



## Flash Eurobarometer 515

# EU Recovery Plan 'NextGenerationEU'

### Summary

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Survey requested by the European Commission, Directorate-General for Economic and Financial Affairs and the Recovery and Resilience Task Force (RECOVER), and coordinated by the Directorate-General for Communication

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Flash Eurobarometer 515 – Ipsos European Public Affairs



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(DG COMM “Media Monitoring and Eurobarometer” Unit)

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## Introduction

**NextGenerationEU** is the European Union's €800 billion temporary recovery instrument to support the social and economic recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic and build a greener, more digital and more resilient Europe for future generations.

The centrepiece of NextGenerationEU is the **Recovery and Resilience Facility** – an instrument that provides grants and loans to support reforms and investments in the EU Member States for a total of €723.8 billion in current prices. Part of the funds – up to €338 billion – are being provided to Member States through grants and another part – up to €385.8 billion – through loans.

Funds under the Recovery and Resilience Facility are being provided to Member States in line with their **national Recovery and Resilience plans** – the roadmaps to reforms and investments to make EU economies greener, digital and more resilient. The Recovery and Resilience Facility is the first performance-based instrument of this scale, in the EU, with financial support being provided to Member States subject to the successful delivery of the commitments Member States took in their Recovery and Resilience Plan.

**REPowerEU** is the European Commission's plan to accelerate the EU's green transition and increase the resilience, security and sustainability of the Union energy system through the decrease of dependence on fossil fuels and the diversification of energy supplies. Following the political agreement reached in December 2022 by the European Parliament and the Council, the Recovery and Resilience Facility will provide financial support for REPowerEU. Member States will add to their existing Recovery and Resilience Plans a dedicated chapter with new actions to deliver on the REPowerEU objectives. Additional funding is made available to Member States to finance REPowerEU.

Survey data presented in this report are weighted to known population proportions. The EU27 averages are weighted according to the size of the 15+ population of each country. Due to rounding, it may happen that the percentages for separate response options shown in the charts do not exactly add up to the totals shown in charts and tables or mentioned in the text.

The country abbreviations used in this report correspond to:

BE 	FR 	NL 
BG 	HR 	AT 
CZ 	IT 	PL 
DK 	CY 	PT 
DE 	LV 	RO 
EE 	LT 	SI 
IE 	LU 	SK 
EL 	HU 	FI 
ES 	MT 	SE 

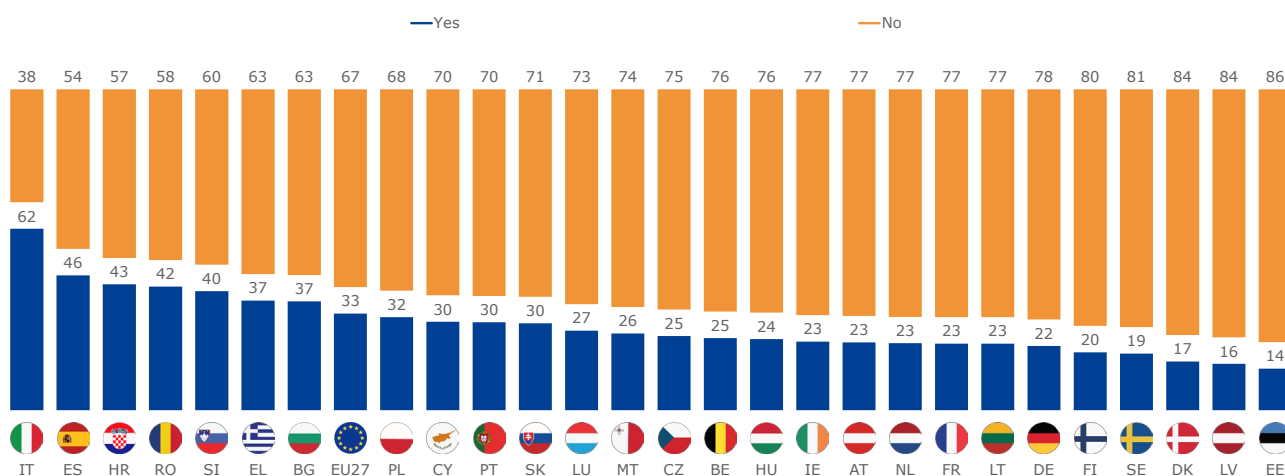
## Section 1. Awareness about NextGenerationEU

### 1.1. Awareness about the National Recovery Plans and NextGenerationEU

Across the EU, **51% of respondents report being aware of a Recovery Plan for their country** to support economic recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic and be better prepared for the challenges and opportunities ahead. The highest awareness levels are observed in Slovakia (68%), Slovenia (69%), Italy (74%) and Portugal (78%), and the lowest levels in Germany (33%), Austria and Latvia (both 30%), Estonia and Sweden (both 28%).

**One third of all respondents (33%) have seen, heard or read something about NextGenerationEU**, the EU's COVID-19 recovery instrument. Italy stands out with 62% of respondents who have seen, heard or read something about NextGenerationEU. In the other countries, this figure ranges from less than one in six in Estonia (14%), Latvia (16%) and Denmark (17%) to at least four in ten in Slovenia (40%), Romania (42%), Croatia (43%) and Spain (46%).

**Q2a** Have you seen, heard or read anything about NextGenerationEU, the EU's COVID-19 recovery instrument? (% by country)



Base: all respondents (n=26 872)

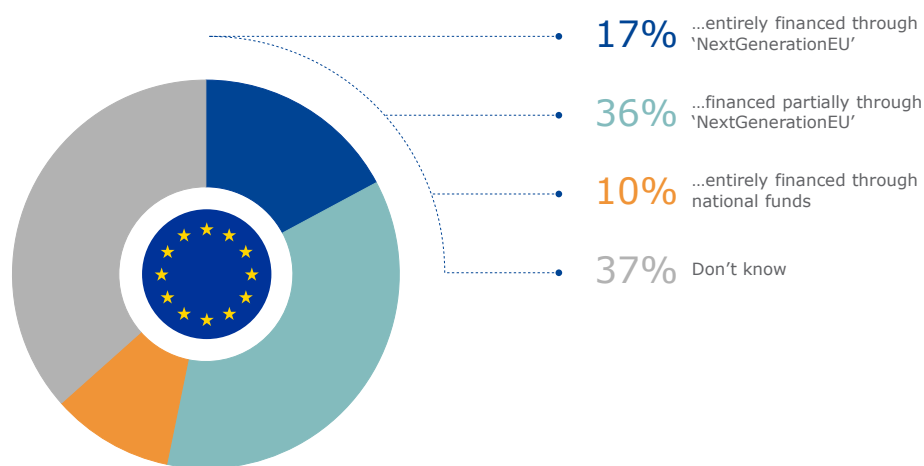
### 1.2. Knowledge about the financing of the National Recovery Plan

**More than one in three respondents (36%) think that the National Recovery Plan of their country is financed partially through NextGenerationEU** and **about one in six (17%) think the plan is entirely financed through NextGenerationEU**. Another large share of respondents (37%) do not know how their country's national plan is financed. One in ten respondents think that



the National Recovery Plan of their country is entirely financed through national funds (10%). Close to four in ten respondents (37%) admit not knowing how their country's national plan is financed.

**Q2b** NextGenerationEU is the EU's temporary recovery instrument to help repair the economic and social damage caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. Which of the following statements do you think is correct? The National Recovery Plan of [COUNTRY] is... (% EU27)

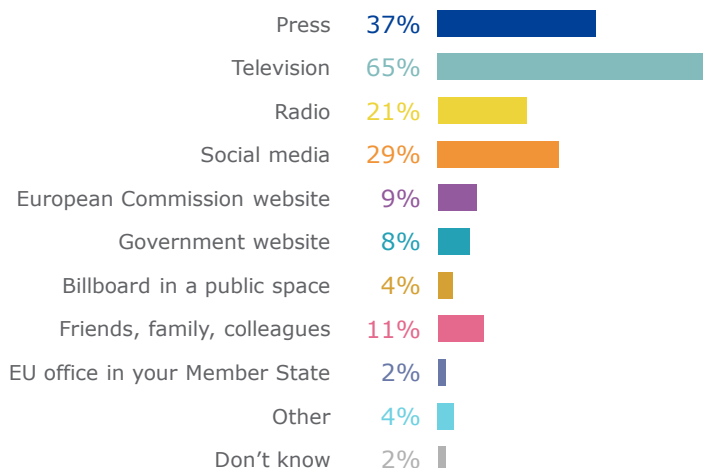


Base: all respondents (n=26 872)

## Section 2. Information about NextGenerationEU

The **primary source of information is television**, cited by 65% of respondents. Over one in three respondents (37%) have become aware of NextGenerationEU through **the press**. Almost three in ten respondents have learned about NextGenerationEU through **social media** (29%) and about one in five via **the radio** (21%). About one in ten become aware of it through **friends, family and colleagues** (11%). Fewer respondents got to know the EU instrument via the European Commission website (9%), through a government website (8%), a billboard in the public space (4%) or via the EU office in their Member States (2%).

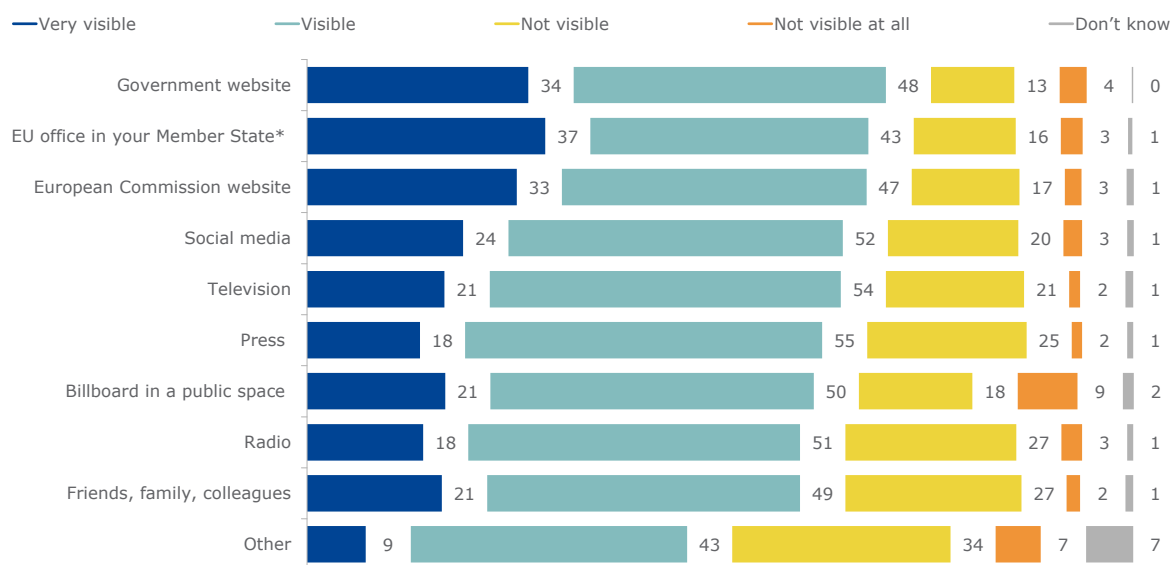
**Q3** Through which channel have you learned about the EU Recovery Plan 'NextGenerationEU'? [MULTIPLE ANSWERS] (% EU27)



Base: respondents who have heard about EU Recovery Plan 'NextGenerationEU' (n=7 843)

Respondents who have learned about the EU Recovery Plan through different sources of information, were asked to rate how visible the NextGenerationEU recovery instrument was in the selected information channels. For example, among those who have learned about NextGenerationEU through **social media**, about three-quarters find that information about the instrument was visible: 52% think that information was 'visible' and 24% that it was 'very visible'. Among those who have learned about NextGenerationEU through **a government website**, more than eight in ten answer that information about the instrument was visible: 48% reply that information was 'visible' and 34% that it was 'very visible'.

**Q4** Considering all the ways you have learned about the EU Recovery Plan 'NextGenerationEU', how visible was 'NextGenerationEU' on each of the following. (% by EU27)



Note: \* small base size (n<150)

Base: from n=146 for 'EU office in your Member State' to n=4 694 for 'Television' (Respondents replied to this question for each channel they selected in Q3)

## Section 3. Views about solidarity and performance-based nature of NextGenerationEU funding

### 3.1. Solidarity among EU Member States

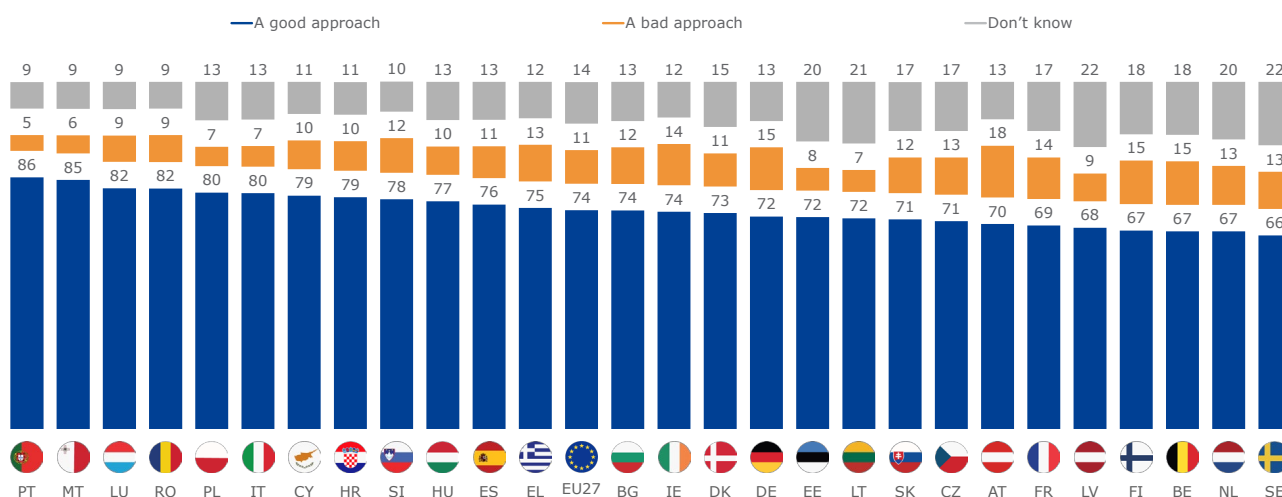
Respondents were explained that, through the EU Recovery Plan 'NextGenerationEU', **Member States agreed to provide financial support to each other** to emerge stronger from the COVID-19 pandemic. **About three-quarters of respondents (74%) think that this is a good approach for the EU and seven in ten reply that this is a good approach for their country.**

In all Member States, at least two-thirds of respondents think that Member States providing financial support to each other through NextGenerationEU to emerge stronger from the COVID-19 pandemic

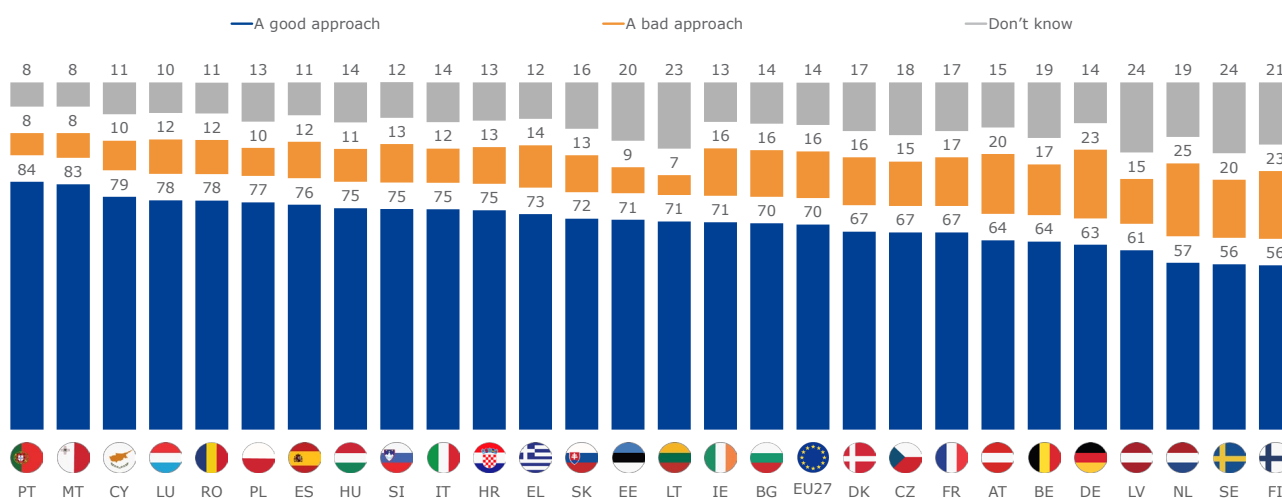
is **a good approach for the EU**. The largest proportions sharing this view are observed in Malta (85%) and Portugal (86%), while the lowest ones are found in Belgium, Netherlands, Finland (all 67%) and Sweden (66%).

There is somewhat more variation across Member States when respondents are asked whether they consider it **a good approach for their country** that Member States provide financial support to each other through NextGenerationEU. The highest proportions sharing this view are seen in Malta (83%) and Portugal (84%). The Netherlands (57%) and Sweden (56%) are found again at the lower end of the country ranking, this time joined by Finland (56%).

**Q5** Through the EU Recovery Plan 'NextGenerationEU' Member States agreed to provide financial support to each other to emerge stronger from the COVID-19 pandemic. Do you think that this is a good or bad approach...**for the EU?** (% by country)



...for [COUNTRY]? (% by country)



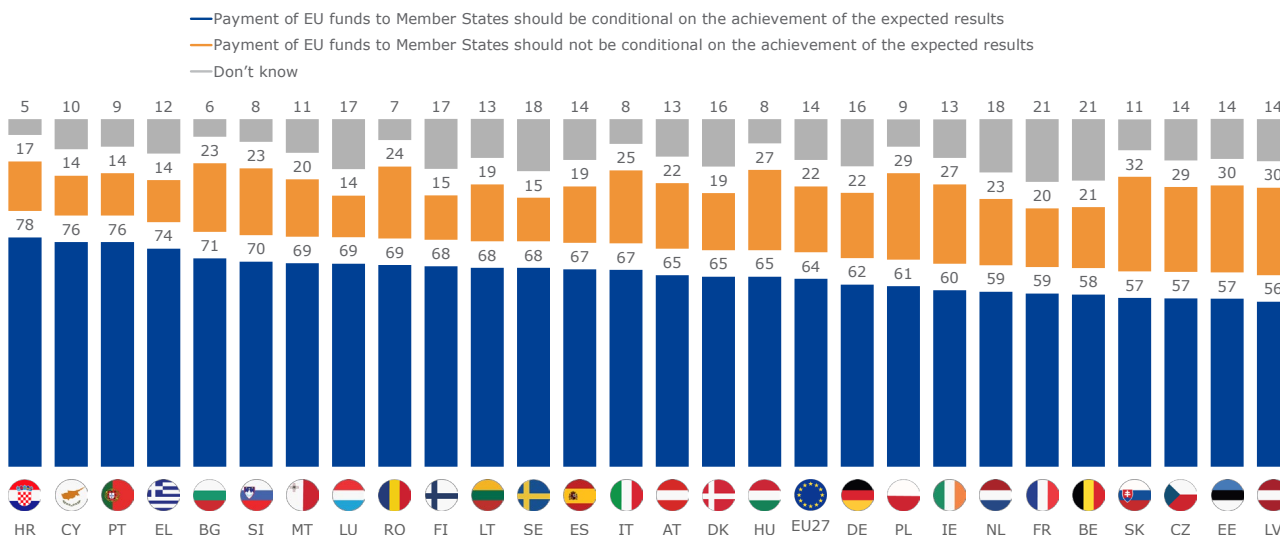
Base: all respondents (n=26 872)

### 3.2. Performance-based nature of NextGenerationEU funding

A majority of respondents across the EU (64%) agree that the payments from NextGenerationEU to Member States should be conditional on achieving the expected results. Just above one in five respondents (22%) share the view that payments should not be conditional on the achievement of the expected results and one in seven (14%) do not have an opinion on this topic.

In all Member States, a majority of respondents share the view that payments from NextGenerationEU to Member States should be conditional on the achievement of the expected results. The proportion of respondents selecting this response ranges from 56% in Latvia and 57% in Czechia, Estonia and Slovakia to 76% in Cyprus and Portugal, and 78% in Croatia.

**Q7** To receive funds from the EU Recovery Plan 'NextGenerationEU', Member States have prepared National Recovery Plans outlining reforms and investments they commit to undertake in the future. EU financial support is provided when the expected results are achieved. Which of the following is closest to your view? (% by country)



Base: all respondents (n=26 872)

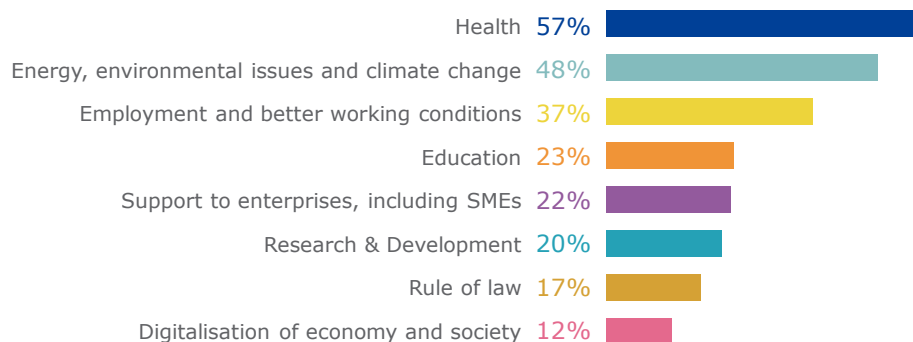
## Section 4. Priority areas and impact of NextGenerationEU

### 4.1. Priority areas for EU support via NextGenerationEU

'Health', 'energy, environmental issues and climate change', and 'employment and better working condition' are the three areas where EU citizens are expecting the most support. In total, 57% of respondents select 'health' as an area that should be prioritised to receive EU support, 48% of respondents mention 'energy, environmental issues and climate change' and 37% select

**'employment and better working conditions'**. The remaining areas are selected by between 12% of respondents (digitalisation of economy and society) and 23% of respondents (education).

**Q6** The EU Recovery Plan 'NextGenerationEU' supports Member States in different areas. In your view, which area should receive the most EU support? Which other areas should be prioritised to receive support in addition to the one you just indicated? You can select two more areas. [MULTIPLE ANSWERS] (% EU27)



*Note: 'None of these' and 'Don't know' not shown.*

Base: all respondents (n=26 872)

In 25 out of 27 Member States, **'health'** is the **most frequently mentioned area expected to be prioritised to receive EU support under NextGenerationEU**. The share selecting this area ranges from 43% in Italy to 75% in Portugal. In Italy and Malta, **'energy, environmental issues and climate change'** is the highest-ranking policy area (selected by 55% and 57%, respectively). In the remaining countries, the proportion replying that this area should be prioritised to receive support ranges from 28% in Greece to 55% in Poland. The share of respondents selecting **'research and development'** as an area that should be prioritised to receive EU support ranges from 11% in Bulgaria and Hungary, to 31% in Estonia. Similar proportions are observed for the area of **'education'**, ranging from 17% in Italy and Slovenia, to 32% in Hungary. The share of respondents expecting the EU to prioritise **'support to enterprises, including SMEs'** ranges from 13% in Germany to 41% in Bulgaria.

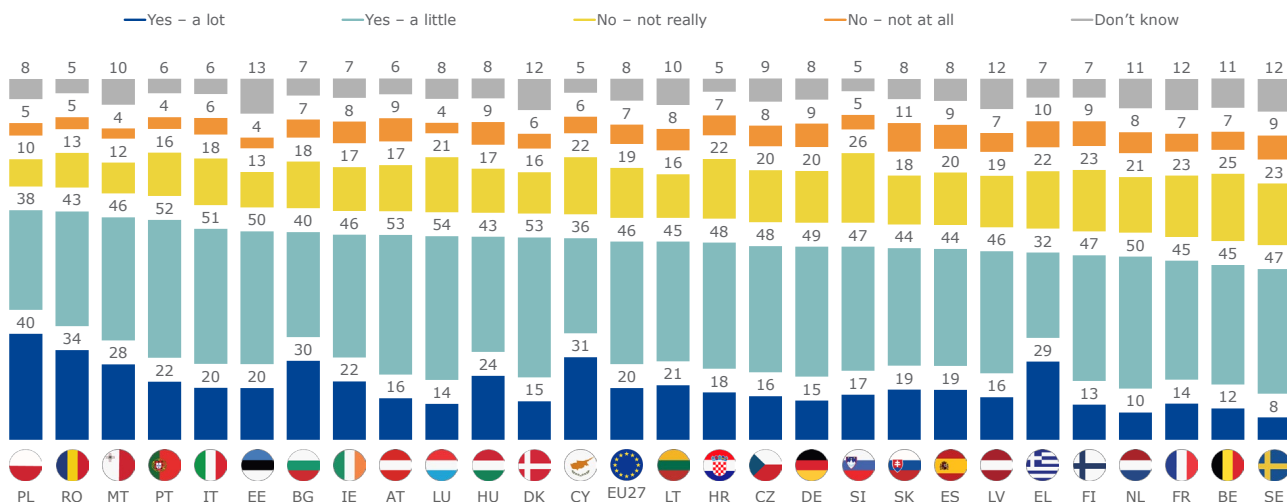
## 4.2. Expected impact of NextGenerationEU

**Two-thirds of respondents think that the EU Recovery Plan 'NextGenerationEU' will have a positive impact on future generations** (20% 'yes – a lot' and 46% 'yes – a little'). A somewhat lower share reply that NextGenerationEU will **lead to economic growth and more jobs** (14% 'yes – a lot' and 47% 'yes – a little').

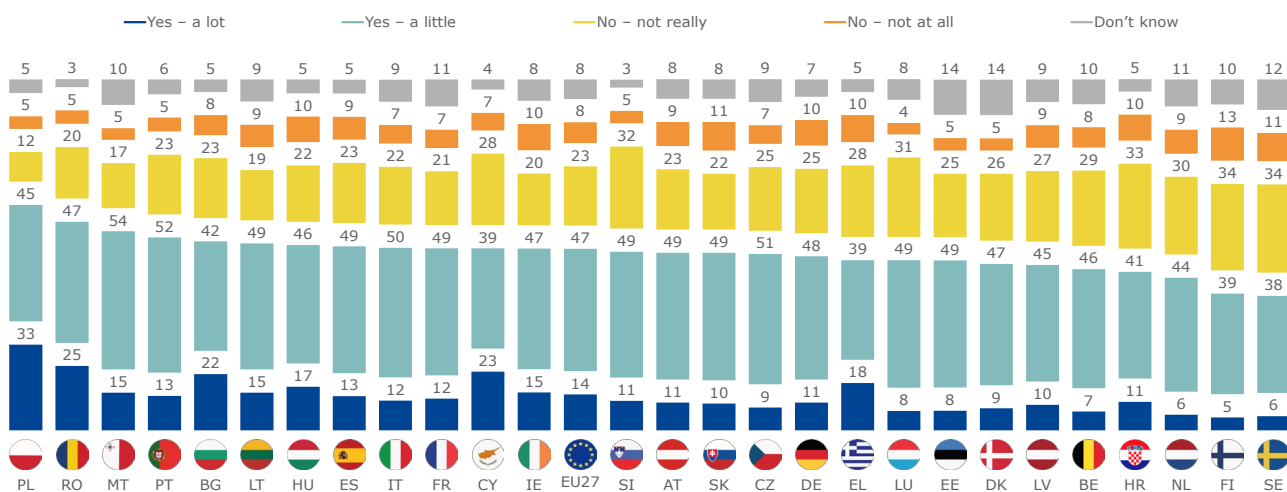
Across all Member States, a majority of respondents think that the EU Recovery Plan 'NextGenerationEU' will have a positive impact on future generations (some expect this 'a lot' others a 'little'). The proportion expecting a positive impact on future generations ranges from 55% in Sweden to 77% in Romania and 78% in Poland. Similarly, in almost all countries, a majority of respondents expect that the EU Recovery Plan 'NextGenerationEU' will lead to more economic growth

and new jobs. The highest shares of expecting this impact (either 'a lot' or 'a little') are observed in in Romania (72%) and Poland (78%).

**Q8** Do you think that the EU Recovery Plan 'NextGenerationEU' in [COUNTRY]...  
**Will have a positive impact on future generations** (% by country)



**Will lead to economic growth and new jobs** (% by country)

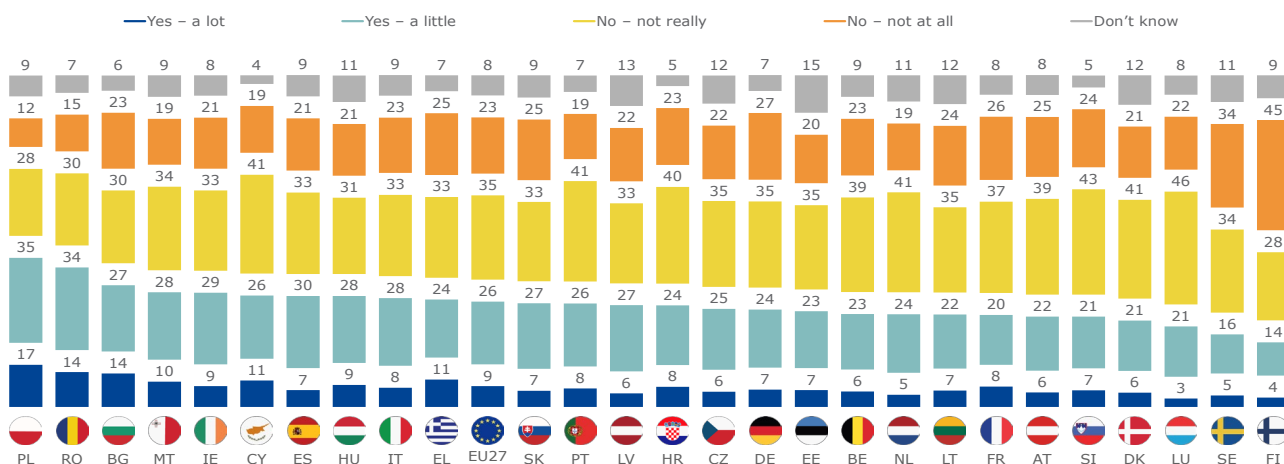


Base: all respondents (n=26 872)

**Less than four in ten respondents think that NextGenerationEU will also have a positive impact on their personal or professional situation** (9% 'yes - a lot' and 26% 'yes - a little'), while a majority expect no impact in this area (23% 'no - not at all' and 35% 'no - not really').

In Poland (52%) and Romania (48%), about half of respondents expect (either 'a lot' or 'a little') that NextGenerationEU will have a positive impact on their personal or professional situation. In the other Member States, respondents not expecting an impact in this area outnumber those expecting an impact. The highest shares not expecting to see a positive impact on their personal or professional situation are observed in Finland (73%), Sweden and Luxembourg (both 68%).

**Q8\_3** Do you think that the EU Recovery Plan 'NextGenerationEU' in [COUNTRY]...  
**Will have a positive impact on my personal or professional situation** (% by country)



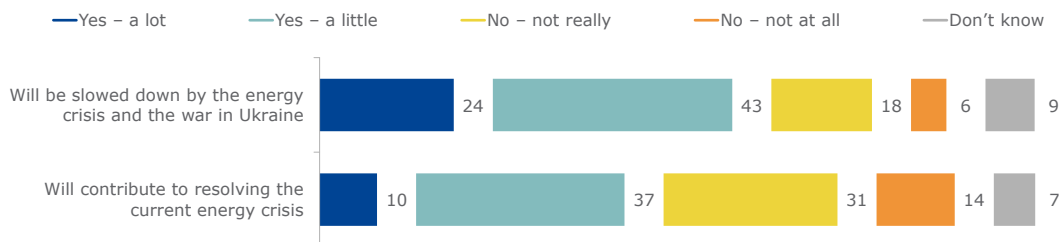
Base: all respondents (n=26 872)

### 4.3. NextGenerationEU and the energy crisis

**Close to half of respondents expect NextGenerationEU to contribute to resolving the current energy crisis** (10% 'yes - a lot' and 37% 'yes - a little'), while the other half of respondents do not expect this (14% 'no - not at all' and 31% 'no - not really') or 'don't know' what to expect (7%).

**Over six in ten respondents think that the energy crisis and the war in Ukraine will slow down the EU Recovery Plan 'NextGenerationEU'** (24% 'yes - a lot' and 43% 'yes - a little'), compared to less than a quarter who do not expect this (6% 'no - not at all' and 18% 'no - not really'). Close to one in ten respondents (9%) select the 'don't know' response.

**Q8** Do you think that the EU Recovery Plan 'NextGenerationEU' in [COUNTRY]... (% EU27)

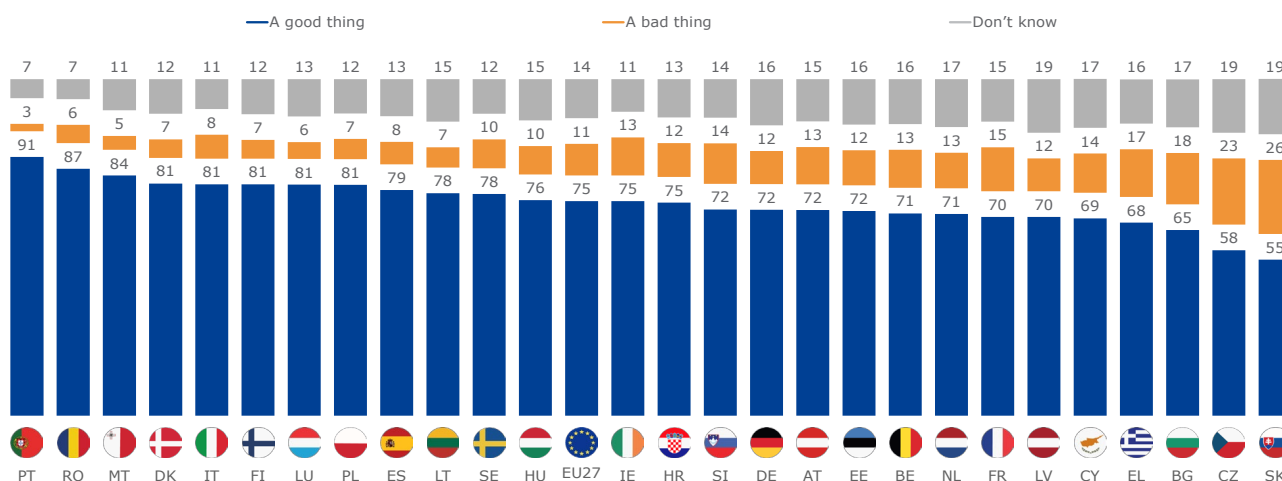


Base: all respondents (n=26 872)

## Section 5. Energy independence: opinions about the EU's RepowerEU plan

**Three-quarters of respondents evaluate the REPowerEU plan as a good thing (75%),** compared to about one in ten (11%) who think it is a bad thing. One in seven respondents (14%) do not have an opinion about the REPowerEU plan. In all Member States, a majority of respondents evaluate the REPowerEU plan to help Member States achieve more energy independence from Russia as a good thing. The highest proportions sharing this view are observed in Romania (87%) and Portugal (91%), while the lowest ones are found in Slovakia (55%) and Czechia (58%).

**Q9** The European Commission presented in May its REPowerEU plan to help Member States achieve more energy independence from Russia. Do you consider this to be a good or a bad thing? (% by country)



Base: all respondents (n=26 872)







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