European Parliament

European Commission

Special Eurobarometer 517

Report

Future of Europe

Fieldwork: September-October 2021

Survey conducted by Kantar at the request of the European Commission and the European Parliament,

Survey co-ordinated by the European Commission, Directorate-General for Communication

(DG COMM "Media monitoring and Eurobarometer Unit") and

the European Parliament, Directorate-General for Communication

(DG COMM "Public Opinion Monitoring Unit" (POMU))

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INTRODUCTION

This report presents the full results of the Special Eurobarometer survey n° 517 (EB96.1) on the Future of Europe (Foe), which was carried out between 16 September and 17 October 2021 in the 27 EU Member States.

This is the tenth report in the "Future of Europe" (Foe) series, and follows previous surveys in 2006[1], 2009[2], 2011[3], 2012[4], 2014[5], 2016[6], 2017[7], 2018[8] and 2020[9]. The surveys present a snapshot of the way Europeans perceive the EU and its future. As with the 2020 survey, this Special Eurobarometer is an inter-institutional survey conducted jointly for the European Parliament and the European Commission. Its questionnaire contains questions from both institutions.

For the legislative term until 2024, the European Parliament, the Council of the European Union and the European Commission agreed to deliver an ambitious political and legislative agenda for recovery and renewed vitality[10]. Inspired by European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen's policy agenda document[11], the three Institutions have set out six strategic policy goals for the European Union over the five-year period 2019-2024, stipulated as follows: I) to implement the European Green Deal; ii) to shape Europe's Digital Decade; iii) to deliver an economy that works for people; iv) to make Europe stronger in the world; v) to promote a free and safe Europe; vi) to protect and strengthen our democracy and defend our common European values.

On 14 July 2021, the European Commission adopted a package of proposals to make the EU's climate, energy, land use, transport and taxation policies fit for reducing net greenhouse gas emissions by at least 55% by 2030, compared to 1990 levels. These provide the legislative tools to deliver on targets in the European Climate law, and make the New Green Deal a reality[12]. As co-legislators, the European Parliament and the Council of the European Union are each discussing and reviewing the package of proposals in view of negotiations to reach a common agreement, followed by the final adoption of the legislative acts.

The Conference on the Future of Europe is part of the 'strengthening democracy and defending European values' strand. It is a joint project of the European Parliament, the Council of the European Union and the European Commission. The Conference is an opportunity for European citizens to have their say about the future they want for the European Union[13].

The multi-lingual digital platform for the Conference was launched on 19 April, with the inaugural session of the Conference held on 9 May 2021, after being delayed due to the COVID -19 pandemic.

European Citizens' Panels will deliver recommendations, which will be presented and discussed at the Conference Plenary, where the Conference's proposals will be formulated. Panel and Plenary sessions and events will continue during 2022. The final outcome of the Conference will be presented in a report to the Presidents of the three EU institutions concerned. The institutions will examine swiftly how to follow up effectively to this report, within their sphere of competence.

In this context, this survey has an important focus on the Conference on the Future of Europe, measuring attitudes towards the project and some of the key themes covered by the Conference.

The survey was conducted at a time when the COVID-19 pandemic remained widely prevalent across all European Member States, with continuing impacts on health, the economy and restrictions on multiple aspects of the everyday life of European citizens.

Case numbers have varied since the previous Future of Europe survey conducted in autumn 2020, and although there has recently been an acceleration in the overall cases, death rates have remained largely stable. The emergence of the "Omicron" variant was noted in late November 2021, and it has spread extremely fast, with a majority of reported cases now due to this variant[14].

On 14 November 2021, i.e. shortly after the end of the fieldwork, the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC) reported 1.46 million deaths in Europe as a whole and more than 5 million deaths worldwide. By the same date, uptake of at least one vaccine dose in the EU/EEA stood at 70% of the total population, while uptake of full vaccination was 65%[15].

The COVID-19 pandemic continues to have a major impact on the European economy, although recent analysis has seen the EU economy rebounding from the pandemic recession faster than expected. The EU economy is projected to keep expanding over the forecast horizon, achieving a growth rate of 5%, 4.3% and 2.5% in 2021, 2022 and 2023 respectively[16]. The unemployment rate has been declining and in September 2021 was 6.7%, down from 6.9% in August 2021 and from 7.7% in September 2020[17].

The aim of this survey is to measure the opinions of Europeans, in the EU as a whole and in each Member State, on the EU overall, the European Green Deal, the future of Europe and the Conference

[1] Special Eurobarometer 251: http://ec.europa.eu/COMMFrontOffice/publicopinion/index.cfm/Survey/getSurveyDetail/instruments/SPECIAL/surveyKy/586/p/4
[2] Standard Eurobarometer 71 Spring 2009 – Future of Europe report:
http://ec.europa.eu/COMMFrontOffice/publicopinion/index.cfm/Survey/getSurveyDetail/instruments/STANDARD/surveyKy/829
[3] Special Eurobarometer 379: http://ec.europa.eu/COMMFrontOffice/publicopinion/index.cfm/Survey/getSurveyDetail/instruments/SPECIAL/surveyKy/1059/p/2
[4] Special Eurobarometer 394: http://ec.europa.eu/COMMFrontOffice/publicopinion/index.cfm/Survey/getSurveyDetail/search/future/surveyKy/1070
[5] Special Eurobarometer 413: http://ec.europa.eu/COMMFrontOffice/publicopinion/index.cfm/Survey/getSurveyDetail/instruments/SPECIAL/surveyKy/2038
[6] Special Eurobarometer 451: http://ec.europa.eu/commfrontoffice/publicopinion/index.cfm/Survey/getSurveyDetail/instruments/SPECIAL/surveyKy/2131
[7] Special Eurobarometer 467: http://ec.europa.eu/commfrontoffice/publicopinion/index.cfm/Survey/getSurveyDetail/instruments/SPECIAL/surveyKy/2179
[8] Special Eurobarometer 479: https://ec.europa.eu/commfrontoffice/publicopinion/index.cfm/Survey/getSurveyDetail/search/future/surveyKy/2217
[9] Special Eurobarometer 500: https://europa.eu/eurobarometer/surveys/detail/2256
[10] The joint priorities of the EU institutions for 2021-2024 | European Commission (europa.eu)
[11] political-guidelines-next-commission_en_0.pdf (europa.eu)
[12] https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/IP_21_3541
[13] https://futureu.europa.eu/pages/about
[14] https://covid19-country-overviews.ecdc.europa.eu/
[15] https://www.ecdc.europa.eu/en/geographical-distribution-2019-ncov-cases
[16] https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_21_5883
[17] https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/statistics-explained/index.php?title=Unemployment_statistics#Unemployment_in_the_EU_and_the_euro_area

on the future of Europe. This report is structured into seven chapters:

1. **Attitudes towards the EU**, providing context by examining Europeans' overall attitudes towards the EU.
2. **Life in the EU**, looking at how happy Europeans are in the EU in 2021.
3. **The EU in 2021**, looking at perceptions of the EU's main assets and the challenges it faces, as well as the EU's key values.
4. **The European Green Deal**, examining the importance of the different objectives of the European Green Deal, and broader attitudes towards environmental issues and climate change.
5. **Attitudes towards the future of Europe**, including opinions on global challenges for the future of the EU and how these should be addressed.
6. **General questions related to the Conference on the Future of Europe**, looking at ways in which the voice of citizens can be heard at national and EU level.
7. **Opinions on the Conference on the Future of Europe**, including assessing the willingness of Europeans to be involved in the Conference, and key issues that are being discussed at the Conference, the role of young people in the Conference and its impact on democracy.

Consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic on fieldwork

The methodology used is that of Eurobarometer surveys as carried out by the European Commission's and European Parliament's Directorates-General for Communication ("Media monitoring and Eurobarometer" Unit and "Public Opinion Monitoring" Unit respectively). Given the impact of COVID-19 and subsequent health safety measures, the face-to-face methodology was either not possible or only to a certain extent in some countries. Where feasible, interviews were conducted face-to-face in people's homes or on their doorstep and in the appropriate national language. In all countries where face-to-face interviewing was feasible, CAPI (Computer Assisted Personal Interviewing) was used. For all interviews conducted face to face, hygiene and physical distancing measures have always been respected in line with government regulations, and whenever possible, interviews were conducted outside homes, on doorsteps, to remain in open air and maintain social distance. Where face-to-face interviews were not enough to reach to target or were not feasible at all, interviews were conducted online with Computer-Assisted Web Interviewing (CAWI) technique. In Finland, all interviews were conducted online. In Belgium, Czechia, Denmark and Malta, a share of interviews were conducted online, while the rest were conducted as normal, via face-to-face interviews. A technical note on the manner in which the interviews were conducted by the institutes within the Kantar network is appended as an annex to this report. This note also details the interview methods and the confidence intervals.

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

Belgium	BE	Lithuania	LT
Bulgaria	BG	Luxembourg	LU
Czechia	CZ	Hungary	HU
Denmark	DK	Malta	MT
Germany	DE	The Netherlands	NL
Estonia	EE	Austria	AT
Ireland	IE	Poland	PL
Greece	EL	Portugal	PT
Spain	ES	Romania	RO
France	FR	Slovenia	SI
Croatia	HR	Slovakia	SK
Italy	IT	Finland	FI
Republic of Cyprus	CY*	Sweden	SE
Latvia	LV		
European Union – weighted average for the 27 Member States			EU27

* Cyprus as a whole is one of the 27 EU Member States. However, the “acquis Communautaire” has been suspended in the part of the country 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.

We wish to thank the people throughout the European Union who have given their time to take part in this survey.

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

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The majority of Europeans think that their country's membership of the EU is a good thing, and a clear majority are in favour of the EU. More than half of Europeans say they hold a positive image of the EU

- Around six in ten Europeans (62%) think that their country's membership of the EU is a good thing, while one in ten (10%) think it is a bad thing, and 27% (say it is "neither a good thing not a bad thing"). Attitudes have remained stable since autumn 2020.
- 73% say they are in favour of the EU in total, with 27% in favour of the EU and the way it is working at present, and 46% in favour, but not the way it is working at present. A quarter are either opposed to the idea of the EU in general (4%) or are rather sceptical but could change their opinion if the way it works was really changed (21%).
- More than half (54%) of Europeans hold a positive image of the EU, while just 11% are negative, the remainder (34%) holding a neutral stance.

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

- A large majority of respondents agree they are happy with their family life (89%) and the same percentage of respondents agree they are happy living in their country.
- Two thirds (66%) agree they are happy with their current occupation.
- Over eight in ten (81% also agree they are happy living in the EU.

To face major challenges, the EU should prioritise the environment and climate change, and social fairness and equality

- The EU's main assets are its respect for democracy, human rights and the rule of law, and its economic, industrial and trading power. However, both are now less likely to be mentioned than they were in October-November 2020.
- The three most mentioned challenges facing the EU are social inequalities (36%), unemployment and environmental issues and climate change (32% each). The fourth challenge, migration issues, is mentioned by almost as many respondents (31%).
- Almost half (49%) say peace is best embodied by the EU than other countries, 47% say this about freedom of opinion, 45% about social equality and solidarity, while 44% think the EU best embodies tolerance and openness to others. There has been little change since 2020.
- In order to face major global challenges, respondents think the environment and climate change (39%), social fairness and equality (37%) and health and safety (32%) should be prioritised.

The majority of Europeans think the EU offers stability in the world and a future perspective for Europe's youth

- Almost seven in ten (68%) respondents agree the EU is place of stability in a troubled world, and almost as many (67%) agree the EU project offers a future perspective for Europe's youth.
- 62% of respondents agree globalisation is an opportunity for economic growth. Although 44% agree globalisation threatens their country's identity, a majority disagree with this statement (47%).
- More than four in ten (45%) agree the interests of people like them are well taken into account by the political system in their country, but the majority (50%) disagree.

In the context of the European Green Deal, large proportions of Europeans see environmental objectives as important. There is also wide agreement that tackling climate change can bring a range of benefits, including to health and well-being

- At least eight in ten Europeans think that various environmental objectives are very or "fairly important" to them personally. In particular, more than half (58%) say that restoring Europe's forests, soils, wetlands and peatlands to increase the absorption of CO2 pollution is "very important".
- Around half (49%) think it is "very important" to increase the share of renewable energy in the European economy and have greater energy efficiency to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Renovating buildings to use more renewable energy and to be more energy efficient is seen as "very important" by 46% of Europeans.
- Almost nine in ten Europeans (87%) agree that tackling climate change can help improve their own health and well-being. 85% agree that tackling climate change can create new opportunities for innovation, investment and jobs, and 83% agree that tackling climate change now can help to reduce the costs of greater ecological damage in the future.
- There is less of a consensus regarding the impact on the economy: while 47% disagree with the statement that tackling climate change can harm the economy a similar proportion (45%) agree with it.

Europeans think all EU Member States working together is the best model to find solutions to main global challenges

- Climate change and environmental issues (49%) are seen as the main global challenge for the future of the EU, followed by risks related to health (34%), forced migration and displacement (30%) and terrorism (26%). There has been a 12 percentage-point decline in mentions of terrorism since 2020.
- Respondents think the best option for making progress on main global challenges is for all EU Member States to work

and find solutions together (76%) rather than having different Member States making progress individually (20%). This is also the majority view in every Member State.

- Comparable living standards (31%), a common health policy (22%), stronger solidarity among the EU Member States (21%) and energy independence (20%) are seen as the most helpful for the future of Europe.

According to the majority of Europeans, the best political level to deal with various policy areas is equally the EU level and the national level

- At least half of respondents think a range of policy areas should be dealt with equally at the EU level and national level.
- For almost all policy areas, respondents are also more likely to say the issue should be dealt with only or mainly at EU level, rather than only or mainly at national level, in particular for fighting terrorism (34% vs. 8%), migration and refugees (33% vs. 14%), and environment and climate change (31% vs. 10%).
- Almost four in ten (39%) respondents say that in 10 years from now they would prefer to see more decisions taken at the EU level than today, while almost as many (36%) say they would like to see the same amount of decisions made at EU level.

An EU society in 2030 should preferably favour solidarity over individualism. At the same time, there is no clear preference for individual freedom over order

- When asked their preferences for an EU society in 2030, more than eight in ten (83%) respondents would prefer more importance given to solidarity, while 13% prefer one with more importance given to individualism.
- When asked if they would prefer an European society in 2030 to give more preference to order or individual freedom, 46% prefer individual freedom and 45% prefer order.

There is strong support for EU citizens to have more of a voice in decisions relating to the future of Europe, as well as clear agreement that there is still work to be done to strengthen and protect democracy in the EU

- Voting in European elections is seen as the most effective way of ensuring that the voice of citizens is heard by decision-makers at EU level (55%), followed by voting in other elections (30%) and signing a petition (21%).
- Nine in ten Europeans (90%) agree that EU citizens' voice should be taken more into account for decisions relating to the future of Europe (-2 since autumn 2020).
- Around nine in ten respondents (89%, no change since autumn 2020) agree that there is still work to be done to strengthen democracy in the EU, and a similar proportion (88%, -1) agree that there is still work to be done to protect democracy in the EU.
- Europeans are most likely to say they would like to discuss the future of the EU with friends, family or colleagues (36%), while around a quarter (26%) would like to discuss it with European politicians, 22% with national politicians and 18% with local or regional politicians. One in five (20%) say they would like to discuss the future of the EU with citizens from other EU countries.
- Large majorities of Europeans say that they would like to have more of a say over important decisions affecting their local area (82%), their country (79%) and the EU (70%).

European citizens express interest in participating in the Conference on the Future of Europe, most commonly by answering a survey. The key topics for the Conference are climate change and the environment, health, and the economy, social justice and jobs

- More than half of Europeans (59%) say they would be willing to take part in the activities of the Conference on the Future of Europe by answering a survey. The next most popular forms of participation are taking part in meetings in their area (46%), taking part in online consultations (40%), putting forward ideas and proposals to European and national politicians (39%) and taking part in European cultural and sports events linked to the Conference (39%).
- Respondents would be encouraged to take part in the activities of the Conference if they were convinced that their participation would have a real impact (53%). Other items are mentioned by less than a third of the respondents.
- Europeans say that the main benefit of involving the younger generation in the Conference is to focus on issues of interest to them (43%). The other main benefits are bringing in their energy and motivation for reforms and changes (35%) and making the future of Europe more relevant to the challenges of today's society (33%).
- Europeans think that the key topics for the Conference are climate change and the environment (44%), health (40%), and a stronger economy, social justice and jobs (40%).

I. EU CITIZENS AND THE EU (CONTEXT QUESTIONS)

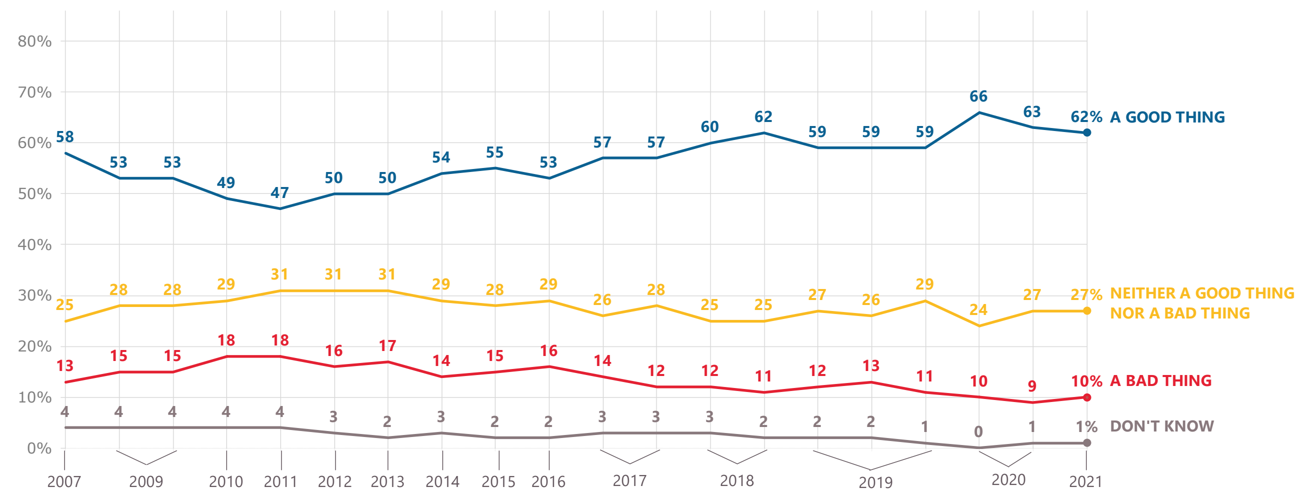
Six in ten Europeans think that their country's membership of the EU is a good thing, slightly down from its highest score in 2020

This first chapter covers Europeans' overall attitudes towards the EU, asking whether membership of the EU is a good thing, whether they are in favour of the EU as it is currently working, and whether their image of the EU is positive or negative.

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

Attitudes have become slightly less positive since autumn 2020 (Special Eurobarometer 500 on the Future Europe)[18], with a decrease in the proportion saying their country's membership of the EU is a good thing (-4 percentage point). However, the spring 2020 rating was the highest ever recorded, and the current position remains at a relatively high level compared with previous years.

D21 Generally speaking, do you think that (OUR COUNTRY)'s membership of the EU is...?
(% - EU)



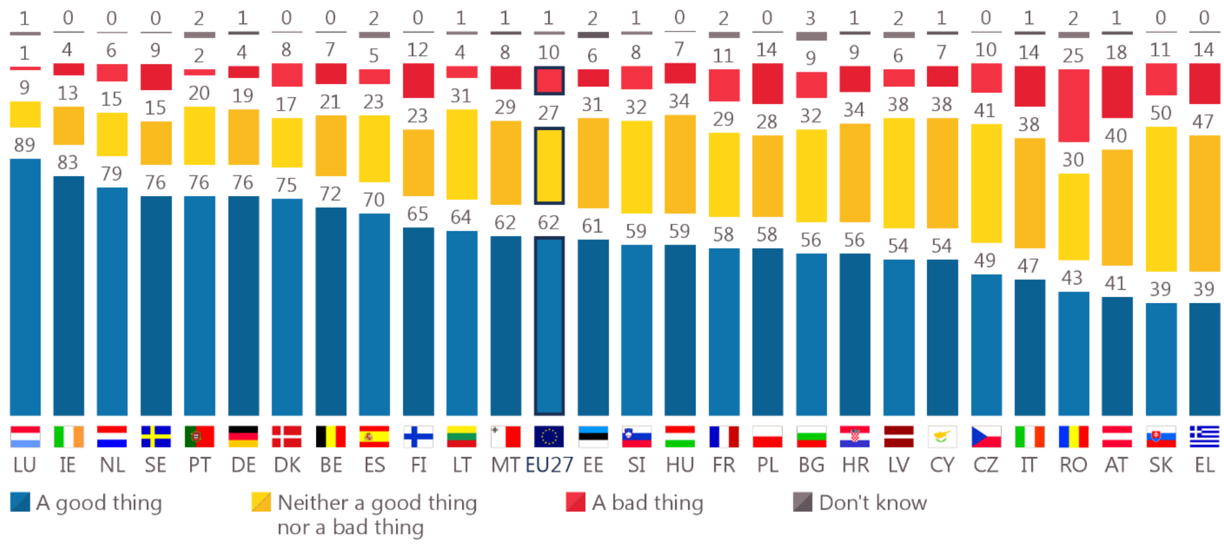
In all but two Member States, a majority of respondents say that their country's membership of the EU is a good thing (see graph below).

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

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

The proportion who thinks their country's membership of the EU is a bad thing ranges from 25% in Romania to 1% in Luxembourg.

D21 Generally speaking, do you think that (OUR COUNTRY)'s membership of the EU is...?
(%)



[18] Special Eurobarometer 500: https://europa.eu/eurobarometer/surveys/detail/2256

In seven Member States, a significant increase in the proportion of those who say that their country's membership of the EU is a good think can be observed since autumn 2020. The largest increases (+8 pp) can be seen in Luxembourg, Sweden and Italy).

There are 14 Member States where positive ratings have decreased since autumn 2020. Most significant decreases can be observed in Greece (39%, -17), Czechia (49%, -16), Estonia (61%, -15), Slovenia (59%, -14) and Poland (58%, -12). Attitudes have remained stable since autumn 2020 in the other six Member States.

D21 Generally speaking, do you think that (OUR COUNTRY)'s membership of the EU is...?
(%)

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

The **socio-demographic data** show that men are slightly more likely than women[19] to think that their country's membership of the EU is a good thing (64% vs. 60%), while younger respondents are more likely than older respondents to have this view (72% of those aged 15-24 vs. 59% of those aged 55 or over).

Respondents who left education at the age of 20 or above are more likely to think EU membership is a good thing (74%), compared with those who left by the age of 15 (50%).

There is also a difference by socio-professional category, with managers and students (both 75%) most likely to see EU membership as a good thing, and housepersons least likely to do so (47%).

Respondents who have difficulties paying bills most of the time are less likely to think EU membership is a good thing (45% vs. 69% of those who never or rarely have difficulties).

D21 Generally speaking, do you think that (OUR COUNTRY)'s membership of the EU is...?
(% - EU)

	A good thing	A bad thing	Neither a good thing nor a bad thing	Don't know
EU27	62	10	27	1
Gender				
Man	64	10	25	1
Woman	60	9	30	1
Age				
15-24	72	7	20	1
25-39	65	9	25	1
40-54	60	11	29	0
55 +	59	10	30	1
Education (End of)				
15-	50	10	37	3
16-19	54	12	33	1
20+	74	7	19	0
Still studying	75	6	18	1
Socio-professional category				
Self-employed	63	9	28	0
Managers	75	7	18	0
Other white collars	62	10	27	1
Manual workers	55	12	32	1
House persons	47	11	40	2
Unemployed	55	13	32	0
Retired	60	10	29	1
Students	75	6	18	1
Difficulties paying bills				
Most of the time	45	17	36	2
From time to time	47	16	36	1
Almost never/ Never	69	6	24	1

[19] The socio-demographic question about gender includes three answer categories: man, woman and "none of the above / non binary / do not recognize yourself in above categories"

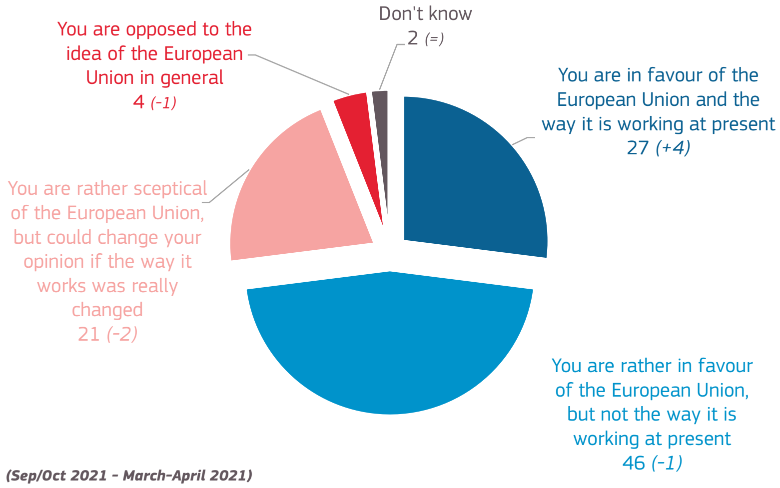
Seven in ten Europeans say they are in favour of the EU, although nearly half qualify this by saying they are in favour, but not in the way it is working at present

More than seven in ten respondents say they are in favour of the EU (73%, +3 percentage points since the European Parliament's Spring 2021 Eurobarometer[20])[21]. **Specifically, 27% say they are in favour of the EU and the way it is working at present** (+4 pp), **and 46% say they are in favour, but not the way it is working at present** (-1 pp).

A quarter (25%, -3 pp) have more negative views, which are broken down into the following groups: 21% (-2 pp) who say they are rather sceptical of the EU, but could change their opinion if the way it works was really changed, and 4% (-1 pp) who say they are opposed to the idea of the EU in general.

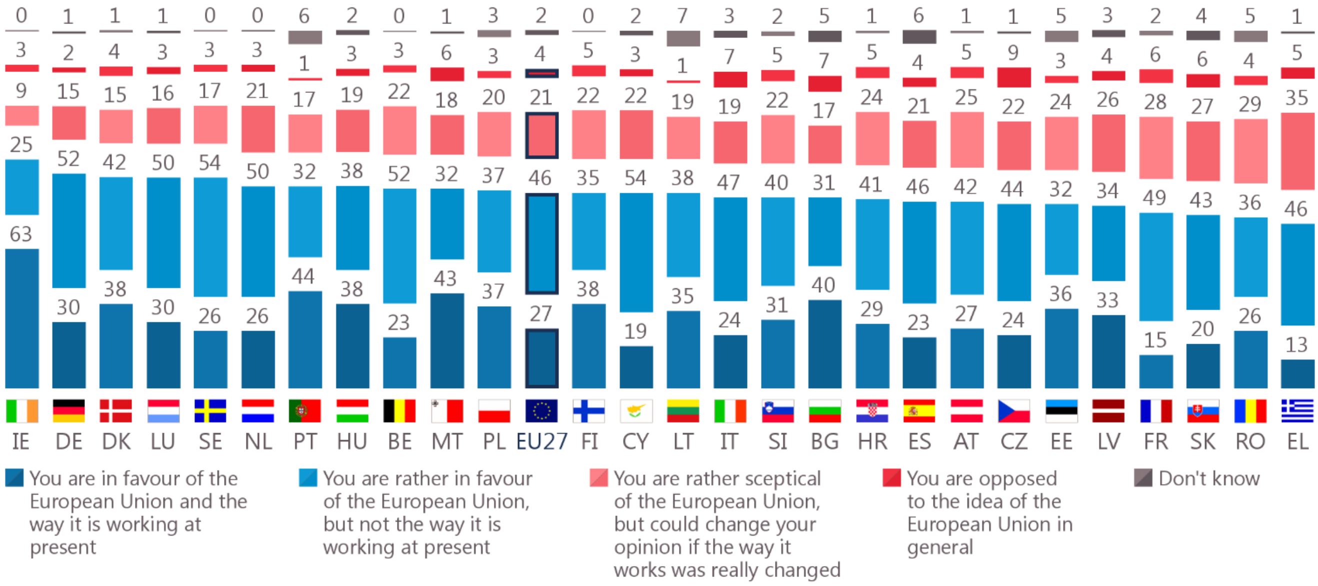
In every Member State, a large majority of respondents say they are in favour of the EU, ranging from 88% in Ireland to 59% in Greece. Specifically, more than half of respondents in Ireland (63%) say that they are in favour of the EU "and the way it is working at present", and this also applies to at least four in ten respondents in Portugal (44%), Malta (43%) and Bulgaria (40%).

QA31 Which of the following statements regarding the European Union is closest to your opinion?
(% - EU27)



(Sep/Oct 2021 - March-April 2021)

QA31 Which of the following statements regarding the European Union is closest to your opinion?
(%)



[20] Spring Parlemeter 2021 - https://www.europarl.europa.eu/at-your-service/en/be-heard/eurobarometer/spring-2021-survey
[21] Note that the items were worded differently in previous surveys: I'm in favor of the European Union as it has been realized so far / I'm rather in favor of the European Union, but not the way it has been realized until now / I'm rather skeptical of the European Union, but could change my opinion if radical reform was brought about / I'm opposed to the idea of the European Union in general.

Looking at the **socio-demographic variables**, younger respondents are more likely to be in favour of the EU than older respondents. The proportion of those who say they are in favour of the EU and the way it is working at present is higher among respondents aged 15-24 than those aged 55 or over (34% compared with 24%), while the proportion that are sceptical or opposed to the idea of the EU ranges from 17% among those aged 15-24 to 27% among those aged 55 or over.

There is a difference by level of education: those who finished their education at the age of 20 or above are more likely to say they are in favour of the EU (80% compared with 63% of those who left education by the age of 15) and are less likely to say they are sceptical or opposed to it (19% compared with 29%).

Respondents who have difficulties paying bills most of the time are more likely to be sceptical or opposed to the idea of the EU (42% vs. 21% of those who never or almost never have difficulties), and are less likely to be in favour of the EU and the way it is working at present (14% vs. 30%).

QA31 Which of the following statements regarding the European Union is closest to your opinion?
(% - EU)

	You are in favour of the European Union and the way it is working at present	You are rather in favour of the European Union, but not the way it is working at present	You are rather sceptical of the European Union, but could change your opinion if the way it works was really changed	You are opposed to the idea of the European Union in general	Don't know
EU27	27	46	21	4	2
Gender					
Man	26	47	20	5	2
Woman	28	44	21	4	3
Age					
15-24	34	46	15	2	3
25-39	29	47	20	3	1
40-54	27	46	22	4	1
55 +	24	45	22	5	4
Education (End of)					
15-	25	38	22	7	8
16-19	25	44	25	5	1
20+	29	51	17	2	1
Still studying	35	47	13	2	3
Socio-professional category					
Self-employed	25	50	20	4	1
Managers	30	53	14	2	1
Other white collars	30	46	19	3	2
Manual workers	24	44	26	5	1
House persons	23	38	27	5	7
Unemployed	23	39	28	7	3
Retired	25	44	21	6	4
Students	35	47	13	2	3
Difficulties paying bills					
Most of the time	14	41	33	9	3
From time to time	22	42	27	6	3
Almost never/ Never	30	47	18	3	2

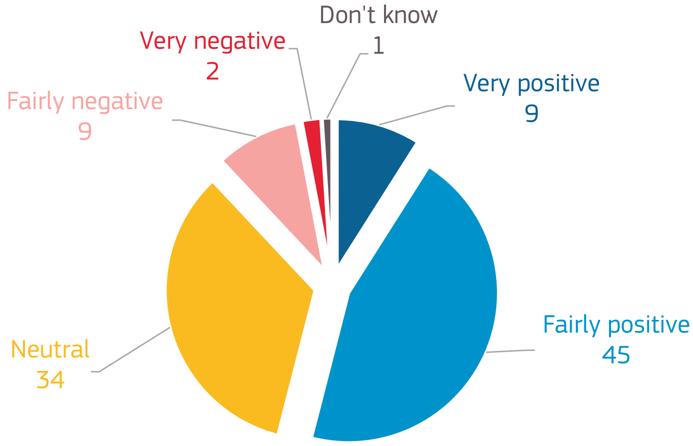
More than half of Europeans hold a positive image of the EU, and citizens from all Member States are more likely to report positively rather than negatively

More than half (54%) of Europeans **hold a positive image of the EU**, while just 11% hold a negative image. A third of Europeans (34%) have a “neutral” image of the EU.

In every country, more people perceive the EU positively than negatively. In 20 of the 27 EU Member States, at least half have a positive image of the EU. The countries with the most positive view of the EU are Ireland (81%), Portugal (70%) and Sweden (66%), with at least two-thirds in each of these countries giving a positive rating. The countries with the least positive image of the EU are Greece (36%), Austria (38%) and Slovakia (41%).

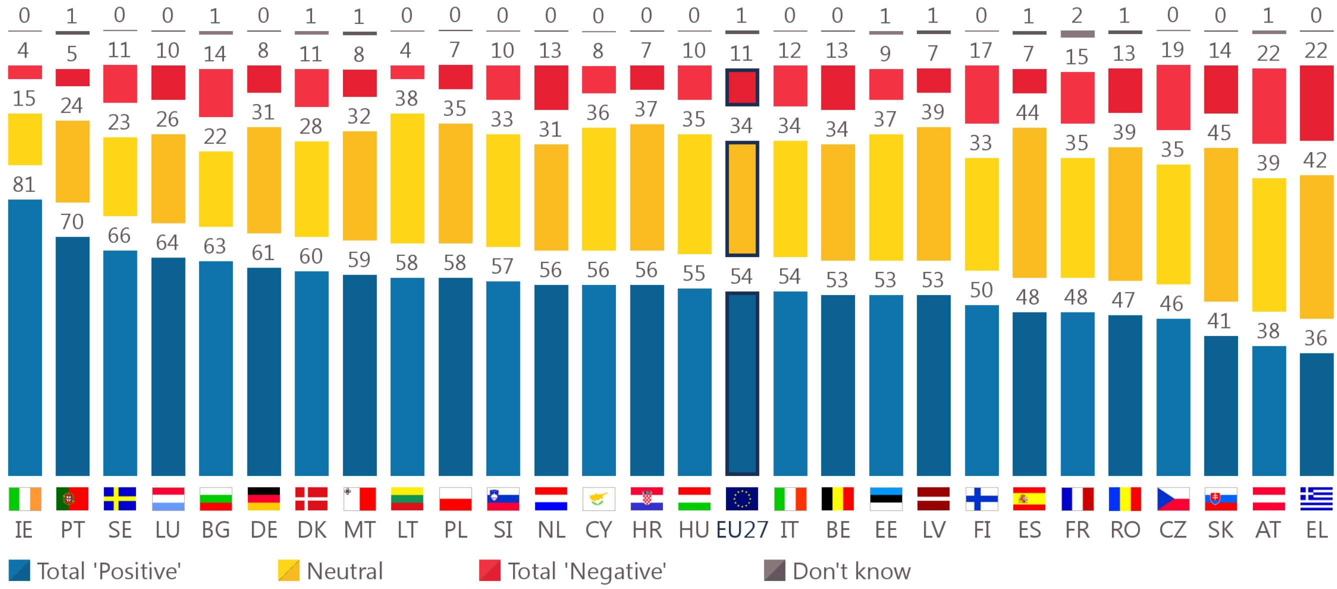
In most countries, a positive image is the predominant viewpoint. However, a neutral image is the majority view in Slovakia (45%), Greece (42%) and Austria (39%).

D78 In general, does the EU conjure up for you a very positive, fairly positive, neutral, fairly negative or very negative image?
(% - EU27)



(September - October 2021)

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



The **socio-demographic data** shows differences by age, with younger respondents more likely to hold a positive image of the EU than older respondents (65% of those aged 15-24 vs. 50% of those aged 55 or over).

Respondents who left education at the age of 20 or above are more likely to say that the EU conjures up a positive image (63%), compared with those who left by the age of 15 (43%).

Differences can also be seen by socio-professional category, with managers (65%) and students (69%) more likely to have a positive image of the EU than unemployed respondents (44%), housepersons (45%) or manual workers (48%).

Respondents who have difficulties paying bills most of the time are less likely to have a positive image of the EU than those who never or rarely have difficulties (37% vs. 59%).

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	54	34	11	1
Gender				
Man	55	32	13	0
Woman	53	37	9	1
Age				
15-24	65	30	5	0
25-39	58	33	9	0
40-54	54	34	12	0
55 +	50	37	12	1
Education (End of)				
15-	43	43	12	2
16-19	48	39	13	0
20+	63	27	10	0
Still studying	69	27	4	0
Socio-professional category				
Self-employed	59	30	11	0
Managers	65	27	8	0
Other white collars	55	36	9	0
Manual workers	48	39	13	0
House persons	45	43	11	1
Unemployed	44	41	15	0
Retired	50	36	13	1
Students	69	27	4	0
Difficulties paying bills				
Most of the time	37	41	22	0
From time to time	46	40	14	0
Almost never/ Never	59	32	9	0

II. LIFE IN THE EUROPEAN UNION

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

This chapter of the report looks at how happy respondents are with various aspects of their life in the EU, including their work and family life**.**

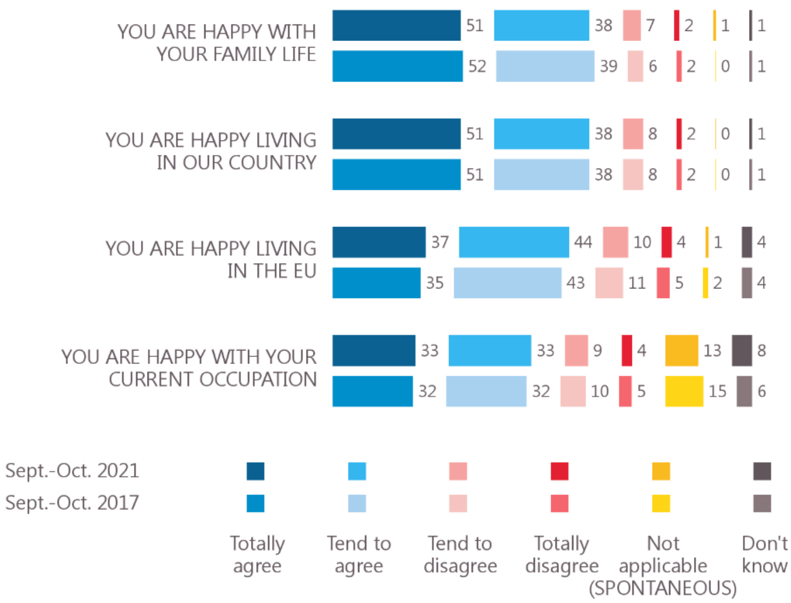
A large majority of respondents agree they are happy with their family life (89%) and living in their country (89%)[22]. In fact, in each case more than half "totally agree". Just over eight in ten (81%) agree they are happy living in the EU, with 37% who "totally agree".

Two thirds (66%) agree they are happy with their current occupation, with one third (33%) saying they "totally agree". However, it is worth noting that only 13% disagree,13% say the question is not applicable to them and 8% say they don't know.

There has been little change since September-October 2017 (Special Eurobarometer 467 on the Future of Europe)[23], with **the largest being a three percentage points increase in the proportion who are happy living in the EU**[24].

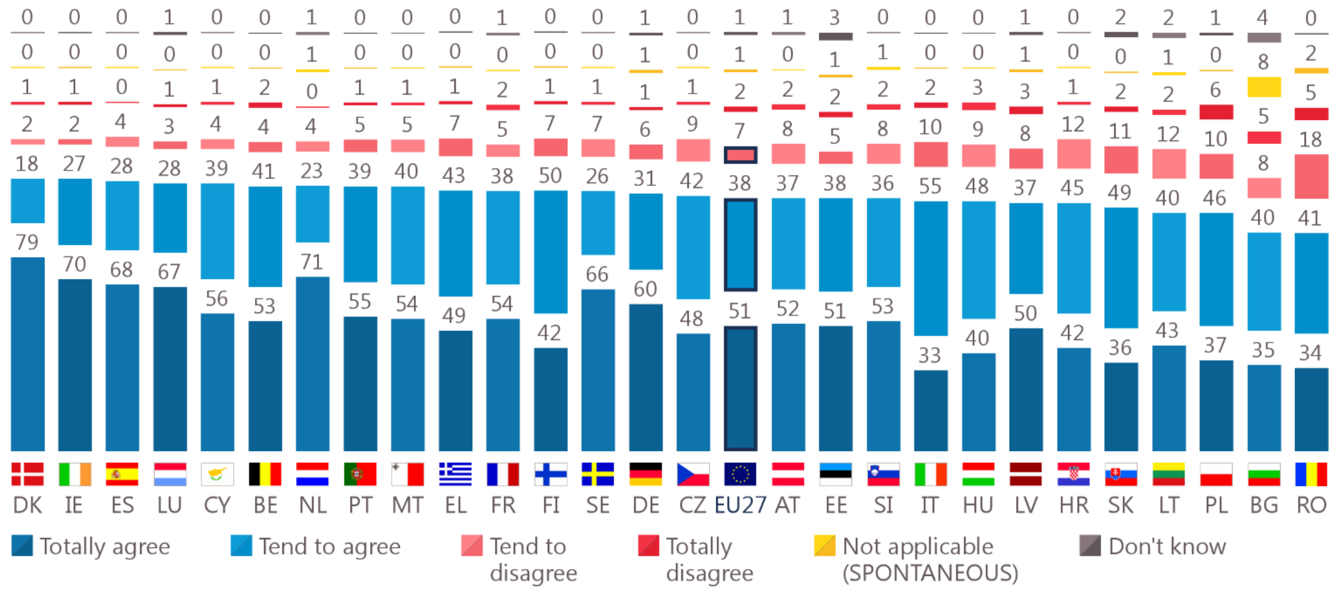
At a country level, **at least three quarters of respondents in each country agree they are happy with their family life**, with proportions ranging from 97% in Denmark and Ireland and 96% in Spain to 75% in Romania and Bulgaria and 83% in Poland and Lithuania.

QA30 Please tell to what extent you agree or disagree with each of the following statements.
(% - EU27)



In 16 Member States at least half of respondents "totally agree" they are happy with their family life.

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



[22]Q30 Please tell me to what extent you agree or disagree with each of the following statements. 30.1 You are happy with your family life; 30.2 You are happy with your current occupation; 30.3 You are happy living in (OUR COUNTRY); 30.4 You are happy living in the EU.
[23] Special Eurobarometer 467: http://ec.europa.eu/commfrontoffice/publicopinion/index.cfm/Survey/getSurveyDetail/instruments/SPECIAL/surveyKy/2179
[24] Care should be taken interpreting the trends as the results from 2017 are based in EU28, and the current survey is EU27.

There have generally only been small changes in agreement since September-October 2017. Total 'agreement' has increased in 12 countries, with the largest increases seen in Greece and Czechia (both +6 percentage points).

In 11 countries agreement has declined, most notably amongst respondents in Poland and Romania (both -8 pp). Agreement levels have not changed in Ireland, Latvia, the Netherlands and Portugal.

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

	Total 'Agree'	Diff. September/October 2021 - September/October 2017	Total 'Disagree'	Diff. September/October 2021 - September/October 2017	Don't know
EU27	89	▼ 2	9	▲ 1	1
BE	90	▲ 6	10	▼ 5	0
BG	92	▲ 6	8	▼ 6	0
CZ	83	▲ 4	14	▼ 2	2
DK	88	▲ 4	12	▼ 3	0
DE	85	▲ 4	13	▼ 4	2
EE	96	▲ 3	4	▼ 3	0
IE	94	▲ 2	6	▼ 2	0
EL	89	▲ 2	7	▼ 3	3
ES	75	▲ 1	13	=	4
FR	92	▲ 1	7	▲ 1	1
HR	95	▲ 1	5	▼ 1	0
IT	95	▲ 1	4	=	1
CY	97	=	3	=	0
LV	87	=	11	=	1
LT	94	=	4	=	1
LU	94	=	6	=	0
HU	92	▼ 1	8	▲ 2	0
MT	92	▼ 1	8	▲ 2	0
NL	97	▼ 2	3	▲ 2	0
AT	87	▼ 2	13	▲ 2	0
PL	88	▼ 2	12	▲ 3	0
PT	91	▼ 3	7	▲ 2	1
RO	94	▼ 3	6	▲ 3	0
SI	89	▼ 3	10	▲ 2	0
SK	89	▼ 4	10	▲ 3	1
FI	83	▼ 8	16	▲ 9	1
SE	75	▼ 8	23	▲ 6	0

There are no differences based on gender or age in the **socio-demographic data**. Respondents who completed education aged 20 or older are the most likely to agree, particularly compared to those who completed aged 15 or younger (92% vs 87%).

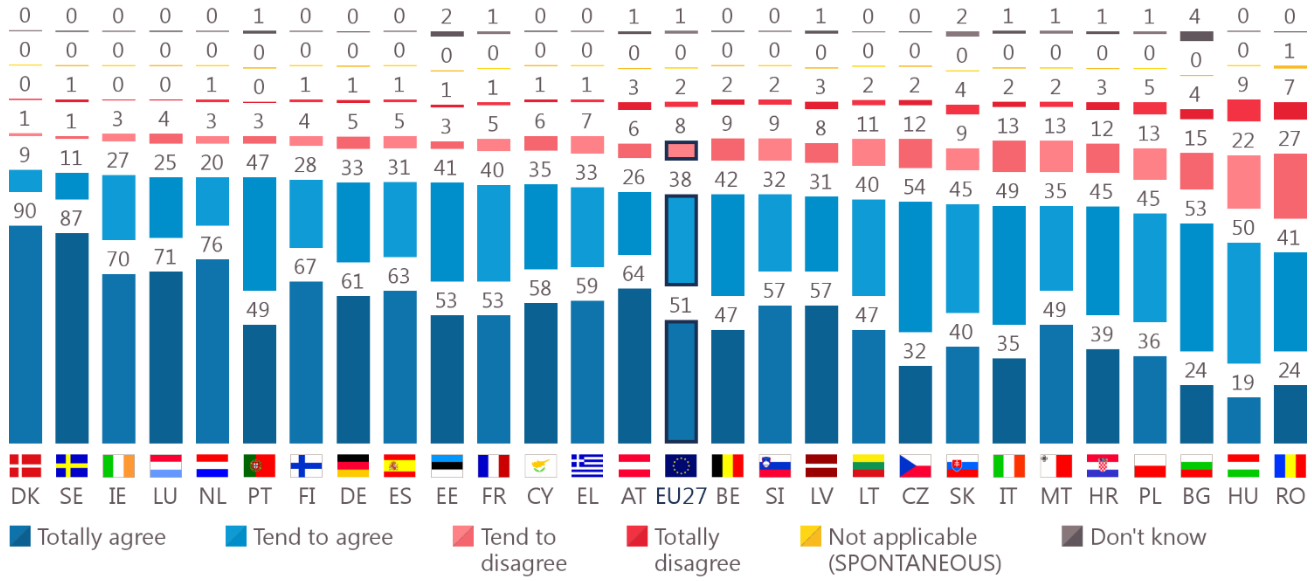
Looking at socio-occupation groups, the unemployed (81%) are less likely than other groups – and particularly managers (94%) - to agree they are happy with their family life. Finally, the fewer difficulties a respondent experiences paying bills, the more likely they are to be happy with their family life.

QA30.1 Please tell to what extent you agree or disagree with each of the following statements.
You are happy with your family life
(% - EU)

	Total 'Agree'	Total 'Disagree'	Not applicable (SPONTANEOUS)	Don't know
EU27	89	9	1	1
Gender				
Man	90	9	0	1
Woman	89	9	1	1
Age				
15-24	90	8	1	1
25-39	91	8	0	1
40-54	90	9	0	1
55 +	88	10	1	1
Education (End of)				
15-	87	12	0	1
16-19	88	10	1	1
20+	92	7	1	0
Still studying	92	6	1	1
Socio-professional category				
Self-employed	93	5	1	1
Managers	94	6	0	0
Other white collars	90	9	0	1
Manual workers	89	10	0	1
House persons	92	8	0	0
Unemployed	81	18	1	0
Retired	87	11	1	1
Students	92	6	1	1
Difficulties paying bills				
Most of the time	73	25	1	1
From time to time	84	15	1	0
Almost never/ Never	93	6	0	1

More than six in ten respondents in each Member State are happy living in their country, with the highest levels seen amongst respondents in Denmark (99%), Sweden (98%) and Ireland (97%). This compares to 65% of respondents in Romania, 69% in Hungary and 77% in Bulgaria who think the same way. In 15 countries more than half "totally agree" they are happy living in their country.

QA30.3 Please tell to what extent you agree or disagree with each of the following statements.
You are happy living in OUR COUNTRY (%)



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

In contrast, there are nine countries where respondents are now less likely to agree, with the largest declines seen in Malta (-12 pp) and Poland (-9 pp). There has been no change in the remaining five countries.

QA30.3 Please tell to what extent you agree or disagree with each of the following statements.
You are happy living in OUR COUNTRY (%)

	Total 'Agree'	Diff. September/October 2021 - September/October 2017	Total 'Disagree'	Diff. September/October 2021 - September/October 2017	Don't know
EU27	89	=	10	=	1
LT	87	▲ 12	13	▼ 11	0
BG	77	▲ 11	19	▼ 13	4
CZ	86	▲ 9	14	▼ 9	0
HU	69	▲ 7	31	▼ 6	0
ES	94	▲ 6	6	▼ 6	0
EL	92	▲ 4	8	▼ 4	0
IT	84	▲ 4	15	▼ 3	1
CY	93	▲ 3	7	▼ 3	0
EE	94	▲ 2	4	▼ 2	2
HR	84	▲ 2	15	▼ 2	1
PT	96	▲ 2	3	▼ 3	1
LV	88	▲ 1	11	▼ 1	1
SE	98	▲ 1	2	▼ 1	0
DK	99	=	1	=	0
FR	93	=	6	=	1
LU	96	=	4	▲ 1	0
SI	89	=	11	▲ 1	0
FI	95	=	5	▲ 1	0
BE	89	▼ 1	11	▲ 1	0
DE	94	▼ 1	6	▲ 2	0
IE	97	▼ 1	3	▲ 1	0
NL	96	▼ 1	4	▲ 1	0
SK	85	▼ 1	13	▲ 4	2
RO	65	▼ 2	34	▲ 3	0
AT	90	▼ 4	9	▲ 3	1
PL	81	▼ 9	18	▲ 9	1
MT	84	▼ 12	15	▲ 11	1

Given the high level of agreement overall, it is not surprising there are few differences in the **socio-demographic data**, with no notable differences based on gender, age or education level. Unemployed persons (82%) are the least likely to agree they are happy living in their country, particularly compared to managers (93%).

Financial situation reveals the largest gap, with the fewer financial difficulties a respondent experiences, the more likely they are to agree they are happy living in their country.

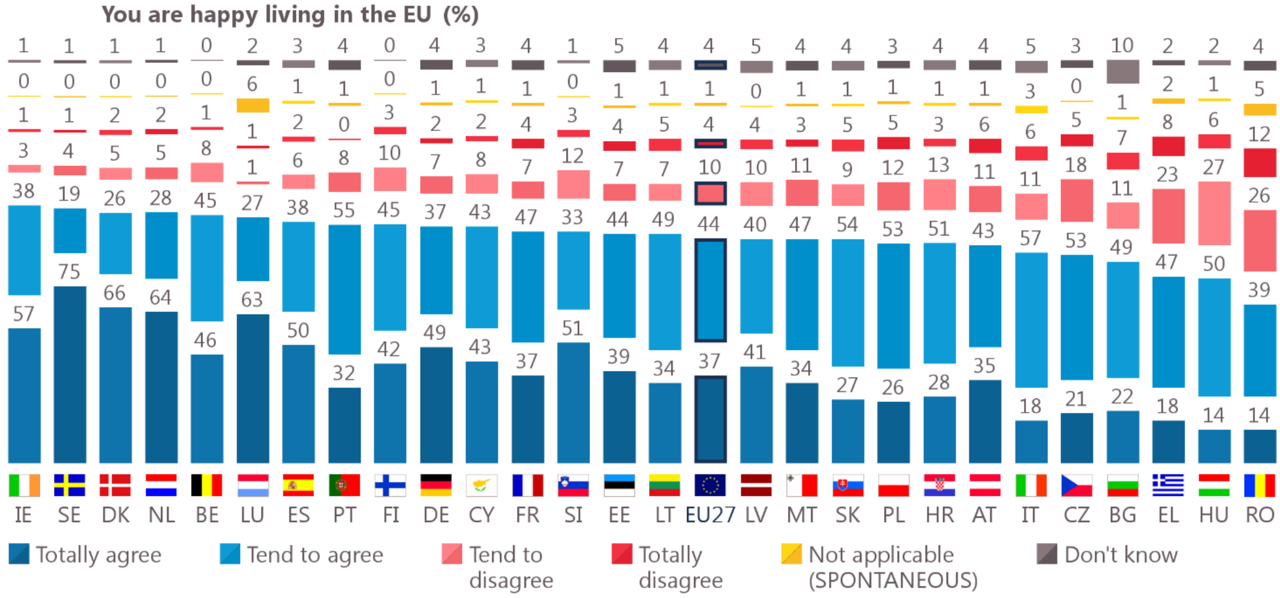
QA30.3 Please tell to what extent you agree or disagree with each of the following statements.
You are happy living in OUR COUNTRY
(% - EU)

	Total 'Agree'	Total 'Disagree'	Not applicable (SPONTANEOUS)	Don't know
EU27	89	10	0	1
Gender				
Man	88	11	0	1
Woman	89	10	0	1
Age				
15-24	88	11	0	1
25-39	86	13	0	1
40-54	87	12	0	1
55 +	90	9	0	1
Education (End of)				
15-	89	11	0	0
16-19	86	13	0	1
20+	91	8	0	1
Still studying	90	10	0	0
Socio-professional category				
Self-employed	89	11	0	0
Managers	93	7	0	0
Other white collars	88	11	0	1
Manual workers	85	15	0	0
House persons	86	13	0	1
Unemployed	82	17	0	1
Retired	91	8	0	1
Students	90	10	0	0
Difficulties paying bills				
Most of the time	75	24	0	1
From time to time	83	17	0	0
Almost never/ Never	91	8	0	1

The majority of respondents in each Member State agree they are happy living in the EU. Proportions range from 95% of respondents in Ireland, 94% in Sweden and 92% in Denmark and the Netherlands to 53% in Romania, 64% in Hungary and 65% in Greece.

There are seven countries where at least half "totally agree": Sweden, Denmark, the Netherlands, Luxembourg, Ireland, Slovenia and Spain.

QA30.4 Please tell to what extent you agree or disagree with each of the following statements.
You are happy living in the EU (%)



Compared to September-October 2017, more respondents in 18 countries – including Czechia (+16 percentage points), Cyprus and Malta (both +11 pp) – now agree they are happy living in the EU.

In contrast there are seven countries where agreement has declined, with the largest seen amongst respondents in Romania (-9 pp) and Luxembourg (-7 pp). Agreement levels have remained stable in Denmark and the Netherlands.

QA30.4 Please tell to what extent you agree or disagree with each of the following statements.
You are happy living in the EU (%)

	Total 'Agree'	Diff. September/October 2021 - September/October 2017	Total 'Disagree'	Diff. September/October 2021 - September/October 2017	Don't know
EU27	81	▲ 3	14	▼ 2	4
BE	74	▲ 16	23	▼ 13	3
BG	86	▲ 11	10	▼ 10	3
CZ	81	▲ 11	14	▲ 7	4
DK	75	▲ 9	17	▼ 8	5
DE	79	▲ 7	16	▼ 4	4
EE	64	▲ 7	33	=	2
IE	71	▲ 6	18	▼ 5	10
EL	87	▲ 4	8	▼ 5	4
ES	94	▲ 4	5	▼ 2	1
FR	65	▲ 3	31	▼ 3	2
HR	88	▲ 3	8	▼ 2	3
IT	84	▲ 3	11	▼ 2	4
CY	83	▲ 3	12	=	4
LV	81	▲ 3	14	▲ 1	4
LT	91	▲ 2	9	▼ 2	0
LU	81	▲ 2	14	▼ 2	5
HU	78	▲ 2	17	▼ 2	4
MT	95	▲ 1	4	=	1
NL	92	=	7	▲ 1	1
AT	92	=	7	▲ 1	1
PL	84	▼ 1	15	▲ 2	1
PT	87	▼ 1	13	▲ 4	0
RO	83	▼ 2	11	▲ 1	5
SI	86	▼ 3	9	▲ 3	4
SK	79	▼ 4	17	▲ 8	3
FI	90	▼ 7	2	=	2
SE	53	▼ 9	38	▲ 10	4

The **socio-demographic data** show that those aged 15-24 (87%) are the most likely to agree they are happy living in the EU, particularly compared to those aged 55 and older (79%).

Moreover, those who completed education aged 20 or older (88%) are more likely to share the same sentiment as younger respondents, particularly compared to those who completed education aged 15 or younger (74%).

With regards respondents' profession. managers and students are the most likely to feel positive about living in the EU (managers: 89%, students: 88%), particularly compared to house persons (75%).

The data also show the fewer financial difficulties a respondent experiences, the more likely they are to agree they are happy living in the EU. For example, 87% who almost never or never have difficulties paying bills are happy living in the EU, compared to 65% who have difficulties paying bills most of the time.

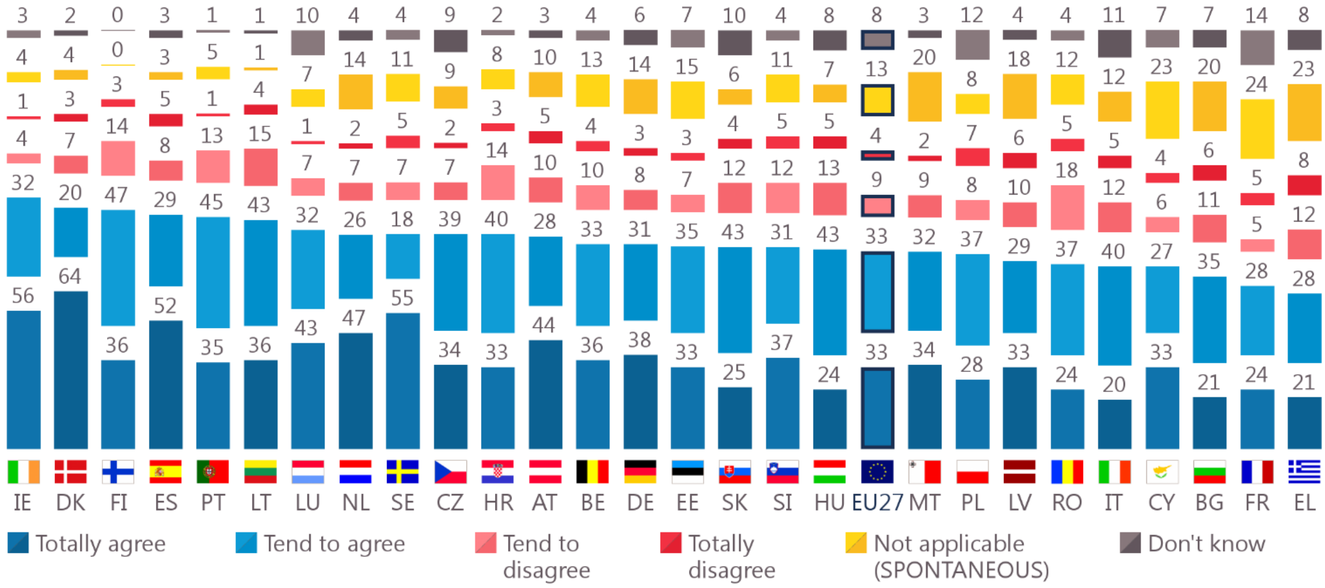
QA30.4 Please tell to what extent you agree or disagree with each of the following statements.
You are happy living in the EU
(% - EU)

	Total 'Agree'	Total 'Disagree'	Not applicable (SPONTANEOUS)	Don't know
EU27	81	14	1	4
Gender				
Man	81	15	1	3
Woman	82	12	2	4
Age				
15-24	87	10	1	2
25-39	84	13	1	2
40-54	81	16	1	2
55 +	79	14	2	5
Education (End of)				
15-	74	16	3	7
16-19	77	18	1	4
20+	88	9	1	2
Still studying	88	8	1	3
Socio-professional category				
Self-employed	83	13	1	3
Managers	89	9	0	2
Other white collars	83	13	2	2
Manual workers	78	18	1	3
House persons	75	16	3	6
Unemployed	77	18	2	3
Retired	79	14	2	5
Students	88	8	1	3
Difficulties paying bills				
Most of the time	65	28	3	4
From time to time	72	22	2	4
Almost never/ Never	87	9	1	3

A majority of respondents in each Member State agree they are happy with their current occupation, with proportions ranging from 88% of respondents in Ireland, 84% in Denmark and 83% in Finland to 49% in Greece, 52% in France and 56% in Bulgaria.

In four countries at least half “totally agree”: Denmark (64%), Ireland (56%), Sweden (55%) and Spain (52%).

QA30.2 Please tell to what extent you agree or disagree with each of the following statements.
You are happy with your current occupation (%)



Happiness with their current occupation has risen amongst respondents in 22 countries, with the largest increases seen in the Netherlands, Luxembourg (both +13 pp), Malta, Greece (both +12 pp) and Cyprus (+11 pp).

In contrast the proportions who agree they are happy with their occupation have declined in three countries, most notably in Austria (-7 pp). There has been no change in Germany and Slovenia.

QA30.2 Please tell to what extent you agree or disagree with each of the following statements.
You are happy with your current occupation (%)

	Total 'Agree'	Diff. September/October 2021 - September/October 2017	Total 'Disagree'	Diff. September/October 2021 - September/October 2017	Don't know
EU27	66	▲ 2	13	▼ 2	8
BE	75	▲ 13	8	=	10
BG	73	▲ 13	9	▲ 1	4
CZ	49	▲ 12	20	▼ 6	8
DK	66	▲ 12	11	▲ 3	3
DE	60	▲ 11	10	▼ 7	7
EE	73	▲ 9	9	▼ 11	9
IE	81	▲ 9	13	▼ 7	3
EL	56	▲ 7	17	▼ 4	7
ES	68	▲ 7	16	▼ 4	10
FR	69	▲ 6	10	▼ 3	6
HR	60	▲ 6	17	▼ 6	11
IT	79	▲ 6	19	▼ 3	1
CY	80	▲ 6	14	▼ 7	1
LV	83	▲ 5	17	▲ 9	0
LT	69	▲ 4	14	=	4
LU	88	▲ 4	5	▼ 5	3
HU	62	▲ 4	16	▼ 1	4
MT	84	▲ 3	10	▲ 2	2
NL	52	▲ 3	10	▼ 4	14
AT	73	▲ 3	12	▲ 5	4
PL	67	▲ 1	18	▼ 1	8
PT	65	▲ 1	15	▲ 2	12
RO	69	=	11	▼ 1	6
SI	68	=	17	▲ 1	4
SK	73	▼ 1	17	▼ 2	2
FI	61	▼ 4	23	▼ 1	4
SE	72	▼ 7	15	▲ 4	3

The **socio-demographic data** illustrate men are more likely to agree they are happy with their current occupation (70% vs 64% of women). It also shows the longer a respondent remained in education, the more likely they are to be happy with their current occupation: 76% who completed their education aged 20+ agree, compared to 51% of those who completed prior to age 16.

Differences are important depending on the occupational status: managers are the most likely to agree.

QA30.2 Please tell to what extent you agree or disagree with each of the following statements.
You are happy with your current occupation
(% - EU)

	Total 'Agree'	Total 'Disagree'	Not applicable (SPONTANEOUS)	Don't know
EU27	66	13	13	8
Gender				
Man	70	13	11	6
Woman	64	13	14	9
Age				
15-24	63	14	15	8
25-39	78	17	3	2
40-54	78	17	3	2
55 +	54	9	23	14
Education (End of)				
15-	51	13	22	14
16-19	64	16	13	7
20+	76	11	8	5
Still studying	63	10	17	10
Socio-professional category				
Self-employed	88	9	2	1
Managers	91	8	1	0
Other white collars	84	14	1	1
Manual workers	78	20	1	1
House persons	50	16	22	12
Unemployed	28	48	16	8
Retired	42	7	32	19
Students	63	10	17	10
Difficulties paying bills				
Most of the time	38	37	16	9
From time to time	61	22	10	7
Almost never/ Never	71	8	13	8

III. THE EUROPEAN UNION IN 2021

1. The EU's main assets

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

This chapter explores current opinions about the EU, including its main assets and challenges, and the values it embodies. Respondents' views about the areas that should be prioritised to face global challenges are also discussed.

According to Europeans, the main assets of the EU are its respect for democracy, human rights and the rule of law (27%) and its economic, industrial and trading power (25%)[25]. More than one in five also mentions the good relationship and solidarity between the EU's Member States or the standard of living of EU citizens (22% each).

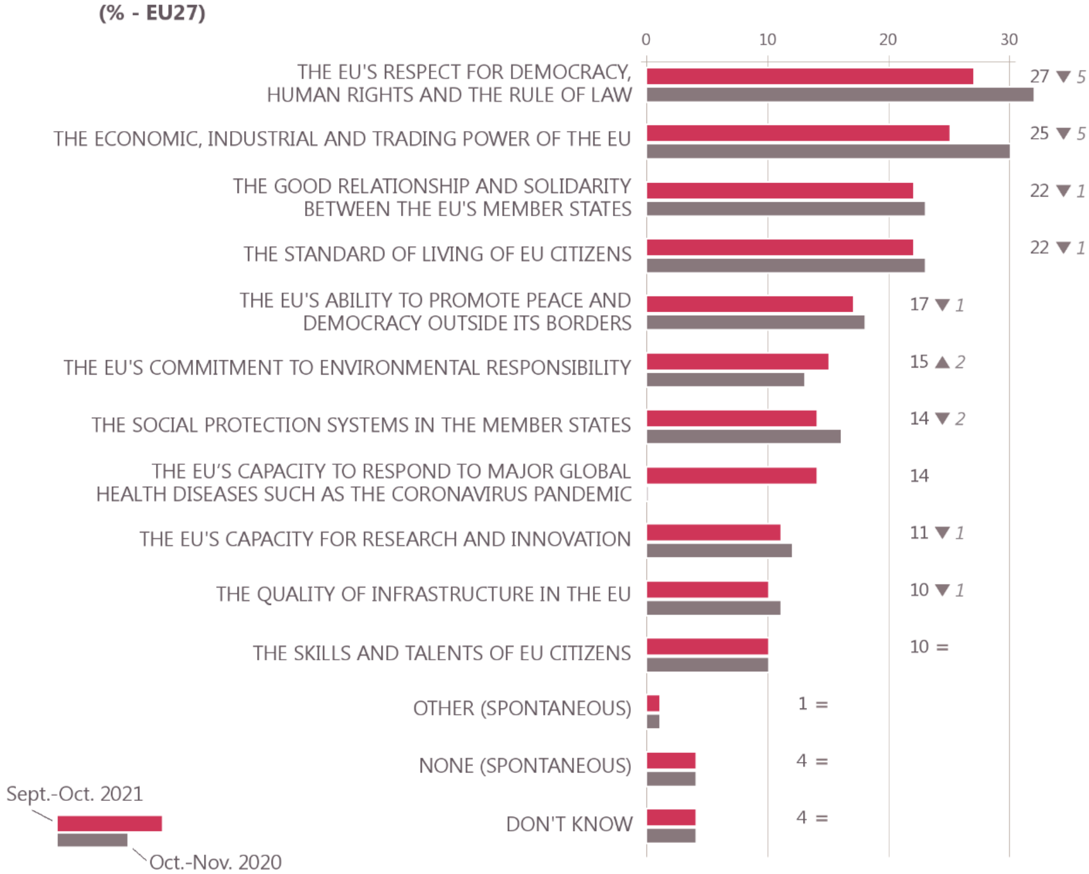
Each of the other assets asked about are mentioned by at least one in ten respondents.

Almost one in five (17%) mention the EU's ability to promote peace and democracy outside its borders, while 15% mention the EU's commitment to environmental responsibility. This is then followed by respondents who name the social protection systems in the Member States, and the EU's capacity to respond to major global health diseases such as the COVID-19 pandemic (both 14%) as its main asset.

Around one in ten think the main asset of the EU is its capacity for research and innovation (11%), the quality of infrastructure in the EU or the skills and talents of EU citizens (10% each).

Although the EU's respect for democracy, human rights and the rule of law, and its economic, industrial and trading power remain the first and second most mentioned assets respectively (as they were in Special Eurobarometer 500 on the Future of Europe 2020[26]), they are now slightly less likely to be mentioned (-5 percentage points each). There has been little change in the mention of other assets (0-2 pp). The EU's capacity to respond to major global health diseases such as the COVID-19 pandemic is a new option in this wave of the survey, so no trend data is available.

QA15T In your opinion, what are the main assets of the EU? Firstly? And then? (MAX. 3 ANSWERS)
(% - EU27)

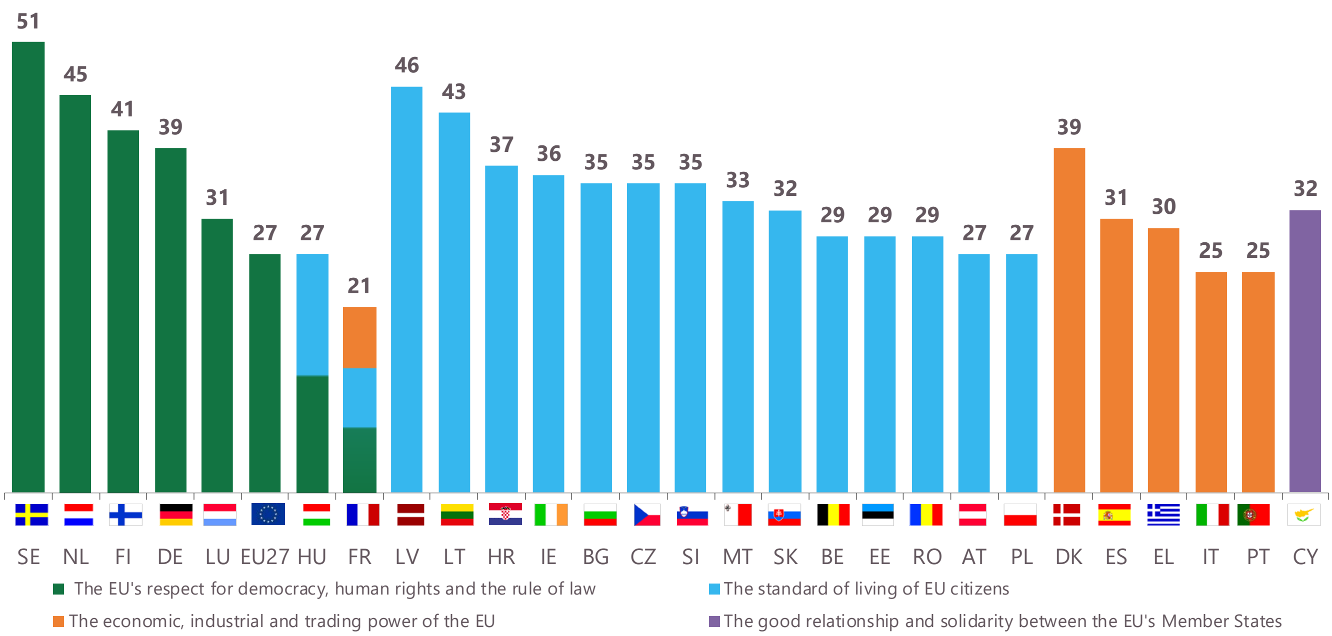


[25] QA15T. In your opinion, what are the main assets of the EU? Firstly? And then?
[26] Special Eurobarometer 500: https://europa.eu/eurobarometer/surveys/detail/2256

In 16 Member States, the standard of living of EU citizens is ranked first or joint first as the main asset of the EU, with the highest proportions observed in Latvia (46%) and Lithuania (43%). In eight countries the EU's respect for democracy, human rights and the rule of law ranks first or joint first, led by Sweden (51%).

The economic, industrial and trading power of the EU ranks first or joint first in six countries including Denmark (39%), while in Cyprus (32%) respondents are most likely to regard the good relationship and solidarity between the EU's Member States as its main asset.

QA15T In your opinion, what are the main assets of the EU? Firstly? And then? (MAX. 3 ANSWERS)
(% - THE MOST MENTIONED ANSWER BY COUNTRY)



Across the EU as a whole, results have generally remained stable since October-November 2020, but there have been larger changes at the country level. These will be discussed below, focussing on evolutions of at least 10 percentage points.

With the exception of the Netherlands (no change), respondents in each country are now less likely to consider the EU's respect for democracy, human rights and the rule of law to be a main asset, and in seven countries the decline is of at least 10 percentage points: Estonia (-22 pp), Ireland, Lithuania (both -21 pp), Slovenia (-14 pp), Malta (-11 pp), France and Denmark (both -10 pp).

Compared to October-November 2020, there are 24 countries where respondents are now less likely to say the economic, industrial and trading power of the EU is one of its main assets, with the largest declines seen amongst those in Portugal (-17 pp), Estonia, Ireland (both -16 pp), Luxembourg (-12 pp), Lithuania and Slovenia (both -11 pp) and Finland (-10 pp).

There have been large declines in the proportion of respondents in Estonia (-12 pp) and Lithuania (-11 pp) that mention the good relationship and solidarity between the EU's Member States, while the proportion who mention the standard of living in EU citizens has increased by 11 points in Ireland.

The only other large change since October-November 2020 is the proportion of respondents in Cyprus who think the EU's capacity for research and innovation is a main asset (-10 pp).

QA15T In your opinion, what are the main assets of the EU? Firstly? And then? (MAX. 3 ANSWERS)
(%)

	The EU's respect for democracy, human rights and the rule of law	Diff. September/October 2021 - October/November 2020	The economic, industrial and trading power of the EU	Diff. September/October 2021 - October/November 2020	The good relationship and solidarity between the EU's Member States	Diff. September/October 2021 - October/November 2020	The standard of living of EU citizens	Diff. September/October 2021 - October/November 2020	The EU's ability to promote peace and democracy outside its borders	Diff. September/October 2021 - October/November 2020	The EU's commitment to environmental responsibility	Diff. September/October 2021 - October/November 2020	The social protection systems in the Member States	Diff. September/October 2021 - October/November 2020	The EU's capacity for research and innovation	Diff. September/October 2021 - October/November 2020	The skills and talents of EU citizens	Diff. September/October 2021 - October/November 2020	The quality of infrastructure in the EU	Diff. September/October 2021 - October/November 2020
EU27	27	▼5	25	▼5	22	▼1	22	▼1	17	▼1	15	▲2	14	▼2	11	▼1	10	=	10	▼1
BE	27	▼6	24	▼9	24	▲2	29	▲7	12	▼3	17	=	19	▼2	8	▼5	11	▼3	9	▲1
BG	15	▼5	27	▼1	22	▼5	35	▼6	13	=	11	▲3	17	▼3	9	▼1	8	▼1	11	▲1
CZ	22	▼7	29	▼6	33	▼3	35	▲3	16	▲5	11	▼3	15	▲7	8	▼5	9	▲2	7	▼4
DK	33	▼10	39	▼3	25	▼1	17	▼1	14	▲1	22	▲3	9	▲2	8	▼2	5	=	7	▼2
DE	39	▼5	23	=	26	▲1	19	▼2	22	▼2	13	▼1	14	▼3	8	▲1	8	=	8	▼2
EE	19	▼22	28	▼16	24	▼12	29	▲5	11	▲2	8	▼3	15	▲5	10	▼2	7	▲1	12	▲6
IE	20	▼21	20	▼16	26	▼9	36	▲11	16	▲6	16	▲3	12	=	7	▲1	19	▲9	10	=
EL	15	▼7	30	▲2	26	▲2	17	▼4	17	▼6	12	▲3	10	▼6	16	▲3	12	▲3	15	▼1
ES	18	▼1	31	▼7	16	▼4	22	=	11	▼2	10	=	13	▼5	13	▼3	9	=	10	▼3
FR	21	▼10	21	▼4	19	▼2	21	=	19	▼1	15	▲2	18	▲3	10	▼1	9	▼1	9	=
HR	26	▼1	25	▼6	22	▲1	37	▼8	16	▲1	9	▼3	18	▼1	10	▼1	11	▲3	9	▼1
IT	23	▼7	25	▼5	20	=	15	▼1	15	▼4	16	▲4	11	▼5	16	=	12	▼1	10	▼2
CY	26	▼2	16	=	32	▲3	21	▼2	19	▼5	17	▲1	18	▲3	6	▼10	5	▼1	9	▼2
LV	22	▼6	17	▼3	25	▼1	46	▲3	12	=	12	=	21	=	4	▼2	6	▼1	10	=
LT	21	▼21	17	▼11	27	▼11	43	▲8	18	=	9	▲1	17	▲5	11	▲3	8	▲4	7	▲1
LU	31	▼9	16	▼12	22	=	25	▲2	18	▼3	16	▲4	17	▼3	10	=	10	=	12	▼1
HU	27	▼2	25	▼1	18	▲3	27	▼1	19	▼3	14	▲1	15	▼3	13	▲1	13	▼5	13	▼1
MT	24	▼11	21	▼7	16	▼6	33	▼1	13	=	25	▲9	8	▼4	12	▲2	8	▼3	7	=
NL	45	=	37	▼5	26	▼2	17	▲1	14	▼3	25	▲6	10	=	5	▼2	3	▼3	5	▼2
AT	23	▼7	23	▼1	18	▲2	27	▲2	15	=	17	▲5	18	▼2	9	▼3	10	▼4	16	▲3
PL	24	▼2	23	▼3	19	▼4	27	▼6	16	=	16	▲4	19	▲1	9	▼3	10	▲1	14	▼2
PT	24	▼6	25	▼17	19	▲1	18	▼6	18	▲2	19	▲6	11	▲1	7	=	19	▲2	5	▲1
RO	18	▼2	26	▼5	20	▼3	29	▲1	17	▼2	11	=	18	▲1	12	▼1	11	▲1	14	▼3
SI	28	▼14	24	▼11	22	▼7	35	▲2	9	▼1	17	▲4	19	▲4	9	▼1	6	▲1	10	▲4
SK	15	▼1	23	▼9	24	▼7	32	▲3	15	▼2	13	▲1	15	▲1	10	▼2	8	▼2	16	▲3
FI	41	▼3	35	▼10	26	▼2	20	▲4	9	▼3	14	▲2	5	▼2	9	▼3	12	=	7	=
SE	51	▼7	22	▼7	23	▲2	8	=	18	▲2	30	▲4	8	▼1	14	▲4	6	▼3	7	▲2

Comparing **socio-demographic groups** shows no differences based on age, and the only difference based on gender is that men are more likely to consider the economic, industrial and trading power of the EU to be an asset (28% vs 23% of women).

Managers, respondents who remained in education for longer, and those who have the least financial difficulties are more likely to consider the EU's respect for democracy, human rights and the rule of law to be a main asset.

For instance, 31% who completed education aged 20 or older mention this as an asset, compared to 21% of those who completed aged 15 or younger. Close to one third (30%) of respondents with the least financial difficulties mention the EU's respect for democracy, human rights and the rule of law, compared to 21% who have most difficulty in paying their bills.

QA15T In your opinion, what are the main assets of the EU? Firstly? And then? (MAX. 3 ANSWERS)
(% - EU)

	The EU's respect for democracy, human rights and the rule of law	The economic, industrial and trading power of the EU	The standard of living of EU citizens	The good relationship and solidarity between the EU's Member States	The EU's ability to promote peace and democracy outside its borders	The EU's commitment to environmental responsibility	The EU's capacity to respond to major global health diseases such as the coronavirus pandemic	The social protection systems in the Member States	The EU's capacity for research and innovation	The skills and talents of EU citizens	The quality of infrastructure in the EU
EU27	27	25	22	22	17	15	14	14	11	10	10
Gender											
Man	26	28	23	22	16	14	13	14	11	10	11
Woman	28	23	21	22	17	15	14	15	10	9	9
Age											
15-24	24	25	25	23	16	13	14	15	11	10	12
25-39	27	26	24	22	14	17	13	15	11	12	12
40-54	26	27	22	22	18	15	14	13	12	10	10
55 +	28	24	20	21	18	14	14	15	10	8	8
Education (End of)											
15-	21	24	23	20	17	10	16	13	9	8	8
16-19	25	24	23	20	17	14	15	16	11	10	11
20+	31	27	20	24	17	18	12	13	11	10	9
Still studying	26	24	23	24	16	15	14	16	12	10	11
Socio-professional category											
Self-employed	27	28	21	23	16	15	14	13	12	11	9
Managers	32	28	22	23	17	16	12	13	12	10	10
Other white collars	28	26	21	22	16	17	15	14	11	12	12
Manual workers	24	26	24	20	15	15	14	14	11	11	12
House persons	21	27	22	19	17	12	15	14	10	8	9
Unemployed	23	25	24	20	15	12	14	14	10	11	12
Retired	27	23	21	22	19	14	14	16	9	7	7
Students	26	24	23	24	16	15	14	16	12	10	11
Difficulties paying bills											
Most of the time	21	22	24	20	16	11	14	13	11	13	7
From time to time	20	24	23	21	16	14	16	16	12	11	11
Almost never/ Never	30	26	21	22	17	15	13	14	10	9	10

2. The EU's main challenges

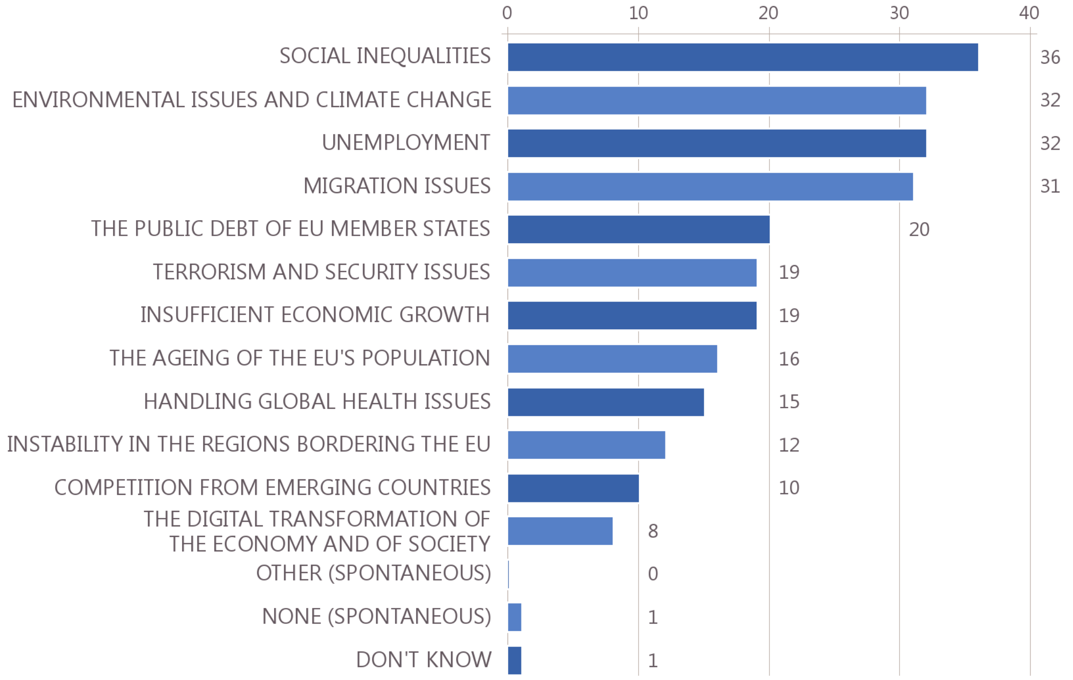
Social inequalities, unemployment, environmental issues and climate change and migration are the main challenges facing the EU

According to respondents, the three most mentioned challenges facing the EU are social inequalities (36%), unemployment and environmental issues and climate change (32% each), although migration issues are mentioned by almost as many (31%)[27]. These are the only issues mentioned by more than three in ten respondents.

One in five (20%) respondents think the public debt of EU Member States is a main challenge, while 19% mention insufficient economic growth or terrorism and security issues (19% each). The aging of the EU's population is considered a main challenge by 16%, while 15% mention handling global health issues and 12% the instability in the regions bordering the EU. One in ten (10%) regard competition from emerging countries as a main challenge.

Fewer than one in ten (8%) think the digital transformation of the economy and of society is a main challenge for the EU.

QA16 And which of the following do you think are the main challenges for the EU? (MAX. 3 ANSWERS)
(% - EU27)



[27] This question was asked in the previous Future of Europe survey, (Special Eurobarometer 500), in September October 2020, but respondents had then the possibility to select several answers (and not maximum three, as in this wave). Therefore, evolutions are not presented.

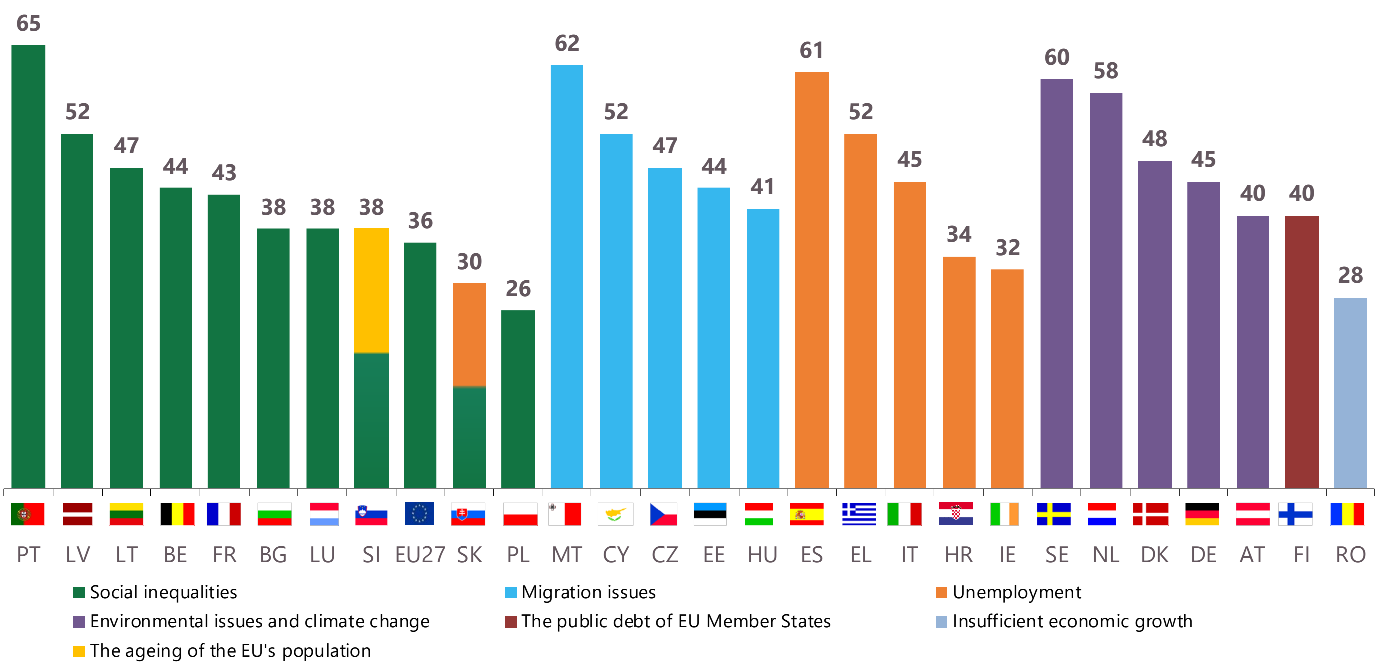
There is some variation in responses regarding main challenges for the EU across Member States.

In 10 countries, social inequalities is the most mentioned challenge or joint most mentioned, although proportions vary from 65% in Portugal to 26% in Poland. In five countries, including Malta (52%), migration issues are considered the main challenge. Unemployment is the main challenge for respondents in five countries, particularly in Spain (61%).

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

Finland (40%) is the only country where the public debt of EU Member States is considered the main challenge, while Slovenia (38%, jointly with social inequalities) is the only country where the ageing of the EU's population is considered as such. In Romania (28%), insufficient economic growth is seen as a main challenge for the EU**.**

QA16 And which of the following do you think are the main challenges for the EU? (MAX. 3 ANSWERS)
(% - THE MOST MENTIONED ANSWER BY COUNTRY)



Social inequalities is the most mentioned challenge in the EU as a whole, the most mentioned or joint most mentioned challenge in 10 countries, and the second or third most mentioned challenge in a further 12 countries. However, there is considerable country-level variation, with proportions ranging from 65% of respondents in Portugal, 52% in Latvia and 49% in Sweden to 18% in Italy, 21% in Romania and 24% in Malta and Ireland.

More than half of all respondents in Spain (61%) and Greece (52%) think **unemployment** is a main challenge, compared to 9% in the Netherlands, 13% in Czechia and 14% in Denmark. This is the most mentioned or joint most mentioned challenge in five countries, and the second or third most mentioned in a further nine countries.

Environmental issues and climate change is the most mentioned challenge in five countries, and the second or third most mentioned challenge in 12. This challenge is mentioned by 60% of respondents in Sweden, 58% in the Netherlands and 48% in Denmark, compared to 14% in Latvia, 15% in Bulgaria and 16% in Greece.

Respondents in Malta (62%), Cyprus (52%) and Greece (49%) are the most likely to mention **migration issues**, while those in Portugal (17%), Spain (20%) and Romania (21%) are the least likely to do so. This is the most mentioned challenge in five countries, and the second or third most mentioned challenge in 16 Member States.

Finland (40%), Austria (28%) and Germany (27%) are the only countries where more than one quarter think the **public debt of EU Member States** is a main challenge facing the EU. This is also the most mentioned challenge by respondents in Finland. At the other end of the scale 6% in Estonia, 7% in Bulgaria and 9% in Lithuania think the same way.

Insufficient economic growth is considered a main challenge by 38% of respondents in Greece, 32% in Italy and 28% in Romania (where it is the most mentioned challenge), compared to 5% in Denmark and the Netherlands and 7% in Sweden, Luxembourg and Germany.

The proportion of respondents who mention **terrorism and security issues** ranges from 32% in Finland, 31% in the Netherlands and 26% in Sweden to 9% in Spain.

For the challenges mentioned less frequently at an overall EU level, the **ageing of the EU's population** is most likely to be mentioned by those in Slovenia (38%, and the most mentioned challenge), Finland (33%) and Estonia (32%), with 12 countries overall where it is mentioned by at least one in five.

Respondents in Slovenia, Romania (both 26%) and Lithuania and Greece (both 25%) are the most likely to think **handling global health issues** are a main challenge, while **instability in the regions bordering the EU** are most often mentioned by those in Denmark (30%), Finland (28%) and the Netherlands (23%).

Competition from emerging countries is most likely to be considered a main challenge by those in Poland (17%), Hungary and Greece (both 15%), while those in Germany (15%) are most likely to mention the digital transformation of the economy and of society.

QA16 And which of the following do you think are the main challenges for the EU? (MAX. 3 ANSWERS)
(%)

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

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

No differences in opinion based on gender are observed in the **socio-demographic data**, but there are a few notable differences by age group: 15-24-year-olds are more likely than older age groups to consider unemployment a main challenge, and along with those aged 25-39, they are also more likely to mention environmental issues and climate change. For example, 37% of the youngest respondents think unemployment is a main challenge for the EU, compared to 32% of those aged 55+. In contrast, the youngest respondents are the least likely to mention the public debt of EU Member States: 15% do so compared to at least one in five of older age groups.

Education levels provide greater differentiation in responses. The longer a respondent remained in education, the more likely they are to mention environmental issues and climate change, migration issues or instability in the regions bordering the EU, and the less likely they are to consider unemployment, insufficient economic growth or handling global health issues as the main challenges facing the EU.

For example, 48% of those who completed education aged 15 or younger mention unemployment as a main challenge, compared to 24% who completed education aged 20 or older. In contrast, environmental issues and climate change are mentioned by 41% who remained in education until age 20 or older, but by 21% of those who finished education aged 15 or younger.

Looking at occupation groups, the unemployed are more likely than other occupation groups to mention social inequalities (46%) or unemployment (50%). Managers (44%) and students (41%) are more likely than others to mention environmental issues and climate change, while managers (36%) are also the most likely to mention migration issues.

Those who experience the most financial difficulties are also the most likely to mention social inequalities: 43% do so compared to 37% who experience the least difficulties paying bills.

QA16 And which of the following do you think are the main challenges for the EU? (MAX. 3 ANSWERS)
(% - EU)

	Social inequalities	Unemployment	Environmental issues and climate change	Migration issues	The public debt of EU Member States	Terrorism and security issues	Insufficient economic growth	The ageing of the EU's population	Handling global health issues	Instability in the regions bordering the EU	Competition from emerging countries	The digital transformation of the economy and of society
EU27	36	32	32	31	20	19	19	16	15	12	10	8
Gender												
Man	35	31	32	32	22	18	19	16	13	13	11	10
Woman	38	33	33	30	19	20	18	16	16	11	9	7
Age												
15-24	33	37	37	30	15	15	18	14	15	11	10	13
25-39	37	30	36	30	20	17	19	16	13	13	10	10
40-54	36	31	31	31	23	18	21	16	13	13	10	9
55 +	37	32	30	31	20	21	17	17	16	11	9	6
Education (End of)												
15-	38	48	21	27	19	19	21	16	20	7	6	5
16-19	34	33	28	31	21	21	21	15	15	12	10	8
20+	39	24	41	33	21	18	16	19	12	15	11	9
Still studying	34	34	41	29	16	15	16	14	15	11	11	14
Socio-professional category												
Self-employed	35	26	32	30	24	18	21	16	14	14	11	11
Managers	36	20	44	36	23	18	17	18	11	15	12	11
Other white collars	34	30	33	30	21	18	21	16	14	14	11	9
Manual workers	36	34	27	29	21	20	21	15	15	12	10	8
House persons	34	44	24	29	16	19	21	16	17	12	7	6
Unemployed	46	50	28	31	14	16	24	13	11	7	9	6
Retired	38	33	30	31	20	22	16	18	17	11	8	5
Students	34	34	41	29	16	15	16	14	15	11	11	14
Difficulties paying bills												
Most of the time	43	45	20	28	21	17	21	13	14	8	9	7
From time to time	32	38	26	30	19	21	24	13	15	12	10	7
Almost never/ Never	37	28	36	32	21	19	17	18	15	13	10	9
Consider belonging to												
The working class	42	42	23	28	17	17	19	18	19	9	7	6
The lower middle class	39	33	31	31	20	22	18	15	16	11	10	7
The middle class	33	30	34	31	22	19	20	16	14	13	11	9
The upper middle class	36	17	49	36	24	18	14	17	9	18	11	12
The upper class	38	13	45	34	25	18	12	15	10	19	9	13

3. The EU's values

Peace, freedom of opinion and social equality, solidarity and tolerance and openness to others are the values best embodied by the EU

Respondents were shown a list of seven values and were asked if each value was best embodied by the EU, other countries, or both[28].

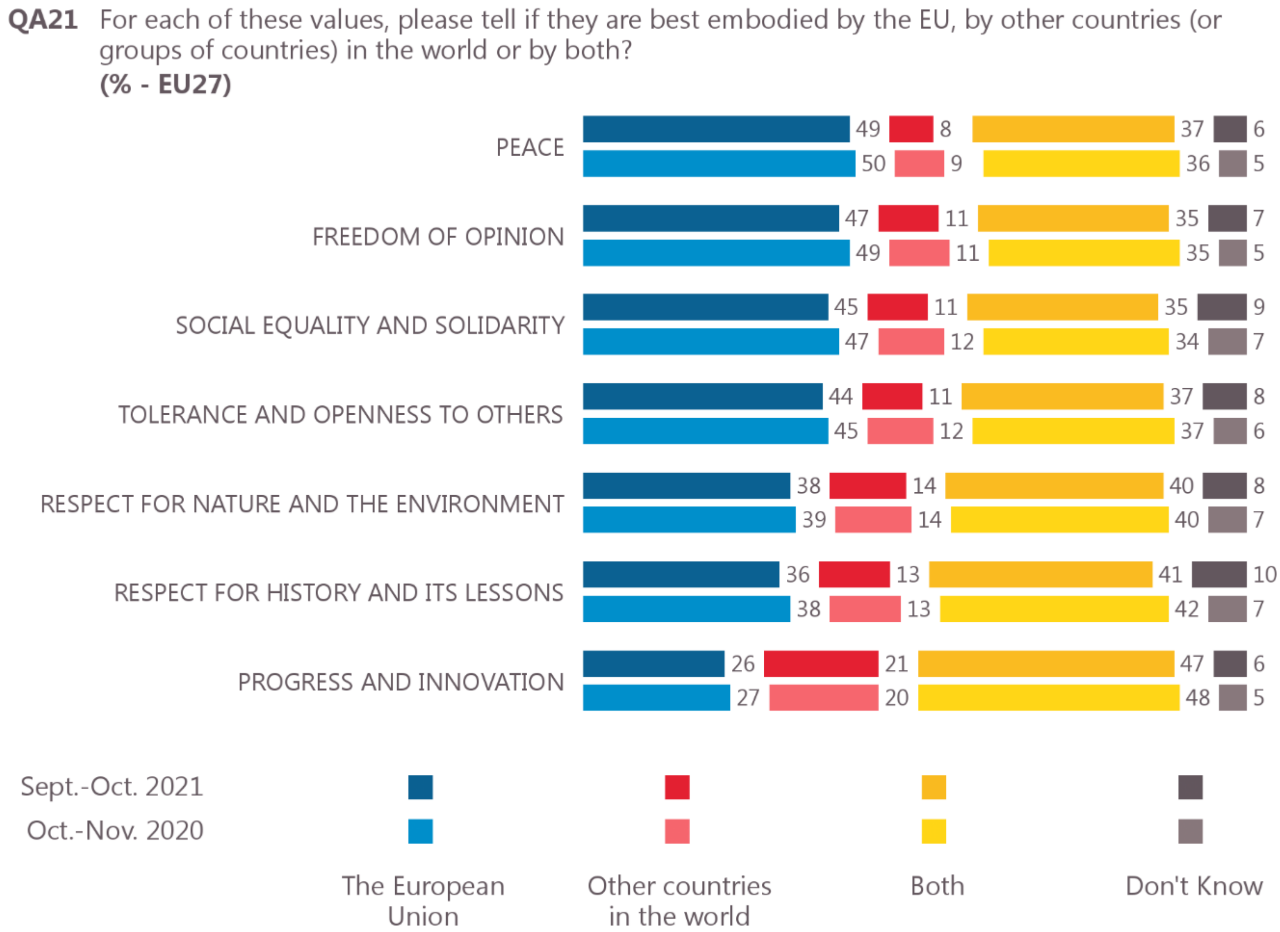
Almost half (49%) say peace is best embodied by the EU, 47% say this about freedom of opinion, 45% about social equality and solidarity, while 44% think the EU best embodies tolerance and openness to others.

Almost four in ten (38%) say the EU best embodies respect for nature and the environment, 36% think the EU best embodies respect for history and its lessons and 26% think the EU best embodies progress and innovation.

More than one third of respondents think each value is best embodied by the EU and other countries or groups or countries, with proportions ranging from 47% for progress and innovation to 35% each for freedom of opinion and social equality and solidarity.

Progress and innovation is the only value which at least one in five think is best embodied by other countries or groups of countries (21%). In contrast, only 8% say this about peace.

There has been little change since October-November 2020 (Special Eurobarometer 500 on the Future of Europe 2020)[29] (0-2 percentage points).



[28] Q21 For each of these values, please tell me if they are best embodied by the EU, by other countries (or groups of countries) in the world or by both? 21.1 Respect for nature and the environment; 21.2 Social equality and solidarity; 21.3 Peace; 21.4 Progress and innovation; 21.5 Freedom of opinion; 21.6 Tolerance and openness to others; 21.7 Respect for history and its lessons.

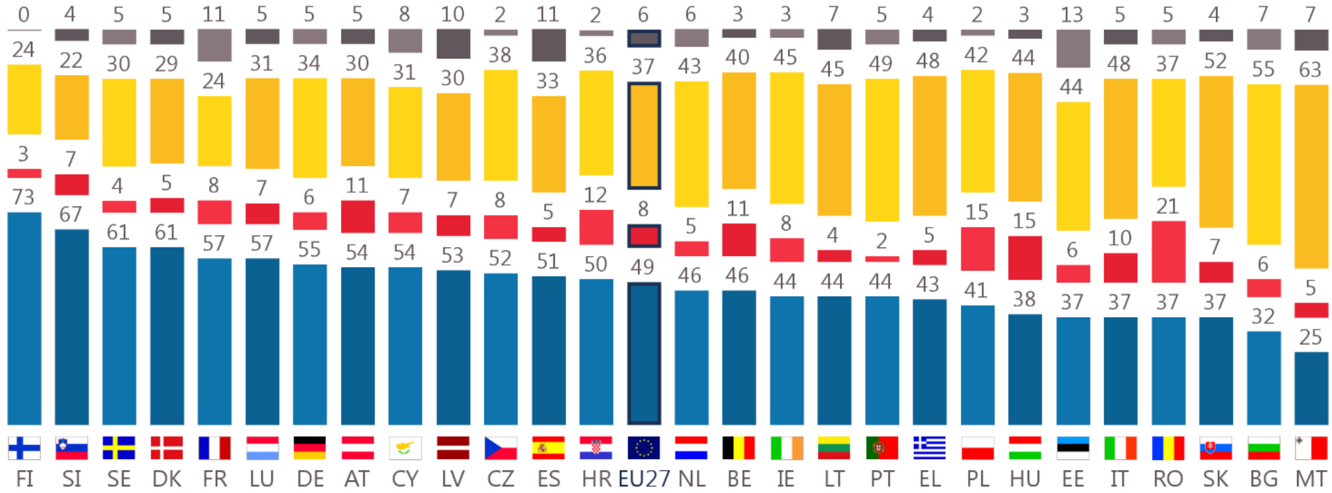
[29] Special Eurobarometer 500: https://europa.eu/eurobarometer/surveys/detail/2256

Peace

There are 15 countries where a majority of respondents think peace is best embodied by the EU, with the largest proportions seen in Finland (73%), Slovenia (67%) and Denmark and Sweden (both 61%). In contrast, in 11 countries respondents think peace is best embodied by the EU and other countries, and this is particularly the case in Malta (63%), Bulgaria (55%) and Slovakia (52%).

In Romania, opinion is divided between the EU and the EU and other countries (both 37%). Romania also has the largest proportion of respondents who think peace is best embodied by other countries (21%).

QA21.3 For each of these values, please tell if they are best embodied by the EU, by other countries (or groups of countries) in the world or by both?
Peace (%)

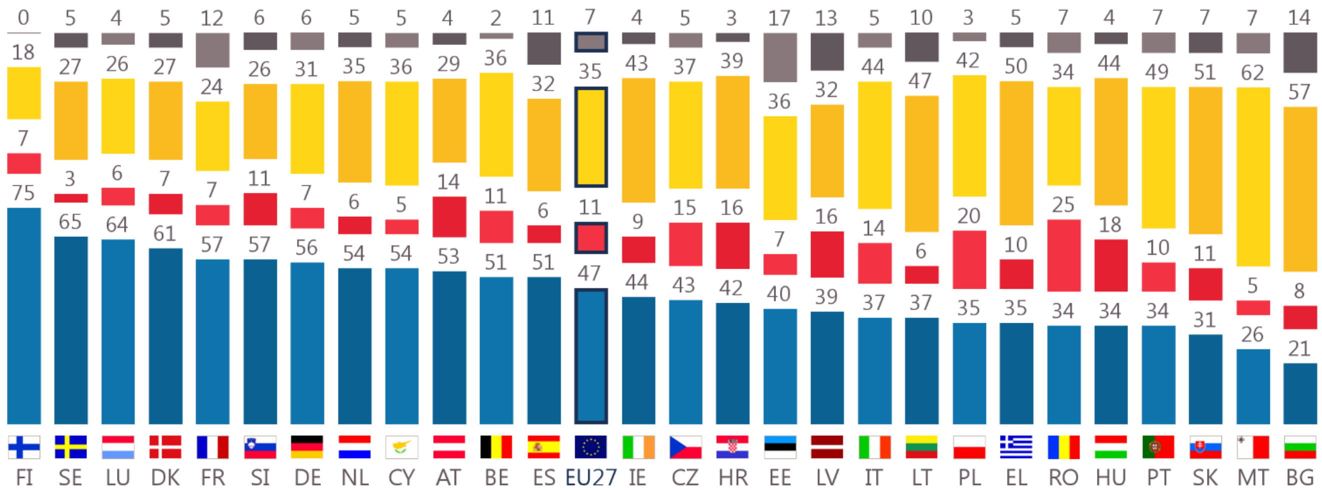


Freedom of opinion

In 17 Member States the majority of respondents think freedom of opinion is best embodied by the EU, with the largest proportions in Finland (75%), Sweden (65%) and Luxembourg (64%). In the remaining ten countries majorities think both the EU and other countries best embody this value, and this is particularly the case in Malta (62%), Bulgaria (57%) and Slovakia (51%).

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

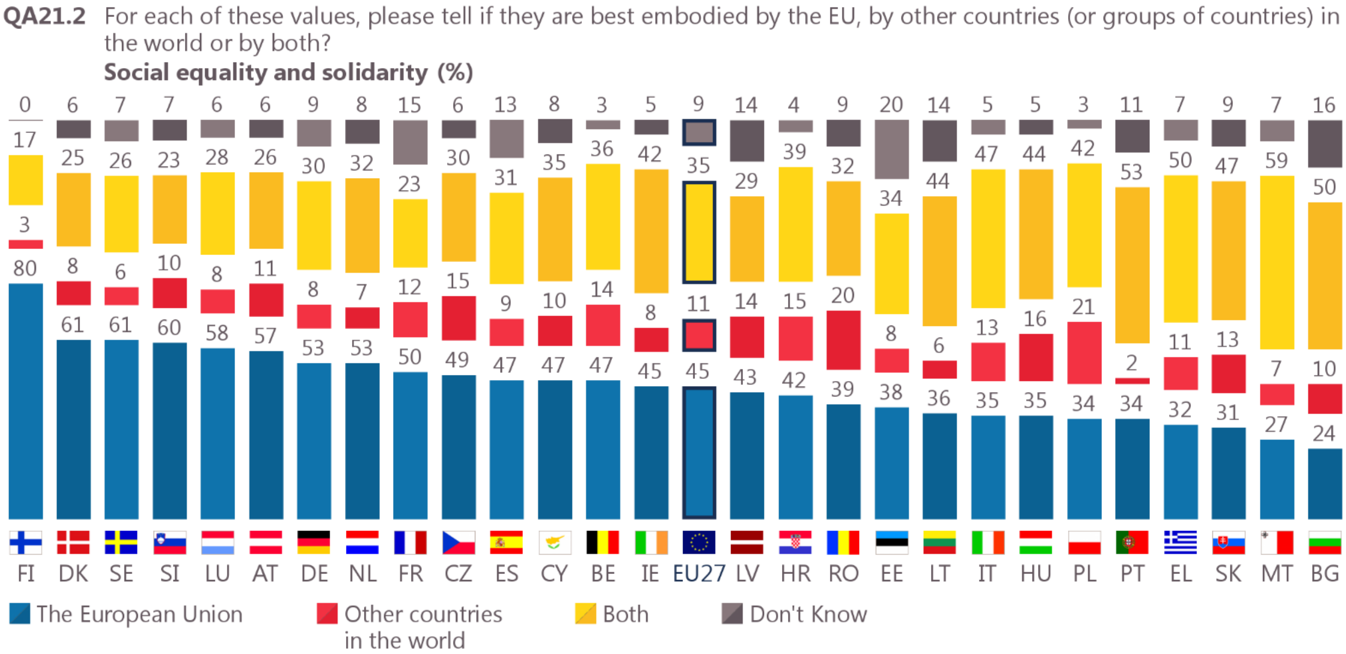
QA21.5 For each of these values, please tell if they are best embodied by the EU, by other countries (or groups of countries) in the world or by both?
Freedom of opinion (%)



Social equality and solidarity

The EU embodies social equality and solidarity for a majority of respondents in 18 Member States, with the largest proportions seen in Finland (80%), Denmark and Sweden (both 61%). In the remaining nine countries, respondents are most likely to say this value is embodied by the EU and other countries, and this is particularly the case in Malta (59%), Portugal (53%), Greece and Bulgaria (both 50%).

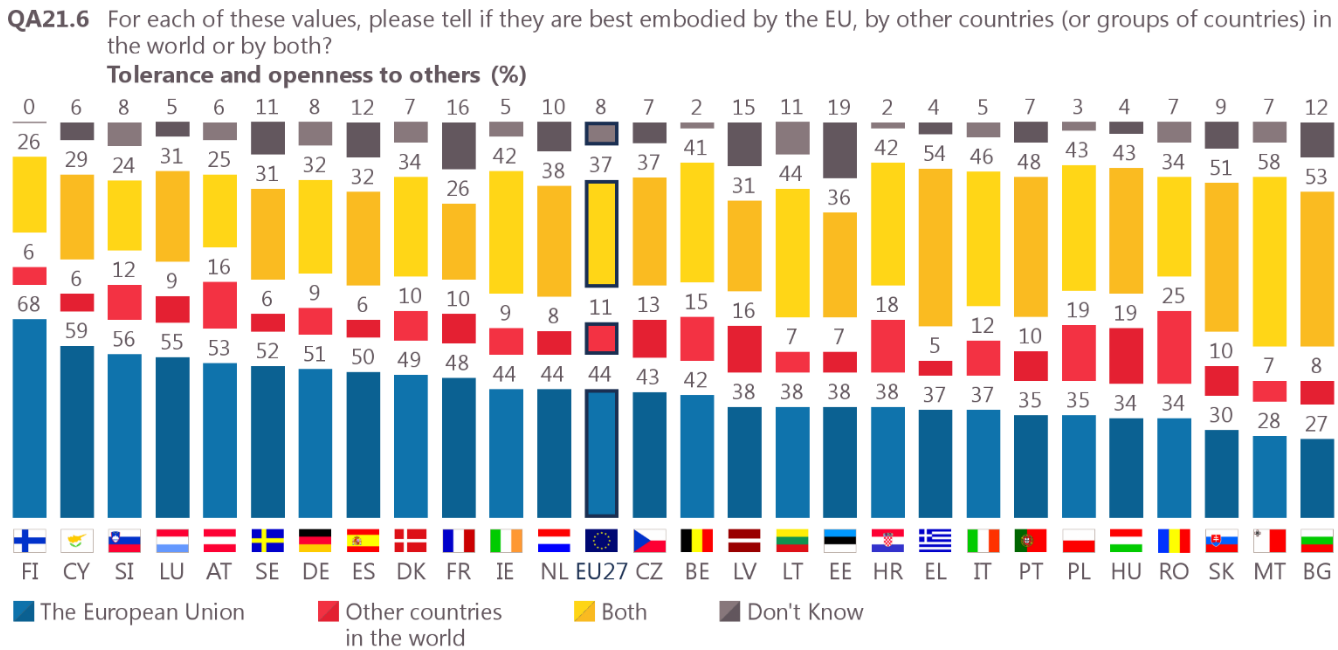
At least one in five respondents in Poland (21%) and Romania (20%) say social equality and solidarity is best embodied by other countries.



Tolerance and openness to others

Respondents in Finland (68%), Cyprus (59%) and Slovenia (56%) are the most likely to say the EU best embodies tolerance and openness to others, and this is the majority opinion in 16 Member States overall. In ten Member States, including Malta (58%), Bulgaria (53%), Greece (54%) and Slovakia (51%), the majority think this value is best embodied by the EU and other countries.

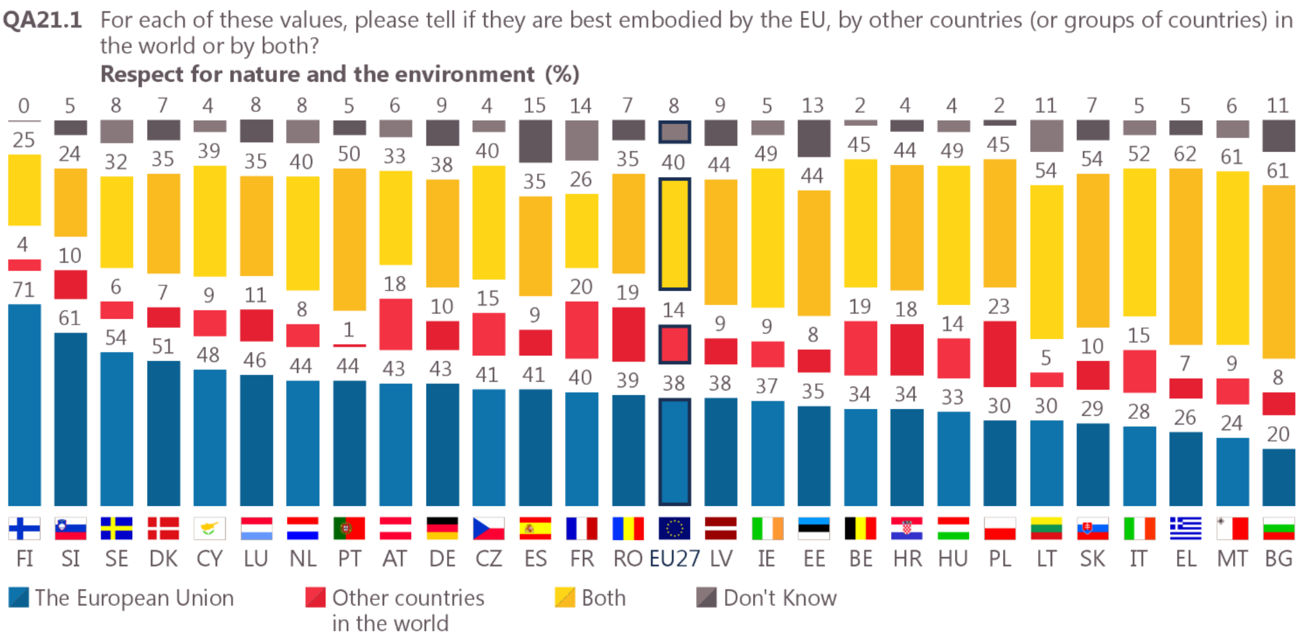
In Romania opinion is evenly split (EU: 34%, EU and other countries: 34%). Romania (25%) is also the only country where at least one in five think tolerance and openness to others is best embodied by other countries.



Respect for nature and the environment

There are 13 countries where the majority of respondents think the EU best embodies respect for nature and the environment, with the largest proportions seen in Finland (71%), Slovenia (61%) and Sweden (54%). In contrast, the majority of respondents in Greece (62%), Bulgaria, Malta (both 61%) and 11 other countries think this value is best embodied by the EU and other countries.

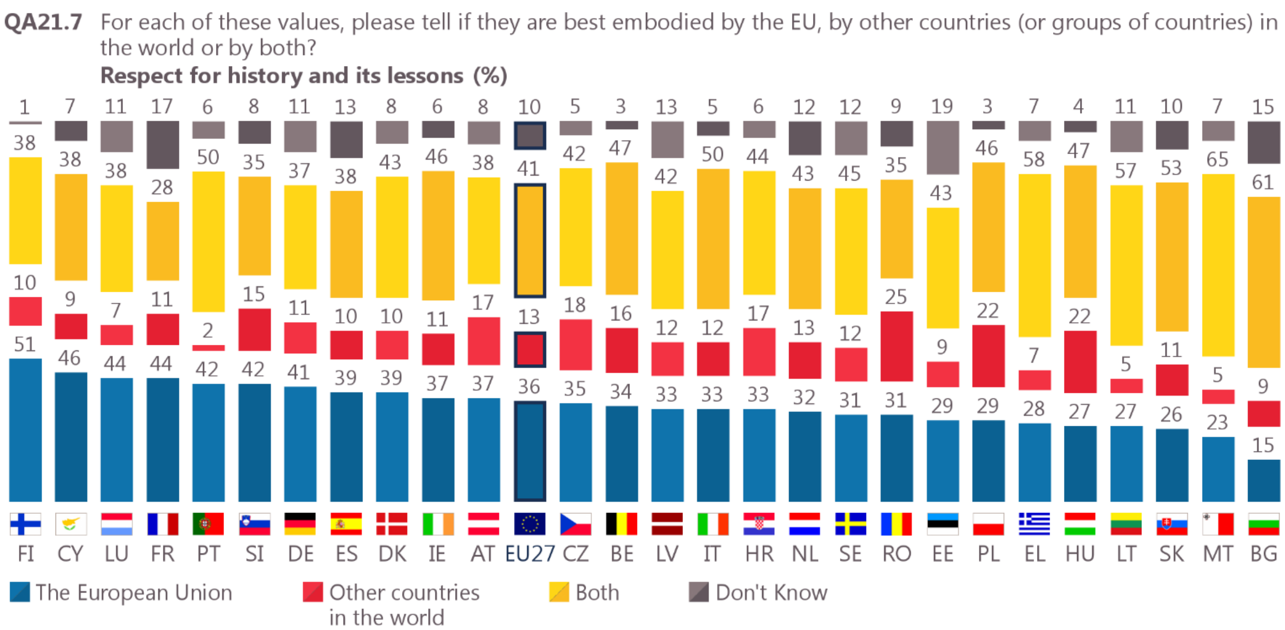
At least one in five in Poland (23%) and France (20%) say respect for nature and the environment is best embodied by other countries.



Respect for history and its lessons

There are seven Member States where a majority thinks respect for history and its lessons is best embodied by the EU, with the largest proportions seen in Finland (51%), Cyprus (46%) and France and Luxembourg (both 44%). In the remaining 20 countries a majority think both the EU and other countries best embody this value, and this is particularly the case in Malta (65%), Bulgaria (61%) and Greece (58%).

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



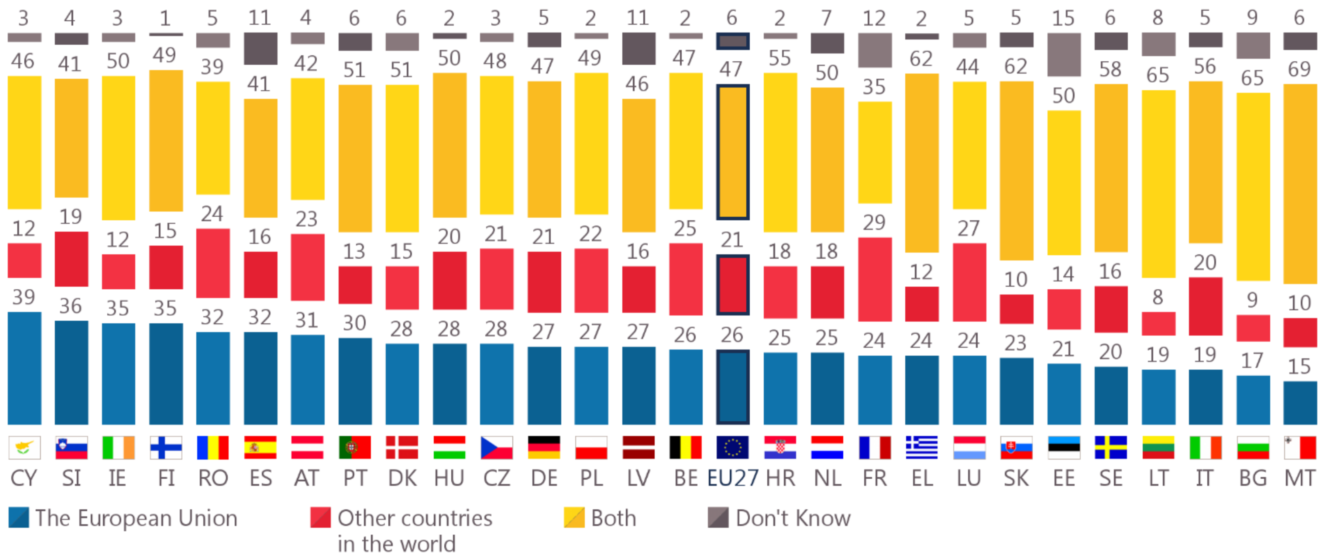
Progress and innovation

Only a minority of respondents in each Member State thinks the EU best embodies progress and innovation, with those in Cyprus (39%), Slovenia (36%) and Ireland and Finland (both 35%) the most likely to think this way. The majority in each country thinks this value is best embodied by the EU and other countries, with the highest proportions in Malta (69%), Bulgaria and Lithuania (both 65%).

There are 10 countries where at least one in five think progress and innovation is best embodied by other countries, and this is particularly the case in France (29%), Luxembourg (27%) and Belgium (25%).

QA21.4 For each of these values, please tell if they are best embodied by the EU, by other countries (or groups of countries) in the world or by both?

Progress and innovation (%)



The socio-demographic data reveal the following pattern: generally, there are no notable differences based on gender. However, men are more likely to say the EU best embodies social equality and solidarity, when compared to women (48% vs 42%).

Those who completed education aged 20 or older but also managers are generally more likely to think that the different values tested are best embodied by the EU than those who completed education at an earlier age, or house persons.

Similarly, those who experience the least difficulty paying bills are more likely to say the EU best embodies the different values tested, compared to those who experience more financial difficulties.

It should be noted that more variation is observed for the respect for nature and the environment than for other values: men, those aged 15-39, those who completed education aged 20 or older, the self-employed, managers, students and those who experience the least financial difficulties are most likely to say respect for nature and the environment is best embodied by the EU. For all other groups, respondents are most likely to say this value is best embodied by the EU and others. For example, 41% of men say respect for nature and the environment is best embodied by the EU, while 38% say it is best embodied by the EU and other countries. In women 35% say it is best embodied by the EU and 42% that it is the EU and other countries.

Finally, unlike other values, the majority of respondents in each socio-demographic group think respect for history and its lessons and progress and innovation are best embodied by both the EU and other countries.

QA21 For each of these values, please tell if they are best embodied by the EU, by other countries (or groups of countries) in the world or by both?
(% - The European Union)

	Peace	Freedom of opinion	Social equality and solidarity	Tolerance and openness to others	Respect for nature and the environment	Respect for history and its lessons	Progress and innovation
EU27	49	47	45	44	38	36	26
Gender							
Man	50	49	48	46	41	37	27
Woman	47	46	42	42	35	35	25
Age							
15-24	52	48	48	45	42	34	27
25-39	49	49	47	44	41	36	26
40-54	47	45	43	43	36	36	26
55 +	48	47	44	44	37	37	26
Education (End of)							
15-	45	42	39	40	34	35	28
16-19	47	44	42	42	37	35	27
20+	53	53	50	48	41	39	25
Still studying	52	50	51	46	42	35	26
Socio-professional category							
Self-employed	50	48	47	46	42	38	28
Managers	51	52	50	49	41	39	23
Other white collars	47	48	46	43	39	36	27
Manual workers	46	43	40	40	35	33	26
House persons	45	38	38	39	33	34	24
Unemployed	44	44	44	42	35	33	22
Retired	49	48	45	45	38	38	28
Students	52	50	51	46	42	35	26
Difficulties paying bills							
Most of the time	43	37	37	36	32	32	23
From time to time	42	40	37	37	32	31	25
Almost never/ Never	51	51	49	47	41	38	27

4. EU in the world

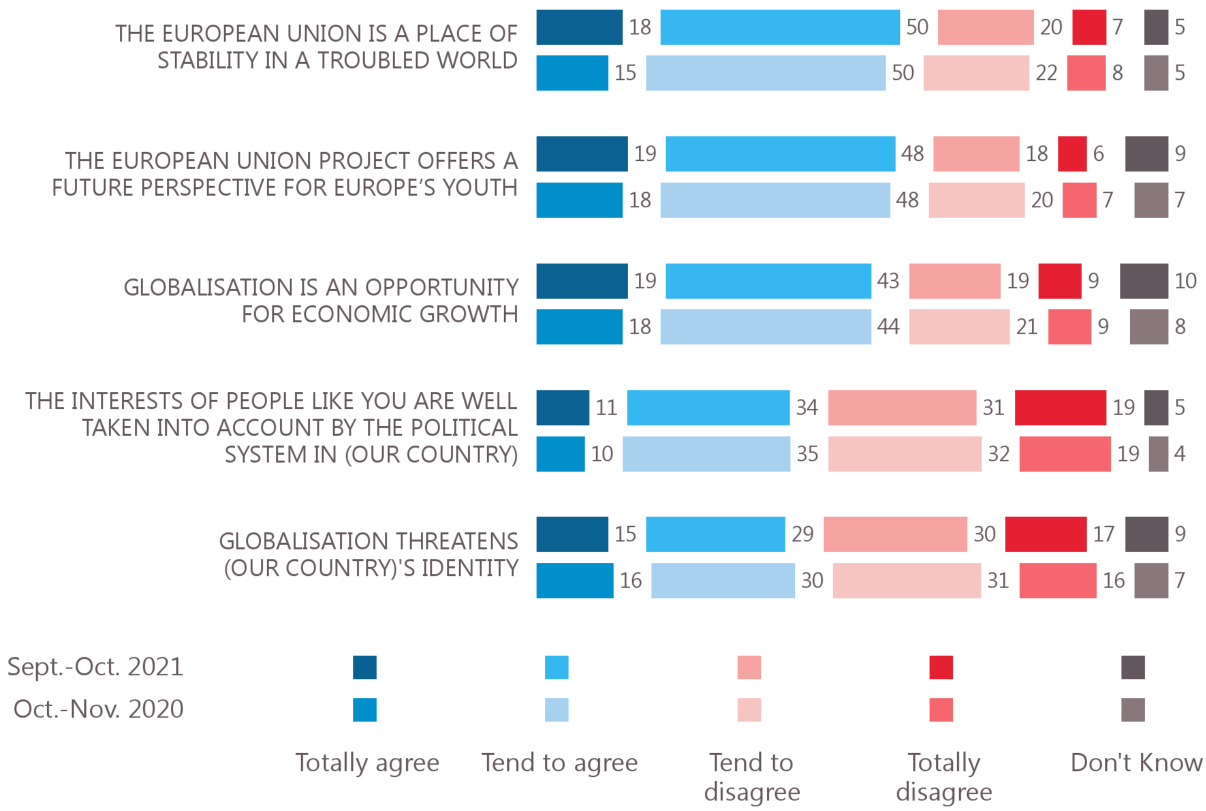
More than two thirds think the EU offers stability and a future perspective for Europe's youth

Almost seven in ten (68%) respondents agree the EU is place of stability in a troubled world, and almost as many (67%) agree the EU project offers a future perspective for Europe's youth[30]. Just over six in ten (62%) agree globalisation is an opportunity for economic growth, although 44% agree globalisation threatens their country's identity.

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

There has been little change in agreement since October-November 2020 (Special Eurobarometer on the Future of Europe 2020)[31], with the largest a three-point increase in the proportion who agree the EU is place of stability in a troubled world.

QA19 To what extent do you agree or disagree with each of the following statements?
(% - EU27)



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

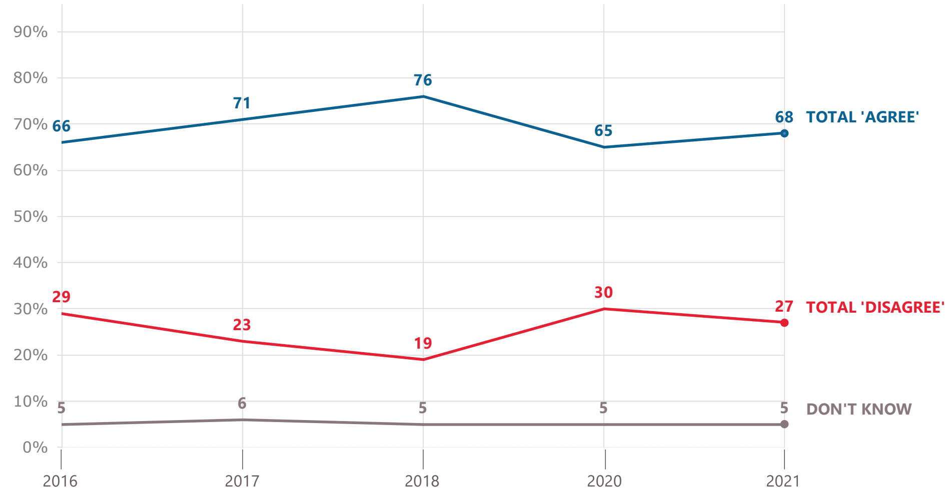
[31] Special Eurobarometer 500: https://europa.eu/eurobarometer/surveys/detail/2256

The EU is a place of stability in a troubled world

Almost one in five (18%) "totally agree" the EU is "a place of stability in a troubled world", while 50% "tend to agree". These results are almost the same as those of 2016 and represent a three-point increase in total 'agreement' since the previous Future of Europe survey in October-November 2020.

The longer-term trend shows overall agreement has recovered to just above the level of 2016, after reaching its lowest point in October-November 2020.

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

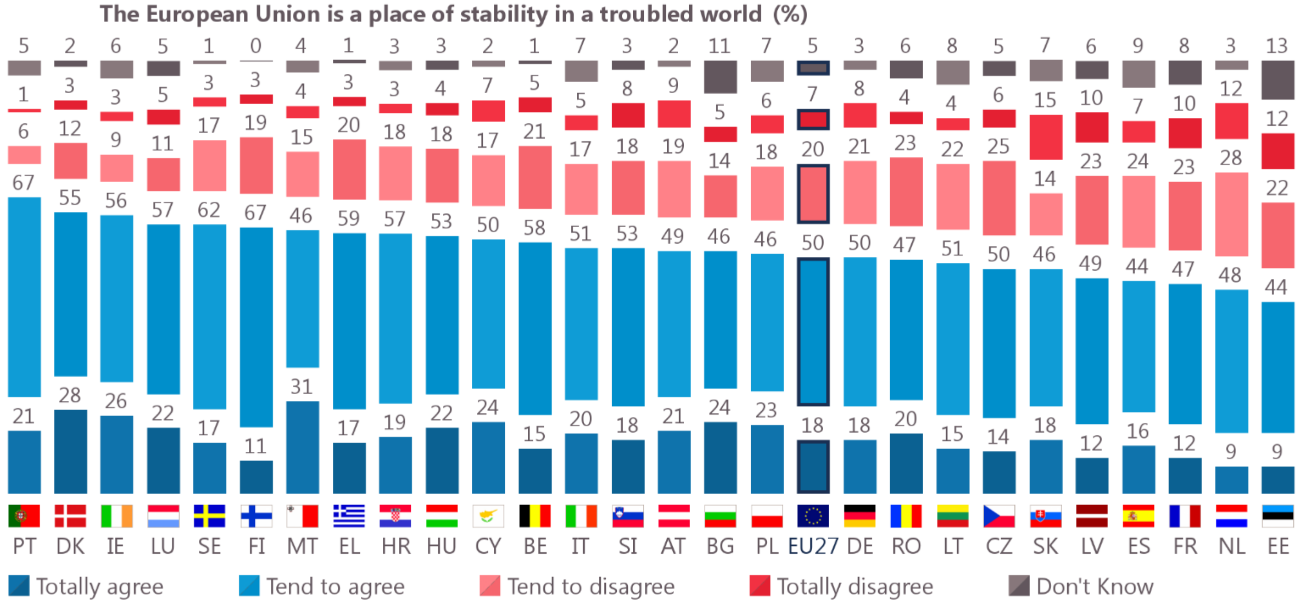


Across the EU more than two thirds of respondents (68%) agree the EU is place of stability in a troubled world, with 18% saying they "totally agree". More than one quarter (27%) disagree to some extent.

The majority of respondents in each country also agree the EU is a place of stability in a troubled world, with proportions ranging from 88% in Portugal, 83% in Denmark and 82% in Ireland to 53% in Estonia, 57% in the Netherlands and 59% in France.

Respondents in the Netherlands (40%), Estonia (34%), Latvia and France (both 33%) are the most likely to disagree.

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



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

Agreement has also increased in 20 countries, with the largest observed in Italy and Malta (both +10 pp). In contrast, agreement has declined by 14 points in Estonia.

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

	Total 'Agree'	Diff. September/October 2021 - October/November 2020	Total 'Disagree'	Diff. September/October 2021 - October/November 2020	Don't Know
EU27	68	▲ 3	27	▼ 3	5
IT	71	▲ 10	22	▼ 9	7
MT	77	▲ 10	19	=	4
HU	75	▲ 8	22	▼ 8	3
EL	76	▲ 6	23	▼ 6	1
CY	74	▲ 6	24	▼ 6	2
PT	88	▲ 6	7	▼ 4	5
DK	83	▲ 5	15	▼ 5	2
ES	60	▲ 5	31	▼ 7	9
CZ	64	▲ 4	31	▼ 9	5
FI	78	▲ 4	22	▼ 4	0
BE	73	▲ 3	26	▼ 4	1
HR	76	▲ 3	21	▼ 4	3
LU	79	▲ 3	16	▼ 8	5
RO	67	▲ 3	27	▼ 5	6
SI	71	▲ 3	26	▼ 6	3
LV	61	▲ 2	33	▼ 2	6
BG	70	▲ 1	19	▼ 4	11
NL	57	▲ 1	40	▼ 2	3
PL	69	▲ 1	24	▼ 1	7
SE	79	▲ 1	20	▼ 1	1
FR	59	=	33	▼ 1	8
AT	70	=	28	=	2
SK	64	=	29	▼ 4	7
DE	68	▼ 1	29	=	3
IE	82	▼ 3	12	▼ 3	6
LT	66	▼ 4	26	▼ 4	8
EE	53	▼ 14	34	▲ 1	13

The **socio-demographic data** illustrate that the younger the respondent, the more likely they are to agree the EU is place of stability in a troubled world: 70% of 15–24-year-olds agree, compared to 65% of those aged 55 and older. In addition, the longer a respondent remained in education, the more likely they are to agree. More than seven in ten (71%) who completed education aged 20 or older agree, compared to 61% of those who completed education aged of 15 or less.

Amongst occupation groups, managers are the most likely to agree, particularly compared to manual workers and housepersons (75% vs 63%). The data also show that the fewer financial difficulties a respondent experiences, the more likely they are to agree with the statement: 70% with the least difficulties do so, compared to 58% of those that experience the most difficulties.

The data also confirm that respondents with a positive image of the EU are much more likely to agree than those who have a negative image (82% vs 37%).

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

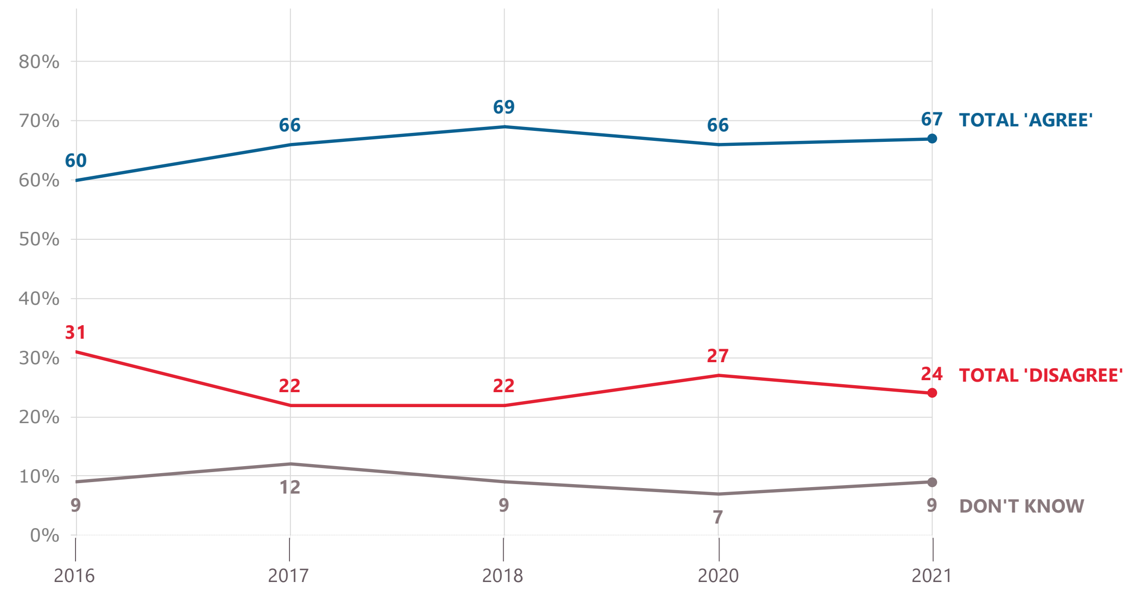
	Total 'Agree'	Total 'Disagree'	Don't Know
EU27	68	27	5
Gender			
Man	69	27	4
Woman	66	27	7
Age			
15-24	70	23	7
25-39	71	26	3
40-54	68	29	3
55 +	65	27	8
Education (End of)			
15-	61	27	12
16-19	65	30	5
20+	71	26	3
Still studying	74	20	6
Socio-professional category			
Self-employed	71	26	3
Managers	75	23	2
Other white collars	71	26	3
Manual workers	63	33	4
House persons	63	27	10
Unemployed	64	31	5
Retired	64	27	9
Students	74	20	6
Difficulties paying bills			
Most of the time	58	36	6
From time to time	65	30	5
Almost never/ Never	70	25	5
Image of the EU			
Total 'Positive'	82	15	3
Neutral	57	34	9
Total 'Negative'	37	59	4

The European Union project offers a future perspective for Europe's youth

Just over two thirds (67%) of respondents across the EU agree that the European Union project offers a future perspective for Europe's youth, with 19% "totally agreeing". Almost one quarter (24%) disagree, with 6% saying they "totally disagree".

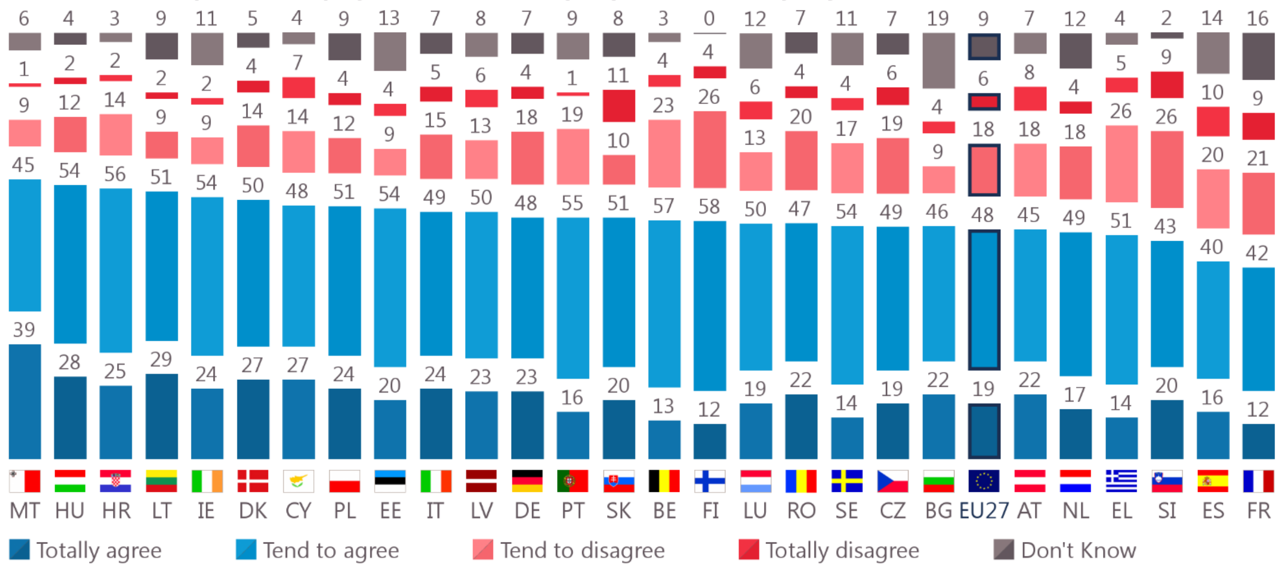
There has been almost no change in agreement since October-November 2020 (+1 percentage point), and over the longer-term agreement has been relatively stable since 2017.

QA19.4 To what extent do you agree or disagree with each of the following statements?
The European Union project offers a future perspective for Europe's youth (% - EU)



In every Member State, the majority of respondents agree the EU project offers a future perspective for Europe's youth, with proportions ranging from 84% in Malta, 82% in Hungary and 81% in Croatia to 54% in France, 56% in Spain and 63% in Slovenia.

QA19.4 To what extent do you agree or disagree with each of the following statements?
The European Union project offers a future perspective for Europe's youth (%)



Agreement that the EU project offers a future perspective for Europe's youth has increased in 13 countries since October-November 2020, with the largest increases seen in Italy (+11 percentage points) and Cyprus (+9 pp). The largest decline in agreement is seen amongst those in Lithuania (-7 pp).

QA19.4 To what extent do you agree or disagree with each of the following statements?
The European Union project offers a future perspective for Europe's youth (%)

	Total 'Agree'	Diff. September/October 2021 - October/November 2020	Total 'Disagree'	Diff. September/October 2021 - October/November 2020	Don't Know
EU27	67	▲ 1	24	▼ 3	9
IT	73	▲ 11	20	▼ 10	7
CY	75	▲ 9	21	▼ 11	4
PT	71	▲ 6	20	▼ 5	9
HU	82	▲ 5	14	▼ 5	4
MT	84	▲ 5	10	▲ 3	6
EL	65	▲ 4	31	▼ 4	4
BG	68	▲ 3	13	▼ 3	19
ES	56	▲ 3	30	▼ 8	14
SE	68	▲ 3	21	▼ 10	11
HR	81	▲ 2	16	▼ 3	3
PL	75	▲ 2	16	▼ 2	9
RO	69	▲ 2	24	▼ 3	7
FI	70	▲ 1	30	▼ 1	0
LV	73	=	19	▼ 1	8
SI	63	=	35	▼ 1	2
BE	70	▼ 1	27	▼ 2	3
DK	77	▼ 1	18	▼ 1	5
LU	69	▼ 1	19	▼ 11	12
CZ	68	▼ 3	25	▼ 4	7
DE	71	▼ 3	22	=	7
FR	54	▼ 3	30	▼ 3	16
SK	71	▼ 3	21	▼ 1	8
AT	67	▼ 4	26	▲ 2	7
NL	66	▼ 5	22	▼ 1	12
EE	74	▼ 6	13	▼ 7	13
IE	78	▼ 6	11	▼ 5	11
LT	80	▼ 7	11	▼ 2	9

The socio-demographic data show no notable differences based on age or gender but does highlight that the longer a respondent remained in education, the more likely they are to agree. For example, 71% of those who completed education aged 20 or older agree the EU project offers a future perspective for Europe's youth compared to 58% of those who completed education aged 15 or younger.

Managers (75%) and students (74%) are the most likely to agree, particularly compared to the unemployed (57%) and housepersons (59%). The data also show that the fewer financial difficulties a respondent experiences, the more likely they are to agree.

QA19.4 To what extent do you agree or disagree with each of the following statements?
The European Union project offers a future perspective for Europe's youth
(% - EU)

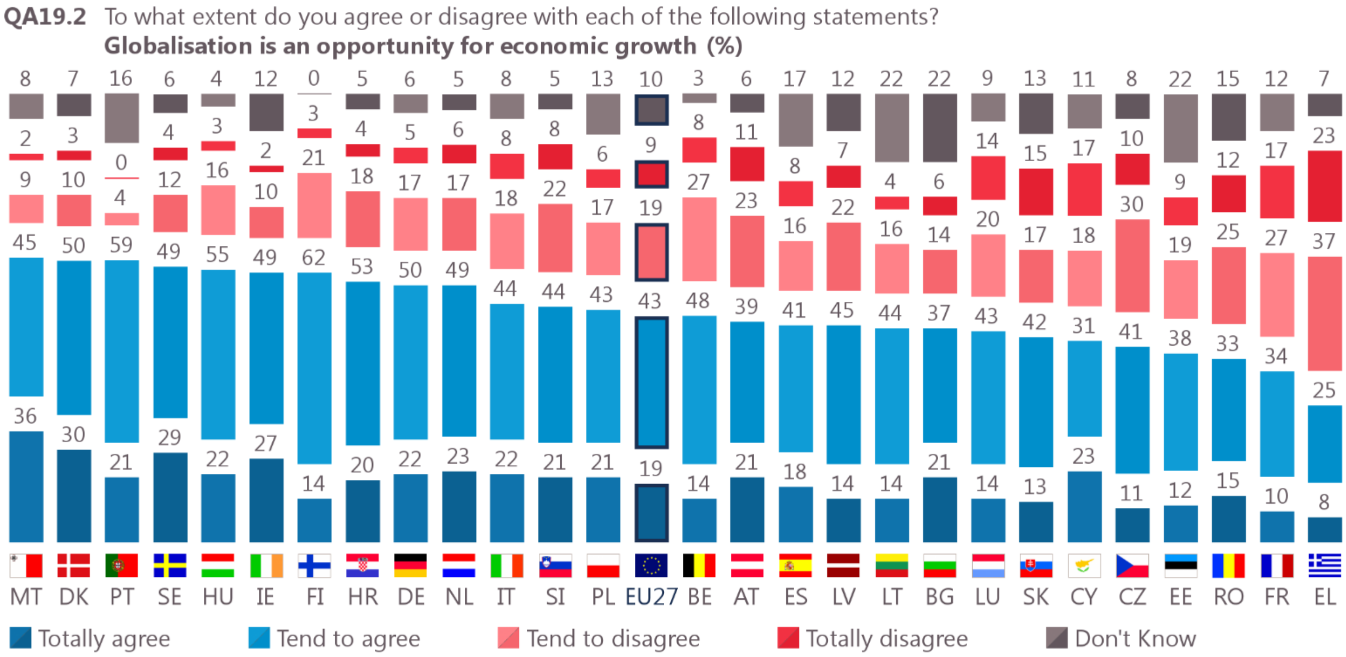
	Total 'Agree'	Total 'Disagree'	Don't Know
EU27	67	24	9
Gender			
Man	68	24	8
Woman	67	23	10
Age			
15-24	70	21	9
25-39	69	23	8
40-54	68	25	7
55 +	65	23	12
Education (End of)			
15-	58	25	17
16-19	66	26	8
20+	71	21	8
Still studying	74	18	8
Socio-professional category			
Self-employed	69	23	8
Managers	75	20	5
Other white collars	71	22	7
Manual workers	64	28	8
House persons	59	25	16
Unemployed	57	34	9
Retired	65	22	13
Students	74	18	8
Difficulties paying bills			
Most of the time	50	36	14
From time to time	65	27	8
Almost never/ Never	70	21	9

Globalisation is an opportunity for economic growth

Just over six in ten respondents in the EU (62%) agree globalisation is an opportunity for economic growth, with 19% saying they "totally agree". More than one quarter (28%) disagree.

Agreement has been quite stable since spring 2019, and with the exception of March 2019 (1st datapoint of 2019), the period since Autumn (2nd datapoint) 2017 has seen the highest level of agreement since Autumn (2nd datapoint) 2009.

There is considerable variation in agreement at the country level. The proportion of respondents who agree that globalisation is an opportunity for economic growth ranges from 81% of respondents in Malta and 80% in Denmark and Portugal to 33% in Greece, 44% in France and 48% in Romania. However, in spite of this variation, Greece is the only country where the majority disagrees (60%), while in France opinion is divided (agree, 44%; disagree, 44%).



Country level trends since October-November 2020 (Special Eurobarometer on the Future of Europe 2020)[32] are mixed. Agreement has increased in 11 countries and particularly in Malta (+14 percentage points) and Italy (+12 pp) and declined in 15 countries including Estonia (-13 pp) and Lithuania (-12 pp). There has been no change in Germany.

QA19.2 To what extent do you agree or disagree with each of the following statements?
Globalisation is an opportunity for economic growth (%)

	Total 'Agree'	Diff. September/October 2021 - October/November 2020	Total 'Disagree'	Diff. September/October 2021 - October/November 2020	Don't Know
EU27	62	=	28	▼ 2	10
MT	81	▲ 14	11	▼ 4	8
IT	66	▲ 12	26	▼ 11	8
CY	54	▲ 9	35	▼ 11	11
PT	80	▲ 8	4	▼ 7	16
SK	55	▲ 8	32	▼ 10	13
HU	77	▲ 7	19	▼ 5	4
BG	58	▲ 5	20	▼ 4	22
HR	73	▲ 4	22	▼ 5	5
LV	59	▲ 3	29	▼ 1	12
AT	60	▲ 2	34	▼ 3	6
PL	64	▲ 1	23	▼ 2	13
DE	72	=	22	▼ 1	6
IE	76	▼ 1	12	▼ 11	12
RO	48	▼ 2	37	▼ 3	15
SI	65	▼ 2	30	▼ 3	5
FI	76	▼ 2	24	▲ 2	0
DK	80	▼ 3	13	▼ 1	7
ES	59	▼ 3	24	▲ 1	17
BE	62	▼ 4	35	▲ 1	3
EL	33	▼ 4	60	▲ 1	7
NL	72	▼ 4	23	▲ 2	5
SE	78	▼ 5	16	=	6
CZ	52	▼ 6	40	▼ 1	8
FR	44	▼ 6	44	▲ 4	12
LU	57	▼ 6	34	▼ 3	9
LT	58	▼ 12	20	▼ 10	22
EE	50	▼ 13	28	▼ 9	22

[32] Special Eurobarometer 500: https://europa.eu/eurobarometer/surveys/detail/2256

The **socio-demographic data** highlight that the younger the respondent, the more likely they are to agree globalisation is an opportunity for economic growth: for example, 74% of the youngest respondents agree, compared to 55% of those aged 55 and older.

Opinion also varies by education level, with respondents who finished education aged 15 or younger (49%) much less likely to agree than those who finished at an older age, and particularly those that finished aged 20 or older (66%).

Among occupation groups, students (77%) and managers (74%) are much more likely to agree than housepersons and the retired (both 52%). When it comes to financial situation, the fewer difficulties a respondent experiences paying bills, the more likely they are to agree.

QA19.2 To what extent do you agree or disagree with each of the following statements?
Globalisation is an opportunity for economic growth
(% - EU)

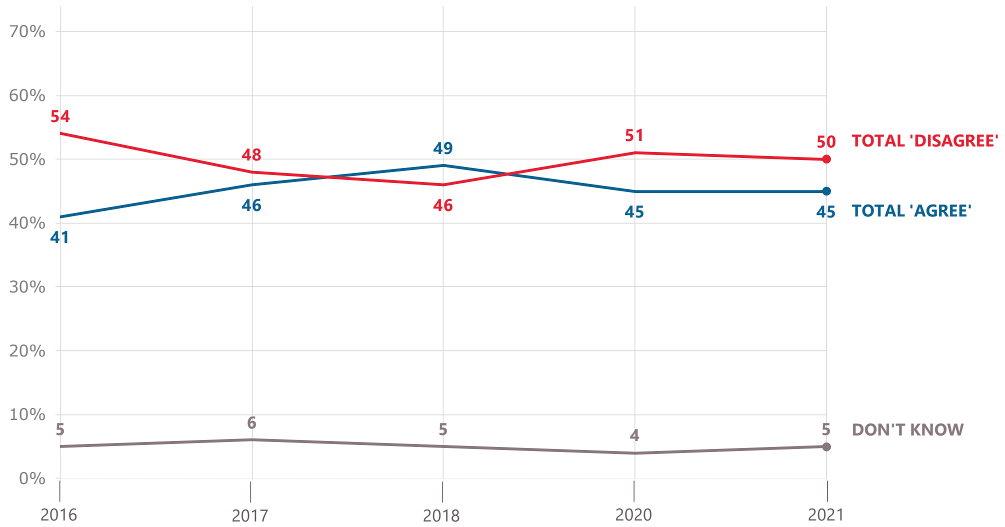
	Total 'Agree'	Total 'Disagree'	Don't Know
EU27	62	28	10
Gender			
Man	64	29	7
Woman	60	27	13
Age			
15-24	74	17	9
25-39	69	25	6
40-54	63	31	6
55 +	55	30	15
Education (End of)			
15-	49	27	24
16-19	60	31	9
20+	66	28	6
Still studying	77	15	8
Socio-professional category			
Self-employed	67	27	6
Managers	74	22	4
Other white collars	66	28	6
Manual workers	61	32	7
House persons	52	30	18
Unemployed	55	35	10
Retired	52	31	17
Students	77	15	8
Difficulties paying bills			
Most of the time	50	36	14
From time to time	57	33	10
Almost never/ Never	65	25	10

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

A minority (45%) of respondents agree the interests of people like them are well taken into account by the political system in their country, with 11% saying they "totally agree". Half of respondents (50%) say they disagree with 19% "totally disagreeing".

There has been very slight change in opinion since October 2020 (Special Eurobarometer 500 on the Future of Europe 2020)[33], with agreement remaining at its second lowest point since 2016 (Special Eurobarometer.451 on the Future of Europe)[34] In the period from 2016 to 2021, 2018 (Special Eurobarometer 479 on the Future of Europe)[35] is the only year where agreement has been the dominant position.

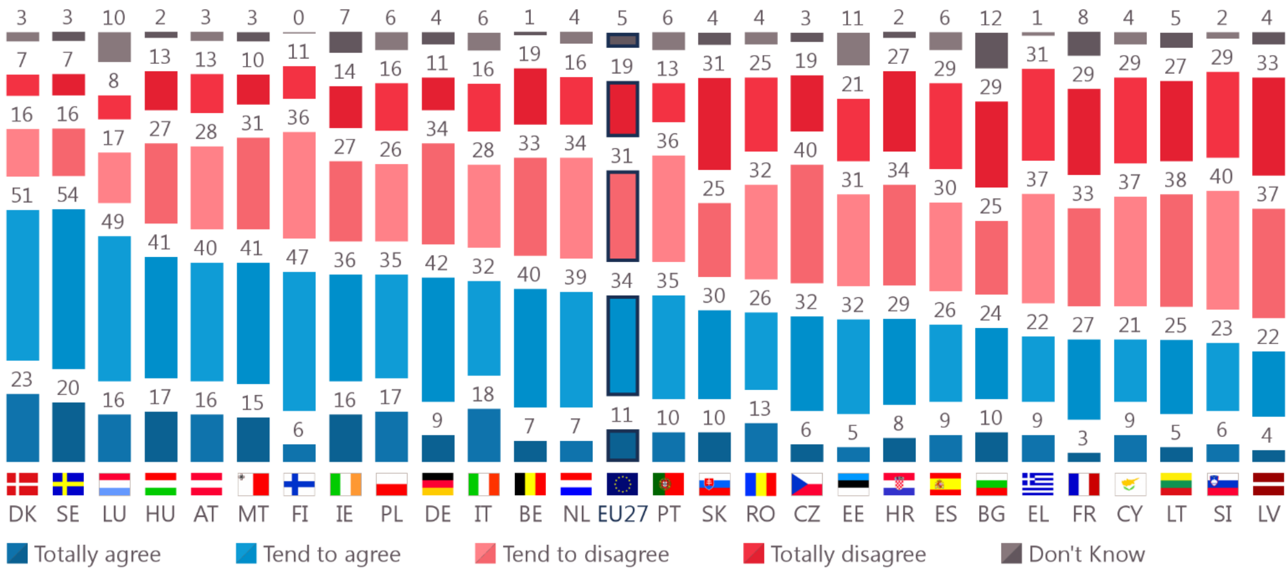
QA19.5 To what extent do you agree or disagree with each of the following statements?
The interests of people like you are well taken into account by the political system in (OUR COUNTRY) (% - EU)



The overall EU result masks considerable variation in agreement across Member States. In 11 countries a majority agrees, with the largest proportions in Denmark, Sweden (both 74%) and Luxembourg (65%).

In 16 countries, however, the majority disagrees that the interests of people like them are well taken into account by the political system in their country, with this opinion most widespread in Latvia (70%), Slovenia (69%) and Greece (68%).

QA19.5 To what extent do you agree or disagree with each of the following statements?
The interests of people like you are well taken into account by the political system in (OUR COUNTRY) (%)



[33] Special Eurobarometer 500: https://europa.eu/eurobarometer/surveys/detail/2256
[34] Special Eurobarometer 451: http://ec.europa.eu/commfrontoffice/publicopinion/index.cfm/Survey/getSurveyDetail/instruments/SPECIAL/surveyKy/2131
[35] Special Eurobarometer 479: https://ec.europa.eu/commfrontoffice/publicopinion/index.cfm/Survey/getSurveyDetail/search/future/surveyKy/2217

The stability of the overall EU trend results masks considerable variation at a country level. In 13 countries respondents are now more likely to agree that interests of people like them are well taken into account by the political system in their country, and this is particularly the case in Malta (+20 percentage points) and Hungary (+10 pp).

In contrast, in the Netherlands (-10 pp) and 10 other countries respondents are now less likely to agree with Finland, Germany, Austria and Denmark with losses of 6 percentage points or more. There has been no change in opinion in Ireland, Greece and Poland.

QA19.5 To what extent do you agree or disagree with each of the following statements?
The interests of people like you are well taken into account by the political system in (OUR COUNTRY) (%)

	Total 'Agree'	Diff. September/October 2021 - October/November 2020	Total 'Disagree'	Diff. September/October 2021 - October/November 2020	Don't Know
EU27	45	=	50	▼ 1	5
MT	56	▲ 20	41	▼ 10	3
HU	58	▲ 10	40	▼ 9	2
IT	50	▲ 9	44	▼ 10	6
BG	34	▲ 8	54	▼ 9	12
SI	29	▲ 6	69	▼ 7	2
SK	40	▲ 5	56	▼ 7	4
BE	47	▲ 4	52	▼ 5	1
SE	74	▲ 4	23	▼ 5	3
HR	37	▲ 2	61	▼ 2	2
CY	30	▲ 2	66	▼ 4	4
LV	26	▲ 2	70	▼ 3	4
PT	45	▲ 2	49	▼ 3	6
LU	65	▲ 1	25	▼ 11	10
IE	52	=	41	▼ 7	7
EL	31	=	68	=	1
PL	52	=	42	▲ 2	6
FR	30	▼ 1	62	▼ 2	8
EE	37	▼ 2	52	▼ 9	11
ES	35	▼ 2	59	▲ 1	6
CZ	38	▼ 3	59	=	3
RO	39	▼ 4	57	▲ 4	4
LT	30	▼ 5	65	=	5
DK	74	▼ 6	23	▲ 5	3
AT	56	▼ 6	41	▲ 5	3
DE	51	▼ 8	45	▲ 6	4
FI	53	▼ 8	47	▲ 8	0
NL	46	▼ 10	50	▲ 9	4

The socio-demographic data show no notable differences in opinion based on age or gender, but education level, occupation, financial situation and the image of the EU are influential.

The longer a respondent remained in education, the more likely they are to agree: 50% of those who finished education aged 20 or older do so, compared to 37% who completed education aged 15 or younger.

Regarding occupation groups, managers are the most likely to agree, particularly compared to the unemployed (56% vs 33%). Agreement also varies according to financial situation, with those who have difficulties paying bills most of the time (26%) much less likely to agree than those who experience fewer difficulties.

QA19.5 To what extent do you agree or disagree with each of the following statements?
The interests of people like you are well taken into account by the political system in (OUR COUNTRY)
(% - EU)

	Total 'Agree'	Total 'Disagree'	Don't Know
EU27	45	50	5
Gender			
Man	46	50	4
Woman	44	50	6
Age			
15-24	48	46	6
25-39	48	48	4
40-54	45	51	4
55 +	43	51	6
Education (End of)			
15-	37	54	9
16-19	43	53	4
20+	50	46	4
Still studying	49	44	7
Socio-professional category			
Self-employed	46	50	4
Managers	56	41	3
Other white collars	48	48	4
Manual workers	43	53	4
House persons	36	57	7
Unemployed	33	62	5
Retired	41	52	7
Students	49	44	7
Difficulties paying bills			
Most of the time	26	68	6
From time to time	42	54	4
Almost never/ Never	48	47	5
Image of the EU			
Total 'Positive'	57	39	4
Neutral	34	60	6
Total 'Negative'	24	73	3

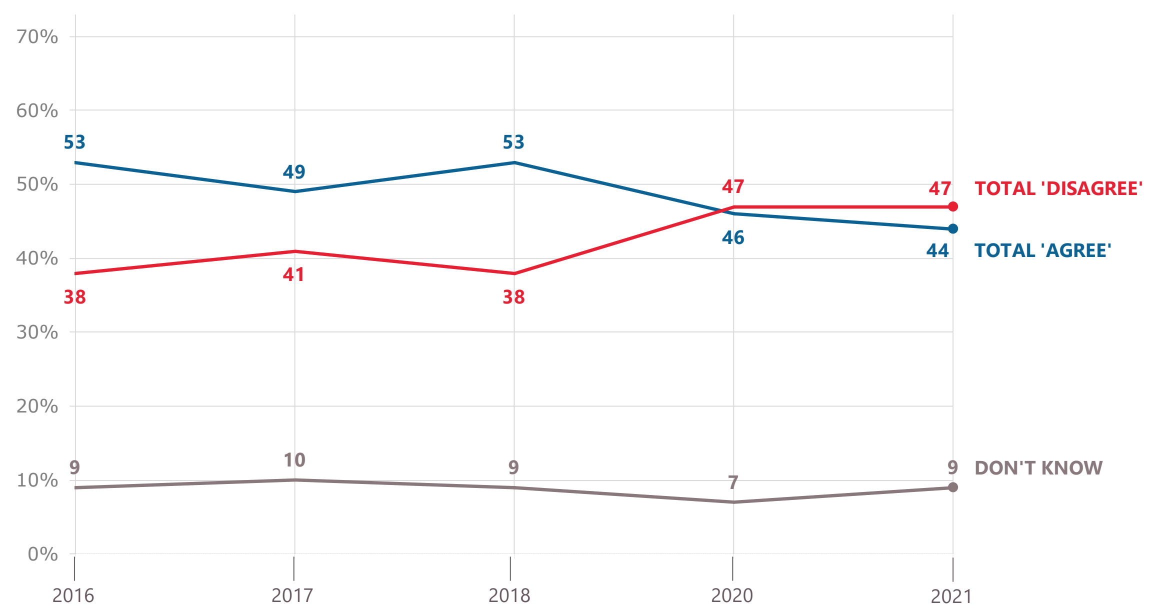
Globalisation threatens (OUR COUNTRY)'s identity

44% of respondents across the EU agree globalisation threatens their country's identity, with 15% saying they "totally agree". The majority of respondents (47%) disagree with this statement, with 17% saying they "totally disagree".

Although overall agreement has only declined by two points since October-November 2020 (Special Eurobarometer 500 on the Future of Europe 2020)[36], agreement is now at its lowest ever level, as is the proportion who "totally agree".

Disagreement is the majority position for the second wave in a row, with the gap between those who agree and those who disagree widening to three points.

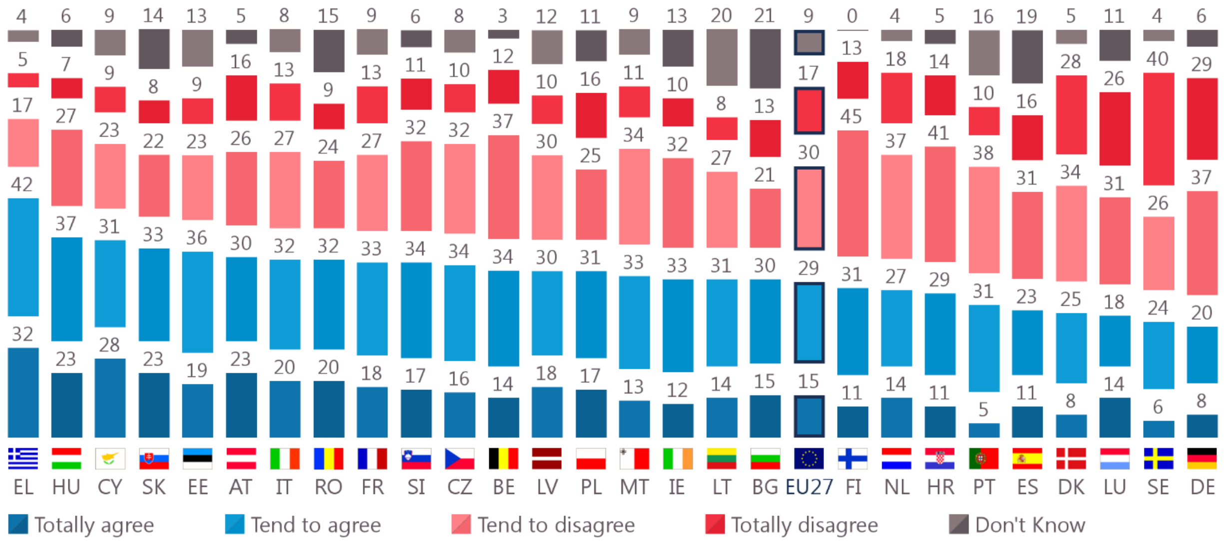
QA19.3 To what extent do you agree or disagree with each of the following statements?
Globalisation threatens (OUR COUNTRY)'s identity (% - EU)



In 17 countries, a majority of respondents agree globalisation threatens their country's identity, with the largest shares seen in Greece (74%), Hungary (60%) and Cyprus (59%). At the other end of the scale 28% in Germany, 30% in Sweden and 32% in Luxembourg also agree.

In 10 countries the majority disagrees, and this is particularly the case in Germany, Sweden (both 66%) and Denmark (62%).

QA19.3 To what extent do you agree or disagree with each of the following statements?
Globalisation threatens (OUR COUNTRY)'s identity (%)



[36] Special Eurobarometer 500: https://europa.eu/eurobarometer/surveys/detail/2256

In 18 countries, respondents are now less likely to agree than those in October-November 2020, with the largest declines seen amongst those in Czechia (-13 percentage points) and Luxembourg (-12 pp). There are no notable increases in agreement.

QA19.3 To what extent do you agree or disagree with each of the following statements?
Globalisation threatens (OUR COUNTRY)'s identity (%)

	Total 'Agree'	Diff. September/October 2021 - October/November 2020	Total 'Disagree'	Diff. September/October 2021 - October/November 2020	Don't Know
EU27	44	▼ 2	47	=	9
EL	74	▲ 4	22	▼ 5	4
HU	60	▲ 4	34	▼ 3	6
PT	36	▲ 4	48	▼ 3	16
PL	48	▲ 3	41	▼ 2	11
FI	42	▲ 3	58	▼ 3	0
BG	45	=	34	=	21
DK	33	=	62	▼ 3	5
IE	45	=	42	▼ 13	13
RO	52	=	33	▼ 7	15
IT	52	▼ 1	40	▲ 2	8
BE	48	▼ 2	49	▼ 1	3
MT	46	▼ 2	45	▲ 9	9
NL	41	▼ 2	55	=	4
SK	56	▼ 2	30	▼ 2	14
EE	55	▼ 4	32	▼ 9	13
ES	34	▼ 4	47	=	19
AT	53	▼ 4	42	▲ 3	5
DE	28	▼ 5	66	▲ 3	6
HR	40	▼ 5	55	▲ 5	5
FR	51	▼ 6	40	▲ 3	9
CY	59	▼ 7	32	▲ 5	9
SI	51	▼ 7	43	▲ 1	6
SE	30	▼ 7	66	▲ 4	4
LT	45	▼ 8	35	▼ 12	20
LV	48	▼ 9	40	▲ 7	12
LU	32	▼ 12	57	▲ 1	11
CZ	50	▼ 13	42	▲ 5	8

The **socio-demographic data** show that the older the respondents, the more likely they are to agree. For example, 46% of those aged 40 and older agree, compared to 35% of those aged 15-24. The data also show that students (32%) and managers (38%) are less likely to agree globalisation threatens their country's identity than other occupation groups, and particularly manual workers (49%).

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

QA19.3 To what extent do you agree or disagree with each of the following statements?
Globalisation threatens (OUR COUNTRY)'s identity
(% - EU)

	Total 'Agree'	Total 'Disagree'	Don't Know
EU27	44	47	9
Gender			
Man	44	49	7
Woman	43	45	12
Age			
15-24	35	56	9
25-39	41	54	5
40-54	46	49	5
55 +	46	40	14
Education (End of)			
15-	44	32	24
16-19	49	43	8
20+	41	55	4
Still studying	32	60	8
Socio-professional category			
Self-employed	45	50	5
Managers	38	59	3
Other white collars	46	48	6
Manual workers	49	44	7
House persons	42	39	19
Unemployed	47	43	10
Retired	45	39	16
Students	32	60	8
Difficulties paying bills			
Most of the time	50	36	14
From time to time	51	40	9
Almost never/ Never	40	51	9

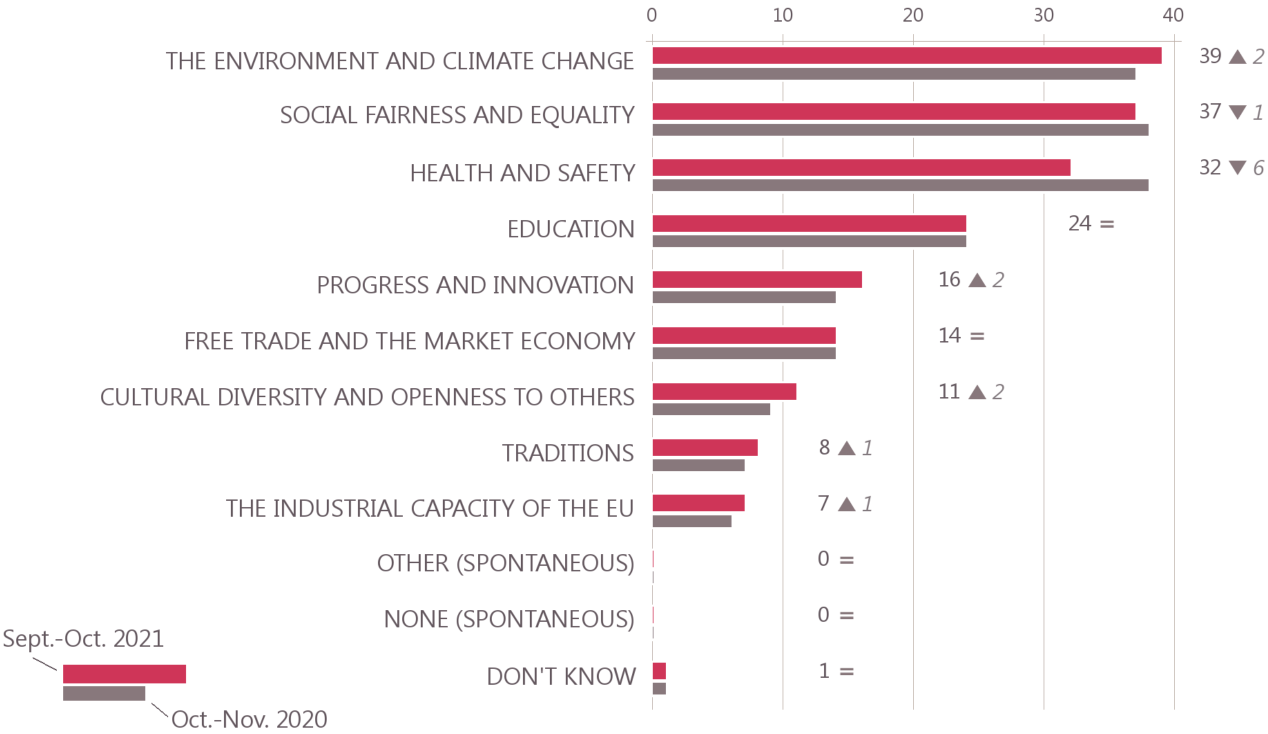
Environment and climate change, social fairness and equality, and well as health and safety should be the main priorities to face global challenges

According to respondents, the two main priorities to face global challenges should be the environment and climate change (39%) **as well as** social fairness and equality (37%)[37]. Health and safety (32%) is the only other global challenge mentioned by at least one quarter. These three items were also most mentioned in the previous Future of Europe survey in October-November 2020 (Special Eurobarometer 500 on the Future of Europe 2020)[38], but the environment and climate change has risen from third to first position.

Almost one quarter of respondents (24%) think education should be prioritised. There are fewer mentions of progress and innovation (16%) or free trade and the market economy (14%). Just over one in ten think cultural diversity and openness to others (11%) should be prioritised, while 8% say this about traditions and 7% about the industrial capacity of the EU.

There has been relatively little change in proportions since October-November 2020, except for a 6-point decrease in mentions of health and safety.

QA20 Which two of the following should be prioritised in order to face major global challenges? (MAX. 2 ANSWERS)
(% - EU27)



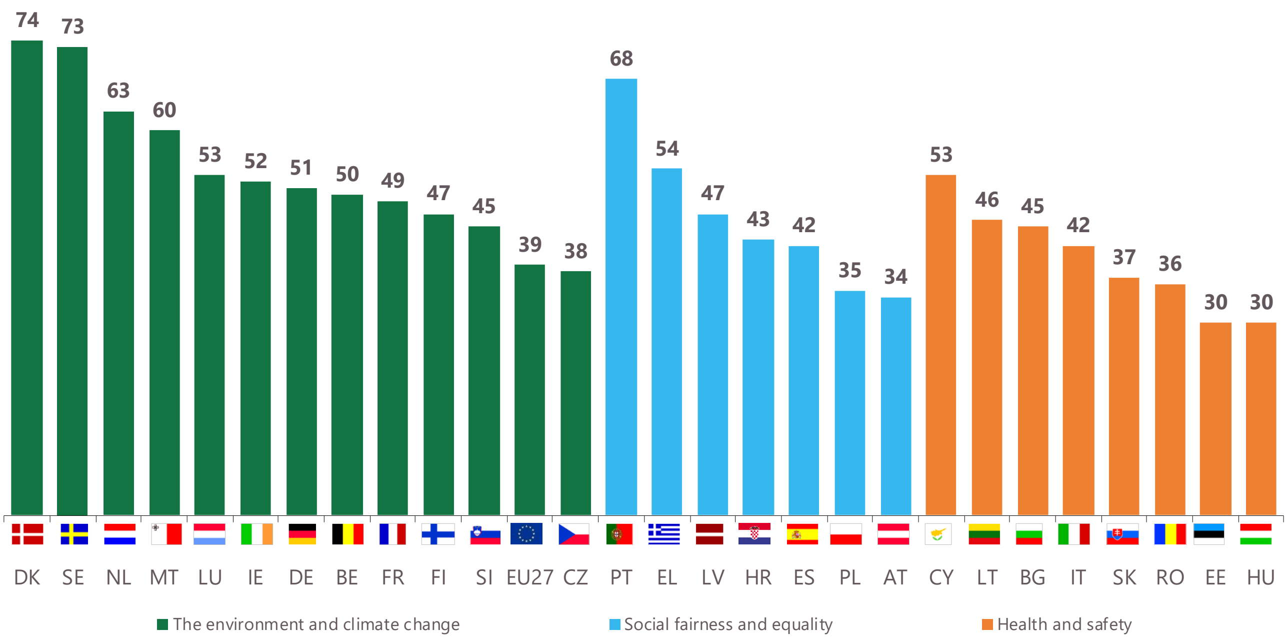
[37] QA20. Which two of the following should be prioritised in order to face major global challenges? (MAX. 2 ANSWERS) 20.1 The environment and climate change; 20.2 Social fairness and equality; 20.3 Free trade and the market economy; 20.4 Cultural diversity and openness to others; 20.5 Progress and innovation; 20.6 Traditions; 20.7 Education; 20.8 Health and safety; 20.9 The industrial capacity of the EU.

[38] Special Eurobarometer 500: https://europa.eu/eurobarometer/surveys/detail/2256

For respondents in 12 countries, **the environment and climate change** should be prioritised in order to face major global challenges, although proportions range from 74% in Denmark and 73% in Sweden to 38% in Czechia.

In seven countries **social fairness and equality** is the most mentioned priority, with the highest level amongst respondents in Portugal (68%). In the remaining eight countries **health and safety** ranks first, with the highest level seen in Cyprus (53%).

QA20 Which two of the following should be prioritised in order to face major global challenges? (MAX. 2 ANSWERS)
(% - THE MOST MENTIONED ANSWER BY COUNTRY)



The proportion of respondents who think the **environment and climate change** should be prioritised varies considerably across countries, ranging from 74% in Denmark, 73% in Sweden and 63% in the Netherlands to 12% in Romania, and 19% in Greece and Bulgaria. This is one of the three most mentioned items in 22 countries.

Social fairness and equality is one of the three most mentioned items in 26 Member States. It is most often mentioned by those in Portugal (68%), Greece (54%) and Latvia (47%), and less often by respondents in Romania (19%), Italy (22%) and Estonia (24%).

More than half of all respondents in Portugal and Cyprus (both 53%) as well as 46% in Lithuania think **health and safety** should be one of the two areas prioritised to face global challenges. In contrast 4% in Croatia, 14% in Sweden and 20% in Denmark think the same. This is one of the three most mentioned items in 21 countries.

Education is mentioned by fewer than four in ten respondents in each country, with proportions ranging from 38% in Spain, 35% in France and 34% in Luxembourg to 11% in Hungary, 13% in Slovenia and 15% in Denmark, Poland and Portugal. This is the second or third most mentioned item in 10 countries.

There are four countries where at least one in five think **progress and innovation** should be prioritised: Hungary (28%), Italy (27%), Greece (21%) and Croatia (20%). In contrast, 7% in Latvia and Denmark think the same way.

The proportion who thinks **free trade and the market economy** should be prioritised ranges from 32% in Croatia, 25% in Poland and 24% in Hungary and Czechia to 3% in Luxembourg, 5% in France and 6% in Spain.

Considering the areas least mentioned at an EU level, respondents in Croatia and Hungary (both 17%) are the most likely to think **cultural diversity and openness** to others should be prioritised, while those in Romania (18%) and Austria (17%) are the most likely to mention **traditions**. Bulgaria (11%) and Romania (10%) are the only countries where at least one in ten think the **industrial capacity of the EU** should be prioritised.

QA20 Which two of the following should be prioritised in order to face major global challenges? (MAX. 2 ANSWERS)
(%)

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

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

Across the EU as a whole, results have generally remained stable since October-November 2020, with the exception of health and safety (-6 percentage points). However, there have been larger changes at the country level.

In 16 countries, respondents are now more likely to say **environment and climate change** should be prioritised, with the largest increases seen in Malta and Spain (both +12 pp). In contrast, mentions have declined in nine countries, and particularly in Estonia (-21 pp), Lithuania (-19 pp).

Social fairness and equality is less likely to be mentioned in 17 countries, most notably by respondents in Slovakia (-11 pp). It is, however, more likely to be mentioned by respondents in Greece (+8 pp).

In 22 countries, respondents are now less likely to think **health and safety** should be a priority, and in five countries the change is at least ten points: Poland (-18 pp), Portugal (-14 pp), Slovakia (-11 pp) and Czechia and Spain (both -10 pp).

In contrast, respondents in Lithuania and Ireland (both +10 pp) are now more likely to think this should be a priority.

Changes in other items are all less than ten points, with the following highlights:

- Respondents in Luxembourg (+8 pp) are now more likely to mention education.
- Those in Hungary (+9 pp) are now more likely to mention free trade and the market economy, while respondents in Luxembourg and Greece (both -7 pp) are now less likely to do so.

Respondents in Hungary (+9 pp) are now more likely to think cultural diversity and openness to others should be prioritised.

QA20 Which two of the following should be prioritised in order to face major global challenges? (MAX. 2 ANSWERS)
(%)

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

The **socio-demographic data** show that women are more likely than men to say a priority should be **health and safety** (35% vs 29% of men). There are no notable difference for other items.

The younger the respondent, the less likely they are to say **health and safety** should be prioritised, and the more likely they are to say **education** should be prioritised. For instance, 26% of 15–24-year-olds mention health and safety, compared to 37% of those aged 55 and older. 15–24-year-olds are also less likely than older age groups to say **social fairness and equality** should be prioritised.

The longer a respondent has remained in education, the more likely they are to mention **the environment and climate change**, and the less likely they are to mention **health and safety**. For example, 48% who completed education aged 20 or older say **the environment and climate change** should be a priority, compared to 28% of those who completed education aged 15 or younger. Those who completed education aged 16 or older are more likely to mention **progress and innovation** (17% vs 11% of those who completed age 15 or younger).

There are few notable differences based on occupation. Managers (48%) are more likely than other groups to say the priority should be **the environment and climate change**. The unemployed (44%) are the most likely to mention **social fairness and equality**, while housepersons (41%) are more likely than other groups to mention **health and safety**.

Respondents who experience the least financial difficulties are the most likely to say **the environment and climate change** should be prioritised (44%), but they are the least likely to say this about **health and safety** (30%). Those who have difficulty in paying bills almost all the time are more likely than those with fewer financial difficulties to prioritise **social fairness and equality** (45%).

QA20 Which two of the following should be prioritised in order to face major global challenges? (MAX. 2 ANSWERS)
(% - EU)

	The environment and climate change	Social fairness and equality	Health and safety	Education	Progress and innovation	Free trade and the market economy	Cultural diversity and openness to others	Traditions	The industrial capacity of the EU
EU27	39	37	32	24	16	14	11	8	7
Gender									
Man	39	36	29	23	18	16	10	8	8
Woman	39	38	35	25	14	13	12	7	5
Age									
15-24	42	32	26	28	18	14	14	7	5
25-39	41	36	27	27	18	16	12	7	6
40-54	37	37	31	24	18	16	11	8	8
55 +	38	39	37	22	13	12	10	9	6
Education (End of)									
15-	28	39	49	23	11	11	7	10	5
16-19	34	37	35	22	17	15	11	9	7
20+	48	38	24	26	17	14	12	5	7
Still studying	45	32	23	28	17	15	16	7	4
Socio-professional category									
Self-employed	41	36	26	23	19	17	12	7	7
Managers	48	37	22	23	19	16	13	5	8
Other white collars	39	34	31	23	19	17	12	8	6
Manual workers	33	37	35	25	17	14	10	9	7
House persons	29	33	41	29	15	12	10	10	6
Unemployed	40	44	34	26	13	11	7	6	7
Retired	38	40	38	22	11	12	10	8	6
Students	45	32	23	28	17	15	16	7	4
Difficulties paying bills									
Most of the time	30	45	36	22	12	11	9	9	7
From time to time	27	35	37	23	17	15	13	11	6
Almost never/ Never	44	37	30	24	16	14	11	6	7

IV. THE EUROPEAN GREEN DEAL

Large proportions of Europeans see environmental objectives as important, most notably restoring Europe's forests, soils, wetlands and peatlands to increase the absorption of CO2 pollution

This chapter examines attitudes towards environmental objectives and actions that are addressed by the European Green Deal. Firstly, respondents were asked how important various environmental objectives are to them personally. The focus then moves to the impact of tackling climate change on health and well-being, the economy and the future.

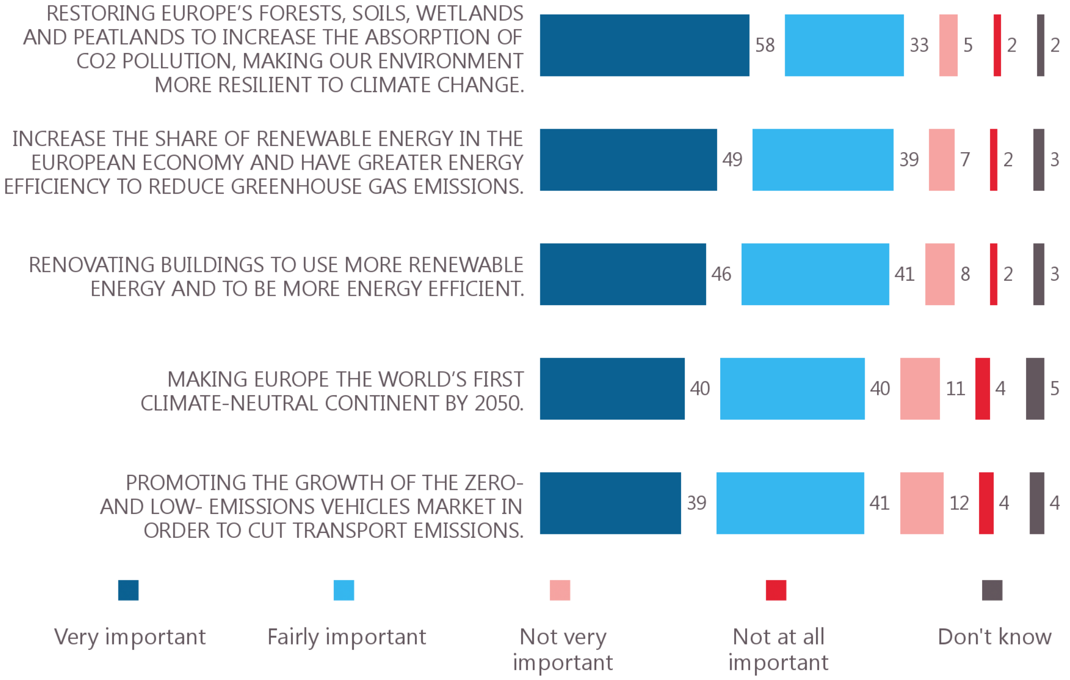
Europeans think that various **environmental objectives are important to them personally**, with at least eight in ten describing each of the five objectives as very or "fairly important". Above all, more than half (58%) say that **restoring Europe's forests, soils, wetlands and peatlands to increase the absorption of CO2 pollution** is "very important", while a third (33%) think this is "fairly important".

Around half (49%) think it is "very important" to **increase the share of renewable energy in the European economy and have greater energy efficiency to reduce greenhouse gas emissions**, while 39% think this is "fairly important".

Renovating buildings to use more renewable energy and to be more energy efficient is seen as "very important" by 46% of Europeans, with 41% saying this is "fairly important". Around four in ten (40%) think it is "very important" to **make Europe the world's first climate-neutral continent by 2050**, and a similar proportion (39%) say it is "very important" **to promote the growth of the zero- and low- emissions vehicles market in order to cut transport emissions**. In each case, around four in ten view these objectives as "fairly important" (40% and 41% respectively).

For each of the objectives, a minority of respondents describe them as "not very important" or "not at all important", the proportion ranging from 7% for restoring Europe's forests, soils, wetlands and peatlands to increase the absorption of CO2 pollution, to 16% for promoting the growth of the zero- and low- emissions vehicles market.

QA26 Please tell how important or not important each of the following objectives are, for you personally.
(% - EU27)



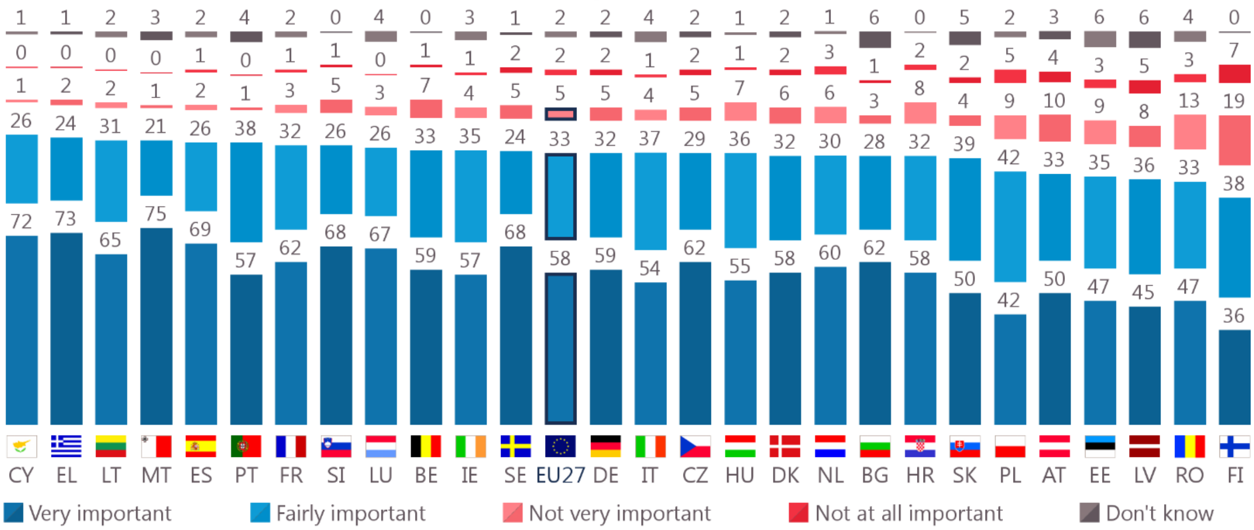
Restoring Europe's forests, soils, wetlands and peatlands to increase the absorption of CO2 pollution, making our environment more resilient to climate change

In every Member State, at least three-quarters of respondents say it is important to **restore Europe's forests, soils, wetlands and peatlands to increase the absorption of CO2 pollution**. This objective is seen as "very important" to at least half of respondents in 22 countries.

This objective is most likely to be seen as important by respondents in Cyprus (98%), Greece (97%), Lithuania and Malta (both 96%). More than seven in ten respondents think this is "very important" in Malta (75%), Greece (73%) and Cyprus (72%).

Respondents in Finland are least likely to say this objective as important to them personally (74% important, 26% not important). The countries in which the respondents indicated this objective is least important after Finland are: Romania (80%), Latvia (81%), Estonia (82%), Austria (83%) and Poland (84%).

QA26.4 Please tell how important or not important each of the following objectives are, for you personally.
Restoring Europe's forests, soils, wetlands and peatlands to increase the absorption of CO2 pollution, making our environment more resilient to climate change. (%)



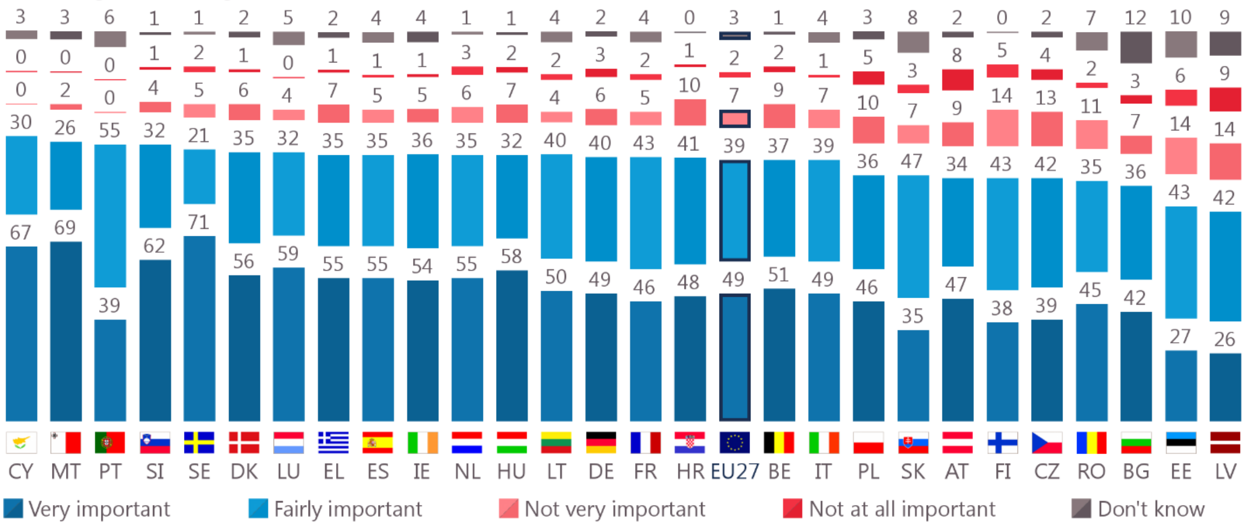
Increase the share of renewable energy in the European economy and have greater energy efficiency to reduce greenhouse gas emissions

In 24 of the 27 Member States, at least eight in ten respondents say it is important for them personally to **increase the share of renewable energy in the European economy and have greater energy efficiency to reduce greenhouse gas emissions**. This objective is seen as "very important" by at least half of respondents in 13 countries.

This objective is most likely to be seen as important by respondents in Cyprus (97%), Malta (95%), Portugal and Slovenia (both 94%). Respondents in Sweden are most likely to say it is "very important" (71%), followed by those in Malta (69%) and Cyprus (67%).

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

QA26.2 Please tell how important or not important each of the following objectives are, for you personally.
Increase the share of renewable energy in the European economy and have greater energy efficiency to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. (%)



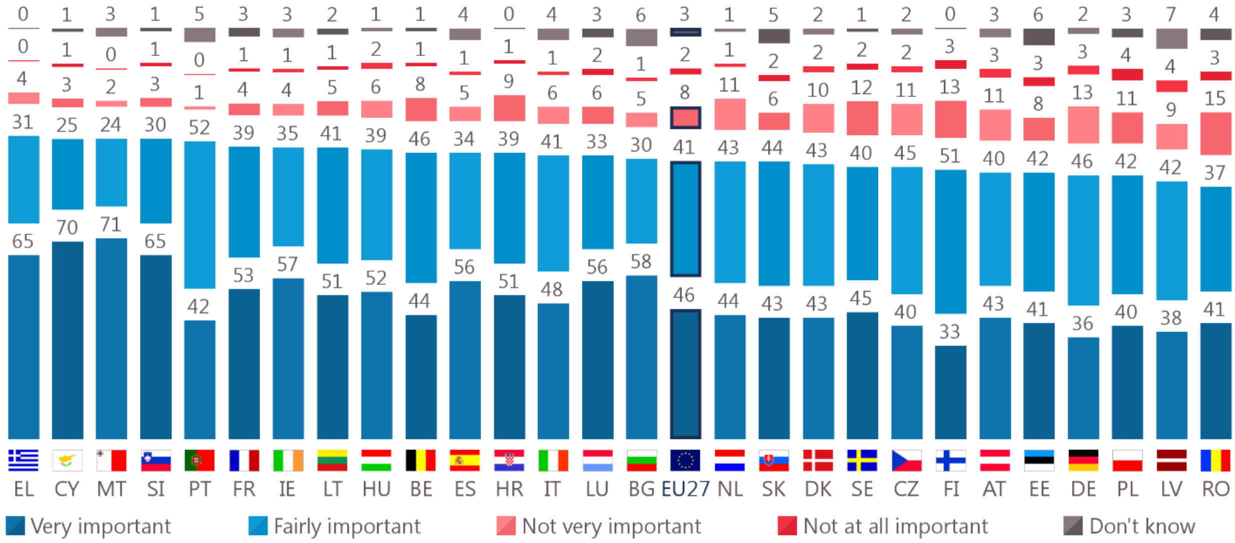
Renovating buildings to use more renewable energy and to be more energy efficient

In every Member State, more than three-quarters of respondents think it is important for them personally **to renovate buildings to use more renewable energy and to be more energy efficient**. There are 12 countries where more than half of respondents say this is "very important".

This objective is most likely to be seen as important by respondents in Greece (96%), Cyprus, Malta, Slovenia (all 95%) and Portugal (94%). Around seven in ten respondents see this as "very important" in Malta (71%) and Cyprus (70%).

Renovating buildings to use more renewable energy and to be more energy efficient is least likely to be seen as important by respondents in Romania (78%), Latvia (80%), Germany and Poland (both 82%).

QA26.5 Please tell how important or not important each of the following objectives are, for you personally.
Renovating buildings to use more renewable energy and to be more energy efficient. (%)

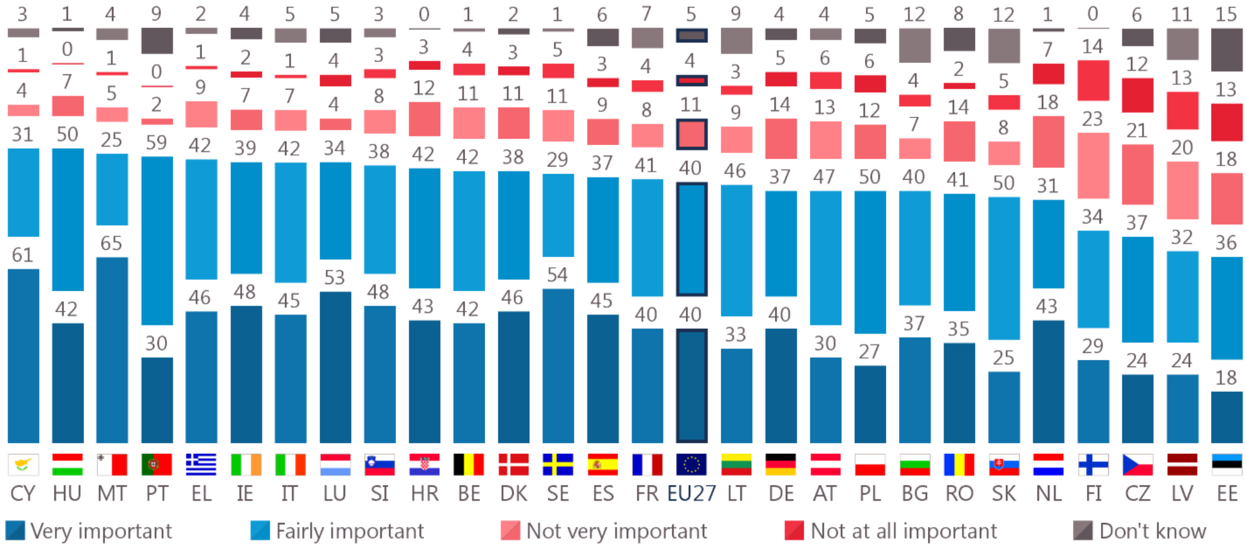


Making Europe the world's first climate neutral continent by 2050

In 15 member States, more than eight in ten respondents say it is important for them personally to **make Europe the world's first climate-neutral continent by 2050**. Respondents are most likely to see this as important in Cyprus, Hungary (both 92%) and Malta (90%), while this is most likely to be seen as "very important" in Malta (65%) and Cyprus (61%).

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

QA26.1 Please tell how important or not important each of the following objectives are, for you personally.
Making Europe the world's first climate-neutral continent by 2050. (%)

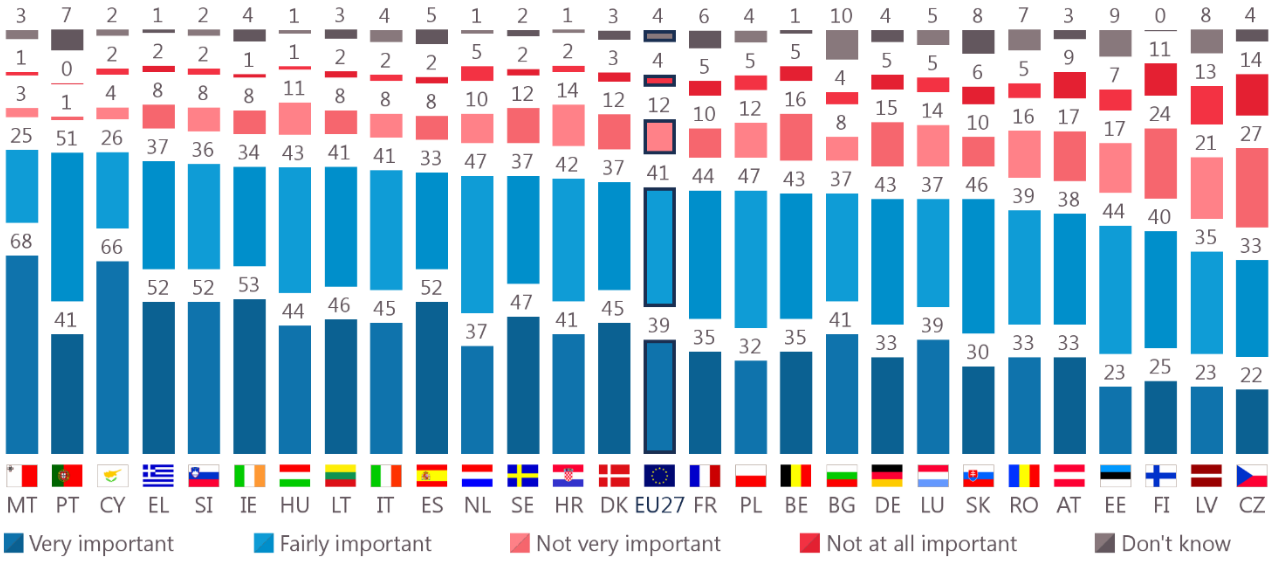


Promoting the growth of the zero- and low- emissions vehicles market in order to cut transport emissions

This statement is seen as "very important" for them personally by more than half of respondents in six Member States: Malta (68%), Cyprus (66%), Ireland (53%), Greece, Slovenia and Spain (all 52%). Respondents are most likely to see this as "very" or "fairly important" in Malta (93%), Cyprus, Portugal (both 92%) and Greece (89%).

Respondents are least likely to think this objective is important in Czechia (55%), Latvia (58%), Finland (65%) and Estonia (67%).

QA26.3 Please tell how important or not important each of the following objectives are, for you personally.
Promoting the growth of the zero- and low- emissions vehicles market in order to cut transport emissions. (%)



The **socio-demographic** data show a broadly consistent picture, with small differences across the various groups.

Younger respondents are slightly more likely than older respondents to see the various objectives as important. For example, 87% of 15-24 year olds think it is important **to make Europe the world's first climate-neutral continent by 2050**, compared with 77% of those aged 55 or over.

Respondents who stayed longer in education are more likely to see the various issues as important. For example, 90% of those who left education at the age of 20 or above say it is important to increase **the share of renewable energy in the European economy and have greater energy efficiency to reduce greenhouse gas emissions**, as opposed to 81% among those who left education by the age of 15.

The importance of the certain issues is lower among respondents who have difficulties paying bills most of the time. For example, **promoting the growth of the zero- and low- emissions vehicles market in order to cut transport emissions** is considered important by 75% of those who have difficulties paying bills most of the time, compared with 81% among those who never or almost never have difficulties.

Respondents whose general image of the EU is positive are more likely to see the various issues as important, and this applies most strongly to three objectives: **making Europe the world's first climate-neutral continent by 2050** (87% vs. 60% of those whose image of the EU is negative), **increasing the share of renewable energy in the European economy and having greater energy efficiency to reduce greenhouse gas emissions** (94% vs. 71%) and **promoting the growth of the zero- and low- emissions vehicles market in order to cut transport emissions** (88% vs. 61%).

QA26 Please tell how important or not important each of the following objectives are, for you personally.
(% - Total 'Important')

	Restoring Europe's forests, soils, wetlands and peatlands to increase the absorption of CO2 pollution, making our environment more resilient to climate change	Increase the share of renewable energy in the European economy and have greater energy efficiency to reduce greenhouse gas emissions	Renovating buildings to use more renewable energy and to be more energy efficient	Making Europe the world's first climate-neutral continent by 2050	Promoting the growth of the zero- and low- emissions vehicles market in order to cut transport emissions
EU27	91	88	87	80	80
Gender					
Man	91	87	87	80	80
Woman	91	88	87	80	80
Age					
15-24	93	92	88	87	86
25-39	91	88	88	83	81
40-54	91	89	87	81	82
55 +	90	86	86	77	77
Education (End of)					
15-	87	81	84	76	76
16-19	90	86	86	79	78
20+	93	90	89	82	81
Still studying	94	94	90	89	88
Socio-professional category					
Self-employed	94	90	89	82	81
Managers	93	91	88	84	82
Other white collars	91	89	88	82	82
Manual workers	89	86	85	78	78
House persons	87	83	83	76	78
Unemployed	92	86	88	81	80
Retired	89	85	87	76	76
Students	94	94	90	89	88
Difficulties paying bills					
Most of the time	88	82	83	75	75
From time to time	89	85	85	78	79
Almost never/ Never	92	89	88	81	81
Image of the EU					
Total 'Positive'	95	94	92	87	88
Neutral	87	85	83	75	75
Total 'Negative'	82	71	78	60	61

There is wide agreement that tackling climate change can bring a range of benefits, including improvement of health and well-being

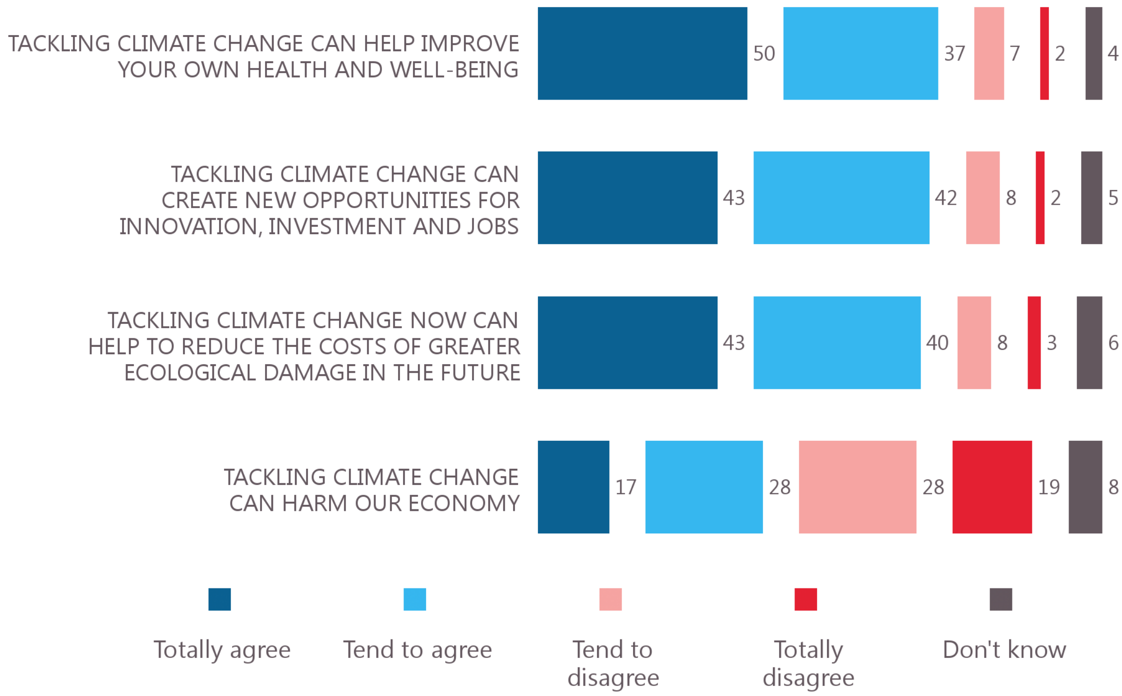
Almost nine in ten Europeans (87%) agree that **tackling climate change can help improve their own health and well-being**, including half (50%) who "totally agree". Just 9% disagree with the statement.

More than eight in ten (85%) agree **that tackling climate change can create new opportunities for innovation, investment and jobs**, with 43% saying they "totally agree", while 10% disagree.

A similar proportion (83%) agree that **tackling climate change now can help to reduce the costs of greater ecological damage in the future**, including 43% who "totally agree", while 11% disagree.

There is less of a consensus regarding the impact on the economy. 47% disagree with the statement that **tackling climate change can harm our economy**, while a similar proportion (45%) agree with the statement.

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

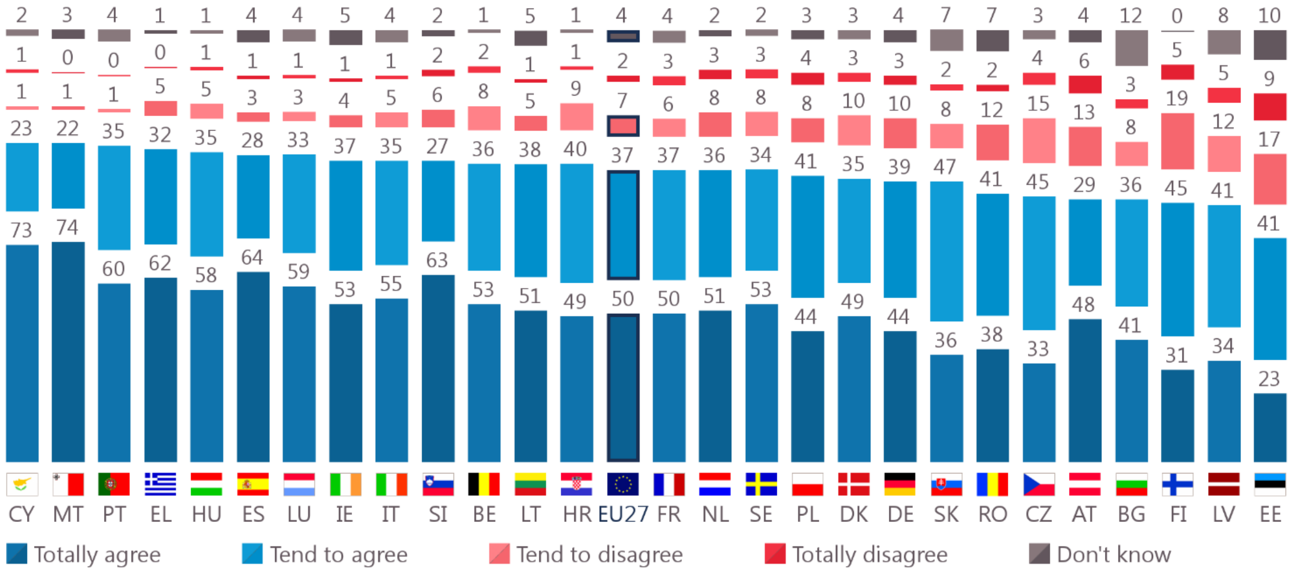


Tackling climate change can help improve your own health and well-being

In every Member State, a clear majority of respondents agree that **tackling climate change can help improve their own health and well-being**. There are 10 countries where at least nine in ten agree with this statement, led by Cyprus, Malta (both 96%), Portugal (95%), Greece (94%) and Hungary (93%). Respondents are most likely to agree "totally" in Malta (74%) and Cyprus (73%).

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

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

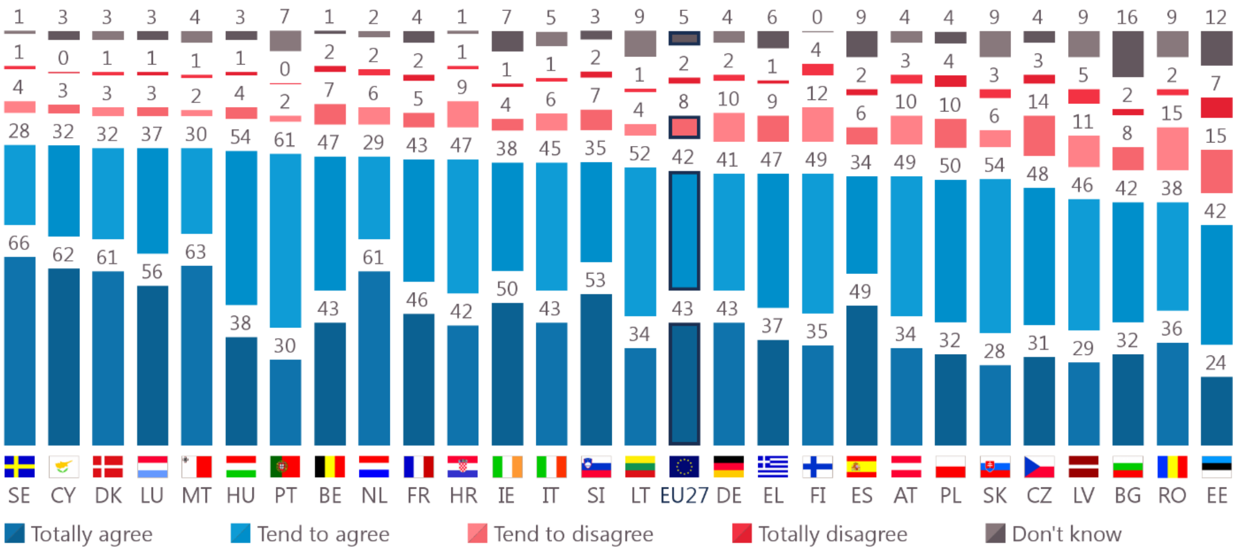


Tackling climate change can create new opportunities for innovation, investment and jobs

There is a clear consensus in all EU Member States that **tackling climate change can create new opportunities for innovation, investment and jobs**. In nine Member States, at least nine in ten respondents agree with this statement, with the highest proportions seen in Sweden, Cyprus (both 94%), Denmark, Luxembourg and Malta (all 93%). Respondents are most likely to agree "totally" in Sweden (66%), Malta (63%), Cyprus (62%), Denmark and the Netherlands (both 61%).

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

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



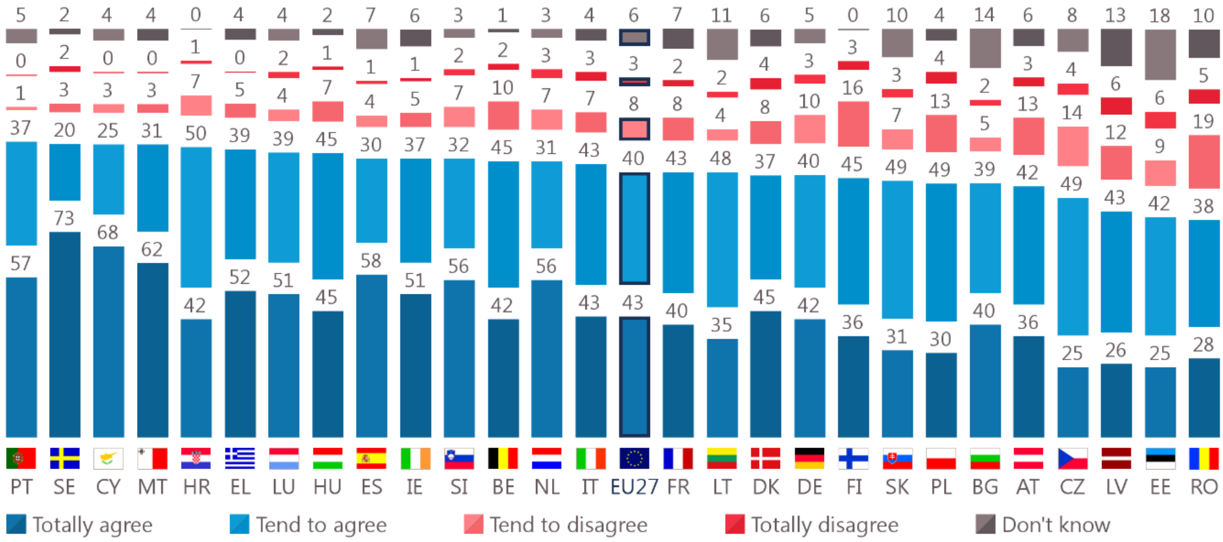
Tackling climate change now can help to reduce the costs of greater ecological damage in the future

In 23 out of 27 Member States, more than three-quarters of respondents agree that **tackling climate change now can help to reduce the costs of greater ecological damage in the future**.

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

Levels of agreement are lowest in Romania (66%), Estonia (67%), Latvia (69%) and Czechia (74%).

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

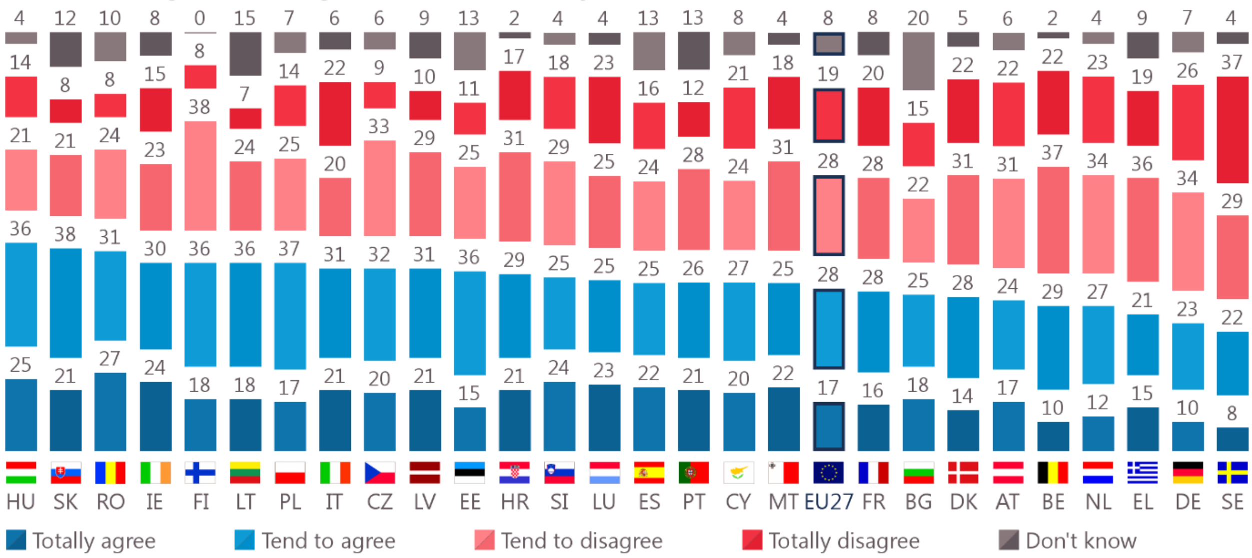


Tackling climate change can harm our economy

In 17 EU Member States, a majority of respondents agree that "**tackling climate change can harm our economy"**. Respondents are most likely to agree with the statement in Hungary (61%), Slovakia (59%) and Romania (58%).

There is an even split of agreement and disagreement in Luxembourg (48% agree, 48% disagree), while in the remaining nine Member States a majority disagree with the statement. Respondents are most likely to disagree in Sweden (66%), Germany (60%), Belgium (59%) and the Netherlands (57%). More than a third of respondents in Sweden "totally disagree" (37%).

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



Looking at **socio-demographic differences**, there are common patterns across various groups, although some specificities can be noted.

Considering age, younger respondents are generally more likely than older respondents to agree with the benefits of tackling climate change. As an example, they are slightly more likely to agree that **tackling climate change can help improve their own health and well-being** (91% of 15–24-year-olds vs. 84% of those aged 55 or over).

A similar pattern is seen by level of education, with respondents who left education at the age of 20 or above more likely to agree that tackling climate change is beneficial for their health than those who left education by the age of 15 of before (88% vs. 82%).

At the same time, respondents who spent more time in full-time education are much more likely to disagree that **tackling climate change can harm the economy**, compared to those who left education by the age of 15 or before (54% vs. 38%).

Data by socio-professional category shows different views according to occupation. **The majority of managers disagree that tackling climate change can harm our economy** (40% agree, 57% disagree), **whereas there is majority agreement among white-collar workers** (50% agree, 45% disagree), **manual workers** (50% agree, 43% disagree), **as well as house persons** (45% agree, 41% disagree).

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

	Tackling climate change can help improve your own health and well-being		Tackling climate change can create new opportunities for innovation, investment and jobs		Tackling climate change now can help to reduce the costs of greater ecological damage in the future		Tackling climate change can harm our economy	
	Total 'Agree'	Total 'Disagree'	Total 'Agree'	Total 'Disagree'	Total 'Agree'	Total 'Disagree'	Total 'Agree'	Total 'Disagree'
EU27	87	9	85	10	83	11	45	47
Gender								
Man	85	12	86	10	83	12	47	47
Woman	87	8	85	9	83	10	44	47
Age								
15-24	91	7	89	7	86	10	45	48
25-39	89	9	88	10	86	11	47	48
40-54	87	11	86	11	85	12	46	49
55 +	84	10	83	9	80	11	43	46
Education (End of)								
15-	82	9	76	10	78	10	44	38
16-19	85	11	84	11	82	13	50	43
20+	88	10	90	8	87	10	41	54
Still studying	91	7	91	6	88	9	43	51
Socio-professional category								
Self-employed	87	11	86	11	84	13	46	49
Managers	89	10	91	8	89	9	40	57
Other white collars	87	10	88	9	84	12	50	45
Manual workers	86	11	82	14	81	14	50	43
House persons	85	9	79	11	80	11	45	41
Unemployed	88	9	84	11	84	10	43	50
Retired	82	10	83	8	81	10	42	45
Students	91	7	91	6	88	9	43	51
Difficulties paying bills								
Most of the time	84	11	77	15	77	15	46	44
From time to time	87	10	83	12	81	14	51	42
Almost never/ Never	87	9	87	8	85	10	43	49

V. THE FUTURE OF EUROPE

1. EU's challenges

The main global challenges for the EU's future are climate change and environmental issues

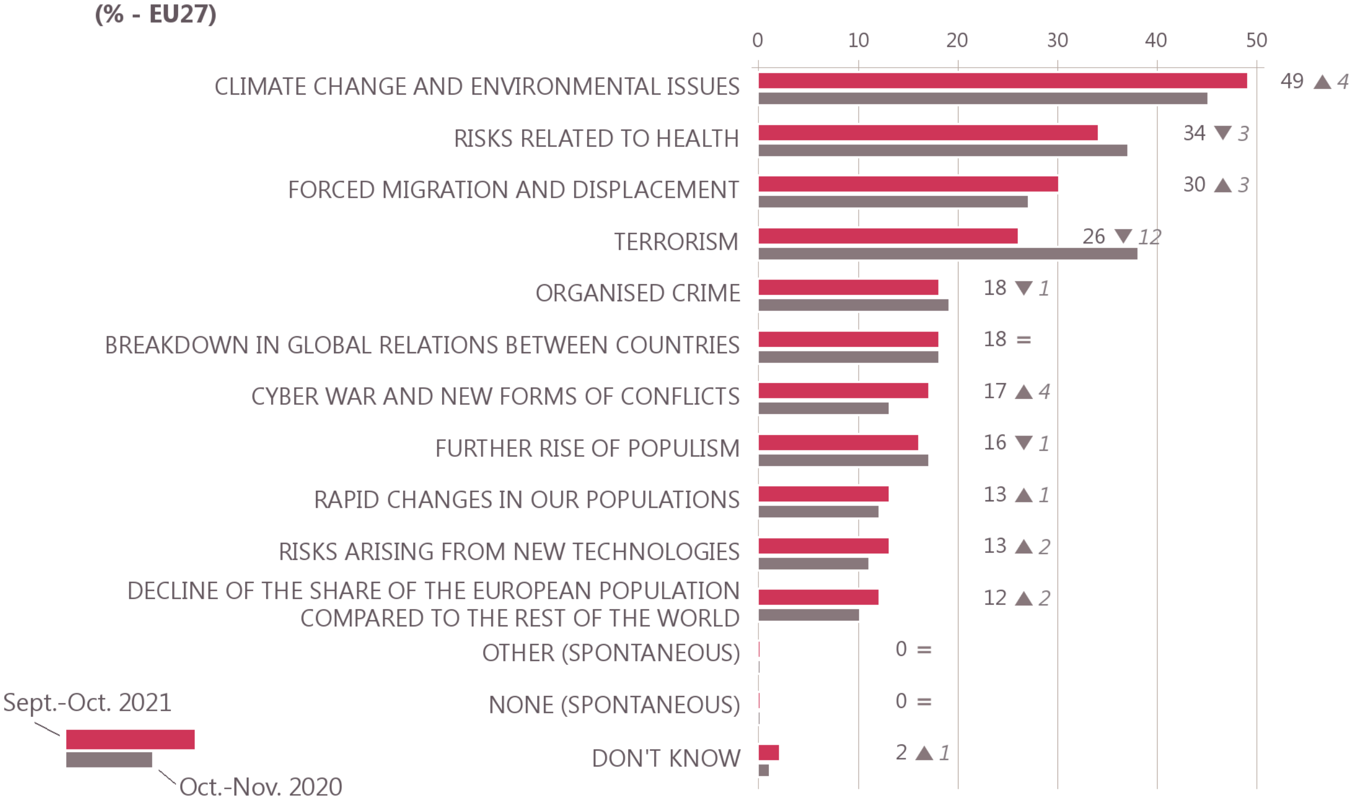
In this chapter, we explore perceptions of the main global challenges that might impact the future of the EU, and the best way to make progress on these challenges including the appropriate level of government to take the lead. Ideas about what would be most helpful for the future of Europe are also discussed, as well as respondents' preferences looking forward to European society in 2030.

Climate change and environmental issues (49%) are seen as the main global challenge for the future of the EU, followed by risks related to **health** (34%) and **forced migration and displacement** (30%)[39].

Just over one quarter (26%) mention **terrorism**, which has dropped from second position in the previous survey to fourth position (-12 percentage-points). Almost one in five consider **organised crime** or a **breakdown in global relations between countries** (18% each) to be main global challenges for the EU, while 17% mention **cyber war and new forms of conflict** and 16% mention the **further rise of populism.**

Respondents are least likely to mention **rapid changes in populations**, **risks arising from new technologies**, (13% each) or a **decline of the share of the European population compared to the rest of the world** (12%) as main global challenges for the future of the EU[40].

QA17 Which of the following do you think are the main global challenges for the future of the EU? (MAX. 3 ANSWERS) **(% - EU27)**



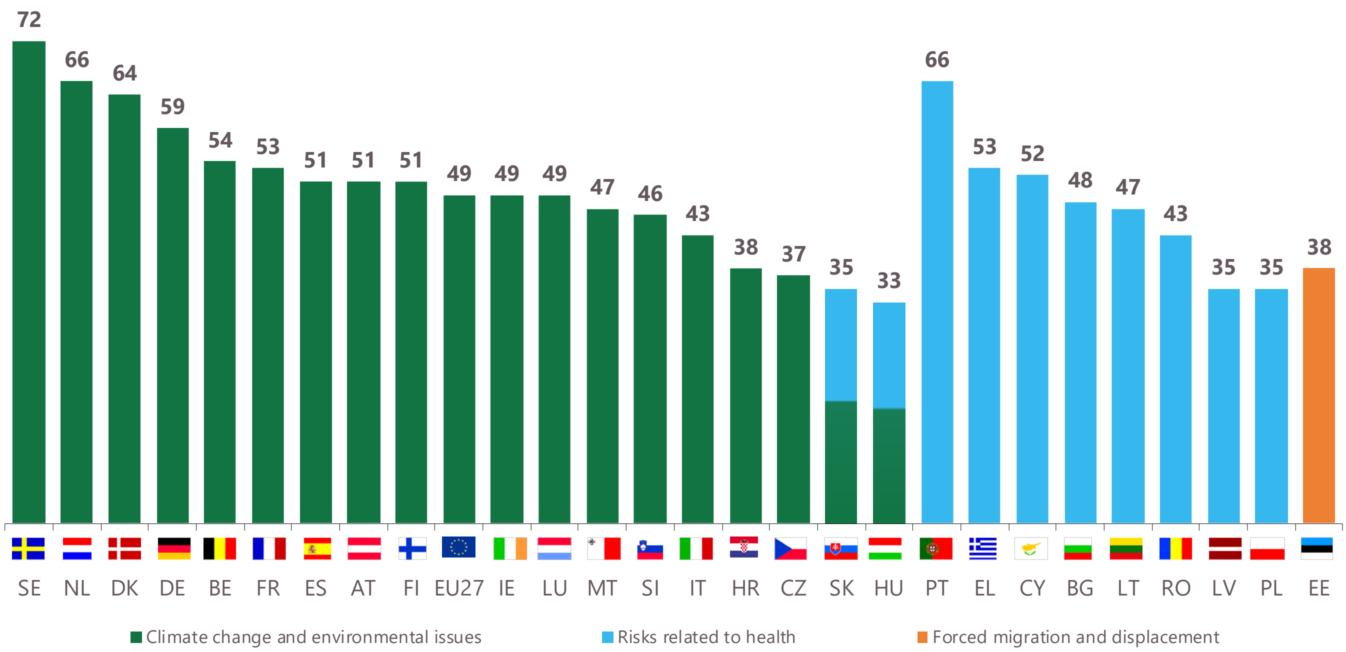
[39] Q17 Which of the following do you think are the main global challenges for the future of the EU? (MAXIMUM 3 ANSWERS) Risks arising from new technologies; Climate change and environmental issues; Forced migration and displacement,
Rapid changes in our populations; Further rise of populism; Terrorism; Cyber war and new forms of conflicts; Organised crime; Breakdown in global relations between countries; Risks related to health; Decline of the share of the European population compared to the rest of the world.

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

Climate change is the most commonly mentioned global challenge in 16 countries and joint-first in two further countries, although proportions range from 72% in Sweden to 33% in Hungary. Risks related to health is the most mentioned or joint most mentioned risk in ten countries, most notably in Portugal (66%).

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

QA17 Which of the following do you think are the main global challenges for the future of the EU? (MAX. 3 ANSWERS)
(% - THE MOST MENTIONED ANSWER BY COUNTRY)



Climate change and environmental issues is the most commonly mentioned challenge across the EU. It is most widely mentioned in Sweden (72%), the Netherlands (66%) and Denmark (64%), and least mentioned in Romania (25%), Latvia (28%) and Estonia (30%). Estonia is the only country where this issue is not one of the three most mentioned.

There are three countries where at least half of all respondents think **risks related to health** are a main global challenge for the EU's future: Portugal (66%), Greece (53%) and Cyprus (52%). Risks related to health are least mentioned by those in Sweden (10%), Finland and the Netherlands (both 12%). This challenge ranks in the top three in 19 countries.

Forced migration and displacement is considered the main global challenge by at least one in five respondents in each country but is most widely mentioned by those in Greece (44%), Malta (43%) and Cyprus (42%). Respondents in Finland (20%), Lithuania (21%) and Bulgaria and Portugal (both 24%) are least likely to mention this as a main challenge. This is in the top three most mentioned issues in 22 countries overall.

Terrorism is mentioned by 26% of respondents overall but is more widely considered a challenge by those in France (39%), Czechia (35%) and Cyprus (34%). In contrast, only 16% in Latvia and Slovenia and 17% in Poland and Romania mention terrorism. Terrorism is in the top three most mentioned challenges in seven countries.

A **breakdown in global relations between countries** is most likely to be considered a challenge for the EU by respondents in Sweden (37%), the Netherlands and Lithuania (both 36%), but is least likely to be mentioned by those in Cyprus (8%), Portugal and Italy (both 10%).

Sweden (35%) and Finland (30%) are the only countries where at least three in ten think **organised crime** is a global challenge for the EU's future. **Cyber war and new forms of conflict** is most mentioned by respondents in Ireland (34%), Finland (32%), Estonia (31%) and the Netherlands (30%). This challenge is one of the three most mentioned in eight countries.

Amongst the lower ranking challenges at EU level, a **further rise in populism** is most mentioned by those in Sweden (34%) and Finland (33%), while Slovakia (20%) is the only country where at least one in five consider **risks arising from new technologies** as a global challenge for the EU's future.

Respondents in Austria, Hungary (both 21%) and Greece (20%) are the most likely to consider **rapid changes in population** as a main challenge, while a **decline of the share of the European population compared to the rest of the World** is considered a main challenge by at least one in five respondents in Croatia (26%), Hungary (24%) and Greece (21%).

QA17 Which of the following do you think are the main global challenges for the future of the EU? (MAX. 3 ANSWERS)
(%)

	Climate change and environmental issues	Risks related to health	Forced migration and displacement	Terrorism	Organised crime	Breakdown in global relations between countries	Cyber war and new forms of conflicts	Further rise of populism	Risks arising from new technologies	Rapid changes in our populations	Decline of the share of the European population compared to the rest of the World
EU27	49	34	30	26	18	18	17	16	13	13	12
BE	54	33	30	29	15	21	18	19	11	12	10
BG	31	48	24	26	19	15	18	11	15	18	14
CZ	37	26	33	35	22	18	24	18	11	11	16
DK	64	16	35	26	17	25	26	16	7	8	9
DE	59	20	29	28	25	19	19	23	11	13	8
EE	30	34	38	25	10	15	31	12	13	8	11
IE	49	31	26	25	18	21	34	16	12	13	8
EL	46	53	44	22	17	17	13	8	19	20	21
ES	51	47	29	23	10	15	12	13	11	9	10
FR	53	33	34	39	9	23	16	14	11	8	7
HR	38	30	31	19	22	20	18	8	15	19	26
IT	43	42	33	22	21	10	16	12	17	16	14
CY	49	52	42	34	24	8	14	4	16	14	14
LV	28	35	30	16	15	21	28	13	14	17	17
LT	36	47	21	19	10	36	23	8	10	12	16
LU	49	28	38	28	15	22	18	20	10	6	7
HU	33	33	31	27	22	17	16	13	14	21	24
MT	47	29	43	22	28	14	21	14	14	12	9
NL	66	12	30	24	24	36	30	28	11	10	5
AT	51	33	29	20	27	15	17	19	16	21	16
PL	33	35	25	17	15	19	15	14	15	17	15
PT	56	66	24	22	20	10	9	10	9	11	11
RO	25	43	26	17	12	15	15	13	18	19	17
SI	46	42	27	16	18	19	16	17	15	13	16
SK	35	35	26	20	17	13	21	12	20	16	17
FI	51	12	20	28	30	19	32	33	4	18	14
SE	72	10	30	23	35	37	20	34	6	7	3

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

A country-level comparison of results between the current wave and that of October-November 2020 is shown in the tables below. The discussion focusses on changes of at least ten percentage points.

Compared to October-November 2020 (Compared to Special Eurobarometer 500 on the Future of Europe 2020)[41], there are 17 countries where respondents are now more likely to consider **climate change and environmental issues** as a main global challenge for the EU's future. The increases are particularly large in Portugal (+20 percentage points), Cyprus (+16) and Spain (+11). In contrast, respondents in Estonia (-16), Lithuania and Luxembourg (both -11) are now less likely to mention this.

Risks related to health are now much more likely to be seen as a challenge by those in Estonia (+14), Slovenia, Lithuania (both +13) and Ireland (+10) but are now less likely to be viewed this way by those in Poland (-15).

Compared to October-November 2020, **forced migration and displacement** are now much less likely to be considered a challenge by respondents in Slovenia (-16), Ireland (-13), Malta (-11) and Estonia (-10).

In all Member States respondents are now less likely to see **terrorism** as a main global challenge for the future of the EU, and in 19 countries the change is of at least ten points. The largest declines in mentions are seen in Slovenia (-28), Slovakia, Estonia (both -21) and France (-20).

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

Those in Sweden (+10) are more likely to mention **a breakdown in global relations between countries**, while those in Ireland (-10) are now less likely to do so.

Respondents in Ireland (+17) are now much more likely to think cyber war and new forms of conflicts are a main challenge, but they are less likely to say this about a further rise of populism (-11). Respondents in Luxembourg and Estonia are also now much less likely to mention a further rise of populism than respondents in October-November 2020 (-16 and -15 respectively).

QA17 Which of the following do you think are the main global challenges for the future of the EU? (MAX. 3 ANSWERS)
(%)

	Climate change and environmental issues	Diff. September/October 2021 - October/November 2020	Risks related to health	Diff. September/October 2021 - October/November 2020	Forced migration and displacement	Diff. September/October 2021 - October/November 2020	Terrorism	Diff. September/October 2021 - October/November 2020	Organised crime	Diff. September/October 2021 - October/November 2020	Breakdown in global relations between countries	Diff. September/October 2021 - October/November 2020	Cyber war and new forms of conflicts	Diff. September/October 2021 - October/November 2020	Further rise of populism	Diff. September/October 2021 - October/November 2020	Risks arising from new technologies	Diff. September/October 2021 - October/November 2020	Rapid changes in our populations	Diff. September/October 2021 - October/November 2020	Decline of the share of the European population compared to the rest of the World	Diff. September/October 2021 - October/November 2020
EU27	49	▲ 4	34	▼ 3	30	▲ 3	26	▼ 12	18	▼ 1	18	=	17	▲ 4	16	▼ 1	13	▲ 2	13	▲ 1	12	▲ 2
BE	54	▼ 3	33	▲ 4	30	▼ 3	29	▼ 12	15	▼ 1	21	▲ 2	18	▲ 3	19	▼ 9	11	▲ 2	12	▲ 3	10	▲ 1
BG	31	▲ 5	48	▼ 1	24	▲ 5	26	▼ 15	19	▼ 3	15	▲ 2	18	▲ 5	11	▲ 2	15	▲ 1	18	▲ 1	14	▲ 2
CZ	37	▼ 2	26	▲ 5	33	▼ 4	35	▼ 16	22	▲ 6	18	▲ 2	24	▲ 2	18	▲ 3	11	▲ 3	11	▲ 4	16	▼ 1
DK	64	▲ 4	16	▼ 3	35	▼ 1	26	▼ 12	17	▼ 2	25	▼ 3	26	▲ 9	16	▼ 2	7	▲ 1	8	=	9	▲ 4
DE	59	▼ 1	20	▼ 4	29	▲ 4	28	▼ 10	25	▼ 1	19	▲ 1	19	▲ 7	23	▼ 4	11	▲ 3	13	=	8	▲ 1
EE	30	▼ 16	34	▲ 14	38	▼ 10	25	▼ 21	10	=	15	▼ 1	31	▲ 5	12	▼ 15	13	▲ 6	8	▼ 2	11	▼ 9
IE	49	▼ 6	31	▲ 10	26	▼ 13	25	▼ 7	18	▲ 3	21	▼ 10	34	▲ 17	16	▼ 11	12	▲ 3	13	▲ 3	8	▼ 2
EL	46	▲ 9	53	▼ 4	44	▼ 2	22	▼ 15	17	▲ 1	17	▲ 2	13	▲ 3	8	=	19	▲ 7	20	▲ 3	21	▲ 5
ES	51	▲ 11	47	▼ 6	29	▲ 8	23	▼ 5	10	▲ 2	15	=	12	▲ 4	13	▲ 3	11	▲ 1	9	=	10	▲ 1
FR	53	▲ 3	33	▼ 2	34	▲ 4	39	▼ 20	9	▼ 1	23	▲ 4	16	▲ 3	14	▲ 1	11	▲ 2	8	▲ 3	7	▲ 3
HR	38	▲ 8	30	=	31	=	19	▼ 15	22	▼ 6	20	▲ 2	18	▲ 6	8	▼ 3	15	▲ 3	19	▲ 3	26	▲ 9
IT	43	▲ 7	42	▼ 3	33	=	22	▼ 8	21	▼ 3	10	▼ 2	16	▲ 4	12	▼ 1	17	▲ 2	16	▲ 3	14	▲ 2
CY	49	▲ 16	52	▲ 4	42	▲ 4	34	▼ 11	24	▼ 4	8	▼ 2	14	▲ 5	4	▼ 1	16	=	14	▲ 1	14	▲ 6
LV	28	▼ 3	35	▼ 5	30	▲ 1	16	▼ 7	15	▲ 6	21	▲ 1	28	▲ 8	13	▼ 2	14	▲ 2	17	▼ 2	17	=
LT	36	▼ 11	47	▲ 13	21	▲ 5	19	▼ 19	10	▼ 1	36	▲ 3	23	▼ 6	8	▼ 4	10	▲ 2	12	▲ 2	16	▼ 3
LU	49	▼ 11	28	▲ 3	38	▲ 6	28	▼ 10	15	=	22	▼ 3	18	▲ 8	20	▼ 16	10	▲ 5	6	▼ 4	7	▲ 1
HU	33	=	33	=	31	▲ 5	27	▼ 15	22	▼ 6	17	▲ 4	16	▲ 5	13	▲ 4	14	▲ 1	21	▲ 2	24	▲ 9
MT	47	▲ 2	29	▼ 5	43	▼ 11	22	▼ 7	28	▲ 4	14	▼ 2	21	▲ 9	14	▲ 1	14	▲ 6	12	=	9	▲ 3
NL	66	▲ 6	12	▼ 6	30	▼ 1	24	▼ 12	24	▲ 3	36	▲ 3	30	▲ 5	28	=	11	▲ 2	10	▲ 2	5	▲ 2
AT	51	▲ 3	33	▼ 4	29	▲ 9	20	▼ 8	27	▲ 8	15	▼ 4	17	▲ 2	19	▲ 1	16	▲ 2	21	▼ 2	16	▲ 5
PL	33	▲ 1	35	▼ 15	25	▲ 8	17	▼ 9	15	▲ 1	19	▲ 1	15	▲ 2	14	▲ 2	15	▲ 1	17	▼ 1	15	=
PT	56	▲ 20	66	▼ 5	24	▲ 1	22	▼ 8	20	▼ 1	10	▼ 7	9	▲ 2	10	▲ 1	9	=	11	=	11	▲ 2
RO	25	▲ 2	43	=	26	▲ 7	17	▼ 11	12	▼ 4	15	▲ 1	15	▲ 1	13	▲ 2	18	▲ 3	19	▲ 4	17	▲ 3
SI	46	▲ 2	42	▲ 13	27	▼ 16	16	▼ 28	18	▼ 3	19	▼ 2	16	▲ 4	17	▼ 7	15	▲ 8	13	▲ 5	16	▼ 1
SK	35	=	35	▼ 3	26	▲ 1	20	▼ 21	17	▼ 11	13	▲ 2	21	▲ 4	12	▼ 2	20	▲ 6	16	▲ 5	17	▲ 7
FI	51	▲ 7	12	▼ 3	20	▲ 5	28	▼ 16	30	▲ 3	19	▼ 2	32	▲ 5	33	▼ 2	4	=	18	▲ 2	14	▼ 1
SE	72	▲ 8	10	=	30	▼ 1	23	▼ 14	35	▼ 1	37	▲ 10	20	▲ 9	34	▼ 1	6	▲ 2	7	▼ 2	3	=

[41] Special Eurobarometer 500: https://europa.eu/eurobarometer/surveys/detail/2256

The **socio-demographic data** show that women are more likely than men to say **risks related to health** are a main global challenge for the future of the EU (36% vs 31%). Several differences can also be found based on age: **the older the respondent, the less likely they are to mention climate change and environmental issues**. The oldest respondents are also the least likely to mention a breakdown in global relations between countries (15%).

Education level provides more differentiation in opinion. The longer a respondent remained in education, the more likely they are to mention a breakdown in global relations between countries, cyber war and new forms of conflicts, or the further rise of populism, but the less likely they are to mention terrorism or risks related to health. Those who completed education aged 20 or older are the least likely to think organised crime is a main global challenge for the future of the EU (16%).

Managers are the most likely to mention climate change and environmental issues (58%), but they are the least likely to mention risks related to health – particularly compared to housepersons. (22% vs 43%). The unemployed (36%) are more likely than other occupation groups to mention forced migration and displacement.

Compared to those having financial difficulties, respondents with the least difficulties paying bills are the most likely to mention climate change and environmental issues (52%), but the least likely to mention risks related to health (31%).

QA17 Which of the following do you think are the main global challenges for the future of the EU? (MAX. 3 ANSWERS)
(% - EU)

	Climate change and environmental issues	Risks related to health	Forced migration and displacement	Terrorism	Organised crime	Breakdown in global relations between countries	Cyber war and new forms of conflicts	Further rise of populism	Risks arising from new technologies	Rapid changes in our populations	Decline of the share of the European population compared to the rest of the World
EU27	49	34	30	26	18	18	17	16	13	13	12
Gender											
Man	48	31	31	24	18	20	19	18	13	14	12
Woman	49	36	30	27	18	17	16	15	13	12	11
Age											
15-24	53	34	28	22	13	19	23	14	13	13	10
25-39	51	30	31	23	16	22	21	17	13	13	12
40-54	49	32	32	25	18	20	18	18	14	14	11
55 +	46	37	29	29	21	15	14	16	12	13	12
Education (End of)											
15-	42	50	27	31	22	9	9	10	11	13	11
16-19	44	36	30	28	21	16	16	13	14	15	13
20+	56	25	32	23	16	24	21	23	12	12	11
Still studying	56	31	31	21	12	21	23	18	13	12	9
Socio-professional category											
Self-employed	48	29	29	20	18	21	22	19	13	14	14
Managers	58	22	32	21	17	23	22	26	13	13	11
Other white collars	48	31	32	24	18	20	20	16	15	14	12
Manual workers	46	37	28	27	18	18	17	13	13	14	13
House persons	42	43	29	28	20	13	13	13	12	14	8
Unemployed	49	38	36	27	21	19	17	10	11	9	11
Retired	46	38	29	31	21	15	12	15	11	13	11
Students	56	31	31	21	12	21	23	18	13	12	9
Difficulties paying bills											
Most of the time	44	38	30	26	19	17	14	12	15	14	12
From time to time	41	39	30	26	21	14	16	14	15	16	14
Almost never/ Never	52	31	30	26	18	20	18	18	12	12	11

There is a strong preference for all EU Member States to work together to find solutions to global challenges

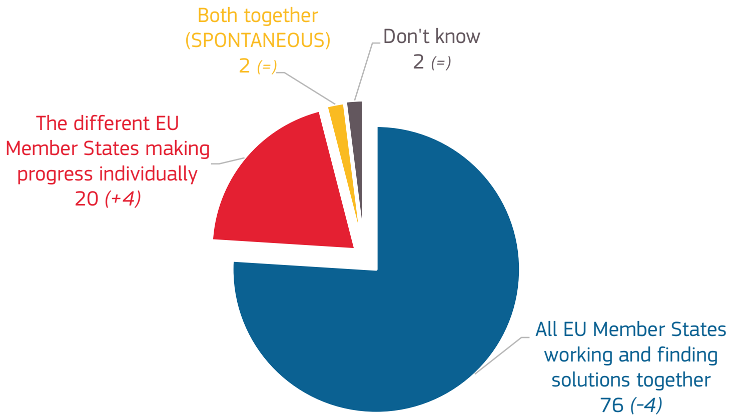
To make the most progress on the main global challenges for the future of the EU, respondents are much more likely to think that all EU Member States should work and find solutions together (76%) rather than have different Member States making progress individually (20%)[42]. A small proportion (2%) spontaneously say they would favour both of these approaches together.

Compared to October-November 2020 (Special Eurobarometer 500 on the Future of Europe 2020)[43], respondents are now less likely to favour all EU Member States working and finding solutions together (-4 percentage points) and more likely to favour different Member States making progress individually (+4 pp).

In each Member State the majority of respondents think all EU Member States working and finding solutions together would allow the most progress on the main global challenges, with proportions ranging from 92% in Luxembourg, 91% in Malta and 90% in Portugal to 57% in Slovakia, 61% in Austria and 63% in Romania.

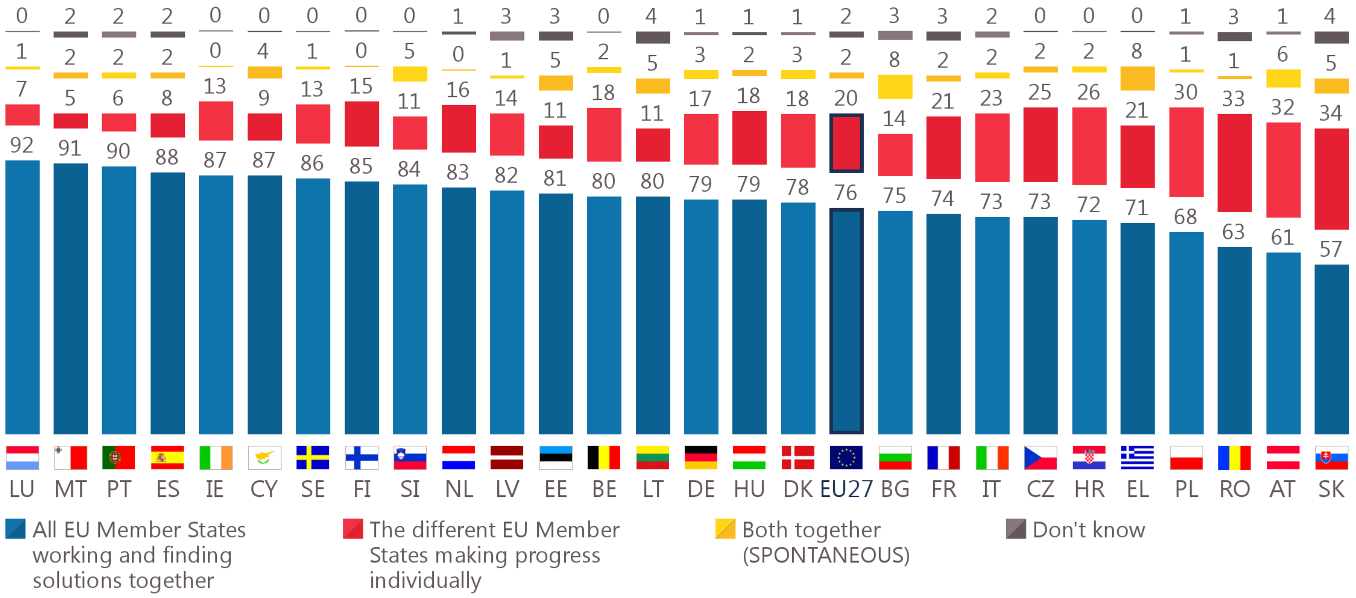
There are four countries where at least three in ten respondents favour different Member States **making progress individually**: Slovakia (34%), Romania (33%), Austria (32%) and Poland (30%).

QA18 Which of the following would allow to make the most progress on these main global challenges for the future of the EU?
(% - EU27)



(Sept.-Oct. 2021 - Oct.-Nov. 2020)

QA18 Which of the following would allow to make the most progress on these main global challenges for the future of the EU?
(%)



[42] Which of the following option would allow to make the most progress on these main global challenges for the future of the EU? All EU Member States working and finding solutions together; The different EU Member States making progress individually; Both together (SPONTANEOUS)
[43] Special Eurobarometer 500: https://europa.eu/eurobarometer/surveys/detail/2256

At an overall level, respondents are slightly less likely to prefer all Member States working together to find solutions than they were in October-November 2020. However, the country trends show some larger evolutions. Respondents in Austria (+25 percentage points) and Malta (+20) are now much more likely to prefer this option, while those in Lithuania (-10) are now less likely to do so. Overall, there are 20 countries where respondents are now less likely to prefer this option.

Respondents in Austria are now more likely to prefer that Member States make progress individually (+14), and much less likely to prefer both together (-38).

QA18 Which of the following would allow to make the most progress on these main global challenges for the future of the EU?
(%)

	All EU Member States working and finding solutions together	Diff. September/October 2021 - October/November 2020	The different EU Member States making progress individually	Diff. September/October 2021 - October/November 2020	Both together (SPONTANEOUS)	Diff. September/October 2021 - October/November 2020	Don't know
AT	61	▲ 25	32	▲ 14	6	▼ 38	1
MT	91	▲ 20	5	▼ 4	2	▼ 15	2
LU	92	▲ 6	7	▼ 7	1	▲ 1	0
CY	87	▲ 3	9	▼ 5	4	▲ 2	0
FI	85	▲ 1	15	=	0	▼ 1	0
DK	78	=	18	=	3	=	1
ES	88	=	8	▼ 1	2	▲ 1	2
DE	79	▼ 1	17	=	3	▲ 1	1
SE	86	▼ 1	13	=	1	▲ 1	0
BG	75	▼ 2	14	▼ 4	8	▲ 5	3
HR	72	▼ 2	26	▲ 3	2	=	0
PT	90	▼ 2	6	▲ 1	2	▲ 1	2
CZ	73	▼ 3	25	▲ 2	2	▲ 2	0
IE	87	▼ 3	13	▲ 4	0	▼ 1	0
LV	82	▼ 3	14	▲ 2	1	=	3
HU	79	▼ 3	18	▲ 2	2	▲ 1	1
EU27	76	▼ 4	20	▲ 4	2	=	2
IT	73	▼ 4	23	▲ 6	2	=	2
NL	83	▼ 4	16	▲ 3	0	=	1
EL	71	▼ 6	21	=	8	▲ 7	0
FR	74	▼ 6	21	▲ 5	2	▲ 1	3
PL	68	▼ 6	30	▲ 6	1	=	1
BE	80	▼ 7	18	▲ 6	2	▲ 2	0
SI	84	▼ 7	11	▲ 2	5	▲ 5	0
EE	81	▼ 8	11	=	4	▲ 4	4
RO	63	▼ 8	33	▲ 7	1	=	3
SK	57	▼ 9	34	▲ 3	5	▲ 3	4
LT	80	▼ 10	11	▲ 1	5	▲ 5	4

Given the strong preference that all EU Member States work and find solutions together at an overall EU level, it is perhaps not surprising that this preference is predominant across all **socio-demographic groups**.

At least seven in ten respondents across all gender, age, education and occupation groups prefer this option, with the strongest preference observed amongst those who completed education aged 20 or older, managers and students (all 80%).

QA18 Which of the following would allow to make the most progress on these main global challenges for the future of the EU?
(% - EU)

	All EU Member States working and finding solutions together	The different EU Member States making progress individually	Both together (SPONTANEOUS)	Don't know
EU27	76	20	2	2
Gender				
Man	75	21	2	2
Woman	77	18	3	2
Age				
15-24	79	18	2	1
25-39	77	20	2	1
40-54	76	21	2	1
55 +	76	19	3	2
Education (End of)				
15-	76	18	2	4
16-19	73	23	2	2
20+	80	17	2	1
Still studying	80	17	2	1
Socio-professional category				
Self-employed	77	19	3	1
Managers	80	18	2	0
Other white collars	76	21	2	1
Manual workers	73	23	2	2
House persons	74	20	2	4
Unemployed	79	17	2	2
Retired	76	18	3	3
Students	80	17	2	1
Difficulties paying bills				
Most of the time	75	19	4	2
From time to time	70	26	2	2
Almost never/ Never	79	17	2	2

2. Future of Europe

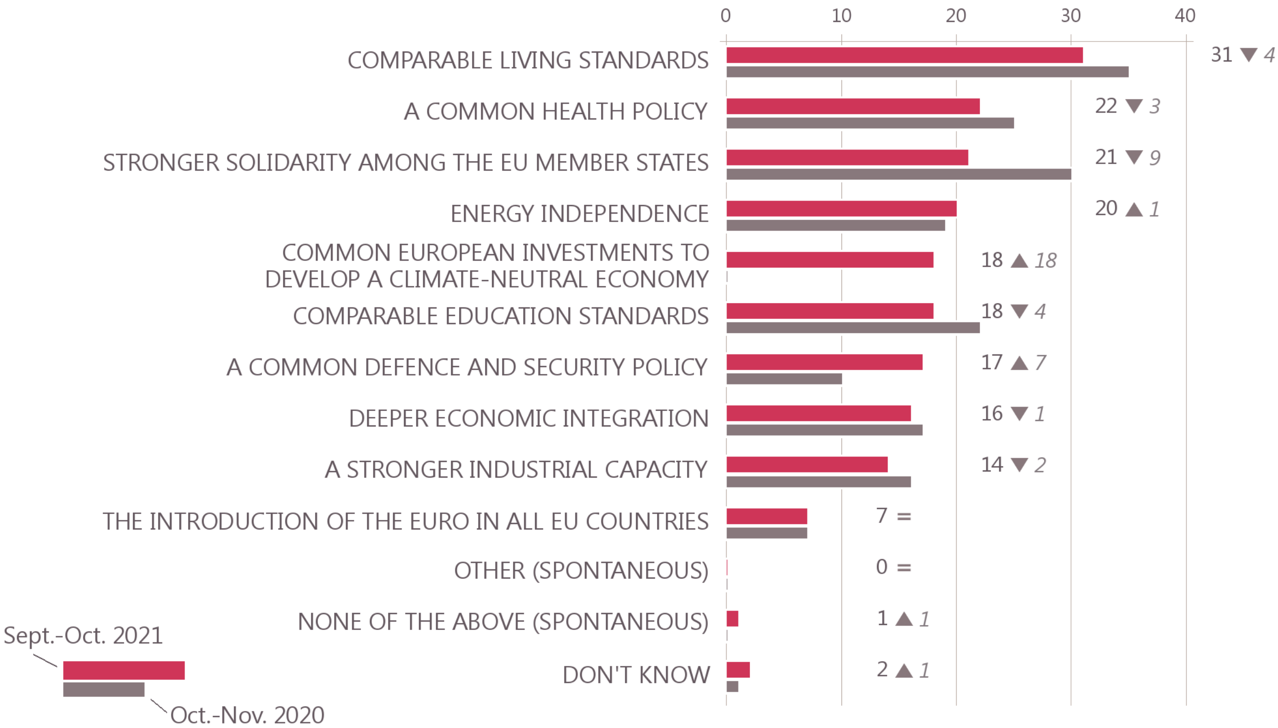
Comparable living standards would be most helpful for the future of Europe

When asked what they would consider most helpful for the future of Europe, respondents are most likely to say comparable living standards (31%), followed by a **common health policy** (22%), **stronger solidarity among the EU Member States** (21%) and **energy independence** (20%)[44].

Almost one in five mention **common European investments to develop a climate-neutral economy** or **comparable education standards** (18% each), while 17% say a **common defence and security policy** would be most helpful and 16% mention **deeper economic integration**. More than one in ten (14%) think a **stronger industrial capacity** would be most helpful, while 7% mention **the introduction of the euro in all EU countries**.

With the exception of a common defence and security policy (+7 percentage points), energy independence (+1) and the introduction of the euro in all countries (=), respondents are less likely to mention each option than those in October-November 2020[45] (Special Eurobarometer 500 on the Future of Europe 2020)[46]. The largest declines are seen for stronger solidarity among EU Member States (-9), comparable education standards and comparable living standards (-4 each).

QA22 Which two of the following would you consider to be most helpful for the future of Europe? (MAX. 2 ANSWERS)
(% - EU27)



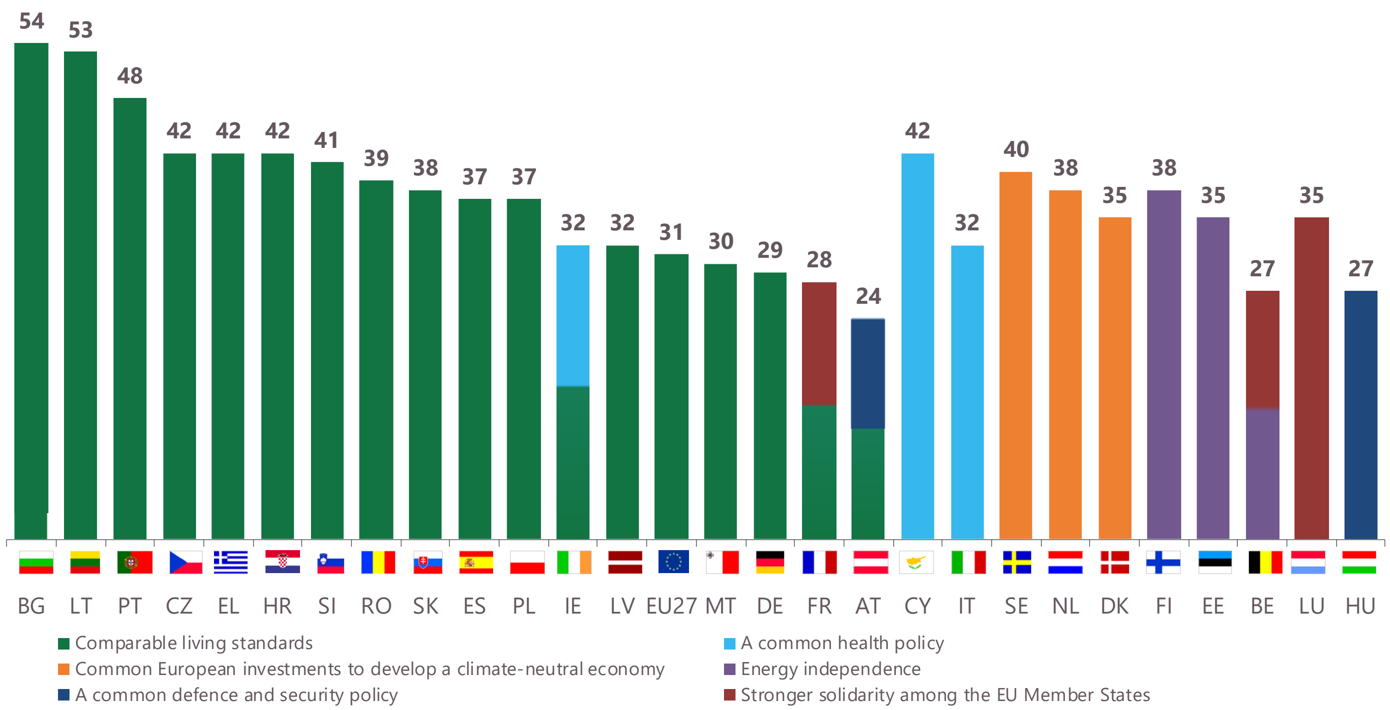
[44] Q22 Which two of the following would you consider to be most helpful for the future of Europe? Comparable education standards; Energy independence (N); A stronger industrial capacity; The introduction of the Euro in all EU countries; Comparable living standards; A common defence and security policy (N); Deeper economic integration; A common health policy; Stronger solidarity among the EU Member States; Common European investments to develop a climate-neutral economy (N)
[45] Excluding *a common defence and security policy* which was a new item in this survey.
[46] Special Eurobarometer 500: https://europa.eu/eurobarometer/surveys/detail/2256

In 17 countries, comparable living standards are the most mentioned (or joint most mentioned) as being most helpful for the future of Europe, with the largest proportions seen in Bulgaria (54%) and Lithuania (53%). In Cyprus (42%), Italy (32%) and Ireland (32%, along with comparable living standards) a common health policy is most mentioned, while in Sweden (40%), the Netherlands (38%) and Denmark (35%) common European investments to develop a climate neutral economy are most mentioned and rank first.

In three countries, including Finland (38%), energy independence is the most mentioned (or joint most mentioned), and stronger solidarity among Member States is also most mentioned or joint most mentioned in three countries.

A common defence and security policy is the most mentioned area by respondents in Hungary, and joint most mentioned in Austria (24% along with comparable living standards).

QA22 Which two of the following would you consider to be most helpful for the future of Europe? (MAX. 2 ANSWERS)
(% - THE MOST MENTIONED ANSWER BY COUNTRY)



Across the EU, **comparable living standards** is the element considered the most helpful for the future of Europe, and it is also mentioned by more than half of all respondents in Bulgaria (54%) and Lithuania (53%) and by 48% in Portugal. At the other end of the scale 14% in Denmark, 15% in Finland and 21% in Italy also mention this. Comparable living standards ranks in the top three in 23 countries.

A **common health policy** is most often mentioned by respondents in Cyprus (42%), Portugal (34%), Ireland and Italy (both 32%), and least mentioned by those in Finland (8%), Sweden (12%) and the Netherlands (13%). This area ranks in the top three in 17 countries.

The proportions that mention **stronger solidarity among EU Member States** ranges from 38% in Sweden and 35% in Luxembourg and the Netherlands to 10% in Hungary, 11% in Bulgaria and 12% in Poland and Portugal. This issue is in the top three in eight countries.

Energy independence is most likely to be considered as helpful by those in Finland (38%), Estonia (35%), Denmark and Czechia (both 32%), and least likely to be mentioned by those in Portugal (5%), Romania (9%), Malta and Greece (both 11%). It ranks in the top three in 15 Member States.

Respondents in Spain (36%), Germany (28%) and Malta (27%) are the most likely to think **comparable education standards** would be most helpful for the future of Europe, while those in Italy, Hungary (both 5%) and Estonia (8%) are the least likely to do so. It ranks second or third in six countries.

Common European investments to develop a climate-neutral economy is mentioned by 40% in Sweden, 38% in the Netherlands and 35% in Denmark, but by only 5% in Lithuania, Portugal and Cyprus. This issue appears in the top three in ten countries.

The proportions that mention **a common defence and security policy** range from 36% in Cyprus, 31% in Finland and 27% in Hungary and Latvia to 9% in Spain and 10% in Bulgaria and Slovenia. It is in the top three issues in seven countries.

There are five countries where at least one in five mention **deeper economic integration** (Portugal: 29%, Italy: 28%, Hungary: 26%, Slovenia: 23% and Romania: 20%) and five countries where at least one in five consider **a stronger industrial capacity** most helpful (Italy: 23%, Poland and Croatia: both 22%, Romania and Slovakia: both 20%).

Finally, the **introduction of the euro** in all EU countries is most likely to be considered helpful by respondents in Hungary, Austria (both 17%) and Croatia (16%).

QA22 Which two of the following would you consider to be most helpful for the future of Europe? (MAX. 2 ANSWERS)
(%)

	Comparable living standards	A common health policy	Stronger solidarity among the EU Member States	Energy independence	Comparable education standards	Common European investments to develop a climate-neutral economy	A common defence and security policy	Deeper economic integration	A stronger industrial capacity	The introduction of the Euro in all EU countries
EU27	31	22	21	20	18	18	17	16	14	7
BE	25	22	27	27	15	26	16	11	11	7
BG	54	27	11	19	16	8	10	18	14	5
CZ	42	16	14	32	11	13	26	13	11	7
DK	14	14	25	32	15	35	23	8	9	4
DE	29	15	26	21	28	26	18	11	5	6
EE	28	17	13	35	8	10	25	14	14	7
IE	32	32	21	22	25	15	11	9	10	11
EL	42	26	34	11	19	8	20	18	13	2
ES	37	23	18	13	36	7	9	17	15	3
FR	28	23	28	23	15	24	17	7	11	5
HR	42	19	16	15	11	12	16	16	22	16
IT	21	32	16	20	5	15	14	28	23	8
CY	31	42	27	13	20	5	36	9	9	4
LV	32	25	18	24	16	6	27	10	15	6
LT	53	24	17	23	11	5	19	17	12	3
LU	22	22	35	24	22	24	16	5	4	8
HU	23	26	10	21	5	10	27	26	18	17
MT	30	24	21	11	27	24	11	13	12	10
NL	24	13	35	20	16	38	24	10	8	3
AT	24	17	17	24	21	19	17	14	14	17
PL	37	21	12	21	9	7	19	19	22	11
PT	48	34	12	5	13	5	13	29	19	5
RO	39	23	13	9	11	7	19	20	20	13
SI	41	20	17	24	14	12	10	23	12	10
SK	38	20	13	18	13	10	17	15	20	11
FI	15	8	26	38	11	30	31	5	14	6
SE	25	12	38	27	21	40	17	5	5	2

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

Looking at differences across **socio-demographic groups** shows women are more likely than men to consider a common health policy most helpful (24% vs 19%), but less likely to mention energy independence (18% vs 23%).

The younger the respondent, the more likely they are to mention comparable education standards or **common European investments to develop a climate-neutral economy**. However, those aged 15-24 are the least likely to mention energy independence (15%). A common health policy is most often considered helpful by those aged 55 and older (25%).

The longer a respondent remained in education, the more likely they are to mention energy independence, comparable education standards or **common European investments to develop a climate-neutral economy**, and the less likely they are to mention a common health policy. For example, 23% of those who completed education aged 20 or older mention energy independence, compared to 15% of those who completed education aged 15 or younger.

Managers and students (26% each) are more likely than other occupation groups to mention common European investments to develop a climate-neutral economy.

Those who experience difficulties paying bills most of the time are also the most likely to say comparable living standards would be most helpful for the future of Europe (39%).

QA22 Which two of the following would you consider to be most helpful for the future of Europe? (MAX. 2 ANSWERS)
(% - EU)

	Comparable living standards	A common health policy	Stronger solidarity among the EU Member States	Energy independence	Comparable education standards	Common European investments to develop a climate-neutral economy	A common defence and security policy	Deeper economic integration	A stronger industrial capacity	The introduction of the Euro in all EU countries
EU27	31	22	21	20	18	18	17	16	14	7
Gender										
Man	29	19	21	23	17	17	18	17	16	7
Woman	32	24	22	18	19	18	16	14	12	7
Age										
15-24	30	19	20	15	23	23	14	17	13	8
25-39	31	18	21	21	19	21	15	17	15	7
40-54	30	20	21	21	18	18	18	17	15	7
55 +	31	25	22	20	15	15	18	14	13	6
Education (End of)										
15-	34	31	19	15	14	8	16	15	15	6
16-19	32	23	19	21	16	14	17	17	15	8
20+	29	17	24	23	20	24	18	14	13	6
Still studying	27	18	23	16	24	26	13	16	13	8
Socio-professional category										
Self-employed	28	18	21	25	16	19	18	18	15	6
Managers	26	14	24	22	19	26	18	17	14	7
Other white collars	33	20	19	23	16	18	17	18	14	7
Manual workers	32	24	19	19	17	15	16	17	16	8
House persons	30	29	19	17	16	14	17	15	13	5
Unemployed	32	21	22	20	23	16	15	17	14	5
Retired	32	26	22	19	16	14	19	11	12	7
Students	27	18	23	16	24	26	13	16	13	8
Difficulties paying bills										
Most of the time	39	22	19	15	17	12	16	17	15	8
From time to time	31	26	18	17	15	12	17	20	16	8
Almost never/ Never	30	20	22	22	19	20	17	14	13	6

The majority of respondents think a range of policy areas should be addressed at both EU and national level

11 policy areas were mentioned to respondents who then had to indicate whether they thought they should be addressed only or mainly at the EU level, equally at the EU and the national level, or only or mainly at a national level[47].

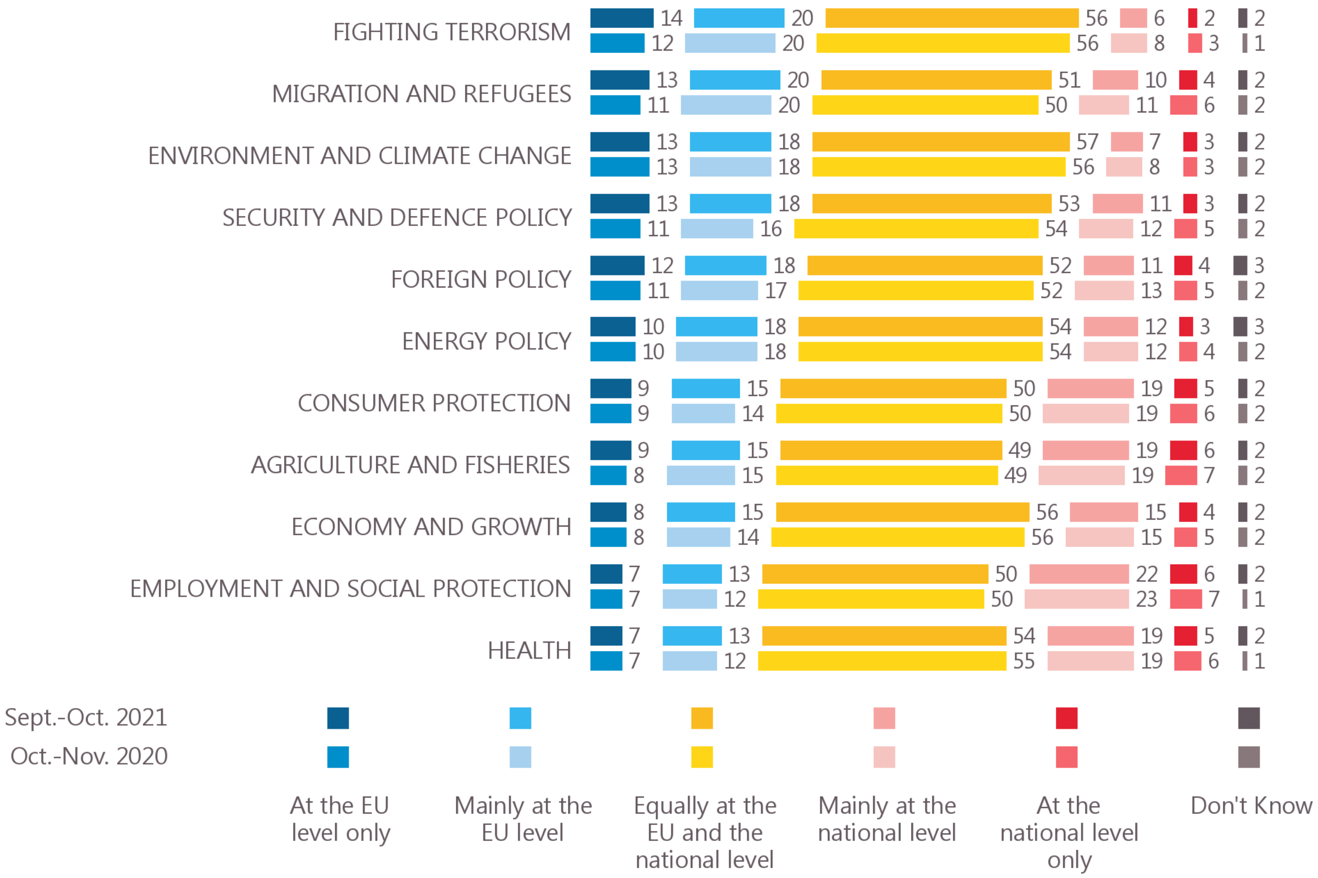
In each case, a majority of respondents think that the area mentioned could be dealt with most efficiently "equally at the EU and the national level". Proportions range from 57% in the case of the environment and climate change to 49% for agriculture and fisheries.

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

For three areas, respondents are more likely to say the issue should be dealt with only or mainly at national level, rather than only or mainly at EU level: agriculture and fisheries (25% vs. 24%), employment and social protection (28% vs. 20%) and health (24% vs. 20%).

In the case of consumer protection, opinion is evenly split (24% each)[48].

QA23 In your opinion, at what level can we deal with each of the following areas most efficiently?
(% - EU27)



[47] Q23 In your opinion, at what level can we deal with each of the following areas most efficiently? 23.1 Migration and refugees; 23.2 Fighting terrorism; 23.3 Employment and social protection; 23.4 Energy policy; 23.5 Environment and climate change; 23.6 Consumer protection; 23.7 Economy and growth; 23.8 Agriculture and fisheries; 23.9 Foreign policy; 23.10 Security and defence policy; 23.11 Health

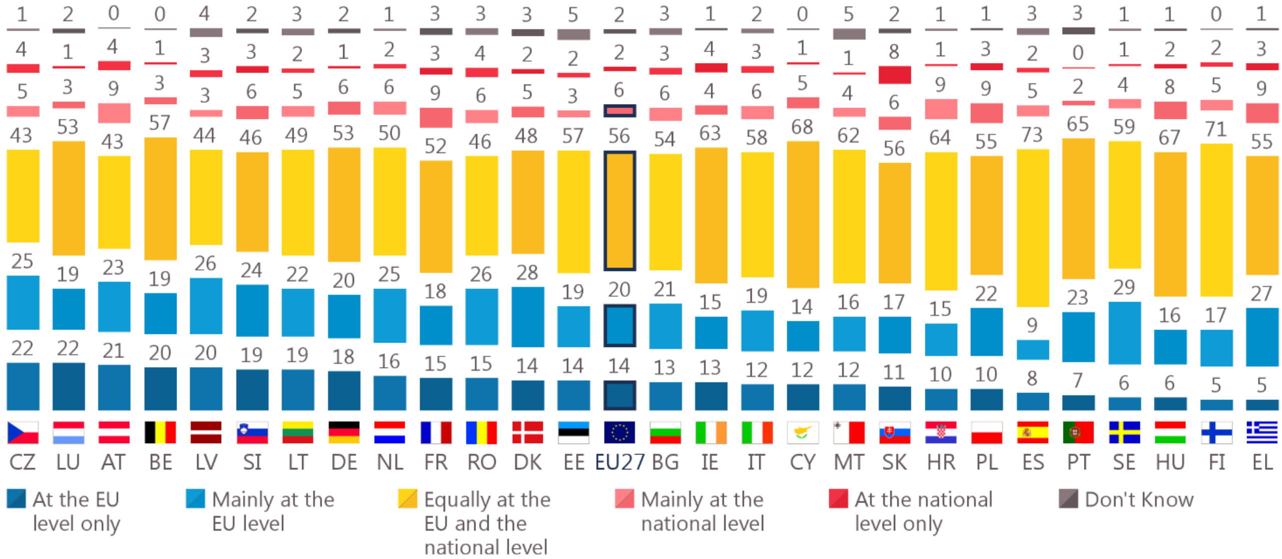
[48] This question was compared to Special Eurobarometer 500: https://europa.eu/eurobarometer/surveys/detail/2256

Fighting terrorism

In all Member States, respondents are more likely to think mainly/only the EU level is more efficient for **fighting terrorism** than mainly/only the national level, with the largest proportions in favour of the EU level seen in Czechia (47%), Latvia (46%) and Austria (44%). In fact, in these three countries this is the most common answer.

In the remaining 24 Member States, respondents most often say fighting terrorism can most efficiently be dealt with equally at the national and the EU level, with the largest proportions in Spain (73%), Finland (71%) and Cyprus (68%).

QA23.2 In your opinion, at what level can we deal with each of the following areas most efficiently?
Fighting terrorism (%)



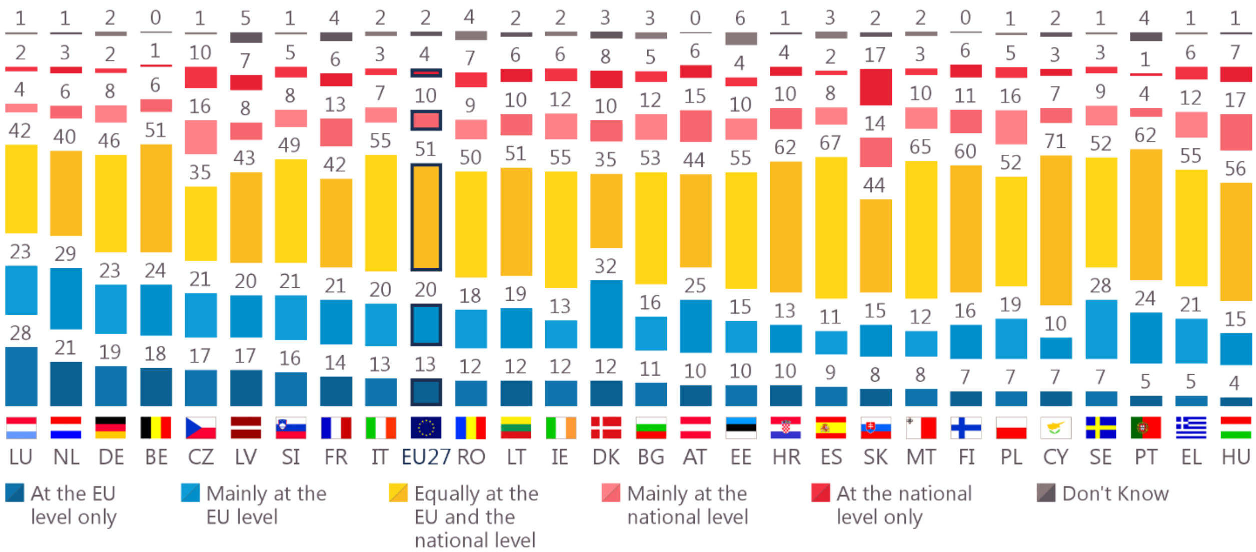
Migration and refugees

In 25 EU Member States respondents were more likely to say that **the issue of migration and refugees** should rather be dealt with mainly/only at EU level than mainly/only at national level, with the strongest preference for mainly/only the EU level seen in Luxembourg (51%), the Netherlands (50%) and Denmark (44%).

In two countries, respondents are more likely to say migration and refugees should be dealt with rather nationally than at EU level: Slovakia (31% vs. 23%) and Hungary (24% vs 19%).

In all but four countries, the most popular response is that the issue of migration and refugees should be addressed equally at both EU and national level. This view is most widespread in Cyprus (71%), Spain (67%) and Malta (65%). In Luxembourg (51%), the Netherlands (50%), Denmark (44%) and Czechia (38%), respondents most often say migration and refugees should be dealt with mainly or only at EU level.

QA23.1 In your opinion, at what level can we deal with each of the following areas most efficiently?
Migration and refugees (%)



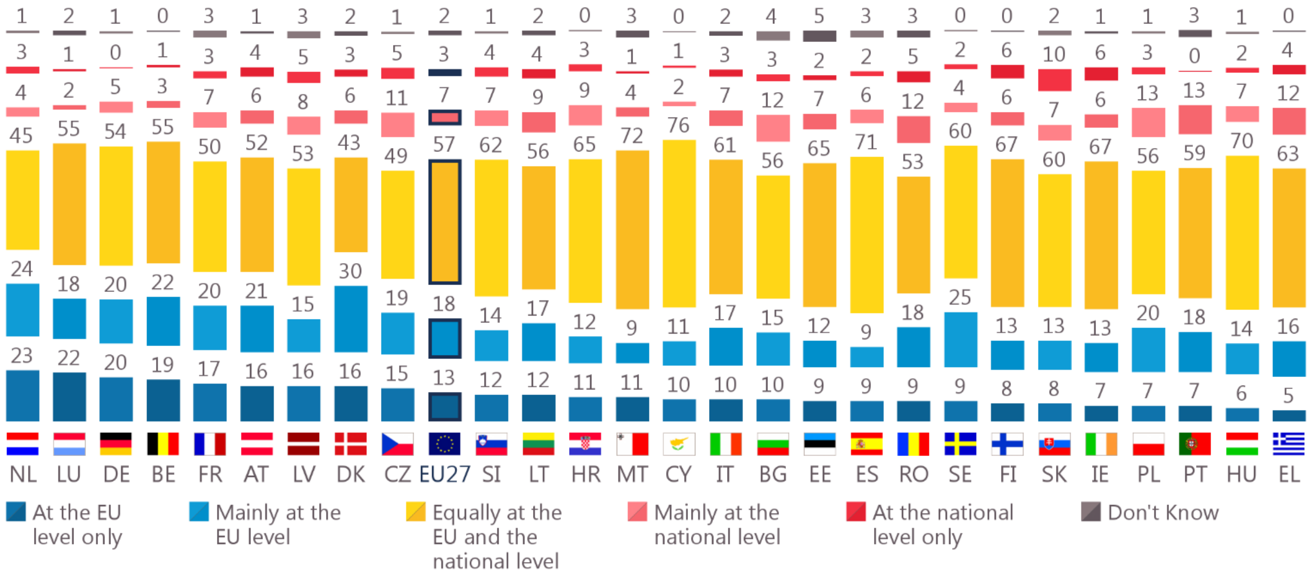
Environment and climate change

In the Netherlands (47%) and Denmark (46%) respondents most often say mainly/only the EU level is the most efficient to deal with **the environment and climate change**. In fact, apart from Spain (18%), at least one in five respondents in each country think the same way.

In every country, respondents more often choose mainly/only the EU level over mainly/only the national level as being most efficient, with the strongest preferences seen in the Netherlands, Denmark and Belgium (41%).

In 25 Member States the most common answer is that the EU and national level are equally the most efficient for dealing with the environment and climate change, with the highest proportions seen in Cyprus (76%), Malta (72%) and Spain (71%).

QA23.5 In your opinion, at what level can we deal with each of the following areas most efficiently?
Environment and climate change (%)



	NL	LU	DE	BE	FR	AT	LV	DK	CZ	EU27	SI	LT	HR	MT	CY	IT	BG	EE	ES	RO	SE	FI	SK	IE	PL	PT	HU	EL
Don't Know	1	2	1	0	3	1	3	2	1	2	1	2	0	3	0	2	4	5	3	3	0	0	2	1	1	3	1	0
At the national level only	3	1	0	1	3	4	5	3	5	3	4	4	3	1	1	3	3	2	2	5	2	6	10	6	3	0	2	4
Mainly at the national level	4	2	5	3	7	6	8	6	11	7	7	9	9	4	2	7	12	7	6	12	4	6	7	6	13	13	7	12
Equally at the EU and the national level	45	55	54	55	50	52	53	43	49	57	62	56	65	72	76	61	56	65	71	53	60	67	60	67	56	59	70	63
Mainly at the EU level	24	18	20	22	20	21	15	30	19	18	14	17	12	9	11	17	15	12	9	18	25	13	13	13	20	18	14	16
At the EU level only	23	22	20	19	17	16	16	16	15	13	12	12	11	11	10	10	10	9	9	9	9	8	8	7	7	7	6	5

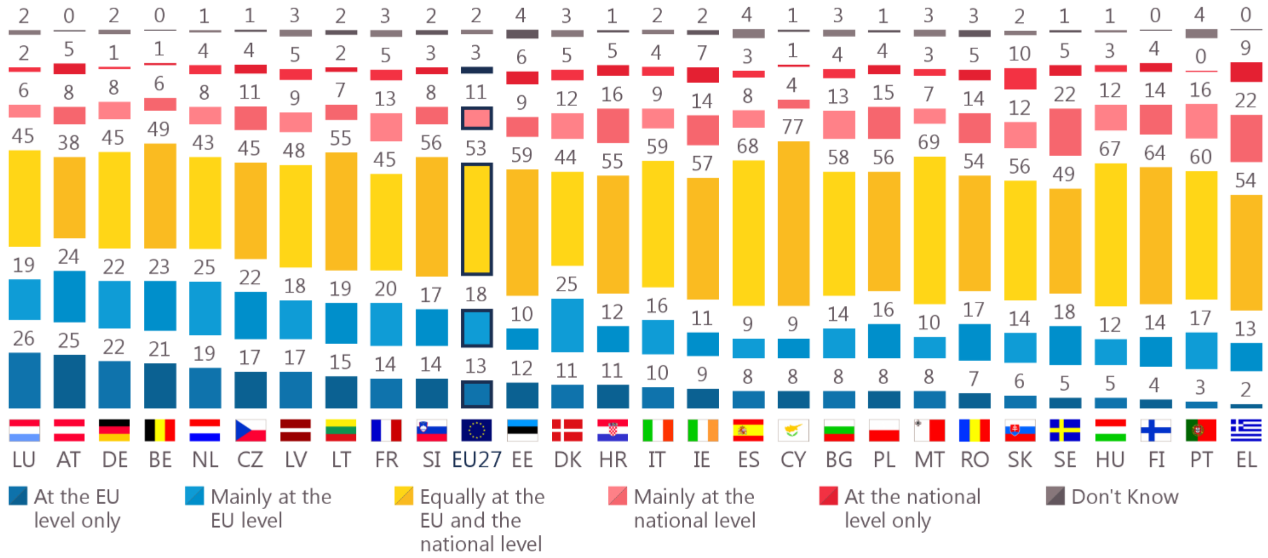
Security and defence policy

In 22 Member States respondents prefer mainly or only the EU level to mainly/only the national level to efficiently deal with **security and defence policy**, with the largest proportions seen in Austria (49%), Luxembourg (45%), Belgium, Germany and the Netherlands (all 44%).

In four countries the preference is for mainly/only the national level over mainly/only the EU level: Greece (31%), Sweden (27%), Slovakia (22%) and Ireland (21%). Opinion is evenly divided in Finland.

In 24 countries the most common answer is that security and defence policy is most efficiently dealt with equally at EU and national level, with this view most widespread in Cyprus (77%), Malta (69%) and Spain (68%).

QA23.10 In your opinion, at what level can we deal with each of the following areas most efficiently?
Security and defence policy (%)



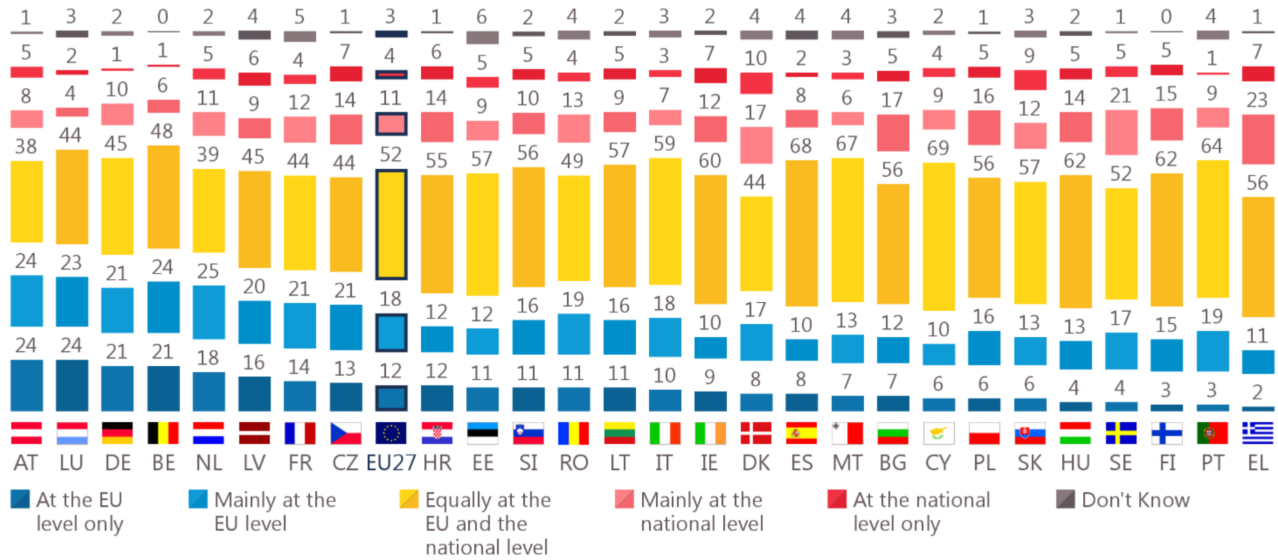
Foreign policy

There are 19 countries where respondents are more likely to prefer mainly/only the EU level to mainly/only the national level to efficiently deal with **foreign policy**. The strongest preferences are observed in Austria (48%), Luxembourg (47%) and Belgium (45%). In fact, in Austria, Luxembourg and the Netherlands (43%) this is the most common answer.

In seven countries including Greece (30%), Denmark (27%) and Sweden (26%) the preference is for mainly/only the national level over mainly/only the EU level. Opinion is equally divided in Ireland.

The most common answer in 24 countries is that foreign policy can be dealt with most efficiently equally at the EU and national level, with the largest proportions in Cyprus (69%), Spain (68%) and Malta (67%).

QA23.9 In your opinion, at what level can we deal with each of the following areas most efficiently?
Foreign policy (%)



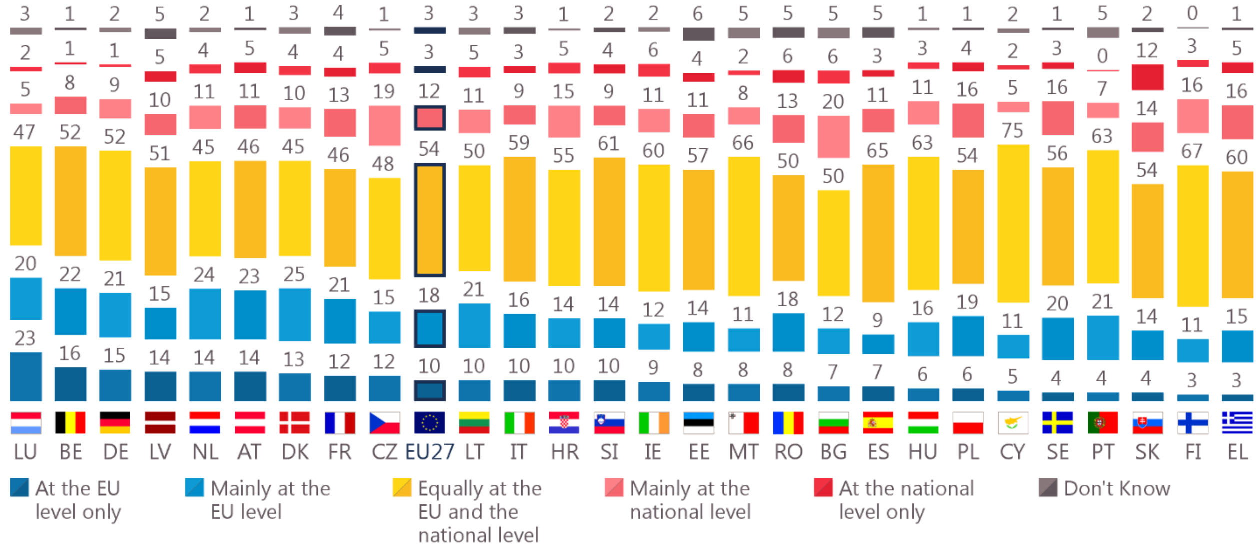
Energy policy

In 23 countries respondents are more likely to think mainly/only the EU level is most efficient for dealing with **energy policy** than the national level, with the strongest preference seen in Luxembourg (43%), Belgium, Denmark and the Netherlands (all 38%).

There are four countries where mainly/only the national level is preferred over mainly/only the EU level: Slovakia (26% vs 18%), Bulgaria (26% vs 19%), Finland (19% vs 14%) and Greece (21% vs 18%).

However, in every country the most common answer is that EU and national levels are equally the most efficient for dealing with energy policy by respondents in every country, with the largest proportions seen in Cyprus (75%), Finland (67%) and Malta (66%).

QA23.4 In your opinion, at what level can we deal with each of the following areas most efficiently?
Energy policy (%)



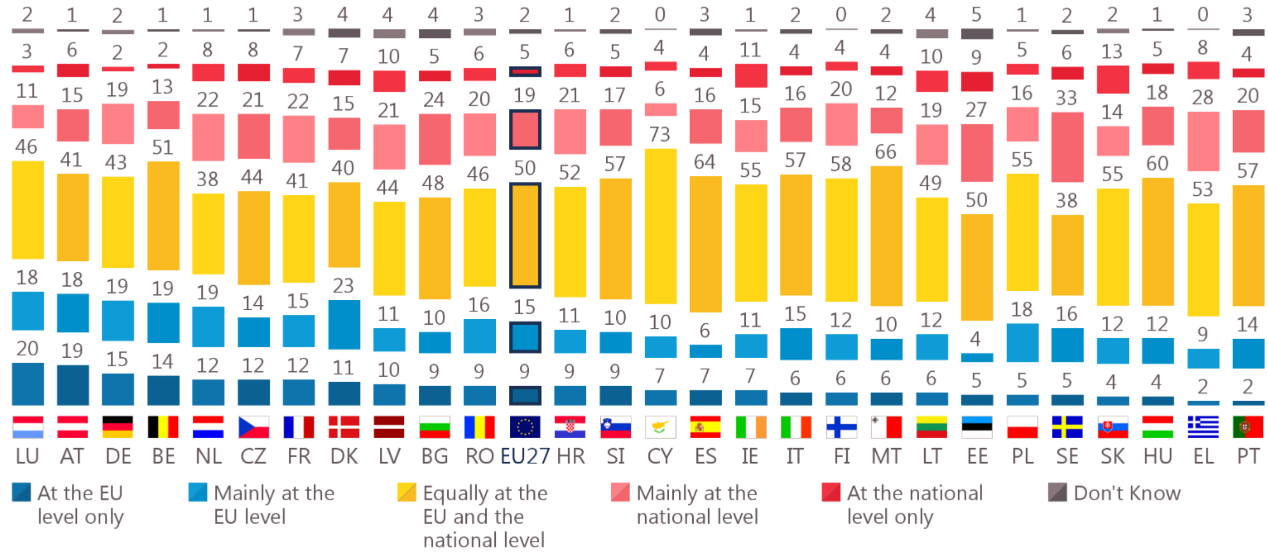
Consumer protection

In the case of **consumer protection**, there are nine countries where respondents are more likely to prefer mainly/only the EU level over mainly/only the national level, with the strongest preferences seen in Luxembourg (38%), Austria (37%), Denmark and Germany (both 34%). In 18 countries the preference is stronger for mainly/only the national level, with the largest proportions seen in Sweden (39%), Greece and Estonia (both 36%).

In addition, Sweden is the only country where mainly/only the national level is the most common answer.

In the remaining 26 countries, the most common opinion is that both the EU and national levels are most efficient for dealing with consumer protection, with the highest proportions in Cyprus (73%), Malta (66%) and Spain (64%).

QA23.6 In your opinion, at what level can we deal with each of the following areas most efficiently?
Consumer protection (%)

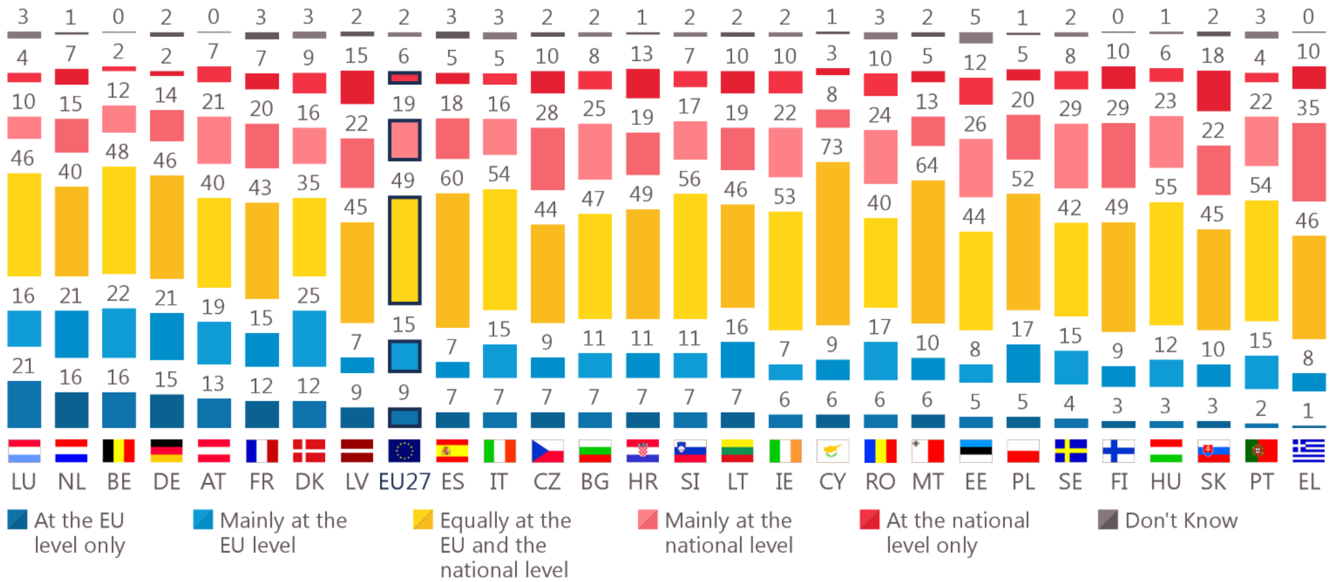


Agriculture and fisheries

In eight countries respondents are more likely to prefer mainly/only the EU level over mainly/only the national level to efficiently deal with **agriculture and fisheries**. The largest proportions are seen in Belgium (38%), Luxembourg, the Netherlands and Denmark (all 37%). In 18 countries this preference is reversed, with the largest preferences for mainly/only the national level seen in Greece (45%), Slovakia (40%) and Finland (39%). Opinion is equally divided between these two options in France.

With the exception of Denmark, the most common answer in each country is that both the EU and national levels are equally most efficient for dealing with agriculture and fisheries, with the highest proportions in Cyprus (73%), Malta (64%) and Spain (60%). In Denmark (37%) the strongest preference is for mainly/only the EU level.

QA23.8 In your opinion, at what level can we deal with each of the following areas most efficiently?
Agriculture and fisheries (%)

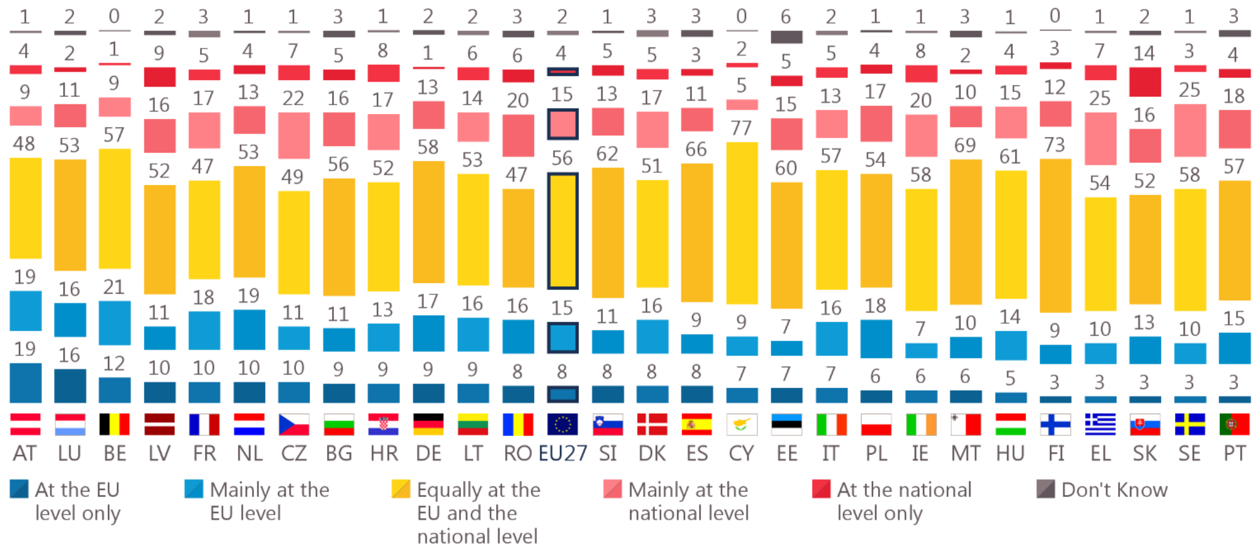


The economy and growth

In 14 countries respondents were more likely to nominate mainly/only the EU level as the most efficient to deal with **the economy and growth** with the highest proportions seen in Austria (38%), Belgium (33%) and Luxembourg (32%). In 12 countries the reverse is true, with the strongest preference for mainly/only the national level seen in Greece (32%), Slovakia (30%), Czechia (29%) and Sweden and Ireland (both 28%). In Hungary opinion is evenly split between the two.

However, in every country the most common answer is that the economy and growth can most efficiently be dealt with at the EU and national level equally, with the highest proportions in Cyprus (77%), Finland (73%) and Malta (69%).

QA23.7 In your opinion, at what level can we deal with each of the following areas most efficiently?
Economy and growth (%)

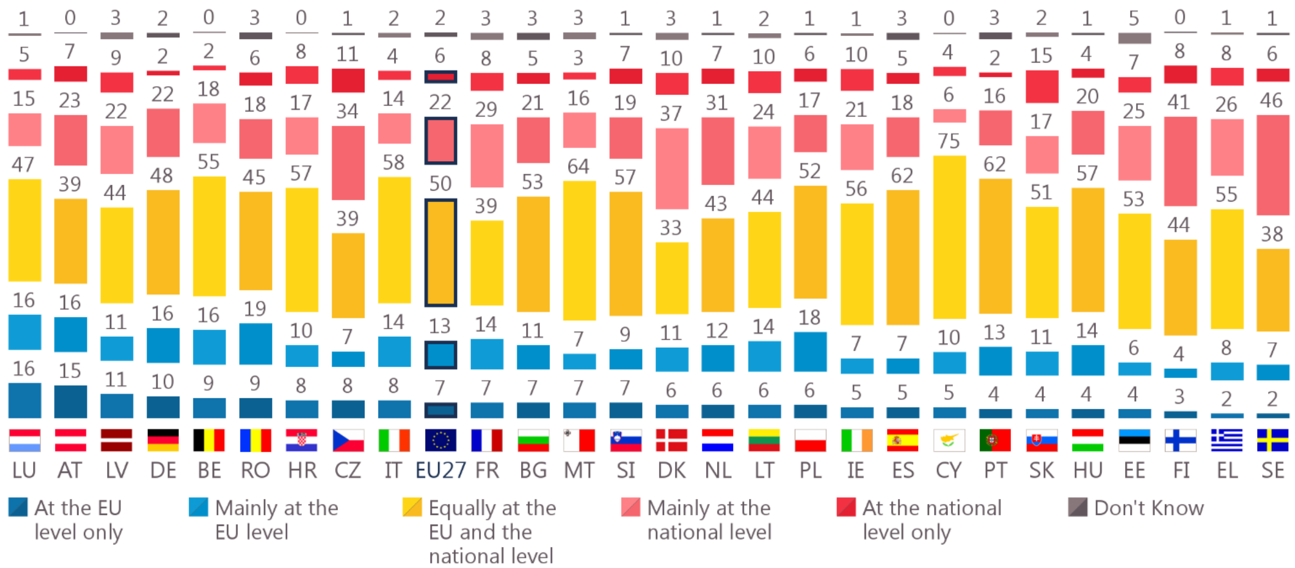


Employment and social protection

In eight countries there is a preference for mainly/only the EU level over mainly/only the national level to efficiently deal with **employment and social protection**, with the largest proportions in Luxembourg (32%), Austria (31%) and Romania (28%). In the remaining 19 countries respondents are prefer mainly/only the national level, with the largest proportions in Sweden (52%), Finland (49%), Denmark (47%) and Czechia (45%).

Respondents in 23 countries including Cyprus (75%), Malta (64%) and Spain and Portugal (both 62%) most often think both the EU and national level would be equally efficient in dealing with employment and social protection. In Sweden (52%), Finland (49%), Denmark (47%) and Czechia (45%) on the other hand, the most common answer is that mainly/only the national level would be most efficient.

QA23.3 In your opinion, at what level can we deal with each of the following areas most efficiently?
Employment and social protection (%)



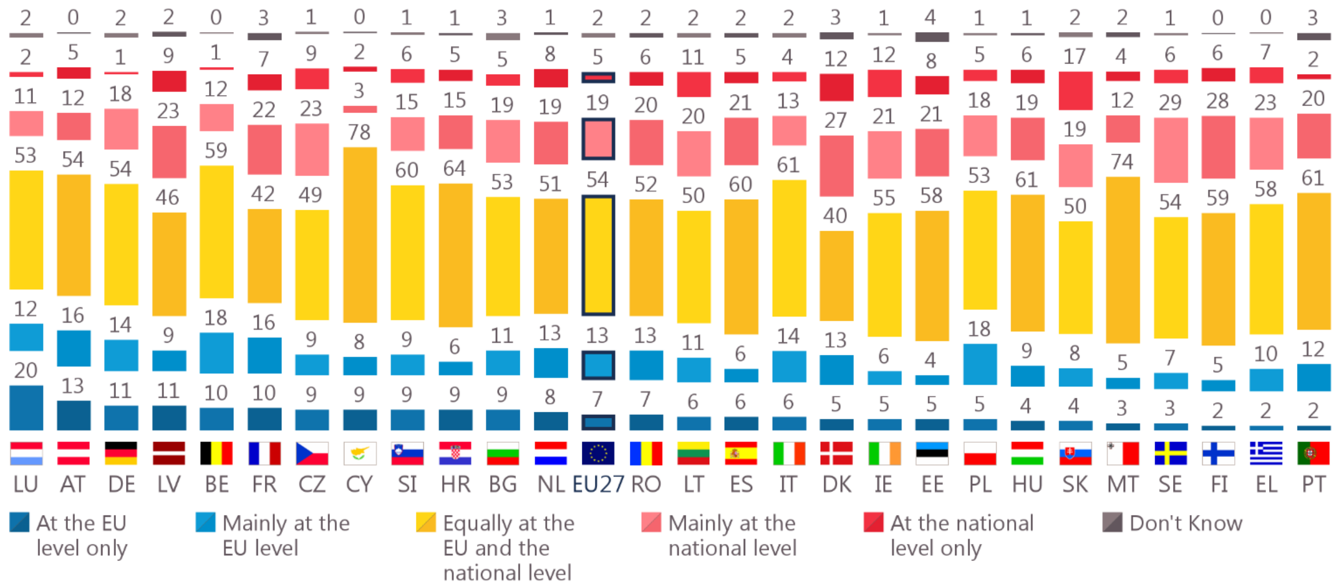
Health

In six countries respondents said that mainly/only the EU level would be more efficient in the area of **health** than mainly/only the national level, with the strongest preferences seen in Luxembourg (32%), Austria (29%) and Belgium (28%).

In 20 countries the stronger preference is for mainly/only the national level over mainly/only the EU level, with the largest proportions seen in Denmark (39%), Slovakia (36%) and Sweden (35%). Opinion is evenly divided in Poland.

However, in all Member States respondents are most likely to say health can most efficiently be dealt with at the EU and national level equally, with the largest proportions seen in Cyprus (78%), Malta (74%), Croatia (64%), Hungary, Portugal and Italy (all 61%).

QA23.11 In your opinion, at what level can we deal with each of the following areas most efficiently?
Health (%)



The sociodemographic data also confirm that respondents are most likely to think the different areas tested can be handled most efficiently at the EU and national levels equally.

The data show that generally, men are more likely than women to think that all the different areas should be addressed mainly/only at the EU level. The same goes for those who remained longer in education, managers, or students.

Finally, the fewer financial difficulties a respondent experiences, the more likely they are to prefer mainly/only the EU level. This is valid for all (or almost all) areas. A notable exception is employment and social protection: manual workers, house persons, and those who have difficulties paying their bills are slightly more likely to answer that it would be dealt with more efficiently at EU level.

QA23 In your opinion, at what level can we deal with each of the following areas most efficiently?
(% - Total 'At the EU level')

	Fighting terrorism	Migration and refugees	Environment and climate change	Security and defence policy	Foreign policy	Energy policy	Consumer protection	Agriculture and fisheries	Economy and growth	Employment and social protection	Health
EU27	34	33	31	31	30	28	24	24	23	20	20
Gender											
Man	35	35	35	33	33	30	27	26	25	21	22
Woman	31	30	28	28	28	26	22	23	21	21	19
Age											
15-24	36	35	35	33	35	33	28	26	27	25	25
25-39	34	35	33	30	32	29	26	26	23	21	21
40-54	33	34	32	32	31	30	26	24	24	21	21
55 +	32	31	28	29	28	26	21	24	22	20	19
Education (End of)											
15-	28	26	25	26	27	22	19	19	19	18	17
16-19	34	32	30	29	30	28	23	23	25	22	21
20+	34	37	35	33	32	31	27	28	23	19	21
Still studying	36	34	35	34	35	31	29	26	25	22	22
Socio-professional category											
Self-employed	35	38	33	34	31	28	25	26	23	19	21
Managers	38	39	38	35	35	33	31	29	24	20	22
Other white collars	35	34	31	30	31	29	23	23	25	20	20
Manual workers	32	30	30	29	29	28	24	23	24	23	21
House persons	32	33	27	28	28	25	21	25	24	22	19
Unemployed	28	31	26	26	26	27	23	22	23	21	23
Retired	31	30	28	29	28	26	21	24	21	19	19
Students	36	34	35	34	35	31	29	26	25	22	22
Difficulties paying bills											
Most of the time	29	28	27	23	24	26	22	20	20	23	18
From time to time	32	30	28	26	27	26	23	21	22	21	19
Almost never/ Never	34	34	33	33	32	30	26	27	25	21	21

With the exception of taxation, clear majorities think the additional policy areas should be addressed at both EU and national level

Respondents were proposed six additional policy areas and again asked whether they think they should be addressed only or mainly at the EU level, equally at the EU and the national level, or only or mainly at national level[49].

For each policy area, the majority of respondents think it could be dealt with most efficiently "equally at the EU and the national level". **Proportions range from 61% in the case of research and development to 40% for taxation**. However, in the case of taxation it is worth noting that almost as many respondents think this could be most efficiently handled at the national level (39% vs 18% for the EU level).

For four of the six policy areas, respondents are more likely to say the issue should be dealt with only or mainly at the EU level, rather than only or mainly at national level: the protection of minorities (25% vs 16%), research and development (25% vs. 12%), gender equality (24% vs. 15%), and the digital transformation of the economy and of society (24% vs. 14%).

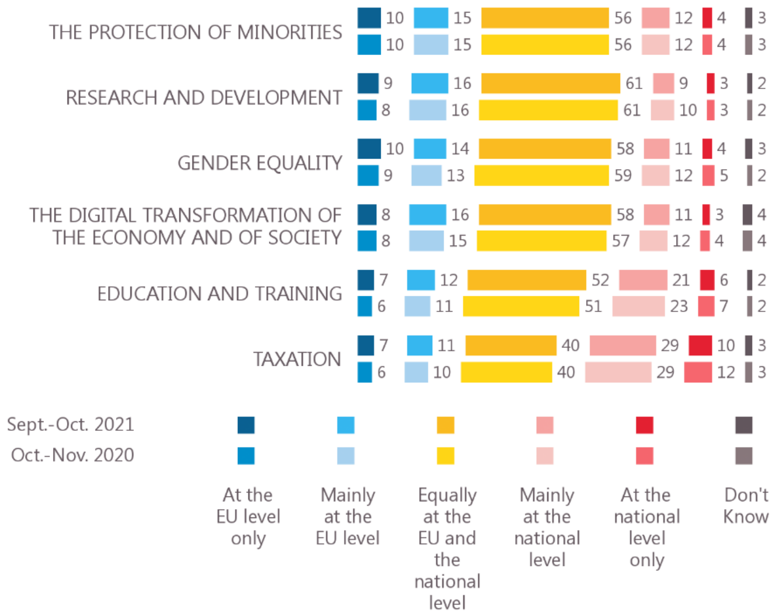
In the case of education and training, the balance of opinion is that it could most efficiently be dealt with only or mainly at national level, rather than only or mainly at the EU level (27% vs 19%).

There has been little change in opinion since October-November 2020 (0-2 percentage points) (Special Eurobarometer 500 on the Future of Europe 2020)[50].

Protection of minorities

More than one in ten respondents in each Member State think **the protection of minorities** can most efficiently be dealt with at mainly/only the EU level, with the largest proportions in Luxembourg (37%), Germany and Austria (both 36%).

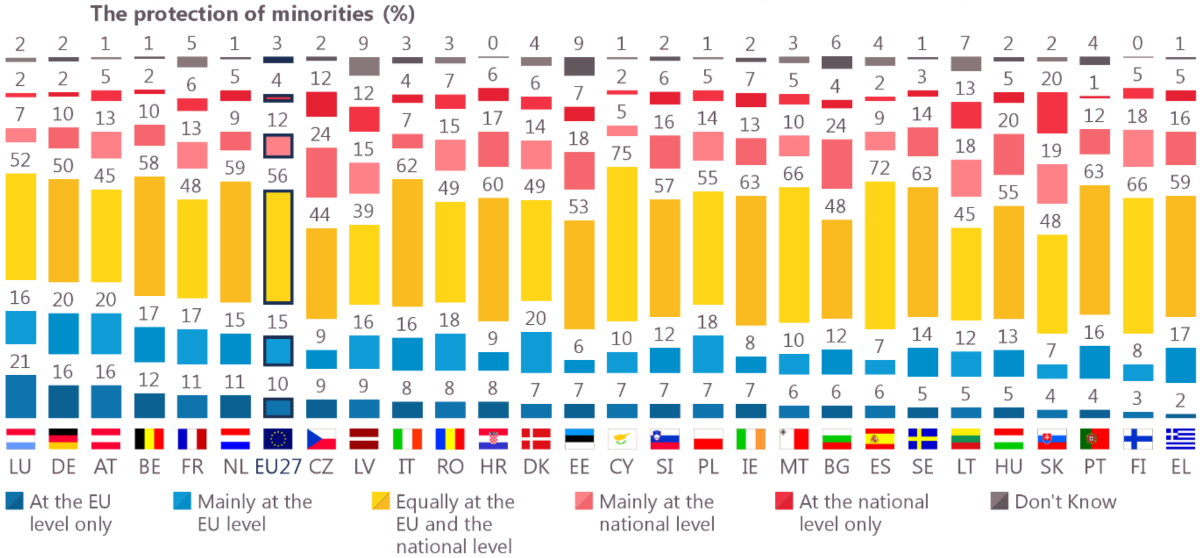
QA24 And in your opinion, at what level can we deal with each of the following areas most efficiently?
(% - EU27)



In 15 countries, respondents are more likely to think mainly/only the EU level is most efficient for dealing with the protection of minorities than mainly/only the national level with the largest shares seen in Luxembourg, Germany and Austria. In the remaining 12 countries the preference is for mainly/only the national level, with the strongest preferences in Slovakia (39%), Czechia (36%) and Lithuania (31%).

The most common answer in each country, however, is that the protection of minorities can most efficiently be dealt with at the EU and national level equally, with proportions ranging from 75% in Cyprus, 72% in Spain and 66% in Malta and Finland to 39% in Latvia.

QA24.6 And in your opinion, at what level can we deal with each of the following areas most efficiently?
The protection of minorities (%)



[49] Q24 And in your opinion, at what level can we deal with each of the following areas most efficiently? 24.1 The digital transformation of the economy and of society; 24.2 Gender equality; 24.3 Taxation; 24.4 Research and development; 24.5 Education and training; 24.6 The protection of minorities (N)
[50] Special Eurobarometer 500: https://europa.eu/eurobarometer/surveys/detail/2256

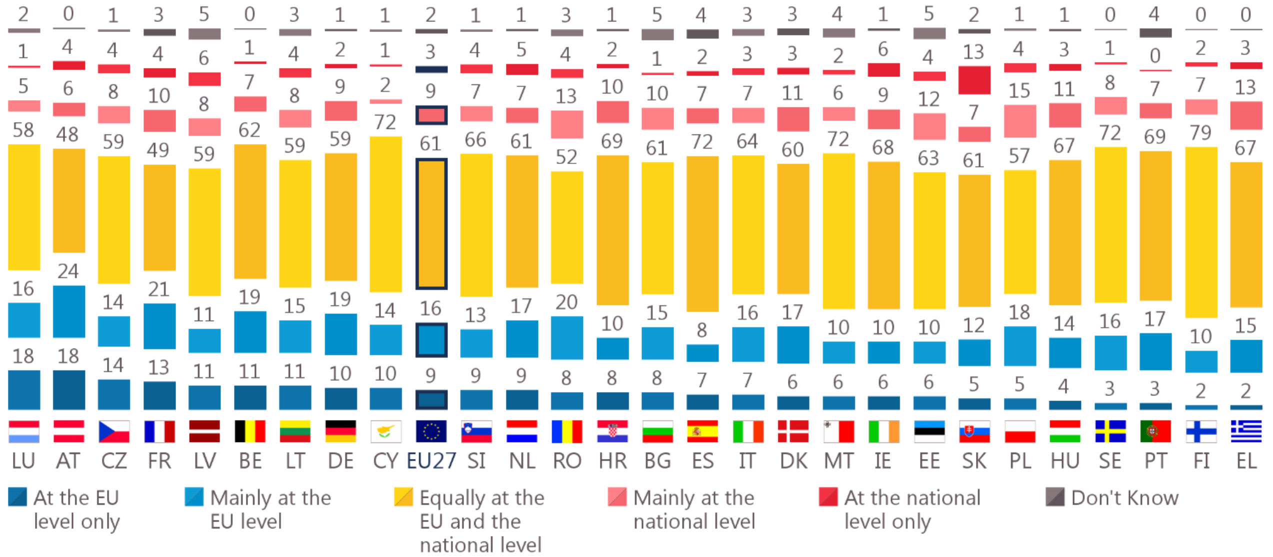
Research and development

More than one in ten respondents in each Member State think **research and development** can most efficiently be dealt with at mainly/only the EU level, with the largest shares seen in Austria (42%), France and Luxembourg (both 34%). This compares to 12% in Finland.

In 25 countries respondents are more likely to think mainly/only the EU level is most efficient for dealing with research and development than mainly/only the national level with the largest shares seen in Austria (42%), France and Luxembourg (both 34%). In Slovakia there is a slight preference for mainly/only the national level (20% vs 17%), while in Estonia opinion is evenly divided.

The most common answer in each country, however, is that research and development can most efficiently be dealt with equally at the EU and national level, with proportions ranging from 79% in Finland and 72% in Cyprus, Sweden, Malta and Spain to 48% in Austria and 49% in France.

QA24.4 And in your opinion, at what level can we deal with each of the following areas most efficiently?
Research and development (%)

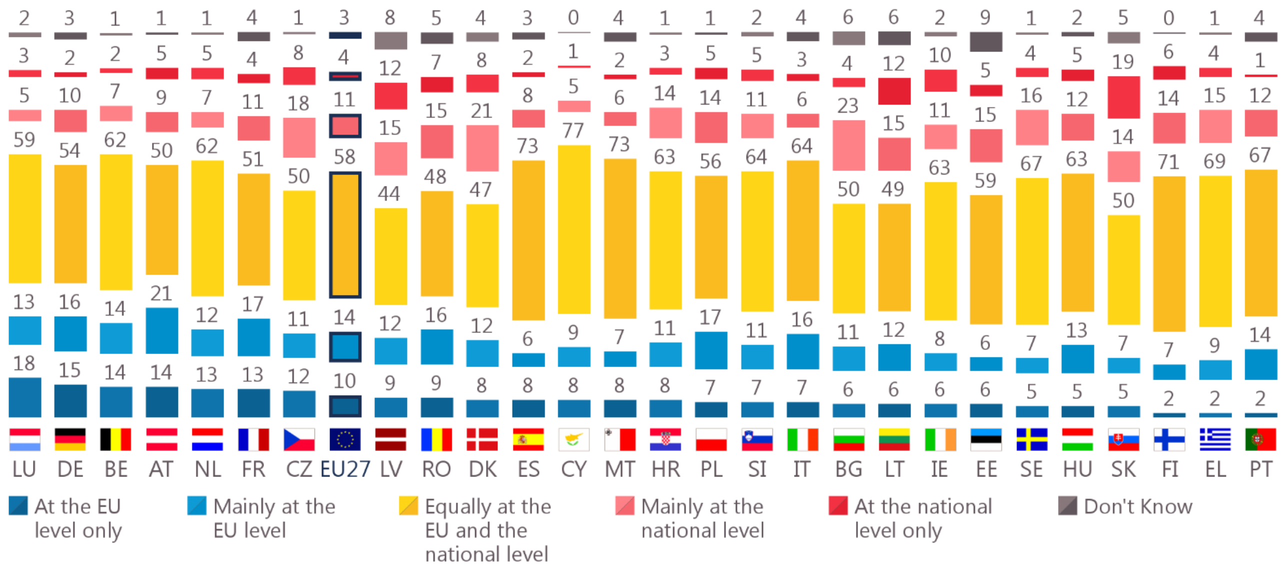


Gender equality

In 16 countries respondents are more likely to think mainly/only the EU level most efficient for dealing with **gender equality**, compared to mainly/only the national level, with largest proportions seen in Austria (35%), Germany, Luxembourg (both 31%) and France (30%). In 11 countries mainly/only the national level is preferred, with the strongest preference for this level seen in Slovakia (33%), Denmark (29%) and Latvia (27%).

However, in every Member States the most common answer is that gender equality can most efficiently be dealt with at the EU and national level equally, with the highest proportions seen amongst respondents in Cyprus (77%), Malta and Spain (both 73%).

QA24.2 And in your opinion, at what level can we deal with each of the following areas most efficiently?
Gender equality (%)

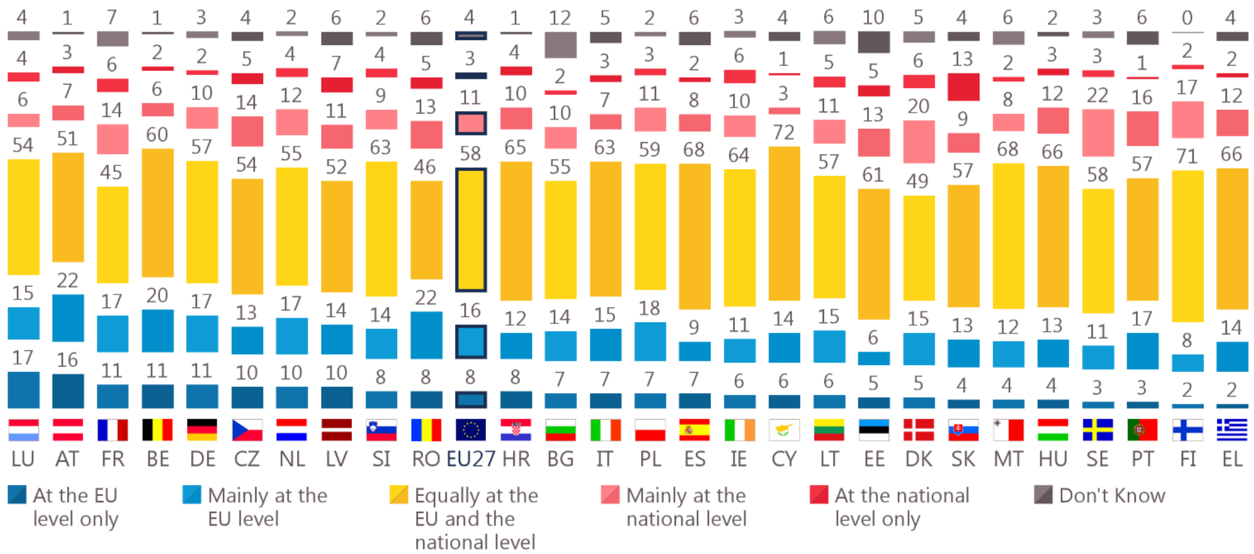


The digital transformation of the economy and society

In 22 countries respondents prefer mainly/only the EU level to mainly/only the national level to efficiently deal with **the digital transformation of the economy and of society**. The largest proportions favouring the EU level are seen in Austria (38%), Luxembourg (32%) and Belgium (31%). In the remaining 5 countries mainly/only the national level is preferred, and this is particularly the case in Denmark (26%), Sweden (25%) and Slovakia (22%).

Once again, however, the majority of respondents in each country think the digital transformation of the economy and of society can most efficiently be dealt with equally at the EU and national level, with the largest shares seen in Cyprus (72%), Finland (71%), Malta and Spain (68%).

QA24.1 And in your opinion, at what level can we deal with each of the following areas most efficiently?
The digital transformation of the economy and of society (%)



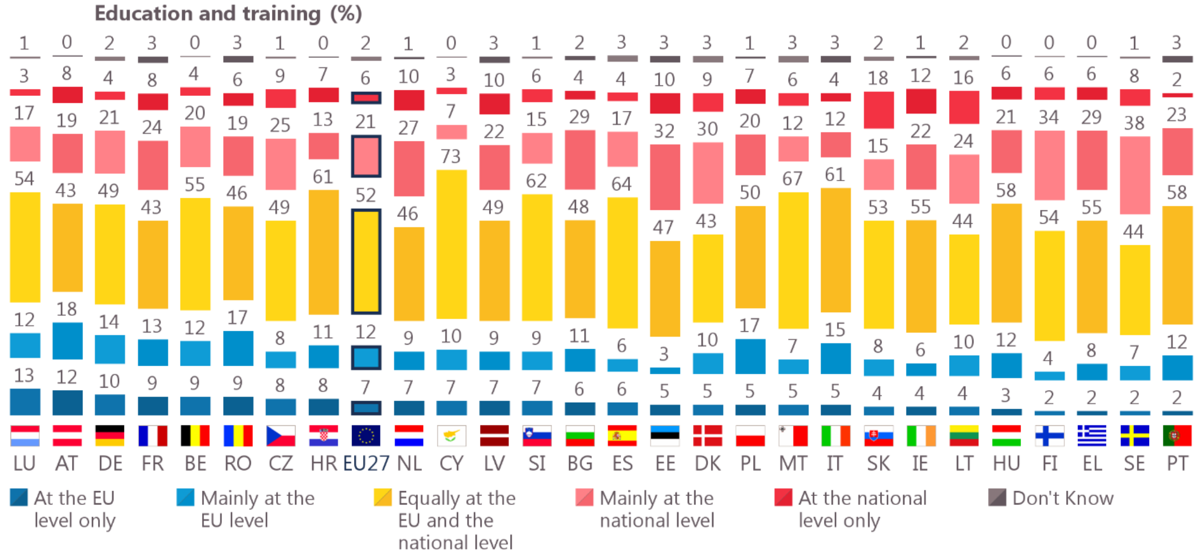
Education and training

There are also 5 countries where respondents prefer mainly/only the EU level over mainly/only the national level to efficiently deal with **education and training:** Austria (30%), Romania (26%), Luxembourg (25%), Italy (20%) and Cyprus (17%).

In the remaining countries respondents are more likely to prefer mainly or only the national level, with the strongest preference seen in Sweden (46%), Estonia (42%), Finland and Lithuania (both 40%). In fact, mainly/only the national level is the most mentioned option in Sweden.

In every country except for Sweden, however, respondents are most likely to say education and training can most efficiently be dealt with at the EU and national level equally, with the largest proportions seen in Cyprus (73%), Malta (67%) and Spain (64%).

QA24.5 And in your opinion, at what level can we deal with each of the following areas most efficiently?
Education and training (%)



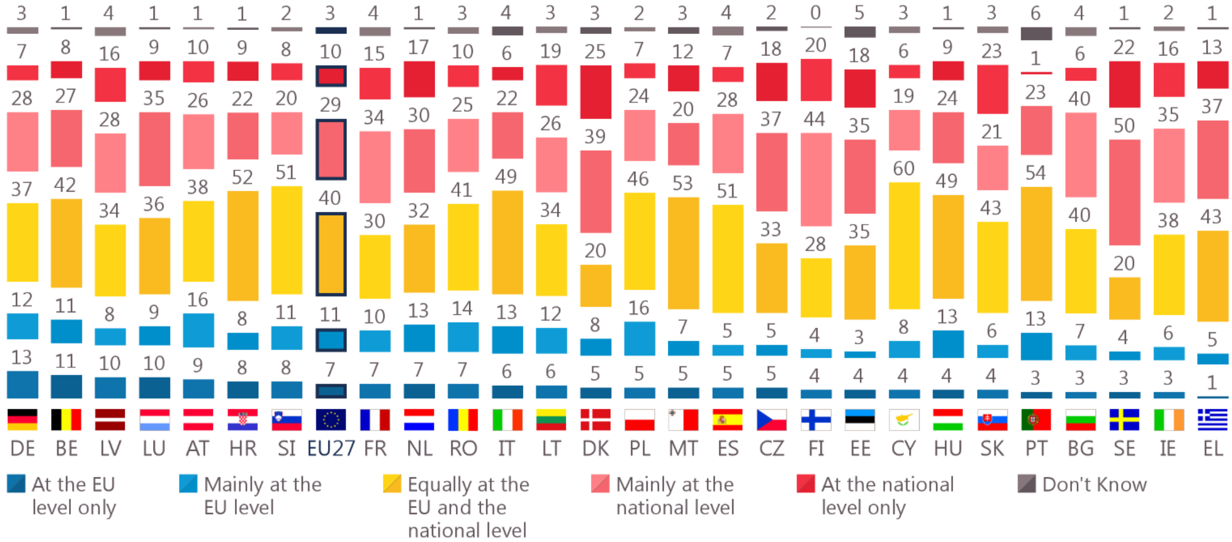
Taxation

In the case of **taxation**, no more than one quarter of respondents think it can most efficiently be dealt with at mainly/only the EU level, with the largest proportions in Germany, Austria (both 25%) and Belgium (22%).

In every country, respondents are more likely to think mainly/only the national level is most efficient for dealing with taxation, rather than mainly/only the EU level, with the strongest preferences seen in Sweden (72%), Denmark and Finland (both 64%). In fact, in 14 countries mainly/only the national level is the most common answer.

In the remaining 13 countries respondents most often say taxation can most efficiently be dealt with at the EU and national level equally, with the largest shares seen in Cyprus (60%), Portugal (54%), Malta (53%) and Croatia (52%).

QA24.3 And in your opinion, at what level can we deal with each of the following areas most efficiently?
Taxation (%)



For most areas, the sociodemographic data reveal the same pattern with that observed in the previous question (Q23): **the majority of respondents in each group thinks the different areas can be dealt with most efficiently equally at the EU and national level**.

The data also show that in all cases, **the younger the respondent, the more likely they are to prefer mainly/only the EU level (Total 'at the EU level')**. This is also the case in most areas for those who completed education aged 20+, managers and students, more likely to prefer mainly/only the EU level.

Finally, the fewer financial difficulties a respondent experiences, the more likely they are to prefer the EU level when it comes to research and development, and the digital transformation of the economy and society.

There are some exceptions to this general pattern: those who left school between 16 and 19, house persons and those who have difficulties paying their bills from time to time are more likely to think that **taxation** can be dealt with most efficiently at EU level. This is also the case for those who left school between 16 and 19, manual workers and those who have difficulties paying their bills most of the time for the area of **education and training.**

QA24 And in your opinion, at what level can we deal with each of the following areas most efficiently?
(% - Total 'At the EU level')

	Protection of minorities	Research and development	Gender equality	The digital transformation of the economy and society	Education and training	Taxation
EU27	25	25	24	24	19	18
Gender						
Man	27	27	26	26	20	19
Woman	23	24	21	23	19	16
Age						
15-24	29	30	28	31	24	21
25-39	27	27	25	25	20	19
40-54	27	26	25	25	20	19
55 +	23	22	22	21	18	16
Education (End of)						
15-	21	20	20	20	17	14
16-19	25	25	24	24	21	18
20+	27	26	25	25	18	17
Still studying	28	28	28	30	22	21
Socio-professional category						
Self-employed	27	25	23	24	20	18
Managers	29	26	26	26	20	18
Other white collars	24	25	22	23	18	16
Manual workers	27	27	25	26	22	21
House persons	21	25	23	24	21	19
Unemployed	23	25	25	22	20	17
Retired	23	22	21	22	17	15
Students	28	28	28	30	22	21
Difficulties paying bills						
Most of the time	23	22	22	20	21	18
From time to time	24	23	23	23	20	19
Almost never/ Never	26	26	24	25	19	17

The preference for decisions to be taken at the EU and national level in the future

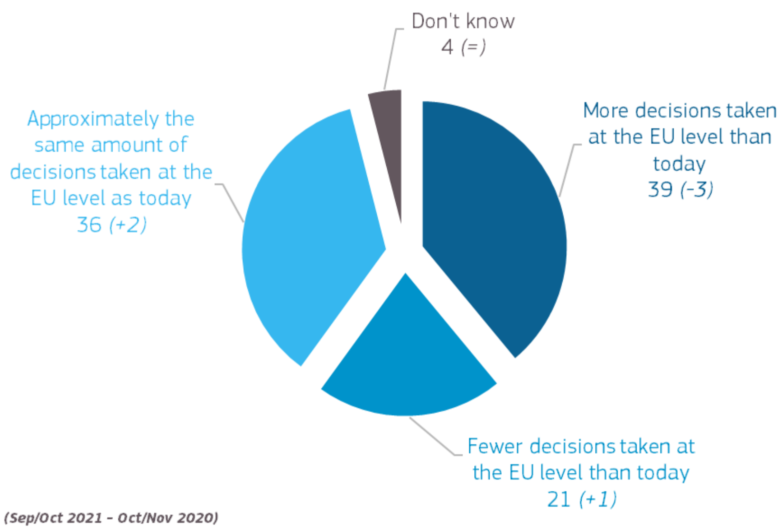
Almost four in ten (39%) respondents say that 10 years from now they would prefer to see more decisions taken at the EU level than today, while almost as many (36%) say they would like to see the same amount of decisions made at EU level as today[51]. Just over one in five (21%) would like fewer decisions made at EU level in ten years' time.

The preference for more EU level decision making 10 years from now has declined three percentage points since October-November 2020 (Special Eurobarometer 500 on the Future of Europe 2020)[52].

There is considerable variation of opinion at a country level. In 13 countries the majority would like more decisions made at the EU level, although proportions vary from 58% in Cyprus and 57% in Belgium to 39% in Latvia and 40% in Romania.

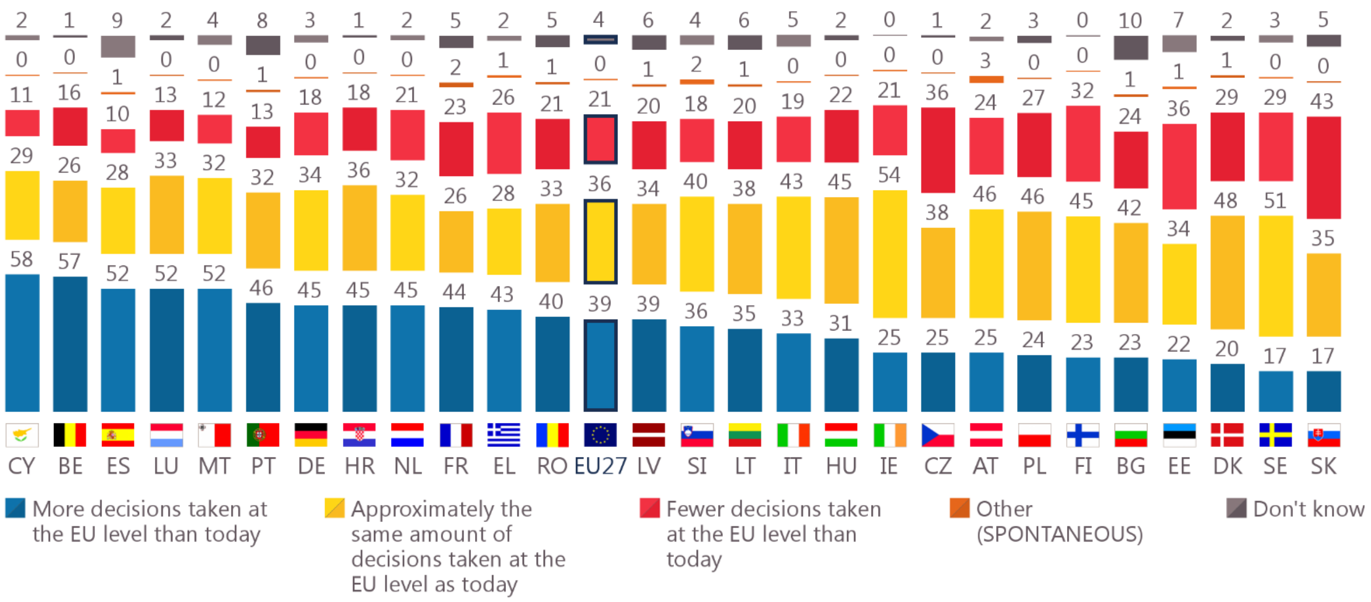
In 11 countries, including Ireland (54%), Sweden (51%) and Denmark (48%), respondents most often say they would like the same number of decisions at EU level as there are today.

QA25 Taking a longer view, if you picture the EU you would like to see in ten years from now, would you prefer? An EU with...
(% - EU)



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

QA25 Taking a longer view, if you picture the EU you would like to see in ten years from now, would you prefer? An EU with...
(%)



[51] Q25 Taking a longer view, if you picture the EU you would like to see in ten years from now, would you prefer? An EU with...More decisions taken at the EU level than today; Fewer decisions taken at the EU level than today; Approximately the same amount of decisions taken at the EU level as today
[52] Special Eurobarometer 500: https://europa.eu/eurobarometer/surveys/detail/2256

At the EU level there have only been minor changes in opinion since October-November 2020, but there have been some larger evolutions at a country level.

In 10 countries respondents are now more likely to say more decisions should be taken at EU level in ten years, with the largest increase in Malta (+11 percentage points). In contrast, respondents in 15 including Slovenia (-15) and Lithuania (-14) respondents are less likely to think this way. There has been no change in Croatia or Czechia.

QA25 Taking a longer view, if you picture the EU you would like to see in ten years from now, would you prefer? An EU with...
(%)

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

The **socio-demographic data** highlight that the younger the respondent, the more likely they are to want more EU decision making 10 years from now. For example, 43% of 15–24-year-olds think this way, compared to 36% of the oldest respondents.

Respondents who completed education aged 20 or older (43%) are also more likely to think this way than those who completed aged 19 or younger.

Managers and students (both 45%) are more likely to be in favour of more EU level decision making than other occupation groups.

QA25 Taking a longer view, if you picture the EU you would like to see in ten years from now, would you prefer? An EU with...
(% - EU)

	More decisions taken at the EU level than today	Fewer decisions taken at the EU level than today	Approximately the same amount of decisions taken at the EU level as today	Don't know
EU27	39	21	36	4
Gender				
Man	40	22	34	3
Woman	38	19	37	5
Age				
15-24	43	16	37	4
25-39	42	18	36	3
40-54	38	21	37	3
55 +	36	22	35	6
Education (End of)				
15-	35	19	35	11
16-19	36	23	37	3
20+	43	20	34	2
Still studying	45	14	37	4
Socio-professional category				
Self-employed	37	25	36	2
Managers	45	16	37	2
Other white collars	35	21	41	2
Manual workers	38	23	35	3
House persons	37	19	32	11
Unemployed	42	19	32	6
Retired	36	23	34	6
Students	45	14	37	4
Difficulties paying bills				
Most of the time	37	26	30	6
From time to time	36	22	36	5
Almost never/ Never	40	19	36	4

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

More than eight in ten would prefer the EU of 2030 to place more importance on solidarity than on individualism

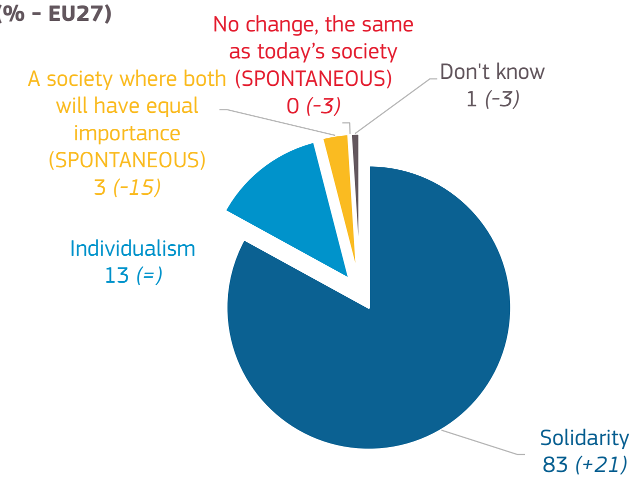
When asked their preferences for the society in 2030, more than eight in ten (83%) respondents prefer more importance given to solidarity, while 13% prefer more importance given to individualism[53]. Just 3% answer *spontaneously* that they prefer a society where both have equal importance.

Compared to 2017, (Special Eurobarometer 467 on the Future of Europe)[54] respondents are now much more likely to prefer 2030 European society to emphasise solidarity (+21 percentage points), and less likely to prefer one where solidarity and individualism have equal importance (-15).

By recalculating the results without the inclusion of spontaneous answers, the results show a slight increase in the preference for solidarity (from 83% in 2017 to 87%) and a decline in the preference for individualism (from 17% to 13%).

The majority of respondents in each Member State prefer EU society in 2030 to place more importance on solidarity, with proportions ranging from 94% in Spain, 93% in Greece and 91% in France and Luxembourg to 58% in Austria, 62% in Slovakia and 68% in Finland.

QA28 Let's now talk about your own hopes not your predictions for the future. In 2030, in the European Union, would you prefer a society where more importance is given to solidarity, or to individualism?
(% - EU27)

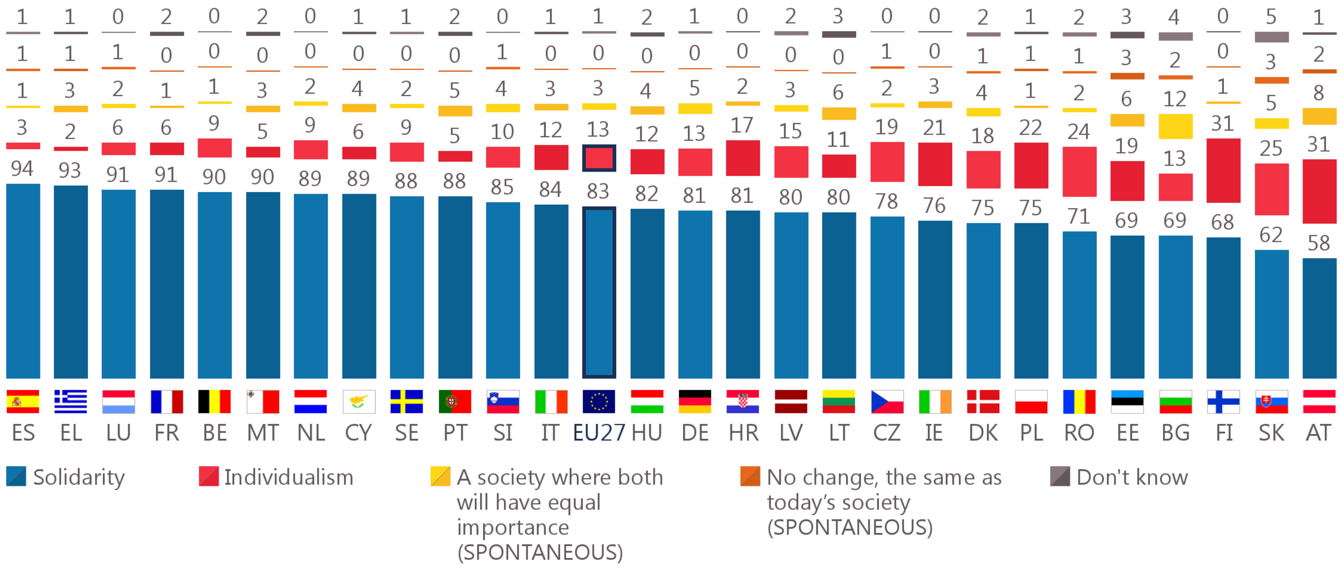


(Sept.-Oct. 2021 - Sept.-Oct. 2017)

There are six countries where at least one in five prefer more importance placed on individualism: Austria, Finland (both 31%), Slovakia (25%), Romania (24%), Poland (22%) and Ireland (21%).

Bulgaria is the only country where at least one in ten prefer a society where solidarity and individualism have equal importance (12%).

QA28 Let's now talk about your own hopes not your predictions for the future. In 2030, in the European Union, would you prefer a society where more importance is given to solidarity, or to individualism?
(%)



[53] Q28 Let's now talk about your own hopes not your predictions for the future. In 2030, in the European Union, would you prefer a society where more importance is given to solidarity, or to individualism?
[54] Special Eurobarometer 467: http://ec.europa.eu/commfrontoffice/publicopinion/index.cfm/Survey/getSurveyDetail/instruments/SPECIAL/surveyKy/2179

Given the large proportion who prefer an emphasis on solidarity rather than individualism, it is perhaps not surprising the **socio-demographic data** show few differences.

There are no notable differences in opinion based on age, gender, education level, occupation, financial situation or self-reported social class.

QA28 Let's now talk about your own hopes not your predictions for the future. In 2030, in the European Union, would you prefer a society where more importance is given to solidarity, or to individualism?
(% - EU)

	Solidarity	Individualism	A society where both will have equal importance	No change, the same as today's society	Don't know
EU27	83	13	3	0	1
Gender					
Man	81	15	3	0	1
Woman	85	11	3	0	1
Age					
15-24	82	14	3	0	1
25-39	81	15	3	0	1
40-54	83	13	3	0	1
55 +	84	11	3	0	2
Education (End of)					
15-	85	9	4	0	2
16-19	81	14	3	1	1
20+	85	11	3	0	1
Still studying	83	13	3	0	1
Socio-professional category					
Self-employed	83	13	3	0	1
Managers	85	12	3	0	0
Other white collars	83	13	3	0	1
Manual workers	79	17	2	1	1
House persons	83	11	3	1	2
Unemployed	84	11	2	1	2
Retired	85	9	4	0	2
Students	83	13	3	0	1
Difficulties paying bills					
Most of the time	82	13	3	1	1
From time to time	79	17	2	1	1
Almost never/ Never	85	11	3	0	1
Consider belonging to					
The working class	83	11	3	1	2
The lower middle class	80	16	4	0	0
The middle class	84	12	3	0	1
The upper middle class	84	12	2	1	1
The upper class	82	16	0	0	2

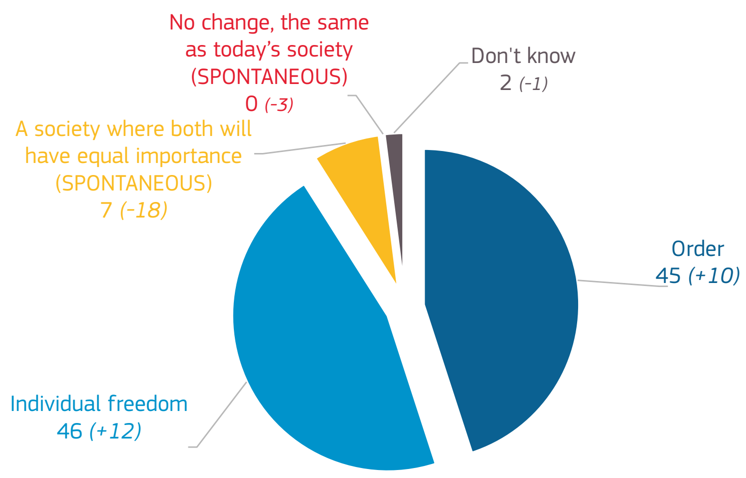
There is no clear preference for an emphasis on order or individual freedom in the EU of 2030 but opinions tend to be more polarized

When respondents were asked if they would prefer European society in 2030 to give more importance to order or individual freedom, no clear consensus emerged[55]. More than four in ten (46%) prefer more importance placed on individual freedom, while 45% prefer an emphasis on order. More than one in twenty (7%) answer *spontaneously* that they would like a society where both have equal importance.

Compared to 2017 (Special Eurobarometer 467 on the Future of Europe)[56], respondents are now more likely to prefer individual freedom (+12 percentage points) or order (+10) and are now less likely to prefer a society where both are equally important (-18).

When recalculating results without the consideration of spontaneous items, they are very similar to that those measured in 2017: in both years opinion is almost equally divided between those who prefer order and those who prefer individual freedom (2017: 51% vs 49%; 2021: 49% vs 51%).

QA29 And in 2030, in the European Union, would you prefer a society where more importance is given to order, or to individual freedom?
(% - EU27)

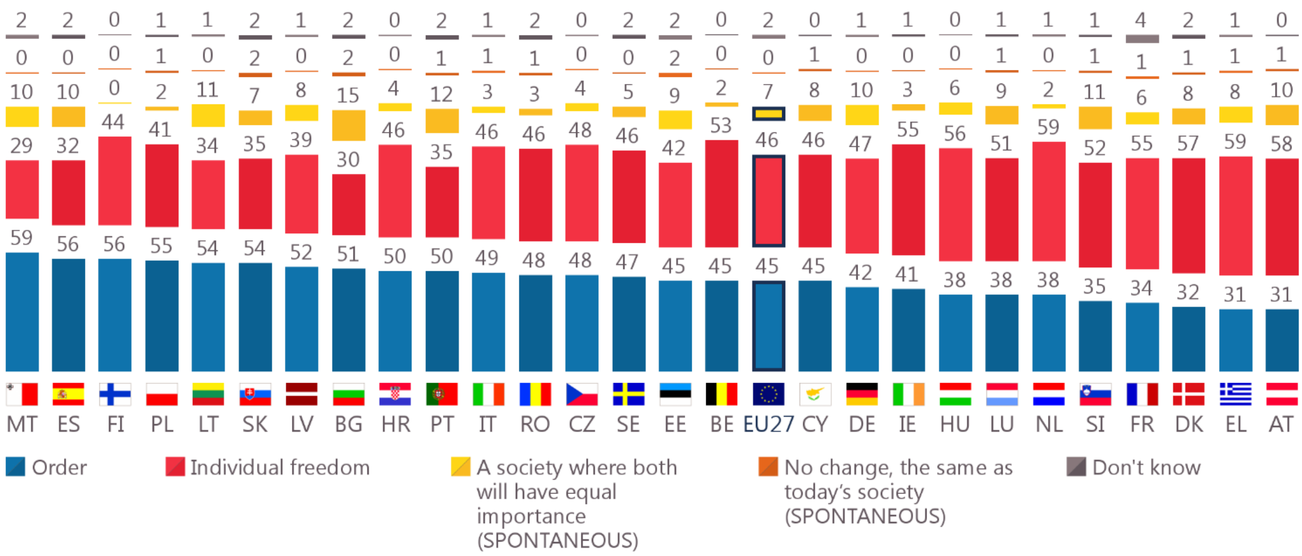


(Sept.-Oct. 2021 - Sept.-Oct. 2017)

In 14 Member States, a majority of respondents prefer a 2030 European society where more importance is placed on order, and this preference is strongest in Malta (59%), Spain, Finland (both 56%) and Poland (55%).

In 12 countries the strongest preference is for more importance placed on individual freedoms with the largest proportions seen in Greece, the Netherlands (both 59%) and Austria (58%).

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



[55] Q29 And in 2030, in the European Union, would you prefer a society where more importance is given to order, or to individual freedom?
[56] Special Eurobarometer 467: http://ec.europa.eu/commfrontoffice/publicopinion/index.cfm/Survey/getSurveyDetail/instruments/SPECIAL/surveyKy/2179

The **socio-demographic data** illustrates that respondents in most socio-demographic groups would prefer the 2030 EU society to place more importance on individual freedom than order. This is the case for men (48%), respondents aged 15-54, those who completed education aged 20 or older (49%), those who experience the most difficulties paying bills (47%), and all occupation groups except housepersons and retired persons.

The exceptions, who prefer more importance to be given to order, are those aged 55+ (52%), respondents who completed education aged 15 or younger (56%), the retired (54%) and housepersons (48%).

Opinion is almost evenly divided amongst women, those who completed education aged 16-19, and those who experience difficulties paying bills from time to time or almost never/never.

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

	Order	Individual freedom	A society where both will have equal importance	No change, the same as today's society	Don't know
EU27	45	46	7	0	2
Gender					
Man	44	48	6	1	1
Woman	46	45	7	0	2
Age					
15-24	36	56	6	0	2
25-39	38	55	6	0	1
40-54	44	48	6	1	1
55 +	52	39	7	0	2
Education (End of)					
15-	56	34	7	1	2
16-19	46	47	6	0	1
20+	42	49	8	0	1
Still studying	37	56	6	0	1
Socio-professional category					
Self-employed	42	50	6	0	2
Managers	42	51	6	0	1
Other white collars	44	51	5	0	0
Manual workers	43	49	6	1	1
House persons	48	43	6	0	3
Unemployed	39	50	8	1	2
Retired	54	36	8	0	2
Students	37	56	6	0	1
Difficulties paying bills					
Most of the time	43	47	7	2	1
From time to time	46	47	5	1	1
Almost never/ Never	45	46	7	0	2

VI. GENERAL QUESTIONS IN CONNECTION WITH THE FUTURE ON THE FUTURE OF EUROPE

1. Democracy

Citizens see voting in elections as the best way to ensure their voice heard

This chapter examines general issues that are relevant to the Conference on the Future of Europe. It starts by looking at topics related to democracy in the EU, such as ways in which the voice of citizens can be heard at national and EU levels, whether decisions about the future of Europe should take better account of citizens' views, and whether there is still work to be done to strengthen democracy in the EU. The chapter then considers citizens' involvement in the discussion over the future of the EU, looking at who Europeans would prefer to discuss the future of Europe with, and whether they would like more say in decisions at the local, national and EU levels.

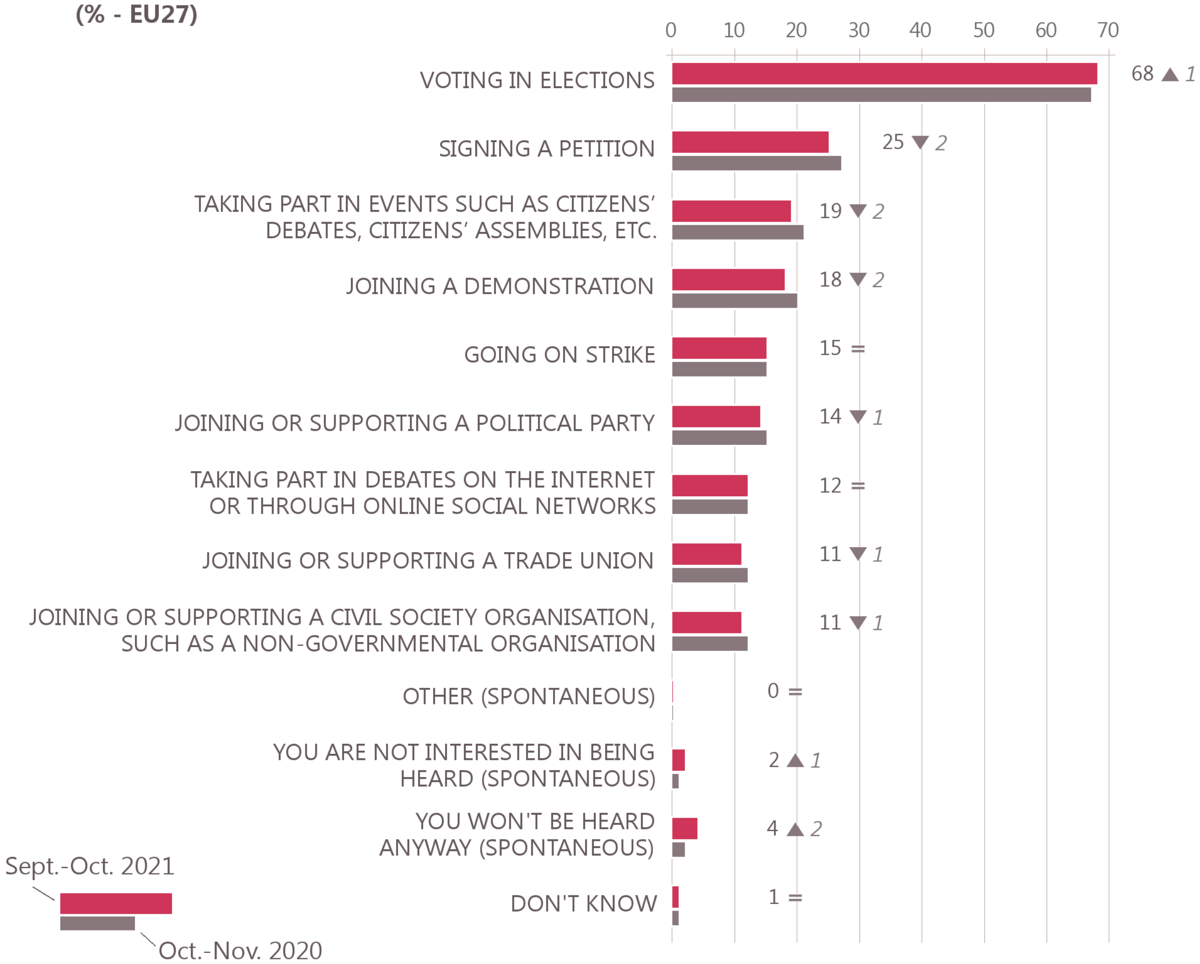
Respondents were asked what they thought were **the best ways of ensuring that their voice is heard by decision-makers at the national level**, choosing up to three answers from a list of nine.

Two-thirds of respondents (68%, +1 percentage point since (Special Eurobarometer 500 on the Future of Europe 2020)[57] say that voting in elections is the best way of ensuring that their voice is heard, making it by far the most frequent response. One in four (25%, -2) mention signing a petition, while around one in five mention taking part in events such as citizens' debates and assemblies (19%, -2) and joining a demonstration (18%, -2).

Going on strike is indicated by 15% of respondents (=), while a similar proportion (14%, -1) mention joining or supporting a political party. The remaining options are each chosen by around one in ten respondents: taking part in online debates (12%, =), joining or supporting a civil society organisation, such as a non-governmental organisation (11%, -1) and joining or supporting a trade union (11%, -1).

Overall, 6% of Europeans say spontaneously either that they "wouldn't be heard anyway" or that they "have no interest in being heard" (+3).

QA1 Which of the following do you think are the best ways of ensuring your voice is heard by decision-makers at national level? (MAX. 3 ANSWERS)
(% - EU27)



[57] Special Eurobarometer 500: https://europa.eu/eurobarometer/surveys/detail/2256

In every Member State, **voting in elections** is seen as the best way of ensuring that citizens' voices are heard by decision-makers at national level. This is mentioned most frequently by respondents in Finland (91%), Sweden (87%), Denmark (86%) and the Netherlands (82%). It is least frequently mentioned by respondents in Slovakia (51%), Italy, Poland and Romania (all 52%).

Respondents in the Netherlands (40%) and Finland (38%) are most likely to say that **signing a petition** is one of the best ways of ensuring their voice is heard. **Taking part in events such as citizens' debates and assemblies** is mentioned most frequently by respondents in Germany (29%) and Denmark (27%).

QA1 Which of the following do you think are the best ways of ensuring your voice is heard by decision-makers at national level? (MAX. 3 ANSWERS) **(%)**

	Voting in elections	Signing a petition	Taking part in events such as citizens' debates, citizens' assemblies, etc.	Joining a demonstration	Going on strike	Joining or supporting a political party	Taking part in debates on the Internet or through online social networks	Joining or supporting a trade union	Joining or supporting a civil society organisation, such as a non-governmental organisation	You won't be heard anyway (SPONTANEOUS)	You are not interested in being heard (SPONTANEOUS)
EU27	68	25	19	18	15	14	12	11	11	4	2
BE	68	31	21	15	13	17	14	16	14	2	1
BG	62	17	11	20	13	18	14	6	8	9	2
CZ	71	34	19	14	12	17	11	5	12	2	1
DK	86	29	27	8	9	22	13	28	10	1	1
DE	78	29	29	19	9	17	12	9	10	2	1
EE	67	8	16	5	6	12	12	6	12	9	2
IE	77	33	13	17	12	13	13	11	11	0	0
EL	67	23	23	18	17	8	19	6	9	8	4
ES	70	14	12	22	20	7	9	7	4	6	2
FR	71	28	14	22	17	8	10	10	11	5	1
HR	60	33	21	18	13	14	18	10	16	2	1
IT	52	20	20	20	24	16	11	14	14	5	2
CY	64	19	13	16	12	11	12	8	7	12	2
LV	64	14	10	7	9	7	16	7	10	9	1
LT	62	24	14	12	10	5	19	6	7	9	2
LU	72	34	12	14	8	11	12	12	11	1	1
HU	74	23	11	8	7	11	12	9	9	2	2
MT	78	32	7	15	11	21	13	9	10	2	1
NL	82	40	24	11	6	31	13	22	20	1	0
AT	66	25	22	17	13	20	12	16	14	3	3
PL	52	24	17	21	15	9	14	12	15	2	3
PT	61	12	12	19	16	14	8	12	3	13	3
RO	52	18	19	20	13	12	15	11	15	4	3
SI	69	26	13	13	10	11	10	9	12	4	4
SK	51	34	20	13	18	11	15	6	9	5	7
FI	91	38	14	7	10	24	11	24	15	0	0
SE	87	21	14	12	8	42	15	27	26	0	0

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

Socio-demographic results are generally consistent between men and women, although women are slightly more likely than men to say that **signing a petition** is one of the best ways of ensuring the voice of citizens is heard by decision-makers at the national level (26% v 23%).

There are also differences by age, with younger respondents more likely to favour **joining a demonstration** (33% of those aged 15-24 vs. 13% of those aged 55 or over), while older respondents are more likely to say that **voting in elections** is the best way of citizens getting their voice heard (72% of those aged 55 or over vs. 55% of those aged 15-24).

There are differences by level of education, with respondents who stayed in education until the age of 20 or above more likely to mention several of the options, including **signing a petition** (28% vs. 16% of those who left education by the age of 15) and **taking part in events such as citizens' debates and assemblies** (23% vs. 12%).

Respondents who have difficulties paying bills most of the time are less likely to mention **voting in elections** (53% vs. 72%).

QA1 Which of the following do you think are the best ways of ensuring your voice is heard by decision-makers at national level? (MAX. 3 ANSWERS)
(% - EU)

	Voting in elections	Signing a petition	Taking part in events such as citizens' debates, citizens' assemblies, etc.	Joining a demonstration	Joining or supporting a political party	Going on strike	Taking part in debates on the Internet or through online social networks	Joining or supporting a trade union	Joining or supporting a civil society organisation, such as a non-governmental organisation	You won't be heard anyway (SPONTANEOUS)	You are not interested in being heard (SPONTANEOUS)
EU27	68	25	19	18	14	15	12	11	11	4	2
Gender											
Man	67	23	20	19	16	17	13	12	12	4	1
Woman	68	26	18	18	12	13	11	11	11	4	2
Age											
15-24	55	25	18	33	15	22	21	9	10	3	2
25-39	65	26	20	22	17	17	16	14	14	3	1
40-54	68	27	21	19	15	17	12	13	14	4	1
55 +	72	23	18	13	12	11	8	10	9	5	3
Education (End of)											
15-	67	16	12	13	9	13	6	8	4	8	5
16-19	65	25	19	18	12	16	11	11	10	4	2
20+	74	28	23	18	18	13	13	14	16	3	1
Still studying	59	26	20	34	17	22	23	10	11	1	1
Socio-professional category											
Self-employed	67	27	22	18	17	15	14	8	14	3	1
Managers	73	27	26	19	20	12	13	17	19	2	1
Other white collars	69	27	20	19	15	16	16	13	15	2	2
Manual workers	64	24	18	21	12	19	12	14	9	5	2
House persons	62	21	14	16	10	15	8	9	9	8	3
Unemployed	55	24	17	25	13	19	12	13	9	8	2
Retired	74	23	17	11	11	9	7	8	8	5	3
Students	59	26	20	34	17	22	23	10	11	1	1
Difficulties paying bills											
Most of the time	53	21	15	21	13	19	10	10	12	10	3
From time to time	59	21	17	21	14	19	13	13	11	5	2
Almost never/ Never	72	27	20	17	14	13	12	11	12	3	2

Voting in European elections is seen as the best way of ensuring voices are heard by decision-makers at EU level

Respondents were presented with a range of ways in which EU citizens could potentially make sure their **voices are heard by decision-makers at EU level**, and were able to select up to three responses to describe which they felt were the best methods. Overall, the findings are similar to those seen above in relation to the national level; this indicates that Europeans believe that the same methods are successful – at both national and EU level – for ensuring citizens have their voices heard.

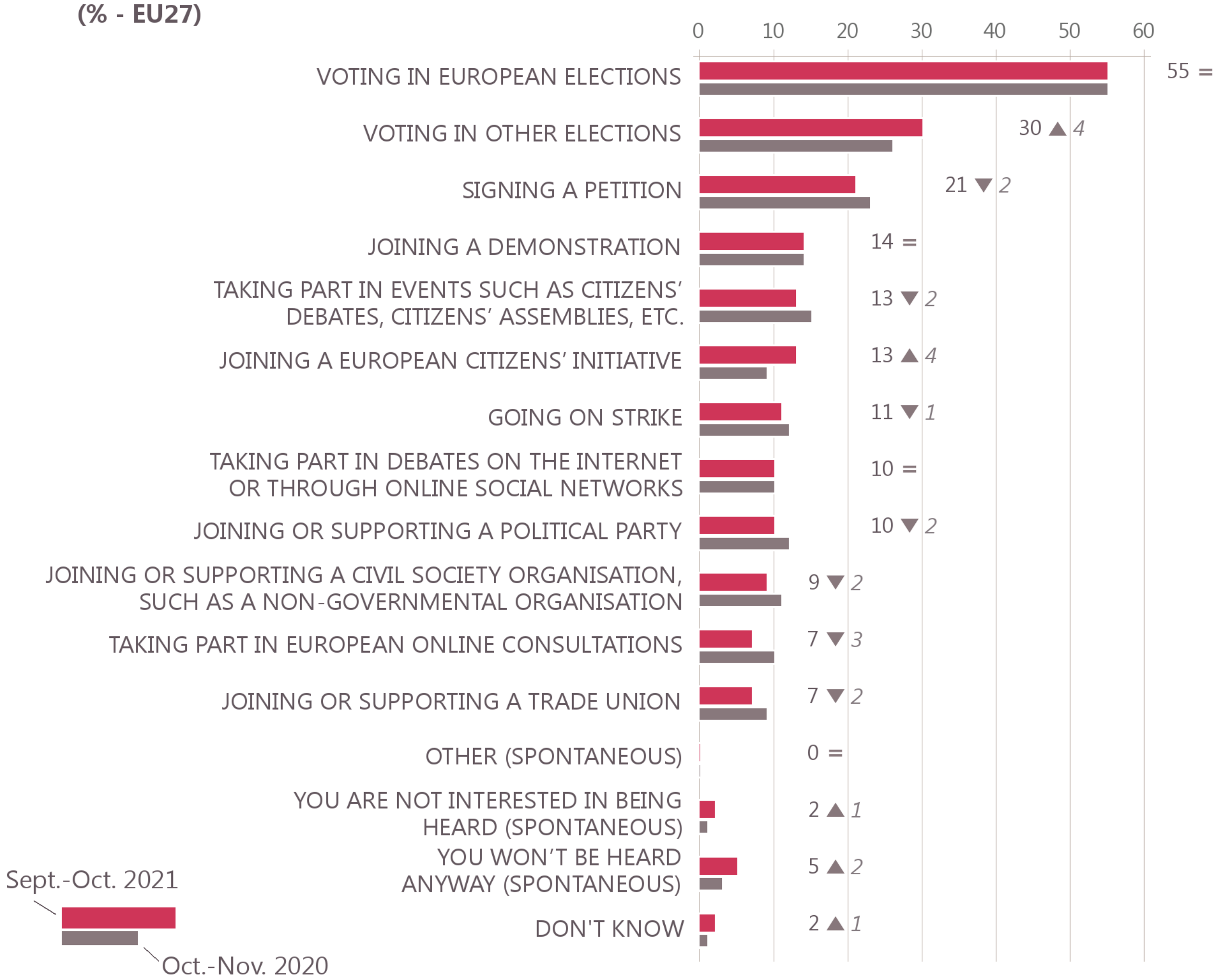
Voting in European elections is clearly regarded as the most effective way of ensuring voices are heard by decision-makers at EU level, with 55% of Europeans choosing this response as one of the best methods (no change since (Special Eurobarometer 500 on the Future of Europe 2020)[58].

Other popular choices, are **voting in other elections** (30%, +4 percentage points) and signing a petition (21%, -2), mentioned by at least one in five respondents.

Other types of political participation mentioned by more than 10% of Europeans are: joining a demonstration (14%, =), taking part in events such as citizens' debates or citizens' assemblies (13%, -2), joining a European Citizens' Initiative (13%, +4) and going on strike (11%, -1).

One in ten think their voice would be best heard through joining or supporting a political party (10%, -2), taking part in debates on the internet or through online social networks (10%, =), or joining or supporting a civil society organisation, such as a non-governmental organisation (9%, -2). Less than one in ten favour taking part in European online consultations (7%, -3), or joining or supporting a trade union (7%, -2). Overall, 7% of Europeans feel that they either wouldn't be heard anyway or that they have no interest in being heard (+3).

QA2 Which of the following do you think are the best ways of ensuring your voice is heard by decision-makers at EU level? (MAX. 3 ANSWERS)
(% - EU27)

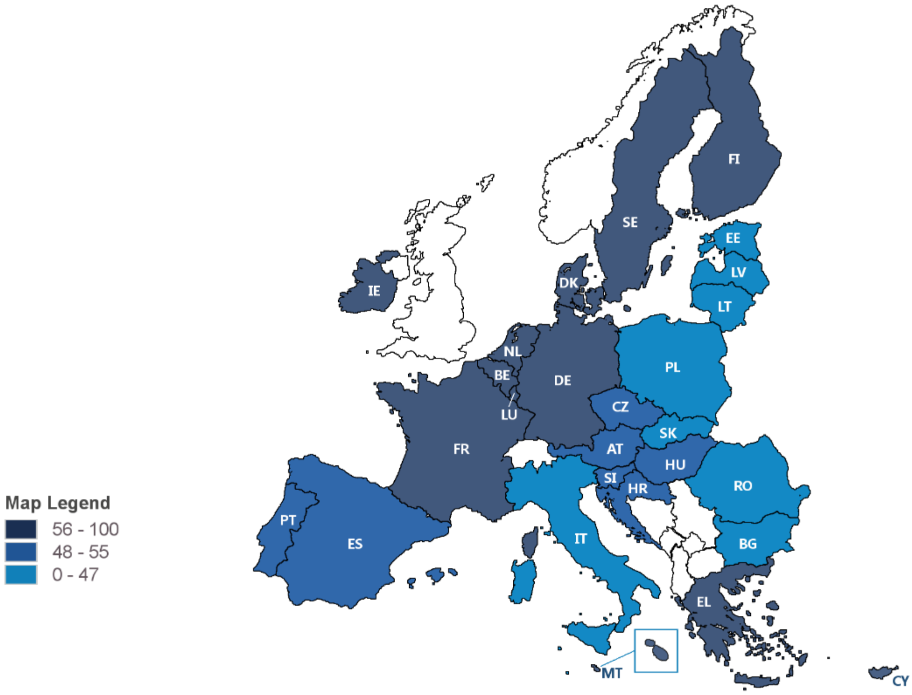


[58] Special Eurobarometer 500: https://europa.eu/eurobarometer/surveys/detail/2256

In the EU as a whole, respondents are most likely to say that **voting in European elections** is the best way of ensuring their voice is heard by decision-makers at the EU level. This is also the top ranked answer in all Member States with the sole exception of Slovakia (where signing a petition is the first answer given, with 33% of mentions). However, there is wide variation by country in the proportions giving this answer.

Respondents are most likely to say this is one of the best ways of ensuring their voice is heard in the north of Europe; specifically in Sweden (88%), Finland (83%), Denmark (79%) and the Netherlands (77%). The lowest proportions are seen in Slovakia (27%), Poland (34%), Romania (41%), Bulgaria (42%) and Italy (43%).

QA2 Which of the following do you think are the best ways of ensuring your voice is heard by decision-makers at EU level? (MAX. 3 ANSWERS)
(% - VOTING IN EUROPEAN ELECTIONS)



As seen above, **voting in European elections** is the top ranked answer in 26 Member States, as the best way of citizens getting their voice heard by decision-makers at the EU level. **Voting in other elections** is among the top three choices in every country, and is most frequently chosen by respondents in Ireland (42%), Cyprus, Finland and Malta (all 40%). It is least frequently mentioned by respondents in Portugal and Czechia (both 18%).

As well as being the top ranked answer in Slovakia, **signing a petition** ranks in the top three answers in 19 other countries. It is mentioned most frequently by respondents in Slovakia (33%), Czechia (32%) and Malta (30%), and least frequently by respondents in Estonia (7%) and Portugal (9%).

In addition, there are countries where high proportions are given to some other items. In Sweden, 34% mention **joining or supporting a political party**, while 32% of respondents in Finland mention **joining a European Citizens' Initiative**. In Portugal, 18% of respondents say *spontaneously* that **their voice won't be heard anyway**, much higher than the European average of 5%.

QA2 Which of the following do you think are the best ways of ensuring your voice is heard by decision-makers at EU level? (MAX. 3 ANSWERS) **(%)**

	Voting in European elections	Voting in other elections	Signing a petition	Joining a demonstration	Taking part in events such as citizens' debates, citizens' assemblies, etc.	Joining a European Citizens' Initiative	Going on strike	Joining or supporting a political party	Taking part in debates on the Internet or through online social networks	Joining or supporting a civil society organisation, such as a non-governmental organisation	Joining or supporting a trade union	Taking part in European online consultations	You won't be heard anyway (SPONTANEOUS)	You are not interested in being heard (SPONTANEOUS)
EU27	55	30	21	14	13	13	11	10	10	9	7	7	5	2
BE	59	23	27	11	12	16	7	11	11	10	9	15	2	2
BG	42	33	15	14	11	10	10	11	13	8	5	7	11	2
CZ	53	18	32	13	13	17	10	10	10	7	4	8	2	1
DK	79	36	19	6	11	13	2	15	8	10	8	7	1	1
DE	70	38	26	14	17	14	6	12	10	8	5	5	3	1
EE	46	27	7	4	10	10	4	9	11	8	4	5	12	3
IE	66	42	28	14	9	10	7	10	10	7	7	6	1	0
EL	61	30	21	14	20	12	11	4	15	9	5	6	11	4
ES	53	30	14	14	7	9	16	4	7	4	5	5	7	3
FR	56	25	22	15	10	10	12	6	8	7	7	5	7	2
HR	50	30	29	14	15	17	9	8	15	13	7	8	2	2
IT	43	24	18	16	14	16	19	13	10	14	11	8	5	2
CY	60	40	18	11	9	12	7	7	10	5	3	6	12	3
LV	47	21	12	6	9	9	8	6	13	7	5	5	11	3
LT	47	33	21	7	9	16	7	3	13	4	4	6	10	2
LU	63	30	27	11	8	8	8	7	12	7	8	8	1	1
HU	55	34	20	6	10	11	5	7	9	7	7	8	3	3
MT	67	40	30	12	5	9	6	17	13	6	7	10	1	3
NL	77	28	27	5	9	23	2	20	10	12	8	17	2	0
AT	55	38	20	10	15	16	10	12	13	10	9	7	5	2
PL	34	30	24	18	15	13	10	9	11	11	10	11	3	4
PT	49	18	9	14	9	7	11	10	7	3	9	4	18	4
RO	41	34	17	15	14	13	11	6	11	11	7	10	6	3
SI	54	23	22	10	10	11	7	8	10	10	5	6	5	5
SK	27	22	33	11	15	10	14	7	12	8	5	8	6	7
FI	83	40	25	5	5	32	5	13	6	12	6	6	1	0
SE	88	35	16	8	8	12	3	34	10	17	8	4	1	0

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

The variations by **socio-demographic** group are broadly consistent with those seen above in relation to making one's voice heard at national level.

Older respondents are more likely to mention voting in European elections (58% of those aged 55 or over vs. 46% of those aged 15-24) and voting in other elections (33% vs. 23%). **Younger respondents are more likely to favour other options, such as joining a demonstration** (24% of those aged 15-24 vs. 10% of those aged 55 or over). There are no clear differences by gender.

There are, however, differences by level of education. **Respondents who stayed in education until the age of 20 or above are more likely to mention several of the options, such as voting in European elections** (64% vs. 50% of those who left education by the age of 15) and **signing a petition** (23% vs. 15%).

By socio-professional category, **voting in European elections is mentioned most frequently by managers** (64%) and least frequently by unemployed respondents (43%).

Respondents who have difficulties paying bills most of the time are less likely to mention voting in European elections (40% vs. 61%) or **other elections** (23% vs. 32%).

Respondents who hold a generally positive image of the EU are more likely to say that voting in European elections is one of the best ways of getting one's voice heard (63% vs. 38% those who hold a negative image of the EU), and they are also more likely to mention voting in other elections (33% vs. 23%).

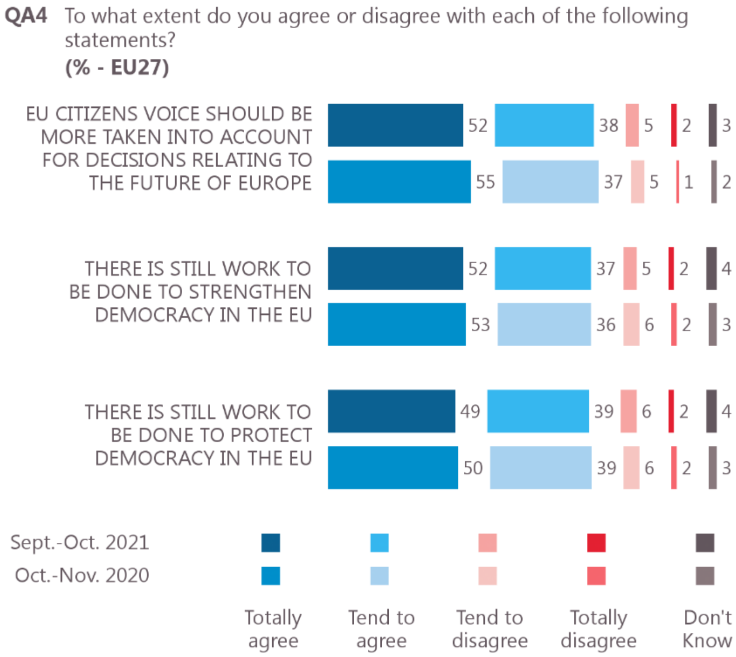
QA2 Which of the following do you think are the best ways of ensuring your voice is heard by decision-makers at EU level? (MAX. 3 ANSWERS)
(% - EU)

	Voting in European elections	Voting in other elections	Signing a petition	Joining a demonstration	Taking part in events such as citizens' debates, citizens' assemblies, etc.	Joining a European Citizens' Initiative	Going on strike	Joining or supporting a political party	Taking part in debates on the Internet or through online social networks	Joining or supporting a civil society organisation, such as a non-governmental organisation	Joining or supporting a trade union	Taking part in European online consultations	Other	You are not interested in being heard (SPONTANEOUS)	You won't be heard anyway (SPONTANEOUS)	Don't know
EU27	55	30	21	14	13	13	11	10	10	9	7	7	0	2	5	2
Gender																
Man	55	30	20	15	12	14	12	11	11	10	8	8	0	2	5	2
Woman	55	30	22	13	13	13	10	9	9	8	6	7	0	3	5	2
Age																
15-24	46	23	23	24	13	14	17	11	17	9	7	8	0	2	3	3
25-39	54	28	23	15	13	16	12	11	13	12	8	10	0	1	4	1
40-54	56	30	22	13	14	16	11	11	9	11	8	9	0	1	5	1
55 +	58	33	19	10	12	10	8	8	6	7	6	5	0	3	6	2
Education (End of)																
15-	50	32	15	12	9	7	12	7	4	4	6	3	0	6	8	3
16-19	51	31	22	14	13	12	12	9	10	8	8	6	0	2	5	2
20+	64	29	23	11	14	18	8	12	11	13	7	10	0	1	4	1
Still studying	50	23	23	24	14	16	17	13	18	10	7	8	0	1	2	2
Socio-professional category																
Self-employed	59	29	23	15	14	14	9	12	11	11	6	8	0	2	5	2
Managers	64	30	22	11	13	20	8	14	12	15	7	11	0	1	2	1
Other white collars	56	31	24	12	12	16	13	10	11	10	7	10	0	2	2	1
Manual workers	50	29	21	15	13	13	14	8	10	8	9	7	0	2	6	1
House persons	45	30	18	14	12	9	13	9	7	7	6	7	0	4	8	4
Unemployed	43	24	23	20	12	13	12	9	10	9	9	5	0	3	8	3
Retired	60	34	19	9	11	9	7	8	5	6	5	4	0	4	6	3
Students	50	23	23	24	14	16	17	13	18	10	7	8	0	1	2	2
Difficulties paying bills																
Most of the time	40	23	16	16	12	11	15	9	9	8	10	6	1	3	13	2
From time to time	45	27	20	15	13	13	15	10	11	10	9	7	0	3	6	2
Almost never/ Never	61	32	22	13	13	14	9	10	9	9	6	7	0	2	4	2

There is very strong support for EU citizens to have more of a say in decisions relating to the future of Europe, and the vast majority of Europeans believe that there is still work to do to strengthen and protect democracy in the EU

A very large majority of Europeans (90%, -2 percentage points since (Special Eurobarometer 500 on the Future of Europe 2020)[59] agree that **EU citizens' voices should be taken more into account** for decisions relating to the future of Europe. Overall, around half (52%, -3) "totally agree" with this statement, while 38% (+1) "tend to agree" and only 7% (+1) disagree.

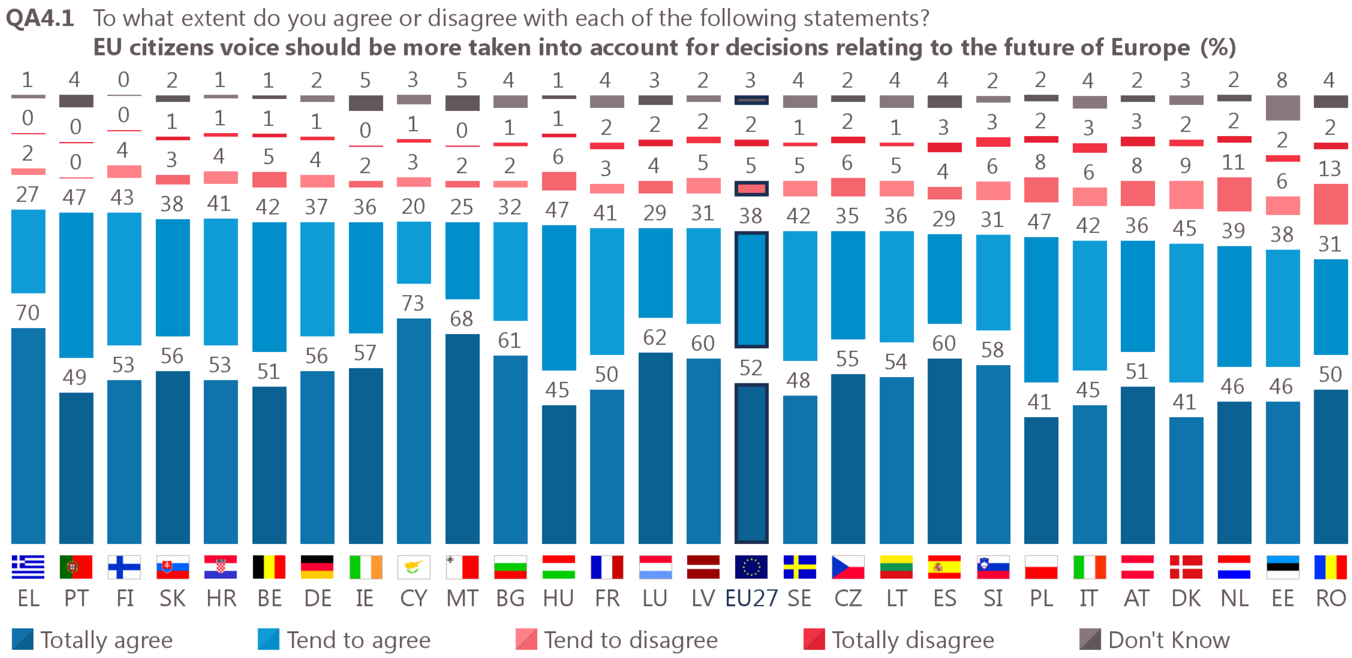
Around nine in ten respondents (89%, =) agree that **there is still work to be done to strengthen democracy in the EU**, while 7% (-1) disagree. A similar proportion (88%, -1) agree that **there is still work to be done to protect democracy in the EU**, while 8% (=) disagree.



EU Citizens' voice should be more taken into account for decisions relating to the Future of Europe

There is widespread support across EU Member States for **citizens' voice to be taken more into account** for decisions relating to the future of Europe. In every country, more than eight in ten respondents agree with the statement. This viewpoint is most strongly held in Greece (97%), Portugal, Finland (both 96%), Slovakia and Croatia (both 94%).

The lowest levels of agreement to this statement are found in Romania (81%), Estonia (84%) and the Netherlands (85%). The proportion that "totally agree" with the statement is highest in Cyprus (73%), Greece (70%) and Malta (68%), while this is lowest in Poland and Denmark (both 41%).



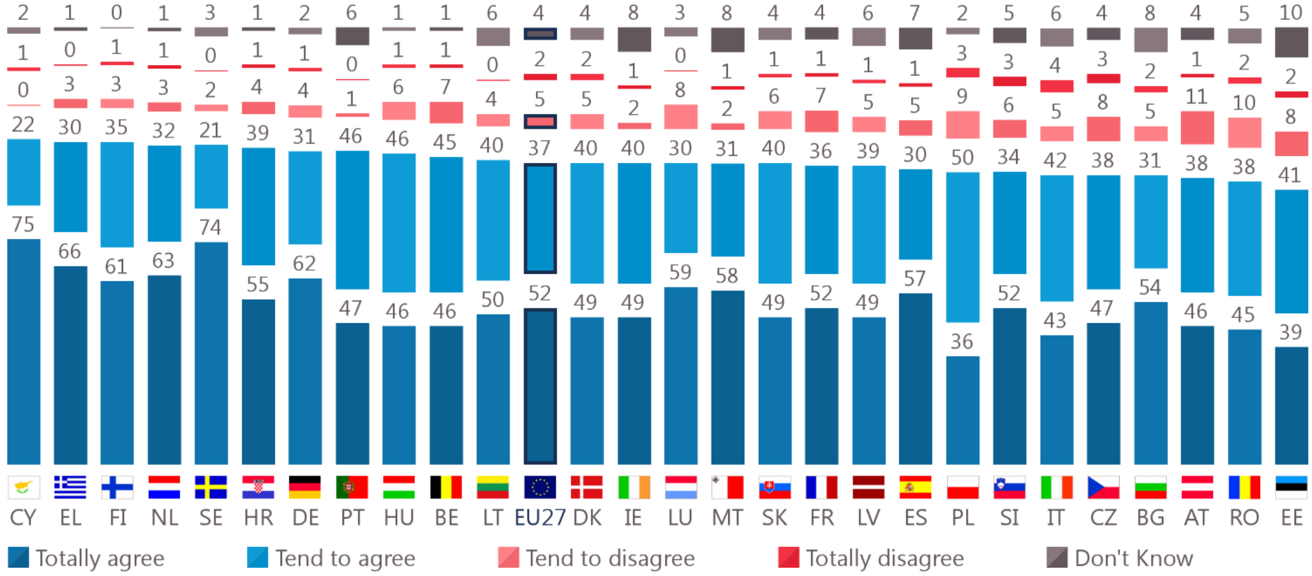
[59] Special Eurobarometer 500: https://europa.eu/eurobarometer/surveys/detail/2256

There is still work to be done to strengthen democracy in the EU

In every EU Member State, at least eight in ten respondents agree that **there is still work to be done to strengthen democracy in the EU**. Respondents are most likely to hold this view in Cyprus (97%), Greece, Finland (both 96%), the Netherlands and Sweden (both 95%). Levels of agreement are lowest in Estonia (80%), Romania (83%) and Austria (84%).

The proportion that "strongly agree" with the statement ranges from 75% in Cyprus to 36% in Poland.

QA4.2 To what extent do you agree or disagree with each of the following statements?
There is still work to be done to strengthen democracy in the EU (%)

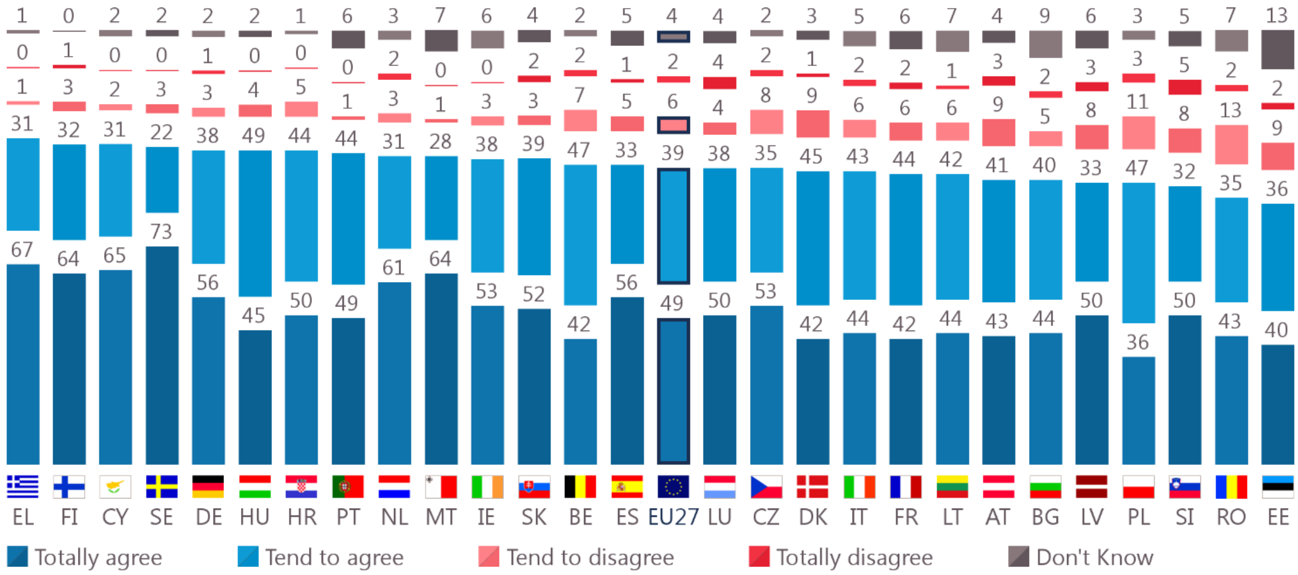


There is still work to be done to protect democracy in the EU

In every country, at least three-quarters of respondents agree that **there is still work to be done to protect democracy in the EU**, and levels of agreement are highest in Greece (98%), Finland, Cyprus (both 96%) and Sweden (95%). Respondents are least likely to agree in Estonia (76%), Romania (78%) and Slovenia (82%).

Respondents are most likely to "strongly agree" with the statement in Sweden (73%), Greece (67%), Cyprus (65%), Finland and Malta (both 64%), while the lowest proportions are seen in Poland (36%) and Estonia (40%).

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



Generally, the **socio-demographic data** show a consistently high level of agreement across the various groups with the three different statements.

It can be noted that agreement is slightly higher among the longer educated respondents (those who stayed in education until the age of 20 or above).

QA4 To what extent do you agree or disagree with each of the following statements?
(% - Total 'Agree')

	EU citizens voice should be more taken into account for decisions relating to the future of Europe	There is still work to be done to strengthen democracy in the EU	There is still work to be done to protect democracy in the EU
EU27	90	89	88
Gender			
Man	90	90	89
Woman	89	88	88
Age			
15-24	90	84	83
25-39	90	91	91
40-54	91	89	90
55 +	89	88	89
Education (End of)			
15-	86	84	85
16-19	90	89	90
20+	92	92	91
Still studying	91	86	83
Socio-professional category			
Self-employed	90	93	91
Managers	91	93	92
Other white collars	91	89	93
Manual workers	89	89	87
House persons	88	79	86
Unemployed	89	89	90
Retired	89	88	89
Students	91	86	83
Difficulties paying bills			
Most of the time	89	88	89
From time to time	86	86	85
Almost never/ Never	91	90	90

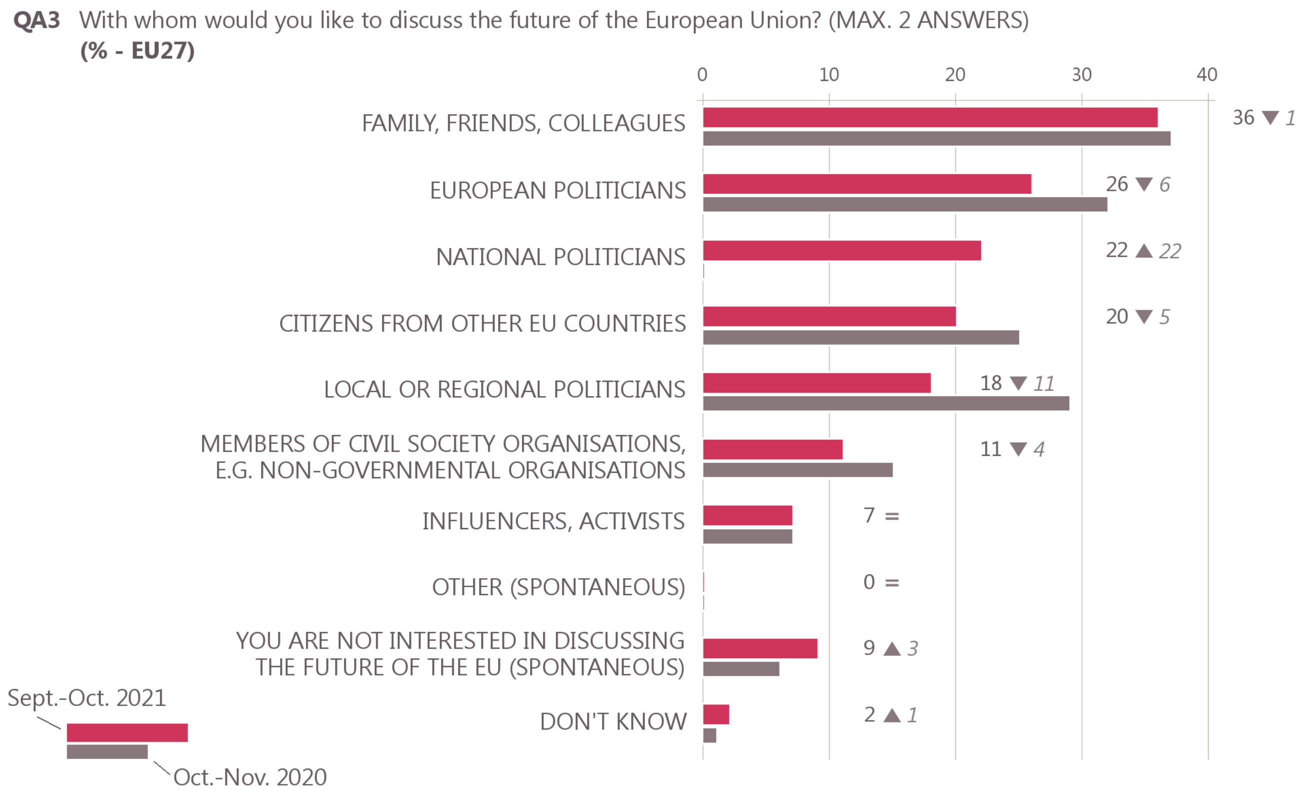
2. Citizens' involvement in the discussion about the future of the EU

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

Europeans are most likely to say they **would like to discuss the future of the EU** with friends, family or colleagues (36%, -1 percentage point since (Special Eurobarometer 500 on the Future of Europe 2020)[60], while around a quarter (26%, -6) would like to discuss it with European politicians, and slightly fewer with national politicians (22%, new item) or local or regional politicians (18%, -11).

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

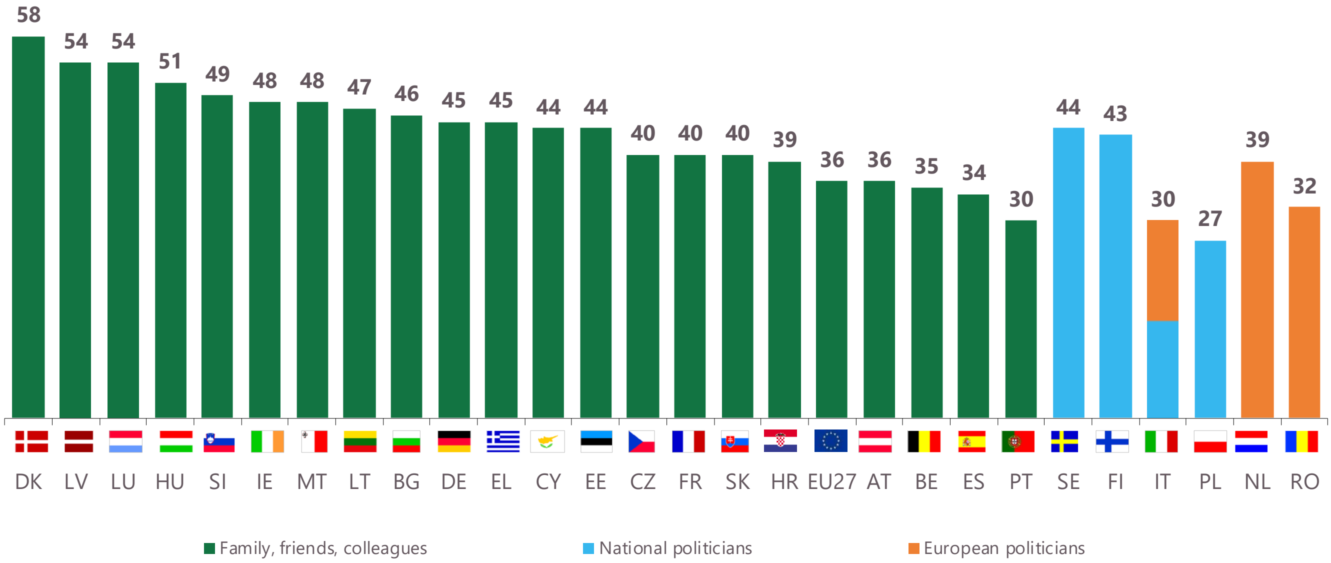
Respondents are less likely to say they would like to discuss the future of the EU with members of civil society organisations (11%, -4) or influencers or activists (7%, =). A small proportion (9%, +3) say spontaneously that they are not interested in discussing the future of the EU.



[60] Special Eurobarometer 500: https://europa.eu/eurobarometer/surveys/detail/2256

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

QA3 With whom would you like to discuss the future of the European Union? (MAX. 2 ANSWERS)
(% - THE MOST MENTIONED ANSWER BY COUNTRY)



In Portugal, 36% of the respondents *spontaneously* answered "You are not interested in discussing the future of the EU"

Across the EU as a whole, Europeans are most likely to say they would like to discuss the future of the EU with **friends, family or colleagues**. This answer is most likely to be chosen by respondents in Denmark (58%), Latvia, Luxembourg (both 54%) and Hungary (51%), and is mentioned least frequently in Poland (22%) and Italy (24%).

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

The chance to discuss the future of the EU with **national politicians** is also most popular among respondents in Sweden (44%), Finland (43%) and the Netherlands (38%), while it is least popular in Estonia (10%), Latvia (11%), Cyprus, Portugal and Slovenia (all 12%).

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

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

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

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

The results are generally stable across the different age groups. However, older respondents aged 55 or over are slightly more likely to mention family, friends or colleagues (39% vs. 33-37% in the younger age groups), while they are less likely to mention European politicians (21% vs. 27-30%) or citizens from other EU countries (15% vs. 23-25%).

There are some differences by level of education. Respondents who left education at the age of 20 or above are more likely to mention European politicians (34% vs. 16%), national politicians (27% vs. 18%) and citizens of other EU countries (25% vs. 11%). By contrast, those who left education by the age of 15 are more likely to mention friends, family or colleagues (38% vs. 33% of those who left education at the age of 20 or above).

Respondents who have difficulties paying bills are less likely to want to discuss the future of the EU with the various groups of people. For example, 20% of those who have difficulties most of the time would like to discuss the future of the EU with European politicians, compared with 28% of those who never or almost never have difficulties.

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

	Family, friends, colleagues	European politicians	European politicians	National politicians	Citizens from other EU countries	Local or regional politicians	Members of civil society organisations, e.g. non-governmental organisations	Influencers, activists	You are not interested in discussing the future of the EU (SPONTANEOUS)
EU27	36	26	26	22	20	18	11	7	9
Gender									
Man	34	29	29	25	21	19	12	7	7
Woman	38	23	23	20	19	17	11	6	10
Age									
15-24	37	27	27	21	24	12	13	13	7
25-39	34	30	30	23	25	17	13	9	6
40-54	33	30	30	25	23	20	12	7	6
55 +	39	21	21	21	15	20	10	4	12
Education (End of)									
15-	38	16	16	18	11	18	6	3	20
16-19	38	22	22	20	19	21	11	7	9
20+	33	34	34	27	25	17	13	7	4
Still studying	36	30	30	23	26	13	14	12	5
Socio-professional category									
Self-employed	30	30	30	28	23	22	13	8	5
Managers	29	39	39	27	28	18	14	7	3
Other white collars	34	30	30	23	24	19	14	8	6
Manual workers	38	23	23	21	19	20	11	8	9
House persons	33	20	20	21	15	15	10	6	18
Unemployed	38	22	22	18	21	16	11	9	11
Retired	42	19	19	20	14	19	8	3	13
Students	36	30	30	23	26	13	14	12	5
Difficulties paying bills									
Most of the time	35	20	20	17	19	19	9	7	16
From time to time	36	23	23	21	18	20	12	8	10
Almost never/ Never	37	28	28	24	21	18	11	6	7

At least seven in ten respondents say that they would like to have more of a say over important decisions affecting their local area, their country and the European Union

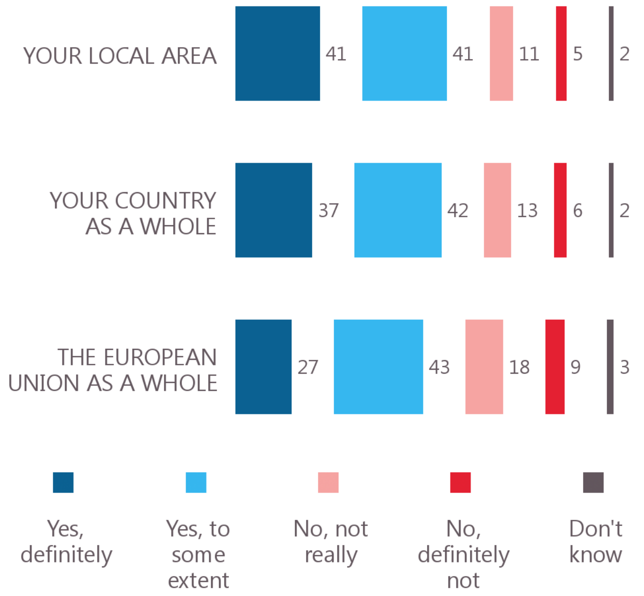
Eight in ten Europeans (82%) say that they would like to have **more of a say over important decisions affecting their local area**, and this includes 41% who would "definitely" like to have more of say.

Attitudes are similar regarding the country as a whole. Around eight in ten (79%) say they would like to have **more of a say over important decisions affecting their country as a whole**, including 37% who would "definitely" like to do so.

Respondents are slightly less likely to want to have **more of a say in decisions affecting the EU as a whole**. Seven in ten (70%) would like to have more of say, and this includes 27% who say this is "definitely" the case.

In each case, a minority of respondents say they do not want to have more of a say, either "not really" or "definitely not". The proportion is 16% for decisions affecting their local area, 19% for the country as a whole and 27% for the EU as a whole.

QA5 To what extent does each of the following statements correspond or not to your opinion? You would like to have more of a say over important decisions affecting
(% - EU27)



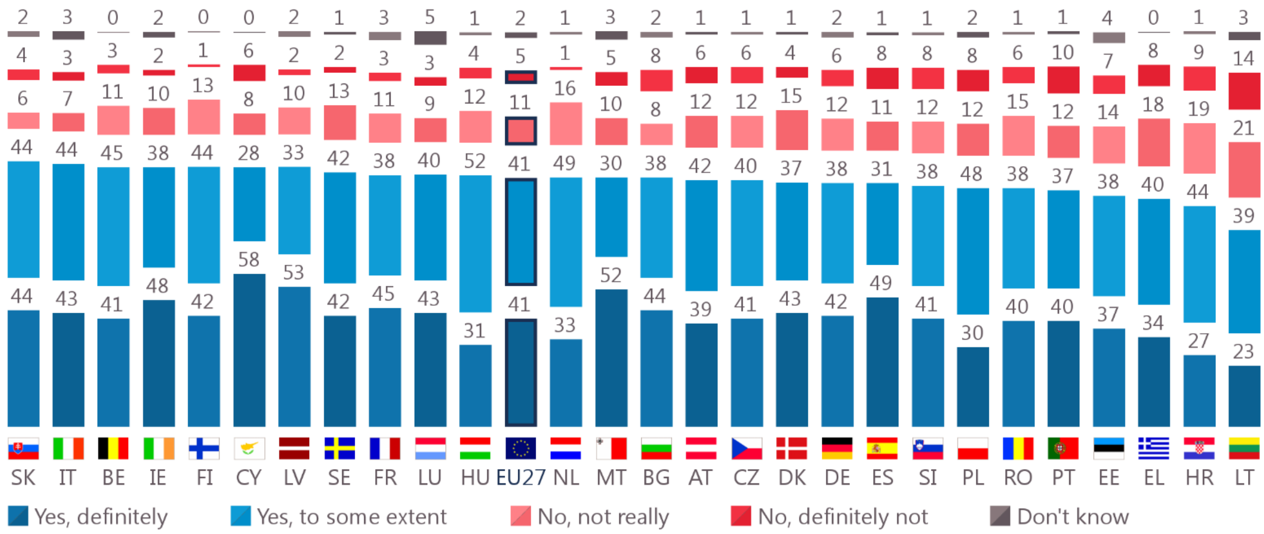
Your local area

In all 27 Member States, a majority of respondents say they would like to have **more of a say over important decisions affecting their local area**. The proportion is highest in Slovakia (88%), Italy (87%), Belgium, Ireland, Finland, Cyprus and Latvia (all 86%). Respondents are least likely to say this in Lithuania (62%) and Croatia (71%).

There are three Member States where more than half of respondents say that they "definitely" want to have more of a say over important decisions affecting their local area: Cyprus (58%), Latvia (53%) and Malta (52%), while this is lowest in Lithuania (23%), Croatia (27%),. Poland (30%) and Hungary (31%).

Respondents in Lithuania are most likely to say that they do not want to be more involved in decisions affecting their local area (35%), followed by those in Croatia (28%) and Greece (26%). Only one in ten respondents say this in Slovakia and Italy (both 10%).

QA5.1 To what extent does each of the following statements correspond or not to your opinion? You would like to have more of a say over important decisions affecting
Your local area (%)



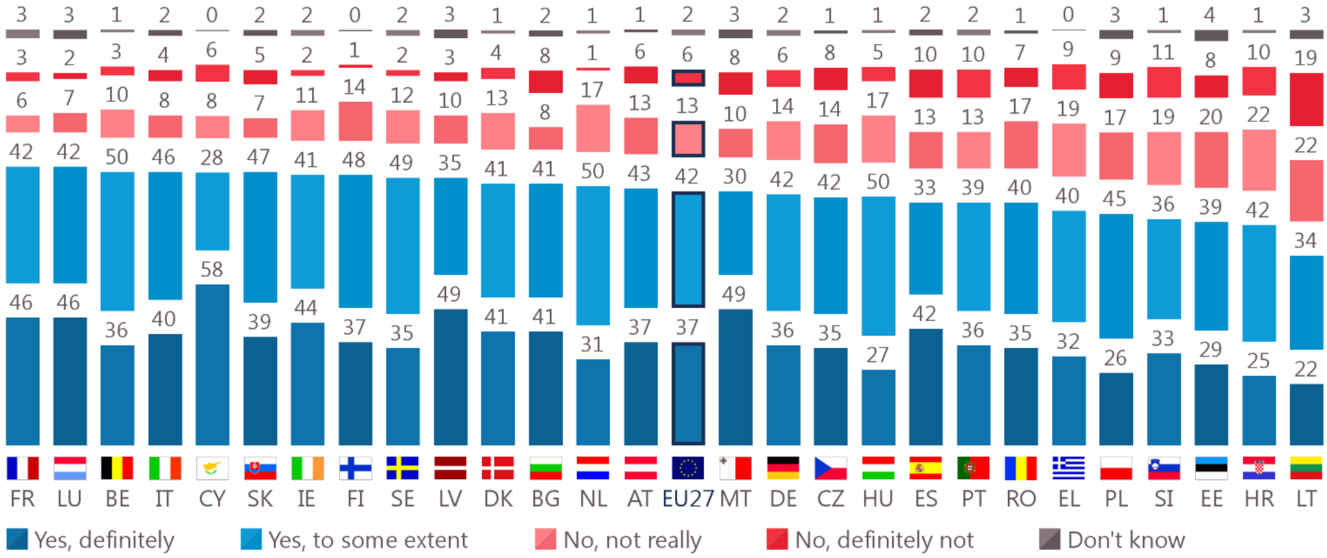
Your country as a whole

More than half of respondents in every Member State say they would like to have **more of a say over important decisions affecting their country as a whole**. Respondents are most likely to say this in France, Luxembourg (both 88%), Belgium, Italy, Cyprus and Slovakia (all 86%). The lowest proportions can be seen among respondents in Lithuania (56%), followed by those in Croatia (67%), Estonia (68%) and Slovenia (69%).

Respondents in Cyprus are most likely to say that they "definitely" want to have more of a say over important decisions affecting their country (58%), followed by those in Latvia and Malta (both 49%). The proportion is lowest in Lithuania (22%), Croatia (25%), Poland (26%) and Hungary (27%).

Respondents in Lithuania are most likely to say that they do not want to be more involved in decisions affecting their country (41%), followed by those in Croatia (32%), Slovenia (30%), Estonia and Greece (both 28%). This proportion in lowest in France and Luxembourg (both 9%).

QA5.2 To what extent does each of the following statements correspond or not to your opinion? You would like to have more of a say over important decisions affecting
Your country as a whole (%)



The European Union as a whole

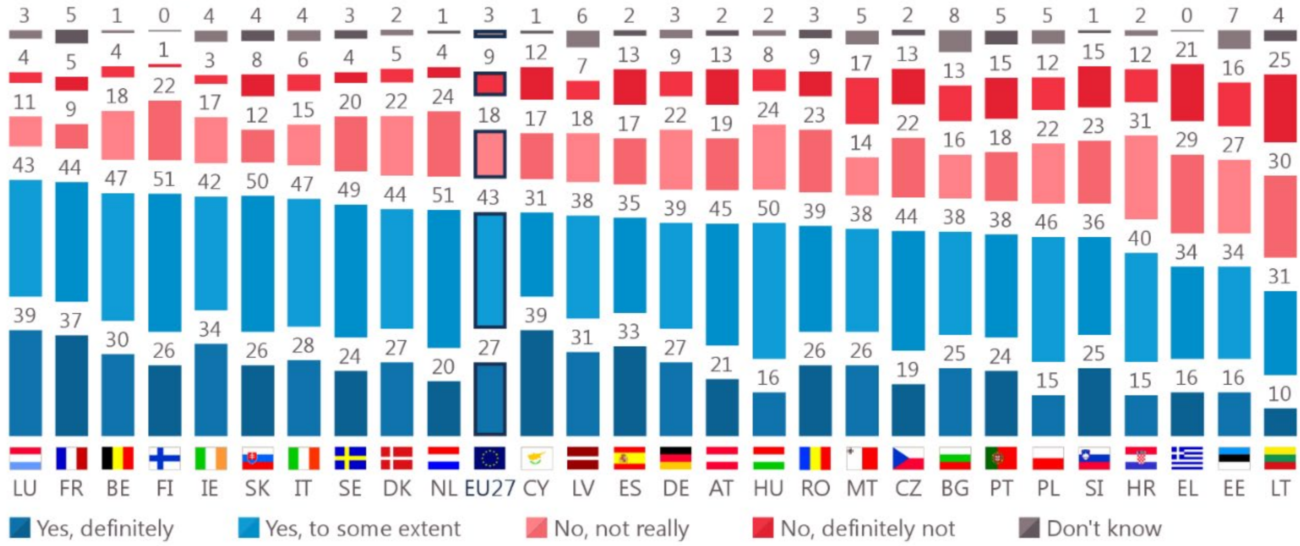
In 25 Member States, a majority of respondents say they would like to have **more of a say over important decisions affecting the EU as a whole**. The exceptions are Lithuania (where 41% would like to have more of a say but 55% would not) and Greece (50% would, 50% would not).

Respondents are most likely to want more of a say over decisions affecting the EU in Luxembourg (82%), France (81%), Belgium and Finland (both 77%). The proportion is lowest in Lithuania (41%), Estonia, Greece (both 50%) and Croatia (55%).

Respondents are most likely to say they "definitely" want to have more of a say over important decisions affecting the EU in Luxembourg, Cyprus (both 39%) and France (37%). This is lowest in Lithuania (10%), Poland and Croatia (both 15%).

Respondents are most likely to say that they do not want to be more involved in decisions affecting the EU in Lithuania (55%), Greece (50%), Estonia and Croatia (both 43%). This proportion is lowest in France (14%) and Luxembourg (15%).

QA5.3 To what extent does each of the following statements correspond or not to your opinion? You would like to have more of a say over important decisions affecting
The European Union as a whole (%)



Socio-demographic data show some consistent patterns. Men are slightly more likely than women to say that they would like more of a say over important decisions, and this applies most strongly to decisions affecting their country (82% vs. 77%) and the EU (72% vs. 67%).

Respondents in the middle age groups are most likely to want more of a say in decisions, with those aged 55 or over least likely to want to have more of a say. For example in relation to decisions affecting the EU, 75% of 25-39 year olds and 74% of 40-54 year olds would like more of a say, compared with 64% of those aged 55 or over.

There is a clear difference by level of education, with more highly educated respondents wanting more of a say in decisions affecting their local area, their country and the EU. For decisions affecting their country, for example, the proportion ranges from 85% among those who finished education at the age of 20 or above, to 69% of those who left education by the age of 15.

The results are broadly consistent across different socio-professional categories, although there is more of a difference in relation to decisions affecting the EU. Managers are most likely to say they want more of a say over these decisions (79%), while the proportion is lowest among house persons (59%) and retired people (61%).

QA5 To what extent does each of the following statements correspond or not to your opinion? You would like to have more of a say over important decisions affecting...
(% - Total 'Yes')

	Your local area	Your country as a whole	The European Union as a whole
EU27	82	79	70
Gender			
Man	83	82	72
Woman	80	77	67
Age			
15-24	81	79	71
25-39	84	83	75
40-54	86	84	74
55 +	79	76	64
Education (End of)			
15-	73	69	54
16-19	83	79	67
20+	86	85	77
Still studying	81	81	74
Socio-professional category			
Self-employed	87	84	75
Managers	88	87	79
Other white collars	87	86	76
Manual workers	83	79	70
House persons	77	74	59
Unemployed	81	79	66
Retired	76	73	61
Students	81	81	74
Difficulties paying bills			
Most of the time	80	77	63
From time to time	81	77	66
Almost never/ Never	82	80	71

VII. CONFERENCE ON THE FUTURE OF EUROPE

1. Opinion of the Conference on the Future of Europe

Europeans say they are willing to be involved in the Conference on the Future of Europe in various ways, most commonly by answering a survey

This chapter focuses on the Conference on the Future of Europe[61]. It starts by assessing the willingness of Europeans to be involved in the Conference in various ways, and considers what would encourage them to participate. It then looks at the perceived benefits of the younger generation's involvement, the key topics for inclusion, and attitudes towards the impact of the Conference. It then asks whether Europeans have heard or seen anything about the Conference from media or online sources, and which sources they have used.

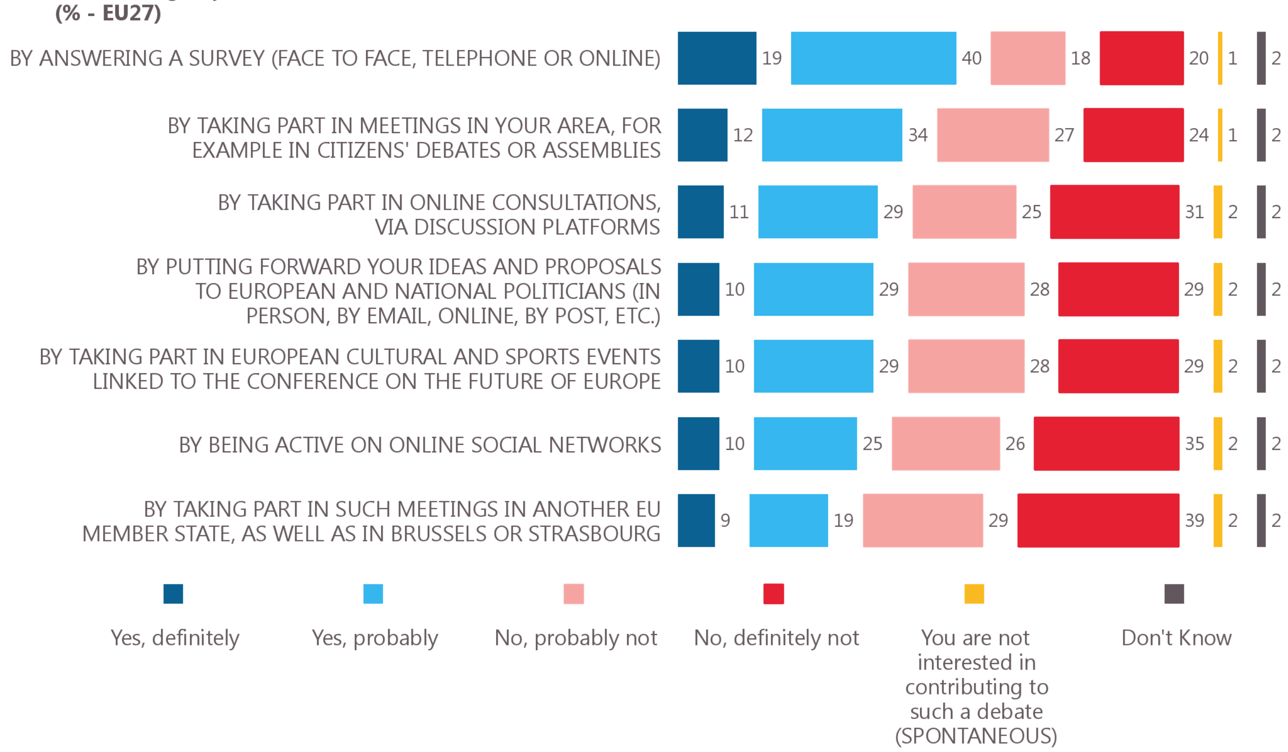
Respondents were asked whether they would be **willing to take part in the activities of the Conference on the future of Europe** in various ways. More than half of respondents (59%) say they would be willing to answer a survey, and this includes one in five (19%) who say they would "definitely" be willing to participate in this way.

The next most popular form of participation is taking part in meetings in their area, for example in citizens' debates or assemblies. Almost half (46%) say they would be willing to do this, including 12% who would "definitely" be willing to do so.

Around four in ten respondents would be willing to participate by taking part in online consultations, via discussion platforms (40%), by putting forward their ideas and proposals to European and national politicians (39%) and by taking part in European cultural and sports events linked to the Conference (39%). In each case, around one in ten say they would "definitely" be willing to participate in this way (11%, 10% and 10% respectively).

Just over a third say they would be willing to be active on online social networks (35%), including 10% who would "definitely" do this, while just over a quarter would take part in meetings in another EU Member State, as well as in Brussels or Strasbourg (28%, including 9% who "definitely" would do this).

QA11 Would you personally be willing to take part, as a citizen, in the activities of the Conference on the Future of Europe in each of the following ways?
(% - EU27)



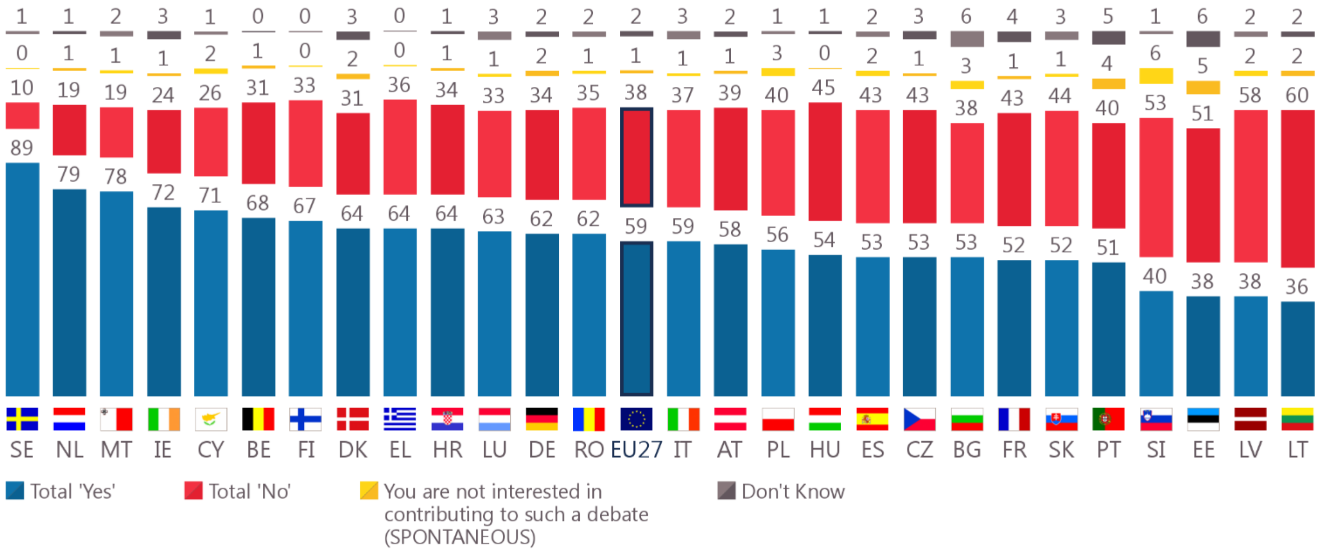
[61] Before being asked questions on this topic, respondents were informed about the Conference on the Future of Europe (COFE) with the following explanation: The EU has launched a multitude of events, debates, and consultations, called the "Conference on the Future of Europe", with the aim of debating and shaping the future of Europe and of the EU.

By answering a survey

Across the EU as a whole, the most popular form of participation in the activities of the Conference on the future of Europe is by **answering a survey**. This is particularly popular among respondents in Sweden (89% say they would be willing to take part in this way), followed by those in the Netherlands (79%), Malta (78%), Ireland (72%) and Cyprus (71%).

By contrast, less than half of respondents say they would be willing to take part in a survey in Lithuania (36%), Estonia, Latvia (both 38%) and Slovenia (40%).

QA11.4 Would you personally be willing to take part, as a citizen, in the activities of the Conference on the Future of Europe in each of the following ways?
By answering a survey (face to face, telephone or online) (%)



The **socio-demographic** analysis shows that older respondents (aged 55 or over) are less likely to say they would be willing to answer a survey as part of the activities of the Conference on the Future of Europe (51% compared with 62%-67% in the younger age groups).

Respondents who left education at the age of 20 or above are much more likely to say they would be willing to answer a survey, compared with those who left education by the age of 15 (69% vs. 39%).

Among various socio-professional groups, managers express the highest level of interest in answering a survey (73%), while interest is lowest among retired respondents (48%) and house persons (52%).

If respondents have a positive opinion about the impact of the Conference, they are more likely to be willing to answer a survey. Among those who agree that "the Conference represents significant progress for democracy within the EU", 69% would be willing to answer a survey, compared with 58% of those who agree that "the Conference will have no real impact, it will not change much".

QA11.4 Would you personally be willing to take part, as a citizen, in the activities of the Conference on the Future of Europe in each of the following ways?
By answering a survey (face to face, telephone or online)
(% - EU)

	Total 'Yes'	Total 'No'	Don't Know
EU27	59	38	2
Gender			
Man	60	37	2
Woman	58	37	3
Age			
15-24	65	30	4
25-39	67	30	2
40-54	62	35	2
55 +	51	44	3
Education (End of)			
15-	39	54	4
16-19	57	40	2
20+	69	28	2
Still studying	69	27	3
Socio-professional category			
Self-employed	65	33	1
Managers	73	26	1
Other white collars	65	32	2
Manual workers	58	39	2
House persons	52	42	3
Unemployed	56	41	2
Retired	48	47	3
Students	69	27	3
Difficulties paying bills			
Most of the time	51	45	2
From time to time	56	41	2
Almost never/ Never	60	36	2

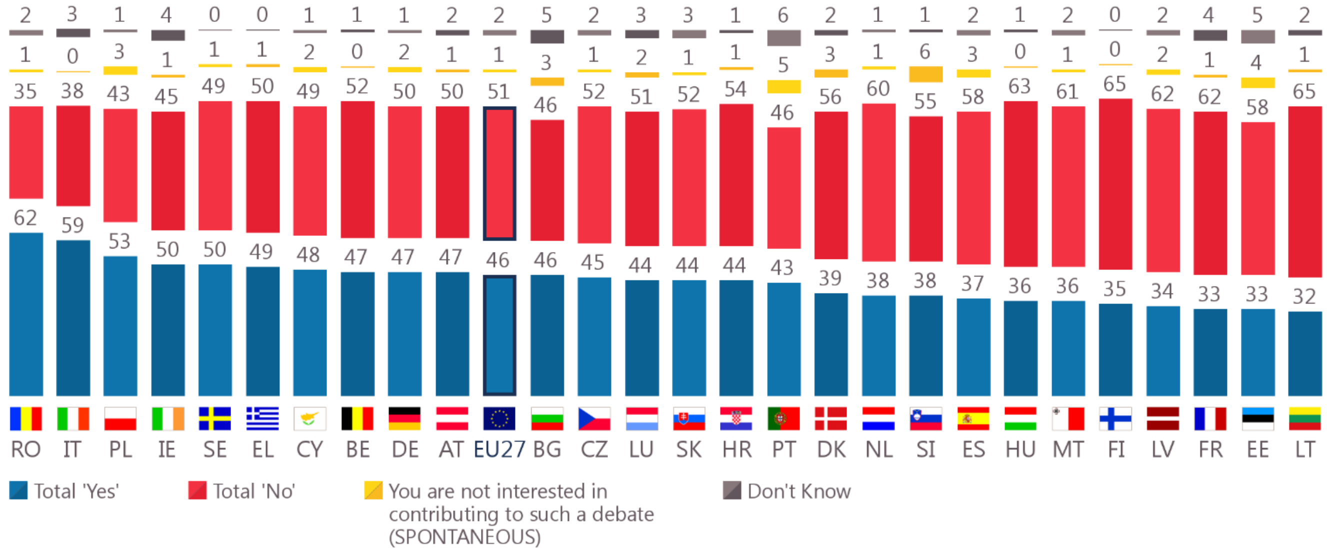
By taking parts in meetings in your area, for example in citizens' debates or assemblies

Respondents in Romania (62%) and Italy (59%) are most likely to say they would be willing to take part in **meetings in their area, for example in citizens' debates or assemblies**, as part of the Conference. This is also popular among respondents in Poland (53%), Ireland and Sweden (both 50%).

However, only around a third of respondents would be willing to take part in such type of meetings in Lithuania (32%), Estonia, France (both 33%) and Latvia (34%).

QA11.1 Would you personally be willing to take part, as a citizen, in the activities of the Conference on the Future of Europe in each of the following ways?

By taking part in meetings in your area, for example in citizens' debates or assemblies (%)



The **socio-demographic data** shows that men are more likely than women to say they would be willing to take part in meetings in their area, for example in citizens' debates or assemblies (48% vs. 43%).

By age group, interest in local meetings is strongest among those aged 40-54 (52%) and 25-39 (51%), while it is lowest among those aged 55 or over (39%).

There is a difference by level of education. Respondents who left education at the age of 20 or above are more likely to say they would be willing to take part a meeting in their area (51%) than those who left education by the age of 15 (34%).

Among the socio-professional groups, interest ranges from 58% among managers to 34% among retired respondents.

Willingness to take part in area meetings is higher among respondents who agree that "the Conference represents significant progress for democracy within the EU" (56% compared with 45% of those who agree that "the Conference will have no real impact, it will not change much").

QA11.1 Would you personally be willing to take part, as a citizen, in the activities of the Conference on the Future of Europe in each of the following ways?
By taking part in meetings in your area, for example in citizens' debates or assemblies
(% - EU)

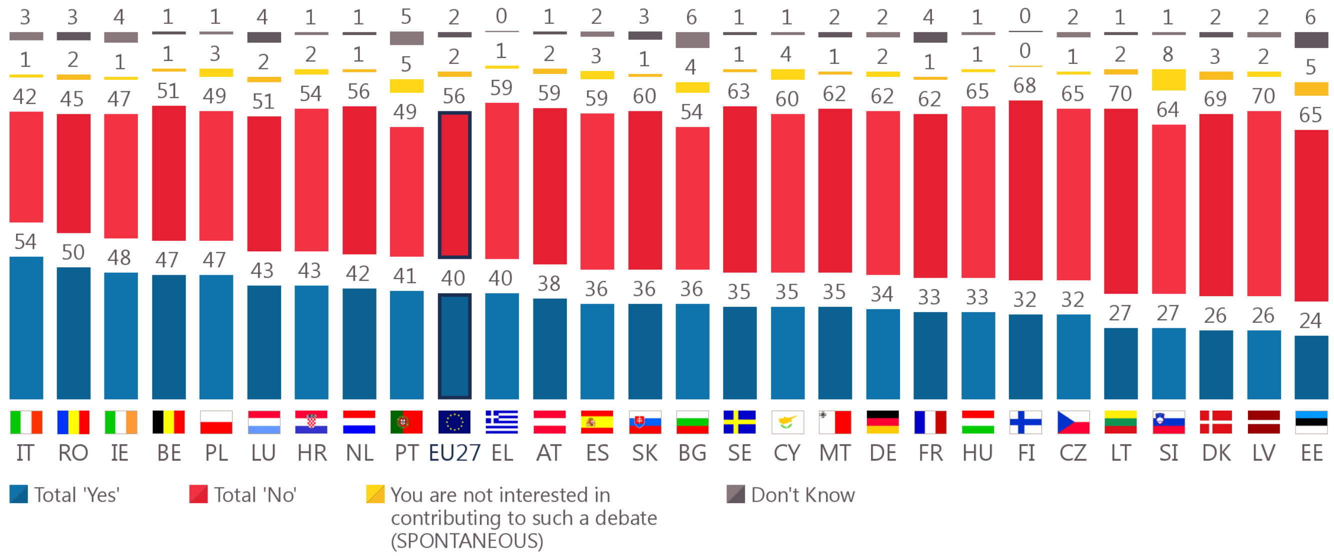
	Total 'Yes'	Total 'No'	Don't Know
EU27	46	51	2
Gender			
Man	48	49	2
Woman	43	53	2
Age			
15-24	47	47	4
25-39	51	47	1
40-54	52	46	1
55 +	39	57	2
Education (End of)			
15-	34	60	3
16-19	44	52	2
20+	51	46	2
Still studying	49	47	3
Socio-professional category			
Self-employed	53	45	1
Managers	58	40	1
Other white collars	52	45	2
Manual workers	46	50	2
House persons	37	57	3
Unemployed	44	53	2
Retired	34	61	3
Students	49	47	3
Difficulties paying bills			
Most of the time	41	55	2
From time to time	48	49	2
Almost never/ Never	45	52	2

By taking part in online consultations, via discussion platforms

More than half of respondents in Italy (54%) say they would be willing take part in **online consultations** as part of the Conference on the future of Europe. This is also popular among respondents in Romania (50%), Ireland (48%), Belgium and Poland (both 47%).

Respondents are least likely to want to take part in online consultations in Estonia (24%), Denmark, Latvia (both 26%), Lithuania and Slovenia (both 27%).

QA11.3 Would you personally be willing to take part, as a citizen, in the activities of the Conference on the Future of Europe in each of the following ways?
By taking part in online consultations, via discussion platforms (%)



The **socio-demographic analysis**, presents that men are more likely than women to say they would be willing to take part in online consultations (43% vs. 37%).

There is a clear difference by age group, with younger respondents more willing to participate in this way (54% of 15-24 year olds). In particular, interest is much lower among respondents aged 55 or over (25%).

Respondents who left education at the age of 20 or above are more likely to say they would be willing to take part in online consultations, compared with those who left education by the age of 15 (47% vs. 20%).

If respondents agree that "the Conference represents significant progress for democracy within the EU", they are more likely to be willing to take part in online consultations (51% compared with 40% of those who agree that "the Conference will have no real impact, it will not change much").

QA11.3 Would you personally be willing to take part, as a citizen, in the activities of the Conference on the Future of Europe in each of the following ways?
By taking part in online consultations, via discussion platforms
(% - EU)

	Total 'Yes'	Total 'No'	Don't Know
EU27	40	56	2
Gender			
Man	43	54	2
Woman	37	58	3
Age			
15-24	54	40	4
25-39	52	46	1
40-54	46	51	2
55 +	25	69	3
Education (End of)			
15-	20	72	4
16-19	37	59	2
20+	47	50	2
Still studying	56	39	3
Socio-professional category			
Self-employed	48	50	1
Managers	54	43	2
Other white collars	52	45	2
Manual workers	40	56	2
House persons	31	63	2
Unemployed	41	56	2
Retired	20	73	4
Students	56	39	3
Difficulties paying bills			
Most of the time	35	60	2
From time to time	43	53	2
Almost never/ Never	38	57	3

As described above, respondents in Italy and Romania are most likely to say they would be willing to participate in area-based meetings and online consultations, as part of the Conference on the Future of Europe. Respondents in these countries are also the most likely to express interest in other types of activity, such as **putting forward ideas and proposals to European and national politicians** (55% in Italy, 52% in Romania). Interest in this type of activity is also high in Ireland (50%) and Poland (48%), while it is lowest in Estonia (19%) and Lithuania (20%).

Respondents in Italy (55%), Romania (52%) and Poland (48%) are also most likely to consider taking part in **European cultural and sports events** linked to the Conference, while interest is lowest in Denmark, Hungary (both 28%) and Finland (29%).

Being **active on online social networks** is most popular among respondents in Italy (52%), Romania (49%), Croatia (48%), Ireland and Poland (both 47%), while respondents are least likely to be willing to do this in Finland (19%), Lithuania and the Netherlands (both 21%).

Finally, respondents in Romania (49%), Italy (46%) and Poland (42%) are most willing to take part in **meetings in another EU Member State**, while interest is lowest in Denmark (14%), Finland (15%), Estonia and Spain (both 17%).

QA11 Would you personally be willing to take part, as a citizen, in the activities of the Conference on the Future of Europe in each of the following ways?
(%) Total 'Yes'

	By answering a survey (face to face, telephone or online)	By taking part in meetings in your area, for example in citizens' debates or assemblies	By taking part in online consultations, via discussion platforms	By putting forward your ideas and proposals to European and national politicians (in person, by email, online, by post, etc.)	By taking part in European cultural and sports events linked to the Conference on the Future of Europe	By being active on online social networks	By taking part in such meetings in another EU Member State, as well as in Brussels or Strasbourg
EU27	59	46	40	39	39	35	28
BE	68	47	47	44	43	36	28
BG	53	46	36	40	34	44	30
CZ	53	45	32	31	32	31	19
DK	64	39	26	25	28	25	14
DE	62	47	34	36	35	27	21
EE	38	33	24	19	37	29	17
IE	72	50	48	50	43	47	31
EL	64	49	40	34	31	40	23
ES	53	37	36	31	35	35	17
FR	52	33	33	30	32	23	19
HR	64	44	43	43	38	48	29
IT	59	59	54	55	55	52	46
CY	71	48	35	38	40	40	34
LV	38	34	26	24	34	23	18
LT	36	32	27	20	30	21	20
LU	63	44	43	40	42	34	25
HU	54	36	33	30	28	35	23
MT	78	36	35	41	32	36	22
NL	79	38	42	29	33	21	18
AT	58	47	38	38	35	38	28
PL	56	53	47	48	48	47	42
PT	51	43	41	42	41	42	33
RO	62	62	50	52	52	49	49
SI	40	38	27	25	30	28	19
SK	52	44	36	32	34	41	23
FI	67	35	32	32	29	19	15
SE	89	50	35	34	41	28	22

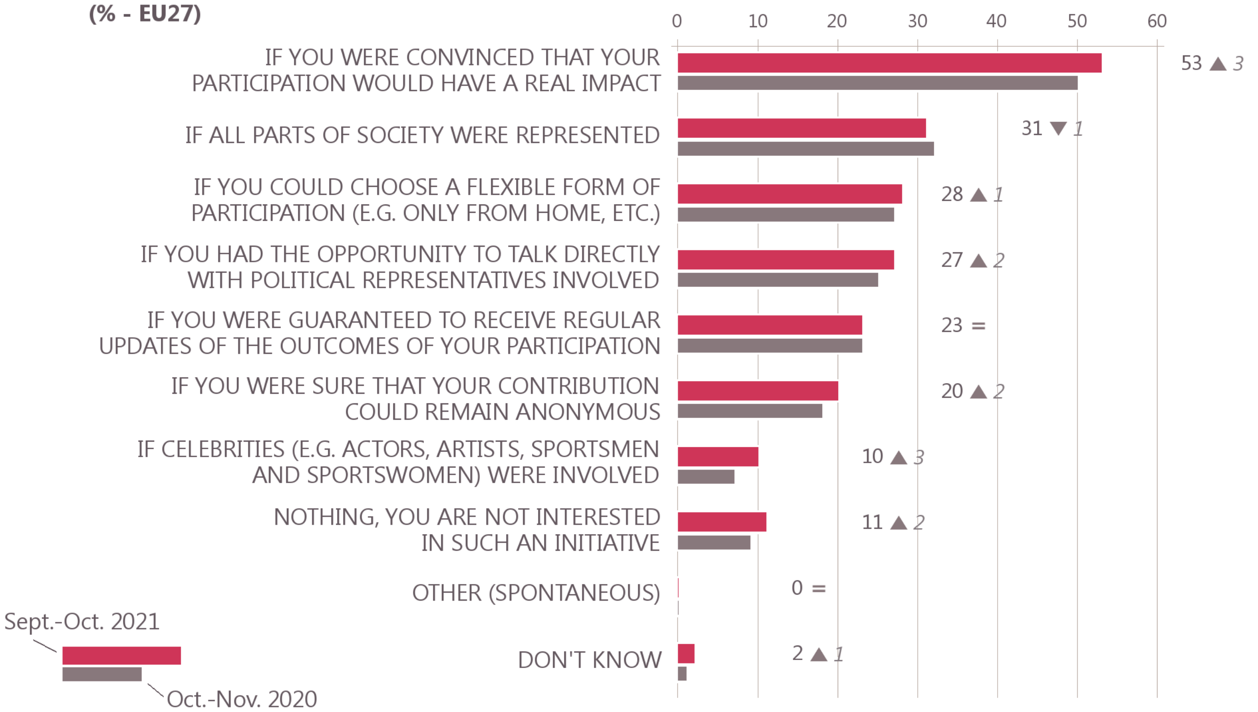
Participation in the Conference would best be encouraged by convincing citizens that their participation will have a real impact

All respondents were asked **what would encourage them to take part in the activities of the Conference on the future of Europe**. The most frequent answer, given by just over half of respondents, is being convinced that their participation would have a real impact (53%, +3 percentage points since (Special Eurobarometer 500 on the Future of Europe 2020)[62]. Around a third (31%, -1 pp) say they would be encouraged to take part if all parts of society were represented.

Around a quarter of respondents say they would be encouraged if they could choose a flexible form of participation (e.g. only from home, etc.) (28%, +1 pp), if they had the opportunity to talk directly with political representatives involved (27%, +2 pp), or if they were guaranteed to receive regular updates of the outcomes of their participation (23%, no change).

One in five (20%, +2 pp) say they would be encouraged if they were sure that their contribution could remain anonymous, while just one in ten (10%, +3 pp) would be influenced by the involvement of celebrities (e.g. actors, artists, sportsmen and sportswomen). Around one in ten (11%, +2 pp) say that nothing would encourage them as they are not interested in this type of initiative.

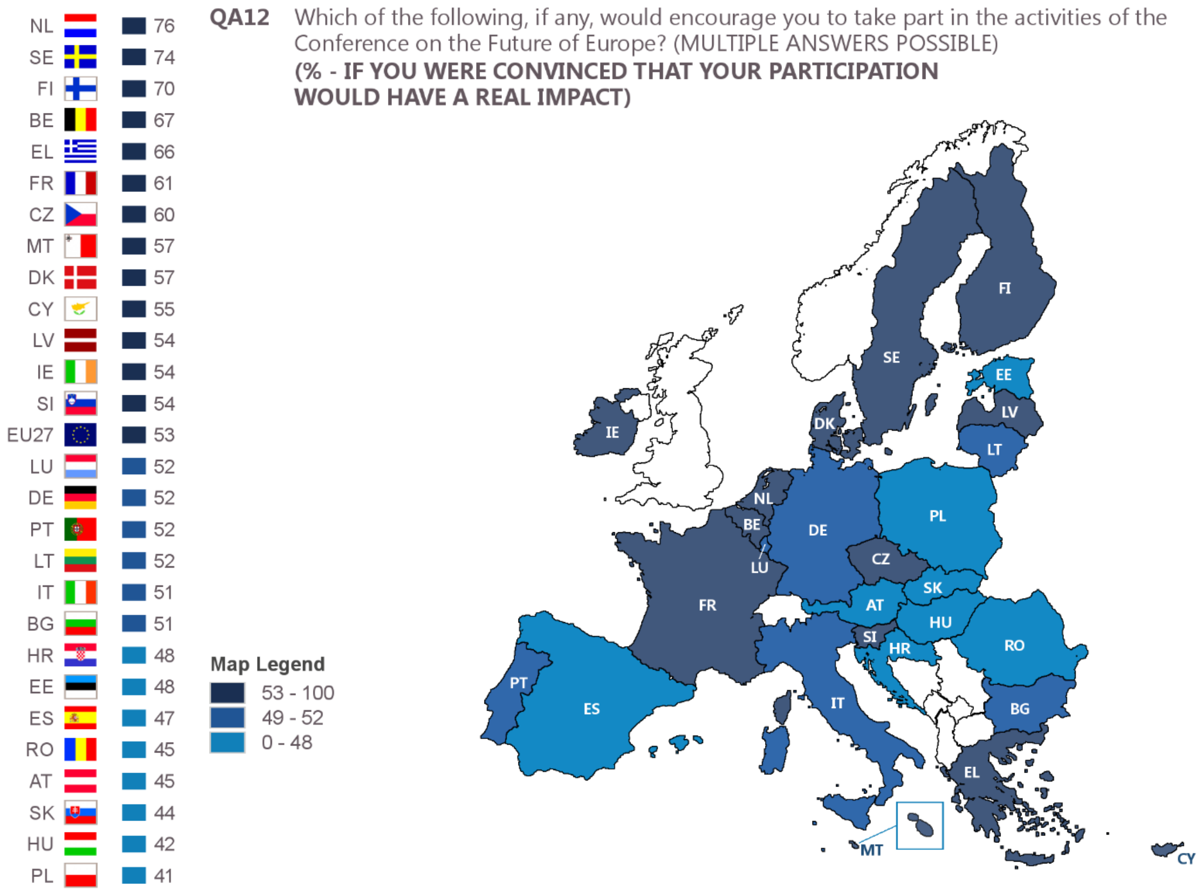
QA12 Which of the following, if any, would encourage you to take part in the activities of the Conference on the Future of Europe? (MULTIPLE ANSWERS POSSIBLE)
(% - EU27)



[62] Special Eurobarometer 500: https://europa.eu/eurobarometer/surveys/detail/2256

In 19 EU Member States, more than half of respondents say that they would be encouraged to take part in the Conference on the future of Europe **if they were convinced that their participation would have a real impact**. This is highest in the Netherlands (76%), Sweden (74%), Finland (70%), Belgium (67%) and Greece (66%).

Respondents in Poland (41%), Hungary (42%), Slovakia (44%), Austria and Romania (both 45%) are least likely to say this would encourage their participation.



The proportion of respondents who say that they would be encouraged to take part in the Conference on the Future of Europe **if all parts of society were represented** is highest in Greece, Sweden (both 42%), Germany and Ireland (both 41%). Respondents in Latvia (14%), Lithuania (16%) and Estonia (17%) are least likely to say this would encourage their participation.

In Sweden and Finland, more than half of respondents say that their participation would be encouraged **by the choice of flexible forms of participation** (52% and 51% respectively). The proportion is also high in the Netherlands (48%), while it is lowest in Latvia (16%), Spain and Slovenia (both 19%).

QA12 Which of the following, if any, would encourage you to take part in the activities of the Conference on the Future of Europe? (MULTIPLE ANSWERS POSSIBLE)
(%)

	If you were convinced that your participation would have a real impact	If all parts of society were represented	If you could choose a flexible form of participation (e.g. only from home, etc.)	If you had the opportunity to talk directly with political representatives involved	If you were guaranteed to receive regular updates of the outcomes of your participation	If you were sure that your contribution could remain anonymous	If celebrities (e.g. actors, artists, sportsmen and sportswomen) were involved	Nothing, you are not interested in such an initiative
EU27	53	31	28	27	23	20	10	11
BE	67	35	36	26	35	21	8	3
BG	51	21	25	18	16	16	12	15
CZ	60	20	24	23	14	21	12	6
DK	57	28	41	27	19	15	4	10
DE	52	41	38	34	21	20	8	10
EE	48	17	20	13	17	13	9	17
IE	54	41	29	29	28	24	8	4
EL	66	42	25	30	29	17	6	18
ES	47	28	19	19	16	14	4	20
FR	61	26	20	24	21	17	7	14
HR	48	34	29	21	19	23	11	8
IT	51	32	26	32	25	24	16	7
CY	55	33	26	29	23	23	8	18
LV	54	14	16	13	17	15	8	16
LT	52	16	24	15	18	14	7	20
LU	52	25	28	27	25	19	10	2
HU	42	28	27	14	17	30	12	8
MT	57	27	24	23	15	23	8	9
NL	76	35	48	34	35	15	4	3
AT	45	34	35	33	27	26	15	15
PL	41	24	24	22	20	22	15	12
PT	52	27	21	22	18	27	7	25
RO	45	32	22	31	29	20	19	10
SI	54	29	19	16	21	13	7	17
SK	44	22	22	23	20	22	10	16
FI	70	21	51	16	26	17	3	3
SE	74	42	52	42	38	14	5	3

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

The **socio-demographic data** shows that there are gender-based differences. Men are more likely than women to indicate two factors that would encourage them to take part in the Conference on the future of Europe, such as being able to talk directly with political representatives involved (30% vs. 43%) and if they were convinced that their participation would have a real impact (55% vs. 51%).

With regards to the age groups, younger respondents are significantly more likely to respond that being convinced that their participation would have a real impact would encourage them to participate in the Conference, as opposed to older age groups (48% of respondents aged 55 or over vs. 56-59% of those in younger age groups). Younger age groups are also more likely to be encouraged to participate if regular updates of the outcomes of participation were guaranteed (18% of respondents aged 55 or over vs. 25-26% of those in younger age groups).

By contrast, older respondents are more likely to say that nothing would influence them as they are not interested (18% of those aged 55 or over vs. 5-7% in the younger age groups).

Differences in responses by education level can also be observed. Respondents who left education at the age of 20 or above are more likely to mention the various factors. For example, 62% say they would be encouraged if they were convinced that their participation would have a real impact, while this is lower (39%) among respondents who left education by the age of 15. Respondents who left education earlier are more likely to say that nothing would influence them, as they are not interested (27% of those who left education by the age of 15 vs. 6% of those who left at the age of 20 or above).

QA12 Which of the following, if any, would encourage you to take part in the activities of the Conference on the Future of Europe? (MULTIPLE ANSWERS POSSIBLE)
(% - EU)

	If you were convinced that your participation would have a real impact	If all parts of society were represented	If you could choose a flexible form of participation (e.g. only from home, etc.)	If you had the opportunity to talk directly with political representatives involved	If you were guaranteed to receive regular updates of the outcomes of your participation	If you were sure that your contribution could remain anonymous	If celebrities (e.g. actors, artists, sportsmen and sportswomen) were involved	Nothing, you are not interested in such an initiative
EU27	53	31	28	27	23	20	10	11
Gender								
Man	55	32	29	30	24	19	10	10
Woman	51	31	28	24	21	20	10	13
Age								
15-24	57	34	30	30	25	22	14	7
25-39	59	34	34	30	26	22	11	5
40-54	56	33	31	30	26	21	10	7
55 +	48	28	24	23	18	17	7	18
Education (End of)								
15-	39	22	16	19	12	17	7	27
16-19	50	31	27	25	20	22	10	12
20+	62	35	35	32	29	18	9	6
Still studying	59	36	33	34	26	21	13	5
Socio-professional category								
Self-employed	61	34	33	32	26	20	9	6
Managers	62	38	40	37	29	19	9	4
Other white collars	58	33	33	27	27	21	11	6
Manual workers	52	31	26	25	22	22	11	10
House persons	45	24	21	24	18	18	8	19
Unemployed	52	29	24	25	20	23	12	14
Retired	46	27	22	22	17	17	7	21
Students	59	36	33	34	26	21	13	5
Difficulties paying bills								
Most of the time	51	28	22	27	21	19	12	15
From time to time	49	30	26	27	23	23	12	11
Almost never/ Never	55	32	30	27	23	18	8	11

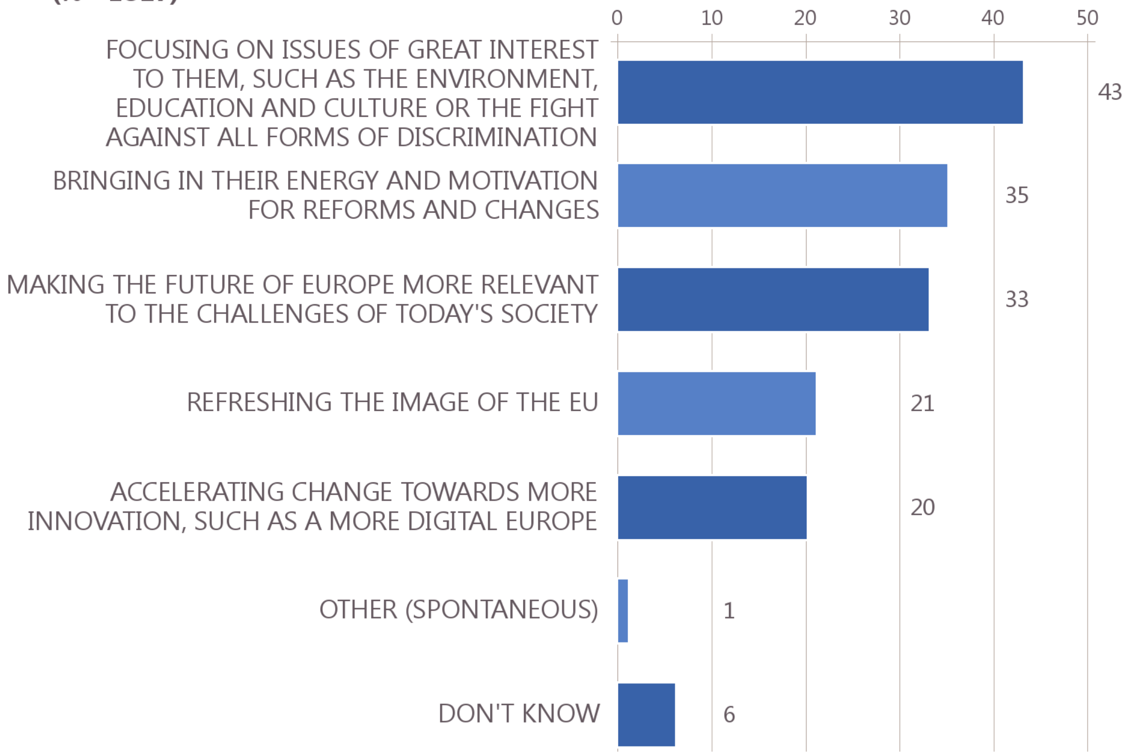
The main benefit of involving the younger generation in the Conference is the focus on issues of interest to them

For more than four in ten EU citizens (43%), the most important **benefit of the younger generation's involvement in the Conference on the future of Europe** lies in focusing on issues of interest to them, such as the environment, education and culture or the fight against all forms of discrimination.

Around a third of respondents say that important benefits include bringing in their energy and motivation for reforms and changes (35%) and making the future of Europe more relevant to the challenges of today's society (33%).

One in five respondents say that an important benefit will be in refreshing the image of the EU (21%) and accelerating change towards more innovation, such as a more digital Europe (20%).

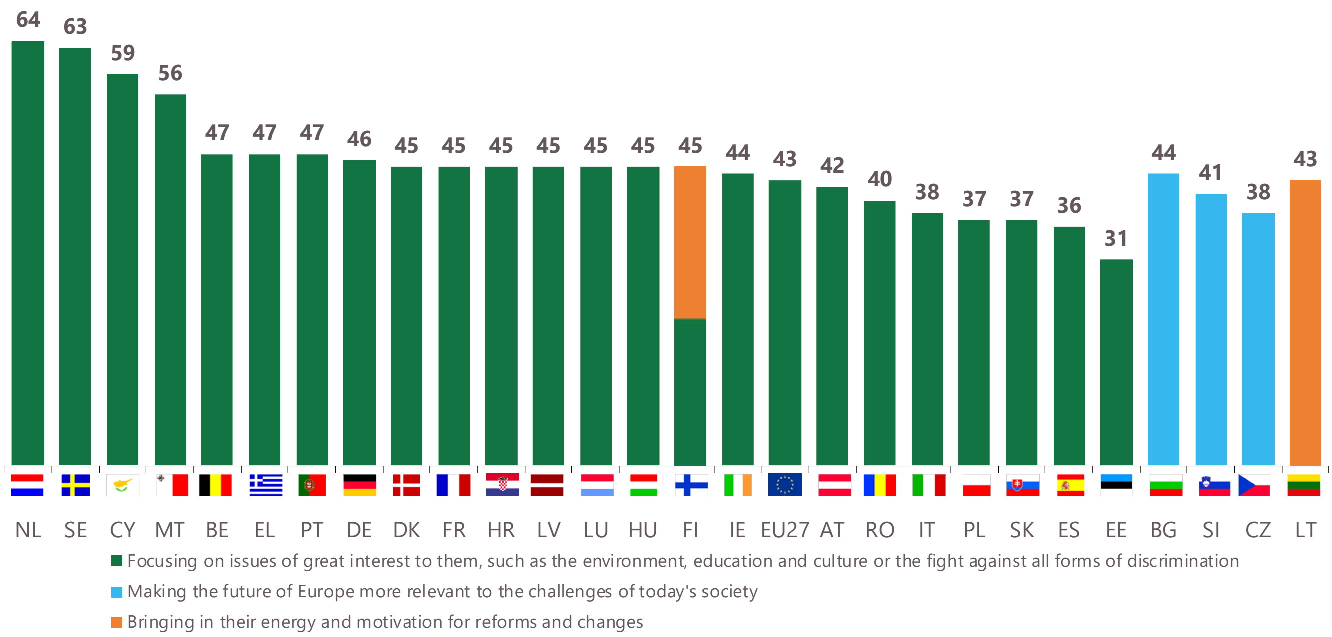
QA13 What are the most important benefits of the younger generation's involvement in the Conference on the Future of Europe? (MAX. 2 ANSWERS)
(% - EU27)



In 22 Member States, respondents are most likely to consider that **focusing on issues of greatest interest to the younger generation** is one of the most important benefits of their involvement in the Conference. **Making the future of Europe more relevant to the challenges of today's society** is considered as the main benefit in three countries: Bulgaria, Slovenia and Czechia.

In Lithuania, the most important benefit is **bringing in their energy and motivation for reforms and changes**. In Finland, two answers are ranked joint highest: **focusing on issues of greatest interest to the younger generation**, and **bringing in their energy and motivation for reforms and changes**.

QA13 What are the most important benefits of the younger generation's involvement in the Conference on the Future of Europe? (MAX. 2 ANSWERS) **(% - THE MOST MENTIONED ANSWER BY COUNTRY)**



In four Member States, more than half of respondents say that **focusing on issues of greatest interest to the younger generation** is one of the main benefits of their involvement in the Conference: the Netherlands (64%), Sweden (63%), Cyprus (59%) and Malta (56%). Respondents in Bulgaria (30%), Estonia (31%), Czechia and Slovenia (both 33%) are least likely to say this.

Respondents in Finland (45%) are most likely to say that a key benefit of the younger generation's involvement is **bringing in their energy and motivation for reforms and changes**, followed by those in Germany (44%), Lithuania (43%) and Greece (42%). This is least likely to be considered as a benefit in Romania (23%), Estonia (26%), Denmark and Malta (both 28%).

Making the future of Europe more relevant to the challenges of today's society is most frequently seen as a benefit in Portugal (46%), Bulgaria (44%), Sweden (43%) and France (42%). This is least frequently chosen in Lithuania (20%), Latvia (25%) and Germany (26%).

QA13 What are the most important benefits of the younger generation's involvement in the Conference on the Future of Europe? (MAX. 2 ANSWERS)
(%)

	Focusing on issues of great interest to them, such as the environment, education and culture or the fight against all forms of discrimination	Bringing in their energy and motivation for reforms and changes	Making the future of Europe more relevant to the challenges of today's society	Refreshing the image of the EU	Accelerating change towards more innovation, such as a more digital Europe
EU27	43	35	33	21	20
BE	47	32	41	22	19
BG	30	37	44	18	17
CZ	33	36	38	15	22
DK	45	28	41	27	15
DE	46	44	26	25	24
EE	31	26	30	17	20
IE	44	32	40	28	16
EL	47	42	35	21	17
ES	36	32	27	25	16
FR	45	29	42	17	13
HR	45	39	29	15	28
IT	38	37	31	22	28
CY	59	40	31	20	19
LV	45	33	25	9	19
LT	42	43	20	20	17
LU	45	31	33	30	16
HU	45	31	28	22	28
MT	56	28	41	13	20
NL	64	41	32	21	17
AT	42	35	35	29	18
PL	37	29	34	18	22
PT	47	41	46	8	13
RO	40	23	30	26	21
SI	33	32	41	27	20
SK	37	31	30	20	22
FI	45	45	38	14	15
SE	63	41	43	14	14

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

The **socio-demographic** data are mainly consistent across age groups. However, younger respondents aged 15-24 are more likely than older respondents to say that important benefits of the younger generation's involvement include focusing on issues of great interest to them (49% vs. 40% of those aged 55 or over) and accelerating change towards more innovation (25% vs. 16%).

There are differences by level of education, with respondents who left education at the age of 20 or above more likely to mention the various benefits. The difference is most pronounced in relation to focusing on issues of great interest to the younger generation (47% vs. 35% of those who left education by the age of 15).

QA13 What are the most important benefits of the younger generation's involvement in the Conference on the Future of Europe? (MAX. 2 ANSWERS)
(% - EU)

	Focusing on issues of great interest to them, such as the environment, education and culture or the fight against all forms of discrimination	Bringing in their energy and motivation for reforms and changes	Making the future of Europe more relevant to the challenges of today's society	Refreshing the image of the EU	Accelerating change towards more innovation, such as a more digital Europe	Don't know
EU27	43	35	33	21	20	6
Gender						
Man	40	35	34	22	22	6
Woman	45	36	31	20	19	7
Age						
15-24	49	33	33	20	25	3
25-39	45	35	36	21	24	3
40-54	43	36	35	21	22	4
55 +	40	36	30	22	16	10
Education (End of)						
15-	35	32	27	22	14	15
16-19	40	35	33	22	21	6
20+	47	38	35	21	22	3
Still studying	51	35	33	21	25	2
Socio-professional category						
Self-employed	40	38	37	22	23	3
Managers	48	39	37	20	24	1
Other white collars	46	36	35	20	23	4
Manual workers	42	33	34	22	21	6
House persons	38	34	25	20	19	13
Unemployed	42	34	32	21	19	7
Retired	39	35	29	22	15	11
Students	51	35	33	21	25	2
Difficulties paying bills						
Most of the time	37	35	33	20	18	9
From time to time	41	33	35	21	21	7
Almost never/ Never	44	36	32	22	21	6

Europeans think that climate change and the environment, health as well as the economy, social justice and jobs are the key topics for the Conference and of importance for the future of Europe

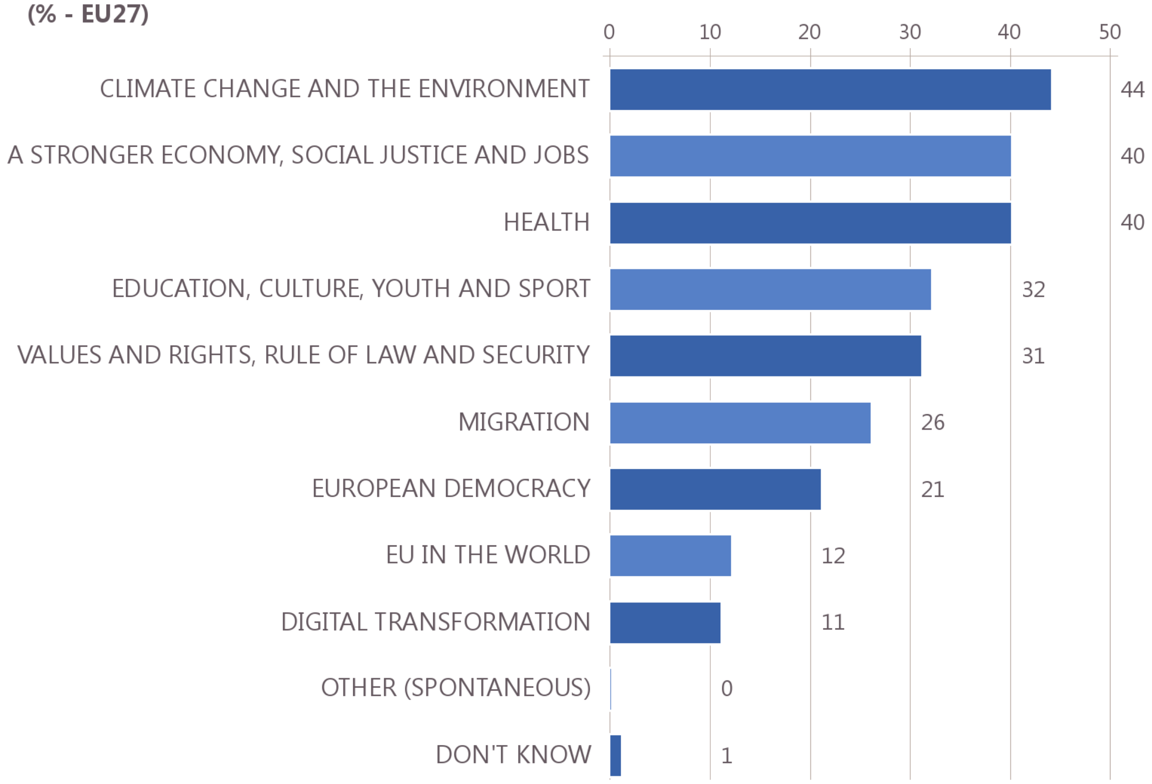
Respondents were asked which topics they thought were the most important for the Conference of the future of Europe, choosing up to three topics from a list of nine.

There are three topics that are ranked at a similar level of importance: climate change and the environment (chosen by 44%), followed by health, and a stronger economy, social justice and jobs and health (both 40%).

Around three in ten respondents mention education, culture, youth and sport (32%) and values and rights, rule of law and security (31%). Around a quarter (26%) say that migration is an important topic for the Conference.

One in five (21%) mention European democracy as an important topic, while around one in ten choose EU in the world (12%) and digital transformation (11%).

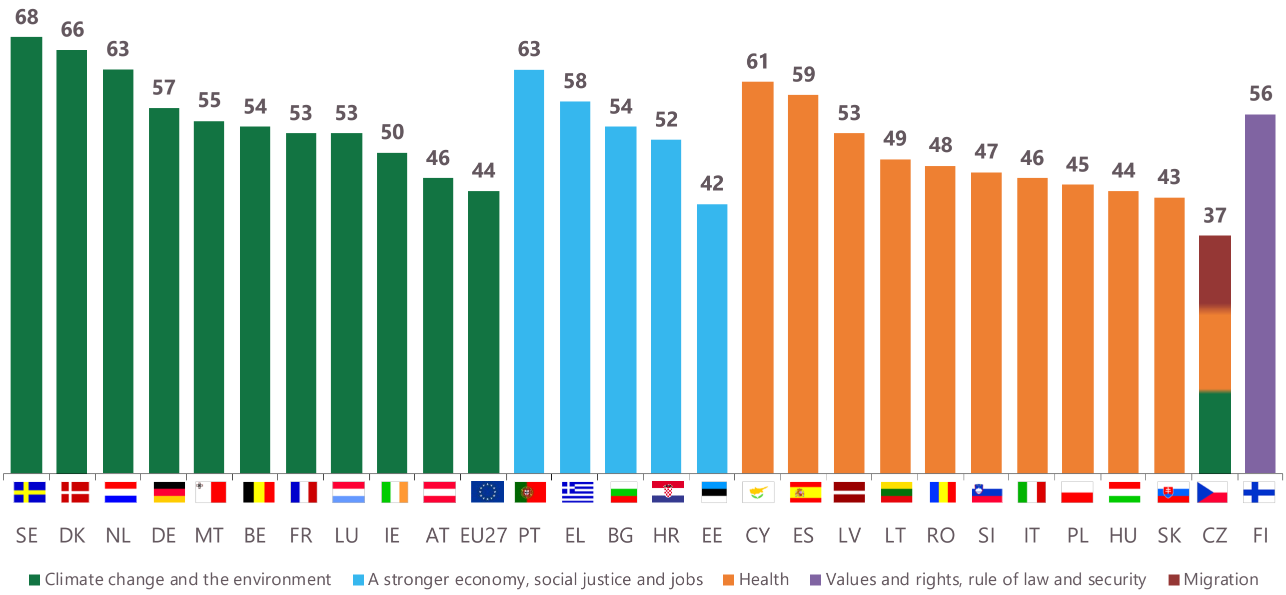
QA14 The Conference on the Future of Europe is currently discussing a range of issues. Which of these topics do you think are important for the Future of Europe? (MAX. 3 ANSWERS)
(% - EU27)



Both **climate change and the environment** and **health** are considered the most important topic for the Conference on the Future of Europe in 10 Member States. In five Member States the most important topic is **a stronger economy, social justice and jobs**.

Respondents in Finland are most likely to choose **values and rights, rule of law and security**, while three topics are ranked joint highest in Czechia: **climate change and the environment, health and migration**.

QA14 The Conference on the Future of Europe is currently discussing a range of issues. Which of these topics do you think are important for the Future of Europe? (MAX. 3 ANSWERS) **(% - THE MOST MENTIONED ANSWER BY COUNTRY)**



In eight Member States, more than half of respondents say that **climate change and the environment** is one of the most important topics for the Conference on the Future of Europe. This is mentioned most frequently in Sweden (68%), Denmark (66%) and the Netherlands (63%), while it is least frequently mentioned in Romania (16%) and Bulgaria (19%).

Respondents in Cyprus (61%), Portugal (60%) and Spain (59%) are most likely to say **health** is an important topic, while those in Sweden (14%) and Finland (18%) are least likely to mention it as an important issue.

Respondents in Portugal are most likely to say that **a stronger economy, social justice and jobs** is an important topic (63%), followed by those in Greece (58%), Bulgaria (54%) and Croatia (52%). This is least frequently chosen by respondents in Luxembourg (28%) and Malta (30%).

The other notable finding is the high proportion of respondents in some countries who say **values and rights, rule of law and security** is an important topic. This is mentioned by 31% of respondents across the EU as a whole, but by around half or more in Finland (56%), Sweden (52%) and the Netherlands (49%).

QA14 The Conference on the Future of Europe is currently discussing a range of issues. Which of these topics do you think are important for the Future of Europe? (MAX. 3 ANSWERS)
(%)

	Climate change and the environment	Health	A stronger economy, social justice and jobs	Education, culture, youth and sport	Values and rights, rule of law and security	Migration	European democracy	EU in the world	Digital transformation
EU27	44	40	40	32	31	26	21	12	11
BE	54	42	38	33	34	28	19	13	7
BG	19	50	54	32	35	18	12	9	7
CZ	33	37	36	29	37	37	25	13	11
DK	66	28	36	17	31	36	23	15	12
DE	57	23	34	27	33	29	32	14	22
EE	27	39	42	35	27	32	9	7	11
IE	50	49	39	37	25	21	17	10	7
EL	31	48	58	36	42	39	15	9	5
ES	40	59	48	43	25	23	12	5	4
FR	53	42	34	42	29	28	17	12	5
HR	37	41	52	34	34	16	17	11	9
IT	39	46	42	25	25	27	16	11	13
CY	41	61	42	39	38	33	8	3	6
LV	28	53	47	40	29	23	8	6	6
LT	31	49	43	38	23	37	8	8	6
LU	53	42	28	35	27	30	26	10	7
HU	31	44	37	30	30	33	25	10	10
MT	55	45	30	30	29	39	14	7	10
NL	63	22	38	29	49	32	23	23	6
AT	46	38	35	29	30	31	25	16	17
PL	27	45	37	25	29	17	21	13	10
PT	32	60	63	39	31	11	12	8	6
RO	16	48	39	34	27	13	19	10	12
SI	43	47	44	32	37	11	18	7	12
SK	29	43	40	34	36	21	14	8	9
FI	48	18	47	20	56	24	27	25	7
SE	68	14	39	19	52	40	35	11	6

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

The **socio-demographic analysis** shows that women are more likely than men to say that important topics for the Conference include health (43% vs. 37%) and education, culture, youth and sport (34% vs. 30%). Men are slightly more likely to mention “migration” (28% vs. 25%).

The main difference by age group is that younger respondents are more likely to say that education, culture, youth and sport is an important topic (43% of 15-24 year olds vs. 28% of those aged 55 or over). Younger respondents are also more likely to mention climate change and the environment (49% of 15-24 year olds vs. 41% of those aged 55 or over), while older people are more likely to mention health (44% of those aged 55 or over vs. 36-38% in the younger age groups). Respondents aged 15-24 are less likely to mention “a stronger economy, social justice and jobs” (33% vs. 40-42% in other age groups).

There are some differences by level of education. Most strikingly, respondents who left education at the age of 20 or above are more likely to say that “climate change and the environment” is an important topic for the Conference (52% vs. 34% of those who left education by the age of 15), but are less likely to mention “health” (31% vs. 58%).

Respondents who have difficulties paying bills most of the time are more likely to mention “a stronger economy, social justice and jobs” (49% vs. 39% of those who rarely or never have difficulties) and education, culture, youth and sport (38% vs. 31%). However, they are less likely to mention “climate change and the environment” (33% vs. 48%).

Climate change and the environment is more likely to be seen as an important topic for the Conference by respondents who hold a positive image of the EU (51% compared with 29% of those who have a negative image). By contrast, those who hold a negative image of the EU are more likely to mention “migration” (32% vs. 25% of those who have a positive image). This pattern is consistent with results on the challenges facing the EU (see section IV).

QA14 The Conference on the Future of Europe is currently discussing a range of issues. Which of these topics do you think are important for the Future of Europe? (MAX. 3 ANSWERS)
(% - EU)

	Climate change and the environment	Health	A stronger economy, social justice and jobs	Education, culture, youth and sport	Values and rights, rule of law and security	Migration	European democracy	EU in the world	Digital transformation
EU27	44	40	40	32	31	26	21	12	11
Gender									
Man	43	37	40	30	31	28	21	14	14
Woman	45	43	39	34	32	25	20	10	8
Age									
15-24	49	36	33	43	28	23	19	11	16
25-39	46	36	41	35	31	26	18	12	15
40-54	44	38	42	30	32	27	21	14	11
55 +	41	44	40	28	32	27	22	10	7
Education (End of)									
15-	34	58	43	28	27	24	16	7	4
16-19	39	43	41	31	31	27	20	10	11
20+	52	31	39	32	34	28	24	15	13
Still studying	52	32	31	42	29	24	21	12	18
Socio-professional category									
Self-employed	45	36	42	28	34	26	22	14	14
Managers	55	28	39	29	33	28	24	15	16
Other white collars	44	36	41	31	33	27	21	14	12
Manual workers	39	43	43	33	31	25	18	11	9
House persons	36	52	38	35	30	26	15	8	8
Unemployed	39	44	47	37	32	27	15	9	10
Retired	42	46	39	28	30	27	22	9	6
Students	52	32	31	42	29	24	21	12	18
Image of the EU									
Total 'Positive'	51	37	40	33	32	25	22	13	13
Neutral	38	45	40	31	29	27	18	10	9
Total 'Negative'	29	39	41	29	35	32	20	7	7

Opinions are divided on the impact of the Conference on democratic progress and real change

The majority of Europeans (55%) agree that **the Conference represents significant progress for democracy within the EU**, including 13% who "totally agree". However, three in ten (30%) disagree with this statement.

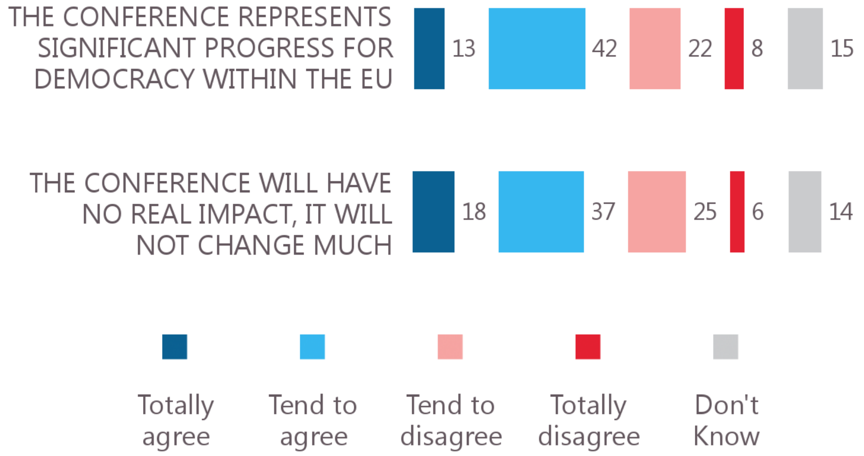
At the same time, the same percentage of Europeans (55%) agree that **the Conference will have no real impact, it will not change much**, and this includes 18% who "totally agree". Around three in ten (31%) disagree.

In every country, a majority of respondents agree that the Conference on the Future of Europe **represents significant progress for democracy in the EU**. The strongest levels of agreement are found in Cyprus (74%), Sweden (71%) and Italy (70%). Disagreement is highest in Finland (46%), Czechia and Slovenia (both 42%).

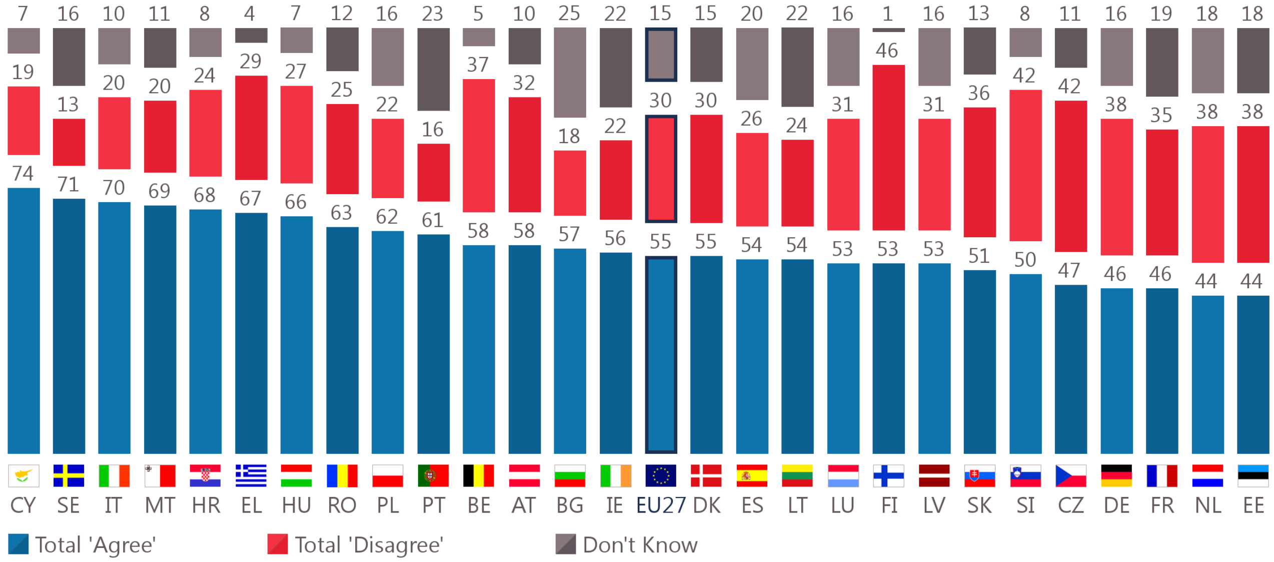
In all EU Member States, a majority of respondents agree that the Conference **will have no real impact, it will not change much**. Levels of agreement are highest in Finland (68%), Slovenia (64%), Belgium and Greece (both 63%).

Respondents are most likely to disagree with the statement in Croatia (45%), Malta (42%), Estonia (39%), Ireland and Romania (both 37%).

QA10 To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements about the Conference on the Future of Europe
(% - EU27)



QA10.1 To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements about the Conference on the Future of Europe
The Conference represents significant progress for democracy within the EU (%)



The **socio-demographic data** indicate that younger respondents are more likely to agree that the Conference represents significant progress for democracy in the EU (61% of 15-24 year olds compared with 52% of those aged 55 or over).

Levels of agreement are higher among respondents who stayed longer in education (58% of those who left education at the age of 20 or above vs. 50% of those who left by the age of 15).

The data also shows that students (63%), managers (60%) and other white collar workers (61%) are most likely to agree, with housepersons least likely to agree (47%).

Agreement is lower among respondents who have difficulties paying bills most of the time (46% vs. 56% of those who never or almost never have difficulties).

Finally, it can be noted that those who will be ready to participate in the activities of the Conference on the Future of Europe via different means are more likely to agree that the Conference represents significant progress for democracy: for example, 65% for those who would participate via answering a survey, and 69% of those who would participate by taking part in meetings in their area agree that the Conference represents significant progress for democracy in the EU.

QA10.1 To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements about the Conference on the Future of Europe
The Conference represents significant progress for democracy within the EU
(% - EU)

	Total 'Agree'	Total 'Disagree'	Don't Know
EU27	55	30	15
Gender			
Man	55	31	14
Woman	56	28	16
Age			
15-24	61	24	15
25-39	58	29	13
40-54	57	31	12
55 +	52	30	18
Education (End of)			
15-	50	27	23
16-19	55	32	13
20+	58	29	13
Still studying	63	22	15
Socio-professional category			
Self-employed	58	31	11
Managers	60	28	12
Other white collars	61	28	11
Manual workers	56	33	11
House persons	47	29	24
Unemployed	49	34	17
Retired	50	30	20
Students	63	22	15
Difficulties paying bills			
Most of the time	46	39	15
From time to time	57	31	12
Almost never/ Never	56	29	15

2. The Conference on the Future of Europe in the media

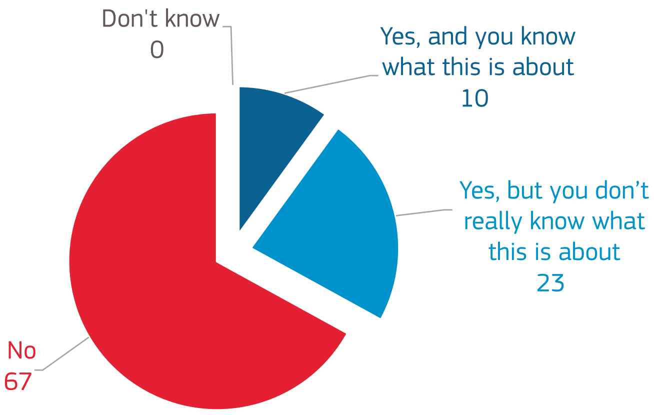
A third of Europeans have seen or heard something recently about the Conference

One in three Europeans (33%) say they have **recently read, seen or heard something about the Conference on the Future of Europe**. This includes one in ten (10%) who have seen or heard something and say they know what it is about, and 23% who don't really know what this is about.

There is variation across Member States in the proportion of those who have read, seen or heard something about the Conference. In Finland, more than half of respondents (54%) have seen or heard something, and the proportion is also relatively high in Malta (49%), Croatia and Hungary (both 45%). By contrast, only 20% of respondents in France have seen or heard something, with relatively low proportions also found in Bulgaria (22%), Denmark and Lithuania (both 26%).

The proportion of respondents who say they have seen or heard something and know what it is about ranges from 17% in Malta to 4% in France.

QA6 Have you recently read in the press, seen on the Internet or on television or heard on the radio something about the Conference on the Future of Europe?
(% - EU27)



(September - October 2021)

The **socio-demographic analysis** demonstrates that men are more likely than women to say they have recently read, seen or heard something about the Conference on the Future of Europe (35% v 31%). By age group, those aged 40-54 are most likely to recall reading, seeing or hearing something (36% vs. 31-34% in the other age groups).

There is a difference by level of education. Respondents who left education at the age of 20 or above are more likely to recall something about the Conference (38% vs, 23% of those who left education by the age of 15). By socio-professional category, managers (43%) and self-employed respondents (40%) are most likely to say they have recently read, seen or heard something about the Conference, while housepersons (23%) and unemployed respondents (24%) are least likely to say this.

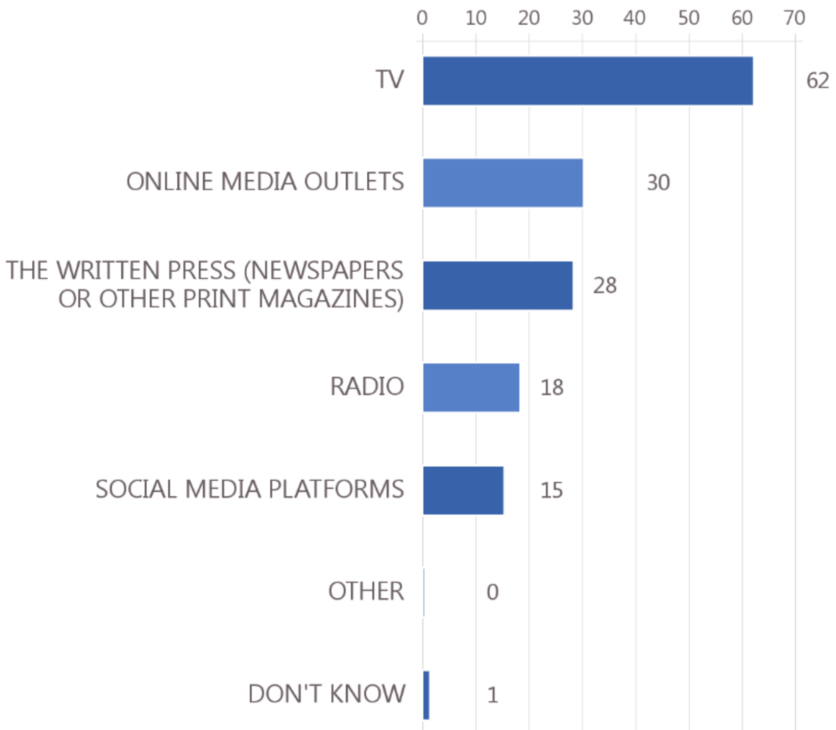
QA6 Have you recently read in the press, seen on the Internet or on television or heard on the radio something about the Conference on the Future of Europe?
(% - EU)

	Yes, and you know what this is about	Yes, but you don't really know what this is about	No	Don't know
EU27	10	23	67	0
Gender				
Man	12	23	65	0
Woman	8	23	69	0
Age				
15-24	10	22	68	0
25-39	11	23	66	0
40-54	11	25	64	0
55 +	9	22	69	0
Education (End of)				
15-	5	18	77	0
16-19	9	24	67	0
20+	13	25	62	0
Still studying	12	21	67	0
Socio-professional category				
Self-employed	14	26	60	0
Managers	15	28	57	0
Other white collars	10	27	63	0
Manual workers	8	23	69	0
House persons	6	17	77	0
Unemployed	6	18	76	0
Retired	10	20	70	0
Students	12	21	67	0
Use of the Internet				
Everyday	11	25	64	0
Often/ Sometimes	8	24	68	0
Never	4	15	81	0

Of the respondents who previously stated having seen, read or heard something about the Conference on the future of Europe, 62% think they have mainly done so through television, followed by 30% who state online media outlets and 28% saying the written press.

Respondents are less likely to have seen or heard something through the radio (18%) or social media platforms (15%).

QA7 Where have you seen, read or heard something about the Conference on the Future of Europe? (MULTIPLE ANSWERS POSSIBLE)
(% - EU27)



Respondents who have recently read, seen or heard something about the Conference on the Future of Europe (33% of the total sample)

Respondents in Portugal (81%), Italy (74%), and Bulgaria (72%) are most likely to have seen something about the Conference on the future of Europe on television. The proportion is lowest in Luxembourg (39%) and Estonia (46%).

Cyprus (51%), Greece (50%), and Lithuania (49%) hold the highest proportions of respondents stating that they have seen something on online media outlets. In contrast, respondents in Portugal (13%), and France (19%) are least likely to state the same.

With regards to respondents who have seen something about the Conference in the written press, such as in newspapers or magazines, it is those in Austria (47%), Belgium (39%), and Germany, Italy, Portugal and Finland (all 35%), who are most likely to state this. In contrast, respondents in Latvia (5%), Bulgaria (7%), and Lithuania (9%) state this the least.

QA7 Where have you seen, read or heard something about the Conference on the Future of Europe?
(MULTIPLE ANSWERS POSSIBLE) (%)

	TV	Online media outlets	The written press (newspapers or other print magazines)	Radio	Social media platforms	Other	Don't know
EU27	62	30	28	18	15	0	1
PT	81	13	35	12	14	1	3
IT	74	28	35	13	22	0	1
BG	72	38	7	10	35	0	1
CY	69	51	16	10	17	0	2
HU	66	35	15	11	18	0	1
SI	64	41	26	21	11	0	1
FR	63	19	18	23	13	0	3
EL	62	50	17	7	22	1	1
PL	62	23	27	16	13	0	1
ES	61	33	14	13	9	1	1
DK	60	23	22	21	11	1	2
DE	59	34	35	25	14	0	1
SK	59	38	26	18	16	0	2
NL	57	43	33	17	13	0	0
FI	57	28	35	15	10	0	0
HR	55	41	21	12	17	0	2
LT	55	49	9	10	25	1	0
SE	54	33	33	29	17	2	0
MT	52	46	18	12	37	0	0
BE	51	27	39	24	18	0	0
CZ	49	44	14	19	16	0	1
AT	49	26	47	17	13	1	3
IE	48	23	18	33	13	0	0
LV	48	31	5	18	29	2	2
RO	48	23	22	14	13	2	1
EE	46	40	12	18	19	0	5
LU	39	35	29	24	18	1	0

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

The **socio-demographic** data show that there are some large differences by age group. Older respondents are more likely to have seen something on the Conference on TV (71% of those aged 55 or over compared with 51% of those aged 15-24) and in the written press (34% vs. 16%). However, younger people are more likely than older people to have seen something on online media outlets (43% of 15-24 year olds vs. 19% of those aged 55 or over) or social media platforms (34% vs. 6%).

Respondents who left education at the age of 20 or above are more likely to have seen or heard something from the various sources, especially online media outlets (38% compared with 12% of those who left education by the age of 15). The exception is TV, which is mentioned more frequently by respondents who left education by the age of 15 (80% vs. 57% of those who left education at the age of 20 or above).

Respondents whose image of the EU is positive are more likely than those with a negative image to have seen something on TV (64% vs. 51%) or in the written press (30% vs. 24%). However, there are no clear differences for the other media sources.

Finally, respondents' degree of awareness of the Conference presents a few significant differences. Those who have seen something about it, and know what it is, are more likely to have seen something on all media platforms than those who have also seen it, but do not know what it is about. This is especially the case when it comes to having seen something on online media platforms (40% vs. 26% respectively), and the written press (36% vs. 24% respectively).

QA7 Where have you seen, read or heard something about the Conference on the Future of Europe? (MULTIPLE ANSWERS POSSIBLE)
(% - EU)

	TV	Online media outlets	The written press (newspapers or other print magazines)	Radio	Social media platforms
EU27	62	30	28	18	15
Gender					
Man	60	34	29	19	15
Woman	63	27	27	18	15
Age					
15-24	51	43	16	15	34
25-39	53	39	24	18	21
40-54	59	34	26	18	16
55 +	71	19	34	19	6
Education (End of)					
15-	80	12	21	17	5
16-19	64	25	28	17	15
20+	57	38	31	19	14
Still studying	50	46	17	15	35
Socio-professional category					
Self-employed	63	35	33	18	16
Managers	51	39	34	22	14
Other white collars	58	38	22	14	19
Manual workers	59	28	25	19	16
House persons	68	21	21	16	14
Unemployed	73	30	17	16	18
Retired	74	16	34	19	5
Students	50	46	17	15	35
Awareness of the Conference of the Future of Europe					
Has seen it, and knows what it is	66	40	36	22	18
Has seen it, but does not know what it is	60	26	24	16	14

CONCLUSION

This Eurobarometer survey explores a range of issues relating to the future of Europe. The survey was conducted during the continuing coronavirus pandemic, which has dominated the lives of Europeans throughout 2020 and 2021. As a result, it is important to consider perceptions of the future of Europe in the context of the pandemic.

Europeans remain supportive of the EU. **More than half say they have a positive image of the EU**, and **more than six in ten are in favour of their country being a member of the EU**. At the same time, although almost three quarters are in favour of the EU, close to half of those sharing this point of view say they are in favour, but not in the way it is working at present.

Large majorities of Europeans are happy with their family and daily life, and **more than eight in ten are happy living in the EU**. Moreover, **more than two thirds think the EU offers a future perspective for youth, and that the EU is a place of stability in a troubled world**.

Europeans see a number of challenges facing the EU with social inequalities, unemployment, environmental issues and climate change and migration issues as the most mentioned ones. At the global stage, **climate change and environmental issues is by far the most mentioned challenges for the future of the EU**, followed at a distance by risks related to health and forced migration and displacement. In order to face these challenges, **Europeans think climate change, social fairness and equality, and health and safety should be prioritised**. In line with these views, **comparable living standards, a common health policy and stronger solidarity among the EU Member States are considered most helpful for the future of Europe**.

Europeans believe most progress can be made when all EU Member States work and find solutions together. This preference for joint action at the EU and national level carries over to a range of policy areas including the environment and climate change, taxation, employment and social protection and migration and refugees. **At least a third think that fighting terrorism, as well as the issue of migration and refugees can be dealt with most efficiently at EU level**.

There is strong support for a range of environmental objectives set out in the European Green Deal. Large majorities say a range of objectives are important to them personally, and this is especially true for restoring Europe's forests, soils, wetlands and peatlands to increase the absorption of CO2. In fact, almost six in ten say this is very important to them. **Large majorities also agree on the personal and wider benefits of tackling climate change, including improving their own health and wellbeing** as well as helping to reduce greater ecological damage in the future. Although more than eight in ten agree that tackling climate change can create new opportunities for innovation, investment and jobs, opinion is divided when it comes to the impact of tackling climate change on the economy.

Looking towards the future, **more than eight in ten prefer a society in 2030 that gives more importance to solidarity over individualism**. However, opinion is divided when Europeans are asked to choose between order or individual freedom. **Ten years from now, a majority of almost four in ten respondents would prefer to see more decisions taken at the EU level than today**, while almost as many would like to see the same proportion of decisions made at EU level.

Europeans want to be heard when decisions are being made about the future of Europe. **Nine in ten agree that EU citizens' voices should be taken more into account for decisions relating to the future of Europe**, and seven in ten would like to have more of a say in important decisions affecting the EU. **Over half think voting in European elections is the best way of ensuring citizens' voices are heard by decision makers at EU level**.

Interest in the future of Europe is also illustrated in the willingness to participate in the Conference on the Future of Europe, particularly by answering a survey or taking part in meetings in the local area. There are echoes of familiar themes in the Conference topics respondents think are important, with climate change and the environment, health, and a stronger economy, social justice and jobs considered key topics to be covered. Around nine in ten respondents agree that there is still work to be done to both strengthen and protect democracy in the EU.

TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS

Between the 16th September and 17th October 2021, Kantar carried out the Special Eurobarometer n° 517 (EB96.1), at the request of the European Commission's and European Parliament's Directorates-General for Communication ("Media monitoring and Eurobarometer" Unit and "Public Opinion Monitoring" Unit).

The wave 96.1 covers the population of the respective nationalities of the European Union Member States, residents in each of the 27 Member States and aged 15 years and over.

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

The sampling points were drawn systematically from each of the "administrative regional units", after stratification by individual unit and type of area. They, thus, represent the whole territory of the countries surveyed according to the EUROSTAT NUTS II (or equivalent) and according to the distribution of the resident population of the respective nationalities in terms of metropolitan, urban and rural areas[63].

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

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

[63] Urban Rural classification based on DEGURBA (https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/web/degree-of-urbanisation/background)

Fieldwork dates

	COUNTRIES	INSTITUTES	N° INTERVIEWS	FIELDWORK DATES		POPULATIO 15+	PROPORTIO EU27
BE	Belgium	Mobiel Centre Market Research	1,070	17-09-21	13-10-21	9,188,369	2.45%
BG	Bulgaria	Kantar TNS BBSS	1,032	16-09-21	12-10-21	5,995,194	1.60%
CZ	Czechia	Kantar CZ	1,017	17-09-21	11-10-21	8,956,740	2.39%
DK	Denmark	Kantar Gallup	1,009	17-09-21	13-10-21	4,848,611	1.29%
DE	Germany	Kantar Deutschland	1,557	16-09-21	11-10-21	71,728,398	19.10%
EE	Estonia	Norstat Estonia	1,004	18-09-21	15-10-21	1,073,224	0.29%
IE	Ireland	B and A Research	1,007	16-09-21	14-10-21	3,896,482	1.04%
EL	Greece	Kantar Greece	1,014	16-09-21	11-10-21	9,187,524	2.45%
ES	Spain	TNS Investigación de Mercados y Opinión	1,009	18-09-21	10-10-21	40,006,943	10.65%
FR	France	Kantar Public France	1,004	16-09-21	07-10-21	52,732,499	14.04%
HR	Croatia	Hendal	1,010	16-09-21	12-10-21	3,488,460	0.93%
IT	Italy	Kantar Italia	1,027	16-09-21	12-10-21	52,397,331	13.95%
CY	Rep. Of Cyprus	CYMAR Market Research	504	16-09-21	07-10-21	734,695	0.20%
LV	Latvia	Kantar TNS Latvia	1,002	16-09-21	10-10-21	1,568,124	0.42%
LT	Lithuania	TNS LT	1,012	16-09-21	09-10-21	2,300,257	0.61%
LU	Luxembourg	Kantar Belgium	506	16-09-21	11-10-21	503,275	0.13%
HU	Hungary	Kantar Hoffmann	1,013	17-09-21	05-10-21	8,351,017	2.22%
MT	Malta	MISCO International	534	16-09-21	14-10-21	426,055	0.11%
NL	Netherlands	Kantar Netherlands	1,011	16-09-21	11-10-21	14,165,638	3.77%
AT	Austria	Das Österreichische Gallup Institut	1,012	16-09-21	06-10-21	7,580,083	2.02%
PL	Poland	Kantar Polska	1,036	16-09-21	10-10-21	32,139,021	8.56%
PT	Portugal	Marktest – Marketing, Organização e Formação	1,020	17-09-21	12-10-21	8,869,051	2.36%
RO	Romania	Centrul Pentru Studierea Opiniei si Pietei (CSOP)	1,060	16-09-21	12-10-21	16,372,216	4.36%
SI	Slovenia	Mediana DOO	1,004	16-09-21	10-10-21	1,767,202	0.47%
SK	Slovakia	Kantar Czechia	1,020	16-09-21	03-10-21	4,592,379	1.22%
FI	Finland	Kantar TNS Oy	1,010	17-09-21	17-10-21	4,488,064	1.20%
SE	Sweden	Kantar Sifo	1,026	16-09-21	15-10-21	8,149,850	2.17%
		TOTAL EU27	26,530	16-09-21	17-10-21	375,506,702	100%*

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

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

Interviews

	COUNTRIES	N° OF CAPI INTERVIEWS	N° OF CAWI INTERVIEWS	TOTAL N° INTERVIEWS
BE	Belgium	707	363	1,070
BG	Bulgaria	1,032		1,032
CZ	Czechia	760	257	1,017
DK	Denmark	769	240	1,009
DE	Germany	1,557		1,557
EE	Estonia	1,004		1,004
IE	Ireland	1,007		1,007
EL	Greece	1,014		1,014
ES	Spain	1,009		1,009
FR	France	1,004		1,004
HR	Croatia	1,010		1,010
IT	Italy	1,027		1,027
CY	Rep. Of Cyprus	504		504
LV	Latvia	1,002		1,002
LT	Lithuania	1,012		1,012
LU	Luxembourg	506		506
HU	Hungary	1,013		1,013
MT	Malta	358	176	534
NL	Netherlands	1,011		1,011
AT	Austria	1,012		1,012
PL	Poland	1,036		1,036
PT	Portugal	1,020		1,020
RO	Romania	1,060		1,060
SI	Slovenia	1,004		1,004
SK	Slovakia	1,020		1,020
FI	Finland		1,010	1,010
SE	Sweden	1026		1,026
	TOTAL EU27	24,484	2,046	26,530

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

Consequences of the coronavirus pandemic on fieldwork

- Face-to-face interviewing

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

- Face-to-face and online interviewing

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

- Online interviewing

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

Recruitment for online interviews

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

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

Response rates

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

The response rates are calculated by dividing the total number of complete interviews with the number of all the addresses visited, apart from ones that are not eligible but including those where eligibility is unknown. For Eurobarometer 96.1, the response rates for the EU27 countries, calculated by Kantar, are:

BE	38.6%	EE	32.3%	LV	44.1%	PL	42.2%
BE*	21.0%	IE	33.8%	LT	40.5%	PT	38.5%
BG	45.9%	EL	27.5%	LU	19.4%	RO	62.0%
CZ	39.1%	ES	33.4%	HU	61.1%	SI	47.8%
CZ*	24.9%	FR	27.5%	MT	83.6%	SK	66.8%
DK	37.3%	HR	39.6%	MT*	33.0%	FI*	32.8%
DK*	19.7%	IT	21.9%	NL	71.3%	SE	62.9%
DE	19.7%	CY	44.4%	AT	43.0%		

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

Margins of error

Readers are reminded that survey results are estimations, the accuracy of which, everything being equal, rests upon the sample size and upon the observed percentage.

With samples of about 1,000 interviews, the real percentages vary within the following confidence limits:

Statistical Margins due to the sampling process
(at the 95% level of confidence)

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

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

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