



Standard Eurobarometer 95  
Spring 2021

# Public opinion in the European Union

Report

Fieldwork: June-July 2021

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



**Standard Eurobarometer 95**  
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The Standard Eurobarometer 95 (EB95) survey was conducted from 14 June to 15 July 2021 in 39 countries or territories: the 27 Member States of the European Union (EU), the five candidate countries (Albania, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Serbia and Turkey), the Turkish Cypriot Community in the part of the country not controlled by the Government of the Republic of Cyprus, and in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Iceland, Kosovo<sup>1</sup>, Norway, Switzerland and the United Kingdom.

The full report of the Standard Eurobarometer 95 survey consists of multiple volumes. The first volume presents the results of general questions about the state of public opinion in the European Union. Three other volumes present Europeans' opinions about the following topics: European citizenship; the COVID-19 (coronavirus) pandemic; the European Union's priorities.

### **Coronavirus pandemic**

The period between the previous Standard Eurobarometer (EB94, Winter 2020-2021, Feb-March 2021) and the fieldwork for the current Standard Eurobarometer of spring 2021 (conducted in June – July 2021) initially saw a 10-week period of decline in new cases of the coronavirus. However, this has now come to an end as case numbers rise with the spread of the Delta variant, and some analysts are talking about a fourth wave of the pandemic. The Delta variant, also called the "Indian variant"<sup>2</sup>, had been reported in 124 countries as of 20 July. It also accounted for more than 75% of new cases in the month up to 20 July in a wide range of countries including Australia, China, India, Israel, the Russian Federation, South Africa and the United Kingdom<sup>3</sup>. According to the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC), Delta is now the dominant strain in Europe, accounting for 70% of infections<sup>4</sup>.

On 22 July the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control reported that more than 33.9 million cases of coronavirus had been documented in the EU, with the largest numbers in France (5,867,730), Italy (4,287,458), Spain (4,161,850) and Germany (3,745,227). Worldwide, more than 191.1 million cases have been reported<sup>5</sup>. On the same date there had been more than 742,800 deaths reported in the EU, and almost 4.1 million deaths worldwide.

### **Vaccination campaign**

On 1 July, the EU Digital COVID Certificate regulation entered into application, allowing EU citizens and residents to have their digital COVID certificates issued and verified across the EU.

On 11 July, Commission President Ursula von der Leyen announced that the EU had delivered enough vaccines to Member States to fully vaccinate at least 70% of EU adults. As of 12 July, 500 million

vaccine doses had been delivered in the EU, with 404.4 million doses administered and 65.2% of the adult population having received at least one dose<sup>6</sup>.

In August 2021, the European Commission had secured up to 4.6 billion doses of COVID-19 vaccines and negotiations were under way for additional doses.

As of 11 August 2021, 587.5 million doses had been delivered in the EU; 489.7 million doses had been administered and 73.9 % of the adult EU population received at least one dose of a vaccine.

### **The economy**

The coronavirus pandemic continues to have a severe impact on the European economy. However, the decline in cases in the first half of 2021, along with the easing of virus containment measures and lockdowns, have encouraged some recovery. In the summer 2021 Economic Forecast, GDP is predicted to grow by 4.8% in 2021 in both the EU and the euro area, which represents an improvement on 2020, when it fell sharply (-6.5% in the euro area, and -6.0% in the EU as a whole).<sup>7</sup>

The unemployment rate has been declining during 2021, standing at 7.3% in May 2021, down from 7.4% in April 2021 but up from 6.9% in May 2020. In the euro area, unemployment stood at 7.9% in May 2021, down from 8.1% in April 2021 but up from 7.5% in May 2020.<sup>8</sup>

### **Events affecting the EU** since the Standard Eurobarometer Winter 2020-2021 survey:

- The multi-lingual digital platform for **the Conference on the Future of Europe** was launched on 19 April, and the inaugural session of the Conference was held on 9 May 2021 after a delay due to the coronavirus pandemic. The Conference is a joint project of European Parliament, the Council of the European Union and the European Commission supporting the delivery of the 'strengthening democracy and defending European values' strand of European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen's policy agenda<sup>9</sup>. It is an opportunity for European citizens to have their say about the future they want for the European Union<sup>10</sup>.

<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>7</sup> [https://ec.europa.eu/info/business-economy-euro/economic-performance-and-forecasts/economic-forecasts/summer-2021-economic-forecast\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/info/business-economy-euro/economic-performance-and-forecasts/economic-forecasts/summer-2021-economic-forecast_en)

<sup>8</sup> <https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/documents/2995521/11563151/3-01072021-AP-EN.pdf/a99763ae-8bcf-33cb-0be8-adb9943cb9ca?t=1625127399537>

<sup>9</sup> [https://ec.europa.eu/info/sites/info/files/political-guidelines-next-commission\\_en\\_0.pdf](https://ec.europa.eu/info/sites/info/files/political-guidelines-next-commission_en_0.pdf)

<sup>10</sup> <https://future.europa.eu/pages/about>

- On 15 June the European Commission launched its first **NextGenerationEU** transaction to finance Europe's recovery from the coronavirus crisis. NextGenerationEU is a recovery instrument of some €800 billion at current prices to support Europe's recovery from the pandemic and help build a greener, more digital and more resilient Europe. The June transaction is the largest-ever institutional bond issuance in Europe, the largest-ever institutional single tranche transaction and the largest amount the EU has raised in a single transaction. By the end of 2021, the Commission expects to have raised some €80 billion in bonds, to be complemented by short-term EU-Bills, as set out in the funding plan published in June 2021<sup>11</sup>.
- On 14 July the European Commission adopted a **package of proposals** to make the EU's climate, energy, land use, transport and taxation policies fit for reducing net greenhouse gas emissions by at least 55% by 2030 in comparison with 1990 levels<sup>12</sup>. These proposals provide the legislative tools to deliver on targets in the **European Climate law**, and make the **New Green Deal**<sup>13</sup> a reality.

**Elections in the EU** since the winter 2020-2021 survey:

The period was marked by major elections in Bulgaria and Cyprus.

- **Parliamentary elections** were held in **Bulgaria** on 4 April but no party was able to form a government. Snap elections were held on 11 July, as a result of which Slavi Trifonov's "anti-elite" party, known as There Is Such a People (ITN), edged out former Prime Minister Boyko Borisov's GERB-led coalition. Trifonov has announced plans to try and form a cabinet<sup>14</sup>.
- **Parliamentary elections** were held in **Cyprus** on 30 May. The Democratic Rally (DISY) (27.8%) and the Progressive Party of Working People (AKEL) (22.3%) received the highest proportion of votes, although this represents a decline in their respective support bases since 2016.

**Regional elections were held in Germany and in France.**

- The Christian Democratic Union (CDU) came first in Saxony-Anhalt with 37.1% of the vote – an increase of their vote share recorded in 2016.
- Regional elections in France were marked by the very low turnout (34.69% in the second round).

**Other noteworthy events** since the winter 2020-2021 survey:

- **Impact of climate change:** at the end of June an unprecedented heatwave in the Pacific north-west broke heat records several times in the space of a week. In June and July much of the west coast of the USA and Canada was gripped by extreme heat, drought and massive wildfires. Cyclones and tropical storms caused flooding, damage and loss of life in Indonesia and Timor-Leste (April), India (May) and Cuba (July). Shortly after the end of the fieldwork (around 15 July), severe floods took place in Germany (Rheinland-Pfalz and Nordrhein-Westfalen regions) and in Belgium (region of Liège) causing 184 and 42 deaths respectively.
- On 23 May a Ryanair plane from Athens to Vilnius carrying **opposition Belarusian journalist Roman Protasevich** and his partner was forced to land in Belarus. Both were removed from the flight and arrested, sparking international protests.
- **Dutch crime reporter Peter R. de Vries** was shot on an Amsterdam street on 6 July and died in hospital on 15 July.

**Terrorist attacks:**

- On 23 April a French police official was killed inside a police station in Rambouillet, near Paris, by a suspected Islamic extremist.
- On 25 June, three women were killed in a shop in Würzburg, Bavaria (Germany) by a Somalian man. The Munich Prosecutor's office stated that Islamic extremism was 'likely' to have been a motive.

<sup>11</sup> [https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/IP\\_21\\_2982](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/IP_21_2982)

<sup>12</sup> [https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/IP\\_21\\_3541](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/IP_21_3541)

<sup>13</sup> [https://ec.europa.eu/info/strategy/priorities-2019-2024/european-green-deal\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/info/strategy/priorities-2019-2024/european-green-deal_en)

<sup>14</sup> Since the end of the fieldwork, discussions to form a cabinet were not conclusive and the possibility of new elections was mentioned.

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**Methodology used for this survey**

Due to the coronavirus pandemic, in some countries **alternative interview modes** to face-to-face were necessary as a result of the situation.

When possible, the methodology used was that of the Standard Eurobarometer surveys carried out by the Directorate-General for Communication ("Media monitoring and Eurobarometer" Unit)<sup>1516</sup>.

Following the EU General Data Protection Regulation<sup>17</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	EN	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	Turkey	TR
Montenegro	ME	Serbia	RS
North Macedonia	MK		
Bosnia and Herzegovina	BA	Norway	NO
Iceland	IS	Switzerland	CH
Kosovo <sup>18</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			Euro area
BG, CZ, DK, HR, HU, PL, RO, SE			Outside euro area

\* Cyprus as a whole is one of the 27 Member States of the European Union. However, the 'Community acquis' is suspended in the part of the country not controlled by the Government of the Republic of Cyprus. For practical reasons, only interviews carried out in the part of the country controlled by the Government of the Republic of Cyprus are included in the category 'CY' and in the average of the EU27. Interviews carried out in the part of the country not controlled by the Government of the Republic of Cyprus are included in the category 'CY (tcc)' [tcc: Turkish Cypriot Community].

**We would like to thank all respondents in Europe who took the time to take part in this survey.**

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

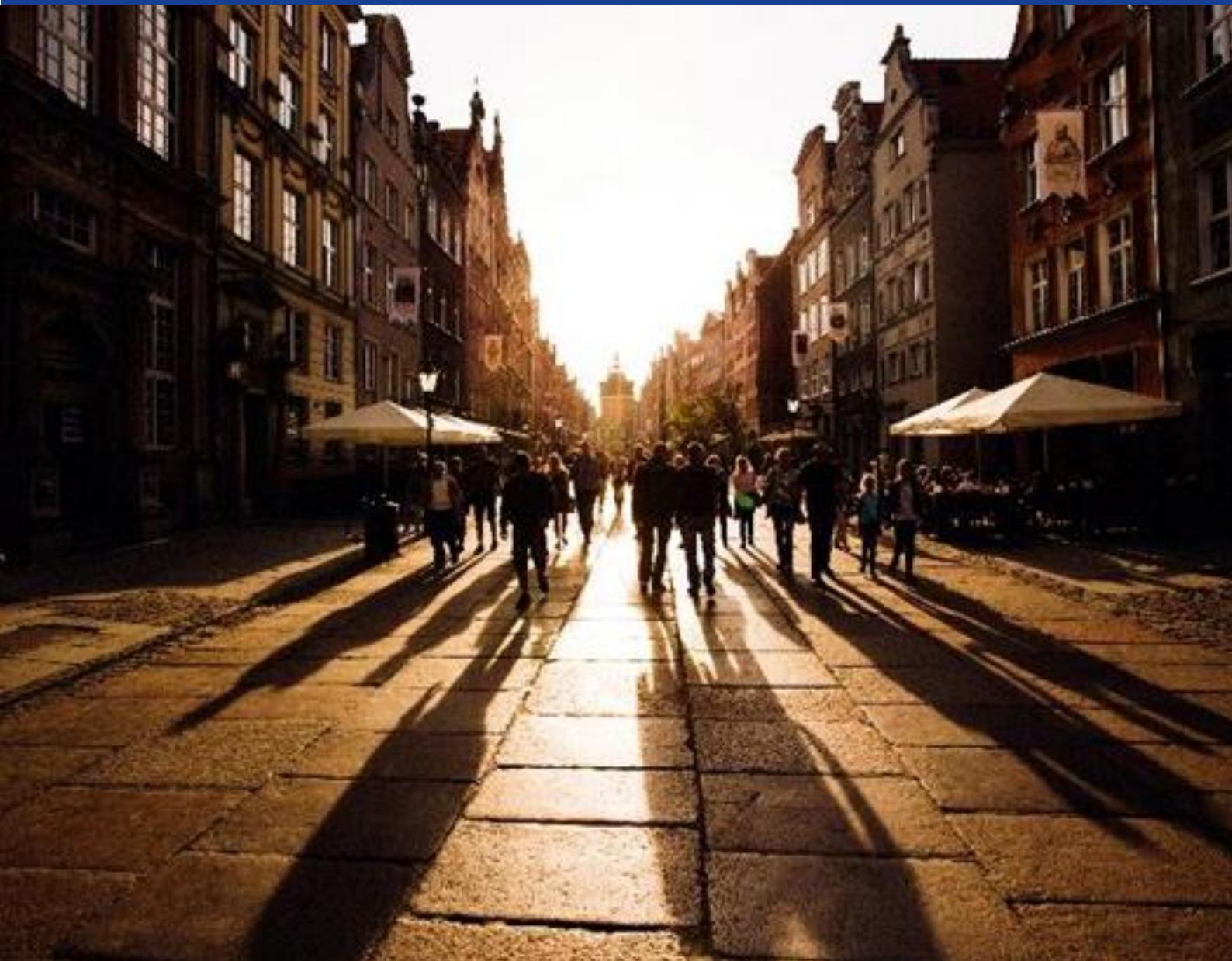
<sup>15</sup> <https://www.europa.eu/eurobarometer>

<sup>16</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>17</sup> 2016/679

<sup>18</sup> This designation is without prejudice to positions on status, and is in line with UNSCR 1244/99 and the ICI Opinion on the Kosovo declaration of independence.

# I. LIFE IN THE EUROPEAN UNION



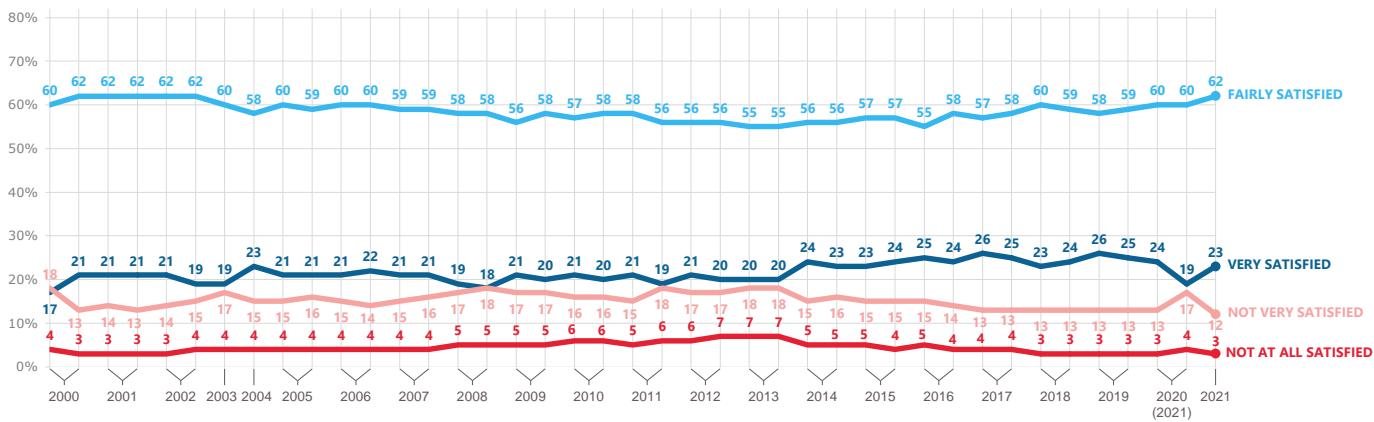
## 1. The personal situation of Europeans

**More than eight in ten Europeans are satisfied with the life they lead**

**85% of Europeans are satisfied with the life they lead**<sup>19</sup>, including 62% who are ‘fairly satisfied’ and 23% who say that they are ‘very satisfied’. Since winter 2020-2021 this proportion has increased by six percentage points, after a sharp fall in the previous survey between summer 2020 and winter 2020-2021. Overall, this is the highest level of satisfaction measured since this indicator was introduced in spring 2000. It is also noticeable that the proportion of respondents who are ‘very satisfied’ is almost twice as high as the proportion who are dissatisfied with the life they lead.

Indeed, less than one fifth of the respondents (16%) say they are dissatisfied with their life. More specifically, the proportion of Europeans who are “not at all satisfied” with the life they lead has decreased by one percentage point (from 4% to 3%) and the share who are “not very satisfied” lost five percentage points (from 17% to 12%), reaching the lowest level since this indicator was introduced in spring 2000.

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



<sup>19</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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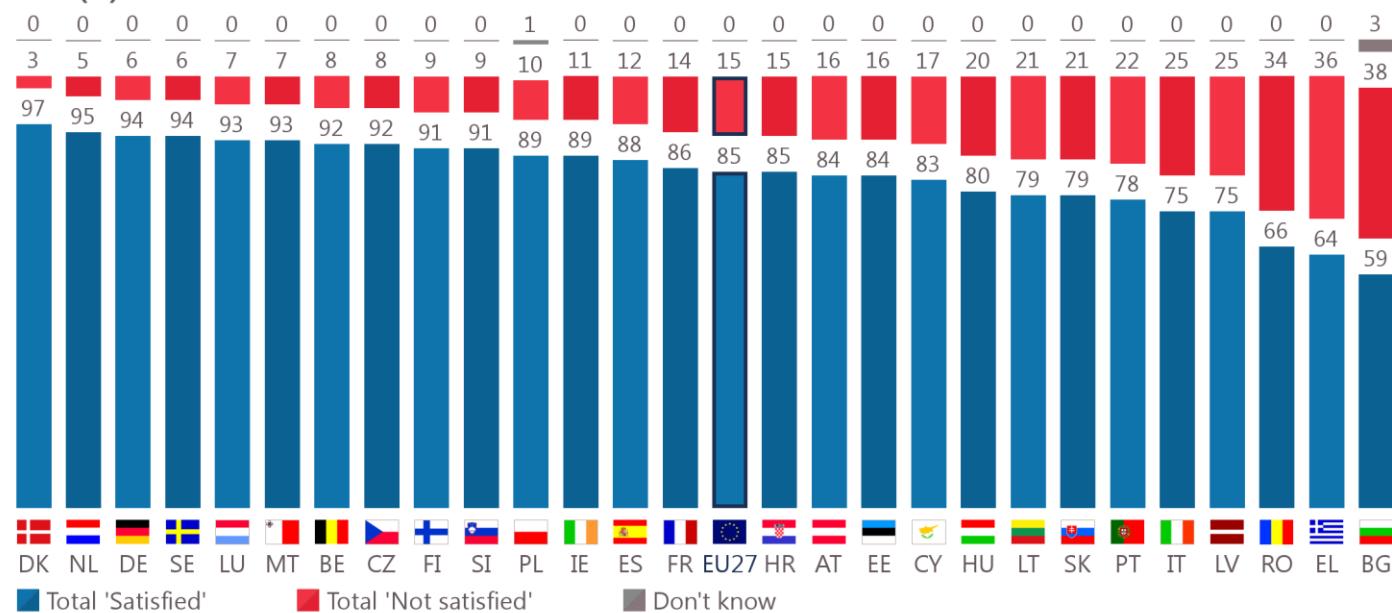
Almost six in ten Europeans in all 27 Member States of the European Union are satisfied with the life they lead (unchanged since winter 2020-2021). However, levels of general satisfaction vary widely between Member States, ranging from 97% in Denmark and 95% in the Netherlands, where almost all respondents are satisfied with their lives, to 59% in Bulgaria, the only Member State where less than six in ten respondents are satisfied with the life they lead. In three countries more than four in ten respondents say that they are 'very satisfied' with the life they lead, namely Denmark (61%), the Netherlands (48%) and Sweden (40%).

In contrast, in three Member States more than a third of respondents are dissatisfied with their lives: Romania (34%, including 7% 'not at all satisfied'), Greece (36%, including 7% 'not at all satisfied') and Bulgaria (38%, including 8% "not at all satisfied").

Since winter 2020-2021, satisfaction has increased in all 27 EU Member States but one. Five countries have recorded increases of at least ten percentage points: Italy (75%, +15), Greece (64%, +12), Croatia (85%, +10), Slovenia (91%, +10) and Slovakia (79%, +10). Conversely, Romania is the only Member State where the proportion of respondents satisfied with the life they lead has decreased: 66%, down by two percentage points.

Satisfaction with the life respondents lead is almost identical in **euro area** countries (85%, +7 percentage points since winter 2020-2021) and countries **outside the euro area** (83%, +3). Satisfaction has increased in both areas since the previous survey in winter 2020-2021.

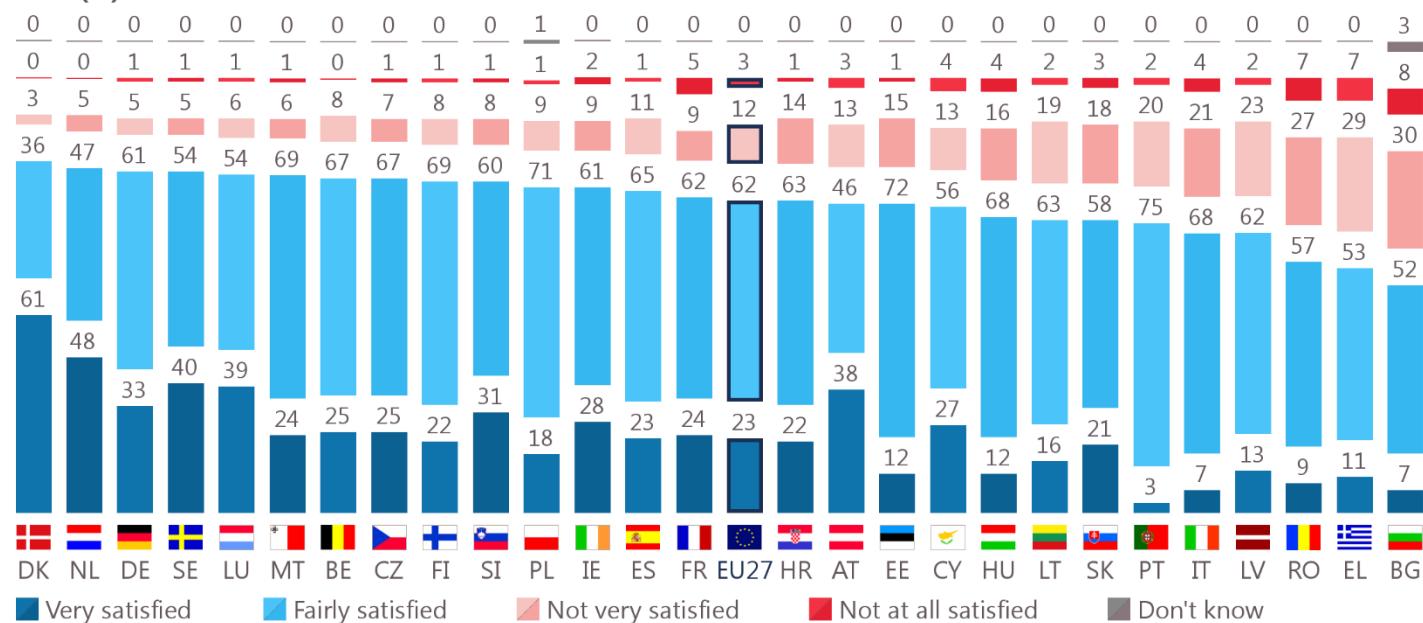
**D70** On the whole, are you very satisfied, fairly satisfied, not very satisfied or not at all satisfied with the life you lead? (%)



Sorted by 'Total Satisfied'

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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? (%)



Sorted by 'Total Satisfied'

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In 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 (64%), among respondents who never or almost never have difficulties in paying their bills (93%) than among people who have these difficulties most of the time (51%) and among people who see themselves as belonging to the upper class (91%) or upper middle class (95%) than among people who see themselves as belonging to the working class of society (76%).

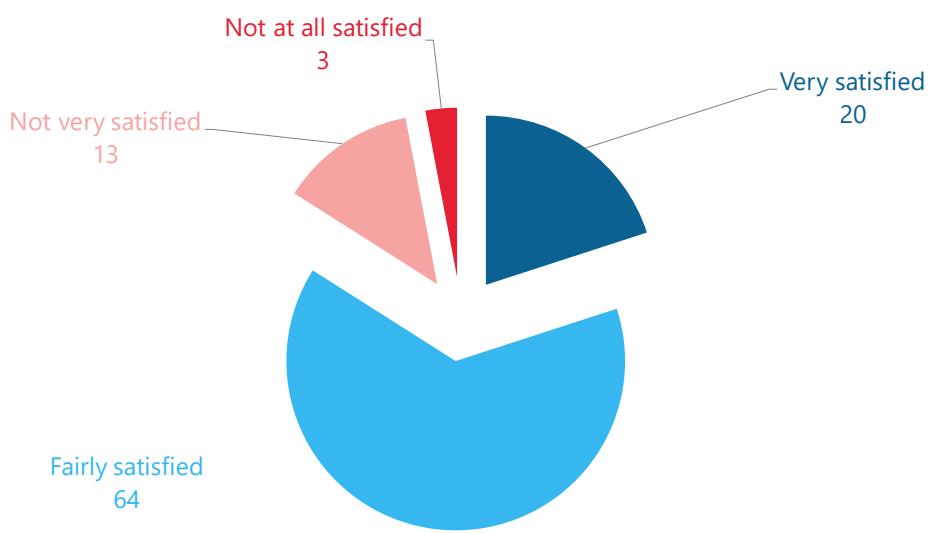
**D70** On the whole, are you very satisfied, fairly satisfied, not very satisfied or not at all satisfied with the life you lead?  
 (% - EU)

	Total 'Satisfied'	Total 'Not satisfied'	Don't know
EU27	85	15	0
<b>Gender</b>			
Man	85	15	0
Woman	85	15	0
<b>Age</b>			
15-24	91	9	0
25-39	88	12	0
40-54	85	15	0
55 +	81	19	0
<b>Education (End of)</b>			
15-	73	27	0
16-19	83	17	0
20+	91	9	0
Still studying	93	7	0
<b>Socio-professional category</b>			
Self-employed	87	13	0
Managers	94	6	0
Other white collars	90	10	0
Manual workers	85	15	0
House persons	81	19	0
Unemployed	64	36	0
Retired	81	19	0
Students	93	7	0
<b>Difficulties paying bills</b>			
Most of the time	51	49	0
From time to time	74	26	0
Almost never/ Never	93	7	0
<b>Consider belonging to</b>			
The working class	76	24	0
The lower middle class	78	22	0
The middle class	89	11	0
The upper middle class	95	5	0
The upper class	91	9	0

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This spring 2021 survey specifically asked respondents about satisfaction with their daily lives for the first time<sup>20</sup>. On the whole, **84% of Europeans say that they are satisfied with their daily life**, including 20% who are ‘very satisfied’ and 64% ‘fairly satisfied’. Less than a fifth of respondents are dissatisfied with their daily life: 13% say that they are ‘not very satisfied’ and 3% 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?  
(% - EU)



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<sup>20</sup> D70a. On the whole, are you very satisfied, fairly satisfied, not very satisfied or not at all satisfied with your daily life?

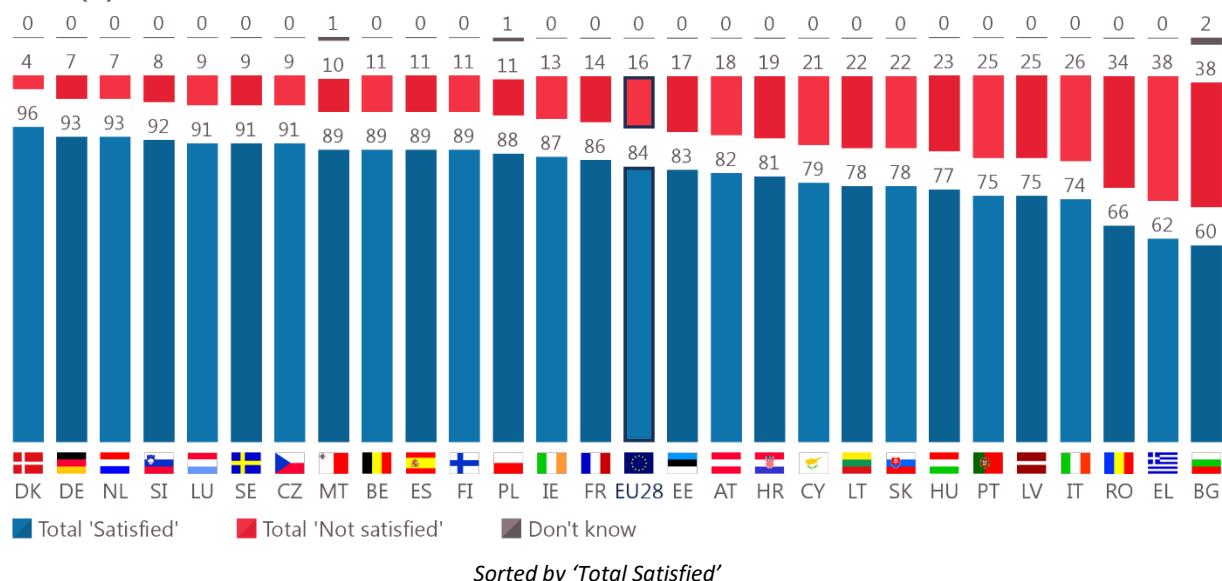
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At least six in ten respondents in all EU Member States are satisfied with their daily life. However, levels of satisfaction vary across Member States, ranging from 96% in Denmark and 93% in Germany and the Netherlands, where they are highest, to 62% in Greece and 60% in Bulgaria where they are lowest. In two countries more than four in ten respondents say that they are ‘very satisfied’ with their daily life: Denmark (57% ‘very satisfied’) and the Netherlands (42%).

In contrast, dissatisfaction levels are particularly high in Bulgaria (38% of ‘not satisfied’, including 8% ‘not at all satisfied’), Greece (38% of ‘not satisfied’, including 8% ‘not at all satisfied’) and Romania (34%, including 7% ‘not at all satisfied’), where more than a third of respondents are dissatisfied with their daily life.

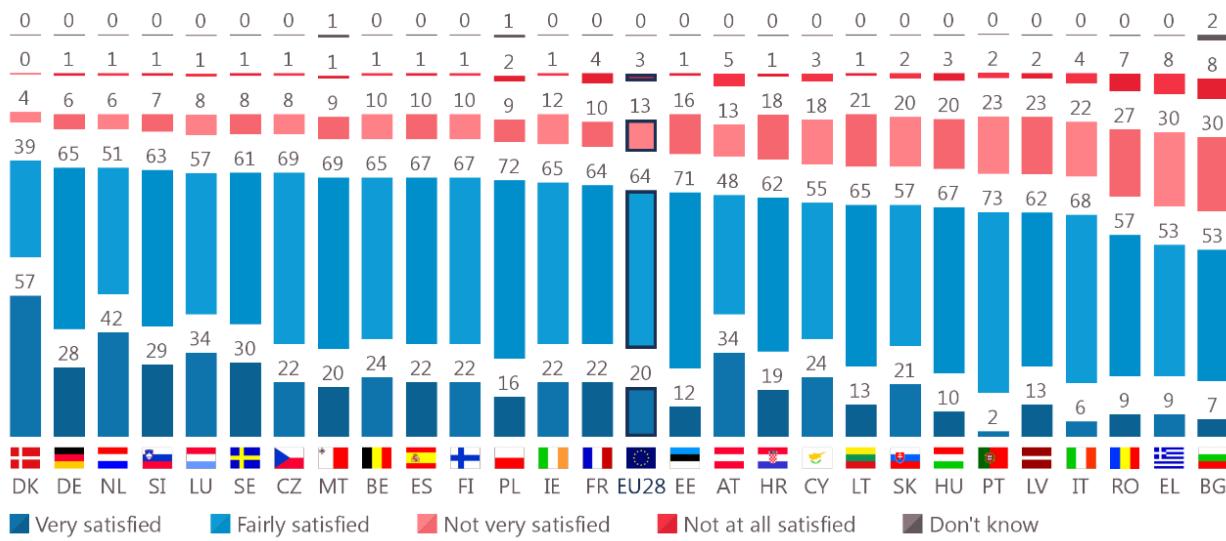
Satisfaction with daily life is slightly more widespread in **euro area** countries (85%) than in countries **outside the euro area** (82%).

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



Sorted by 'Total Satisfied'

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



Sorted by '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 life. Satisfaction with daily life is most widespread among managers (93%), respondents who never or almost never have difficulties in paying their bills (92%), students (92%) and people who see themselves as belonging to the upper class (90%) or upper middle class of society (95%), or who have a positive image of the EU (91%). People who have difficulties paying their bills most of the time are the only exception. In this category dissatisfaction prevails: 49% 'satisfied' vs 51% '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)

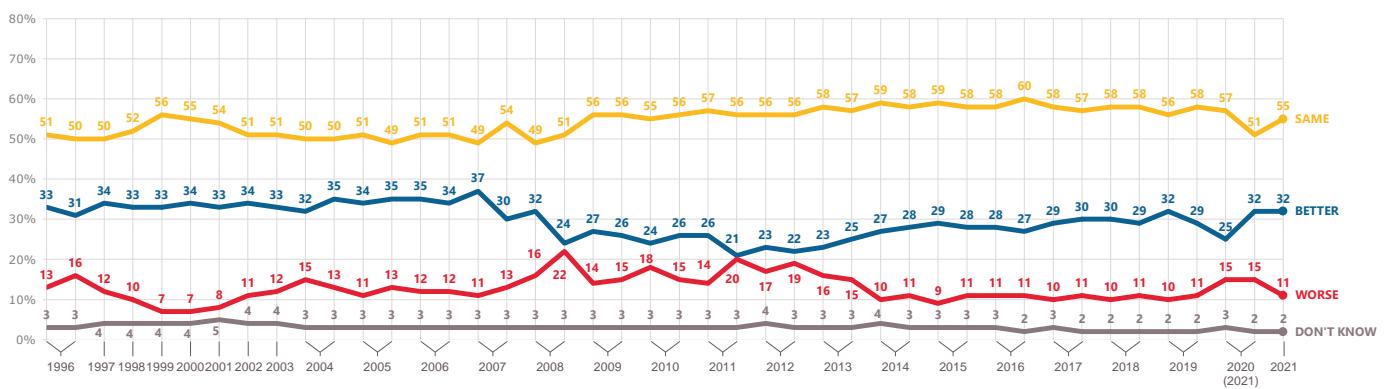
	Total 'Satisfied'	Total 'Not satisfied'	Don't know
EU27	84	16	0
<b>Gender</b>			
Man	84	16	0
Woman	85	15	0
<b>Age</b>			
15-24	89	11	0
25-39	86	14	0
40-54	84	16	0
55 +	82	18	0
<b>Education (End of)</b>			
15-	73	27	0
16-19	81	19	0
20+	90	10	0
Still studying	92	8	0
<b>Socio-professional category</b>			
Self-employed	85	15	0
Managers	93	7	0
Other white collars	90	10	0
Manual workers	83	17	0
House persons	80	20	0
Unemployed	63	37	0
Retired	81	19	0
Students	92	8	0
<b>Difficulties paying bills</b>			
Most of the time	49	51	0
From time to time	74	26	0
Almost never/ Never	92	8	0
<b>Consider belonging to</b>			
The working class	76	24	0
The lower middle class	77	23	0
The middle class	88	12	0
The upper middle class	95	5	0
The upper class	90	10	0

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**When looking ahead over the next twelve months**, a majority of Europeans expect their personal situation to “stay the same” (55%, +4 percentage points since winter 2020-2021)<sup>21</sup>. Almost a third expect it to get better (32%, stable). Thus, optimism has remained at its highest level since the surveys in winter 2020-2021, spring 2019 and spring 2008, when it was at the same level.

Conversely, **pessimism has decreased sharply**. A decreasing proportion of Europeans believe that the next twelve months are going to be worse: 11%, -4 percentage points. Finally, a stable proportion of 2% give no answer or say that they do not know.

**QA2a.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>21</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...?  
 Your life in general.

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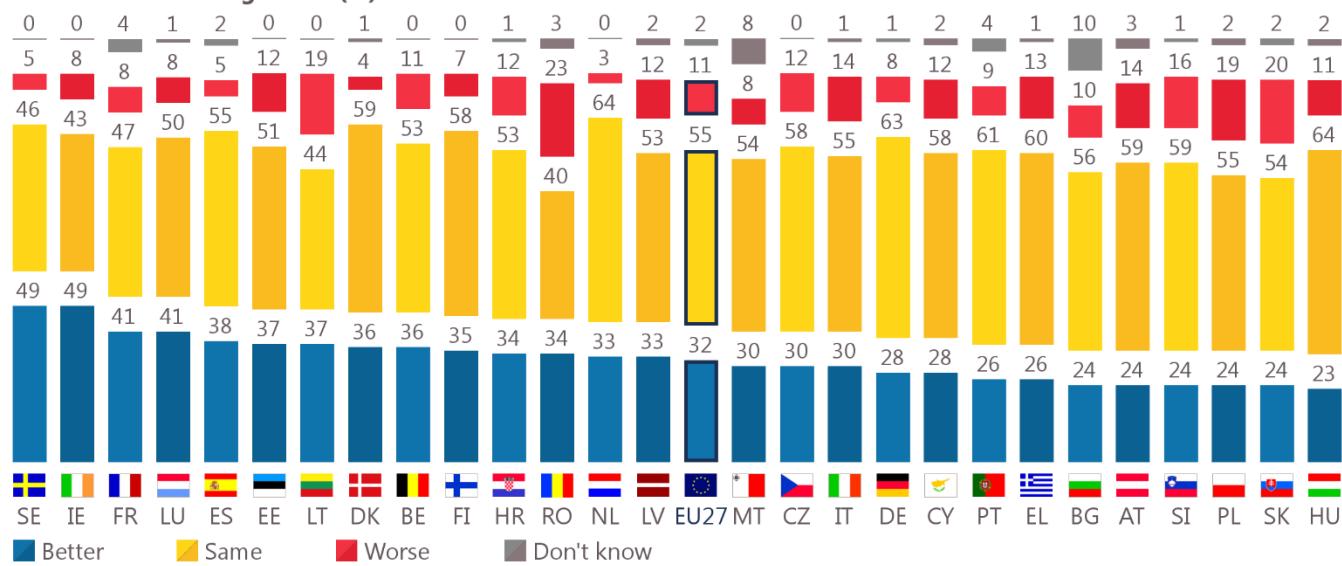
In 25 Member States of the European Union (compared with 23 in summer 2020), respondents are most likely to expect their life in general to be “**the same**” over the next twelve months. Within this group of countries, levels vary widely. They are most likely to give this response in the Netherlands and Hungary (both 64%) and least so in Lithuania (44% vs 37% ‘better’ and 19% ‘worse’) and Romania (40% vs 34% ‘better’ and 23% ‘worse’).

In just two Member States (compared with four in winter 2020-2021) respondents are slightly more likely to expect life to be ‘**better**’ than either ‘worse’ or ‘the same’: Sweden (49% ‘better’ vs 46% ‘same’ and 5% ‘worse’) and Ireland (49% ‘better’ vs 43% ‘same’ and 8% ‘worse’).

**Pessimism** is widespread in Romania (23% ‘worse’) and Slovakia (20%). In these countries at least one in five respondents expect that their life in general will worsen within the next twelve months.

**QA2a.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 (%)**



Sorted by ‘Better’

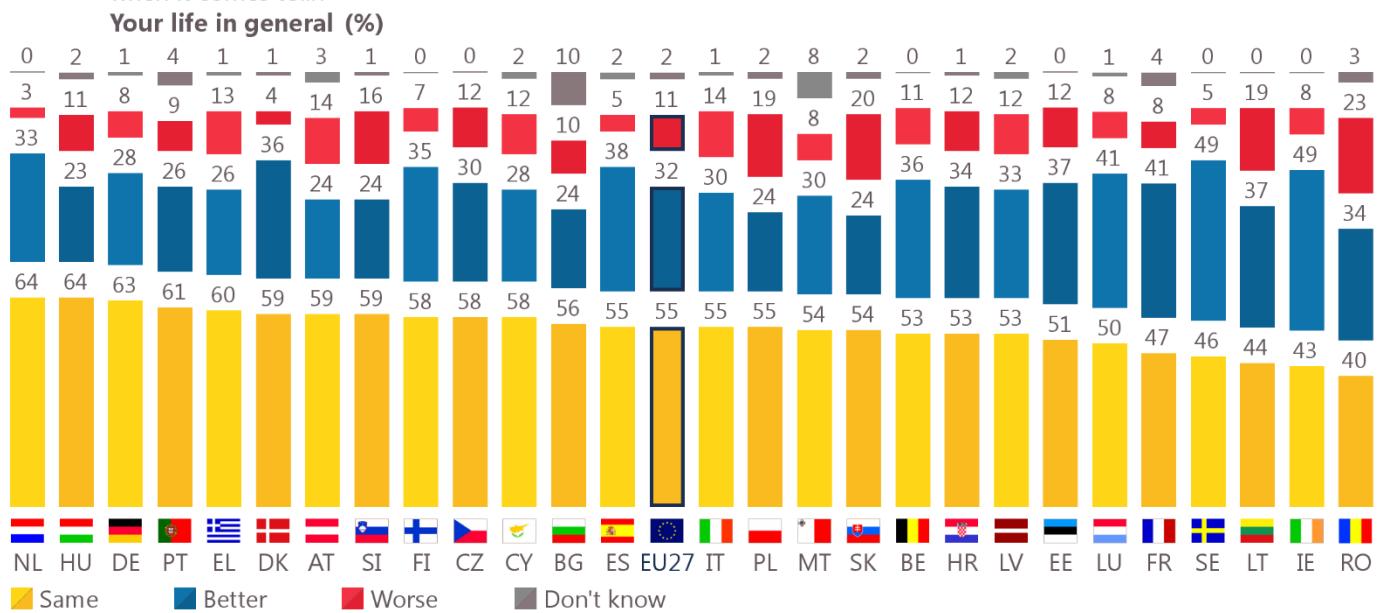
It is also noteworthy that one in ten respondents (10%) do not answer this question in Bulgaria.

While optimism has remained unchanged within **euro area** countries (33% ‘better’, stable since winter 2020-2021), it has increased slightly in countries **outside the euro area** (30%, +2).

**Since winter 2020-2021**, optimism has increased in 12 Member States, most notably in France (41% ‘better’, +7 percentage points), Poland (24%, +6) and Romania (34%, +6), while it has remained unchanged in Malta (30%). Conversely, optimism has decreased in 14 countries, most significantly, and by more than 10 percentage points, in Sweden (49%, -10), Portugal (26%, -11), Denmark (36%, -12) and the Netherlands (33%, -12).

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**QA2a.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...?

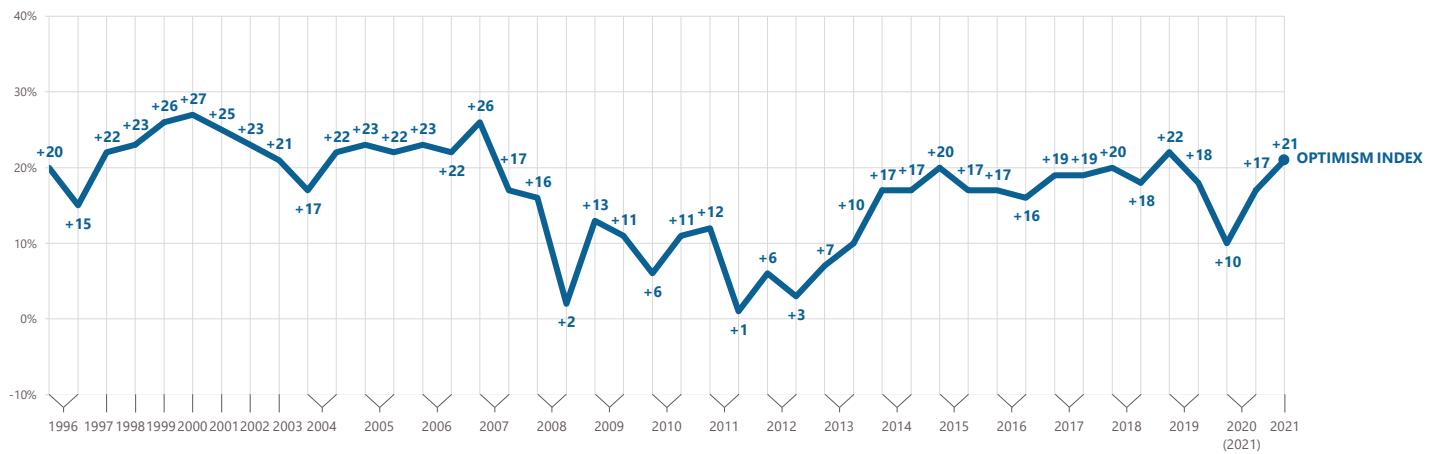


Sorted by 'Same'

**Standard Eurobarometer 95**  
**Public opinion in the European Union**  
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The index measuring the optimism of Europeans regarding their life in general<sup>22</sup> over the coming year has increased for the second consecutive time. After a significant rise of seven index points between summer 2020 and winter 2020-2021, it has now progressed by four index points and currently stands at +21, the highest level since spring 2019 (+22) and spring 2007 (+26).

**QA2a.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))**



<sup>22</sup> Difference between the positive ("better") and negative ("worse") answers.

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The index is positive in all 27 Member States (compared with 24 in winter 2020-2021 and 22 in summer 2020). It is highest in Sweden (+44) and Ireland (+41) and lowest in Slovakia (+4), Poland (+5) Slovenia (+8).

Since winter 2020-2021, the index has gained ground in 18 Member States, particularly in Luxembourg (+15) and Poland (+11), where it is now positive. Conversely it has lost ground in eight countries, most significantly in Denmark (-10) and Sweden (-9) and is unchanged in Germany (at +20).

**QA2a.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 (INDEX)**

		Better - Worse Win.2020/2021	Better - Worse Sp.2021	Sp.2021 - Win.2020/2021
EU27		+17	+21	▲ 4
LU		+18	+33	▲ 15
PL		-6	+5	▲ 11
ES		+23	+33	▲ 10
FR		+23	+33	▲ 10
IT		+7	+16	▲ 9
HU		+3	+12	▲ 9
SI		-1	+8	▲ 9
CZ		+10	+18	▲ 8
RO		+3	+11	▲ 8
LV		+14	+21	▲ 7
CY		+10	+16	▲ 6
SK		-2	+4	▲ 6
HR		+17	+22	▲ 5
AT		+6	+10	▲ 4
LT		+15	+18	▲ 3
EL		+10	+13	▲ 3
BG		+12	+14	▲ 2
MT		+21	+22	▲ 1
DE		+20	+20	=
FI		+29	+28	▼ 1
EE		+26	+25	▼ 1
PT		+18	+17	▼ 1
IE		+45	+41	▼ 4
BE		+29	+25	▼ 4
NL		+38	+30	▼ 8
SE		+53	+44	▼ 9
DK		+42	+32	▼ 10

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The **socio-demographic data** show some significant differences among categories, reflecting the age and social status of respondents. Optimism for the next twelve months is more widespread among 15-24 year-olds (55%) than among those aged 55 and over (19%), among students (56%) than among retirees (15%) or house persons (26%), and among people who studied up to the age of 20 and beyond (34%) than among those who left school aged 15 or earlier (19%).

**QA2a.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)**

	Better	Worse	Same	Don't know
EU27	32	11	55	2
 <b>Gender</b>				
Man	33	11	54	2
Woman	31	11	56	2
 <b>Age</b>				
15-24	55	6	37	2
25-39	44	9	45	2
40-54	31	12	56	1
55 +	19	12	67	2
 <b>Education (End of)</b>				
15-	19	13	65	3
16-19	30	13	55	2
20+	34	9	56	1
Still studying	56	5	38	1
 <b>Socio-professional category</b>				
Self-employed	37	12	50	1
Managers	34	8	57	1
Other white collars	34	9	55	2
Manual workers	33	14	51	2
House persons	26	10	61	3
Unemployed	49	13	35	3
Retired	15	12	71	2
Students	56	5	38	1
 <b>Difficulties paying bills</b>				
Most of the time	33	22	42	3
From time to time	31	17	50	2
Almost never/ Never	33	7	59	1
 <b>Consider belonging to</b>				
The working class	28	12	57	3
The lower middle class	29	15	54	2
The middle class	34	10	55	1
The upper middle class	38	6	56	0
The upper class	35	12	53	0

## 2. The main concerns of Europeans

### 2.1 Personal concerns

**Rising prices/inflation/cost of living** has become the main personal concern while health concerns have decreased significantly

In this EB95 survey of spring 2021, **rising prices/inflation/cost of living** (35%) represents the main concern that Europeans say that they face personally<sup>23</sup>. The proportion of respondents for whom this issue is a main concern has increased significantly, by eight percentage points, since winter 2020-2021, when it was the second most mentioned item.

At the same time, **health** is less of a concern for Europeans. 25% worry about health issues, representing a seven-percentage point fall since winter 2020-2021.

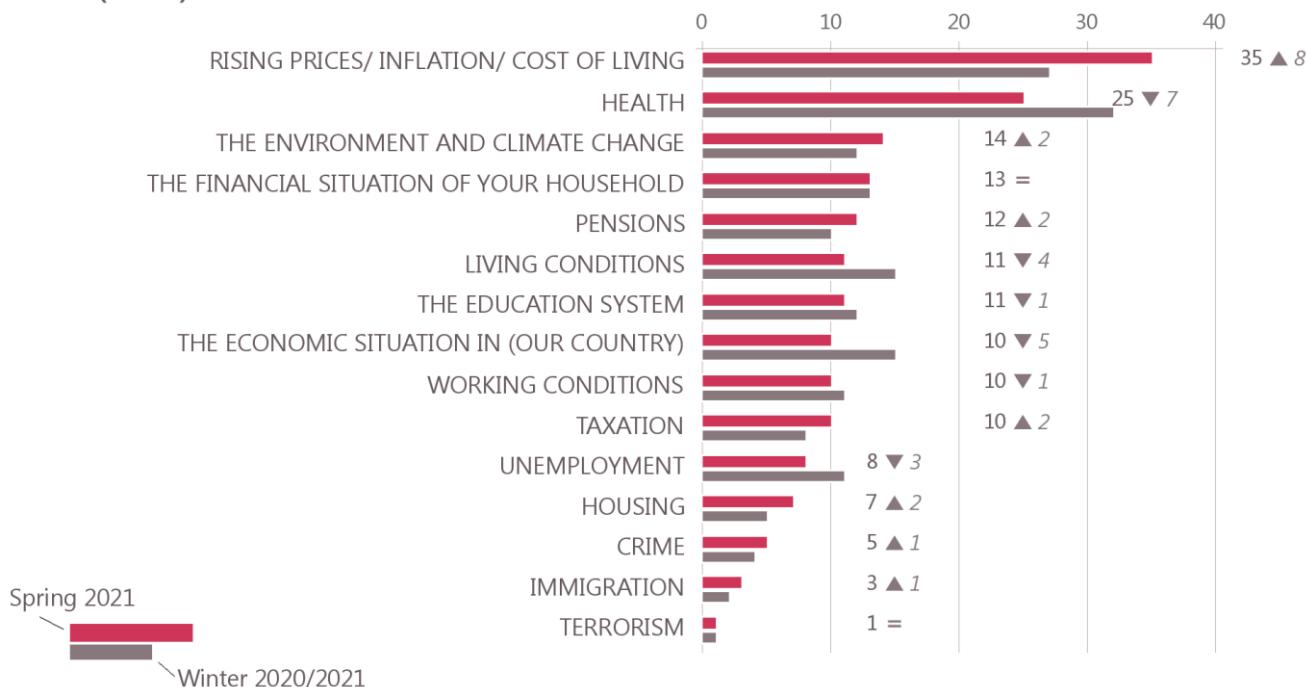
**The environment and climate change** has moved up to the third position (14%, +2) among the most important concerns that Europeans face personally.

**The financial situation of the household** is a cause for concern for 13% of respondents (unchanged since winter 2020-2021) and ranks in fourth position, just ahead of **pensions** (12%, +2) and **living conditions** (11%, -4), in joint fifth place with the **education system** (11%, -1).

The **economic situation of the country** comes sixth, with significant decrease of five percentage points (10%), jointly with **working conditions** (10%, -1) and **taxation** (10%, +2).

Finally, **unemployment** (8%, -3), **housing** (7%, +2), **crime** (5%, +1), **immigration** (3%, +1) and **terrorism** (1%, unchanged) are mentioned by less than one in ten respondents.

**QA4a** And personally, what are the two most important issues you are facing at the moment? (MAX. 2 ANSWERS)  
 (% - EU)



The hierarchy of problems that respondents say they personally face differs slightly between **euro area** countries and countries **outside the euro area**:

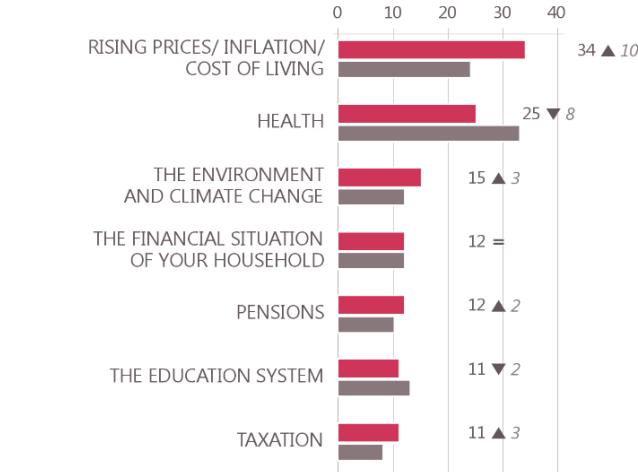
- Albeit in different proportions, rising prices/inflation/cost of living tops the list both in euro area countries (34%, +10) and in countries outside the euro area (41%, +4).

- Health ranks second both within and outside the euro area in identical proportions (25%). Concerns about this issue have also fallen almost identically since winter 2020-2021: -8 percentage points in the euro area and -7 points outside it.
- The environment and climate change come in third position in the euro area (15%, +3), whereas the household financial situation ranks third in countries outside the euro area (16%, unchanged).

<sup>23</sup> QA4a. And personally, what are the two most important issues you are facing at the moment?

**Standard Eurobarometer 95**  
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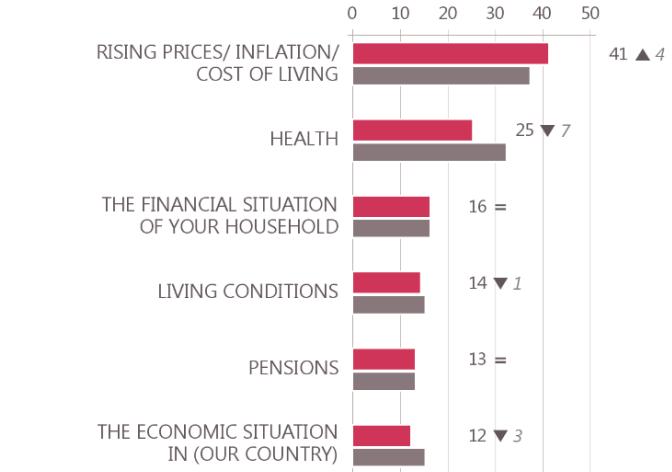
**QA4a** And personally, what are the two most important issues you are facing at the moment? (MAX. 2 ANSWERS)  
 (% - **EURO AREA**)



Spring 2021

Winter 2020/2021

**QA4a** And personally, what are the two most important issues you are facing at the moment? (MAX. 2 ANSWERS)  
 (% - **NON-EURO AREA**)



Spring 2021

Winter 2020/2021

**Standard Eurobarometer 95**  
**Public opinion in the European Union**  
**Spring 2021**

There are significant differences between Member States:

- **Rising prices/inflation/cost of living** is the leading issue that Europeans say they currently face in 20 Member States (compared with 12 countries in winter 2020-2021). Within these 20 countries, however, mentions range from 27% in Cyprus to 61% in Lithuania. Concerns are the lowest in Sweden (9%);

This issue is of increasing personal concern in 26 EU Member States, especially in Estonia (54%, +26 percentage points since winter 2020-2021), Latvia (50%, +17), Czechia (56%, +16) and the Netherlands (32%, +16). It has remained unchanged in Hungary (50%) and lost ground in Romania (34%, -1);

- **Health** is the leading personal concern in seven EU Member States (compared with 13 countries in winter 2020-2021), most notably in Finland (50%), where it also sees its highest score. It is mentioned far less often in Luxembourg (18%);

Significant changes have been recorded since winter 2020-2021 for this indicator. Health has lost ground in 24 Member States, most particularly in Estonia (22%, -19 percentage points), the Netherlands (36%, -14) and Slovakia (25%, -13), while it is unchanged in Greece and Cyprus (both at 23%). However, it is of increased concern in only one country, namely Portugal (21%, +1);

Although they do not lead the hierarchy of concerns at a personal level,

- **The environment and climate change** is the second most frequently mentioned item in five countries. It reaches its highest percentage in the Netherlands and Sweden (both 29%), and records its lowest score in Portugal (1%). Proportions have increased since winter 2020-2021 in 21 countries, most notably in Austria (15%, +6), while they are unchanged in three countries and have fallen in three others, most notably in Portugal (1%, -7);
- **The financial situation of the household** ranks second in four Member States, including Finland where it reaches its highest level (32%). Conversely, mentions are lowest in Luxembourg (7%). Since winter 2020-2021, this concern has gained ground in 12 countries, led by Finland (32%, +6), and is unchanged in Poland (15%) and Czechia (10%). Conversely, concerns decreased in 13 other countries, most sharply in Slovenia (13%, -8);
- **Pensions** rank second in Bulgaria (21%). In contrast, they are only cited by 6% of respondents in Luxembourg;
- **Living conditions** are an issue for 22% of respondents in Slovenia where this item ranks third, as it does in Austria (16%) and Poland (15%);
- **The economic situation of the country** comes third in Czechia (14%) and reaches its highest level in Croatia (18%);
- **Working conditions** are mentioned by 15% of respondents in Portugal but by only 5% in Finland and Sweden;
- **Taxation** is considered to be the third main concern by 18% of respondents in Italy but by only 3% in both Cyprus and Slovakia;
- **Housing** is mentioned by 26% of respondents in Luxembourg,

- Almost a quarter (24%) of respondents in Sweden mention **crime** as the third main concern at a personal level;
- Finally, the **education system** is an issue for 17% of respondents in Germany.

# Standard Eurobarometer 95

## Public opinion in the European Union

### Spring 2021

**QA4a** And personally, what are the two most important issues you are facing at the moment?  
(MAX. 2 ANSWERS)  
(%)

**Standard Eurobarometer 95**  
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**QA4a** And personally, what are the two most important issues you are facing at the moment?

(MAX. 2 ANSWERS)

(%)

	EU27		Rising prices/ inflation/ cost of living			Health			The environment and climate change			The financial situation of your household			Pensions			Living conditions			The education system			The economic situation in (OUR COUNTRY)			Working conditions			Taxation			Unemployment			Housing			Crime			Immigration			Terrorism		
			1st MOST FREQUENTLY MENTIONED ITEM	2nd MOST FREQUENTLY MENTIONED ITEM	3rd MOST FREQUENTLY MENTIONED ITEM	1st MOST FREQUENTLY MENTIONED ITEM	2nd MOST FREQUENTLY MENTIONED ITEM	3rd MOST FREQUENTLY MENTIONED ITEM	1st MOST FREQUENTLY MENTIONED ITEM	2nd MOST FREQUENTLY MENTIONED ITEM	3rd MOST FREQUENTLY MENTIONED ITEM	1st MOST FREQUENTLY MENTIONED ITEM	2nd MOST FREQUENTLY MENTIONED ITEM	3rd MOST FREQUENTLY MENTIONED ITEM	1st MOST FREQUENTLY MENTIONED ITEM	2nd MOST FREQUENTLY MENTIONED ITEM	3rd MOST FREQUENTLY MENTIONED ITEM	1st MOST FREQUENTLY MENTIONED ITEM	2nd MOST FREQUENTLY MENTIONED ITEM	3rd MOST FREQUENTLY MENTIONED ITEM	1st MOST FREQUENTLY MENTIONED ITEM	2nd MOST FREQUENTLY MENTIONED ITEM	3rd MOST FREQUENTLY MENTIONED ITEM	1st MOST FREQUENTLY MENTIONED ITEM	2nd MOST FREQUENTLY MENTIONED ITEM	3rd MOST FREQUENTLY MENTIONED ITEM	1st MOST FREQUENTLY MENTIONED ITEM	2nd MOST FREQUENTLY MENTIONED ITEM	3rd MOST FREQUENTLY MENTIONED ITEM	1st MOST FREQUENTLY MENTIONED ITEM	2nd MOST FREQUENTLY MENTIONED ITEM	3rd MOST FREQUENTLY MENTIONED ITEM															
EU27		35	25	14	13	12	11	11	10	10	10	8	7	5	3	1																															
BE		41	23	27	12	9	8	10	6	10	15	4	6	5	5	1																															
BG		47	19	4	19	21	17	7	14	12	4	9	3	3	1	0																															
CZ		56	28	10	10	10	7	9	14	8	5	2	11	2	2	0																															
DK		18	32	26	9	10	8	9	7	10	5	4	8	6	5	2																															
DE		37	20	22	10	13	9	17	6	7	8	4	9	3	3	1																															
EE		54	22	10	24	15	13	9	9	8	13	5	6	1	3	0																															
IE		42	34	23	15	9	6	5	14	8	11	6	19	3	1	0																															
EL		32	23	3	25	14	13	11	17	14	15	14	0	5	2	0																															
ES		37	21	6	8	14	11	9	14	12	12	19	4	3	2	0																															
FR		35	22	16	13	11	9	8	6	10	7	8	8	13	4	2																															
HR		44	27	7	19	13	17	6	18	14	5	8	7	3	1	1																															
IT		24	33	8	12	9	14	8	15	12	18	14	3	4	5	1																															
CY		27	23	5	22	7	9	15	15	10	3	13	8	5	6	2																															
LV		50	28	3	13	10	9	11	15	7	17	6	8	0	1	0																															
LT		61	28	6	16	9	9	9	7	9	16	8	8	1	1	0																															
LU		35	18	21	7	6	12	12	4	9	11	5	26	10	4	2																															
HU		50	21	7	23	15	13	9	11	14	6	5	7	2	3	1																															
MT		46	27	27	10	9	8	8	7	9	4	2	4	3	9	1																															
NL		32	36	29	10	13	9	16	6	8	7	2	11	3	2	0																															
AT		28	31	15	13	10	16	15	8	11	4	7	8	4	4	3																															
PL		47	23	8	15	11	15	8	12	11	9	5	4	4	2	2																															
PT		37	21	1	10	17	15	7	10	15	16	16	2	0	1	0																															
RO		34	25	9	18	15	17	11	13	12	6	7	6	6	3	4																															
SI		27	31	8	13	15	22	9	8	14	6	5	10	2	2	0																															
SK		50	25	11	22	13	8	10	10	13	3	5	8	1	1	1																															
FI		16	50	22	32	11	11	7	14	5	8	7	7	2	5	1																															
SE		9	37	29	17	14	9	12	6	5	8	5	9	24	12	1																															

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**QA4a** 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 environment and climate change		The financial situation of your household		Pensions		Living conditions		The education system		The economic situation in (OUR COUNTRY)		Working conditions		Taxation		Unemployment		Housing		Crime		Immigration		Terrorism		Other (SPONTANEOUS)		None (SPONTANEOUS)		Don't know	
EU27	35	25	14	13	12	11	11	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	8	7	5	3	1	0	3	0												
 Gender																																				
Man	34	22	14	12	12	11	11	11	10	11	11	8	7	6	4	1	0	4	1																	
Woman	36	28	14	14	12	11	11	9	10	8	9	6	5	3	1	0	3	0																		
 Age																																				
15-24	25	14	17	12	2	12	30	8	11	7	12	12	6	2	1	0	4	1																		
25-39	38	17	14	15	3	11	12	12	15	11	11	11	4	3	1	0	3	1																		
40-54	39	22	13	14	5	13	13	13	14	12	9	5	5	4	1	0	2	0																		
55 +	35	35	13	12	25	10	3	8	4	9	5	3	5	4	1	1	4	0																		
 Education (End of)																																				
15-	35	32	6	14	25	13	2	9	6	8	12	3	5	4	1	0	3	1																		
16-19	40	25	10	15	13	12	6	11	11	10	10	6	5	3	1	0	3	0																		
20+	35	25	19	11	9	10	12	10	11	11	6	7	5	3	1	0	4	0																		
Still studying	21	15	20	10	1	10	39	8	8	5	9	13	6	2	1	0	5	1																		
 Socio-professional category																																				
Self-employed	35	21	12	12	7	11	9	18	13	21	5	5	4	3	1	0	2	0																		
Managers	33	21	18	9	6	10	18	11	12	13	3	9	4	4	1	0	4	0																		
Other white collars	42	21	16	12	7	12	10	13	13	12	5	7	6	4	1	0	3	0																		
Manual workers	41	20	11	16	8	13	8	11	17	10	7	7	5	3	2	0	2	1																		
House persons	39	31	9	15	12	13	9	11	5	8	12	3	5	2	1	0	4	1																		
Unemployed	26	16	6	27	3	12	4	10	13	4	50	8	3	1	1	0	1	0																		
Retired	36	39	13	10	30	10	2	6	1	6	3	3	6	4	1	1	5	0																		
Students	21	15	20	10	1	10	39	8	8	5	9	13	6	2	1	0	5	1																		
 Difficulties paying bills																																				
Most of the time	33	17	5	37	12	16	6	7	13	7	23	8	3	2	1	0	0	0																		
From time to time	35	24	7	19	12	14	8	13	12	11	13	7	5	3	2	0	1	0																		
Almost never/ Never	36	26	17	8	12	10	12	10	9	10	5	6	6	3	1	0	5	1																		
 Consider belonging to																																				
The working class	41	25	5	19	18	13	5	9	11	7	15	5	5	3	1	0	2	0																		
The lower middle class	41	23	10	18	13	11	9	9	10	9	10	7	5	2	1	0	3	1																		
The middle class	34	26	16	10	10	11	12	11	10	11	6	7	5	4	1	0	4	0																		
The upper middle class	25	26	27	6	8	8	18	10	9	14	4	8	5	4	1	0	5	0																		
The upper class	25	23	16	6	10	17	11	14	18	17	2	6	8	4	2	0	5	0																		

## 2.2 The main concerns at national level

**Despite a significant decrease, health remains the main concern at a national level, followed by three economic issues: the economic situation of the country, rising prices/inflation/cost of living, and unemployment**

In this EB95 survey of spring 2021, **health** remains the main concern at a national level, despite a sharp and significant decrease in mentions since winter 2020-2021 (28%, -16 percentage points)<sup>24</sup>.

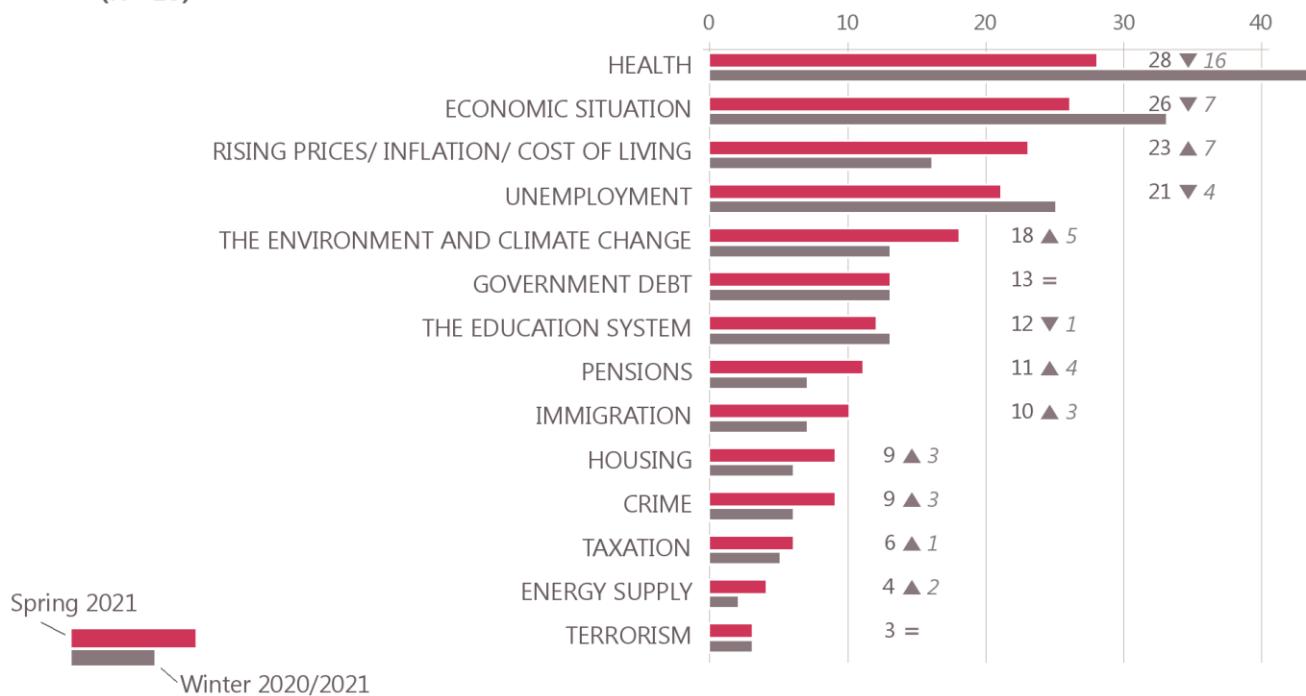
Despite a decrease of seven percentage points, the **economic situation** remains an important national concern and comes second (26%). At the same time **rising prices/inflation/cost of living** has gained seven percentage points and now ranks in third position (23%), followed by **unemployment** (21%), which has lost four percentage points since winter 2020-2021.

The environment and climate change has gained five percentage points and comes in fourth position, cited by 18% of respondents.

**Government debt** ranks fifth (13%, unchanged), followed by **the education system** (12%, -1), **pensions** (11%, +4) and **immigration** (10%, +3).

All other topics are cited by fewer than one in ten respondents: **housing** (9%, +3), **crime** (9%, +3), **taxation** (6%, +1), **energy supply** (4%, +2) and **terrorism** (3%, unchanged).

**QA3a** What do you think are the two most important issues facing (OUR COUNTRY) at the moment? (MAX. 2 ANSWERS) (% - EU)



<sup>24</sup> QA3a. What do you think are the two most important issues facing (OUR COUNTRY) at the moment?

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The order in which respondents rank the main national concerns varies considerably between the **euro area** countries and those **outside the euro area**:

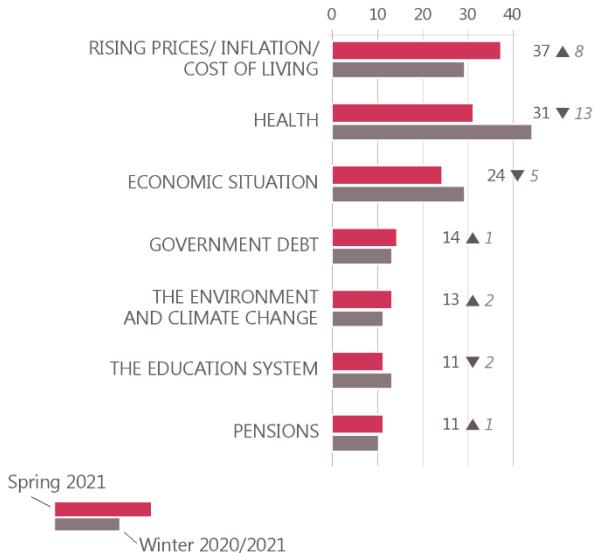
- Health still tops the list of concerns in the **euro area** countries (28%, -16 percentage points since winter 2020-2021), followed by the economic situation (26%, -8) and unemployment (25%, -3);

**QA3a** What do you think are the two most important issues facing (OUR COUNTRY) at the moment? (MAX. 2 ANSWERS)  
(% - **EURO AREA**)



In the countries **outside the euro area**, the main national concern is rising prices/inflation/cost of living (37%, +8), ahead of health (31%, -13) and the economic situation (24%, -5).

**QA3a** What do you think are the two most important issues facing (OUR COUNTRY) at the moment? (MAX. 2 ANSWERS)  
(% - **NON-EURO AREA**)



There are some differences between Member States:

- **Health** is the leading national concern (28%, -16). It tops the list of concerns in five Member States (compared with 20 in winter 2020-2021), with the highest scores in Portugal (52%) and Slovenia (47%). Health is ranked in second position in eleven countries, including Ireland (44%), Hungary (41%) and Bulgaria (39%). The item is least mentioned in Luxembourg (13%).

Since winter 2020-2021, concerns about health have increased in only two Member States, namely Portugal (52%, +20 percentage points) and to a lesser extent Cyprus (30%, +1). Conversely health has lost ground in 25 countries, including five countries recording decreases of over 20 percentage points: Italy (38%, -23), the Netherlands (29%, -25), Slovakia (33%, -26), Estonia (30%, -32) and Czechia (17%, -35). Decreases are lowest in Croatia (29%, -2).

- **The economic situation** is the leading national concern in four Member States (compared with six in winter 2020-2021 and seven in summer 2020), with the highest scores in Greece (53%), Cyprus (47%) and Italy (45%). It ranks second in six countries, including Portugal (42%) and Spain (37%), while it is the least cited in Luxembourg (5%). Since winter 2020-2021, concerns for the economic situation at a national level have increased in three countries, namely in Malta (36%, +12), Bulgaria (35%, +2) and Romania (29%, +1). Conversely, it has lost ground in 24 countries, most notably in the Netherlands (13%, -24), Denmark (20%, -17) and Estonia (23%, -15).
- **The environment and climate change** tops the list in four Member States, namely in Denmark (51%), the Netherlands (45%), Germany (34%) and Belgium (34%). It ranks second in Finland (29%) and Sweden (31%) and comes third in Malta (27%), Luxembourg (25%) and France (20%). It is least cited in Greece, Latvia and Portugal (all 2%).

Since winter 2020-2021, this item has gained ground in 21 countries, most notably in Denmark (51%, +15), Belgium (34%, +13), the Netherlands (45%, +10) and Austria (22%, +10), with rises in excess of 10 percentage points. Proportions are unchanged in three countries, including Bulgaria (4%), Latvia (2%) and Lithuania (4%), while they have decreased in three others: Sweden (31%, -5), Portugal (2%, -2) and Malta (27%, -1).

- **Unemployment** ranks first as main national concern in Spain (50%) and France (26%), coming second in Greece and Italy (both 38%), Finland (29%) and Austria (24%), and third in Portugal (38%) and Cyprus (28%). At the other end of the scale, only 3% of respondents in the Netherlands consider unemployment as a matter of concern at the national level.

Since winter 2020-2021, this item has gained ground in Italy (38%, +4), Greece (38%, +1) and Finland (29%, +1), while it has declined in 24 countries, most notably in Lithuania (15%, -17), Estonia (10%, -16) and Cyprus (28%, -16).

- **Rising prices/inflation/cost of living** is the most important national concern in seven countries, notably in Lithuania (53%) and Estonia (50%), where more than half the respondents cite this item. It ranks second in Czechia (43%), Germany (24%), Croatia (32%), Luxembourg (31%) and Romania (30%), and comes third in four

others. This item is of least concern in Sweden, where it is cited by only 5% of respondents.

Since winter 2020-2021, this concern has gained ground in 23 countries, most particularly in Estonia (50%, +33), Czechia (43%, +24), Lithuania (53%, +22) and Latvia (36%, +20), while it is unchanged in Sweden (5%) and Portugal (17%). Conversely it has lost ground slightly in Romania (30%, -1) and Malta (23%, -1).

Other results include:

- **Housing** is the leading concern in Luxembourg (64%, +13) and Ireland (59%, +24). This concern is also strong in the Netherlands (40%, +22), where it ranks second. In Greece, housing is of no concern at a national level at all (0%, unchanged);
- The **government debt** tops the list in Czechia (44%, +7) and Finland (34%, unchanged), but is only of concern to 1% of respondents in Sweden (unchanged);
- The **education system** is mentioned by 23% (+3) of respondents in Lithuania (second place) and by 22% in Germany (unchanged). It is least frequently mentioned as a matter of national concern in Ireland (2%, -6) and Portugal (2%, -5);
- **Crime** is a concern at national level for 41% (+11) in Sweden, where it now tops the list, and for 21% (+7) in France, where it shares second place with health. It is only of concern to 1% of respondents (unchanged) in Estonia;
- **Immigration** ranks in third position in Sweden (25%, +8) and Italy (12%, +6). It is least mentioned in Ireland, Portugal and Slovakia (all 2%).

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**QA3a** What do you think are the two most important issues facing (OUR COUNTRY) at the moment? (MAX. 2 ANSWERS)  
 (%)

		Health	Economic situation		Unemployment		The environment and climate change		Government debt		The education system		Pensions		Immigration		Housing		Crime		Taxation		Energy supply		Terrorism
EU27		28	26	23	21	18	13	12	11	10	9	9	9	6	4	3									
BE		19	19	21	9	<b>34</b>	29	10	8	16	5	5	13	9	9	1									
BG		39	35	<b>44</b>	19	4	6	8	14	5	2	8	3	2	2										
CZ		17	24	43	4	8	<b>44</b>	12	13	4	16	4	4	0	1										
DK		33	20	12	5	<b>51</b>	12	10	7	17	5	8	4	4	4	3									
DE		16	12	24	5	<b>34</b>	16	22	15	12	19	8	3	4	3										
EE		30	23	<b>50</b>	10	16	8	13	12	8	3	1	16	8	0										
IE		44	16	26	7	19	12	2	2	2	<b>59</b>	4	4	2	0										
EL		37	<b>53</b>	10	38	2	13	7	4	16	0	11	5	0	1										
ES		35	37	15	<b>50</b>	6	8	6	7	7	3	5	7	5	0										
FR		21	17	17	<b>26</b>	20	13	13	14	13	6	21	3	2	10	1	2	2	10						
HR		29	<b>34</b>	32	27	6	17	4	9	6	7	18	4	2	1										
IT		38	<b>45</b>	11	38	6	12	5	8	12	3	4	10	2	2										
CY		30	<b>47</b>	14	28	5	5	12	6	23	4	13	2	1	2										
LV		31	34	<b>36</b>	14	2	13	16	10	3	6	2	26	1	1										
LT		23	15	<b>53</b>	15	4	16	<b>23</b>	9	14	4	3	14	3	1										
LU		13	5	31	9	25	3	13	6	8	<b>64</b>	10	3	3	1										
HU		41	21	<b>45</b>	13	9	11	11	11	8	6	5	4	2	2	2									
MT		<b>41</b>	36	23	4	27	4	3	3	20	9	7	2	2	0										
NL		29	13	18	3	<b>45</b>	3	15	4	11	40	6	5	4	2										
AT		<b>32</b>	19	23	<b>24</b>	22	12	14	8	13	7	8	4	6	4										
PL		32	23	<b>47</b>	8	10	13	8	9	4	4	5	10	6	3										
PT		<b>52</b>	42	17	38	2	10	2	7	2	2	2	12	0	0										
RO		<b>32</b>	29	30	10	9	11	16	<b>16</b>	4	6	10	6	5	4										
SI		<b>47</b>	30	26	12	9	18	6	9	7	11	8	6	2	1	1									
SK		33	27	<b>47</b>	14	10	17	13	13	2	5	5	5	1	0										
FI		18	29	14	29	29	<b>34</b>	7	5	13	2	5	8	3	1										
SE		22	8	5	15	31	1	20	8	25	8	<b>41</b>	5	9	1										

**Highest percentage per country**

Highest percentage per item

**Lowest percentage per country**

Lowest percentage per item

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**QA3a** What do you think are the two most important issues facing (OUR COUNTRY) at the moment? (MAX. 2 ANSWERS)  
 (%)

	EU27		Health			Economic situation			Rising prices/ inflation/ cost of living			Unemployment			The environment and climate change			Government debt			The education system			Pensions			Immigration			Housing			Crime			Taxation			Energy supply			Terrorism																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																															
			28	26	23	21	18	13	12	11	10	9	9	6	4	3	19	19	21	9	34	29	10	8	16	5	5	13	9	1	39	35	44	19	4	6	8	14	5	2	8	3	2	2	17	24	43	4	8	44	12	13	4	16	4	4	0	1	33	20	12	5	51	12	10	7	17	5	8	4	4	4	3	16	12	24	5	34	16	22	15	12	19	8	3	4	3	30	23	50	10	16	8	13	12	8	3	1	16	8	0	44	16	26	7	19	12	2	2	2	59	4	4	2	0	37	53	10	38	2	13	7	4	16	0	11	5	0	1	35	37	15	50	6	8	6	7	7	3	5	7	5	0	21	17	17	26	20	13	13	14	13	6	21	3	2	10	29	34	32	27	6	17	4	9	6	7	18	4	2	1	38	45	11	38	6	12	5	8	12	3	4	10	2	2	CY	30	47	14	28	5	5	12	6	23	4	13	2	1	2	31	34	36	14	2	13	16	10	3	6	2	26	1	1	LT	23	15	53	15	4	16	23	9	14	4	3	14	3	1	LU	13	5	31	9	25	3	13	6	8	64	10	3	3	1	HU	41	21	45	13	9	11	11	11	8	6	5	4	2	2	MT	*	41	36	23	4	27	4	3	3	20	9	7	2	2	0	NL	29	13	18	3	45	3	15	4	11	40	6	5	4	2	AT	32	19	23	24	22	12	14	8	13	7	8	4	6	4	PL	32	23	47	8	10	13	8	9	4	4	5	10	6	3	PT	52	42	17	38	2	10	2	7	2	2	2	12	0	0	RO	32	29	30	10	9	11	16	16	4	6	10	6	5	4	SI	47	30	26	12	9	18	6	9	7	11	8	6	2	1	SK	33	27	47	14	10	17	13	13	2	5	5	5	1	0	FI	18	29	14	29	29	34	7	5	13	2	5	8	3	1	SE	22	8	5	15	31	1	20	8	25	8	41	5	9
1st MOST FREQUENTLY MENTIONED ITEM			2nd MOST FREQUENTLY MENTIONED ITEM			3rd MOST FREQUENTLY MENTIONED ITEM																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																			

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**QA3a** What do you think are the two most important issues facing (OUR COUNTRY) at the moment? (MAX. 2 ANSWERS)  
 (% - EU)

	Health	Economic situation		Rising prices/ inflation/ cost of living		Unemployment		The environment and climate change		Government debt		The education system		Pensions		Immigration		Housing		Crime		Taxation		Energy supply		Terrorism		Other (SPONTANEOUS)		None (SPONTANEOUS)		Don't know	
EU27	28	26	23	21	18	13	12	11	10	9	9	9	9	6	4	3	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0				
 Gender																																	
Man	25	26	23	20	18	14	11	10	11	9	10	7	8	7	4	3	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0					
Woman	31	25	23	22	17	12	13	11	9	10	8	6	3	3	3	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0					
 Age																																	
15-24	27	24	21	24	24	8	18	8	7	12	8	7	4	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0					
25-39	27	25	26	20	19	14	14	8	9	11	7	8	4	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0					
40-54	28	29	23	23	15	14	12	9	10	9	9	6	3	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0					
55 +	29	24	22	20	17	14	9	14	12	8	11	5	4	4	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0					
 Education (End of)																																	
15-	32	31	22	33	7	9	4	16	11	4	8	7	3	4	1	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0					
16-19	29	27	27	21	13	14	9	11	11	8	10	7	3	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0					
20+	26	24	20	17	25	15	16	9	10	12	9	6	5	3	3	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0					
Still studying	29	23	19	21	28	9	20	7	7	13	7	6	4	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0					
 Socio-professional category																																	
Self-employed	30	33	23	21	16	14	10	6	10	9	6	9	4	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0					
Managers	25	24	19	15	25	17	18	10	11	12	8	5	4	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0					
Other white collars	28	29	23	21	18	13	12	10	12	11	8	6	4	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0					
Manual workers	27	27	27	22	14	14	11	9	9	9	9	7	4	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0					
House persons	34	29	24	27	11	9	9	11	9	7	8	6	3	3	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1					
Unemployed	26	28	25	40	13	9	9	5	9	9	9	7	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0					
Retired	30	21	23	19	16	15	8	16	12	8	11	5	3	5	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0					
Students	29	23	19	21	28	9	20	7	7	13	7	6	4	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0					
 Difficulties paying bills																																	
Most of the time	25	29	27	30	9	10	7	12	9	8	10	9	3	3	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0					
From time to time	33	29	23	26	10	12	8	12	9	8	9	8	4	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0					
Almost never/ Never	27	24	22	18	22	14	14	10	10	9	5	4	3	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0					
 Consider belonging to																																	
The working class	33	27	29	29	9	11	6	12	9	6	9	6	3	3	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0					
The lower middle class	27	24	27	21	14	15	11	13	10	10	9	7	3	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0					
The middle class	28	26	21	20	19	14	13	9	11	10	9	6	4	3	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0					
The upper middle class	24	22	15	12	34	16	17	10	9	14	8	4	6	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0					
The upper class	26	22	22	9	19	21	25	5	5	8	9	12	7	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0					

## 2.3 Main concerns at European level

**The economic situation is now the main issue facing the EU, closely followed by the environment and climate change. Health no longer tops the list**

Despite a significant decrease of eight percentage points since winter 2020-2021, **the economic situation** is currently considered to be the main issue at EU level (27%)<sup>25</sup>.

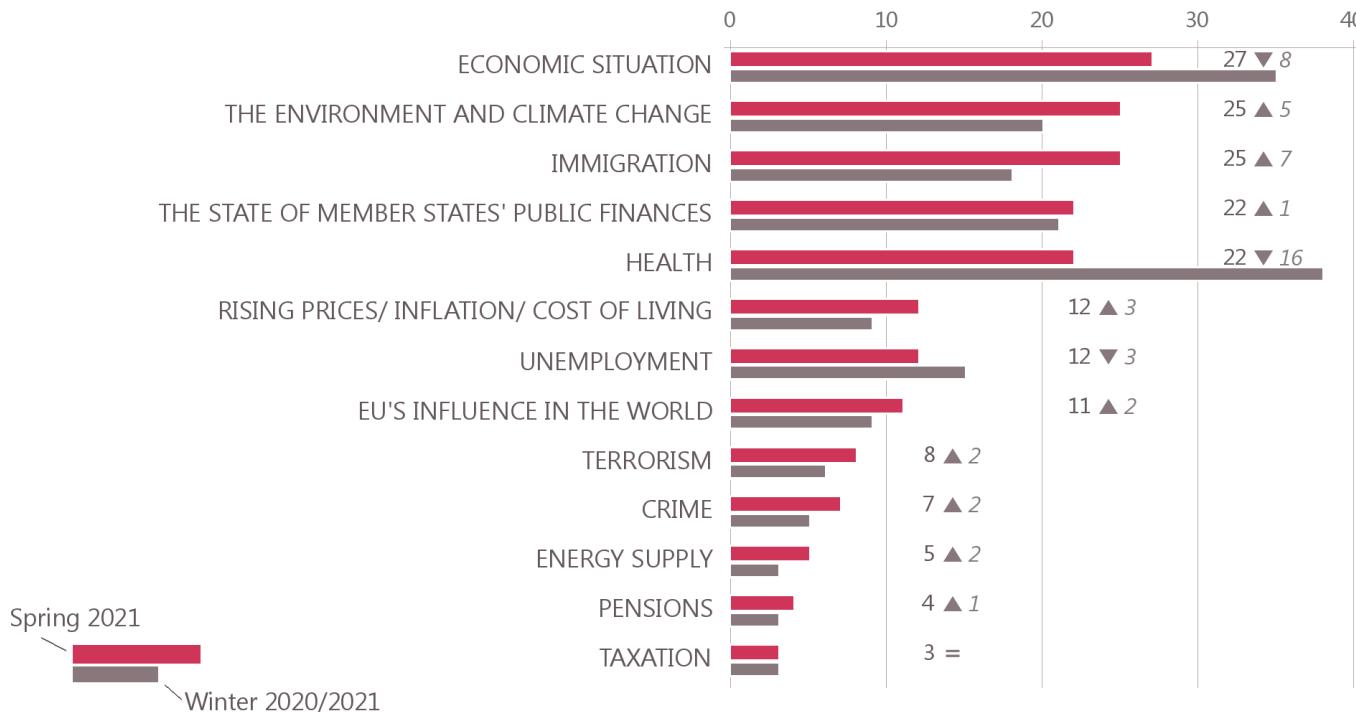
25% (+5 percentage points since winter 2020-2021) consider that **the environment and climate change** is the most important issue facing the EU and an identical proportion think that **immigration** (25%, +7) is a key concern at EU level.

**The Member States' public finances** (22%, +1) rank fourth, jointly with **health** (22%) which has lost significant ground since winter 2020-2021 (-16 percentage points).

**Rising prices/inflation/cost of living** (12%, +3) and **unemployment** (12%, -3) rank sixth with identical scores, followed by **the EU's influence in the world** (11%), which has gained two percentage points.

**Terrorism** (8, +2), **crime** (7, +2), **energy supply** (5, +2), **pensions** (4, +1) and **taxation** (3, unchanged) are all mentioned by less than one in ten respondents.

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



<sup>25</sup> QA5. What do you think are the two most important issues facing the EU at the moment?

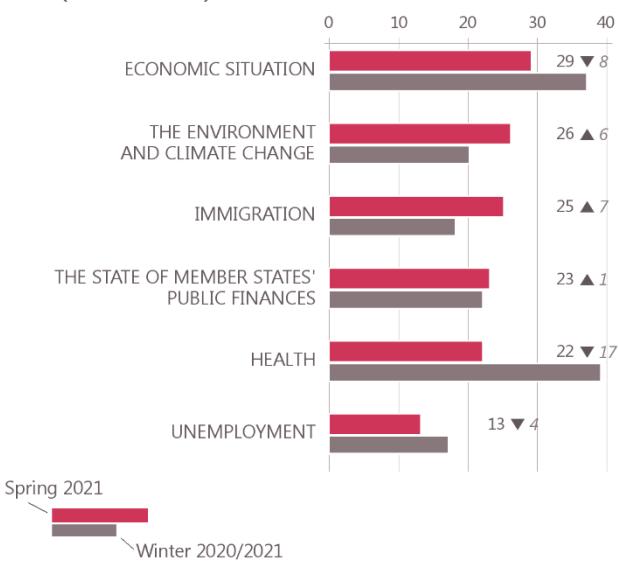
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The ranking of the three most important issues by respondents in the euro area and in countries outside the euro area is slightly different.

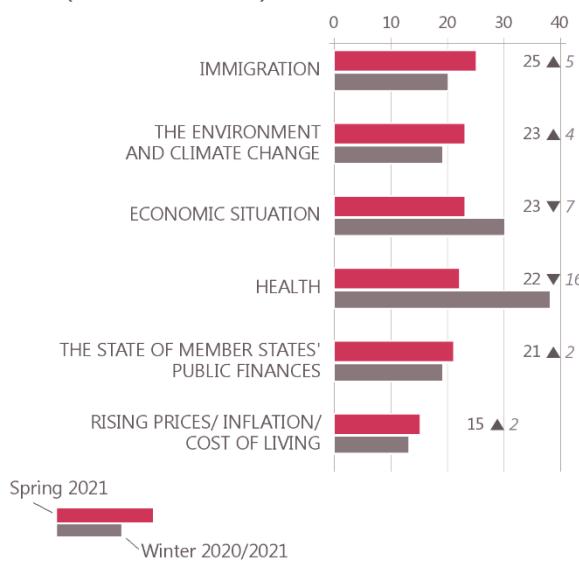
- Despite a decrease of eight percentage points since winter 2020-2021, the economic situation tops the list in **euro area** countries (29%), followed by the environment (25%, +6) and immigration (25%, +7).

- In the countries **outside the euro area** immigration tops the list with 25% (+5), followed by the environment and climate change (23%, +4). After a significant decrease of seven percentage points since winter 2020-2021, the economic situation has now been relegated to third position with 23% of mentions.

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



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



**National results** show that:

- **Health** is the leading issue in 6 Member States of the European Union (compared with 16 in winter 2020-2021). Portugal records the highest proportion of respondents citing this issue (40%), whereas only 25% in Poland consider that health is the most important issue facing the EU. It is the second most mentioned issue in four countries, including Malta (39%) and Italy (37%), and the third in three countries. In Finland and Sweden, only 8% of respondents mention this concern at a European level. It stands in second place in five Member States, including Austria, where it shares this position with the economic situation (both 26%).

**Since winter 2020-2021**, concerns about this issue have increased in only one country (compared with 26 in the previous survey), namely Portugal (40%, +9). Conversely it is mentioned less in 26 Member States, with decreases of more than 30 percentage points in Estonia (15%, -31) and Czechia (14%, -36).

- **The economic situation** is considered the most important issue by 27% of respondents in the EU overall, and it is the most mentioned issue in three countries (down from six in winter 2020-2021), with the highest proportions in Italy (41%), Spain (36%) and Latvia (33%). This issue ranks second in eight countries, with the highest levels in Ireland (30%), Cyprus and Portugal (both 29%). It ranks joint second in Austria along with health (both 26%), and joint second in Poland together with the state of Member States' finances (both 23%). The economic situation ranks third in 10 countries, with the highest proportions in Bulgaria and Malta (both 27%) and Belgium (26%). It shares third place in Finland with immigration (both 24%). This concern is least cited in Sweden (18%).

**Since winter 2020-2021**, concerns about the economic situation at European level have lost ground in 26 countries, most notably in Portugal (29%, -21), the Netherlands (22%, -16), Estonia (21%, -16) and Denmark (24%, -16), while they have remained unchanged in Spain (26%).

- **The environment and climate change** is the most mentioned concern in nine countries (up from five in winter 2020-2021). At least half of the respondents in Sweden (54%) and Denmark (50%) mention this issue, followed by 49% in the Netherlands. It ranks second in Finland (38%), Estonia (30%) and Lithuania (28%), and is the third most mentioned item in Latvia (20%). Only 8% of respondents cite this item in Portugal.

**Since winter 2020-2021**, concerns about this item have gained ground in 24 countries, most notably in Austria (34%, +17), Ireland (45%, +11), the Netherlands (49%, +11) and Estonia (30%, +10), where rises exceed 10 percentage points. Conversely, concerns have lost ground in three countries, namely in Portugal (8%, -15), Slovenia (18%, -2) and Sweden (54%, -1).

- **Immigration** ranks first among concerns in seven countries (up from one in winter 2020-2021), particularly in Cyprus (48%), Czechia (42%) and Malta (40%). It is the second most mentioned concern in eight countries, with the highest levels seen in the Netherlands (38%) and in Belgium (37%). It ranks third in seven countries including Greece (32%) and Slovenia and Spain (both 26%). The item is least cited in Ireland and Romania, with 15% in both countries.

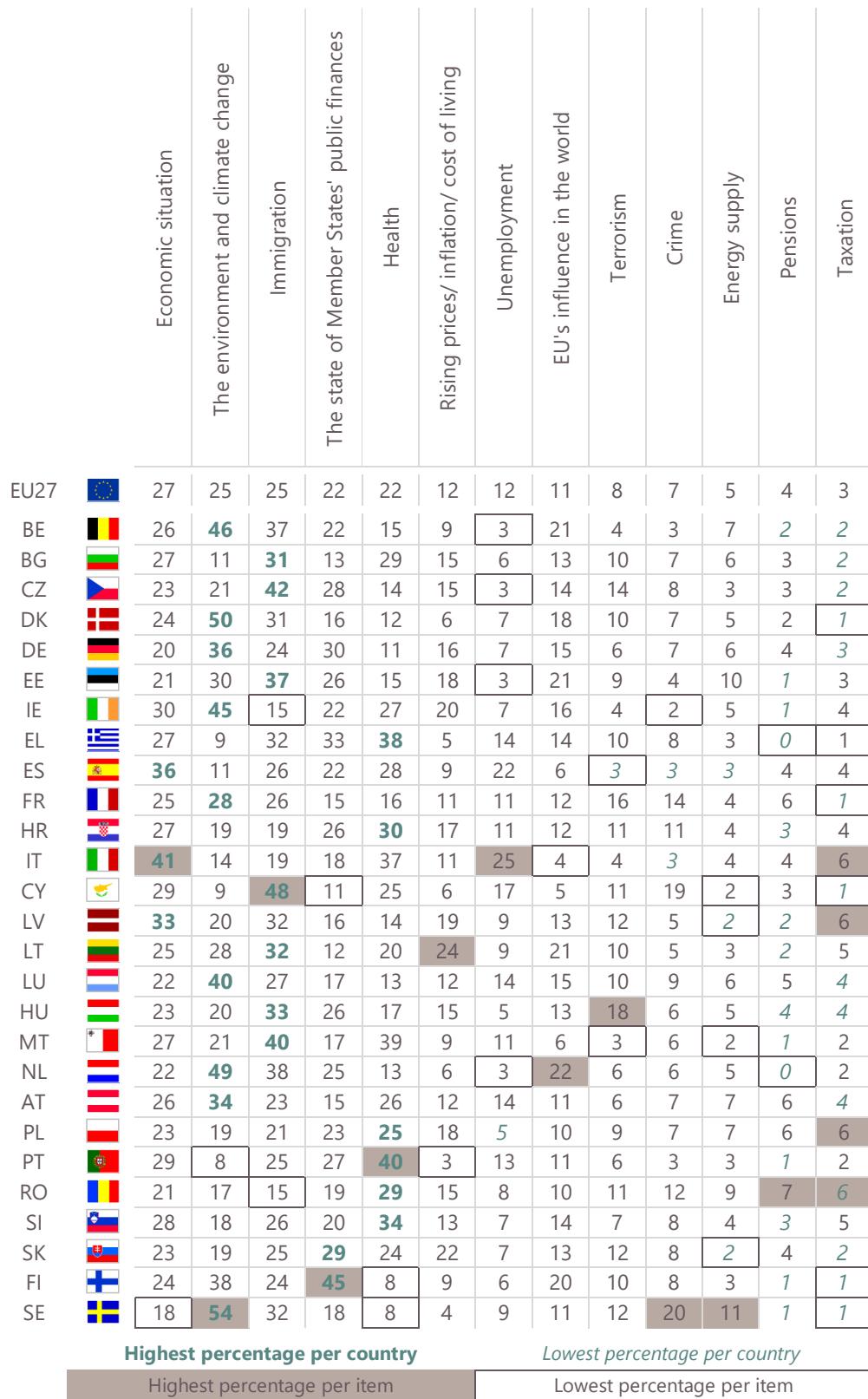
**Since winter 2020-2021**, concerns about immigration have increased in 26 Member States, most notably in Belgium (37%, +18), Lithuania (32%, +17) and Estonia (37%, +15), while they have remained unchanged in Slovenia (26%).

Further results are:

- **The state of Member States' public finances** is seen as the most important issue facing the EU in two Member States: Finland (45%, unchanged since winter 2020-2021) and Slovakia (29%, +6). It is the second most mentioned item in five countries, including Greece (33%, -2), Germany (30%, +3) and Czechia (28%, +4). It is the third most mentioned concern in five countries.
- **Rising prices/ inflation/ cost of living** and unemployment share sixth place, mentioned by 12% of EU citizens. This item is mentioned by 24% in Lithuania (+10) but by only 3% in Portugal (-5).
- **Unemployment** is the third most mentioned issue in Italy (25%, unchanged). **Crime** is ranked 10th overall at EU level (mentioned by 7%) and is the only other issue that ranks in the top three in any Member State, being in third place in Sweden (20%, +9).

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



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

	EU27		Economic situation		The environment and climate change		Immigration		The state of Member States' public finances		Rising prices/ inflation/ cost of living		Unemployment		EU's influence in the world		Terrorism		Crime		Energy supply		Pensions		Taxation			
			27	25	25	22	22	12	12	11	8	7	5	4	3	12	11	10	7	6	3	3	2	1	1	3		
BE		26	46	37	22	15	9	3	21	4	3	7	2	2	2	11	10	7	6	3	3	2	1	1	3			
BG		27	11	31	13	29	15	6	13	10	7	6	3	2	2	12	11	10	7	6	3	3	2	1	1	3		
CZ		23	21	42	28	14	15	3	14	14	8	3	3	3	2	13	12	11	8	3	3	3	2	1	1	3		
DK		24	50	31	16	12	6	7	18	10	7	5	2	2	1	14	13	12	9	6	4	4	3	3	2	1		
DE		20	36	24	30	11	16	7	15	6	7	6	5	2	2	15	14	13	8	6	4	4	3	3	2	1		
EE		21	30	37	26	15	18	3	21	9	4	10	10	10	10	16	15	14	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	
IE		30	45	15	22	27	20	7	16	4	2	5	1	4	4	17	16	15	14	14	14	14	14	14	14	14	14	14
EL		27	9	32	33	38	5	14	14	10	8	3	0	1	1	18	17	16	15	15	15	15	15	15	15	15	15	15
ES		36	11	26	22	28	9	22	6	3	3	3	3	3	3	19	18	17	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16
FR		25	28	26	15	16	11	11	12	12	12	12	12	12	12	14	14	14	14	14	14	14	14	14	14	14	14	
HR		27	19	19	26	30	17	11	12	12	11	11	11	11	11	19	19	19	19	19	19	19	19	19	19	19	19	
IT		41	14	19	18	37	11	25	4	4	4	3	4	4	4	19	19	19	19	19	19	19	19	19	19	19	19	19
CY		29	9	48	11	25	6	17	5	11	19	2	3	1	1	19	19	19	19	19	19	19	19	19	19	19	19	19
LV		33	20	32	16	14	19	9	13	12	5	2	2	2	2	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6
LT		25	28	32	12	20	24	9	21	10	5	3	2	2	2	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5
LU		22	40	27	17	13	12	14	15	10	9	6	5	5	5	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4
HU		23	20	33	26	17	15	5	13	18	6	5	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4
MT		27	21	40	17	39	9	11	6	3	6	2	1	1	1	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
NL		22	49	38	25	13	6	3	22	6	6	5	0	0	0	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
AT		26	34	23	15	26	12	14	11	6	7	7	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6
PL		23	19	21	23	25	18	5	10	9	7	7	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6
PT		29	8	25	27	40	3	13	11	6	3	3	1	1	1	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
RO		21	17	15	19	29	15	8	10	11	12	9	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7
SI		28	18	26	20	34	13	7	14	7	8	4	3	3	3	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5
SK		23	19	25	29	24	22	7	13	12	8	2	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4
FI		24	38	24	45	8	9	6	20	10	8	3	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
SE		18	54	32	18	8	4	9	11	12	20	11	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
1st MOST FREQUENTLY MENTIONED ITEM			2nd MOST FREQUENTLY MENTIONED ITEM			3rd MOST FREQUENTLY MENTIONED ITEM																						

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

	EU27															None (SPONTANEOUS)		Don't know										
	Economic situation		The environment and climate change		Immigration		The state of Member States public finances		Health		Rising prices/ inflation/ cost of living		Unemployment		EU's influence in the world		Terrorism		Crime		Energy supply		Pensions		Taxation			
EU27	27	25	25	22	22	12	12	11	8	7	5	4	3	0	0	0	2											
 Gender																												
Man	26	25	26	24	21	12	11	13	8	8	5	4	4	1	0	0	2											
Woman	28	26	24	21	24	12	12	10	9	7	4	4	3	0	0	0	3											
 Age																												
15-24	27	32	20	17	23	12	13	11	8	7	5	4	4	0	0	0	3											
25-39	29	26	23	22	23	14	12	11	7	6	5	4	4	0	0	0	2											
40-54	29	24	26	25	22	13	12	11	8	7	5	4	3	0	0	0	1											
55 +	25	23	27	23	22	11	11	12	9	9	5	4	3	1	0	0	3											
 Education (End of)																												
15-	29	14	25	16	26	13	18	6	9	9	4	5	3	0	0	0	5											
16-19	27	21	24	23	24	14	12	10	10	9	5	5	4	0	0	0	2											
20+	27	31	28	27	18	10	9	15	7	6	5	3	3	1	0	0	1											
Still studying	28	38	19	18	24	11	12	12	6	6	4	3	4	1	0	0	2											
 Socio-professional category																												
Self-employed	31	22	26	27	22	13	14	13	4	5	5	2	4	1	0	1												
Managers	29	33	27	26	19	10	9	14	7	5	5	3	3	1	0	1												
Other white collars	27	27	27	25	24	11	12	12	8	6	5	4	5	0	0	0	1											
Manual workers	28	21	24	21	22	15	11	10	9	8	5	6	4	0	0	0	2											
House persons	29	17	23	18	28	13	14	9	7	8	6	3	3	0	0	0	5											
Unemployed	30	18	22	19	25	13	21	9	8	7	4	4	4	0	0	0	4											
Retired	23	24	28	23	20	11	10	12	11	10	5	4	2	1	0	0	3											
Students	28	38	19	18	24	11	12	12	6	6	4	3	4	1	0	0	2											
 Difficulties paying bills																												
Most of the time	30	15	21	23	23	14	17	9	9	9	4	5	4	0	0	0	3											
From time to time	29	17	23	19	27	15	15	9	9	8	5	5	6	0	0	0	2											
Almost never/ Never	26	29	26	24	20	11	10	13	8	7	5	3	3	1	0	0	2											
 Consider belonging to																												
The working class	27	17	25	21	24	13	14	9	10	9	4	4	3	0	0	0	5											
The lower middle class	27	23	26	23	21	13	11	10	9	9	6	5	4	0	0	0	1											
The middle class	28	27	25	22	23	12	12	12	7	7	5	4	4	0	0	0	1											
The upper middle class	27	39	27	25	17	8	9	17	7	4	5	2	3	1	0	0	0											
The upper class	18	30	31	29	20	13	2	17	6	6	7	7	6	0	0	0	0											

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

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

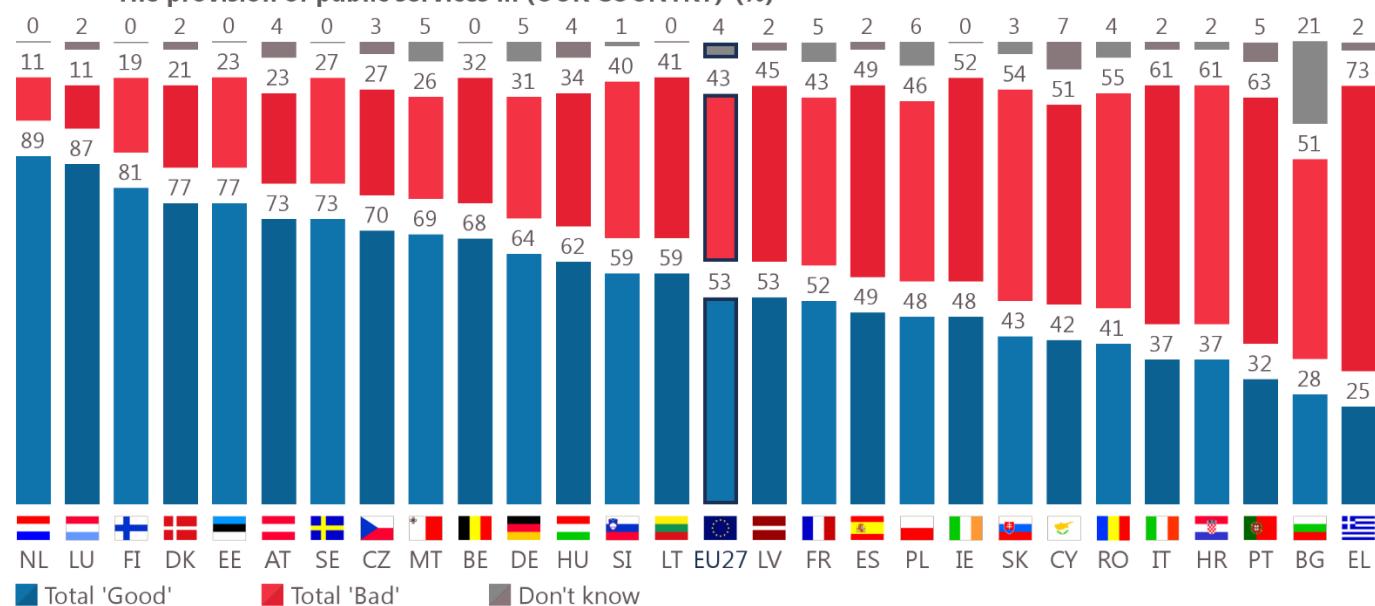
More than half of Europeans (53%) say that the provision of public services in their country is 'good'<sup>26</sup>, including 8% who think that provision is 'very good' and 45% who say that it is 'rather good'. Positive opinions have become preponderant following a sharp seven-percentage point increase since winter 2020-2021. Conversely, 43% (-8) say that provision of public services in their country is 'bad', including 34% (-4) who think it is 'rather bad' and 9% (-4) say that it is 'very bad'.

A majority in 16 Member States of the European Union (compared with 15 in winter 2020-2021) approve of the provision of public services at national level, with scores ranging from highs of 89% in the Netherlands and 87% in Luxembourg, to 52% in France. Opinions are evenly balanced in Spain (49% 'good' versus 49% 'bad'). However, respondents are predominantly negative in nine Member States (compared with 12 in winter 2020-2021). The impression that the provision of public services nationally is bad is most marked Greece, where more than seven in ten respondents (73%) give this answer. The proportion of respondents who express no opinion is very high in Bulgaria (21%).

**Since winter 2020-2021**, satisfaction with the provision of public services nationally has gained ground in 18 Member States of the EU (compared with five in the previous survey), most markedly in Czechia (70%, +19 percentage points), Latvia (53%, +19) and Slovakia (43%, +18), while it has remained unchanged in Denmark, Estonia (77%) and Finland (81%). In contrast, satisfaction has declined in six countries, most notably in Luxembourg (87%, -5) and Ireland (48%, -5).

**QA1a.7** How would you judge the current situation in each of the following?

#### The provision of public services in (OUR COUNTRY) (%)



<sup>26</sup> QA1a7. 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 satisfaction with the provision of public services at a national level is significantly shaped by the age, education and social position of respondents. The younger generations and the most socially and economically advantaged categories tend to be more satisfied with public services nationally. Thus, majorities of 15-24 years-olds (56%), students (58%), those who continued education up to the age of 20 or beyond (59%), managers (62%), those who never or almost never have difficulties paying their bills (59%), those who see themselves as belonging to the upper middle class (68%) or upper class of society (58%) and those who have a positive image of the EU (62%) consider the provision of public services in their country to be 'good'.

Conversely, dissatisfaction is predominant in the following categories: those who finished education aged 15 or younger (52% 'bad' vs 44% 'good'), unemployed people (54% vs 42%), the self-employed (50% vs 47%), house persons (49% vs 47%), those who have difficulties paying their bills most of the time (65% vs 32%) or from time to time (54% vs 42%), those who see themselves as belonging to the working class (50% vs 45%) or lower middle class of society (51% vs 46%) and those who have a negative image of the EU (58% vs 39%).

**QA1a.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	53	43	4
<b>Gender</b>			
Man	53	44	3
Woman	53	43	4
<b>Age</b>			
15-24	56	36	8
25-39	55	42	3
40-54	52	46	2
55 +	53	43	4
<b>Education (End of)</b>			
15-	44	52	4
16-19	50	47	3
20+	59	39	2
Still studying	58	34	8
<b>Socio-professional category</b>			
Self-employed	47	50	3
Managers	62	36	2
Other white collars	57	41	2
Manual workers	50	47	3
House persons	47	49	4
Unemployed	42	54	4
Retired	54	41	5
Students	58	34	8
<b>Difficulties paying bills</b>			
Most of the time	32	65	3
From time to time	42	54	4
Almost never/ Never	59	37	4
<b>Consider belonging to</b>			
The working class	45	50	5
The lower middle class	46	51	3
The middle class	57	40	3
The upper middle class	68	30	2
The upper class	58	41	1

## 4. Political aspects

### 4.1 Interest in politics

The index measuring how interested Europeans are in politics<sup>27</sup> has lost ground slightly since winter 2020-2021: 17% (-2 percentage points) of respondents have a “strong” interest in politics, while 47% (unchanged) have a “moderate” interest and 18% (unchanged) show “low” interest. Conversely, the proportion of respondents who are not interested in political matters at all has increased slightly, by two index points (up to 18%).

- Europeans are primarily interested in **national political matters**<sup>28</sup>. Over three-quarters of respondents (78%, -2 percentage points since winter 2020-2021) discuss politics with friends or relatives, including 54% (+1) who do so ‘occasionally’, and 24% (-3) who say that they talk about them ‘frequently’. Conversely, an increasing proportion (22%, +2) ‘never’ discuss national political matters.

In 24 Member States (compared with 25 in winter 2020-2021) a majority of respondents “occasionally” discuss European political matters with their friends or relatives. As in winter 2020-2021, respondents in Spain and France are an exception with 53% “never” discussing these issues. In Portugal respondents are evenly split between those who ‘occasionally’ discuss them (48%) and those who ‘never’ discuss them (48%).

European political matters are most ‘frequently’ discussed in Greece (26%), followed by Germany (23%), Luxembourg (19%), and the Netherlands and Austria (both 17%). In contrast, more than a third of respondents ‘never’ discuss European political matters with their relatives and friends in six countries, most strikingly in Spain (53%), France (53%), Portugal (48%), Cyprus (38%), Italy (37%) and Romania (36%).

- An almost identical proportion of Europeans discuss **local political matters** with their friends and relatives (75%, -2): 22% (-2) do so ‘frequently’ and 53% (unchanged) ‘occasionally’, while 25% (+3) say that they ‘never’ discuss them. It is noteworthy that in this EB95 survey of spring 2021 the proportion of respondents who never discuss local political matters outnumbers the proportion who frequently do so.
- Although discussion of **European political matters** seems to be slightly less widespread, they are still discussed by two-thirds of respondents (66%, +1), including 14% (+1) who discuss them ‘frequently’ and 52% (unchanged) who do so ‘occasionally’. A stable proportion of 34% answered ‘never’.

**Since winter 2020-2021**, European political matters are more ‘frequently’ discussed in 11 Member States, led by Cyprus (16%, +5), Germany (23%, +4) and the Netherlands (17%, +4). Proportions have remained unchanged in six other countries, while they have decreased in 10 Member States, most notably in Portugal (4%, -6) and in Luxembourg (19%, -3).

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



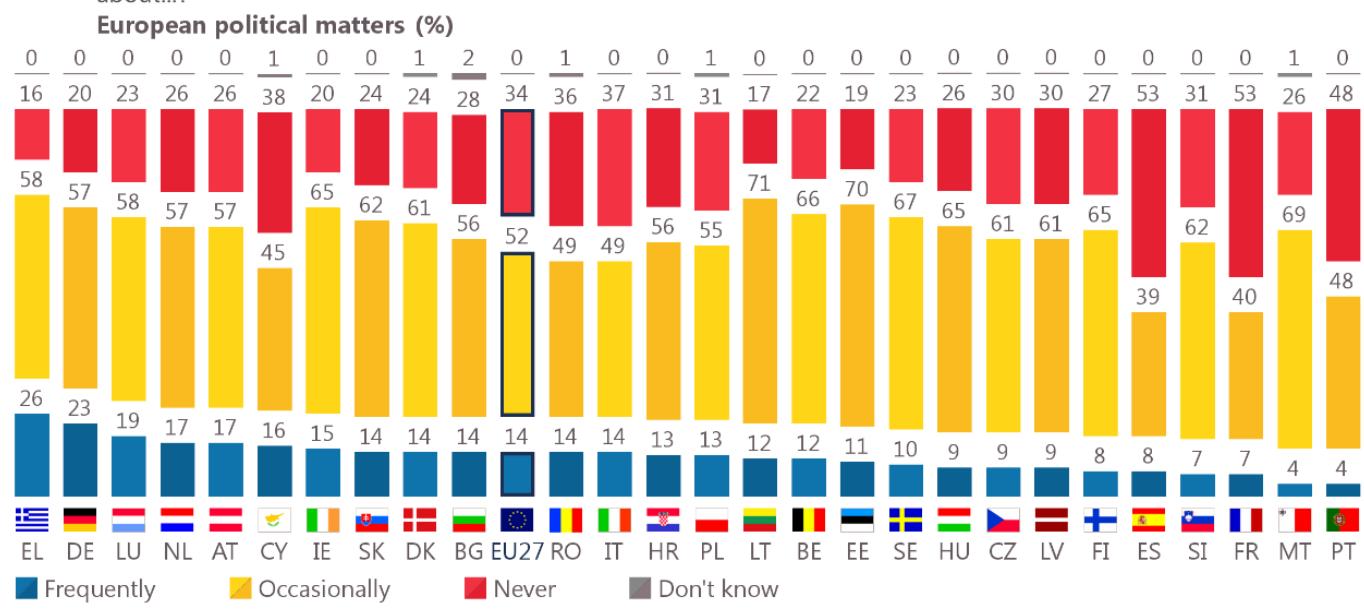
<sup>27</sup> C2. When you get together with friends or relatives, would you say that you discuss frequently, occasionally or never about...? 1. National political matters; 2. European political matters; 3. Local political matters. A score is then attributed to each answer: “Never” = 0; “Occasionally” = 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>28</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.

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



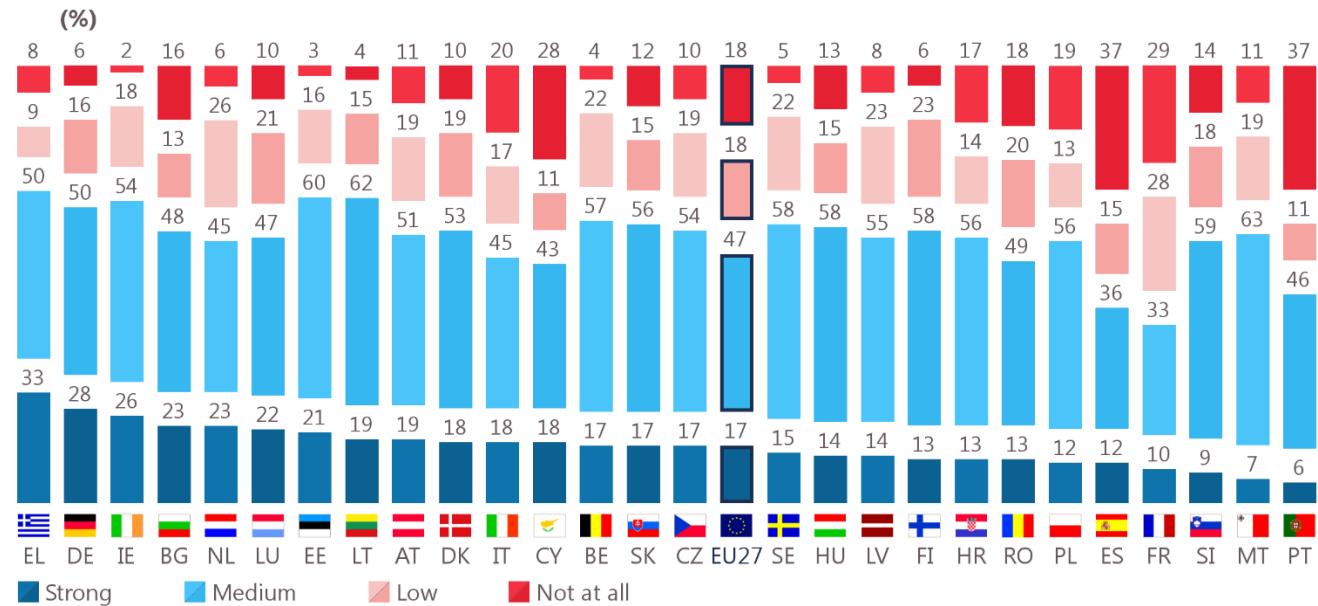
Sorted by 'Frequently'

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In seven Member States of the European Union (compared with 11 in winter 2020-2021) at least one in five respondents have a ‘strong’ interest in politics. In these countries, interest is the most widespread in Greece (33%), followed by Germany (28%) and Ireland (26%). Conversely, in five Member States at least one fifth of respondents are ‘not at all’ interested in political matters: Spain and Portugal (both 37%), France (29%), Cyprus (28%) and Italy (20%).

Since winter 2020-2021, the proportion of Europeans who are strongly interested in political matters has increased in 11 Member States (compared with ten in winter 2020-2021), especially in Lithuania (19%, +5) and Ireland (26%, +4), while proportions remained unchanged in France (10%). Conversely, fewer respondents are strongly interested in politics in 15 Member States, most strikingly in Portugal (6%, -14) and to a lesser extent in Italy (18%, -7) and Greece (33%, -7).

**C2 Political interest index (%)**



Sorted by ‘Strong’

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The **socio-demographic data** show that interest in European political matters is significantly correlated with education and the social position of respondents. Men and the most socially and economically advantaged categories tend to discuss European political matters with friends and relatives more often. While 19% of those who continued education up to the age of 20 or beyond, 19% of managers, 23% of the self-employed, 23% of those who see themselves as belonging to the upper middle class and 21% of those defining themselves as belonging to the upper class of society 'frequently' discuss European political matters, those who finished education aged 15 or younger (8%), unemployed people (9%), house persons (8%) and those who see themselves as belonging to the working class of society (8%) 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	14	52	34	0
<b>Gender</b>				
Man	16	55	29	0
Woman	12	49	39	0
<b>Age</b>				
15-24	11	44	45	0
25-39	13	54	33	0
40-54	14	55	30	1
55 +	15	51	34	0
<b>Education (End of)</b>				
15-	8	37	55	0
16-19	12	54	34	0
20+	19	57	24	0
Still studying	13	46	40	1
<b>Socio-professional category</b>				
Self-employed	23	55	22	0
Managers	19	62	19	0
Other white collars	12	60	28	0
Manual workers	11	52	37	0
House persons	8	38	54	0
Unemployed	9	41	50	0
Retired	14	50	36	0
Students	13	46	40	1
<b>Difficulties paying bills</b>				
Most of the time	13	44	43	0
From time to time	12	49	38	1
Almost never/ Never	15	54	31	0
<b>Consider belonging to</b>				
The working class	8	44	48	0
The lower middle class	12	48	39	1
The middle class	15	55	30	0
The upper middle class	23	59	18	0
The upper class	21	65	14	0

## 4.2 Trust in institutions

### National institutions

#### **Trust in most national institutions has increased slightly**

After a small decrease in winter 2020-2021, trust in national political institutions has increased very slightly in spring 2021<sup>29</sup>:

- 37% of respondents (+1 percentage point since winter 2020-2021) trust their **national government**, compared with 59% (-1) who do not;
- A slightly smaller proportion of respondents (35%, unchanged) trust their **national parliament**, compared with 59% (-1) who 'tend not to trust' it;
- Trust in **national political parties** also remained stable (21%), whereas a slightly higher proportion of respondents 76% (+1) say that they distrust them.
- A majority of respondents trust their **regional or local public authorities** (57%, +2), and the **public administration** (52%, +3, versus 44% 'tend not to trust', -2).
- Since winter 2020-2021, trust in other national institutions has also increased slightly for most of them:
  - The highest level of trust at a national level is still commanded by **health and medical staff**, who are trusted by 80% (unchanged) of Europeans.
  - Almost three-quarters of respondents (73%, -1 percentage point) tend to trust the **army**, while 22% 'tend not to trust' it (+1);
  - Trust in **the police** has increased slightly: 71% trust this institution (+2), while 26% (-2) do not.
  - Trust in the **national justice/ legal system** has also increased: 54% (+2) of respondents do so, while 43% (-1) 'tend not to trust' this institution.

#### **Trust in supranational bodies has remained stable since winter 2020-2021:**

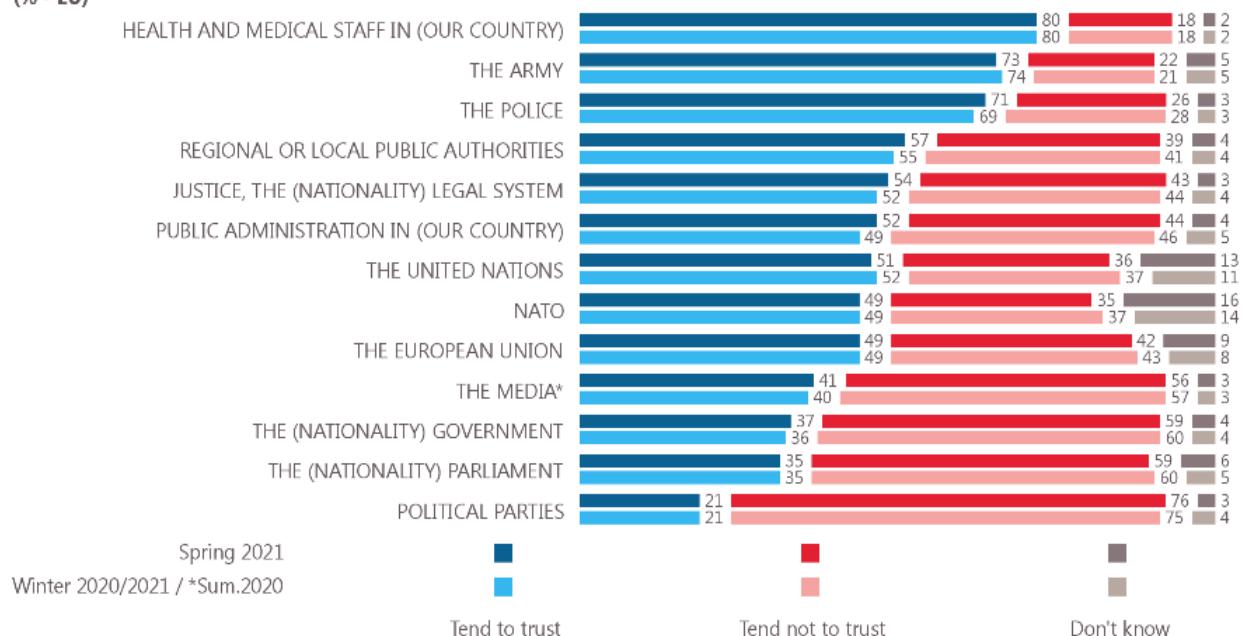
- A majority of 49% of Europeans say that they trust the **European Union** (unchanged), whereas 42% (-1) 'tend not to trust' it;
- More than half the respondents (51%, -1) trust the **United Nations** and 36% (-1) do not;
- Almost half the respondents (49%, unchanged) trust **NATO**, while 35% (-2) do not.
- Finally, less than half of the respondents trust **the media** (41%), although this proportion has increased slightly (+1) since summer 2020, when this item was last tested. Conversely, a majority of Europeans distrust the media (56%, -1). Nevertheless, trust in the media has reached its highest level since spring 2018, when this item was first introduced.

<sup>29</sup> 2 QA6b. 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; Public administration in (OUR COUNTRY); Regional or local public

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

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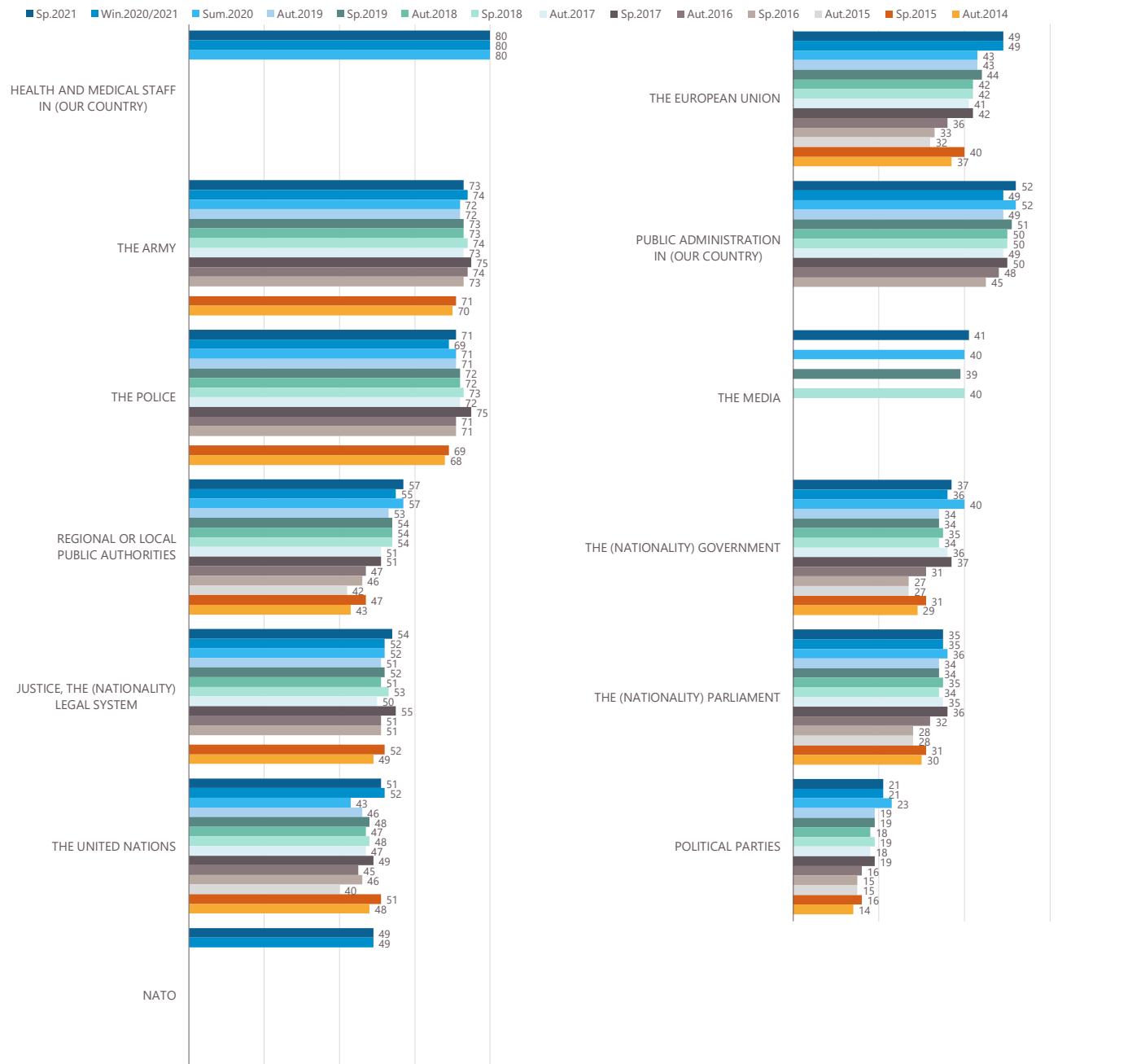
**QA6a** How much trust do you have in certain institutions? For each of the following institutions, do you tend to trust it or tend not to trust it?  
 (% - EU)



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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 - TEND TO TRUST)



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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?  
 (% - TEND TO TRUST)

	EU27	Health and medical staff in (OUR COUNTRY)			The army			The police			Regional or local public authorities			Justice, the (NATIONALITY) legal system			Public administration in (OUR COUNTRY)			The United Nations			NATO			The European Union			The media			The (NATIONALITY) Government			The (NATIONALITY) Parliament			Political parties		
		EU	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											
	EU27	80	73	71	57	54	52	51	49	49	41	37	35	21																										
BE	BE	94	75	73	59	54	53	63	67	53	47	41	45	18																										
BG	BG	55	46	48	44	22	33	42	38	55	39	22	15	13																										
CZ	CZ	88	85	75	62	54	56	54	64	49	49	28	20	15																										
DK	DK	94	86	91	75	86	75	78	81	61	57	64	64	41																										
DE	DE	86	70	78	75	70	67	48	53	47	46	50	51	30																										
EE	EE	87	84	87	56	73	63	68	79	63	52	49	33	16																										
IE	IE	86	84	74	55	68	61	74	64	71	53	48	47	26																										
EL	EL	71	82	68	34	60	33	35	26	36	18	26	28	11																										
ES	ES	86	78	79	46	51	47	52	41	54	31	22	18	8																										
FR	FR	89	83	73	62	46	59	41	35	36	26	26	27	10																										
HR	HR	66	63	55	32	21	33	46	44	51	28	22	22	12																										
IT	IT	68	70	68	38	44	30	49	48	49	40	38	34	20																										
CY	CY	72	64	55	43	39	34	30	18	45	28	31	27	13																										
LV	LV	68	65	61	53	41	33	53	49	55	41	26	24	10																										
LT	LT	64	78	71	43	46	42	69	76	69	40	41	23	16																										
LU	LU	87	77	80	75	71	78	54	54	48	40	67	62	31																										
HU	HU	62	60	67	63	53	62	55	56	56	34	45	42	26																										
MT	MT	89	67	60	57	40	56	61	57	62	25	46	42	20																										
NL	NL	95	82	83	57	73	58	66	71	49	59	48	52	36																										
AT	AT	79	70	76	69	70	65	45	44	45	49	45	50	35																										
PL	PL	65	64	46	54	35	46	56	57	55	42	28	26	22																										
PT	PT	96	80	83	67	49	51	67	43	73	62	58	45	22																										
RO	RO	57	66	54	45	51	41	54	50	56	44	31	29	25																										
SI	SI	66	65	58	48	33	41	46	43	55	37	25	19	10																										
SK	SK	68	55	42	46	30	47	38	28	43	36	21	22	13																										
FI	FI	92	93	90	68	81	68	66	57	54	75	57	62	34																										
SE	SE	90	83	88	63	72	65	75	69	52	53	50	55	32																										
		1st MOST FREQUENTLY MENTIONED ITEM					2nd MOST FREQUENTLY MENTIONED ITEM					3rd MOST FREQUENTLY MENTIONED ITEM																												

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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?

(% - TEND TO TRUST)

		Health and medical staff in (OUR COUNTRY)										Regional or local public authorities										Justice, the (NATIONALITY) legal system										Public administration in (OUR COUNTRY)										The United Nations																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																	
		Sp.2021 - Win.2020/2021					The army					Sp.2021 - Win.2020/2021					The police					Sp.2021 - Win.2020/2021					Sp.2021 - Win.2020/2021					Sp.2021 - Win.2020/2021					Sp.2021 - Win.2020/2021					Sp.2021 - Win.2020/2021																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																	
		EU27	EU	=	73	▼1	71	▲2	57	▲2	54	▲2	52	▲3	51	▼1	EU27	EU	=	73	▼1	74	▲1	57	▲2	56	▲2	53	▲3	50	▼1	EU27	EU	=	73	▼1	75	▲1	59	▲2	54	▼5	56	▲8	54	▼3	EU27	EU	=	73	▼1	75	▲1	59	▲2	55	▼4	53	▲2	63	▼2	EU27	EU	=	73	▼1	84	▼3	87	▼2	56	▼3	73	▼3	63	▼2	68	▼2	EU27	EU	=	73	▼1	84	▼3	74	▼4	55	▼4	68	▼3	61	▼2	74	=	EU27	EU	=	73	▼1	82	▲2	68	▲12	34	=	60	▲10	33	▲9	35	=	EU27	EU	=	73	▼1	78	▲4	79	▲5	46	▲4	51	▲6	47	▲5	52	▲1	=	EU27	EU	=	73	▼1	83	=	73	▲4	62	▼2	46	▼4	59	▲1	41	▼3	=	EU27	EU	=	73	▼1	63	▲2	55	▼3	33	▲4	46	▼2	=	EU27	EU	=	73	▼1	64	▲1	55	▲4	43	▲2	39	▼1	34	▲4	30	▲4	=	EU27	EU	=	73	▼1	64	▲1	55	▲5	32	▲3	21	=	33	▲10	33	▲9	=	EU27	EU	=	73	▼1	78	▲2	79	▼1	56	▼3	56	▲8	54	▼3	66	▼6	=	EU27	EU	=	73	▼1	70	▲2	68	▲2	38	▲3	44	▲3	30	▲3	49	▲5	=	EU27	EU	=	73	▼1	65	▼7	61	▼1	53	▼9	53	▲6	33	▲6	53	▼9	=	EU27	EU	=	73	▼1	78	▲2	79	▼1	56	▼3	56	▲8	54	▼3	66	▼6	=	EU27	EU	=	73	▼1	60	▲1	67	▲2	63	=	53	▲2	62	▲2	55	▼1	=	EU27	EU	=	73	▼1	62	▲3	60	▼1	67	▲2	63	=	53	▲2	62	▲2	55	▼1	=	EU27	EU	=	73	▼1	60	▲1	67	▲2	63	=	53	▲2	62	▲2	55	▼1	=	EU27	EU	=	73	▼1	62	▲3	60	▼1	67	▲2	63	=	53	▲2	62	▲2	55	▼1	=	EU27	EU	=	73	▼1	64	▲1	55	▲4	43	▲2	39	▼1	34	▲4	30	▲4	=	EU27	EU	=	73	▼1	78	▲2	71	▼1	75	▼1	87	▼3	80	▼4	75	▼1	71	▼7	78	▼5	54	▼5	=	EU27	EU	=	73	▼1	77	▼3	80	▼4	75	▼1	71	▼7	78	▼5	54	▼5	=	EU27	EU	=	73	▼1	60	▲1	67	▲2	63	=	53	▲2	62	▲2	55	▼1	=	EU27	EU	=	73	▼1	62	▲3	60	▼1	67	▲2	63	=	53	▲2	62	▲2	55	▼1	=	EU27	EU	=	73	▼1	60	▲1	67	▲2	63	=	53	▲2	62	▲2	55	▼1	=	EU27	EU	=	73	▼1	64	▲1	55	▲4	43	▲2	39	▼1	34	▲4	30	▲4	=	EU27	EU	=	73	▼1	78	▲2	71	▼1	43	▲1	46	▲3	42	▲2	69	▼3	=	EU27	EU	=	73	▼1	67	▼4	60	▲2	57	=	40	▲5	56	▼1	61	▼4	=	EU27	EU	=	73	▼1	67	▼4	60	▲2	57	=	40	▲5	56	▼1	61	▼4	=	EU27	EU	=	73	▼1

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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?  
**(% - TEND TO TRUST)**

	EU27		NATO		The European Union		The media		The (NATIONALITY) Government		The (NATIONALITY) Parliament		Political parties	
			Sp.2021 - Win.2020/2021	Sp.2021 - Win.2020/2021	Sp.2021 - Sum.2020	Sp.2021 - Sum.2020	Sp.2021 - Win.2020/2021	Sp.2021 - Win.2020/2021	Sp.2021 - Win.2020/2021	Sp.2021 - Win.2020/2021	Sp.2021 - Win.2020/2021	Sp.2021 - Win.2020/2021	Sp.2021 - Win.2020/2021	Sp.2021 - Win.2020/2021
EU27	49	=	49	=	41	▲ 1	37	▲ 1	35	=	21	=		
EURO AREA	47	=	48	=	40	▲ 1	38	▲ 1	37	▲ 1	20	▼ 1		
NON-EURO AREA	57	▲ 3	54	=	43	▲ 1	34	▲ 2	31	▲ 1	23	▲ 3		
BE	67	▼ 3	53	▼ 3	47	▲ 1	41	=	45	▲ 1	18	=		
BG	38	▲ 5	55	▲ 2	39	=	22	▼ 1	15	=	13	▼ 1		
CZ	64	▼ 7	49	▲ 1	49	▼ 2	28	▲ 9	20	▲ 5	15	▲ 4		
DK	81	▼ 5	61	▼ 1	57	▼ 9	64	▼ 1	64	▲ 2	41	▼ 2		
DE	53	▼ 1	47	▼ 1	46	▼ 4	50	▼ 4	51	▼ 4	30	▼ 7		
EE	79	=	63	▼ 1	52	=	49	▼ 4	33	▼ 10	16	▼ 2		
IE	64	▼ 4	71	▼ 3	53	▲ 2	48	▼ 1	47	▲ 1	26	=		
EL	26	=	36	▼ 1	18	▼ 3	26	▼ 2	28	▲ 1	11	▼ 1		
ES	41	=	54	▲ 2	31	▼ 2	22	▲ 2	18	▲ 2	8	▲ 1		
FR	35	▼ 1	36	▼ 3	26	▲ 5	26	▼ 5	27	▼ 4	10	▼ 2		
HR	44	▲ 1	51	=	28	▼ 9	22	=	22	=	12	=		
IT	48	▲ 5	49	▲ 5	40	▲ 5	38	▲ 12	34	▲ 7	20	▲ 4		
CY	18	▲ 2	45	▲ 6	28	▼ 10	31	▲ 5	27	▲ 6	13	▲ 4		
LV	49	▼ 14	55	▼ 6	41	▼ 1	26	▲ 3	24	▲ 3	10	▲ 3		
LT	76	▼ 1	69	▼ 1	40	▼ 3	41	▼ 3	23	▼ 4	16	▲ 1		
LU	54	▼ 4	48	▼ 7	40	▼ 7	67	▼ 5	62	▼ 6	31	=		
HU	56	▲ 2	56	▼ 3	34	▼ 1	45	▲ 6	42	▲ 4	26	▲ 2		
MT	* 57	▲ 2	62	▼ 2	25	▲ 4	46	▼ 3	42	▼ 4	20	▼ 5		
NL	71	▼ 4	49	▼ 12	59	▲ 3	48	▼ 20	52	▼ 16	36	▼ 16		
AT	44	▲ 12	45	▲ 4	49	▼ 13	45	▲ 7	50	▲ 6	35	▲ 3		
PL	57	▲ 6	55	▲ 5	42	▲ 3	28	▲ 2	26	▲ 4	22	▲ 4		
PT	43	▼ 29	73	▼ 5	62	=	58	▲ 20	45	▲ 5	22	▲ 7		
RO	50	▲ 1	56	▼ 2	44	▲ 7	31	▲ 2	29	▲ 3	25	▲ 9		
SI	43	▲ 5	55	=	37	▲ 4	25	▲ 6	19	▲ 4	10	▲ 3		
SK	28	▼ 14	43	▼ 7	36	▼ 3	21	▼ 3	22	▼ 1	13	▲ 1		
FI	57	▲ 2	54	▲ 4	75	▲ 4	57	▼ 6	62	▼ 3	34	=		
SE	69	▲ 9	52	▼ 6	53	▼ 4	50	▼ 12	55	▼ 14	32	▼ 7		

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**Trust in the European Union, the national government and the national parliament remains high**

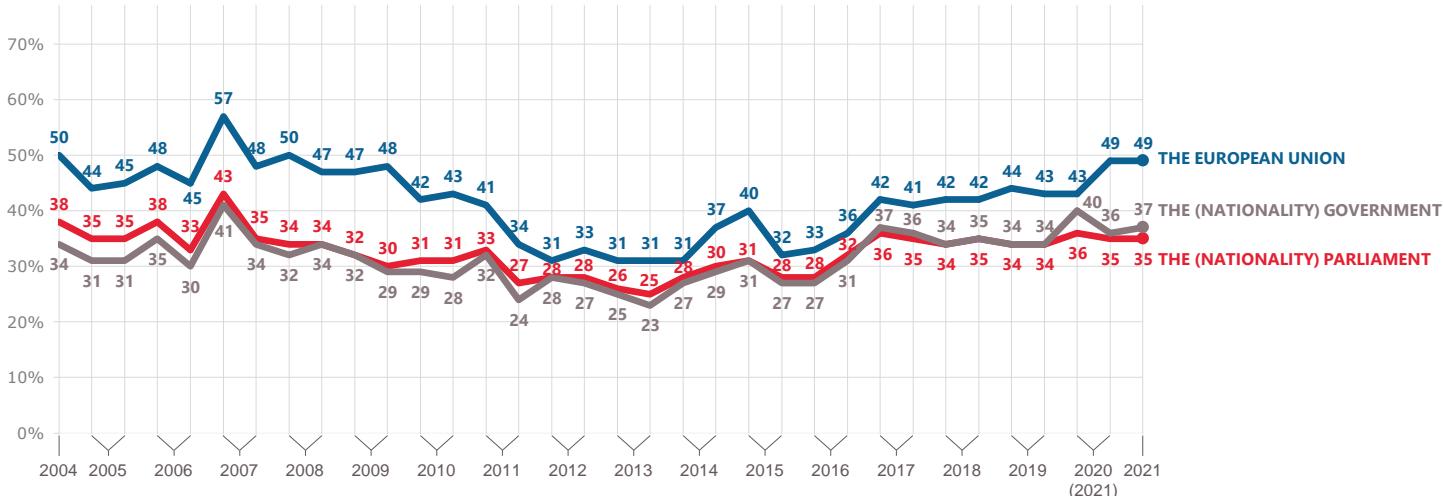
**Almost half of all Europeans trust the European Union (49%), unchanged since the Standard Eurobarometer EB94 of winter 2020-2021.** This remains the highest level registered since spring 2008. However, trust in the European Union remains at a slightly higher level in the countries **outside the euro area** (54%, unchanged) than in **euro area** countries (48%, unchanged).

Trust in national governments has increased slightly (37%, +1 percentage point since winter 2020-2021) while trust in national parliaments has remained the same (35%, =). The gap between trust in the EU and trust in national governments remains high. At +12, the gap between trust in the EU and trust in national governments has declined one percentage point since winter 2020-2021, but is still at its second highest point since autumn 2010, when it stood at +15.

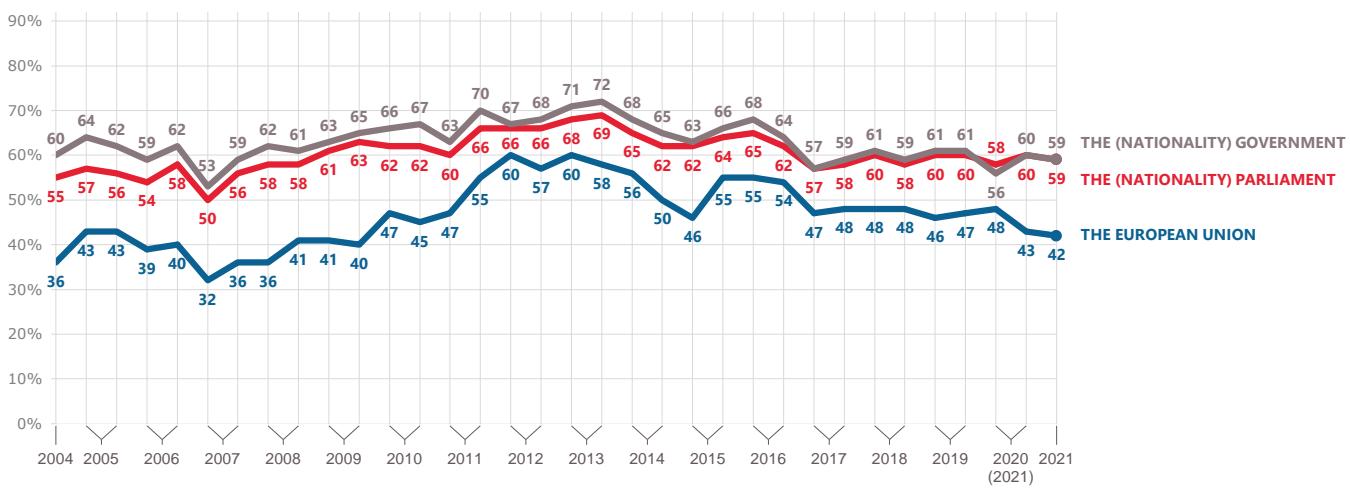
Conversely, distrust in the European Union has decreased slightly (42% "tend not to trust", -1 percentage point since winter 2020-2021), as has distrust in national governments (59%, -1) and national parliaments (59%, -1).

The **trust index<sup>30</sup>** measuring the difference between trust and distrust has increased by one index point and remains positive at +7 for the European Union. However, despite a slight increase of two index points, the trust index for the national government is still negative at -22, as is the index for the national parliament, up from -25 to -24.

**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)



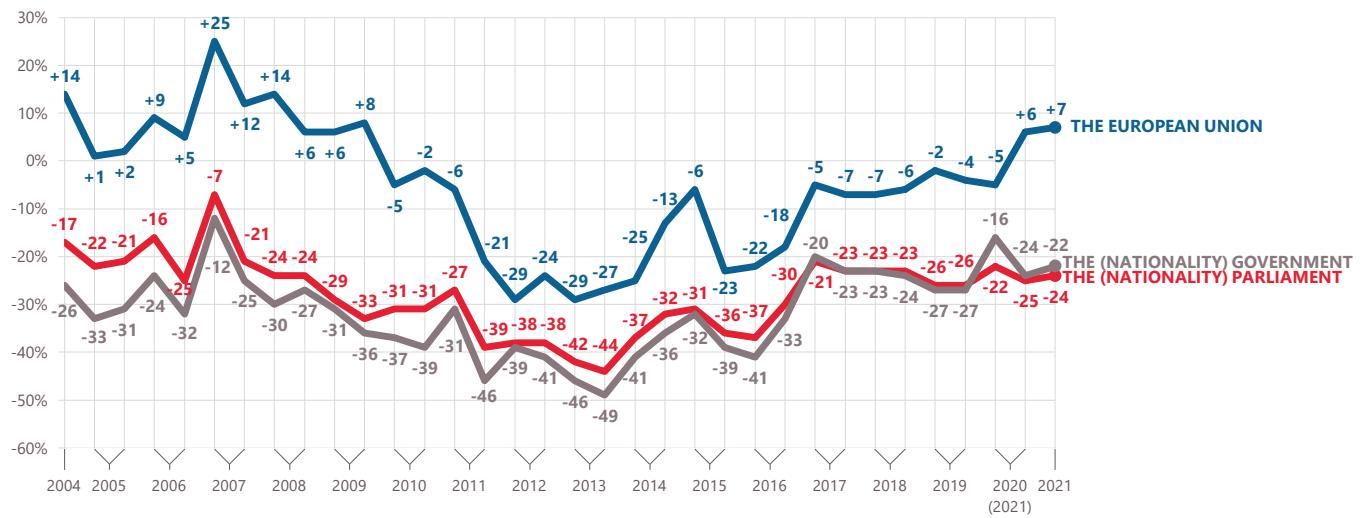
**QA6a** How much trust do you have in certain institutions? For each of the following institutions, do you tend to trust it or tend not to trust it?  
 (% - EU - TEND NOT TO TRUST)



<sup>30</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))**



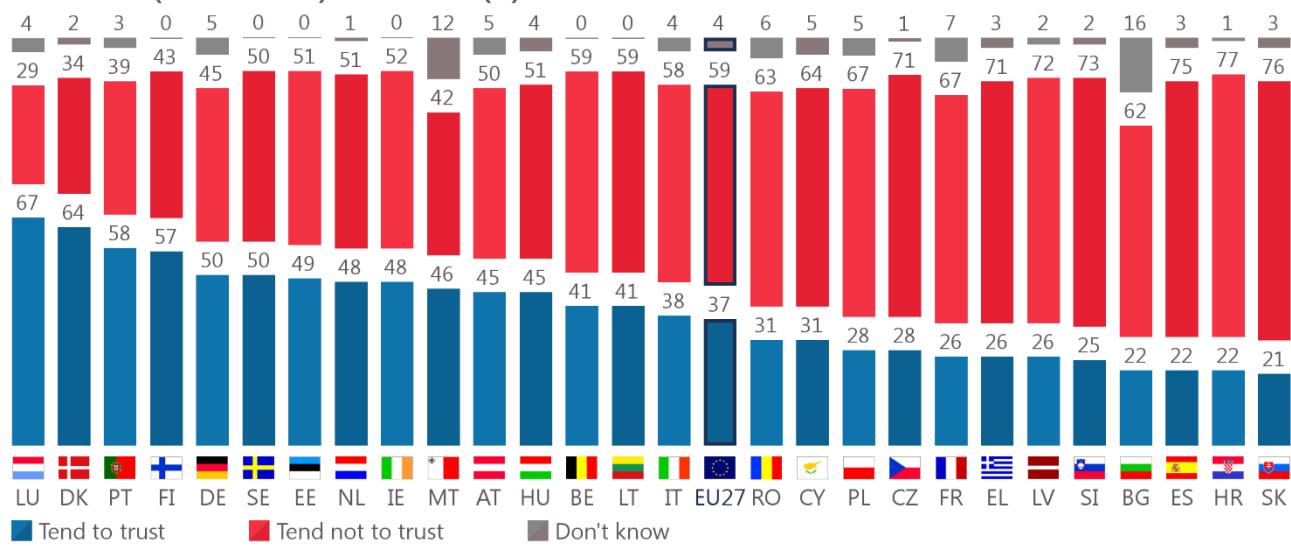
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A majority of respondents in six Member States of the European Union (compared with eight in winter 2020-2021 and ten in summer 2020) trust their **national government**. Respondents in Luxembourg (67%), Denmark (64%) and Portugal (58%) are the most positive about their national government, while respondents in Slovakia (21%), and Croatia, Spain and Bulgaria (all 22%) are the least so. In Sweden trust and distrust are evenly balanced (50% vs 50%). Conversely, the proportion of respondents who tend not to trust their government exceeds 70% in seven countries, namely in Czechia (71%), Greece (71%), Latvia (72%), Slovenia (73%), Spain (75%), Slovakia (76%) and Croatia (77%). It should be noted that the proportion of respondents who expressed no opinion exceeds 10% in two countries: Malta (12%) and Bulgaria (16%).

**Since winter 2020-2021**, trust in the national government has increased in 11 Member States, most significantly in Portugal (58%, +20) and Italy (38%, +12), while it has remained unchanged in Belgium (41%) and Croatia (22%). Conversely, trust has decreased in 14 countries, particularly in the Netherlands (48%, -20) and Sweden (50%, -12), with falls exceeding 10 percentage points.

**QA6a.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 (%)**



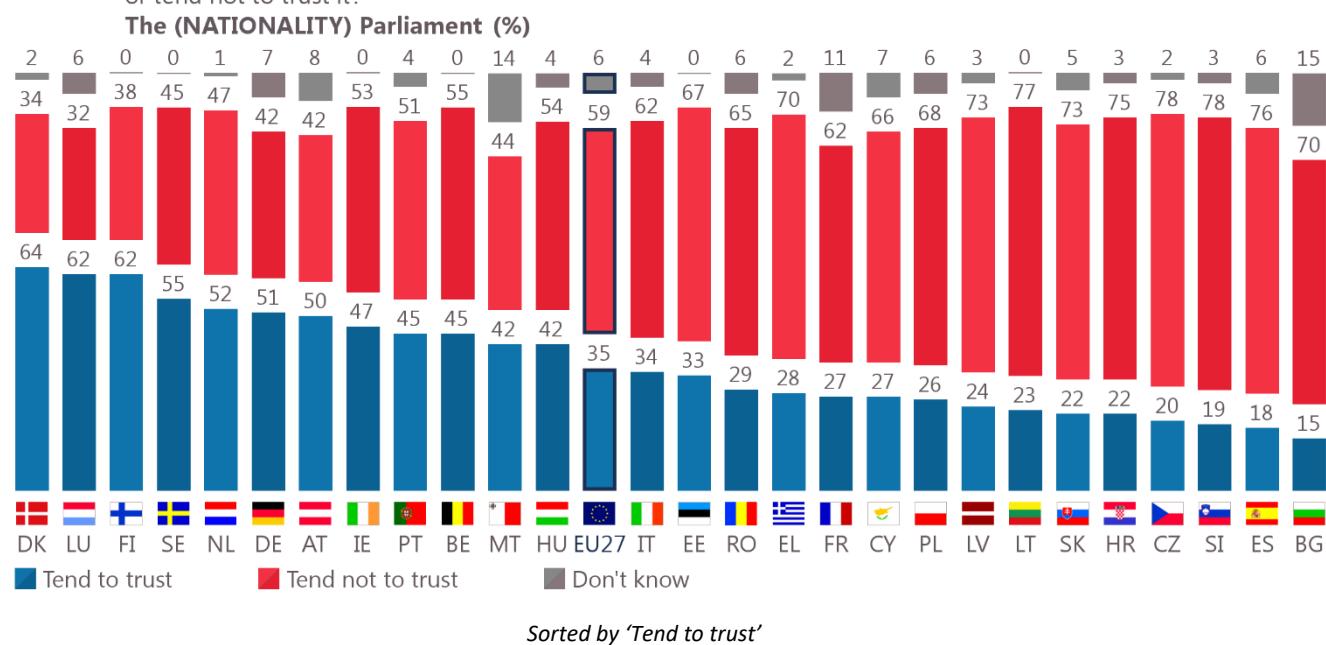
Sorted by 'Tend to trust'

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A majority of respondents trust their **national parliament** in seven Member States (unchanged since winter 2020-2021). Within this group of countries, the highest scores can be observed in Denmark (64%), and Luxembourg and Finland (both 62%), where trust levels exceed sixty percent, and the lowest in Austria (50%, versus 42% 'tend not to trust' and 8% 'don't know'). In contrast, a majority of respondents tend not to trust their national parliament in 20 EU Member States, most particularly in Czechia and Slovenia (both 78%), Lithuania (77%) and Spain (76%), where more than three-quarters of respondents distrust their national parliament. The proportions of respondents who give no answer are highest in Bulgaria (15%), Malta (14%) and France (11%).

Since winter 2020-2021, trust in the national parliament has increased in 15 Member States, most particularly in Italy (34%, +7), Cyprus (27%, +6) and Austria (50%, +6), while it is unchanged in Bulgaria (15%) and Croatia (22%). Conversely, trust has decreased in 10 countries, most significantly in Sweden (55%, -14) and in the Netherlands (52%, -16).

**QA6a.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?



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**QA6a.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)**

	Tend to trust	Tend not to trust	Don't know
EU27	37	59	4
<b>Gender</b>			
Man	38	59	3
Woman	36	59	5
<b>Age</b>			
15-24	37	56	7
25-39	33	64	3
40-54	35	62	3
55 +	40	55	5
<b>Education (End of)</b>			
15-	36	60	4
16-19	33	63	4
20+	40	56	4
Still studying	40	53	7
<b>Socio-professional category</b>			
Self-employed	37	60	3
Managers	43	54	3
Other white collars	37	60	3
Manual workers	31	66	3
House persons	32	63	5
Unemployed	25	72	3
Retired	42	53	5
Students	40	53	7
<b>Difficulties paying bills</b>			
Most of the time	24	72	4
From time to time	31	64	5
Almost never/ Never	40	56	4
<b>Consider belonging to</b>			
The working class	29	66	5
The lower middle class	30	66	4
The middle class	39	57	4
The upper middle class	52	45	3
The upper class	42	57	1

**QA6a.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) (USE PROPER NAME FOR LOWER HOUSE) (% - EU)**

	Tend to trust	Tend not to trust	Don't know
EU27	35	59	6
<b>Gender</b>			
Man	36	59	5
Woman	34	59	7
<b>Age</b>			
15-24	37	55	8
25-39	33	63	4
40-54	34	61	5
55 +	37	56	7
<b>Education (End of)</b>			
15-	28	65	7
16-19	32	63	5
20+	41	54	5
Still studying	41	50	9
<b>Socio-professional category</b>			
Self-employed	35	61	4
Managers	45	51	4
Other white collars	37	59	4
Manual workers	30	65	5
House persons	30	60	10
Unemployed	22	74	4
Retired	37	56	7
Students	41	50	9
<b>Difficulties paying bills</b>			
Most of the time	21	74	5
From time to time	28	66	6
Almost never/ Never	40	54	6
<b>Consider belonging to</b>			
The working class	25	68	7
The lower middle class	29	66	5
The middle class	39	56	5
The upper middle class	53	42	5
The upper class	44	53	3

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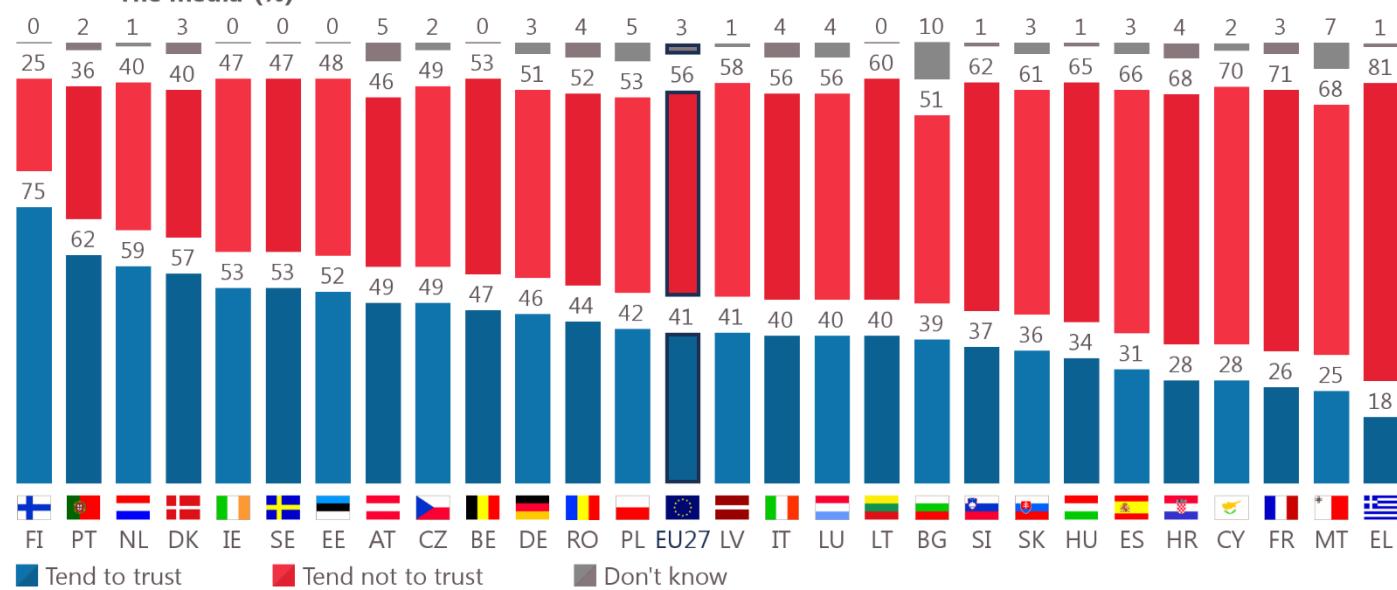
### The media

A majority in eight Member States of the European Union trust the media. Trust levels vary widely among Member States, ranging from 75% in Finland, 62% in Portugal and 59% in the Netherlands, where they are highest, to 18% in Greece, where less than one in five respondents trust the media. Trust and distrust are evenly split in Czechia (49% vs 49% and 2% who 'don't know'). Conversely, distrust is predominant in 18 Member States, with levels reaching 70% in Cyprus and even higher in France (71%) and Greece (81%).

**Since summer 2020**, trust has increased in 10 countries, most particularly in Romania (44%, +7) and France (26%, +5), while proportions are unchanged in Bulgaria (39%), Estonia (52%) and Portugal (62%). Conversely, trust has decreased in 14 Member States, most significantly in Cyprus (28%, -10) and Austria (49%, -13).

**QA6a.1** 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 media (%)



Sorted by 'Tend to trust'

**QA6a.1** 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 media (% - EU)**

	Tend to trust	Tend not to trust	Don't know
EU27	41	56	3
 Gender			
Man	41	56	3
Woman	40	57	3
 Age			
15-24	43	53	4
25-39	39	58	3
40-54	38	59	3
55 +	42	54	4
 Education (End of)			
15-	36	61	3
16-19	37	60	3
20+	45	53	2
Still studying	47	49	4
 Socio-professional category			
Self-employed	37	60	3
Managers	45	52	3
Other white collars	46	50	4
Manual workers	35	62	3
House persons	35	62	3
Unemployed	27	70	3
Retired	43	54	3
Students	47	49	4
 Difficulties paying bills			
Most of the time	27	70	3
From time to time	35	62	3
Almost never/ Never	44	53	3
 Consider belonging to			
The working class	35	62	3
The lower middle class	36	62	2
The middle class	42	55	3
The upper middle class	52	46	2
The upper class	41	57	2

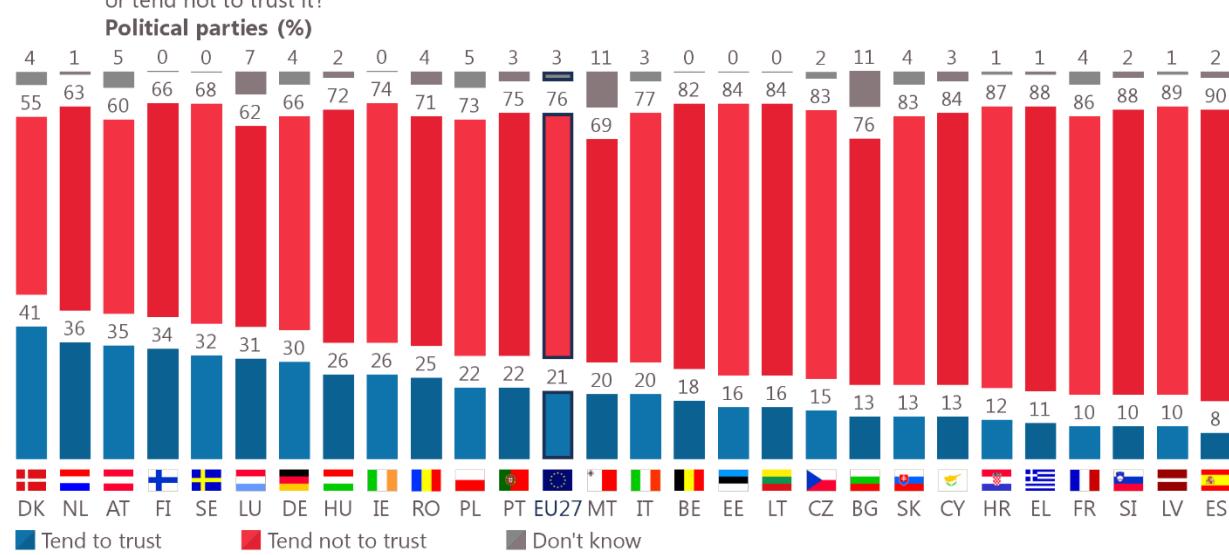
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### Political parties

Distrust in political parties is predominant in all 27 Member States of the European Union. It is highest in Spain (90%), Latvia (89%), and Slovenia and Greece (both 88%). Nevertheless, more than a third of respondents trust these institutions in Denmark (41%), the Netherlands (36%), Austria (35%) and Finland (34%). It is noteworthy that in Bulgaria and Malta more than one in ten respondents give no answer (both 11%).

**Since winter 2020-2021**, trust has increased in 13 Member States, most significantly in Romania (25%, +9) and Portugal (22%, +7), while it remains unchanged in five countries. Conversely, trust has decreased in nine countries, most particularly in the Netherlands (36%, -16) and to a lesser extent in Sweden (32%, -7) and Germany (30%, -7).

**QA6a.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?



*Sorted by 'Tend to trust'*

**QA6a.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	76	3
 Gender			
Man	22	75	3
Woman	20	77	3
 Age			
15-24	23	71	6
25-39	20	77	3
40-54	19	78	3
55 +	21	76	3
 Education (End of)			
15-	15	82	3
16-19	19	78	3
20+	24	73	3
Still studying	25	69	6
 Socio-professional category			
Self-employed	20	78	2
Managers	26	72	2
Other white collars	23	74	3
Manual workers	17	80	3
House persons	18	79	3
Unemployed	13	84	3
Retired	20	76	4
Students	25	69	6
 Difficulties paying bills			
Most of the time	11	87	2
From time to time	18	79	3
Almost never/ Never	23	74	3
 Consider belonging to			
The working class	14	83	3
The lower middle class	16	81	3
The middle class	23	74	3
The upper middle class	34	63	3
The upper class	23	73	4

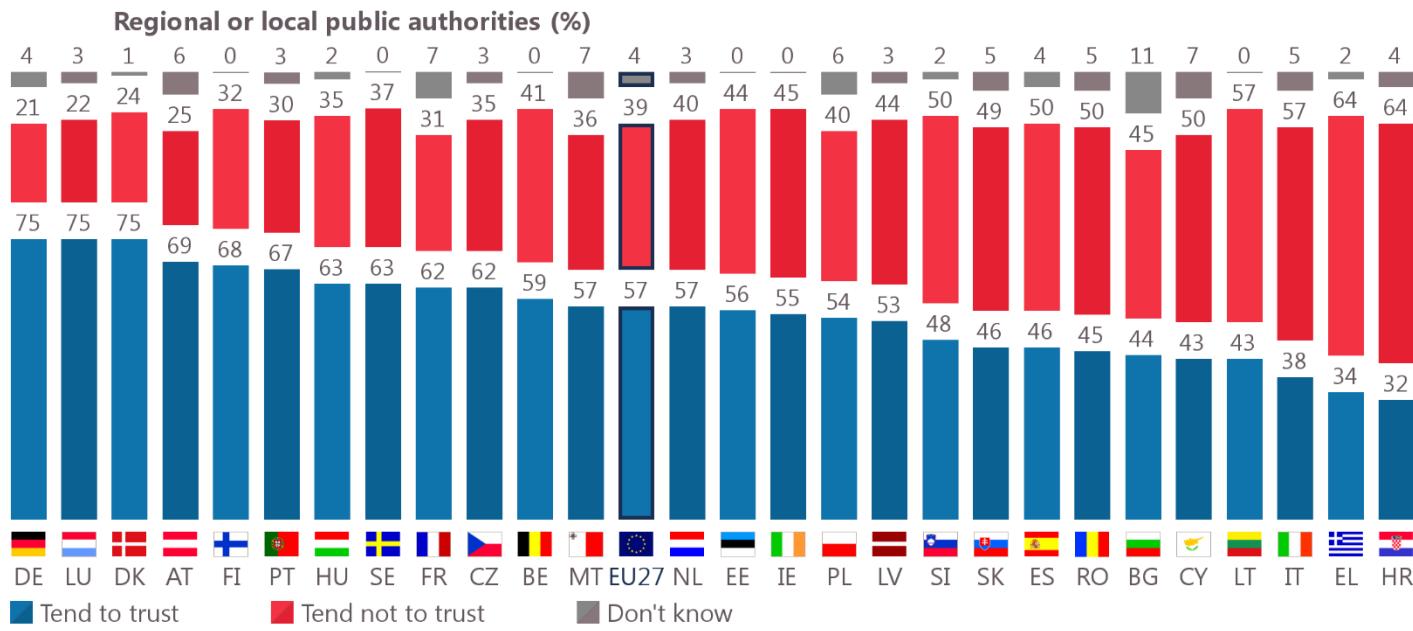
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### Regional or local public authorities

Unlike political parties, trust in regional or local authorities is predominant in 17 Member States (compared with 16 in winter 2020-2021). Within this group of countries, trust is highest in Germany, Luxembourg and Denmark (75%) and lowest in Poland (54%) and Latvia (53%). Conversely, distrust outweighs trust in 10 countries, most markedly in Croatia and Greece (both 64%).

**Since winter 2020-2021**, trust has increased in 14 Member States, most significantly in Portugal (67%, +15), Slovenia (48%, +12) and Romania (45%, +7), while it remains unchanged in four, namely Bulgaria (44%), Greece (34%), Hungary (63%) and Malta (57%). Conversely, trust has decreased in nine countries, most markedly in the Netherlands (57%, -15) and to a lesser extent also in Sweden (63%, -6).

**QA6a.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?



Sorted by 'Tend to trust'

**QA6a.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	57	39	4
<b>Gender</b>			
Man	56	40	4
Woman	57	38	5
<b>Age</b>			
15-24	59	35	6
25-39	54	42	4
40-54	56	40	4
55 +	58	38	4
<b>Education (End of)</b>			
15-	51	44	5
16-19	53	43	4
20+	62	35	3
Still studying	62	32	6
<b>Socio-professional category</b>			
Self-employed	49	47	4
Managers	64	33	3
Other white collars	58	38	4
Manual workers	52	44	4
House persons	50	45	5
Unemployed	48	48	4
Retired	59	36	5
Students	62	32	6
<b>Difficulties paying bills</b>			
Most of the time	37	58	5
From time to time	48	47	5
Almost never/ Never	62	34	4
<b>Consider belonging to</b>			
The working class	50	45	5
The lower middle class	53	43	4
The middle class	59	37	4
The upper middle class	68	29	3
The upper class	58	38	4

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### Public administration

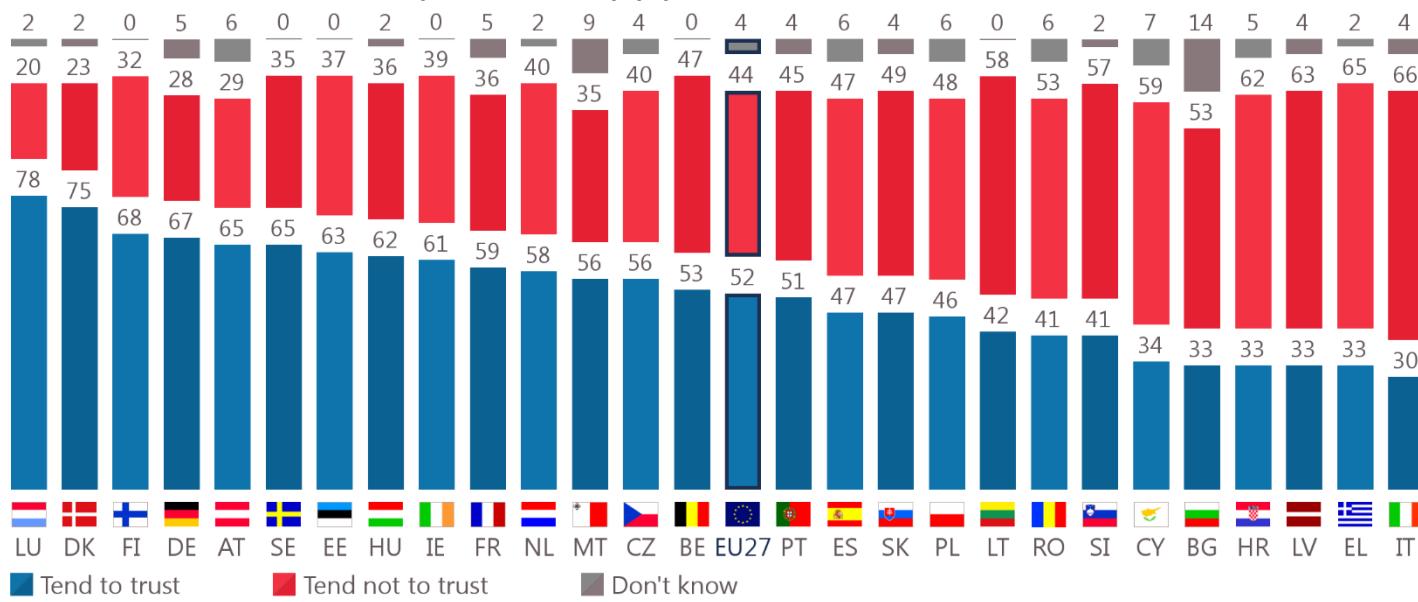
Trust in the national public administration is predominant in 15 Member States (compared with 13 in winter 2020-2021). Levels of trust vary widely among Member States, ranging from highs of 78% in Luxembourg and 75% in Denmark, to 33% in Bulgaria, Croatia, Latvia, and Greece and 30% in Italy. Conversely, distrust outweighs trust in 11 countries, most particularly in Italy (66%), Greece (65%) and Latvia (63%).

**Since winter 2020-2021**, trust has increased in 17 Member States, particularly in Slovenia (41%, +13) and Portugal (51%, +10), while it has declined in 10 countries, notably in the Netherlands (50%, -12), Sweden (65%, -5), Luxembourg (78%, -5) and Bulgaria (33%, -5).

In Spain trust and distrust are evenly split: 47% vs 47%.

**QA6a.6** 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?

**Public administration in (OUR COUNTRY) (%)**



**QA6a.6** 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?

**Public administration in (OUR COUNTRY) (% - EU)**

	Tend to trust	Tend not to trust	Don't know
EU27	52	44	4
 Gender			
Man	52	44	4
Woman	52	43	5
 Age			
15-24	53	40	7
25-39	52	44	4
40-54	52	45	3
55 +	51	44	5
 Education (End of)			
15-	44	50	6
16-19	49	47	4
20+	59	38	3
Still studying	55	37	8
 Socio-professional category			
Self-employed	44	51	5
Managers	63	34	3
Other white collars	54	43	3
Manual workers	49	47	4
House persons	46	48	6
Unemployed	41	55	4
Retired	52	43	5
Students	55	37	8
 Difficulties paying bills			
Most of the time	31	65	4
From time to time	43	53	4
Almost never/ Never	58	38	4
 Consider belonging to			
The working class	45	49	6
The lower middle class	47	49	4
The middle class	55	41	4
The upper middle class	63	34	3
The upper class	54	41	5

**Standard Eurobarometer 95**  
**Public opinion in the European Union**  
**Spring 2021**

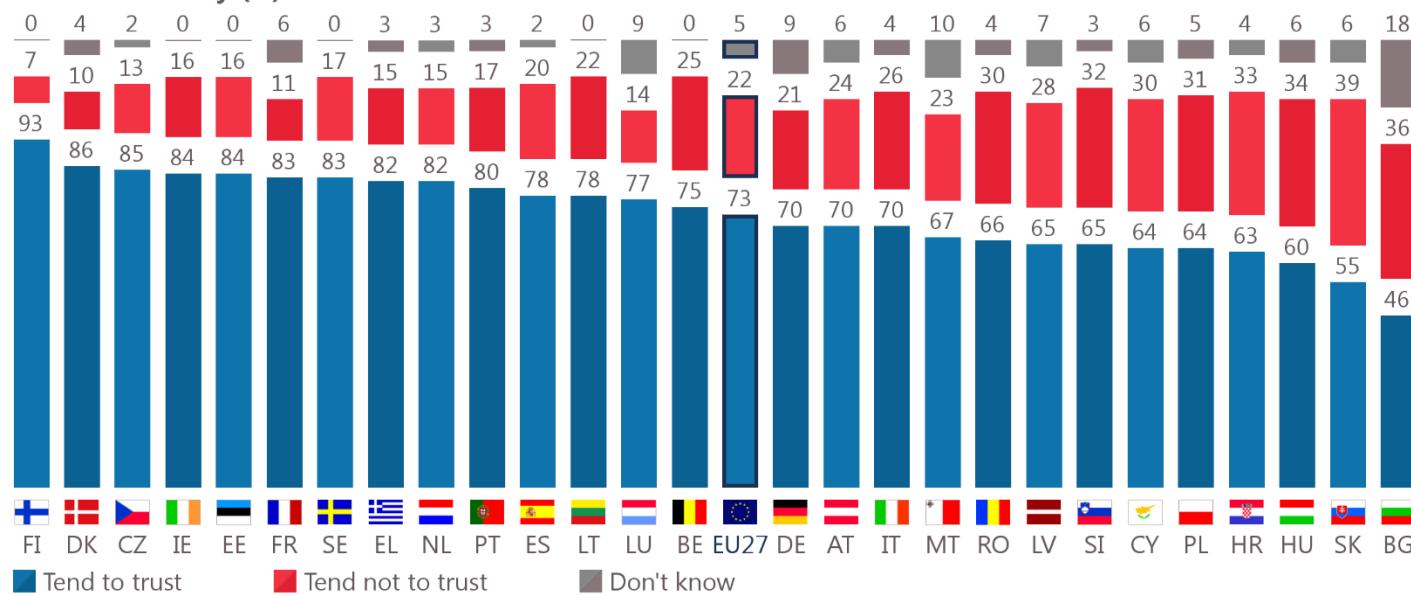
**The army, the police and justice**

Trust in **the army** is predominant in all 27 Member States of the European Union (unchanged since winter 2020-2021). However, levels of trust vary from a high of 93% in Finland to a low of 46% in Bulgaria. However, more than a third of respondents distrust the army in four countries, namely Croatia (33%), Hungary (34%), Bulgaria (36%) and Slovakia (39%). It is noteworthy that the proportion of respondents who give no answer is particularly high in Bulgaria at 18%.

**Since winter 2020-2021**, trust has increased in nine Member States, notably in Spain (78%, +4), Poland (64%, +3) and Slovenia (65%, +3), while it remains unchanged in Lithuania (78%) and France (83%). Conversely, trust has declined in 16 countries, most significantly in Belgium (75%, -13) and Slovakia (55%, -10), the only two Member States recording decreases in excess of 10 percentage points.

**QA6a.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 (%)**



*Sorted by 'Tend to trust'*

**Standard Eurobarometer 95**  
**Public opinion in the European Union**  
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**QA6a.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	73	22	5
 Gender			
Man	74	22	4
Woman	73	21	6
 Age			
15-24	72	22	6
25-39	72	24	4
40-54	74	22	4
55 +	74	20	6
 Education (End of)			
15-	73	22	5
16-19	71	24	5
20+	77	18	5
Still studying	72	22	6
 Socio-professional category			
Self-employed	71	24	5
Managers	79	17	4
Other white collars	76	20	4
Manual workers	70	26	4
House persons	75	22	3
Unemployed	70	24	6
Retired	74	20	6
Students	72	22	6
 Difficulties paying bills			
Most of the time	65	29	6
From time to time	68	27	5
Almost never/ Never	76	19	5
 Consider belonging to			
The working class	69	25	6
The lower middle class	72	24	4
The middle class	75	21	4
The upper middle class	79	16	5
The upper class	78	18	4

**Standard Eurobarometer 95**  
**Public opinion in the European Union**  
**Spring 2021**

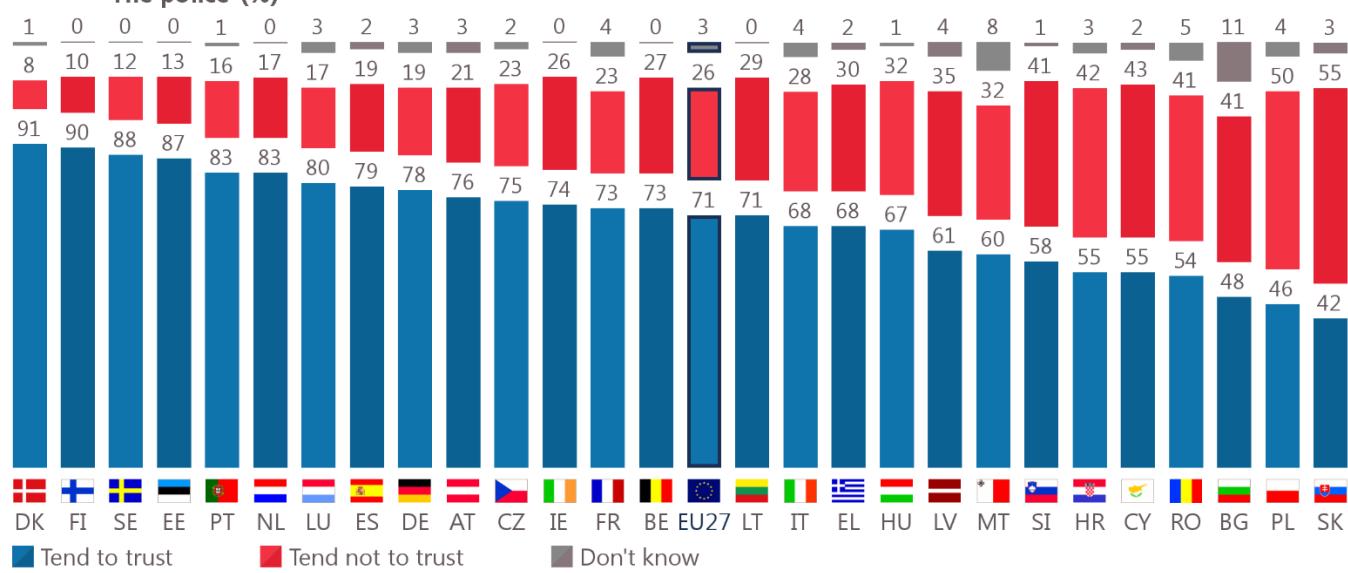
Trust in **the police** outweighs distrust in 25 Member States (unchanged since winter 2020-2021). Levels of trust range from 91% in Denmark and 90% in Finland to 48% in Bulgaria, where only a relative majority trust the police (vs 41% 'tend not to trust' and 11% 'don't know').

Conversely, distrust is predominant in Poland (50% vs 46% 'tend to trust') and Slovakia (55% vs 42%).

**Since winter 2020-2021**, trust in the police has increased in 12 Member States, most markedly in Greece (68%, +12) and in Slovenia (58%, +7), while it remains unchanged in Lithuania (71%) and Sweden (88%). In contrast, trust has decreased in 13 countries, particularly in the Netherlands (83%, -9), Luxembourg (80, -4) and Ireland (74%, -4).

**QA6a.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 (%)**



*Sorted by 'Tend to trust'*

**Standard Eurobarometer 95**  
**Public opinion in the European Union**  
**Spring 2021**

**QA6a.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	71	26	3
<b>Gender</b>			
Man	70	27	3
Woman	72	25	3
<b>Age</b>			
15-24	65	30	5
25-39	66	32	2
40-54	72	25	3
55 +	75	22	3
<b>Education (End of)</b>			
15-	74	23	3
16-19	67	30	3
20+	75	23	2
Still studying	67	29	4
<b>Socio-professional category</b>			
Self-employed	68	29	3
Managers	79	19	2
Other white collars	72	25	3
Manual workers	66	31	3
House persons	73	24	3
Unemployed	61	35	4
Retired	75	22	3
Students	67	29	4
<b>Difficulties paying bills</b>			
Most of the time	54	42	4
From time to time	65	31	4
Almost never/ Never	75	22	3
<b>Consider belonging to</b>			
The working class	66	30	4
The lower middle class	66	31	3
The middle class	73	24	3
The upper middle class	80	18	2
The upper class	66	32	2

**Standard Eurobarometer 95**  
**Public opinion in the European Union**  
**Spring 2021**

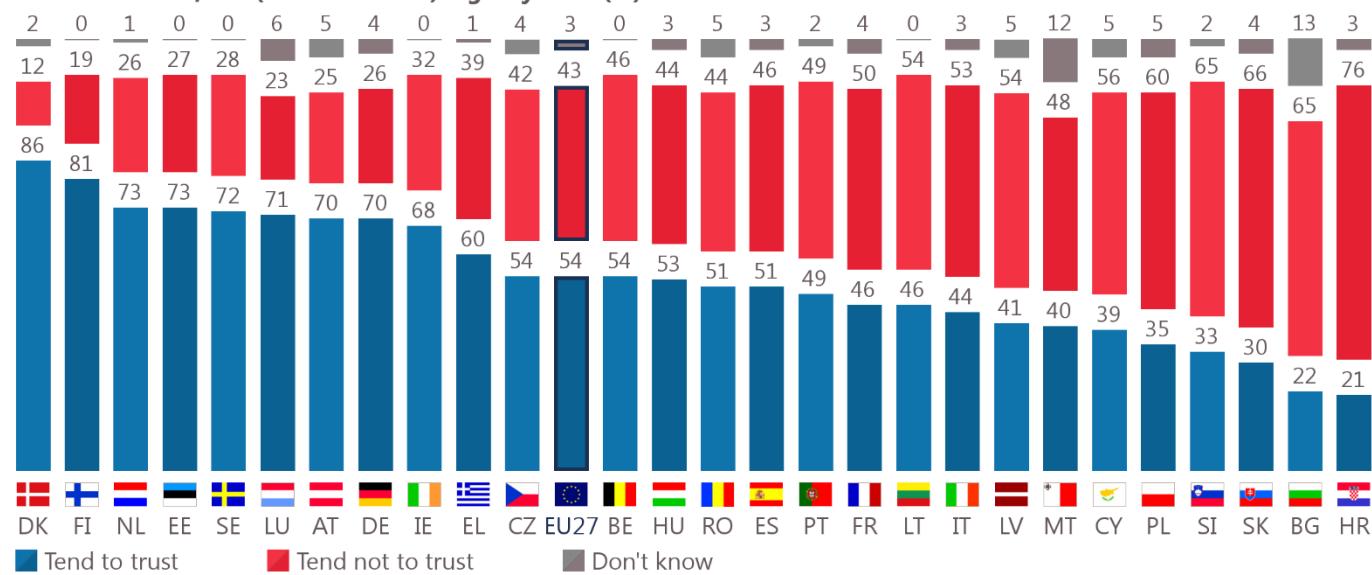
Trust in **justice and the national legal system** is predominant in 15 Member States (compared with 14 in winter 2020-2021). Levels of trust range from highs of 86% in Denmark and 81% in Finland to lows of 22% in Bulgaria and 21% in Croatia. However, distrust outweighs trust in 11 countries, most notably in Croatia (76% 'tend not to trust' vs 21% 'tend to trust') and Slovakia (66% vs 30%), where more than two-thirds of respondents distrust their national justice/legal system.

**Since winter 2020-2021**, trust has increased in 14 Member States, particularly in Greece (60%, +10) and Portugal (49%, +7), while this proportion remained unchanged in Croatia (21%). Conversely, trust has decreased in 12 countries, most markedly in the Netherlands (73%, -12) and to a lesser extent also in Luxembourg (71%, -7) and Sweden (72%, -6).

In Portugal trust and distrust are evenly balanced (49% vs 49%).

**QA6a.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 (%)**



*Sorted by 'Tend to trust'*

**Standard Eurobarometer 95**  
**Public opinion in the European Union**  
**Spring 2021**

**QA6a.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	43	3
 Gender			
Man	54	44	2
Woman	54	42	4
 Age			
15-24	57	38	5
25-39	54	43	3
40-54	54	43	3
55 +	52	44	4
 Education (End of)			
15-	49	46	5
16-19	48	49	3
20+	61	37	2
Still studying	62	33	5
 Socio-professional category			
Self-employed	50	47	3
Managers	66	31	3
Other white collars	57	41	2
Manual workers	48	49	3
House persons	53	43	4
Unemployed	43	54	3
Retired	52	44	4
Students	62	33	5
 Difficulties paying bills			
Most of the time	33	64	3
From time to time	47	50	3
Almost never/ Never	59	38	3
 Consider belonging to			
The working class	45	51	4
The lower middle class	46	51	3
The middle class	57	40	3
The upper middle class	69	28	3
The upper class	64	33	3

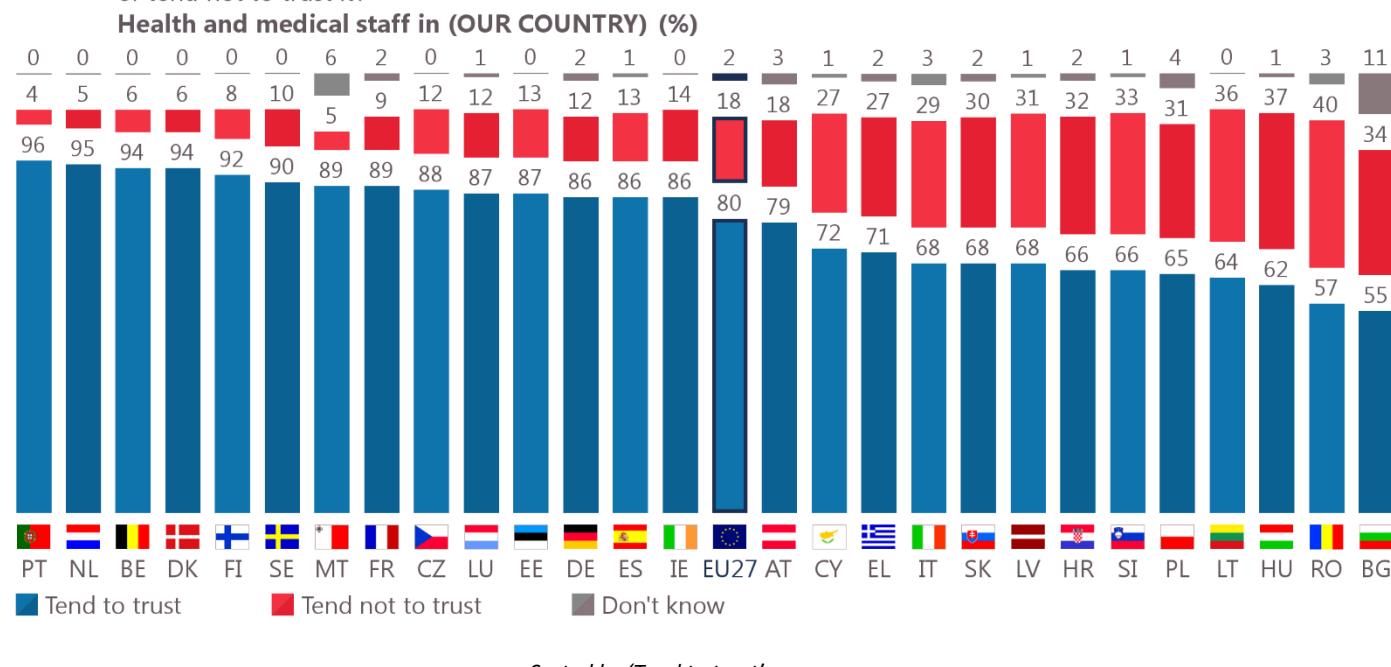
**Standard Eurobarometer 95**  
**Public opinion in the European Union**  
**Spring 2021**

### Health and medical staff

A majority in all 27 Member States (unchanged since winter 2020-2021) trust the health and medical staff in their country. However, levels of trust range from more than 90% in Portugal (96%), the Netherlands (95%), Belgium and Denmark (both 94%), Finland (92%) and Sweden (90%), where they are highest, to less than six in ten respondents in Romania (57%) and Bulgaria (55%), where they are lowest. Romania is the only Member State where at least four in ten respondents distrust their health and medical staff (40%).

**Since winter 2020-2021**, trust has gained ground in seven Member States, most markedly in Poland (65%, +6), Malta (89%, +4) and Romania (57%, +4). Proportions remain unchanged in Luxembourg and Estonia (both 87%) and France (89%). Conversely, trust has declined in 17 countries, particularly in Greece (71%, -9) and Bulgaria (55%, -7).

**QA6a.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?



**QA6a.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)**

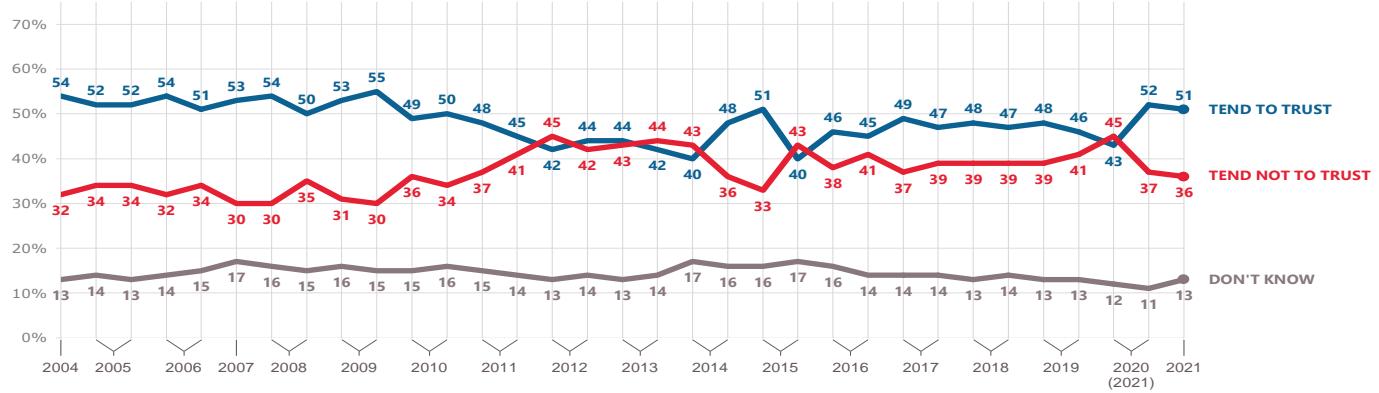
	Tend to trust	Tend not to trust	Don't know
EU27	80	18	2
 Gender			
Man	80	18	2
Woman	80	18	2
 Age			
15-24	81	16	3
25-39	78	20	2
40-54	79	19	2
55 +	81	17	2
 Education (End of)			
15-	78	20	2
16-19	75	22	3
20+	85	14	1
Still studying	84	14	2
 Socio-professional category			
Self-employed	77	21	2
Managers	86	13	1
Other white collars	81	17	2
Manual workers	76	22	2
House persons	76	22	2
Unemployed	74	24	2
Retired	81	17	2
Students	84	14	2
 Difficulties paying bills			
Most of the time	69	28	3
From time to time	72	25	3
Almost never/ Never	84	14	2
 Consider belonging to			
The working class	77	21	2
The lower middle class	76	21	3
The middle class	81	17	2
The upper middle class	87	11	2
The upper class	79	19	2

**Standard Eurobarometer 95**  
**Public opinion in the European Union**  
**Spring 2021**

### The United Nations

Despite a slight decrease since winter 2020-2021 in respondents who 'tend to trust' the United Nations<sup>31</sup>, trust remains at a high level: 51% (-1 percentage point). In parallel, distrust (36%) in this institution has fallen for the second consecutive time, -1 percentage point since winter 2020-2021 but -9 since spring 2020. Consequently, distrust in the UN is now at its lowest level since spring 2015, when it stood at 33%.

**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**



Trust in the **United Nations** is predominant in 23 Member States of the European Union (compared with 21 in winter 2020-2021). Within this group of countries trust ranges from highs of 78% in Denmark and 75% in Sweden to lows of 42% in Bulgaria (vs 33% 'tend not to trust' and 25% 'don't know') and 41% in France (vs 38% and 21%). Conversely, distrust is predominant in Slovakia (48% vs 38% 'tend to trust' and 14% 'don't know'), Greece (59%) and Cyprus (57%).

**Since winter 2020-2021**, trust in the United Nations has increased in seven Member States, particularly in Austria (45%, +8) and Italy (49%, +5), while proportions remain unchanged in Greece (35%), Slovenia (46%), Romania (54%) and Ireland (74%). Conversely, trust has decreased in 16 countries, most significantly in Slovakia (38%, -10) and Portugal (67%, -18).

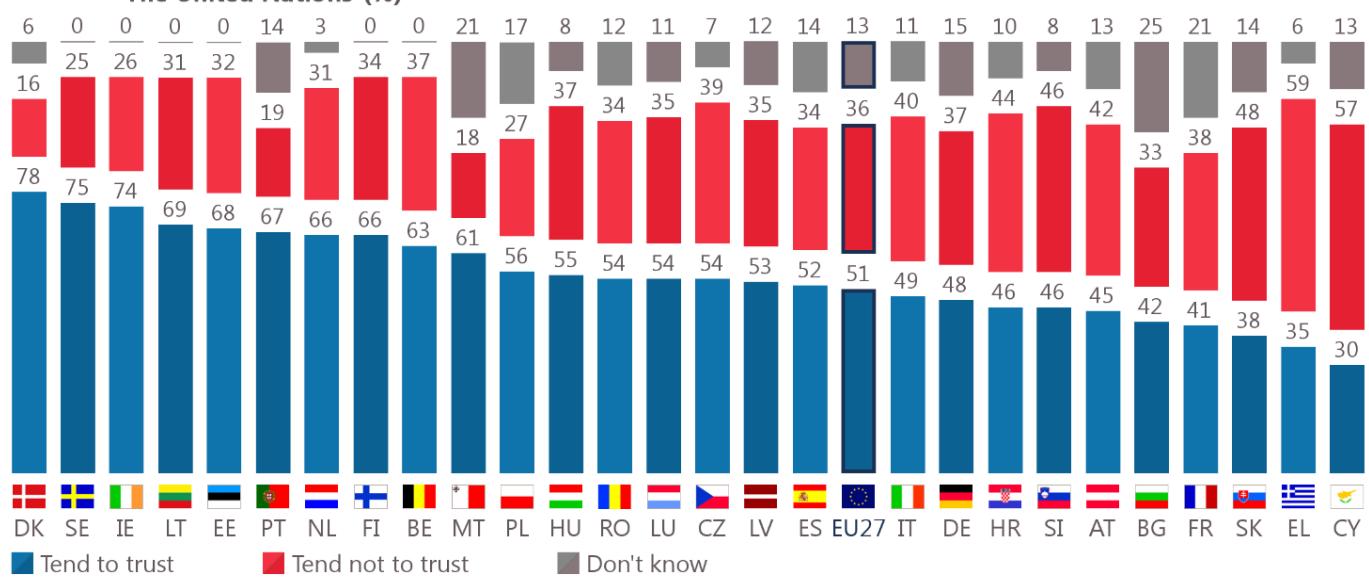
<sup>31</sup> QA6b.11. I would like to ask you a question about how much trust you have in certain media and institutions. For each of the following media and

institutions, please tell me if you tend to trust it or tend not to trust it. The United Nations

**Standard Eurobarometer 95**  
**Public opinion in the European Union**  
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**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 (%)**



Sorted by 'Tend to trust'

**Standard Eurobarometer 95**  
**Public opinion in the European Union**  
**Spring 2021**

**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 (%)**

	EU27		Tend to trust	Sp.2021 - Win.2020/2021		Tend not to trust	Sp.2021 - Win.2020/2021	Don't know
				Sp.2021 -	Win.2020/2021			
EU27	EU27		51	▼ 1		36	▼ 1	13
EURO AREA			50	▼ 1		37	▼ 1	13
NON-EURO AREA			57	▲ 1		31	▼ 1	12
AT			45	▲ 8		42	▼ 9	13
IT			49	▲ 5		40	▼ 4	11
PL			56	▲ 4		27	▼ 3	17
CY			30	▲ 4		57	▼ 4	13
BG			42	▲ 3		33	▲ 2	25
SE			75	▲ 1		25	=	0
ES			52	▲ 1		34	▼ 2	14
IE			74	=		26	=	0
RO			54	=		34	▼ 1	12
SI			46	=		46	▼ 8	8
EL			35	=		59	▼ 4	6
HU			55	▼ 1		37	▲ 4	8
EE			68	▼ 2		32	▲ 2	0
BE			63	▼ 2		37	▲ 2	0
HR			46	▼ 2		44	▲ 1	10
LT			69	▼ 3		31	▲ 3	0
FI			66	▼ 3		34	▲ 3	0
CZ			54	▼ 3		39	▼ 4	7
FR			41	▼ 3		38	▼ 1	21
DK			78	▼ 4		16	▼ 2	6
MT			61	▼ 4		18	▲ 1	21
LU			54	▼ 5		35	▼ 5	11
NL			66	▼ 6		31	▲ 8	3
DE			48	▼ 6		37	▲ 3	15
LV			53	▼ 9		35	▼ 3	12
SK			38	▼ 10		48	▲ 5	14
PT			67	▼ 18		19	▲ 4	14

**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)**

	Tend to trust	Tend not to trust	Don't know
EU27	51	36	13
<b>Gender</b>			
Man	52	38	10
Woman	51	34	15
<b>Age</b>			
15-24	54	31	15
25-39	53	37	10
40-54	54	36	10
55 +	48	36	16
<b>Education (End of)</b>			
15-	43	38	19
16-19	48	39	13
20+	58	33	9
Still studying	58	28	14
<b>Socio-professional category</b>			
Self-employed	52	40	8
Managers	60	32	8
Other white collars	60	30	10
Manual workers	48	40	12
House persons	41	37	22
Unemployed	40	46	14
Retired	47	36	17
Students	58	28	14
<b>Difficulties paying bills</b>			
Most of the time	38	47	15
From time to time	44	44	12
Almost never/ Never	56	31	13
<b>Consider belonging to</b>			
The working class	43	39	18
The lower middle class	46	41	13
The middle class	55	34	11
The upper middle class	61	30	9
The upper class	70	25	5

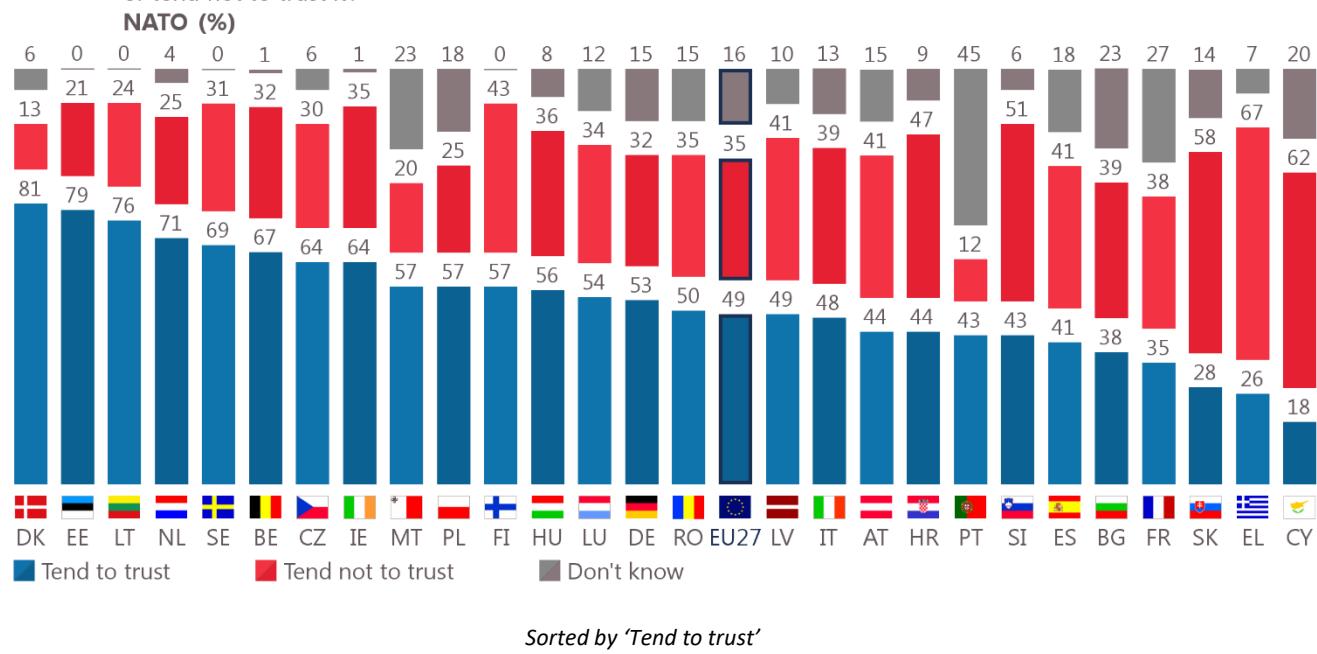
**Standard Eurobarometer 95**  
**Public opinion in the European Union**  
**Spring 2021**

## NATO

NATO<sup>32</sup> enjoys the trust of a majority of respondents in 18 Member States of the European Union (compared with 19 in winter 2020-2021). Within this group of countries, levels of trust range from 81% in Denmark and 79% in Estonia, where they are highest, to 44% in Austria (vs 41% 'tend not to trust' and 15% 'don't know'). Trust and distrust are evenly balanced in Spain (41% vs 41%). Conversely, distrust outweighs trust in seven countries, most markedly in Greece (67% vs 26% 'tend to trust') and Cyprus (62% vs 18% 'tend to trust'). It is noteworthy that Portugal is the only Member State where the proportion of respondents who give no answer is preponderant: 45% 'don't know' vs 12% 'tend not to trust' and 43% 'tend to trust'. The rate of 'Don't know' answers is also high in France (27%), Bulgaria and Malta (both 23%) and Cyprus (20%), where more than a fifth of respondents do not answer this question.

Since winter 2020-2021, trust in NATO has increased in 12 Member States, particularly in Austria (44%, +12), Sweden (69%, +9) and Poland (57%, +6), while it remains unchanged in Greece (26%), Spain (41%) and Estonia (79%). Conversely, trust has decreased in 12 other countries, most significantly in Portugal (43%, -29), Latvia (49%, -14) and Slovakia (28%, -14)

**QA6a.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?



<sup>32</sup> North Atlantic Treaty Organisation

**QA6a.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	49	35	16
<b>Gender</b>			
Man	52	36	12
Woman	47	34	19
<b>Age</b>			
15-24	49	31	20
25-39	50	37	13
40-54	50	38	12
55 +	48	34	18
<b>Education (End of)</b>			
15-	38	38	24
16-19	47	38	15
20+	55	34	11
Still studying	53	28	19
<b>Socio-professional category</b>			
Self-employed	49	41	10
Managers	58	32	10
Other white collars	56	31	13
Manual workers	45	40	15
House persons	41	36	23
Unemployed	38	44	18
Retired	47	34	19
Students	53	28	19
<b>Difficulties paying bills</b>			
Most of the time	35	45	20
From time to time	41	43	16
Almost never/ Never	54	31	15
<b>Consider belonging to</b>			
The working class	38	40	22
The lower middle class	41	42	17
The middle class	53	34	13
The upper middle class	65	26	9
The upper class	74	22	4

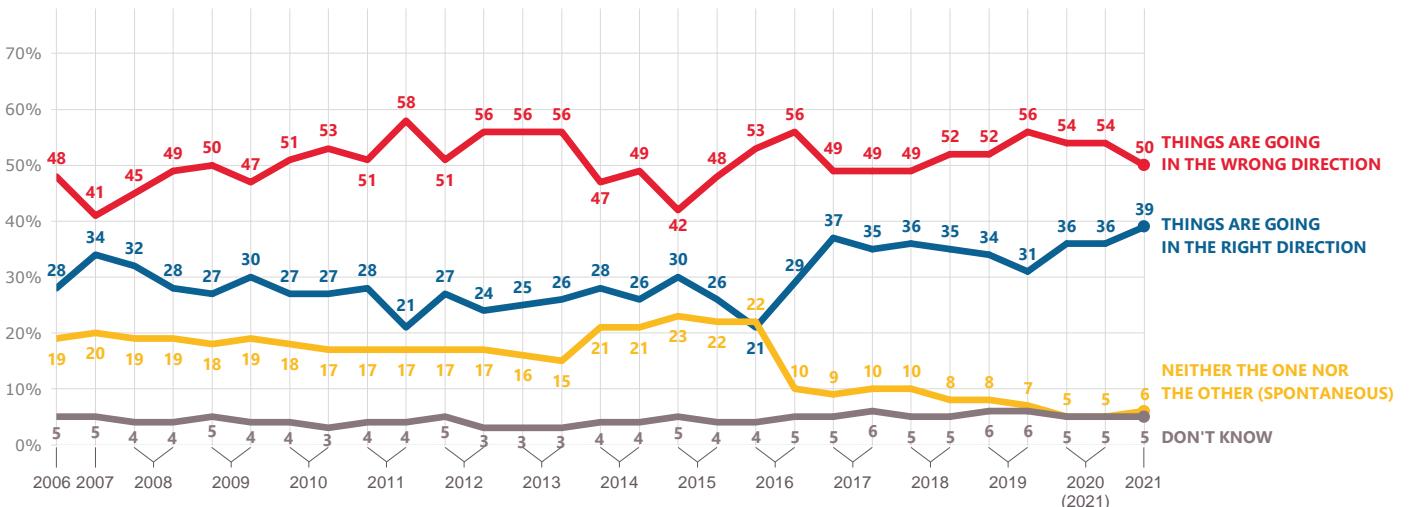
## 5. The direction in which things are going

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

A shrinking majority of Europeans (50%, -4 percentage points since winter 2020-2021) consider that things are going ‘in the wrong direction’ in their country<sup>33</sup>.

In parallel, positive impressions are gaining ground: 39% (+3) of respondents now think that things are going ‘in the right direction’ while 6% (+1) spontaneously say ‘neither the one nor the other’. 5% of respondents say that they “don’t know” (unchanged).

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



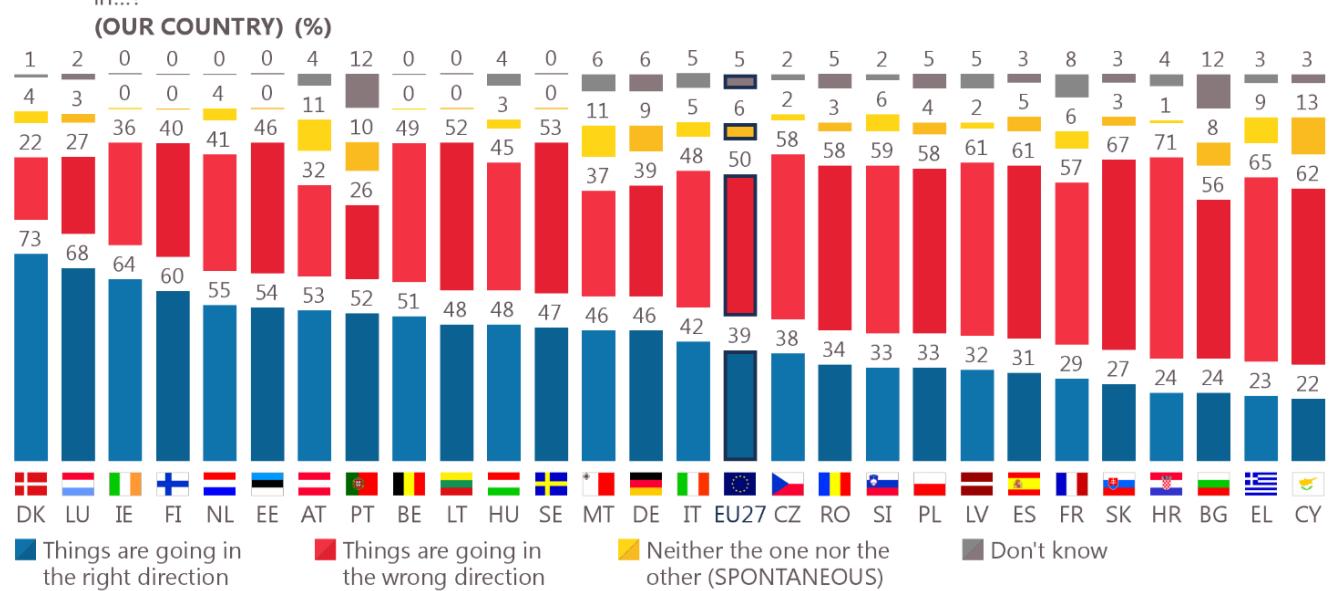
<sup>33</sup> D73.1. At the present time, would you say that, in general, things are going in the right direction or in the wrong direction...? In (OUR COUNTRY)

**Standard Eurobarometer 95**  
**Public opinion in the European Union**  
**Spring 2021**

A majority of respondents in 12 Member States of the European Union (compared with nine in winter 2020-2021) believe that things are going in the right direction in their country. Scores within this group, however, range from a low of 46% in Malta (compared with 37% who think that things are going in the wrong direction) and 46% in Germany (vs 39%) to a high of 73% in Denmark (vs 22%). Respondents in 15 EU Member States (down from 18 in winter 2020-2021) predominantly believe that things are going in the wrong direction. Respondents in Croatia (71%) and Slovakia (67%) are particularly pessimistic.

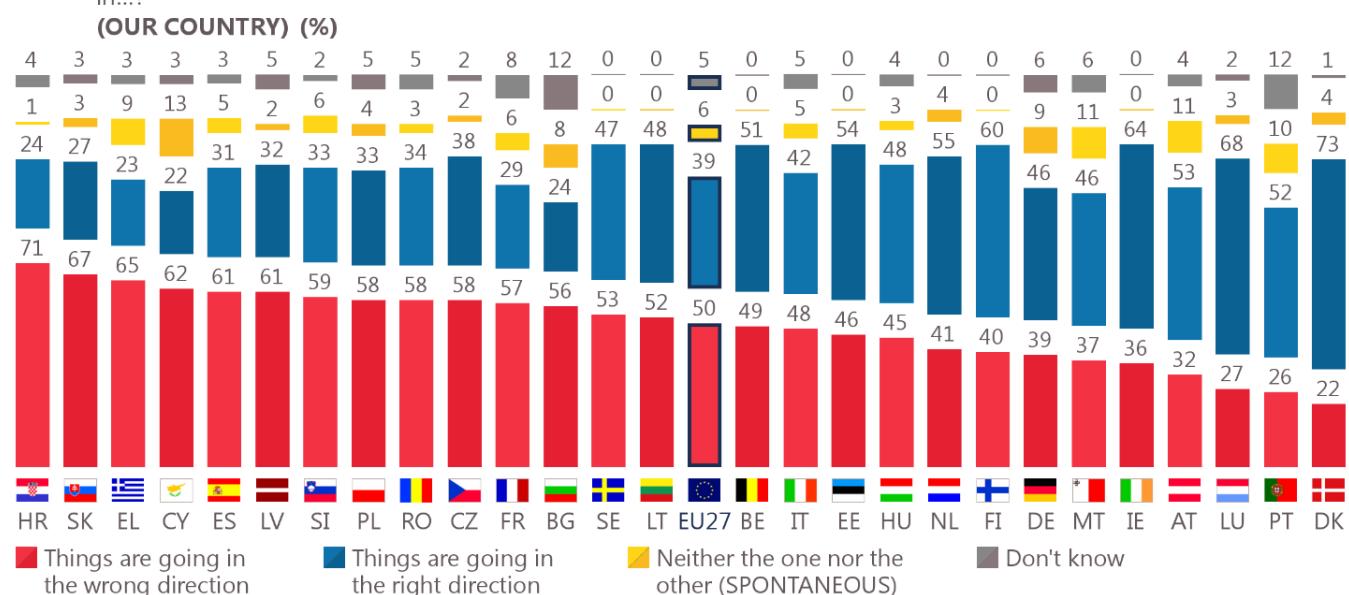
Since winter 2020-2021, positive opinions of the direction taken at national level have gained ground in 15 EU Member States, most notably in Czechia (38%, +17 percentage points), Austria (53%, +15) and Italy (42%, +12), while proportions remain unchanged in the Netherlands (55%). Conversely, optimism has declined in 11 countries, most markedly in Lithuania (48%, -10) and Estonia (54%, -9).

**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...?



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...?



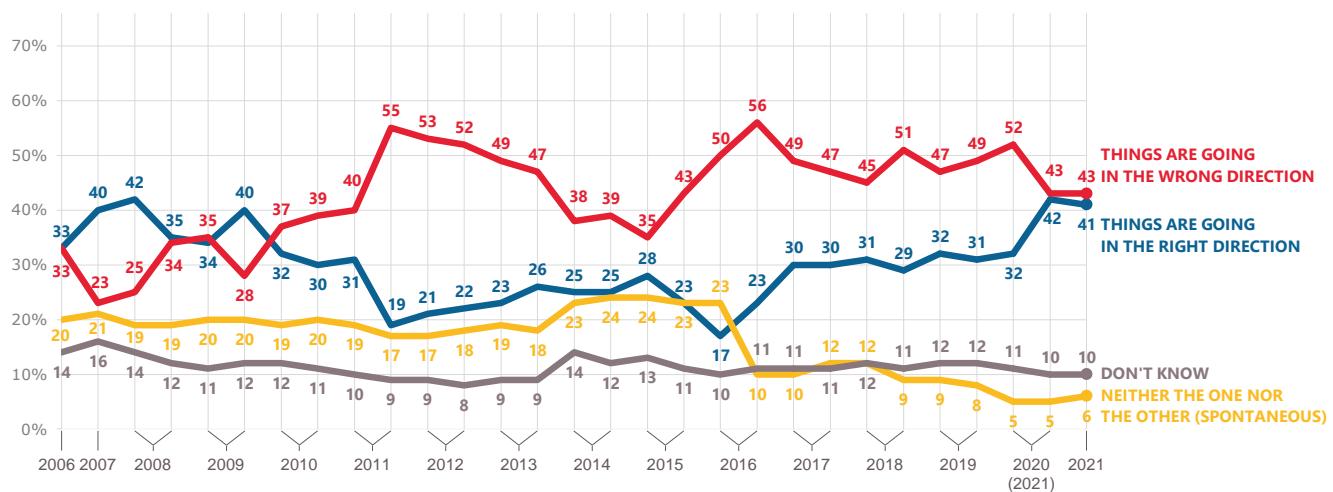
Sorted by the answer 'Things are going in the wrong direction'

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

In this EB95 survey of spring 2021, the proportion of Europeans who believe that things are going in the wrong direction in European Union is slightly larger than the proportion with an optimistic view: 43% (unchanged since winter 2020-201) say that things are going in ‘the wrong direction’ in the European Union while a slightly smaller proportion believe they are going in ‘the right direction’ (41%, -1). 6% (+1) of respondents spontaneously answered ‘neither the one nor the other’, and 10% expressed no opinion (unchanged)<sup>34</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 (% - EU)



<sup>34</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

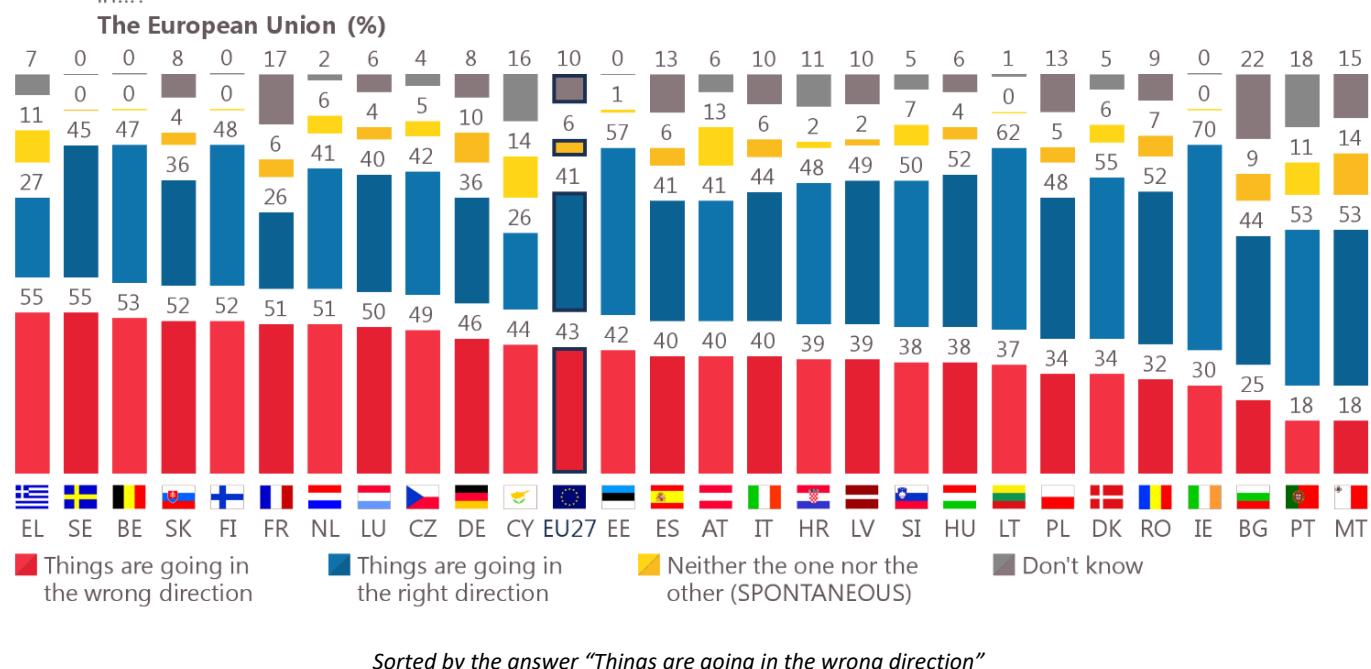
**Standard Eurobarometer 95**  
**Public opinion in the European Union**  
**Spring 2021**

A majority of respondents in 16 Member States of the European Union (compared with 19 in winter 2020-2021) think that things are going in the right direction in the European Union. Optimistic views are most widespread in Ireland (70%), Lithuania (62%) and Estonia (57%) and least so in Greece (27%) and Cyprus and France (both 26%) where just over a quarter of respondents agree.

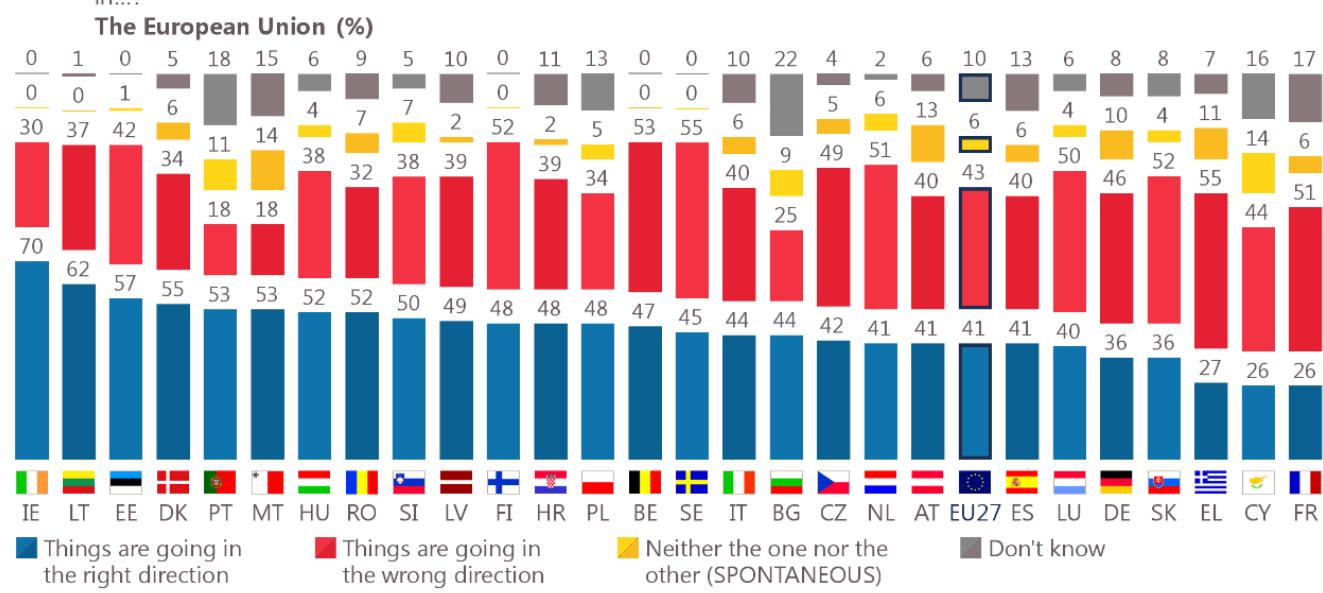
Conversely, the feeling that things are going in the wrong direction is predominant in 11 countries, most significantly in Greece and Sweden (both 55%), but also in Belgium (53%), Slovakia and Finland (both 52%).

Since winter 2020-2021, optimism about the direction in which things are going in the European Union has gained ground in six Member States, most markedly in Spain and Austria (both 41%, +8), while it remains unchanged in Poland (48%). Conversely, optimism has declined in 20 countries, most significantly in Portugal (53%, -25), Slovenia (50%, -19) and Latvia (49%, -15).

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



**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...?



**Standard Eurobarometer 95**  
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**D73** 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)						The European Union							
		Things are going in the right direction		Things are going in the wrong direction		Neither the one nor the other (SPONTANEOUS)		Don't know		Things are going in the right direction		Things are going in the wrong direction		Neither the one nor the other (SPONTANEOUS)	
		Sp.2021 -	Win.2020/2021	Sp.2021 -	Win.2020/2021	Sp.2021 -	Win.2020/2021	Sp.2021 -	Win.2020/2021	Sp.2021 -	Win.2020/2021	Sp.2021 -	Win.2020/2021	Sp.2021 -	Win.2020/2021
EU27		39	▲ 3	50	▼ 4	6	▲ 1	5	41	▼ 1	43	=	6	▲ 1	10
EURO AREA		40	▲ 3	48	▼ 4	7	▲ 1	5	38	▼ 3	45	▲ 1	7	▲ 2	10
NON-EURO AREA		38	▲ 5	55	▼ 5	3	▲ 1	4	48	▼ 1	37	▼ 1	5	▲ 1	10
BE		51	▲ 8	49	▼ 8	0	=	0	47	▼ 3	53	▲ 4	0	=	0
BG		24	▼ 4	56	▲ 4	8	▲ 2	12	44	▼ 4	25	▲ 3	9	▼ 2	22
CZ		38	▲ 17	58	▼ 21	2	▲ 2	2	42	▼ 4	49	▼ 4	5	▲ 4	4
DK		73	▲ 7	22	▼ 12	4	▲ 4	1	55	▼ 5	34	▼ 6	6	▲ 6	5
DE		46	▼ 7	39	▲ 5	9	▲ 3	6	36	▼ 9	46	▲ 8	10	▲ 4	8
EE		54	▼ 9	46	▲ 9	0	=	0	57	▼ 12	42	▲ 11	1	▲ 1	0
IE		64	▼ 1	36	▲ 1	0	=	0	70	▼ 4	30	▲ 5	0	=	0
EL		23	▼ 8	65	=	9	▲ 6	3	27	▼ 9	55	▼ 4	11	▲ 8	7
ES		31	▲ 11	61	▼ 11	5	=	3	41	▲ 8	40	▼ 9	6	=	13
FR		29	▲ 3	57	▼ 3	6	=	8	26	▼ 3	51	▲ 1	6	▲ 1	17
HR		24	▲ 1	71	=	1	▼ 1	4	48	▲ 2	39	▼ 4	2	▼ 2	11
IT		42	▲ 12	48	▼ 9	5	▼ 1	5	44	▲ 7	40	▼ 6	6	▲ 1	10
CY		22	▲ 1	62	▲ 1	13	=	3	26	▼ 2	44	▼ 1	14	▲ 1	16
LV		32	▼ 5	61	▼ 2	2	▲ 2	5	49	▼ 15	39	▲ 3	2	▲ 2	10
LT		48	▼ 10	52	▲ 10	0	=	0	62	▼ 12	37	▲ 11	0	=	1
LU		68	▼ 4	27	▼ 1	3	▲ 3	2	40	▼ 13	50	▲ 3	4	▲ 4	6
HU		48	▲ 9	45	▼ 9	3	=	4	52	▲ 4	38	▼ 5	4	=	6
MT	*	46	▼ 3	37	▲ 8	11	▲ 1	6	53	▼ 1	18	▲ 2	14	▲ 2	15
NL		55	=	41	▲ 6	4	▼ 4	0	41	▼ 12	51	▲ 20	6	▼ 5	2
AT		53	▲ 15	32	▼ 13	11	▲ 1	4	41	▲ 8	40	▼ 10	13	▲ 4	6
PL		33	▲ 5	58	▼ 5	4	▲ 1	5	48	=	34	▼ 2	5	▲ 1	13
PT		52	▼ 5	26	▼ 16	10	▲ 9	12	53	▼ 25	18	▼ 3	11	▲ 10	18
RO		34	▲ 3	58	▼ 4	3	▲ 1	5	52	▼ 1	32	▼ 1	7	▲ 5	9
SI		33	▲ 3	59	▼ 11	6	▲ 6	2	50	▼ 19	38	▲ 7	7	▲ 7	5
SK		27	▲ 1	67	=	3	▼ 1	3	36	▼ 6	52	▲ 5	4	=	8
FI		60	▲ 11	40	▼ 11	0	=	0	48	▲ 6	52	▼ 5	0	=	0
SE		47	▼ 1	53	▲ 4	0	▼ 2	0	45	▼ 5	55	▲ 10	0	▼ 2	0

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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) (% - EU)**

	Things are going in the right direction	Things are going in the wrong direction	Neither the one nor the other (SPONTANEOUS)	Don't know
EU27	39	50	6	5
<b>Gender</b>				
Man	42	49	5	4
Woman	38	50	6	6
<b>Age</b>				
15-24	45	45	4	6
25-39	37	54	5	4
40-54	38	53	5	4
55 +	40	47	7	6
<b>Education (End of)</b>				
15-	35	52	6	7
16-19	38	52	5	5
20+	41	49	6	4
Still studying	48	41	5	6
<b>Socio-professional category</b>				
Self-employed	41	49	6	4
Managers	44	47	6	3
Other white collars	39	52	5	4
Manual workers	37	54	5	4
House persons	34	54	6	6
Unemployed	28	60	7	5
Retired	40	46	7	7
Students	48	41	5	6
<b>Difficulties paying bills</b>				
Most of the time	23	65	6	6
From time to time	32	58	5	5
Almost never/ Never	44	45	6	5
<b>Consider belonging to</b>				
The working class	30	57	6	7
The lower middle class	34	56	5	5
The middle class	43	47	6	4
The upper middle class	52	41	5	2
The upper class	37	61	1	1

**Standard Eurobarometer 95**  
**Public opinion in the European Union**  
**Spring 2021**

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

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

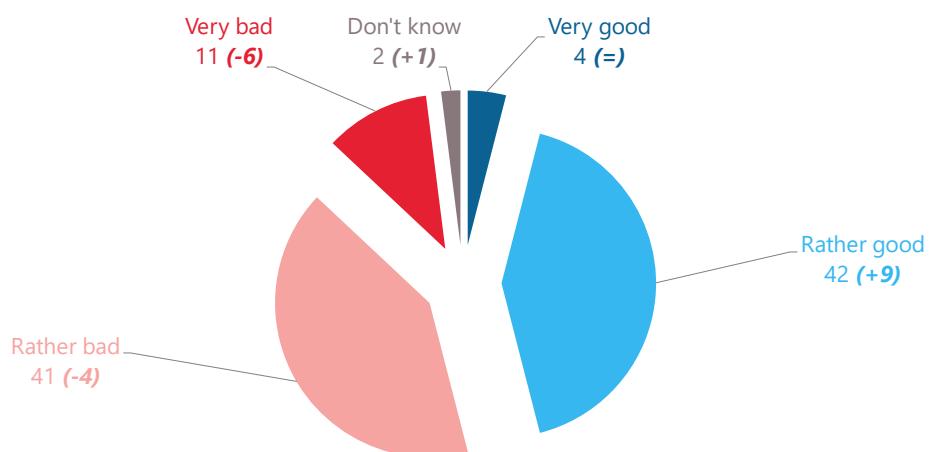
	Things are going in the right direction	Things are going in the wrong direction	Neither the one nor the other (SPONTANEOUS)	Don't know
EU27	41	43	6	10
 Gender				
Man	42	44	6	8
Woman	39	42	7	12
 Age				
15-24	46	35	6	13
25-39	41	45	6	8
40-54	41	45	6	8
55 +	38	43	7	12
 Education (End of)				
15-	35	41	7	17
16-19	40	44	6	10
20+	43	44	7	6
Still studying	47	32	7	14
 Socio-professional category				
Self-employed	45	42	6	7
Managers	45	44	6	5
Other white collars	43	43	6	8
Manual workers	39	46	6	9
House persons	36	44	5	15
Unemployed	34	47	7	12
Retired	37	42	8	13
Students	47	32	7	14
 Difficulties paying bills				
Most of the time	28	52	7	13
From time to time	36	48	6	10
Almost never/ Never	44	40	7	9
 Consider belonging to				
The working class	34	44	7	15
The lower middle class	36	47	6	11
The middle class	44	42	6	8
The upper middle class	51	38	7	4
The upper class	53	41	4	2

### 5.3 The situation in the country in general

Despite a significant increase in positive opinions since winter 2020-2021, a majority of Europeans still see the current situation in their country in a negative light<sup>35</sup>: 52% consider that it is bad (-10 percentage points since winter 2020-2021), including 11% (-6) for whom it is 'very bad' and 41% (-4) who answer 'rather bad'. Conversely, 46% say that it is good, including 4% (unchanged) for whom it is 'very good' and 42% (+9) who say 'rather good'.

**QA1a.1** How would you judge the current situation in each of the following?

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



<sup>35</sup> QA1a.1. How would you judge the current situation in each of the following? The situation in (OUR COUNTRY) in general

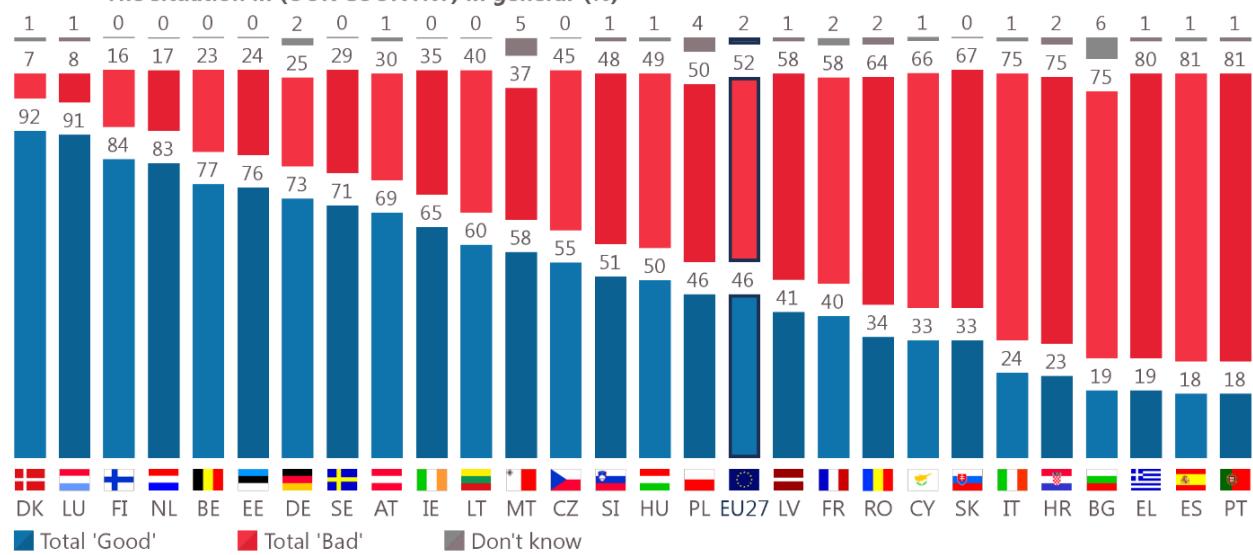
**Standard Eurobarometer 95**  
**Public opinion in the European Union**  
**Spring 2021**

Differences in perceptions between EU Member States are significant. Thus, 74 percentage points (compared with 82 percentage points in winter 2020-2021) separate the highest positive score, in Denmark (92%) with the lowest, in Spain and Portugal (both 18%). Positive opinions outweigh negative opinions of the general national situation in 15 Member States (compared with 10 in winter 2020-2021). They exceed 80% in four countries: Denmark (92%), Luxembourg (91%), Finland (84%) and the Netherlands (83%). In contrast, opinions are predominantly negative in 12 Member States (compared with 17 in winter 2020-2021). At least 80% of respondents in Spain and Portugal (both 81%) and Greece (80%) say that the situation is bad.

**Since winter 2020-2021**, positive opinions on the national situation in general have gained ground in 19 Member States (up from three), most significantly in Czechia (55%, +24), Austria (69%, +23), Ireland (65%, +16) and Italy (24%, +16). Positive perceptions remain unchanged in Finland (84%), the Netherlands (83%) and Lithuania (60%), while they have lost ground in five countries, most notably in Portugal (18%, -21) and to a lesser extent in Sweden (71%, -8).

**Q1a.1** How would you judge the current situation in each of the following?

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

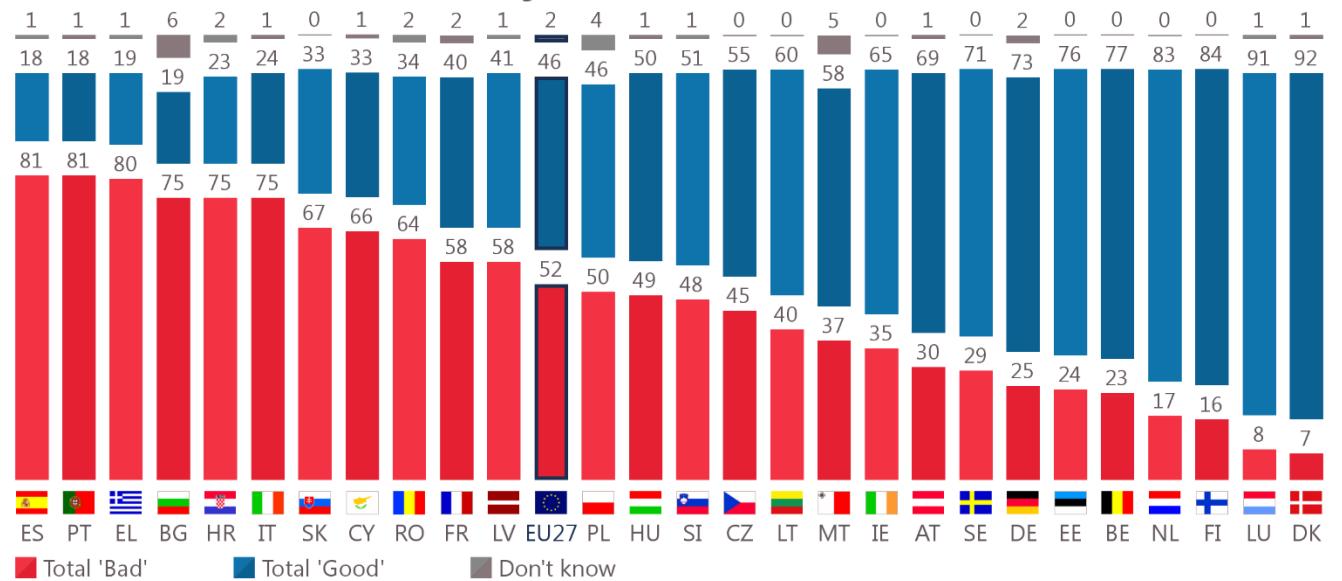


Sorted by 'Total Good'

**Standard Eurobarometer 95**  
**Public opinion in the European Union**  
**Spring 2021**

**QA1a.1** How would you judge the current situation in each of the following?

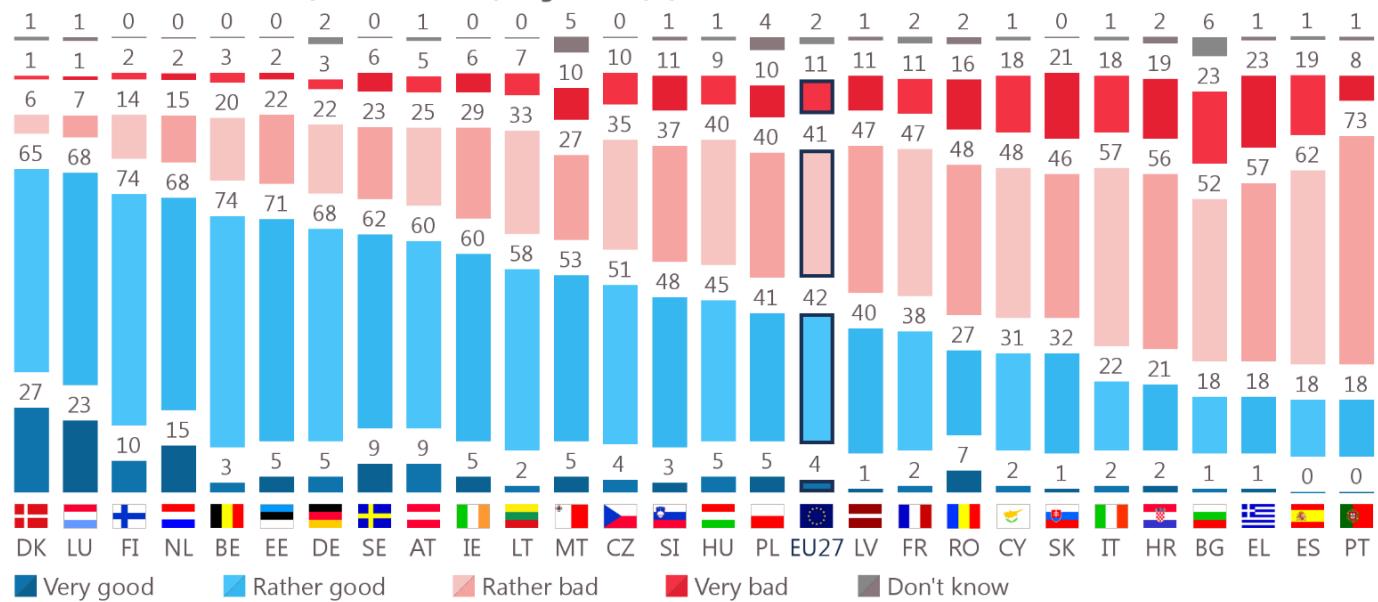
**The situation in (OUR COUNTRY) in general (%)**



*Sorted by 'Total Bad'*

**QA1a.1** How would you judge the current situation in each of the following?

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



*Sorted by 'Total Good'*

**Standard Eurobarometer 95**  
**Public opinion in the European Union**  
**Spring 2021**

**QA1a.1** How would you judge the current situation in each of the following?

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

		Total 'Good'	Sp.2021 - Win.2020/2021	Total 'Bad'	Sp.2021 - Win.2020/2021	Don't know
EU27		46	▲ 9	52	▼ 10	2
EURO AREA		46	▲ 10	53	▼ 10	1
NON-EURO AREA		48	▲ 9	50	▼ 9	2
CZ		55	▲ 24	45	▼ 24	0
AT		69	▲ 23	30	▼ 23	1
IE		65	▲ 16	35	▼ 16	0
IT		24	▲ 16	75	▼ 17	1
DK		92	▲ 14	7	▼ 15	1
DE		73	▲ 14	25	▼ 15	2
SK		33	▲ 14	67	▼ 14	0
EE		76	▲ 12	24	▼ 12	0
FR		40	▲ 11	58	▼ 12	2
HU		50	▲ 8	49	▼ 8	1
PL		46	▲ 8	50	▼ 9	4
RO		34	▲ 8	64	▼ 8	2
LV		41	▲ 7	58	▼ 8	1
ES		18	▲ 7	81	▼ 7	1
BE		77	▲ 6	23	▼ 6	0
SI		51	▲ 3	48	▼ 4	1
HR		23	▲ 3	75	▼ 4	2
LU		91	▲ 1	8	▼ 2	1
CY		33	▲ 1	66	▼ 1	1
FI		84	=	16	=	0
NL		83	=	17	=	0
LT		60	=	40	=	0
BG		19	▼ 1	75	▲ 1	6
MT		58	▼ 2	37	▲ 3	5
EL		19	▼ 3	80	▲ 2	1
SE		71	▼ 8	29	▲ 8	0
PT		18	▼ 21	81	▲ 20	1

**QA1a.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	46	52	2
 Gender			
Man	48	51	1
Woman	45	53	2
 Age			
15-24	52	46	2
25-39	47	51	2
40-54	44	55	1
55 +	46	52	2
 Education (End of)			
15-	31	68	1
16-19	42	57	1
20+	56	43	1
Still studying	54	44	2
 Socio-professional category			
Self-employed	42	57	1
Managers	59	40	1
Other white collars	47	52	1
Manual workers	43	56	1
House persons	34	63	3
Unemployed	32	67	1
Retired	48	50	2
Students	54	44	2
 Difficulties paying bills			
Most of the time	22	77	1
From time to time	34	64	2
Almost never/ Never	54	44	2
 Consider belonging to			
The working class	32	66	2
The lower middle class	42	57	1
The middle class	51	48	1
The upper middle class	69	31	0
The upper class	54	46	0

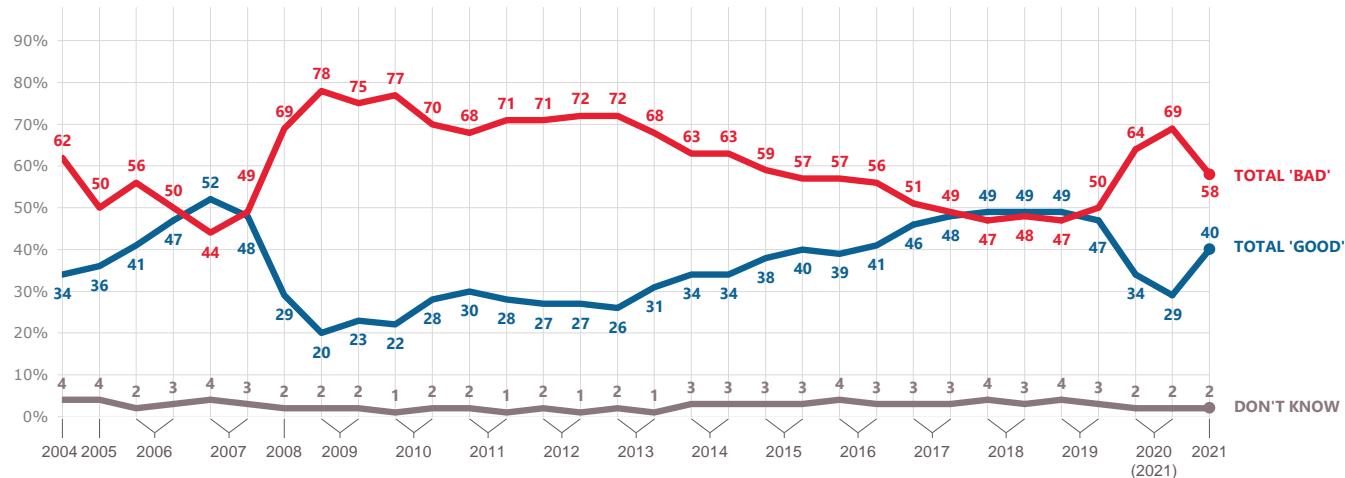
**Standard Eurobarometer 95**  
**Public opinion in the European Union**  
**Spring 2021**

After three surveys marked by declining assessments, perceptions of the national economy have improved considerably since winter 2020-2021: 40% of EU citizens now believe that their national economic situation is 'good' (+11 percentage points). However, this level is still below that measured in the period spring 2017 – autumn 2019.

Since winter 2020-2021, the proportion of respondents who think the situation of their national economy is 'bad' has declined markedly (-11 percentage points) to 58%. However, this remains the majority view.

**QA1a.2** How would you judge the current situation in each of the following?

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



Perceptions of the current situation of the national economy are extremely variable across Member States, ranging from 89% who think it is good in Luxembourg to 9% in Greece who think the same way.

A majority of respondents now think the national economic situation is good in 12 Member States (up from eight in winter 2020-2021): more than seven in ten do so in Luxembourg (89%), the Netherlands (87%), Denmark (84%) and Sweden (78%), compared with 9% in Greece, 11% in Portugal and 12% in Spain and Bulgaria.

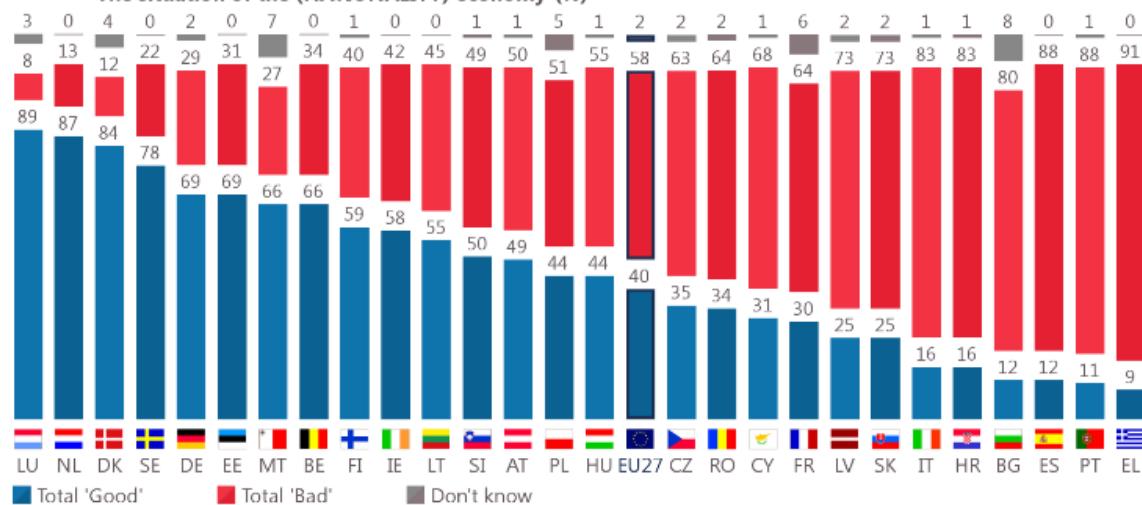
Positive impressions of the current national economic situation are more widespread in 25 Member States than in the Standard Eurobarometer of winter 2020-2021 (EB94), with massive increases in eight countries: Austria (49%, +26), the Netherlands (87%, +17), Germany (69%, +17), Belgium (66%, +16), Ireland (58%, +16), France (30%, +13), Denmark (84%, +13), and Poland (44%, +10). Positive views have declined slightly in Sweden (78%, -3) and Greece (9%, -1).

As a result of these changes, positive opinions are now in the majority in Slovenia, Ireland, Belgium and Lithuania.

**Standard Eurobarometer 95**  
**Public opinion in the European Union**  
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**QA1a.2** How would you judge the current situation in each of the following?

The situation of the (NATIONALITY) economy (%)



Sorted by 'Total Good'

**Standard Eurobarometer 95**  
**Public opinion in the European Union**  
**Spring 2021**

**QA1a.2** How would you judge the current situation in each of the following?

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

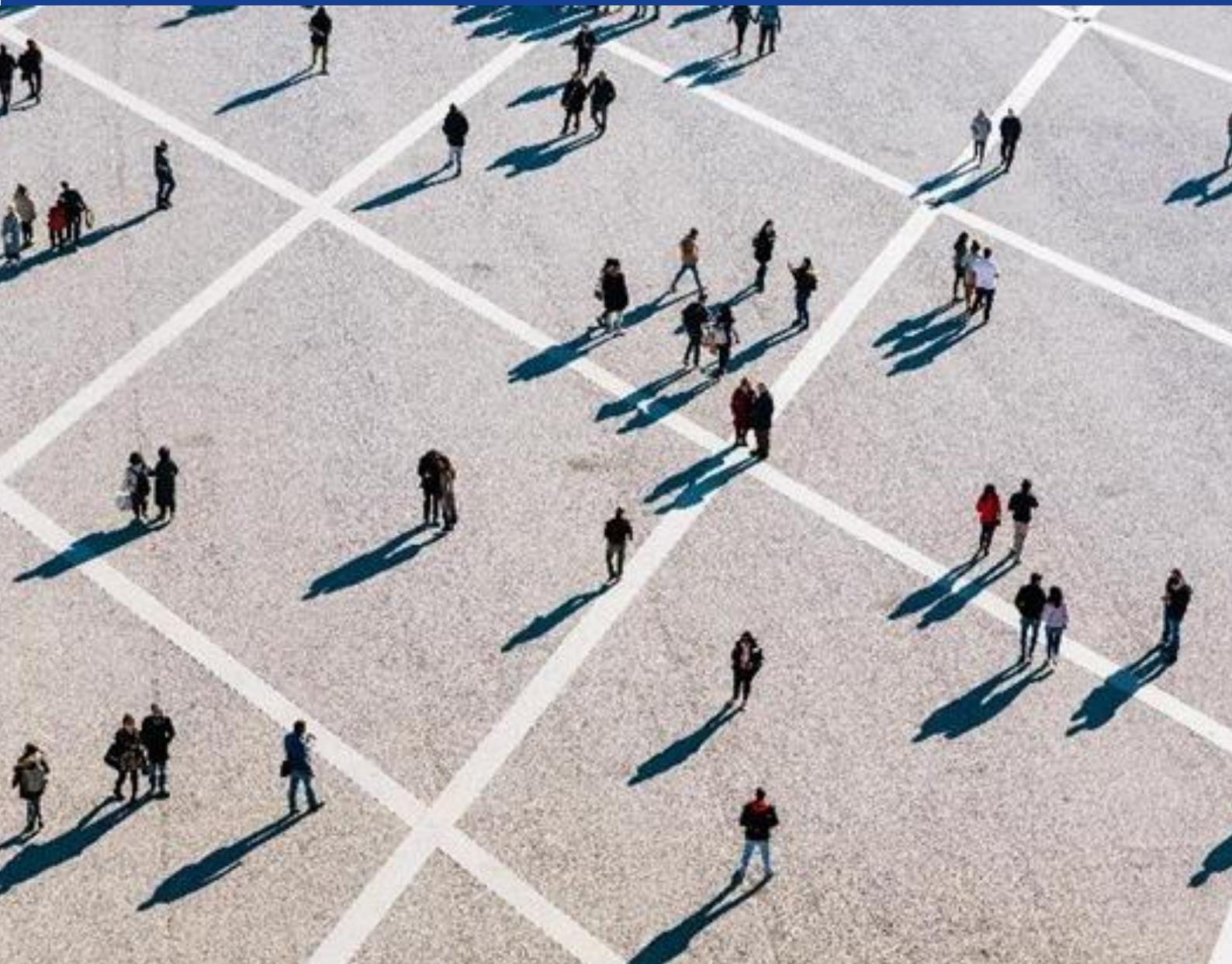
		Total 'Good'	Sp.2021 - Win.2020/2021	Total 'Bad'	Sp.2021 - Win.2020/2021	Don't know
EU27		40	▲ 11	58	▼ 11	2
EURO AREA		39	▲ 11	59	▼ 12	2
NON-EURO AREA		44	▲ 8	53	▼ 8	3
AT		49	▲ 26	50	▼ 27	1
NL		87	▲ 17	13	▼ 17	0
DE		69	▲ 17	29	▼ 17	2
BE		66	▲ 16	34	▼ 16	0
IE		58	▲ 16	42	▼ 16	0
DK		84	▲ 13	12	▼ 17	4
FR		30	▲ 13	64	▼ 15	6
PL		44	▲ 10	51	▼ 12	5
EE		69	▲ 9	31	▼ 9	0
IT		16	▲ 9	83	▼ 10	1
SI		50	▲ 8	49	▼ 9	1
HU		44	▲ 8	55	▼ 8	1
RO		34	▲ 8	64	▼ 6	2
CY		31	▲ 8	68	▼ 8	1
SK		25	▲ 8	73	▼ 9	2
MT		66	▲ 7	27	▼ 8	7
FI		59	▲ 7	40	▼ 8	1
LT		55	▲ 5	45	▼ 5	0
CZ		35	▲ 5	63	▼ 7	2
LV		25	▲ 5	73	▼ 7	2
ES		12	▲ 4	88	▼ 3	0
LU		89	▲ 3	8	▼ 6	3
HR		16	▲ 3	83	▼ 4	1
BG		12	▲ 2	80	▼ 2	8
PT		11	▲ 1	88	▼ 2	1
EL		9	▼ 1	91	▲ 1	0
SE		78	▼ 3	22	▲ 4	0

**QA1a.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	40	58	2
 Gender			
Man	42	56	2
Woman	38	59	3
 Age			
15-24	42	53	5
25-39	41	57	2
40-54	38	61	1
55 +	41	57	2
 Education (End of)			
15-	25	73	2
16-19	36	62	2
20+	49	49	2
Still studying	46	49	5
 Socio-professional category			
Self-employed	35	64	1
Managers	52	47	1
Other white collars	41	58	1
Manual workers	37	61	2
House persons	26	70	4
Unemployed	25	74	1
Retired	42	55	3
Students	46	49	5
 Difficulties paying bills			
Most of the time	18	80	2
From time to time	29	69	2
Almost never/ Never	47	51	2
 Consider belonging to			
The working class	26	71	3
The lower middle class	35	63	2
The middle class	44	54	2
The upper middle class	62	37	1
The upper class	51	47	2

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



## 1. Attachment to the European Union

### 1.1 What does the European Union symbolize?

**The European Union is most frequently associated with the “freedom to travel, study and work anywhere in the EU”**

As in previous Eurobarometer surveys, the most highly ranked association with the EU is the **“freedom to travel, study and work anywhere in the EU”** (53%, +2 percentage points since summer 2020), followed by the **“euro”** (35%, no change) and **“peace”** (34%, +1). **“Cultural diversity”** (27%, +1), **“democracy”** (27%, +4) and **“stronger say in the world”** (26%, +2) are other positive associations that are highly ranked, with more than one quarter mentioning them, while **“quality of life of future generations”** (23%, +2) and **“economic prosperity”** (21%, +2) are cited by more than one fifth.

The first negative associations are found from the eighth place onwards, with **“bureaucracy”** (22%, +2), **“waste of money”** (20%, no change) and **“not enough control at external borders”** (18%, -1) being the most frequently mentioned negative associations, in line with previous Eurobarometer surveys. All other responses were mentioned by smaller proportions of respondents: **“social protection”** (13%, +1), **“loss of our cultural identity”** (12%, +1), **“more crime”** (11%, -1) and **“unemployment”** (8%, -1).

Overall, the results have remained broadly stable since summer 2020 (EB93). Associations of the EU with **“democracy”** represent the exception, as they have gained four percentage points, moving from sixth to joint fourth place in the ranking. The proportion associating the EU with **“economic prosperity”** has increased by two percentage points for the second time in a row (+4 since autumn 2019)<sup>36</sup>.

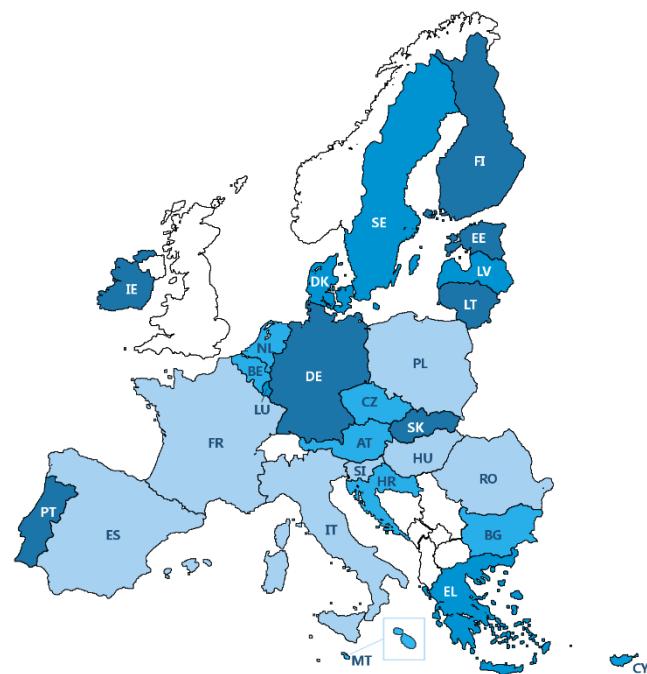
**QA7** What does the EU mean to you personally? (MULTIPLE ANSWERS POSSIBLE)  
(% - EU)



<sup>36</sup> QA7. What does the EU mean to you personally?

**Standard Eurobarometer 95**  
**Public opinion in the European Union**  
**Spring 2021**

**"The freedom to travel, study and work anywhere in the EU"** is the most frequently mentioned association in all the 27 EU Member States. The largest proportions of respondents who mention this are observed in Ireland, Estonia (both 75%), Finland, Germany and Lithuania (all 65%). In Italy (39%), Romania (44%), Poland (45%) and France (49%), less than half mention this association with the EU.



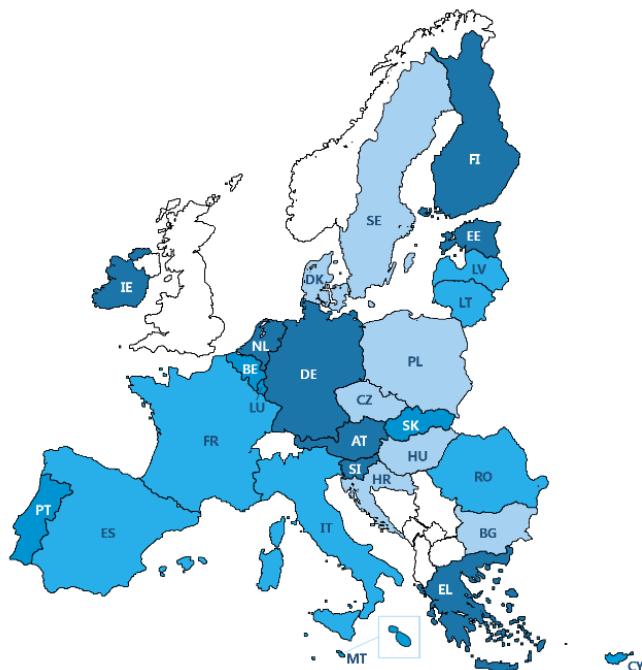
**Standard Eurobarometer 95**  
**Public opinion in the European Union**  
**Spring 2021**

Membership of the euro area constitutes a clear discerning factor when it comes to associations of the EU with the “euro”. Overall, respondents in countries belonging to the **euro area** (41%) are significantly more likely than those living **outside the euro area** (15%) to associate the EU with the ‘euro’.

At country level, at least one quarter in all euro area countries mention this item, ranging from an absolute majority in Greece and Austria (both 52%) and half of the respondents in the Netherlands to one quarter in Lithuania. Conversely, this proportion is below a quarter in all countries outside the euro area, with the highest proportion observed in Romania (24%) and the lowest in Sweden (10%), Poland (12%), Bulgaria and Hungary (both 13%).



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



**Standard Eurobarometer 95**  
**Public opinion in the European Union**  
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The **socio-demographic data** shows that the EU is primarily associated with the “**freedom to travel, study and work anywhere in the EU**” among all the categories. However, some differences can still be observed. This association is more widespread among the youngest respondents (63% among the 15-24 year olds, compared with 49% among those aged 55 or more) and those who remained longer in full-time education (60% among those who finished aged 20 or more, compared with 39% among those who left aged 15 or less). High proportions mentioning this trait can also be found among managers (64%, compared with 42% among house persons), those with the least financial difficulties (58% of those who never or almost never have difficulties paying their bills, compared with 38% of those who have difficulties most of the time) and those who see themselves as belonging to the upper middle class of society (67%, compared with 47% of those who consider themselves as belonging to the working class and 48% of those who consider themselves belonging to the lower middle class of society). These differences are similar to those observed in previous Eurobarometer surveys.

Education, financial situation and social class have also an impact for most of the other **positive** associations. For instance, the EU is most likely to be associated with “**peace**” among those who ended full-time education aged 20 or more (40%, compared with 26% of those who left aged 15 or less), those who have never or almost never difficulties paying their bills (38%, compared with 23% of those who have difficulties most of the time) and those who consider themselves as being part of the upper middle class of society (47%, compared with 26% of those who see themselves as belonging to the working class of society).

Conversely, age has an impact when it comes to **negative** associations, with the oldest respondents aged 55 or more being much more likely than the 15-24 year-olds to mention most of the items with a negative connotation. For instance, one quarter of those aged 55 or more associate the EU with “**bureaucracy**”, compared with 14% 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	Euro	Peace	Cultural diversity	Democracy	Stronger say in the world	Quality of life of future generations	Bureaucracy
EU27	53	35	34	27	27	26	23	22
<b>Gender</b>								
Man	53	36	34	27	27	27	23	24
Woman	53	34	34	27	26	25	22	20
<b>Age</b>								
15-24	63	34	33	31	30	26	26	14
25-39	57	35	32	30	26	26	24	19
40-54	52	35	33	28	28	27	23	24
55 +	49	35	36	23	26	26	20	25
<b>Education (End of)</b>								
15-	39	38	26	15	20	21	14	19
16-19	50	32	31	22	24	23	20	22
20+	60	38	40	35	31	31	27	25
Still studying	67	35	38	37	34	29	30	13
<b>Socio-professional category</b>								
Self-employed	57	38	34	27	24	28	23	22
Managers	64	42	43	37	35	32	29	25
Other white collars	56	36	33	30	30	29	23	22
Manual workers	48	31	27	23	22	23	21	22
House persons	42	36	27	18	19	18	19	15
Unemployed	46	32	25	24	18	19	19	21
Retired	47	34	38	22	26	26	19	25
Students	67	35	38	37	34	29	30	13
<b>Difficulties paying bills</b>								
Most of the time	38	34	23	20	16	20	16	23
From time to time	44	32	26	22	20	22	20	19
Almost never/ Never	58	36	38	30	30	28	25	23
<b>Consider belonging to</b>								
The working class	47	31	26	18	19	21	19	20
The lower middle class	48	34	31	25	23	23	19	27
The middle class	55	35	36	29	29	27	24	21
The upper middle class	67	44	47	38	38	37	32	24
The upper class	59	32	43	29	42	36	36	16
<b>Image of the EU</b>								
Total 'Positive'	64	37	45	36	38	38	34	14
Neutral	49	35	29	22	21	20	15	23
Total 'Negative'	34	30	18	16	9	10	10	43

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## 1.2 Support for membership and perceived benefits of membership (candidate countries)

### A majority of respondents in all candidate countries support EU membership

Around nine in ten support EU membership in Albania (91%), an eight-percentage point increase since the last Standard Eurobarometer survey (EB94). A large majority think EU membership would be a good thing in Montenegro (62%), where, following a 21-percentage point increase between summer 2020 and winter 2020-2021, this proportion has decreased by 13 percentage points in the current survey. Similarly, more than six in ten are in favour of EU membership in North Macedonia (62%, +1). Despite having lost ground since the last survey, support for EU membership remains the majority view in Turkey (44%, -6) and, after a four-percentage point increase, a majority are also in favour of EU membership in Serbia (39%)<sup>37</sup>.

More than four in ten (46%, -3 percentage points) in the Turkish Cypriot Community agree that the full application of EU legislation would be a good thing<sup>38</sup>.

More than nine in ten respondents in Albania (97%, +6 percentage points since winter 2020-2021) consider that their country would benefit from being a member of the EU, followed by North Macedonia (80%, +2). Three quarters answer this way in Montenegro, where this proportion has declined by seven percentage points since winter 2020-2021. Majorities share this view also in Turkey (61%, -3) and Serbia (60%, +2)<sup>39</sup>.

In the Turkish Cypriot Community, 52% think that their community would benefit from the full application of EU legislation, a decrease by 14 percentage points since the last Standard Eurobarometer survey (EB94, winter 2020-2021)<sup>40</sup>.

**QA6ce** Taking everything into account, would you say that (OUR COUNTRY) would benefit or not from being a member of the EU?  
 (%)

	Would benefit	Sp2021 - Win.2020/2021	Would not benefit	Sp2021 - Win.2020/2021	Don't know/ Refusal
CY (tcc)	52	▼ 14	14	▼ 6	34
AL	97	▲ 6	2	▼ 6	1
MK	80	▲ 2	19	▼ 1	1
ME	75	▼ 7	24	▲ 6	1
RS	60	▲ 2	38	▲ 1	2
TR	61	▼ 3	39	▲ 4	0

**QA6bd** Generally speaking, do you think that (OUR COUNTRY)'s membership of the EU would be...?  
 (%)

	A good thing	Sp2021 - Win.2020/2021	A bad thing	Sp2021 - Win.2020/2021	Neither good nor bad	Sp2021 - Win.2020/2021	Don't know/ Refusal
CY (tcc)	46	▼ 3	11	=	12	▼ 20	31
AL	91	▲ 8	3	=	6	▼ 8	0
MK	62	▲ 1	14	=	24	▼ 1	0
ME	62	▼ 13	20	▲ 3	17	▲ 9	1
RS	39	▲ 4	27	▲ 2	33	▼ 6	1
TR	44	▼ 6	24	▼ 3	32	▲ 10	0

<sup>37</sup> QA6b. Generally speaking, do you think that (OUR COUNTRY)'s membership of the EU would be...?

<sup>38</sup> QA6d. Generally speaking, do you think that for the Turkish Cypriot Community the full application of EU legislation would be...?

<sup>39</sup> QA6c. Taking everything into account, would you say that (OUR COUNTRY) would benefit or not from being a member of the EU?

<sup>40</sup> QA6e. Taking everything into consideration, would you say that the Turkish Cypriot Community would benefit or not from the full application of the EU legislation?

### 1.3 Easier to face the future outside the EU?

#### A clear majority disagree that their country could better face the future outside the EU

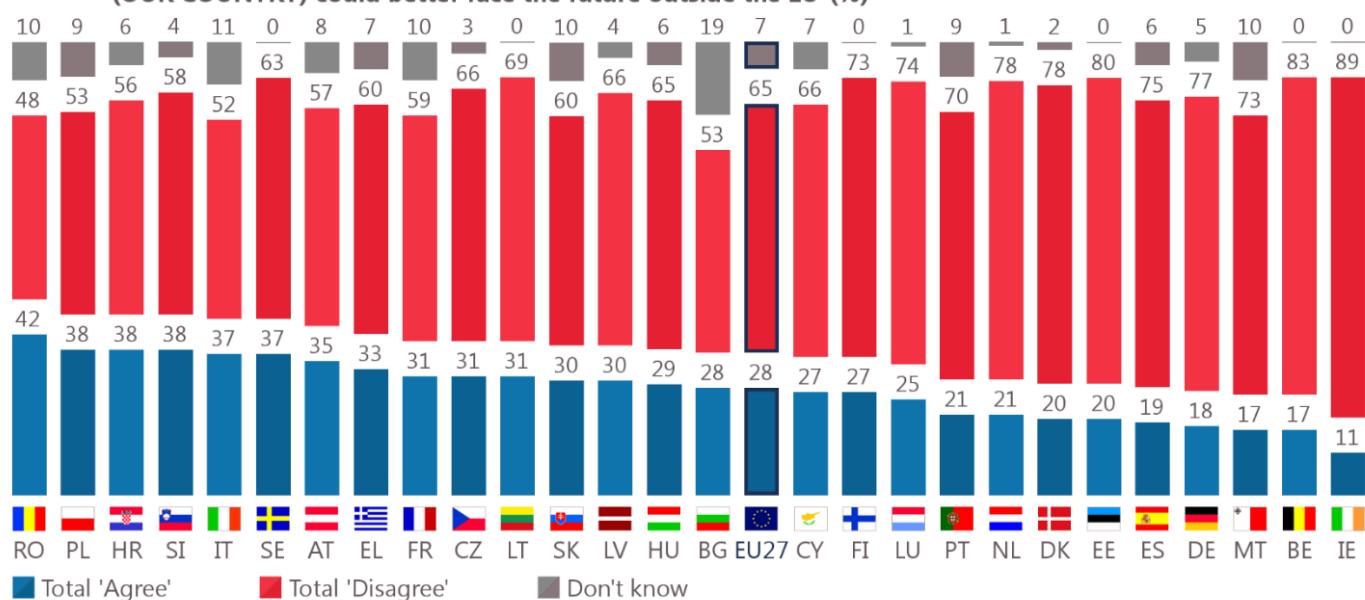
A large majority of the respondents think it is better for their country to be within the European Union than outside. Almost two thirds (65%, -1 percentage point) disagree that their country could better face the future outside the European Union, with 37% who “totally disagree” with the statement. Conversely, close to three in ten (28%, +1) agree their country could better face the future outside the EU, with one in ten in total agreement with this statement. Less than one in ten (7%) say they “don’t know”. These proportions have remained broadly stable since winter 2020-2021 (EB94).

Although a clear majority of respondents both in the **euro area** and in the **non-euro area** disagree that their country could better face the future outside the EU, this opinion is more strongly held in the euro area (67%, -1 percentage points vs 26% “agree”, +1) than outside the euro area (57%, -2 vs 35%, +1). This finding is in line with previous Standard Eurobarometer surveys.

A majority of respondents in all the 27 EU Member States disagree that their country could better face the future outside the EU. At least eight in ten share this view in Ireland (89%, -1 percentage point), Belgium (83%, -1) and Estonia (80%, +1), followed by more than three quarters in Denmark (78%, -1), the Netherlands (78%, -5) and Germany (77%, +1). Romania is the only country where less than half disagree with the statement (48%, -6)<sup>41</sup>.

#### QA11.2 To what extent do you agree or disagree with each of the following statements?

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



Sorted by 'Total Agree'

<sup>41</sup> QA11.2. 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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In nine EU Member States, the proportion of respondents who disagree that their country could better face the future outside the EU has increased since winter 2020-2021. Cyprus (+13 percentage points) stands out for a particularly large increase in the proportion who disagree with this statement, while in the remaining eight countries the increases are below five percentage points.

Conversely, in 16 EU Member States, this share of respondents has declined, with decreases by at least ten percentage points observed in Portugal (-14), Latvia and Slovakia (both -10). In France and Luxembourg there has been no change.

**QA11.2** To what extent do you agree or disagree with each of the following statements?

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

		Total 'Agree'	Sp.2021 - Win.2020/2021	Total 'Disagree'	Sp.2021 - Win.2020/2021	Don't know
EU27		28	▲ 1	65	▼ 1	7
EURO AREA		26	▲ 1	67	▼ 1	7
NON-EURO AREA		35	▲ 1	57	▼ 2	8
SE		37	▲ 8	63	▼ 7	0
CZ		31	▲ 6	66	▼ 9	3
LV		30	▲ 6	66	▼ 10	4
SK		30	▲ 6	60	▼ 10	10
RO		42	▲ 5	48	▼ 6	10
NL		21	▲ 5	78	▼ 5	1
PT		21	▲ 5	70	▼ 14	9
IT		37	▲ 4	52	▼ 5	11
LT		31	▲ 4	69	▼ 4	0
FR		31	▲ 2	59	=	10
MT		17	▲ 2	73	▲ 2	10
EL		33	▲ 1	60	▼ 6	7
HU		29	▲ 1	65	▼ 2	6
FI		27	▲ 1	73	▼ 1	0
BE		17	▲ 1	83	▼ 1	0
IE		11	▲ 1	89	▼ 1	0
SI		38	=	58	▼ 4	4
BG		28	=	53	▲ 4	19
ES		19	=	75	▲ 1	6
DE		18	=	77	▲ 1	5
PL		38	▼ 1	53	▲ 1	9
LU		25	▼ 1	74	=	1
DK		20	▼ 1	78	▼ 1	2
EE		20	▼ 1	80	▲ 1	0
HR		38	▼ 3	56	▲ 1	6
AT		35	▼ 4	57	▲ 4	8
CY		27	▼ 14	66	▲ 13	7

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Majorities of respondents across most socio-demographic categories disagree that their country could better face the future outside the European Union. Nevertheless, some differences can still be observed. Levels of disagreement are particularly widespread among those who ended full-time education aged 20 or more (73%, compared with 55% of those who left education aged 15 or less) and managers (75%, compared with 58% of manual workers and house persons). Respondents in a better financial situation and with a higher self-perceived social status are also more likely to disagree with this statement. In particular, those who never or almost never have difficulties paying their bills are much more likely than those who have difficulties to disagree (71%, compared with 52-53%). Similarly, those who consider themselves as belonging to the upper middle class of society are much more likely to disagree than those who see themselves as belonging to the working class or the lower middle class of society (80%, compared with 57-60%).

Unsurprisingly, the image respondents have of the EU has also an impact on the levels of disagreement with this statement: 81% of respondents who have a positive image of the EU think it is better for their country to be within the European Union than outside, compared with 35% of those who have a negative image of the EU.

**QA11.2** 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	28	65	7
 Gender			
Man	29	65	6
Woman	27	64	9
 Age			
15-24	24	68	8
25-39	27	67	6
40-54	28	66	6
55 +	29	62	9
 Education (End of)			
15-	32	55	13
16-19	33	59	8
20+	23	73	4
Still studying	20	74	6
 Socio-professional category			
Self-employed	27	68	5
Managers	22	75	3
Other white collars	27	67	6
Manual workers	34	58	8
House persons	33	58	9
Unemployed	32	59	9
Retired	28	62	10
Students	20	74	6
 Difficulties paying bills			
Most of the time	37	52	11
From time to time	38	53	9
Almost never/ Never	23	71	6
 Consider belonging to			
The working class	32	57	11
The lower middle class	31	60	9
The middle class	27	68	5
The upper middle class	18	80	2
The upper class	30	70	0

## 2. The European institutions

### 2.1 Awareness of the European institutions and the trust they inspire

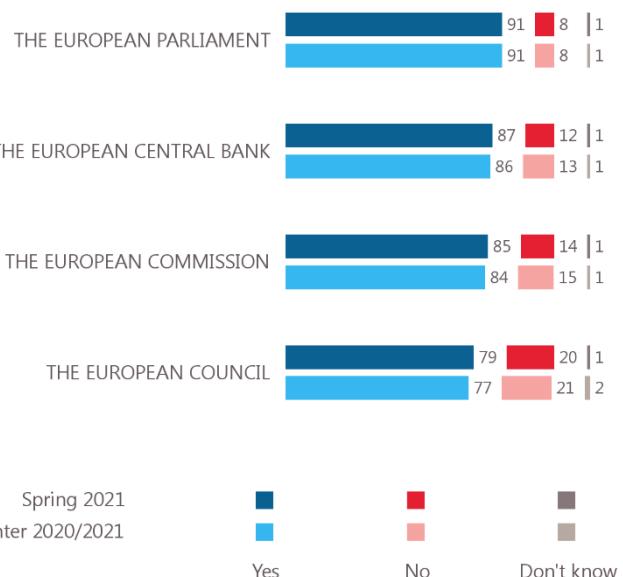
#### Awareness of the European institutions is high and stable

Awareness of the European Parliament, the European Commission and the European Central Bank, as well as the trust they inspire, are measured in all Standard Eurobarometer surveys. In addition, as was the case for the last survey (EB94), the current survey also measures the level of awareness of and trust in the European Council<sup>42</sup>.

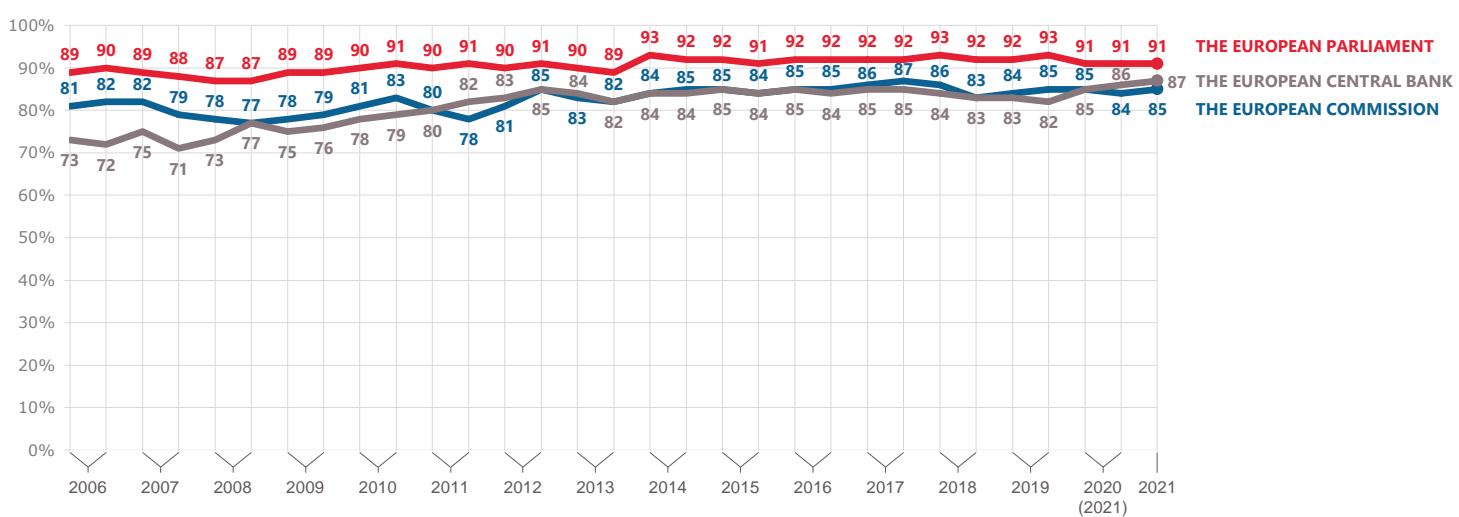
Awareness of the European institutions remains at a very high level, with the **European Parliament** confirming its position as the best-known European institution (91%, no change), followed by the **European Central Bank** (87%, +1 percentage point) and the **European Commission** (85%, +1). Close to eight in ten also say they are aware of the **European Council** (79%, +2).

Awareness of the European Parliament and of the European Commission has broadly remained stable over the last decade, while awareness of the European Central Bank continues to gradually increase (+1 percentage point since winter 2020-2021, +5 since autumn 2019), reaching its record level since spring 2006. Awareness of the European Council has also increased in recent years, rising by nine percentage points since autumn 2019 and attaining its highest level since spring 2010.

**QA9** Have you heard of...?  
 (% - EU)



**QA9** Have you heard of...?  
 (% - EU - YES)



<sup>42</sup> QA9. 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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In all the 27 EU Member States, large majorities are aware of all these four institutions. Awareness is especially high in the case of the **European Parliament**. Almost all respondents in Belgium (99%, +2 percentage points) and Sweden (99%, +2) have heard of this institution, as have more than nine in ten in other 20 countries. The lowest proportions of respondents who are aware of the European Parliament are found in Italy (84%, -1) and Romania (84%, no change). No significant changes can be observed in this share of respondents compared with the last survey.

In all but three countries, at least eight in ten are aware of the **European Central Bank**. The only exceptions are Hungary (79%, +1 percentage point), Poland (74%, +2) and Romania (74%, +2), where a large majority still give this answer. The highest proportions who have heard of this institution are observed in Ireland (97%, +1), Finland (96%, +2), Greece (96%, +4) and Portugal (96%, no change). The only notable change since winter 2020-2021 can be found in Czechia (84%), where, following an 18-percentage point increase between summer 2020 and winter 2020-2021, this share of respondents has decreased by nine percentage points compared to the last survey.

In all but two EU Member States, at least eight in ten have heard of the **European Commission**, with the only exceptions being Italy (73%, no change) and Romania (78%, +1 percentage point). Respondents in Belgium (97%, +2), Luxembourg (96%, +3), Estonia (95%, +1), Greece (95%, +3), Portugal (95%, -2) and Slovenia (95%, +2) are the most likely to be aware of this institution. Once again, the largest evolution compared with the previous Standard Eurobarometer survey can be found in Czechia (86%), where the share of respondents who have heard of the European Commission has declined by eight percentage points since winter 2020-2021. Similarly, a five-percentage point decrease in this proportion is observed in Slovakia (87%).

In 24 EU Member States, more than three quarters have heard of the **European Council**, with the highest proportions observed in Slovenia (93%, +7 percentage points), Portugal (93%, -1) and Malta (90%, -1). At the opposite end of the spectrum, the Netherlands (67%, +5), Austria (69%, -1) and Italy (69%, -1) are the only countries where less than seven in ten are aware of this institution. In terms of evolutions since the last survey, Lithuania (76%, +10) stands out for a particularly large increase in the share of respondents who have heard of the European Council, followed by Slovenia (93% +7), Sweden (85%, +6) and the Netherlands (67%, +5). Conversely, the largest decrease can once again be found in Czechia (83%, -7).

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**QA9** Have you heard of...?  
 (% - YES)

	EU27		The European Parliament		The European Central Bank		The European Commission		The European Council	
			Sp.2021 - Win.2020/2021							
EU27	91	=	87	▲ 1	85	▲ 1	79	▲ 2		
EURO AREA	92	▲ 1	89	▲ 1	86	▲ 1	79	▲ 2		
NON-EURO AREA	89	▼ 1	80	▲ 2	83	=	79	=		
BE	99	▲ 2	95	▲ 1	97	▲ 2	86	▲ 4		
BG	89	▼ 1	84	=	82	▲ 4	76	▲ 3		
CZ	94	▼ 4	84	▼ 9	86	▼ 8	83	▼ 7		
DK	98	▲ 1	88	▲ 1	93	=	80	▲ 1		
DE	95	=	94	▲ 2	89	▲ 1	82	▲ 1		
EE	98	=	93	=	95	▲ 1	80	▲ 1		
IE	97	=	97	▲ 1	94	=	87	=		
EL	96	▲ 3	96	▲ 4	95	▲ 3	85	▲ 1		
ES	92	▲ 1	90	▲ 1	86	▲ 3	81	▲ 4		
FR	92	▲ 3	84	▲ 1	86	▲ 1	77	▲ 1		
HR	93	▲ 1	88	▲ 3	85	=	87	▲ 1		
IT	84	▼ 1	80	▼ 2	73	=	69	▼ 1		
CY	92	▲ 1	91	▲ 1	83	▼ 3	84	=		
LV	95	=	86	▼ 2	88	▼ 2	79	▲ 3		
LT	98	▲ 2	91	▲ 4	92	▲ 1	76	▲ 10		
LU	98	▲ 3	94	▲ 1	96	▲ 3	83	▼ 3		
HU	93	▼ 1	79	▲ 1	87	=	80	▼ 1		
MT	97	▲ 2	93	▲ 1	92	=	90	▼ 1		
NL	96	▼ 1	93	▲ 3	88	▼ 1	67	▲ 5		
AT	86	▼ 3	87	▲ 1	81	=	69	▼ 1		
PL	85	▼ 1	74	▲ 2	80	=	78	▲ 1		
PT	97	▲ 1	96	=	95	▼ 2	93	▼ 1		
RO	84	=	74	▲ 2	78	▲ 1	76	▲ 2		
SI	97	▲ 1	95	▲ 1	95	▲ 2	93	▲ 7		
SK	96	▼ 2	91	▼ 2	87	▼ 5	85	▼ 2		
FI	95	▲ 1	96	▲ 2	94	▲ 2	86	=		
SE	99	▲ 2	92	▲ 1	89	▲ 3	85	▲ 6		

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**QA9.1** Have you heard of...?

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

	Yes	No	Don't know
EU27	91	8	1
<b>Gender</b>			
Man	93	6	1
Woman	90	9	1
<b>Age</b>			
15-24	88	11	1
25-39	93	7	0
40-54	93	7	0
55 +	91	8	1
<b>Education (End of)</b>			
15-	82	16	2
16-19	91	8	1
20+	96	4	0
Still studying	90	9	1
<b>Socio-professional category</b>			
Self-employed	95	4	1
Managers	96	4	0
Other white collars	96	4	0
Manual workers	91	8	1
House persons	82	16	2
Unemployed	87	13	0
Retired	90	9	1
Students	90	9	1
<b>Difficulties paying bills</b>			
Most of the time	85	14	1
From time to time	86	13	1
Almost never/ Never	94	5	1
<b>Consider belonging to</b>			
The working class	89	10	1
The lower middle class	90	9	1
The middle class	92	7	1
The upper middle class	97	3	0
The upper class	95	5	0
<b>Image of the EU</b>			
Total 'Positive'	94	5	1
Neutral	89	10	1
Total 'Negative'	90	10	0

**QA9.3** Have you heard of...?

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

	Yes	No	Don't know
EU27	87	12	1
<b>Gender</b>			
Man	89	10	1
Woman	84	15	1
<b>Age</b>			
15-24	79	19	2
25-39	88	11	1
40-54	90	10	0
55 +	86	13	1
<b>Education (End of)</b>			
15-	76	22	2
16-19	86	13	1
20+	94	6	0
Still studying	83	15	2
<b>Socio-professional category</b>			
Self-employed	92	7	1
Managers	96	4	0
Other white collars	93	7	0
Manual workers	85	14	1
House persons	74	23	3
Unemployed	79	20	1
Retired	85	14	1
Students	83	15	2
<b>Difficulties paying bills</b>			
Most of the time	80	19	1
From time to time	80	19	1
Almost never/ Never	90	9	1
<b>Consider belonging to</b>			
The working class	79	20	1
The lower middle class	85	14	1
The middle class	89	10	1
The upper middle class	96	3	1
The upper class	94	6	0
<b>Image of the EU</b>			
Total 'Positive'	90	9	1
Neutral	83	16	1
Total 'Negative'	86	14	0

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**QA9.2** Have you heard of...?

The European Commission (% - EU)

	Yes	No	Don't know
EU27	85	14	1
<b>Gender</b>			
Man	88	11	1
Woman	82	17	1
<b>Age</b>			
15-24	78	20	2
25-39	87	12	1
40-54	88	11	1
55 +	83	15	2
<b>Education (End of)</b>			
15-	70	27	3
16-19	84	15	1
20+	93	6	1
Still studying	82	17	1
<b>Socio-professional category</b>			
Self-employed	90	10	0
Managers	94	6	0
Other white collars	92	8	0
Manual workers	83	15	2
House persons	68	29	3
Unemployed	79	20	1
Retired	83	16	1
Students	82	17	1
<b>Difficulties paying bills</b>			
Most of the time	76	22	2
From time to time	78	21	1
Almost never/ Never	89	10	1
<b>Consider belonging to</b>			
The working class	79	19	2
The lower middle class	81	18	1
The middle class	87	12	1
The upper middle class	95	5	0
The upper class	96	4	0
<b>Image of the EU</b>			
Total 'Positive'	90	9	1
Neutral	80	19	1
Total 'Negative'	84	15	1

**QA9.4** Have you heard of...?

The European Council (% - EU)

	Yes	No	Don't know
EU27	79	20	1
<b>Gender</b>			
Man	82	17	1
Woman	75	23	2
<b>Age</b>			
15-24	72	26	2
25-39	80	19	1
40-54	82	17	1
55 +	77	21	2
<b>Education (End of)</b>			
15-	63	34	3
16-19	77	21	2
20+	88	12	0
Still studying	76	22	2
<b>Socio-professional category</b>			
Self-employed	86	14	0
Managers	89	10	1
Other white collars	86	14	0
Manual workers	76	22	2
House persons	61	36	3
Unemployed	67	31	2
Retired	76	23	1
Students	76	22	2
<b>Difficulties paying bills</b>			
Most of the time	68	30	2
From time to time	72	26	2
Almost never/ Never	82	17	1
<b>Consider belonging to</b>			
The working class	71	27	2
The lower middle class	74	25	1
The middle class	82	17	1
The upper middle class	88	12	0
The upper class	91	9	0
<b>Image of the EU</b>			
Total 'Positive'	85	14	1
Neutral	73	25	2
Total 'Negative'	76	23	1

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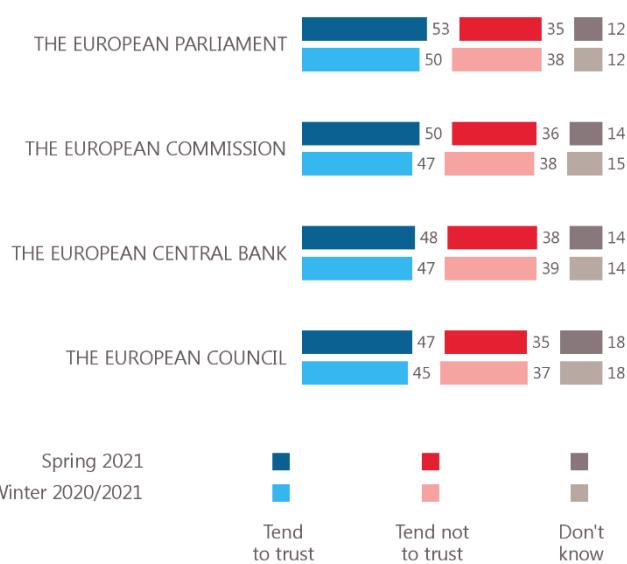
**Trust in the European institutions continues to rise**

Respondents were asked whether they tended to trust or not to trust the aforementioned institutions<sup>43</sup>. A majority of respondents trust each of these European institutions, with levels of trust slightly increasing since the last Standard Eurobarometer survey in winter 2020-2021. As has always been the case since 2006, the **European Parliament** (53%, +3 percentage points) is the institution that Europeans trust the most, followed by the **European Commission** (50%, +3), the **European Central Bank** (48%, +1) and the **European Council** (47%, +2). Less than four in ten say they tend not to trust each of these institutions: 35% (-3) for the European Parliament, 36% (-2) for the European Commission, 38% (-1) for the European Central Bank and 35% (-2) for the European Council. More than one in ten (between 12% and 18%) do not know whether they trust these institutions or not.

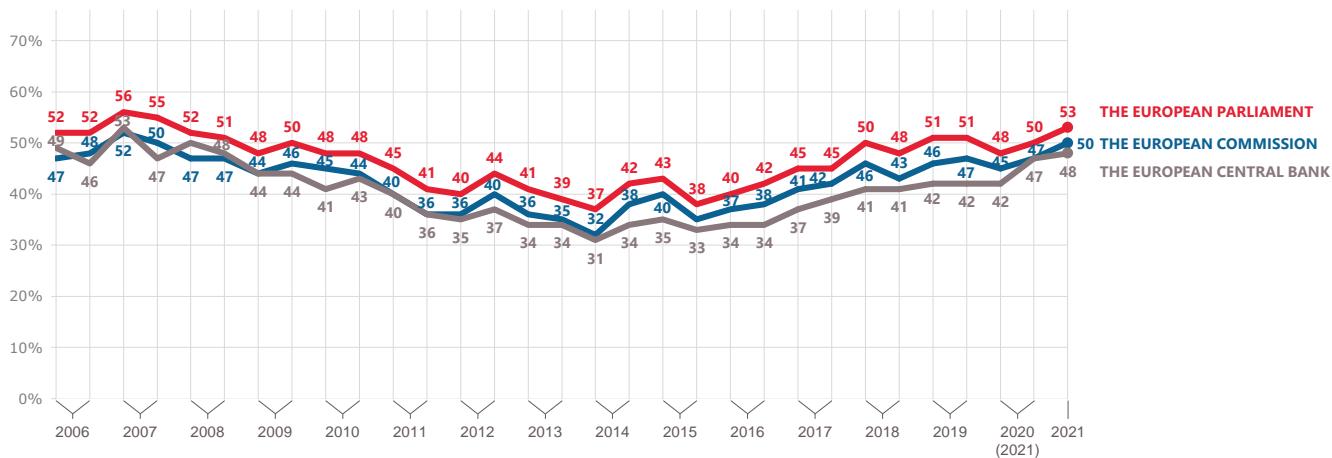
Following the increases between summer 2020 and winter 2020-2021, the levels of trust in the European Parliament, the European Commission and the European Central Bank have continued to rise in the current survey. Trust in the European Parliament (+3 since winter 2020-2021, +5 since summer 2020) is now at the highest level since autumn 2007. Similarly, trust in the European Commission (+3, +5) is now at a level last seen in autumn 2007, while trust in the European Central Bank (+1, +6) is at its highest since autumn 2008.

These increases directly translate into an improvement of the trust index for the three institutions<sup>44</sup>. The gap between the proportion of respondents who tend to trust and the one who tend not to trust each of these institutions has further widened since winter 2020-2021, particularly in the case of the European Parliament (from +12 to +18) and of the European Commission (from +9 to +14). The positive evolution appears more markedly when comparing the results with the summer 2020: since then, the trust-distrust ratio has increased by ten points for the European Parliament and the European Central Bank, and by nine points for the European Commission.

**QA10** And do you tend to trust or tend not to trust these European institutions?  
 (% - EU)



**QA10** And do you tend to trust or tend not to trust these European institutions?  
 (% - EU - TEND TO TRUST)



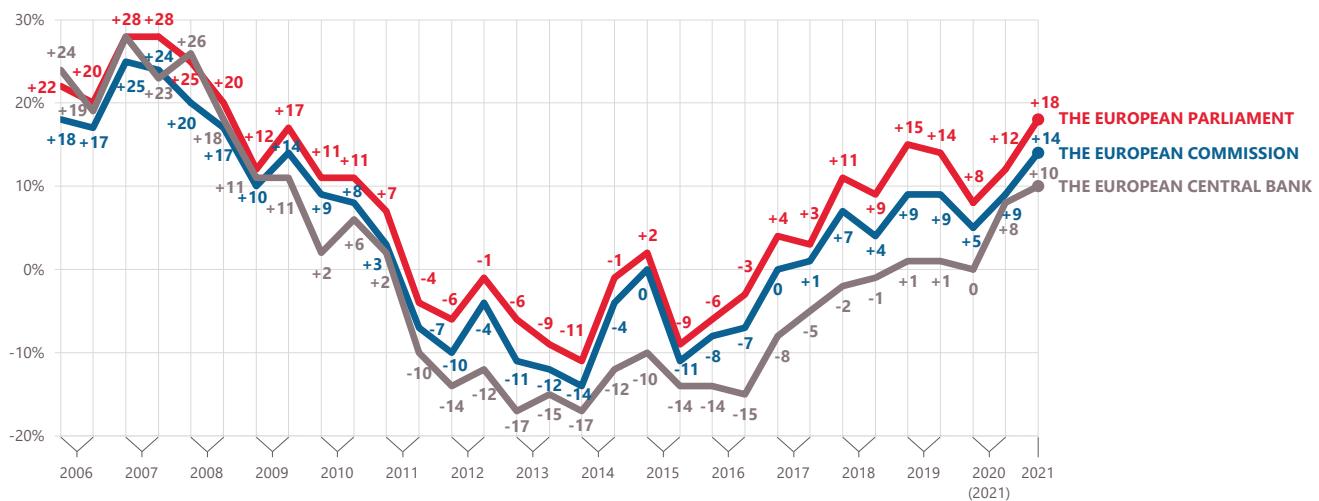
<sup>43</sup> QA10. And please tell me if you tend to trust or tend not to trust these European institutions. 1. The European Parliament; 2. The European Commission; 3. The European Central Bank; 4. The European Council.

<sup>44</sup> The trust index is the difference between proportion who "tend to trust" and the proportion who "tend not to trust".

**Standard Eurobarometer 95**  
**Public opinion in the European Union**  
**Spring 2021**

**QA10** And do you tend to trust or tend not to trust these European institutions?

(EU - TRUST INDEX (TEND TO TRUST - TEND NOT TO TRUST))

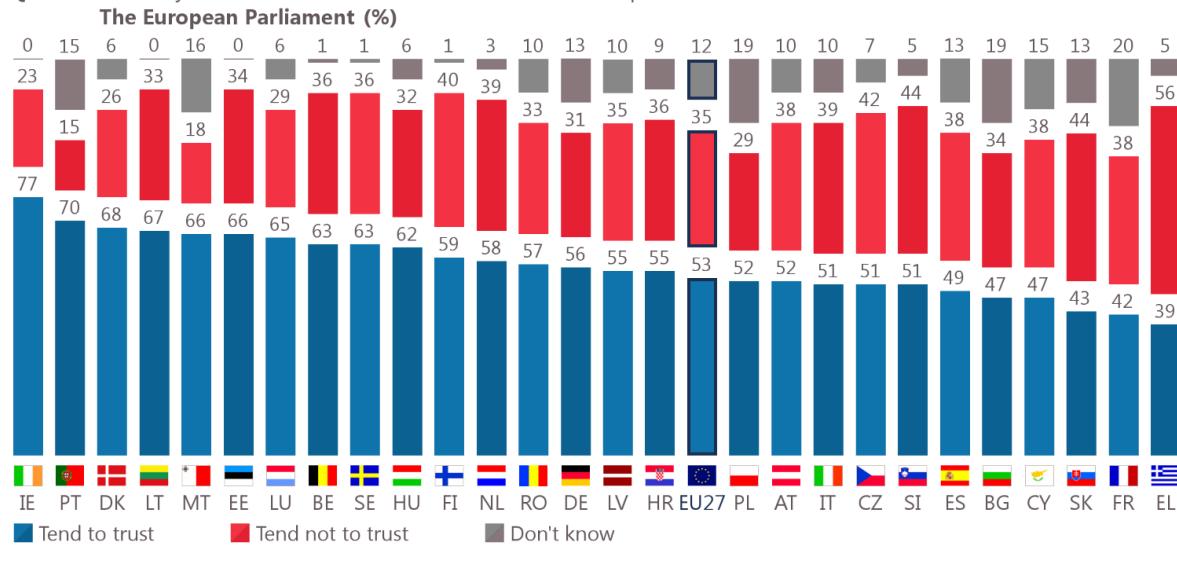


**Standard Eurobarometer 95**  
**Public opinion in the European Union**  
**Spring 2021**

A majority of respondents trust the **European Parliament** in 25 EU Member States (compared with 23 in winter 2020-2021). Ireland (77%) stands out for a particularly high proportion of respondents who give this answer, followed by Portugal (70%) and Denmark (68%).

The only two countries where majorities tend not to trust this institution are Greece (56% “tend not to trust” vs 39% “tend to trust”) and Slovakia (44% vs 43%).

**QA10.1** And do you tend to trust or tend not to trust these European institutions?



**Standard Eurobarometer 95**  
**Public opinion in the European Union**  
**Spring 2021**

**QA10.1** And do 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	53	35	12
<b>Gender</b>			
Man	53	37	10
Woman	52	34	14
<b>Age</b>			
15-24	56	26	18
25-39	55	35	10
40-54	53	38	9
55 +	49	37	14
<b>Education (End of)</b>			
15-	41	42	17
16-19	49	39	12
20+	61	31	8
Still studying	60	23	17
<b>Socio-professional category</b>			
Self-employed	55	39	6
Managers	65	29	6
Other white collars	60	31	9
Manual workers	48	40	12
House persons	41	40	19
Unemployed	37	47	16
Retired	48	37	15
Students	60	23	17
<b>Difficulties paying bills</b>			
Most of the time	38	49	13
From time to time	45	43	12
Almost never/ Never	57	31	12
<b>Consider belonging to</b>			
The working class	42	42	16
The lower middle class	46	42	12
The middle class	57	33	10
The upper middle class	68	24	8
The upper class	65	33	2
<b>Image of the EU</b>			
Total 'Positive'	77	13	10
Neutral	41	43	16
Total 'Negative'	14	80	6

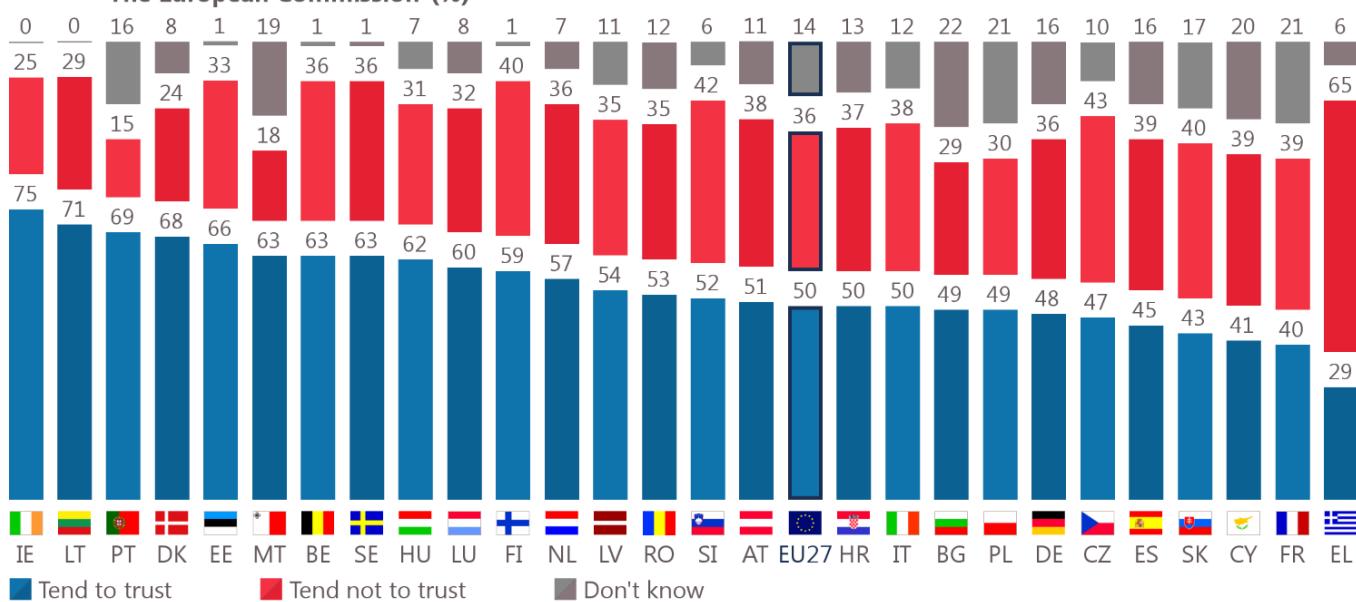
**Standard Eurobarometer 95**  
**Public opinion in the European Union**  
**Spring 2021**

In 26 out of the 27 EU Member States (compared with 23 in winter 2020-2021), a majority trust the **European Commission**, with respondents in Ireland (75%), Lithuania (71%) and Portugal (69%) being the most likely to give this answer.

At the opposite end of the scale, Greece is the only country where the proportion of respondents who distrust the European Commission outweighs the one who trust this institution (65% vs 29%).

**QA10.2** And do you tend to trust or tend not to trust these European institutions?

**The European Commission (%)**



Sorted by 'Tend to trust'

**Standard Eurobarometer 95**  
**Public opinion in the European Union**  
**Spring 2021**

**QA10.2** And do 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	50	36	14
 Gender			
Man	50	39	11
Woman	49	34	17
 Age			
15-24	53	27	20
25-39	51	37	12
40-54	50	39	11
55 +	47	37	16
 Education (End of)			
15-	38	41	21
16-19	45	40	15
20+	58	33	9
Still studying	57	24	19
 Socio-professional category			
Self-employed	54	37	9
Managers	63	30	7
Other white collars	56	33	11
Manual workers	44	42	14
House persons	36	40	24
Unemployed	34	48	18
Retired	46	37	17
Students	57	24	19
 Difficulties paying bills			
Most of the time	35	49	16
From time to time	43	43	14
Almost never/ Never	54	33	13
 Image of the EU			
Total 'Positive'	73	15	12
Neutral	37	44	19
Total 'Negative'	13	80	7

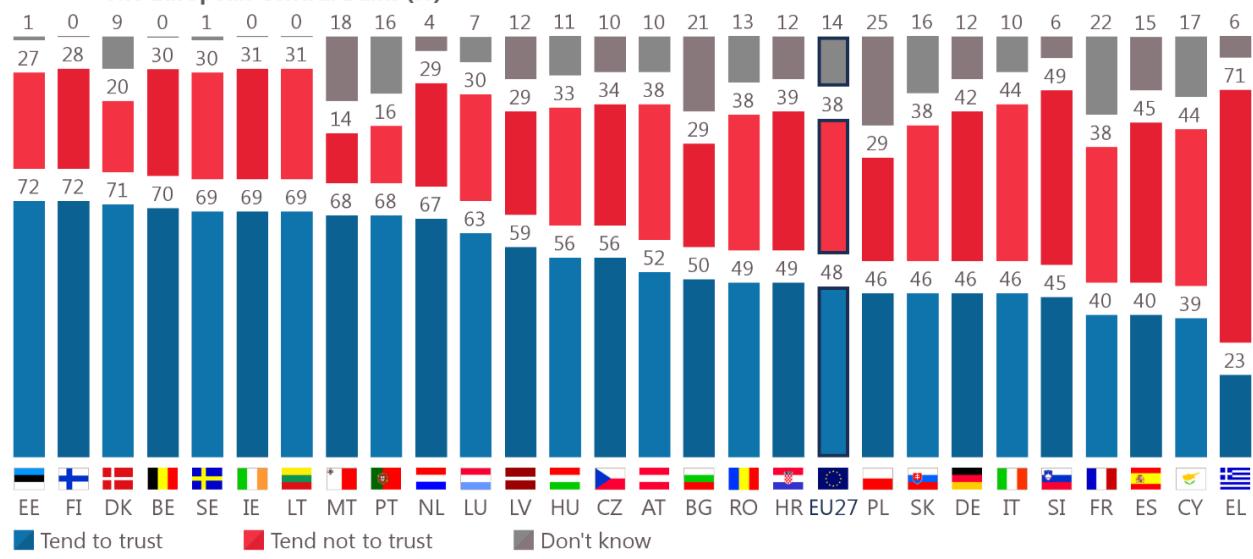
**Standard Eurobarometer 95**  
**Public opinion in the European Union**  
**Spring 2021**

A majority in 23 EU Member States (same as in winter 2020-2021) tend to trust the European Central Bank, with at least seven in ten giving this answer in Estonia, Finland (72% in both countries), Denmark (71%) and Belgium (70%).

Once again, Greece stands out for a high share of respondents who tend not to trust the European Central Bank (71% "tend not to trust" vs 23% "tend to trust"). Distrust outweighs trust in another three countries: Slovenia (49% vs 45%), Spain (45% vs 40%) and Cyprus (44% vs 39%).

**QA10.3** And do you tend to trust or tend not to trust these European institutions?

**The European Central Bank (%)**



Sorted by 'Tend to trust'

**Standard Eurobarometer 95**  
**Public opinion in the European Union**  
**Spring 2021**

**QA10.3** And do 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	48	38	14
<b>Gender</b>			
Man	50	40	10
Woman	47	37	16
<b>Age</b>			
15-24	51	29	20
25-39	49	41	10
40-54	50	39	11
55 +	46	39	15
<b>Education (End of)</b>			
15-	36	45	19
16-19	44	42	14
20+	57	34	9
Still studying	54	28	18
<b>Socio-professional category</b>			
Self-employed	52	41	7
Managers	62	32	6
Other white collars	56	34	10
Manual workers	42	44	14
House persons	35	44	21
Unemployed	35	48	17
Retired	45	39	16
Students	54	28	18
<b>Difficulties paying bills</b>			
Most of the time	32	52	16
From time to time	41	45	14
Almost never/ Never	53	34	13
<b>Image of the EU</b>			
Total 'Positive'	69	19	12
Neutral	37	46	17
Total 'Negative'	19	75	6

**Standard Eurobarometer 95**  
**Public opinion in the European Union**  
**Spring 2021**

Results at country level reveals significant evolutions of the trust index since the last Standard Eurobarometer survey in winter 2020-2021. This is particularly the case for Austria and Cyprus, where the index has increased the most for all the three institutions.

In 19 EU Member States, there has been an increase in the trust index for the **European Parliament** since winter 2020-2021. The most notable increases are observed in Austria (+15 points), Cyprus (+12) and Spain (+9), while the largest decrease is found in the Netherlands (-16), followed by Hungary (-6). The trust-distrust ratio has remained stable in Latvia.

Very similar evolutions can be observed in the case of the **European Commission**, with the trust index for this institution showing improvements in 19 EU Member States. The largest increases are again found in Austria (+17 points) and Cyprus (+10), followed by Germany (+9). Conversely, the Netherlands (-14), Portugal (-13) and Slovakia (-7) have seen significant declines in this indicator.

The picture is more mixed in the case of the **European Central Bank**, with the trust index improving in 13 countries, worsening in a further ten countries and remaining unchanged in the other four countries. Once again, the largest increases in the trust-distrust ratio can be found in Austria (+13 points) and Cyprus (+10), followed by Poland and Croatia (+9 for both countries). At the other end of the scale, decreases by at least ten points are recorded in Greece (-13), Czechia (-11) and Luxembourg (-10).

**QA10** And do you tend to trust or tend not to trust these European institutions?  
**(TRUST INDEX (TEND TO TRUST - TEND NOT TO TRUST))**

The European Parliament			The European Commission			The European Central Bank					
	Tend to trust - Tend not to trust Sp.2021	Sp.2021 - Win.2020/ 2021		Tend to trust - Tend not to trust Sp.2021	Sp.2021 - Win.2020/ 2021		Tend to trust - Tend not to trust Sp.2021	Sp.2021 - Win.2020/ 2021			
EU27	EU	+18	▲ 6	EU27	EU	+14	▲ 5	EU27	EU	+10	▲ 2
EURO AREA		+16	▲ 6	EURO AREA		+10	▲ 5	EURO AREA		+7	▲ 2
NON-EURO AREA		+24	▲ 3	NON-EURO AREA		+20	▲ 2	NON-EURO AREA		+20	▲ 2
AT	AT	+14	▲ 15	AT	AT	+13	▲ 17	AT	AT	+14	▲ 13
CY	CY	+9	▲ 12	CY	CY	+2	▲ 10	CY	CY	-5	▲ 10
ES	ES	+11	▲ 9	DE	DE	+12	▲ 9	PL	PL	+17	▲ 9
EE	EE	+32	▲ 8	BG	BG	+20	▲ 8	HR	HR	+10	▲ 9
CZ	CZ	+9	▲ 8	EE	EE	+33	▲ 7	BG	BG	+21	▲ 8
DK	DK	+42	▲ 7	LU	LU	+28	▲ 7	FI	FI	+44	▲ 7
DE	DE	+25	▲ 7	HR	HR	+13	▲ 7	MT	MT	+54	▲ 5
FR	FR	+4	▲ 7	FI	FI	+19	▲ 6	RO	RO	+11	▲ 4
MT	MT	+48	▲ 6	DK	DK	+44	▲ 5	EE	EE	+45	▲ 3
BE	BE	+27	▲ 5	BE	BE	+27	▲ 5	ES	ES	-5	▲ 3
LU	LU	+36	▲ 4	SI	SI	+10	▲ 5	BE	BE	+40	▲ 2
RO	RO	+24	▲ 4	ES	ES	+6	▲ 5	HU	HU	+23	▲ 2
FI	FI	+19	▲ 4	RO	RO	+18	▲ 4	DE	DE	+4	▲ 1
HR	HR	+19	▲ 3	IT	IT	+12	▲ 4	LT	LT	+38	=
SI	SI	+7	▲ 3	FR	FR	+1	▲ 4	LV	LV	+30	=
PL	PL	+23	▲ 2	MT	MT	+45	▲ 3	FR	FR	+2	=
BG	BG	+13	▲ 2	PL	PL	+19	▲ 3	IT	IT	+2	=
IT	IT	+12	▲ 2	IE	IE	+50	▲ 1	NL	NL	+38	▼ 1
IE	IE	+54	▲ 1	SE	SE	+27	▲ 1	PT	PT	+52	▼ 2
LV	LV	+20	=	CZ	CZ	+4	▼ 1	SI	SI	-4	▼ 2
LT	LT	+34	▼ 4	LT	LT	+42	▼ 2	DK	DK	+51	▼ 5
PT	PT	+55	▼ 5	HU	HU	+31	▼ 3	SE	SE	+39	▼ 5
SE	SE	+27	▼ 5	LV	LV	+19	▼ 3	SK	SK	+8	▼ 6
SK	SK	-1	▼ 5	EL	EL	-36	▼ 3	IE	IE	+38	▼ 7
EL	EL	-17	▼ 5	SK	SK	+3	▼ 7	LU	LU	+33	▼ 10
HU	HU	+30	▼ 6	PT	PT	+54	▼ 13	CZ	CZ	+22	▼ 11
NL	NL	+19	▼ 16	NL	NL	+21	▼ 14	EL	EL	-48	▼ 13

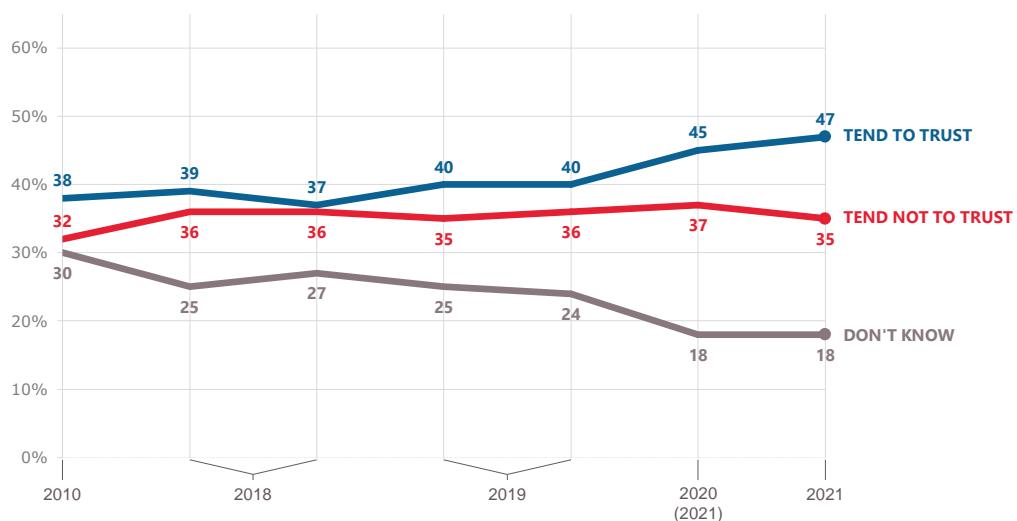
**Standard Eurobarometer 95**  
**Public opinion in the European Union**  
**Spring 2021**

Trust in the **European Council** had increased by five percentage points between autumn 2019 and winter 2020-2021 and has risen by a further two percentage points since then, while the level of distrust has slightly declined (35%, -2).

The level of trust in the European Council is now at its highest since spring 2010 (47%).

**QA10.4** And do you tend to trust or tend not to trust these European institutions?

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



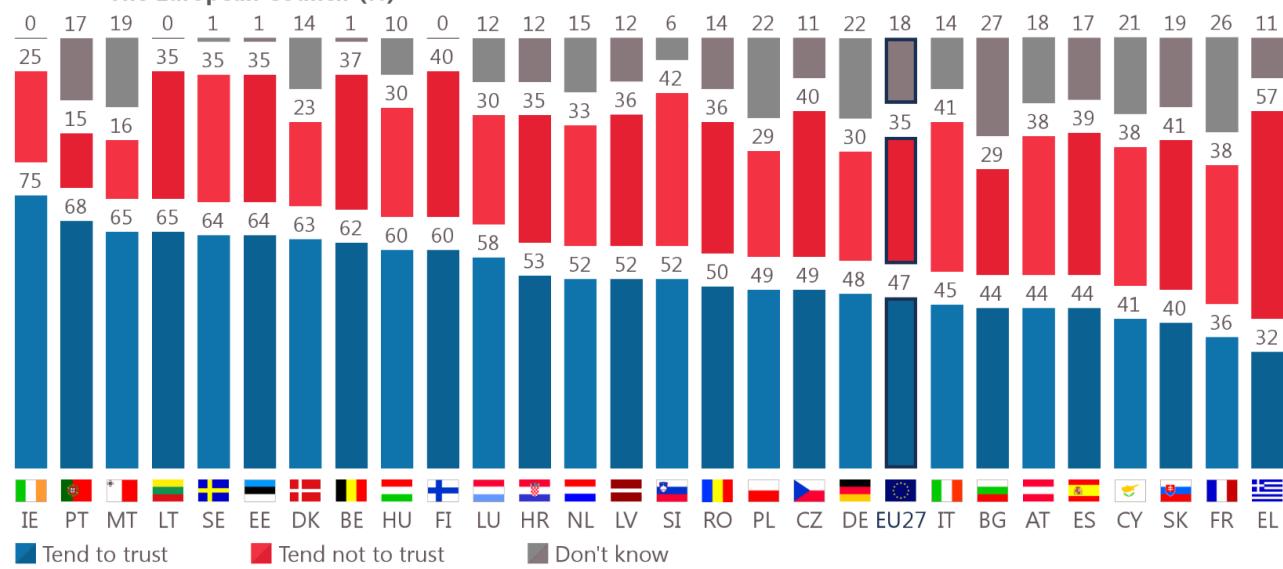
**Standard Eurobarometer 95**  
**Public opinion in the European Union**  
**Spring 2021**

In 24 EU Member States (compared with 22 in winter 2020-2021), a majority of respondents tend to trust the European Council. Those in Ireland (75%), Portugal (68%), Lithuania and Malta (65% in both countries) are the most likely to trust this institution.

Conversely, distrust outweighs trust in three countries: Greece (57% "tend not to trust" vs 32% "tend to trust"), Slovakia (41% vs 40%) and France (38% vs 36%).

**QA10.4** And do you tend to trust or tend not to trust these European institutions?

**The European Council (%)**



*Sorted by 'Tend to trust'*

**QA10.4** And do 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	47	35	18
<b>Gender</b>			
Man	49	37	14
Woman	46	34	20
<b>Age</b>			
15-24	50	27	23
25-39	49	36	15
40-54	49	37	14
55 +	45	36	19
<b>Education (End of)</b>			
15-	35	41	24
16-19	44	38	18
20+	55	32	13
Still studying	52	25	23
<b>Socio-professional category</b>			
Self-employed	51	38	11
Managers	59	29	12
Other white collars	56	31	13
Manual workers	43	40	17
House persons	35	40	25
Unemployed	33	46	21
Retired	43	36	21
Students	52	25	23
<b>Difficulties paying bills</b>			
Most of the time	33	48	19
From time to time	40	43	17
Almost never/ Never	52	31	17
<b>Image of the EU</b>			
Total 'Positive'	70	14	16
Neutral	36	42	22
Total 'Negative'	14	77	9

**Standard Eurobarometer 95**  
**Public opinion in the European Union**  
**Spring 2021**

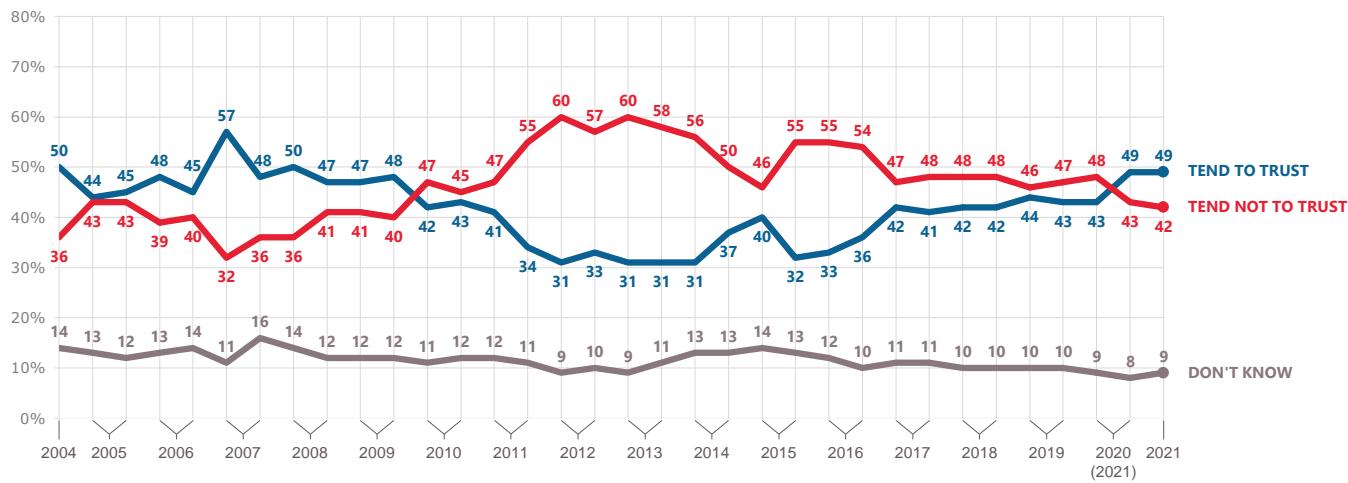
## 2.2 Trust in the European Union

### Trust in the European Union remains at its highest level since spring 2008

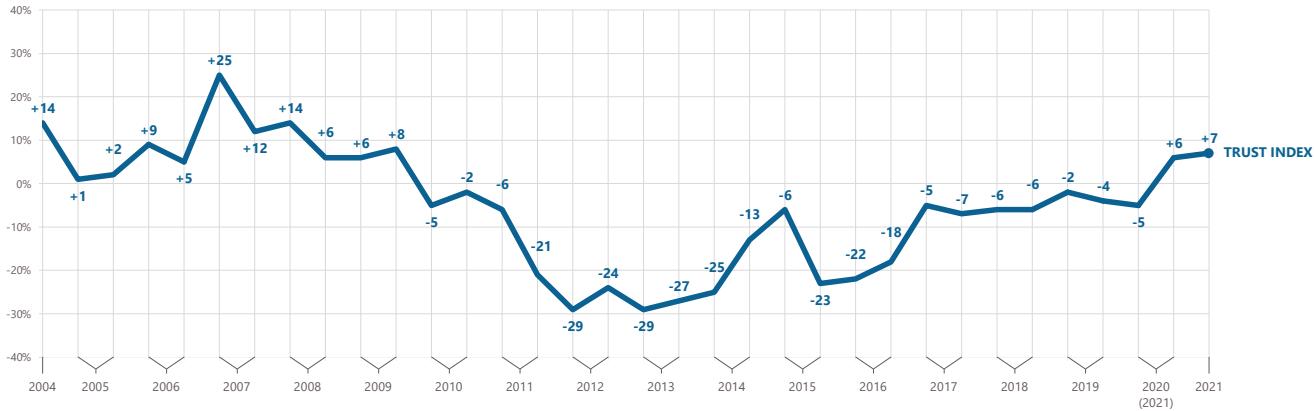
Almost half of the respondents (49%) tend to trust the European Union. After an increase by six percentage points between summer 2020 and winter 2020-2021, the proportion who trust the EU has remained stable at a relatively high level, the highest since spring 2008. The share of respondents who tend not to trust the EU has also remained broadly stable (42%, -1). Slightly less than one in ten (9%) express no opinion<sup>45</sup>.

The stability of these results compared to the previous Standard Eurobarometer survey is also reflected in the evolution of the trust index. Following an increase by 11 points between summer 2020 and winter 2020-2021, the gap between the proportion who trust the EU and the one who distrust it has only increased by one point in the current survey and now stands at +7.

**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)**



**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>45</sup> QA6a.11. I would like to ask you a question about how much trust you have in certain institutions. For each of the following institutions, please tell me if you tend to trust it or tend not to trust it. The European Union.

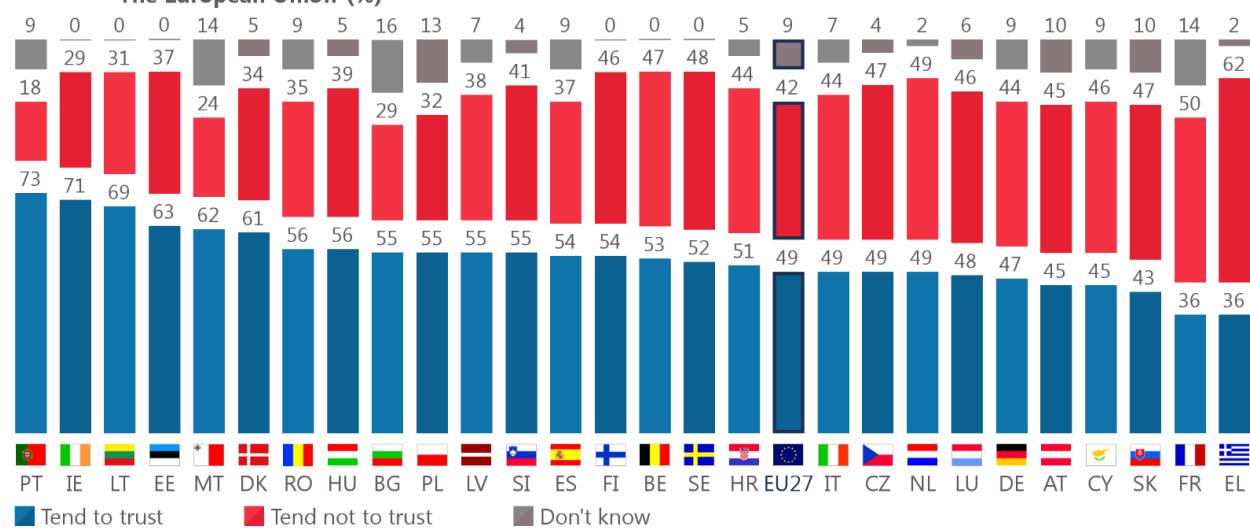
**Standard Eurobarometer 95**  
**Public opinion in the European Union**  
**Spring 2021**

There are large variations at country level in the proportions of respondents who trust the EU. In 21 EU Member States, a majority tend to trust the EU (compared with 20 in winter 2020-2021), with particularly high proportions observed in Portugal (73%), Ireland (71%) and Lithuania (69%).

Distrust outweighs trust in four countries: Greece (62% “tend not to trust” vs 36% “tend to trust”), France (50% vs 36%), Slovakia (47% vs 43%) and Cyprus (46% vs 45%). Opinions are divided in Austria (45% vs 45%) and the Netherlands (49% vs 49%).

**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 (%)**



*Sorted by ‘Tend to trust’*

**Standard Eurobarometer 95**  
**Public opinion in the European Union**  
**Spring 2021**

The share of respondents who tend to trust the EU has increased in eight EU Member States since winter 2020-2021, and most notably in Cyprus (45%, +6 percentage points), Poland (55%, +5) and Italy (49%, +5). Conversely, this proportion has decreased in 17 countries, even though in most of them the decline is by three percentage points or less. The Netherlands stands out for a particularly large decrease (49%, -12), followed by Luxembourg (48%, -7) and Slovakia (43%, -7). The level of trust is stable in Croatia and Slovenia.

The proportion who tend not to trust the EU has increased in 11 countries, particularly in the Netherlands (49%, +14 percentage points) and Sweden (48%, +7). At the other end of the scale, distrust has declined in 12 countries, and by more than five percentage points in Austria (45%, -8), Poland (32%, -6) and Cyprus (46%, -6). The level of distrust remains stable in Bulgaria, Croatia, Germany and Romania.

**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 (%)**

	EU27		Tend to trust	Sp.2021 - Win.2020/2021	Tend not to trust	Sp.2021 - Win.2020/2021	Don't know
	EU27		49	=	42	▼ 1	9
	EURO AREA		48	=	44	=	8
	NON-EURO AREA		54	=	37	▼ 1	9
CY		45	▲ 6	46	▼ 6	9	
PL		55	▲ 5	32	▼ 6	13	
IT		49	▲ 5	44	▼ 2	7	
FI		54	▲ 4	46	▼ 4	0	
AT		45	▲ 4	45	▼ 8	10	
BG		55	▲ 2	29	=	16	
ES		54	▲ 2	37	▼ 1	9	
CZ		49	▲ 1	47	▼ 5	4	
SI		55	=	41	▼ 4	4	
HR		51	=	44	=	5	
LT		69	▼ 1	31	▲ 1	0	
EE		63	▼ 1	37	▲ 1	0	
DK		61	▼ 1	34	▼ 4	5	
DE		47	▼ 1	44	=	9	
EL		36	▼ 1	62	▼ 1	2	
MT		62	▼ 2	24	▲ 1	14	
RO		56	▼ 2	35	=	9	
IE		71	▼ 3	29	▲ 3	0	
HU		56	▼ 3	39	▲ 3	5	
BE		53	▼ 3	47	▲ 3	0	
FR		36	▼ 3	50	▲ 1	14	
PT		73	▼ 5	18	▼ 3	9	
LV		55	▼ 6	38	▼ 1	7	
SE		52	▼ 6	48	▲ 7	0	
LU		48	▼ 7	46	▲ 1	6	
SK		43	▼ 7	47	▲ 3	10	
NL		49	▼ 12	49	▲ 14	2	

**Standard Eurobarometer 95**  
**Public opinion in the European Union**  
**Spring 2021**

In line with the results of previous Standard Eurobarometer surveys, the **socio-demographic data** reveal that trust in the European Union is highest among young people, those who stayed longer in full-time education and those in a better socio-economic situation. More particularly, 57% of respondents aged 15-24, 55% of those who finished education aged 20 or more and more than half among managers (57%) and other white-collar workers (54%) say they trust the EU. In addition, levels of trust are higher among those who consider themselves as belonging to the upper (72%) or upper middle class (62%) of society and among those who never or almost never have difficulties paying their bills (53%)

The level of trust in the EU is considerably lower among respondents aged 55 or more (46%). Respondents who trust the EU are even in the minority among those who left full-time education aged 15 or less (43% "tend to trust" vs 44% "tend not to trust"), the unemployed (39% vs 52%) and manual workers (45% vs 47%), those who see themselves as belonging to the working class (41% vs 46%) or the lower middle class of society (43% vs 48%) and those who have difficulties paying their bills most of the time (37% vs 53%) or from time to time (43% vs 49%).

The image respondents have of the EU has also an impact on the level of trust: 77% of those who have a positive image of the EU say they tend to trust the EU, compared with only 8% of those who have a negative image.

**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**

	Tend to trust	Tend not to trust	Don't know
EU27	49	42	9
Gender			
Man	50	43	7
Woman	49	41	10
Age			
15-24	57	33	10
25-39	52	42	6
40-54	49	44	7
55 +	46	44	10
Education (End of)			
15-	43	44	13
16-19	45	47	8
20+	55	39	6
Still studying	63	27	10
Socio-professional category			
Self-employed	50	45	5
Managers	57	39	4
Other white collars	54	39	7
Manual workers	45	47	8
House persons	44	42	14
Unemployed	39	52	9
Retired	45	44	11
Students	63	27	10
Difficulties paying bills			
Most of the time	37	53	10
From time to time	43	49	8
Almost never/ Never	53	39	8
Consider belonging to			
The working class	41	46	13
The lower middle class	43	48	9
The middle class	53	40	7
The upper middle class	62	34	4
The upper class	72	28	0
Image of the EU			
Total 'Positive'	77	17	6
Neutral	35	53	12
Total 'Negative'	8	88	4

**Standard Eurobarometer 95**  
**Public opinion in the European Union**  
**Spring 2021**

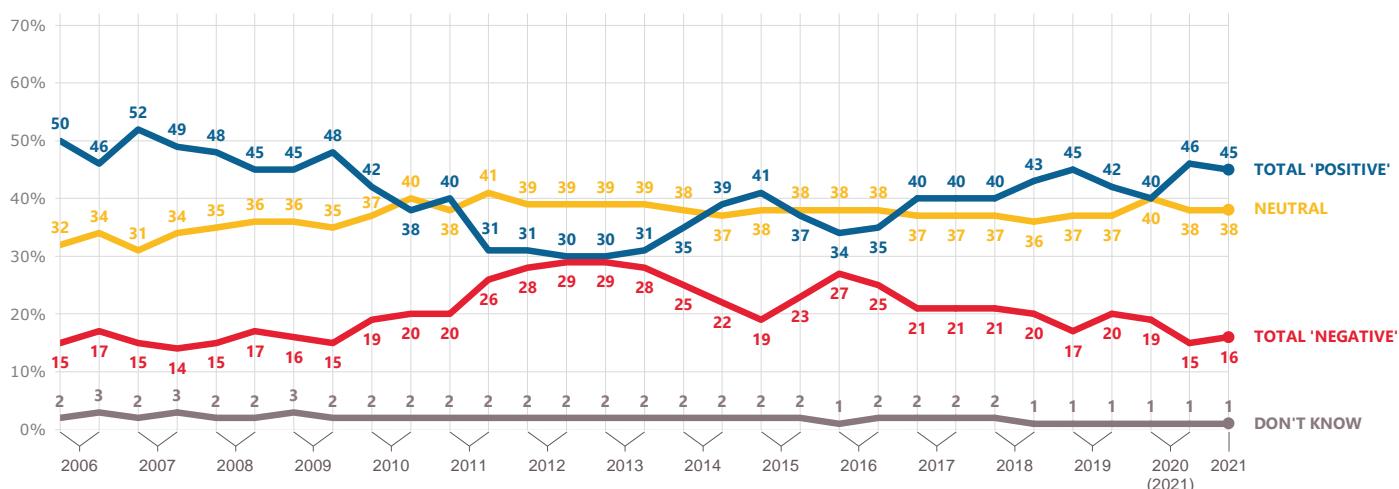
## 2.3 The European Union's image

### A majority of respondents have a positive image of the EU

A majority of respondents have a positive image of the EU (45%) and, after a six-percentage point increase between summer 2020 and winter 2020-2021, this proportion has remained broadly stable in the current survey (-1 percentage point). Less than four in ten (38%, no change) have a neutral image of the EU, while 16% (+1) see it in a negative light<sup>46</sup>.

As in the previous Standard Eurobarometer survey (EB94), while majorities in both **euro area** and **non-euro area** countries hold a positive view of the EU, those in euro area countries are less likely to see the EU in a positive light compared with those in non-euro area countries (44% vs 48%). Slightly less than four in ten have a neutral image of the EU in both euro area (38%) and non-euro area (39%) countries, while those in the euro area are more likely to have a negative image than those outside it (17% vs 13%). These results have remained relatively stable since winter 2020-2021.

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



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

	EU27	EURO AREA	NON-EURO AREA	Total 'Positive'	Sp.2021 - Win.2020/2021	Neutral	Sp.2021 - Win.2020/2021	Total 'Negative'	Sp.2021 - Win.2020/2021	Don't know
	EU27	EURO AREA	NON-EURO AREA	45	▼ 1	38	=	16	▲ 1	1
				44	▼ 1	38	▼ 1	17	▲ 2	1
				48	▼ 2	39	▲ 1	13	▲ 1	0

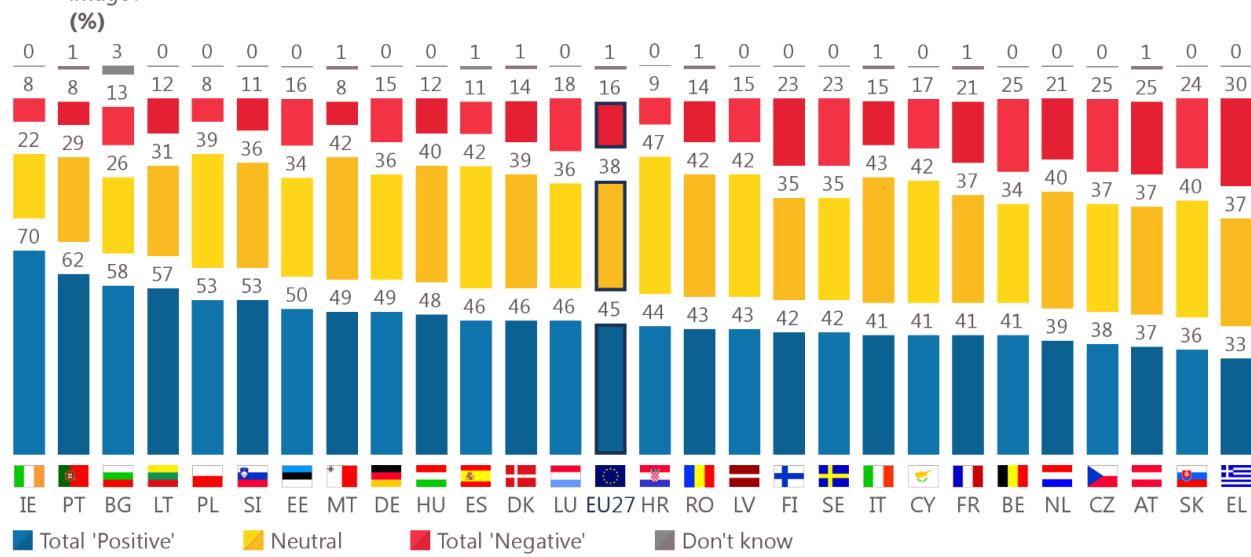
<sup>46</sup> D78. In general, does the EU conjure up for you a very positive, fairly positive, neutral, fairly negative or very negative image?

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In 20 EU Member States, the majority of respondents have a positive image of the European Union (compared with 24 in winter 2020-2021), even though the proportion of respondents who hold a positive view of the EU outweighs the one holding a negative opinion in all countries. The gap between these proportions is the widest in Ireland (70% "positive" vs 8% "negative") and Portugal (62% vs 8%). At the other end of the spectrum, the difference between these two proportions is the lowest in Greece (33% vs 30%), Slovakia (36% vs 24%) and Austria (37% vs 25%).

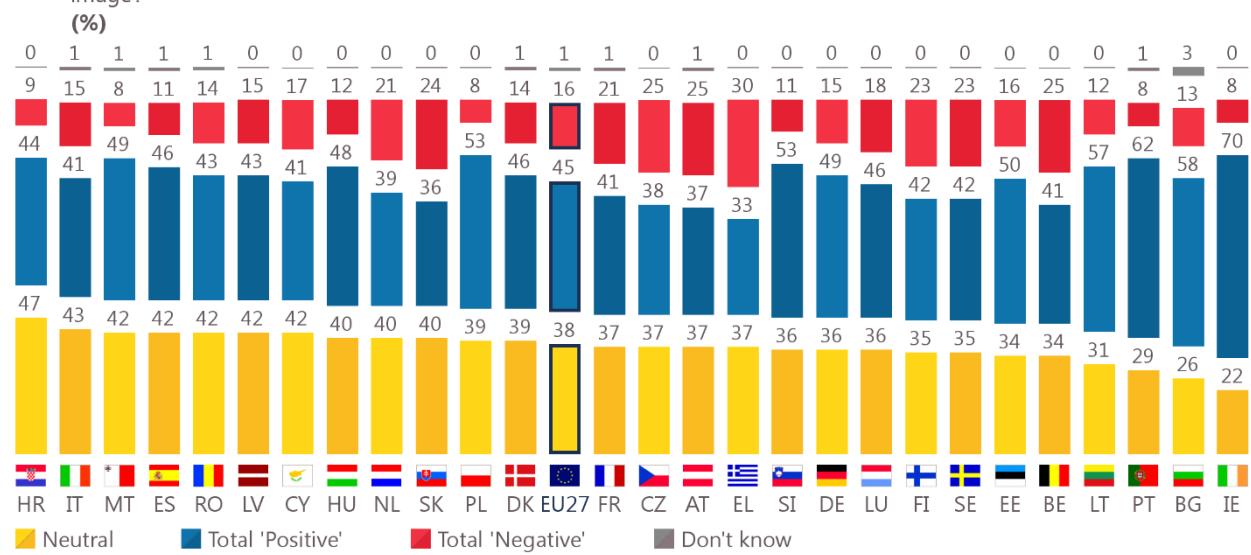
In six EU Member States, a majority have a neutral image of the EU: Croatia (47% "neutral" vs 44% "positive"), Italy (43% vs 41%), Cyprus (42% vs 41%), the Netherlands (40% vs 39%), Slovakia (40% vs 36%) and Greece (37% vs 33%). In all countries, the neutral image of the EU outweighs the negative one.

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



Sorted by "Total 'Positive'"

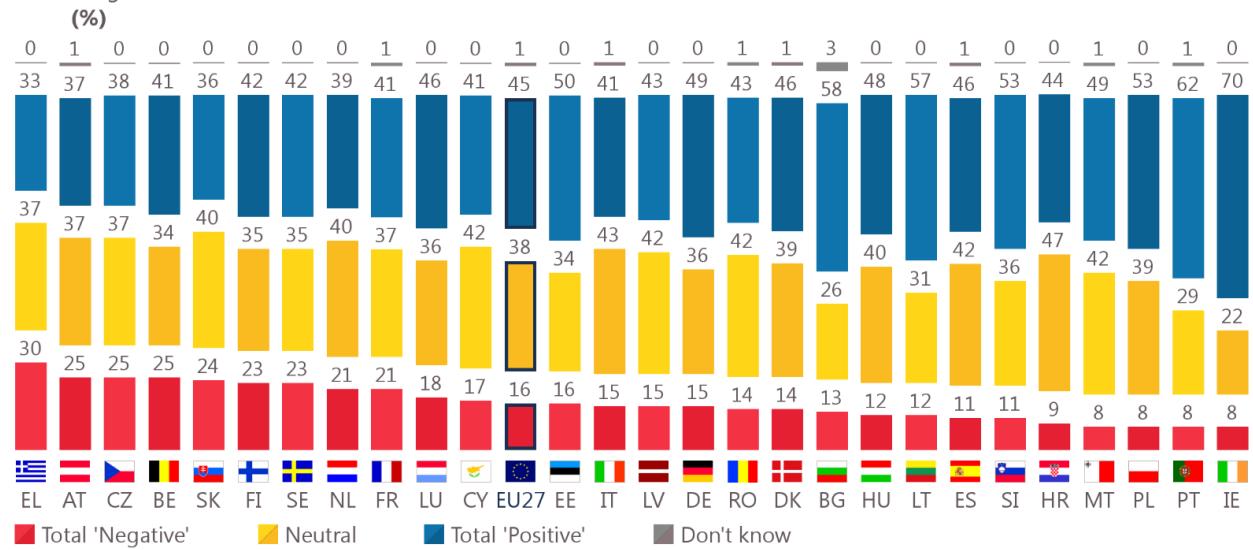
**D78** In general, does the EU conjure up for you a very positive, fairly positive, neutral, fairly negative or very negative image?



Sorted by "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 have a positive image of the European Union has declined since winter 2020-2021. Decreases by at least ten percentage points can be observed in Portugal (62%, -14), Czechia (38%, -11), the Netherlands (39%, -11) and Latvia (43%, -10). This proportion has remained stable or only slightly increased in the rest of the countries.

Lastly, in 11 countries, respondents are more likely than they were in winter 2020-2021 to have a neutral image, especially in Czechia (37%, +9 percentage points), Latvia (42%, +8) and Portugal (29%, +8). This proportion has decreased by five percentage points or less in a further 12 countries.

In 19 countries, the share of respondents who hold a negative view of the EU has increased since the last Eurobarometer survey in winter 2020-2021, most notably in Slovakia (24%, +9 percentage points), Romania (14%, +7) and the Netherlands (21%, +7). Conversely, this proportion has decreased by five percentage points in Denmark.

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

	EU27		Total 'Positive'	Sp.2021 - Win.2020/2021		Neutral	Sp.2021 - Win.2020/2021		Total 'Negative'	Sp.2021 - Win.2020/2021		Don't know
				Sp.2021	Win.2020/2021		Sp.2021	Win.2020/2021		Sp.2021	Win.2020/2021	
	EU27		45	▼ 1		38	=		16	▲ 1		1
FI		42	▲ 2			35	▼ 2		23	=		0
BE		41	▲ 2			34	▼ 4		25	▲ 2		0
AT		37	▲ 2			37	▼ 2		25	=		1
ES		46	▲ 1			42	▼ 3		11	▲ 3		1
LT		57	=			31	▼ 4		12	▲ 4		0
PL		53	=			39	=		8	=		0
DE		49	=			36	▼ 1		15	▲ 2		0
HU		48	=			40	▼ 2		12	▲ 2		0
FR		41	=			37	▼ 1		21	▲ 1		1
BG		58	▼ 1			26	▲ 1		13	▼ 1		3
SI		53	▼ 1			36	▼ 4		11	▲ 5		0
MT		49	▼ 1			42	=		8	▲ 2		1
DK		46	▼ 1			39	▲ 5		14	▼ 5		1
EL		33	▼ 1			37	▼ 5		30	▲ 6		0
IT		41	▼ 2			43	▲ 5		15	▼ 3		1
CY		41	▼ 3			42	▲ 4		17	▼ 1		0
HR		44	▼ 4			47	▲ 6		9	▼ 2		0
RO		43	▼ 4			42	▼ 4		14	▲ 7		1
SE		42	▼ 4			35	=		23	▲ 5		0
IE		70	▼ 5			22	▲ 3		8	▲ 2		0
EE		50	▼ 5			34	=		16	▲ 5		0
SK		36	▼ 7			40	▼ 1		24	▲ 9		0
LU		46	▼ 8			36	▲ 4		18	▲ 4		0
LV		43	▼ 10			42	▲ 8		15	▲ 2		0
NL		39	▼ 11			40	▲ 4		21	▲ 7		0
CZ		38	▼ 11			37	▲ 9		25	▲ 2		0
PT		62	▼ 14			29	▲ 8		8	▲ 5		1

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The **socio-demographic data** for this question highlight patterns similar to those observed for trust in the European Union, with age, education and socio-economic status playing an important role.

Respondents aged 15-24 (55%) are much more likely than those aged 55 or more (41%) to have a positive image of the European Union. An absolute majority among those who remained in full-time education until the age of 20 or more (52%) have a positive image, compared with 36% of those ending education aged 15 or less. Managers (56%) are much more likely to say the EU conjures up for them a positive image than the unemployed (36%) or house persons (37%).

Half of the respondents who never or almost never have difficulties paying their bills hold a positive view of the EU, compared with less than four in ten of those who have difficulties at least from time to time (32-37%). High proportions of respondents who have a positive image of the EU can also be observed among those who identify themselves as belonging to the upper middle class (61%) or the upper class of society (56%), compared with minorities among those who see themselves as belonging to the working class (38%) and to the lower middle class of society (39%).

These differences are very similar to those observed in previous Standard Eurobarometer surveys.

**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	38	16	1
<b>Gender</b>				
Man	48	34	18	0
Woman	43	42	14	1
<b>Age</b>				
15-24	55	34	10	1
25-39	48	37	15	0
40-54	44	38	17	1
55 +	41	40	18	1
<b>Education (End of)</b>				
15-	36	46	17	1
16-19	40	41	18	1
20+	52	33	15	0
Still studying	60	31	8	1
<b>Socio-professional category</b>				
Self-employed	48	35	17	0
Managers	56	31	13	0
Other white collars	49	37	14	0
Manual workers	40	42	18	0
House persons	37	48	14	1
Unemployed	36	41	23	0
Retired	40	40	19	1
Students	60	31	8	1
<b>Difficulties paying bills</b>				
Most of the time	32	39	28	1
From time to time	37	44	19	0
Almost never/ Never	50	36	13	1
<b>Consider belonging to</b>				
The working class	38	43	18	1
The lower middle class	39	40	21	0
The middle class	48	38	14	0
The upper middle class	61	27	12	0
The upper class	56	29	15	0
<b>Image of the EU</b>				
Total 'Positive'	100	0	0	0
Neutral	0	100	0	0
Total 'Negative'	0	0	100	0

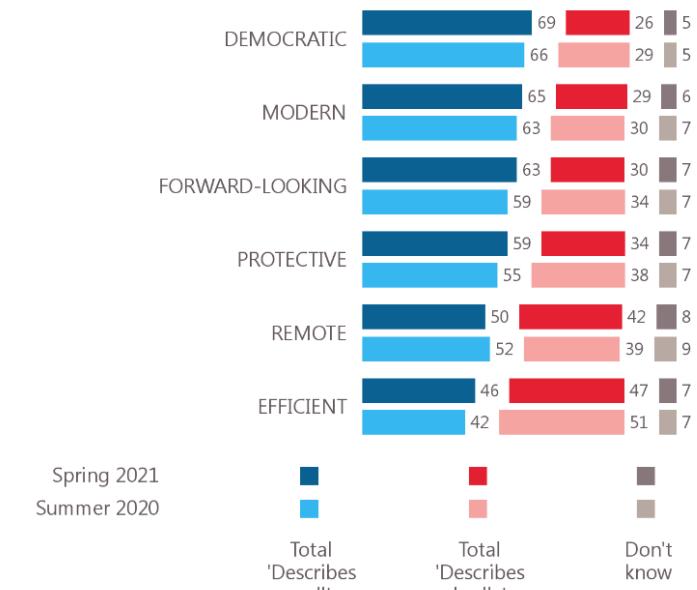
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**“Democratic” and “modern” are the traits most commonly associated with the EU, but a majority also see it as “remote”**

Respondents were asked which words well describe their idea of the EU. The trait most commonly associated with the EU is that it is “**democratic**”, with close to seven in ten (69%) holding this view, an increase by three percentage points since the last time this question was asked in summer 2020 (EB93). Around a quarter of respondents think this term badly describes the idea they have of the EU (26%, -3 percentage points). More than six in ten (65%, +2) also associate the EU with being “**modern**”, compared with 29% (-1) who believe this is a poor description of their idea of the EU. Similar proportions are observed in the case of “**forward-looking**”, with 63% saying this term well describes the idea they have of the EU, a four-percentage point increase since summer 2020. Conversely, three in ten (-4) think “forward-looking” is a poor description of the EU.

The proportion associating the EU with being “**protective**” has also increased by four percentage points, and now stands at 59%, compared with 34% (-4) who think this term badly describes the EU. Half of the respondents (-2 percentage points) say the word “**remote**” conveys the idea they have of the EU, while more than four in ten (42%, +3) think otherwise. Lastly, the only trait that is associated only by a minority with the EU is “**efficient**” (46%, compared with 47% who think this is a poor description), even though this proportion has increased by four percentage points since summer 2020. In all cases, no more than 8% do not know whether these traits describe the EU well or badly<sup>47</sup>.

**QA8** Please tell for each of the following words if it describes very well, fairly well, fairly badly or very badly the idea you might have of the EU.  
 (% - EU)



<sup>47</sup> QA8. Please tell me for each of the following words if it describes very well, fairly well, fairly badly or very badly the idea you might have of the EU.

1. Modern; 2. Democratic; 3. Protective; 4. Efficient; 5. Forward-looking; 6. Remote.

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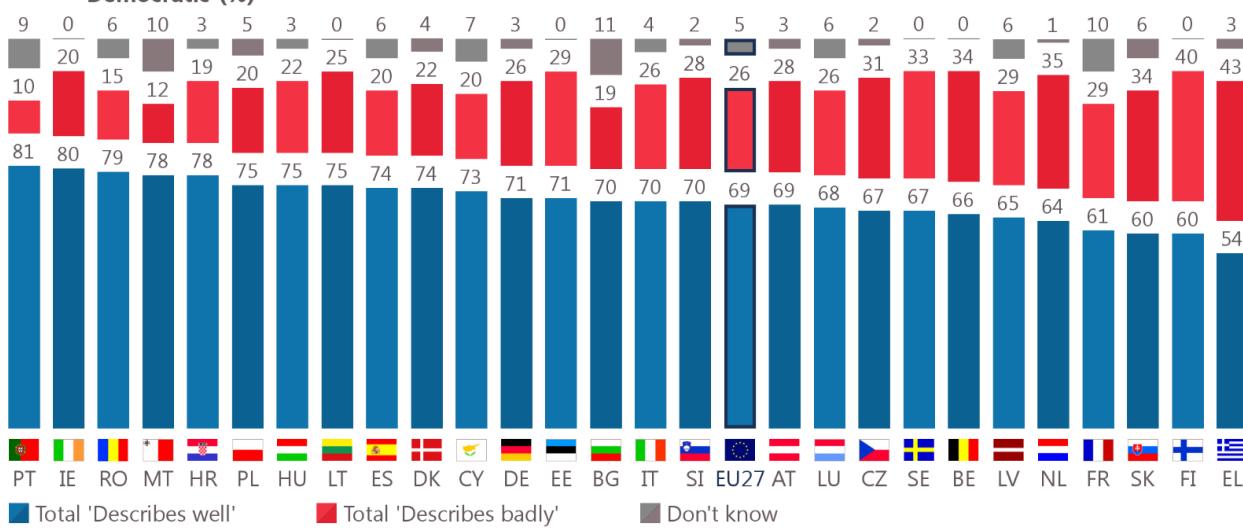
**“Democratic”**

In all EU Member States, an absolute majority of respondents associate the EU with being “democratic”, ranging from 81% in Portugal, 80% in Ireland and 79% in Romania to six in ten or less in Greece (54%), Finland and Slovakia (60% in both countries).

The proportion of respondents who think “democratic” is an apt description of the EU has increased in 15 EU Member States since summer 2020, and most notably in Malta (+20 percentage points), Italy (+15) and Spain (+10). The largest decreases are observed in the Netherlands and Poland (-6 in both countries), while this proportion remains stable in Germany and Romania.

**QA8.2** Please tell for each of the following words if it describes very well, fairly well, fairly badly or very badly the idea you might have of the EU.

**Democratic (%)**



*Sorted by 'Total Describes well'*

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"Modern"

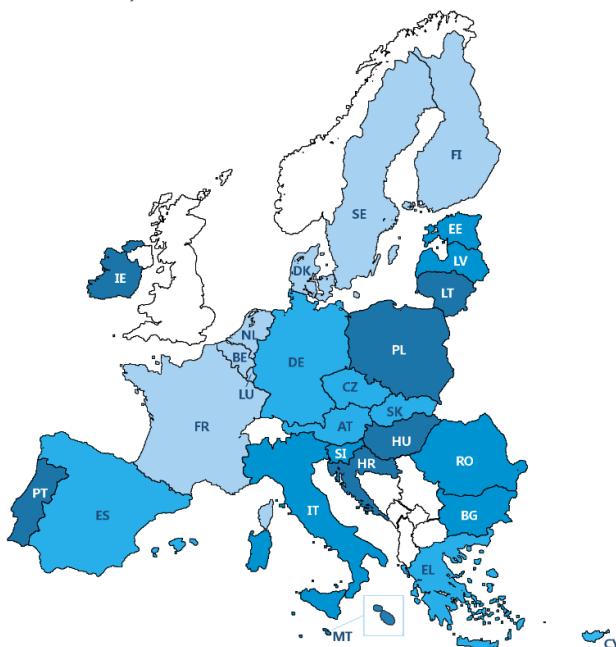
In 24 EU Member States, a majority of respondents say that "modern" well describes the idea they have of the EU, with respondents in Ireland, Malta and Portugal (85% in all three countries) being the most likely to hold this view. A majority think this is a poor description of the EU in three countries: Sweden (55% "describes badly" vs 45% "describes well"), the Netherlands (50% vs 48%) and Denmark (48% vs 47%).



**QA8.1**

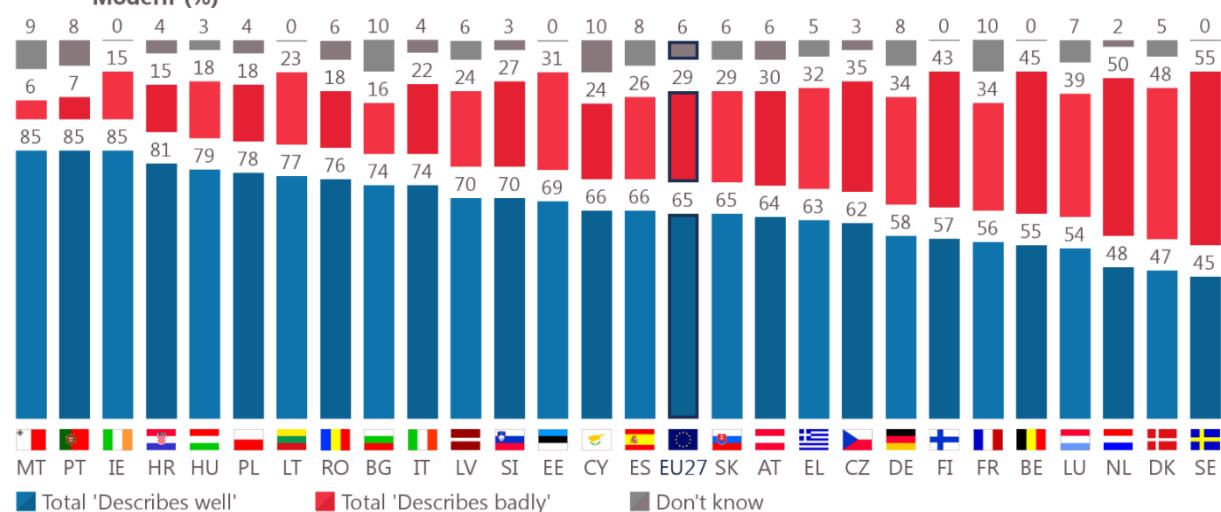
Please tell for each of the following words if it describes very well, fairly well, fairly badly or very badly the idea you might have of the EU.

**Modern**  
 (% - TOTAL 'DESCRIBES WELL')



**QA8.1** Please tell for each of the following words if it describes very well, fairly well, fairly badly or very badly the idea you might have of the EU.

**Modern (%)**



*Sorted by "Total 'Describes well'"*

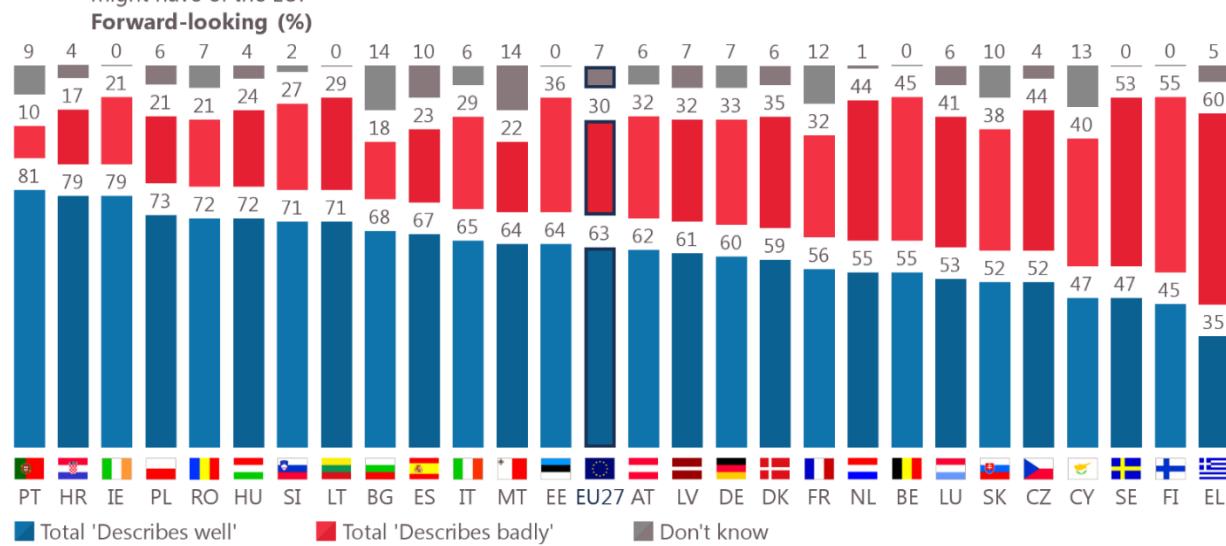
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**"Forward-looking"**

A majority of respondents in 24 EU Member States think the word "forward-looking" well conveys the idea they have of the EU. This view is most widespread in Portugal (81%), Croatia and Ireland (79% in both countries). Conversely, Greece stands out for a particularly low proportion holding this view (35%). The other two countries where a minority think of the EU as "forward-looking" are Finland (55% "describes badly" vs 45% "describes well") and Sweden (53% vs 47%).

The proportion who think "forward-looking" well describes the idea they have of the EU has risen in 19 EU Member States since summer 2020. Increases by more than ten percentage points can be observed in Slovenia (+15), Italy (+13) and Portugal (+11). The only notable decrease is recorded in Slovakia (-7), while the share of respondents holding this opinion has remained stable in Latvia.

**QA8.5** Please tell for each of the following words if it describes very well, fairly well, fairly badly or very badly the idea you might have of the EU.



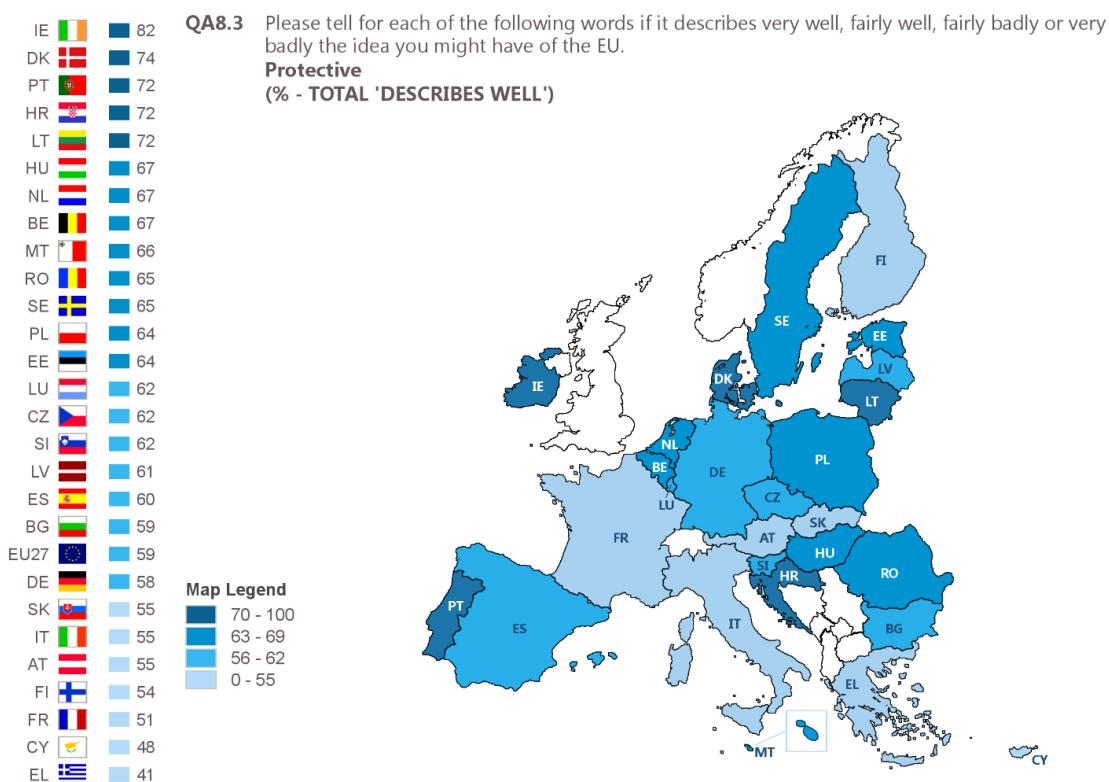
Sorted by 'Total Describes well'

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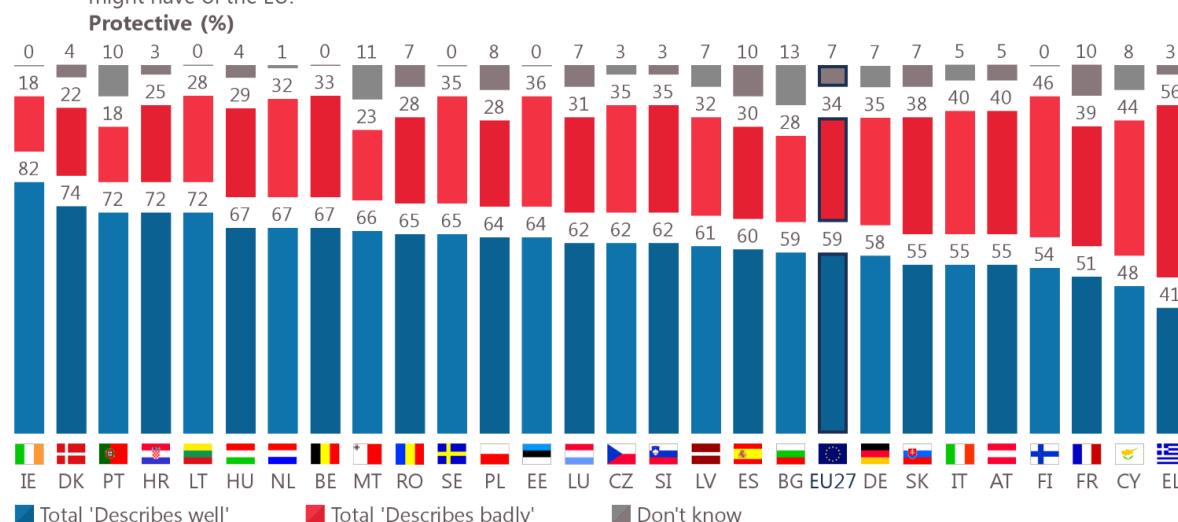
**"Protective"**

In all but one EU Member States, the majority of respondents see the European Union as "protective". The only exception is Greece, where 56% think this term is a poor description of the EU, compared with 41% who say otherwise. Ireland (82%) stands out for a particularly high share of respondents who associate the EU with being "protective", followed by Denmark (74%), Croatia, Lithuania and Portugal (72% in all three countries). At the other end of the scale, apart from those Greece, respondents in Cyprus (48%), France (51%) and Finland (54%) are the least likely to hold this view.

The proportion who think "protective" is an apt description of the European Union has gained ground in 18 EU Member States since summer 2020. This share of respondents has increased by 18 percentage points in Malta and Portugal, 16 percentage points in Italy and ten percentage points in Slovenia. Conversely, the only notable decline can be once again observed in Slovakia (-7). This proportion remains unchanged in Denmark.



**QA8.3** Please tell for each of the following words if it describes very well, fairly well, fairly badly or very badly the idea you might have of the EU.



Sorted by "Total 'Describes well'"

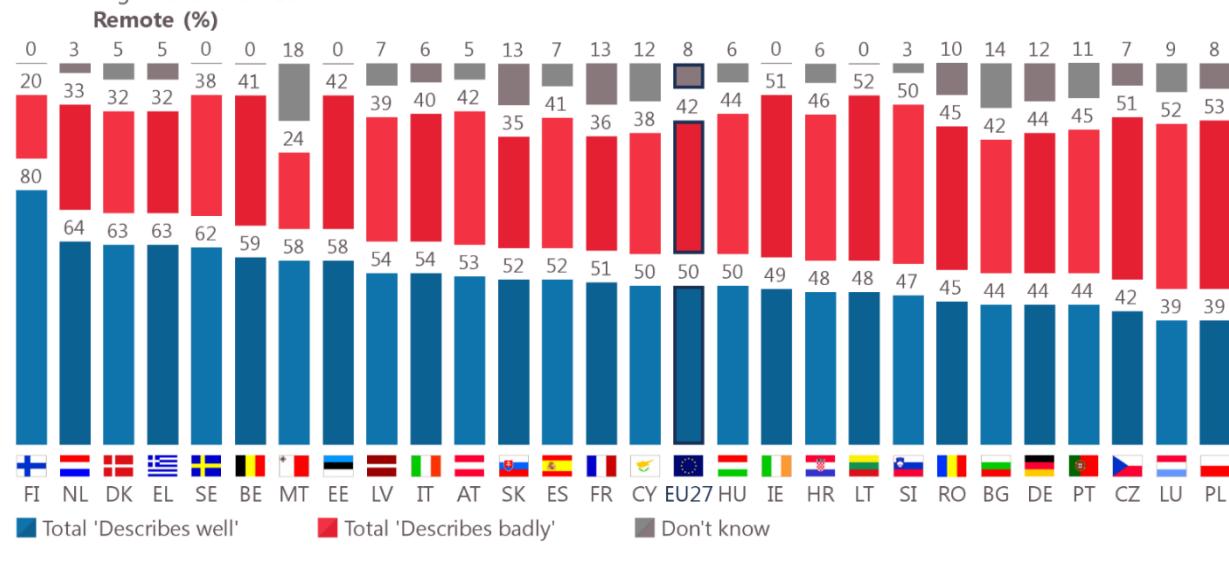
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**“Remote”**

A majority of respondents see the EU as “remote” in 18 EU Member States. Finland (80%) stands out for a particularly large proportion of respondents who think this term well conveys the idea they have of the EU, followed by the Netherlands (64%), Denmark and Greece (63% in both countries). Conversely, this is the minority view in seven countries: Poland (53% “describes badly” vs 39% “describes well”), Luxembourg (52% vs 39%), Czechia (51% vs 42%), Portugal (45% vs 44%), Slovenia (50% vs 47%), Lithuania (52% vs 48%) and Ireland (51% vs 49%). Opinion is equally split in Germany (44% vs 44%) and Romania (45% vs 45%).

Since the last time this question was asked in summer 2020, the proportion of respondents who think the term “remote” well describes the European Union has increased in 16 EU Member States. The largest increases are found in Malta (+10 percentage points), Czechia (+9), Latvia and Sweden (+7 in both countries). This share of respondents has declined in 11 countries, and by more than five percentage points in Italy, Luxembourg (-9 in both countries) and Portugal (-7).

**QA8.6** Please tell for each of the following words if it describes very well, fairly well, fairly badly or very badly the idea you might have of the EU.



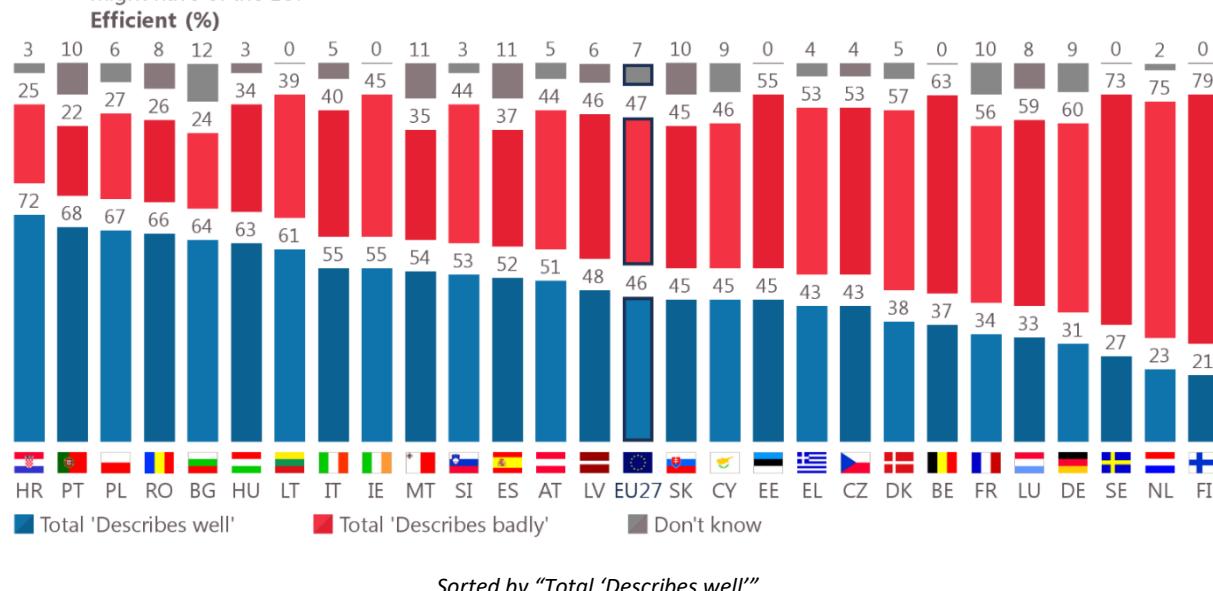
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**“Efficient”**

There is a wider variation at country level in the proportions who think “efficient” well describes the idea they have of the European Union. In 14 EU Member States, a majority associate this word with the EU, ranging from more than two thirds in Croatia (72%), Portugal (68%) and Poland (67%) to close to half in Latvia (48%). In 12 countries, the proportion who say that the word “efficient” poorly describes the EU outweighs the proportion who say this well conveys the idea they have of the EU, with the widest gaps observed in Finland (79% “describes badly” vs 21% “describes well”), the Netherlands (75% vs 23%) and Sweden (73% vs 27%). Opinions are divided in Slovakia (45% vs 45%).

In 17 EU Member States, the view that “efficient” well describes the EU has gained ground since summer 2020, with particularly large increases recorded in Italy, Malta (+16 percentage points in both countries) and Portugal (+14). Elsewhere the proportion of those who see the EU as “efficient” has fallen, but the decreases have been by one percentage point in most countries. More substantial drops in this share of respondents can be observed in Lithuania (-7), Belgium (-6) and Germany (-4).

**QA8.4** Please tell for each of the following words if it describes very well, fairly well, fairly badly or very badly the idea you might have of the EU.



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**QA8** Please tell for each of the following words if it describes very well, fairly well, fairly badly or very badly the idea you might have of the EU.

(% - TOTAL 'DESCRIBES WELL')

	Democratic	Sp.2021 - Sum.2020		Modern		Forward-looking		Protective		Remote		Efficient		Sp.2021 - Sum.2020	
		Sp.2021	Sum.2020	Sp.2021	Sum.2020	Sp.2021	Sum.2020	Sp.2021	Sum.2020	Sp.2021	Sum.2020	Sp.2021	Sum.2020	Sp.2021	Sum.2020
EU27		69	▲ 3	65	▲ 2	63	▲ 4	59	▲ 4	50	▼ 2	46	▲ 4	Sp.2021	Sum.2020
BE		66	▼ 2	55	▼ 10	55	▲ 4	67	▲ 2	59	▲ 4	37	▼ 6	Sp.2021	Sum.2020
BG		70	▼ 2	74	▼ 3	68	▲ 5	59	▲ 4	44	▼ 2	64	▲ 6	Sp.2021	Sum.2020
CZ		67	▲ 4	62	▼ 2	52	▲ 3	62	▲ 7	42	▲ 9	43	▼ 1	Sp.2021	Sum.2020
DK		74	▲ 3	47	▼ 6	59	▲ 3	74	=	63	▲ 3	38	▲ 5	Sp.2021	Sum.2020
DE		71	=	58	▼ 2	60	▼ 2	58	▼ 2	44	▼ 3	31	▼ 4	Sp.2021	Sum.2020
EE		71	▲ 4	69	▼ 2	64	▲ 6	64	▲ 3	58	▲ 2	45	▲ 1	Sp.2021	Sum.2020
IE		80	▼ 1	85	▼ 2	79	▲ 1	82	▲ 1	49	▲ 2	55	▼ 1	Sp.2021	Sum.2020
EL		54	▲ 3	63	▲ 6	35	▲ 5	41	▲ 3	63	▲ 2	43	▲ 7	Sp.2021	Sum.2020
ES		74	▲ 10	66	▲ 5	67	▲ 7	60	▲ 8	52	▼ 4	52	▲ 4	Sp.2021	Sum.2020
FR		61	▲ 3	56	▲ 5	56	▲ 4	51	▲ 1	51	▼ 2	34	▲ 5	Sp.2021	Sum.2020
HR		78	▲ 2	81	▲ 1	79	▲ 2	72	▲ 4	48	▲ 4	72	▲ 6	Sp.2021	Sum.2020
IT		70	▲ 15	74	▲ 13	65	▲ 13	55	▲ 16	54	▼ 9	55	▲ 16	Sp.2021	Sum.2020
CY		73	▲ 6	66	▲ 7	47	▲ 4	48	▲ 2	50	▼ 3	45	▲ 5	Sp.2021	Sum.2020
LV		65	▼ 3	70	▼ 6	61	=	61	▼ 2	54	▲ 7	48	▼ 1	Sp.2021	Sum.2020
LT		75	▼ 3	77	▲ 1	71	▼ 1	72	▼ 2	48	▲ 6	61	▼ 7	Sp.2021	Sum.2020
LU		68	▼ 1	54	▲ 4	53	▲ 8	62	▼ 4	39	▼ 9	33	▲ 3	Sp.2021	Sum.2020
HU		75	▲ 3	79	▲ 4	72	▲ 2	67	▲ 5	50	▲ 3	63	▲ 3	Sp.2021	Sum.2020
MT		78	▲ 20	85	▲ 11	64	▲ 5	66	▲ 18	58	▲ 10	54	▲ 16	Sp.2021	Sum.2020
NL		64	▼ 6	48	▼ 3	55	▲ 3	67	▼ 4	64	▲ 2	23	▲ 3	Sp.2021	Sum.2020
AT		69	▲ 2	64	▼ 7	62	▼ 1	55	▼ 1	53	▼ 5	51	▼ 1	Sp.2021	Sum.2020
PL		75	▼ 6	78	▼ 5	73	▼ 3	64	▼ 4	39	▼ 3	67	▲ 1	Sp.2021	Sum.2020
PT		81	▲ 7	85	▲ 8	81	▲ 11	72	▲ 18	44	▼ 7	68	▲ 14	Sp.2021	Sum.2020
RO		79	=	76	▼ 4	72	▼ 3	65	▲ 1	45	▼ 2	66	▼ 1	Sp.2021	Sum.2020
SI		70	▲ 8	70	▲ 7	71	▲ 15	62	▲ 10	47	▲ 1	53	▲ 9	Sp.2021	Sum.2020
SK		60	▼ 5	65	▼ 6	52	▼ 7	55	▼ 7	52	▲ 3	45	▼ 1	Sp.2021	Sum.2020
FI		60	▲ 2	57	▼ 1	45	▲ 2	54	▲ 1	80	▲ 5	21	▼ 1	Sp.2021	Sum.2020
SE		67	▼ 2	45	▼ 9	47	▼ 2	65	▲ 2	62	▲ 7	27	▲ 3	Sp.2021	Sum.2020

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The **socio-demographic data** confirm some of the patterns already observed for previous questions. In most cases, younger respondents, those in a better financial situation and those who see themselves on a higher position on the social ladder are more likely to associate the EU with positive terms. This is most evident in the case of “protective”, with particularly high proportions saying this word aptly describes the EU among respondents aged 15-24 (67%, compared with 56% of those aged 55 or more), those who never or almost never have difficulties paying their bills (62%, compared with 46% of those who have difficulties most of the time) and those who see themselves as belonging to the upper or upper middle class of society (68-74%, compared with 53-54% of those belonging to the working class or lower middle class of society). Conversely, respondents aged 55 or more (53%, compared with 42% of the 15-24 year-olds) and those who have difficulties paying their bills most of the time (59%, compared with 48% of those who never or almost never have difficulties) are more likely to think “remote” well describes the idea they have of the EU.

Unsurprisingly, respondents who have a positive image of the EU are also more likely than those who have a negative image to associate the EU with positive terms, while those holding a negative view are more likely to see the EU as “remote” (70%, compared with 39% of those with a positive image).

**QA8.1** Please tell for each of the following words if it describes very well, fairly well, fairly badly or very badly the idea you might have of the EU.

**Modern (%) - EU)**

	Total 'Describes well'	Total 'Describes badly'	Don't know
EU27	65	29	6
<b>Gender</b>			
Man	66	30	4
Woman	65	28	7
<b>Age</b>			
15-24	73	22	5
25-39	68	28	4
40-54	64	32	4
55 +	61	30	9
<b>Education (End of)</b>			
15-	63	26	11
16-19	66	28	6
20+	64	32	4
Still studying	74	22	4
<b>Socio-professional category</b>			
Self-employed	67	30	3
Managers	65	33	2
Other white collars	69	28	3
Manual workers	63	32	5
House persons	64	24	12
Unemployed	62	30	8
Retired	62	28	10
Students	74	22	4
<b>Difficulties paying bills</b>			
Most of the time	59	33	8
From time to time	65	29	6
Almost never/ Never	65	29	6
<b>Consider belonging to</b>			
The working class	64	27	9
The lower middle class	61	33	6
The middle class	67	28	5
The upper middle class	64	33	3
The upper class	68	32	0
<b>Image of the EU</b>			
Total 'Positive'	82	15	3
Neutral	60	31	9
Total 'Negative'	31	63	6

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**QA8.2** Please tell for each of the following words if it describes very well, fairly well, fairly badly or very badly the idea you might have of the EU.

**Democratic (% - EU)**

	Total 'Describes well'	Total 'Describes badly'	Don't know
EU27	69	26	5
<b>Gender</b>			
Man	70	26	4
Woman	70	24	6
<b>Age</b>			
15-24	75	20	5
25-39	72	25	3
40-54	70	27	3
55 +	67	26	7
<b>Education (End of)</b>			
15-	64	25	11
16-19	68	27	5
20+	72	25	3
Still studying	78	18	4
<b>Socio-professional category</b>			
Self-employed	70	28	2
Managers	75	24	1
Other white collars	74	24	2
Manual workers	68	28	4
House persons	63	27	10
Unemployed	62	30	8
Retired	66	26	8
Students	78	18	4
<b>Difficulties paying bills</b>			
Most of the time	57	36	7
From time to time	66	29	5
Almost never/ Never	73	23	4
<b>Consider belonging to</b>			
The working class	64	27	9
The lower middle class	64	31	5
The middle class	72	25	3
The upper middle class	80	19	1
The upper class	79	21	0
<b>Image of the EU</b>			
Total 'Positive'	89	9	2
Neutral	63	29	8
Total 'Negative'	30	66	4

**QA8.3** Please tell for each of the following words if it describes very well, fairly well, fairly badly or very badly the idea you might have of the EU.

**Protective (% - EU)**

	Total 'Describes well'	Total 'Describes badly'	Don't know
EU27	59	34	7
<b>Gender</b>			
Man	60	35	5
Woman	58	34	8
<b>Age</b>			
15-24	67	26	7
25-39	61	34	5
40-54	59	37	4
55 +	56	35	9
<b>Education (End of)</b>			
15-	52	35	13
16-19	58	37	5
20+	63	32	5
Still studying	68	24	8
<b>Socio-professional category</b>			
Self-employed	56	41	3
Managers	63	34	3
Other white collars	63	33	4
Manual workers	60	35	5
House persons	49	37	14
Unemployed	52	39	9
Retired	56	34	10
Students	68	24	8
<b>Difficulties paying bills</b>			
Most of the time	46	47	7
From time to time	56	37	7
Almost never/ Never	62	32	6
<b>Consider belonging to</b>			
The working class	53	36	11
The lower middle class	54	40	6
The middle class	62	33	5
The upper middle class	68	28	4
The upper class	74	24	2
<b>Image of the EU</b>			
Total 'Positive'	80	16	4
Neutral	50	40	10
Total 'Negative'	23	74	3

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**QA8.4** Please tell for each of the following words if it describes very well, fairly well, fairly badly or very badly the idea you might have of the EU.  
**Efficient (% - EU)**

	Total 'Describes well'	Total 'Describes badly'	Don't know
EU27	46	47	7
<b>Gender</b>			
Man	44	50	6
Woman	47	44	9
<b>Age</b>			
15-24	54	38	8
25-39	47	48	5
40-54	45	50	5
55 +	42	49	9
<b>Education (End of)</b>			
15-	45	41	14
16-19	48	45	7
20+	41	54	5
Still studying	54	38	8
<b>Socio-professional category</b>			
Self-employed	49	48	3
Managers	42	54	4
Other white collars	49	47	4
Manual workers	47	46	7
House persons	46	43	11
Unemployed	40	52	8
Retired	41	48	11
Students	54	38	8
<b>Difficulties paying bills</b>			
Most of the time	36	55	9
From time to time	48	45	7
Almost never/ Never	45	48	7
<b>Consider belonging to</b>			
The working class	46	43	11
The lower middle class	42	51	7
The middle class	47	47	6
The upper middle class	42	55	3
The upper class	46	53	1
<b>Image of the EU</b>			
Total 'Positive'	63	32	5
Neutral	39	51	10
Total 'Negative'	13	84	3

**QA8.5** Please tell for each of the following words if it describes very well, fairly well, fairly badly or very badly the idea you might have of the EU.  
**Forward-looking (% - EU)**

	Total 'Describes well'	Total 'Describes badly'	Don't know
EU27	63	30	7
<b>Gender</b>			
Man	63	32	5
Woman	62	29	9
<b>Age</b>			
15-24	69	25	6
25-39	64	31	5
40-54	62	33	5
55 +	59	31	10
<b>Education (End of)</b>			
15-	58	28	14
16-19	62	31	7
20+	63	32	5
Still studying	72	23	5
<b>Socio-professional category</b>			
Self-employed	63	34	3
Managers	66	31	3
Other white collars	66	29	5
Manual workers	61	33	6
House persons	60	26	14
Unemployed	55	34	11
Retired	58	31	11
Students	72	23	5
<b>Difficulties paying bills</b>			
Most of the time	50	39	11
From time to time	62	32	6
Almost never/ Never	64	29	7
<b>Consider belonging to</b>			
The working class	59	29	12
The lower middle class	59	34	7
The middle class	64	30	6
The upper middle class	68	30	2
The upper class	71	28	1
<b>Image of the EU</b>			
Total 'Positive'	83	13	4
Neutral	54	36	10
Total 'Negative'	24	70	6

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**QA8.6** Please tell for each of the following words if it describes very well, fairly well, fairly badly or very badly the idea you might have of the EU.

**Remote (% - EU)**

	Total 'Describes well'	Total 'Describes badly'	Don't know
EU27	50	42	8
<b>Gender</b>			
Man	50	43	7
Woman	50	40	10
<b>Age</b>			
15-24	42	47	11
25-39	50	44	6
40-54	51	42	7
55 +	53	37	10
<b>Education (End of)</b>			
15-	54	34	12
16-19	52	40	8
20+	50	44	6
Still studying	41	48	11
<b>Socio-professional category</b>			
Self-employed	50	47	3
Managers	46	49	5
Other white collars	50	44	6
Manual workers	51	41	8
House persons	54	33	13
Unemployed	58	32	10
Retired	52	37	11
Students	41	48	11
<b>Difficulties paying bills</b>			
Most of the time	59	31	10
From time to time	54	38	8
Almost never/ Never	48	44	8
<b>Consider belonging to</b>			
The working class	52	37	11
The lower middle class	53	39	8
The middle class	50	43	7
The upper middle class	47	48	5
The upper class	53	46	1
<b>Image of the EU</b>			
Total 'Positive'	39	55	6
Neutral	56	34	10
Total 'Negative'	70	24	6

### 3. Knowledge of the European Union

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

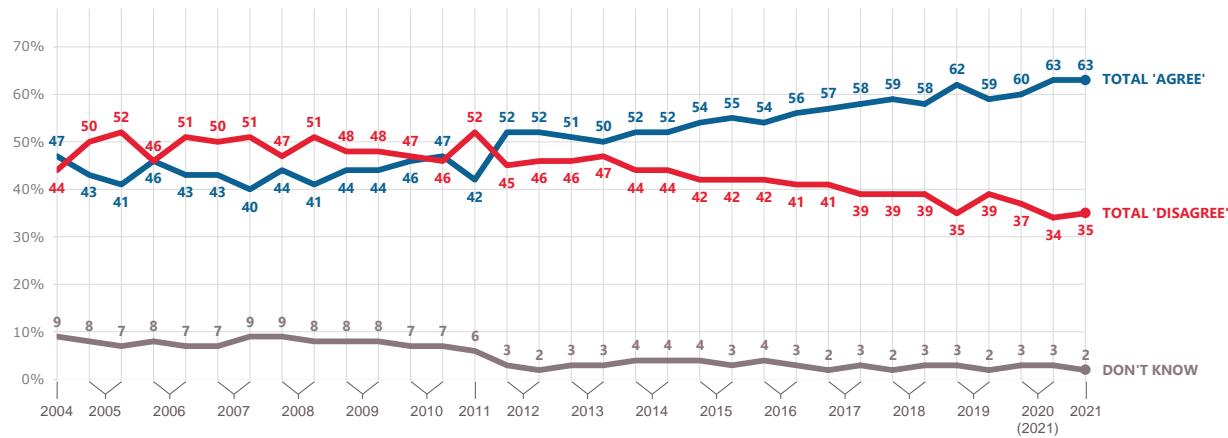
##### **Subjective understanding of how the EU works remains stable at its highest level**

After having reached its highest level since autumn 2004 in the last Standard Eurobarometer survey (EB94), the share of respondents who say they understand how the EU works has remained stable at 63% in the current survey.

More than one third (35%, +1 percentage point) say they do not understand how the EU works, while 2% (-1) express no opinion<sup>48</sup>.

**QA11.1** To what extent do you agree or disagree with each of the following statements?

I understand how the EU works (% - EU)



<sup>48</sup> QA11.1. Please tell me to what extent you agree or disagree with each of the following statements. I understand how the European Union works.

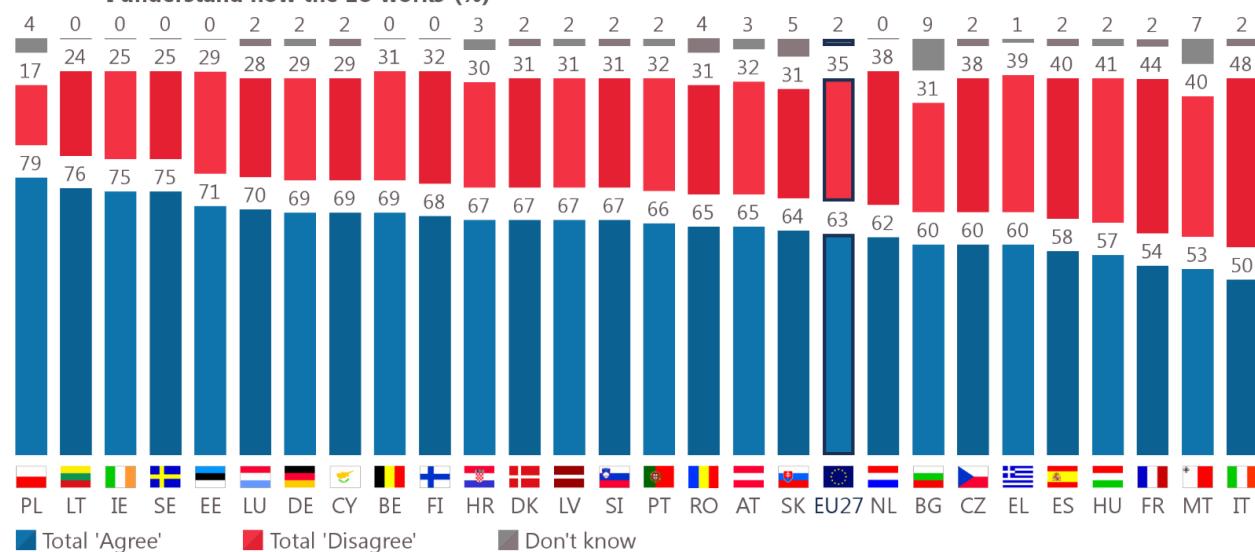
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In all EU Member States, a majority say they understand how the EU works, with proportions ranging from three quarters or more in Poland (79%), Lithuania (76%),

Ireland and Sweden (75% in both countries) to 50% in Italy, 53% in Malta and 54% in France.

**QA11.1** To what extent do you agree or disagree with each of the following statements?

**I understand how the EU works (%)**



*Sorted by 'Total Agree'*

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In line with the findings of the last Standard Eurobarometer survey, the **socio-demographic data** show that subjective understanding of how the EU works is high among men (68%, compared with 57% of women) and those aged 25-54 (66-68%, compared with 58%-of respondents aged 55+ and 62% of respondents aged 15-24).

Education and socio-economic background also play a role when it comes to the subjective understanding of the EU. Those who ended full-time education aged 20 or more (74%) are much more likely than those leaving education aged 15 or less (41%) to agree with the statement. Managers (78%), the self-employed (71%) and other white-collar workers (69%) are the most likely to say they understand how the EU works, especially when compared to house persons (37%). Subjective understanding is also higher among those who never or almost never have difficulties paying their bills (67%) than among those who have difficulties most of the time (50%). Those considering themselves as belonging to the upper class (89%) or the upper middle class (79%) of society are more likely to declare that they understand how the EU works than those who place themselves among the working class of society (50%).

Finally, respondents who have a positive image of the EU (76%) are more likely to agree that they understand how the EU works than those who hold a negative view (52%).

**QA11.1** 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	35	2
<b>Gender</b>			
Man	68	30	2
Woman	57	40	3
<b>Age</b>			
15-24	62	36	2
25-39	68	30	2
40-54	66	32	2
55 +	58	40	2
<b>Education (End of)</b>			
15-	41	56	3
16-19	60	38	2
20+	74	25	1
Still studying	65	32	3
<b>Socio-professional category</b>			
Self-employed	71	28	1
Managers	78	22	0
Other white collars	69	29	2
Manual workers	61	37	2
House persons	37	60	3
Unemployed	53	45	2
Retired	57	40	3
Students	65	32	3
<b>Difficulties paying bills</b>			
Most of the time	50	48	2
From time to time	56	42	2
Almost never/ Never	67	31	2
<b>Consider belonging to</b>			
The working class	50	47	3
The lower middle class	58	40	2
The middle class	67	32	1
The upper middle class	79	20	1
The upper class	89	10	1

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

#### **Only a quarter of respondents correctly answer all three questions concerning the European Union**

After measuring the subjective impression of understanding, this Standard Eurobarometer survey then quantified objective level of knowledge of the European Union, using a “true/false” quiz consisting of three statements (“the euro area currently consists of 19 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>49</sup>.

More than nine in ten respondents (92%) were able to give at least one correct answer, but only a quarter (25%) correctly answered all the three questions. These proportions have remained unchanged since winter 2020-2021. The share of respondents giving three correct answers is significantly higher in the non-euro area (30%, no change) than in the euro area (23%, no change). Respondents in Finland (45%), Slovenia (40%) and Belgium (38%) are the most likely to answer the three questions correctly.

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<sup>49</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 19 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 19 Member States"

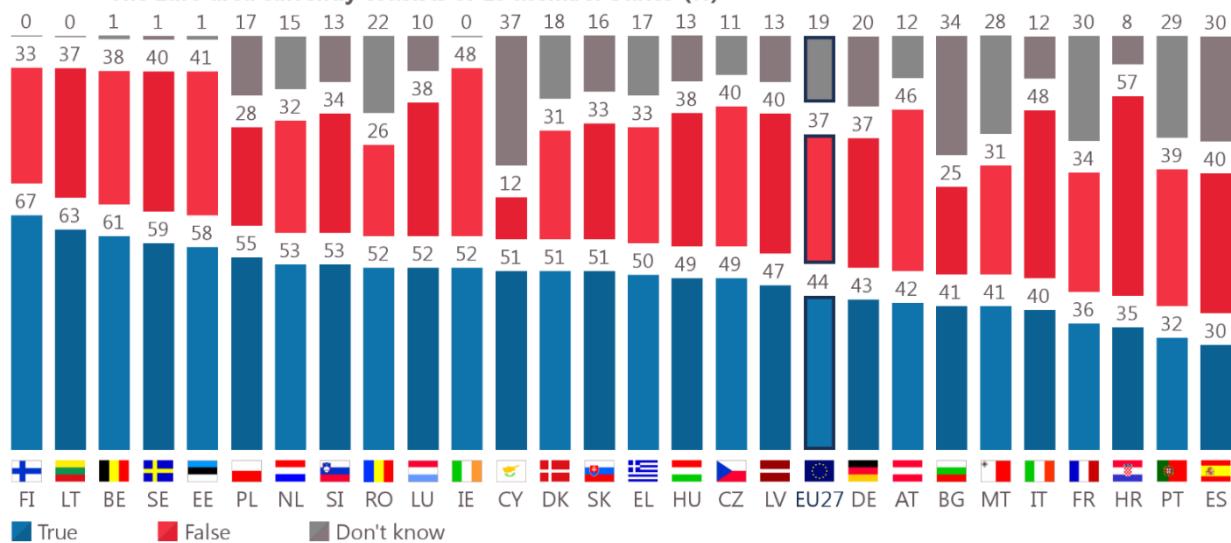
In line with previous Standard Eurobarometer surveys, a minority of respondents (44%, +1 percentage point since winter 2020-2021) know how many countries make up the euro area, with less than four in ten (37%, -1) answering incorrectly and 19% (no change) saying they "don't know". Respondents in **euro area** countries (41%) are much less likely to correctly answer this question than those in **non-euro area** countries (52%).

In 15 countries, at least half of the respondents know the euro area currently consists of 19 Member States, with this proportion reaching more than six in ten in Finland (67%), Lithuania (63%) and Belgium (61%). Conversely, less than four in ten incorrectly answer this question in Spain (30%), Portugal (32%), Croatia (35%) and France (36%). Croatia is the only country where an absolute majority give an incorrect answer (57%), while at least three in ten say they "don't know" in Cyprus (37%), Bulgaria (34%) and France (30%).

The proportion of respondents who know the euro area currently comprises 19 Member States has declined in 13 countries since winter 2020-2021, with the largest decreases observed in Portugal (-22 percentage points), Greece (-10) and Malta (-9). The only noticeable increases in the share of respondents giving the correct answer are found in the Netherlands (+7) and France (+5). This figure has remained stable in three countries: Estonia, Italy and Lithuania.

**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 19 Member States (%)**



Sorted by 'True'

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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 19 Member States (% - EU)**

	True	False	Don't know
EU27	44	37	19
<b>Gender</b>			
Man	46	39	15
Woman	42	35	23
<b>Age</b>			
15-24	44	37	19
25-39	45	39	16
40-54	46	39	15
55 +	41	35	24
<b>Education (End of)</b>			
15-	31	33	36
16-19	44	38	18
20+	48	38	14
Still studying	43	40	17
<b>Socio-professional category</b>			
Self-employed	47	41	12
Managers	51	37	12
Other white collars	49	38	13
Manual workers	44	39	17
House persons	37	29	34
Unemployed	36	38	26
Retired	40	34	26
Students	43	40	17
<b>Difficulties paying bills</b>			
Most of the time	38	37	25
From time to time	45	36	19
Almost never/ Never	44	37	19
<b>Consider belonging to</b>			
The working class	38	34	28
The lower middle class	41	39	20
The middle class	46	38	16
The upper middle class	50	38	12
The upper class	56	34	10

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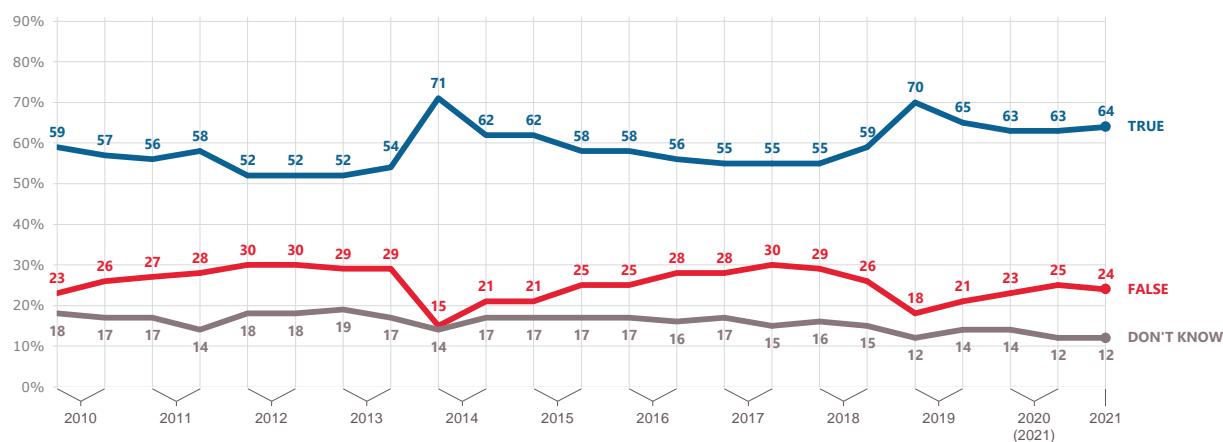
"The members of the European Parliament are directly elected by the citizens of each Member State"

Long-term trends suggest that knowledge of the fact that MEPs are directly elected by European citizens increases during the European Parliament election periods and decreases afterwards. This pattern was confirmed following the May 2019 European elections, with the proportion who correctly answer this question increasing in spring 2019 and decreasing thereafter.

Most recently, this share of respondents has stabilised at a level that is higher than the one observed after the 2014 European Parliament elections. In the current survey, almost two thirds (64%, +1 percentage point since winter 2020-2021) give the correct answer, while around a quarter (24%, -1) answer incorrectly and a further 12% (no change) provide no answer.

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

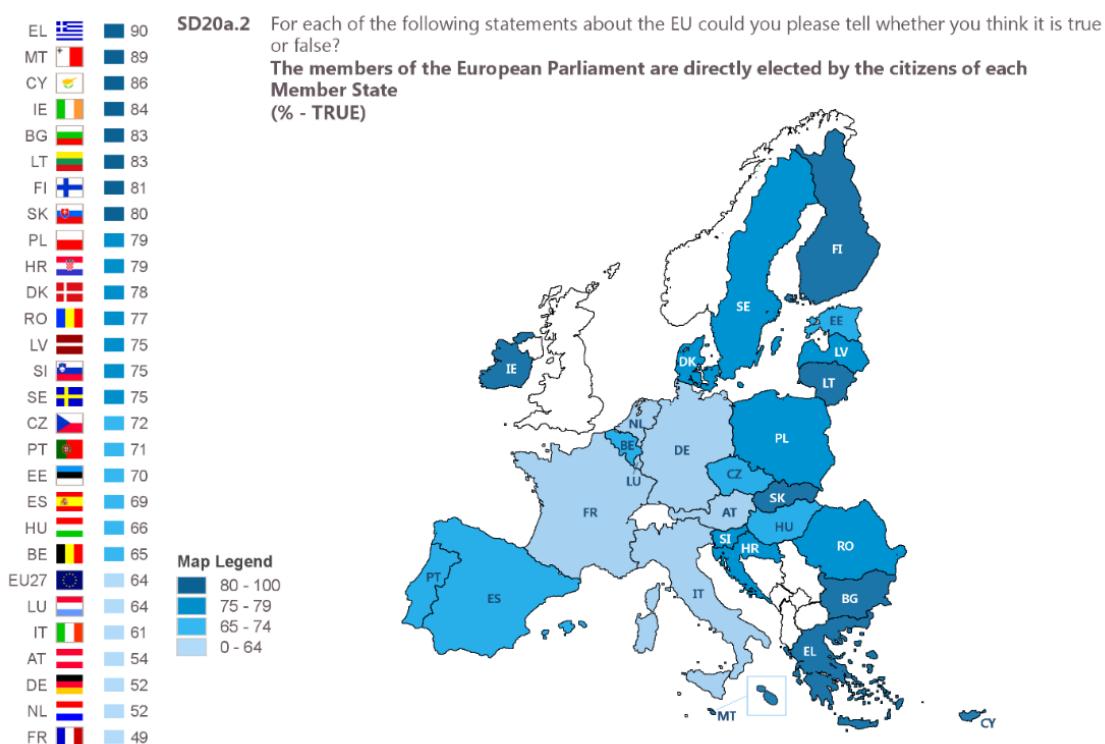
**The members of the European Parliament are directly elected by the citizens of each Member State (% - EU)**



**Standard Eurobarometer 95**  
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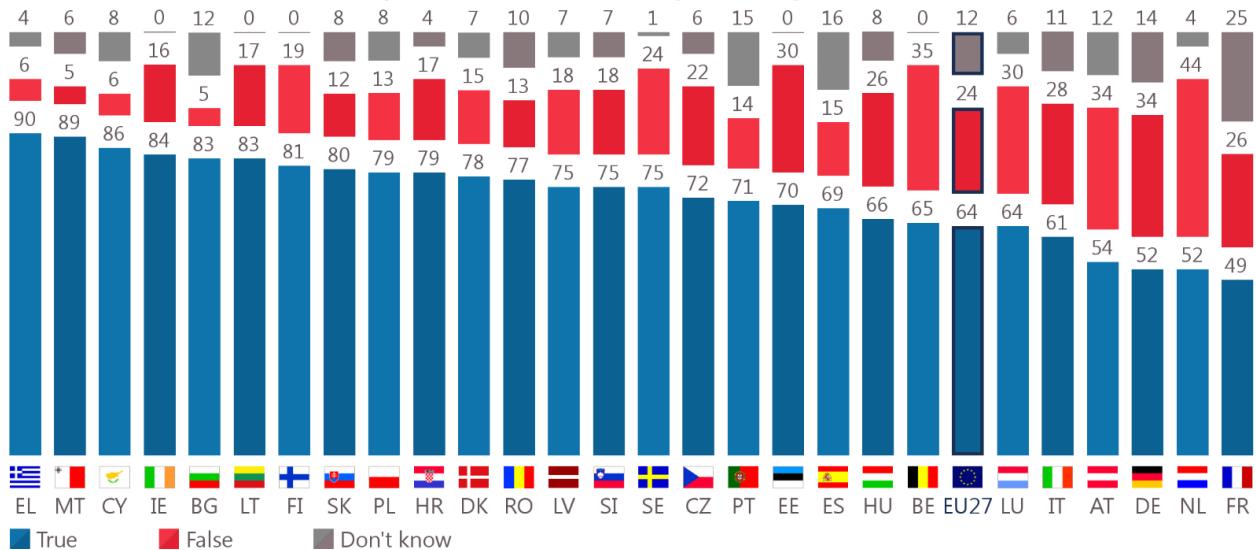
In all but one EU Member States, an absolute majority of respondents know that MEPs are directly elected by the citizens of each Member State. The only exception is France, where 49% give a correct answer. The highest proportions correctly answering this question are found in Greece (90%), Malta (89%) and Cyprus (86%). Apart from France, respondents are least likely to give the correct answer in the Netherlands, Germany (52% in both countries) and Austria (54%). The largest proportion giving an incorrect answer is found in the Netherlands (44%), followed by Belgium (35%), Austria and Germany (34% in both countries), while less than one in ten do so in Malta, Bulgaria (5% in both countries), Cyprus and Greece (6% in both countries).

In 12 EU Member States, respondents are less likely to know that MEPs are directly elected by the citizens of each country than they were in winter 2020-2021. The largest decreases are recorded in Luxembourg (-11 percentage points), Denmark (-9) Latvia and Portugal (-7 in both countries). There are no significant increases in this proportion, while results are stable in Croatia, Finland, Hungary, Ireland and Poland.



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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 (%)**



*Sorted by 'True'*

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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	64	24	12
<b>Gender</b>			
Man	68	23	9
Woman	60	25	15
<b>Age</b>			
15-24	58	29	13
25-39	63	27	10
40-54	68	23	9
55 +	64	21	15
<b>Education (End of)</b>			
15-	55	20	25
16-19	65	23	12
20+	68	25	7
Still studying	59	29	12
<b>Socio-professional category</b>			
Self-employed	72	22	6
Managers	69	26	5
Other white collars	68	24	8
Manual workers	63	25	12
House persons	54	22	24
Unemployed	59	25	16
Retired	63	20	17
Students	59	29	12
<b>Difficulties paying bills</b>			
Most of the time	56	26	18
From time to time	64	23	13
Almost never/ Never	65	24	11
<b>Consider belonging to</b>			
The working class	63	18	19
The lower middle class	61	27	12
The middle class	65	25	10
The upper middle class	65	29	6
The upper class	77	21	2

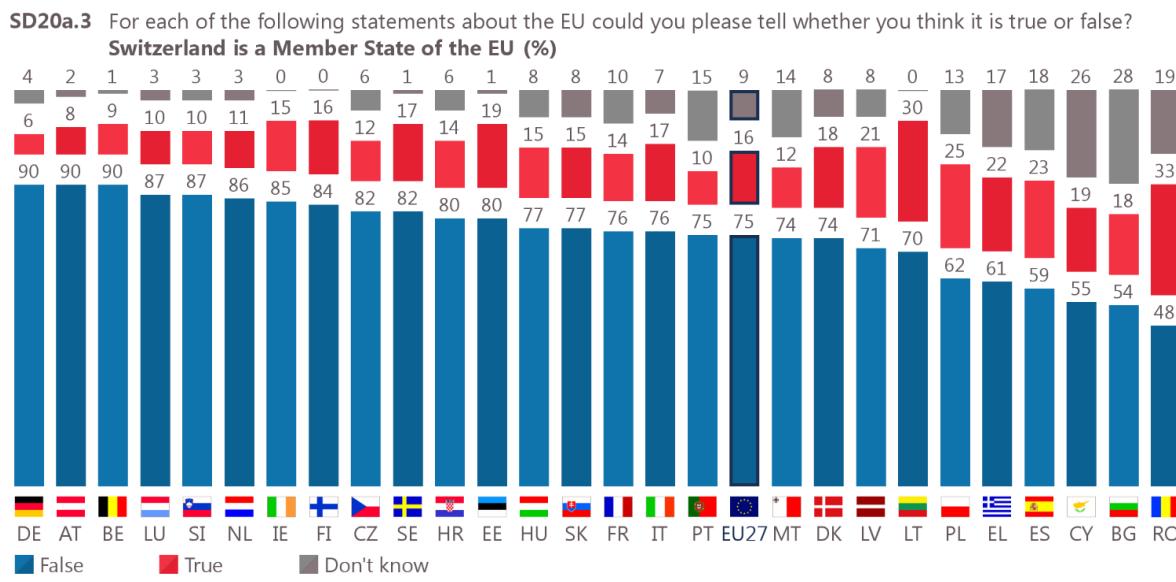
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**"Switzerland is a Member State of the EU"**

Three quarters (75%) of the respondents correctly indicate that Switzerland is not a Member State of the EU, a slight decrease compared to winter 2020-2021 (-2 percentage points). Conversely, 16% (+2) incorrectly answer this question and almost one in ten (9%, no change) provide no answer.

An absolute majority in all but one country know that Switzerland is not a Member State of the EU, ranging from nine in ten in Austria, Belgium and Germany to less than six in ten in Bulgaria (54%), Cyprus (55%) and Spain (59%). The only exception is Romania, where 48% of the respondents give a correct answer, one third give an incorrect answer and close to two in ten (19%) say they "don't know". In addition to Romania, a quarter or more give an incorrect answer in Lithuania (30%) and Poland (25%), while high proportions offer no answer in Bulgaria (28%) and Cyprus (26%).

In 17 EU Member States, the proportion giving a correct answer to this question has declined since winter 2020-2021. Decreases by more than five percentage points are observed in Czechia (-10), Denmark (-9) and Portugal (-8). In all these three countries, this figure had increased by at least ten percentage points between summer 2020 and winter 2020-2021. This share of respondents has slightly increased in eight countries and remained stable in Belgium and Italy.



*Sorted by 'False'*

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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	16	75	9
 Gender			
Man	14	80	6
Woman	17	71	12
 Age			
15-24	21	70	9
25-39	18	76	6
40-54	15	78	7
55 +	14	74	12
 Education (End of)			
15-	19	59	22
16-19	17	74	9
20+	13	83	4
Still studying	19	73	8
 Socio-professional category			
Self-employed	13	81	6
Managers	8	89	3
Other white collars	16	80	4
Manual workers	21	70	9
House persons	20	58	22
Unemployed	20	68	12
Retired	13	74	13
Students	19	73	8
 Difficulties paying bills			
Most of the time	19	67	14
From time to time	22	67	11
Almost never/ Never	13	79	8
 Consider belonging to			
The working class	19	63	18
The lower middle class	16	76	8
The middle class	16	78	6
The upper middle class	10	88	2
The upper class	21	78	1

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**SD20a** 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		The Euro area currently consists of 19 Member States		Switzerland is a Member State of the EU	
		True	Sp.2021 - Win.2020/2021	True	Sp.2021 - Win.2020/2021	False	Sp.2021 - Win.2020/2021
EU27	64	▲ 1	44	▲ 1	75	▼ 2	
EURO AREA	60	▲ 1	41	▲ 1	78	▼ 1	
NON-EURO AREA	77	=	52	▲ 2	66	▼ 1	
BE	65	▼ 1	61	▲ 3	90	=	
BG	83	▲ 1	41	▲ 2	54	▼ 3	
CZ	72	▼ 3	49	▼ 6	82	▼ 10	
DK	78	▼ 9	51	▼ 5	74	▼ 9	
DE	52	▲ 1	43	▲ 3	90	▲ 1	
EE	70	▼ 4	58	=	80	▼ 2	
IE	84	=	52	▼ 3	85	▲ 2	
EL	90	▲ 3	50	▼ 10	61	▲ 2	
ES	69	▲ 4	30	▼ 2	59	▼ 4	
FR	49	▲ 2	36	▲ 5	76	▼ 2	
HR	79	=	35	▼ 3	80	▼ 2	
IT	61	▲ 1	40	=	76	=	
CY	86	▼ 3	51	▲ 3	55	▲ 1	
LV	75	▼ 7	47	▼ 5	71	▼ 5	
LT	83	▼ 2	63	=	70	▼ 2	
LU	64	▼ 11	52	▼ 6	87	▼ 5	
HU	66	=	49	▲ 3	77	▼ 3	
MT	89	▲ 4	41	▼ 9	74	▲ 4	
NL	52	▼ 3	53	▲ 7	86	▼ 3	
AT	54	▼ 3	42	▼ 1	90	▼ 3	
PL	79	=	55	▲ 3	62	▲ 3	
PT	71	▼ 7	32	▼ 22	75	▼ 8	
RO	77	▲ 1	52	▲ 1	48	▼ 5	
SI	75	▼ 4	53	▼ 1	87	▼ 2	
SK	80	▲ 1	51	▼ 4	77	▼ 1	
FI	81	=	67	▲ 3	84	▲ 1	
SE	75	▲ 1	59	▲ 3	82	▲ 1	

## 4. The European Union today and tomorrow

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

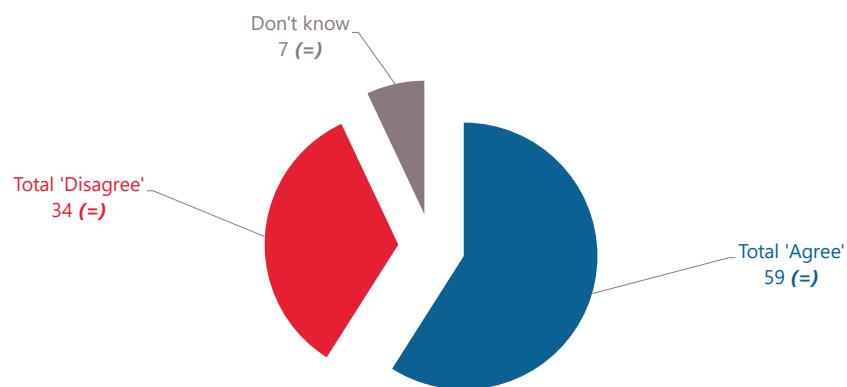
#### A large majority think more decisions should be taken at EU level

Almost six in ten respondents (59%) agree that more decisions should be taken at EU level. This proportion has remained stable since summer 2020 (EB93), following a five-percentage point increase between autumn 2019 and summer 2020. Around one third (34%, no change since winter 2020-2021) disagree with this statement, while 7% say they "don't know".

There is a small difference in attitude between respondents in the **euro area** and those in the **non-euro area**, with the former (59%, -1 percentage point) being slightly more likely than the latter (56%, no change) to agree that more decisions should be taken at EU level<sup>50</sup>.

**QA11.3** To what extent do you agree or disagree with each of the following statements?

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



(Spring 2021 - Winter 2020/2021)

<sup>50</sup> QA11.3 Please tell me to what extent you agree or disagree with each of the following statements. More decisions should be taken at EU level.

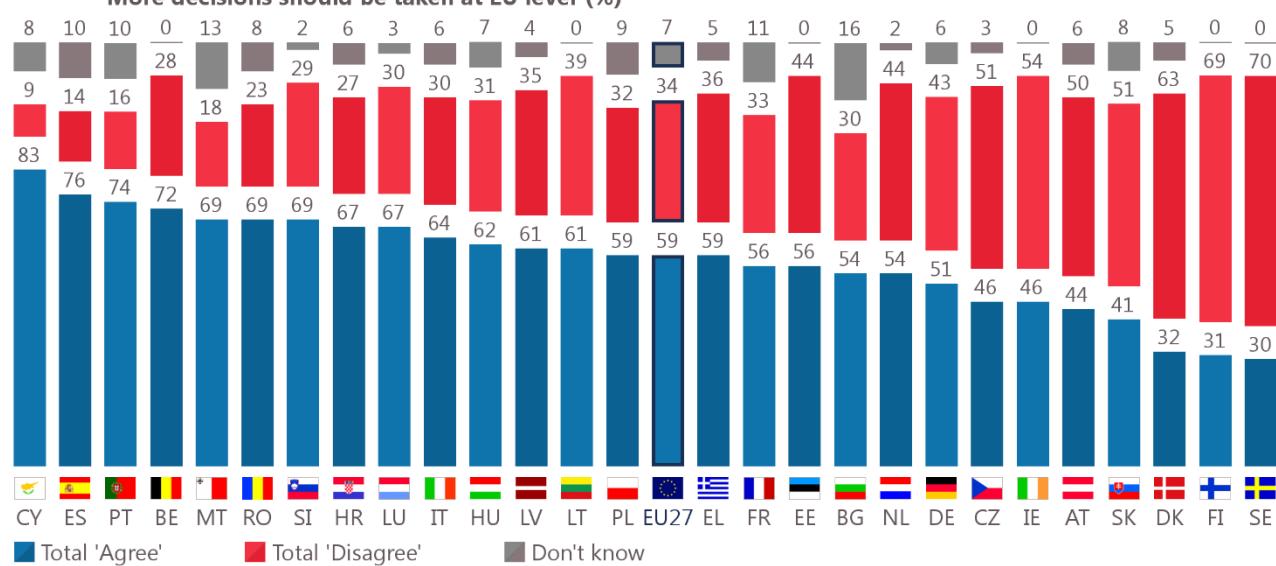
**Standard Eurobarometer 95**  
**Public opinion in the European Union**  
**Spring 2021**

In 20 EU Member States, a majority of respondents agree that more decisions should be taken at EU level. Respondents in Cyprus (83%), Spain (76%) and Portugal (74%) are the most likely to be in agreement with this statement. At the opposite end of the scale, less than a third agree in Sweden (30%), Finland (31%) and Denmark (32%). As in the previous Standard Eurobarometer survey, these three countries are also the ones with the largest proportions who disagree with this statement: 70% in Sweden, 69% in Finland and 63% in Denmark. A majority disagree that more decisions should be taken at EU level in a further four countries: Slovakia (51% “disagree” vs 41% “agree”), Austria (50% vs 44%), Ireland (54% vs 46%) and Czechia (51% vs 46%).

The proportion of respondents who agree that more decisions should be taken at EU level has declined in 16 EU Member States since winter 2020-2021. This figure has dropped the most in Portugal (-15 percentage points), Greece (-13) and Luxembourg (-8). In the case of Portugal and Greece, these decreases follow significant increases between summer 2020 and winter 2020-2021 (+20 and +13, respectively). Conversely, the only notable increase in support for more decision-making at EU level can be observed in Malta (+13). This share of respondents has remained stable in five countries: Bulgaria, Latvia, the Netherlands, Poland and Spain.

**QA11.3** To what extent do you agree or disagree with each of the following statements?

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



Sorted by “Total ‘Agree’”

**Standard Eurobarometer 95**  
**Public opinion in the European Union**  
**Spring 2021**

**QA11.3** To what extent do you agree or disagree with each of the following statements?

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

		Total 'Agree'	Sp.2021 - Win.2020/2021	Total 'Disagree'	Sp.2021 - Win.2020/2021	Don't know
EU27		59	=	34	=	7
EURO AREA		59	▼ 1	34	▲ 1	7
NON-EURO AREA		56	=	37	▼ 1	7
MT		69	▲ 13	18	▼ 8	13
AT		44	▲ 4	50	▼ 4	6
RO		69	▲ 3	23	▼ 3	8
HU		62	▲ 3	31	▼ 3	7
IT		64	▲ 1	30	▲ 1	6
CZ		46	▲ 1	51	▼ 4	3
ES		76	=	14	▼ 2	10
LV		61	=	35	▼ 4	4
PL		59	=	32	▼ 1	9
BG		54	=	30	=	16
NL		54	=	44	=	2
HR		67	▼ 1	27	▼ 2	6
FR		56	▼ 1	33	=	11
DE		51	▼ 1	43	▲ 2	6
CY		83	▼ 2	9	▼ 1	8
EE		56	▼ 2	44	▲ 2	0
FI		31	▼ 2	69	▲ 2	0
SE		30	▼ 3	70	▲ 4	0
BE		72	▼ 4	28	▲ 4	0
SI		69	▼ 4	29	▲ 2	2
DK		32	▼ 4	63	▼ 1	5
IE		46	▼ 5	54	▲ 6	0
LT		61	▼ 6	39	▲ 6	0
SK		41	▼ 6	51	▲ 3	8
LU		67	▼ 8	30	▲ 5	3
EL		59	▼ 13	36	▲ 10	5
PT		74	▼ 15	16	▲ 5	10

**Standard Eurobarometer 95**  
**Public opinion in the European Union**  
**Spring 2021**

The **socio-demographic data** highlight that majorities of respondents in all categories agree that more decisions should be taken at EU level. However, differences in levels of agreement can still be observed according to age and socio-economic background of the respondents.

In particular, levels of agreement with this statement are high among 15-24 year olds (65%, compared with 55% of those aged 55 or more), those who have difficulties paying their bills never or almost never or from time to time (57-60%, compared with 47% of those who have difficulties most of the time) and those who see themselves as belonging to the upper class of society (70%, compared with 52-55% of those who consider themselves as part of the working class or the lower middle class of society).

Finally, respondents who have a positive image of the EU (75%) are much more likely to support more decision-making at EU level than those holding a negative view (29%).

**QA11.3** 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	59	34	7
 Gender			
Man	59	35	6
Woman	58	34	8
 Age			
15-24	65	26	9
25-39	60	34	6
40-54	60	35	5
55 +	55	37	8
 Education (End of)			
15-	55	31	14
16-19	58	35	7
20+	60	36	4
Still studying	65	27	8
 Socio-professional category			
Self-employed	63	32	5
Managers	59	37	4
Other white collars	61	34	5
Manual workers	60	34	6
House persons	53	33	14
Unemployed	57	34	9
Retired	53	38	9
Students	65	27	8
 Difficulties paying bills			
Most of the time	47	42	11
From time to time	57	35	8
Almost never/ Never	60	34	6
 Consider belonging to			
The working class	55	33	12
The lower middle class	52	41	7
The middle class	62	33	5
The upper middle class	61	36	3
The upper class	70	29	1

**Standard Eurobarometer 95**  
**Public opinion in the European Union**  
**Spring 2021**

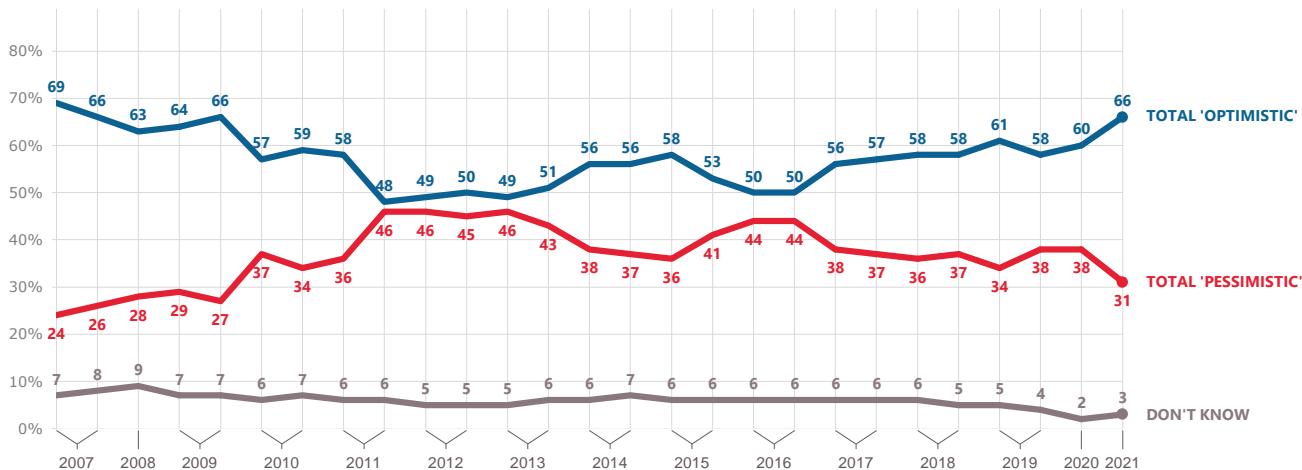
## 4.2 The future of the European Union

### Optimism about the future of the EU is at its highest since autumn 2009

Two thirds of the respondents are optimistic about the future of the European Union. This proportion has increased by six percentage points since summer 2020 (EB93), reaching a level last observed in autumn 2009. The share of respondents who say they are pessimistic has dropped by seven percentage points and now stands at 31%. Less than one in twenty (3%) express no opinion.

There is a difference in attitudes between respondents in **euro area** countries and respondents in **non-euro area** countries, with the former (65%) being less likely to be optimistic about the future of the EU than the latter (71%). However, the improvement in the level of optimism is more noticeable in euro area countries (+8 percentage points since summer 2020) than in countries outside the euro area (+2). Similarly, while the share of respondents who say they are pessimistic is higher in the euro area (32%) than in the non-euro area (27%), the drop in this proportion is larger in the former (-9) than in the latter (-3)<sup>51</sup>.

**QA12** Would you say that you are very optimistic, fairly optimistic, fairly pessimistic or very pessimistic about the future of the EU?  
 (% - EU)



The improvement in the level of optimism about the future of the EU is reflected in the significant increase in the optimism index<sup>52</sup>, from +22 in summer 2020 to +35 in the current survey.

**QA12** 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>51</sup> QA12. Would you say that you are very optimistic, fairly optimistic, fairly pessimistic or very pessimistic about the future of the EU?

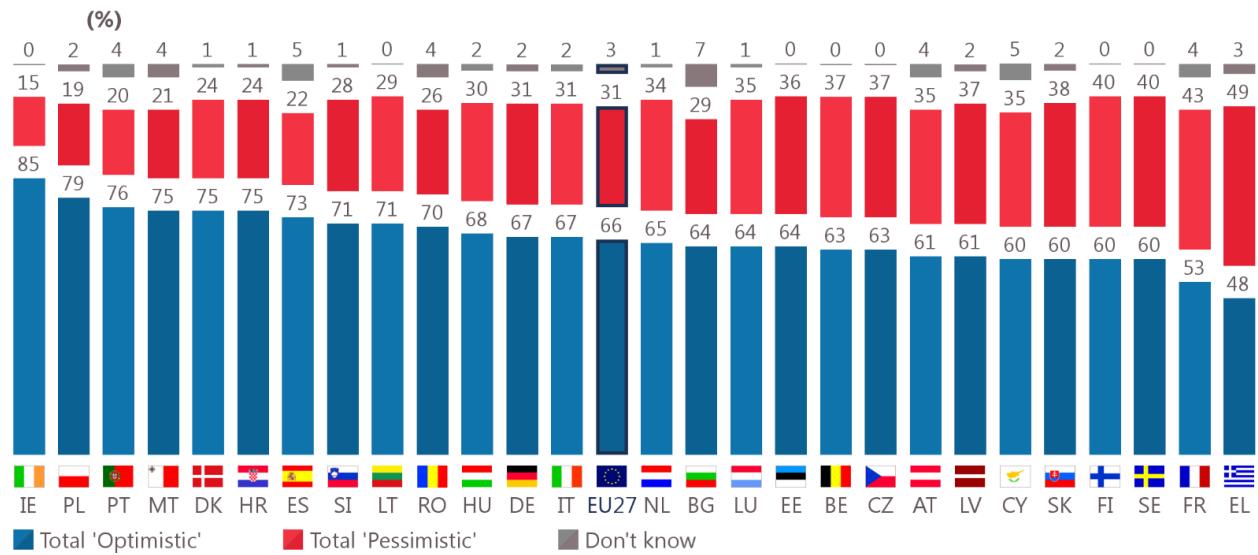
<sup>52</sup> Difference between proportions of "optimistic" and "pessimistic" answers.

**Standard Eurobarometer 95**  
**Public opinion in the European Union**  
**Spring 2021**

In all but one EU Member States, a majority of respondents say they are optimistic about the future of the European Union. Ireland (85%) stands out for a particularly high proportion who express optimism, followed by Poland (79%) and Portugal (76%). At the other end of the spectrum, more than half in France (53%) and six in ten in Cyprus, Finland, Slovakia and Sweden are optimistic. The only exception is Greece, where opinion is more divided (49% "pessimistic" vs 48% "optimistic").

In 22 EU Member States, the proportion of respondents who are optimistic about the future of the EU has risen since summer 2020. Particularly large increases are observed in Malta (+25 percentage points), Italy (+18) and Portugal (+15), followed by Luxembourg (+11). The share of respondents who express optimism has declined by four percentage points in Latvia, Lithuania and Slovakia, while it has remained stable in Slovenia.

**QA12** Would you say that you are very optimistic, fairly optimistic, fairly pessimistic or very pessimistic about the future of the EU?



**Standard Eurobarometer 95**  
**Public opinion in the European Union**  
**Spring 2021**

The **socio-demographic data** reveal that majorities in most categories are optimistic about the future of the EU. The exception is those who have difficulties paying their bills most of the time, where pessimism outweighs optimism (50% "pessimistic" vs 46% "optimistic").

In line with findings about trust in the EU and image of the EU, optimism about the future of the EU is most widespread among the youngest respondents, those who stayed longer in full-time education and those in a better socio-economic situation.

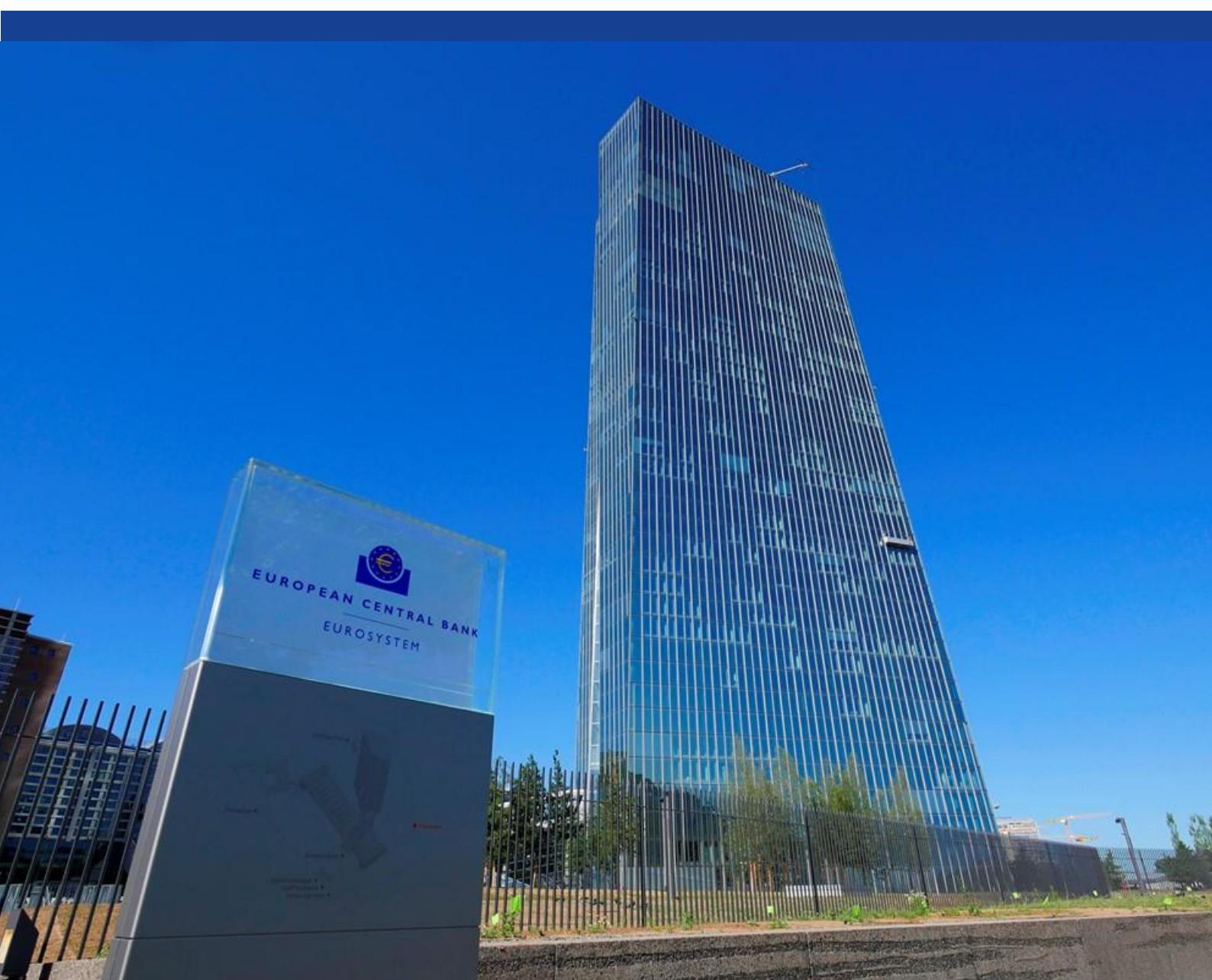
More particularly, the proportion of respondents who are optimistic is especially high among 15-24 year-olds (76%, compared with 62% of those aged 55 or more) and among those who finished education aged 20 or more (70%, compared with 60% of those who left aged 15 or less). Large proportions express optimism among managers (73%) and other white-collar workers (71%), particularly when compared to the unemployed (56%) or house persons (58%). Respondents who have never or almost never difficulties paying their bills (71%, compared with 46% of those who have difficulties most of the time) and those who place themselves within the upper or upper middle class of society (74-76%, compared with 58-59% of those who consider themselves as belonging to the working class or lower middle class of society) are also among the most likely to be optimistic.

Lastly, optimism about the future of the EU is more widespread among those who have a positive image of the EU (91%) than among those who hold a negative opinion (17%).

**QA12** 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	66	31	3
<b>Gender</b>			
Man	66	32	2
Woman	67	30	3
<b>Age</b>			
15-24	76	21	3
25-39	69	29	2
40-54	67	31	2
55 +	62	34	4
<b>Education (End of)</b>			
15-	60	35	5
16-19	63	35	2
20+	70	28	2
Still studying	78	19	3
<b>Socio-professional category</b>			
Self-employed	66	32	2
Managers	73	26	1
Other white collars	71	27	2
Manual workers	64	33	3
House persons	58	35	7
Unemployed	56	41	3
Retired	61	35	4
Students	78	19	3
<b>Difficulties paying bills</b>			
Most of the time	46	50	4
From time to time	60	38	2
Almost never/ Never	71	26	3
<b>Consider belonging to</b>			
The working class	58	37	5
The lower middle class	59	39	2
The middle class	70	28	2
The upper middle class	76	23	1
The upper class	74	26	0
<b>Image of the EU</b>			
Total 'Positive'	91	8	1
Neutral	58	37	5
Total 'Negative'	17	82	1

### **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

**Perceptions regarding the personal situation have improved, along with a slight increase in optimism for the future**

A majority 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. There has been an improvement in the current assessment of Europeans' personal situation since the winter 2020-2021 Standard Eurobarometer survey (EB94). There has also been a slight increase in optimism for the future.

- Three-quarters of respondents (74%) are positive about the financial situation of their household (+6 percentage points since winter 2020-2021). By contrast, 24% consider that their household's financial situation is 'bad' (-5) and 2% (-1) express no opinion<sup>53</sup>.
- While a majority of respondents still expect the next twelve months to stay the same, there has been a slight increase in optimistic expectations: 60% of Europeans (+1 percentage point) expect their financial situation to stay the same over the coming year, while 25% (+4) expect it to improve and 13% (-4) expect it to deteriorate.

**QA1a** How would you judge the current situation in each of the following? (% - EU)



- Almost two-thirds of respondents (64%, +6 percentage points) are positive about their personal job situation, while 20% (-7) describe it as 'bad', and 16% (+1) express no opinion.
- Around six in ten respondents (58%, +1 percentage point) expect their personal job situation to stay the same over the next twelve months, while 23% (+3) expect it to improve and 9% (-4) expect it to deteriorate<sup>54</sup>.

The optimism index<sup>55</sup> for expectations regarding the household financial situation stands at +12 (+8 index points since winter 2020-2021). This reverses the decline that was seen between spring 2019 and summer 2020, and means that the current position is similar to 'pre-Covid 19' levels between 2015 and 2019.

**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...? (% - EU)



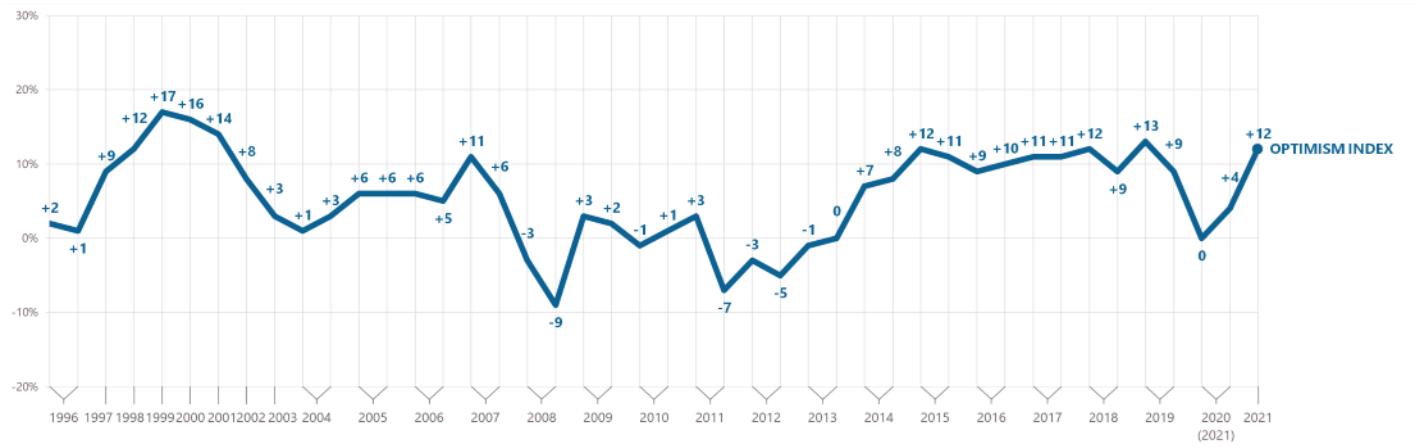
<sup>53</sup> QA1a4-5. How would you judge the current situation in each of the following? The financial situation of your household/your personal job situation.

<sup>54</sup> QA2a4-6. What are your expectations for the next twelve months: will the next twelve months be better, worse or the same, when it comes to...? The financial situation of your household/your personal job situation.

<sup>55</sup> Difference between positive ("better") and negative ("worse") answers.

**Standard Eurobarometer 95**  
**Public opinion in the European Union**  
**Spring 2021**

**QA2a.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))**



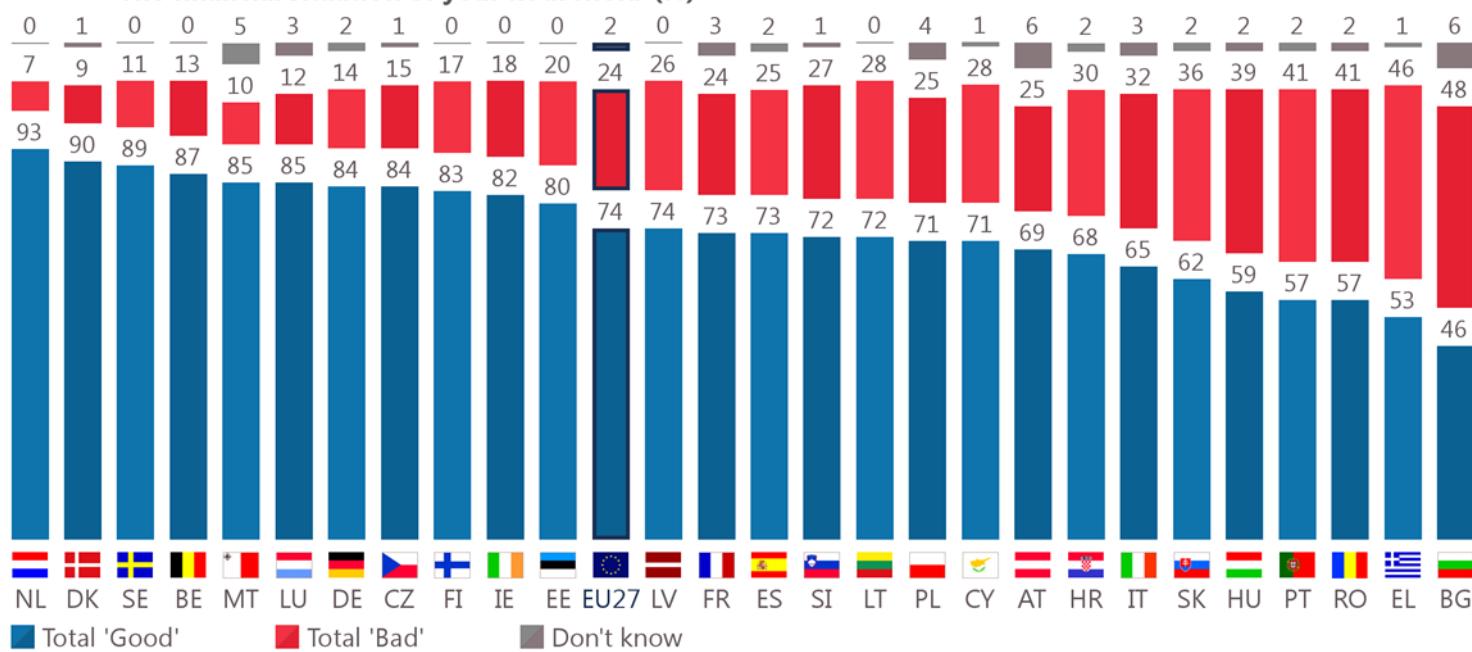
**Standard Eurobarometer 95**  
**Public opinion in the European Union**  
**Spring 2021**

A majority of respondents consider that the **financial situation of their household** is 'good' in 26 Member States of the European Union, most markedly in the Netherlands (93%), Denmark (90%), Sweden (89%), Belgium (87%), Malta and Luxembourg (85% in both).

Respondents are predominantly negative rather than positive in Bulgaria (48% 'bad' vs 46% 'good'), while the proportion of negative ratings is also high in Greece (46%), Portugal and Romania (41% in both countries).

**QA1a.5** How would you judge the current situation in each of the following?

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



Sorted by 'Total Good'

**Standard Eurobarometer 95**  
**Public opinion in the European Union**  
**Spring 2021**

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 held most strongly by respondents who remained in education until the age of 20 or older (84%), managers (89%) and other white collar workers (82%), those who never or almost never have difficulties paying bills (87%) and those who consider themselves as belonging to the upper class (90%) or upper middle class (95%) of society.

At the same time, respondents in some groups are more likely to say that their household's financial situation is 'bad' rather than 'good': unemployed respondents (61% 'bad' vs 37% 'good') and people who have difficulties paying their bills most of the time (76% vs 22%).

**QA1a.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	74	24	2
 Gender			
Man	75	23	2
Woman	72	25	3
 Age			
15-24	75	21	4
25-39	74	24	2
40-54	74	24	2
55 +	72	26	2
 Education (End of)			
15-	60	38	2
16-19	69	29	2
20+	84	15	1
Still studying	78	17	5
 Socio-professional category			
Self-employed	74	25	1
Managers	89	10	1
Other white collars	82	16	2
Manual workers	71	27	2
House persons	65	32	3
Unemployed	37	61	2
Retired	72	25	3
Students	78	17	5
 Difficulties paying bills			
Most of the time	22	76	2
From time to time	54	43	3
Almost never/ Never	87	11	2
 Consider belonging to			
The working class	54	43	3
The lower middle class	61	37	2
The middle class	82	16	2
The upper middle class	95	4	1
The upper class	90	10	0

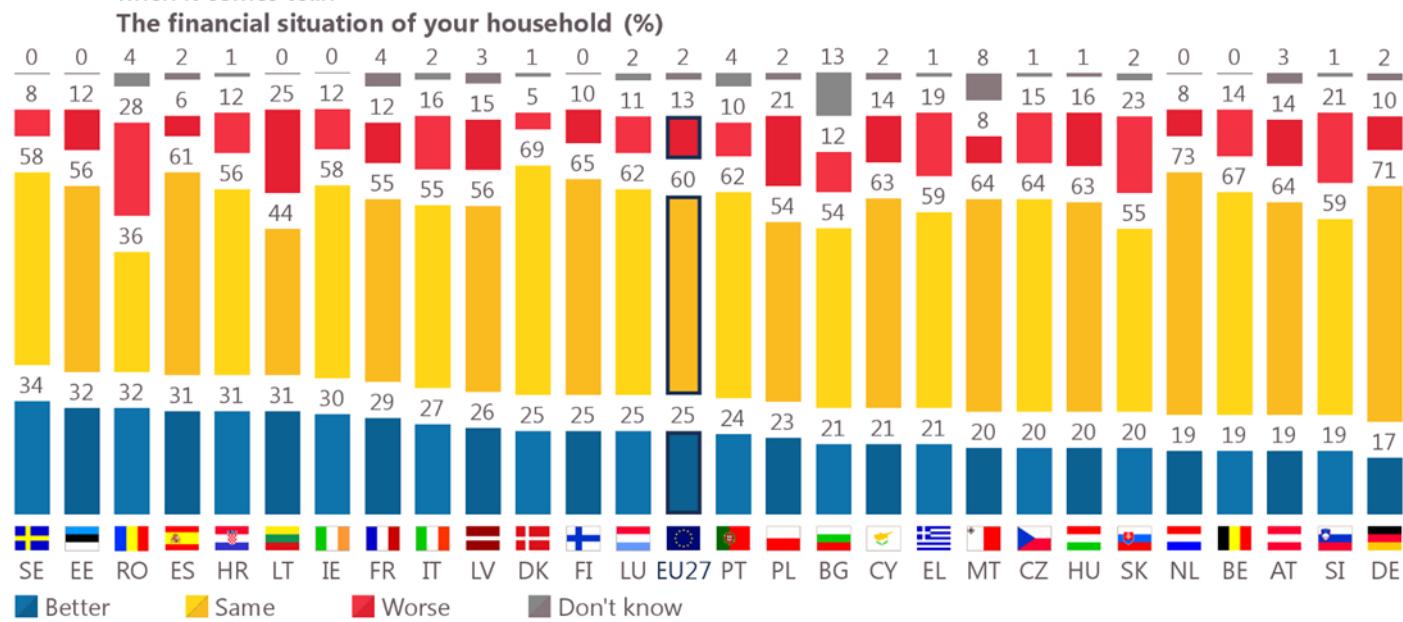
**Standard Eurobarometer 95**  
**Public opinion in the European Union**  
**Spring 2021**

In all Member States, the prevailing view is that the **financial situation of the household** is expected to stay the same, with respondents particularly likely to say this in the Netherlands (73%) and Germany (71%).

Optimism outweighs pessimism in 25 countries, with respondents most likely to be optimistic in Sweden (34%), Estonia, Romania (32% in both), Spain, Croatia and Lithuania (31% in all three countries). By contrast, respondents are more likely to be pessimistic than optimistic in two Member States: Slovakia (23% pessimistic vs 20% optimistic) and Slovenia (21% vs 19%).

Since winter 2020-2021, the **optimism index** for the household financial situation has improved in 21 EU Member States, most strikingly in Poland (+17 index points), Portugal, Hungary (+12 in both), Croatia, Luxembourg and Romania (+11 in all three countries). It has stayed the same in Denmark, and has declined slightly in five countries, with the largest decreases seen in Ireland and the Netherlands (-3 in both countries).

**QA2a.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...?



Sorted by 'Better'

**QA2a.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 (INDEX)**

	Better - Worse Win.2020/2021	Better - Worse Sp.2021	Sp.2021 - Win.2020/2021
EU27 	+4	+12	▲ 8
PL 	-15	+2	▲ 17
PT 	+2	+14	▲ 12
HU 	-8	+4	▲ 12
HR 	+8	+19	▲ 11
LU 	+3	+14	▲ 11
RO 	-7	+4	▲ 11
ES 	+15	+25	▲ 10
IT 	+1	+11	▲ 10
EL 	-6	+2	▲ 8
FI 	+8	+15	▲ 7
CY 	0	+7	▲ 7
AT 	-2	+5	▲ 7
SK 	-10	-3	▲ 7
FR 	+11	+17	▲ 6
LV 	+5	+11	▲ 6
BG 	+3	+9	▲ 6
SI 	-7	-2	▲ 5
EE 	+17	+20	▲ 3
BE 	+2	+5	▲ 3
SE 	+25	+26	▲ 1
LT 	+5	+6	▲ 1
DK 	+20	+20	=
MT 	+13	+12	▼ 1
CZ 	+6	+5	▼ 1
DE 	+9	+7	▼ 2
IE 	+21	+18	▼ 3
NL 	+14	+11	▼ 3

**Standard Eurobarometer 95**  
**Public opinion in the European Union**  
**Spring 2021**

The **socio-demographic** data show that, in nearly all groups, the prevailing view is that the financial situation of the household is expected to stay the same. The one exception is the group of unemployed respondents, who are most likely to expect their financial situation to improve (42%).

Optimism decreases with age: 15-24 year olds are more likely to be optimistic than pessimistic (37% vs 9%), but the reverse is true of respondents aged 55 or over (13% vs 15%).

Optimism outweighs pessimism in most other groups, notably respondents who remained in education until the age of 20 or older (26% vs 11%), self-employed respondents (31% vs 15%), unemployed respondents (42% vs 16%), students (38% vs 8%), those who never or almost never have difficulties paying bills (23% vs 8%) and those who consider themselves as belonging to the upper middle class of society (25% vs 8%). However, respondents are more likely to be pessimistic rather than optimistic if they are retired (14% pessimistic vs 10% optimistic), and levels of pessimism are also high among those who have difficulties paying their bills most of the time (27% vs 29%).

**QA2a.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)**

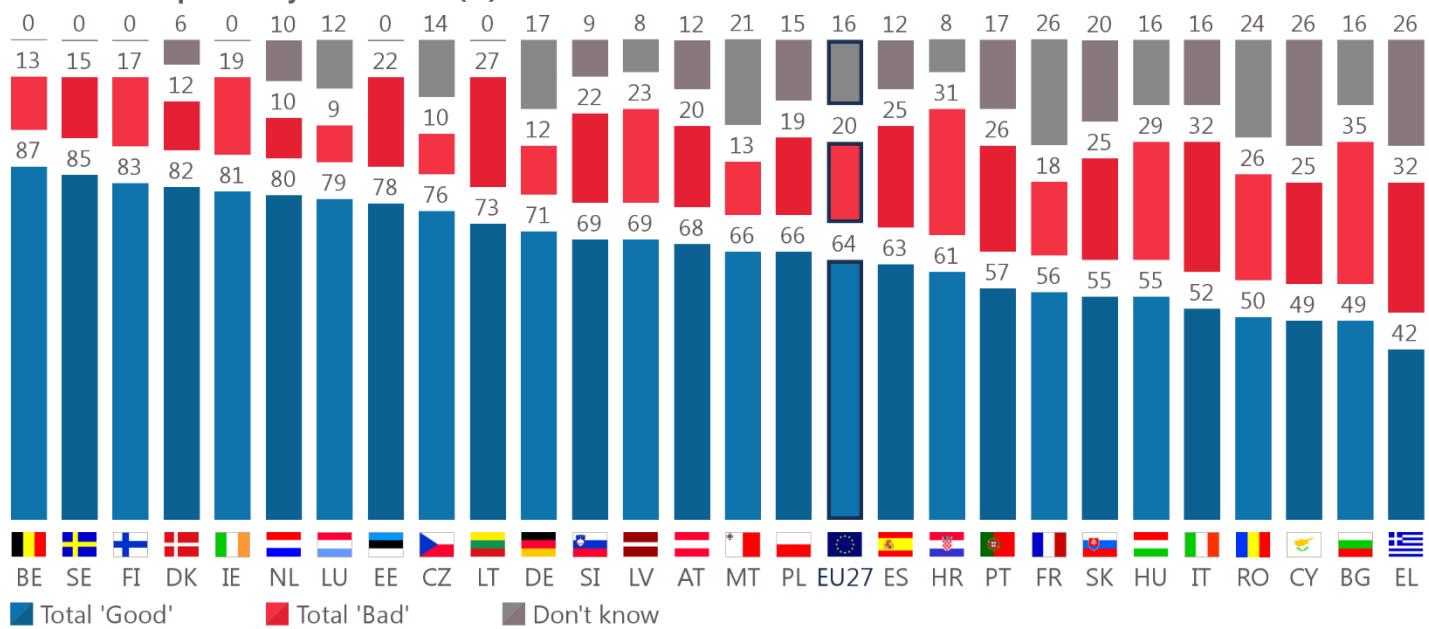
	Better	Worse	Same	Don't know
EU27	25	13	60	2
<b>Gender</b>				
Man	26	13	59	2
Woman	23	14	61	2
<b>Age</b>				
15-24	37	9	50	4
25-39	36	12	50	2
40-54	26	14	58	2
55 +	13	15	70	2
<b>Education (End of)</b>				
15-	15	15	67	3
16-19	24	15	58	3
20+	26	11	62	1
Still studying	38	8	51	3
<b>Socio-professional category</b>				
Self-employed	31	15	53	1
Managers	25	11	62	2
Other white collars	27	11	59	3
Manual workers	26	16	56	2
House persons	21	15	61	3
Unemployed	42	16	39	3
Retired	10	14	74	2
Students	38	8	51	3
<b>Difficulties paying bills</b>				
Most of the time	29	27	41	3
From time to time	28	22	48	2
Almost never/ Never	23	8	67	2
<b>Consider belonging to</b>				
The working class	24	15	58	3
The lower middle class	22	20	57	1
The middle class	26	12	60	2
The upper middle class	25	8	66	1
The upper class	24	12	64	0

**Standard Eurobarometer 95**  
**Public opinion in the European Union**  
**Spring 2021**

Around two in three Europeans (64%) say that their **personal job situation** is 'good', while one in five (20%) say it is 'bad' and the remainder (16%) do not know. In all 27 EU Member States, a majority of respondents are positive about their personal job situation, most markedly in Belgium (87%), Sweden (85%), Finland (83%), Denmark (82%) and Ireland (81%). Respondents are most likely to be negative about their personal job situation in Bulgaria (35%), Italy and Greece (32% in both) and Croatia (31%).

**QA1a.4** How would you judge the current situation in each of the following?

**Your personal job situation (%)**



Sorted by "Total' Good"

**Standard Eurobarometer 95**  
**Public opinion in the European Union**  
**Spring 2021**

The **socio-demographic** data show that a majority of respondents in most groups are positive about their personal job situation. Men (66%) are more likely than women (61%) to be positive, while the most positive age groups are those aged 25-39 (74%) and 40-54 (73%).

Positive views are also strongly held by respondents who remained in education until the age of 20 or older (77%), managers (90%), other white collar workers (82%) and those who consider themselves as belonging to the upper class (83%) or upper middle class (82%) of society. However, respondents are more likely to say that their personal job situation is 'bad' rather than 'good' if they are unemployed (72% bad vs 23% good) and if they have difficulties paying bills most of the time (57% vs 29%).

**QA1a.4** How would you judge the current situation in each of the following?

**Your personal job situation (% - EU)**

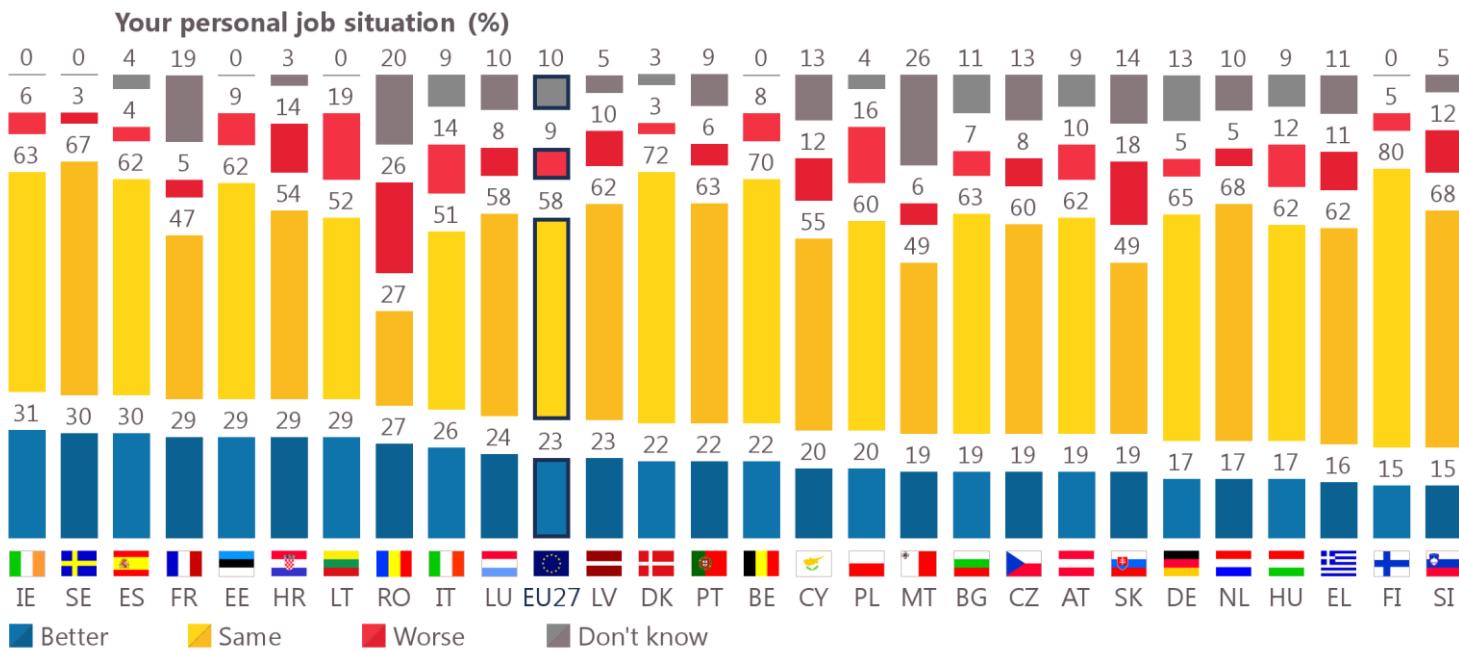
	Total 'Good'	Total 'Bad'	Don't know
EU27	64	20	16
 Gender			
Man	66	20	14
Woman	61	21	18
 Age			
15-24	61	18	21
25-39	74	24	2
40-54	73	23	4
55 +	52	17	31
 Education (End of)			
15-	43	25	32
16-19	60	25	15
20+	77	15	8
Still studying	60	14	26
 Socio-professional category			
Self-employed	72	26	2
Managers	90	9	1
Other white collars	82	16	2
Manual workers	74	23	3
House persons	41	28	31
Unemployed	23	72	5
Retired	44	13	43
Students	60	14	26
 Difficulties paying bills			
Most of the time	29	57	14
From time to time	51	35	14
Almost never/ Never	72	11	17
 Consider belonging to			
The working class	48	32	20
The lower middle class	56	29	15
The middle class	69	16	15
The upper middle class	82	7	11
The upper class	83	11	6

**Standard Eurobarometer 95**  
**Public opinion in the European Union**  
**Spring 2021**

A majority of respondents in 26 Member States expect their **personal job situation** to remain the same over the next twelve months. This view is most strongly held in Finland (80%), Denmark (72%) and Belgium (68%). The one exception is Romania, where there is an even spread of expectations (27% better, 27% same and 26% worse).

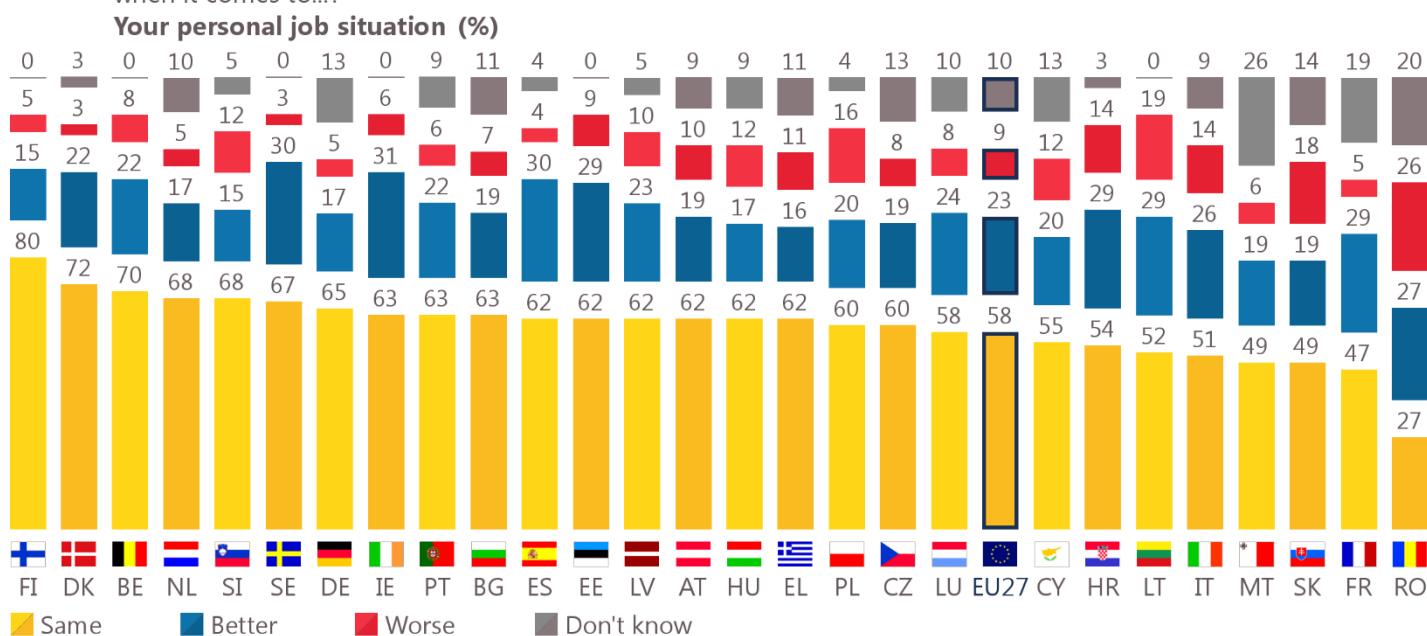
Among those who expect the situation to change, optimists outnumber pessimists in all 27 Member States, with optimism the most widespread in Ireland (31%) and Sweden and Spain (30% in both). The highest levels of pessimism are seen in Romania (26%), Lithuania (19%), Slovakia (18%) and Poland (16%).

**QA2a.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...?



Sorted by 'Better'

**QA2a.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...?



Sorted by 'Same'

**Standard Eurobarometer 95**  
**Public opinion in the European Union**  
**Spring 2021**

Since winter 2020-2021, the **optimism index** for the personal job situation has improved in 24 EU Member States, most notably Poland (+13 index points), Hungary (+12) and Romania (+11). It has deteriorated in three countries: the Netherlands (-3 index points), Malta and Germany (-1 in both countries).

- QA2a.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 (INDEX)**

	EU27	Better - Worse Win.2020/2021	Better - Worse Sp.2021	Sp.2021 - Win.2020/2021
		+7	+14	▲ 7
PL		-9	+4	▲ 13
HU		-7	+5	▲ 12
RO		-10	+1	▲ 11
ES		+17	+26	▲ 9
SK		-8	+1	▲ 9
FR		+16	+24	▲ 8
HR		+7	+15	▲ 8
LV		+5	+13	▲ 8
DK		+12	+19	▲ 7
PT		+9	+16	▲ 7
IT		+5	+12	▲ 7
AT		+2	+9	▲ 7
CZ		+5	+11	▲ 6
CY		+2	+8	▲ 6
SE		+22	+27	▲ 5
LU		+11	+16	▲ 5
BE		+9	+14	▲ 5
BG		+7	+12	▲ 5
SI		-2	+3	▲ 5
IE		+21	+25	▲ 4
EL		+1	+5	▲ 4
EE		+17	+20	▲ 3
LT		+8	+10	▲ 2
FI		+8	+10	▲ 2
MT		+14	+13	▼ 1
DE		+13	+12	▼ 1
NL		+15	+12	▼ 3

**Standard Eurobarometer 95**  
**Public opinion in the European Union**  
**Spring 2021**

The **socio-demographic** data show that, in nearly every group, a majority expect their personal job situation to remain the same over the next twelve months. The only exception is the group of unemployed respondents, who are more likely to say the situation will get better than stay the same (48% vs 35%).

In all categories optimism outweighs pessimism, most notably respondents aged 15-24 (40% vs 6%), students (40% vs 5%), respondents who remained in education until the age of 20 or older (25% vs 8%), self-employed respondents (32% vs 13%), unemployed respondents (48% vs 12%) and those who consider themselves as part of the upper middle class of society (27% vs 4%).

By contrast, there are some groups where levels of optimism and pessimism are quite similar: respondents aged 55 or over (11% optimistic vs 8% pessimistic), those who left education at the age of 15 or before (13% vs 9%), house persons (15% vs 11%) or retired respondents (7% vs 6%).

**QA2a.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 (% - EU)**

	Better	Worse	Same	Don't know
EU27	23	9	58	10
 Gender				
Man	25	9	57	9
Woman	22	8	59	11
 Age				
15-24	40	6	42	12
25-39	35	9	54	2
40-54	24	11	62	3
55 +	11	8	62	19
 Education (End of)				
15-	13	9	59	19
16-19	22	11	57	10
20+	25	8	62	5
Still studying	40	5	41	14
 Socio-professional category				
Self-employed	32	13	53	2
Managers	24	7	67	2
Other white collars	24	9	64	3
Manual workers	25	13	59	3
House persons	15	11	60	14
Unemployed	48	12	35	5
Retired	7	6	62	25
Students	40	5	41	14
 Difficulties paying bills				
Most of the time	26	20	44	10
From time to time	25	16	51	8
Almost never/ Never	22	5	62	11
 Consider belonging to				
The working class	22	10	57	11
The lower middle class	21	13	57	9
The middle class	24	8	58	10
The upper middle class	27	4	61	8
The upper class	23	11	62	4

**Standard Eurobarometer 95**  
**Public opinion in the European Union**  
**Spring 2021**

## 1.2 Economic aspects

### 1.2.1 Assessment of the current economic situation

#### National and European situations

##### Perceptions of the national and European economic situation have become much more positive

Europeans are more positive about the economy in their country and in Europe in general than in winter 2020-2021<sup>56</sup>.

Four in ten respondents in the EU (40%, +11 percentage points since winter 2020-2021) are positive about the **economic situation in their country**, while 58% (-11) are negative and 2% (unchanged) say they don't know.

More than four in ten Europeans (44%, +12 percentage points since winter 2020-2021) consider that the **situation of the European economy** is 'good', while a similar proportion 45% (-15) think that it is 'bad' and 11% (+3) say they don't know.

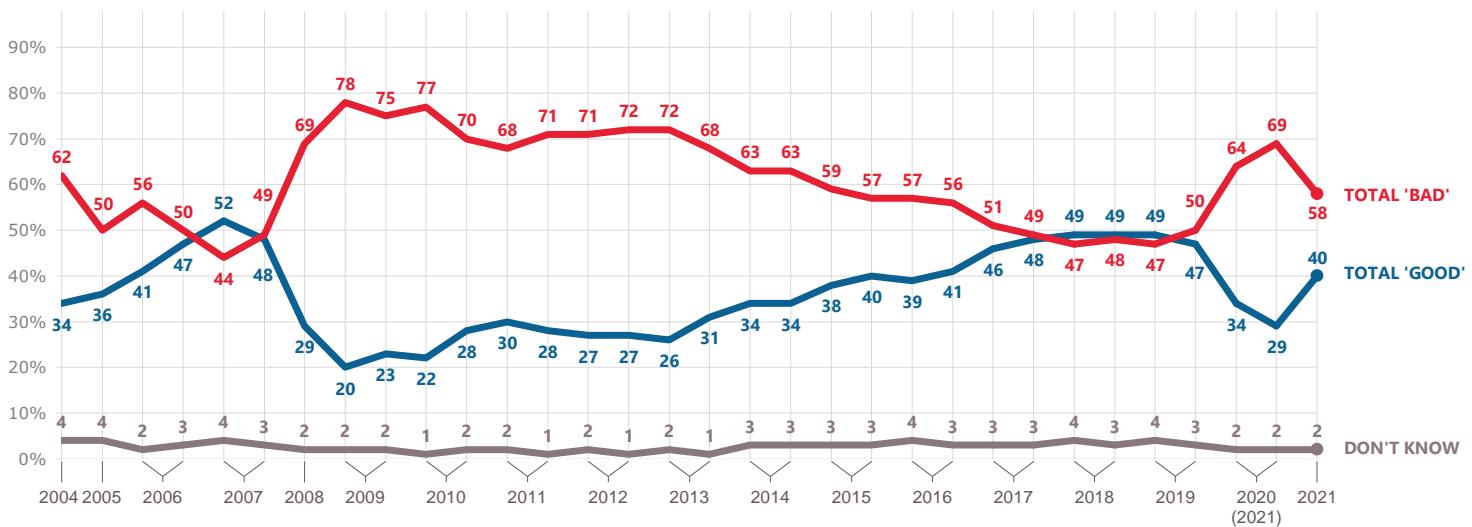
Negative views continue to outweigh positive views regarding the **situation of the national economy** in the 27 Member States as a whole. However, perceptions have become more positive since winter 2020-2021, and this partly redresses the negative shift seen between autumn 2019 and winter 2020-2021.

QA1a How would you judge the current situation in each of the following? (% - EU)



Spring 2021      Winter 2020/2021      Total 'Good'      Total 'Bad'      Don't know

QA1a.2 How would you judge the current situation in each of the following?  
**The situation of the (NATIONALITY) economy (% - EU)**



<sup>56</sup> QA1a2-3. How would you judge the current situation in each of the following? The situation of the (NATIONALITY) economy/The situation of the European economy.

**Standard Eurobarometer 95**  
**Public opinion in the European Union**  
**Spring 2021**

Assessments of the **national economic situation** continue to vary considerably within the 27 EU Member States, with a difference of 80 percentage points between the positive opinions recorded in Luxembourg and in Greece (89% vs 9%).

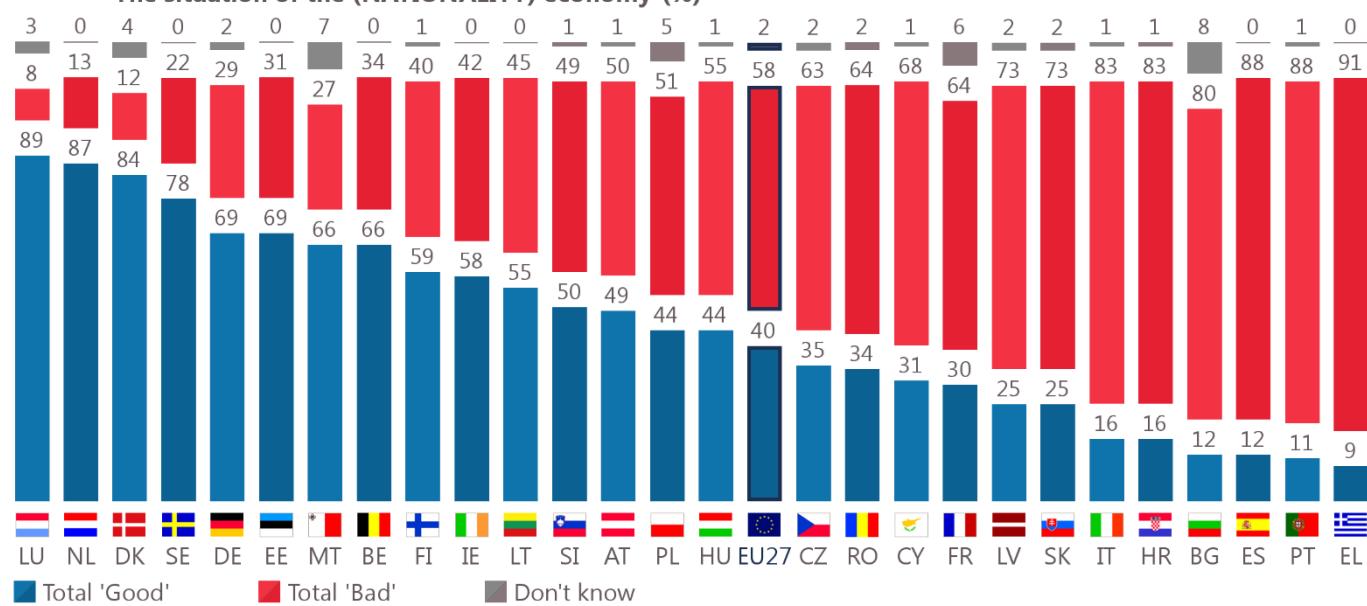
Respondents are predominantly positive in 12 Member States, compared with eight in winter 2020-2021.

Respondents in Luxembourg (89%), the Netherlands (87%), Denmark (84%) and Sweden (78%) are the most positive.

A majority of respondents are negative in 15 Member States, most markedly in Greece (91%), Spain and Portugal (88% in both), Italy and Croatia (83% in both) and Bulgaria (80%).

**QA1a.2** How would you judge the current situation in each of the following?

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



Sorted by 'Total Good'

**Standard Eurobarometer 95**  
**Public opinion in the European Union**  
**Spring 2021**

Respondents from countries outside the euro area are more likely to be positive about the national economic situation than countries in the euro area (44% vs 39%). However, the difference has narrowed since winter 2020-2021: in the **euro area** countries, positive perceptions of the national economic situation have increased by 11 percentage points, while negative opinions have shown a corresponding decrease (-12). In countries **outside the euro area**, positive opinions have increased by 8 percentage points, with negative perceptions showing a corresponding decrease (-8).

Since winter 2020-2021, positive perceptions of the national economic situation have gained ground in 25 Member States, most notably Austria (49%, +26 percentage points), the Netherlands (87%, +17), Germany (69%, +17), Belgium (66%, +16), Ireland (58%, +16), Denmark (84%, +13) and France (30%, +13).

Perceptions have become more negative in two countries: Sweden (78%, -3 percentage points) and Greece (9%, -1).

**QA1a.2** How would you judge the current situation in each of the following?

The situation of the (NATIONALITY) economy (%)

		Total 'Good'	Sp.2021 - Win.2020/2021	Total 'Bad'	Sp.2021 - Win.2020/2021	Don't know
EU27		40	▲ 11	58	▼ 11	2
EURO AREA		39	▲ 11	59	▼ 12	2
NON-EURO AREA		44	▲ 8	53	▼ 8	3
AT		49	▲ 26	50	▼ 27	1
NL		87	▲ 17	13	▼ 17	0
DE		69	▲ 17	29	▼ 17	2
BE		66	▲ 16	34	▼ 16	0
IE		58	▲ 16	42	▼ 16	0
DK		84	▲ 13	12	▼ 17	4
FR		30	▲ 13	64	▼ 15	6
PL		44	▲ 10	51	▼ 12	5
EE		69	▲ 9	31	▼ 9	0
IT		16	▲ 9	83	▼ 10	1
SI		50	▲ 8	49	▼ 9	1
HU		44	▲ 8	55	▼ 8	1
RO		34	▲ 8	64	▼ 6	2
CY		31	▲ 8	68	▼ 8	1
SK		25	▲ 8	73	▼ 9	2
MT		66	▲ 7	27	▼ 8	7
FI		59	▲ 7	40	▼ 8	1
LT		55	▲ 5	45	▼ 5	0
CZ		35	▲ 5	63	▼ 7	2
LV		25	▲ 5	73	▼ 7	2
ES		12	▲ 4	88	▼ 3	0
LU		89	▲ 3	8	▼ 6	3
HR		16	▲ 3	83	▼ 4	1
BG		12	▲ 2	80	▼ 2	8
PT		11	▲ 1	88	▼ 2	1
EL		9	▼ 1	91	▲ 1	0
SE		78	▼ 3	22	▲ 4	0

**Standard Eurobarometer 95**  
**Public opinion in the European Union**  
**Spring 2021**

The **socio-demographic** data show that, in most groups, a majority of respondents are negative about the national economic situation. The exceptions are respondents who remained in education until the age of 20 or older (49% 'good' vs 49% 'bad'), managers (52% vs 47) and those who place themselves in the upper class (51% vs 47%) or upper middle class (62% vs 37%) of society.

By contrast, the proportions that rate the national economic situation as 'bad' are highest among Europeans who finished education aged 15 or earlier (73%), unemployed respondents (74%), house persons (70%), people who have difficulties paying their bills most of the time (80%) and those who place themselves in the working class of society (71%).

**QA1a.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	40	58	2
 Gender			
Man	42	56	2
Woman	38	59	3
 Age			
15-24	42	53	5
25-39	41	57	2
40-54	38	61	1
55 +	41	57	2
 Education (End of)			
15-	25	73	2
16-19	36	62	2
20+	49	49	2
Still studying	46	49	5
 Socio-professional category			
Self-employed	35	64	1
Managers	52	47	1
Other white collars	41	58	1
Manual workers	37	61	2
House persons	26	70	4
Unemployed	25	74	1
Retired	42	55	3
Students	46	49	5
 Difficulties paying bills			
Most of the time	18	80	2
From time to time	29	69	2
Almost never/ Never	47	51	2
 Consider belonging to			
The working class	26	71	3
The lower middle class	35	63	2
The middle class	44	54	2
The upper middle class	62	37	1
The upper class	51	47	2

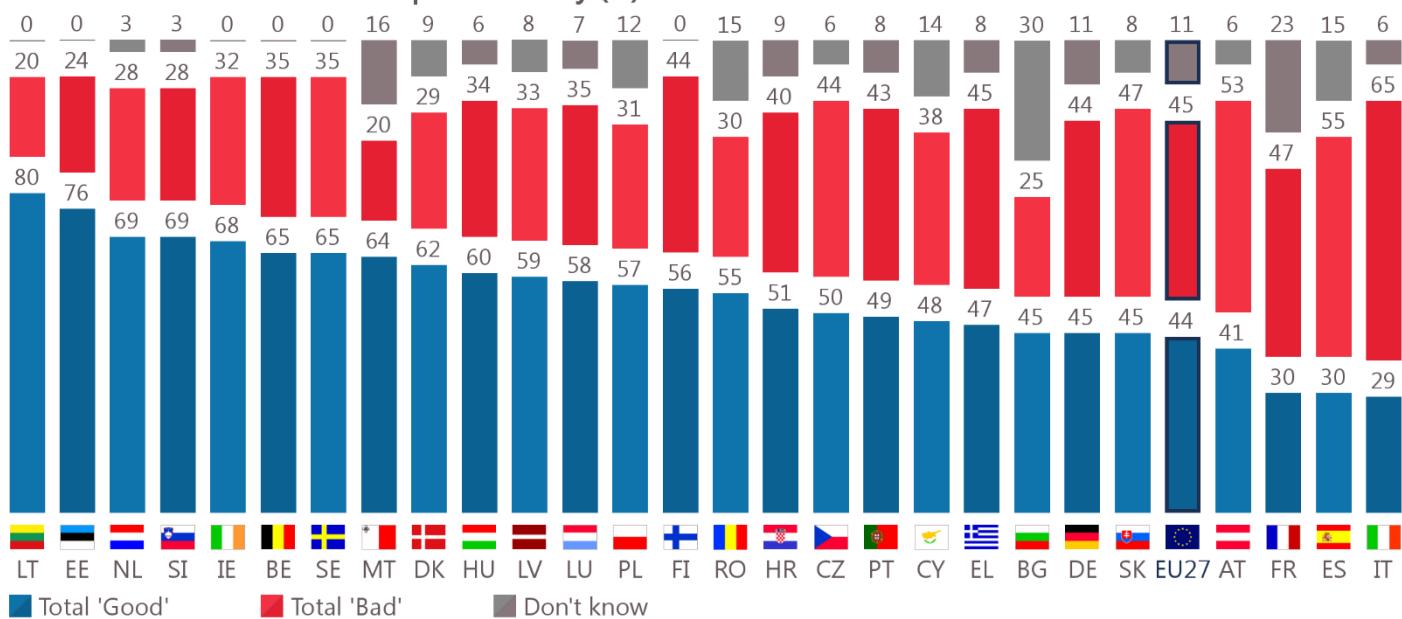
**Standard Eurobarometer 95**  
**Public opinion in the European Union**  
**Spring 2021**

A majority of respondents consider that the **situation of the European economy** is 'good' in 22 EU Member States, compared with 11 in winter 2020-2021. Respondents in Lithuania (80%), Estonia (76%), the Netherlands, Slovenia (69% in both) and Ireland (68%) are the most positive about the European economic situation.

A majority of respondents are negative about the situation of the European economy in five Member States: Italy (65%), Spain (55%), Austria (53%), France and Slovakia (47% in both).

**QA1a.3** How would you judge the current situation in each of the following?

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



Sorted by "Total' Good"

**Standard Eurobarometer 95**  
**Public opinion in the European Union**  
**Spring 2021**

Respondents from countries outside the euro area are more likely to be positive about the economic situation in the European Union than countries in the euro area (56% vs 41%). Both groups of countries have seen an improvement since winter 2020-2021. In the **euro area countries**, positive perceptions of the European economy have increased by 14 percentage points, while negative opinions have shown a corresponding decrease (-17). In **countries outside the euro area**, positive opinions have increased by nine percentage points, with negative perceptions decreasing by ten percentage points.

Since winter 2020-2021, positive perceptions of the situation of the European economy have gained ground in all 27 Member States. The largest increases in positive perceptions can be seen in Ireland (68%, +21 percentage points), Malta (64%, +21), Austria (41%, +18), Estonia (76%, +16) and Finland (56%, +15). The smallest increases are seen in Czechia (50%, +3), Croatia (51%, +3) and Romania (55%, +3).

**QA1a.3** How would you judge the current situation in each of the following?  
**The situation of the European economy (%)**

		Total 'Good'	Sp.2021 - Win.2020/2021	Total 'Bad'	Sp.2021 - Win.2020/2021	Don't know
EU27		44	▲ 12	45	▼ 15	11
EURO AREA		41	▲ 14	48	▼ 17	11
NON-EURO AREA		56	▲ 9	33	▼ 10	11
IE		68	▲ 21	32	▼ 21	0
MT		64	▲ 21	20	▼ 23	16
AT		41	▲ 18	53	▼ 20	6
EE		76	▲ 16	24	▼ 16	0
FI		56	▲ 15	44	▼ 15	0
PL		57	▲ 14	31	▼ 15	12
DE		45	▲ 14	44	▼ 18	11
IT		29	▲ 14	65	▼ 14	6
NL		69	▲ 13	28	▼ 11	3
HU		60	▲ 13	34	▼ 14	6
BE		65	▲ 12	35	▼ 12	0
EL		47	▲ 12	45	▼ 16	8
SE		65	▲ 11	35	▼ 9	0
CY		48	▲ 11	38	▼ 11	14
DK		62	▲ 10	29	▼ 19	9
FR		30	▲ 10	47	▼ 18	23
LT		80	▲ 9	20	▼ 9	0
BG		45	▲ 9	25	▼ 10	30
SK		45	▲ 9	47	▼ 12	8
ES		30	▲ 9	55	▼ 14	15
PT		49	▲ 8	43	▼ 16	8
LU		58	▲ 7	35	▼ 14	7
LV		59	▲ 6	33	▼ 14	8
SI		69	▲ 4	28	▼ 7	3
RO		55	▲ 3	30	▼ 4	15
HR		51	▲ 3	40	▼ 8	9
CZ		50	▲ 3	44	▼ 9	6

**Standard Eurobarometer 95**  
**Public opinion in the European Union**  
**Spring 2021**

The **socio-demographic** data show that, in some categories, a majority of respondents think that the situation of the European economy is 'good' rather than 'bad'. This applies in particular to 15-24 year olds (48% vs 38%), respondents who remained in education until the age of 20 or older (51 vs 41% bad), managers (52% vs 41%), students (50% vs 36%) and those who place themselves in the upper class (65% vs 33%) or upper middle class (59% vs 35%) of society.

By contrast, groups that are particularly likely to say that the situation of the European economy is 'bad' rather than 'good' are those who finished education aged 15 or earlier (51% 'bad' vs 30% 'good'), house persons (50% vs 31%), unemployed respondents (53% vs 35%), people who have difficulties paying their bills most of the time (56% vs 31%), and those who consider themselves as part of the working class of society (49% vs 34%).

**QA1a.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	44	45	11
Gender			
Man	47	44	9
Woman	41	45	14
Age			
15-24	48	38	14
25-39	47	44	9
40-54	44	48	8
55 +	41	45	14
Education (End of)			
15-	30	51	19
16-19	41	48	11
20+	51	41	8
Still studying	50	36	14
Socio-professional category			
Self-employed	47	47	6
Managers	52	41	7
Other white collars	47	46	7
Manual workers	43	47	10
House persons	31	50	19
Unemployed	35	53	12
Retired	41	44	15
Students	50	36	14
Difficulties paying bills			
Most of the time	31	56	13
From time to time	38	51	11
Almost never/ Never	47	42	11
Consider belonging to			
The working class	34	49	17
The lower middle class	41	48	11
The middle class	46	44	10
The upper middle class	59	35	6
The upper class	65	33	2

**Standard Eurobarometer 95**  
**Public opinion in the European Union**  
**Spring 2021**

### The employment situation

Europeans have become more positive towards the **employment situation in their country**: 37% (+10 percentage points since winter 2020-2021) consider that the employment situation in their country is 'good', while 59% (-11) think that it is 'bad' and 4% (+1) express no opinion<sup>57</sup>.

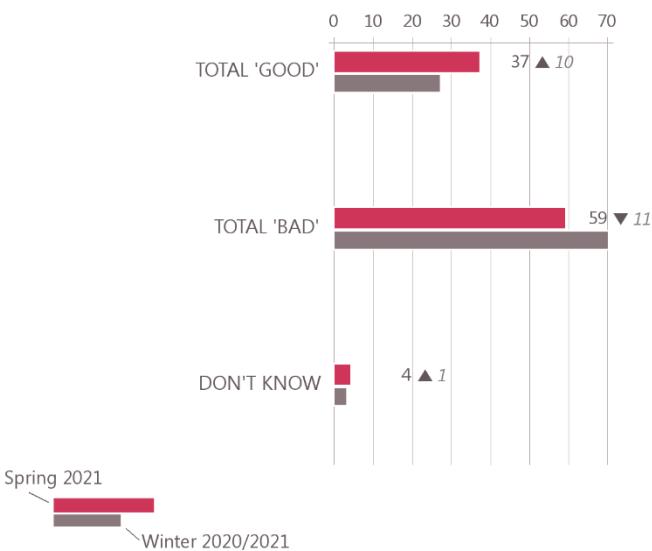
A majority of respondents are positive about the **employment situation in their country** in 12 Member States of the European Union, compared with six in winter 2020-2021. Respondents are most likely to be positive in Denmark (88%), the Netherlands (87%), Luxembourg and Czechia (71% in both). Judgements are predominantly negative in 15 EU Member States, in particular in Greece (93%), Spain (92%), Portugal (90%) and Italy (85%).

Since winter 2020-2021, positive opinions on the **national employment situation** have gained ground in 24 Member States, most strikingly in Ireland (62%, +25 percentage points), the Netherlands (87%, +21), Denmark (88%, +19) and Estonia (57%, +18).

Positive opinions have lost ground in three countries: Portugal (9%, -4), Greece (6%, -2) and Czechia (71%, -1).

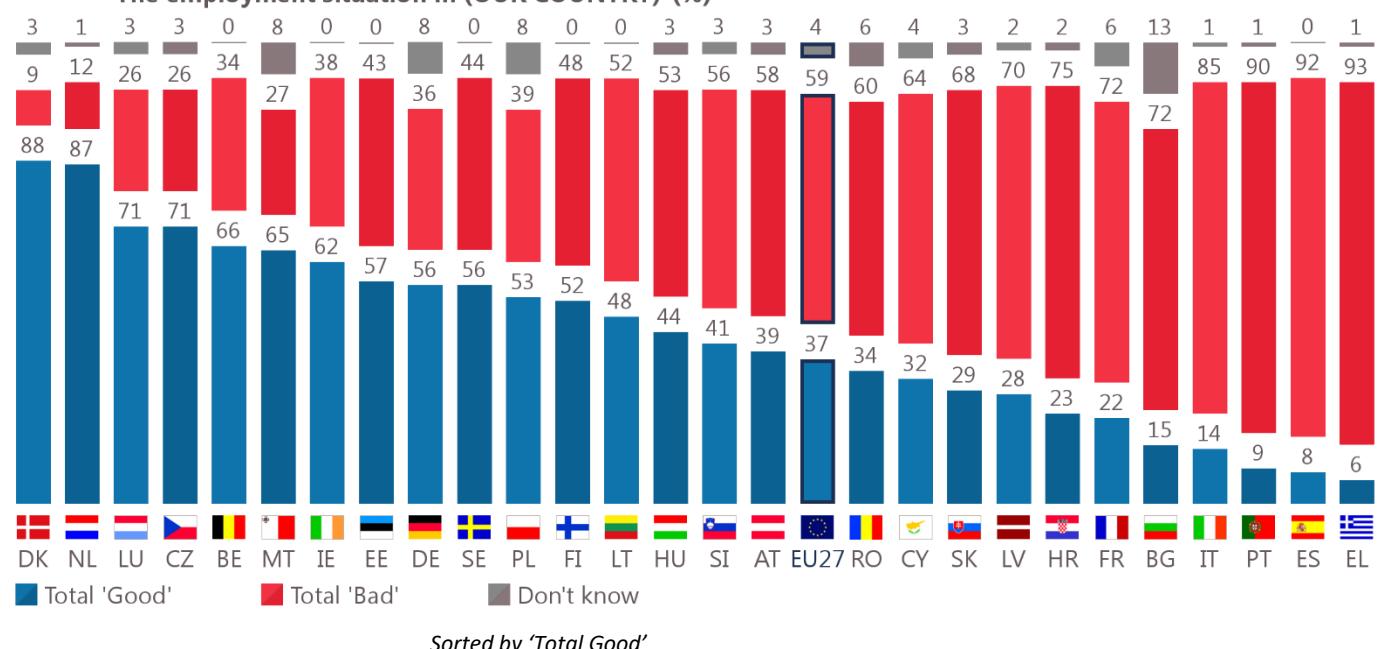
**QA1a.6** How would you judge the current situation in each of the following?

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



**QA1a.6** How would you judge the current situation in each of the following?

**The employment situation in (OUR COUNTRY) (%)**



<sup>57</sup> QA1a6. How would you judge the current situation in each of the following? The employment situation in (OUR COUNTRY).

**Standard Eurobarometer 95**  
**Public opinion in the European Union**  
**Spring 2021**

The **socio-demographic** data show predominantly negative views about the national employment situation. The proportions that think the employment situation is 'good' are highest among respondents who remained in education until the age of 20 or older (45%), managers (50%), those who never or almost never have difficulties paying bills (43%), and respondents who consider themselves as belonging to the upper class (61%) or upper middle class (59%) of society.

By contrast, the proportions that rate the national employment situation as 'good' are lowest among Europeans who finished education aged 15 or earlier (20%), unemployed respondents (20%), house persons (23%), people who have difficulties paying their bills most of the time (15%) and those who consider themselves part of the working class of society (22%).

**QA1a.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	37	59	4
<b>Gender</b>			
Man	39	57	4
Woman	35	61	4
<b>Age</b>			
15-24	37	57	6
25-39	40	57	3
40-54	37	61	2
55 +	35	60	5
<b>Education (End of)</b>			
15-	20	75	5
16-19	34	62	4
20+	45	51	4
Still studying	39	55	6
<b>Socio-professional category</b>			
Self-employed	35	62	3
Managers	50	47	3
Other white collars	41	56	3
Manual workers	37	60	3
House persons	23	73	4
Unemployed	20	79	1
Retired	34	59	7
Students	39	55	6
<b>Difficulties paying bills</b>			
Most of the time	15	83	2
From time to time	26	71	3
Almost never/ Never	43	52	5
<b>Consider belonging to</b>			
The working class	22	74	4
The lower middle class	31	65	4
The middle class	40	56	4
The upper middle class	59	38	3
The upper class	61	35	4

# Standard Eurobarometer 95

## Public opinion in the European Union

### Spring 2021

## 1.2.2 Expectations for the next twelve months

## National and European situations

**Macroeconomic expectations have continued to improve at both national and European level**

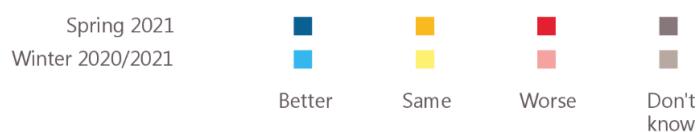
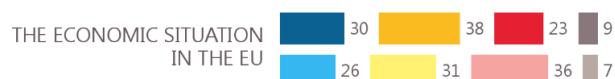
As perceptions of the current economic situation have improved at both national and European levels, expectations for the next twelve months have also become more positive. There have been increases in levels of optimism for the economy at both national and European levels.

Around a third of respondents in the EU (35%, +6 percentage points since winter 2020-2021) expect the **economic situation in their country** to get better over the coming year, while 29% (-13) expect it to get worse and 33% (+7) expect it to remain unchanged.

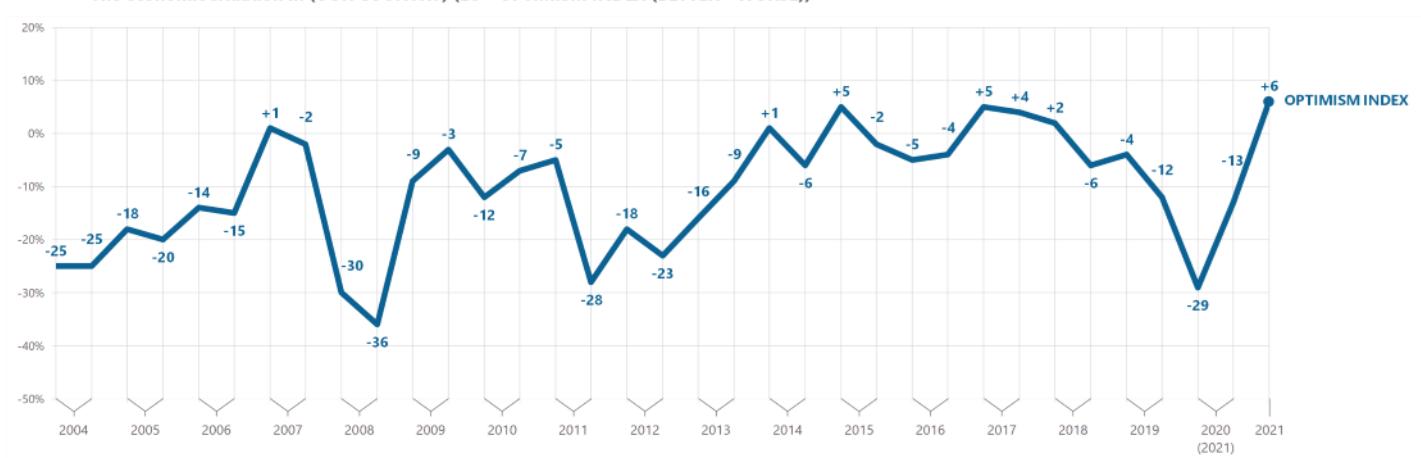
Three in ten Europeans (30%, +4 percentage points since winter 2020-2021) also expect the **economic situation in the EU** to get better over the coming year, while 23% (-13) expect it to deteriorate and 38% (+7) expect it to stay the same<sup>58</sup>.

As a result of these evolutions, the optimism indices for the national and European economic situations have increased, continuing the improvement registered in the previous survey (Standard Eurobarometer 94), and marking the most positive levels seen in recent years. At +6, the optimism index for the **national economic situation** has gained 19 index points since winter 2020-2021.

**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...?  
(% - EU)



**QA2a.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...?



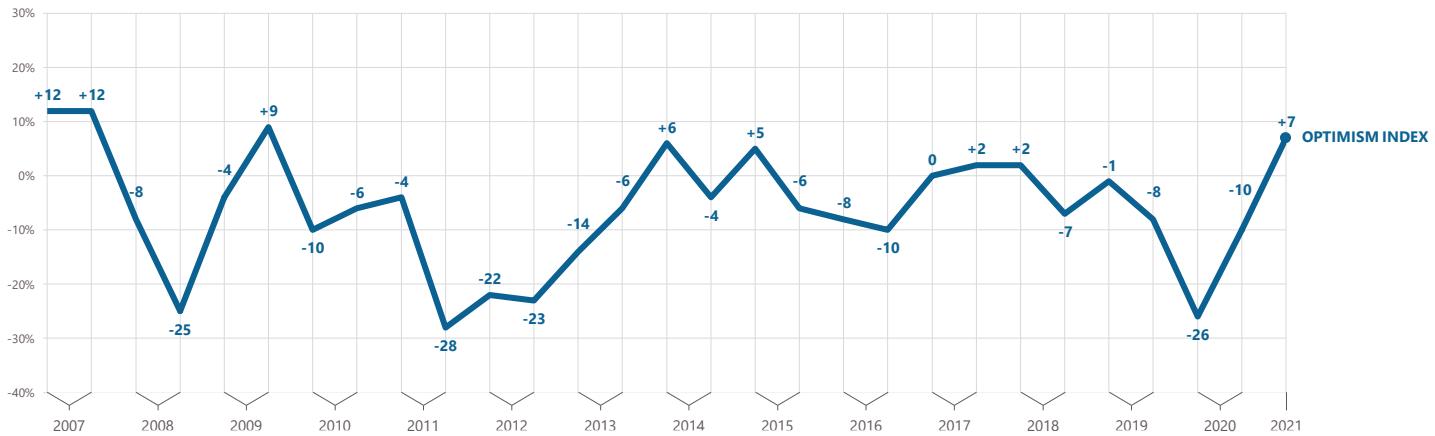
<sup>58</sup> QA2a3-7. What are your expectations for the next twelve months: will the next twelve months be better, worse or the same, when it comes to...? The economic situation in (OUR COUNTRY)/The economic situation in the EU.

**Standard Eurobarometer 95**  
**Public opinion in the European Union**  
**Spring 2021**

At +7, the optimism index for the **European economic situation** has gained 17 index points since winter 2020-2021, returning to a level similar to those recorded in spring 2014 and spring 2015.

**QA2a.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 95**  
**Public opinion in the European Union**  
**Spring 2021**

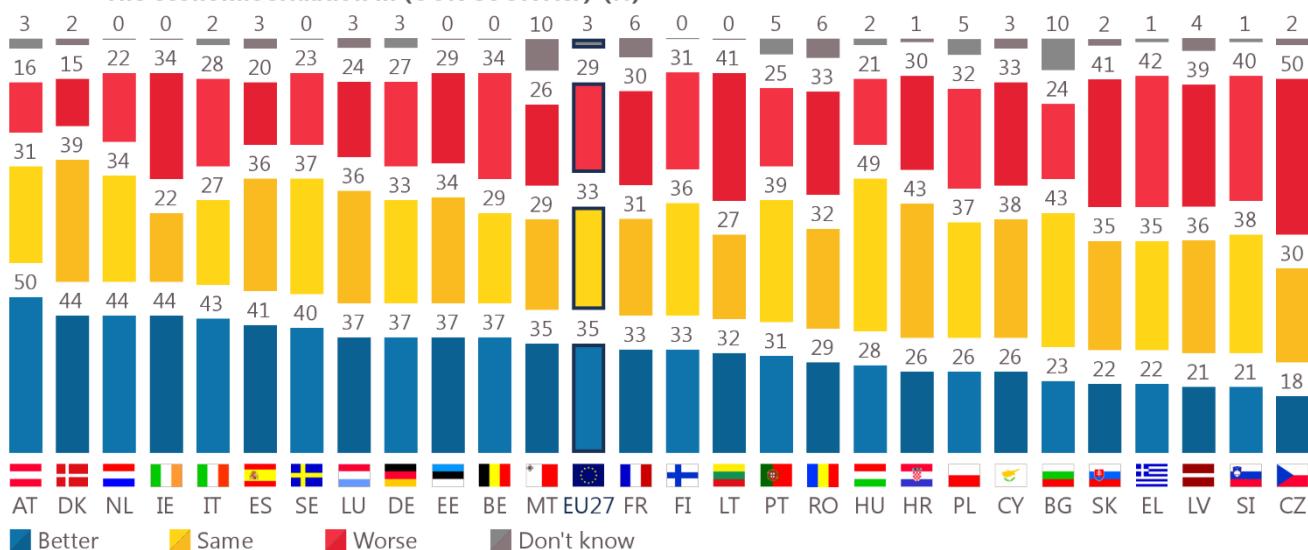
In the case of the **national economic situation**, respondents are most likely to expect the next 12 months to be 'better' in 13 countries, while there are seven Member States where the most common response is that things will get 'worse', and seven where 'the same' is the most frequent answer.

Optimists outnumber pessimists in 16 EU Member States, and respondents are most likely to be optimistic in Austria (50%), Denmark, the Netherlands and Ireland (44% in all three countries) and Italy (43%).

In the other 11 Member States, pessimism outweighs optimistic expectations. Pessimism is most prevalent in Czechia (50%), Greece (42%), Lithuania and Slovakia (41% in both) and Slovenia (40%).

**QA2a.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...?

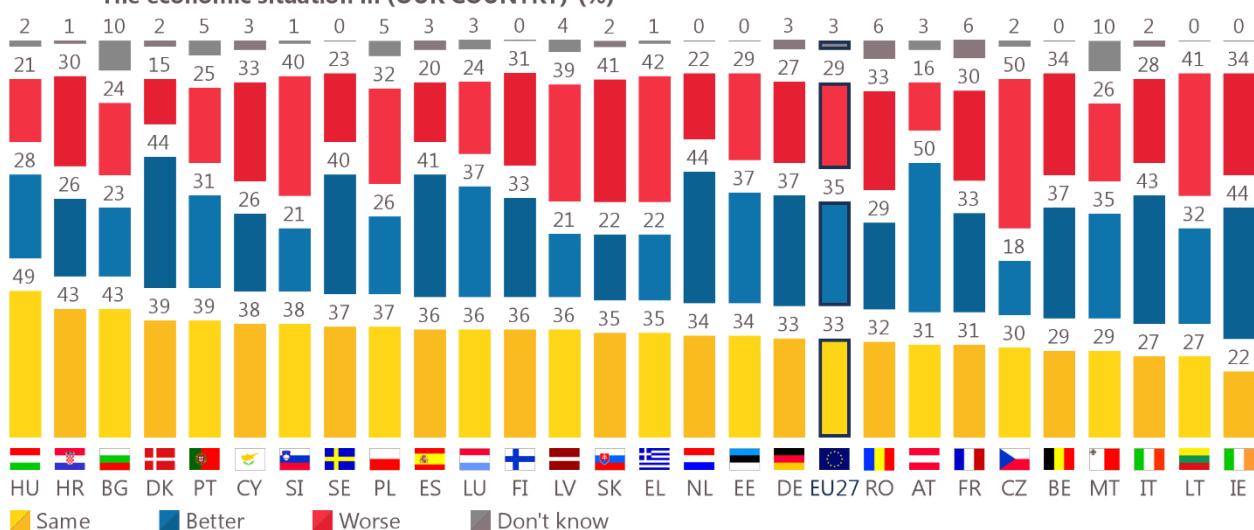
**The economic situation in (OUR COUNTRY) (%)**



*Sorted by 'Better'*

**QA2a.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) (%)**



*Sorted by 'Same'*

**Standard Eurobarometer 95**  
**Public opinion in the European Union**  
**Spring 2021**

Expectations for the national economic situation have become more optimistic since winter 2020-2021 among respondents from countries in the **euro area** (+19 points in the optimism index), as well as from **outside the euro area** (+21). As a result, there continues to be greater optimism in euro area countries than in countries outside the euro area (37% vs 28% expect the economic situation in their country to get better over the coming year).

Since winter 2020-2021, the **optimism index** for the national economic outlook has improved in 25 EU Member States, with some very large increases in Portugal (+42 index points), Austria (+40), Luxembourg (+34) and Poland (+30). The index has deteriorated in two Member States: Malta (-10) and Sweden (-1).

**QA2a.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) (INDEX)**

		Better - Worse Win.2020/2021	Better - Worse Sp.2021	Sp.2021 - Win.2020/2021
EU27		-13	+6	▲ 19
PT		-36	+6	▲ 42
AT		-6	+34	▲ 40
LU		-21	+13	▲ 34
PL		-36	-6	▲ 30
CZ		-58	-32	▲ 26
NL		-3	+22	▲ 25
HU		-17	+7	▲ 24
FI		-21	+2	▲ 23
RO		-27	-4	▲ 23
EE		-14	+8	▲ 22
ES		0	+21	▲ 21
IT		-6	+15	▲ 21
BE		-16	+3	▲ 19
EL		-39	-20	▲ 19
FR		-14	+3	▲ 17
DE		-5	+10	▲ 15
DK		+15	+29	▲ 14
HR		-18	-4	▲ 14
CY		-21	-7	▲ 14
SI		-33	-19	▲ 14
BG		-13	-1	▲ 12
SK		-31	-19	▲ 12
LT		-18	-9	▲ 9
LV		-27	-18	▲ 9
IE		+7	+10	▲ 3
SE		+18	+17	▼ 1
MT		+19	+9	▼ 10

**Standard Eurobarometer 95**  
**Public opinion in the European Union**  
**Spring 2021**

The **socio-demographic** data show that, in most groups, the prevailing view is that the national economic situation will get better over the next twelve months. The exceptions are respondents who left education at the age of 15 or before (29% 'better' vs 29% 'worse'), house persons (30% vs 31%), those who have difficulties paying their bills either most of the time (25% vs 39%) or some of the time (30% vs 34%), and those who consider themselves to be part of the lower middle class of society (29% vs 34%).

The most optimistic respondents are those aged 15-24 (45% 'better'), students (48%) and those who consider themselves as belonging to the upper class (46%) or upper middle class (47%) of society.

**QA2a.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**

	Better	Worse	Same	Don't know
EU27	35	29	33	3
<b>Gender</b>				
Man	38	27	33	2
Woman	33	30	33	4
<b>Age</b>				
15-24	45	20	31	4
25-39	38	29	31	2
40-54	35	31	32	2
55 +	31	29	36	4
<b>Education (End of)</b>				
15-	29	29	36	6
16-19	33	30	34	3
20+	37	29	32	2
Still studying	48	20	29	3
<b>Socio-professional category</b>				
Self-employed	40	30	28	2
Managers	41	28	29	2
Other white collars	36	29	33	2
Manual workers	32	31	34	3
House persons	30	31	33	6
Unemployed	35	28	34	3
Retired	30	28	38	4
Students	48	20	29	3
<b>Difficulties paying bills</b>				
Most of the time	25	39	32	4
From time to time	30	34	33	3
Almost never/ Never	38	26	33	3
<b>Consider belonging to</b>				
The working class	30	29	36	5
The lower middle class	29	34	34	3
The middle class	37	28	32	3
The upper middle class	47	21	31	1
The upper class	46	29	25	0

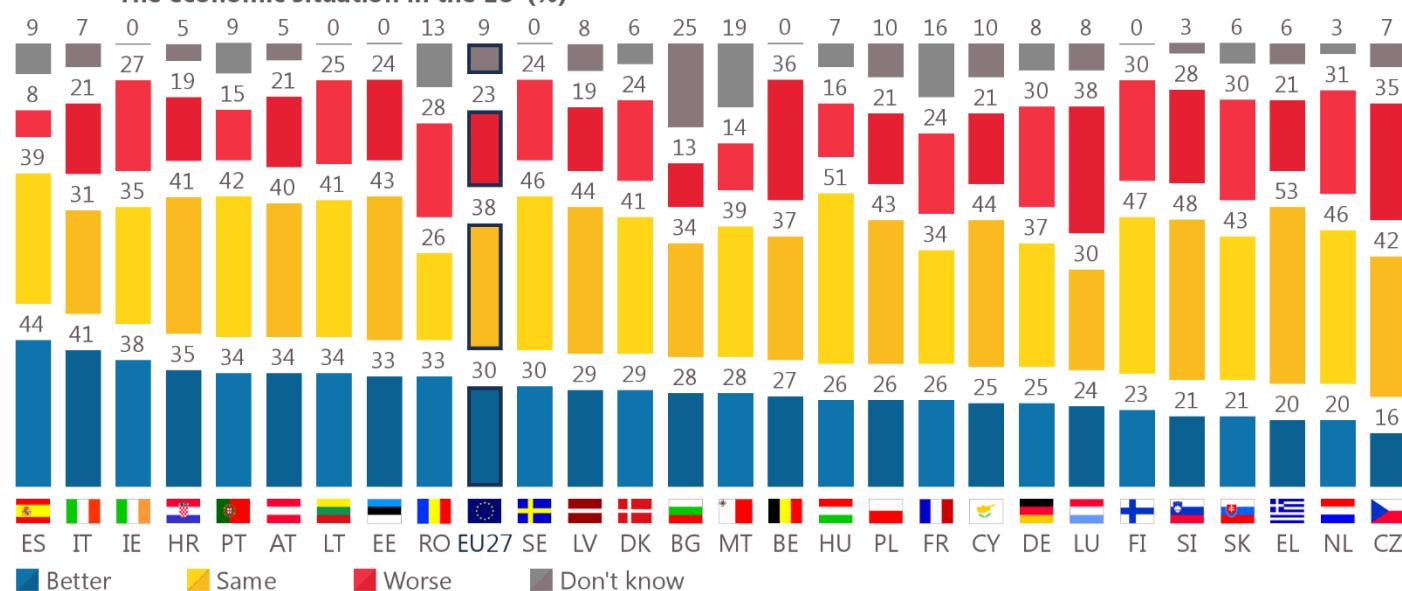
**Standard Eurobarometer 95**  
**Public opinion in the European Union**  
**Spring 2021**

In terms of expectations for the **economic situation in the EU**, the prevailing view is that it will stay ‘the same’ in 22 countries. In four countries (Spain (44%), Italy (41%), Ireland (35%), and Romania (33%)), the most common response is that the economic situation in the EU will get better, while the most common view in Luxembourg is that it will get worse (38%).

Optimism outweighs pessimism in 18 Member States of the European Union. The highest levels of optimism are seen in Spain (44%), Italy (41%), Ireland (38%) and Croatia (35%). Pessimism outweighs optimism in nine Member States, with respondents the most pessimistic in Luxembourg (38%), Belgium (36%), Czechia (35%) and the Netherlands (31%).

**QA2a.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...?

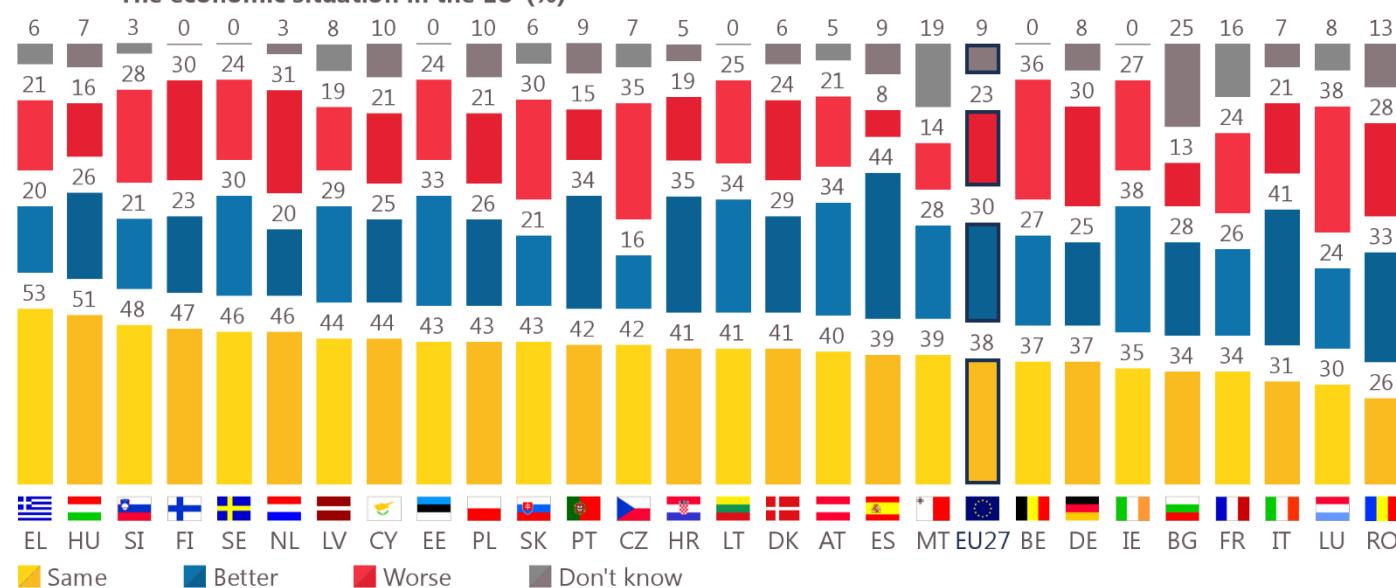
**The economic situation in the EU (%)**



*Sorted by ‘Better’*

**QA2a.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 (%)**



*Sorted by ‘Same’*

**Standard Eurobarometer 95**  
**Public opinion in the European Union**  
**Spring 2021**

Since winter 2020-2021, the **optimism index** for the economic outlook in the EU has improved in all 27 Member States. There have been some very large increases, most markedly in Portugal (+33 index points), Austria and Czechia (+27 in both), Poland (+25), Luxembourg (+24) and Spain (+20).

There has been a marginal increase in Ireland (+1 percentage point), but otherwise every EU Member State shows an index increase of at least seven index points.

**QA2a.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 (INDEX)**

	EU27	Better - Worse Win.2020/2021	Better - Worse Sp.2021	Sp.2021 - Win.2020/2021
	EU27	-10	+7	▲ 17
	PT	-14	+19	▲ 33
	AT	-14	+13	▲ 27
	CZ	-46	-19	▲ 27
	PL	-20	+5	▲ 25
	LU	-38	-14	▲ 24
	ES	+16	+36	▲ 20
	IT	+1	+20	▲ 19
	EE	-10	+9	▲ 19
	RO	-14	+5	▲ 19
	FI	-26	-7	▲ 19
	EL	-18	-1	▲ 17
	DE	-21	-5	▲ 16
	HU	-5	+10	▲ 15
	LT	-4	+9	▲ 13
	CY	-9	+4	▲ 13
	FR	-10	+2	▲ 12
	BE	-21	-9	▲ 12
	SK	-20	-9	▲ 11
	LV	0	+10	▲ 10
	DK	-5	+5	▲ 10
	HR	+7	+16	▲ 9
	SI	-16	-7	▲ 9
	NL	-20	-11	▲ 9
	SE	-2	+6	▲ 8
	BG	+8	+15	▲ 7
	MT	+7	+14	▲ 7
	IE	+10	+11	▲ 1

**Standard Eurobarometer 95**  
**Public opinion in the European Union**  
**Spring 2021**

In the **socio-demographic** data, a majority of respondents in most categories expect the economic situation in the EU to get better over the next twelve months. This applies most strongly to 15-24 year olds (39%), students (40%) and those who consider themselves to be part of the upper class of society (53%).

However, there are some groups who give an approximately equal proportion of positive and negative responses: those aged 55 or over (25% 'better' vs 24% 'worse'), retired respondents (25% vs 24%), those who have difficulties paying their bills, either most of the time (25% vs 26%) or some of the time (26% vs 28%), and those who consider themselves to be part of the lower middle class of society (24% vs 27%).

Attitudes are related to general perceptions about the EU. Respondents who have a generally positive image of the EU are more likely to think the situation of the European economy will get 'better' (41% vs 15% 'worse'), whereas those who have a negative image of the EU are more likely to say the economic situation will get 'worse' (44% vs 16% 'better').

**QA2a.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**

	Better	Worse	Same	Don't know
EU27	30	23	38	9
<b>Gender</b>				
Man	33	23	37	7
Woman	28	23	38	11
<b>Age</b>				
15-24	39	14	38	9
25-39	32	24	37	7
40-54	32	24	37	7
55 +	25	24	39	12
<b>Education (End of)</b>				
15-	26	20	40	14
16-19	29	24	38	9
20+	31	25	37	7
Still studying	40	15	36	9
<b>Socio-professional category</b>				
Self-employed	36	24	34	6
Managers	33	24	36	7
Other white collars	31	25	38	6
Manual workers	28	25	39	8
House persons	24	20	41	15
Unemployed	33	20	39	8
Retired	25	24	39	12
Students	40	15	36	9
<b>Difficulties paying bills</b>				
Most of the time	25	26	38	11
From time to time	26	28	37	9
Almost never/ Never	32	21	38	9
<b>Consider belonging to</b>				
The working class	29	19	39	13
The lower middle class	24	27	40	9
The middle class	32	24	37	7
The upper middle class	34	24	37	5
The upper class	53	14	33	0

### The employment situation

Expectations regarding the **employment outlook** for the next twelve months have also improved: 34% of Europeans (+7 percentage points since winter 2020-2021) expect the next twelve months to be 'better' when it comes to the employment situation in their country, while 25% (-17) expect them to get 'worse' and 36% (+8) think they will stay 'the same'<sup>59</sup>.

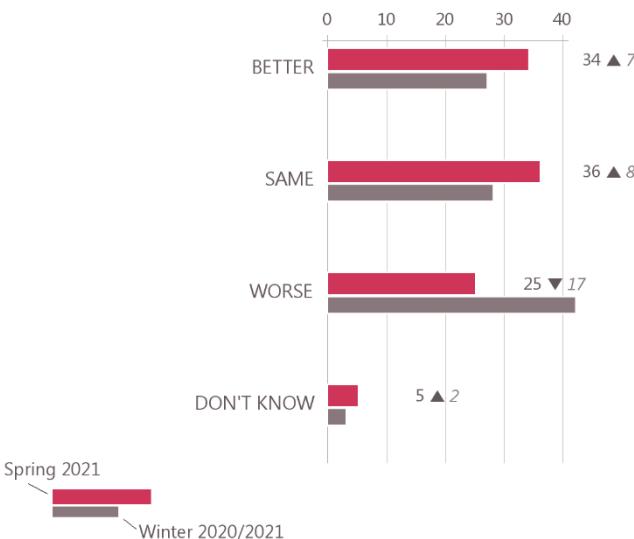
In relation to the **national employment outlook**, 'better' is the most frequent answer given in eight Member States, while in the Netherlands equal proportions say the situation will get 'better' and 'the same' (42% in each case). In 16 Member States, respondents are most likely to say that the situation will stay 'the same', while the prevailing view is that the employment situation will get worse in Greece (41%) and Romania (39%).

Optimism outweighs pessimism in 18 Member States of the European Union. The highest levels of optimism are seen in Denmark (48%), Ireland (47%), Sweden (45%) and Spain (44%). Pessimism outweighs optimism in nine Member States, with respondents the most pessimistic in Greece (41%), Romania (39%), Slovakia (34%), Lithuania and Slovenia (33% in both countries).

Since winter 2020-2021, there have been some large positive shifts in the **optimism index** for the employment outlook. It has increased in 26 Member States, most notably in Czechia (+40 index points), Portugal (+39), Austria (+33), Finland and Estonia (+32 in both). The optimism index has deteriorated only in Malta (-5 index points).

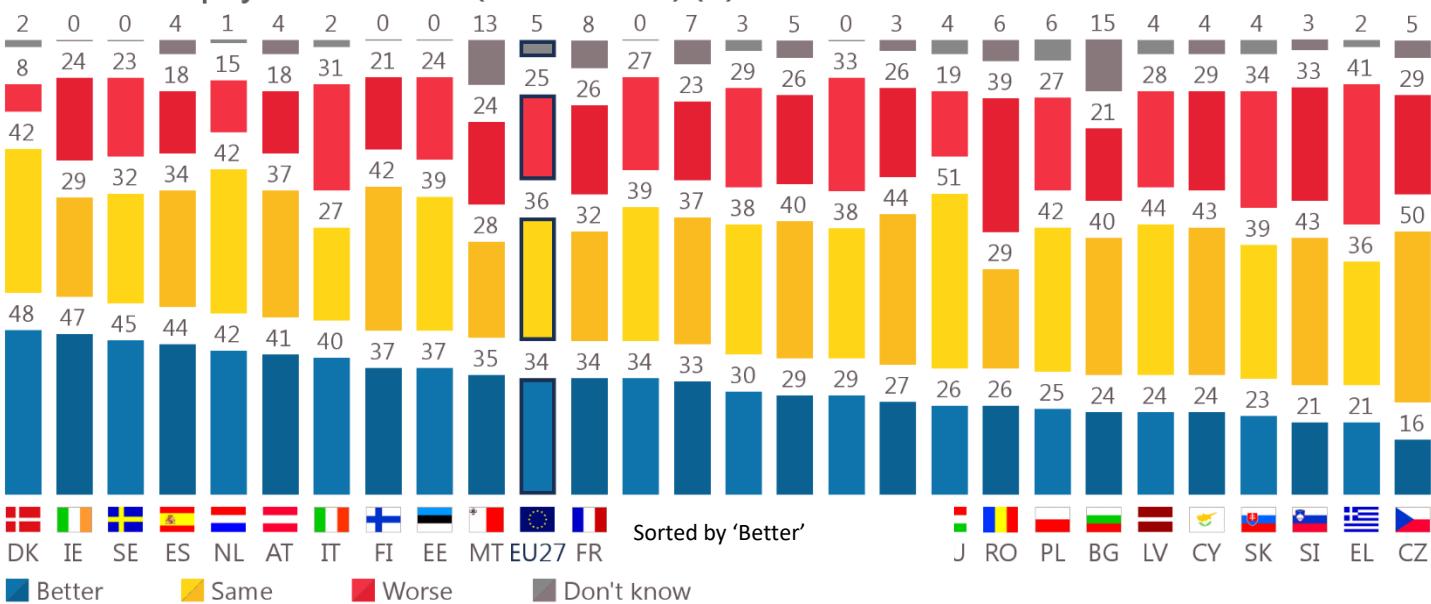
**QA2a.5** What are your expectations for the next twelve months: will the next twelve months be better, worse or the same, when it comes to...?

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



**QA2a.5** 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 employment situation in (OUR COUNTRY) (%)**



<sup>59</sup> QA2a5. 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 employment situation in (OUR COUNTRY).

**QA2a.5** 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 employment situation in (OUR COUNTRY) (INDEX)**

		Better - Worse Win.2020/2021	Better - Worse Sp.2021	Sp.2021 - Win.2020/2021
EU27		-15	+9	▲ 24
CZ		-53	-13	▲ 40
PT		-36	+3	▲ 39
AT		-10	+23	▲ 33
FI		-16	+16	▲ 32
EE		-19	+13	▲ 32
NL		-1	+27	▲ 28
LU		-27	+1	▲ 28
PL		-29	-2	▲ 27
ES		0	+26	▲ 26
BE		-19	+7	▲ 26
FR		-17	+8	▲ 25
DE		-12	+10	▲ 22
IT		-11	+9	▲ 20
LV		-24	-4	▲ 20
RO		-32	-13	▲ 19
EL		-39	-20	▲ 19
HU		-11	+7	▲ 18
HR		-17	+1	▲ 18
SK		-29	-11	▲ 18
CY		-22	-5	▲ 17
SI		-29	-12	▲ 17
DK		+26	+40	▲ 14
IE		+11	+23	▲ 12
BG		-9	+3	▲ 12
SE		+13	+22	▲ 9
LT		-13	-4	▲ 9
MT		+16	+11	▼ 5

**Standard Eurobarometer 95**  
**Public opinion in the European Union**  
**Spring 2021**

The **socio-demographic** data show that, in nearly every group, the prevailing view is that the national employment situation will get better over the next twelve months. The exceptions are housepersons (26% ‘better’ vs 31% ‘worse’), those who have difficulties paying their bills, either most of the time (26% vs 35%) or some of the time (28% vs 33%), and those who consider themselves to be part of the lower middle class of society (27% vs 29%).

Views are most optimistic among respondents aged 15-24 (40% ‘better’), students (42%) and those who consider themselves to be part of the upper class (47%) or upper middle class (43%) of society.

**QA2a.5** 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 employment situation in (OUR COUNTRY) (% - EU)**

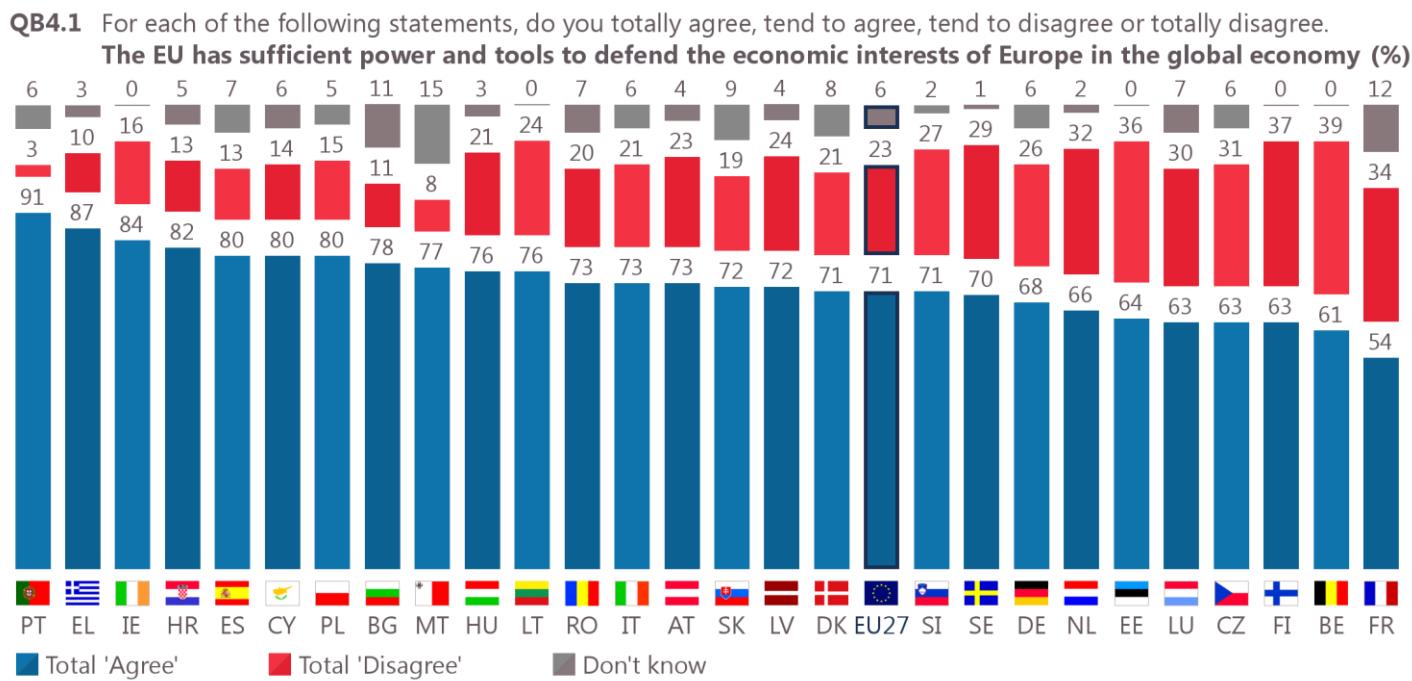
	Better	Worse	Same	Don't know
EU27	34	25	36	5
 Gender				
Man	36	25	35	4
Woman	32	26	36	6
 Age				
15-24	40	19	36	5
25-39	37	25	35	3
40-54	34	28	35	3
55 +	30	27	37	6
 Education (End of)				
15-	29	28	36	7
16-19	32	27	36	5
20+	36	25	35	4
Still studying	42	18	34	6
 Socio-professional category				
Self-employed	38	27	32	3
Managers	38	24	35	3
Other white collars	36	25	36	3
Manual workers	32	28	36	4
House persons	26	31	35	8
Unemployed	37	24	36	3
Retired	29	26	38	7
Students	42	18	34	6
 Difficulties paying bills				
Most of the time	26	35	35	4
From time to time	28	33	35	4
Almost never/ Never	37	22	36	5
 Consider belonging to				
The working class	30	27	38	5
The lower middle class	27	29	39	5
The middle class	36	25	35	4
The upper middle class	43	20	34	3
The upper class	47	24	26	3

## 2. The European Union and economic reforms

### 2.1 The European Union continues to be seen as a key player in the global economy

Around seven in ten respondents in the EU (71%, +2 percentage point since winter 2020-2021) consider that “**the European Union has sufficient power and tools to defend the economic interests of Europe in the global economy**”, while 23% (-2) disagree and 6% (unchanged) express no opinion<sup>60</sup>.

There is a consensus among respondents that the European Union is capable of defending European interests in the global economy. A large majority of respondents agree with this statement in both the euro area countries (69%, +1 percentage point) and the non-euro area countries (75%, unchanged). It is supported by an absolute majority of respondents in all Member States, in proportions ranging from 54% in France to 91% in Portugal. Levels of disagreement vary by Member State, ranging from 3% in Portugal to 39% in Belgium.



<sup>60</sup> QB4.1 For each of the following statements, please tell me whether 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.

**Standard Eurobarometer 95**  
**Public opinion in the European Union**  
**Spring 2021**

Since winter 2020-2021, levels of agreement have been stable in many countries, with 14 Member States registering changes of no more than two percentage points. Agreement has increased the most in Portugal (91%, +7 percentage points), Greece (87%, +6), Cyprus (80%, +4) and Germany (68%, +4).

Agreement has fallen most strongly in Denmark (71%, -6), Romania (73%, -4) and Slovakia (72%, -4).

**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 (%)**

		Total 'Agree'	Sp.2021 - Win.2020/2021	Total 'Disagree'	Sp.2021 - Win.2020/2021	Don't know
EU27		71	▲ 2	23	▼ 2	6
EURO AREA		69	▲ 1	24	▼ 1	7
NON-EURO AREA		75	=	20	=	5
PT		91	▲ 7	3	▼ 13	6
EL		87	▲ 6	10	▼ 8	3
CY		80	▲ 4	14	▼ 6	6
DE		68	▲ 4	26	▼ 4	6
ES		80	▲ 3	13	▼ 2	7
PL		80	▲ 3	15	▼ 2	5
EE		64	▲ 2	36	▼ 2	0
CZ		63	▲ 2	31	▼ 8	6
FR		54	▲ 2	34	▼ 2	12
HU		76	▲ 1	21	=	3
AT		73	▲ 1	23	▲ 1	4
BE		61	▲ 1	39	▼ 1	0
IE		84	=	16	=	0
HR		82	▼ 1	13	▼ 2	5
MT		77	▼ 1	8	▲ 1	15
IT		73	▼ 1	21	▲ 2	6
FI		63	▼ 1	37	▲ 1	0
SI		71	▼ 2	27	=	2
NL		66	▼ 2	32	▲ 5	2
LU		63	▼ 2	30	▼ 5	7
BG		78	▼ 3	11	▲ 1	11
LT		76	▼ 3	24	▲ 3	0
LV		72	▼ 3	24	▼ 1	4
SE		70	▼ 3	29	▲ 4	1
RO		73	▼ 4	20	▲ 3	7
SK		72	▼ 4	19	=	9
DK		71	▼ 6	21	▼ 1	8

**Standard Eurobarometer 95**  
**Public opinion in the European Union**  
**Spring 2021**

The **socio-demographic** data shows that a clear majority in every category agree that “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 15-24 year olds (75%), students (75%) and other white collar workers (75%). Agreement is lowest among respondents who have difficulties paying their bills most of the time (62%).

Attitudes are related to general perceptions about the EU. Respondents who have a generally positive image of the EU mostly agree with the statement (82%), whereas views are more divided among those who hold a negative image of the EU (47% agree, 46% 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	71	23	6
<b>Gender</b>			
Man	71	25	4
Woman	71	21	8
<b>Age</b>			
15-24	75	18	7
25-39	72	23	5
40-54	71	25	4
55 +	69	23	8
<b>Education (End of)</b>			
15-	70	19	11
16-19	72	22	6
20+	70	26	4
Still studying	75	18	7
<b>Socio-professional category</b>			
Self-employed	74	22	4
Managers	69	28	3
Other white collars	75	22	3
Manual workers	72	22	6
House persons	67	20	13
Unemployed	66	26	8
Retired	67	24	9
Students	75	18	7
<b>Difficulties paying bills</b>			
Most of the time	62	28	10
From time to time	71	22	7
Almost never/ Never	72	22	6
<b>Consider belonging to</b>			
The working class	70	19	11
The lower middle class	67	27	6
The middle class	73	23	4
The upper middle class	70	26	4
The upper class	72	26	2

