technology and innovation, including AI should be the areas of focus for the EU.

QA11ab

Thinking about the future, which of the following aspects should the EU focus on in order to reinforce its position in the world? Firstly? And Then? (%)



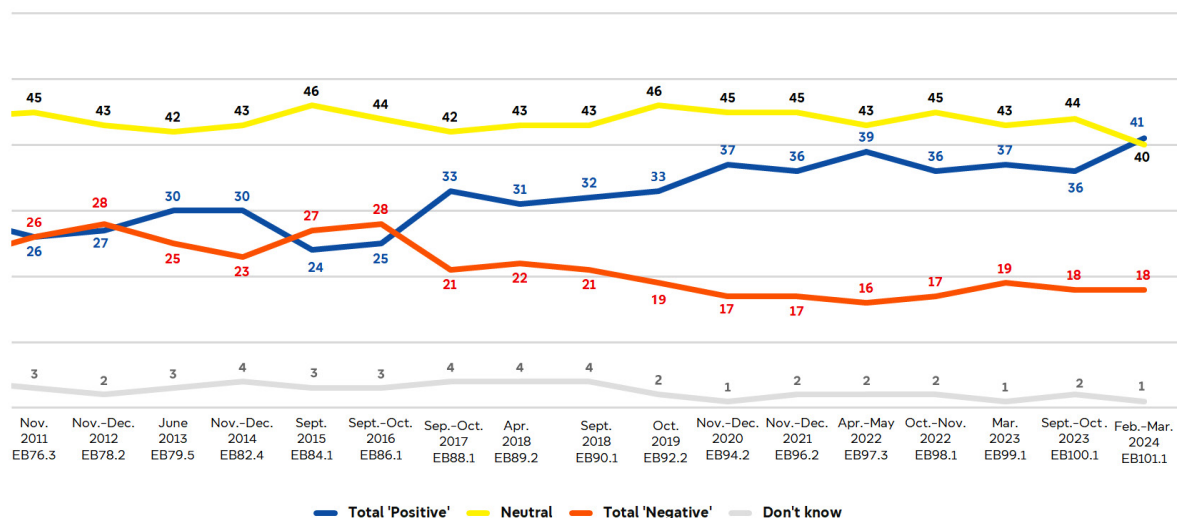
Feb/Mar 2024

Positive image of the European Parliament at an all-time high

The EP's image has been enjoying an upward trend in the past years, reaching 41% in the current survey, a five-point increase compared to autumn 2023 and eight points higher than in October 2019. It is the first time since this question was asked in Eurobarometer surveys that the positive image exceeds the neutral one, which has fallen from 44% in September-October 2023 to 40% in the current survey. The negative image has remained stable at 18%.

QA1

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



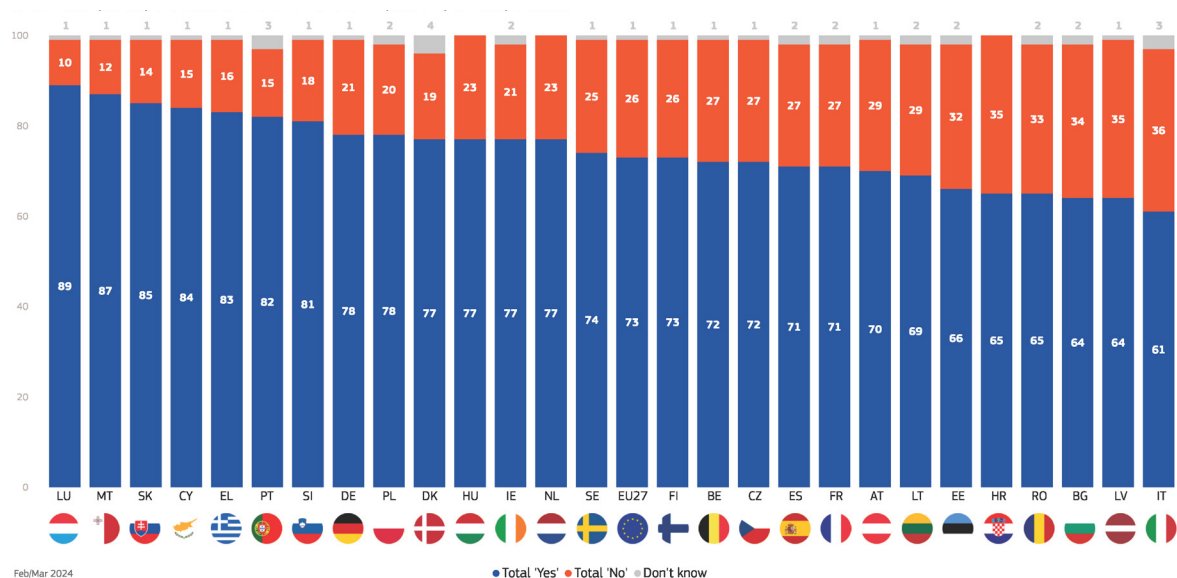
At the national level, the positive image of the EP is higher than the negative one in 25 countries, with the highest shares seen in Portugal (66%), Denmark and Ireland (59%). The two Member States that are the exception, where there is a reported slightly negative view of the EP, are Czechia and France. In comparison to September–October 2023, the proportions of Europeans who hold a positive image of the EP have now increased in 22 Member States, most notably in Lithuania (42%, +13 p.p.), Hungary (46%, +11 p.p.), Latvia (39%, +11 p.p.), and Portugal (66%, +10 p.p.).

A majority in the EU (56%) and in most countries (relative or absolute majorities) would like the EP to play a more important role (+ 3p.p compared to autumn 2023), 28% would prefer it to have a less important role and 10% would like it to stay the same. Since autumn 2023, the most notable increases in support for a more important role of the EP are seen in Belgium (72%, +10 p.p.), Lithuania (72%, +8 p.p.), as well as Italy (56%), Luxembourg (73%), Portugal (67%) and Spain (76%), all +6 p.p. While a minority of citizens are satisfied with the EU's response to some of the major crises that shook Europe in previous years (except for the response to the Covid-19 pandemic, with satisfaction at 50%), 'a more important role for the EP' is still the majority answer given by those unsatisfied respondents.

EU membership still seen as beneficial by Europeans citizens, with the EU's role in the world perceived as more important now than five years ago

Looking at the bigger EU picture, 73% of Europeans, a three-point rise since autumn 2023, say that EU actions have an impact on their daily lives. Of those, 20% (+3 p.p.) believe that they have an impact to a large extent (they replied 'yes, very much', to the question). The total positive opinion has increased significantly in some countries compared to September–October 2023, such as in Czechia (72%, +12 p.p.) and Finland (73%, +9 p.p.).

QA7 Would you say the actions of the EU have an impact on your daily life? (%)

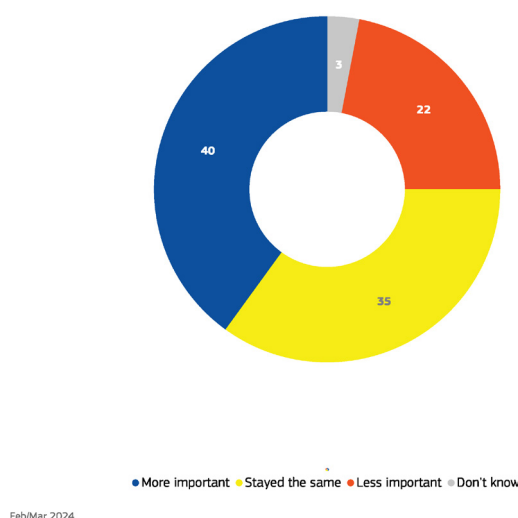


EU membership is considered a good thing by a stable proportion of Europeans (60%, -1 p.p. compared to autumn 2023), with 65% (-2 p.p.) saying that membership is important. In addition, a large majority of Europeans agree that their country has, on balance, benefited from being a member of the EU (71%, -1 p.p. compared to autumn 2023), with 23% (+ 1 p.p. compared to autumn 2023) saying it has not. These results are stable compared to six months before the June 2024 European elections and continue enjoying high levels across the EU.

In retrospect, four in ten citizens say the role of the EU has become more important in the past years, while 35% think it has stayed the same and 22% that it has decreased. At the national level, relative majorities in 15 countries believe that the role of the EU in the world has become more important over the years, with proportions reaching 67% in Sweden, 63% in Portugal and 60% in Denmark. In ten countries, more citizens think that the EU's role across the world has stayed the same relatively, with the highest shares recorded in Czechia and Greece (both 43%), as well as in France (42%). Slovenia and Czechia are the only countries where more citizens think that the EU's role has become less important (32% and 30%, respectively). In addition, those who follow EU politics are more likely to believe that the role of the EU has become more important compared to those who do not (47% vs 30%). The latter are more likely to believe that the role of the EU in the world has rather stayed the same (41% vs 31%).

QA9

Would you say that over the past years the role of the European Union in the world has become...? (EU27) (%)



Despite the strong EU indicators observed in this survey, Europeans keep a critical eye when it comes to the EU's response to some of the major crises of the past decades. Indeed, while 50% are satisfied with the EU's response to the Covid-19 pandemic, less than half feel the same about the Union's response to Brexit (38%), the economic and financial situation (37%), Russia's invasion of Ukraine (36%), climate change (33%) and migration (24%). Undoubtedly, most of these areas will remain priorities in the years to come.

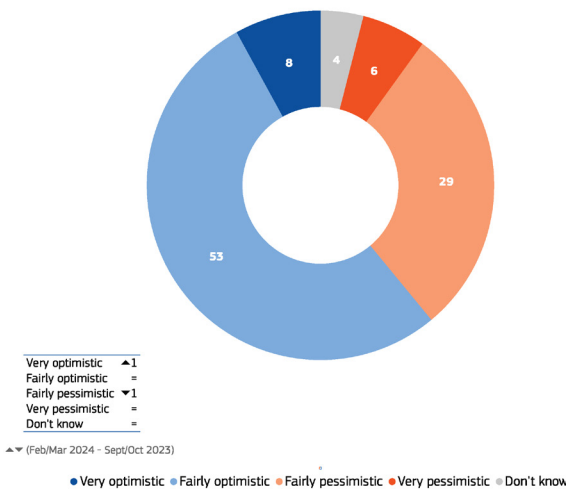
Europeans still struggle economically, but remain optimistic about the future of the EU

This Spring 2024 Eurobarometer also included questions on citizens’ finances. Looking at the past five years, most say their standard of living has stayed the same (49%) or has decreased (45%). Only 6% say it has increased. The negative evolution of personal standard of living is most prominent in nine countries: Greece (74%), France (69%), Cyprus (63%), Spain (58%), Portugal (56%), Czechia (50%), Belgium (49%), Ireland (48%) and Malta (46%). A relative majority of Europeans expect their living standards to stay the same in the future (49%), with 32% believing they will decrease and 15% that they will increase.

Nevertheless, three months ahead of the next European elections, 61% (+ 1 p.p. compared to autumn 2023) say they are optimistic about the future of the EU, compared to 35% who say they are pessimistic. In all but one Member State, majorities report being optimistic about the future of the EU. These proportions peak at 83% in Denmark, 81% in Ireland and 78% in Lithuania and recede to 42% in France as well as 51% in both Cyprus and Czechia. Since September-October 2023, optimism has increased in six countries, particularly in Hungary (64%, +9 p.p.), Italy (66%, +5 p.p.) and Portugal (69%, +5 p.p.). Conversely, this share has decreased in Slovenia (56%, -13 p.p.) and Luxembourg (64%, -7 p.p.).

SD22

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



Younger Europeans are more likely to say they are optimistic, while citizens who say they are likely to vote in the European elections are almost twice more likely to be optimistic about the future of the EU as compared to those who indicate that they are probably not going to vote. Finally, respondents who consider that the EU’s role in the world in the past five years has become more important are by far more likely to be optimistic about its future than those who instead think that the Union’s role has become less important.

CONTEXT



CONTEXT

The fieldwork for the European Parliament's Spring 2024 Eurobarometer survey was carried out by Verian (formerly Kantar Public) between 7 February and 3 March 2024 in all 27 EU Member States. To have the most accurate interpretation of the survey results, it is essential 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 – should be seen in the light of the situation and public debate at the time of fieldwork.

The situation in the Middle East

By the end of February, the estimated death toll since the war started in Gaza on 7 October 2023 surpassed 30,000, according to the territory's health officials¹. Moreover, food shortages were described to be so pronounced that according to a U.N. humanitarian aid official, at least a quarter of Gaza's population was "one step away from famine."² About 130 hostages still remain unaccounted for after being kidnapped by Hamas on 7 October last year.

A World Bank report found that Gaza's economic output went down by over 80% at the end of 2023, representing "one of the largest economic shocks ever recorded in recent history." The report further mentioned that 96% of Gaza's agricultural infrastructure was affected or destroyed by the military operations, and about 80% of the population lost their jobs³.

Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine

February 2024 marked two years since Russia's war of aggression on Ukraine. As confrontations continued, the Ukrainian military had to retreat from the city of Avdiivka, which was considered a strategic point along the eastern front. These developments were seen within the context of dwindling military supplies incoming into Ukraine from its Western allies, whereas the United States' \$60 billion support package faced a delay due to bipartisan infighting within the US Congress.

In this context, discussions within the G7 intensified on whether it would be legally correct to seize more than USD 300 billion in Russian central bank assets frozen in Western countries to support Ukraine economically and militarily⁴.

A special European Council summit at the beginning of February saw EU leaders convincing Hungary's PM Viktor Orbán to drop his veto and back a €50 billion funding package for Ukraine⁵.

¹<https://www.nytimes.com/2024/02/29/world/middleeast/gaza-death-toll-war.html>

²<https://press.un.org/en/2024/sc15604.doc.htm>

³<https://thedocs.worldbank.org/en/doc/db985000fa4b7237616dbca501d64dc-0280012024/original/PalestinianEconomicNote-Feb2024-Final.pdf>

⁴ <https://www.nytimes.com/2024/02/28/business/russia-ukraine-frozen-assets.html>

⁵<https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/meetings/european-council/2024/02/01/>

At the end of February, a conference on support to Ukraine took place in Paris, where divisions in views on how to assist Ukraine's defence efforts surfaced as President Macron of France said that participation of Western troops on the ground in Ukraine could not be "ruled out", while other European leaders expressed more reserve about the possibility⁶.

A few days later, Russia's President Putin mentioned in his state-of-the-nation speech that NATO countries could see nuclear conflict if they intervened more directly to address the war in Ukraine⁷.

On 16 February, Alexei Navalny, one of Russia's most well-known anti-corruption activists, an opposition politician and an ardent critic of President Vladimir Putin, died under mysterious circumstances in a remote penal colony in the Russian Arctic.

An EU-level plan for a common strategy on defence and security

The President of the European Commission, Ursula Von der Leyen, announced in February 2024 that the union should take on a more concerted approach to defence and security to streamline the various country-specific policies and industry spending. The first step in this direction was the proposal for Member States to agree on a European defence industry strategy, of which a crucial proposal is the establishment of a European Defence Commissioner who would coordinate defence policies across the union and would support the regulation of the military industry⁸.

An increasing number of European countries reached the NATO target of spending 2% of their gross domestic product on defence⁹. While at the EU level new measures were introduced in 2023 to actively support ammunition production and encourage Member States to collaborate when procuring military equipment.

Farmer's protests across Europe

Since the end of 2023, there has been a surge in protests organised by farmers in Europe, with large demonstrations taking place in Germany, France, and Belgium as well as many other EU Member States. The protesters have raised several concerns, including burdening environmental regulations, the phasing-out of tax breaks, delayed payments of subsidies, and declining competitiveness due to the impact of provisions under the Green Deal and surging imports from Ukraine under the free-trade regime.

Since the beginning of 2024, the European Commission has taken several actions to address these concerns, including launching the Strategic Dialogue on the Future of Agriculture in

⁶<https://www.euronews.com/my-europe/2024/02/27/sending-western-troops-to-ukraine-is-not-ruled-out-in-the-future-macron-says>

⁷<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2024/feb/29/troops-ukraine-risk-provoking-nuclear-war-vladimir-putin-tells-nato>

⁸<https://www.euronews.com/my-europe/2024/02/20/von-der-leyen-pushes-for-coordinated-eu-defence-spending>

⁹<https://www.euractiv.com/section/defence-and-security/news/nato-says-18-members-will-reach-2-spending-target-this-year/>

the European Union. It has also proposed remedial measures that could see pre-war tariffs introduced on some categories of produce imported from Ukraine.

On 26 February, an Agriculture and Fisheries Council meeting also put under scrutiny a set of proposals to reduce the administrative burden on farmers¹⁰. The Council meeting was conducted as a pan-European demonstration of farmers took place in Brussels, where approximately 1000 tractors converged upon the main European institutions' quarter of the city. Among the agreed measures were actions to ease the bureaucratic burden on farmers to comply with the requirements of the Common Agricultural Policy¹¹.

EU institutions and legislative context at the EU level

On 1 January, Belgium assumed the rotating presidency of the Council of the EU. The Belgian presidency programme focuses on six thematic areas, with "particular attention" to maintaining support for Ukraine. The priorities for the Belgian presidency were stated to be defending the rule of law, democracy, and unity, strengthening the competitiveness of the union, pursuing a green and just transition, reinforcing the social and health agenda, protecting people and borders and promoting a global Europe¹².

On 20 February, European institutions reached a deal to reduce air pollution across the EU and to align the union's air quality standards with those furthered by the World Health Organisation (WHO), aiming to reach zero pollution by 2050. The bill still needs to be adopted by the Parliament and Council before it goes into effect. Once adopted, EU countries will have two years to implement the bill into national law¹³.

On 27 February, Members of the European Parliament passed the Nature Restoration Law. The legislation aims to rehabilitate 20% of the EU's land and sea areas by 2030, as well as all degraded ecosystems by 2050. The law sets targets on farmland, pollinators, rivers, forests, and urban areas to reverse environmental damage caused by climate change and human activity¹⁴.

Elections

2024 has been hailed as a historic election year in which more than 2 billion voters in over 50 countries will be heading to the polls¹⁵. Other than the European elections from 6–9 June 2024, the United States, India and Mexico are among the numerous countries holding national elections in 2024.

¹⁰<https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/meetings/agrifish/2024/02/26/>

¹¹<https://www.euronews.com/my-europe/2024/02/26/watch-angry-farmers-block-streets-dump-manure-and-clash-with-police-in-brussels>

¹²<https://belgian-presidency.consilium.europa.eu/en/programme/the-belgian-presidency-programme/>

¹³<https://www.euronews.com/green/2024/02/21/parliament-member-states-clinch-air-pollution-deal>

¹⁴<https://www.euronews.com/my-europe/2024/02/27/meps-approve-nature-restoration-law-amid-right-wing-backlash-and-farmer-protests>

¹⁵<https://www.weforum.org/agenda/2023/12/2024-elections-around-world/>

While campaigning of the upcoming European elections had not yet started during the time of fieldwork, several European political parties were preparing their electoral congresses. The European Green Party congress was held in Lyon in early February. Terry Reintke and Bas Eickhout have been appointed as top candidates for the European elections. On 19 February, European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen announced her bid to become the lead candidate of the centre-right European People's Party (EPP). European Commissioner for Jobs and Social Rights Nicolas Schmit had been nominated lead candidate for the Party of European Socialists (PES) in January already and was confirmed at the PES' Election Congress in Rome on 2 March 2024¹⁶. The common Renew Europe platform campaign was launched on 20th March, after the end of fieldwork¹⁷.

Finland's final round of presidential elections took place on 11 February 2024, with centre-right candidate Alexander Stubb of the National Coalition Party (KOK) elected as the country's next head of state. Stubb won the second round of the election with a 51.6% margin, surpassing Pekka Haavisto of the Green League (VIHR), who obtained 48.4% of votes¹⁸.

Also in February, regional elections were held in Spain (for the Galicia regional parliament) and in Italy (for Sardinia's regional parliament and president). Meanwhile, Portugal was preparing for elections, which were held on 10 March 2024¹⁹.

In the US, both Republicans and Democrats held their primaries during the time of fieldwork, increasingly pointing at former President Trump as potential Republican frontrunner in the upcoming presidential elections likely facing incumbent President Biden. Trump's statement that he would encourage Russia to attack US allies who failed to meet defence spending obligations prompted widespread international media coverage and concern amongst allies²⁰.

Economic context

According to the European Commission's Winter 2024 economic forecast, following subdued growth last year, the EU economy has entered 2024 on a weaker footing than expected. The European Commission's Winter Interim Forecast revises growth in both the EU and the euro area down to 0.5% in 2023, from 0.6% projected in the Autumn Forecast, and to 0.9% (from 1.3%) in the EU and 0.8% (from 1.2%) in the euro area in 2024. In 2025, economic activity is still expected to expand by 1.7% in the EU and 1.5% in the euro area. Nonetheless, the report noted that inflation, as evaluated according to the Harmonised Index of Consumer Prices, is forecasted to go from 6.3% in 2023 to 3% in 2024 and 2.5% in 2025. In recent months, inflation figures have been noted to fall down below expectations, driven by decreased energy prices

¹⁶<https://pes.eu/pes/nicolas-schmit-pledges-fight-for-people-democracy-planet/>

¹⁷<https://www.reneweurope.eu/blog/renew-europe-now-press-releases-10/renew-europe-now-campaign-kick-off-highlights-38>

¹⁸<https://www.reuters.com/world/europe/finlands-stubb-seen-frontrunner-presidential-run-off-2024-02-11/>

¹⁹<https://europeelects.eu/calendar/>

²⁰<https://www.euronews.com/2024/02/11/trump-encourages-russia-to-attack-nato-states-not-paying-bills>

and a slowing economic momentum. This downward trajectory in inflation surpassed the forecasts outlined in the Autumn Forecast by the European Commission. However, in the short term, the cessation of energy subsidies across Member States and heightened shipping expenses due to trade disruptions in the Red Sea are anticipated to contribute to upward pressure on prices²¹.

²¹ https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_24_730

METHODOLOGY

METHODOLOGY

The methodology used in this EP Spring 2024 Eurobarometer, included in wave 101.1, is that of Eurobarometer surveys as carried out for the European Parliament's Directorate General for Communication (Public Opinion Monitoring Unit). The survey was carried out by Verian (previously known as Kantar Public) between 7 February and 3 March 2024 in all 27 EU Member States. 26411 interviews were conducted in total. EU results were weighted according to the size of the population in each country.

Eurobarometer surveys are administered face-to-face in people's homes or on their doorstep, in the national language. In all countries, CAPI (Computer Assisted Personal Interviewing) was used.

In Denmark, Czechia, Malta and Finland some interviews were conducted via computer assisted video interview (CAVI). The interviewer administers the questionnaire to the respondent remotely via video-conference, where both parts can see each other: the conditions of interviews are very similar to that of face-to-face.

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

The reader should be aware that in this report the evolution of one specific indicator is considered as stable overall when it varies by +/-2 percentage points or less. For more information, please refer to the table indicated on page 215 for the margin of error depending on the number of interviews.

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

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

1

EU CITIZENS' PERCEPTION OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

1. EU CITIZENS' PERCEPTION OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

The first chapter delves into survey results concerning two primary indicators regarding the perception of the European Parliament (EP): firstly, the image Europeans conjure up of the institution, and secondly, the opinion on whether the EP should assume a more important role or a less important one.

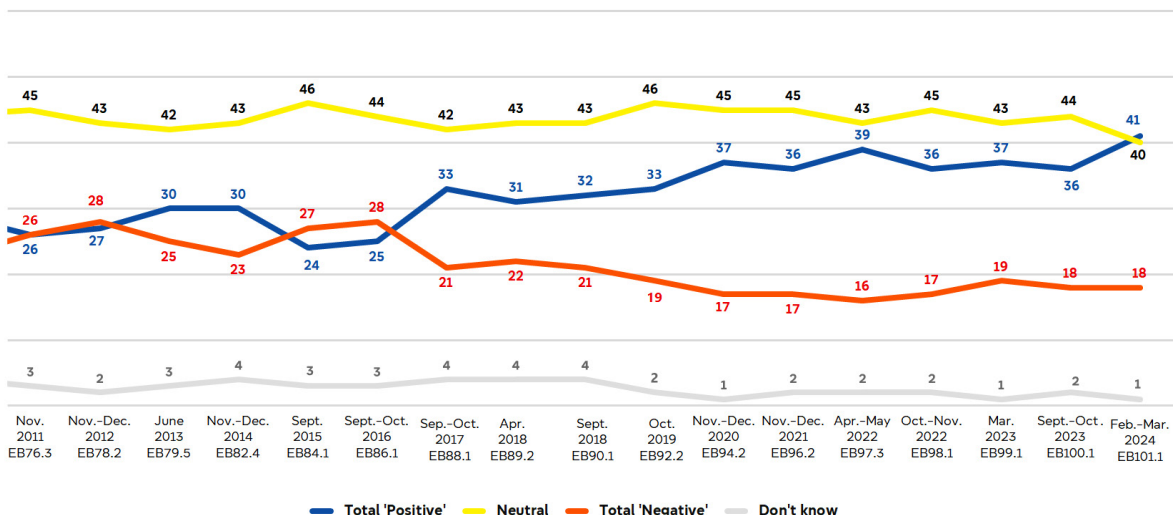
Results indicate that the EP has an increasingly positive image among citizens, with the proportion of Europeans who view the institution in a positive light reaching a new high. Additionally, Europeans display increased support for the EP to assume a more important role, both findings proving particularly important in view of the upcoming 2024 European elections.

1.1 Image of the European Parliament

A relative majority of respondents perceive the European Parliament (EP) in a favourable light — while 41% of EU citizens note that they have a positive or very positive image of the European Parliament, 18% state that they conjure up a negative image. Since September – October 2023, positive perceptions of the EP have surged, increasing by 5 percentage points. Consequently, for the first time since the survey was run, the proportion of respondents with a positive image of the EU surpasses the proportion who hold a neutral view of the institution.

QA1

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



Across 25 EU Member States, the share of respondents who have a positive image of the EP is greater than the share of their counterparts who hold a negative image. In six Member States, more than half of the respondents indicate that they hold a positive image of the EP. The shares are highest in Portugal (66%), Denmark and Ireland (both at 59%).

The two Member States that form the exception, where the share of those with a reported negative view of the EP outnumber (albeit in small numbers) those who have a positive image of the institution, are Czechia and France. In both countries, the proportion of those who hold a negative image of the EP is one percentage point greater than the proportion of respondents who hold a positive view. In Czechia, 29% of respondents report a somewhat negative or very negative image of the EP, while 28% note an opposite stance. In France, these shares represent – 28% and 27% respectively.

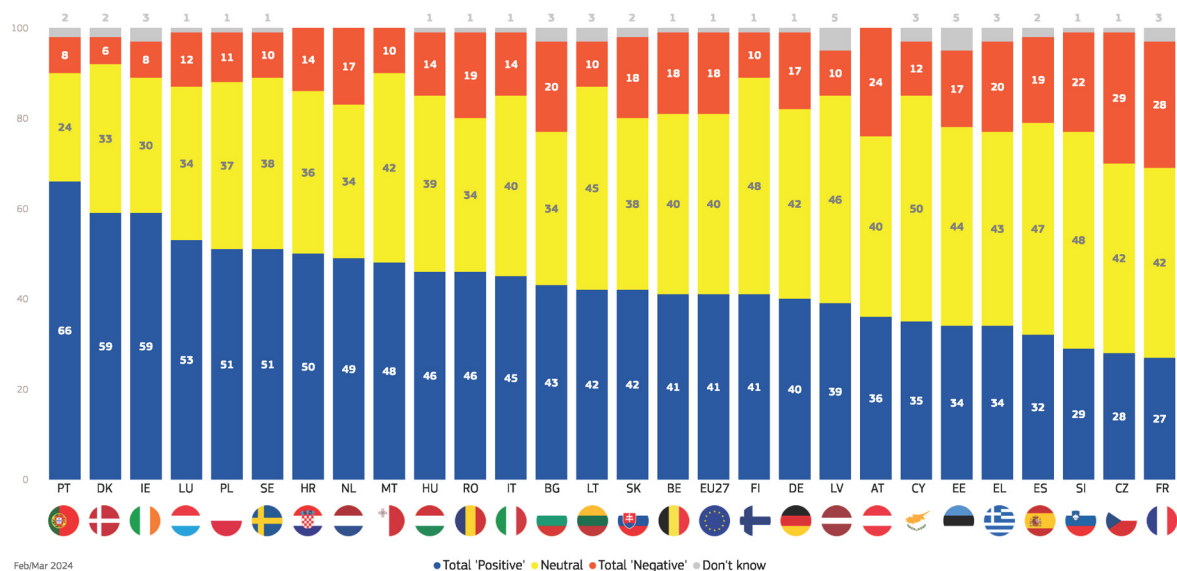
Other Member States where the proportion of respondents who hold a negative image of the EU is relatively higher than the EU average are Austria (24%) and Slovenia (22%).

Meanwhile, in 13 Member States, the proportion of respondents who indicate that they rather hold a neutral view of the EP is greater than that of those with either a positive or negative image of the institution. These shares are particularly high in Cyprus (50%) as well as Slovenia and Finland (both 48%).

QA1

ended to September – October 2023, three months before the 2024 European elections,

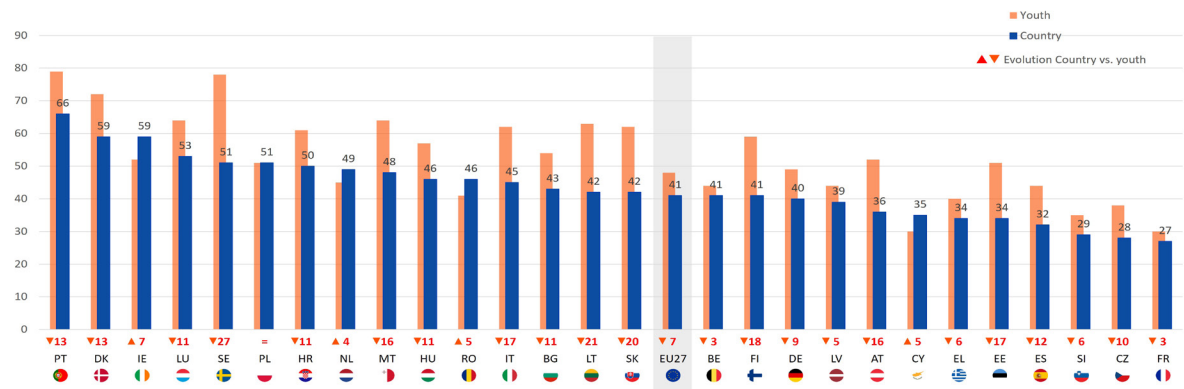
In general, do you have a very positive, fairly positive, neutral, fairly negative or very negative image of the European Parliament? (%)



the proportions of Europeans who regard the European Parliament in a positive light have increased in 20 Member States, remained stable in six, and decreased marginally in one country. The largest increases are observed in Lithuania (42%, +13 pp), Hungary (46%, +11 pp), Latvia (39%, +11 pp), and Portugal (66%, +10 pp). At the same time, slight declines are recorded in Malta (48%, -4 pp).

QA1

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



When it comes to differences in the image of the EP conjured up by various socio-demographic segments, the data points towards several tendencies that are most notable in terms of contrasts among age groups, education levels, socio-occupational categories, subjective urbanisation and socio-economic status. Additionally, there are differences noted in terms of views of the EP among some attitudinal segments as pertains to the image of the EU, the tendency to follow European politics and the reported likelihood to vote in the next European elections.

The tendency to hold a positive image of the EP is more pronounced among the younger age groups, peaking among those aged 15 to 24. Of the later, close to half (48%) report that they conjure up a positive image of the institution. The likelihood of having a positive image of the EP then decreases gradually with each age group and is reported by 37% of respondents who are aged 55 or older. Conversely, respondents in this oldest cohort report holding a negative image of the institution more often than respondents aged 15-24 (21% vs 9%).

In terms of differences related to the achieved level of education, respondents who have finished their education aged 20 or older hold a positive image of the EP in greater numbers (47%) particularly as compared to respondents who finished their education aged 15 or younger (31%).

Among the socio-occupational categories, respondents who report being managers and those stating that they are students report more often holding an overall positive image of the EP (53% and 52%, respectively). This tendency is particularly notable when compared to the prevalence of a positive view of the EP among respondents who are unemployed (26%), identify as housepersons (33%), manual workers (35%) or are retired (36%).

When it comes to difficulties paying bills, respondents who report that they never or almost never experience such problems are the most likely to report that they hold a positive image of the EP (45%). Conversely, those respondents who report difficulties paying bills most of the time are the least likely to report such views (25%).

There are also differences in reported opinions as they relate to one's place of residence. Respondents who note that they live in large towns are more likely to report holding a positive image of the EP (47%), particularly when compared to respondents who live in rural areas (35%).

Close to three-quarters (74%) of those who conjure up a positive image of the EU also hold a positive view of the EP. This stands in contrast to 4% of those with a negative view of the EU who hold a positive view of the EP.

In terms of the tendency to follow European politics, half of those who follow such information hold a positive view of the EP, compared to 26% of those who do not.

Finally, while 48% of those who state that they are likely to vote in the next European elections have a positive view of the EP, 16% of respondents who are not likely to cast a ballot in these elections also do.

QA1

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

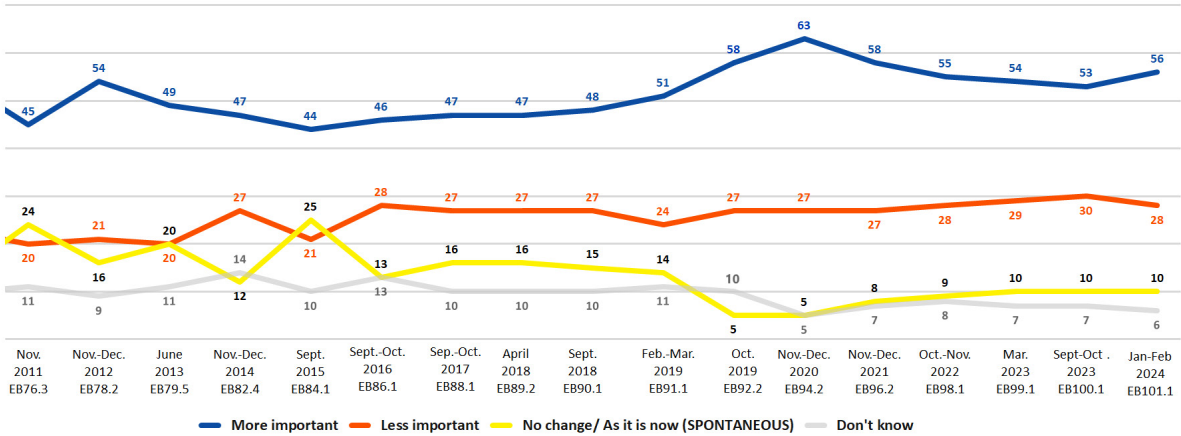
	Very positive	Fairly positive	Neutral	Fairly negative	Very negative	Total 'Positive'	Total 'Negative'	Don't know
EU27	6	35	40	13	5	41	18	1
Gender								
Man	6	34	39	14	6	40	20	1
Woman	5	36	42	12	3	41	15	2
Age								
15-24	8	40	41	8	1	48	9	2
25-39	6	37	41	11	4	43	15	1
40-54	5	35	40	14	5	40	19	1
55 +	4	33	40	15	6	37	21	2
Education (End of)								
15-	4	27	44	15	6	31	21	4
16-19	4	32	41	16	6	36	22	1
20+	7	40	38	11	4	47	15	0
Still studying	9	43	38	7	1	52	8	2
Socio-professional category								
Self-employed	6	33	38	16	7	39	23	0
Managers	8	45	34	9	4	53	13	0
Other white collars	6	41	39	11	2	47	13	1
Manual workers	4	31	44	14	6	35	20	1
House persons	4	29	46	15	4	33	19	2
Unemployed	3	23	44	18	10	26	28	2
Retired	5	31	40	16	6	36	22	2
Students	9	43	38	7	1	52	8	2
Difficulties paying bills								
Most of the time	3	22	40	20	12	25	32	3
From time to time	4	32	42	16	5	36	21	1
Almost never/ Never	7	38	39	11	4	45	15	1
Subjective urbanisation								
Rural village	4	31	41	15	7	35	22	2
Small/ mid size town	5	35	41	13	5	40	18	1
Large town	8	39	38	11	3	47	14	1
Image of the EU								
Positive	11	63	22	3	0	74	3	1
Neutral	1	15	72	9	2	16	11	1
Negative	0	4	22	50	23	4	73	1
Follow European politics								
Follow	7	43	33	12	4	50	16	1
Not follow	3	23	51	15	5	26	20	3
Likelihood to vote in the next European elections								
Likely	7	41	36	11	4	48	15	1
Neutral	3	25	53	15	3	28	18	1
Not likely	2	14	46	24	11	16	35	3

1.2 Role of the European Parliament

Up to 56% of Europeans (+3 pp since September-October 2023) would like to see the EP play a more important role. Conversely, 28% would like to see the institution play a less important role (-2 pp).

QA2

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



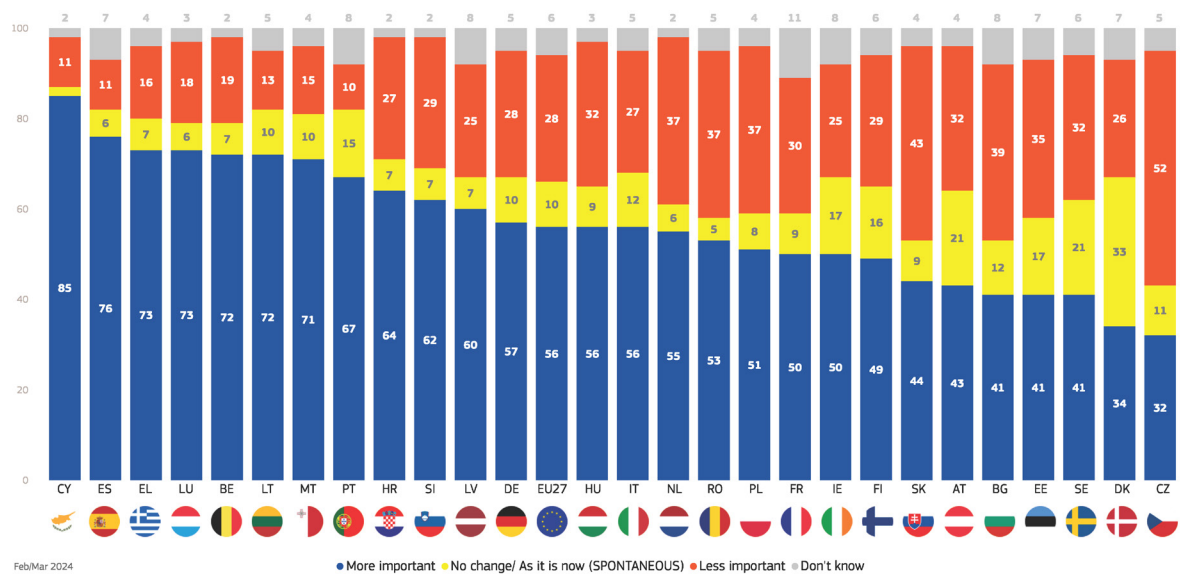
The proportion of respondents who would like to see the EP play a more important role is higher than that of respondents who would like to see the institution play a less important role in 26 of the Member States. Czechia is the Member State where, as an exception, more citizens would prefer the EP to play a less important role (52% vs. 32%). The endorsement for a more important role of the EP is notably strong in Cyprus (85%), Estonia (76%), Greece and Luxembourg (73%) as well Belgium as Lithuania (72%).

It is noteworthy that in Slovakia and Bulgaria, the proportions of respondents who take either position are very similar. In Slovakia, 44% would like to see the EP have a more important role and 43% say it should play a less important role, while in Bulgaria 41% hold the former view and 39% adhere to the latter view.

Meanwhile, in Denmark, there is an almost equal percentage of respondents who believe that the role of the EP should stay as currently defined, and the share of those who would like to see the institution play a more important role (33% and 34% respectively).

QA2

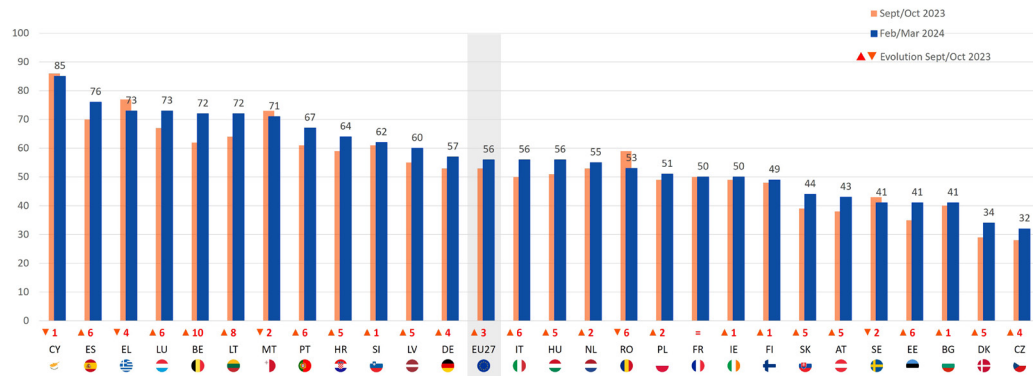
Would you personally like to see the European Parliament play a more important or less important role? (%)



Results from this survey show increased support for assigning a more important role to the EP in 15 countries, compared to data collected in September–October 2023. This dynamic within the public opinion landscape reveals an increase in the endorsement of the institution, which is also reflected in the growing share of citizens who hold a positive view of the European legislative body, as mentioned in the section above. The most notable increases in support for a more important role of the EP are seen in Belgium (72%, +10 pp), Lithuania (72%, +8 pp) as well as Italy (56%), Luxembourg (73%), Portugal (67%), Spain (76%) all +6 pp. The recorded decreases are marginal, the largest differences with fall 2023 being registered in Romania (53%, -6 pp) and Greece (73%, -4 pp).

QA2

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



In terms of socio-demographic differences, the analysis reveals associations, particularly between the propensity to see the EP play a more important role and younger age, higher education levels, occupational status as a student or white collar worker as well as manager, higher socio-economic standing, living in larger towns, holding a positive view of the EP, the opinion that the role of the EU has increased in the world in the past five years, as well as the likelihood to vote in the next European elections.

Starting with differences between age groups, respondents aged 15 to 24 are more likely to see the EP play a more important role (61%) than older respondents, especially those aged 55 and older (53%).

When considering the age at which one completed education, Europeans who reported finishing education at age 20 or older are more inclined than their counterparts who left education at an earlier age to state that they wish to see the EP play a more important role (60%, compared to 53%).

In terms of socio-professional categories students are the segment that endorses the opinion that the EP should have a more important role in the largest proportion (63%), followed closely by managers and other white-collar workers (both categories 62%). Meanwhile, 50% of respondents who are unemployed hold the same view.

Respondents who almost never or never experience difficulties paying bills are more inclined to note that the EP should have a more important role (58%), particularly when compared to those who note that they encounter such difficulties most of the time (49%).

Regarding subjective urbanisation, respondents who live in a large town are more likely than those in rural areas to state that they wish for the EP to have a more important role (61% vs 52%).

When it comes to attitudinal segments, the survey results indicate that respondents who hold a positive image of the EP (76%), those who believe that the role of the EU in the world has increased in the last five years (73%), as well as respondents who indicate that they are likely to vote in the next European elections (62%) are more inclined to state that the EP should play a more important role.

QA2

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

	More important	Less important	No change/ As it is now	Don't know
EU27	56	28	10	6
Gender				
Man	55	30	10	5
Woman	57	26	10	7
Age				
15-24	61	19	11	9
25-39	58	27	10	5
40-54	57	28	11	4
55 +	53	31	10	6
Education (End of)				
15-	53	27	9	11
16-19	53	33	9	5
20+	60	25	11	4
Still studying	63	17	12	8
Socio-professional category				
Self- employed	56	32	9	3
Managers	62	24	12	2
Other white collars	62	25	10	3
Manual workers	53	31	10	6
House persons	54	27	12	7
Unemployed	50	32	9	9
Retired	52	32	9	7
Students	63	17	12	8
Difficulties paying bills				
Most of the time	49	33	10	8
From time to time	55	31	8	6
Almost never/ Never	58	26	11	5
Subjective urbanisation				
Rural village	52	32	9	7
Small/ mid size town	56	29	10	5
Large town	61	22	11	6
Image of the European Parliament				
Positive	76	11	11	2
Neutral	50	30	12	8
Negative	28	65	3	4
Role of the EU in the world in the past five years				
More important	73	16	8	3
Less important	43	49	5	3
Stayed the same	48	30	15	7
Likelihood to vote in the next European elections				
Likely	62	24	10	4
Neutral	46	38	10	6
Not likely	36	41	10	13

2

JUNE 2024 EUROPEAN
ELECTIONS: AN
OUTLOOK ON VOTERS
AND VOTING

2. THE JUNE 2024 EUROPEAN ELECTIONS: AN OUTLOOK ON VOTERS AND VOTING

The second chapter sheds light on citizens' awareness of the timing of the upcoming European elections and explores their interest in the exercise, alongside the importance they currently assign to voting in both European and national elections. The analysis then examines respondents' reported likelihood of voting in the 2024 European elections. This section also provides insights into the topics that citizens consider important for the 2024 European elections campaign, aiming to highlight the issues that might drive popular choice in the upcoming elections. Additionally, it lists the values that the European Parliament should prioritize in the next five years, offering a citizen-defined roadmap for the forthcoming legislative term. The chapter then concludes with an evaluation of Europeans' perspectives on voting and its broader impact.

Results indicate a possible surge in voter engagement with growing proportions exhibiting interest in the European elections and expressing a high likelihood of exercising their right to vote. The findings further indicate that while the importance of voting in the upcoming European elections has increased, the importance of voting in national elections has remained stable – a development which potentially underscores engagement specifically at the European level.

Within the current global context, Europeans see the preservation of peace and of democracy as top values to be safeguarded by the next European Parliament. Perceptions of voting importance are also overwhelmingly common and are perceived as a crucial step to keep democracy strong.

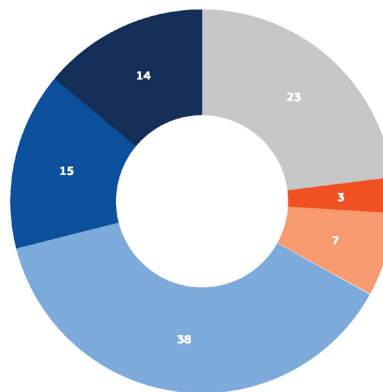
Furthermore, there is interest in understanding how the future representatives intend to address issues such as the fight against poverty and social exclusion, public health, and the support for the economy and the creation of new jobs.

2.1 Knowledge of the date of the June 2024 European elections

Across the EU, 14% of citizens correctly mention that the upcoming European elections are scheduled to take place between the 6th and 9th of June 2024. Another 15% know that the 2024 European elections will be held in June of this year, but do not know the exact dates. Meanwhile, 38% of respondents are aware that the elections will take place sometime during the year but are not aware of the specific date or month. About 10% of the respondents incorrectly identify the year of the next European elections, while 23% state upfront that they do not know when these elections will take place.

QA12

To your knowledge, when will the next European elections be held here in (OUR COUNTRY)? (EU27) (%)



● On 6, 7, 8, 9 June 2024 ● In June 2024, other than 6 to 9 June 2024 ● This year/ In 2024
 ● Next year/ in 2025 ● In two years/ in 2026 ● Don't know

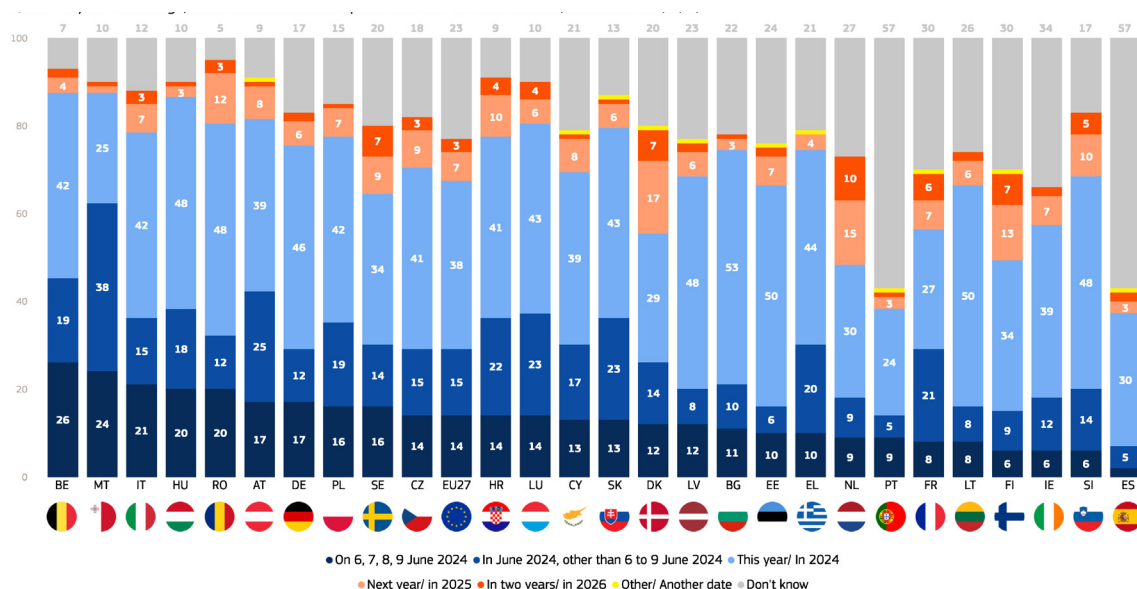
Feb/Mar 2024

There are notable variations among the Member States in the level of knowledge of the exact timing of the upcoming European elections. In five countries, a fifth or more of citizens know the exact dates when the elections will take place: Belgium (26%), Malta (24%), Italy (21%) and Romania and Hungary (both 20%). Meanwhile, the lowest proportions of respondents with exact knowledge of the date are in Spain (2%), Ireland, Finland and Slovenia (all 6%).

When it comes to the identification of the correct month when the 2024 European elections will take place, the highest proportions of respondents are found in Malta (38%), Austria (25%), Luxembourg and Slovakia (23%), while the lowest are in Portugal and Spain (both 5%) as well as Estonia (6%). In both Portugal and Spain, the highest proportions across the EU say that they rather do not know when the next European elections will take place (57% in both countries).

QA12

To your knowledge, when will the next European elections be held here in (OUR COUNTRY)? (%)



Feb/Mar 2024

The socio-demographic analysis highlights that respondents aged 55+ are somewhat more likely than respondents aged 15-24 to correctly identify the month of the next European elections (17% vs 10%), although, in terms of the exact date, there are no significant differences in knowledge levels across age groups.

Respondents who completed full-time education aged 16 or older are more likely than those who completed it at the age of 15 or younger to identify the correct date (13-16% vs. 8%), while respondents in the latter group are more likely to say they do not know when these elections will take place (36% vs. 18% - 22%).

Managers (17%) and other white-collar workers (16%) are more likely to correctly identify the exact dates of the elections, compared with 8% of unemployed respondents and 9% of house persons.

In terms of socio-economic status, those who have difficulties paying their bills from time to time or almost never/never are more likely to know the dates compared to those who have difficulties most of the time (14% vs. 10%). Meanwhile, the respondents with the most difficulties are the most likely to say they do not know (36% vs. 22%).

Levels of precise knowledge are also higher among those who have a positive image of the European Parliament (17% vs 11% -12% of those who have a neutral or negative image) and among those who say they are likely to vote (15% vs 7% of those who are not likely to vote).

QA12

To your knowledge, when will the next European elections be held here in (OUR COUNTRY)? (% - EU)

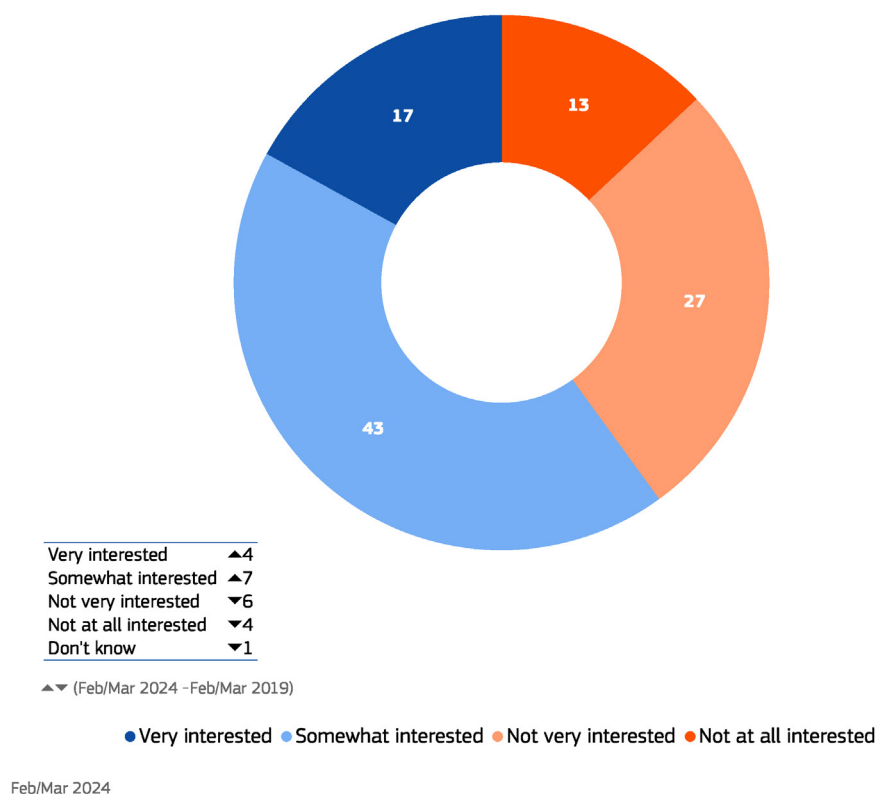
	Total 'Correct knowledge of the date'	Total 'Correct knowledge of the month and year'	Total 'Correct knowledge of the year but not month'	Total 'Incorrect answer'	Don't know
EU27	14	15	38	10	23
Gender					
Man	14	15	40	11	20
Woman	13	14	37	10	26
Age					
15-24	11	10	33	15	31
25-39	15	13	36	12	24
40-54	14	14	41	10	21
55 +	13	17	40	8	22
Education (End of)					
15-	8	12	35	9	36
16-19	13	15	40	10	22
20+	16	16	40	10	18
Still studying	13	12	31	13	31
Socio-professional category					
Self- employed	14	16	42	8	20
Managers	17	18	41	10	14
Other white collars	16	15	41	12	16
Manual workers	13	11	38	12	26
House persons	9	13	35	10	33
Unemployed	8	9	34	11	38
Retired	13	17	39	8	23
Students	13	12	31	13	31
Difficulties paying bills					
Most of the time	10	10	33	11	36
From time to time	14	15	36	13	22
Almost never/ Never	14	15	40	9	22
Image of the European Parliament					
Positive	17	16	43	8	16
Neutral	11	13	36	11	29
Negative	12	15	37	12	24
Likelihood to vote in the next European elections					
Likely	15	16	42	9	18
Neutral	12	15	34	15	24
Not likely	7	7	27	12	47

2.2 Interest in the June 2024 European elections

Three months before the 2024 European elections, 60% of citizens indicate an interest in voting. Compared to the pre-electoral period before the 2019 European Elections, the interest in the election has increased by a total of 11 percentage points, including a +4 pp increase in strong interest. This increase in interest applies to all Member States, albeit there are significant variations across the different geographies.

QA13

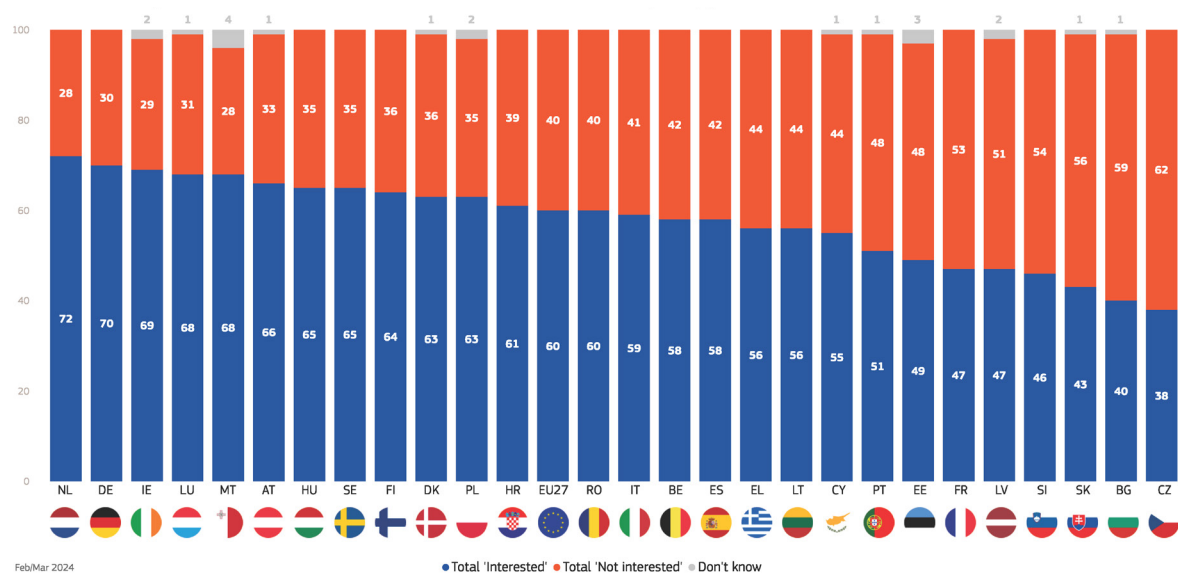
The next European elections will be held in June 2024. How interested or not would you say you are in these elections? (EU27) (%)



In 20 Member States, more than half of respondents say that they are interested in the election, with the overall level of interest peaking in the Netherlands (72%), Germany (70%), Ireland (69%), Malta, and Luxembourg (68%). In contrast, interest in the next European elections is lower in Czechia (38%), Bulgaria (40%), and Slovakia (43%).

QA13

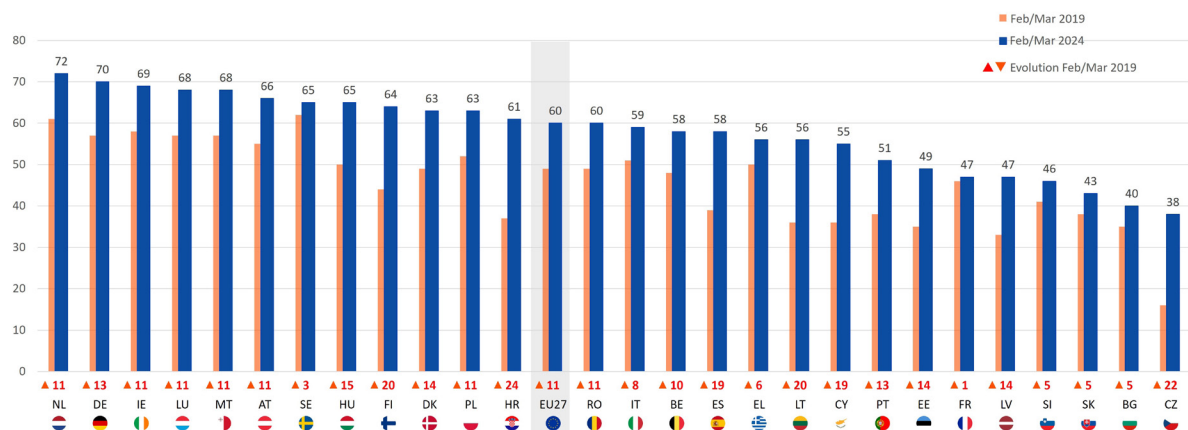
The next European elections will be held in June 2024. How interested or not would you say you are in these elections? (%)



The largest increases in interest are observed in Croatia (61%, +24 pp since February/March 2019), Czechia (38%, +22 pp), Lithuania (56%, + 20%) and Finland (64%, +20 pp). The least dynamic interest in the European elections appears to be in France (47%, +1 pp) and Sweden (65%, +3pp) although in both countries it is at the EU-average level or higher.

QA13

The next European elections will be held in June 2024. How interested or not would you say you are in these elections? (% - Total 'Interested')



From a socio-demographic angle, the data indicates that interest in the European elections varies by age. Although the association does not appear linear, younger Europeans acknowledge a somewhat lower level of interest in the next round of European elections (with 51% of those 15–24 saying they are interested in these elections) compared to older cohorts, particularly those aged 55+ (60%).

There is a further degree of variation in levels of interest in the 2024 European elections when respondents are compared in terms of their level of education, socio-professional categories, socio-economic status, and subjective urbanisation.

Mainly, citizens who report having left education aged 20 or older express more interest in the upcoming election (69%) compared to those who finished education at age 15 or younger (50%).

Interest is highest in managers (73%) and other white-collar workers (65%) as well as the self-employed (64%), while it is the lowest among respondents who report being unemployed (44%).

Those who almost never or never encounter difficulties paying bills are more likely to acknowledge interest, compared to those who face such difficulties most of the time (64% vs. 43%).

Likewise, respondents residing in larger towns exhibit higher interest compared to those who live in rural areas (64% vs. 57%).

Regarding differences among attitudinal segments, the data illustrates that Europeans who feel that their voice counts in the EU are more likely to be interested in the upcoming European elections than those who believe that their voice does not count (75% vs 46%). The gap is even wider among respondents who have a positive image of the EP (79% vs 42%) and those who have a negative image of the institution.

Respondents who are more likely to say they will vote in the 2024 European elections are respectively more interested in these elections (75%, likelihood of 8–10), compared to both those who are unsure about voting in the next European elections (31%, 5–6 rating of likelihood to vote) and those who say they are not likely to vote (11%, 1–4).

QA13

The next European elections will be held in June 2024. How interested or not would you say you are in these elections? (% - EU)

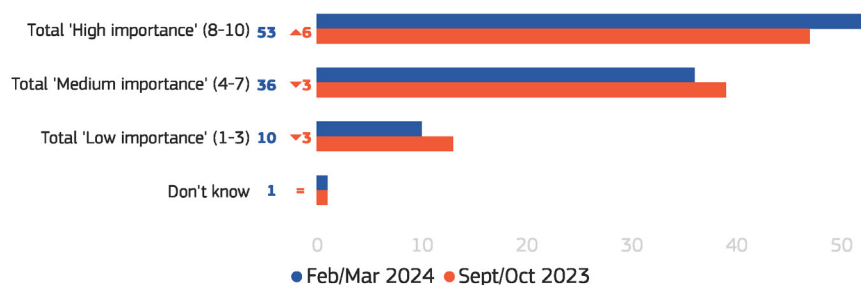
	Total 'Interested'	Total 'Not interested'	Don't know
EU27	60	40	0
Gender			
Man	61	39	0
Woman	59	40	1
Age			
15-24	51	48	1
25-39	59	41	0
40-54	62	38	0
55 +	60	40	0
Education (End of)			
15-	50	50	0
16-19	57	43	0
20+	69	30	1
Still studying	54	45	1
Socio-professional category			
Self- employed	64	36	0
Managers	73	26	1
Other white collars	65	35	0
Manual workers	55	45	0
House persons	51	48	1
Unemployed	44	56	0
Retired	59	41	0
Students	54	45	1
Difficulties paying bills			
Most of the time	43	57	0
From time to time	55	45	0
Almost never/ Never	64	36	0
Subjective urbanisation			
Rural village	57	43	0
Small/ mid size town	59	41	0
Large town	64	35	1
My voice counts in the EU			
Agree	75	25	0
Disagree	46	54	0
Image of the European Parliament			
Positive	79	21	0
Neutral	48	51	1
Negative	42	58	0
Likelihood to vote in the next European elections			
Likely	75	25	0
Neutral	31	68	1
Not likely	11	89	0

2.3 Importance of voting in European elections

With the approaching date of the European elections, a higher number of Europeans indicate that it is highly important to vote in these elections: three months before citizens can cast their ballots, 53% say that it is important to a high degree for them personally to vote, an increase of 6 pp compared to September – October 2023. In addition, 36% rate the importance of casting their votes in the upcoming European elections as moderately important (+3 pp, since September – October 2023).

QA16a

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, where 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 a key duty for you as a citizen. (EU27) (%)

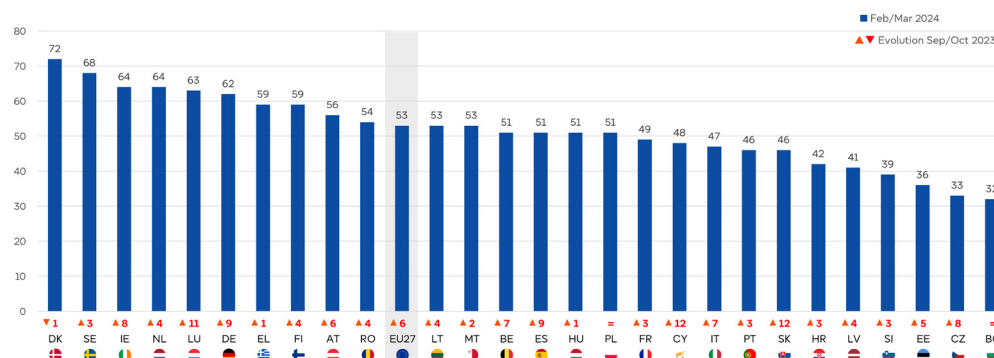


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In 16 of the EU Member States, a majority of respondents endorse the opinion that voting in the European elections is important to a high degree. The Member States with the highest proportion of citizens who place a high degree of importance on casting a ballot in the European elections are Denmark (72%), Sweden (68%), Ireland, and the Netherlands (64%). In five Member States, the relative majority places medium importance on voting in European elections, with the largest shares in Czechia (44%) followed by Bulgaria and Croatia (both 43%) Slovenia (41%) and Estonia (39%).

QA16a

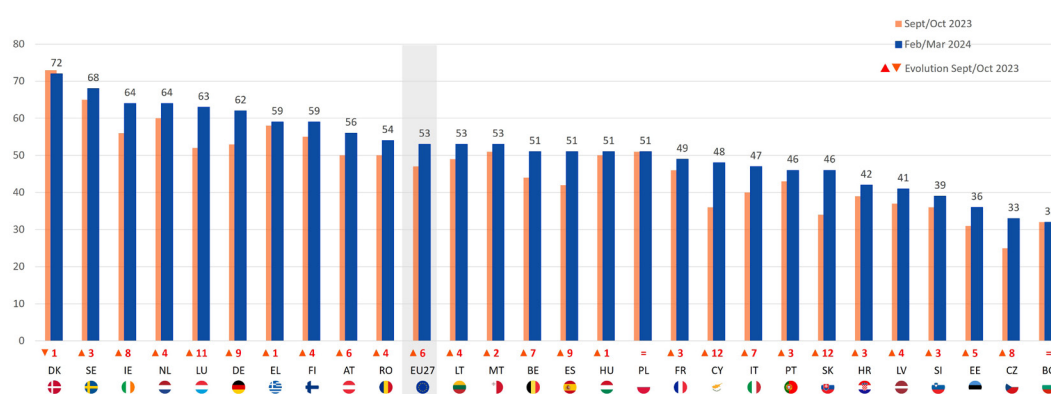
Please tell how important or not it is for you personally to vote in the European elections? Please use a scale from 1 to 10, where 1 means that voting is something that has no importance at all for you, and 10 means that voting is something you consider essential or a key duty for you as a citizen. (% - Total 'high importance')



The results from the current poll show that compared to the previous survey conducted in September–October 2023, there has been either no change or an increase at the country level in the personal relative importance assigned by respondents to the European elections. The most significant increases in proportions are observed in Cyprus (48%, +12 pp), Slovakia (46%, + 12 pp) and Luxembourg (63%, + 11pp).

QA16a

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, where 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 a key duty for you as a citizen. (% – Total 'high importance')



In terms of socio-demographic differences, the data points towards several patterns.

Respondents older than 40 are more likely to assign high importance to voting in the European elections, compared to respondents aged 39 and younger (56% of the former and 48% of the latter hold the same opinion).

There are differences also in terms of age when one finished education – while 61% of respondents who completed their education at age 20 or older express a high level of importance towards voting in European elections, 48% of those who finished education aged 15 or older believe they are important to the same degree.

Socio-professional categories are another differentiating factor, the likelihood of attaching high importance to voting peaks among managers (65%), while being the lowest among those unemployed (39%). Among the socio-economic groups, 58% of respondents who almost never/never experience difficulties paying bills place high importance on voting in the European elections, compared to 39% of respondents who experience such challenges most of the time.

As regards attitudinal segments, the survey results showcase that respondents who have a positive image of the EP are more likely to concurrently assign high levels of importance to voting in European elections (69%), both when compared to those who hold a negative (38%) and neutral (43%) image of the institution. Those who believe that the role of the EU in the world has become more prominent in the last five years are also more likely to place high importance on voting in the European elections (67%) compared with those who believe that the EU's role has stayed the same (46%) or has become less important (43%). In terms of following European politics – while 64% of those who follow such information assign high importance to voting in European elections, 35% of those who do not follow such information place the same level of importance on voting. Finally, a difference can be observed on the scale of likelihood to vote in the next European elections. Respondents who say they are likely to vote (rating of likelihood of 7-10) are more inclined to add that voting is important, with 71% indicating that voting is of high importance and 2% saying that voting is of low importance. The opposite may be seen for the respondents who say that they are not likely to vote in the next European elections (rating of likelihood of 1-4) with 56% noting that voting is not important and 6% saying that voting is important.

QA16a

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, where 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 a key duty for you as a citizen. (% - EU)

	Total 'Low importance' (1-3)	Total 'Medium importance' (4-7)	Total 'High importance' (8-10)	Don't know
EU27	10	36	53	1
Gender				
Man	10	36	53	1
Woman	10	36	54	0
Age				
15-24	12	37	48	3
25-39	10	42	48	0
40-54	9	35	56	0
55 +	10	33	56	1
Education (End of)				
15-	17	34	48	1
16-19	11	41	48	0
20+	6	33	61	0
Still studying	10	35	52	3
Socio-professional category				
Self- employed	12	35	53	0
Managers	6	29	65	0
Other white collars	7	38	55	0
Manual workers	11	41	48	0
House persons	14	41	45	0
Unemployed	23	38	39	0
Retired	12	32	56	0
Students	10	35	52	3
Difficulties paying bills				
Most of the time	26	35	39	0
From time to time	11	43	46	0
Almost never/ Never	8	33	58	1
Image of the European Parliament				
Positive	3	28	69	0
Neutral	11	45	43	1
Negative	23	38	38	1
Follow European politics				
Follow	5	31	64	0
Not follow	18	46	35	1
Role of the EU in the world in the past five years				
More important	5	28	67	0
Less important	13	44	43	0
Stayed the same	12	41	46	1
Likelihood to vote in the next European elections				
Likely	2	27	71	0
Neutral	6	84	10	0
Not likely	56	37	6	1

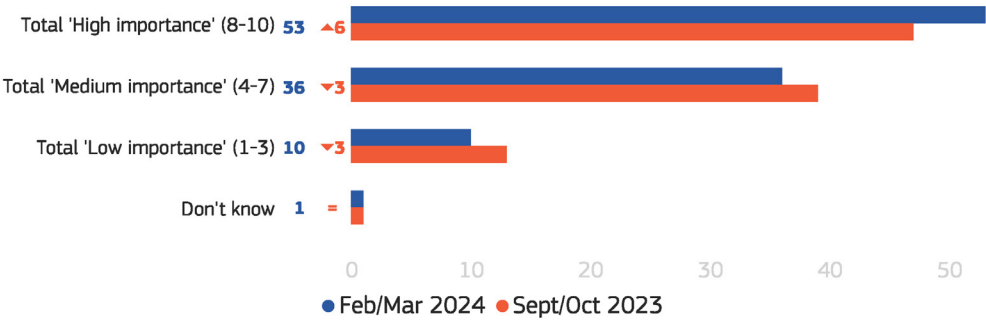
2.4 Importance of voting in national elections

Evidencing the growing importance of voting in the European elections, the survey results indicate that while the significance of voting in the upcoming European elections has increased, the importance of voting in national elections has remained stable.

When citizens are asked to rate the importance of voting in national elections, close to seven in ten (69%, +1 pp since September – October 2023) rate the significance of casting a ballot as high, while one in four (25%, +1 pp since September – October 2023) rate it as having moderate importance.

QA16b

And how important or not is it for you to vote in the national elections in (OUR COUNTRY)? (EU27) (%)

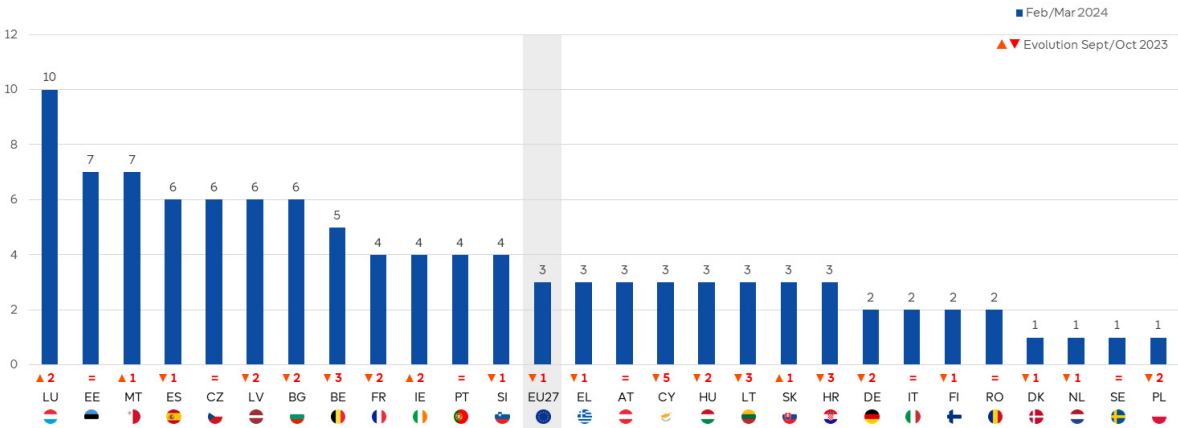


Feb/Mar 2024

In all of the EU Member States, a clear majority of respondents assign a high level of importance to voting in national elections. There is some variation between countries in the proportion of respondents holding such views, spanning from 94% in Sweden, 92% in Denmark, as well as 88% in both Finland and the Netherlands, to 49% in Bulgaria, 54% in Italy and 57% in Belgium.

QA16b

And how important or not is it for you to vote in the national elections in (OUR COUNTRY)? (% - Total 'High importance')

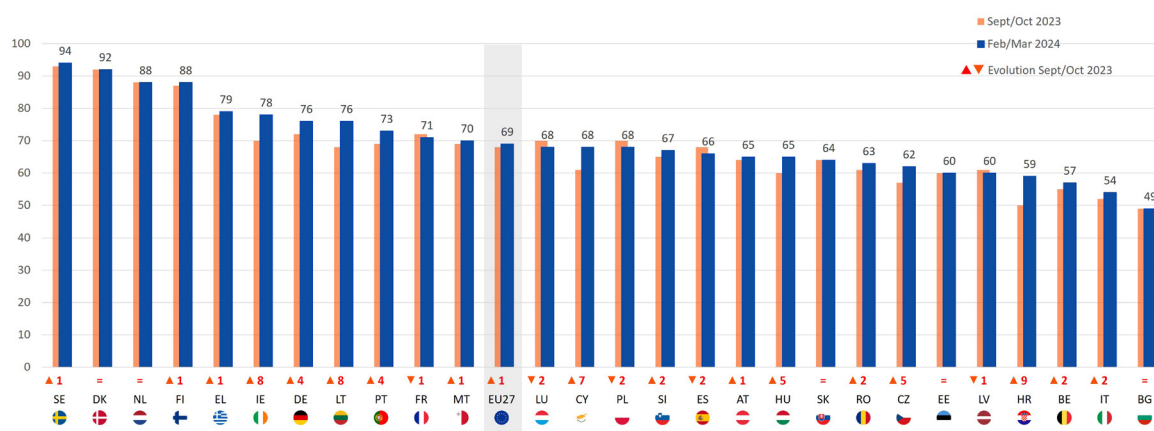


Feb/Mar 2024

The importance citizens place on voting in national elections has either remained stable (with insignificant variations of up to a couple percentage points in either direction) or increased across the Member States. The largest increase in the level of importance assigned to national elections is observed in Croatia (59%, +9 pp), Ireland (78%, +8 pp), and Lithuania (76%, +8 pp).

QA16b

And how important or not is it for you to vote in the national elections in (OUR COUNTRY)? (% – Total 'High importance')



The socio-demographic analysis of data concerning the importance attributed to voting in national elections aligns with the aforementioned findings regarding observed patterns in the importance of voting in European elections.

The likelihood of assigning a high level of importance to voting in national elections appears to increase with age – 73% of respondents aged 55+ place high importance on casting one's ballot in national elections relative to 63% of respondents aged 15-24.

Additionally, while 77% of Europeans who left education at age 20 or above attach a high level of importance to voting in national elections, 64% of those who left education at age 15 or younger hold a similar view.

The likelihood of placing a high level of importance on voting in national elections is also higher in managers (78%) and the retired (74%), particularly when compared to those unemployed (54%).

Respondents who almost never/never experience difficulties paying bills also place more importance on voting in national elections (75%, compared to 56% among those who face such challenges most of the time).

The strength of importance of exercising one's suffrage in national elections is associated more strongly with agreement that one's voice counts in their country (81%) rather than with disagreement that one's voice counts (52%).

QA16b

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

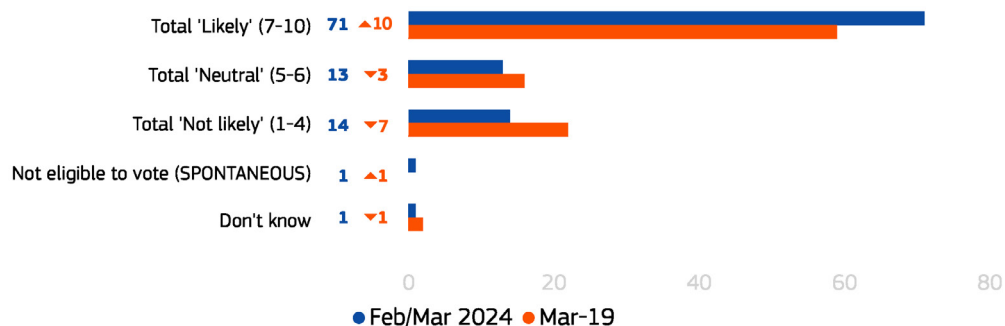
	Total 'Low importance' (1-3)	Total 'Medium importance' (4-7)	Total 'High importance' (8-10)	Don't know
EU27	5	25	69	1
Gender				
Man	6	24	69	1
Woman	5	25	69	1
Age				
15-24	7	27	63	3
25-39	6	29	65	0
40-54	4	24	71	1
55 +	6	21	73	0
Education (End of)				
15-	11	25	64	0
16-19	6	28	65	1
20+	4	19	77	0
Still studying	6	24	67	3
Socio-professional category				
Self- employed	6	24	69	1
Managers	3	19	78	0
Other white collars	3	26	71	0
Manual workers	6	29	64	1
House persons	8	33	58	1
Unemployed	17	28	54	1
Retired	5	21	74	0
Students	6	24	67	3
Difficulties paying bills				
Most of the time	17	26	56	1
From time to time	6	34	59	1
Almost never/ Never	4	20	75	1
My voice counts in (OUR COUNTRY)				
Agree	2	17	81	0
Disagree	12	35	52	1

2.5 Likelihood of voting in the June 2024 European elections

Across the EU, 71% note a high likelihood of voting in the European elections (scores 7 to 10 on a scale from 1 to 10). The proportion might be indicative of a moderate mobilisation of the European electorate as compared to February/March 2019. Five years on, 10 pp more citizens express a high likelihood of casting a ballot (this trend has been modified).

QA20

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

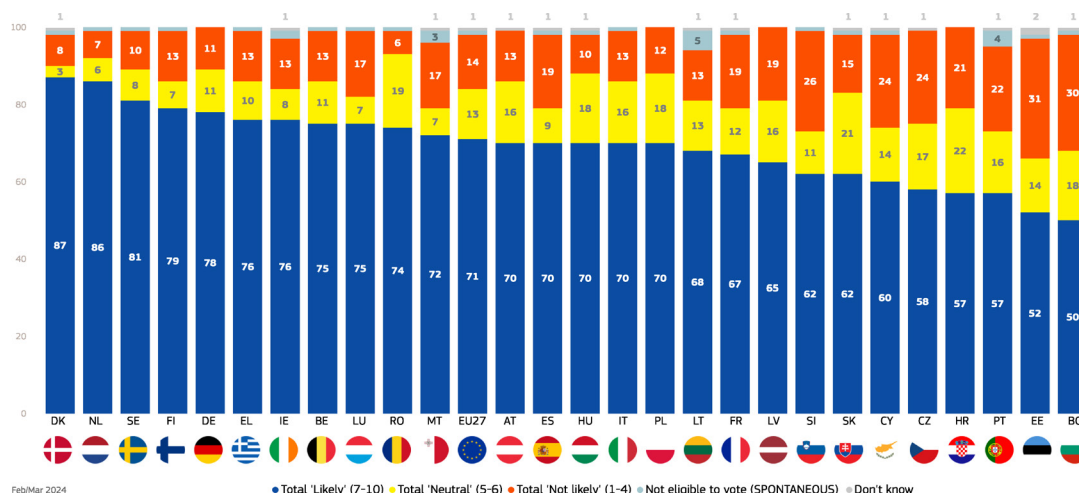


Feb/Mar 2024

In all of the Member States, half or more of the respondents report that they are likely exercise their suffrage in the next European elections. The likelihood of voting in these elections ranges from 87% in Denmark and 86% in the Netherlands to 52% in Estonia and 50% in Bulgaria. The countries where the highest shares of respondents noted that they are not likely to vote are Estonia (31%), Bulgaria (30%) and Slovenia (26%).

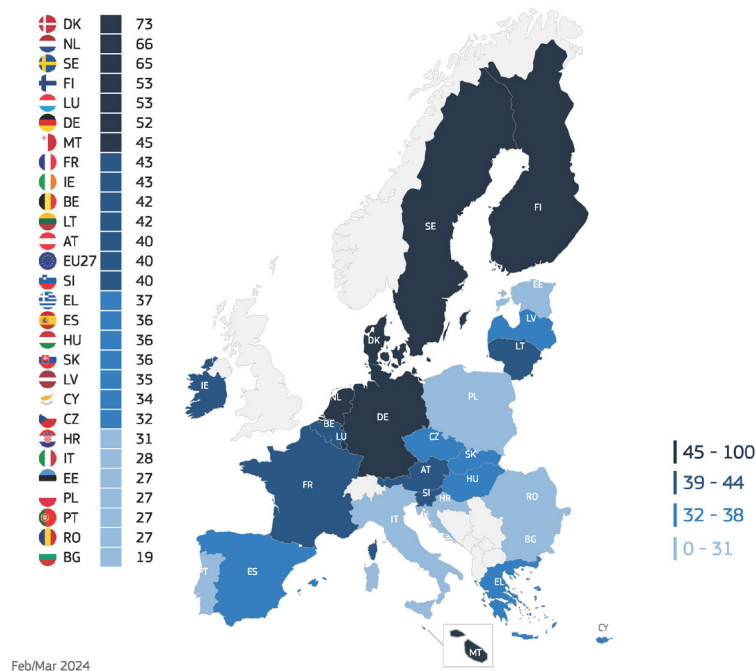
QA20

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



QA20

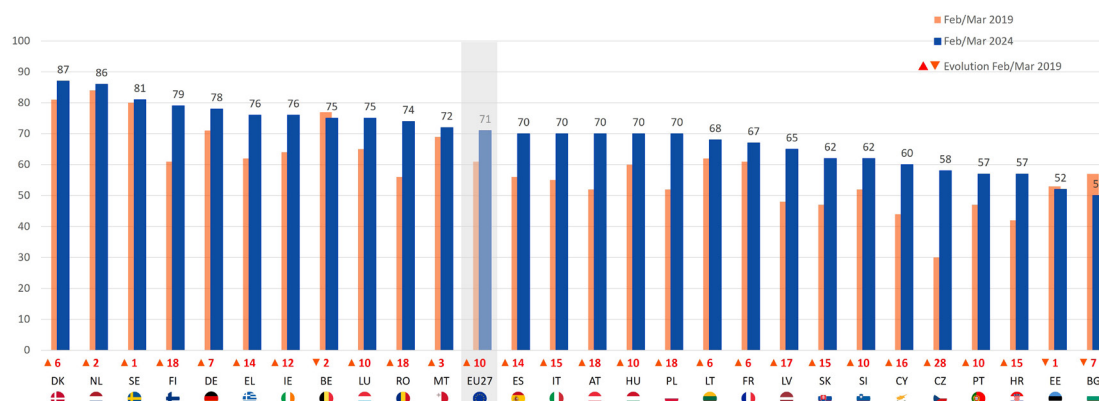
If the next European elections were to be held next week, how likely would you be to vote in these elections? Please use a scale from 1 to 10, where '1' means "not at all likely" and '10' means "very likely". 10 - Very likely (%)



The intention to vote in the upcoming European elections has become stronger in 21 of the Member States, with variations spanning steep increases in some countries and marginal increases in others. The stated likelihood of casting a vote has increased greatly in Czechia (58%, +28 pp since February/March 2019), Romania (74%, +18 pp) as well as Austria (70% +18 pp), Finland (79%, +18 pp) and Poland (70%, +18 pp).

QA20

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



The socio-demographic analysis reveals that the reported likelihood of casting a ballot in the next European elections is highest among respondents aged 55 or over (74%), while being the lowest among respondents aged 15 to 24 (63%).

The propensity to offer a high rating to the likelihood of voting in the next European elections peaks among respondents who completed their education aged 20 or older (80%), particularly when compared to respondents who ended their education aged 15 or younger (65%).

The stated likelihood of voting is also higher among managers (80%) and other white-collar workers (74%) compared to that among the unemployed (54%). There are also differences by socio-economic segment, as indicated by the reported level of difficulty in paying bills – 77% of those who note to almost never or never experience challenges paying bills report a high likelihood of voting in the next European elections compared to 53% of those who encounter such difficulties most of the time.

In terms of attitudinal segments, the data indicates that respondents who follow European politics (83%, compared to 55% of those who do not follow such news), those who believe that their voice counts in the EU (85%, compared to 60% of those who think that their voice does not count) and are optimistic about the future of the EU (81%, versus 58% of respondents who are pessimistic about it) are all more likely to report an intention to cast a ballot in the next European elections.

QA20

If the next European elections were to be held next week, how likely would you be to 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	Prefer not to answer	Don't know
EU27	14	13	71	1	0	1
Gender						
Man	15	13	70	1	0	1
Woman	13	13	72	1	0	1
Age						
15-24	19	12	63	5	0	1
25-39	16	16	68	0	0	0
40-54	13	13	74	0	0	0
55 +	14	11	74	0	0	1
Education (End of)						
15-	22	12	65	0	0	1
16-19	15	15	70	0	0	0
20+	9	11	80	0	0	0
Still studying	17	11	64	7	0	1
Socio-professional category						
Self- employed	14	13	73	0	0	0
Managers	9	11	80	0	0	0
Other white collars	11	15	74	0	0	0
Manual workers	16	15	68	0	0	1
House persons	22	14	63	0	0	1
Unemployed	31	14	54	0	0	1
Retired	14	11	74	0	0	1
Students	17	11	64	7	0	1
Difficulties paying bills						
Most of the time	34	13	53	0	0	0
From time to time	17	18	64	0	0	1
Almost never/ Never	11	11	77	1	0	0
My voice counts in the EU						
Agree	5	10	85	0	0	0
Disagree	22	16	60	1	0	1
Optimism about the future of the EU						
Optimistic	8	10	81	1	0	0
Pessimiste	24	17	58	0	0	1
Follow European politics						
Follow	7	10	83	0	0	0
Not follow	25	18	55	1	0	1

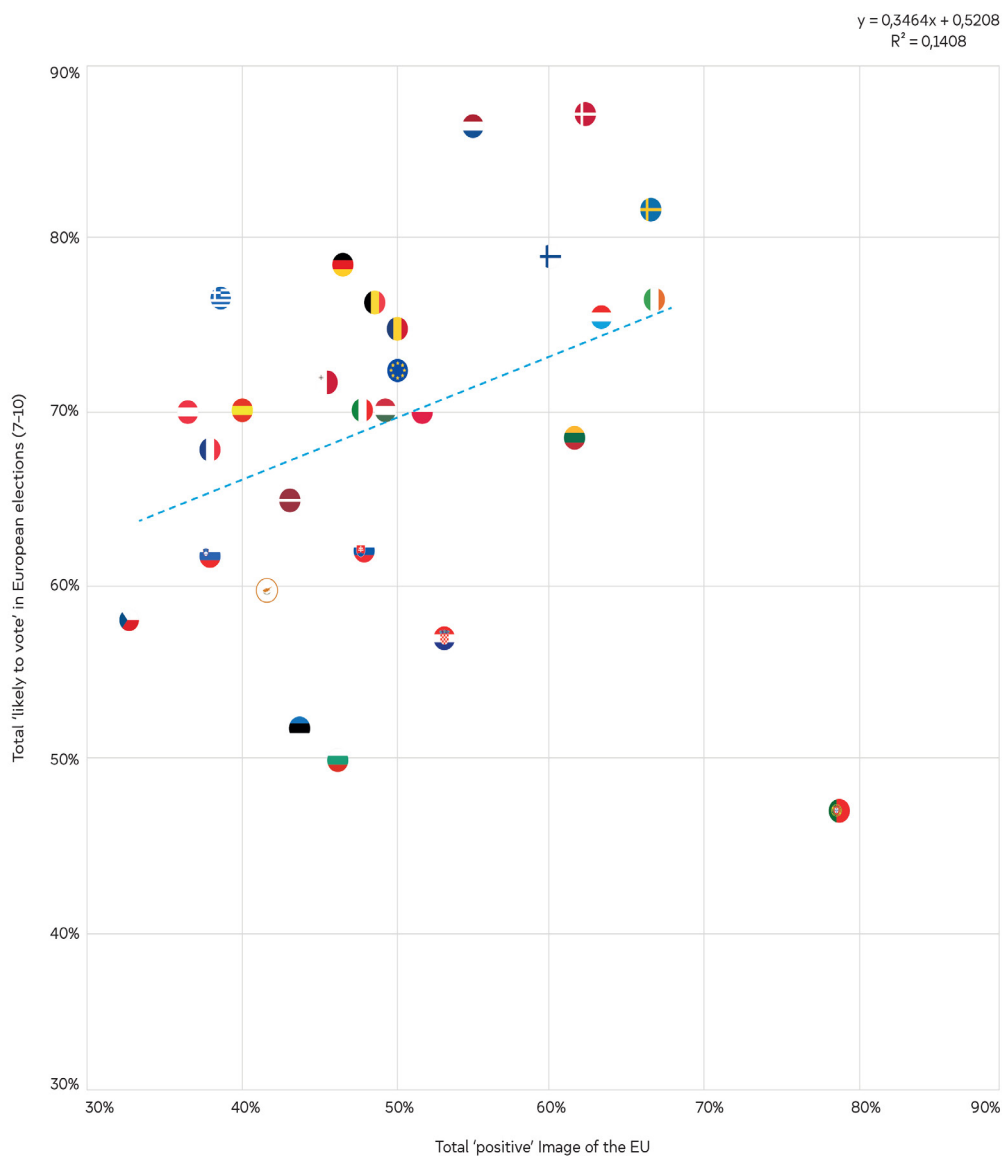
At the country level, a positive correlation is observed between positive image of the EU and likelihood to vote. EU Member States with a higher share of citizens having a positive image of the EU, are also the countries where higher shares of likely voters are found.

QA1/QA20

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

If the next European elections were to be held next week, how likely would you be to vote in these elections? (% - scores from 7 to 10).

Total 'Likely' to Vote in EU Elections (7-10) - Total 'Positive' Image of the EU

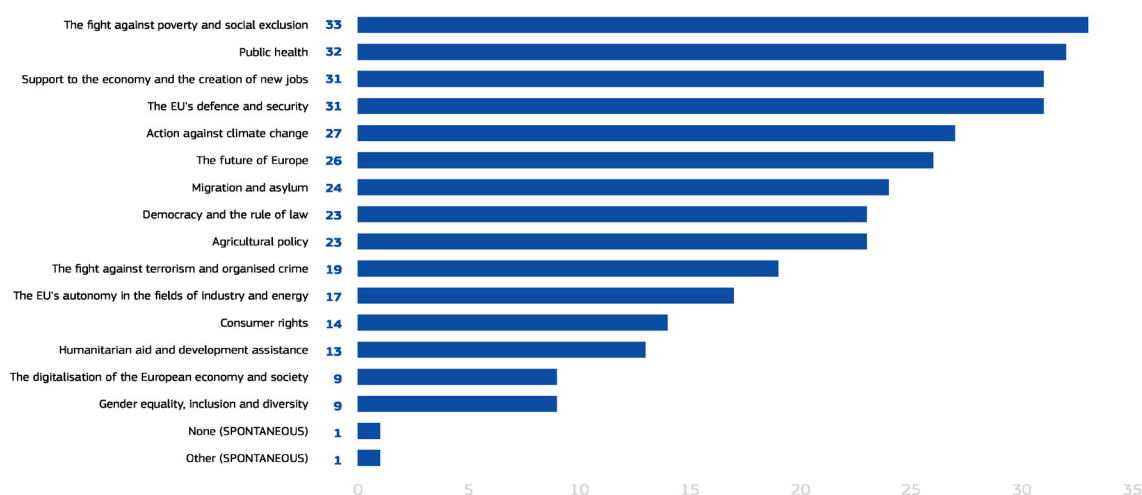


2.6 Central topics for the electoral campaign

When asked about their opinion on the topics that should be discussed as a matter of priority during the electoral campaign 33% of Europeans say **'the fight against poverty and social exclusion'**, 32% contend for **'public health'**, and 31% point at **'support for the economy, and the creation of new jobs'**, as well as the **'EU's defence and security'**. About a quarter or above also consider that **'action against climate change'** (27%), **'the future of Europe'** (26%) and **'migration and asylum'** (24%) should feature as important themes to be discussed during the electoral campaign period ahead of the upcoming European elections.

QA14ab

Which of the following topics should be discussed as a matter of priority during the electoral campaign for the next European Parliament elections? Firstly? And then? (EU27) (%) (MAX 4 ANSWERS)



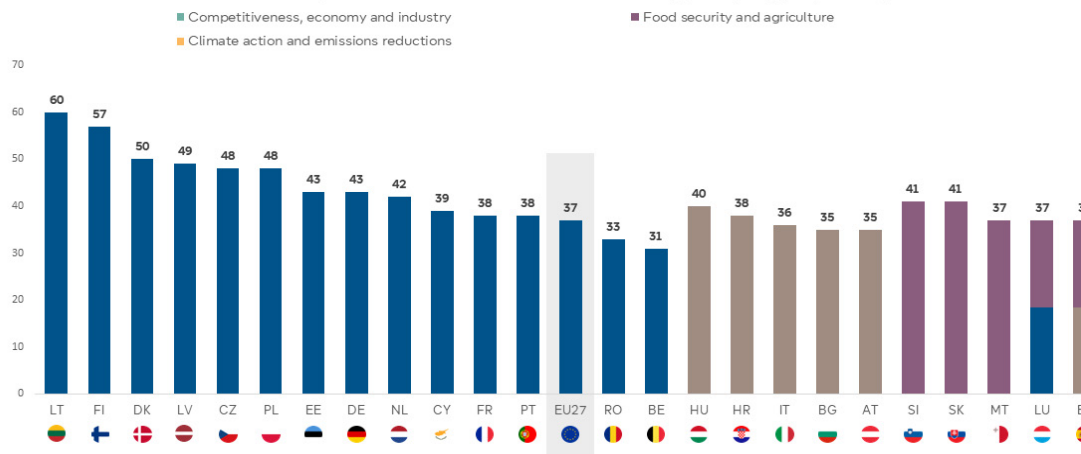
Feb/Mar 2024

There are notable differences at country level.

In nine countries, the largest proportion of respondents underscore the importance of **'the EU's defence and security'** to be discussed during campaigning. In six other countries, the emphasis is more on the topic of **'support for the economy and the creation of new jobs'**. Additionally, the theme of **'the fight against poverty and social exclusion'** takes precedence in four countries, highlighting the significance of economic growth and tackling financial adversity that a growing percentage of the EU population has experienced in recent times, as indicated by previous Parlemeter surveys. **'Public health'** is mentioned as a priority topic in five countries, while in Malta and Cyprus, majorities point towards **'migration and asylum'**. In Sweden, a large number of respondents would like to see **'action against climate change'** be discussed as a priority, while in Austria, **'the future of Europe'** takes precedence as the most important topic for electoral campaigning.

QA14ab

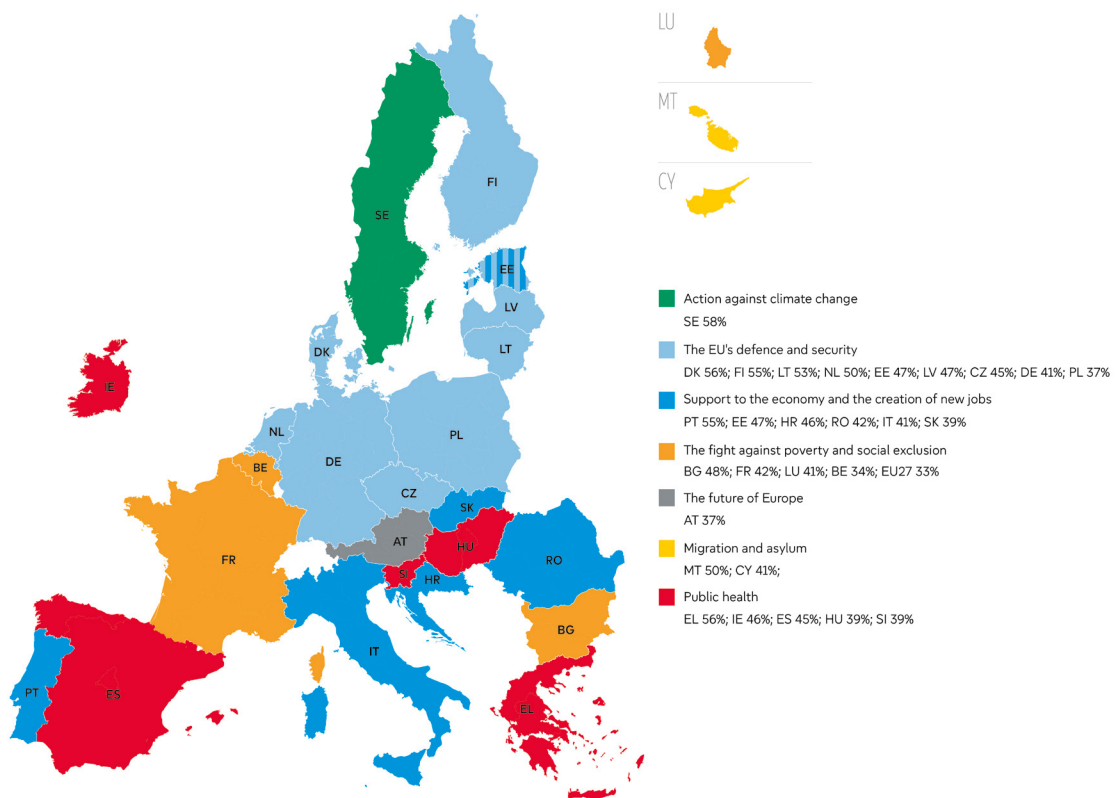
Which of the following topics should be discussed as a matter of priority during the electoral campaign for the next European Parliament elections? Firstly? And then? (%)



Feb/Mar 2024

QA14ab

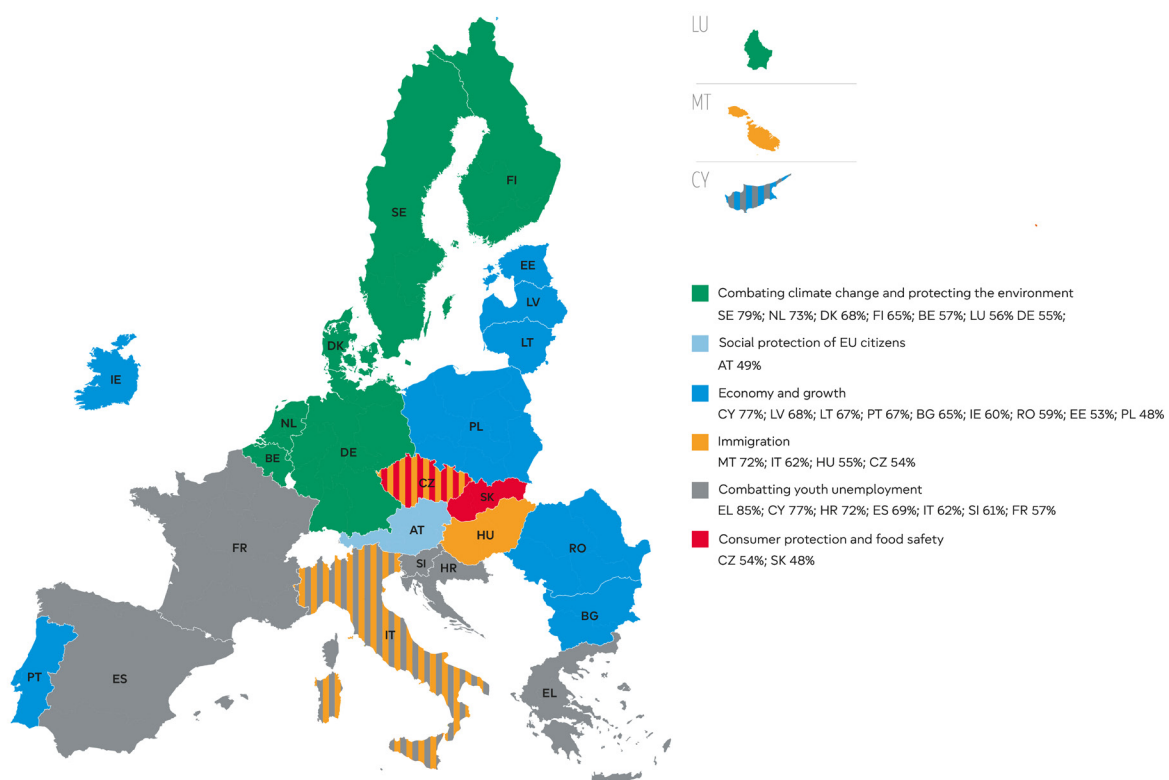
Which of the following topics should be discussed as a matter of priority during the electoral campaign for the next European Parliament elections? Firstly? And then? (% - Main answer per country)



A similar question was asked in Spring 2019, three months before that year's European elections and, while a direct comparison cannot be made, some changes do stand out. For example, action against climate change is now the main topic in Sweden only, while in 2019 it came first in Sweden, the Netherlands, Denmark, Finland, Belgium, Luxembourg and Germany. Public health is now the most mentioned topic in Greece, Ireland, Spain, Hungary and Slovenia, a topic that was not present in Spring 2019, before the Covid-19 pandemic. The EU's defence and security was far from a prominent topic in 2019, before Russia's invasion of Ukraine in February 2022, contrarily to February and March 2024.

QA8ab

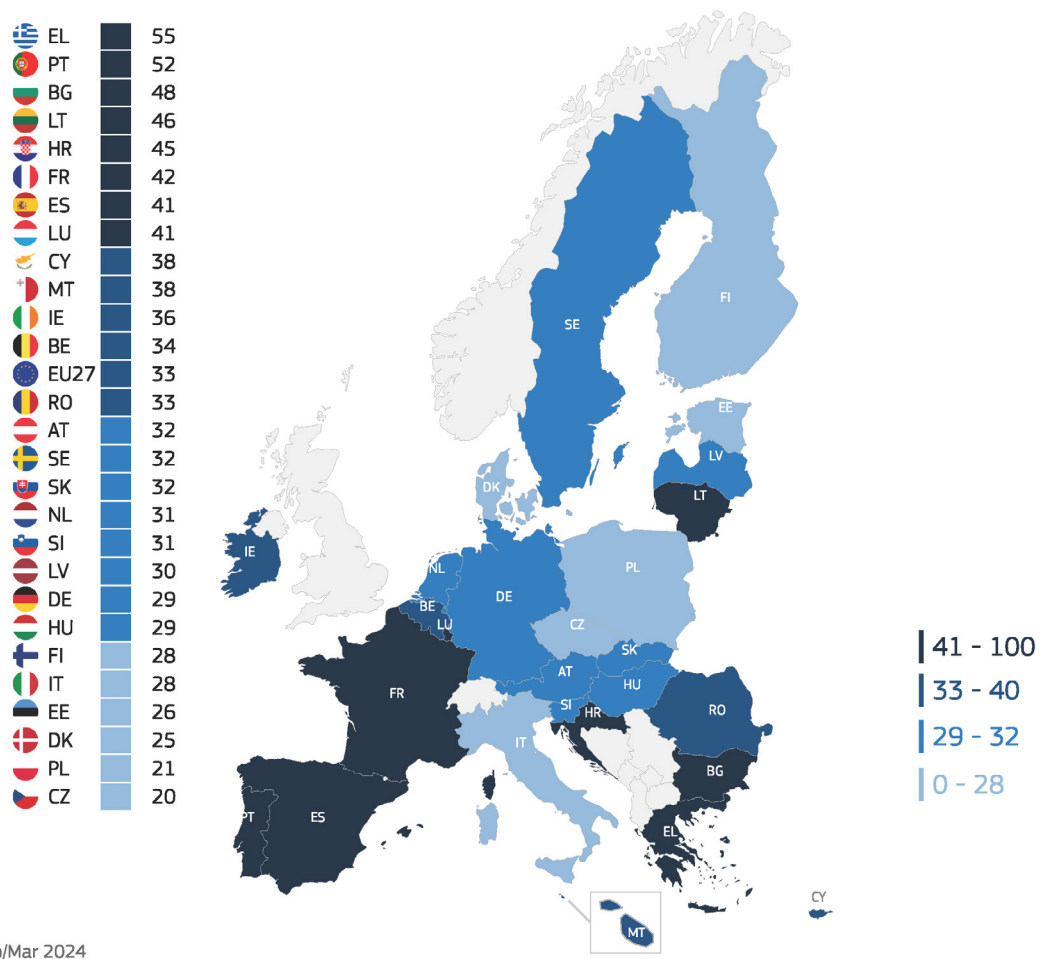
Which of the following topics should be discussed as a matter of priority during the electoral campaign for the next European Parliament elections? Firstly? And then? (% - Main answer per country)



In 14 countries, 'the fight against poverty and social exclusion' is one of the three most often mentioned priority topics to be discussed during the upcoming electoral campaign for the European elections. Greece (55%), Portugal (52%) and Bulgaria (48%) have the highest number of respondents indicating this topic as a priority, while Czechia (20%), Poland (21%) and Denmark (25%) have the lowest proportion of respondents mentioning it.

QA14ab

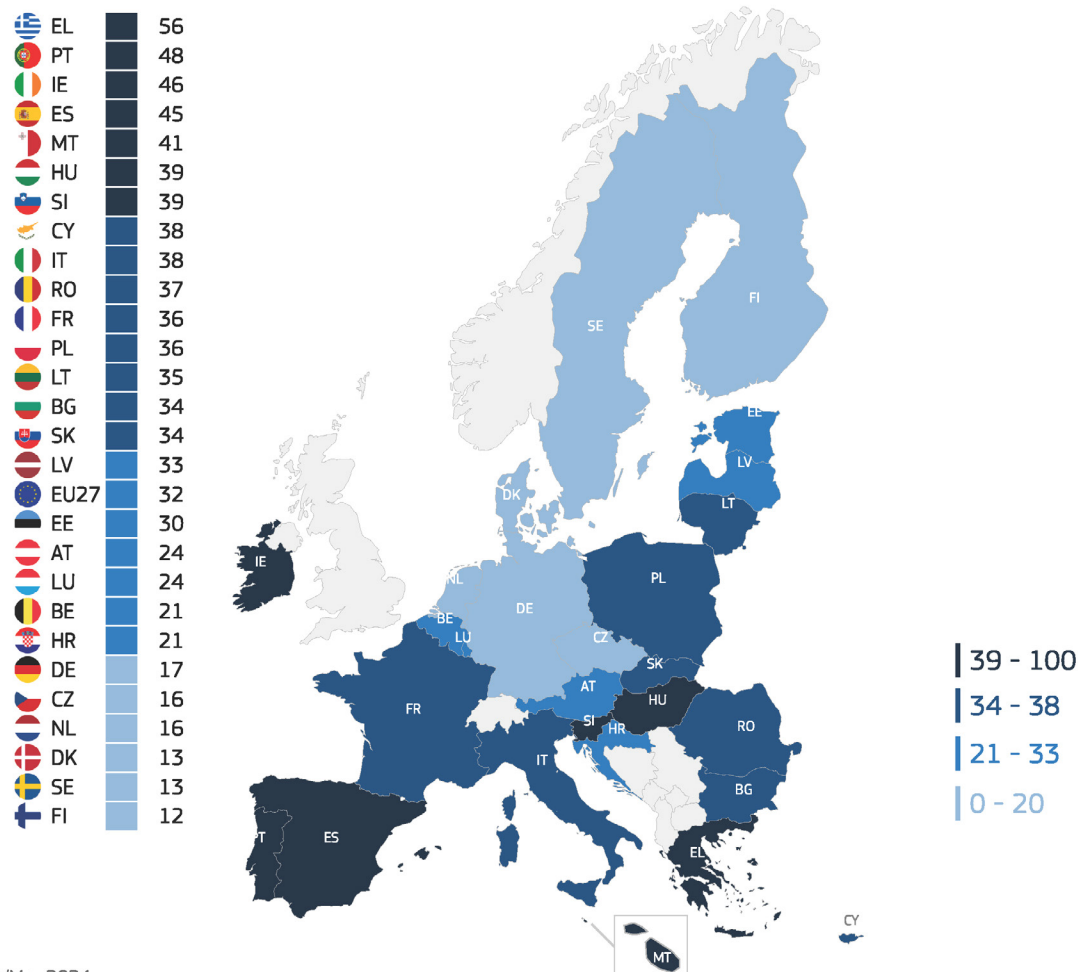
Which of the following topics should be discussed as a matter of priority during the electoral campaign for the next European Parliament elections? Firstly? And then? - The fight against poverty and social exclusion (%)



'Public health' is one of the top three themes for the EP election campaigns in 16 countries. The proportions who name this as a priority topic peak in Greece (56%), Portugal (48%), and Ireland (46%) but go as low as 12% in Finland, 13% in Denmark and Sweden, as well as 16% in both Czechia and the Netherlands.

QA14ab

Which of the following topics should be discussed as a matter of priority during the electoral campaign for the next European Parliament elections? Firstly? And then? – Public health (%)

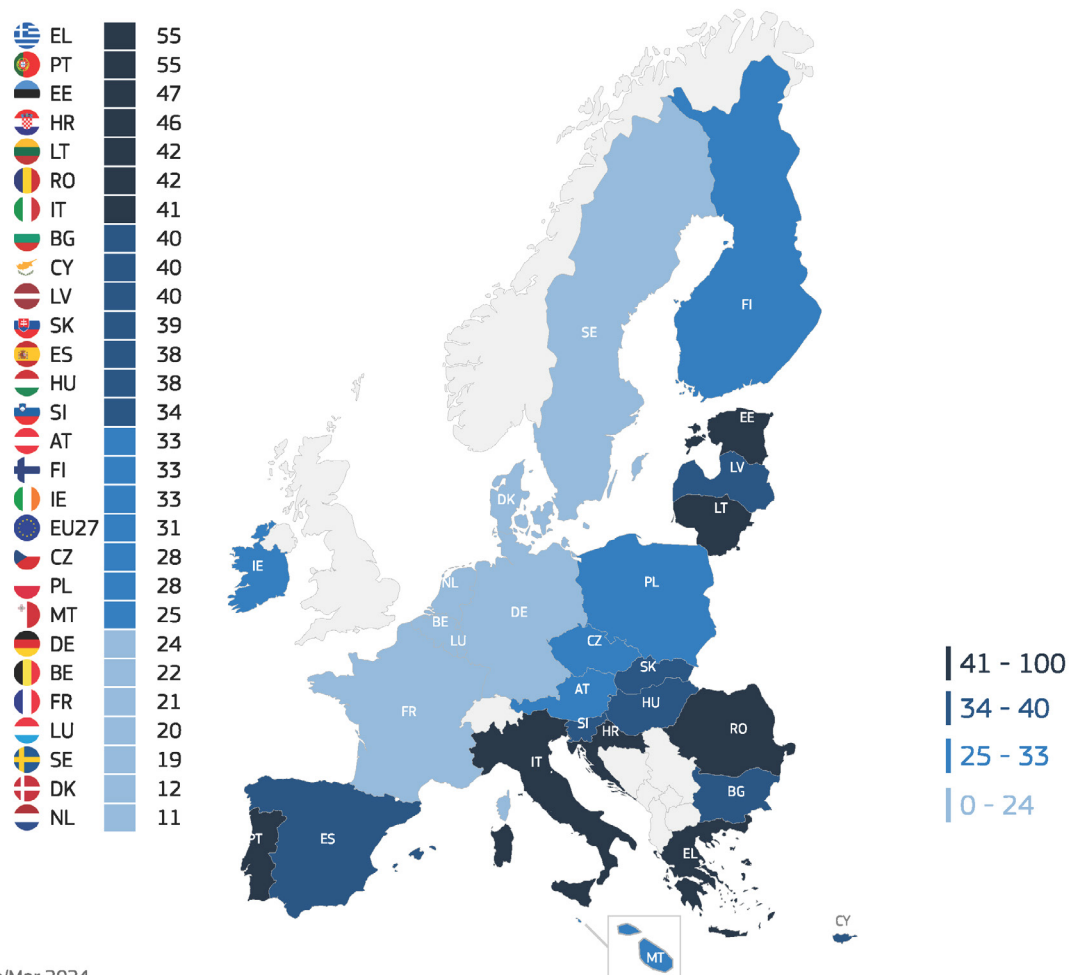


Feb/Mar 2024

'Support for the economy and the creation of new jobs' is the most commonly referred to electoral campaign topic in 15 countries. The proportions range across the EU from 55% in both Greece and Portugal, 47% in Estonia and 46% in Croatia to 11% in the Netherlands, 12% in Denmark and 19% in Sweden.

QA14ab

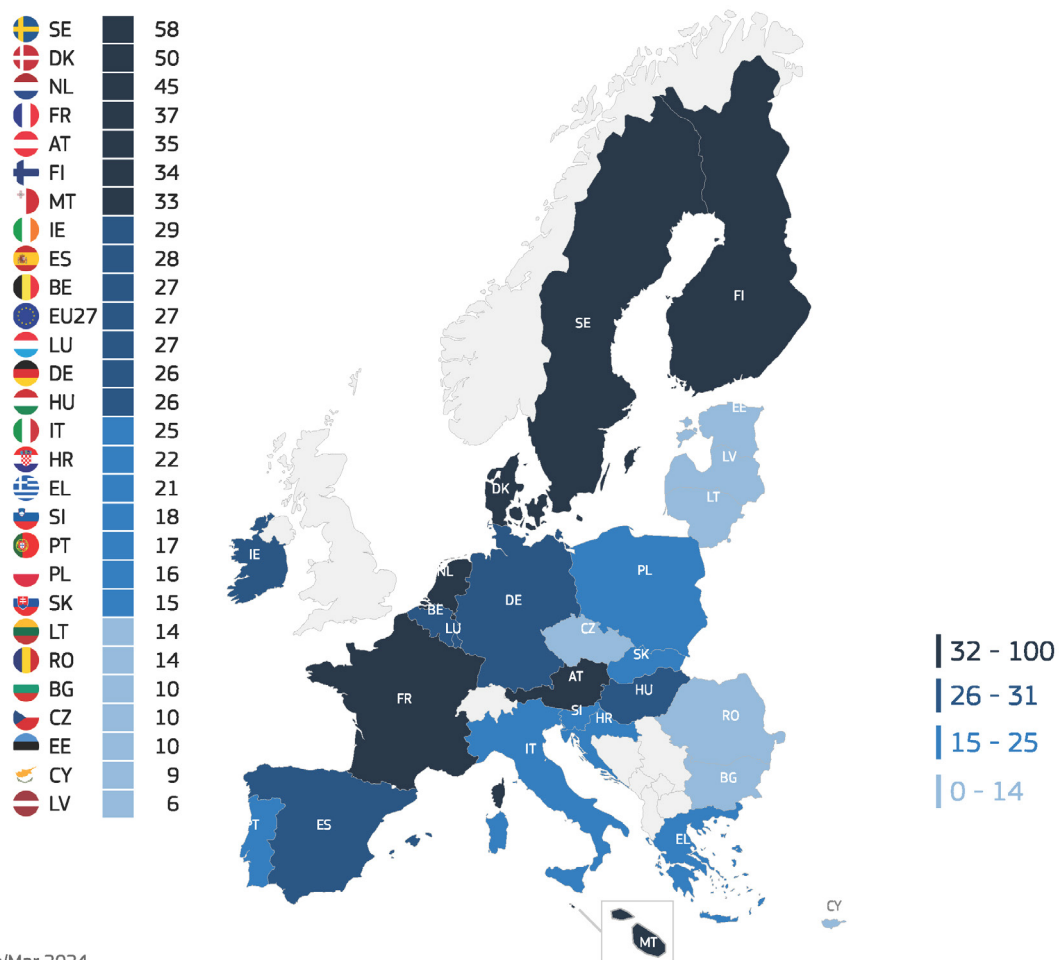
Which of the following topics should be discussed as a matter of priority during the electoral campaign for the next European Parliament elections? Firstly? And then? – Support to the economy and creation of new jobs (%)



'Action against climate change' emerges as one of the top three priorities for discussion during the electoral campaign in seven countries. The highest proportions of respondents who mention this topic are recorded in Sweden (58%), Denmark (50%) and the Netherlands (45%). In contrast, the lowest proportions are in Latvia (6%), Cyprus (9%), as well as Bulgaria and Estonia (both 10%).

QA14ab

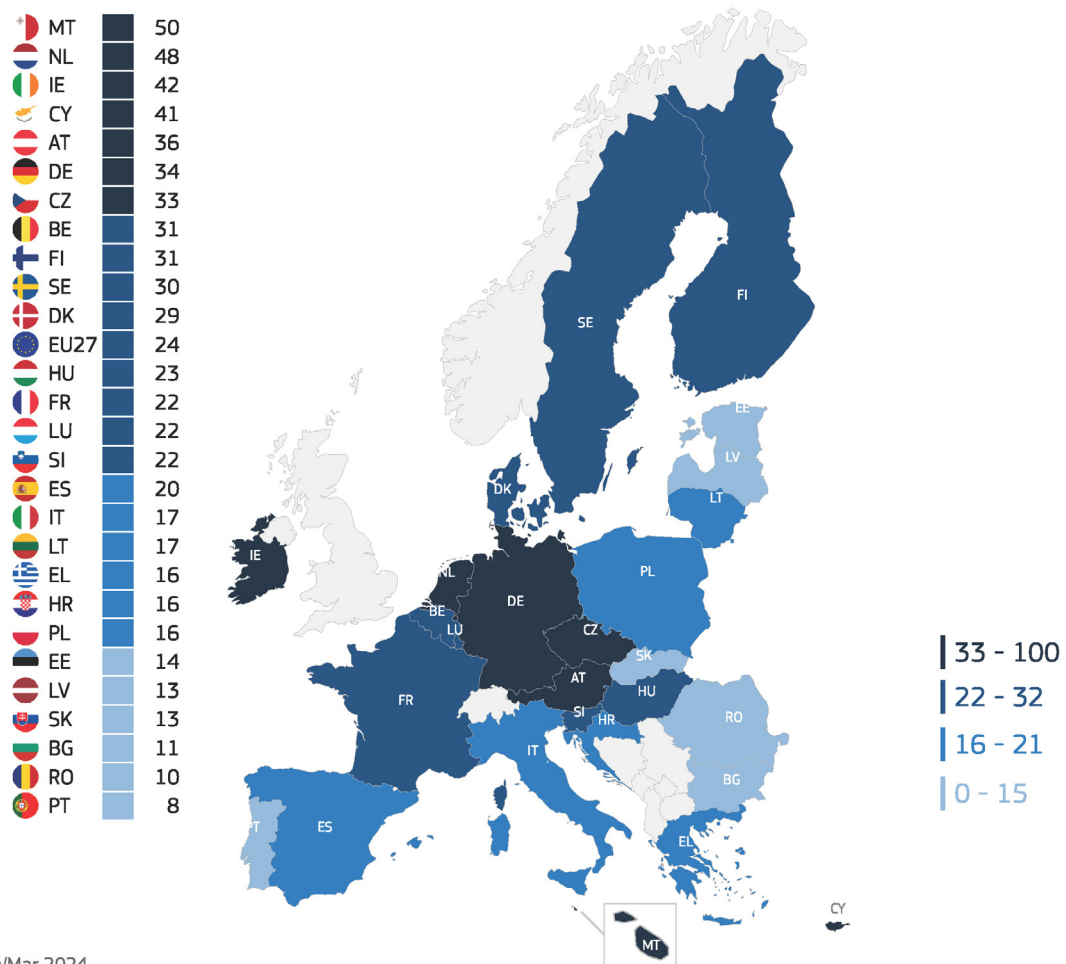
Which of the following topics should be discussed as a matter of priority during the electoral campaign for the next European Parliament elections? Firstly? And then? - Action against climate change (%)



Meanwhile, **‘migration and asylum’** is identified as one of the priority topics for attention during the electoral campaign in six countries, reaching the highest proportions in Malta (50%), the Netherlands (48%) and Ireland (42%) and Cyprus (41%), while being least often cited across Portugal (8%), Romania (10%) and Bulgaria (11%).

QA14ab

Which of the following topics should be discussed as a matter of priority during the electoral campaign for the next European Parliament elections? Firstly? And then? – Migration and asylum (%)



Feb/Mar 2024

In 11 countries, the topic of **"the EU's defence and security"** is among the top three issues that need to be discussed as a priority during the election campaign period. The percentages who think so vary across countries, with the highest shares observed in Denmark (56%), Finland (55%), Lithuania (53%), and the Netherlands (50%) and the lowest shares recorded in Spain (14%), Ireland, and Malta (both 17%).

While certain topics are less frequently mentioned across the EU as a whole, they are selected by a relatively high proportion of respondents in some countries. For instance, **'the fight against terrorism and organized crime'** is the second most important issue in Sweden, with 40% of respondents mentioning it. In Czechia and Estonia, **'the EU's autonomy in the fields of industry and energy'** is the second-highest priority, with 40% and 31% of respondents noting it respectively. Meanwhile, **'democracy and the rule of law'** comes in second in Germany, with 36% citing this topic as a priority.

QA14ab

Which of the following topics should be discussed as a matter of priority during the electoral campaign for the next European Parliament elections? Firstly? And then? (%)

	EU27	AT	BE	BG	CY	CZ	DE	DK	EE	EL	ES	FI	FR	HR	HU	IE	IT	LT	LU	LV	MT	NL	PL	PT	RO	SE	SI	SK
The fight against poverty and social exclusion	33	32	34	48	38	20	29	25	26	55	41	28	42	45	29	36	28	46	41	30	38	31	21	52	33	32	31	32
Public health	32	24	21	34	38	16	17	13	30	56	45	12	36	21	39	46	38	35	24	33	41	16	36	48	37	13	39	34
Support to the economy and the creation of new jobs	31	33	22	40	40	28	24	12	47	55	38	33	21	46	38	33	41	42	20	40	25	11	28	55	42	19	34	39
The EU's defence and security	31	27	25	24	28	45	41	56	47	22	14	55	24	26	28	17	23	53	31	47	17	50	37	25	28	32	26	37
Action against climate change	27	35	27	10	9	10	26	50	10	21	28	34	37	22	26	29	25	14	27	6	33	45	16	17	14	58	18	15
The future of Europe	26	37	25	25	15	35	35	40	30	16	17	36	19	27	35	18	26	29	32	27	21	32	21	18	24	23	27	37
Migration and asylum	24	36	31	11	41	33	34	29	14	16	20	31	22	16	23	42	17	17	22	13	50	48	16	8	10	30	22	13
Democracy and the rule of law	23	23	15	21	22	17	36	23	12	25	16	27	15	20	28	16	19	12	23	14	17	27	21	15	25	39	15	20
Agricultural policy	23	24	27	22	21	24	17	17	28	35	31	25	26	22	20	15	22	26	21	28	23	21	22	11	20	14	38	37
The fight against terrorism and organised crime	19	17	26	20	10	19	22	28	12	12	12	24	25	25	17	19	14	15	15	20	17	23	16	19	18	40	14	13
The EU's autonomy in the fields of industry and energy	17	20	21	17	15	40	14	20	31	22	11	13	14	20	18	13	24	19	23	20	8	22	14	22	20	12	16	11
Consumer rights	14	18	11	19	20	7	10	7	7	17	14	5	16	16	11	12	25	6	6	8	22	5	11	8	22	3	10	10
Humanitarian aid and development assistance	13	11	13	14	18	6	7	14	9	19	17	10	14	13	7	15	16	7	14	8	9	14	11	12	16	16	8	9
The digitalisation of the European economy and society	9	11	9	9	5	11	12	7	9	9	6	5	5	15	13	10	12	12	7	14	5	9	11	9	11	4	10	11
Gender equality, inclusion and diversity	9	15	9	7	6	7	6	13	5	6	7	8	12	13	10	10	13	4	9	4	8	4	10	9	8	25	4	6

1st Most Frequently Mentioned Item

2nd Most Frequently Mentioned Item

3rd Most Frequently Mentioned Item

Feb/Mar 2024

From a socio-demographic angle, the analysis reveals some important differences among the population segments in their likelihood of citing particular priority topics for the upcoming electoral campaign.

Women are more likely than men to consider the fight against poverty and social exclusion (36% vs 30%) and public health (35% vs 28%), while men tend to prioritise the EU's defence and security (33% vs 28%).

Older respondents are more likely to say public health (34% of those aged 55+ vs 28% of those aged 15-24), the EU's defence and security (33% vs 26%), and the fight against terrorism and organised crime (22% vs 17%) are topics to be discussed as a matter of priority.

Differences can also be observed in terms of level of education. Respondents who spent more time in full-time education are more likely to mention action against climate change (34% of those who finished education aged 20 or older vs 22% of those who finished aged 15 or younger), the EU's defence and security (33% vs 24%), migration and asylum (27% vs 18%), the future of Europe (26% vs 19%), and democracy and the rule of law (25% vs 19%). Conversely, respondents who left full-time education aged 15 or younger are more inclined to consider the fight against poverty and social exclusion (40% vs 32% of those who finished education aged 20 or older), public health (43% vs 27%), support to the economy and the creation of new jobs (36% vs 29%) and agricultural policy (30% vs 21%) as topics for the electoral campaign.

The more often respondents have difficulties paying their bills, the more likely they are to think the priority topics for the upcoming electoral campaign should be the fight against poverty and social exclusion (45% of those who have difficulties most of the time vs 31% of those who rarely or never have difficulties), public health (41% vs 29%) and support to the economy and the creation of new jobs (35% vs 30%). Conversely, some topics are more backed up by those who rarely or never have difficulties paying bills: defence and security of the EU (33% vs 23% of those who have difficulties most of the time), action against climate change (30% vs 18%), the future of Europe (28% vs 17%) and democracy and the rule of law (24% vs 19%).

Respondents who state that they are likely to vote in the upcoming European elections mention the following topics more often than their counterparts who are least likely to vote: the EU's defence and security (33% vs 25%), action against climate change (29% vs 19%), the future of Europe (28% vs 20%), and democracy and the rule of law (24% vs 18%).

Some significant variations are observed when looking at priority topics for the 2024 electoral campaign for those who follow and those who do not follow EU politics. Europeans who say they follow EU affairs are more likely than those who do not to prioritise the EU's defence and security (33%, +6p.p.), migration and asylum (28%, +8p.p.), the future of Europe (28%, +6p.p.), democracy and the rule of law (25%, +5p.p.), the EU's autonomy in the fields of industry and energy (18%, +3p.p.), and the digitalisation of the European economy and society (11%, +8p.p.) as important campaign topics.

Those who say they do not follow EU politics are more likely than those who do to prioritise topics such as public health (36%, +7 p.p.), the fight against poverty and social exclusion (35%, +3p.p.), support of the economy and the creation of new jobs (34%, +5p.p.), and consumer rights (16%, +3p.p.).

QA14ab

Which of the following topics should be discussed as a matter of priority during the electoral campaign for the next European Parliament elections? Firstly? Top 10 at EU level (% - EU)

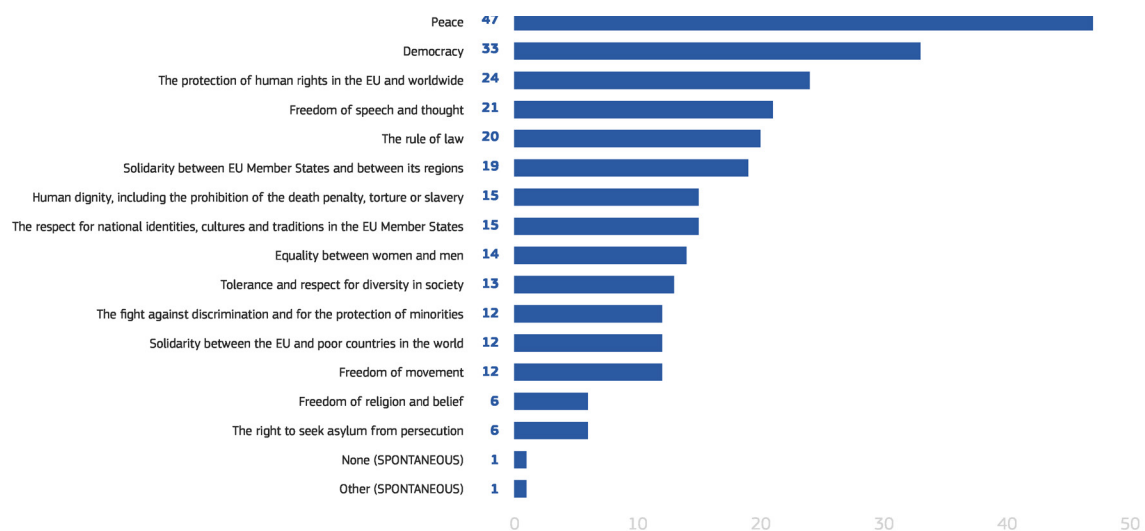
	The fight against poverty and social exclusion	Public health	Support to the economy and the creation of new jobs	The EU's defence and security	The future of Europe	Action against climate change	Migration and asylum	Democracy and the rule of law	Agricultural policy	The fight against terrorism and organised crime	Other	None	Don't know
EU27	33	32	31	31	26	27	24	23	23	19	1	1	1
Gender													
Man	30	28	32	33	27	26	25	24	24	19	1	1	1
Woman	36	35	30	28	24	28	23	22	22	19	0	1	1
Age													
15-24	31	28	29	26	29	33	22	21	16	17	0	1	1
25-39	32	31	32	29	27	29	23	23	20	17	0	0	1
40-54	33	31	33	31	25	26	25	23	22	19	1	1	1
55 +	35	34	30	33	25	25	24	23	26	22	1	1	1
Education (End of)													
15-	40	43	36	24	19	22	18	19	30	18	1	1	2
16-19	33	33	32	32	27	21	23	22	24	20	1	1	1
20+	32	27	29	33	26	34	27	25	21	19	1	0	1
Still studying	31	26	29	24	29	37	22	23	15	18	0	0	1
Socio-professional category													
Self-employed	30	31	33	29	27	26	26	24	25	16	1	1	1
Managers	29	24	29	38	28	36	28	24	19	16	0	0	0
Other white collars	33	31	31	31	24	29	23	24	21	19	0	0	0
Manual workers	33	33	35	29	26	23	22	22	24	20	1	1	1
House persons	33	40	33	27	25	21	19	20	23	16	1	1	1
Unemployed	41	32	30	24	23	19	25	19	22	21	1	1	2
Retired	36	36	28	33	25	25	25	23	26	22	1	1	1
Students	31	26	29	24	29	37	22	23	15	18	0	0	1
Difficulties paying bills													
Most of the time	45	41	35	23	17	18	21	19	24	19	1	1	2
From time to time	37	35	33	28	24	22	22	21	21	20	0	1	1
Almost never/ Never	31	29	30	33	28	30	25	24	23	19	0	1	1
Likelihood to vote in the next European elections													
Likely	33	31	31	33	28	29	25	24	23	19	0	1	0
Neutral	33	33	32	27	24	24	21	20	22	20	0	1	1
Not likely	37	36	31	25	20	19	21	18	24	18	1	2	4

2.7 Priority values for the EP in the next five years

When asked which values the European Parliament should defend in the next five years, 47% of Europeans note that the newly elected legislative body should focus on **'peace'**. The second most cited value is **'democracy'**, with 33% of respondents expressing interest in its preservation and development. Meanwhile, more than one in five citizens also mentioned **'the protection of human rights in the EU and worldwide'** (24%), **'freedom of speech and thought'** (21%) and **'the rule of law'** (20 %).

QA15ab

In the upcoming European elections, the EU citizens will elect new Members of the European Parliament. In your opinion, which of the following values should the European Parliament defend as a matter of priority in the next 5 years? Firstly? And then? (EU27) (%) (MAX 3 ANSWERS)



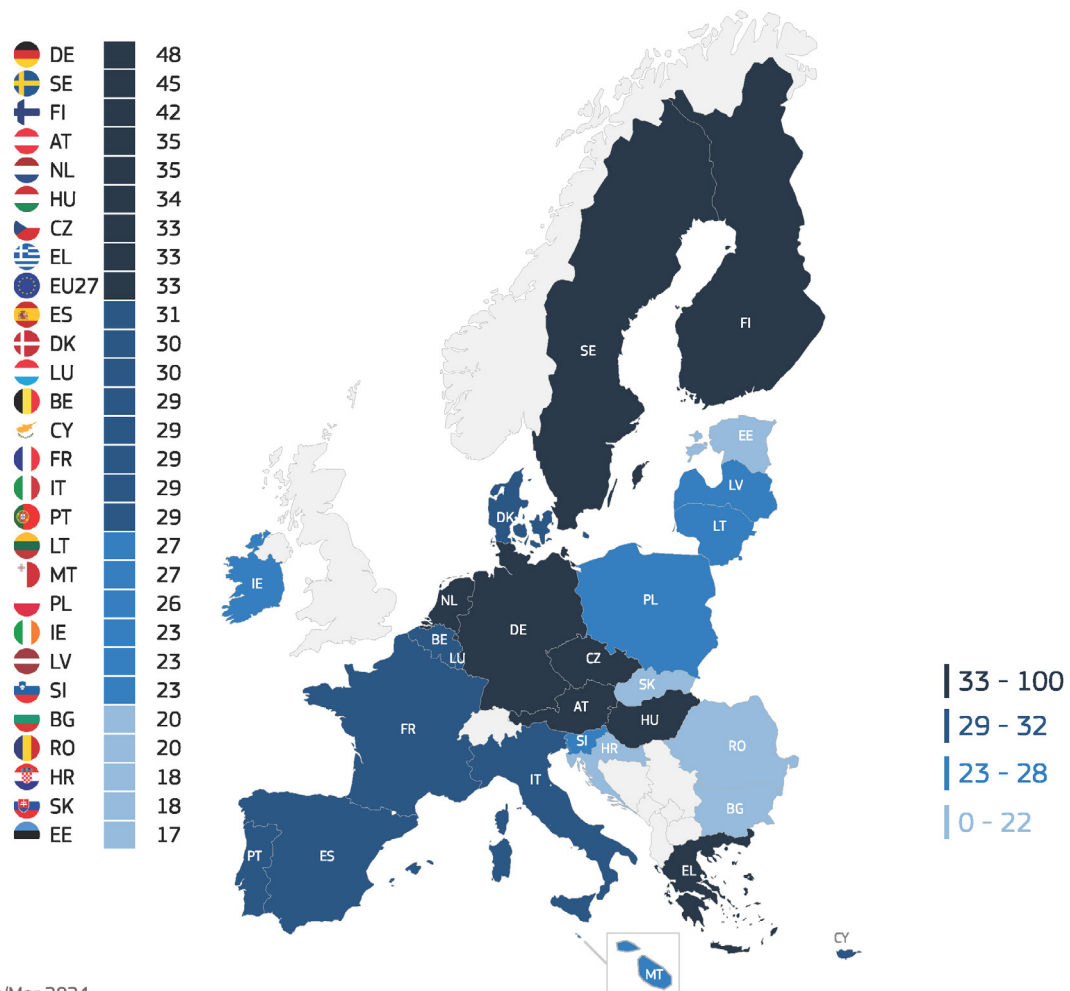
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Across 26 of the Member States, **'peace'** is cited by relative majorities as the primary value the EP should defend in the next five years. Although it is top of mind across an overwhelming number of countries, the proportions who cite this value as the main priority for the EP in the next five years vary across countries. The shares range from 64% in Lithuania, 62% in Latvia, and 60% in both Finland and Estonia to 38% in Poland and 39% in Spain and Romania. Sweden is the Member State where a majority would want to see the EP prioritise **'democracy'**, with 45% of respondents mentioning this value. Of note, 40% of respondents in this country also mention **'peace'**, placing it third as a value to be defended by the newly elected EP.

'Democracy' as a value to be defended by the EP for the next five years is among the top three in 19 Member States. This value is most salient to respondents in Germany (48%), those in Sweden (45%), and Finland (42%). By contrast, 17% in Estonia, as well as 18% in both Slovakia and Croatia, also believe that this value should be a priority.

QA15ab

In the upcoming European elections, the EU citizens will elect new Members of the European Parliament. In your opinion, which of the following values should the European Parliament defend as a matter of priority in the next 5 years? Firstly? And then? - Democracy (%)

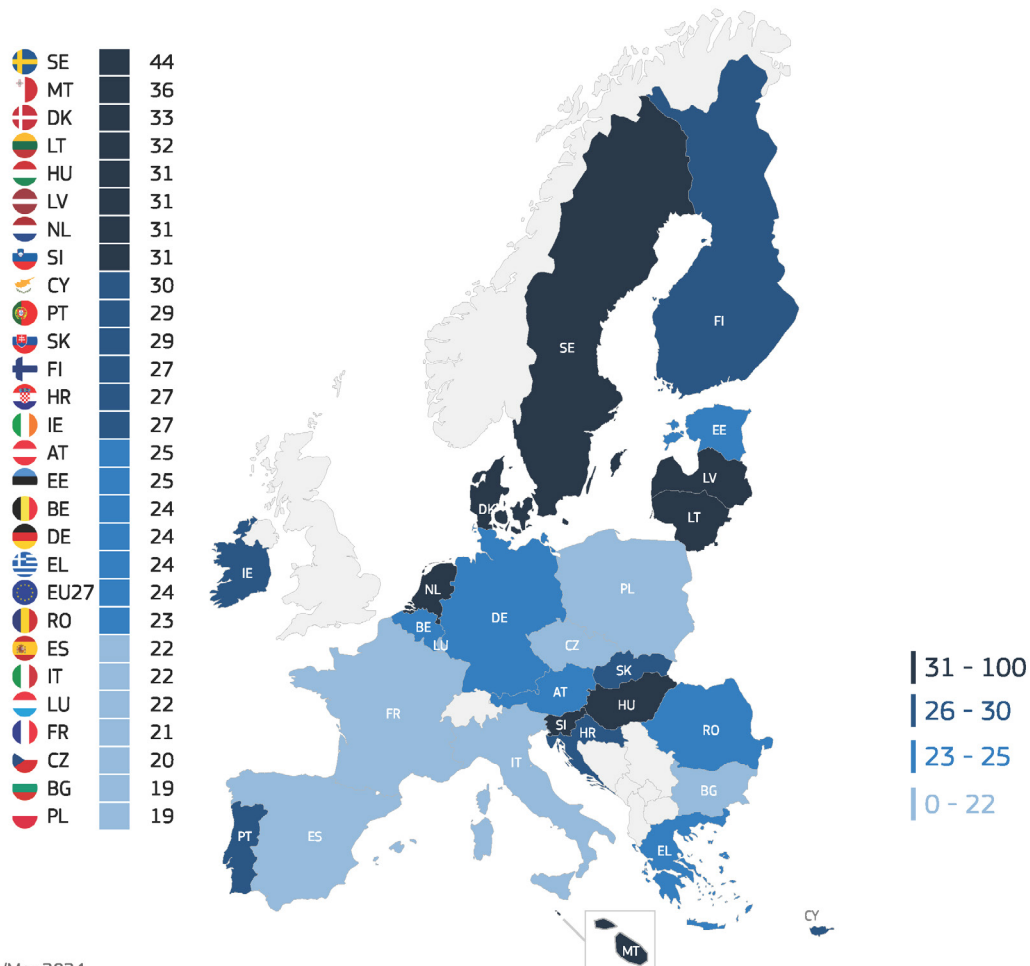


Feb/Mar 2024

In 16 countries, 'the protection of human rights in the EU and worldwide' ranks among the top three values for the upcoming EP to focus on. The value is most often cited in Sweden (44%), Malta (36%), and Denmark (33%), while being less often mentioned by respondents in Poland and Bulgaria (both 19%) as well as Czechia (20%).

QA15ab

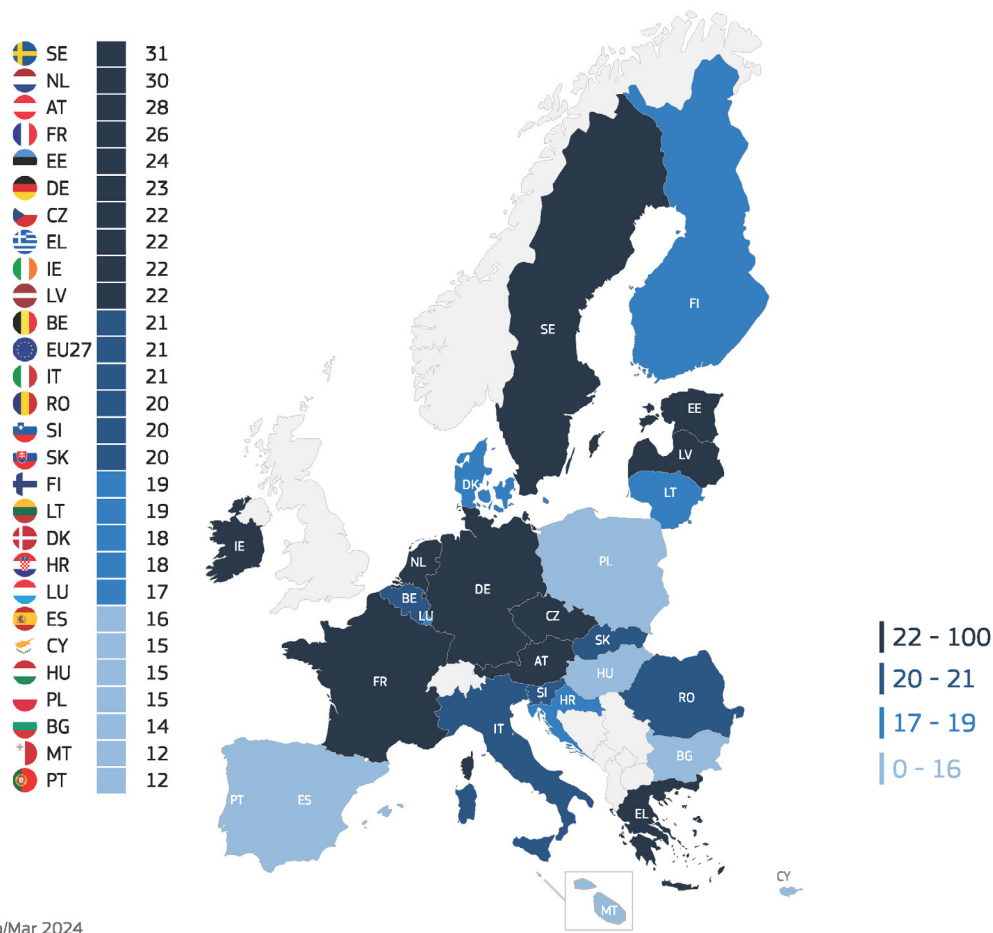
In the upcoming European elections, the EU citizens will elect new Members of the European Parliament. In your opinion, which of the following values should the European Parliament defend as a matter of priority in the next 5 years? Firstly? And then? - The protection of human rights in the EU and worldwide (%)



While ranking fourth across the EU, **'freedom of speech and thought'** ranks among the top three values in two Member States, namely Austria (28%) and France (26%). However, it is more often cited in Sweden (31%) and the Netherlands (30%) and least frequently mentioned in Portugal, Malta (both 12%), and Bulgaria (14%).

QA15ab

In the upcoming European elections, the EU citizens will elect new Members of the European Parliament. In your opinion, which of the following values should the European Parliament defend as a matter of priority in the next 5 years? Firstly? And then? – Freedom of speech and thought (%)



'The rule of law' is ranked among the top three values in five countries, ranging from 31% in Finland, as well as 30% in both Cyprus and Greece, to 10% in Portugal, 13% in Luxembourg, as well as 14% in Italy and Estonia.

In ten countries, **'solidarity between EU Member States and between its regions'** ranks among the top three priority values. Proportions range from 35% in Greece and 25% in Croatia to 13% in Ireland and 14% in Sweden.

The proportion of respondents considering ‘**respect for national identities, cultures, and traditions in EU Member States**’ as one of the top values the European Parliament should prioritize is notably high in Bulgaria (33%), Estonia (27%) and Romania (26%)

Compared to other countries, Bulgaria (27%), Slovakia (26%), and Ireland (25%) more frequently mention ‘**freedom of movement**’ as a priority value.

QA15ab

In the upcoming European elections, the EU citizens will elect new Members of the European Parliament. In your opinion, which of the following values should the European Parliament defend as a matter of priority in the next 5 years? Firstly? And then? (%)

	EU27	AT	BE	BG	CY	CZ	DE	DK	EE	EL	ES	FI	FR	HR	HU	IE	IT	LT	LU	LV	MT	NL	PL	PT	RO	SE	SI	SK
Peace	47	52	42	47	47	51	57	51	60	47	39	60	50	42	51	45	42	64	49	62	43	43	38	56	39	40	57	49
Democracy	33	35	29	20	29	33	48	30	17	33	31	42	29	18	34	23	29	27	30	23	27	35	26	29	20	45	23	18
The protection of human rights in the EU and worldwide	24	25	24	19	30	20	24	33	25	24	22	27	21	27	31	27	22	32	22	31	36	31	19	29	23	44	31	29
Freedom of speech and thought	21	28	21	14	15	22	23	18	24	22	16	19	26	18	15	22	21	19	17	22	12	30	15	12	20	31	20	20
The rule of law	20	22	16	26	30	18	28	16	14	30	21	31	15	20	18	15	14	15	13	19	28	25	20	10	22	18	25	19
Solidarity between EU Member States and between its regions	19	16	18	27	16	26	17	19	18	35	17	16	15	25	16	13	23	27	24	18	18	24	21	21	24	14	19	20
Human dignity, including the prohibition of the death penalty, torture or slavery	15	14	13	9	17	12	11	17	6	21	16	17	16	22	12	9	18	7	15	8	9	12	14	18	12	19	12	15
The respect for national identities, cultures and traditions in the EU Member States	15	14	16	33	21	23	11	18	27	24	8	11	12	25	19	15	21	18	11	18	17	15	20	13	26	9	17	19
Equality between women and men	14	19	19	6	14	9	10	14	8	6	22	9	19	10	9	16	16	6	10	7	13	14	13	17	8	15	9	8
Tolerance and respect for diversity in society	13	12	15	14	5	8	11	15	13	8	16	13	15	16	15	11	13	13	14	9	11	18	13	12	11	13	19	12
The fight against discrimination and for the protection of minorities	12	15	16	7	9	7	9	12	6	12	16	11	13	13	14	12	15	7	12	10	22	11	10	15	12	9	6	9
Solidarity between the EU and poor countries in the world	12	9	14	9	15	7	9	13	5	16	16	8	12	18	13	13	13	12	18	7	12	9	12	17	14	9	10	10
Freedom of movement	12	11	8	27	10	18	7	10	23	6	10	8	7	17	17	25	16	14	11	12	6	6	21	6	21	7	13	26
Freedom of religion and belief	6	6	5	7	8	3	4	5	8	6	5	5	8	7	6	10	7	4	7	4	8	6	9	5	16	4	4	10
The right to seek asylum from persecution	6	8	7	2	3	3	6	8	4	4	4	2	4	3	7	11	8	4	5	4	7	4	8	5	9	9	2	5

1st Most Frequently Mentioned Item
2nd Most Frequently Mentioned Item
3rd Most Frequently Mentioned Item

Feb/Mar 2024

In terms of socio-demographic characteristics, the survey results for this variable vary to some degree.

Men are more likely than women to say that the rule of law should be prioritised (23% vs 18%), while women are more likely than men to mention equality between men and women (18% vs 10%).

The main differences by age are that older respondents are more likely to mention peace (51% of those aged 55 or over vs 42% of 15–24-year-olds), democracy (35% vs 27%) and the rule of law (21% vs 15%).

Those who finished full-time education aged 20 or older are more likely to cite the protection of human rights in the EU and worldwide (26% vs 22% of those who left education by the age of 15) and the rule of law (23% vs 16%) while respondents who left education by the age of 15 are more likely to mention peace (54% vs 44%–49%).

A higher percentage of respondents who stated that democracy should be a priority value for the European Parliament to defend in the next five years reported rarely or never having

difficulties paying bills (35%), compared with those who have difficulties most of the time (28%). On the extent of likelihood to vote in the next European elections Peace is the most mentioned value in all three groups, with 50% of those who are not likely to vote mentioning Peace (1–4 on a scale from 1 to 10), 47% of those who are neutral towards voting (5–6) indicating it, and 46% of respondents who say they are likely to vote in the next European elections (7–10) also mentioning this as a priority.

QA15ab

In the upcoming European elections, the EU citizens will elect new Members of the European Parliament. In your opinion, which of the following values should the European Parliament defend as a matter of priority in the next 5 years? Firstly? And then? Top 5 (% - EU)

	Peace	Democracy	The protection of human rights in the EU and worldwide	Freedom of speech and thought	The rule of law	Don't know
EU27	47	33	24	21	20	1
Gender						
Man	46	35	22	23	23	1
Woman	48	31	26	19	18	1
Age						
15-24	42	27	28	21	15	1
25-39	42	32	24	21	21	1
40-54	47	34	24	22	21	1
55 +	51	35	23	20	21	1
Education (End of)						
15-	54	34	22	18	16	2
16-19	49	32	22	22	20	1
20+	44	36	26	22	23	0
Still studying	41	28	27	21	15	1
Socio-professional category						
Self- employed	46	33	22	25	21	1
Managers	44	37	25	19	24	0
Other white collars	43	33	25	21	21	0
Manual workers	48	32	23	22	21	1
House persons	52	31	23	18	18	2
Unemployed	44	29	21	24	17	3
Retired	53	34	23	20	21	2
Students	41	28	27	21	15	1
Difficulties paying bills						
Most of the time	50	28	23	24	17	2
From time to time	46	30	22	22	20	1
Almost never/ Never	47	35	25	20	21	1
Likelihood to vote in the next European elections						
Likely	46	35	25	21	21	1
Neutral	47	31	21	20	19	1
Not likely	50	27	21	23	17	4

2.8 Agreement with voting impact statements

The survey assessed opinions regarding the importance of voting based on four statements. Overwhelming majorities agree with all statements, with nearly half or more of respondents strongly endorsing them.

Of all statements, the largest share of respondents agree with the one claiming that **'voting is important to keep democracy strong'** – 86% agree overall with this statement, including 53% who totally agree with it.

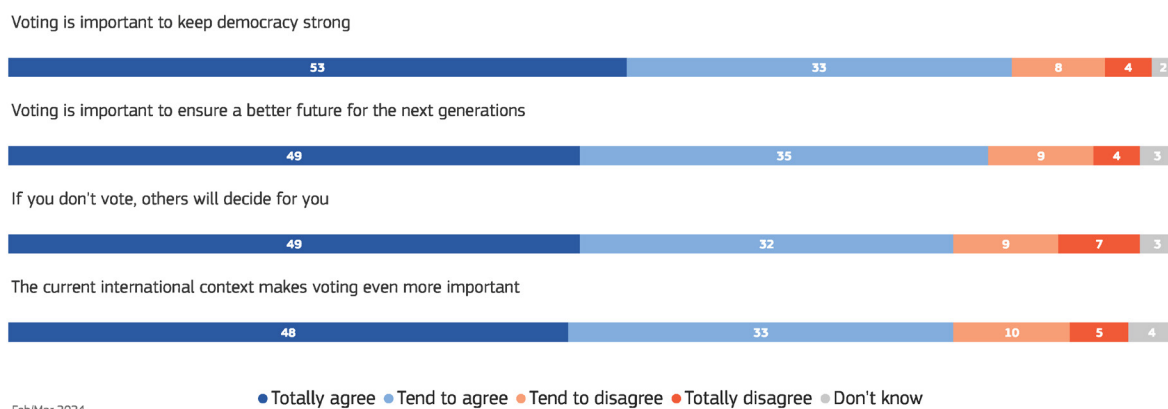
Following closely are levels of agreement with the statement that **'voting is important to ensure a better future for the next generations'**. Overall, 84% of respondents agree with this claim, of which 49% totally agree.

Just over eight in ten respondents (81%) also agree with the statement that **'if you don't vote, others will decide for you'**; this share includes 49% of respondents who totally agree with the statement.

Finally, another 81% of Europeans agree that **'the current international context makes voting even more important'**, with 48% strongly agreeing.

QA21

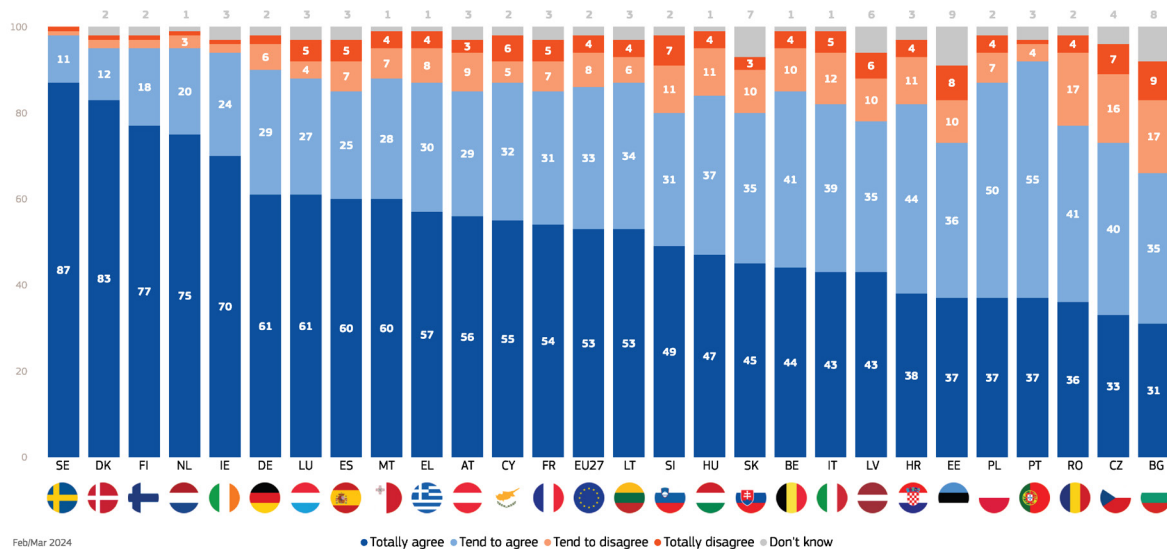
In view of the upcoming European elections, to what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements? (EU27) (%)



In every Member State, more than six in ten agree with the statement that **'voting is important to keep democracy strong'**. Moreover, in 14 countries, more than half completely endorse its importance, by mentioning that they totally agree with it. The proportions of those who totally agree with the statement vary quite widely across the EU, ranging from a whopping 87% in Sweden, 83% in Denmark, and 77% in Finland to 31% in Bulgaria, 33% in Czechia, and 36% in Romania.

QA21.1

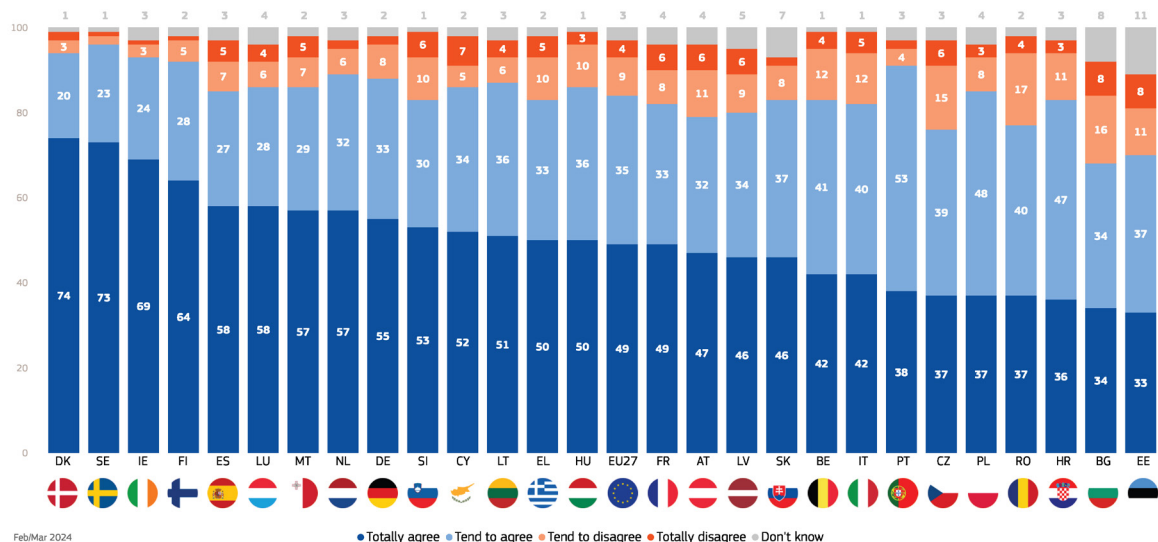
In view of the upcoming European elections, to what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements? Voting is important to keep democracy strong (%)



Support is also high for the claim that 'voting is important to ensure a better future for the next generations'. Across 14 Member States, half of the sample or more totally agree with this statement, with proportions reaching 74% in Denmark, 73% in Sweden, and 69% in Ireland. The same sentiment is shared by 33% of respondents in Estonia, 34% of those in Bulgaria, and 36% in Croatia.

QA21.2

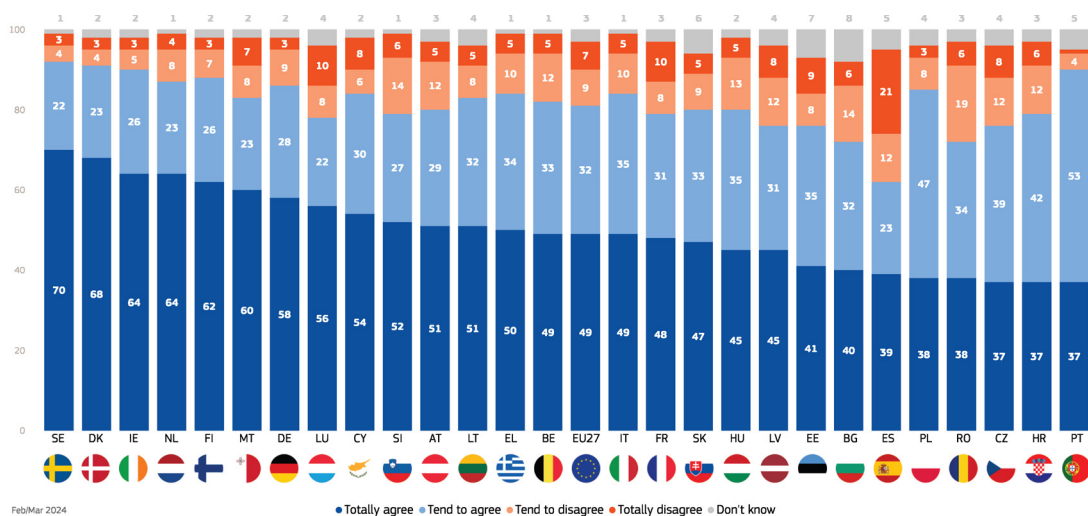
In view of the upcoming European elections, to what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements? Voting is important to ensure a better future for the next generations (%)



Half or more of respondents in 13 countries fully agree with the statement that **'if you don't vote, others will decide for you'**. The proportions who totally agree with the claim peak at 70% in Sweden, 68% in Denmark as well as 64% in Ireland and the Netherlands. They go as low as 37% in Portugal, Croatia and Czechia.

QA21.3

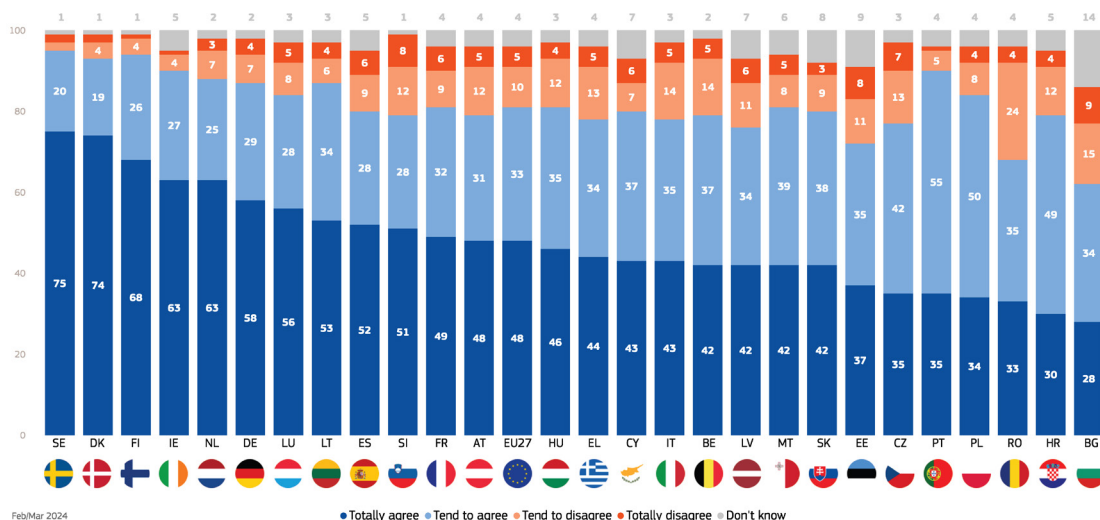
In view of the upcoming European elections, to what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements? If you don't vote, others will decide for you (%)



In 10 Member States, more than half of the respondents completely agree that **'the current international context makes voting even more important'**. Levels of total agreement range from 75% in Sweden, 74% in Denmark and 68% in Finland to 28% in Bulgaria, 30% in Romania and 33% in Hungary.

QA21.4

In view of the upcoming European elections, to what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements? The current international context makes voting even more important (%)



The socio-demographic analysis reveals a few differences across the various population segments. In terms of age, respondents aged 55 or older are somewhat more likely to agree that 'if you don't vote, others will decide for you' (83%, particularly when compared with 77% of those aged 15-54).

The survey also found that respondents who completed full-time education at the age of 20 or older are more likely than those who left school by the age of 15 to agree with statements such as 'if you don't vote, others will decide for you' (84% vs 76%) and that 'the current international context makes voting even more important' (87% vs 75%).

The largest differences are among the socio-professional categories whereby managers and other white-collar workers are more likely to agree with all statements, especially when compared to the unemployed (e.g. for the statement 'if you don't vote, others will decide for you' 86% of managers and 84% white-collar workers agree, compared to 67% of those unemployed)

Those who rarely or never have difficulties paying their bills are more likely to agree with all four statements, compared with those who have difficulties most of the time (e.g. for the statement 'if you don't vote, others will decide for you' 83% of the former agree, compared to 70% of the latter).

When it comes to attitudinal segments, respondents who are satisfied with democracy in the EU are more likely to agree with all the statements compared to respondents who are not satisfied. The differences are particularly pronounced for the statement that 'voting is important to keep democracy strong' (93% vs. 77%) and that 'the current international context makes voting even more important' (90% vs. 73%). Respondents who are more likely to vote (7-10 on a 10 point scale) in the next European elections are more inclined to agree with the positive statements about voting with percentages ranging from 95% agreeing that voting is important to keep democracy strong to 88% agreeing that if you don't vote others will decide for you. On the other hand, respondents who say they are not likely to vote (1-4) are most likely to agree that, if you don't vote others will vote for you (54%), and least likely to agree with the statement that the current international context makes voting even more important.

QA21

In view of the upcoming European elections, to what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements? (% - EU)

	Voting is important to keep democracy strong	Voting is important to ensure a better future for the next generations	If you don't vote, others will decide for you	The current international context makes voting even more important
EU27	86	84	81	81
Gender				
Man	84	83	80	81
Woman	87	86	81	83
Age				
15-24	86	86	77	83
25-39	84	82	79	80
40-54	85	85	81	82
55 +	86	85	83	83
Education (End of)				
15-	82	79	76	75
16-19	84	82	80	80
20+	90	88	84	87
Still studying	89	89	79	85
Socio-professional category				
Self-employed	86	84	81	83
Managers	90	89	86	86
Other white collars	87	85	84	84
Manual workers	83	82	78	80
House persons	79	81	73	72
Unemployed	74	71	67	71
Retired	87	85	84	82
Students	89	89	79	85
Difficulties paying bills				
Most of the time	71	70	70	69
From time to time	81	80	78	77
Almost never/ Never	90	88	83	86
Satisfaction with democracy in the EU				
Satisfied	93	92	86	90
Not satisfied	77	75	75	73
Likelihood to vote in the next European elections				
Likely	95	94	88	93
Neutral	74	73	70	68
Not likely	52	49	54	42

2.9 The June 2024 European elections: focus on youth

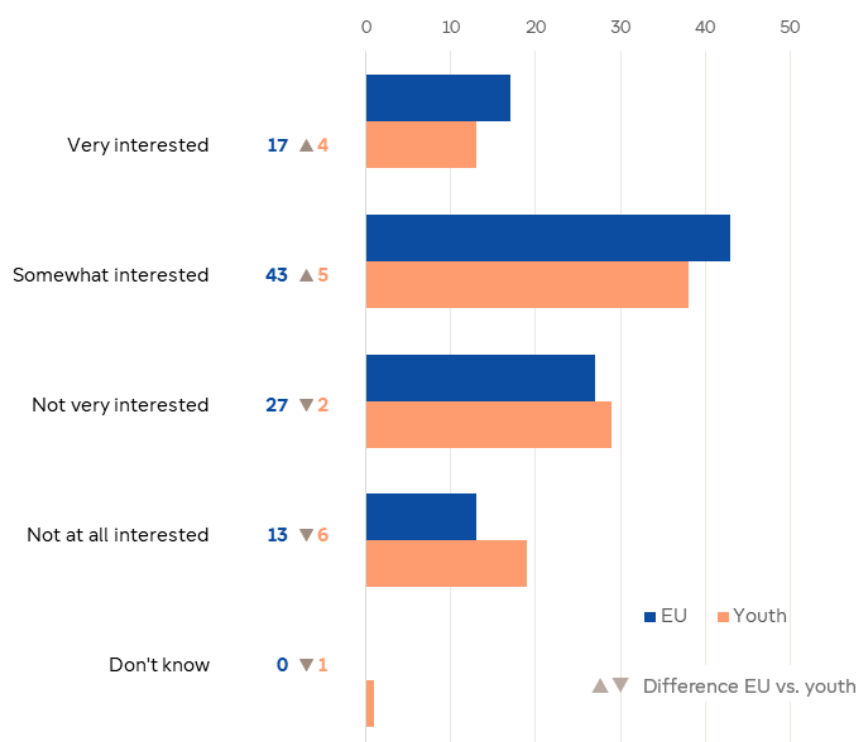
To gain a more comprehensive understanding of the youngest segment, this section will delve into their attitudes towards voting in the 2024 European elections, their opinions on the primary topics for the electoral campaign, and their prioritized values for the EP over the next five years. The analysis is performed by comparing survey findings for those aged 15–24 to the overall EU average. The chapter will finalise by analysing the differences between reported reasons for abstention from voting between respondents aged 15–24 and the overall sample.

Interest in European elections

Looking at results regarding reported levels of interest in the 2024 European elections, results indicate that overall interest in the elections is lower among the youngest respondents than the respondent sample as a whole. About half (51%) of those aged 15–24 note that they have an interest in the next round of European elections, compared with 60% of citizens across the EU. When it comes to the proportion of respondents who are 'very interested' in the upcoming ballot, 13% of those 15–24, compared to 17% of respondents overall, mention this level of interest.

QA13

The next European elections will be held in June 2024. How interested or not would you say you are in these elections? (% - EU27)



Likelihood to vote in the 2024 European elections

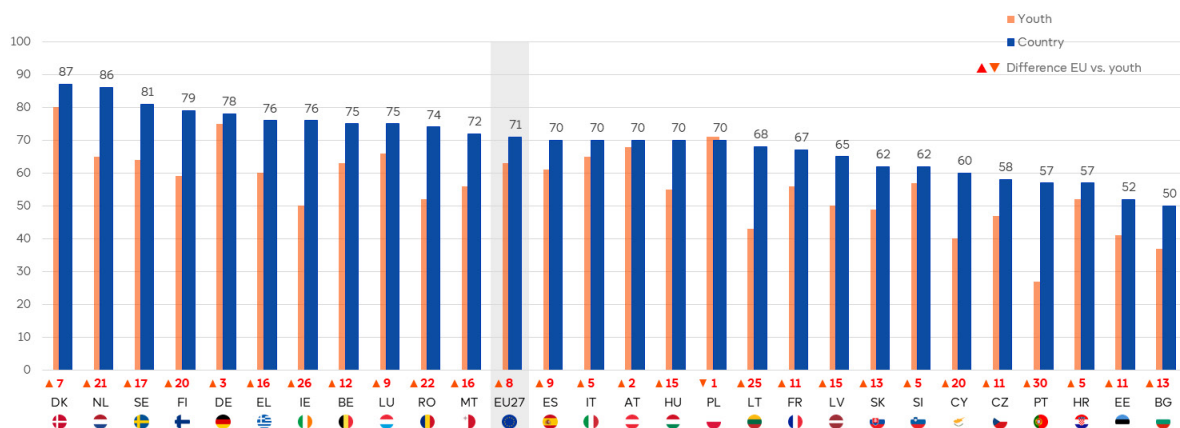
Data further reveals that respondents in the youngest age group are less likely than respondents as a whole to report an intention to cast a vote in the 2024 European elections. The results analysed in this paragraph and presented below in the respective graph examine the results for the likelihood rating total of 8 to 10 on a 10-point Likert scale, where 10 is 'very likely'.

The analysis indicates that overall, across the EU, 71% of citizens say they are likely to cast their ballots in the next European elections. The respective proportion among the youngest segment is at 63%.

Comparison results vary greatly across the Member States, with the largest gap in intention to vote between the general population and its 15–24-year-old segment recorded in Portugal (57% vs 27%), Lithuania (68% vs 43%), and Romania (74% vs 52%). The narrower gap between these two segments is in Poland (70% vs 71%), Austria (70% vs 68%), and Germany (78% vs 75%).

QA20

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



Main topics for the electoral campaign

Pointing at certain generational characteristics of the youngest respondent segment, the analysis reveals that respondents in this age group tend to advance particular topics for the 2024 European election campaign.

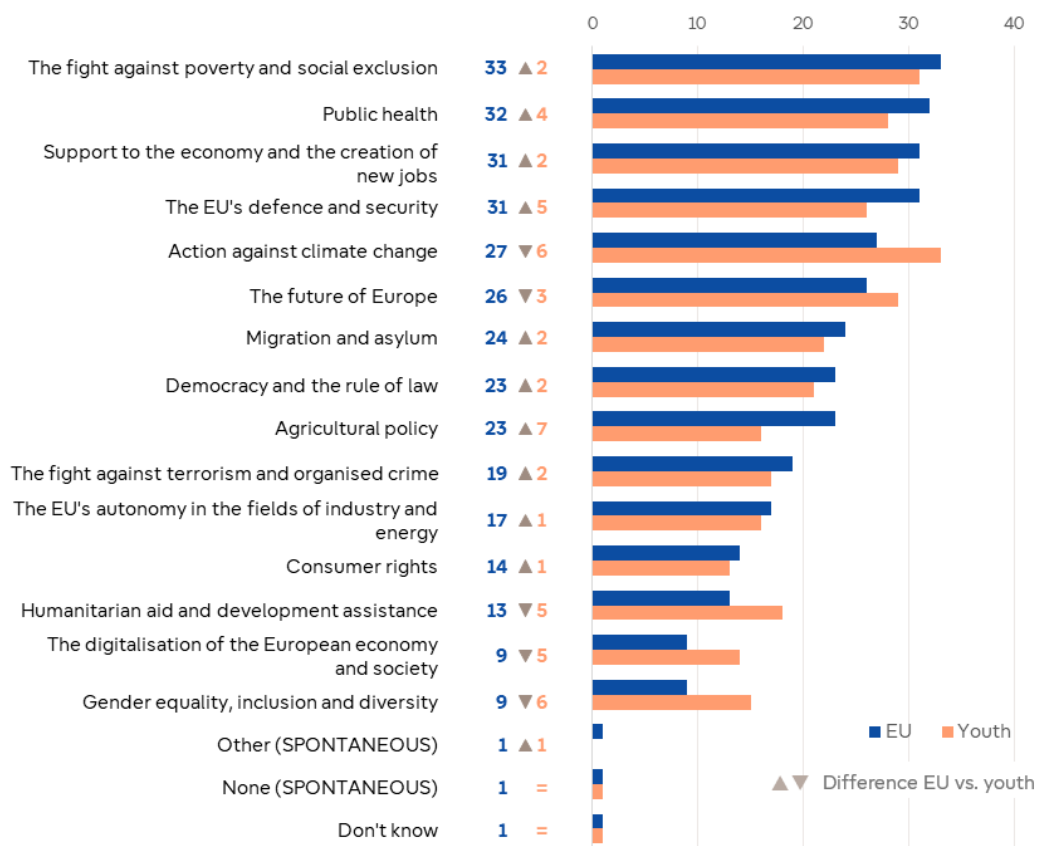
Young Europeans aged 15–24 are keen to see more discussion around the topic of 'action against climate change' during the 2024 EU election campaigns. In fact, while 33% of respondents in this age group believe that this topic should be discussed widely, 27% of respondents as a whole share the same belief. This makes it the top priority topic among

young respondents, even though it ranks fifth among the overall sample. The topic of 'fight against poverty and social exclusion' is also important to young people, with 31% ranking it as a key topic, compared to 33% of the general population. The youngest of the respondents also appear marginally more interested in the topic of the future of Europe, with close to three in ten (29%) noting they would like this to be discussed during the campaign, compared with one-quarter of respondents as a whole (26%).

Other topics that the youngest Europeans advance to a greater extent are humanitarian aid and assistance (18% vs 13%), gender equality, inclusion, and diversity (15% vs 9%), and the digitalisation of the European economy and society (14% vs 9%).

QA14ab

Which of the following topics should be discussed as a matter of priority during the electoral campaign for the next European Parliament elections? Firstly? And then? (% - EU27)



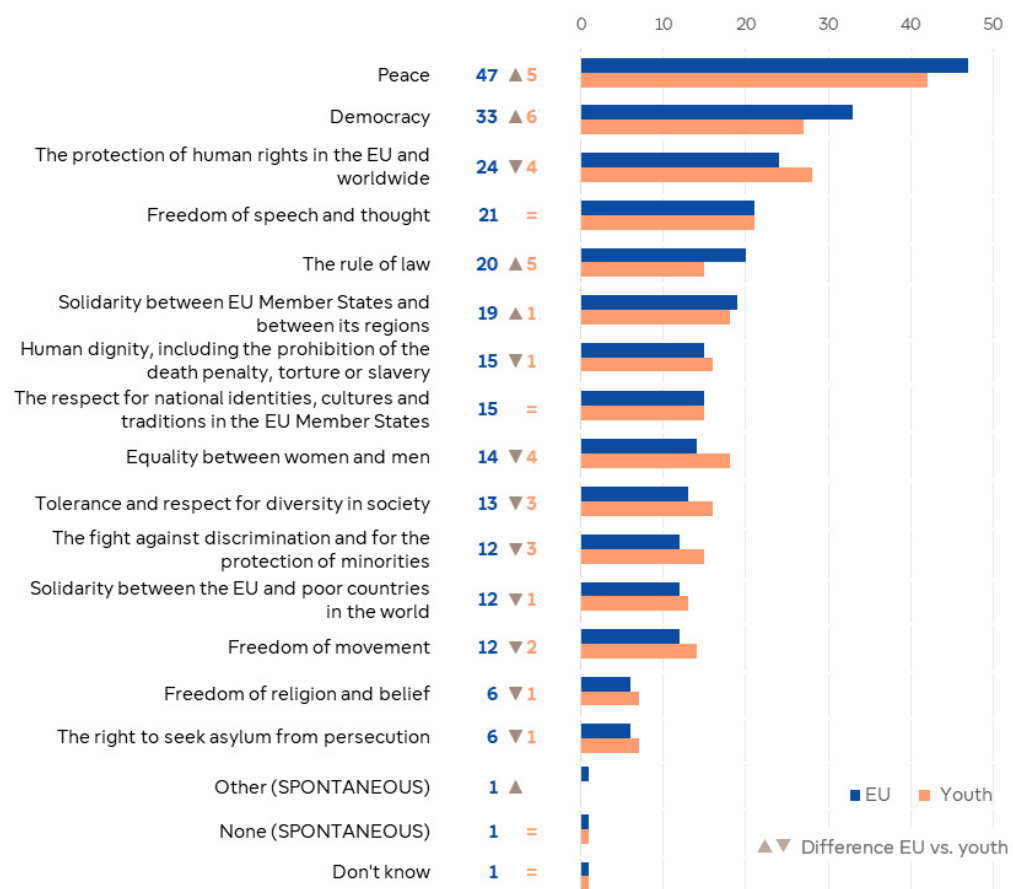
Priority values for the EP in the next five years

In terms of priority values for the European Parliament to defend, the respondents aged 15–24 are more likely to prioritise ‘the protection of human rights in the EU and worldwide’ (28% vs 24%). This value ranks closely alongside ‘democracy’ as a value to be promoted by the next EP (27% vs 33%). The value of ‘freedom of speech and thought’ is as important to the youngest as to the overall population (both 21%).

The youngest respondents, however, are more likely to indicate that ‘equality between women and men’ should be one of the priority values for the EP for the next legislative term (18% vs 14%), as well as ‘tolerance and respect for diversity in society’ (16% vs 13%) and ‘the fight against discrimination and for the protection of minorities’ (15% vs 12%).

QA15ab

In the upcoming European elections, the EU citizens will elect new Members of the European Parliament. In your opinion, which of the following values should the European Parliament defend as a matter of priority in the next 5 years? Firstly? And then? (% - EU27)



Reasons not to vote

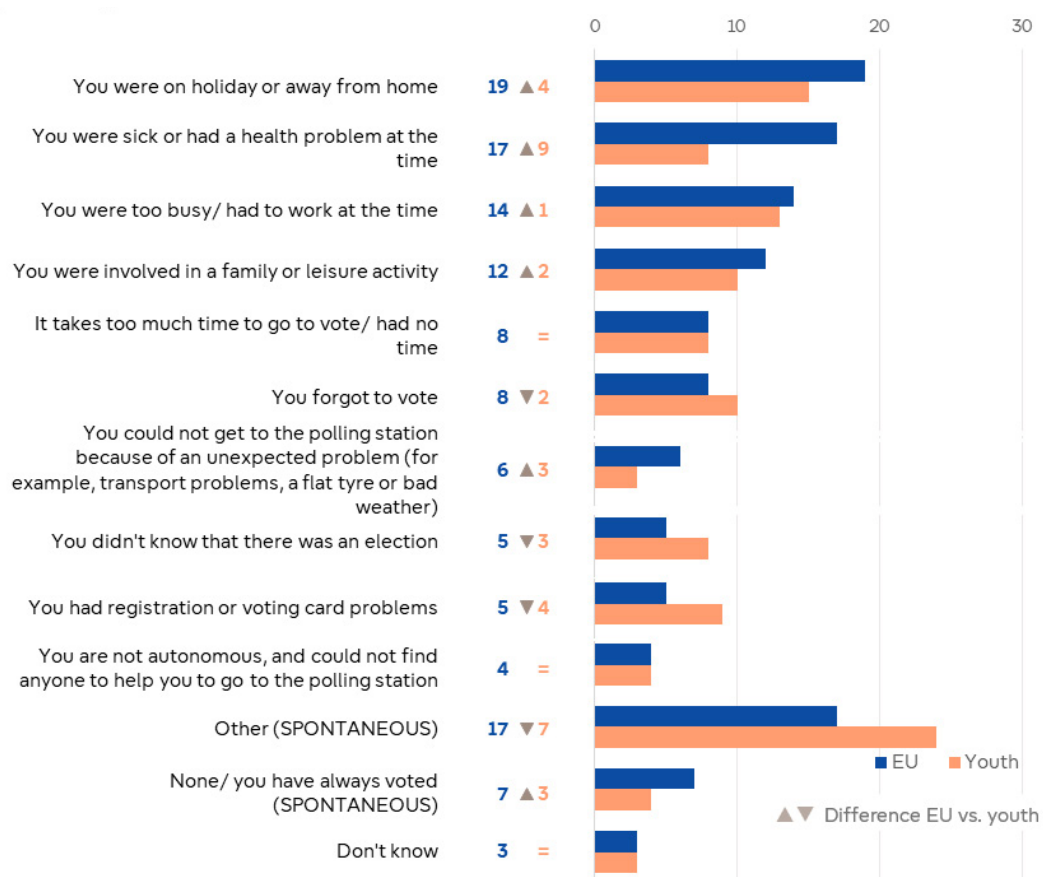
The pattern of response for the youngest age group is slightly different from that of the overall EU citizens, in terms of which reasons have ever prevented them from voting.

Respondents aged 15–24 are as likely to indicate that they have not voted because they were on holiday or away from home (15%) as they are to indicate that they were too busy or had to work at the time of the election or referendum (15%). Meanwhile, overall among respondents up to 19% indicate as a reason for not voting that they were on holiday or away from home, while 14% mention that they were too busy or had to work at the time.

The youngest are marginally more likely to also indicate that they forgot to vote (10% vs 8%), that they did not know there was an election (8% vs 5%) and that they had a registration or voting card problem (9% vs 5%).

QA20

Which of the following reasons have ever prevented you from voting in an election or a referendum at local, national or European level? (MULTIPLE ANSWERS POSSIBLE) (% - EU27)



3

UNDERSTANDING
VOTING BEHAVIOUR

3. UNDERSTANDING VOTING BEHAVIOUR

The following chapter describes Europeans' voting behaviour patterns, starting with an overview of the frequency with which they reportedly turned out to cast a ballot in local, regional, national or European elections. It then examines the overall acknowledged reasons for not participating in an election or referendum, closing off with an analysis of the primary reported drivers of abstention over the past five years.

The main findings are that the main reasons for not voting are rather of a practical or personal nature, than an ideological or political one.

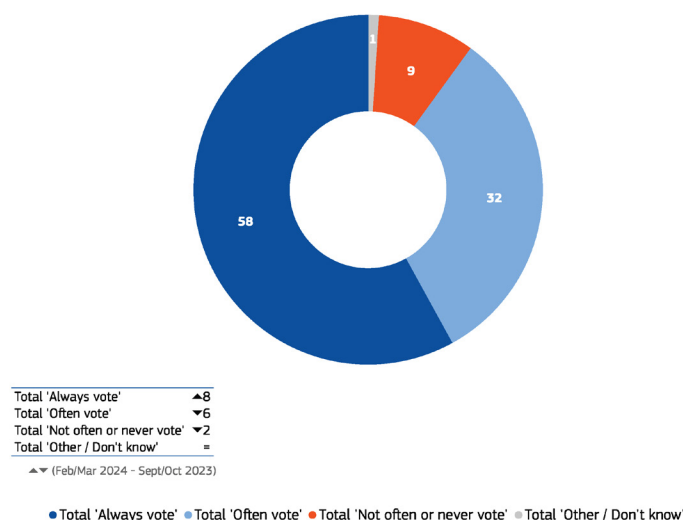
3.1 Previous voting behaviour

When probed about their previous voting behaviour patterns, 58% of respondents indicate that they systematically or 'always vote' (+8 pp, since September – October 2023), while 32% reported that they 'often vote' (-6 pp, since September – October 2023). Conversely, 9% noted that they vote 'not often or never' (-2 pp, since September – October 2023)

Looking at country differences, the data reveals that more than eight in ten respondents in Denmark and the Netherlands (both 84%) as well as Sweden (81%) indicate that they "always vote" in elections at the local, regional, national and European levels. Other countries with high frequency self-reported voting behaviour are Finland (75%), Malta (73%), Belgium and Greece (70%). Contrasting shares are observed in Bulgaria (28%), Estonia and Croatia (37%). The country-level estimates regarding the frequency with which respondents provide the answer "not often or never vote" are the largest for Bulgaria (19%), Latvia (16%) and Luxembourg (15%).

QA17

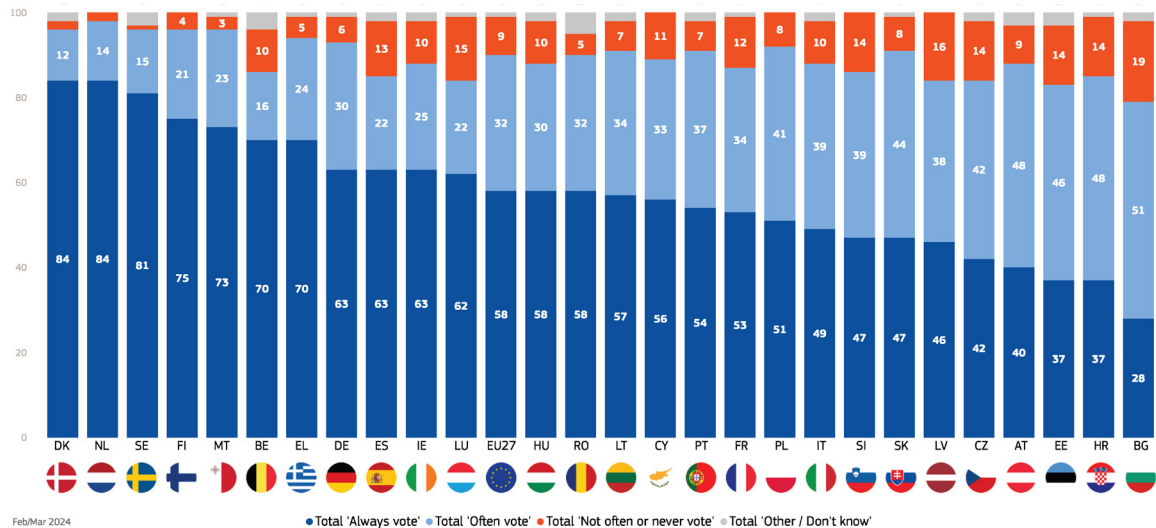
Let's now talk about your personal voting behaviour. Which of the following best describes your voting behaviour in recent years, whether at the local or regional, national or European level? (EU27) (%)



Feb/Mar 2024

QA17





























Let's now talk about your personal voting behaviour. Which of the following best describes your voting behaviour in recent years, whether at the local or regional, national or European level? (%)



The current survey data shows that compared to Autumn 2023, the reported earlier voting behaviour patterns have either not changed or registered an increase in 26 Member States. The largest increases are observed in Portugal (54%, +17 pp since September – October 2023) as well as Croatia (37%, +15 pp) and Cyprus (56%, +15 pp).

QA17

Let's now talk about your personal voting behaviour. Which of the following best describes your voting behaviour in recent years, whether at the local or regional, national or European level? (%)

																													
You systematically vote	Feb/Mar 2024	58	54	37	56	63	75	63	42	49	57	58	58	84	47	73	51	47	28	62	53	40	70	84	70	63	37	81	46
	Δ Sept/Oct 2023	▲8	▲17	▲15	▲15	▲13	▲13	▲12	▲11	▲11	▲11	▲11	▲10	▲10	▲9	▲8	▲7	▲7	▲6	▲6	▲4	▲4	▲3	▲3	▲3	▲3	▲3	▲3	▲3
You vote most of the time	Feb/Mar 2024	22	31	30	23	17	16	21	30	26	22	24	19	12	31	16	25	27	33	16	24	31	10	9	19	16	27	14	23
	Δ Sept/Oct 2023	▼4	▼5	▼4	▼1	▼7	▼7	▼6	▼3	▼4	▼5	▼7	▼6	▼6	▼1	▼5	▼2	▲2	▲2	▼7	▼1	▼3	▼2	▼4	▲1	▼4	▲1	▲3	
You vote from time to time	Feb/Mar 2024	10	6	18	10	8	5	9	12	13	12	8	11	2	13	7	16	12	18	6	10	17	6	3	5	6	19	1	15
	Δ Sept/Oct 2023	▼2	▼8	▼5	▼6	▼3	▼2	▼4	▼8	▼5	▲1	▼3	▼4	▼1	▼6	▲1	▲1	▲2	▲1	▲1	▼1	▲1	▲1	▲1	▲2	▲1	▼1	▲1	
You rarely vote	Feb/Mar 2024	5	3	9	5	4	2	3	7	7	4	3	5	1	4	0	6	9	12	6	4	6	3	1	3	6	8	1	10
	Δ Sept/Oct 2023	▼1	▼2	▼5	▼4	▼3	▼2	▲1	▼3	▼3	▼2	▼1	▼1	▼3	▼3	▼1	▼1	▼4	▼1	▼1	▲1	▲1	▲1	▲2	▲2	▼2	▲1	▲1	
You never vote	Feb/Mar 2024	4	4	5	6	6	2	3	7	3	3	2	5	1	4	3	2	5	7	9	8	3	7	1	2	7	6	0	6
	Δ Sept/Oct 2023	▼1	▼3	▼2	▼4	▲1	▼1	▼2	▼1	▼1	▼5	▼1	▲1	▲1	▲1	▲2	▼3	▲1	▲2	▲1	▲2	▲1	▲2	▲1	▲1	▲1	▲1	▼1	▼3
It depends/ You only vote in certain elections (SPONTANEOUS)	Feb/Mar 2024	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	1	0	1	1	0	0
	Δ Sept/Oct 2023	▲1	▲1	▲1	▲1	▲1	▲1	▲1	▲1	▲1	▲1	▲1	▲1	▲1	▲1	▲1	▲1	▲1	▲1	▲1	▲1	▲1	▲1	▲1	▲1	▲1	▲1	▲1	▲1
You were too young to vote before (SPONTANEOUS)	Feb/Mar 2024	1	1	1	0	1	0	1	1	2	2	5	2	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	1	3	4	1	1	1	2	3	0
	Δ Sept/Oct 2023	▲1	▲1	▲1	▲1	▲1	▲1	▲1	▲1	▲2	▲1	▲2	▲1	▲1	▲1	▲1	▲1	▲1	▲1	▲1	▲1	▲1	▲1	▲1	▲1	▲1	▲1	▲2	▲1
Don't know	Feb/Mar 2024	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Δ Sept/Oct 2023	▲1	▲1	▲1	▲1	▲1	▲1	▲1	▲1	▲1	▲1	▲1	▲1	▲1	▲1	▲1	▲1	▲1	▲1	▲1	▲1	▲1	▲1	▲1	▲1	▲1	▲1	▲1	▲1
Total 'Always vote'	Feb/Mar 2024	58	54	37	56	63	75	63	42	49	57	58	58	84	47	73	51	47	28	62	53	40	70	84	70	63	37	81	46
	Δ Sept/Oct 2023	▲8	▲17	▲15	▲15	▲13	▲13	▲12	▲11	▲11	▲11	▲11	▲10	▲10	▲9	▲8	▲7	▲7	▲6	▲6	▲4	▲4	▲3	▲3	▲3	▲3	▲3	▲3	▲3
Total 'Often vote'	Feb/Mar 2024	32	37	48	33	25	21	30	42	39	34	32	30	14	44	23	41	39	51	22	34	48	16	12	24	22	46	15	38
	Δ Sept/Oct 2023	▼6	▼13	▼9	▼7	▼10	▼9	▼10	▼11	▼9	▼4	▼10	▼10	▼7	▼7	▼5	▼2	▼3	▼2	▼8	▼2	▼3	▼3	▼4	▼1	▼6	▲1	▲6	
Total 'Not often or never vote'	Feb/Mar 2024	9	7	14	11	10	4	6	14	10	7	5	10	2	8	3	8	14	19	15	12	9	10	2	5	13	14	1	16
	Δ Sept/Oct 2023	▼2	▼5	▼7	▼8	▼2	▼3	▼2	▼2	▼4	▼8	▼3	▲2	▲2	▲2	▲2	▲2	▲2	▲2	▲2	▲1	▲1	▲2	▲1	▲2	▲2	▼3	▼1	▼3
Total 'Other / Don't know'	Feb/Mar 2024	1	2	1	2	1	2	2	2	5	2	2	2	1	1	1	1	1	2	1	3	4	2	1	2	3	3	3	3
	Δ Sept/Oct 2023	▲1	▲1	▲1	▲1	▲1	▲1	▲1	▲1	▲2	▲2	▲1	▲2	▲1	▲1	▲1	▲1	▲2	▲1	▲1	▲1	▲1	▲1	▲1	▲2	▲1	▲2	▲1	▲1

From a socio-demographic perspective, the analysis showcases that the likelihood of stating that one 'always votes' increases with age. Thus, while 47% of the respondents aged 15-24 claim that they 'always vote', 64% of those aged 55 and above state the same. In terms of education levels, some differences emerge as well. Notably, respondents who have finished education at age 20 or older are the most likely of all segments in this category to state that they 'always vote' (67%), especially when compared to persons who completed education aged 16-19 or are still studying (both segments, 53%).

When it comes to one's socio-professional situation, the data indicates that respondents who are managers or are retired are the two most likely segments in the category to note that they 'always vote' (67% and 65%, respectively). This contrasts with the reported frequency of voting behaviour among those unemployed and house persons (of whom 41% and 48% respectively note that they 'always vote').

There are also differences among groups with different levels of financial well-being, with respondents who report that they almost never or never face difficulties paying bills being more likely to say that they always vote (65%) compared to those who face such struggles, especially, those who do so most of the time (40%).

In terms of attitudinal segments, the data points to differences in reported earlier voting behaviour patterns and variables of interest for this report. For instance, while 69% of respondents who have an overall positive image of the EU report that they always vote, 50% of those who conjure up a negative image also do. Also, whereas 73% of respondents who report being likely to vote in the upcoming European elections mention that they 'always vote', 13% of those who are not likely to do so mention the same.

QA17

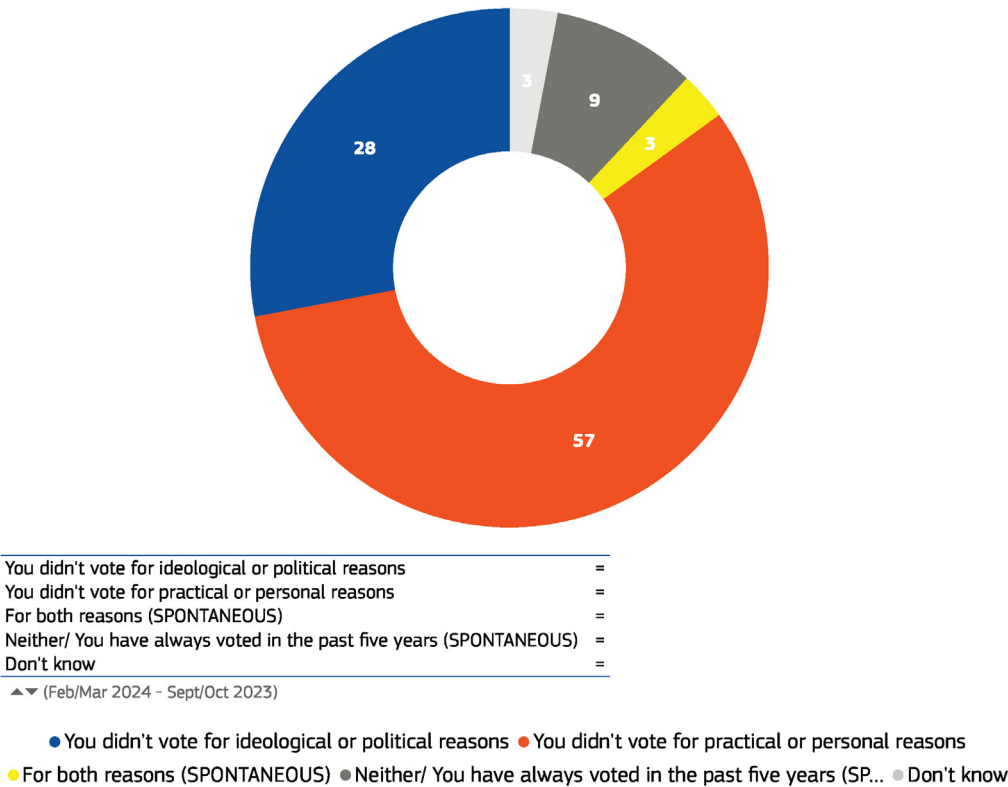
Let's now talk about your personal voting behaviour. Which of the following best describes your voting behaviour in recent years, whether at the local or regional, national or European level? (% - EU)

	Total 'Always vote'	Total 'Often vote'	Total 'Not often or never vote'	Total 'Other / Don't know'
EU27	58	32	9	1
Gender				
Man	59	31	8	2
Woman	57	33	9	1
Age				
15-24	47	26	15	12
25-39	52	38	10	0
40-54	58	34	8	0
55 +	64	29	7	0
Education (End of)				
15-	56	31	13	0
16-19	53	36	10	1
20+	67	28	5	0
Still studying	53	23	11	13
Socio-professional category				
Self- employed	61	30	9	0
Managers	67	28	5	0
Other white collars	58	36	6	0
Manual workers	50	39	11	0
House persons	48	33	16	3
Unemployed	41	33	24	2
Retired	65	28	7	0
Students	53	23	11	13
Difficulties paying bills				
Most of the time	40	37	21	2
From time to time	47	41	11	1
Almost never/ Never	65	27	6	2
Image of the EU				
Positive	69	25	4	2
Neutral	49	39	11	1
Negative	50	34	15	1
Likelihood to vote in the next European elections				
Likely	73	24	2	1
Neutral	23	66	9	2
Not likely	13	41	45	1

3.2 Reasons for not voting in the past five years

To understand the reasons for not participating in an election at either the local, regional, national or European level, respondents who reported that they rarely or never vote provided their reasons for having abstained. The results for this question indicate that as previous surveys have found, the most often cited category of reasons for abstention in elections is comprised of practical or personal reasons (57%, -1pp since September-October 2023), followed by ideological or political reasons (28%, no change), or reasons in both categories (3%, no change).

QA18 If you did not vote in an election or a referendum in the past five years, what was the main reason? (EU27) (%)



Feb/Mar 2024

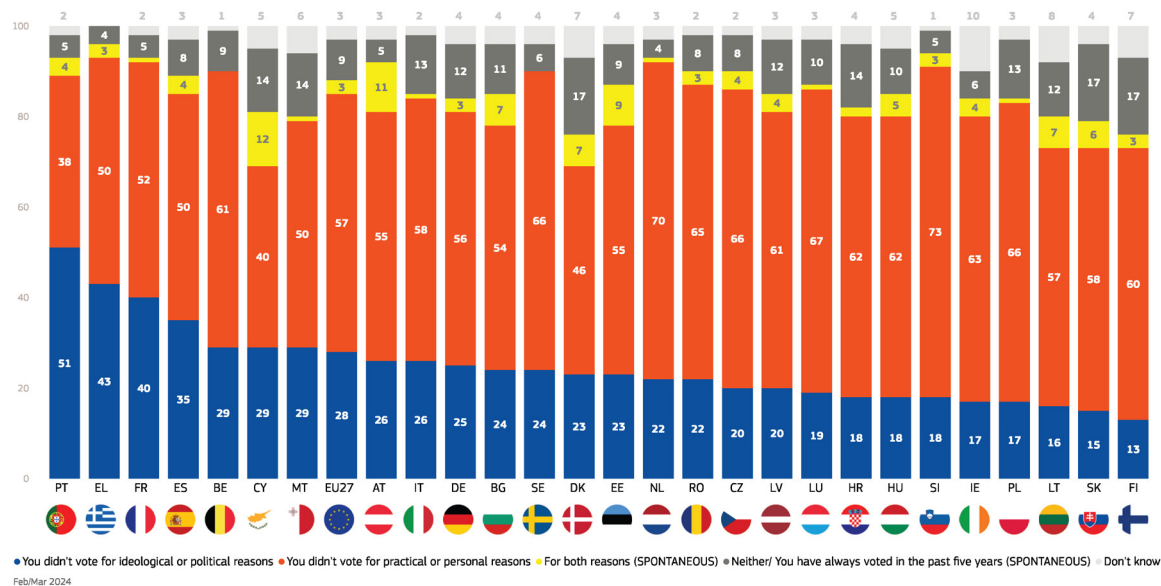
On one hand, across 23 of the Member States, a majority of respondents who were asked the question cite practical or personal reasons as their primary drivers for abstaining from casting a vote in political elections at any level. This category of reasons is cited by vast majorities in Slovenia (73%), the Netherlands (70%) and Luxembourg (67%). Practical and personal reasons are invoked least often in Portugal (38%), Cyprus (40%) and Denmark (46%).

On the other hand, in three countries, at least four in ten of the respondents who rarely or never vote noted that they have abstained from participating in elections at any level for ideological or political reasons. The proportions range from 40% in France and 43% in Greece to 51% in Portugal. These shares go down to represent 13% in Finland, 15% in Slovakia and 16% in Lithuania.

On one hand, across 23 of the Member States, a majority of respondents who were asked the question cite practical or personal reasons as their primary drivers for abstaining from casting a vote in political elections at any level. This category of reasons is cited by vast majorities in Slovenia (73%), the Netherlands (70%) and Luxembourg (67%). Practical and personal reasons are invoked least often in Portugal (38%), Cyprus (40%) and Denmark (46%).

On the other hand, in three countries, at least four in ten of the respondents who rarely or never vote noted that they have abstained from participating in elections at any level for ideological or political reasons. The proportions range from 40% in France and 43% in Greece to 51% in Portugal. These shares go down to represent 13% in Finland, 15% in Slovakia and 16% in Lithuania.

QA18 If you did not vote in an election or a referendum in the past five years, what was the main reason? (%)

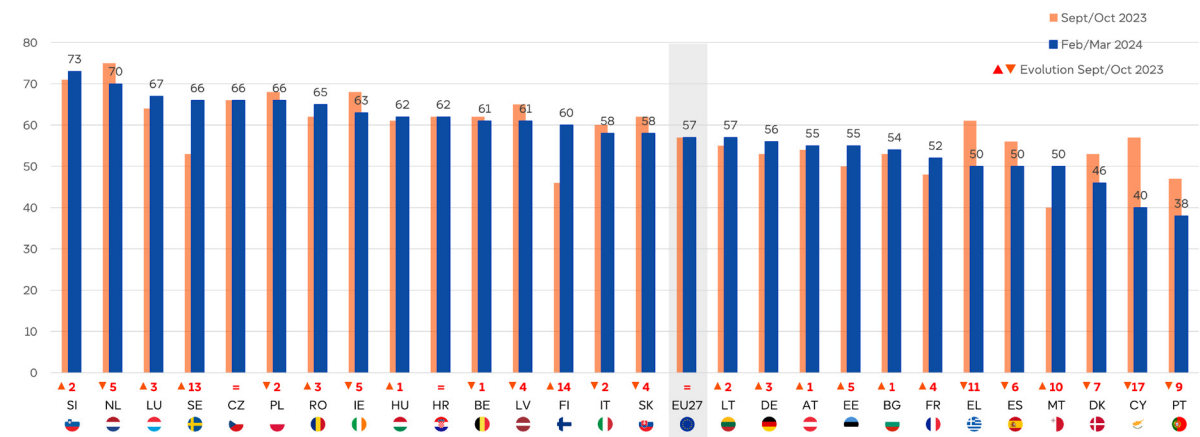


In eight countries, the proportion of respondents who invoked practical or personal reasons for abstention from voting has increased (at least marginally), with the largest increase observed in Finland (60%, +14 pp), Sweden (66%, +13 pp) and Malta (50%, +10 pp). At the same time, this category of reasons has been less commonly cited in nine countries, particularly in Cyprus (40%, -17 pp), Greece (50%, -11 pp) and Denmark (46%, -7 pp).

In seven countries, the incidence of voters being deterred from voting due to ideological or political reasons has decreased. This decrease has been more prominent in Malta (29%, -16%), Luxembourg (19%, -8 pp) and Poland (17%, -8 pp).

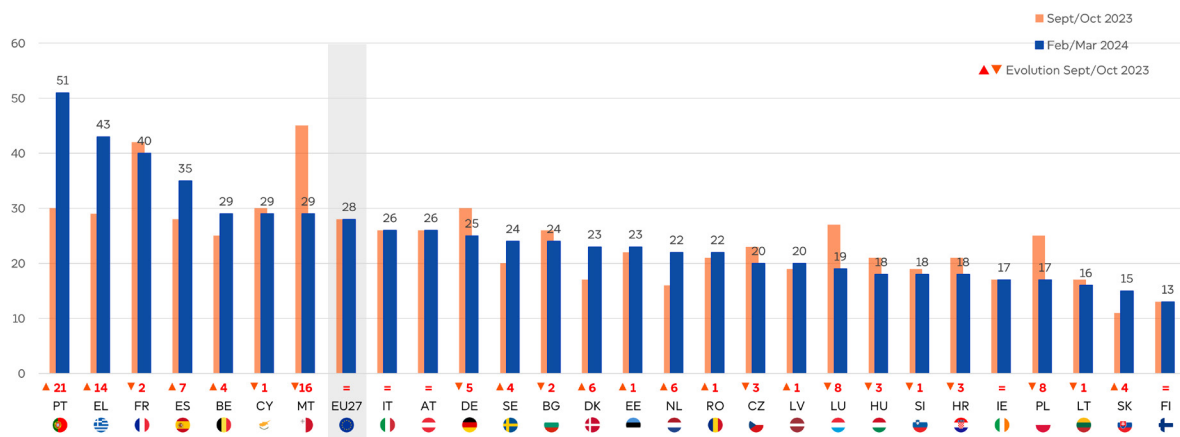
However, in another seven Member States, more respondents now claim not to have voted for ideological or political reasons than during Fall 2023. The largest rises were of + 21 percentage points in Portugal (51%) and +14 percentage points in Greece (43%).

QA18 If you did not vote in an election or a referendum in the past five years, what was the main reason? (% - You didn't vote for ideological or political reasons)



QA18

If you did not vote in an election or a referendum in the past five years, what was the main reason? (% - You didn't vote for ideological or political reasons)



Overall, the socio-demographic analysis reveals that respondents in all segments are more likely to cite practical or personal reasons for not voting rather than ideological or political ones.

Women are marginally more likely than men to note that practical or personal reasons have prevented them from voting in the past (60% vs. 54%), while men are more likely than women to cite ideological or political reasons for not voting (33% vs. 23%).

The differences among age categories are not straightforward; however, the youngest respondents (aged 15-24) were the most likely to point towards practical or personal reasons as barriers to voting, particularly when compared to respondents aged 40-54 (62% vs 54%). The latter were the most likely to cite ideological or political reasons for not casting their ballot in the past (31% vs 25% among the youngest and oldest respondents).

Practical or personal reasons are most frequently cited by retired respondents (60%) and students (59%), and less frequently by the unemployed (48%). Respondents in this latter segment, however, are the most likely to say that they abstained from voting because of ideological or political reasons (38%, particularly when compared with house persons (22%) and the retired (23%).

Respondents who face challenges paying bills most of the time are more likely than other socio-economic segments to note that they did not vote for ideological or political reasons (41% vs 24%-28%).

In terms of attitudinal segments, there are rather wide variations regarding the likelihood of abstaining from voting due to ideological or political reasons among the segments determined based on their image of the European Parliament. The most notable finding is that individuals with a negative image of the institution are more likely to abstain from voting due to ideological or political reasons (40%) than those with a positive or neutral image (24-25%).

QA18

If you did not vote in an election or a referendum in the past five years, what was the main reason? (% - EU)

	You didn't vote for ideological or political reasons	You didn't vote for practical or personal reasons	For both reasons	Neither/ You have always voted in the past five years	Don't know
EU27	28	57	3	9	3
Gender					
Man	33	54	2	9	2
Woman	23	60	3	10	4
Age					
15-24	25	62	2	5	6
25-39	29	58	3	7	3
40-54	31	54	3	10	2
55 +	25	57	3	12	3
Education (End of)					
15-	30	55	3	9	3
16-19	26	57	4	11	2
20+	30	58	2	8	2
Still studying	28	59	1	5	7
Socio-professional category					
Self- employed	34	53	4	7	2
Managers	31	58	3	7	1
Other white collars	28	58	2	10	2
Manual workers	28	56	3	10	3
House persons	22	58	4	11	5
Unemployed	38	48	5	5	4
Retired	23	60	3	12	2
Students	28	59	1	5	7
Difficulties paying bills					
Most of the time	41	46	5	6	2
From time to time	28	57	4	8	3
Almost never/ Never	24	60	2	11	3
Image of the European Parliament					
Positive	24	60	2	12	2
Neutral	25	60	3	9	3
Negative	40	45	5	8	2

3.3 Reasons preventing voting

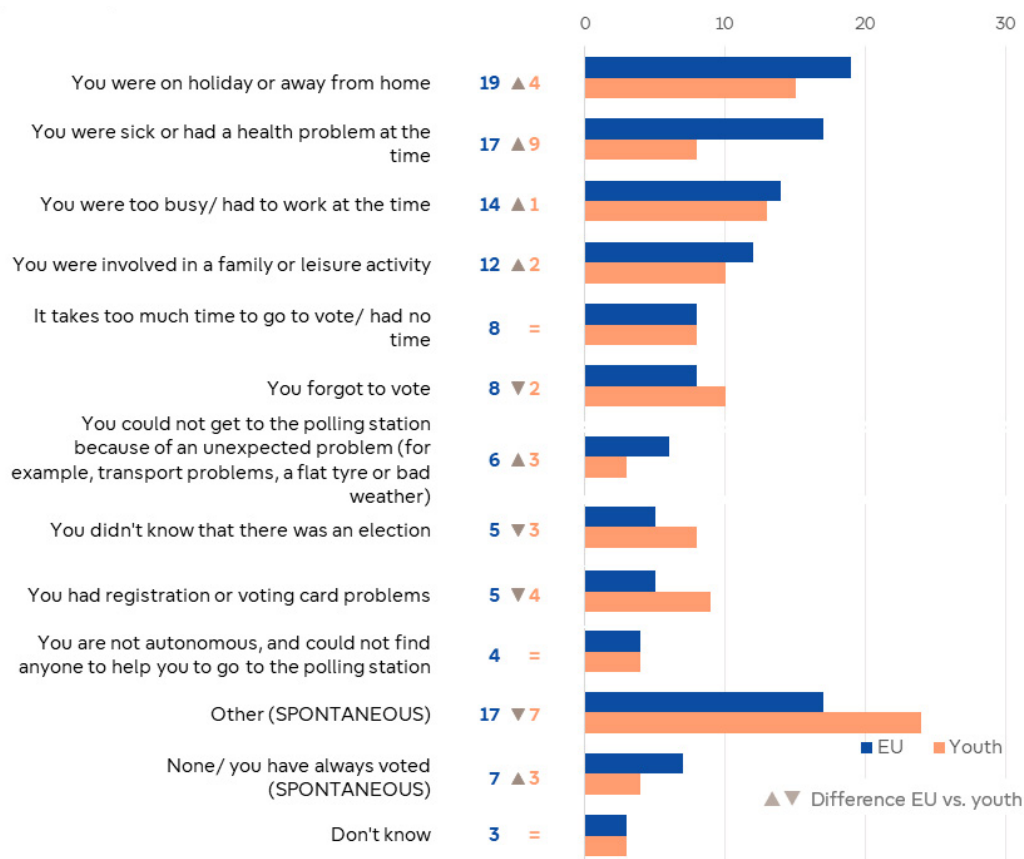
The most often provided reasons for abstention in an election or referendum at the local, national, or European level fall within the category of 'practical or personal reasons'. Of all citizens who have ever abstained from voting, 66% note a reason that is thus either practical or personal in nature.

The most frequently invoked reason is that one was on holiday or away from home (19%, -1 pp since September–October 2023) or that one was sick or had a health problem at the time of the exercise (17%, +1 pp since September–October 2023).

Having been busy or having to work at the time of the election or referendum comes as a reason in third place (14%, -1 pp since September–October 2023).

QA19

Which of the following reasons have ever prevented you from voting in an election or a referendum at local, national or European level? (MULTIPLE ANSWERS POSSIBLE) (EU27) (%)



In 16 countries, respondents say they did not vote in an election or referendum because they were on holiday or away from home as one of the top three reasons. The proportions range from 32% in Slovenia and 31% in Austria to 7% in Sweden and 8% in Malta.





























Being sick or having had a health problem at the time of elections is most frequently mentioned in 11 countries. The shares are highest in Czechia (28%) and Slovakia (26%) and are lowest in Malta (3%), Cyprus and France (both 6%).

Being busy or having had to work is the frequently cited in 12 countries. The Netherlands (33%) has the highest proportion of respondents who say they were too busy or had to work, followed by Hungary, Latvia and Romania (all 23%). Conversely, in Malta (7%), Spain and Portugal (both 9%), respondents are least likely to mention this reason.

Forgetting to vote is among the most commonly cited reasons for abstention in Finland (23%) and Sweden (20%), while it is least common in Greece (1%) and Malta (3%).

QA19

Which of the following reasons have ever prevented you from voting in an election or a referendum at local, national or European level? (MULTIPLE ANSWERS POSSIBLE) (%)

	EU27	AT	BE	BG	CY	CZ	DE	DK	EE	EL	ES	FI	FR	HR	HU	IE	IT	LT	LU	LV	MT	NL	PL	PT	RO	SE	SI	SK
																												
Total 'Practical or personal reasons'	66	77	76	67	51	76	61	51	61	59	47	63	61	69	75	67	74	67	65	59	30	66	76	43	82	47	73	65
You were on holiday or away from home	19	31	19	18	10	24	21	9	17	18	12	20	22	18	20	23	20	20	18	12	8	16	13	10	16	7	32	19
You were sick or had a health problem at the time	17	26	13	24	6	28	18	8	14	26	9	13	6	18	18	12	23	23	7	11	3	12	23	10	21	10	20	26
Other (SPONTANEOUS)	17	12	9	15	25	12	19	30	17	38	34	15	19	7	8	7	12	18	16	13	40	18	9	48	7	16	11	10
You were too busy/ had to work at the time	14	19	17	21	20	19	12	19	21	15	9	13	10	17	23	21	13	15	14	23	7	33	13	9	23	17	16	19
Total 'Lack of information'	13	20	15	6	9	9	15	11	16	2	10	27	16	16	9	22	10	7	18	21	5	18	10	7	9	39	13	7
You were involved in a family or leisure activity	12	17	9	16	9	14	10	4	13	8	12	10	13	17	17	10	12	11	7	10	5	3	13	12	13	9	12	15
It takes too much time to go to vote/ had no time	8	13	12	4	7	13	7	7	13	5	6	11	7	8	9	7	8	11	12	7	3	12	11	5	9	6	10	9
You forgot to vote	8	13	9	4	4	6	10	8	11	1	5	23	9	11	5	14	7	6	8	13	3	13	6	5	6	20	9	5
None/ you have always voted (SPONTANEOUS)	7	3	4	10	14	4	8	6	8	2	7	7	7	12	6	4	8	5	7	11	20	4	7	3	6	4	8	15
You could not get to the polling station because of an unexpected problem (for example, transport problems, a flat tyre or bad weather)	6	8	10	4	3	3	4	7	3	4	1	6	4	6	4	4	9	0	6	2	3	1	11	4	14	4	3	1
You didn't know that there was an election	5	10	9	2	6	4	6	7	6	1	5	5	8	6	5	9	3	1	12	9	1	7	4	3	4	28	4	3
You had registration or voting card problems	5	9	13	2	2	3	3	1	2	2	4	2	11	2	4	10	5	1	11	1	2	3	5	3	4	1	0	2
You are not autonomous, and could not find anyone to help you to go to the polling station	4	7	8	1	5	2	2	2	2	3	1	2	1	5	5	2	6	1	1	3	0	0	10	2	5	1	1	2
Don't know	3	4	2	4	3	1	2	6	6	0	4	4	2	3	7	8	1	7	3	4	7	1	3	4	1	3	1	5

1st Most Frequently Mentioned Item
2nd Most Frequently Mentioned Item
3rd Most Frequently Mentioned Item

Feb/Mar 2024

QA19

Which of the following reasons have ever prevented you from voting in an election or a referendum at local, national or European level? (MULTIPLE ANSWERS POSSIBLE) (%)



You were on holiday or away from home	Feb/Mar 2024	19	19	18	24	9	21	17	23	18	12	22	18	20	10	12	20	18	20	8	16	31	13	10	16	32	19	20	7
	Δ Sept/Oct 2023	▼1	▼3	▼2	▼1	▼7	▼1	=	▼1	▼6	=	▲1	=	▼4	▼10	▼1	▲6	▲2	▲6	▼6	▼7	▲2	▼5	▼2	▲4	▲4	▼2	=	▼2
You were sick or had a health problem at the time	Feb/Mar 2024	17	13	24	28	8	18	14	12	26	9	6	18	23	6	11	23	7	18	3	12	26	23	10	21	20	26	13	10
	Δ Sept/Oct 2023	▲1	▼2	▲3	▼2	▼8	▲1	▲1	=	=	=	=	▼1	▼1	▲7	▼11	▼2	▲8	▼4	▼3	▼1	▲2	▼1	▲4	▼1	▲1	▲7	▲2	▲2
You were too busy/ had to work at the time	Feb/Mar 2024	14	17	21	19	19	12	21	21	15	9	10	17	13	20	23	15	14	23	7	33	19	13	9	23	16	19	13	17
	Δ Sept/Oct 2023	▼1	▲3	▼2	▲1	=	▼3	=	▼5	▼4	▼3	▲1	▲1	▲1	▼2	=	▼4	=	▼3	▼3	▲3	▲1	▼1	▼2	▲6	▼2	▼1	▼1	▲1
You were involved in a family or leisure activity	Feb/Mar 2024	12	9	16	14	4	10	13	10	8	12	13	17	12	9	10	11	7	17	5	3	17	13	12	13	12	15	10	9
	Δ Sept/Oct 2023	▼1	▼1	▼1	▲1	=	▼3	=	▲1	▼5	▲1	▼4	=	▲4	▼1	=	▲4	▼4	▼3	▲1	▼1	▼3	▼1	▲2	▲2	▼3	▼3	=	▼3
It takes too much time to go to vote/ had no time	Feb/Mar 2024	8	12	4	13	7	7	13	7	5	6	7	8	8	7	7	11	12	9	3	12	13	11	5	9	10	9	11	6
	Δ Sept/Oct 2023	▼1	▲4	▼2	▲2	▼5	▼4	▲3	▼3	▼2	=	▲1	=	▼2	▲3	▼1	=	▲7	▼2	▼2	▼2	▼2	=	▼2	▲3	▼2	▼1	▲4	
You forgot to vote	Feb/Mar 2024	8	9	4	6	8	10	11	14	1	5	9	11	7	4	13	6	8	5	3	13	13	6	5	6	9	5	23	20
	Δ Sept/Oct 2023	▼2	▼4	▼1	▼2	▼11	▼4	▼5	▼1	▼1	▼1	▲1	▼2	=	▲3	▼3	▼4	▼1	▲2	▼8	=	▼2	▲2	▲1	▼1	=	▼3	▲3	
You could not get to the polling station because of an unexpected problem (for example, transport problems, a flat tyre or bad weather)	Feb/Mar 2024	6	10	4	3	7	4	3	4	4	1	4	6	9	3	2	0	6	4	3	1	8	11	4	14	3	1	6	4
	Δ Sept/Oct 2023	▼1	▲4	=	▼1	▼3	▼2	▼3	▼2	▼4	=	▲1	▼1	▼2	▲1	▼2	▼2	▲2	▼5	▼1	▼2	▼2	▼1	=	▼7	=	▼1	▲3	▼4
You had registration or voting card problems	Feb/Mar 2024	5	13	2	3	1	3	2	10	2	4	11	2	5	2	1	1	11	4	2	3	9	5	3	4	0	2	2	1
	Δ Sept/Oct 2023	=	▲7	▼1	▲1	▼3	▼1	▼1	▼2	▲2	=	▲3	▼1	=	▼7	▼1	=	▼5	▼1	▼2	▼1	=	▼1	▼1	▲1	▼1	▲2	▲1	▼3
You didn't know that there was an election	Feb/Mar 2024	5	9	2	4	7	6	6	9	1	5	8	6	3	6	9	1	12	5	1	7	10	4	3	4	4	3	5	28
	Δ Sept/Oct 2023	▼1	▼2	▼1	▼1	▼5	▲1	▼1	=	=	=	▼1	▲1	▼2	▼2	▲3	=	▼3	=	▼1	=	▼6	=	▼4	=	▲1	▼3	=	▼2
You are not autonomous, and could not find anyone to help you to go to the polling station	Feb/Mar 2024	4	8	1	2	2	2	2	2	3	1	1	5	6	5	3	1	1	5	0	0	7	10	2	5	1	2	2	1
	Δ Sept/Oct 2023	=	▼1	=	▼1	=	▼1	=	▼2	=	▲1	=	▼1	▲1	▲6	▲3	▲1	=	▼3	▲1	▼5	▼3	=	▼1	▼2	▼1	▼1	=	▲2

From a socio-demographic angle, women are more likely than men to mention sickness or health problems as their reason for not voting (19% vs 15%). Respondents aged 55 or older are also more likely to cite this reason (26% of those aged 55 or over compared to 8-15% of those aged 15-54).

The survey also found that respondents who completed full-time education at the age of 20 or older are more likely than those who left school by the age of 15 to mention reasons such as being on holiday or away from home (24% vs 8%) and being too busy or having to work (15% vs 7%). Conversely, respondents who finished education aged 15 or younger are more likely to say they were sick or had a health problem (24% vs 14%-18%).

Respondents who rarely or never struggle to pay their bills are more likely to attribute their decision to not vote to being on vacation or away from home (21%), as compared to those who face financial difficulties most of the time (9%).

QA19

Which of the following reasons have ever prevented you from voting in an election or a referendum at local, national or European level? Top 5 at EU level (MULTIPLE ANSWERS POSSIBLE) (% - EU)

	You were on holiday or away from home	You were sick or had a health problem at the time	Other	You were too busy/ had to work at the time	You were involved in a family or leisure activity	Don't know
EU27	19	17	17	14	12	3
Gender						
Man	19	15	19	16	12	3
Woman	18	19	16	12	12	3
Age						
15-24	15	8	24	13	10	3
25-39	21	11	16	16	12	3
40-54	20	15	17	16	13	2
55 +	17	26	18	10	12	3
Education (End of)						
15-	8	24	27	7	10	4
16-19	18	18	16	15	12	3
20+	24	14	13	15	14	2
Still studying	21	9	26	14	9	2
Socio-professional category						
Self- employed	25	9	18	16	15	2
Managers	25	16	12	15	17	2
Other white collars	23	17	11	16	13	2
Manual workers	18	13	17	18	12	3
House persons	13	19	16	6	9	5
Unemployed	10	10	29	12	7	5
Retired	16	29	18	9	11	2
Students	21	9	26	14	9	2
Difficulties paying bills						
Most of the time	9	16	30	11	11	2
From time to time	18	18	17	14	13	2
Almost never/ Never	21	17	15	14	12	3



LIFE IN THE EU
FROM CITIZENS'
PERSPECTIVE

4. LIFE IN THE EU FROM CITIZENS' PERSPECTIVE

The following chapter describes a range of citizen perspectives on life in the EU, unveiling a diverse array of reported experiences and opinions regarding the evolution and current state of affairs across the union. It examines the overall sentiment about the state of democracy in both the EU and in respondents' countries.

The chapter begins by analysing the reported shifts in citizens' economic circumstances over the last five years and looks at patterns in socio-economic standing as reflected by reported challenges in paying bills. Next, it discusses the opinions of respondents about the future trajectory of affairs in their countries, across the EU, and in their personal lives. It also analyses the levels of satisfaction with democracy at the supra-national and national levels, collaterally gauging opinions on whether respondents feel like their voice counts in their country and in the EU and whether their country's voice counts in the union. Finally, the chapter looks at Europeans' expectations regarding their individual standard of living and their broader outlook on the evolution of the national economic situation in the forthcoming years.

The data indicates that although half of Europeans report a stable standard of living in the last five years, a significant portion instead indicate a decrease in their standard of living. In terms of their expectations about living conditions in a year's time, compared to Fall 2023, now slightly more citizens think that their living conditions will stabilise or improve in a year's time.

The proportion of respondents who are satisfied with how democracy works in the EU is stable, surpassing the proportion of those who are not satisfied. The trend is mirrored at the national level, where those who are satisfied with how democracy works in their country outnumber those who are not. The sentiment that one's voice counts in the EU and in one's country is stable, while in 24 Member States, the majority think that the voice of their country counts in the EU.

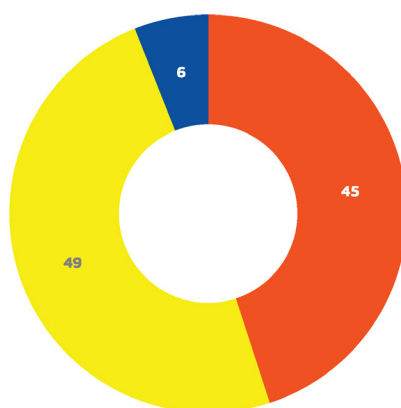
4.1 Effects of the recent crises on Europeans' lives

Changes in Europeans' standard of living

Respondents were prompted about any changes to their personal standard of living in the last five years, considering that the global and national economies have been affected by a number of crises (such as the consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic, Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine and the rising inflation rates). Close to half of citizens (49%) mention that their standard of living has not changed, while 45% note that their standard of living has decreased, and 6% indicate that it has rather increased.

SD26

Many elements, such as the consequences of the Covid-19 pandemic, Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine and rising inflation have affected the global economy, including the Member States of the European Union. When you think about your personal standard of living (e.g. the goods and services you can afford) over the last five years, which one of the following statements best describes your situation? (EU27) (%)



● Your standard of living has increased ● Your standard of living has not changed ● Your standard of living has decreased

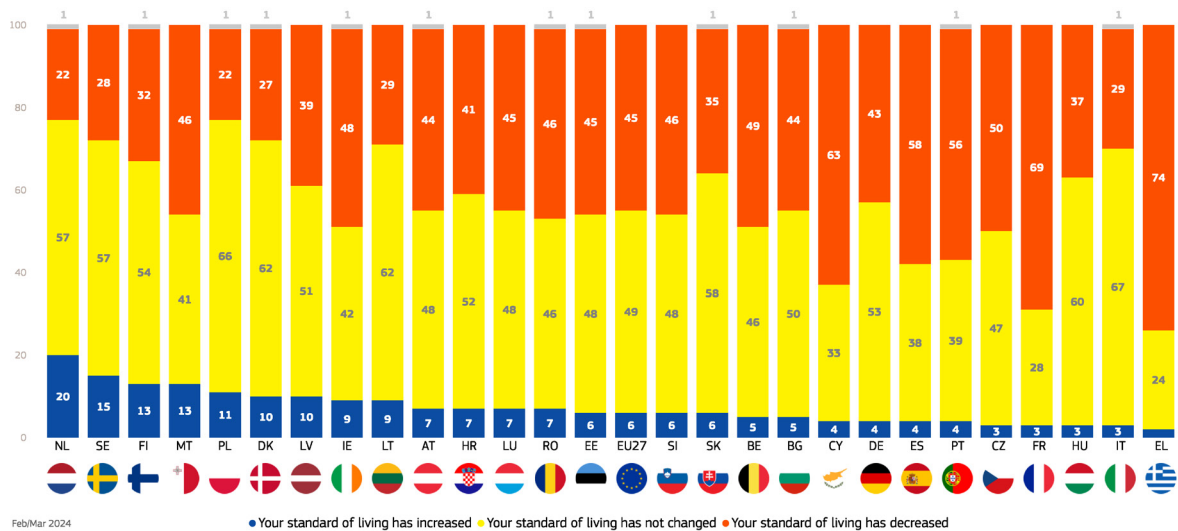
Feb/Mar 2024

In 17 of the Member States, the most common answer provided by respondents is that their standard of living over the last five years has not changed. These proportions peak in Italy (67%), Poland (66%), as well as Denmark and Lithuania (both 62%).

In nine countries, a relative majority of respondents stated that their standard of living has decreased. Among these countries, Greece has the highest share of respondents who provided this answer (74%), followed by France (69%) and Cyprus (63%). On the other hand, the number of people who reported a decrease in their standard of living is the lowest in the Netherlands and Poland (both 22%) and Denmark (27%).

SD26

Many elements, such as the consequences of the Covid-19 pandemic, Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine and rising inflation have affected the global economy, including the Member States of the European Union. When you think about your personal standard of living (e.g. the goods and services you can afford) over the last five years, which one of the following statements best describes your situation? (%)



The socio-demographic analysis reveals that certain segments were more prone to have encountered a decline in their standard of living over the past five years.

In terms of age groups, respondents aged 40 and over (47%) are the most likely to report a decrease in their standard of living in the last five years, especially when compared to the youngest respondents aged 15-24 (34%).

Differences are more prominent when it comes to contrasts among respondents with varying levels of education. In this respect, 55% of respondents who left education at age 15 or younger report a worsening of their living conditions in the last five years, compared to 40% of respondents who left full-time education aged 20 or older.

Respondents who identify as unemployed (65%) or as manual workers (51%) are more inclined than those in other socio-professional categories, particularly students (31%) and managers (34%), to indicate a decrease in their standard of living.

Finally, when it comes to socio-economic status as assessed by reported difficulties paying bills, respondents who report facing such challenges most of the time are much more likely to note a decrease in their standard of living in the last five years (82%), compared to respondents who almost never or never experience such difficulties (36%).

SD26

Many elements, such as the consequences of the Covid-19 pandemic, Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine and rising inflation have affected the global economy, including the Member States of the European Union. When you think about your personal standard of living (e.g. the goods and services you can afford) over the last five years, which one of the following statements best describes your situation? (% - EU)

	Your standard of living has decreased	Your standard of living has not changed	Your standard of living has increased	Don't know
EU27	45	49	6	0
Gender				
Man	43	50	6	1
Woman	46	48	5	1
Age				
15-24	34	57	7	2
25-39	44	46	9	1
40-54	47	48	5	0
55 +	47	49	4	0
Education (End of)				
15-	55	43	2	0
16-19	49	46	5	0
20+	40	52	8	0
Still studying	31	60	6	3
Socio-professional category				
Self- employed	42	50	8	0
Managers	34	56	10	0
Other white collars	41	52	7	0
Manual workers	51	43	5	1
House persons	49	46	4	1
Unemployed	65	32	3	0
Retired	48	49	3	0
Students	31	60	6	3
Difficulties paying bills				
Most of the time	82	15	3	0
From time to time	55	41	4	0
Almost never/ Never	36	57	7	0

Difficulties paying bills

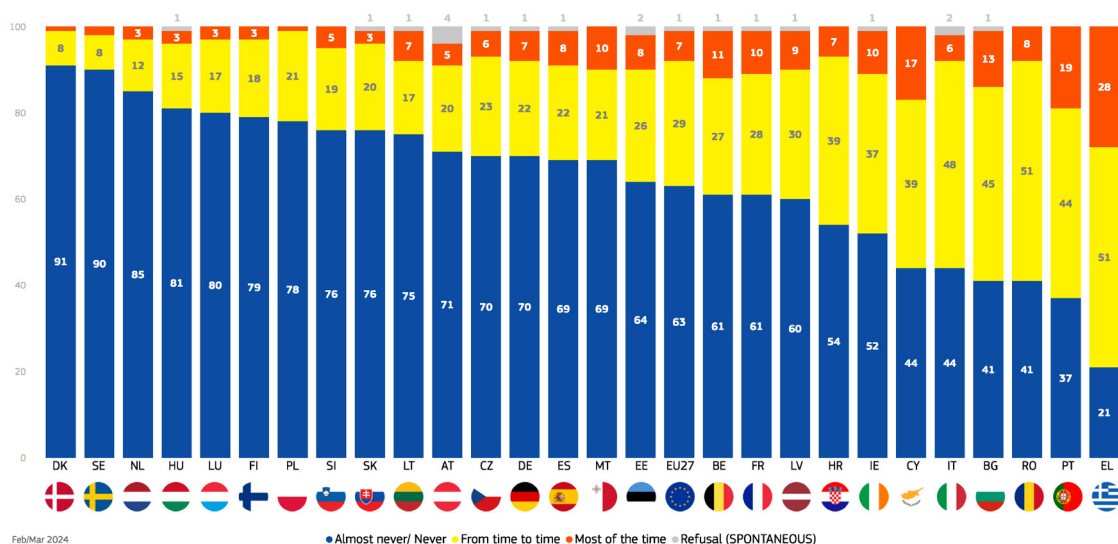
In terms of difficulties paying bills, the figures indicate no shifts as compared to the situation in September – October 2023. Thus, during the first quarter of 2024, 63% of Europeans note that they rarely or never face difficulties paying their bills (+1 pp, since September – October 2023), 29% report that they encounter such problems from time to time (+1 pp), while 7% acknowledge confronting issues paying bills most of the time (-2 pp).

In 22 Member States, a majority of respondents note that they almost never or never experience difficulties paying bills. The highest shares are observed in Denmark (91%), Sweden (90%) and the Netherlands (85%).

When looking at the proportions of respondents who face challenges paying their bills most of the time, the data indicates that in Greece (28%), Portugal (19%) and Cyprus (17%), these shares are the highest across the union. Greece is also the only country where the proportion of respondents who face difficulties paying bills is higher than that of respondents who almost never or never experience such difficulties.

D60





























During the last twelve months, would you say you had difficulties to pay your bills at the end of the month...? (%)



The comparative analysis of the survey data collected in February–March 2024 and September–October 2023 indicates that these estimates have either recorded no variation or went down somewhat. The countries with the most significant drop in the proportions of respondents who experience difficulties paying bills at the end of the month are Greece (28%, –8 pp), Italy (6%, –5 pp), and Portugal (19%, –4 pp).

D60

During the last twelve months, would you say you had difficulties to pay your bills at the end of the month...? (%)

																													
Most of the time	Feb/Mar 2024	7	11	10	7	3	2	6	1	7	8	8	9	3	3	1	8	5	3	13	10	7	10	5	17	3	19	6	28
	Δ Sept/Oct 2023	▼2	▲1	▲1	▲1	▲1	▲1	=	=	=	=	=	▼1	▼1	▼1	▼1	▼1	▼1	▼1	▼2	▼2	▼2	▼2	▼2	▼3	▼3	▼4	▼5	▼8
From time to time	Feb/Mar 2024	29	27	37	17	20	8	23	8	22	26	22	30	17	15	21	51	19	18	45	28	39	21	20	39	12	44	48	51
	Δ Sept/Oct 2023	▲1	▲1	▼9	▼5	▼5	▲2	▼2	▲1	▲1	▲1	▼1	▲3	▼3	▼6	▼1	▲3	▼2	▲2	▲1	▲4	▼5	▼3	▼4	▼4	▼4	▲3	▲2	▲1
Almost never / Never	Feb/Mar 2024	63	61	52	75	76	90	70	91	70	64	69	60	80	81	78	41	76	79	41	61	54	69	71	44	85	37	44	21
	Δ Sept/Oct 2023	▲1	▼2	▲7	▲3	▲3	▼3	▲2	▼1	▼1	▼1	=	▼2	▲4	▲8	▲2	▼2	▲4	=	▲2	▼1	▲7	▲5	▲6	▲7	▲7	▲1	▲3	▲7
Refusal (SPONTANEOUS)	Feb/Mar 2024	1	1	1	1	1	0	1	0	1	2	1	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	4	0	0	0	2	0
	Δ Sept/Oct 2023	=	=	▲1	▲1	▲1	=	=	=	=	▲1	=	=	▼1	=	=	▼1	▼1	▼1	▼1	=	=	=	=	=	=	=	=	=

Findings regarding socio–demographic patterns of response related to difficulties paying bills dovetail somewhat with those described above when discussing the evolution of respondents' standard of living in the past five years.

Thus, respondents who have finished education aged 15 or younger (15%, compared to 4% of those who left education aged 20 or older), and who are unemployed (29%, compared to 2% of managers) are particularly likely to report that they face difficulties paying bills.

On the other hand, the older respondents aged 55 and above (67%), those who have finished education aged 20 or older (76%), and managers (82%) are the socio–demographic segments most likely to state that they almost never or never experience difficulties paying bills.

D60

During the last twelve months, would you say you had difficulties to pay your bills at the end of the month...? (% - EU)

	Most of the time	From time to time	Almost never/ Never	Refusal
EU27	7	29	63	1
Gender				
Man	7	26	66	1
Woman	8	30	61	1
Age				
15-24	6	26	64	4
25-39	8	31	60	1
40-54	8	31	60	1
55 +	7	26	67	0
Education (End of)				
15-	15	33	52	0
16-19	8	34	57	1
20+	4	20	76	0
Still studying	5	25	65	5
Socio-professional category				
Self- employed	5	29	65	1
Managers	2	16	82	0
Other white collars	5	30	65	0
Manual workers	9	36	54	1
House persons	13	39	47	1
Unemployed	29	38	33	0
Retired	6	25	69	0
Students	5	25	65	5

How things are going in the EU, in Member States and in citizens' lives

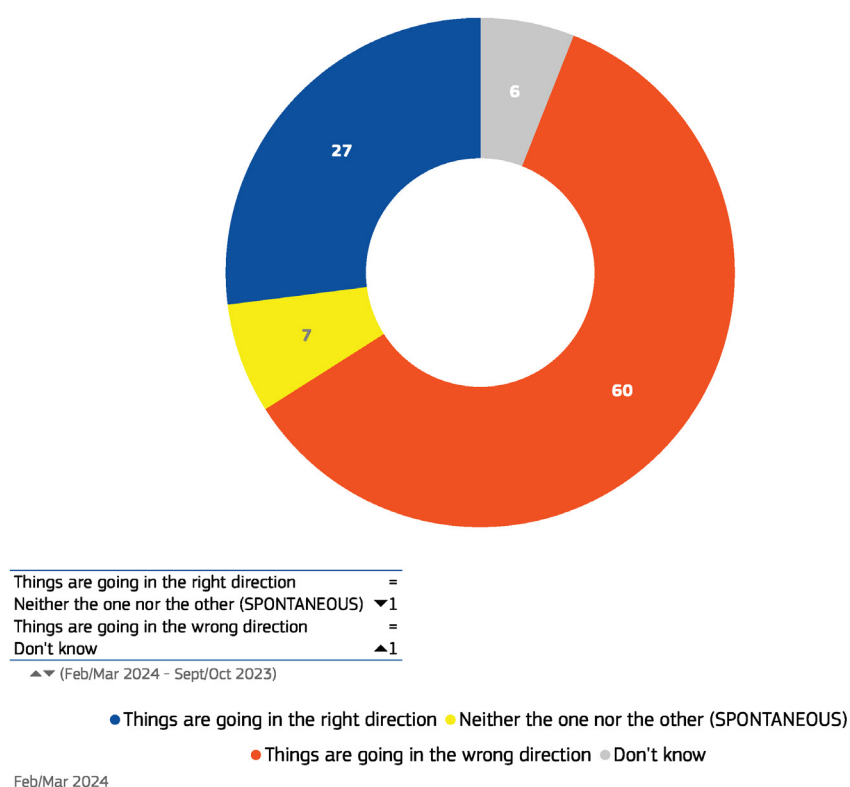
The following section evaluates the prevailing sentiment among citizens regarding the situation within the EU and their respective countries, along with their views on how things are going in their own lives.

Since September–October 2023, the general outlook has remained predominantly pessimistic, with respondents expressing dissatisfaction with the trajectory of affairs in both their country and the EU. However, respondents reported a more optimistic outlook on the course of their own lives.

In terms of the **trajectory of affairs in one's country**, 27% of respondents (no change since September- October 2023) note that things are going in the right direction, while a majority of 60% (no change, compared to September- October 2023) believe that things are going in the wrong direction. Additionally, 7% of respondents (-1 pp, compared to September- October 2023) take the middle ground to answer the question and state that things in their country are going in neither the right nor wrong direction.

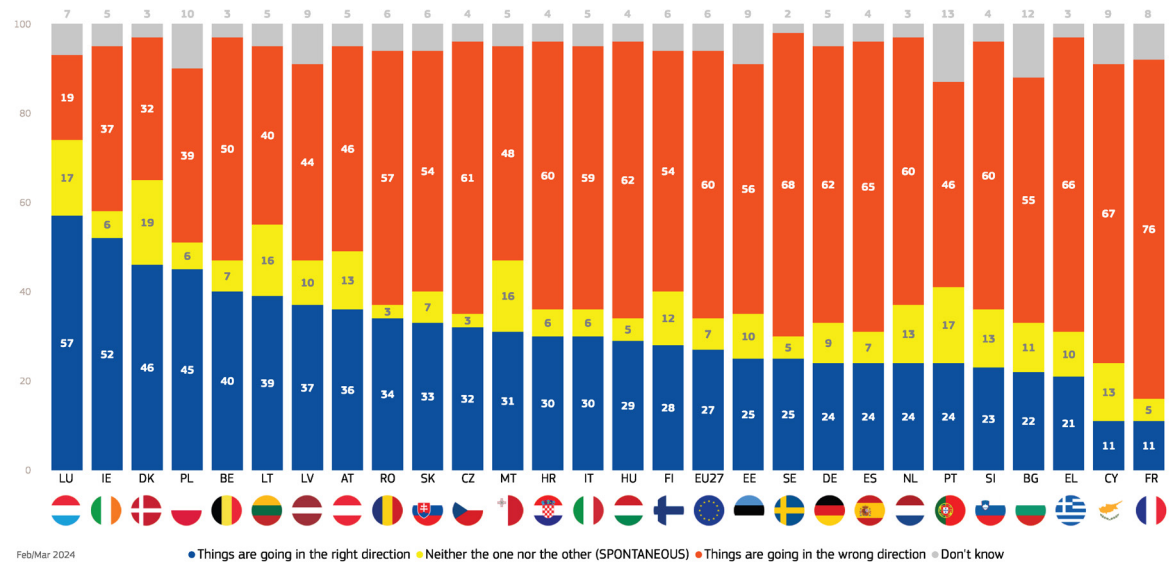
D73.1

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) (%)



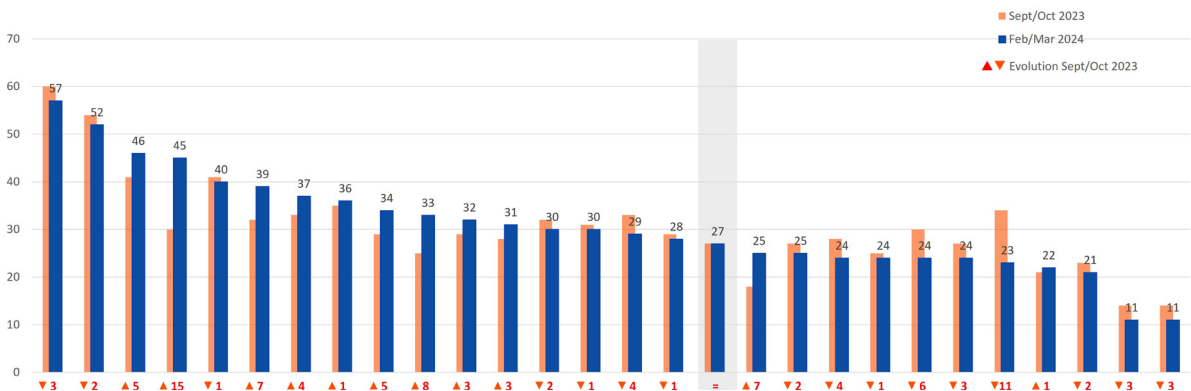
In four Member States, a majority think that things in their country are going in the right direction, the opinion is most prevalent in Luxembourg (57%), Ireland (52%) and Denmark (46%). In contrast, the majority view in the remaining 23 Member States leans towards the perception that things in one's country are going in the wrong direction. This opinion is particularly strong in France (76%), Sweden (68%) and Cyprus (67%).

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) (%)





























When it comes to contrasts between the findings from Fall 2023 and Spring 2024, the results indicate some variations among countries. Notably, the proportion of those who think that things in their country are headed in the right direction has increased in Poland (45%, +15 pp), Slovakia (33%, +8 pp) as well as Sweden (25%, +7pp) and Lithuania (39%, +7pp). On the contrary, it has decreased in Slovenia (23%, -11 pp) and the Netherlands (24%, -6 pp).

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))



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	PL	SK	LT	SE	DK	RO	LV	CZ	MT	BG	AT	BE	ES	HR	FI	EE	IE	EL	IT	FR	CY	LU	PT	DE	HU	NL	SI
Things are going in the right direction	Feb/Mar 2024	27	45	33	39	25	46	34	37	32	31	22	36	40	24	30	28	25	52	21	30	11	11	57	24	24	29	24	23
	Δ Sept/Oct 2023	=	▲15	▲8	▲7	▲7	▲5	▲5	▲4	▲3	▲3	▲1	▲1	▼1	▼1	▼1	▼1	▼2	▼2	▼2	▼2	▼3	▼3	▼3	▼4	▼4	▼4	▼6	▼11
Things are going in the wrong direction	Feb/Mar 2024	60	39	54	40	68	32	57	44	61	48	55	46	50	65	60	54	56	37	66	59	76	67	19	46	62	62	60	60
	Δ Sept/Oct 2023	=	▼19	▼5	▼2	▼10	▼6	▼7	▼2	▼2	▼2	▼3	▼1	▼1	▲2	▲1	▼1	▲2	▲3	=	▲2	▲2	▼1	▼4	▼3	▲4	▲4	▲5	▲15
Neither the one nor the other (SPONTANEOUS)	Feb/Mar 2024	7	6	7	16	5	19	3	10	3	16	11	13	7	7	6	12	10	6	10	6	5	13	17	17	9	5	13	13
	Δ Sept/Oct 2023	▼1	▼1	▼3	▼1	▲2	▲3	▲1	▼1	▲1	▼3	▲3	=	▲2	▼1	▲1	▲1	=	=	▲2	=	▼1	▼1	▲6	▲3	▲1	=	=	▼5
Don't know	Feb/Mar 2024	6	10	6	5	2	3	6	9	4	5	12	5	3	4	4	6	9	5	3	5	8	9	7	13	5	4	3	4
	Δ Sept/Oct 2023	▲1	▲5	=	▼4	▲1	▼2	▲1	▼1	▼2	▲2	▼1	=	=	=	▼1	▲1	=	▼1	=	=	▲2	▲5	▲1	▲3	▼1	=	▲1	▲1

According to the socio-demographic analysis, the youngest respondents, aged 15–24, are the most likely to believe that the trajectory of affairs in their country is headed in the right direction (33%), especially when compared to the oldest respondents, those aged 55 and over (25%).

There are also differences among respondents with different levels of education. Respondents who are still studying (33%) and those who finished full-time education at the age of 20 or above (30%) are more likely to believe that their country is moving in the right direction than respondents who completed education at the age of 15 or younger (22%).

Among the socio-professional categories, the most optimistic about the direction in which things are going in their country are students and managers (both 33%), especially when compared to respondents who say they are unemployed (17%).

The differences are almost as pronounced among the different socio-economic segments, with respondents who almost never or never face challenges paying bills being the most likely to feel that things in their country are moving in the right direction (30%, compared to 15% of those who experience such difficulties most of the time).

In terms of attitudinal segments, the data indicates that respondents who tend to agree that their voice counts in their country are more optimistic about the trajectory of its affairs (36%, compared with 13% of those who tend to disagree).

Respondents who are satisfied with the state of democracy in their country are more likely to believe that things are moving in the right direction (42%, compared with 8% of those who are not satisfied). Those who express their likelihood to vote in the upcoming European elections are more often noting that things in their country are progressing in the right direction, as compared to those who do not (30% vs 14%).

D73.1

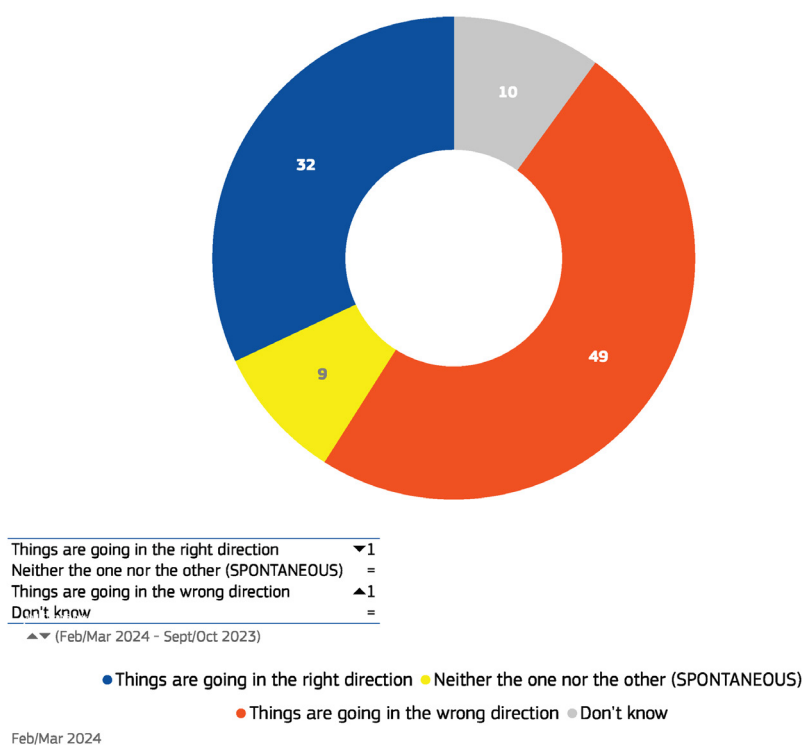
At the present time, would you say that, in general, things are going in the right direction or in the wrong direction, in...? (OUR COUNTRY) (% - EU)

	Things are going in the right direction	Things are going in the wrong direction	Neither the one nor the other	Don't know
EU27	27	60	7	6
Gender				
Man	28	59	8	5
Woman	26	60	8	6
Age				
15-24	33	52	8	7
25-39	28	60	7	5
40-54	27	62	7	4
55 +	25	61	8	6
Education (End of)				
15-	22	62	8	8
16-19	25	63	7	5
20+	30	57	8	5
Still studying	33	50	9	8
Socio-professional category				
Self- employed	26	63	8	3
Managers	33	53	9	5
Other white collars	29	61	6	4
Manual workers	25	64	6	5
House persons	27	58	9	6
Unemployed	17	71	7	5
Retired	25	60	8	7
Students	33	50	9	8
Difficulties paying bills				
Most of the time	15	75	5	5
From time to time	23	66	6	5
Almost never/ Never	30	55	9	6
My voice counts in (OUR COUNTRY)				
Agree	36	50	9	5
Disagree	13	78	5	4
Satisfaction with democracy in one's country				
Satisfied	42	43	9	6
Not satisfied	8	82	6	4
Likelihood to vote in the next European elections				
Likely	30	57	8	5
Neutral	23	65	6	6
Not likely	14	70	7	9
Voting is important to ensure a better future for the next generations				
Total Agree	30	57	8	5
Total disagree	14	78	4	4

When asked to state their opinion about the direction into which things are going in the EU, about one in three respondents (32%, -1 pp compared to September–October 2023) note that things are going in the right direction, while almost half (49%, +1 pp since September–October 2023) instead state that things are going in the wrong direction. An additional 9% of respondents (no change, compared to September–October 2023) consider that the trajectory of affairs in the EU is headed in neither the right nor wrong direction.

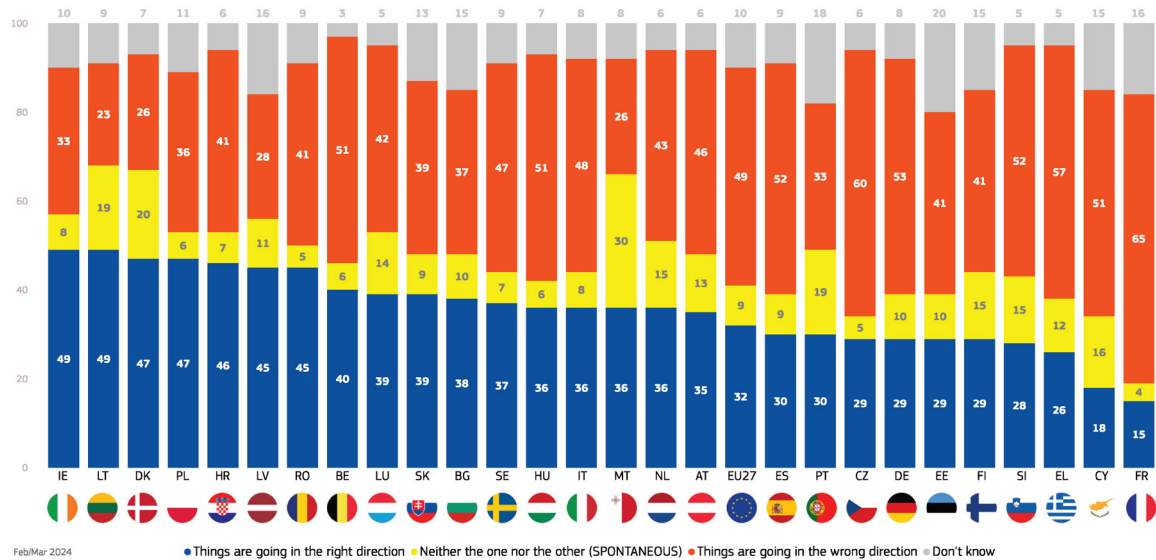
D73.2

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) (%)



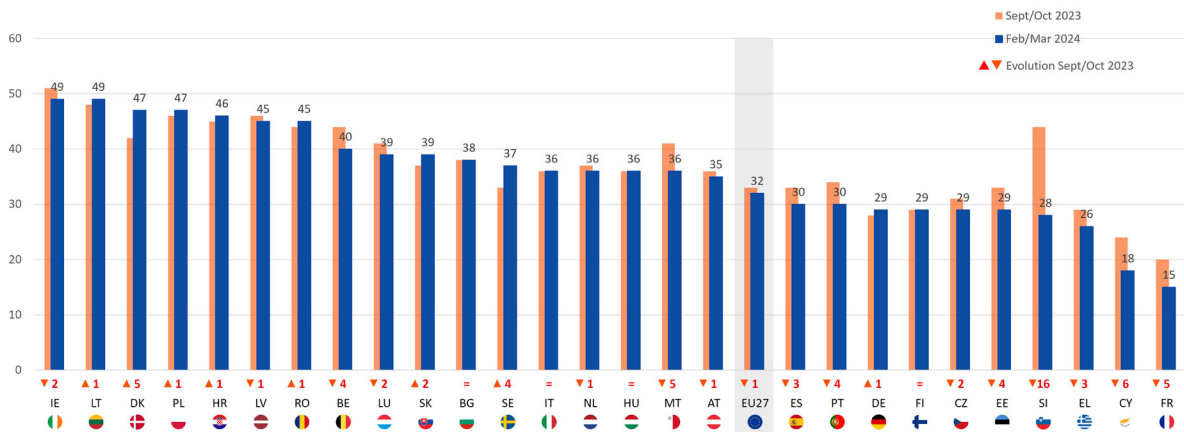
In eight Member States, the majority leans towards the view that things in the EU are headed in the right direction, the highest observed proportions are in Ireland and Lithuania (49%) as well as Denmark and Poland (47%). On the contrary, the majority leans toward the view that things in the EU are headed in the wrong direction in 18 Member States. The view is particularly widespread in France (65%), Czechia (60%) and Greece (57%).

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 (%)



Since September-October 2023, the prevalence of the opinion that the trajectory of affairs in the EU is headed in the right direction has become more common in Denmark (47%, +5 pp) and Sweden (37%, +4 pp). On the other hand, there were mild decreases in the prevalence of the opinion in nine countries, with a particularly steep decrease in Slovenia (28%, -16 pp) and a moderate one in Cyprus (18%, -6 pp).

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)



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	DK	SE	SK	DE	HR	LT	PL	RO	BG	IT	HU	FI	LV	NL	AT	CZ	IE	LU	EL	ES	BE	EE	PT	FR	MT	CY	SI
Things are going in the right direction	Feb/Mar 2024	32	47	37	39	29	46	49	47	45	38	36	36	29	45	36	35	29	49	39	26	30	40	29	30	15	36	18	28
	Δ Sept/Oct 2023	▼1	▲5	▲4	▲2	▲1	▲1	▲1	▲1	▲1	=	=	=	=	▼1	▼1	▼1	▼2	▼2	▼2	▼3	▼3	▼4	▼4	▼4	▼5	▼5	▼6	▼16
Things are going in the wrong direction	Feb/Mar 2024	49	26	47	39	53	41	23	36	41	37	48	51	41	28	43	46	60	33	42	57	52	51	41	33	65	26	51	52
	Δ Sept/Oct 2023	▲1	▼1	▼1	▼2	=	=	▲1	▼2	▲1	▲2	▲1	▼1	=	▲1	▲5	▲2	▲4	▲4	▼1	▲1	▲7	▲4	▲6	=	▲5	▲6	▼4	▲19
Neither the one nor the other (SPONTANEOUS)	Feb/Mar 2024	9	20	7	9	10	7	19	6	5	10	8	6	15	11	15	13	5	8	14	12	9	6	10	19	4	30	16	15
	Δ Sept/Oct 2023	=	=	▼1	▼2	=	=	▲3	▼1	▼1	▲1	=	=	▲1	▲2	▼1	=	=	▲1	▲3	▲1	▼1	▲2	▼1	=	▼3	▼2	▲2	▼3
Don't know	Feb/Mar 2024	10	7	9	13	8	6	9	11	9	15	8	7	15	16	6	6	6	10	5	9	3	20	18	16	8	15	5	
	Δ Sept/Oct 2023	=	▼4	▼2	▲2	▼1	▼1	▼5	▲2	▼1	▼3	▼1	▲1	▼1	▼2	▼3	▼1	▼2	▼3	=	▲1	▼3	▼2	▼1	▲4	▲3	▲1	▲8	=

The socio-demographic analysis for this variable reveals similar patterns across population segments as found for the one described above.

Most notably, respondents aged 15–24 are the most likely among respondents of all age groups to report that things in the EU are headed in the right direction (42%, compared to 28%–34% across other groups).

In terms of education, respondents who are still studying and those who finished education at the age of 20 or above are the most likely to be optimistic about the trajectory of affairs in the EU (43% and 36%, respectively). In contrast, 24% of those who finished their education at age 15 or younger hold similar views.

Among the socio-professional categories, students and managers report the highest proportions of feeling that things in the EU are going in the right direction (43% and 41%, respectively). Conversely, 25% of unemployed and 27% of retired respondents share similar beliefs.

Regarding socio-economic status as measured by reported difficulties paying bills, 36% of respondents who never or almost never experience such problems note being optimistic about the trajectory of affairs in the EU, compared to 18% of respondents who face such challenges most of the time.

When it comes to attitudinal segments, the analysis highlights that respondents who agree that their voice counts in the EU are more likely to believe that things in the EU are headed in the right direction than those who tend to disagree (48% vs. 18%). The rift in opinion is even more pronounced when examining differences between respondents who are satisfied with democracy in the EU and those who are not, with the former being much more optimistic about the direction in which affairs are headed in the union (53% vs 10%).

In terms of the likelihood of voting in the EU elections later this year, respondents who report a high degree of probability to vote are more inclined than those who report a low probability of voting to say that things in the EU are moving in the right direction (37% vs 15%).

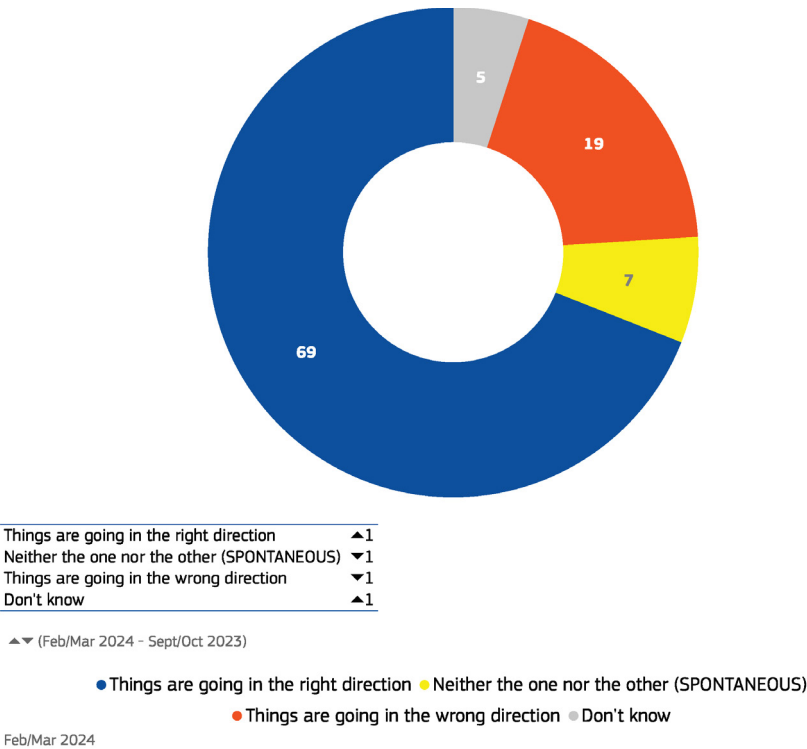
D73.2

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 (% - EU)

	Things are going in the right direction	Things are going in the wrong direction	Neither the one nor the other	Don't know
EU27	32	49	9	10
Gender				
Man	32	50	9	9
Woman	32	48	9	11
Age				
15-24	42	37	9	12
25-39	34	49	8	9
40-54	33	52	8	7
55 +	28	52	9	11
Education (End of)				
15-	24	51	11	14
16-19	29	54	8	9
20+	36	47	9	8
Still studying	43	35	9	13
Socio-professional category				
Self- employed	34	53	8	5
Managers	41	43	9	7
Other white collars	36	49	7	8
Manual workers	28	54	9	9
House persons	31	47	10	12
Unemployed	25	59	7	9
Retired	27	51	10	12
Students	43	35	9	13
Difficulties paying bills				
Most of the time	18	63	9	10
From time to time	27	57	7	9
Almost never/ Never	36	44	10	10
My voice counts in the EU				
Agree	48	35	9	8
Disagree	18	65	8	9
Satisfaction with democracy in the EU				
Satisfied	53	30	9	8
Not satisfied	10	76	8	6
Likelihood to vote in the next European elections				
Likely	37	46	9	8
Neutral	23	59	8	10
Not likely	15	62	8	15
Voting is important to ensure a better future for the next generations				
Total Agree	36	46	9	9
Total disagree	14	74	5	7

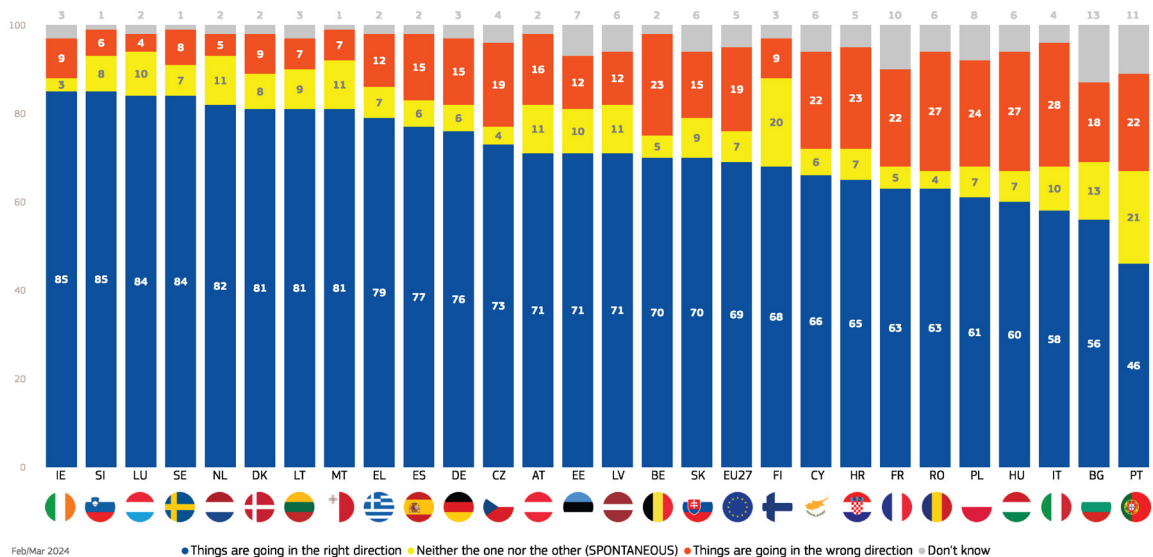
Europeans tend to express a more optimistic outlook regarding the **direction of their own lives**. Almost seven in ten (69%, +1 pp since September–October 2023) report that things in their own life are headed in the right direction. Conversely, about two in ten (19%, -1 pp) express the opinion that things in their life are going in the wrong direction, while 7% (-1 pp) think that the trajectory is headed in neither the right nor wrong direction.

D73.4 At the present time, would you say that, in general, things are going in the right direction or in the wrong direction, in...? Your life personally (EU27) (%)



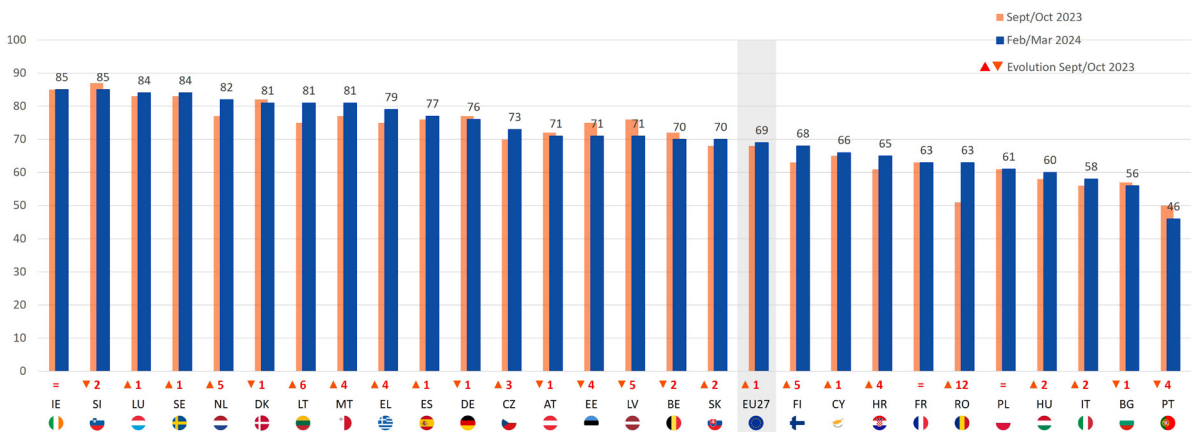
In all countries, relative majorities think that things in their own lives are going in the right direction. Moreover, in 26 Member States, more than half of the respondent sample holds such an opinion. The majority see things going in the right direction in Ireland and Slovenia (both 85%) as well as Sweden and Luxembourg (both 84%), while the lowest shares hold the same view in Portugal (46%), Bulgaria (56%) and Italy (58%). Italy (28%), Hungary and Romania (both 27%) are the countries where the highest shares across the EU report a negative outlook on the future trajectory of their own lives.

D73.4 At the present time, would you say that, in general, things are going in the right direction or in the wrong direction, in...? Your life personally (%)















The variations in data between the survey conducted in the Autumn 2023 and the Spring of 2024 show relative increases in eight countries. Most notably in Romania, where the proportion of respondents who claim that things in their lives are going in the right direction has increased by 12 percentage points to 63%. In contrast, three countries there has been a relative mild decrease in the prevalence of the view: Latvia (-5 pp), Portugal and Estonia (both -4 pp).

D73.4 At the present time, would you say that, in general, things are going in the right direction or in the wrong direction, in...? (% - Your life personally)



D73.4

At the present time, would you say that, in general, things are going in the right direction or in the wrong direction, in...? Your life personally (%)

																													
Things are going in the right direction	Feb/Mar 2024	69	63	81	82	68	79	65	81	73	58	60	70	77	66	84	84	85	63	61	56	81	76	71	70	85	71	46	71
	Δ Sept/Oct 2023	▲1	▲12	▲6	▲5	▲5	▲4	▲4	▲4	▲3	▲2	▲2	▲2	▲1	▲1	▲1	▲1	=	=	=	▼1	▼1	▼1	▼1	▼2	▼2	▼4	▼4	▼5
Things are going in the wrong direction	Feb/Mar 2024	19	27	7	5	9	12	23	7	19	28	27	15	15	22	4	8	9	22	24	18	9	15	16	23	6	12	22	12
	Δ Sept/Oct 2023	▼1	▼9	=	▼5	▼2	▼5	▼4	▲2	▼4	▼2	▼2	▼3	▼1	▼2	▼2	▲1	▲2	▼3	=	▲1	▲2	▲1	▲2	▲2	=	▲4	▼2	▲2
Neither the one nor the other (SPONTANEOUS)	Feb/Mar 2024	7	4	9	11	20	7	7	11	4	10	7	9	6	6	10	7	3	5	7	13	8	6	11	5	8	10	21	11
	Δ Sept/Oct 2023	▼1	▼1	▼4	=	▼1	=	=	▼6	▲2	=	=	▼2	=	▼3	▲2	▼1	▼1	▼2	▼2	▼1	▼1	▼1	▲1	▲1	▲2	=	▲4	▲2
Don't know	Feb/Mar 2024	5	6	3	2	3	2	5	1	4	4	6	6	2	6	2	1	3	10	8	13	2	3	2	2	1	7	11	6
	Δ Sept/Oct 2023	▲1	▼2	▼2	=	▼2	▲1	=	=	▼1	=	=	▲3	=	▲4	▼1	▼1	▼1	▲5	▲2	▲1	=	▲1	▼2	▼1	=	=	▲2	▲1

When it comes to differences across socio-demographic groups, the analysis points towards an inverse relationship where older age is associated with less prominent beliefs that things in one's life are going in the right direction. The youngest respondents are, hence, the most likely to note optimism in this regard (80%, compared to 64% of those 55 and over).

Also, respondents who have completed education aged 20 or older are more likely to note that things in their personal lives are headed in the right direction, particularly compared to respondents who left education at age 15 or younger (76% vs 56%).

In terms of socio-occupational categories, the data reveals that students and managers are more likely to believe that things in their lives are going in the right direction, with 82% and 81%, respectively, holding this view. In contrast, 43% of unemployed respondents feel the same way.

There are also notable variations across socio-economic segments identified based on respondents' difficulty in paying bills. While 78% of those who rarely or never experience difficulties settling their bills think that things in their lives are going in the right direction, 39% of those who face such challenges most of the time hold a similar belief.

D73.4

At the present time, would you say that, in general, things are going in the right direction or in the wrong direction, in...? Your life personally (% - EU)

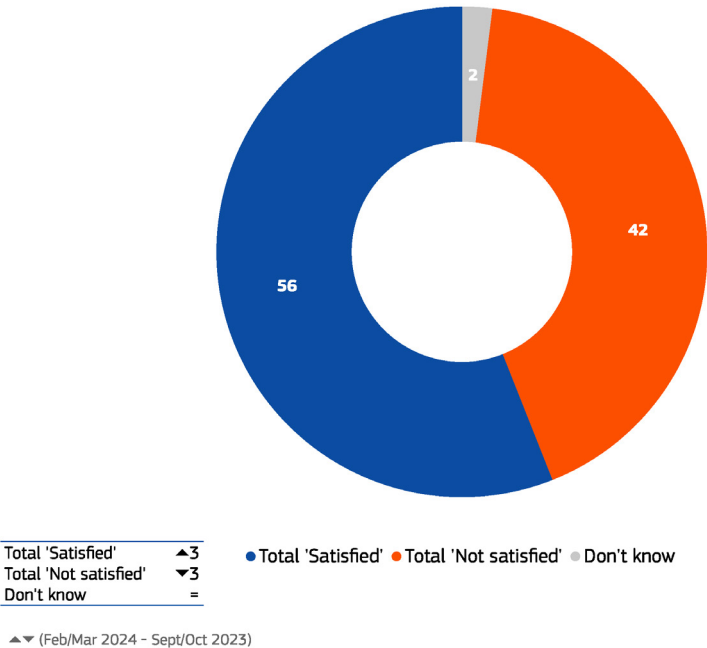
	Things are going in the right direction	Things are going in the wrong direction	Neither the one nor the other	Don't know
EU27	69	19	7	5
Gender				
Man	70	18	7	5
Woman	68	20	7	5
Age				
15-24	80	12	4	4
25-39	72	18	5	5
40-54	67	21	7	5
55 +	64	20	10	6
Education (End of)				
15-	56	27	10	7
16-19	64	23	8	5
20+	76	13	7	4
Still studying	82	10	3	5
Socio-professional category				
Self- employed	70	17	8	5
Managers	81	9	7	3
Other white collars	71	19	6	4
Manual workers	66	21	7	6
House persons	62	23	9	6
Unemployed	43	41	9	7
Retired	63	21	10	6
Students	82	10	3	5
Difficulties paying bills				
Most of the time	39	45	10	6
From time to time	56	30	8	6
Almost never/ Never	78	11	7	4

4.2 Views on democracy in the EU

Satisfaction with democracy at the national level

A majority of EU citizens (56%, +3 pp since September–October 2023) are satisfied with the way democracy works in their country, including 7% (+1 pp) who are very satisfied. On the other hand, 42% (– 3 pp) are not satisfied with the way democracy works in their country, including 11% (– 2 pp) who are not satisfied at all.

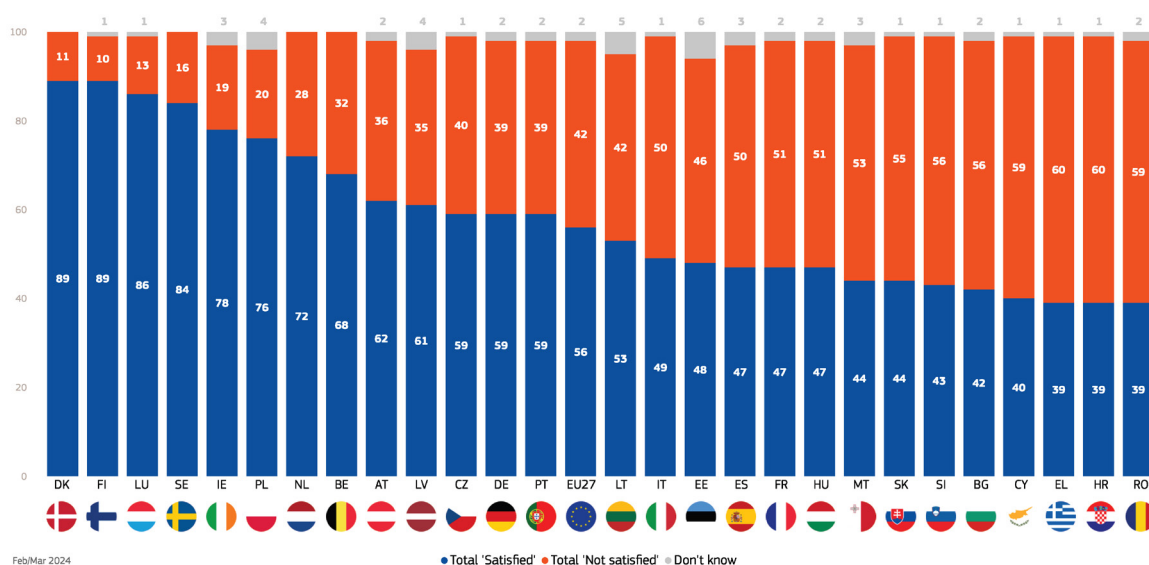
SD18a On the whole, are you very satisfied, fairly satisfied, not very satisfied or not at all satisfied with the way democracy works in (OUR COUNTRY)? (EU27) (%)



In 14 Member States, half or more of the respondent sample says they are satisfied with the way democracy works in their country. The satisfaction levels are the highest in Finland and Denmark (89%) as well as in Luxembourg (86%) and are lowest in Croatia, Greece and Romania (all 39%). On the contrary, in 12 Member States, relative majorities are dissatisfied with the situation of democracy in their country. These shares are the highest in Croatia and Greece (60%) as well as Romania and Cyprus (59%).

SD18a

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)? (%)



Levels of satisfaction with democracy in one's country have progressed in 15 countries since September-October 2023, most notably in Poland (76%, +16 pp) and the Netherlands (72%, +8 pp). Conversely, the share of respondents who are not satisfied with the national democracy has decreased in five countries, most notably in Slovenia (43%, -7 pp).

SD18a

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'	Feb/Mar 2024	56	68	42	59	89	59	48	78	39	47	47	39	49	40	61	53	86	47	44	72	62	76	59	39	43	44	89	84
	Δ Sept/Oct 2023	▲3	▲4	▲2	▲5	▲2	▲2	▲1	▼4	▲3	▲5	▲4	▼3	▼4	▲5	▲7	▲5	▼1	▼4	▲4	▲8	▲1	▲16	▼1	▼2	▼7	▲2	▲6	▲5
Total 'Not satisfied'	Feb/Mar 2024	42	32	56	40	11	39	46	19	60	50	51	60	50	59	35	42	13	51	53	28	36	20	39	59	56	55	10	16
	Δ Sept/Oct 2023	▼3	▼3	▼1	▼4	▼1	▼2	=	▲3	▼3	▼5	▼4	▲3	▲5	▼5	▼6	▼3	▲1	▲3	▼5	▼7	▼1	▼18	▲1	▲1	▲7	▼2	▼5	▼5
Don't know	Feb/Mar 2024	2	0	2	1	0	2	6	3	1	3	2	1	1	1	4	5	1	2	3	0	2	4	2	2	1	1	1	0
	Δ Sept/Oct 2023	=	▼1	▼1	▼1	▼1	=	▼1	▲1	=	=	=	=	=	▼1	=	▼1	▼2	=	▲1	▲1	▼1	=	▲2	=	▲1	=	=	▼1

From a socio-demographic perspective, the analysis brings forth several highlights. When it comes to differences across age groups, the youngest respondents are the most likely to note that they are satisfied with how democracy works in their country (64%, compared with 55%–54% among all other age groups).

The tendency to be content about how democracy operates in one's country tends to rise with the age at which respondents completed their education. In this regard, 48% of respondents who left education at the age of 15 or younger back this view, compared to 64% of respondents who finished full-time education at the age of 20 or older.

Among the socio-occupational segments, the most positive about the state of democracy at the national level are managers and students (both 67%), while the least positive are respondents who are unemployed (34%).

In terms of difficulty paying bills, citizens who rarely or never face such challenges are the most likely to note that they are satisfied with how democracy works in their country (63%) particularly when compared to respondents who experience such difficulties most of the time (31%).

Finally, some differences stand out among the various attitudinal respondent segments. Most notably, Europeans who think that things in their country are headed in the right direction are more likely to be satisfied with the state of democracy in their country (87%), than those who think that things are going in the wrong direction (41%) and those who have a neutral stance (64%). Moreover, while 72% of citizens who feel that their voice counts in their country are content with how democracy works at the national level, 31% of those who feel that their voice does not count are also content.

SD18a

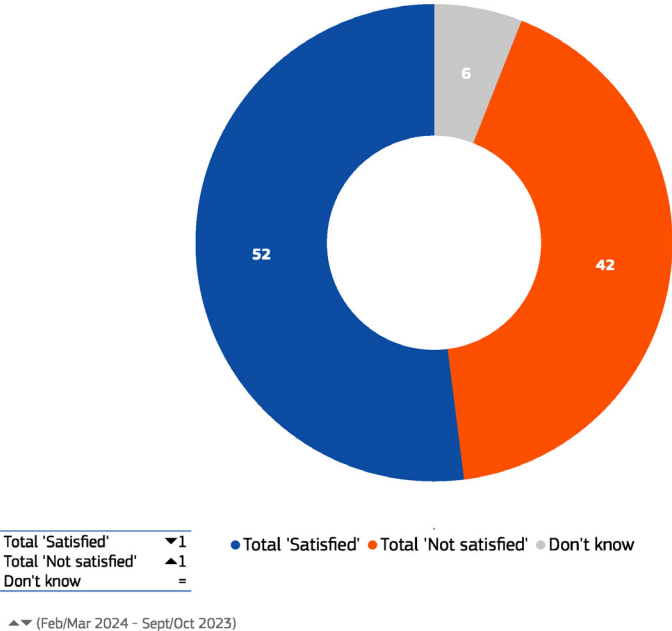
On the whole, are you very satisfied, fairly satisfied, not very satisfied or not at all satisfied with the way democracy works in (OUR COUNTRY)? (% - EU)

	Total 'Satisfied'	Total 'Not satisfied'	Don't know
EU27	56	42	2
Gender			
Man	55	44	1
Woman	57	41	2
Age			
15-24	64	34	2
25-39	55	43	2
40-54	55	44	1
55 +	54	44	2
Education (End of)			
15-	48	49	3
16-19	49	49	2
20+	64	35	1
Still studying	67	30	3
Socio-professional category			
Self- employed	52	47	1
Managers	67	33	0
Other white collars	59	40	1
Manual workers	50	48	2
House persons	54	44	2
Unemployed	34	63	3
Retired	54	43	3
Students	67	30	3
Difficulties paying bills			
Most of the time	31	67	2
From time to time	47	52	1
Almost never/ Never	63	35	2
Things in country are going in...			
Right direction	87	12	1
Wrong direction	41	58	1
Neither	64	32	4
My voice counts in (OUR COUNTRY)			
Agree	72	27	1
Disagree	31	67	2

Satisfaction with democracy at the EU level

When asked about their levels of satisfaction or dissatisfaction with the way democracy works in the EU, just over one-half of respondents say that they are satisfied to some degree (52%, -1 pp since September-October 2023). The proportion includes 4% (no change) of respondents who note that they are very satisfied with how democracy works in the EU. Comparatively, 42% (+1 pp) of respondents note that they are not satisfied, including 10% (-1 pp) who are not at all satisfied.

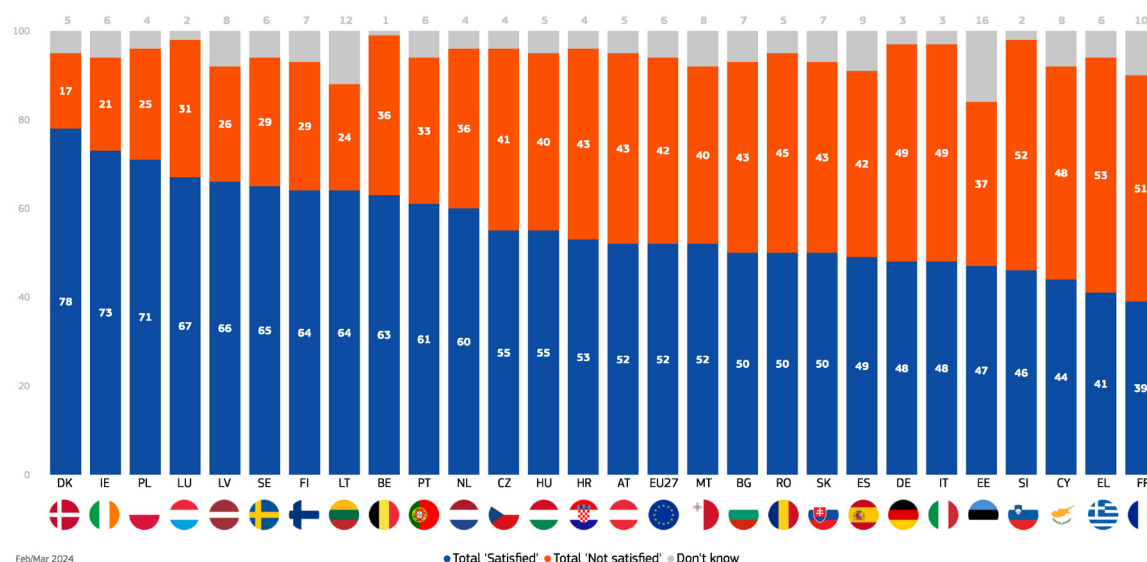
SD18b And how about the way democracy works in the EU? (EU27) (%)



In 17 countries, half or more of the respondents declare that they are satisfied with the way democracy operates in the EU. The highest number of citizens who hold such a belief is in Denmark (78%, including 15% who are 'very satisfied'), Ireland (73%, including 18% who are 'very satisfied') and Poland (71%, including 9% who are 'very satisfied'), while the lowest is observed in France (39%), Greece (41%) and Cyprus (44%).

SD18b

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



In 23 Member States, levels of satisfaction with democracy in the EU have remained rather stable or registered very minor evolutions. Levels of satisfaction have decreased in eight countries, more notably in Romania (50%, -6 pp), Slovenia (46%, -6 pp) and Ireland (73%, -6 pp). On the other hand, satisfaction has increased by more than 5 percentage points in Latvia (66%, +7 pp).

SD18b

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

		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
Total 'Satisfied'	Feb/Mar 2024	52	63	50	55	78	48	47	73	41	49	39	53	48	44	66	64	67	55	52	60	52	71	61	50	46	50	64	65
	Δ Sept/Oct 2023	▼1	▼3	▲1	▲1	▲1	▲1	▼1	▼6	▼1	▲2	▼2	▼4	▼3	=	▲7	▲2	▼3	▼3	▼1	▲1	▲1	▼2	▼4	▼6	▼6	=	▼1	▼2
Total 'Not satisfied'	Feb/Mar 2024	42	36	43	41	17	49	37	21	53	42	51	43	49	48	26	24	31	40	40	36	43	25	33	45	52	43	29	29
	Δ Sept/Oct 2023	▲1	▲3	▲2	▼1	▼1	▼1	▲1	▲6	▼1	=	▲4	▲3	▲5	▼5	▼5	▼2	▲4	▲2	▼1	=	▼1	▲2	▲4	▲7	▲7	▲1	▲4	=
Don't know	Feb/Mar 2024	6	1	7	4	5	3	16	6	6	9	10	4	3	8	8	12	2	5	8	4	5	4	6	5	2	7	7	6
	Δ Sept/Oct 2023	=	=	▼3	=	=	=	=	=	▲2	▼2	▼2	▲1	▼2	▲5	▼2	=	▼1	▲1	▲2	▼1	=	=	=	▼1	▼1	▼1	▼3	▲2

A review of the socio-demographic differences illustrates similar patterns as observed for the variable analysed just above. Hence, the youngest respondents are more likely to be content with how democracy operates in the EU compared to all other age groups, particularly respondents aged 55+ (62% vs 48%).

As well, respondents who have completed full-time education at age 20 or older, are more likely than respondents who left education at age 15 or younger to be satisfied with the state of democracy in the EU (59% vs 43%).

Students (64%) and managers (62%) are the most likely across the socio-professional categories to note a certain degree of satisfaction with how democracy works in the EU, especially when compared to the unemployed (35%).

Respondents who never or almost never encounter difficulties paying bills are more positive about the state of democracy in the EU (58%) when compared to those who face such challenges most of the time (28%) or from time to time (44%).

An examination of differences among respondent segments who hold contrasting attitudes reveals that respondents who conjure up a positive image of the EU are more likely to be satisfied with how democracy works in the EU (74%) than those who have a neutral (41%) or negative image of the union (15%).

Finally, while 58% of Europeans who state that they are likely to vote in the upcoming European elections say they are satisfied with how democracy functions in the EU, 28% of those who are not likely to vote hold the same view.

SD18b**And how about the way democracy works in the EU? (% – EU)**

	Total 'Satisfied'	Total 'Not satisfied'	Don't know
EU27	52	42	6
Gender			
Man	52	44	4
Woman	52	41	7
Age			
15-24	62	30	8
25-39	53	43	4
40-54	52	44	4
55 +	48	45	7
Education (End of)			
15-	43	47	10
16-19	46	49	5
20+	59	38	3
Still studying	64	28	8
Socio-professional category			
Self- employed	50	47	3
Managers	62	36	2
Other white collars	57	38	5
Manual workers	47	48	5
House persons	49	42	9
Unemployed	35	58	7
Retired	49	44	7
Students	64	28	8
Difficulties paying bills			
Most of the time	28	65	7
From time to time	44	51	5
Almost never/ Never	58	36	6
Image of the EU			
Positive	74	22	4
Neutral	41	50	9
Negative	15	81	4
Likelihood to vote in the next European elections			
Likely	58	38	4
Neutral	42	52	6
Not likely	28	61	11

Perception that one's voice counts

Six in ten citizens (60%, -1 pp since September – October 2023) agree that **their voice counts in their country**, including 24% who 'totally agree' (+1 pp). Meanwhile, 37% disagree with the claim (+1 pp), of which 15% 'totally disagree' (no change).

D72

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

(OUR COUNTRY'S) voice counts in the EU



My voice counts in (OUR COUNTRY)



My voice counts in the EU



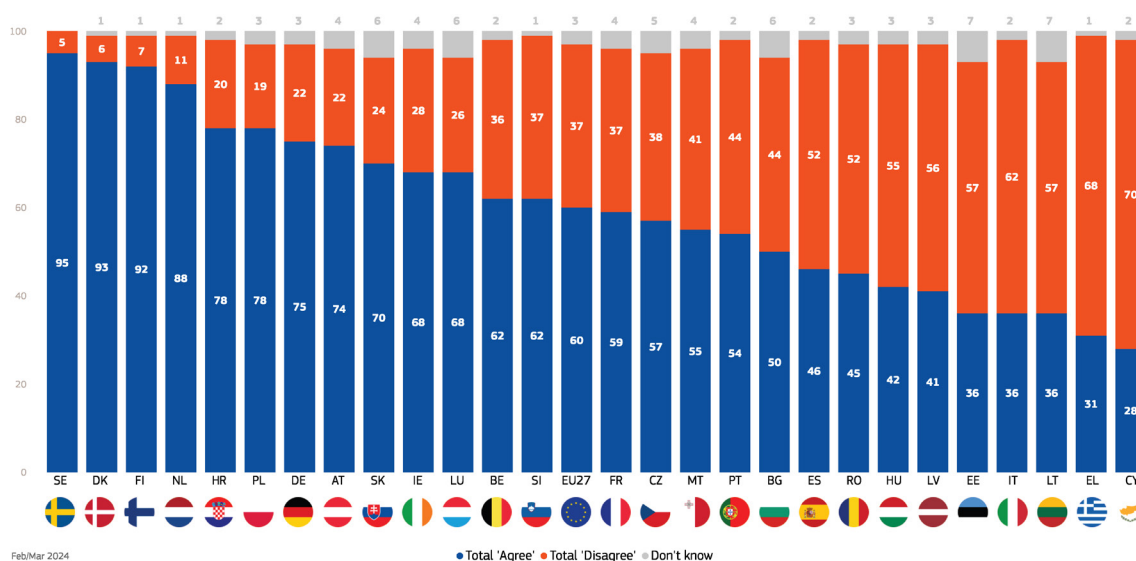
Feb/Mar 2024

● Total 'Agree' ● Total 'Disagree' ● Don't know

In 17 Member States, clear majorities acknowledge the belief that their voice counts in their country. The proportions in this regard are highest in Sweden (95%), Denmark (93%) and Finland (92%). On the other hand, disagreement with the statement is the majority view in nine countries, particularly Cyprus (70%), Greece (68%) and Italy (62%).

D72.2

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



Feb/Mar 2024

● Total 'Agree' ● Total 'Disagree' ● Don't know

Since September–October 2023, respondents' perception that their voice counts in their country has stayed relatively stable or did not register significant evolutions in 18 Member States. In Malta (55%, +11 pp) and Lithuania (36%, +5 pp), somewhat more citizens feel that their voice counts in their country, while in Italy (36%, -5 pp), this share has marginally decreased.

D72.2

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

																													
Total 'Agree'	Feb/Mar 2024	60	55	36	41	92	57	75	78	88	78	54	45	93	59	42	74	95	62	36	28	70	68	62	50	68	31	46	36
	Δ Sept/Oct 2023	▼1	▲11	▲5	▲4	▲4	▲3	▲3	▲3	▲3	▲2	▲2	▲2	▲1	▲1	▲1	▲1	▲1	=	=	=	=	▼1	▼1	▼2	▼2	▼3	▼4	▼5
Total 'Disagree'	Feb/Mar 2024	37	41	57	56	7	38	22	20	11	19	44	52	6	37	55	22	5	36	57	70	24	26	37	44	28	68	52	62
	Δ Sept/Oct 2023	▲1	▼11	▼1	▼3	▼3	▼4	▼2	▼3	▼3	=	▼1	▼2	=	▼2	▼1	=	=	▼1	▲1	=	=	▼1	▲2	▲2	▲1	▲3	▲5	▲5
Don't know	Feb/Mar 2024	3	4	7	3	1	5	3	2	1	3	2	3	1	4	3	4	0	2	7	2	6	6	1	6	4	1	2	2
	Δ Sept/Oct 2023	=	=	▼4	▼1	▼1	▲1	▼1	=	=	▼2	▼1	=	▼1	▲1	=	▼1	▼1	▲1	▼1	=	=	▲2	▼1	=	▲1	=	▼1	=

The survey findings across socio-demographic groups show that the opinion that one's voice counts in their country does not vary significantly among the genders or age groups. However, there are differences in the strength of the opinion across segments with different levels of education: those who completed education aged 20 or over are the most likely to feel that their voice counts in their country (69%), particularly when compared to respondents who left education at the age of 15 or younger (47%).

Managers are the most likely among the socio-professional groups to note that their voice counts in their country (75%, especially when compared to unemployed respondents – 42%).

Citizens who rarely or never encounter difficulties paying bills are close to twice as likely to agree that their voice counts in their country (68%) compared to those who experience such challenges most of the time (38%).

D72.2

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

	Total 'Agree'	Total 'Disagree'	Don't know
EU27	60	37	3
Gender			
Man	61	36	3
Woman	60	37	3
Age			
15-24	62	33	5
25-39	60	37	3
40-54	62	36	2
55 +	60	38	2
Education (End of)			
15-	47	50	3
16-19	57	40	3
20+	69	29	2
Still studying	63	31	6
Socio-professional category			
Self- employed	60	37	3
Managers	75	24	1
Other white collars	61	37	2
Manual workers	55	42	3
House persons	49	46	5
Unemployed	42	53	5
Retired	61	36	3
Students	63	31	6
Difficulties paying bills			
Most of the time	38	60	2
From time to time	50	48	2
Almost never/ Never	68	29	3

The opinion landscape is divided over the belief whether **one's voice counts in the EU**, as equal shares of 48% agree (no change since September–October 2023) and disagree (+1 pp) with the statement. Of these, 15% 'totally agree' (no change), while, on the contrary, 21% 'totally disagree' (+2 pp).

D72

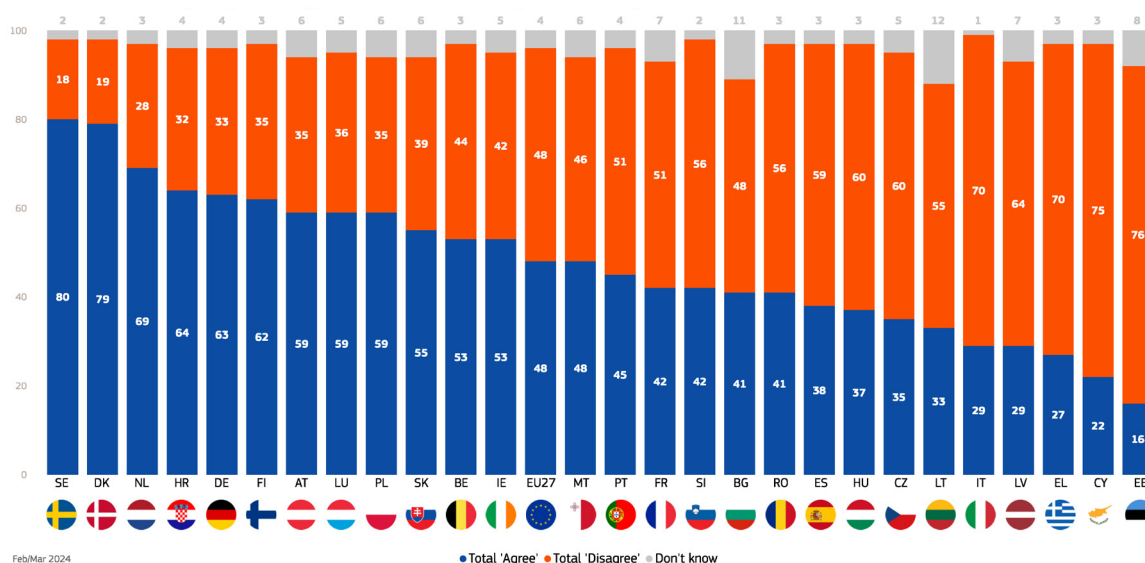
To what extent do you agree or disagree with each of the following statements. (EU27) (%)

		EU27	FI	DE	LV	SK	HU	AT	CZ	RO	SE	BE	IE	EL	HR	LT	MT	DK	EE	FR	CY	PT	BG	ES	LU	NL	SI	PL	IT
Total 'Agree'	Feb/Mar 2024	48	62	63	29	55	37	59	35	41	80	53	53	27	64	33	48	79	16	42	22	45	41	38	59	69	42	59	29
	Δ Sept/Oct 2023	=	▲6	▲5	▲5	▲5	▲4	▲3	▲2	▲2	▲1	=	=	=	=	=	=	▼1	▼1	▼1	▼1	▼1	▼2	▼2	▼2	▼2	▼2	▼4	▼5
Total 'Disagree'	Feb/Mar 2024	48	35	33	64	39	60	35	60	56	18	44	42	70	32	55	46	19	76	51	75	51	48	59	36	28	56	35	70
	Δ Sept/Oct 2023	▲1	▼5	▼4	▼4	▼3	▼3	▼3	▼1	▼1	=	▼2	▲1	▼1	=	▲2	▼1	▲2	▲2	▼1	=	▲1	▼1	▲3	▲2	▲2	▲2	▲5	▲7
Don't know	Feb/Mar 2024	4	3	4	7	6	3	6	5	3	2	3	5	3	4	12	6	2	8	7	3	4	11	3	5	3	2	6	1
	Δ Sept/Oct 2023	▼1	▼1	▼1	▼1	▼2	▼1	=	▼1	▼1	▼1	▲2	▼1	▲1	=	▼2	▲1	▼1	▼1	▲2	▲1	=	▲3	▼1	=	=	=	▼1	▼2

Looking at the results by country, the data indicates that in 13 Member States, a relative majority of respondents report that their voice counts in the EU when compared to the proportion of respondents who disagree with the claim. The highest agreement rates are observed in Sweden (80%), Denmark (79%), and the Netherlands (69%), while the countries with the highest disagreement proportions are Estonia (76%), Cyprus (75%), as well as Greece and Italy (both 70%).

D72.1













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



Since September–October 2023, agreement with the statement that one's voice counts in the EU has stayed stable or registered only minor evolution in 20 countries. Agreement has become more robust among respondents in Finland (62%, + 6 pp), Germany (63%, +5 pp), Latvia (29%, +5 pp) and Slovakia (55%, +5 pp). However, it has weakened in Italy (29%, -5 pp).

D72.1

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

																													
Total 'Agree'	Feb/Mar 2024	48	62	63	29	55	37	59	35	41	80	53	53	27	64	33	48	79	16	42	22	45	41	38	59	69	42	59	29
	Δ Sept/Oct 2023	=	▲6	▲5	▲5	▲5	▲4	▲3	▲2	▲2	▲1	=	=	=	=	=	=	▼1	▼1	▼1	▼1	▼1	▼2	▼2	▼2	▼2	▼2	▼4	▼5
Total 'Disagree'	Feb/Mar 2024	48	35	33	64	39	60	35	60	56	18	44	42	70	32	55	46	19	76	51	75	51	48	59	36	28	56	35	70
	Δ Sept/Oct 2023	▲1	▼5	▼4	▼4	▼3	▼3	▼3	▼1	▼1	=	▼2	▲1	▼1	=	▲2	▼1	▲2	▲2	▼1	=	▲1	▼1	▲3	▲2	▲2	▲2	▲5	▲7
Don't know	Feb/Mar 2024	4	3	4	7	6	3	6	5	3	2	3	5	3	4	12	6	2	8	7	3	4	11	3	5	3	2	6	1
	Δ Sept/Oct 2023	▼1	▼1	▼1	▼1	▼2	▼1	=	▼1	▼1	▼1	▲2	▼1	▲1	=	▼2	▲1	▼1	▼1	▲2	▲1	=	▲3	▼1	=	=	=	▼1	▼2

In terms of socio-demographic tendencies regarding the prevalence of the opinion whether one's voice counts in the EU, the differences between age groups are marginal, with the youngest Europeans being just slightly more likely than their counterparts in the 55 and over age group to feel that their voice counts at the EU level (51% vs. 46%).

Differences are more pronounced among the respondents with different education levels: those who left education aged 20 or older are more likely to hold the opinion (56%) than those who finished education aged 15 or younger (38%).

Managers are the most likely socio-professional category to feel that their voice counts in the EU (61%), being particularly more likely to agree with the statement than respondents who are unemployed (34%).

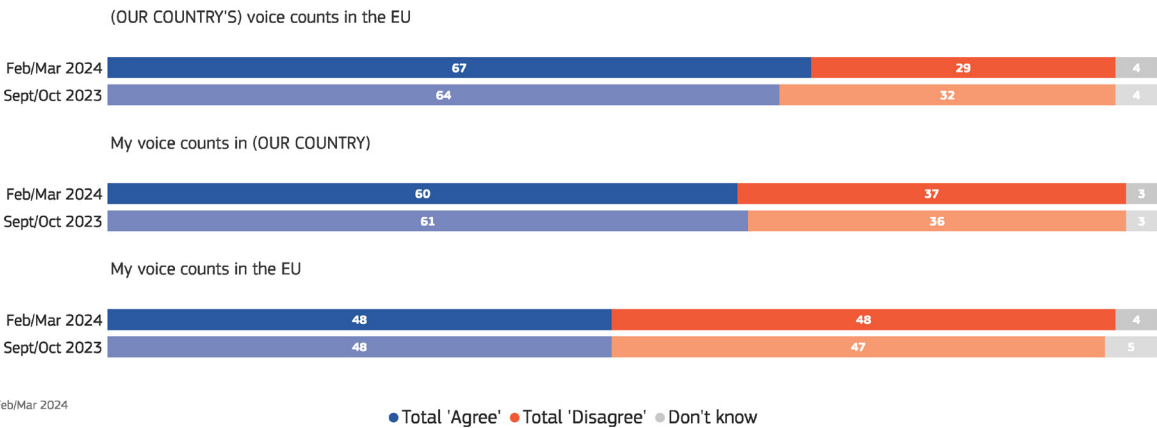
D72.1

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

	Total 'Agree'	Total 'Disagree'	Don't know
EU27	48	48	4
Gender			
Man	48	48	4
Woman	48	48	4
Age			
15-24	51	42	7
25-39	49	47	4
40-54	50	47	3
55 +	46	50	4
Education (End of)			
15-	38	57	5
16-19	44	52	4
20+	56	41	3
Still studying	54	39	7
Socio-professional category			
Self- employed	49	48	3
Managers	61	37	2
Other white collars	49	48	3
Manual workers	44	52	4
House persons	40	55	5
Unemployed	34	60	6
Retired	47	48	5
Students	54	39	7
Difficulties paying bills			
Most of the time	30	67	3
From time to time	40	57	3
Almost never/ Never	54	42	4

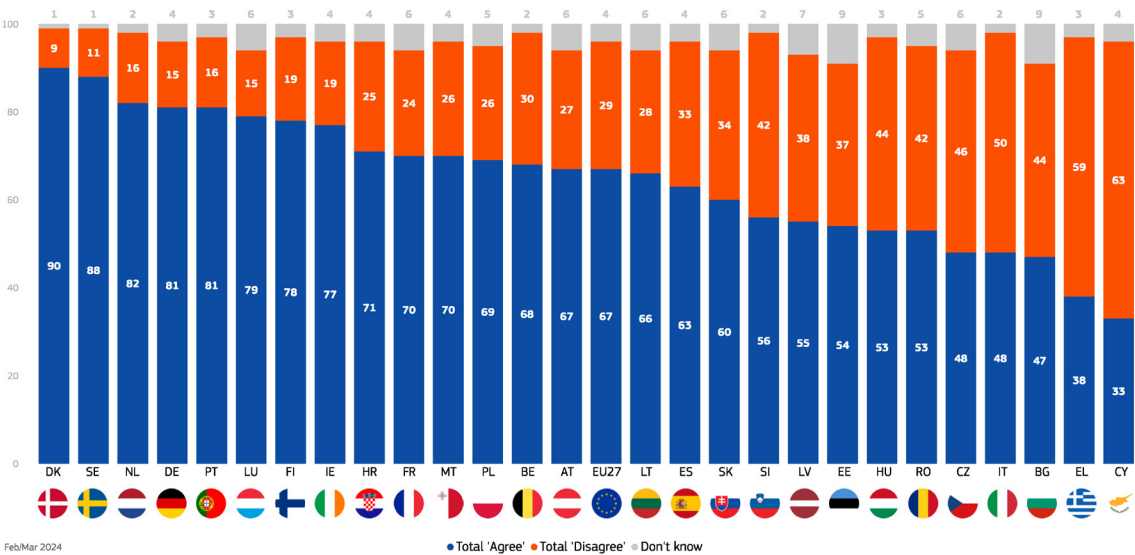
When it comes to whether **one's country's voice counts in the EU**, 67% of citizens agree overall (+3 pp, since September – October 2023), of whom 23% 'totally agree' (+1 pp). On the contrary, 29% of respondents disagree with the statement (-3 pp), including 10% who 'totally disagree' (-1 pp).

D72 To what extent do you agree or disagree with each of the following statements. (EU27) (%)



Analysing the geographical distribution of agreement with the statement reveals that in 22 Member States, more than half agree to some extent that the voice of their country counts in the EU. Proportions vary among countries, with agreement levels reaching 90% in Denmark, 88% in Sweden and 82% in the Netherlands, and dropping to 33% in Cyprus and 38% in Greece. Mirroring these latter findings, disagreement rates are highest in Cyprus (63%), Greece (59%) and Italy (50%).

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



Compared to September–October 2023, respondents' agreement with the statement that their country's voice counts in the EU has stayed stable or registered only insignificant changes in 16 countries. In the remaining eleven countries, agreement levels have increased. This positive evolution is most notable in Lithuania (66%, +8 pp), Malta (70%, +6 pp) and Portugal (81%, +6 pp).

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	LT	ES	MT	PT	CZ	DE	IE	HU	PL	LV	FI	EE	FR	RO	DK	HR	CY	AT	BG	EL	IT	SK	BE	LU	NL	SI	SE
Total 'Agree'	Feb/Mar 2024	67	66	63	70	81	48	81	77	53	69	55	78	54	70	53	90	71	33	67	47	38	48	60	68	79	82	56	88
	Δ Sept/Oct 2023	▲3	▲8	▲6	▲6	▲6	▲5	▲5	▲5	▲5	▲5	▲4	▲3	▲2	▲2	▲2	▲1	▲1	▲1	▲1	=	=	=	=	▼1	▼1	▼1	▼1	▼1
Total 'Disagree'	Feb/Mar 2024	29	28	33	26	16	46	15	19	44	26	38	19	37	24	42	9	25	63	27	44	59	50	34	30	15	16	42	11
	Δ Sept/Oct 2023	▼3	▼4	▼4	▼8	▼5	▼5	▼5	▼3	▼5	▼3	▼4	▼3	▼5	▼2	▼2	▲1	▼1	▼2	=	▼1	=	▲1	▲2	▲1	=	▲1	▲2	▲1
Don't know	Feb/Mar 2024	4	6	4	4	3	6	4	4	3	5	7	3	9	6	5	1	4	4	6	9	3	2	6	2	6	2	2	1
	Δ Sept/Oct 2023	=	▼4	▼2	▲2	▼1	=	=	▼2	=	▼2	=	=	▲3	=	=	▼2	=	▲1	▼1	▲1	=	▼1	▼2	=	▲1	=	▼1	=

When it comes to socio-demographic results, the patterns are consistent with the findings above regarding the segments which are most likely to find that their voice counts in their country and/or in the EU.

Thus, the youngest respondents are the most likely to feel that their country's voice counts in the EU (72%, compared with 65% of respondents aged 55+). Also, citizens who completed education aged 20 or older are the most likely across the socio-economic groups to feel that their country's voice matters in the EU (74%, notably higher than that among persons who left education aged 15 or younger—57%).

Differences surface as well among the various socio-professional segments, with managers (77%) and students (75%) being the most likely across the board to hold the belief that their country's voice counts in the EU, especially relative to those unemployed (52%).

When it comes to respondents' attitudes towards democracy in the European Union, those who are satisfied with its current state are more likely to believe that their country's voice is heard within the EU (83%). In contrast, those who are unhappy with how democracy works in the EU are less likely to agree that their country's voice counts (49%).

D72.3

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

	Total 'Agree'	Total 'Disagree'	Don't know
EU27	67	29	4
Gender			
Man	66	31	3
Woman	67	29	4
Age			
15-24	72	22	6
25-39	66	30	4
40-54	68	30	2
55 +	65	31	4
Education (End of)			
15-	57	37	6
16-19	63	33	4
20+	74	24	2
Still studying	75	19	6
Socio-professional category			
Self- employed	65	32	3
Managers	77	22	1
Other white collars	67	30	3
Manual workers	63	33	4
House persons	56	37	7
Unemployed	52	40	8
Retired	66	29	5
Students	75	19	6
Difficulties paying bills			
Most of the time	51	44	5
From time to time	58	39	3
Almost never/ Never	73	23	4
Satisfaction with democracy in the EU			
Satisfied	83	15	2
Not satisfied	49	47	4

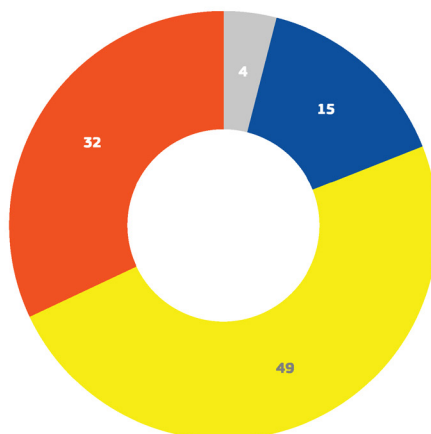
4.3 Europeans' outlook on the personal standard of living and the national economic situation in the upcoming years

Citizens' outlook on the standard of living over the next five years

While close to half of Europeans (49%) forecast that their standard of living over the next five years will not change, up to about a third (32%) believe that it will decrease. A minority of 15% think, in contrast, that their standard of living will improve.

SD27

When you think about the way your personal standard of living will evolve over the next five years, which of the following statements best describes your expectations? (EU27) (%)



● Your standard of living will decrease ● Your standard of living will not change ● Your standard of living will increase ● Don't know

Feb/Mar 2024

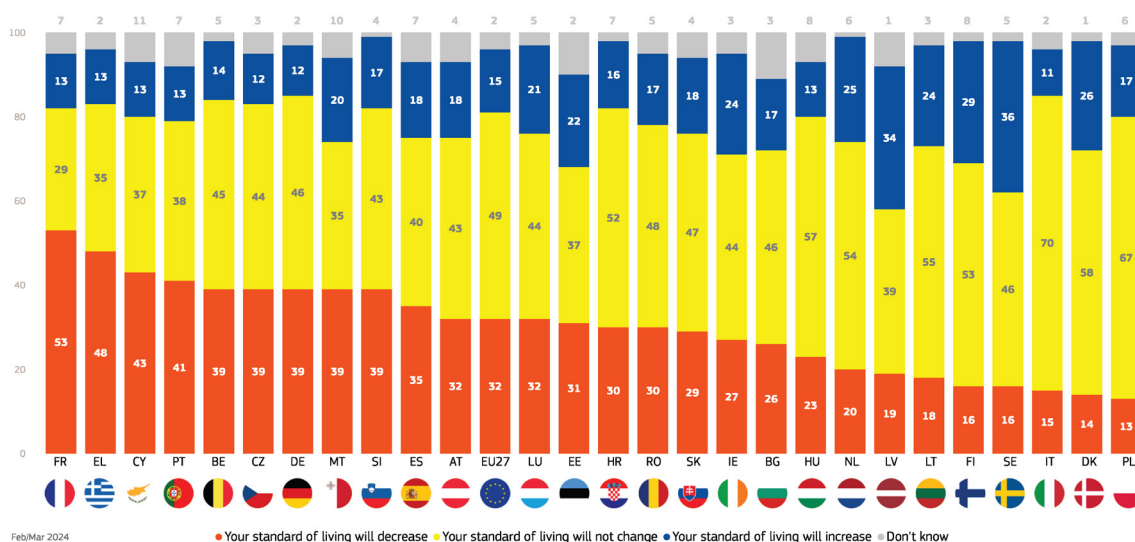
Across the EU, the highest shares of respondents who believe their standard of living will diminish are recorded in France (53%), Greece (48%), and Cyprus (43%), while the lowest are observed in Poland (13%), Denmark (14%) and Italy (15%).

Conversely, citizens in Sweden (36%) are by far the most likely to state that their living conditions will improve, followed by those in Latvia (34%) and Finland (29%).

In terms of countries where the majority believe their standard of living will remain the same, Italy (70%), Poland (67%), and Denmark (58%) record the highest proportions, while the lowest are registered in France (29%), Greece, and Malta (both 35%).

SD27

When you think about the way your personal standard of living will evolve over the next five years, which of the following statements best describes your expectations? (%)



The socio-demographic analysis reveals that the tendency to believe that one's standard of living will improve over the course of the next five years is higher among the younger respondents. In this regard, 32% of respondents aged 15-24 report such a belief, compared with 6% of those aged 55 and over. Conversely, the latter category of respondents is much more likely to report the opinion that their standard of living will either decrease (36%, compared with 19% of those 15-24) or will stay stable (53%, compared with 43% of the youngest).

Regarding the age when one finished full-time education, the emerging patterns show that respondents who left education at age 20 or older are more likely to indicate the belief that their standard of living will increase, particularly when compared to respondents who left education by the age 15 or younger (19% vs. 5%). Respondents in the latter category are, on the flip side, more likely to think that their standard of living will decrease within the next five years (41% vs 29% among those who left education at the age of 20 or older).

Students are by far the most optimistic socio-professional segment as regards the evolution of their standard of living in the next five years: while 33% of these respondents think that their standard of living will increase, 5% of retired respondents and 10% of those identifying as housepersons hold the same belief. Conversely, those unemployed (43%), retired (38%), and manual workers (37%) are the top segments among which the highest share of respondents forecast that their standard of living will decrease (particularly when compared with students – 16%).

When it comes to difficulty paying bills, respondents who face these challenges most of the time are by far more likely than those in other groups to indicate the opinion that their standard of living will decrease (63%), especially when compared with those who rarely or never face such issues (27%).

SD27

When you think about the way your personal standard of living will evolve over the next five years, which of the following statements best describes your expectations? (% - EU)

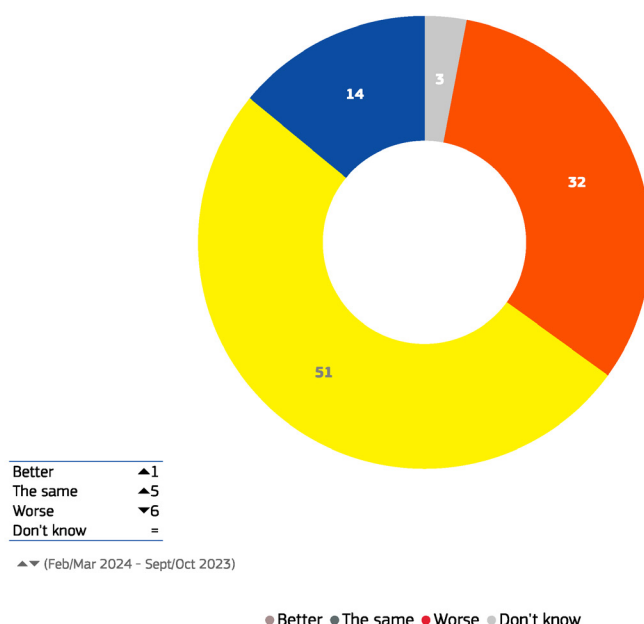
	Your standard of living will decrease	Your standard of living will not change	Your standard of living will increase	Don't know
EU27	32	49	15	4
Gender				
Man	31	48	17	4
Woman	33	48	14	5
Age				
15-24	19	43	32	6
25-39	29	44	24	3
40-54	34	48	14	4
55 +	36	53	6	5
Education (End of)				
15-	41	48	5	6
16-19	35	49	12	4
20+	29	49	19	3
Still studying	16	45	33	6
Socio-professional category				
Self- employed	29	46	22	3
Managers	25	52	21	2
Other white collars	29	51	17	3
Manual workers	37	44	14	5
House persons	31	54	10	5
Unemployed	43	32	16	9
Retired	38	52	5	5
Students	16	45	33	6
Difficulties paying bills				
Most of the time	63	23	10	4
From time to time	35	47	13	5
Almost never/ Never	27	52	17	4

Citizens' expectations about their living conditions

51% of Europeans hold the belief that their living conditions will stay the same over the course of the next year. The view is now marginally more prevalent (+5% pp) than in September–October 2023. Meanwhile, about a third of respondents think that their living conditions will worsen in a year's time. This proportion has decreased by 6 percentage points since the last survey in the Fall of 2023. The share of respondents who rather think that their living conditions will improve is now at 14% (+1% pp, since September–October 2023).

SD21.1

In one year's time, do you think that each of the following will be better, worse, or the same as today? – Your living conditions (EU27) (%)



Feb/Mar 2024

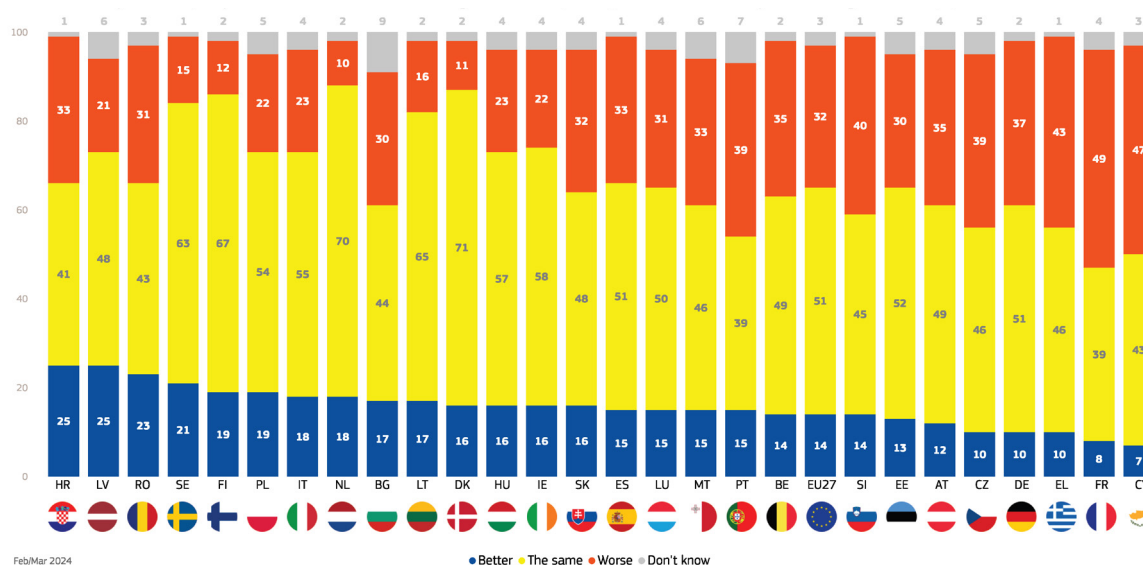
In 24 member states, at least a relative majority of respondents expect that their living conditions will remain the same over the next year. However, the proportions vary significantly across countries. In Denmark, 71% share this view, while in the Netherlands and Finland it is 70% and 67%, respectively. In contrast, 39% of citizens in both France and Portugal, as well as 41% in Croatia, also expect their living conditions to remain the same within a year's time.

In three countries, the main opinion is that one's living conditions will diminish in the next year: France (49%), Cyprus (47%) and Portugal (39%).

The view that one's living conditions will be better is not the most prevalent sentiment in any of the countries. However, Croatia and Latvia (both 25%), as well as Romania (23%), have somewhat higher shares than those recorded overall in the EU.

SD21.1

In one year's time, do you think that each of the following will be better, worse, or the same as today? – Your living conditions (%)



When it comes to evolutions observed since September–October 2023, differences emerge in a majority of Member States. Most notably, in 15 countries, respondents are more inclined to expect that their living conditions will be better in a year. The largest increases are registered in Sweden (21%, +11 pp), Malta (15%, +8 pp) as well as Finland (19%, +6 pp), Latvia (25%, +6 pp) and Slovakia (16%, +6 pp). In the other countries, the registered changes are stable or minor, with evolutions under or above 3 percentage points.

In 23 countries, respondents are less likely than in September–October 2023 to expect their living conditions to deteriorate. The decrease in perceptions that the living conditions will worsen is most strong in Cyprus (43%, – 16 pp), Malta (33%, – 13 pp) and Portugal (39%, – 13 pp).

SD21.1

In one year's time, do you think that each of the following will be better, worse, or the same as today? – Your living conditions (%)



Better	Feb/Mar 2024	14	21	15	25	16	19	15	16	14	10	10	25	18	23	14	10	16	17	17	16	13	7	12	8	15	15	18	19
	Δ Sept/Oct 2023	▲1	▲11	▲8	▲6	▲6	▲6	▲5	▲4	▲3	▲3	▲3	▲3	▲3	▲3	▲3	▲2	▲2	▲2	▲1	▲1	▲1	▲1	▲1	=	▼1	▼1	▼3	▼4
Worse	Feb/Mar 2024	32	15	33	21	32	12	39	23	35	39	43	33	10	31	40	37	22	16	30	11	30	47	35	49	33	31	23	22
	Δ Sept/Oct 2023	▼6	▼11	▼13	▼4	▼5	▼4	▼13	▼10	▼5	▼11	▼15	▼4	▼10	▼5	▲3	▼6	▼1	▼10	▼8	▼1	▼2	▼16	▼6	▼5	▲2	▼5	▼7	▼6
The same	Feb/Mar 2024	51	63	46	48	48	67	39	57	49	46	46	41	70	43	45	51	58	65	44	71	52	43	49	39	51	50	55	54
	Δ Sept/Oct 2023	▲5	▼1	▲4	▼3	▲1	▼2	▲5	▲7	▲1	▲6	▲13	▲1	▲5	▲2	▼6	▲3	▼2	▲10	▲6	▼1	▲3	▲13	▲5	▲4	▲2	▲4	▲9	▲11
Don't know	Feb/Mar 2024	3	1	6	6	4	2	7	4	2	5	1	1	2	3	1	2	4	2	9	2	5	3	4	4	1	4	4	5
	Δ Sept/Oct 2023	=	▲1	▲1	▲1	▼2	=	▲3	▼1	▲1	▲2	▼1	=	▲2	=	=	▲1	▲1	▼2	▲1	▲1	▼2	▲2	=	▲1	▼3	▲2	▲1	▼1

Concerning patterns of response based on socio-demographic characteristics, the analysis shows that the youngest respondents are somewhat more likely to believe that their living conditions will be better in a year's time (25%), particularly when compared to respondents aged 55 and older (9%). Respondents in the 55+ age group are, on the other hand, more likely to indicate that their living conditions will become worse (34%, compared with 22% among those 15-24).

Respondents who completed their education at the age of 15 or younger are more likely to believe that their living conditions will worsen in the future compared to those who finished their education at the age of 20 or older (40% compared to 28%). Among the latter group, the majority believe that their situation will remain the same (54%, compared with 47% of the former).

The largest proportion of those who fear their living conditions might deteriorate in one year are the unemployed (43%). This contrasts with the proportion of students (19%) and managers (24%) who believe the same.

The share of respondents who believe that their living conditions will become worse is also higher among those who encounter difficulties paying their bills most of the time (64%), especially when compared to respondents who rarely or never experience such challenges (24%).

Furthermore, there is an association between expectations about the national economic situation and those regarding personal living conditions: 63% of individuals who forecast that the national economy will worsen also expect a decline in their living conditions.

SD21.1

In one year's time, do you think that each of the following will be better, worse, or the same as today? - Your living conditions (% - EU)

	Better	Worse	The same	Don't know
EU27	14	32	51	3
Gender				
Man	15	31	51	3
Woman	13	33	51	3
Age				
15-24	25	22	48	5
25-39	19	33	46	2
40-54	14	34	49	3
55 +	9	34	54	3
Education (End of)				
15-	9	40	47	4
16-19	12	36	49	3
20+	16	28	54	2
Still studying	25	19	51	5
Socio-professional category				
Self- employed	21	32	44	3
Managers	16	24	59	1
Other white collars	17	29	51	3
Manual workers	13	38	46	3
House persons	11	35	51	3
Unemployed	13	43	38	6
Retired	8	35	54	3
Students	25	19	51	5
Difficulties paying bills				
Most of the time	10	64	23	3
From time to time	14	41	42	3
Almost never/ Never	15	24	58	3
Expectation of situation of national economy				
Better	61	10	28	1
Worse	7	63	29	1
Same	6	5	88	1

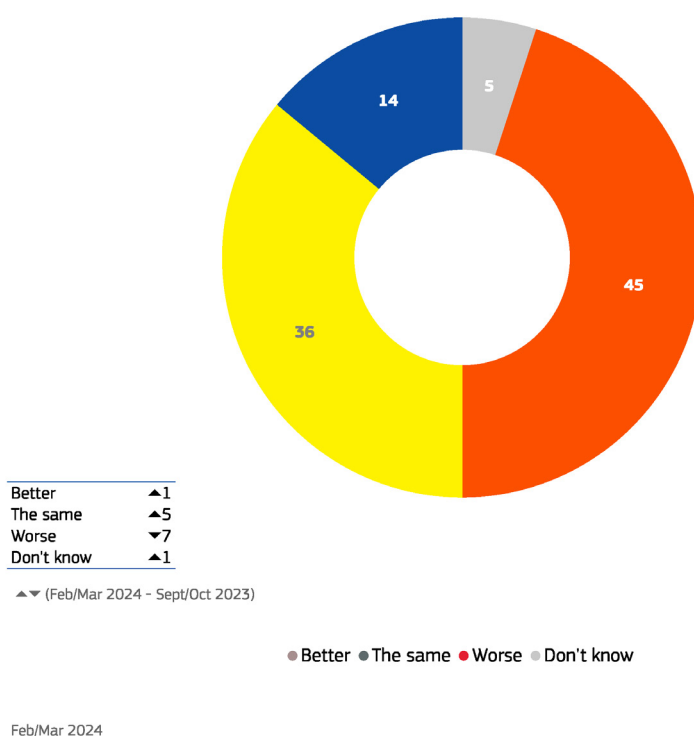
Europeans' expectations about their national economy

Citizens are somewhat more pessimistic in their forecasts about the state of the national economy in a year when compared to their feelings about the evolution of their own living conditions. Nonetheless, the data suggests that the proportion of respondents who believe that the economy will worsen over the next year has declined.

The current survey findings showcase that 45% of Europeans think that the state of their national economy will worsen over the next year (-7 pp, since September-October 2023), while an increasing share thinks that the economy will rather stay the same (36%, +5 pp). Meanwhile, 14% (+1 pp) instead believe that the state of the economy will improve.

SD21.2

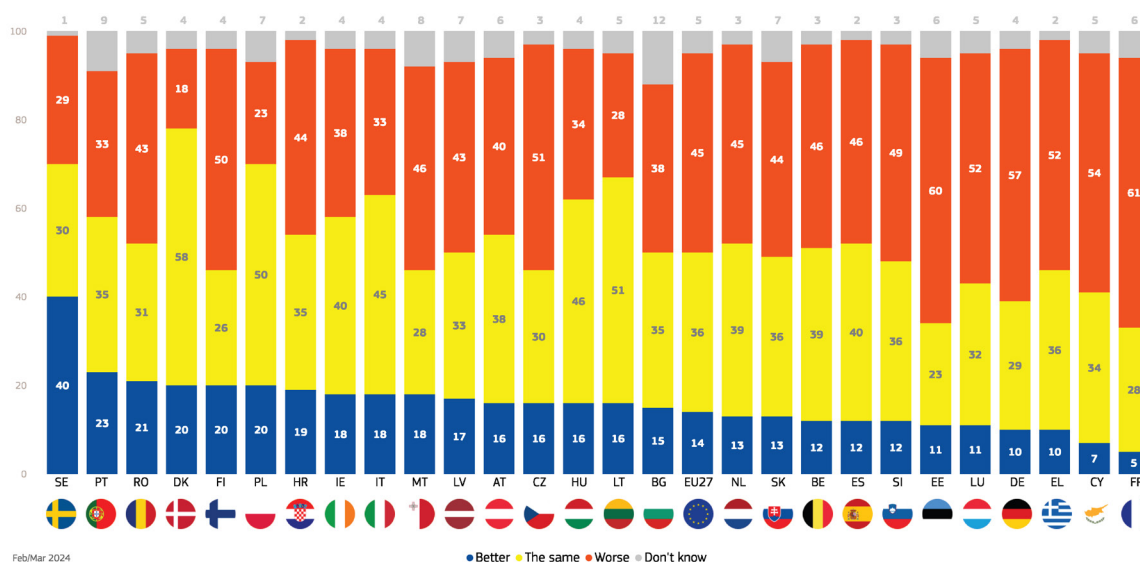
In one year's time, do you think that each of the following will be better, worse, or the same as today? – The situation of the (NATIONALITY) economy (EU27) (%)



In eight countries, more than half believe that the state of their national economy will decline in the coming year. This perception is particularly common in France (61%), Estonia (60%), and Germany (57%), but is least widespread in Denmark (18%), Poland (23%) and Lithuania (28%). In three other countries, more than half believe that the state of the national economy will stay the same. The prevalence of this opinion ranges from 58% in Denmark, 51% in Lithuania and 50% in Poland to 23% in Estonia, 26% in Finland as well as 28% in both France and Malta. Sweden is the only member state where a relative majority of people believe that their national economy will improve within a year (40%).

SD21.2

In one year's time, do you think that each of the following will be better, worse, or the same as today? – The situation of the (NATIONALITY) economy (%)



Since September–October 2023, there has been an increase in the proportion of respondents who expect the situation of their national economy to improve in seven countries. The largest increases are recorded in Sweden (40%, +25 pp), Portugal (23%, +11 pp) and Czechia (16%, +7 pp), Finland (20%, +7 pp) and Malta (18%, +7 pp).

In 14 Member States, the primary expectation for the national economy is that it will stay stable in the next year. The largest rise in the proportion of respondents who hold this view is in Poland (50%, +16 pp), Greece (36%, +12 pp) as well as Italy (45%, +12 pp).

SD21.2

In one year's time, do you think that each of the following will be better, worse, or the same as today? – The situation of the (NATIONALITY) economy (%)

		EU27	SE	PT	CZ	MT	FI	RO	HU	NL	SK	BE	IE	LV	LT	BG	DE	EE	EL	CY	SI	ES	HR	AT	FR	PL	DK	IT	LU
Better	Feb/Mar 2024	14	40	23	16	18	20	21	16	13	13	12	18	17	16	15	10	11	10	7	12	12	19	16	5	20	20	18	11
	Δ Sept/Oct 2023	▲1	▲25	▲11	▲7	▲7	▲7	▲6	▲3	▲3	▲3	▲2	▲2	▲2	▲2	▲1	▲1	▲1	▲1	▲1	▲1	=	=	=	▼1	▼1	▼3	▼5	▼7
Worse	Feb/Mar 2024	45	29	33	51	46	50	43	34	45	44	46	38	43	28	38	57	60	52	54	49	46	44	40	61	23	18	33	52
	Δ Sept/Oct 2023	▼7	▼30	▼25	▼10	▼7	▼5	▼5	▼7	▼10	▼2	▼8	▲1	▲1	▼11	▼9	▼4	▼1	▼14	▼15	▼4	▼1	▲1	▼7	▼4	▼14	▼2	▼8	▲9
The same	Feb/Mar 2024	36	30	35	30	28	26	31	46	39	36	39	40	33	51	35	29	23	36	34	36	40	35	38	28	50	58	45	32
	Δ Sept/Oct 2023	▲5	▲5	▲11	▲3	▼1	▼1	▼1	▲5	▲6	▲2	▲5	▼2	▼4	▲9	▲7	▲3	▼1	▲12	▲11	▲2	▲4	▼1	▲6	▲4	▲16	▲4	▲12	▼4
Don't know	Feb/Mar 2024	5	1	9	3	8	4	5	4	3	7	3	4	7	5	12	4	6	2	5	3	2	2	6	6	7	4	4	5
	Δ Sept/Oct 2023	▲1	=	▲3	=	▲1	▼1	=	▼1	▲1	▼3	▲1	▼1	▲1	=	▲1	=	▲1	▲1	▲3	▲1	▼3	=	▲1	▲1	▼1	▲1	▲1	▲2

In terms of socio-demographic analysis, the youngest respondents are the most optimistic about the outlook of the national economy in a year's time: while 19% of those aged 15-24 think that the national economy will fare better, 12% of those aged 55 and over think the same way. Additionally, the youngest respondents are the least likely to believe that the economy's situation will worsen (38%, compared with 46-47% among the other groups).

Across the socio-professional segments, the majority opinion is that the national economy's situation will worsen. However, students are the group in which the largest majority believe that the economy's situation will stay the same (39%, compared with 31% of the unemployed) or will improve (19%, compared with 10%-18% of the unemployed). This view contrasts especially with the one held by unemployed respondents, of whom 54% believe that the national economy will worsen.

Respondents who frequently face challenges in paying their bills are more likely to anticipate that the national economy's situation will deteriorate than those who rarely or never experience such difficulties (68% vs 40%).

SD21.2

In one year's time, do you think that each of the following will be better, worse, or the same as today? – The situation of the (NATIONALITY) economy (% – EU)

	Better	Worse	The same	Don't know
EU27	14	45	36	5
Gender				
Man	16	45	35	4
Woman	13	45	37	5
Age				
15-24	19	38	37	6
25-39	15	46	35	4
40-54	13	47	37	3
55 +	12	46	37	5
Education (End of)				
15-	12	47	35	6
16-19	12	47	37	4
20+	16	44	36	4
Still studying	19	35	39	7
Socio-professional category				
Self-employed	17	46	33	4
Managers	18	42	38	2
Other white collars	16	43	38	3
Manual workers	13	48	35	4
House persons	11	46	38	5
Unemployed	10	54	31	5
Retired	12	47	36	5
Students	19	35	39	7
Difficulties paying bills				
Most of the time	10	68	19	3
From time to time	12	50	34	4
Almost never/ Never	15	40	40	5

4.4 The EU in citizens' daily lives

The section looks at the reported tendency to follow European Union politics.

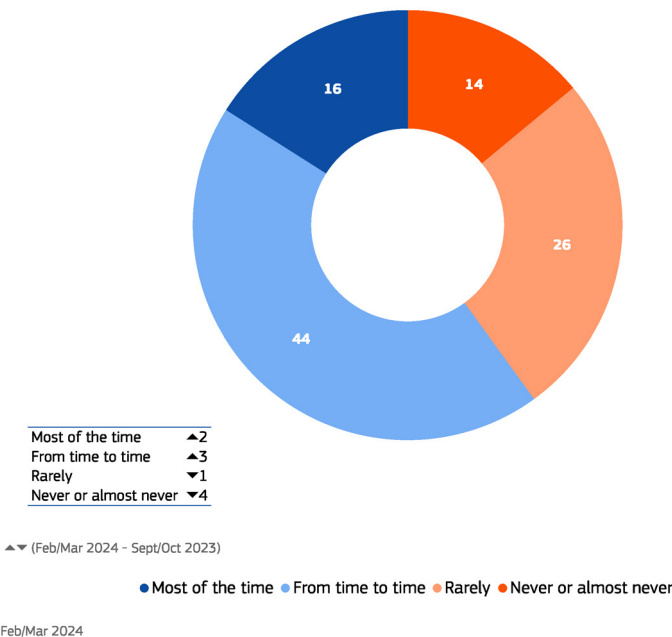
Interest in EU politics appears to have slightly increased since autumn 2023. This development might be due to interest in the upcoming European elections.

Tendency to follow EU politics

Six in ten citizens mention that they follow European Union politics – 16% do so most of the time, while the remaining 44% acknowledge that they follow EU politics from time to time. Compared to the previous EP survey that measured the reported frequency of the behaviour, interest in keeping with developments in EU politics has marginally increased (+5 pp points).

QA3

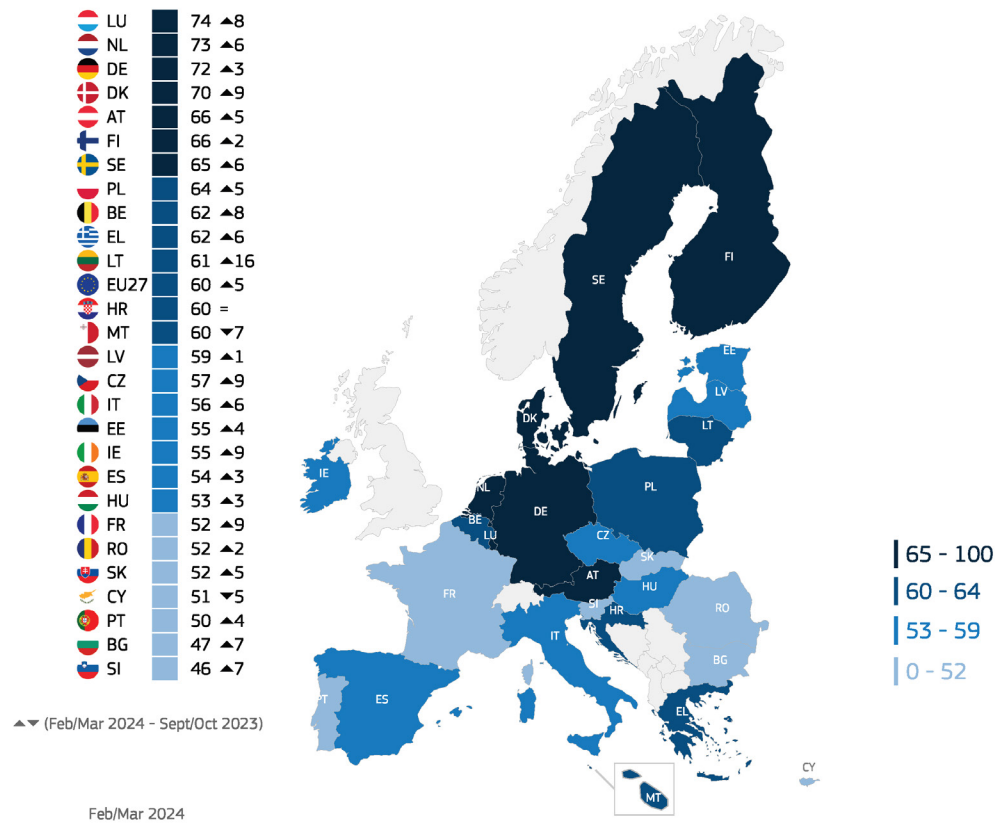
Some people follow what's going on in European Union politics, whether there's an election going on or not. Others aren't that interested. Would you say you follow what's going on in European Union politics? (EU27) (%)



In 25 of the Member States, a majority of respondents state that they are following developments in European Union politics, at least from time to time. The highest proportions are observed in Luxembourg (74%), the Netherlands (73%) and Germany (72%). The two countries where less than half of respondents mention that they follow EU politics 'most of the time' or 'from time to time' are Slovenia (46%) and Bulgaria (47%).

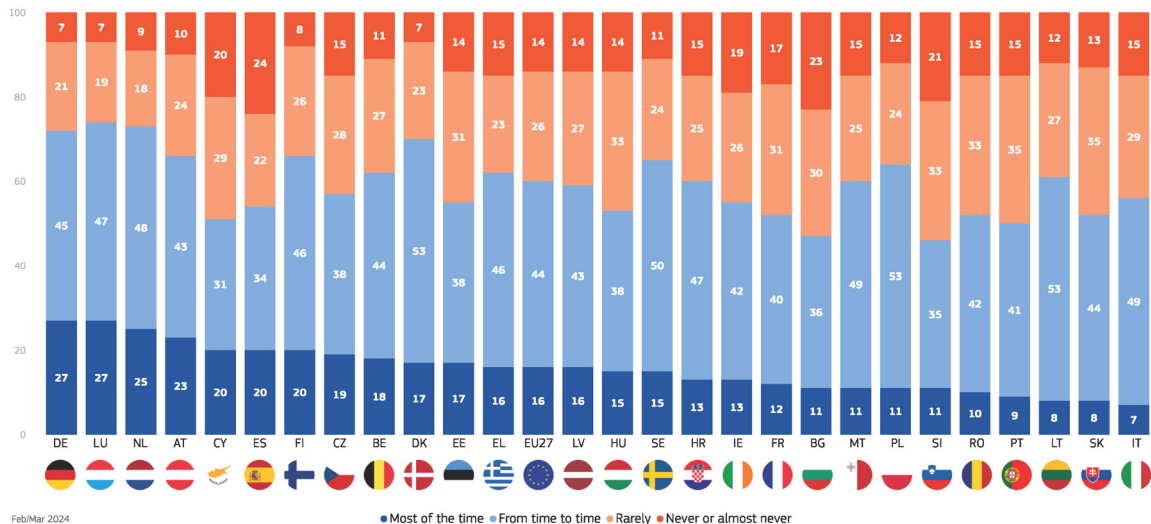
QA3

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? – Total 'Follow' (%)



QA3

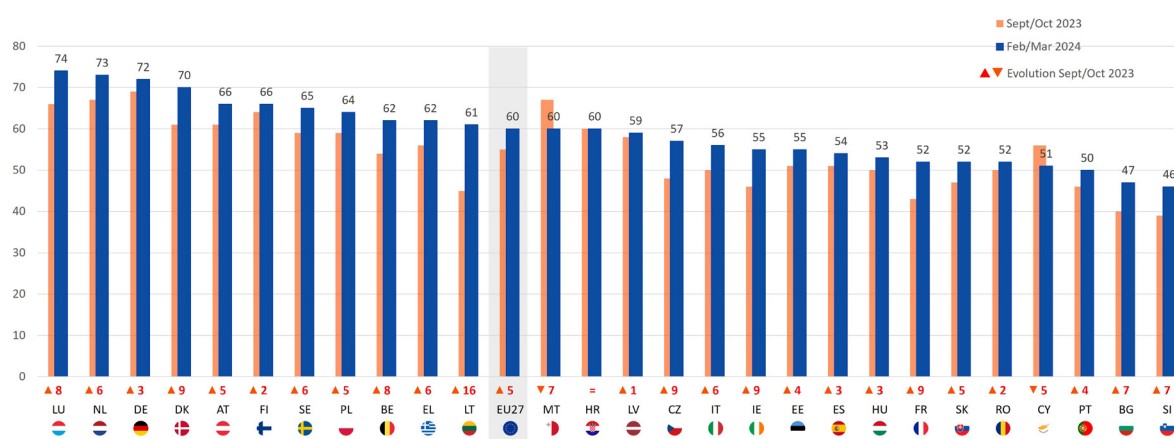
Some people follow what's going on in European Union politics, whether there's an election going on or not. Others aren't that interested. Would you say you follow what's going on in European Union politics? (%)



Since September–October 2023, the share of respondents who follow EU politics has increased at least mildly in 23 Member States. The most notable increase in the proportions is recorded in Lithuania (61%, +16 pp), Denmark (70%, +9 pp), Ireland (55%, +9 pp) and France (52%, +9 pp). Conversely, the share of those who follow EU politics has decreased in two countries: Malta (60%, -7 pp) and Cyprus (51%, -5 pp).

QA3

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? (% - Total 'Follow')



Examining the patterns of response by socio-demographic categories and among respondent segments reveals several discernible tendencies.

First, it appears that the likelihood of following EU politics increases with age: while 48% of respondents aged 15–24 report following what's going on in European Union politics, up to 64% of respondents aged 55 and over report similar behaviour.

The tendency to keep up with EU politics increases with the age at which one left education. 50% of respondents who left education at the age of 15 or younger indicate that they follow EU politics, whereas 71% of those who completed education at the age of 20 or older also reported doing so.

There are variations as regards respondents' socio-professional identification. Close to three-quarters of respondents who are managers follow EU politics (73%), compared to less than half of respondents who are unemployed (48%) or housepersons (45%).

The pattern based on socio-economic condition indicates that the tendency to follow EU politics increases somewhat with the respondents' reported financial well-being: while 49% of respondents who encounter challenges paying bills most of the time follow what's happening in EU politics, 64% of those who rarely or never experience such difficulties do as well.

Analysing the tendency to follow EU politics among various attitudinal segments yields additional insights. Persons who conjure up a positive image of the EU are more likely to follow what's going on in EU politics (73%), compared to both those who conjure up a neutral (49%) or a negative image of the EU (50%). Additionally, respondents who report an impact of EU actions on their lives are more likely than those who do not perceive such an impact to indicate that they follow EU politics (67% vs. 43%).

QA3

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)

	Total 'Follow'	Total 'Not follow'	Don't know
EU27	60	40	0
Gender			
Man	64	36	0
Woman	57	43	0
Age			
15-24	48	52	0
25-39	59	41	0
40-54	61	39	0
55 +	64	36	0
Education (End of)			
15-	50	50	0
16-19	57	43	0
20+	71	29	0
Still studying	52	48	0
Socio-professional category			
Self-employed	64	36	0
Managers	73	27	0
Other white collars	64	36	0
Manual workers	55	45	0
House persons	45	55	0
Unemployed	48	52	0
Retired	63	37	0
Students	52	48	0
Difficulties paying bills			
Most of the time	49	51	0
From time to time	56	44	0
Almost never/ Never	64	36	0
Image of the EU			
Positive	73	27	0
Neutral	49	51	0
Negative	50	50	0
Impact of EU actions on one's life			
Yes	67	33	0
No	43	57	0

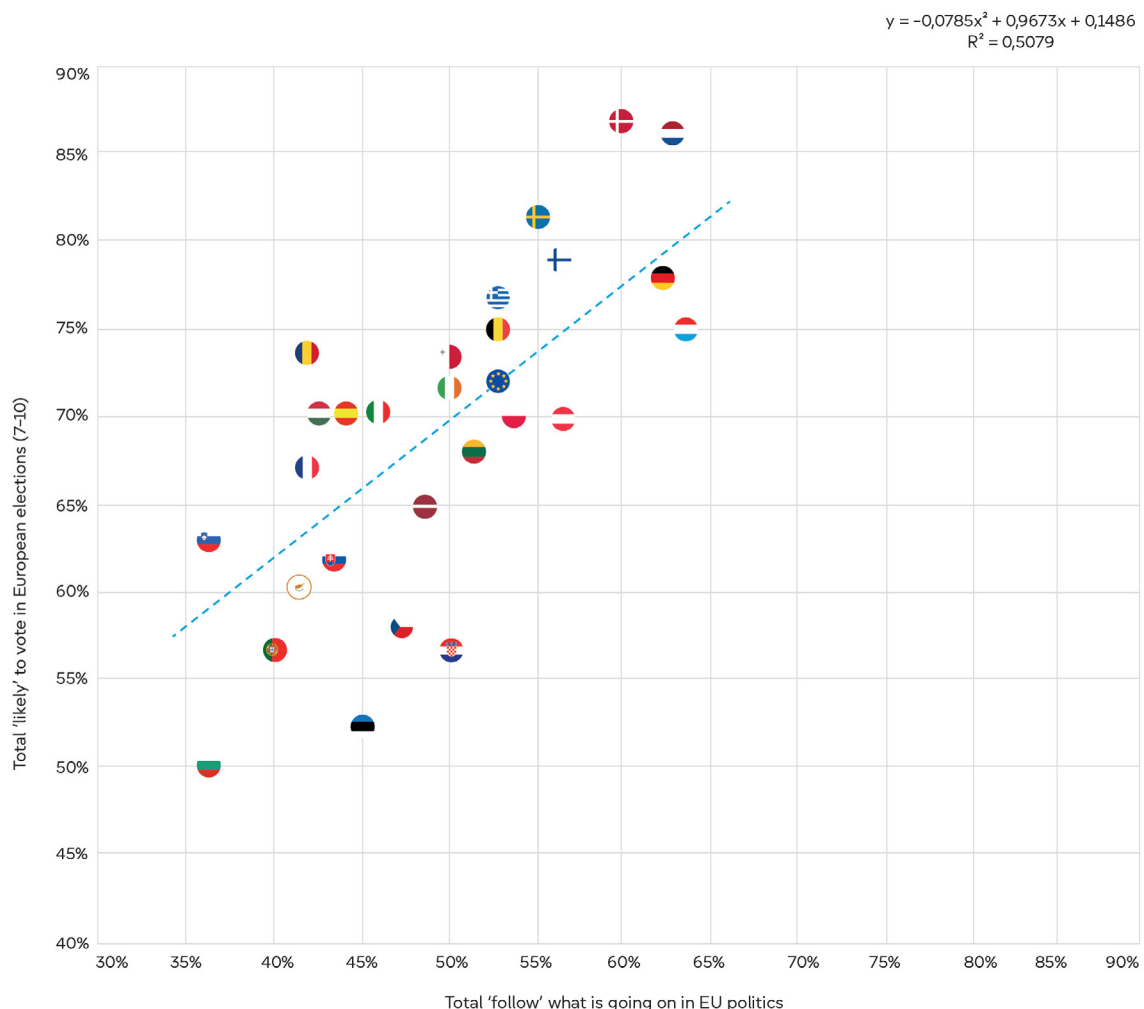
A strong positive correlation is found between countries with higher shares of likely voters and countries with larger percentages of citizens who follow EU politics. In the countries where citizens are more aware of what is happening in the EU, the likelihood to vote is higher.

QA3/QA20

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? (% - total follow)

If the next European elections were to be held next week, how likely would you be to vote in these elections? (% - scores from 7 to 10).

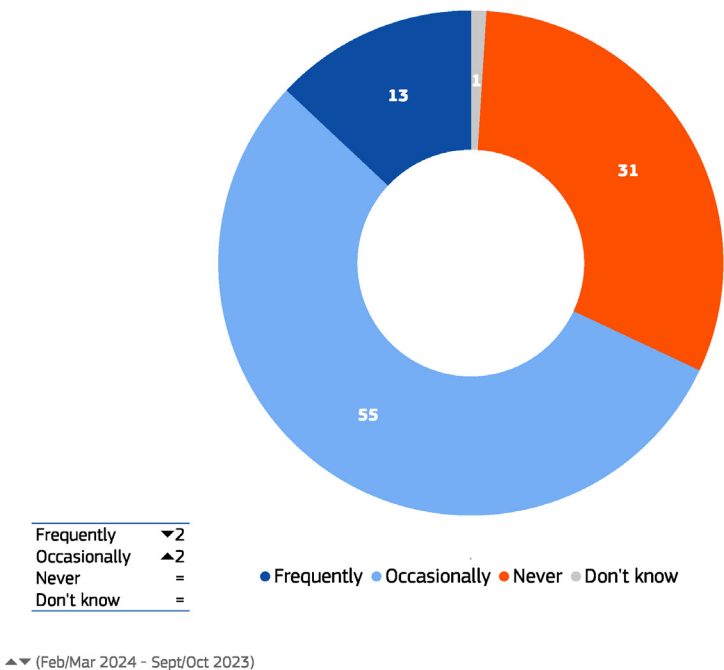
Total 'Follow' what's going on European Union politics - Total 'Likely' to Vote in EU Elections (7-10)



Tendency to discuss European political matters

Among citizens, 55% (+2 pp, since September – October 2023) report discussing European political matters occasionally, while an additional 13% (-2 pp, since September – October 2023) note that they hold such discussions frequently. Most of the remaining respondents note that they do not engage in such discussions (31%, no change).

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



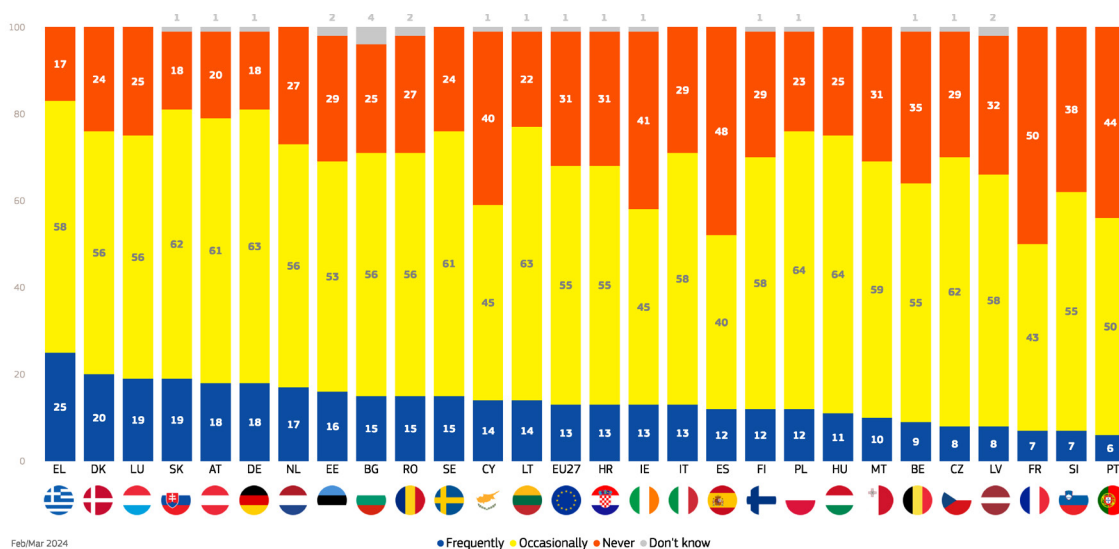
Respondents in Greece (25%), Denmark (20%), Luxembourg, and Slovakia (both 19%) report the highest rates of frequent engagement in discussions on European politics across the EU. The shares of those who report similarly frequent behaviour recede to 6% in Portugal and 7% in France and Slovenia.

In addition, 64% of respondents in both Hungary and Poland, as well as 63% of those in Germany and Lithuania, say that they occasionally hold discussions on European political matters.

The findings above contrast with those that find 50% of respondents in France, 48% of those in Spain and 44% of those in Portugal claiming that they never engage in conversations on European political matters.

D71.2

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



In 15 Member States, the tendency to discuss European political matters frequently has stayed stable or recorded minor evolutions compared to September–October 2023. The tendency has become more pronounced in Slovakia (19%, +6 pp), and less pronounced in Poland (12%, –7 pp) and Cyprus (14%, –5 pp).

Respondents are slightly more likely in Spring 2024 to say that they never discuss European political matters in eight Member States. The largest increases are observed in Cyprus (40%, +9 pp) as well as Hungary (25%, +6 pp) and Portugal (44%, +6 pp). This proportion has now decreased in France (50%, –5 pp).

D71.2

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

		EU27	SK	EE	LT	RO	BE	CZ	IE	ES	SI	FI	BG	HR	AT	DK	EL	IT	LU	HU	FR	LV	MT	SE	DE	NL	PT	CY	PL
Frequently	Feb/Mar 2024	13	19	16	14	15	9	8	13	12	7	12	15	13	18	20	25	13	19	11	7	8	10	15	18	17	6	14	12
	Δ Sept/Oct 2023	▼2	▲6	▲4	▲4	▲3	▲1	▲1	▲1	▲1	▲1	▲1	=	=	=	▼1	▼1	▼1	▼1	▼1	▼2	▼3	▼3	▼3	▼4	▼4	▼4	▼5	▼7
Occasionally	Feb/Mar 2024	55	62	53	63	56	55	62	45	40	55	58	56	55	61	56	58	58	56	64	43	58	59	61	63	56	50	45	64
	Δ Sept/Oct 2023	▲2	▼8	▲1	=	▼2	▲2	▲1	▼4	▲3	=	▼2	▼1	▼4	▲2	▼1	=	▼2	=	▼5	▲7	▲3	=	=	▲3	▲7	▼2	▼5	▲5
Never	Feb/Mar 2024	31	18	29	22	27	35	29	41	48	38	29	25	31	20	24	17	29	25	25	50	32	31	24	18	27	44	40	23
	Δ Sept/Oct 2023	=	▲2	▼4	▼4	=	▼4	▼3	▲3	▼4	▼1	▲1	▼1	▲3	▼2	▲2	▲1	▲4	▲1	▲6	▼5	▼1	▲3	▲3	▲1	▼3	▲6	▲9	▲2
Don't know	Feb/Mar 2024	1	1	2	1	2	1	1	1	0	0	1	4	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	1	0	0	1	1
	Δ Sept/Oct 2023	=	=	▼1	=	▼1	▲1	▲1	=	=	=	=	▲2	▲1	=	=	=	▼1	=	=	=	▲1	=	=	=	=	=	▲1	=

The socio-demographic analysis shows that men are marginally more likely than women to discuss European political matters frequently (15% vs. 11%) or occasionally (57% vs. 54%). In terms of age segments, respondents aged 25–39 and those aged 40–54 are the two groups most likely to note that they discuss European political affairs frequently (13% and 15%, respectively) or occasionally (58% and 57%). This behaviour stands out particularly when compared to that of the youngest Europeans, of whom 12% report discussing EU political matters frequently and 48% occasionally.

The likelihood of discussing European political matters is highest among respondents who completed their education at the age of 20 or above, with 18% of them discussing such matters frequently and 60% doing so occasionally. On the other hand, the lowest percentage of respondents discussing EU politics are those who completed their education at the age of 15 or younger, with 7% discussing the matters frequently and 43% doing so occasionally.

Among the socio-professional groups, managers and the self-employed are the most likely to discuss European political matters frequently (both 20%) or occasionally (60% and 58% respectively). In contrast, respondents who identify as house persons or unemployed are the most likely to state that they never discuss such matters (47% and 46%, respectively).

When it comes to financial conditions, respondents who have difficulties paying bills most of the time are the most likely to report that they never discuss EU political matters (43%), particularly when compared to respondents who rarely or never experience such challenges (29%).

D71.2

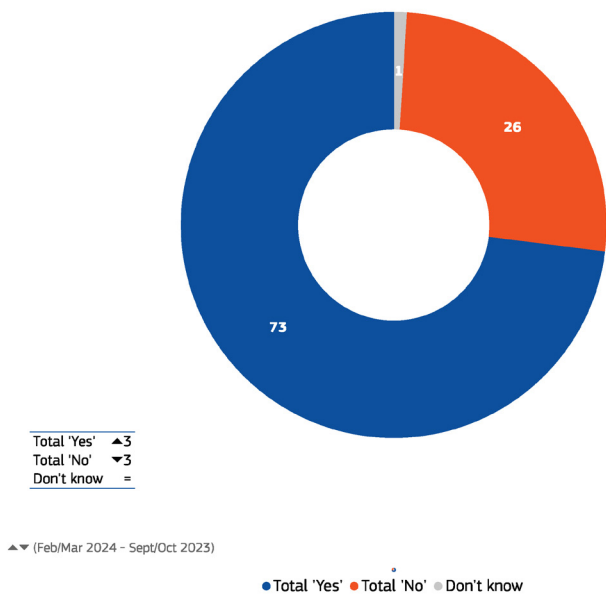
When you get together with friends or relatives, would you say you discuss frequently, occasionally or never about...? European political matters (% - EU)

	Frequently	Occasionally	Never	Don't know
EU27	13	55	31	1
Gender				
Man	15	57	27	1
Woman	11	54	35	0
Age				
15-24	12	48	39	1
25-39	13	58	28	1
40-54	15	57	28	0
55 +	13	54	32	1
Education (End of)				
15-	7	43	49	1
16-19	11	57	31	1
20+	18	60	22	0
Still studying	14	49	36	1
Socio-professional category				
Self- employed	20	58	21	1
Managers	20	60	20	0
Other white collars	12	62	26	0
Manual workers	10	56	33	1
House persons	8	44	47	1
Unemployed	10	43	46	1
Retired	12	53	34	1
Students	14	49	36	1
Difficulties paying bills				
Most of the time	14	42	43	1
From time to time	11	57	31	1
Almost never/ Never	14	56	29	1

Perceived impact of EU actions on citizens' daily life

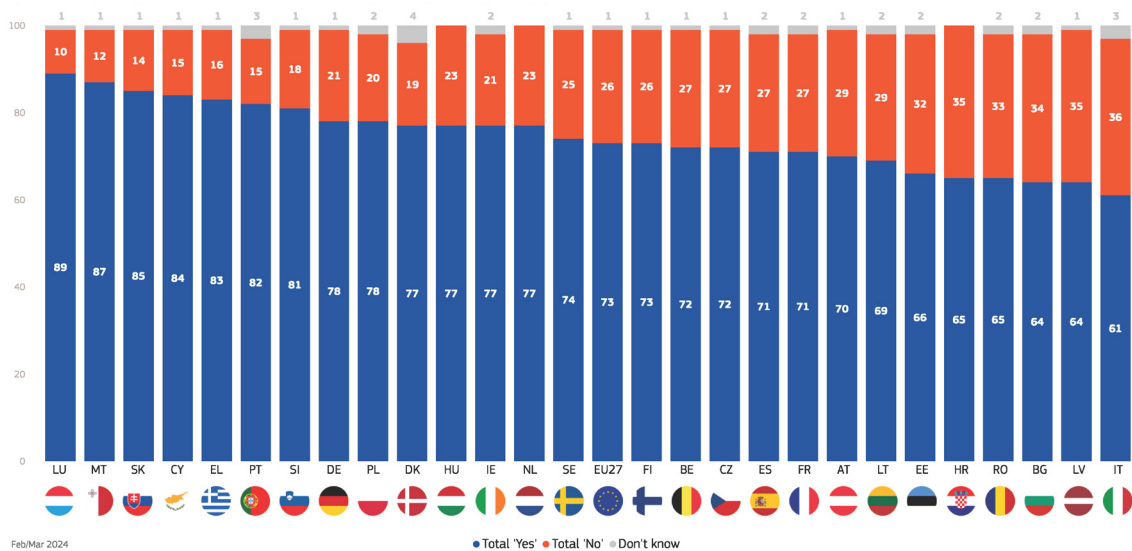
Close to three-quarters of Europeans (73%, +3 pp, since September – October 2023) believe that the actions of the EU have an impact on their daily life. Of those, 20% (+3 pp) hold the opinion that the EU's actions have an impact to a large extent (they replied 'yes, very much' to the question). Conversely, 26% (-3 pp) mention that the EU's actions do not impact their daily life, with 6% (no change) noting that there is no impact at all.

QA7 Would you say the actions of the EU have an impact on your daily life? (EU27) (%)



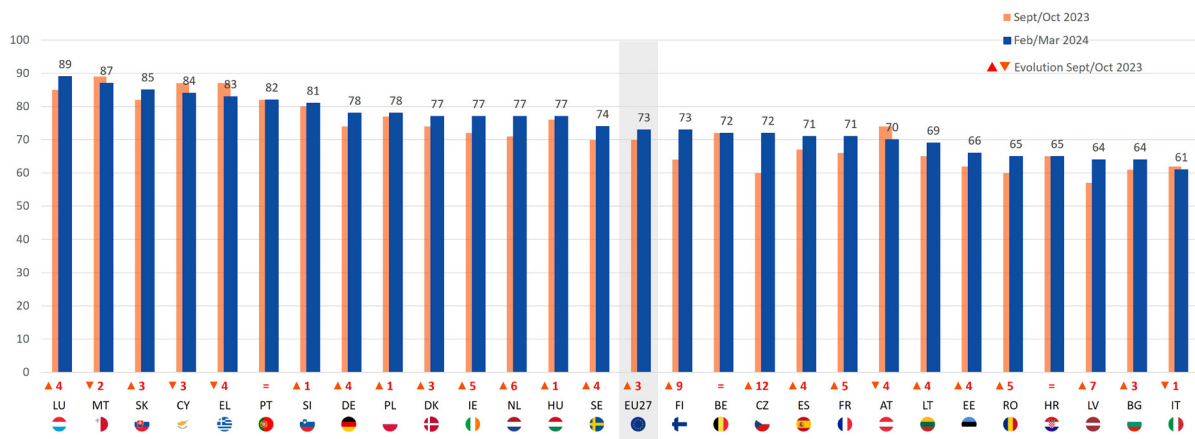
Majorities across the union report believing that the EU's actions impact their daily lives. The proportions range from 89% in Luxembourg, 87% in Malta, and 85% in Slovakia 61% in Italy and 64% in both Latvia and Bulgaria.

QA7 Would you say the actions of the EU have an impact on your daily life? (%)



In 16 countries, respondents are now more likely to report that they perceive the impact of EU's actions on their daily life, compared to September-October 2023. The increase in the proportion is larger in Czechia (72%, +12 pp) and Finland (73%, +9 pp). In Austria (70%, - 4 pp), Greece (83%, - 4pp) and Cyprus (84%, - 3pp) now less citizens think that the EU's actions impact their lives. In the remaining countries, the perception has either stayed stable or recorded minor evolutions.

QA7 Would you say the actions of the EU have an impact on your daily life? (% - Total 'Yes')



In terms of socio-demographic patterns, the data indicates no major tendencies related to gender or age, although, in this last regard, respondents aged 40–54 are marginally likelier than respondents of other age groups to indicate that the actions of the EU impact their daily lives (76%, vs. 70% – 74% across the other age groups).

The perceived impact of EU actions on daily life increases with age when one leaves full-time education: while 62% of respondents who completed education aged 15 or younger perceive that the EU's actions have an impact on their lives, up to 80% of respondents who left education aged 20 or older feel the same.

Affirming that the EU's actions have an impact on one's daily life is a more common position among managers (81%) and the self-employed (80%), especially when compared to house persons (63%).

Among the attitudinal segments, respondents who conjure up an overall positive image of the EU are more likely to believe that the EU's actions have an impact on their daily lives (82%) than both respondents who have a neutral (62%) or negative image of the union (69%). Also, respondents who follow EU politics are more likely to indicate that the union's actions have an impact on their lives (80%) compared to their counterparts who do not follow such news (60%). Respondents likely to vote in the 2024 European elections report feeling more impacted by the EU's actions (77%) than those who are unlikely to vote (60%).

QA7

Would you say the actions of the EU have an impact on your daily life? (% - EU)

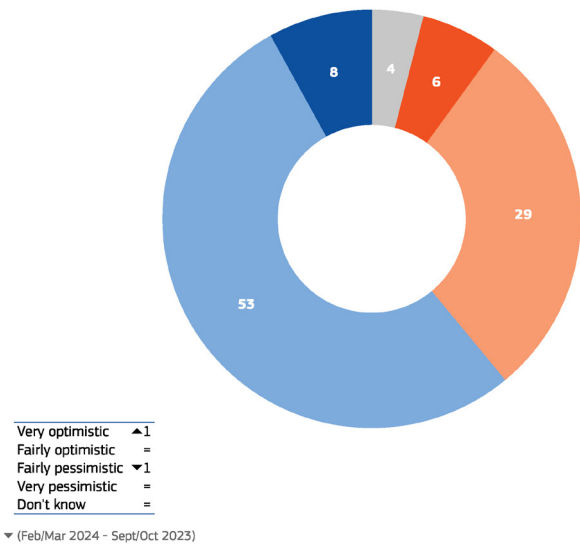
	Total 'Yes'	Total 'No'	Don't know
EU27	73	26	1
Gender			
Man	74	25	1
Woman	71	27	2
Age			
15-24	71	27	2
25-39	74	25	1
40-54	76	23	1
55 +	70	28	2
Education (End of)			
15-	62	34	4
16-19	71	28	1
20+	80	19	1
Still studying	71	26	3
Socio-professional category			
Self-employed	80	19	1
Managers	81	18	1
Other white collars	75	24	1
Manual workers	72	27	1
House persons	63	34	3
Unemployed	70	28	2
Retired	68	30	2
Students	71	26	3
Difficulties paying bills			
Most of the time	73	24	3
From time to time	68	30	2
Almost never/ Never	74	24	2
Image of the EU			
Positive	82	17	1
Neutral	62	36	2
Negative	69	30	1
Follow European politics			
Follow	80	19	1
Not follow	60	37	3
Likelihood to vote in the next European elections			
Likely	77	22	1
Neutral	61	37	2
Not likely	60	37	3

Optimism about the future of the EU

Overall, in the EU, 61% (+1 pp, since September – October 2023) of citizens report feeling optimistic about the future of the union, including 8% (+1 pp) who feel very optimistic about it. Conversely, about one-third (35%, -1 pp) say that they feel pessimistic about the future of the EU.

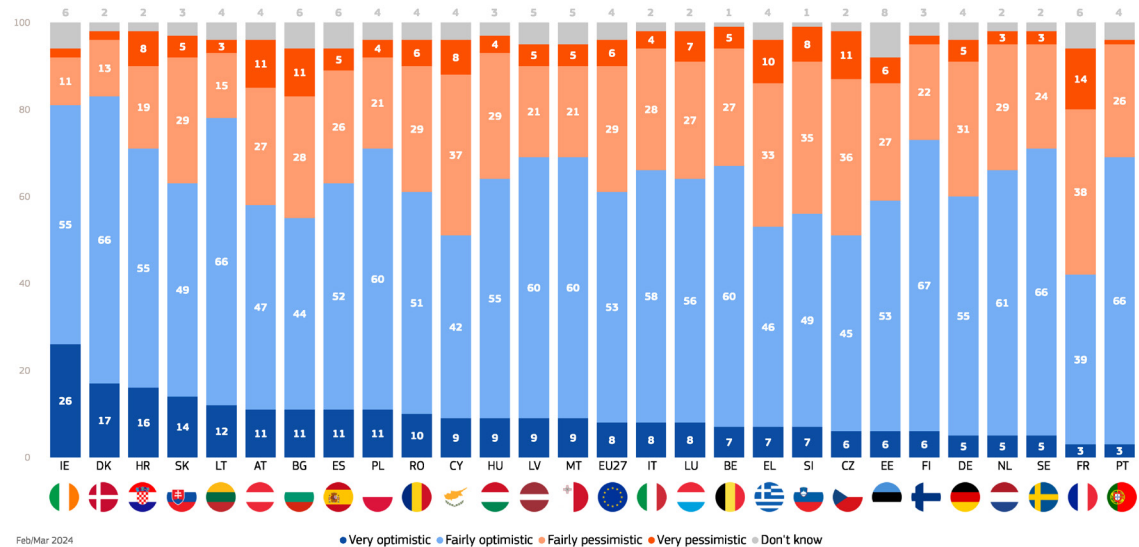
SD22

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



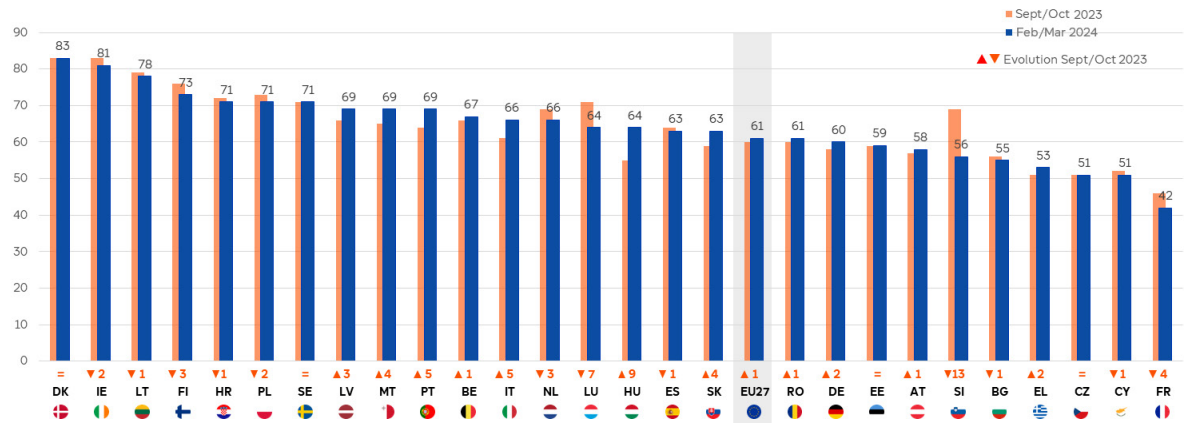
In all but one Member State, majorities report being optimistic about the future of the EU. These proportions peak at 83% in Denmark, 81% in Ireland and 78% in Lithuania and recede to 42% in France as well as 51% in both Cyprus and Czechia.

SD22 Would you say that you are very optimistic, fairly optimistic, fairly pessimistic or very pessimistic about the future of the EU? (%)



Since September–October 2023, in six countries a somewhat higher proportion of respondents now report optimism about the future of the union, particularly in Hungary (64%, +9 pp), Italy (66%, +5 pp) and Portugal (69%, +5 pp). Conversely, this share has decreased in Slovenia (56%, -13 pp) and Luxembourg (64%, -7 pp).

SD22 Would you say that you are very optimistic, fairly optimistic, fairly pessimistic or very pessimistic about the future of the EU? (% - Very optimistic)



The socio-demographic analysis highlights several important differences across population segments. Notably, the youngest respondents, those aged 15–24, exhibit a consistently higher level of optimism about the future of the EU (72%) compared to respondents in the other age groups (64%–57%).

There are some differences among respondents based on the age when they left full-time education: respondents who completed education aged 20 or older are more likely to be optimistic about the future of the EU (67%) compared to respondents who left education younger, particularly if they were aged 15 or younger (53%).

Students and managers are the most likely socio-professional categories of respondents to report optimism about the future of the EU (73% and 70%, respectively), especially when compared to respondents who report being unemployed (46%).

Respondents who never or almost never experience difficulties paying bills are more likely to note a degree of optimism in the future of the EU (65%) compared to respondents who encounter such difficulties most of the time (41%).

Europeans who conjure up a positive image of the EU are also very likely to be optimistic about the future of the EU (87%), in contrast to those who conjure up a negative image of the union (14%). Meanwhile, about half of respondents who have a neutral image of the EU say they are optimistic about its future (51%).

In terms of reported likelihood to vote in the next round of European elections, citizens who express a high level of confidence in their intention to cast a ballot in these elections are almost twice more likely to be optimistic about the future of the EU as compared to those who indicate that they are probably not going to vote (68% vs 35%).

Finally, respondents who consider that the EU's role in the world in the past five years has become more important are by far more likely to be optimistic about its future (80%) than those who instead think that the union's role has become less important (39%).

SD22

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	61	35	4
Gender			
Man	60	37	3
Woman	62	34	4
Age			
15-24	72	24	4
25-39	64	33	3
40-54	60	37	3
55 +	57	39	4
Education (End of)			
15-	53	40	7
16-19	57	40	3
20+	67	31	2
Still studying	73	23	4
Socio-professional category			
Self- employed	61	37	2
Managers	70	28	2
Other white collars	66	31	3
Manual workers	58	38	4
House persons	60	35	5
Unemployed	46	49	5
Retired	55	40	5
Students	73	23	4
Difficulties paying bills			
Most of the time	41	53	6
From time to time	56	41	3
Almost never/ Never	65	31	4
Image of the EU			
Positive	87	11	2
Neutral	51	42	7
Negative	14	84	2
Role of the EU in the world in the past five years			
More important	80	18	2
Less important	39	59	2
Stayed the same	55	40	5
Likelihood to vote in the next European elections			
Likely	68	29	3
Neutral	48	47	5
Not likely	35	57	8

5

EUROPEANS'
PERCEPTION OF
THE EU AND THE
EU MEMBERSHIP

5. EUROPEANS' PERCEPTION OF THE EU AND THE EU MEMBERSHIP

This section describes public attitudes towards the EU and perspectives on membership within the union. It offers insights into Europeans' perceptions of the EU and its membership and then examines whether it is seen as beneficial or not. The chapter concludes by reviewing the level of public satisfaction with the EU's response to various crises in the recent past.

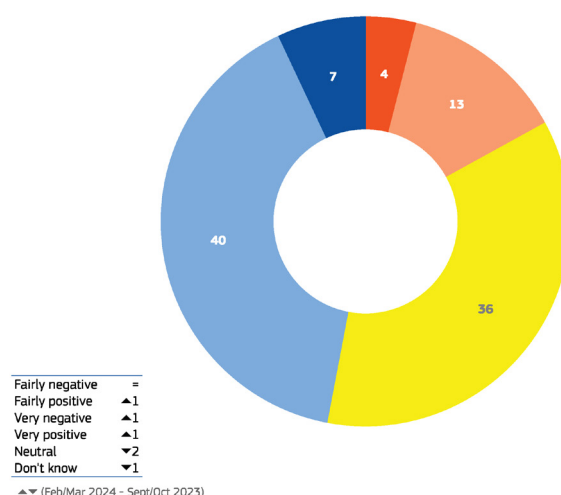
The findings indicate consistent perceptions of the EU over time, characterised by predominantly positive attitudes. EU membership is vastly viewed in a positive light, with a majority perceiving it as important and acknowledging its beneficial impact on their country. Nonetheless, the survey reveals a degree of public division or dissatisfaction with the EU's response to crises in the recent past.

5.1 Image of the EU

In general, across the union, 47% (+2 pp, since September – October 2023) of respondents conjure up a positive image of the EU, while 36% (-2 pp) hold a neutral image of the union, and 17% (+1 pp) rather have a negative perception. The opinions have remained relatively constant over the past two years, with insignificant variations.

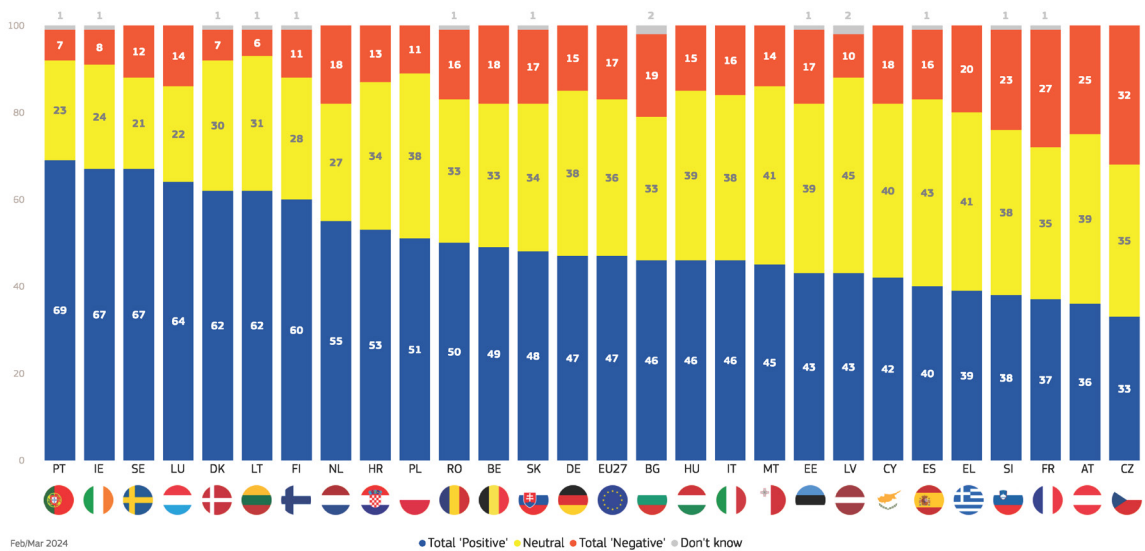
D78

In general, does the EU conjure up for you a very positive, fairly positive, neutral, fairly negative or very negative image? (EU27) (%)



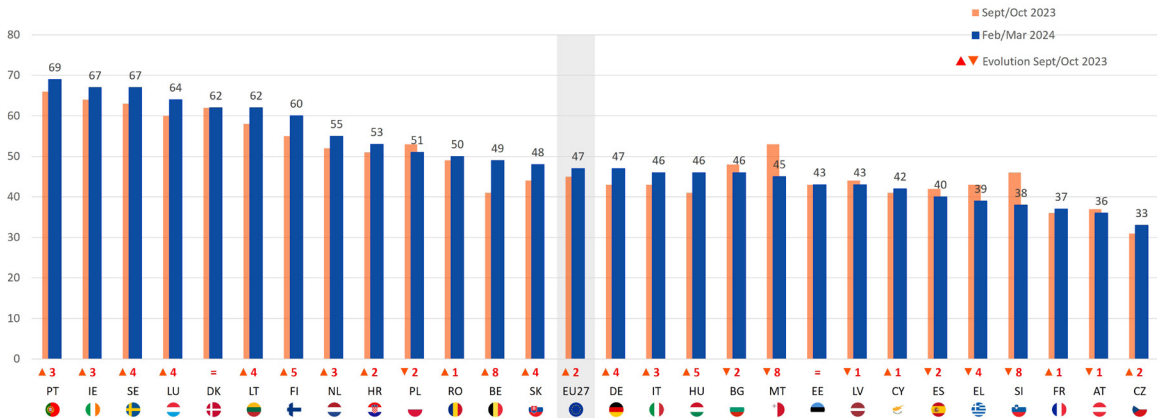
The prevalence of an overall positive image of the EU ranges from 69% in Portugal as well as 67% in both Sweden and Ireland to 33% in Czechia, 36% in Austria and 37% in France. Overall, in 21 of the Member States, a relative majority of the population conjures up a positive image of the EU, and in Slovenia, equal proportions of 38% either have a positive image or a neutral image of the union. In the remaining five countries, citizens who hold a neutral image of the EU form the relative majority compared to the proportions of those who conjure up either a positive or negative image. The highest proportions of those with a neutral image of the EU are recorded in Latvia (45%), Spain (43%) and Greece (41%).

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



Compared to September–October 2023, the proportion of respondents who conjure up a positive image of the EU has increased in 12 countries, notably in Belgium (49%, +8 pp), Finland (60%, +5 pp) and Hungary (46%, +5 pp). The prevalence of the positive view of the EU has decreased in two countries: Slovenia (38%, –8 pp) and Malta (45%, –8 pp). In the remaining 22 countries, the opinion landscape has remained relatively stable when it comes to the proportion of citizens with a positive view of the EU.

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



A review of the socio-demographic analysis illustrates that the youngest Europeans, those aged 15-24, hold the most favourable view of the EU across the age groups. Whereas 58% of citizens aged 15-24 conjure up a positive image of the union, the prevalence of the attitude drops to 43% among respondents 55 years old and over.

In terms of age when one finished education, the analysis reveals that respondents who left education aged 20 or older are more likely to conjure up a positive image of the EU (55%), particularly when compared to respondents who completed their education at age 15 or younger (35%).

When it comes to socio-occupational categories, students (62%) and managers (59%) are the two segments among which a positive view of the EU is more prevalent than in other segments, especially the unemployed (31%).

There are also differences among respondents based on their socio-economic situation, with respondents who almost never or never encounter difficulties paying bills being more likely to conjure up an overall positive image of the EU (52%). The attitude is less widespread among respondents who experience difficulties paying bills most of the time (31%).

A positive image of the EU is also more common among residents of large towns (54%) than among those of small/mid-sized towns (45%) or rural villages (40%).

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'	Total 'Negative'	Don't know
EU27	47	17	0
Gender			
Man	46	20	0
Woman	46	15	1
Age			
15-24	58	9	1
25-39	47	15	0
40-54	46	18	0
55 +	43	20	1
Education (End of)			
15-	35	20	1
16-19	40	20	1
20+	55	14	0
Still studying	62	8	1
Socio-professional category			
Self- employed	46	21	0
Managers	59	13	0
Other white collars	52	13	0
Manual workers	38	18	1
House persons	38	20	1
Unemployed	31	28	1
Retired	42	21	1
Students	62	8	1
Difficulties paying bills			
Most of the time	31	32	1
From time to time	38	21	1
Almost never/ Never	52	14	0
Subjective urbanisation			
Rural village	40	21	1
Small/ mid size town	45	18	0
Large town	54	13	0

In terms of attitudinal segments, respondents who perceive that the role of the EU in the world has become more important over the last five years are by far more likely to conjure up a positive image of it (66%) compared to respondents who believe that the role of the EU in the world has become less important (27%) or stayed the same (37%). Additionally, satisfaction or dissatisfaction with the EU's response to major crises in the past years plays an important differentiating factor. In this regard, the most prominent differences are between those satisfied with the EU's response to the economic and financial situation (69%) and those dissatisfied with it (32%), as well as those who are satisfied with the EU's response to the COVID-19 pandemic (63%) and those dissatisfied with these measures (30%).

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	47	36	17	0
The COVID-19 pandemic				
Total Agree	63	30	7	0
Total disagree	30	42	28	0
Climate change				
Total Agree	64	29	7	0
Total disagree	39	38	23	0
The economic and financial situation				
Total Agree	69	25	6	0
Total disagree	32	42	25	1
Russia's invasion of Ukraine				
Total Agree	65	28	7	0
Total disagree	36	40	24	0
Migration				
Total Agree	67	27	6	0
Total disagree	40	39	21	0
Brexit				
Total Agree	60	29	11	0
Total disagree	39	39	22	0
Role of the EU in the world in the past five years				
More important	66	25	9	0
Less important	27	40	33	0
Stayed the same	37	45	18	0

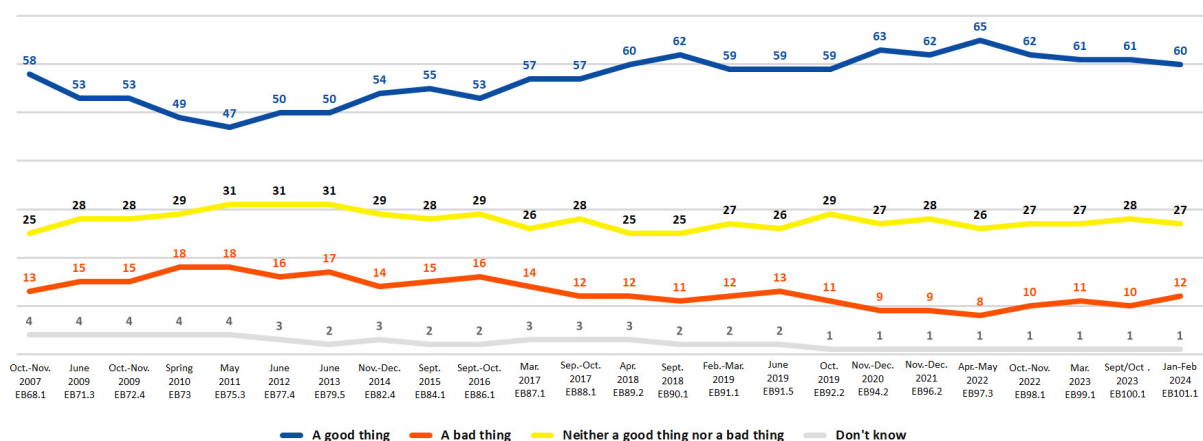
5.2 EU membership

Appraisal of EU membership

Six in ten Europeans (60%, -1 pp, since September – October 2023) believe that their country's membership of the EU is a good thing, while close to three in ten (27%, -1 pp) think that it is neither a good thing nor a bad thing, and the remaining 12% (+2 pp) instead consider that their country's membership of the union is a bad thing.

QA4

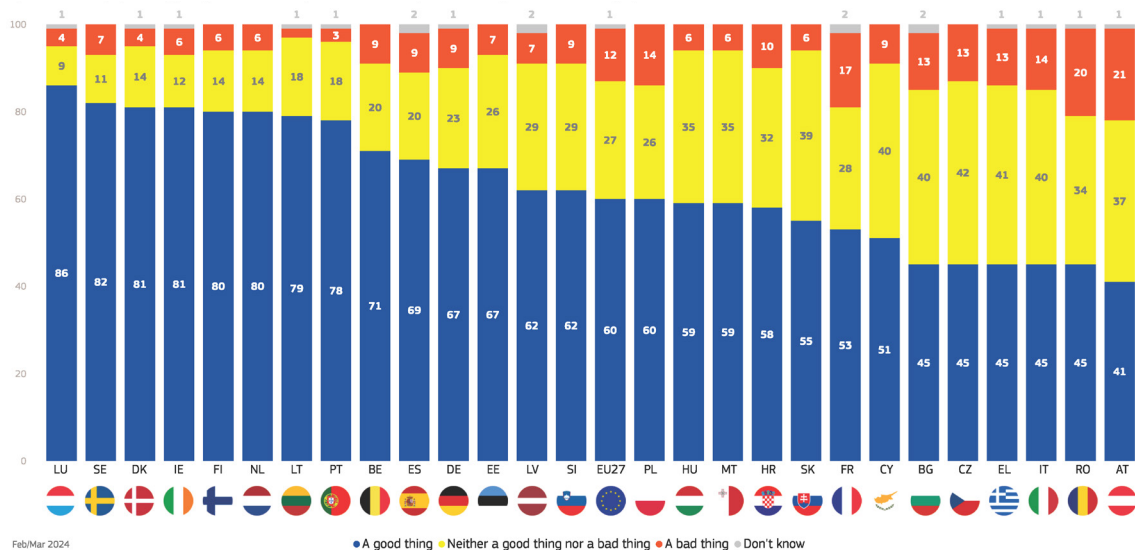
Generally speaking, do you think that (OUR COUNTRY'S) membership of the EU is...? (% - EU)



In 21 of the Member States, more than half of the respondents believe that the EU membership of their country is a good thing. The highest proportions are found in Luxembourg (86%), Sweden (82%) as well as Denmark and Ireland (both 81%). These shares compare to those in Austria (41%), Bulgaria, Czechia, Greece, Italy and Romania (all 45%), where the lowest shares across the union think that the EU membership of their country is a good thing.

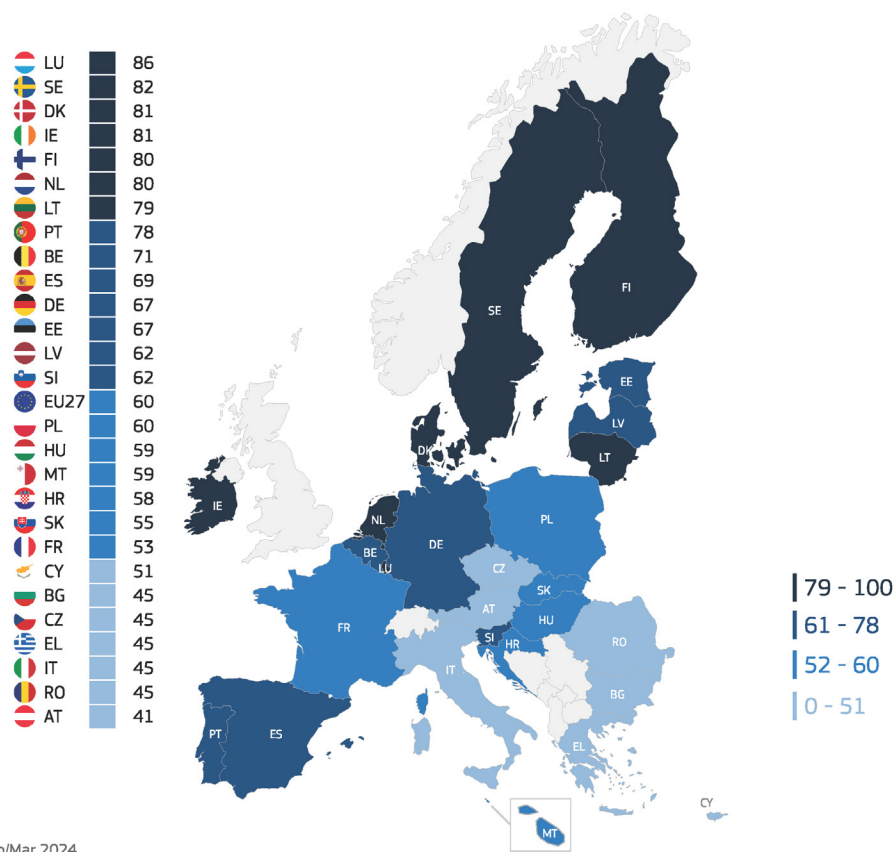
QA4

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



QA4

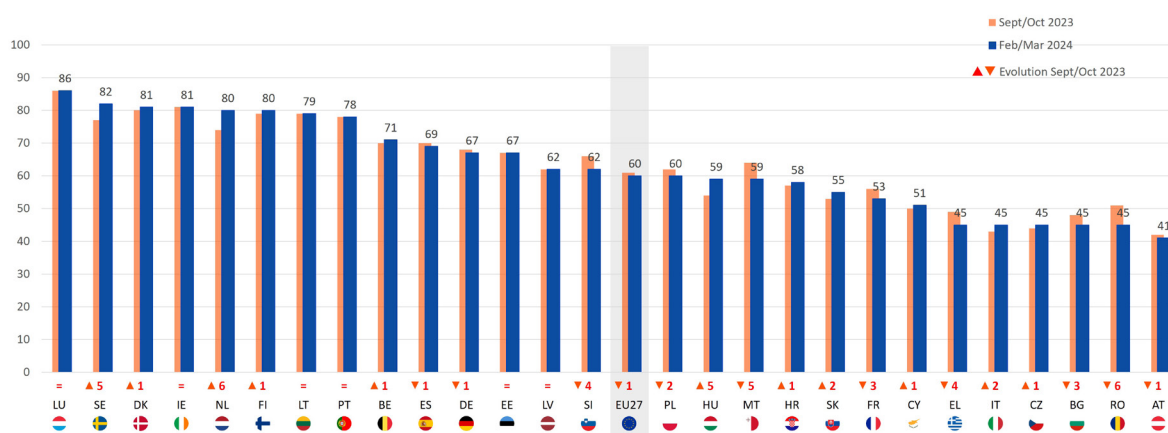
Generally speaking, do you think that (OUR COUNTRY'S) membership of the EU is...? (%)



In most countries, the appraisal of one's country's EU membership as positive has remained relatively stable since September–October 2023. The share that holds this view has increased in three countries: the Netherlands (80%, +6 pp), Hungary (59%, +5 pp), and Sweden (82%, +5 pp). Conversely, fewer citizens now hold this opinion in Romania (45%, –6 pp) and Malta (59%, –5 pp).

QA4

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



When considering socio-demographic factors, the data indicates that there is an inverse relationship between age and the tendency to believe that the EU membership of one's country is a good thing, with the youngest respondents (aged 15–24) being the most likely to hold the view (72%, particularly when compared to respondents 55 and older of whom 56% think the same).

In terms of education level, those who left full-time education aged 20 or older are more inclined to believe that the EU membership of their country is a good thing (70%) than respondents who completed education earlier, particularly at age 15 or younger (49%).

Students (76%) and managers (75%) are the most likely segments across the socio-occupational groups to think that their country's membership of the EU is a good thing, especially compared with unemployed respondents or those who identify as house persons (both 51%).

Regarding difficulties paying bills, respondents who rarely or never encounter such challenges are more likely to believe that their country's EU membership is a good thing (68%) than respondents who face such difficulties most of the time (44%) and from time to time (48%).

QA4

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	60	12	27	1
Gender				
Man	60	13	26	1
Woman	60	11	28	1
Age				
15-24	72	6	21	1
25-39	61	11	27	1
40-54	59	13	27	1
55 +	56	13	30	1
Education (End of)				
15-	49	13	36	2
16-19	52	14	33	1
20+	70	10	19	1
Still studying	76	4	19	1
Socio-professional category				
Self- employed	57	17	25	1
Managers	75	8	17	0
Other white collars	65	10	25	0
Manual workers	52	15	32	1
House persons	51	13	35	1
Unemployed	51	16	32	1
Retired	56	13	30	1
Students	76	4	19	1
Difficulties paying bills				
Most of the time	44	20	34	2
From time to time	48	17	34	1
Almost never/ Never	68	8	23	1

Respondents who say that they are likely to vote in the 2024 European elections are twice as likely to believe that their country's EU membership is a good thing compared to those who acknowledge that they are not likely to cast their ballots in these elections (69% vs. 33%).

As observed for the previously analysed question on the image of the EU, opinions regarding whether EU membership is a good or bad thing vary among respondents based on their satisfaction with the EU's response to major crises. The largest differences in this regard emerge in the proportions between those satisfied with the EU's handling of the economic and financial situation who view EU membership favourably (80%) and those dissatisfied with it who hold the same opinion (47%). Similarly, respondents who are content with the EU measures to contain the COVID-19 pandemic are more likely to believe that their country's EU membership is a good thing (77%) when compared to those who are not satisfied with those measures (43%).

QA4

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

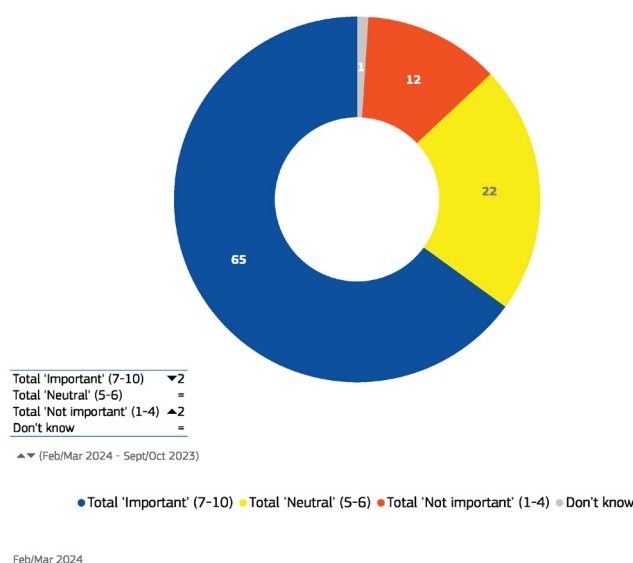
	A good thing	A bad thing	Neither a good thing nor a bad thing	Don't know
EU27	60	12	27	1
The COVID-19 pandemic				
Total Agree	77	5	18	0
Total disagree	43	20	36	1
Climate change				
Total Agree	75	6	19	0
Total disagree	54	15	30	1
The economic and financial situation				
Total Agree	80	4	16	0
Total disagree	47	17	35	1
Russia's invasion of Ukraine				
Total Agree	77	5	17	1
Total disagree	50	16	33	1
Migration				
Total Agree	77	7	16	0
Total disagree	54	14	31	1
Brexit				
Total Agree	72	8	20	0
Total disagree	53	16	31	0
Likelihood to vote in the next European elections				
Likely	69	8	22	1
Neutral	39	18	43	0
Not likely	33	26	38	3

Importance of EU membership

Respondents were asked to rate the importance of the EU membership of their country on a 10-point scale where 1 meant "not at all important", and 10 meant "extremely important". Answers were then aggregated into three categories where ratings of 1 to 4 represent a total of "not important", those 5 to 6 a total of "neutral", and ratings of 7 to 10 form a total of "important". The survey results indicate that 65% of respondents (-2 pp, compared to September-October 2023) think that their country's membership of the EU is important, including 18% who think that this membership is "extremely important". This compares to 12% (+2 pp) who expressed the opinion that EU membership is not important for their country. Meanwhile, 22% (no change) of citizens adopt a neutral stance regarding the importance of EU membership for their country.

QA5

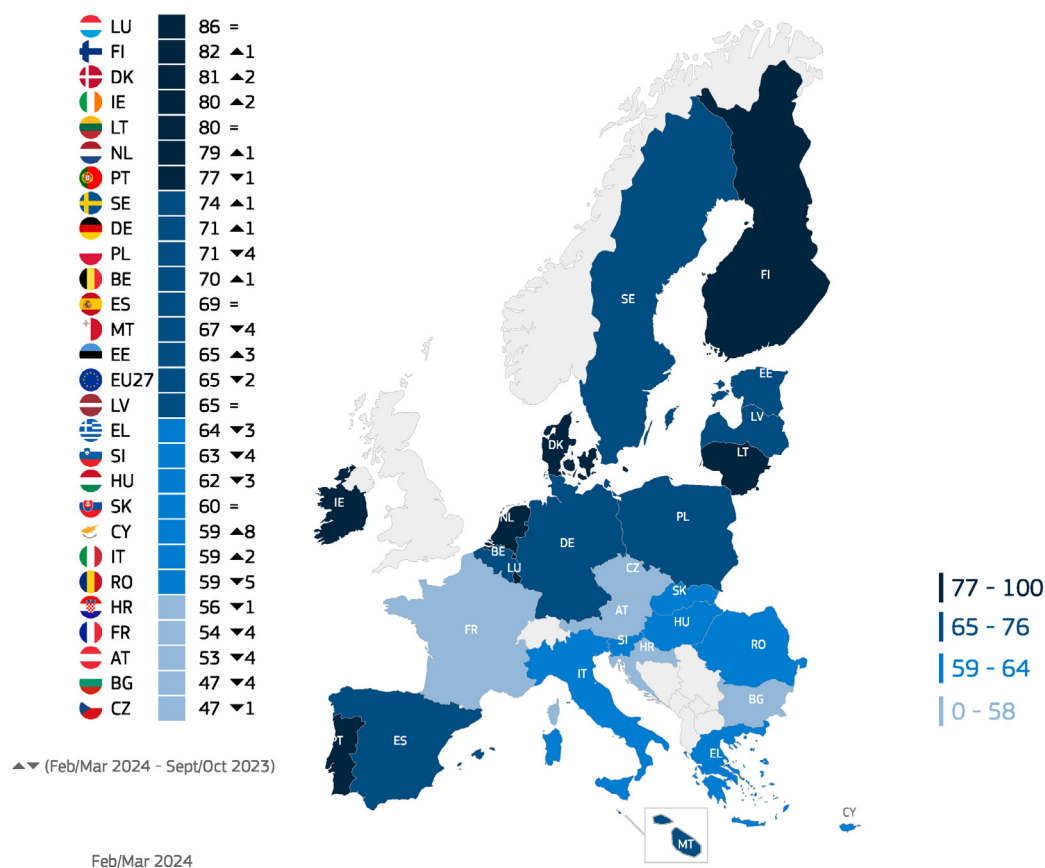
How important is it for you that (OUR COUNTRY) is a Member State of the European Union? Please use a scale from 1 to 10 where 1 means "not at all important" and 10 means "extremely important"? (EU27) (%)



In 24 of the Member States, a majority mention that the EU membership of their country is important. The proportions of those who back up this view peak in Luxembourg (86%), Finland (82%) and Denmark (81%). In the other 3 Member States, less than half maintain the same view – 47% consider their country's membership of the EU as important in Bulgaria, Czechia and Italy (however, in all three, the proportion still represents a relative majority compared to the other rating totals).

QA5

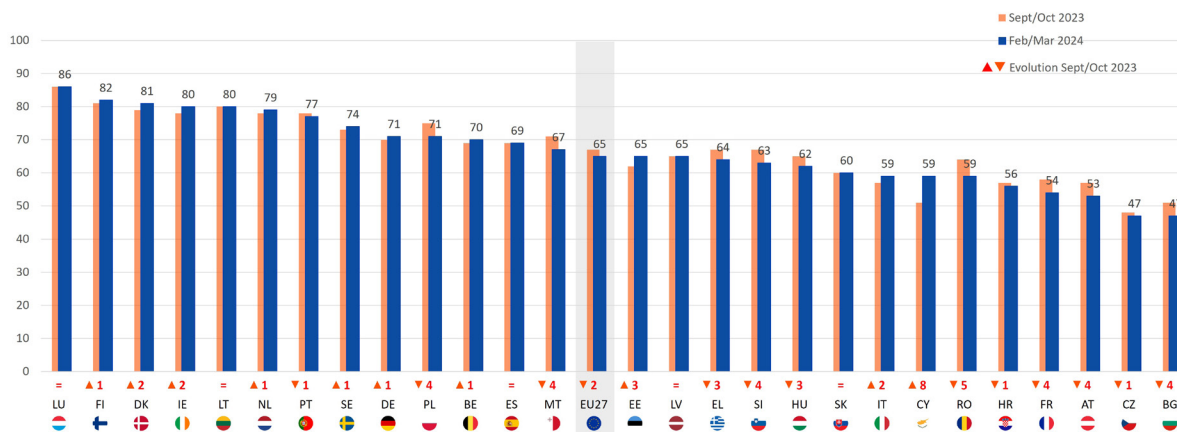
How important is it for you that (OUR COUNTRY) is a Member State of the European Union? Please use a scale from 1 to 10 where 1 means "not at all important" and 10 means "extremely important"? - Total 'Important' (7-10) (%)



In 18 Member States, the proportions of respondents who view EU membership as important have stayed relatively stable since September–October 2023. The share of respondents who hold this view has increased in Cyprus (59%, +8 pp) and Estonia (65%, +3 pp), while it has decreased marginally in nine countries, most prominently in Romania (59%, -5 pp).

QA5

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')



The socio-demographic analysis shows that the percentage of respondents who consider their country's membership in the EU important decreases with age, peaking at 73% among respondents aged 15-24 and reaching 62% among those aged 55 or older.

Around three-quarters (74%) of individuals who completed full-time education at the age of 20 or older believe that EU membership is important, compared with 56% of those who completed their education at age 15 or younger. Managers (78%) and students (74%) are more likely to consider EU membership to be important, especially when compared to the unemployed (50%). Individuals who rarely or never experience difficulty paying their bills are also more likely to consider EU membership important (71%) compared to those who have difficulties most of the time (50%).

Those who are likely to vote in the next European elections are more likely to believe that their country's EU membership is important (77%) as compared to those who are not likely to vote (32%).

There are notable differences between respondents who are satisfied with the EU's response to the COVID-19 pandemic and those who are not satisfied: while 81% of the former think that their country's membership in the EU is important, 50% of the latter hold the same opinion. In a similar vein, while 84% of respondents who are satisfied with the EU's approach to the economic and financial situation believe that their country's membership in the union is important, 55% of those who are dissatisfied also think EU membership is important.

QA5

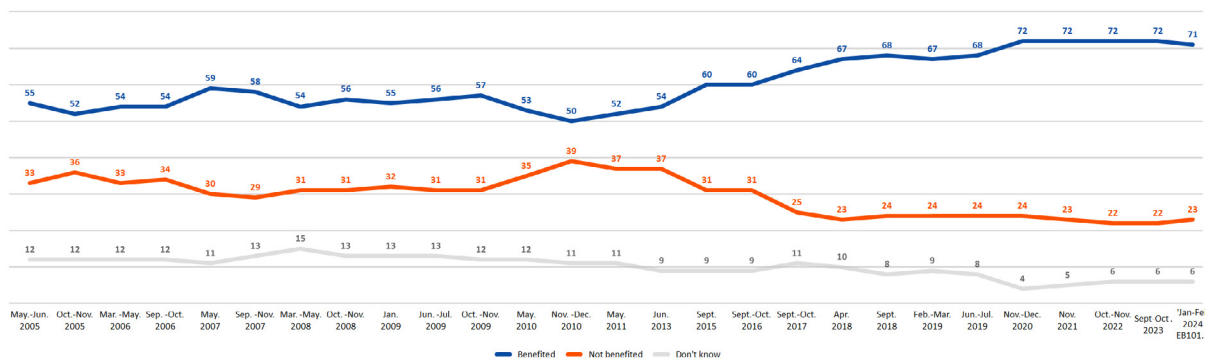
How important is it for you that (OUR COUNTRY) is a Member State of the European Union? Please use a scale from 1 to 10 where 1 means "not at all important" and 10 means "extremely important"? (% - EU)

	Total 'Not important' (1-4)	Total 'Neutral' (5-6)	Total 'Important' (7-10)	Don't know
EU27	12	22	65	1
Gender				
Man	13	20	66	1
Woman	11	23	65	1
Age				
15-24	5	20	73	2
25-39	11	22	66	1
40-54	13	21	65	1
55 +	15	22	62	1
Education (End of)				
15-	15	28	56	1
16-19	15	25	59	1
20+	10	16	74	0
Still studying	5	19	74	2
Socio-professional category				
Self-employed	16	21	62	1
Managers	7	15	78	0
Other white collars	10	19	71	0
Manual workers	14	26	59	1
House persons	14	28	56	2
Unemployed	22	26	50	2
Retired	15	22	62	1
Students	5	19	74	2
Difficulties paying bills				
Most of the time	21	26	50	3
From time to time	15	28	56	1
Almost never/ Never	10	19	71	0
The COVID-19 pandemic				
Total Agree	4	15	81	0
Total disagree	22	27	50	1
Climate change				
Total Agree	4	16	80	0
Total disagree	16	24	59	1
The economic and financial situation				
Total Agree	3	13	84	0
Total disagree	18	26	55	1
Russia's invasion of Ukraine				
Total Agree	4	15	81	0
Total disagree	17	26	56	1
Migration				
Total Agree	4	15	81	0
Total disagree	15	24	60	1
Brexit				
Total Agree	7	16	77	0
Total disagree	16	24	60	0
Likelihood to vote in the next European elections				
Likely	7	16	77	0
Neutral	14	44	41	1
Not likely	35	30	32	3

Perspectives on EU membership as beneficial or not

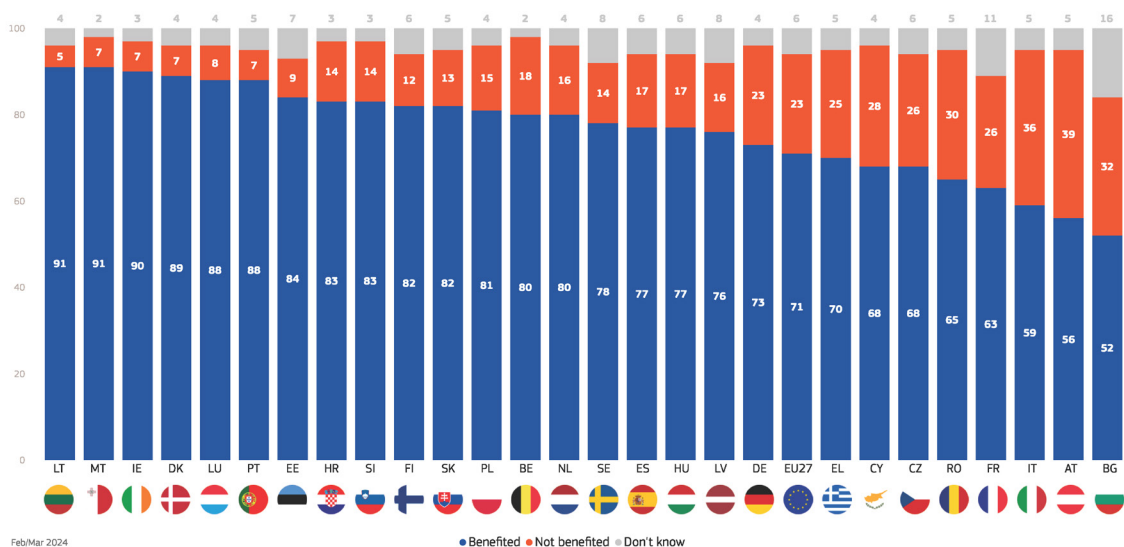
About seven in ten Europeans think that their country has benefited from being a member of the EU (71%, -1pp since September–October 2023). Conversely, just under one quarter (23%, +1 pp) state that their country did not benefit from EU membership.

QA6 Taking everything into account, would you say that (OUR COUNTRY) has on balance benefited or not from being a member of the EU? (% - EU)



Across all the Members States, more than half of respondents state that their country has benefited as a result of its membership in the EU. Proportions range from 91% in Lithuania and Malta, 90% in Ireland and 89% in Denmark to 52% in Bulgaria, 56% in Austria and 59% in Italy. These latter countries record the highest proportion of respondents who hold the opposite view – that EU membership did not benefit their country – reaching 39% in Austria, 36% in Italy and 32% in Bulgaria.

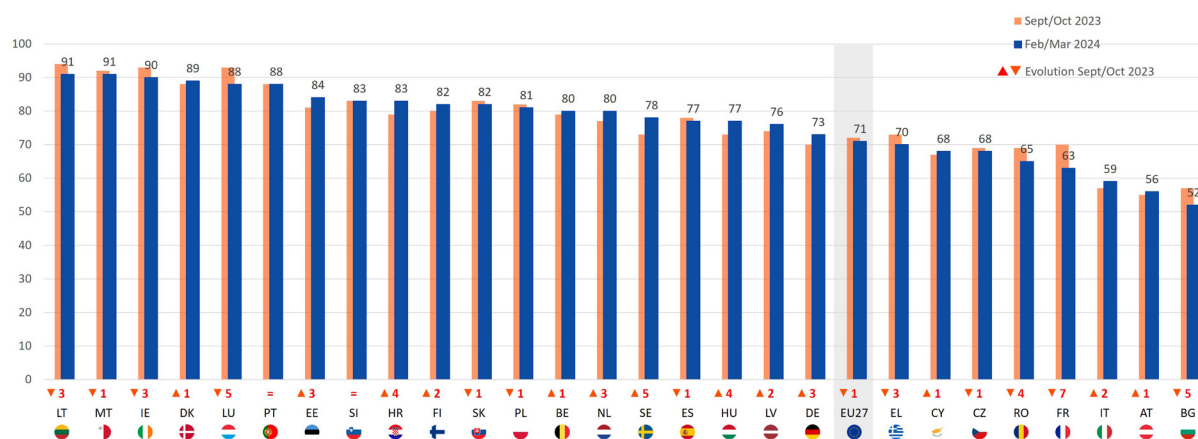
QA6 Taking everything into account, would you say that (OUR COUNTRY) has on balance benefited or not from being a member of the EU? (%)



In 16 Member States, the proportion of respondents who think that their country's EU membership is beneficial has stayed relatively stable since September-October 2023. The share of respondents holding this view has increased in Sweden (78%, +5 pp), Hungary (77%, +4 pp) and Croatia (83%, +4 pp), while decreasing in France (63%, -7 pp), Bulgaria (52%, -5 pp) and Luxembourg (88%, -5 pp).

QA6

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



From a socio-demographic perspective, the younger the age, the more likely the respondent to believe that their country has benefited from being a member of the EU: 80% of respondents aged 15-24 think that their country benefited from being a member of the union, compared to 67% of respondents aged 55 and over.

Respondents who left full-time education aged 20 or older are more likely to believe that their country benefited (79%), especially when compared with respondents who finished education by the age of 15 or younger (60%).

Among the socio-professional categories, students (83%) and managers (82%) are the two segments most likely to think that their country benefited from membership in the EU. On the other hand, the unemployed are the least likely to share this view, with 60% reporting that their country benefited from its EU membership.

Whether one has difficulty paying bills also plays a differentiating role: while 77% of respondents who rarely or never have difficulties paying bills think that their country benefited from its membership in the EU, 55% of respondents who encounter such difficulties most of the time also share the view.

Close to eight in ten (79%) respondents who indicated a high likelihood of voting in the next European elections consider that their country benefited from EU membership, while less than half (46%) of those who are not likely to vote hold the same opinion.

Finally, respondents who are satisfied with the way the EU handled major crises in the past are more likely to say that their country benefited from being a member of the union. The differences are particularly striking when comparing respondents who are satisfied with EU measures to contain the COVID-19 pandemic (85% vs. 58%) and the EU measures regarding the economic and financial situation (89% vs. 61%).

QA6

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

	Benefited	Not benefited	Don't know
EU27	71	23	6
Gender			
Man	71	24	5
Woman	71	22	7
Age			
15-24	80	13	7
25-39	74	21	5
40-54	71	24	5
55 +	67	26	7
Education (End of)			
15-	60	31	9
16-19	67	27	6
20+	79	17	4
Still studying	83	11	6
Socio-professional category			
Self-employed	69	25	6
Managers	82	15	3
Other white collars	77	20	3
Manual workers	68	26	6
House persons	64	29	7
Unemployed	60	32	8
Retired	66	26	8
Students	83	11	6
Difficulties paying bills			
Most of the time	55	36	9
From time to time	62	32	6
Almost never/ Never	77	17	6
The COVID-19 pandemic			
Total Agree	85	11	4
Total disagree	58	35	7
Climate change			
Total Agree	84	13	3
Total disagree	66	28	6
The economic and financial situation			
Total Agree	89	9	2
Total disagree	61	32	7
Russia's invasion of Ukraine			
Total Agree	86	11	3
Total disagree	64	30	6
Migration			
Total Agree	86	12	2
Total disagree	67	27	6
Brexit			
Total Agree	82	15	3
Total disagree	66	30	4
Likelihood to vote in the next European elections			
Likely	79	17	4
Neutral	58	34	8
Not likely	46	44	10

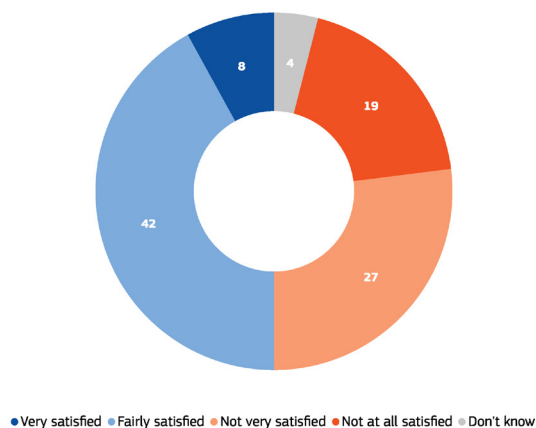
Opinion about the EU's response to major crises

Respondents were asked to indicate how satisfied or dissatisfied they were with how the EU handled crisis situations over the last few years. They were explicitly prompted for an opinion about how the EU addressed six major crises: the COVID-19 pandemic, Brexit, Russia's war of aggression on Ukraine, climate change, migration and the economic and financial situation.

Half of the respondents are generally satisfied with how the EU handled the **COVID-19 pandemic**, among which 42% are fairly satisfied and 8% are very satisfied with the measures undertaken at the EU level. Meanwhile, 27% reported to be not very satisfied with the response and 19% are not satisfied with it at all.

QA8.1

Over the past 15 years, Europe has experienced several major crises. How satisfied or not are you with the EU's response to each of the following ones? (EU27) (%)

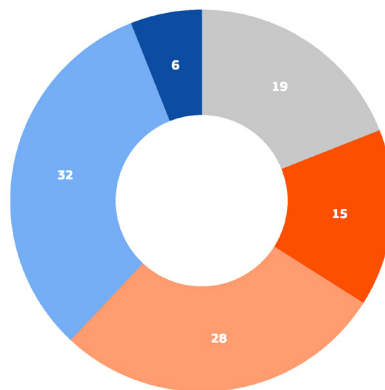


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In relation to **Brexit**, the public opinion landscape is the most divided: while 38% of respondents note a certain degree of contentment with how the situation was addressed at the EU level (including 6% who are very satisfied), the proportion of those who are not satisfied represents 43% (including 15% who are not satisfied with the EU's actions at all). Additionally, 19% of the respondents cannot assess how the situation was addressed and, hence, provide a "don't know" answer.

QA8.6

Over the past 15 years, Europe has experienced several major crises. How satisfied or not are you with the EU's response to each of the following ones? – Brexit (EU27) (%)



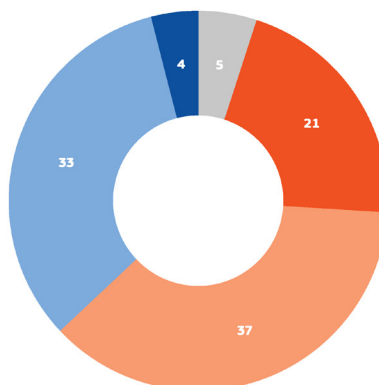
● Very satisfied ● Fairly satisfied ● Not very satisfied ● Not at all satisfied ● Don't know

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Asked about their stance regarding how the EU addressed **the economic and financial situation**, 37% of Europeans convey a certain degree of satisfaction with the implemented measures, including 4% who say they are very satisfied. On the contrary, 58% note that they are not satisfied with the response, including 21% who are not at all satisfied in this regard.

QA8.3

Over the past 15 years, Europe has experienced several major crises. How satisfied or not are you with the EU's response to each of the following ones? – The economic and financial situation (EU27) (%)



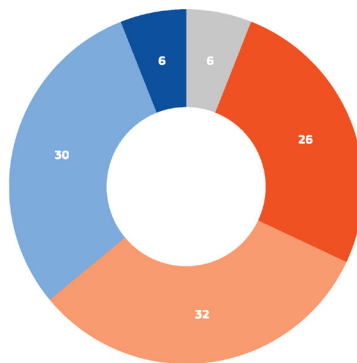
● Very satisfied ● Fairly satisfied ● Not very satisfied ● Not at all satisfied ● Don't know

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Regarding **Russia's invasion of Ukraine**, 36% of citizens noted that they are satisfied with the actions undertaken by the European Union. Among them, 6% indicate that they are very satisfied with the union's response. A majority express dissatisfaction with how the situation was addressed at the EU level, with 32% saying they are not very satisfied and 26% noting that they are not satisfied at all.

QA8.4

Over the past 15 years, Europe has experienced several major crises. How satisfied or not are you with the EU's response to each of the following ones? – Russia's invasion of Ukraine (EU27) (%)



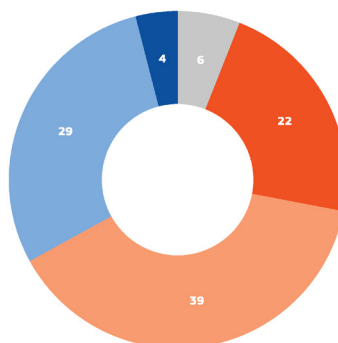
● Very satisfied ● Fairly satisfied ● Not very satisfied ● Not at all satisfied ● Don't know

Feb/Mar 2024

Respondents' opinions regarding the EU's actions to address **climate change** encompass one in three who are overall satisfied with the measures (33%, including 4% who are very satisfied) and about six in ten who are generally not satisfied (61%, including 22% who are not satisfied at all).

QA8.2

Over the past 15 years, Europe has experienced several major crises. How satisfied or not are you with the EU's response to each of the following ones? – Climate change (EU27) (%)



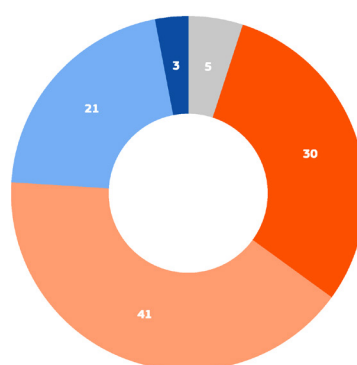
● Very satisfied ● Fairly satisfied ● Not very satisfied ● Not at all satisfied ● Don't know

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Finally, the lowest share of respondents who are satisfied with the EU's actions to manage crises pertain to the handling of **migration**. In this regard, just under a quarter of respondents express any degree of satisfaction with the actions (24%, including 3% who are very satisfied), while 71% express dissatisfaction (including 30% who are not satisfied at all).

QA8.5

Over the past 15 years, Europe has experienced several major crises. How satisfied or not are you with the EU's response to each of the following ones? – Migration (EU27) (%)

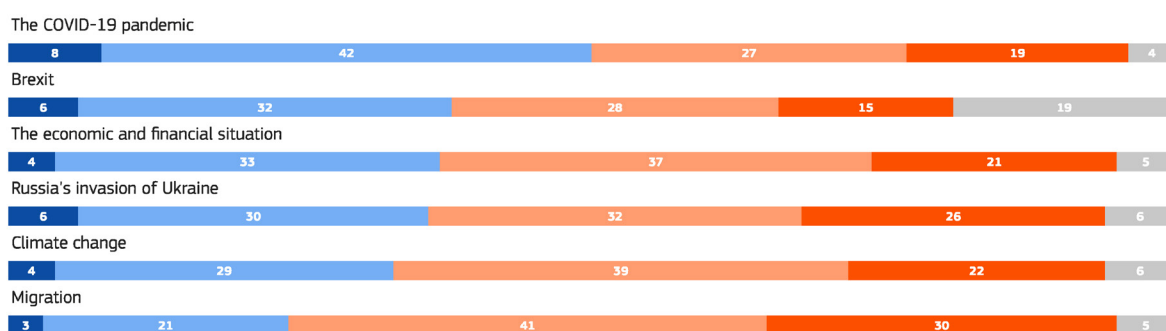


● Very satisfied ● Fairly satisfied ● Not very satisfied ● Not at all satisfied ● Don't know

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QA8

Over the past 15 years, Europe has experienced several major crises. How satisfied or not are you with the EU's response to each of the following ones? (EU27) (%)



● Very satisfied ● Fairly satisfied ● Not very satisfied ● Not at all satisfied ● Don't know

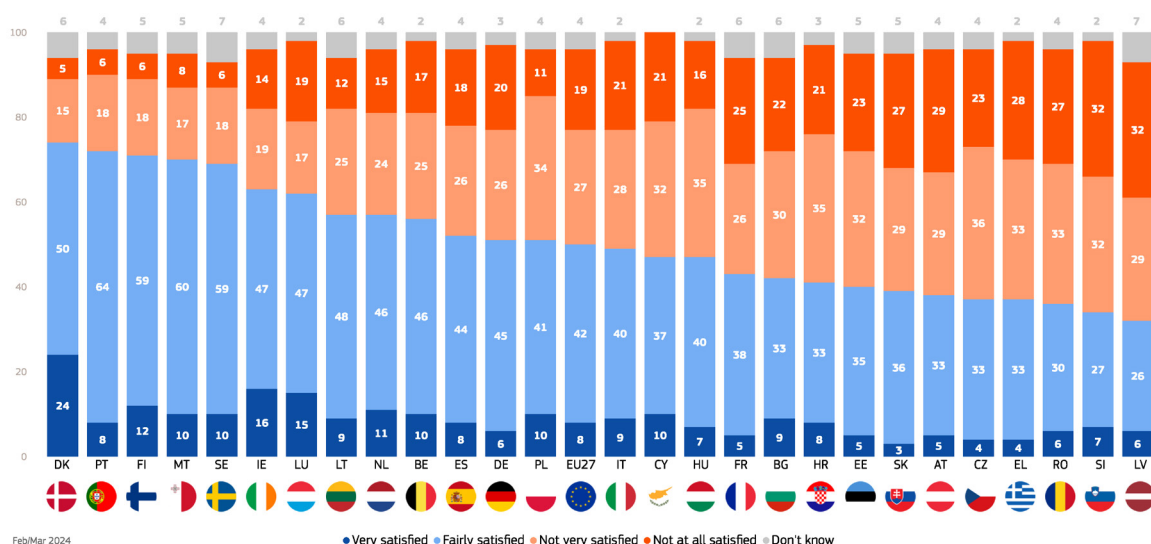
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In 13 Member States, the majority are satisfied with the EU's response to contain the **COVID-19 pandemic**. The view is particularly widespread in Denmark (74%), Portugal (72%) and Finland (71%). Conversely, in Latvia (32%), Slovenia (34%) and Romania (36%) less people express contentment with the actions.

In the remaining countries, levels of dissatisfaction with the EU's handling of the COVID-19 pandemic prevail. The proportions of respondents who are dissatisfied with the measures range from 64% in Slovenia to 20% in Denmark and 24% in Finland, Portugal and Sweden.

QA8.1

Over the past 15 years, Europe has experienced several major crises. How satisfied or not are you with the EU's response to each of the following ones? - The COVID-19 pandemic (%)

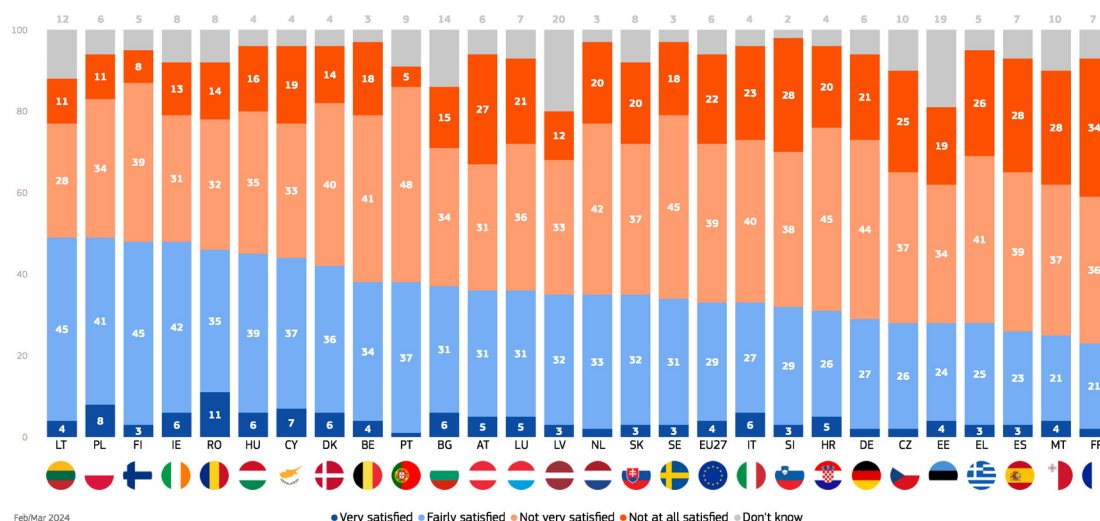


In 22 countries, the relative majority are not satisfied with the EU-level measures to combat **climate change**, with the highest proportions seen in France (70%), Greece and Spain (both 67%) as well as Slovenia (66%).

The four countries where a majority are satisfied are Lithuania and Poland (both 49%) as well as Ireland and Finland (both 48%). In Romania, opinions are split, with 46% being satisfied and an equal share being dissatisfied.

QA8.2

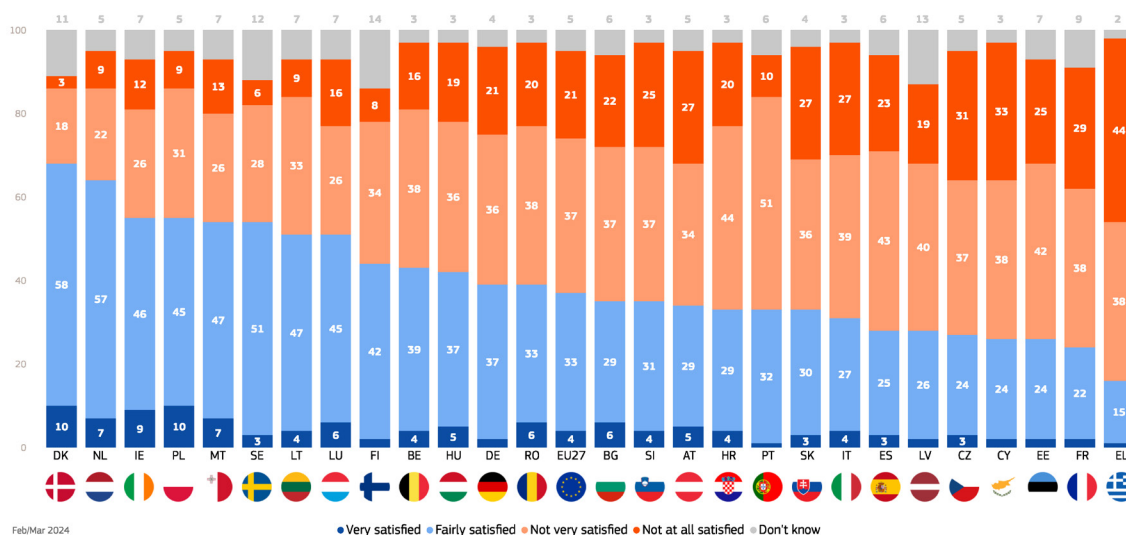
Over the past 15 years, Europe has experienced several major crises. How satisfied or not are you with the EU's response to each of the following ones? – Climate change (%)



Regarding the handling of the **economic and financial situation**, in 18 countries the relative majority are dissatisfied with the measures undertaken by the EU to address the situation. The sentiment is particularly strong in Greece (82%), Cyprus (71%) and Czechia (68%). Conversely, in nine of the Member States, public opinion converges on relatively higher levels of satisfaction with how the EU addresses the economic and financial situation. Across these countries, the proportions of those satisfied peak at 68% in Denmark, 64% in the Netherlands as well as 55% in both Ireland and Poland.

QA8.3

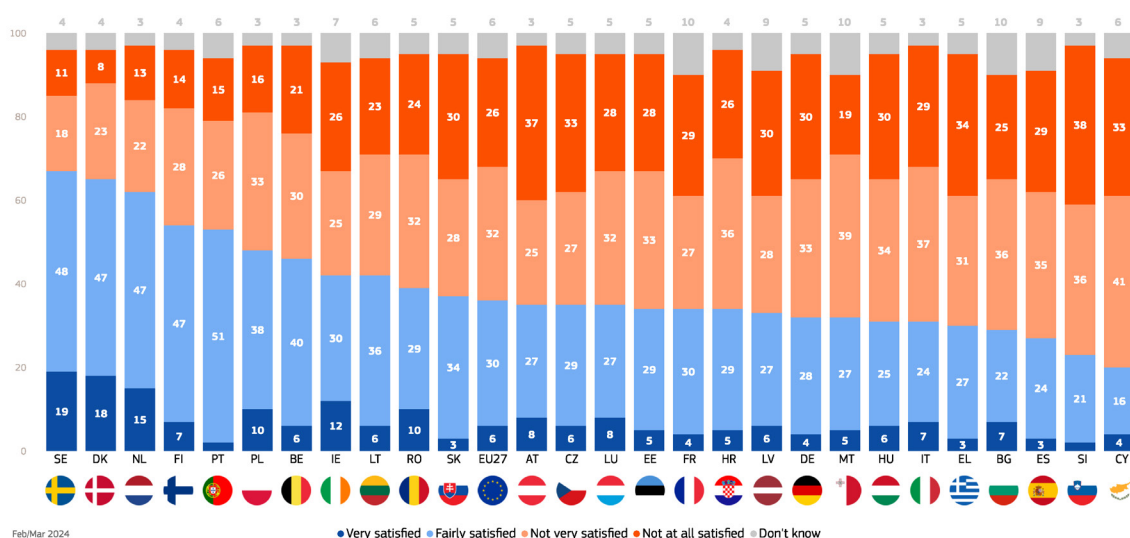
Over the past 15 years, Europe has experienced several major crises. How satisfied or not are you with the EU's response to each of the following ones? – The economic and financial situation (%)



Across 22 countries, the highest number of respondents manifest a degree of dissatisfaction with the EU's response to **Russia's invasion of Ukraine**. The proportions of those dissatisfied with the measures reach the highest levels in Cyprus and Slovenia (both 74%) as well as Italy (66%). Conversely, in 5 of the Member States, a relative majority are satisfied with how the EU responded to Russia's invasion of Ukraine: the shares are particularly high in Sweden (67%), Denmark (65%) and the Netherlands (62%).

QA8.4

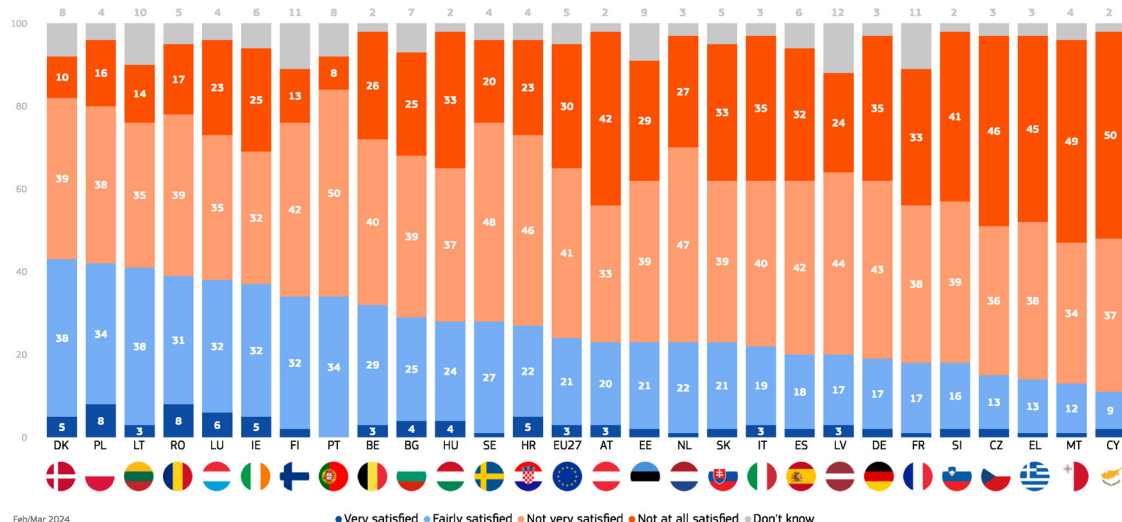
Over the past 15 years, Europe has experienced several major crises. How satisfied or not are you with the EU's response to each of the following ones? – Russia's invasion of Ukraine (%)



In all Member States, dissatisfaction levels regarding the EU's response to **migration** exceed the satisfaction levels. Dissatisfaction with the response is most widespread in Cyprus (87%), Greece and Malta (both 83%) while being less frequently encountered in Denmark, Lithuania (both 49%) and Poland (54%).

QA8.5

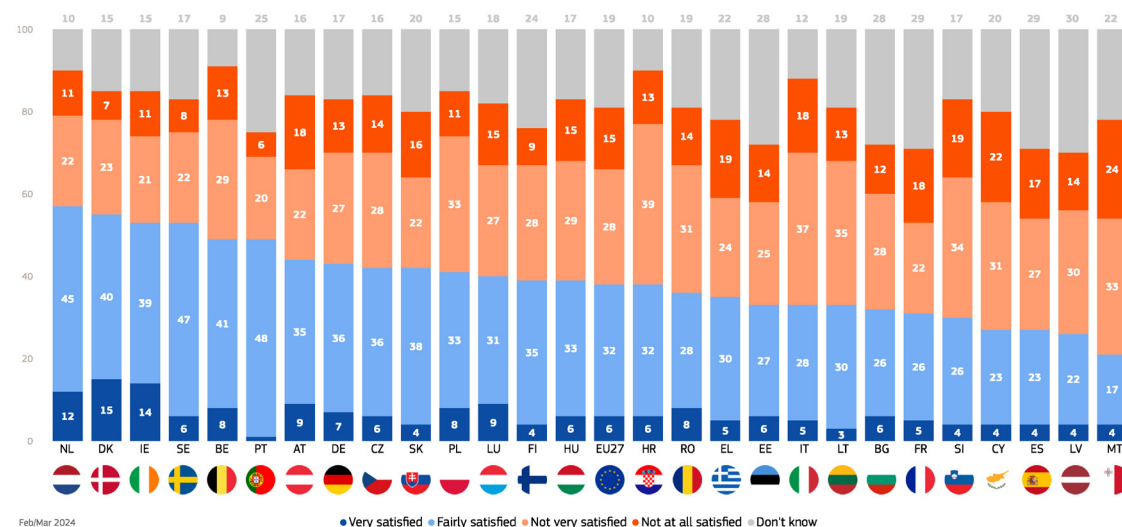
Over the past 15 years, Europe has experienced several major crises. How satisfied or not are you with the EU's response to each of the following ones? – Migration (%)



When it comes to the EU's handling of **Brexit**, opinions across the Member States vary. Dissatisfaction levels regarding how the situation was managed exceed satisfaction levels in 16 countries. This discontent ranges from 57% in Malta, 55% in Italy, and 53% in both Cyprus and Slovenia to 26% in Portugal and 30% in each Denmark and Sweden. Conversely, satisfaction with how Brexit was handled is more widespread in 10 countries. It reaches 57% in the Netherlands, 55% in Denmark and 53% in both Ireland and Sweden.

QA8.6

Over the past 15 years, Europe has experienced several major crises. How satisfied or not are you with the EU's response to each of the following ones? – Brexit (%)



In terms of socio-demographic analysis, the findings reveal that the younger respondents tend to be the most satisfied regarding the handling of the COVID-19 pandemic (54% vs 47%–48% of those aged 40+), climate change (38% vs 31%), the economic and financial situation (40% vs 35%), Russia's invasion of Ukraine (40% vs 34%) and migration (33% vs 21%). Meanwhile, those aged 25–39 are more satisfied with the EU's response to Brexit (42%) compared with those aged 55 and over (36%).

Respondents who completed their education at age 20 or older are more likely than respondents who completed their education earlier to say they are satisfied with the EU's response to all prompted situations: the COVID-19 pandemic (54% vs 46%), climate change (35% vs 29%), the economic and financial situation (45% vs 25%), Russia's invasion of Ukraine (45% vs. 27%), migration (27% vs 19%) and Brexit (46% vs. 30%).

Satisfaction with the EU's response to the COVID-19 pandemic is more prevalent among managers (57%) and students (56%), particularly when compared with unemployed respondents (40%).

Meanwhile, satisfaction with the response to climate change is highest among white-collar workers (37%) and students (36%), while it is lowest among the unemployed (29%).

Satisfaction levels with the EU's response to the economic and financial situation are the highest among managers (49%) and the lowest among the unemployed (27%).

When looking at data for satisfaction levels with the response to the Russian invasion of Ukraine, managers are the most satisfied (46%) while house persons are the least satisfied with the measures (30%).

Regarding the response to migration, students are the most satisfied with the EU's measures to address it (31%), while the retired are the least satisfied among the socio-professional groups (20%).

In terms of measures to implement Brexit, managers report the highest levels of satisfaction (47%), while housepersons report the lowest (32%).

When it comes to difficulties paying bills, respondents who never experience such difficulties are more likely than those who encounter such challenges most of the time to be satisfied with the EU's response to the following: the COVID-19 pandemic (54% vs 36%), climate change (35% vs 24%), the economic and financial situation (42% vs 15%), Russia's invasion of Ukraine (41% vs 26%), migration (26% vs 16%) and Brexit (41% vs 27%).

QA8

Over the past 15 years, Europe has experienced several major crises. How satisfied or not are you with the EU's response to each of the following ones? Total 'Satisfied' (% - EU)

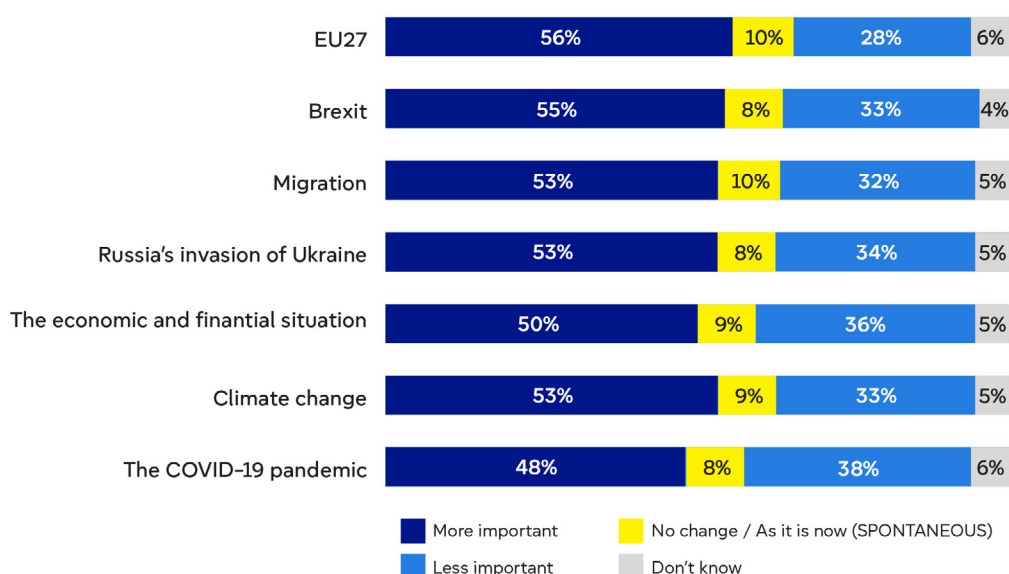
	The Covid pandemic	Climate change	The economic and financial situation	Russia's invasion of Ukraine	Migration	Brexit
EU27	50	33	37	36	24	38
Gender						
Man	50	34	38	38	24	41
Woman	49	32	35	36	24	36
Age						
15-24	54	38	40	40	33	38
25-39	51	36	39	39	28	42
40-54	47	32	35	37	23	38
55 +	48	31	35	34	21	36
Education (End of)						
15-	46	29	25	27	19	30
16-19	46	32	33	33	22	36
20+	54	35	45	45	27	46
Still studying	56	36	42	43	31	40
Socio-professional category						
Self- employed	46	32	38	38	24	44
Managers	57	35	49	46	28	47
Other white collars	52	37	41	39	27	44
Manual workers	45	31	30	33	23	35
House persons	47	32	31	30	22	32
Unemployed	40	29	27	32	23	33
Retired	48	31	35	34	20	35
Students	56	36	42	43	31	40
Difficulties paying bills						
Most of the time	36	24	15	26	16	27
From time to time	43	30	29	32	23	36
Almost never/ Never	54	35	42	41	26	41

The following chart shows the results for respondents who say they are not satisfied with the EU's response to the different crises experienced in the past years. When crossing these results with opinion about the role that the EP should have, we see that 'a more important role for the EP' is the majority answer given by those unsatisfied respondents. These results indicate that EU citizens, whether satisfied or not, wish to see the EP play a more important role.

QA8/QA2

Over the past 15 years, Europe has experienced several major crises. How satisfied or not are you with the EU's response to each of the following ones? (% - total not satisfied)

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





EU IN THE WORLD
AND FUTURE
PERSPECTIVES

6. EU IN THE WORLD AND FUTURE PERSPECTIVES

The last chapter takes a closer look at opinions about the EU within the current global context. It starts by probing views about the evolution of the EU's role in the world and identifies areas the EU should focus on to reinforce its position. It then examines respondents' attitudes towards several non-EU countries.

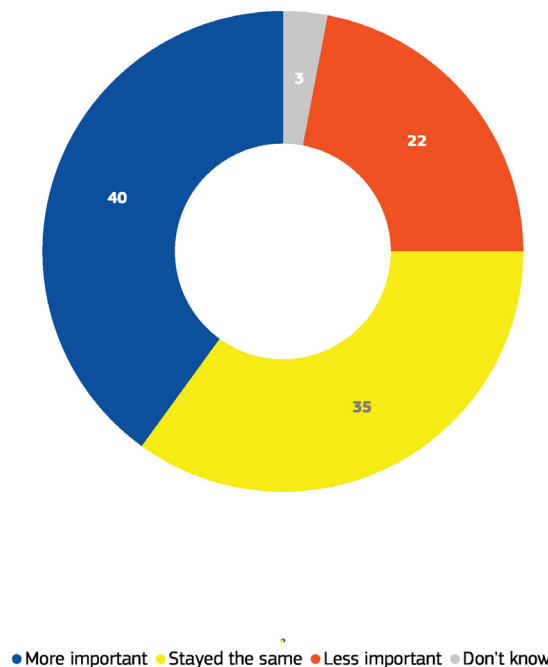
Results indicate that the public perceives a strengthening of the EU's role in the world over the last five years. To further consolidate its position as a global actor, citizens believe that the union should focus as a matter of priority on defence and security, energy issues, energy independence, resources and infrastructure, as well as food security and agriculture.

The role of the EU in the world

A relative majority of citizens (40%) believe that over the past years, the role of the EU in the world has become more important. Comparatively, 35% think that its role in the world has remained stable, while 22% consider that it has become less important.

QA9

Would you say that over the past years the role of the European Union in the world has become...? (EU27) (%)



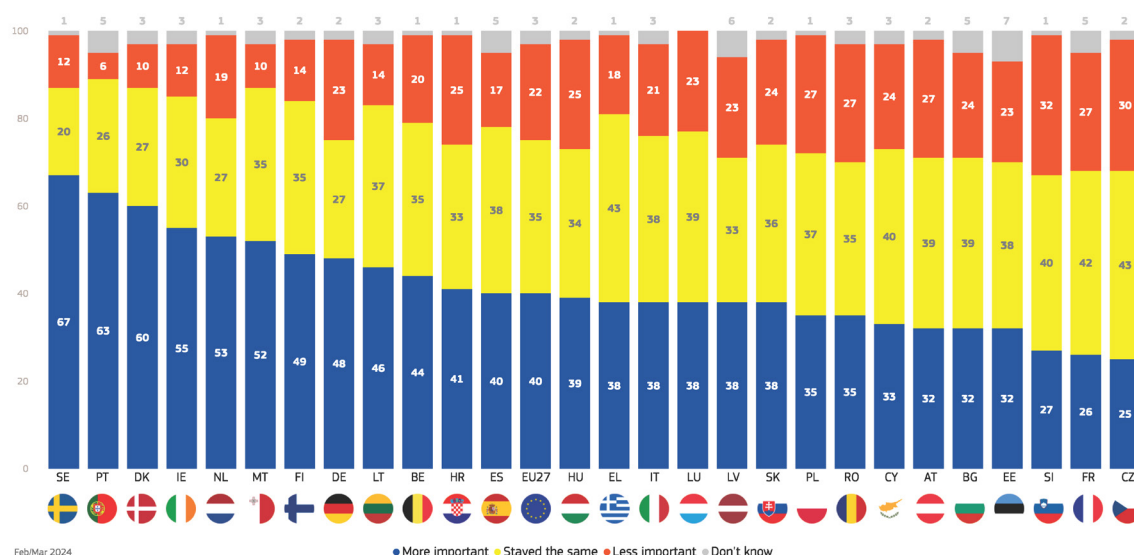
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In 15 countries, majorities believe that the role of the EU in the world has become more important over the years, with proportions reaching 67% in Sweden, 63% in Portugal and 60% in Denmark. In ten countries, relatively more think that the EU's role across the world has stayed the same, with the highest shares recorded in Czechia and Greece (both 43%) as well as France (42%).

When looking at the prevalence of the opinion that the role of the EU has rather become less important, there are two Member States where more than three in ten hold the opinion – Slovenia (32%) and Czechia (30%).

QA9

Would you say that over the past years the role of the European Union in the world has become...? (%)



In terms of socio-demographic differences, the analysis reveals patterns of response specific to certain respondent segments.

The differences among the age groups are not very pronounced; however, the youngest respondents are the most likely to indicate that the EU's role in the world has become more important (46%, compared to 39% – 40% among the other groups) and the least likely to state that its role has become less important (17%, compared to 21% – 24% among the other groups).

Among respondents with different levels of education, the data reveals that respondents who finished education aged 20 or older are the most likely to believe that the EU's role has become more important (43%, compared to 37% among the other segments) while respondents who completed full-time education by the age of 15 or younger are the most likely to say that the EU's role in the world stayed the same (39%, compared to 32% of those who graduated aged 20 or older).

In terms of differences among socio-professional categories, the analysis indicates that students (48%), managers (45%), and other white-collar workers (44%) are the most likely to believe that the EU's role in the world has become more important. The view is least common among the unemployed (31% hold the same view), who are more likely to believe that the role of the EU has stayed the same (43%, compared with 32% – 36% among the other segments).

The analysis reveals small differences between respondents with varying socio-economic situations. Those who rarely or never encounter difficulties paying bills are the most likely to believe that the EU's role in the world has become more important (43%, compared to 35% – 37% among the other categories).

An assessment of patterns of response across attitudinal segments reveals that respondents who conjure up a positive image of the EU are much more likely than those who conjure up a negative image to think that the union's role in the world has become more important (58% vs 19%).

Those who follow EU politics are more likely to believe that the role of the EU has become more important compared to those who do not follow such news (47% vs 30%). The latter are more likely to believe that the role of the EU in the world has rather stayed the same (41% vs 31%).

Finally, respondents who are more likely to note that they will vote in the upcoming European elections mention in a higher proportion that the EU's role in the world has become increasingly important compared to those who indicate that they are not likely to vote in the 2024 European elections (46% vs 23%). These latter respondents are somewhat more likely than the former to indicate that the role of the EU has become less important (29% vs 19%).

QA9

Would you say that over the past years the role of the European Union in the world has become...? (% - EU)

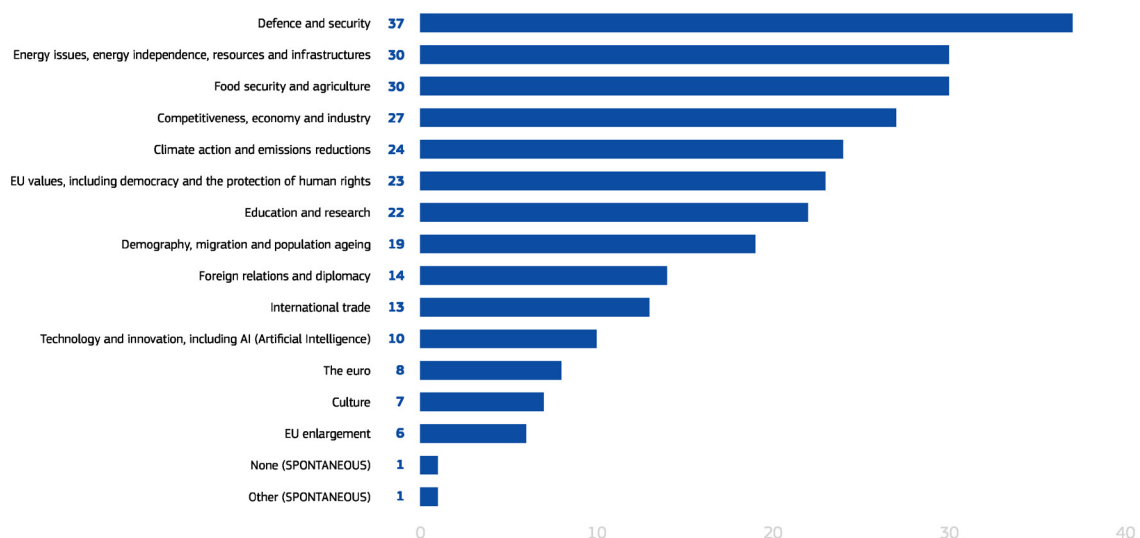
	More important	Less important	Stayed the same	Don't know
EU27	40	22	35	3
Gender				
Man	39	24	35	2
Woman	41	20	35	4
Age				
15-24	46	17	34	3
25-39	39	24	35	2
40-54	39	24	35	2
55 +	40	21	35	4
Education (End of)				
15-	37	16	39	8
16-19	37	24	36	3
20+	43	23	32	2
Still studying	48	16	33	3
Socio-professional category				
Self- employed	38	26	34	2
Managers	45	22	32	1
Other white collars	44	21	34	1
Manual workers	36	25	36	3
House persons	35	24	35	6
Unemployed	31	22	43	4
Retired	40	21	35	4
Students	48	16	33	3
Difficulties paying bills				
Most of the time	37	25	33	5
From time to time	35	26	35	4
Almost never/ Never	43	20	35	2
Image of the EU				
Positive	58	13	28	1
Neutral	28	25	43	4
Negative	19	41	36	4
Follow European politics				
Follow	47	21	31	1
Not follow	30	23	41	6
Likelihood to vote in the next European elections				
Likely	46	19	33	2
Neutral	25	33	39	3
Not likely	23	29	40	8

Areas the EU should focus on to reinforce its position in the world

The respondents were asked to select which of a list of focus areas the EU should prioritise to reinforce its position in the world. Several of the areas stood out as the most critical for Europeans, particularly **defence and security**, which was underscored by 37% of respondents, as well as **energy issues, energy independence, resources and infrastructure** and **food security and agriculture** (both 30%). Other priority areas for the EU to focus on to reinforce its position in the world were **competitiveness, economy and industry** (27%) and **climate action and emissions reductions** (24%).

QA11ab

Thinking about the future, which of the following aspects should the EU focus on in order to reinforce its position in the world? Firstly? And Then? (EU27) (%)

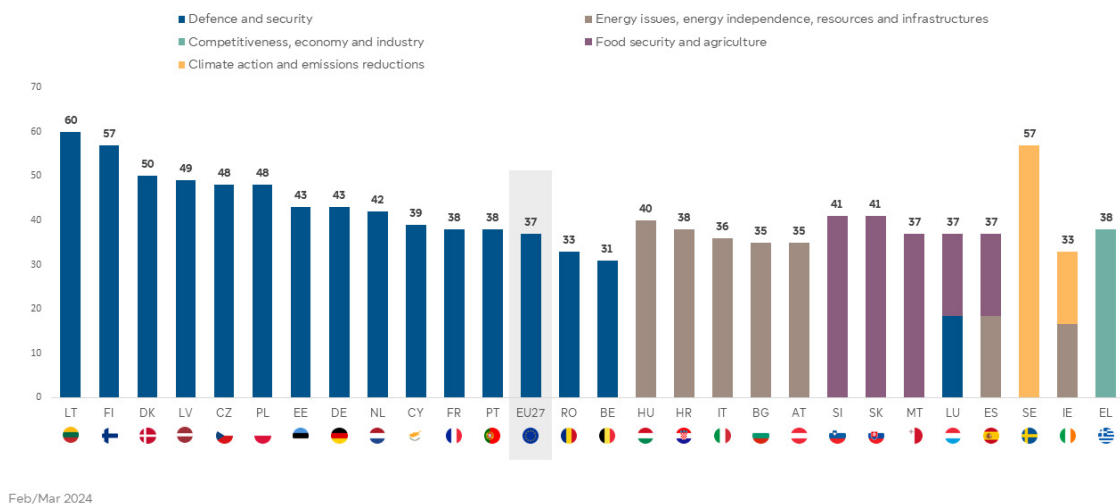


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In 15 countries, the majority of respondents answered that the EU should prioritise 'defence and security' as a focus area to reinforce its position in the world. In six other countries, the highest shares suggested that the EU should focus on 'energy issues, energy independence, resources and infrastructure'. In five more countries, the main priority is considered 'food security and agriculture'. However, 'climate action and emissions reduction' comes in first place in Sweden (57%) and Ireland (33%), while 'education and research' tops the list in Spain (37%).

QA11ab

Thinking about the future, which of the following aspects should the EU focus on in order to reinforce its position in the world? Firstly? And Then? (%)



In 22 countries, '**defence and security**' is one of the three most often mentioned focus areas that respondents believe the EU should prioritise to reinforce its position in the world. Lithuania (60%), Finland (57%), and Denmark (50%) have the highest number of respondents indicating this area as a priority. In contrast, Spain (20%), Ireland (26%), and Austria (27%) have the lowest proportion of respondents mentioning it.

In 21 countries, '**Energy issues, energy independence, resources and infrastructure**' is one of the top three areas for the EU to focus on to strengthen its position globally. The proportions who name this as a focus area peak in Czechia (44%), Hungary and Sweden (40%), as well as Croatia (38%) but go as low as 18% in Spain, 19% in Cyprus and 22% in Portugal.

'**Food security and agriculture**' is the most commonly referred to area for the EU to prioritise in 16 countries. The proportions range across the union from 41% in Slovenia and Slovakia, 37% in France, Spain, and Malta, to 13% in Denmark and 20% in Germany.





























In 15 countries, "**competitiveness, economy and industry**" is among the top three areas that needs to be prioritised by the EU. The percentages who think so vary across countries, with the highest shares observed in Czechia (40%), Greece (38%), as well as Croatia, Hungary and Italy (all 33%) and the lowest shares in Denmark, Luxembourg and Malta (all 17%).

In nine countries, '**climate action and emissions reductions**' emerges as one of the top three priorities for the EU to consolidate its position in the world. The highest proportions of respondents who mention this area are recorded in Sweden (57%), Denmark (49%), and the Netherlands (37%). In contrast, the lowest proportions are in Latvia (6%), Estonia (8%), Bulgaria, and Czechia (both 10%).

A number of focus areas are less frequently invoked as a priority across the EU as a whole, but they are pointed at by a relatively high proportion of respondents in several Member States. For instance, 'EU values, including democracy and the protection of human rights' is the second most important issue in Sweden (50%), the Netherlands (37%) and Luxembourg (29%). Meanwhile, 'education and research' comes in first place among those in Spain, with 37% citing this area as a priority for the EU to strengthen its position in the world.

QA11ab

Thinking about the future, which of the following aspects should the EU focus on in order to reinforce its position in the world? Firstly? And Then? (%)

	EU27	AT	BE	BG	CY	CZ	DE	DK	EE	EL	ES	FI	FR	HR	HU	IE	IT	LT	LU	LV	MT	NL	PL	PT	RO	SE	SI	SK
																												
Defence and security	37	27	31	31	39	48	43	50	43	30	20	57	38	28	34	26	33	60	33	49	29	42	48	38	33	30	29	31
Energy issues, energy independence, resources and infrastructures	30	35	27	35	19	44	32	32	37	35	18	33	25	38	40	33	36	36	29	31	29	32	25	22	28	40	32	28
Food security and agriculture	30	30	30	29	32	23	20	13	26	36	37	25	37	33	31	29	27	25	33	23	37	23	36	36	31	22	41	41
Competitiveness, economy and industry	27	26	24	32	23	40	29	17	30	38	26	29	20	33	33	19	33	27	17	27	17	21	24	32	29	18	30	30
Climate action and emissions reductions	24	24	27	10	13	10	20	49	8	19	27	28	33	18	23	33	22	12	22	6	32	37	14	24	12	57	19	14
EU values, including democracy and the protection of human rights	23	21	20	23	25	20	29	30	16	20	21	28	19	26	20	24	17	15	29	15	29	37	15	29	23	50	19	20
Education and research	22	22	20	13	28	16	21	18	21	26	37	16	29	14	15	23	18	18	22	21	25	18	11	26	23	16	12	20
Demography, migration and population ageing	19	23	19	32	27	15	20	12	14	30	21	18	15	30	21	16	19	14	15	22	24	22	19	18	21	13	20	18
Foreign relations and diplomacy	14	16	12	20	11	14	16	18	21	13	7	19	12	14	14	13	15	29	19	21	12	13	18	7	19	18	14	17
International trade	13	14	16	13	14	13	15	12	13	12	13	8	7	13	13	17	13	8	8	13	11	9	17	9	15	10	12	17
Technology and innovation, including AI (Artificial Intelligence)	10	14	11	8	14	13	10	14	11	11	10	12	7	15	12	11	14	11	9	11	10	17	9	9	11	10	14	8
The euro	8	15	14	7	9	4	7	1	6	7	7	4	9	7	9	10	11	3	10	4	6	5	3	7	10	2	10	15
Culture	7	8	7	5	12	3	4	5	8	10	10	1	9	4	7	8	10	5	8	6	5	2	5	8	8	2	6	5
EU enlargement	6	9	6	6	3	5	6	7	5	4	4	2	2	8	8	7	7	8	5	6	5	3	10	5	11	1	5	8
None (SPONTANEOUS)	1	0	0	2	1	2	1	1	1	1	1	0	1	0	0	0	1	1	1	1	0	1	0	0	1	1	1	1
Other (SPONTANEOUS)	1	1	0	0	2	0	1	0	2	1	1	0	1	0	0	1	1	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
Don't know	1	1	0	3	1	1	1	2	2	1	2	0	2	1	1	2	1	1	1	3	0	0	2	2	2	0	1	2

1st Most Frequently Mentioned Item
2nd Most Frequently Mentioned Item
3rd Most Frequently Mentioned Item

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When looking at socio-demographic data, the analysis reveals differences among segments in their preferred focus areas for the EU to solidify its global position in.

It shows that men are more likely than women to consider, **public health** (37% vs 31%), **competitiveness, economy and industry** (30% vs 25%) and **technology and innovation**, including AI (13% vs 8%) while women prioritise **food security and agriculture** (32% vs 27%) as well as **climate action and emissions reductions** (27% vs 21%).

Older respondents are more likely to indicate that **defence and security** (41% of those aged 55+ vs 30% of those aged 15-24), food security and agriculture (34% vs 23%) and competitiveness, economy and industry (31%-27% among those 40+ vs 22%) should be areas of priority for the EU to reinforce its position in the world. The youngest are more likely to say that **education and research** (32% vs 18% among those 55+), climate action and emissions reductions (29% vs 22%-23 among those 40+), as well as technology and innovation, including AI (18% vs 7% among those aged 55 and over) should rather be the areas of focus for the EU.

Differences can also be observed by age when one completed education. Respondents who spent more time in full-time education are more likely to mention **energy issues, energy independence, resources and infrastructure** (33% of those who finished education aged 20 or older vs 24% of those who finished aged 15 or younger), climate action and emissions reductions (29% vs 21%) and technology and innovation, including AI (12% vs 5). By contrast, respondents who left full-time education aged 15 or younger are more inclined to consider food security and agriculture (40% vs 25% of those who finished education aged 20 or older) as areas the EU should focus on.

The less often respondents have difficulties paying their bills, the more likely they are to think the EU should focus on energy issues, energy independence resources and infrastructure (31% of those who rarely or never have difficulties vs 27% of those who have difficulties most of the time), climate action and emissions reductions (26% vs 18%) and technology and innovation, including AI (11% vs 7). Conversely, food security and agriculture emerges as an area of focus that is relevant among those who have difficulties paying bills most of the time (38% vs 28% of those who rarely or never do).

Respondents who indicate that they are likely to vote in the upcoming European elections are more inclined to point at the following areas for the EU to focus on in order to consolidate its position in the world, compared to respondents who are not likely to vote: energy issues, energy independence, resources and infrastructures (31% vs 25%), climate action and emissions reductions (26% vs 19%), and EU values, including democracy and the protection of human rights (24% vs 19%). In reverse, those who are not likely to vote are citing more often than those who are likely to vote in the European elections food security and agriculture (34% vs 29%).

QA11ab

Thinking about the future, which of the following aspects should the EU focus on in order to reinforce its position in the world? Firstly? And Then? (% - EU)

	Defence and security	Energy issues, energy independence, resources and infrastructures	Food security and agriculture	Competitiveness, economy and industry	Climate action and emissions reductions	EU values, including democracy and the protection of human rights	Education and research	Demography, migration and population ageing	Foreign relations and diplomacy	International trade	Technology and innovation, including AI (Artificial Intelligence)
EU27	37	30	30	27	24	23	22	19	14	13	10
Gender											
Man	38	31	27	30	21	21	21	19	15	14	13
Woman	36	28	32	25	27	25	23	19	14	12	8
Age											
15-24	30	26	23	22	29	24	32	16	15	13	18
25-39	33	31	26	27	25	23	24	20	15	13	13
40-54	36	31	29	31	22	23	22	19	15	14	10
55 +	41	30	34	27	23	22	18	20	13	12	7
Education (End of)											
15-	35	24	40	26	21	21	20	21	10	13	5
16-19	40	30	32	29	19	21	20	19	15	13	9
20+	36	33	25	27	29	25	23	20	16	12	12
Still studying	27	25	20	21	35	26	31	16	15	13	18
Socio-professional category											
Self- employed	34	35	28	32	20	19	21	20	14	15	14
Managers	35	35	23	30	30	24	22	17	17	13	13
Other white collars	35	33	28	28	25	23	22	20	17	14	12
Manual workers	37	29	32	30	20	22	23	20	13	13	9
House persons	33	27	34	28	20	19	23	19	11	12	8
Unemployed	32	21	34	26	21	23	25	17	11	13	7
Retired	43	28	34	24	22	23	18	20	14	11	6
Students	27	25	20	21	35	26	31	16	15	13	18
Difficulties paying bills											
Most of the time	37	27	38	28	18	22	18	20	12	13	7
From time to time	35	28	31	28	21	22	21	21	14	13	10
Almost never/ Never	37	31	28	27	26	23	23	18	15	12	11
Likelihood to vote in the next European elections											
Likely	37	31	29	28	26	24	22	19	15	13	11
Neutral	35	27	31	26	21	20	19	20	14	14	10
Not likely	34	25	34	26	19	19	22	18	11	12	8

QA11ab

Thinking about the future, which of the following aspects should the EU focus on in order to reinforce its position in the world? Firstly? And Then? (% - EU)

	The Euro	Culture	EU enlargement	Other	None	Don't know
EU27	8	7	6	1	1	1
Gender						
Man	8	7	6	1	1	1
Woman	8	7	5	1	1	2
Age						
15-24	10	9	5	0	1	1
25-39	8	8	6	1	1	1
40-54	7	7	6	1	1	1
55 +	7	6	6	1	1	2
Education (End of)						
15-	9	8	4	1	1	4
16-19	8	7	7	1	1	1
20+	6	7	5	0	1	0
Still studying	9	9	5	1	0	1
Socio-professional category						
Self- employed	8	8	5	1	2	0
Managers	6	6	5	1	1	0
Other white collars	6	7	7	1	1	0
Manual workers	9	7	6	1	1	1
House persons	10	8	7	1	1	3
Unemployed	10	10	5	1	2	2
Retired	8	6	5	1	1	3
Students	9	9	5	1	0	1
Difficulties paying bills						
Most of the time	11	8	4	1	2	2
From time to time	10	9	7	1	1	2
Almost never/ Never	7	6	5	1	1	1
Likelihood to vote in the next European elections						
Likely	7	6	6	1	1	1
Neutral	12	10	6	0	1	2
Not likely	9	8	3	2	3	4

Opinion about major non-EU countries

Attitudes toward a number of countries were measured by asking respondents whether they have a positive or negative opinion about each. Results are presented in a historical perspective, analysing estimates compared to the last time the question was asked back in Spring 2022, immediately after the Russian invasion to Ukraine.

The opinion landscape is the most divided across the EU regarding attitudes toward the USA: while 48% of respondents note that they have a positive opinion about this country, 47% hold the opposite view and mention a negative opinion. In comparison to the period between April and May 2022, there has been a 10 pp decrease in respondents holding a positive opinion about the US in the spring of 2024.

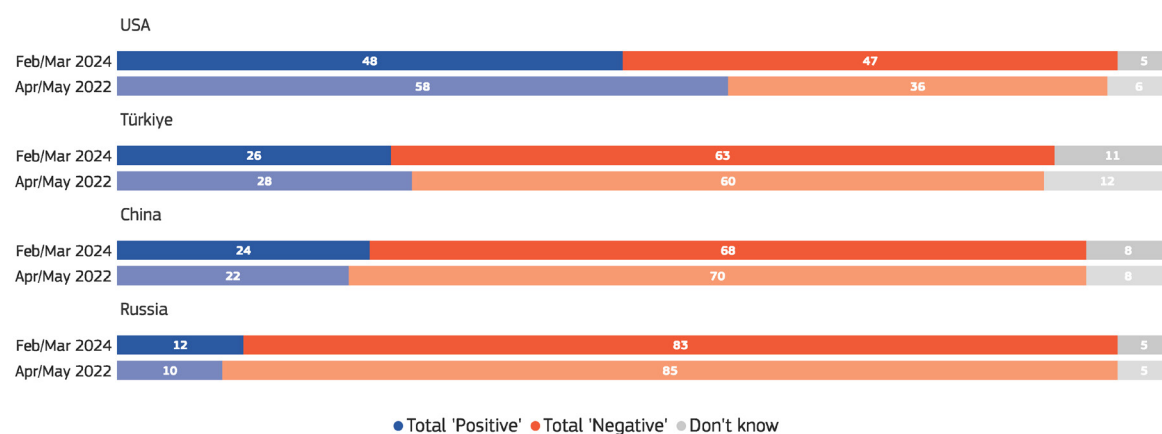
When asked about Türkiye, 26% hold a positive opinion (-2 pp, since April–May 2022) while 63% (+3 pp) say they rather have a negative view of this country.

Regarding China, 24% (+2 pp) of respondents regard the country positively, in contrast to 68% (-2 pp) who view it negatively.

The lowest proportions across the EU view Russia in a positive light, with 12% holding a positive opinion (+2 pp), while a majority of 83% (-2 pp) holding a negative view of the country.

QA10

In regard to each of the following countries, do you have a positive or a negative view about it? (EU27) (%)

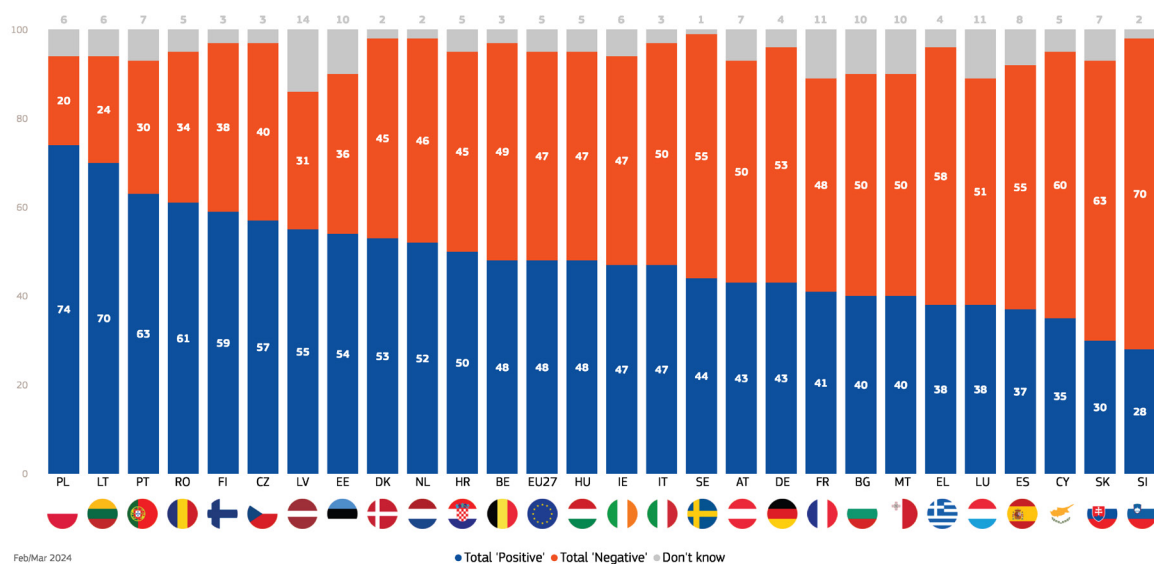


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In 12 Member States, a majority of respondents hold a positive view regarding the **USA**, including 10 Member States where more than half have a positive opinion about this country. The Member States where the highest proportion of respondents have a positive view are Poland (74%), Lithuania (70%) and Portugal (63%), while those with the lowest proportions are Slovenia (28%), Slovakia (30%) and Cyprus (35%). The countries where a majority have a negative view are Slovenia (70%), Slovakia (63%) and Cyprus (60%) as well.

QA10.3

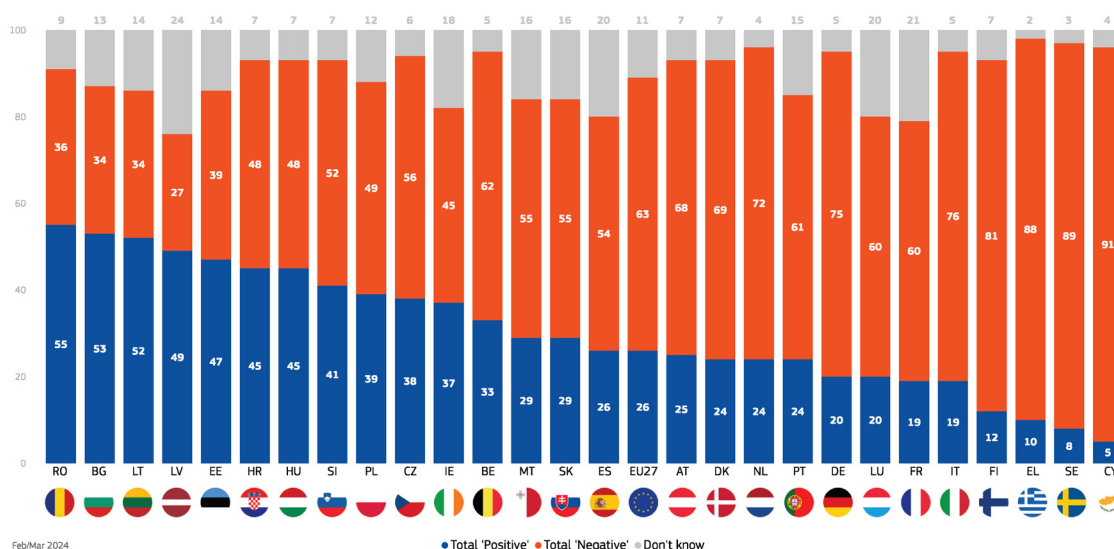
In regard to each of the following countries, do you have a positive or a negative view about it? – USA (%)



Regarding **Türkiye**, negative opinions prevail positive ones in 22 Member States. The proportions range from 91% in Cyprus, 89% in Sweden and 88% in Greece to 27% in Latvia, 34% in Lithuania and Bulgaria. There are five countries where majorities have a positive attitude towards Türkiye with the highest shares observed in Romania (55%), Bulgaria (53%) and Lithuania (52%).

QA10.4

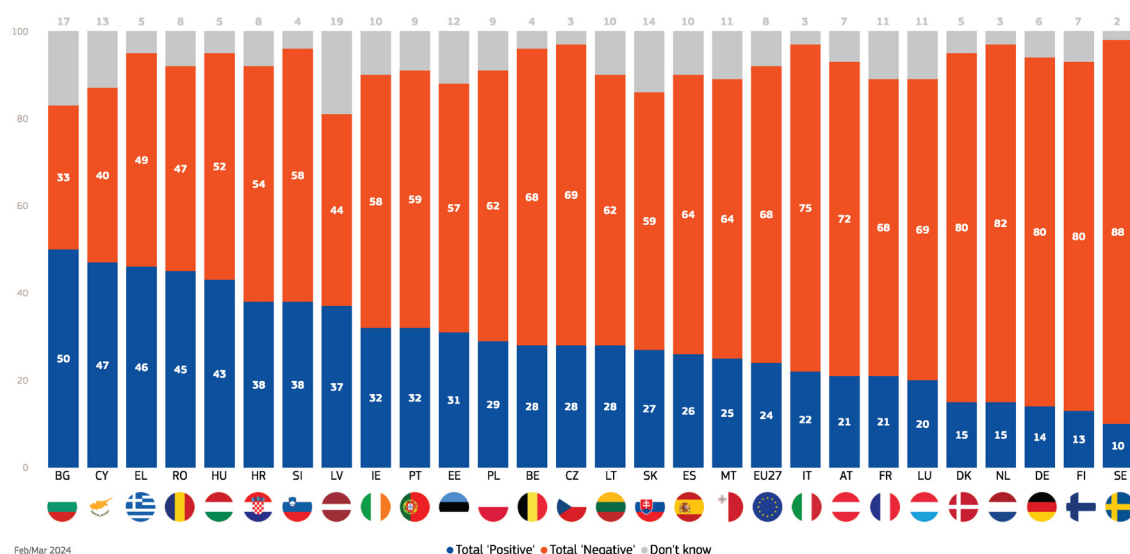
In regard to each of the following countries, do you have a positive or a negative view about it? – Türkiye (%)



When it comes to measured attitudes towards **China**, in 25 Member States, the proportion of respondents who have a negative opinion about this country is higher than the proportion who have a positive opinion. These former shares reach 88% in Sweden, 82% in the Netherlands, as well as 80% in Finland, Germany, and Denmark. On the other hand, the shares of those who hold a positive opinion about China are highest in Bulgaria (50%), Cyprus (47%) and Greece (46%).

QA10.1

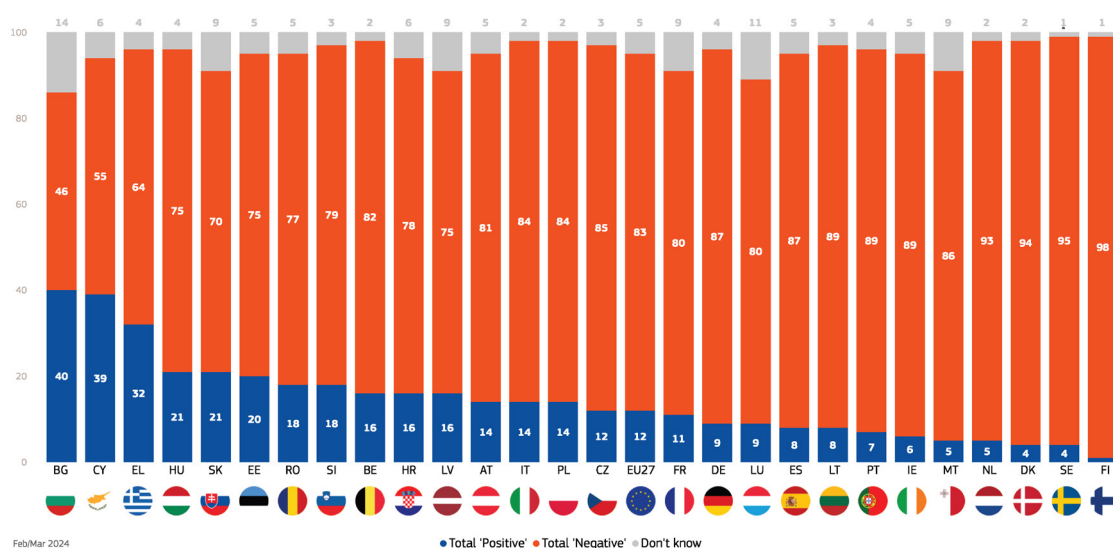
In regard to each of the following countries, do you have a positive or a negative view about it? – China (%)



In all Member States, the overall proportion of respondents with a negative opinion about **Russia** prevails over the proportion of those with a positive opinion of the country. This sentiment is shared by up to 98% of respondents in Finland, 95% in Sweden, 94% of those in Denmark and 93% in the Netherlands, and relatively fewer in Bulgaria (46%), Cyprus (55%) and Greece (64%). Bulgaria (40%) and Cyprus (39%) are the two countries where the highest proportions of respondents voice a positive opinion about Russia.

QA10.2

In regard to each of the following countries, do you have a positive or a negative view about it? – Russia (%)



In terms of socio-demographic analysis, the findings reveal that the younger respondents tend to have more positive attitudes regarding the USA (54% vs 43% of those aged 55+), China (31% vs 19%) and Türkiye (36% vs 20%).

Respondents who completed their education at age 20 or older are more likely than respondents who completed their education earlier to have a positive opinion about the USA (51% vs 40%- 46%) and Türkiye (25% vs 19% among those who finished their education aged 15 or younger).

Positive opinions about China are more prevalent among students (30%) and self-employed (28%), particularly when compared with the retired respondents (19%).

Meanwhile, positive attitudes towards Russia are more common among the unemployed (20%), especially compared to their prevalence among the retired (9%).

Positive opinions about the US are more widespread among managers and students (both 54%) and least widespread among the unemployed (41%). Finally, the differences among segments are less pronounced regarding attitudes toward Türkiye, although it is more positively regarded by students (34%, especially when compared to the retired, 20%).

When it comes to difficulties paying bills, respondents who encounter such challenges most of the time are more likely than those who rarely or never experience such difficulties to hold positive opinions about Russia (18% vs 10%), while the reverse is true regarding a positive opinion about the USA (52% of those who rarely experience difficulties vs 35% of those who often do) and Türkiye (27% vs 22%).

Respondents with a positive image of the EU are more likely to have a positive attitude toward the US (60%, compared with 29% of those who have a negative image of the EU) and Türkiye (29% vs 20%). Meanwhile, those who conjure up a negative image of the EU tend to hold more positive views about Russia (20%, compared to 9% of those who conjure up a positive image of the EU).

QA10

In regard to each of the following countries, do you have a positive or a negative view about it? Total 'Positive' (% - EU)

	China	Russia	USA	Türkiye
EU27	24	12	48	26
Gender				
Man	26	14	49	27
Woman	23	10	46	25
Age				
15-24	31	14	54	36
25-39	28	14	51	31
40-54	25	13	48	26
55 +	19	10	43	20
Education (End of)				
15-	20	9	40	19
16-19	25	14	46	28
20+	23	11	51	25
Still studying	30	12	54	34
Socio-professional category				
Self-employed	28	16	45	28
Managers	22	11	54	25
Other white collars	25	11	51	28
Manual workers	27	15	47	29
House persons	24	11	44	25
Unemployed	24	20	41	24
Retired	19	9	43	20
Students	30	12	54	34
Difficulties paying bills				
Most of the time	26	18	35	22
From time to time	26	15	43	27
Almost never/ Never	23	10	52	27
Image of the EU				
Positive	26	9	60	29
Neutral	23	12	42	25
Negative	24	20	29	20

conclusion



CONCLUSION



In what is heralded as the ‘biggest election year in human history’, 2024 emerges as the year when an unprecedented number of individuals globally have the opportunity to join the democratic process by exercising their right to vote¹. In June 2024, EU citizens will have the possibility to engage in the process at the pan-European level by electing their representatives to the European Parliament.

Three months before these elections, the public opinion landscape reflects increasingly positive views about the European Parliament's role and image, predominantly positive attitudes towards the EU and EU membership, and unprecedented levels of interest in and reported likelihood of voting in the European elections.

A growing share of citizens hold positive views of the European Parliament and manifest increased support for assigning a more important role to the institution compared to Autumn 2023.

Interest in the 2024 European elections is notably high, having increased by 11 percentage points across the union compared to the similar period before the 2019 European elections. Citizens also appear to find voting in European elections increasingly significant within a context where the importance attached to participating in national elections has remained stable. This development potentially indicates a heightened level of citizen engagement, particularly focused on the democratic process at the EU level.

Two main values surface as the most salient for the next legislative term — the preservation of peace and democracy. Against this backdrop, it is not surprising that Europeans overwhelmingly perceive voting as a necessary prerequisite to keeping democracy strong and a significant one particularly given the current international context.

Amidst various crises encountered in the last few years, close to half of the citizens report no change in their standard of living, suggesting a degree of resilience and stability in personal economic standing. However, 45% of respondents highlight a decrease in their standard of living, which might underscore pervasive challenges that a substantial portion of the population faced as a result of the recent crises – the COVID-19 pandemic, Russia's aggression against Ukraine, and escalating inflation rates. Moreover, about a third believe that their standard of living will decrease in the next five years. Given these circumstances, citizens demand special focus during the electoral campaign on topics such as ‘the fight against poverty and social exclusion’, ‘public health’, ‘support for the economy, and the creation of new jobs’, as well as the ‘EU's defence and security’.

¹<https://www.euronews.com/my-europe/2023/12/27/five-elections-set-to-shape-europe-in-2024-the-biggest-ballot-year-in-history>

Overall, however, Europeans tend to feel more optimistic about the future of the EU than pessimistic about it. Positive attitudes regarding the EU persist and are relatively stable across the union, while in 21 countries, a majority believe that membership in the EU is beneficial for their country. Citizens also tend to perceive a strengthening of the EU's role in the world in the last five years. To further consolidate its position as a global actor, they indicate that the union should focus on defence and security, energy issues, energy independence, resources and infrastructure, and food security and agriculture as a matter of priority.

TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS



TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS



Between 7 February and 3 March 2024, Verian (formally known as Kantar Public) carried out the wave 101.1 of the Eurobarometer survey. Wave 101.1 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 is a stratified multi-stage, random (probability) one. In each country, the sample frame is first stratified by NUTS regions and within each region by a measure of urbanity (DEGURBA). The number of sample points selected in each strata reflects the stratum population 15+. At the second stage sampling points were drawn with probability proportional to their 0+ population size from within each stratum. The samples 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 coordinate was drawn at random and a reverse geo-coding tool used to identify the closest address to the coordinate. This address was the starting address for the random walk. 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. The approach to the random selection was conditional on the household size. By way of example for households with two 15+ members the script was used to select either the informant (person responding to the screener questionnaire) or the other eligible member in the household. For households with three 15+ members the script was used to select either the informant (1/3 of the time) or the two other eligible members in the household (2/3 of the time). Where the two other members were selected, the interviewer was then told to either ask for the youngest or oldest. The script would randomly assign the selection to youngest or oldest with equal probability. This process continues for four 15+ household members – randomly asking for the youngest, 2nd youngest and oldest. For households with five 15+ members we revert to the last birthday rule.

If no contact was made with anyone in the household, or if the respondent selected was not available (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 the two latter countries, a sample of addresses within each sampling point 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 as there is no comprehensive population register with telephone numbers available. 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	MCM Belgium	1 047	09.02.2024	27.02.2024	9 619 330	2,5%
BG	Bulgaria	Kantar TNS BBSS	1 035	07.02.2024	27.02.2024	5 917 534	1,6%
CZ	Czechia	STEM/MARK	1 011	07.02.2024	22.02.2024	8 982 036	2,4%
DK	Denmark	Mantle Denmark (Verian)	1 003	08.02.2024	03.03.2024	4 891 261	1,3%
DE	Germany	Mantle Germany (Verian)	1 521	08.02.2024	26.02.2024	71 677 231	18,9%
EE	Estonia	Norstat Eesti	1 007	07.02.2024	26.02.2024	1 111 597	0,3%
IE	Ireland	B and A Research	1 001	08.02.2024	27.02.2024	4 005 909	1,1%
EL	Greece	Kantar Greece	1 002	07.02.2024	25.02.2024	9 167 896	2,4%
ES	Spain	Mantle Spain (Verian)	1 002	09.02.2024	27.02.2024	40 639 381	10,7%
FR	France	MCM France	1 012	07.02.2024	27.02.2024	55 700 114	14,7%
HR	Croatia	Hendal	1 002	07.02.2024	25.02.2024	3 461 468	0,9%
IT	Italy	Testpoint Italia	1 025	07.02.2024	20.02.2024	51 599 668	13,6%
CY	Rep. Of Cyprus	CYMAR Market Research	500	07.02.2024	26.02.2024	752 304	0,2%
LV	Latvia	Kantar TNS Latvia	1 008	07.02.2024	26.02.2024	1 590 245	0,4%
LT	Lithuania	Norstat LT	1 002	09.02.2024	27.02.2024	2 373 312	0,6%
LU	Luxembourg	ILRES	506	08.02.2024	26.02.2024	533 335	0,1%
HU	Hungary	Kantar Hoffmann	1 019	08.02.2024	26.02.2024	8 313 539	2,2%
MT	Malta	MISCO International	506	08.02.2024	28.02.2024	446 788	0,1%
NL	Netherlands	Mantle Netherlands (Verian)	1 022	12.02.2024	29.02.2024	14 763 684	3,9%
AT	Austria	Das Österreichische Gallup Ins.	1 010	07.02.2024	23.02.2024	7 647 176	2,0%
PL	Poland	Research Collective	1 020	08.02.2024	26.02.2024	31 982 941	8,4%
PT	Portugal	Intercampus SA	1 032	09.02.2024	27.02.2024	8 915 624	2,3%
RO	Romania	CSOP SRL	1 046	07.02.2024	25.02.2024	16 174 719	4,3%
SI	Slovenia	Mediana DOO	1 004	07.02.2024	25.02.2024	1 791 246	0,5%
SK	Slovakia	MNFORCE	1 008	07.02.2024	24.02.2024	4 591 487	1,2%
FI	Finland	Taloustutkimus Oy	1 024	07.02.2024	28.02.2024	4 672 932	1,2%
SE	Sweden	Mantle Sweden (Verian)	1 036	07.02.2024	27.02.2024	8 541 497	2,2%
TOTAL EU27			26 411	07.02.2024	03.03.2024	379 864 254	100%

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

COUNTRIES		N° OF CAPI INTERVIEWS	N° OF CAVI INTERVIEWS	TOTAL N° INTERVIEWS
BE	Belgium	1 047		1 047
BG	Bulgaria	1 035		1 035
CZ	Czechia	893	118	1 011
DK	Denmark	795	208	1 003
DE	Germany	1 521		1 521
EE	Estonia	1 007		1 007
IE	Ireland	1 001		1 001
EL	Greece	1 002		1 002
ES	Spain	1 002		1 002
FR	France	1 012		1 012
HR	Croatia	1 002		1 002
IT	Italy	1 025		1 025
CY	Rep. Of Cyprus	500		500
LV	Latvia	1 008		1 008
LT	Lithuania	1 002		1 002
LU	Luxembourg	506		506
HU	Hungary	1 019		1 019
MT	Malta	349	157	506
NL	Netherlands	1 022		1 022
AT	Austria	1 010		1 010
PL	Poland	1 020		1 020
PT	Portugal	1 032		1 032
RO	Romania	1 046		1 046
SI	Slovenia	1 004		1 004
SK	Slovakia	1 008		1 008
FI	Finland	757	267	1 024
SE	Sweden	1 036		1 036
TOTAL EU27		25 661	750	26 411

CAPI : Computer-Assisted Personal interviewing
CAVI : Computer-Assisted Video interviewing

Interviewing mode per country

Interviews were conducted through face-to-face interviews, either physically in people's homes or through remote video interaction in the appropriate national language. Interviews with remote video interaction ("online face-to-face" or CAVI, Computer Assisted Video Interviewing, were conducted only in Czechia, Denmark, Malta and Finland.)

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 101.1 of the EUROBAROMETER survey, the response rates for the EU27 countries, calculated by Kantar Public, are:

COUNTRIES		RESPONSE RATES
BE	Belgium	43,6%
BG	Bulgaria	48,7%
CZ	Czechia	49,8%
DK	Denmark	31,6%
DE	Germany	26,5%
EE	Estonia	29,3%
IE	Ireland	37,5%
EL	Greece	30,4%
ES	Spain	36,5%
FR	France	42,3%
HR	Croatia	41,8%
IT	Italy	25,6%
CY	Rep. Of Cyprus	52,2%
LV	Latvia	30,8%
LT	Lithuania	42,4%
LU	Luxembourg	27,6%
HU	Hungary	57,8%
MT	Malta	54,9%
NL	Netherlands	73,7%
AT	Austria	41,0%
PL	Poland	41,5%
PT	Portugal	57,2%
RO	Romania	50,2%
SI	Slovenia	40,0%
SK	Slovakia	50,8%
FI	Finland	25,3%
SE	Sweden	78,2%

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%	

Three months before the European elections (6–9 June), the Spring 2024 Eurobarometer examines EU citizens' views on the European Parliament and their voting behaviour, including their interest in the upcoming European Election, attitudes towards campaign topics as well as their preferences for the priority values for the next term of the European Parliament. The report analyses also Europeans' perception of the EU and of the EU membership, citizens' perspective on life in the EU, as well as their opinions about the EU within the current global context.

The survey was carried out by Verian (previously Kantar) research agency between 7 February and 3 March 2024 in all 27 EU Member States. The survey was conducted face-to-face, with video interviews (CAVI) used additionally in some countries. 26,411 interviews were conducted in total. EU results were 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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