



# Standard Eurobarometer 88

## Autumn 2017

### Report

Public opinion in the European Union

Fieldwork

November 2017

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

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The interpretations and opinions contained in it are solely those of the authors.

Standard Eurobarometer 88 – Wave EB88.3 – TNS opinion & social

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(DG COMM "Monitoring, Media Analysis and Eurobarometer" Unit)

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## INTRODUCTION

The Standard Eurobarometer 88 survey was carried out between 5 and 19 November 2017<sup>1</sup> in 34 countries or territories: the 28 Member States of the European Union (EU), the five candidate countries (the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Turkey, Montenegro, Serbia and Albania), and the Turkish Cypriot community in the part of the country not controlled by the government of the Republic of Cyprus.

The Autumn 2017 Standard Eurobarometer survey was conducted shortly after the European Commission published the economic forecasts for autumn 2017<sup>2</sup>. It was then forecast that by 2018, GDP growth will reach 2.1% in the EU (-0.2 percentage points since 2017) and 2.1% in the euro area (-0.1). If this forecast is confirmed, it will be the first time since 2010 that GDP growth will be the same in the euro area and in the EU as a whole. In comparison, GDP growth forecasts for 2018 are 2.3% in the United States, 1.2% in Japan, 6.5% in China and 3.7% worldwide.

The unemployment rate continued to decline: at 7.5% in the EU as a whole (compared with 8.4% in September 2016, a decrease of -0.9 percentage points) and 8.9% within the euro area (compared with 9.9% in September 2016, -1)<sup>3</sup>, the unemployment rate in September 2017 was at its lowest since January 2009.

Since the spring 2017 Standard Eurobarometer survey, the EU has been hit by a number of terrorist attacks. On 3 June 2017, an attack took place on London Bridge and at Borough Market, causing eight deaths and 48 injuries. On 28 July, one person was killed and six others were injured in Hamburg, Germany. Spain was hit in Cambrils and in Barcelona on 17 and 18 August 2017, leaving 14 dead and hundreds wounded. On 18 August 2017, two people were killed and six injured in Turku, Finland. On 1 October 2017, a man killed two people at the Saint-Charles railway station in Marseille, France.

National elections have been held in Malta, the United Kingdom, France, Germany, Austria and the Czech Republic. In Slovenia, the first round of presidential elections took place on 22 October 2017<sup>4</sup>. In France, the election of Emmanuel Macron as President of the Republic on 7 May 2017 was followed by his party's victory in the June parliamentary elections. In the United Kingdom, parliamentary elections were held on 8 June 2017. Theresa May remained Prime Minister, but the Conservatives lost 13 seats while Labour gained 30. In Germany, the parliamentary elections held on 24 September 2017 confirmed that the CDU/CSU are the country's leading political force (32.9% of the votes), ahead of the SPD (20.5% of the votes).

In Spain, the Catalonia parliament declared independence on 27 October. The Spanish government responded with various measures, including the holding of elections in Catalonia, scheduled for 21 December 2017.

In Malta, Daphne Caruana Galizia, a journalist and anti-corruption activist, was murdered on 16 October 2017 when her car exploded.

The full report of the Standard Eurobarometer 88 survey consists of several volumes. This volume presents the state of public opinion in the European Union (EU). Three other volumes present the opinion of the Europeans on other themes: the EU's priorities; European citizenship; and media habits in the European Union.

<sup>1</sup> Please consult the technical specifications for details of the exact dates of the interviews in each country.

<sup>2</sup> [https://ec.europa.eu/info/sites/info/files/economy-finance/upd\\_ip063\\_en.pdf](https://ec.europa.eu/info/sites/info/files/economy-finance/upd_ip063_en.pdf)

<sup>3</sup> <http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/documents/2995521/8357275/3-31102017-CP-FR.pdf/a2c59ce6-480b-46d9-a1c0-97eca51c5ae4>

<sup>4</sup> The second round was held on 12 November 2017, during the fieldwork.

The methodology used is that of the standard Eurobarometer surveys of the Directorate-General for Communication ("Monitoring, media analysis and Eurobarometer" Unit)<sup>5</sup>. The same methodology was applied in all countries and territories covered by the survey. A technical note on the interviewing methods of the institutes of the TNS opinion & social network is attached to this report. This note also specifies the confidence intervals<sup>6</sup>, which are used to assess the accuracy of the results of the survey, according to the size of the sample interviewed in relation to the total size of the population studied.

**Note:** In this report, countries are designated by their official abbreviation. The abbreviations used in this report are as follows:

Belgium	BE	Lithuania	LT
Bulgaria	BG	Luxembourg	LU
Czech Republic	CZ	Hungary	HU
Denmark	DK	Malta	MT
Germany	DE	The Netherlands	NL
Estonia	EE	Austria	AT
Ireland	IE	Poland	PL
Greece	EL	Portugal	PT
Spain	ES	Romania	RO
France	FR	Slovenia	SI
Croatia	HR	Slovakia	SK
Italy	IT	Finland	FI
Republic of Cyprus*	CY*	Sweden	SE
Latvia	LV	United Kingdom	UK
Turkish Cypriot Community			CY (tcc)
Albania	AL	Turkey	TR
Montenegro	ME	Serbia	RS
Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (FYRM)			MK**
European Union – weighted average for the 28 European Union Member States			UE28
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, UK			Non-Euro area

\* Cyprus as a whole is one of the 28 European Union Member States. However, the "acquis communautaire" has been suspended in the part of the country which is not controlled by the government of the Republic of Cyprus. For practical reasons, only the interviews carried out in the part of the country controlled by the government of the Republic of Cyprus are included in the "CY" category and in the EU28 average. The interviews carried out in the part of the country not controlled by the government of the Republic of Cyprus are included in the "CY (tcc)" [tcc: Turkish Cypriot Community] category.

\*\* Provisional abbreviation which in no way prejudges the definitive name of this country, which will be agreed once the current negotiations at the United Nations have been completed.

*We wish to thank all the people interviewed throughout Europe*

*who took the time to take part in this survey.*

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

<sup>5</sup> <http://ec.europa.eu/commfrontoffice/publicopinion/>

<sup>6</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 interviewees were able to choose several answers to the same question.

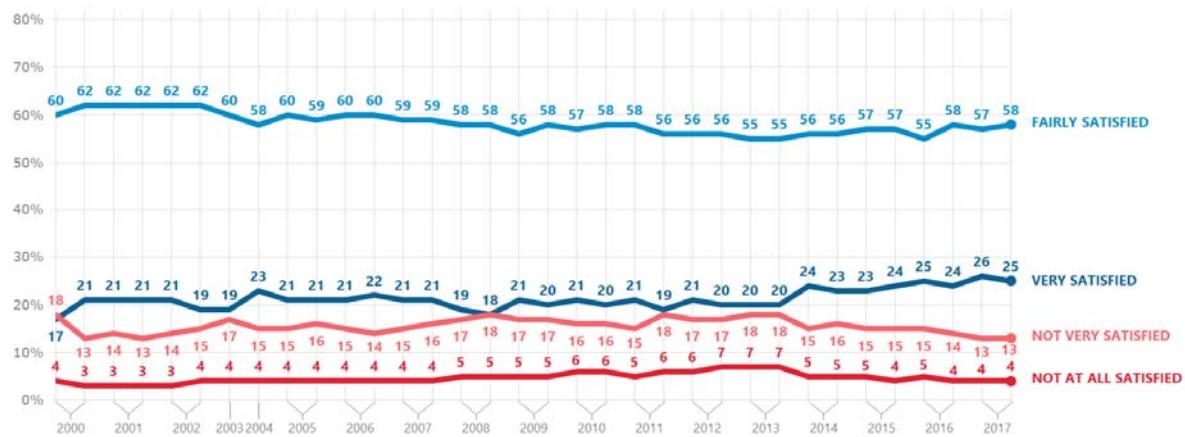
## I. LIFE IN THE EUROPEAN UNION

### 1 The personal situation of Europeans

**More than eight in ten Europeans are satisfied with the life they lead and a quarter are "very satisfied".**

A clear majority of Europeans say they are **satisfied with the life they lead**<sup>7</sup>, unchanged since the Standard Eurobarometer survey of spring 2017 (EB87): 83% are satisfied (unchanged), including 25% who are "very satisfied" (-1 percentage point), compared with 17% who are not satisfied, including 4% who are "not at all satisfied" (=).

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

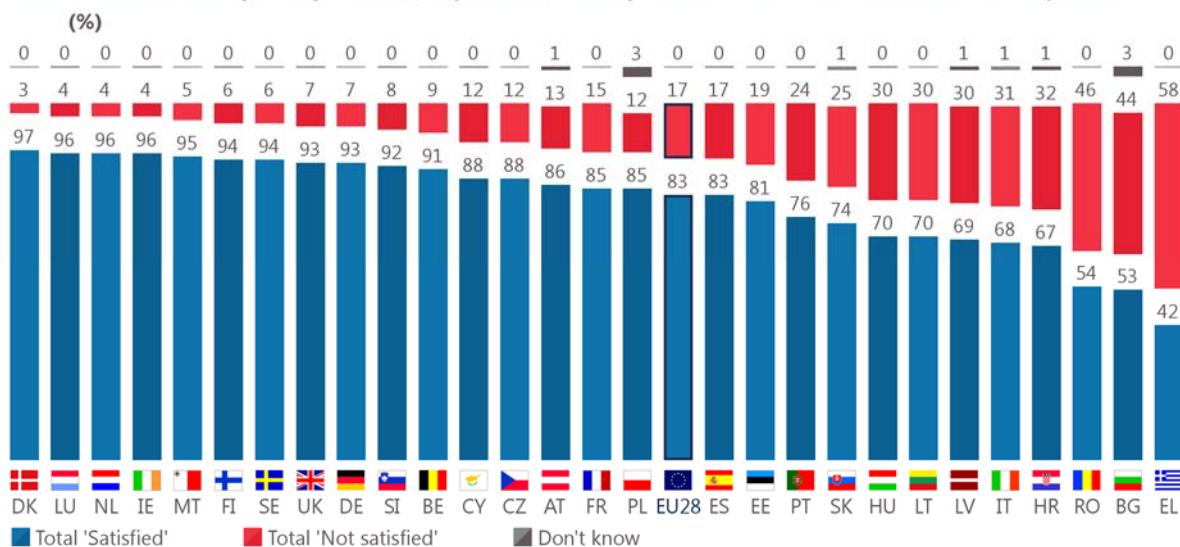


<sup>7</sup> D70. On the whole, are you very satisfied, fairly satisfied, not very satisfied or not at all satisfied with the life you lead?

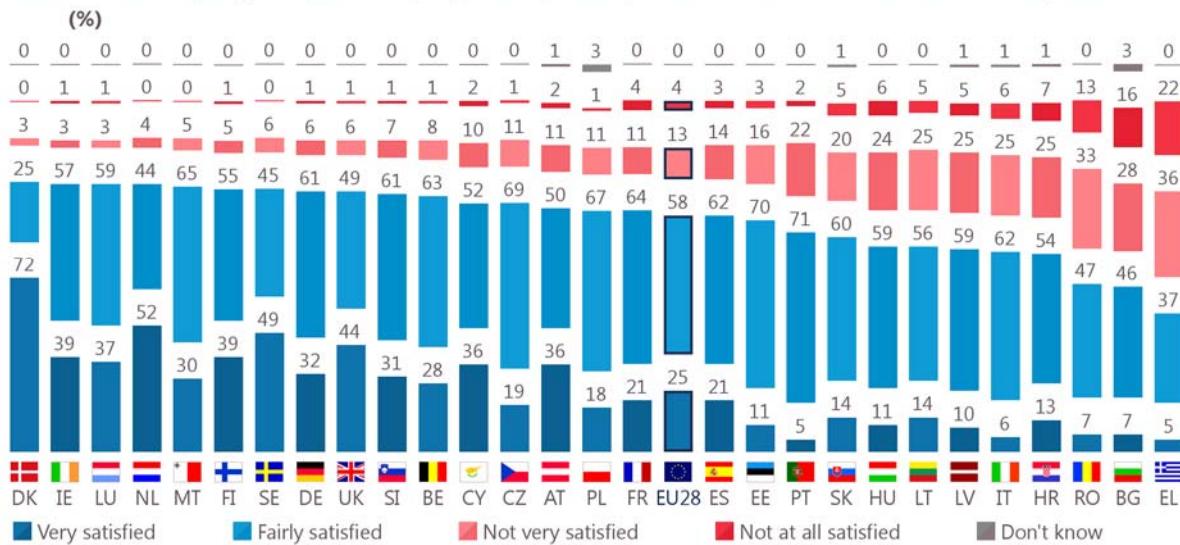
Satisfaction with **life in general** is very uneven across the EU Member States. A majority of respondents say they are satisfied in 27 countries, but the score varies in this group of countries from 53% in Bulgaria (7% of whom are "very satisfied", versus 44% who are dissatisfied) to 97% in Denmark (72% of whom are "very satisfied", versus 3% who are dissatisfied). In Greece, only a minority express satisfaction (42% versus 58%).

Since the Standard Eurobarometer survey of spring 2017, satisfaction with personal life has increased by up to four percentage points in 12 countries. It has declined in eight countries, especially in Romania (54%, -7 percentage points versus 46%, +7), and is unchanged in a further eight.

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



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

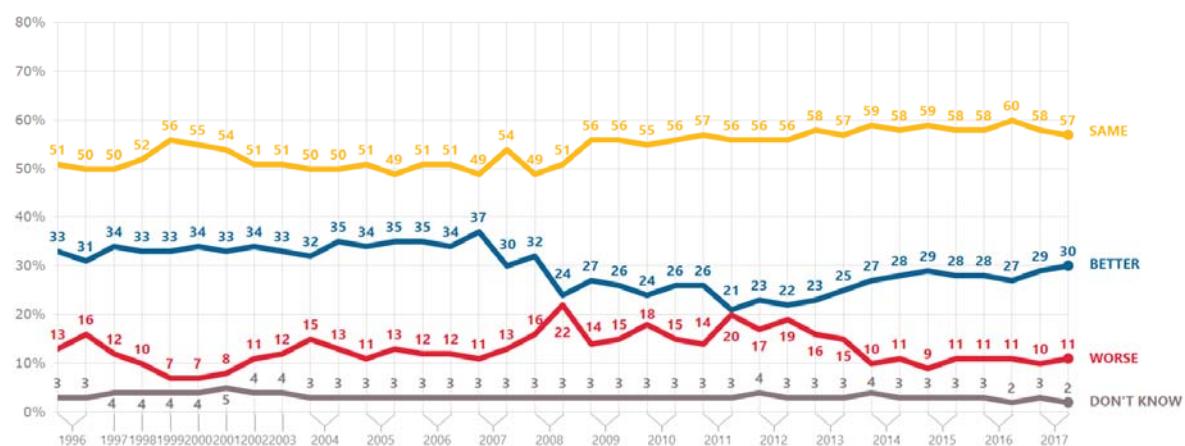


When asked to project themselves into the future, a majority of Europeans believe that **the next twelve months will be "the same" in terms of their lives in general**<sup>8</sup> (57%). This proportion is down one percentage point since spring 2017 and three points since autumn 2016.

Meanwhile, optimism has increased slightly: 30% of Europeans say that **the next twelve months will be "better"** (+1 percentage point since spring 2017 and +3 since autumn 2016).

Relatively few respondents are pessimistic: 11% believe that **the next twelve months will be "worse"**, +1.

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)

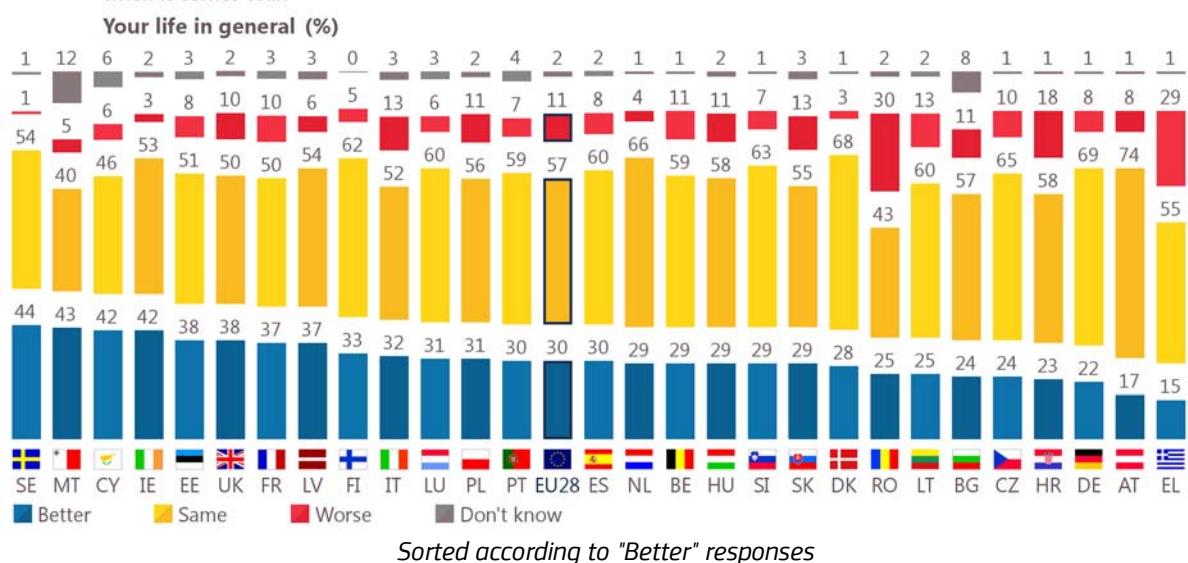


<sup>8</sup> QA2a. What are your expectations for the next twelve months: will the next twelve months be better, worse or the same, when it comes to...? 1. Your life in general

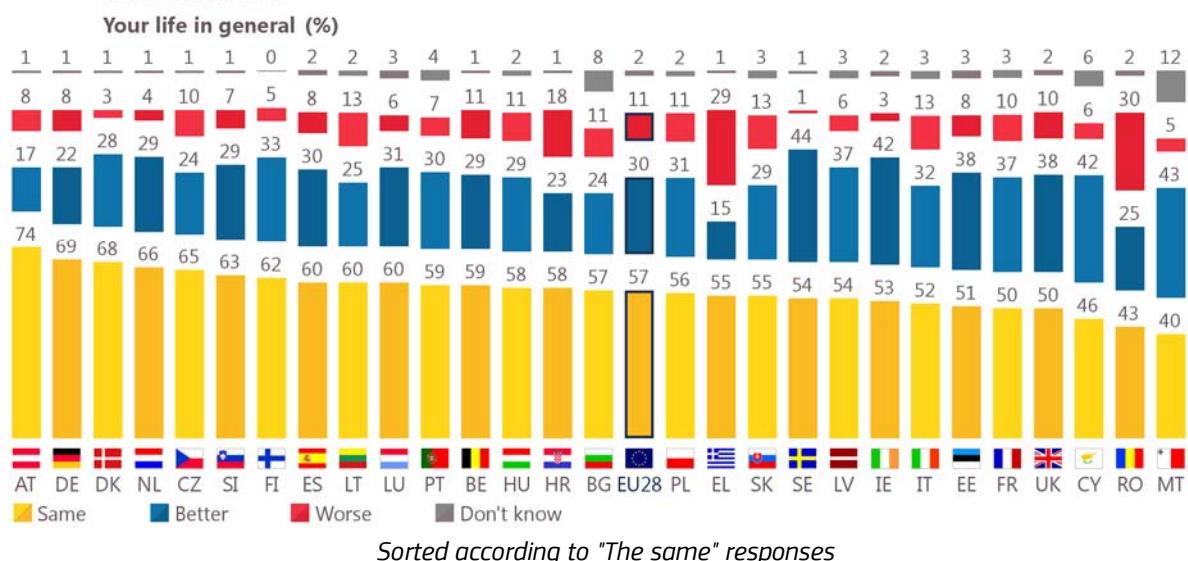
The impression that **the next twelve months will be "the same" for life in general** is expressed by a majority in 27 Member States. However, a majority are optimistic in Malta (43% believe that the next twelve months will be "better", versus 40% "the same").

Respondents are optimistic in proportions ranging from 15% in Greece to 44% in Sweden. The proportion has increased since spring 2017 in 13 Member States, especially in Cyprus (42%, +15 percentage points) and Hungary (29%, +7). Conversely, it has declined in 11 countries, particularly in Romania (25%, -9), where more respondents now feel that **the next twelve months will be "worse"** (30%, +13).

**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...?



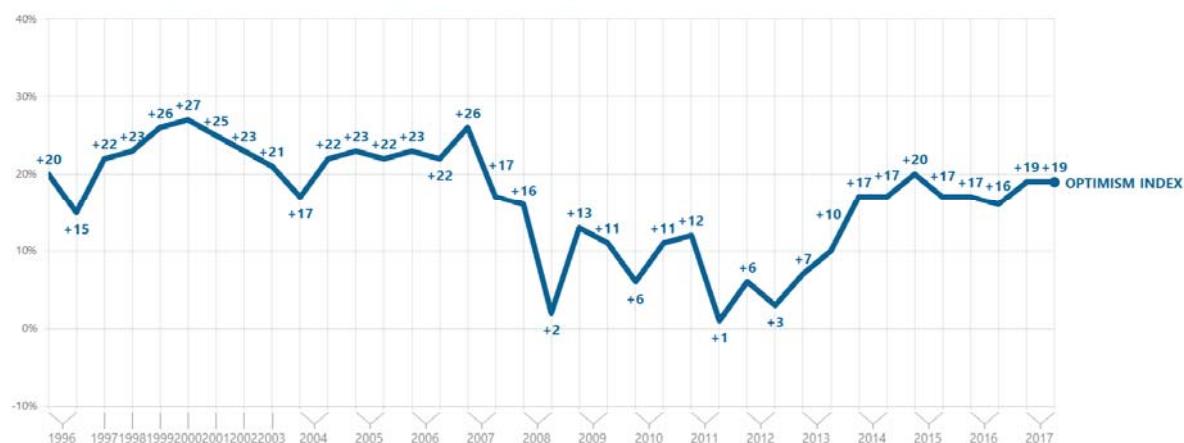
**QA2a.1** What are your expectations for the next twelve months: will the next twelve months be better, worse or the same, when it comes to...?



**Europeans' index of optimism regarding life in general<sup>9</sup>** is unchanged since the Standard Eurobarometer survey of spring 2017 (EB87) at +19.

The index is positive in 26 EU Member States, most notably in Sweden (+43) but is negative in both Greece (-14) and Romania (-5).

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>9</sup> Difference between positive ("better") and negative ("worse") responses.

This index of optimism regarding life in general has risen sharply since spring 2017 in Cyprus (+14 index points to +36), Poland (+11 to +20) and Greece (+10 to +14). Conversely, it has fallen sharply in Romania (-22 index points, to -5).

**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 Sp.2017	Better - Worse Aut.2017	Aut.2017 - Sp.2017
EU28		+19	+19	=
CY		+22	+36	▲ 14
PL		+9	+20	▲ 11
EL		-24	-14	▲ 10
UK		+22	+28	▲ 6
HU		+12	+18	▲ 6
MT		+34	+38	▲ 4
LV		+27	+31	▲ 4
ES		+20	+22	▲ 2
SI		+20	+22	▲ 2
BG		+11	+13	▲ 2
SE		+42	+43	▲ 1
EE		+29	+30	▲ 1
FI		+27	+28	▲ 1
BE		+17	+18	▲ 1
DE		+13	+14	▲ 1
IE		+39	+39	=
IT		+19	+19	=
CZ		+14	+14	=
LT		+12	+12	=
PT		+25	+23	▼ 2
DK		+28	+25	▼ 3
NL		+28	+25	▼ 3
SK		+20	+16	▼ 4
AT		+13	+9	▼ 4
FR		+32	+27	▼ 5
LU		+30	+25	▼ 5
HR		+11	+5	▼ 6
RO		+17	-5	▼ 22

The following tables show the average results by socio-demographic criteria in the European Union as a whole (EU28), in the six largest EU countries, and in countries benefiting or having benefited from European Union assistance to overcome the financial and economic crisis.

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

	EU28 	DE 	ES 	FR 	IT 	PL 	UK 	EL 	PT 	IE 	CY 
<b>TOTAL</b>	83	93	83	85	68	85	93	42	76	96	88
<b>Gender</b>											
Male	83	92	81	87	69	85	93	43	78	95	92
Female	82	94	84	83	68	85	93	41	74	97	85
<b>Age</b>											
15-24	89	92	88	92	72	95	98	74	91	95	96
25-39	85	93	85	86	76	86	92	55	83	97	97
40-54	82	94	78	83	69	88	92	35	76	96	86
55 +	79	92	82	83	63	79	93	30	66	96	79
<b>Education (End of)</b>											
15-	72	89	76	79	55	69	91	28	65	95	73
16-19	81	91	83	81	73	81	91	38	79	95	85
20+	90	96	91	90	83	92	96	49	89	98	95
Still studying	92	97	93	91	79	94	100	82	96	93	97
<b>Socio-professional category</b>											
Self-employed	86	92	91	92	77	90	98	46	78	98	88
Managers	95	99	96	95	78	94	99	51	93	100	94
Other white collars	87	96	89	90	79	91	99	49	86	97	93
Manual workers	84	94	86	90	65	85	95	39	75	97	98
House persons	74	95	81	76	56	85	90	28	77	97	75
Unemployed	59	51	63	67	35	55	73	35	51	79	80
Retired	79	92	80	81	66	81	90	30	65	97	78
Students	92	97	93	91	79	94	100	82	96	93	97

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

	EU28 	DE 	ES 	FR 	IT 	PL 	UK 	EL 	PT 	IE 	CY 
<b>TOTAL</b>	17	7	17	15	31	12	7	58	24	4	12
<b>Gender</b>											
Male	17	8	19	13	31	12	7	57	22	5	8
Female	17	6	16	17	31	12	7	59	26	3	15
<b>Age</b>											
15-24	11	8	12	8	27	4	2	26	9	5	4
25-39	15	7	15	14	23	11	8	45	17	3	3
40-54	18	6	22	17	31	9	8	65	24	4	14
55 +	20	8	18	16	36	17	7	70	34	4	21
<b>Education (End of)</b>											
15-	28	11	24	20	45	30	9	72	35	4	27
16-19	19	9	17	19	26	16	9	61	21	5	15
20+	10	4	9	10	16	5	4	51	11	2	5
Still studying	8	3	7	9	21	3	0	18	4	7	3
<b>Socio-professional category</b>											
Self-employed	14	8	9	8	22	8	2	54	22	2	12
Managers	5	1	4	5	22	5	1	49	7	0	6
Other white collars	12	4	11	10	21	4	1	51	14	3	7
Manual workers	16	6	14	10	34	12	5	61	25	3	2
House persons	25	5	19	24	43	13	10	72	23	3	25
Unemployed	40	49	37	33	63	39	27	65	49	19	20
Retired	20	8	20	18	33	15	10	70	35	3	22
Students	8	3	7	9	21	3	0	18	4	7	3

## 2 The main concerns of Europeans

### a. Personal concerns

#### **The cost of living/rising prices has gained a little ground in the personal concerns of Europeans**

**Rising prices/inflation/the cost of living** is the main issue that Europeans say they currently face (30%, +2 percentage points since the spring 2017 Standard Eurobarometer survey). For the record, this item lost 19 points between spring 2012 (EB77) and spring 2016 (EB85) but has regained four points since.

**The health and social security system** is the second issue that Europeans say they face personally (17%), unchanged since spring 2017 and stable since spring 2012 (between 15% and 17%).

**Pensions** rank third among Europeans' personal concerns, eliciting 15% of responses: an unchanged score since spring 2017 and generally stable since spring 2012 (fluctuating between 13% and 16% over the period).

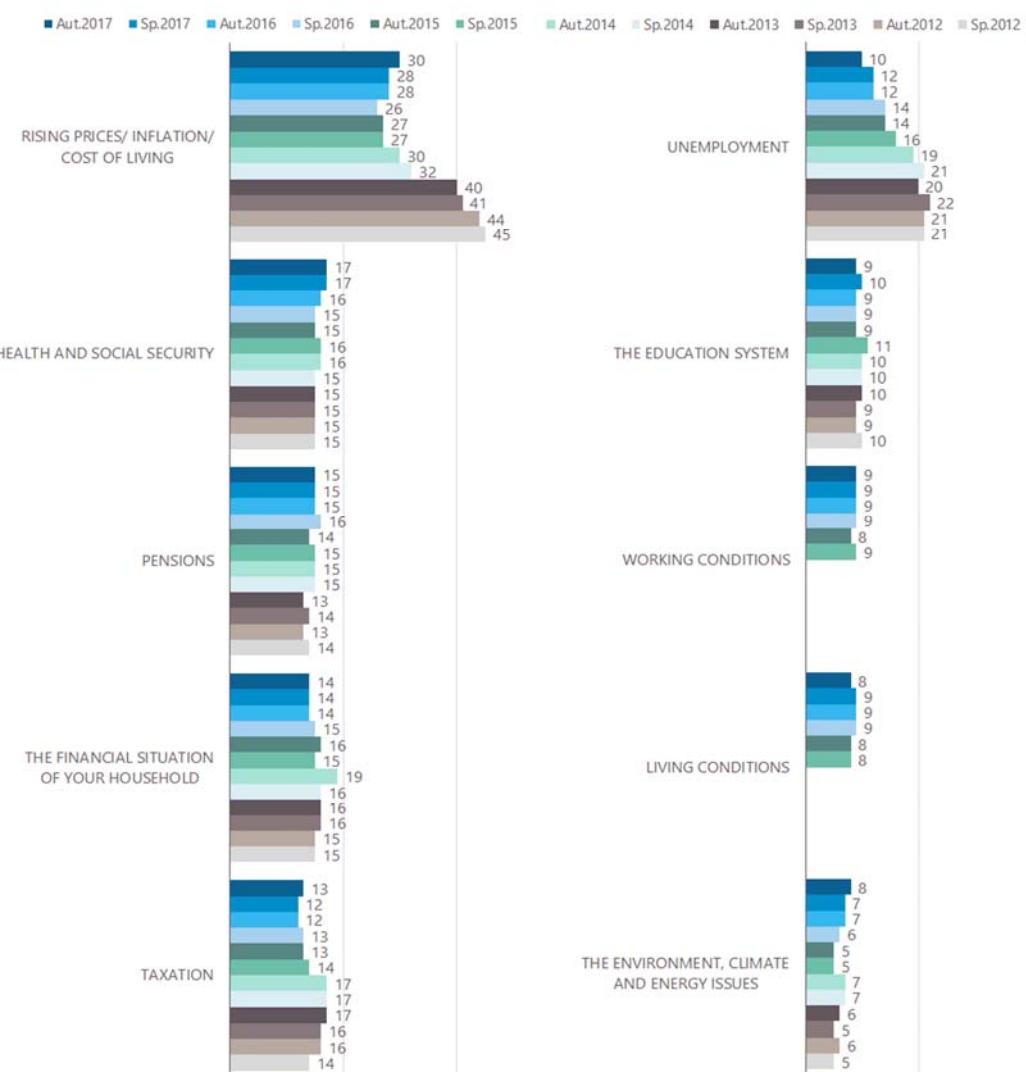
**The household financial situation** ranks fourth (14%, unchanged), just ahead of **taxation** (13%, +1 percentage point).

**Unemployment** stands sixth in the hierarchy of issues facing Europeans personally today. With 10% of responses, it has lost two percentage points since spring 2017, confirming the almost continuous decline recorded since spring 2013 (-12 percentage points in total over the period).

It is followed by two items in identical proportions, **the education system** (9%, -1 percentage point since spring 2017) and **working conditions** (9%, unchanged), ahead of **living conditions** (8%, -1), the national **economic situation** (8%, unchanged) and **the environment, climate and energy issues** (8%, +1). This is the highest score measured for environmental issues as a personal concern since spring 2012.

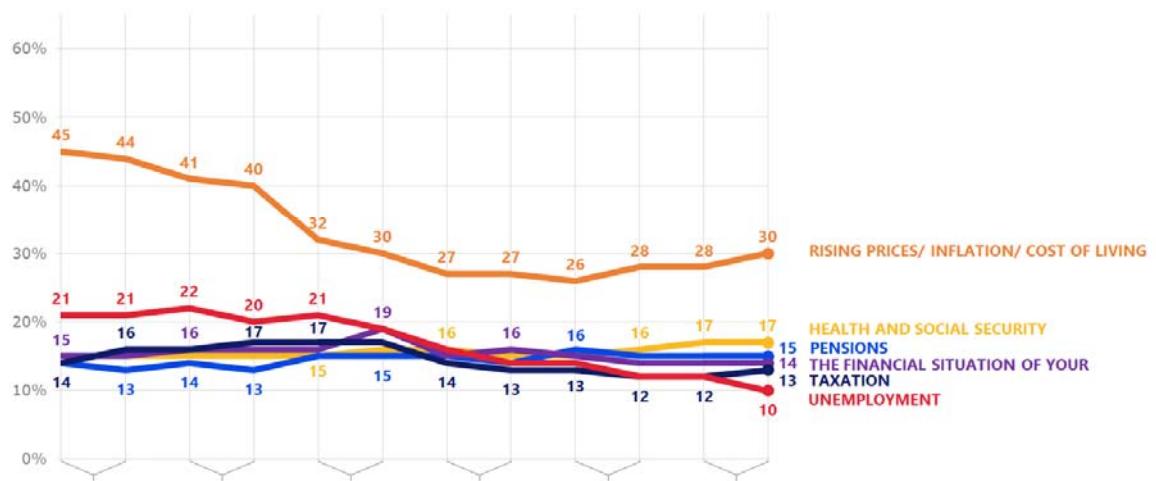
Next come **crime** (6%, unchanged), **immigration** (6%, =) and **housing** (6%, =), ahead of **terrorism** (5%, -1 percentage point).

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



*First ten items mentioned*

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



*First six items mentioned*

The hierarchy of problems that respondents say they personally face varies between euro area and non-euro area countries:

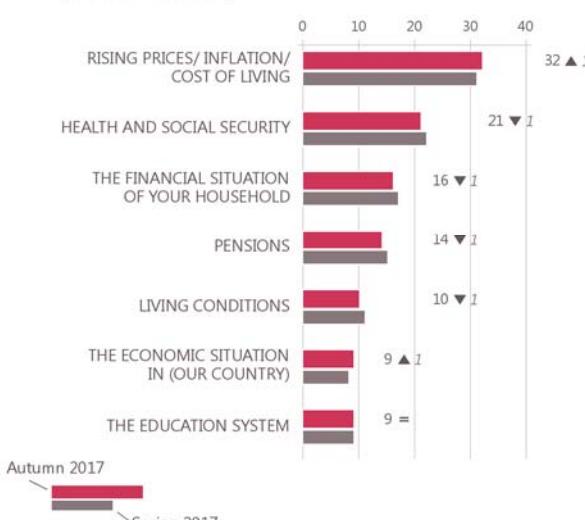
- In the **euro area** countries, rising prices/inflation/the cost of living top the list (28%), followed by taxation (16%) and pensions (15%);
- Rising prices/inflation/the cost of living also leads in **non-euro area countries** (32%), but this is followed by the health and social security system (21%) and the household financial situation (16%).

QA4a And personally, what are the two most important issues you are facing at the moment?  
(% - EURO AREA)



*Six first items mentioned*

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



*Seven first items mentioned*

**Rising prices/inflation/the cost of living** is the leading issue that Europeans say they currently face in 19 EU Member States (as in spring 2017). Within these 19 countries, however, mentions vary from 22% in Malta to 70% in Lithuania, and are lowest in Sweden (5%).

The issue gained ground as a personal concern in 17 Member States, especially in Poland (39%, +10 percentage points since spring 2017) and Estonia (40%, +8). Conversely, it declined in eight countries, notably in Portugal (30%, -11). It remains unchanged in Greece, Spain and Denmark.

**The health and social security system** is the leading personal concern in five EU Member States: Sweden (44%), Finland (41%), the Netherlands (35%), Hungary (30%) and Denmark (18%), but is mentioned far less often in Luxembourg (5%). No significant changes have been recorded since spring 2017 for this indicator.

**Pensions** are the leading personal concern in Slovenia (21%), up five percentage points since spring 2017. It is the most mentioned item in Bulgaria (22%) and the least mentioned in Luxembourg (7%).

**The household financial situation** is the leading personal concern in Greece (35%) and in Cyprus (32%). This is mentioned far less in Luxembourg (7%).

In Italy, **taxation** leads the list of personal concerns (27%), but this item is also frequently mentioned in Greece (31%) and Lithuania (23%). It is mentioned much less often in Denmark (3%).

Other results include:

- **Unemployment** is frequently mentioned in Spain (21%);
- **The education system** is frequently mentioned in the Netherlands (21%);

- **Working conditions** are mentioned more than average in Hungary (14%), as are living conditions in Romania (17%);
- **Environmental, climate and energy issues** are frequently mentioned in Sweden (25%), the Netherlands (22%) and Malta (20%);
- The **national economic situation** is a major personal concern in Cyprus (21%);
- In Malta, **crime** (17%) and **immigration** (13%) are mentioned more than average;
- In Luxembourg, housing is mentioned more than average (23%); in Belgium, this applies to **terrorism** (9%).

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

		Rising prices/ inflation/ cost of living	Health and social security	Pensions	The financial situation of your household	Taxation	Unemployment	The education system	Working conditions	Living conditions	The environment, climate and energy issues	The economic situation in (OUR COUNTRY)	Crime	Housing	Immigration	Terrorism
EU28		30	17	15	14	13	10	9	9	8	8	8	6	6	6	5
BE		<b>37</b>	14	15	14	13	9	7	8	7	11	6	12	5	8	9
BG		<b>31</b>	22	22	22	4	11	6	10	16	4	13	7	2	4	2
CZ		<b>48</b>	13	17	16	7	2	5	10	6	4	4	4	11	3	3
DK		10	<b>18</b>	10	9	3	6	10	8	3	14	3	9	5	9	6
DE		<b>24</b>	16	16	8	7	5	14	6	4	12	2	7	5	10	5
EE		<b>40</b>	26	18	21	14	5	7	7	9	2	7	2	4	2	1
IE		<b>38</b>	21	8	13	13	9	8	5	6	8	8	10	15	4	3
EL		29	13	20	<b>35</b>	31	18	7	6	10	2	14	5	1	2	0
ES		<b>28</b>	11	16	15	16	<b>21</b>	10	12	8	4	13	3	6	2	3
FR		<b>38</b>	8	15	17	17	12	8	9	8	10	5	10	7	3	7
HR		<b>41</b>	14	20	25	5	10	6	10	15	3	12	3	5	1	2
IT		21	12	13	10	<b>27</b>	16	5	12	10	7	8	8	2	11	7
CY		24	16	8	<b>32</b>	4	18	8	8	8	3	21	4	4	3	1
LV		<b>41</b>	27	18	15	17	9	9	6	7	3	10	1	8	2	0
LT		<b>70</b>	13	19	16	23	8	5	7	5	1	8	2	6	1	1
LU		<b>30</b>	5	7	7	9	6	16	10	4	10	3	9	23	6	5
HU		29	<b>30</b>	17	25	7	8	7	14	14	4	5	5	7	6	4
MT		<b>22</b>	14	16	9	5	2	10	8	8	20	1	17	5	13	6
NL		19	<b>35</b>	17	14	7	5	<b>21</b>	9	6	22	5	4	6	4	4
AT		<b>31</b>	18	13	11	5	7	13	11	13	8	7	9	10	9	7
PL		<b>39</b>	22	16	17	8	6	7	10	11	4	7	2	4	4	2
PT		<b>30</b>	18	14	13	17	14	5	12	14	4	7	3	3	2	2
RO		<b>29</b>	22	15	18	11	7	8	9	17	7	14	4	6	4	3
SI		14	19	<b>21</b>	14	7	11	9	13	15	5	6	2	7	2	0
SK		<b>42</b>	18	14	20	5	7	4	10	14	5	8	2	9	2	2
FI		11	<b>41</b>	15	20	6	9	14	8	11	17	13	5	11	5	2
SE		5	<b>44</b>	17	14	6	5	16	8	12	25	7	10	13	10	3
UK		<b>33</b>	18	10	12	6	7	11	5	5	8	11	8	10	5	7

Highest percentage per country

Lowest percentage per country

Highest percentage per item

Lowest percentage per item

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

		Rising prices/ inflation/ cost of living	Health and social security	Pensions	The financial situation of your household	Taxation	Unemployment	The education system	Working conditions	Living conditions	The environment, climate and energy issues	The economic situation in (OUR COUNTRY)	Crime	Housing	Immigration	Terrorism
EU28		30	17	15	14	13	10	9	9	8	8	8	6	6	6	5
BE		37	14	15	14	13	9	7	8	7	11	6	12	5	8	9
BG		31	22	22	22	4	11	6	10	16	4	13	7	2	4	2
CZ		48	13	17	16	7	2	5	10	6	4	4	4	11	3	3
DK		10	18	10	9	3	6	10	8	3	14	3	9	5	9	6
DE		24	16	16	8	7	5	14	6	4	12	2	7	5	10	5
EE		40	26	18	21	14	5	7	7	9	2	7	2	4	2	1
IE		38	21	8	13	13	9	8	5	6	8	8	10	15	4	3
EL		29	13	20	35	31	18	7	6	10	2	14	5	1	2	0
ES		28	11	16	15	16	21	10	12	8	4	13	3	6	2	3
FR		38	8	15	17	17	12	8	9	8	10	5	10	7	3	7
HR		41	14	20	25	5	10	6	10	15	3	12	3	5	1	2
IT		21	12	13	10	27	16	5	12	10	7	8	8	2	11	7
CY		24	16	8	32	4	18	8	8	8	3	21	4	4	3	1
LV		41	27	18	15	17	9	9	6	7	3	10	1	8	2	0
LT		70	13	19	16	23	8	5	7	5	1	8	2	6	1	1
LU		30	5	7	7	9	6	16	10	4	10	3	9	23	6	5
HU		29	30	17	25	7	8	7	14	14	4	5	5	7	6	4
MT		22	14	16	9	5	2	10	8	8	20	1	17	5	13	6
NL		19	35	17	14	7	5	21	9	6	22	5	4	6	4	4
AT		31	18	13	11	5	7	13	11	13	8	7	9	10	9	7
PL		39	22	16	17	8	6	7	10	11	4	7	2	4	4	2
PT		30	18	14	13	17	14	5	12	14	4	7	3	3	2	2
RO		29	22	15	18	11	7	8	9	17	7	14	4	6	4	3
SI		14	19	21	14	7	11	9	13	15	5	6	2	7	2	0
SK		42	18	14	20	5	7	4	10	14	5	8	2	9	2	2
FI		11	41	15	20	6	9	14	8	11	17	13	5	11	5	2
SE		5	44	17	14	6	5	16	8	12	25	7	10	13	10	3
UK		33	18	10	12	6	7	11	5	5	8	11	8	10	5	7
1st MOST FREQUENTLY MENTIONED ITEM				2nd MOST FREQUENTLY MENTIONED ITEM				3rd MOST FREQUENTLY MENTIONED ITEM								

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

	Rising prices/inflation\ cost of living	Health and social security	Pensions	The financial situation of your household	Taxation	Unemployment	The education system	Working conditions	The economic situation in (OUR COUNTRY)	The environment, climate and energy issues	Living conditions	Crime	Housing	Immigration	Terrorism	Other (SPONTANEOUS)	None (SPONTANEOUS)	Don't know
EU28	30	17	15	14	13	10	9	9	8	8	8	6	6	6	5	2	8	1
 Gender																		
Man	28	15	14	14	15	10	9	10	9	9	9	6	6	6	5	2	9	1
Woman	31	18	16	14	11	10	10	8	7	8	8	7	6	6	5	2	8	2
 Age																		
15-24	26	8	3	11	8	14	26	11	7	9	8	5	9	4	5	2	11	2
25-39	31	12	5	16	16	13	10	14	9	8	9	6	10	5	5	2	6	1
40-54	31	15	7	17	15	11	10	11	10	10	8	7	6	6	5	2	7	1
55 +	29	23	30	12	11	6	3	4	6	8	8	7	3	7	5	2	9	2
 Education (End of)																		
15-	29	19	29	15	11	11	2	5	6	4	9	8	4	6	5	2	8	2
16-19	33	16	15	15	13	11	6	9	7	7	9	6	6	6	6	2	8	1
20+	27	18	11	13	15	7	12	10	9	13	7	6	7	6	4	2	8	1
Still studying	20	8	2	10	8	9	37	8	8	12	7	5	8	4	4	2	13	2
 Socio-professional category																		
Self-employed	25	16	9	11	26	7	8	9	12	11	10	6	5	6	5	2	7	1
Managers	28	14	10	10	14	4	16	10	8	17	6	7	6	6	5	2	10	1
Other white collars	34	13	7	14	17	8	9	13	9	8	9	6	8	7	5	2	7	1
Manual workers	34	13	9	17	14	7	7	15	9	6	10	6	8	6	5	2	8	1
House persons	36	13	14	16	13	13	8	7	8	5	9	6	5	7	7	2	8	2
Unemployed	22	9	5	28	6	58	5	10	7	4	10	5	8	3	3	2	2	1
Retired	29	27	33	11	9	4	3	2	5	7	8	8	3	6	5	2	9	1
Students	20	8	2	10	8	9	37	8	8	12	7	5	8	4	4	2	13	2

The following tables show the average results by socio-demographic criteria in the European Union as a whole (EU28), in the six largest EU countries, and in countries benefiting or having benefited from European Union assistance to overcome the financial and economic crisis.

**QA4a** And personally, what are the two most important issues you are facing at the moment?  
(% - RISING PRICES/ INFLATION/ COST OF LIVING)

	EU28 	DE 	ES 	FR 	IT 	PL 	UK 	EL 	PT 	IE 	CY 
<b>TOTAL</b>	30	24	28	38	21	39	33	29	30	38	24
<b>Gender</b>											
Male	28	22	27	38	21	38	30	26	31	36	26
Female	31	26	28	38	21	41	35	31	28	41	22
<b>Age</b>											
15-24	26	21	24	39	13	41	29	19	17	30	27
25-39	31	26	27	47	13	32	38	33	45	45	26
40-54	31	26	30	40	21	41	38	34	37	39	23
55 +	29	23	28	32	27	43	26	26	20	35	20
<b>Education (End of)</b>											
15-	29	25	34	34	29	35	23	27	25	38	19
16-19	33	30	26	42	22	44	37	31	36	44	23
20+	27	17	24	37	15	36	34	31	37	38	26
Still studying	20	12	20	34	13	37	22	19	11	22	25
<b>Socio-professional category</b>											
Self-employed	25	12	19	28	19	42	34	30	37	42	29
Managers	28	19	25	42	24	22	38	28	42	36	33
Other white collars	34	30	39	48	17	38	50	40	47	40	23
Manual workers	34	32	32	47	19	43	32	34	37	45	23
House persons	36	21	36	46	29	51	46	36	24	47	21
Unemployed	22	23	11	28	5	32	28	14	25	39	16
Retired	29	26	29	32	29	44	26	25	15	33	22
Students	20	12	20	34	13	37	22	19	11	22	25

**QA4a** And personally, what are the two most important issues you are facing at the moment?  
(% - HEALTH AND SOCIAL SECURITY)

	EU28 	DE 	ES 	FR 	IT 	PL 	UK 	EL 	PT 	IE 	CY 
<b>TOTAL</b>	17	16	11	8	12	22	18	13	18	21	16
<b>Gender</b>											
Male	15	15	10	6	12	20	16	11	14	19	12
Female	18	17	12	9	11	23	19	15	21	23	19
<b>Age</b>											
15-24	8	13	8	4	5	9	4	3	6	7	4
25-39	12	9	8	4	14	14	9	12	10	13	17
40-54	15	14	9	5	9	22	20	10	14	24	12
55 +	23	21	14	13	14	31	28	19	29	32	23
<b>Education (End of)</b>											
15-	19	21	11	12	14	27	25	21	28	31	24
16-19	16	14	11	8	11	22	18	9	13	25	19
20+	18	17	12	7	14	21	16	14	12	18	12
Still studying	8	10	7	7	3	11	6	2	0	7	6
<b>Socio-professional category</b>											
Self-employed	16	18	11	16	15	18	16	11	15	15	14
Managers	14	13	14	6	7	18	16	17	11	15	14
Other white collars	13	5	9	5	13	18	7	12	10	19	11
Manual workers	13	15	9	4	10	19	10	9	16	22	14
House persons	13	10	12	4	14	7	14	18	20	27	16
Unemployed	9	9	8	2	4	18	11	7	12	10	13
Retired	27	25	15	14	16	35	33	20	33	36	28
Students	8	10	7	7	3	11	6	2	0	7	6

**QA4a** And personally, what are the two most important issues you are facing at the moment?  
(% - PENSIONS)

	EU28	DE	ES	FR	IT	PL	UK	EL	PT	IE	CY
<b>TOTAL</b>	15	16	16	15	13	16	10	20	14	8	8
<b>Gender</b>											
Male	14	16	15	14	12	13	10	18	12	10	8
Female	16	16	18	15	14	18	10	22	16	7	8
<b>Age</b>											
15-24	3	7	1	1	6	4	1	2	1	1	3
25-39	5	13	3	0	5	4	4	0	1	4	3
40-54	7	9	6	2	5	12	8	1	4	5	2
55 +	30	26	37	35	23	32	21	48	33	19	19
<b>Education (End of)</b>											
15-	29	30	36	36	23	31	18	47	25	17	27
16-19	15	17	6	17	11	18	9	12	4	9	6
20+	11	12	8	7	7	15	9	9	4	7	2
Still studying	2	4	1	0	4	3	0	0	1	1	6
<b>Socio-professional category</b>											
Self-employed	9	15	10	11	7	5	7	4	6	5	5
Managers	10	14	5	4	8	10	12	3	1	7	0
Other white collars	7	9	2	6	7	6	12	1	3	5	6
Manual workers	9	13	7	4	8	12	8	6	7	5	2
House persons	14	6	33	13	12	5	7	26	16	9	5
Unemployed	5	6	3	6	7	11	1	1	5	2	2
Retired	33	30	43	34	32	36	16	61	41	23	26
Students	2	4	1	0	4	3	0	0	1	1	6

**QA4a** And personally, what are the two most important issues you are facing at the moment?  
(% - THE FINANCIAL SITUATION OF YOUR HOUSEHOLD)

	EU28	DE	ES	FR	IT	PL	UK	EL	PT	IE	CY
<b>TOTAL</b>	14	8	15	17	10	17	12	35	13	13	32
<b>Gender</b>											
Male	14	8	13	14	10	18	13	35	11	13	30
Female	14	7	16	19	10	16	12	34	15	12	34
<b>Age</b>											
15-24	11	8	7	11	8	12	10	36	16	16	19
25-39	16	9	15	17	14	18	20	30	10	13	28
40-54	17	9	22	25	9	15	12	43	12	16	46
55 +	12	6	11	13	9	19	8	32	15	7	32
<b>Education (End of)</b>											
15-	15	9	16	16	12	17	9	37	17	12	42
16-19	15	9	16	17	12	21	12	41	11	15	34
20+	13	4	14	17	5	14	15	26	5	10	29
Still studying	10	7	4	12	8	13	13	33	18	13	21
<b>Socio-professional category</b>											
Self-employed	11	8	15	2	6	12	11	35	11	9	24
Managers	10	2	5	14	4	15	14	26	5	14	39
Other white collars	14	8	14	18	7	15	10	30	7	11	32
Manual workers	17	11	17	20	17	16	14	39	13	9	33
House persons	16	4	17	24	8	13	18	43	21	17	47
Unemployed	28	34	22	30	23	32	25	52	22	29	40
Retired	11	5	10	12	10	19	6	27	15	8	27
Students	10	7	4	12	8	13	13	33	18	13	21

## b. The main concerns at national level

### **Concerns about unemployment are declining, but rising prices are gaining ground among national concerns**

Europeans continue to see **unemployment** as the most important problem facing their country<sup>10</sup> (25%), though this item has lost four percentage points since the Standard Eurobarometer survey of spring 2017. This new decline confirms its longer-term downward trend among respondents' national concerns: it has lost 26 percentage points since spring 2013 (EB79).

There is a narrowing gap between unemployment and **immigration**, which is unchanged since spring 2017 (22%). Worries about immigration peaked in autumn 2015 (36%) and lost 14 percentage points during the period to spring 2017.

In third position in the hierarchy of national concerns is the **health and social security system**, unchanged since spring 2017 (20%).

**Rising prices/inflation/the cost of living** records a slight increase (17%, +2 percentage points since spring 2017). It has gained four percentage points since spring 2016, whereas it had decreased significantly between spring 2011 and autumn 2014 (down 13 percentage points over the period), and was then stable until spring 2016.

**Terrorism** falls from fourth to fifth place among Europeans' national concerns, down three percentage points since spring 2017 (16%). For the record, this item had gained five points between autumn 2016 and spring 2017. Mentions of this item have tended to rise since autumn 2014.

Equal with terrorism, **the economic situation** is mentioned by 16% of Europeans (unchanged since spring 2017). This item has tended to lose ground since autumn 2012 (-21 percentage points during the period to spring 2017).

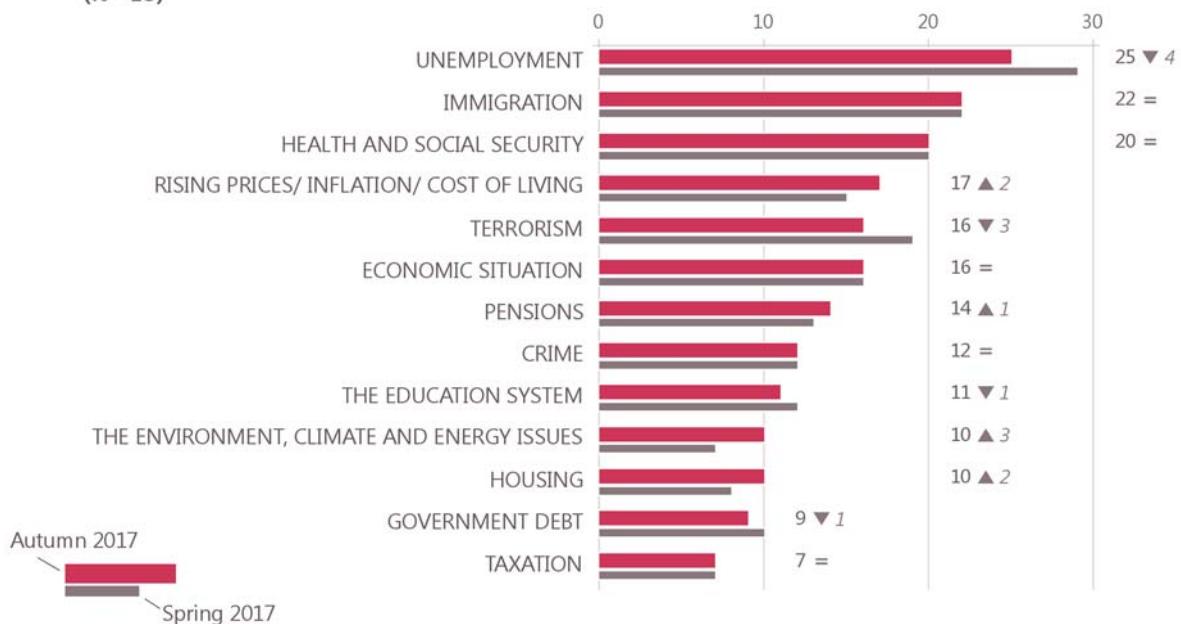
This is followed by **pensions** (14%, +1 percentage point), **crime** (12%, unchanged) and **the education system** (11%, -1).

**The environment, climate and energy issues** have gained three percentage points (10%), recording the same level as **housing** (10%, +2 percentage points).

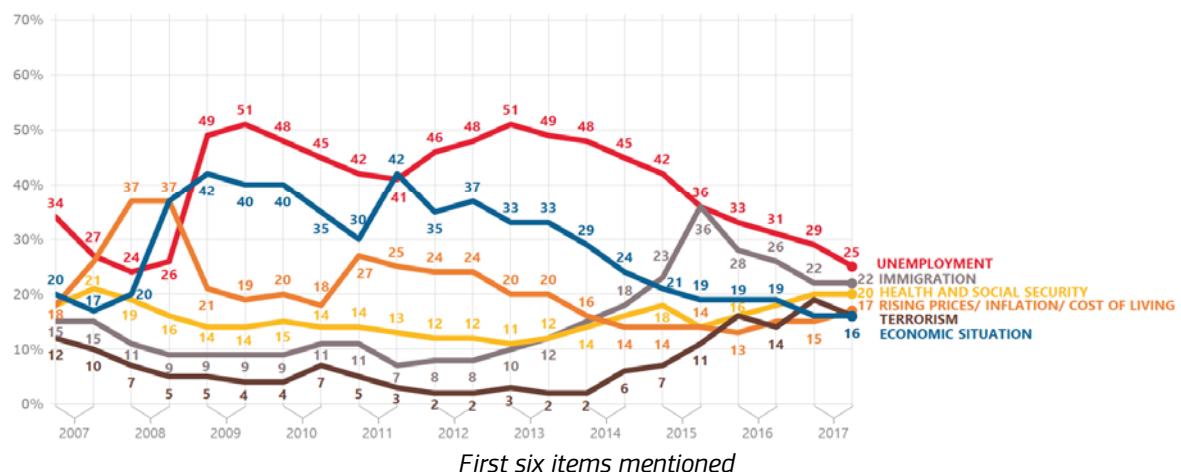
Coming in last are **government debt** (9%, -1 percentage point) and **taxation** (7%, unchanged).

<sup>10</sup> QA3a. What do you think are the two most important issues facing (OUR COUNTRY) at the moment?

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



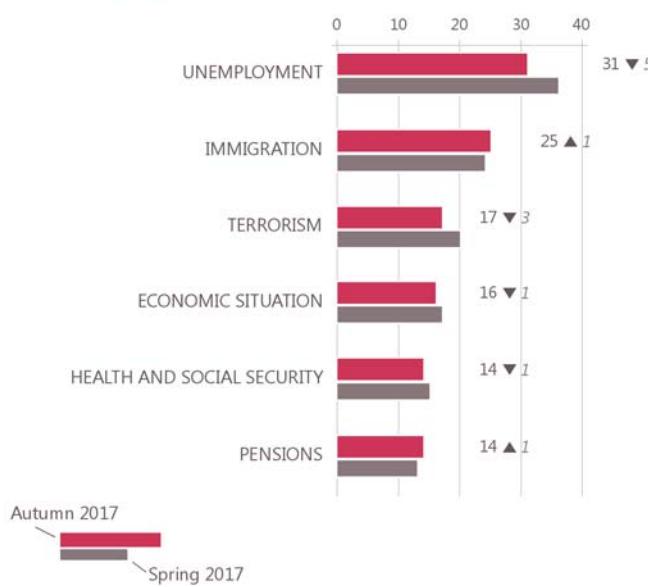
**QA3a** What do you think are the two most important issues facing (OUR COUNTRY) at the moment?  
(% - EU)



The hierarchy of main national concerns varies considerably between countries in the euro area and those outside:

- Unemployment is the leading national concern in the **euro area** countries (despite falling to 31%, -5 percentage points), ahead of immigration (25%, +1) and terrorism (17%, -3);
- In **non-euro area** countries, the health and social security system leads (30%, -1), followed by rising prices/inflation/the cost of living (with a significant increase in mentions: 26%, +6), ahead of immigration (17%, -1).

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



*First six items mentioned*

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



*First eight items mentioned*

**Unemployment** is the leading national concern in six EU Member States: Spain (58%), Croatia (52%), Greece (49%), Italy and Portugal (both 42%) and France (40%). It is only marginally mentioned in Malta (2%) and in the Netherlands (3%), but in Cyprus, it is mentioned equally with the national **economic situation** (48%).

Since spring 2017, unemployment has lost ground in 25 Member States and is unchanged in the other three. The most notable declines since spring 2017 are recorded in Finland (26%, -11 percentage points), France (40%, -10) and Portugal (42%, -9).

**Immigration** is mentioned as the main problem facing the country in Germany (40%), Belgium (29%) and Austria (28%) but is seldom mentioned in Portugal (4%) and Croatia (5%).

Concerns over immigration are declining in 12 Member States, led by the Netherlands (24%, -13 percentage points), but are growing in 12 countries, especially in Greece (18%, +6). They are unchanged in Spain and the Baltic countries (Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania).

Though **the health and social security system** stands third in the hierarchy of national concerns across the 28 Member States, is the leading item in eight of them, most notably in the Netherlands (54%), Hungary (42%), Finland (41%) and Sweden (40%). It is mentioned least in Malta (5%).

Since spring 2017, concerns about this issue have declined in 13 Member States, led by Romania (25%, -7 percentage points), but have risen in ten countries, most markedly in the Netherlands (54%, +11), Slovenia (38%, +11) and Denmark (34%, +11). They are unchanged in the other five countries.

**Rising prices/inflation/the cost of living** is the most mentioned item in six Member States, especially in Lithuania (65%), the Czech Republic (41%) and Estonia (40%). It is the least mentioned item in the Nordic countries (3% in Denmark, 4% in Sweden and 7% in Finland).

Since spring 2017, concerns about the cost of living have gained ground in 14 Member States, led by Poland (37%, +14 percentage points), the Czech Republic (41%, +12), Lithuania (65%, +11) and Estonia (40%, +10). They have declined in ten countries, notably in Portugal (12%, -9) and Malta (10%, -8), and are unchanged in the other four countries.

In Bulgaria, three subjects share the lead in terms of national concerns, with identical scores: the health and social security system, rising prices/inflation/the cost of living and the country's economic situation (all 31%).

**Crime** is the leading national concern in Malta (45%), with a sharp rise in mentions (+26 percentage points since spring 2017), but it is also mentioned much more often in Denmark (28%, +17). It is mentioned only marginally in Latvia (2%, -1).

**Housing** is the leading national concern in Ireland (57%) and Luxembourg (56%), but is not mentioned at all in Greece (0%).

Other results include:

- **The national economic** situation is very widely mentioned in Greece (44%) and Spain (34%);
- **Terrorism** continues to be mentioned frequently in France (33%);
- **Pensions** are a major concern in the Czech Republic (24%);
- **The education system** is mentioned more than average in Sweden (25%);
- **Environmental, climate and energy issues** are frequently mentioned in the Netherlands (32%), Sweden (31%), Denmark (28%), Malta (22%) and Germany. Increasing concern is visible in 19 Member States, led by Sweden (31%, +9 percentage points) and Germany (20%, +9), but also in Luxembourg (12%, +7) and Portugal (9%, +7). It is down by just one percentage point in Poland and Greece and is unchanged in the other seven countries;
- **Government debt** remains a major concern in Greece (30%) as does **taxation** in Latvia (28%).

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

		Unemployment	Immigration	Health and social security	Rising prices/ inflation/ cost of living	Terrorism	Economic situation	Pensions	Crime	The education system	The environment, climate and energy issues	Housing	Government debt	Taxation	
EU28		25	22	20	17	16	16	14	12	11	10	10	9	7	
BE		21	29	12	17	21	11	19	14	7	13	6	14	10	
BG		22	12	31	31	5	31	16	20	9	4	2	4	3	
CZ		5	17	17	41	5	11	24	14	8	6	7	21	8	
DK		6	32	34	3	15	4	6	28	17	28	3	3	9	
DE		7	40	13	9	20	3	18	18	22	20	16	3	2	
EE		16	14	36	40	2	17	16	3	9	4	2	3	18	
IE		16	9	33	22	4	9	4	15	6	7	57	6	7	
EL		49	18	11	9	1	44	8	6	4	0	0	30	17	
ES		58	7	11	8	13	34	12	6	6	3	4	12	5	
FR		40	17	8	13	33	11	12	14	11	13	9	11	5	
HR		52	5	8	27	4	28	13	16	4	2	3	19	8	
IT		42	33	7	11	13	22	16	10	4	5	3	10	16	
CY		48	12	16	13	3	48	4	7	9	5	1	9	4	
LV		24	7	32	30	1	21	21	2	13	1	4	4	28	
LT		23	10	15	65	0	18	17	5	9	1	2	5	20	
LU		13	19	7	21	4	2	8	5	20	12	56	4	6	
HU		15	28	42	20	7	17	13	10	12	6	4	9	6	
MT		2	32	5	10	7	4	7	45	11	22	12	2	5	
NL		3	24	54	12	16	8	8	8	18	32	7	1	5	
AT		21	28	16	19	8	12	10	16	22	13	9	15	7	
PL		12	13	34	37	7	12	22	8	7	5	7	13	8	
PT		42	4	22	12	4	21	15	8	5	9	3	15	9	
RO		16	6	25	30	4	29	16	12	14	6	5	9	10	
SI		29	9	38	9	1	24	19	8	4	4	6	15	13	
SK		21	11	29	37	5	18	16	10	9	7	7	11	6	
FI		26	21	41	7	7	15	9	6	14	14	5	20	6	
SE		11	27	40	4	5	7	9	22	25	31	12	0	4	
UK		10	20	30	21	25	13	5	12	11	6	21	7	4	
1st MOST FREQUENTLY MENTIONED ITEM		2nd MOST FREQUENTLY MENTIONED ITEM					3rd MOST FREQUENTLY MENTIONED ITEM								

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

	Unemployment	Immigration	Health and social security	Rising prices/ inflation/ cost of living	Terrorism	Economic situation	Pensions	Crime	The education system	The environment, climate and energy issues	Housing	Government debt	Taxation
EU28	25	22	20	17	16	16	14	12	11	10	10	9	7
BE	21	29	12	17	21	11	19	14	7	13	6	14	10
BG	22	12	31	31	5	31	16	20	9	4	2	4	3
CZ	5	17	17	41	5	11	24	14	8	6	7	21	8
DK	6	32	34	3	15	4	6	28	17	28	3	3	9
DE	7	40	13	9	20	3	18	18	22	20	16	3	2
EE	16	14	36	40	2	17	16	3	9	4	2	3	18
IE	16	9	33	22	4	9	4	15	6	7	57	6	7
EL	49	18	11	9	1	44	8	6	4	0	0	30	17
ES	58	7	11	8	13	34	12	6	6	3	4	12	5
FR	40	17	8	13	33	11	12	14	11	13	9	11	5
HR	52	5	8	27	4	28	13	16	4	2	3	19	8
IT	42	33	7	11	13	22	16	10	4	5	3	10	16
CY	48	12	16	13	3	48	4	7	9	5	1	9	4
LV	24	7	32	30	1	21	21	2	13	1	4	4	28
LT	23	10	15	65	0	18	17	5	9	1	2	5	20
LU	13	19	7	21	4	2	8	5	20	12	56	4	6
HU	15	28	42	20	7	17	13	10	12	6	4	9	6
MT	2	32	5	10	7	4	7	45	11	22	12	2	5
NL	3	24	54	12	16	8	8	8	18	32	7	1	5
AT	21	28	16	19	8	12	10	16	22	13	9	15	7
PL	12	13	34	37	7	12	22	8	7	5	7	13	8
PT	42	4	22	12	4	21	15	8	5	9	3	15	9
RO	16	6	25	30	4	29	16	12	14	6	5	9	10
SI	29	9	38	9	1	24	19	8	4	4	6	15	13
SK	21	11	29	37	5	18	16	10	9	7	7	11	6
FI	26	21	41	7	7	15	9	6	14	14	5	20	6
SE	11	27	40	4	5	7	9	22	25	31	12	0	4
UK	10	20	30	21	25	13	5	12	11	6	21	7	4

Highest percentage per country

Lowest percentage per country

Highest percentage per item

Lowest percentage per item

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

	Unemployment	Immigration	Health and social security	Rising prices\ inflation\ cost of living	Economic situation	Terrorism	Pensions	Crime	The education system	Housing	The environment, climate and energy issues	Government debt	Taxation	Other (SPONTANEOUS)	None (SPONTANEOUS)	Don't know
EU28	25	22	20	17	16	16	14	12	11	10	10	9	7	3	0	1
<b>Gender</b>																
Man	25	23	18	16	16	15	13	12	12	10	11	11	8	3	0	1
Woman	25	21	21	17	16	17	14	12	11	9	10	8	6	2	0	1
<b>Age</b>																
15-24	28	20	13	16	15	18	11	11	16	9	13	11	7	2	0	2
25-39	24	20	18	20	17	15	9	11	13	12	10	10	9	3	0	1
40-54	25	21	21	17	18	16	11	12	12	10	11	10	7	3	0	0
55 +	24	24	22	15	14	16	19	14	9	8	9	8	6	3	0	1
<b>Education (End of)</b>																
15-	33	24	17	15	16	15	19	13	5	7	5	8	7	3	1	2
16-19	23	24	19	19	15	18	14	14	9	10	8	9	7	3	0	1
20+	22	19	24	15	16	14	10	11	16	11	15	10	7	3	1	0
Still studying	27	20	15	13	15	15	11	9	19	10	17	10	8	2	0	2
<b>Socio-professional category</b>																
Self-employed	25	22	20	15	17	14	10	12	11	10	9	12	11	5	1	0
Managers	17	20	23	13	14	15	11	11	21	14	17	9	6	3	0	0
Other white collars	22	25	18	19	17	15	11	12	12	10	9	11	9	2	0	1
Manual workers	25	22	19	20	16	17	12	13	10	10	9	10	7	2	0	1
House persons	36	19	16	20	20	17	12	10	6	11	6	6	10	2	0	1
Unemployed	43	18	14	19	21	17	9	10	8	8	8	7	7	3	0	1
Retired	21	24	23	15	13	16	21	14	9	7	9	9	5	3	0	1
Students	27	20	15	13	15	15	11	9	19	10	17	10	8	2	0	2

### c. The main concerns at the European level

#### **Immigration and terrorism are the leading concerns at EU level**

When asked to identify the main problems **currently facing the European Union**<sup>11</sup>, Europeans give priority to immigration (39%), up by one percentage point since the Standard Eurobarometer survey of spring 2017. Although slight, this increase interrupts the downward trend recorded between autumn 2015 and spring 2017 (from 58% to 38%, -20 percentage points over the period).

**Terrorism**, which was the leading EU-level concern in spring 2017, is now just behind immigration (38%), due to a six percentage-point drop since spring 2017. Since spring 2014, scores for this item have fluctuated significantly, although they have been high (above 30%) since spring 2016.

These are followed by economic concerns:

- **The economic situation** (17%, -1 percentage point since spring 2017 and -3 since autumn 2016): the slight decrease for this item confirms the longer-term downward trend. Since autumn 2011, mentions have declined by 42 percentage points in a near-continuous manner;
- **The state of Member States' public finances** (16%, -1): concerns have been fairly stable since autumn 2015, after losing 17 percentage points between spring 2012 and autumn 2015;
- **Unemployment** (13%, -2): the decline of this indicator also confirms the more general downward trend recorded since spring 2013. This item has lost 25 percentage points since spring 2013 in an almost continuous manner, with the exception of a one-point rise between spring and autumn 2016.

**Climate change** is mentioned by 12% of Europeans, an increase of four percentage points and the highest level observed on this indicator since autumn 2010.

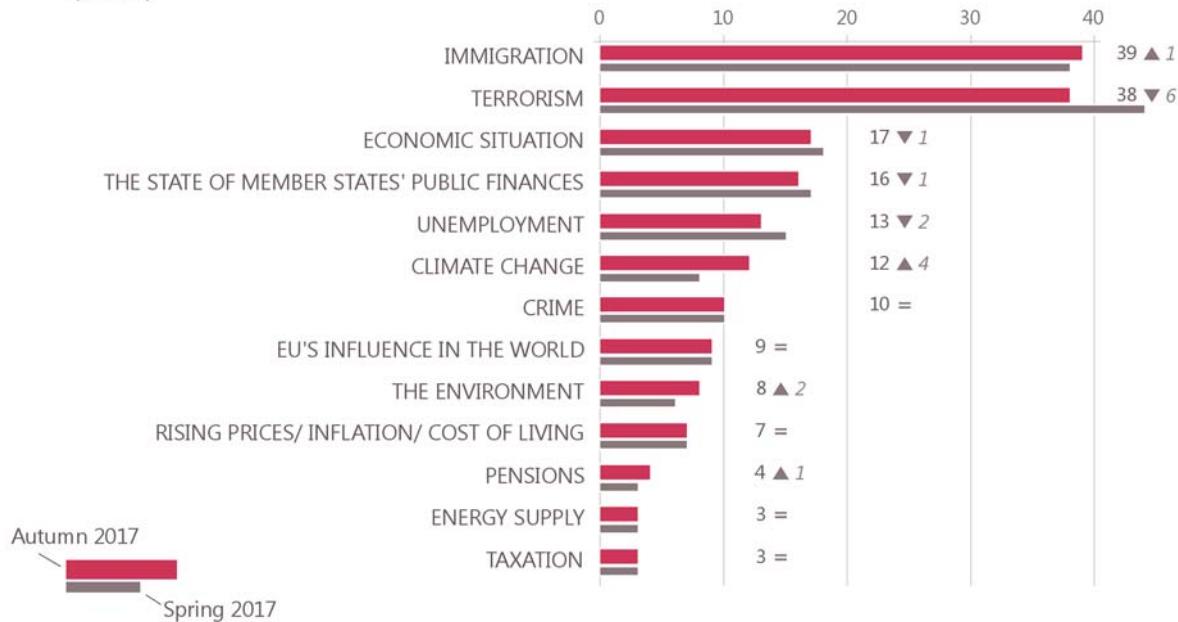
Concerns for the **environment** are also up slightly (8%, +2 percentage points). This is the highest score since autumn 2010.

**Crime** ranks seventh in terms of the problems the EU faces according to Europeans (10%, unchanged since spring 2017), ahead of **the EU's influence in the world** (9%, =).

**Rising prices/inflation/the cost of living** is an unchanged issue at the EU level (7%, =), ahead of **pensions** (4%, +1 percentage point), **energy supply** (3%, =) and **taxation** (3%, =).

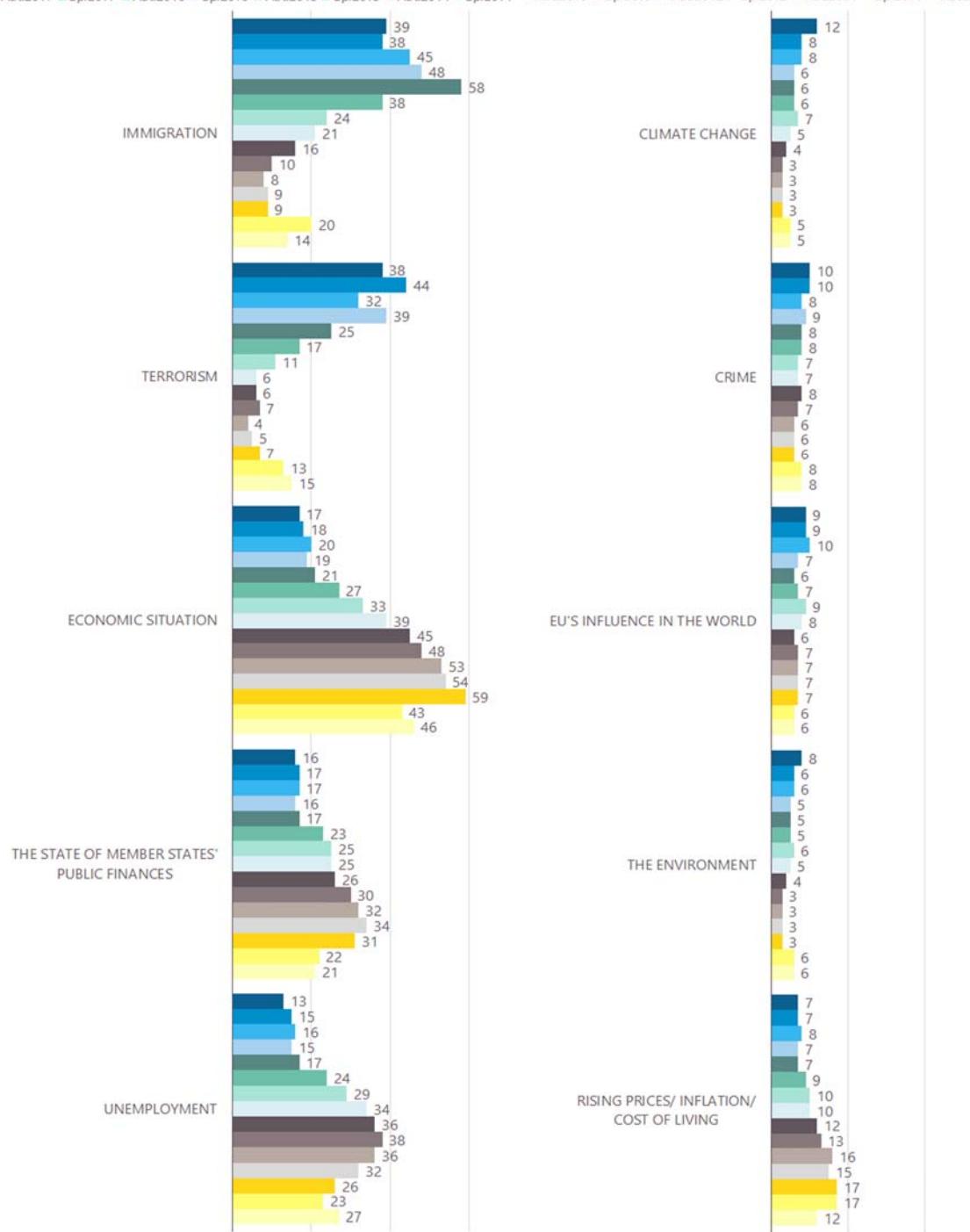
<sup>11</sup> Q5. What do you think are the two most important issues facing the EU at the moment?

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



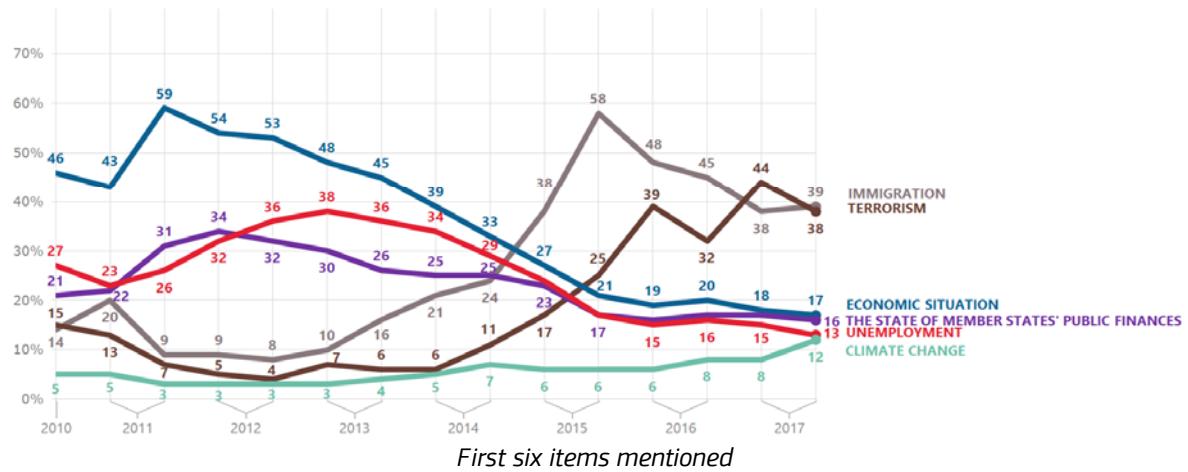
**QA5** What do you think are the two most important issues facing the EU at the moment?  
(% - EU)

■ Aut.2017 ■ Sp.2017 ■ Aut.2016 ■ Sp.2016 ■ Aut.2015 ■ Sp.2015 ■ Aut.2014 ■ Sp.2014 ■ Aut.2013 ■ Sp.2013 ■ Aut.2012 ■ Sp.2012 ■ Aut.2011 ■ Sp.2011 ■ Aut.2010



*First ten items mentioned*

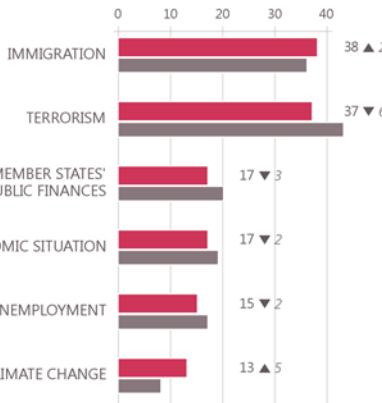
Q5 What do you think are the two most important issues facing the EU at the moment?  
(% - EU)



Whereas the hierarchies of personal and national concerns differ between **euro area** and **non-euro area** Member States, perceptions of the main issues facing the EU are similar, despite some differing response rates or differences in evolutions:

- **Immigration** tops the list (38%, +2 percentage points in the euro area countries versus 43%, unchanged, in non-euro area countries);
- **Terrorism** is in second place (37%, -6 in the euro area countries versus 41%, -5, in non-euro area countries);
- These items are followed by economic issues: **the economic situation** (17%, -2 in euro area countries versus 16%, unchanged, in countries outside the euro area), **the state of Member States' public finances** (17%, -3, versus 12%, =) and **unemployment** (15%, -2, versus 8%, -1);
- **Climate change** is a growing concern both in the euro area countries (13%, +5) and outside the euro area (10%, +2). In non-euro area countries, **the EU's influence in the world** is mentioned as much as climate change (10%, -1, in non-euro area countries versus 9%, +1, in the euro area countries).

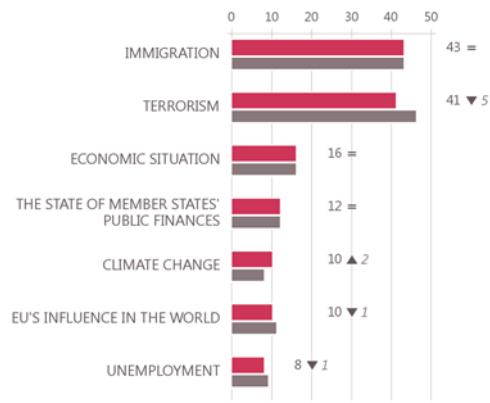
**Q45** What do you think are the two most important issues facing the EU at the moment?  
(% - EURO AREA)



Autumn 2017  
Spring 2017

*First six items mentioned*

**Q45** What do you think are the two most important issues facing the EU at the moment?  
(% - NON-EURO AREA)



Autumn 2017  
Spring 2017

*First seven items mentioned*

**Immigration** is the leading issue facing the European Union according to respondents in 14 Member States, with scores in this group ranging from 32% in the United Kingdom to 62% in Estonia. It is mentioned far less in Portugal (20%), Spain (26%) and Croatia (29%).

This item has gained ground in 16 EU Member States, notably in Germany (47%, +7 percentage points since the Standard Eurobarometer survey of spring 2017). Conversely, it has lost ground slightly in ten countries, particularly in Spain (26%, -5), and is unchanged in both Estonia and Sweden.

**Terrorism** is the leading concern in 13 Member States, with scores exceeding 50% in Cyprus (57%), Malta and Portugal (both 56%), Lithuania (55%), Latvia (52%) and Croatia (51%), as well as in the Czech Republic (53%) and Poland (52%), two countries in which it comes second behind immigration. It is least mentioned in Austria (21%), Sweden (27%) and Germany (29%).

After increasing sharply in the previous survey wave, concerns about terrorism are falling in 23 Member States, especially in Italy (34%, -12 percentage points), Slovakia (43%, -2%), Slovenia (46%, -10), Hungary (45%, -10) and Austria (21%, -10). While stable in three EU Member States (Latvia, the Netherlands and Sweden), these concerns have increased the most in Portugal (56%, +10) and the least in Belgium (41%, +3).

In Slovakia, immigration and terrorism are the two main EU-level problems identified, with identical mentions (43%).

Although they do not lead the hierarchy of issues faced by the EU, other topics are frequently mentioned cited in some countries:

- In Greece, the economic situation (31%) and the state of Member States' public finances (28%) are mentioned more than average;
- Unemployment is mentioned most in Italy (23%);
- Climate change is frequently mentioned in Sweden (37%), the Netherlands (27%), Finland (25%) and Denmark (24%). This item has gained ground in all Member States (with the exception of Malta where it remains unchanged), led by the Netherlands (27%, +10 percentage points), Germany (18%, +9) and Luxembourg (17%, +9);
- The environment is also frequently mentioned in Sweden (18%);
- Energy supply is mentioned more than the European average in Romania (7%);

- Crime is mentioned far more often than the European average in Slovakia (17%), while the EU's influence in the world is most often mentioned in the Netherlands (16%);
- Rising prices/inflation/the cost of living is a subject of particular concern in Lithuania (15%);
- There are above-average mentions of pensions in Belgium, Italy and Austria (all 7%);
- With 8% of responses, taxation is mentioned more in **Italy** than in the EU as a whole.

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

		Immigration	Terrorism	Economic situation	The state of Member States' public finances	Unemployment	Climate change	Crime	EU's influence in the world	The environment	Rising prices/ inflation/ cost of living	Pensions	Energy supply	Taxation
EU28		39	38	17	16	13	12	10	9	8	7	4	3	3
BE		37	<b>41</b>	16	14	13	16	11	9	13	10	<b>7</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>4</b>
BG		<b>48</b>	47	13	9	6	7	12	7	4	8	3	2	3
CZ		<b>58</b>	53	7	16	4	5	12	8	5	9	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>
DK		<b>52</b>	35	16	11	7	24	8	10	11	2	<b>1</b>	2	2
DE		<b>47</b>	29	13	22	13	18	12	11	8	4	3	4	2
EE		<b>62</b>	47	10	13	4	6	7	7	3	4	<b>2</b>	3	<b>2</b>
IE		32	<b>47</b>	15	9	12	16	12	10	7	12	<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>	6
EL		<b>37</b>	35	<b>31</b>	<b>28</b>	16	2	15	12	2	4	<b>1</b>	2	5
ES		26	<b>48</b>	20	18	17	12	3	7	7	6	<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>	4
FR		32	<b>37</b>	18	13	17	14	11	8	14	11	3	4	2
HR		29	<b>51</b>	15	18	11	8	16	10	3	9	<b>3</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>3</b>
IT		<b>38</b>	34	18	14	<b>23</b>	7	12	5	7	8	<b>7</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>8</b>
CY		41	<b>57</b>	23	7	19	4	16	4	2	5	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	2
LV		51	<b>52</b>	12	13	7	8	7	6	3	8	3	1	5
LT		40	<b>55</b>	11	9	6	10	12	7	3	<b>15</b>	2	1	6
LU		37	<b>40</b>	11	13	16	17	11	7	10	10	<b>4</b>	<b>4</b>	4
HU		<b>58</b>	45	13	14	8	10	9	8	4	5	5	5	2
MT		54	<b>56</b>	5	6	7	8	11	3	7	5	3	3	2
NL		<b>50</b>	34	16	24	4	27	5	<b>16</b>	8	2	<b>1</b>	3	<b>1</b>
AT		<b>38</b>	21	15	23	17	16	13	14	11	13	<b>7</b>	5	4
PL		<b>54</b>	52	10	11	5	8	10	5	6	7	5	3	2
PT		20	<b>56</b>	13	14	12	7	9	6	3	4	3	<b>1</b>	2
RO		36	<b>41</b>	13	11	6	11	13	7	8	9	6	<b>7</b>	<b>5</b>
SI		43	<b>46</b>	11	10	8	9	14	7	8	4	3	3	5
SK		<b>43</b>	<b>43</b>	12	16	7	6	<b>17</b>	7	9	13	3	3	2
FI		<b>35</b>	31	20	21	9	25	10	14	11	5	2	5	2
SE		<b>45</b>	27	17	11	10	<b>37</b>	8	14	<b>18</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	3	<b>1</b>
UK		32	31	23	13	10	8	6	14	4	9	2	2	4

Highest percentage per country

Highest percentage per item

Lowest percentage per country

Lowest percentage per item

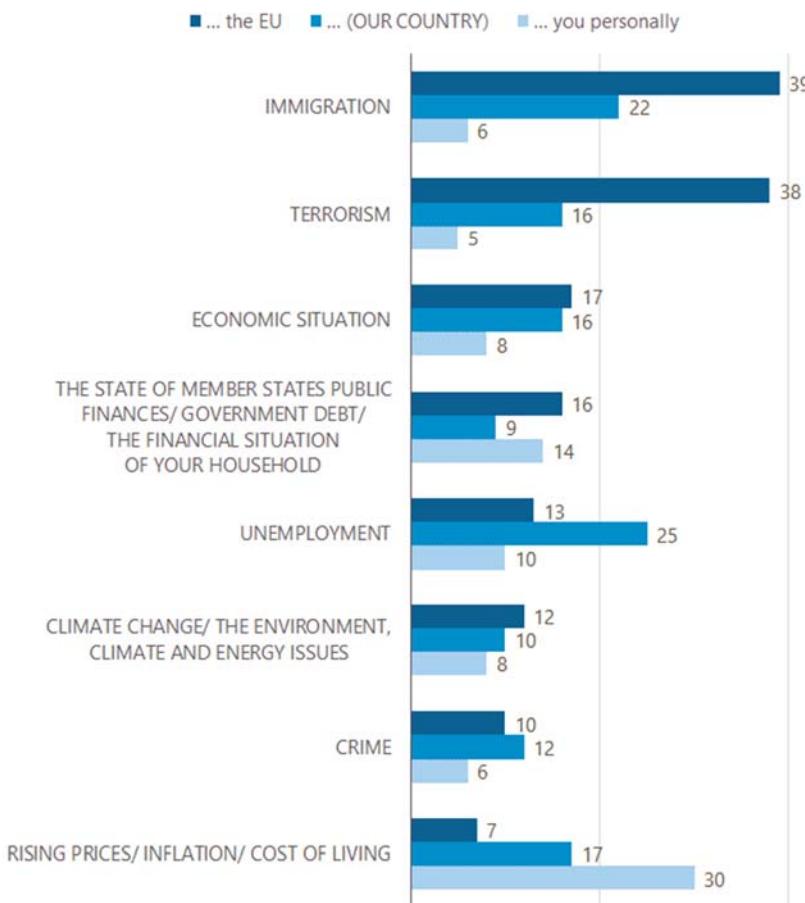
**QA5** What do you think are the two most important issues facing the EU at the moment? (%)

		Immigration	Terrorism	Economic situation	The state of Member States' public finances	Unemployment	Climate change	Crime	EU's influence in the world	The environment	Rising prices/ inflation/ cost of living	Pensions	Energy supply	Taxation	
EU28		39	38	17	16	13	12	10	9	8	7	4	3	3	
BE		37	41	16	14	13	16	11	9	13	10	7	4	4	
BG		48	47	13	9	6	7	12	7	4	8	3	2	3	
CZ		58	53	7	16	4	5	12	8	5	9	2	2	2	
DK		52	35	16	11	7	24	8	10	11	2	1	2	2	
DE		47	29	13	22	13	18	12	11	8	4	3	4	2	
EE		62	47	10	13	4	6	7	7	3	4	2	3	2	
IE		32	47	15	9	12	16	12	10	7	12	3	3	6	
EL		37	35	31	28	16	2	15	12	2	4	1	2	5	
ES		26	48	20	18	17	12	3	7	7	6	3	3	4	
FR		32	37	18	13	17	14	11	8	14	11	3	4	2	
HR		29	51	15	18	11	8	16	10	3	9	3	5	3	
IT		38	34	18	14	23	7	12	5	7	8	7	4	8	
CY		41	57	23	7	19	4	16	4	2	5	1	0	2	
LV		51	52	12	13	7	8	7	6	3	8	3	1	5	
LT		40	55	11	9	6	10	12	7	3	15	2	1	6	
LU		37	40	11	13	16	17	11	7	10	10	4	4	4	
HU		58	45	13	14	8	10	9	8	4	5	5	5	2	
MT		54	56	5	6	7	8	11	3	7	5	3	3	2	
NL		50	34	16	24	4	27	5	16	8	2	1	3	1	
AT		38	21	15	23	17	16	13	14	11	13	7	5	4	
PL		54	52	10	11	5	8	10	5	6	7	5	3	2	
PT		20	56	13	14	12	7	9	6	3	4	3	1	2	
RO		36	41	13	11	6	11	13	7	8	9	6	7	5	
SI		43	46	11	10	8	9	14	7	8	4	3	3	5	
SK		43	43	12	16	7	6	17	7	9	13	3	3	2	
FI		35	31	20	21	9	25	10	14	11	5	2	5	2	
SE		45	27	17	11	10	37	8	14	18	1	1	3	1	
UK		32	31	23	13	10	8	6	14	4	9	2	2	4	
1st MOST FREQUENTLY MENTIONED ITEM				2nd MOST FREQUENTLY MENTIONED ITEM				3rd MOST FREQUENTLY MENTIONED ITEM							

A comparative analysis of Europeans' personal, national and European concerns shows that:

- **Immigration** is becoming a major concern at both the national and European levels, even though the subject still trails far behind in the hierarchy of personal concerns. The finding is identical for **terrorism**;
- On a personal level, **rising prices/inflation/the cost of living** is identified as the main problem, and this concern is gaining ground. It is also gaining ground at the national level;
- Concern for other economic issues, such as **the economic situation, the state of Member States' public finances or government debt** at the national level, is tending to decline at both the national and European levels;
- This is also the case for **unemployment**, but this remains a major concern at the national level;
- **Environmental and climate change issues** are increasingly a matter of concern at the European, national and personal levels.

**QA3aQA4aQA5** What are the two most important issues facing ... at the moment?  
 (% - EU - COMPARABLES ITEMS QUOTED BY MORE OF 5% OF RESPONDENTS AT EU LEVEL)



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

	Immigration	Terrorism	Economic situation	The state of Member States' public finances	Unemployment	Crime	Climate change	EU's influence in the world	The environment	Rising prices/inflation/ cost of living	Pensions	Energy supply	Taxation	Other (SPONTANEOUS)	None (SPONTANEOUS)	Don't know
EU28	39	38	17	16	13	10	12	9	8	7	4	3	3	2	1	5
<b>Gender</b>																
Man	41	36	17	17	14	9	12	9	8	7	3	4	4	2	0	4
Woman	38	40	16	15	12	10	12	9	7	8	4	3	3	2	1	6
<b>Age</b>																
15-24	35	40	17	13	15	9	15	9	10	8	3	3	4	1	1	5
25-39	39	39	18	16	13	10	13	9	8	7	3	4	3	1	0	4
40-54	41	36	18	17	12	10	12	10	8	7	2	4	4	2	0	4
55 +	40	38	15	15	13	11	12	8	7	7	5	3	3	2	1	6
<b>Education (End of)</b>																
15-	35	38	16	13	16	11	8	6	5	8	5	3	4	1	1	9
16-19	41	40	15	15	12	11	11	9	7	8	3	3	4	1	1	5
20+	41	34	19	19	12	8	16	12	10	6	3	4	3	2	0	2
Still studying	38	40	17	13	13	6	17	9	12	6	4	4	3	2	1	3
<b>Socio-professional category</b>																
Self-employed	41	34	21	20	14	10	11	10	8	7	2	3	4	2	1	3
Managers	42	32	19	20	10	6	16	13	11	5	2	5	3	2	0	2
Other white collars	44	39	17	18	10	12	12	10	7	7	3	4	3	1	0	3
Manual workers	37	40	17	15	13	10	12	8	7	8	4	3	4	1	0	5
House persons	37	43	14	12	16	11	7	5	6	9	3	3	5	1	1	8
Unemployed	35	39	16	13	21	11	10	9	8	10	3	2	4	1	0	6
Retired	40	38	15	15	11	11	12	8	6	7	5	3	3	2	1	7
Students	38	40	17	13	13	6	17	9	12	6	4	4	3	2	1	3

### 3 The provision of public services in the European Union

**The provision of public services** at the national level is considered good by a majority of Europeans<sup>12</sup> (53%, +2 percentage points versus 42%, -2), an increase since the Standard Eurobarometer survey of spring 2017 (EB87).

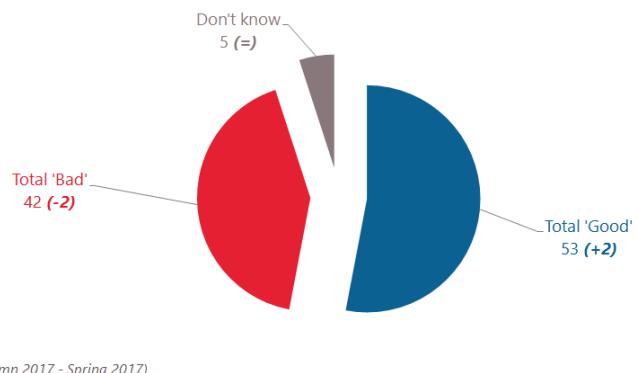
A majority of respondents think their country's public services are good in 19 EU Member States (compared with 18 in spring 2017), with levels of satisfaction ranging from 46% in Poland (versus 45% "bad") and 54% in France, to 90% in the Netherlands. Satisfaction exceeds 80% in Luxembourg (87%), Finland (86%) and Austria (81%).

A majority of respondents think these services are bad in nine EU Member States (compared with 10 in spring 2017): Greece (85% "bad" versus 14%), Italy (68% versus 28%), Croatia (66% versus 29%), Romania (63% versus 32%), Spain (58% versus 40%), Bulgaria (54% versus 32%), Portugal (53% versus 43%), Slovakia (50% versus 45%) and Cyprus (50% versus 46%).

More than two-thirds of respondents believe that the provision of public services in their country is "bad" in both Greece (85%) and Italy (68%).

Satisfaction regarding the provision of public services has increased since spring 2017 in 20 EU Member States, most markedly in Austria (81%, +10 percentage points), Ireland (57%, +8) and Slovakia (45%, +8). It decreased in four countries led by Denmark (59%, -5) and remains unchanged in the Netherlands, Germany, Sweden and France.

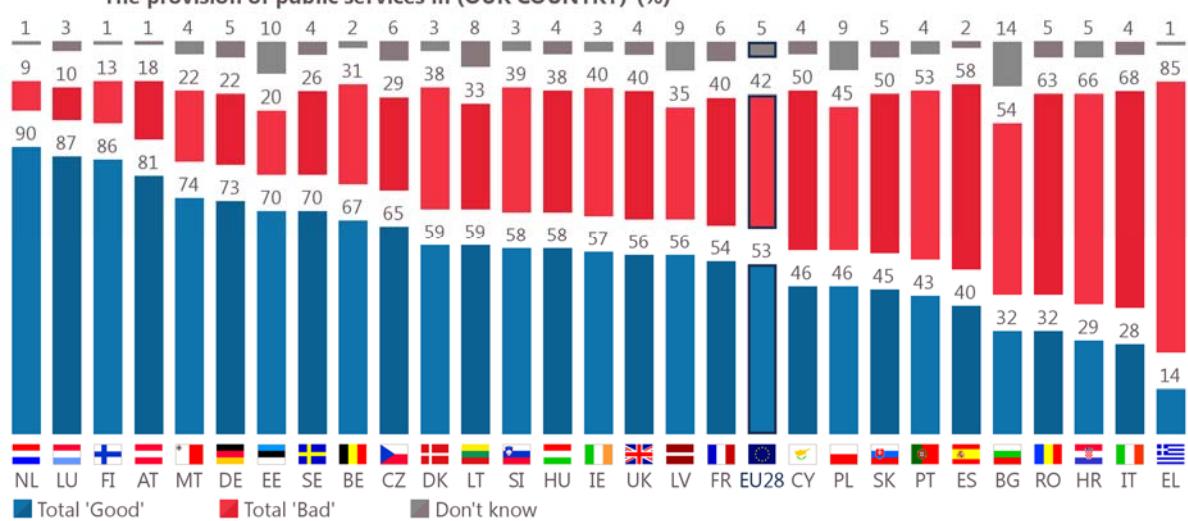
QA1a.7 How would you judge the current situation in each of the following?  
The provision of public services in (OUR COUNTRY) (%) - EU



(Autumn 2017 - Spring 2017)

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

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



<sup>12</sup> QA1a. How would you judge the current situation in each of the following? The provision of public services in (OUR COUNTRY)

## 4 Political aspects

### a. Interest in politics

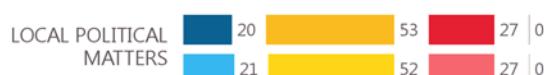
A majority of Europeans (47%) are averagely interested in politics<sup>13</sup>, up by two percentage points since the Standard Eurobarometer survey of spring 2017. Nearly four in ten Europeans report either a low level of interest in politics (18%, -1 percentage point) or none (18%, unchanged). The proportion of Europeans with a strong interest in politics is 17%, down one percentage point since spring 2017.

**National political matters** interest Europeans the most: 55% "occasionally" discuss them with their friends or relatives (+2 percentage points since spring 2017) while 22% do so "frequently" (-2). Just under a quarter of Europeans say they "never" discuss national political matters (23%, unchanged).

**Local political matters** rank second: 53% say they discuss them "occasionally" (+1 percentage point since spring 2017) and 20% (-1) say they do so "frequently". More than a quarter of respondents say they "never" discuss local political matters (27%, unchanged).

Interest in **European political matters** is somewhat weaker: 52% discuss them "occasionally" (+1 percentage point since spring 2017) and 15% (-1) do so "frequently". One third of Europeans say they "never" discuss European political matters (33%, unchanged).

D71a When you get together with friends or relatives, would you say you discuss frequently, occasionally or never about...?  
(% - EU)



<sup>13</sup> D71. When you get together with friends or relatives, would you say you discuss frequently, occasionally or never about...? National political matters / European political matters / Local political matters.

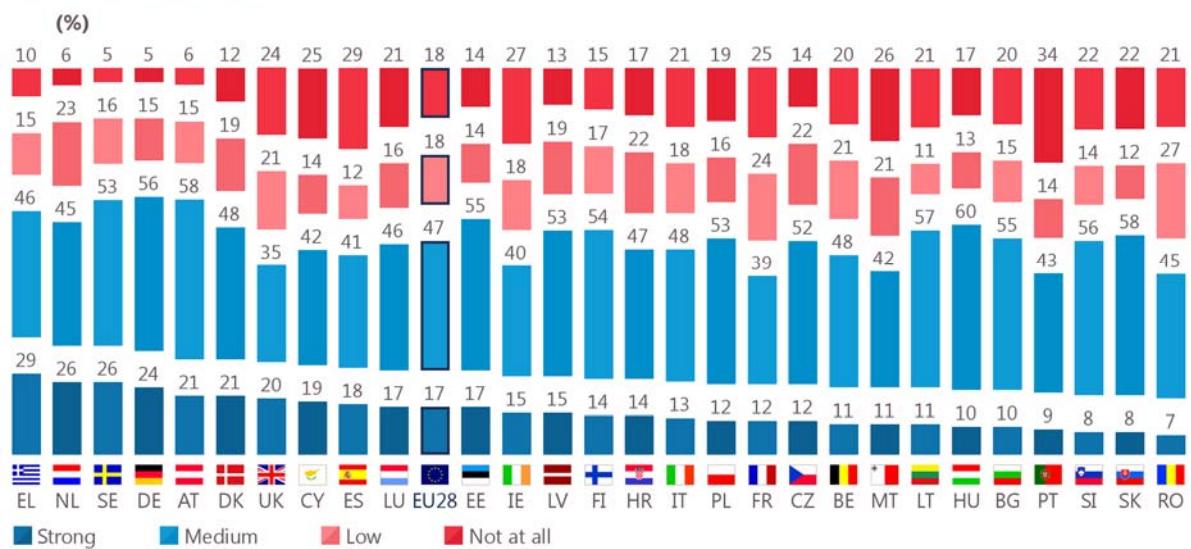
Each answer is given a score: Never = 0; Occasionally = 1; Frequently = 2.

A political interest index is then constructed by summing these three dimensions (local, national, European).

Each group corresponds to a different index level: not at all interested in politics = 0; very little = 1 to 2; moderately = 3 to 4; strongly = 5 to 6.

More than a quarter of respondents demonstrate a strong interest in political matters in Greece (29%) and the Netherlands and Sweden (both 26%). Conversely, more than a quarter are not at all interested in political matters in Portugal (34%), Spain (29%), Ireland (27%) and Malta (26%).

#### C2 Political interest index (%)



## b. Trust in institutions

### 1. National institutions

#### **Europeans' trust in their national political institutions is declining slightly**

After rising in the previous Standard Eurobarometer survey wave, Europeans' trust in a number of their national institutions<sup>14</sup> has declined slightly in autumn 2017.

This applies to the main political institutions:

- Only a minority of respondents trust their **national government** (36% versus 59%) while distrust is up by two percentage points since spring 2017 (trust has lost one point);
- A minority of respondents also trust the **national parliament**, with a slight fall (35%, -1, versus 58%, +1);
- Trust in **political parties**, very much a minority view, has also fallen by one point (18%, -1, versus 77%, +2).

Majorities continue to trust **regional or local public authorities** (51%, unchanged, versus 44%, +1 percentage point). The **public administration** is also trusted by a majority, but this item has recorded a one percentage point fall (49%, -1, versus 45%, +2).

Results for other national institutions show that:

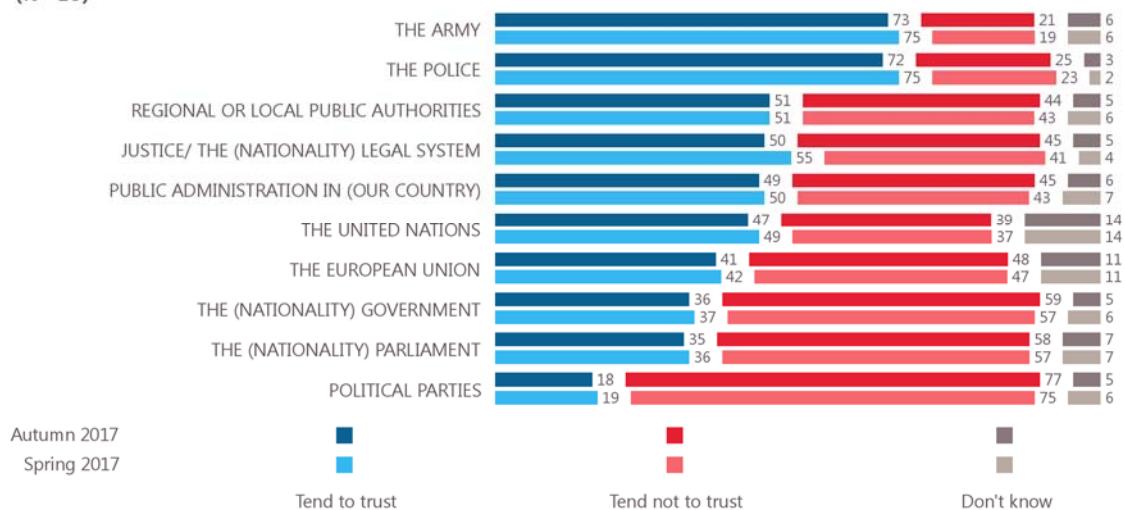
- The army is the most trusted institution (73% versus 21%), despite a decrease of two percentage points since spring 2017;
- More than seven in ten Europeans also trust the police (72% versus 25%), despite a three-point decrease since spring 2017;
- A majority of respondents also trust the justice/national legal system, but to a lesser extent (50% versus 45%), with a sharper drop in approval (-5 percentage points since spring 2017).

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<sup>14</sup> QA8a. 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. Justice\ the (NATIONALITY) legal system; The police; The army; Public administration in (OUR COUNTRY); Political parties; Regional or local public authorities; The (NATIONALITY) Government; The (NATIONALITY) PARLIAMENT; The European Union; The United Nations

**QA8a** 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.

( % - EU )



Autumn 2017

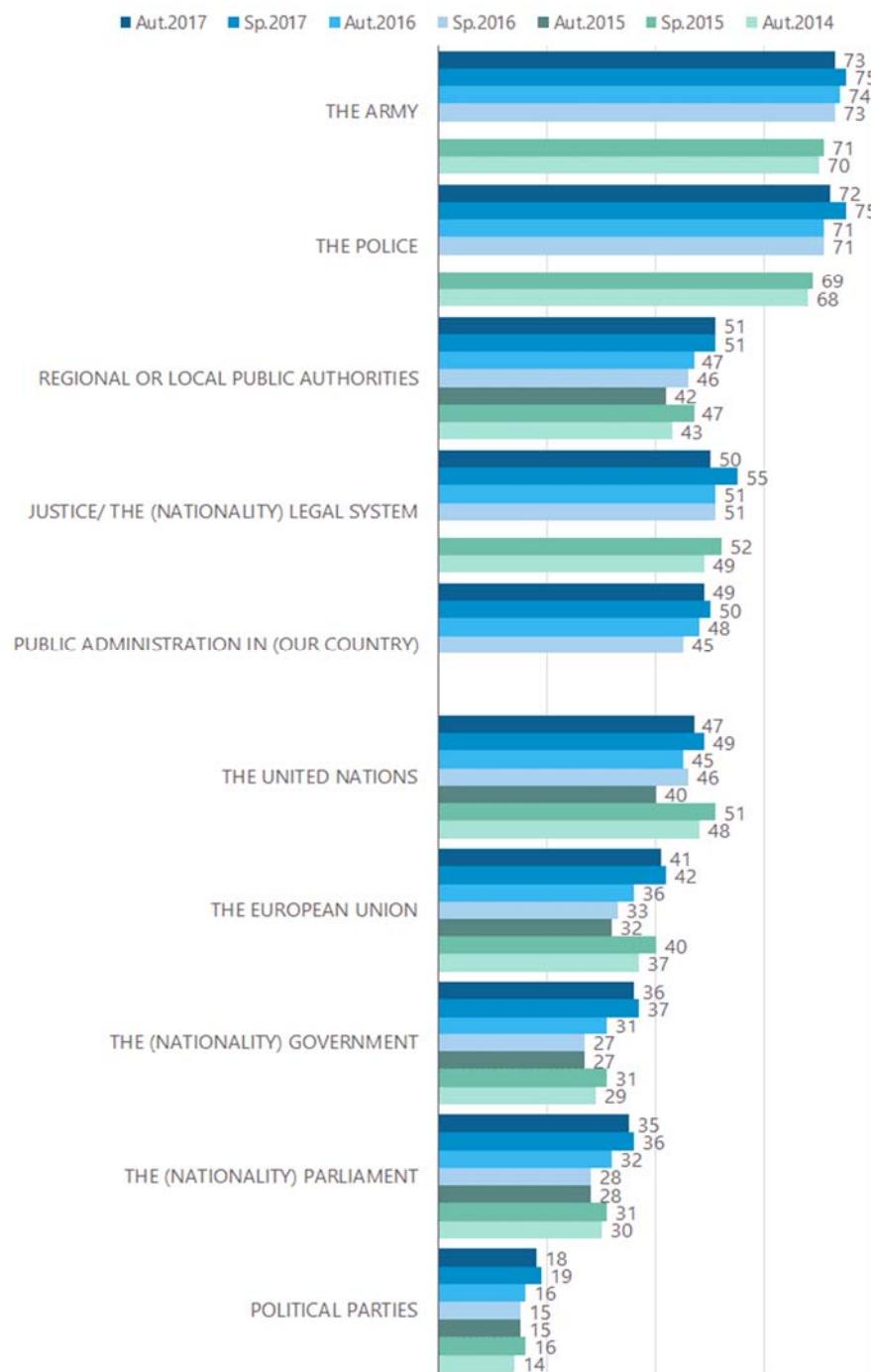
Spring 2017

Tend to trust

Tend not to trust

Don't know

**QA8a** 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.  
 (% - EU - TEND TO TRUST)



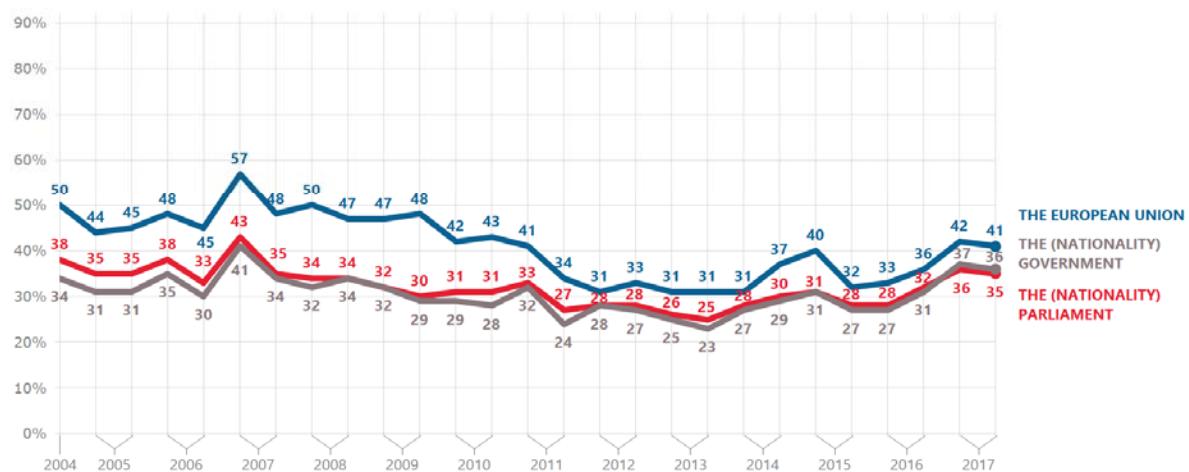
### The national government, the national parliament

The slight decline in trust measured with regard to both the government and the parliament at the national level has interrupted the upwards trend of this indicator since spring 2016. However, the trust scores remain towards the upper end of those recorded for this indicator since autumn 2004.

Since autumn 2004, Europeans' trust in their government, their parliament and the European Union have followed similar trends.

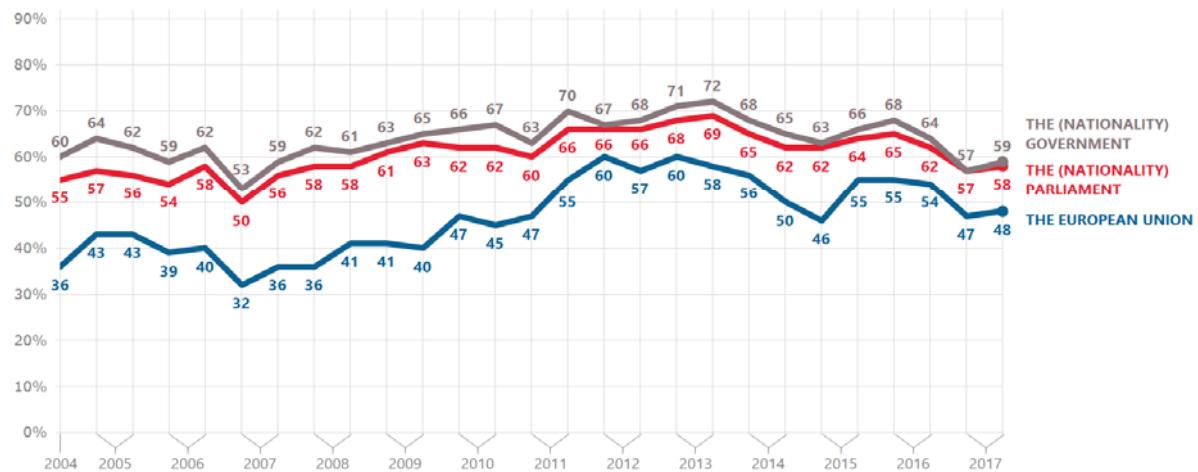
**QA8a** I would like to ask you a question about how much trust you have in certain institutions. For each of the following institutions, please tell me if you tend to trust it or tend not to trust it.

(% - EU - TEND TO TRUST)



**QA8a** 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.

(% - EU - TEND NOT TO TRUST)

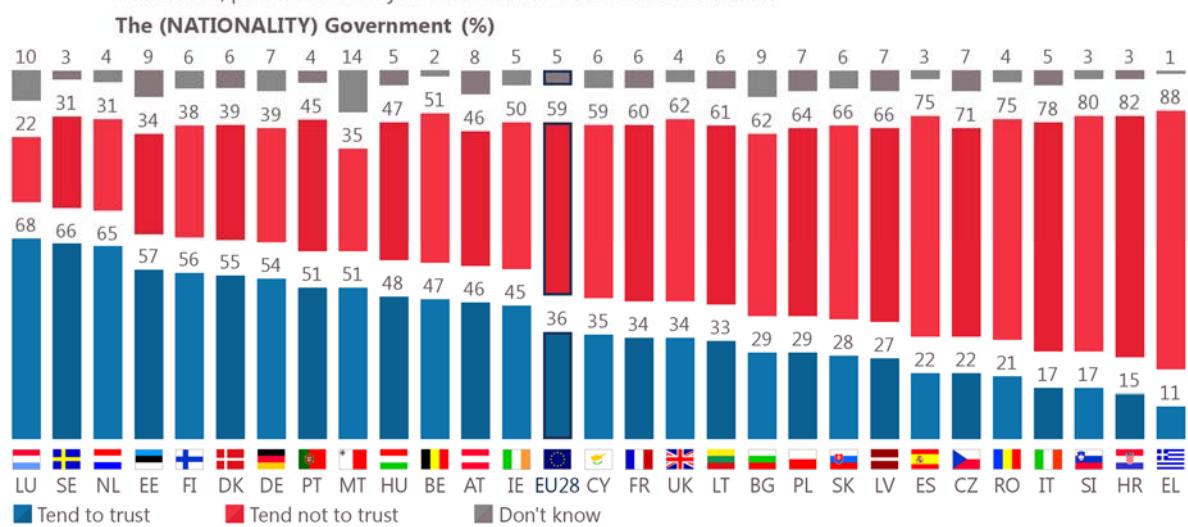


A majority of respondents trust the **national government** in ten EU Member States (up from eight in spring 2017), led by Luxembourg (68%), Sweden (66%) and the Netherlands (65%).

Conversely, more than three-quarters of respondents say they tend not to trust their government in four Member States: Greece (88% “tend not to trust”), Croatia (82%), Slovenia (80%) and Italy (78%).

Trust in the national government has increased since the Standard Eurobarometer survey of spring 2017 in 12 Member States, most markedly in Denmark (55%, +11 percentage points), Sweden (66%, +9), Hungary (48%, +9) and Estonia (57%, +7). Conversely, it has fallen in 14 countries, led Romania (21%, -12), Malta (51%, -7) and Croatia (15%, -7), and is unchanged in Greece and Italy.

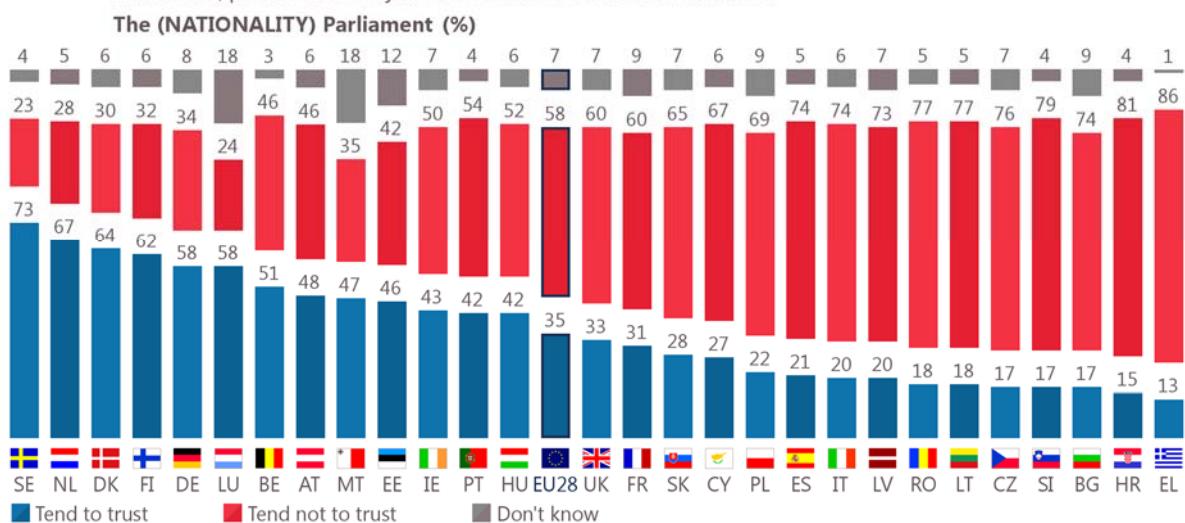
**QA8a.12** I would like to ask you a question about how much trust you have in certain institutions. For each of the following institutions, please tell me if you tend to trust it or tend not to trust it.



**The national parliament** is trusted by a majority of respondents in ten EU Member States (up from eight in the spring of 2017), particularly in Sweden (73%), the Netherlands (67%) and Denmark (64%). Conversely, more than three-quarters of respondents say they "tend not to trust" their national parliament in six Member States: Greece (86%), Croatia (81%), Slovenia (79%), Romania and Lithuania (both 77%) and the Czech Republic (76%).

Trust in the national parliament has gained ground in 13 Member States since spring 2017, particularly in Belgium (51%, +9 percentage points) and Denmark (64%, +7). It has declined in 12 countries, most notably in Romania (18%, -9), and is unchanged in France, Latvia and Greece.

**QA8a.13** 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.

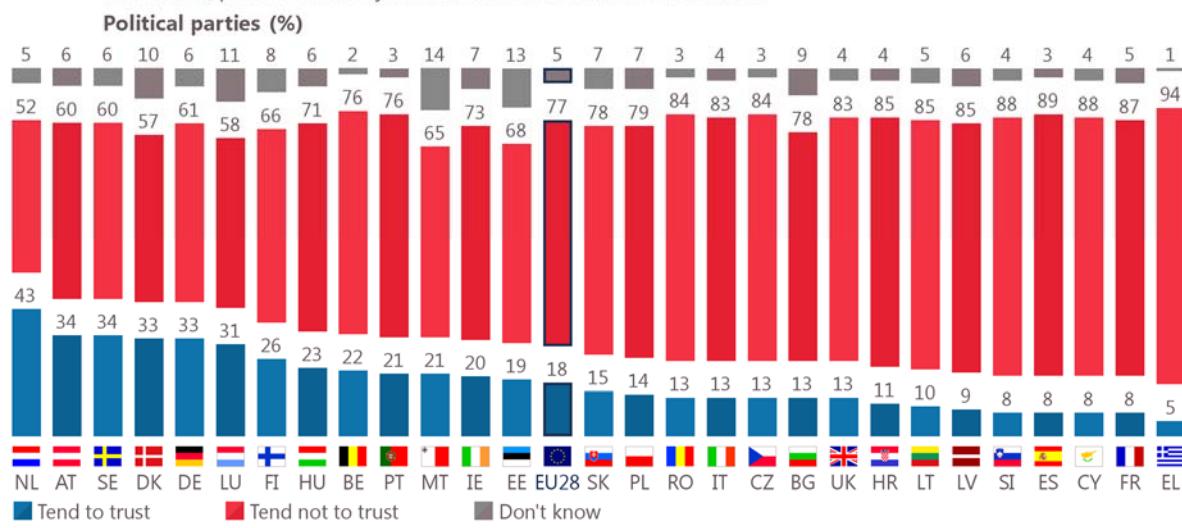


## Political parties

Distrust of **political parties** is widespread in all Member States, although it varies from 52% in the Netherlands where it is lowest, to 94% in Greece where it is highest.

Trust in political parties has fallen in 14 Member States since spring 2017, most notably in Luxembourg (31%, -12 percentage points) and Finland (26%, -10), but has risen by a maximum of four percentage points in 13 countries. Lastly, it remains unchanged in Croatia.

**QA8a.6** 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.



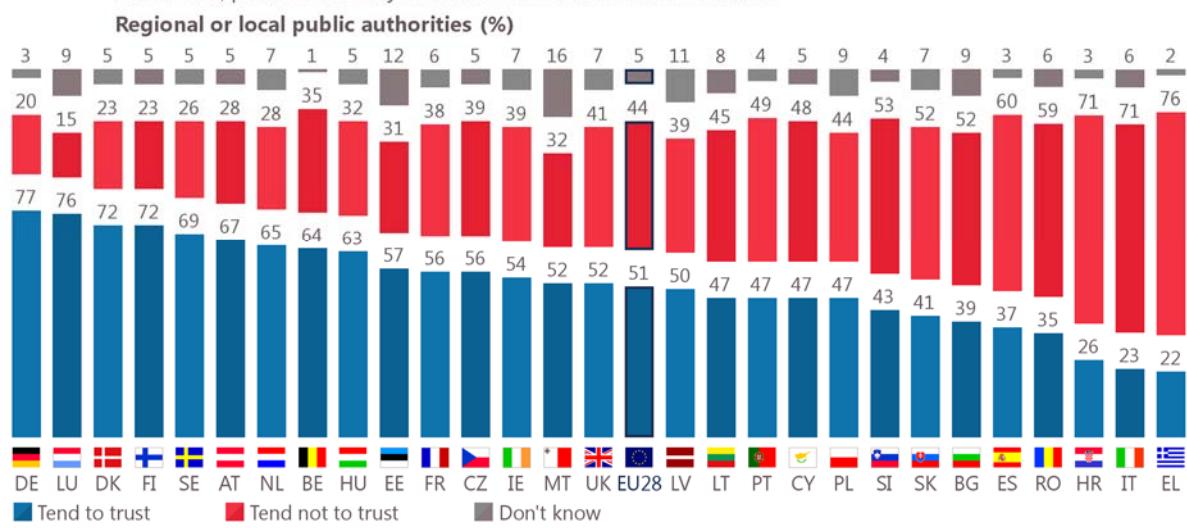
### Regional or local public authorities

**Regional or local public authorities** are trusted by a majority of respondents in 18 Member States (up from 17 in spring 2017), particularly in Germany (77%) and Luxembourg (76%).

However, distrust in regional or local public authorities exceeds 70% in Greece (76%) and in Italy and Croatia (71% in both countries).

Since spring 2017, trust has increased in 13 Member States, most notably in Hungary (63%, +8 percentage points), Belgium (64%, +7) and the Czech Republic (56%, +7). In contrast, it has declined in 12 countries, most markedly in Portugal (47%, -10, versus 49% "tend not to trust", +9), and is unchanged in Denmark, the Netherlands and Italy.

**QA8a.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.

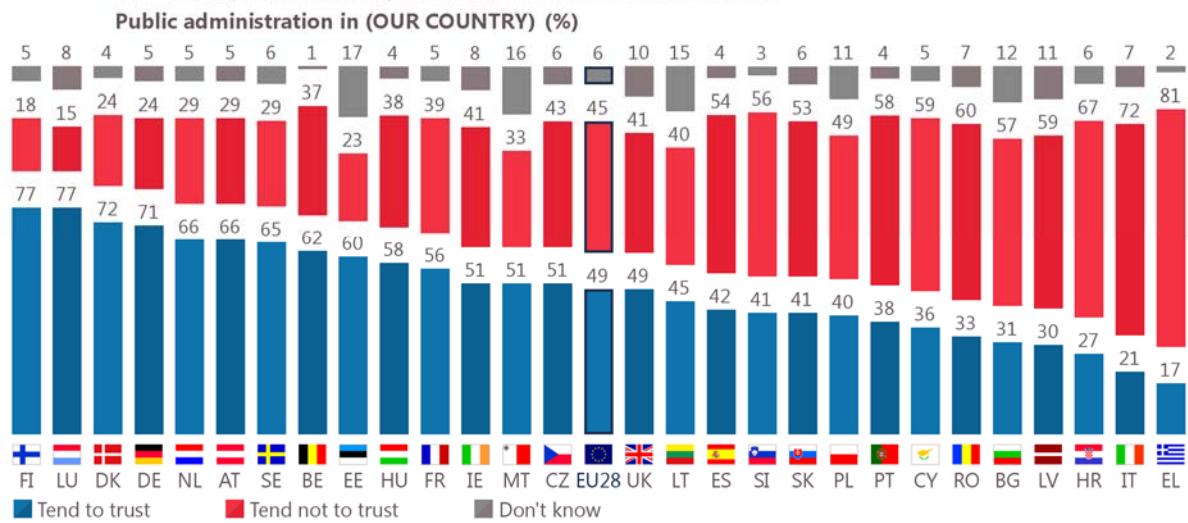


## Public administration

**The public administration** is trusted by a majority in 16 Member States (as was the case in spring 2017), led by Finland and Luxembourg (77% in both countries). Distrust is very strong in Greece (81% of "tend not to trust" responses), Italy (72%) and Croatia (67%).

Trust in the public administration has declined since spring 2017 in 16 Member States, most notably in Malta (51%, -12 percentage points), Romania (33%, -12), Austria (66%, -7), Ireland (51%, -7), Portugal (38%, -7) and Croatia (27%, -7). It has increased in 11 countries, most markedly in Germany (71%, +5), and is unchanged in Denmark.

**QA8a.10** 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.

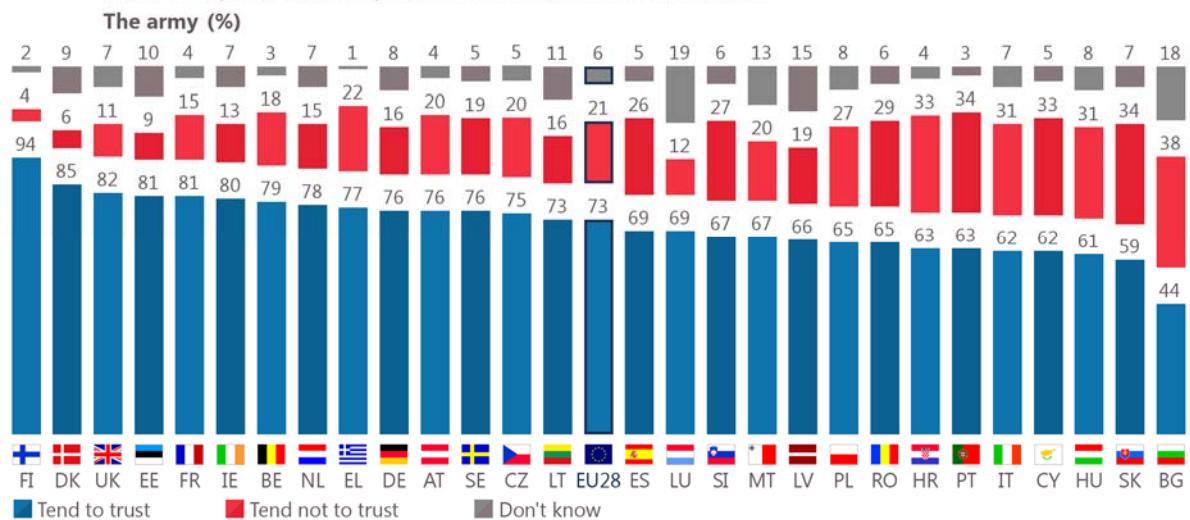


## The army, the police, justice

A majority of respondents trust the **army** in all Member States (as in spring 2017). However, a 50-point gap separates the lowest level of trust, measured in Bulgaria (44% versus 38%), and the highest, recorded in Finland (94%).

Trust in the army has undergone significant evolutions since spring 2017 in several countries. It has declined in 18 Member States, especially in Portugal (63%, -10 percentage points), Malta (67%, -8), Bulgaria (44%, -8) and France (81%, -7). However, it has increased in eight countries, most notably in Germany (76%, +10) and Sweden (76%, +9), and is unchanged in Estonia and Poland.

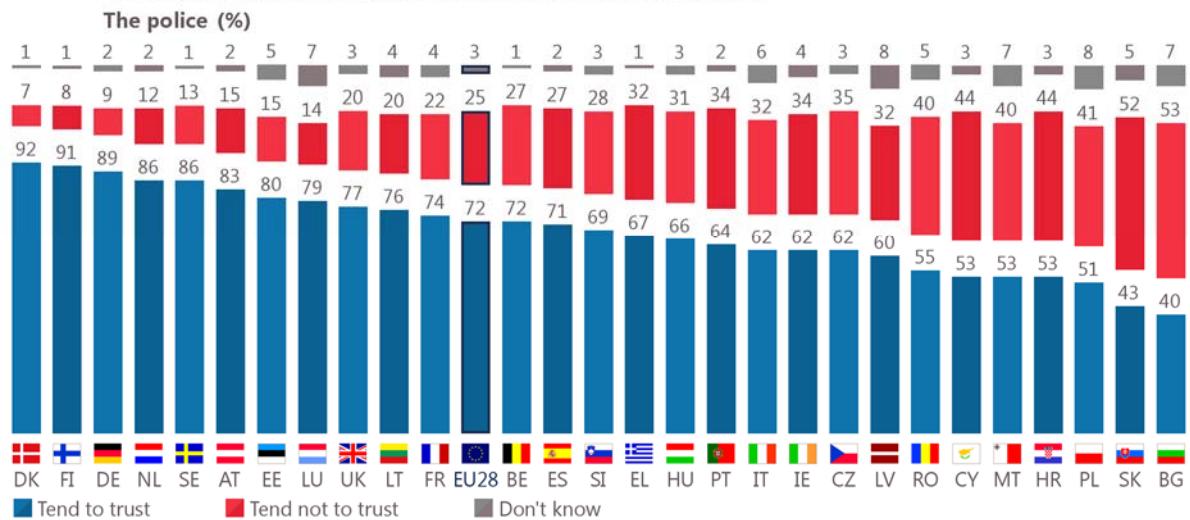
**QA8a.9** I would like to ask you a question about how much trust you have in certain institutions. For each of the following institutions, please tell me if you tend to trust it or tend not to trust it.



A majority of respondents trust the **police** in 26 EU Member States (as in spring 2017). Among these countries, however, a gap of 41 percentage points separates the lowest score, recorded in Poland (51%), and the highest score, recorded in Denmark (92%). Majorities distrust the police in Bulgaria (40% trust versus 53% distrust) and Slovakia (43% versus 52%).

The police are less trusted than in spring 2017 in 21 Member States, most notably in Portugal (64%, -10 percentage points) and Spain (71%, -7). However, trust has risen by no more than four percentage points in four countries, and remains unchanged in Greece, the Netherlands and Slovakia.

**QA8a.8** 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.



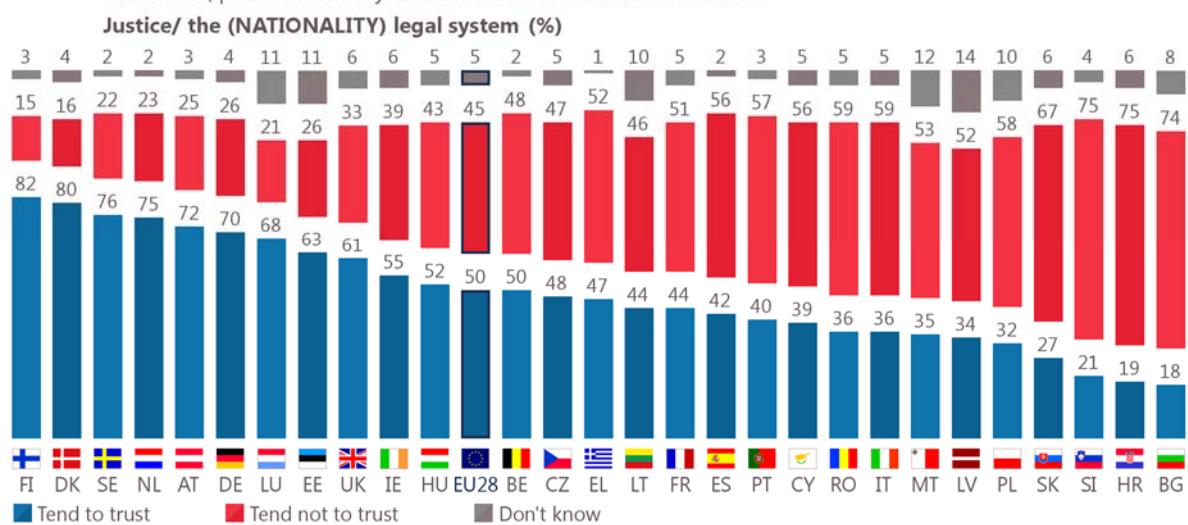
**Opinions regarding justice and the national legal system** vary significantly from one EU country to another.

Justice and the legal system are trusted by a majority in 13 Member States (up from 16 in spring 2017), ranging from 48% (versus 47%) in the Czech Republic to 82% in Finland.

More than seven in ten respondents "tend not to trust" justice in Slovenia and Croatia (75% in both countries) and Bulgaria (74%).

Trust in justice has declined in 24 Member States, significantly so in France (44%, -12 percentage points), Croatia (19%, -12), Malta (35%, -10), Portugal (40%, -9), Denmark (80%, -8), Austria (72%, -8), Belgium (50%, -8) and Poland (32%, -8). It has only increased in three countries, led by Spain (42%, +5), and remains stable in the Czech Republic.

**QA8a.7** 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.



**QA8a** 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.

(% - TEND TO TRUST)

		The army	Aut.2017 - Sp.2017	The police	Aut.2017 - Sp.2017	Regional or local public authorities	Aut.2017 - Sp.2017	Justice/ the (NATIONALITY) legal system	Aut.2017 - Sp.2017
EU28		73	▼ 2	72	▼ 3	51	=	50	▼ 5
BE		79	▼ 5	72	▼ 6	64	▲ 7	50	▼ 8
BG		44	▼ 8	40	▼ 4	39	▲ 2	18	▼ 4
CZ		75	▲ 1	62	▼ 4	56	▲ 7	48	=
DK		85	▼ 3	92	▼ 1	72	=	80	▼ 8
DE		76	▲ 10	89	▲ 3	77	▲ 1	70	▲ 1
EE		81	=	80	▼ 1	57	▲ 2	63	▼ 1
IE		80	▼ 4	62	▼ 5	54	▲ 2	55	▼ 5
EL		77	▼ 4	67	=	22	▼ 6	47	▼ 2
ES		69	▼ 6	71	▼ 7	37	▲ 5	42	▲ 5
FR		81	▼ 7	74	▼ 6	56	▼ 1	44	▼ 12
HR		63	▼ 5	53	▼ 2	26	▲ 2	19	▼ 12
IT		62	▼ 6	62	▼ 6	23	=	36	▼ 7
CY		62	▲ 3	53	▲ 4	47	▲ 6	39	▼ 5
LV		66	▼ 1	60	▼ 1	50	▼ 1	34	▼ 7
LT		73	▼ 1	76	▼ 2	47	▲ 2	44	▼ 3
LU		69	▲ 1	79	▼ 3	76	▼ 5	68	▼ 3
HU		61	▲ 1	66	▼ 1	63	▲ 8	52	▲ 1
MT		67	▼ 8	53	▼ 3	52	▼ 5	35	▼ 10
NL		78	▲ 2	86	=	65	=	75	▼ 5
AT		76	▼ 4	83	▼ 3	67	▼ 2	72	▼ 8
PL		65	=	51	▼ 3	47	▲ 2	32	▼ 8
PT		63	▼ 10	64	▼ 10	47	▼ 10	40	▼ 9
RO		65	▼ 6	55	▲ 1	35	▼ 3	36	▼ 4
SI		67	▼ 3	69	▲ 2	43	▼ 2	21	▼ 2
SK		59	▲ 2	43	=	41	▼ 1	27	▼ 2
FI		94	▼ 1	91	▼ 4	72	▼ 2	82	▼ 6
SE		76	▲ 9	86	▼ 1	69	▲ 1	76	▼ 2
UK		82	▼ 3	77	▼ 5	52	▼ 1	61	▼ 6

**QA8a** 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.

(% - TEND TO TRUST)

	EU28	Public administration in (OUR COUNTRY)	Aut.2017 - Sp.2017		The United Nations		The European Union		The (NATIONALITY) Government	
			Aut.2017	Sp.2017	Aut.2017	Sp.2017	Aut.2017	Sp.2017	Aut.2017	Sp.2017
	EU28	49	▼ 1		47	▼ 2	41	▼ 1	36	▼ 1
	BE	62	▲ 3		59	▲ 6	53	▲ 7	47	▲ 6
	BG	31	▼ 2		47	▼ 3	57	▲ 3	29	▲ 1
	CZ	51	▲ 2		46	▲ 1	35	▲ 5	22	▲ 4
	DK	72	=		70	▼ 8	52	▼ 4	55	▲ 11
	DE	71	▲ 5		50	▲ 2	47	=	54	▼ 5
	EE	60	▲ 1		44	▼ 8	49	▼ 6	57	▲ 7
	IE	51	▼ 7		55	▼ 4	50	▼ 1	45	▲ 4
	EL	17	▼ 4		23	▼ 4	23	▲ 1	11	=
	ES	42	▲ 3		47	▲ 2	44	▲ 4	22	▲ 4
	FR	56	▼ 5		43	▼ 5	33	▼ 8	34	▼ 4
	HR	27	▼ 7		36	▼ 13	39	▼ 8	15	▼ 7
	IT	21	▼ 4		36	=	34	▼ 2	17	=
	CY	36	▲ 4		34	▲ 5	36	▲ 3	35	▲ 4
	LV	30	▲ 3		45	▼ 2	45	▼ 3	27	▼ 1
	LT	45	▼ 2		58	▲ 1	64	▼ 1	33	▼ 2
	LU	77	▼ 5		47	▼ 9	56	▼ 5	68	▼ 4
	HU	58	▲ 3		51	▼ 2	49	▲ 3	48	▲ 9
	MT	51	▼ 12		52	▼ 1	51	▼ 5	51	▼ 7
	NL	66	▼ 1		59	▼ 3	50	▲ 1	65	▼ 1
	AT	66	▼ 7		38	▼ 3	38	▼ 4	46	▲ 5
	PL	40	▼ 3		47	▼ 2	43	▼ 1	29	▼ 4
	PT	38	▼ 7		56	▼ 6	51	▼ 3	51	▼ 5
	RO	33	▼ 12		47	▼ 3	51	▼ 6	21	▼ 12
	SI	41	▲ 3		32	▼ 4	38	▼ 4	17	▼ 4
	SK	41	▼ 2		46	▲ 4	48	▲ 5	28	▲ 2
	FI	77	▲ 4		67	▼ 6	53	▼ 6	56	▼ 3
	SE	65	▲ 1		70	▲ 1	52	▲ 4	66	▲ 9
	UK	49	▼ 5		50	▼ 5	29	▼ 2	34	▼ 2

The following tables show the average results by socio-demographic criteria in the European Union as a whole (EU28), in the six largest EU countries, and in countries benefiting or having benefited from European Union assistance to overcome the financial and economic crisis.

**QA8a.9** 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 army**  
(% - TEND TO TRUST)

	EU28	DE	ES	FR	IT	PL	UK	EL	PT	IE	CY
<b>TOTAL</b>	73	76	69	81	62	65	82	77	63	80	62
<b>Gender</b>											
Male	74	77	72	82	66	64	82	77	67	82	61
Female	72	75	66	80	59	65	81	78	59	79	64
<b>Age</b>											
15-24	75	81	67	79	60	74	79	77	68	81	60
25-39	73	78	69	73	67	63	82	71	59	79	62
40-54	72	78	68	83	61	60	77	77	57	82	65
55 +	73	73	70	84	61	65	85	81	68	80	62
<b>Education (End of)</b>											
15-	70	73	68	81	58	63	88	84	62	81	65
16-19	72	77	68	81	66	62	82	77	67	75	69
20+	75	76	73	81	66	65	78	72	60	85	57
Still studying	76	78	69	75	68	74	88	76	71	84	53
<b>Socio-professional category</b>											
Self-employed	69	77	71	77	61	71	69	78	53	69	56
Managers	78	80	72	80	71	70	83	90	56	87	67
Other white collars	72	76	73	80	63	61	79	70	62	83	51
Manual workers	73	81	69	83	64	64	81	72	60	85	68
House persons	69	84	71	69	59	53	75	82	72	75	70
Unemployed	65	65	62	74	50	51	80	72	63	62	74
Retired	74	70	69	86	62	66	86	82	69	78	63
Students	76	78	69	75	68	74	88	76	71	84	53

**QA8a.8** 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 police**  
(% - TEND TO TRUST)

	EU28	DE	ES	FR	IT	PL	UK	EL	PT	IE	CY
<b>TOTAL</b>	72	89	71	74	62	51	77	67	64	62	53
<b>Gender</b>											
Male	71	89	68	73	62	49	77	65	65	61	58
Female	72	89	73	75	61	53	77	69	65	63	49
<b>Age</b>											
15-24	69	85	67	63	61	49	73	63	61	62	50
25-39	70	88	72	65	63	50	79	60	59	59	55
40-54	72	91	63	80	62	51	76	64	61	64	52
55 +	73	89	76	80	62	53	78	74	71	63	54
<b>Education (End of)</b>											
15-	70	89	72	76	56	44	70	76	68	65	56
16-19	69	87	67	69	64	50	75	63	66	53	55
20+	77	92	75	78	69	56	83	63	61	68	52
Still studying	73	88	67	70	68	42	84	64	55	72	46
<b>Socio-professional category</b>											
Self-employed	68	81	66	78	60	58	77	67	55	59	65
Managers	80	92	69	80	72	57	85	86	62	59	53
Other white collars	70	88	74	68	61	54	77	53	57	70	44
Manual workers	70	90	68	77	61	48	75	63	64	61	55
House persons	68	90	79	61	60	44	73	67	74	61	44
Unemployed	59	79	67	51	53	34	62	61	64	46	61
Retired	74	90	73	81	62	56	78	78	74	61	58
Students	73	88	67	70	68	42	84	64	55	72	46

**QA8a.7** 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.

**Justice/ the (NATIONALITY) legal system**  
(% - TEND TO TRUST)

	EU28	DE	ES	FR	IT	PL	UK	EL	PT	IE	CY
<b>TOTAL</b>	50	70	42	44	36	32	61	47	40	55	39
<b>Gender</b>											
Male	51	72	43	46	36	30	64	47	40	57	47
Female	49	67	41	42	36	35	58	46	40	53	32
<b>Age</b>											
15-24	53	70	37	39	47	39	66	51	41	61	41
25-39	52	75	39	41	40	35	61	42	39	54	31
40-54	50	68	38	44	38	34	55	43	39	56	44
55 +	49	68	49	46	29	28	63	50	40	53	43
<b>Education (End of)</b>											
15-	44	61	45	39	24	24	56	55	37	47	40
16-19	45	65	38	34	36	31	54	40	41	44	41
20+	59	80	46	54	44	35	72	44	46	65	40
Still studying	60	82	35	46	51	32	78	55	40	76	35
<b>Socio-professional category</b>											
Self-employed	51	69	51	49	36	31	62	42	32	71	49
Managers	67	79	53	58	48	39	79	49	46	60	40
Other white collars	51	72	32	45	43	34	61	42	38	54	35
Manual workers	46	63	39	43	32	37	50	43	38	46	39
House persons	44	79	51	19	26	33	53	52	53	47	17
Unemployed	38	54	38	29	21	15	51	38	44	36	41
Retired	49	66	46	46	32	29	60	52	40	57	49
Students	60	82	35	46	51	32	78	55	40	76	35

**QA8a.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.

**Regional or local public authorities**  
(% - TEND TO TRUST)

	EU28	DE	ES	FR	IT	PL	UK	EL	PT	IE	CY
<b>TOTAL</b>	51	77	37	56	23	47	52	22	47	54	47
<b>Gender</b>											
Male	51	75	38	59	25	47	51	22	48	55	47
Female	51	78	36	54	21	46	53	22	47	53	48
<b>Age</b>											
15-24	57	80	40	56	35	52	64	27	43	56	43
25-39	50	76	31	51	25	38	58	20	44	55	45
40-54	49	73	32	58	23	46	45	20	45	54	49
55 +	51	79	43	58	19	50	48	23	51	52	51
<b>Education (End of)</b>											
15-	44	75	41	52	16	50	45	25	48	46	51
16-19	49	74	33	51	23	43	49	18	46	49	50
20+	58	81	37	61	26	50	58	21	48	60	46
Still studying	59	83	42	63	35	40	76	26	47	61	40
<b>Socio-professional category</b>											
Self-employed	48	74	42	68	22	55	51	25	43	47	50
Managers	62	84	32	61	34	43	57	17	50	59	54
Other white collars	51	78	37	54	26	41	56	15	45	56	40
Manual workers	50	74	33	60	24	45	49	15	43	60	49
House persons	43	81	42	38	14	53	56	25	57	48	49
Unemployed	39	57	28	42	14	38	51	21	44	38	45
Retired	52	75	43	58	19	52	45	24	52	49	53
Students	59	83	42	63	35	40	76	26	47	61	40

**QA8a.10** 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.

**Public administration in (OUR COUNTRY)**  
(% - TEND TO TRUST)

	EU28	DE	ES	FR	IT	PL	UK	EL	PT	IE	CY
<b>TOTAL</b>	49	71	42	56	21	40	49	17	38	51	36
<b>Gender</b>											
Male	50	73	43	58	23	40	52	17	40	53	38
Female	47	69	40	54	19	41	46	17	36	49	35
<b>Age</b>											
15-24	51	76	37	45	33	41	54	17	43	54	42
25-39	48	71	37	48	21	38	55	14	33	49	29
40-54	49	70	41	62	23	36	47	16	33	49	35
55 +	48	70	47	60	16	44	44	19	43	53	41
<b>Education (End of)</b>											
15-	41	65	42	54	11	44	45	22	36	49	41
16-19	46	68	43	49	21	39	44	12	39	44	35
20+	56	77	43	63	25	43	57	17	39	56	35
Still studying	55	83	34	49	39	32	61	20	43	60	37
<b>Socio-professional category</b>											
Self-employed	47	70	49	74	16	54	58	16	35	51	40
Managers	62	78	40	66	42	43	52	34	40	54	30
Other white collars	48	72	43	48	23	34	55	12	34	48	26
Manual workers	46	65	41	54	20	37	44	7	31	49	36
House persons	42	81	56	41	12	38	50	22	63	47	19
Unemployed	39	58	29	48	12	34	44	12	36	40	43
Retired	49	67	43	59	16	48	45	21	44	55	50
Students	55	83	34	49	39	32	61	20	43	60	37

**QA8a.12** 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 (NATIONALITY) Government**  
(% - TEND TO TRUST)

	EU28	DE	ES	FR	IT	PL	UK	EL	PT	IE	CY
<b>TOTAL</b>	36	54	22	34	17	29	34	11	51	45	35
<b>Gender</b>											
Male	36	54	24	39	17	28	35	12	53	46	40
Female	35	55	20	30	17	30	33	10	50	45	30
<b>Age</b>											
15-24	37	58	17	30	22	24	39	16	44	53	25
25-39	32	55	15	22	14	22	35	7	44	41	33
40-54	35	53	17	36	22	25	28	11	50	45	42
55 +	37	54	31	41	14	39	36	12	59	45	36
<b>Education (End of)</b>											
15-	32	51	32	36	10	38	33	14	53	37	34
16-19	32	48	15	28	16	28	30	6	56	34	35
20+	42	61	20	40	23	30	38	12	45	55	36
Still studying	43	72	17	35	21	20	47	20	50	61	31
<b>Socio-professional category</b>											
Self-employed	35	46	31	42	18	46	42	7	37	53	46
Managers	47	67	17	43	34	18	36	14	50	52	47
Other white collars	34	50	18	33	22	19	35	8	46	44	31
Manual workers	30	41	15	29	19	29	27	7	51	33	30
House persons	28	71	25	18	7	32	36	10	59	38	29
Unemployed	24	45	15	18	7	21	33	12	47	38	28
Retired	38	53	34	41	13	40	33	14	60	49	39
Students	43	72	17	35	21	20	47	20	50	61	31

**QA8a.13** 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 (NATIONALITY) Parliament**  
(% - TEND TO TRUST)

	EU28	DE	ES	FR	IT	PL	UK	EL	PT	IE	CY
<b>TOTAL</b>	35	58	21	31	20	22	33	13	42	43	27
<b>Gender</b>											
Male	36	59	24	34	20	21	33	14	44	45	27
Female	34	58	17	28	19	24	32	12	39	41	27
<b>Age</b>											
15-24	38	63	16	29	26	24	42	18	45	46	18
25-39	32	56	14	24	21	17	29	9	40	41	23
40-54	34	58	15	31	22	24	30	9	35	43	34
55 +	36	58	30	36	15	25	33	16	46	44	30
<b>Education (End of)</b>											
15-	29	54	27	31	9	31	30	16	37	38	27
16-19	31	52	17	24	21	21	27	8	44	33	30
20+	42	67	18	38	26	24	39	13	42	52	25
Still studying	42	71	15	37	24	13	53	23	50	55	25
<b>Socio-professional category</b>											
Self-employed	37	62	31	42	22	32	42	9	38	46	25
Managers	48	70	15	39	36	20	36	25	46	56	31
Other white collars	34	55	21	32	24	18	31	7	43	37	24
Manual workers	29	44	15	25	21	23	24	6	33	33	23
House persons	27	71	24	17	11	22	32	11	49	35	15
Unemployed	24	48	16	16	8	16	34	9	39	29	35
Retired	36	56	29	36	15	28	30	19	47	49	33
Students	42	71	15	37	24	13	53	23	50	55	25

**QA8a.6** 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.

**Political parties**  
(% - TEND TO TRUST)

	EU28	DE	ES	FR	IT	PL	UK	EL	PT	IE	CY
<b>TOTAL</b>	18	33	8	8	13	14	13	5	21	20	8
<b>Gender</b>											
Male	19	35	10	9	14	13	14	6	23	21	9
Female	17	32	7	7	12	16	12	3	18	20	6
<b>Age</b>											
15-24	20	34	4	12	21	8	18	5	23	25	7
25-39	18	37	5	6	16	14	13	5	21	17	6
40-54	17	29	7	6	13	19	10	3	17	19	6
55 +	18	34	12	9	9	15	13	5	23	21	11
<b>Education (End of)</b>											
15-	13	24	11	10	3	14	12	3	20	19	10
16-19	17	30	6	6	11	15	13	4	25	15	9
20+	21	42	9	8	22	16	12	7	18	24	5
Still studying	22	42	1	10	20	3	17	6	26	30	8
<b>Socio-professional category</b>											
Self-employed	18	35	12	0	13	17	14	7	10	20	7
Managers	26	44	14	11	29	14	12	5	27	20	8
Other white collars	19	29	8	7	16	17	16	3	19	19	3
Manual workers	16	25	6	6	14	17	12	3	19	18	12
House persons	13	45	6	3	7	16	11	1	16	17	6
Unemployed	11	20	6	6	5	7	17	4	16	12	2
Retired	17	31	15	10	7	16	12	6	25	23	12
Students	22	42	1	10	20	3	17	6	26	30	8

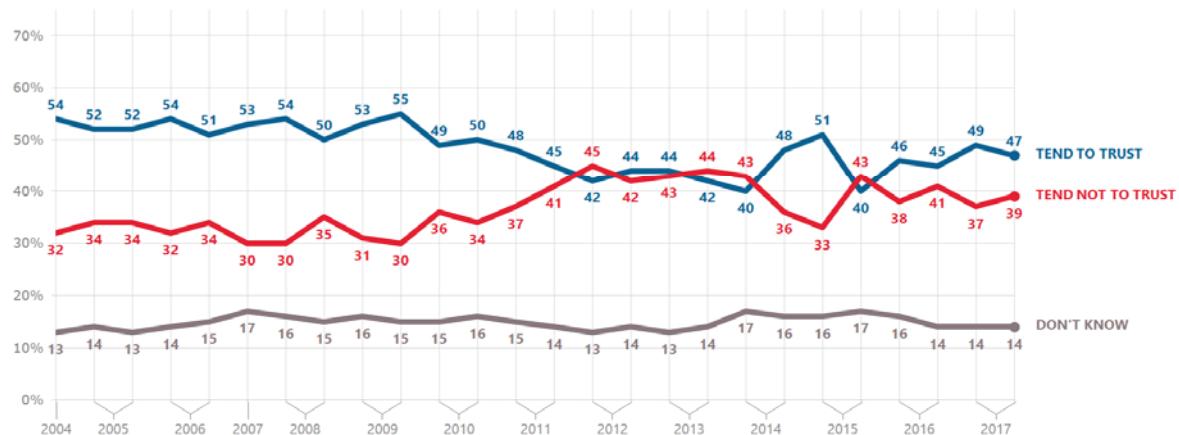
## 2. The United Nations

Like the other institutions that were tested, the **United Nations**<sup>15</sup> is slightly less trusted than in spring 2017: 47% "tend to trust" it (-2 percentage points), compared with 39% who "tend not to trust" it (+2).

However, the UN is still trusted by a majority of respondents, whereas a majority distrusted this institution in autumn 2015 (40% trust versus 43% distrust), and also earlier, in spring 2012 (42% versus 45%), in autumn 2013 (42% versus 44%) and in spring 2014 (40% versus 43%).

**QA8a.15** 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 United Nations (% - EU)



A majority of respondents trust the United Nations in 21 EU Member States (compared with 23 in spring 2017), ranging from 44% (versus 21%) in Estonia to 70% in both Denmark and Sweden.

Majorities distrust the United Nations in Greece (23% trust versus 72% distrust), Slovenia (32% versus 57%), Cyprus (34% versus 56%), Croatia (36% versus 52%), Austria (38% versus 52%), Italy (36% versus 48%) and France (43% versus 44%).

Since spring 2017, positive opinions regarding the United Nations have declined in 19 EU Member States, most significantly in Croatia (36%, -13 percentage points), Luxembourg (47%, -9), Denmark (70%, -8) and Estonia (44%, -8). They have gained ground in eight countries, most notably in Belgium (59%, +6) and are unchanged in Italy.

<sup>15</sup> QA8a. 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. 15. The United Nations.

**QA8a.15** 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 United Nations (%)**

		Tend to trust	Aut.2017 - Sp.2017	Tend not to trust	Aut.2017 - Sp.2017	Don't know
EU28		47	▼ 2	39	▲ 2	14
BE		59	▲ 6	37	▼ 6	4
CY		34	▲ 5	56	▼ 1	10
SK		46	▲ 4	40	▼ 1	14
DE		50	▲ 2	35	▼ 4	15
ES		47	▲ 2	41	▼ 3	12
SE		70	▲ 1	25	=	5
LT		58	▲ 1	19	▼ 3	23
CZ		46	▲ 1	40	▼ 3	14
IT		36	=	48	▲ 3	16
MT		52	▼ 1	23	▲ 8	25
HU		51	▼ 2	36	=	13
PL		47	▼ 2	32	▼ 3	21
LV		45	▼ 2	28	=	27
NL		59	▼ 3	32	▲ 3	9
BG		47	▼ 3	28	▼ 1	25
RO		47	▼ 3	42	▲ 6	11
AT		38	▼ 3	52	▲ 5	10
IE		55	▼ 4	32	▲ 3	13
SI		32	▼ 4	57	▲ 6	11
EL		23	▼ 4	72	▲ 4	5
UK		50	▼ 5	35	▲ 11	15
FR		43	▼ 5	44	▲ 8	13
FI		67	▼ 6	23	▲ 4	10
PT		56	▼ 6	33	▲ 4	11
DK		70	▼ 8	17	▲ 5	13
EE		44	▼ 8	21	▲ 2	35
LU		47	▼ 9	36	▲ 7	17
HR		36	▼ 13	52	▲ 11	12

## 5 The direction in which things are going

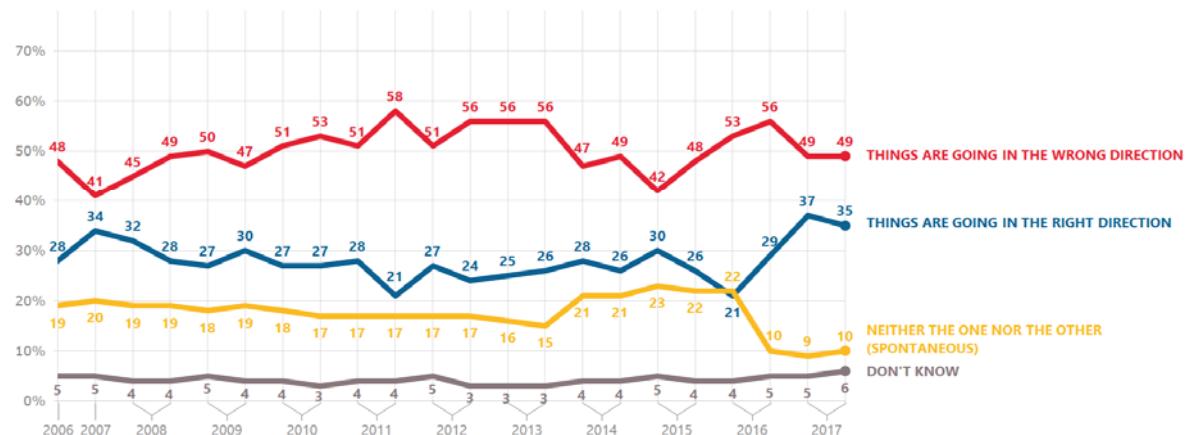
### The impression that things are going in the right direction is losing ground at the national level and unchanged for the European Union

#### The direction in which things are going nationally

A majority of Europeans say **things are going "in the wrong direction" in their country**<sup>16</sup> (49%, unchanged since spring 2017, versus 35%, -2 percentage points "in the right direction").

The proportion of Europeans who believe that things are going "**in the right direction**" is down by two percentage points, after rising sharply between spring 2016 and spring 2017 (from 21% to 37%, +16 percentage points). This rise followed a decline between spring 2015 and spring 2016 (from 30% to 21%, -9). As a result, approval of the direction in which things are going nationally is at the second highest level measured for this indicator since autumn 2006 (behind the 37% recorded in spring 2017).

D73a.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)



A majority of respondents say that "**things are going in the right direction**" in 13 EU Member States (compared with nine in spring 2017), led by Ireland (71%), the Netherlands (66%) and Finland (64%).

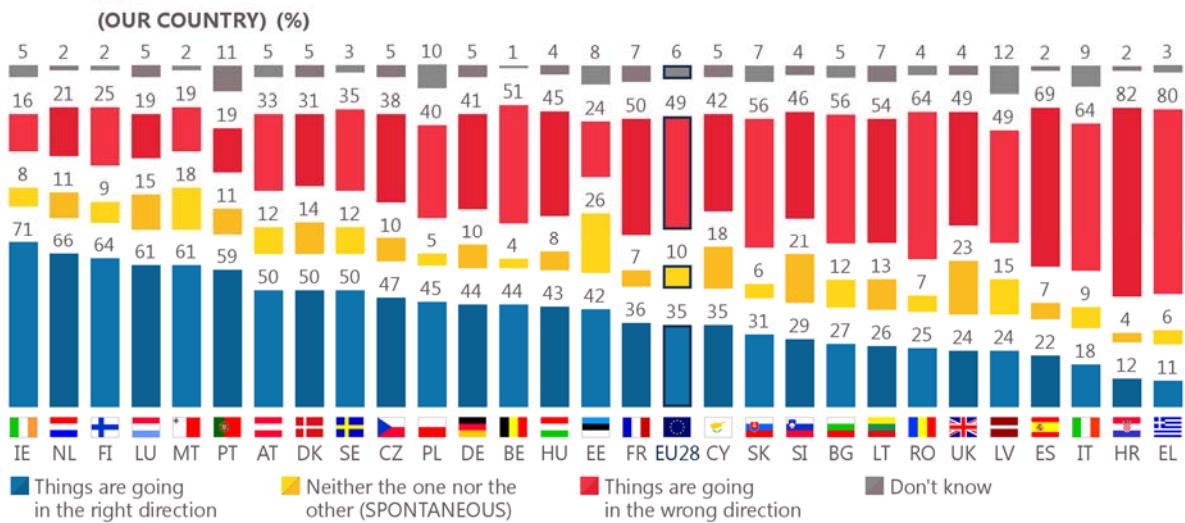
These positive opinions have undergone contrasting evolutions in the various Member States. They have gained ground in 17 countries, particularly in Austria (50%, +13 percentage points) and Estonia (42%, +8). Conversely, they fell in ten Member States, most notably in the United Kingdom (24%, -15), Romania (25%, -11) and Luxembourg (61%, -8). Positive opinions remain unchanged in Portugal.

In the United Kingdom, the impression that things are going **neither in the right direction nor in the wrong direction** has gained ground (23%, +16), while in Romania the idea that things are going "**in the wrong direction**" is now more widespread (64%, +10); the same is true in Luxembourg (19%, +6).

The feeling that things are going "**in the wrong direction**" is particularly pronounced in Croatia (82%), Greece (80%), and Spain (69%).

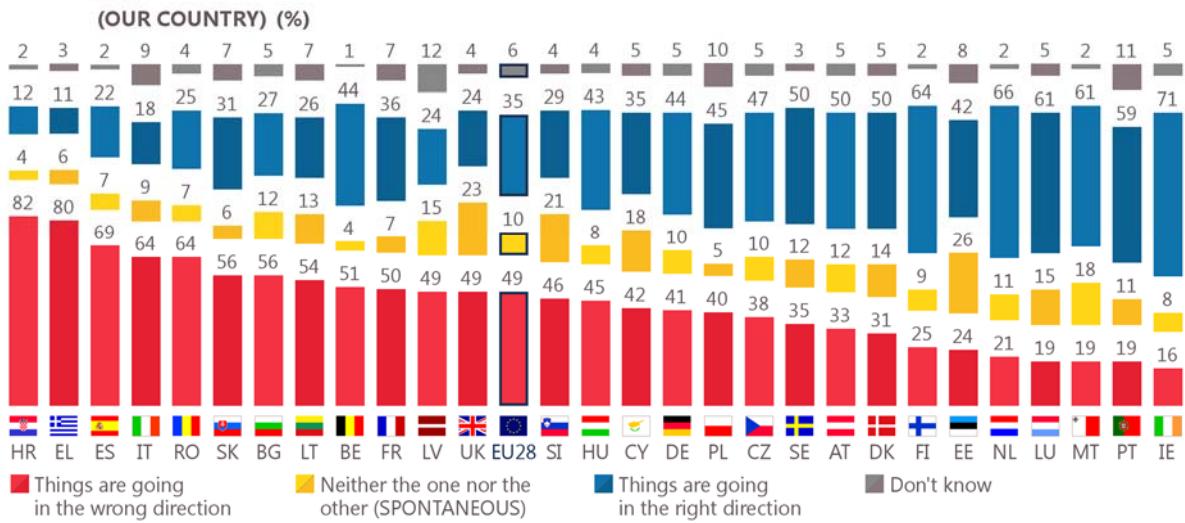
<sup>16</sup> D73a. At the present time, would you say that, in general, things are going in the right direction or in the wrong direction, in...? 1. (OUR COUNTRY)

**D73a.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 according to the response: "Things are going in the right direction"

**D73a.1** At the present time, would you say that, in general, things are going in the right direction or in the wrong direction, in...?

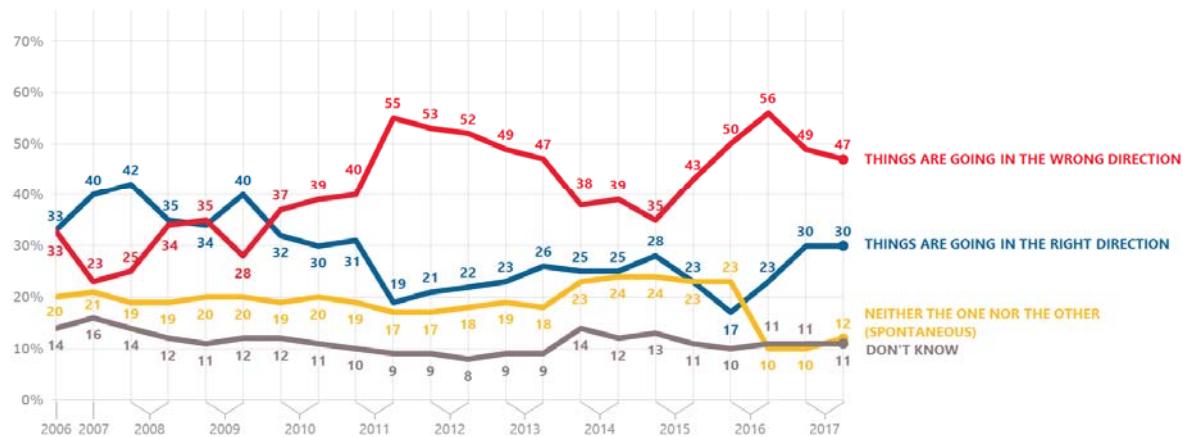


Sorted according to the response: "Things are going in the wrong direction"

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

Three in ten Europeans believe that "**things are going in the right direction**" in the European Union<sup>17</sup>, unchanged since the Standard Eurobarometer survey of spring 2017. A majority believe that "things are going in the wrong direction" in the EU (47%), but this has fallen by two percentage points since spring 2017 and by nine points since autumn 2016, after increasing sharply between spring 2015 and autumn 2016 (from 35 % to 56%, +21 percentage points).

D73a.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)



A majority of Europeans believe that things are going "**in the right direction**" in the European Union in seven Member States (compared with eight in spring 2017): Ireland (52% versus 27% "in the wrong direction"), in Bulgaria (47% versus 26%), Romania (47% versus 29%), Lithuania (47% versus 25%), Portugal (46% versus 22%), the Netherlands (41% versus 40%) and Malta (38% versus 16%).

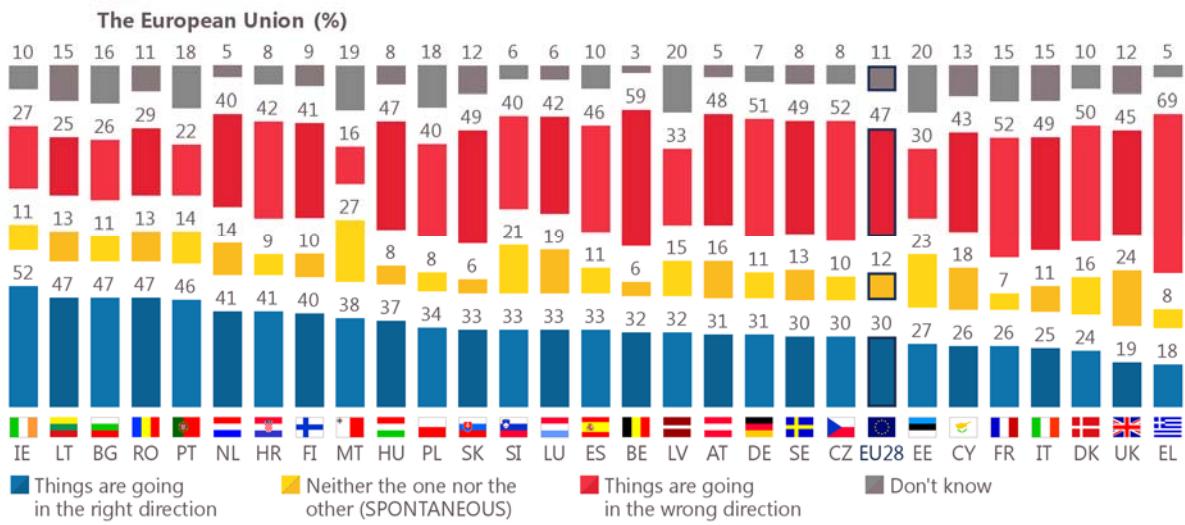
Since spring 2017, the impression that things are going "**in the right direction**" in the EU has gained ground in 17 Member States, most markedly in the Netherlands (41%, +7 percentage points), in Slovakia (33%, +7), Ireland (52%, +6), Lithuania (47%, +6), Spain (33%, +6) and the Czech Republic (30%, +6).

However, the view that things are going in the right direction in the European Union has lost ground in eight countries, notably in the United Kingdom (19%, -9); it remains unchanged in Croatia, Belgium and Latvia.

The impression that things are going "**in the wrong direction**" in the European Union is particularly pronounced in Greece (69%) and Belgium (59%).

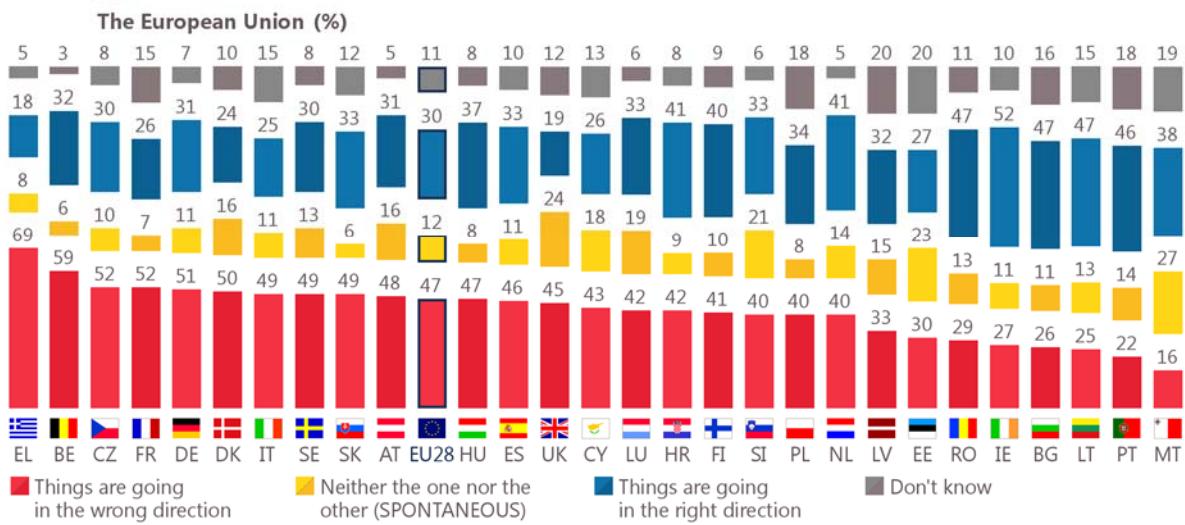
<sup>17</sup> D73a. At the present time, would you say that, in general, things are going in the right direction or in the wrong direction, in...? 2. The European Union

**D73a.2** At the present time, would you say that, in general, things are going in the right direction or in the wrong direction, in...?



Sorted according to the response: "Things are going in the right direction"

**D73a.2** At the present time, would you say that, in general, things are going in the right direction or in the wrong direction, in...?



Sorted according to the response: "Things are going in the wrong direction"

D73a 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)				Don't know	The European Union				Don't know				
		Things are going in the right direction	Things are going in the wrong direction	Aut.2017 - Sp.2017	Neither the one nor the other (SPONTANEOUS)		Things are going in the right direction	Aut.2017 - Sp.2017	Neither the one nor the other (SPONTANEOUS)	Aut.2017 - Sp.2017					
EU28	🇪🇺	35	▼ 2	49	=	10	▲ 1	6	30	=	47	▼ 2	12	▲ 2	11
BE	🇧🇪	44	▼ 2	51	▲ 3	4	▼ 1	1	32	=	59	▼ 2	6	▲ 1	3
BG	🇧🇬	27	▲ 2	56	▼ 2	12	▲ 1	5	47	▲ 1	26	▲ 1	11	▲ 1	16
CZ	🇨🇿	47	▲ 7	38	▼ 9	10	=	5	30	▲ 6	52	▼ 8	10	▲ 1	8
DK	🇩🇰	50	▲ 3	31	=	14	▼ 4	5	24	▼ 2	50	▲ 4	16	▼ 2	10
DE	🇩🇪	44	▼ 5	41	▲ 2	10	▲ 2	5	31	▲ 1	51	▼ 5	11	▲ 1	7
EE	🇪🇪	42	▲ 8	24	▼ 10	26	▲ 3	8	27	▼ 1	30	▼ 1	23	▲ 2	20
IE	🇮🇪	71	▲ 3	16	▼ 4	8	▲ 1	5	52	▲ 6	27	▼ 6	11	▲ 2	10
EL	🇬🇷	11	▲ 5	80	▼ 9	6	▲ 2	3	18	▲ 4	69	▼ 6	8	▲ 1	5
ES	🇪🇸	22	▼ 3	69	▲ 4	7	=	2	33	▲ 6	46	▼ 3	11	▼ 1	10
FR	🇫🇷	36	▼ 3	50	▲ 7	7	▲ 1	7	26	▼ 4	52	▲ 6	7	▲ 1	15
HR	🇭🇷	12	▼ 5	82	▲ 6	4	=	2	41	=	42	=	9	▲ 1	8
IT	🇮🇹	18	▲ 4	64	▼ 1	9	▼ 5	9	25	▲ 5	49	=	11	▼ 5	15
CY	🇨🇾	35	▲ 2	42	▼ 4	18	▲ 3	5	26	▲ 5	43	▼ 5	18	▲ 4	13
LV	🇱🇻	24	▼ 4	49	▲ 2	15	=	12	32	=	33	▼ 2	15	▲ 2	20
LT	🇱🇹	26	▲ 3	54	▼ 2	13	▼ 2	7	47	▲ 6	25	▼ 2	13	▼ 3	15
LU	🇱🇺	61	▼ 8	19	▲ 6	15	▲ 2	5	33	▼ 4	42	▲ 7	19	=	6
HU	🇭🇺	43	▲ 7	45	▼ 6	8	▲ 1	4	37	▲ 5	47	▼ 5	8	=	8
MT	🇲🇹	61	▲ 1	19	▼ 1	18	▲ 4	2	38	▲ 2	16	▲ 1	27	▼ 1	19
NL	🇳🇱	66	▼ 1	21	=	11	▲ 1	2	41	▲ 7	40	▼ 7	14	▲ 1	5
AT	🇦🇹	50	▲ 13	33	▼ 11	12	▼ 5	5	31	▲ 4	48	▼ 4	16	▼ 2	5
PL	🇵🇱	45	▲ 7	40	▼ 6	5	▼ 2	10	34	▼ 1	40	=	8	▼ 3	18
PT	🇵🇹	59	=	19	▲ 2	11	▼ 3	11	46	▲ 2	22	=	14	▼ 3	18
RO	🇷🇴	25	▼ 11	64	▲ 10	7	▲ 2	4	47	▼ 4	29	▼ 2	13	▲ 7	11
SI	🇸🇮	29	▲ 5	46	▼ 10	21	▲ 5	4	33	▲ 2	40	▼ 7	21	▲ 6	6
SK	🇸🇰	31	▲ 5	56	▼ 8	6	▲ 1	7	33	▲ 7	49	▼ 8	6	▼ 1	12
FI	🇫🇮	64	▲ 2	25	▼ 1	9	▼ 1	2	40	▼ 2	41	=	10	=	9
SE	🇸🇪	50	▲ 1	35	▼ 4	12	▲ 2	3	30	▲ 2	49	▼ 7	13	▲ 5	8
UK	🇬🇧	24	▼ 15	49	=	23	▲ 16	4	19	▼ 9	45	▼ 7	24	▲ 15	12

The following tables show the average results by socio-demographic criteria in the European Union as a whole (EU28), in the six largest EU countries, and in countries benefiting or having benefited from European Union assistance to overcome the financial and economic crisis.

**D73a.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)  
(% - THINGS ARE GOING IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION)

	EU28	DE	ES	FR	IT	PL	UK	EL	PT	IE	CY
<b>TOTAL</b>	35	44	22	36	18	45	24	11	59	71	35
<b>Gender</b>											
Male	37	44	24	38	18	49	26	12	62	76	40
Female	33	44	19	34	19	42	22	10	57	67	30
<b>Age</b>											
15-24	38	49	23	25	36	48	23	16	59	70	34
25-39	34	50	22	24	18	44	24	10	55	70	39
40-54	33	38	19	39	19	39	18	11	64	77	33
55 +	35	44	23	44	14	49	29	9	59	69	33
<b>Education (End of)</b>											
15-	29	42	23	34	9	56	29	10	58	56	24
16-19	33	42	21	31	16	47	26	7	64	65	34
20+	40	45	24	42	28	43	18	13	58	80	39
Still studying	43	56	24	28	40	44	22	18	64	75	38
<b>Socio-professional category</b>											
Self-employed	34	40	32	46	23	54	20	10	47	81	30
Managers	44	52	31	46	39	41	21	17	62	80	57
Other white collars	36	38	20	36	21	41	28	9	63	78	32
Manual workers	32	39	22	28	10	44	22	8	61	65	36
House persons	26	52	21	23	12	38	26	10	26	66	23
Unemployed	22	27	15	20	4	42	23	12	57	42	26
Retired	36	44	22	45	12	52	28	10	60	74	32
Students	43	56	24	28	40	44	22	18	64	75	38

**D73a.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)**  
**(% - THINGS ARE GOING IN THE WRONG DIRECTION)**

	EU28	DE	ES	FR	IT	PL	UK	EL	PT	IE	CY
<b>TOTAL</b>	49	41	69	50	64	40	49	80	19	16	42
<b>Gender</b>											
Male	48	41	67	46	66	40	45	80	17	15	39
Female	50	40	70	54	61	41	52	80	20	18	45
<b>Age</b>											
15-24	47	42	71	61	54	35	48	65	17	15	34
25-39	51	36	68	65	64	41	53	79	20	17	37
40-54	51	42	73	47	63	48	53	85	20	16	50
55 +	48	42	65	40	66	37	44	83	17	16	44
<b>Education (End of)</b>											
15-	54	41	65	49	67	32	48	82	21	24	48
16-19	52	43	72	59	68	37	45	84	18	21	46
20+	44	38	65	42	55	44	57	80	17	11	37
Still studying	42	34	67	54	46	35	48	66	15	11	33
<b>Socio-professional category</b>											
Self-employed	51	47	56	41	65	36	55	81	18	8	44
Managers	40	32	61	40	52	46	52	78	13	11	26
Other white collars	48	38	68	50	59	47	51	86	20	13	45
Manual workers	54	47	72	63	70	43	47	83	21	22	43
House persons	58	34	70	66	67	36	53	83	27	20	56
Unemployed	63	58	79	65	84	40	48	76	27	28	49
Retired	46	40	62	39	65	35	46	82	16	15	41
Students	42	34	67	54	46	35	48	66	15	11	33

**D73a.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**  
**(% - THINGS ARE GOING IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION)**

	EU28	DE	ES	FR	IT	PL	UK	EL	PT	IE	CY
<b>TOTAL</b>	30	31	33	26	25	34	19	18	46	52	26
<b>Gender</b>											
Male	32	32	37	28	28	33	19	20	47	56	30
Female	29	30	30	25	23	35	18	16	45	48	23
<b>Age</b>											
15-24	38	39	42	28	43	41	26	29	53	53	27
25-39	33	33	36	23	33	35	19	20	44	49	31
40-54	30	30	34	24	24	39	18	15	50	60	25
55 +	26	28	29	29	18	27	15	14	42	49	21
<b>Education (End of)</b>											
15-	23	29	28	22	12	29	11	14	40	38	16
16-19	28	27	33	23	26	27	18	15	52	51	28
20+	34	36	38	30	34	39	20	20	45	57	27
Still studying	45	40	46	34	51	44	35	33	64	51	32
<b>Socio-professional category</b>											
Self-employed	31	27	37	28	35	32	17	19	39	66	28
Managers	38	42	49	33	37	44	23	22	50	58	26
Other white collars	34	27	36	32	27	43	26	13	53	60	26
Manual workers	29	26	38	21	20	34	16	19	45	52	29
House persons	25	41	26	17	15	21	15	18	30	48	22
Unemployed	20	18	25	10	14	22	21	18	42	27	22
Retired	26	28	28	31	17	26	12	14	40	50	24
Students	45	40	46	34	51	44	35	33	64	51	32

**D73a.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**  
(% - THINGS ARE GOING IN THE WRONG DIRECTION)

	EU28	DE	ES	FR	IT	PL	UK	EL	PT	IE	CY
<b>TOTAL</b>	47	51	46	52	49	40	45	69	22	27	43
<b>Gender</b>											
Male	47	53	44	51	49	46	45	70	21	26	47
Female	46	49	48	52	48	35	45	68	22	29	40
<b>Age</b>											
15-24	40	46	43	50	40	39	34	48	15	28	33
25-39	48	51	48	59	42	47	51	68	27	31	47
40-54	47	49	46	55	54	35	45	76	21	26	43
55 +	47	55	46	47	51	40	47	72	21	24	46
<b>Education (End of)</b>											
15-	49	55	46	52	52	43	50	72	23	29	35
16-19	49	54	49	59	52	43	44	73	18	28	47
20+	44	48	47	46	43	38	47	68	28	26	46
Still studying	36	39	38	40	32	34	40	47	14	27	34
<b>Socio-professional category</b>											
Self-employed	49	60	41	52	47	48	49	74	25	18	43
Managers	42	39	46	47	49	40	44	56	24	26	47
Other white collars	45	50	47	44	49	39	41	81	21	27	48
Manual workers	49	60	45	61	49	42	45	64	24	29	49
House persons	49	42	48	64	57	40	49	66	14	29	36
Unemployed	56	67	56	66	60	54	44	63	29	35	48
Retired	46	54	43	45	49	38	48	72	19	27	37
Students	36	39	38	40	32	34	40	47	14	27	34

## The national situation in general

Europeans are greatly divided regarding the **situation in their country in general**: 50% say that it<sup>18</sup> is good (including 45% "rather good"), while 48% say it is bad (including 37% "rather bad"). However, more Europeans describe the situation in their country as "very bad" (11%) than "very good" (5%).

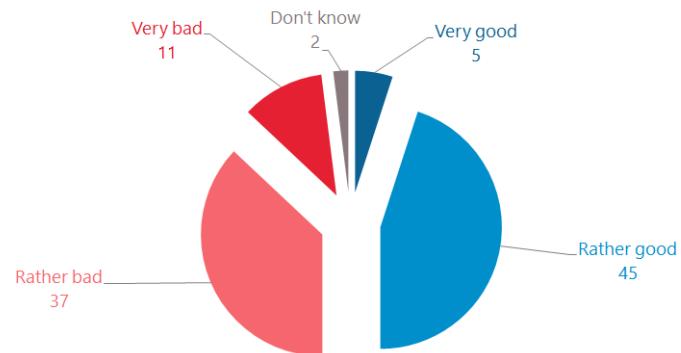
National differences on this question are very marked: 82 percentage points separate the highest positive score, recorded in the Netherlands (91%), and the lowest, measured in Greece (9%).

Positive opinions on the general national situation outweigh negative opinions in 16 EU Member States, and exceed 80% in seven: the Netherlands (91% of

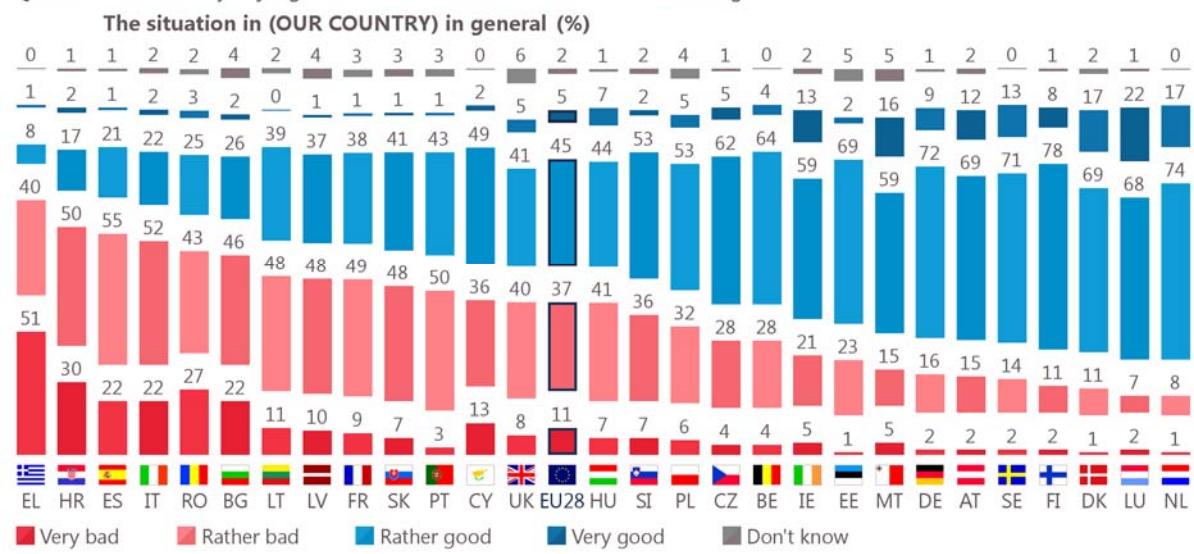
respondents say the situation of their country in general is "good" and 17% "very good"), Luxembourg (90%, including 22% saying "very good"), Finland (86%, 8% "very good"), Denmark (86%, 17% "very good"), Sweden (84%, 13% "very good"), Germany (81%, 9% "very good") and Austria (81%, 12% "very good").

However, more than three-quarters of the respondents feel that the situation in their country in general is bad in three Member States: Greece (91%, including 51% "very bad"), Croatia (80%, 30% "very bad") and Spain (77%, 22% "very bad").

**QA1a.1** How would you judge the current situation in each of the following?  
The situation in (OUR COUNTRY) in general (% - EU)

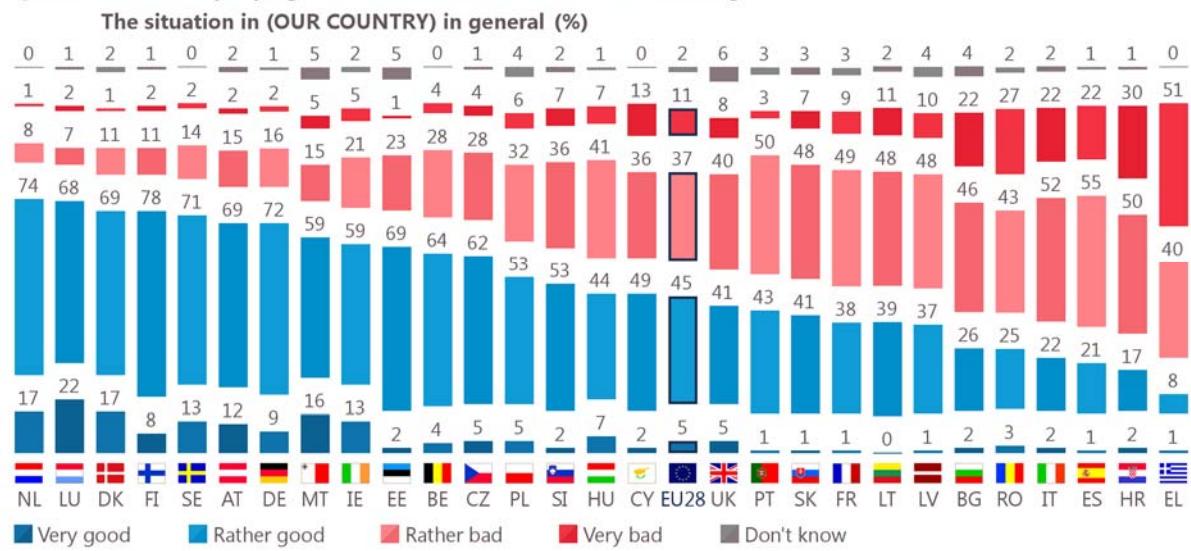


**QA1a.1** How would you judge the current situation in each of the following?



<sup>18</sup> QA1a. How would you judge the current situation in each of the following? 1. The situation in (OUR COUNTRY) in general

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

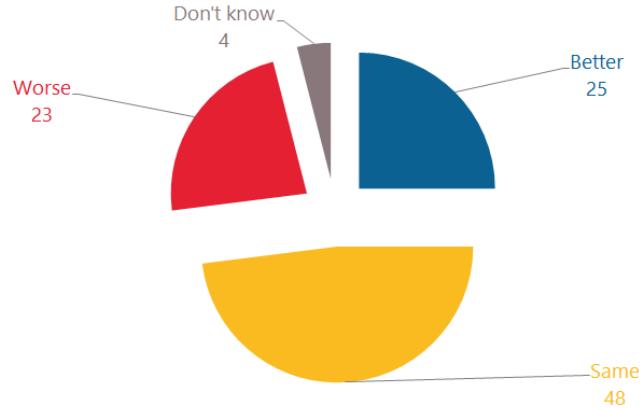


Sorted according to "Bad" total

**When asked to look forward over the next twelve months**<sup>19</sup>, nearly half of Europeans believe that the situation in their country in general will be "the same" (48%). However, respondents are slightly more optimistic than pessimistic (25% believe that the next twelve months will be "better" versus 23% "worse").

**QA2a.2** What are your expectations for the next twelve months: will the next twelve months be better, worse or the same, when it comes to...?

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



<sup>19</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...? 2. The situation in (OUR COUNTRY) in general

There is a slight difference between the views of respondents in the **euro area** countries and those in the **non-euro area**: in both groups of countries, a majority expect that the next twelve months will be "the same" (50% in the euro area countries and 45% in non-euro area countries). However, respondents are slightly more optimistic than pessimistic in the euro area countries (25% believe that the next twelve months will be "better" versus 21% "worse"), while the reverse is true in the non-euro area countries (24% "better" versus 27% "worse").

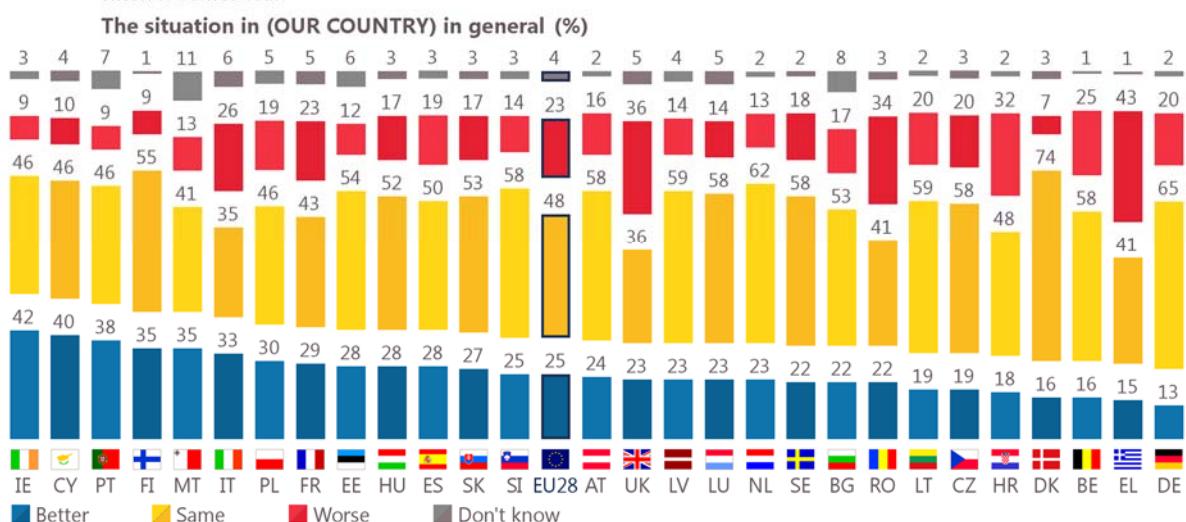
A majority of respondents believe that the next twelve months will be the same in 26 EU Member States. This view is especially pronounced in Denmark (74%), Germany (65%) and the Netherlands (62%). The exceptions are the United Kingdom, where 36% expect the next 12 months to be "the same" and 36% also think they will be "worse", and Greece (41% "the same" versus 43% "worse").

Respondents are more optimistic than pessimistic in 20 countries, particularly in Ireland (42% believe that the next twelve months will be "better"), Cyprus (40%) and Portugal (38%).

Respondents are more pessimistic than optimistic about the changing situation in their country in eight Member States, led by Greece (43% believe that the next twelve months will be "worse"), the United Kingdom (36%) and Romania (34%).

The optimism index for the future of the country's situation in general<sup>20</sup>, slightly positive at the EU level (at +2 for the 28 EU Member States), varies from -28 in Greece where it is lowest, to +33 in Ireland where it is highest.

**QA2a.2** What are your expectations for the next twelve months: will the next twelve months be better, worse or the same, when it comes to...?



<sup>20</sup> Difference between positive ("better") and negative ("worse") responses.

The following tables show the average results by socio-demographic criteria in the European Union as a whole (EU28), in the six largest EU countries, and in countries benefiting or having benefited from European Union assistance to overcome the financial and economic crisis.

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

The situation in (OUR COUNTRY) in general

(% - TOTAL 'GOOD')

	EU28 	DE 	ES 	FR 	IT 	PL 	UK 	EL 	PT 	IE 	CY 
<b>TOTAL</b>	50	81	22	39	24	58	46	9	44	72	51
<b>Gender</b>											
Male	52	82	26	43	25	61	53	8	47	76	58
Female	47	80	18	35	23	55	41	10	43	69	45
<b>Age</b>											
15-24	56	88	26	43	35	59	54	16	49	76	59
25-39	51	80	23	36	27	59	57	9	43	74	61
40-54	49	80	20	43	23	56	43	7	45	74	52
55 +	47	81	20	37	20	57	40	8	45	69	39
<b>Education (End of)</b>											
15-	38	81	20	27	16	50	43	9	39	52	32
16-19	47	75	22	34	22	59	43	6	48	66	47
20+	59	86	24	47	31	59	53	9	52	83	57
Still studying	61	95	26	47	42	57	56	15	54	81	70
<b>Socio-professional category</b>											
Self-employed	49	78	30	42	26	66	52	7	33	89	48
Managers	67	87	36	56	42	59	56	9	50	85	66
Other white collars	53	81	19	40	27	63	51	6	44	76	52
Manual workers	47	75	24	38	25	59	44	8	43	72	55
House persons	35	87	17	23	13	44	44	13	46	61	40
Unemployed	34	67	16	28	8	43	51	10	37	34	32
Retired	47	79	20	37	18	56	38	8	46	72	45
Students	61	95	26	47	42	57	56	15	54	81	70

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

The situation in (OUR COUNTRY) in general

(% - TOTAL 'BAD')

	EU28 	DE 	ES 	FR 	IT 	PL 	UK 	EL 	PT 	IE 	CY 
<b>TOTAL</b>	48	18	77	58	74	38	48	91	53	26	49
<b>Gender</b>											
Male	46	18	73	54	74	37	43	92	50	23	42
Female	50	18	80	63	75	40	51	90	55	28	55
<b>Age</b>											
15-24	40	10	71	51	65	40	34	84	49	22	41
25-39	47	20	76	62	72	37	37	91	55	24	39
40-54	49	19	80	56	75	39	53	93	54	22	48
55 +	51	18	78	61	78	39	56	92	51	30	61
<b>Education (End of)</b>											
15-	60	19	79	71	81	47	52	91	58	45	67
16-19	50	23	76	64	77	36	50	94	50	32	53
20+	39	13	75	51	68	37	43	91	46	15	43
Still studying	37	5	73	45	58	41	37	85	43	17	30
<b>Socio-professional category</b>											
Self-employed	49	22	70	53	74	28	41	93	62	11	52
Managers	31	12	64	43	58	38	39	91	48	14	34
Other white collars	46	19	81	59	71	34	47	94	55	22	48
Manual workers	50	24	74	59	73	38	49	92	55	27	45
House persons	62	11	81	75	87	48	45	87	51	34	58
Unemployed	64	30	83	70	92	50	43	90	63	63	68
Retired	50	20	79	61	78	39	58	92	50	27	55
Students	37	5	73	45	58	41	37	85	43	17	30

**QA2a.2** What are your expectations for the next twelve months: will the next twelve months be better, worse or the same, when it comes to...?

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

	EU28	DE	ES	FR	IT	PL	UK	EL	PT	IE	CY
<b>TOTAL</b>	25	13	28	29	33	30	23	15	38	42	40
<b>Gender</b>											
Male	25	14	30	31	34	29	23	14	38	45	41
Female	24	13	26	28	33	31	24	16	38	40	39
<b>Age</b>											
15-24	33	23	42	28	41	36	37	25	48	51	61
25-39	27	18	33	25	39	31	26	18	35	49	43
40-54	24	10	25	34	35	32	20	11	43	41	33
55 +	21	10	23	29	28	26	17	12	33	33	31
<b>Education (End of)</b>											
15-	20	11	19	23	24	33	21	14	32	27	25
16-19	24	12	30	28	36	30	24	8	40	39	37
20+	26	13	30	33	39	30	19	19	42	50	43
Still studying	36	23	50	26	49	33	44	33	50	47	58
<b>Socio-professional category</b>											
Self-employed	26	7	35	26	33	40	24	9	33	65	40
Managers	24	17	25	33	35	25	14	29	47	47	48
Other white collars	26	12	32	30	40	30	19	14	40	49	29
Manual workers	26	16	26	29	34	34	27	5	37	38	44
House persons	22	2	26	22	27	27	28	12	53	36	30
Unemployed	26	13	30	33	23	30	30	22	35	36	41
Retired	21	10	21	29	27	26	19	14	31	36	35
Students	36	23	50	26	49	33	44	33	50	47	58

**QA2a.2** What are your expectations for the next twelve months: will the next twelve months be better, worse or the same, when it comes to...?

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

	EU28	DE	ES	FR	IT	PL	UK	EL	PT	IE	CY
<b>TOTAL</b>	23	20	19	23	26	19	36	43	9	9	10
<b>Gender</b>											
Male	23	19	19	21	27	17	36	45	10	10	11
Female	23	20	20	25	25	20	35	41	8	8	10
<b>Age</b>											
15-24	19	14	16	23	21	16	28	22	8	10	2
25-39	22	20	13	28	20	18	35	35	9	8	6
40-54	23	18	22	18	27	17	38	46	11	9	13
55 +	25	22	22	23	30	22	38	52	7	11	16
<b>Education (End of)</b>											
15-	28	23	25	20	32	25	38	53	10	17	23
16-19	23	20	18	24	24	14	33	47	7	11	9
20+	22	19	13	22	24	22	40	37	10	7	9
Still studying	16	13	14	29	13	18	30	16	6	4	3
<b>Socio-professional category</b>											
Self-employed	24	20	16	21	29	14	33	49	11	2	8
Managers	22	18	25	20	27	24	42	32	9	8	9
Other white collars	20	11	18	26	18	18	36	36	6	6	6
Manual workers	23	23	15	25	30	14	34	48	11	14	13
House persons	26	17	21	27	26	16	36	48	20	13	14
Unemployed	24	24	22	17	40	24	27	42	7	14	9
Retired	25	23	24	21	30	23	37	50	7	9	17
Students	16	13	14	29	13	18	30	16	6	4	3

## II. THE EUROPEAN UNION AND ITS CITIZENS

### 1 What the European Union stands for

#### a. What does the European Union stand for?

##### **For more than half of Europeans, the European Union is above all an area of freedom**

The hierarchy of representations associated with the European Union is unchanged since the Standard Eurobarometer survey of spring 2017 (EB87). The main positive associations have consolidated slightly.

**“The freedom to travel, study and work anywhere in the EU”**, mentioned by an absolute majority of respondents (52%, +2 percentage points since spring 2017), continues to dominate associations with the European Union<sup>21</sup>, ahead of “**the euro**” (36%, +2), “**peace**” (30%, +1), “**cultural diversity**” (28%, +2), “**a stronger say in the world**” (25%, +1) and “**democracy**” (23%, +1).

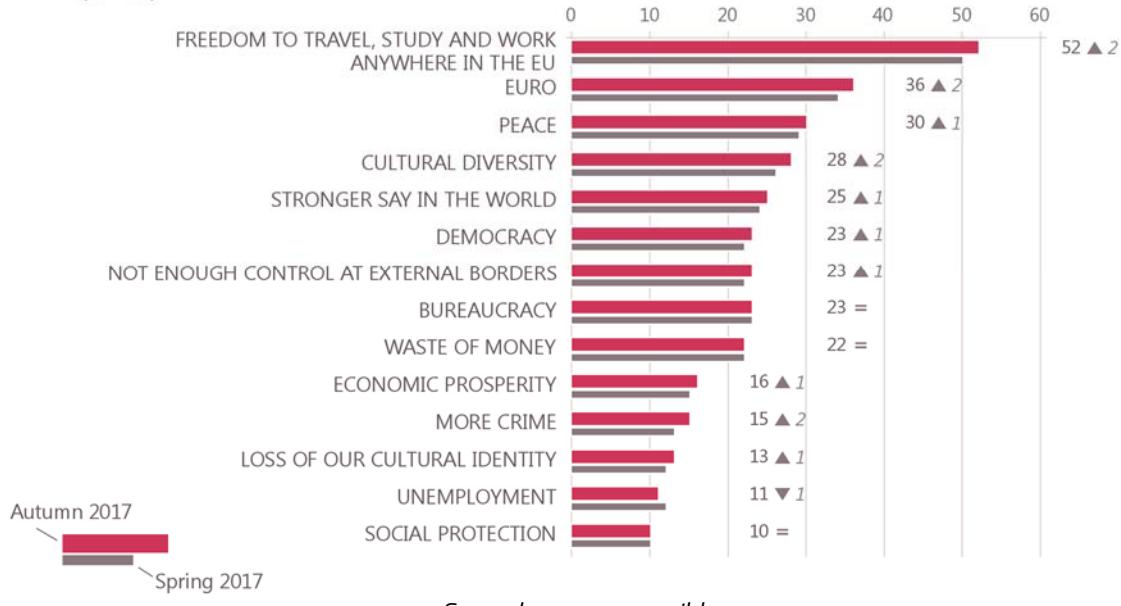
Next, ranked equally with “democracy”, are the first negative representations associated with the EU, namely “**not enough control at external borders**” (23%, +1 percentage point) and “**bureaucracy**” (23%, unchanged), just ahead of “**a waste of money**” (22%, =).

All of the **other representations tested were mentioned by fewer than 20% of respondents**: “economic prosperity” (16%, +1 percentage point), “more crime” (15%, +2), “loss of our cultural identity” (13%, +1), “unemployment” (11%, -1) and “social protection” (10%, unchanged).

As has been the case since this indicator was first included in the Standard Eurobarometer surveys, “freedom of movement within the EU” and “the euro” continue to be the representations the most frequently associated with the EU.

**QA11** What does the EU mean to you personally?

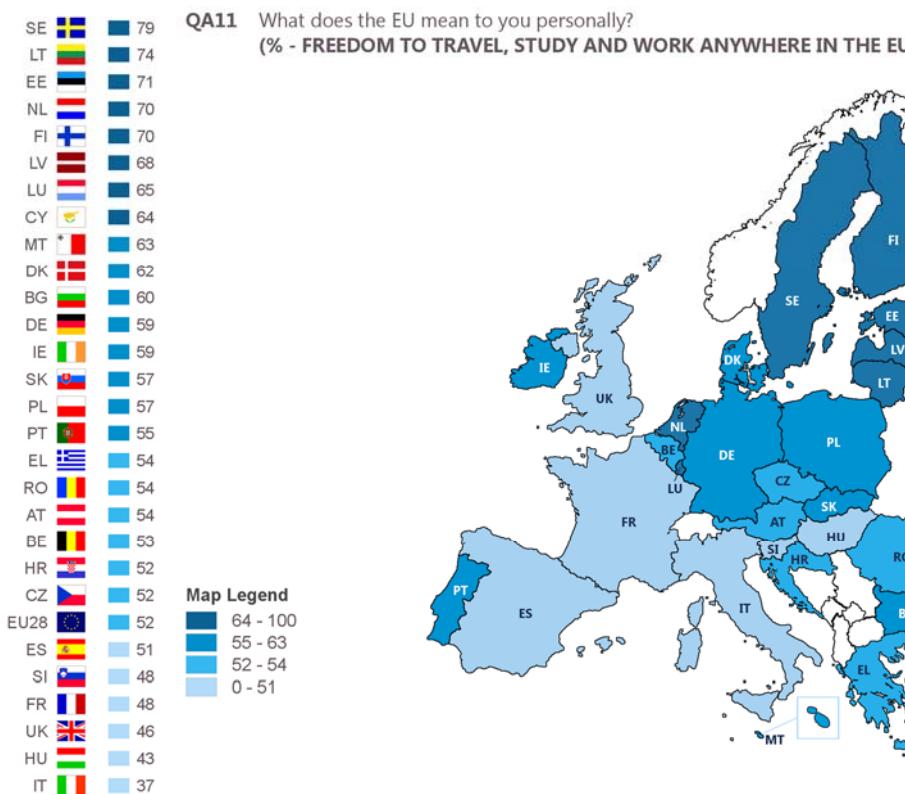
(% - EU)



<sup>21</sup> QA11. What does the EU mean to you personally?

**"The freedom to travel, study and work anywhere in the EU"** is mentioned first in both the **euro area** countries (52%, ahead of "the euro" (45%) and "peace" (32%)) and the **non-euro area** countries (53%, ahead of "peace" (25%) and "cultural diversity" (24%)).

It is also the most frequently mentioned representation in 27 EU Member States, led by Sweden (79%), the Baltic countries (74% in Lithuania, 71% in Estonia and 68% in Latvia), the Netherlands and Finland (both 70%), and Luxembourg (65%).



*Several answers possible*

**"The euro"** is the representation the most frequently associated with the EU in Italy (38%), just ahead of "the freedom to travel, study and work anywhere in the EU" (37%).

Respondents in Germany (49%), Luxembourg (49%), Sweden (48%) and Denmark (46%) are the most likely to associate **"peace"** with the European Union.

**"Cultural diversity"** is most often mentioned in Malta (42%), Sweden (41%) and Luxembourg (39%).

The EU is most associated with **"a stronger say in the world"** in Sweden (46%) and Malta and the Netherlands (both 42%).

**"Democracy"** recorded its highest scores in Germany (36%), Malta (35%) and Austria and Denmark (34% in both countries).

National particularities include much higher than average scores in Austria (48%) and the Czech Republic (39%) for **"not enough control at external borders"**. This is also true for **"bureaucracy"** in Sweden (58%) and Finland, the Netherlands and the Czech Republic (all 42%), and **"a waste of money"** in Austria (44%), the Czech Republic (38%) and France (34%).

**QA11** What does the EU mean to you personally?  
(%)

	Freedom to travel, study and work anywhere in the EU			Euro			Peace			Cultural diversity			Stranger say in the world			Democracy			Not enough control at external borders			Bureaucracy			Waste of money			Economic prosperity			More crime			Loss of our cultural identity			Unemployment			Social protection		
EU28		52	36	30	28	25	23	23	23	23	22	16	15	15	13	11	10																									
BE		53	51	36	28	29	27	32	21	30	20	19	14	14	15	15	17																									
BG		60	13	18	23	19	21	14	11	12	16	11	11	11	11	6	13																									
CZ		52	20	34	17	23	23	39	42	38	16	28	16	28	19	9	10																									
DK		62	23	46	36	35	34	30	38	15	25	19	14	14	7	15																										
DE		59	47	49	36	26	36	27	31	27	19	26	9	9	9	6																										
EE		71	45	27	29	17	18	24	29	21	12	10	16	16	6	13																										
IE		59	44	26	28	28	23	17	23	10	26	9	13	9	9	19																										
EL		54	42	29	26	34	13	29	13	19	9	24	27	34	13																											
ES		51	39	18	26	21	24	13	18	12	19	3	4	9	11																											
FR		48	47	36	35	28	18	29	20	34	8	9	14	17	9																											
HR		52	25	19	27	23	20	17	12	16	22	13	18	7	13																											
IT		37	38	17	16	21	16	17	13	16	10	15	14	13	6																											
CY		64	43	32	37	23	23	24	20	22	11	33	25	40	17																											
LV		68	33	19	28	12	15	16	23	16	16	10	15	10	14																											
LT		74	20	28	29	18	22	9	14	17	18	6	11	3	14																											
LU		65	58	49	39	31	32	23	24	25	19	16	10	10	19																											
HU		43	12	19	21	19	19	23	15	11	16	17	9	7	8																											
MT		63	45	27	42	42	35	30	23	16	29	22	17	10	22																											
NL		70	58	39	33	42	25	26	42	20	34	15	17	6	9																											
AT		54	51	42	35	33	34	48	39	44	27	44	30	33	27																											
PL		57	24	26	22	25	26	17	18	12	17	10	11	4	9																											
PT		55	48	13	27	33	20	28	8	11	14	24	5	10	11																											
RO		54	28	27	22	15	31	18	17	18	21	16	14	11	18																											
SI		48	47	33	24	18	16	17	25	24	16	21	12	12	7																											
SK		57	48	32	27	33	25	21	33	27	23	25	14	13	12																											
FI		70	55	36	34	25	24	23	42	26	21	17	9	6	9																											
SE		79	31	48	41	46	33	24	58	33	19	18	8	6	10																											
UK		46	10	20	25	21	14	22	21	21	15	8	16	7	11																											

Several answers possible

**The socio-demographic data** show that “the freedom to travel, study and work anywhere in the EU” is the representation the most frequently associated with the EU in all categories of the European population.

This association is the most widespread among the younger generations aged under 40 (60% among 15-24 year-olds and 56% among 25-39 year-olds), those who studied up to the age of 20 and beyond (64%), managers (67%), students (67%) and Europeans who see themselves as upper middle class or upper class (both 67%).

**QA11** What does the EU mean to you personally?

(% - EU)

	EU28																Other (SPONTANEOUS)		Don't know	
<b>Gender</b>																				
Man	53	36	32	28	25	25	23	23	23	25	23	19	15	13	11	10	2	2		
Woman	52	36	27	28	25	22	23	20	21	21	14	15	12	11	10	2	4			
<b>Age</b>																				
15-24	60	39	29	35	27	27	17	14	15	19	8	8	9	13	2	2				
25-39	56	37	27	29	25	24	20	21	18	18	14	12	10	11	2	2				
40-54	54	39	29	29	26	24	23	24	21	16	16	13	11	10	2	2				
55 +	47	33	32	23	23	21	27	26	27	15	18	14	12	9	2	4				
<b>Education (End of)</b>																				
15-	38	33	26	16	18	18	24	19	28	11	20	13	16	8	3	6				
16-19	48	34	27	23	21	20	26	23	24	14	18	15	12	10	2	3				
20+	64	40	36	38	33	28	21	27	18	22	11	11	8	11	1	1				
Still studying	67	42	35	38	33	33	14	15	12	22	7	7	8	13	1	2				
<b>Socio-professional category</b>																				
Self-employed	57	36	30	27	28	26	23	24	21	20	14	12	9	10	1	1				
Managers	67	41	37	39	33	30	20	29	16	21	11	11	5	12	2	0				
Other white collars	57	41	30	30	30	25	24	22	18	19	15	13	10	10	2	1				
Manual workers	48	35	24	25	21	21	24	20	22	15	17	13	12	10	1	3				
House persons	45	36	24	20	18	16	19	17	21	11	14	12	11	8	2	6				
Unemployed	47	35	23	25	18	17	21	20	24	12	16	13	19	10	2	4				
Retired	45	32	33	23	23	21	28	26	28	14	18	15	12	9	2	4				
Students	67	42	35	38	33	33	14	15	12	22	7	7	8	13	1	2				
<b>Difficulties paying bills</b>																				
Most of the time	41	35	19	20	18	16	30	18	31	10	24	21	24	11	3	3				
From time to time	46	34	23	26	23	19	23	20	21	13	16	14	14	10	2	3				
Almost never/ Never	56	37	34	29	27	26	22	25	21	18	13	11	8	10	2	2				
<b>Consider belonging to</b>																				
The working class	47	30	23	21	18	17	25	20	25	12	17	14	15	9	2	4				
The lower middle class	49	35	29	26	23	21	26	23	26	14	18	15	12	9	2	3				
The middle class	55	38	32	30	28	26	22	24	20	18	14	12	9	11	1	1				
The upper middle class	67	48	45	39	37	35	19	26	19	26	12	8	6	10	2	0				
The upper class	67	30	33	29	49	38	16	20	14	34	11	9	6	12	1	0				

The following tables show the average results by socio-demographic criteria in the European Union as a whole (EU28), in the six largest EU countries and in the countries benefiting or having benefited from European Union support to deal with the financial and economic crisis.

**QA11** What does the EU mean to you personally?

(% - FREEDOM TO TRAVEL, STUDY AND WORK ANYWHERE IN THE EU)

	EU28 	DE 	ES 	FR 	IT 	PL 	UK 	EL 	PT 	IE 	CY 
<b>TOTAL</b>	52	59	51	48	37	57	46	54	55	59	64
<b>Gender</b>											
Male	53	61	55	49	37	55	48	55	57	60	59
Female	52	57	48	48	38	58	43	53	53	59	69
<b>Age</b>											
15-24	60	66	54	56	53	64	50	73	69	66	65
25-39	56	57	55	51	43	60	50	59	60	60	65
40-54	54	61	51	50	40	53	51	54	62	62	68
55 +	47	56	48	44	29	54	36	46	43	54	58
<b>Education (End of)</b>											
15-	38	46	50	33	25	29	32	40	47	51	54
16-19	48	55	54	39	39	53	38	55	56	59	63
20+	64	70	54	59	47	63	64	61	64	61	68
Still studying	67	67	56	77	58	74	57	80	76	63	68
<b>Socio-professional category</b>											
Self-employed	57	70	55	48	45	59	55	56	58	60	70
Managers	67	67	59	70	43	72	62	72	70	62	69
Other white collars	57	58	58	63	43	51	60	58	63	63	64
Manual workers	48	55	52	37	32	50	37	51	59	59	65
House persons	45	52	43	33	32	65	43	46	62	58	60
Unemployed	47	48	51	41	38	47	47	55	45	54	63
Retired	45	55	49	42	25	55	33	44	35	56	58
Students	67	67	56	77	58	74	57	80	76	63	68

**QA11** What does the EU mean to you personally?

(% - EURO)

	EU28 	DE 	ES 	FR 	IT 	PL 	UK 	EL 	PT 	IE 	CY 
<b>TOTAL</b>	36	47	39	47	38	24	10	42	48	44	43
<b>Gender</b>											
Male	36	48	38	48	37	24	9	42	49	42	42
Female	36	47	41	47	40	24	11	43	46	45	43
<b>Age</b>											
15-24	39	50	41	54	37	35	11	38	51	52	35
25-39	37	45	39	51	42	27	10	41	50	46	49
40-54	39	48	38	51	43	25	14	45	53	40	49
55 +	33	47	40	40	34	17	7	42	42	41	37
<b>Education (End of)</b>											
15-	33	38	38	36	41	27	4	44	45	39	34
16-19	34	46	42	40	41	19	11	43	47	44	44
20+	40	54	36	55	35	26	12	43	50	44	48
Still studying	42	54	39	61	39	38	10	34	54	47	33
<b>Socio-professional category</b>											
Self-employed	36	39	41	56	37	27	13	38	65	48	41
Managers	41	51	37	56	38	28	10	45	50	42	59
Other white collars	41	47	46	54	42	32	23	49	46	41	39
Manual workers	35	49	38	47	39	22	7	40	53	45	55
House persons	36	45	43	25	39	33	14	48	28	43	40
Unemployed	35	39	36	52	36	20	12	40	36	50	54
Retired	32	46	38	39	36	15	7	43	40	42	28
Students	42	54	39	61	39	38	10	34	54	47	33

**QA11** What does the EU mean to you personally?  
(% - PEACE)

	EU28	DE	ES	FR	IT	PL	UK	EL	PT	IE	CY
<b>TOTAL</b>	30	49	18	36	17	26	20	29	13	26	32
<b>Gender</b>											
Male	32	52	20	41	19	26	22	30	13	29	36
Female	27	46	15	31	15	25	18	27	12	24	28
<b>Age</b>											
15-24	29	42	20	26	22	28	23	31	12	28	29
25-39	27	45	16	25	22	23	18	29	9	23	22
40-54	29	51	12	34	18	27	20	28	11	24	36
55 +	32	52	22	46	13	25	21	28	16	31	40
<b>Education (End of)</b>											
15-	26	46	20	45	12	31	16	27	13	20	41
16-19	27	43	11	32	20	20	15	27	10	26	34
20+	36	59	21	37	17	29	30	32	16	27	25
Still studying	35	54	24	32	24	29	29	32	13	27	35
<b>Socio-professional category</b>											
Self-employed	30	52	9	53	20	18	24	32	12	26	32
Managers	37	54	19	41	9	34	27	25	14	30	34
Other white collars	30	44	22	28	28	25	18	33	11	21	22
Manual workers	24	42	15	21	14	21	16	23	11	22	29
House persons	24	57	17	35	7	34	11	28	23	21	25
Unemployed	23	37	14	28	16	22	21	24	9	33	33
Retired	33	51	22	47	14	27	20	28	15	33	41
Students	35	54	24	32	24	29	29	32	13	27	35

## b. Support for EU membership and the perceived benefits of membership (candidate countries)

The **balance of opinion in favour of EU membership** has improved in all the candidate countries since spring 2017. More than half of respondents in Albania and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia are in favour of joining the European Union. In Montenegro, Serbia and Turkey a relative majority support EU membership. This support has increased strongly in Turkey, Albania and Serbia<sup>22</sup>.

**QA6** Generally speaking, do you think that (OUR COUNTRY)'s membership of the EU would be...? (%)

	A good thing	Aut.2017 - Sp.2017	A bad thing	Neither good nor bad	Aut.2017 - Sp.2017	Don't know
CY (tcc)	45	▲ 1	23	▼ 2	21	▼ 1
AL	88	▲ 6	3	▲ 1	9	▼ 6
MK	59	▲ 2	16	▲ 1	24	▼ 2
ME	43	=	18	▼ 2	33	▼ 1
RS	43	▲ 5	27	▼ 1	26	▼ 3
TR	47	▲ 6	24	▼ 1	25	▼ 6
						4

Respondents in all the candidate countries are more likely than in spring 2017 to consider that their

**QA7** Taking everything into account, would you say that (OUR COUNTRY) would benefit or not from being a member of the EU? (%)

country would **benefit from joining the European Union**, most notably in Serbia. As a result of these changes an absolute majority of respondents in each of the candidate countries now think that joining the EU would be beneficial for their country<sup>23</sup>.

	Would benefit	Aut.2017 - Sp.2017	Would not benefit	Aut.2017 - Sp.2017	Don't know
CY (tcc)	52	▲ 1	33	▼ 1	15
AL	95	▲ 5	5	▼ 2	0
MK	70	▲ 1	25	▲ 1	5
ME	62	▲ 4	29	▲ 1	9
RS	57	▲ 9	31	▼ 7	12
TR	58	▲ 2	36	▼ 3	6

Support for EU membership in **Albania**, already high, has increased even further in this survey. Almost nine in ten respondents (88%, +6 percentage points since spring 2017) now say that joining the EU would be "a good thing" while 95% (+5) think that their country would benefit from membership.

Support for EU membership has also gained ground in the **former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia**: 59% of respondents (+2 percentage points) are in favour of joining the EU, while 16%

<sup>22</sup> QA6. Generally speaking, do you think that (OUR COUNTRY)'s membership of the EU would be...?

CY(tcc): Generally speaking, do you think that for the Turkish Cypriot Community the full application of EU legislation would be...?

<sup>23</sup> QA7. Taking everything into account, would you say that (OUR COUNTRY) would benefit or not from being a member of the EU?

CY(tcc): 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) are opposed and 24% (-2) say that EU membership would be “neither good nor bad”. Seven in ten respondents (70%, +1) consider that EU membership would be beneficial for their country.

Having become positive again in the previous Standard Eurobarometer survey (EB87), the balance of opinion on joining the European Union continues to improve in **Turkey**, where 47% (+6 percentage points) of respondents now support EU membership, while 24% (-1) are opposed and 25% (-6) are neutral. 58% (+2) of respondents in Turkey think that their country would benefit from joining the EU, while 36% (-3) disagree.

Support for joining the EU has increased sharply in **Serbia**, where 43% of respondents (+5 percentage points) support EU membership, 27% (-1) are opposed and 26% (-3) are undecided. Respondents in this country are now far more likely to believe that their country would benefit from joining the EU and, for the first time since this indicator was introduced, more than half see EU membership as beneficial (57%, +9 versus 31%, -7).

Lastly, after a deterioration in the previous two Standard Eurobarometer surveys, the balance of opinion has recovered slightly in **Montenegro**. Support for EU membership is stable (43%, unchanged), while opposition has decreased slightly (18%, -2 percentage points). The proportion of respondents who *spontaneously* replied that membership of the European Union would be “neither good nor bad” remains high (33%, -1). Respondents in this country are now more likely to see benefits in joining the European Union (62%, +4 versus 29%, +1).

### c. Would it be easier to face the future outside the EU?

Six in ten Europeans (unchanged) disagree that their country “could better face the future outside the EU”, while 31% (+1 percentage point since spring 2017) take the opposite view and 9% (-1) express no opinion<sup>24</sup>.

With no significant changes since spring 2017, a majority of respondents in both the **euro area** countries (64%, unchanged, versus 28%, +1) and the **non-euro area** countries (52%, +1, versus 38%, +1) continue to reject this idea.

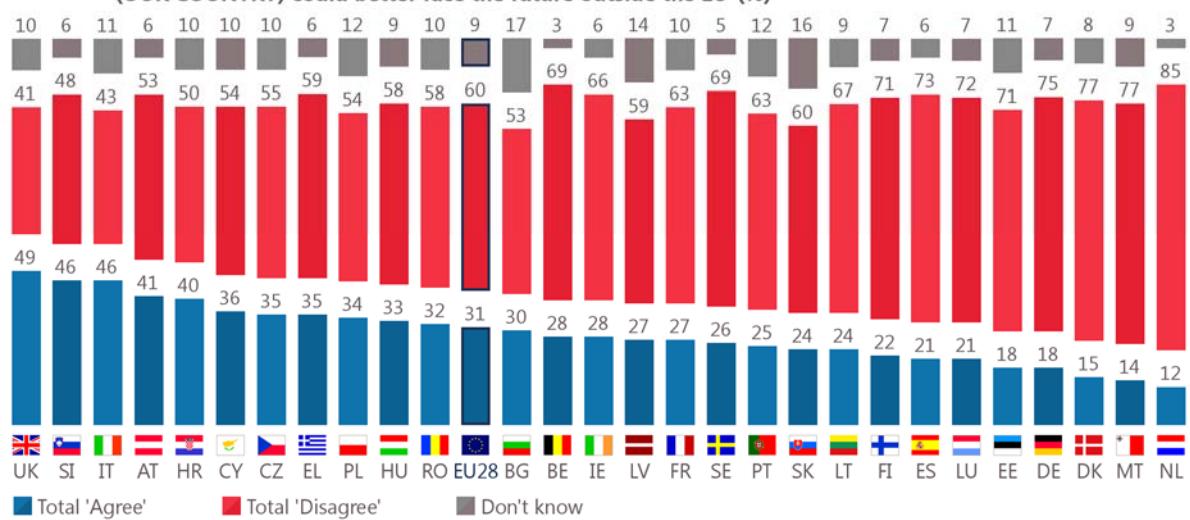
A majority of respondents in 26 Member States disagree with this idea (compared with 25 in spring 2017). This is now the majority view in Cyprus (54% versus 36%, instead of 43% versus 48% in spring 2017) and Slovenia (48% versus 46%, instead of 47% versus 48%), but is once again the minority opinion in Italy (43% versus 46%, instead of 45% versus 43%).

Respondents in the Netherlands (85%), Denmark and Malta (77% in both countries), and Germany (75%) are the most likely to disagree with this idea.

A majority of respondents agree that their country “could better face the future outside the EU” in Italy (46% versus 43%) and, as in spring 2017, the United Kingdom (49% versus 41%).

**QA18a.5** Please tell me to what extent you agree or disagree with each of the following statements.

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



<sup>24</sup> QA18a5. Please tell me to what extent you agree or disagree with the following statement. (OUR COUNTRY) could better face the future outside the EU.

**The socio-demographic data** show that a majority of respondents in all categories of the European population disagree that their country could better face the future outside the EU. Gender and age-related differences are negligible. However, the extent to which they disagree varies by social category. Thus, disagreement is more widespread among respondents who see themselves as middle or upper class than among those in the more modest categories. This view is held by:

- 70% of managers and 67% of students, compared with 53% of unemployed people and 57% of manual workers;
- 70% of those who studied up to the age of 20 and beyond compared with 52% of those who left school at the age of 15 or earlier;
- And 65% of those who never or almost never have difficulties paying their bills, compared with 46% of those who struggle to pay their bills most of the time (versus 43% "agree").

**QA18a.5** Please tell me to what extent 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
EU28	31	60	9
<b>Gender</b>			
Man	32	61	7
Woman	31	59	10
<b>Age</b>			
15-24	30	61	9
25-39	31	61	8
40-54	32	61	7
55 +	31	59	10
<b>Education (End of)</b>			
15-	34	52	14
16-19	35	56	9
20+	24	70	6
Still studying	26	67	7
<b>Socio-professional category</b>			
Self-employed	31	63	6
Managers	25	70	5
Other white collars	31	62	7
Manual workers	34	57	9
House persons	34	54	12
Unemployed	34	53	13
Retired	30	59	11
Students	26	67	7
<b>Difficulties paying bills</b>			
Most of the time	43	46	11
From time to time	35	55	10
Almost never/ Never	28	65	7
<b>Consider belonging to</b>			
The working class	36	52	12
The lower middle class	33	58	9
The middle class	30	64	6
The upper middle class	22	74	4
The upper class	25	74	1

The following tables show the average results by socio-demographic criteria in the European Union as a whole (EU28), in the six largest EU countries and in the countries benefiting or having benefited from European Union support to deal with the financial and economic crisis.

**QA18a.5** Please tell me to what extent you agree or disagree with each of the following statements.  
**(OUR COUNTRY) could better face the future outside the EU**  
 (% - TOTAL 'AGREE')

	EU28	DE	ES	FR	IT	PL	UK	EL	PT	IE	CY
<b>TOTAL</b>	31	18	21	27	46	34	49	35	25	28	36
<b>Gender</b>											
Male	32	21	21	24	47	34	52	37	23	30	31
Female	31	17	21	30	45	33	46	34	26	25	42
<b>Age</b>											
15-24	30	16	23	29	51	36	40	23	20	22	42
25-39	31	20	23	32	45	40	42	31	22	28	37
40-54	32	23	20	28	46	39	45	38	21	35	34
55 +	31	16	20	23	46	25	61	39	30	25	37
<b>Education (End of)</b>											
15-	34	16	22	36	44	31	62	45	28	29	42
16-19	35	23	20	32	45	32	54	37	24	28	44
20+	24	15	20	20	42	35	34	29	26	27	29
Still studying	26	7	17	31	49	36	38	19	17	25	31
<b>Socio-professional category</b>											
Self-employed	31	20	25	22	44	27	40	41	24	22	36
Managers	25	15	25	11	54	35	42	23	17	28	14
Other white collars	31	20	22	30	40	50	35	30	23	34	38
Manual workers	34	24	21	35	48	38	53	37	24	33	49
House persons	34	26	19	51	40	23	50	43	36	26	33
Unemployed	34	32	26	34	46	25	48	41	31	31	61
Retired	30	17	18	22	49	25	60	38	29	23	31
Students	26	7	17	31	49	36	38	19	17	25	31

**QA18a.5** Please tell me to what extent you agree or disagree with each of the following statements.  
**(OUR COUNTRY) could better face the future outside the EU**  
 (% - TOTAL 'DISAGREE')

	EU28	DE	ES	FR	IT	PL	UK	EL	PT	IE	CY
<b>TOTAL</b>	60	75	73	63	43	54	41	59	63	66	54
<b>Gender</b>											
Male	61	75	76	65	44	55	42	57	66	66	62
Female	59	74	71	60	43	55	41	60	62	66	46
<b>Age</b>											
15-24	61	76	75	59	38	52	51	69	71	68	43
25-39	61	75	74	55	49	50	45	65	70	66	49
40-54	61	71	73	65	47	50	45	55	70	61	58
55 +	59	77	72	66	39	62	32	54	54	69	58
<b>Education (End of)</b>											
15-	52	70	69	46	37	53	27	48	55	60	52
16-19	56	70	77	55	47	55	34	56	67	66	44
20+	70	82	76	74	52	56	60	67	72	70	63
Still studying	67	90	81	58	43	49	56	75	71	62	53
<b>Socio-professional category</b>											
Self-employed	63	75	72	75	51	65	51	53	70	75	56
Managers	70	83	75	83	44	57	48	73	81	68	76
Other white collars	62	69	72	63	55	42	60	65	70	63	52
Manual workers	57	69	75	53	43	51	37	60	67	58	46
House persons	54	63	70	37	46	64	37	54	43	69	59
Unemployed	53	58	67	53	33	53	39	50	52	58	23
Retired	59	76	75	66	32	62	31	54	52	74	62
Students	67	90	81	58	43	49	56	75	71	62	53

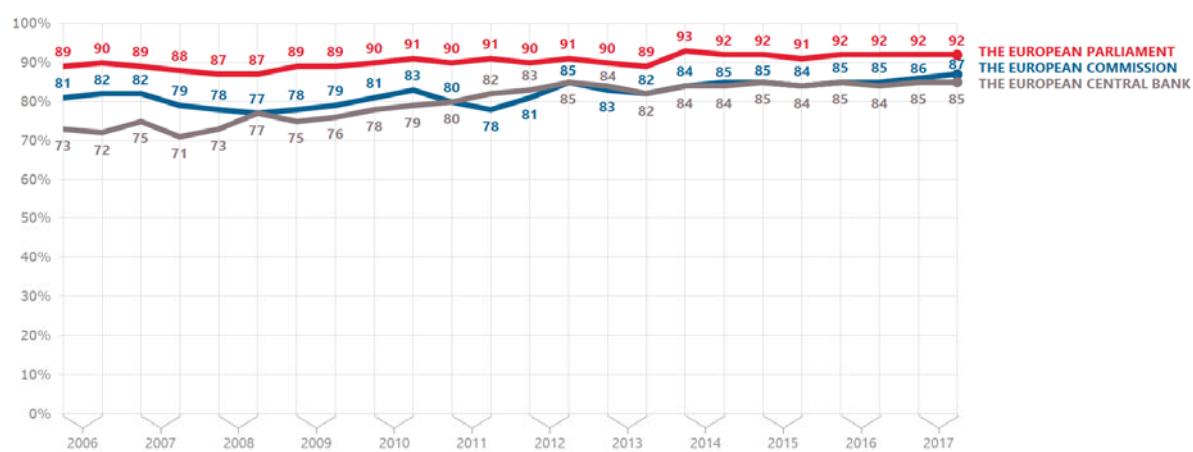
## 2 The European institutions

### a. Awareness of the European institutions and the trust they inspire

#### **The European Commission's trust index is positive for the first time since 2011**

With a score of 87% (+1 percentage point since spring 2017), **awareness** of the European Commission is now at an all-time high in the Standard Eurobarometer surveys. Awareness of the European Parliament (92%) and the European Central Bank (85%) is the same as in spring 2017.<sup>25</sup>

QA13 Have you heard of...?  
(% - EU - YES)



The recovery in **trust** in the European Commission and the European Central Bank, which began in spring 2016, has continued, albeit modestly, in this survey. However, it has come to a halt as regards the European Parliament<sup>26</sup>.

<sup>25</sup> QA13. Have you heard of...? 1. The European Parliament; 2. The European Commission; 3. The European Central Bank.

<sup>26</sup> QA14. 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.

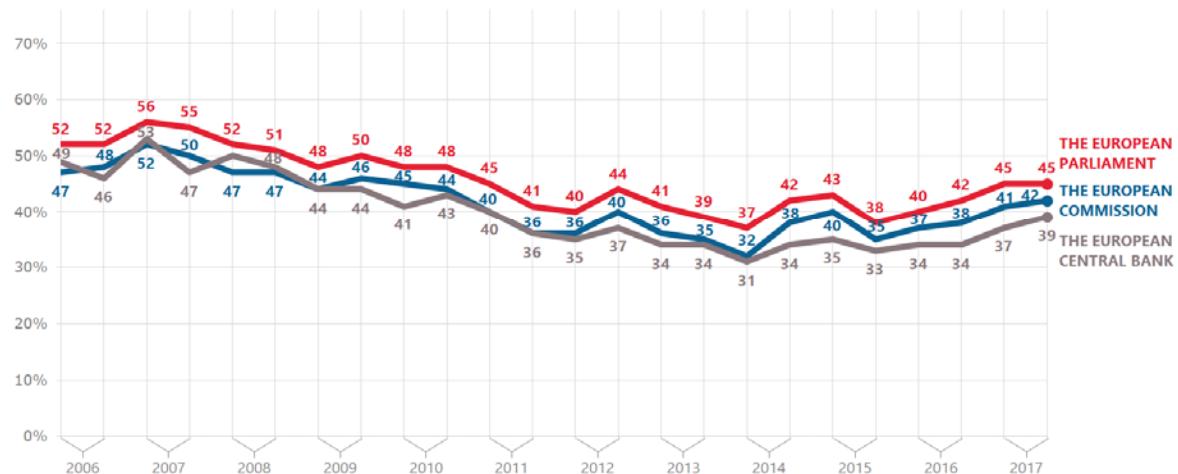
Trust in the European Commission has increased by one percentage point since spring 2017 (42%). The current level is therefore four percentage points higher than in autumn 2016, five percentage points higher than in spring 2016 and seven percentage points higher than in autumn 2015.

Trust in the European Central Bank has increased by two percentage points since spring 2017 (39%), five percentage points since spring and autumn 2016 and six percentage points versus autumn 2015.

Trust in the European Parliament is unchanged since spring 2017 (45%), but three percentage points up on autumn 2016, five percentage points up on spring 2016 and seven percentage points up on autumn 2015.

**QA14** And please tell me if you tend to trust or tend not to trust these European institutions.

(% - EU - TEND TO TRUST)



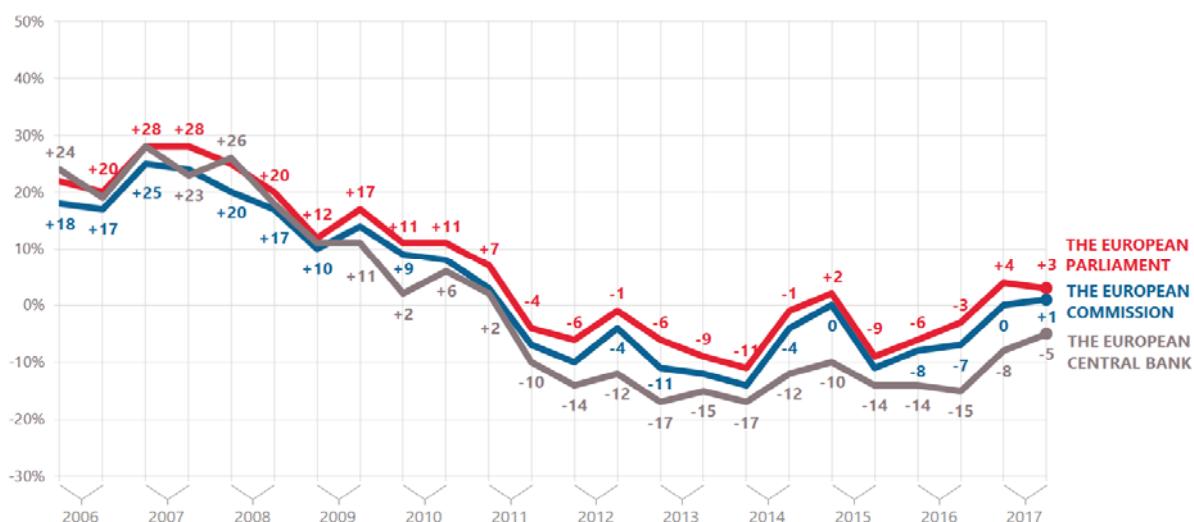
As a result of a slight increase in distrust (42% "tend not to trust", +1 percentage point), the European Parliament's **trust index**<sup>27</sup> has deteriorated slightly, but is nevertheless positive for the second successive time: it stands at +3, compared with +4 in spring 2017, -3 in autumn 2016, -6 in spring 2016 and -9 in autumn 2015.

The European Commission's trust index has improved by one percentage point and stands at +1 compared with 0 in spring 2017, -7 in autumn 2016, -8 in spring 2016 and -11 in autumn 2015. It is therefore now positive for the first time since spring 2011.

The European Central Bank's trust index has improved the most in this survey (+3 index points), but remains negative at -5, compared with -8 in spring 2017, -15 in autumn 2016 and -14 in spring 2016 and autumn 2015.

**QA14** And please tell me if you tend to trust or tend not to trust these European institutions.

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



<sup>27</sup> Difference between the "tend to trust" and "tend not to trust" answers

In this survey, **trust** in all three European institutions has increased most strikingly in Cyprus (+7 percentage points for trust in the European Parliament, +7 for the European Commission and +7 for the European Central Bank) and Spain (+6, +6, +7).

In contrast, **distrust** has increased the most in the United Kingdom (+8 percentage points for distrust in the European Parliament, the European Commission and the European Central Bank) and Luxembourg (+3, +7, +10).

**QA14** And please tell me if you tend to trust or tend not to trust these European institutions.  
(%)

	EU28	The European Parliament				The European Commission				The European Central Bank					
		Tend to trust	Aut 2017 - Sp.2017	Tend not to trust	Aut 2017 - Sp.2017	Don't know	Tend to trust	Aut 2017 - Sp.2017	Tend not to trust	Aut 2017 - Sp.2017	Don't know	Tend to trust	Aut 2017 - Sp.2017	Tend not to trust	Aut 2017 - Sp.2017
EU28	45	=	42	▲ 1	13	42	▲ 1	41	=	17	39	▲ 2	44	▼ 1	17
Euro Area	46	▲ 1	42	=	12	43	▲ 2	42	▼ 1	15	39	▲ 2	47	▼ 2	14
Non-Euro Area	43	=	42	▲ 3	15	41	▲ 1	40	▲ 3	19	38	▲ 1	38	▲ 2	24
BE	60	▲ 4	37	▼ 2	3	58	▲ 5	38	▼ 3	4	52	=	41	=	7
BG	54	▲ 4	32	▲ 2	14	51	▲ 3	31	▲ 1	18	47	▲ 3	31	▲ 1	22
CZ	38	▲ 5	52	▼ 5	10	35	▲ 6	50	▼ 5	15	38	▲ 3	43	▼ 5	19
DK	60	▲ 1	27	▼ 2	13	58	▲ 1	24	▼ 3	18	58	▼ 1	21	▼ 2	21
DE	54	▲ 2	34	▼ 2	12	49	▲ 2	34	▼ 3	17	39	▲ 2	49	▼ 4	12
EE	50	▼ 1	25	▲ 2	25	47	▼ 2	24	▲ 2	29	46	=	23	▲ 1	31
IE	54	▼ 1	33	▲ 3	13	52	▼ 1	34	▲ 2	14	44	▼ 2	44	▲ 5	12
EL	30	▲ 2	68	▼ 2	2	23	▲ 2	72	▼ 3	5	21	▲ 2	75	▼ 2	4
ES	41	▲ 6	47	▼ 7	12	38	▲ 6	48	▼ 7	14	35	▲ 7	53	▼ 9	12
FR	39	=	47	▲ 3	14	36	▼ 1	47	▲ 3	17	34	▲ 2	48	=	18
HR	50	▲ 2	41	=	9	42	▼ 2	45	▲ 2	13	37	▼ 1	51	▲ 4	12
IT	42	▼ 1	43	▲ 2	15	39	▲ 1	43	▲ 2	18	35	▲ 1	47	=	18
CY	44	▲ 7	46	▼ 3	10	41	▲ 7	46	▼ 3	13	36	▲ 7	54	▼ 2	10
LV	47	▲ 2	37	▲ 1	16	45	▲ 3	35	=	20	44	▲ 1	35	▲ 2	21
LT	59	▼ 4	22	▲ 2	19	58	▼ 3	20	▲ 2	22	52	▼ 4	22	▲ 2	26
LU	62	▲ 1	29	▲ 3	9	57	▼ 5	32	▲ 7	11	54	▼ 6	34	▲ 10	12
HU	53	=	37	▼ 1	10	53	▲ 2	36	▼ 2	11	47	▲ 3	35	▼ 5	18
MT	54	▼ 4	22	▲ 4	24	51	▼ 1	19	▲ 1	30	47	▼ 4	19	▲ 1	34
NL	58	▲ 1	35	▲ 2	7	56	▲ 2	29	=	15	63	▲ 8	26	▼ 5	11
AT	48	▲ 1	45	▼ 1	7	45	▲ 2	45	=	10	45	▼ 2	46	▲ 2	9
PL	43	▼ 3	36	=	21	45	▼ 1	33	▼ 1	22	36	=	34	▼ 4	30
PT	49	▼ 3	39	▲ 1	12	45	▼ 4	41	▲ 1	14	41	▼ 6	44	▲ 3	15
RO	56	▲ 3	32	▼ 3	12	50	▼ 3	34	▲ 1	16	44	▼ 4	38	▲ 2	18
SI	38	▼ 1	54	=	8	36	▼ 2	55	▲ 1	9	32	▼ 2	58	▲ 1	10
SK	46	▲ 4	45	=	9	44	▲ 5	43	▼ 1	13	46	▲ 5	40	=	14
FI	63	▲ 1	27	▲ 1	10	59	▼ 1	29	▲ 4	12	70	▲ 4	21	▼ 1	9
SE	65	▲ 4	27	▼ 1	8	60	▲ 4	24	=	16	61	▲ 2	26	=	13
UK	32	=	52	▲ 8	16	29	▲ 2	49	▲ 8	22	29	▲ 3	44	▲ 8	27

## The European Parliament

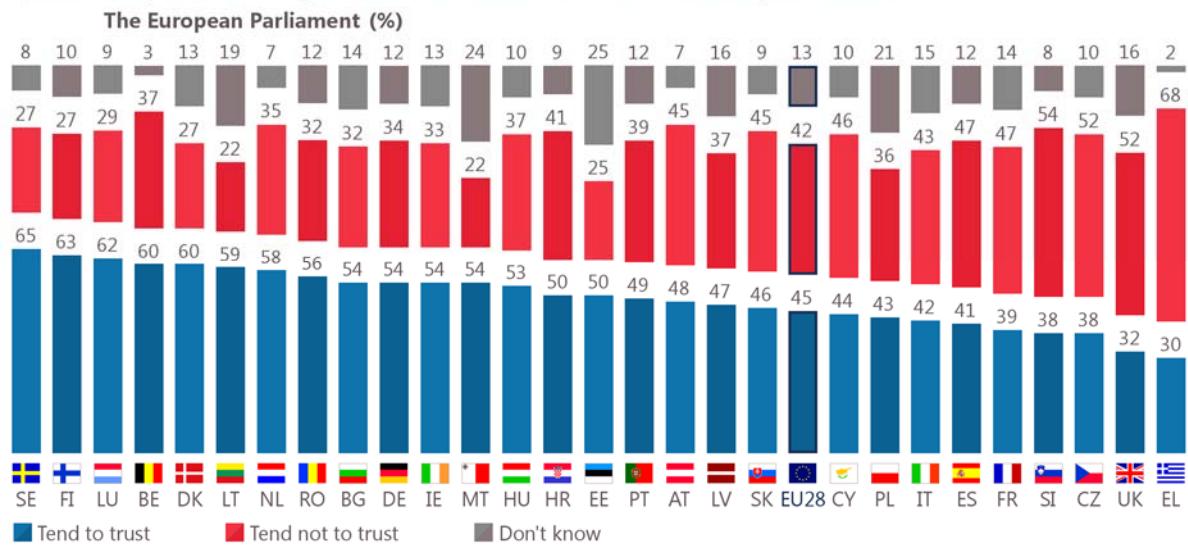
45% of Europeans (unchanged since spring 2017) “tend to trust” the European Parliament, while 42% (+1 percentage point) “tend not to trust” it and 13% (-1) express no opinion.

A majority of respondents in 20 EU Member States **trust** the European Parliament (as in spring 2017). In this survey, the majority now do so in Slovakia (46% versus 45%, instead of 42% versus 45% in spring 2017), but this is the minority view once more in Italy (42% versus 43%, instead of 43% versus 41%). Trust is most widespread in the Nordic countries (65% in Sweden, 63% in Finland and 60% in Denmark), the Benelux countries (62% in Luxembourg, 60% in Belgium and 58% in the Netherlands) and Lithuania (59%).

A majority of respondents continue to **distrust** the European Parliament in seven Member States: Greece (68%), Slovenia (54%), the Czech Republic and the United Kingdom (both 52%), France (47%), Spain (47%) and Cyprus (46%). The addition of Italy, where this is now the majority view, brings to eight the total number of Member States where majorities distrust this institution.

Since spring 2017, the European Parliament’s **trust index** has improved in 15 Member States, most markedly in Spain (+13 index points), Cyprus (+10) and the Czech Republic (+10). It is unchanged in Finland and has deteriorated in 12 Member States, most sharply in Malta (-8) and the United Kingdom (-8).

**QA14.1** And please tell me if you tend to trust or tend not to trust these European institutions.



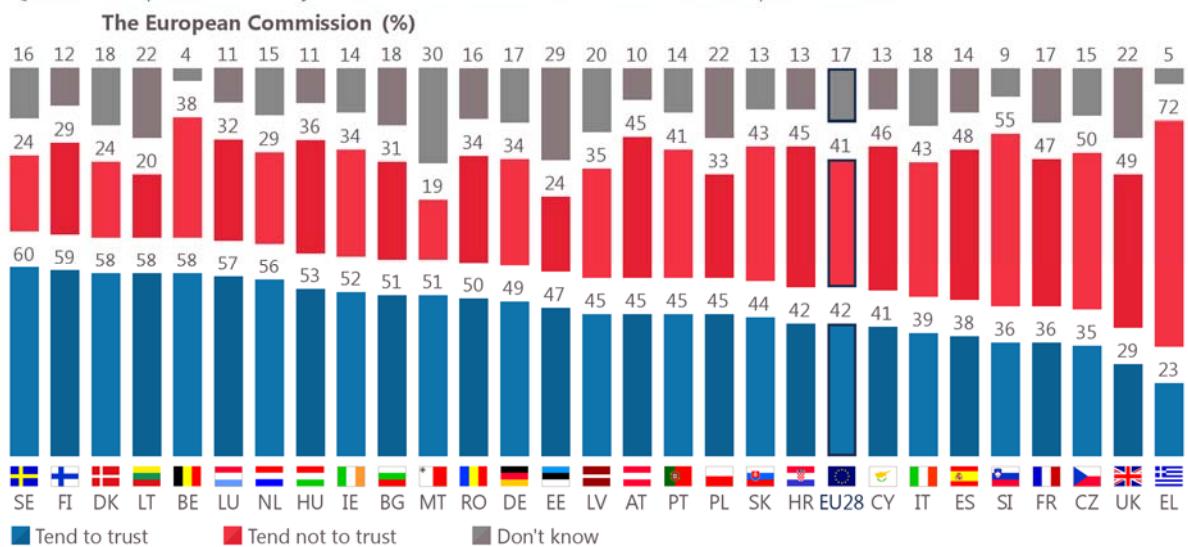
## The European Commission

42% of Europeans (+1 percentage point since spring 2017) “tend to trust” the European Commission, while 41% (unchanged) “tend not to trust” it and 17% (-1) express no opinion.

A majority of respondents in 18 EU Member States (as in spring 2017) **trust** the European Commission. In this survey, the majority now do so in Slovakia (44% versus 43%, instead of 39% versus 44% in spring 2017), but this is the minority view once more in Croatia (42% versus 45%, instead of 44% versus 43%). At least 50% of respondents in 12 Member States trust this institution, most notably in the Nordic countries (60% in Sweden, 59% in Finland and 58% in Denmark), the Benelux countries (58% in Belgium, 57% in Luxembourg and 56% in the Netherlands) and Lithuania (58%).

A majority of respondents in eight countries continue to **distrust** the European Commission: Greece (72% versus 23%), Slovenia (55% versus 36%), the Czech Republic (50% versus 35%), the United Kingdom (49% versus 29%), Spain (48% versus 38%), France (47% versus 36%), Cyprus (46% versus 41%) and Italy (43% versus 39%). The addition of Croatia, where this is now the majority opinion, brings to nine the total number of Member States in which distrust of this institution is predominant.

**QA14.2** And please tell me if you tend to trust or tend not to trust these European institutions.



**The trust index** has improved and is now positive again in the *euro area countries* (43% versus 42%, instead of 41% versus 43% in spring 2017). It has deteriorated slightly but is still positive in the *non-euro area countries* (41% versus 40%, instead of 40% versus 37%).

In Austria opinions are evenly divided (45% versus 45%), whereas a majority of respondents tended to distrust this institution in spring 2017 (45% versus 43%).

At +1, the European Commission’s **trust index** is positive for the first time since spring 2011.

Since spring 2017, the European Commission’s **trust index** has improved in 14 Member States, most markedly in Spain (+13 index points), the Czech Republic (+11), Cyprus (+10) and Belgium (+8). It is unchanged in Poland and has deteriorated in the remaining 13 Member States, most sharply in Luxembourg (-12) and the United Kingdom (-6).

## The European Central Bank

The European Central Bank's **trust index** remains negative but has improved since spring 2017 (39% versus 44%, instead of 37% versus 45%).

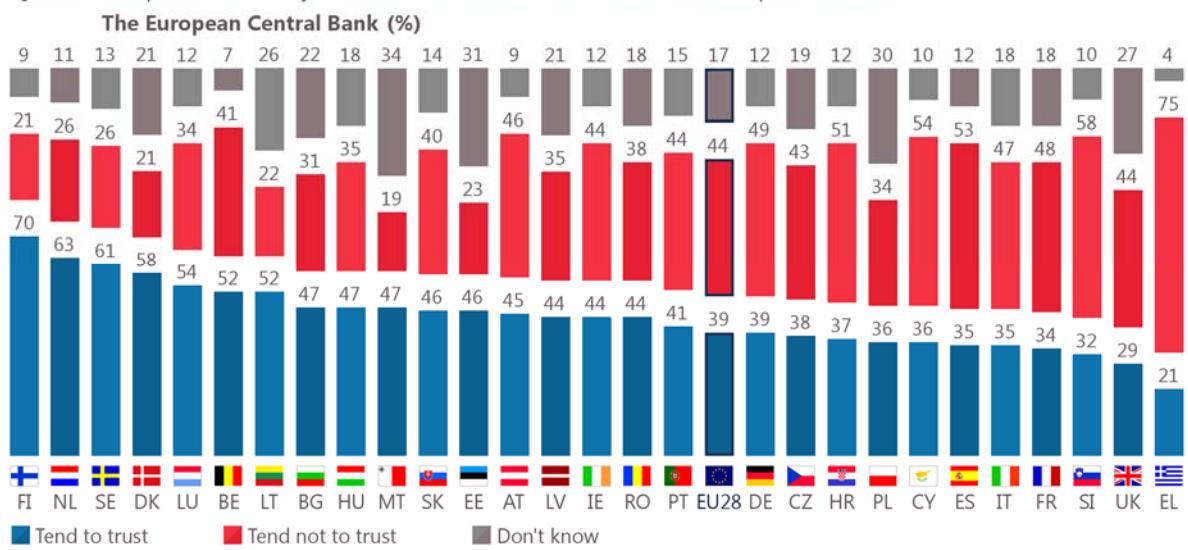
Although it remains negative in the **euro area** countries it has nevertheless strengthened (39% versus 47%, instead of 37% versus 49% in spring 2017). Trust (38%, +1 percentage point) and distrust (38%, +2) are evenly balanced in the **non-euro area** countries.

A majority of respondents in 15 EU Member States (compared with 17 in spring 2017) **trust** the European Central Bank. In this survey, the majority now do so in Poland (36% versus 34%, instead of 36% versus 38% in spring 2017), but this had become the minority view in Austria (45% versus 46%, instead of 47% versus 44%) and Portugal (41% versus 44%, instead of 47% versus 41%). As in the cases of the European Parliament and the European Commission, respondents in the Nordic countries (70% in Finland, 61% in Sweden and 58% in Denmark), the Benelux countries (63% in the Netherlands, 54% in Luxembourg and 52% in Belgium) and Lithuania (52%) are the most likely to trust the European Central Bank.

**Trust and distrust** are evenly balanced in Ireland (44% versus 44%), where a majority of respondents trusted the ECB in spring 2017 (46% versus 39%).

A majority of respondents therefore **distrust** this institution in 12 Member States, most notably in Greece (75%), Slovenia (58%) and Cyprus (54%).

**QA14.3** And please tell me if you tend to trust or tend not to trust these European institutions.



The European Central Bank's **trust index** has improved in 15 Member States, most markedly in Spain (+16 index points), the Netherlands (+13), Cyprus (+9), Hungary and the Czech Republic (both +8). It is unchanged in Belgium but has deteriorated in the remaining 12 Member States, most markedly in Luxembourg (-16), Portugal (-9) and Ireland (-7).

**QA14** And please tell me if you tend to trust or tend not to trust these European institutions.  
**(INDEX)**

		<b>The European Parliament</b>		<b>The European Commission</b>		<b>The European Central Bank</b>	
		Tend to trust - Tend not to trust Aut.2017	Aut.2017 - Sp.2017	Tend to trust - Tend not to trust Aut.2017	Aut.2017 - Sp.2017	Tend to trust - Tend not to trust Aut.2017	Aut.2017 - Sp.2017
EU28	EU	+3	▼ 1	EU28	EU	+1	▲ 1
EURO AREA		+4	▲ 1	EURO AREA		+1	▲ 3
NON-EURO AREA		+1	▼ 3	NON-EURO AREA		+1	▼ 2
ES	ES	-6	▲ 13	ES	ES	-10	▲ 13
CY	CY	-2	▲ 10	CZ	CZ	-15	▲ 11
CZ	CZ	-14	▲ 10	CY	CY	-5	▲ 10
RO	RO	+24	▲ 6	BE	BE	+20	▲ 8
BE	BE	+23	▲ 6	SK	SK	+1	▲ 6
SE	SE	+38	▲ 5	DE	DE	+15	▲ 5
DE	DE	+20	▲ 4	EL	EL	-49	▲ 5
SK	SK	+1	▲ 4	SE	SE	+36	▲ 4
EL	EL	-38	▲ 4	DK	DK	+34	▲ 4
DK	DK	+33	▲ 3	HU	HU	+17	▲ 4
BG	BG	+22	▲ 2	LV	LV	+10	▲ 3
HR	HR	+9	▲ 2	NL	NL	+27	▲ 2
AT	AT	+3	▲ 2	BG	BG	+20	▲ 2
HU	HU	+16	▲ 1	AT	AT	0	▲ 2
LV	LV	+10	▲ 1	PL	PL	+12	=
FI	FI	+36	=	IT	IT	-4	▼ 1
NL	NL	+23	▼ 1	MT	MT	+32	▼ 2
SI	SI	-16	▼ 1	IE	IE	+18	▼ 3
LU	LU	+33	▼ 2	SI	SI	-19	▼ 3
EE	EE	+25	▼ 3	EE	EE	+23	▼ 4
PL	PL	+7	▼ 3	RO	RO	+16	▼ 4
IT	IT	-1	▼ 3	HR	HR	-3	▼ 4
FR	FR	-8	▼ 3	FR	FR	-11	▼ 4
IE	IE	+21	▼ 4	LT	LT	+38	▼ 5
PT	PT	+10	▼ 4	FI	FI	+30	▼ 5
LT	LT	+37	▼ 6	PT	PT	+4	▼ 5
MT	MT	+32	▼ 8	UK	UK	-20	▼ 6
UK	UK	-20	▼ 8	LU	LU	+25	▼ 12

## b. Trust in the European Union

### Slight dip in trust in the European Union

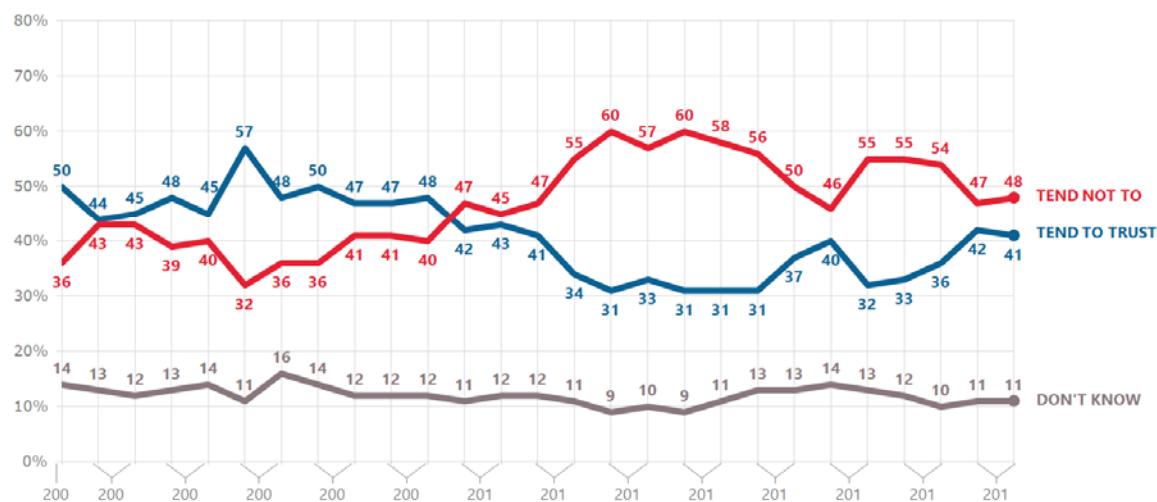
After a sharp improvement in the previous Standard Eurobarometer survey (EB87), the European Union's **trust index** has deteriorated very slightly in this survey. However, this minor change has not cancelled out the gains in trust recorded since autumn 2015.

41% of Europeans (-1 percentage point since spring 2017) trust the European Union, while 48% (+1) do not, and 11% (unchanged) express no opinion.<sup>28</sup>

The EU's **trust index** stands at -7, compared with -5 in spring 2017, but remains at a significantly higher level than in autumn 2016 (-18) and spring 2016 (-22).

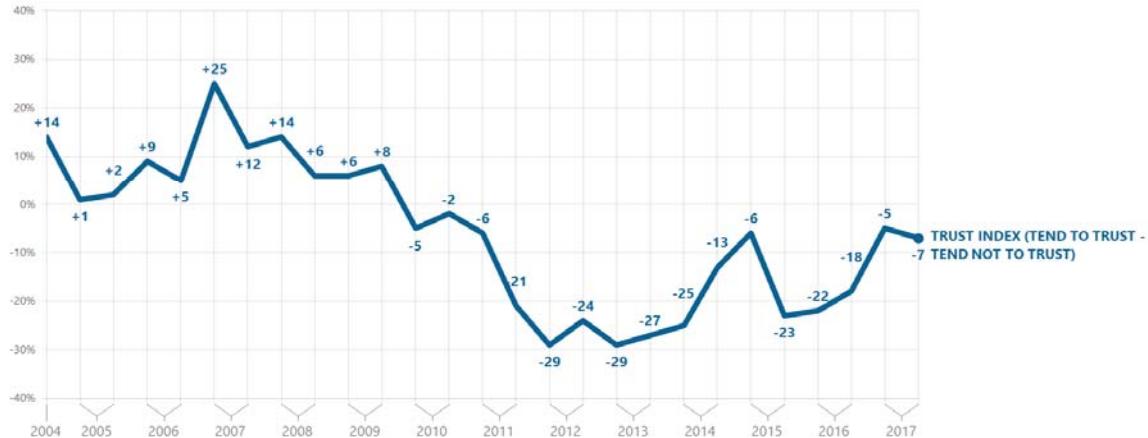
**QA8a.14** I would like to ask you a question about how much trust you have in certain institutions. For each of the following institutions, please tell me if you tend to trust it or tend not to trust it.

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



**QA8a.14** 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 (EU - TRUST INDEX (TEND TO TRUST - TEND NOT TO TRUST))**



<sup>28</sup> QA8a. 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. 14. The European Union.

**The trust index** is more or less stable in the *euro area* countries (41% versus 48%, instead of 42% versus 48% in spring 2017) and has deteriorated slightly in the *non-euro area* countries (40% versus 48%, instead of 41% versus 46%).

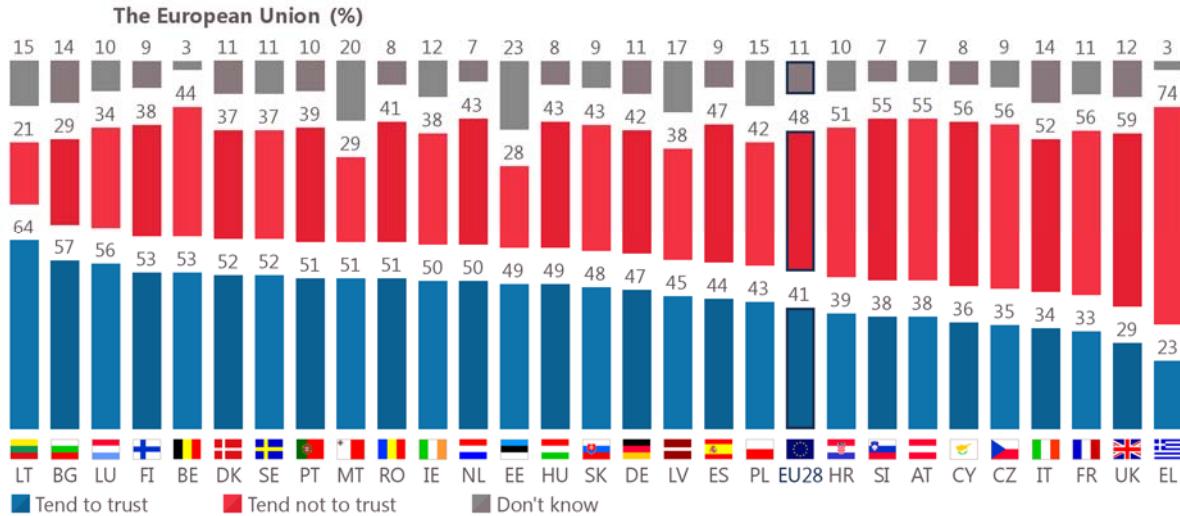
A majority of respondents in 18 Member States **trust** the EU (compared with 15 in spring 2017, 11 in autumn 2016 and nine in spring 2016).

A majority of respondents continue to trust the EU in Lithuania (64%), Bulgaria (57%), Luxembourg (56%), Finland (53%), Denmark (52%), Sweden (52%), Portugal (51%), Malta (51%), Romania (51%), Ireland (50% versus 38%), the Netherlands (50% versus 43%), Estonia (49% versus 28%), Germany (47% versus 42%) and Latvia (45% versus 38%).

In addition, a majority of respondents now trust the EU in Belgium (53% versus 44%, instead of 46% versus 51% in spring 2017), Hungary (49% versus 43%, instead of 46% versus 49%), Slovakia (48% versus 43%, instead of 43% versus 48%) and Poland (43% versus 42%, instead of 44% versus 44%), while respondents who trust the EU are now in the minority in Croatia (39% versus 51%, instead of 47% versus 45%).

A majority of respondents in ten Member States of the EU **distrust** the EU, with scores of more than 50% in Greece (74%), the United Kingdom (59%), the Czech Republic, Cyprus and France (all 56%), Austria and Slovenia (both 55%), Italy (52%), Croatia (51%). A relative majority do so in Spain (47% versus 44%).

**QA8a.14** 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.



Despite the near stability of the **trust index** in terms of the European average since spring 2017, there are significant differences in terms of national evolutions.

**The index of trust in the European Union** has improved in 12 Member States, most sharply in Belgium (+14 index points), Sweden (+13), the Czech Republic (+12), Slovakia (+10), Hungary (+9) and Spain (+8). However, it has deteriorated in 16 Member States, most markedly in France (-15), Malta (-15), Croatia (-14), Finland, Romania and Luxembourg (all -11) and the United Kingdom (-10).

The **trust index** improved dramatically (+31 index points) in France in the previous Standard Eurobarometer survey. Its deterioration in this survey has not cancelled all of the gains recorded between autumn 2016 and spring 2017.

**QA8a.14** 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 (INDEX)

		Tend to trust - Tend not to trust Sp.2017	Tend to trust - Tend not to trust Aut.2017	Aut.2017 - Sp.2017
EU28		-5	-7	▼ 2
BE		-5	+9	▲ 14
SE		+2	+15	▲ 13
CZ		-33	-21	▲ 12
SK		-5	+5	▲ 10
HU		-3	+6	▲ 9
ES		-11	-3	▲ 8
BG		+23	+28	▲ 5
CY		-24	-20	▲ 4
NL		+4	+7	▲ 3
DE		+2	+5	▲ 3
EL		-54	-51	▲ 3
PL		0	+1	▲ 1
LT		+44	+43	▼ 1
IE		+14	+12	▼ 2
LV		+11	+7	▼ 4
PT		+17	+12	▼ 5
DK		+21	+15	▼ 6
IT		-12	-18	▼ 6
AT		-10	-17	▼ 7
SI		-10	-17	▼ 7
EE		+29	+21	▼ 8
UK		-20	-30	▼ 10
LU		+33	+22	▼ 11
FI		+26	+15	▼ 11
RO		+21	+10	▼ 11
HR		+2	-12	▼ 14
MT		+37	+22	▼ 15
FR		-8	-23	▼ 15

**QA8a.14** 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 (%)**

		Tend to trust	Aut.2017 - Sp.2017	Tend not to trust	Aut.2017 - Sp.2017	Don't know
EU28		41	▼ 1	48	▲ 1	11
EURO AREA		41	▼ 1	48	=	11
NON-EURO AREA		40	▼ 1	48	▲ 2	12
BE		53	▲ 7	44	▼ 7	3
SK		48	▲ 5	43	▼ 5	9
CZ		35	▲ 5	56	▼ 7	9
SE		52	▲ 4	37	▼ 9	11
ES		44	▲ 4	47	▼ 4	9
BG		57	▲ 3	29	▼ 2	14
HU		49	▲ 3	43	▼ 6	8
CY		36	▲ 3	56	▼ 1	8
NL		50	▲ 1	43	▼ 2	7
EL		23	▲ 1	74	▼ 2	3
DE		47	=	42	▼ 3	11
LT		64	▼ 1	21	=	15
IE		50	▼ 1	38	▲ 1	12
PL		43	▼ 1	42	▼ 2	15
IT		34	▼ 2	52	▲ 4	14
UK		29	▼ 2	59	▲ 8	12
PT		51	▼ 3	39	▲ 2	10
LV		45	▼ 3	38	▲ 1	17
DK		52	▼ 4	37	▲ 2	11
AT		38	▼ 4	55	▲ 3	7
SI		38	▼ 4	55	▲ 3	7
LU		56	▼ 5	34	▲ 6	10
MT		51	▼ 5	29	▲ 10	20
FI		53	▼ 6	38	▲ 5	9
RO		51	▼ 6	41	▲ 5	8
EE		49	▼ 6	28	▲ 2	23
HR		39	▼ 8	51	▲ 6	10
FR		33	▼ 8	56	▲ 7	11

**The socio-demographic data** show that trust in the EU decreases in line with age and increases in line with the level of education and social position.

Thus, a majority of 15-24 year-olds (52%), students (60%), those who studied up to the age of 20 and beyond (48% versus 44%), managers (51%), those who never or almost never have difficulties paying their bills (45% versus 44%) and those who see themselves as upper middle class (57%) and upper class (64%) *trust* the EU.

In contrast, a majority of 25-39 year-olds (47% versus 44%), 40-54 year-olds (51%), those aged 55+ (51%), those who left school at the age of 15 or earlier (53%) or between the ages of 16 and 19 (52%), unemployed people (58%), manual workers (52%), self-employed people (51%), white-collar workers (47% versus 44%), those who struggle to pay their bills most of the time (67%) or from time to time (53%), and those who see themselves as working class (53%), lower middle class (56%) and middle class (46% versus 45%) *distrust* the EU.

**QA8a.14** 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 (% - EU)

	Tend to trust	Tend not to trust	Don't know
EU28	41	48	11
<b>Gender</b>			
Man	41	50	9
Woman	40	47	13
<b>Age</b>			
15-24	52	39	9
25-39	44	47	9
40-54	40	51	9
55 +	35	51	14
<b>Education (End of)</b>			
15-	31	53	16
16-19	37	52	11
20+	48	44	8
Still studying	60	31	9
<b>Socio-professional category</b>			
Self-employed	42	51	7
Managers	51	41	8
Other white collars	44	47	9
Manual workers	38	52	10
House persons	36	51	13
Unemployed	31	58	11
Retired	35	50	15
Students	60	31	9
<b>Consider belonging to</b>			
The working class	33	53	14
The lower middle class	33	56	11
The middle class	45	46	9
The upper middle class	57	37	6
The upper class	64	35	1

The following tables show the average results by socio-demographic criteria in the European Union as a whole (EU28), in the six largest EU countries and in the countries benefiting or having benefited from European Union support to deal with the financial and economic crisis.

**QA8a.14** 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**  
(% - TEND TO TRUST)

	EU28 	DE 	ES 	FR 	IT 	PL 	UK 	EL 	PT 	IE 	CY 
<b>TOTAL</b>	41	47	44	33	34	43	29	23	51	50	36
<b>Gender</b>											
Male	41	46	48	34	35	40	29	23	55	51	39
Female	40	48	40	32	33	46	28	24	48	49	33
<b>Age</b>											
15-24	52	64	49	40	45	52	47	37	56	61	30
25-39	44	51	41	30	42	43	35	25	54	45	38
40-54	40	45	40	35	37	45	28	20	51	51	44
55 +	35	40	48	31	26	39	17	21	48	49	32
<b>Education (End of)</b>											
15-	31	36	42	28	19	32	15	18	44	38	32
16-19	37	41	47	25	36	36	23	16	57	41	36
20+	48	56	44	40	44	51	39	30	58	57	39
Still studying	60	71	52	49	53	50	58	43	63	66	34
<b>Socio-professional category</b>											
Self-employed	42	45	54	44	36	51	28	18	45	44	55
Managers	51	62	45	36	52	59	40	29	65	57	38
Other white collars	44	41	44	42	40	47	33	20	54	53	37
Manual workers	38	39	41	31	35	40	25	23	49	43	29
House persons	36	62	44	22	21	36	34	24	45	42	32
Unemployed	31	32	38	28	19	23	27	17	48	37	29
Retired	35	38	47	31	28	40	16	24	46	52	40
Students	60	71	52	49	53	50	58	43	63	66	34

**QA8a.14** 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**  
(% - TEND NOT TO TRUST)

	EU28 	DE 	ES 	FR 	IT 	PL 	UK 	EL 	PT 	IE 	CY 
<b>TOTAL</b>	48	42	47	56	52	42	59	74	39	38	56
<b>Gender</b>											
Male	50	47	44	57	53	48	61	75	36	42	55
Female	47	38	50	55	51	36	57	73	40	35	57
<b>Age</b>											
15-24	39	29	47	48	41	39	43	59	33	28	61
25-39	47	40	53	61	45	44	51	73	41	44	59
40-54	51	43	50	57	57	41	60	78	42	40	49
55 +	51	47	40	55	54	41	70	76	36	37	56
<b>Education (End of)</b>											
15-	53	50	45	53	55	46	70	77	42	37	54
16-19	52	47	46	65	52	46	64	80	37	46	54
20+	44	36	52	51	51	38	51	69	37	35	58
Still studying	31	17	44	35	38	39	31	56	28	26	60
<b>Socio-professional category</b>											
Self-employed	51	49	41	45	58	40	58	80	46	42	45
Managers	41	30	51	51	44	34	55	71	33	37	54
Other white collars	47	43	51	52	52	42	53	80	42	35	62
Manual workers	52	52	49	60	49	45	62	73	44	45	64
House persons	51	32	46	68	62	41	46	74	34	39	56
Unemployed	58	57	56	66	59	55	60	76	35	53	55
Retired	50	48	39	55	49	40	70	72	36	37	49
Students	31	17	44	35	38	39	31	56	28	26	60

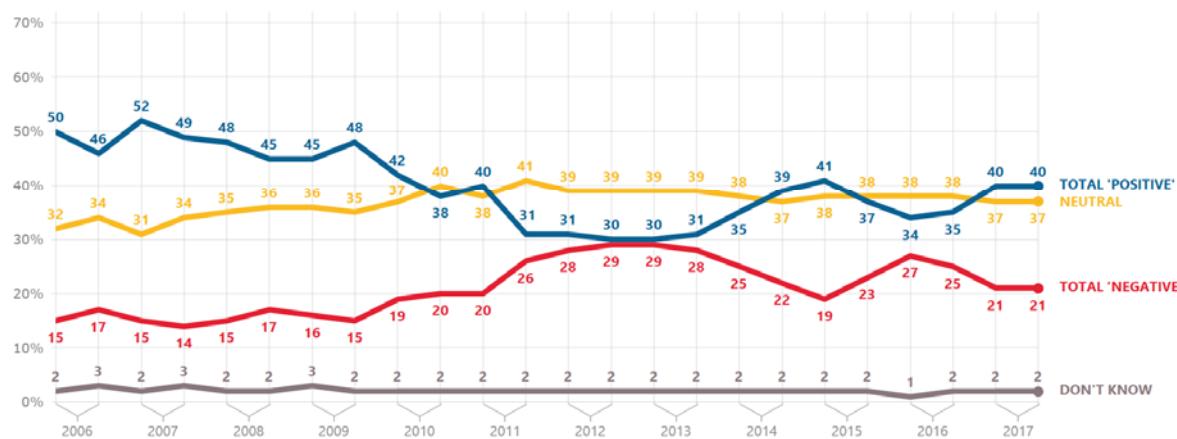
### c. The European Union's image

#### Stability of the European Union's image

For 40% of Europeans (unchanged since spring 2017) the European Union conjures up a positive image, while 21% think that its image is negative and 37% see it as neutral.<sup>29</sup>

After improving considerably in the previous Standard Eurobarometer survey (EB87), the European Union's image has thus stabilised in this autumn 2017 survey.

**QA9** In general, does the EU conjure up for you a very positive, fairly positive, neutral, fairly negative or very negative image?  
(% - EU)



Perceptions of the EU's image are exactly the same as in spring 2017 in the **euro area** countries (40% positive, 38% neutral and 20% negative) and have changed only very slightly in the **non-euro area** countries (42%, +1 percentage point for positive opinions, 34%, -1 for neutral opinions and 22%, +1 for negative opinions).

**QA9** In general, does the EU conjure up for you a very positive, fairly positive, neutral, fairly negative or very negative image?  
(%)

	EU28	EURO AREA	NON-EURO AREA	Total 'Positive'	Aut.2017 - Sp.2017	Neutral	Aut.2017 - Sp.2017	Total 'Negative'	Aut.2017 - Sp.2017	Don't know
					=		=		=	
	40	40	42		=	37	=	21	=	2

<sup>29</sup> QA9. In general, does the EU conjure up for you a very positive, fairly positive, neutral, fairly negative or very negative image?

**The European Union's image is perceived as positive** by a majority of respondents in 14 Member States (compared with 15 in spring 2017), most notably in Ireland (59%), Bulgaria and Luxembourg (both 57%), and Portugal (53%).

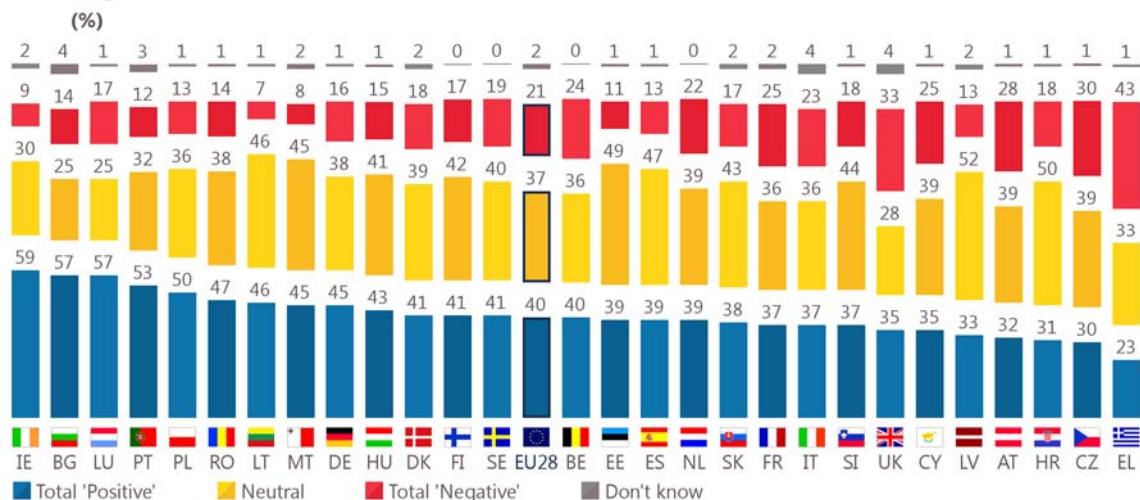
**Positive and neutral opinions** are neck and neck in Lithuania (46%), Malta (45%) and the Netherlands (39%).

**A majority of respondents see the EU's image as neutral** in ten Member States, led by Latvia (52%), Croatia (50%) and Estonia (49%). Within this group of countries, positive perceptions occupy second place everywhere, except in the Czech Republic where they are ranked equally with negative opinions (30%).

**Respondents are predominantly negative** in only one country: Greece (43%).

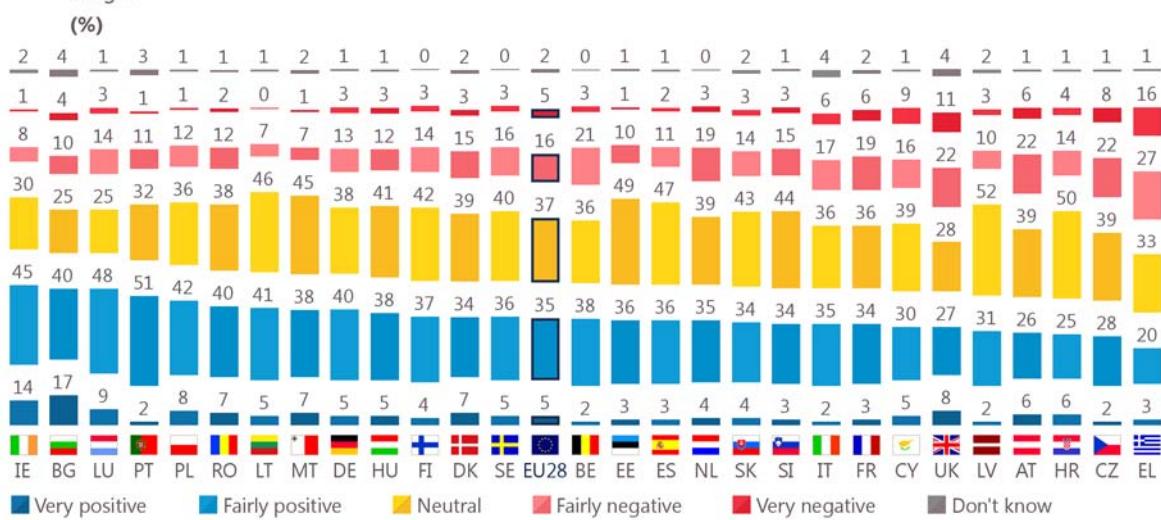
Since spring 2017, positive perceptions of the EU's image have gained ground in 12 Member States, most markedly in Hungary (43%, +7 percentage points since spring 2017), Cyprus (35%, +7), the Czech Republic (30%, +5) and Greece (23%, +5). They are stable in Luxembourg, Poland, Germany, Malta and Estonia, and have lost ground in 11 countries, most sharply in Croatia (31%, -5) and Lithuania (46%, -5).

**QA9** In general, does the EU conjure up for you a very positive, fairly positive, neutral, fairly negative or very negative image?



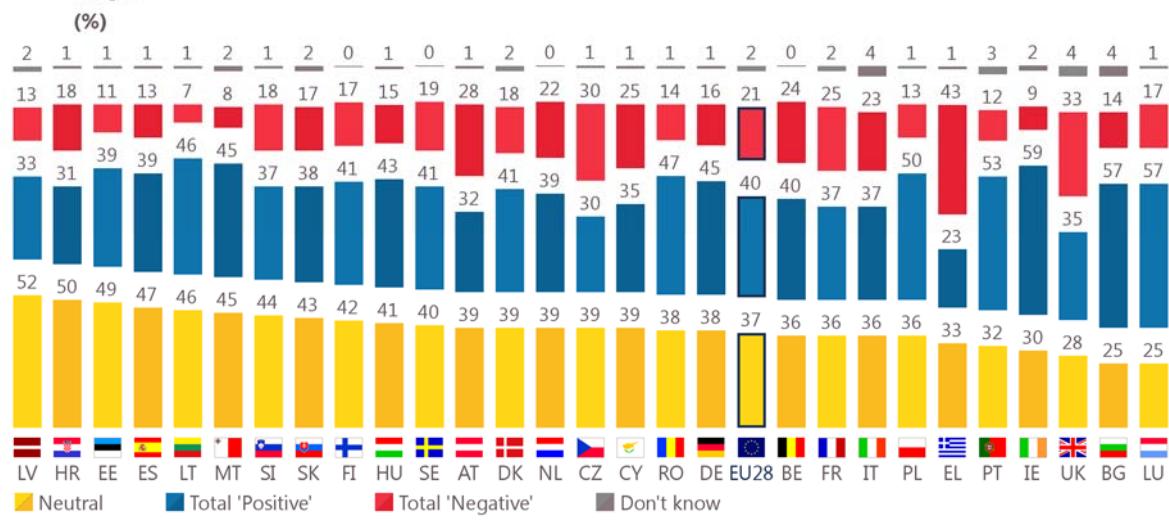
Breakdown of the "positive" total

**QA9** In general, does the EU conjure up for you a very positive, fairly positive, neutral, fairly negative or very negative image?



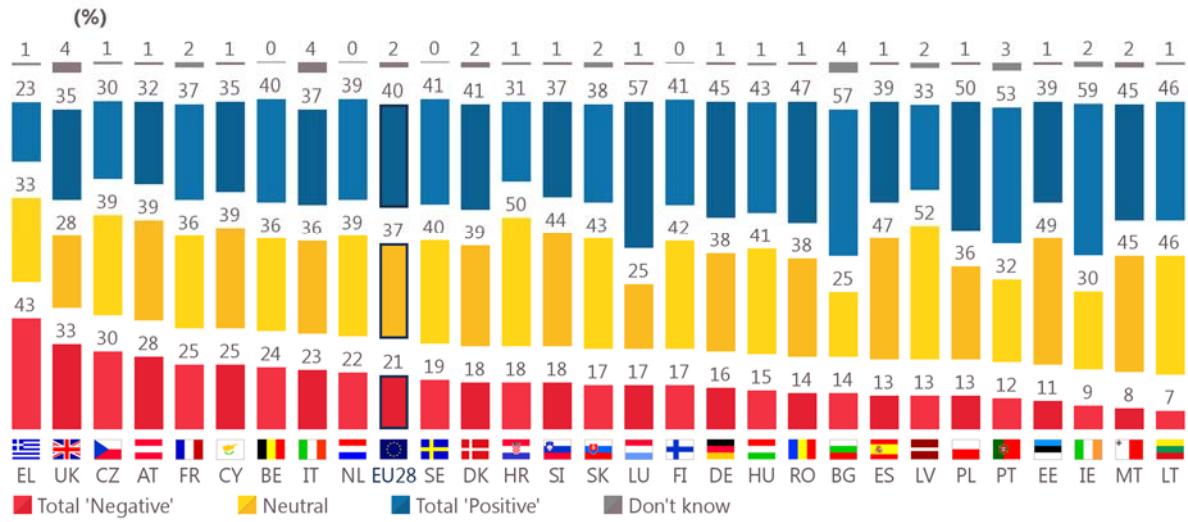
Breakdown of the "positive" total– Details of answers

**QA9** In general, does the EU conjure up for you a very positive, fairly positive, neutral, fairly negative or very negative image?



Breakdown of "neutral" answers

**QA9** In general, does the EU conjure up for you a very positive, fairly positive, neutral, fairly negative or very negative image?



Breakdown of the "negative" total

**QA9** In general, does the EU conjure up for you a very positive, fairly positive, neutral, fairly negative or very negative image?  
(%)

	Total 'Positive'	Aut.2017 - Sp.2017	Neutral	Aut.2017 - Sp.2017	Total 'Negative'	Aut.2017 - Sp.2017	Don't know
EU28	40	=	37	=	21	=	2
HU	43	▲ 7	41	▼ 1	15	▼ 6	1
CY	35	▲ 7	39	▼ 6	25	▼ 1	1
CZ	30	▲ 5	39	▼ 2	30	▼ 4	1
EL	23	▲ 5	33	▼ 1	43	▼ 4	1
SI	37	▲ 3	44	▼ 2	18	▼ 1	1
BG	57	▲ 2	25	▼ 3	14	=	4
FI	41	▲ 2	42	▼ 2	17	▲ 1	0
ES	39	▲ 2	47	▲ 2	13	▼ 3	1
SK	38	▲ 2	43	▼ 1	17	▼ 2	2
IE	59	▲ 1	30	▲ 3	9	▼ 4	2
BE	40	▲ 1	36	▼ 3	24	▲ 2	0
IT	37	▲ 1	36	▲ 1	23	▼ 3	4
LU	57	=	25	▼ 1	17	▲ 1	1
PL	50	=	36	▼ 2	13	▲ 2	1
DE	45	=	38	▼ 1	16	▲ 1	1
MT	45	=	45	=	8	▲ 2	2
EE	39	=	49	▲ 1	11	=	1
PT	53	▼ 1	32	▲ 2	12	▼ 1	3
DK	41	▼ 1	39	=	18	▲ 1	2
NL	39	▼ 1	39	▲ 3	22	▼ 2	0
UK	35	▼ 1	28	▼ 2	33	▲ 4	4
SE	41	▼ 2	40	▲ 5	19	▼ 3	0
FR	37	▼ 3	36	=	25	▲ 3	2
AT	32	▼ 3	39	▲ 5	28	▼ 2	1
RO	47	▼ 4	38	▲ 2	14	▲ 2	1
LV	33	▼ 4	52	▲ 4	13	▼ 1	2
LT	46	▼ 5	46	▲ 4	7	▲ 1	1
HR	31	▼ 5	50	▲ 4	18	▲ 2	1

**The socio-demographic data** show that the positive image of the EU outweighs the negative image in all socio-demographic categories, except among those who struggle to pay their bills most of the time (37% versus 25% of positive opinions).

However, the positive image is far more widespread among young people (50% among 15-24 year-olds versus 36% among those aged 55+), those who studied the longest (50% among those who studied up to the age of 20 and beyond versus 29% among those who left school at the age of 15 or earlier), and managers (54% versus 35% among manual workers and 28% among unemployed people).

**QA9** 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
EU28	40	37	21	2
 Gender				
Man	42	35	22	1
Woman	38	39	20	3
 Age				
15-24	50	35	14	1
25-39	43	37	19	1
40-54	41	38	20	1
55 +	36	37	25	2
 Education (End of)				
15-	29	39	28	4
16-19	36	40	23	1
20+	50	34	16	0
Still studying	58	31	10	1
 Socio-professional category				
Self-employed	42	38	19	1
Managers	54	29	17	0
Other white collars	45	37	17	1
Manual workers	35	42	21	2
House persons	37	35	24	4
Unemployed	28	43	27	2
Retired	35	37	25	3
Students	58	31	10	1
 Difficulties paying bills				
Most of the time	25	36	37	2
From time to time	34	41	23	2
Almost never/ Never	45	36	18	1
 Consider belonging to				
The working class	31	39	27	3
The lower middle class	34	39	25	2
The middle class	45	37	17	1
The upper middle class	57	28	14	1
The upper class	61	18	19	2

The following tables show the average results by socio-demographic criteria in the European Union as a whole (EU28), in the six largest EU countries and in the countries benefiting or having benefited from European Union support to deal with the financial and economic crisis.

**QA9** In general, does the EU conjure up for you a very positive, fairly positive, neutral, fairly negative or very negative image?  
(% - TOTAL 'POSITIVE')

	EU28	DE	ES	FR	IT	PL	UK	EL	PT	IE	CY
<b>TOTAL</b>	40	45	39	37	37	50	35	23	53	59	35
<b>Gender</b>											
Male	42	45	41	40	41	51	37	22	58	60	38
Female	38	45	38	34	33	49	33	23	48	59	31
<b>Age</b>											
15-24	50	52	41	43	48	54	48	36	64	59	36
25-39	43	48	40	34	39	51	40	24	58	59	35
40-54	41	46	36	37	41	56	34	22	56	64	36
55 +	36	41	41	36	30	44	28	19	46	56	31
<b>Education (End of)</b>											
15-	29	32	40	23	24	30	22	16	44	41	30
16-19	36	37	36	28	40	43	29	21	57	55	27
20+	50	60	45	47	46	59	50	29	65	69	40
Still studying	58	69	46	51	49	63	57	40	67	62	41
<b>Socio-professional category</b>											
Self-employed	42	45	40	48	34	68	37	18	60	74	42
Managers	54	62	49	52	48	63	45	35	74	67	39
Other white collars	45	36	51	36	50	55	49	25	63	58	29
Manual workers	35	34	34	32	40	41	30	20	51	55	28
House persons	37	56	39	23	24	48	39	21	28	51	33
Unemployed	28	25	34	30	13	38	26	18	40	48	33
Retired	35	39	41	35	29	45	26	22	44	63	36
Students	58	69	46	51	49	63	57	40	67	62	41

**QA9** In general, does the EU conjure up for you a very positive, fairly positive, neutral, fairly negative or very negative image?  
(% - NEUTRAL)

	EU28	DE	ES	FR	IT	PL	UK	EL	PT	IE	CY
<b>TOTAL</b>	37	38	47	36	36	36	28	33	32	30	39
<b>Gender</b>											
Male	35	36	47	34	33	32	26	33	29	28	33
Female	39	40	47	38	38	40	31	34	36	32	45
<b>Age</b>											
15-24	35	36	47	37	32	36	29	36	30	33	47
25-39	37	35	48	37	38	36	31	39	27	31	36
40-54	38	38	50	38	37	34	35	32	31	25	36
55 +	37	40	44	35	35	37	22	31	37	32	40
<b>Education (End of)</b>											
15-	39	45	42	47	33	39	23	32	38	40	38
16-19	40	44	51	39	35	42	30	32	30	31	43
20+	34	28	45	32	37	31	29	34	28	26	36
Still studying	31	22	42	31	40	23	28	34	29	33	41
<b>Socio-professional category</b>											
Self-employed	38	34	54	31	45	24	42	37	25	15	25
Managers	29	29	38	28	26	28	24	30	17	27	31
Other white collars	37	47	39	36	31	38	31	34	26	35	46
Manual workers	42	48	53	40	34	44	28	39	36	33	43
House persons	35	24	48	29	37	41	25	21	43	34	43
Unemployed	43	43	49	43	37	45	42	37	36	34	42
Retired	37	42	41	38	36	34	24	32	39	26	36
Students	31	22	42	31	40	23	28	34	29	33	41

**QA9** In general, does the EU conjure up for you a very positive, fairly positive, neutral, fairly negative or very negative image?  
(% - TOTAL 'NEGATIVE')

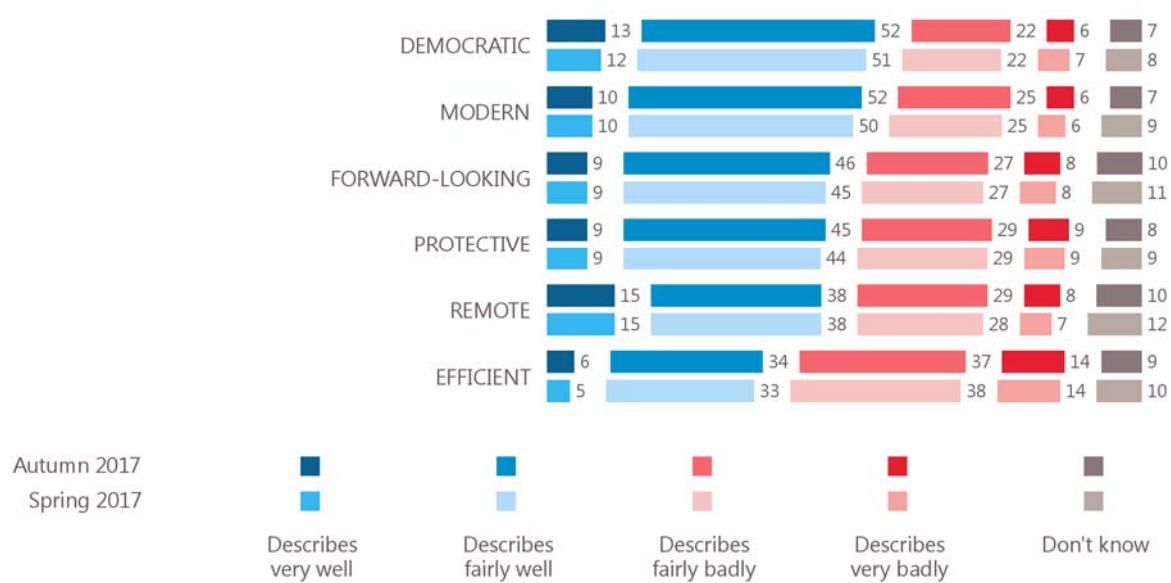
	EU28	DE	ES	FR	IT	PL	UK	EL	PT	IE	CY
<b>TOTAL</b>	21	16	13	25	23	13	33	43	12	9	25
Gender											
Male	22	19	11	25	24	16	35	45	12	11	29
Female	20	14	14	26	23	9	31	41	12	7	22
Age											
15-24	14	10	12	18	18	10	20	26	5	6	17
25-39	19	16	12	28	20	12	25	36	14	9	28
40-54	20	15	13	25	22	7	28	46	12	10	27
55 +	25	19	13	26	27	18	47	49	12	10	27
Education (End of)											
15-	28	23	16	27	32	26	48	50	13	14	27
16-19	23	19	12	31	24	13	37	45	13	12	30
20+	16	11	10	20	17	9	20	37	7	5	23
Still studying	10	6	12	18	10	14	15	26	3	5	18
Socio-professional category											
Self-employed	19	21	6	21	20	7	20	45	14	11	33
Managers	17	9	13	20	26	9	30	35	9	5	30
Other white collars	17	15	10	27	19	7	20	41	11	6	25
Manual workers	21	17	12	25	23	12	38	38	11	11	29
House persons	24	20	11	45	32	9	26	55	17	11	16
Unemployed	27	32	17	26	46	17	27	43	19	13	25
Retired	25	19	15	25	25	19	45	45	12	10	25
Students	10	6	12	18	10	14	15	26	3	5	18

### The European Union's image attributes

A majority of respondents see the European Union as “**democratic**”, “**modern**”, “**forward-looking**” and “**protective**”. These descriptors have gained ground very slightly, with increases of between one and two percentage points since spring 2017, and between three and four percentage points since autumn 2016. These attributes are therefore tending to consolidate.

However, more than half of respondents see the European Union as “**inefficient**” and “**remote**” (51% and 53% respectively).<sup>30</sup>

**QA12** 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.  
(% - EU)



<sup>30</sup> QA12. 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. Remote; 6. Forward-looking

In terms of these attributes, the European Union's image has improved across the board, most markedly in Spain, the Czech Republic and Cyprus. It has significantly deteriorated only in Romania and Denmark.

**QA12** 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.

(% - TOTAL 'DESCRIBES WELL')

	Democratic	Aut.2017 - Sp.2017	Modern	Aut.2017 - Sp.2017	Forward-looking	Aut.2017 - Sp.2017	Protective	Aut.2017 - Sp.2017	Remote	Aut.2017 - Sp.2017	Efficient	Aut.2017 - Sp.2017
EU28	65	▲ 2	62	▲ 2	55	▲ 1	54	▲ 1	53	=	40	▲ 2
BE	67	▼ 2	69	▲ 4	57	▲ 4	63	=	61	▲ 2	44	=
BG	75	▼ 1	80	▲ 2	67	=	62	▲ 1	50	▲ 5	62	▲ 2
CZ	64	▲ 9	65	▲ 4	51	▲ 5	54	▲ 4	33	▼ 2	49	▲ 8
DK	70	▼ 3	45	▼ 2	42	▼ 7	65	▼ 4	54	▼ 3	26	▼ 5
DE	76	▲ 4	59	▲ 3	65	▲ 4	60	▲ 3	49	▼ 3	37	▲ 4
EE	68	▲ 1	72	▲ 4	56	▼ 1	61	▲ 2	51	▲ 1	41	▼ 2
IE	76	▲ 3	81	▲ 3	74	▲ 3	66	▼ 3	56	▲ 5	62	▲ 6
EL	45	▲ 7	58	▲ 10	28	▲ 4	29	▲ 1	66	▼ 5	24	▲ 4
ES	73	▲ 8	67	▲ 11	60	▲ 12	60	▲ 11	59	▼ 1	46	▲ 11
FR	58	▼ 2	55	▼ 1	48	▼ 4	42	▼ 5	55	▲ 1	26	▼ 5
HR	67	▼ 3	77	▲ 1	69	▲ 1	59	=	45	▼ 4	57	▼ 2
IT	56	▼ 2	63	▼ 2	50	▼ 2	42	▲ 3	59	▲ 2	39	=
CY	64	▲ 12	61	▲ 8	47	▲ 13	50	▲ 15	50	▲ 2	43	▲ 9
LV	64	▼ 4	73	▲ 2	53	▲ 3	56	▼ 1	50	▲ 5	38	▼ 2
LT	80	▼ 1	79	=	74	▲ 2	78	▲ 5	46	=	72	▲ 3
LU	71	▼ 2	68	▲ 5	59	▲ 1	58	=	45	▼ 3	36	▼ 9
HU	66	▲ 5	70	▲ 5	58	▲ 5	53	▲ 5	55	▲ 1	57	▲ 7
MT	* 73	▲ 2	73	▼ 4	62	▼ 3	60	▼ 8	40	▼ 4	53	▼ 3
NL	62	▲ 1	46	▲ 3	46	▲ 2	66	▲ 2	64	▲ 4	14	▼ 2
AT	62	▲ 1	68	▲ 3	58	▲ 7	57	▲ 8	56	▼ 2	43	▲ 2
PL	73	▲ 2	75	=	64	▼ 1	60	=	46	▲ 2	57	▼ 3
PT	67	▲ 1	78	▲ 1	60	▼ 8	50	▲ 3	57	▼ 1	50	▲ 4
RO	71	▼ 4	74	▼ 3	65	▼ 7	55	▼ 8	49	=	56	▼ 5
SI	58	▲ 1	60	▼ 2	57	▲ 1	51	▲ 5	47	▼ 2	39	▲ 1
SK	60	▲ 2	68	▲ 3	58	▲ 4	54	▲ 4	46	▼ 5	45	▲ 2
FI	65	▼ 4	66	▼ 2	49	=	56	=	72	▲ 1	33	=
SE	68	▲ 2	54	▲ 5	43	=	62	=	55	▼ 2	19	▲ 1
UK	52	▲ 2	53	▲ 1	49	=	57	▼ 2	47	▲ 2	35	▲ 3

## Positive image attributes

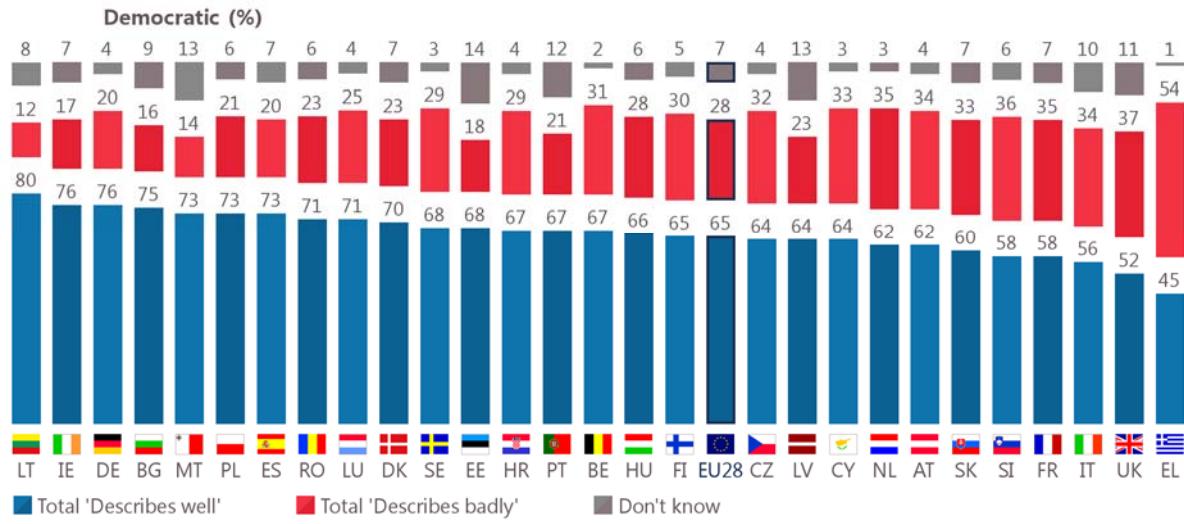
### “Democratic”

Almost two-thirds of Europeans (65%, +2 percentage points since spring 2017) consider that “democratic” is an apt description of the European Union, while 28% (-1) disagree and 7% (-1) express no opinion.

The European Union is perceived as “democratic” by more than half of respondents in all the Member States except Greece (45% versus 54% “describes badly”). This opinion is the most widespread in Lithuania (80%), Ireland and Germany (both 76%), and Bulgaria (75%).

Since spring 2017, the image of the EU as democratic has improved in 17 Member States, led by Cyprus (64%, +12 percentage points), the Czech Republic (64%, +9), Spain (73%, +8) and Greece (45%, +7). It has deteriorated relatively slightly in the other 11 countries, with a maximum decline of four percentage points in Romania (71%), Finland (65%) and Latvia (64%).

**QA12.2** 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.



**"Modern"**

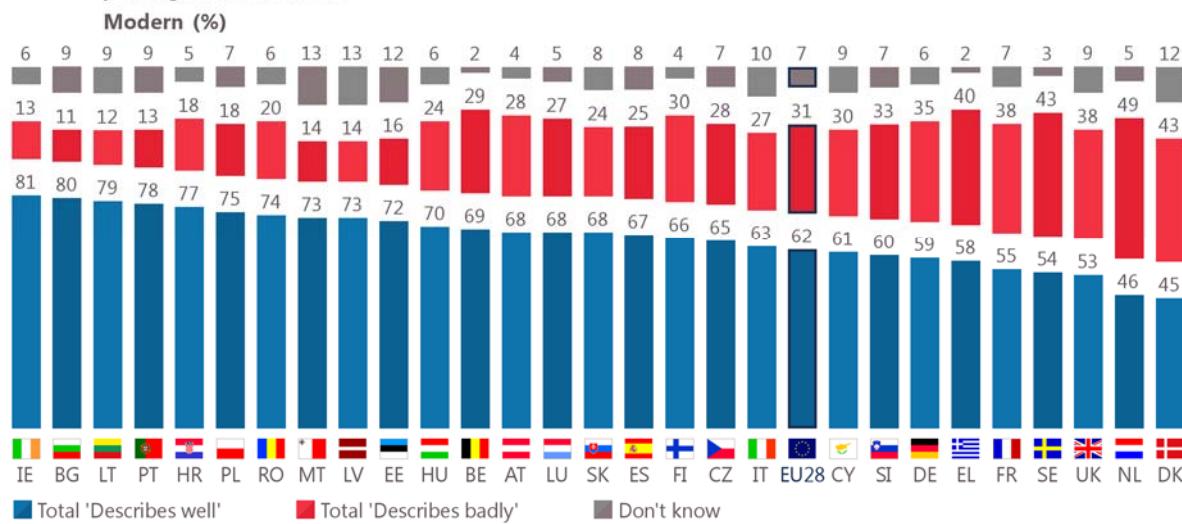
62% of Europeans (+2 percentage points since spring 2017) consider that the EU is "**modern**", while 31% (unchanged) take the opposite view and 7% (-2) express no opinion.

The European Union is predominantly seen as modern in 27 Member States (compared with 26 in spring 2017). This is now the majority opinion in Greece (58% versus 40%, instead of 48% versus 48% in spring 2017). Respondents in Ireland (81%), Bulgaria (80%), Lithuania (79%) and Portugal (78%) are the most likely to see the EU as modern.

Respondents who see the EU as modern remain in the minority in the Netherlands (46% versus 49%).

Since spring 2017, the proportion of respondents who see the EU as modern has increased in 19 Member States, led by in Spain (67%, +11 percentage points), Greece (58%, +10) and Cyprus (61%, +8). It is stable in Lithuania (79%) and Poland (75%) and has decreased marginally in seven countries, in particular in Malta (73%, -4).

**QA12.1** 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.



"Forward-looking"

55% of Europeans (+1 percentage point since spring 2017) perceive the European Union as a "**forward-looking**" institution, while 35% (unchanged) take the opposite view and 10% (-1) express no opinion.

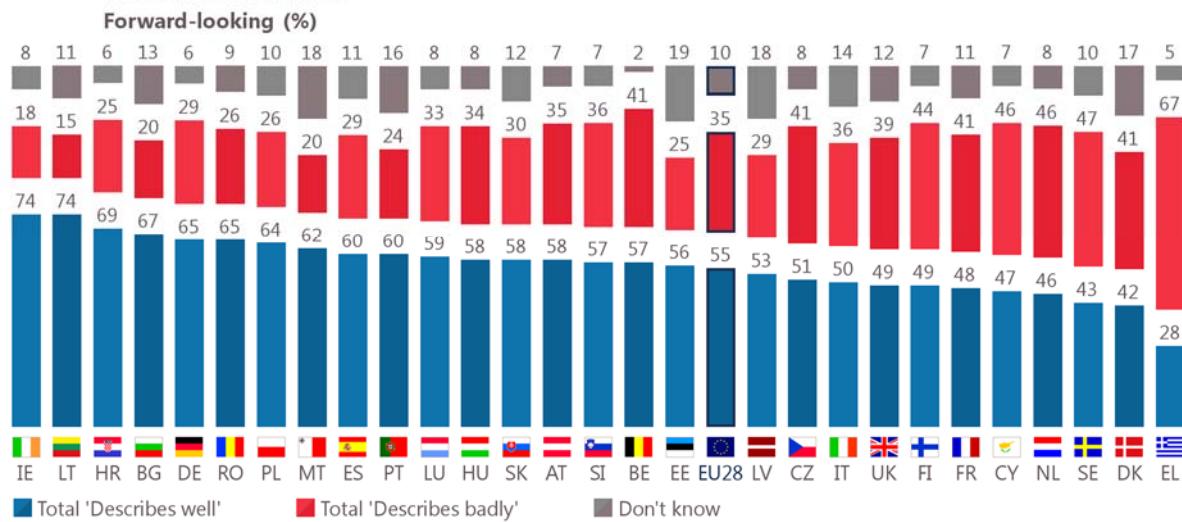
A majority of respondents in 25 EU Member States (compared with 24 in spring 2017) consider that the European Union is "forward-looking". This is now the majority view in Cyprus (47% versus 46%, instead of 34% versus 52% in spring 2017). Respondents in Ireland and Lithuania (both 74%), and Croatia (69%) are the most likely to agree.

Positive and negative opinions are evenly divided in the Netherlands (46% versus 46%), whereas they were predominantly negative in spring 2017 (44% versus 47%).

There are now only two Member States, namely Greece (28% versus 67%) and Sweden (43% versus 47%), where only a minority of respondents consider that the EU is "forward-looking".

Since spring 2017, this descriptor has gained ground in 16 Member States, most significantly in Cyprus (47%, +13 percentage points), Spain (60%, +12) and Austria (58%, +7). It is stable in Bulgaria (67%), Finland (49%), the United Kingdom (49%) and Sweden (43%). It has lost ground in eight Member States, most markedly in Portugal (60%, -8), Romania (65%, -7) and Denmark (42%, -7).

**QA12.6** 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.



**"Protective"**

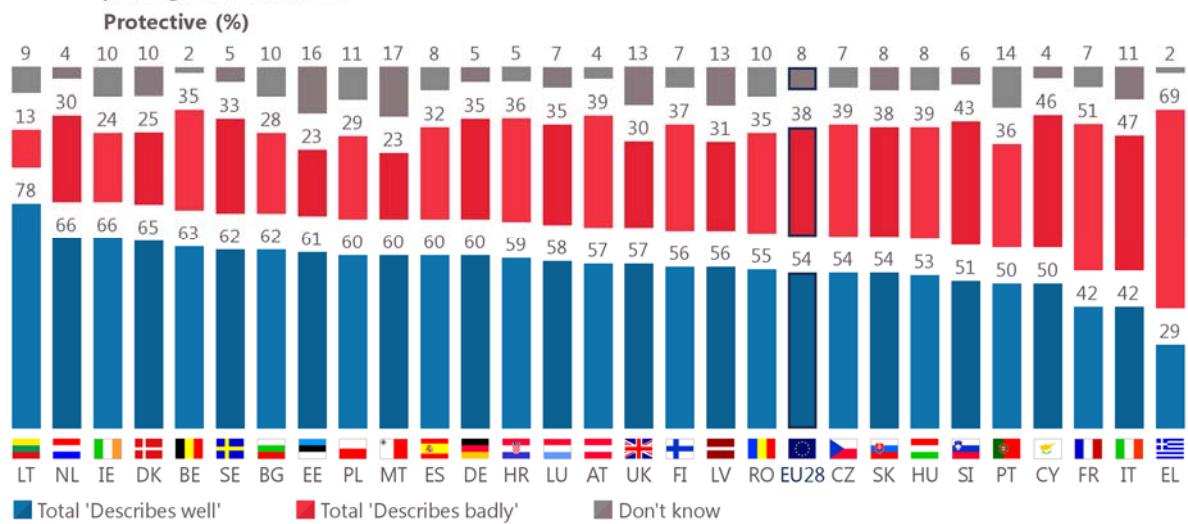
54% of Europeans (+1 percentage point since spring 2017) consider that “**protective**” is a good description of the European Union, while 38% (unchanged) take the opposite view and 8% (-1) express no opinion.

The EU is perceived as a protective institution by a majority of respondents in 25 Member States (compared with 24 in spring 2017). This has become the majority opinion in Slovenia (51% versus 43%, instead of 46% versus 49% in spring 2017) and Cyprus (50% versus 46%, instead of 35% versus 58%), but it is now shared by only a minority of respondents in France (42% versus 51%, instead of 47% versus 44%). Respondents in Lithuania (78%), the Netherlands (66%), Ireland (66%) and Denmark (65%) are the most likely to say that the EU is protective.

Respondents who see the EU as protective remain in the minority in Greece (29% versus 69%) and Italy (42% versus 47%), and they are now also in the minority in France (42% versus 51%).

Since spring 2017, the image of the EU as protective has gained ground in 15 countries, most markedly in Cyprus (50%, +15 percentage points), Spain (60%, +11) and Austria (57%, +8). It is stable in six Member States: Belgium (63%), Sweden (62%), Poland (60%), Croatia (59%), Luxembourg (58%) and Finland (56%). It has lost ground in seven Member States, led by Malta (60%, -8), Romania (55%, -8) and France (42%, -5).

**QA12.3** 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.



## Negative image attributes

### “Remote”

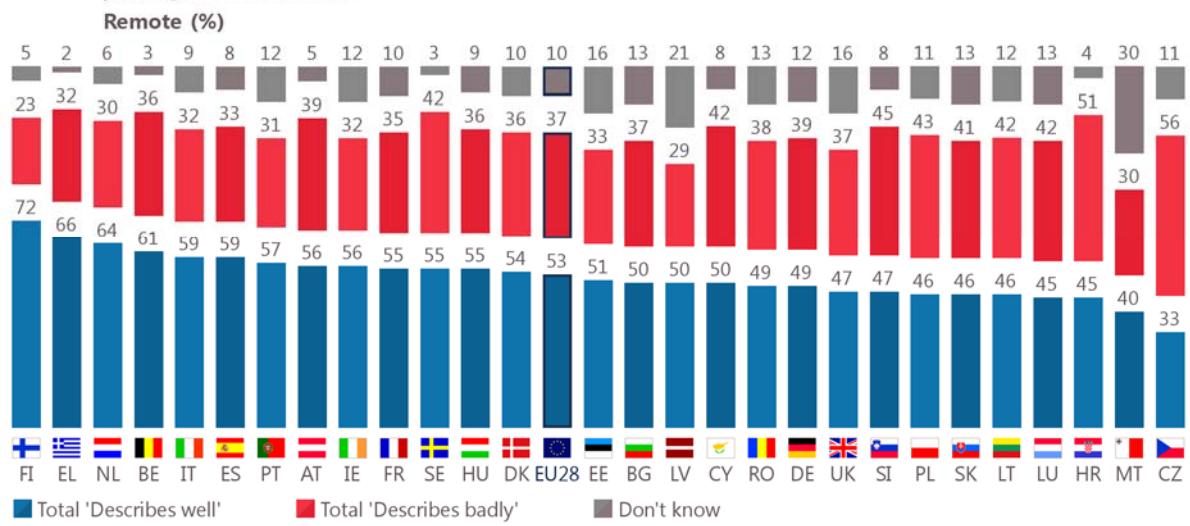
With no change since spring 2017, a majority of Europeans (53%) continue to see the European Union as **remote**, while 37% (+2 percentage points) disagree and 10% (-2) express no opinion.

The feeling that the EU is a remote institution is shared by a majority of respondents in 26 Member States (as in spring 2017), with the highest scores in Finland (72%), Greece (66%) and the Netherlands (64%). It is now the majority view in Poland (46% versus 43%, instead of 44% versus 48% in spring 2017).

There are just two countries where only a minority of respondents see the EU as remote: Croatia (45% versus 51%, instead of 49% versus 46%) has now joined the Czech Republic (33% versus 56%).

Since spring 2017, there have been fewer evolutions in national perceptions of this descriptor than of other attributes. The idea that the European Union is “remote” has lost ground in 13 Member States, led by Greece (66%, -5 percentage points) and Slovakia (46%, -5). It is stable in Romania (49%) and Lithuania (46%) and has gained ground in 13 countries, most markedly in Ireland (56%, +5), Latvia (50%, +5) and Bulgaria (50%, +5).

**QA12.5** 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.



**"Inefficient"**

Only a minority of respondents see the European Union as **efficient**, but with a still-narrowing gap (40% "describes well", +2 percentage points versus 51%, -1, and 9% of "DK" answers, -1).

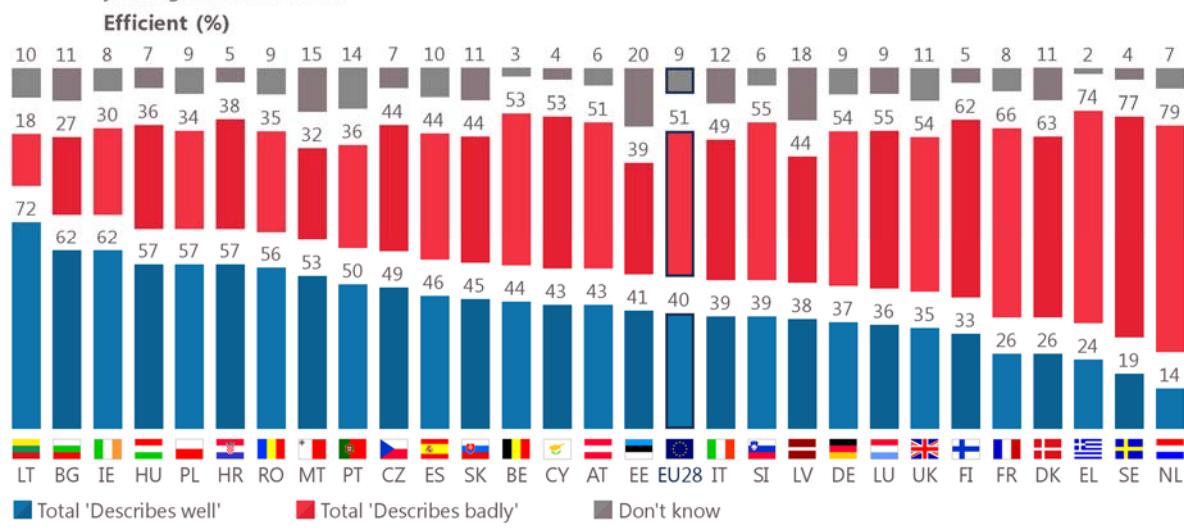
A majority of respondents in 13 Member States (compared with 11 in spring 2017) believe that the EU is efficient. It is now the majority opinion in the Czech Republic (49% versus 44%, instead of 41% versus 50% in spring 2017), Spain (46% versus 44%, instead of 35% versus 52%) and Slovakia (45% versus 44%, instead of 43% versus 44%), and remains so in Lithuania (72%), Bulgaria and Ireland (62% in both countries), Hungary, Poland and Croatia (all 57%), Romania (56%), Malta (53%), Portugal (50%) and Estonia (41%).

In contrast, it is now the minority view in Luxembourg (36% versus 55%, instead of 45% versus 44%).

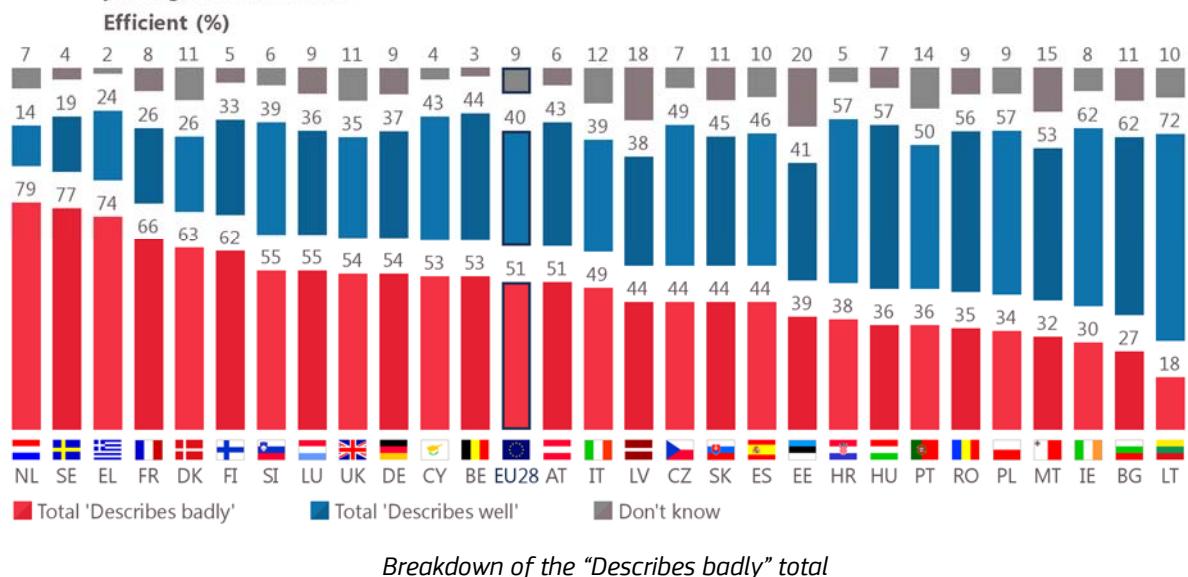
In total, therefore, the EU is predominantly perceived as inefficient in 15 Member States, led by the Netherlands (79%), Sweden (77%), Greece (74%) and France (66%).

Since spring 2017, perceptions of the EU as efficient have gained ground in 15 Member States, most markedly in Spain (46%, +11 percentage points), Cyprus (43%, +9) and the Czech Republic (49%, +8). They are unchanged in Belgium (44%), Italy (39%) and Finland (33%) and have deteriorated in ten countries, most sharply in Luxembourg (36%, -9).

**QA12.4** 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.



**QA12.4** 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.



### 3 Knowledge of the European Union

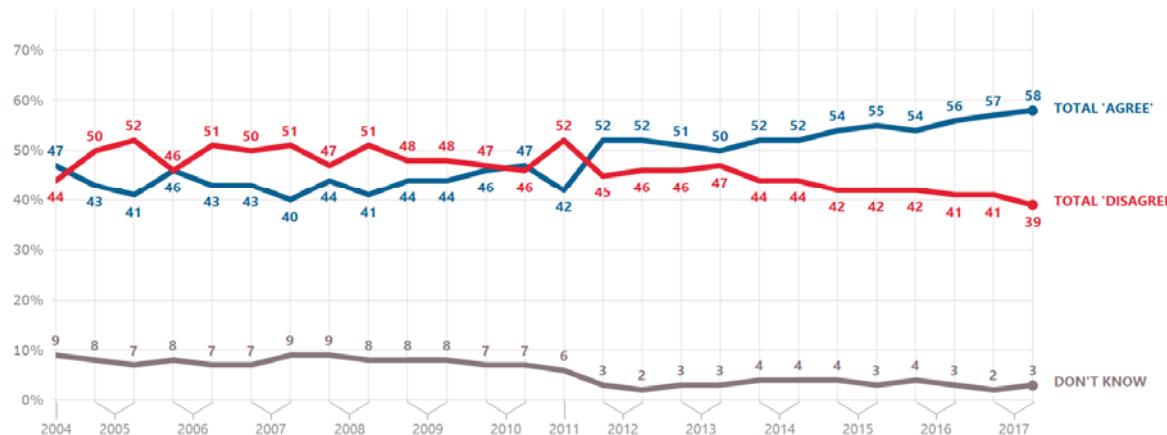
#### a. Knowledge of how the European Union works

##### **Understanding of how the European Union works reaches a new high**

58% of Europeans (+1 percentage point since spring 2017) feel that they understand how the European Union works, whereas 39% (-2) do not and 3% (+1) express no opinion<sup>31</sup>. Subjective knowledge of how the EU works is therefore at its highest level since 2004.

QA18a.1 Please tell me to what extent you agree or disagree with each of the following statements.

I understand how the EU works (% - EU)



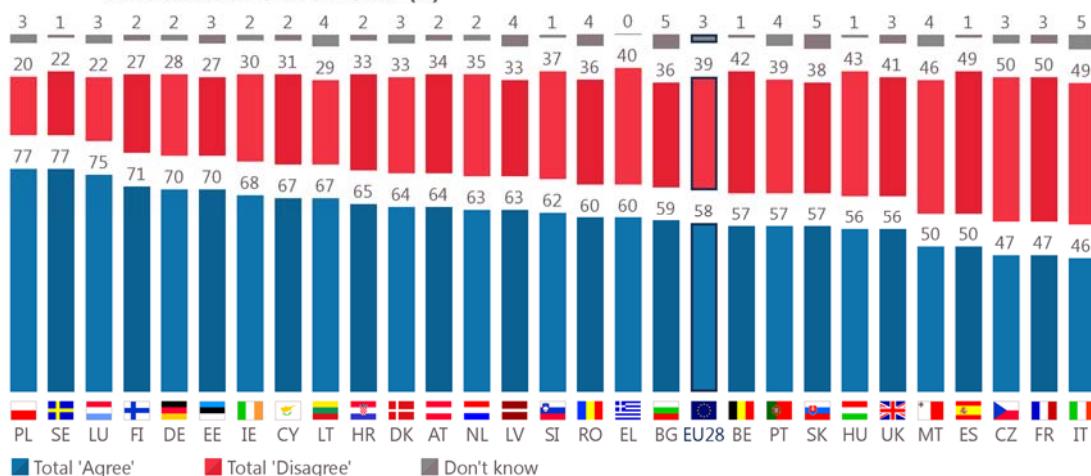
A majority of respondents in 25 EU Member States (compared with 24 in spring 2017) feel that they understand how the EU works.

In this survey, it has become the majority opinion in Spain (50% versus 49%, instead of 44% versus 55% in spring 2017), and is most widely held in Poland and Sweden (both 77%), Luxembourg (75%), Finland (71%), and Germany and Estonia (both 70%).

However, this view is still shared by only a minority of respondents in the Czech Republic and France (both 50% versus 47%), and Italy (49% versus 46%).

QA18a.1 Please tell me to what extent you agree or disagree with each of the following statements.

I understand how the EU works (%)



<sup>31</sup> QA18a. Please tell me to what extent you agree or disagree with each of the following statements? 1. I understand how the EU works.

**The socio-demographic data** show that men (65%) are more likely than women (52%) to feel that they understand how the EU works. Subjective knowledge also varies considerably depending on respondents' level of education: 39% among those who left school at the age of 15 or earlier, 56% among those who completed their studies between the ages of 16 and 19, and 72% among those who studied up to the age of 20 and beyond.

**QA18a.1** Please tell me to what extent you agree or disagree with each of the following statements.

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

	Total 'Agree'	Total 'Disagree'	Don't know
EU28	58	39	3
 Gender			
Man	65	33	2
Woman	52	45	3
 Age			
15-24	63	34	3
25-39	62	36	2
40-54	63	35	2
55 +	52	45	3
 Education (End of)			
15-	39	57	4
16-19	56	41	3
20+	72	27	1
Still studying	68	30	2
 Socio-professional category			
Self-employed	65	34	1
Managers	76	22	2
Other white collars	66	32	2
Manual workers	57	41	2
House persons	40	58	2
Unemployed	50	48	2
Retired	52	45	3
Students	68	30	2
 Difficulties paying bills			
Most of the time	42	56	2
From time to time	52	45	3
Almost never/ Never	63	35	2
 Consider belonging to			
The working class	45	52	3
The lower middle class	54	43	3
The middle class	65	33	2
The upper middle class	73	26	1
The upper class	89	11	0

The following tables show the average results by socio-demographic criteria in the European Union as a whole (EU28), in the six largest EU countries and in the countries benefiting or having benefited from European Union support to deal with the financial and economic.

**QA18a.1** Please tell me to what extent you agree or disagree with each of the following statements.

I understand how the EU works

(% - TOTAL 'AGREE')

	EU28 	DE 	ES 	FR 	IT 	PL 	UK 	EL 	PT 	IE 	CY 
<b>TOTAL</b>	58	70	50	47	46	77	56	60	57	68	67
Gender											
Male	65	78	57	53	51	82	63	66	63	77	81
Female	52	62	43	42	42	72	49	55	51	60	54
Age											
15-24	63	75	48	54	55	77	66	68	61	74	56
25-39	62	71	55	46	53	84	60	67	62	68	72
40-54	63	73	57	54	55	79	57	67	63	71	73
55 +	52	66	42	42	35	69	48	50	49	64	63
Education (End of)											
15-	39	58	35	22	27	47	43	38	43	44	42
16-19	56	65	52	44	49	72	49	63	67	61	68
20+	72	81	69	58	66	87	71	74	76	80	77
Still studying	68	78	53	59	60	76	78	80	63	73	64
Socio-professional category											
Self-employed	65	75	64	61	55	90	57	63	50	85	83
Managers	76	82	85	60	72	95	71	84	86	80	81
Other white collars	66	70	53	53	62	80	59	71	64	75	76
Manual workers	57	66	50	45	42	78	53	63	57	65	56
House persons	40	55	26	38	28	59	42	46	40	50	48
Unemployed	50	54	56	45	34	70	51	49	45	54	60
Retired	52	65	47	41	33	68	46	51	48	68	65
Students	68	78	53	59	60	76	78	80	63	73	64

**QA18a.1** Please tell me to what extent you agree or disagree with each of the following statements.

I understand how the EU works

(% - TOTAL 'DISAGREE')

	EU28 	DE 	ES 	FR 	IT 	PL 	UK 	EL 	PT 	IE 	CY 
<b>TOTAL</b>	39	28	49	50	49	20	41	40	39	30	31
Gender											
Male	33	21	41	44	45	16	36	34	34	22	19
Female	45	36	57	56	53	24	46	44	44	37	44
Age											
15-24	34	25	51	40	41	19	31	32	29	25	44
25-39	36	27	45	52	44	14	37	33	37	30	26
40-54	35	25	41	45	43	17	42	33	36	28	26
55 +	45	32	57	56	58	28	48	50	46	33	35
Education (End of)											
15-	57	39	64	74	66	49	53	61	51	51	55
16-19	41	32	47	54	47	25	47	37	31	37	31
20+	27	18	31	41	33	11	27	26	23	19	22
Still studying	30	22	45	34	36	19	22	20	28	23	36
Socio-professional category											
Self-employed	34	24	36	39	44	8	39	37	50	15	17
Managers	22	16	15	39	28	3	26	16	13	19	17
Other white collars	32	27	45	45	36	15	38	28	36	24	22
Manual workers	41	32	50	53	52	20	44	37	40	32	42
House persons	58	45	74	57	69	38	56	53	46	48	52
Unemployed	48	46	42	54	64	23	45	51	52	45	40
Retired	45	32	52	56	58	29	50	49	45	30	31
Students	30	22	45	34	36	19	22	20	28	23	36

## b. Objective knowledge of the European Union

### The number of Member States making up the euro area remains largely unknown

After measuring subjective levels of knowledge, this Standard Eurobarometer survey then sought to quantify objective knowledge of the European Union. To that end, respondents were asked to answer a “true/false” quiz, based on 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”).

While 89% of Europeans (+1 percentage point since spring 2017) gave at least one right answer, only 17% (+1) gave three right answers to this quiz, mainly because of the widespread unawareness of the number of countries making up the euro area.

The highest proportions of three right answers were recorded in Luxembourg (33%) and Sweden and Greece (28% in both countries), whereas respondents in Spain (12%) and France, Italy, the United Kingdom, the Netherlands and Estonia (all 13%) were the least likely to give three right answers.<sup>32</sup>

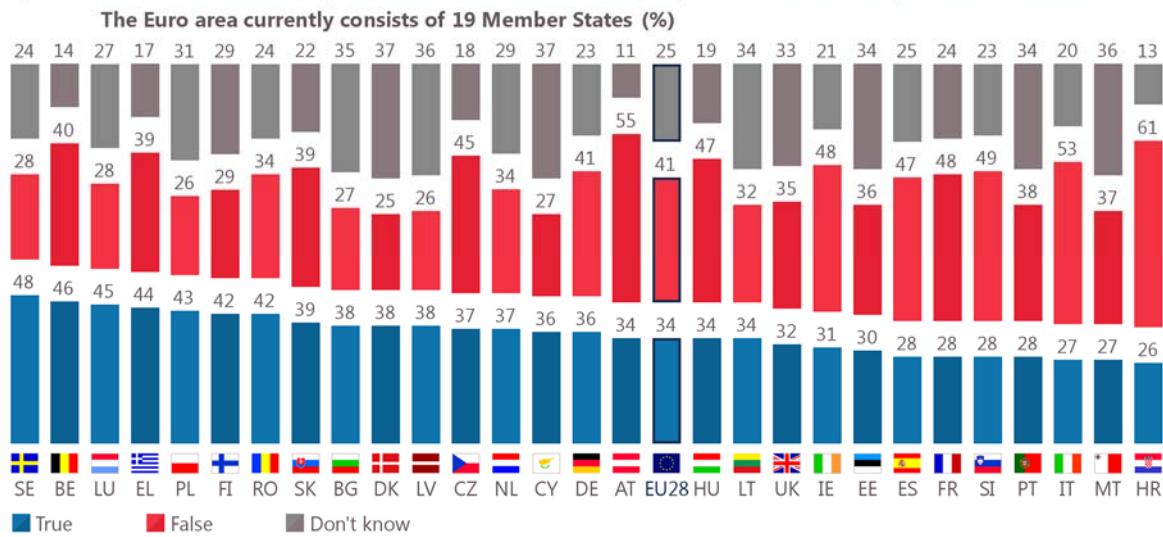
#### “The euro area currently consists of 19 Member States”

Respondents who know the number of countries making up the euro area are very much in the minority: only 34% of Europeans (+1 percentage point since spring 2017) answered “true” to the statement that the euro area consists of 19 members, while 66% (-1) gave the wrong answer or replied “DK”.

Respondents living in a euro area country are not necessarily more knowledgeable. On the contrary, the proportion of respondents who gave the right answer was even lower in the **euro area** countries (32%) than in the **non-euro area** countries (37%).

Ignorance (measured as wrong and “DK” answers combined) is predominant in all Member States. The lowest proportions of wrong answers were recorded in Sweden (52%), Belgium (54%), Luxembourg (55%), Greece (56%), Poland (57%), and Finland and Romania (both 58%), and the highest in Croatia (74%), Malta and Italy (both 73%), and Portugal, Slovenia, France, and Spain (all 72%).

**QA15.1** For each of the following statements about the EU could you please tell me whether you think it is true or false.



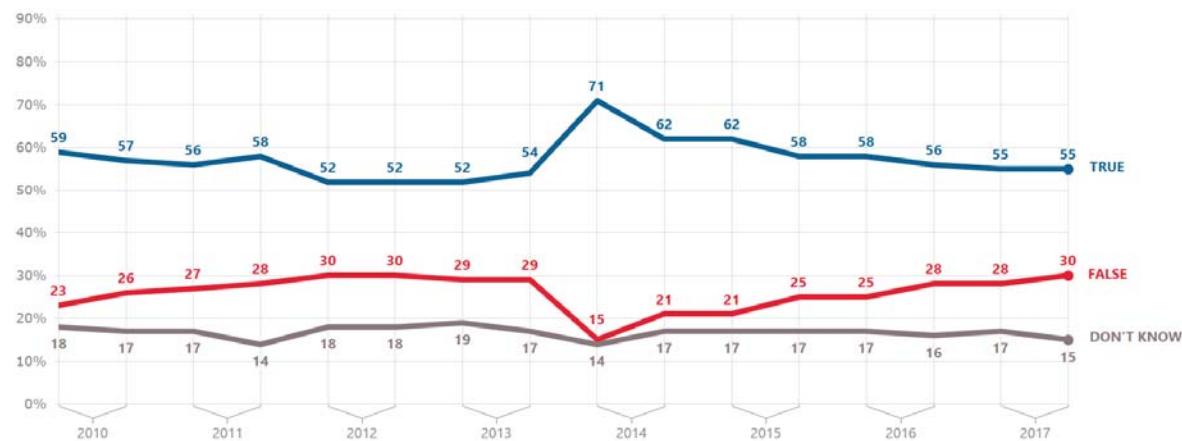
<sup>32</sup> QA15.1+2+3. For each of the following statements about the EU could you please tell me whether you think it is true or false.

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

Knowledge of how MEPs are elected is unchanged since spring 2017: 55% of Europeans (unchanged) know that the members of the European Parliament are elected directly by the citizens of each Member State, while 30% gave the wrong answer (+2 percentage point) and 15% (-2) answered "DK".

QA15.2 For each of the following statements about the EU could you please tell me whether you think it is true or false.

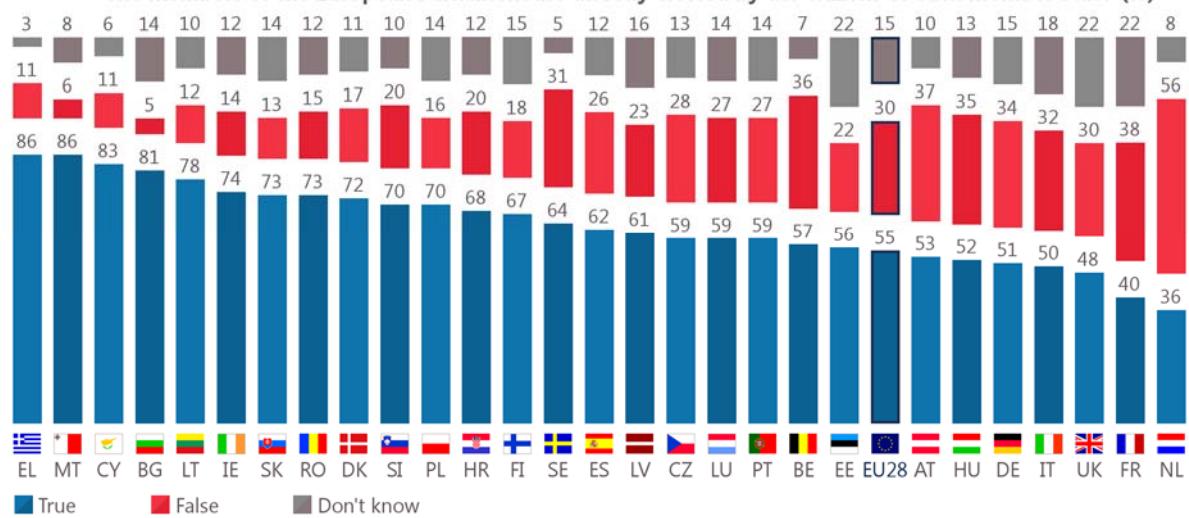
The members of the European Parliament are directly elected by the citizens of each Member State (% - EU)



A majority of respondents in 24 Member States know how MEPs are elected, in particular in Greece and Malta (both 86%), Cyprus (83%) and Bulgaria (81%). A majority of respondents in the Netherlands (64%), France (60%) and the United Kingdom (52%) are unaware of how MEPs are elected. Right and wrong answers are evenly balanced in Italy (50% versus 50%).

QA15.2 For each of the following statements about the EU could you please tell me 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

False

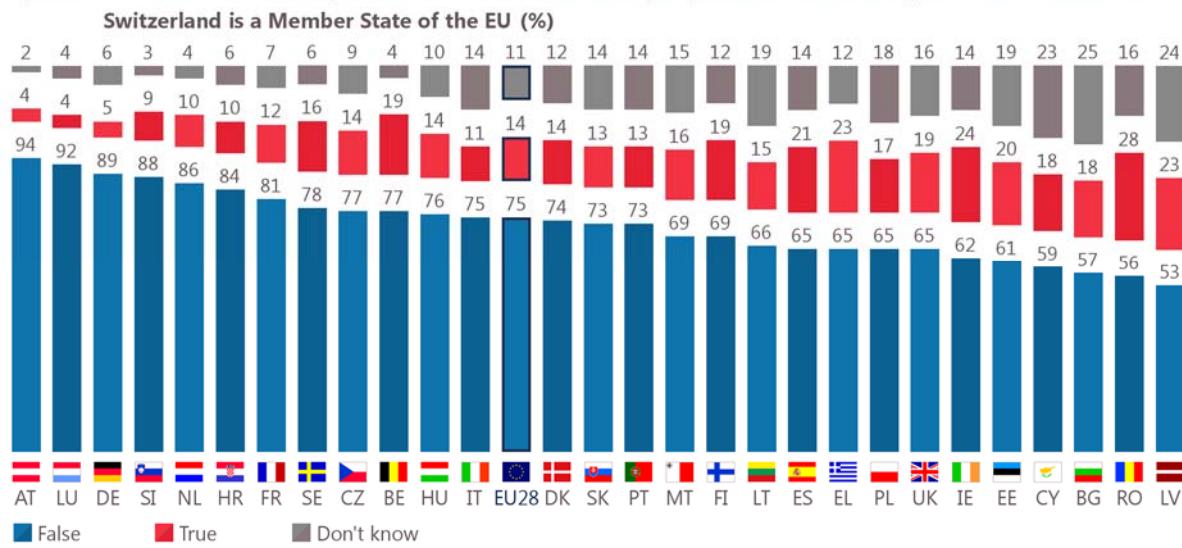
Don't know

"Switzerland is a Member State of the EU"

Three-quarters of Europeans (75%, +3 percentage points since spring 2017) know that Switzerland is not a Member State of the EU, while 14% (-1) gave the wrong answer and 11% (-2) answered "DK".

More than half of respondents in all countries know that Switzerland is not a Member State of the EU, within a wide range extending from 53% in Latvia to 94% in Austria.

**QA15.3** For each of the following statements about the EU could you please tell me whether you think it is true or false.



**QA15** For each of the following statements about the EU could you please tell me whether you think it is true or false.  
(%)

	EU28 	The members of the European Parliament are directly elected by the citizens of each Member State		The Euro area currently consists of 19 Member States		Switzerland is a Member State of the EU	
		True	Aut.2017 - Sp.2017	True	Aut.2017 - Sp.2017	False	Aut.2017 - Sp.2017
EU28		55	=	34	▲ 1	75	▲ 3
EURO AREA		53	=	32	=	79	▲ 2
NON-EURO AREA		61	▲ 3	37	▲ 3	67	▲ 3
BE		57	▼ 1	46	▲ 2	77	▼ 2
BG		81	▲ 2	38	▲ 8	57	=
CZ		59	▲ 4	37	▲ 3	77	▼ 5
DK		72	▲ 4	38	▼ 5	74	▲ 3
DE		51	▲ 1	36	=	89	▲ 2
EE		56	▼ 1	30	▲ 2	61	▼ 1
IE		74	▲ 2	31	▼ 3	62	▼ 5
EL		86	▲ 2	44	▲ 3	65	▼ 1
ES		62	▲ 2	28	▲ 2	65	▲ 5
FR		40	=	28	▼ 2	81	▲ 3
HR		68	▼ 1	26	▲ 4	84	▲ 4
IT		50	▼ 6	27	▼ 4	75	▼ 1
CY		83	▲ 4	36	▲ 5	59	▲ 1
LV		61	▼ 1	38	▲ 6	53	▼ 1
LT		78	▼ 1	34	▼ 7	66	▲ 2
LU		59	▼ 2	45	▲ 3	92	▲ 2
HU		52	▼ 1	34	▼ 4	76	▼ 3
MT		86	▼ 3	27	▼ 3	69	▼ 1
NL		36	▼ 2	37	▲ 2	86	▲ 1
AT		53	▼ 2	34	▲ 4	94	▲ 1
PL		70	▲ 7	43	▲ 2	65	▲ 8
PT		59	▲ 2	28	▲ 5	73	▼ 1
RO		73	▲ 2	42	▲ 5	56	▼ 2
SI		70	▼ 1	28	▲ 4	88	▼ 1
SK		73	▲ 2	39	▲ 5	73	▲ 4
FI		67	▲ 1	42	▼ 1	69	▲ 2
SE		64	▼ 1	48	▼ 4	78	▲ 2
UK		48	=	32	▲ 6	65	▲ 4

## 4 Democracy in the EU

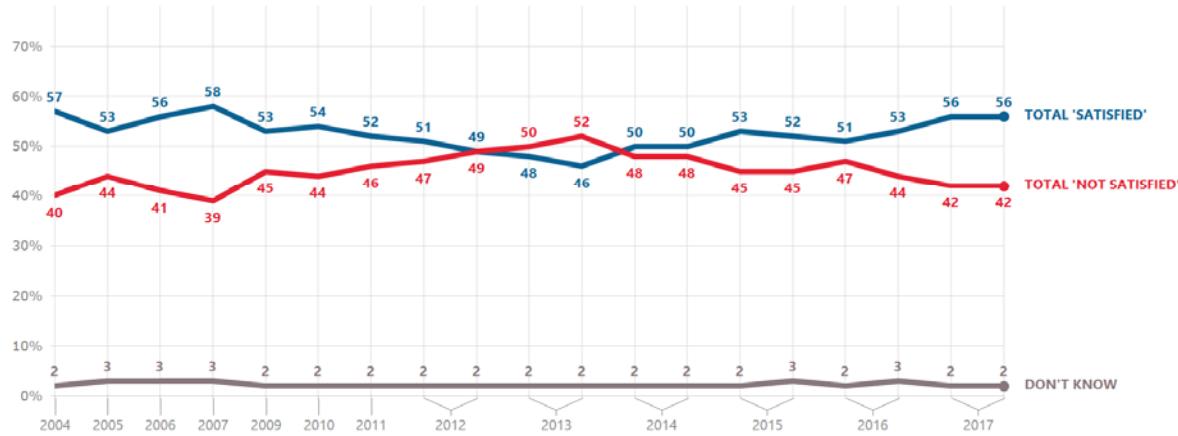
### a. The way in which democracy works

#### The way in which democracy works at national level

##### **The balance of opinion between satisfaction and dissatisfaction with national democracies has stabilised**

After improving significantly in the previous two Standard Eurobarometer surveys of autumn 2016 and spring 2017, the balance of opinion between **satisfaction and dissatisfaction** with the way national democratic systems work has stabilised at its best level since autumn 2007: 56% of Europeans (unchanged since spring 2017) are satisfied with the way democracy works in their country, while 42% (=) are dissatisfied and 2% (=) express no opinion<sup>33</sup>.

QA17a On the whole, are you very satisfied, fairly satisfied, not very satisfied or not at all satisfied with the way democracy works in (OUR COUNTRY)? (% - EU)



There are very strong differences between countries (a maximum difference of 69 percentage points) as regards satisfaction with the way democracy works at national level.

A majority of respondents in 18 Member States (compared with 17 in spring 2017) are **satisfied** with the way democracy works in their country. Following an increase of 11 percentage points in favourable opinions, a majority of respondents are now satisfied in Hungary (50% versus 48%, instead of 39% versus 60% in spring 2017). Satisfaction is most widespread in the Nordic countries (92% in Denmark, 85% in Sweden and 81% in Finland), the Benelux countries (82% in Luxembourg, 78% in the Netherlands and 71% in Belgium), and in Austria and Ireland (both 75%) and Germany and Portugal (both 72%).

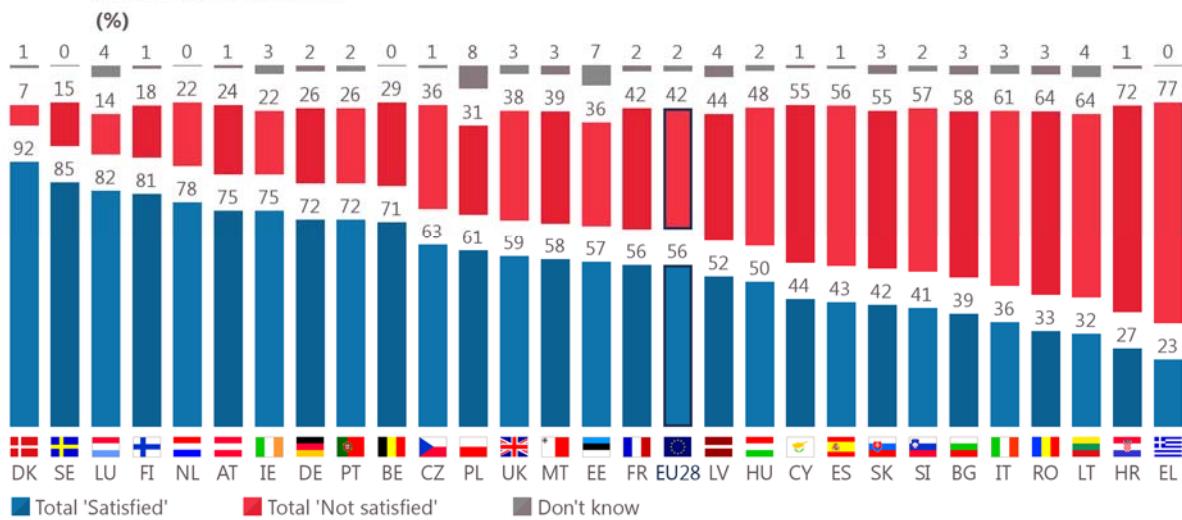
Within this group of countries, satisfaction has therefore increased significantly in Hungary (50%, +11 percentage points since spring 2017), and in the Czech Republic (63%, +8), but has fallen sharply in Malta (58%, -9).

Respondents in ten Member States remain predominantly dissatisfied with the way democracy works at national level, most markedly in Greece (77%), Croatia (72%), Lithuania and Romania (64% in both countries), and Italy (61%).

<sup>33</sup> QA17a. On the whole, are you very satisfied, fairly satisfied, not very satisfied or not at all satisfied with the way democracy works in (OUR COUNTRY)?

However, within these countries, dissatisfaction has decreased significantly since spring 2017 in Slovenia (57%, -7 percentage points), Spain (56%, -6) and Slovakia (55%, -6).

**QA17a** On the whole, are you very satisfied, fairly satisfied, not very satisfied or not at all satisfied with the way democracy works in (OUR COUNTRY)?



A **socio-demographic analysis** reveals that a majority of respondents in most socio-demographic categories are satisfied with the way democracy works in their country, with relatively few variations by gender and age. However, satisfaction is higher among those who studied up to the age of 20 and beyond and students (both 65%) than among those who left school at the age of 15 or earlier (49%). It is also more widespread among managers (69%) and other white-collar workers (61%) than house persons (48% versus 49% "not satisfied") and unemployed people (41% versus 55%), among whom satisfied respondents are even the minority. There are also significant variations depending on financial situation and subjective social class: a large majority of Europeans who never or almost never have difficulties paying their bills (64%) and who see themselves as upper middle class (75%) are satisfied. However, satisfaction is shared by only a minority of those who struggle to pay their bills most of the time (32% versus 66%) and those who see themselves as working class (46% versus 51%).

**QA17a** On the whole, are you very satisfied, fairly satisfied, not very satisfied or not at all satisfied with the way democracy works in (OUR COUNTRY)?  
 (% - EU)

	Total 'Satisfied'	Total 'Not satisfied'	Don't know
EU28	56	42	2
 Gender			
Man	57	41	2
Woman	56	41	3
 Age			
15-24	60	37	3
25-39	56	42	2
40-54	56	42	2
55 +	56	42	2
 Education (End of)			
15-	49	48	3
16-19	53	45	2
20+	65	34	1
Still studying	65	31	4
 Socio-professional category			
Self-employed	55	44	1
Managers	69	30	1
Other white collars	61	37	2
Manual workers	52	46	2
House persons	48	49	3
Unemployed	41	55	4
Retired	57	40	3
Students	65	31	4
 Difficulties paying bills			
Most of the time	32	66	2
From time to time	45	53	2
Almost never/ Never	64	34	2
 Consider belonging to			
The working class	46	51	3
The lower middle class	52	46	2
The middle class	61	37	2
The upper middle class	75	24	1
The upper class	63	37	0

The following tables show the average results by socio-demographic criteria in the European Union as a whole (EU28), in the six largest EU countries and in the countries benefiting or having benefited from European Union support to deal with the financial and economic crisis.

**QA17a** On the whole, are you very satisfied, fairly satisfied, not very satisfied or not at all satisfied with the way democracy works in (OUR COUNTRY)?  
 (% - TOTAL 'SATISFIED')

	EU28	DE	ES	FR	IT	PL	UK	EL	PT	IE	CY
<b>TOTAL</b>	56	72	43	56	36	61	59	23	72	75	44
<b>Gender</b>											
Male	57	73	41	59	37	61	61	22	74	75	49
Female	56	72	43	54	37	63	58	23	70	74	39
<b>Age</b>											
15-24	60	73	41	53	39	67	61	31	79	76	49
25-39	56	74	33	49	43	61	59	23	74	72	36
40-54	56	70	40	56	39	64	56	23	77	77	45
55 +	56	73	52	61	31	59	61	21	65	75	47
<b>Education (End of)</b>											
15-	49	74	49	48	26	65	56	22	67	62	46
16-19	53	67	36	50	38	62	53	17	74	68	41
20+	65	79	42	64	50	60	69	27	77	82	43
Still studying	65	83	42	62	47	63	72	37	82	85	56
<b>Socio-professional category</b>											
Self-employed	55	64	47	61	40	60	69	16	69	81	48
Managers	69	82	44	66	52	61	62	37	78	86	54
Other white collars	61	77	39	54	46	65	67	25	83	70	34
Manual workers	52	65	37	47	37	65	50	15	73	76	35
House persons	48	73	51	48	25	55	70	20	66	67	32
Unemployed	41	50	36	48	9	51	39	22	56	47	37
Retired	57	73	51	60	32	61	60	23	65	73	53
Students	65	83	42	62	47	63	72	37	82	85	56

**QA17a** On the whole, are you very satisfied, fairly satisfied, not very satisfied or not at all satisfied with the way democracy works in (OUR COUNTRY)?

(% - TOTAL 'NOT SATISFIED')

	EU28	DE	ES	FR	IT	PL	UK	EL	PT	IE	CY
<b>TOTAL</b>	42	26	56	42	61	31	38	77	26	22	55
<b>Gender</b>											
Male	41	26	58	40	61	32	38	78	25	23	51
Female	41	25	55	44	60	29	38	76	28	22	60
<b>Age</b>											
15-24	37	22	57	46	56	28	34	69	16	17	49
25-39	42	26	67	50	55	32	38	77	26	25	64
40-54	42	28	58	43	59	26	42	77	23	21	55
55 +	42	25	47	36	65	33	37	79	32	23	52
<b>Education (End of)</b>											
15-	48	25	50	45	70	26	40	77	32	30	54
16-19	45	31	63	49	60	28	43	83	25	28	58
20+	34	21	57	35	49	34	31	73	22	17	57
Still studying	31	10	55	37	49	29	25	63	12	13	41
<b>Socio-professional category</b>											
Self-employed	44	36	53	37	60	39	29	84	31	19	52
Managers	30	16	54	34	44	35	37	63	20	13	46
Other white collars	37	22	58	46	53	28	31	74	17	29	66
Manual workers	46	34	62	52	62	25	46	85	27	22	65
House persons	49	25	46	50	72	37	27	80	28	27	68
Unemployed	55	47	64	50	81	34	56	78	39	37	61
Retired	40	26	49	37	64	32	38	77	33	26	47
Students	31	10	55	37	49	29	25	63	12	13	41

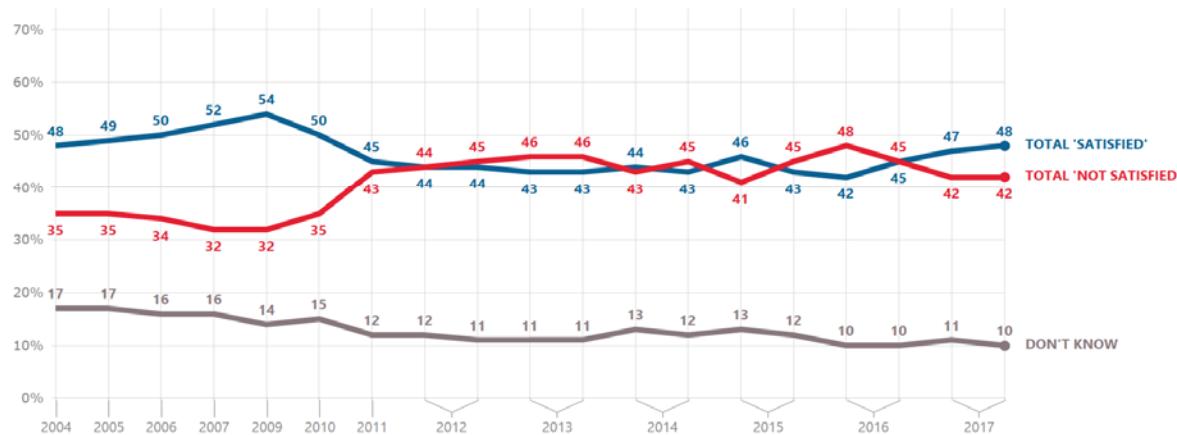
## The way democracy works in the European Union

### The favourable balance of opinion has improved further

The **balance of opinion** on the way democracy works in the EU, which became **positive** again in the previous Standard Eurobarometer survey (EB87), has strengthened very slightly. This is the first time since 2011 that this indicator has been positive in two successive surveys.

48% of Europeans (+1 percentage point since spring 2017) are satisfied with the way democracy works in the EU, while 42% (unchanged) are not and 10% (-1) express no opinion.<sup>34</sup>

**QA17b** And how about the way democracy works in the EU?  
(% - EU)



After the positive shift of opinion in the previous Standard Eurobarometer survey (EB87), the proportion of respondents who are **satisfied** with the way European democracy works has increased very slightly in the *euro area* countries (47%, +1 percentage point versus 44%, -1). However, while remaining largely positive, it has weakened in the *non-euro area* countries (49%, -1 versus 37%, +3).

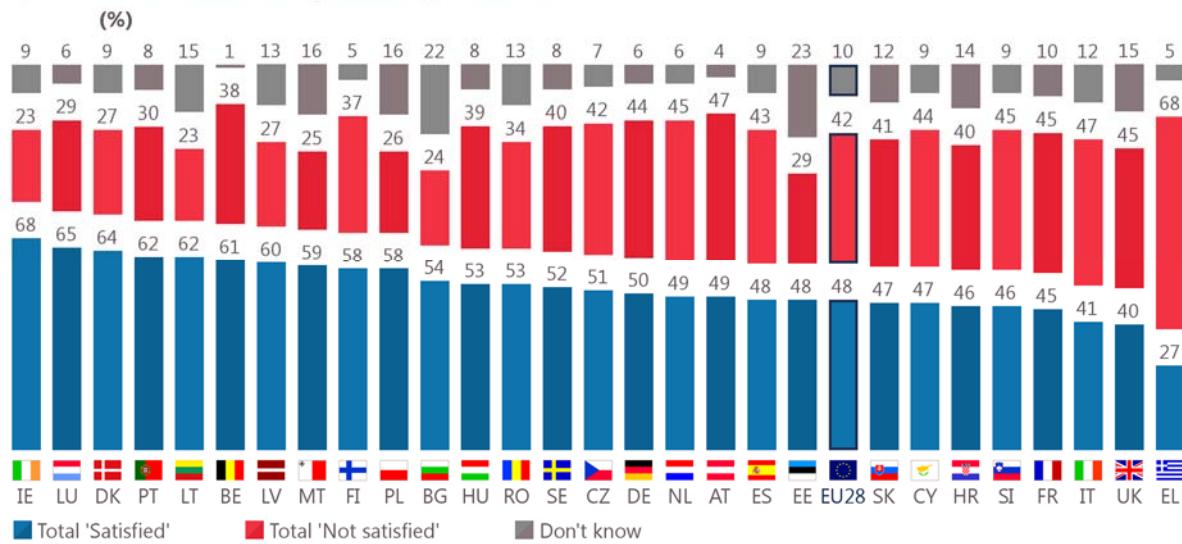
Respondents are predominantly satisfied in 24 Member States (compared with 20 in spring 2017). A majority of respondents are now satisfied in the Czech Republic (51% versus 42%, instead of 47% versus 47% in spring 2017) and also, albeit by a narrow margin, in Austria (49% versus 47%, instead of 44% versus 52%), Spain (48% versus 43%, instead of 40% versus 46%), Cyprus (47% versus 44%, instead of 38% versus 50%) and Slovenia (46% versus 45%, instead of 45% versus 48%). However, only a minority are now satisfied in the United Kingdom (40% versus 45%, instead of 40% versus 37%).

<sup>34</sup> QA17b. And how about the way democracy works in the EU?

**Satisfaction and dissatisfaction** are evenly balanced in France (45% versus 45%), whereas a majority of respondents were dissatisfied in spring 2017 (43% versus 45%).

As a result of these evolutions, a majority of respondents are now **dissatisfied** in only three Member States, namely Greece (68%), Italy (47% versus 41%) and the United Kingdom (45% versus 40%).

QA17b And how about the way democracy works in the EU?



**The socio-demographic data** show that a majority of respondents in the following categories are satisfied with the way democracy works in the European Union:

- Those aged under 55 (56% among 15-24 year-olds, 50% among 25-54 year-olds);
- Those who studied up to the age of 20 and beyond (55%);
- Managers (56%), white-collar workers (58%) and students (63%);
- Those who never or almost never have difficulties paying their bills (52%) and those who see themselves as middle class (53%), upper middle class (61%) and upper class (57%).

However, the following categories are predominantly dissatisfied:

- Those aged 55+ (44% "not satisfied" versus 43%);
- Those who left school at the age of 15 or earlier (45% versus 39%);
- Unemployed people (53%);
- Those who struggle to pay their bills most of the time (58%) or from time to time (47% versus 42%), and those who see themselves as working class (46% versus 40%) or lower middle class (46% versus 44%).

**QA17b** And how about the way democracy works in the EU?  
(% - EU)

	Total 'Satisfied'	Total 'Not satisfied'	Don't know
EU28	48	42	10
<b>Gender</b>			
Man	48	44	8
Woman	48	39	13
<b>Age</b>			
15-24	56	34	10
25-39	50	42	8
40-54	50	42	8
55 +	43	44	13
<b>Education (End of)</b>			
15-	39	45	16
16-19	45	45	10
20+	55	38	7
Still studying	63	27	10
<b>Socio-professional category</b>			
Self-employed	50	44	6
Managers	56	38	6
Other white collars	58	35	7
Manual workers	46	44	10
House persons	43	43	14
Unemployed	36	53	11
Retired	43	43	14
Students	63	27	10
<b>Consider belonging to</b>			
The working class	40	46	14
The lower middle class	44	46	10
The middle class	53	39	8
The upper middle class	61	35	4
The upper class	57	40	3

The following tables show the average results by socio-demographic criteria in the European Union as a whole (EU28), in the six largest EU countries and in the countries benefiting or having benefited from European Union support to deal with the financial and economic crisis.

**QA17b** And how about the way democracy works in the EU?

(% - TOTAL 'SATISFIED')

	EU28 	DE 	ES 	FR 	IT 	PL 	UK 	EL 	PT 	IE 	CY 
<b>TOTAL</b>	48	50	48	45	41	58	40	27	62	68	47
<b>Gender</b>											
Male	48	49	50	46	41	56	41	26	61	70	55
Female	48	51	46	44	41	60	39	27	61	65	38
<b>Age</b>											
15-24	56	56	57	54	46	60	52	37	68	66	51
25-39	50	48	46	43	48	63	46	28	66	70	47
40-54	50	54	44	45	45	63	40	25	65	70	44
55 +	43	47	50	43	34	52	30	24	53	64	45
<b>Education (End of)</b>											
15-	39	50	46	33	29	43	29	21	53	52	40
16-19	45	46	46	41	43	54	33	18	65	60	45
20+	55	53	51	50	54	66	53	36	71	77	48
Still studying	63	61	62	64	57	60	67	44	73	72	56
<b>Socio-professional category</b>											
Self-employed	50	46	55	52	47	58	45	23	51	76	52
Managers	56	60	48	51	50	72	45	30	76	77	61
Other white collars	58	55	54	52	52	74	59	28	79	67	41
Manual workers	46	46	43	40	39	55	33	20	64	65	39
House persons	43	51	48	42	25	57	48	19	52	59	45
Unemployed	36	26	47	36	14	43	36	23	40	52	38
Retired	43	47	48	42	38	51	29	28	51	66	46
Students	63	61	62	64	57	60	67	44	73	72	56

**QA17b** And how about the way democracy works in the EU?

(% - TOTAL 'NOT SATISFIED')

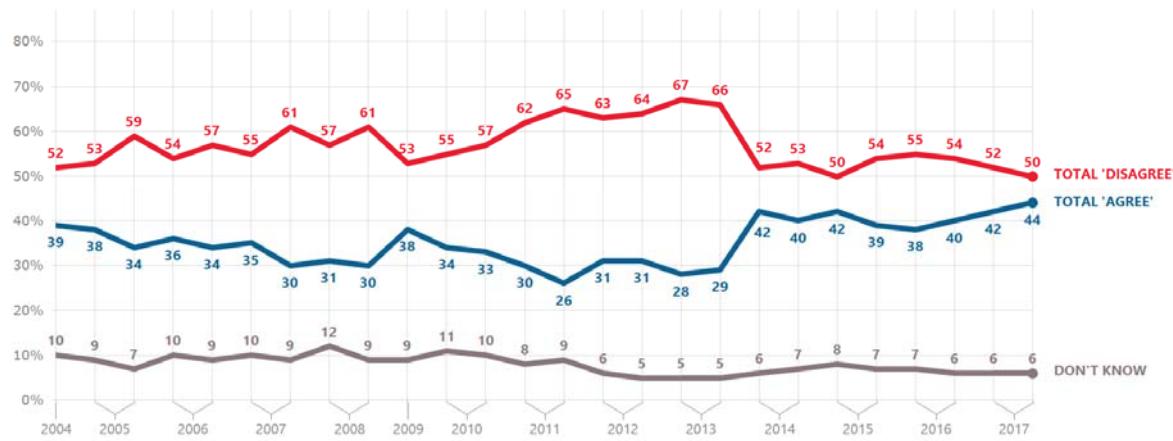
	EU28 	DE 	ES 	FR 	IT 	PL 	UK 	EL 	PT 	IE 	CY 
<b>TOTAL</b>	42	44	43	45	47	26	45	68	30	23	44
<b>Gender</b>											
Male	44	46	44	45	48	32	49	71	32	26	41
Female	39	41	42	45	45	21	40	66	30	22	48
<b>Age</b>											
15-24	34	34	39	39	39	32	34	55	22	17	42
25-39	42	48	49	52	41	24	41	70	29	25	49
40-54	42	38	45	46	49	21	48	72	31	23	48
55 +	44	47	38	43	50	28	50	68	34	26	39
<b>Education (End of)</b>											
15-	45	44	39	46	51	34	49	70	36	28	38
16-19	45	47	50	50	46	26	50	77	31	29	46
20+	38	42	44	43	42	23	37	63	25	20	48
Still studying	27	26	32	26	30	31	25	49	16	15	35
<b>Socio-professional category</b>											
Self-employed	44	52	43	39	47	34	43	75	46	24	44
Managers	38	34	47	43	41	24	47	70	23	19	39
Other white collars	35	37	40	44	43	14	30	70	17	28	57
Manual workers	44	49	46	53	50	26	50	76	31	26	55
House persons	43	41	37	45	60	23	31	72	30	25	34
Unemployed	53	68	50	57	66	30	46	72	48	31	47
Retired	43	47	40	42	43	30	50	64	34	26	37
Students	27	26	32	26	30	31	25	49	16	15	35

- b. Are personal interests properly taken into account nationally and by the European Union?

### The feeling that “my voice counts in the EU”

44% of Europeans (+2 percentage points since spring 2017) feel that their voice counts in the EU, while 50% (-2) think the opposite and 6% (unchanged) express no opinion<sup>35</sup>. The proportion of Europeans who feel that **their voice counts in the EU** is now at its highest level since 2004.

D72.1 Please tell me to what extent you agree or disagree with each of the following statements.  
My voice counts in the EU (% - EU)



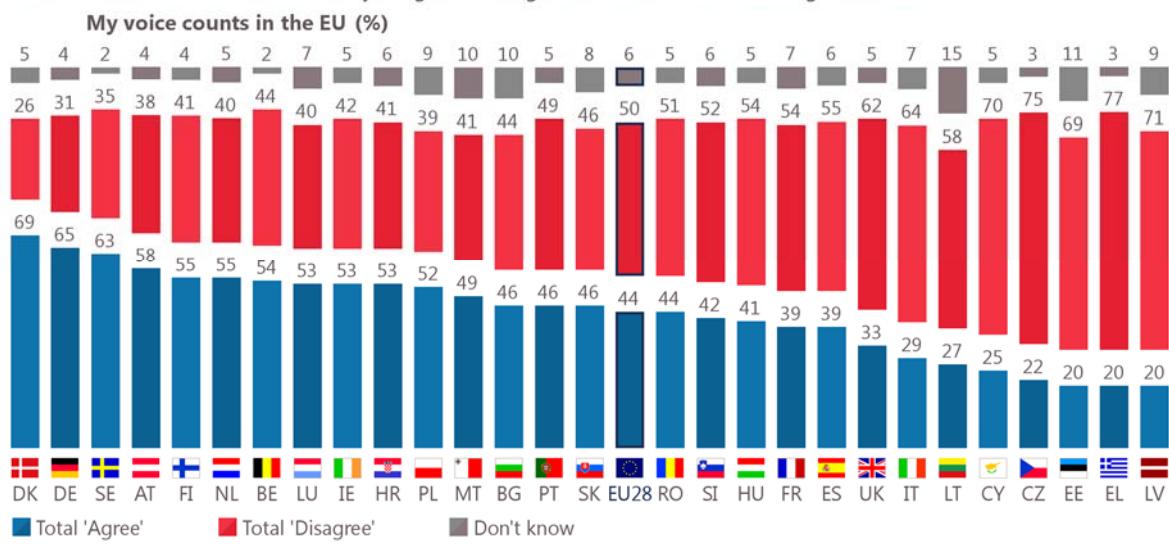
A majority of respondents in 13 Member States (versus 12 in spring 2017) feel that **their voice counts in the EU**. This is now the majority view in Bulgaria (46% versus 44%, instead of 41% versus 46% in spring 2017). It is the most widely held in Denmark (69%), Germany (65%) and Sweden (63%).

**Positive and negative opinions** are evenly balanced in Slovakia (46% versus 46%), whereas in spring 2017 a clear majority of respondents felt that their voice did not count in the EU (55% versus 36%).

A majority of respondents in 14 Member States consider that **their voice does not count in the EU**, most notably in Greece (77%), the Czech Republic (75%), Latvia (71%) and Cyprus (70%).

<sup>35</sup> D72. Please tell me to what extent you agree or disagree with each of the following statements. 1. Ma voice counts in the EU.

D72.1 Please tell me to what extent you agree or disagree with each of the following statements.

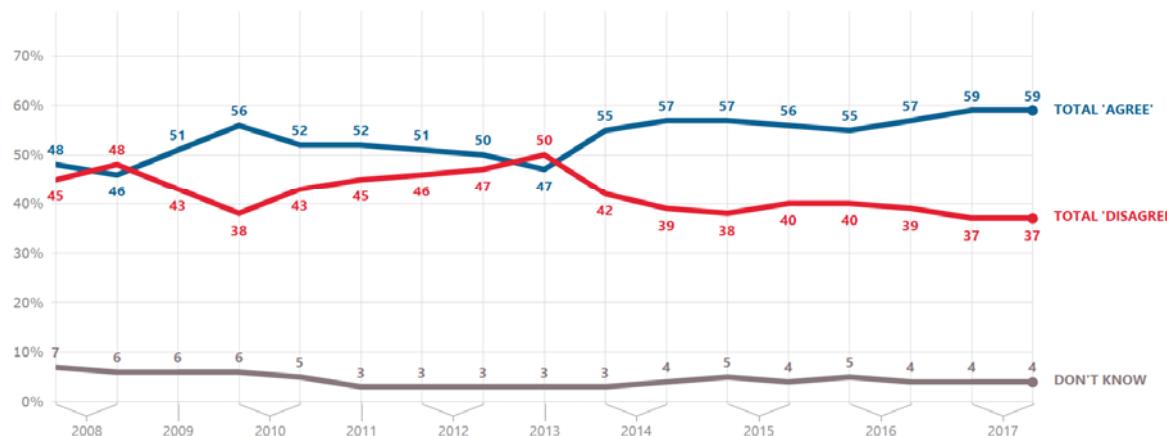


Since spring 2017, the proportion of respondents who feel that they are heard and listened to within the European Union has increased significantly in Spain (39%, +12 percentage points), Slovakia (46%, +10), Hungary (41%, +9) and Greece (20%, +7), but has decreased in Malta (49%, -8).

### The feeling that “my voice counts in (OUR) country”

With a balance of opinion completely unchanged since spring 2017, 59% of Europeans consider that **their voice counts in their country**, while 37% think the opposite and 4% express no opinion<sup>36</sup>. The feeling that respondents are heard and listened to as citizens in their country therefore remains, as in spring 2017, at its highest level since 2008.

D72.2 Please tell me to what extent you agree or disagree with each of the following statements.  
My voice counts in (OUR COUNTRY) (% - EU)

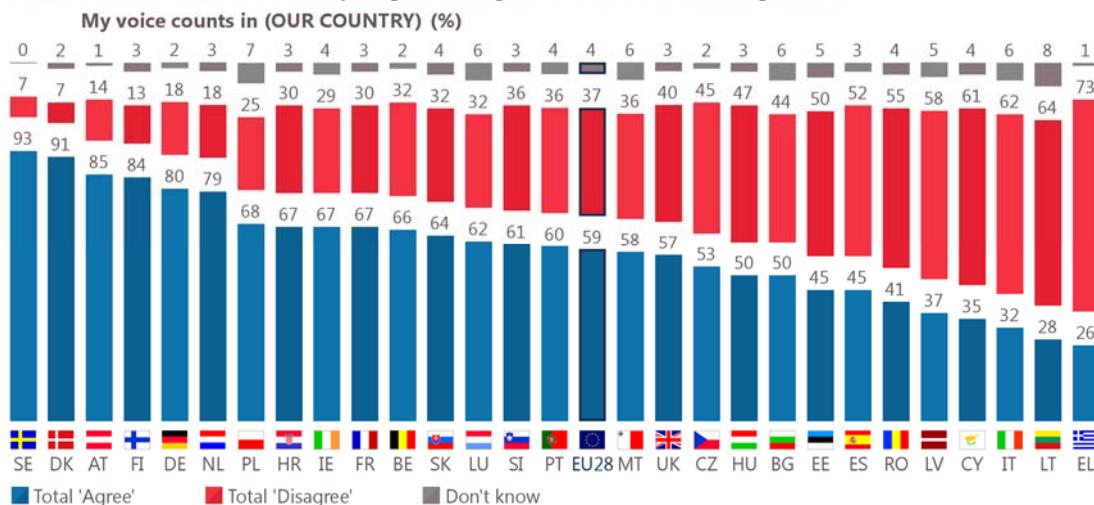


A majority of respondents in 20 EU Member States (compared with 18 in spring 2017) feel that their **voice counts in their country**. This is now the majority view in the Czech Republic (53% versus 45%, instead of 47% versus 50% in spring 2017) and Hungary (50% versus 47%, instead of 39% versus 57%). It is the most widely held in the Nordic countries (93% in Sweden, 91% in Denmark and 84% in Finland), Austria (85%), Germany (80%) and the Netherlands (79%).

A majority of respondents in eight Member States take the opposite view, namely that **their voice is not heard in their country**, most notably in Greece (73%), Lithuania (64%), Italy (62%) and Cyprus (61%).

Since spring 2017, the proportion of respondents who consider that their voice counts in their country has increased in 17 Member States, led by Hungary (50%, +11 percentage points), Slovenia (61%, +9), Slovakia (64%, +8) and Greece (26%, +7), but has decreased in nine countries, most markedly in Malta (58%, -16). It is unchanged in Germany and Ireland.

D72.2 Please tell me to what extent you agree or disagree with each of the following statements.



<sup>36</sup> D72. Please tell me to what extent you agree or disagree with each of the following statements. 2. My voice counts in (OUR COUNTRY)

**D72** Please tell me to what extent you agree or disagree with each of the following statements.  
(%)

		My voice counts in (OUR COUNTRY)			My voice counts in the EU		
		Total 'Agree'	Total 'Disagree'	Total 'Agree' - Total 'Disagree'	Total 'Agree'	Total 'Disagree'	Total 'Agree' - Total 'Disagree'
EU28		59	37	+22	44	50	-6
EURO AREA		60	37	+23	45	49	-4
NON-EURO AREA		60	36	+24	42	52	-10
SE		93	7	+86	63	35	+28
DK		91	7	+84	69	26	+43
AT		85	14	+71	58	38	+20
FI		84	13	+71	55	41	+14
DE		80	18	+62	65	31	+34
NL		79	18	+61	55	40	+15
PL		68	25	+43	52	39	+13
IE		67	29	+38	53	42	+11
FR		67	30	+37	39	54	-15
HR		67	30	+37	53	41	+12
BE		66	32	+34	54	44	+10
SK		64	32	+32	46	46	0
LU		62	32	+30	53	40	+13
SI		61	36	+25	42	52	-10
PT		60	36	+24	46	49	-3
MT		58	36	+22	49	41	+8
UK		57	40	+17	33	62	-29
CZ		53	45	+8	22	75	-53
BG		50	44	+6	46	44	+2
HU		50	47	+3	41	54	-13
EE		45	50	-5	20	69	-49
ES		45	52	-7	39	55	-16
RO		41	55	-14	44	51	-7
LV		37	58	-21	20	71	-51
CY		35	61	-26	25	70	-45
IT		32	62	-30	29	64	-35
LT		28	64	-36	27	58	-31
EL		26	73	-47	20	77	-57

**The socio-demographic data** show that a majority of respondents in the following categories believe that **their voice counts in the EU**:

- Those who studied up to the age of 20 and beyond (53%);
- Managers (57%) and students (50% versus 41%);
- Those who never or almost never have difficulties paying their bills (51%) and those who see themselves as middle class (52%), upper middle class (59%) and upper class (71%).

Europeans in the 15-24 age group (46% versus 46%) are also more likely than those aged 55+ (41% versus 52%) to feel their voice counts in the EU.

A majority of respondents in the following categories feel **that their voice does not count in the EU**:

- Those who left school at the age of 15 or earlier (59%);
- Manual workers (51%), unemployed people (63%) and house persons (57%);
- Those who struggle to pay their bills most of the time (73%) and those who see themselves as working class (58%) and lower middle class (60%).

Except for those who left school at the age of 15 or earlier (47% “agree” versus 48%), unemployed people (45% versus 51%), house persons (46% versus 48%) and those who struggle to pay their bills most of the time (33% versus 63%) or from time to time (47% versus 50%), a majority of respondents in all socio-demographic categories feel that **their voice counts in their country**, in particular:

- Europeans who see themselves as upper class (82%);
- Those who see themselves as upper middle class (75%);
- Those who see themselves as middle class (66%);
- Those who see themselves as lower middle class (52%);
- Those who see themselves as working class (50% versus 45%).

However, there are relatively few differences between age groups, with scores ranging from 57% among 15-24 year-olds to 60% among those aged 55+.

**D72.1** Please tell me to what extent you agree or disagree with each of the following statements.

**My voice counts in the EU (% - EU)**

	Total 'Agree'	Total 'Disagree'	Don't know
EU28	44	50	6
<b>Gender</b>			
Man	44	52	4
Woman	44	49	7
<b>Age</b>			
15-24	46	46	8
25-39	46	50	4
40-54	47	49	4
55 +	41	52	7
<b>Education (End of)</b>			
15-	32	59	9
16-19	43	52	5
20+	53	44	3
Still studying	50	41	9
<b>Socio-professional category</b>			
Self-employed	44	52	4
Managers	57	40	3
Other white collars	49	47	4
Manual workers	44	51	5
House persons	36	57	7
Unemployed	31	63	6
Retired	41	52	7
Students	50	41	9
<b>Consider belonging to</b>			
The working class	34	58	8
The lower middle class	36	60	4
The middle class	52	44	4
The upper middle class	59	38	3
The upper class	71	27	2

**D72.2** Please tell me to what extent you agree or disagree with each of the following statements.

**My voice counts in (OUR COUNTRY) (% - EU)**

	Total 'Agree'	Total 'Disagree'	Don't know
EU28	59	37	4
<b>Gender</b>			
Man	60	37	3
Woman	60	36	4
<b>Age</b>			
15-24	57	37	6
25-39	59	38	3
40-54	62	36	2
55 +	60	36	4
<b>Education (End of)</b>			
15-	47	48	5
16-19	59	38	3
20+	69	29	2
Still studying	58	34	8
<b>Socio-professional category</b>			
Self-employed	57	41	2
Managers	75	24	1
Other white collars	64	34	2
Manual workers	58	39	3
House persons	46	48	6
Unemployed	45	51	4
Retired	62	34	4
Students	58	34	8
<b>Consider belonging to</b>			
The working class	50	45	5
The lower middle class	52	45	3
The middle class	66	32	2
The upper middle class	75	23	2
The upper class	82	16	2

The following tables show the average results by socio-demographic criteria in the European Union as a whole (EU28), in the six largest EU countries and in the countries benefiting or having benefited from European Union support to deal with the financial and economic crisis.

**D72.1** Please tell me to what extent you agree or disagree with each of the following statements.

**My voice counts in the EU**

(% - TOTAL 'AGREE')

	EU28	DE	ES	FR	IT	PL	UK	EL	PT	IE	CY
<b>TOTAL</b>	44	65	39	39	29	52	33	20	46	53	25
<b>Gender</b>											
Male	44	64	41	39	32	52	32	20	47	55	28
Female	44	66	37	40	27	52	34	20	45	50	22
<b>Age</b>											
15-24	46	61	42	38	40	44	46	31	34	49	22
25-39	46	67	37	31	34	60	36	22	57	57	30
40-54	47	66	40	40	37	63	34	19	50	57	22
55 +	41	65	39	44	18	41	24	17	42	45	25
<b>Education (End of)</b>											
15-	32	60	34	37	10	28	24	11	37	28	18
16-19	43	61	38	41	30	47	30	17	57	44	20
20+	53	71	47	39	43	63	38	27	59	67	33
Still studying	50	76	49	34	46	42	46	42	38	49	24
<b>Socio-professional category</b>											
Self-employed	44	58	44	36	37	59	34	20	49	54	21
Managers	57	72	49	47	47	76	33	25	57	75	32
Other white collars	49	70	45	37	43	66	36	19	65	60	31
Manual workers	44	58	37	39	29	56	34	18	46	45	17
House persons	36	60	35	41	15	43	39	14	28	41	24
Unemployed	31	46	37	28	9	19	30	16	36	37	25
Retired	41	66	37	42	13	41	25	18	41	48	24
Students	50	76	49	34	46	42	46	42	38	49	24

**D72.1** Please tell me to what extent you agree or disagree with each of the following statements.

**My voice counts in the EU**

(% - TOTAL 'DISAGREE')

	EU28	DE	ES	FR	IT	PL	UK	EL	PT	IE	CY
<b>TOTAL</b>	50	31	55	54	64	39	62	77	49	42	70
<b>Gender</b>											
Male	52	34	55	54	63	42	64	79	49	41	69
Female	49	28	56	53	64	37	60	76	49	44	71
<b>Age</b>											
15-24	46	31	55	51	51	45	50	62	57	42	68
25-39	50	29	58	64	62	34	59	75	42	39	66
40-54	49	31	58	56	60	33	60	80	48	40	75
55 +	52	32	52	47	71	47	71	81	51	49	70
<b>Education (End of)</b>											
15-	59	36	57	48	77	56	70	85	57	61	75
16-19	52	34	57	53	66	45	65	81	42	52	75
20+	44	28	52	57	53	32	57	72	37	31	65
Still studying	41	18	47	53	44	40	54	53	57	37	63
<b>Socio-professional category</b>											
Self-employed	52	41	50	55	58	39	61	79	51	41	79
Managers	40	26	49	51	49	20	64	75	39	24	68
Other white collars	47	27	52	58	54	27	56	79	35	35	65
Manual workers	51	36	59	55	64	40	59	81	50	49	81
House persons	57	33	54	51	82	49	56	79	49	54	68
Unemployed	63	49	59	64	87	68	62	78	56	58	67
Retired	52	31	55	49	72	47	70	81	52	50	71
Students	41	18	47	53	44	40	54	53	57	37	63

**D72.2** Please tell me to what extent you agree or disagree with each of the following statements.

**My voice counts in (OUR COUNTRY)**

(% - TOTAL 'AGREE')

	EU28	DE	ES	FR	IT	PL	UK	EL	PT	IE	CY
<b>TOTAL</b>	59	80	45	67	32	68	57	26	60	67	35
<b>Gender</b>											
Male	60	79	44	63	33	69	57	28	61	70	39
Female	60	82	45	72	30	67	57	23	59	65	30
<b>Age</b>											
15-24	57	74	44	58	42	55	58	39	39	57	36
25-39	59	80	41	60	36	70	48	32	69	66	37
40-54	62	79	43	69	38	72	61	23	64	75	32
55 +	60	84	48	75	24	69	60	21	59	67	34
<b>Education (End of)</b>											
15-	47	75	46	64	10	61	56	16	53	42	25
16-19	59	79	42	68	34	66	56	22	68	63	29
20+	69	86	49	71	47	76	60	34	73	78	41
Still studying	58	81	46	52	48	45	58	48	44	62	41
<b>Socio-professional category</b>											
Self-employed	57	79	44	57	36	76	58	25	60	71	46
Managers	75	86	50	76	56	80	64	22	73	84	46
Other white collars	64	82	49	70	44	74	54	31	72	75	38
Manual workers	58	75	43	67	30	71	52	24	61	62	25
House persons	46	66	44	71	19	61	56	22	45	55	17
Unemployed	45	63	43	47	16	43	50	21	50	47	27
Retired	62	86	45	74	20	70	60	20	58	70	35
Students	58	81	46	52	48	45	58	48	44	62	41

**D72.2** Please tell me to what extent you agree or disagree with each of the following statements.

**My voice counts in (OUR COUNTRY)**

(% - TOTAL 'DISAGREE')

	EU28	DE	ES	FR	IT	PL	UK	EL	PT	IE	CY
<b>TOTAL</b>	37	18	52	30	62	25	40	73	36	29	61
<b>Gender</b>											
Male	37	20	54	32	63	25	41	71	35	28	59
Female	36	15	52	26	62	26	39	75	36	30	65
<b>Age</b>											
15-24	37	24	53	34	48	35	39	57	53	35	56
25-39	38	17	56	38	62	24	47	67	29	31	59
40-54	36	18	56	29	59	25	36	77	34	23	66
55 +	36	14	48	23	67	23	37	78	35	29	64
<b>Education (End of)</b>											
15-	48	22	51	30	79	35	41	81	41	50	72
16-19	38	18	55	30	63	28	41	77	30	34	67
20+	29	14	50	27	51	20	37	66	24	21	58
Still studying	34	16	50	37	41	37	42	52	51	26	46
<b>Socio-professional category</b>											
Self-employed	41	21	52	35	61	24	37	74	39	27	54
Managers	24	13	48	24	40	17	34	78	23	15	54
Other white collars	34	16	49	28	53	21	44	69	27	22	58
Manual workers	39	22	55	30	65	26	43	75	36	34	75
House persons	48	24	51	28	78	29	36	72	40	40	77
Unemployed	51	34	54	49	81	45	48	74	43	49	67
Retired	34	13	53	23	68	22	38	79	36	29	62
Students	34	16	50	37	41	37	42	52	51	26	46

### The feeling that the EU's voice counts in the world and the extent to which the EU takes account of national interests

A very large majority of respondents continue to believe that the European Union is a major player on the world stage, since more than seven in ten Europeans (72%, +1 percentage point since spring 2017) say that "**the EU's voice counts in the world**", while 22% (-1) take the opposite view and 6% (unchanged) express no opinion<sup>37</sup>.

The view that national interests are properly taken into account by the European Union has gained significant ground, and the balance of opinion on this question is positive again. Almost half of Europeans (49%, +4 percentage points since spring 2017) consider that **their country's interests are properly taken into account within the EU**, while 43% (-4) take the opposite view and 8% (unchanged) express no opinion<sup>38</sup>.

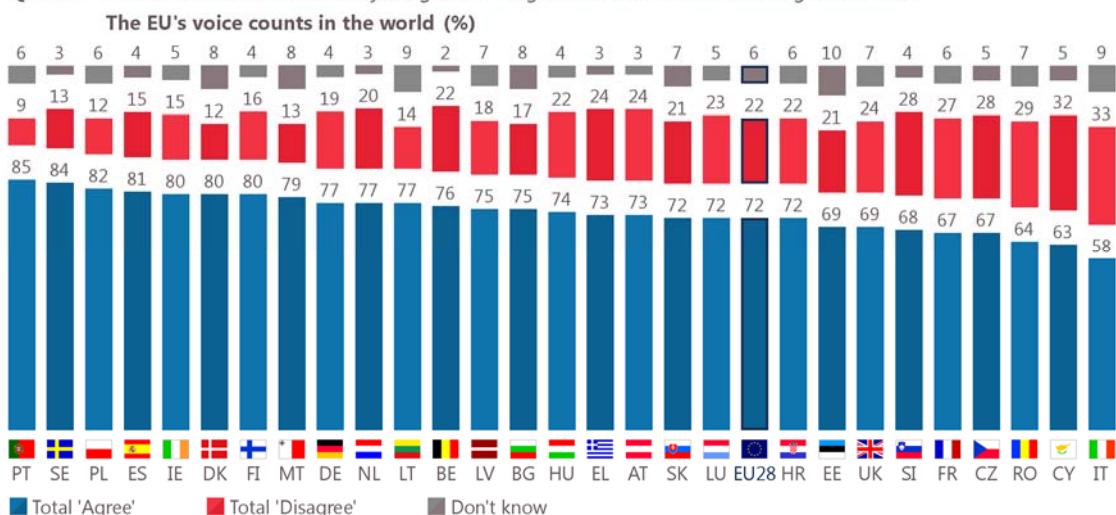
**QA18a** Please tell me to what extent you agree or disagree with each of the following statements.  
(% - EU)



A majority of respondents in all Member States consider that the EU's voice counts in the world, with scores ranging from 58% in Italy to 85% in Portugal.

The feeling that the EU's voice does not count in the world is the most in evidence in Italy (33% "disagree"), Cyprus (32%), Romania (29%), the Czech Republic and Slovenia (both 28%), and France (27%), and least widespread in Portugal (9%) and Poland and Denmark (both 12%).

**QA18a.3** Please tell me to what extent you agree or disagree with each of the following statements.



<sup>37</sup>QA18a. Please tell me to what extent you agree or disagree with each of the following statements. 3. The EU's voice counts in the world.

<sup>38</sup>QA18a. Please tell me to what extent you agree or disagree with each of the following statements. 2. The interests of (OUR COUNTRY) are well taken into account in the EU.

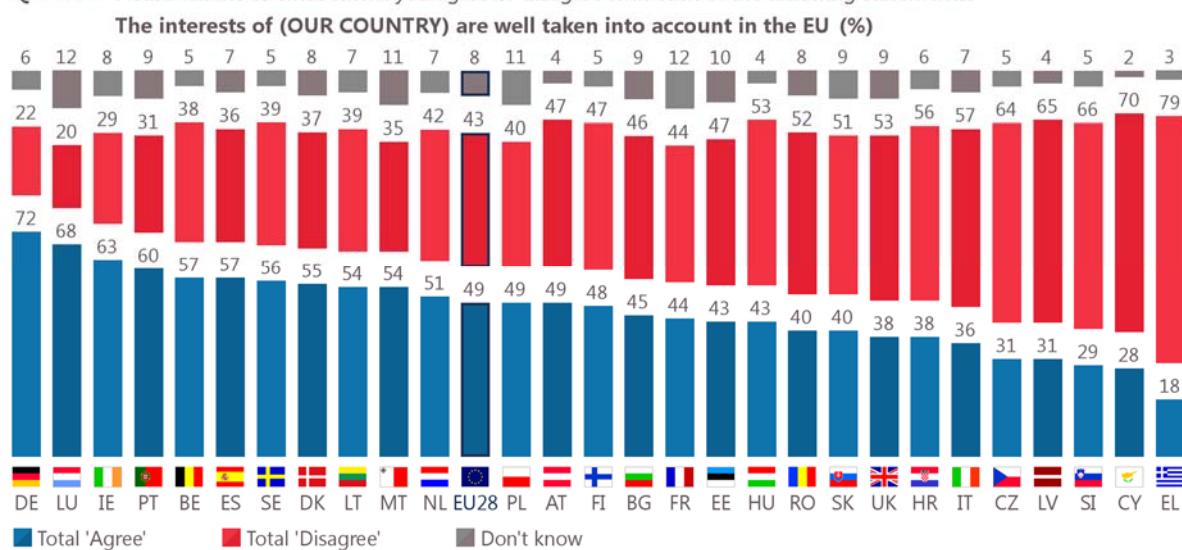
A majority of respondents in 14 Member States (compared with 12 in spring 2017) consider that **national interests are properly taken into account by the European Union**. This is now the majority view in Spain (57% versus 36%, instead of 43% versus 49% in spring 2017), Austria (49% versus 47%, instead of 42% versus 53%) and Finland (48% versus 47%, instead of 46% versus 48%), but is now shared by only a minority of respondents in Estonia (43% versus 47%, instead of 46% versus 44%). Respondents in Germany (72%), Luxembourg (68%) and Ireland (63%) are the most likely to agree with this statement.

**Negative and positive opinions** are now evenly balanced in France (44% versus 44%), whereas a majority of respondents disagreed with the statement in spring 2017 (47% versus 41%).

A majority of respondents in 13 Member States, led by Greece (79%), Cyprus (70%) and Slovenia (66%), consider that **national interests are not properly taken into account**.

Since spring 2017, the belief that national interests are properly taken into account by the European Union has gained ground in 19 Member States, in particular Spain (57%, +14 percentage points), Portugal (60%, +11), Austria (49%, +7), Hungary (43%, +6), Bulgaria (45%, +6), Italy (36%, +6) and Cyprus (28%, +6). It has lost ground in six countries, most markedly in Malta (54%, -9), and is unchanged in Luxembourg, the United Kingdom and Croatia.

**QA18a.2** Please tell me to what extent you agree or disagree with each of the following statements.



## 5 Political and economic issues

### a. Positive and negative connotations of words

This Standard Eurobarometer survey included a test based on three economic terms: “free trade”, “globalisation” and “protectionism”. For each term, respondents were asked to say whether it had a “positive” or “negative” connotation for them. This type of test was last used in the Standard Eurobarometer survey of autumn 2016 (EB86).

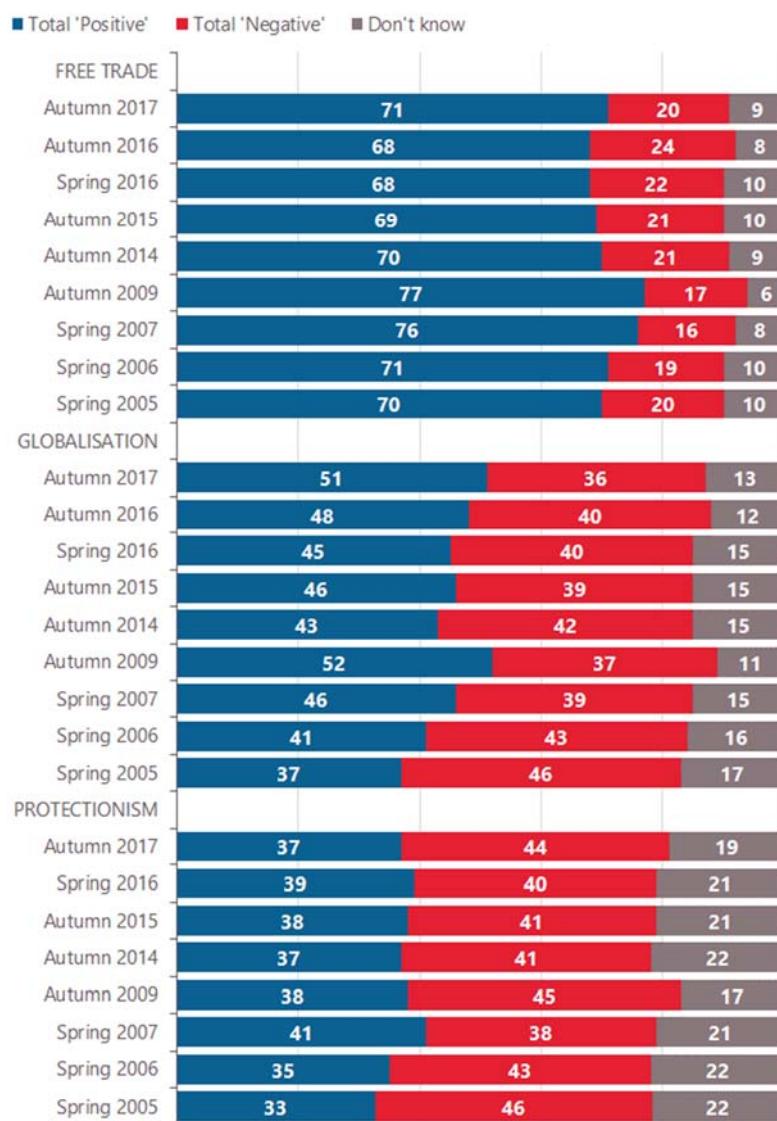
“Free trade” and “globalisation” are perceived in a positive light by an increased majority of respondents. However, “protectionism” continues to have negative connotations, even more so than in autumn 2016<sup>39</sup>.

In detail:

- More than seven in ten Europeans (71%, +3 percentage points since autumn 2016) see the term **“free trade”** in a positive light, while 20% (-4) perceive it negatively and 9% (+1) express no opinion. Although positive connotations have reached their highest level since 2009, it still falls short of the scores recorded in autumn 2009 (77%) and spring 2007 (76%);
- For more than half of Europeans (51%, +3 percentage points since autumn 2016) the word **“globalisation”** has positive connotations, while 36% (-4) perceive it negatively and 13% (+1) express no opinion. This is one of the best scores for this term since 2005, very close to the record score achieved in autumn 2009 (52%);
- Lastly, a relative majority of Europeans (44%, +4 percentage points since autumn 2016) consider that **“protectionism”** has negative connotations, while 37% (-2) perceive it positively and 19% (-2) did not express an opinion. Negative connotations for this word are therefore very close to the record highs of spring 2005 (46%) and autumn 2009 (45%).

<sup>39</sup> QA10. Could you please tell me for each of the following, whether the term brings to mind something very positive, fairly positive, fairly negative or very negative? 1. Free trade; 2. Globalisation; 3. Protectionism.

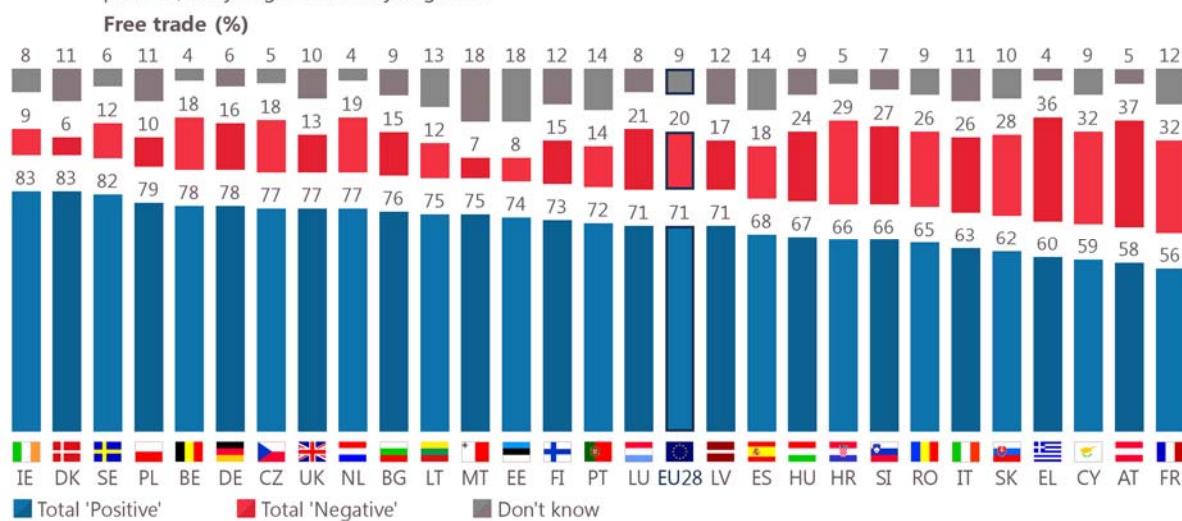
**QA10** Could you please tell me for each of the following, whether the term brings to mind something very positive, fairly positive, fairly negative or very negative?  
(% - EU)



There is a consensus among Europeans about the connotations of the term “**free trade**”, which is seen in a positive light by more than half of respondents in all Member States, led by Ireland and Denmark (both 83%), and Sweden (82%). Respondents in France (56%), Austria (58%) and Cyprus (59%) are the least likely to view this term positively.

Since autumn 2016, the proportion of respondents for whom this word has positive connotations has increased in 12 Member States, most markedly in Belgium (78%, +17 percentage points) and Austria (58%, +10), but has decreased in 15 countries, most sharply in Croatia (66%, -9) and Slovakia (62%, -8). It is unchanged in Cyprus (59%).

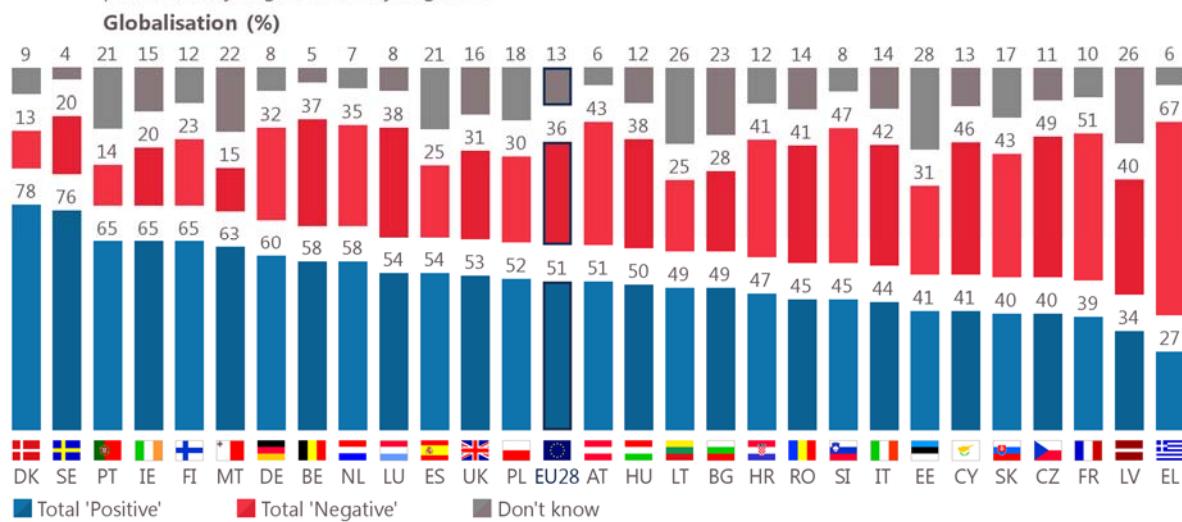
**QA10.1** Could you please tell me for each of the following, whether the term brings to mind something very positive, fairly positive, fairly negative or very negative?



A majority of respondents in 21 Member States see the term “**globalisation**” in a positive light, with the highest scores in Denmark (78%) and Sweden (76%). Respondents are mostly negative about this term in seven Member States, in particular in Greece (67%) and France (51%).

Since autumn 2016, positive connotations have gained ground in 18 Member States, most notably in Luxembourg (54%, +10 percentage points), Belgium (58%, +8), Spain (54%, +8) and Cyprus (41%, +8). They have lost ground in eight countries, in particular in Croatia (47%, -5), and are stable in the United Kingdom (53%) and Latvia (34%).

**QA10.2** Could you please tell me for each of the following, whether the term brings to mind something very positive, fairly positive, fairly negative or very negative?



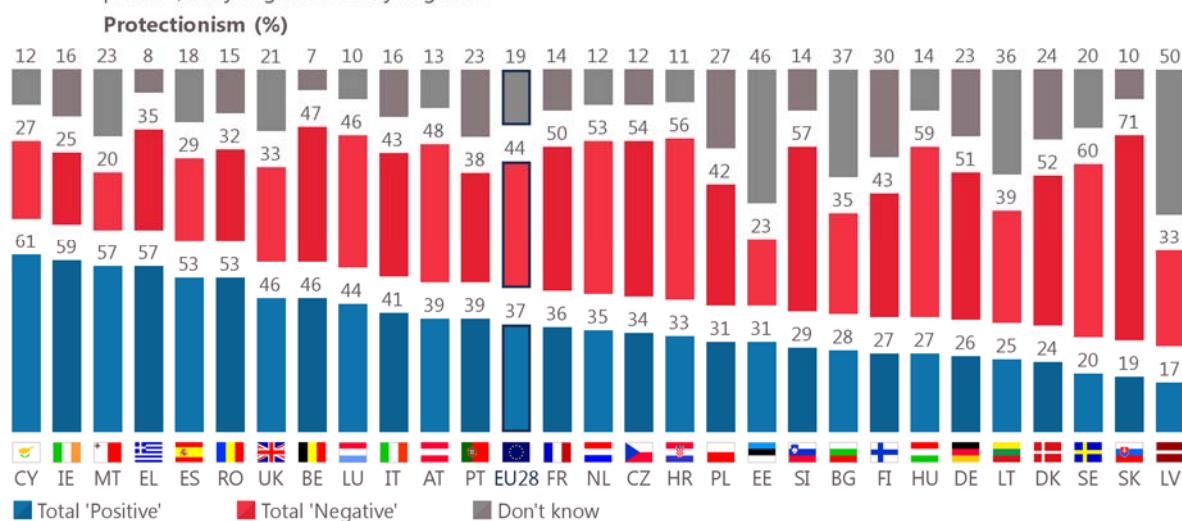
The term “**protectionism**” has positive connotations for a majority of respondents in nine EU Member States: Cyprus (61%), Ireland (59%), Malta and Greece (both 57%), Spain and Romania (both 53%), the United Kingdom (46% versus 33%), Portugal (39% versus 38%) and Estonia (31% versus 23%, but with a “DK” rate of 46%). In these countries, therefore, a majority of respondents see both “free trade” and “protectionism” in a positive light.

The word has negative connotations for a majority of respondents in 19 Member States, led by Slovakia (71%), Sweden (60%) and Hungary (59%).

The “DK” rate for this indicator is extremely high in the Baltic countries (50% in Latvia, 46% in Estonia and 36% in Lithuania), Bulgaria (37%) and Finland (30%).

Since autumn 2016, the proportion of respondents for whom “protectionism” has negative connotations has increased in 17 Member States, with significant rises in Denmark (52%, +15 percentage points), Germany (51%, +12), Luxembourg (46%, +11), Sweden (60%, +10) and Finland (43%, +10). In contrast, it has decreased in eight countries, in particular in Greece (35%, -10). It is unchanged in Belgium, Romania and Ireland.

**QA10.3** Could you please tell me for each of the following, whether the term brings to mind something very positive, fairly positive, fairly negative or very negative?



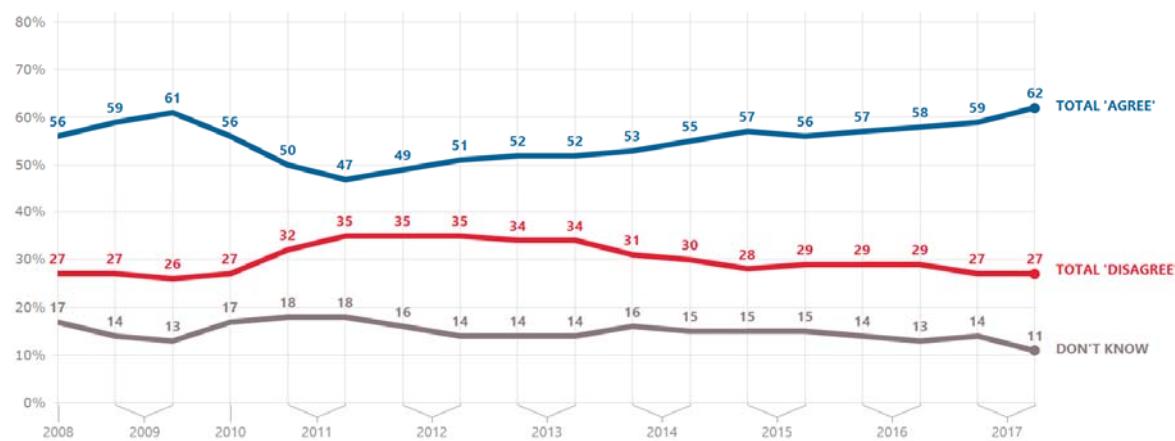
## b. Europeans and globalisation

### Positive representations of globalisation are at their highest level since 2008

The almost continuous improvement in opinions about the economic role of globalisation, which began in spring 2012, has continued in this survey. Thus, more than six in ten Europeans (62%, +3 percentage points since spring 2017) see globalisation as “an opportunity for economic growth”, while 27% (unchanged) disagree and 11% (-3) express no opinion<sup>40</sup>. Positive perceptions of globalisation as a driver of growth are therefore now at their highest level since 2008.

QA18a.4 Please tell me to what extent you agree or disagree with each of the following statements.

Globalisation is an opportunity for economic growth (% - EU)



**Euro area** respondents and **non-euro area** respondents are equally likely to see globalisation as an opportunity for economic growth: support for this positive representation is the same, and has increased in identical proportions in both groups of countries (both 62%, +2 percentage points).

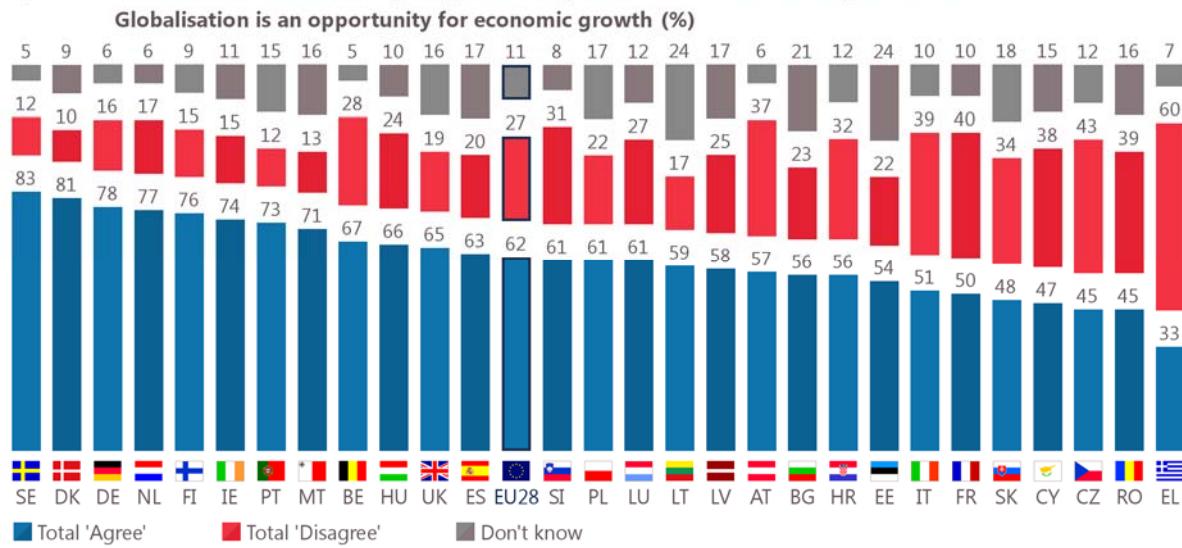
This representation is predominant in 27 Member States (compared with 25 in spring 2017). A majority of respondents now agree that globalisation is an opportunity for growth in Cyprus (47% versus 38%, instead of 40% versus 45% in spring 2017) and the Czech Republic (45% versus 43%, instead of 42% versus 45%). Support is the strongest in the Nordic countries (83% in Sweden, 81% in Denmark and 76% in Finland), Germany (78%) and the Netherlands (77%).

It remains the minority view in Greece (33% versus 60%).

<sup>40</sup> QA18a. Please tell me to what extent you agree or disagree with each of the following statements. 4. Globalisation is an opportunity for economic growth.

The proportion of respondents who see globalisation as an opportunity for economic growth has increased since spring 2017 in 17 Member States, most markedly in Spain (63%, +10 percentage points), Portugal (73%, +7), Hungary (66%, +7), Bulgaria (56%, +7) and Cyprus (47%, +7). It has decreased in seven countries, in particular in Croatia (56%, -5), and is unchanged in Sweden (83%), Denmark (81%), Slovenia (61%) and Austria (57%).

**QA18a.4** Please tell me to what extent you agree or disagree with each of the following statements.



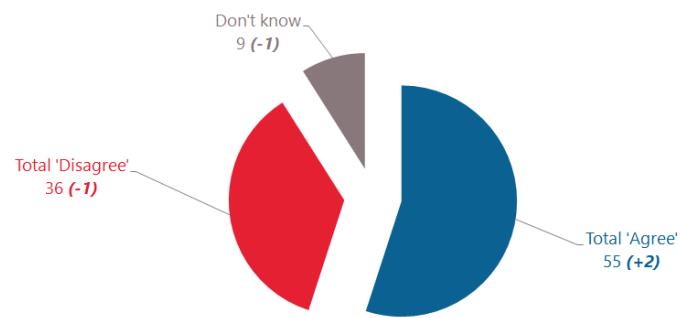
## 6 The European Union today and tomorrow

### a. Should more decisions be taken at European level?

55% of Europeans (+2 percentage points since spring 2017) think that “**more decisions should be taken at EU level**”, while 36% (-1) disagree and 9% (-1) express no opinion<sup>41</sup>.

A majority of respondents in 21 EU Member States (compared with 22 in spring 2017) want more decisions to be taken at EU level, with scores of at least 50% in 18 countries. Support is the strongest in Spain (81%), Belgium (73%) and Cyprus (71%), and more marginal in Hungary (49% versus 41%), Greece (49% versus 46%) and Estonia (42% versus 40%).

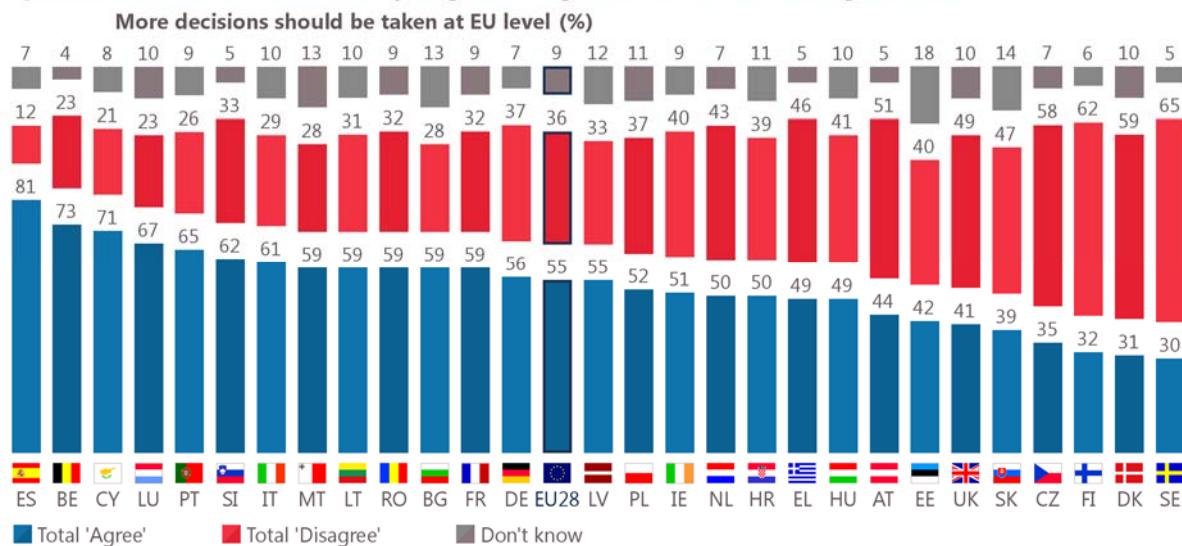
**QA18a.6** Please tell me to what extent you agree or disagree with each of the following statements.



A majority of respondents in seven Member States oppose taking more decisions at EU level. This continues to be the majority view in the Nordic countries (65% “disagree” in Sweden, 62% in Finland and 59% in Denmark), the Czech Republic (58%), Austria (51%) and the United Kingdom (49% versus 41%). It is also the majority opinion in this survey in Slovakia (47% versus 39%, instead of 43% versus 44% in spring 2017).

Since spring 2017, support for more decision-taking at EU level has gained ground in 14 Member States, led by Belgium (73%, +7 percentage points), and has lost ground in nine countries, most markedly in Slovakia (39%, -5). It is unchanged in the remaining five.

**QA18a.6** Please tell me to what extent you agree or disagree with each of the following statements.



<sup>41</sup> QA18a.6. Please tell me to what extent you agree or disagree with each of the following statements. More decisions should be taken at EU level.

**QA18a.6** Please tell me to what extent you agree or disagree with each of the following statements.

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

		Total 'Agree'	Aut2017 - Sp.2017	Total 'Disagree'	Aut2017 - Sp.2017	Don't know
EU28		55	▲ 2	36	▼ 1	9
EURO AREA		61	▲ 3	31	▼ 2	8
NON-EURO AREA		46	▲ 2	45	▲ 1	9
BE		73	▲ 7	23	▼ 8	4
ES		81	▲ 6	12	▼ 2	7
SI		62	▲ 6	33	▼ 6	5
AT		44	▲ 6	51	▼ 4	5
BG		59	▲ 5	28	▼ 2	13
UK		41	▲ 5	49	=	10
SE		30	▲ 5	65	▼ 6	5
LU		67	▲ 3	23	▼ 4	10
DE		56	▲ 3	37	▼ 3	7
HU		49	▲ 3	41	▼ 2	10
CY		71	▲ 2	21	▲ 4	8
PT		65	▲ 2	26	▼ 2	9
FR		59	▲ 1	32	▲ 1	9
LV		55	▲ 1	33	▼ 1	12
IT		61	=	29	▼ 1	10
PL		52	=	37	=	11
IE		51	=	40	▼ 1	9
EL		49	=	46	=	5
CZ		35	=	58	=	7
DK		31	▼ 1	59	▲ 2	10
LT		59	▼ 2	31	▲ 1	10
MT		59	▼ 2	28	=	13
NL		50	▼ 2	43	▲ 2	7
EE		42	▼ 2	40	▲ 1	18
FI		32	▼ 2	62	▲ 2	6
RO		59	▼ 4	32	▲ 2	9
HR		50	▼ 4	39	▲ 3	11
SK		39	▼ 5	47	▲ 4	14

**The socio-demographic data** show that there is a consensus among Europeans in favour of more decision-taking at EU level. A majority of respondents in all age and social categories support this idea, with only a few minor differences of intensity. Support is the strongest among Europeans in the 15-24 age group (65%), students (65%) and those who see themselves as upper class (67%).

**QA18a.6** Please tell me to what extent 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
EU28	55	36	9
 Gender			
Man	57	36	7
Woman	55	35	10
 Age			
15-24	65	26	9
25-39	60	33	7
40-54	54	39	7
55 +	50	40	10
 Education (End of)			
15-	50	36	14
16-19	53	39	8
20+	59	36	5
Still studying	65	26	9
 Socio-professional category			
Self-employed	55	39	6
Managers	56	38	6
Other white collars	60	33	7
Manual workers	57	35	8
House persons	55	32	13
Unemployed	52	39	9
Retired	50	40	10
Students	65	26	9
 Difficulties paying bills			
Most of the time	47	43	10
From time to time	55	36	9
Almost never/ Never	57	35	8
 Consider belonging to			
The working class	51	38	11
The lower middle class	51	40	9
The middle class	59	34	7
The upper middle class	62	33	5
The upper class	67	32	1

The following tables show the average results by socio-demographic criteria in the European Union as a whole (EU28), in the six largest EU countries and in the countries benefiting or having benefited from European Union support to deal with the financial and economic crisis.

**QA18a.6** Please tell me to what extent you agree or disagree with each of the following statements.

**More decisions should be taken at EU level**

(% - TOTAL 'AGREE')

	EU28 	DE 	ES 	FR 	IT 	PL 	UK 	EL 	PT 	IE 	CY 
<b>TOTAL</b>	55	56	81	59	61	52	41	49	65	51	71
<b>Gender</b>											
Male	57	56	83	61	63	51	40	48	69	51	77
Female	55	56	79	57	59	53	42	50	62	51	66
<b>Age</b>											
15-24	65	63	89	76	70	58	62	59	62	52	69
25-39	60	58	83	60	73	57	51	52	67	51	72
40-54	54	53	84	51	63	53	37	52	67	57	75
55 +	50	54	77	56	51	45	28	43	63	46	70
<b>Education (End of)</b>											
15-	50	55	73	51	42	38	32	37	63	40	60
16-19	53	51	85	58	64	52	38	46	74	48	72
20+	59	63	88	58	78	56	48	61	67	54	75
Still studying	65	64	86	78	74	54	61	66	60	61	76
<b>Socio-professional category</b>											
Self-employed	55	46	89	45	72	47	41	44	58	43	74
Managers	56	63	87	60	78	58	34	59	68	58	76
Other white collars	60	55	84	54	74	68	55	58	63	55	65
Manual workers	57	52	84	59	62	52	47	59	69	49	72
House persons	55	60	74	52	48	50	49	35	71	46	81
Unemployed	52	46	82	54	41	34	39	40	70	44	72
Retired	50	55	78	58	48	46	31	46	60	45	68
Students	65	64	86	78	74	54	61	66	60	61	76

**QA18a.6** Please tell me to what extent you agree or disagree with each of the following statements.

**More decisions should be taken at EU level**

(% - TOTAL 'DISAGREE')

	EU28 	DE 	ES 	FR 	IT 	PL 	UK 	EL 	PT 	IE 	CY 
<b>TOTAL</b>	36	37	12	32	29	37	49	46	26	40	21
<b>Gender</b>											
Male	36	39	12	30	29	38	55	48	25	43	19
Female	35	34	12	33	29	36	44	45	27	36	23
<b>Age</b>											
15-24	26	26	8	17	22	29	28	33	31	30	28
25-39	33	36	13	30	24	32	37	43	30	43	23
40-54	39	38	11	43	31	36	57	45	27	38	17
55 +	40	40	12	32	32	45	63	53	22	42	19
<b>Education (End of)</b>											
15-	36	38	15	30	34	48	55	58	24	39	24
16-19	39	40	12	32	31	38	51	48	22	44	19
20+	36	33	9	35	19	35	47	38	31	41	21
Still studying	26	24	10	14	21	27	30	29	30	22	21
<b>Socio-professional category</b>											
Self-employed	39	45	7	46	24	47	51	51	35	54	23
Managers	38	32	11	32	21	33	62	41	31	37	19
Other white collars	33	35	11	40	22	22	38	38	36	37	25
Manual workers	35	39	12	32	30	36	43	39	26	40	26
House persons	32	26	12	38	37	34	34	58	18	40	13
Unemployed	39	51	12	39	44	53	46	55	20	46	14
Retired	40	40	13	29	31	45	59	50	21	49	20
Students	26	24	10	14	21	27	30	29	30	22	21

## b. The future of the European Union

### **Increased optimism about the future of the EU**

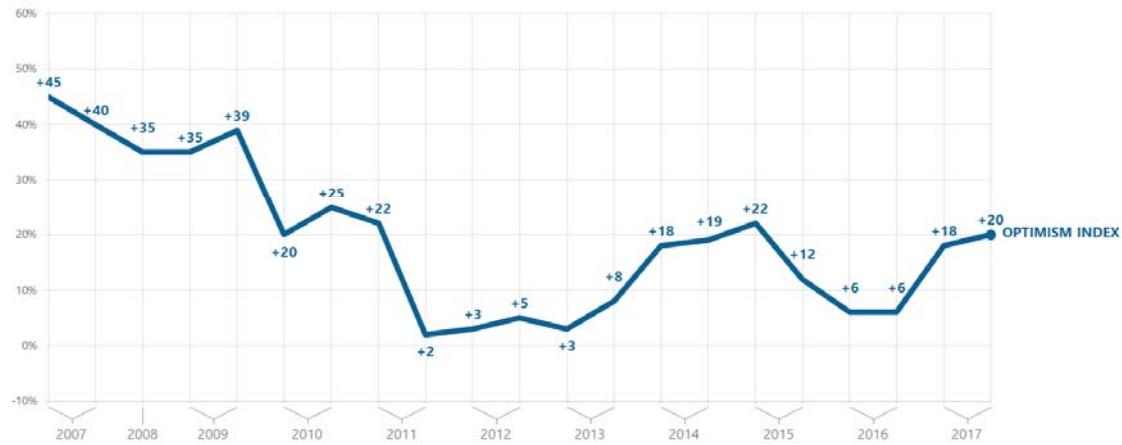
After the striking increase recorded in the previous Standard Eurobarometer survey (EB87), **optimism** about the future of the European Union has further strengthened (57%, +1 percentage point since spring 2017), while pessimism (37%, -1) continues to decrease and 6% (unchanged) say they "don't know".<sup>42</sup>

QA19 Would you say that you are very optimistic, fairly optimistic, fairly pessimistic or very pessimistic about the future of the EU?  
(% - EU)



**The optimism index**<sup>43</sup> now stands at +20 (up by 2 index points since spring 2017), its highest level since spring 2015.

QA19 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>42</sup> QA19. Would you say that you are very optimistic, fairly optimistic, fairly pessimistic or very pessimistic about the future of the EU?

<sup>43</sup> Difference between the proportions of "optimistic" and "pessimistic" answers

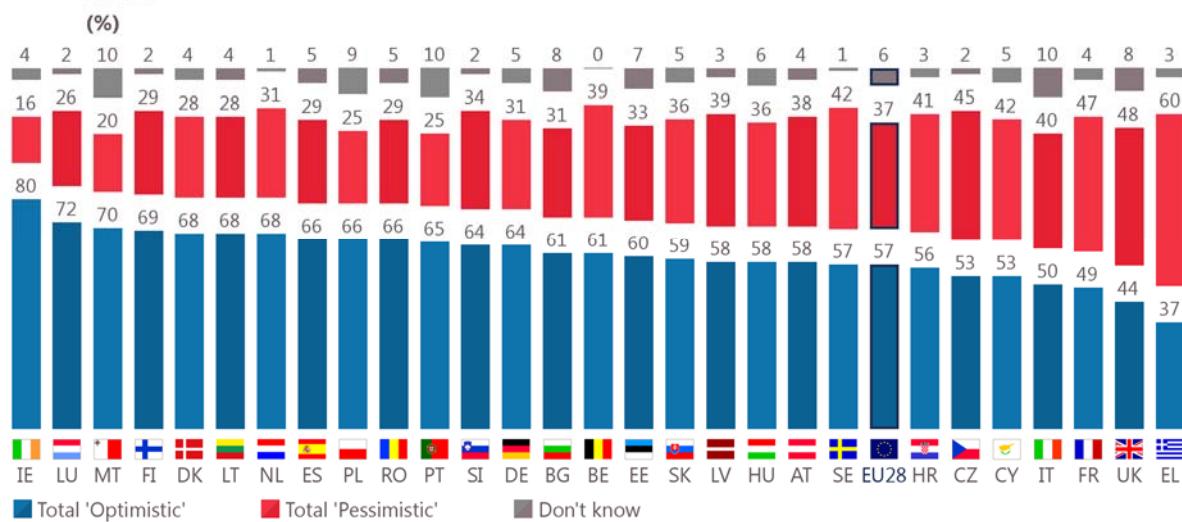
**Optimism about the future of the EU** has gained ground in both the **euro area** countries (58%, +1 percentage point) and the **non-euro area** countries (56%, +2).

Respondents are predominantly optimistic in 26 Member States (compared with 24 in spring 2017). Optimistic respondents are now the majority in Cyprus (53% versus 42%, instead of 43% versus 52% in spring 2017) and the Czech Republic (53% versus 45%, instead of 47% versus 51%). Optimism is most widespread in Ireland (80%), Luxembourg (72%) and Malta (70%).

**Pessimism** therefore now outweighs optimism in only two Member States, namely Greece (60%) and the United Kingdom (48% versus 44%).

**Optimism** about the future of the European Union has strengthened in 18 Member States, led by Cyprus (53%, +10 percentage points), Hungary (58%, +9) and Greece (37%, +8). It has declined in ten countries, most sharply in France (49%, -6).

**QA19** Would you say that you are very optimistic, fairly optimistic, fairly pessimistic or very pessimistic about the future of the EU?



**The socio-demographic data** show that apart from the respondents who struggle to pay their bills most of the time (58% total “pessimistic”) and unemployed people (48% versus 45%), a majority of respondents in all age and social categories of the European population are optimistic about the future of the EU.

However, optimism is stronger among Europeans in the 15-24 age group (66%) than among those aged 55+ (52%); among those who studied up to the age of 20 and beyond (64%) than among those who left school at the age of 15 or earlier (47% versus 42%); among managers (67%) and students (71%) than among manual workers (56%) and house persons (53%); and among those who see themselves as upper class (71%), upper middle class (73%) and middle class (63%) than among those who see themselves as lower middle class (50% versus 43%) and working class (48% versus 44%).

**QA19** 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
EU28	57	37	6
 Gender			
Man	58	37	5
Woman	57	36	7
 Age			
15-24	66	30	4
25-39	61	35	4
40-54	58	38	4
55 +	52	40	8
 Education (End of)			
15-	47	42	11
16-19	55	39	6
20+	64	33	3
Still studying	71	25	4
 Socio-professional category			
Self-employed	57	38	5
Managers	67	31	2
Other white collars	63	34	3
Manual workers	56	38	6
House persons	53	38	9
Unemployed	45	48	7
Retired	51	41	8
Students	71	25	4
 Difficulties paying bills			
Most of the time	34	58	8
From time to time	51	42	7
Almost never/ Never	63	32	5
 Consider belonging to			
The working class	48	44	8
The lower middle class	50	43	7
The middle class	63	33	4
The upper middle class	73	26	1

The following tables show the average results by socio-demographic criteria in the European Union as a whole (EU28), in the six largest EU countries and in the countries benefiting or having benefited from European Union support to deal with the financial and economic crisis.

**QA19** Would you say that you are very optimistic, fairly optimistic, fairly pessimistic or very pessimistic about the future of the EU?

(% - TOTAL 'OPTIMISTIC')

	EU28	DE	ES	FR	IT	PL	UK	EL	PT	IE	CY
<b>TOTAL</b>	57	64	66	49	50	66	44	37	65	80	53
<b>Gender</b>											
Male	58	64	67	50	52	63	44	36	67	80	53
Female	57	65	64	48	49	67	45	38	64	80	53
<b>Age</b>											
15-24	66	71	74	50	62	74	60	51	80	86	64
25-39	61	66	67	42	62	69	51	41	68	81	56
40-54	58	65	63	52	56	71	42	36	66	77	48
55 +	52	60	64	49	38	57	35	32	58	79	48
<b>Education (End of)</b>											
15-	47	62	62	40	30	48	31	26	56	66	44
16-19	55	59	66	44	55	63	43	35	71	76	46
20+	64	69	69	56	67	70	50	45	74	85	58
Still studying	71	81	71	53	70	73	67	60	81	88	70
<b>Socio-professional category</b>											
Self-employed	57	56	71	59	56	64	43	34	65	84	45
Managers	67	77	74	61	63	81	44	59	75	87	59
Other white collars	63	66	73	47	65	74	48	40	71	82	48
Manual workers	56	58	62	45	54	65	47	31	65	73	62
House persons	53	65	64	41	35	74	54	32	46	76	53
Unemployed	45	42	66	34	24	50	42	33	58	68	43
Retired	51	60	63	50	36	55	36	35	57	79	47
Students	71	81	71	53	70	73	67	60	81	88	70

**QA19** Would you say that you are very optimistic, fairly optimistic, fairly pessimistic or very pessimistic about the future of the EU?

(% - TOTAL 'PESSIMISTIC')

	EU28	DE	ES	FR	IT	PL	UK	EL	PT	IE	CY
<b>TOTAL</b>	37	31	29	47	40	25	48	60	25	16	42
<b>Gender</b>											
Male	37	32	30	46	39	30	51	62	23	17	45
Female	36	29	30	49	40	22	44	58	26	16	40
<b>Age</b>											
15-24	30	22	26	46	32	23	35	45	14	13	34
25-39	35	29	31	54	33	24	40	57	25	17	39
40-54	38	31	32	46	39	22	51	61	26	19	47
55 +	40	35	28	46	45	28	56	65	28	15	45
<b>Education (End of)</b>											
15-	42	33	31	50	48	36	55	70	31	22	44
16-19	39	35	31	53	39	26	49	61	22	21	49
20+	33	28	29	42	29	23	46	54	20	12	39
Still studying	25	12	29	43	24	24	29	38	15	11	28
<b>Socio-professional category</b>											
Self-employed	38	40	26	34	38	28	53	63	28	13	51
Managers	31	20	26	37	36	16	53	38	18	12	38
Other white collars	34	30	24	52	31	19	45	59	20	16	50
Manual workers	38	36	33	52	37	25	42	63	26	20	35
House persons	38	26	29	50	52	15	38	65	23	20	32
Unemployed	48	48	31	61	67	38	45	64	37	24	54
Retired	41	36	28	46	43	31	54	62	27	17	44
Students	25	12	29	43	24	24	29	38	15	11	28

### III. ECONOMIC ISSUES IN THE EUROPEAN UNION

#### 1 Perceptions of the economic situation

##### a. Assessments of the personal job and financial situations

Europeans are more satisfied with **the financial situation of their household** and **their personal job situation** in this Standard Eurobarometer survey than in spring 2017<sup>44</sup>.

Overall, respondents' expectations for the next twelve months as regards the household financial situation are unchanged. They are now slightly more optimistic about their personal job situation, although a majority continue to expect it to remain "the same"<sup>45</sup>. In detail:

- More than seven in ten Europeans (72%, +2 percentage points since spring 2017) are positive about the financial situation of their household, while 26% (-1) are negative and 2% (-1) express no opinion. Their future expectations are similar to those of spring 2017: 60% of Europeans (-2) expect their financial situation to remain the same over the next twelve months, while 24% (+1) expect it to improve and 13% (+1) expect it to deteriorate;
- More than six in ten respondents (61%, +2) say their personal job situation is good, while 21% (-1) describe it as bad and 18% (-1) express no opinion. Optimism about the outlook for the next twelve months has gained two percentage points (23%) since spring 2017, while the proportion of pessimists is stable (7%). A clear majority of respondents (58%, -3) continue to expect their personal job situation to remain the same over the next twelve months.

**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)



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



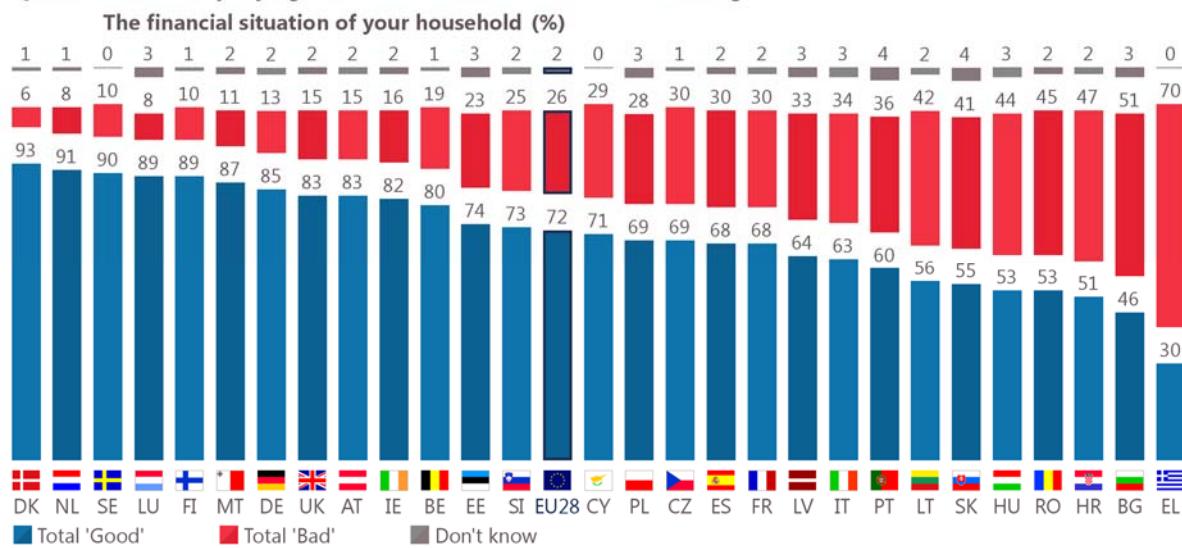
<sup>44</sup> QA1a. How would you judge the current situation in each of the following? 4. Your personal job situation; 5. The financial situation of your household

<sup>45</sup> QA2a. What are your expectations for the next twelve months: will the next twelve months be better, worse or the same, when it comes to...? 4. The financial situation of your household; 6. Your personal job situation

A majority of respondents in 26 EU Member States consider that the **financial situation of their household** is “good”, most markedly in the Nordic countries (93% in Denmark, 90% in Sweden and 89% in Finland), the Netherlands (91%), Luxembourg (89%), Malta (87%) and Germany (85%).

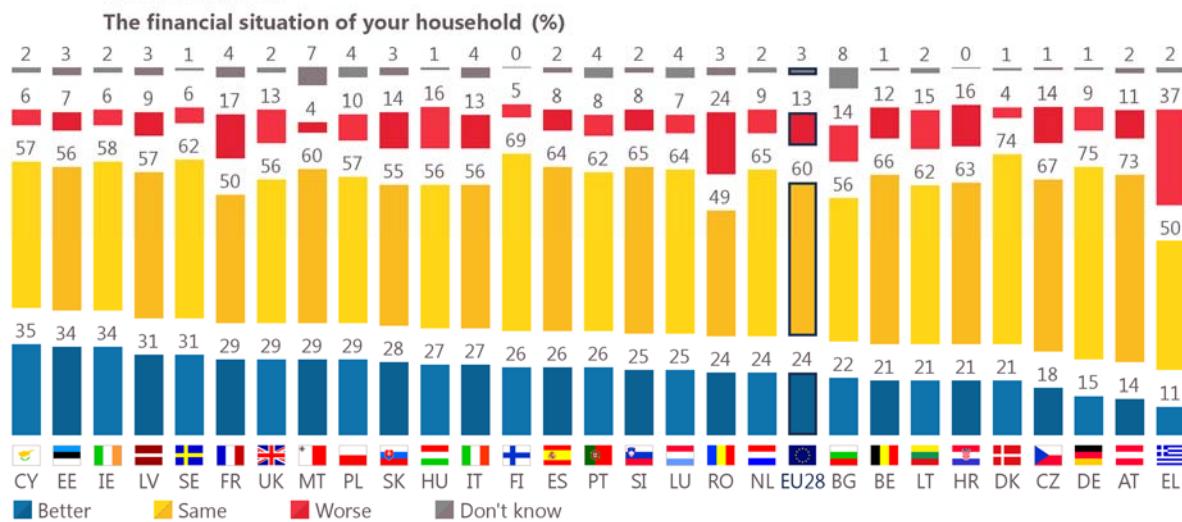
Respondents are more evenly divided in Hungary (53% “good” versus 44%), Romania (53% versus 45%) and Croatia (51% versus 47%). In contrast a majority of respondents in Greece (70%) and Bulgaria (51%) consider that the financial situation of their household is “bad”.

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



A majority of respondents in almost all Member States expect **their household financial situation to remain the same over the next twelve months**. Among the minority of respondents who do expect it to change, optimists outnumber pessimists in 26 Member States. Optimism is most widespread in Cyprus (35%), Estonia and Ireland (both 34%), and Latvia and Sweden (both 31%). Pessimism outweighs optimism in Greece (37% expect the next twelve months to be “worse” versus 11% “better”), while pessimists and optimists are evenly divided in Romania (both 24%).

**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 optimism index<sup>46</sup> for the household financial situation has improved significantly in Cyprus and Greece (+13 index points since spring 2017 in both countries), Poland (+11) and Hungary (+8). However, it has deteriorated very sharply in Romania (-21).

**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...?

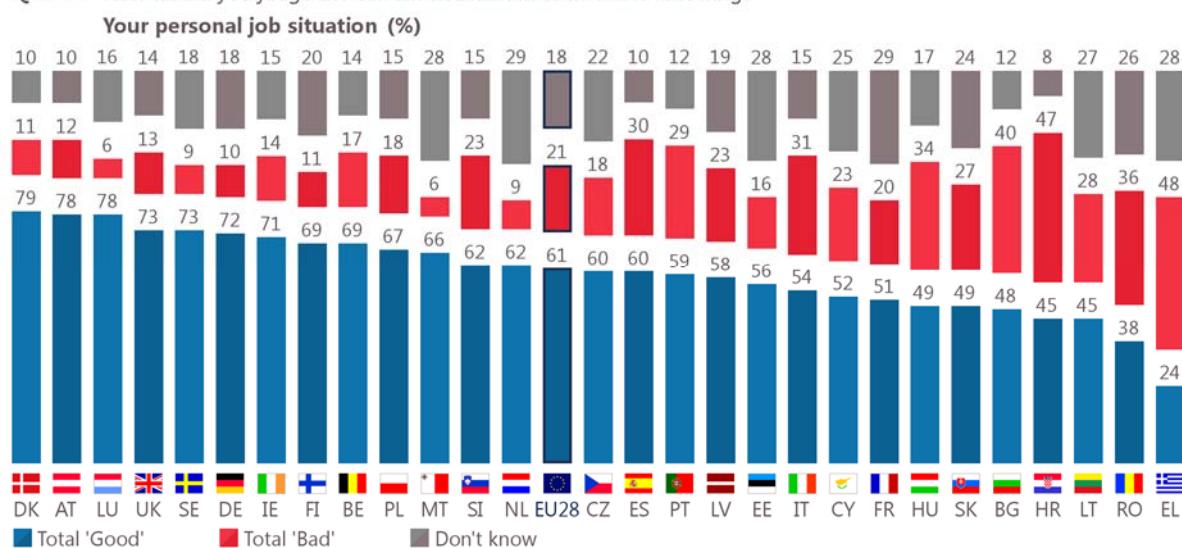
**The financial situation of your household (%)**

		Better - Worse Sp.2017	Better - Worse Aut.2017	Aut.2017 - Sp.2017
EU28		+11	+11	=
CY		+16	+29	▲ 13
EL		-39	-26	▲ 13
PL		+8	+19	▲ 11
HU		+3	+11	▲ 8
EE		+22	+27	▲ 5
SI		+13	+17	▲ 4
UK		+12	+16	▲ 4
LV		+19	+22	▲ 3
IT		+11	+14	▲ 3
SE		+23	+25	▲ 2
FI		+19	+21	▲ 2
ES		+16	+18	▲ 2
BE		+7	+9	▲ 2
BG		+6	+8	▲ 2
IE		+28	+28	=
LU		+18	+18	=
CZ		+4	+4	=
SK		+15	+14	▼ 1
DE		+7	+6	▼ 1
NL		+17	+15	▼ 2
LT		+8	+6	▼ 2
HR		+7	+5	▼ 2
DK		+20	+17	▼ 3
PT		+22	+18	▼ 4
FR		+17	+12	▼ 5
AT		+9	+3	▼ 6
MT		+32	+25	▼ 7
RO		+21	0	▼ 21

<sup>46</sup> Difference between positive ("better") and negative ("worse") answers

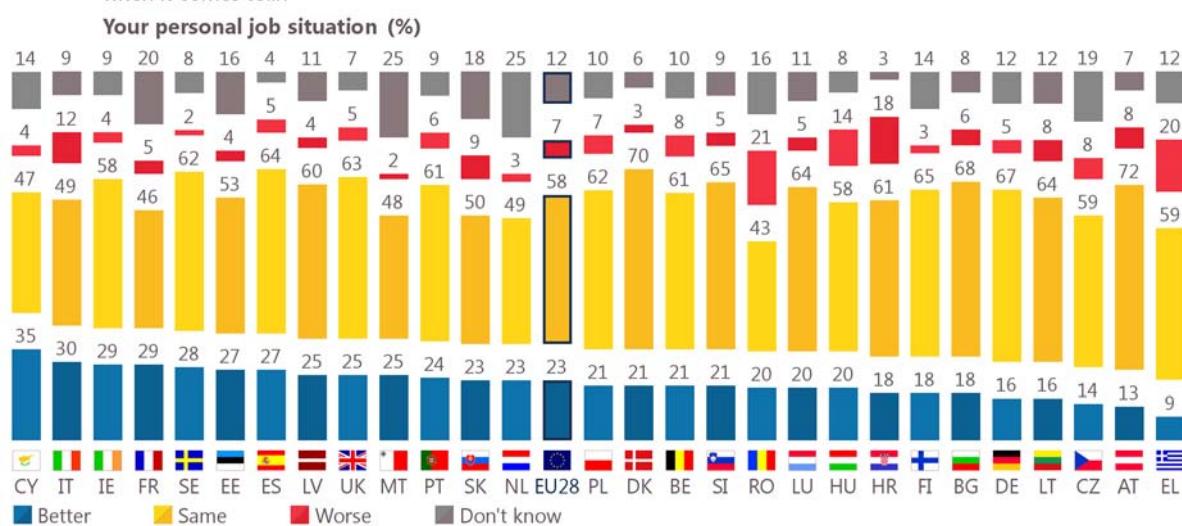
A majority of respondents in 26 Member States are positive about their **personal job situation**, most markedly in Denmark (79%) and Austria and Luxembourg (both 78% in countries), but a majority describe it as “bad” in Greece (48% versus 24%) and Croatia (47% versus 45%).

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



A majority of respondents in all Member States believe that their **personal job situation** will stay “the same” over the next twelve months. Among those who expect their situation to change, optimists outnumber pessimists in 25 Member States.

**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...?



The optimism index is highest in Cyprus (+31), Sweden (+26) and Ireland (+25). It is negative in Greece (-11), Romania (-1) and evenly balanced in Croatia. It has improved significantly in Cyprus (+16 index points since spring 2017), but has deteriorated sharply in Romania (-14).

**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 (%)**

		Better - Worse Sp.2017	Better - Worse Aut.2017	Aut.2017 - Sp.2017
EU28		+14	+16	▲ 2
CY		+15	+31	▲ 16
ES		+16	+22	▲ 6
SI		+10	+16	▲ 6
PL		+8	+14	▲ 6
IT		+13	+18	▲ 5
EE		+19	+23	▲ 4
SK		+10	+14	▲ 4
BG		+8	+12	▲ 4
FR		+21	+24	▲ 3
HU		+3	+6	▲ 3
EL		-14	-11	▲ 3
SE		+24	+26	▲ 2
LV		+19	+21	▲ 2
NL		+18	+20	▲ 2
UK		+18	+20	▲ 2
BE		+11	+13	▲ 2
DE		+10	+11	▲ 1
FI		+15	+15	=
CZ		+6	+6	=
DK		+19	+18	▼ 1
IE		+27	+25	▼ 2
PT		+20	+18	▼ 2
LU		+18	+15	▼ 3
MT		+27	+23	▼ 4
HR		+5	0	▼ 5
LT		+14	+8	▼ 6
AT		+13	+5	▼ 8
RO		+13	-1	▼ 14

**The socio-demographic data** show that, with the exception of unemployed people and those who struggle to pay their bills most of the time, who are predominantly dissatisfied (61% and 78% respectively), a majority of respondents across all categories of the European population are satisfied with the **financial situation of their household**.

The same social divisions are apparent as regards the personal job situation: a majority of respondents across all categories are satisfied, except for unemployed people (18% versus 74%) and those who struggle to pay their bills most of the time (29% versus 56%).

A majority of respondents in all socio-demographic categories expect the **financial situation of their household** to remain the same. The most disadvantaged categories are the most likely to expect it to change (whether for better or worse). Thus, those who struggle to pay their bills most of the time are predominantly pessimistic: 41% expect their situation to remain the same, while 31% expect it to deteriorate and 25% expect it to improve. The mood is more optimistic among unemployed people: 41% expect their household financial situation to remain the same, while 37% expect it to get better and only 18% expect it to get worse.

Unemployed people are also relatively optimistic about their **personal job situation**: 42% expect the next twelve months to be better, while 37% answer “the same” and only 13% answer “worse”.

In all the other categories, a large majority of respondents expect things to remain the same.

## 2 Economic aspects

**For the first time in ten years, a majority of Europeans now see the European economic situation as good**

### a. Assessments of the current economic situation

#### 1. *The national and European situations*

Respondents are now far more upbeat about the **European economic situation**: the proportion describing it as good has increased sharply since spring 2017, and this is now the majority view for the first time since autumn 2007<sup>47</sup>. They are also more likely to assess the national economic situation as good, albeit to a lesser extent. In this survey, these two indicators are at their highest levels since the financial and economic crisis of 2007-2008.

The balance of opinion on the European economic situation is once again positive in this survey: 48% of Europeans (+6 percentage points since spring 2017) consider that the economic situation in the EU is “good”, while 39% (-7) take the opposite view and 13% (+1) express no opinion.

The balance of opinion on the national economic situation has also improved, but more modestly: 48% of Europeans (+2 percentage points) consider that the economic situation in their country is “good”, while 49% (-2) think it is “bad” and 3% (unchanged) express no opinion.

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



<sup>47</sup> QA1a. How would you judge the current situation in each of the following? 2. The situation of the (NATIONALITY) economy: 3. The situation of the European economy

The almost continuous improvement in perceptions of the national economy which began in autumn 2013 has continued in this survey. Since spring 2013, positive opinions have gained 22 percentage points while negative opinions have decreased by 23 points. In this survey, therefore, this indicator is at its highest level for ten years.

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

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



The improvement in judgments of the European and national economies is particularly striking in the **euro area** countries. Positive perceptions of the European economy have increased by eight percentage points since spring 2017 and are now in the majority (47% versus 42%, +9 percentage points). Positive opinions of the national economy have also gained ground, but to a lesser extent and therefore remain in the minority (47%, +4 versus 51%, -4).

These indicators are fairly stable in the **non-euro area** countries, where 50% of respondents (unchanged since spring 2017) think that the national economic situation is "good", compared with 45% "bad", +1 percentage point, while 50% of respondents think that the European economic situation is good (+1 versus 32%, -3).

As a result, and for the first time since 2007, a majority of both euro area respondents and non-euro area respondents are positive about the European economic situation.

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

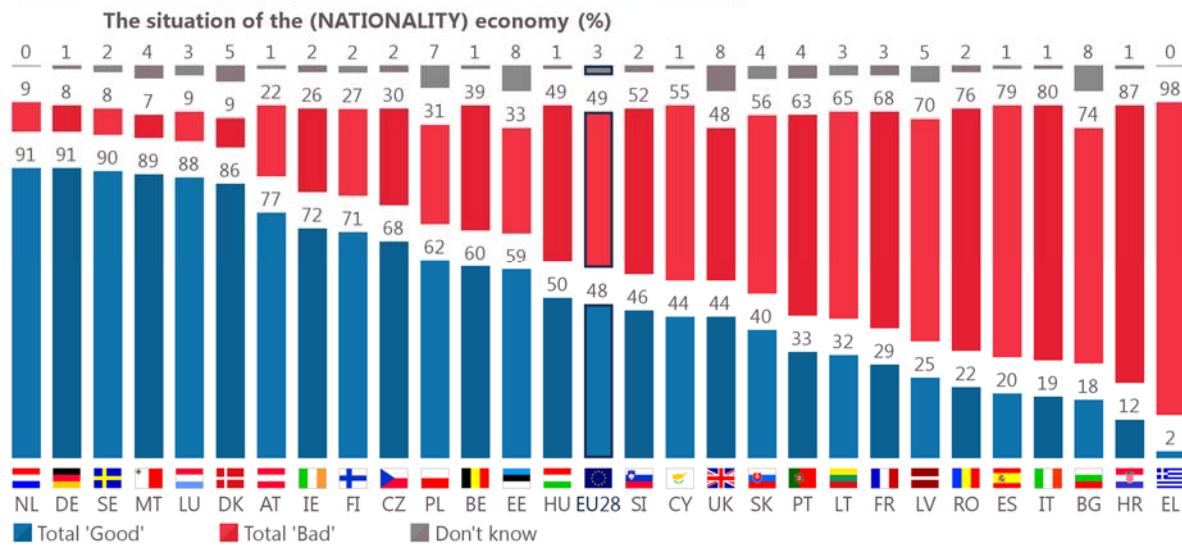
	The situation of the (NATIONALITY) economy		The situation of the European economy	
	Total 'Good'	Total 'Bad'	Total 'Good'	Total 'Bad'
EU28	48	49	48	39
EURO AREA	47	51	47	42
NON-EURO AREA	50	45	50	32

**Perceptions of the national economic situation** remain very mixed within the 28 Member States

Respondents are predominantly positive in 14 countries (as in spring 2017). In this survey, a majority of respondents say the national economic situation is good in Hungary (50% versus 49%, compared with 41% versus 56% in spring 2017), but only a minority now do so in the United Kingdom (44% versus 48%, compared with 49% versus 42%). Respondents in the Netherlands and Germany (91% in both countries), Sweden (90%) and Malta (89%) are most likely to describe the economic situation in their country as "good".

Respondents are predominantly negative in 14 Member States, most markedly in Greece (98%), Croatia (87%), Italy (80%) and Spain (79%).

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



Since spring 2017, positive perceptions of the national economic situation have gained ground in 19 Member States, led by Finland (71%, +12 percentage points), Slovenia (46%, +12), Austria (77%, +9), Hungary (50%, +9) and France (29%, +7). They have lost ground in only three countries: Romania (22%, -7), the United Kingdom (44%, -5) and Luxembourg (88%, -2).

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

The situation of the (NATIONALITY) economy (%)

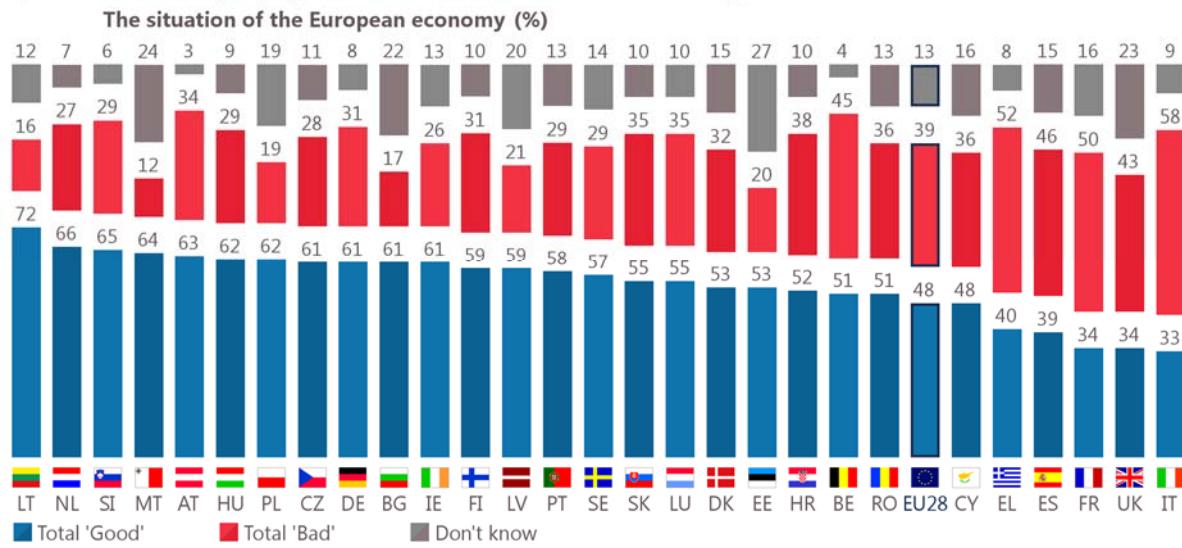
		Total 'Good'	Aut 2017 - Sp.2017	Total 'Bad'	Aut 2017 - Sp.2017	Don't know
EU28		48	▲ 2	49	▼ 2	3
EURO AREA		47	▲ 4	51	▼ 4	2
NON-EURO AREA		50	=	45	▲ 1	5
FI		71	▲ 12	27	▼ 13	2
SI		46	▲ 12	52	▼ 12	2
AT		77	▲ 9	22	▼ 8	1
HU		50	▲ 9	49	▼ 7	1
FR		29	▲ 7	68	▼ 4	3
CZ		68	▲ 6	30	▼ 5	2
SK		40	▲ 6	56	▼ 6	4
LT		32	▲ 6	65	▼ 7	3
ES		20	▲ 6	79	▼ 6	1
IT		19	▲ 6	80	▼ 6	1
PL		62	▲ 5	31	▼ 6	7
EE		59	▲ 5	33	▼ 6	8
CY		44	▲ 5	55	▼ 5	1
IE		72	▲ 4	26	▼ 2	2
MT		89	▲ 3	7	▼ 1	4
LV		25	▲ 3	70	▼ 4	5
BG		18	▲ 3	74	▼ 6	8
SE		90	▲ 2	8	▼ 2	2
DE		91	▲ 1	8	▼ 1	1
NL		91	=	9	▲ 1	0
DK		86	=	9	▼ 1	5
BE		60	=	39	=	1
PT		33	=	63	▼ 1	4
HR		12	=	87	▼ 1	1
EL		2	=	98	=	0
LU		88	▼ 2	9	▲ 2	3
UK		44	▼ 5	48	▲ 6	8
RO		22	▼ 7	76	▲ 7	2

**A majority of respondents in 23 Member States believe that the European economic situation is “good”** (compared with 21 in spring 2017, 18 in autumn 2016 and 13 in spring 2016). In this survey, this has become the majority opinion in Belgium (51% versus 45%, compared with 46% versus 51% in spring 2017) and Cyprus (48% versus 36%, compared with 39% versus 44%), and is most widespread in Lithuania (72%), the Netherlands (66%), Slovenia (65%) and Malta (64%).

Respondents remain predominantly negative about the European economic situation in five Member States, namely Italy (58%), Greece (52%), France (50% versus 34%), Spain (46% versus 39%) and the United Kingdom (43% versus 34%).

Positive assessments of the European economic situation have gained ground in 23 countries, most notably in Spain (39%, +12 percentage points), Portugal (58%, +11), Austria (63%, +10), Cyprus (48%, +9), Italy (33%, +9), Slovenia (65%, +8), the Czech Republic (61%, +8), Slovakia (55%, +8) and France (34%, +8). They have lost ground only in Romania (51%, -9), Bulgaria (61%, -4), Denmark (53%, -3) and Croatia (52%, -1). They are unchanged in Lithuania.

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



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

		Total 'Good'	Aut.2017 - Sp.2017	Total 'Bad'	Aut.2017 - Sp.2017	Don't know
EU28		48	▲ 6	39	▼ 7	13
EURO AREA		47	▲ 8	42	▼ 9	11
NON-EURO AREA		50	▲ 1	32	▼ 3	18
ES		39	▲ 12	46	▼ 13	15
PT		58	▲ 11	29	▼ 12	13
AT		63	▲ 10	34	▼ 9	3
CY		48	▲ 9	36	▼ 8	16
IT		33	▲ 9	58	▼ 11	9
SI		65	▲ 8	29	▼ 8	6
CZ		61	▲ 8	28	▼ 9	11
SK		55	▲ 8	35	▼ 6	10
FR		34	▲ 8	50	▼ 9	16
MT		64	▲ 7	12	▼ 5	24
DE		61	▲ 7	31	▼ 8	8
HU		62	▲ 6	29	▼ 6	9
SE		57	▲ 6	29	▼ 10	14
NL		66	▲ 5	27	▼ 5	7
IE		61	▲ 5	26	▼ 6	13
BE		51	▲ 5	45	▼ 6	4
FI		59	▲ 3	31	▼ 7	10
LV		59	▲ 2	21	▼ 5	20
EL		40	▲ 2	52	▼ 3	8
PL		62	▲ 1	19	▼ 8	19
LU		55	▲ 1	35	▼ 3	10
EE		53	▲ 1	20	▼ 6	27
UK		34	▲ 1	43	▼ 1	23
LT		72	=	16	▼ 1	12
HR		52	▼ 1	38	▲ 2	10
DK		53	▼ 3	32	▲ 1	15
BG		61	▼ 4	17	▲ 2	22
RO		51	▼ 9	36	▲ 9	13

## 2. The employment situation

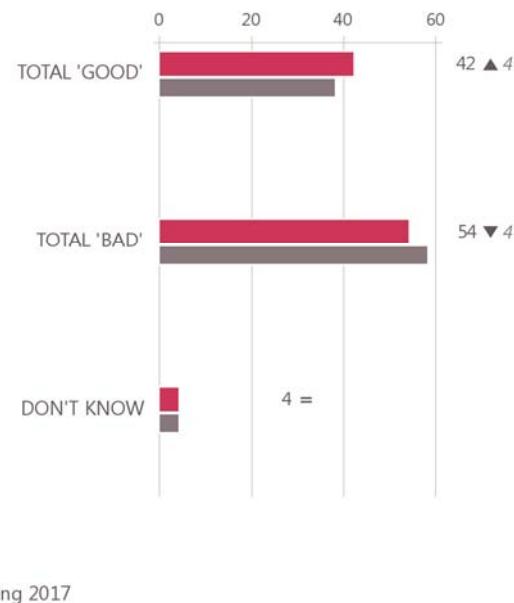
### Opinions on the national employment situation have also improved

The view that the economic situation has improved is reflected in Europeans' judgments of **the employment situation in their country**. Although these remain predominantly negative, they have nevertheless improved considerably in this survey. More than four in ten Europeans (42%, +4 percentage points since spring 2017) think that the employment situation in their country is "good", while 54% (-4) think that it is "bad" and 4% (unchanged) express no opinion.<sup>48</sup>

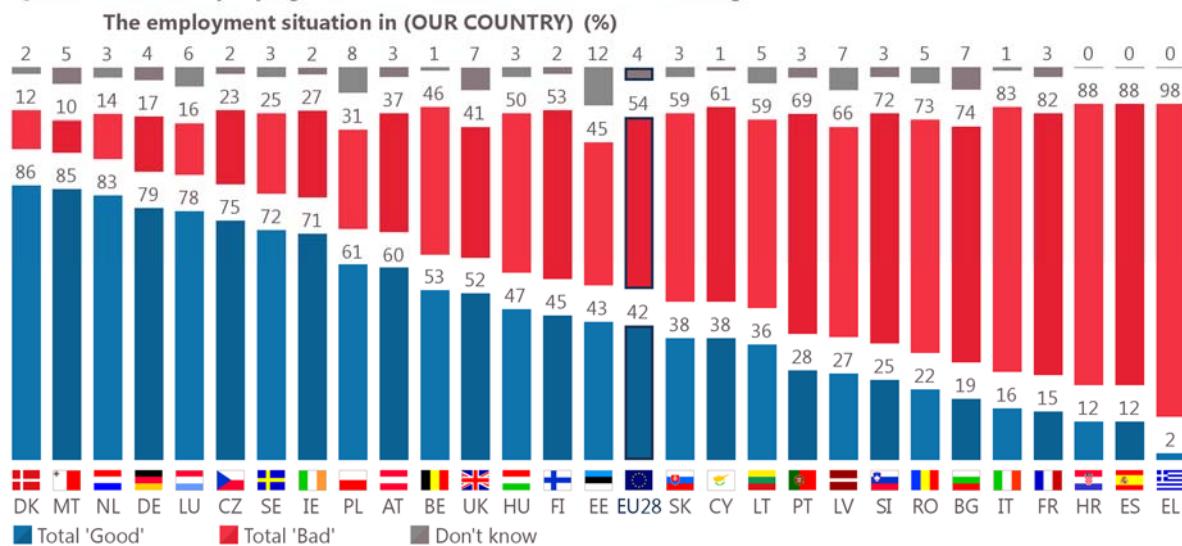
The national employment situation is perceived in a positive light in 12 EU Member States (compared with 11 in spring 2017), with the highest scores in Denmark (86%), Malta (85%), the Netherlands (83%) and Germany (79%).

In contrast, a majority of respondents are negative in 16 Member States (compared with 17 in spring 2017), most markedly in Greece (98%), Spain (88%), Croatia (88%), Italy (83%) and France (82%) and more narrowly in Estonia (45% versus 43%) and Hungary (50% versus 47%).

**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?



<sup>48</sup> QA1a. How would you judge the current situation in each of the following? 6. The employment situation in (OUR COUNTRY)

## b. Expectations for the next twelve months

### **Perceptions of an improved economic situation are not reflected in increased optimism in the future**

#### *1. National and European situations*

Respondents' expectations for the national and European economic situation are almost unchanged since spring 2017. A majority continue to believe that the economic situation, both nationally and in the European Union, will not change significantly over the next twelve months.

46% of Europeans (-1 percentage point since spring 2017) expect the economic situation in their country to remain the same over the coming year, while 27% (+1) expect an improvement and 23% (+2) a deterioration; 4% (-2) express no opinion.

47% (+2 percentage points since spring 2017) think that the economic situation in the European Union will remain the same, while 22% (+1) expect an improvement and 20% (-1) a deterioration; 11% (-2) express no opinion<sup>49</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...?  
(% - EU)



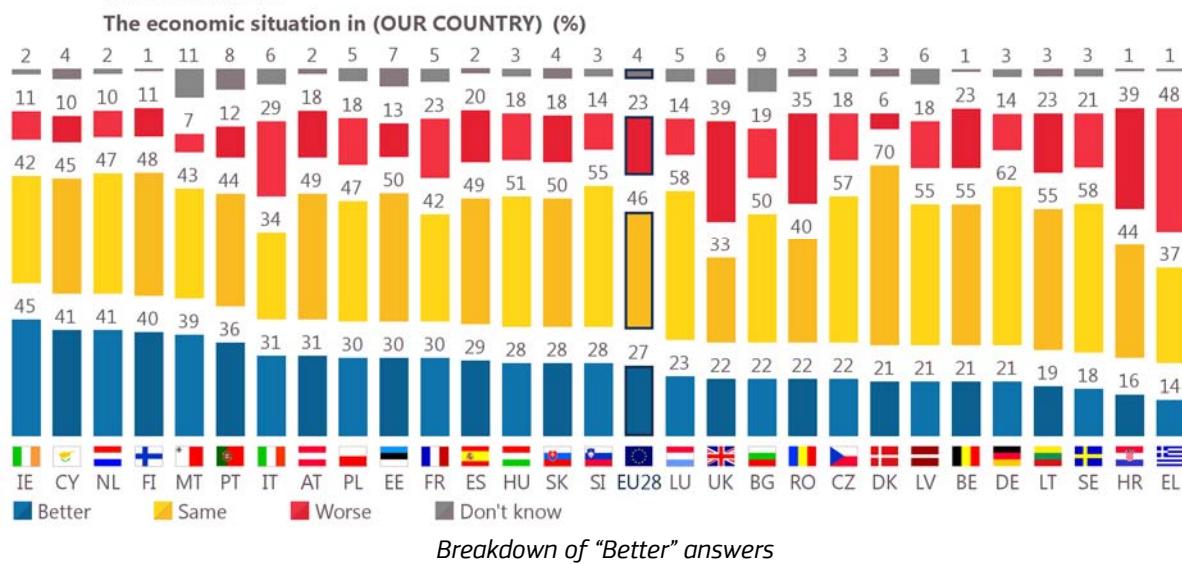
<sup>49</sup> QA2a. What are your expectations for the next twelve months: will the next twelve months be better, worse or the same, when it comes to...? 3. The economic situation in (OUR COUNTRY); 7. The economic situation in the EU

A majority of respondents are pessimistic about the outlook for the **national economy** in Greece (48% “worse” versus 37% for “same” and 14% for “better”) and the United Kingdom (39%, 33% and 22% respectively). Ireland is the only country where “better” answers outscored the other two responses (45% versus 42% for “the same” and 11% for “worse”). In the remaining 25 countries, respondents mostly answered “the same”.

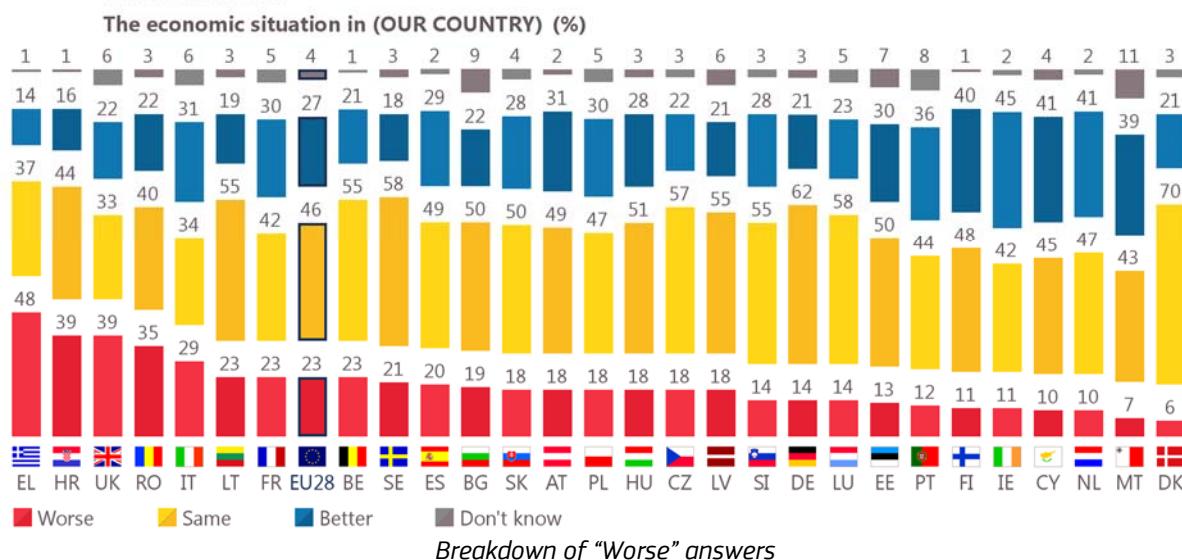
Optimists outnumber pessimists in 21 Member States, most markedly in Ireland (45% “better”), Cyprus and the Netherlands (both 41%), Finland (40%), Malta (39%) and Portugal (36%).

Since spring 2017, respondents have become more optimistic about the outlook for the national economic situation in 13 Member States, led by Cyprus (41%, +11 percentage points since spring 2017), Greece (14%, +7) and Hungary (28%, +6). However, pessimistic forecasts have gained ground in 17 countries, most notably in Romania (35%, +11), France (23%, +10) and Croatia (39%, +8).

**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...?



**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...?



**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) (%)**

	Better	Aut.2017 - Sp.2017	Same	Aut.2017 - Sp.2017	Worse	Aut.2017 - Sp.2017	Don't know
EU28	27	▲ 1	46	▼ 1	23	▲ 2	4
EURO AREA	28	=	47	▼ 2	21	▲ 3	4
NON-EURO AREA	24	=	43	=	28	▲ 2	5
CY	41	▲ 11	45	▼ 10	10	=	4
EL	14	▲ 7	37	▲ 7	48	▼ 14	1
HU	28	▲ 6	51	▼ 6	18	▲ 1	3
DE	21	▲ 5	62	▼ 4	14	▼ 1	3
SK	28	▲ 4	50	▼ 6	18	▲ 1	4
IT	31	▲ 3	34	▼ 4	29	=	6
EE	30	▲ 3	50	▲ 1	13	▼ 3	7
UK	22	▲ 2	33	▲ 1	39	▲ 4	6
LV	21	▲ 2	55	▼ 7	18	▲ 4	6
AT	31	▲ 1	49	▼ 2	18	▲ 1	2
ES	29	▲ 1	49	▼ 5	20	▲ 6	2
SI	28	▲ 1	55	▲ 5	14	▼ 5	3
SE	18	▲ 1	58	▼ 3	21	▲ 1	3
IE	45	=	42	▲ 1	11	▲ 2	2
PL	30	=	47	▲ 3	18	▼ 4	5
BG	22	=	50	▲ 3	19	▼ 3	9
CZ	22	=	57	▲ 2	18	=	3
LT	19	=	55	▲ 4	23	▼ 3	3
MT	39	▼ 1	43	▲ 7	7	▲ 3	11
LU	23	▼ 2	58	=	14	▲ 4	5
NL	41	▼ 3	47	▼ 1	10	▲ 4	2
BE	21	▼ 5	55	▲ 4	23	▲ 1	1
HR	16	▼ 6	44	▼ 1	39	▲ 8	1
FI	40	▼ 8	48	▲ 7	11	▲ 1	1
FR	30	▼ 8	42	▲ 4	23	▲ 10	5
RO	22	▼ 8	40	▼ 2	35	▲ 11	3
PT	36	▼ 9	44	▲ 4	12	▲ 4	8
DK	21	▼ 9	70	▲ 10	6	=	3

The following tables show the average results by socio-demographic criteria in the European Union as a whole (EU28), in the six largest EU countries and in the countries benefiting or having benefited from European Union support to deal with the financial and economic crisis.

**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)**  
(% - BETTER)

	EU28 	DE 	ES 	FR 	IT 	PL 	UK 	EL 	PT 	IE 	CY 
<b>TOTAL</b>	27	21	29	30	31	30	22	14	36	45	41
<b>Gender</b>											
Male	28	23	30	33	31	33	21	14	37	48	42
Female	25	19	27	28	32	28	23	14	35	43	40
<b>Age</b>											
15-24	33	29	39	26	41	32	32	24	49	46	53
25-39	28	24	32	26	33	33	24	16	34	52	45
40-54	27	20	26	36	32	29	19	11	40	47	33
55 +	24	18	25	31	28	28	19	11	32	37	37
<b>Education (End of)</b>											
15-	22	18	21	22	23	33	23	12	31	29	34
16-19	26	21	32	29	32	31	23	8	39	43	38
20+	29	22	32	35	37	30	18	17	38	54	45
Still studying	34	24	43	17	48	30	35	32	48	41	48
<b>Socio-professional category</b>											
Self-employed	29	19	41	34	29	37	24	8	34	65	48
Managers	27	23	26	38	39	22	14	28	43	51	53
Other white collars	28	17	32	32	37	28	21	13	36	55	36
Manual workers	26	24	27	29	28	33	24	6	37	45	45
House persons	25	14	31	23	28	28	22	11	53	43	22
Unemployed	27	21	29	29	22	36	27	17	36	32	38
Retired	24	20	22	31	26	30	20	13	29	36	38
Students	34	24	43	17	48	30	35	32	48	41	48

**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)**  
(% - SAME)

	EU28 	DE 	ES 	FR 	IT 	PL 	UK 	EL 	PT 	IE 	CY 
<b>TOTAL</b>	46	62	49	42	34	47	33	37	44	42	45
<b>Gender</b>											
Male	45	60	48	41	34	48	34	36	43	38	45
Female	47	63	50	41	33	45	32	38	45	45	45
<b>Age</b>											
15-24	43	54	44	41	33	51	33	46	36	37	38
25-39	45	58	50	39	39	45	33	40	46	38	45
40-54	46	62	49	42	34	47	29	36	41	42	54
55 +	48	66	50	42	31	46	36	33	47	48	42
<b>Education (End of)</b>											
15-	45	61	49	55	30	37	36	31	47	50	40
16-19	47	62	49	43	36	51	34	38	42	42	46
20+	46	62	52	37	36	43	32	39	45	37	45
Still studying	44	57	39	42	35	49	27	43	34	48	47
<b>Socio-professional category</b>											
Self-employed	42	65	42	40	35	44	30	37	47	31	49
Managers	49	65	53	35	35	49	37	38	43	39	36
Other white collars	49	70	55	42	39	50	28	42	46	36	55
Manual workers	46	56	53	43	34	48	32	40	42	39	43
House persons	42	61	46	42	32	48	34	34	24	43	60
Unemployed	43	62	43	42	31	39	35	33	42	48	39
Retired	47	62	52	43	30	44	35	32	50	49	39
Students	44	57	39	42	35	49	27	43	34	48	47

**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)**  
(% - WORSE)

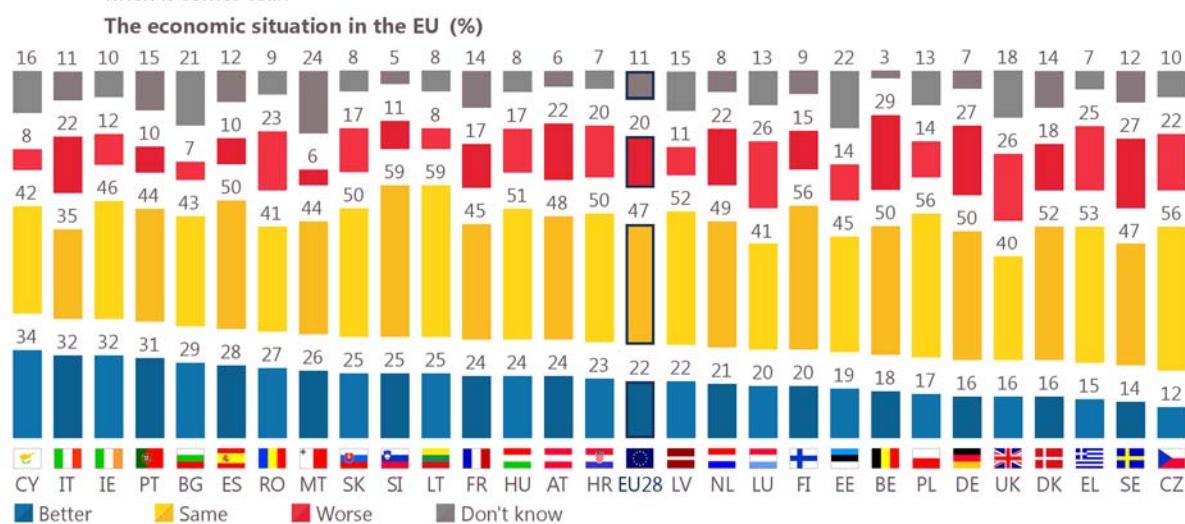
	EU28	DE	ES	FR	IT	PL	UK	EL	PT	IE	CY
<b>TOTAL</b>	23	14	20	23	29	18	39	48	12	11	10
<b>Gender</b>											
Male	23	16	19	20	30	16	40	50	12	12	8
Female	23	14	21	26	28	19	37	46	12	10	13
<b>Age</b>											
15-24	20	12	14	26	24	12	30	27	10	15	4
25-39	23	17	17	28	23	17	34	43	13	8	8
40-54	24	16	22	19	30	19	48	52	14	10	11
55 +	23	13	22	22	32	19	38	55	10	13	16
<b>Education (End of)</b>											
15-	27	17	26	19	36	15	35	56	13	17	22
16-19	23	15	17	23	27	13	35	52	11	13	10
20+	22	14	16	22	24	21	46	44	14	8	9
Still studying	18	11	15	34	15	16	37	24	10	9	3
<b>Socio-professional category</b>											
Self-employed	26	15	15	22	32	16	43	54	10	4	0
Managers	21	11	21	19	21	25	45	32	11	8	11
Other white collars	20	10	13	22	22	18	44	44	13	7	9
Manual workers	24	19	18	24	34	15	37	53	14	15	10
House persons	27	18	21	29	33	15	36	52	20	13	14
Unemployed	25	17	24	23	43	19	26	48	11	14	11
Retired	23	15	23	21	31	17	37	54	10	13	17
Students	18	11	15	34	15	16	37	24	10	9	3

A majority of respondents in all EU Member States (as in spring 2017) feel that **the European economic situation** will remain “the same” over the coming year.

Optimism outweighs pessimism in 19 countries, most strikingly in Cyprus (34%), Italy and Ireland (both 32%), and Portugal (31%).

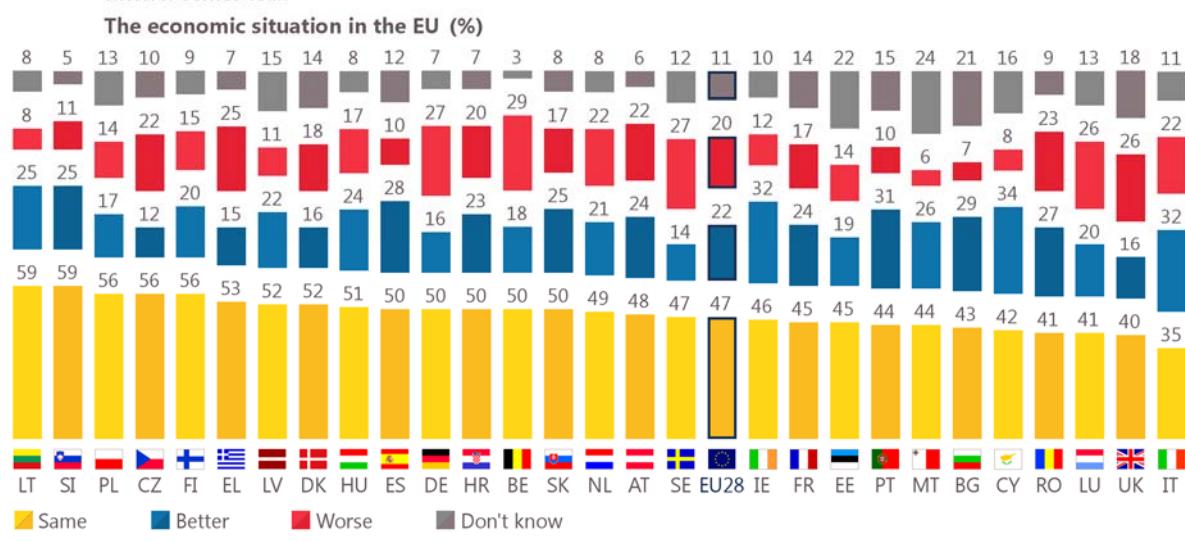
Since spring 2017, optimistic forecasts have gained ground in 15 Member States, above all in Cyprus (34%, +18 percentage points). They are stable in Malta and Luxembourg, and have lost ground in the remaining 11 countries, most markedly in Portugal (31%, -6).

**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...?



*Breakdown of “Better” answers*

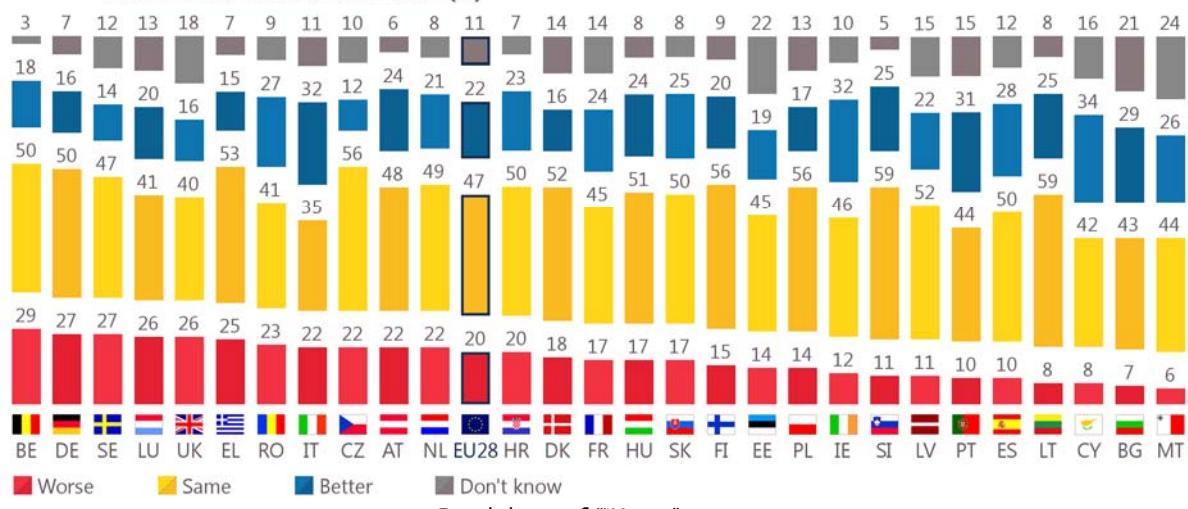
**QA2a.7** What are your expectations for the next twelve months: will the next twelve months be better, worse or the same, when it comes to...?



*Breakdown of “Same” answers*

**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 (%)**



**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 (%)**

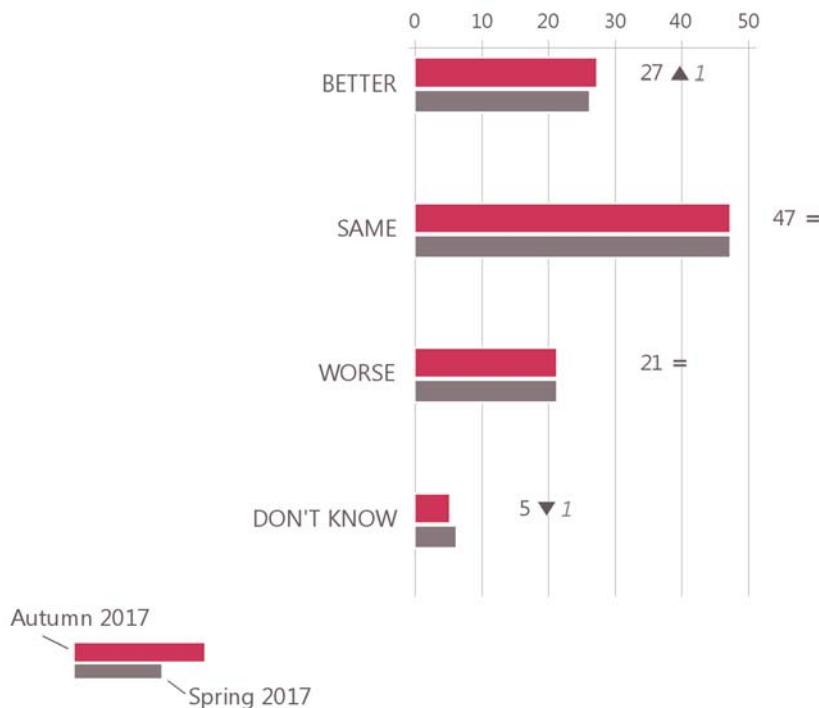
	Better	Aut.2017 - Sp.2017	Same	Aut.2017 - Sp.2017	Worse	Aut.2017 - Sp.2017	Don't know
EU28	22	▲ 1	47	▲ 2	20	▼ 1	11
EURO AREA	24	▲ 1	46	▼ 1	20	=	10
NON-EURO AREA	18	▲ 1	47	▲ 4	21	▼ 2	14
CY	34	▲ 18	42	▼ 14	8	▼ 2	16
LT	25	▲ 5	59	▼ 1	8	▼ 4	8
HU	24	▲ 5	51	▼ 5	17	▲ 1	8
IT	32	▲ 4	35	▼ 5	22	▲ 2	11
SK	25	▲ 4	50	▼ 4	17	▼ 1	8
EL	15	▲ 4	53	▲ 4	25	▼ 8	7
ES	28	▲ 3	50	▼ 3	10	▲ 1	12
LV	22	▲ 3	52	▼ 1	11	=	15
UK	16	▲ 3	40	▲ 7	26	▼ 3	18
BG	29	▲ 2	43	▲ 1	7	▼ 3	21
PL	17	▲ 2	56	▲ 3	14	▼ 6	13
DE	16	▲ 2	50	▲ 1	27	▼ 5	7
SE	14	▲ 2	47	▲ 2	27	▼ 5	12
SI	25	▲ 1	59	▲ 5	11	▼ 5	5
DK	16	▲ 1	52	▼ 2	18	▲ 1	14
MT	26	=	44	▲ 1	6	▲ 1	24
LU	20	=	41	▲ 1	26	▼ 1	13
IE	32	▼ 1	46	▲ 5	12	▼ 3	10
CZ	12	▼ 1	56	▲ 5	22	▼ 1	10
AT	24	▼ 2	48	▲ 6	22	▼ 4	6
EE	19	▼ 2	45	=	14	=	22
FR	24	▼ 4	45	▼ 1	17	▲ 6	14
NL	21	▼ 4	49	▲ 4	22	=	8
BE	18	▼ 4	50	▲ 5	29	▼ 1	3
RO	27	▼ 5	41	▲ 3	23	▲ 4	9
HR	23	▼ 5	50	▲ 6	20	▲ 1	7
FI	20	▼ 5	56	▲ 3	15	▼ 1	9
PT	31	▼ 6	44	▲ 4	10	▲ 3	15

## 2. The employment situation

Forecasts for the national employment situation are also very similar to those recorded in spring 2017. Almost half of Europeans (47%, unchanged since spring 2017) expect **the employment situation in their country to be “the same” over the next twelve months**, while 27% (+1 percentage point) think it will be “**better**”, 21% (=) expect it to be “**worse**” and 5% (-1) express no opinion<sup>50</sup>.

**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)



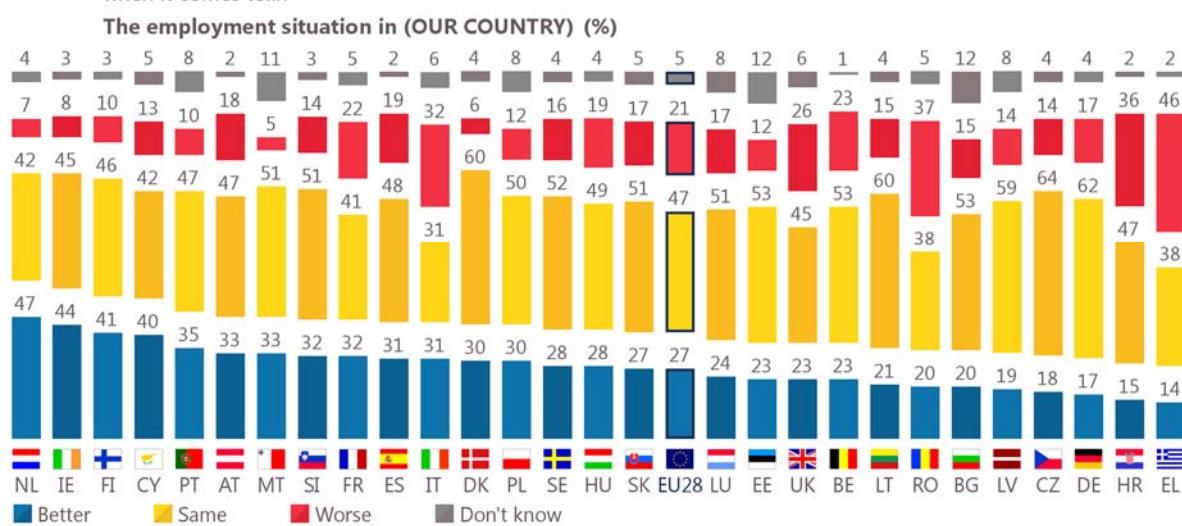
A majority of respondents in 25 Member States (compared with 23 in spring 2017) expect the national employment situation to remain the same. However, a majority expect it to be “better” in the Netherlands (47% “better” versus 42% “same” and 7% “worse”). The proportion of respondents who say it will be “better” is also considerably above the European average in Ireland (44%), Finland (41%), Cyprus (40%), Portugal (35%), and Austria and Malta (both 33%).

<sup>50</sup> QA2a. What are your expectations for the next twelve months: will the next twelve months be better, worse or the same, when it comes to...? 5. The employment situation in (OUR COUNTRY)

Respondents are predominantly pessimistic in Greece (46% "worse" versus 38% "same" and 14% "better"), while opinions are very evenly divided in Italy (32% "worse" versus 31% for both the "same" and "better" answers). "Worse" answers also score considerably above the European average in Romania (37%) and Croatia (36%).

Since spring 2017, optimistic expectations have gained ground in 11 Member States, most notably in Cyprus (40%, +12 percentage points, Hungary (28%, +8) and Poland (30%, +6). In contrast, pessimistic expectations have spread in ten countries, in particular in Romania (37%, +9) and France (22%, +6).

**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...?



**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) (%)**

	Better	Aut.2017 - Sp.2017	Same	Aut.2017 - Sp.2017	Worse	Aut.2017 - Sp.2017	Don't know
EU28	27	▲ 1	47	=	21	=	5
EURO AREA	28	=	47	=	21	=	4
NON-EURO AREA	24	▲ 1	48	▲ 2	22	▼ 1	6
CY	40	▲ 12	42	▼ 10	13	=	5
HU	28	▲ 8	49	▼ 8	19	=	4
PL	30	▲ 6	50	▲ 2	12	▼ 11	8
EL	14	▲ 5	38	▲ 9	46	▼ 15	2
SI	32	▲ 3	51	▲ 2	14	▼ 4	3
LT	21	▲ 3	60	▲ 2	15	▼ 3	4
AT	33	▲ 2	47	▲ 4	18	▼ 5	2
IT	31	▲ 2	31	▼ 4	32	=	6
UK	23	▲ 2	45	▲ 4	26	▲ 1	6
DE	17	▲ 2	62	▲ 1	17	▼ 3	4
ES	31	▲ 1	48	▼ 3	19	▲ 4	2
NL	47	=	42	=	7	=	4
SE	28	=	52	▲ 2	16	▼ 2	4
SK	27	=	51	▼ 2	17	=	5
EE	23	=	53	▲ 1	12	▼ 2	12
LV	19	=	59	=	14	=	8
CZ	18	=	64	▲ 1	14	▼ 1	4
LU	24	▼ 1	51	▲ 1	17	▼ 1	8
BG	20	▼ 1	53	▲ 3	15	▼ 5	12
BE	23	▼ 2	53	▲ 4	23	▼ 1	1
FR	32	▼ 4	41	▲ 1	22	▲ 6	5
PT	35	▼ 5	47	▲ 2	10	▲ 3	8
IE	44	▼ 6	45	▲ 4	8	▲ 2	3
HR	15	▼ 6	47	▲ 3	36	▲ 3	2
FI	41	▼ 7	46	▲ 4	10	▲ 2	3
MT	33	▼ 7	51	▲ 12	5	▲ 1	11
RO	20	▼ 7	38	▼ 1	37	▲ 9	5
DK	30	▼ 9	60	▲ 7	6	▲ 2	4

### 3 The impact of the economic situation on the job market

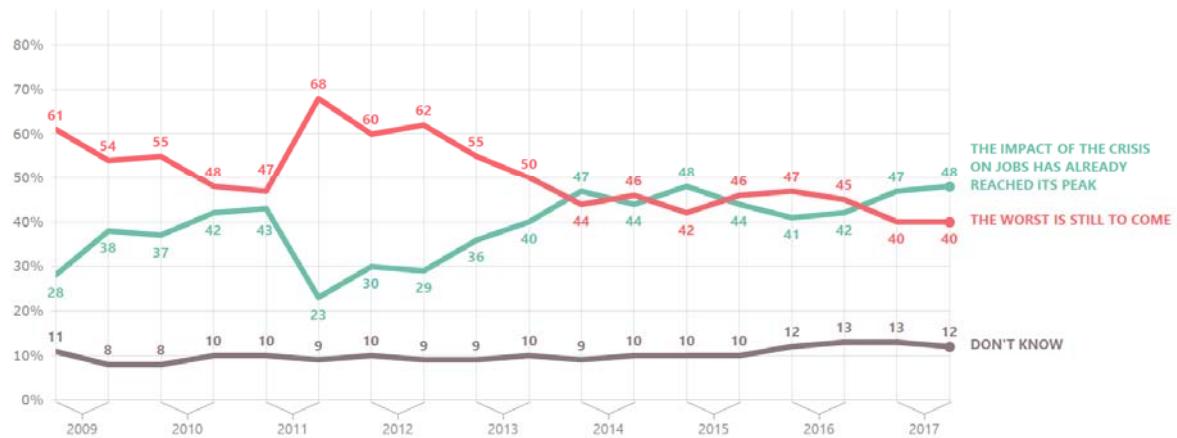
#### A growing feeling that the worst of the crisis is over

After becoming the majority opinion in the previous Standard Eurobarometer survey of spring 2017 (EB87), the feeling that the impact of the crisis on the job market has already reached its peak has gained ground very slightly in autumn 2017.

Almost half of Europeans (48%, +1 percentage point since spring 2017) consider that the **impact of the economic crisis on the job market has already reached its peak and things will recover little by little**, while 40% (unchanged) think that the **worst is still to come** and 12% (-1) express no opinion.<sup>51</sup>

This is the first time since 2009 that the balance of opinion on the perceived impact of the economic crisis has been positive in two successive Standard Eurobarometer surveys.

**QC1** Some analysts say that the impact of the economic crisis on the job market has already reached its peak and things will recover little by little. Others, on the contrary, say that the worst is still to come. Which of the two statements is closer to your opinion? (% - EU)



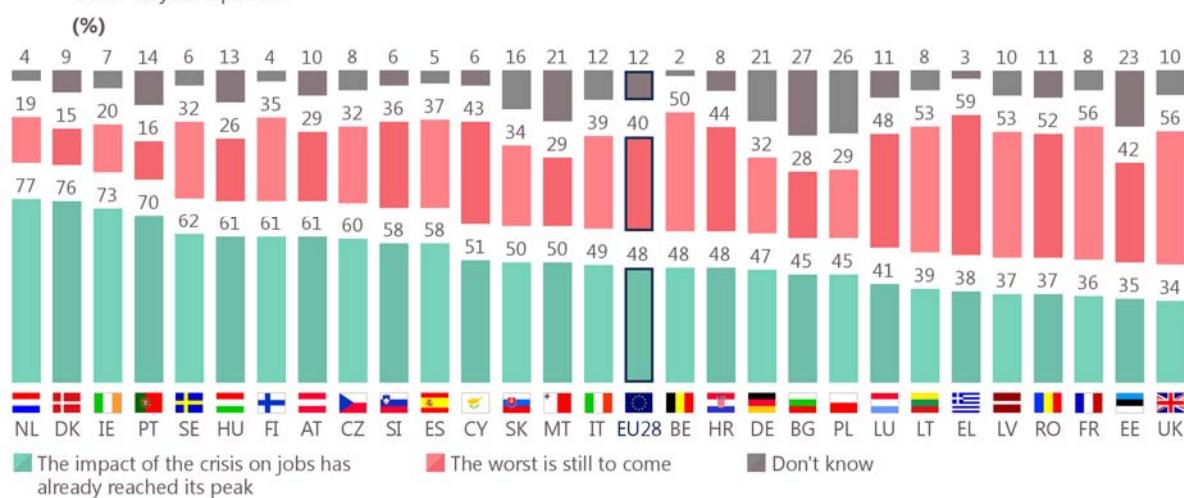
The ratio of optimists to pessimists concerning the impact of the crisis on the job market has deteriorated slightly in the **non-euro area** countries (44% "has already reached its peak", unchanged versus 42% "the worst is still to come", +3 percentage points), whereas it has improved within the **euro area** (50%, +2 versus 39%, -2) since spring 2017.

<sup>51</sup> QC1. Some analysts say that the impact of the economic crisis on the job market has already reached its peak and things will recover little by little. Others, on the contrary, say that the worst is still to come. Which of the two statements is closer to your opinion?

A majority of respondents in 19 countries (compared with 21 in spring 2017) believe that the crisis has already peaked. In this survey, only a minority of respondents are now optimistic in Romania (37% versus 52%, instead of 47% versus 41% in spring 2017) and Luxembourg (41% versus 48%, instead of 50% versus 41%). Optimism is most widespread in the Netherlands (77%), Denmark (76%), Ireland (73%) and Portugal (70%).

The opinion that the worst is still to come is shared by a majority of respondents in nine Member States, most notably in Greece (59%), and France and the United Kingdom (both 56%).

**QC1** Some analysts say that the impact of the economic crisis on the job market has already reached its peak and things will recover little by little. Others, on the contrary, say that the worst is still to come. Which of the two statements is closer to your opinion?



Although the balance of opinion on this question has improved at European level, there are significant differences in terms of **national evolutions**. Optimism about the impact of the crisis has increased since spring 2017 in 14 Member States, most markedly in Greece (38%, +9 percentage points), Sweden (62%, +7) and Slovenia (58%, +7), but has lost ground in 13 countries, significantly so in Romania (37%, -10), Luxembourg (41%, -9), Malta (50%, -8) and Cyprus (51%, -8). It is stable in the Netherlands.

**QC1** Some analysts say that the impact of the economic crisis on the job market has already reached its peak and things will recover little by little. Others, on the contrary, say that the worst is still to come. Which of the two statements is closer to your opinion? (%)

		The impact of the crisis on jobs has already reached its peak	Aut.2017 - Sp.2017	The worst is still to come	Aut.2017 - Sp.2017	Don't know
EU28		48	▲ 1	40	=	12
EURO AREA		50	▲ 2	39	▼ 2	11
NON-EURO AREA		44	=	42	▲ 3	14
EL		38	▲ 9	59	▼ 11	3
SE		62	▲ 7	32	▼ 6	6
SI		58	▲ 7	36	▼ 8	6
AT		61	▲ 5	29	▼ 6	10
ES		58	▲ 5	37	▼ 4	5
BG		45	▲ 4	28	=	27
UK		34	▲ 3	56	▲ 6	10
SK		50	▲ 2	34	▼ 4	16
IT		49	▲ 2	39	▼ 3	12
DE		47	▲ 2	32	▼ 4	21
LV		37	▲ 2	53	▼ 3	10
CZ		60	▲ 1	32	▼ 2	8
BE		48	▲ 1	50	▼ 1	2
LT		39	▲ 1	53	▼ 3	8
NL		77	=	19	=	4
HU		61	▼ 1	26	=	13
FI		61	▼ 1	35	▲ 1	4
PL		45	▼ 1	29	▼ 3	26
PT		70	▼ 2	16	▼ 2	14
EE		35	▼ 3	42	=	23
DK		76	▼ 4	15	▲ 2	9
IE		73	▼ 4	20	▲ 2	7
FR		36	▼ 4	56	▲ 6	8
HR		48	▼ 5	44	▲ 4	8
CY		51	▼ 8	43	▲ 8	6
MT		50	▼ 8	29	▲ 3	21
LU		41	▼ 9	48	▲ 7	11
RO		37	▼ 10	52	▲ 11	11

The following tables show the average results by socio-demographic criteria in the European Union as a whole (EU28), in the six largest EU countries and in the countries benefiting or having benefited from European Union support to deal with the financial and economic crisis.

**QC1** Some analysts say that the impact of the economic crisis on the job market has already reached its peak and things will recover little by little. Others, on the contrary, say that the worst is still to come. Which of the two statements is closer to your opinion?

(% - THE IMPACT OF THE CRISIS ON JOBS HAS ALREADY REACHED ITS PEAK)

	EU28	DE	ES	FR	IT	PL	UK	EL	PT	IE	CY
<b>TOTAL</b>	48	47	58	36	49	45	34	38	70	73	51
<b>Gender</b>											
Male	50	49	59	37	51	50	39	39	73	73	56
Female	46	46	57	36	48	41	29	37	69	73	47
<b>Age</b>											
15-24	44	37	58	26	63	45	25	50	74	74	43
25-39	52	46	68	29	59	55	41	43	77	76	51
40-54	49	47	55	42	53	43	32	37	76	71	56
55 +	46	52	54	41	39	39	33	32	62	72	52
<b>Education (End of)</b>											
15-	41	45	52	35	34	24	33	33	62	61	47
16-19	46	46	62	30	55	43	32	34	75	71	45
20+	54	52	63	44	59	51	39	42	80	80	60
Still studying	52	44	62	33	68	45	22	59	79	69	44
<b>Socio-professional category</b>											
Self-employed	53	41	73	30	53	61	46	35	74	86	63
Managers	58	57	66	54	62	52	45	52	84	79	76
Other white collars	54	51	60	38	58	50	26	41	79	75	55
Manual workers	45	40	61	30	51	41	29	33	76	73	51
House persons	39	42	46	26	40	33	33	34	50	69	30
Unemployed	40	42	57	19	41	44	35	38	57	61	27
Retired	44	50	54	41	36	41	31	33	58	73	54
Students	52	44	62	33	68	45	22	59	79	69	44

**QC1** Some analysts say that the impact of the economic crisis on the job market has already reached its peak and things will recover little by little. Others, on the contrary, say that the worst is still to come. Which of the two statements is closer to your opinion?

(% - THE WORST IS STILL TO COME)

	EU28	DE	ES	FR	IT	PL	UK	EL	PT	IE	CY
<b>TOTAL</b>	40	32	37	56	39	29	56	59	16	20	43
<b>Gender</b>											
Male	39	32	35	54	38	30	52	59	16	21	40
Female	41	32	39	58	40	28	60	59	15	19	46
<b>Age</b>											
15-24	41	28	39	67	27	30	64	44	9	16	53
25-39	37	31	28	63	32	27	48	55	14	20	46
40-54	41	36	41	53	40	30	59	60	16	23	36
55 +	41	31	40	50	45	29	56	64	18	19	41
<b>Education (End of)</b>											
15-	46	34	43	56	47	41	58	64	21	28	47
16-19	42	35	33	63	35	29	57	61	13	23	47
20+	35	28	32	48	33	27	53	57	12	15	37
Still studying	33	25	34	58	23	27	63	36	6	19	53
<b>Socio-professional category</b>											
Self-employed	38	40	23	65	39	24	43	61	14	13	30
Managers	31	25	34	36	34	22	49	44	8	17	22
Other white collars	35	32	29	56	34	29	62	56	10	19	36
Manual workers	43	37	34	67	38	35	62	66	14	21	48
House persons	49	37	48	70	49	25	58	63	26	26	62
Unemployed	49	39	41	70	47	32	54	59	26	23	65
Retired	42	31	41	49	44	28	57	64	23	18	40
Students	33	25	34	58	23	27	63	36	6	19	53

#### IV. THE EUROPEAN UNION AND ECONOMIC REFORMS

##### 1 A continuing key role for the European Union in the global economy

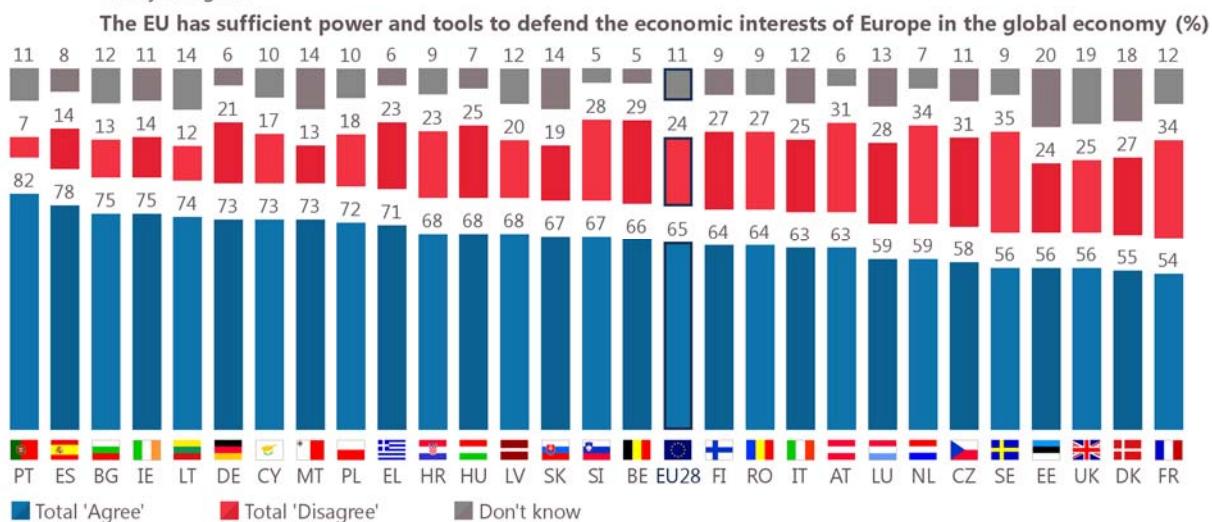
The image of the European Union as a powerful economic player with the tools to deal with the challenges of globalisation has gained ground in this Standard Eurobarometer survey of autumn 2017. Almost two-thirds of Europeans (65%, +2 percentage points since spring 2017) agree that the **EU has sufficient power and tools to defend the economic interests of Europe in the global economy**, while 24% (-1) disagree and 11% (-1) express no opinion<sup>52</sup>.

This view commands a consensus in European public opinion. It is shared by large majority of both **euro area** respondents (67%, +3 percentage points) and **non-euro area** respondents (62%, +2).

More than half of respondents in all EU Member States agree with this view, with scores ranging from 54% in France to 82% in Portugal.

Since spring 2017, agreement with this statement has increased in 18 countries, led by Slovakia (67%, +10 percentage points), Cyprus (73%, +8), Hungary (68%, +8) and Spain (78%, +7). It has decreased in eight countries, by no more than four percentage points, and is unchanged in Croatia and Austria.

**QC2a.3** For each of the following statements, please tell me whether you totally agree, tend to agree, tend to disagree or totally disagree.



<sup>52</sup> QC2a. For each of the following statements, please tell me whether you totally agree, tend to agree, tend to disagree or totally disagree.  
3. The EU has sufficient power and tools to defend the economic interests of Europe in the global economy

**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) (%)**

	Better	Aut.2017 - Sp.2017	Same	Aut.2017 - Sp.2017	Worse	Aut.2017 - Sp.2017	Don't know
EU28	27	▲ 1	46	▼ 1	23	▲ 2	4
EURO AREA	28	=	47	▼ 2	21	▲ 3	4
NON-EURO AREA	24	=	43	=	28	▲ 2	5
CY	41	▲ 11	45	▼ 10	10	=	4
EL	14	▲ 7	37	▲ 7	48	▼ 14	1
HU	28	▲ 6	51	▼ 6	18	▲ 1	3
DE	21	▲ 5	62	▼ 4	14	▼ 1	3
SK	28	▲ 4	50	▼ 6	18	▲ 1	4
IT	31	▲ 3	34	▼ 4	29	=	6
EE	30	▲ 3	50	▲ 1	13	▼ 3	7
UK	22	▲ 2	33	▲ 1	39	▲ 4	6
LV	21	▲ 2	55	▼ 7	18	▲ 4	6
AT	31	▲ 1	49	▼ 2	18	▲ 1	2
ES	29	▲ 1	49	▼ 5	20	▲ 6	2
SI	28	▲ 1	55	▲ 5	14	▼ 5	3
SE	18	▲ 1	58	▼ 3	21	▲ 1	3
IE	45	=	42	▲ 1	11	▲ 2	2
PL	30	=	47	▲ 3	18	▼ 4	5
BG	22	=	50	▲ 3	19	▼ 3	9
CZ	22	=	57	▲ 2	18	=	3
LT	19	=	55	▲ 4	23	▼ 3	3
MT	39	▼ 1	43	▲ 7	7	▲ 3	11
LU	23	▼ 2	58	=	14	▲ 4	5
NL	41	▼ 3	47	▼ 1	10	▲ 4	2
BE	21	▼ 5	55	▲ 4	23	▲ 1	1
HR	16	▼ 6	44	▼ 1	39	▲ 8	1
FI	40	▼ 8	48	▲ 7	11	▲ 1	1
FR	30	▼ 8	42	▲ 4	23	▲ 10	5
RO	22	▼ 8	40	▼ 2	35	▲ 11	3
PT	36	▼ 9	44	▲ 4	12	▲ 4	8
DK	21	▼ 9	70	▲ 10	6	=	3

The following tables show the average results by socio-demographic criteria in the European Union as a whole (EU28), in the six largest EU countries and in the countries benefiting or having benefited from European Union support to deal with the financial and economic crisis.

**QC2a.3** 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**  
(% - TOTAL 'AGREE')

	EU28	DE	ES	FR	IT	PL	UK	EL	PT	IE	CY
<b>TOTAL</b>	65	73	78	54	63	72	56	71	82	75	73
<b>Gender</b>											
Male	66	72	82	52	63	70	63	72	87	77	76
Female	64	74	73	54	63	73	49	70	78	72	69
<b>Age</b>											
15-24	69	73	78	59	65	64	65	74	86	75	72
25-39	68	74	80	51	68	74	64	70	90	77	70
40-54	66	72	79	50	70	78	57	69	89	73	79
55 +	61	74	75	54	55	69	46	71	72	73	71
<b>Education (End of)</b>											
15-	58	71	71	48	51	54	39	66	73	65	69
16-19	66	75	81	54	68	73	54	72	91	69	71
20+	67	73	80	54	72	77	65	72	91	82	75
Still studying	70	69	79	62	64	61	74	78	88	75	75
<b>Socio-professional category</b>											
Self-employed	68	64	86	50	68	87	61	64	82	76	82
Managers	70	78	84	50	74	78	70	73	94	84	78
Other white collars	71	78	75	59	74	79	57	75	93	82	70
Manual workers	67	74	81	54	68	74	53	72	87	67	69
House persons	66	71	72	58	60	82	62	69	76	69	68
Unemployed	58	64	74	50	41	54	53	64	75	62	72
Retired	60	72	75	51	53	66	44	73	69	78	72
Students	70	69	79	62	64	61	74	78	88	75	75

**QC2a.3** 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**  
(% - TOTAL 'DISAGREE')

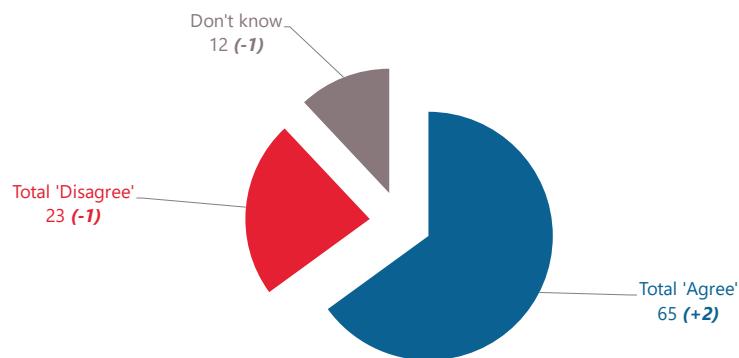
	EU28	DE	ES	FR	IT	PL	UK	EL	PT	IE	CY
<b>TOTAL</b>	24	21	14	34	25	18	25	23	7	14	17
<b>Gender</b>											
Male	26	25	13	37	27	21	24	26	7	17	18
Female	22	17	16	32	23	15	25	20	7	12	17
<b>Age</b>											
15-24	20	17	18	28	19	23	19	20	8	8	18
25-39	25	21	16	42	28	19	18	27	4	14	26
40-54	25	23	14	38	25	15	24	27	6	19	12
55 +	25	20	12	30	25	17	32	19	9	15	12
<b>Education (End of)</b>											
15-	24	23	15	29	25	20	32	22	9	11	8
16-19	24	20	14	32	25	16	27	22	4	17	17
20+	26	23	16	39	24	17	19	26	6	14	21
Still studying	20	18	19	22	24	23	15	18	9	9	19
<b>Socio-professional category</b>											
Self-employed	25	29	11	46	29	12	23	32	16	18	11
Managers	24	18	16	45	23	16	18	23	4	13	22
Other white collars	23	20	17	34	24	14	28	23	5	13	18
Manual workers	23	21	13	32	21	17	27	24	5	16	26
House persons	19	17	9	30	24	5	19	20	3	13	18
Unemployed	30	30	22	38	46	34	19	30	3	24	11
Retired	25	22	13	32	23	20	31	16	9	13	11
Students	20	18	19	22	24	23	15	18	9	9	19

## 2 Creating new jobs and stimulating investment

With no significant changes since the previous Standard Eurobarometer survey of spring 2017 (EB87), a large majority of Europeans both consider that the private sector is key to creating new jobs and they approve of the principle of using public money to stimulate private sector investment.

Almost two in three Europeans (65%, +2 percentage points since spring 2017) agree that the **private sector is better placed than the public sector to create new jobs**, while 23% (-1) disagree and 12% (-1) express no opinion.

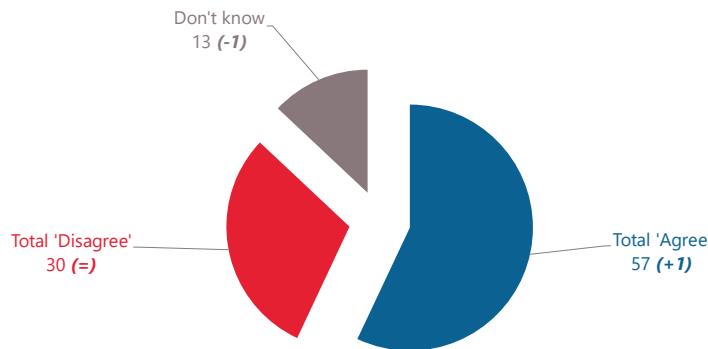
**QC2a.4** For each of the following statements, please tell me whether you totally agree, tend to agree, tend to disagree or totally disagree.  
**The private sector is better placed than the public sector to create new jobs (% - EU)**



(Autumn 2017 - Spring 2017)

57% of respondents (+1 percentage point since spring 2017) support the view that **public money should be used to stimulate private sector investment at EU level**, while 30% (unchanged) take the opposite view and 13% (-1) express no opinion.<sup>53</sup>

**QC2a.5** For each of the following statements, please tell me whether you totally agree, tend to agree, tend to disagree or totally disagree.  
**Public money should be used to stimulate private sector investment at EU level (% - EU)**



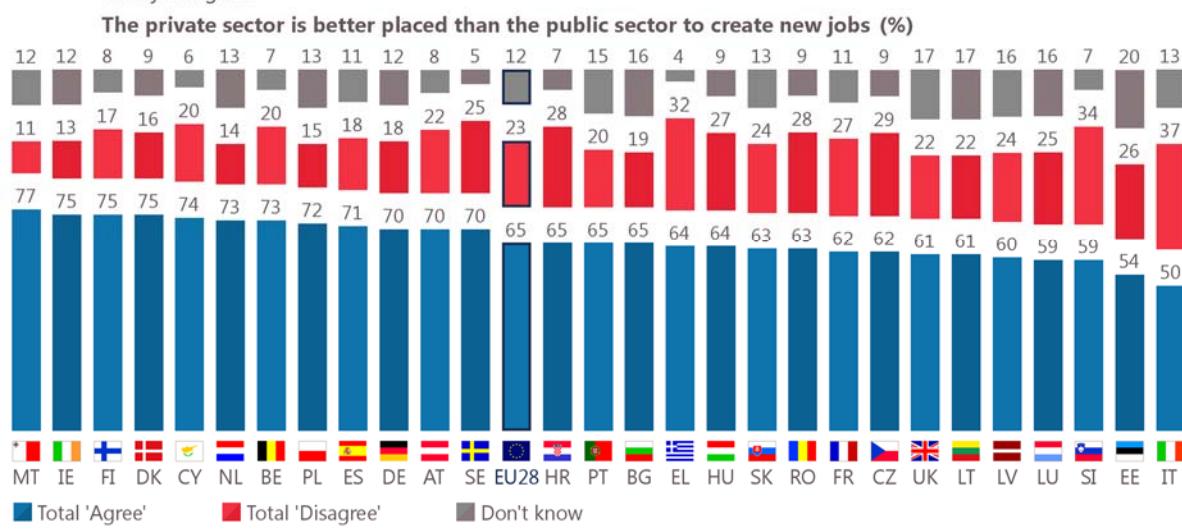
(Autumn 2017 - Spring 2017)

<sup>53</sup> QC2a. For each of the following statements, please tell me whether you totally agree, tend to agree, tend to disagree or totally disagree.  
 4. The private sector is better placed than the public sector to create new jobs: 5. Public money should be used to stimulate private sector investment at EU level

A majority of at least 50% of respondents in all Member States agree that the **private sector is better placed to create new jobs**. This view is the most widely held in Malta (77%), and Ireland, Finland and Denmark (all 75%). While respondents in Italy (50%), Estonia (54%) and Slovenia and Luxembourg (both 59%) are the least likely to agree.

Since spring 2017, agreement has increased in 19 Member States, most markedly in Cyprus (74%, +12 percentage points). It has decreased in eight countries, in particular in Malta (77%, -6) and Luxembourg (59%, -6), and is unchanged in Sweden (70%).

**QC2a.4** For each of the following statements, please tell me whether you totally agree, tend to agree, tend to disagree or totally disagree.

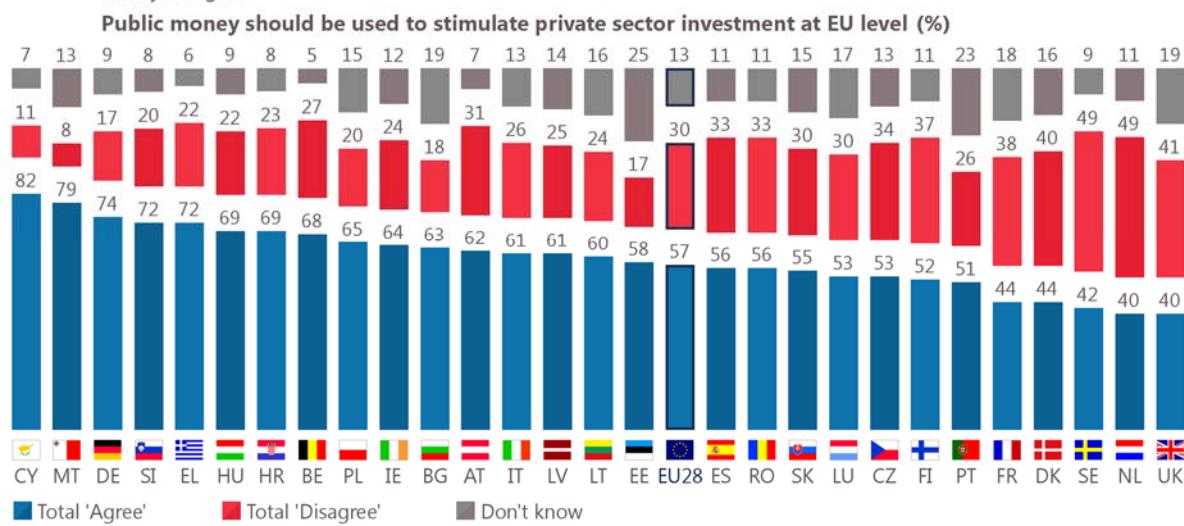


A majority of respondents in 25 Member States (compared with 26 in spring 2017) support the use of **public money to stimulate private investment**, with scores of more than 50% in 23 countries led by Cyprus (82%), Malta (79%) and Germany (74%). The lowest scores are found in France (44% versus 38%) and Denmark (44% versus 40%).

In contrast, a majority of respondents in the Netherlands (49% versus 40%), Sweden (49% versus 42%) and the United Kingdom (41% versus 40%) disagree that “public money should be used to stimulate private sector investment at EU level”.

In terms of evolutions since spring 2017, support for the use of public money to stimulate private sector investment at EU level has fallen in 15 Member States, most markedly in Luxembourg (53%, -10 percentage points). It has increased in the remaining 13 countries, in particular in Hungary (69%, +10).

**QC2a.5** For each of the following statements, please tell me whether you totally agree, tend to agree, tend to disagree or totally disagree.



### 3 Does the economic and financial system need reform?

#### a. Reforms necessary to stimulate the economy and reduce public debt

In order to measure European opinion on the need to take rapid steps to reduce the public deficit and debt in their country, the sample was divided into two sub-groups, each of which was asked a differently worded question<sup>54</sup>. The positive wording (sub-sample A: “measures to reduce the public deficit and debt in (OUR COUNTRY) cannot be delayed”) presents the reduction of the public deficit as a priority, whereas the negative wording (sub-sample B: “measures to reduce the public deficit and debt in (OUR COUNTRY) are not a priority for now”) instead emphasises that this is not a priority policy.

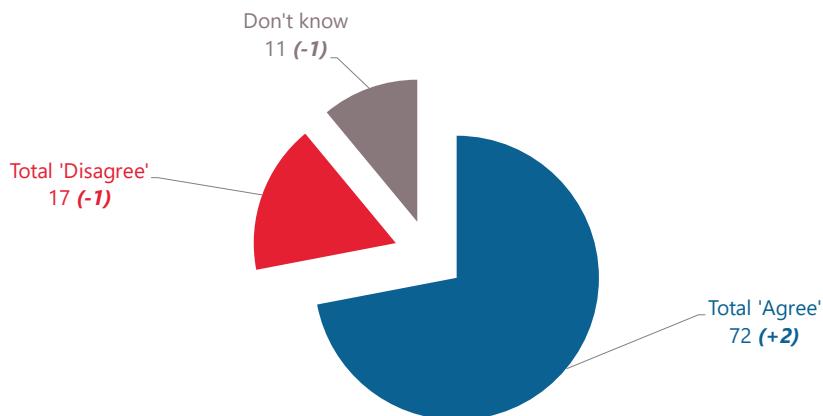
With no significant changes since the Standard Eurobarometer survey of spring 2017 (EB87), there are still substantial differences in support for the two wordings.

##### **Positive wording**

A large majority of respondents agree with the **positive wording**, more than seven in ten Europeans (72%, +2 percentage points since spring 2017) agreeing that measures to reduce the public deficit and debt in their country cannot be delayed, while 17% (-1) disagree and 11% (-1) express no opinion.

**QC2a.1** For each of the following statements, please tell me whether you totally agree, tend to agree, tend to disagree or totally disagree.

**Measures to reduce the public deficit and debt in (OUR COUNTRY) cannot be delayed (% - EU)**



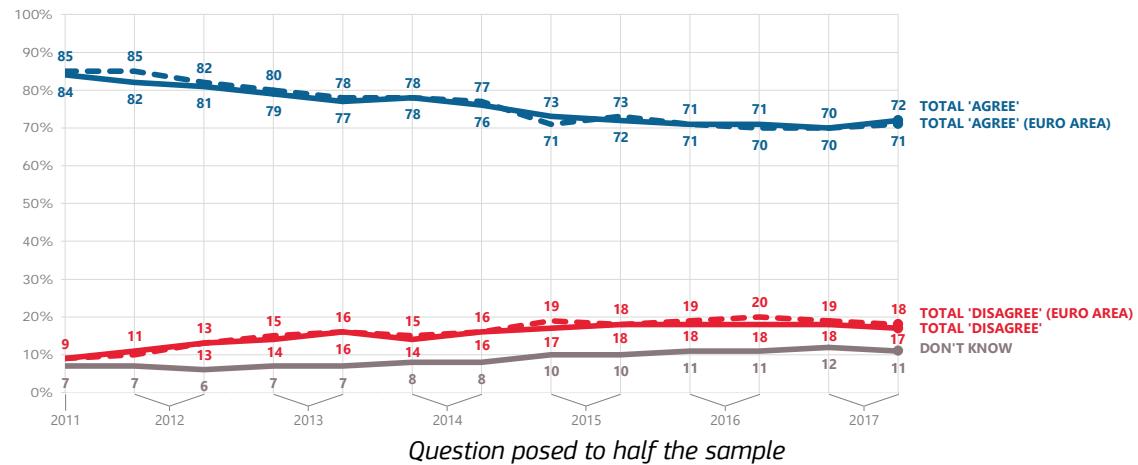
(Autumn 2017 - Spring 2017)

*Question posed to half the sample*

In the **euro area**, more than seven in ten Europeans agree on the need to act rapidly to reduce the public deficit and debt in their country (71% “agree” versus 18%). These proportions are very similar to those recorded in the **non-euro area** countries (72% versus 16%).

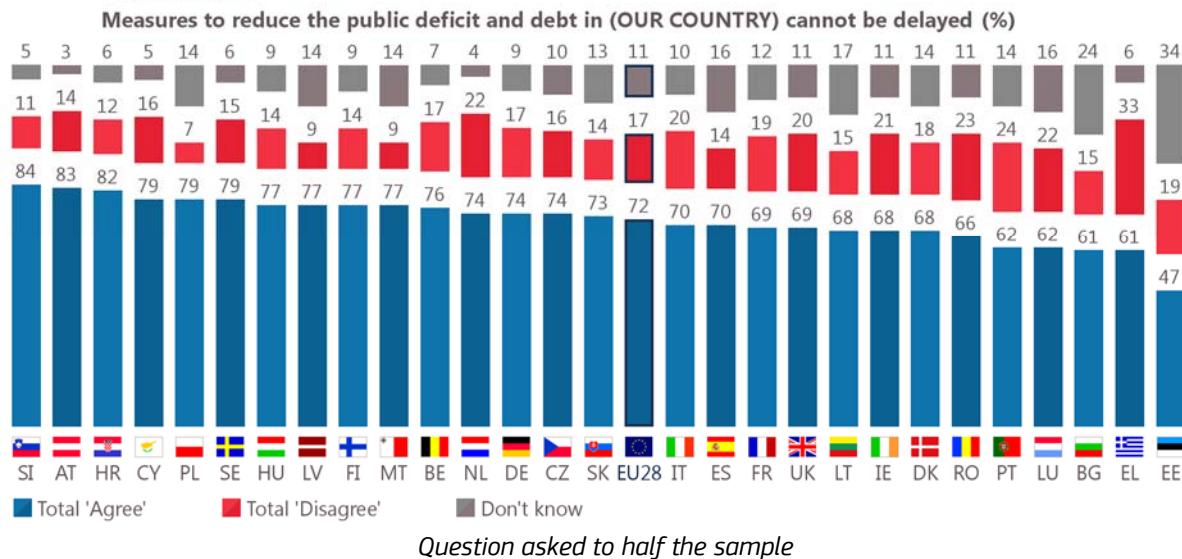
<sup>54</sup> QC2a. For each of the following statements, please tell me whether you totally agree, tend to agree, tend to disagree or totally disagree: (SPLIT A) 1. Measures to reduce the public deficit and debt in (OUR COUNTRY) cannot be delayed; (SPLIT B) 2. Measures to reduce the public deficit and debt in (OUR COUNTRY) are not a priority for now

**QC2a.1** For each of the following statements, please tell me whether you totally agree, tend to agree, tend to disagree or totally disagree.  
**Measures to reduce the public deficit and debt in (OUR COUNTRY) cannot be delayed (%) - EU**



A majority of respondents in all 28 Member States support this view, with scores of more than 50% in 27 countries, led by Slovenia (84%), Austria (83%) and Croatia (82%). Support is weakest in Estonia (47% versus 19%), which also records a very high "DK" rate (34%).

**QC2a.1** For each of the following statements, please tell me whether you totally agree, tend to agree, tend to disagree or totally disagree.



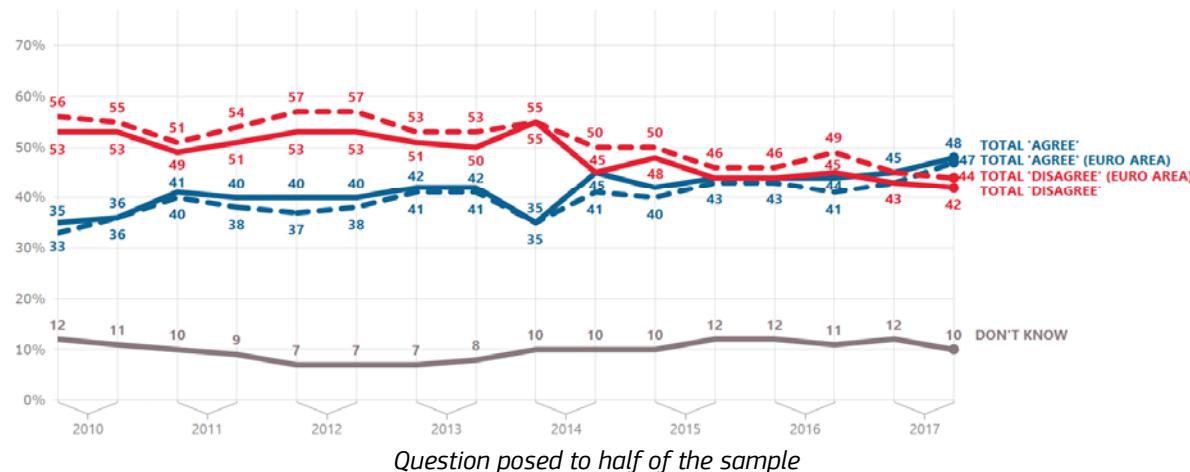
Since spring 2017, support for giving priority to reducing public deficits has increased in 12 countries, notably in Poland (79%, +11 percentage points) and Malta (77%, +10). However, it has decreased in 14 countries, very sharply in Portugal (62%, -18). It is unchanged in the Netherlands and Greece.

### Negative wording

Opinions are far more divided on the **negative wording**, which states that the reduction of public deficits and debt is not a priority. Nevertheless, agreement that **measures to tackle public deficits and debts are not a priority for now** has increased, and now stands at its highest level since 2010, shared by 48% of Europeans (+3 percentage points since spring 2017), while 42% (-1) disagree and 10% (-2) express no opinion. This became the majority opinion in the previous survey, and has consolidated in the survey of autumn 2017.

**QC2a.2** For each of the following statements, please tell me whether you totally agree, tend to agree, tend to disagree or totally disagree.

Measures to reduce the public deficit and debt in (OUR COUNTRY) are not a priority for now (% - EU)



In this survey, the balance of opinion has been reversed in the **euro area countries**, where following a four percentage point increase a majority of respondents now agree that measures to reduce deficits and debt are not a priority (47% versus 44%, -1). An increased majority of respondents in the **non-euro area** countries continue to agree (51%, +3 versus 36%, -3).

**QC2a.2** For each of the following statements, please tell me whether you totally agree, tend to agree, tend to disagree or totally disagree.

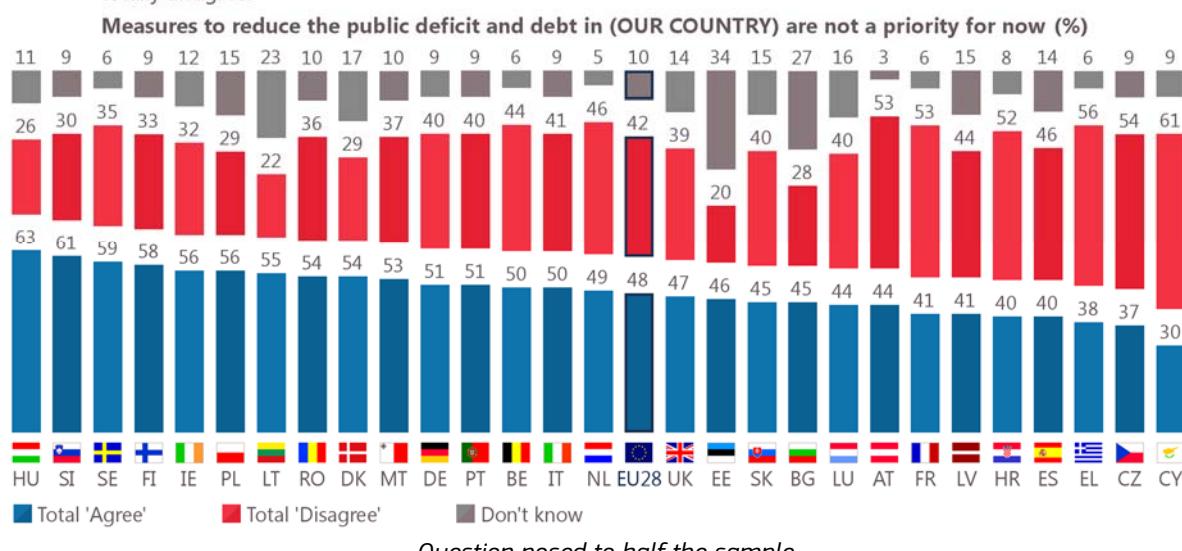
Measures to reduce the public deficit and debt in (OUR COUNTRY) are not a priority for now (%)

	Total 'Agree'	Aut.2017 - Sp.2017	Total 'Disagree'	Aut.2017 - Sp.2017	Don't know
EU28	48	▲ 3	42	▼ 1	10
EURO AREA	47	▲ 4	44	▼ 1	9
NON-EURO AREA	51	▲ 3	36	▼ 3	13

A majority of respondents in 20 Member States (compared with 18 in spring 2017) agree that reducing public deficits is not a priority for now. In this survey, this has become the majority view in Portugal (51% versus 40%, instead of 32% versus 60% in spring 2017), the Netherlands (49% versus 46%, instead of 44% versus 51%) and Slovakia (45% versus 40%, instead of 38% versus 41%), but is now the minority view in Austria (44% versus 53%, instead of 49% versus 44%) and Latvia (41% versus 44%, instead of 42% versus 42%). Agreement is the strongest in Hungary (63%), Slovenia (61%) and Sweden (59%).

In contrast, a majority of respondents in eight Member States disagree, most notably in Cyprus (61%), Greece (56%), the Czech Republic (54%), and France and Austria (53% in both countries).

**QC2a.2** For each of the following statements, please tell me whether you totally agree, tend to agree, tend to disagree or totally disagree.



Question posed to half the sample

Agreement that measures to combat public deficits are not a priority has gained ground since spring 2017 in 16 Member States, with very sharp increases in Portugal (51%, +19 percentage points) and France (41%, +11). It has decreased in ten countries and is stable in Denmark and the Czech Republic.

A comparison of the results for the two sub-samples in each Member State shows that the results are consistent in eight countries. Within this group, a majority of respondents both agree that measures to tackle deficits and debt cannot be delayed and disagree that they are not a priority for now. The eight countries are Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Greece, Spain, Croatia, Latvia, France and Germany.

In the other 20 Member States, a majority of respondents say, on the one hand, that “measures to reduce the public deficit and debt in (OUR COUNTRY) cannot be delayed” and, on the other, that these measures “are not a priority for now”.

**QC2a** For each of the following statements, please tell me whether you totally agree, tend to agree, tend to disagree or totally disagree.  
(%)

	EU28	Measures to reduce the public deficit and debt in (OUR COUNTRY) cannot be delayed		Measures to reduce the public deficit and debt in (OUR COUNTRY) are not a priority for now	
		Total 'Agree'	Aut.2017 - Sp.2017	Total 'Agree'	Aut.2017 - Sp.2017
EU28		72	▲ 2	48	▲ 3
BE		76	▼ 4	50	▼ 6
BG		61	▼ 3	45	▲ 7
CZ		74	▼ 5	37	=
DK		68	▼ 7	54	=
DE		74	▲ 2	51	▲ 1
EE		47	▼ 3	46	▼ 5
IE		68	▲ 1	56	▲ 1
EL		61	=	38	▼ 5
ES		70	▲ 6	40	▲ 2
FR		69	▼ 1	41	▲ 11
HR		82	▼ 2	40	▲ 1
IT		70	▲ 2	50	▲ 5
CY		79	▲ 9	30	▼ 6
LV		77	▼ 3	41	▼ 1
LT		68	▼ 8	55	▼ 7
LU		62	▼ 7	44	▼ 7
HU		77	▼ 1	63	▲ 7
MT		77	▲ 10	53	▲ 9
NL		74	=	49	▲ 5
AT		83	▲ 8	44	▼ 5
PL		79	▲ 11	56	▲ 4
PT		62	▼ 18	51	▲ 19
RO		66	▲ 1	54	▲ 6
SI		84	▲ 3	61	▼ 6
SK		73	▲ 1	45	▲ 7
FI		77	▼ 1	58	▲ 4
SE		79	▼ 4	59	▲ 1
UK		69	▲ 3	47	▼ 1

Each question was posed to half the sample

The **socio-demographic data** show that there is a broad agreement among Europeans with the **positive wording**, i.e. measures to reduce public deficits and debt cannot be delayed. At least 62% of respondents in all socio-demographic categories agree, regardless of gender, age, level of education and socio-professional category.

Opinions of the **negative wording are far more divided**, although a majority of respondents agree that such measures are not a priority. A majority agree with this wording in both the 15-24 age group (47% "agree" versus 40% "disagree") and the 55+ age group (45% versus 42%), as do a majority of both managers (54% versus 41%) and manual workers (49% versus 41%). However, while a majority of those who studied up to the age of 20 and beyond (51%) agree that measures to reduce public deficits are not a priority, a majority of those who left school at the age of 15 or earlier disagree (40% versus 43%). Similarly, a narrow majority of those who see themselves as "upper middle class" disagree (47% versus 48%), whereas a majority of respondents in all the other classes, including the upper class, agree (total "agree" 59% versus 39%).

The following tables show the average results by socio-demographic criteria in the European Union as a whole (EU28), in the six largest EU countries and in the countries benefiting or having benefited from European Union support to deal with the financial and economic crisis.

**QC2a.1** For each of the following statements, please tell me whether you totally agree, tend to agree, tend to disagree or totally disagree.

**Measures to reduce the public deficit and debt in (OUR COUNTRY) cannot be delayed**  
(% - TOTAL 'AGREE')

	EU28 	DE 	ES 	FR 	IT 	PL 	UK 	EL 	PT 	IE 	CY 
<b>TOTAL</b>	72	74	70	69	70	79	69	61	62	68	79
<b>Gender</b>											
Male	72	72	74	66	68	81	71	60	63	70	82
Female	71	76	67	72	70	76	68	62	59	67	76
<b>Age</b>											
15-24	68	65	78	66	63	77	66	70	64	63	85
25-39	73	77	70	64	81	81	71	61	67	70	82
40-54	73	73	72	78	71	79	66	67	60	74	76
55 +	71	77	66	67	63	77	72	56	58	67	76
<b>Education (End of)</b>											
15-	63	71	63	70	53	54	71	51	56	57	61
16-19	72	78	72	61	75	76	71	58	65	67	71
20+	77	75	76	80	81	85	66	71	70	76	91
Still studying	67	50	77	56	74	80	70	74	65	51	87
<b>Socio-professional category</b>											
Self-employed	74	69	79	100	74	89	64	67	67	83	66
Managers	77	76	85	77	77	87	72	76	61	73	87
Other white collars	77	71	67	73	81	86	79	66	62	85	81
Manual workers	72	79	75	64	71	75	69	60	67	65	89
House persons	66	87	61	65	67	61	52	51	35	61	77
Unemployed	66	69	61	71	64	63	78	50	54	63	76
Retired	69	77	68	67	56	76	69	59	57	70	70
Students	67	50	77	56	74	80	70	74	65	51	87

**QC2a.2** For each of the following statements, please tell me whether you totally agree, tend to agree, tend to disagree or totally disagree.

**Measures to reduce the public deficit and debt in (OUR COUNTRY) are not a priority for now**  
(% - TOTAL 'AGREE')

	EU28 	DE 	ES 	FR 	IT 	PL 	UK 	EL 	PT 	IE 	CY 
<b>TOTAL</b>	48	51	40	41	50	56	47	38	51	56	30
<b>Gender</b>											
Male	48	50	39	43	51	55	49	39	51	57	33
Female	48	53	40	39	49	56	46	38	50	54	29
<b>Age</b>											
15-24	47	49	45	43	46	52	46	34	60	63	32
25-39	52	52	42	45	61	65	53	35	56	50	41
40-54	51	53	43	41	57	59	51	40	51	59	23
55 +	45	52	33	37	41	50	41	41	43	54	26
<b>Education (End of)</b>											
15-	40	54	33	28	35	47	42	40	41	45	23
16-19	50	53	43	43	54	54	44	40	56	57	37
20+	51	49	43	42	61	61	55	38	56	54	26
Still studying	49	46	46	52	51	52	56	35	57	72	31
<b>Socio-professional category</b>											
Self-employed	49	43	46	42	62	52	51	40	45	45	30
Managers	54	56	62	42	65	65	47	27	62	49	13
Other white collars	52	58	32	47	53	58	59	42	81	67	37
Manual workers	49	51	38	35	61	61	51	35	46	53	38
House persons	45	51	38	51	39	61	39	52	43	51	36
Unemployed	44	40	51	40	43	44	42	34	32	48	24
Retired	44	51	29	37	37	52	42	37	40	59	34
Students	49	46	46	52	51	52	56	35	57	72	31

b. What measures should be taken to reform the economic and financial system?

**A sharp reduction in support for the introduction of a tax on financial transactions**

In this Standard Eurobarometer survey of autumn 2017, Europeans were asked for their opinion on two measures to reform financial markets: the introduction of a tax on financial transactions and the introduction of Eurobonds (European bonds).

Although a majority of Europeans are still in favour of the **introduction of a tax on financial transactions**, support for this measure has declined since spring 2017: 46% of Europeans (-8 percentage points since spring 2017) are in favour, while 35% (+5) are opposed and 19% (+3) express no opinion.

Support for the introduction of **Eurobonds** has also declined. Opinions are now fairly equally divided between support, opposition and "DK" answers: 36% of Europeans (-3 percentage points since spring 2017) are in favour of Eurobonds, 35% (+4) are opposed and 29% (-1) express no opinion<sup>55</sup>.

**QC3** Thinking about reforming global financial markets, please tell me whether you are in favour or opposed to each of the following measures to be taken by the EU.  
(% - EU)



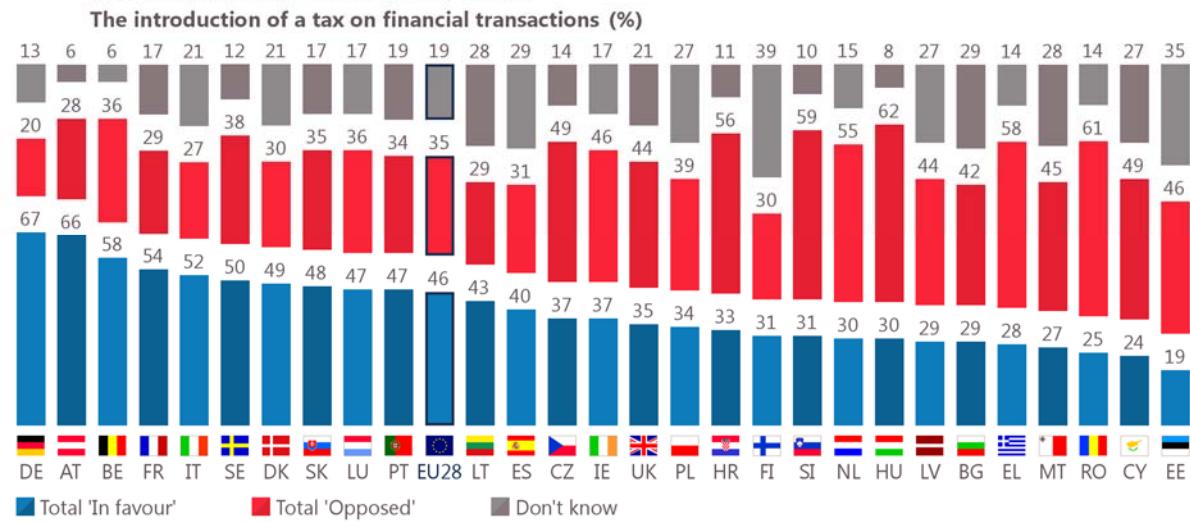
<sup>55</sup> QC3. Thinking about reforming global financial markets, please tell me whether you are in favour or opposed to each of the following measures to be taken by the EU. 1. The introduction of a tax on financial transactions 2. The introduction of Eurobonds (European bonds)

A majority of respondents in 15 Member States (compared with nine in spring 2017) are opposed to the **introduction of a tax on financial transactions**. In this survey, a majority of respondents now reject this measure in Slovenia (59% versus 31%, instead of 46% versus 47% in spring 2017), Croatia (56% versus 33%, instead of 44% versus 48%), Malta (45% versus 27%, instead of 34% versus 35%), the United Kingdom (44% versus 35%, instead of 37% versus 41%), Bulgaria (42% versus 29%, instead of 35% versus 37%) and Poland (39% versus 34%, instead of 36% versus 46%). Opposition is most widespread in Hungary (62%) and Romania (61%).

A majority of respondents in 13 Member States support this measure, most notably in Germany (67%) and Austria (66%).

Since spring 2017, support for the introduction of a tax on financial transactions has decreased in 24 countries, led by in Spain (40%, -18 percentage points), Slovenia (31%, -16), Croatia (33%, -15), Italy (52%, -14), Finland (31%, -13), Poland (34%, -12), Estonia (19%, -10), Lithuania (43%, -10), Portugal (47%, -10) and Romania (25%, -10). It has increased by two percentage points in Sweden, Denmark and Luxembourg, and is unchanged in Austria.

**QC3.1** Thinking about reforming global financial markets, please tell me whether you are in favour or opposed to each of the following measures to be taken by the EU.



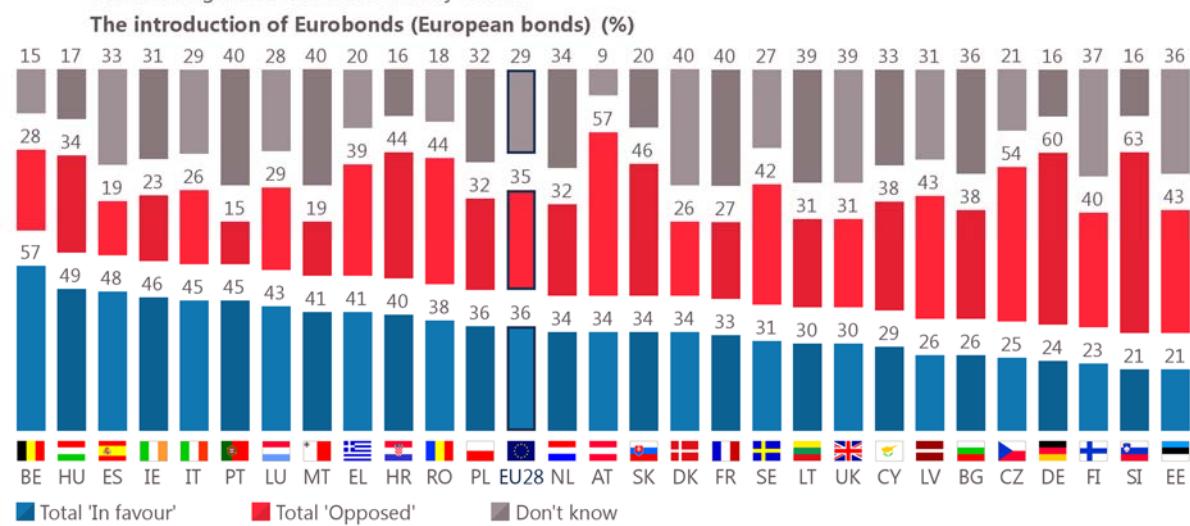
A large proportion of Europeans remain undecided on the question of the **introduction of Eurobonds**. Therefore, the “DK” rate is above 30% in 15 Member States, led by Denmark, France, Malta and Portugal (all 40%), the United Kingdom and Lithuania (both 39%), and Finland (37%).

A majority of respondents are opposed to the introduction of Eurobonds in 15 Member States (compared with ten in spring 2017). This has now become the majority view in Slovakia (46% versus 34%, instead of 39% versus 42% in spring 2017), Croatia (44% versus 40%, instead of 31% versus 50%), Romania (44% versus 38%, instead of 34% versus 40%), Lithuania (31% versus 30%, instead of 25% versus 40%) and the United Kingdom (31% versus 30%, instead of 25% versus 27%). More than half of respondents are opposed in Slovenia (63%), Germany (60%), Austria (57%) and the Czech Republic (54%).

A majority of respondents in 13 Member States support the introduction of Eurobonds, most notably in Belgium (57% versus 28%), Hungary (49% versus 34%) and Spain (48% versus 19%).

Since spring 2017, support has declined in 21 countries, most markedly in Malta (41%, -16 percentage points), Croatia (40%, -10), Lithuania (30%, -10), Slovenia (21%, -9), Poland (36%, -9), Belgium (57%, -8), Slovakia (34%, -8) and Finland (23%, -8).

**QC3.2** Thinking about reforming global financial markets, please tell me whether you are in favour or opposed to each of the following measures to be taken by the EU.



**QC3** Thinking about reforming global financial markets, please tell me whether you are in favour or opposed to each of the following measures to be taken by the EU.  
(%)

		The introduction of a tax on financial transactions		The introduction of Eurobonds (European bonds)	
		Total 'In favour'	Aut.2017 - Sp.2017	Total 'In favour'	Aut.2017 - Sp.2017
EU28		46	▼ 8	36	▼ 3
EURO AREA		52	▼ 8	36	▼ 5
NON-EURO AREA		35	▼ 7	33	▼ 2
BE		58	▼ 2	57	▼ 8
BG		29	▼ 8	26	▼ 2
CZ		37	▼ 5	25	▼ 2
DK		49	▲ 2	34	=
DE		67	▼ 3	24	▼ 1
EE		19	▼ 10	21	▼ 2
IE		37	▼ 5	46	▼ 7
EL		28	▼ 6	41	▼ 3
ES		40	▼ 18	48	▼ 3
FR		54	▼ 4	33	▼ 6
HR		33	▼ 15	40	▼ 10
IT		52	▼ 14	45	▼ 4
CY		24	▼ 6	29	▲ 1
LV		29	▼ 8	26	▼ 4
LT		43	▼ 10	30	▼ 10
LU		47	▲ 2	43	▼ 4
HU		30	▼ 5	49	=
MT		27	▼ 8	41	▼ 16
NL		30	▼ 3	34	▲ 2
AT		66	=	34	▲ 2
PL		34	▼ 12	36	▼ 9
PT		47	▼ 10	45	▼ 6
RO		25	▼ 10	38	▼ 2
SI		31	▼ 16	21	▼ 9
SK		48	▼ 8	34	▼ 8
FI		31	▼ 13	23	▼ 8
SE		50	▲ 2	31	▲ 1
UK		35	▼ 6	30	▲ 3

The following tables show the average results by socio-demographic criteria in the European Union as a whole (EU28), in the six largest EU countries and in the countries benefiting or having benefited from European Union support to deal with the financial and economic crisis.

**QC3.1** Thinking about reforming global financial markets, please tell me whether you are in favour or opposed to each of the following measures to be taken by the EU.

**The introduction of a tax on financial transactions**  
(% - TOTAL 'IN FAVOUR')

	EU28	DE	ES	FR	IT	PL	UK	EL	PT	IE	CY
<b>TOTAL</b>	46	67	40	54	52	34	35	28	47	37	24
<b>Gender</b>											
Male	50	70	45	60	55	37	42	28	50	42	32
Female	42	64	36	48	49	32	30	28	44	32	17
<b>Age</b>											
15-24	40	51	32	35	54	34	36	33	38	36	20
25-39	44	57	40	52	64	34	33	30	51	36	26
40-54	51	70	47	64	60	35	39	31	50	36	27
55 +	46	75	39	56	41	33	35	24	46	40	22
<b>Education (End of)</b>											
15-	43	75	34	46	41	32	36	19	48	33	14
16-19	46	65	47	52	55	32	31	29	55	36	23
20+	49	71	42	61	57	38	44	33	44	39	30
Still studying	43	49	35	35	61	35	37	39	37	35	18
<b>Socio-professional category</b>											
Self-employed	49	57	57	66	61	35	46	26	50	41	30
Managers	56	70	54	72	60	41	44	30	46	46	32
Other white collars	48	75	44	47	59	40	36	37	45	39	18
Manual workers	45	64	42	57	52	37	29	34	52	32	28
House persons	37	53	33	47	41	24	26	20	37	30	19
Unemployed	41	75	35	44	47	11	32	19	57	32	26
Retired	46	73	40	53	43	31	36	25	43	39	23
Students	43	49	35	35	61	35	37	39	37	35	18

**QC3.2** Thinking about reforming global financial markets, please tell me whether you are in favour or opposed to each of the following measures to be taken by the EU.

**The introduction of Eurobonds (European bonds)**  
(% - TOTAL 'IN FAVOUR')

	EU28	DE	ES	FR	IT	PL	UK	EL	PT	IE	CY
<b>TOTAL</b>	36	24	48	33	45	36	30	41	45	46	29
<b>Gender</b>											
Male	39	25	57	39	49	38	33	45	49	51	36
Female	31	22	40	27	41	34	27	38	41	42	22
<b>Age</b>											
15-24	38	28	44	35	42	43	37	38	34	42	25
25-39	37	24	47	27	55	40	28	49	51	44	35
40-54	39	26	54	38	55	37	34	43	51	51	30
55 +	31	21	46	32	33	30	25	36	40	46	25
<b>Education (End of)</b>											
15-	31	26	40	28	32	19	24	26	42	23	13
16-19	34	22	56	29	47	34	24	45	53	44	23
20+	39	27	54	35	56	42	40	53	52	55	42
Still studying	39	24	41	43	49	37	41	40	35	43	25
<b>Socio-professional category</b>											
Self-employed	42	21	68	23	54	45	40	45	47	67	24
Managers	40	29	63	44	60	44	35	59	52	61	44
Other white collars	41	25	57	34	56	46	35	54	53	51	26
Manual workers	36	24	52	32	48	36	25	42	49	35	31
House persons	33	25	36	31	33	44	35	32	22	35	18
Unemployed	30	22	41	24	33	18	29	32	41	35	31
Retired	30	21	47	31	32	29	23	36	40	48	27
Students	39	24	41	43	49	37	41	40	35	43	25

## TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS

Between the 5<sup>th</sup> and the 19<sup>th</sup> November 2017, TNS opinion & social, a consortium created between TNS political & social, TNS UK and Kantar Belgium, and represented by the Kantar Belgium S.A. coordination centre, carried out the wave 88.3 of the EUROBAROMETER survey, on request of the EUROPEAN COMMISSION, Directorate-General for Communication, "Media monitoring, media analysis and Eurobarometer" Unit.

The wave 88.3 is the STANDARD EUROBAROMETER 88 and covers the population of the respective nationalities of the European Union Member States, resident in each of the 28 Member States and aged 15 years and over.

The STANDARD EUROBAROMETER 88 survey has also been conducted in five candidate countries (Turkey, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia and Albania) and in the Turkish Cypriot Community. In these countries and in the Turkish Cypriot Community, the survey covers the national population of citizens and the population of citizens of all the European Union Member States that are residents in these countries and territories and have a sufficient command of the national languages to answer the questionnaire.

	COUNTRIES	INSTITUTES	N° INTERVIEWS	DATES FIELDWORK		POPULATION 15+	PROPORTION EU28
BE	Belgium	TNS Dimarso	1.005	05/11/2017	13/11/2017	9.693.779	2,25%
BG	Bulgaria	TNS BBSS	1.051	05/11/2017	12/11/2017	6.537.535	1,52%
CZ	Czech Rep.	TNS Aisa	1.021	05/11/2017	13/11/2017	9.238.431	2,14%
DK	Denmark	TNS Gallup DK	1.000	05/11/2017	14/11/2017	4.838.729	1,12%
DE	Germany	TNS Infratest	1.565	05/11/2017	12/11/2017	70.160.634	16,26%
EE	Estonia	TNS Emor	1.009	05/11/2017	13/11/2017	1.160.064	0,27%
IE	Ireland	Behaviour & Attitudes	1.001	05/11/2017	13/11/2017	3.592.162	0,83%
EL	Greece	TNS ICAP	1.008	05/11/2017	13/11/2017	9.937.810	2,30%
ES	Spain	TNS Spain	1.008	05/11/2017	13/11/2017	39.445.245	9,14%
FR	France	TNS Sofres	1.072	05/11/2017	12/11/2017	54.097.255	12,54%
HR	Croatia	HENDAL	1.094	05/11/2017	12/11/2017	3.796.476	0,88%
IT	Italy	TNS Italia	1.034	05/11/2017	12/11/2017	52.334.536	12,13%
CY	Rep. Of Cyprus	CYMAR	500	05/11/2017	12/11/2017	741.308	0,17%
LV	Latvia	TNS Latvia	1.018	05/11/2017	12/11/2017	1.707.082	0,40%
LT	Lithuania	TNS LT	1.013	05/11/2017	14/11/2017	2.513.384	0,58%
LU	Luxembourg	TNS ILReS	507	05/11/2017	13/11/2017	457.127	0,11%
HU	Hungary	TNS Hoffmann	1.039	05/11/2017	12/11/2017	8.781.161	2,04%
MT	Malta	MISCO	503	05/11/2017	12/11/2017	364.171	0,08%
NL	Netherlands	TNS NIPO	1.034	05/11/2017	13/11/2017	13.979.215	3,24%
AT	Austria	ipr Umfrageforschung	1.016	05/11/2017	13/11/2017	7.554.711	1,75%
PL	Poland	TNS Polska	1.014	05/11/2017	13/11/2017	33.444.171	7,75%
PT	Portugal	TNS Portugal	1.076	05/11/2017	12/11/2017	8.480.126	1,97%
RO	Romania	TNS CSOP	1.062	05/11/2017	12/11/2017	16.852.701	3,91%
SI	Slovenia	Mediana	1.009	05/11/2017	13/11/2017	1.760.032	0,41%
SK	Slovakia	TNS Slovakia	1.044	05/11/2017	13/11/2017	4.586.024	1,06%
FI	Finland	TNS Gallup Oy	1.016	05/11/2017	13/11/2017	4.747.810	1,10%
SE	Sweden	TNS Sifo	1.002	05/11/2017	14/11/2017	7.998.763	1,85%
UK	United Kingdom	TNS UK	1.334	05/11/2017	14/11/2017	52.651.777	12,20%
TOTAL EU28			28.055	05/11/2017	14/11/2017	431.452.219	100%*

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

CY(tcc)	Turkish Cypriot Community	Lipa Consultancy	500	05/11/2017	12/11/2017	143.226
TR	Turkey	TNS Piar	1.005	05/11/2017	19/11/2017	56.770.205
MK	Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	TNS BRIMA	1.040	05/11/2017	09/11/2017	1.721.528
ME	Montenegro	TNS Medium Gallup	532	05/11/2017	12/11/2017	501.030
RS	Serbia	TNS Medium Gallup	1.011	05/11/2017	13/11/2017	6.161.584
AL	Albania	TNS BBSS	1.050	05/11/2017	12/11/2017	2.221.572
TOTAL		33.193	05/11/2017	19/11/2017	498.971.364	

The basic sample design applied in all states is a multi-stage, random (probability) one. In each country, a number of sampling points was drawn with probability proportional to population size (for a total coverage of the country) and to population density.

In order to do so, the sampling points were drawn systematically from each of the "administrative regional units", after stratification by individual unit and type of area. They thus represent the whole territory of the countries surveyed according to the EUROSTAT NUTS II (or equivalent) and according to the distribution of the resident population of the respective nationalities in terms of metropolitan, urban and rural areas.

In each of the selected sampling points, a starting address was drawn, at random. Further addresses (every Nth address) were selected by standard "random route" procedures, from the initial address. In each household, the respondent was drawn, at random (following the "closest birthday rule"). All interviews were conducted face-to-face in people's homes and in the appropriate national language. As far as the data capture is concerned, CAPI (*Computer Assisted Personal Interview*) was used in those countries where this technique was available.

For each country a comparison between the sample and the universe was carried out. The Universe description was derived from Eurostat population data or from national statistics offices. For all countries surveyed, a national weighting procedure, using marginal and intercellular weighting, was carried out based on this Universe description. In all countries, gender, age, region and size of locality were introduced in the iteration procedure. For international weighting (i.e. EU averages), TNS opinion & social applies the official population figures as provided by EUROSTAT or national statistic offices. The total population figures for input in this post-weighting procedure are listed here.

Readers are reminded that survey results are estimations, the accuracy of which, everything being equal, rests upon the sample size and upon the observed percentage. With samples of about 1,000 interviews, the real percentages vary within the following confidence limits:

Statistical Margins due to the sampling process (at the 95% level of confidence)										
	various sample sizes are in rows					various observed results are in columns				
	5%	10%	15%	20%	25%	30%	35%	40%	45%	50%
95%	90%	85%	80%	75%	70%	65%	60%	55%	50%	
N=50	<b>6.0</b>	<b>8.3</b>	<b>9.9</b>	<b>11.1</b>	<b>12.0</b>	<b>12.7</b>	<b>13.2</b>	<b>13.6</b>	<b>13.8</b>	<b>13.9</b>
N=500	<b>1.9</b>	<b>2.6</b>	<b>3.1</b>	<b>3.5</b>	<b>3.8</b>	<b>4.0</b>	<b>4.2</b>	<b>4.3</b>	<b>4.4</b>	<b>4.4</b>
<b>N=1000</b>	<b>1.4</b>	<b>1.9</b>	<b>2.2</b>	<b>2.5</b>	<b>2.7</b>	<b>2.8</b>	<b>3.0</b>	<b>3.0</b>	<b>3.1</b>	<b>3.1</b>
N=1500	<b>1.1</b>	<b>1.5</b>	<b>1.8</b>	<b>2.0</b>	<b>2.2</b>	<b>2.3</b>	<b>2.4</b>	<b>2.5</b>	<b>2.5</b>	<b>2.5</b>
N=2000	<b>1.0</b>	<b>1.3</b>	<b>1.6</b>	<b>1.8</b>	<b>1.9</b>	<b>2.0</b>	<b>2.1</b>	<b>2.1</b>	<b>2.2</b>	<b>2.2</b>
N=3000	<b>0.8</b>	<b>1.1</b>	<b>1.3</b>	<b>1.4</b>	<b>1.5</b>	<b>1.6</b>	<b>1.7</b>	<b>1.8</b>	<b>1.8</b>	<b>1.8</b>
N=4000	<b>0.7</b>	<b>0.9</b>	<b>1.1</b>	<b>1.2</b>	<b>1.3</b>	<b>1.4</b>	<b>1.5</b>	<b>1.5</b>	<b>1.5</b>	<b>1.5</b>
N=5000	<b>0.6</b>	<b>0.8</b>	<b>1.0</b>	<b>1.1</b>	<b>1.2</b>	<b>1.3</b>	<b>1.3</b>	<b>1.4</b>	<b>1.4</b>	<b>1.4</b>
N=6000	<b>0.6</b>	<b>0.8</b>	<b>0.9</b>	<b>1.0</b>	<b>1.1</b>	<b>1.2</b>	<b>1.2</b>	<b>1.2</b>	<b>1.3</b>	<b>1.3</b>
N=7000	<b>0.5</b>	<b>0.7</b>	<b>0.8</b>	<b>0.9</b>	<b>1.0</b>	<b>1.1</b>	<b>1.1</b>	<b>1.1</b>	<b>1.2</b>	<b>1.2</b>
N=7500	<b>0.5</b>	<b>0.7</b>	<b>0.8</b>	<b>0.9</b>	<b>1.0</b>	<b>1.0</b>	<b>1.1</b>	<b>1.1</b>	<b>1.1</b>	<b>1.1</b>
N=8000	<b>0.5</b>	<b>0.7</b>	<b>0.8</b>	<b>0.9</b>	<b>0.9</b>	<b>1.0</b>	<b>1.0</b>	<b>1.1</b>	<b>1.1</b>	<b>1.1</b>
N=9000	<b>0.5</b>	<b>0.6</b>	<b>0.7</b>	<b>0.8</b>	<b>0.9</b>	<b>0.9</b>	<b>1.0</b>	<b>1.0</b>	<b>1.0</b>	<b>1.0</b>
N=10000	<b>0.4</b>	<b>0.6</b>	<b>0.7</b>	<b>0.8</b>	<b>0.8</b>	<b>0.9</b>	<b>0.9</b>	<b>1.0</b>	<b>1.0</b>	<b>1.0</b>
N=11000	<b>0.4</b>	<b>0.6</b>	<b>0.7</b>	<b>0.8</b>	<b>0.9</b>	<b>0.9</b>	<b>0.9</b>	<b>0.9</b>	<b>0.9</b>	<b>0.9</b>
N=12000	<b>0.4</b>	<b>0.5</b>	<b>0.6</b>	<b>0.7</b>	<b>0.7</b>	<b>0.8</b>	<b>0.9</b>	<b>0.9</b>	<b>0.9</b>	<b>0.9</b>
N=13000	<b>0.4</b>	<b>0.5</b>	<b>0.6</b>	<b>0.7</b>	<b>0.7</b>	<b>0.8</b>	<b>0.8</b>	<b>0.8</b>	<b>0.9</b>	<b>0.9</b>
N=14000	<b>0.4</b>	<b>0.5</b>	<b>0.6</b>	<b>0.7</b>	<b>0.7</b>	<b>0.8</b>	<b>0.8</b>	<b>0.8</b>	<b>0.8</b>	<b>0.8</b>
N=15000	<b>0.3</b>	<b>0.5</b>	<b>0.6</b>	<b>0.6</b>	<b>0.7</b>	<b>0.7</b>	<b>0.8</b>	<b>0.8</b>	<b>0.8</b>	<b>0.8</b>
	5%	10%	15%	20%	25%	30%	35%	40%	45%	50%
	95%	90%	85%	80%	75%	70%	65%	60%	55%	50%