



Standard Eurobarometer 98  
Winter 2022 - 2023

# Public opinion in the European Union

Report

Fieldwork: January–February 2023

Survey conducted by Kantar on behalf of Kantar Belgium  
at the request of the European Commission, Directorate-General for Communication

Survey coordinated by the European Commission, Directorate-General for Communication  
(DG COMM “Media monitoring and Eurobarometer” Unit)

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# **INTRODUCTION**



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The Standard Eurobarometer 98 (EB98) survey of Winter 2022-2023 was conducted between 12 January 2023 and 6 February 2023 in 39 countries or territories: the 27 Member States of the European Union, seven candidate countries (Albania, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Moldova, Serbia, Türkiye and Bosnia and Herzegovina), the Turkish Cypriot Community in the part of the country not controlled by the Government of the Republic of Cyprus, as well as in Kosovo<sup>1</sup>, Norway, Switzerland and the United Kingdom.

The full report of the Standard Eurobarometer 98 survey consists of multiple volumes. The first volume presents the results of general questions about the state of public opinion in the European Union. Four other volumes present Europeans' opinions about the following topics: the European Union's priorities, European citizenship, media use, and opinions regarding the Russian invasion of Ukraine.

### Russia's war of aggression on Ukraine

On 24 February 2022, Russia invaded Ukraine, and its war of aggression is ongoing. The impact of the war continues to be felt in Europe and the rest of the world in a wide range of areas including energy security, global food security and geopolitical alliances. Since the start of the war, the EU, its Member States, and European financial institutions have provided around €50 billion in economic, humanitarian and military support to Ukraine. In addition, the Commission is working on a €1 billion contribution to fast recovery – repairs of energy infrastructure, roads, or housing. The EU is now home to about 4 million Ukrainians who fled the invasion and found shelter in the Member States. Including resources made available for hosting them, the EU's support to Ukraine and Ukrainians amounts to around €67 billion. In the period since the Standard Eurobarometer of Summer 2022 (June-July 2022) and the current survey, EU actions relating to the war have included:

- Implementation of the eighth (October 2022) and ninth (December 2022) packages of sanctions on Russia.
- On 9 November 2022, the European Commission proposed a support package for Ukraine of up to €18 billion for 2023. This Macro-Financial Assistance+ instrument (MFA+) offers concessional loans and high levels of flexibility. It will be accompanied by reforms to help Ukraine progress along the path to full EU membership<sup>2</sup>. The MFA+ was adopted in December 2022 and the first €3 billion was disbursed to Ukraine on 17 January 2023<sup>3</sup>.
- On 15 November 2022, the Council of the EU launched the EU Military Assistance Mission (EUMAM Ukraine), to enhance the military capability of the Ukrainian Armed Forces to allow them to defend Ukraine's territorial integrity and sovereignty

within its internationally recognised borders, as well as to protect the civilian population.

- The EU, together with the international G7+ price cap coalition, adopted price caps for Russian seaborne crude oil (December 2022) and petroleum products (February 2023) to complement the EU's full ban on imports into the EU.
- On 2 February 2023, the Council of the EU agreed on additional military assistance to Ukraine<sup>4</sup>. The total military assistance provided by the EU and the Member States is around €12 billion.
- On 2 February, President von der Leyen together with the College of Commissioners visited Kyiv to meet for the first time with the Ukrainian government, to reaffirm this commitment and deepen cooperation in a number of sectors<sup>5</sup>. On 3 February 2023, Charles Michel, President of the European Council, and Ursula von der Leyen, President of the European Commission, met with Volodymyr Zelenskyy, Ukrainian President, in Kyiv for the 24th summit between the European Union and Ukraine<sup>6</sup>.

### Energy security

Despite the challenges, the EU has secured enough energy to be safe this winter. Thanks to concerted efforts and the REPowerEU plan, the EU entered the season with gas storage at historically high levels and diversified energy imports, contributing to reduce dependency on Russian fossil fuels. In December 2022, EU leaders stressed the importance of greater EU coordination to address energy supply needs for future winter seasons. As part of this increased coordination, on 19 December 2022 the Council agreed to set a market correction mechanism to limit periods of excessively high gas prices<sup>7</sup>. Future measures will include improved energy solidarity amongst EU Member States and faster rollout of renewable energy options.

### The economy

Thanks to enhanced resilience, the latest economic forecast showed an improved outlook for 2022.

The Winter 2023 Economic Forecast<sup>8</sup>, published in February 2023, estimates GDP growth in both the EU and the euro area to be 3.5% in 2022, well above the 2.7% projected in the Summer Interim Forecast. The EU's economy merely stagnated in the fourth quarter, instead of contracting as previously forecast.

Inflation appears to have peaked at an all-time high in October 2022 (11.5% in the EU and 10.6% in the euro area) and to have started to ease since then, the decline being driven mainly by falling energy prices. In December 2022, the annual inflation rate was 10.4% in the EU and 9.2% in the euro area. In July 2022, in response to rising inflation, the European Central Bank raised the three key interest rates for the first time in 11 years. Further rate

<sup>1</sup> This designation is without prejudice to positions on status and is in line with UNSCR 1244/99 and the ICJ Opinion on the Kosovo declaration of independence.

<sup>2</sup> [https://economy-finance.ec.europa.eu/international-economic-relations/candidate-and-neighbouring-countries/neighbouring-countries-eu/neighbourhood-countries/ukraine\\_en](https://economy-finance.ec.europa.eu/international-economic-relations/candidate-and-neighbouring-countries/neighbouring-countries-eu/neighbourhood-countries/ukraine_en)

<sup>3</sup> [https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip\\_23\\_228](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_23_228)

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/press/press-releases/2023/02/02/ukraine-council-agrees-on-further-military-support-under-the-european-peace-facility/>

<sup>5</sup> [https://eu-solidarity-ukraine.ec.europa.eu/eu-ukraine-standing-together\\_en](https://eu-solidarity-ukraine.ec.europa.eu/eu-ukraine-standing-together_en)

<sup>6</sup> [EU-Ukraine summit - Consilium \(europa.eu\)](https://eu-ukraine.summit - Consilium (europa.eu))

<sup>7</sup> <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/policies/eu-response-ukraine-invasion/#sanctions>

<sup>8</sup> [https://economy-finance.ec.europa.eu/economic-forecast-and-surveys/economic-forecasts/winter-2023-economic-forecast-eu-economy-set-avoid-recession-headwinds-persist\\_en](https://economy-finance.ec.europa.eu/economic-forecast-and-surveys/economic-forecasts/winter-2023-economic-forecast-eu-economy-set-avoid-recession-headwinds-persist_en)

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rises occurred in September, November and December 2022 and in February 2023<sup>9</sup>.

The labour market is performing strongly, with unemployment at a record low and participation and employment rates at an all-time high. The unemployment rate in the EU was 6.1% in December 2022, stable compared with November 2022 and down from 6.4% in December 2021<sup>10</sup>. In the euro area, the unemployment rate stood at 6.6% in December 2022, stable compared with November 2022 and down from 7.0% in December 2021<sup>11</sup>.

### **Coronavirus pandemic**

As of 22 January 2023, more than 183 million cases of coronavirus had been documented in the EU. At the same date there had been more than 1.2 million deaths reported in the EU<sup>12</sup>. At the end of the Eurobarometer fieldwork, the COVID-19 situation remained stable, with notification rates, hospitalisations, ICU admissions and COVID-19-related deaths at their lowest levels for a year. The uptake of the primary vaccination course against COVID-19 in the adult population of the EU/EEA had reached 82%<sup>13</sup>.

On the global stage, after widespread public protests in early December, China dismantled its zero COVID policy and many of its most stringent anti-COVID-19 restrictions. In early January 2023, many travel restrictions were also eased for inbound travellers, including the scrapping of quarantine requirements. In light of COVID-19 developments in China, in January 2023 Member States agreed on a coordinated precautionary approach.

### **EU-related events since the Standard Eurobarometer summer 2022 survey:**

- On 12 October 2022, the Commission recommended that Bosnia and Herzegovina be granted candidate status by the Council of the European Union, on the understanding that a number of steps would be taken.
- On 1 January 2023, Sweden assumed the rotating presidency of the Council of the European Union and identified four priorities for its term: security and unity, competitiveness, green and energy transition, and European democratic values and the rule of law<sup>14</sup>.
- On 1 January 2023, Croatia became the 20th country to join the euro area<sup>15</sup> and the 27th country to join the Schengen Area<sup>16</sup>.
- On 1 February 2023<sup>17</sup>, the Commission presented the Green Deal Industrial Plan to enhance the competitiveness of Europe's net-zero industry and support the fast transition to climate neutrality.

### **Elections in the EU since the summer 2022 survey<sup>18</sup>**

- Parliamentary elections were held in Sweden on 11 September 2022. The right-wing forces comprising the populist Sweden Democrats (SD) led by Jimmie Åkesson, the

Moderate Party (M) led by Ulf Kristersson, the Christian Democrats (KD) led by Ebba Busch and the Liberals (L) led by Johan Pehrson, won 49.5% of the vote, with Ulf Kristersson becoming the new Prime Minister.

- On 25 September 2022, parliamentary elections were held in Italy with the right-wing coalition of Brothers of Italy, the League, and Forza Italia taking 43.8% of the vote and winning an absolute majority in the Chamber of Deputies and the Senate. The coalition is led by Giorgia Meloni, who became Italy's first female prime minister on 22 October 2022.
- On 1 October 2022, parliamentary elections were held in Latvia. Outgoing Prime Minister Krišjānis Kariņš' New Unity (JV) party secured the highest share of the vote (19.0%), returning him as Prime Minister. Voter turnout was the highest since 2011.
- Early parliamentary elections were held in Bulgaria on 2 October 2022. The political parties attracting the highest support - the centre-right coalition GERB-SDS (EPP) and the party PP led by the former Prime Minister Kiril Petkov (non-affiliated) - have not managed to form a government.
- On 9 October 2022, presidential elections were held in Austria. The incumbent president, Alexander Van der Bellen, was re-elected with 56.7% of the vote.
- Presidential elections were also held in Slovenia on 23 October and 13 November 2022. Independent candidate Nataša Pirc Musar became the country's first female president.
- On 1 November 2022, Denmark held a general election. The centre-left coalition won a narrow majority and Mette Frederiksen was appointed Prime Minister for a second term.
- Presidential elections took place in Cyprus on 5 February 2023 with a run-off on 12 February. A few days after the end of the fieldwork, Former Cypriot foreign minister Nikos Christodoulides was elected with 51.97% compared with Andreas Mavroyiannis who took 48.03% of the vote.

### **Other noteworthy events since the summer 2022 survey:**

- In the UK, Liz Truss became Prime Minister on 6 September 2022 after winning the Conservative Party leadership contest in the wake of the resignation of Prime Minister Boris Johnson. Her tenure ended six weeks later when she announced her resignation on 20 October 2022. She was replaced as Conservative Party leader and therefore as Prime Minister by Rishi Sunak.
- On 8 September 2022, Queen Elizabeth II, Britain's longest-reigning monarch, died aged 96. She was succeeded by her eldest son Charles, who will be known as King Charles III.

<sup>9</sup>[https://www.ecb.europa.eu/press/pr/date/2023/html/ecb.mp230202\\_08a972ac76.en.html](https://www.ecb.europa.eu/press/pr/date/2023/html/ecb.mp230202_08a972ac76.en.html)

<sup>10</sup><https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/documents/2995521/15725179/2-18012023-AP-EN.pdf/e301db8f-984c-27e2-1245-199a89f37bc4>

<sup>11</sup>[https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/statistics-explained/index.php?title=Unemployment\\_statistics#Unemployment\\_in\\_the\\_EU\\_and\\_the\\_euro\\_area](https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/statistics-explained/index.php?title=Unemployment_statistics#Unemployment_in_the_EU_and_the_euro_area)

<sup>12</sup><https://ourworldindata.org/covid-cases>

<sup>13</sup><https://www.ecdc.europa.eu/en/publications-data/covid-19-vaccine-tracker>

<sup>14</sup><https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/council-eu/presidency-council-eu/>

<sup>15</sup><https://www.srb.europa.eu/en/content/croatia-joins-eurozone>

<sup>16</sup><https://www.weforum.org/agenda/2023/01/croatia-europe-schengen-area/>

<sup>17</sup>[https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip\\_23\\_510](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_23_510)

<sup>18</sup><https://www.robert-schuman.eu/en/the-european-elections-monitor/2022/>

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- On 30 October 2022, Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva defeated incumbent Jair Bolsonaro in the run-off presidential elections in Brazil.
- In November 2022, the world population reached 8 billion.
- On 9 December 2022, Belgian Federal Police arrested a number of people on charges relating to money laundering and corruption, including one of the vice-presidents of the European Parliament. The scandal has been dubbed 'Qatargate' in reference to allegations that cash was received from third countries to influence EU policymakers.
- Between 6 and 18 November 2022, the United Nations Climate Change Conference or Conference of the Parties of the UNFCCC (COP27) was held in Sharm el-Sheikh in Egypt. Among the key outcomes was the agreement to establish a loss and damage fund, particularly directed at the nations most vulnerable to climate change. The United Nations Biodiversity Conference (Cop 15), was held between 7 and 19 December 2022 in Montreal, and ended with a landmark agreement to guide global action on nature through to 2030.
- On September 13 2022, Mahsa Amini was detained by Iran's morality police for allegedly breaking the country's strict dress code. She died in hospital three days later, apparently because of injuries sustained while in police custody. Her death sparked mass protests across the country, which have been violently suppressed resulting in hundreds of deaths and arrests. At the time of writing, several protesters have been executed and a total of 17 are facing the death penalty<sup>19</sup>. Protests in support of Iranians have taken place worldwide.

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<sup>19</sup> <https://www.france24.com/en/asia-pacific/20230109-iran-hands-out-three-more-death-sentences-over-amini-protests>

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**Methodology used for this survey**

The methodology used is that of the Standard Eurobarometer surveys carried out by the Directorate-General for Communication ("Media monitoring and Eurobarometer" Unit)<sup>20<sup>21</sup></sup>. A technical note relating to the interviews carried out by institutes of the Kantar network is attached as an appendix to this report. It also specifies confidence intervals.

Following the EU General Data Protection Regulation<sup>22</sup> (GDPR), respondents were asked whether or not they would agree to be asked questions on issues that could be considered "sensitive".

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

Belgium	BE	Lithuania	LT
Bulgaria	BG	Luxembourg	LU
Czechia	CZ	Hungary	HU
Denmark	DK	Malta	MT
Germany	DE	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		
Turkish Cypriot Community			CY (tcc)
Albania	AL	North Macedonia	MK
Bosnia and Herzegovina	BA	Serbia	RS
Moldova	MD	Türkiye	TR
Montenegro	ME		
Norway	NO	Switzerland	CH
Kosovo <sup>23</sup>	XK	The United Kingdom	UK
European Union - weighted average for the 27 Member States of the European Union		EU27	
BE, FR, IT, LU, DE, AT, ES, PT, IE, NL, FI, EL, EE, SI, CY, MT, SK, LV, LT, HR		Euro area	
BG, CZ, DK, HU, PL, RO, SE		Outside euro area	

\* Cyprus as a whole is one of the 27 European Union Member States. However, the 'acquis communautaire' has been suspended in the part of the country which is not controlled by the government of the Republic of Cyprus. For practical reasons, only the interviews carried out in the part of the country controlled by the government of the Republic of Cyprus are included in the 'CY' category and in the EU27 average.

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

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

<sup>20</sup> <https://www.europa.eu/eurobarometer>

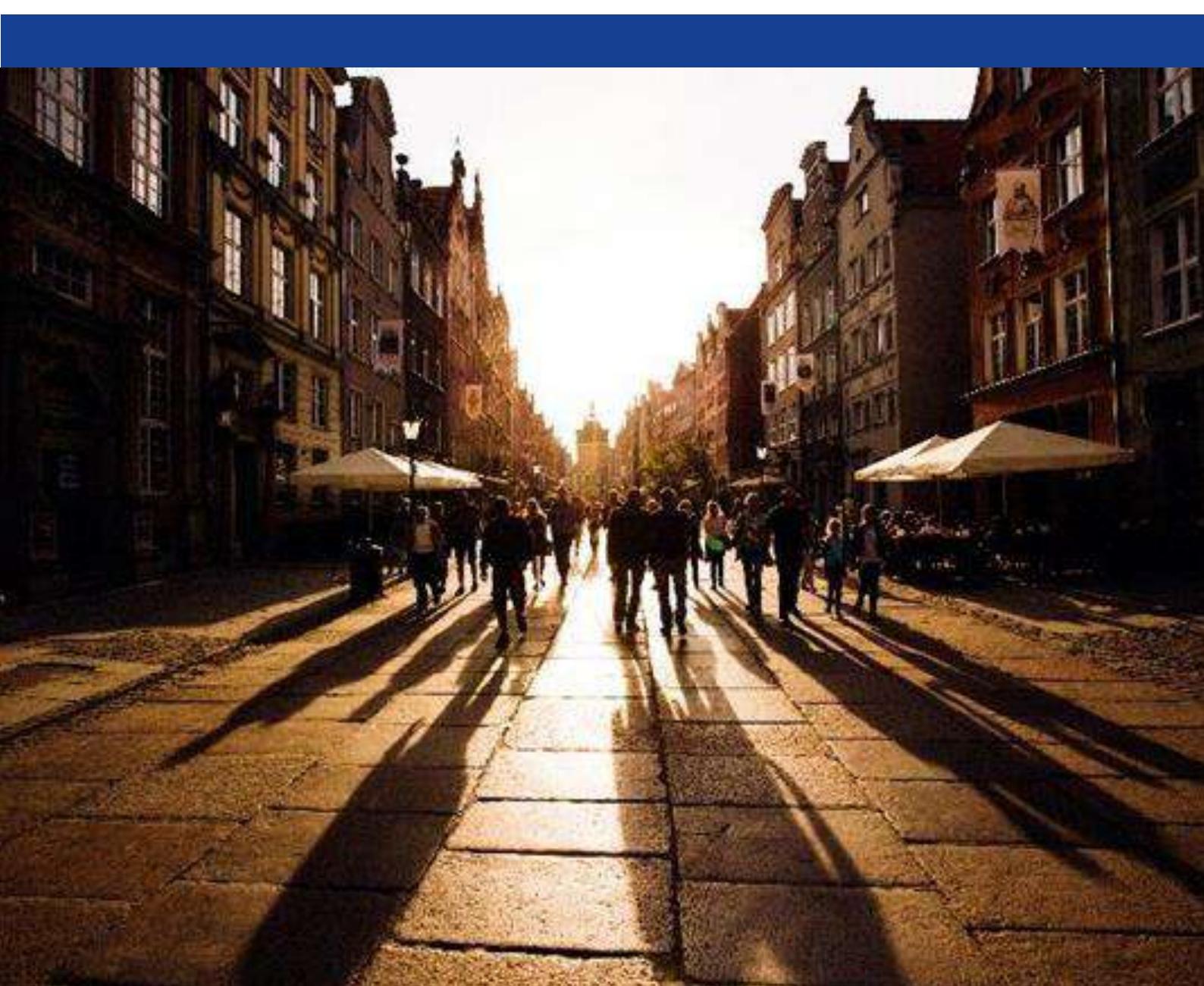
<sup>21</sup> The results tables are annexed. It should be noted that the total of the percentages indicated in the tables in this report may exceed 100% when the respondent was able to choose several answers to the same question.

<sup>22</sup> 2016/679

<sup>23</sup> This designation is without prejudice to positions on status, and is in line with UNSCR 1244/99 and the ICJ Opinion on the Kosovo declaration of independence.

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# I. LIFE IN THE EUROPEAN UNION



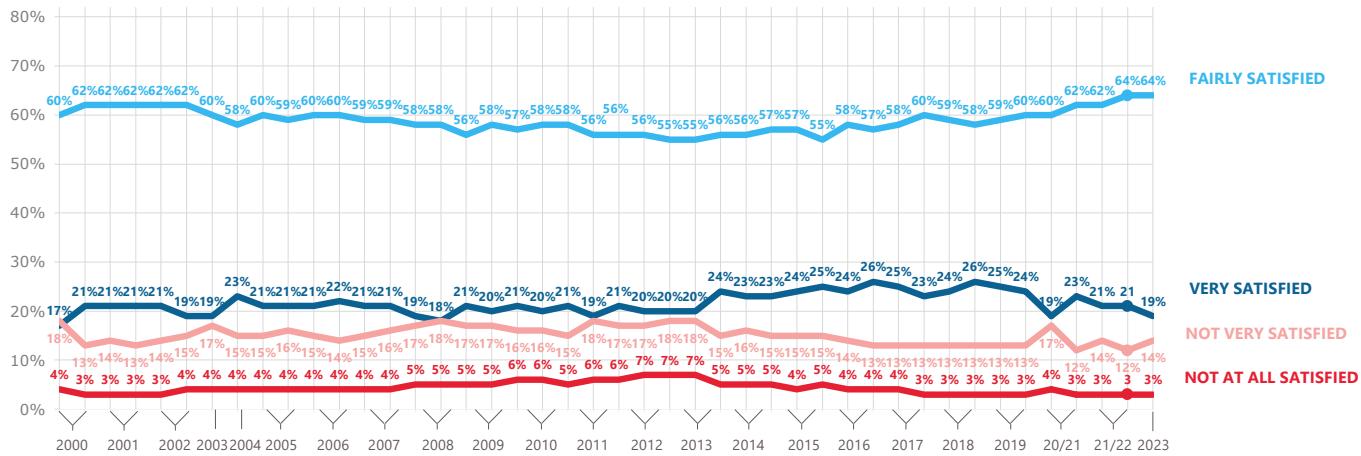
## 1. The personal situation of Europeans

**Satisfaction with the personal situation is predominant: more than eight in ten Europeans are satisfied with the life they lead**

**83% of Europeans are satisfied with the life they lead<sup>24</sup>,** including 64% who are “fairly satisfied” and 19% who say that they are “very satisfied”. Since summer 2022 the overall satisfaction level has decreased slightly, by two percentage points, thus offsetting the slight increase of two percentage points in the previous survey. Despite a slight decrease in the proportion of respondents who are “very satisfied” (19%, -2 pp), it is still higher than the overall proportion who are dissatisfied with the life they lead.

Fewer than one fifth of respondents (17%, +2 percentage points) say that they are dissatisfied with their lives. More specifically, the proportion of Europeans who are “not at all satisfied” with the life they lead is unchanged at 3%, while the share who are “not very satisfied” is now 14% (+2 pp)

- Q** On the whole, are you very satisfied, fairly satisfied, not very satisfied or not at all satisfied with the life you lead?  
 (% - EU)



<sup>24</sup> D70. On the whole, are you very satisfied, fairly satisfied, not very satisfied or not at all satisfied with the life you lead?

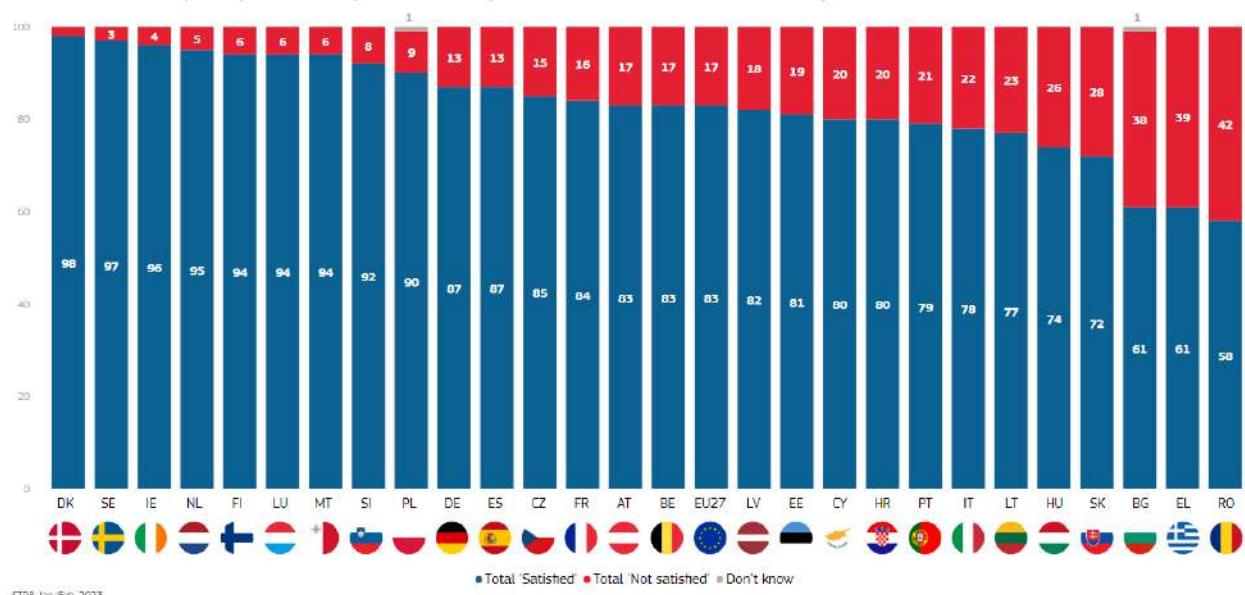
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In all 27 Member States of the European Union, more than half of respondents are satisfied with the life they lead (unchanged since summer 2022). However, levels of satisfaction vary widely between Member States. Overall, more than nine in ten respondents are satisfied with their lives in eight countries, most strikingly in Denmark (98%), Sweden (97%) and Ireland (96%). In contrast, levels of satisfaction are lowest among respondents in Romania (58%), and Greece and Bulgaria (both 61%), the only three Member States where fewer than seven in ten respondents are satisfied with the life they lead. In four countries more than four in ten respondents say that they are “very satisfied” with the life they lead, namely Denmark (69%), the Netherlands (52%), Malta (46%) and Ireland (44%). In contrast, in Romania more than four in ten respondents are dissatisfied with their lives (42%, including 9% “not at all satisfied”). Levels of dissatisfaction are also high in Greece (39%, including 12% “not at all satisfied”), and Bulgaria (38%, including 8% “not at all satisfied”), where more than a third of respondents hold this opinion.

**Since summer 2022**, satisfaction has increased in ten Member States (compared with 19 in the previous survey), most markedly in Latvia (82%, +6 pp) and Malta (94%, +5 pp), while levels of satisfaction decreased in 17 countries, particularly among respondents in Hungary (74%, -9 pp), Germany (87%, -6 pp), Belgium (83%, -6 pp) and Romania (58%, -6 pp).

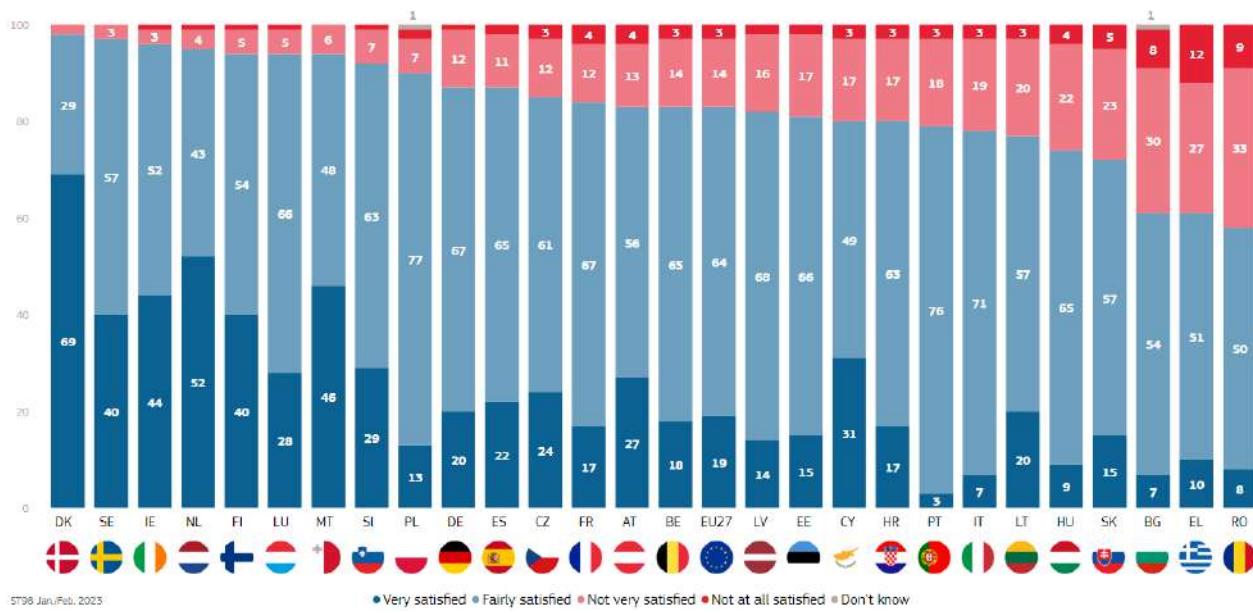
Respondents' satisfaction with the life they lead is the same in the **euro area** countries (84%, -1 pp since summer 2022) than **outside the euro area** (84%, +1 pp)

D70 On the whole, are you very satisfied, fairly satisfied, not very satisfied or not at all satisfied with the life you lead? (%)



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D70 On the whole, are you very satisfied, fairly satisfied, not very satisfied or not at all satisfied with the life you lead? (%)



ST98 Jan/Feb. 2023

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

Sorted on total 'Satisfied'

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**The socio-demographic data** show that in almost all categories, more than half of Europeans are satisfied with the life they lead. However, there are some differences, depending on the socioeconomic status of the respondents. Satisfaction is more widespread among managers (94%) than unemployed people (59%), and among respondents who never or almost never have difficulties paying their bills (92%) than among people who have such difficulties most of the time (48% 'satisfied' vs. 52% 'not satisfied'). The latter is the only category in which more than half of respondents are dissatisfied with the life they lead.

Satisfaction is also higher among people who see themselves as belonging to the upper class (92%) or upper middle class (93%) than among people who consider themselves as part of the working class (71%).

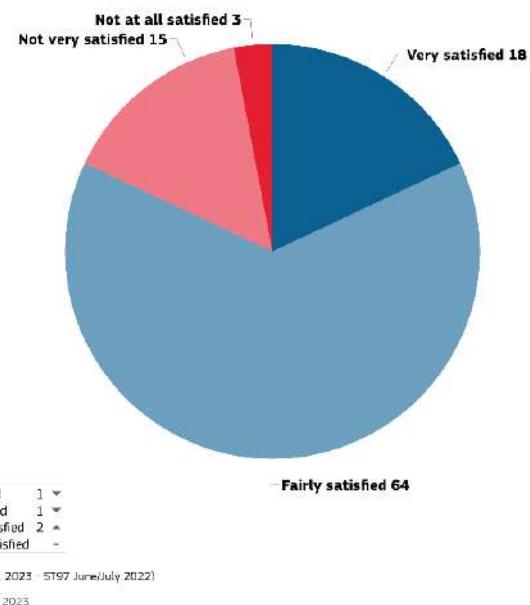
- D70** On the whole, are you very satisfied, fairly satisfied, not very satisfied or not at all satisfied with the life you lead?  
 (% - EU)

	Total 'Satisfied'	Total 'Not satisfied'	Don't know
EU27	83	17	0
 Gender			
Man	84	16	0
Woman	83	17	0
 Age			
15-24	89	11	0
25-39	86	14	0
40-54	82	18	0
55 +	81	19	0
 Education (End of)			
15-	73	27	0
16-19	80	20	0
20+	90	10	0
Still studying	92	8	0
 Socio-professional category			
Self-employed	85	15	0
Managers	94	6	0
Other white collars	86	14	0
Manual workers	81	19	0
House persons	76	24	0
Unemployed	59	41	0
Retired	81	19	0
Students	92	8	0
 Difficulties paying bills			
Most of the time	48	52	0
From time to time	74	26	0
Almost never/ Never	92	8	0
 Consider belonging to			
The working class	71	29	0
The lower middle class	78	22	0
The middle class	89	11	0
The upper middle class	93	7	0
The upper class	92	8	0
 Image of the EU			
Positive	92	8	0
Neutral	82	18	0
Negative	65	35	0

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When asked in particular about **satisfaction with their daily lives**, more than eight in ten Europeans (82%, -2 percentage points since summer 2022) say that they are satisfied<sup>25</sup>, including 18% (-1) who are “very satisfied” and 64% (-1) who are “fairly satisfied”. Less than a fifth of respondents are dissatisfied with their daily lives: 15% (+2) say that they are “not very satisfied” and 3% (no change) that they are “not at all satisfied”.

D70a. On the whole, are you very satisfied, fairly satisfied, not very satisfied or not at all satisfied with your daily life? (EU27) (%)



<sup>25</sup> D70a. On the whole, are you very satisfied, fairly satisfied, not very satisfied or not at all satisfied with your daily life?

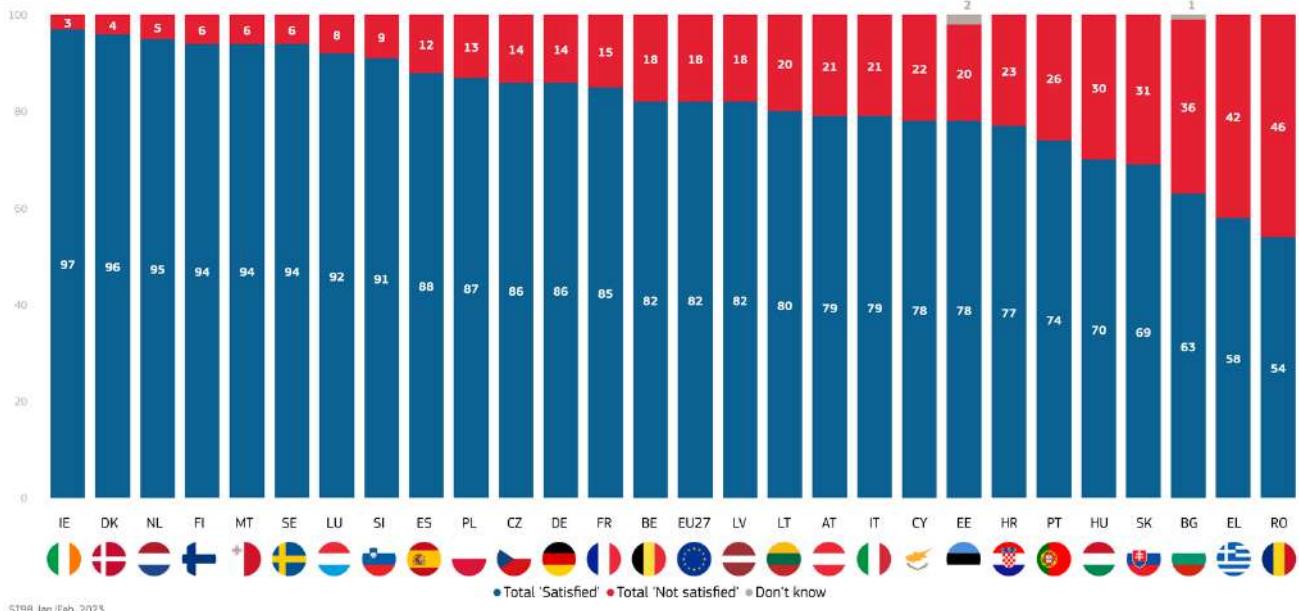
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**At least five in ten respondents in all EU Member States are satisfied with their daily lives.** However, levels of satisfaction vary across Member States, ranging from 97% in Ireland and 96% in Denmark, where they are highest, to 54% in Romania and 58% in Greece, where fewer than six in ten respondents say the same. In four countries (compared with three in the previous survey) more than four in ten respondents say that they are “very satisfied” with their daily lives: Denmark (64% “very satisfied”), the Netherlands (46%), Ireland (44%) and Malta (41%). In contrast, dissatisfaction levels are particularly high in Romania (46% ‘not satisfied’, including 11% “not at all satisfied”), Greece (42% ‘not satisfied’, including 11% “not at all satisfied”) and Bulgaria (36%, including 7% “not at all satisfied”), where more than a third of respondents are dissatisfied with their daily lives.

**Since summer 2022**, levels of satisfaction have increased in nine Member States (compared with 19 in the previous survey), most particularly in Malta (94%, +5 percentage points), Latvia (82% +4 pp) and Lithuania (80%, +4 pp), while they are unchanged in two countries, namely Slovenia (91%) and Denmark (96%). In contrast, satisfaction with daily life has decreased in 16 countries, most particularly in Hungary (70%, -9 pp), Slovakia (69%, -8 pp) and Romania (54%, -8 pp).

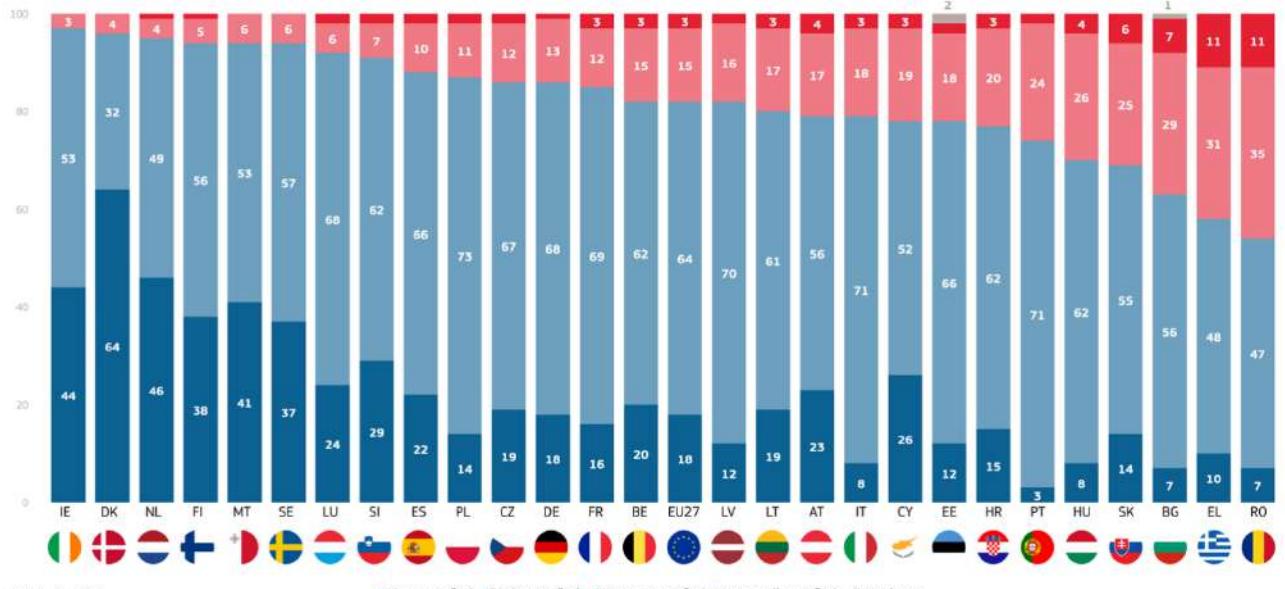
Respondents in **euro area** countries tend to be slightly more satisfied with their daily lives (84%, -2 pp since summer 2022) than those in countries **outside the euro area** (81%, -1 pp). Levels of satisfaction with daily life have decreased in almost identical proportions in both areas since the previous survey in summer 2022.

D70a. On the whole, are you very satisfied, fairly satisfied, not very satisfied or not at all satisfied with your daily life? (%)



ST98 Jan/Feb. 2023

D70a. On the whole, are you very satisfied, fairly satisfied, not very satisfied or not at all satisfied with your daily life? (%)



ST98 Jan/Feb. 2023

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

Sorted on total 'Satisfied'

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**The socio-demographic data** show that in almost all categories more than two thirds of Europeans are satisfied with their daily lives. This is particularly true of managers (93%), respondents who never or almost never have difficulties paying their bills (92%), students (92%), and those who see themselves as upper middle class (94%).

In the case of unemployed people, the majorities of respondents who are satisfied with their daily lives are narrower (57% 'satisfied' vs. 43% 'not satisfied'). Respondents who struggle to pay their bills most of the time are predominantly dissatisfied (47% 'satisfied' vs. 53% 'not satisfied')

- D70a** On the whole, are you very satisfied, fairly satisfied, not very satisfied or not at all satisfied with your daily life?  
 (% - EU)

	Total 'Satisfied'	Total 'Not satisfied'	Don't know
EU27	82	18	0
<b>Gender</b>			
Man	83	17	0
Woman	82	18	0
<b>Age</b>			
15-24	89	11	0
25-39	84	16	0
40-54	81	19	0
55 +	81	19	0
<b>Education (End of)</b>			
15-	72	28	0
16-19	78	22	0
20+	90	10	0
Still studying	92	8	0
<b>Socio-professional category</b>			
Self-employed	86	14	0
Managers	93	7	0
Other white collars	85	15	0
Manual workers	80	20	0
House persons	74	26	0
Unemployed	57	43	0
Retired	81	19	0
Students	92	8	0
<b>Difficulties paying bills</b>			
Most of the time	47	53	0
From time to time	73	27	0
Almost never/ Never	92	8	0
<b>Consider belonging to</b>			
The working class	70	30	0
The lower middle class	77	23	0
The middle class	88	12	0
The upper middle class	94	6	0
The upper class	89	11	0
<b>Image of the EU</b>			
Positive	91	9	0
Neutral	80	20	0
Negative	66	34	0

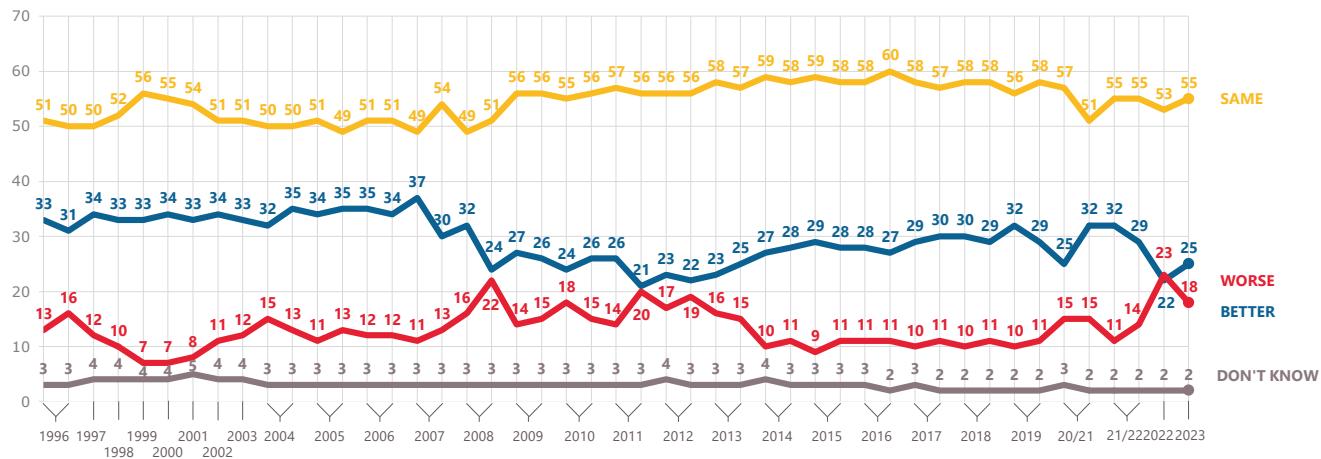
**Standard Eurobarometer 98**  
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**When looking ahead to the next twelve months**, a majority of Europeans expect their personal situation to "stay the same" (55%, +2 percentage points since summer 2022)<sup>26</sup>. A quarter of respondents (+3 pp) expect their lives in general to get better. After an increase of three percentage points, **negative opinions are now outweighed by positive opinions, as they were between spring 1996, when this question was first asked, and winter 2021-2022.**

Pessimism is now predominant among 18% of respondents (-5 percentage points). Finally, a stable proportion of 2% give no answer or say that they do not know.

**QA2.1** What are your expectations for the next twelve months: will the next twelve months be better, worse or the same, when it comes to...?

Your life in general (% - EU)



<sup>26</sup> QA2.1. What are your expectations for the next twelve months: will the next twelve months be better, worse or the same, when it comes to...? Your life in general.

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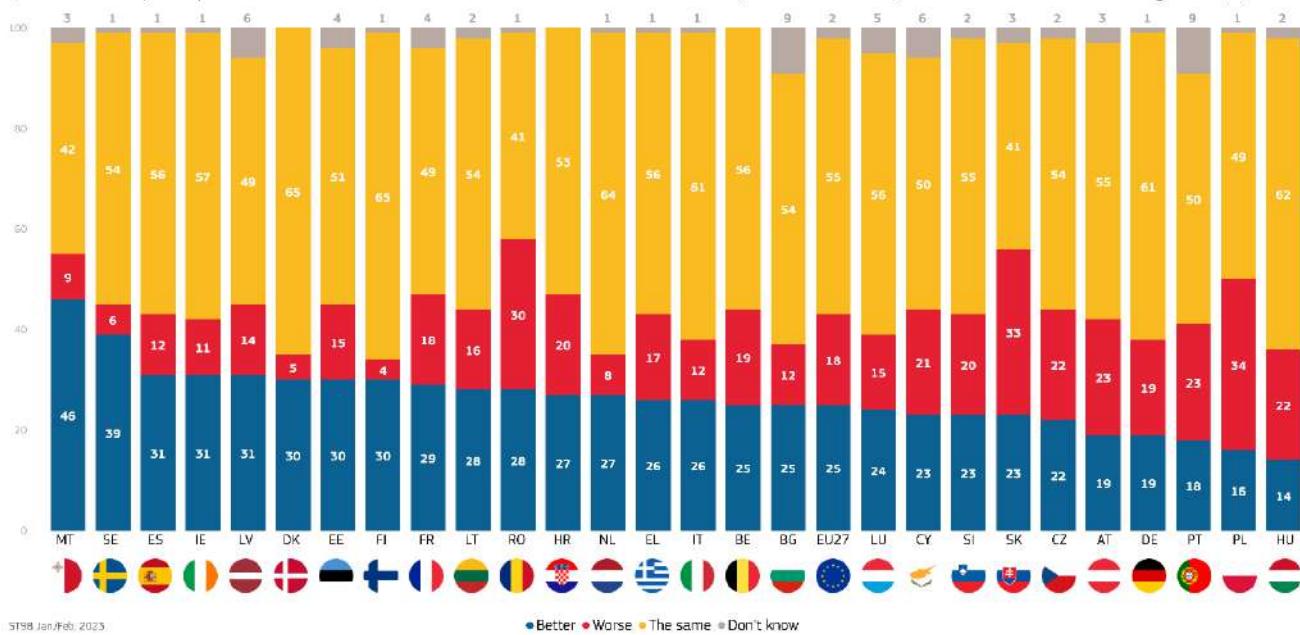
In 26 Member States of the European Union (compared with 25 in summer 2022), respondents are most likely to expect their lives in general to be “**the same**” over the next twelve months. Within this group of countries, levels vary widely. Respondents are most likely to give this response in Denmark and Finland (both 65%) and in the Netherlands (64%), and least so in Romania (41% “the same” vs. 28% “better” and 30% “worse”) and Slovakia (41% “the same” vs. 23% “better” and 33% “worse”).

Optimism has increased within **euro area** countries by two percentage points (25% “better”), as it has in countries **outside the euro area** (22%, +1 pp). On the other hand, pessimistic views declined significantly in both areas: -6 pp within the euro area (down to 16% “worse”) and -3 pp outside the euro area (down to 24% “worse”).

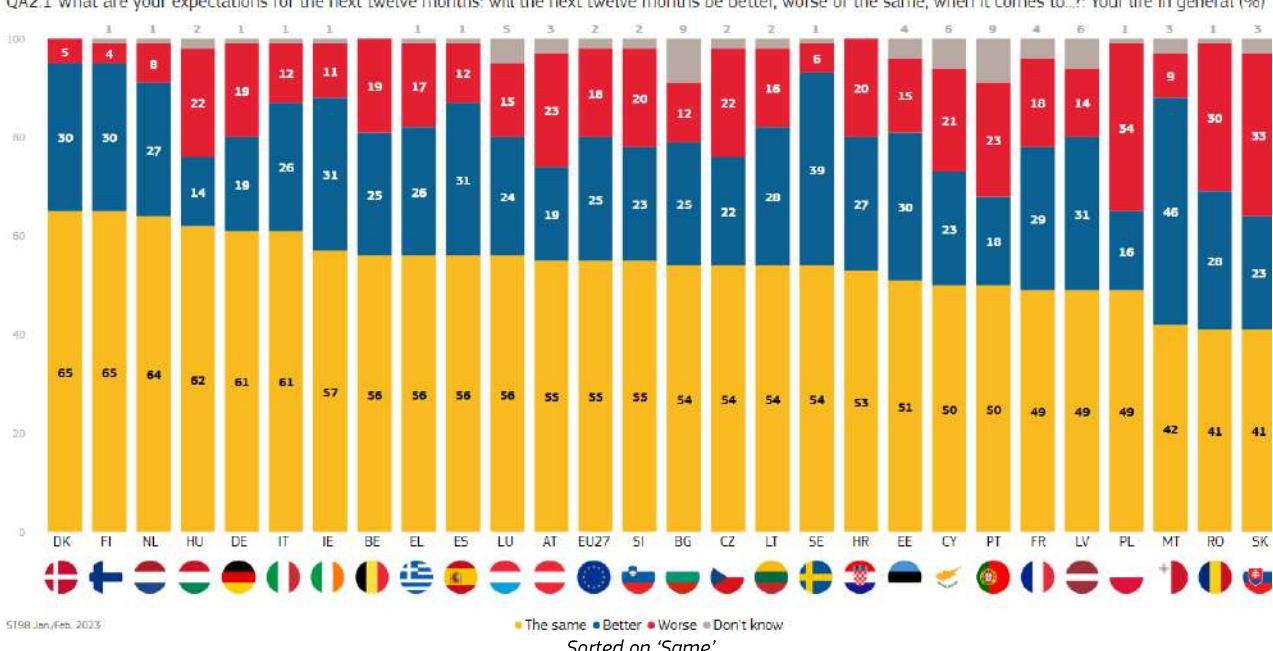
Respondents in only one Member State (unchanged since the previous survey) are more likely to expect life to be “**better**” than either “worse” or “the same”, namely Malta (46%, -6 percentage points “better”, vs. 42%, +8 pp, “same” and 9%, -2 pp “worse”). Furthermore, positive expectations are also high in Sweden, where more than a third of respondents believe that their lives will get better over the next 12 months (39%, +4 pp).

In 18 countries positive views gained ground, most significantly in Estonia (30%, +9 pp) and Austria (19%, +9 pp), while they remained unchanged in five countries. Conversely, positive views lost ground in four countries: Malta (46%, -6 pp), Hungary (14%, -4 pp), Cyprus (23%, -2 pp) and Slovakia (23%, -1 pp).

QA2.1. What are your expectations for the next 12 months : will the next 12 months be better, worse or the same, when it comes to...? -Your life in general (%)



QA2.1 What are your expectations for the next twelve months: will the next twelve months be better, worse or the same, when it comes to...? Your life in general (%)



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The index measuring the optimism of Europeans regarding their lives in general<sup>27</sup> over the coming year increased by eight index points, after a significant 16-point decrease in the previous survey. It currently stands at +7. As a result of this evolution the indicator became positive again after becoming negative for the first time in the previous survey.

**QA2.1** What are your expectations for the next twelve months: will the next twelve months be better, worse or the same, when it comes to...?  
**Your life in general (EU - OPTIMISM INDEX (BETTER - WORSE))**



The index is positive in 19 Member States (compared with 12 in the previous survey of summer 2022). It is highest in Malta (+37 index points) and Sweden (+33 index points), and lowest in Cyprus (+2 index points) and Slovenia (+3 index points). The index has remained at 0 in Czechia and Germany, while it is now negative in six countries (compared with 15 in the previous survey), most notably in Poland (-18 index points).

**Since summer 2022,** the index has improved in 23 Member States, most significantly in Estonia (+26 index points up to +15) and Latvia (+23 index points up to +17), while it remained unchanged in France (at +11 index points). Conversely, the index fell in Poland (-3 index points down to -18), Malta (-4 index points down to +37) and Hungary (-5 index points down to -8).

**QA2.1** What are your expectations for the next 12 months : will the next 12 months be better, worse or the same, when it comes to...?  
**Your life in general (%)**



Better - Worse Jan/Feb 2023	7	15	17	0	12	0	3	19	-4	26	33	13	7	20	9	6	25	19	2	-10	-2	14	9	-5	11	-18	37	-8
Better - Worse Jun/Jul 2022	-1	-11	-6	-21	-5	-16	-12	5	-18	12	22	3	-2	12	1	-1	18	12	-3	-14	-5	12	8	-6	11	-15	41	-3
Jan/Feb 2023 - Jun/Jul 2022	▲8	▲26	▲23	▲21	▲17	▲16	▲15	▲14	▲14	▲11	▲10	▲9	▲8	▲8	▲7	▲7	▲7	▲5	▲4	▲3	▲2	▲1	▲1	=	▼3	▼4	▼5	

<sup>27</sup> Difference between the positive ('better') and negative ('worse') answers.

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**The socio-demographic data** show some significant differences between categories, reflecting the age and social status of respondents. Optimism for the next twelve months is more widespread among 15-24 year-olds (44%) than among those aged 55 and over (14%), among students (43%) than among retirees (10%) or house persons (19%), and among people who studied up to the age of 20 and beyond (27%) than among those who left school aged 15 or earlier (15%).

**QA2.1** What are your expectations for the next 12 months : will the next 12 months be better, worse or the same, when it comes to...?

**Your life in general** (% - EU)

	Better	Worse	The same	Don't know
EU27	25	18	55	2
Gender				
Man	25	19	54	2
Woman	24	17	57	2
Age				
15-24	44	12	43	1
25-39	35	17	46	2
40-54	24	20	54	2
55 +	14	19	65	2
Education (End of)				
15-	15	21	61	3
16-19	22	21	55	2
20+	27	15	56	2
Still studying	43	10	46	1
Socio-professional category				
Self- employed	29	16	53	2
Managers	27	14	58	1
Other white collars	28	17	54	1
Manual workers	27	22	49	2
House persons	19	26	52	3
Unemployed	37	21	39	3
Retired	10	19	69	2
Students	43	10	46	1
Difficulties paying bills				
Most of the time	24	32	41	3
From time to time	26	23	49	2
Almost never/ Never	24	14	60	2
Consider belonging to				
The working class	21	23	53	3
The lower middle class	22	21	56	1
The middle class	26	16	56	2
The upper middle class	28	13	58	1
The upper class	35	10	54	1

## 2. The main concerns of Europeans

### 2.1 Personal concerns

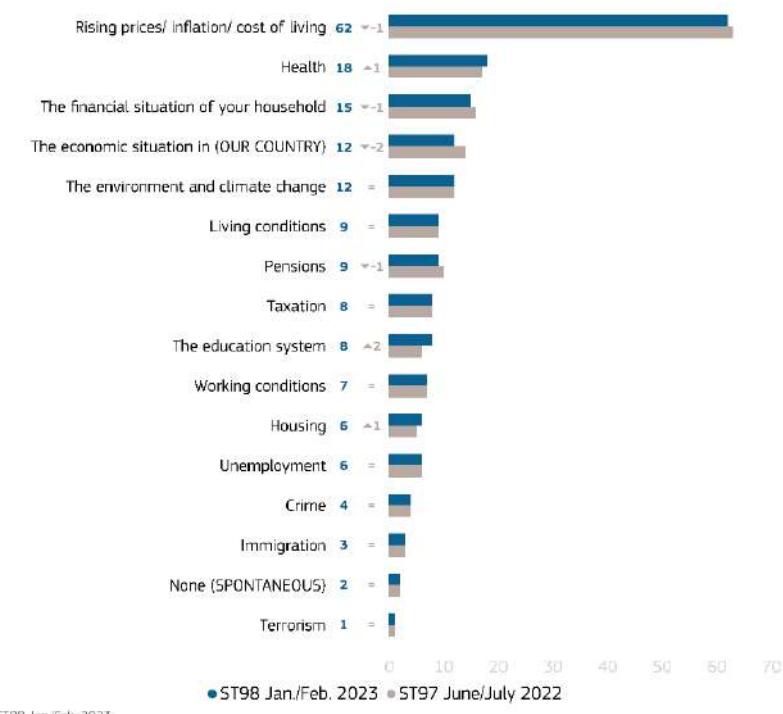
#### For more than six in ten Europeans 'rising prices/ inflation/ cost of living' is the main personal concern

In this winter 2022 – 2023 EB98 survey, **rising prices/ inflation/ cost of living** represents the most important concern that Europeans say that they face personally<sup>28</sup>. This concern was mentioned in first place in 26 Member States, and by 62% of respondents EU-wide. Despite a one percentage-point decrease since summer 2022, the proportion of respondents for whom this issue is the main or among the main concerns remains at a very high level. It is 11 percentage points higher than in winter 2021–2022, 27 percentage points above the level of spring 2021, and 36 percentage points higher than in winter 2020–2021, when it was the second most frequently mentioned item.

Fewer than one in five respondents (18%) are worried about **health** issues. Since summer 2022, this item has gained one percentage point. It is followed by the **financial situation of the household**, which ranks in third position (15%, -1 pp).

The **economic situation of the country** (12%, -2 pp) shares fourth position with **environment and climate change** (12%, no change). **Pensions** (9%, -1 pp) remain in sixth place, equally-ranked with **living conditions** (9%, no change), followed by **taxation** (8%, no change), the **education system** (8%, +2 pp), **working conditions** (7%, no change), **unemployment** (6%, no change), **housing** (6%, +1 pp), **crime** (4%, no change) and **immigration** (3%, no change), with **terrorism** (1%, no change) bringing up the rear.

QA4. And personally, what are the two most important issues you are facing at the moment? (MAX. 2 ANSWERS) (EU27) (%)



<sup>28</sup> QA4. And personally, what are the two most important issues you are facing at the moment?

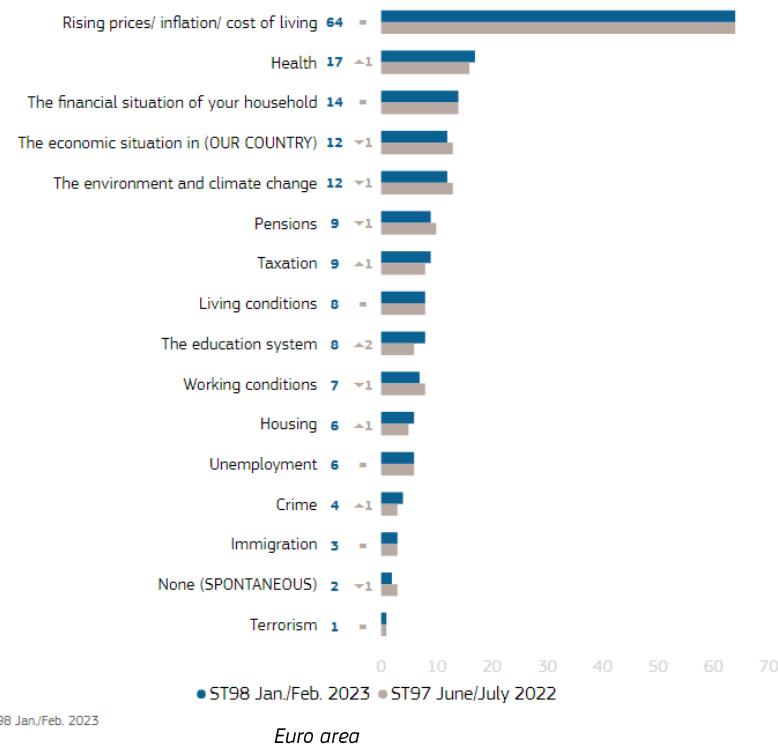
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The prioritisation of the issues faced by respondents is almost the same within euro area countries and in countries outside the euro area.

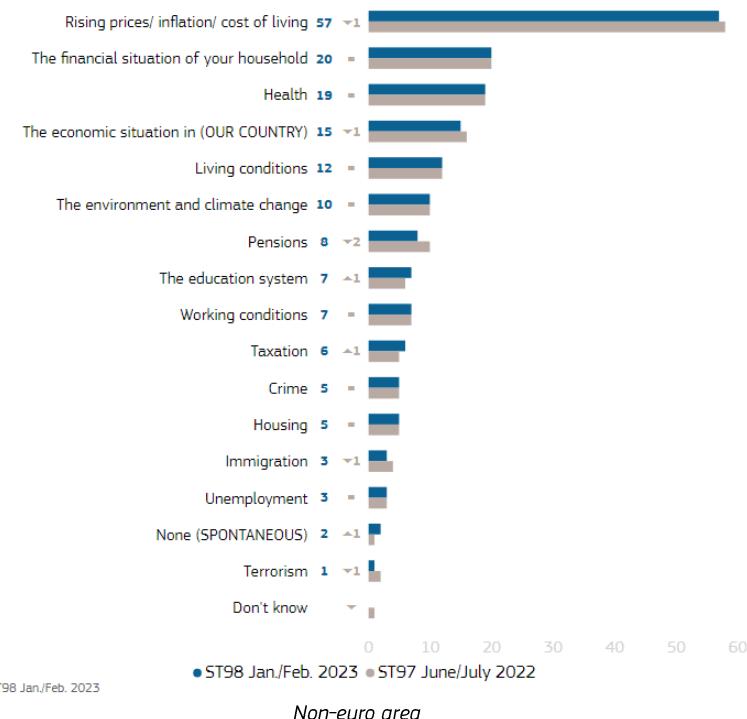
**Rising prices/ inflation/ cost of living** tops the list in not dissimilar proportions in both the **euro area** countries (64%, no change) and in those **outside the euro area** (57%, -1 pp). **Health** (17%, +1 pp) is ranked in second place, followed by the

**financial situation of the household** (14%, no change) in euro area countries, whereas the latter ranks second outside the euro area (20%, no change). Health stands in third place (19%, no change) in these countries.

QA4 And personally, what are the two most important issues you are facing at the moment? (EURO ZONE) (%)



QA4 And personally, what are the two most important issues you are facing at the moment? (NON EURO) (%)



The country analysis reveals some significant differences between Member States.

**Rising prices/ inflation/ cost of living** is the leading issue currently faced by Europeans in 26 Member States (compared with 27 in summer 2022). Within this broad group of countries, scores range from a high of 73% in Germany to a low of 36% in Sweden. Finland is the only exception, as rising prices/ inflation/ cost of living rank second (35%) after health, which tops the list of personal concerns with 53%.

**Since summer 2022**, the proportions of respondents mentioning this item have evolved. This issue is of increasing personal concern in 11 Member States, with the highest increases observed in Malta (66%, +11 pp) and Hungary (72%, +8 pp). However, this item is now less of a concern in 16 countries, most notably in Denmark (47%, -15 pp) and Slovenia (45%, -9 pp).

**Health** is the most frequently mentioned personal concern in Finland (53%). It ranks second in nine EU Member States, including Sweden (34%), and third in 12 countries. Mentions are lowest in Cyprus (9%), where fewer than one in ten respondents are concerned about health at a personal level.

**Since summer 2022**, this issue has gained ground in 14 countries, most markedly in Finland (53%, +15 pp) and Sweden (34%, +9 pp), while it is unchanged in Denmark (22%), Lithuania (20%) and Hungary (19%). Conversely, personal concerns about health diminished in ten Member States, led by Luxembourg (12%, -5 pp).

**The financial situation of the household** ranks second in ten countries, and third in six countries. Respondents are the most concerned about this issue in Greece (28%) and least in Slovenia (9%). Proportions are also high in Bulgaria and Hungary, where a quarter of respondents are personally concerned about the financial situation of their household.

**Since summer 2022**, personal concerns about the financial situation of the household have increased in seven countries, most strikingly in Romania (22%, +6 pp), while they have remained unchanged in four and decreased in 16 others.

**The economic situation of the country** is a matter of concern at a personal level in Czechia (18%) and Spain (14%). Proportions are also high in Latvia (18%) and Croatia (18%), where this concern ranks third, and in Bulgaria (17%) and Portugal (13%).

**Since summer 2022**, personal concerns about the economic situation of the country have increased in six countries, especially in Sweden (16%, +4 pp), while they have remained unchanged in seven and decreased in the 14 remaining Member States, notably in Finland (10%, -8 pp).

**The environment and climate change** is ranked in second place in Luxembourg (23%), Malta (20%) and the Netherlands (31%), where mentions are highest. It ranks third in five countries, with a particularly high level of concern in Sweden (29%).

**Since summer 2022**, this issue has gained ground in eight countries, most markedly in the Netherlands (31%, +6 pp), while the extent of concern is unchanged in four Member States and has decreased in 15, most markedly in Slovakia (5%, -3 pp) and Ireland (8%, -3 pp).

**Taxation** is ranked second in Lithuania (25%) and Italy (21%), while it ranks third in Portugal (13%). **Pensions** rank second in Portugal (15%) and third in Slovenia (12%). A high proportion of respondents also mentioned this concern in Bulgaria (15%). **Housing** occupies third place in Luxembourg (20%) and in Ireland (17%), while **unemployment** is ranked third in Spain (13%). **Immigration** stands in second position in Cyprus (19%, +6 pp), while **the education system** is a matter of personal concern for 11% of respondents in Malta (in third place). Although not in the top three, **working conditions** are mentioned by 11% in Portugal and Croatia. In Sweden 16% of respondents mention **crime** as a matter of personal concern.

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**QA4 And personally, what are the two most important issues you are facing at the moment? (MAX. 2 ANSWERS)**  
 (%)



Rising prices/ inflation/ cost of living	62	62	62	66	47	73	63	64	72	61	62	66	61	58	68	71	52	72	66	54	52	59	64	51	45	68	35	36	
Health	18	12	14	18	22	15	19	24	15	14	21	18	14	9	26	20	12	19	10	25	18	17	13	17	26	20	53	34	
The financial situation of your household	15	20	25	16	10	16	16	14	28	10	14	24	10	18	11	10	10	25	11	11	21	21	11	22	9	23	24	15	
The economic situation in (OUR COUNTRY)	12	9	17	18	8	12	14	13	11	14	10	18	13	16	18	13	6	17	9	8	12	15	13	16	5	12	10	16	
The environment and climate change	12	17	3	8	21	15	4	8	4	7	14	4	12	4	3	4	23	5	20	31	13	6	2	9	7	5	16	29	
Pensions	9	11	15	5	7	6	11	5	14	10	11	11	7	9	11	6	4	11	10	7	9	7	15	13	12	13	9	8	
Living conditions	9	8	16	7	7	6	10	4	9	8	7	12	9	6	7	3	7	9	8	8	13	15	8	15	10	5	11	8	
Taxation	8	8	2	3	3	6	8	7	10	10	3	4	21	3	13	25	11	4	5	3	4	8	13	7	8	2	3	2	
The education system	8	9	5	7	9	8	8	7	8	8	9	4	8	9	7	4	6	7	11	13	12	5	6	11	9	7	10	12	
Working conditions	7	5	10	7	6	5	7	4	8	10	6	11	9	6	4	3	6	7	8	4	9	7	11	7	10	9	7	6	
Unemployment	6	5	6	2	3	2	6	4	9	13	6	6	9	9	7	5	2	3	3	1	5	3	5	4	2	4	3	3	
Housing	6	4	2	8	7	8	5	17	1	7	5	6	2	6	6	4	20	3	8	13	7	5	6	5	7	6	10	5	
Crime	4	7	3	1	2	2	1	4	4	3	9	2	3	3	1	1	14	1	10	3	5	4	1	5	0	1	1	16	
Immigration	3	4	2	2	2	4	3	3	1	1	3	1	3	19	1	1	1	2	2	7	3	4	3	1	4	1	1	1	4
Terrorism	1	2	1	1	0	1	1	1	0	1	0	1	2	2	0	0	1	1	4	1	3	2	0	3	0	0	0	0	2
Cyprus issue	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other (SPONTANEOUS)	0	1	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	1
None (SPONTANEOUS)	2	1	1	3	13	1	4	3	1	2	3	0	1	3	2	4	3	1	1	2	1	2	5	0	10	3	0	0	
Don't know	0	0	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

1st MOST FREQUENTLY MENTIONED ITEM

2nd MOST FREQUENTLY MENTIONED ITEM

3rd MOST FREQUENTLY MENTIONED ITEM

**QA4 And personally, what are the two most important issues you are facing at the moment? (MAX. 2 ANSWERS)**  
 (%)



Rising prices/ inflation/ cost of living	62	62	62	66	47	73	63	64	72	61	62	66	61	58	68	71	52	72	66	54	52	59	64	51	45	68	35	36	
Health	18	12	14	18	22	15	19	24	15	14	21	18	14	9	26	20	12	19	10	25	18	17	13	17	26	20	53	34	
The financial situation of your household	15	20	25	16	10	16	16	14	28	10	14	24	10	18	11	10	10	25	11	11	21	21	11	22	9	23	24	15	
The economic situation in (OUR COUNTRY)	12	9	17	18	8	12	14	13	11	14	10	18	13	16	18	13	6	17	9	8	12	15	13	16	5	12	10	16	
The environment and climate change	12	17	3	8	21	15	4	8	4	7	14	4	12	4	3	4	23	5	20	31	13	6	2	9	7	5	16	29	
Pensions	9	11	15	5	7	6	11	5	14	10	11	11	7	9	11	6	4	11	10	7	9	7	15	13	12	13	9	8	
Living conditions	9	8	16	7	7	6	10	4	9	8	7	12	9	6	7	3	7	9	8	8	13	15	8	15	10	5	11	8	
Taxation	8	8	2	3	3	6	8	7	10	10	3	4	21	3	13	25	11	4	5	3	4	8	13	7	8	2	3	2	
The education system	8	9	5	7	9	8	8	7	8	8	9	4	8	9	7	4	6	7	11	13	12	5	6	11	9	7	10	12	
Working conditions	7	5	10	7	6	5	7	4	8	10	6	11	9	6	4	3	6	7	8	4	9	7	11	7	10	9	7	6	
Unemployment	6	5	6	2	3	2	6	4	9	13	6	6	9	9	7	5	2	3	3	1	5	3	5	4	2	4	3	3	
Housing	6	4	2	8	7	8	5	17	1	7	5	6	2	6	6	4	20	3	8	13	7	5	6	5	7	6	10	5	
Crime	4	7	3	1	2	2	1	4	4	3	9	2	3	3	1	1	14	1	10	3	5	4	1	5	0	1	1	16	
Immigration	3	4	2	2	2	4	3	3	1	1	3	1	3	19	1	1	2	2	7	3	4	3	1	4	1	1	1	4	
Terrorism	1	2	1	1	0	1	1	1	0	1	0	1	2	2	0	0	1	1	4	1	3	2	0	3	0	0	0	0	2
Cyprus issue	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other (SPONTANEOUS)	0	1	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	1	0
None (SPONTANEOUS)	2	1	1	3	13	1	4	3	1	2	3	0	1	3	2	4	3	1	1	2	1	2	5	0	10	3	0	0	
Don't know	0	0	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Highest percentage per country

Lowest percentage per country

Highest percentage per item

Lowest percentage per item

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**QA4** And personally, what are the two most important issues you are facing at the moment? (MAX. 2  
ANSWERS)  
(% - EU)

	Rising prices/inflation/ cost of living	Health	The financial situation of your household	The economic situation in (OUR COUNTRY)	The environment and climate change
EU27	62	18	15	12	12
 Gender					
Man	62	16	15	14	12
Woman	63	19	16	11	12
 Age					
15-24	55	7	12	10	13
25-39	62	11	17	14	13
40-54	64	16	18	14	11
55 +	64	26	14	11	12
 Education (End of)					
15-	66	24	18	9	6
16-19	66	17	18	14	9
20+	59	20	12	13	17
Still studying	54	8	12	9	15
 Socio-professional category					
Self-employed	61	13	14	13	13
Managers	61	16	10	14	18
Other white collars	66	13	17	17	13
Manual workers	63	13	19	15	9
House persons	66	22	19	13	7
Unemployed	55	14	24	6	4
Retired	64	30	14	9	12
Students	54	8	12	9	15
 Difficulties paying bills					
Most of the time	60	14	34	9	3
From time to time	62	16	22	13	8
Almost never/ Never	63	19	10	13	15
 Consider belonging to					
The working class	67	19	24	11	5
The lower middle class	68	18	19	12	7
The middle class	61	17	12	13	14
The upper middle class	50	18	6	13	28
The upper class	38	21	15	11	20
 Image of the EU					
Positive	61	17	12	13	16
Neutral	63	19	16	11	9
Negative	63	18	21	13	7

*Items mentioned by 10% or more*

## 2.2 The main concerns at national level

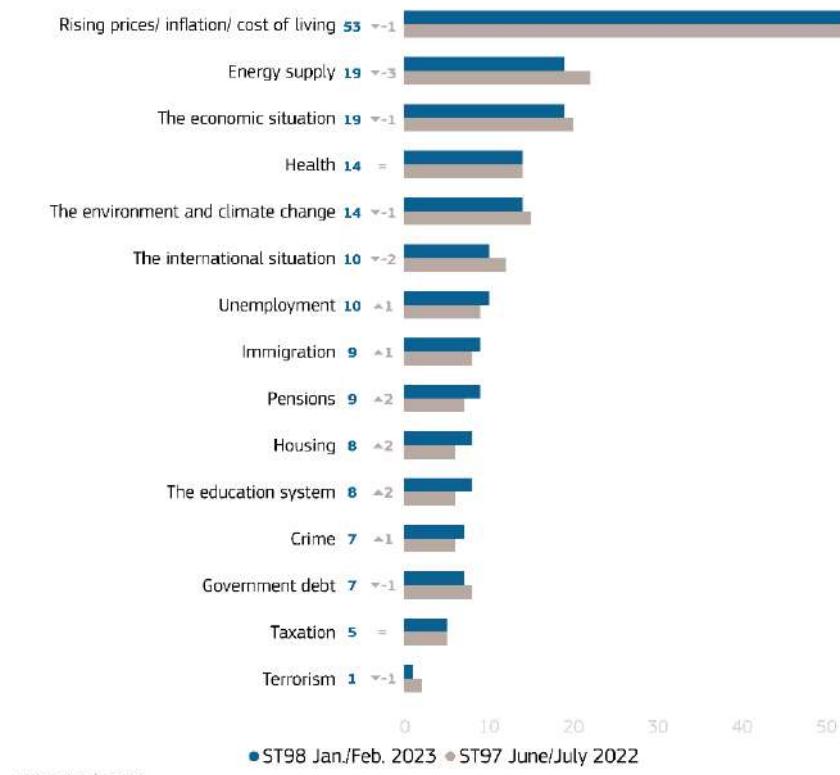
### More than half of Europeans consider that rising prices/ inflation/ cost of living is the most important concern currently facing their country

In this winter 2022 - 2023 EB98 survey, **rising prices/ inflation/ cost of living**<sup>29</sup> remains the most important national issue for Europeans despite losing one percentage point since summer 2022. More than half of Europeans give this answer (53%). Energy supply and the economic situation (both 19%) share second position in the ranking of the most important national concerns. Since 2022, energy supply has lost three percentage points whereas the decline for the economic situation is smaller (-1 pp).

**The environment and climate change** (14%, -1 pp) and **health** (14%, unchanged) jointly stand in fourth position, followed by **unemployment** (10%, +1 pp) and the **international situation** (10%, -2 pp).

Fewer than one in ten respondents mention the other issues: **immigration** (9%, +1), **pensions** (9%, +2 pp), **housing** (8%, +2 pp), the **education system** (8%, +2 pp), **crime** (7%, +1 pp), **government debt** (7%, -1), **taxation** (5%, no change) and **terrorism** (1%, -1 pp).

QA3. What do you think are the two most important issues facing (OUR COUNTRY) at the moment? (MAX. 2 ANSWERS) (EU27) (%)



<sup>29</sup> QA3. What do you think are the two most important issues facing (OUR COUNTRY) at the moment?

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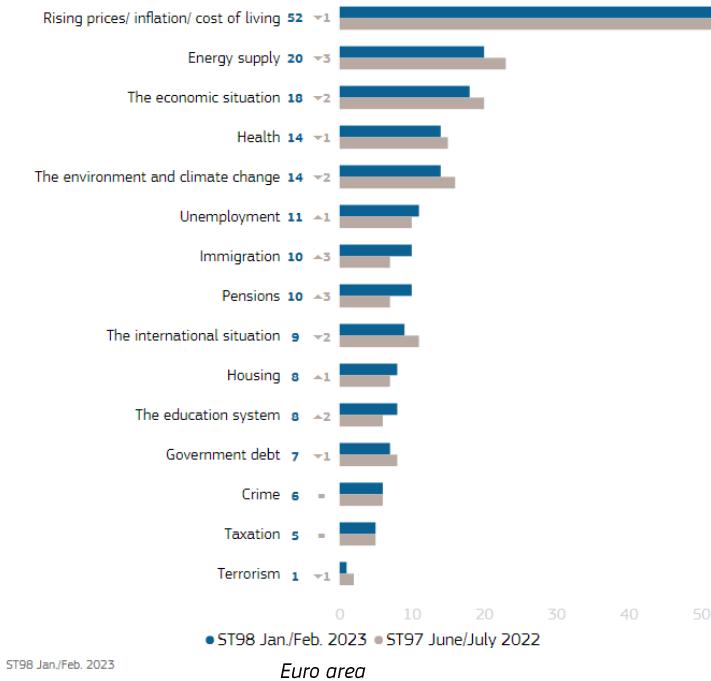
In both the euro area countries and those outside the euro area rising prices/ inflation/ cost of living is the most important concern.

Rising prices/ inflation/ cost of living tops the list of concerns in the **euro area** countries (52%, -1 percentage point since summer 2022), followed by energy supply (20%, -3 pp) and the economic situation of the country (18%, -2 pp).

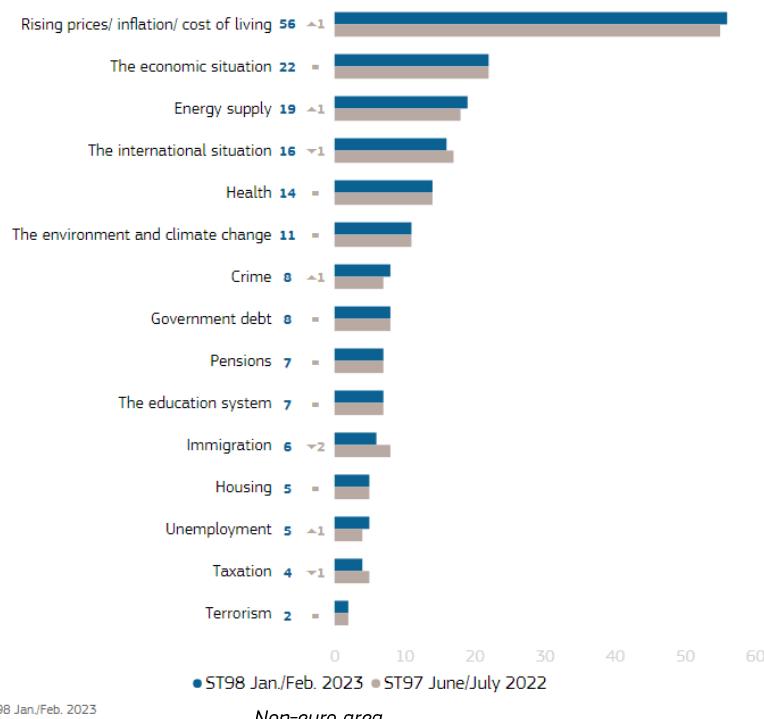
In the countries **outside the euro area**, rising prices/ inflation/ cost of living remains the main national concern (56%, +1 pp), ahead of the economic situation of the country (22%, no change) and energy supply (19%, +1 pp).

It is noteworthy that the international situation is mentioned almost twice as often in countries outside the euro area as in the euro area: 16% vs. 9%.

QA3 What do you think are the two most important issues facing (OUR COUNTRY) at the moment? (EURO ZONE) (%)



QA3 What do you think are the two most important issues facing (OUR COUNTRY) at the moment? (NON EURO) (%)



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**Rising prices/ inflation/ cost of living** is viewed as the most important issue facing their country by citizens in 22 EU Member States, with the highest scores recorded in Croatia (72%) and Hungary and Slovakia (both 65%), while the score is lowest in Sweden (28%). The exceptions are the following: Ireland and Luxembourg, where **housing** ranks first (both 52%); Sweden, where **crime** tops the list (36%); Cyprus, where **immigration** (52%) holds first position; and Slovenia, where **health** heads the ranking (50%).

**Since summer 2022**, concerns about rising prices/ inflation/ cost of living have increased in seven countries, most markedly in Romania (53%, +13 percentage points), while proportions remained unchanged in Bulgaria (63%), Spain (54%) and Sweden (28%). However, concerns diminished in 17 countries, recording decreases of more than ten percentage points in Slovenia (38%, -21 pp), Ireland (51%, -14 pp) and Denmark (44%, -12 pp).

**The economic situation** ranks second in nine countries, with the highest scores in Greece (33%), whereas the lowest proportions can be observed in Luxembourg (5%).

**Since summer 2022**, concerns about the national economic situation increased in 12 countries, including Sweden (14%, +6 pp), while they remained unchanged in six. Conversely, concerns eased in nine Member States, particularly in Spain (24%, -9 pp) and to a lesser extent in Cyprus (32%, -7 pp).

**Energy supply** comes second in six countries, most markedly in Czechia and Slovakia (both 32%), whereas the proportions of respondents concerned by energy supply are lowest in Portugal (2%).

**Since summer 2022**, concerns about energy supply gained ground in nine Member States, particularly in Lithuania (19%, +9 pp), while they decreased in 18 countries, led by Czechia (32%, -13 pp) and Estonia (27%, -13 pp).

**Health** ranks first in Slovenia (50%) and second in four other countries, including Denmark (35%). **The environment and climate change** comes second in the Netherlands (42%) and Sweden (32%), whereas this concern ranks third in six countries, including Denmark (32%).

**Crime** ranks first in Sweden (36%) and second in Malta (26%), where concerns about crime have increased sharply, by 14 percentage points since summer 2022.

**Government debt** holds second place in Finland (27%). Government debt is also cited by 19% of respondents in Czechia, where it ranks third.

**Housing** ranks first in Luxembourg and Ireland (both 52%) and third in the Netherlands (31%).

**Immigration** is seen as the main national concern in Cyprus (52%), where it has gained 12 percentage points since summer 2022 and ranks third in Malta (15%). The proportion of respondents who see immigration as a major national concern fell significantly in Sweden (-13 pp since summer 2022, down to 5%).

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**QA3 What do you think are the two most important issues facing (OUR COUNTRY) at the moment? (MAX. 2 ANSWERS)**  
 (%)



Rising prices/ inflation/ cost of living	53	47	63	62	44	55	62	51	61	54	47	72	50	46	56	64	49	65	61	50	55	60	58	53	38	65	46	28	
The economic situation	19	16	32	19	12	11	19	8	33	24	11	28	27	32	22	23	5	25	10	8	16	22	30	29	16	21	15	14	
Energy supply	19	26	16	32	18	29	27	11	22	14	11	8	21	3	17	19	9	19	7	21	25	17	2	12	25	32	16	24	
Health	14	6	15	3	35	5	11	35	15	20	23	8	10	11	8	19	8	7	8	12	31	17	50	13	17	14			
The environment and climate change	14	16	3	3	32	21	3	4	2	7	15	6	10	3	2	2	18	6	15	42	20	8	4	7	5	3	15	32	
Unemployment	10	10	8	2	3	2	9	4	22	22	11	15	20	10	9	6	2	7	4	1	8	4	11	6	4	6	3	4	
The international situation	10	6	17	16	22	11	23	4	10	5	6	10	10	5	11	17	6	9	12	10	8	18	5	13	4	11	25	15	
Immigration	9	12	7	8	4	15	11	10	7	5	8	4	8	52	4	4	7	6	15	17	17	5	3	5	4	8	7	5	
Pensions	9	11	9	9	4	6	6	2	4	8	22	10	8	4	12	6	4	8	6	2	4	5	9	15	10	11	4	4	
Housing	8	5	1	7	3	14	2	52	1	6	3	5	2	7	2	3	52	3	11	31	8	6	7	4	10	3	2	3	
The education system	8	11	4	4	8	11	7	2	4	5	12	3	4	7	8	7	4	9	7	5	10	4	15	8	4	6	10	14	
Crime	7	10	7	2	3	5	1	6	6	4	13	12	4	4	2	2	13	4	26	4	6	5	3	8	3	4	4	36	
Government debt	7	13	4	19	2	6	2	2	6	8	8	6	8	1	9	6	3	10	11	1	7	8	4	8	8	4	27	1	
Taxation	5	6	1	2	3	3	6	3	5	7	2	5	10	1	13	14	6	2	3	1	4	6	6	6	7	1	4	2	
Terrorism	1	3	1	0	1	1	1	0	1	0	2	1	2	1	1	1	1	2	1	3	3	1	0	1	2				
Cyprus issue	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Other (SPONTANEOUS)	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
None (SPONTANEOUS)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Don't know	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	

**1st MOST FREQUENTLY MENTIONED ITEM**

**2nd MOST FREQUENTLY MENTIONED ITEM**

**3rd MOST FREQUENTLY MENTIONED ITEM**

**QA3 What do you think are the two most important issues facing (OUR COUNTRY) at the moment? (MAX. 2 ANSWERS)**  
 (%)



Rising prices/ inflation/ cost of living	53	47	63	62	44	55	62	51	61	54	47	72	50	46	56	64	49	65	61	50	55	60	58	53	38	65	46	28	
The economic situation	19	16	32	19	12	11	19	8	33	24	11	28	27	32	22	23	5	25	10	8	16	22	30	29	16	21	15	14	
Energy supply	19	26	16	32	18	29	27	11	22	14	11	8	21	3	17	19	9	19	7	21	25	17	2	12	25	32	16	24	
Health	14	6	15	3	35	5	11	35	15	20	23	8	10	11	24	11	8	19	8	7	8	12	31	17	50	13	17	14	
The environment and climate change	14	16	3	3	32	21	3	4	2	7	15	6	10	3	2	2	18	6	15	42	20	8	4	7	5	3	15	32	
Unemployment	10	10	8	2	3	2	9	4	22	22	11	15	20	10	9	6	2	7	4	1	8	4	11	6	4	6	3	4	
The international situation	10	6	17	16	22	11	23	4	10	5	6	10	10	5	11	17	6	9	12	10	8	18	5	13	4	11	25	15	
Immigration	9	12	7	8	4	15	11	10	7	5	8	4	8	52	4	4	7	6	15	17	17	5	3	5	4	8	7	5	
Pensions	9	11	9	9	4	6	6	2	4	8	22	10	8	4	12	6	4	8	6	2	4	5	9	15	10	11	4	4	
Housing	8	5	1	7	3	14	2	52	1	6	3	5	2	7	2	3	52	3	11	31	8	6	7	4	10	3	2	3	
The education system	8	11	4	4	8	11	7	2	4	5	12	3	4	7	8	7	4	9	7	5	10	4	15	8	4	6	10	14	
Crime	7	10	7	2	3	5	1	6	6	4	13	12	4	4	2	2	13	4	26	4	6	5	3	8	3	4	4	36	
Government debt	7	13	4	19	2	6	2	2	6	8	8	6	8	1	9	6	3	10	11	1	7	8	4	8	8	4	27	1	
Taxation	5	6	1	2	3	3	6	3	5	7	2	5	10	1	13	14	6	2	3	1	4	6	6	6	7	1	4	2	
Terrorism	1	3	1	0	1	1	1	0	1	0	2	1	1	1	1	2	1	3	3	1	3	1	0	1	2				
Cyprus issue	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Other (SPONTANEOUS)	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
None (SPONTANEOUS)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Don't know	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	

**Highest percentage per country**

**Lowest percentage per country**

**Highest percentage per item**

**Lowest percentage per item**

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**QA3** What do you think are the two most important issues facing (OUR COUNTRY) at the moment? (MAX. 2 ANSWERS)  
 (% - EU)

	Rising prices/ inflation/ cost of living	Energy supply	The economic situation	Health	The environment and climate change	Unemployment
EU27	53	19	19	14	14	10
 Gender						
Man	51	21	19	13	14	10
Woman	55	18	19	16	14	10
 Age						
15-24	50	16	19	10	21	11
25-39	53	20	20	13	13	10
40-54	54	20	21	15	12	10
55 +	53	19	17	16	13	9
 Education (End of)						
15-	58	15	20	17	7	15
16-19	57	20	20	13	10	10
20+	47	20	17	15	18	7
Still studying	50	18	18	9	24	11
 Socio-professional category						
Self-employed	53	21	21	13	12	9
Managers	49	22	19	15	19	6
Other white collars	54	23	22	13	12	8
Manual workers	55	19	19	14	10	10
House persons	59	13	21	20	8	13
Unemployed	55	13	22	12	8	25
Retired	52	19	16	16	13	8
Students	50	18	18	9	24	11
 Difficulties paying bills						
Most of the time	57	15	24	14	8	16
From time to time	54	17	21	15	10	13
Almost never/ Never	52	21	17	14	16	8
 Consider belonging to						
The working class	62	17	20	17	7	13
The lower middle class	56	19	20	14	11	8
The middle class	51	20	19	13	14	9
The upper middle class	39	22	14	16	29	7
The upper class	43	16	18	11	23	3
 Image of the EU						
Positive	52	21	19	14	18	8
Neutral	54	19	18	14	11	12
Negative	53	17	20	14	7	10

*Items mentioned by 10% or more*

## 2.3 Main concerns at European level

**Rising prices/ inflation/ cost of living is seen as the most important issue faced by the EU, followed by the international situation and energy supply**

**Rising prices/ inflation/ cost of living remains the most important issue currently facing the EU (32%, -2 percentage points since summer 2022).**

The second most mentioned issue is the **international situation** (28%, no change), while **energy supply** has dropped one place to third (26%, -2 pp).

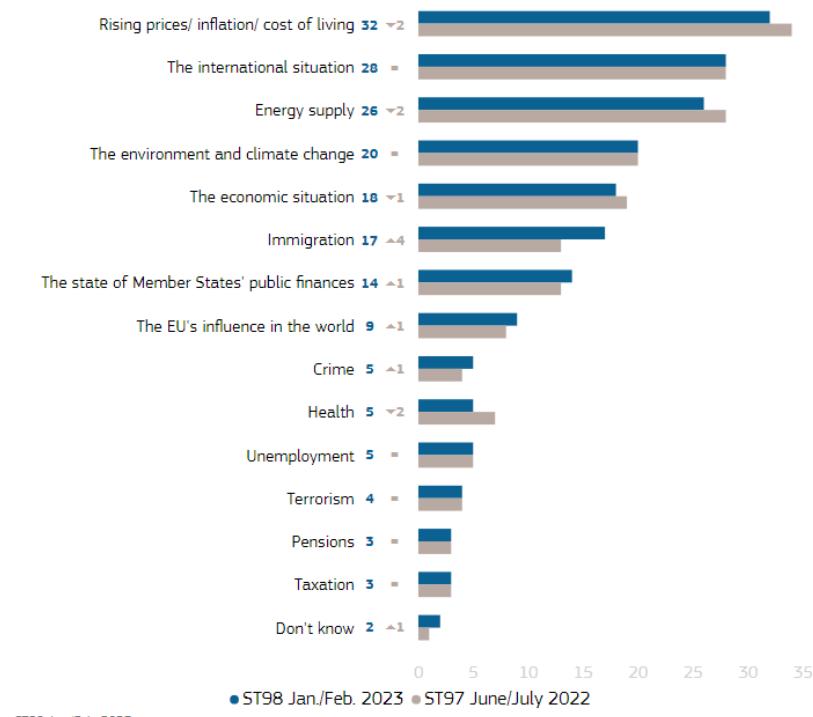
**The environment and climate change** remains in fourth position (20%, no change) and the **economic situation** still stands fifth in the ranking (18%, -1 pp).

**Immigration** ranks sixth (17%, +4 pp), while the **state of Member States' public finances** has dropped one place to seventh (14%, +1 pp). The **EU's influence in the world** remains in eighth position (9%, +1 pp).

Three issues share ninth position: **crime**, which has risen from eleventh to ninth (5%, +1 pp), **unemployment** (5%, -2 pp), up from tenth (5%, no change) and **health**, unchanged since summer 2022 (5%, -2 pp).

The remaining three issues are mentioned by fewer than one in twenty respondents: **terrorism** (4%, unchanged), **taxation** (3%, unchanged) and **pensions** (3%, unchanged).

QA5 What do you think are the two most important issues facing the EU at the moment? (EU27) (%)



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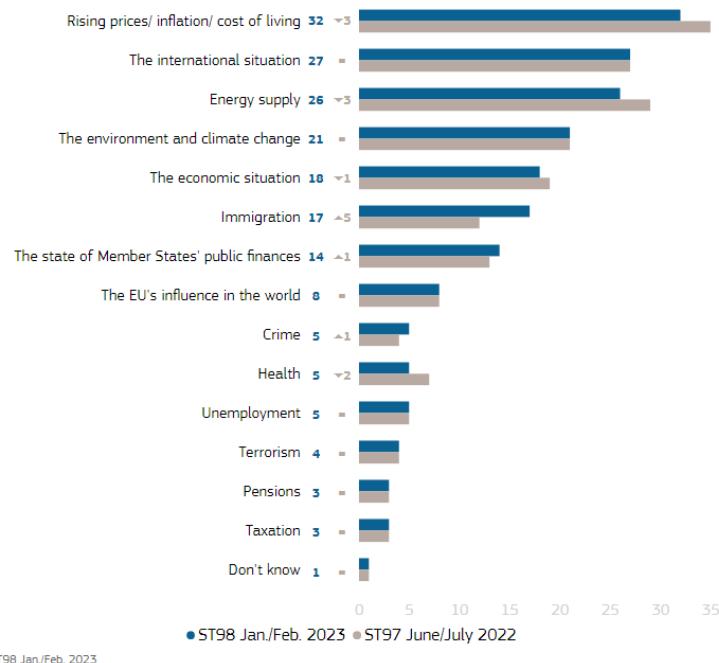
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The ranking order of the three most important issues differs slightly between **euro area** and **non-euro area** countries.

**The international situation** tops the list with 31% (unchanged since summer 2022) outside the euro area, while it ranks second (27%, no change) within the euro area. **Rising prices/ inflation/ cost of living** ranks first in the euro area (32%, -3 pp), and second in the countries outside the euro area (30%, -2 pp).

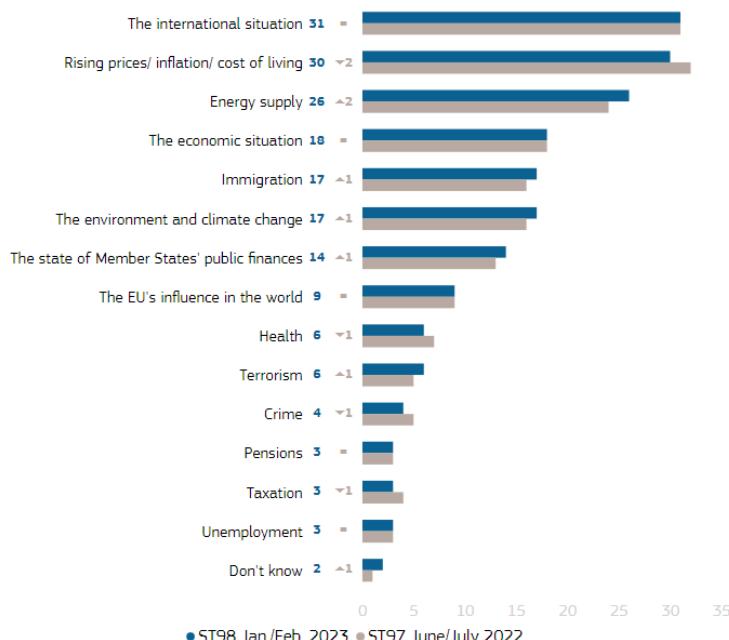
**Energy supply** ranks third in both areas with similar proportions (both 26%). However, mentions of this item fell by three percentage points in the euro area, whereas they increased by two percentage points in the countries outside the euro area.

Q5 What do you think are the two most important issues facing the EU at the moment? (EURO ZONE) (%)



*Euro area*

Q5 What do you think are the two most important issues facing the EU at the moment? (NON EURO) (%)



*Non-euro area*

**Rising prices/ inflation/ cost of living is the most important issue in 12 countries and ranks among the top three issues in 24 Member States.**

**Rising prices/ inflation/ cost of living** is the most important issue at the EU level (32%). It is also the most important issue in 12 Member States (down from 15 in summer 2022), particularly in Italy and Luxembourg (both 37%) as well as Croatia and Ireland (both 36%). In Czechia it shares first position with energy supply (both 34%). It is the second most mentioned issue in eight Member States (sharing second place with the international situation in Slovakia and with energy supply in Finland) including Latvia, Hungary and Malta (all 32%). It is the third most mentioned issue in Denmark (28%, along with energy supply), Greece (27%), Lithuania (24%) and Estonia (23%).

**Since summer 2022**, concerns about rising prices/ inflation/ cost of living have increased in five countries, most markedly in Cyprus (30%, +8 pp), whereas proportions remained unchanged in Luxembourg (37%) and Malta (32%). Concerns declined in 20 countries, most notably in Slovakia (31%, -15 pp) and Slovenia (27%, -15 pp)

The **international situation** stands in second place at the EU level but ranks first in eight countries (up from seven in summer 2022) including in Estonia (47%), Finland (42%) and Lithuania (41%). It ranks second in 12 countries (sharing second place with energy supply in Croatia and with the environment and climate change in Austria) including Sweden (43%), Denmark (38%) and Czechia (33%), and ranks third in six countries including Germany (27%), Hungary (25%) and Slovenia and Italy (both 23%).

**Since summer 2022**, concerns about the international situation have gained ground in 11 countries, most particularly in Malta (40%, +12 pp) and Ireland (28%, +8 pp), while remaining unchanged in the Netherlands (40%), Croatia (28%) and Luxembourg (22%). However, concerns about the international situation declined in 13 countries, most markedly in Lithuania (41%, -8 pp) and Latvia (33%, -7 pp).

**Energy supply** ranks in third place at the EU level but is first in five countries (up from four in summer 2022 and shares this position with rising prices/ inflation/ cost of living in Czechia) including Greece (43%), Slovakia (42%) and Slovenia (36%). It ranks second in eight countries (sharing second place with the international situation in Croatia, with the environment and climate change in Luxembourg and with rising prices/ inflation/ cost of living in Finland). It ranks third in nine countries including Sweden (34%), Bulgaria and Denmark (both 28%) and Latvia (27%).

**Since summer 2022**, concerns about energy supply have increased in 12 Member States, most notably in Hungary (33%, +8 pp) and Lithuania (31%, +7 pp), whereas they remain unchanged in Sweden (34%) and Spain (25%). Conversely, concerns about this topic decreased in 13 countries, including Czechia (34%, -12 pp), Austria (24%, -11 pp) and Ireland (23%, -10 pp), where the declines are of at least ten percentage points.

Fourth at the EU level, **the environment and climate change** ranks first in Sweden (47%) and Denmark (39%), second in the Netherlands (38%), Austria (25%, along with the international situation) and Luxembourg (24%, along with energy supply) and third in Belgium (26%), Finland (24%) and France (23%). **Since summer 2022**, concerns have increased in ten countries, including Denmark (39%, +7 pp), while remaining unchanged in a further six. However, concerns about the environment and climate change lost ground in 11 countries, most notably in Malta (16%, -6 pp).

**The economic situation** ranks fifth at the EU level, but second in Cyprus (30%, along with rising prices/ inflation/ cost of living) and third in Portugal (23%).

Ranked sixth at EU level, **immigration** is the only other issue in first position in any Member State, topping the list of concerns in Cyprus (48%). It stands second in Bulgaria (32%) and third in the Netherlands (32%), Ireland (26%), Czechia (23%) and Malta (22%). **Since summer 2022**, concerns about immigration have increased in 17 countries, and by at least ten percentage points in Ireland (26%, +15 pp), Austria (22%, +10 pp) and Germany (21%, +10 pp). Concerns about immigration remained unchanged in Belgium (19%), Spain (12%) and Portugal (10%), while they decreased in seven countries, including Sweden (10%, -6 pp).

The **state of Member States' public finances** is the only other issue that appears in the top three in any country, ranking third in Croatia (20%) and Slovakia (19%).

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**Q55 What do you think are the two most important issues facing the EU at the moment? (MAX. 2 ANSWERS)**  
 (%)



Rising prices/ inflation/ cost of living	32	31	22	34	28	33	23	36	27	33	31	36	37	30	32	24	37	32	32	19	31	33	26	30	27	31	28	19
The international situation	28	18	37	33	38	27	47	28	28	28	25	28	23	14	33	41	22	25	40	40	25	28	36	28	23	31	42	43
Energy supply	26	28	28	34	28	29	37	23	43	25	21	28	28	14	27	31	24	33	18	25	24	21	9	19	36	42	28	34
The environment and climate change	20	26	6	10	39	24	7	17	9	15	23	12	18	8	8	9	24	12	19	38	25	12	11	12	13	8	24	47
The economic situation	18	18	19	18	16	15	18	14	21	23	17	16	22	30	19	21	15	23	18	11	20	18	23	17	18	17	13	11
Immigration	17	19	32	23	10	21	21	26	15	12	17	14	11	48	19	14	12	17	22	32	22	17	10	11	19	14	10	10
The state of Member States' public finances	14	14	8	15	5	19	8	6	16	13	9	20	16	5	7	7	16	20	10	11	12	16	19	14	8	19	21	4
The EU's influence in the world	9	10	11	5	11	9	6	10	11	6	9	10	6	4	8	8	10	9	5	14	10	9	10	7	14	9		
Crime	5	9	4	2	3	4	4	6	6	2	10	6	3	9	3	4	7	3	8	2	6	4	2	9	5	4	4	8
Unemployment	5	4	3	2	2	2	3	4	5	9	4	6	9	8	6	2	3	2	3	1	5	3	4	5	3	1	2	
Health	5	3	3	1	4	2	2	6	8	6	8	6	7	6	5	2	5	5	5	1	7	7	5	12	7	3	3	1
Terrorism	4	5	7	3	2	3	5	6	5	3	6	6	3	9	6	7	3	3	9	3	4	6	6	10	4	4	4	5
Taxation	3	3	1	1	1	2	2	2	1	3	1	2	7	3	6	5	4	2	2	0	3	4	2	6	3	1	1	
Pensions	3	4	1	2	2	2	2	1	4	5	3	4	4	1	5	3	3	3	1	3	3	2	4	3	4	1	1	

**Q55 What do you think are the two most important issues facing the EU at the moment? (MAX. 2 ANSWERS)**  
 (%)



Rising prices/ inflation/ cost of living	32	31	22	34	28	33	23	36	27	33	31	36	37	30	32	24	37	32	32	19	31	33	26	30	27	31	28	19
The international situation	28	18	37	33	38	27	47	28	28	28	25	28	23	14	33	41	22	25	40	40	25	28	36	28	23	31	42	43
Energy supply	26	28	28	34	28	29	37	23	43	25	21	28	28	14	27	31	24	33	18	25	24	21	9	19	36	42	28	34
The environment and climate change	20	26	6	10	39	24	7	17	9	15	23	12	18	8	8	9	24	12	19	38	25	12	11	12	13	8	24	47
The economic situation	18	18	19	18	16	15	18	14	21	23	17	16	22	30	19	21	15	23	18	11	20	18	23	17	18	17	13	11
Immigration	17	19	32	23	10	21	21	26	15	12	17	14	11	48	19	14	12	17	22	32	22	17	10	11	19	14	10	10
The state of Member States' public finances	14	14	8	15	5	19	8	6	16	13	9	20	16	5	7	7	16	20	10	11	12	16	19	14	8	19	21	4
The EU's influence in the world	9	10	11	5	11	9	6	10	11	6	9	10	6	4	8	8	10	9	5	14	10	9	10	7	14	9		
Crime	5	9	4	2	3	4	4	6	6	2	10	6	3	9	3	4	7	3	8	2	6	4	2	9	5	4	4	8
Unemployment	5	4	3	2	2	2	2	3	4	5	9	4	6	9	8	6	2	3	2	3	1	5	3	4	5	3	3	1
Health	5	3	3	1	4	2	2	6	8	6	8	6	7	6	5	2	5	5	5	1	7	7	5	12	7	3	3	1
Terrorism	4	5	7	3	2	3	5	6	5	3	6	6	3	9	6	7	3	3	9	3	4	6	6	10	4	4	4	5
Taxation	3	3	1	1	1	2	2	2	1	3	1	2	7	3	6	5	4	2	2	0	3	4	2	6	3	1	1	
Pensions	3	4	1	2	2	2	2	1	4	5	3	4	4	1	5	3	3	1	3	3	2	4	3	4	1	1		
Other (SPONTANEOUS)	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	2	0	0	1	0	0
None (SPONTANEOUS)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	
Don't know	2	0	5	3	1	1	3	2	1	2	3	0	0	1	4	4	0	1	3	0	0	0	1	6	3	3	1	1

**Highest percentage per country**

**Lowest percentage per country**

**Highest percentage per item**

**Lowest percentage per item**

**Standard Eurobarometer 98**  
**Public opinion in the European Union**  
**Winter 2022 - 2023**

**QA5** What do you think are the two most important issues facing the EU at the moment? (MAX. 2 ANSWERS)  
 (%) - EU)

	Rising prices/ inflation/ cost of living	The international situation	Energy supply	The environment and climate change	The economic situation	Immigration	The state of Member States' public finances
EU27	32	28	26	20	18	17	14
<b>Gender</b>							
Man	31	29	27	20	17	17	15
Woman	32	27	25	20	19	17	13
<b>Age</b>							
15-24	33	24	25	25	19	14	12
25-39	32	27	27	21	19	15	15
40-54	31	28	27	18	18	18	16
55 +	31	30	25	18	17	18	13
<b>Education (End of)</b>							
15-	37	23	21	11	21	16	11
16-19	34	26	26	15	19	17	16
20+	27	34	27	25	16	17	15
Still studying	32	25	27	31	19	14	10
<b>Socio-professional category</b>							
Self-employed	32	31	28	20	21	15	15
Managers	27	32	30	27	17	17	17
Other white collars	33	28	28	19	17	17	18
Manual workers	34	25	25	16	18	17	16
House persons	38	22	17	10	22	17	10
Unemployed	32	24	26	16	21	16	13
Retired	30	31	25	18	16	18	12
Students	32	25	27	31	19	14	10
<b>Difficulties paying bills</b>							
Most of the time	31	25	25	13	20	14	14
From time to time	34	25	24	16	20	16	13
Almost never/ Never	30	30	27	22	17	17	15
<b>Consider belonging to</b>							
The working class	34	28	24	14	20	17	13
The lower middle class	33	27	26	17	18	18	17
The middle class	31	28	27	21	18	16	14
The upper middle class	24	33	26	32	14	18	14
The upper class	24	27	25	24	16	22	19
<b>Image of the EU</b>							
Positive	29	31	29	24	16	15	15
Neutral	33	26	24	18	19	17	14
Negative	34	26	24	13	19	21	14

*Items mentioned by 10% or more*

### 3. Political aspects

#### 3.1 Interest in politics

After a slight decrease in the previous survey, **the index measuring how interested Europeans are in politics**<sup>30</sup> has again declined slightly in this winter 2022 - 2023 EB98 survey: 18% (-2 percentage points since summer 2022) of respondents have a 'strong' interest in politics, while 48% (-1 pp) have a 'moderate' interest and 17% (+2 pp) have a 'low' level of interest; 17% (+2 pp) are not interested in politics at all.

Europeans are primarily interested in **national political matters**<sup>31</sup>: 55% discuss them occasionally with friends or relatives (unchanged since summer 2022) and 25% do so frequently (-1 percentage point). Overall, 80% (-1 pp) of respondents discuss these issues, whether occasionally or frequently. Conversely, two in ten Europeans never discuss national political matters (20%, +1 pp).

In second place come **local political matters**: just over a fifth of respondents discuss them frequently (21%, unchanged compared with summer 2022), while 54% discuss them occasionally (-1 pp) and 25% (+1 pp) say that they never do so.

**European political matters** seem to be slightly less widely discussed, although more than seven in ten Europeans do discuss European political matters (69%, -2 pp) either occasionally or frequently: 16% (-1 pp) of respondents discuss them frequently and 53% (-1 pp) occasionally, while 31% (+2 pp) answered "never".

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

#### National political matters



#### Local political matters



#### European political matters



ST98 Jan./Feb. 2023

● Frequently ○ Occasionally ■ Never

<sup>30</sup> D71. When you get together with friends or relatives, would you say that you discuss frequently, occasionally or never about...? 1. National political matters; 2. European political matters; 3. Local political matters. A score is then attributed to each answer: 'Never' = 0; 'Occasionally' = 1; 'Frequently' = 2. A political interest index is then constructed by adding together the scores for the three dimensions (local, national, European). Each group corresponds to a different index level: 'not at

all interested in politics' = 0; 'slightly' = 1 to 2; 'moderately' = 3 to 4; 'strongly' = 5 to 6

<sup>31</sup> D71. When you get together with friends or relatives, would you say that you discuss frequently, occasionally or never about...? 1. National political matters; 2. European political matters; 3. Local political matters.

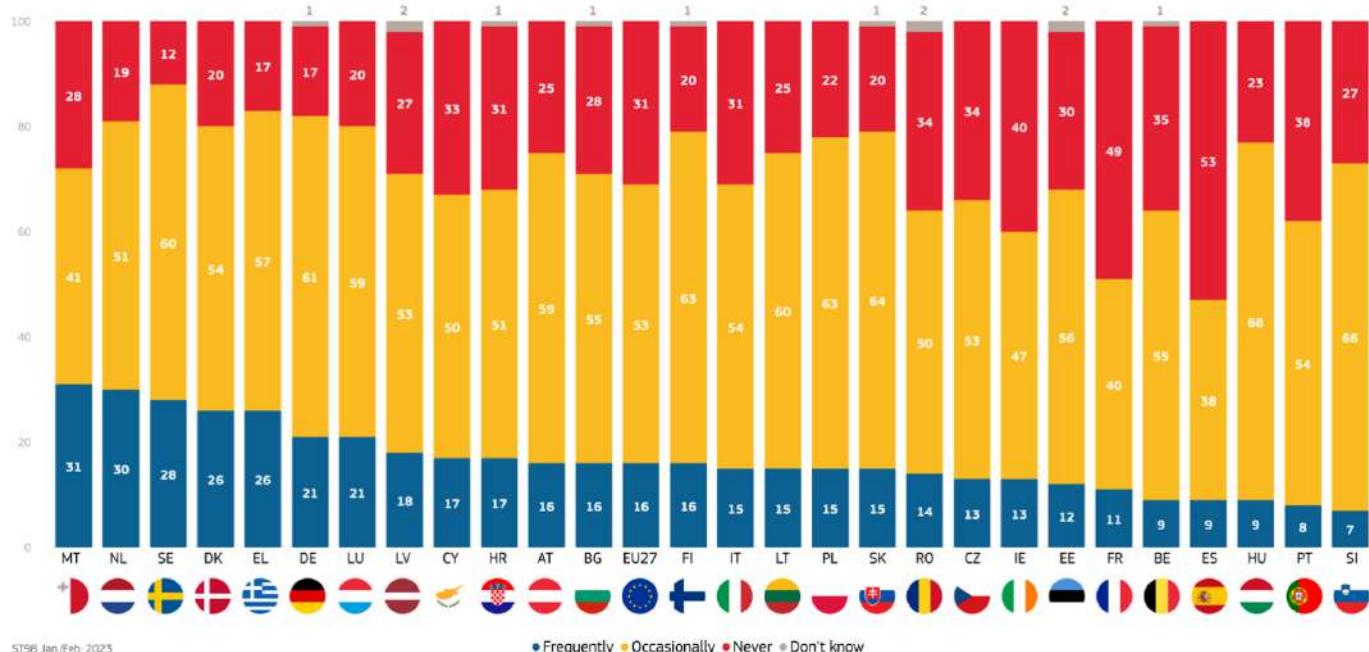
**Standard Eurobarometer 98**  
**Public opinion in the European Union**  
**Winter 2022 - 2023**

In 25 Member States (unchanged since summer 2022) a majority of respondents “occasionally” discuss European political matters with their friends or relatives. Respondents in France and Spain are an exception. In Spain 38% of respondents “occasionally” discuss European political matters, but 53% say that they “never” do so. In France a similar pattern can be observed: 40% “occasionally” discuss such matters with their friends and relatives, but 49% “never” do so.

**European political matters are most likely to be “frequently” discussed** by respondents in Malta (31%), the Netherlands (30%), Sweden (28%) as well as Greece and Denmark (both 26%), where more than a quarter of respondents give this answer. In contrast, at least four in ten respondents “never” discuss European political matters with their relatives and friends in Spain (53%), France (49%) and Ireland (40%).

**In comparison with summer 2022**, European political matters are more “frequently” discussed in nine Member States, led by Sweden (28%, +7 percentage points), while proportions remained unchanged in Cyprus (17%) and Italy (15%). Conversely, the levels have decreased in 16 countries, most particularly in Lithuania (15%, -7 pp), Luxembourg (21%, -6 pp) and Slovakia (15%, -6 pp).

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



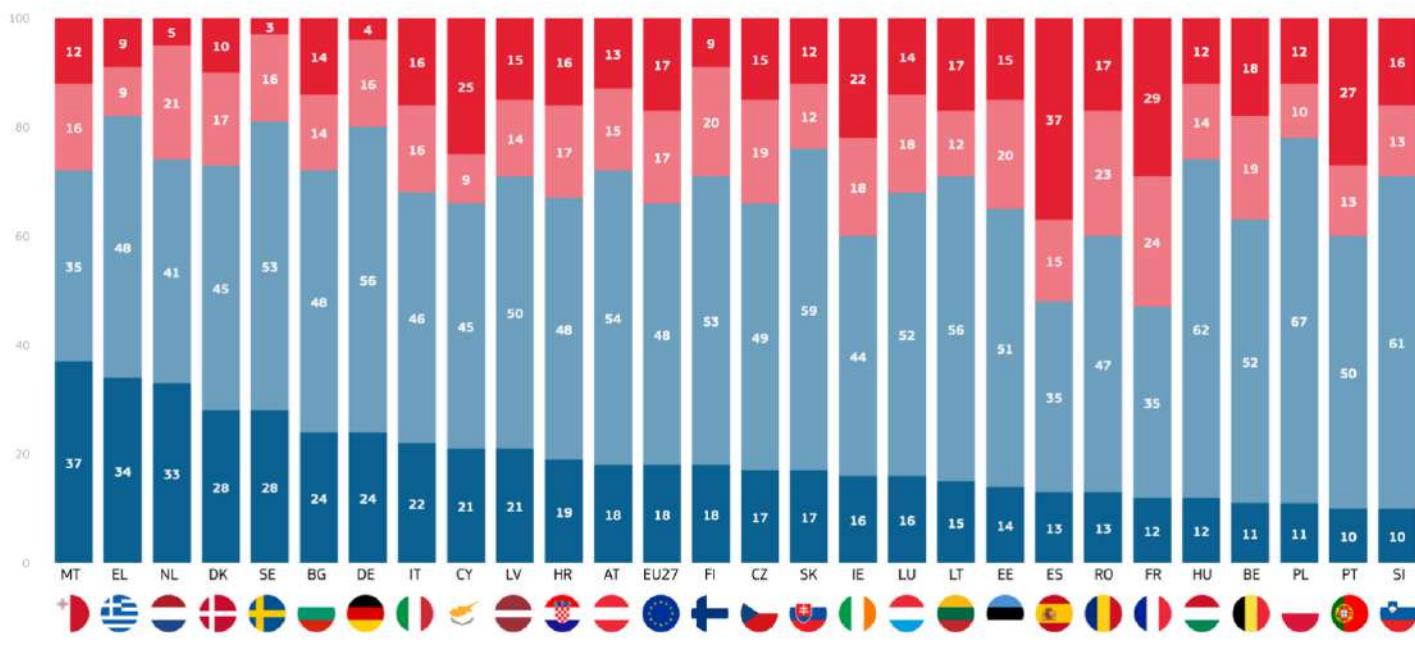
ST98 Jan/Feb 2023

**Standard Eurobarometer 98**  
**Public opinion in the European Union**  
**Winter 2022 - 2023**

In ten Member States of the European Union (compared with 12 in summer 2022) at least one in five respondents have a 'strong' interest in politics. Within this group of countries, interest is the most widespread in Malta (37%), Greece (34%) and the Netherlands (33%). Conversely, in four Member States at least a quarter of respondents are 'not at all' interested in political matters, led by Spain (37%), France (29%), Portugal (27%) and Cyprus (25%).

**Since summer 2022**, the proportion of Europeans who are strongly interested in political matters has increased in ten Member States (compared with 16 in the previous survey), most notably in Sweden and Denmark (both 28%, +6 percentage points). However, fewer respondents are strongly interested in politics in 17 Member States, most strikingly in Lithuania (15%, -9 pp).

C2. Political interest index (%)



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The socio-demographic data show that interest in European political matters is significantly correlated with the education and social position of respondents. In fact, most socially and economically advantaged categories tend to discuss European political matters with friends and relatives more often. Thus, 22% of those who continued their education up to the age of 20 and beyond, 21% of managers, 22% of the self-employed, 27% of those who see themselves as part of the upper middle class and 29% of those who consider they are part of the upper class "frequently" discuss European political matters, while those who finished their education aged 15 or earlier (8%), the unemployed (11%), house persons (9%), and those who see themselves as part of the working class (10%) or lower middle class (11%) do so less often.

- D71.2 When you get together with friends or relatives, would you say you discuss frequently, occasionally or never about...?

**European political matters (%) - EU)**

	Frequently	Occasionally	Never	Don't know
EU27	16	53	31	0
 Gender				
Man	18	55	27	0
Woman	14	51	35	0
 Age				
15-24	11	46	42	1
25-39	16	55	29	0
40-54	16	57	27	0
55 +	17	51	32	0
 Education (End of)				
15-	8	43	49	0
16-19	14	55	31	0
20+	22	57	21	0
Still studying	14	47	38	1
 Socio-professional category				
Self-employed	22	54	24	0
Managers	21	62	17	0
Other white collars	15	59	26	0
Manual workers	14	53	33	0
House persons	9	41	50	0
Unemployed	11	45	43	1
Retired	16	51	33	0
Students	14	47	38	1
 Difficulties paying bills				
Most of the time	14	47	39	0
From time to time	13	53	34	0
Almost never/ Never	17	54	29	0
 Consider belonging to				
The working class	10	46	43	1
The lower middle class	11	54	35	0
The middle class	18	56	26	0
The upper middle class	27	54	19	0
The upper class	29	54	16	1

### 3.2 Trust in institutions

#### Trust in national political institutions and the European Union has decreased slightly

Since summer 2022, trust in national political institutions has decreased for the national government and the national parliament, has remained stable for national political parties but has increased for regional and local public authorities<sup>32</sup>:

- 32% of respondents (-2 percentage points since summer 2022) trust their **national government**, compared with 63% (+2 pp) who do not;
- A slightly smaller proportion of respondents (33%, -1 pp) trust their **national parliament**, compared with 61% (+1 pp) who “tend not to trust” it;
- Trust in **national political parties** is stable (21%), whereas three quarters of respondents (75%, no change) say that they distrust them;
- Conversely, trust in **regional or local public authorities** has increased since summer 2022: 56% (+2 pp) of respondents say that they trust these institutions.

Since summer 2022, trust in **other national institutions** has remained stable or increased slightly:

- The highest level of trust at national level is still commanded by **health and medical staff**, who are trusted by 76% (unchanged since summer 2022) of Europeans.
- Just over seven in ten respondents (71%, no change) “tend to trust” **the army**, while 24% “tend not to trust” it (no change);
- Trust in **the police** has increased slightly: 70% trust this institution (+1 pp), while 27% (-1 pp) do not.
- Trust in **justice, the national legal system** has also increased slightly: 54% (+2 pp) of respondents trust it, while 42% (-2 pp) ‘tend not to trust’ this institution.

Trust in **supranational bodies** has decreased for all institutions since the previous survey:

- Despite a small decrease, a majority of Europeans continue to say that they trust the European Union (47%, -2 pp), whereas 45% (+2 pp) “tend not to trust” it;
- Nearly half of respondents (48%, -1 pp) trust the United Nations and 40% (+1 pp) do not;
- One in two respondents (50%, -1 pp) trust NATO, while 39% (+1 pp) do not.

<sup>32</sup> QA6a. How much trust you have in certain institutions? For each of the following institutions, do you tend to trust it or tend not to trust it. Political parties; Justice/the (NATIONALITY) legal system; The police; The army; Regional or local public

authorities; Health medical staff in (OUR COUNTRY); The (NATIONALITY) government; The (NATIONALITY) Parliament; The European Union; The United Nations; NATO.

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QA6. How much trust do you have in certain institutions? For each of the following institutions, do you tend to trust it or tend not to trust it? (%)

Health and medical staff in (OUR COUNTRY)



The army



The police



Regional or local public authorities



Justice, the (NATIONALITY) legal system



NATO



The United Nations



The European Union



The media



The (NATIONALITY) Parliament



The (NATIONALITY) government



Political parties



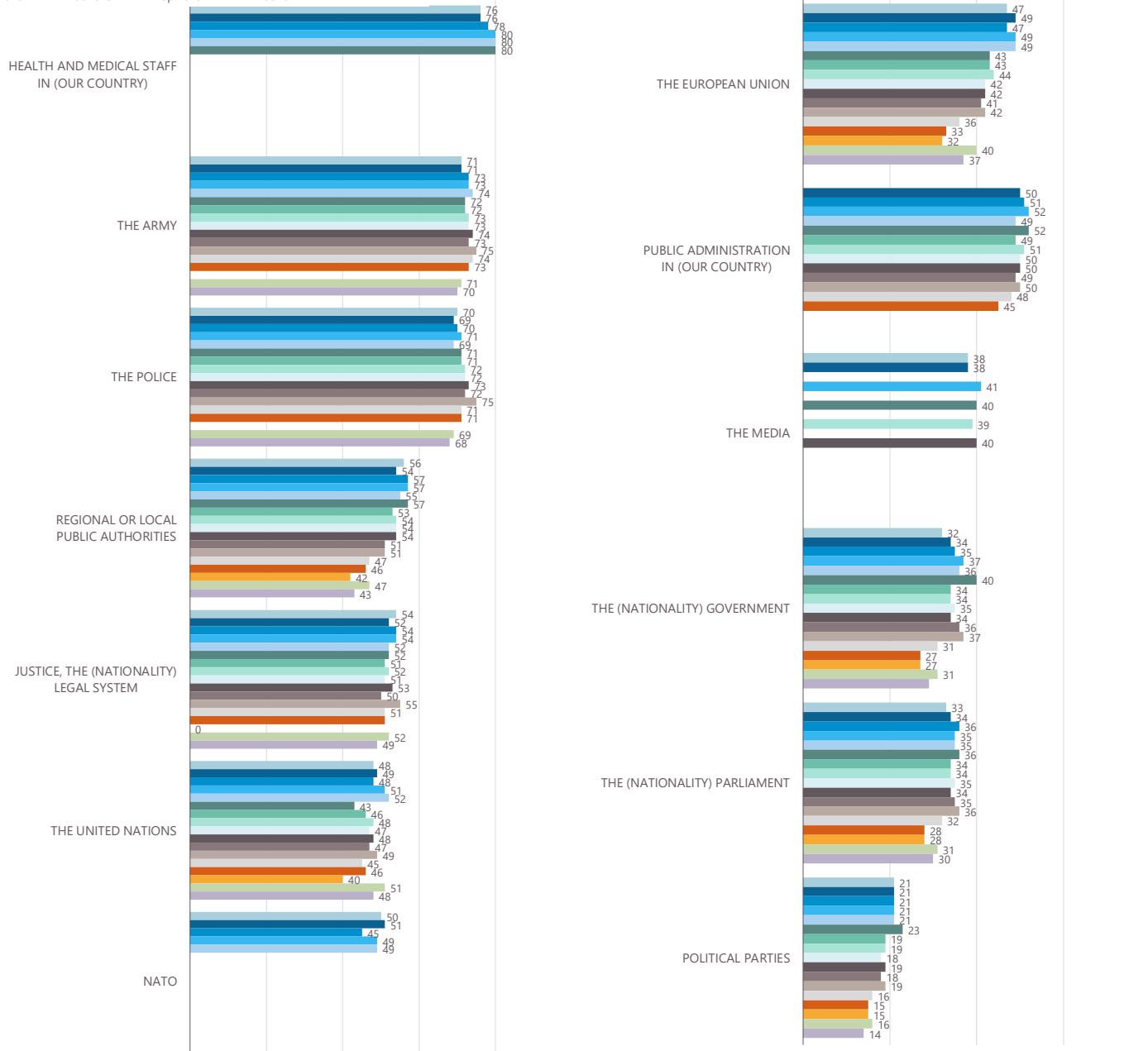
● Tend to trust ● Tend not to trust ■ Don't know

**Standard Eurobarometer 98**  
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**Winter 2022 - 2023**

QA6a How much trust do you have in certain institutions? For each of the following institutions, do you tend to trust it or tend not to trust it?

(% - EU - TEND TO TRUST)

Win.2023	Sum.2022	Win.2021/2022	Sp.2021	Win.2020/2021	Win.2023	Aut.2018	Sp.2018	Aut.2017	Sp.2017	Aut.2016	Sp.2016	Aut.2015	Sp.2015	Aut.2014
Sum.2020	Aut.2019	Sp.2019	Aut.2014											



**Standard Eurobarometer 98**  
**Public opinion in the European Union**  
**Winter 2022 - 2023**

QA6 How much trust do you have in certain institutions? For each of the following institutions, do you tend to trust it or tend not to trust it?

Tend to trust (%)



Health and medical staff in (OUR COUNTRY)	Jan/Feb 2023	76	86	53	82	91	80	73	84	66	87	86	65	68	71	62	64	87	52	91	94	75	59	85	52	58	62	88	89
	Δ Jun/Jul 2022	=	=	▼1	▼1	=	▼1	▼7	▲1	▼8	▲2	▲2	▲2	▲4	=	▼8	=	▼5	▼3	▲1	▲2	▼2	▼5	▼2	▼3	=	▼6	=	▲7
The army	Jan/Feb 2023	71	82	49	75	88	65	74	85	79	71	80	66	70	69	68	79	76	54	78	80	70	58	74	61	63	51	96	88
	Δ Jun/Jul 2022	=	▲4	▲3	▼5	=	▼2	▼4	▲2	▼4	▼4	=	▲5	▲6	▲2	▼4	▼3	▼2	▼7	▼2	=	▼1	▼5	▲5	▲4	▲3	▼10	▲1	▲2
The police	Jan/Feb 2023	70	76	47	75	93	78	79	78	70	75	70	60	71	57	63	78	83	65	70	89	74	41	76	49	61	46	94	87
	Δ Jun/Jul 2022	▲1	▲2	▼2	▼2	▲3	▼1	▼1	▲1	=	=	▲1	▲6	▲7	▲6	▼2	=	▼4	▼1	▲1	▲6	▼3	▼4	▲2	▲1	▲4	▼5	▲2	▲4
Regional or local public authorities	Jan/Feb 2023	56	62	45	63	78	70	49	67	37	47	58	34	42	52	59	54	77	59	66	69	64	51	56	42	47	50	69	75
	Δ Jun/Jul 2022	▲2	▲2	▼2	▲6	▲4	▲1	▼1	▲2	▲6	▲4	▼2	▲4	▲5	=	▲9	▲6	▼5	▼4	=	▲10	▼5	▼1	▲3	▲4	▲3	▼1	▲5	▲13
Justice, the (NATIONALITY) legal system	Jan/Feb 2023	54	53	26	57	88	66	61	69	56	46	43	31	52	48	43	50	73	53	49	82	67	37	42	50	35	33	87	81
	Δ Jun/Jul 2022	▲2	▼2	▲3	▲2	▲4	=	▼2	▲6	▼2	▼5	▲1	▲5	▲9	▲3	▼3	▲3	▲1	▼2	=	▲7	▼1	=	▲2	▲4	▼2	=	▲5	▲8
NATO	Jan/Feb 2023	50	58	31	61	86	54	57	56	21	40	41	42	41	18	60	70	55	53	56	76	38	66	49	46	32	30	75	66
	Δ Jun/Jul 2022	▼1	▼4	▼3	=	▼1	▼4	▼4	▲2	▲3	▼7	▲5	▲4	▼1	▼1	▲2	▼5	▲5	▼8	▼8	▲3	▲1	▼5	▲2	▼9	▼1	▼13	▼2	▼7
The United Nations	Jan/Feb 2023	48	52	38	53	82	50	34	61	31	45	38	51	41	28	45	54	52	55	67	66	45	58	60	48	29	35	56	75
	Δ Jun/Jul 2022	▼1	▼7	▼3	▲5	▲2	▲2	▼5	▲3	▲4	▼5	=	▲7	▼2	▲2	▲4	▼5	▲5	▼4	▼1	▼7	▼5	▼5	▼10	▼4	▲5			
The European Union	Jan/Feb 2023	47	49	45	44	71	45	46	61	37	45	33	52	44	43	58	64	57	50	64	57	44	58	65	52	40	37	57	63
	Δ Jun/Jul 2022	▼2	▼6	▼4	▲1	▲6	▼4	▼2	▲3	=	▼5	▼1	▲10	▼2	▲1	▲2	▼5	▼3	▼6	▼7	▲5	=	▼6	▼3	▼2	▼4	▼7	▲2	
The media	Jan/Feb 2023	38	47	39	41	62	43	41	46	19	27	21	33	45	32	47	37	43	30	39	58	46	37	55	36	25	31	73	59
	Δ Jun/Jul 2022	=	▲1	▲3	▼2	▲5	▲1	▼1	▲5	▲1	▼1	▼2	▲7	▲7	=	▲4	▼4	▲2	▼1	▼5	▲2	▲3	▼3	▼1	▼4	▼5	▼4	▼1	
The (NATIONALITY) Parliament	Jan/Feb 2023	33	41	14	25	63	44	26	49	26	16	23	23	35	27	31	18	56	38	58	48	46	28	38	23	26	14	63	68
	Δ Jun/Jul 2022	▼1	▼4	▲2	▼1	▲3	▼5	▼5	▲5	▲2	▼4	▼3	▲2	▲5	▼2	▲9	▼4	▲2	▼6	▼1	▲6	▼1	=	▼3	▼6	▼8	▼3	▼7	▲11
The (NATIONALITY) Government	Jan/Feb 2023	32	38	19	30	54	40	36	48	24	24	23	23	33	32	32	36	71	39	63	44	40	27	41	21	29	14	59	37
	Δ Jun/Jul 2022	▼2	▼2	=	=	▲2	▼9	▼3	▲2	▲2	▲1	=	▲3	=	▼1	▲2	=	▲1	▼9	=	▲6	▲1	▲1	▼4	▼6	▼8	▼4	▼9	▼16
Political parties	Jan/Feb 2023	21	25	12	14	47	30	15	35	12	7	8	16	22	14	15	14	34	21	38	43	30	27	14	22	12	11	33	31
	Δ Jun/Jul 2022	=	▲1	▼1	▲1	▲5	=	▼1	▲5	▲3	▼1	▼3	▲5	▲4	▼1	▲6	▲1	▼3	▼6	▼3	▲8	▼2	▲3	▼2	▼8	▼2	=	▼9	▼3

QA6 How much trust do you have in certain institutions? For each of the following institutions, do you tend to trust it or tend not to trust it?

Tend to trust (%)



Health and medical staff in (OUR COUNTRY)	76	86	53	82	91	80	73	84	66	87	86	65	68	71	62	64	87	52	91	94	75	59	85	52	58	62	88	89
The army	71	82	49	75	88	65	74	86	79	71	80	66	70	69	68	79	76	54	78	80	70	58	74	61	63	51	96	88
The police	70	76	47	75	93	78	79	78	70	75	70	60	71	57	63	78	83	65	70	89	74	41	76	49	61	46	94	87
Regional or local public authorities	56	62	45	63	78	70	49	67	37	47	58	34	42	52	59	54	77	59	66	69	64	51	56	42	47	50	69	75
Justice, the (NATIONALITY) legal system	54	53	26	57	88	66	61	69	56	46	43	31	52	48	43	50	73	53	49	82	67	37	42	50	35	33	87	81
NATO	50	58	31	61	86	54	57	56	21	40	41	42	41	18	60	70	55	53	56	76	38	66	49	46	32	30	75	66
The United Nations	48	52	38	53	82	50	34	61	31	45	38	51	41	28	45	54	52	55	67	66	45	58	60	48	29	35	56	75
The European Union	47	49	45	44	71	45	46	61	37	45	33	52	44	43	58	64	57	50	64	57	44	58	65	52	40	37	57	63
The media	38	47	39	41	62	43	41	46	19	27	21	33	45	32	47	37	43	30	39	58	46	37	55	36	25	31	73	59
The (NATIONALITY) Parliament	33	41	14	25	63	44	26	49	26	16	23	23	35	27	31	18	56	38	58	48	46	28	38	23	26	14	63	68
The (NATIONALITY) Government	32	38	19	30	54	40	36	48	24	24	23	23	33	32	32	36	71	39	63	44	40	27	41	21	29	14	59	37
Political parties	21	25	12	14	47	30	15	35	12	7	8	16	22	14	15	14	34	21	38	43	30	27	14	22	12	11	33	31

1st MOST FREQUENTLY MENTIONED ITEM

2nd MOST FREQUENTLY MENTIONED ITEM

3rd MOST FREQUENTLY MENTIONED ITEM

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## The European Union and national institutions

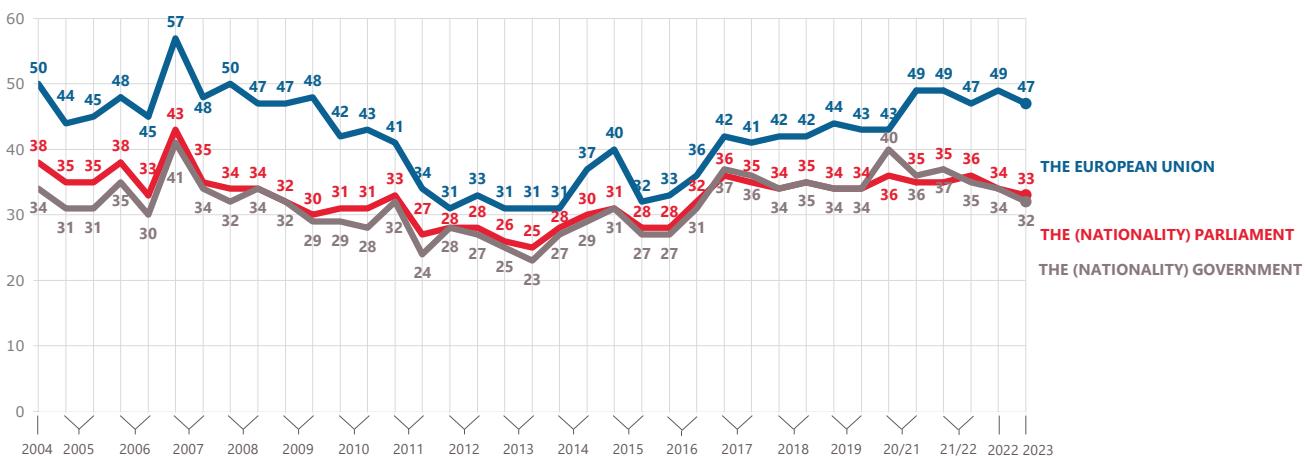
### Trust in the European Union, the national parliament and the national government has deteriorated slightly

Almost half of Europeans trust the European Union (47%, -2 percentage points compared with summer 2022), which marks a return to the level reached in the EB96 survey of winter 2021-2022.

Despite a slight decrease in trust levels, trust in the European Union remains higher in the **non-euro area** countries (55%, -2 pp) than in the **euro area** countries (44%), where trust decreased by two percentage points.

Levels of trust have also fallen for both **national governments** (32%, -2 pp since summer 2022) and **national parliaments** (33%, -1 pp). As a result, trust in national parliaments currently outweighs trust in national governments.

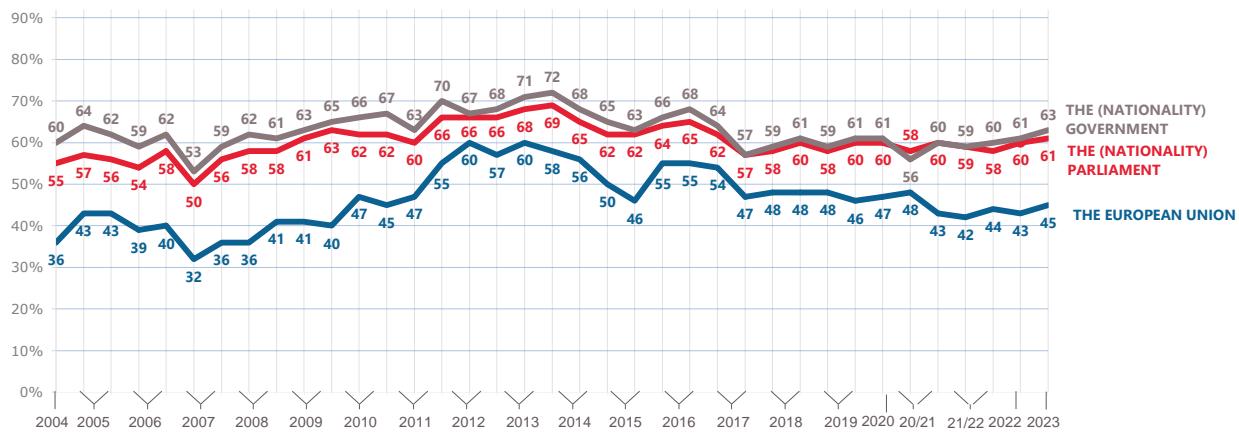
**QA6** How much trust do you have in certain institutions? For each of the following institutions, do you tend to trust it or tend not to trust it?  
 (% - EU - TEND TO TRUST)



Since similar decreases were recorded for trust in both the EU and national governments, the gap between the two institutions stands at its highest level since autumn 2010, when it was also 15 percentage points.

**The trust index**<sup>33</sup> measuring the difference between trust and distrust has deteriorated by four index points and currently stands at +2 for the European Union. The trust index for national parliaments has decreased by two index points and now stands at -28. The index for national governments has also deteriorated: down from -27 to -31.

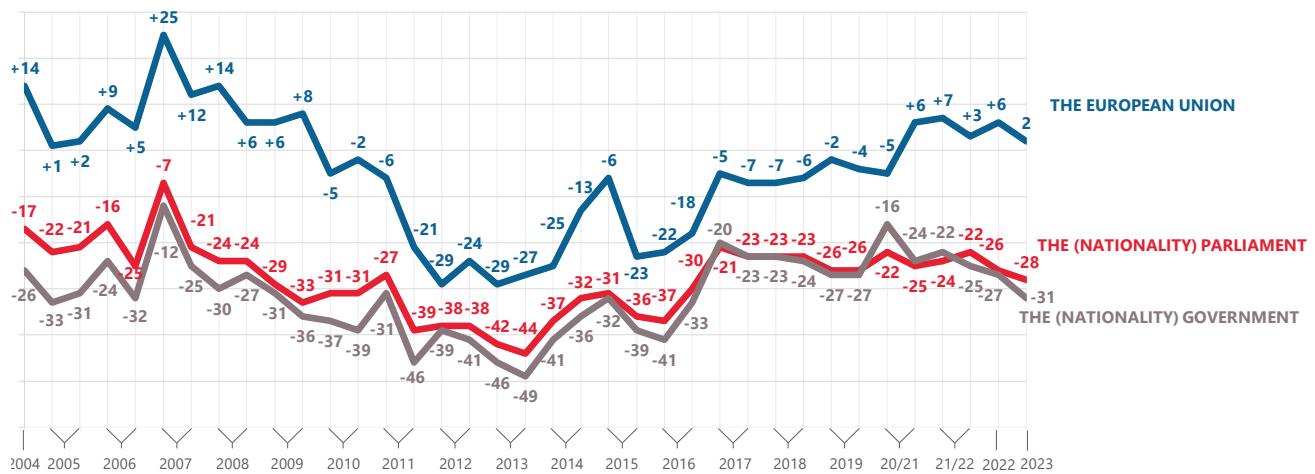
**QA6a** How much trust do you have in certain institutions? For each of the following institutions, do you tend to trust it or tend not to trust it?  
 (% - EU - TEND NOT TO TRUST)



<sup>33</sup> Difference between the positive ("tend to trust") and negative ("tend not to trust") answers

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**QA6a** How much trust do you have in certain institutions? For each of the following institutions, do you tend to trust it or tend not to trust it?  
**(EU - TRUST INDEX (TEND TO TRUST - TEND NOT TO TRUST))**

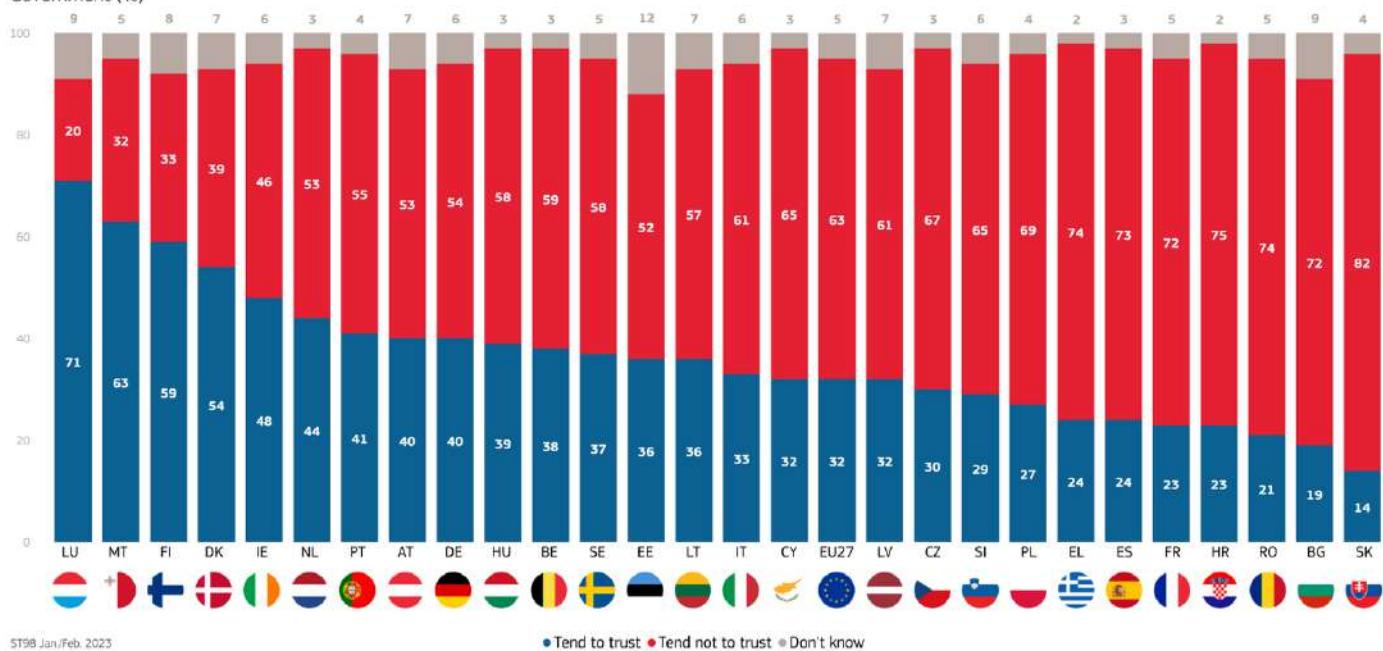


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A majority of respondents in five Member States of the European Union (compared with six in summer 2022) trust their **national government**. Respondents in Luxembourg (71%), Malta (63%) and Finland (59%) are the most positive about their national government, while respondents in Slovakia (14%), Bulgaria (19%) and Romania (21%) are the least likely to trust it. Nevertheless, the proportion of respondents who tend not to trust their government exceeds 70% in seven countries, most strikingly in Slovakia (82%) and Croatia (75%). It should be noted that a particularly high proportion of respondents expressed no opinion in Estonia (12%).

Since summer 2022, trust in the **national government** has increased in ten Member States, most significantly in the Netherlands (44%, +6 percentage points), while levels of trust remain unchanged in six countries: Malta (63%), Lithuania (36%), Italy (33%), Czechia (30%), France (23%) and Bulgaria (19%). However, trust has decreased in 11 countries, particularly in Sweden (37%, -16 pp), the only country where the decline exceeds ten percentage points.

QA6.9. How much trust do you have in certain institutions? For each of the following institutions, do you tend to trust it or tend not to trust it? :-The (NATIONALITY)  
 Government (%)

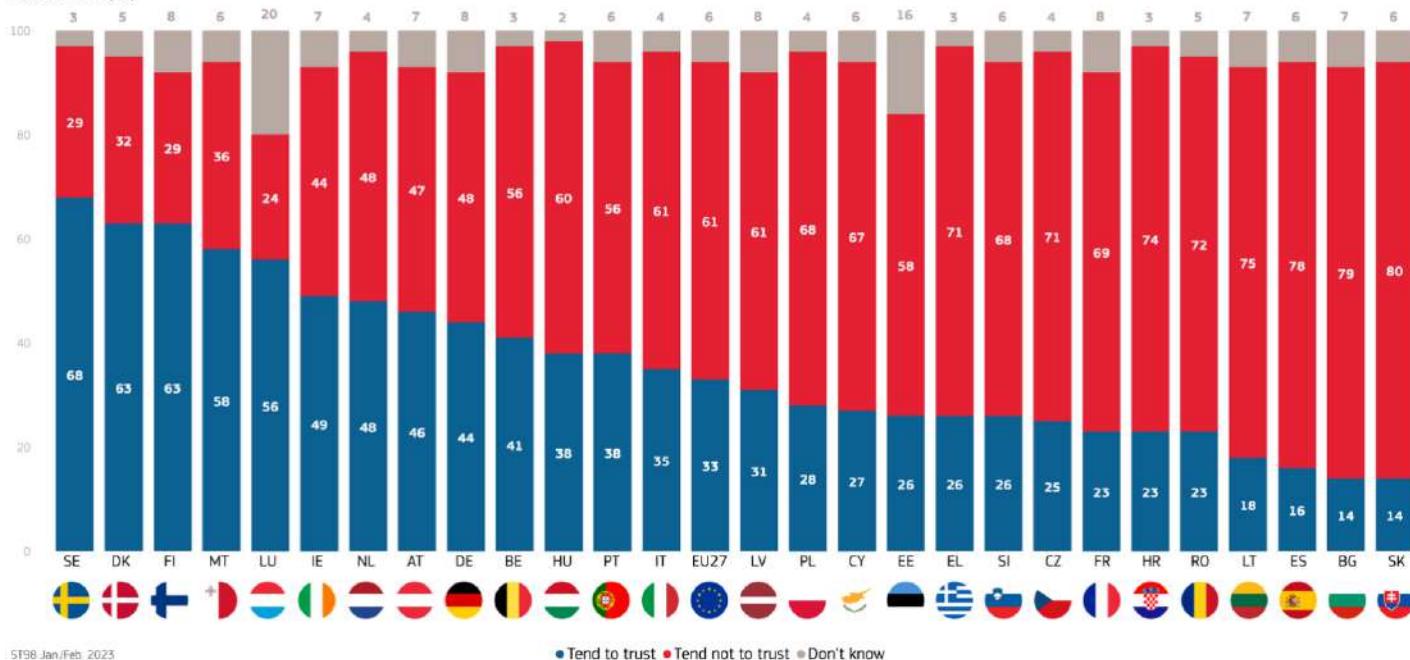


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A majority of respondents trust their **national parliament** in six Member States (unchanged since summer 2022). Within this group of countries, the highest scores were recorded in Sweden (68%) as well as Denmark and Finland (both 63%) and the lowest in Ireland (49% “tend to trust”, versus 44% “tend not to trust” and 7% “don’t know”). In the Netherlands trust and distrust are evenly split (48% vs. 48%). In contrast, a majority of respondents tend not to trust their national parliament in 20 EU Member States, most particularly in Slovakia (80%), Bulgaria (79%) and Spain (78%), where more than three quarters of respondents distrust this institution. The highest proportions of “don’t know” answers were recorded in Luxembourg (20%), followed by Estonia (16%).

**Since summer 2022**, trust in the national parliament has increased in ten Member States (compared with 13 in the previous survey), most particularly in Sweden (68%, +11 percentage points) and Latvia (31%, +9 pp), while trust in this institution has remained unchanged in Poland (28%). However, trust has decreased in 16 countries, most significantly in Slovenia (26%, -8) and in Finland (63%, -7 pp).

QA6.10. How much trust do you have in certain institutions? For each of the following institutions, do you tend to trust it or tend not to trust it? :-The (NATIONALITY)  
 Parliament (%)



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- QA6.9** How much trust do you have in certain institutions? For each of the following institutions, do you tend to trust it or tend not to trust it?  
**The (NATIONALITY) Government (% - EU)**
- QA6.10** How much trust do you have in certain institutions? For each of the following institutions, do you tend to trust it or tend not to trust it?  
**The (NATIONALITY) Parliament (% - EU)**

	Tend to trust	Tend not to trust	Don't know		Tend to trust	Tend not to trust	Don't know
EU27	32	63	5	EU27	33	61	6
Gender				Gender			
Man	32	63	5	Man	34	61	5
Woman	32	63	5	Woman	33	61	6
Age				Age			
15-24	33	60	7	15-24	37	55	8
25-39	31	65	4	25-39	33	62	5
40-54	31	65	4	40-54	31	64	5
55 +	33	62	5	55 +	34	60	6
Education (End of)				Education (End of)			
15-	29	66	5	15-	25	67	8
16-19	29	67	4	16-19	29	66	5
20+	37	59	4	20+	39	56	5
Still studying	36	56	8	Still studying	41	49	10
Socio-professional category				Socio-professional category			
Self- employed	33	64	3	Self- employed	34	61	5
Managers	43	53	4	Managers	46	50	4
Other white collars	31	64	5	Other white collars	34	61	5
Manual workers	26	70	4	Manual workers	27	69	4
House persons	25	69	6	House persons	22	71	7
Unemployed	19	76	5	Unemployed	17	77	6
Retired	34	60	6	Retired	34	59	7
Students	36	56	8	Students	41	49	10
Difficulties paying bills				Difficulties paying bills			
Most of the time	20	76	4	Most of the time	19	76	5
From time to time	27	69	4	From time to time	27	68	5
Almost never/ Never	36	59	5	Almost never/ Never	38	56	6
Consider belonging to				Consider belonging to			
The working class	25	70	5	The working class	23	71	6
The lower middle class	28	69	3	The lower middle class	28	67	5
The middle class	35	60	5	The middle class	37	57	6
The upper middle class	44	50	6	The upper middle class	50	45	5
The upper class	40	57	3	The upper class	59	38	3

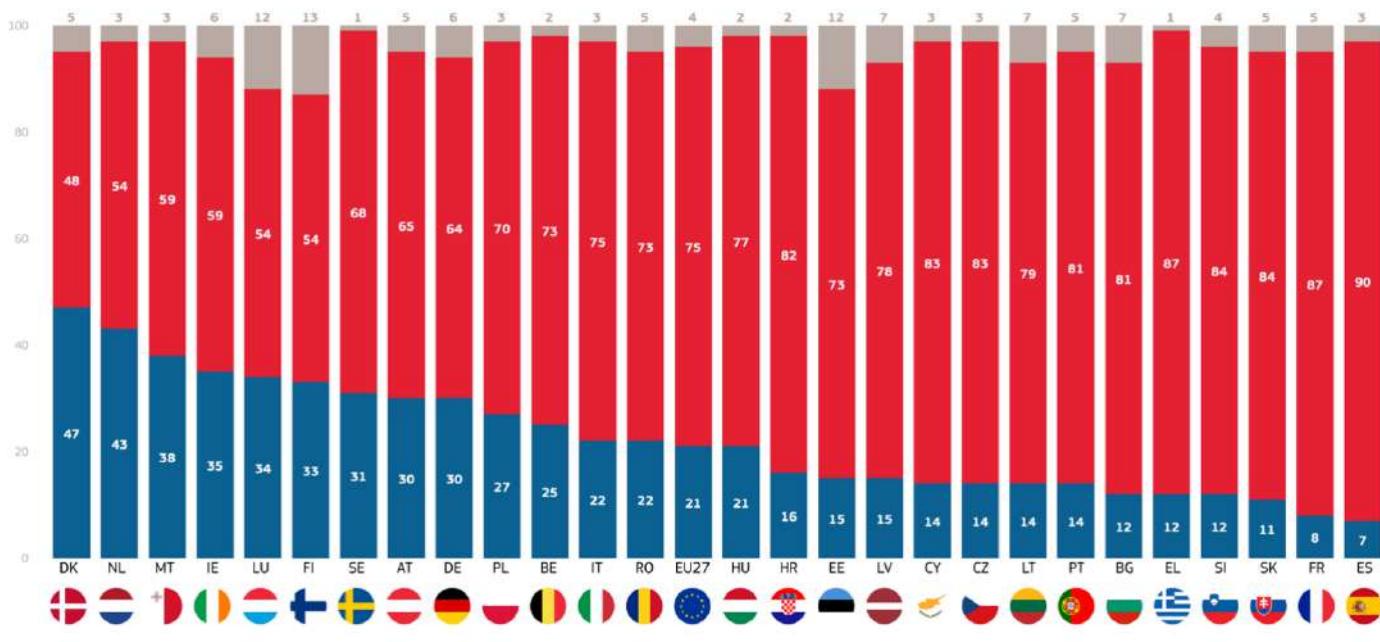
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## Political parties

A majority of respondents in all 27 Member States of the European Union distrust **political parties** (unchanged since the previous survey), most strikingly in Spain (90%) as well as Greece and France (both 87%) and by the narrowest margin in Denmark (48% vs. 47% 'trust'). However, more than four in ten respondents trust their political parties in the Netherlands (43%) and Denmark (47%).

**Since summer 2022**, trust has increased in 11 Member States, most significantly in the Netherlands (43%, +8 pp) and Latvia (15%; +6 pp), while it has remained unchanged in Germany (30%) and Slovakia (11%). In contrast, trust has decreased in 14 countries, most particularly in Finland (33%, -9 pp) and Romania (22%, -8 pp).

QA6.2. How much trust do you have in certain institutions? For each of the following institutions, do you tend to trust it or tend not to trust it? :-Political parties (%)



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● Tend to trust ● Tend not to trust ■ Don't know

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**QA6.2** How much trust do you have in certain institutions? For each of the following institutions, do you tend to trust it or tend not to trust it?

**Political parties (%) - EU)**

	Tend to trust	Tend not to trust	Don't know
EU27	21	75	4
 Gender			
Man	21	75	4
Woman	21	74	5
 Age			
15-24	24	69	7
25-39	22	74	4
40-54	20	77	3
55 +	20	76	4
 Education (End of)			
15-	14	82	4
16-19	19	77	4
20+	25	71	4
Still studying	26	68	6
 Socio-professional category			
Self- employed	20	76	4
Managers	30	66	4
Other white collars	22	74	4
Manual workers	18	79	3
House persons	16	80	4
Unemployed	10	87	3
Retired	20	75	5
Students	26	68	6
 Difficulties paying bills			
Most of the time	11	87	2
From time to time	17	80	3
Almost never/ Never	24	71	5
 Consider belonging to			
The working class	13	83	4
The lower middle class	17	79	4
The middle class	23	73	4
The upper middle class	35	59	6
The upper class	28	63	9

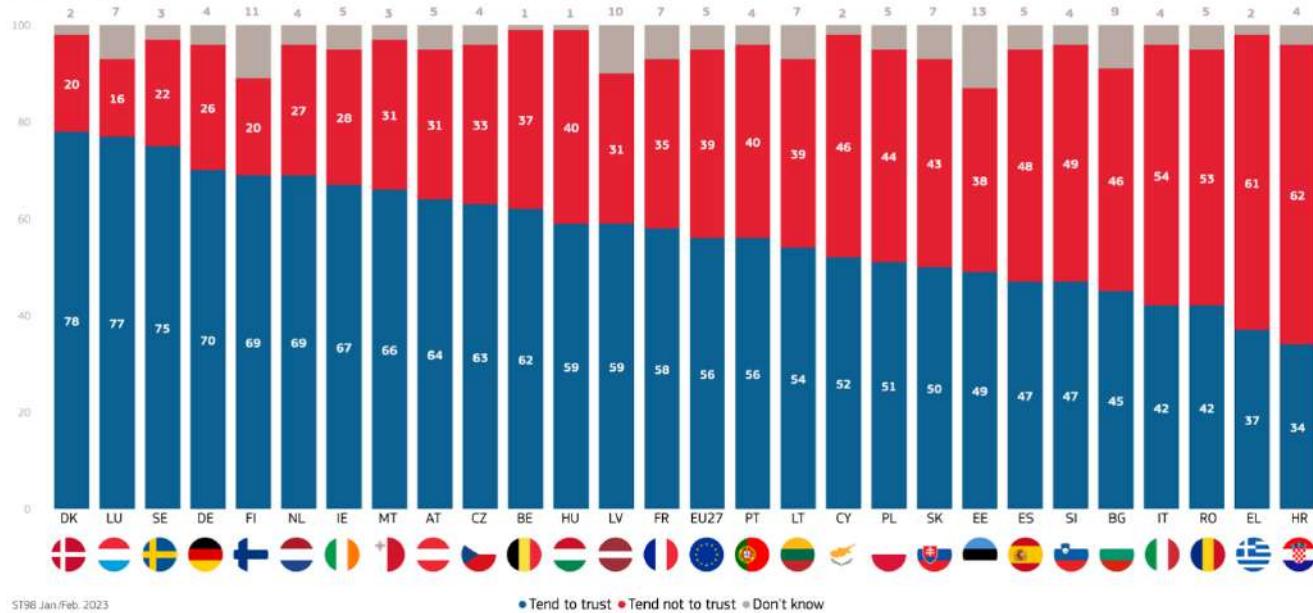
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## Regional or local public authorities

In contrast with political parties, **regional or local authorities** enjoy the trust of a majority of respondents in 20 Member States (unchanged since summer 2022). Within this group of countries, trust is highest in Denmark (78%), Luxembourg (77%), Sweden (75%) and Germany (70%), where at least seven in ten respondents trust this institution. However, respondents in seven countries are predominantly distrustful of these authorities, in particular in Croatia (62%) and Greece (61%), where at least six in ten respondents distrust regional or local public authorities.

**Since summer 2022**, trust has increased in 17 Member States, most significantly in Sweden (75%, +13 pp) and the Netherlands (69%, +10 pp) where increases exceed ten percentage points. Trust levels have remained unchanged in Malta (66%) and Cyprus (52%), but have fallen in eight countries, most markedly in Luxembourg (77%, -5 pp) and Austria (64%, -5pp).

QA6.7. How much trust do you have in certain institutions? For each of the following institutions, do you tend to trust it or tend not to trust it? :-Regional or local public authorities (%)



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**QA6.7** How much trust do you have in certain institutions? For each of the following institutions, do you tend to trust it or tend not to trust it?

**Regional or local public authorities (%) - EU)**

	Tend to trust	Tend not to trust	Don't know
EU27	56	39	5
<b>Gender</b>			
Man	56	40	4
Woman	57	38	5
<b>Age</b>			
15-24	58	35	7
25-39	57	39	4
40-54	55	41	4
55 +	56	39	5
<b>Education (End of)</b>			
15-	49	46	5
16-19	54	42	4
20+	61	34	5
Still studying	62	31	7
<b>Socio-professional category</b>			
Self-employed	56	40	4
Managers	66	30	4
Other white collars	55	41	4
Manual workers	52	43	5
House persons	49	47	4
Unemployed	44	52	4
Retired	57	38	5
Students	62	31	7
<b>Difficulties paying bills</b>			
Most of the time	38	58	4
From time to time	49	46	5
Almost never/ Never	62	33	5
<b>Consider belonging to</b>			
The working class	49	46	5
The lower middle class	56	41	3
The middle class	58	37	5
The upper middle class	66	29	5
The upper class	59	37	4

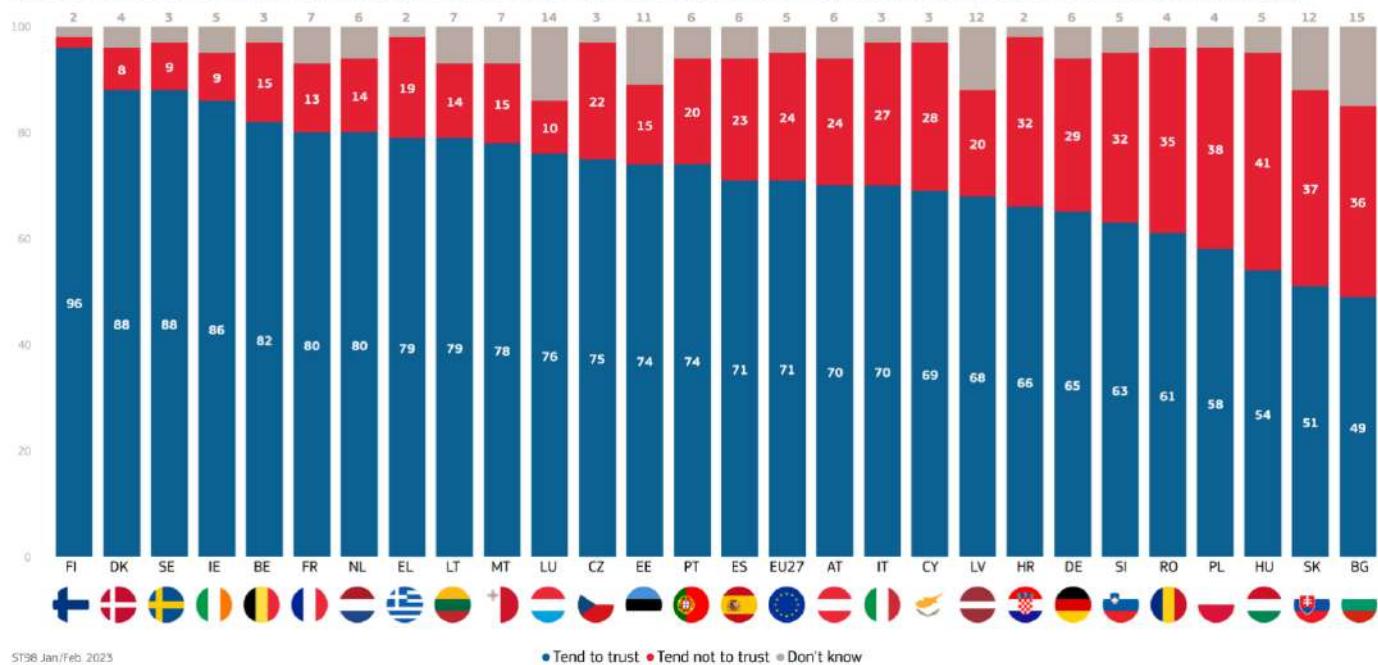
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### The army, the police and justice

A majority of respondents in all 27 Member States of the European Union trust **the army** (unchanged since summer 2022). Nevertheless, levels of trust vary from a high of 96% in Finland to a low of 49% in Bulgaria (vs. 36% 'distrust' and 15% "don't know"). More than a third of respondents distrust the army in five countries, most particularly in Hungary (41%), where over four in ten respondents do so.

**Since summer 2022**, trust has increased in 11 Member States, notably in Italy (70%, +6 percentage points), while levels of trust are unchanged in Denmark (88%) as well as France and the Netherlands (both 80%). However, trust has declined in 13 countries, most significantly in Slovakia (51%, -10 pp).

QA6.5. How much trust do you have in certain institutions? For each of the following institutions, do you tend to trust it or tend not to trust it? :-The army (%)



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**QA6.5** How much trust do you have in certain institutions? For each of the following institutions, do you tend to trust it or tend not to trust it?

**The army** (% - EU)

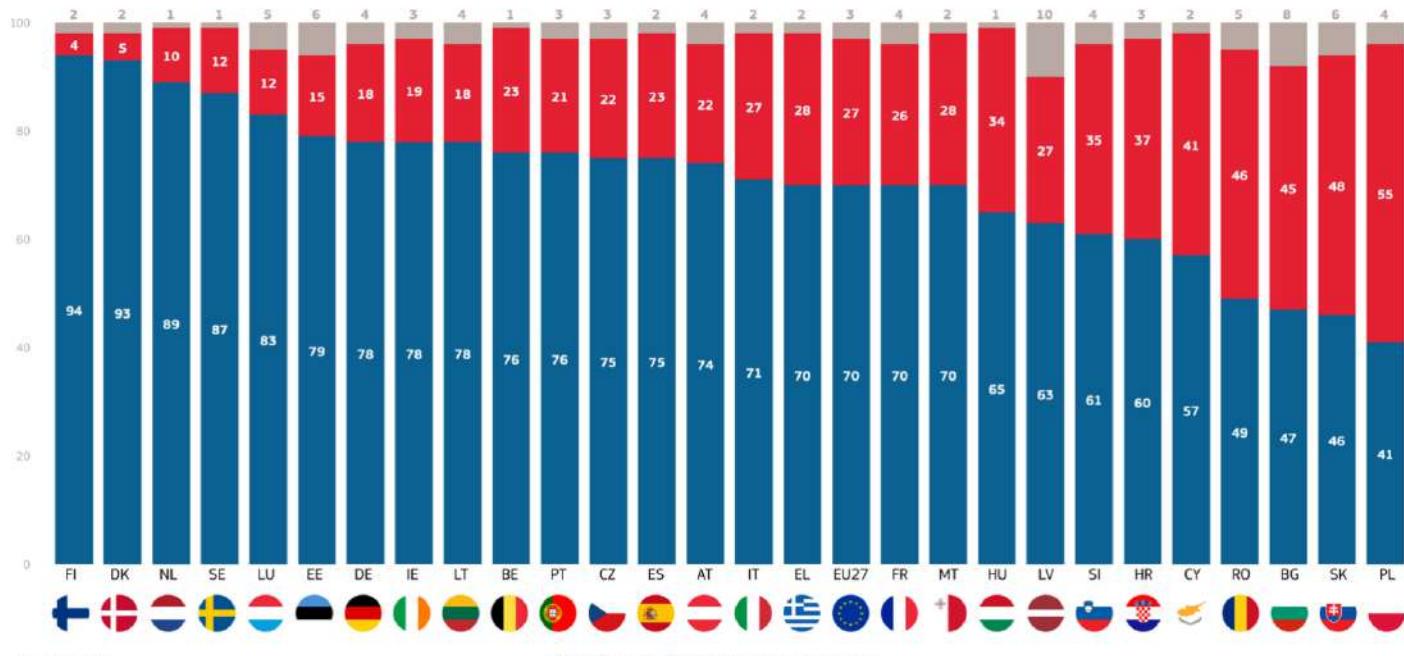
	Tend to trust	Tend not to trust	Don't know
EU27	71	24	5
 Gender			
Man	70	26	4
Woman	71	23	6
 Age			
15-24	68	26	6
25-39	69	27	4
40-54	71	24	5
55 +	72	23	5
 Education (End of)			
15-	70	24	6
16-19	68	27	5
20+	74	21	5
Still studying	69	25	6
 Socio-professional category			
Self-employed	73	23	4
Managers	79	18	3
Other white collars	70	26	4
Manual workers	66	29	5
House persons	71	22	7
Unemployed	62	31	7
Retired	72	22	6
Students	69	25	6
 Difficulties paying bills			
Most of the time	62	32	6
From time to time	65	30	5
Almost never/ Never	74	21	5
 Consider belonging to			
The working class	65	28	7
The lower middle class	68	27	5
The middle class	73	23	4
The upper middle class	78	18	4
The upper class	75	24	1

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Trust outweighs distrust in **the police** in 25 Member States (compared with 26 in summer 2022). Levels of trust range from 94% in Finland and 93% in Denmark, to 47% in Bulgaria (vs. 45% 'distrust' and 8% "don't know"). However, respondents are predominantly distrustful of the police in Poland (55%) and Slovakia (48% 'distrust' vs. 46% 'trust').

**Since summer 2022**, trust in the police has increased in 14 Member States, most markedly in Italy (71%, +7 percentage points), while levels are unchanged in three countries: Lithuania (78%), Spain (75%) and Greece (70%). In contrast, trust has decreased in ten countries, particularly in Slovakia (46%, -5 pp).

QA6.4. How much trust do you have in certain institutions? For each of the following institutions, do you tend to trust it or tend not to trust it? :-The police (%)



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**QA6.4** How much trust do you have in certain institutions? For each of the following institutions, do you tend to trust it or tend not to trust it?

**The police (% - EU)**

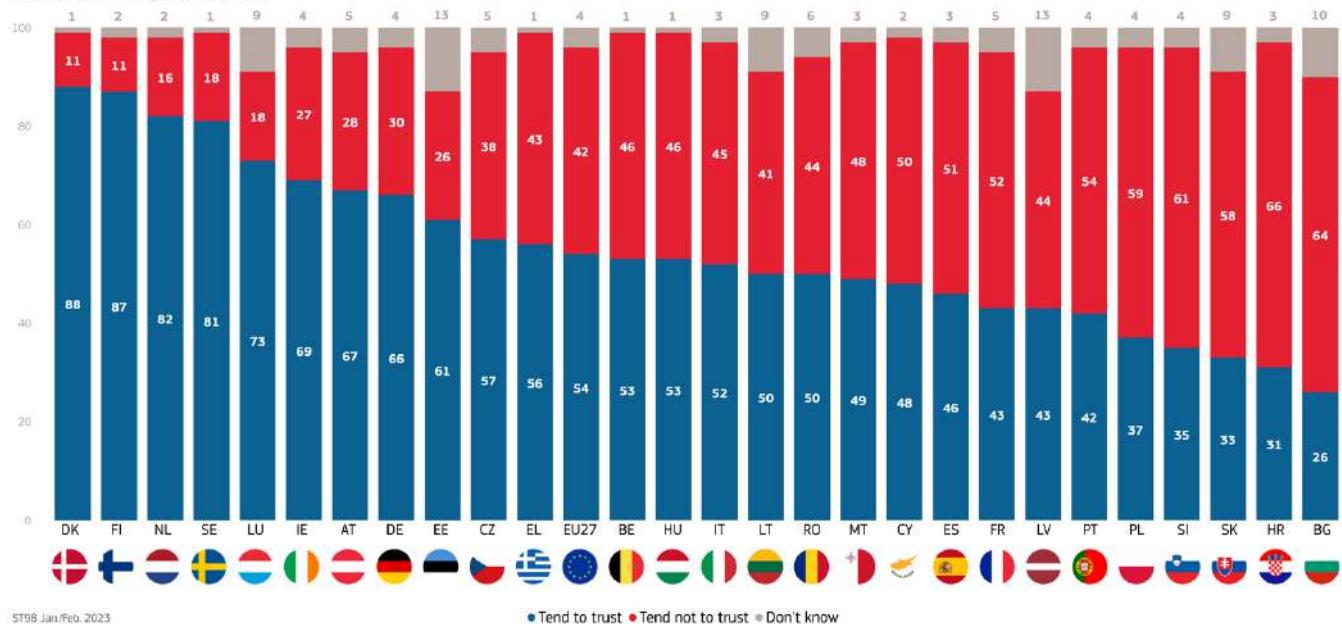
	Tend to trust	Tend not to trust	Don't know
EU27	70	27	3
 <b>Gender</b>			
Man	69	28	3
Woman	71	26	3
 <b>Age</b>			
15-24	65	32	3
25-39	67	30	3
40-54	71	26	3
55 +	74	23	3
 <b>Education (End of)</b>			
15-	72	24	4
16-19	66	31	3
20+	76	21	3
Still studying	67	29	4
 <b>Socio-professional category</b>			
Self- employed	70	27	3
Managers	80	18	2
Other white collars	71	27	2
Manual workers	64	32	4
House persons	72	25	3
Unemployed	56	40	4
Retired	74	23	3
Students	67	29	4
 <b>Difficulties paying bills</b>			
Most of the time	57	40	3
From time to time	63	34	3
Almost never/ Never	75	22	3
 <b>Consider belonging to</b>			
The working class	62	33	5
The lower middle class	68	29	3
The middle class	73	24	3
The upper middle class	80	18	2
The upper class	72	27	1

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A majority of respondents trust **justice and the national legal system** in 17 Member States (compared with 15 in summer 2022). Levels of trust range from 88% in Denmark, 87% in Finland and 82% in the Netherlands, to 26% in Bulgaria and 31% in Croatia. However, distrust outweighs trust in ten countries, most notably in Croatia (66% "tend not to trust") and Bulgaria (64%).

**Since summer 2022**, trust has increased in 15 Member States, particularly in Italy (52%, +9 pp) and Sweden (81%, +8 pp), while the level of trust has remained unchanged in four countries, Germany (66%), Malta (44%), Poland (37%) and Slovakia (33%). Conversely, trust has decreased in eight countries, most markedly in Spain (46%, -5 pp).

QA6.3. How much trust do you have in certain institutions? For each of the following institutions, do you tend to trust it or tend not to trust it? :-Justice, the (NATIONALITY) legal system (%)



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● Tend to trust ● Tend not to trust ● Don't know

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**QA6.3** How much trust do you have in certain institutions? For each of the following institutions, do you tend to trust it or tend not to trust it?

**Justice, the (NATIONALITY) legal system (%) - EU)**

	Tend to trust	Tend not to trust	Don't know
EU27	54	42	4
<b>Gender</b>			
Man	53	43	4
Woman	54	42	4
<b>Age</b>			
15-24	57	38	5
25-39	55	42	3
40-54	54	43	3
55 +	52	44	4
<b>Education (End of)</b>			
15-	46	50	4
16-19	49	48	3
20+	62	35	3
Still studying	62	32	6
<b>Socio-professional category</b>			
Self-employed	53	44	3
Managers	68	29	3
Other white collars	55	42	3
Manual workers	48	48	4
House persons	50	46	4
Unemployed	39	58	3
Retired	51	44	5
Students	62	32	6
<b>Difficulties paying bills</b>			
Most of the time	37	60	3
From time to time	46	50	4
Almost never/ Never	59	37	4
<b>Consider belonging to</b>			
The working class	43	52	5
The lower middle class	47	49	4
The middle class	57	39	4
The upper middle class	69	29	2
The upper class	74	22	4

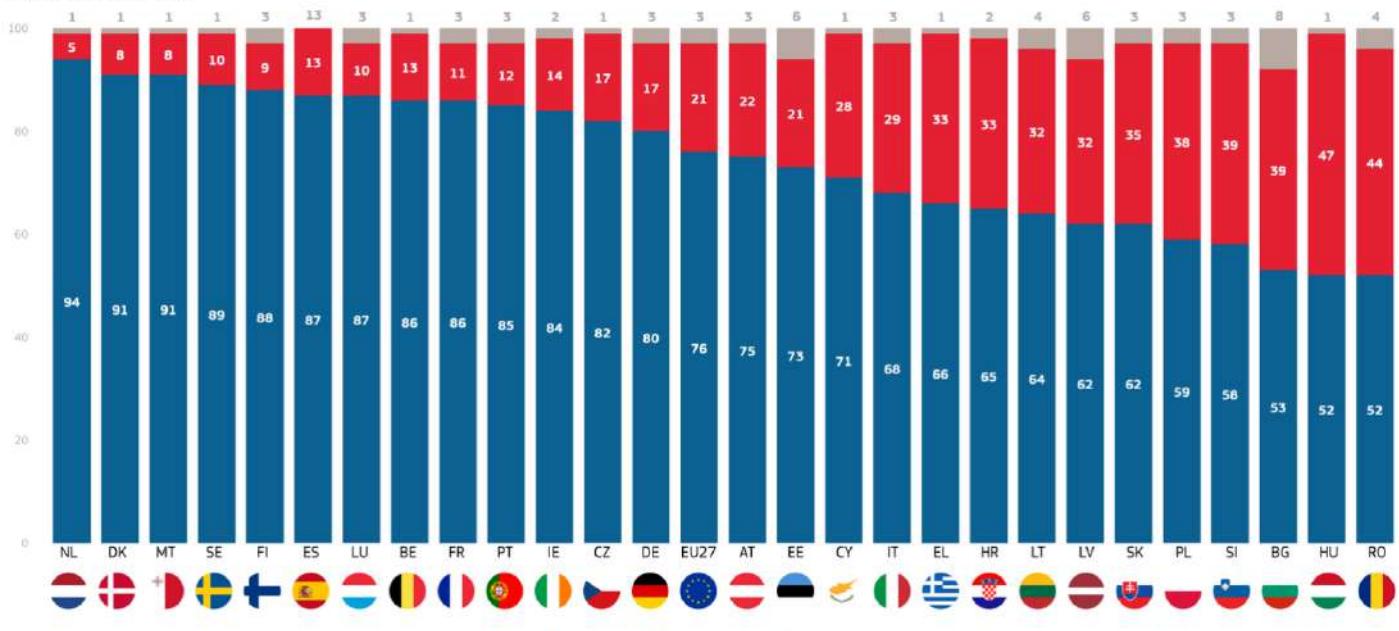
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## Health and medical staff

A majority of respondents in all 27 Member States (unchanged since summer 2022) trust the **health and medical staff** in their country. However, levels of trust range from 94% in the Netherlands, where they are highest, to 52% in Hungary and Romania, where they are lowest. It is noteworthy that in Hungary (47% 'distrust') and Romania (44%) more than four in ten respondents distrust their health and medical staff.

**Since summer 2022**, trust has gained ground in eight Member States, most markedly in Sweden (89%, +7 pp), while remaining unchanged in six countries. However, trust has declined in 13 countries, particularly in Greece (66%, -8 pp) and Latvia (62%, -8).

QA6.8. How much trust do you have in certain institutions? For each of the following institutions, do you tend to trust it or tend not to trust it? :-Health and medical staff in (OUR COUNTRY) (%)



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**QA6.8** How much trust do you have in certain institutions? For each of the following institutions, do you tend to trust it or tend not to trust it?

**Health and medical staff in (OUR COUNTRY) (% - EU)**

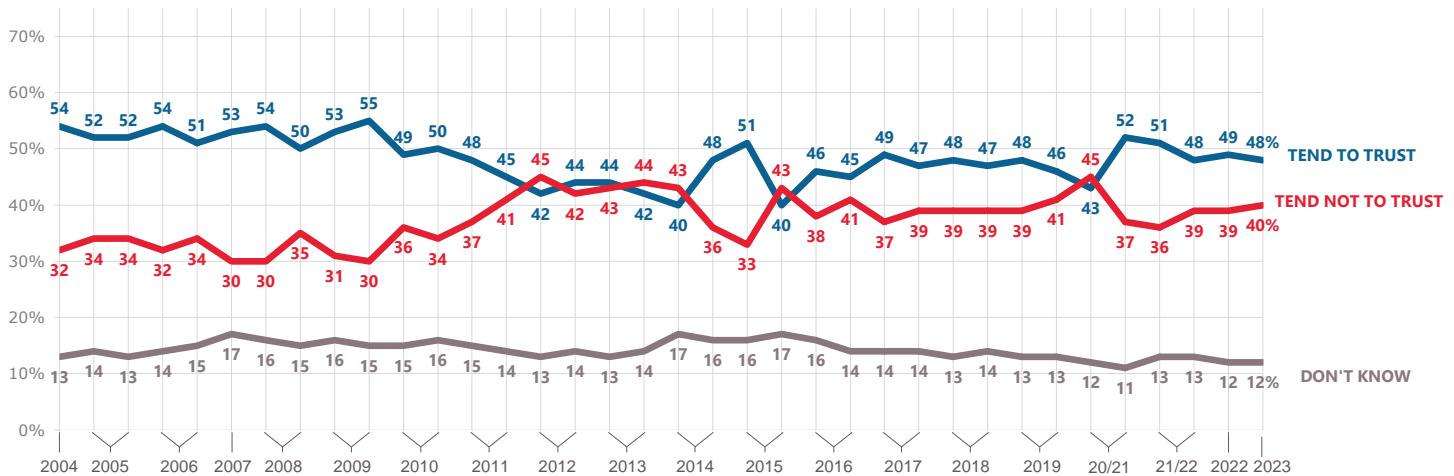
	Tend to trust	Tend not to trust	Don't know
EU27	76	21	3
<b>Gender</b>			
Man	76	22	2
Woman	77	21	2
<b>Age</b>			
15-24	79	19	2
25-39	75	23	2
40-54	77	21	2
55 +	76	21	3
<b>Education (End of)</b>			
15-	74	23	3
16-19	73	25	2
20+	81	17	2
Still studying	82	16	2
<b>Socio-professional category</b>			
Self- employed	75	23	2
Managers	85	14	1
Other white collars	75	23	2
Manual workers	70	27	3
House persons	73	25	2
Unemployed	73	25	2
Retired	78	19	3
Students	82	16	2
<b>Difficulties paying bills</b>			
Most of the time	68	30	2
From time to time	67	30	3
Almost never/ Never	82	16	2
<b>Consider belonging to</b>			
The working class	73	24	3
The lower middle class	74	24	2
The middle class	77	21	2
The upper middle class	86	12	2
The upper class	83	15	2

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### The United Nations

The proportion of respondents who “tend to trust” the **United Nations**<sup>34</sup>, outweighs the proportion who distrusts this institution: 48% (-1 percentage point since summer 2022) “tend to trust” vs. 40% (+1 pp) “tend not to trust”. This slight decrease restores trust to the levels measured in winter 2021–2022.

**QA6a.12** How much trust do you have in certain institutions? For each of the following institutions, do you tend to trust it or tend not to trust it?  
**The United Nations (%) - EU**



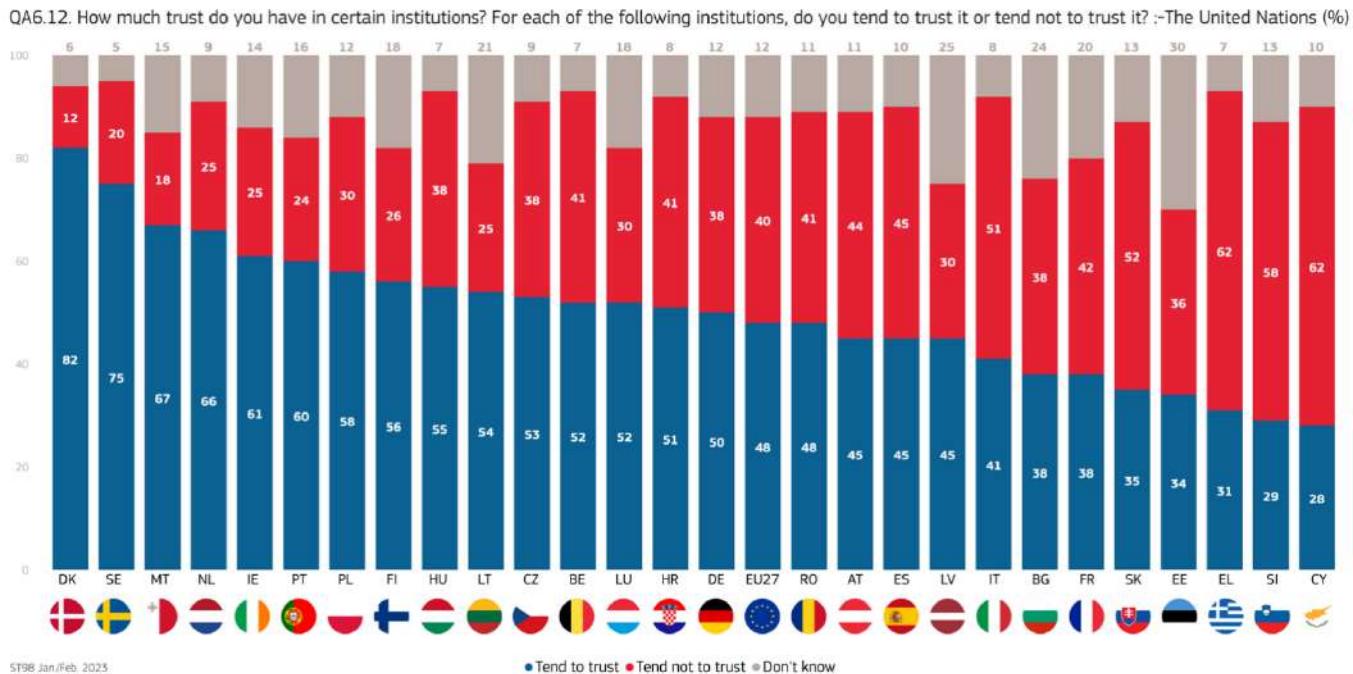
<sup>34</sup> QA6a.12. How much trust do you have in certain institutions? For each of the following institutions, do you tend to trust it or tend not to trust it? The United Nations

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Trust in the **United Nations** is predominant in 18 Member States of the European Union (unchanged since summer 2022). Within this group of countries the levels of trust range from 82% in Denmark and 75% in Sweden, where they are highest, to 45% in Austria (vs. 44% "tend not to trust" and 11% "don't know"). In Spain (45% 'trust' vs. 45% 'distrust') and Bulgaria (38% vs. 38%) trust and distrust are evenly balanced.

However, distrust is predominant in seven countries, most markedly in Greece and Cyprus (both 62%) where more than six in ten respondents distrust the United Nations.

**Since summer 2022**, trust in the United Nations has increased in 11 Member States, particularly in Croatia (51%, +7 percentage points), Czechia (53%, +5 pp) and Luxembourg (52%, +5 pp), while trust levels have remained unchanged in France (38%). On the other hand, trust has decreased in 15 countries, most significantly in Slovakia (35%, -10 pp).



QA6.12 How much trust do you have in certain institutions? For each of the following institutions, do you tend to trust it or tend not to trust it?  
**The United Nations (%)**



	EU27	HR	CZ	LU	NL	SE	EL	LV	IE	DK	DE	CY	FR	AT	IT	BG	MT	FI	EE	ES	LT	HU	RO	SI	BE	PL	PT	SK
Tend to trust	48	51	53	52	66	75	31	45	61	82	50	28	38	45	41	38	67	56	34	45	54	55	48	29	52	58	60	35
Δ Jun/Jul 2022	▼1	▲7	▲5	▲5	▲5	▲5	▲4	▲4	▲3	▲2	▲2	=	=	▼1	▼2	▼3	▼4	▼4	▼5	▼5	▼5	▼5	▼5	▼7	▼7	▼7	▼10	
Tend not to trust	40	41	38	30	25	20	62	30	25	12	38	62	42	44	51	38	18	26	36	45	25	38	41	58	41	30	24	52
Δ Jun/Jul 2022	▲1	▼7	▼5	▼5	▼10	▼10	▼5	▼12	▼2	▼3	▲1	▼4	▼1	▼2	▲4	▲2	▼3	▼5	▼2	▲7	▼10	▲3	▲5	▼1	▲3	▲4	▲4	▲3
Don't know	12	8	9	18	9	5	7	25	14	6	12	10	20	11	8	24	15	18	30	10	21	7	11	13	7	12	16	13
Δ Jun/Jul 2022	=	=	=	=	▲5	▲5	▲1	▲8	▼1	▲1	▼3	▲2	▲1	▲3	▼2	▲1	▲7	▲9	▲7	▼2	▲15	▲2	=	▲6	▲4	▲3	▲3	

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**QA6.12** How much trust do you have in certain institutions? For each of the following institutions, do you tend to trust it or tend not to trust it?

**The United Nations (%) - EU)**

	Tend to trust	Tend not to trust	Don't know
EU27	48	40	12
<b>Gender</b>			
Man	49	41	10
Woman	48	38	14
<b>Age</b>			
15-24	55	31	14
25-39	50	40	10
40-54	49	40	11
55 +	44	42	14
<b>Education (End of)</b>			
15-	37	46	17
16-19	44	44	12
20+	56	34	10
Still studying	60	26	14
<b>Socio-professional category</b>			
Self-employed	46	45	9
Managers	63	30	7
Other white collars	54	36	10
Manual workers	42	47	11
House persons	40	44	16
Unemployed	35	52	13
Retired	44	41	15
Students	60	26	14
<b>Difficulties paying bills</b>			
Most of the time	31	56	13
From time to time	42	46	12
Almost never/ Never	53	35	12
<b>Consider belonging to</b>			
The working class	36	48	16
The lower middle class	44	44	12
The middle class	52	38	10
The upper middle class	65	26	9
The upper class	67	27	6

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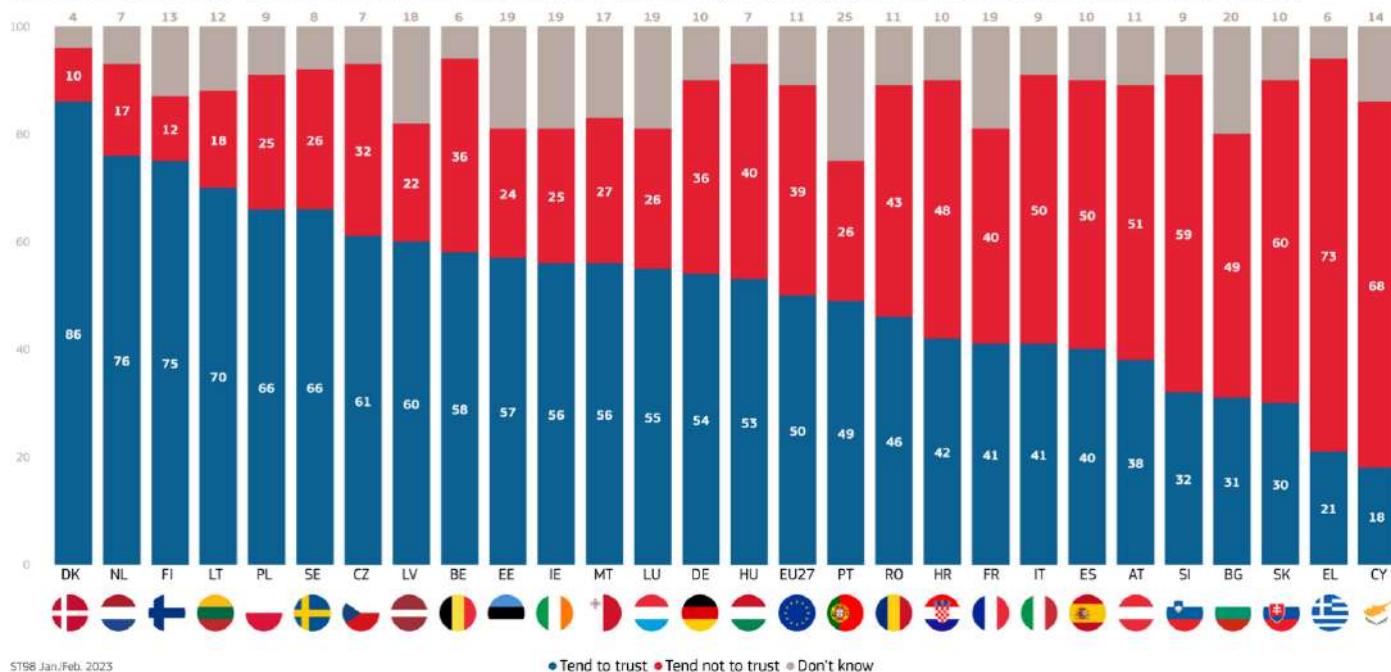
## NATO

NATO<sup>35</sup> enjoys the trust of a majority of respondents in 18 Member States of the European Union (unchanged since summer 2022). Within this group of countries, levels of trust range from 86% in Denmark and 76% in the Netherlands, where they are highest, to 41% in France (vs. 40% “tend not to trust”), where only a slim majority hold this opinion. Conversely, a majority of respondents distrust NATO in nine countries, most significantly in Greece (73%) and Cyprus (68%).

It is noteworthy that the proportion of respondents who gave no answer exceeds 10% in 17 countries (compared with ten in the previous survey), most notably in Portugal (25%) and in Bulgaria (20%).

**Since summer 2022**, trust in NATO has increased in nine Member States (compared with 18 in the previous survey), most markedly in France (41%, +5 pp) and Luxembourg (55%, +5 pp), while levels of trust have remained unchanged in Czechia (61%). However, trust has decreased in 17 countries, most significantly in Slovakia (30%, -13 pp) and to a lesser extent in Romania (46%, -9 pp), Malta (56%, -8 pp) and Hungary (53%, -8 pp).

QA6.13. How much trust do you have in certain institutions? For each of the following institutions, do you tend to trust it or tend not to trust it? :-NATO (%)



<sup>35</sup> North Atlantic Treaty Organisation

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**QA6.13** How much trust do you have in certain institutions? For each of the following institutions, do you tend to trust it or tend not to trust it?

**NATO (%) - EU)**

	Tend to trust	Tend not to trust	Don't know
EU27	50	39	11
<b>Gender</b>			
Man	52	39	9
Woman	47	39	14
<b>Age</b>			
15-24	54	33	13
25-39	50	40	10
40-54	50	40	10
55 +	47	40	13
<b>Education (End of)</b>			
15-	35	47	18
16-19	46	43	11
20+	58	33	9
Still studying	58	30	12
<b>Socio-professional category</b>			
Self-employed	48	44	8
Managers	64	29	7
Other white collars	54	36	10
Manual workers	43	46	11
House persons	37	46	17
Unemployed	34	53	13
Retired	48	38	14
Students	58	30	12
<b>Difficulties paying bills</b>			
Most of the time	32	56	12
From time to time	40	48	12
Almost never/ Never	56	33	11
<b>Consider belonging to</b>			
The working class	38	47	15
The lower middle class	44	44	12
The middle class	53	37	10
The upper middle class	69	23	8
The upper class	75	20	5

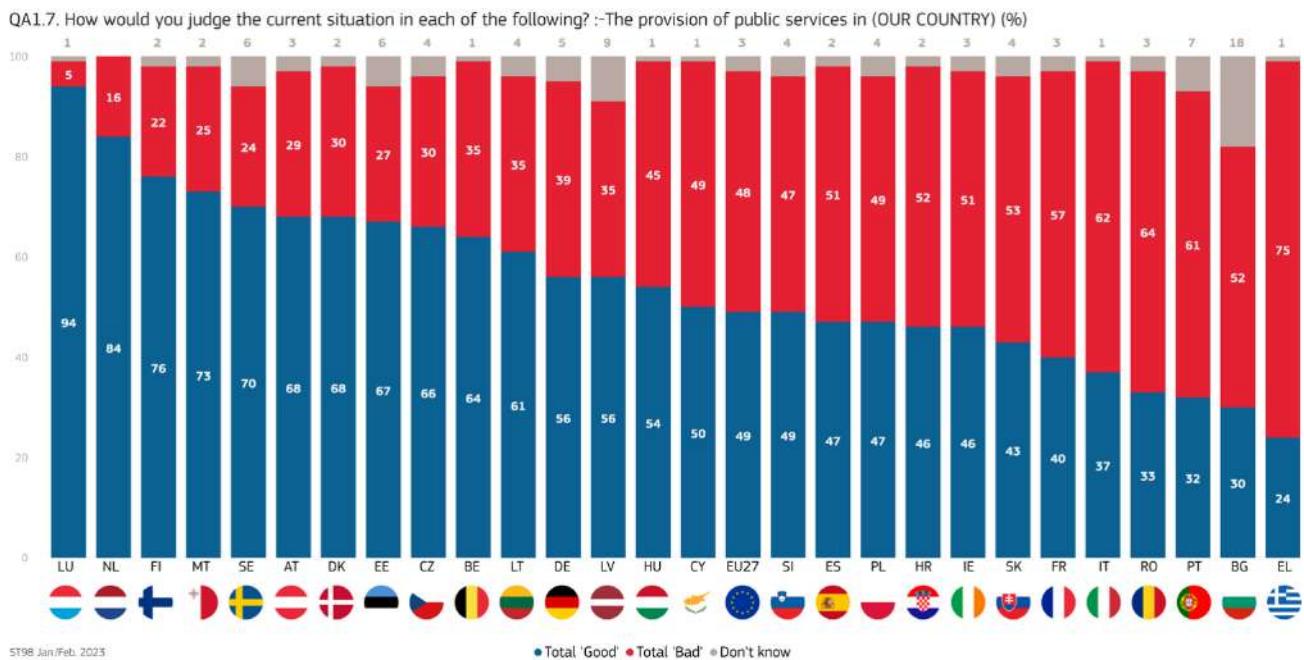
## 4. Provision of public services in the European Union

### Almost half of Europeans consider that provision of public services in their country is good

A slight majority of almost half the respondents (49%) consider that the provision of public services in their country is ‘good’<sup>36</sup>, including 7% (unchanged since summer 2022) who think that it is “very good” and 42% (~ 3 percentage points) who say that it is “rather good”. However, an almost equal proportion (48% +4 pp) say that the provision of public services in their country is ‘bad’, including 36% (+2 pp) who think that it is “rather bad” and 12% (+2 pp) say that it is “very bad”.

A majority of respondents in 16 Member States of the European Union (compared with 17 in summer 2022) approve of the provision of public services at national level, with scores ranging from 94% in Luxembourg and 84% in the Netherlands, to 49% in Slovenia (vs. 47% ‘bad’). However, respondents are predominantly negative in eleven Member States. The feeling that the national provision of public services is bad is most marked in Greece, where three quarters of respondents gave this response, but it is also very widespread in Romania (64%), Italy (62%) and Portugal (61%) where more than six in ten respondents say that the provision of public services in their country is bad. Bulgaria stands out with a high level of “don’t know” answers (18%).

**Since summer 2020**, satisfaction with the provision of public services nationally has gained ground in seven EU Member States (compared with 12 in the previous survey), most markedly in Cyprus (50%), Spain (47%) and Croatia (46%), which have all seen an increase of four percentage points. Perceptions remained unchanged in four countries, namely Luxembourg (94%), Slovakia (43%), Italy (37%) and Portugal (32%). In contrast, satisfaction has fallen in 16 countries, most notably in Romania (33%, -14 pp), Ireland (46%, -12 pp) and Slovenia (49%, -10 pp), where declines of at least ten percentage points are observed.



<sup>36</sup> QA1.7. How would you judge the current situation in each of the following? The provision of public services in (OUR COUNTRY)

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**The socio-demographic data** show that in most categories a majority of respondents consider that the provision of public services in their country is good. The highest levels of satisfaction are recorded among managers (58%), those who stayed in full-time education until the age of 20 and beyond (54%), students (58%), those who never or almost never have difficulties paying their bills (55%), and those who see themselves as upper class (70%) or upper middle class (62%).

However, this opinion is shared by only a minority of those who left full-time education at the age of 15 or earlier (41% 'good' vs. 55% 'bad'), manual workers (46% vs. 51%), house persons (38% vs. 58%), the unemployed (34% vs. 61%), those who have difficulties paying their bills most of the time (26% vs. 70%), and those who see themselves as working class (39% vs. 56%) or lower middle class (42% vs. 56%).

**QA1.7** How would you judge the current situation in each of the following?

**The provision of public services in (OUR COUNTRY) (%) - EU**

	Total 'Good'	Total 'Bad'	Don't know
EU27	49	48	3
<b>Gender</b>			
Man	50	47	3
Woman	48	49	3
<b>Age</b>			
15-24	55	40	5
25-39	50	47	3
40-54	46	52	2
55 +	47	49	4
<b>Education (End of)</b>			
15-	41	55	4
16-19	46	51	3
20+	54	44	2
Still studying	58	37	5
<b>Socio-professional category</b>			
Self-employed	49	50	1
Managers	58	40	2
Other white collars	49	49	2
Manual workers	46	51	3
House persons	38	58	4
Unemployed	34	61	5
Retired	47	49	4
Students	58	37	5
<b>Difficulties paying bills</b>			
Most of the time	26	70	4
From time to time	40	57	3
Almost never/ Never	55	42	3
<b>Consider belonging to</b>			
The working class	39	56	5
The lower middle class	42	56	2
The middle class	53	44	3
The upper middle class	62	36	2
The upper class	70	27	3
<b>Image of the EU</b>			
Positive	60	37	3
Neutral	45	52	3
Negative	29	68	3

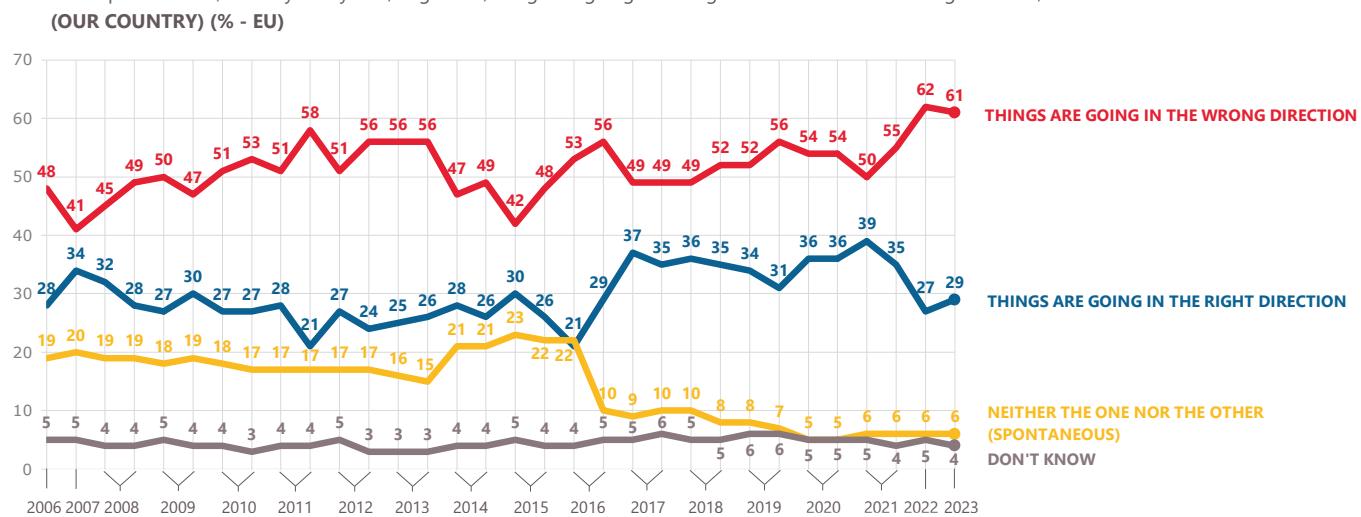
## 5. The direction in which things are going

### 5.1 The direction in which things are going at national level

Just over six in ten respondents (61%) consider that things are going ‘in the wrong direction’ in their country<sup>37</sup>. The proportion of respondents dissatisfied with the direction in which things are going in their country has decreased slightly by one percentage point since summer 2022 but remains at its second highest level since this indicator was introduced in spring 2006.

In parallel, positive perceptions have improved by two percentage points: 29% of respondents now think that things are going ‘in the right direction’. Just 6% (no change) spontaneously answered ‘neither the one nor the other’ and 4% (-1 pp) of respondents answered that they “don’t know”. As a result of these changes, positive views have returned to the level of autumn 2016.

D73.1 At the present time, would you say that, in general, things are going in the right direction or in the wrong direction, in...?



<sup>37</sup> D73.1. At the present time, would you say that, in general, things are going in the right direction or in the wrong direction...? In (OUR COUNTRY)

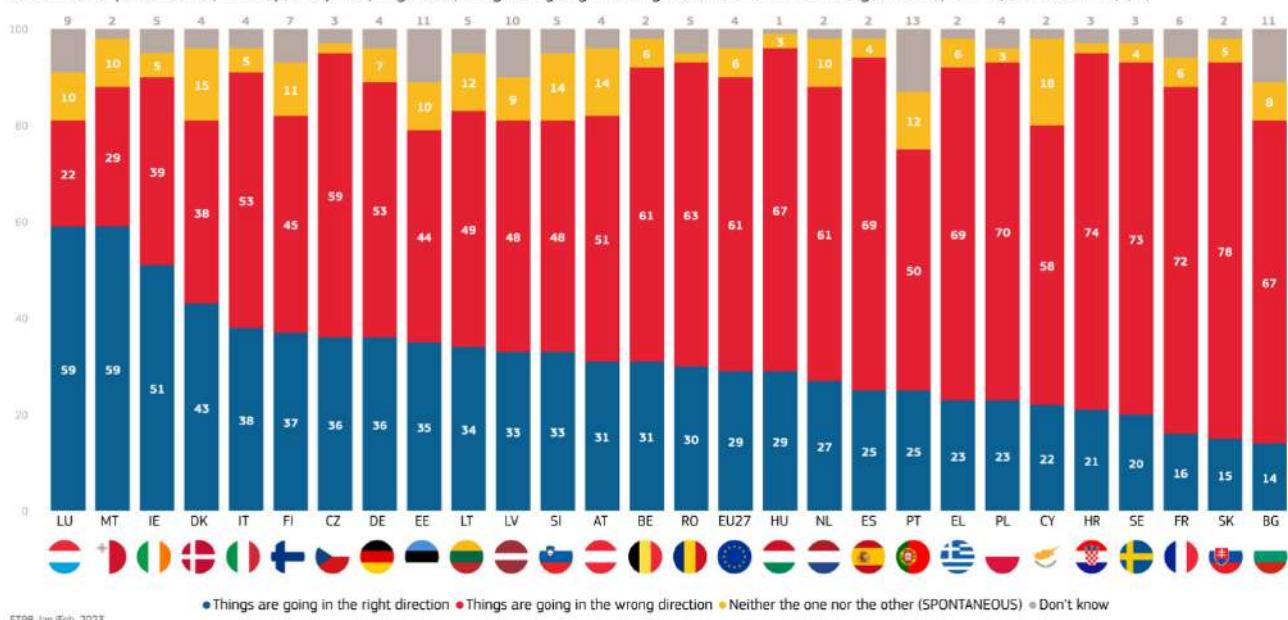
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A majority of respondents in four Member States of the European Union (compared with two in summer 2022) believe that **things are going in the right direction in their country**: Luxembourg, Malta (both 59%), Ireland (51%) and Denmark (43% vs. 38% ‘wrong direction’ and 15% “neither the one nor the other”).

Respondents in the other 23 EU Member States (down from 25 in summer 2022) predominantly believe that things are going in the wrong direction. Respondents in Slovakia (78%), Croatia (74%), Sweden (73%), France (72%) and Poland (70%) are particularly pessimistic.

**Since summer 2022**, optimism about the direction taken at national level has increased in 13 Member States (compared with six in the previous survey), namely Italy (38%, +10 percentage points) and Ireland (51%, +9 pp), while proportions remained unchanged in Finland (37%) and France (16%). In contrast, optimism has fallen in 12 countries, most significantly in Sweden (20%, -18 pp), Hungary (29%, -15 pp) and Malta (59%, -11 pp), where declines exceed ten percentage points.

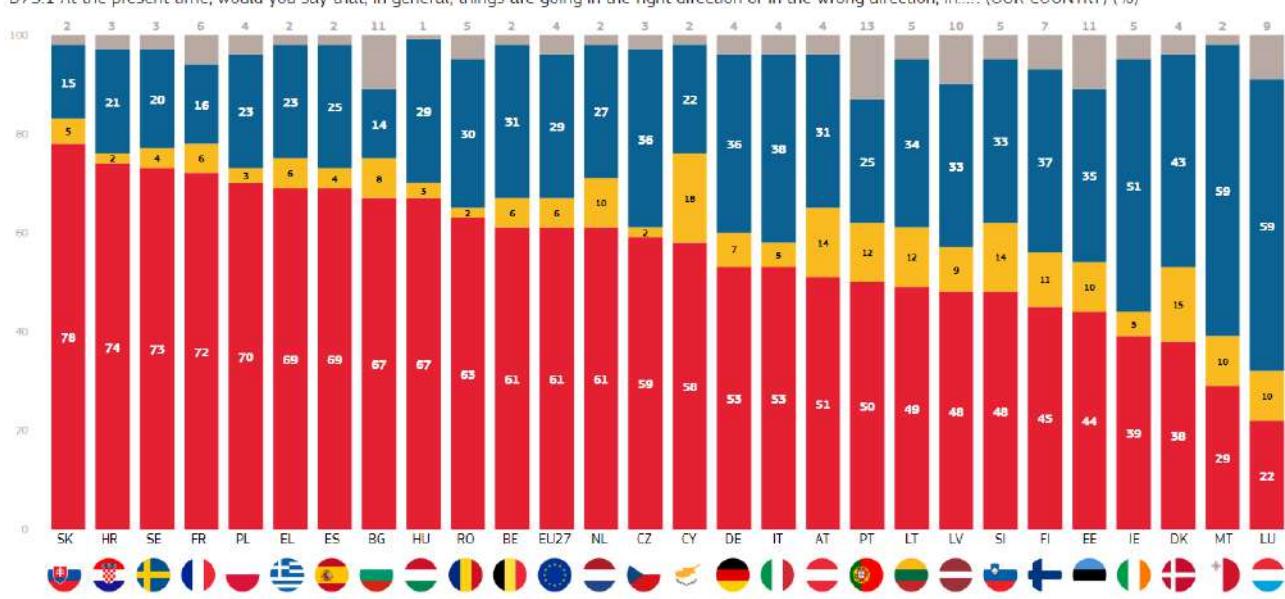
D73.1. At the present time, would you say that, in general, things are going in the right direction or in the wrong direction, in...? -(OUR COUNTRY) (%)



ST98 Jan/Feb. 2023

Sorted by the answer “Things are going in the right direction”

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



ST98 Jan/Feb. 2023

● Things are going in the wrong direction ● Neither the one nor the other (SPONTANEOUS) ● Things are going in the right direction ● Don't know

Sorted by the answer “Things are going in the wrong direction”

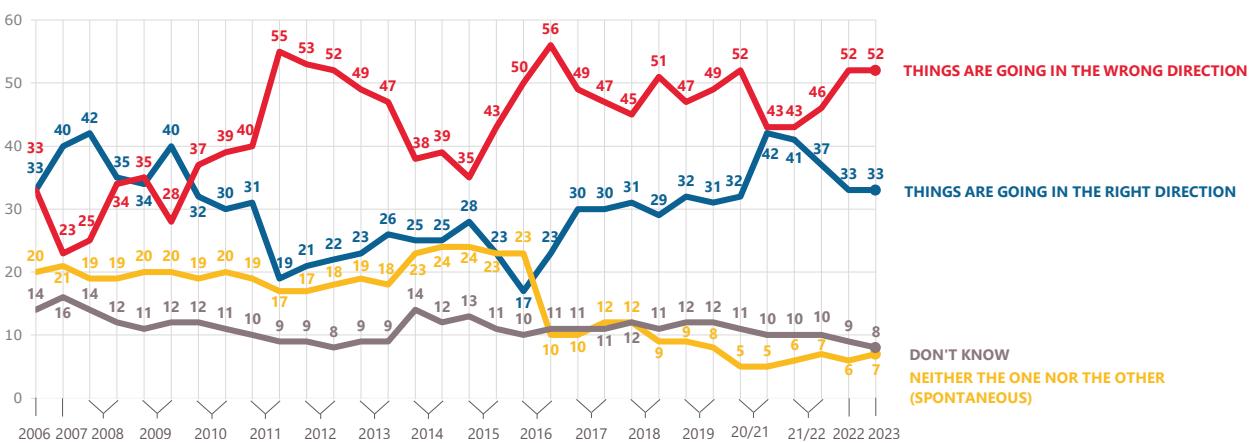
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## 5.2 The direction in which things are going in the European Union

In this EB98 survey of Winter 2022 - 2023, the proportion of Europeans who believe that things are going in the wrong direction in the European Union outnumbers the proportion with an optimistic view<sup>38</sup>. 52% (unchanged since summer 2022) say that things are going in ‘the wrong direction’ in the European Union, while 33% (also unchanged) believe that things are going in ‘the right direction’. 7% (+1 pp) of respondents spontaneously answered “neither the one nor the other”, and 8% expressed no opinion (-1 pp).

D73.2 At the present time, would you say that, in general, things are going in the right direction or in the wrong direction, in...?

The European Union (% - EU)



<sup>38</sup> D73.2. At the present time, would you say that, in general, things are going in the right direction or in the wrong direction...? In the European Union

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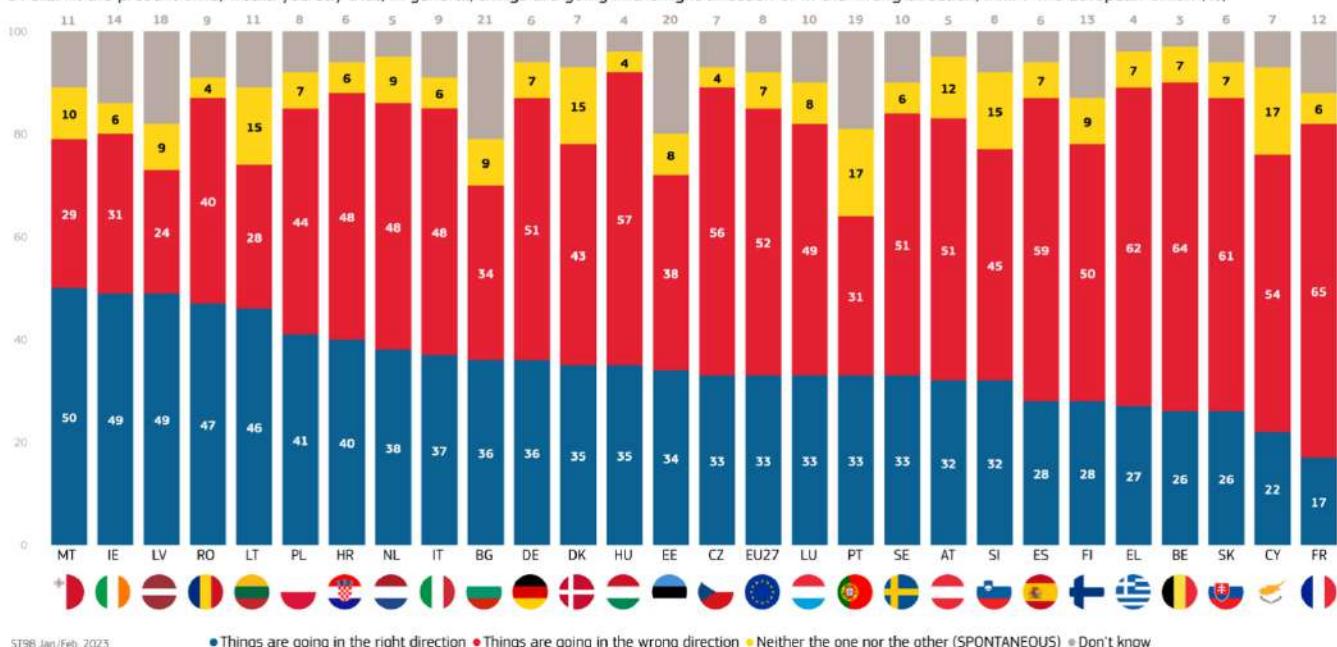
A majority of respondents in seven Member States of the European Union (unchanged since 2022) think that **things are going in the right direction in the European Union**. Respondents are most optimistic in Malta (50%), Ireland and Latvia (both 49%), Romania (47%), Lithuania (46%) and Bulgaria (36% 'right direction' vs. 34% 'wrong direction', 9% "neither the one nor the other" and 21% "don't know").

However, the feeling that things are going in the wrong direction is predominant in 20 countries, most significantly in France (65%), Belgium (64%) and Greece (62%). In total, more than half the respondents in eleven countries are negative about the direction taken in the European Union.

"Don't know" answers exceed ten percent in nine countries, most particularly in Bulgaria (21%), Estonia (20%) and Portugal (19%).

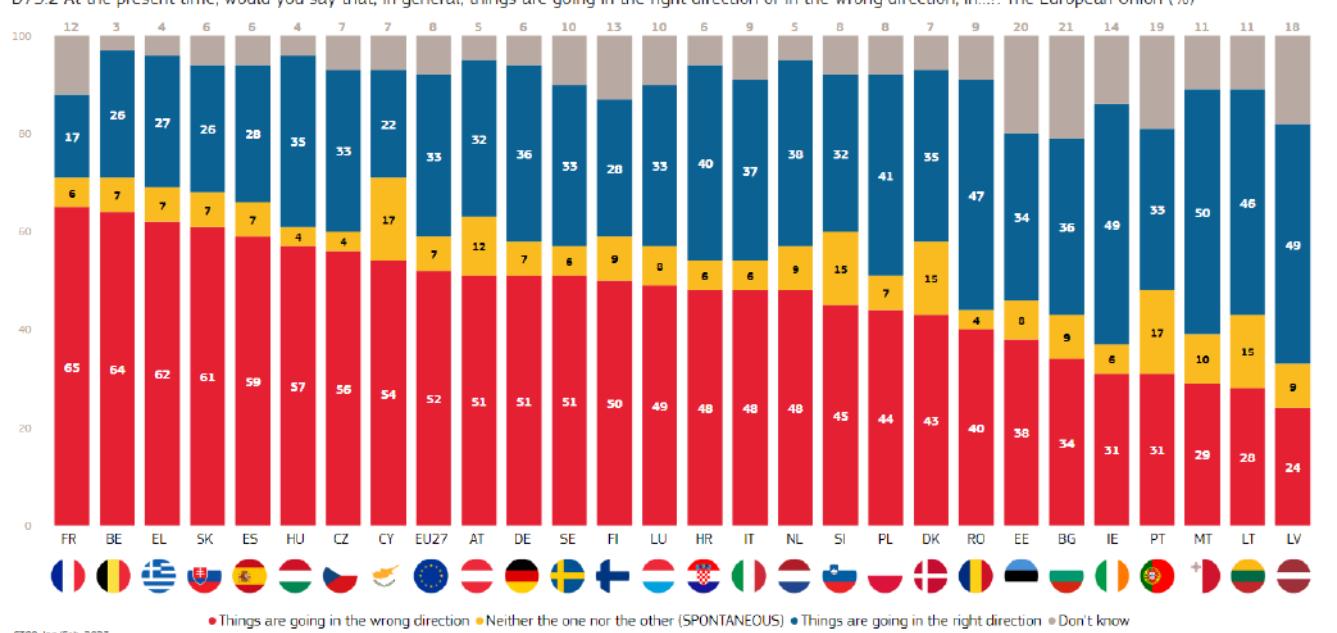
**Since summer 2022**, optimism about the direction in which things are going in the European Union has gained ground in 12 Member States (compared with nine in the previous survey), most notably in Croatia (40%, +11 percentage points), Ireland (49%, +6 pp) and the Netherlands (38%, +5 pp). These proportions remained unchanged in Germany where 36% of respondents are optimistic. However, optimism has declined in 14 countries, most significantly in Malta (50%, -15 pp) and Sweden (33%, -11 pp).

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



Sorted by the answer "Things are going in the right direction"

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



Sorted by the answer "Things are going in the wrong direction"

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D73.1 At the present time, would you say that, in general, things are going in the right direction or in the wrong direction, in...?

(OUR COUNTRY) (%)



	Jan/Feb 2023	29	38	51	36	25	21	23	27	43	22	59	30	31	23	16	37	14	35	33	36	25	15	31	34	33	59	29	20
Things are going in the right direction	Δ Jun/Jul 2022	▲2	▲10	▲9	▲8	▲6	▲6	▲5	▲5	▲3	▲3	▲2	▲2	▲1	▲1	=	=	▼1	▼1	▼1	▼2	▼4	▼4	▼5	▼8	▼11	▼15	▼18	
Things are going in the wrong direction	Jan/Feb 2023	61	53	39	59	69	74	69	61	38	58	22	63	51	70	72	45	67	44	48	53	50	78	61	49	48	29	67	73
Things are going in the wrong direction	Δ Jun/Jul 2022	▼1	▼9	▼8	▼8	▼7	▼7	▼2	▼8	▼12	▼3	▼2	▼1	▼3	▲1	▲4	▼9	▲1	▼3	▼6	▲4	▲4	=	▲2	▼2	▲6	▲4	▲15	▲11
Neither the one nor the other (SPONTANEOUS)	Jan/Feb 2023	6	5	5	2	4	2	6	10	15	18	10	2	14	3	6	11	8	10	9	7	12	5	6	12	14	10	3	4
Neither the one nor the other (SPONTANEOUS)	Δ Jun/Jul 2022	=	=	=	=	▲1	=	▼3	▲3	▲7	=	▼3	=	▼1	=	▲6	=	▲2	▲4	▼1	▼2	▲3	▲7	▲1	▲7	▲1	▲4		
Don't know	Jan/Feb 2023	4	4	5	3	2	3	2	2	4	2	9	5	4	4	6	7	11	11	10	4	13	2	2	5	5	2	1	3
Don't know	Δ Jun/Jul 2022	▼1	▼1	▼1	=	=	▲1	=	=	▲2	=	▲3	▼1	▲2	▼1	▼4	▲3	=	▲2	▲3	▼1	▲2	▲1	=	▲3	▲1	=	▼1	▲3

D73.2 At the present time, would you say that, in general, things are going in the right direction or in the wrong direction, in...?

The European Union (%)



	Jan/Feb 2023	33	40	49	38	33	28	37	49	32	36	27	22	28	36	34	35	33	17	47	35	35	32	46	41	26	26	33	50	
Things are going in the right direction	Δ Jun/Jul 2022	=	▲11	▲6	▲5	▲4	▲4	▲4	▲2	▲2	▲1	▲1	▲1	▲1	=	▼1	▼2	▼2	▼3	▼3	▼4	▼5	▼5	▼6	▼6	▼7	▼9	▼11	▼15	
Things are going in the wrong direction	Jan/Feb 2023	52	48	31	48	56	59	48	24	51	34	62	54	50	51	38	49	31	65	40	43	57	45	28	44	64	61	51	29	
Things are going in the wrong direction	Δ Jun/Jul 2022	=	▼12	▼9	▼9	▼6	▼4	▼5	▼12	▼3	▼6	▲4	▼4	▼13	▲2	▼5	▲4	▼2	▲6	▲2	▼4	▲3	▼1	▼10	▲7	▲3	▲2	▼5	▲3	
Neither the one nor the other (SPONTANEOUS)	Jan/Feb 2023	7	6	6	9	4	7	6	9	12	9	7	17	9	7	8	8	17	6	4	15	4	15	15	7	7	7	6	10	10
Neither the one nor the other (SPONTANEOUS)	Δ Jun/Jul 2022	▲1	=	=	▲2	▲1	▲3	▲1	▲4	▼1	=	▼3	▲2	▲5	▼1	▲2	▼4	▲1	▲1	=	▲6	▲1	▲2	▲10	=	▲4	▲4	▲6	▲6	
Don't know	Jan/Feb 2023	8	6	14	5	7	6	9	18	5	21	4	7	13	6	20	10	19	12	9	7	4	8	11	8	3	6	10	11	
Don't know	Δ Jun/Jul 2022	▼1	▲1	▲3	▲2	▲1	▼3	=	▲6	▲2	▲5	▼2	▲1	▲7	▼1	▲4	▲2	▲3	▼4	▲1	▲2	▲1	▲4	▲6	▼1	=	▲3	▲10	▲6	

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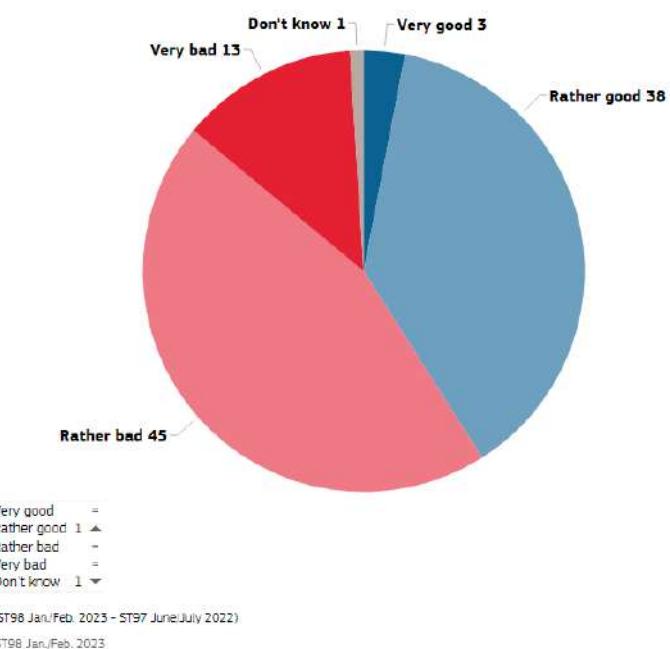
D73.1 At the present time, would you say that, in general, things are going in the right direction or in the wrong direction, in...? <b>(OUR COUNTRY) (%) - EU</b>					D73.2 At the present time, would you say that, in general, things are going in the right direction or in the wrong direction, in...? <b>The European Union (%) - EU</b>				
Things are going in the right direction					Things are going in the right direction				
Things are going in the wrong direction					Things are going in the wrong direction				
Neither the one nor the other (SPONTANEOUS)					Neither the one nor the other (SPONTANEOUS)				
Don't know					Don't know				
<b>EU27</b>					<b>EU27</b>				
<b>Gender</b>					<b>Gender</b>				
Man	31	59	6	4	Man	35	52	6	7
Woman	27	62	6	5	Woman	30	52	8	10
<b>Age</b>					<b>Age</b>				
15-24	33	55	6	6	15-24	38	43	7	12
25-39	28	62	6	4	25-39	33	52	7	8
40-54	28	64	5	3	40-54	34	54	6	6
55 +	29	60	6	5	55 +	30	53	8	9
<b>Education (End of)</b>					<b>Education (End of)</b>				
15-	25	64	5	6	15-	25	56	7	12
16-19	27	65	5	3	16-19	32	54	7	7
20+	31	58	7	4	20+	35	50	8	7
Still studying	35	51	7	7	Still studying	41	38	8	13
<b>Socio-professional category</b>					<b>Socio-professional category</b>				
Self-employed	34	58	5	3	Self-employed	38	49	7	6
Managers	37	52	7	4	Managers	41	45	7	7
Other white collars	29	63	5	3	Other white collars	36	52	6	6
Manual workers	24	68	5	3	Manual workers	29	57	7	7
House persons	22	72	3	3	House persons	24	61	7	8
Unemployed	16	75	4	5	Unemployed	19	65	7	9
Retired	29	59	7	5	Retired	29	53	8	10
Students	35	51	7	7	Students	41	38	8	13
<b>Difficulties paying bills</b>					<b>Difficulties paying bills</b>				
Most of the time	14	79	4	3	Most of the time	18	66	8	8
From time to time	23	68	5	4	From time to time	28	57	6	9
Almost never/ Never	33	56	7	4	Almost never/ Never	36	48	8	8
<b>Consider belonging to</b>					<b>Consider belonging to</b>				
The working class	21	69	5	5	The working class	23	59	7	11
The lower middle class	22	69	5	4	The lower middle class	26	59	7	8
The middle class	33	57	6	4	The middle class	36	49	7	8
The upper middle class	39	49	9	3	The upper middle class	46	39	9	6
The upper class	37	51	6	6	The upper class	52	35	6	7

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### 5.3 The situation in the country in general

Just under six in ten Europeans see the current situation in their country in a negative light<sup>39</sup>. 58% consider that it is bad (unchanged since summer 2022), including 13% (no change) for whom it is "very bad" and 45% (no change) who answer "rather bad". Conversely, 41% (+1 pp) say that it is good, including 3% (no change) for whom it is "very good" and 38% (+1 pp) who feel that it is "rather good".

QA1.1 How would you judge the current situation in each of the following? The situation in (OUR COUNTRY) in general (EU27) (%)



**Differences in perceptions across the EU Member States are significant.** Thus, 77 percentage points (compared with 80 percentage points in summer 2022) separate the highest positive score, in Luxembourg (91%), from the lowest, in Bulgaria (14%).

**Positive opinions of the general national situation outweigh negative opinions in 12 Member States** (compared with 14 in summer 2022). They exceed 80% in three countries, namely Luxembourg (91%), Denmark (84%) and Finland (82%). In contrast, opinions are predominantly negative in 15 Member

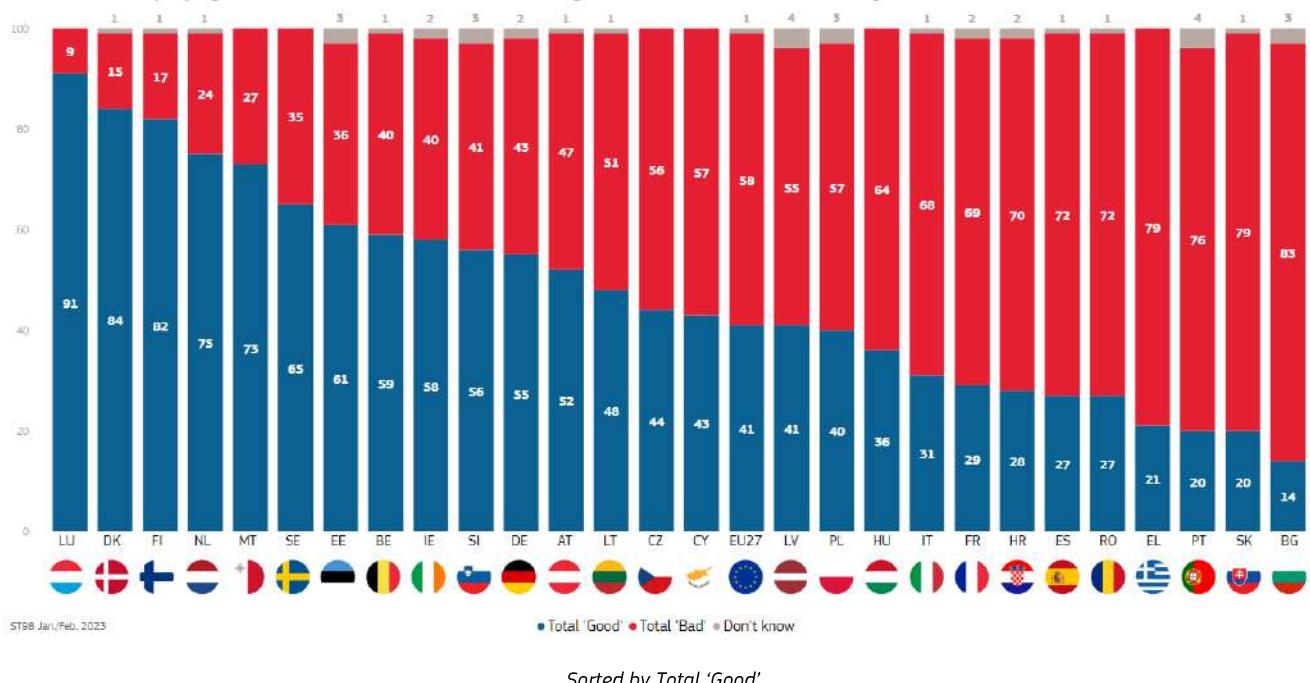
States (compared with 13 in the previous survey). At least three quarters of respondents in four countries say that the situation is bad: Bulgaria (83%), Greece and Slovakia (both 79%), and Portugal (76%).

**Since summer 2022**, positive opinions regarding the national situation in general have gained ground in nine Member States (down from 11 in the previous survey), most significantly in the Netherlands (75%, +8 percentage points) and Czechia (44%, +7 pp). Approval levels remained unchanged in three countries, namely in Finland (82%), Estonia (61%) and Poland (40%), but declined in 15 countries, most notably in Hungary (36%, -14 pp) and Portugal (20%, -7 pp).

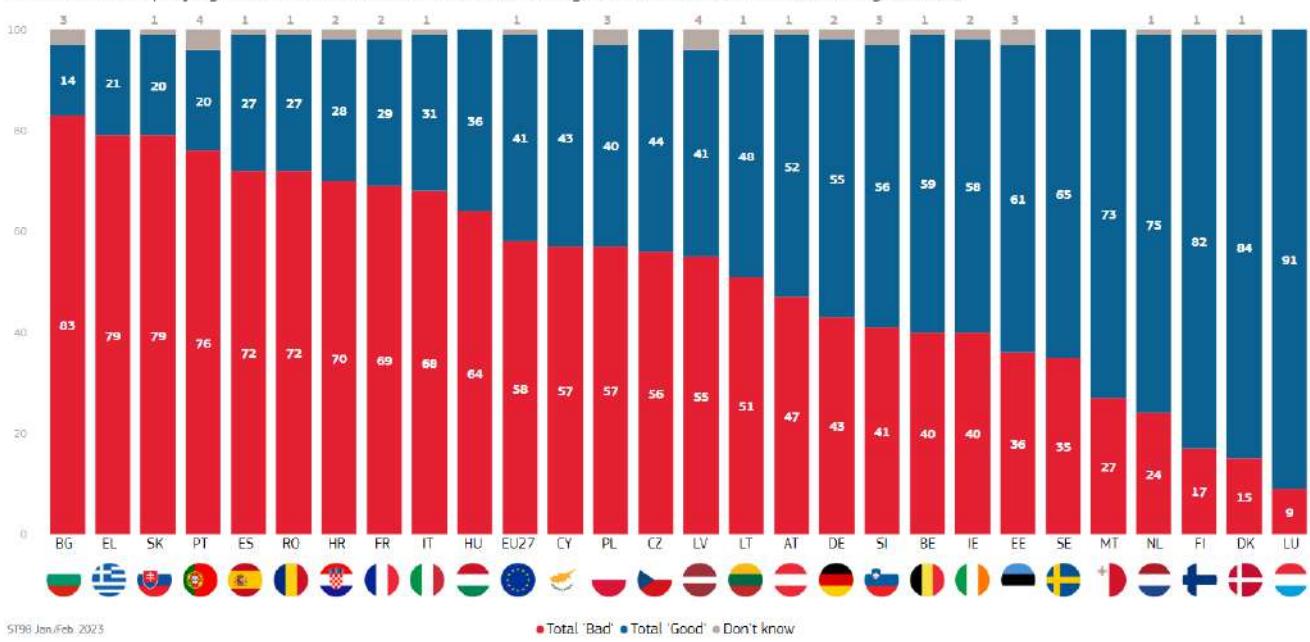
<sup>39</sup> QA1.1. How would you judge the current situation in each of the following? The situation in (OUR COUNTRY) in general

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QA1.1 How would you judge the current situation in each of the following?: The situation in (OUR COUNTRY) in general (%)



QA1.1 How would you judge the current situation in each of the following?: The situation in (OUR COUNTRY) in general (%)



QA1.1 How would you judge the current situation in each of the following?

The situation in (OUR COUNTRY) in general (%)



	Jan/Feb 2023	NL	CZ	EL	ES	IT	CY	IE	BG	HR	EE	PL	FI	FR	LU	DK	DE	AT	LT	MT	SE	BE	EE	SK	RO	PT	HU	
Total 'Good'	41	75	44	21	27	31	43	58	14	28	61	40	82	29	91	84	55	41	73	52	59	48	27	56	20	20	36	
Δ Jun/Jul 2022	▲1	▲8	▲7	▲6	▲5	▲4	▲4	▲3	▲2	▲2	=	=	=	▼1	▼1	▼2	▼2	▼2	▼3	▼4	▼5	▼6	▼7	▼14				
Total 'Bad'	58	24	56	79	72	68	57	40	83	70	36	57	17	69	9	15	43	55	27	47	40	35	51	72	41	79	76	64
Δ Jun/Jul 2022	=	▼9	▼6	▼5	▼5	▼4	▼4	▼2	▼3	▼1	▼1	=	▲2	▲2	▲2	▲2	▲2	▲3	▲2	▲3	▲3	▲3	▲6	▲5	▲6	▲15		
Don't know	1	1	0	0	1	1	0	2	3	2	3	3	1	2	0	1	2	4	0	1	1	0	1	1	3	1	4	0
Δ Jun/Jul 2022	▼1	▲1	▼1	▼1	=	▲1	=	▲1	▼1	▲1	=	▼1	▼1	=	▲2	▼1	=	▲2	▼1	=	▲1	▼1	▲1	▲1	▲1	▼1		

**Standard Eurobarometer 98**  
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The socio-demographic data show that in most categories a majority of respondents see the situation in their country in general as bad. However, some categories are more likely to be positive. Hence, a majority of respondents who remained in full time education until the age of 20 or beyond describe the general situation of their country as 'good' (50% vs. 49% 'bad'). So do managers and students (both 55%) and respondents who see themselves as upper class or upper middle class (both 60%).

**QA1.1** How would you judge the current situation in each of the following?

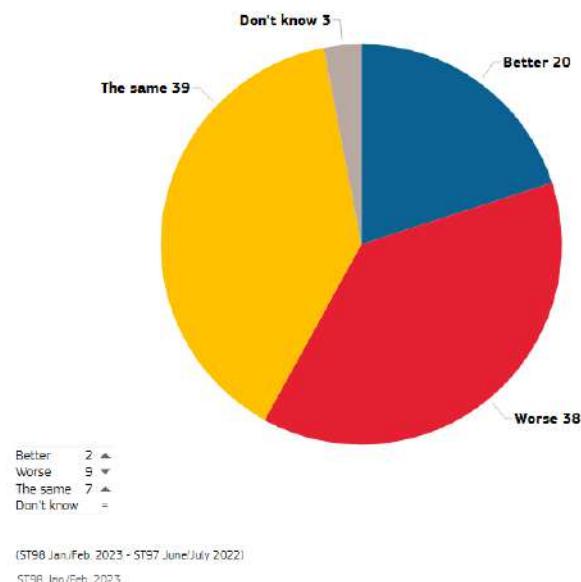
**The situation in (OUR COUNTRY) in general (%) - EU**

	Total 'Good'	Total 'Bad'	Don't know
EU27	41	58	1
<b>Gender</b>			
Man	43	56	1
Woman	38	60	2
<b>Age</b>			
15-24	48	49	3
25-39	43	56	1
40-54	38	61	1
55 +	38	61	1
<b>Education (End of)</b>			
15-	26	72	2
16-19	35	64	1
20+	50	49	1
Still studying	55	42	3
<b>Socio-professional category</b>			
Self-employed	44	55	1
Managers	55	44	1
Other white collars	40	59	1
Manual workers	35	64	1
House persons	25	74	1
Unemployed	23	76	1
Retired	40	59	1
Students	55	42	3
<b>Difficulties paying bills</b>			
Most of the time	17	82	1
From time to time	32	67	1
Almost never/ Never	48	51	1
<b>Consider belonging to</b>			
The working class	26	72	2
The lower middle class	33	66	1
The middle class	46	53	1
The upper middle class	60	39	1
The upper class	60	38	2
<b>Image of the EU</b>			
Positive	54	45	1
Neutral	35	64	1
Negative	18	81	1

**Standard Eurobarometer 98**  
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**When looking ahead over the next twelve months**, almost four in ten Europeans expect the situation in their country in general to stay the same (39%, +7 percentage points since summer 2022)<sup>40</sup>, while an almost equivalent proportion expect it to get worse (38%, -9 pp). However, only a fifth of respondents expect the situation to get better (20%, +2 pp). Finally, 3% (no change) of respondents gave no answer or answered "don't know".

QA2.2 What are your expectations for the next twelve months: will the next twelve months be better, worse or the same, when it comes to...? The situation in (OUR COUNTRY) in general (EU27) (%)



Malta is the only Member State where a majority of respondents expect the situation in their country in general to be "better" rather than either "worse" or "the same" (41% "better" vs. 32% "same" and 24% "worse").

The idea that the situation in **the country in general will stay the same over the next twelve months** is predominant in 16 countries (compared with five in the previous survey). Respondents are most likely to give this answer in Denmark (55%), Finland (53%) and Belgium (48% "same" vs. 38 "worse" and 12% "better"). In Bulgaria opinions are evenly split between those who expect the situation in their country to get worse and those who think it will stay the same (22% "better", 33% "worse", 33% "same").

**Pessimism** is most widespread in nine countries, most particularly in Slovakia (56% "worse") and Sweden (55%), where more than half of respondents expect the situation in their country to deteriorate within the next twelve months. It is also noteworthy that more than one in ten respondents (12%) answered "don't know" in Bulgaria.

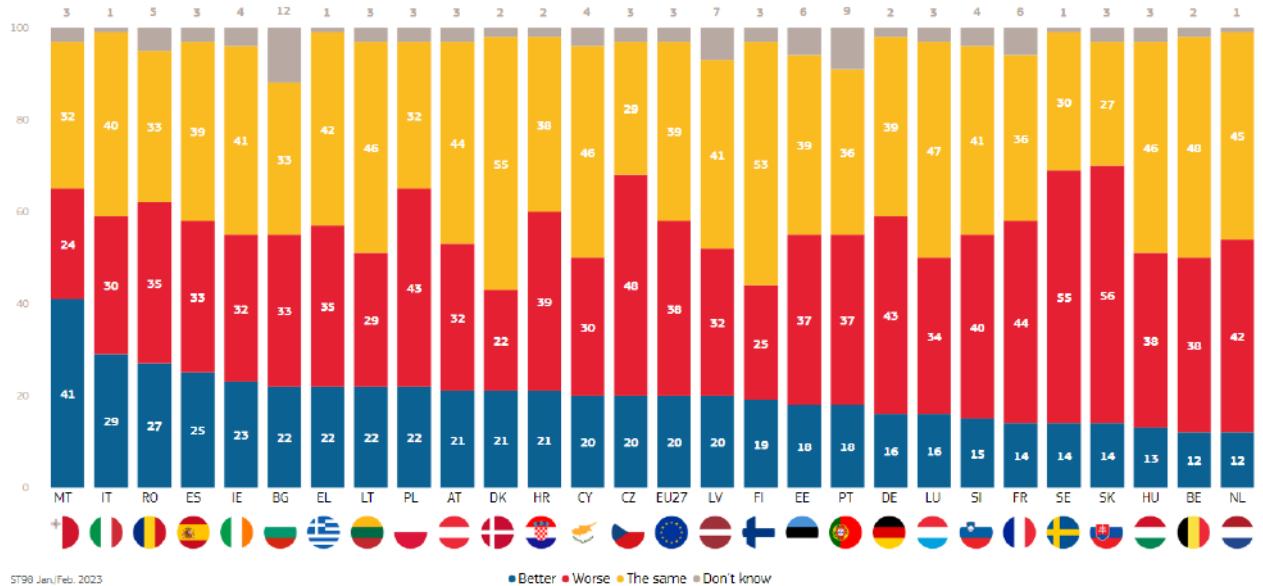
Optimism has slightly increased both within the **euro area** countries (19% "better", +2 percentage points since summer 2022), and in the countries **outside the euro area** (20%, +1 pp).

Since summer 2022, optimism has increased in 18 Member States (compared with three in the previous survey), most particularly in Czechia (20%, +14 percentage points) and Austria (21%, +10 pp). Optimism remained unchanged in Italy (29%), Cyprus (20%) and Poland (22%). Conversely, optimism decreased in six countries, most notably in Malta (41%, -5 pp), Slovenia (15%, -4 pp) and France (14%, -4 pp).

<sup>40</sup> QA2.2. What are your expectations for the next twelve months: will the next twelve months be better, worse or the same, when it comes to...? The situation in (OUR COUNTRY) in general.

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QA2.2 What are your expectations for the next twelve months: will the next twelve months be better, worse or the same, when it comes to...? The situation in (OUR COUNTRY) in general (%)



**The index measuring the optimism** of Europeans regarding the situation in their country in general<sup>41</sup> over the coming year has improved significantly, by 11 index points, although it remains negative. It currently stands at -18 index points (up from -29 in summer 2022). The index is positive in only one Member State (unchanged since summer 2022), namely Malta, where it stands at +17 index points. In contrast, in 26 Member States the index is negative, with scores ranging from -1 index point in Denmark and Italy, to -42 index points in Slovakia and -41 index points in Sweden.

**Since summer 2022**, the index has improved in 21 Member States, most significantly in Czechia (+37 index points to -28) and Lithuania (+29 index points to -7). The index remained unchanged in Romania where it stands at -8 index points, while it deteriorated in five countries, most markedly in France (-6 index points down to -30).

QA2.2 What are your expectations for the next 12 months : will the next 12 months be better, worse or the same, when it comes to...?  
The situation in (OUR COUNTRY) in general (%)

	EU27	CZ	LT	LV	EE	DE	DK	NL	AT	IE	FI	HR	ES	CY	EL	BE	BG	SK	SI	IT	LU	PT	RO	SE	HU	PL	MT	FR
Better - Worse Jan/Feb 2023	-18	-28	-7	-12	-19	-27	-1	-30	-11	-9	-6	-18	-8	-10	-13	-26	-11	-42	-25	-1	-18	-19	-8	-41	-25	-21	17	-30
Better - Worse Jun/Jul 2022	-29	-65	-36	-40	-46	-52	-23	-52	-32	-29	-26	-37	-25	-26	-27	-39	-22	-52	-34	-4	-21	-21	-8	-40	-23	-19	21	-24
Jan/Feb 2023 - Jun/Jul 2022	▲11	▲37	▲29	▲28	▲27	▲25	▲22	▲22	▲21	▲20	▲19	▲17	▲16	▲14	▲13	▲11	▲10	▲9	▲3	▲3	▲2	=	▼1	▼2	▼2	▼4	▼6	

<sup>41</sup> Difference between the positive ("better") and negative ("worse") answers.

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**QA2.2** What are your expectations for the next 12 months : will the next 12 months be better, worse or the same, when it comes to...?

**The situation in (OUR COUNTRY) in general (% - EU)**

	Better	Worse	The same	Don't know
EU27	20	38	39	3
 Gender				
Man	21	39	37	3
Woman	19	38	40	3
 Age				
15-24	27	29	40	4
25-39	24	37	37	2
40-54	19	42	36	3
55 +	15	40	41	4
 Education (End of)				
15-	15	42	38	5
16-19	20	40	38	2
20+	20	38	39	3
Still studying	27	29	41	3
 Socio-professional category				
Self-employed	23	37	37	3
Managers	19	38	40	3
Other white collars	22	38	38	2
Manual workers	22	40	35	3
House persons	19	42	36	3
Unemployed	18	42	37	3
Retired	14	40	42	4
Students	27	29	41	3
 Difficulties paying bills				
Most of the time	15	50	32	3
From time to time	19	42	36	3
Almost never/ Never	21	36	40	3
 Consider belonging to				
The working class	16	42	37	5
The lower middle class	15	45	37	3
The middle class	23	35	40	2
The upper middle class	23	39	36	2
The upper class	18	40	40	2

## 6. The EU and the coronavirus pandemic

### **Satisfaction with the actions taken to fight the coronavirus pandemic is predominant and stands at its highest level since spring 2021**

Satisfaction with the measures taken to fight the coronavirus pandemic is at its highest level since the Spring 2021 Standard Eurobarometer survey (EB95), when this question was first asked. This applies to measures taken by both national governments and the EU<sup>42</sup>.

Satisfaction with measures taken by the **national government** is slightly higher than satisfaction with the EU response. Indeed, 58% of respondents are satisfied with the measures taken by their national government to fight the coronavirus pandemic (+2 percentage points since summer 2022 and +8 pp since winter 2021-2022), while four in ten (40%, -3 pp and -8 pp) are dissatisfied, and 2% say that they don't know (+1).

A slightly smaller majority of Europeans (56%, unchanged since summer 2022) are satisfied with the measures taken by the **EU** to fight the coronavirus pandemic, while around four in ten (37%, no change) are dissatisfied.

QC1. In general, how satisfied are you with the measures taken to fight the coronavirus pandemic by....? (EU27) (%)

#### The (NATIONALITY) government

ST98 Jan/Feb 2023



ST97 June/July 2022



#### The European Union

ST98 Jan/Feb. 2023



ST97 June/July 2022



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

ST98 Jan/Feb. 2023

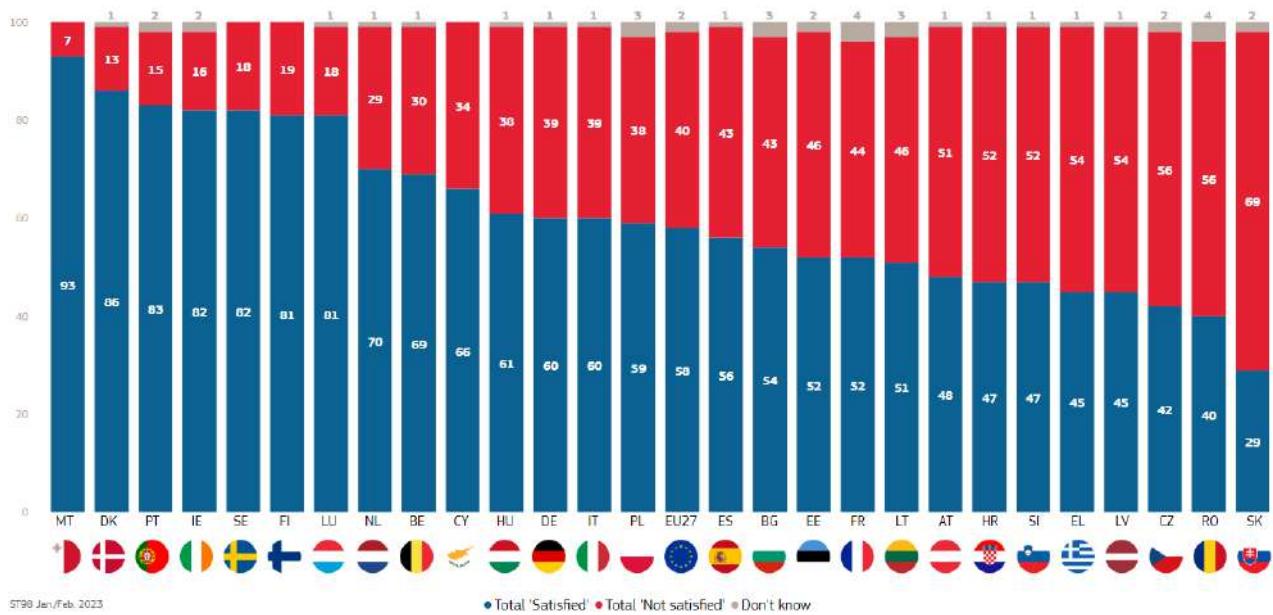
<sup>42</sup> QC1. In general, how satisfied are you with the measures taken to fight the coronavirus pandemic by: 1) the (NATIONALITY) government. 3) The European Union

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A majority of respondents are satisfied with the measures taken by their **national government** in 19 Member States (compared with 18 in summer 2022 and 14 in winter 2021-2022), most notably in Malta (93%), Denmark (86%) and Portugal (83%). However, respondents are predominantly dissatisfied in the remaining eight Member States, most notably in Slovakia (69%), and Romania and Czechia (56%).

**Since summer 2022**, satisfaction with the measures taken by the national government to fight the coronavirus pandemic has increased in 19 Member States, most significantly in the Netherlands (70%, +9 percentage) and Sweden (82%, +8 pp). However, satisfaction has decreased in eight countries, most particularly in Slovakia (29%, -7 pp).

QC1.1 In general, how satisfied are you with the measures taken to fight the coronavirus pandemic by...? The (NATIONALITY) government (%)



ST98 Jan/Feb. 2023

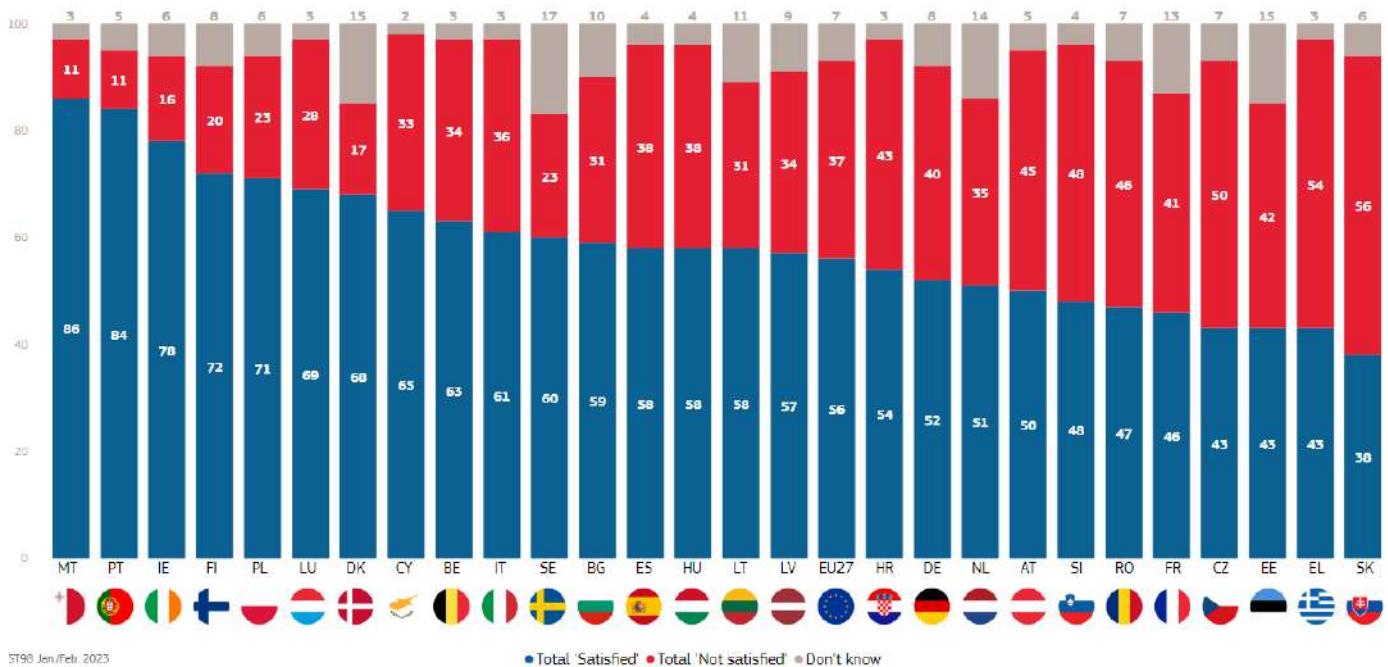
**Standard Eurobarometer 98**  
**Public opinion in the European Union**  
**Winter 2022 - 2023**

In 23 EU Member States (unchanged since summer 2022), a majority of respondents are satisfied with the measures taken by the **European Union** to fight the coronavirus pandemic, most notably in Malta (86%) and Portugal (84%), where levels of satisfaction are highest, and Estonia (43% 'satisfied' vs. 42% 'dissatisfied'), where the majority is lowest. In Slovenia opinions are evenly split (48% 'satisfied' vs. 48% 'dissatisfied').

However, a majority of respondents are not satisfied in the three remaining countries, namely Slovakia (56% 'dissatisfied' vs. 38% 'satisfied'), Greece (54% vs. 43%) and Czechia (50% vs. 43%).

**Since summer 2022**, satisfaction with the measures taken by the European Union has increased in 11 Member States, most significantly, and by seven percentage points, in Portugal (84%), Finland (72%) and Luxembourg (69%). In three countries levels of satisfaction have remained unchanged: Malta (86%), Belgium (63%) and Bulgaria (59%). In contrast, satisfaction has decreased in 13 countries, most particularly in Romania (47%, -13 pp) and Sweden (60%, -12 pp).

QC1.3 In general, how satisfied are you with the measures taken to fight the coronavirus pandemic by....? The European Union (%)



ST98 Jan/Feb 2023

● Total 'Satisfied' ■ Total 'Not satisfied' □ Don't know

QC1 In general, how satisfied are you with the measures taken to fight the coronavirus pandemic by....?  
 (Total 'Satisfied' - %)

	EU27	BE	BG	CZ	DK	DE	EE	IE	EL	ES	FR	HR	IT	CY	LV	LT	LU	HU	MT	NL	AT	PL	PT	RO	SI	SK	FI	SE	
The (NATIONALITY) government	Jan/Feb 2023	58	69	54	42	86	60	52	82	45	56	52	47	60	66	45	51	81	61	93	70	48	59	83	40	47	29	81	82
	Δ Jun/Jul 2022	▲2	▲2	▲5	▼4	▲2	▲1	▼4	▼2	▲7	▲3	▲5	▲2	▲2	▼1	▲5	▼2	▲1	▼6	▲5	▲9	▲2	▲4	▲5	▼5	▲3	▼7	▲3	▲8
The European Union	Jan/Feb 2023	56	63	59	43	68	52	43	78	43	58	46	54	61	65	57	58	69	58	86	51	50	71	84	47	48	38	72	60
	Δ Jun/Jul 2022	=	=	=	▼4	▼6	▲4	▼4	▼2	▲2	▼3	▲3	▲2	▲3	▼1	▲6	▼5	▲7	▼10	=	▲3	▲4	▼5	▲7	▼13	▼4	▼11	▲7	▼12

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**QC1** In general, how satisfied are you with the measures taken to fight the coronavirus pandemic by....?  
**(Total 'Satisfied' - %)**

	The (NATIONALITY) government	The European Union
EU27	58	56
 Gender		
Man	58	56
Woman	59	57
 Age		
15-24	56	57
25-39	55	56
40-54	55	55
55 +	63	56
 Education (End of)		
15-	59	55
16-19	54	54
20+	64	60
Still studying	59	58
 Socio-professional category		
Self- employed	53	56
Managers	68	62
Other white collars	58	59
Manual workers	53	54
House persons	53	53
Unemployed	42	44
Retired	64	56
Students	59	58
 Difficulties paying bills		
Most of the time	40	37
From time to time	51	53
Almost never/ Never	64	60
 Consider belonging to		
The working class	51	49
The lower middle class	52	51
The middle class	61	60
The upper middle class	71	65
The upper class	66	69
 Image of the EU		
Positive	73	75
Neutral	54	51
Negative	32	23

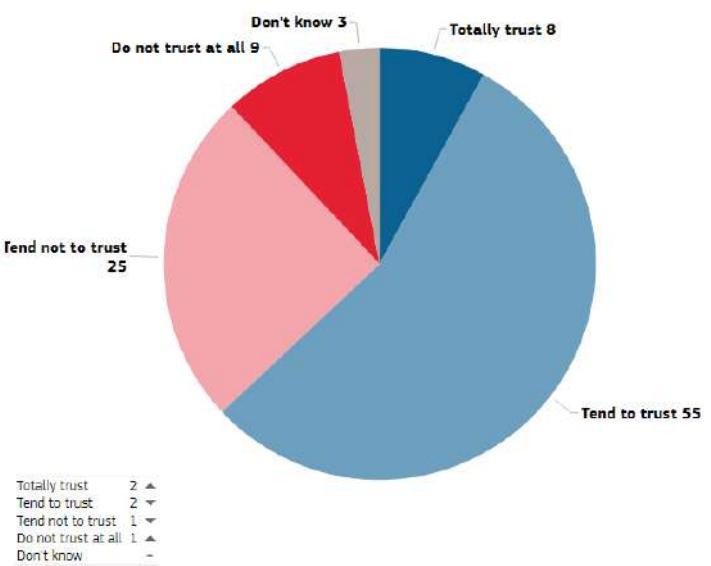
**Standard Eurobarometer 98**  
**Public opinion in the European Union**  
**Winter 2022 - 2023**

## In light of the EU's response to the coronavirus pandemic, almost two thirds of Europeans trust the EU to make the right decisions in the future

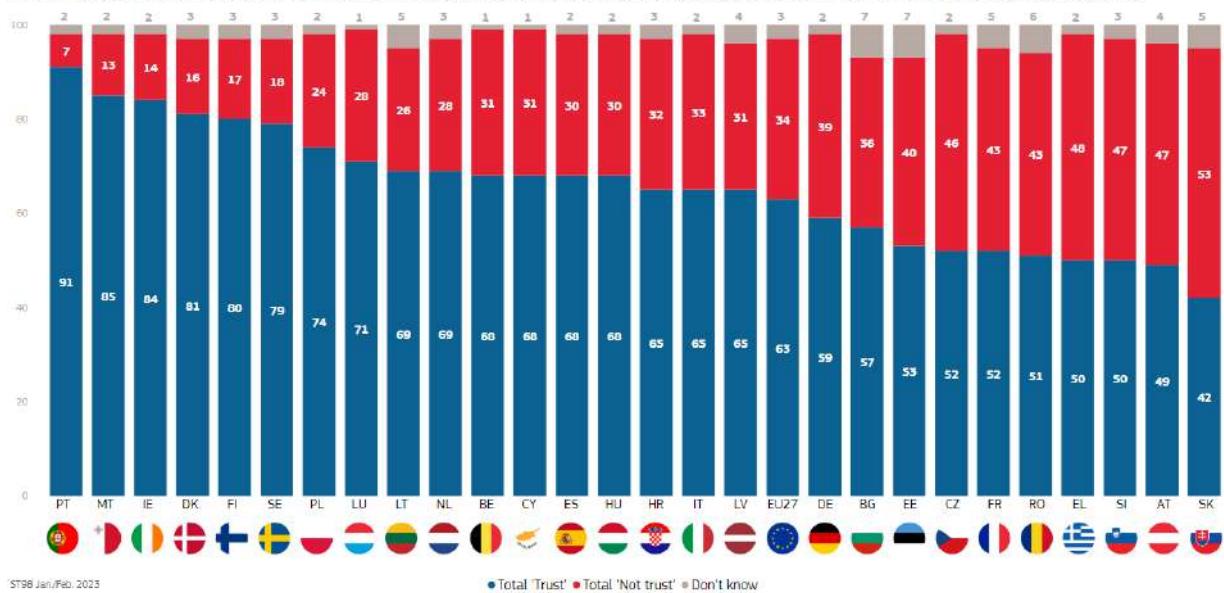
A majority of Europeans say that they trust the EU to make the right decisions in the future in light of its response to the coronavirus pandemic. Almost two thirds of Europeans (63%, unchanged since summer 2022) say that they trust the EU, including 8% who "totally trust" (+2 pp) and 55% who "tend to trust" the EU (-2 pp). However, just over a third (34%, no change) do not trust the EU, including 9% who "do not trust it at all" (+1 pp)<sup>43</sup>.

In 26 EU Member States (unchanged since summer 2022), a majority of respondents say that they trust the EU to make the right decisions in the future. Trust is highest in Portugal (91%) and Malta (85%) and lowest in Austria, where only a slim majority of respondents trust the EU to make the right decisions in the future (49% 'trust' vs. 47% 'distrust'). The only exception is Slovakia where respondents are more likely to say that they do not trust the EU (42% 'trust' and 53% 'do not trust').

QC2 Thinking about the EU's response to the coronavirus pandemic, to what extent do you trust the EU or not to make the right decisions in the future? (EU27) (%)



QC2 Thinking about the EU's response to the coronavirus pandemic, to what extent do you trust the EU or not to make the right decisions in the future? (%)



<sup>43</sup> QC2 Thinking about EU's response to the coronavirus pandemic, to what extent do you trust or not the EU to make the right decisions in the future?

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**Since summer 2022**, trust in the EU to make the right decisions in the future has increased in 13 Member States, most markedly in the Netherlands (69%, +8 pp), Portugal (91%, +7 pp) and Finland (80%, +7 pp). The proportion of respondents who trust the EU remains unchanged in Denmark (81%), Lithuania (69%), Bulgaria (57%) and Austria (49%), while trust in the EU has deteriorated in ten countries, most markedly in Slovakia (42%, -12 pp) and Romania (51%, -9 pp).

**QC2 Thinking about the EU's response to the coronavirus pandemic, to what extent do you trust the EU or not to make the right decisions in the future?**  
<sup>(%)</sup>



	Jan/Feb 2023	63	69	91	80	65	79	65	59	52	71	50	52	50	68	57	81	69	49	84	65	74	53	85	68	68	51	42	
Total 'Trust'	Δ Jun/Jul 2022	=	▲8	▲7	▲7	▲6	▲6	▲4	▲2	▲2	▲2	▲2	▲2	▲1	▲1	▲1	▲1	=	=	=	▼1	▼1	▼1	▼2	▼3	▼4	▼6	▼9	▼12
Total 'Not trust'	Jan/Feb 2023	34	28	7	17	31	18	32	39	43	28	47	46	48	31	36	16	26	47	14	33	24	40	13	31	30	30	43	53
Total 'Not trust'	Δ Jun/Jul 2022	=	▼10	▼7	▼8	▼7	▼9	▼5	▼1	▼2	▼1	▼4	▼1	=	▼1	▼2	▼1	▼4	=	▲1	▲1	▲3	▲3	▲1	▲2	▲5	▲6	▲8	▲9
Don't know	Jan/Feb 2023	3	3	2	3	4	3	3	2	5	1	3	2	2	1	7	3	5	4	2	2	2	7	2	1	2	2	6	5
Don't know	Δ Jun/Jul 2022	=	▲2	=	▲1	▲1	▲3	▲1	▼1	=	▼1	▲2	=	▼1	=	▲2	▲1	▲4	=	=	=	▼2	▼1	▲1	▲1	▼1	=	▲1	▲3

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The socio-demographic data show that, in most categories, a majority of respondents trust the EU to make the right decisions in the future. This trust is highest among respondents who remained in education until the age of 20 and beyond (68%), managers (71%), students (70%), those who never or almost never have difficulties paying their bills (68%) and respondents who see themselves as upper class (77%) or upper middle class (73%).

The respondents the most likely to say that they do not trust the EU to make the right decisions in the future are unemployed people (52%), house persons (57%), those who have difficulties paying their bills most of the time (43%) and those who see themselves as working class (57%) or lower middle class (57%).

**QC2** Thinking about the EU's response to the coronavirus pandemic, to what extent do you trust the EU or not to make the right decisions in the future?  
 (%) - EU)

	Total 'Trust'	Total 'Not trust'	Don't know
EU27	63	34	3
<b>Gender</b>			
Man	62	36	2
Woman	64	33	3
<b>Age</b>			
15-24	64	32	4
25-39	62	36	2
40-54	61	37	2
55 +	64	32	4
<b>Education (End of)</b>			
15-	62	34	4
16-19	59	38	3
20+	68	30	2
Still studying	67	29	4
<b>Socio-professional category</b>			
Self- employed	60	38	2
Managers	71	27	2
Other white collars	67	31	2
Manual workers	57	41	2
House persons	57	41	2
Unemployed	52	44	4
Retired	63	33	4
Students	67	29	4
<b>Difficulties paying bills</b>			
Most of the time	43	54	3
From time to time	57	41	2
Almost never/ Never	68	29	3
<b>Consider belonging to</b>			
The working class	57	39	4
The lower middle class	57	41	2
The middle class	67	31	2
The upper middle class	73	25	2
The upper class	77	21	2
<b>Image of the EU</b>			
Positive	85	13	2
Neutral	56	40	4
Negative	23	74	3

## **II. THE EUROPEAN UNION AND ITS CITIZENS**



## 1. Attachment to the European Union

### 1.1 What does the European Union symbolise?

The “freedom to travel, study and work anywhere in the EU” is the most highly ranked association with the EU

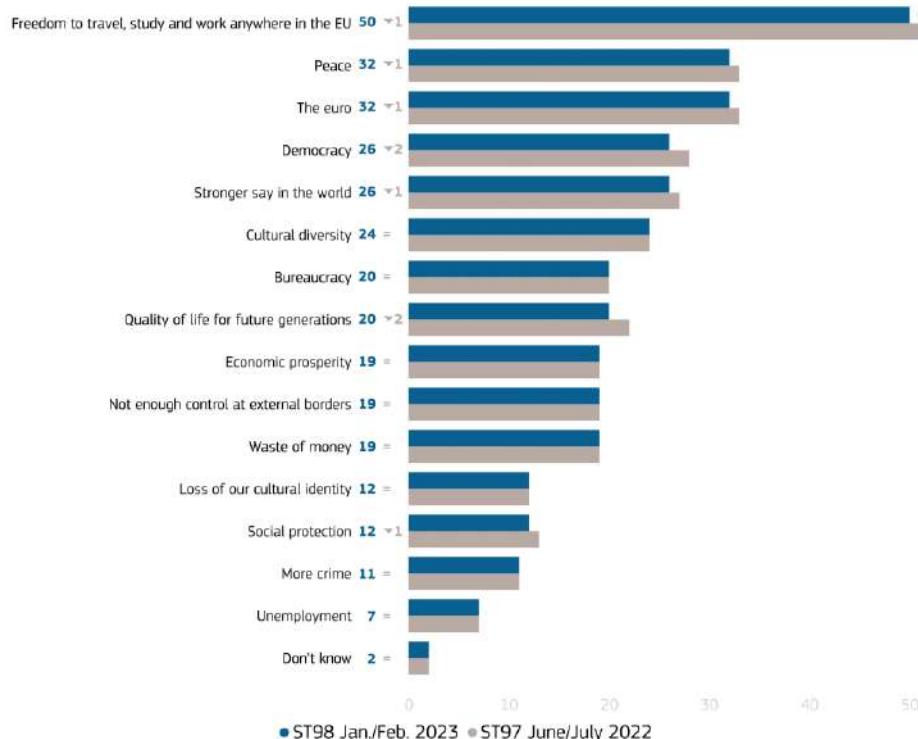
As in previous Standard Eurobarometer surveys, the **“freedom to travel, study and work anywhere in the EU”** (50%, -1 percentage point since summer 2022) is the most frequently mentioned association with the EU, followed by **“peace”** (32%, -1pp) and **“the euro”** (32%, -1pp). Around a quarter mention **“democracy”** (26%, -2pp), a **“stronger say in the world”** (26%, -1pp) or **“cultural diversity”** (24%, no change). Among positive associations, **“quality of life of future generations”** (20%, -2pp) is cited by one in five, closely followed by **“economic prosperity”** (19%, no change).

**“Bureaucracy”** (20%, no change), **“waste of money”** (19%, no change) and **“not enough control at external borders”** (19%, no change) are the most frequently mentioned negative associations with the EU.

All the other items are mentioned by smaller proportions: **“social protection”** (12%, -1 percentage point), **“loss of our cultural identity”** (12%, no change), **“more crime”** (11%, no change) and **“unemployment”** (7%, no change).

All the associations listed in the survey have either slightly decreased or remained stable since summer 2022<sup>44</sup>.

QA7. What does the EU mean to you personally? (EU27) (%)



ST98 Jan./Feb. 2023

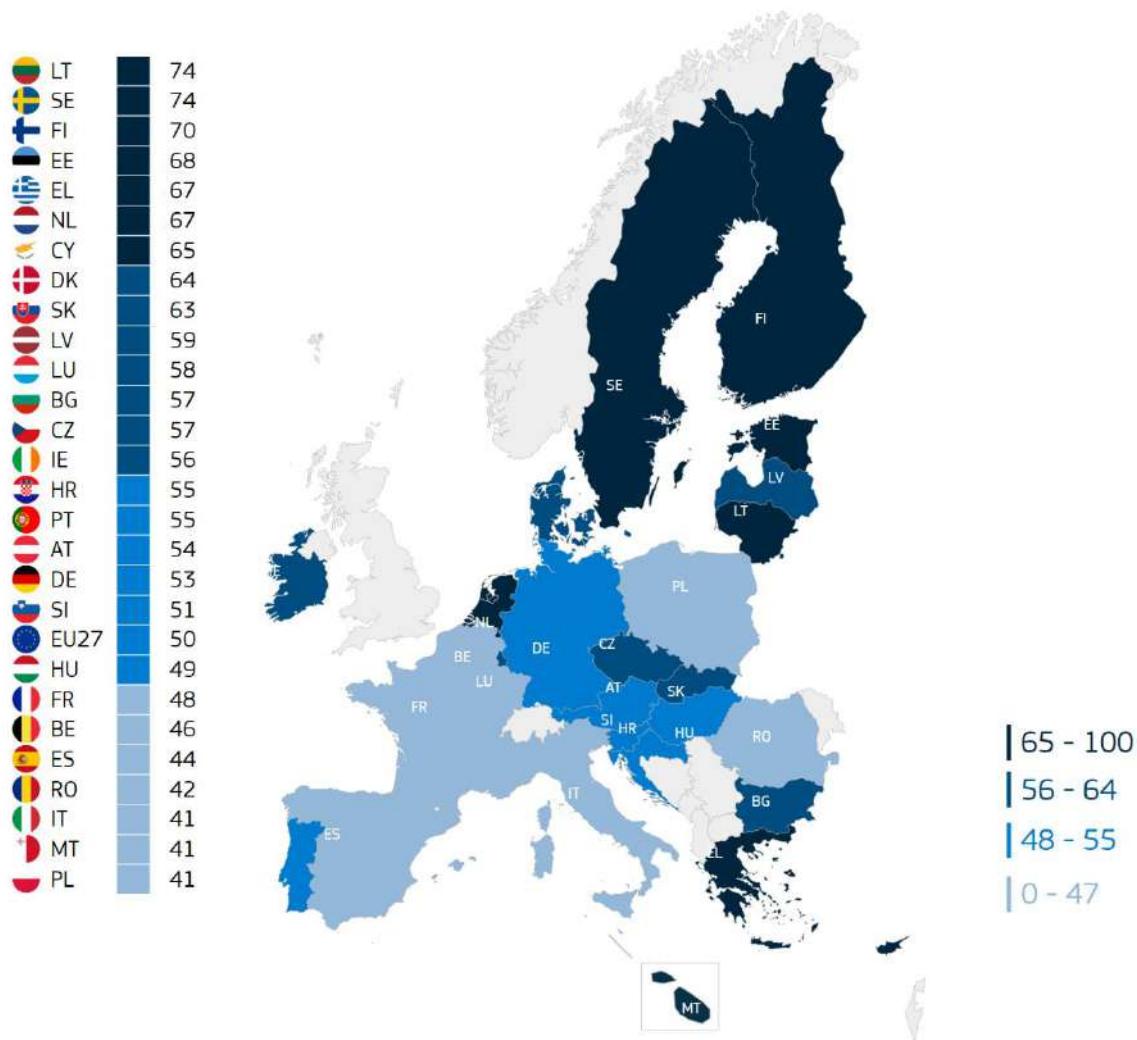
<sup>44</sup> QA7. What does the EU mean to you personally?

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In all 27 EU Member States, the **“freedom to travel, study and work anywhere in the EU”** tops the list of associations with the European Union. At least seven in ten respondents in Lithuania and Sweden (both 74%) and in Finland (70%) answer this way.

At the opposite end of the scale, 41% mention this association in Italy, Malta and Poland.

**QA7 What does the EU mean to you personally? - Freedom to travel, study and work anywhere in the EU (%)**

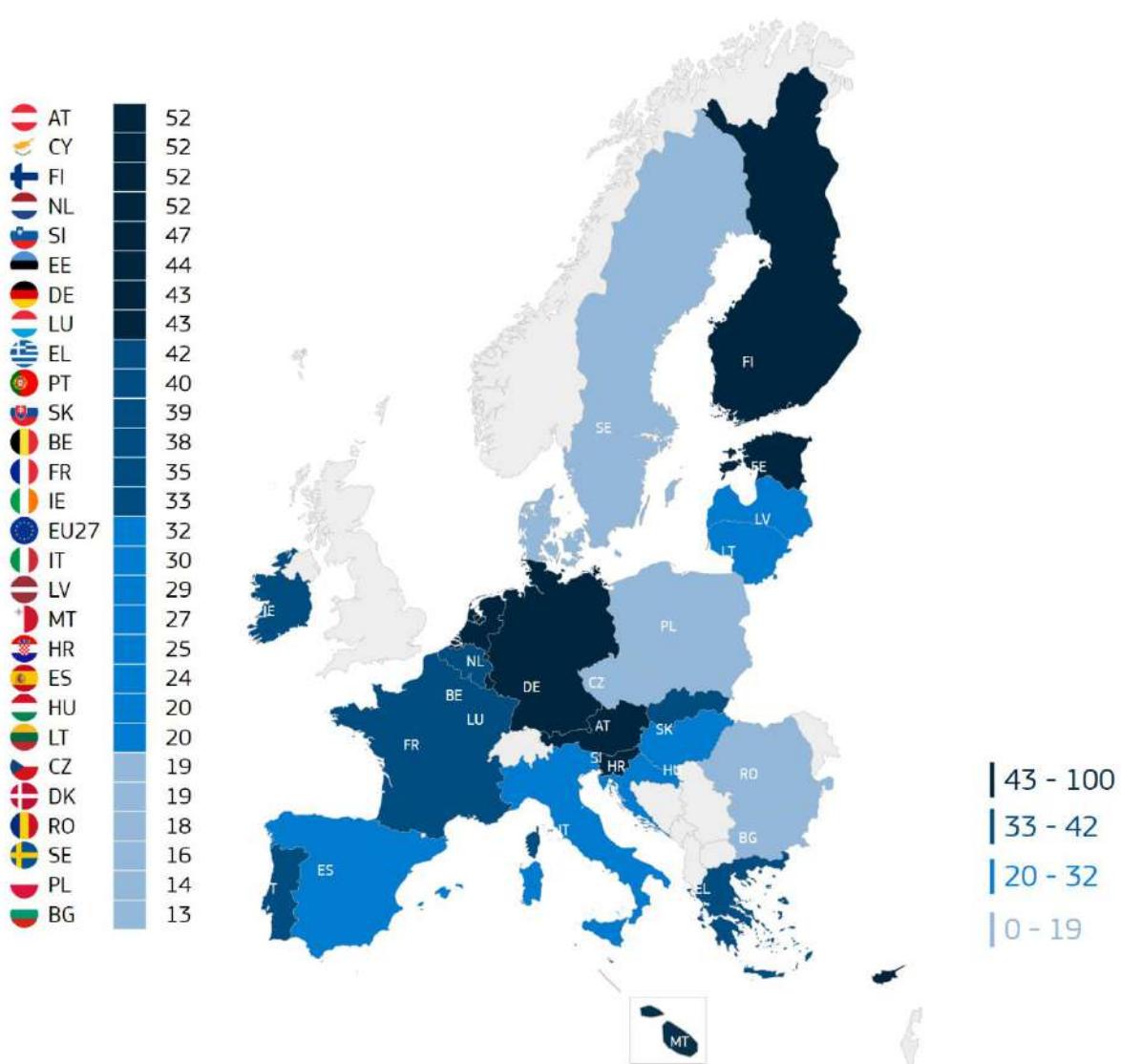


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Associations of the EU with “**the euro**” are much more widespread within the euro area than outside. Nearly four in ten respondents in countries belonging to the **euro area** (36%, -2pp since summer 2022) give this answer, compared with fewer than one fifth of those living **outside the euro area** (16% no change).

At country level, “the euro” is mentioned by more than a quarter of respondents in 17 out of the 20 euro area countries, ranging from more than half in Austria, Cyprus, Finland and the Netherlands (all 52%) to 27% in Malta. The three exceptions are respondents in Croatia (25%), Spain (24%) and Lithuania (20%). In countries outside the euro area, no more than two in ten give this answer, with the highest proportion observed in Hungary (20%) and the lowest in Bulgaria (13%).

**QA7 What does the EU mean to you personally? - The euro (%)**



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The **socio-demographic data** show that the “**freedom to travel, study and work anywhere in the EU**” is the most highly ranked association with the EU among most categories. Nevertheless, there are still differences in the extent to which respondents give this answer. As in previous Standard Eurobarometer surveys, this association is most frequently mentioned among the following categories: the youngest respondents (59% of 15-24 year olds, compared with 45% of those aged 55 or more), those who remained longer in full-time education (60% of those who finished their education aged 20 or more, compared with 36% of those who left school aged 15 or less), managers (60%, compared with 37% of house persons), those with the least difficulties paying their bills (55% of those who never or almost never have difficulties, compared with 38% of those who have difficulties most of the time) and those who consider themselves as belonging to the upper middle or upper class of society (63-65%, compared with 44-45% of those who see themselves as working or lower middle class).

Respondents who had stayed longer in full-time education, those with the least difficulties paying their bills and those who see themselves as belonging to the upper middle or upper class of society are also among the most likely to select the other **positive** associations. For instance, associations of the EU with “**peace**” are most frequently mentioned among those who finished their full-time education aged 20 or older (38%, compared with 27% of those who left aged 15 or younger), those who never or almost never have difficulties paying their bills (36%, compared with 22% of those who have difficulties most of the time) and those who consider themselves as belonging to the upper middle or upper class (42-46%, compared with 23% of those who see themselves as part of the working class).

In most cases, older respondents are more likely than younger ones to select **negative** associations with the EU. For instance, 23% of those aged 55 or more associate the EU with “**bureaucracy**”, compared with 11% of those aged 15-24.

QA7 What does the EU mean to you personally? (MULTIPLE ANSWERS POSSIBLE)  
 (% - EU)

	Freedom to travel, study and work anywhere in the EU	Peace	The euro	Democracy	Stronger say in the world	Economic prosperity	Democracy	Stronger say in the world	Cultural diversity	Quality of life for future generations	Bureaucracy
EU27	50	32	32	26	26	19	26	26	24	20	20
Gender											
Man	51	32	33	26	26	21	26	26	24	20	22
Woman	50	32	31	26	25	17	26	25	23	20	18
Age											
15-24	59	33	32	27	23	21	27	23	29	24	11
25-39	53	32	31	27	27	21	27	27	27	22	18
40-54	52	30	31	26	26	19	26	26	23	20	22
55 +	45	34	33	26	26	16	26	26	20	18	23
Education (End of)											
15-	36	27	32	20	20	12	20	20	16	14	18
16-19	45	29	31	23	22	15	23	22	18	18	20
20+	60	38	34	31	33	24	31	33	32	25	23
Still studying	64	36	34	31	27	24	31	27	35	25	12
Socio-professional category											
Self-employed	52	32	34	27	32	20	27	32	23	24	23
Managers	60	40	36	33	36	26	33	36	32	24	21
Other white collars	52	30	31	27	27	21	27	27	25	22	20
Manual workers	46	27	29	22	20	17	22	20	20	19	20
House persons	37	31	26	19	17	15	19	17	14	16	11
Unemployed	50	24	28	17	16	13	17	16	18	15	22
Retired	45	35	33	26	26	15	26	26	21	17	23
Students	64	36	34	31	27	24	31	27	35	25	12
Difficulties paying bills											
Most of the time	38	22	31	15	18	11	15	18	17	14	22
From time to time	44	27	27	21	20	15	21	20	20	17	18
Almost never/ Never	55	36	34	30	29	21	30	29	26	22	21
Consider belonging to											
The working class	45	23	28	19	19	13	19	19	18	15	21
The lower middle class	44	30	30	23	23	14	23	23	21	17	21
The middle class	52	35	33	28	27	20	28	27	26	22	19
The upper middle class	63	46	36	39	40	35	39	40	32	30	23
The upper class	65	42	30	34	50	35	34	50	24	35	19
Image of the EU											
Positive	58	44	34	38	37	29	38	37	30	29	12
Neutral	49	28	32	20	20	13	20	20	21	14	21
Negative	35	12	26	8	10	7	8	10	14	10	38

### 1.3 Support for membership and perceived benefits of membership

#### Support for EU membership in candidate countries is on the rise

In all candidate countries, the majority considers that their country's membership of the EU would be "a good thing". More than nine in ten respondents in Albania (95%) give this answer, an increase of four percentage points since summer 2022 (+10pp since winter 2021-2022). Six in ten or slightly less are in favour of EU membership in North Macedonia (60%, +10pp) and Montenegro (58%, +3pp), where this proportion is on the rise following large declines between winter 2021-2022 and summer 2022 (-13pp and -12pp, respectively). Similarly, after a 17-percentage point decrease in the last Eurobarometer Standard survey, this share of respondents has increased in Türkiye (52%, +9pp), where more than half now think their country's membership of the EU would be "a good thing". More than four in ten answer this in Moldova (43% vs 31% "neither good nor bad" and 20% "a bad thing"), while opinion is more divided in Serbia, where, after a three-percentage point increase since summer 2022, a slight majority is in favour of EU membership (34% "a good thing", 33% "a bad thing" and 32% "neither good nor bad")<sup>45</sup>.

Nearly two thirds of the respondents in Kosovo (64%)<sup>46</sup> and half of them in the Turkish Cypriot Community (-4 percentage points since summer 2022)<sup>47</sup> agree that the full application of EU legislation would be "a good thing".

After large decreases between winter 2021-2022 and summer 2022 in most candidate countries, the proportions who think their country would benefit from EU membership are again on the rise in the current survey. Nearly all respondents in Albania (98%, +5 percentage points since summer 2022) give this answer, followed by more than three quarters in Montenegro (79%, +14pp) and North Macedonia (77%, +5pp). More than six in ten respondents in Türkiye (63%, +8pp) and more than half in Moldova (52%) and Serbia (52%, +2pp) also consider their country would benefit from being a EU member<sup>48</sup>.

Nearly three quarters of respondents in Kosovo (73%) think that their country would benefit from the full application of EU legislation<sup>49</sup>. Similarly, seven in ten respondents in the Turkish Cypriot Community believe that their community would benefit from this, an increase of seven percentage points since summer 2022 (+22pp since winter 2021-2022)<sup>50</sup>.

**QA9ace Generally speaking, do you think that (OUR COUNTRY)'s membership of the EU would be...?**  
 (%)

		TR	MK	ME	RS	AL	MD	CY (TCC)	XK
A good thing	Jan/Feb 2023	52	60	58	34	95	43	50	64
	△ Jun/Jul 2022	▲9	▲10	▲3	▲3	▲4		▼4	
A bad thing	Jan/Feb 2023	25	14	20	33	1	20	11	4
	△ Jun/Jul 2022	▼8	▼3	▼9	▲2	▼2		▼4	
Neither good nor bad	Jan/Feb 2023	23	26	22	32	4	31	31	24
	△ Jun/Jul 2022	=	▼7	▲7	▼6	▼1		▲11	
Refusal (SPONTANEOUS) / Don't know	Jan/Feb 2023	0	0	0	1	0	6	8	8
	△ Jun/Jul 2022	▼1	=	▼1	▲1	▼1		▼3	

**QA9b Taking everything into account, would you say that (OUR COUNTRY) would benefit or not from being a member of the EU?**  
 (%)

		TR	MK	ME	RS	AL	MD	CY (TCC)	XK
Would benefit	Jan/Feb 2023	63	77	79	52	98	52	70	73
	△ Jun/Jul 2022	▲8	▲5	▲14	▲2	▲5		▲7	
Would not benefit	Jan/Feb 2023	35	20	20	43	1	37	18	15
	△ Jun/Jul 2022	▼9	▼6	▼12	▼2	▼5		▼3	
Refusal (SPONTANEOUS) / Don't know	Jan/Feb 2023	2	3	1	5	1	11	12	12
	△ Jun/Jul 2022	▲1	▲1	▼2	=	=		▼4	

<sup>45</sup> QA9b. Generally speaking, do you think that (OUR COUNTRY)'s membership of the EU would be...?

<sup>46</sup> QA9e. Generally speaking, do you think that for Kosovo the full application of EU legislation would be...?

<sup>47</sup> QA9d. Generally speaking, do you think that for the Turkish Cypriot Community the full application of EU legislation would be...?

<sup>48</sup> QA9c. Taking everything into account, would you say that (OUR COUNTRY) would benefit or not from being a member of the EU?

<sup>49</sup> QA9f. Taking everything into consideration, would you say that Kosovo would benefit or not from the full application of the EU legislation?

<sup>50</sup> QA9e. Taking everything into consideration, would you say that the Turkish Cypriot Community would benefit or not from the full application of the EU legislation?

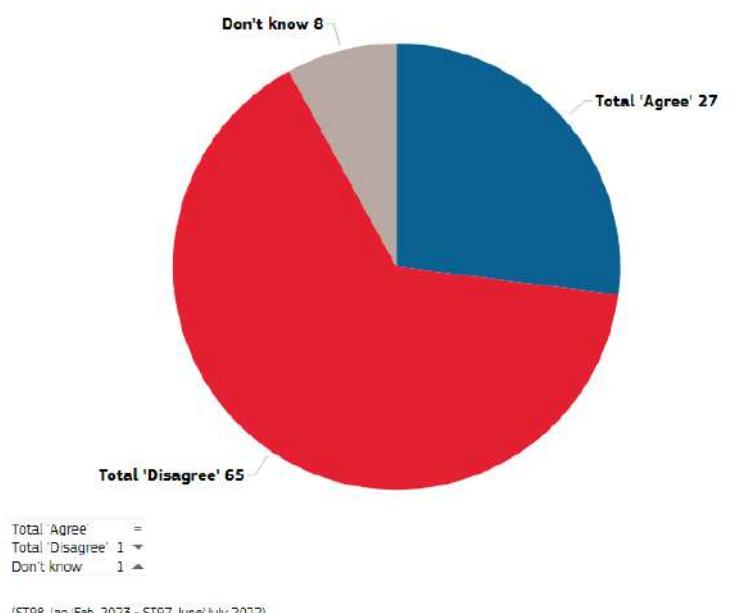
## 1.4 Facing the future outside of the EU: a better alternative?

### A clear majority thinks their country could better face the future within the European Union than outside

Nearly two thirds of respondents disagree that their country could better face the future outside the EU (65%, -1 percentage point since summer 2022), with 36% (-1pp) who “totally disagree”. More than a quarter (27%, no change) agree with this statement, with one in ten (+1pp) in total agreement. Fewer than one in ten (8%, +1pp) say they “don’t know”. These proportions have remained broadly stable since summer 2022<sup>51</sup>.

Large majorities both in the **euro area** (66% vs 26% “agree”) and **outside the euro area** (60% vs 33%) disagree that their country could better face the future outside the EU. While the level of disagreement with this statement has declined since summer 2022 in the euro area (-2 percentage points), it has slightly increased in the non-euro area (+1pp).

QA12.2 To what extent do you agree or disagree with each of the following statements?: (OUR COUNTRY) could better face the future outside the EU (EU27) (%)



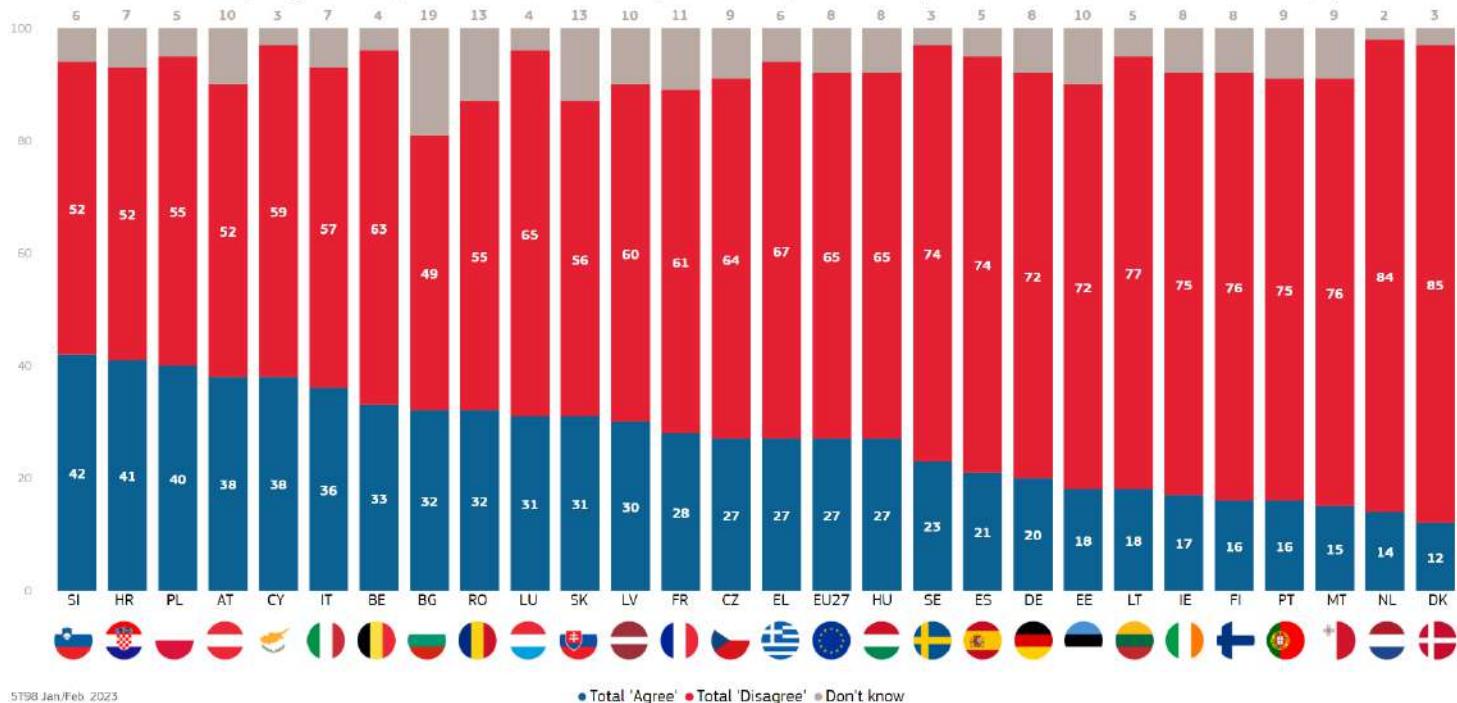
<sup>51</sup> QA12.2. To what extent do you agree or disagree with each of the following statements? (OUR COUNTRY) could better face the future outside the EU.

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More than half of the respondents in 26 out of the 27 EU Member States think their country could better face the future within the European Union than outside. The only exception is respondents in Bulgaria (49%, -2 percentage points), the majority of whom nonetheless disagree that their country could better face the

future outside the EU. More than three quarters hold this view in Denmark (85%, +4 percentage points since summer 2022), the Netherlands (84%, +5pp), Lithuania (77%, -1pp), Finland (76%, -1pp) and Malta (76%, +5pp). Apart from those in Bulgaria, respondents are least likely to give this answer in Austria (52%, -5pp), Croatia (52%, +1pp) and Slovenia (52%, -3pp).

QA12.2 To what extent do you agree or disagree with each of the following statements?: (OUR COUNTRY) could better face the future outside the EU (%)



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

In ten EU Member States, the share of respondents who disagree that their country could better face the future outside the EU has increased since summer 2022, particularly in Hungary (+6 percentage points) and in Malta and the Netherlands (both +5pp).

At the other end of the scale, in 14 countries, respondents are less likely to give this answer than they were in summer 2022, most notably in Slovakia (-12 percentage points), Latvia (-9pp) and Belgium (-8pp). This proportion has remained stable in three countries: Italy, Luxembourg and Portugal.

QA12.2 To what extent do you agree or disagree with each of the following statements?  
(OUR COUNTRY) could better face the future outside the EU (%)

	EU27	Euro	Non Euro	BE	BG	CZ	DK	DE	EE	IE	EL	ES	FR	HR	IT	CY	LV	LT	LU	HU	MT	NL	PL	AT	PT	RO	SI	SK	FI	SE	
Total 'Agree'	Jan/Feb 2023	27	26	33	33	32	27	12	20	18	17	27	21	28	41	36	38	30	18	31	27	15	14	38	40	16	32	42	31	16	23
	Δ Jun/Jul 2022	=	▲1	▼2	▲7	=	▼2	▼5	▲2	▼2	=	▲3	▲3	▼3	▲1	=	▲6	▲6	▼1	▲3	▼8	▼10	▼5	▲3	▲3	▼5	=	▲6	▼3	▼7	
Total 'Disagree'	Jan/Feb 2023	65	66	60	63	49	64	85	72	72	75	67	74	61	52	57	59	60	77	65	65	76	84	52	55	75	55	52	56	76	74
	Δ Jun/Jul 2022	▼1	▼2	▲1	▼8	▼2	▲1	▲4	▼3	▲2	▼1	▼2	▼2	▲4	▲1	=	▼2	▼9	▼1	=	▲6	▲5	▲5	▼5	▼4	=	▲2	▼3	▼12	▼1	▲4
Don't know	Jan/Feb 2023	8	8	7	4	19	9	3	8	10	8	6	5	11	7	7	3	10	5	4	8	9	2	10	5	9	13	6	13	8	3
	Δ Jun/Jul 2022	▲1	▲1	▲1	▲1	▲2	▲1	▲1	▲1	▲1	=	▲1	▼1	▼1	▼2	=	▼4	▲3	▲2	▼3	▲2	▲5	=	▲2	▲1	▲3	▲3	▲6	▲4	▲3	

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The **socio-demographic data** reveal that majorities across most categories of respondents disagree that their country could better face the future outside the European Union. However, some differences can still be observed. The highest levels of disagreement are recorded among the following categories: the youngest respondents (69% among those aged 15-24, compared with 64% of those aged 40 or more), those who finished their full-time education aged 20 or older (75%, compared with 57-59% of those who left education aged 19 or younger), managers (78%, compared with 57% of the unemployed), those who never or almost never have difficulties paying their bills (71%, compared with 49% of those who have difficulties most of the time) and those who consider themselves as belonging to the upper middle or upper class of society (77-79%, compared with 58% of those who see themselves as working class).

**QA12.2** To what extent do you agree or disagree with each of the following statements?

**(OUR COUNTRY) could better face the future outside the EU (% - EU)**

	Total 'Agree'	Total 'Disagree'	Don't know
EU27	27	65	8
 <b>Gender</b>			
Man	28	66	6
Woman	27	64	9
 <b>Age</b>			
15-24	22	69	9
25-39	27	65	8
40-54	29	64	7
55 +	28	64	8
 <b>Education (End of)</b>			
15-	30	57	13
16-19	33	59	8
20+	21	75	4
Still studying	18	75	7
 <b>Socio-professional category</b>			
Self-employed	29	66	5
Managers	19	78	3
Other white collars	30	63	7
Manual workers	34	58	8
House persons	29	59	12
Unemployed	29	57	14
Retired	26	65	9
Students	18	75	7
 <b>Difficulties paying bills</b>			
Most of the time	38	49	13
From time to time	34	57	9
Almost never/ Never	23	71	6
 <b>Consider belonging to</b>			
The working class	30	58	12
The lower middle class	32	60	8
The middle class	27	67	6
The upper middle class	20	77	3
The upper class	19	79	2
 <b>Image of the EU</b>			
Positive	16	81	3
Neutral	28	61	11
Negative	53	37	10

## 2. The European institutions

### 2.1 Awareness of the European Institutions and the level of trust they inspire

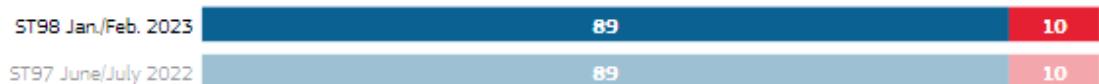
#### Awareness of the European institutions is high and stable

Awareness of the European institutions is at a very high level, as has been the case throughout the last decade. The **European Parliament** (89%, no change since summer 2022) remains the European institution that respondents are most aware of, followed by the **European Central Bank** (85%, no change) and the **European Commission** (83%, no change). Around three quarters of respondents say they have heard of the **European Council** (76%, -2 percentage points).

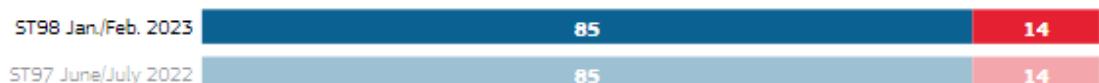
The level of awareness of the European Parliament, the European Central Bank and the European Commission has remained unchanged since this question was last asked in summer 2022. Despite the slight decline since the last Eurobarometer survey (-2 percentage points), the proportion who has heard of the European Council remains relatively high and still close to its record level achieved in spring 2021 (79%)<sup>52</sup>.

#### QA10. Have you heard of...? (EU27) (%)

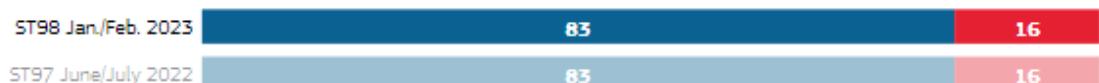
##### The European Parliament



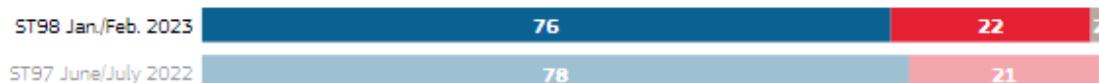
##### The European Central Bank



##### The European Commission



##### The European Council



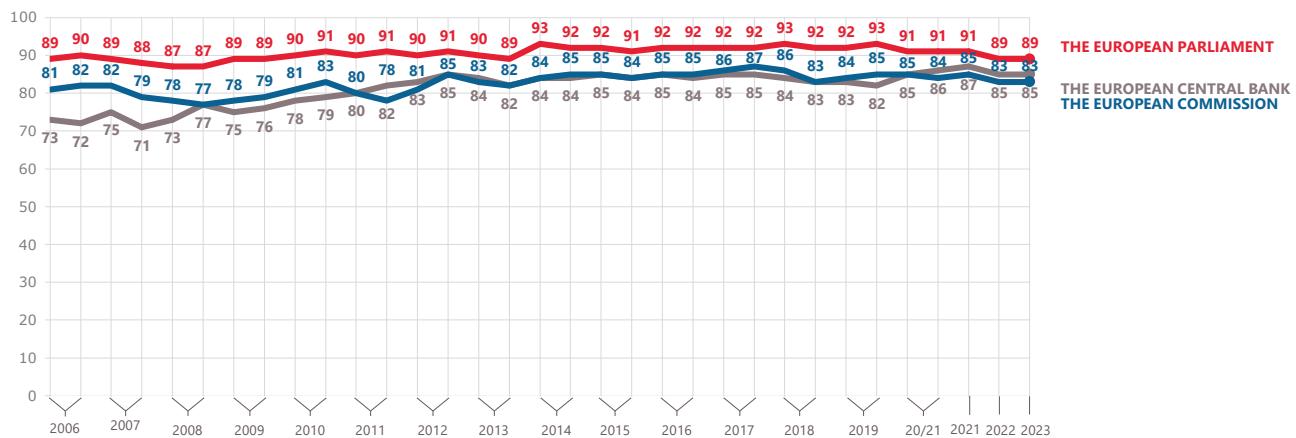
● Yes ● No ● Don't know

<sup>52</sup> QA10. Have you heard of...? 1. The European Parliament; 2. The European Commission; 3. The European Central Bank; 4. The European Council.

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**QA10** Have you heard of...?

(% - EU - YES)



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In all EU Member States, more than three quarters of respondents are aware of the **European Parliament**. Awareness is particularly high in Sweden (99%, no change since summer 2022), Malta (98%, +1 percentage point) and the Netherlands (97%, +1pp). At the opposite end of the scale, 77% in Romania (+3pp), 81% in Austria (-3pp) and 86% in Czechia (-7pp) are aware of the European Parliament. Compared with summer 2022, the only notable evolution is recorded in Czechia, where this proportion has decreased by seven percentage points. In all other countries, these shares of respondents have remained stable or changed by three percentage points or less.

In 22 EU Member States, more than eight in ten respondents are aware of the **European Central Bank**. Awareness levels are especially high in the Netherlands (94%, +2 percentage points), Finland (94%, -2pp) and Sweden (94%, +1pp). This proportion is lowest in Romania (68%, +1pp), Hungary (76%, -1pp) and Czechia (78%, -9pp). In 21 EU Member States, changes in this share of respondents since summer 2022, if any, remain limited within a three-percentage point margin. A significant decrease can once again be observed in Czechia (78%, -9pp), followed by five countries where this proportion has declined by four percentage points: Austria (79%), Belgium (85%), Germany (87%), Estonia (82%) and Slovakia (88%).

In 23 countries, at least eight in ten say they have heard of the **European Commission**. The highest proportions who give this answer can be observed in Malta (94%, +1 percentage point) and in Finland and Greece (both 93%, -1pp). Respondents in Romania (71%, +1pp), Austria (73%, -4pp) and Czechia (74%, -13pp) are the least likely to be aware of the European Commission. This proportion has remained stable or changed by three percentage points or less in most countries since summer 2022. Once again, Czechia stands out for a notable decrease in this share of respondents (74%, -13pp), followed by Luxembourg (92%, -5pp) and Austria (73%, -4pp).

In 20 countries, more than three quarters of respondents say they have heard of the **European Council**, led by Malta (93%, no change), Slovenia (90%, -1 percentage point), Luxembourg (87%, -2pp) and Portugal (87%, +2pp). Respondents are least likely to be aware of this institution in Austria (59%, -6pp), the Netherlands (67%, -3pp) and Romania (68%, +1pp). Compared to summer 2022, the level of awareness of the European Council has decreased by more than three percentage points in eight countries, most notably in Czechia (74%, -10pp), Austria (59%, -6pp) and Germany (72%, -6pp). This proportion has increased by four percentage points in Lithuania (76%).

QA10 Have you heard of...?  
 Yes (%)

		EU27	EURO	NON EURO	BE	BG	CZ	DK	DE	EE	IE	EL	ES	FR	HR	IT	CY	LV	LT	LU	HU	MT	NL	AT	PL	PT	RO	SI	SK	FI	SE
The European Parliament	Jan/Feb 2023	89	90	89	95	92	86	96	87	92	91	96	92	89	88	87	90	91	96	95	92	98	97	81	88	93	77	96	95	95	99
	Δ Jun/Jul 2022	=	=	▲1	▲1	▲3	▼7	▼1	▼3	▼1	▼2	▲1	▲1	=	▼1	▲2	▼1	=	▼2	▲1	▲1	▼3	▲1	=	▲3	▼1	=	▼2	=		
The European Central Bank	Jan/Feb 2023	85	86	80	85	87	78	90	87	82	92	93	91	82	86	82	89	85	86	92	76	91	94	79	79	92	68	92	88	94	94
	Δ Jun/Jul 2022	=	▼1	▲1	▼4	▲2	▼9	▲3	▼4	▼4	▼2	▼2	▲1	▲1	▲1	=	▼3	▲1	▼3	▼2	▼1	=	▲2	▼4	▲1	▲2	▲1	▼1	▼4	▼2	▲1
The European Commission	Jan/Feb 2023	83	83	82	89	82	74	90	80	82	85	93	85	85	81	78	87	84	89	92	87	94	89	73	84	91	71	92	87	93	87
	Δ Jun/Jul 2022	=	=	=	▼1	▲1	▼13	▲1	▼3	▼1	=	▼1	▲2	▲1	▼3	▲1	▲2	=	▼1	▼5	▲1	▲1	▲1	▼4	=	▲3	▲1	▼2	▼2	▼1	=
The European Council	Jan/Feb 2023	76	75	78	76	78	74	80	72	72	79	85	81	73	83	76	85	78	76	87	81	93	67	59	81	87	68	90	80	83	80
	Δ Jun/Jul 2022	▼2	▼2	▼1	▼5	▲1	▼10	▲3	▼6	▼1	=	▲3	▲2	▼4	▼3	▲2	=	▼1	▲4	▼2	=	=	▼3	▼6	▼1	▲2	▲1	▼1	▼4	▼4	▼4

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**QA10** Have you heard of...?  
 (% - Yes)

	The European Parliament	The European Central Bank	The European Commission	The European Council
EU27	89	85	83	76
<b>Gender</b>				
Man	91	87	85	79
Woman	88	82	80	73
<b>Age</b>				
15-24	85	78	76	69
25-39	89	85	84	78
40-54	91	87	86	79
55 +	90	85	82	75
<b>Education (End of)</b>				
15-	83	76	72	63
16-19	87	82	80	74
20+	95	93	92	85
Still studying	88	81	80	72
<b>Socio-professional category</b>				
Self-employed	93	90	88	83
Managers	94	93	92	84
Other white collars	93	90	87	82
Manual workers	86	82	80	73
House persons	83	75	73	65
Unemployed	85	78	76	69
Retired	89	84	81	73
Students	88	81	80	72
<b>Difficulties paying bills</b>				
Most of the time	82	74	73	66
From time to time	85	79	77	71
Almost never/ Never	92	89	87	79
<b>Consider belonging to</b>				
The working class	86	80	78	70
The lower middle class	89	82	81	71
The middle class	90	86	84	78
The upper middle class	94	93	92	86
The upper class	92	93	93	88
<b>Image of the EU</b>				
Positive	94	90	88	82
Neutral	87	81	79	72
Negative	87	81	79	70

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## Majorities trust the European institutions

Respondents were asked whether they tended to trust or not to trust the European Parliament, the European Commission, the European Central Bank and the European Council. A majority says they trust each of these institutions<sup>53</sup>. As in previous Standard Eurobarometer surveys, the **European Parliament** (49%, -3 percentage points since summer 2022) is the most trusted European institution, followed by the **European Central Bank** (46%, -1pp), the **European Commission** (46%, -2pp) and the **European Council** (43%, -4pp). Less than four in ten say they tend not to trust each of these institutions: 37% (+1pp) for both the European Parliament and the European Commission, 38% (-1pp) for the European Central Bank and 35% (no change) for the European Council. Between 14% and 22% of respondents "do not know" whether they trust these institutions or not.

Respondents in countries **outside the euro area** are more likely than those in countries within the **euro area** to trust each of these institutions. For instance, 51% of those in the non-euro area trust the European Central Bank, compared with 44% in the euro area. The level of trust has decreased in the non-euro area (-5pp) compared to summer 2022, while it has remained stable in the euro area.

Following increases in winter 2021-2022 and summer 2022, levels of trust in the European Parliament, the European Commission and the European Central Bank have slightly decreased in the current Standard Eurobarometer survey, with the largest decline observed for the European Parliament (-3 percentage points).

### QA11. Please tell if you tend to trust or tend not to trust these European institutions? (EU27) (%)

#### The European Parliament



#### The European Central Bank



#### The European Commission



#### The European Council



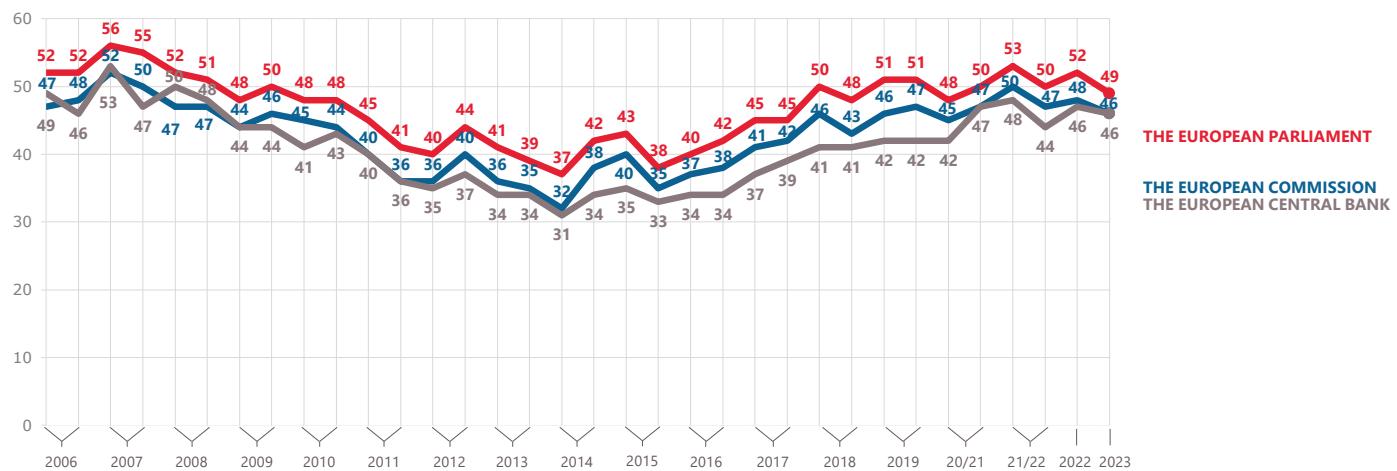
● Tend to trust ● Tend not to trust ● Don't know

<sup>53</sup> QA11. Please tell me if you tend to trust or tend not to trust these European institutions. 1. The European Parliament; 2. The European Commission; 3. The European Central Bank; 4. The European Council.

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**QA11** And do you tend to trust or tend not to trust these European institutions?

(% - EU - TEND TO TRUST)



THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

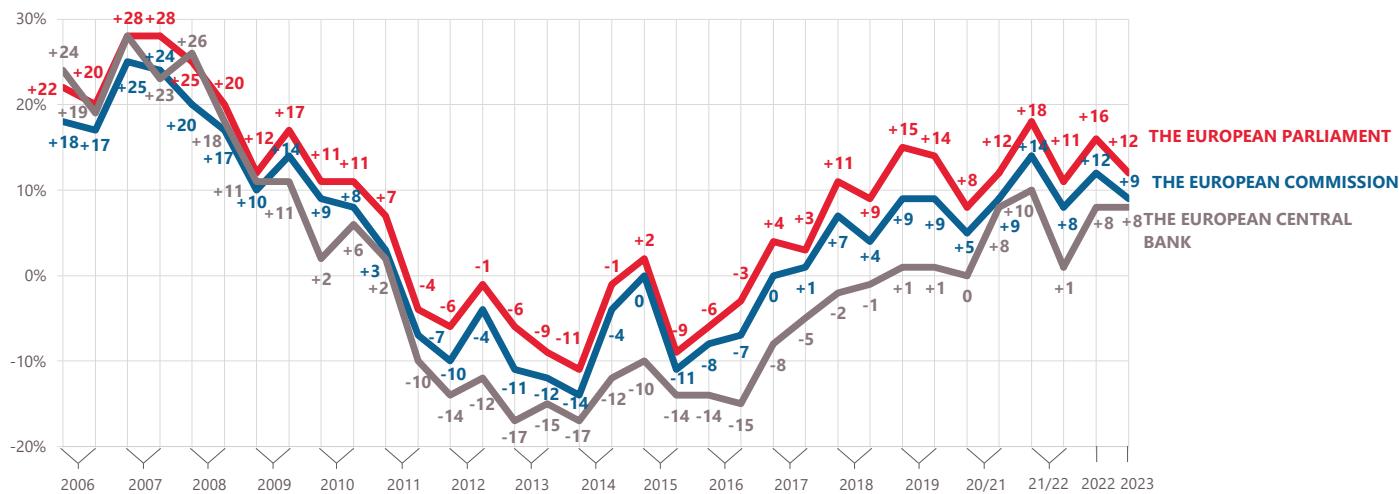
THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION  
THE EUROPEAN CENTRAL BANK

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The decreases in the proportions who trust the European Parliament and the European Commission contribute to the deterioration of the trust index for these institutions since summer 2022 (from +16 index points to +12 for the European Parliament; from +12 to +9 for the European Commission)<sup>54</sup>. Nonetheless, these declines in the trust-distrust ratio have not completely offset the increases observed between winter 2021-22 and summer 2022.

Following a seven-index point increase between winter 2021-22 and summer 2022, the gap between those who tend to trust and those who tend not to trust the European Central Bank has remained unchanged at +8 index points in the current survey.

**QA11** Please tell me if you tend to trust or tend not to trust these European institutions?  
**(EU - TRUST INDEX (TEND TO TRUST - TEND NOT TO TRUST))**



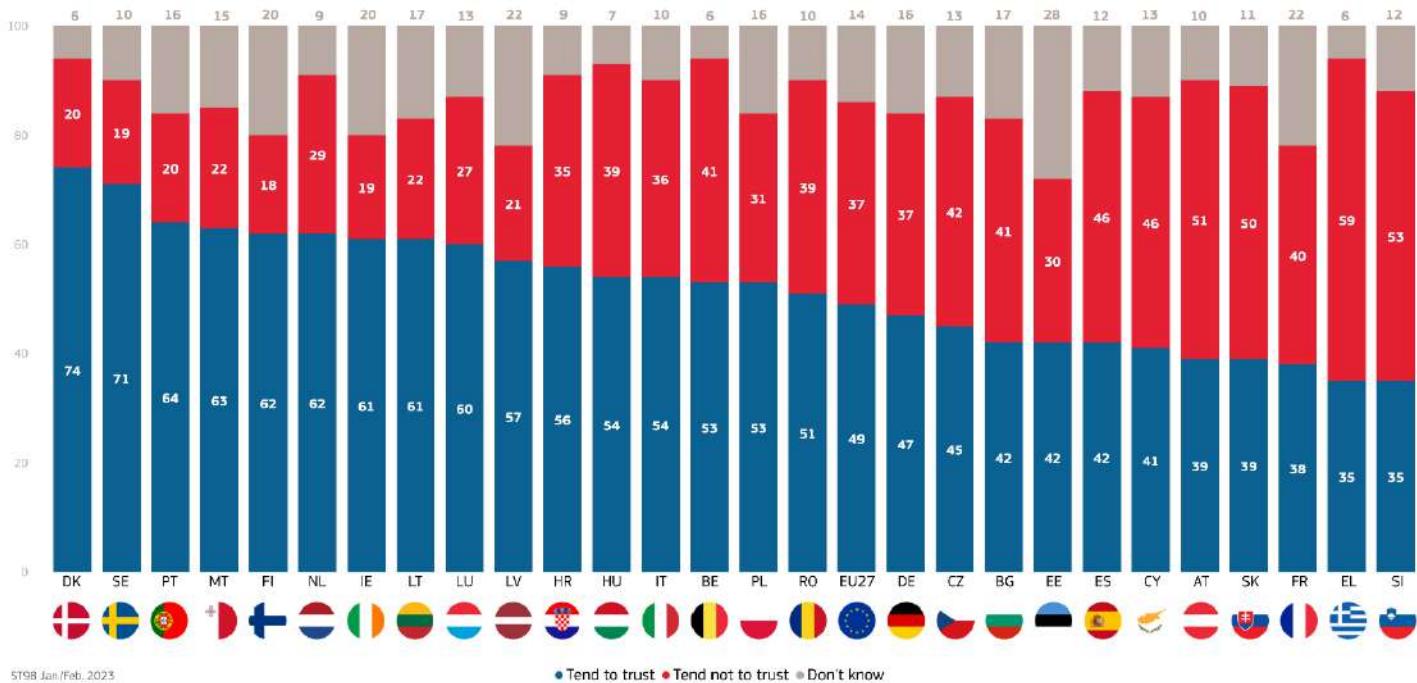
<sup>54</sup> The trust index is the difference between the proportion of respondents who "tend to trust" and the proportion of those who "tend not to trust".

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In 20 EU Member States (compared with 22 in summer 2022), the majority of respondents trust the **European Parliament**. Respondents in Denmark (74%), Sweden (71%) and Portugal (64%) are the most likely to give this answer.

Distrust outweighs trust in seven countries: Greece (59% “tend not to trust” vs 35% “tend to trust”), Slovenia (53% vs 35%), Austria (51% vs 39%), Slovakia (50% vs 39%), Cyprus (46% vs 41%), Spain (46% vs 42%) and France (40% vs 38%).

QA11.1. Please tell if you tend to trust or tend not to trust these European institutions? :-The European Parliament (%)



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**QA11.1** Please tell if you tend to trust or tend not to trust these European institutions?

**The European Parliament (%) - EU)**

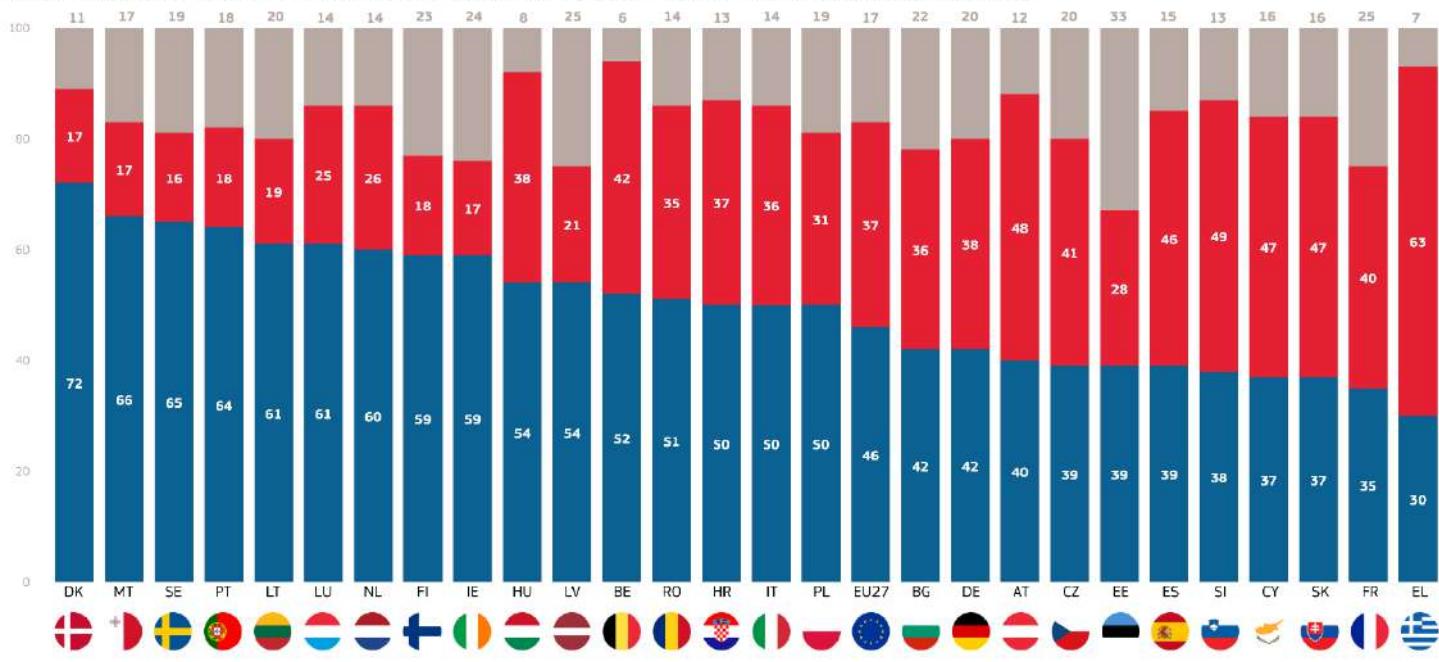
	Tend to trust	Tend not to trust	Don't know
EU27	49	37	14
<b>Gender</b>			
Man	49	39	12
Woman	48	36	16
<b>Age</b>			
15-24	56	25	19
25-39	50	38	12
40-54	49	40	11
55 +	45	39	16
<b>Education (End of)</b>			
15-	37	42	21
16-19	44	42	14
20+	57	33	10
Still studying	60	22	18
<b>Socio-professional category</b>			
Self-employed	53	37	10
Managers	61	30	9
Other white collars	54	36	10
Manual workers	42	46	12
House persons	38	43	19
Unemployed	31	51	18
Retired	45	37	18
Students	60	22	18
<b>Difficulties paying bills</b>			
Most of the time	30	56	14
From time to time	43	45	12
Almost never/ Never	54	32	14
<b>Consider belonging to</b>			
The working class	34	47	19
The lower middle class	42	43	15
The middle class	54	34	12
The upper middle class	67	24	9
The upper class	69	23	8
<b>Image of the EU</b>			
Positive	75	14	11
Neutral	37	45	18
Negative	10	81	9

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A majority of respondents in 19 EU Member States (compared with 22 in summer 2022) say they trust the **European Commission**. Trust levels are highest in Denmark (72%), Malta (66%) and Sweden (65%).

A minority trusts the European Commission in the remaining eight countries: Greece (63% “tend not to trust” vs 30% “tend to trust”), Slovenia (49% vs 38%), Austria (48% vs 40%), Slovakia and Cyprus (both 47% vs 37%), Spain (46% vs 39%), Czechia (41% vs 39%) and France (40% vs 35%).

QA11.2. Please tell if you tend to trust or tend not to trust these European institutions? :-The European Commission (%)



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● Tend to trust ● Tend not to trust ● Don't know



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**QA11.2** Please tell if you tend to trust or tend not to trust these European institutions?

**The European Commission (%) - EU)**

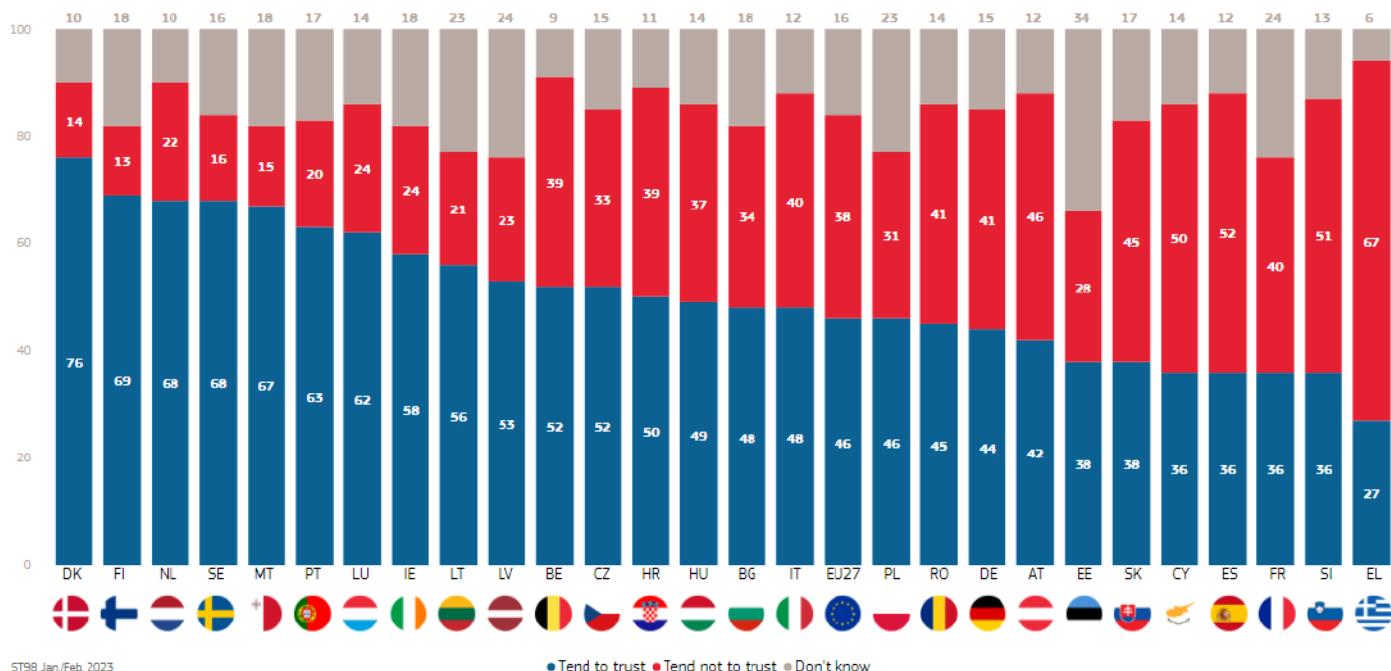
	Tend to trust	Tend not to trust	Don't know
EU27	46	37	17
<b>Gender</b>			
Man	46	39	15
Woman	46	34	20
<b>Age</b>			
15-24	51	26	23
25-39	48	37	15
40-54	48	39	13
55 +	42	38	20
<b>Education (End of)</b>			
15-	33	42	25
16-19	41	41	18
20+	55	33	12
Still studying	54	22	24
<b>Socio-professional category</b>			
Self-employed	50	38	12
Managers	60	29	11
Other white collars	52	34	14
Manual workers	42	43	15
House persons	36	41	23
Unemployed	28	51	21
Retired	41	38	21
Students	54	22	24
<b>Difficulties paying bills</b>			
Most of the time	28	55	17
From time to time	40	44	16
Almost never/ Never	51	31	18
<b>Consider belonging to</b>			
The working class	32	46	22
The lower middle class	38	43	19
The middle class	51	34	15
The upper middle class	66	23	11
The upper class	72	18	10
<b>Image of the EU</b>			
Positive	71	15	14
Neutral	34	43	23
Negative	9	80	11

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In 20 EU Member States (the same as in summer 2022), the majority trusts the **European Central Bank**. As was the case for the European Parliament and the European Commission, respondents in Denmark (76%) are the most likely to trust this institution, followed by those in Finland (69%) and in the Netherlands and Sweden (both 68%).

In the remaining seven countries, minorities trust the European Central Bank: Greece (67% “tend not to trust” vs 27% “tend to trust”), Spain (52% vs 36%), Slovenia (51% vs 36%), Cyprus (50% vs 36%), Austria (46% vs 42%), Slovakia (45% vs 38%) and France (40% vs 36%).

QA11.3 Please tell if you tend to trust or tend not to trust these European institutions?: The European Central Bank (%)



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**Public opinion in the European Union**  
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**QA11.3** Please tell if you tend to trust or tend not to trust these European institutions?

**The European Central Bank (%) - EU)**

	Tend to trust	Tend not to trust	Don't know
EU27	46	38	16
<b>Gender</b>			
Man	47	40	13
Woman	44	38	18
<b>Age</b>			
15-24	49	29	22
25-39	47	40	13
40-54	47	40	13
55 +	43	40	17
<b>Education (End of)</b>			
15-	32	45	23
16-19	41	43	16
20+	56	33	11
Still studying	52	26	22
<b>Socio-professional category</b>			
Self- employed	50	38	12
Managers	60	31	9
Other white collars	52	36	12
Manual workers	41	44	15
House persons	34	46	20
Unemployed	27	53	20
Retired	41	39	20
Students	52	26	22
<b>Difficulties paying bills</b>			
Most of the time	26	58	16
From time to time	39	46	15
Almost never/ Never	51	33	16
<b>Consider belonging to</b>			
The working class	31	47	22
The lower middle class	38	46	16
The middle class	51	35	14
The upper middle class	67	23	10
The upper class	71	20	9
<b>Image of the EU</b>			
Positive	68	18	14
Neutral	34	46	20
Negative	14	76	10

**Standard Eurobarometer 98**  
**Public opinion in the European Union**  
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The trend analysis at country level shows that, while the trust index for the European Central Bank has improved in most countries since the last Standard Eurobarometer survey in summer 2022, the opposite holds true for the European Parliament and the European Commission. The EU Member States in which an improvement of this index is observed across the three institutions are Croatia, Denmark, Finland, Latvia, Italy, the Netherlands and Sweden. Conversely, Belgium, Estonia, Hungary, Luxembourg, Malta, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain and Poland are consistently among the countries where this index has deteriorated the most for the three institutions.

In 18 EU Member States, the trust index for the **European Parliament** has declined since summer 2022, most notably in Slovenia (-19 index points) and in Belgium, Hungary and Poland (all -17ip). Increases of at least ten index points can be found in Latvia (+18ip), Sweden (+14ip) and Croatia (+10ip).

In 15 countries, the gap between those who trust and those who do not trust the **European Commission** has narrowed since summer 2022. The largest decreases in this index are recorded in Poland (-18 index points) and in Belgium, Slovakia and Slovenia (all -15ip). At the opposite end of the scale, increases of at least ten index points are observed in Latvia (+15ip), Sweden (+13ip) and Croatia (+10ip). The trust-distrust ratio remains unchanged in Czechia and Greece.

In 14 EU Member States, there has been an improvement in the trust index for the **European Central Bank** since summer 2022. This is particularly the case for the Netherlands (+12 index points), Croatia (+11ip) and Greece and Sweden (both +10ip). This index has deteriorated by more than ten index points in seven countries, most notably in Slovakia (-18ip), Poland (-17ip) and Slovenia (-16ip).

**QA11.1 Please tell if you tend to trust or tend not to trust these European institutions?**

**The European Parliament (%)**

	EU27	EURO	NON EURO	LV	SE	HR	DK	NL	FI	IT	CZ	PT	IE	FR	BG	LT	ES	EL	RO	SK	CY	DE	MT	EE	LU	AT	BE	HU	PL	SI
Tend to trust - Tend not to trust Jan/Feb 2023	12	8	21	36	52	21	54	33	44	18	3	44	42	-2	1	39	-4	-24	12	-11	-5	10	41	12	33	-12	12	15	22	-18
Tend to trust - Tend not to trust Jun/Jul 2022	16	13	27	18	38	11	46	27	38	14	0	42	43	-1	3	41	0	-17	19	-2	5	22	53	25	46	3	29	32	39	1
Jan/Feb 2023 - Jun/Jul 2022	▼4	▼5	▼6	▲18	▲14	▲10	▲8	▲6	▲6	▲4	▲3	▲2	▼1	▼1	▼2	▼2	▼4	▼7	▼7	▼9	▼10	▼12	▼13	▼15	▼17	▼17	▼17	▼17	▼19	

**QA11.2 Please tell if you tend to trust or tend not to trust these European institutions?**

**The European Commission (%)**

	EU27	EURO	NON EURO	LV	SE	HR	NL	FI	IT	DK	IE	PT	FR	CZ	EL	BG	MT	CY	ES	LT	EE	RO	LU	AT	DE	HU	BE	SI	SK	PL
Tend to trust - Tend not to trust Jan/Feb 2023	9	6	21	33	49	13	34	41	14	55	42	46	+5	-2	-33	6	49	-10	-7	42	11	16	36	-8	4	16	10	-11	-10	19
Tend to trust - Tend not to trust Jun/Jul 2022	12	8	27	18	36	3	28	35	9	51	38	43	-7	-2	-33	8	51	-7	-3	46	19	24	45	1	15	30	25	4	5	37
Jan/Feb 2023 - Jun/Jul 2022	▼3	▼2	▼6	▲15	▲13	▲10	▲6	▲6	▲4	▲3	▲2	=	=	▼2	▼2	▼3	▼4	▼4	▼8	▼8	▼9	▼11	▼14	▼15	▼15	▼15	▼18			

**QA11.3 Please tell if you tend to trust or tend not to trust these European institutions?**

**The European Central Bank (%)**

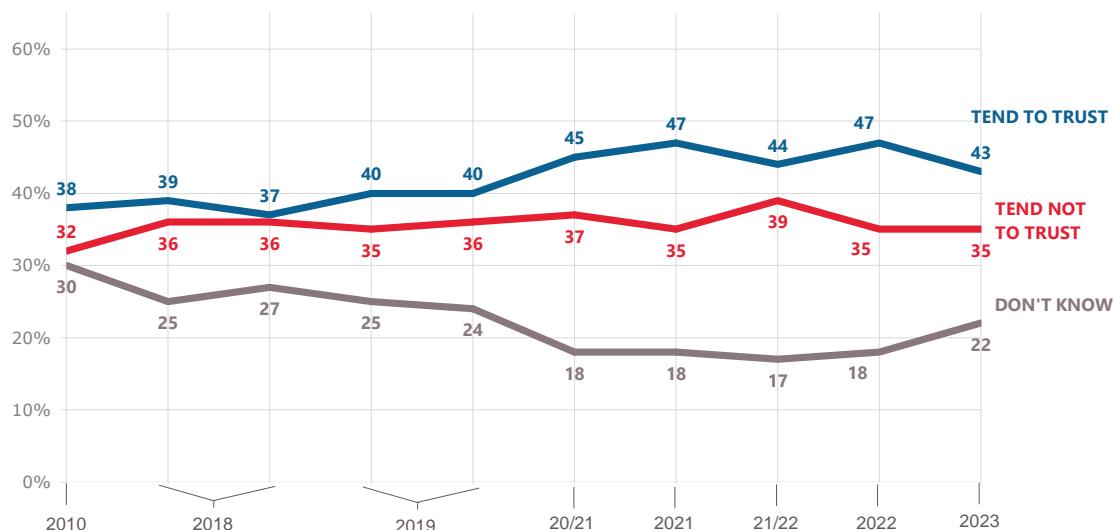
	EU27	EURO	NON EURO	NL	HR	EL	SE	DK	LV	FI	IT	BG	CZ	DE	IE	FR	CY	AT	PT	LT	MT	LU	ES	RO	HU	BE	EE	SI	PL	SK
Tend to trust - Tend not to trust Jan/Feb 2023	8	3	20	46	11	-40	52	62	30	56	8	14	19	3	34	-4	-14	-4	43	35	52	38	-16	4	12	13	10	-15	15	-7
Tend to trust - Tend not to trust Jun/Jul 2022	8	2	26	34	0	-50	42	56	24	50	3	10	16	0	32	-6	-16	-4	43	40	57	45	-7	15	25	28	25	1	32	11
Jan/Feb 2023 - Jun/Jul 2022	=	▲1	▼6	▲12	▲11	▲10	▲10	▲6	▲6	▲5	▲4	▲3	▲3	▲2	▲2	▲2	=	=	▼5	▼5	▼7	▼9	▼11	▼13	▼15	▼15	▼16	▼17	▼18	

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After having reached for the second time its highest level in the last Eurobarometer Standard survey, the level of trust in the **European Council** has decreased by four percentage points since summer 2022 (43%), while the proportion who distrusts this institution is stable at 35%.

**QA11.4** Please tell me if you tend to trust or tend not to trust these European institutions?

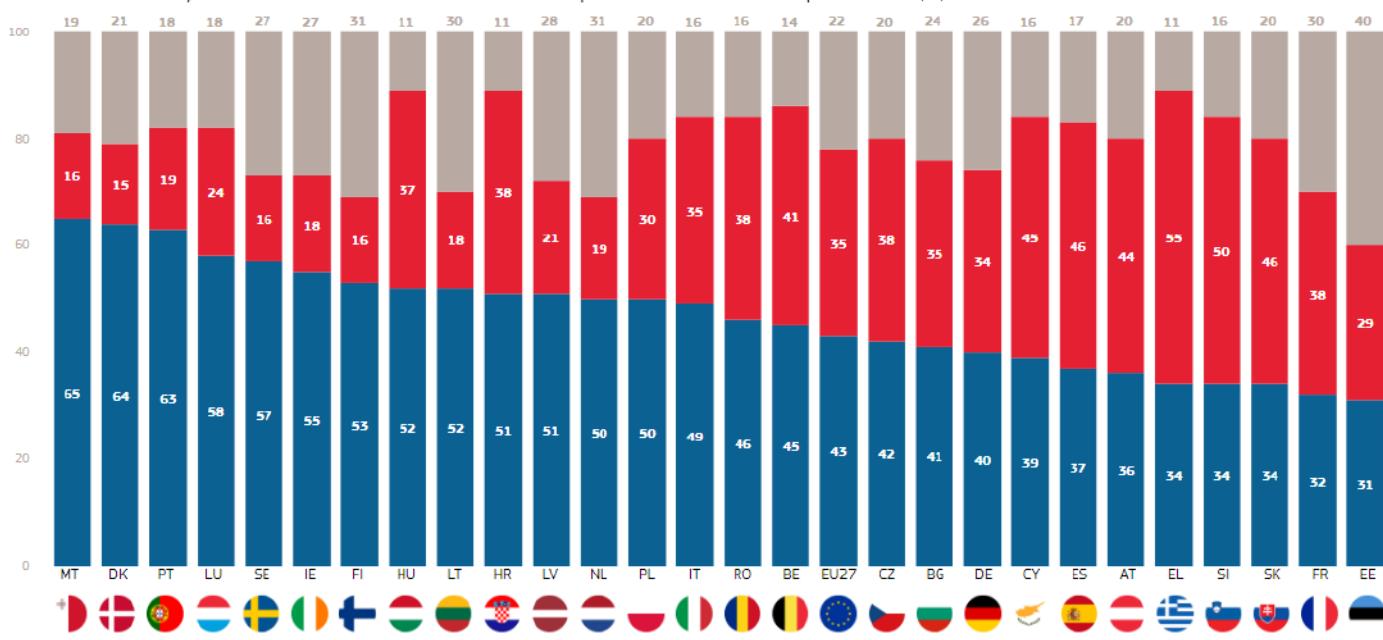
The European Council (% - EU)



In 19 EU Member States (compared with 22 in summer 2022), a majority of respondents trust the European Council. The level of trust is highest in Malta (65%), Denmark (64%) and Portugal (63%).

Distrust outweighs trust in seven countries: Greece (55% "tend not to trust" vs 34% "tend to trust"), Slovenia (50% vs 34%), Spain (46% vs 37%), Slovakia (46% vs 34%), Cyprus (45% vs 39%), Austria (44% vs 36%) and France (38% vs 32%). Estonia is the only country where a majority expresses no opinion (40% "don't know"; 31% "tend to trust"; 29% "tend not to trust").

**QA11.4** Please tell if you tend to trust or tend not to trust these European institutions?: The European Council (%)



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**Public opinion in the European Union**  
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**QA11.4** Please tell if you tend to trust or tend not to trust these European institutions?

**The European Council** (% - EU)

	Tend to trust	Tend not to trust	Don't know
EU27	43	35	22
 <b>Gender</b>			
Man	44	37	19
Woman	43	33	24
 <b>Age</b>			
15-24	49	24	27
25-39	45	36	19
40-54	44	38	18
55 +	40	36	24
 <b>Education (End of)</b>			
15-	31	39	30
16-19	39	40	21
20+	52	30	18
Still studying	53	21	26
<b>Socio-professional category</b>			
Self-employed	49	35	16
Managers	56	27	17
Other white collars	49	33	18
Manual workers	38	43	19
House persons	32	40	28
Unemployed	27	47	26
Retired	39	35	26
Students	53	21	26
 <b>Difficulties paying bills</b>			
Most of the time	27	54	19
From time to time	37	43	20
Almost never/ Never	48	29	23
<b>Consider belonging to</b>			
The working class	30	44	26
The lower middle class	36	41	23
The middle class	49	31	20
The upper middle class	60	23	17
The upper class	65	18	17
 <b>Image of the EU</b>			
Positive	67	14	19
Neutral	32	42	26
Negative	9	75	16

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**Public opinion in the European Union**  
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## 2.2 Trust in the European Union

### A majority continues to trust the European Union

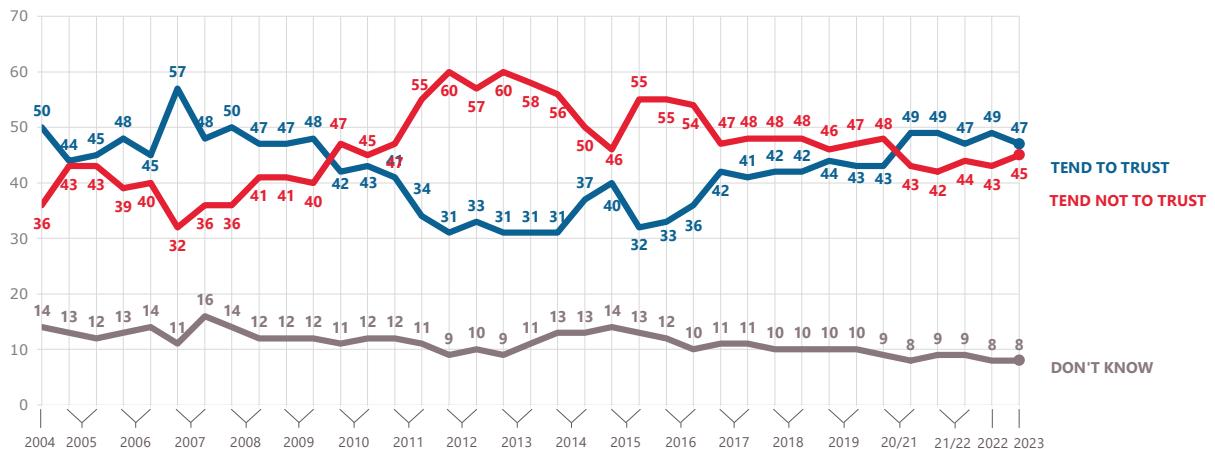
As has always been the case since winter 2020-2021, a majority of respondents (47%) tend to trust the European Union. This proportion has slightly decreased since summer 2022 (-2 percentage points), returning to levels observed in winter 2021-22. Conversely, 45% (+2pp) say they tend not to trust the EU and fewer than one in ten (8%, no change) express no opinion<sup>55</sup>.

As in previous Standard Eurobarometer surveys, respondents living in countries that are **outside the euro area** are more likely than those living in **euro area** countries to trust the European Union (55% vs 44%).

Following a three-index point increase between winter 2021-22 and summer 2022, the trust index has deteriorated since the last Standard Eurobarometer survey. The gap between the proportion who tend to trust the European Union and the proportion who tend not to trust it has decreased by four index points and currently stands at +2ip.

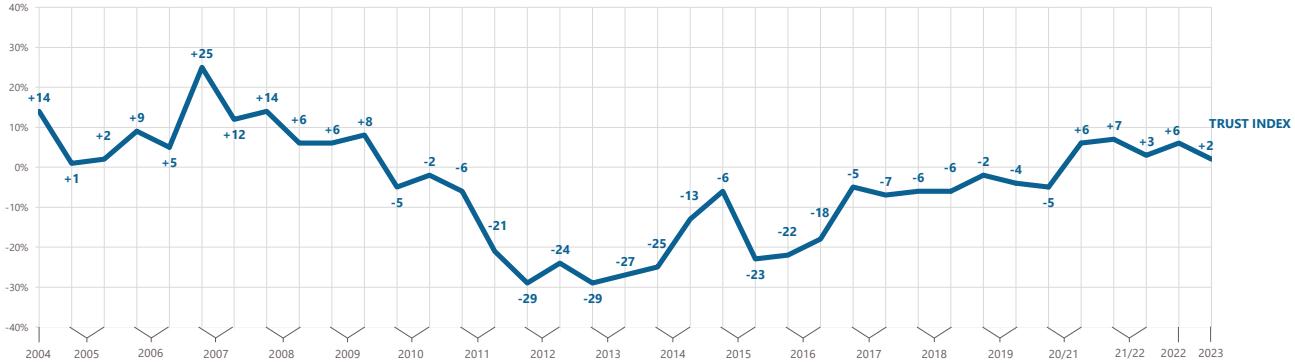
**QA6.11** How much trust do you have in certain institutions? For each of the following institutions, do you tend to trust it or tend not to trust it?

The European Union (% - EU)



**QA6a.11** How much trust do you have in certain institutions? For each of the following institutions, do you tend to trust it or tend not to trust it?

The European Union (EU - TRUST INDEX)



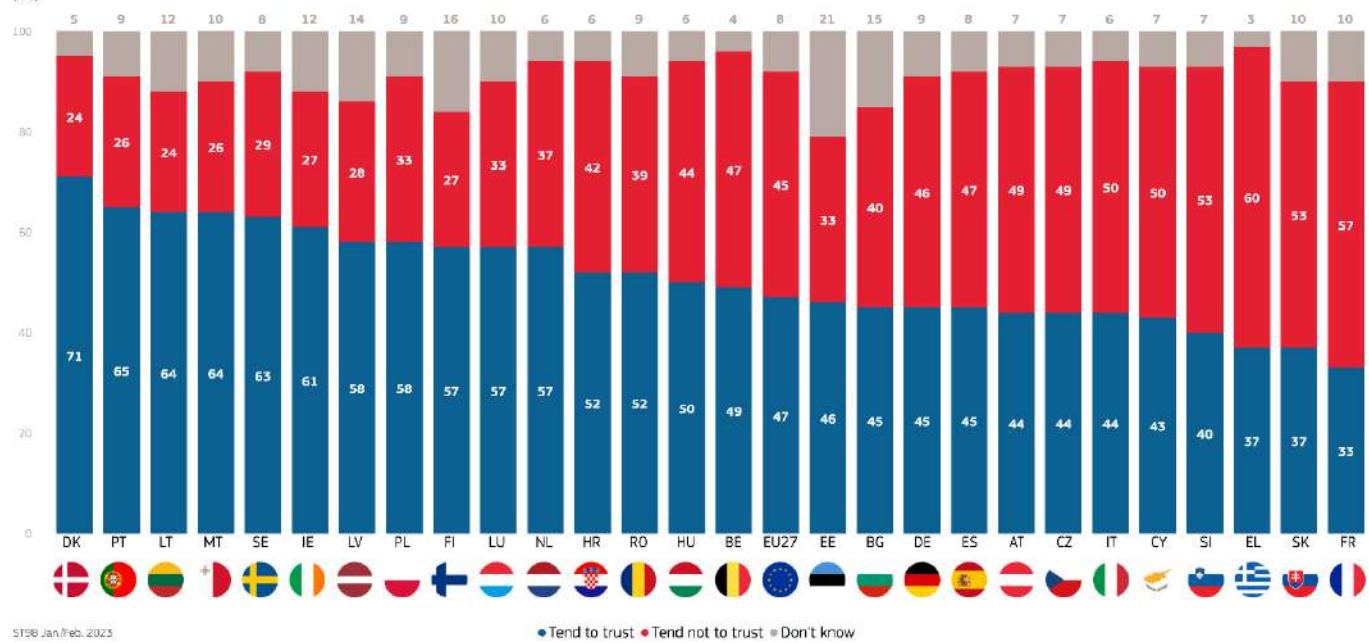
<sup>55</sup> QA6.11. How much trust do you have in certain institutions? For each of the following institutions, do you tend to trust it or tend not to trust it? The European Union.

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**Public opinion in the European Union**  
**Winter 2022-2023**

The level of trust in the European Union varies widely across the EU Member States. A majority of respondents in 17 countries (compared with 18 in summer 2022) say they tend to trust the EU, with the largest proportions being observed in Denmark (71%), Portugal (65%) and in Lithuania and Malta (both 64%).

Conversely, a minority of the respondents trust the EU in the remaining ten Member States: Greece (60% "tend not to trust" vs 37% "tend to trust"), France (57% vs 33%), Slovenia (53% vs 40%), Slovakia (53% vs 37%), Cyprus (50% vs 43%), Italy (50% vs 44%), Czechia and Austria (both 49% vs 44%), Spain (47% vs 45%) and Germany (46% vs 45%).

QA6.11. How much trust do you have in certain institutions? For each of the following institutions, do you tend to trust it or tend not to trust it? :-The European Union (%)



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In 17 EU Member States, the proportion of respondents who say they tend to trust the European Union has declined since summer 2022. This is especially the case for Malta (64%, -7 percentage points), Slovakia (37%, -7pp), Belgium (49%, -6pp), Hungary (50%, -6pp) and Poland (58%, -6pp). At the other end of the scale, Croatia (52%, +10pp) stands out for a particularly large increase in this share of respondents, followed by Denmark (71%, +6pp) and the Netherlands (57%, +5pp). Trust levels have remained stable in Austria (44%) and Greece (37%).

The proportion who distrusts the EU has risen in 14 countries, but in only in three countries has it increased by at least five percentage points: Spain (47%, +6pp), Belgium (47%, +5pp) and Poland (33%, +5pp). Conversely, this share of respondents has declined in 12 countries, particularly in Sweden (29%, -10pp), Croatia (42%, -8pp), Denmark (24%, -8pp) and the Netherlands (37%, -8pp). The level of distrust has remained unchanged in Greece (60%).

QA6.11 How much trust do you have in certain institutions? For each of the following institutions, do you tend to trust it or tend not to trust it?

The European Union (%)

	EU27	EURO	NON EURO	HR	DK	NL	IE	LV	SE	CZ	CY	EL	AT	FR	EE	IT	RO	LU	PT	FI	BG	DE	SI	ES	LT	BE	HU	PL	MT	SK	
Tend to trust	Jan/Feb 2023	47	44	55	52	71	57	61	58	63	44	43	37	44	33	46	44	52	57	65	57	45	45	40	45	64	49	50	58	64	37
	Δ Jun/Jul 2022	▼2	▼2	▼2	▲10	▲6	▲5	▲3	▲2	▲2	▲1	▲1	=	=	▼1	▼2	▼2	▼2	▼3	▼3	▼4	▼4	▼5	▼5	▼6	▼6	▼7	▼7	▼7		
Tend not to trust	Jan/Feb 2023	45	48	36	42	24	37	27	28	29	49	50	60	49	57	33	50	39	33	26	27	40	46	53	47	24	47	44	33	26	53
	Δ Jun/Jul 2022	▲2	▲3	=	▼8	▼8	▼8	▼4	▼5	▼10	▼1	▼4	=	▼1	▲4	▼3	▲4	▲3	▲1	▲2	▼5	▲4	▲3	▲3	▲6	▼3	▲5	▲4	▲5	▲2	▲3
Don't know	Jan/Feb 2023	8	8	9	6	5	6	12	14	8	7	7	3	7	10	21	6	9	10	9	16	15	9	7	8	12	4	6	9	10	10
	Δ Jun/Jul 2022	=	▼1	▲2	▼2	▲2	▲3	▲1	▲3	▲8	=	▲3	=	▲1	▼3	▲5	▼2	▼1	▲2	▲1	▲8	=	▲1	▲1	▼1	▲8	▲1	▲2	▲1	▲5	▲4

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**Public opinion in the European Union**  
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The **socio-demographic data** reveals that levels of trust in the European Union are particularly high among the following categories:

- The youngest respondents (58% of those aged 15-24);
- Those who finished their full-time education aged 20 or more (53%);
- Managers (59%);
- Those who never or almost never have difficulties paying their bills (52%);
- Those who see themselves as part of the upper middle or upper class of society (64-72%);
- Those living in large towns (54%).

Conversely, respondents who trust the EU are in the minority among the following:

- Those aged 40-54 (46% "tend to trust" vs 47% "tend not to trust") or aged 55 or more (43% vs 48%);
- Those who left their full-time education aged 15 or younger (35% "tend to trust" vs 53% "tend not to trust") or aged between 16 and 19 (42% vs 51%);
- The unemployed (33% "tend to trust" vs 58% "tend not to trust"), house persons (39% vs 50%) and manual workers (40% vs 52%);
- Those who have difficulties paying their bills most of the time (29% "tend to trust" vs 62% "tend not to trust") or from time to time (40% vs 51%);
- Those who consider themselves as belonging to the working class (35% "tend to trust" vs 54% "tend not to trust") or to the lower middle class (40% vs 52%);
- Those living in rural villages or in small/mid-sized towns (44% "tend to trust" vs 48% "tend not to trust" for both).

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**QA6.11** How much trust do you have in certain institutions? For each of the following institutions, do you tend to trust it or tend not to trust it?

**The European Union (% - EU)**

	Tend to trust	Tend not to trust	Don't know
EU27	47	45	8
<b>Gender</b>			
Man	47	46	7
Woman	46	44	10
<b>Age</b>			
15-24	58	32	10
25-39	48	45	7
40-54	46	47	7
55 +	43	48	9
<b>Education (End of)</b>			
15-	35	53	12
16-19	42	51	7
20+	53	40	7
Still studying	62	28	10
<b>Socio-professional category</b>			
Self- employed	48	46	6
Managers	59	36	5
Other white collars	50	43	7
Manual workers	40	52	8
House persons	39	50	11
Unemployed	33	58	9
Retired	41	48	11
Students	62	28	10
<b>Difficulties paying bills</b>			
Most of the time	29	62	9
From time to time	40	51	9
Almost never/ Never	52	40	8
<b>Consider belonging to</b>			
The working class	35	54	11
The lower middle class	40	52	8
The middle class	51	42	7
The upper middle class	64	29	7
The upper class	72	25	3
<b>Image of the EU</b>			
Positive	75	20	5
Neutral	32	55	13
Negative	7	89	4

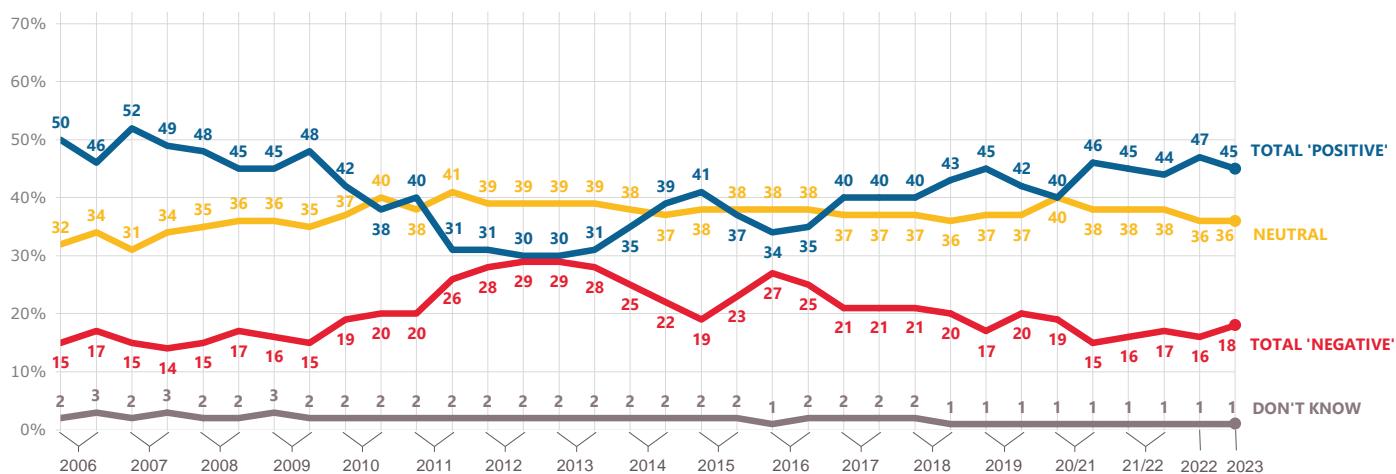
## 2.3 The European Union's image

### The majority has a positive image of the EU

The EU conjures up a positive image for the majority of respondents (45%), despite a slight decrease in this proportion since summer 2022 (-2 percentage points). Less than four in ten (36%, no change) have a neutral image of the EU, while 18% (+2pp) have a negative image. Respondents for whom the EU conjures up a positive image have consistently been in the majority since winter 2020-21<sup>56</sup>.

There are small differences between respondents living in **euro area** countries and those living **outside the euro area** when it comes to the image they have of the EU. Majorities of respondents both within the euro area (43%) and outside (49%) say the EU conjures up a positive image, while more than one third have a neutral image (37% and 36%, respectively) and less than a fifth have a negative image (19% and 14%, respectively). Compared to summer 2022, the image of the EU has deteriorated in both the euro area (-2pp) and non-euro area (-4 pp).

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



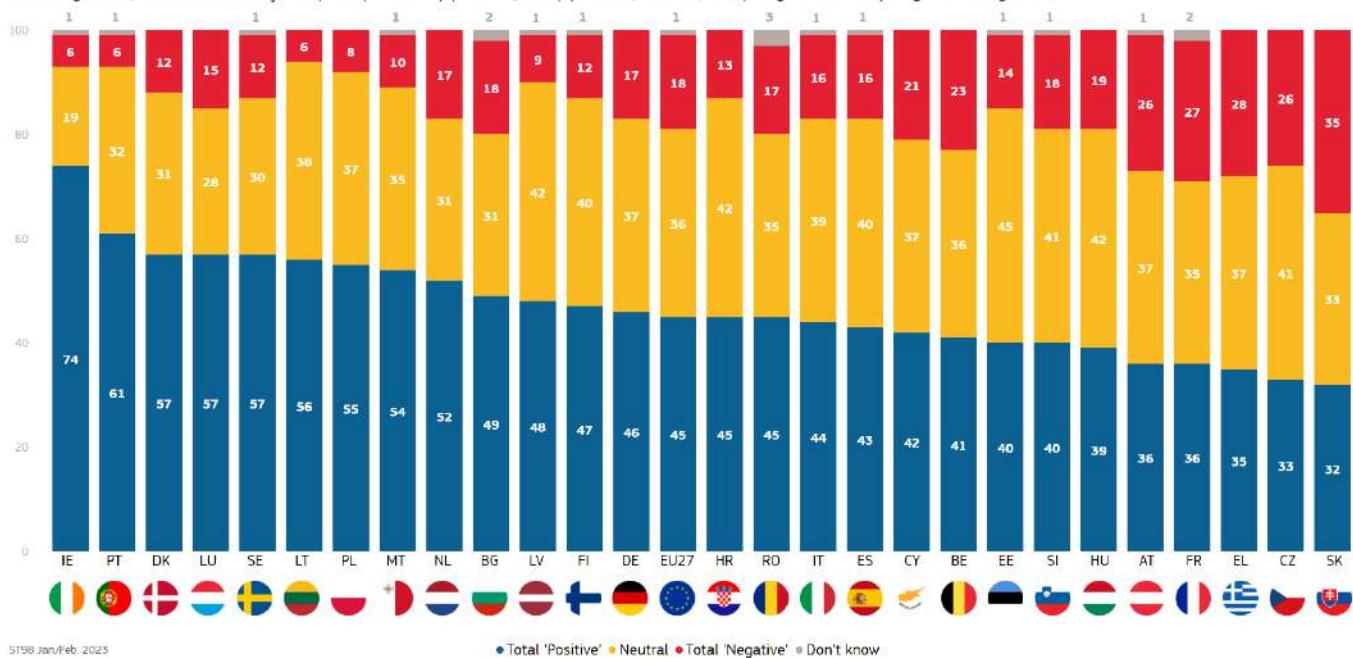
<sup>56</sup> D78. In general, does the EU conjure up for you a very positive, fairly positive, neutral, fairly negative or very negative image?

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In 20 Member States (compared with 22 in summer 2022), the EU conjures up a positive image for a majority of respondents. In addition, in all countries (with the sole exception of Slovakia), the proportion who has a positive image of the EU outweighs the proportion with a negative image. This gap is the widest in Ireland (74% "positive" vs 6% "negative"), Portugal (61% vs 6%) and Lithuania (56% vs 6%). Conversely, this gap is smallest in Czechia (33% vs 26%), Greece (35% vs 28%) and France (36% vs 27%).

The majority has a neutral image of the EU in six countries: Estonia (45% "neutral" vs 40% "positive"), Hungary (42% vs 39%), Czechia (41% vs 33%), Slovenia (41% vs 40%), Greece (37% vs 35%) and Austria (37% vs 36%). Slovakia is the only country where the majority has a negative image of the EU (35% "negative"; 33% "neutral"; 32% "positive").

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

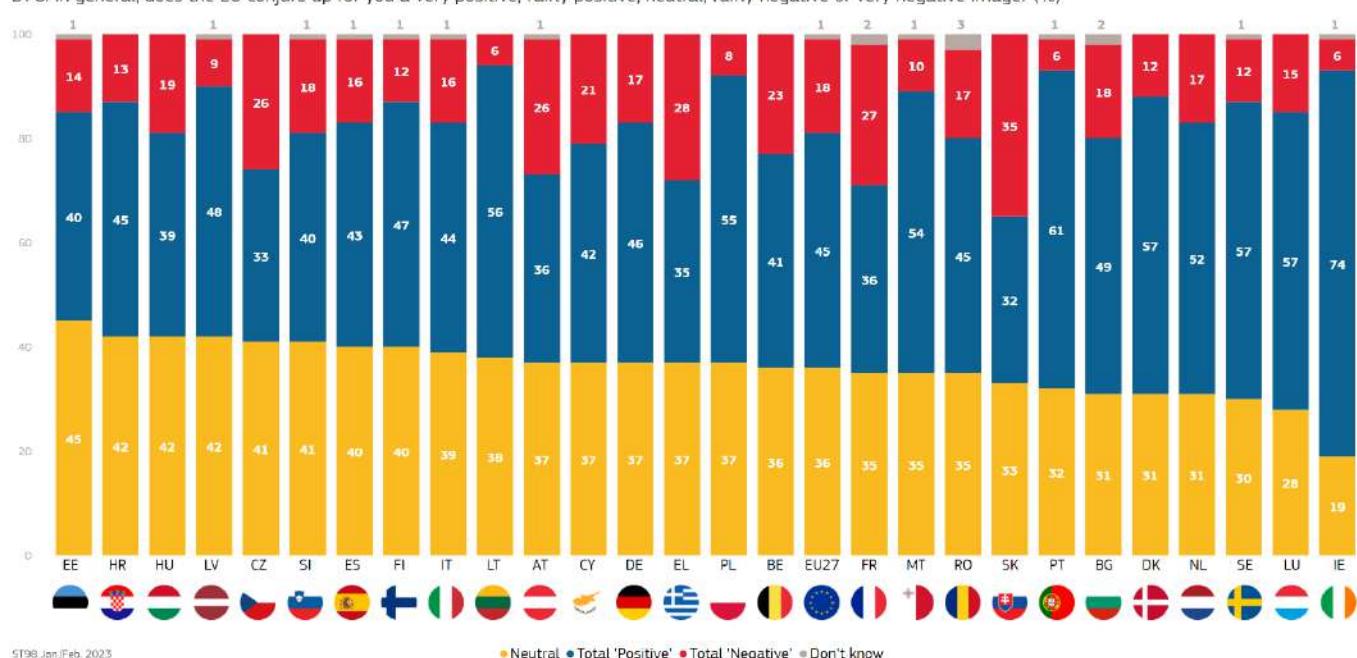


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● Total 'Positive' ■ Neutral ■ Total 'Negative' □ Don't know

Sorted on total 'Positive'

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



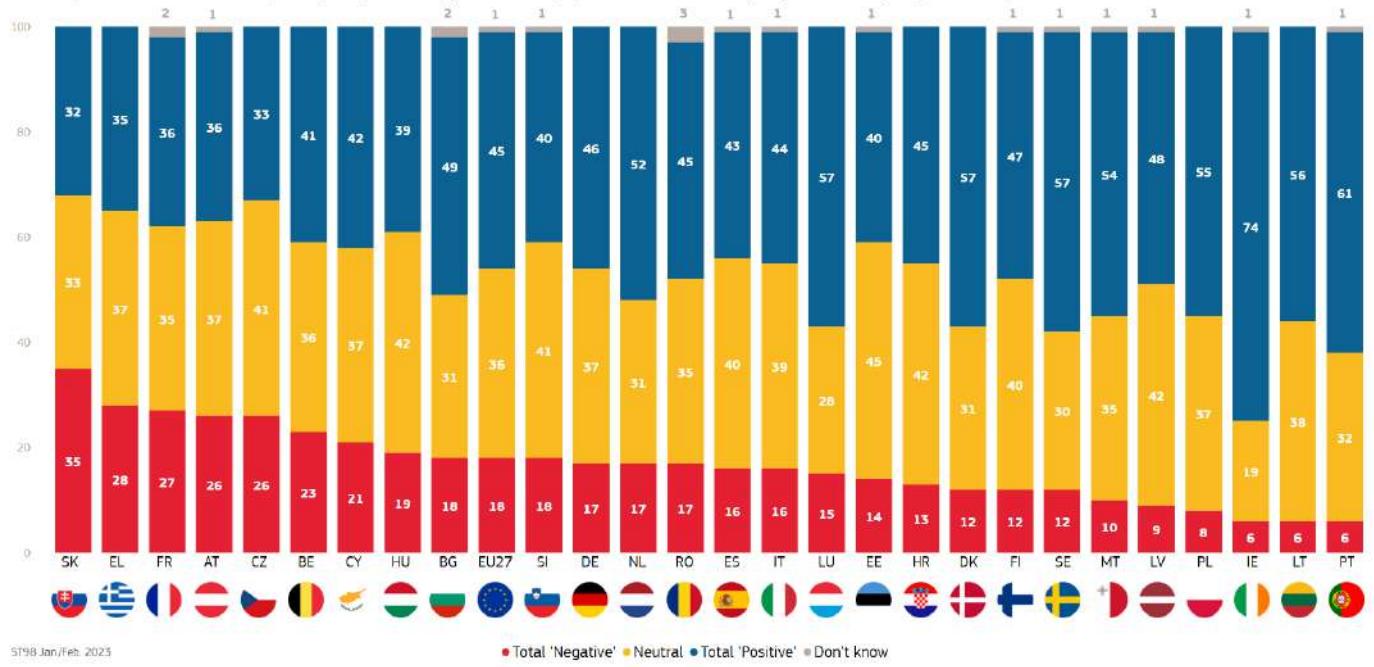
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■ Neutral ● Total 'Positive' ■ Total 'Negative' □ Don't know

Sorted on "Neutral"

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



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In 18 EU Member States, the proportion of respondents who say they have a positive image of the EU has declined since summer 2022. Hungary (39%, -12 percentage points) stands out for a particularly large decrease in this share of respondents, followed by Poland (55%, -8pp) and Slovakia (32%, -7pp). At the opposite end of the scale, this proportion has increased in eight countries and by at least five percentage points in Denmark and Sweden (both 57%, +6pp), Cyprus (42%, +5pp) and the Netherlands (52%, +5pp). It has remained stable in France (36%).

In 11 countries, respondents are less likely than they were in summer 2022 to say that the EU conjures up a negative image for them. The largest decreases can be observed in Latvia (9%, -7 percentage points), Cyprus (21%, -6pp) and Sweden (12%, -5pp). In 11 Member States, this share of respondents has risen, with Slovakia (35%, +10pp) standing out for a particularly large increase, followed by Germany (17%, +4pp), Hungary (19%, +4pp) and Poland (8%, +4pp). This proportion has remained unchanged in five countries: France (27%), Italy (16%), Luxembourg (15%), Estonia (14%) and Ireland (6%).

The share of respondents who say they have a neutral image of the EU has increased in 14 Member States since summer 2022. This is particularly the case for Czechia (41%, +9 percentage points) and for Hungary and Latvia (both 42%, +8pp). This proportion has declined in 11 countries, with the largest decreases recorded in Croatia (42%, -5pp), Ireland (19%, -4pp), Slovakia (33%, -3pp) and Spain (40%, -3pp). It has remained unchanged in Austria and Germany (both 37%).

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

		EU27	EURO	NON EURO	DK	SE	CY	NL	IE	EL	HR	AT	FR	ES	LV	BG	EE	IT	PT	RO	LT	LU	FI	DE	MT	SI	BE	CZ	SK	PL	HU
Total 'Positive'	Jan/Feb 2023	45	43	49	57	57	42	52	74	35	45	36	36	43	48	49	40	44	61	45	56	57	47	46	54	40	41	33	32	55	39
	Δ Jun/Jul 2022	▼2	▼2	▼4	▲6	▲6	▲5	▲5	▲4	▲4	▲4	▲1	=	▼1	▼1	▼2	▼2	▼2	▼2	▼3	▼3	▼3	▼4	▼5	▼5	▼6	▼6	▼7	▼8	▼12	
Neutral	Jan/Feb 2023	36	37	36	31	30	37	31	19	37	42	37	35	40	42	31	45	39	32	35	38	28	40	37	35	41	36	41	33	37	42
	Δ Jun/Jul 2022	=	=	▲2	▼2	▼2	▲1	▼2	▼4	▼1	▼5	=	▼1	▼3	▲8	▲3	▲2	▲1	▼1	▲7	▲3	▲6	=	▲3	▲3	▲9	▼3	▲4	▲8		
Total 'Negative'	Jan/Feb 2023	18	19	14	12	12	21	17	6	28	13	26	27	16	9	18	14	16	6	17	6	15	12	17	10	18	23	26	35	8	19
	Δ Jun/Jul 2022	▲2	▲2	▲2	▼3	▼5	▼6	▼3	=	▼3	▲1	▼2	=	▲3	▼7	▼1	=	=	▲2	▲3	▼4	=	▼3	▲4	▲2	▲2	▲3	▼3	▲10	▲4	▲4
Don't know	Jan/Feb 2023	1	1	1	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	1	2	1	1	2	1	1	1	3	0	0	1	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0
	Δ Jun/Jul 2022	=	=	=	▼1	▲1	=	=	=	=	▲1	▲1	=	=	=	▲1	▲1	=	=	=	=	=	=	=	=	=	=	=	=	=	

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The **socio-demographic data** highlights patterns similar to those observed for trust in the European Union, with age, education, socio-economic status and urbanisation playing an important role when it comes to the respondents' image of the EU.

The youngest respondents (52% of those aged 15-24, compared with 41% of those aged 55 or older), those who ended their full-time education aged 20 or older (53%, compared with 34% of those who left aged 15 or younger) and managers (59%, compared with 31% of the unemployed) are among the most likely to say the EU conjures up a positive image. Similarly, absolute majorities among those who never or almost never have difficulties paying their bills (51%, compared with 25% of those who have difficulties most of the time), those who consider themselves as belonging to the upper middle or upper class of society (67%, compared with 33% of those who see themselves as part of the working class) and those living in large towns (53%, compared with 41-42% of those living in rural villages or small/mid-sized towns) have a positive image of the EU.

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

	Total 'Positive'	Neutral	Total 'Negative'	Don't know
EU27	45	36	18	1
<b>Gender</b>				
Man	45	35	19	1
Woman	44	38	17	1
<b>Age</b>				
15-24	52	35	11	2
25-39	47	37	16	0
40-54	44	36	20	0
55 +	41	38	20	1
<b>Education (End of)</b>				
15-	34	40	23	3
16-19	39	40	21	0
20+	53	32	15	0
Still studying	58	32	9	1
<b>Socio-professional category</b>				
Self-employed	49	33	17	1
Managers	59	29	12	0
Other white collars	47	36	17	0
Manual workers	37	42	20	1
House persons	36	42	20	2
Unemployed	31	42	26	1
Retired	42	37	20	1
Students	58	32	9	1
<b>Difficulties paying bills</b>				
Most of the time	25	41	32	2
From time to time	36	42	21	1
Almost never/ Never	51	34	15	0
<b>Consider belonging to</b>				
The working class	33	41	25	1
The lower middle class	36	41	22	1
The middle class	48	36	15	1
The upper middle class	67	21	12	0
The upper class	67	24	9	0
<b>Subjective urbanisation</b>				
Rural village	41	39	19	1
Small/ mid size town	42	38	19	1
Large town	53	32	15	0

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### 3. Knowledge of the European Union

#### 3.1 Knowledge of how the European Union works

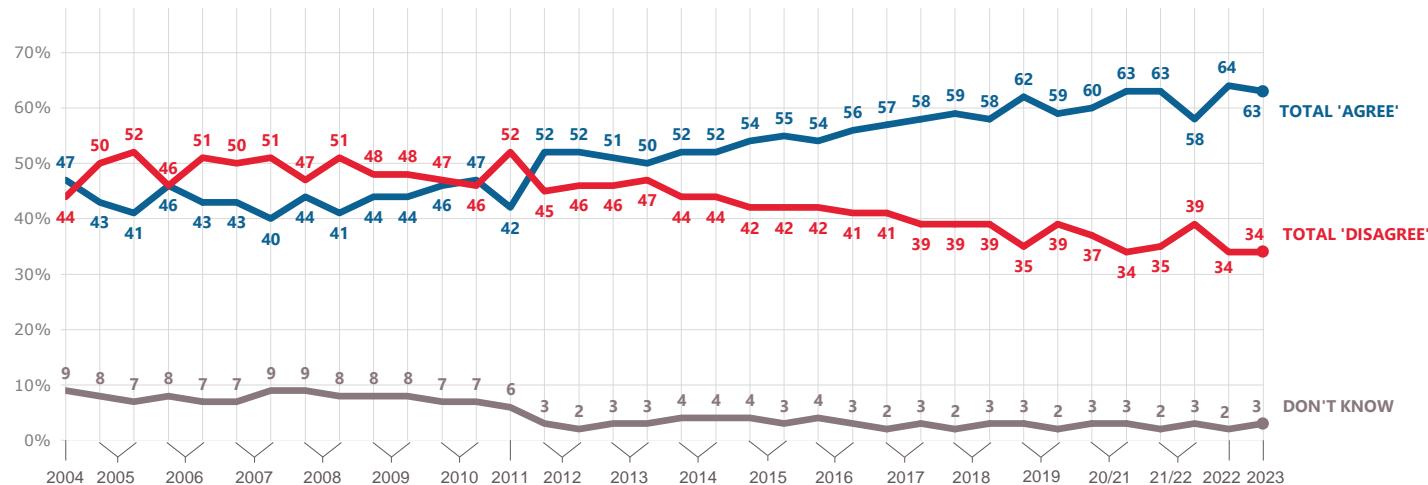
##### A large majority of respondents say they understand how the EU works

A clear majority of respondents (63%, -1 percentage point since summer 2022) say they understand how the EU works. Conversely, around a third (34%, no change) say they do not understand how the EU works, while 3% (+1pp) express no opinion. These proportions have remained broadly stable since the last Eurobarometer Standard survey in summer 2022<sup>57</sup>.

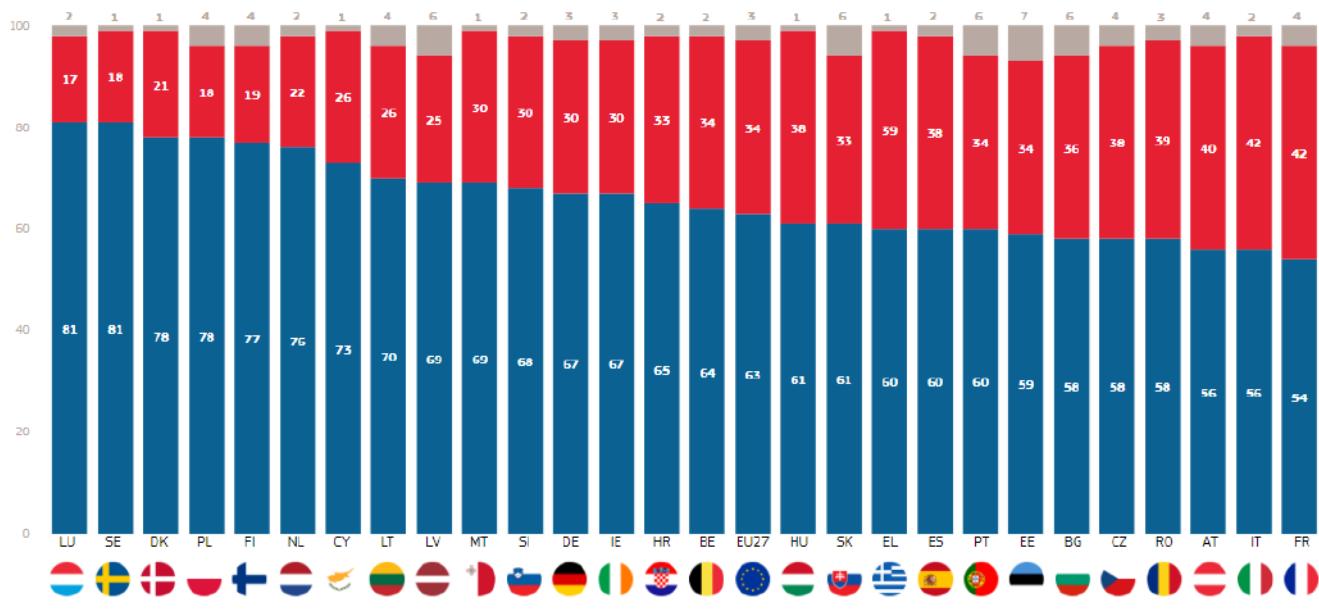
In all 27 EU Member States, the majority of respondents say they understand how the EU works. The highest proportions giving this answer can be found in Luxembourg and Sweden (both 81%) and in Denmark and Poland (both 78%), while the lowest are recorded in France (54%) and in Austria and Italy (both 56%).

**QA12.1** To what extent do you agree or disagree with each of the following statements?

I understand how the EU works (% - EU)



**QA12.1** To what extent do you agree or disagree with each of the following statements?: I understand how the EU works (%)



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

<sup>57</sup> QA12.1. Please tell me to what extent you agree or disagree with each of the following statements. I understand how the European Union works.

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The **socio-demographic data** reveal that men (69%, compared with 58% of women) and those in the central age cohorts (66-70% of those aged 25-54, compared with 63% of younger and 58% of older respondents) are among the most likely to say they understand how the EU works. Subjective understanding of the EU is also particularly high among those who stayed longer in full-time education (76% of those who finished aged 20 or older, compared with 38% of those who left aged 15 or younger), managers (81%, compared with 42% of house persons), those who never or almost never have difficulties paying their bills (69%, compared with 46% of those who have difficulties most of the time) and those who see themselves as part of the upper middle or upper class of society (84-85%, compared with 48% of those who consider themselves as working class).

**QA12.1** To what extent do you agree or disagree with each of the following statements?

I understand how the EU works (% - EU)

	Total 'Agree'	Total 'Disagree'	Don't know
EU27	63	34	3
 <b>Gender</b>			
Man	69	29	2
Woman	58	38	4
 <b>Age</b>			
15-24	63	33	4
25-39	70	27	3
40-54	66	32	2
55 +	58	39	3
 <b>Education (End of)</b>			
15-	38	59	3
16-19	60	36	4
20+	76	22	2
Still studying	67	30	3
 <b>Socio-professional category</b>			
Self-employed	77	22	1
Managers	81	18	1
Other white collars	71	27	2
Manual workers	59	38	3
House persons	42	53	5
Unemployed	51	44	5
Retired	56	40	4
Students	67	30	3
 <b>Difficulties paying bills</b>			
Most of the time	46	51	3
From time to time	55	42	3
Almost never/ Never	69	28	3
 <b>Image of the EU</b>			
Positive	78	20	2
Neutral	55	41	4
Negative	47	50	3

### **3.2 Objective knowledge of the European Union**

#### **More than a fifth correctly answer all three questions regarding the European Union**

After measuring subjective understanding of how the European Union works, this Standard Eurobarometer survey then quantified objective level of knowledge of the EU, using a “true/false” quiz consisting of three statements (“the euro area currently consists of 20 Member States”; “the Members of the European Parliament are directly elected by the citizens of each Member State”; “Switzerland is a Member State of the EU”)<sup>58</sup>.

Around nine in ten respondents (91%, -1 percentage point since summer 2022) give at least one correct answer, while 22% (-2pp) correctly answer all three questions. The share of respondents giving three correct answers is slightly higher in the non-euro area (25%) than in the euro area (22%). Nonetheless, this proportion has significantly decreased in countries outside the euro area (-8pp), while it has remained unchanged in euro area countries. Respondents in Poland (33%, -9pp), Greece (31%, -3pp), Cyprus (30%, -9pp), Luxembourg (30%, +5pp) and Slovakia (30%, -5pp) are the most likely to correctly answer all the three questions.

<sup>58</sup> SD20a. For each of the following statements about the EU could you please tell whether you think it is true or false? 1. The Euro area currently consists of 20 Member States; 2. The members of the European Parliament

are directly elected by the citizens of each Member State; 3. Switzerland is a Member State of the EU.

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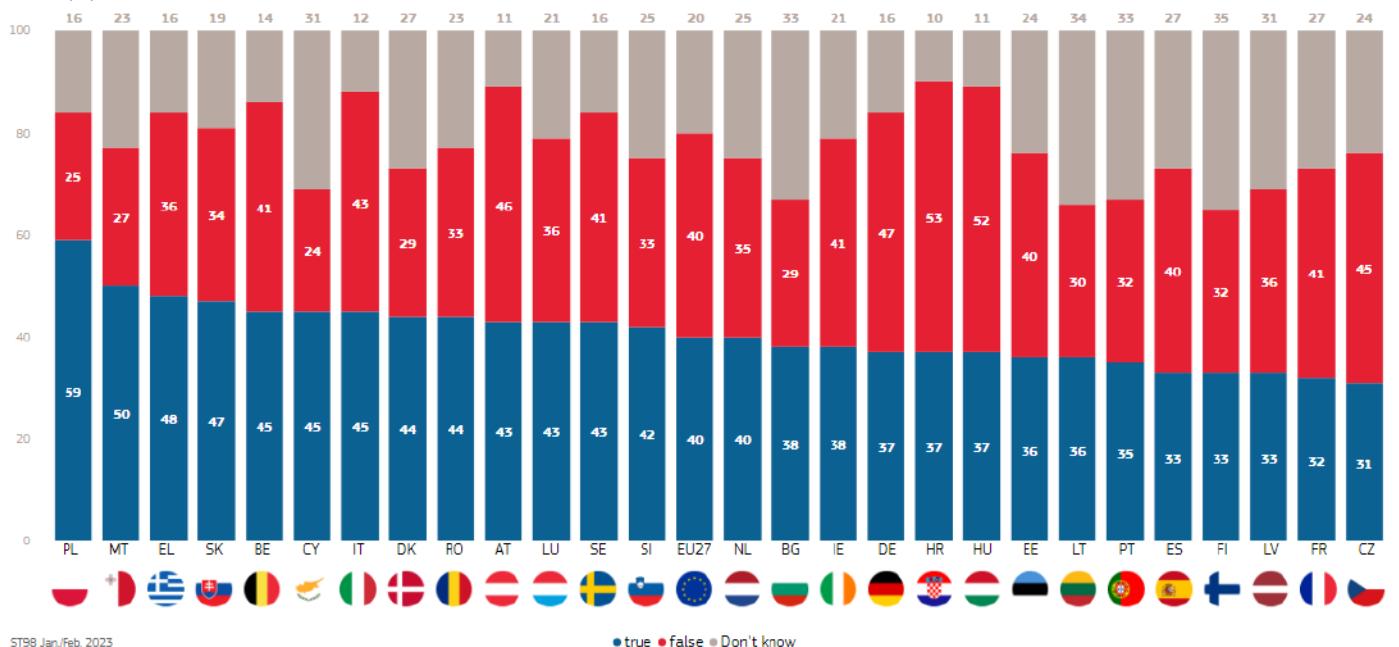
"The euro area currently consists of 20 Member States"

Four in ten respondents correctly say that "the euro area currently consists of 20 Member States". An equal proportion answer incorrectly and 20% say they "don't know". The proportion answering this question correctly has decreased by four percentage points since summer 2022, while the share of respondents giving an incorrect answer has increased slightly (+2pp)<sup>59</sup>. In the **euro area** a minority gives the right answer (38% "true" vs 42% "false"), while **outside the euro area** (47% vs 34%) a majority correctly answers this question. However, the proportion of respondents giving a correct answer has declined since summer 2022 in both euro area countries (-2pp) and non-euro area countries (-10pp).

At least four in ten respondents in 14 countries correctly state that the euro area currently consists of 20 Member States. Poland (59%) and Malta (50%) are the only countries where at least half give a correct answer, followed by Greece (48%). At the other end of the scale, one third or less correctly answer the question in Czechia (31%) and France (32%) and in Finland, Latvia and Spain (all 33%). Croatia (53%) and Hungary (52%) are the only countries where an absolute majority gives an incorrect answer. More than three in ten say they "don't know" in Finland (35%) and Lithuania (34%), in Bulgaria and Portugal (both 33%) and in Cyprus and Latvia (both 31%).

In 22 countries, the proportion correctly saying that the euro area currently consists of 20 Member States has declined since summer 2022. In 11 countries, this share of respondents has decreased by at least ten percentage points, particularly in Lithuania (-20pp), Malta (-19pp) and Finland (-18pp). Conversely, this proportion has increased in four countries: Croatia and Italy (both +5pp), Luxembourg (+4pp) and Portugal (+1pp). It has remained stable in Germany.

SD20a.1 For each of the following statements about the EU could you please tell whether you think it is true or false?: The Euro area currently consists of 20 Member States (%)



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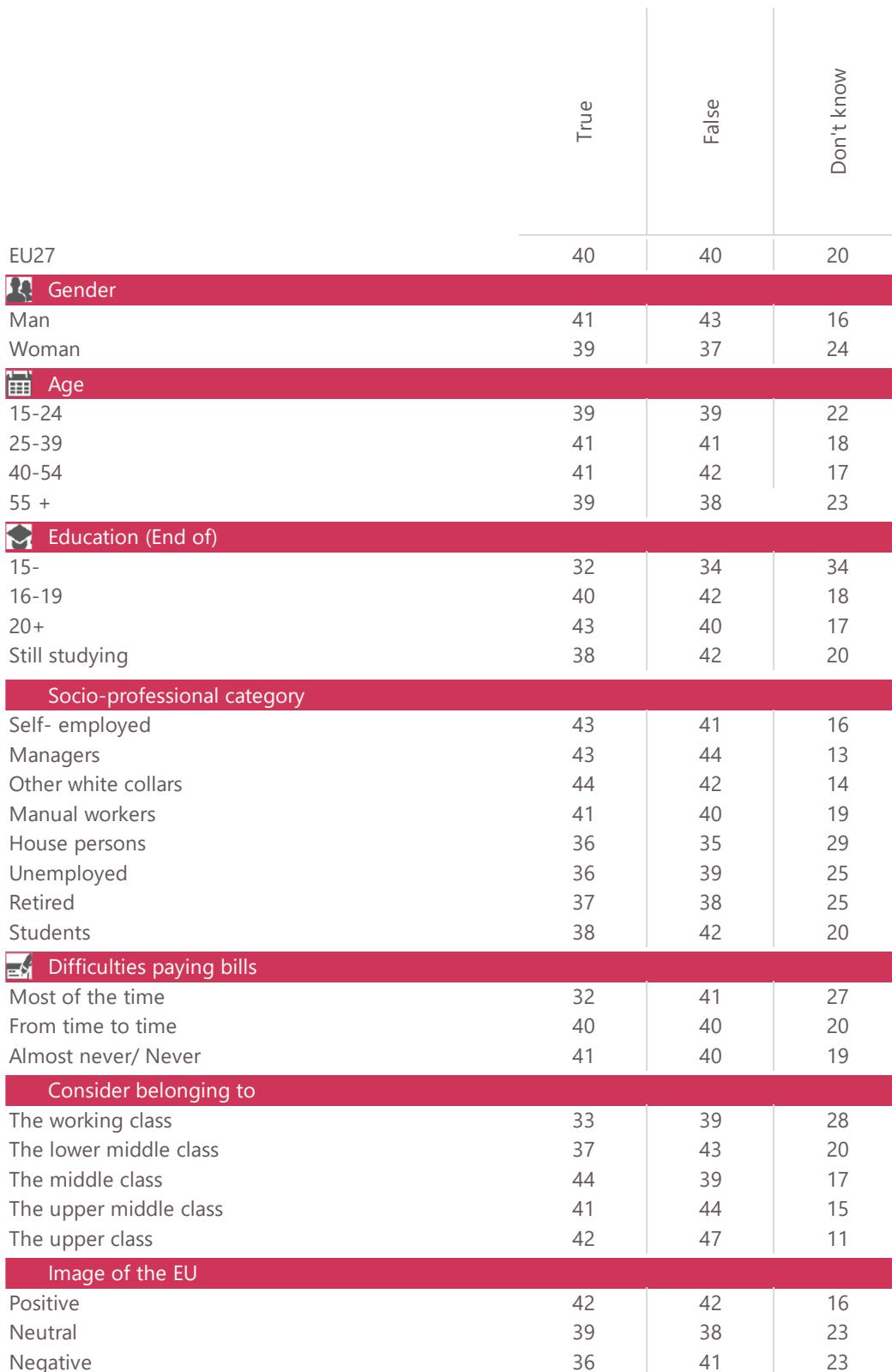
● true ■ false □ Don't know

<sup>59</sup> It should be noted that, following the adoption of the euro by Croatia on 1<sup>st</sup> January 2023, the text of the question was updated compared to the last Eurobarometer Standard survey in summer 2022.

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**SD20a.1** For each of the following statements about the EU could you please tell whether you think it is true or false?

**The Euro area currently consists of 20 Member States** (% - EU)



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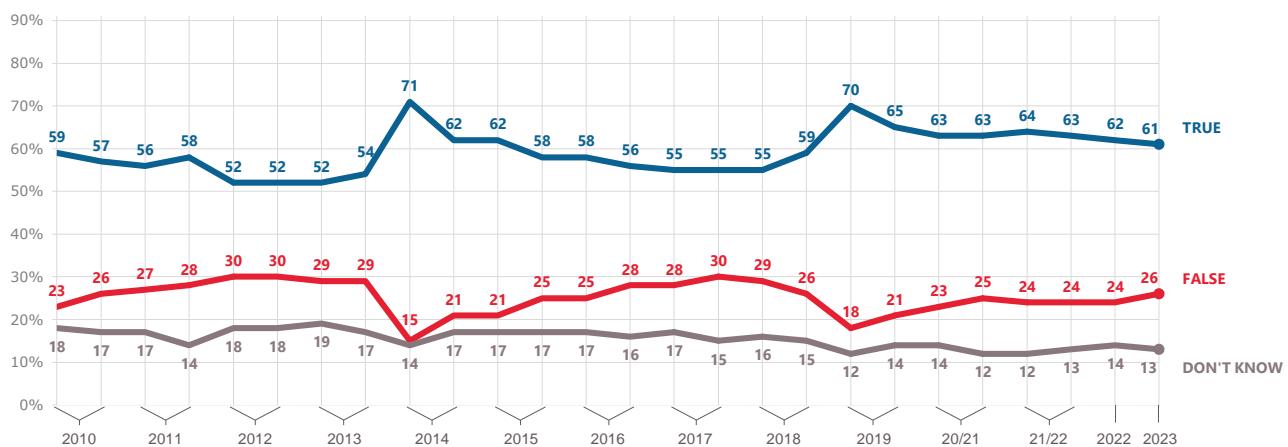
"The members of the European Parliament are directly elected by the citizens of each Member State"

Around six in ten respondents (61%, -1 percentage point since summer 2022) correctly answer that "the members of the European Parliament are directly elected by the citizens of each Member State", while around a quarter (26%, +2pp) gives an incorrect answer, and a further 13% (-1pp) say they "don't know".

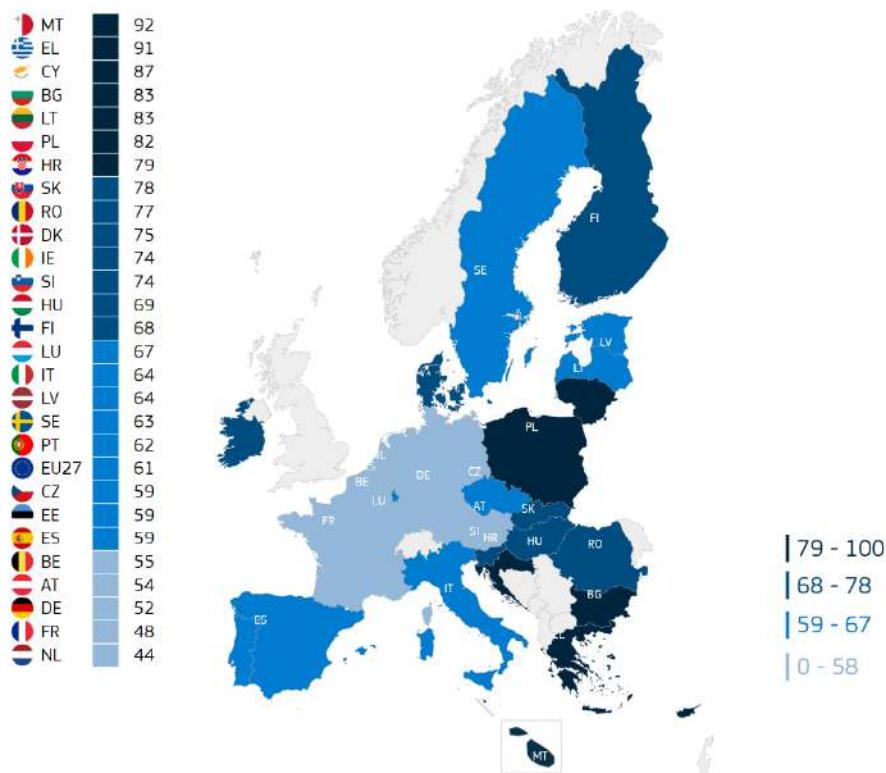
The proportion of respondents answering this question correctly has been on a slowly declining path since reaching 70% in the run-up to the 2019 European Parliament elections (EB91 in spring 2019). This follows a pattern already observed after the previous European Parliament elections in 2014, when knowledge of the method of electing MEPs increased during the election period and decreased afterwards.

**SD20a.2** For each of the following statements about the EU could you please tell whether you think it is true or false?

**The members of the European Parliament are directly elected by the citizens of each Member State (% - EU)**



**SD20a.2** For each of the following statements about the EU could you please tell whether you think it is true or false? The members of the European Parliament are directly elected by the citizens of each Member State - true (%)

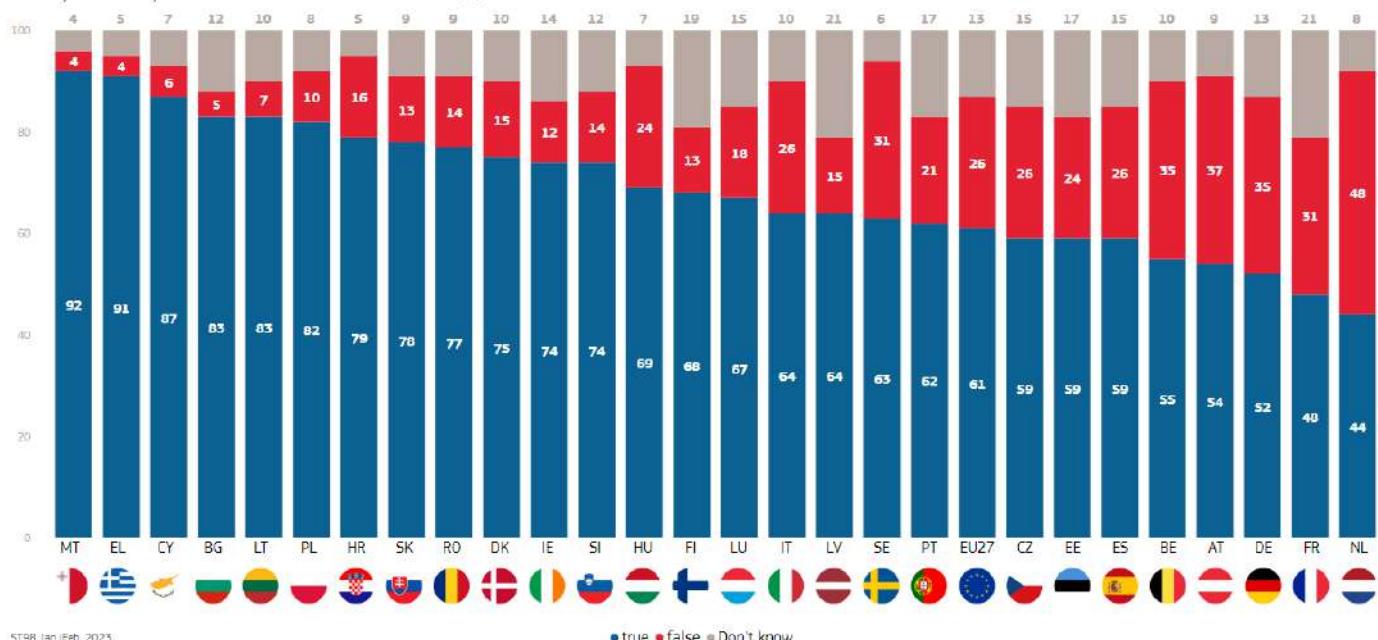


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In 25 of the 27 EU Member States, more than half the respondents correctly say that MEPs are directly elected by EU citizens. This proportion is particularly high in Malta (92%), Greece (91%) and Cyprus (87%). The Netherlands (44%) and France (48%) are the only countries where fewer than half give a correct answer, followed by Germany (52%). The highest shares of respondents answering this question incorrectly are recorded in the Netherlands (48%), Austria (37%) and Belgium and Germany (both 35%). More than a fifth of respondents in France and Latvia (both 21%) say they "don't know".

In 17 countries, respondents are less likely than they were in summer 2022 to correctly say that MEPs are directly elected by the citizens of each Member State. This proportion has declined by more than five percentage points in Sweden (-9pp) and Latvia (-8pp) and in Austria, Czechia and Ireland (all -7pp). At the opposite end of the scale, increases in this proportion are recorded in six countries, most notably in Luxembourg (+6pp) and Italy (+5pp) and in Malta and Romania (both +4pp). This share of respondents remains unchanged in Bulgaria, Germany, Hungary and Portugal.

SD20a.2 For each of the following statements about the EU could you please tell whether you think it is true or false? The members of the European Parliament are directly elected by the citizens of each Member State (%)



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**SD20a.2** For each of the following statements about the EU could you please tell whether you think it is true or false?

**The members of the European Parliament are directly elected by the citizens of each Member State (% - EU)**

	True	False	Don't know
EU27	61	26	13
 <b>Gender</b>			
Man	64	27	9
Woman	59	26	15
 <b>Age</b>			
15-24	55	29	16
25-39	60	30	10
40-54	63	27	10
55 +	63	23	14
 <b>Education (End of)</b>			
15-	54	20	26
16-19	62	27	11
20+	66	27	7
Still studying	56	30	14
<b>Socio-professional category</b>			
Self- employed	71	24	5
Managers	64	31	5
Other white collars	66	26	8
Manual workers	61	27	12
House persons	55	22	23
Unemployed	55	26	19
Retired	61	23	16
Students	56	30	14
 <b>Difficulties paying bills</b>			
Most of the time	49	29	22
From time to time	60	27	13
Almost never/ Never	64	25	11
<b>Consider belonging to</b>			
The working class	58	23	19
The lower middle class	57	29	14
The middle class	64	26	10
The upper middle class	65	31	4
The upper class	67	30	3
<b>Image of the EU</b>			
Positive	69	22	9
Neutral	58	27	15
Negative	52	33	15

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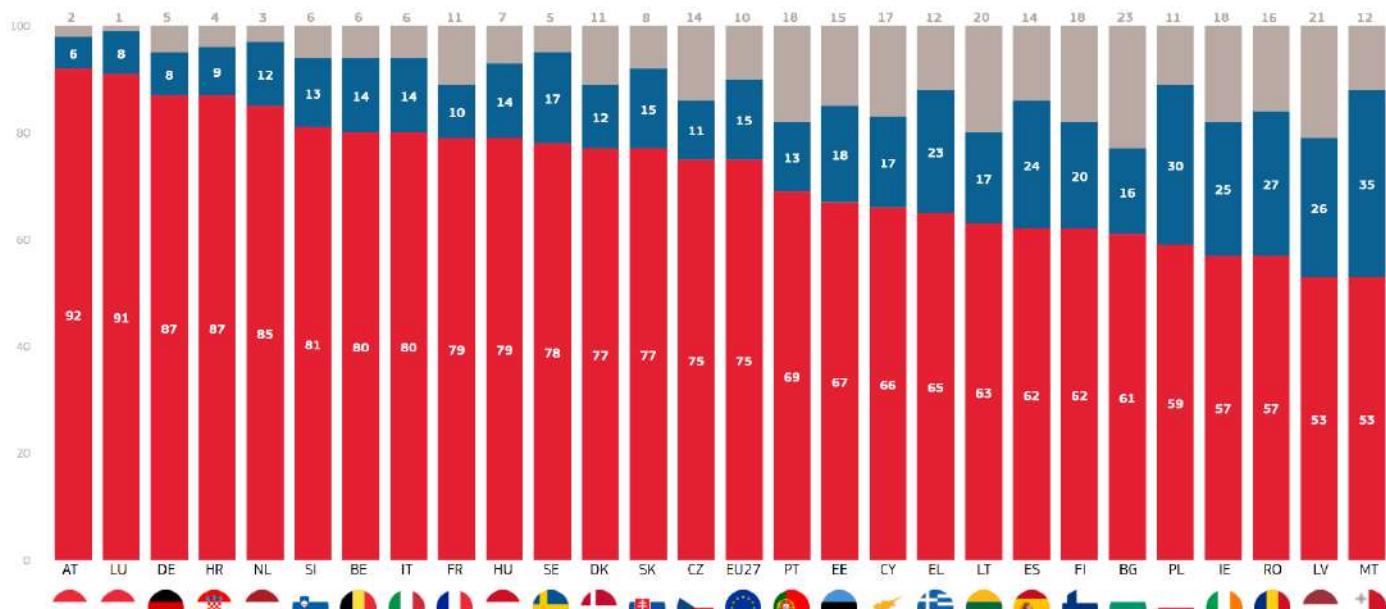
**"Switzerland is a Member State of the EU"**

Three quarters of the respondents (-1 percentage point since summer 2022) correctly answer that "Switzerland is not a Member State of the EU", while 15% (no change) give an incorrect answer and one in ten (+1pp) say they "don't know". These proportions have remained broadly stable since summer 2022.

More than half the respondents in all countries know that Switzerland is not an EU Member State. More than nine in ten give the correct answer in Austria (92%) and Luxembourg (91%), followed by respondents in Croatia and Germany (both 87%). Conversely, 53% in Malta and Latvia and 57% in Ireland and Romania. Respondents in Malta (35%), Poland (30%) and Romania (27%) are the most likely to give an incorrect answer. At least one fifth say they "don't know" in Bulgaria (23%), Latvia (21%) and Lithuania (20%).

In 17 countries, the share of respondents correctly saying that Switzerland is not a Member State of the EU has decreased since summer 2022. Decreases of more than ten percentage points are observed in Latvia (-12pp) and Finland (-11pp), followed by Czechia and Lithuania (both -9pp). This proportion has increased in five countries: Cyprus (+10pp), Romania (+7pp), Croatia and Spain (both +6pp) and Greece (+2pp). This figure has remained stable in Estonia, France, Italy, Luxembourg and the Netherlands.

SD20a.3 For each of the following statements about the EU could you please tell whether you think it is true or false?: Switzerland is a Member State of the EU (%)



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● false ● true ■ Don't know

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**SD20a.3** For each of the following statements about the EU could you please tell whether you think it is true or false?

**Switzerland is a Member State of the EU (%) - EU)**

	True	False	Don't know
EU27	15	75	10
<b>Gender</b>			
Man	15	78	7
Woman	16	72	12
<b>Age</b>			
15-24	19	69	12
25-39	18	75	7
40-54	16	77	7
55 +	13	76	11
<b>Education (End of)</b>			
15-	16	62	22
16-19	16	75	9
20+	13	82	5
Still studying	18	72	10
<b>Socio-professional category</b>			
Self-employed	14	81	5
Managers	13	84	3
Other white collars	16	78	6
Manual workers	19	72	9
House persons	21	61	18
Unemployed	17	65	18
Retired	12	76	12
Students	18	72	10
<b>Difficulties paying bills</b>			
Most of the time	18	65	17
From time to time	19	70	11
Almost never/ Never	13	79	8
<b>Consider belonging to</b>			
The working class	16	66	18
The lower middle class	14	76	10
The middle class	17	77	6
The upper middle class	12	85	3
The upper class	13	84	3
<b>Image of the EU</b>			
Positive	15	78	7
Neutral	18	71	11
Negative	12	78	10

**Standard Eurobarometer 98**  
**Public opinion in the European Union**  
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**SD20a.1 For each of the following statements about the EU could you please tell whether you think it is true or false?**  
The Euro area currently consists of 20 Member States (%)

	EU27	BE	BG	CZ	DK	DE	EE	IE	EL	ES	FR	HR	IT	CY	LV	LT	LU	HU	MT	NL	AT	PL	PT	RO	SI	SK	FI	SE	
True	Jan/Feb 2023	40	45	38	31	44	37	36	38	48	33	32	37	45	45	33	36	43	37	50	40	43	59	35	44	42	47	33	43
	Δ Jun/Jul 2022	▼4	▼10	▼7	▼16	▼8	=	▼6	▼8	▼4	▼3	▼3	▲5	▲5	▼15	▼8	▼20	▲4	▼12	▼19	▼12	▼3	▼11	▲1	▼5	▼10	▼3	▼18	▼17
False	Jan/Feb 2023	40	41	29	45	29	47	40	41	36	40	41	53	43	24	36	30	36	52	27	35	46	25	32	33	33	34	32	41
	Δ Jun/Jul 2022	▲2	▲5	▲4	▲5	▼4	▲2	▲3	▲5	▲4	▲3	▲6	▼4	▼6	▲17	▲1	▼2	▼1	▲11	▲3	▲4	▲4	▲9	▼6	▼2	▼2	▼9	▼1	▲1
Don't know	Jan/Feb 2023	20	14	33	24	27	16	24	21	16	27	27	10	12	31	31	34	21	11	23	25	11	16	33	23	25	19	35	16
	Δ Jun/Jul 2022	▲2	▲5	▲3	▲11	▲12	▼2	▲3	▲3	=	=	▼3	▼1	▲1	▼2	▲7	▲22	▼3	▲1	▲16	▲8	▼1	▲2	▲5	▲7	▲12	▲19	▲16	

**SD20a.2 For each of the following statements about the EU could you please tell whether you think it is true or false?**

The members of the European Parliament are directly elected by the citizens of each Member State (%)

	EU27	BE	BG	CZ	DK	DE	EE	IE	EL	ES	FR	HR	IT	CY	LV	LT	LU	HU	MT	NL	AT	PL	PT	RO	SI	SK	FI	SE	
True	Jan/Feb 2023	61	55	83	59	75	52	59	74	91	59	48	79	64	87	64	83	67	69	92	44	54	82	62	77	74	78	68	63
	Δ Jun/Jul 2022	▼1	▼1	=	▼7	▼3	=	▼3	▼7	▼3	▼4	▼1	▲3	▲5	▼2	▼8	▲1	▲6	=	▲4	▼5	▼7	▼2	=	▲4	▼1	▼4	▼4	▼9
False	Jan/Feb 2023	26	35	5	26	15	35	24	12	4	26	31	16	26	6	15	7	18	24	4	48	37	10	21	14	14	13	13	31
	Δ Jun/Jul 2022	▲2	▼2	▼2	▲3	▼2	▲1	▲3	▲4	▲1	▲7	▲5	▼4	=	▲4	=	▼7	▼3	▲1	▼6	▲2	▲8	▲2	▼1	▼4	▼4	▼1	▼4	▲3
Don't know	Jan/Feb 2023	13	10	12	15	10	13	17	14	5	15	21	5	10	7	21	10	15	7	4	8	9	8	17	9	12	9	19	6
	Δ Jun/Jul 2022	▼1	▲3	▲2	▲4	▲5	▼1	=	▲3	▲2	▼3	▼4	▲1	▼5	▼2	▲8	▲6	▼3	▼1	▲2	▲3	▼1	=	▲1	=	▲5	▲5	▲8	▲6

**SD20a.3 For each of the following statements about the EU could you please tell whether you think it is true or false?**

Switzerland is a Member State of the EU (%)

	EU27	BE	BG	CZ	DK	DE	EE	IE	EL	ES	FR	HR	IT	CY	LV	LT	LU	HU	MT	NL	AT	PL	PT	RO	SI	SK	FI	SE	
True	Jan/Feb 2023	15	14	16	11	12	8	18	25	23	24	10	9	14	17	26	17	8	14	35	12	6	30	13	27	13	15	20	17
	Δ Jun/Jul 2022	=	=	=	▲3	▼3	▲2	▲1	▲3	▲1	▼1	▼1	▼5	▲1	▼5	▲7	▼5	▲1	▲1	▼8	=	=	▲3	▼1	▲4	▲3	▲4	▲3	
False	Jan/Feb 2023	75	80	61	75	77	87	67	57	65	62	79	87	80	66	53	63	91	79	53	85	92	59	69	57	81	77	62	78
	Δ Jun/Jul 2022	▼1	▼1	▼2	▼9	▼2	▼3	=	▼2	▲2	▲6	=	▲6	=	▲10	▼12	▼9	=	▼1	▼1	=	▼1	▼3	▼1	▲7	▼6	▼6	▼11	▼8
Don't know	Jan/Feb 2023	10	6	23	14	11	5	15	18	12	14	11	4	6	17	21	20	1	7	12	3	2	11	18	16	6	8	18	5
	Δ Jun/Jul 2022	▲1	▲1	▲2	▲6	▲5	▲1	▼1	▼1	▼3	▼5	▲1	▼1	▼1	▼5	▲5	▲14	▼1	=	▲9	=	▲1	=	▲2	▲1	▲2	▲3	▲7	▲5

## 4. The European Union today and tomorrow

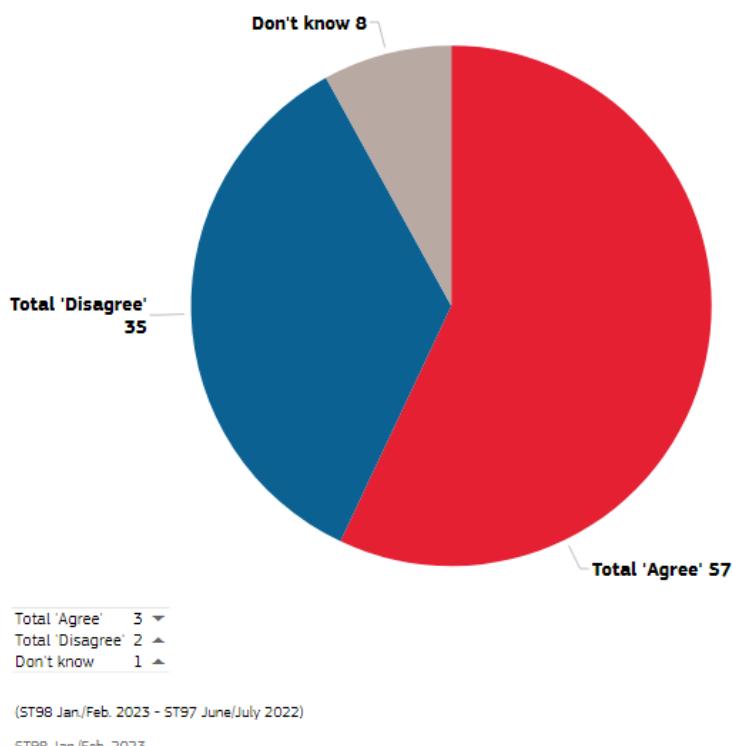
### 4.1 Should more decisions be taken at European level?

#### A clear majority thinks more decisions should be taken at EU level

A clear majority of respondents (57%, -3 percentage points since summer 2022) agree that more decisions should be taken at EU level. After a three-percentage point increase in the last Standard Eurobarometer survey, this proportion has now returned to the level observed in winter 2021-2022. More than a third (35%, +2pp) disagree with this statement, while 8% (+1pp) say they “don’t know”<sup>60</sup>.

In line with previous Standard Eurobarometer surveys, respondents in the **euro area** (59%) are more likely than those **outside the euro area** (52%) to say that more decisions should be taken at EU level. Both these proportions have decreased since the last time this question was asked in summer 2022 (-2 percentage points in the euro area, -6pp in the non-euro area).

QA12.3 To what extent do you agree or disagree with each of the following statements?: More decisions should be taken at EU level (EU27) (%)



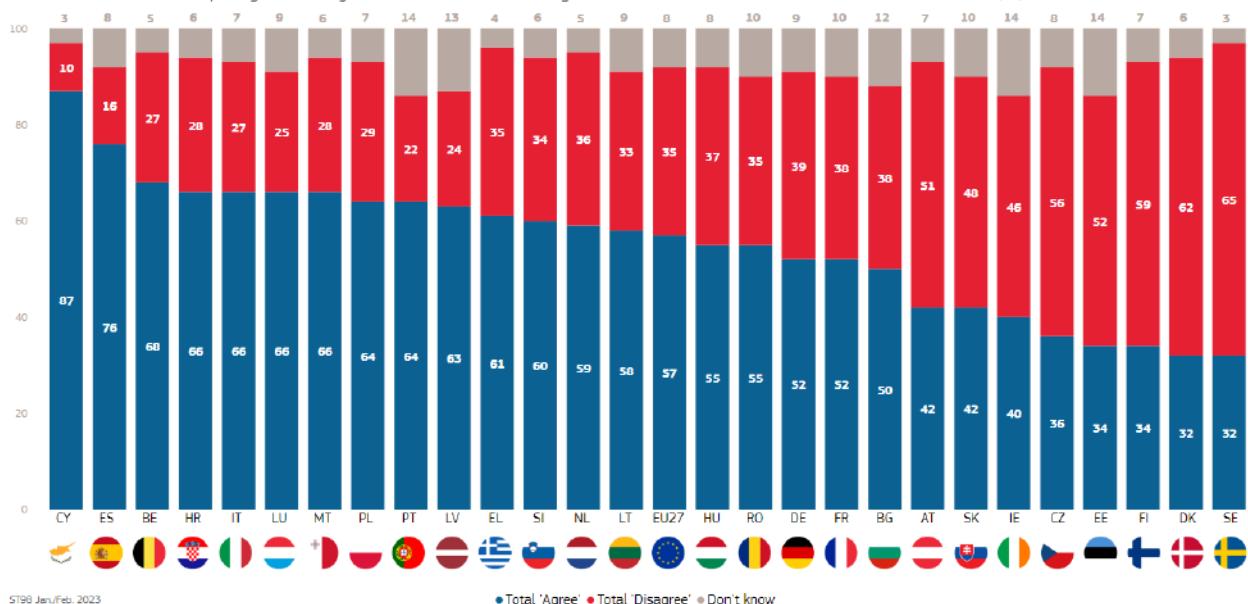
<sup>60</sup> QA12.3 Please tell me to what extent you agree or disagree with each of the following statements. More decisions should be taken at EU level.

**Standard Eurobarometer 98**  
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In 19 EU Member States, the majority agrees that more decisions should be taken at EU level. The highest proportions who give this answer can be found in Cyprus (87%), Spain (76%) and Belgium (68%). At the other end of the scale, 32% in Denmark and Sweden and 34% in Estonia and Finland agree with this statement. More than half disagree that more decisions should be taken at EU level in Sweden (65%), Denmark (62%), Finland (59%), Czechia (56%), Estonia (52%) and Austria (51%). Majorities also disagree in Slovakia (48% "disagree" vs 42% "agree") and Ireland (46% vs 40%).

In 19 countries, respondents are less likely than they were in summer 2022 to think that more decisions should be taken at EU level. Particularly large decreases are observed in Estonia (-16 percentage points), Romania (-12pp) and in Lithuania and Malta (both -9pp). Levels of agreement have increased in six countries, especially in Cyprus (+5pp). This proportion has remained unchanged in Austria and Bulgaria.

QA12.3 To what extent do you agree or disagree with each of the following statements? More decisions should be taken at EU level (%)



ST98 Jan/Feb 2023

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

QA12.3 To what extent do you agree or disagree with each of the following statements?

More decisions should be taken at EU level (%)



	EU27	CY	HR	NL	LV	EL	FI	BG	AT	IE	FR	DE	SI	BE	DK	IT	PT	SE	CZ	ES	HU	LU	PL	SK	LT	MT	RO	EE
Total 'Agree'	57	87	66	59	63	61	34	50	42	40	52	52	60	68	32	66	64	32	36	76	55	66	64	42	58	66	55	34
Δ Jun/Jul 2022		▼3	▲5	▲3	▲3	▲2	▲1	▲1	=	=	▼1	▼1	▼2	▼2	▼3	▼3	▼3	▼4	▼4	▼5	▼5	▼7	▼9	▼9	▼12	▼16		
Total 'Disagree'	35	10	28	36	24	35	59	38	51	46	38	39	34	27	62	27	22	65	56	16	37	25	29	48	33	28	35	52
Δ Jun/Jul 2022		▲2	▲2	▼3	▼6	▼7	=	▼2	▼4	▲1	▼2	▲2	▲1	=	▲1	▲2	=	=	▲2	▲4	▲3	▲1	▲4	▲1	▲3	▲6	▲10	▲14
Don't know	8	3	6	5	13	4	7	12	7	14	10	9	6	5	6	7	14	3	8	8	9	7	10	9	6	10	14	
Δ Jun/Jul 2022		▲1	▼7	=	▲3	▲5	▼1	▲1	▲4	▼1	▲1	▲3	▲2	▲1	▲2	▲3	▲3	▲2	=	▲1	▲4	▲1	▲6	▲3	▲2	▲6	▲3	▲2

**Standard Eurobarometer 98**  
**Public opinion in the European Union**  
**Winter 2022-2023**

The **socio-demographic data** reveal that majorities of respondents in most categories agree that more decisions should be taken at EU level. However, differences can still be observed in the extent to which respondents give this answer, with age and socio-economic status playing a key role. In particular, the youngest respondents (64% of those aged 15-24, compared with 53% of those aged 55 or older), managers (64%, compared with 52% of the unemployed) and those who never or almost never have difficulties paying their bills (59%, compared with 46% of those who have difficulties most of the time) are among the most likely to agree with this statement. The level of agreement is also especially high among respondents who consider themselves as belonging to the middle, upper middle and upper class of society (62-65%, compared with 50-52% of those who see themselves as part of the working or lower middle class).

**QA12.3** To what extent do you agree or disagree with each of the following statements?

**More decisions should be taken at EU level (%) - EU)**

	Total 'Agree'	Total 'Disagree'	Don't know
EU27	57	35	8
<b>Gender</b>			
Man	58	36	6
Woman	57	33	10
<b>Age</b>			
15-24	64	24	12
25-39	61	33	6
40-54	58	36	6
55 +	53	38	9
<b>Education (End of)</b>			
15-	55	32	13
16-19	55	37	8
20+	59	36	5
Still studying	67	22	11
<b>Socio-professional category</b>			
Self-employed	58	37	5
Managers	64	31	5
Other white collars	61	33	6
Manual workers	56	38	6
House persons	55	31	14
Unemployed	52	36	12
Retired	52	38	10
Students	67	22	11
<b>Difficulties paying bills</b>			
Most of the time	46	42	12
From time to time	57	35	8
Almost never/ Never	59	34	7
<b>Image of the EU</b>			
Positive	75	19	6
Neutral	50	39	11
Negative	29	65	6

**Standard Eurobarometer 98**  
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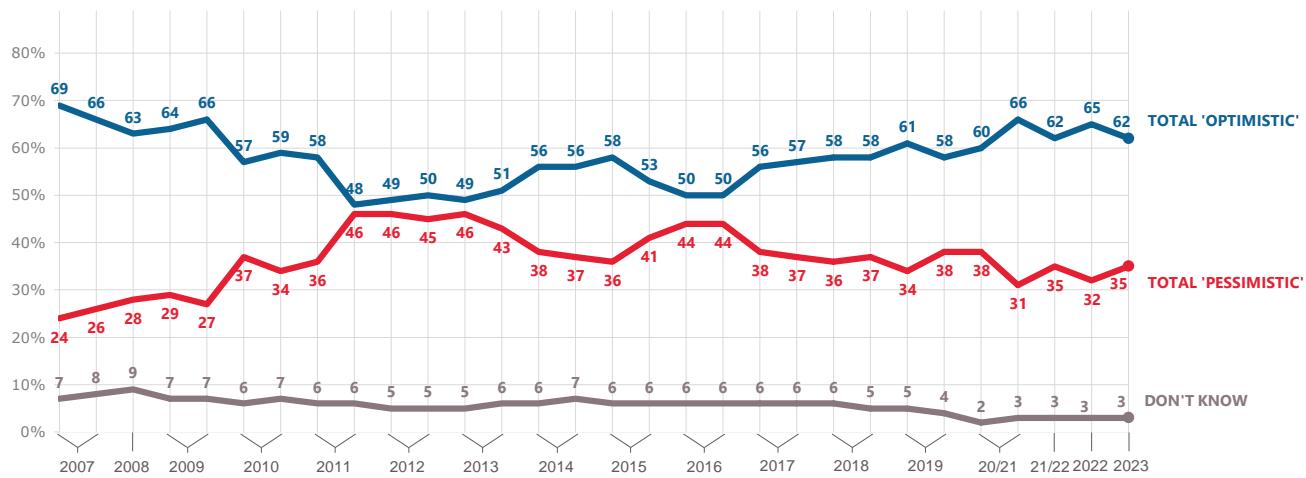
## 4.2 The future of the European Union

### A large majority is optimistic about the future of the EU

More than six in ten respondents (62%) say they are optimistic about the future of the EU. This proportion has declined by three percentage points in the current survey, returning to the level observed in winter 2021-2022. More than a third (35%, +3pp) is pessimistic about the future of the EU, while 3% (no change) express no opinion<sup>61</sup>.

Large majorities both within the **euro area** (61%) and **outside the euro area** (68%) say they are optimistic about the future of the EU. However, since summer 2022, this proportion has decreased in both the euro area (-2pp) and non-euro area (-4pp).

**QA13** Would you say that you are very optimistic, fairly optimistic, fairly pessimistic or very pessimistic about the future of the EU?  
 (% - EU)



**QA13** Would you say that you are very optimistic, fairly optimistic, fairly pessimistic or very pessimistic about the future of the EU?  
 (EU - OPTIMISM INDEX (TOTAL 'OPTIMISTIC' - TOTAL 'PESSIMISTIC'))



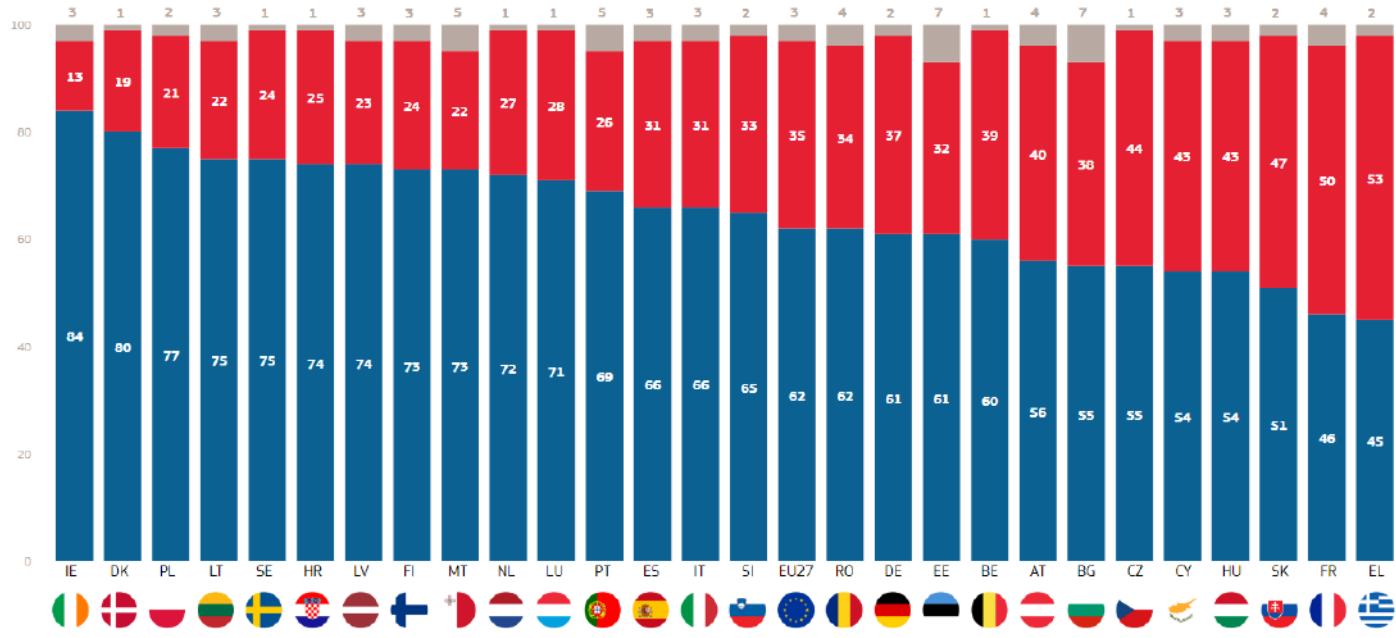
<sup>61</sup> QA13. Would you say that you are very optimistic, fairly optimistic, fairly pessimistic or very pessimistic about the future of the EU?

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**Public opinion in the European Union**  
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More than half the respondents in 25 of the 27 EU Member States say they are optimistic about the future of the EU. Proportions range from more than three quarters in Ireland (84%), Denmark (80%) and Poland (77%) to 51% in Slovakia and 54% in Cyprus and Hungary. The only exceptions are respondents in Greece and France, the majority of whom are pessimistic about the future of the EU (53% “pessimistic” vs 45% “optimistic” in Greece and 50% vs 46% in France).

In 13 EU Member States, the share of respondents who say they are optimistic about the future of the EU has declined since summer 2022. Decreases are especially notable in Slovakia (-10 percentage points) and in Hungary and Malta (both -9pp). Conversely, this proportion has risen in 12 countries, particularly in Latvia (+9pp) and Croatia (+7pp) and in Finland and Sweden (both +6pp). This figure has remained stable in Cyprus and Luxembourg.

QA13 Would you say that you are very optimistic, fairly optimistic, fairly pessimistic or very pessimistic about the future of the EU? (%)



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**Standard Eurobarometer 98**  
**Public opinion in the European Union**  
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The **socio-demographic data** show that majorities across most categories are optimistic about the future of the EU. Levels of optimism are particularly high among the youngest respondents (69% of those aged 15-24, compared with 58% of those aged 55 or older), those who finished their full-time education aged 20 or older (70%, compared with 52% of those who did so aged 15 or younger) and managers (75%), compared with 47% of the unemployed.

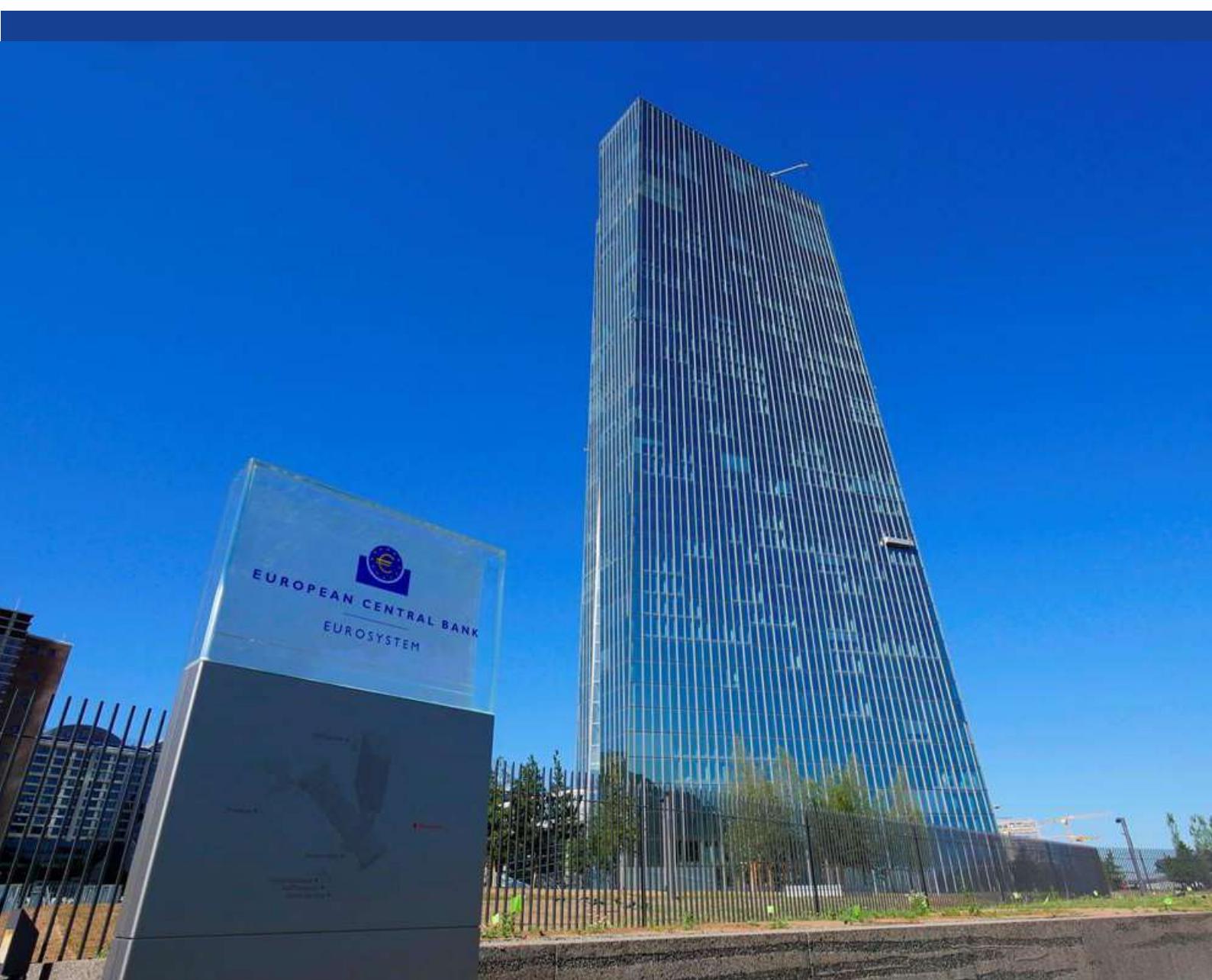
A large majority is optimistic about the future of the EU also among those who never or almost never have difficulties paying their bills (69%), while only a minority gives this answer among those who have difficulties most of the time (37% "optimistic" vs 60% "pessimistic"). Similarly, more than three quarters of those who consider themselves as upper middle or upper class are optimistic (77-80%), compared with half of those who see themselves as part of the working class of society.

Unsurprisingly, those who have a positive image of the EU are much more likely to be optimistic than those who have a negative image (91% vs 13%).

**QA13** Would you say that you are very optimistic, fairly optimistic, fairly pessimistic or very pessimistic about the future of the EU?  
 (% - EU)

	Total 'Optimistic'	Total 'Pessimistic'	Don't Know
EU27	62	35	3
 <b>Gender</b>			
Man	62	35	3
Woman	63	34	3
 <b>Age</b>			
15-24	69	27	4
25-39	65	33	2
40-54	62	36	2
55 +	58	38	4
 <b>Education (End of)</b>			
15-	52	43	5
16-19	58	39	3
20+	70	28	2
Still studying	74	23	3
 <b>Socio-professional category</b>			
Self-employed	65	33	2
Managers	75	24	1
Other white collars	67	31	2
Manual workers	57	40	3
House persons	53	43	4
Unemployed	47	48	5
Retired	57	39	4
Students	74	23	3
 <b>Difficulties paying bills</b>			
Most of the time	37	60	3
From time to time	55	42	3
Almost never/ Never	69	29	2
 <b>Consider belonging to</b>			
The working class	50	45	5
The lower middle class	54	44	2
The middle class	68	30	2
The upper middle class	77	22	1
The upper class	80	20	0
 <b>Image of the EU</b>			
Positive	91	8	1
Neutral	52	43	5
Negative	13	85	2

### **III. ECONOMIC ISSUES IN THE EUROPEAN UNION**



## 1. How Europeans perceive the economic situation

### 1.1 Personal aspects

#### Assessment of personal job and financial situations

#### **Assessments of household financial and personal job situations are stable**

**Large majorities of Europeans remain satisfied with their personal situation (personal job situation and financial situation of their household) and expect it to stay the same over the next twelve months.** Perceptions of their personal situation are stable compared to the Summer 2022 Standard Eurobarometer survey (EB97). However, there has been a fall in pessimism regarding the future financial situation of the household:

- Close to seven in ten respondents (69%, -1 percentage point since summer 2022) are positive about the financial situation of their household, while 28% (no change) believe that their household's financial situation is 'bad' and 3% (+1pp) expressed no opinion<sup>62</sup>;
- More than one in two respondents (55%, +4pp) expect the next twelve months to stay the same regarding the financial situation of the household. However, the proportion of respondents who are pessimistic about the future has fallen, with less than a quarter of Europeans (24%, -5pp) expecting the financial situation of their household to deteriorate, while close to one in five (19%, +2pp) think it will improve<sup>63</sup>;
- Six in ten respondents (-1pp) are positive about their personal job situation, while 21% (+1pp) describe it as 'bad', and 19% (no change) answered "don't know";
- Over one in two respondents (56%, -1pp) expect their personal job situation to stay the same over the next twelve months, while 20% (+2pp) expect it to improve and 12% (-2pp) expect it to deteriorate.

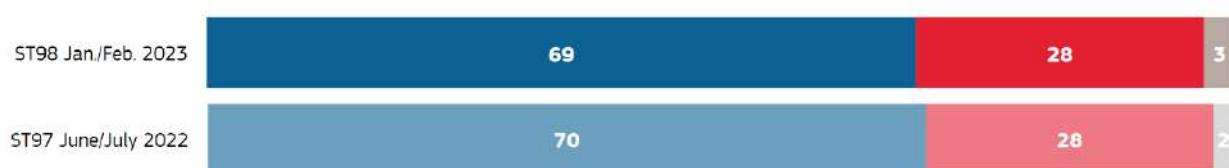
<sup>62</sup> QA1a. How would you judge the current situation in each of the following? 4. Your personal job situation; 5. The financial situation of your household.

<sup>63</sup> QA2a. What are your expectations for the next twelve months: will the next twelve months be better, worse or the same, when it comes to...? 4. The financial situation of your household; 6. Your personal job situation.

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QA1. How would you judge the current situation in each of the following? (EU27) (%)

The financial situation of your household



Your personal job situation



● Total 'Good' ● Total 'Bad' ● Don't know

(ST98 Jan./Feb. 2023 - ST97 June/July 2022)

QA2. What are your expectations for the next twelve months: will the next twelve months be better, worse or the same, when it comes to...? (EU27) (%)

The financial situation of your household



Your personal job situation



● Better ● Worse ● The same ● Don't know

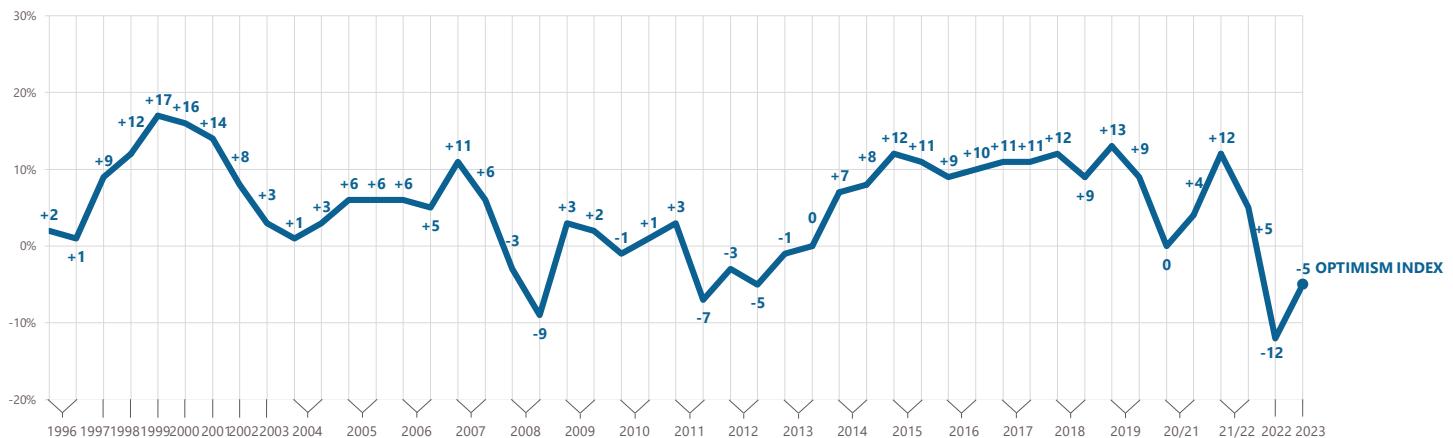
(ST98 Jan./Feb. 2023 - ST97 June/July 2022)

**Standard Eurobarometer 98**  
**Public opinion in the European Union**  
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The optimism index<sup>64</sup> for expectations regarding the household's financial situation stands at -5 (+7 index points since summer 2022). This is the fourth lowest figure ever recorded in the survey, going back to 1996. However, following the lowest point recorded in summer 2022, the increase recorded in this survey is also among the largest ever increases seen from one wave of the survey to the next.

A trend analysis reveals that this index has been somewhat volatile since the coronavirus pandemic, following a more stable period between 2014 and 2019.

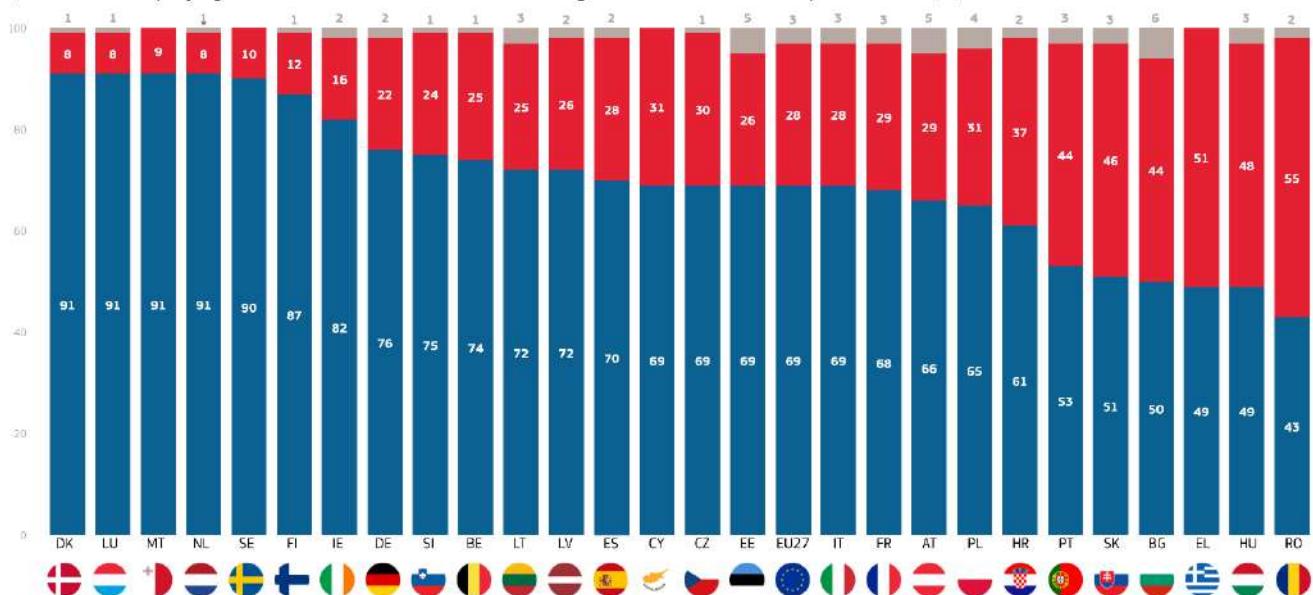
**QA2.4** What are your expectations for the next twelve months: will the next twelve months be better, worse or the same, when it comes to...?  
**The financial situation of your household (EU - OPTIMISM INDEX (BETTER - WORSE))**



A majority of respondents in 25 Member States of the European Union consider that **the financial situation of their household** is 'good', most notably in Denmark, Luxembourg, Malta and the Netherlands (all 91%).

On the other hand, this opinion is shared by only a minority of respondents in two EU Member States, namely Romania (43% 'good' vs 55% 'bad') and Greece (49% vs 51%). In addition, the proportion of positive ratings is also low in Hungary (49% vs 48%) and Bulgaria (50% vs 44%).

**QA1.5. How would you judge the current situation in each of the following? :-The financial situation of your household (%)**



<sup>64</sup> Difference between positive ("better") and negative ("worse") answers.

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The socio-demographic data show that a majority of respondents in most groups consider that the financial situation of their household is 'good'. This view is most widely held by respondents who continued their education up to the age of 20 or beyond (80%), managers (86%), students (78%), self-employed people (75%), those who never or almost never have difficulties paying their bills (84%) and those who consider themselves as belonging to the upper middle class (93%), upper class (87%) or middle class (79%) of society.

In contrast, only a minority of respondents share this opinion among unemployed people (31% 'good' vs 66% 'bad'), respondents who have difficulties paying their bills most of the time (19% vs 80%) and those who consider themselves as belonging to the working class (47% vs 51%) of society.

QA1.5 How would you judge the current situation in each of the following?

The financial situation of your household (% - EU)

	Total 'Good'	Total 'Bad'	Don't know
EU27	69	28	3
 Gender			
Man	71	27	2
Woman	67	30	3
 Age			
15-24	72	23	5
25-39	70	28	2
40-54	68	30	2
55 +	68	30	2
 Education (End of)			
15-	54	44	2
16-19	64	34	2
20+	80	18	2
Still studying	78	16	6
Socio-professional category			
Self- employed	75	23	2
Managers	86	13	1
Other white collars	72	25	3
Manual workers	63	35	2
House persons	51	46	3
Unemployed	31	66	3
Retired	69	29	2
Students	78	16	6
 Difficulties paying bills			
Most of the time	19	80	1
From time to time	51	46	3
Almost never/ Never	84	14	2
Consider belonging to			
The working class	47	51	2
The lower middle class	56	41	3
The middle class	79	19	2
The upper middle class	93	7	0
The upper class	87	12	1
Image of the EU			
Positive	79	19	2
Neutral	65	32	3
Negative	51	47	2

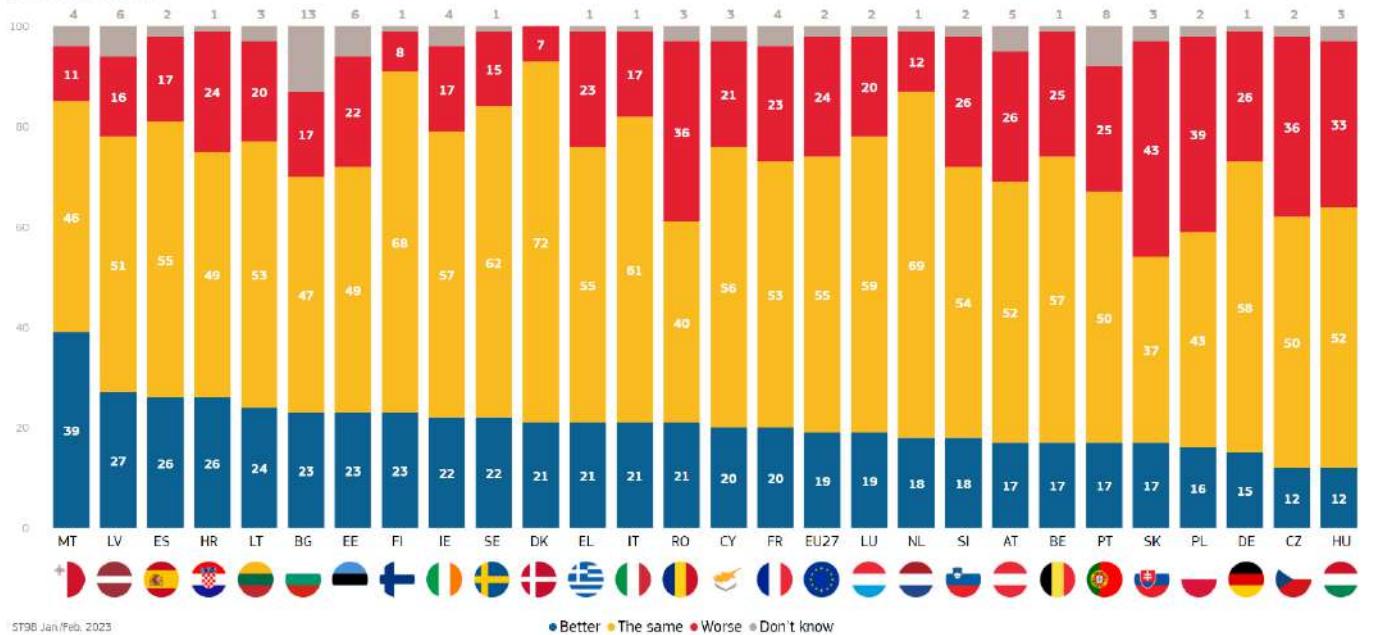
**Standard Eurobarometer 98**  
**Public opinion in the European Union**  
**Winter 2022-2023**

In 26 EU Member States (compared with 22 in summer 2022), a majority of respondents think that the next 12 months will stay the same when it comes to **the financial situation of their household**. More than two thirds of respondents share this view in Denmark (72%), the Netherlands (69%) and Finland (68%).

Slovakia is the only country where the prevailing view is that the household's financial situation will deteriorate over the next 12 months (43% "worse" vs 37% "the same").

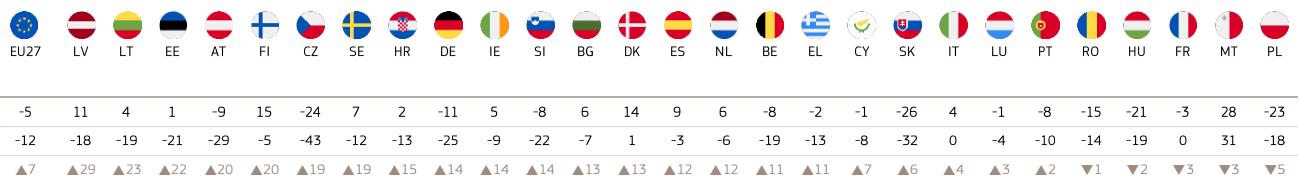
Pessimism outweighs optimism in 14 EU Member States (compared with 23 in summer 2022). Respondents are the most likely to be pessimistic in Slovakia (43%), Poland (39%) as well as Czechia and Romania (both 36%). On the other hand, more than a quarter of respondents are optimistic in Malta (39%), largely ahead of Latvia (27%) and Spain and Croatia (both 26%).

QA2.4 What are your expectations for the next twelve months: will the next twelve months be better, worse or the same, when it comes to...? The financial situation of your household (%)



In terms of changes since summer 2022, the **optimism index** for the household financial situation has improved in 22 EU Member States, most notably in Latvia (+29 index points), Lithuania (+23) and Estonia (+22). Meanwhile, it has declined slightly in five countries: in Poland (-5), France and Malta (both -3), Hungary (-2) and Romania (-1).

QA2.4 What are your expectations for the next 12 months : will the next 12 months be better, worse or the same, when it comes to...?  
The financial situation of your household (%)



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The socio-demographic data show that the prevailing view in all socio-demographic categories but one is that the financial situation of the household will stay the same over the next 12 months. The only exception is the group of respondents who have difficulties paying their bills most of the time, a majority of whom consider that the next 12 months will be worse (43% vs 33% 'the same').

Optimism decreases with age: 15-24 year-olds are more likely to be optimistic than pessimistic (32% vs 15%), but the reverse is true for respondents aged 55 and over (10% vs 25%).

In addition, levels of optimism are highest among students (31% "better" vs 13% "worse"), unemployed people (30% vs 30%) and respondents who consider themselves as belonging to the upper class (33% vs 15%) of society.

On the other hand, pessimism is particularly widespread among unemployed people (30% "worse" vs 30% "better"), respondents who have difficulties paying their bills from time to time (30% vs 21%), and those who see themselves as working class (31% vs 17%) or lower middle class (30% vs 17%).

**QA2.4** What are your expectations for the next 12 months : will the next 12 months be better, worse or the same, when it comes to...?

**The financial situation of your household** (% - EU)

	Better	Worse	The same	Don't know
EU27	19	24	55	2
<b>Gender</b>				
Man	20	24	54	2
Woman	18	24	55	3
<b>Age</b>				
15-24	32	15	50	3
25-39	29	23	46	2
40-54	19	27	51	3
55 +	10	25	63	2
<b>Education (End of)</b>				
15-	11	28	58	3
16-19	19	27	52	2
20+	20	20	58	2
Still studying	31	13	53	3
<b>Socio-professional category</b>				
Self-employed	23	21	53	3
Managers	21	19	59	1
Other white collars	22	23	53	2
Manual workers	22	29	46	3
House persons	17	28	53	2
Unemployed	30	30	37	3
Retired	8	25	65	2
Students	31	13	53	3
<b>Difficulties paying bills</b>				
Most of the time	20	43	33	4
From time to time	21	30	46	3
Almost never/ Never	18	18	62	2
<b>Consider belonging to</b>				
The working class	17	31	48	4
The lower middle class	17	30	51	2
The middle class	21	20	57	2
The upper middle class	20	14	65	1
The upper class	33	15	51	1
<b>Image of the EU</b>				
Positive	23	17	58	2
Neutral	18	25	54	3
Negative	14	38	46	2

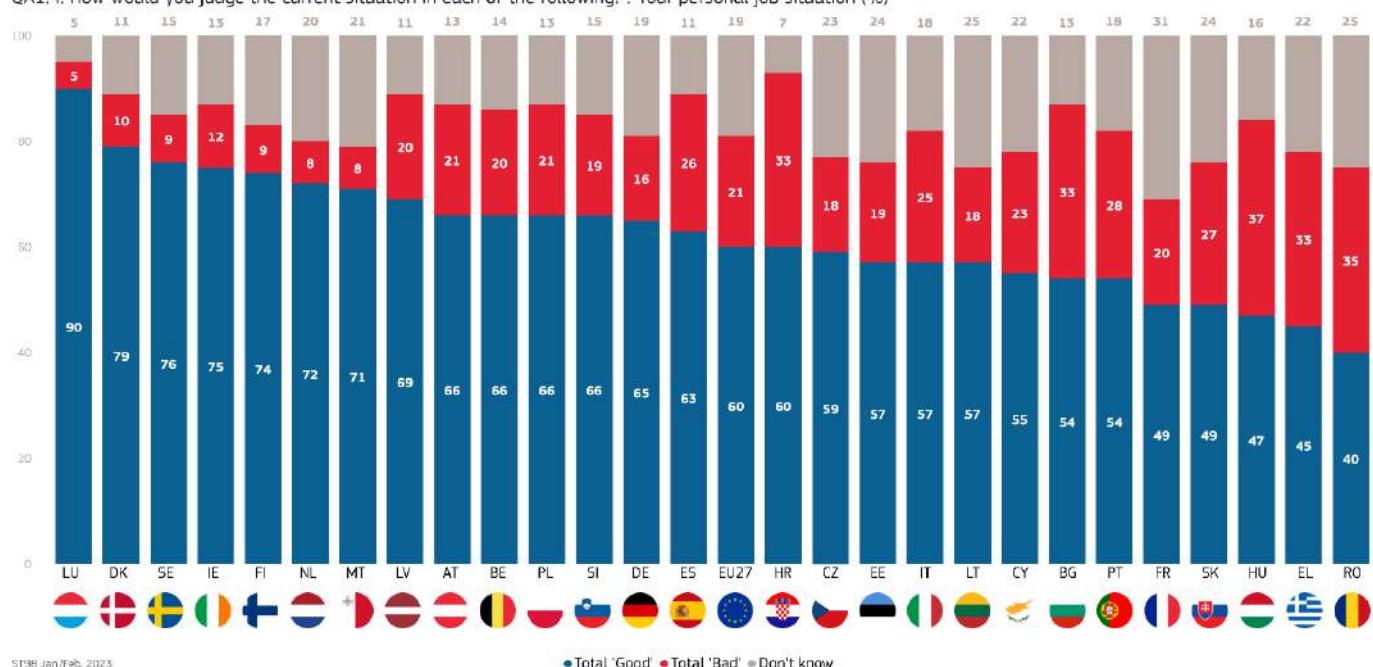
**Standard Eurobarometer 98**  
**Public opinion in the European Union**  
**Winter 2022-2023**

Six in ten Europeans consider that **their personal job situation** is 'good', while slightly more than one in five (21%) say it is 'bad' and a similar proportion (19%) expressed no opinion.

A national analysis highlights that a majority of respondents in all 27 EU Member States are positive about their personal job situation, with respondents being the most positive in Luxembourg (90%), largely ahead Denmark (79%), Sweden (76%) and Ireland (75%).

However, less than one in two respondents share this feeling in Romania (40% 'good' vs 35% 'bad'), Greece (45% vs 33%), Hungary (47% vs 37%), France (49% vs 20%) and Slovakia (49% vs 27%).

QA1.4. How would you judge the current situation in each of the following? :-Your personal job situation (%)



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**The socio-demographic data** show that a majority of respondents in most socio-demographic categories are positive about their personal job situation.

Men (64%) are more likely than women (55%) to be positive, while the most positive age groups are 25-39 year-olds (72%) and 40-54 year-olds (71%). This is partly because they are more likely to have an opinion (either positive or negative) than those in the youngest or oldest age groups.

The most positive respondents are those who continued their education up to the age of 20 year or beyond (74%), managers (88%), self-employed people (78%), other white-collar workers (77%), manual workers (72%), those who never or almost never have difficulties paying their bills (67%) and those who consider themselves as belonging to the upper class (77%), upper middle class (76%) or middle class (66%) of society.

However, only a minority of respondents believe that their personal job situation is good in three categories: unemployed people (15% 'good' vs 78% 'bad'), house persons (28% vs 34%) and respondents who have difficulties paying their bills most of the time (29% vs 54%).

QA1.4 How would you judge the current situation in each of the following?  
**Your personal job situation** (% - EU)

	Total 'Good'	Total 'Bad'	Don't know
EU27	60	21	19
 Gender			
Man	64	20	16
Woman	55	23	22
 Age			
15-24	54	21	25
25-39	72	24	4
40-54	71	25	4
55 +	48	17	35
 Education (End of)			
15-	38	26	36
16-19	56	27	17
20+	74	15	11
Still studying	55	13	32
 Socio-professional category			
Self- employed	78	20	2
Managers	88	11	1
Other white collars	77	21	2
Manual workers	72	25	3
House persons	28	34	38
Unemployed	15	78	7
Retired	38	13	49
Students	55	13	32
 Difficulties paying bills			
Most of the time	29	54	17
From time to time	52	33	15
Almost never/ Never	67	12	21
 Consider belonging to			
The working class	44	33	23
The lower middle class	51	29	20
The middle class	66	17	17
The upper middle class	76	9	15
The upper class	77	9	14
 Image of the EU			
Positive	66	15	19
Neutral	57	24	19
Negative	48	33	19

**Standard Eurobarometer 98**  
**Public opinion in the European Union**  
**Winter 2022-2023**

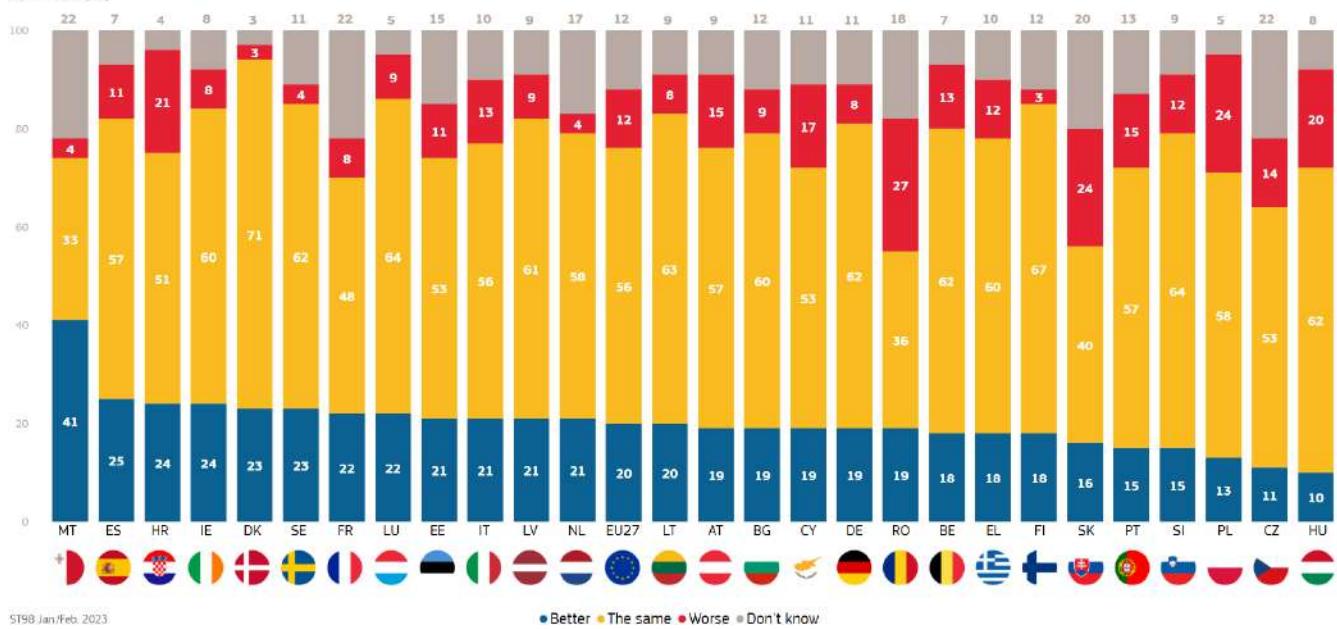
A majority of respondents in 26 EU Member States believe that the next 12 months will be the same when it comes to **their personal job situation**. This view is the most prevalent in Denmark (71%), Finland (67%) as well as Slovenia and Luxembourg (both 64%). However, in Malta, a majority of respondents consider that their personal job situation will improve (41%).

Focusing on respondents who expect the situation to change, optimism outweighs pessimism in 21 EU Member States (compared with 16 in summer 2022). Respondents in Malta (41%), largely ahead of Spain (25%) and Ireland and Croatia (both 24%) are the most likely to believe that their personal job situation will get better.

In five EU Member States, respondents are more likely to be pessimistic than optimistic, in particular in Romania (27%) and Poland and Slovakia (both 24%).

Finally, respondents in Portugal are evenly divided between optimists and pessimists (15% "better" vs 15% "worse").

QA2.6 What are your expectations for the next twelve months: will the next twelve months be better, worse or the same, when it comes to...?: Your personal job situation (%)

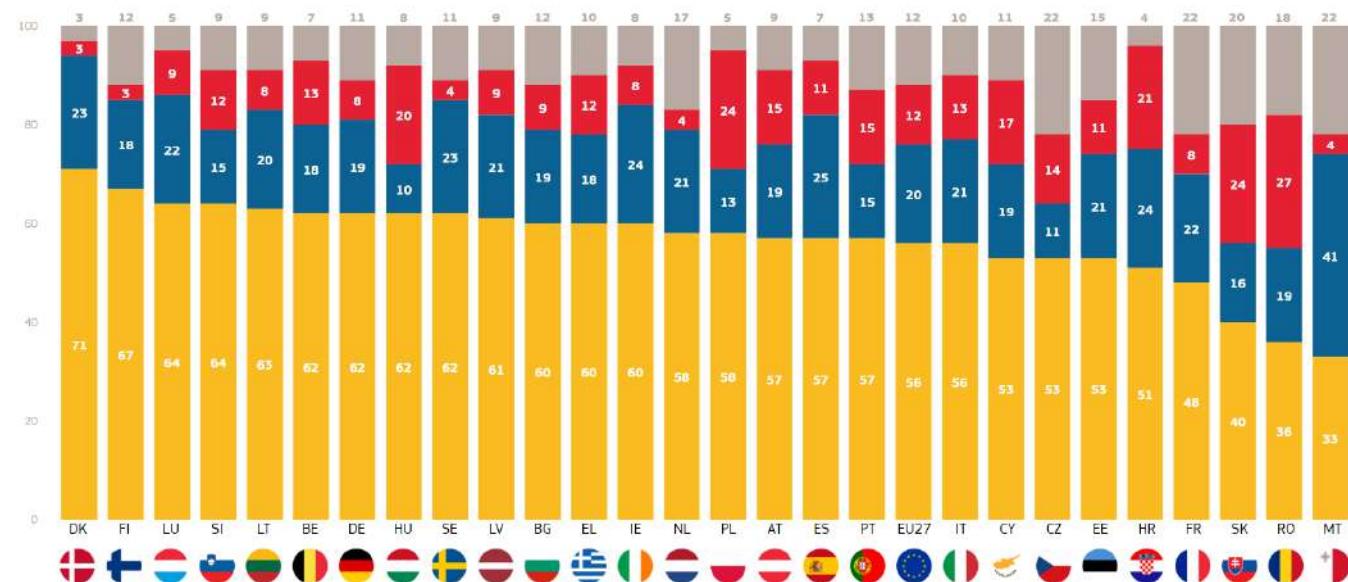


ST98 Jan/Feb. 2023

● Better ■ The same ■ Worse ■ Don't know

Sorted by "Better"

QA2.6. What are your expectations for the next twelve months: will the next twelve months be better, worse or the same, when it comes to...?: Your personal job situation (%)



ST98 Jan/Feb. 2023

■ The same ■ Better ■ Worse ■ Don't know

Sorted by "The same"

**Standard Eurobarometer 98**  
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In terms of changes since summer 2022, the **optimism index** for the personal job situation has improved in 19 EU Member States, particularly in Lithuania (+12 index points) as well as Germany, Austria, Estonia and Latvia (all +9).

In contrast, the optimism index has deteriorated in seven countries, most notably in Poland (-8), Portugal (-5) and Malta (-3). Finally, it has stayed the same in Cyprus.

**QA2.6 What are your expectations for the next 12 months : will the next 12 months be better, worse or the same, when it comes to...?**

Your personal job situation (%)



Better - Worse Jan/Feb 2023	8	12	11	10	12	4	20	3	15	10	16	6	14	5	17	8	3	19	-3	14	2	13	-8	-10	-8	37	0	-11
Better - Worse Jun/Jul 2022	4	0	2	1	3	-5	12	-5	7	3	9	0	8	0	12	5	0	17	-4	13	2	14	-7	-8	-6	40	5	-3
Jan/Feb 2023 - Jun/Jul 2022	▲4	▲12	▲9	▲9	▲9	▲8	▲8	▲8	▲7	▲7	▲6	▲6	▲5	▲5	▲5	▲3	▲3	▲2	▲1	▲1	=	▼1	▼1	▼2	▼2	▼3	▼5	▼8

**Standard Eurobarometer 98**  
**Public opinion in the European Union**  
**Winter 2022-2023**

The socio-demographic data show that in all groups but one a majority of respondents expect their personal job situation to remain the same over the next twelve months. Unemployed people are the only exception; these respondents are evenly divided between “the same” and “better” when it comes to their personal job situation over the next 12 months (both 37%).

In most socio-demographic categories optimism outweighs pessimism, particularly among respondents aged 15-24 (36% “better” vs 9% “worse”) and 25-39 (31% vs 13%), unemployed people (37% vs 18%), students (34% vs 7%) and respondents who consider themselves as belonging to the upper class (29% vs 8%) of society.

On the contrary, pessimism outweighs optimism among respondents aged 55 and over (10% “worse” vs 8% “better”), those who left school aged 15 or earlier (14% vs 10%), house persons (16% vs 12%), retired people (8% vs 4%) and those who have difficulties paying their bills most of the time (26% vs 19%).

**QA2.6** What are your expectations for the next 12 months : will the next 12 months be better, worse or the same, when it comes to...?  
**Your personal job situation (% - EU)**

	Better	Worse	The same	Don't know
EU27	20	12	56	12
Gender				
Man	20	13	57	10
Woman	19	12	56	13
Age				
15-24	36	9	42	13
25-39	31	13	53	3
40-54	20	16	60	4
55 +	8	10	61	21
Education (End of)				
15-	10	14	55	21
16-19	17	15	57	11
20+	22	9	60	9
Still studying	34	7	43	16
Socio-professional category				
Self-employed	22	18	57	3
Managers	24	10	64	2
Other white collars	23	14	61	2
Manual workers	23	16	57	4
House persons	12	16	52	20
Unemployed	37	18	37	8
Retired	4	8	59	29
Students	34	7	43	16
Difficulties paying bills				
Most of the time	19	26	42	13
From time to time	21	18	51	10
Almost never/ Never	19	8	61	12
Consider belonging to				
The working class	16	15	55	14
The lower middle class	18	14	56	12
The middle class	22	11	56	11
The upper middle class	21	8	60	11
The upper class	29	8	53	10
Image of the EU				
Positive	22	8	59	11
Neutral	19	14	56	11
Negative	15	20	51	14

## 1.2 Economic aspects

### 1.2.1 Assessment of the current economic situation

#### National and European situations

#### Perceptions of the national and European economic situations remain negative

Attitudes towards the national economy and European economy are unchanged since summer 2022, and remain negatively oriented<sup>65</sup>.

Slightly more than a third of respondents in the EU (35%, +1 percentage point since summer 2022) are positive about **the economic situation in their country**. On the contrary, over six in ten (63%, -1pp) respondents are negative and 2% (no change) answered 'don't know'.

Four in ten Europeans (40%, no change) believe that **the situation of the European economy** is 'good', while slightly more than half (51%, no change) consider that it is 'bad' and close to one in ten (9%, no change) expressed no opinion.

QA1. How would you judge the current situation in each of the following? (EU27) (%)

The situation of the (NATIONALITY) economy



The situation of the European economy



● Total 'Good' ● Total 'Bad' ● Don't know

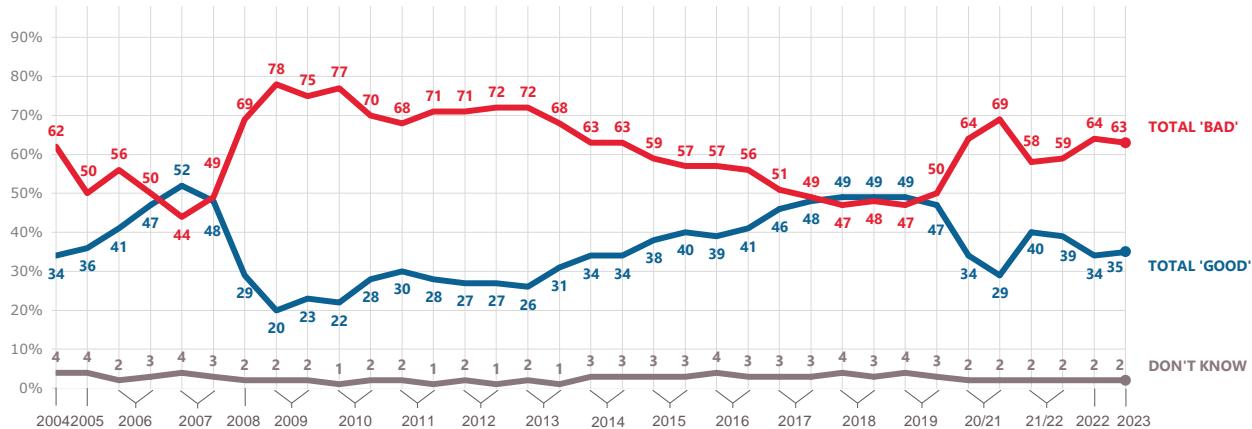
(ST98 Jan./Feb. 2023 - ST97 June/July 2022)

<sup>65</sup> QA1a. How would you judge the current situation in each of the following? 2. The situation of the (NATIONALITY) economy; 3. The situation of the European economy.

**Standard Eurobarometer 98**  
**Public opinion in the European Union**  
**Winter 2022-2023**

A trend analysis at EU level regarding perceptions of **the situation of the national economy** reveals that there have been major fluctuations, both positive and negative, over the last four years. However, negative views continue to outweigh positive views, and the current position is similar to the one previously observed.

**QA1.2** How would you judge the current situation in each of the following?  
**The situation of the (NATIONALITY) economy (%) - EU**

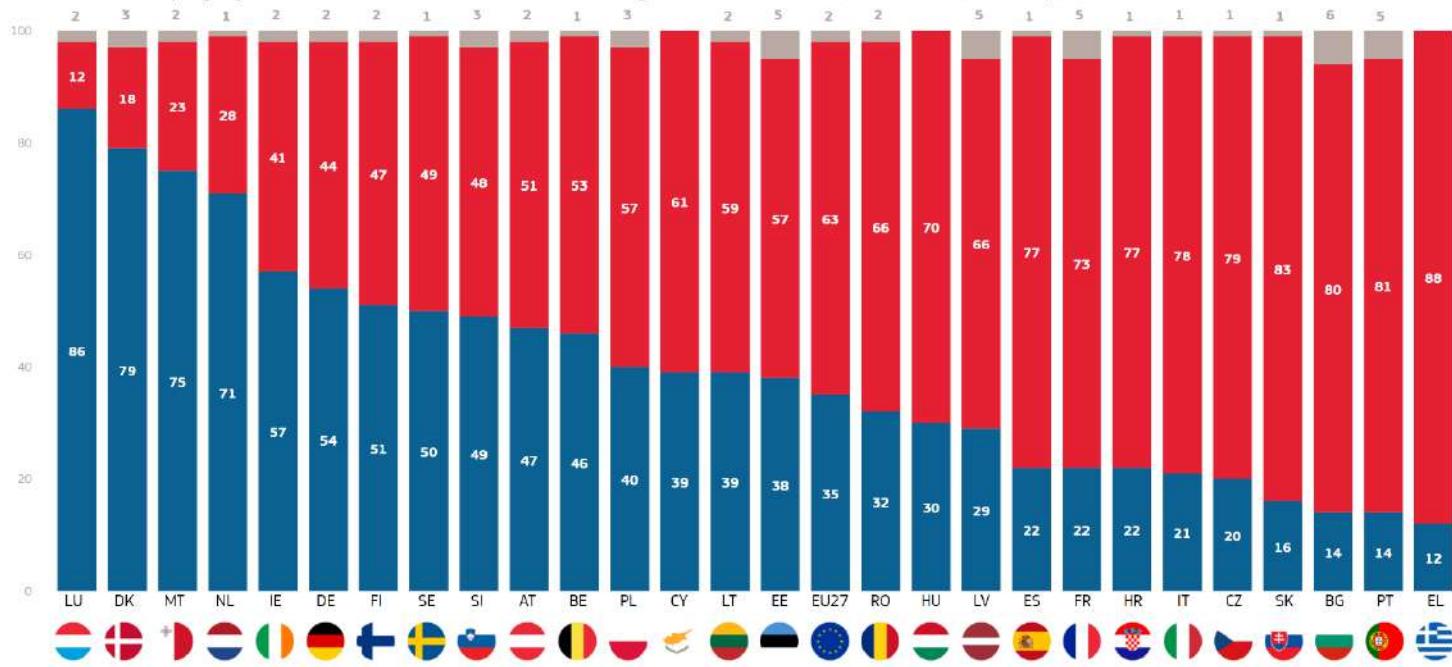


A national analysis highlights that assessments of **the national economic situation** are predominantly positive in nine EU Member States (as in summer 2022), with the highest levels being recorded in Luxembourg (86%), Denmark (79%) and Malta (75%).

Perceptions of the national economic situation vary considerably within the 27 EU Member States, with a difference of 74 percentage points between the most positive and least positive countries: Luxembourg (86%) and Greece (12%).

On the other hand, in 18 EU Member States (as in summer 2022), only a minority of respondents are positive, with the lowest levels being recorded in Greece (12%), Portugal and Bulgaria (both 14%), and Slovakia (16%).

**QA1.2 How would you judge the current situation in each of the following?: The situation of the (NATIONALITY) economy (%)**



**Standard Eurobarometer 98**  
**Public opinion in the European Union**  
**Winter 2022-2023**

In this survey, **euro area** respondents are less likely (35%, +2 percentage points compared with summer 2022) than **non-euro area** respondents to be positive about the national economic situation (37%, -2 pp).

In terms of changes since summer 2022, positive assessments of the national economic situation have gained ground in 14 EU Member States, particularly in Ireland (57%, +10 percentage points), Cyprus (39%, +8pp), the Netherlands (71%, +6pp) and Spain (22%, +6pp). Meanwhile, they have lost ground in 11 countries, most notably in Slovenia (49%, -15pp), Hungary (30%, -13pp), Sweden (50%, -12pp) and Estonia (38%, -8pp). Finally, they are unchanged in France (22%) and Italy (21%).

**QA1.2 How would you judge the current situation in each of the following?**

The situation of the (NATIONALITY) economy (%)

	EU27	EURO	NON EURO	IE	CY	ES	NL	LV	BG	EL	HR	BE	CZ	DK	DE	LU	PL	FR	IT	LT	MT	AT	FI	SK	PT	RO	EE	SE	HU	SI	
Total 'Good'	Jan/Feb 2023	35	35	37	57	39	22	71	29	14	12	22	46	20	79	54	86	40	22	21	39	75	47	51	16	14	32	38	50	30	49
	Δ Jun/Jul 2022	▲1	▲2	▼2	▲10	▲8	▲6	▲6	▲5	▲4	▲4	▲2	▲1	▲1	▲1	▲1	▲1	=	=	▼3	▼4	▼4	▼4	▼5	▼6	▼7	▼8	▼12	▼13	▼15	
Total 'Bad'	Jan/Feb 2023	63	63	60	41	61	77	28	66	80	88	77	53	79	18	44	12	57	73	78	59	23	51	47	83	81	66	57	49	70	48
	Δ Jun/Jul 2022	▼1	▼2	▲1	▼10	▼7	▼5	▼7	▼7	▼4	▼4	▼2	=	=	▼2	=	▲2	▼1	▼1	=	▲3	▲3	▲4	▲4	▲4	▲8	▲7	▲11	▲14	▲14	
Don't know	Jan/Feb 2023	2	2	3	2	0	1	1	5	6	0	1	1	1	3	2	2	3	5	1	2	2	2	1	5	2	5	1	0	3	
	Δ Jun/Jul 2022	=	=	▲1	=	▼1	▼1	▲1	▲2	=	=	▼1	▼1	▲1	▼1	▼3	=	▲1	=	=	▲1	▲1	=	=	▲1	▲2	▼1	▲1	▲1		

**Standard Eurobarometer 98**  
**Public opinion in the European Union**  
**Winter 2022-2023**

The socio-demographic data show that a majority of respondents in all socio-demographic categories but two are negative about the national economic situation. The only exceptions are respondents who consider themselves as belonging to the upper class (61% 'good' vs 37% 'bad') and those who see themselves as upper middle class (54% vs 45%).

However, relatively high proportions of respondents who continued their education up to the age of 20 or beyond (43% vs 56%), managers (47% vs 52%), students (42% vs 52%), and those who never or almost never have difficulties paying their bills (42% vs 56%) rate the national economic situation as 'good'.

The respondents the most likely to rate the national economic situation as 'bad' are those who left school at the age of 15 or earlier (75% 'bad' vs 23% 'good'), unemployed people (77% vs 21%), house persons (77% vs 22%), those who have difficulties paying their bills most of the time (82% vs 16%) or from time to time (71% vs 27%), and those who consider themselves as belonging to the working class (74% vs 23%) of society.

**QA1.2** How would you judge the current situation in each of the following?

**The situation of the (NATIONALITY) economy (%) - EU**

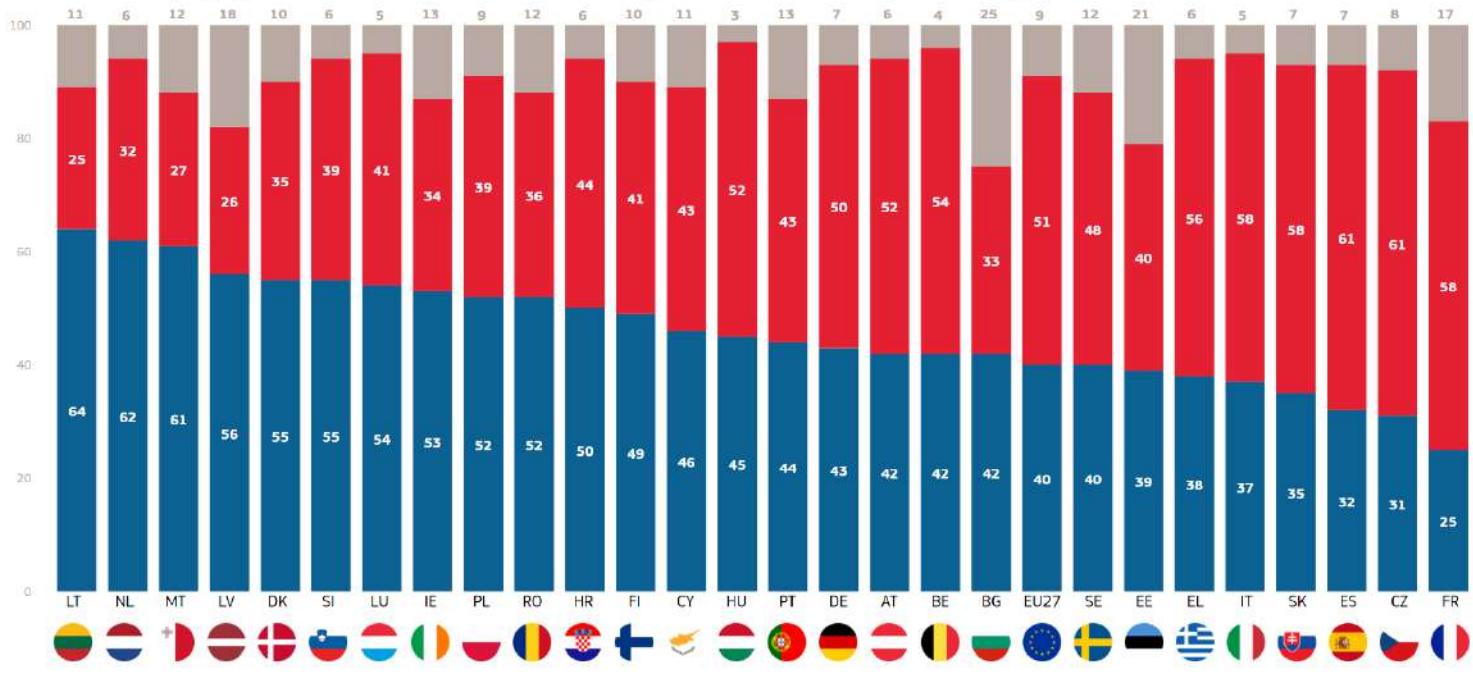
	Total 'Good'	Total 'Bad'	Don't know
EU27	35	63	2
<b>Gender</b>			
Man	37	61	2
Woman	33	65	2
<b>Age</b>			
15-24	37	57	6
25-39	36	63	1
40-54	34	64	2
55 +	35	63	2
<b>Education (End of)</b>			
15-	23	75	2
16-19	31	67	2
20+	43	56	1
Still studying	42	52	6
<b>Socio-professional category</b>			
Self-employed	36	63	1
Managers	47	52	1
Other white collars	35	64	1
Manual workers	31	67	2
House persons	22	77	1
Unemployed	21	77	2
Retired	35	63	2
Students	42	52	6
<b>Difficulties paying bills</b>			
Most of the time	16	82	2
From time to time	27	71	2
Almost never/ Never	42	56	2
<b>Consider belonging to</b>			
The working class	23	74	3
The lower middle class	29	69	2
The middle class	39	59	2
The upper middle class	54	45	1
The upper class	61	37	2
<b>Image of the EU</b>			
Positive	46	52	2
Neutral	30	67	3
Negative	17	82	1

**Standard Eurobarometer 98**  
**Public opinion in the European Union**  
**Winter 2022-2023**

A national analysis shows that in 15 EU Member States (compared with 16 in summer 2022) a majority of respondents believe that **the situation of the European economy** is 'good'. More than six in ten respondents share this opinion in Lithuania (64%), the Netherlands (62%) and Malta (61%).

On the other hand, only a minority of respondents think that the situation of the European economy is good in 12 EU Member States (compared with 11 in summer 2022), with the lowest proportions in France (25%), Czechia (31%) and Spain (32%).

QA1.3 How would you judge the current situation in each of the following?: The situation of the European economy (%)



ST98 Jan/Feb 2023

**Standard Eurobarometer 98**  
**Public opinion in the European Union**  
**Winter 2022-2023**

Since summer 2022, the gap between perceptions of the situation of the European economy in countries in **the euro area and those outside the euro area** has narrowed. Nevertheless, euro area respondents are still less likely to be positive about the economic situation in the European Union than those from outside the euro area (38% vs 47%). Positive perceptions of the European economy have increased slightly in euro area countries (+1 percentage point), while they have decreased strongly in non-euro area countries (-6pp).

In terms of changes since summer 2022, positive perceptions of the situation of the European economy have lost ground in 13 EU Member States, most strikingly in Sweden (40%, -13 percentage points), Malta (61%, -11pp) and Slovakia (35%, -10pp). On the other hand, they have gained ground in 12 EU Member States, particularly in Spain (32%, +7pp), Cyprus (46%, +7pp) and Latvia (56%, +6pp). Finally, they are unchanged in Finland (49%) and France (25%).

**QA1.3 How would you judge the current situation in each of the following?**

The situation of the European economy (%)

		EU27	EURO	NON EURO	ES	CY	LV	CZ	IE	HR	BG	NL	DE	EL	IT	AT	FR	FI	LU	LT	SI	BE	EE	PT	RO	HU	DK	PL	SK	MT	SE
Total 'Good'	Jan/Feb 2023	40	38	47	32	46	56	31	53	50	42	62	43	38	37	42	25	49	54	64	55	42	39	44	52	45	55	52	35	61	40
	Δ Jun/Jul 2022	=	▲1	▼6	▲7	▲7	▲6	▲5	▲5	▲5	▲4	▲3	▲2	▲2	▲2	▲1	=	=	▼2	▼4	▼4	▼5	▼5	▼6	▼7	▼8	▼9	▼10	▼11	▼13	
Total 'Bad'	Jan/Feb 2023	51	53	43	61	43	26	61	34	44	33	32	50	56	58	52	58	41	41	25	39	54	40	43	36	52	35	39	58	27	48
	Δ Jun/Jul 2022	=	▼1	▲4	▼4	▼11	▼14	▼7	▼8	▼6	▼4	▼5	▼1	=	▼1	▼4	▲1	▼4	▲9	▼2	▲2	▲3	▲1	▲4	▲7	▲4	▲8	▲7	▲5	▲1	
Don't know	Jan/Feb 2023	9	9	10	7	11	18	8	13	6	25	6	7	6	5	6	17	10	5	11	6	4	21	13	12	3	10	9	7	12	12
	Δ Jun/Jul 2022	=	=	▲2	▼3	▲4	▲8	▲2	▲3	▲1	=	▲2	▼1	▼2	▼1	▲3	▼1	▲4	▼7	▲6	▲2	▲4	▲2	▼1	=	▲4	▲1	▲3	▲6	▲12	

**Standard Eurobarometer 98**  
**Public opinion in the European Union**  
**Winter 2022-2023**

**The socio-demographic data** show that a majority of respondents in most socio-demographic categories are negative about the situation of the European economy.

However, a majority of respondents are positive about this situation among those aged 15-24 years old (46% 'good' vs 39% 'bad'), managers (51% vs 43%), students (50% vs 37%), and those who consider themselves as belonging to the upper class (64% vs 32%) or upper middle class (56% vs 37%) of society.

In all other categories, a majority of respondents are negative about the European economic situation, most notably those who left school at the age of 15 or earlier (60% 'bad' vs 27% 'good'), unemployed people (63% vs 25%), house persons (61% vs 29%), those who have difficulties paying their bills most of the time (63% vs 26%) or from time to time (55% vs 36%), and those who consider themselves as belonging to the working class (58% vs 28%) or lower middle class (56% vs 34%) of society.

**QA1.3** How would you judge the current situation in each of the following?

**The situation of the European economy (%) - EU)**

	Total 'Good'	Total 'Bad'	Don't know
EU27	40	51	9
<b>Gender</b>			
Man	43	49	8
Woman	38	51	11
<b>Age</b>			
15-24	46	39	15
25-39	43	50	7
40-54	40	53	7
55 +	37	53	10
<b>Education (End of)</b>			
15-	27	60	13
16-19	37	54	9
20+	46	47	7
Still studying	50	37	13
<b>Socio-professional category</b>			
Self-employed	47	48	5
Managers	51	43	6
Other white collars	43	50	7
Manual workers	37	54	9
House persons	29	61	10
Unemployed	25	63	12
Retired	36	52	12
Students	50	37	13
<b>Difficulties paying bills</b>			
Most of the time	26	63	11
From time to time	36	55	9
Almost never/ Never	44	47	9
<b>Consider belonging to</b>			
The working class	28	58	14
The lower middle class	34	56	10
The middle class	45	48	7
The upper middle class	56	37	7
The upper class	64	32	4
<b>Image of the EU</b>			
Positive	56	37	7
Neutral	34	55	11
Negative	17	76	7

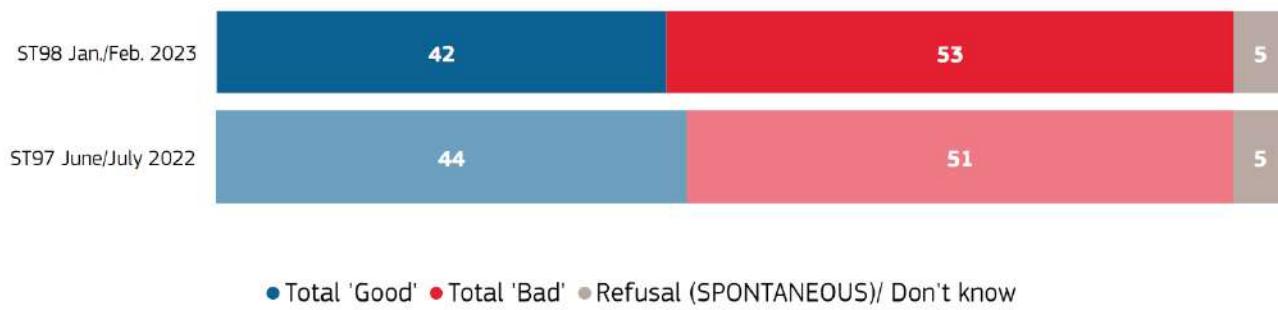
**Standard Eurobarometer 98**  
**Public opinion in the European Union**  
**Winter 2022-2023**

**The employment situation**

Europeans have become slightly more negative about **the employment situation in their country**: 42% (-2 percentage points since summer 2022) think that the employment situation in their country is 'good', while 53% (+2) say it is 'bad' and 5% (no change) answered 'don't know'<sup>66</sup>.

QA1.6. How would you judge the current situation in each of the following?: The employment situation in (OUR COUNTRY) (%)

The employment situation in (OUR COUNTRY)



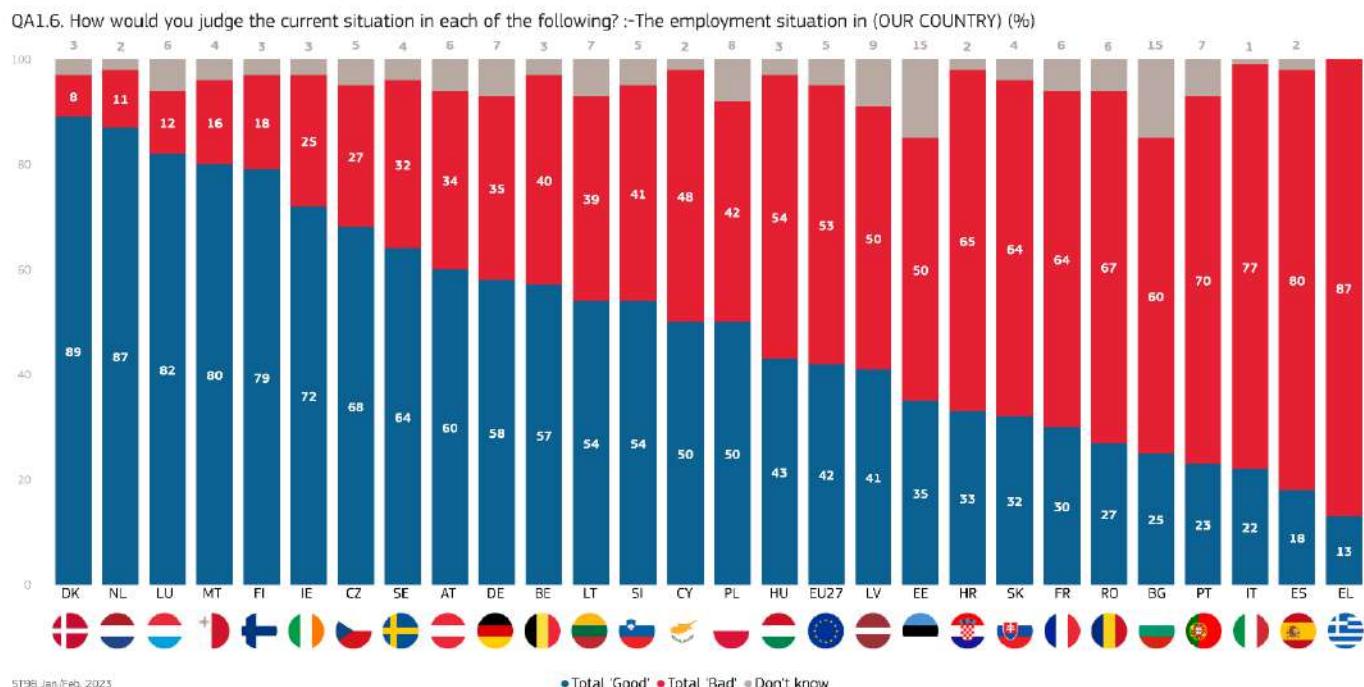
<sup>66</sup> QA1a. How would you judge the current situation in each of the following? 6. The employment situation in (OUR COUNTRY)

**Standard Eurobarometer 98**  
**Public opinion in the European Union**  
**Winter 2022-2023**

In 15 EU Member States (compared with 16 in summer 2022), a majority of respondents are positive about **the employment situation in their country**. Over three quarters of respondents are positive about the employment situation in their country in Denmark (89%), the Netherlands (87%), Luxembourg (82%), Malta (80%) and Finland (79%).

On the other hand, only a minority of respondents believe that the employment situation in their country is good in 12 countries (compared with 11 in summer 2022), with the lowest levels being recorded in Greece (13%), Spain (18%) and Italy (22%).

In terms of changes since summer 2022, the proportion of respondents who consider that **the employment situation in their country** is good has decreased in 16 EU Member States, by double digits in Slovakia (32%, -16 percentage points), Estonia (35%, -13pp), Poland (50%, -12pp), Slovenia (54%, -11pp), Romania (27%, -11pp) and Hungary (43%, -10pp). Meanwhile, this proportion has increased in nine countries, most notably in the Netherlands (87%, +8pp), Greece (13%, +7pp) and Cyprus (50%, +6pp). It is unchanged in Lithuania (54%) and Latvia (41%).



**Standard Eurobarometer 98**  
**Public opinion in the European Union**  
**Winter 2022-2023**

The socio-demographic data show that views about the national employment situation are predominantly negative. However, a majority of respondents consider that the employment situation is 'good' among those who continued their education up to the age of 20 or beyond (51%), managers (56%), those who never or almost never have difficulties paying their bills (50%), and those who consider themselves as belonging to the upper class (72%) or upper middle class (62%) of society.

In contrast, the respondents the least likely to rate the national employment situation as 'good' are those who left school at the age of 15 or earlier (24%), house persons (25%), unemployed people (19%), those who have difficulties paying their bills most of the time (17%) or from time to time (32%), and those who consider themselves as belonging to the working class (27%) of society.

QA1.6 How would you judge the current situation in each of the following?

The employment situation in (OUR COUNTRY) (% - EU)

	Total 'Good'	Total 'Bad'	Don't know
EU27	42	53	5
Gender			
Man	44	52	4
Woman	39	56	5
Age			
15-24	41	51	8
25-39	45	53	2
40-54	43	55	2
55 +	39	54	7
Education (End of)			
15-	24	70	6
16-19	39	57	4
20+	51	45	4
Still studying	44	47	9
Socio-professional category			
Self-employed	47	50	3
Managers	56	42	2
Other white collars	45	53	2
Manual workers	41	56	3
House persons	25	73	2
Unemployed	19	79	2
Retired	39	52	9
Students	44	47	9
Difficulties paying bills			
Most of the time	17	80	3
From time to time	32	64	4
Almost never/ Never	50	45	5
Consider belonging to			
The working class	27	66	7
The lower middle class	37	58	5
The middle class	46	50	4
The upper middle class	62	35	3
The upper class	72	24	4
Image of the EU			
Positive	52	43	5
Neutral	36	59	5
Negative	28	69	3

### 1.2.2 Expectations for the next twelve months

#### National and European situations

#### Expectations regarding the economic outlook have improved at both national and European levels

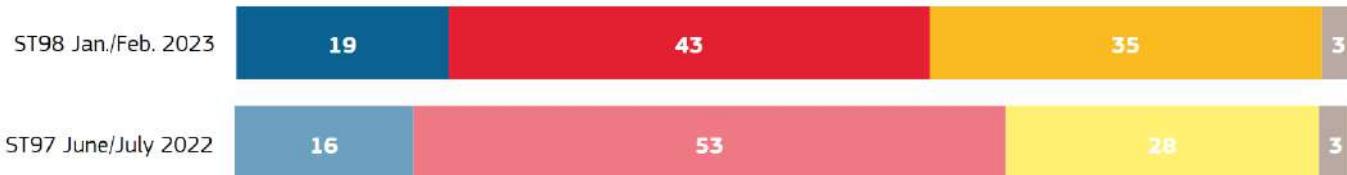
While perceptions of the current economic situation are stable at both national and European levels, expectations for the next twelve months have become more positive and levels of pessimism about the economic outlook at both national and European levels have decreased significantly.

Close to one in five respondents in the EU (19%, +3 percentage points since summer 2022) expect **the economic situation in their country** to get better over the coming year, while more than four in ten (43%, -10pp) expect it to get worse and over a third (35%, +7pp) expect it to remain unchanged.

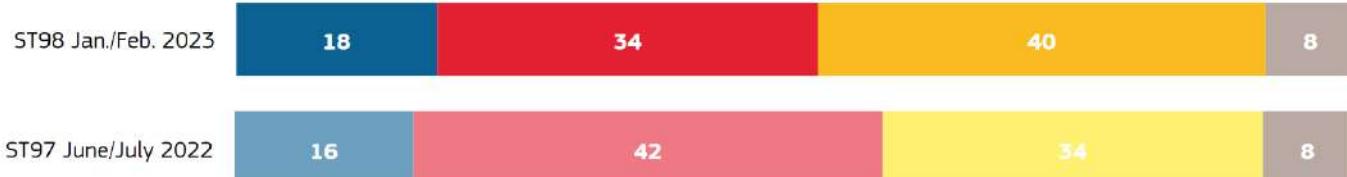
In this survey, a majority of Europeans (40%, +6 percentage points since summer 2022) consider that the next 12 months will be the same when it comes to **the economic situation in the EU**. In addition, nearly one in five respondents (18%, +2pp) expect it to get better over the coming year, while slightly more than a third (34%, -8pp) expect it to get worse<sup>67</sup>.

QA2. What are your expectations for the next twelve months: will the next twelve months be better, worse or the same, when it comes to...? (EU27) (%)

#### The economic situation in (OUR COUNTRY)



#### The economic situation in the EU



● Better ● Worse ● The same ● Refusal (SPONTANEOUS)/ Don't know

(ST98 Jan./Feb. 2023 - ST97 June/July 2022)

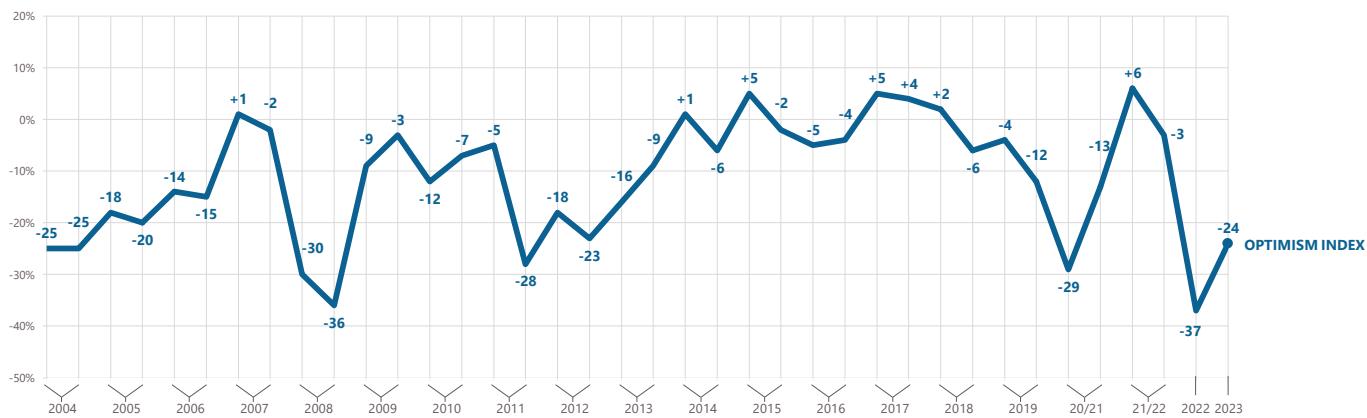
<sup>67</sup> QA2a. What are your expectations for the next twelve months: will the next twelve months be better, worse or the same, when it comes to...? 3.

The economic situation in (OUR COUNTRY); 7. The economic situation in the EU.

**Standard Eurobarometer 98**  
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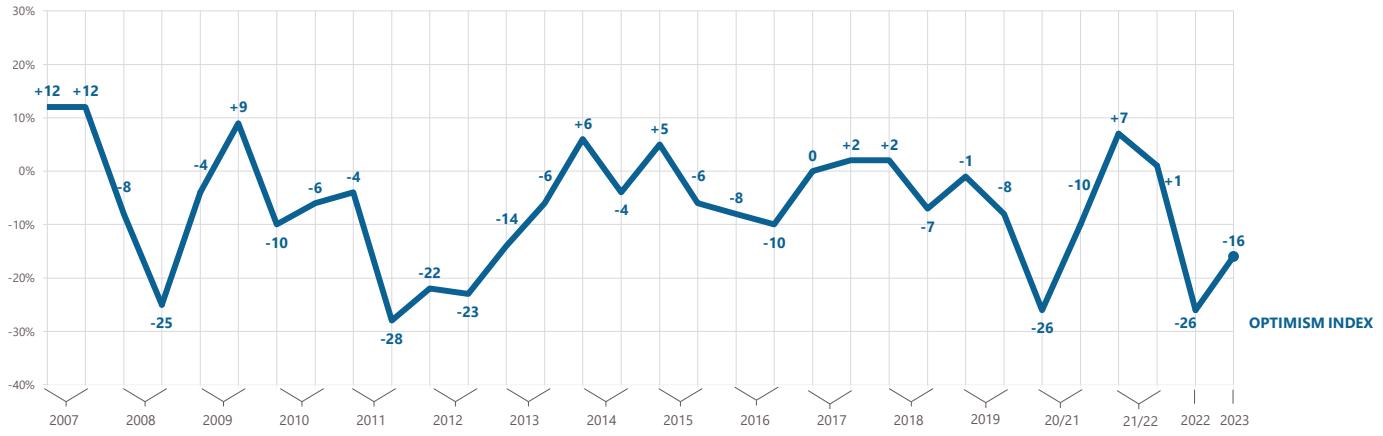
As a result of these changes, the optimism indices for the national and European economic situations have improved considerably. At -24, the optimism index for **the national economic situation** has gained 13 index points since summer 2022, but the current level is still the eighth lowest recorded since 2004.

**QA2.3** What are your expectations for the next twelve months: will the next twelve months be better, worse or the same, when it comes to...?  
**The economic situation in (OUR COUNTRY) (EU - OPTIMISM INDEX (BETTER - WORSE))**



At -16, the optimism index for **the economic situation in the EU** has gained ten index points since summer 2022, continuing the sharp fluctuations seen in recent years. The current level is the seventh lowest recorded since 2007.

**QA2.7** What are your expectations for the next twelve months: will the next twelve months be better, worse or the same, when it comes to...?  
**The economic situation in the EU (EU - OPTIMISM INDEX (BETTER - WORSE))**



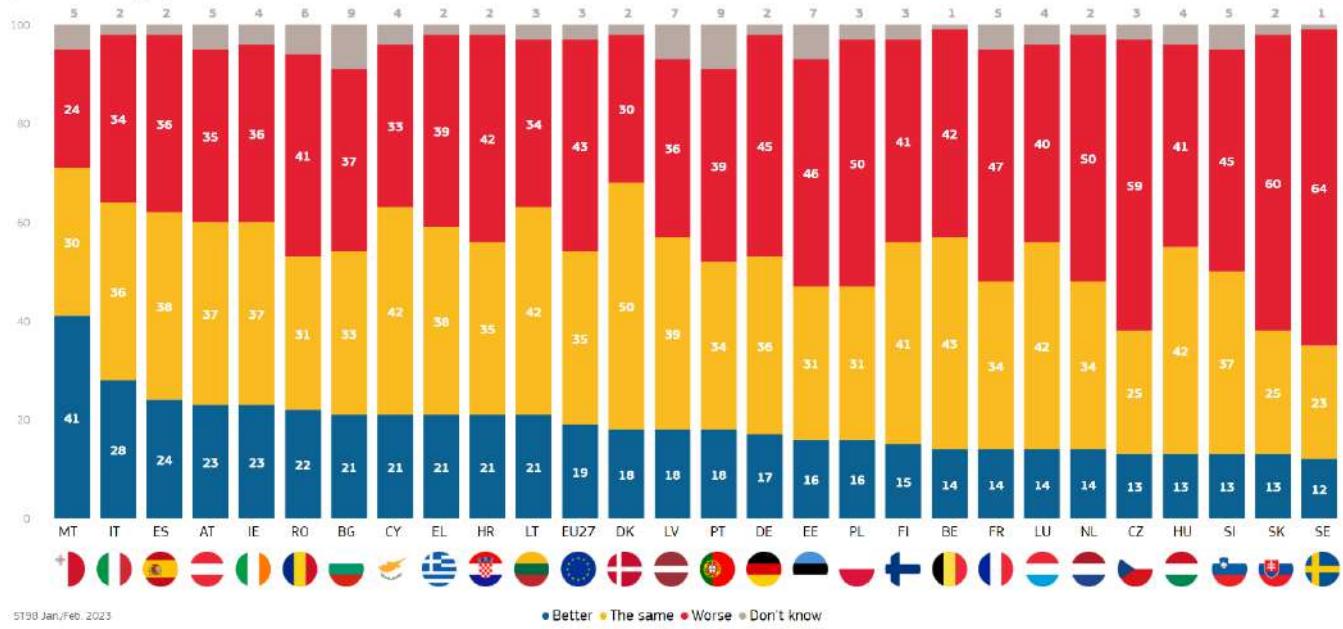
**Standard Eurobarometer 98**  
**Public opinion in the European Union**  
**Winter 2022-2023**

Regarding **the national economic situation**, Malta (41%) is the only country where a majority of respondents expect the next 12 months to be “better”. In 14 EU Member States the most common response is that things will get “worse”, and 11 where respondents consider it will stay “the same”. Lastly in Finland, respondents are evenly divided between “worse” and ‘the same’ (41% for both options).

Pessimists outnumber optimists in every EU Member States except Malta (41% “better” vs 24% “worse”). Relatively high levels of optimism are also noticeable in Italy (28% “better” vs 34% “worse”), Spain (24% vs 36%), Austria (23% vs 35%), Ireland (23% vs 36%) and Romania (22% vs 41%).

Pessimism is the most marked in Sweden (64%), Slovakia (60%), Czechia (59%) and Poland and the Netherlands (both 50%).

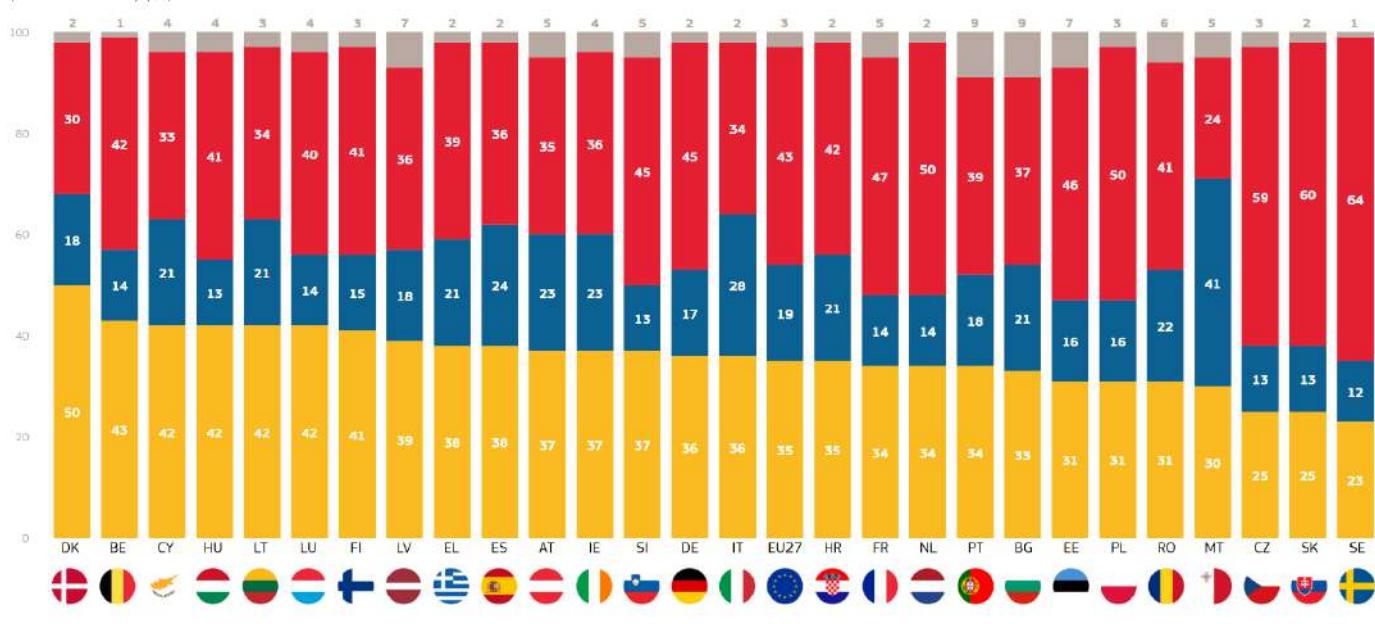
QA2.3. What are your expectations for the next twelve months: will the next twelve months be better, worse or the same, when it comes to...?: The economic situation in (OUR COUNTRY) (%)



ST98 Jan/Feb. 2023

Sorted by “Better”

QA2.3. What are your expectations for the next twelve months: will the next twelve months be better, worse or the same, when it comes to...?: The economic situation in (OUR COUNTRY) (%)



ST98 Jan/Feb. 2023

Sorted by “The same”

**Standard Eurobarometer 98**  
**Public opinion in the European Union**  
**Winter 2022-2023**

Since summer 2022, the **optimism index** for the national economic situation has improved in 23 EU Member States, by double digits in 17 countries, most notably in Germany and Lithuania (both +33 index points), and Latvia (+32).

In contrast, this index has deteriorated slightly in four EU Member States, namely Malta (-5), France and Poland (both -4) and Romania (-2).

**QA2.3 What are your expectations for the next 12 months : will the next 12 months be better, worse or the same, when it comes to...?**

**The economic situation in (OUR COUNTRY) (%)**

	EU27	DE	LT	LV	CZ	EE	DK	IE	NL	AT	FI	HR	CY	BE	EL	ES	SK	BG	SI	SE	IT	LU	HU	PT	RO	FR	PL	MT
Better - Worse Jan/Feb 2023	-24	-28	-13	-18	-46	-30	-12	-13	-36	-12	-26	-21	-12	-28	-18	-12	-47	-16	-32	-52	-6	-26	-28	-21	-19	-33	-34	17
Better - Worse Jun/Jul 2022	-37	-61	-46	-50	-72	-56	-37	-38	-61	-37	-48	-40	-31	-46	-35	-29	-60	-26	-38	-57	-9	-29	-30	-23	-17	-29	-30	22
Jan/Feb 2023 - Jun/Jul 2022	▲13	▲33	▲33	▲32	▲26	▲26	▲25	▲25	▲25	▲22	▲19	▲18	▲17	▲17	▲13	▲10	▲6	▲5	▲3	▲3	▲2	▼2	▼4	▼4	▼5			

**Standard Eurobarometer 98**  
**Public opinion in the European Union**  
**Winter 2022-2023**

The socio-demographic data show that in all socio-demographic categories the prevailing view is that the national economic situation will get worse over the next twelve months. However, students are divided on this matter, with equal proportions considering that the next 12 months will be "worse" and "the same" (35% for both options).

Attitudes are generally consistent across the various groups, although respondents aged 15-24 (25%) and students (26%) are slightly more likely than other groups to say that the situation will get better.

The respondents the most likely to think that things will get worse over the next 12 months are those who have difficulties paying their bills most of the time (55%) and those who consider themselves as belonging to the lower middle class (49%) of society.

**QA2.3** What are your expectations for the next 12 months : will the next 12 months be better, worse or the same, when it comes to...?

**The economic situation in (OUR COUNTRY) (% - EU)**

	Better	Worse	The same	Don't know
EU27	19	43	35	3
 Gender				
Man	19	44	34	3
Woman	18	43	36	3
 Age				
15-24	25	36	35	4
25-39	22	42	33	3
40-54	18	47	32	3
55 +	16	43	38	3
 Education (End of)				
15-	16	44	35	5
16-19	18	44	35	3
20+	19	44	34	3
Still studying	26	35	35	4
 Socio-professional category				
Self-employed	22	42	33	3
Managers	19	44	35	2
Other white collars	20	43	35	2
Manual workers	19	46	32	3
House persons	20	46	31	3
Unemployed	18	46	33	3
Retired	14	43	39	4
Students	26	35	35	4
 Difficulties paying bills				
Most of the time	15	55	27	3
From time to time	18	46	33	3
Almost never/ Never	20	40	37	3
 Consider belonging to				
The working class	15	45	35	5
The lower middle class	15	49	33	3
The middle class	22	40	36	2
The upper middle class	22	44	32	2
The upper class	22	44	33	1
 Image of the EU				
Positive	24	35	39	2
Neutral	17	43	36	4
Negative	11	63	24	2

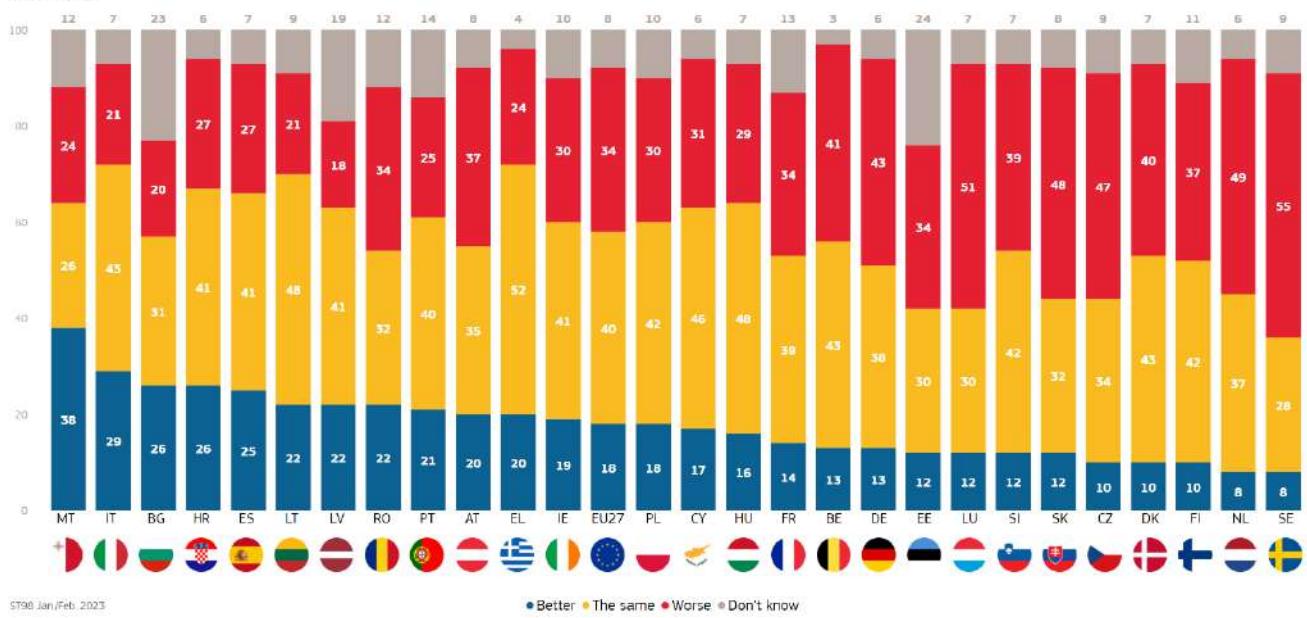
**Standard Eurobarometer 98**  
**Public opinion in the European Union**  
**Winter 2022-2023**

In terms of expectations for **the economic situation in the EU**, the prevailing view in 17 EU Member States is that it will stay “the same”. In Malta (38%), the most common response is that the economic situation in the EU will get better, while the most common view in nine EU Member States is that it will get worse.

Optimism outweighs pessimism in five EU Member States: in Malta (38% “better” vs 24% “worse”), Italy (29% vs 21%), Bulgaria (26% vs 20%), Latvia (22% vs 18%) and Lithuania (22% vs 21%). Higher levels of optimism are also perceptible in Croatia (26%) and Spain (25%).

In 22 EU Member States, pessimists outnumber optimists, most notably in Sweden (55%), Luxembourg (51%), the Netherlands (49%), Slovakia (48%) and Czechia (47%).

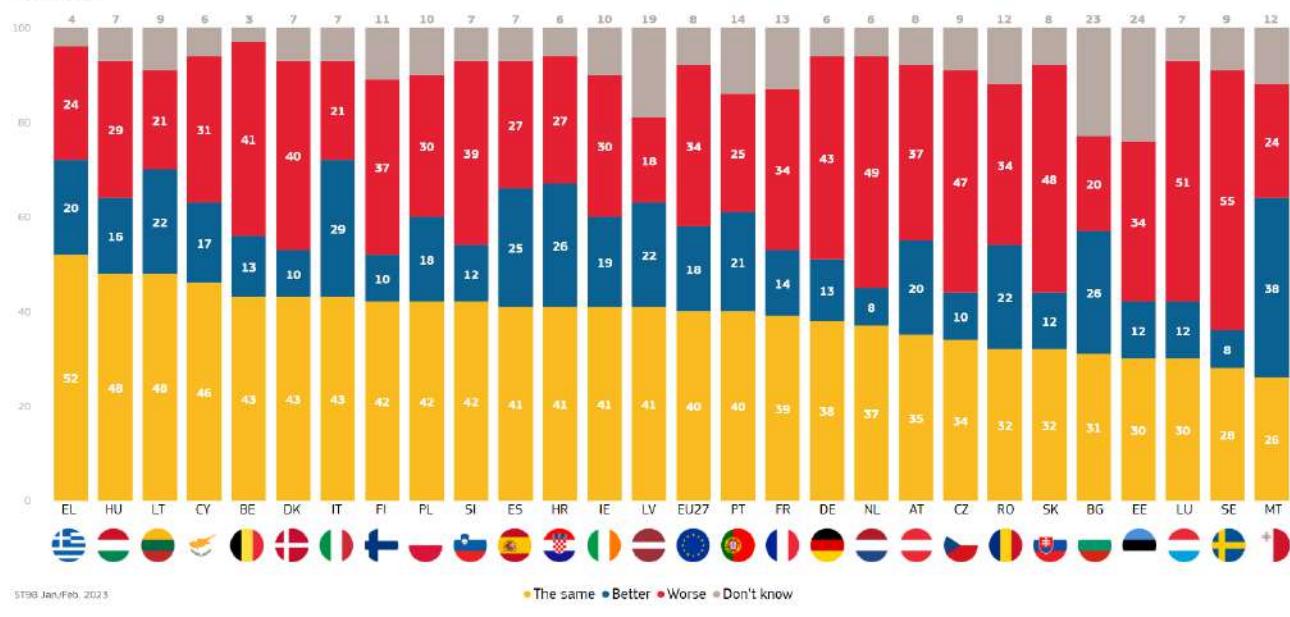
QA2.7 What are your expectations for the next twelve months: will the next twelve months be better, worse or the same, when it comes to...? The economic situation in the EU (%)



ST98 Jan/Feb. 2023

Sorted by "Better"

QA2.7. What are your expectations for the next twelve months: will the next twelve months be better, worse or the same, when it comes to...? The economic situation in the EU (%)



ST98 Jan/Feb. 2023

Sorted by "The same"

**Standard Eurobarometer 98**  
**Public opinion in the European Union**  
**Winter 2022-2023**

Since summer 2022, the optimism index for the economic situation in the EU has improved in 23 EU Member States, by double digits in 16 countries, most dramatically in Latvia (+33 index points), Lithuania (+30) and Germany (+26).

In contrast, it has deteriorated slightly in four EU Member States, namely Poland (-7), France (-5), Romania (-3) and Malta (-1).

**QA2.7 What are your expectations for the next 12 months : will the next 12 months be better, worse or the same, when it comes to...?**  
**The economic situation in the EU (%)**

	EU27	LV	LT	DE	AT	EE	FI	CZ	HR	EL	BE	DK	IE	ES	NL	BG	SI	SE	LU	HU	CY	IT	PT	SK	MT	RO	FR	PL
Better - Worse Jan/Feb 2023	-16	4	1	-30	-17	-22	-27	-37	-1	-4	-28	-30	-11	-2	-41	6	-27	-47	-39	-13	-14	8	-4	-36	14	-12	-20	-12
Better - Worse Jun/Jul 2022	-26	-29	-29	-56	-42	-46	-50	-59	-22	-23	-45	-45	-26	-17	-56	-7	-40	-56	-47	-21	-21	3	-9	-39	15	-9	-15	-5
Jan/Feb 2023 - Jun/Jul 2022	▲10	▲33	▲30	▲26	▲25	▲24	▲23	▲22	▲21	▲19	▲17	▲15	▲15	▲15	▲13	▲13	▲9	▲8	▲8	▲7	▲5	▲5	▲3	▼1	▼3	▼5	▼7	

**Standard Eurobarometer 98**  
**Public opinion in the European Union**  
**Winter 2022-2023**

The socio-demographic data show that in nearly all socio-demographic categories the prevailing view is that the economic situation in the EU will stay the same over the next 12 months. However, a majority of respondents in the following categories believe that the next 12 months will be worse: those who have difficulties paying their bills most of the time (41% "worse" vs 33% "the same") and those who consider themselves as belonging to the upper class (41% vs 37%) of society. In addition, house persons are divided on this matter (37% vs 37%).

Pessimism outweighs optimism in every socio-demographic category. However, some groups are more likely than others to say that things will get better. This is particularly the case of respondents aged 15-24 (23% "better" vs 25% "worse") and students (24% vs 25%).

**QA2.7** What are your expectations for the next 12 months : will the next 12 months be better, worse or the same, when it comes to...?

**The economic situation in the EU (%) - EU**

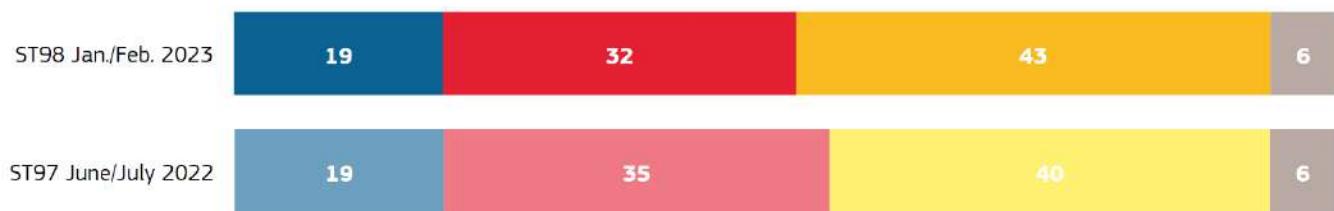
	Better	Worse	The same	Don't know
EU27	18	34	40	8
<b>Gender</b>				
Man	19	35	39	7
Woman	17	33	40	10
<b>Age</b>				
15-24	23	25	41	11
25-39	21	32	40	7
40-54	18	37	38	7
55 +	14	36	41	9
<b>Education (End of)</b>				
15-	15	35	38	12
16-19	19	33	40	8
20+	18	36	39	7
Still studying	24	25	42	9
<b>Socio-professional category</b>				
Self-employed	20	34	37	9
Managers	18	36	40	6
Other white collars	20	33	40	7
Manual workers	19	34	38	9
House persons	17	37	37	9
Unemployed	18	32	40	10
Retired	13	36	41	10
Students	24	25	42	9
<b>Difficulties paying bills</b>				
Most of the time	15	41	33	11
From time to time	19	34	39	8
Almost never/ Never	18	33	41	8
<b>Consider belonging to</b>				
The working class	15	34	38	13
The lower middle class	14	37	40	9
The middle class	21	32	40	7
The upper middle class	20	35	39	6
The upper class	18	41	37	4
<b>Image of the EU</b>				
Positive	24	26	44	6
Neutral	16	33	40	11
Negative	8	55	29	8

### The employment situation

While Europeans have become slightly more negative about the employment situation in their country, their expectations regarding **the national employment situation** for the next twelve months have improved slightly: 19% of Europeans (unchanged since summer 2022) expect the next twelve months to be “better” when it comes to the employment situation in their country, while 32% (-3 percentage points) expect it to get “worse” and 43% (+3pp) consider that it will stay “the same”<sup>68</sup>.

QA2. What are your expectations for the next twelve months: will the next twelve months be better, worse or the same, when it comes to...? (EU27) (%)

The employment situation in (OUR COUNTRY)



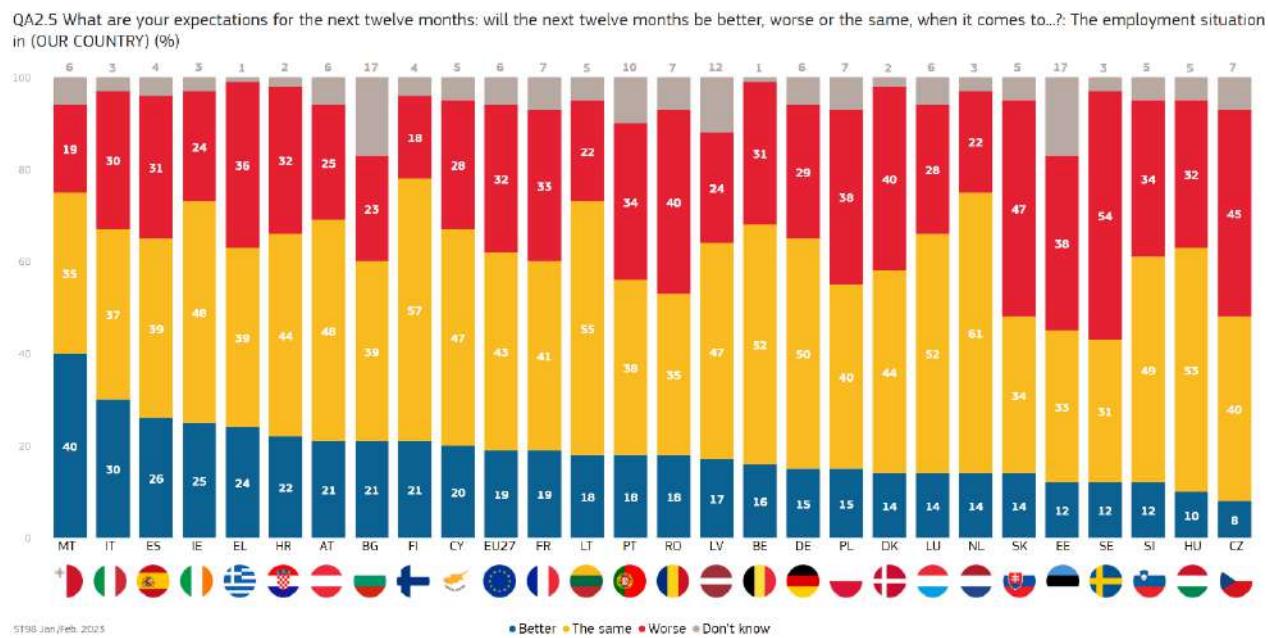
● Better ● Worse ● The same ● Refusal (SPONTANEOUS)/ Don't know

<sup>68</sup> QA2a. What are your expectations for the next twelve months: will the next twelve months be better, worse or the same, when it comes to...? 5. The employment situation in (OUR COUNTRY)

**Standard Eurobarometer 98**  
**Public opinion in the European Union**  
**Winter 2022-2023**

A national analysis reveals that in 21 EU Member States respondents are most likely to believe that the next 12 months will be the same when it comes to the employment situation in their country, most notably in the Netherlands (61% "the same"), Finland (57%) and Lithuania (55%). Respondents in Malta (40% "better") are the most likely to consider that the next 12 months will be better, while the prevailing view in five EU Member States is that the employment situation will get worse. That is the case in Sweden (54% "worse"), Slovakia (47%), Czechia (45%), Romania (40%) and Estonia (38%). Higher levels of pessimism are also seen in Denmark (40%) and Poland (38%).

Pessimism outweighs optimism in 23 EU Member States. On the other hand, optimists outnumber pessimists in three countries, namely Malta (40% "better" vs 19% "worse"), but also in Finland (21% vs 18%) and Ireland (25% vs 24%). Finally, in Italy, equal proportions believe that the situation will get "better" and "worse" (both 30%).



ST98-Jan/Feb. 2023

**Standard Eurobarometer 98**  
**Public opinion in the European Union**  
**Winter 2022-2023**

Since summer 2022, the optimism index for the national employment situation has improved in 14 EU Member States, and by at least ten percentage points in nine countries, most notably in Greece (+19 index points), Lithuania (+18) and Germany (+17).

On the other hand, this index has deteriorated in 11 EU Member States, most dramatically in Sweden (-22 index points), France, Poland and Malta (all -11) and Hungary (-10). Finally, there has been no change in Romania and Portugal.

**QA2.5 What are your expectations for the next 12 months : will the next 12 months be better, worse or the same, when it comes to...? The employment situation in (OUR COUNTRY) (%)**

	EU27	EL	LT	DE	AT	ES	LV	HR	FI	CY	BG	IE	IT	EE	BE	PT	RO	SI	CZ	NL	LU	DK	SK	HU	FR	MT	PL	SE
Better - Worse Jan/Feb 2023	-13	-12	-4	-14	-4	-5	-7	-10	3	-8	-2	1	0	-26	-15	-16	-22	-22	-37	-8	-14	-26	-33	-22	-14	21	-23	-42
Better - Worse Jun/Jul 2022	-16	-31	-22	-31	-20	-19	-20	-22	-8	-18	-11	-6	-6	-30	-17	-16	-22	-21	-34	-2	-7	-18	-24	-12	-3	32	-12	-20
Jan/Feb 2023 - Jun/Jul 2022	▲3	▲19	▲18	▲17	▲16	▲14	▲13	▲12	▲11	▲10	▲9	▲7	▲6	▲4	▲2	=	=	▼1	▼3	▼6	▼7	▼8	▼9	▼10	▼11	▼11	▼22	

**Standard Eurobarometer 98**  
**Public opinion in the European Union**  
**Winter 2022-2023**

The socio-demographic data show that the prevailing view in all socio-demographic categories but one is that the national employment situation will stay the same over the next 12 months. The exception is respondents who have difficulties paying their bills most of the time, who are most likely to consider that the next 12 months will be worse when it comes to the national employment situation (44% "worse" vs 34% "the same").

Respondents aged 15-24 (23% "better") or 25-39 (22%), students (23%), managers (22%), and those who consider themselves as belonging to the upper middle class or upper class (both 22%) are slightly more optimistic about the outlook.

The most pessimistic groups are respondents aged 40-54 (37% "worse"), house persons (37%) and those who have difficulties paying their bills most of the time (44%) or from time to time (37%).

**QA2.5** What are your expectations for the next 12 months : will the next 12 months be better, worse or the same, when it comes to...?

**The employment situation in (OUR COUNTRY) (%) - EU)**

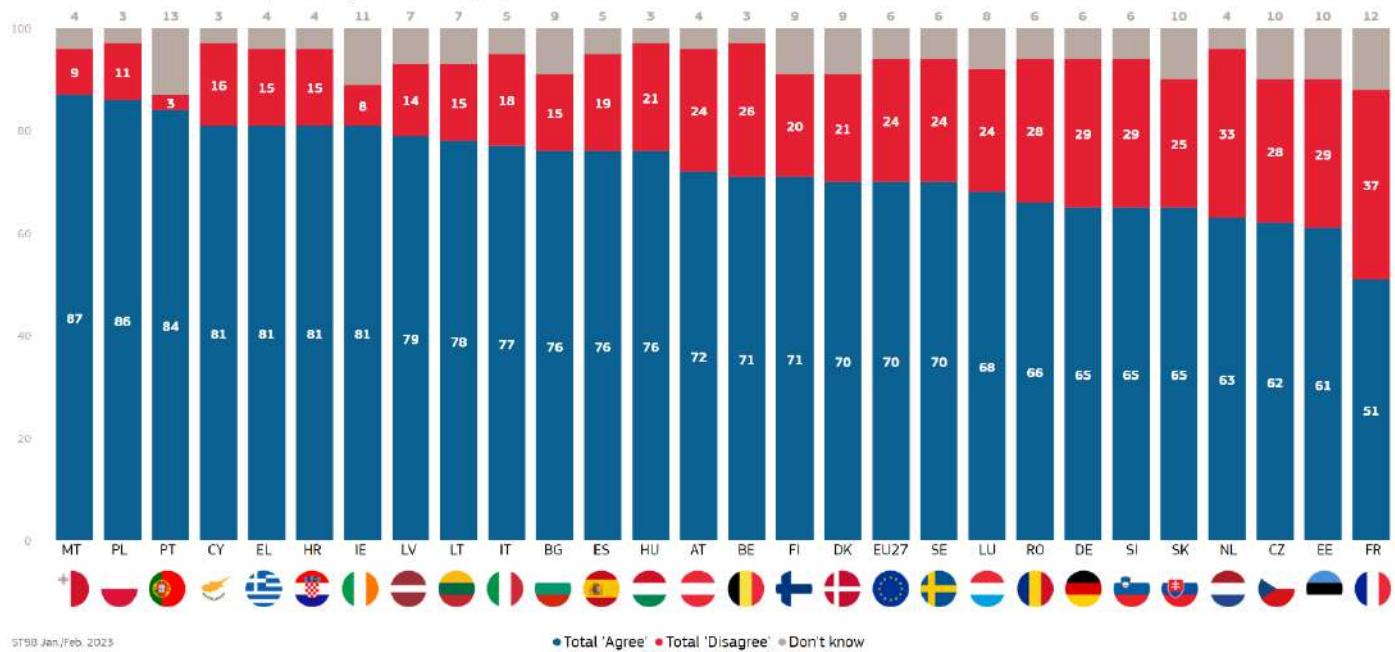
	Better	Worse	The same	Don't know
EU27	19	32	43	6
<b>Gender</b>				
Man	20	33	43	4
Woman	19	31	44	6
<b>Age</b>				
15-24	23	25	45	7
25-39	22	31	43	4
40-54	19	37	40	4
55 +	17	32	44	7
<b>Education (End of)</b>				
15-	16	36	40	8
16-19	19	33	43	5
20+	20	32	44	4
Still studying	23	24	46	7
<b>Socio-professional category</b>				
Self-employed	20	32	44	4
Managers	22	31	44	3
Other white collars	20	34	43	3
Manual workers	20	36	40	4
House persons	17	37	40	6
Unemployed	20	36	38	6
Retired	16	31	45	8
Students	23	24	46	7
<b>Difficulties paying bills</b>				
Most of the time	17	44	34	5
From time to time	19	37	39	5
Almost never/ Never	19	29	46	6
<b>Consider belonging to</b>				
The working class	16	36	40	8
The lower middle class	16	33	45	6
The middle class	21	31	44	4
The upper middle class	22	29	46	3
The upper class	22	32	45	1
<b>Image of the EU</b>				
Positive	24	24	47	5
Neutral	17	34	43	6
Negative	12	50	34	4

## 2. The European Union and economic reforms

### 2.1 The European Union continues to be seen as a key player in the global economy

Seven in ten Europeans (unchanged since summer 2022) agree with the statement “**the European Union has sufficient power and tools to defend the economic interests of Europe in the global economy**”, including nearly a quarter (23%, no change) who “totally agree”. However, close to a quarter (24%, no change) disagree with this statement, and 6% (no change) expressed no opinion<sup>69</sup>.

QB4.1 For each of the following statements, do you totally agree, tend to agree, tend to disagree or totally disagree.: The EU has sufficient power and tools to defend the economic interests of Europe in the global economy (%)



A national analysis shows a consensus among respondents that the European Union is capable of defending European interests in the global economy. Indeed, this view is supported by an absolute majority of respondents in all 27 EU Member States, in proportions ranging from 51% in France to 87% in Malta. Levels of disagreement vary by Member State, ranging from 3% in Portugal to 37% in France.

<sup>69</sup> QB4. For each of the following statements, do you totally agree, tend to agree, tend to disagree or totally disagree. 1. The EU has sufficient power

and tools to defend the economic interests of Europe in the global economy.

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In terms of changes since summer 2022, the proportion of respondents who agree with the statement **“the European Union has sufficient power and tools to defend the economic interests of Europe in the global economy”** has risen in 13 EU Member States, most notably in Latvia (79%, +9 percentage points), Austria (72%, +7pp), Croatia (81%, +5pp), Finland (71%, +5pp) and Czechia (62%, +5pp). On the other hand, it has fallen in nine countries, particularly in Sweden (70%, -6pp), Spain (76%, -4pp) and Germany (65%, -4pp). Finally, it is unchanged in Poland, Greece, Bulgaria, Luxembourg and France.

Since summer 2022, the proportion of respondents agreeing with this statement has increased slightly in countries **outside the euro area** (77%, +1 pp), while remaining stable **in the euro area** (68%, no change). Therefore, euro area respondents are still less likely than non-euro area respondents to agree that the European Union is capable of defending European interests in the global economy.

**QB4.1 For each of the following statements, do you totally agree, tend to agree, tend to disagree or totally disagree.**

The EU has sufficient power and tools to defend the economic interests of Europe in the global economy (%)

		EU27	EURO	NON EURO	LV	AT	CZ	HR	FI	BE	EE	IE	IT	CY	LT	NL	MT	BG	EL	FR	LU	PL	HU	PT	SK	SI	DK	RO	DE	ES	SE
Total 'Agree'	Jan/Feb 2023	70	68	77	79	72	62	81	71	71	61	81	77	81	78	63	87	76	81	51	68	86	76	84	65	65	70	66	65	76	70
	Δ Jun/Jul 2022	=	=	▲1	▲9	▲7	▲5	▲5	▲5	▲3	▲2	▲2	▲2	▲2	▲2	▲2	▲1	=	=	=	=	=	▼1	▼1	▼2	▼3	▼4	▼4	▼6		
Total 'Disagree'	Jan/Feb 2023	24	25	18	14	24	28	15	20	26	29	8	18	16	15	33	9	15	15	37	24	11	21	3	25	29	21	28	29	19	24
	Δ Jun/Jul 2022	=	=	▼1	▼9	▼7	▼8	▼5	▼7	▼4	▼2	▼2	▼3	=	▼5	▼3	▼3	=	=	▲1	▲5	▲1	▲1	▼1	▼5	▼1	▲1	▲3	▲3	▲6	=
Don't know	Jan/Feb 2023	6	7	5	7	4	10	4	9	3	10	11	5	3	7	4	4	9	4	12	8	3	3	13	10	6	9	6	6	5	6
	Δ Jun/Jul 2022	=	=	=	=	=	▲3	=	▲2	▲1	=	=	▲1	▼2	▲3	▲1	▲2	=	=	▼1	▼5	▼1	=	▲2	▲6	▲3	▲2	=	▲1	▼2	▲6

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The socio-demographic data show that more than six in ten respondents in every socio-demographic category agree with the statement “the European Union has sufficient power and tools to defend the economic interests of Europe in the global economy”. Levels of agreement are highest among other white collars (74%) and students (74%), and lowest among unemployed people (64%), house persons (65%) and respondents who have difficulties paying their bills most of the time (61%).

In addition, attitudes are related to general perceptions about the European Union. Respondents who have a positive image of the EU mostly agree with the statement (83%), whereas views are more divided among those who have a negative image of the EU (42% agree vs 51% disagree).

**QB4.1** For each of the following statements, do you totally agree, tend to agree, tend to disagree or totally disagree.  
**The EU has sufficient power and tools to defend the economic interests of Europe in the global economy (%) - EU)**

	Total 'Agree'	Total 'Disagree'	Don't know
EU27	70	24	6
 <b>Gender</b>			
Man	70	25	5
Woman	70	22	8
 <b>Age</b>			
15-24	72	20	8
25-39	72	24	4
40-54	70	25	5
55 +	67	25	8
 <b>Education (End of)</b>			
15-	66	23	11
16-19	70	24	6
20+	70	25	5
Still studying	74	19	7
 <b>Socio-professional category</b>			
Self-employed	72	23	5
Managers	71	25	4
Other white collars	74	22	4
Manual workers	70	25	5
House persons	65	26	9
Unemployed	64	27	9
Retired	67	24	9
Students	74	19	7
 <b>Difficulties paying bills</b>			
Most of the time	61	30	9
From time to time	68	26	6
Almost never/ Never	71	23	6
 <b>Consider belonging to</b>			
The working class	67	23	10
The lower middle class	66	27	7
The middle class	72	23	5
The upper middle class	71	26	3
The upper class	73	23	4
 <b>Image of the EU</b>			
Positive	83	14	3
Neutral	67	24	9
Negative	42	51	7

