



Standard Eurobarometer 94
Winter 2020 - 2021

Public opinion in the European Union

Report

Fieldwork: February-March 2021

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

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

Project title Standard Eurobarometer 94
"Public Opinion in the European Union"

Language version EN

Catalogue number NA-AO-21-005-EN-N

ISBN 978-92-76-37502-9

ISSN 1977-3927

doi:10.2775/841401

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INTRODUCTION



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This report presents the results of the Standard Eurobarometer survey of winter 2020-2021 (EB94), which was carried out between 12 February and 11 March 2021 in the 27 EU Member States. The survey was also conducted in 12 other countries or territories: five candidate countries (Albania, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Serbia and Turkey), the Turkish Cypriot Community in the part of the country that is not controlled by the government of the Republic of Cyprus, as well as in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Iceland, Kosovo¹, Norway, Switzerland and in the United Kingdom.

The full report of the Standard Eurobarometer 94 survey consists of several volumes. The first volume presents the results of general questions about the state of public opinion in the European Union. Four other volumes present Europeans' opinions about the following topics: the European Union's priorities; European citizenship; media use in the European Union and the European Union and the coronavirus pandemic.

Coronavirus pandemic

The period between the previous Standard Eurobarometer (EB93, summer 2020) and the fieldwork of the current Standard Eurobarometer survey of winter 2020-2021, conducted in February-March 2021, was marked by the prolongation and deepening of the coronavirus global pandemic: the "second wave" of the pandemic started in autumn 2020², after a relative improvement of the sanitary situation in summer 2020. At the beginning of 2021, the appearance of the different variants of the virus – "British", "South African" and "Brazilian" in particular, their greater contagiousness, and their presumed stronger resistance to antibodies³ plunged several European countries into a "third wave", with the implementation of a series of restriction measures.

On 24 March, the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC) reported more than 24.1 million cases in the European Union, with the highest caseloads in France (4,071,662), Italy (3,223,142) and Spain (3,195,062). Worldwide infections were over 120.2 million and continued to rise⁴. At that date, there have also been more than 577,300 deaths in the European Union and more than 2.6 million deaths worldwide.

Vaccination campaign

The vaccine campaign, which started at the end of 2020 in the European Union, has recently gained momentum. Following the European Medicines Agency's (EMA) positive assessment of their safety and efficacy, the European Commission has so far given four conditional marketing authorisations for the vaccines developed by BioNTech and Pfizer (the first one, on 21 December 2020), Moderna, AstraZeneca and most recently Janssen Pharmaceutica NV (on 11 March 2021). Overall, the European Union has secured up to 2.6 billion doses of COVID-19 vaccines so far, and on 11 March 2021, at the end of the fieldwork, 43.1 Million doses had been administered in the EU.

On 17 March 2021, the Commission adopted a legislative proposal establishing a common framework for a digital green certificate⁵ covering vaccination, testing and recovery. This certificate aims to facilitate free movement within the EU, in full respect of the principle of non-discrimination and the fundamental rights of EU citizens.

The economy

The coronavirus pandemic is having a major impact on the European economy. However, while the various indicators collapsed during the first half of 2020, due to the containment measures taken in most EU countries, they tended to recover sharply in the third quarter and then to fall again in the fourth quarter, after the restrictions put in place to counter the second wave of the epidemic.

In the end, growth fell very sharply in 2020, but less than the very pessimistic forecasts of the summer of 2020 had feared: -6.8% in the euro area, and -6.3% in the EU. The forecasts published by the European Commission in its Winter 2021 European Economic Forecast⁶ predict an increase of +3.7% in EU27, and by +3.8% in the euro area for 2021.

The unemployment rate also fluctuated during the course of 2020: after rising sharply in the first half of 2020, it finally fell again in the second half of the year, to stand at 7.3% in the EU as a whole in January 2021⁷ (stable from December 2020, and up from 6.6% in January 2020). Unemployment in the euro area was 8.1% in January 2021 (also stable from December 2020, and up from 7.4% in January 2020).

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

²Also known as Covid-19 or Sars-CoV-2

³However, there are indications that vaccines are effective against these three variants circulating in the European Union:

<https://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/headlines/society/20210311ST009733/covid-19-variants-state-of-play-and-impact-on-vaccination-in-the-eu>

⁴<https://www.ecdc.europa.eu/en>

⁵https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_21_1181

⁶https://ec.europa.eu/info/sites/info/files/economy-finance/ip144_en_1.pdf

⁷https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/documents/portlet_file_entry/2995521/3-04032021-AP-EN.pdf/cb6e5dd6-56c2-2196-16b7-baf811b84a4f

EU-related events since the summer 2020 survey:

- On 16 September 2020, the President of the European Commission Ursula von der Leyen delivered her first State of the Union speech⁸ where she outlined her vision for the EU and the priorities for the year ahead. She also announced plans to reduce EU greenhouse gas emissions, to ensure a successful digital transformation of Europe by 2030⁹ and presented measures to step up action against racism and a new approach to migration.
- On 14 October, the European Commission presented a series of new policies on energy policy to help build a climate neutral Europe¹⁰, including actions on renovation of buildings and a strategy to reduce emissions of methane. The Commission also announces a new Chemicals Strategy¹¹, the first step towards a zero pollution ambition for a toxic-free environment.
- On 27 October, as part of the EU's efforts to preserve jobs and livelihoods affected by the coronavirus pandemic, the European Commission distributed €17 billion to Italy, Spain and Poland under the Support to mitigate Unemployment Risks in an Emergency (SURE) programme. SURE can provide up to €100 billion in financial support to all Member States.
- On 11 November, the European Commission took the first steps towards building a European Health Union with proposals to strengthen the EU's health security framework and to reinforce the crisis preparedness and response role of key EU agencies.

Elections in the EU since the summer 2020 survey:

The period was marked by major elections in Lithuania, Romania, and Portugal.

- On 1 October 2020, Alexander De Croo was sworn as the new Belgian Prime minister following negotiations initiated after the 26 May 2019 general elections.
- In Lithuania, the Homeland Party, Christian Democrats (TS-LKD) led by Ingrida Simonyte came first, winning 50 of the 141 seats of the Seimas during the parliamentary elections held in October 2020.
- Parliamentary elections took place in Romania on 6 December 2020, where the Social Democratic Party (PSD) won 29.7% of the votes, ahead the National Liberal Party (PNL), led by outgoing Prime Minister Ludovic Orban, which won 25.2%.
- In Portugal, Marcelo Rebelo de Sousa was re-elected on 24 January President of the Republic, in the first round of voting, with 60.7% of the votes.

Other elections took place just after the end of fieldwork:

- In Germany, regional elections in the west of the country (Baden-Württemberg and Rheinland-Pfalz) on 14 March were marked by a serious setback of the Chancellor Merkel's CDU party.
- In the Netherlands, the liberal People's Party for Freedom and Democracy (VVD) of outgoing Prime Minister Mark Rutte came first with 34 seats in the general elections (15-17 March).

Other noteworthy events since the summer 2020 survey:

- In the USA, following the presidential election held in November 2020, the Biden presidency began on January 20, 2021, when **Joe Biden** was inaugurated as the 46th president of the United States. The inauguration took place after the Capitol had been invaded on January 6th by demonstrators, causing five deaths, during the joint session of Congress assembled to count electoral votes to formalize Joe Biden's victory.
- **Impact of climate change:** In August and September 2020, San Francisco and other parts of the American West were stricken by massive fires. In November, hurricanes devastated Central America, killing more than 200 people while gigantic fires destroyed 40% of the forests on Fraser Island (Australia, Queensland). According to provisional data from the World Meteorological Organisation (WMO), 2020 will be the second hottest year on record, after 2016.
- On 20 August 2020, **Russia's leading opposition figure Alexei Navalny** was hospitalised after falling seriously ill, before being allowed to undergo emergency treatment in Germany. He went back to Russia in February 2021 and was immediately sent to jail. On 2 March, the Council of the EU decided to impose restrictive measures on four Russian individuals responsible for serious human rights violations and involved in Navalny's arbitrary arrest.
- **Nagorno-Karabakh conflict:** on 27 September 2020, fighting broke out between Azerbaijani forces and those of Nagorno-Karabakh, an enclave with an Armenian majority that has been disputed for decades. After six weeks of fighting (and more than 5,000 dead), a ceasefire was signed in November which consecrated Azerbaijan's victory.
- **Myanmar (Burma):** on 1 February 2021, a coup was perpetrated by military forces which proclaimed a year-long state of emergency and declared the transfer of power to the Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services.

Terrorist attacks:

- On 4 October 2020, in Dresden, Germany, one person was killed with a knife in an Islamist attack.
- On 16 October, in Conflans-Saint-Honorine, France, a history teacher, Samuel Paty, was beheaded by a radicalised Islamist after showing cartoons of Mohammed during a lesson on freedom of expression.
- On 29 October, three worshippers in the Basilica of Nice (southeast France) were killed with a knife by a Tunisian who had recently arrived in Europe.
- On 2 November, four people were killed in an Islamist attack in Vienna, the first such attack in Austria.

⁸

https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/SPEECH_20_165
5

⁹ "Europe's Digital decade"

¹⁰ https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/mex_20_1901

¹¹ https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_20_1839

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Methodology used for this survey

Exceptionally, this Standard Eurobarometer survey 94 was conducted during winter 2020-2021 (February-March 2021) instead of autumn because of the coronavirus pandemic and in some countries, **alternative interview modes** to face-to-face were necessary as a result of the situation.

When possible, the methodology used was that of the Standard Eurobarometer surveys carried out by the Directorate-General for Communication ("Media monitoring and Eurobarometer" Unit). However, because of the coronavirus pandemic, it was difficult, and sometimes impossible, to conduct face to face interviews in a number of countries of the European Union. In these countries, we have interviewed respondents online, mostly after recruiting them in a probabilistic way by telephone. A technical note concerning the interviews conducted by the member institutes of the Kantar network is annexed to this report. It also specifies the confidence intervals.

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

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

Belgium	BE	Lithuania	LT
Bulgaria	BG	Luxembourg	LU
Czechia	CZ	Hungary	HU
Denmark	DK	Malta	MT
Germany	DE	Netherlands	NL
Estonia	EE	Austria	AT
Ireland	IE	Poland	PL
Greece	EL	Portugal	PT
Spain	ES	Romania	RO
France	EN	Slovenia	SI
Croatia	HR	Slovakia	SK
Italy	IT	Finland	FI
Republic of Cyprus	CY*	Sweden	SE
Latvia	LV		
Turkish Cypriot Community			CY (tcc)
Albania	AL	Turkey	TR
Montenegro	ME	Serbia	RS
North Macedonia	MK		
Bosnia and Herzegovina	BA	Norway	NO
Iceland	IS	Switzerland	CH
Kosovo ¹²	XK	The United Kingdom	UK
European Union - weighted average for the 27 Member States of the European Union			

EU27	
BE, FR, IT, LU, DE, AT, ES, PT, IE, NL, FI, EL, EE, SI, CY, MT, SK, LV, LT	Euro area
BG, CZ, DK, HR, HU, PL, RO, SE	Outside euro area

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

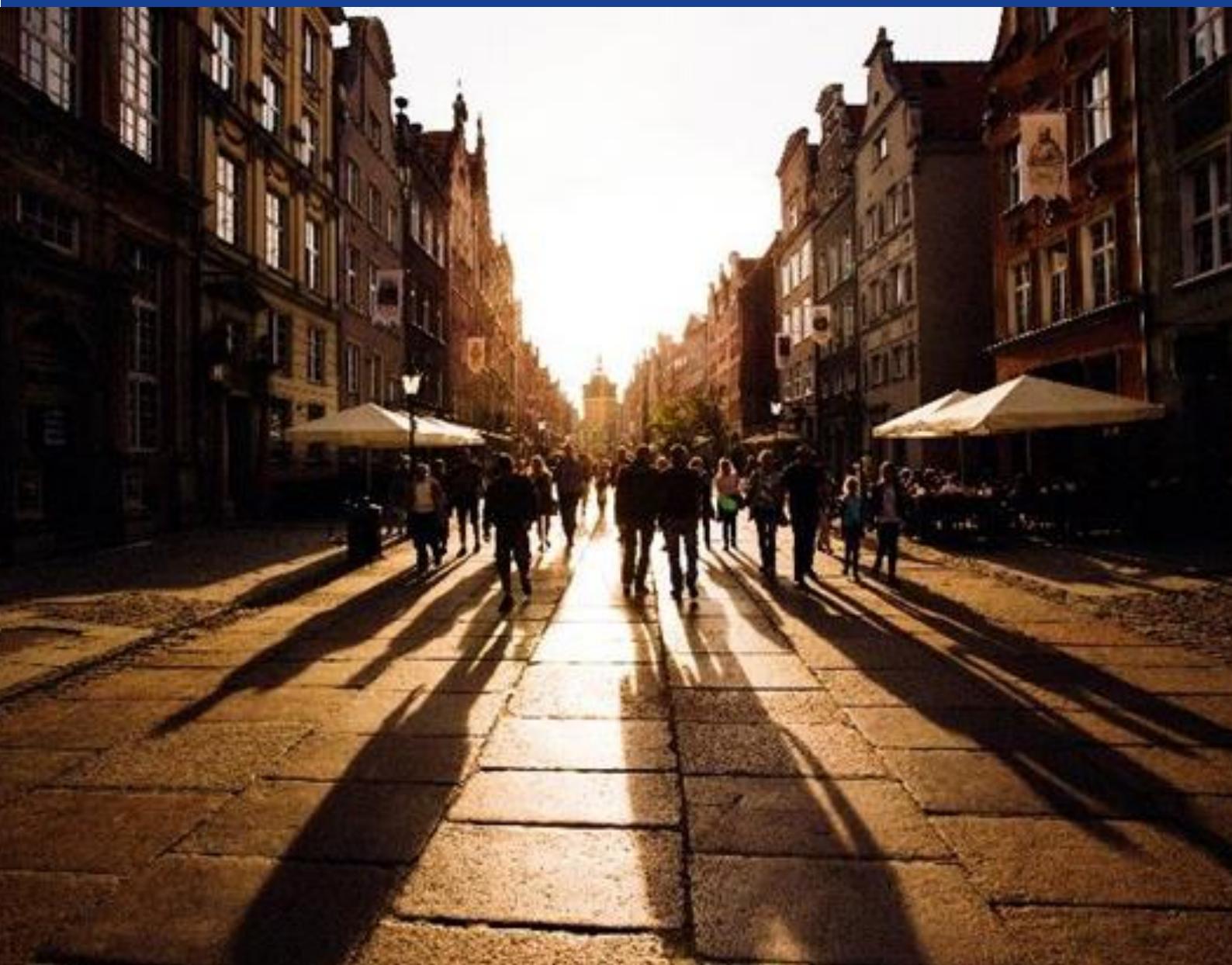
We would like to thank all respondents in Europe

who took the time to take part in this survey.

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

¹² This designation is without prejudice to positions on status, and is in line with UNSCR 1244/99 and the ICI Opinion on the Kosovo declaration of independence.

I. LIFE IN THE EUROPEAN UNION



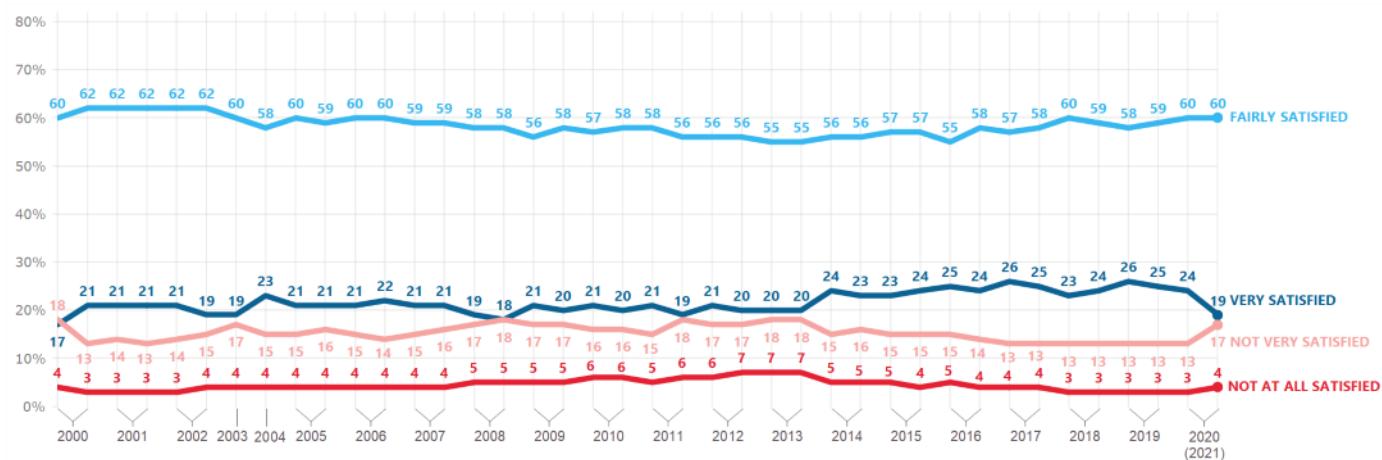
1. The personal situation of Europeans

Almost eight in ten Europeans are satisfied with the life they lead

79% of Europeans are satisfied with the life they lead¹³, showing a fall in levels of satisfaction compared with summer 2020 by five percentage points. Whereas the proportion of respondents who are “fairly satisfied” remains stable (60%), the proportion who say that they are “very satisfied” has fallen significantly: from 24% to 19%. This is the third consecutive decrease in this proportion, with an overall drop of 6 percentage points since spring 2019. However, Europeans who are “very satisfied” continue to outnumber those who are “not very satisfied” with the life they lead.

In contrast, more than one in five respondents (21%) say they are dissatisfied with their life. More specifically, the proportion of Europeans who are “not at all satisfied” with the life they lead has increased by one percentage point (from 3% to 4%) and the share who are “not very satisfied” went up by four percentage points (from 13% to 17%), reaching the highest level since spring 2014.

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



¹³ D70. On the whole, are you very satisfied, fairly satisfied, not very satisfied or not at all satisfied with the life you lead?

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A majority of Europeans are satisfied with the life they lead in all 27 Member States of the European Union (unchanged since summer 2020). However, satisfaction with life in general varies widely between the Member States of the European Union. Thus, satisfaction levels range from 94% in the Netherlands and 93% in Denmark, where they are highest, to 56% in Bulgaria and 52% in Greece, where less than six in ten respondents report that they are satisfied with the life they lead. The Netherlands and Denmark are also the only two countries where more than four in ten respondents (43% and 46%) say that they are “very satisfied” with the life they lead.

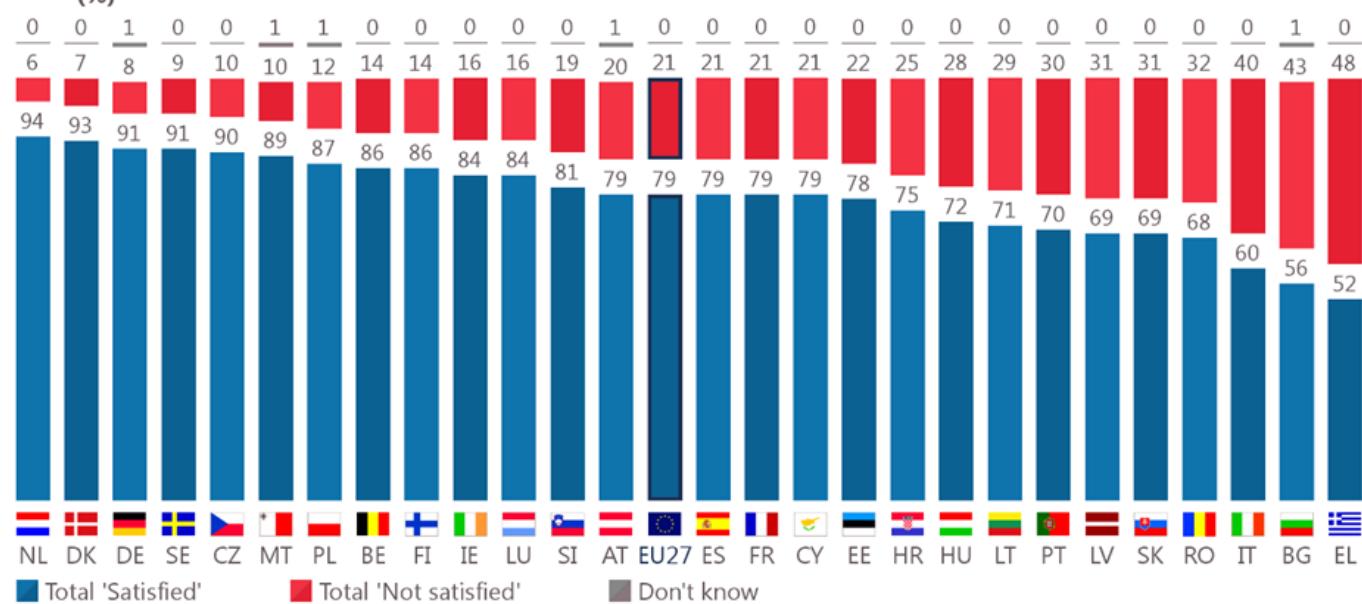
In contrast, in three Member States more than a third of the respondents are dissatisfied with their life: Italy (40%, including 8% “not at all satisfied”), Bulgaria (43%, including 9% “not at all satisfied”) and Greece (48% including 9% “not at all satisfied”).

Since summer 2020, satisfaction has decreased in 25 EU Member States, most notably in Latvia (69%, -15 percentage points), Spain (79%, -12), Italy (60%, -11), Cyprus (79%, -11) and Lithuania (71%, -11). Decreases are lowest in Czechia (90%), Germany (91%) and Malta (89%), down just -1 percentage point in all three countries. It is notable that in Denmark the proportion of people who are “very satisfied” with their life (46%) has decreased significantly by -27 percentage points. However, this setback is partially compensated by an increase of +22 points among people who say that they are “fairly satisfied” (47%).

Conversely, the proportion of respondents satisfied with the life they lead has increased in only two Member States: namely in Romania (68%, +3 percentage points) and Bulgaria (56%, +5).

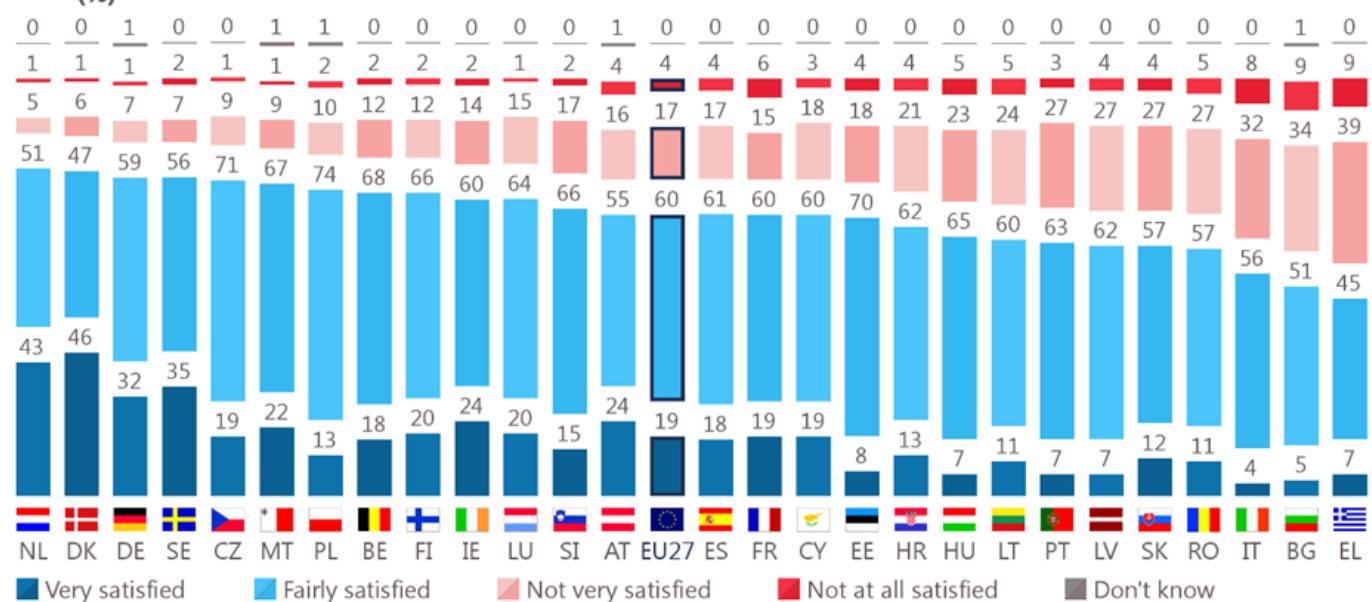
It should also be noted that overall satisfaction levels have also declined in the countries of the **euro area**: -7 points down to 78% (19% “very satisfied” and 59% “fairly satisfied”). In comparison, the declines are less significant within the countries **outside the euro area**: -2 points down to 80% (16% “very satisfied” and 64% “fairly satisfied”).

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



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



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A socio-demographic analysis shows that all categories of the European population are mostly satisfied with the life they lead. However, there are some differences, depending on the socio-economic status of the respondents. Satisfaction is more widespread among managers (91%) than among unemployed people (46%), among respondents who never or almost never have difficulties in paying their bills (90%) than among people who have these difficulties most of the time (31%) and among people who see themselves as upper class (92%) or upper middle class (95%) than among people who see themselves as working class (64%).

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

	Total 'Satisfied'	Total 'Not satisfied'	Don't know
EU27	79	21	0
Gender			
Man	79	21	0
Woman	78	22	0
Age			
15-24	82	18	0
25-39	78	22	0
40-54	77	22	1
55+	79	21	0
Education (End of)			
15-	67	33	0
16-19	74	26	0
20+	86	14	0
Still studying	85	15	0
Socio-professional category			
Self-employed	77	22	1
Managers	91	9	0
Other white collars	82	18	0
Manual workers	77	23	0
House persons	71	29	0
Unemployed	46	53	1
Retired	78	21	1
Students	85	15	0
Difficulties paying bills			
Most of the time	31	69	0
From time to time	62	38	0
Almost never/ Never	90	10	0
Consider belonging to			
The working class	64	35	1
The lower middle class	69	31	0
The middle class	85	15	0
The upper middle class	95	5	0
The upper class	92	8	0

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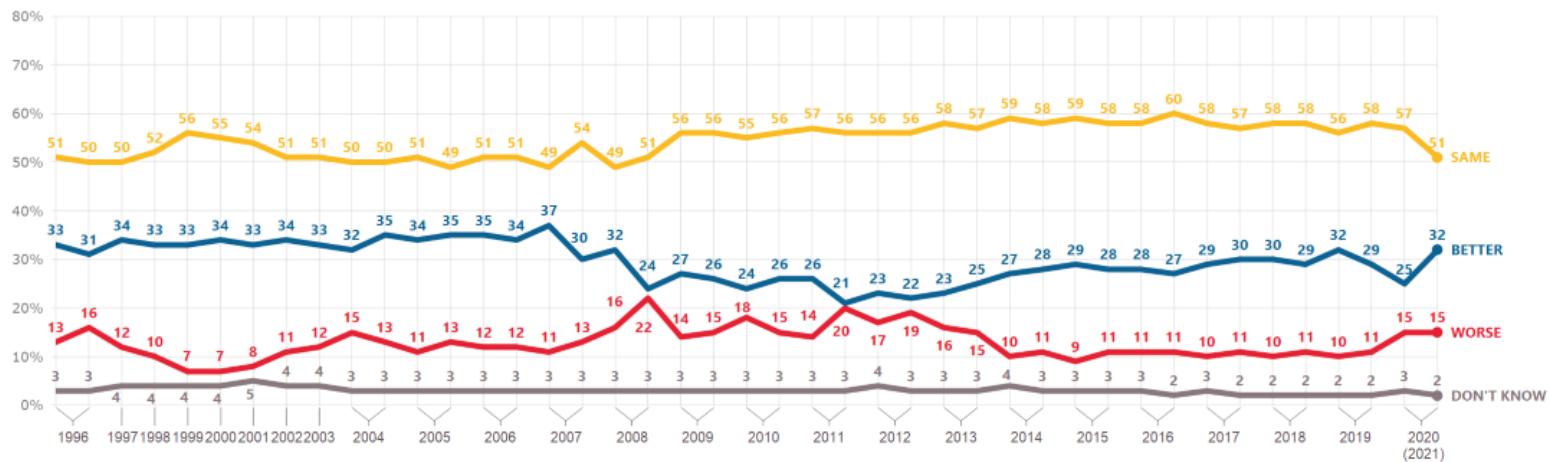
When asked to think about their personal future, a slim majority of Europeans consider that their life will stay “the same” (51%) for the next twelve months¹⁴. Since summer 2020 this proportion has decreased by six percentage points and is now at its lowest level since autumn 2008.

At the same time, **optimism has increased strongly**: 32% of respondents expect that the next twelve months will be “better” (+7 points). Thus, optimism has reached its highest levels since spring 2019 and spring 2008 when it was at the same level.

The proportion of pessimists has remained stable, but at its highest level since autumn 2013: 15% (unchanged since spring 2020) of Europeans think the next twelve months will be “worse” as regards their life in general.

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)



¹⁴ QA2a. What are your expectations for the next twelve months: will the next twelve months be better, worse or the same, when it comes to...?
Your life in general.

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A majority in 23 Member States of the European Union consider that their life in general will be “the same” over the next twelve months (compared with 26 in summer 2020). Within this group of countries, opinion levels vary widely, from a low of 40% in Luxembourg (vs 39% “better” and 21% “worse”) to a high of 64% in Hungary (vs 19% and 16%).

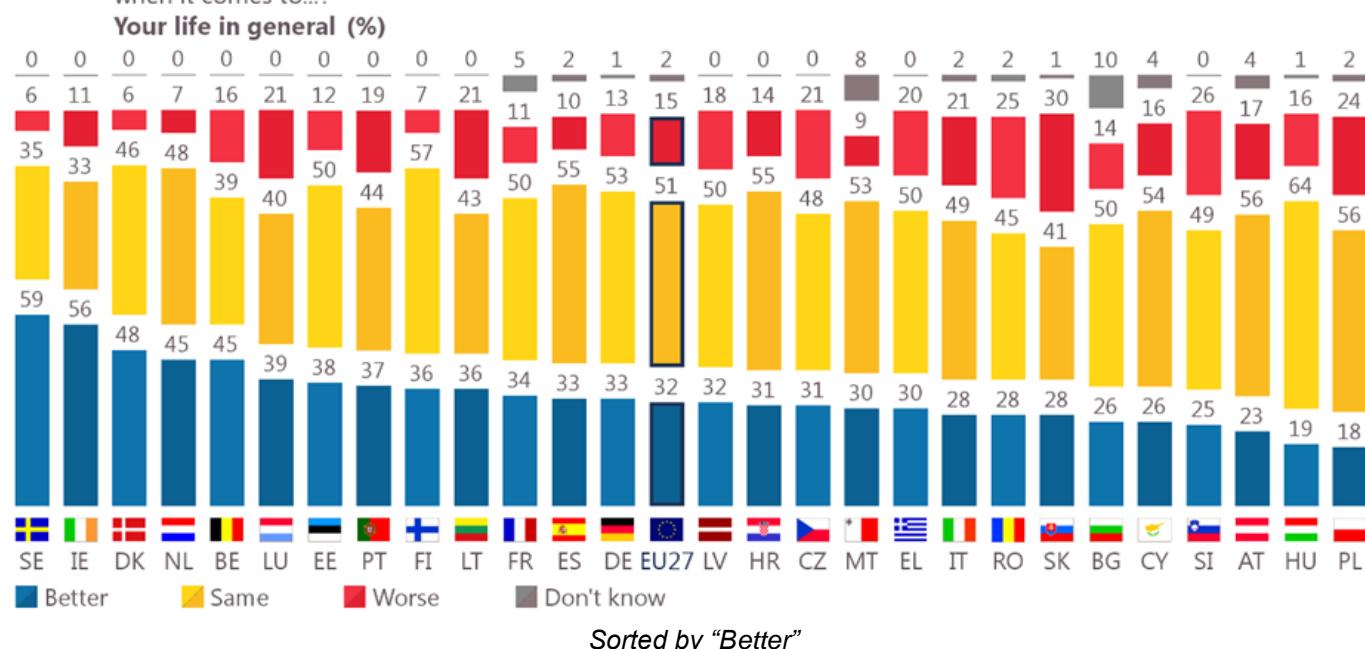
Optimism for the next twelve months holds a majority in four Member States: Sweden (59%, vs 35% “same” and 6% “worse”), Ireland (56%, vs 33% and 11%), Denmark (48%, vs 46% and 6%) and Belgium (45%, vs 39% and 16%). In all but three Member States, optimism outweighs pessimism: the exceptions are Slovakia (30% “worse” vs 28% “better”), Slovenia (26% vs 25%) and Poland (24% vs 18%).

It should be noted that one in ten respondents (10%) do not answer this question in Bulgaria.

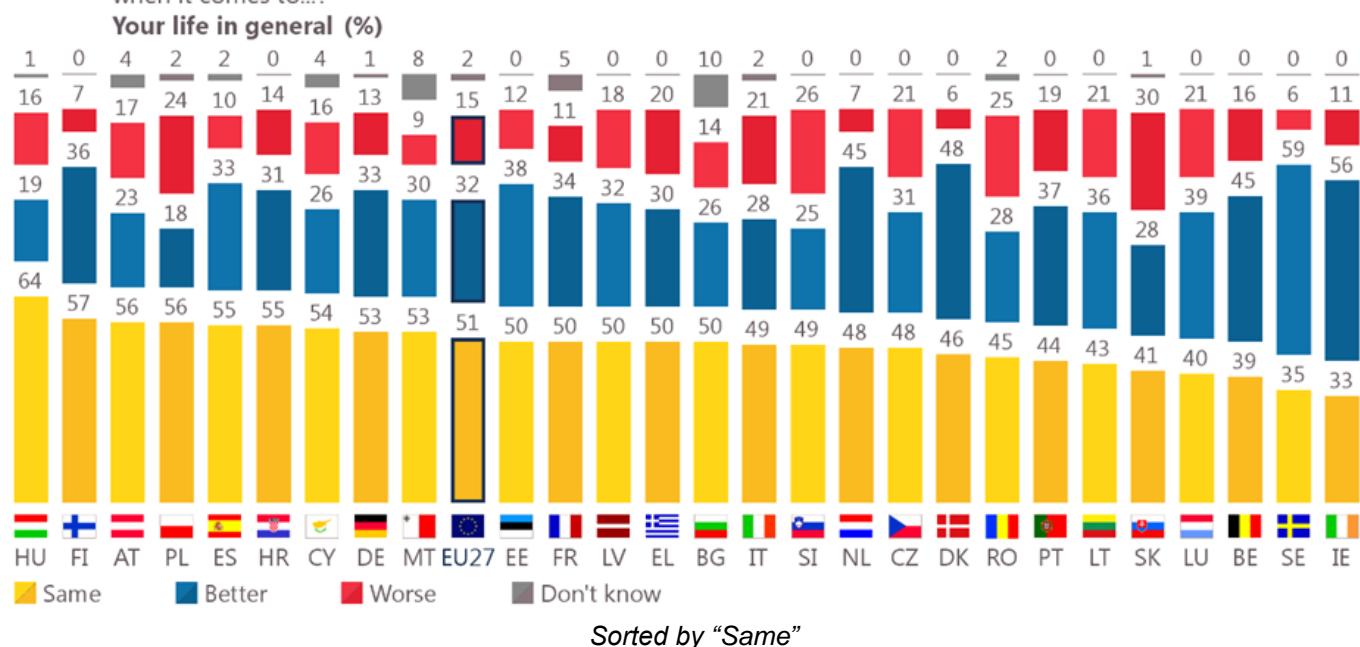
Since summer 2020, optimism has increased in 21 Member States, most notably in the Netherlands (45%, +24 percentage points), Belgium (45%, +23) and Portugal (37%, +22), but has decreased in six, particularly in Hungary (19%, -6), Cyprus (26%, -5) and Romania (28%, -5).

Finally, optimism has increased significantly within the countries of the **euro area** (33%, +9), whereas the rise is less pronounced within the **countries outside the euro area** (28%, +2).

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...?



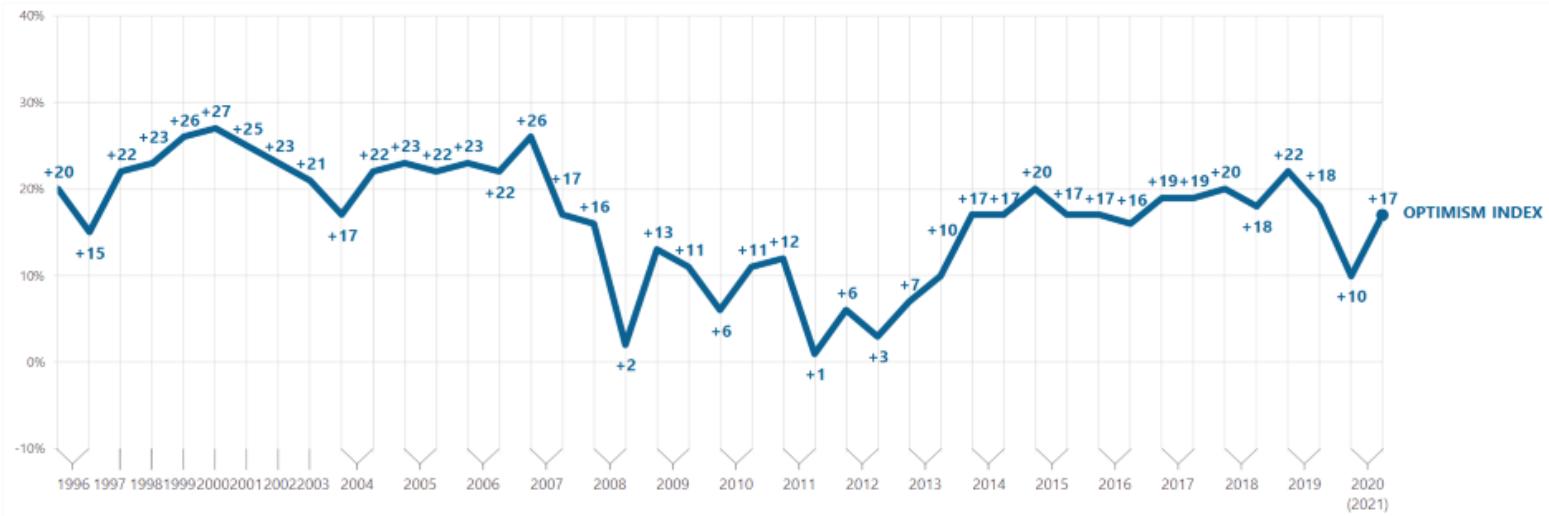
QA2a.1 What are your expectations for the next twelve months: will the next twelve months be better, worse or the same, when it comes to...?



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The index measuring the optimism of Europeans regarding their life in general¹⁵ over the coming year has increased significantly by seven index points since summer 2020, after falling by twelve index points between spring 2019 and summer 2020.

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))



¹⁵ Difference between the positive (“better”) and negative (“worse”) answers.

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The index is positive in 24 Member States (compared with 22 in summer 2020), notably in Sweden (+53), Ireland (+45) and Denmark (+42), and negative in the remaining three: namely Slovenia (-1), Slovakia (-2) and Poland (-6). Since summer 2020, the index has improved in 17 Member States, particularly in the Netherlands (+27), Ireland (+26), Belgium (+24) and Portugal (+23). Conversely it has declined in eight countries, most significantly in Latvia (-13), and remains unchanged in two Member States: Malta (at +21) and Lithuania (at +15).

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)

	EU27	Better - Worse Sum.2020	Better - Worse Win.2020/2021	Win.2020/2021 - Sum.2020
	EU27	+10	+17	▲ 7
NL		+11	+38	▲ 27
IE		+19	+45	▲ 26
BE		+5	+29	▲ 24
PT		-5	+18	▲ 23
SE		+33	+53	▲ 20
ES		+6	+23	▲ 17
DK		+27	+42	▲ 15
BG		-2	+12	▲ 14
EL		-2	+10	▲ 12
FI		+20	+29	▲ 9
EE		+18	+26	▲ 8
AT		-2	+6	▲ 8
DE		+15	+20	▲ 5
HR		+12	+17	▲ 5
FR		+19	+23	▲ 4
IT		+3	+7	▲ 4
CZ		+9	+10	▲ 1
MT		+21	+21	=
LT		+15	+15	=
SI		+1	-1	▼ 2
SK		0	-2	▼ 2
LU		+21	+18	▼ 3
CY		+14	+10	▼ 4
RO		+8	+3	▼ 5
PL		+1	-6	▼ 7
HU		+12	+3	▼ 9
LV		+27	+14	▼ 13

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A **socio-demographic analysis** shows some significant differences between categories, reflecting the age and social status of respondents. Optimism for the next twelve month is more widespread among 15-24 year-olds (50%) than among those aged 55 and over (22%), among students (54%) than among retirees (19%), among people who studied up to the age of 20 and beyond (36%) than among those who left school aged 15 or earlier (17%) and among those who think that things are going in the right direction in their country (42%) than among those who consider that things are going in the wrong direction (27%).

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

Your life in general (% - EU)

	Better	Same	Worse	Don't know
EU27	32	51	15	2
 Gender				
Man	33	49	16	2
Woman	31	52	15	2
 Age				
15-24	50	37	11	2
25-39	40	42	16	2
40-54	31	51	16	2
55+	22	60	16	2
 Education (End of)				
15-	17	62	18	3
16-19	27	53	18	2
20+	36	49	13	2
Still studying	54	36	9	1
 Socio-professional category				
Self-employed	35	47	16	2
Managers	38	49	12	1
Other white collars	34	48	17	1
Manual workers	30	49	18	3
House persons	25	56	17	2
Unemployed	39	39	18	4
Retired	19	63	16	2
Students	54	36	9	1
 Difficulties paying bills				
Most of the time	27	41	29	3
From time to time	29	46	23	2
Almost never/ Never	34	53	11	2
 Consider belonging to				
The working class	24	55	18	3
The lower middle class	28	50	20	2
The middle class	34	50	15	1
The upper middle class	46	44	9	1
The upper class	30	58	12	0

2. The main concerns of Europeans

2.1 Personal concerns

Europeans are now far more concerned about “health” and “living conditions” though concerns for the “economic situation in their country” remain high

In this EB94 survey of winter 2020/2021, **health** (32%) represents the most important current issue Europeans say that they are personally facing at the moment¹⁶. Worries about health have significantly increased by eight percentage points since summer 2020, when it was the second most mentioned item.

Rising prices/inflation/cost of living follow in joint second position with 27% (-3 since summer 2020).

Living conditions (15%, +4) now stands in third position, jointly with the **economic situation in the country** (15%, unchanged), as the most important concerns that Europeans face personally.

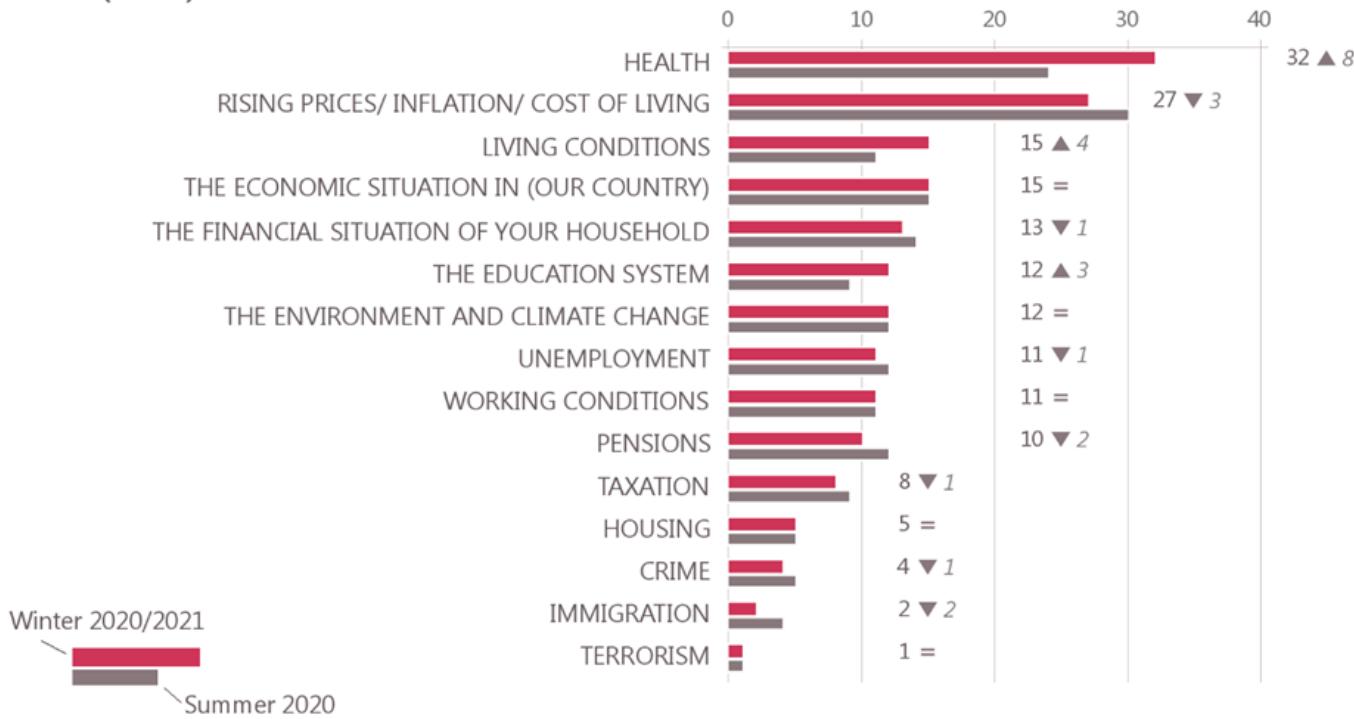
The financial situation of the household is a cause for concern for 13% of respondents (-1) and ranks in fifth place, just ahead of the **education system** (12%, +3) and the **environment and climate change** (12%, unchanged), which share sixth position in the ranking of main concerns on a personal level.

In joint eighth place come **unemployment** (11%), which has lost ground slightly (-1) since summer 2020, and **working conditions** (11%, unchanged).

Pensions rank in tenth place with 10% (-2 since summer 2020).

Finally, **taxation** (8%, -1), **housing** (5%, unchanged), **crime** (4%, -1), **immigration** (2%, -2) and **terrorism** (1%, unchanged) are mentioned by less than one in ten respondents.

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



¹⁶ QA4a. And personally, what are the two most important issues you are facing at the moment?

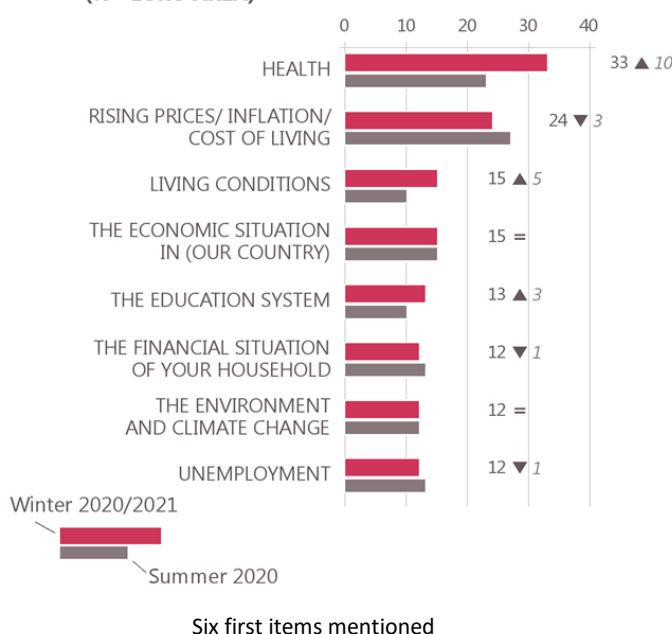
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The hierarchy of problems that respondents say they personally face differs slightly between countries of the **euro area** and countries **outside the euro area**:

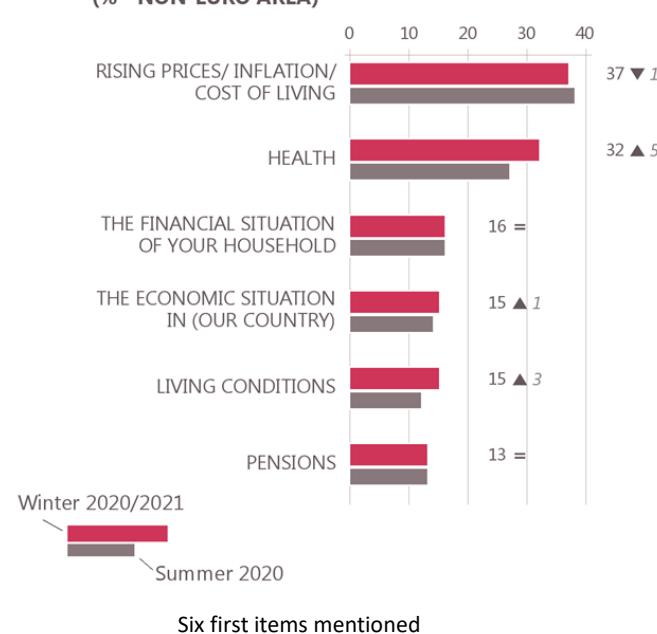
- Although in almost identical proportions, health ranks first in the countries of the euro area (33%, +10 percentage points since summer 2020) and second outside the euro area (32%, +5);

- Rising prices/inflation/cost of living comes second within the euro area countries (24%, -3), but tops the list in the countries outside the euro area (37%, -1);
- Living conditions (15%, +5) and the economic situation in their countries (15, unchanged) share third position in the euro area, whereas the financial situation of the household (16%, unchanged) is the third most mentioned issue in the countries outside the euro area.

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



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



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The national analysis reveals some significant differences among Member States:

- **Health** tops the list of personal concerns in 13 Member States of the European Union (compared with seven in summer 2020). Mentions range from 52% in Finland to 20% in Portugal, where rates are the lowest.

Since summer 2020, the issue has gained ground in 25 Member States, most significantly in Italy (43%, +22). It has remained unchanged in Luxembourg (27%) and lost five percentage points in Portugal (20%).

- **Rising prices/inflation/cost of living** is the leading personal concern in 12 Member States (compared with 18 in summer 2020). These concerns are most prevalent in Hungary (50%) and the least so in Sweden (6%).

Significant changes have been recorded for this topic since summer 2020. The issue gained ground in seven Member States, most notably in Malta (45%, +12), while it dropped in 17 Member States, particularly in Slovakia (36%, -13). It remained unchanged in three other countries, namely Latvia (33%), Denmark (10%) and Sweden (6%).

- **The financial situation of the household** leads the list of personal concerns in Greece (27%) and Cyprus (26%), while it is least cited in Germany and the Netherlands (8% in both countries).

Since summer 2020, this concern has gained ground in 12 Member States, most markedly in Slovenia (21%, +8). It has remained unchanged in four countries and declined in 11 Member States, particularly in Estonia (23% -6).

- **The economic situation in the country** is the leading personal concern in one Member State, namely Portugal (34%). In Greece (26%) and Italy (17%) it is the second most mentioned concern at a personal level, whereas it is the least cited issue in Luxembourg and Malta (both 8%).

Compared with summer 2020, the economic situation in the country is of more personal concern 15 Member States, particularly in Portugal (34%, +15), while concern dropped in 11 countries, most significantly in Sweden (9%, -5). It remained unchanged in the Netherlands (15%).

Although they do not lead the hierarchy of concerns at a personal level, other topics are frequently mentioned in some countries:

- **Education** is an issue for 22% in the Netherlands and 19% in Germany;
- **The environment and climate change** is the second most cited item in Sweden (34%), the Netherlands (27%) and Denmark (25%). It is the least mentioned concern in Greece (2%).
- **Unemployment** is a concern for 24% of respondents in Spain and 15% in Italy, where it appears in third position;
- **Working conditions** are cited by 14% in Croatia and Italy.
- **Living conditions** are an issue for 24% in Slovenia, while only 6% in Cyprus mention this concern;
- **Pensions** is considered to be a main concern at a personal level by 18% of respondents in Romania and in Croatia, but is mentioned by only 4% in Luxembourg.

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

	EU27	Health																							
		Rising prices/ inflation/ cost of living	Living conditions	The economic situation in (OUR COUNTRY)		The financial situation of your household		The education system		The environment and climate change		Unemployment		Working conditions		Pensions		Taxation		Housing		Crime		Immigration	
EU27	32	27	15	15	13	12	12	11	11	10	8	5	4	2	1										
BE	27	29	19	12	11	13	23	4	13	6	15	3	4	5	1	1	1	1							
BG	24	41	16	17	25	9	3	12	10	16	3	2	2	1	1	0									
CZ	37	40	17	22	10	14	10	2	8	7	3	9	1	1	0										
DK	38	10	13	22	11	8	25	8	9	9	5	7	4	6	2	2	1	2							
DE	29	23	17	10	8	19	19	6	8	9	6	7	2	2	1	0									
EE	41	28	12	20	23	12	10	9	8	14	8	4	1	3	0										
IE	40	27	7	24	14	13	20	10	7	7	8	15	2	1	0										
EL	23	22	16	26	27	11	2	15	13	16	14	1	3	3	1										
ES	31	25	14	17	11	7	4	24	12	12	7	6	2	2	1										
FR	27	28	14	12	12	11	14	12	11	9	5	6	9	2	2										
HR	29	30	17	18	23	5	3	11	14	18	4	7	3	1	1										
IT	43	17	17	17	13	12	7	15	14	8	13	1	2	2	1										
CY	23	24	6	18	26	13	3	21	8	8	2	3	5	5	0										
LV	31	33	15	23	14	19	3	7	10	8	15	8	1	1	0										
LT	32	46	9	10	15	12	5	12	10	8	17	5	1	1	1										
LU	27	29	18	8	11	12	20	7	9	4	11	22	8	3	1										
HU	26	50	15	13	22	8	5	9	12	15	3	4	1	3	1										
MT	* 32	45	9	8	11	7	25	5	8	6	3	6	7	8	1										
NL	50	16	7	15	8	22	27	4	6	12	5	11	3	3	0										
AT	34	26	22	11	16	11	9	10	12	8	3	5	4	5	3										
PL	31	46	16	14	15	7	5	8	11	10	8	4	4	2	3										
PT	20	32	11	34	16	8	8	11	11	13	23	6	1	0	0										
RO	27	35	16	16	15	11	6	6	10	18	7	4	4	3	2										
SI	35	19	24	15	21	11	9	9	13	14	5	9	2	3	0										
SK	38	36	12	16	19	11	7	7	13	12	2	9	1	0	0										
FI	52	11	12	19	26	7	20	6	7	11	10	7	2	5	0										
SE	45	6	9	9	15	14	34	6	5	11	6	10	16	10	0										

Highest percentage per country

Lowest percentage per country

Highest percentage per item

Lowest percentage per item

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

	Health	Rising prices/ inflation/ cost of living	Living conditions	The economic situation in (OUR COUNTRY)	The financial situation of your household	The education system	The environment and climate change	Unemployment	Working conditions	Pensions	Taxation	Housing	Crime	Immigration	Terrorism
EU27	32	27	15	15	13	12	12	11	11	10	8	5	4	2	1
Gender															
Man	30	26	15	16	13	11	12	10	11	10	9	5	4	3	1
Woman	34	28	15	14	13	13	11	11	10	11	6	5	3	2	1
Age															
15-24	21	19	15	11	12	34	14	15	13	2	6	10	3	3	1
25-39	25	29	15	18	16	13	11	15	14	2	9	9	3	2	2
40-54	28	28	16	18	17	14	10	11	15	4	9	4	3	3	1
55+	43	28	15	13	10	4	12	6	5	22	7	2	4	2	1
Education (End of)															
15-	39	27	16	11	12	3	6	11	6	25	7	3	4	2	1
16-19	34	32	16	15	16	7	8	12	12	11	7	4	4	2	2
20+	32	25	15	17	11	13	16	9	11	7	9	6	4	3	1
Still studying	23	16	14	10	11	41	16	11	10	2	5	10	3	2	1
Socio-professional category															
Self-employed	25	26	14	24	17	8	9	7	19	5	17	4	3	3	1
Managers	29	24	15	19	9	20	18	5	12	5	10	6	4	2	1
Other white collars	31	30	18	17	12	11	13	9	15	6	9	7	3	2	1
Manual workers	28	33	15	15	16	9	8	9	17	6	8	7	4	3	2
House persons	35	27	18	15	16	12	8	16	6	9	7	5	4	2	1
Unemployed	19	20	13	14	30	3	3	58	12	4	3	6	2	2	1
Retired	48	29	14	11	9	3	12	4	1	27	6	2	5	2	1
Students	23	16	14	10	11	41	16	11	10	2	5	10	3	2	1
Difficulties paying bills															
Most of the time	19	26	16	14	36	6	3	29	10	11	7	7	3	2	1
From time to time	29	29	16	16	22	9	6	16	13	10	9	4	3	2	1
Almost never/ Never	35	27	15	15	8	14	14	7	10	11	8	5	4	3	1
Consider belonging to															
The working class	32	35	15	12	21	6	5	16	11	14	5	5	3	2	1
The lower middle class	30	29	17	15	17	9	9	13	12	12	7	5	3	3	1
The middle class	33	25	15	16	10	14	13	9	10	9	9	5	4	3	1
The upper middle class	34	16	14	16	5	20	24	5	9	6	10	7	5	4	1
The upper class	28	18	13	18	11	16	21	4	14	5	10	8	7	3	5

2.2 The main concerns at national level

After a significant increase health is now by far the main concern, followed by the economic situation and unemployment

After an increase of 13 percentage points since summer 2020, **health** is the main concern at national level in this EB94 study of winter 2020/2021, with 44% of mentions¹⁷.

Concerns for **the economic situation** are relegated into second position, albeit in unchanged proportions (33%).

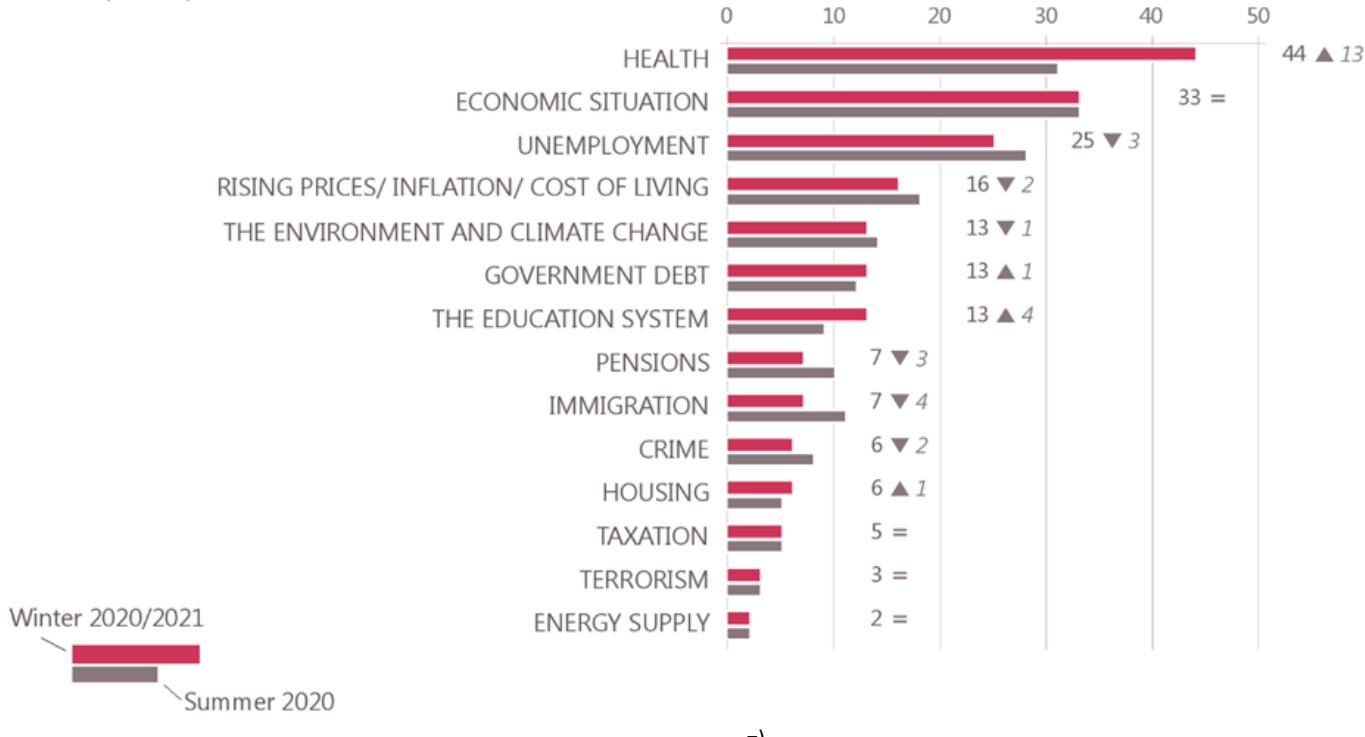
Unemployment has lost ground compared with summer 2020, but stays in third position (25%, -3 percentage points).

Rising prices/inflation/cost of living comes in fourth position and is cited by 16% of respondents, although it has lost ground since summer 2020 (-2).

In joint fifth position, 13% of respondents are concerned with **the environment and climate change** (-1), the **government debt** (+1) and **the education system** (+4).

All other topics are cited by fewer than one respondent in ten: **pensions** (7%, -3), **immigration** (7%, -4), **crime** (6%, -2), **housing** (6%, +1), **taxation** (5%, =), **terrorism** (3%, =) and **energy supply** (2%, =).

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



¹⁷ QA3a. What do you think are the two most important issues facing (OUR COUNTRY) at the moment?

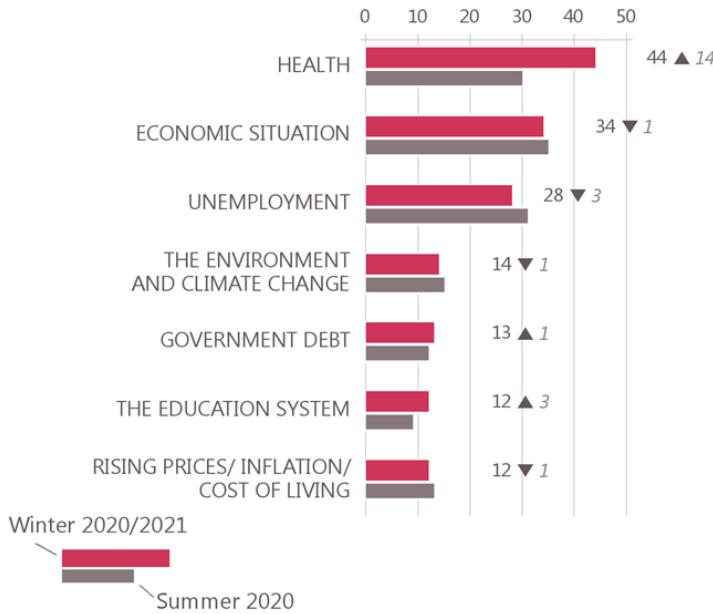
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The order in which respondents rank the main national concerns varies considerably between the **euro area countries** and those **outside the euro area**:

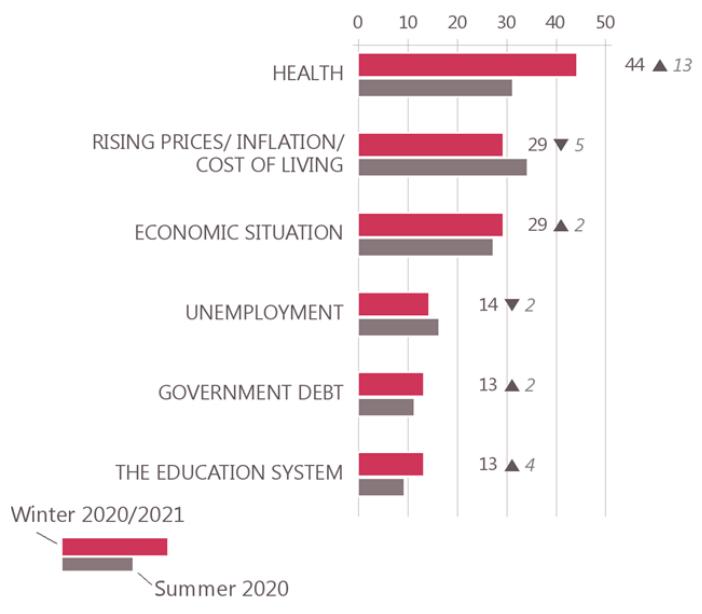
- Health tops the list of concerns in the **euro area countries** (44%, +14 percentage points since summer 2020), followed by the economic situation (34%, -1) and unemployment (28%, -3);

Six first items mentioned

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



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



Six first items mentioned

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The analysis at national level shows some differences between Member States:

- **Health** is the main concern at a national level (44%, +13). It tops the list of concerns in 20 Member States (compared with ten in summer 2020), with the highest scores in Estonia (62%), Italy (61%) and Slovakia (59%). In Belgium it is ranked joint first with the economic situation (33%). Health is ranked in second position in three countries, namely in Greece (42%), Luxembourg (31%) and Sweden (35%). The item is least mentioned in Cyprus (29%).

Since summer 2020, concerns about health have increased in 24 countries, most significantly in Italy (61%, +36 percentage points), Slovakia (59%, +36), Czechia (52%, +36) and Estonia (62%, +35). In three countries health concerns have lost ground: Belgium (33%, -1), Slovenia (51%, -6) and Portugal (32%, -24).

- **The economic situation** is the leading national concern in six Member States (compared with seven in summer 2020), with the highest scores in Greece (59%), Cyprus (54%) and Portugal (52%). This item is the least cited in Sweden (11%).

Since summer 2020, concerns for the economic situation at a national level have increased in 14 countries, most notably in Latvia (42%, +14) and Greece (59%, +10), while they have declined in 11 others, most particularly in Sweden (11%, -13) and Bulgaria (33%, -10). Concerns about this issue have remained unchanged in two Member States: Italy (47%) and Portugal (52%).

- **The environment and climate change** tops the list in Sweden (36%) and is mentioned in an identical proportion in Denmark (36%), where it comes third. A high 35% of respondents also mention this national concern in the Netherlands, where it also stands in third place.

However, this concern lost ground in 15 Member States, most particularly in Denmark (36%, -7) and Luxembourg (18%, -5) and has remained unchanged in six countries. It has gained ground in six Member States, most notably in Malta (28%, +14).

- **Housing** is the leading concern in Luxembourg (51%, -1) and ranks second in Ireland (35%, -2), while it is not mentioned at all in Greece (0%, unchanged).

Other results include:

- **Unemployment** is cited by 51% (+4) of respondents in Spain and 44% (+16) in Cyprus. Conversely, this item is a source of concern for 5% (-5) of respondents in Czechia;
- **Rising prices/inflation/cost of living** are important concerns at a national level for 40% (-8) in Poland, but only for 5% in Denmark (+1) and Sweden (unchanged);
- **The government debt** is an important concern for 37% (+9) in Czechia and 34% (+4) in Finland, but only for 1% in Malta (-1) and Sweden (unchanged);
- **The education system** is mentioned by 24% (+10) of respondents in Latvia;
- **Crime** is a concern at national level for 30% (+9) in Sweden, but only for 1% (unchanged) in Estonia.

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

	EU27	Health	Economic situation		Unemployment		Rising prices/ inflation/ cost of living		The environment and climate change		Government debt		The education system		Pensions		Immigration		Crime		Housing		Taxation		Terrorism		Energy supply	
			44	33	25	16	13	13	13	7	7	6	6	5	3	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	
BE		33	33	12	13	21	27	10	9	9	5	5	5	10	1	8												
BG		47	33	30	33	4	4	10	11	5	6	1	2	1	1	0	0											
CZ		52	35	5	19	5	37	22	7	2	1	7	1	0	0													
DK		47	37	13	5	36	17	9	3	11	4	3	4	3	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2		
DE		31	23	12	14	27	18	22	7	10	4	12	3	3	3	3												
EE		62	38	26	17	10	7	14	7	5	1	1	4	0	7	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		
IE		54	25	19	17	14	15	8	2	2	4	35	2	0	0	1												
EL		42	59	37	8	1	13	9	4	11	4	0	7	1	0	0												
ES		53	40	51	6	3	6	5	6	6	4	2	4	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1		
FR		40	24	31	13	17	11	12	7	9	14	4	3	9	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1		
HR		31	38	37	22	3	16	3	11	3	20	3	4	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1		
IT		61	47	34	6	3	9	7	6	6	2	2	2	7	3	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1		
CY		29	54	44	8	3	3	13	4	16	10	3	3	1	0	0												
LV		49	42	22	16	2	10	24	6	1	2	2	22	0	0	0												
LT		40	24	32	31	4	14	20	9	3	2	1	14	1	1	1	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2		
LU		31	17	14	25	18	7	10	5	5	6	51	5	1	1	1	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2		
HU		50	30	20	37	6	9	7	10	7	3	4	3	1	1	1	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2		
MT	*	50	24	8	24	28	1	4	4	22	10	7	1	0	3	3	1	0	3	1	0	3	1	0	3	1		
NL		54	37	7	8	35	5	14	3	6	3	18	4	1	1	1	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2		
AT		43	31	36	17	12	14	10	5	9	6	4	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3		
PL		44	29	10	40	8	13	10	10	4	5	4	8	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3		
PT		32	52	40	17	4	14	7	5	0	3	4	16	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		
RO		43	28	12	31	6	8	15	15	3	6	5	5	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2		
SI		51	40	20	8	6	25	9	7	8	8	7	5	5	5	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		
SK		59	39	17	30	7	6	15	7	4	3	3	3	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		
FI		31	36	28	9	22	34	8	4	10	3	2	8	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		
SE		35	11	17	5	36	1	19	7	17	30	8	3	2	9													

Highest percentage per country

Lowest percentage per country

Highest percentage per item

Lowest percentage per item

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

		Health	Economic situation	Unemployment	Rising prices/ inflation/ cost of living	The environment and climate change	Government debt	The education system	Pensions	Immigration	Crime	Housing	Taxation	Terrorism	Energy supply
EU27		44	33	25	16	13	13	13	7	7	6	6	5	3	2
BE		33	33	12	13	21	27	10	9	9	5	5	10	1	8
BG		47	33	30	33	4	4	10	11	5	6	1	2	1	2
CZ		52	35	5	19	5	37	22	7	2	1	7	1	0	0
DK		47	37	13	5	36	17	9	3	11	4	3	4	3	2
DE		31	23	12	14	27	18	22	7	10	4	12	3	3	3
EE		62	38	26	17	10	7	14	7	5	1	1	4	0	7
IE		54	25	19	17	14	15	8	2	2	4	35	2	0	1
EL		42	59	37	8	1	13	9	4	11	4	0	7	1	0
ES		53	40	51	6	3	6	5	6	6	4	2	4	0	1
FR		40	24	31	13	17	11	12	7	9	14	4	3	9	1
HR		31	38	37	22	3	16	3	11	3	20	3	4	1	1
IT		61	47	34	6	3	9	7	6	6	2	2	7	3	1
CY		29	54	44	8	3	3	13	4	16	10	3	3	1	0
LV		49	42	22	16	2	10	24	6	1	2	2	22	0	0
LT		40	24	32	31	4	14	20	9	3	2	1	14	1	2
LU		31	17	14	25	18	7	10	5	5	6	51	5	1	2
HU		50	30	20	37	6	9	7	10	7	3	4	3	1	2
MT		50	24	8	24	28	1	4	4	22	10	7	1	0	3
NL		54	37	7	8	35	5	14	3	6	3	18	4	1	2
AT		43	31	36	17	12	14	10	5	9	6	4	3	3	3
PL		44	29	10	40	8	13	10	10	4	5	4	8	3	4
PT		32	52	40	17	4	14	7	5	0	3	4	16	0	0
RO		43	28	12	31	6	8	15	15	3	6	5	5	2	4
SI		51	40	20	8	6	25	9	7	8	8	7	5	0	1
SK		59	39	17	30	7	6	15	7	4	3	3	3	0	0
FI		31	36	28	9	22	34	8	4	10	3	2	8	0	2
SE		35	11	17	5	36	1	19	7	17	30	8	3	2	9
1st MOST FREQUENTLY				2nd MOST FREQUENTLY MENTIONED ITEM					3rd MOST FREQUENTLY MENTIONED ITEM						

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

	Health	Economic situation	Unemployment	Rising prices/ inflation/ cost of living	The environment and climate change	Government debt	The education system	Pensions	Immigration	Crime	Housing	Taxation	Terrorism	Energy supply
EU27	44	33	25	16	13	13	13	7	7	6	6	5	3	2
Gender														
Man	41	32	24	15	14	14	12	7	8	7	6	6	3	2
Woman	47	34	26	16	12	12	13	7	6	5	5	4	3	2
Age														
15-24	41	31	28	14	19	8	20	4	6	5	8	5	3	2
25-39	43	37	27	18	12	12	13	4	6	5	7	6	3	2
40-54	43	35	26	17	12	13	12	5	7	6	5	5	3	2
55+	47	30	22	14	13	15	10	11	8	7	5	4	3	2
Education (End of)														
15-	47	32	33	13	6	11	5	14	9	7	4	4	4	1
16-19	46	34	25	19	9	13	10	8	7	6	4	5	4	2
20+	43	33	22	14	18	14	16	5	6	6	7	5	2	3
Still studying	41	30	27	12	21	8	21	4	5	5	10	4	2	3
Socio-professional category														
Self-employed	44	44	22	14	12	15	11	4	7	4	5	8	2	2
Managers	43	34	19	13	21	13	17	5	5	4	8	6	2	3
Other white collars	48	36	25	17	13	13	12	5	6	6	5	5	2	3
Manual workers	43	32	23	21	10	13	11	8	7	6	6	6	4	2
House persons	46	37	32	16	6	10	10	7	7	4	6	4	4	1
Unemployed	42	35	48	14	7	8	8	3	7	6	4	4	4	1
Retired	47	27	21	15	13	15	10	13	9	8	5	3	4	2
Students	41	30	27	12	21	8	21	4	5	5	10	4	2	3
Difficulties paying bills														
Most of the time	36	34	37	19	6	12	7	8	7	6	7	8	4	2
From time to time	46	37	31	18	7	9	9	9	7	6	4	6	3	2
Almost never/ Never	44	31	21	15	17	14	14	7	7	6	6	4	3	2
Consider belonging to														
The working class	45	30	33	21	7	10	8	10	7	7	5	5	3	1
The lower middle class	44	32	26	19	11	14	11	8	7	6	6	5	4	2
The middle class	45	35	22	14	14	13	14	6	7	6	6	5	3	2
The upper middle class	42	32	18	8	27	15	16	4	7	6	8	5	4	3
The upper class	38	38	13	15	22	15	14	4	7	4	10	6	6	2

2.3 Main concerns at European level

Health is now the main issue facing the European Union, closely followed by the economic situation

Almost four in ten respondents consider that **health** is the main issue facing the EU at the moment¹⁸. This topic has increased sharply, by 16 percentage points, since summer 2020, and now stands first in the hierarchy of concerns at European level.

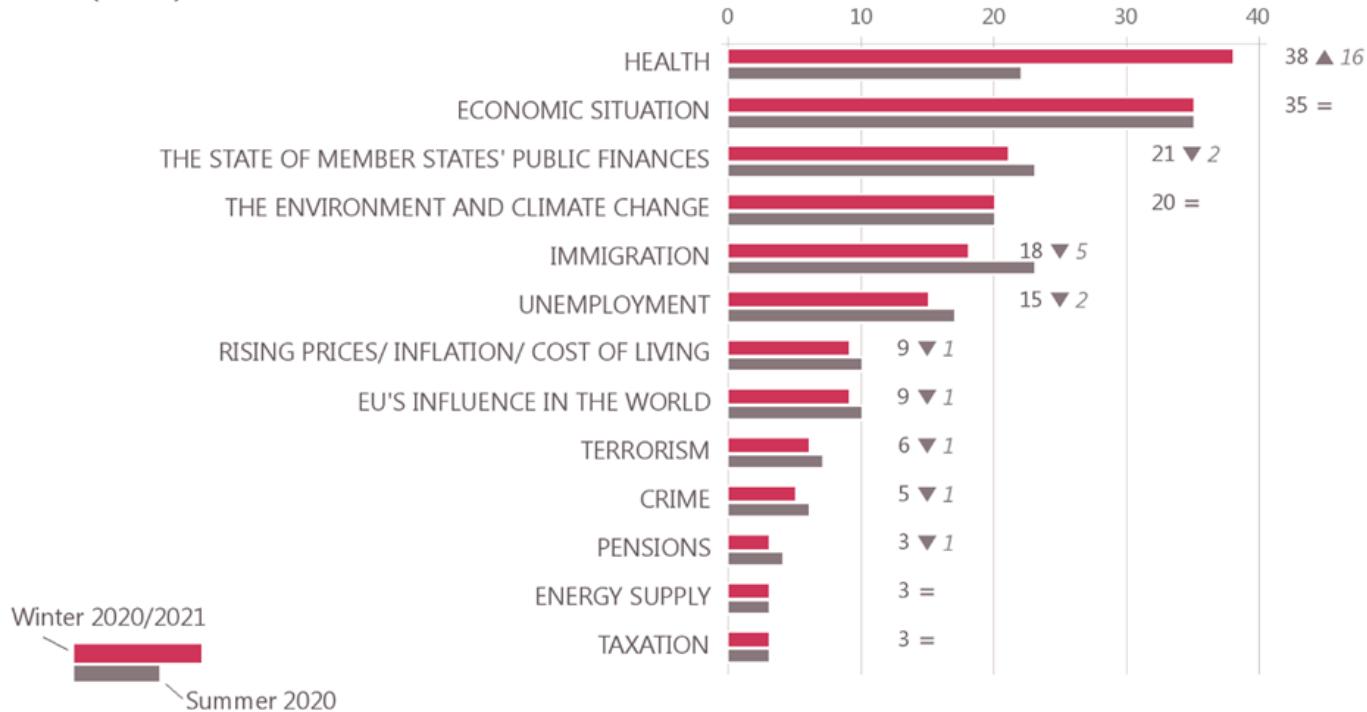
35% (unchanged since summer 2020) consider that the **economic situation** is the most important European issue, followed by **the state of Member States' public finances** (21%, -2) in third position.

The topic “**the environment and climate change**” ranks fourth with 20% (unchanged).

Immigration has lost ground, falling by 5 percentage points to 18%, just ahead of **unemployment** (15%, -2).

Rising prices/inflation/cost of living (9%, -1), **the EU's influence in the world** (9%, -1), **terrorism** (6%, -1), **crime** (5%, -1), **pensions** (3%, -1), **energy supply** (3%, unchanged) and **taxation** (3%, unchanged) are all mentioned by less than one in ten respondents.

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



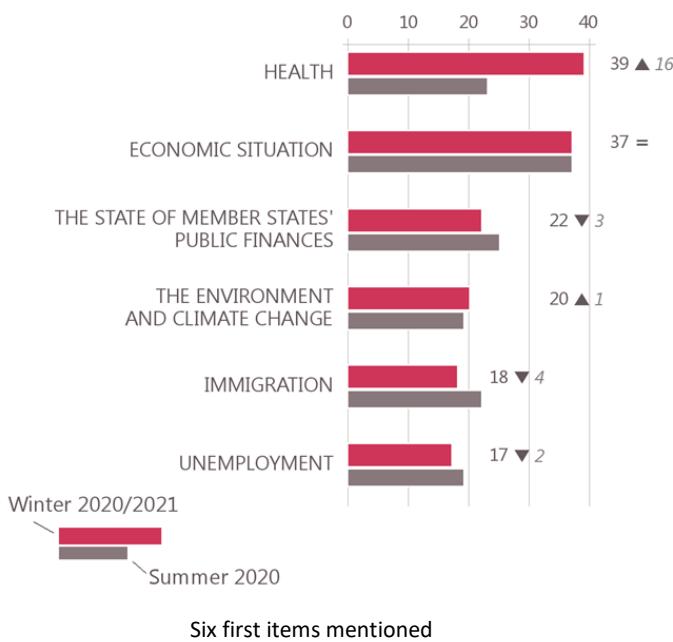
¹⁸ QA5. What do you think are the two most important issues facing the EU at the moment?

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

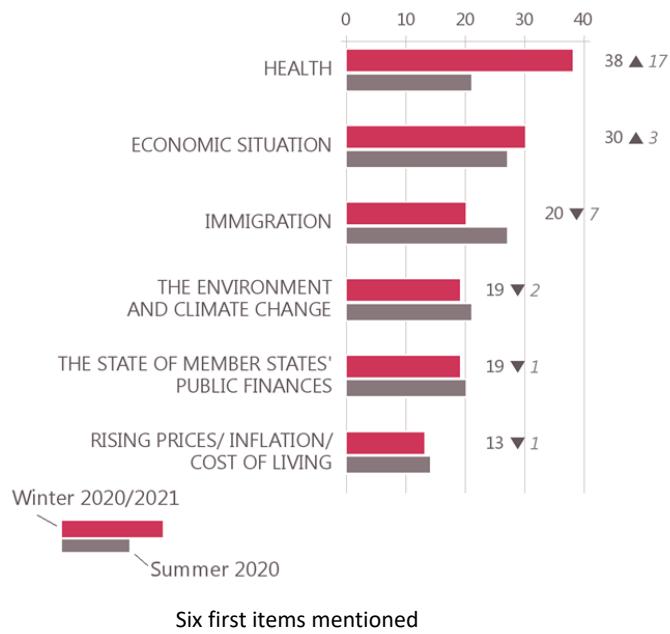
- **Health tops** the list in both areas: it is mentioned by 39% (+16 percentage points since summer 2020) of respondents in the **euro area** and by an almost identical proportion (38%, +17) of respondents **outside the euro area**.

Q45 What do you think are the two most important issues facing the EU at the moment? (MAX. 2 ANSWERS)
(% - EURO AREA)



- The economic situation comes second in both areas: 37% (**unchanged**) consider it an issue facing the EU in the euro area while 30% (+3) of respondents do so outside the euro area.
- Whereas the state of Member States' public finances ranks third within the euro area (22%, -3), immigration is mentioned in third place outside the euro area (20%, -7).

Q45 What do you think are the two most important issues facing the EU at the moment? (MAX. 2 ANSWERS)
(% - NON-EURO AREA)



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A national analysis shows that:

- **Health** is the leading issue in 16 Member States of the European Union (compared with three in summer 2020). Italy records the highest proportion of respondents citing this issue (60%), whereas only 20% in Finland and Sweden consider that health is an important issue facing the EU.

Since summer 2020, concerns about this issue have increased in 26 Member States, most notably in Czechia (50%, +36 percentage points) and Italy (60%, +36). Portugal (31%, -14) is the only country where this issue is less mentioned.

- **The economic situation** tops the list of most important issues facing the EU in six Member States (compared with ten in summer 2020) and ranks in the top three in every Member State of the European Union. It is mentioned particularly in Portugal (50%) and Latvia (46%) and obtains the lowest score in Sweden (25%).

Since summer 2020, this issue has gained ground in 16 Member States, particularly in Latvia (46%, +16), Lithuania (37%, +12) and Portugal (50%, +12). It has remained unchanged in two countries, namely in Estonia (37%) and France (33%), and has declined in nine countries, most markedly in Sweden (25%, -13).

- **The state of Member States' public finances** is the most mentioned item in Finland (45%), while it is least cited in Bulgaria (11%)

This item has gained ground since summer 2020 in eight countries, notably in Greece (35%, +12) and Malta (17%, +10). It has remained unchanged in Spain (15%) and Cyprus (12%) and lost ground in 17 countries, particularly in the Netherlands (26%, -11) and Estonia (24%, -10).

- **The environment and climate change** ranks first in five Member States (compared with three in summer 2020), most notably in Sweden (55%), where its score is highest, but also in Denmark (43%).

Since summer 2020, this issue has gained ground in 11 Member States, particularly in Portugal (23%, +19), Belgium (37%, +11) and Slovenia (20%, +10), while proportions have decreased in 14 countries, led by Hungary (15%, -5). In two countries the proportion of respondents mentioning this item has remained unchanged: Latvia (15%) and Croatia (11%).

- **Immigration** leads the list in Cyprus (44%), while it is least cited in Italy (10%).

Since summer 2020, this item has lost ground in 23 Member States, most significantly in Malta (-27), Latvia (-18) and Estonia (-18).

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

- **Unemployment** ranks in third position in Spain (32%, +2), Italy (25%, -3) and Austria (22%, +5);
- **Rising prices/inflation/cost of living** is mentioned by 18% in Romania (+3), where it ranks third, and Poland (unchanged);
- Finally, **the EU's influence in the world** is cited by 19% (+5) in Finland, but only by 2% in Italy (-3) and Cyprus (-4).

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Q5 What do you think are the two most important issues facing the EU at the moment?
(MAX. 2 ANSWERS)
(%)

		Health		Economic situation		The environment and climate change		Immigration		Unemployment		Rising prices/ inflation/ cost of living		EU's influence in the world		Terrorism		Crime		Pensions		Energy supply		Taxation				
		EU27	BE	BG	CZ	DK	DE	EE	IE	EL	ES	FR	HR	IT	CY	LV	LT	LU	HU	MT	NL	AT	PL	PT	RO	SI	SK	FI
EU27	EU	38	35	21	20	18	15	9	9	6	5	3	3	3														
BE	Belgium	36	35	25	37	19	5	8	14	4	5	2	1	2	6	2	1	2	1	3	0	2	1	1	1	1	1	1
BG	Bulgaria	43	31	11	9	28	11	11	8	11	4	3	4	3	4	2	1	2	1	1	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
CZ	Czechia	50	35	24	17	32	3	7	13	8	2	11	9	3	2	1	2	1	1	3	4	5	5	5	5	5	5	5
DK	Denmark	28	40	19	43	25	8	2	11	9	3	0	0	0	0	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
DE	Germany	26	30	27	31	21	10	8	14	4	5	3	3	3	3	3	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
EE	Estonia	46	37	24	20	22	9	6	17	5	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
IE	Ireland	39	40	28	34	11	15	8	11	2	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
EL	Greece	42	39	35	8	24	15	5	12	5	5	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
ES	Spain	42	36	15	8	17	32	7	4	3	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
FR	France	33	33	15	24	18	14	10	8	13	11	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3
HR	Croatia	40	31	20	11	17	18	11	9	14	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10
IT	Italy	60	46	20	7	10	25	5	2	2	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3
CY	Cyprus	30	35	12	6	44	24	4	2	12	16	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
LV	Lithuania	40	46	16	15	18	15	9	17	6	3	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
LT	Lithuania	36	37	13	23	15	17	14	17	10	3	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
LU	Luxembourg	39	35	23	35	15	18	6	10	6	4	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
HU	Hungary	32	31	24	15	30	10	10	11	13	5	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3
MT	Malta	46	31	17	17	34	9	9	5	3	8	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
NL	Netherlands	33	38	26	38	27	5	4	14	3	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
AT	Austria	40	37	18	17	13	22	15	11	5	6	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5
PL	Poland	41	29	20	15	15	9	18	9	7	6	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4
PT	Portugal	31	50	33	23	13	20	8	8	4	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
RO	Romania	39	27	16	12	13	8	18	8	7	9	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5
SI	Slovenia	47	43	21	20	26	8	5	11	7	5	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
SK	Slovakia	44	34	23	16	21	7	14	11	8	6	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
FI	Finland	20	33	45	29	20	6	7	19	8	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
SE	Sweden	20	25	16	55	23	13	3	11	8	11	1	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10

Highest percentage per country

Lowest percentage per country

Highest percentage per item

Lowest percentage per item

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Q5 What do you think are the two most important issues facing the EU at the moment?
(MAX. 2 ANSWERS)
(%)

	EU27		Health																				
			Economic situation		The state of Member States' public finances		The environment and climate change		Immigration		Unemployment		Rising prices/ inflation/ cost of living		EU's influence in the world		Terrorism		Crime		Pensions		Energy supply
	EU27		38	35	21	20	18	15	9	9	6	5	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3
	BE		36	35	25	37	19	5	8	14	4	5	2	6	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
	BG		43	31	11	9	28	11	11	8	11	4	3	4	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
	CZ		50	35	24	17	32	3	7	13	8	2	1	2	1	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
	DK		28	40	19	43	25	8	2	11	9	3	0	2	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
	DE		26	30	27	31	21	10	8	14	4	5	3	4	2	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
	EE		46	37	24	20	22	9	6	17	5	2	1	7	2	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
	IE		39	40	28	34	11	15	8	11	2	2	1	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3
	EL		42	39	35	8	24	15	5	12	5	5	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
	ES		42	36	15	8	17	32	7	4	3	2	5	2	2	3	2	2	3	3	3	3	3
	FR		33	33	15	24	18	14	10	8	13	11	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3
	HR		40	31	20	11	17	18	11	9	14	10	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3
	IT		60	46	20	7	10	25	5	2	2	3	4	2	2	5	2	2	5	2	2	5	2
	CY		30	35	12	6	44	24	4	2	12	16	3	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
	LV		40	46	16	15	18	15	9	17	6	3	2	2	4	2	2	4	4	4	4	4	4
	LT		36	37	13	23	15	17	14	17	10	3	1	3	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4
	LU		39	35	23	35	15	18	6	10	6	4	2	2	3	2	3	2	3	2	3	2	3
	HU		32	31	24	15	30	10	10	11	13	5	3	3	4	2	2	4	2	2	4	2	2
	MT		46	31	17	17	34	9	9	5	3	8	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
	NL		33	38	26	38	27	5	4	14	3	2	0	4	2	2	0	4	2	2	0	4	2
	AT		40	37	18	17	13	22	15	11	5	6	5	5	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3
	PL		41	29	20	15	15	9	18	9	7	6	5	4	6	5	4	6	6	6	6	6	6
	PT		31	50	33	23	13	20	8	8	4	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
	RO		39	27	16	12	13	8	18	8	7	9	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	4	4	4	4
	SI		47	43	21	20	26	8	5	11	7	5	1	3	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
	SK		44	34	23	16	21	7	14	11	8	6	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
	FI		20	33	45	29	20	6	7	19	8	5	0	3	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
	SE		20	25	16	55	23	13	3	11	8	11	1	10	1	1	1	10	1	1	1	1	1
	1st MOST FREQUENTLY MENTIONED ITEM			2nd MOST FREQUENTLY MENTIONED ITEM			3rd MOST FREQUENTLY MENTIONED ITEM																

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Q5 What do you think are the two most important issues facing the EU at the moment? (MAX 2 ANSWERS)
 (% - EU)

	Health	Economic situation			The state of Member States' public finances		The environment and climate change			Immigration		Unemployment		Rising prices/ inflation/ cost of living		EU's influence in the world		Terrorism		Crime		Pensions		Energy supply		Taxation
EU27	38	35	21	20	18	15	9	9	9	6	5	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	
Gender																										
Man	36	34	22	20	19	15	9	10	6	6	6	3	4	3												
Woman	40	36	20	20	17	16	9	8	6	5	3	2	3	3												
Age																										
15-24	40	35	16	27	15	17	9	8	5	5	5	3	3	4												
25-39	38	38	22	20	18	16	10	9	5	5	5	2	3	3												
40-54	38	38	23	18	17	16	10	10	6	5	3	3	3	3												
55+	39	32	21	19	20	14	8	9	7	6	4	3	2	2												
Education (End of)																										
15-	43	31	15	10	17	21	8	4	7	7	5	2	3													
16-19	40	34	21	15	18	16	11	8	7	6	4	3	3	3												
20+	36	38	24	25	20	12	7	12	5	4	2	4	2	2												
Still studying	38	35	18	31	15	15	7	9	5	5	3	3	3	3												
Socio-professional category																										
Self-employed	35	42	28	17	17	14	9	11	4	4	2	4	3													
Managers	36	38	27	27	19	11	6	12	4	3	2	4	2	2												
Other white collars	41	37	22	22	17	15	8	10	6	4	3	3	3	3												
Manual workers	38	34	19	15	18	16	14	8	8	7	4	3	4	3												
House persons	43	37	15	14	14	21	8	6	6	6	4	1	2													
Unemployed	39	36	18	13	17	26	11	6	6	5	2	2	2	2												
Retired	38	30	20	19	22	13	8	9	8	7	4	3	2	2												
Students	38	35	18	31	15	15	7	9	5	5	3	3	3	3												
Difficulties paying bills																										
Most of the time	37	37	17	11	15	23	12	6	7	7	3	3	4													
From time to time	43	36	19	13	16	20	12	6	6	5	4	2	4													
Almost never/ Never	37	35	22	24	20	12	8	10	6	5	3	3	2													
Consider belonging to																										
The working class	40	33	18	13	18	19	13	7	8	6	3	2	3													
The lower middle class	38	35	20	19	17	18	10	8	6	8	4	3	2	2												
The middle class	38	36	22	21	19	14	8	10	6	5	3	3	3	3												
The upper middle class	36	36	22	34	21	8	3	13	5	4	2	5	2	2												
The upper class	25	35	30	26	20	6	7	14	9	8	2	7	6													

3. Provision of public services in the European Union

Just under half of Europeans consider that the provision of public services in their country is good

Almost half of Europeans consider that the provision of public services in their country is “good” (46%), whereas the majority (51%) think that it is “bad”¹⁹. Positive opinions have declined by a significant eight percentage points since summer 2020, and now represent a minority.

However, a majority in 15 Member States of the European Union (compared with 19 in summer 2020) are positive about the provision of public services at national level, with scores ranging from highs of 92% in Luxembourg and 86% in the Netherlands, to 50% in France (vs 45% “bad”).

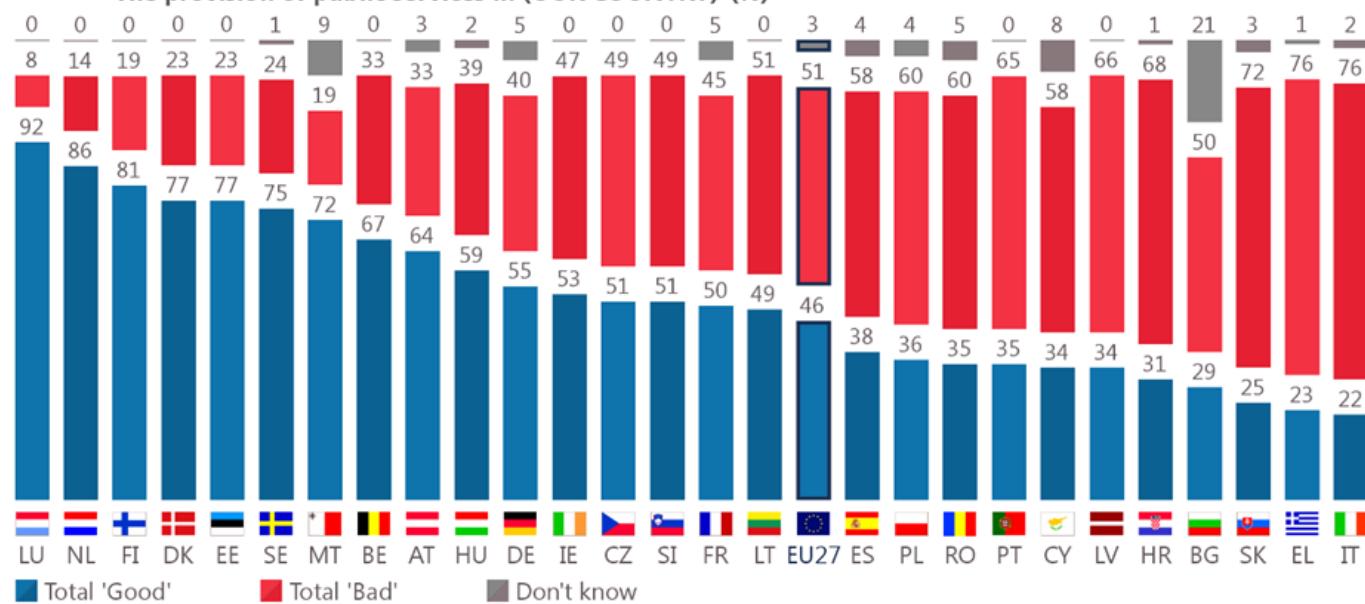
Conversely, respondents are predominantly negative in 12 Member States (compared with eight in summer 2020). The feeling that the provision of public services at a national level is bad is most marked in Italy and Greece, where more than three-quarters of respondents (76% in both countries) give this answer.

The proportion of respondents who express no opinion is very high in Bulgaria (21%, +2).

Since summer 2020, satisfaction with the provision of public services nationally has gained ground in five Member States of the EU, most markedly in Malta (72%, +14) and Portugal (35, +9). In contrast, it has lost ground in 20 countries, most notably in Slovakia (25%, -25), Latvia (34%, -24) and Poland (36%, -19). Finally, the proportions have remained unchanged in two countries: Luxembourg (92%) and Finland (81%).

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

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



¹⁹ QA1a.7. How would you judge the current situation in each of the following? The provision of public services in (OUR COUNTRY)

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A socio-demographic analysis shows that satisfaction with the provision of public services at a national level is significantly shaped by the age, education and social position of respondents. The younger generations and the most socially and economically advantaged categories tend to be more satisfied with public services nationally. Whereas majorities of 15-24 years-olds (51%), students (55%), those who continued education up to the age of 20 or older (51%), managers (54%), those who never or almost never have difficulties paying their bills (51%) and those who see themselves as “upper middle class”

(60%) or “upper class” (72%) consider the provision of public services in their country to be “good”, dissatisfaction is predominant in the following categories: those who finished education aged 15 or younger (60% “bad” vs 34% “good”), unemployed people (59% vs 36%), house persons (57% vs 38%), those who have difficulties paying their bills most of the time (65% vs 32%) or from time to time (62% vs 35%), and those who see themselves as “working class” (59% vs 36%) or “lower middle class” (58% vs 40%).

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

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

	Total 'Good'	Total 'Bad'	Don't know
EU27	46	51	3
Gender			
Man	47	50	3
Woman	43	53	4
Age			
15-24	51	43	6
25-39	46	51	3
40-54	44	54	2
55+	44	52	4
Education (End of)			
15-	34	60	6
16-19	42	55	3
20+	51	47	2
Still studying	55	40	5
Socio-professional category			
Self-employed	40	58	2
Managers	54	44	2
Other white collars	47	51	2
Manual workers	42	55	3
House persons	38	57	5
Unemployed	36	59	5
Retired	44	52	4
Students	55	40	5
Difficulties paying bills			
Most of the time	32	65	3
From time to time	35	62	3
Almost never/ Never	51	46	3
Consider belonging to			
The working class	36	59	5
The lower middle class	40	58	2
The middle class	48	49	3
The upper middle class	60	38	2
The upper class	62	37	1

4. Political aspects

4.1 Interest in politics

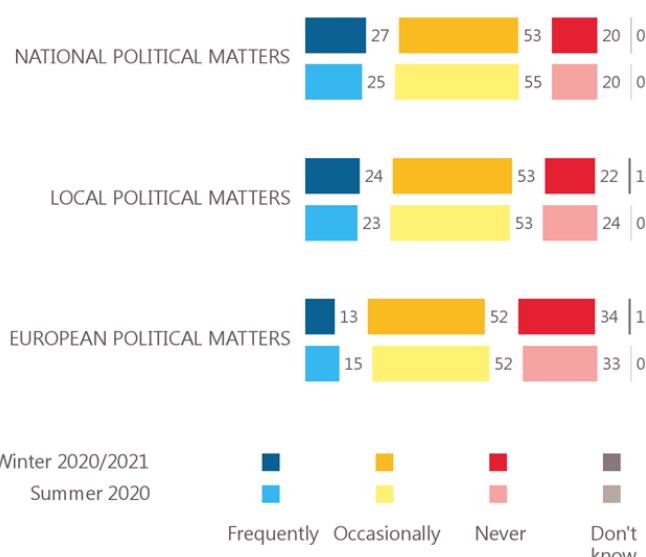
The index measuring how interested Europeans are in politics²⁰ has remained stable since summer 2020: 19% (unchanged) of respondents have a “strong” interest in politics, while 47% (unchanged) have a “moderate” interest in politics, 17% (unchanged) show a “low” interest and 16% (unchanged) are not interested in political matters at all.

- Europeans are primarily interested in **national political matters**²¹: 53% discuss them occasionally with friends or relatives (-2 percentage point since summer 2020) and 27% do so frequently (+2). Overall, a stable 80% of respondents discuss them occasionally or frequently. A stable proportion of Europeans never discuss national political matters (20%, unchanged).

- Next come **local political matters**: almost a quarter of Europeans discuss them frequently (24%, +1 percentage point since summer 2020), while 53% discuss them occasionally (unchanged) and 22% (-2) say that they never do so.
- Lastly, discussion of **European political matters** seems to be less widespread: 13% (-2 percentage points) of respondents discuss them frequently and 52% (unchanged) occasionally, while 34% (+1) answered “never”.

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

(% - EU)



²⁰ C2. When you get together with friends or relatives, would you say that you discuss frequently, occasionally or never about...? 1. National political matters; 2. European political matters; 3. Local political matters. A score is then attributed to each answer: “Never” = 0; “Occasionally” = 1; “Frequently” = 2. A political interest index is then constructed by adding together the scores for the three dimensions (local, national, European).

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

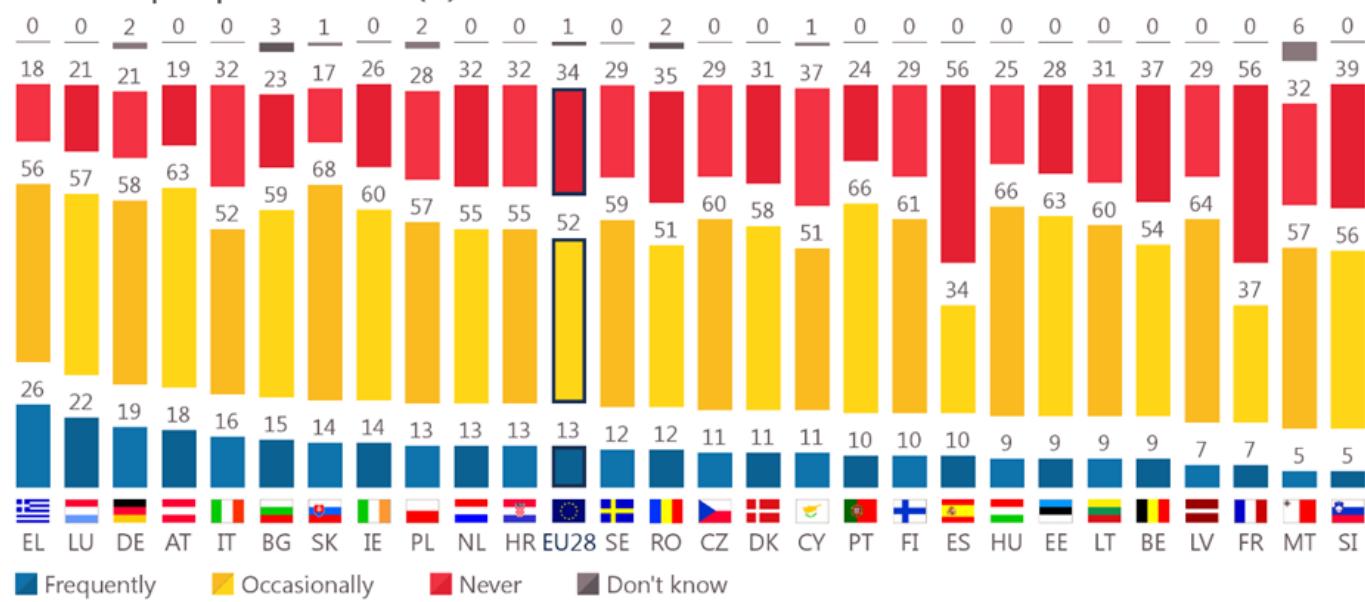
²¹ D71. When you get together with friends or relatives, would you say that you discuss frequently, occasionally or never about...? 1. National political matters; 2. European political matters; 3. Local political matters.

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In 25 Member States (unchanged since summer 2020) a majority of respondents “occasionally” discuss European political matters with their friends or relatives. As in summer 2020, respondents in Spain and France are the only exceptions with 56% “never” discussing those issues. European political matters are most “frequently” discussed in Greece (26%), followed by Luxembourg (22%), Germany (19%) and Austria (18%). In contrast, more than a third of respondents “never” discuss European political matters with their relatives and friends in six countries, most strikingly in Spain (56%), and France (56%) but also in Slovenia (39%), Cyprus (37%), Belgium (37%) and Romania (35%).

In comparison with summer 2020, European political matters are more “frequently” discussed in 5 Member States of the European Union, particularly in Portugal (10%, +4) and Slovakia (14%, +4). This share has remained unchanged in two countries, Spain (10%) and Croatia (13%), and it has decreased in 20 EU Member States, particularly in the Netherlands (13%, -10), Denmark (11%, -10) and Sweden (12%, -10).

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

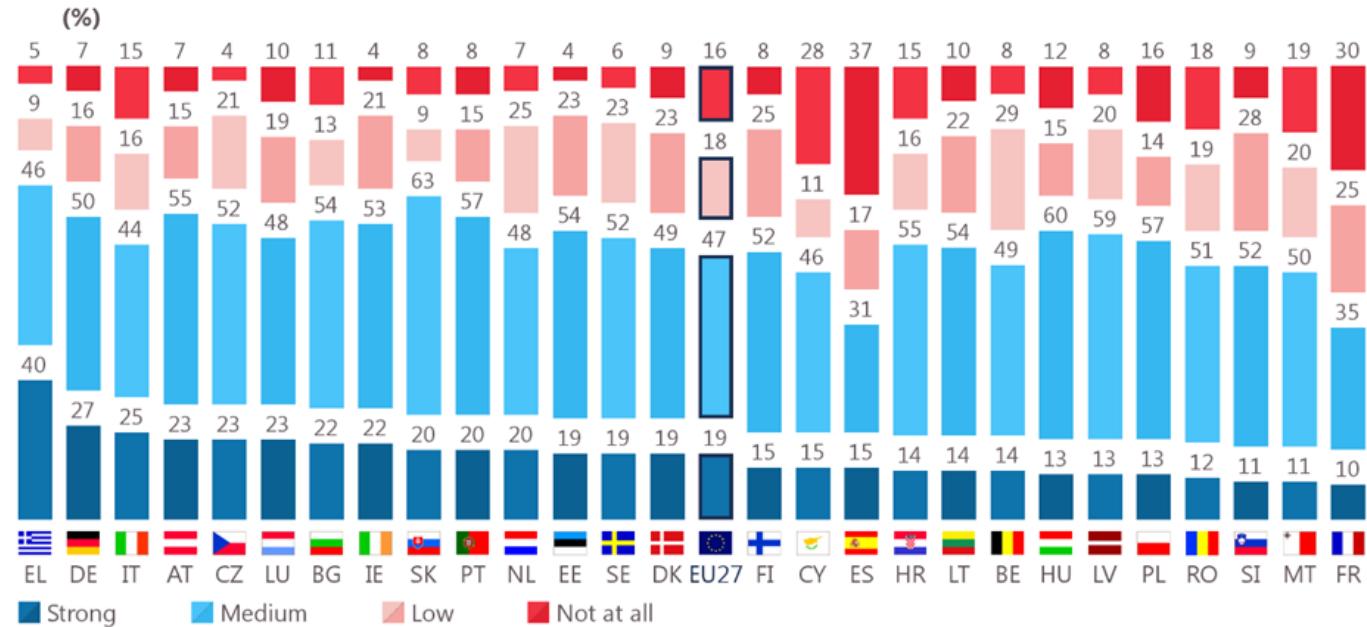


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In 11 Member States of the European Union at least one in five respondents have a strong interest in politics. Among those countries, interest is the most widespread in Greece (40%), followed by Germany (27%) and Italy (25%). However, in three Member States more than a quarter of respondents are “not at all” interested in political matters: Spain (37%), France (30%) and Cyprus (28%).

Since summer 2020, the proportion of Europeans who are strongly interested in political matters has gained ground in 10 Member States, especially in Czechia (23%, +10 percentage points) and Portugal (20%, +10). Conversely, strong interest in politics has decreased in 14 Member States, most significantly in Sweden (19%, -11) and Ireland (22%, -11), whereas strong interest levels remained unchanged in three countries: Germany (27%), Belgium (14%) and Lithuania (14%).

C2 Political interest index (%)



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A **socio-demographic analysis** shows that interest in European political matters is significantly correlated with gender, education and the social position of respondents. Men and the most socially and economically advantaged categories tend to discuss European political matters with friends and relatives more often. While 16% of men, 15% of students, 17% of those who continued education up to the age of 20 or older, 21% of managers, and 21% of those who see themselves as “upper middle class” and 26% of those defining themselves as “upper class” “frequently” discuss European political matters, women (10%), those who finished education aged 15 or younger (7%), unemployed people (8%), house persons (7%) and those who see themselves as “working class” (9%) or “lower middle class” (10%) do so less often.

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

European political matters (% - EU)

	Frequently	Occasionally	Never	Don't know
EU27	13	52	34	1
Gender				
Man	16	54	29	1
Woman	10	50	39	1
Age				
15-24	13	47	39	1
25-39	12	53	34	1
40-54	14	53	32	1
55+	13	52	34	1
Education (End of)				
15-	7	33	59	1
16-19	11	54	34	1
20+	17	56	26	1
Still studying	15	48	36	1
Socio-professional category				
Self-employed	17	58	25	0
Managers	21	56	22	1
Other white collars	12	60	27	1
Manual workers	10	50	38	2
House persons	7	37	55	1
Unemployed	8	42	49	1
Retired	12	51	36	1
Students	15	48	36	1
Difficulties paying bills				
Most of the time	13	40	46	1
From time to time	12	50	37	1
Almost never/ Never	13	54	32	1
Consider belonging to				
The working class	9	42	48	1
The lower middle class	10	51	38	1
The middle class	15	55	29	1
The upper middle class	21	57	21	1
The upper class	26	54	17	3

4.2 Trust in institutions

National institutions

Trust in most national institutions has dipped slightly

After a small increase in summer 2020, trust levels in national political institutions decreased slightly in winter 2020/2021²²:

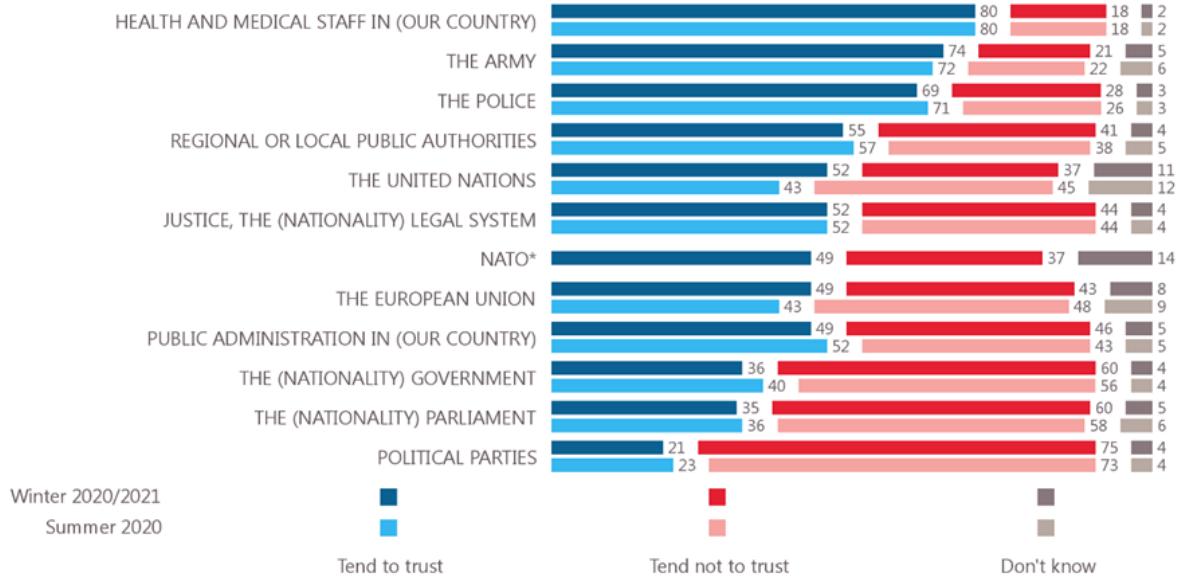
- 36% of respondents (-4 percentage points since summer 2020) trust their **national government**, compared with 60% (+4) who do not trust this institution;
- A slightly smaller proportion of respondents (35%, -1) trust their **national parliament**, compared with 60% (+2) who “tend not to trust” it;
- Trust in **national political parties** has also fallen slightly by 2 percentage points to 21% of respondents, whereas 75% (+2) say that they distrust them.

A majority of respondents – albeit smaller than in summer 2020 – still trust **regional or local public authorities in their country** (55%, -2), and the public administration (49%, -3, versus 46% “tend not to trust”, +3).

Conversely, trust in supranational bodies has significantly increased since summer 2020:

- A majority of 49% of Europeans say that they trust the **European Union** (+6), whereas 43% (-5) “tend not to trust”;
- More than half the respondents (52%, +9) trust the **United Nations** and 37% (-8) do not;
- Nearly half the respondents (49%) trust **NATO**, while 37% do not do so. This item was newly introduced in this EB94 survey of winter 2020/2021. However, it should be noted that 14% of respondents expressed no opinion.

QA6b How much trust do you have in certain institutions? For each of the following institutions, do you tend to trust it or tend not to trust it? (% - EU)



²² QA6b. How much trust you have in certain institutions? For each of the following institutions, do you tend to trust it or tend not to trust it. Political parties; Justice/the (NATIONALITY) legal system; The police; The army; Public administration in (OUR COUNTRY); Regional or local public

Since summer 2020, trust in other national institutions has fluctuated slightly:

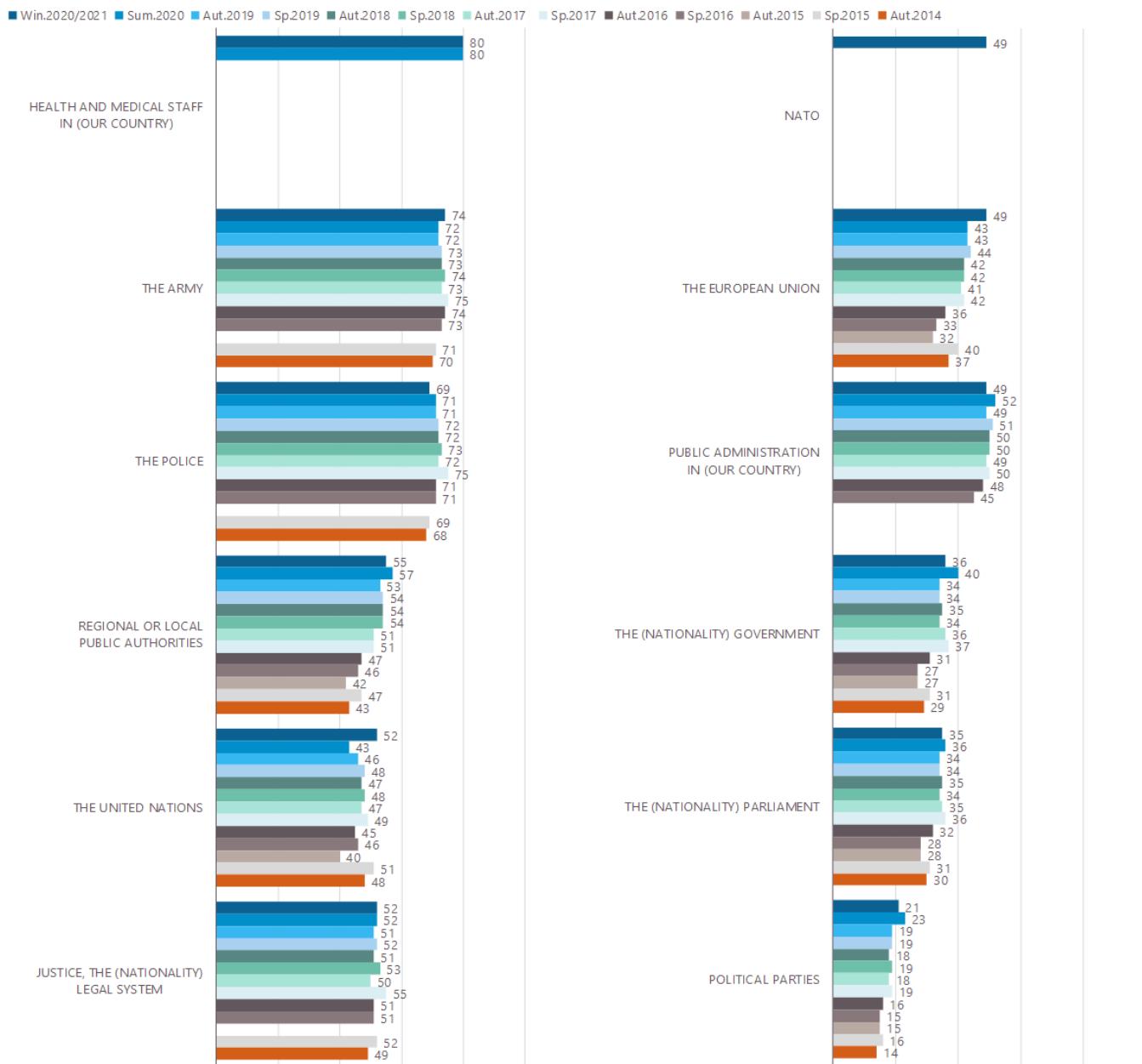
- Almost three-quarters of respondents (74%, +2 percentage points) tend to trust **the army**. The army seems particularly trustworthy to respondents in Finland (96%, +3), Denmark (90%, +1) and the Netherlands (90%, +3) where at least nine in ten respondents trust this institution. The army is the most mentioned item in six Member States. However, trust levels are the lowest in Bulgaria (52%, +5) and Hungary (59%, -1);
- The level of trust in **the police** is slightly lower. 69% trust this institution (-2). Again, trust levels are the highest in Denmark (92%, unchanged since 2020), the Netherlands (92%, +3) and Finland (91%, unchanged). In two countries, “the police” is the leading item, namely in Estonia (89%) and Hungary (65%).
- Trust in the national **justice/ legal system** has remained unchanged at 52%, versus 44% (unchanged) of respondents who “tend not to trust” these institutions.

The highest level of trust at a national level is expressed in **health and medical staff**, trusted by 80% of Europeans with the highest levels in the Netherlands (97%, unchanged), Belgium (96%, +8) and Denmark (96%, +5). This is the leading item in 20 Member States of the European Union. In contrast, trust is lowest in Romania, where 53% (-7) of respondents “tend to trust” health and medical staff.

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

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 (% - EU - TEND TO TRUST)



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QA6b How much trust do you have in certain institutions? For each of the following institutions, do you tend to trust it or tend not to trust it?
 (% - TEND TO TRUST)

	EU27	Health and medical staff in (OUR COUNTRY)				Regional or local public authorities				Justice, the (NATIONALITY) legal system				The European Union				Public administration in (OUR COUNTRY)				The (NATIONALITY) Government				The (NATIONALITY) Parliament			
		The army	The police					The United Nations	NATO																				
	EU27		80	74	69	55	52	52	49	49	49	49	36	35	21														
	BE		96	88	75	58	65	58	70	56	51	41	44	18															
	BG		62	52	51	44	39	23	33	53	38	23	15	14															
	CZ		92	89	77	60	57	59	71	48	48	19	15	11															
	DK		96	90	92	76	82	90	86	62	77	65	62	43															
	DE		88	71	80	73	54	69	54	48	65	54	55	37															
	EE		87	87	89	59	70	76	79	64	65	53	43	18															
	IE		90	87	78	59	74	71	68	74	63	49	46	26															
	EL		80	80	56	34	35	50	26	37	24	28	27	12															
	ES		87	74	74	42	51	45	41	52	42	20	16	7															
	FR		89	83	69	64	44	50	36	39	58	31	31	12															
	HR		69	61	50	29	48	21	43	51	29	22	22	12															
	IT		70	68	66	35	44	41	43	44	27	26	27	16															
	CY		75	63	51	41	26	40	16	39	30	26	21	9															
	LV		66	72	62	48	62	39	63	61	27	23	21	7															
	LT		63	78	71	42	72	43	77	70	40	44	27	15															
	LU		87	80	84	76	59	78	58	55	83	72	68	31															
	HU		59	59	65	63	56	51	54	59	60	39	38	24															
	MT		85	71	58	57	65	35	55	64	57	49	46	25															
	NL		97	90	92	72	72	85	75	61	70	68	68	52															
	AT		80	71	74	70	37	72	32	41	66	38	44	32															
	PL		59	61	40	49	52	31	51	50	38	26	22	18															
	PT		95	87	79	52	85	42	72	78	41	38	40	15															
	RO		53	64	56	38	54	47	49	58	37	29	26	16															
	SI		69	62	51	36	46	28	38	55	28	19	15	7															
	SK		70	65	45	47	48	28	42	50	45	24	23	12															
	FI		93	96	91	67	69	80	55	50	71	63	65	34															
	SE		92	85	88	69	74	78	60	58	70	62	69	39															
	1st MOST FREQUENTLY MENTIONED ITEM					2nd MOST FREQUENTLY MENTIONED ITEM					3rd MOST FREQUENTLY MENTIONED ITEM																		

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European Union, national government, national parliament

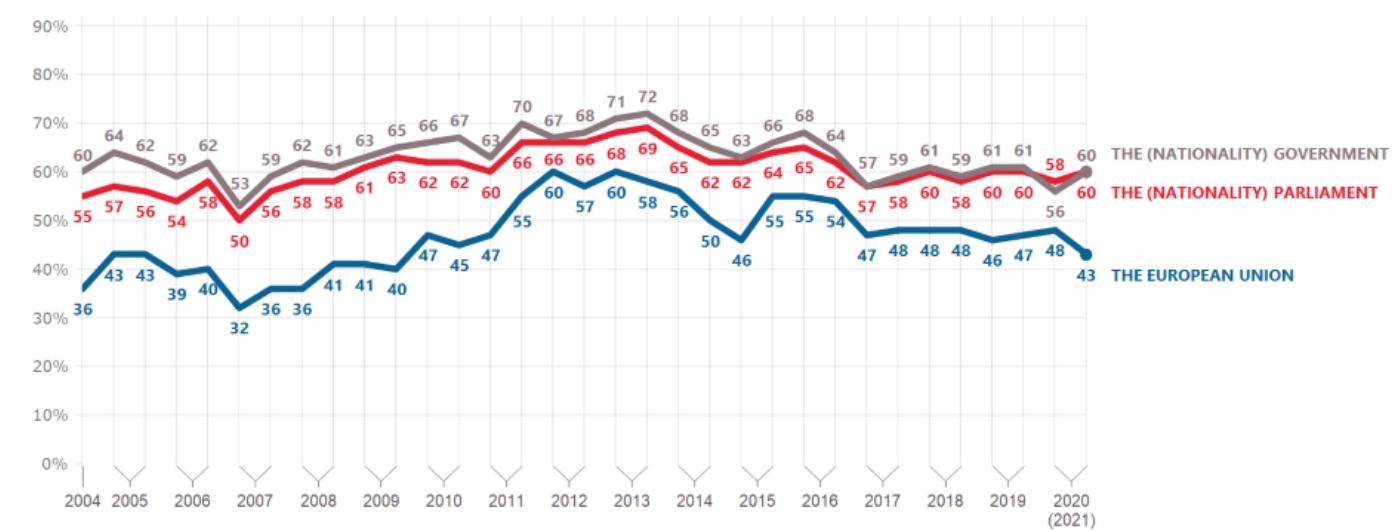
Despite a decline of trust in national governments and national parliaments, overall trust levels have increased slightly, due to a strong rise in trust in the European Union. Indeed, since summer 2020 trust in the European Union has risen from 43% to 49% (+6 percentage points) reaching its highest level since spring 2008, whereas trust in the national government has declined from 40% to 36% and trust in the national parliament from 36% to 35%.

Thus, the trust index²³ measuring the difference between trust and distrust has become positive for the first time since autumn 2009 for the European Union at +6, compared with -5 in summer 2020. However, the trust index for the national government has declined from -16 to -24 and is still negative, as is the index for the national parliament, down from -22 to -25.

QA6b How much trust do you have in certain institutions? For each of the following institutions, do you tend to trust it or tend not to trust it?
 (% - EU - TEND TO TRUST)



QA6b How much trust do you have in certain institutions? For each of the following institutions, do you tend to trust it or tend not to trust it?
 (% - EU - TEND NOT TO TRUST)



²³ Difference between the positive (“tend to trust”) and negative (“tend not to trust”) answers.

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QA6b How much trust do you have in certain institutions? For each of the following institutions, do you tend to trust it or tend not to trust it?
(EU - TRUST INDEX (TEND TO TRUST - TEND NOT TO TRUST))



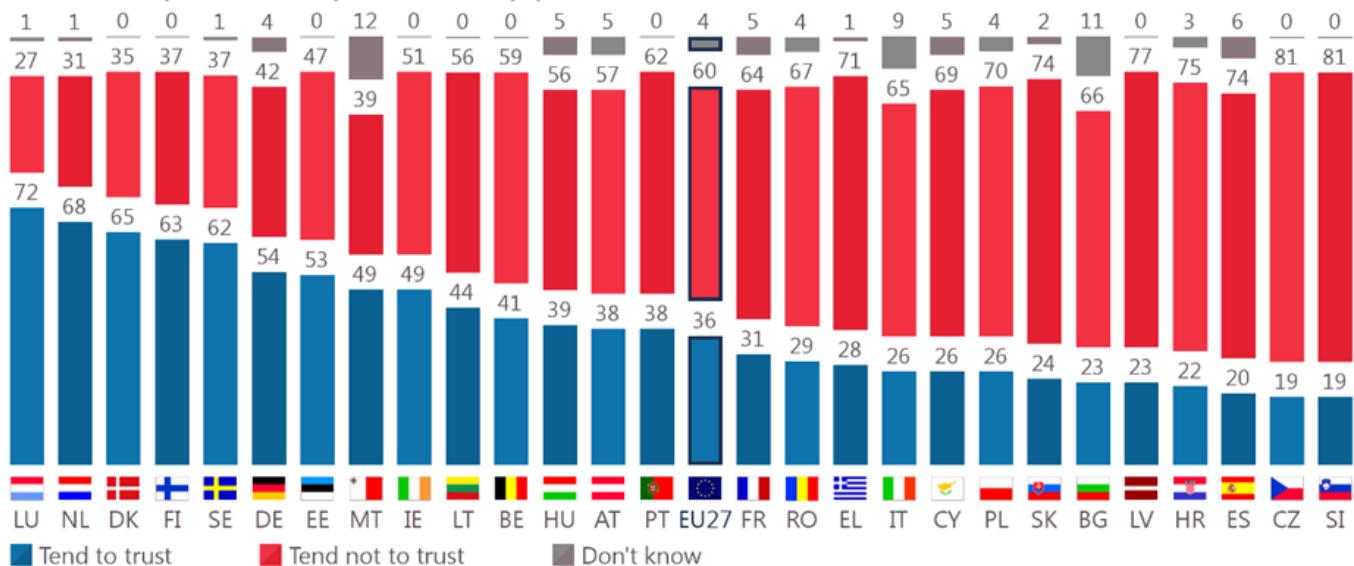
A majority of respondents in eight Member States of the European Union (compared with ten in summer 2020) trust their **national government**. Respondents in Luxembourg (72%), the Netherlands (68%) and Denmark (65%) are the most positive about their national government, while respondents in Slovenia and Czechia (19% both) are the least so.

In contrast, the proportion of respondents who tend not to trust their government exceeds 70% in eight EU Member States: Czechia and Slovenia (81% in both countries), Latvia (77%), Croatia (75%), Spain and Slovakia (both 74%), Greece (71%) and Poland (70%). It should be noted that the proportion of respondents who expressed no opinion exceeds 10% in two countries, namely Malta (12%) and Bulgaria (11%).

Since summer 2020, trust in the national government has fallen in 20 Member States, particularly in Austria (38%, -21) and Czechia (19%, -21). Trust has increased in five countries, most markedly in Belgium (41%, +11), and remains unchanged in two Member States: Finland (63%) and Sweden (62%).

QA6b.8 How much trust do you have in certain institutions? For each of the following institutions, do you tend to trust it or tend not to trust it?

The (NATIONALITY) Government (%)

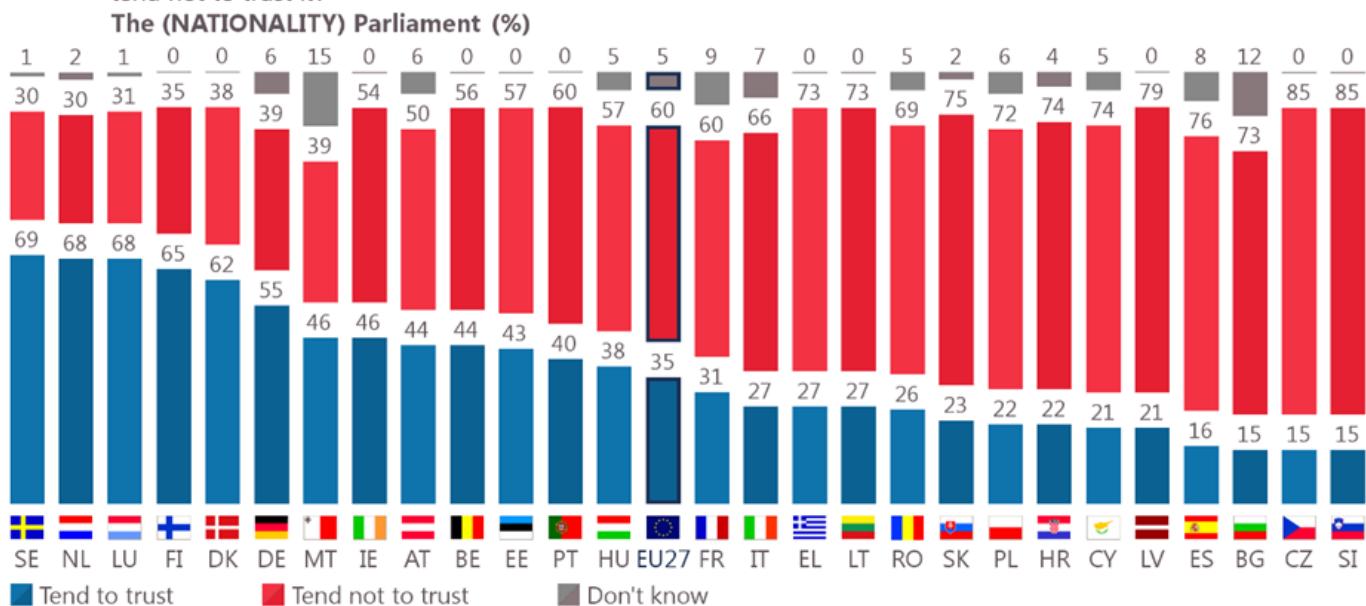


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A majority of respondents trust their **national parliament** in seven Member States (compared with eight in summer 2020). Within this group of countries, the highest scores can be observed in Sweden (69%) and the Netherlands and Luxembourg (both 68%), and the lowest in Malta (46%, versus 39% “tend not to trust” and 15% “Don’t know”). In contrast, a majority of respondents tend not to trust their national parliament in 20 EU Member States, with levels of distrust in excess of 80% in Czechia and Slovenia (both 85%).

Since summer 2020, trust in the national parliament has decreased in 17 Member States, particularly in Denmark (62%, -16 percentage points) and Austria (44%, -14), while it has increased in nine countries, most strikingly in Lithuania (27%, +11) and Belgium (44%, +11). The level of trust in this institution is unchanged in one Member State, namely Greece (27%).

QA6b.9 How much trust do you have in certain institutions? For each of the following institutions, do you tend to trust it or tend not to trust it?



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QA6b.9 How much trust do you have in certain institutions? For each of the following institutions, do you tend to trust it or tend not to trust it?

The (NATIONALITY) Parliament (% - EU)

	Tend to trust	Tend not to trust	Don't know
EU27	35	60	5
Gender			
Man	36	59	5
Woman	34	60	6
Age			
15-24	38	54	8
25-39	33	63	4
40-54	35	60	5
55+	35	59	6
Education (End of)			
15-	25	66	9
16-19	29	66	5
20+	42	54	4
Still studying	43	49	8
Socio-professional category			
Self-employed	34	63	3
Managers	49	47	4
Other white collars	35	61	4
Manual workers	27	67	6
House persons	25	67	8
Unemployed	24	70	6
Retired	35	59	6
Students	43	49	8
Difficulties paying bills			
Most of the time	19	74	7
From time to time	27	67	6
Almost never/ Never	39	56	5
Consider belonging to			
The working class	21	71	8
The lower middle class	28	67	5
The middle class	39	56	5
The upper middle class	57	41	2
The upper class	51	46	3

QA6b.8 How much trust do you have in certain institutions? For each of the following institutions, do you tend to trust it or tend not to trust it?

The (NATIONALITY) Government (% - EU)

	Tend to trust	Tend not to trust	Don't know
EU27	36	60	4
Gender			
Man	36	59	5
Woman	35	60	5
Age			
15-24	39	54	7
25-39	32	64	4
40-54	36	60	4
55+	37	58	5
Education (End of)			
15-	28	66	6
16-19	29	66	5
20+	43	54	3
Still studying	43	50	7
Socio-professional category			
Self-employed	33	64	3
Managers	48	49	3
Other white collars	36	60	4
Manual workers	28	67	5
House persons	27	67	6
Unemployed	24	72	4
Retired	37	58	5
Students	43	50	7
Difficulties paying bills			
Most of the time	20	74	6
From time to time	27	68	5
Almost never/ Never	41	55	4
Consider belonging to			
The working class	24	69	7
The lower middle class	30	67	3
The middle class	39	57	4
The upper middle class	57	41	2
The upper class	49	51	0

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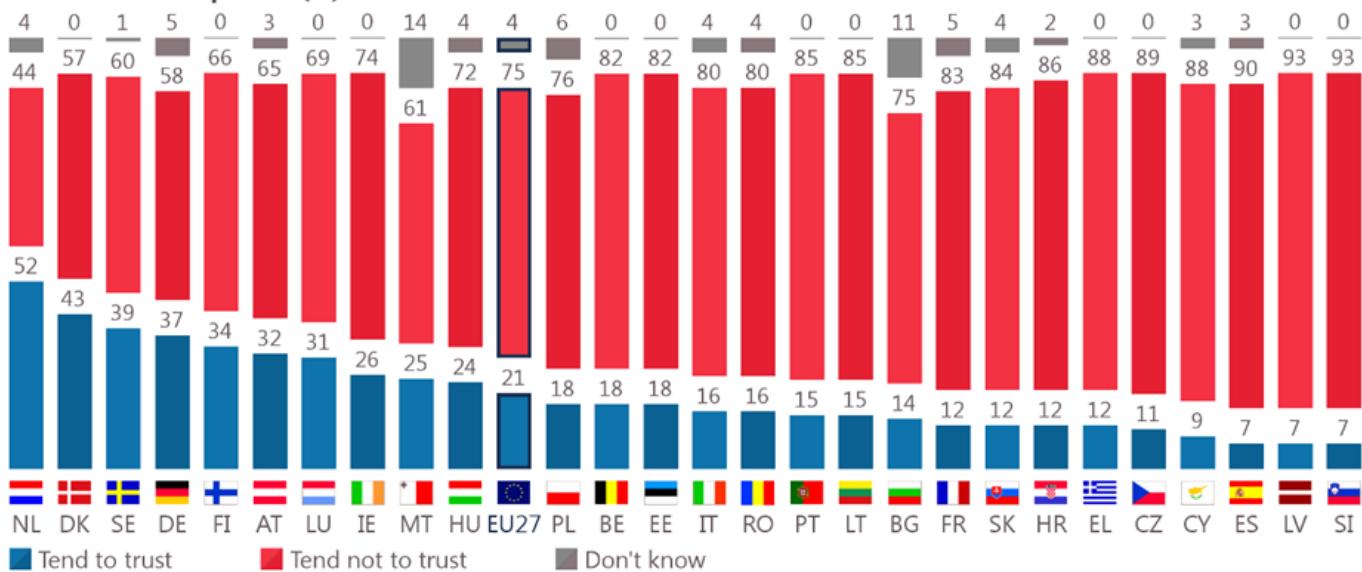
Political parties

In only one EU Member State do a majority of respondents “tend to trust” the **political parties** in their country, namely the Netherlands (52%, versus 44% of “distrust”). Conversely, distrust is prevalent in 27 countries (compared with 28 in summer 2020). Distrust levels range from 93% in Slovenia and Latvia to 57% in Denmark and 58% in Germany.

Since summer 2020, trust in political parties has increased in nine Member States, especially in Malta (25%, +10 and Lithuania (15%, +5), whereas levels of trust have decreased in 18 countries, most markedly in Denmark (43%, -16) and Austria (32%, -9).

QA6b.1 How much trust do you have in certain institutions? For each of the following institutions, do you tend to trust it or tend not to trust it?

Political parties (%)



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QA6b.1 How much trust do you have in certain institutions? For each of the following institutions, do you tend to trust it or tend not to trust it?

Political parties (% - EU)

	Tend to trust	Tend not to trust	Don't know
EU27	21	75	4
 Gender			
Man	22	75	3
Woman	20	76	4
 Age			
15-24	25	69	6
25-39	19	78	3
40-54	21	76	3
55+	21	75	4
 Education (End of)			
15-	15	81	4
16-19	18	79	3
20+	24	73	3
Still studying	29	65	6
 Socio-professional category			
Self-employed	19	77	4
Managers	27	70	3
Other white collars	21	76	3
Manual workers	16	81	3
House persons	15	80	5
Unemployed	13	84	3
Retired	21	75	4
Students	29	65	6
 Difficulties paying bills			
Most of the time	12	86	2
From time to time	15	82	3
Almost never/ Never	24	72	4
 Consider belonging to			
The working class	12	83	5
The lower middle class	17	80	3
The middle class	23	74	3
The upper middle class	36	62	2
The upper class	34	62	4

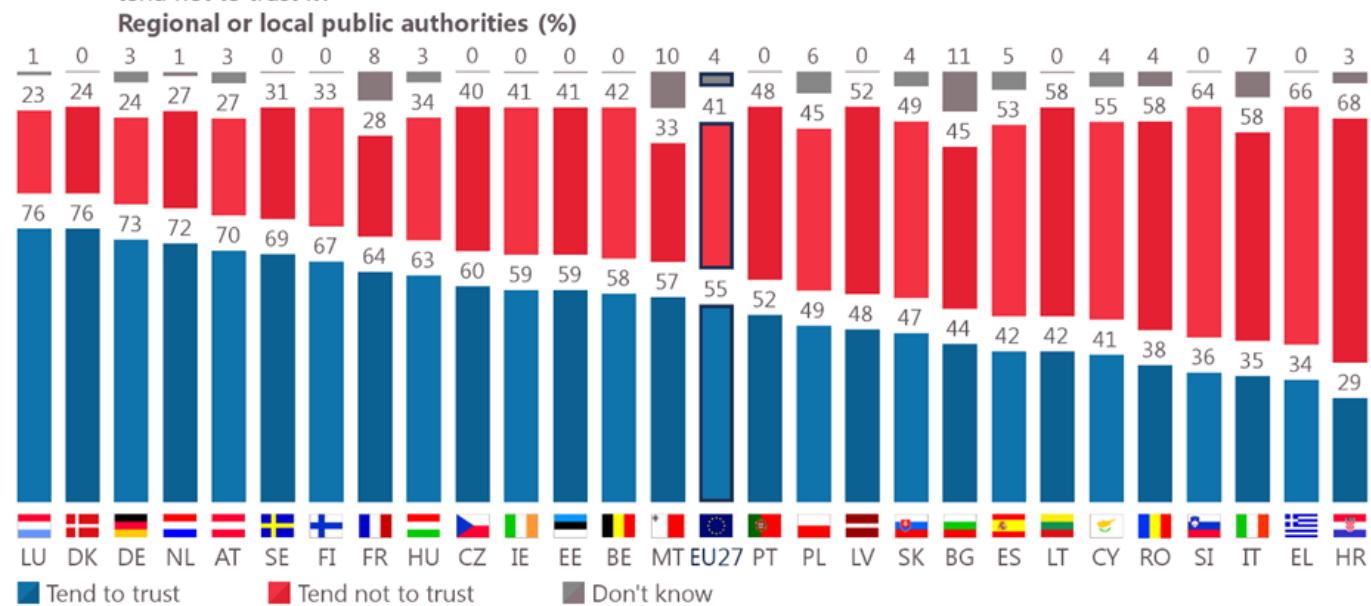
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Regional or local public authorities

A majority of respondents in 16 Member States of the European Union (compared with 22 in summer 2020) trust **regional or local public authorities**. There are significant differences in levels of trust across countries, ranging from 76% in Luxembourg and Denmark to 29% in Croatia. In contrast, a majority of respondents distrust these institutions in 11 Member States, with levels exceeding 60% in Slovenia (64%), Greece (66%) and Croatia (68%).

Since summer 2020, trust in regional or local public authorities has increased in five Member States, led by Italy (35%, +6 percentage points), and remains unchanged in two others: France (64%) and Croatia (29%). However, it has decreased in 20 Member States, particularly in Lithuania (42%, -16), Slovenia (36%, -14), Cyprus (41%, -10) and Romania (38%, -10).

QA6b.6 How much trust do you have in certain institutions? For each of the following institutions, do you tend to trust it or tend not to trust it?



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QA6b.6 How much trust do you have in certain institutions? For each of the following institutions, do you tend to trust it or tend not to trust it?

Regional or local public authorities (% - EU)

	Tend to trust	Tend not to trust	Don't know
EU27	55	41	4
 Gender			
Man	55	41	4
Woman	54	41	5
 Age			
15-24	57	37	6
25-39	54	42	4
40-54	54	42	4
55+	55	41	4
 Education (End of)			
15-	44	50	6
16-19	51	45	4
20+	61	36	3
Still studying	60	33	7
 Socio-professional category			
Self-employed	50	45	5
Managers	64	33	3
Other white collars	55	42	3
Manual workers	49	46	5
House persons	48	47	5
Unemployed	45	50	5
Retired	56	40	4
Students	60	33	7
 Difficulties paying bills			
Most of the time	37	59	4
From time to time	45	50	5
Almost never/ Never	60	36	4
 Consider belonging to			
The working class	47	47	6
The lower middle class	53	43	4
The middle class	56	40	4
The upper middle class	69	29	2
The upper class	69	29	2

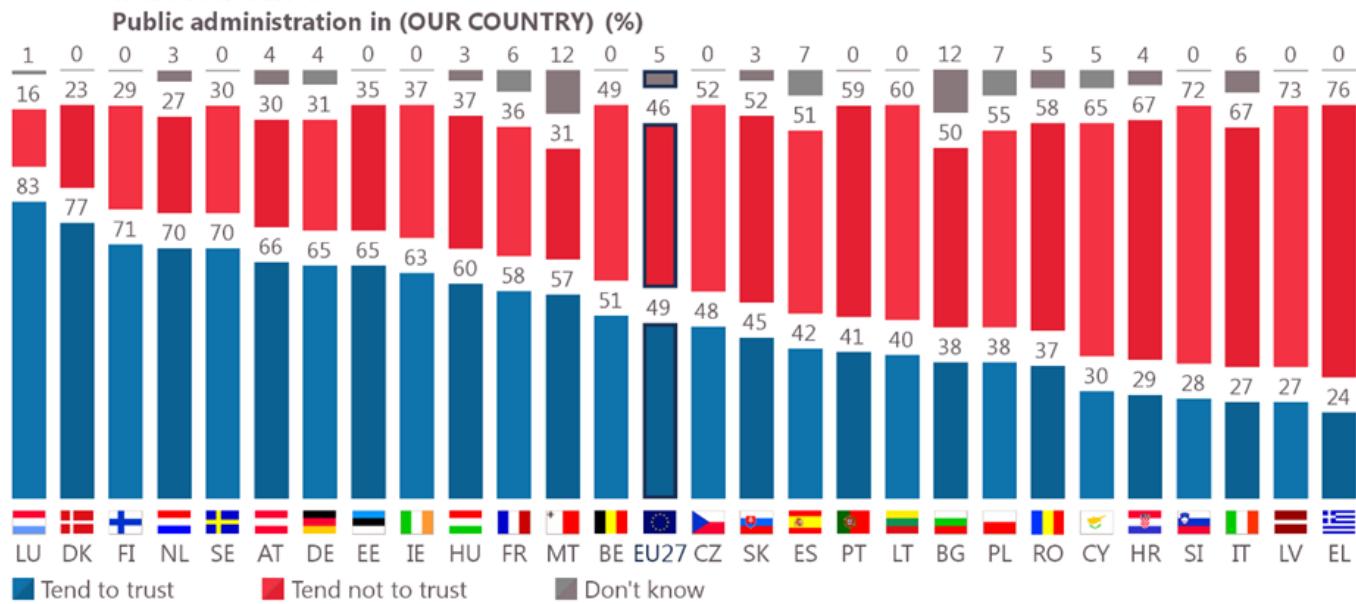
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Public administration

Trust in **national public administrations** is predominant in 13 EU Member States (compared with 22 in summer 2020). However, within this group the trust level ranges from 83% in Luxembourg (vs 16% “tend not to trust”), where it is the highest, to 57% in Malta (vs 31%), where it is the lowest. Most respondents tend not to trust their country’s public administration in 14 EU Member States (compared with five in summer 2020), led by Greece (76% “tend not to trust” vs 24% “tend to trust”), Latvia (73% vs 27%) and Italy (67% vs 27%).

Trust in public administration has increased **since summer 2020** in four Member States, namely Bulgaria (38%, +6), Italy (27%, +2), Luxembourg (83%, +2) and France (58%, +1). It has remained unchanged in two countries: Belgium (51%) and Estonia (65%). In contrast, it has declined in 21 Member States, most markedly in Slovenia (28%, -16) and Lithuania (40%, -13).

QA6b.5 How much trust do you have in certain institutions? For each of the following institutions, do you tend to trust it or tend not to trust it?



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QA6b.5 How much trust do you have in certain institutions? For each of the following institutions, do you tend to trust it or tend not to trust it?

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

	Tend to trust	Tend not to trust	Don't know
EU27	49	46	5
Gender			
Man	50	46	4
Woman	48	47	5
Age			
15-24	53	40	7
25-39	48	48	4
40-54	49	47	4
55+	48	48	4
Education (End of)			
15-	38	55	7
16-19	45	50	5
20+	55	42	3
Still studying	56	37	7
Socio-professional category			
Self-employed	42	54	4
Managers	58	39	3
Other white collars	51	46	3
Manual workers	45	49	6
House persons	41	52	7
Unemployed	41	54	5
Retired	49	47	4
Students	56	37	7
Difficulties paying bills			
Most of the time	30	65	5
From time to time	39	56	5
Almost never/ Never	55	41	4
Consider belonging to			
The working class	41	52	7
The lower middle class	44	52	4
The middle class	52	45	3
The upper middle class	62	36	2
The upper class	56	40	4

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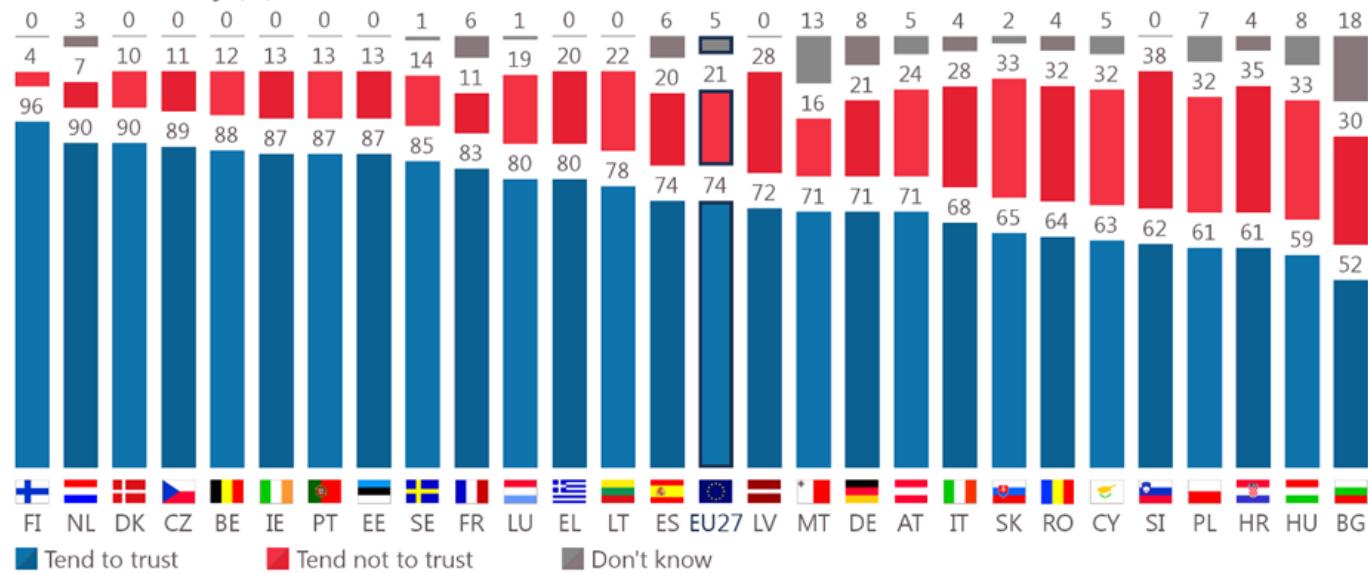
The army, police and justice

Trust outweighs distrust in **the army** in all 27 Member States of the European Union (unchanged since summer 2020). However, trust levels range from 96% in Finland and 90% in the Netherlands and Denmark, where they are highest, to 52% in Bulgaria, where they are lowest.

Trust levels have increased **since summer 2020** in 17 Member States, particularly in Portugal (87%, +15) and Czechia (89%, +8), while they have declined in 10 others, most strikingly in Slovenia (62%, -8) and Poland (61%, -5).

QA6b.4 How much trust do you have in certain institutions? For each of the following institutions, do you tend to trust it or tend not to trust it?

The army (%)



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QA6b.4 How much trust do you have in certain institutions? For each of the following institutions, do you tend to trust it or tend not to trust it?

The army (% - EU)

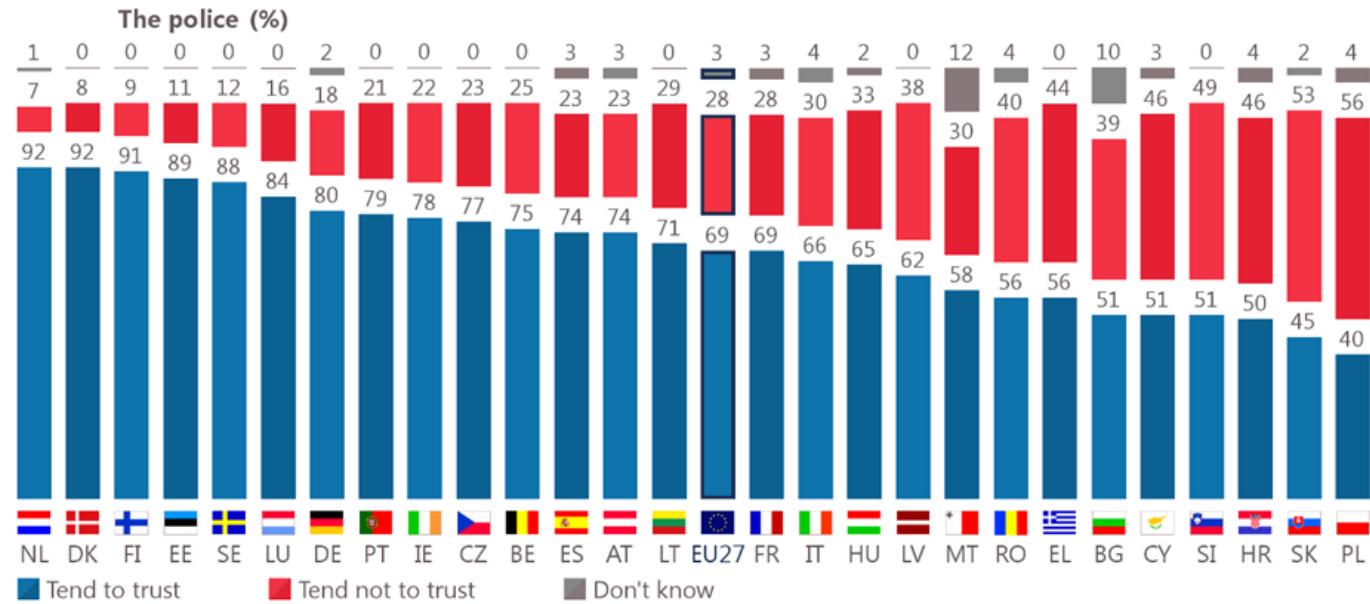
	Tend to trust	Tend not to trust	Don't know
EU27	74	21	5
Gender			
Man	74	22	4
Woman	73	21	6
Age			
15-24	71	24	5
25-39	73	22	5
40-54	75	20	5
55+	74	20	6
Education (End of)			
15-	71	22	7
16-19	72	23	5
20+	77	18	5
Still studying	73	23	4
Socio-professional category			
Self-employed	74	22	4
Managers	79	17	4
Other white collars	76	20	4
Manual workers	70	24	6
House persons	72	21	7
Unemployed	70	24	6
Retired	75	19	6
Students	73	23	4
Difficulties paying bills			
Most of the time	64	30	6
From time to time	71	24	5
Almost never/ Never	76	19	5
Consider belonging to			
The working class	70	23	7
The lower middle class	72	23	5
The middle class	75	20	5
The upper middle class	80	17	3
The upper class	74	20	6

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The police enjoy the trust of a majority of respondents in 25 Member States of the EU (unchanged since summer 2020), with scores ranging from a low of 50% in Croatia to 92% in the Netherlands and Denmark, where they are highest. Slovakia (45% "tend to trust" versus 53% "tend not to trust") and Poland (40% versus 56%) are the two only Member States where only a minority of respondents trust the police.

Since summer 2020, trust has increased in seven EU Member States, notably in Bulgaria (51%, +8) and Luxembourg (84%, +6). It has decreased in 13 other countries, in particular in Slovenia (51%, -16), and is unchanged in seven EU Member States.

QA6b.3 How much trust do you have in certain institutions? For each of the following institutions, do you tend to trust it or tend not to trust it?



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QA6b.3 How much trust do you have in certain institutions? For each of the following institutions, do you tend to trust it or tend not to trust it?

The police (% - EU)

	Tend to trust	Tend not to trust	Don't know
EU27	69	28	3
 Gender			
Man	68	29	3
Woman	70	27	3
 Age			
15-24	64	33	3
25-39	65	33	2
40-54	69	28	3
55+	73	24	3
 Education (End of)			
15-	70	26	4
16-19	66	31	3
20+	73	25	2
Still studying	67	30	3
 Socio-professional category			
Self-employed	68	30	2
Managers	77	21	2
Other white collars	68	30	2
Manual workers	64	33	3
House persons	68	29	3
Unemployed	59	37	4
Retired	74	24	2
Students	67	30	3
 Difficulties paying bills			
Most of the time	53	43	4
From time to time	65	32	3
Almost never/ Never	73	25	2
 Consider belonging to			
The working class	62	34	4
The lower middle class	65	33	2
The middle class	72	26	2
The upper middle class	80	19	1
The upper class	66	33	1

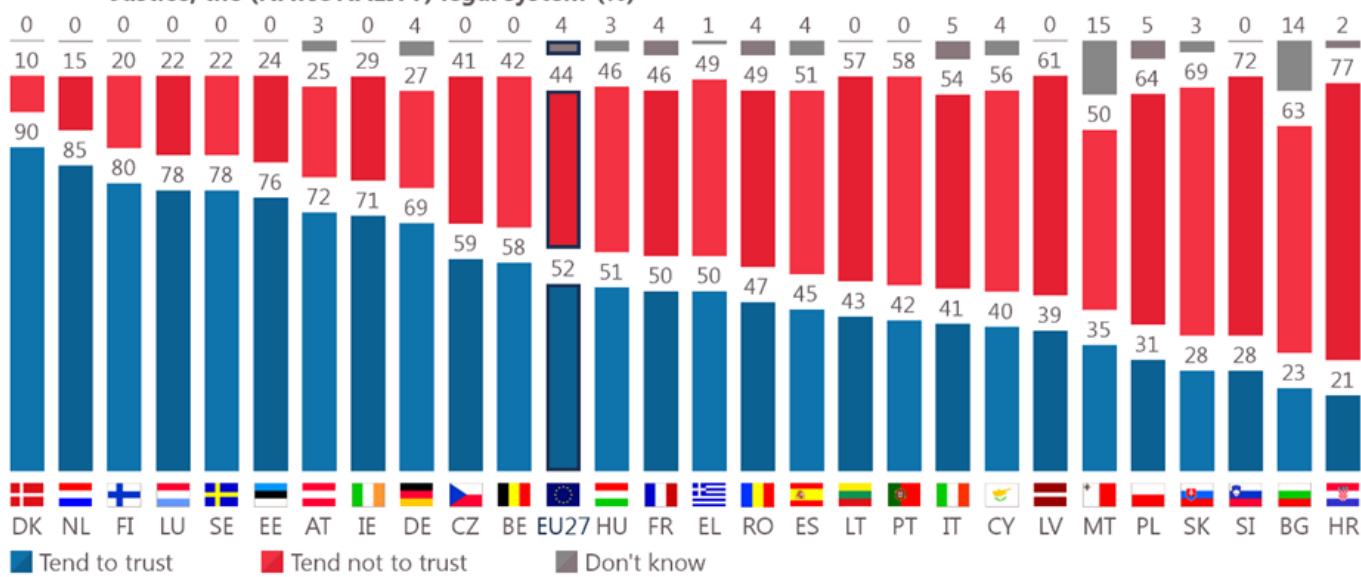
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A majority of respondents in 14 Member States of the EU (compared with 15 in summer 2020) trust the justice/legal system in their country. Trust levels range between a low of 21% in Croatia and a high of 90% in Denmark. Conversely, a majority of respondents tend not to trust the justice/legal system in 13 EU Member States, and this distrust is shared by more than seven in ten respondents in Croatia (77%) and Slovenia (72%). It should be noted that a high proportion of respondents in Malta and Bulgaria expressed no opinion: 15% and 14% respectively.

Since summer 2020, trust has gained ground in ten Member States, most markedly in Czechia (59%, +6 percentage points). However, it has lost ground in 15 Member States, most notably in Cyprus (40%, -9), Slovenia (28%, -8) and Portugal (42%, -8). Finally, levels of trust have remained unchanged in two countries, Germany (69%) and the Netherlands (85%).

QA6b.2 How much trust do you have in certain institutions? For each of the following institutions, do you tend to trust it or tend not to trust it?

Justice, the (NATIONALITY) legal system (%)



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QA6b.2 How much trust do you have in certain institutions? For each of the following institutions, do you tend to trust it or tend not to trust it?

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

	Tend to trust	Tend not to trust	Don't know
EU27	52	44	4
 Gender			
Man	53	44	3
Woman	51	45	4
 Age			
15-24	55	40	5
25-39	52	45	3
40-54	52	45	3
55+	51	45	4
 Education (End of)			
15-	44	51	5
16-19	46	50	4
20+	59	38	3
Still studying	61	35	4
 Socio-professional category			
Self-employed	50	48	2
Managers	65	33	2
Other white collars	53	43	4
Manual workers	47	48	5
House persons	48	49	3
Unemployed	40	57	3
Retired	49	47	4
Students	61	35	4
 Difficulties paying bills			
Most of the time	34	62	4
From time to time	43	53	4
Almost never/ Never	57	40	3
 Consider belonging to			
The working class	40	55	5
The lower middle class	45	52	3
The middle class	56	41	3
The upper middle class	71	28	1
The upper class	55	44	1

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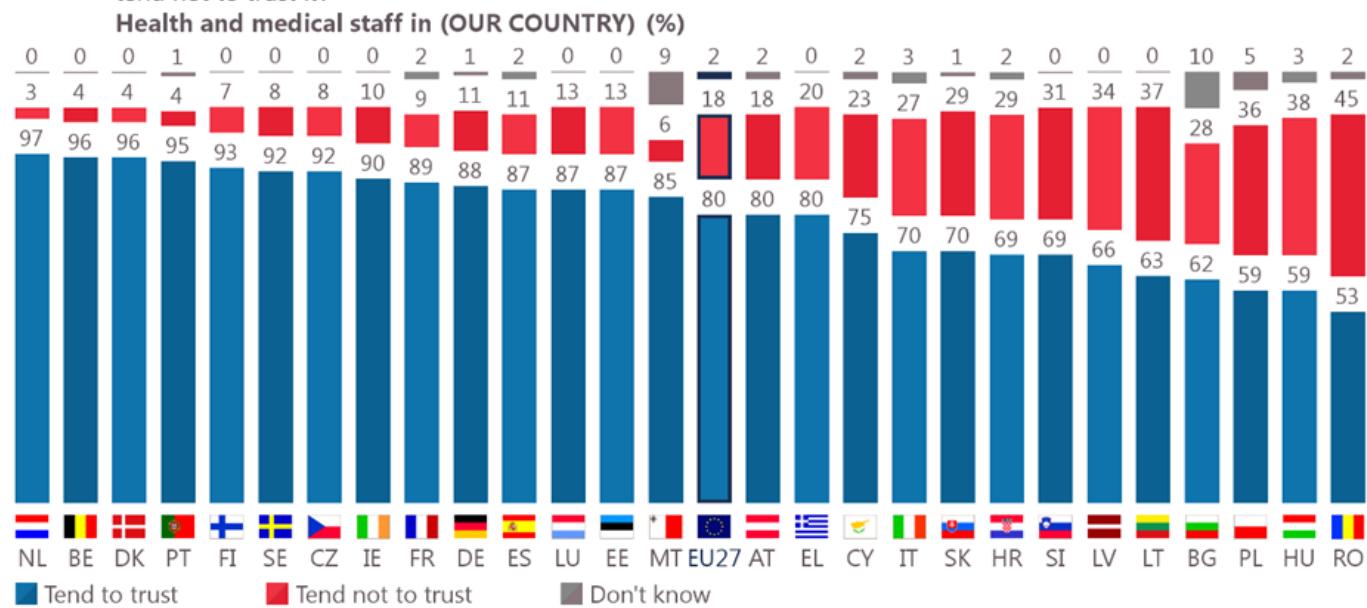
Health and medical staff

Trust in **health and medical staff** is predominant in all 27 Member States of the European Union (unchanged compared with summer 2020). However, levels of trust vary widely, ranging from 97% in the Netherlands, where they are highest, to 53% in Romania (versus 45% distrust), where they are the lowest.

Since summer 2020, trust has gained ground in 16 Member States, most markedly in Bulgaria (62%, +10), Belgium (96%, +8) and Czechia (92%, +8), while it has dropped in seven countries, especially in Romania (53%, -7) and Poland (59%, -7). Levels of trust have remained unchanged in four Member States: the Netherlands (97%), Sweden (92%), Malta 85%) and Slovenia (69%).

It should be noted that more than seven in ten respondents in all socio-demographic categories trust the health and medical staff in their country.

QA6b.7 How much trust do you have in certain institutions? For each of the following institutions, do you tend to trust it or tend not to trust it?



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QA6b.7 How much trust do you have in certain institutions? For each of the following institutions, do you tend to trust it or tend not to trust it?

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

	Tend to trust	Tend not to trust	Don't know
EU27	80	18	2
Gender			
Man	81	17	2
Woman	80	18	2
Age			
15-24	81	17	2
25-39	78	20	2
40-54	80	18	2
55+	82	16	2
Education (End of)			
15-	77	20	3
16-19	75	23	2
20+	86	12	2
Still studying	85	13	2
Socio-professional category			
Self-employed	80	18	2
Managers	87	11	2
Other white collars	79	19	2
Manual workers	75	23	2
House persons	74	22	4
Unemployed	75	24	1
Retired	82	16	2
Students	85	13	2
Difficulties paying bills			
Most of the time	68	28	4
From time to time	73	24	3
Almost never/ Never	84	14	2
Consider belonging to			
The working class	78	20	2
The lower middle class	76	22	2
The middle class	81	17	2
The upper middle class	90	9	1
The upper class	82	15	3

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QA6b How much trust do you have in certain institutions? For each of the following institutions, do you tend to trust it or tend not to trust it?
 (% - TEND TO TRUST)

	EU27		Health and medical staff in (OUR COUNTRY)											
			Win.2020/2021 - Sum.2020	The army	Win.2020/2021 - Sum.2020	The police	Win.2020/2021 - Sum.2020	Regional or local public authorities	Win.2020/2021 - Sum.2020	The United Nations	Win.2020/2021 - Sum.2020	Justice, the (NATIONALITY) legal system	Win.2020/2021 - Sum.2020	
EU27	80	=	74	▲2	69	▼2	55	▼2	52	▲9	52	=		
EURO AREA	84	▲1	76	▲3	73	▼1	56	▼2	51	▲11	54	=		
NON-EURO AREA	67	▼1	67	▼2	57	▼3	52	▼5	56	▲5	45	▼1		
BE	96	▲8	88	▲6	75	=	58	▼4	65	▲17	58	▲4		
BG	62	▲10	52	▲5	51	▲8	44	▲3	39	▲5	23	▲5		
CZ	92	▲8	89	▲8	77	▲4	60	▼1	57	▲20	59	▲6		
DK	96	▲5	90	▲1	92	=	76	▼5	82	▲6	90	▲5		
DE	88	▲1	71	▲3	80	▼4	73	▼4	54	▲11	69	=		
EE	87	▲2	87	▲2	89	=	59	▲1	70	▲8	76	▲3		
IE	90	▲1	87	▼2	78	▼3	59	▼3	74	▲1	71	▼3		
EL	80	▲2	80	▼5	56	▼14	34	▼5	35	▲9	50	▼7		
ES	87	▲1	74	▲1	74	▼1	42	▼8	51	▲7	45	▼1		
FR	89	▼1	83	▲1	69	=	64	=	44	▲8	50	▲5		
HR	69	▲1	61	▼4	50	▼4	29	=	48	▲5	21	▼2		
IT	70	▲3	68	▲4	66	▲3	35	▲6	44	▲14	41	▲3		
CY	75	▼3	63	▼3	51	▼6	41	▼10	26	▼2	40	▼9		
LV	66	▼2	72	▲1	62	▼6	48	▼1	62	▲17	39	▼2		
LT	63	▲5	78	▼2	71	▼7	42	▼16	72	▲23	43	▼2		
LU	87	▼1	80	▲1	84	▲6	76	▲1	59	▲10	78	▼2		
HU	59	▲6	59	▼1	65	=	63	▼1	56	▲6	51	▲1		
MT	85	=	71	▲4	58	▲4	57	▼3	65	▲16	35	▼6		
NL	97	=	90	▲3	92	▲3	72	▲2	72	▲11	85	=		
AT	80	▼2	71	▼2	74	▼3	70	▼4	37	▼3	72	▼1		
PL	59	▼7	61	▼5	40	▼12	49	▼8	52	▼2	31	▼4		
PT	95	▲2	87	▲15	79	▼2	52	▼7	85	▲29	42	▼8		
RO	53	▼7	64	▼5	56	▲5	38	▼10	54	▲8	47	▲1		
SI	69	=	62	▼8	51	▼16	36	▼14	46	▲10	28	▼8		
SK	70	▲7	65	▲4	45	=	47	▼1	48	▲6	28	▲3		
FI	93	▲1	96	▲3	91	=	67	▼1	69	▲8	80	▼1		
SE	92	=	85	▲2	88	▼1	69	▼2	74	▲3	78	▼3		

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 (% - TEND TO TRUST)

	EU27		NATO		Win.2020/2021 - Sum.2020		The European Union		Win.2020/2021 - Sum.2020		Public administration in (OUR COUNTRY)		Win.2020/2021 - Sum.2020		The (NATIONALITY) Government		Win.2020/2021 - Sum.2020		The (NATIONALITY) Parliament		Win.2020/2021 - Sum.2020		Political parties		Win.2020/2021 - Sum.2020				
			49	N.A.	49	▲ 6	49	▼ 3	36	▼ 4	35	▼ 1	21	▼ 2	49	▼ 3	37	▼ 3	36	▼ 1	21	▼ 1	54	▼ 6	32	▼ 7	30	▼ 5	20
EURO AREA			47	N.A.	48	▲ 8	50	▼ 3	37	▼ 3	36	▼ 1	21	▼ 1															
NON-EURO AREA			54	N.A.	54	▲ 2	45	▼ 6	32	▼ 7	30	▼ 5	20	▼ 5															
BE		70	N.A.	56	▲ 13	51	=	41	▲ 11	44	▲ 11	18	▲ 1																
BG		33	N.A.	53	▲ 5	38	▲ 6	23	▲ 4	15	▲ 2	14	▲ 4																
CZ		71	N.A.	48	▲ 13	48	▼ 10	19	▼ 21	15	▼ 12	11	▼ 6																
DK		86	N.A.	62	▼ 1	77	▼ 3	65	▼ 13	62	▼ 16	43	▼ 16																
DE		54	N.A.	48	=	65	▼ 5	54	▼ 7	55	▼ 3	37	▼ 3																
EE		79	N.A.	64	▲ 6	65	=	53	▲ 7	43	▼ 1	18	▼ 1																
IE		68	N.A.	74	▲ 1	63	▼ 3	49	▼ 2	46	▼ 3	26	▼ 1																
EL		26	N.A.	37	▲ 5	24	▼ 9	28	▼ 7	27	=	12	▲ 1																
ES		41	N.A.	52	▲ 10	42	▼ 3	20	▼ 5	16	▼ 3	7	▼ 5																
FR		36	N.A.	39	▲ 9	58	▲ 1	31	▲ 6	31	▲ 7	12	▲ 3																
HR		43	N.A.	51	▲ 2	29	▼ 2	22	▼ 2	22	▲ 1	12	▼ 2																
IT		43	N.A.	44	▲ 16	27	▲ 2	26	▼ 3	27	▲ 1	16	▲ 3																
CY		16	N.A.	39	▲ 2	30	▼ 10	26	▼ 18	21	▼ 10	9	▼ 4																
LV		63	N.A.	61	▲ 7	27	▼ 8	23	▼ 9	21	▼ 1	7	▲ 1																
LT		77	N.A.	70	▲ 11	40	▼ 13	44	▲ 6	27	▲ 11	15	▲ 5																
LU		58	N.A.	55	▲ 6	83	▲ 2	72	▼ 1	68	▲ 2	31	▼ 1																
HU		54	N.A.	59	▲ 6	60	▼ 2	39	▼ 7	38	▼ 4	24	▼ 1																
MT		55	N.A.	64	▲ 19	57	▼ 7	49	▼ 9	46	▲ 1	25	▲ 10																
NL		75	N.A.	61	▲ 12	70	▼ 1	68	▼ 6	68	▼ 4	52	▼ 7																
AT		32	N.A.	41	▼ 3	66	▼ 7	38	▼ 21	44	▼ 14	32	▼ 9																
PL		51	N.A.	50	▼ 6	38	▼ 10	26	▼ 8	22	▼ 6	18	▼ 4																
PT		72	N.A.	78	▲ 22	41	▼ 8	38	▼ 14	40	▼ 4	15	▼ 6																
RO		49	N.A.	58	▲ 4	37	▼ 6	29	▼ 5	26	▼ 1	16	▼ 7																
SI		38	N.A.	55	▲ 8	28	▼ 16	19	▼ 6	15	▼ 7	7	▼ 5																
SK		42	N.A.	50	▲ 5	45	▼ 5	24	▼ 5	23	▼ 5	12	▲ 1																
FI		55	N.A.	50	▲ 1	71	▼ 1	63	=	65	▲ 2	34	▼ 1																
SE		60	N.A.	58	▲ 8	70	▼ 1	62	=	69	▼ 3	39	▼ 4																

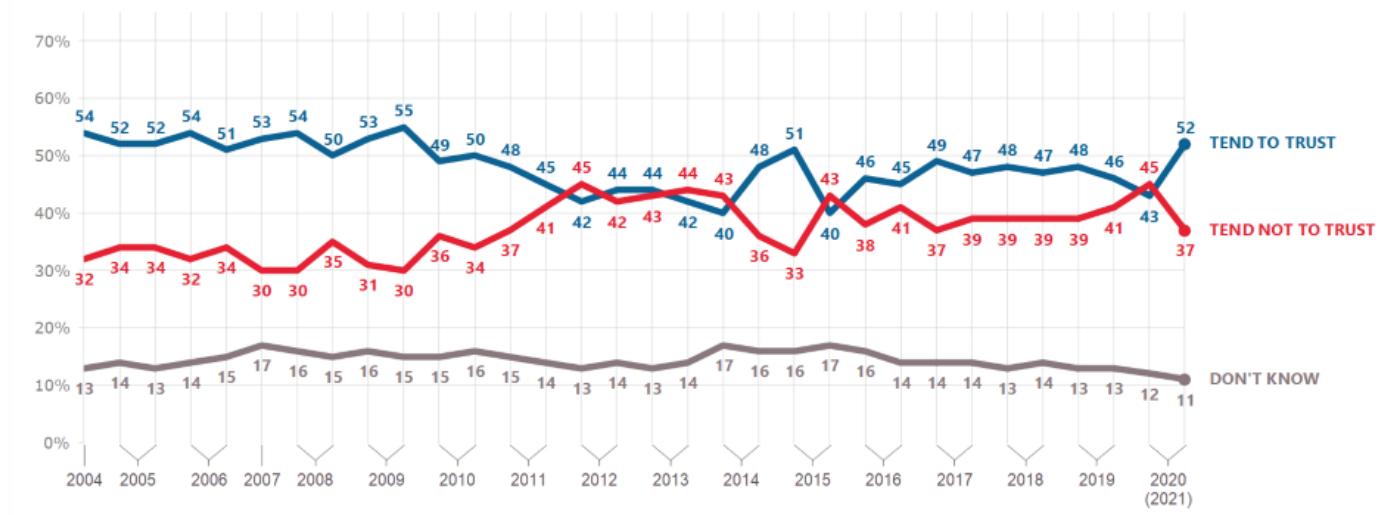
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The United Nations

Trust in **the United Nations²⁴** has increased significantly by +9 percentage points since summer 2020. A majority of 52% of Europeans now trust this international organisation.

This is the highest level of trust observed since autumn 2009, when it stood at 55%. Distrust has fallen to 37% (-8 points since summer 2020).

QA6b.11 How much trust do you have in certain institutions? For each of the following institutions, do you tend to trust it or tend not to trust it?
The United Nations (%) - EU



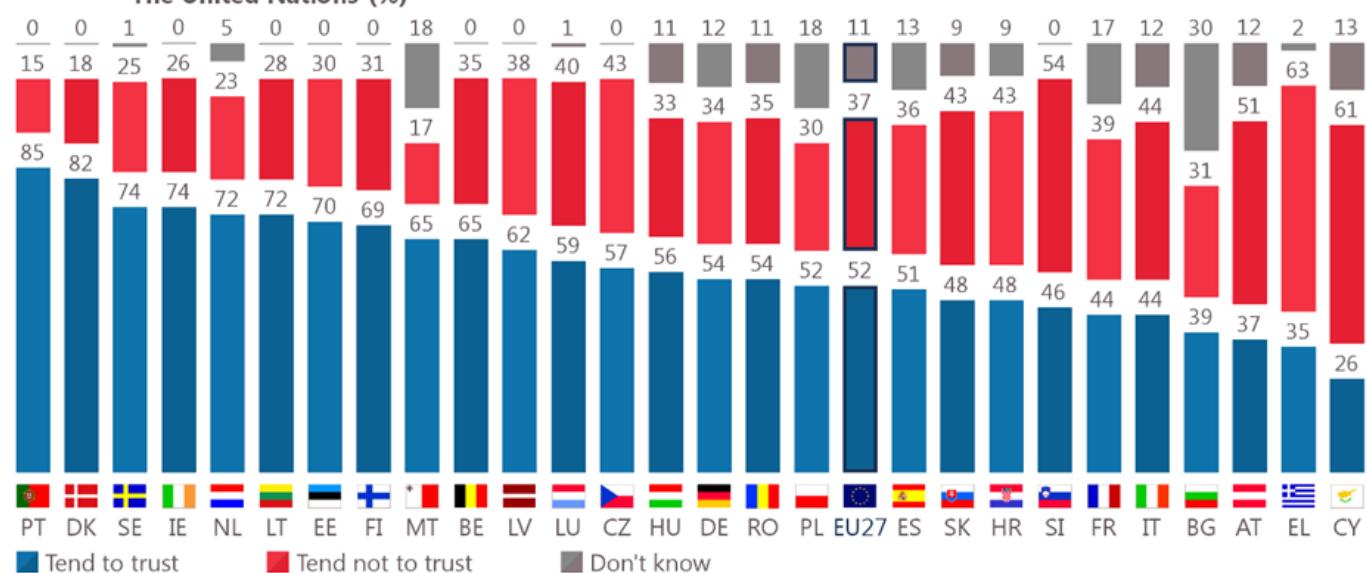
The United Nations enjoy the trust of a majority of respondents in 21 Member States of the European Union, compared with 15 in summer 2020. Within this group of countries, levels of trust are particularly high in Portugal (85%) and Denmark (82%) and lowest in Bulgaria (39% "trust", 31% "distrust" and 30% "Don't know"). Distrust outweighs trust in five Member States, most markedly in Greece (63%) and Cyprus (61%). Trust and distrust are evenly divided in Italy (44% trust, versus 44% distrust and 12% "Don't know").

Since summer 2020, trust in the UN has increased in 24 Member States, most significantly in Portugal (85%, +29 percentage points), Lithuania (72%, +23) and Czechia (57%, +20). However, it has decreased in the other three Member States: Austria (37%, -3), Poland (52%, -2) and Cyprus (26%, -2).

Lastly, despite a strong increase in trust levels, respondents in the euro area countries (51%, +11) are slightly less likely than those in non-euro area countries (56%, +5) to trust the United Nations.

QA6b.11 How much trust do you have in certain institutions? For each of the following institutions, do you tend to trust it or tend not to trust it?

The United Nations (%)



²⁴ QA6b.11. I would like to ask you a question about how much trust you have in certain media and institutions. For each of the following media and

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

QA6b.11 How much trust do you have in certain institutions? For each of the following institutions, do you tend to trust it or tend not to trust it?

The United Nations (%)

		Tend to trust	Win.2020/2021 - Sum.2020	Tend not to trust	Win.2020/2021 - Sum.2020	Don't know
EU27		52	▲ 9	37	▼ 8	11
EURO AREA		51	▲ 11	38	▼ 10	11
NON-EURO AREA		56	▲ 5	32	▼ 3	12
PT		85	▲ 29	15	▼ 18	0
LT		72	▲ 23	28	▲ 7	0
CZ		57	▲ 20	43	▼ 4	0
BE		65	▲ 17	35	▼ 12	0
LV		62	▲ 17	38	▲ 9	0
MT		65	▲ 16	17	▼ 12	18
IT		44	▲ 14	44	▼ 13	12
NL		72	▲ 11	23	▼ 10	5
DE		54	▲ 11	34	▼ 12	12
LU		59	▲ 10	40	▼ 10	1
SI		46	▲ 10	54	▲ 1	0
EL		35	▲ 9	63	▼ 6	2
EE		70	▲ 8	30	▼ 8	0
FI		69	▲ 8	31	▼ 8	0
RO		54	▲ 8	35	▼ 6	11
FR		44	▲ 8	39	▼ 8	17
ES		51	▲ 7	36	▼ 10	13
DK		82	▲ 6	18	▲ 3	0
HU		56	▲ 6	33	▼ 6	11
SK		48	▲ 6	43	▼ 1	9
HR		48	▲ 5	43	▼ 4	9
BG		39	▲ 5	31	▼ 2	30
SE		74	▲ 3	25	▼ 1	1
IE		74	▲ 1	26	=	0
PL		52	▼ 2	30	▼ 1	18
CY		26	▼ 2	61	=	13
AT		37	▼ 3	51	▲ 1	12

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QA6b.11 How much trust do you have in certain institutions? For each of the following institutions, do you tend to trust it or tend not to trust it?

The United Nations (% - EU)

	Tend to trust	Tend not to trust	Don't know
EU27	52	37	11
 Gender			
Man	53	37	10
Woman	51	36	13
 Age			
15-24	59	29	12
25-39	55	36	9
40-54	52	38	10
55+	48	38	14
 Education (End of)			
15-	38	42	20
16-19	46	42	12
20+	60	32	8
Still studying	63	28	9
 Socio-professional category			
Self-employed	54	38	8
Managers	66	28	6
Other white collars	57	35	8
Manual workers	47	40	13
House persons	39	44	17
Unemployed	42	44	14
Retired	46	40	14
Students	63	28	9
 Difficulties paying bills			
Most of the time	33	53	14
From time to time	47	42	11
Almost never/ Never	56	33	11
 Consider belonging to			
The working class	39	44	17
The lower middle class	47	41	12
The middle class	56	35	9
The upper middle class	68	26	6
The upper class	72	24	4

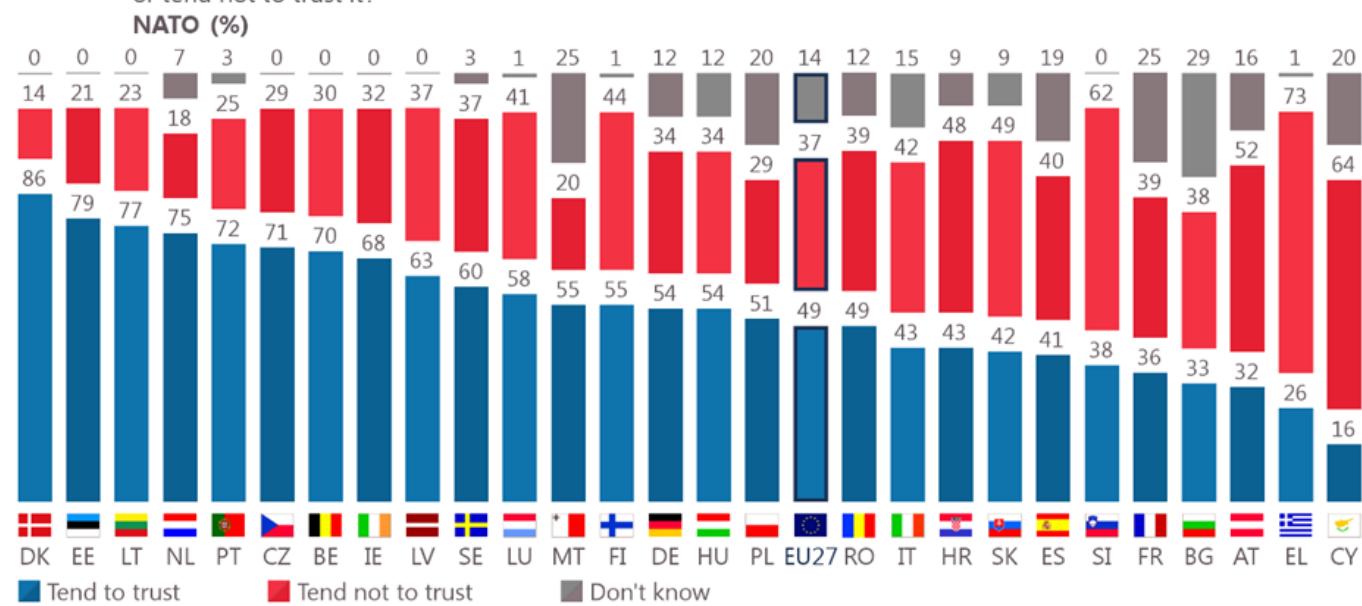
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NATO

In winter 2020/2021 a new item was introduced: trust in **NATO**. The majority of respondents in 19 Member States of the European Union tend to trust NATO in this EB94 survey. However, within this group of countries levels of trust vary widely from 86% in Denmark, where scores are the highest, to 41% in Spain, where only a slender majority trust this organisation (versus 40% distrust and 19% “Don’t know”).

In contrast, distrust is prevalent in eight countries, most strikingly in Greece (73%) and Cyprus (64%). It should be noted that the proportion of respondents who express no opinion exceeds 25% in three countries: Bulgaria (29%), Malta (25%) and France (25%).

QA6b.12 How much trust do you have in certain institutions? For each of the following institutions, do you tend to trust it or tend not to trust it?



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QA6b.12 How much trust do you have in certain institutions? For each of the following institutions, do you tend to trust it or tend not to trust it?

NATO (% - EU)

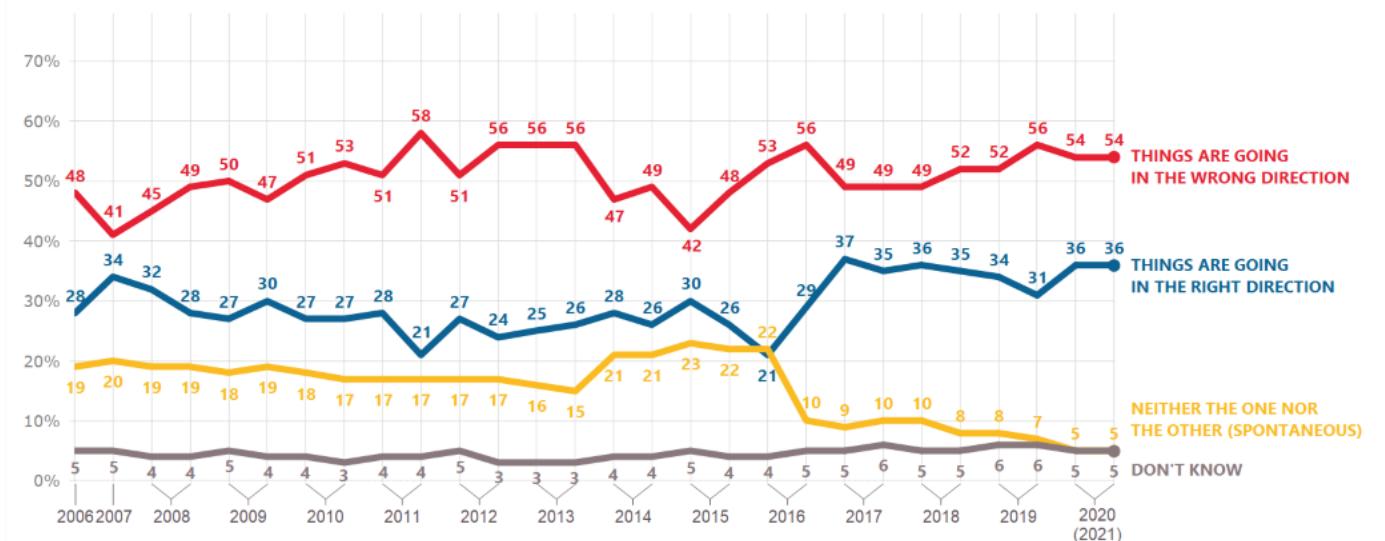
	Tend to trust	Tend not to trust	Don't know
EU27	49	37	14
Gender			
Man	52	37	11
Woman	46	38	16
Age			
15-24	52	31	17
25-39	51	38	11
40-54	50	38	12
55+	45	39	16
Education (End of)			
15-	32	43	25
16-19	44	41	15
20+	56	34	10
Still studying	56	31	13
Socio-professional category			
Self-employed	52	38	10
Managers	62	30	8
Other white collars	55	34	11
Manual workers	45	41	14
House persons	35	44	21
Unemployed	37	44	19
Retired	43	40	17
Students	56	31	13
Difficulties paying bills			
Most of the time	30	52	18
From time to time	44	43	13
Almost never/ Never	53	34	13
Consider belonging to			
The working class	35	45	20
The lower middle class	42	43	15
The middle class	54	35	11
The upper middle class	65	26	9
The upper class	64	28	8

5. The direction in which things are going

5.1 The direction in which things are going at national level

A stable majority (54%, unchanged since summer 2020) of Europeans consider that **things are going “in the wrong direction” in their country**²⁵, compared with 36% (unchanged) who think that they are going “in the right direction” and 5% (unchanged) who spontaneously answer “neither the one nor the other”. An equal proportion of respondents say that they “don’t know” (unchanged).

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



²⁵ D73.1. At the present time, would you say that, in general, things are going in the right direction or in the wrong direction...? In (OUR COUNTRY)

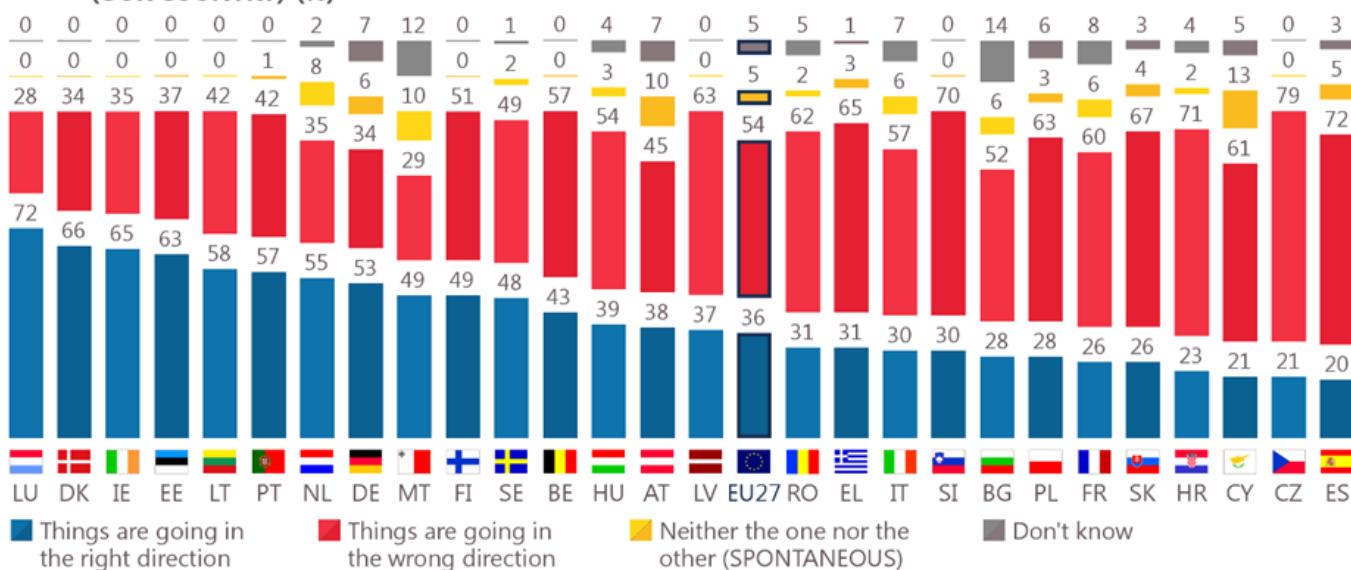
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A majority of respondents in nine Member States of the European Union (compared with 12 in summer 2020) believe that things are going in the right direction in their country. Scores within this group, however, range from a low of 49% in Malta (compared with 29% who think that things are going in the wrong direction) to a high of 72% in Luxembourg (versus 28%). Respondents in 18 EU Member States (up from 15 in summer 2020) predominantly believe that things are going in the wrong direction. Respondents in Czechia (79%) and Spain (72%) are particularly pessimistic.

Since summer 2020, positive opinions of the direction taken at national level have gained ground in 13 EU Member States, most notably in Belgium (+17 percentage points), Estonia (63%, +11) and Lithuania (58%, +11). On the other hand, respondents are now less likely to consider that things are going in the right direction in 12 Member States, led by Austria (38%, -24) and Czechia (21%, -21). In two countries opinions are unchanged, namely Greece (31%) and Latvia (37%).

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

(OUR COUNTRY) (%)



■ Things are going in the right direction

■ Things are going in the wrong direction

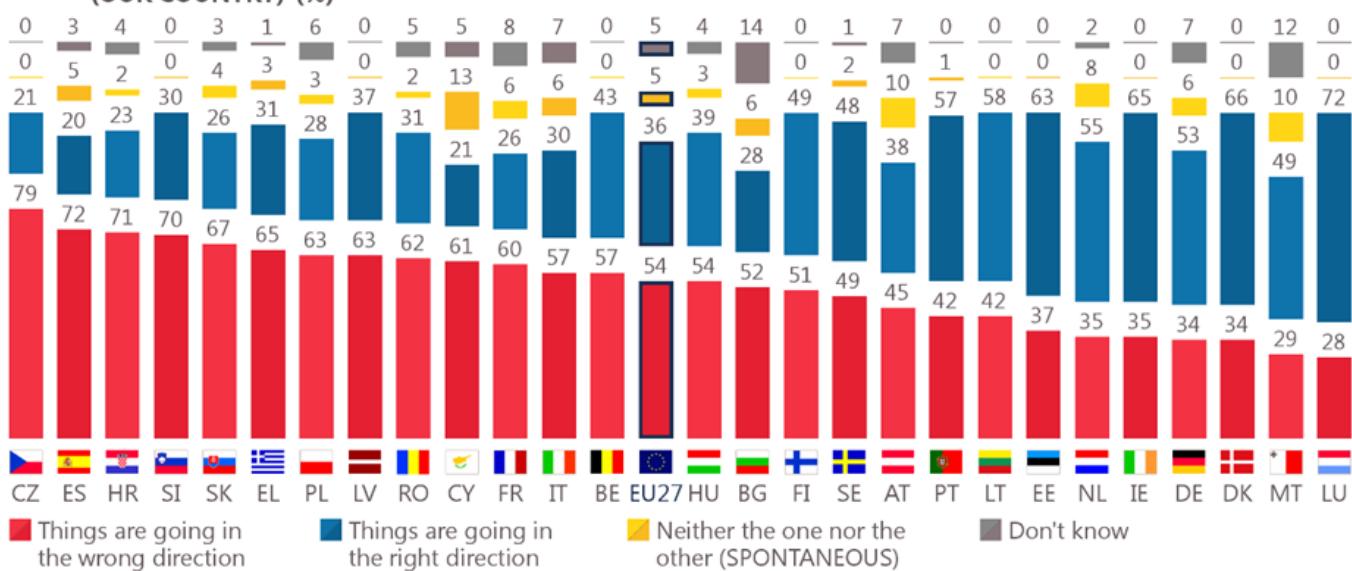
■ Neither the one nor the other (SPONTANEOUS)

■ Don't know

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

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

(OUR COUNTRY) (%)



■ Things are going in the wrong direction

■ Things are going in the right direction

■ Neither the one nor the other (SPONTANEOUS)

■ Don't know

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

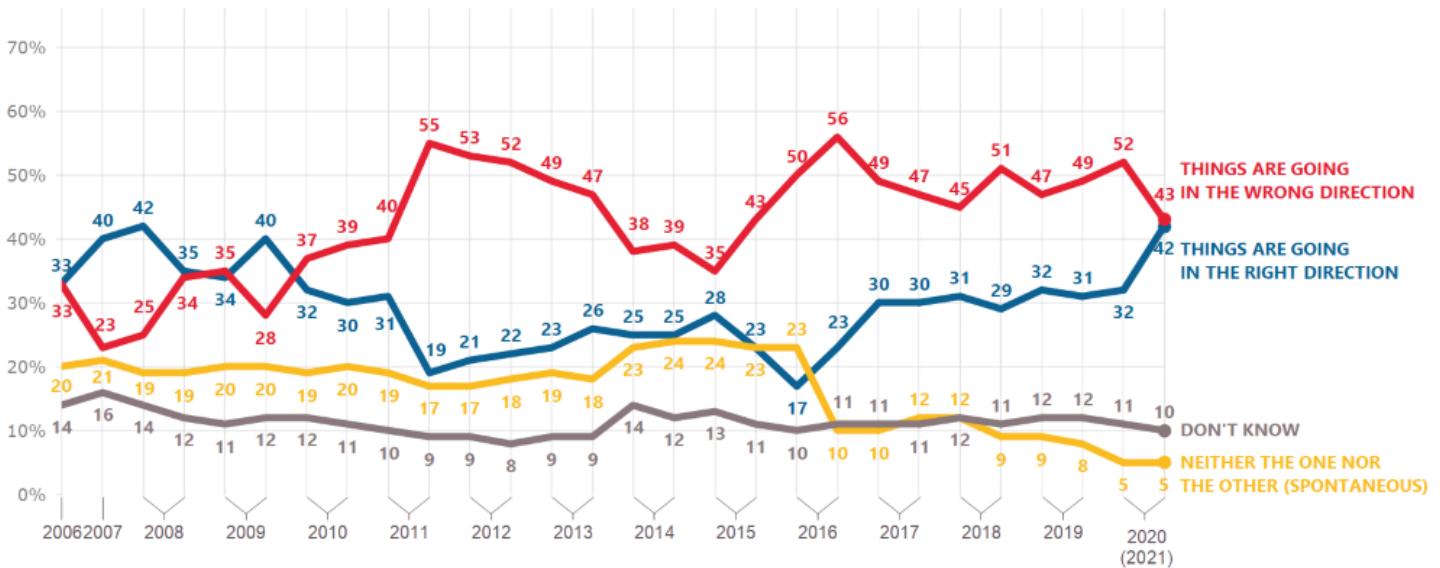
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5.2 The direction in which things are going in the European Union

After a sharp decrease in negative opinions in winter 2020/2021 only a slight majority of respondents still feel that things are going in “the wrong direction” in the European Union (43%, -9 percentage points since summer 2020) and an almost identical proportion consider that things are going in “the right direction” in the European Union (42%, +10), while 5% of respondents spontaneously answered “neither the one nor the other” (unchanged), and 10% expressed no opinion (unchanged)²⁶.

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

The European Union (% - EU)



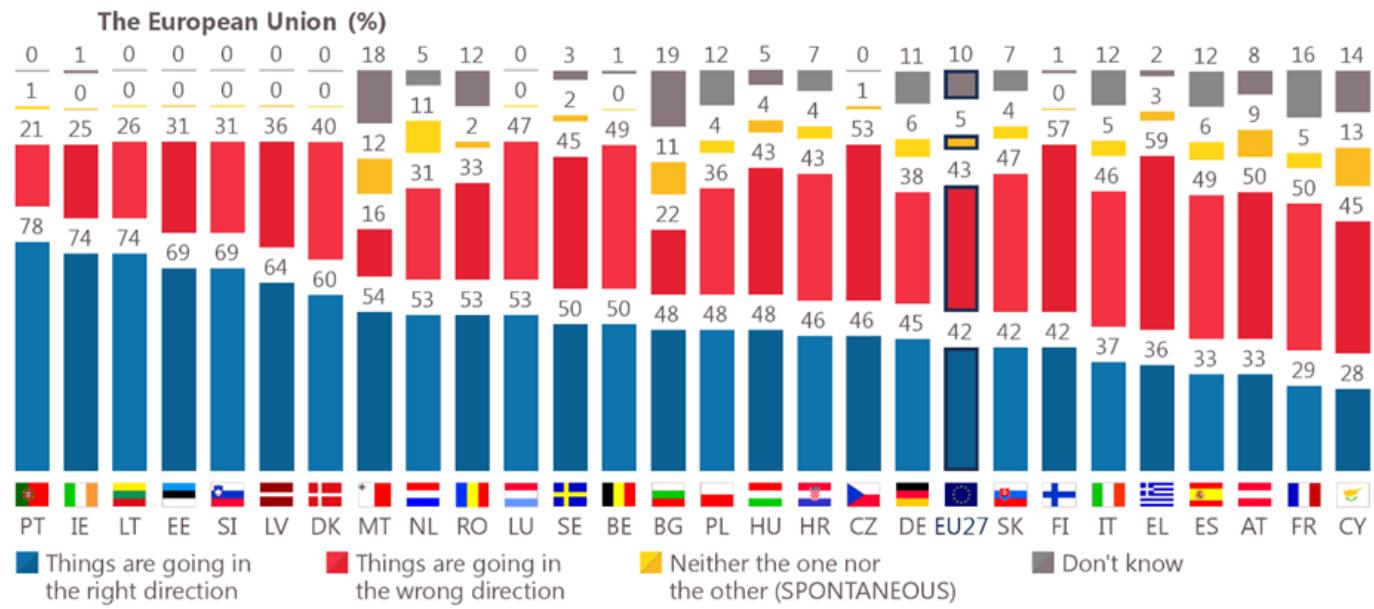
²⁶ D73.2. At the present time, would you say that, in general, things are going in the right direction or in the wrong direction...? In the European Union

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A majority of respondents in 19 Member States (compared with eight in summer 2020) consider that things are going in the right direction in the European Union. This opinion is the most widespread in Portugal (78%), Ireland (74%) and Lithuania (74%), and the least so in Germany (45% in the right direction, versus 38%

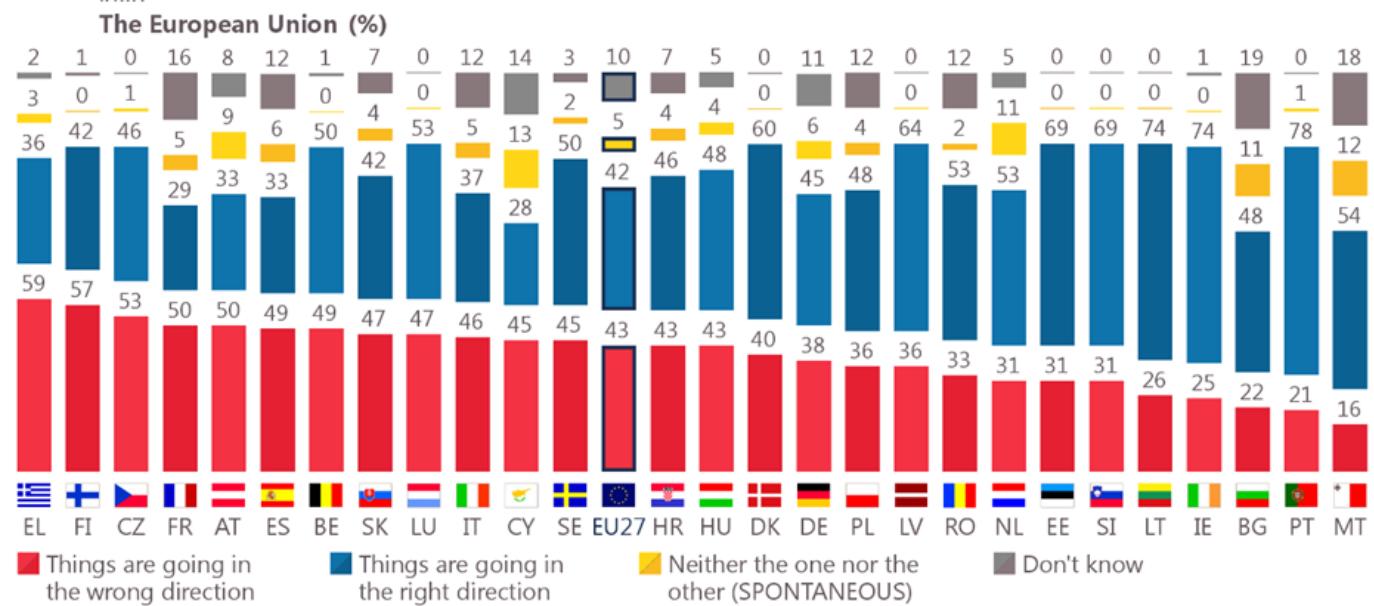
in the wrong direction). Conversely, the feeling that things are going in the wrong direction is predominant in eight Member States, most significantly in Greece (59%) and in Finland (57%).

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



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

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



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

Since summer 2020, the feeling that things are going in the right direction has gained ground in 25 Member States, in particular in Portugal (78%, +37 percentage points) and Slovenia (69%, +31%. Conversely, it has lost ground in only two countries: Austria (33%, -8) and Poland (48%, -5).

Perceptions of the direction in which things are going are slightly more positive in the countries **outside the euro area**: 49% (+6) versus 41% (+12) in the countries within **the euro area**.

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

(%)

	EU27		36	(OUR COUNTRY)					The European Union							
				Things are going in the right direction Win.2020/2021 - Sum.2020	Things are going in the wrong direction Win.2020/2021 - Sum.2020	Neither the one nor the other (SPONTANEOUS) Win.2020/2021 - Sum.2020	Don't know	Things are going in the right direction Win.2020/2021 - Sum.2020	Things are going in the wrong direction Win.2020/2021 - Sum.2020	Neither the one nor the other (SPONTANEOUS) Win.2020/2021 - Sum.2020	Don't know					
EU27	EU27		36	=	54	=	5	=	5	42	▲10	43	▼9	5	=	10
EURO AREA			37	▲3	52	▼3	6	▲1	5	41	▲12	44	▼11	5	=	10
NON-EURO AREA			33	▼8	60	▲8	2	▼1	5	49	▲6	38	▼4	4	▼1	9
BE		43	▲17	57	▼11	0	▼5	0	50	▲23	49	▼16	0	▼5	1	
BG		28	▲7	52	▼11	6	▼1	14	48	▲11	22	▼8	11	▲1	19	
CZ		21	▼21	79	▲29	0	▼4	0	46	▲19	53	▼5	1	▼5	0	
DK		66	▼2	34	▲13	0	▼8	0	60	▲22	40	▼6	0	▼8	0	
DE		53	▼4	34	▲1	6	▲1	7	45	▲5	38	▼8	6	▲1	11	
EE		63	▲11	37	▼11	0	=	0	69	▲14	31	▼14	0	=	0	
IE		65	▲5	35	▼4	0	=	0	74	▲10	25	▼10	0	=	1	
EL		31	=	65	▲6	3	▼4	1	36	▲13	59	▼3	3	▼6	2	
ES		20	▲3	72	▼4	5	▲1	3	33	▲15	49	▼17	6	▲1	12	
FR		26	▲3	60	▼4	6	▲2	8	29	▲7	50	▼8	5	▲1	16	
HR		23	▲2	71	▼3	2	=	4	46	▲7	43	▼4	4	▼1	7	
IT		30	▲10	57	▼11	6	▲2	7	37	▲15	46	▼15	5	=	12	
CY		21	▼16	61	▲15	13	▲2	5	28	▲2	45	▼2	13	▲4	14	
LV		37	=	63	▲16	0	▼8	0	64	▲20	36	▲5	0	▼8	0	
LT		58	▲11	42	▲11	0	▼17	0	74	▲27	26	▲2	0	▼14	0	
LU		72	▲5	28	▼5	0	=	0	53	▲14	47	▼14	0	=	0	
HU		39	▼5	54	▲6	3	▼1	4	48	▲6	43	▼1	4	=	5	
MT	* 	49	▼3	29	▼3	10	▼1	12	54	▲25	16	▼26	12	▲3	18	
NL		55	▲5	35	▼4	8	▼1	2	53	▲19	31	▼25	11	▲5	5	
AT		38	▼24	45	▲16	10	▲3	7	33	▼8	50	▲5	9	=	8	
PL		28	▼16	63	▲14	3	▲1	6	48	▼5	36	▲5	4	▼1	12	
PT		57	▲10	42	▲11	1	▼7	0	78	▲37	21	▼11	1	▼7	0	
RO		31	▲3	62	▼5	2	=	5	53	▲9	33	▼10	2	▼1	12	
SI		30	▼3	70	▲16	0	▼9	0	69	▲31	31	▼12	0	▼11	0	
SK		26	▼5	67	▲9	4	=	3	42	▲5	47	▼3	4	▼1	7	
FI		49	▼2	51	▲2	0	=	0	42	▲5	57	▼6	0	=	1	
SE		48	▼3	49	▲3	2	=	1	50	▲18	45	▼18	2	=	3	

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

(OUR COUNTRY) (% - EU)

	Things are going in the right direction	Things are going in the wrong direction	Neither the one nor the other (SPONTANEOUS)	Don't know
EU27	36	54	5	5
Gender				
Man	38	54	4	4
Woman	34	55	5	6
Age				
15-24	39	50	5	6
25-39	32	59	4	5
40-54	37	54	5	4
55+	36	53	5	6
Education (End of)				
15-	26	63	5	6
16-19	31	59	5	5
20+	42	49	5	4
Still studying	43	47	4	6
Socio-professional category				
Self-employed	36	55	4	5
Managers	48	44	5	3
Other white collars	36	55	5	4
Manual workers	29	60	5	6
House persons	25	64	3	8
Unemployed	22	69	4	5
Retired	38	51	6	5
Students	43	47	4	6
Difficulties paying bills				
Most of the time	20	73	4	3
From time to time	27	65	4	4
Almost never/ Never	41	49	5	5
Consider belonging to				
The working class	25	64	4	7
The lower middle class	29	62	4	5
The middle class	40	51	5	4
The upper middle class	53	39	5	3
The upper class	43	50	2	5

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

The European Union (% - EU)

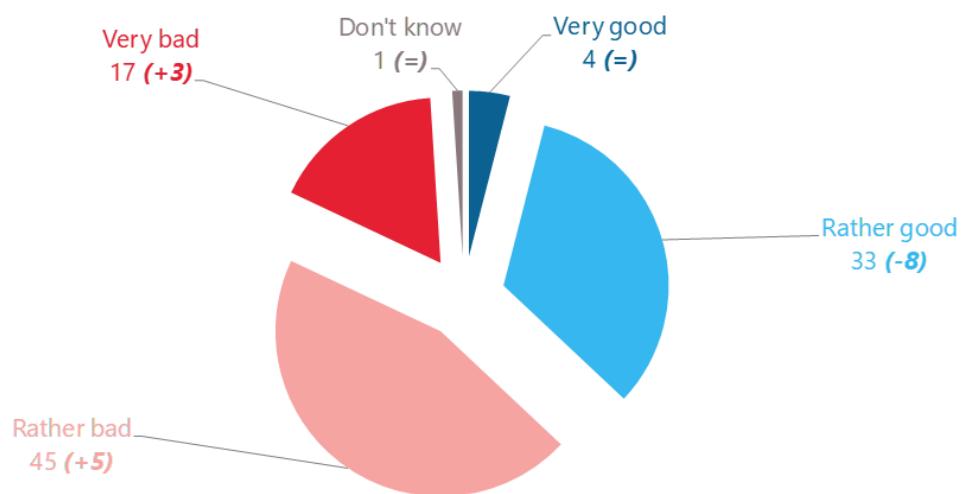
	Things are going in the right direction	Things are going in the wrong direction	Neither the one nor the other (SPONTANEOUS)	Don't know
EU27	42	43	5	10
Gender				
Man	43	44	5	8
Woman	42	41	5	12
Age				
15-24	51	34	5	10
25-39	42	46	4	8
40-54	43	44	5	8
55+	40	43	6	11
Education (End of)				
15-	29	47	5	19
16-19	38	47	5	10
20+	49	39	5	7
Still studying	53	34	5	8
Socio-professional category				
Self-employed	43	45	5	7
Managers	54	36	4	6
Other white collars	46	43	4	7
Manual workers	37	48	5	10
House persons	32	46	3	19
Unemployed	29	53	4	14
Retired	40	42	6	12
Students	53	34	5	8
Difficulties paying bills				
Most of the time	26	59	5	10
From time to time	36	50	4	10
Almost never/ Never	47	39	5	9
Consider belonging to				
The working class	31	50	6	13
The lower middle class	35	50	4	11
The middle class	47	40	5	8
The upper middle class	59	30	5	6
The upper class	58	32	2	8

5.3 The situation in the country in general

A majority of **Europeans see the current situation in their country in a negative light**²⁷: 62% consider that it is bad, including 17% for whom it is very bad, while 37% say that it is good, including 4% for whom it is very good. Since the summer 2020 Standard Eurobarometer survey, negative responses have become even more widespread, with an increase of eight percentage points.

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

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



(Winter 2020/2021 - Summer 2020)

²⁷ QA1a.1. How would you judge the current situation in each of the following? The situation in (OUR COUNTRY) in general

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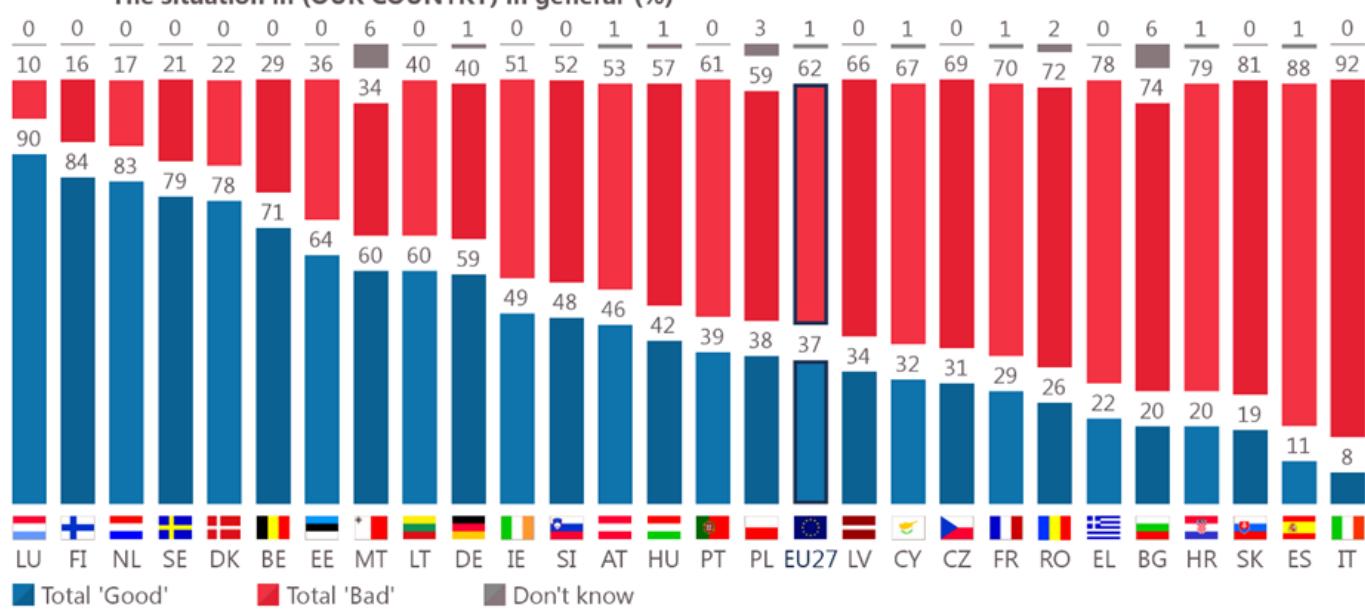
There are very sharp differences across different EU Member States: 82 percentage points separate the highest positive score, in Luxembourg (90%) with the lowest, in Italy (8%). Positive opinions outweigh negative opinions of the national situation in general in 10 Member States (compared with 18 in summer 2020). They exceed 80% in three countries: Luxembourg (90%), Finland (84%) and the Netherlands (83%).

In contrast, opinions are predominantly negative in 17 Member States (compared with nine in summer 2020). More than 80% of respondents in Italy (92%), Spain (88%) and Slovakia (81%) say that the situation is bad.

Positive opinions of the national situation in general have lost ground in 21 Member States. The proportion of positive respondents has fallen sharply in Czechia (31%, -29 percentage points), Austria (46%, -22), Poland (38%, -20) and Cyprus (32%, -20). Conversely, positive views have gained ground in three EU Member States: Portugal (39%, +22), Belgium (71%, +19) and Bulgaria (20%, +4). Opinions are unchanged in Luxembourg (90%), Finland 84% and Sweden (79%).

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

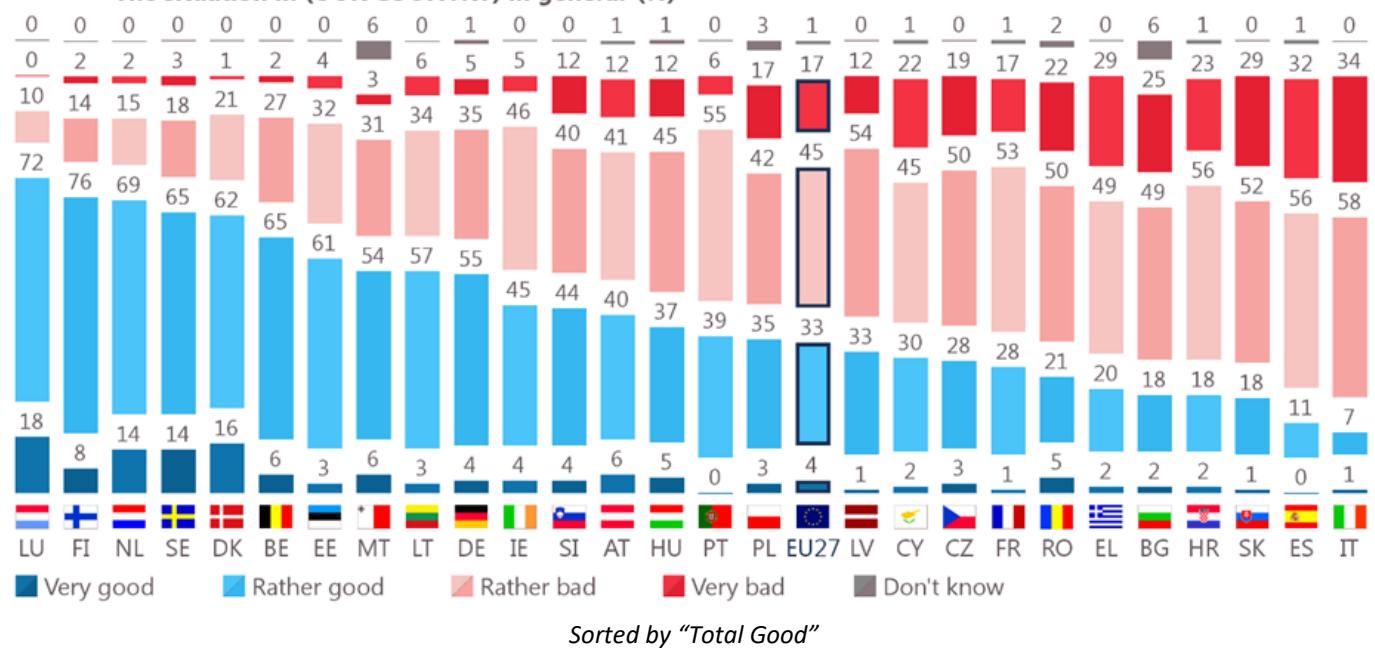
The situation in (OUR COUNTRY) in general (%)



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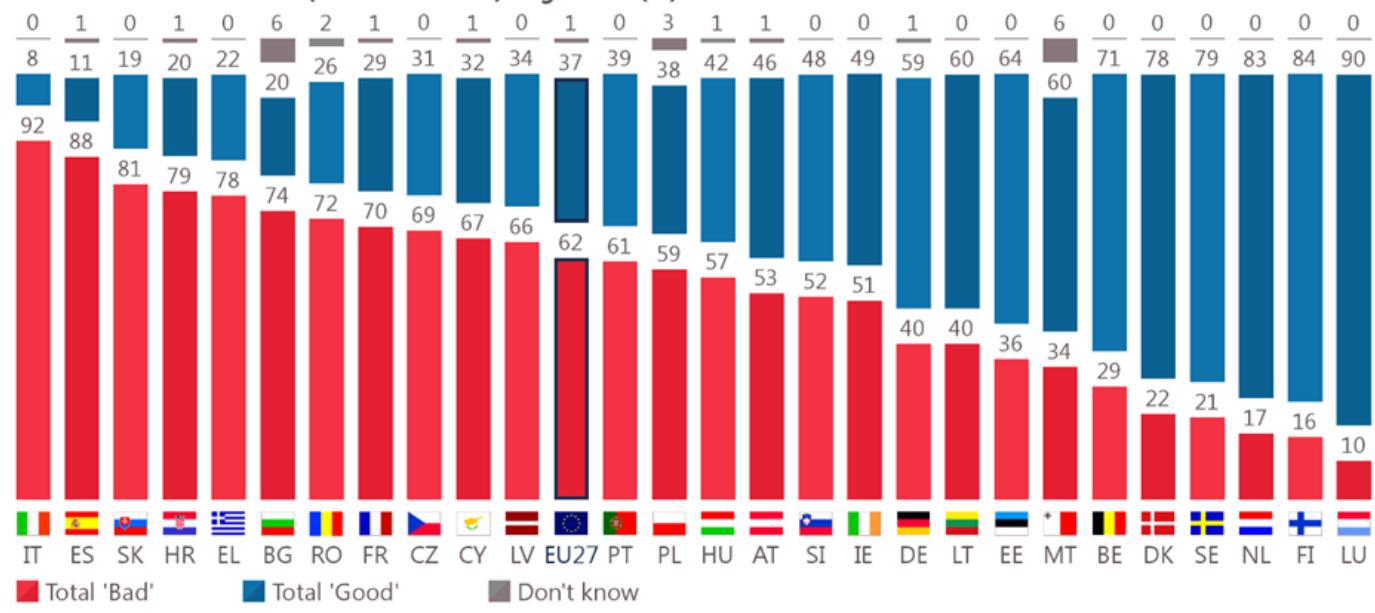
QA1a.1 How would you judge the current situation in each of the following?

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



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

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



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

		Total 'Good'	Win.2020/2021 - Sum.2020	Total 'Bad'	Win.2020/2021 - Sum.2020	Don't know
EU27		37	▼ 8	62	▲ 8	1
EURO AREA		36	▼ 7	63	▲ 7	1
NON-EURO AREA		39	▼ 13	59	▲ 13	2
PT		39	▲ 22	61	▼ 21	0
BE		71	▲ 19	29	▼ 19	0
BG		20	▲ 4	74	▼ 6	6
LU		90	=	10	=	0
FI		84	=	16	=	0
SE		79	=	21	=	0
EL		22	▼ 1	78	▲ 1	0
MT		60	▼ 2	34	▼ 1	6
HR		20	▼ 3	79	▲ 3	1
FR		29	▼ 5	70	▲ 6	1
RO		26	▼ 5	72	▲ 4	2
NL		83	▼ 6	17	▲ 7	0
LT		60	▼ 6	40	▲ 8	0
ES		11	▼ 6	88	▲ 6	1
IT		8	▼ 7	92	▲ 8	0
SI		48	▼ 10	52	▲ 11	0
HU		42	▼ 12	57	▲ 12	1
DK		78	▼ 13	22	▲ 14	0
DE		59	▼ 14	40	▲ 14	1
EE		64	▼ 16	36	▲ 16	0
LV		34	▼ 16	66	▲ 19	0
SK		19	▼ 17	81	▲ 18	0
IE		49	▼ 18	51	▲ 18	0
PL		38	▼ 20	59	▲ 20	3
CY		32	▼ 20	67	▲ 19	1
AT		46	▼ 22	53	▲ 21	1
CZ		31	▼ 29	69	▲ 30	0

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

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

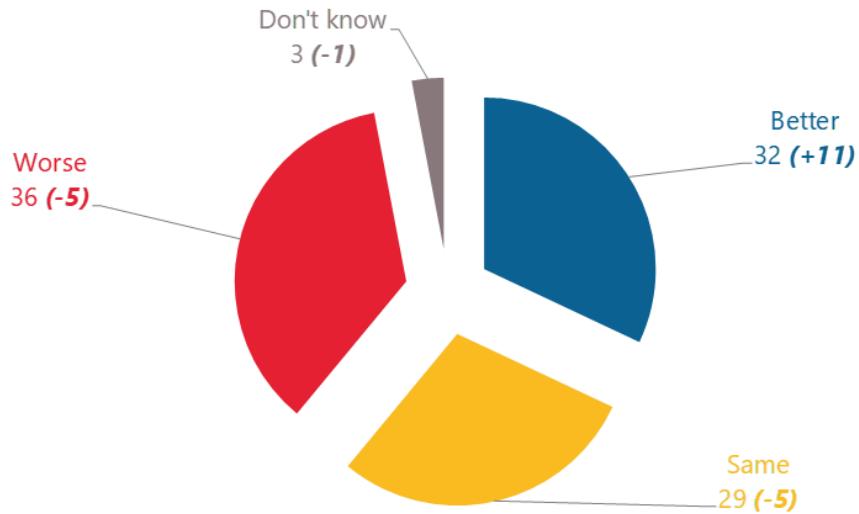
	Total 'Good'	Total 'Bad'	Don't know
EU27	37	62	1
 Gender			
Man	39	60	1
Woman	35	64	1
 Age			
15-24	43	56	1
25-39	37	62	1
40-54	35	64	1
55+	35	64	1
 Education (End of)			
15-	20	78	2
16-19	30	69	1
20+	46	53	1
Still studying	46	53	1
 Socio-professional category			
Self-employed	31	68	1
Managers	49	50	1
Other white collars	38	61	1
Manual workers	31	68	1
House persons	24	75	1
Unemployed	20	79	1
Retired	37	62	1
Students	46	53	1
 Difficulties paying bills			
Most of the time	19	80	1
From time to time	24	75	1
Almost never/ Never	43	56	1
 Consider belonging to			
The working class	25	74	1
The lower middle class	29	70	1
The middle class	41	58	1
The upper middle class	57	42	1
The upper class	52	48	0

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When asked to look ahead over the next twelve months almost a third of Europeans (32%, +11 percentage points since summer 2020) believe that the situation in their country in general will be “better”. However, a slightly higher proportion (36%, -5), and therefore a relative majority of respondents, think that the next twelve months will be “worse” (36%, -5), while 29% think there will be no change (-5).

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)



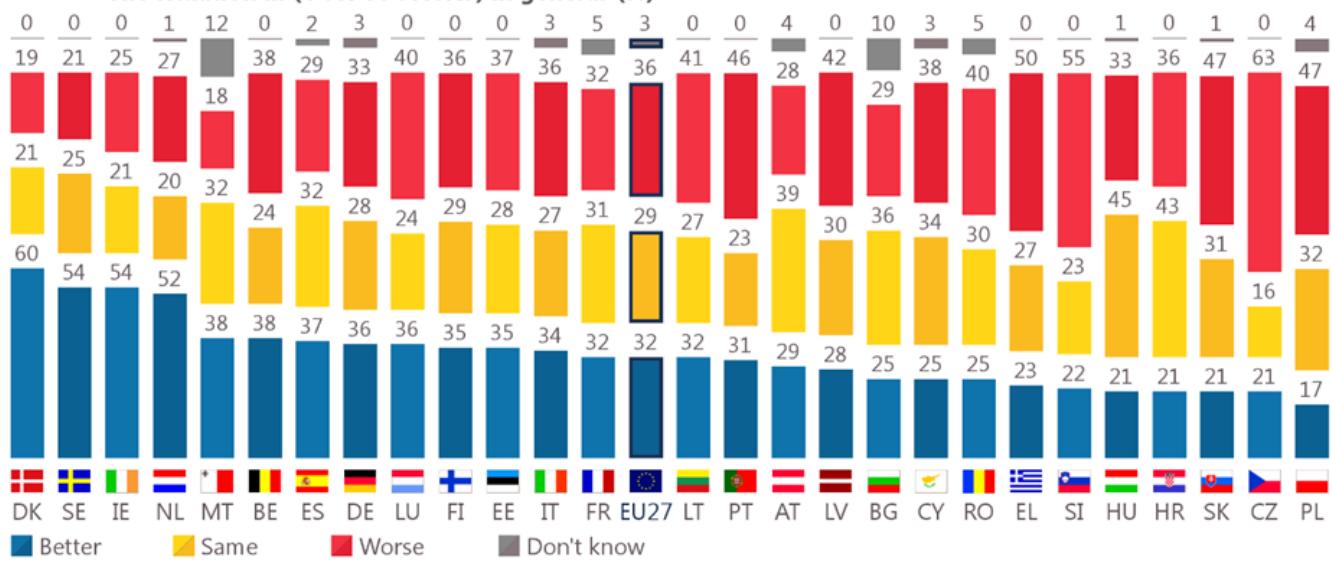
(Winter 2020/2021 - Summer 2020)

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- A majority of respondents think that the next twelve months will be “better” in seven Member States, led by Denmark (60%), Sweden (54%) and Ireland (54%). Positive perceptions increased in 23 Member States, particularly in the Netherlands (52%, +37) and Ireland (54%, +31), while they are now less widespread in four countries, most markedly in Poland (17%, -5);
 - In 14 Member States there is a prevailing feeling that the next twelve months will be worse, particularly in Czechia (63%, versus 21% “better” and 16% “same”);
 - Respondents are most likely to believe that the next twelve months will remain the same in four countries, namely Hungary (45%, versus 21% “better” and 33% “worse”), Croatia (43%; 21%; 36%), Austria (39%; 29%; 28%) and Bulgaria (36%; 25%; 29%);
 - Finally, opinions in two Member States are evenly split between the belief that the next twelve months will be better and the fear that they will be worse: France (32% “better” versus 32% “worse” and 31% “the same”) and Belgium (38% vs 38% and 24% “worse”).
- When asked to forecast the situation in the next twelve months, opinions are far more optimistic within the countries of the euro area (34% “better”, +11; 34% “worse”, -9; 29% “same”, -4), than in the countries outside the euro area (26% “better”, +2; 40%, +5; 31%, -6).

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 (%)



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Despite gaining significant ground **the optimism index** for the future of the national situation in general²⁸ remains slightly negative: -4 index points, after an increase of 16 index points between summer 2020 and winter 2020/2021. At a national level, it ranges from a low of -30 in Poland to a high of +33 in Sweden. The index is positive in eight countries, namely Denmark (+41), the Netherlands (+25), Ireland (+29), Sweden (+33), Malta (+20), Germany (+3), Austria (+1) and Spain (+8), evenly balanced in two (Belgium and France) and negative in 17 Member States.

Since summer 2020, it has improved in 17 Member States, most significantly in the Netherlands (+67 points) and Ireland (+59 points). It has remained unchanged in Malta (at +20 index points), and has declined in nine countries, particularly in Poland (-19 points).

Lastly, it should be noted that positive opinions have gained +23 index points (up to 0) in the euro area countries, while this indicator has worsened in the countries outside the euro area (-3 index points, down to -14).

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 (INDEX)

		Better - Worse Sum.2020	Better - Worse Win.2020/2021	Win.2020/2021 - Sum.2020
EU27		-20	-4	▲ 16
EURO AREA		-23	0	▲ 23
NON-EURO AREA		-11	-14	▼ 3
NL		-42	+25	▲ 67
IE		-30	+29	▲ 59
SE		-9	+33	▲ 42
ES		-30	+8	▲ 38
BE		-36	0	▲ 36
FR		-31	0	▲ 31
LU		-26	-4	▲ 22
FI		-21	-1	▲ 20
DK		+22	+41	▲ 19
DE		-16	+3	▲ 19
IT		-18	-2	▲ 16
BG		-20	-4	▲ 16
EE		-16	-2	▲ 14
AT		-8	+1	▲ 9
PT		-24	-15	▲ 9
CY		-20	-13	▲ 7
HR		-22	-15	▲ 7
MT		+20	+20	=
EL		-26	-27	▼ 1
RO		-11	-15	▼ 4
SI		-29	-33	▼ 4
SK		-20	-26	▼ 6
LT		0	-9	▼ 9
HU		-3	-12	▼ 9
CZ		-31	-42	▼ 11
LV		0	-14	▼ 14
PL		-11	-30	▼ 19

²⁸ Difference between the positive ("better") and negative ("worse") answers

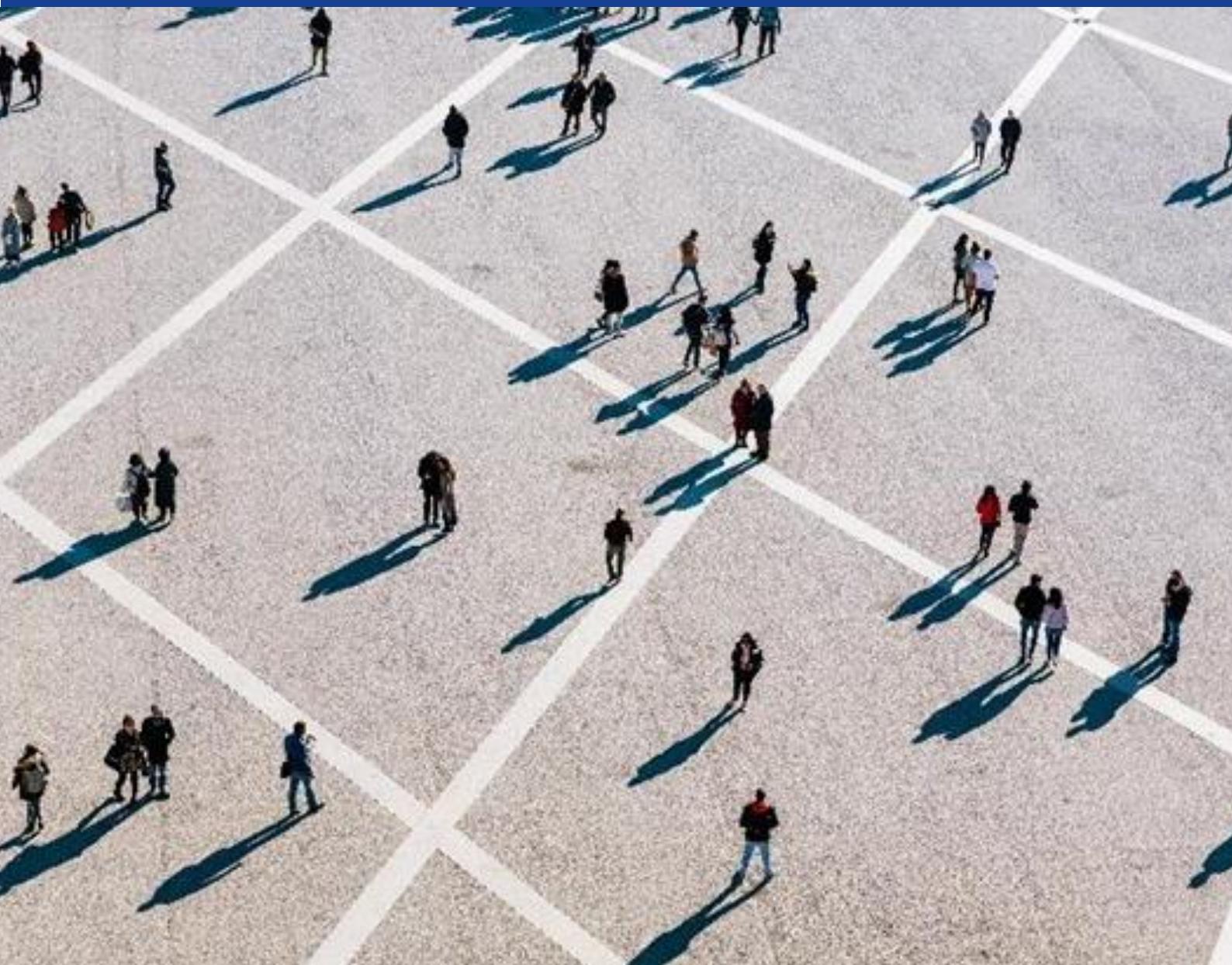
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QA2a.2 What are your expectations for the next twelve months: will the next twelve months be better, worse or the same, when it comes to...?

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

	Better	Worse	Same	Don't know
EU27	32	36	29	3
Gender				
Man	34	35	29	2
Woman	31	36	30	3
Age				
15-24	42	26	29	3
25-39	34	35	29	2
40-54	33	37	28	2
55+	28	39	30	3
Education (End of)				
15-	24	38	33	5
16-19	27	38	32	3
20+	38	34	26	2
Still studying	45	25	28	2
Socio-professional category				
Self-employed	31	38	28	3
Managers	40	33	25	2
Other white collars	35	37	27	1
Manual workers	30	37	30	3
House persons	27	37	32	4
Unemployed	31	35	31	3
Retired	26	39	31	4
Students	45	25	28	2
Difficulties paying bills				
Most of the time	22	44	31	3
From time to time	26	41	30	3
Almost never/ Never	36	33	29	2
Consider belonging to				
The working class	25	39	32	4
The lower middle class	26	40	32	2
The middle class	35	34	29	2
The upper middle class	49	27	22	2
The upper class	41	29	29	1

II. THE EUROPEAN UNION AND ITS CITIZENS



1. Attachment to the European Union

1.1 Support for membership and perceived benefits of membership (candidate countries)

A majority of respondents in most candidate countries support EU membership

Support for EU membership continues to be strong in Albania (83%), despite a three-percentage point decline since the last Standard Eurobarometer survey in summer 2020 (EB93). A very large majority think EU membership would be a good thing in Montenegro (75%), where, following a sharp decrease between autumn 2019 and summer 2020, support has risen by 21 percentage points since the last survey. A large majority are also in favour of EU membership in North Macedonia (61%, -8).

After a significant increase between autumn 2019 and summer 2020, approval for accession to the EU continues to gain ground in Turkey, where half the respondents now think EU membership would be a good thing (50%, +11 percentage points). Conversely, in Serbia, slightly more than a third (35%, -5) are in favour and a relative majority (39%, +5) consider EU membership as “neither good nor bad”²⁹.

Nearly half of respondents (49%, +4 percentage points) in the Turkish Cypriot Community agree that full application of EU legislation would be a good thing³⁰.

Around nine in ten respondents in Albania (91%, -3 percentage points) consider that their country would benefit from being a member of the EU, followed by Montenegro (82%), where this proportion has increased by 12 percentage points since summer 2020. Large majorities also share this view in North Macedonia (78%, -3), Turkey (64%, +6) and Serbia (58%, -3)³¹.

In the Turkish Cypriot Community, 66% think that their community would benefit from full application of EU legislation, a 15-percentage point increase since the last Standard Eurobarometer survey³².

QA6ce Generally speaking, do you think that (OUR COUNTRY)'s membership of the EU would be...?
 (%)

CY (tcc)	A good thing	Win.2020/2021 - Sum.2020	A bad thing	Win.2020/2021 - Sum.2020	Neither good nor bad	Win.2020/2021 - Sum.2020	Don't know/Refusal
CY (tcc)	49	▲ 4	11	▼ 6	32	▲ 9	8
AL	83	▼ 3	3	▼ 1	14	▲ 4	0
MK	61	▼ 8	14	▲ 2	25	▲ 6	0
ME	75	▲ 21	17	▼ 11	8	▼ 10	0
RS	35	▼ 5	25	▼ 1	39	▲ 5	1
TR	50	▲ 11	27	=	22	▼ 12	1

QA6df Taking everything into account, would you say that (OUR COUNTRY) would benefit or not from being a member of the EU?
 (%)

CY (tcc)	Would benefit	Win.2020/2021 - Sum.2020	Would not benefit	Win.2020/2021 - Sum.2020	Don't know/Refusal
CY (tcc)	66	▲ 15	20	▼ 9	14
AL	91	▼ 3	8	▲ 3	1
MK	78	▼ 3	20	▲ 2	2
ME	82	▲ 12	18	▼ 11	0
RS	58	▼ 3	37	▼ 1	5
TR	64	▲ 6	35	▼ 6	1

²⁹ QA6c. Generally speaking, do you think that (OUR COUNTRY)'s membership of the EU would be...?

³⁰ QA6e. Generally speaking, do you think that for the Turkish Cypriot Community the full application of EU legislation would be...?

³¹ QA6b. Taking everything into account, would you say that (OUR COUNTRY) would benefit or not from being a member of the EU?

³² QA6f. Taking everything into consideration, would you say that the Turkish Cypriot Community would benefit or not from the full application of the EU legislation?

1.2 Easier to face the future outside the EU?

A large majority disagree that their country could better face the future outside the European Union

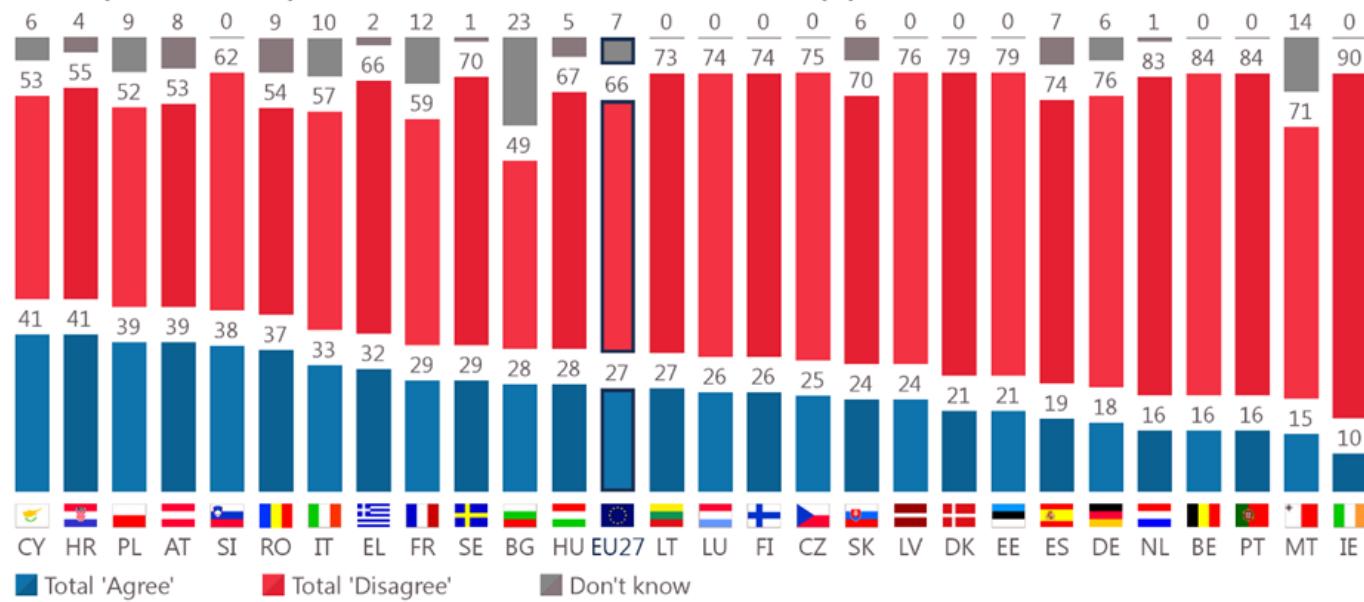
A large majority of Europeans consider that it is better for their country to be in the European Union than outside. Two-thirds (66%, +3 percentage points) disagree that their country could better face the future outside the EU, while 27% (-2) are of the opposite view and 7% (-1) answer they “don’t know”³³. More than a third (37%, +3) “totally disagree” and close to one in ten (9%, -1) “totally agree”.

As in previous Standard Eurobarometer surveys, a clear majority of respondents in both the euro area and the non-euro area disagree that their country could better face the future outside the EU, even though this view is more widespread in the former (68%, +3 percentage points vs 25% “agree”, -2) than in the latter (59%, +4 vs 34%, -2).

A majority of respondents in all EU Member States disagree that their country could better face the future outside the EU, and this proportion is especially high in Ireland (90%, +1 percentage point), Belgium (84%, +16), Portugal (84%, +12), the Netherlands (83%, no change), Denmark (79%, +3) and Estonia (79%, +3). In each of these countries, a majority “totally disagree” with this statement.

Bulgaria is the only country where less than half think it is better to be in the European Union than outside (49%, -1 percentage point). However, this still remains the majority view due to a high share of respondents who say they “don’t know” (23%).

QA9.2 To what extent do you agree or disagree with each of the following statements? (OUR COUNTRY) could better face the future outside the EU (%)



³³ QA9.2 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.

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In 20 EU Member States, the proportion of respondents who disagree that their country could better face the future outside the EU has increased since summer 2020. Czechia (+27 percentage points) stands out for a particularly high increase in the share of respondents giving this answer. Increases of at least ten percentage points can also be observed in Belgium (+16), Slovakia (+13), Portugal (+12) and Italy (+10). In Croatia, France, Germany, the Netherlands and Poland there has been no change.

QA9.2 To what extent do you agree or disagree with each of the following statements?

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

		Total 'Agree'	Win.2020/2021 - Sum.2020	Total 'Disagree'	Win.2020/2021 - Sum.2020	Don't know
EU27		27	▼ 2	66	▲ 3	7
EURO AREA		25	▼ 2	68	▲ 3	7
NON-EURO AREA		34	▼ 2	59	▲ 4	7
LT		27	▲ 7	73	▲ 1	0
DK		21	▲ 2	79	▲ 3	0
HR		41	▲ 1	55	=	4
CY		41	▲ 1	53	▼ 1	6
NL		16	▲ 1	83	=	1
PL		39	=	52	=	9
EL		32	=	66	▲ 3	2
DE		18	=	76	=	6
FR		29	▼ 1	59	=	12
LV		24	▼ 1	76	▲ 9	0
ES		19	▼ 1	74	▲ 4	7
PT		16	▼ 1	84	▲ 12	0
IE		10	▼ 1	90	▲ 1	0
RO		37	▼ 2	54	▲ 2	9
SE		29	▼ 2	70	▲ 2	1
BG		28	▼ 2	49	▼ 1	23
SI		38	▼ 3	62	▲ 7	0
HU		28	▼ 3	67	▲ 6	5
LU		26	▼ 3	74	▲ 3	0
FI		26	▼ 3	74	▲ 4	0
EE		21	▼ 3	79	▲ 3	0
MT	*	15	▼ 4	71	▲ 5	14
AT		39	▼ 7	53	▲ 6	8
IT		33	▼ 8	57	▲ 10	10
SK		24	▼ 9	70	▲ 13	6
BE		16	▼ 13	84	▲ 16	0
CZ		25	▼ 17	75	▲ 27	0

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Majorities of respondents across all **socio-demographic** categories disagree that their country could better face the future outside the European Union. Nevertheless, particularly high proportions of respondents in disagreement with this statement can be observed among those who ended full-time education aged 20 or older (75%, compared with 55% of leaving school aged 15 or younger) and among managers (77%, compared with 60% of manual workers and house persons). This view is also more widespread among respondents in a better financial situation and with a higher self-identified social status. Indeed, those who never

or almost never have difficulties paying their bills (71%, compared with 47% of those who have difficulties most of the time) and those who identify as upper middle class (80%, compared with 57% of those who see themselves as working class) are among the most likely to disagree that their country could better face the future outside the EU.

QA9.2 To what extent do you agree or disagree with each of the following statements?

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

	Total 'Agree'	Total 'Disagree'	Don't know
EU27	27	66	7
Gender			
Man	28	67	5
Woman	26	66	8
Age			
15-24	20	72	8
25-39	27	67	6
40-54	29	66	5
55+	26	65	9
Education (End of)			
15-	30	55	15
16-19	33	60	7
20+	21	75	4
Still studying	18	75	7
Socio-professional category			
Self-employed	28	67	5
Managers	20	77	3
Other white collars	27	68	5
Manual workers	32	60	8
House persons	30	60	10
Unemployed	30	61	9
Retired	27	64	9
Students	18	75	7
Difficulties paying bills			
Most of the time	42	47	11
From time to time	31	61	8
Almost never/ Never	23	71	6
Consider belonging to			
The working class	31	57	12
The lower middle class	30	62	8
The middle class	25	70	5
The upper middle class	18	80	2
The upper class	24	76	0

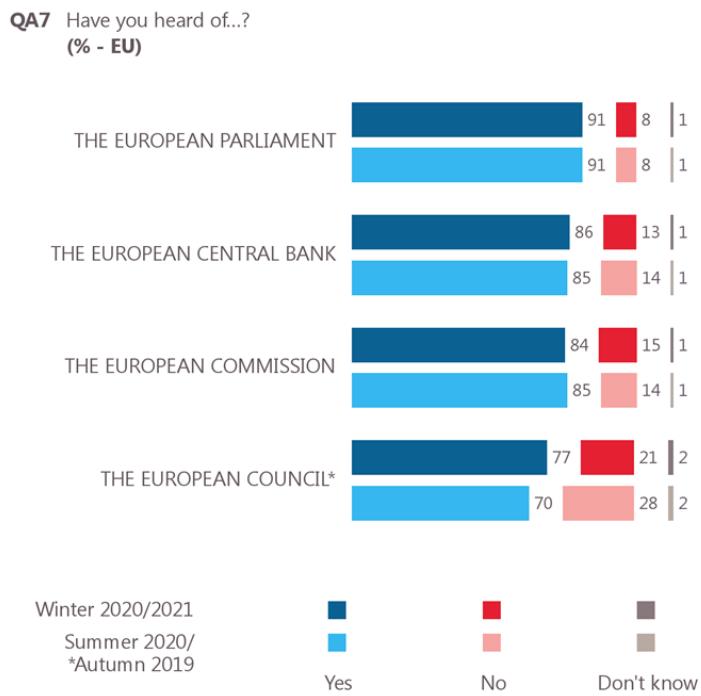
2. The European institutions

2.1 Awareness of the European institutions and the trust they inspire

Awareness of European institutions remains high

Awareness of the European Parliament, the European Commission and the European Central Bank, as well as the trust they inspire, are measured in all Standard Eurobarometer surveys. In addition, the current survey also measures the level of awareness of and trust in the European Council, and analyses the evolution of the results compared with autumn 2019, the last time this institution was included in the questionnaire³⁴.

Awareness of all these European institutions is at a very high level, as has been the case throughout the last decade. The **European Parliament** remains the best-known European institution (91%, no change), followed by the **European Central Bank** (86%, +1 percentage point) and the **European Commission** (84%, -1). While awareness of the European Parliament and of the European Commission have generally remained stable in recent surveys, awareness of the European Central Bank has increased slightly (+1 percentage point since summer 2020, +4 since autumn 2019), reaching its highest level since spring 2006. More than three-quarters say they are aware of the **European Council** (77%), an increase of seven percentage points since autumn 2019 and the highest level since spring 2010.



³⁴ QA7. Have you heard of...? 1. The European Parliament; 2. The European Commission; 3. The European Central Bank; 4. The European Council.

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In all EU Member States, a large majority of respondents are aware of all these institutions. More than eight in ten in all countries have heard of the **European Parliament**, including almost all those in Czechia (98%, +10 percentage points), Estonia (98%, no change) and Slovakia (98%, +2). Czechia is also the only country where a significant increase in this proportion can be observed since summer 2020.

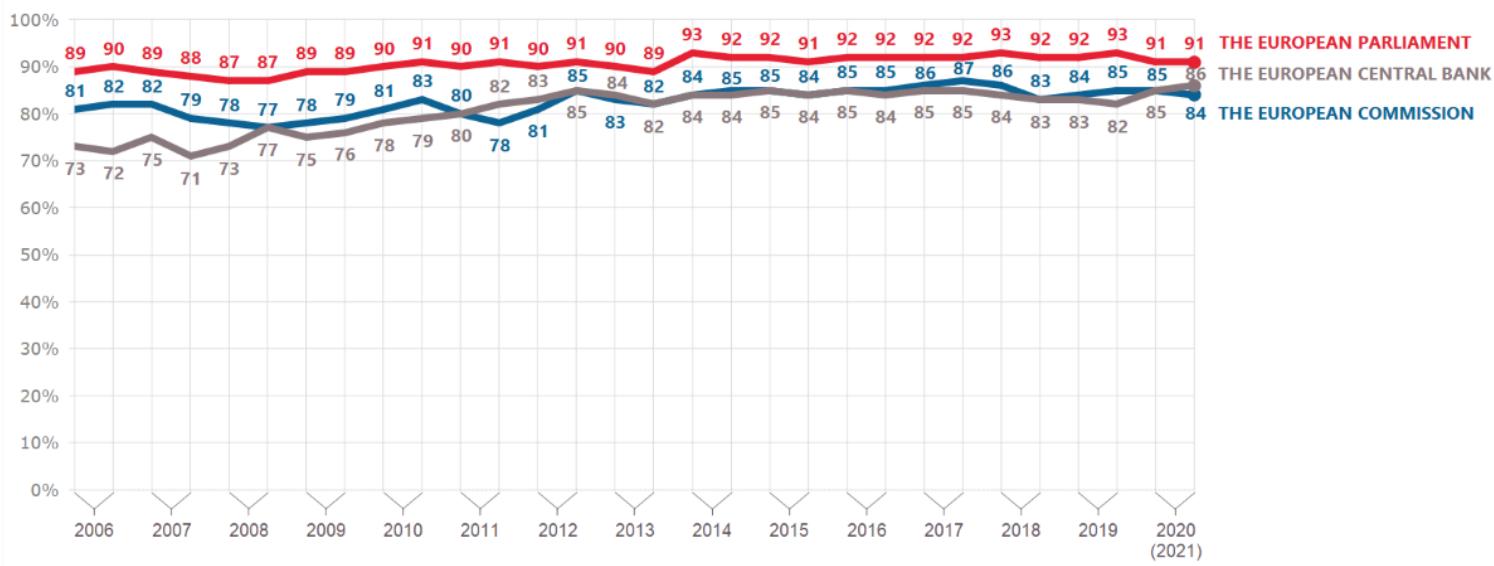
In all but two countries, more than three-quarters of respondents are aware of the **European Central Bank**. The only exceptions are Poland (72%, -1 percentage point) and Romania (72%, -6), where this answer is still given by a large majority. Respondents in Ireland (96%, no change), Portugal (96%, +3), Belgium (94%, +7), Slovenia (94%, +3) and Finland (94%, -3) are the most likely to say they have heard of this institution. Czechia stands out for a particularly large increase in the proportion who give this answer (+18, at 93%), while other significant increases can be found in Belgium (+7), Latvia (+6) and Malta (+5). Conversely, the only notable decreases are observed in Romania (-6) and Luxembourg (-5).

In 24 EU Member States, at least eight in ten respondents have heard of the **European Commission**, the only exceptions being Italy (73%, no change), Romania (77%, -5 percentage points) and Bulgaria (78%, -3), where more than seven in ten nevertheless give this answer. Awareness is especially high in Portugal (97%, +3), Belgium (95%, +2), Czechia (94%, +17), Estonia (94%, no change) and Ireland (94%, -1). Once again, the most notable increase in awareness can be observed in Czechia (+17), followed by Latvia (+6). At the opposite end of the scale, awareness of the European Commission has decreased most markedly in Sweden (-6), Luxembourg (-5) and Romania (-5).

Lastly, in 21 countries, more than three-quarters are aware of the **European Council**, with respondents in Portugal (94%, +13 percentage points since autumn 2019), Malta (91%, +10) and Czechia (90%, +20) being the most likely to give this answer. Only in the Netherlands (62%, +9) and Lithuania (66%, -2) does this share of respondents remain below seven in ten. In line with the pattern observed for other European institutions, Czechia is the EU Member State with the largest increase in awareness of the European Council (+20). Increases of at least ten percentage points are also found in Portugal (+13), Slovakia (+13), Ireland (+12), and Belgium, France and Malta (+10 in all three countries).

QA7 Have you heard of...?

(% - EU - YES)



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QA7 Have you heard of...?

(% - YES)

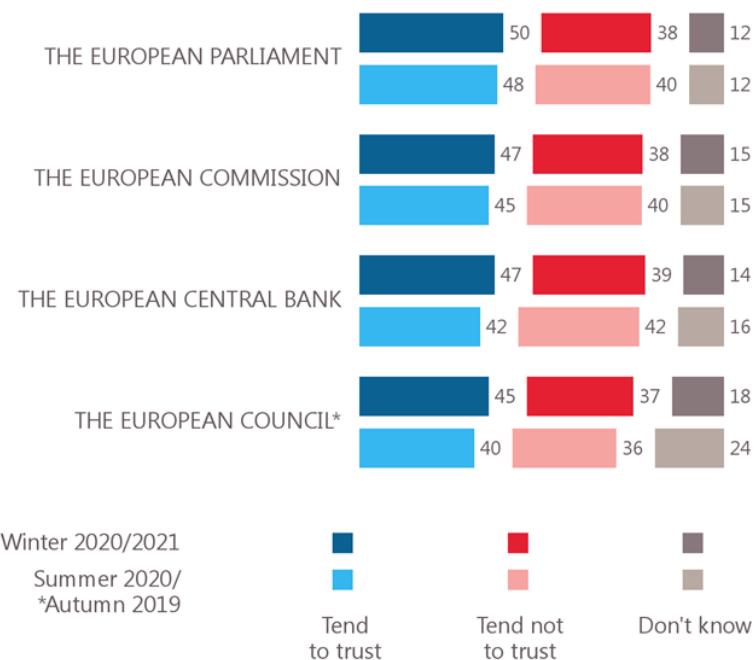
	EU27		The European Parliament		The European Central Bank		The European Commission		The European Council	
			Win.2020/2021 - Sum.2020	Win.2020/2021 - Aut.2019	Win.2020/2021 - Aut.2019	Win.2020/2021 - Aut.2019				
EURO AREA	91	=	88	▲ 1	85	=	77	▲ 7	77	▲ 7
NON-EURO AREA	90	=	78	▼ 1	83	▼ 1	79	▲ 9	79	▲ 9
BE	97	▲ 1	94	▲ 7	95	▲ 2	82	▲ 10	82	▲ 10
BG	90	=	84	▼ 2	78	▼ 3	73	▲ 8	73	▲ 8
CZ	98	▲ 10	93	▲ 18	94	▲ 17	90	▲ 20	90	▲ 20
DK	97	▼ 1	87	▼ 3	93	▼ 1	79	▲ 1	79	▲ 1
DE	95	▲ 1	92	=	88	=	81	▲ 4	81	▲ 4
EE	98	=	93	=	94	=	79	▲ 9	79	▲ 9
IE	97	=	96	=	94	▼ 1	87	▲ 12	87	▲ 12
EL	93	▼ 3	92	▼ 2	92	=	84	▲ 8	84	▲ 8
ES	91	▼ 1	89	=	83	▼ 2	77	▲ 3	77	▲ 3
FR	89	▼ 2	83	▲ 1	85	▼ 2	76	▲ 10	76	▲ 10
HR	92	▼ 2	85	=	85	=	86	▲ 6	86	▲ 6
IT	85	▲ 3	82	▲ 4	73	=	70	▲ 9	70	▲ 9
CY	91	=	90	▲ 1	86	▼ 1	84	▲ 4	84	▲ 4
LV	95	▲ 4	88	▲ 6	90	▲ 6	76	▲ 5	76	▲ 5
LT	96	▲ 2	87	▲ 1	91	▲ 2	66	▼ 2	66	▼ 2
LU	95	▼ 4	93	▼ 5	93	▼ 5	86	▲ 2	86	▲ 2
HU	94	▲ 1	78	▲ 2	87	▼ 1	81	▲ 9	81	▲ 9
MT	95	▲ 1	92	▲ 5	92	▲ 3	91	▲ 10	91	▲ 10
NL	97	▼ 2	90	=	89	=	62	▲ 9	62	▲ 9
AT	89	▲ 1	86	▲ 1	81	=	70	▲ 5	70	▲ 5
PL	86	▼ 1	72	▼ 1	80	▼ 3	77	▲ 5	77	▲ 5
PT	96	=	96	▲ 3	97	▲ 3	94	▲ 13	94	▲ 13
RO	84	▼ 3	72	▼ 6	77	▼ 5	74	=	74	=
SI	96	=	94	▲ 3	93	▲ 1	86	▲ 2	86	▲ 2
SK	98	▲ 2	93	▲ 1	92	▲ 2	87	▲ 13	87	▲ 13
FI	94	▼ 2	94	▼ 3	92	▼ 3	86	▲ 6	86	▲ 6
SE	97	▼ 2	91	▼ 2	86	▼ 6	79	=	79	=

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Trust in the European institutions is on the rise

Respondents were asked whether or not they tended to trust the aforementioned institutions³⁵. A majority of respondents trust each of the institutions in question. In line with the results of previous Standard Eurobarometer surveys, the **European Parliament** (50%, +2 percentage points since summer 2020) is the institution that Europeans trust the most, ahead of the **European Commission** (47%, +2), the **European Central Bank** (47%, +5) and the **European Council** (45%, +5 since autumn 2019). In each case, less than four in ten respondents say they tend not to trust these institutions: 38% (-2 since summer 2020) tend not to trust the European Parliament, 38% (-2) do not trust the European Commission, 39% (-3) do not trust the European Central Bank and 37% (+1 since autumn 2019) do not trust the European Council. A significant minority of respondents (between 12% and 18%) do not know whether they trust these institutions or not.

QA8 And do you tend to trust or tend not to trust these European institutions?
(% - EU)



³⁵ QA8. And please tell me if you tend to trust or tend not to trust these European institutions. 1. The European Parliament; 2. The European Commission; 3. The European Central Bank; 4. The European Council.

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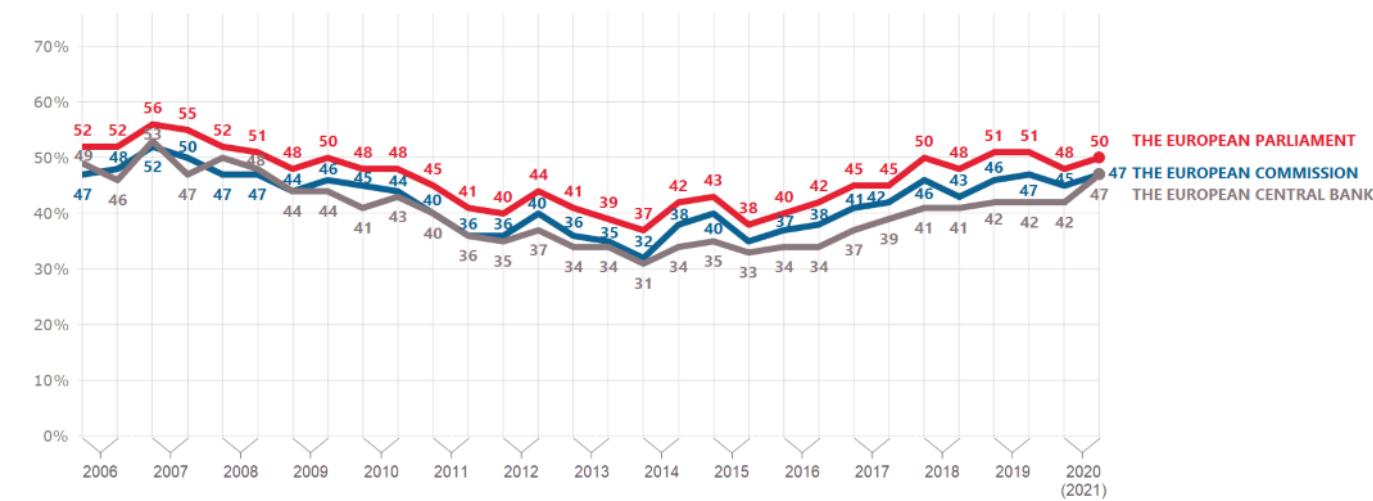
Trust in the European Parliament, the European Commission and the European Central Bank has increased since summer 2020. Nonetheless, while trust in the European Parliament and in the European Commission has increased slightly (+2 for both institutions), trust in the European Central Bank has risen more markedly (+5) reaching its highest level since autumn 2008.

These increases contributed to improve the trust index for the three institutions. Following a deterioration between autumn 2019 and summer 2020, the gap between the proportion of respondents tending to trust the European Parliament and the proportion tending not to trust it has widened to reach 12 percentage points.

Similarly, in the current survey, the trust index for the European Commission has fully recovered the four-percentage point decline observed between autumn 2019 and summer 2020, and now stands at +9. Nevertheless, the most significant improvement in the trust index can be observed for the European Central Bank. The gap between the proportion tending to trust this institution and that tending not to do so stands at +8 in the current survey, which represents a marked increase since summer 2020, when these two proportions were equal (and the index stood at 0).

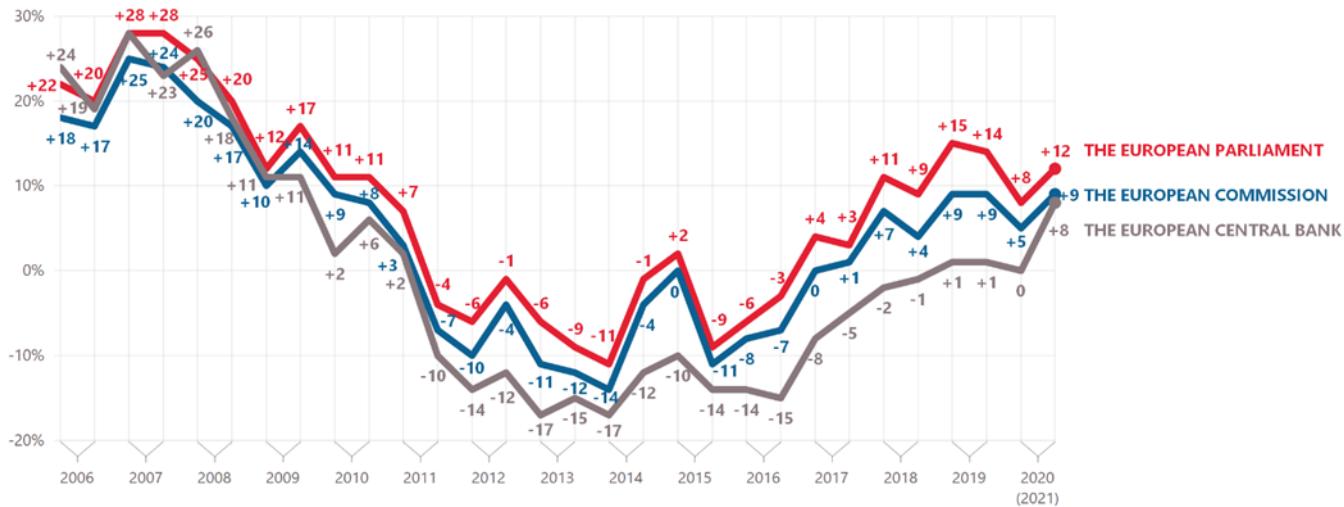
QA8 And do you tend to trust or tend not to trust these European institutions?

(% - EU - TEND TO TRUST)



QA8 And do you tend to trust or tend not to trust these European institutions?

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

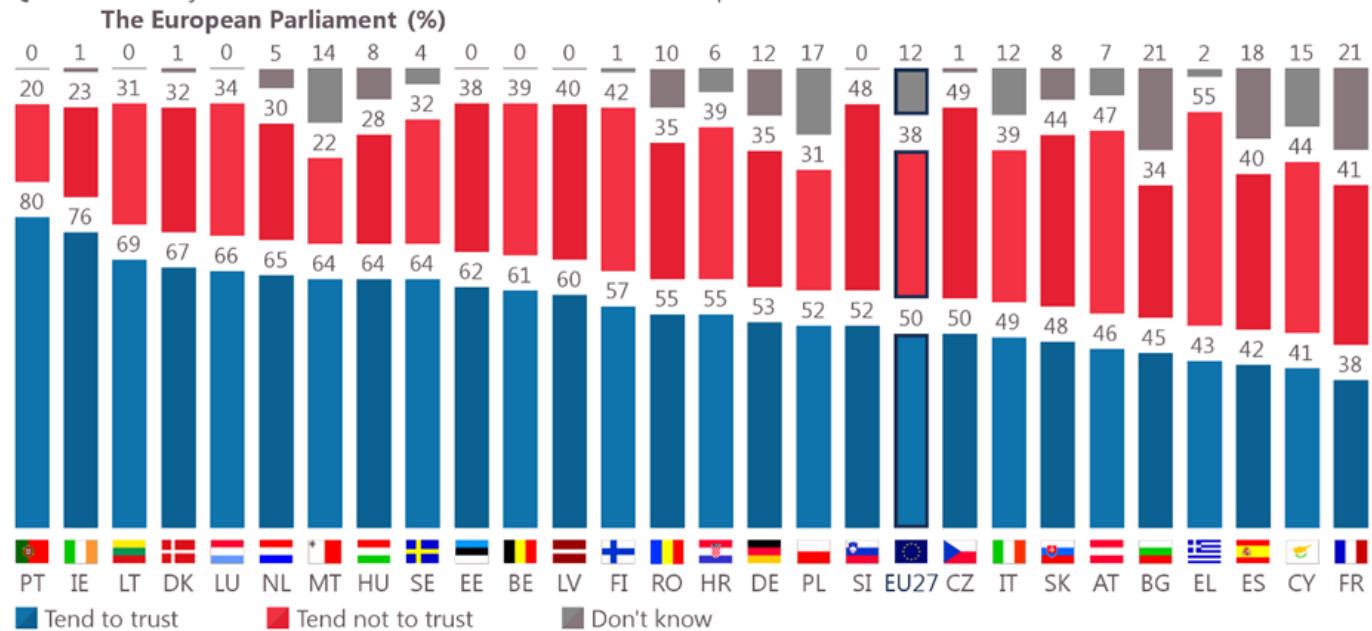


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A majority of respondents trust the **European Parliament** in 23 EU Member States (compared with 21 in summer 2020). The highest proportions of respondents who give this answer can be found in Portugal (80%) and Ireland (76%), followed by Lithuania (69%) and Denmark (67%).

Respondents are predominantly distrustful of the European Parliament in four EU Member States: France (41% “tend not to trust” vs 38% “tend to trust”), Cyprus (44% vs 41%), Greece (55% vs 43%) and Austria (47% vs 46%).

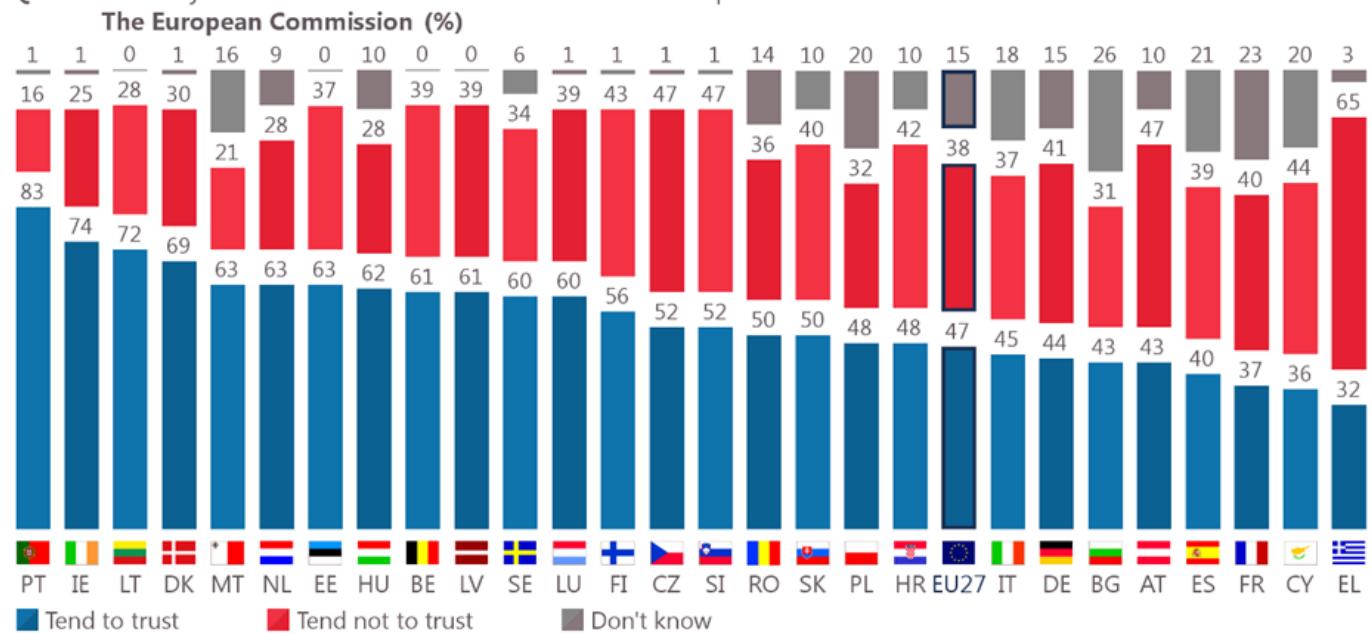
QA8.1 And do you tend to trust or tend not to trust these European institutions?



In 23 EU Member States (compared with 20 in summer 2020), a majority trust the **European Commission**, with respondents in Portugal (83%), Ireland (74%), Lithuania (72%) and Denmark (69%) once again the most likely to give this answer. At the opposite end of the scale, Greece stands out for a particularly high proportion of respondents who tend not to trust the European Commission (65% vs 32% “tend to trust”).

In three other countries the proportion who distrust the Commission outweighs the proportion who trust it: Cyprus (44% “tend not to trust” vs 36% “tend to trust”), France (40% vs 37%) and Austria (47% vs 43%).

QA8.2 And do you tend to trust or tend not to trust these European institutions?

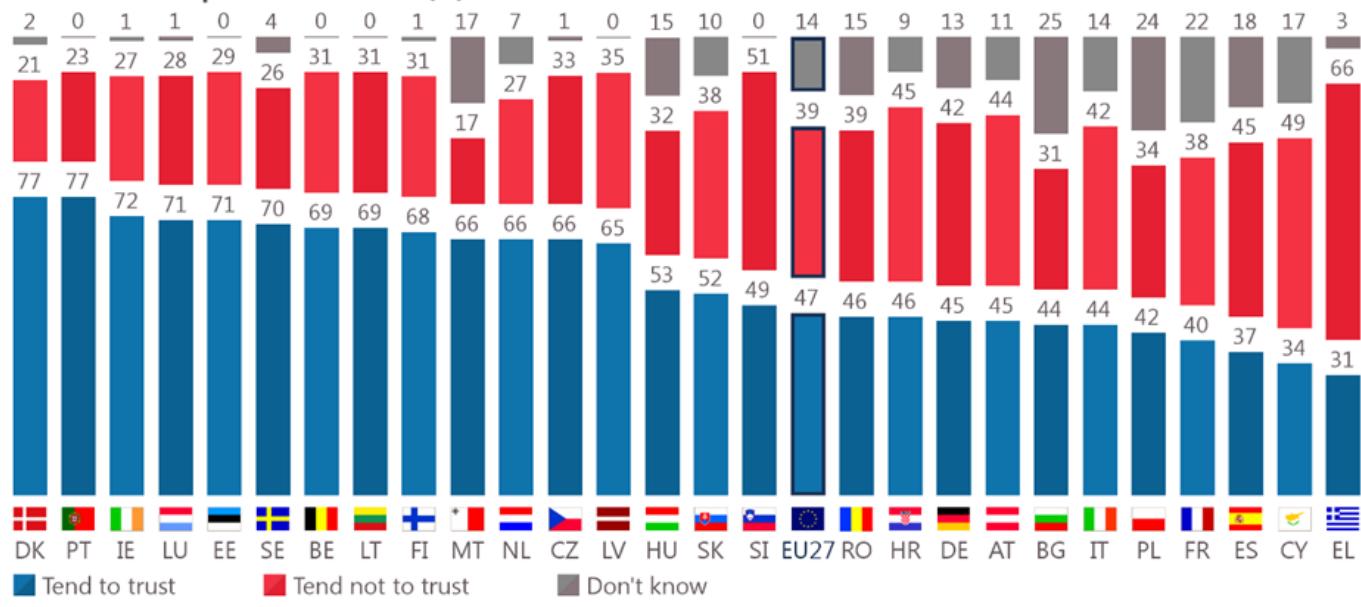


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A majority in 23 EU Member States (compared with 19 in summer 2020) express trust in the **European Central Bank**, with the highest proportions giving this answer observed in Denmark and Portugal (77% in both countries), followed by Ireland (72%), Estonia and Luxembourg (71% in both countries) and Sweden (70%).

Greece stands out, again, for its high share of respondents who distrust the European Central Bank, with two-thirds saying they tend not to trust this institution and 31% tending to trust it. Similarly, distrust outweighs trust in Cyprus (49% “tend not to trust” vs 34% “tend to trust”), Spain (45% vs 37%) and Slovenia (51% vs 49%).

QA8.3 And do you tend to trust or tend not to trust these European institutions?
The European Central Bank (%)



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There have been significant changes in the trust index at the national level since the last Standard Eurobarometer survey. In particular, Portugal, Malta and Italy are among the EU Member States in which the index has increased the most for all three institutions, while the opposite is true for Romania and Austria.

In 16 EU Member States, there has been an improvement in the trust index for the **European Parliament**, with distrust now outweighing trust in only four countries. The largest positive changes since summer 2020 can be observed in Portugal (+33 points), Malta (+31) and Italy (+20), followed by Hungary (+11). The trust-distrust ratio has most significantly worsened in Denmark and Romania (-14 in both countries), followed by Austria (-10).

The pattern is very similar in the case of the **European Commission**. In 16 EU Member States, the trust index has strengthened, with the largest increases found in Portugal (+42 points), Malta (+27) and Italy (+24). In addition, this ratio has improved by more than ten points in other four countries: Czechia (+18), Belgium (+15), and Slovenia and Spain (+11 in both countries). At the other end of the scale, Romania (-19), Austria (-12), Sweden (-11), and Germany and Poland (-10 in both countries) have seen significant declines in the trust index for the European Commission. The ratio has remained stable in Luxembourg.

The picture is even more encouraging in the case of the **European Central Bank**. In 21 EU Member States, the trust index has shifted in favour of more trust since summer 2020, most strikingly in Czechia (+34 points), Portugal (+31), Belgium and Italy (+22) and Malta (+20). The ratio has improved by at least ten percentage points in other four countries: Greece (+14), Denmark, Estonia and Latvia (all +10). Conversely, the trust index for the European Central Bank has worsened in five countries, most notably in Romania (-19), Austria (-9) and Poland (-8). The index has remained stable in Sweden.

QA8 And do you tend to trust or tend not to trust these European institutions?
(TRUST INDEX (TEND TO TRUST - TEND NOT TO TRUST))

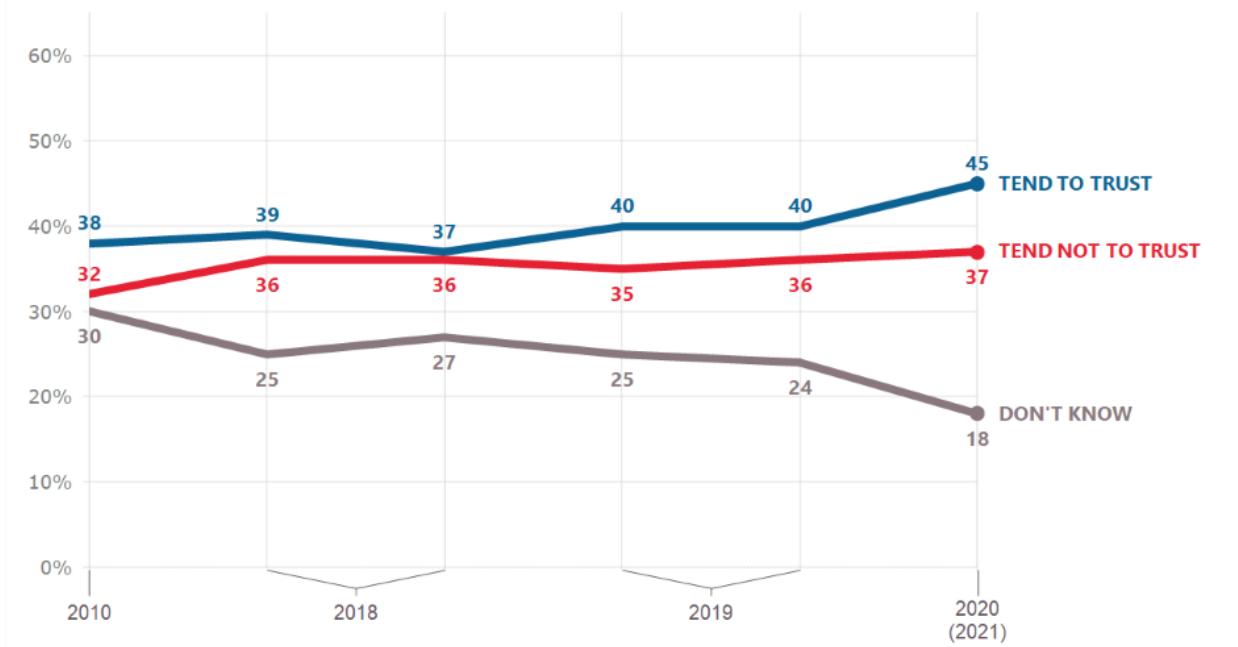
The European Parliament			The European Commission			The European Central Bank		
	Tend to trust - Tend not to trust Win.2020/ 2021	Win.2020/ 2021 - Sum.2020		Tend to trust - Tend not to trust Win.2020/ 2021	Win.2020/ 2021 - Sum.2020		Tend to trust - Tend not to trust Win.2020/ 2021	Win.2020/ 2021 - Sum.2020
EU27	+12	▲ 4	EU27	+9	▲ 4	EU27	+8	▲ 8
EURO AREA	+10	▲ 6	EURO AREA	+5	▲ 6	EURO AREA	+5	▲ 10
NON-EURO AREA	+21	▼ 2	NON-EURO AREA	+18	▼ 6	NON-EURO AREA	+18	▼ 2
PT	+60	▲ 33	PT	+67	▲ 42	CZ	+33	▲ 34
MT	+42	▲ 31	MT	+42	▲ 27	PT	+54	▲ 31
IT	+10	▲ 20	IT	+8	▲ 24	BE	+38	▲ 22
HU	+36	▲ 11	CZ	+5	▲ 18	IT	+2	▲ 22
ES	+2	▲ 9	BE	+22	▲ 15	MT	+49	▲ 20
CZ	+1	▲ 9	SI	+5	▲ 11	EL	-35	▲ 14
EL	-12	▲ 8	ES	+1	▲ 11	DK	+56	▲ 10
NL	+35	▲ 7	LT	+44	▲ 9	EE	+42	▲ 10
BE	+22	▲ 6	HU	+34	▲ 8	LV	+30	▲ 10
SI	+4	▲ 6	FR	-3	▲ 7	NL	+39	▲ 9
FR	-3	▲ 6	LV	+22	▲ 6	FR	+2	▲ 9
LT	+38	▲ 5	NL	+35	▲ 5	IE	+45	▲ 7
LU	+32	▲ 4	BG	+12	▲ 4	LT	+38	▲ 7
EE	+24	▲ 4	EL	-33	▲ 3	ES	-8	▲ 7
BG	+11	▲ 3	EE	+26	▲ 2	DE	+3	▲ 6
LV	+20	▲ 2	SK	+10	▲ 2	LU	+43	▲ 5
PL	+21	▼ 1	LU	+21	=	SK	+14	▲ 4
SK	+4	▼ 1	CY	-8	▼ 3	BG	+13	▲ 4
DE	+18	▼ 2	IE	+49	▼ 4	SI	-2	▲ 3
FI	+15	▼ 3	FI	+13	▼ 4	HU	+21	▲ 2
IE	+53	▼ 5	HR	+6	▼ 7	CY	-15	▲ 2
SE	+32	▼ 5	DK	+39	▼ 8	SE	+44	=
HR	+16	▼ 5	PL	+16	▼ 10	HR	+1	▼ 5
CY	-3	▼ 7	DE	+3	▼ 10	FI	+37	▼ 6
AT	-1	▼ 10	SE	+26	▼ 11	PL	+8	▼ 8
DK	+35	▼ 14	AT	-4	▼ 12	AT	+1	▼ 9
RO	+20	▼ 14	RO	+14	▼ 19	RO	+7	▼ 19

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Trust in the **European Council** has increased by five percentage points compared with autumn 2019, reaching its highest level since spring 2010 (45%). The level of distrust has remained broadly stable (37%, +1), while the share of respondents who express no opinion has decreased by six percentage points (18%).

QA8.4 And do you tend to trust or tend not to trust these European institutions?

The European Council (% - EU)

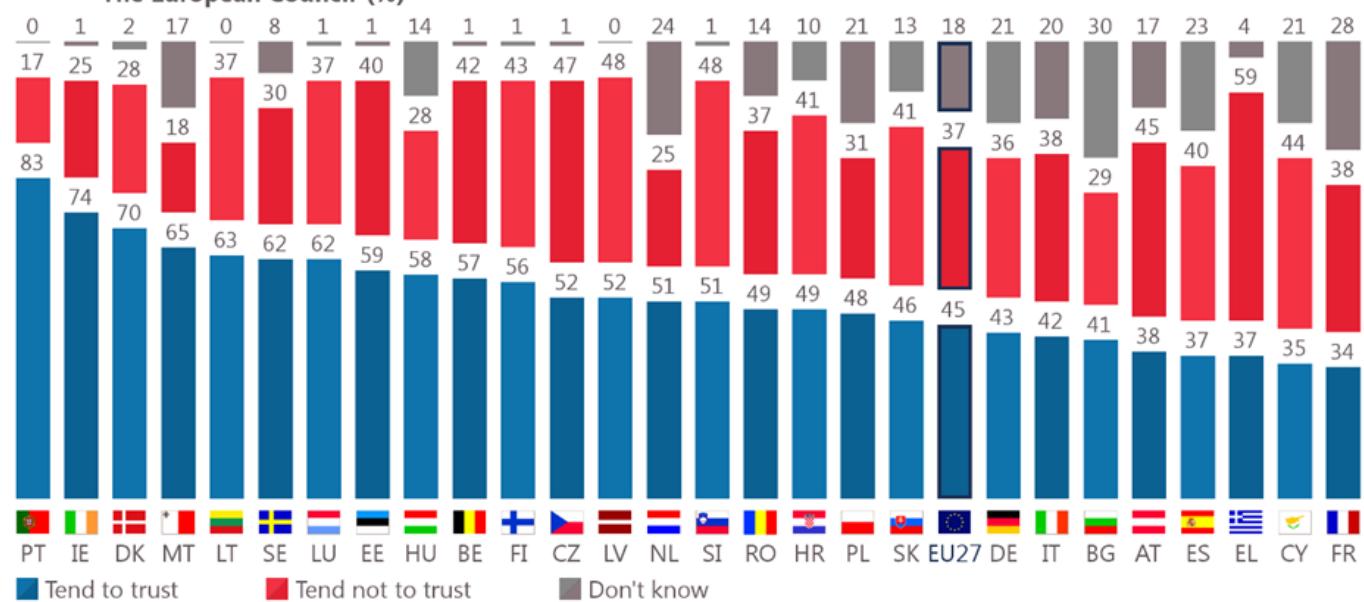


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In 22 EU Member States (compared with 21 in autumn 2019), a majority of respondents tend to trust the **European Council**, those in Portugal (83%), Ireland (74%) and Denmark (70%) being the most likely to give this answer. Conversely, distrust outweighs trust in five countries: France (38% “tend not to trust” vs 34% “tend to trust”), Cyprus (44% vs 35%), Greece (59% vs 37%), Spain (40% vs 37%) and Austria (45% vs 38%).

QA8.4 And do you tend to trust or tend not to trust these European institutions?

The European Council (%)



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2.2 Trust in the European Union

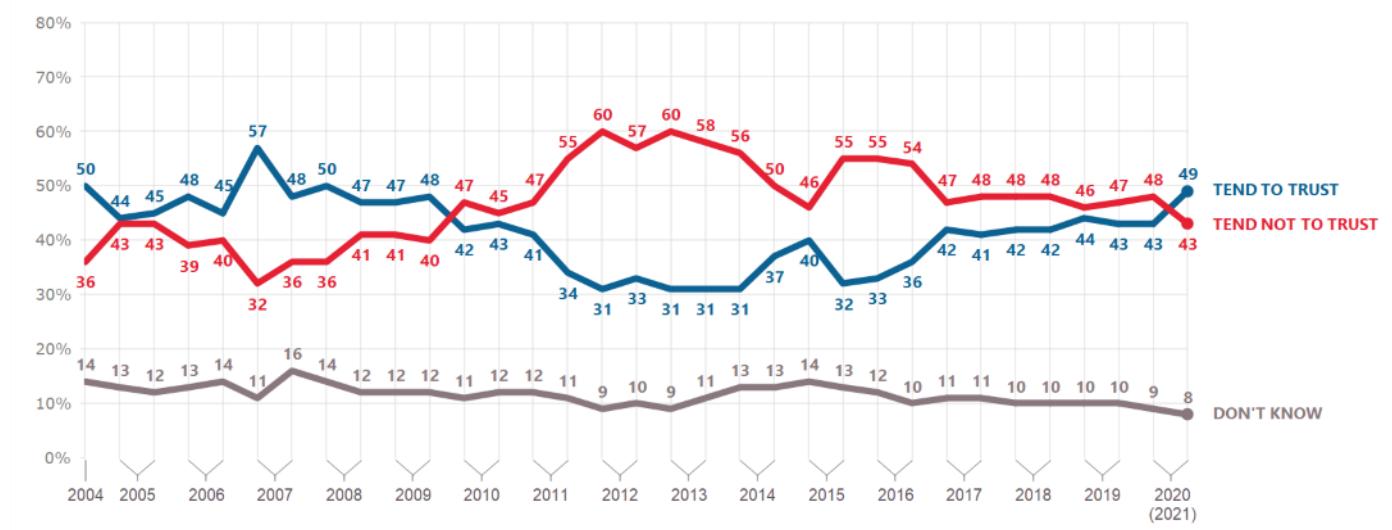
Trust in the European Union is at its highest since spring 2008

The European Union is trusted by almost half of the respondents (49%), an increase of six percentage points since summer 2020. Trust in the European Union is now at its highest level since spring 2008. Conversely, 43% (-5) of the respondents say they do not trust it and less than one in ten (8%, -1) express no opinion³⁶.

Reflecting this increased trust, the trust index has risen by 11 points since summer 2020 and now stands at +6. The proportion who trust the European Union outweighs the share distrusting it for the first time since autumn 2009.

QA6b.10 How much trust do you have in certain institutions? For each of the following institutions, do you tend to trust it or tend not to trust it?

The European Union (% - EU)



QA6b.10 How much trust do you have in certain institutions? For each of the following institutions, do you tend to trust it or tend not to trust it?

The European Union (EU - TRUST INDEX)



³⁶ QA6b.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 European Union.

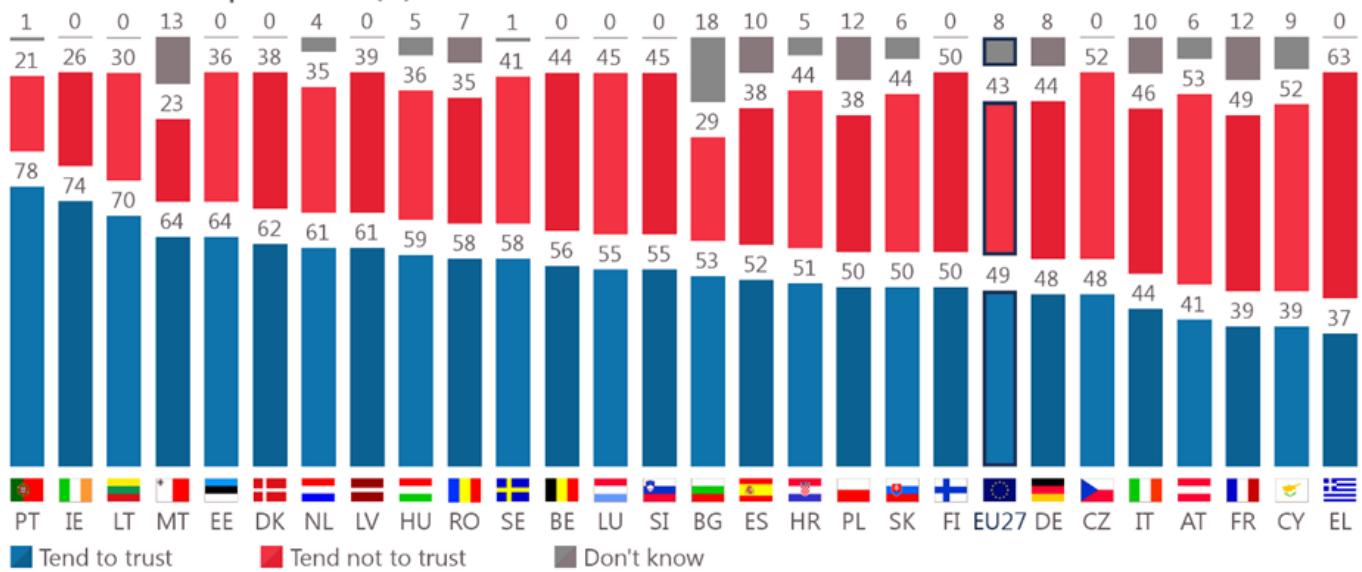
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The level of trust varies widely across the EU Member States. The majority of respondents in 20 countries tend to trust the European Union, with the highest proportions observed in Portugal (78%), Ireland (74%) and Lithuania (70%).

Conversely, a majority express distrust in Greece (63% “tend not to trust” vs 37% “tend to trust”), Cyprus (52% vs 39%), France (49% vs 39%), Austria (53% vs 41%), Italy (46% vs 44%) and Czechia (52% vs 48%). Opinions are divided in Finland (50% vs 50%).

QA6b.10 How much trust do you have in certain institutions? For each of the following institutions, do you tend to trust it or tend not to trust it?

The European Union (%)



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The proportion of respondents who tend to trust the European Union has increased in 23 EU Member States since summer 2020, and by at least ten percentage points in eight countries: Portugal (+22), Malta (+19), Italy (+16), Belgium and Czechia (+13 in both countries), the Netherlands (+12), Lithuania (+11) and Spain (+10). The only notable decrease can be observed in Poland (-6), while the level of trust is stable in Germany.

The proportion of respondents who say they tend not to trust the EU has increased in five countries: Lithuania (+9 percentage points), Denmark and Latvia (+7 in both countries), Poland (+6) and Austria (+3). In the first three countries, the increase in distrust is in large part attributable to a decrease in the share of respondents giving a “don’t know” answer. The level of distrust has decreased by at least ten percentage points in six countries: Italy (-15), Malta and Portugal (-13 in both countries), and Belgium, the Netherlands and Spain (-10 in all three countries). In three countries, Croatia, Germany and Ireland, there has been no change.

QA6b.10 How much trust do you have in certain institutions? For each of the following institutions, do you tend to trust it or tend not to trust it?

The European Union (%)

		Tend to trust	Tend not to trust		Don't know
			Win.2020/2021 - Sum.2020	Win.2020/2021 - Sum.2020	
EU27		49	▲ 6	43	▼ 5
EURO AREA		48	▲ 8	44	▼ 7
NON-EURO AREA		54	▲ 2	38	=
PT		78	▲ 22	21	▼ 13
MT		64	▲ 19	23	▼ 13
IT		44	▲ 16	46	▼ 15
BE		56	▲ 13	44	▼ 10
CZ		48	▲ 13	52	▼ 4
NL		61	▲ 12	35	▼ 10
LT		70	▲ 11	30	▲ 9
ES		52	▲ 10	38	▼ 10
FR		39	▲ 9	49	▼ 8
SE		58	▲ 8	41	▼ 6
SI		55	▲ 8	45	▼ 3
LV		61	▲ 7	39	▲ 7
EE		64	▲ 6	36	▼ 6
HU		59	▲ 6	36	▼ 4
LU		55	▲ 6	45	▼ 6
BG		53	▲ 5	29	▼ 3
SK		50	▲ 5	44	▼ 2
EL		37	▲ 5	63	▼ 3
RO		58	▲ 4	35	▼ 3
HR		51	▲ 2	44	=
CY		39	▲ 2	52	▼ 2
IE		74	▲ 1	26	=
FI		50	▲ 1	50	▼ 1
DE		48	=	44	=
DK		62	▼ 1	38	▲ 7
AT		41	▼ 3	53	▲ 3
PL		50	▼ 6	38	▲ 6

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In line with the findings of the summer 2020 survey, a **socio-demographic** analysis reveals that trust in the European Union is especially high among young people, those who remained longer in full-time education, those in a better socio-economic situation and those who place themselves higher on the social scale. More particularly, 15-24 year-olds (61%), those who ended education aged 20 or older (56%), managers (62%), those who never or almost never have difficulties paying their bills (53%), and those who see themselves as upper class (69%) or upper middle class (67%) are among the most likely to trust the EU.

Conversely, respondents who trust the EU are in the minority among those aged 55 or more (44% "tend to trust" vs 46% "tend not to trust"), those who ended full-time education aged 19 or younger (37-43% vs 49%), those who have difficulties paying their bills most of the time (32% vs 57%) or from time to time (45% vs 47%) and those who see themselves as working class (38% vs 49%) or lower middle class (43% vs 49%).

These socio-demographic patterns are very similar to those observed in previous Standard Eurobarometer surveys.

QA6b.10 How much trust do you have in certain institutions? For each of the following institutions, do you tend to trust it or tend not to trust it?

The European Union (% - EU)

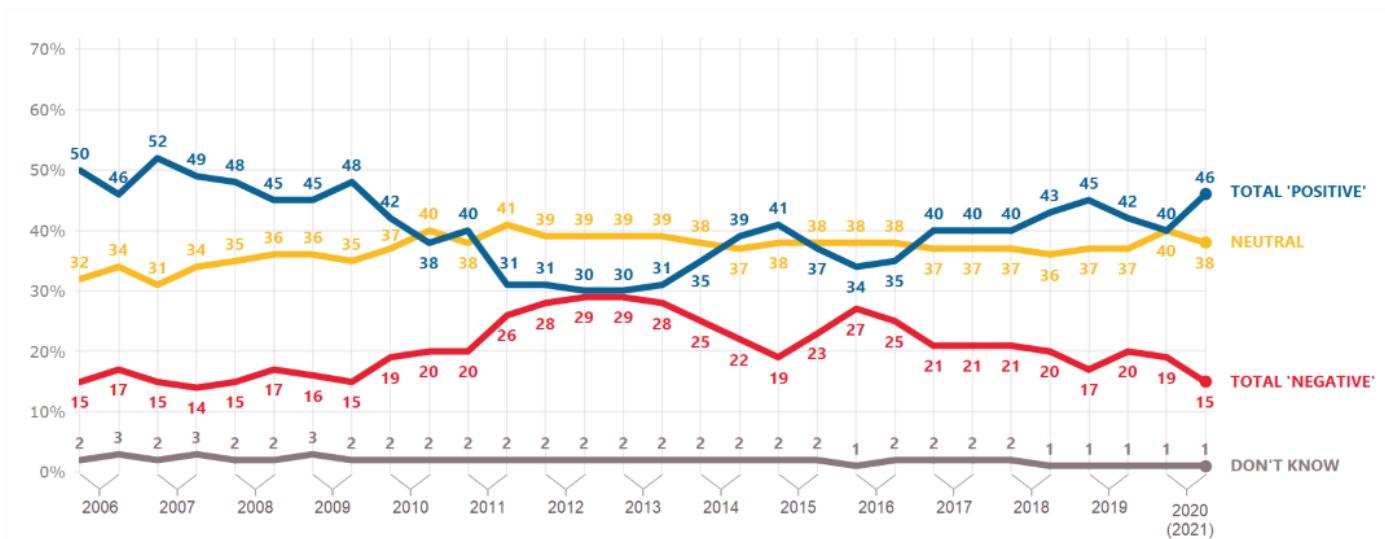
	Tend to trust	Tend not to trust	Don't know
EU27	49	43	8
Gender			
Man	50	44	6
Woman	49	42	9
Age			
15-24	61	30	9
25-39	50	43	7
40-54	50	44	6
55+	44	46	10
Education (End of)			
15-	37	49	14
16-19	43	49	8
20+	56	38	6
Still studying	63	29	8
Socio-professional category			
Self-employed	52	43	5
Managers	62	34	4
Other white collars	53	42	5
Manual workers	44	48	8
House persons	37	48	15
Unemployed	41	49	10
Retired	43	48	9
Students	63	29	8
Difficulties paying bills			
Most of the time	32	57	11
From time to time	45	47	8
Almost never/ Never	53	40	7
Consider belonging to			
The working class	38	49	13
The lower middle class	43	49	8
The middle class	53	41	6
The upper middle class	67	29	4
The upper class	69	28	3

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The European Union's overall image has significantly improved

Following two consecutive decreases between spring 2019 and summer 2020, the proportion of respondents who have a positive image of the European Union has increased by six percentage points in the current survey and now stands at 46%, the highest level since autumn 2009. Less than four in ten (38%, -2) have a neutral image of the EU, while 15% (-4) see it in a negative light³⁷.

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



³⁷ D78. In general, does the EU conjure up for you a very positive, fairly positive, neutral, fairly negative or very negative image?

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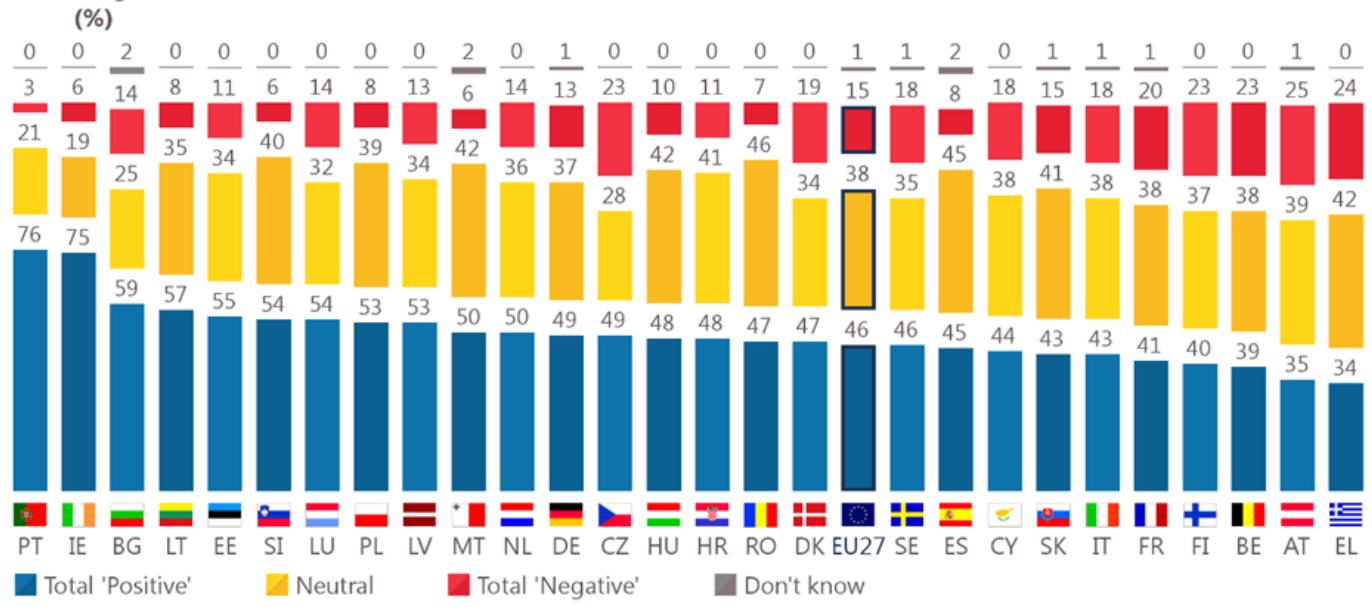
In line with previous surveys, there is a clear difference between respondents in **euro area** countries and respondents in **non-euro area** countries, with the former (45%) less likely to have a positive image of the EU than the latter (50%). However, the improvement in the EU's image is more noticeable in euro area countries (+8 percentage points) than in countries outside the euro area (+1). Similarly, while the share of respondents who say they have a negative image of the EU is slightly higher in euro area (15%) than in non-euro area countries (12%), the decline in this proportion is larger in the former (-6) than in the latter (-2).

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

	Total 'Positive'	Win.2020/2021 - Sum.2020	Neutral	Win.2020/2021 - Sum.2020	Total 'Negative'	Win.2020/2021 - Sum.2020	Don't know
EU27 	46	▲ 6	38	▼ 2	15	▼ 4	1
EURO AREA	45	▲ 8	39	▼ 2	15	▼ 6	1
NON-EURO AREA	50	▲ 1	38	▲ 1	12	▼ 2	0

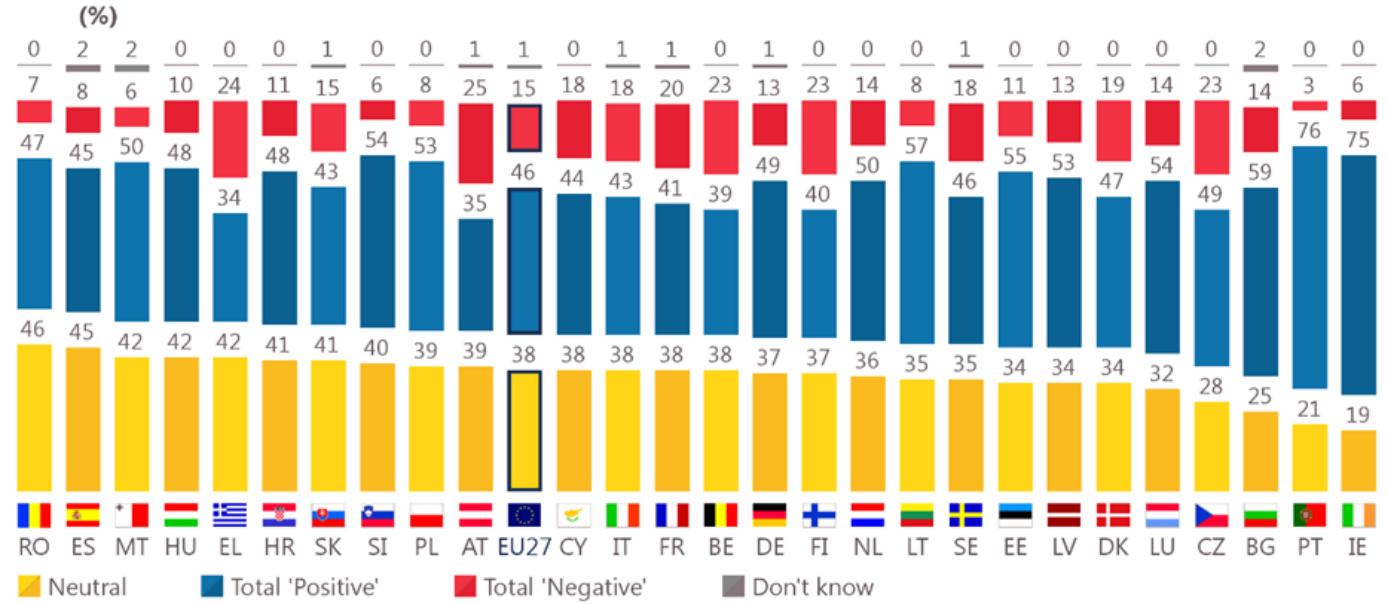
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D78 In general, does the EU conjure up for you a very positive, fairly positive, neutral, fairly negative or very negative image?



Sorted by "Total Positive"

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

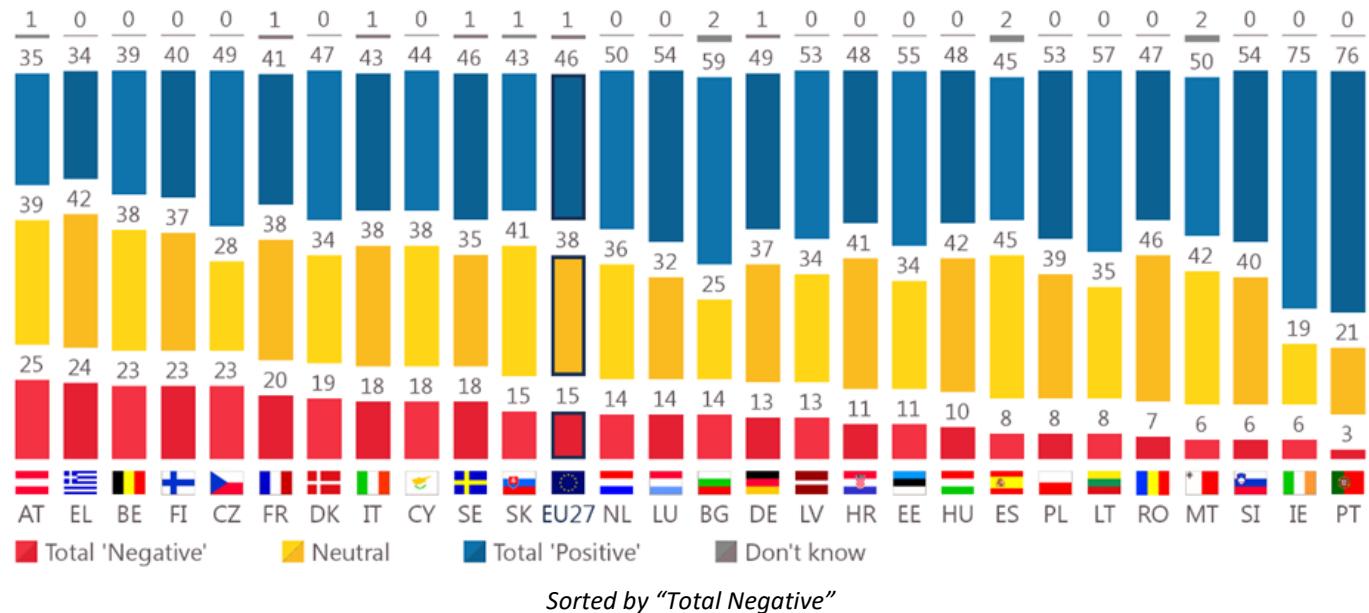


Sorted by "Neutral"

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

(%)



Sorted by "Total Negative"

In 24 EU Member States, the majority of respondents hold a positive view of the European Union. Moreover, in all countries, the proportion of respondents who have a positive image outweighs the proportion with a negative opinion, albeit with substantial differences. On the one hand, the gap between these proportions is above 70 percentage points in Portugal (76% "positive" vs 3% "negative") and Ireland (75% vs 6%). On the other, the gap stands at ten percentage points in Greece (34% vs 24%) and Austria (35% vs 25%).

Greece (42%) and Austria (39%) are also the only two EU Member States where a majority have a neutral image of the European Union, while opinion is divided in Spain (45% "neutral vs 45% "positive"). Large proportions with a neutral view can also be found in Romania (46%) and Hungary and Malta (42% in both countries). In all EU Member States, respondents are more likely to have a neutral image of the EU than a negative one.

In 24 EU Member States, the proportion of respondents who have a positive image of the EU has increased since summer 2020. This share has risen by at least ten percentage points in nine countries: Malta (+25), Portugal (+21), Czechia (+19), the Netherlands (+14), Luxembourg (+13), Italy and Slovenia (+12 in both countries), and Latvia and Spain (+10 in both countries).

In 23 countries, respondents are less likely than they were in summer 2020 to have a negative image of the EU, and this is particularly the case in Luxembourg (-13 percentage points), Italy (-11) and Greece (-8). Denmark and Latvia (+5 in both countries) and Lithuania (+3) are the only countries where this proportion has increased. Lastly, in 18 countries, respondents are now less likely to have a neutral image of the EU, especially in Portugal, Latvia and Malta (all -14) and Czechia (-13), while the only notable increase can be observed in Romania (+9).

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

	EU27		46	Total 'Positive'	Win.2020/2021 - Sum.2020	Neutral	Total 'Negative'	Win.2020/2021 - Sum.2020	Don't know
MT		50	▲ 25	42	▼ 14	6	▼ 4	2	
PT		76	▲ 21	21	▼ 14	3	▼ 6	0	
CZ		49	▲ 19	28	▼ 13	23	▼ 6	0	
NL		50	▲ 14	36	▼ 7	14	▼ 7	0	
LU		54	▲ 13	32	=	14	▼ 13	0	
SI		54	▲ 12	40	▼ 8	6	▼ 4	0	
IT		43	▲ 12	38	▼ 1	18	▼ 11	1	
LV		53	▲ 10	34	▼ 14	13	▲ 5	0	
ES		45	▲ 10	45	▼ 3	8	▼ 7	2	
EE		55	▲ 9	34	▼ 3	11	▼ 6	0	
CY		44	▲ 8	38	▼ 5	18	▼ 3	0	
FR		41	▲ 8	38	▼ 5	20	▼ 4	1	
SK		43	▲ 7	41	▼ 1	15	▼ 7	1	
EL		34	▲ 7	42	▲ 1	24	▼ 8	0	
BG		59	▲ 6	25	▼ 2	14	▼ 6	2	
LT		57	▲ 6	35	▼ 8	8	▲ 3	0	
SE		46	▲ 5	35	▼ 3	18	▼ 3	1	
FI		40	▲ 5	37	▼ 3	23	▼ 2	0	
IE		75	▲ 4	19	▼ 1	6	▼ 3	0	
DE		49	▲ 2	37	=	13	▼ 3	1	
DK		47	▲ 2	34	▼ 6	19	▲ 5	0	
BE		39	▲ 2	38	▲ 1	23	▼ 3	0	
HR		48	▲ 1	41	▲ 1	11	▼ 2	0	
AT		35	▲ 1	39	▲ 3	25	▼ 4	1	
HU		48	▼ 1	42	▲ 3	10	▼ 2	0	
PL		53	▼ 2	39	▲ 2	8	=	0	
RO		47	▼ 4	46	▲ 9	7	▼ 4	0	

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A **socio-demographic** analysis shows that, in line with the patterns observed for trust in the European Union, age, education and socio-economic status are key factors when it comes to the image respondents have of the EU.

While the EU conjures up a positive image for the majority of respondents in all age groups, those aged 15-24 (55%) are much more likely than those aged 55 or older (43%) to have a positive image. Respondents who remained in full-time education up until the age of 20 or older (55%) are also much more likely to have a positive image than those ending education aged 15 or younger (32%). An absolute majority of managers (61%) say the EU conjures up a positive image for them, compared with only around a third of house persons (33%) and the unemployed (34%).

Respondents who never or almost never have difficulties paying their bills (51%) are much more likely to have a positive image than those who have difficulties most of the time (28%). High proportions of respondents who have a positive image of the EU can also be observed among those who identify themselves as upper middle class (65%) or upper class (64%), compared with minorities among those who see themselves as working class (36%) and lower middle class (37%). Finally, differences can be observed with respect to subjective urbanisation: 52% of those who say they live in large towns have a positive image of the EU, compared with 44% of those who live in rural villages or in small and medium-sized towns.

Once again, these patterns are consistent with those observed in previous Standard Eurobarometer surveys.

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

	Total 'Positive'	Total 'Negative'	Don't know
EU27	46	15	1
Gender			
Man	48	17	0
Woman	45	12	1
Age			
15-24	55	9	1
25-39	46	15	0
40-54	47	15	0
55+	43	17	1
Education (End of)			
15-	32	17	3
16-19	40	18	0
20+	55	12	0
Still studying	59	9	1
Socio-professional category			
Self-employed	50	18	0
Managers	61	10	0
Other white collars	50	14	0
Manual workers	38	14	1
House persons	33	19	3
Unemployed	34	19	0
Retired	42	17	1
Students	59	9	1
Difficulties paying bills			
Most of the time	28	30	1
From time to time	37	17	1
Almost never/ Never	51	12	1
Consider belonging to			
The working class	36	19	1
The lower middle class	37	19	1
The middle class	50	12	0
The upper middle class	65	11	0
The upper class	64	13	0

3. Knowledge of the European Union

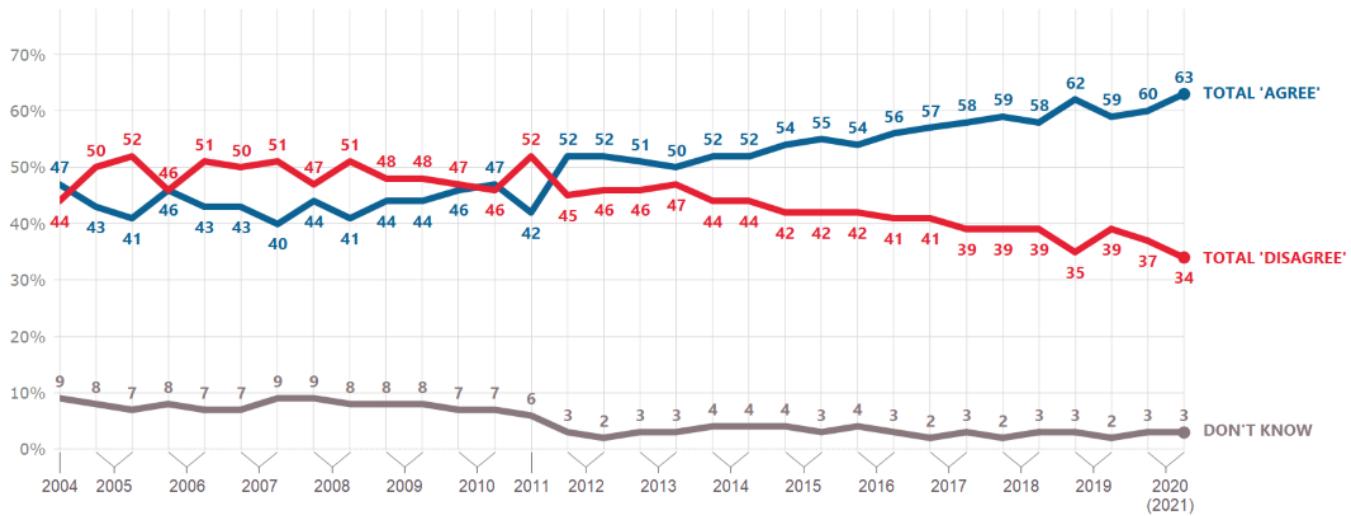
3.1 Knowledge of how the European Union works

Understanding of how the European Union works has reached a new high

Following an increase of three percentage points since the last Standard Eurobarometer survey (EB93), the proportion of respondents who say they understand how the European Union works is currently at its highest level since autumn 2004 (63%). Conversely, around a third (34%, -3) say they do not understand how the EU works and 3% (no change) express no opinion.

QA9.1 To what extent do you agree or disagree with each of the following statements?

I understand how the EU works (% - EU)

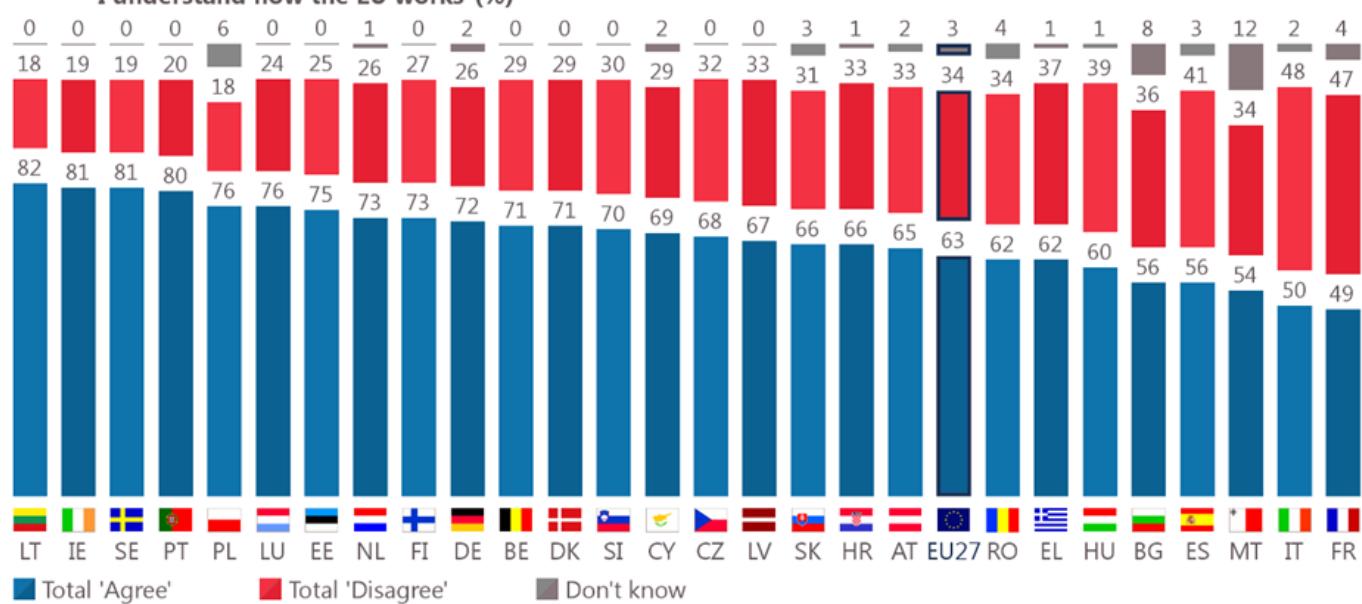


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In all EU Member States, a majority of respondents say they understand how the EU works. This proportion ranges from at least eight in ten in Lithuania (82%), Ireland and Sweden (81% in both countries) and Portugal (80%), to 54% in Malta, 50% in Italy and 49% in France.

QA9.1 To what extent do you agree or disagree with each of the following statements?

I understand how the EU works (%)



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The **socio-demographic** analysis shows that men (69%) are more likely than women (58%) to say they understand how the EU works and that subjective understanding of the EU is higher among those aged 25-54 (67-68%) than among older respondents (57%).

When it comes to respondents' socio-economic background, results are broadly consistent with those observed for other questions. Respondents who ended full-time education aged 15 or younger (36%) are much less likely to say they understand how the EU works than those who remained in education until the age of 20 or older (75%). Similarly, less than half among house persons

(42%) and the unemployed (49%) say they understand how the EU works, compared with eight in ten among managers. Subjective understanding of the EU is also significantly lower among those who have difficulties paying their bills most of the time (47%, compared with 68% of those who never or almost never have difficulties) and among those who see themselves as working class (47%, compared with 82-83% of those who see themselves as upper class or upper middle class).

QA9.1 To what extent do you agree or disagree with each of the following statements?

I understand how the EU works (% - EU)

	Total 'Agree'	Total 'Disagree'	Don't know
EU27	63	34	3
Gender			
Man	69	29	2
Woman	58	39	3
Age			
15-24	63	34	3
25-39	68	30	2
40-54	67	31	2
55+	57	39	4
Education (End of)			
15-	36	58	6
16-19	58	39	3
20+	75	23	2
Still studying	68	30	2
Socio-professional category			
Self-employed	73	25	2
Managers	80	19	1
Other white collars	73	25	2
Manual workers	59	38	3
House persons	42	52	6
Unemployed	49	48	3
Retired	54	42	4
Students	68	30	2
Difficulties paying bills			
Most of the time	47	50	3
From time to time	55	43	2
Almost never/ Never	68	29	3
Consider belonging to			
The working class	47	49	4
The lower middle class	57	40	3
The middle class	69	29	2
The upper middle class	82	17	1
The upper class	83	14	3

3.2 Objective knowledge of the European Union

After measuring the subjective impression of understanding, this Standard Eurobarometer survey then quantified objective levels of knowledge of the European Union, using a “true/false” quiz consisting of three statements (“the euro area currently consists of 19 Member States”; “the Members of the European Parliament are directly elected by the citizens of each Member State”; “Switzerland is a Member State of the EU”)³⁸.

More than nine in ten respondents (92%, +2 percentage points since summer 2020) were able to give at least one right answer in the quiz, but only a quarter (25%, +2) gave three correct answers. The proportion giving three right answers is significantly higher in the non-euro area (30%) than in the euro area (23%). Respondents in Luxembourg (44%), Finland (43%) and Czechia and Denmark (41% in both countries) are the most likely to answer the three questions correctly.

“The euro area currently consists of 19 Member States”

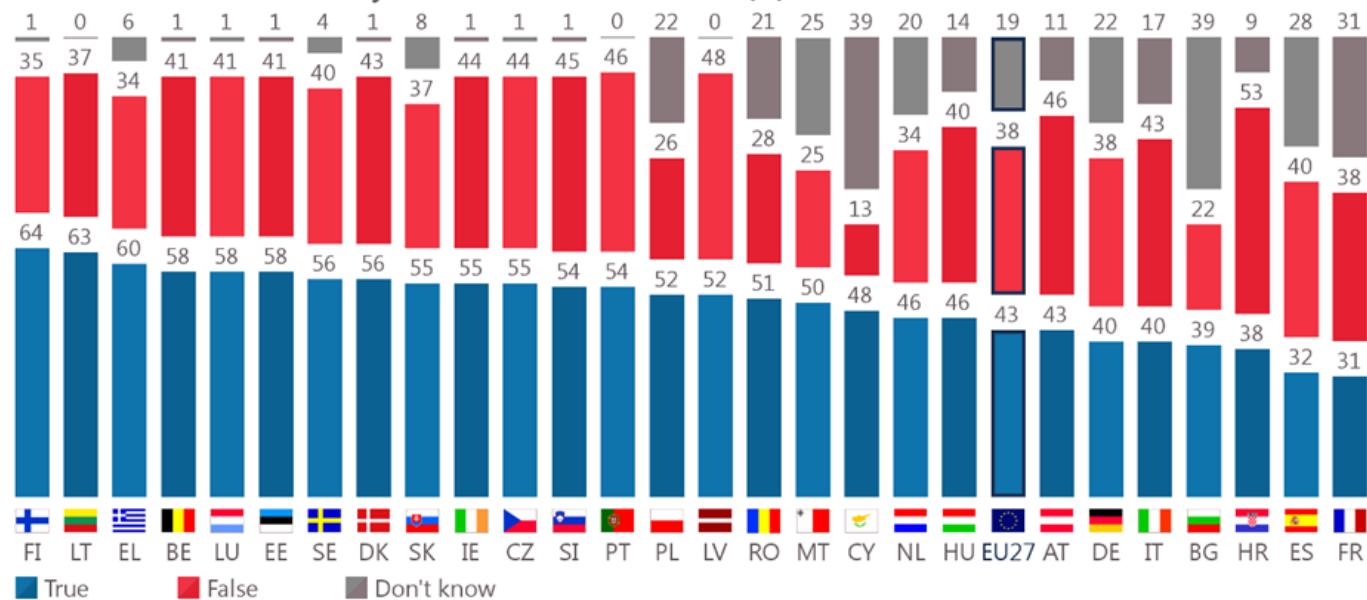
In line with previous Standard Eurobarometer surveys, a minority of respondents (43%) know how many countries make up the euro area. However, following a marked improvement between autumn 2019 and summer 2020, this proportion is continuing to increase (+2 since summer 2020; +8 since autumn 2019). Less than four in ten (38%, +2) give the incorrect answer, while 19% (-4) say they don’t know.

In 16 EU Member States, an absolute majority give the correct answer. Finland (64%), Lithuania (63%), Greece (60%), Belgium, Estonia and Luxembourg (all 58%) are the countries where respondents are the most likely to say that it is true that the euro area currently consists of 19 Member States, while in Malta the proportion who give the correct answer (50%) is the same as the combined proportions of those who give an incorrect answer and those who express no opinion. At the other end of the scale, in France (31%), Spain (32%), Croatia (38%), Italy (40%) and Austria (43%), only a minority give the correct answer, while in Bulgaria (39%) the proportion giving the correct answer equals the share of respondents saying they “don’t know”.

There have been significant changes at national level since the last survey. In 21 countries the proportion giving the correct answer has increased, particularly in Malta (+20 percentage points), Lithuania and Portugal (+19 in both countries), and Czechia and Latvia (+16 in both countries), while the only noticeable decrease is observed in Spain (-5). The result has remained stable in Bulgaria, Germany and Estonia.

SD22.1 For each of the following statements about the EU could you please tell whether you think it is true or false?

The Euro area currently consists of 19 Member States (%)



³⁸ SD22. For each of the following statements about the EU could you please tell whether you think it is true or false? 1. The Euro area currently consists of 19 Member States; 2. The members of the European

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

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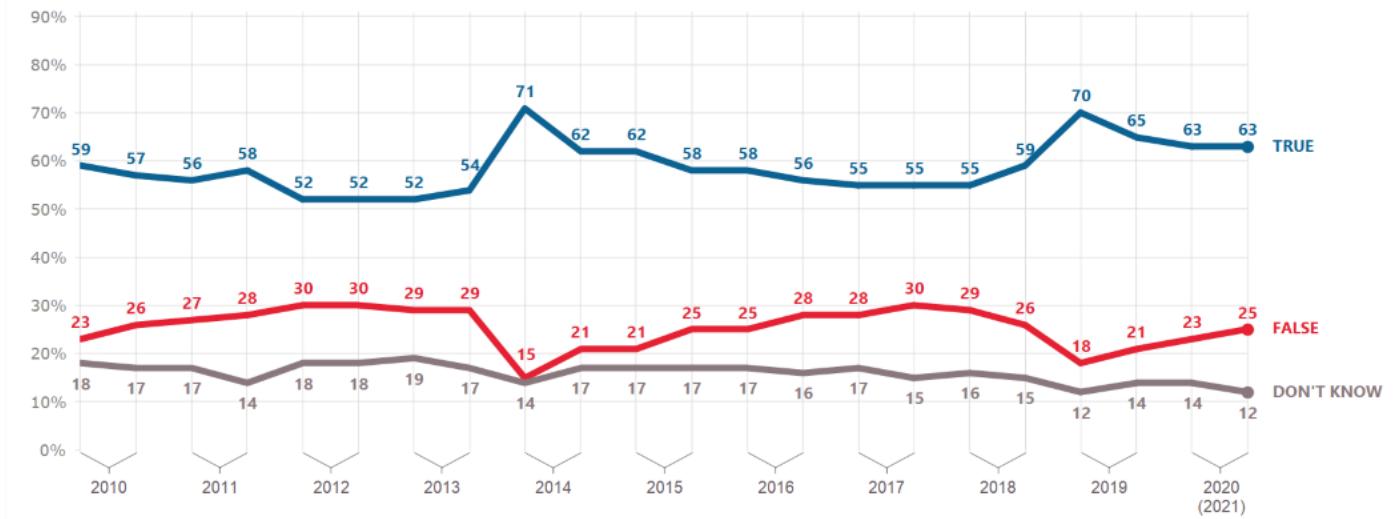
"The members of the European Parliament are directly elected by the citizens of each Member State"

Knowledge of the fact that MEPs are directly elected by European citizens increased in spring 2019, in the run-up to the May 2019 European elections, and decreased thereafter (though less markedly than it did after the 2014 elections).

In the current survey, the proportion of respondents who correctly answer this question has remained stable at 63%, while a quarter (+2 percentage points since summer 2020) give an incorrect answer and a further 12% (-2) say they "don't know".

SD22.2 For each of the following statements about the EU could you please tell whether you think it is true or false?

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



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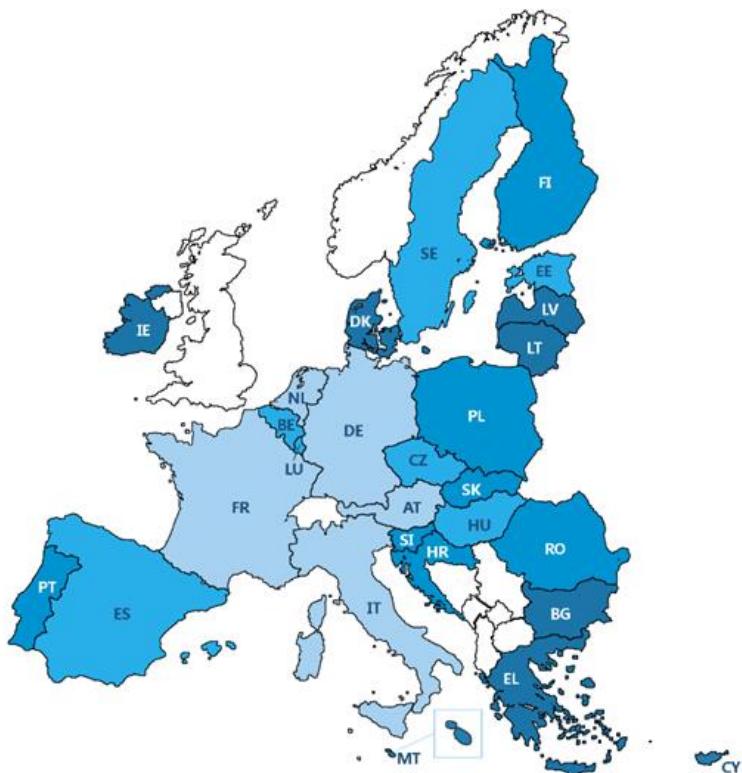
In all 27 EU Member States, a majority of respondents give the correct answer to this question. Nevertheless, this proportion varies widely, from 89% in Cyprus and 87% in Denmark and Greece to less than half in France (47%). The largest proportion giving an incorrect answer is found in the Netherlands (41%), followed by Belgium and Germany (34% in both countries), while less than one in ten do so in Cyprus (4%), Bulgaria (6%) and Malta (7%).

In 15 EU Member States, respondents are more likely to answer this question correctly than they were in summer 2020. The largest increases can be found in Latvia (+14 percentage points), Portugal (+13) and Czechia (+11). At the opposite end of the scale, although this proportion has declined in ten countries, the only decrease in excess of five percentage points is observed in Slovakia (-8). Only Finland and Lithuania have seen no change.



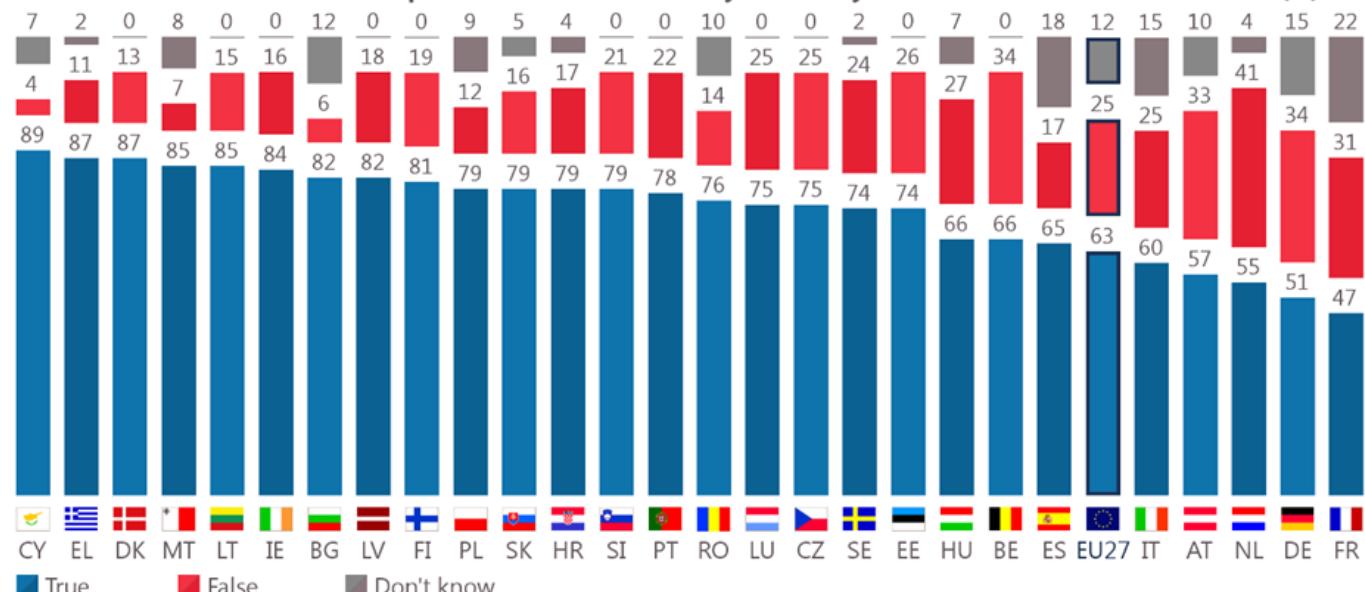
SD22.2 For each of the following statements about the EU could you please tell whether you think it is true or false?

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



SD22.2 For each of the following statements about the EU could you please tell whether you think it is true or false?

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



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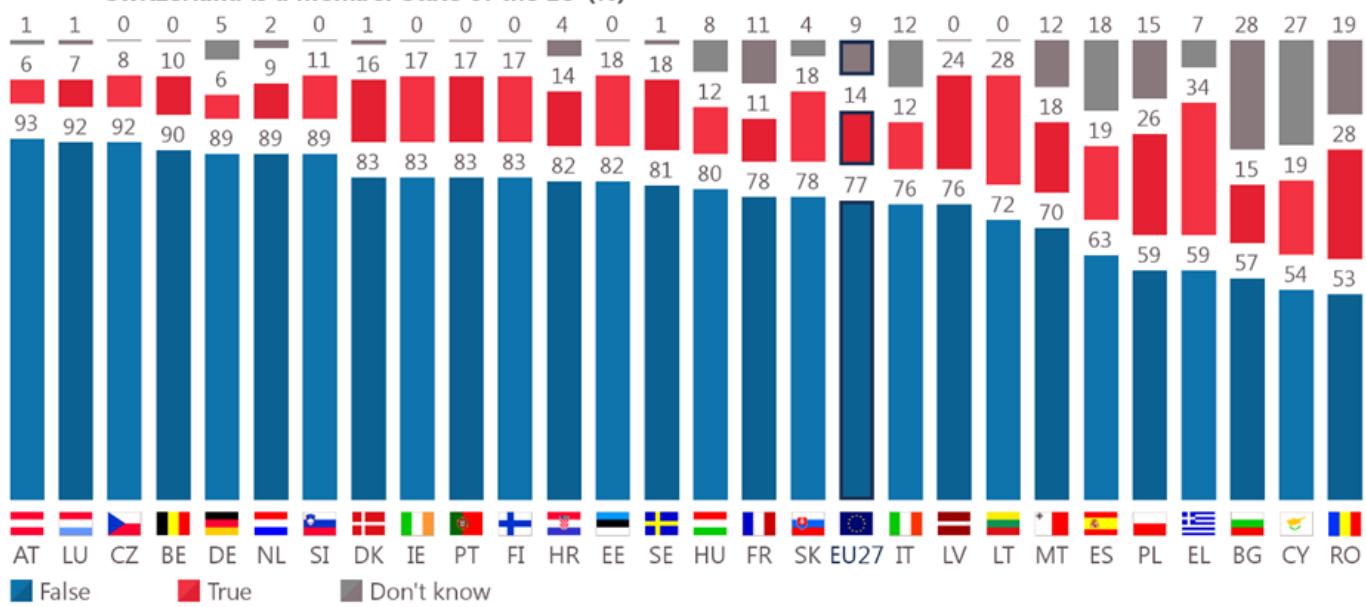
"Switzerland is a Member State of the EU"

More than three-quarters of respondents (77%) know that Switzerland is not a Member State of the EU, a three-percentage point increase since summer 2020. Conversely, 14% (-1) give an incorrect answer and close to one in ten (9%, -2) did not reply.

An absolute majority in all EU Member States answer this question correctly. This proportion is the highest in Austria (93%) and Czechia and Luxembourg (92% in both countries), and the lowest in Romania (53%), Cyprus (54%) and Bulgaria (57%). Nearly a quarter of respondents or more give an incorrect answer in Greece (34%), Lithuania, Romania (28% in both countries), Poland (26%) and Latvia (24%), while 28% in Bulgaria and 27% in Cyprus say they do not know.

SD22.3 For each of the following statements about the EU could you please tell whether you think it is true or false?

Switzerland is a Member State of the EU (%)



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In 20 countries, the share of respondents giving the correct answer to this question has increased, and by at least ten percentage points in Latvia (+21), Czechia (+17), Denmark (+12) and Lithuania and Portugal (+10 in both countries). This figure has remained stable in Luxembourg and only slightly decreased in the remaining six countries.

SD22 For each of the following statements about the EU could you please tell whether you think it is true or false?
 (%)

	The members of the European Parliament are directly elected by the citizens of each Member State	The Euro area currently consists of 19 Member States		Switzerland is a Member State of the EU	
		True	Win.2020/2021 - Sum.2020	True	Win.2020/2021 - Sum.2020
EU27	63	=	43	▲ 2	77
EURO AREA	59	▼ 1	40	▲ 1	79
NON-EURO AREA	77	▲ 1	50	▲ 4	67
BE	66	▲ 7	58	▲ 11	90
BG	82	▲ 1	39	=	57
CZ	75	▲ 11	55	▲ 16	92
DK	87	▲ 9	56	▲ 10	83
DE	51	▼ 2	40	=	89
EE	74	▼ 2	58	=	82
IE	84	▼ 1	55	▲ 2	83
EL	87	▲ 1	60	▲ 1	59
ES	65	▼ 2	32	▼ 5	63
FR	47	▼ 2	31	▼ 2	78
HR	79	▲ 3	38	▲ 6	82
IT	60	▲ 1	40	▲ 2	76
CY	89	▲ 2	48	▲ 2	54
LV	82	▲ 14	52	▲ 16	76
LT	85	=	63	▲ 19	72
LU	75	▼ 2	58	▲ 4	92
HU	66	▼ 4	46	▲ 3	80
MT	85	▼ 3	50	▲ 20	70
NL	55	▲ 2	46	▲ 10	89
AT	57	▲ 2	43	▼ 3	93
PL	79	▼ 2	52	▲ 2	59
PT	78	▲ 13	54	▲ 19	83
RO	76	▲ 2	51	▲ 5	53
SI	79	▲ 3	54	▲ 8	89
SK	79	▼ 8	55	▲ 8	78
FI	81	=	64	▲ 2	83
SE	74	▲ 3	56	▲ 3	81

4. The European Union today and tomorrow

4.1 Should more decisions be taken at European level?

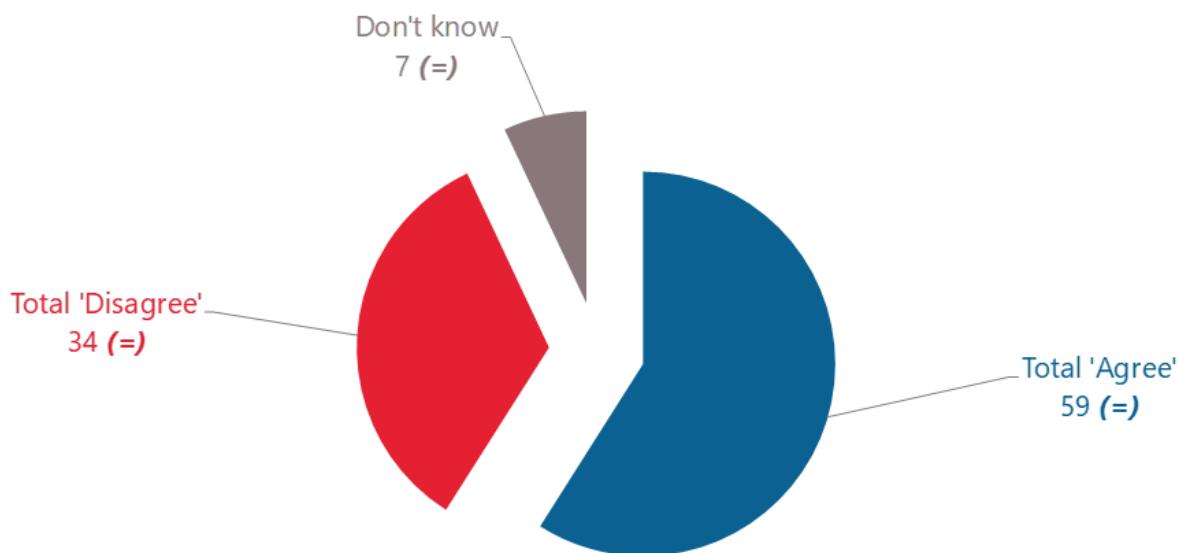
A majority of respondents agree more decisions should be taken at EU level

Close to six in ten respondents (59%) agree that more decisions should be taken at EU level, and this proportion has remained stable since the last Standard Eurobarometer survey in summer 2020. Around a third (34%, no change) disagree with this statement, while 7% express no opinion³⁹.

Respondents in the **euro area** (60%) are slightly more likely than those in the **non-euro area** (56%) to agree with this statement.

QA9.3 To what extent do you agree or disagree with each of the following statements?

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



(Winter 2020/2021 - Summer 2020)

³⁹ QA9.3 Please tell me to what extent you agree or disagree with each of the following statements. More decisions should be taken at EU level.

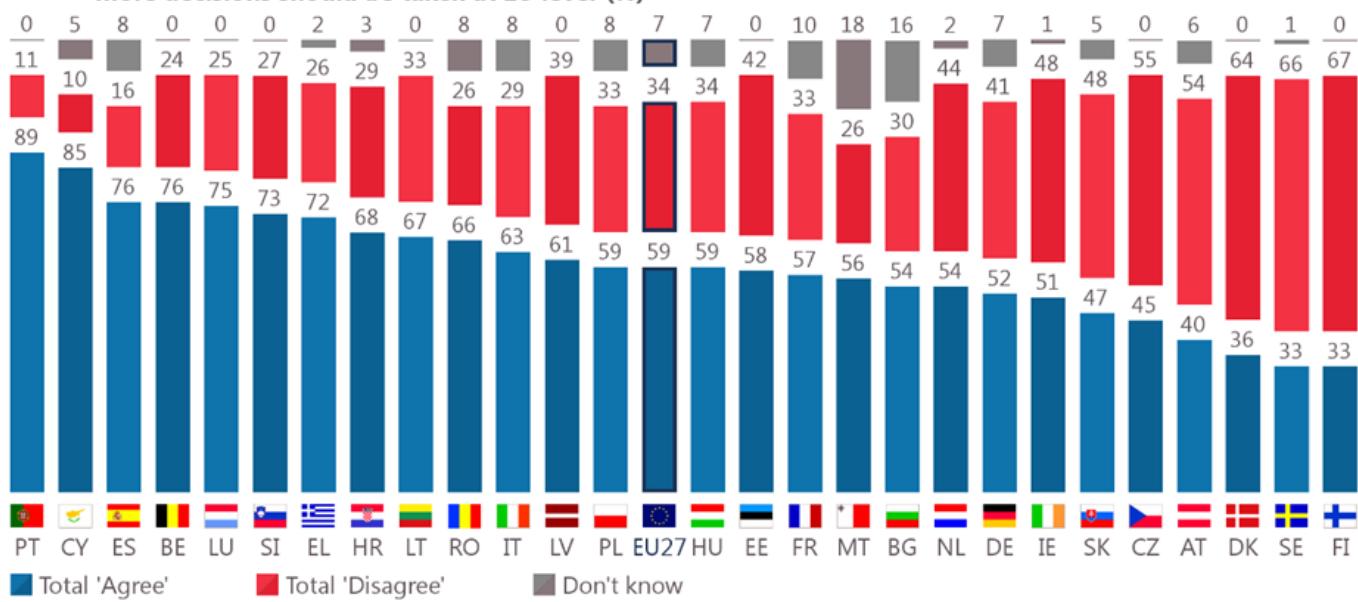
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In 21 EU Member States, a majority of respondents agree that more decisions should be taken at EU level. However, the proportions in agreement with this statement vary widely across countries, ranging from more than three-quarters in Portugal (89%), Cyprus (85%) and Belgium and Spain (76% in both countries) to less than four in ten in Finland and Sweden (33% in both countries) and Denmark (36%).

These last three countries are also those with the highest proportions who disagree with the statement: 67% in Finland, 66% in Sweden and 64% in Denmark. Majorities are also in disagreement in Austria (54% "disagree" vs 40% "agree"), Czechia (55% vs 45%) and Slovakia (48% vs 47%). At least one in ten give no answer to this question in Malta (18%), Bulgaria (16%) and France (10%).

QA9.3 To what extent do you agree or disagree with each of the following statements?

More decisions should be taken at EU level (%)



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The proportion of respondents who agree that more decisions should be taken at EU level has increased in 16 EU Member States since summer 2020, most notably in Portugal (+20 percentage points), Greece (+13), Lithuania and Malta (+11 in both countries) and Ireland (+10). Conversely, this share of respondents has declined in seven countries, but the only significant decrease can be observed in Germany (-8). In Croatia, Finland, Spain and Sweden, there has been no change since the last survey.

QA9.3 To what extent do you agree or disagree with each of the following statements?

More decisions should be taken at EU level (%)

	EU27 	Total 'Agree'	Total 'Disagree'	Win.2020/2021 - Sum.2020	Don't know
			Win.2020/2021 - Sum.2020		
EU27		59	=	34	= 7
Euro Area		60	▲ 1	33	= 7
Non-Euro Area		56	▲ 1	38	▲ 1 6
PT		89	▲ 20	11	▼ 6 0
EL		72	▲ 13	26	▼ 11 2
LT		67	▲ 11	33	▼ 3 0
MT		56	▲ 11	26	▼ 15 18
IE		51	▲ 10	48	▼ 11 1
BE		76	▲ 7	24	▼ 3 0
IT		63	▲ 7	29	▼ 6 8
CZ		45	▲ 7	55	▲ 2 0
CY		85	▲ 6	10	▼ 2 5
SI		73	▲ 6	27	▼ 2 0
NL		54	▲ 5	44	▼ 4 2
EE		58	▲ 3	42	▼ 3 0
SK		47	▲ 2	48	= 5
DK		36	▲ 2	64	▲ 5 0
LU		75	▲ 1	25	▼ 1 0
BG		54	▲ 1	30	▼ 3 16
ES		76	=	16	▲ 2 8
HR		68	=	29	▲ 3 3
FI		33	=	67	= 0
SE		33	=	66	= 1
HU		59	▼ 1	34	▲ 2 7
FR		57	▼ 1	33	= 10
PL		59	▼ 2	33	▲ 2 8
RO		66	▼ 3	26	▲ 2 8
LV		61	▼ 3	39	▲ 11 0
AT		40	▼ 4	54	▲ 2 6
DE		52	▼ 8	41	▲ 7 7

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

Support for more decision-making at EU level is especially high among 15-24 year olds (68%, compared with 54% of those aged 55 or older) and among respondents who remained in full-time

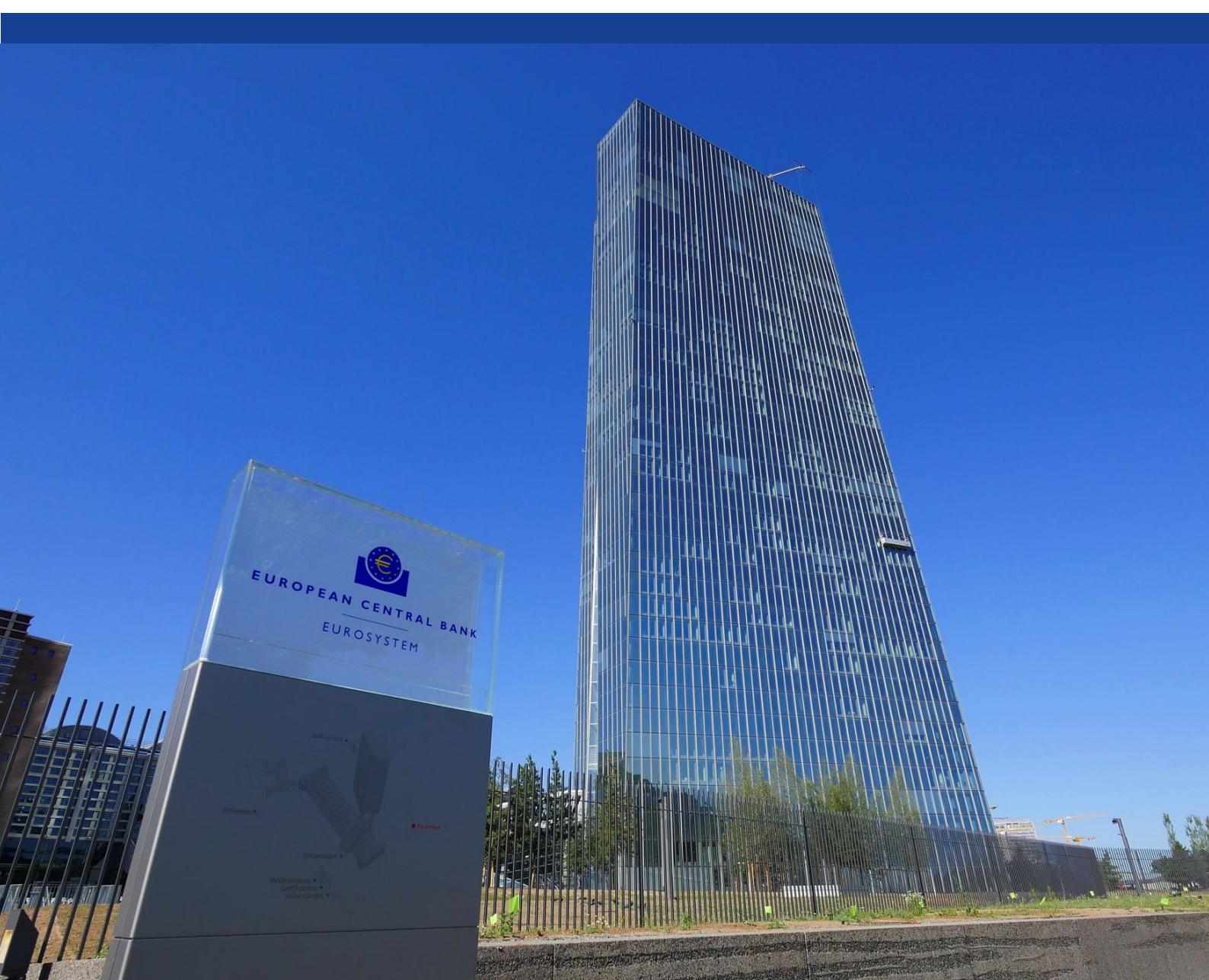
education up until the age of 20 or older (62%, compared with 51% of those who finished education aged 15 or younger). Levels of agreement with this statement are also higher among those who have difficulties paying their bills from time to time (61%) or never or almost never (60%), compared with those who have difficulties most of the time (52%). Lastly, respondents who see themselves as upper class (65%) are much more likely to agree that more decisions should be taken at EU level than those who consider themselves as working class (54%).

QA9.3 To what extent do you agree or disagree with each of the following statements?

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

	Total 'Agree'	Total 'Disagree'	Don't know
EU27	59	34	7
 Gender			
Man	60	35	5
Woman	59	33	8
 Age			
15-24	68	24	8
25-39	63	32	5
40-54	60	36	4
55+	54	37	9
 Education (End of)			
15-	51	33	16
16-19	58	36	6
20+	62	35	3
Still studying	68	25	7
 Socio-professional category			
Self-employed	62	35	3
Managers	64	33	3
Other white collars	61	35	4
Manual workers	58	35	7
House persons	57	31	12
Unemployed	59	33	8
Retired	53	38	9
Students	68	25	7
 Difficulties paying bills			
Most of the time	52	39	9
From time to time	61	33	6
Almost never/ Never	60	34	6
 Consider belonging to			
The working class	54	35	11
The lower middle class	55	38	7
The middle class	62	33	5
The upper middle class	63	34	3
The upper class	65	34	1

III. ECONOMIC ISSUES IN THE EUROPEAN UNION



1. How Europeans perceive the economic situation

1.2 Personal aspects

Assessment of personal job and financial situations

Perceptions regarding the personal situation have deteriorated slightly, but expectations for the future have become more optimistic

A majority of Europeans remain satisfied with their personal situation (personal job situation and financial situation of their household) and expect it to stay the same over the next twelve months. There has been a slight deterioration in the current assessment of Europeans' personal situation since the summer 2020 Standard Eurobarometer survey (EB93). At the same time, however, there has been a slight increase in optimism for the future.

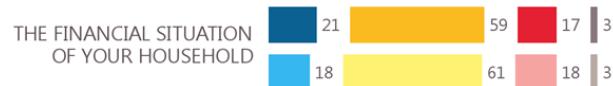
- More than two-thirds of respondents (68%) are positive about the financial situation of their household (-2 percentage points since summer 2020). By contrast, 29% consider that their household's financial situation is "bad" (+1) and 3% (+1) express no opinion⁴⁰.

- While a majority of respondents still expect the next twelve months to stay the same, there has been a slight increase in optimistic expectations: 59% of Europeans (-2 percentage points) expect their financial situation to stay the same over the coming year, while 21% (+3) expect it to improve and 17% (-1) expect it to deteriorate.
- Less than six in ten respondents (58%, +1 percentage point) are positive about their personal job situation, while 27% (+3) describe it as bad, and 15% (-4) express no opinion.
- A comparable proportion of respondents (57%, -1 percentage point) expect their personal job situation to stay the same over the next twelve months, while 20% (+3) expect it to improve and 13% (unchanged) expect it to deteriorate⁴¹.

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



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)



⁴⁰ QA1a4-5. How would you judge the current situation in each of the following? The financial situation of your household/your personal job situation.

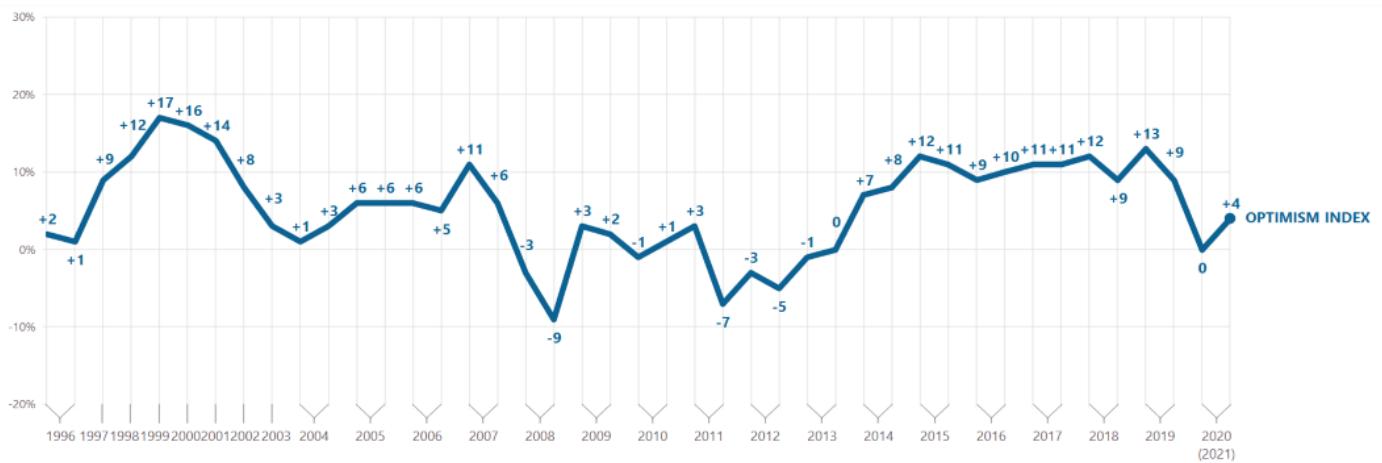
⁴¹ QA2a4-6. What are your expectations for the next twelve months: will the next twelve months be better, worse or the same, when it comes to...? The financial situation of your household/your personal job situation.

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The **optimism index**⁴² for expectations regarding the household financial situation stands at +4 (+4 index points since summer 2020).

This partly reverses the decline that was seen between autumn 2019 and summer 2020, although the current position is still lower than in recent years.

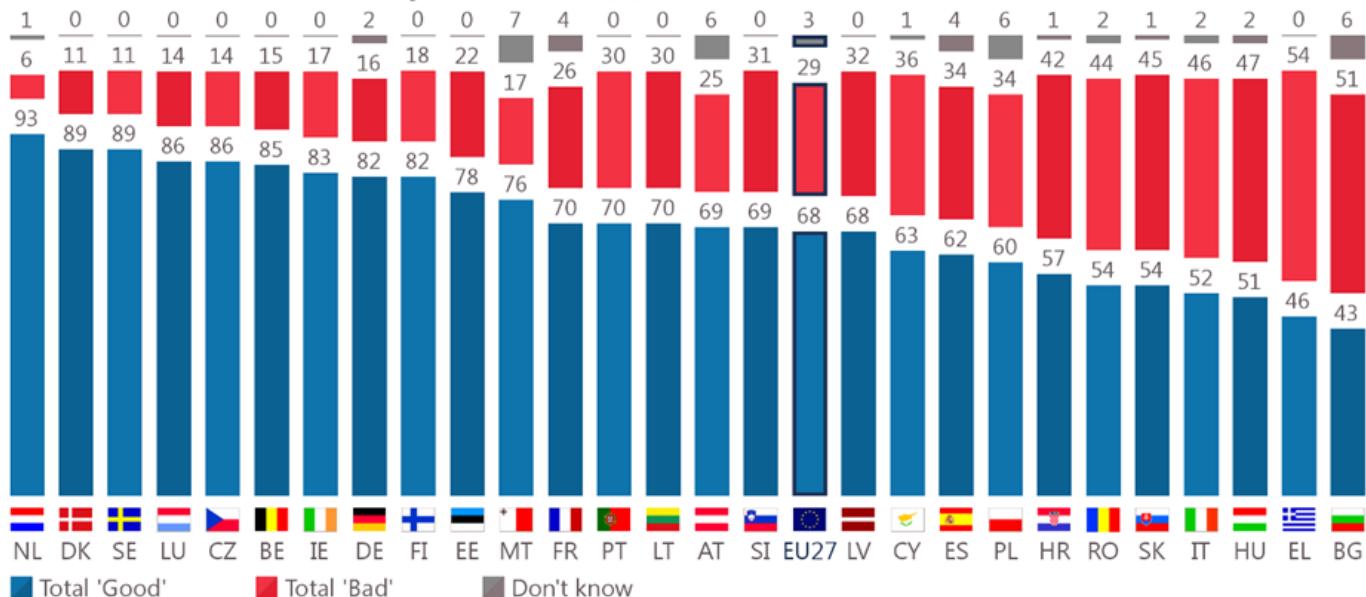
QA2a.4 What are your expectations for the next twelve months: will the next twelve months be better, worse or the same, when it comes to...?
The financial situation of your household (EU - OPTIMISM INDEX (BETTER - WORSE))



A majority of respondents consider that the **financial situation of their household** is good in 25 Member States of the European Union, most markedly in the Netherlands (93%), Denmark and Sweden (both 89%), Luxembourg and Czechia (both 86%) and Belgium (85%).

Respondents are predominantly negative rather than positive in Bulgaria (51% "bad" vs 43% "good") and Greece (54% vs 46%).

QA1a.5 How would you judge the current situation in each of the following?
The financial situation of your household (%)



Since summer 2020, positive perceptions of the household financial situation have gained ground in eight Member States, most markedly in Portugal (70%, +14 percentage points) and Czechia (86%, +13%).

They have lost ground in 19 countries, most sharply in Cyprus (63%, -14), Poland (60%, -13) and Hungary (51%, -12).

⁴² Difference between positive ("better") and negative ("worse") answers.

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The **socio-demographic** analysis shows that a majority of respondents in most groups consider that the financial situation of their household is good. This view is held most strongly by respondents who remained in education until the age of 20 or older (79%), managers (86%) and other white collar workers (74%), those who never or almost never have difficulties paying bills (82%) and those who consider themselves as belonging to the upper class (86%) or upper middle class (92%) of society.

At the same time, respondents in some groups are more likely to say that their household's financial situation is bad rather than good: unemployed respondents (68% "bad" vs 30% "good"), those who consider themselves as belonging to the working class of society (49% vs 48%) and people who have difficulties paying their bills, either most of the time (79% vs 19%) or from time to time (54% vs 44%).

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

The financial situation of your household (% - EU)

	Total 'Good'	Total 'Bad'	Don't know
EU27	68	29	3
Gender			
Man	69	29	2
Woman	67	30	3
Age			
15-24	70	25	5
25-39	68	30	2
40-54	66	32	2
55+	68	29	3
Education (End of)			
15-	57	40	3
16-19	61	37	2
20+	79	20	1
Still studying	71	24	5
Socio-professional category			
Self-employed	64	35	1
Managers	86	13	1
Other white collars	74	24	2
Manual workers	65	32	3
House persons	60	36	4
Unemployed	30	68	2
Retired	69	28	3
Students	71	24	5
Difficulties paying bills			
Most of the time	19	79	2
From time to time	44	54	2
Almost never/ Never	82	16	2
Consider belonging to			
The working class	48	49	3
The lower middle class	57	41	2
The middle class	77	21	2
The upper middle class	92	7	1
The upper class	86	13	1

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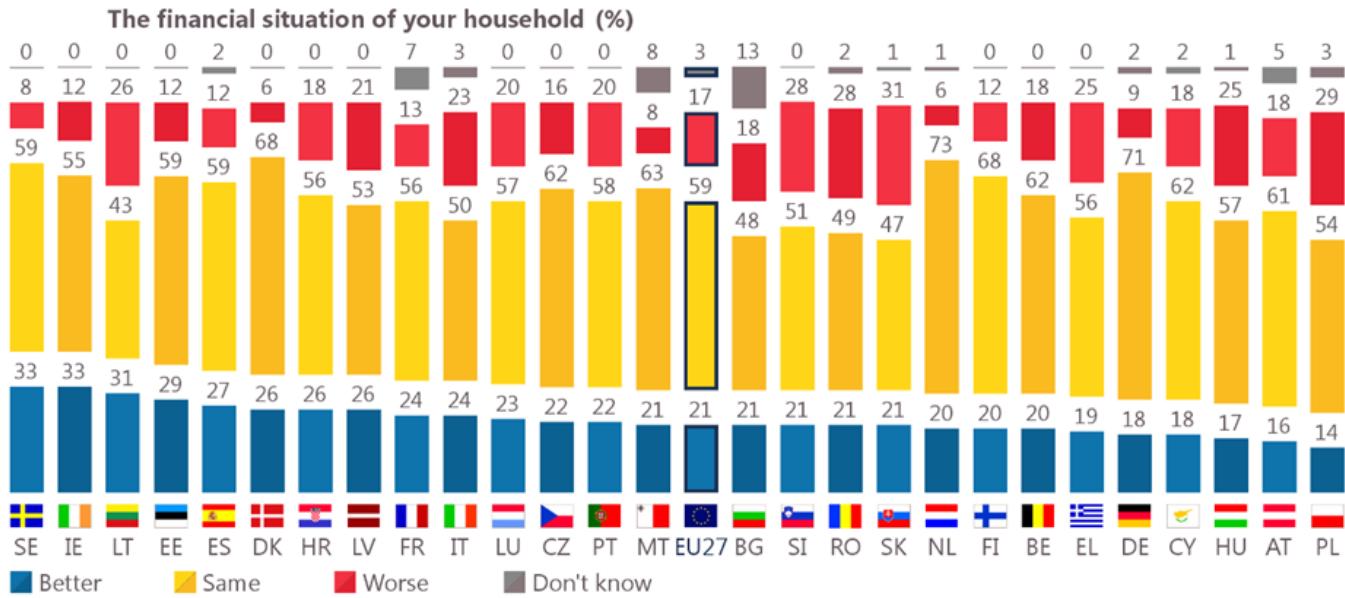
In all Member States, the prevailing view is that the **financial situation of the household** is expected to stay the same, with respondents particularly likely to say this in the Netherlands (73%) and Germany (71%).

Optimism outweighs pessimism in 19 countries, with respondents in Sweden and Ireland (both 33%) and Lithuania (31%) being the most optimistic.

By contrast, respondents are more likely to be pessimistic than optimistic in seven Member States, with respondents most pessimistic in Slovakia (31%), Poland (29%), and Slovenia and Romania (28% in both).

In Cyprus, there are equal proportions of optimistic and pessimistic respondents (18% for both).

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...?



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Since summer 2020, the **optimism index** for the household financial situation has improved in 16 EU Member States, most strikingly in Ireland (+18 index points), Bulgaria, Spain and the Netherlands (all +15). It has declined in nine countries, most notably in Latvia (-17) and Poland (-11) and is stable in the other two Member States: Austria and Slovakia.

- QA2a.4** What are your expectations for the next twelve months: will the next twelve months be better, worse or the same, when it comes to...?
The financial situation of your household (INDEX)

	EU27	Better - Worse	Better - Worse	Win.2020/2021 -
		Sum.2020	Win.2020/2021	Sum.2020
EU27		0	+4	▲ 4
IE		+3	+21	▲ 18
ES		0	+15	▲ 15
NL		-1	+14	▲ 15
BG		-12	+3	▲ 15
CZ		-7	+6	▲ 13
PT		-9	+2	▲ 11
EL		-17	-6	▲ 11
EE		+9	+17	▲ 8
SE		+18	+25	▲ 7
DK		+13	+20	▲ 7
IT		-6	+1	▲ 7
DE		+5	+9	▲ 4
HR		+4	+8	▲ 4
MT		+10	+13	▲ 3
FR		+8	+11	▲ 3
BE		-1	+2	▲ 3
AT		-2	-2	=
SK		-10	-10	=
FI		+9	+8	▼ 1
SI		-6	-7	▼ 1
CY		+2	0	▼ 2
LU		+8	+3	▼ 5
HU		-3	-8	▼ 5
LT		+11	+5	▼ 6
RO		0	-7	▼ 7
PL		-4	-15	▼ 11
LV		+22	+5	▼ 17

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The **socio-demographic** analysis shows that, in all groups, the prevailing view is that the financial situation of the household is expected to stay the same. Optimism decreases with age: 15-24 year olds are more likely to be optimistic than pessimistic (32% vs 13%), but the reverse is true of respondents aged 55 or over (13% vs 17%).

Optimism outweighs pessimism in other groups, most notably respondents who remained in education until the age of 20 or older (23% vs 13%), managers (23% vs 13%), self-employed respondents (27% vs 17%), those who never or almost never have difficulties paying bills (21% vs 11%) and those who consider themselves as belonging to the upper middle class of society (24% vs 8%). However, respondents are more likely to be pessimistic rather than optimistic if they left education at the age of 15 or before (19% vs 13%), have difficulties paying their bills most of the time (35% vs 23%) or consider themselves as belonging to the working class of society (22% vs 19%).

QA2a.4 What are your expectations for the next twelve months: will the next twelve months be better, worse or the same, when it comes to...?

The financial situation of your household (% - EU)

	Better	Worse	Same	Don't know
EU27	21	17	59	3
Gender				
Man	23	17	57	3
Woman	20	16	61	3
Age				
15-24	32	13	51	4
25-39	30	18	48	4
40-54	23	17	58	2
55+	13	17	68	2
Education (End of)				
15-	13	19	65	3
16-19	20	20	57	3
20+	23	13	62	2
Still studying	34	11	51	4
Socio-professional category				
Self-employed	27	17	53	3
Managers	23	13	63	1
Other white collars	24	17	58	1
Manual workers	24	21	52	3
House persons	19	17	60	4
Unemployed	32	25	39	4
Retired	9	16	73	2
Students	34	11	51	4
Difficulties paying bills				
Most of the time	23	35	38	4
From time to time	23	27	47	3
Almost never/ Never	21	11	66	2
Consider belonging to				
The working class	19	22	56	3
The lower middle class	21	22	55	2
The middle class	23	15	60	2
The upper middle class	24	8	66	2
The upper class	20	13	66	1

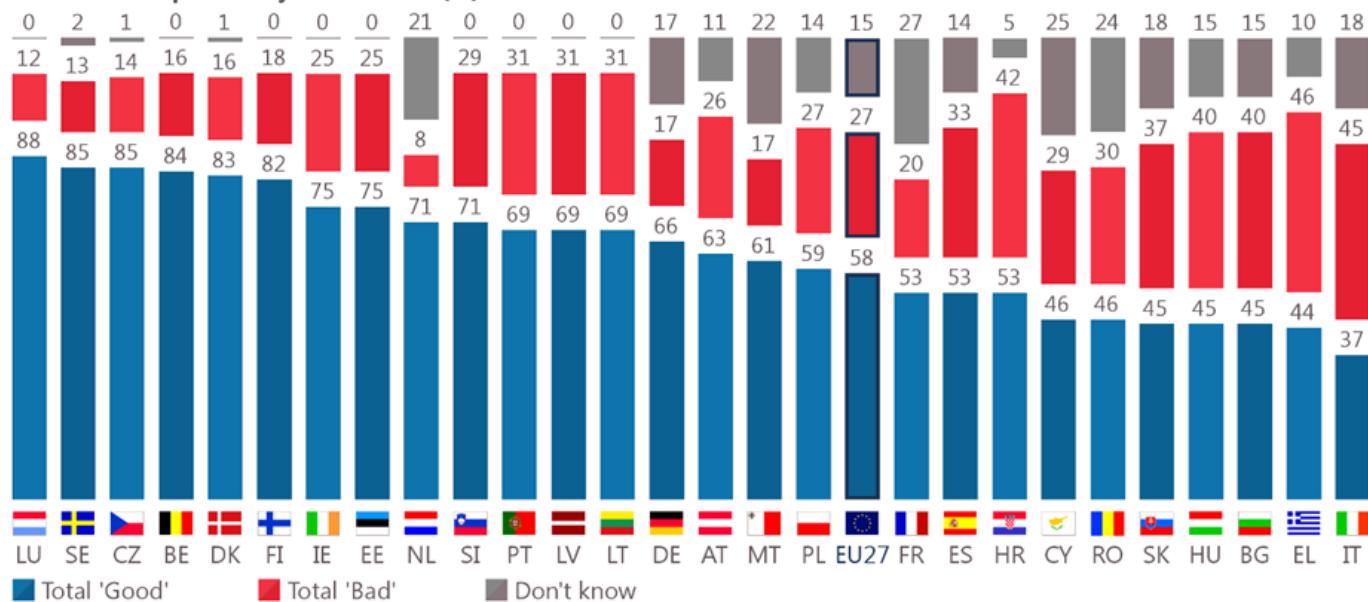
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A majority of respondents are positive about their **personal job situation** in 25 Member States, most markedly in Luxembourg (88%), Sweden and Czechia (both 85%), Belgium (84%), Denmark (83%) and Finland (82%).

Respondents are more likely to be negative than positive in Italy (45% vs 37%) and Greece (46% vs 44%).

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

Your personal job situation (%)



Since summer 2020, positive perceptions of the personal job situation have gained ground in 13 Member States, most markedly in Czechia (85%, +25 percentage points), Belgium (84%, +17), Portugal (69%, +17) and Lithuania (69%, +15).

They have lost ground in 10 countries, most sharply in Cyprus (46%, -13), while there has been no change in four Member States.

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The **socio-demographic** analysis shows that a majority of respondents in most groups are positive about their personal job situation. Men (61%) are more likely than women (54%) to be positive, while the most positive age groups are those aged 25-39 and 40-54 (both 65%).

Positive views are also strongly held by respondents who remained in education until the age of 20 or older (71%), managers (85%), other white collar workers (75%) and those who consider themselves as belonging to the upper class (80%) or upper middle class (78%) of society.

However, respondents are more likely to say that their personal job situation is bad rather than good if they are unemployed (82% vs 13%) and if they have difficulties paying bills most of the time (65% vs 23%) or from time-to-time (45% vs 42%).

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

Your personal job situation (% - EU)

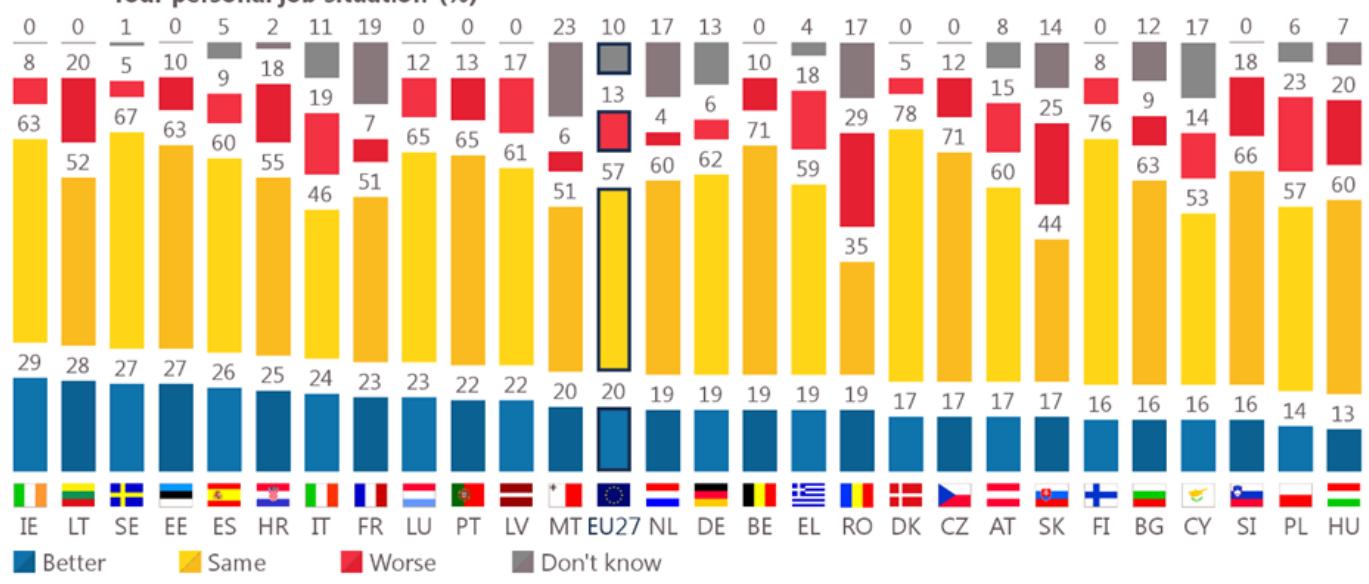
	Total 'Good'	Total 'Bad'	Don't know
EU27	58	27	15
Gender			
Man	61	26	13
Woman	54	28	18
Age			
15-24	51	27	22
25-39	65	31	4
40-54	65	31	4
55+	50	22	28
Education (End of)			
15-	39	27	34
16-19	52	33	15
20+	71	21	8
Still studying	51	23	26
Socio-professional category			
Self-employed	58	39	3
Managers	85	13	2
Other white collars	75	23	2
Manual workers	68	29	3
House persons	34	31	35
Unemployed	13	82	5
Retired	44	17	39
Students	51	23	26
Difficulties paying bills			
Most of the time	23	65	12
From time to time	42	45	13
Almost never/ Never	67	16	17
Consider belonging to			
The working class	44	38	18
The lower middle class	51	35	14
The middle class	62	23	15
The upper middle class	78	10	12
The upper class	80	12	8

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A majority of respondents in all 27 Member States expect their **personal job situation** to remain the same over the next twelve months. This view is most strongly held in Denmark (78%) and Finland (76%).

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...?

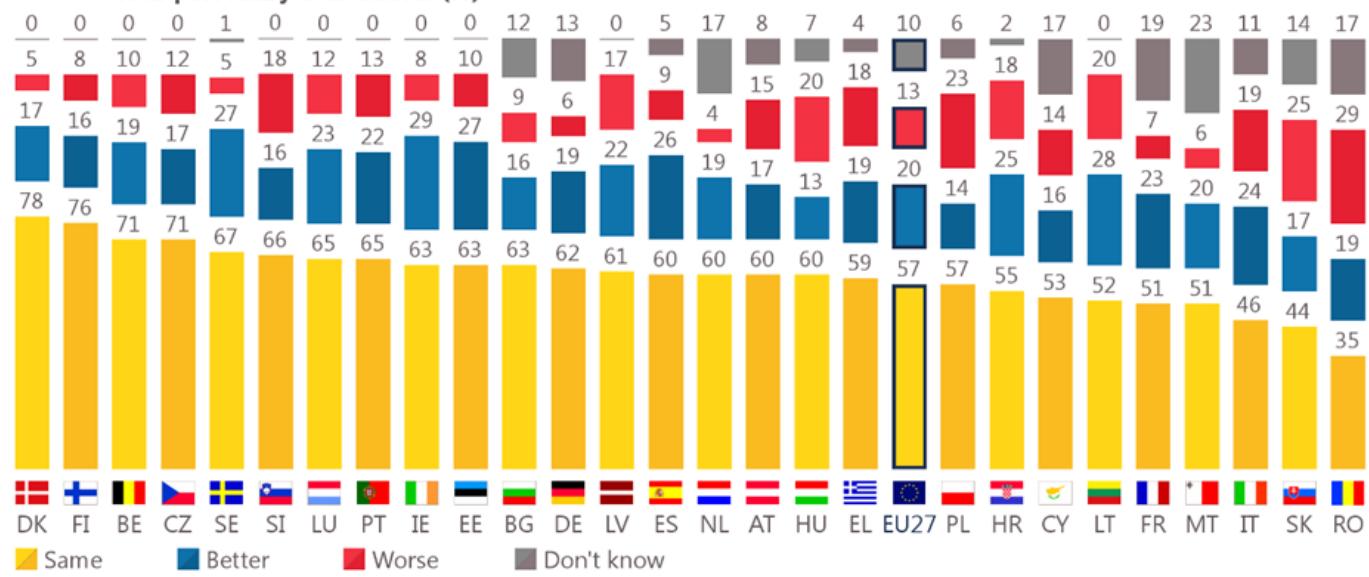
Your personal job situation (%)



Sorted by "Better" answers

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 (%)



Sorted by "Same" answers

Among those who expect the situation to change, optimists outnumber pessimists in 22 countries, with optimism the most widespread in Ireland (29%), Lithuania (28%), Sweden and Estonia (27% in both). In five countries, pessimism outweighs optimism,

and the highest levels of pessimism are seen in Romania (29%), Slovakia (25%) and Poland (23%).

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Since summer 2020, the **optimism index** for the personal job situation has improved in 14 Member States, most notably Spain (+14 index points) and Portugal (+12).

It has deteriorated in 11 countries, most strikingly in Latvia (-14 index points) and Poland (-11). It is stable in the two other Member States: Austria and Slovenia.

QA2a.6 What are your expectations for the next twelve months: will the next twelve months be better, worse or the same, when it comes to...?
Your personal job situation (INDEX)

	EU27	Better - Worse Sum.2020	Better - Worse Win.2020/2021	Win.2020/2021 - Sum.2020
EU27		+4	+7	▲ 3
ES		+3	+17	▲ 14
PT		-3	+9	▲ 12
NL		+7	+15	▲ 8
EL		-7	+1	▲ 8
IE		+14	+21	▲ 7
SE		+16	+22	▲ 6
EE		+11	+17	▲ 6
IT		-1	+5	▲ 6
DE		+8	+13	▲ 5
BG		+2	+7	▲ 5
CZ		0	+5	▲ 5
BE		+5	+9	▲ 4
FR		+14	+16	▲ 2
HR		+6	+7	▲ 1
AT		+2	+2	=
SI		-2	-2	=
FI		+9	+8	▼ 1
MT		+16	+14	▼ 2
LU		+13	+11	▼ 2
CY		+5	+2	▼ 3
DK		+16	+12	▼ 4
LT		+13	+8	▼ 5
HU		-2	-7	▼ 5
SK		-2	-8	▼ 6
RO		-4	-10	▼ 6
PL		+2	-9	▼ 11
LV		+19	+5	▼ 14

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The **socio-demographic** analysis shows that, in nearly every group, a majority expect their personal job situation to remain the same over the next twelve months. The only exception is the group of unemployed respondents, who are slightly more likely to say the situation will get better than stay the same (37% vs 33%).

In most groups optimism outweighs pessimism, most notably respondents aged 15-24 (36% vs 12%), respondents who remained in education until the age of 20 or older (22% vs 10%), managers (21% vs 11%), self-employed respondents (29% vs 15%), unemployed respondents (37% vs 22%) and those who consider themselves as part of the upper middle class of society (23% vs 6%).

By contrast, there are some groups where there are equal levels of optimism and pessimism, or where pessimism is marginally higher: respondents aged 55 or over (10% pessimistic vs 10% optimistic), those who left education at the age of 15 or before (12% vs 11%) and those who have difficulties paying their bills most of the time (26% vs 24%) or from time to time (22% vs 22%).

QA2a.6 What are your expectations for the next twelve months: will the next twelve months be better, worse or the same, when it comes to...?

Your personal job situation (% - EU)

	Better	Worse	Same	Don't know
EU27	20	13	57	10
Gender				
Man	22	13	57	8
Woman	19	12	57	12
Age				
15-24	36	12	41	11
25-39	30	14	52	4
40-54	22	14	61	3
55+	10	10	62	18
Education (End of)				
15-	11	12	58	19
16-19	18	16	56	10
20+	22	10	62	6
Still studying	35	10	43	12
Socio-professional category				
Self-employed	29	15	53	3
Managers	21	11	67	1
Other white collars	22	13	63	2
Manual workers	23	17	57	3
House persons	15	11	56	18
Unemployed	37	22	33	8
Retired	5	8	63	24
Students	35	10	43	12
Difficulties paying bills				
Most of the time	24	26	41	9
From time to time	22	22	47	9
Almost never/ Never	19	8	63	10
Consider belonging to				
The working class	18	14	57	11
The lower middle class	20	16	55	9
The middle class	22	12	57	9
The upper middle class	23	6	63	8
The upper class	18	12	64	6

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1.2 Economic aspects

1.2.1 Assessment of the current economic situation

National and European situations

Perceptions of the national and European economic situation have continued to deteriorate

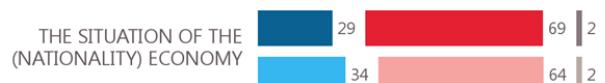
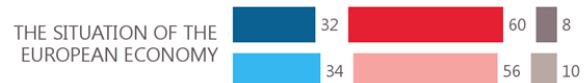
Europeans are less positive about the economy in their country and in Europe in general than in summer 2020⁴³.

Around three in ten respondents in the EU (29%, -5 percentage points since summer 2020) are positive about the **economic situation in their country**, while 69% (+5) are negative and 2% (unchanged) say they don't know.

A little under a third of Europeans (32%, -2 percentage points since summer 2020) also consider that the **situation of the European economy** is good, while 60% (+4) think that it is bad and 8% (-2) say they don't know.

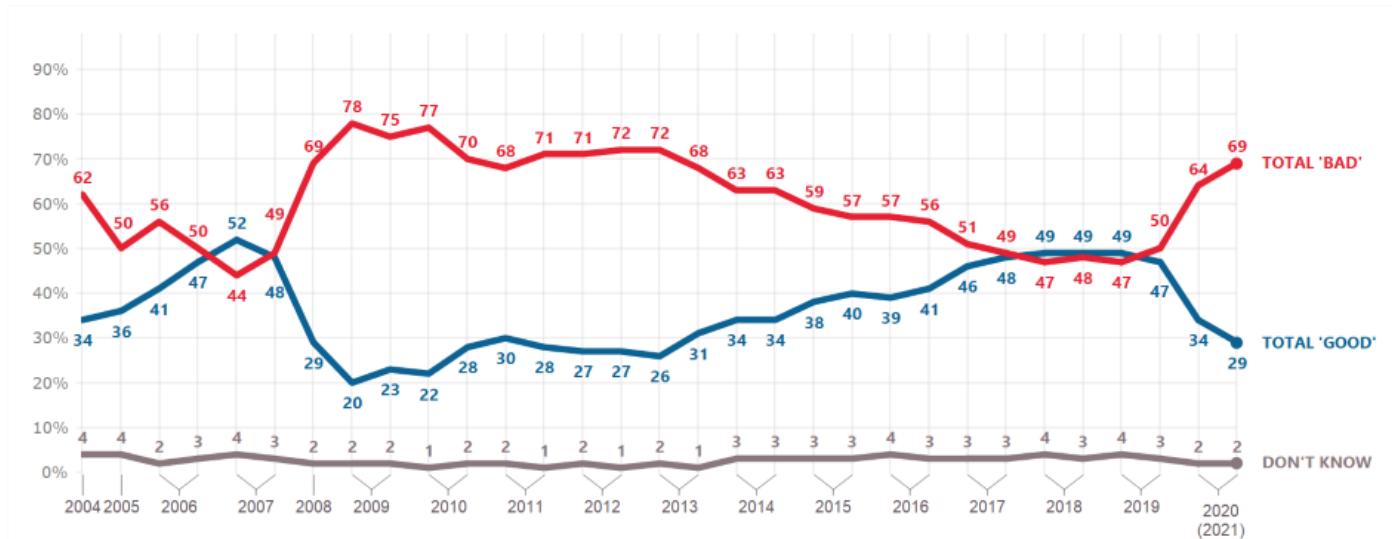
Negative views now clearly outweigh positive views regarding the **situation of the national economy** in the 27 Member States as a whole. This continues the negative shift seen between autumn 2019 and summer 2020, and is a return to the levels recorded in 2013. The current position is in contrast to the equal balance of positive and negative views seen in recent years.

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



Legend:
 Winter 2020/2021 (Dark Blue)
 Summer 2020 (Light Blue)
 Total 'Good' (Red)
 Total 'Bad' (Pink)
 Don't know (Grey)

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



⁴³ QA1a2-3. How would you judge the current situation in each of the following? The situation of the (NATIONALITY) economy/The situation of the European economy.

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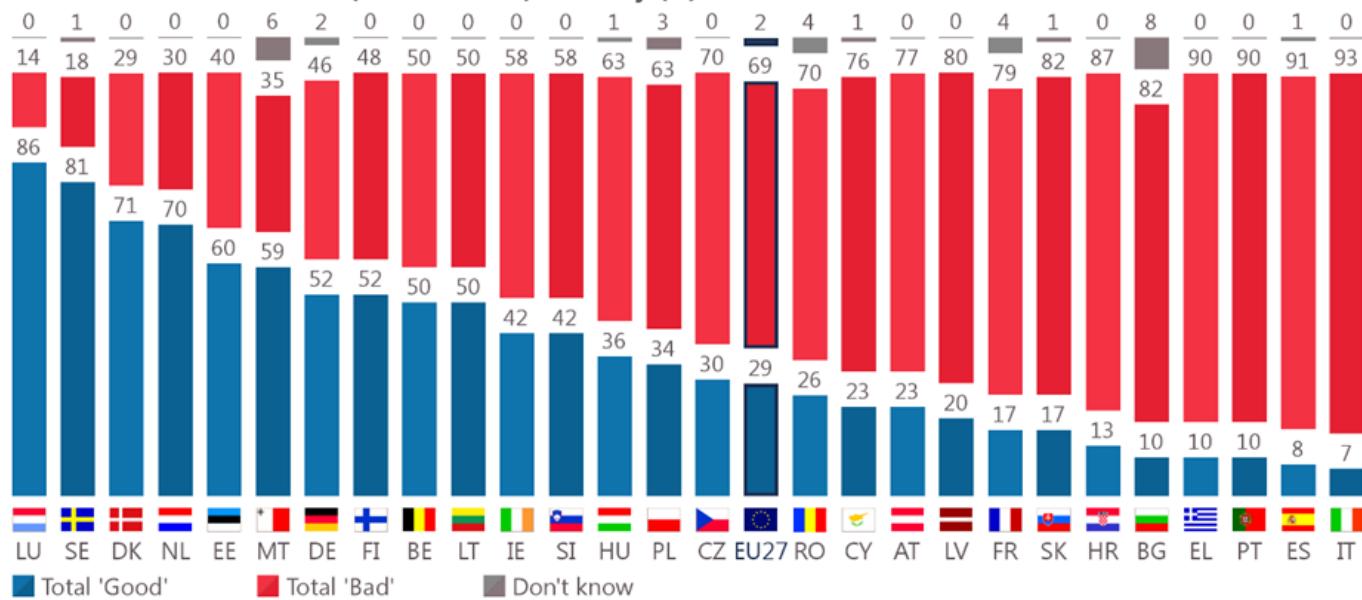
Assessments of the **national economic situation** continue to vary considerably within the 27 EU Member States, with a difference of 79 percentage points between the positive opinions recorded in Luxembourg and in Italy (86% vs 7%).

Respondents are predominantly positive in eight Member States, compared with ten in summer 2020. Respondents in Luxembourg (86%), Sweden (81%), Denmark (71%) and the Netherlands (70%) are the most positive.

A majority of respondents are negative in 17 Member States, most markedly in Italy (93%), Spain (91%), and Greece and Portugal (90% in both). In the remaining two countries, equal proportions think that the situation of the national economy is good and bad: Belgium and Lithuania (50% vs 50% in each country).

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

The situation of the (NATIONALITY) economy (%)



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Countries outside the euro area are more likely to be positive about the national economic situation than countries in the euro area (36% vs 28%). However, the difference has narrowed since summer 2020: in the euro area countries, positive perceptions of the national economic situation have declined slightly, by 3 percentage points, while negative opinions have shown a corresponding increase (+4). In countries outside the euro area, positive opinions have decreased by 10 percentage points, with negative perceptions showing a corresponding increase (+10).

Since summer 2020, positive perceptions of the national economic situation have gained ground in only four Member States: Belgium (50%, +10 percentage points), Sweden (81%, +7), Luxembourg (86%, +3) and Greece (10%, +1). Perceptions have become more negative in 23 countries, most sharply in Poland (34%, -19), Cyprus (23%, -17), Austria (23%, -13), Hungary (36%, -12) and Denmark (71%, -11).

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

		Total 'Good'	Win.2020/2021 - Sum.2020	Total 'Bad'	Win.2020/2021 - Sum.2020	Don't know
EU27		29	▼ 5	69	▲ 5	2
EURO AREA		28	▼ 3	71	▲ 4	1
NON-EURO AREA		36	▼ 10	61	▲ 10	3
BE		50	▲ 10	50	▼ 9	0
SE		81	▲ 7	18	▼ 7	1
LU		86	▲ 3	14	▼ 2	0
EL		10	▲ 1	90	▼ 1	0
MT		59	▼ 1	35	▲ 2	6
FI		52	▼ 2	48	▲ 2	0
RO		26	▼ 2	70	=	4
FR		17	▼ 2	79	▲ 3	4
HR		13	▼ 2	87	▲ 3	0
BG		10	▼ 2	82	=	8
PT		10	▼ 2	90	▲ 3	0
DE		52	▼ 3	46	▲ 3	2
ES		8	▼ 3	91	▲ 3	1
IT		7	▼ 3	93	▲ 4	0
SI		42	▼ 5	58	▲ 7	0
EE		60	▼ 6	40	▲ 6	0
LT		50	▼ 6	50	▲ 9	0
IE		42	▼ 6	58	▲ 6	0
SK		17	▼ 6	82	▲ 8	1
LV		20	▼ 8	80	▲ 12	0
NL		70	▼ 9	30	▲ 10	0
CZ		30	▼ 9	70	▲ 11	0
DK		71	▼ 11	29	▲ 17	0
HU		36	▼ 12	63	▲ 14	1
AT		23	▼ 13	77	▲ 14	0
CY		23	▼ 17	76	▲ 16	1
PL		34	▼ 19	63	▲ 22	3

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The **socio-demographic** analysis shows that, in nearly all groups, a majority of respondents are negative about the national economic situation. The only exception is the group of respondents who consider themselves as belonging to the upper class of society (52% good, 48% bad). Respondents also hold relatively positive views in the following groups: 15-24 year olds (32% good), respondents who remained in education until the age of 20 or older (37%), managers (39%) and those who never or almost never have difficulties paying bills (35%).

By contrast, the proportions that rate the national economic situation as good are lowest among Europeans who finished education aged 15 or earlier (16%), unemployed respondents (16%), people who have difficulties paying their bills most of the time (16%) or from time-to-time (18%), and those who place themselves in the working class (19%) or lower middle class (24%) of society. Women are less likely than men to have a positive view of the national economic situation (26% vs 33%).

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

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

	Total 'Good'	Total 'Bad'	Don't know
EU27	29	69	2
 Gender			
Man	33	66	1
Woman	26	72	2
 Age			
15-24	32	64	4
25-39	29	70	1
40-54	28	71	1
55+	30	68	2
 Education (End of)			
15-	16	82	2
16-19	25	74	1
20+	37	62	1
Still studying	36	61	3
 Socio-professional category			
Self-employed	25	74	1
Managers	39	60	1
Other white collars	31	68	1
Manual workers	26	72	2
House persons	20	78	2
Unemployed	16	82	2
Retired	30	68	2
Students	36	61	3
 Difficulties paying bills			
Most of the time	16	83	1
From time to time	18	81	1
Almost never/ Never	35	63	2
 Consider belonging to			
The working class	19	79	2
The lower middle class	24	74	2
The middle class	32	66	2
The upper middle class	47	52	1
The upper class	52	48	0

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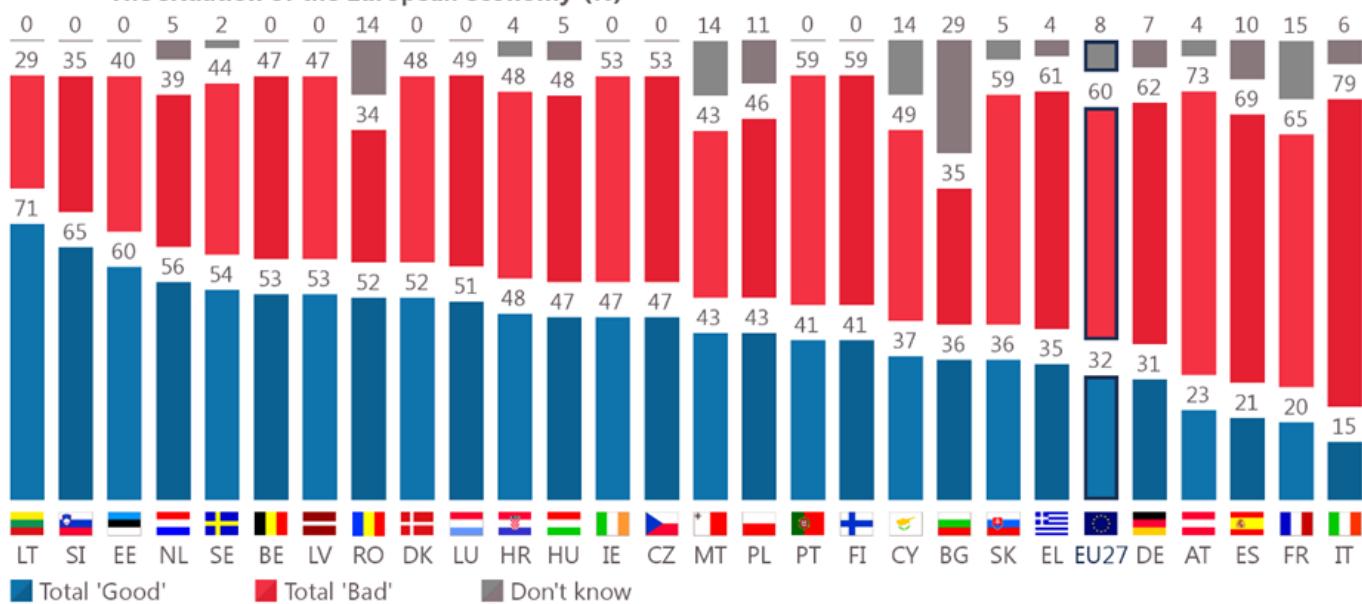
A majority of respondents consider that the **situation of the European economy** is good in 11 EU Member States, similar to the number in summer 2020 (ten Member States). Respondents in Lithuania (71%), Slovenia (65%) and Estonia (60%) are the most positive about the European economic situation.

A majority of respondents are negative about the situation of the European economy in 14 Member States, most notably Italy (79%), Austria (73%), Spain (69%) and France (65%).

There is an equal balance of positive and negative views in two Member States: Croatia (48%) and Malta (43%).

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

The situation of the European economy (%)



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Countries outside the euro area are more likely to be positive about the economic situation in the European Union than countries in the euro area (47% vs 27%). Both groups of countries have seen a small decline since summer 2020. In the **euro area** countries, positive perceptions of the European economy have declined by two percentage points, while negative opinions have shown a corresponding increase (+3). In countries **outside the euro area**, positive opinions have decreased by four percentage points, with negative perceptions increasing by six percentage points.

Since summer 2020, positive perceptions of the situation of the European economy have gained ground in 13 Member States and have deteriorated in 13 countries. There has been no change in the proportion of positive perceptions in Latvia, although there has been a substantial increase in negative ratings (47%, +17 percentage points).

The largest increases in positive perceptions can be seen in Portugal (41%, +16 percentage points), Belgium (53%, +15) and Sweden (54%, +15). Positive perceptions have declined the most in Poland (43%, -16) and Hungary (47%, -11).

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

		Total 'Good'	Win.2020/2021 - Sum.2020	Total 'Bad'	Win.2020/2021 - Sum.2020	Don't know
EU27		32	▼ 2	60	▲ 4	8
EURO AREA		27	▼ 2	65	▲ 3	8
NON-EURO AREA		47	▼ 4	43	▲ 6	10
PT		41	▲ 16	59	▼ 8	0
SE		54	▲ 15	44	▼ 14	2
BE		53	▲ 15	47	▼ 11	0
NL		56	▲ 10	39	▼ 9	5
DK		52	▲ 10	48	▲ 2	0
MT		43	▲ 10	43	▼ 1	14
SI		65	▲ 8	35	▼ 3	0
CZ		47	▲ 8	53	▲ 2	0
LT		71	▲ 5	29	▲ 8	0
HR		48	▲ 2	48	▲ 4	4
RO		52	▲ 1	34	▼ 1	14
LU		51	▲ 1	49	▼ 1	0
FI		41	▲ 1	59	▼ 1	0
LV		53	=	47	▲ 17	0
ES		21	▼ 1	69	▲ 2	10
DE		31	▼ 2	62	▲ 2	7
FR		20	▼ 2	65	▲ 4	15
CY		37	▼ 3	49	▲ 4	14
EL		35	▼ 3	61	▲ 4	4
IE		47	▼ 4	53	▲ 4	0
BG		36	▼ 5	35	▲ 2	29
SK		36	▼ 5	59	▲ 8	5
IT		15	▼ 5	79	▲ 7	6
AT		23	▼ 6	73	▲ 5	4
EE		60	▼ 8	40	▲ 8	0
HU		47	▼ 11	48	▲ 14	5
PL		43	▼ 16	46	▲ 18	11

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Analysis of the **socio-demographic** data shows that, in almost all categories, a majority of respondents think that the situation of the European economy is bad rather than good. The sole exception are respondents who consider themselves as belonging to the upper class of society (50% good, 47% bad).

The proportions that rate the situation of the European economy as good are lowest among Europeans aged 55 or over (29%), those who finished education aged 15 or earlier (21%), house persons (24%), unemployed respondents (24%), people who have difficulties paying their bills most of the time (25%), and those who consider themselves as part of the working class (26%) or lower middle class (28%) of society.

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

The situation of the European economy

	Total 'Good'	Total 'Bad'	Don't know
EU27	32	60	8
Gender			
Man	35	58	7
Woman	30	61	9
Age			
15-24	41	49	10
25-39	35	58	7
40-54	32	62	6
55+	29	62	9
Education (End of)			
15-	21	64	15
16-19	29	63	8
20+	37	57	6
Still studying	41	50	9
Socio-professional category			
Self-employed	30	65	5
Managers	39	57	4
Other white collars	36	59	5
Manual workers	31	61	8
House persons	24	67	9
Unemployed	24	63	13
Retired	29	60	11
Students	41	50	9
Difficulties paying bills			
Most of the time	25	66	9
From time to time	27	65	8
Almost never/ Never	35	57	8
Consider belonging to			
The working class	26	61	13
The lower middle class	28	64	8
The middle class	35	59	6
The upper middle class	44	51	5
The upper class	50	47	3

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The employment situation

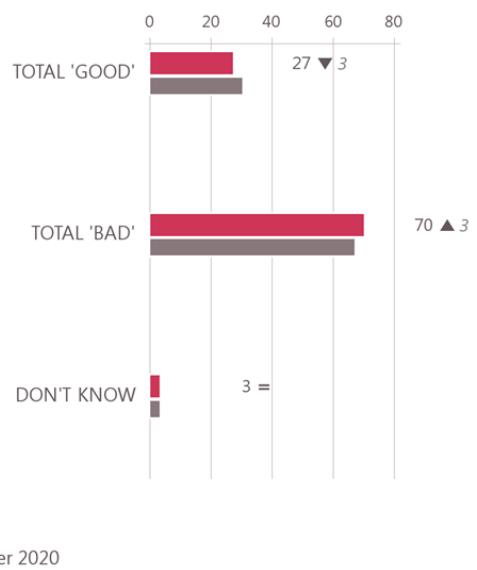
Europeans have become slightly more negative towards the **employment situation in their country**: 70% (+3 percentage points since summer 2020) consider that the employment situation in their country is "bad", while 27% (-3) think that it is "good" and 3% (unchanged) express no opinion.⁴⁴

A majority of respondents are positive about the **employment situation in their country** in six Member States of the European Union, compared with eight in summer 2020. Respondents are most likely to be positive in Czechia (72%), Denmark (69%), the Netherlands (66%) and Luxembourg (64%). Judgements are predominantly negative in 21 EU Member States, in particular in Spain (94%), Greece and Italy (92% in both) and Portugal (87%).

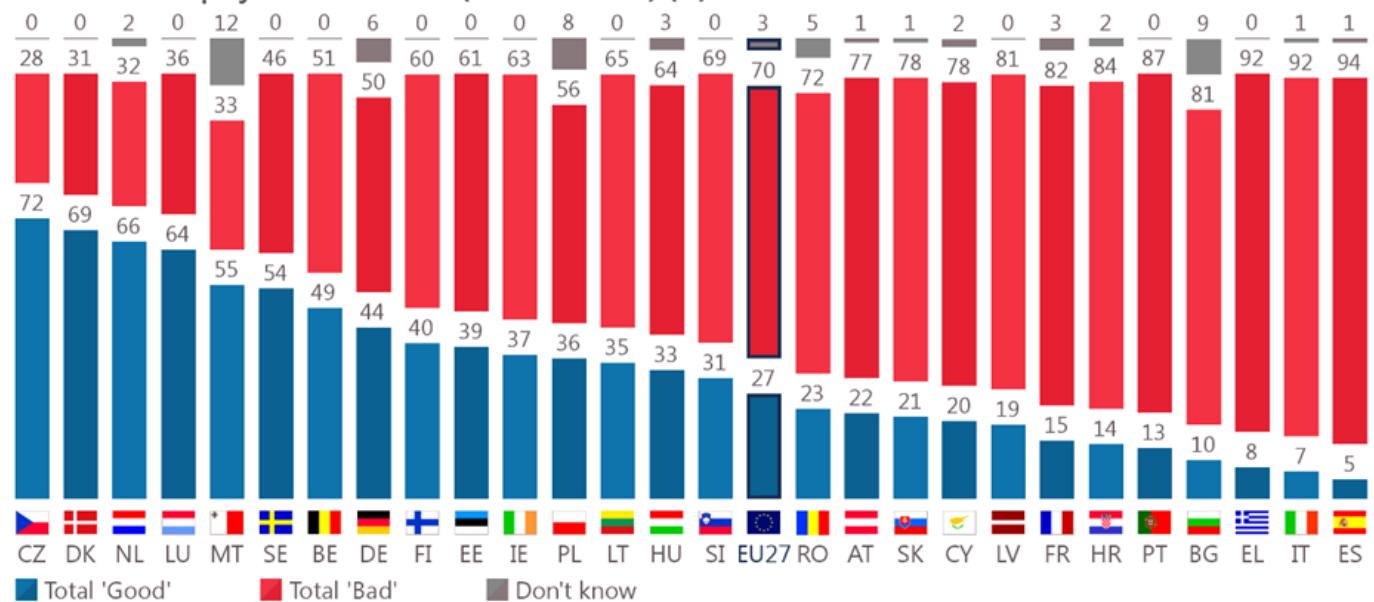
Since summer 2020, positive opinions on the national employment situation have lost ground in 18 Member States, most strikingly in Poland (36%, -16 percentage points), Cyprus (20%, -15), Lithuania (35%, -14), Estonia (39%, -12) and Latvia (19%, -11).

Positive opinions have gained ground in eight countries, with by far the largest increase in Czechia (72%, +16). There has been no change in Denmark (69%).

QA1a.6 How would you judge the current situation in each of the following?
The employment situation in (OUR COUNTRY)
(% - EU)



QA1a.6 How would you judge the current situation in each of the following?
The employment situation in (OUR COUNTRY) (%)



⁴⁴ QA1a6. How would you judge the current situation in each of the following? The employment situation in (OUR COUNTRY).

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The **socio-demographic** analysis shows predominantly negative views about the national employment situation. The proportions that think the employment situation is good are highest among respondents who remained in education until the age of 20 or older (33%), managers (40%), those who never or almost never have difficulties paying bills (32%), and respondents who consider themselves as belonging to the upper class (54%) or upper middle class (43%) of society.

By contrast, the proportions that rate the national employment situation as good are lowest among Europeans who finished education aged 15 or earlier (15%), unemployed respondents (13%), house persons (18%), people who have difficulties paying their bills most of the time (14%) and those who consider themselves part of the working class (16%) or lower middle class (23%) of society.

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

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

	Total 'Good'	Total 'Bad'	Don't know
EU27	27	70	3
 Gender			
Man	30	67	3
Woman	25	72	3
 Age			
15-24	30	67	3
25-39	30	67	3
40-54	27	71	2
55+	25	71	4
 Education (End of)			
15-	15	81	4
16-19	25	72	3
20+	33	64	3
Still studying	29	67	4
 Socio-professional category			
Self-employed	26	72	2
Managers	40	58	2
Other white collars	30	68	2
Manual workers	27	71	2
House persons	18	80	2
Unemployed	13	85	2
Retired	25	70	5
Students	29	67	4
 Difficulties paying bills			
Most of the time	14	85	1
From time to time	18	80	2
Almost never/ Never	32	64	4
 Consider belonging to			
The working class	16	80	4
The lower middle class	23	75	2
The middle class	30	67	3
The upper middle class	43	55	2
The upper class	54	44	2

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1.2.2 Expectations for the next twelve months

National and European situations

Macroeconomic expectations have improved

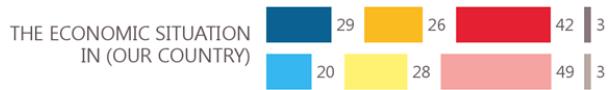
Although there has been a deterioration in perceptions of the current economic situation at national and European levels, expectations for the next twelve months have become more positive. There have been increases in levels of optimism for the economy at both national and European levels.

Just over four in ten respondents in the EU (42%, -7 percentage points since summer 2020) expect the **economic situation in their country** to get worse over the coming year, while 29% (+9) expect an improvement and 26% (-2) expect it to remain unchanged.

More than a third of Europeans (36%, -6 percentage points since summer 2020) also expect the **economic situation in the EU** to get worse over the coming year, while 31% (-1) expect it to be stable and 26% (+10) expect an improvement⁴⁵.

As a result of these changes, the optimism indices for the national and European economic situations have increased, redressing the declines registered in the previous survey (Standard Eurobarometer 93), and returning to the levels seen in autumn 2019. At -13, the optimism index for the **national economic situation** has gained 16 index points since summer 2020.

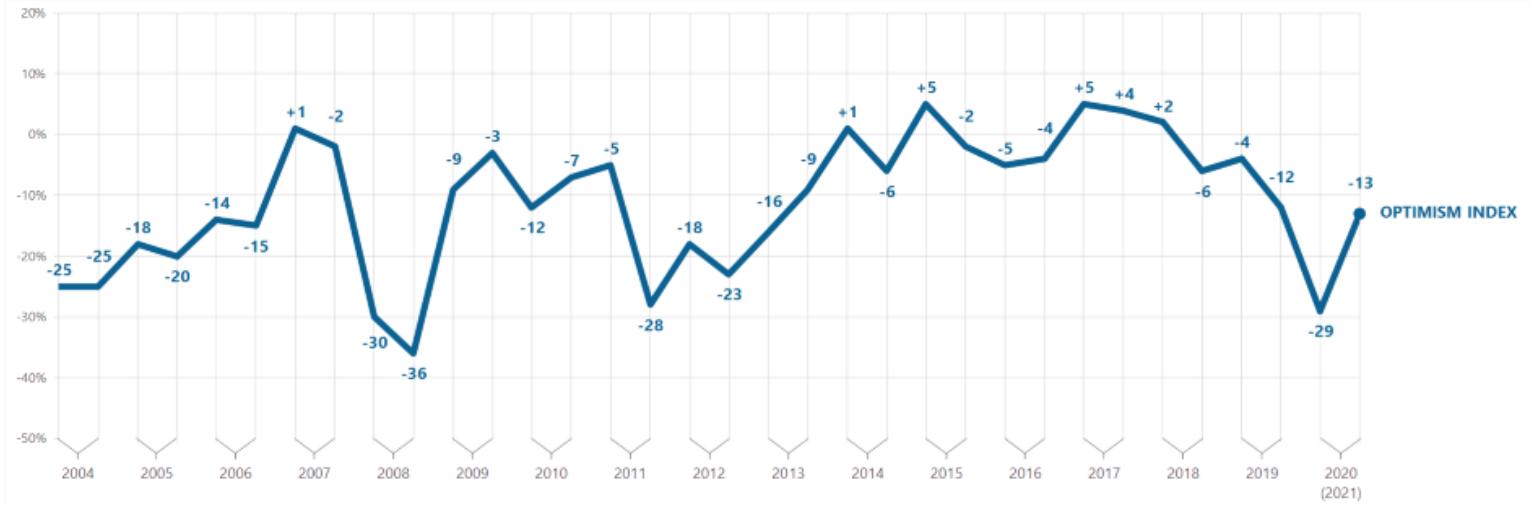
QA2a What are your expectations for the next twelve months: will the next twelve months be better, worse or the same, when it comes to...? (% - EU)



Winter 2020/2021 Summer 2020
█ Better █ Same █ Worse █ Don't know

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

The economic situation in (OUR COUNTRY) (EU - OPTIMISM INDEX (BETTER - WORSE))



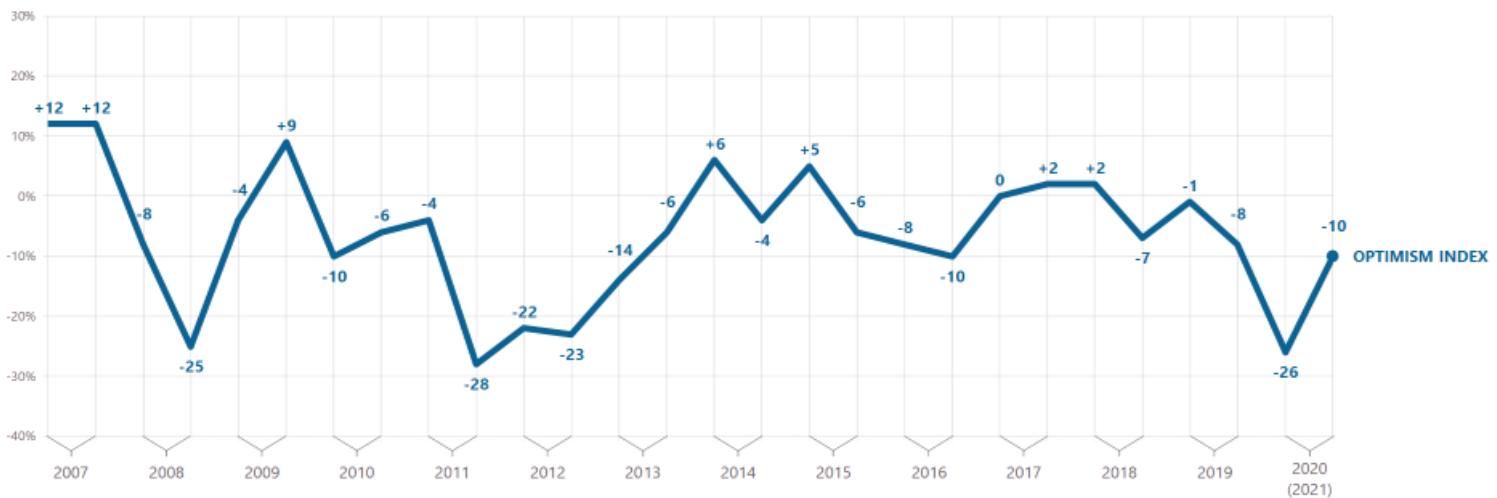
⁴⁵ QA2a3-7. What are your expectations for the next twelve months: will the next twelve months be better, worse or the same, when it comes to...?

The economic situation in (OUR COUNTRY)/The economic situation in the EU.

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At -10, the optimism index for the **European economic situation** has gained 16 index points since summer 2020, returning to levels similar to those recorded in autumn 2019 and autumn 2016.

QA2a.7 What are your expectations for the next twelve months: will the next twelve months be better, worse or the same, when it comes to...?
The economic situation in the EU (EU - OPTIMISM INDEX (BETTER - WORSE))

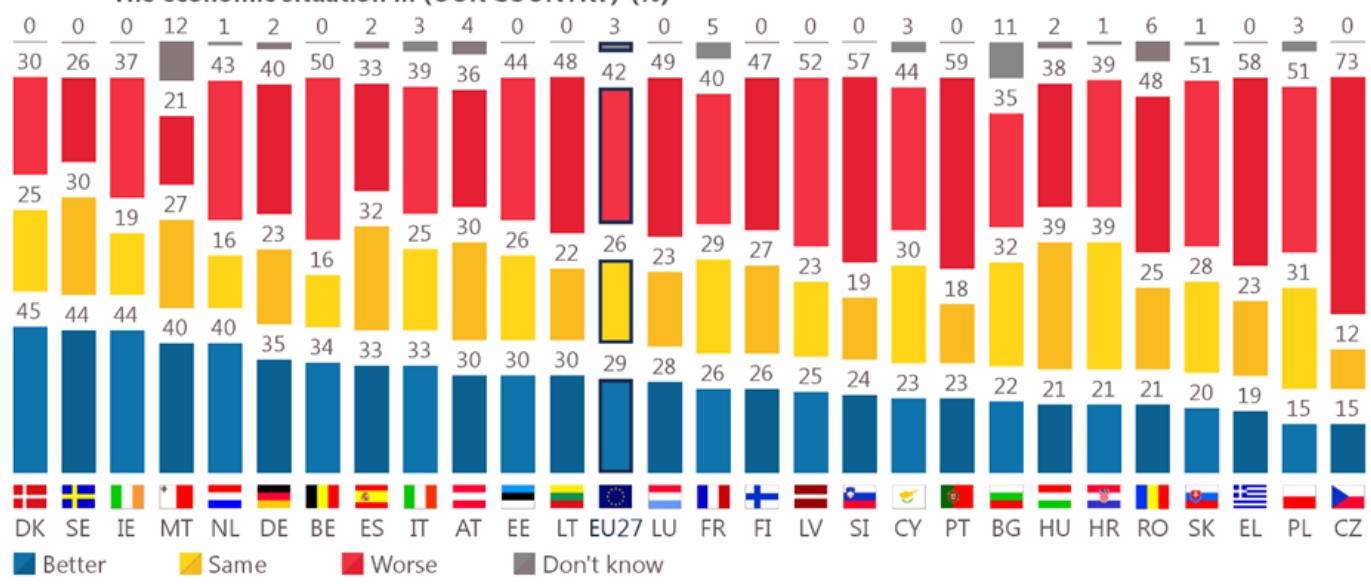


In the case of the **national economic situation**, respondents are most likely to expect the next 12 months to be "worse" in 20 countries, while there are four Member States where the most common response is that things will get "better". In Hungary, "the same" is the most frequent answer (39% vs 21% for "better" and 38% for "worse"), while there is no consensus in Spain (33% for "better", 32% for "same" and 33% for "worse") and Croatia (21% for "better", 39% for "same" and 39% for "worse").

Optimists outnumber pessimists in four EU Member States: Denmark (45% vs 30%), Sweden (44% vs 26%), Ireland (44% vs 37%) and Malta (40% vs 21%). There is an equal balance in Spain (33% for both "better" and "worse"), while in the other 22 Member States, pessimism outweighs optimistic expectations. Pessimism is most prevalent in Czechia (73%), Portugal (59%), Greece (58%) and Slovenia (57%).

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

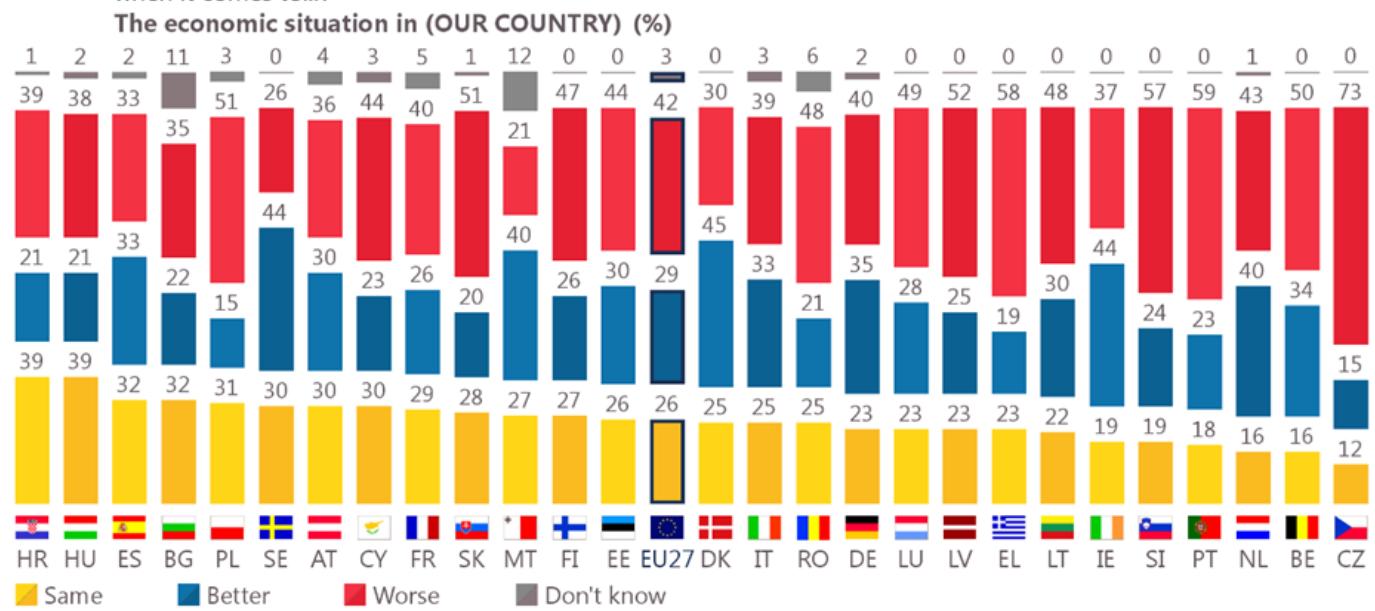
The economic situation in (OUR COUNTRY) (%)



Sorted by "Better"

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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...?



Sorted by "Same"

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Expectations for the national economic situation have become more optimistic since summer 2020 among countries in the **euro area** (+22 points in the optimism index), while there has been virtually no change among countries outside the euro area (-1 point). As a result, there is now greater optimism in euro area countries than in countries outside the euro area (31% vs 22% expect the economic situation in their country to get better over the coming year).

Since summer 2020, the **optimism index** for the national economic outlook has improved in 17 Member States, with some very large increases in the Netherlands (+57 index points), Ireland (+54), Sweden (+50), Spain (+34) and Belgium (+32). The index has deteriorated in the other 10 Member States, most markedly in Latvia (-19 index points), Poland (-16), Lithuania (-12) and Czechia (-11).

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

The economic situation in (OUR COUNTRY) (INDEX)

		Better - Worse Sum.2020	Better - Worse Win.2020/2021	Win.2020/2021 - Sum.2020
EU27		-29	-13	▲ 16
NL		-60	-3	▲ 57
IE		-47	+7	▲ 54
SE		-32	+18	▲ 50
ES		-34	0	▲ 34
BE		-48	-16	▲ 32
LU		-49	-21	▲ 28
FR		-40	-14	▲ 26
DE		-24	-5	▲ 19
FI		-40	-21	▲ 19
IT		-23	-6	▲ 17
EE		-29	-14	▲ 15
BG		-26	-13	▲ 13
HR		-27	-18	▲ 9
AT		-13	-6	▲ 7
DK		+9	+15	▲ 6
CY		-25	-21	▲ 4
SI		-36	-33	▲ 3
MT		+20	+19	▼ 1
EL		-34	-39	▼ 5
RO		-21	-27	▼ 6
SK		-25	-31	▼ 6
PT		-28	-36	▼ 8
HU		-8	-17	▼ 9
CZ		-47	-58	▼ 11
LT		-6	-18	▼ 12
PL		-20	-36	▼ 16
LV		-8	-27	▼ 19

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The **socio-demographic** analysis shows that, in most groups, the prevailing view is that the national economic situation will get worse over the next twelve months. The exceptions are respondents aged 15-24 (36% "better" vs 35% "worse"), students (39% vs 33%) and those who consider themselves as belonging to the upper middle class of society (41% vs 38%).

The most pessimistic groups are those who have difficulties paying their bills most of the time (49% "worse") and those who consider themselves to be part of the lower middle class of society (46%).

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

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

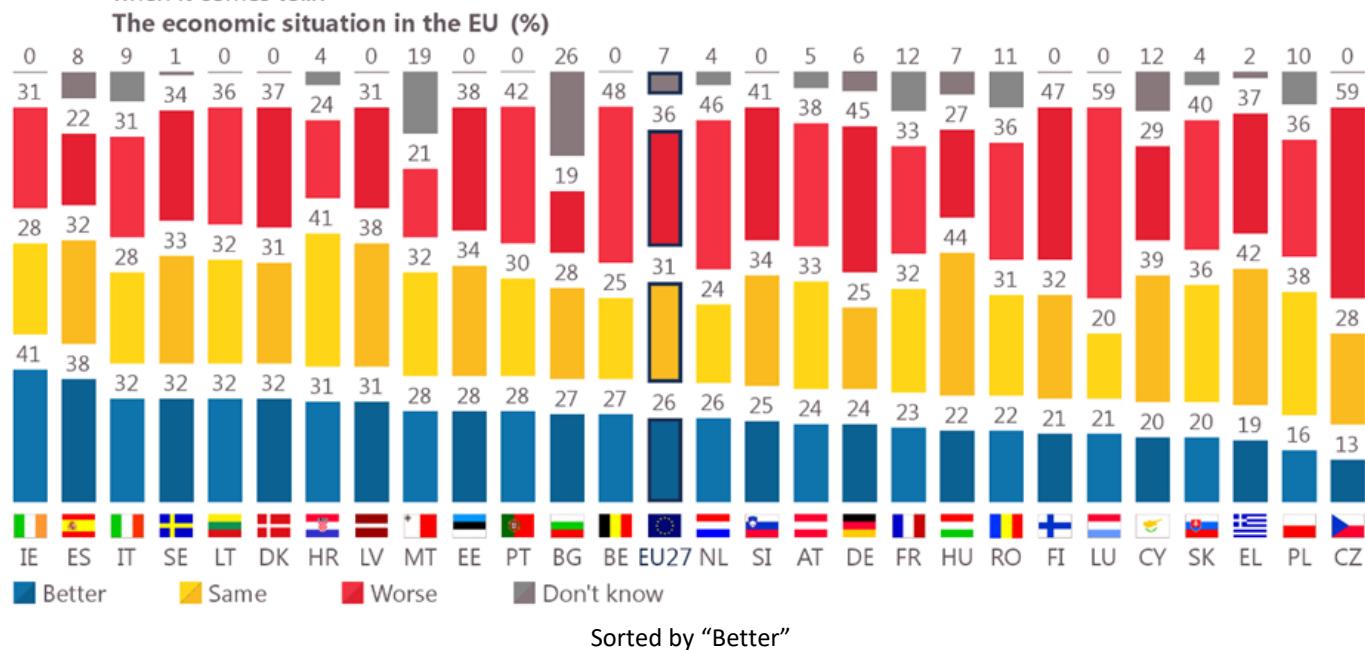
	Better	Worse	Same	Don't know
EU27	29	42	26	3
 Gender				
Man	31	41	26	2
Woman	28	43	26	3
 Age				
15-24	36	35	26	3
25-39	29	44	25	2
40-54	30	43	25	2
55+	27	43	27	3
 Education (End of)				
15-	22	42	30	6
16-19	25	44	28	3
20+	33	42	23	2
Still studying	39	33	25	3
 Socio-professional category				
Self-employed	29	45	24	2
Managers	35	42	22	1
Other white collars	30	43	26	1
Manual workers	26	45	26	3
House persons	24	41	32	3
Unemployed	28	41	29	2
Retired	25	44	27	4
Students	39	33	25	3
 Difficulties paying bills				
Most of the time	20	49	28	3
From time to time	23	47	27	3
Almost never/ Never	32	40	26	2
 Consider belonging to				
The working class	23	44	29	4
The lower middle class	24	46	28	2
The middle class	31	42	25	2
The upper middle class	41	38	20	1
The upper class	29	40	31	0

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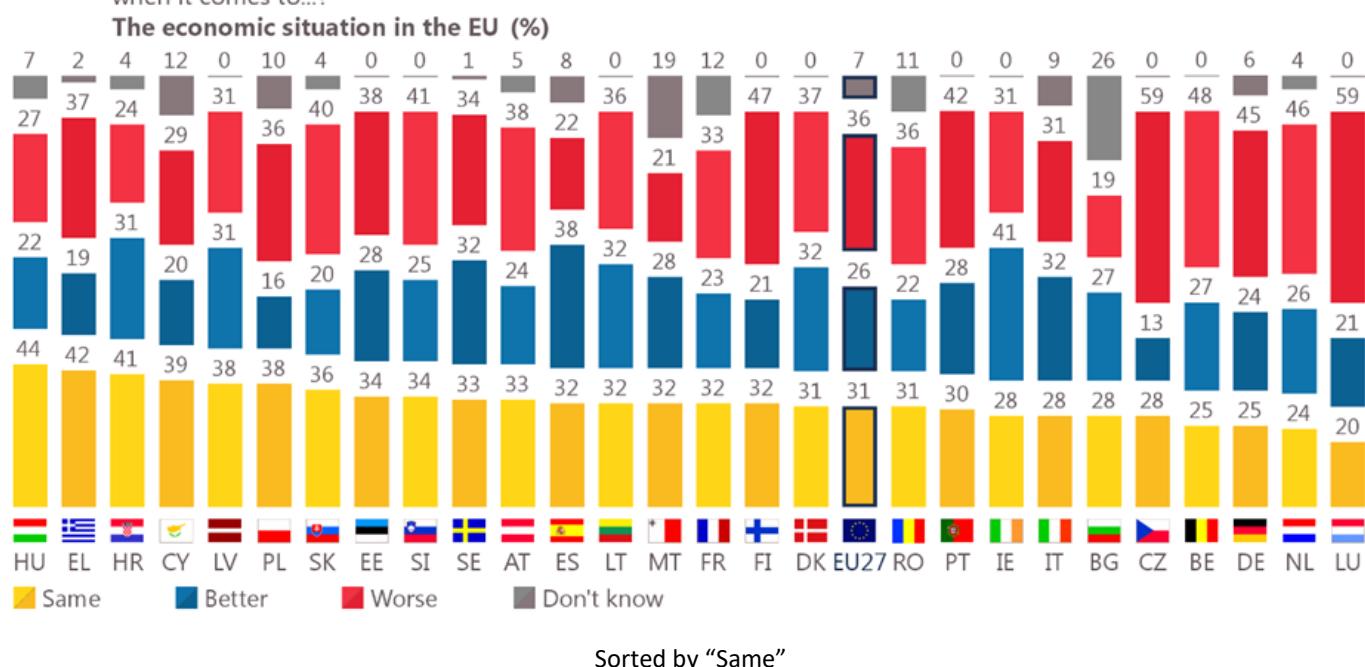
In terms of expectations for the **European economic situation**, "worse" is the most frequent answer given in 16 countries, while "the same" is the most frequent answer given in eight Member States. In the remaining three countries (Ireland, Spain and Italy), the most common response is that the economic situation in the EU will get better.

Optimism outweighs pessimism in six Member States of the European Union: Ireland (41% "better" vs 31% "worse"), Spain (38% vs 22%), Italy (32% vs 31%), Croatia (31% vs 24%), Malta (28% vs 21%) and Bulgaria (27% vs 19%). Pessimism outweighs optimism in 20 Member States, and respondents are the most pessimistic in Czechia and Luxembourg (59% in both), Belgium (48%), Finland (47%), the Netherlands (46%) and Germany (45%). In Latvia, there are equal proportions of optimistic and pessimistic respondents (31% for both).

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...?



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...?



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Since summer 2020, the **optimism index** for the economic outlook in the EU has improved in 20 Member States. There have been some very large increases, most markedly in Ireland (+54 index points), Sweden (+52), the Netherlands (+47) and Spain (+37). Some of these increases (for example in Ireland and the Netherlands) redress equally large decreases that were seen between autumn 2019 and summer 2020.

The optimism index has deteriorated since summer 2020 in the other seven Member States, most strikingly in Poland (-14), Romania (-8) and Czechia (-7).

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

The economic situation in the EU (INDEX)

		Better - Worse Sum.2020	Better - Worse Win.2020/2021	Win.2020/2021 - Sum.2020
EU27		-26	-10	▲ 16
IE		-44	+10	▲ 54
SE		-54	-2	▲ 52
NL		-67	-20	▲ 47
ES		-21	+16	▲ 37
LU		-65	-38	▲ 27
BE		-46	-21	▲ 25
FR		-34	-10	▲ 24
EE		-32	-10	▲ 22
FI		-47	-26	▲ 21
DK		-24	-5	▲ 19
IT		-14	+1	▲ 15
SI		-29	-16	▲ 13
DE		-34	-21	▲ 13
HR		-4	+7	▲ 11
BG		-1	+8	▲ 9
MT		-2	+7	▲ 9
AT		-19	-14	▲ 5
PT		-19	-14	▲ 5
CY		-13	-9	▲ 4
EL		-20	-18	▲ 2
HU		-3	-5	▼ 2
SK		-18	-20	▼ 2
LV		+4	0	▼ 4
LT		+1	-4	▼ 5
CZ		-39	-46	▼ 7
RO		-6	-14	▼ 8
PL		-6	-20	▼ 14

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In the **socio-demographic** analysis, a majority of respondents in most groups expects the economic situation in the EU to get worse over the next twelve months. The exceptions are 15-24 year olds (32% "same" vs 31% "better" and 29% "worse"), those who left education at the age of 15 or below (32% "same" and 32% "worse" vs 20% better), house persons (34% "same" vs 24% better and 32% "worse") and students (33% better vs 30% "same" and 30% "worse").

Otherwise, responses are generally consistent across the various socio-demographic groups.

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

The economic situation in the EU (%) - EU

	Better	Worse	Same	Don't know
EU27	26	36	31	7
Gender				
Man	27	36	30	7
Woman	24	37	31	8
Age				
15-24	31	29	32	8
25-39	27	37	30	6
40-54	28	36	30	6
55+	22	38	31	9
Education (End of)				
15-	20	32	32	16
16-19	23	37	32	8
20+	29	38	28	5
Still studying	33	30	30	7
Socio-professional category				
Self-employed	27	38	29	6
Managers	29	39	28	4
Other white collars	27	36	32	5
Manual workers	24	37	31	8
House persons	24	32	34	10
Unemployed	29	32	29	10
Retired	20	38	31	11
Students	33	30	30	7
Difficulties paying bills				
Most of the time	22	38	31	9
From time to time	22	38	32	8
Almost never/ Never	27	36	30	7
Consider belonging to				
The working class	22	34	32	12
The lower middle class	22	38	33	7
The middle class	28	36	30	6
The upper middle class	32	36	27	5
The upper class	23	39	34	4

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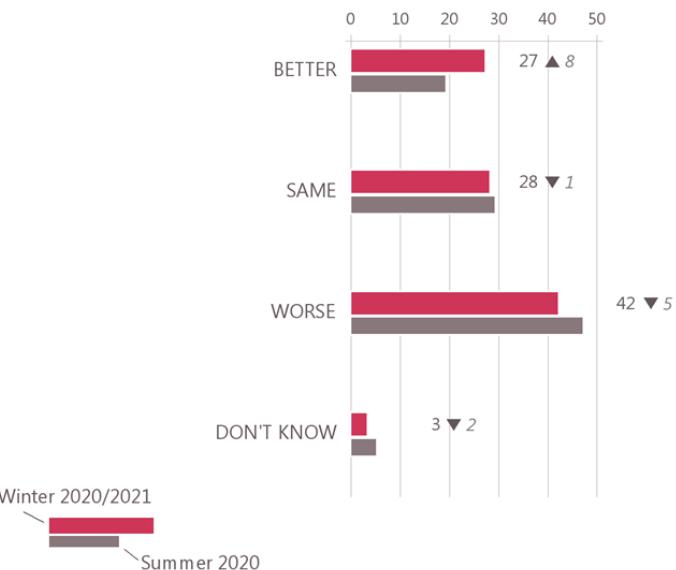
The employment situation

Expectations regarding the **employment outlook** for the next twelve months have also improved: 27% of Europeans (+8 percentage points since summer 2020) expect the next twelve months to be "better" when it comes to the employment situation in their country, while 42% (-5) expect them to get "worse" and 28% (-1) think they will stay the "same"⁴⁶.

In relation to the national employment outlook, "better" is the most frequent answer given in four Member States: Denmark (50%), Ireland (45%), Sweden (44%) and Malta (35%). In Hungary and Croatia, respondents are most likely to say that the situation will stay the "same" (40% in both), while in Spain equal proportions say the situation will get "better" and "worse" (34% in each case).

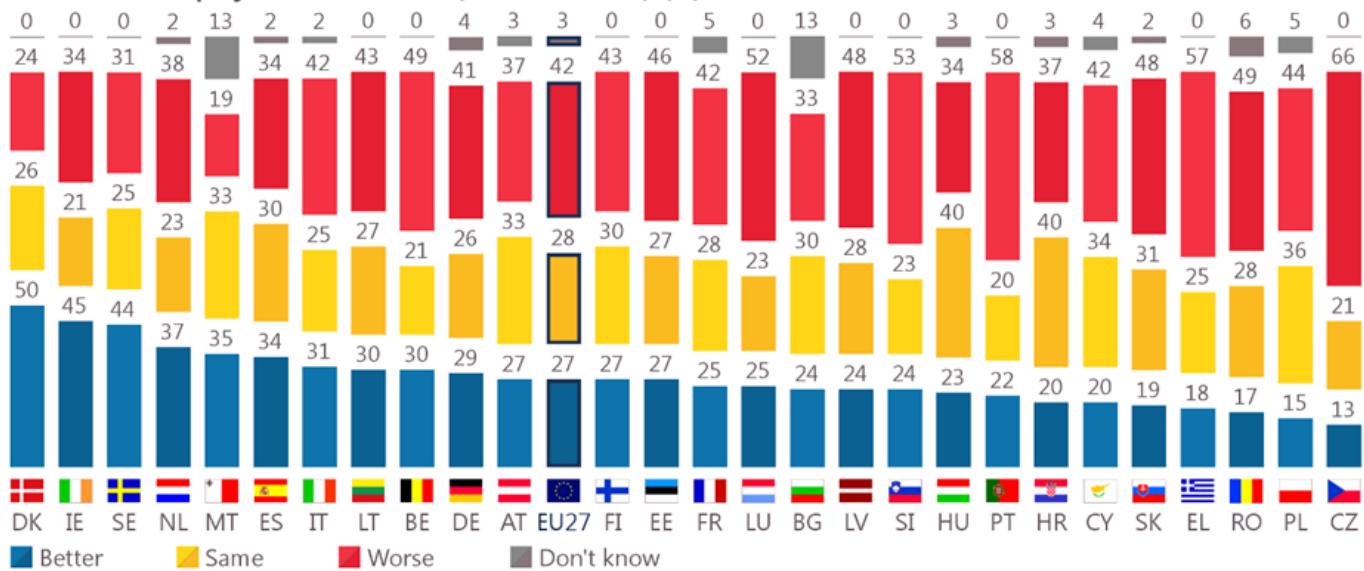
In the other 20 Member States, respondents most frequently expect the national employment situation to get worse. Respondents in Czechia (66%), Portugal (58%), Greece (57%), Slovenia (53%) and Luxembourg (52%) are the most pessimistic.

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



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

The employment situation in (OUR COUNTRY) (%)



⁴⁶ QA2a5. What are your expectations for the next twelve months: will the next twelve months be better, worse or the same, when it comes to...?
The employment situation in (OUR COUNTRY).

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Since summer 2020, there have been some large changes in the **optimism index** for the employment outlook. It has increased in 18 Member States, most notably in the Netherlands (+56 index points), Sweden (+50), Ireland (+48) and Spain (+30).

The optimism index has deteriorated in the other nine Member States, most markedly in Latvia (-23), Lithuania and Poland (-13 in both), and Czechia and Romania (-11 in both).

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

The employment situation in (OUR COUNTRY) (INDEX)

		Better - Worse Sum.2020	Better - Worse Win.2020/2021	Win.2020/2021 - Sum.2020
EU27		-28	-15	▲ 13
NL		-57	-1	▲ 56
SE		-37	+13	▲ 50
IE		-37	+11	▲ 48
ES		-30	0	▲ 30
BE		-45	-19	▲ 26
LU		-52	-27	▲ 25
FR		-40	-17	▲ 23
BG		-24	-9	▲ 15
FI		-31	-16	▲ 15
DK		+13	+26	▲ 13
EE		-32	-19	▲ 13
IT		-23	-11	▲ 12
DE		-24	-12	▲ 12
AT		-16	-10	▲ 6
HR		-21	-17	▲ 4
SI		-33	-29	▲ 4
MT		+13	+16	▲ 3
CY		-25	-22	▲ 3
SK		-28	-29	▼ 1
HU		-9	-11	▼ 2
EL		-35	-39	▼ 4
PT		-30	-36	▼ 6
RO		-21	-32	▼ 11
CZ		-42	-53	▼ 11
LT		0	-13	▼ 13
PL		-16	-29	▼ 13
LV		-1	-24	▼ 23

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The **socio-demographic** analysis shows that, in nearly every group, the prevailing view is that the national employment situation will get worse over the next twelve months. The exceptions are students (36% "better" vs 32% "worse") and those who consider themselves to be part of the upper middle class of society (37% "better" and 37% "worse"). Views are also relatively optimistic among respondents aged 15-24 (33% "better"), those who left education at the age of 20 or older (31%) and managers (31%).

Responses are generally consistent across the various categories, although views are most pessimistic among those who have difficulties paying their bills most of the time (50% "worse").

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

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

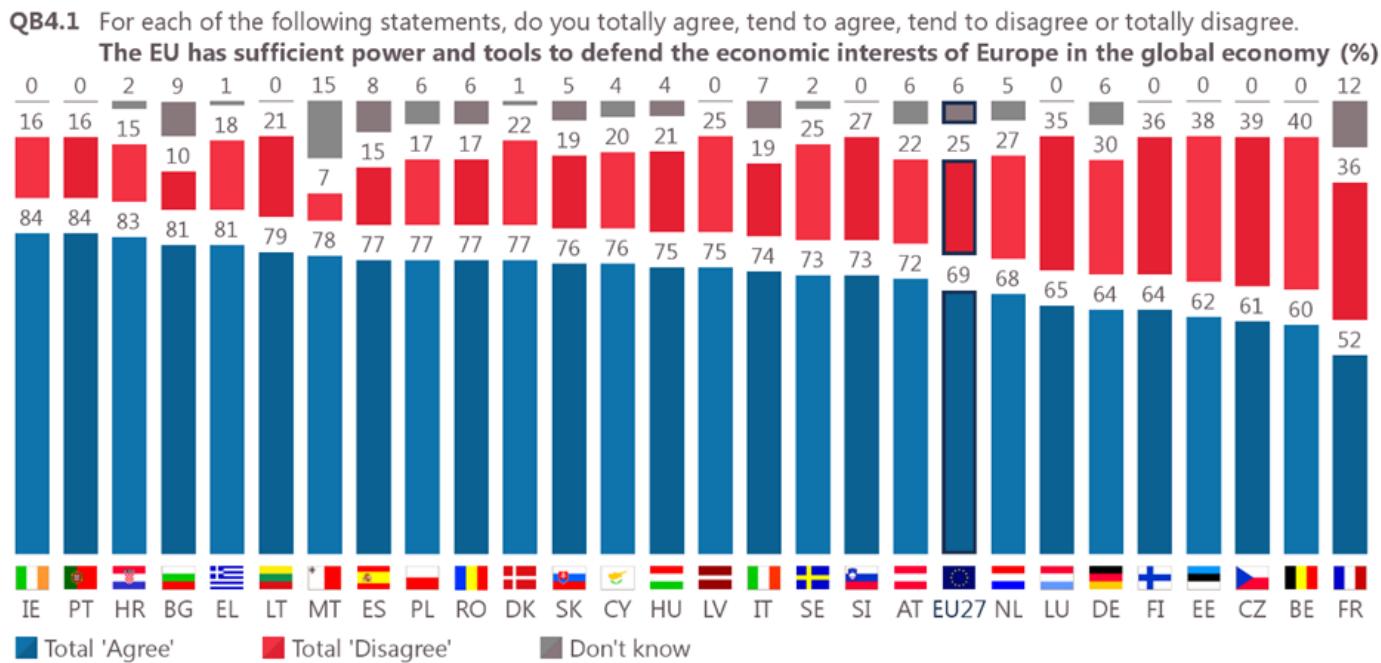
	Better	Worse	Same	Don't know
EU27	27	42	28	3
Gender				
Man	28	41	28	3
Woman	26	42	28	4
Age				
15-24	33	34	30	3
25-39	28	41	28	3
40-54	27	43	28	2
55+	25	44	27	4
Education (End of)				
15-	22	43	30	5
16-19	24	43	30	3
20+	31	43	24	2
Still studying	36	32	29	3
Socio-professional category				
Self-employed	25	45	28	2
Managers	31	42	25	2
Other white collars	29	42	27	2
Manual workers	26	42	29	3
House persons	24	43	30	3
Unemployed	27	42	26	5
Retired	23	44	28	5
Students	36	32	29	3
Difficulties paying bills				
Most of the time	19	50	28	3
From time to time	22	46	29	3
Almost never/ Never	30	39	28	3
Consider belonging to				
The working class	23	43	30	4
The lower middle class	23	46	28	3
The middle class	29	41	27	3
The upper middle class	37	37	24	2
The upper class	27	44	27	2

2. The European Union and economic reforms

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

More than two thirds of respondents in the EU (69%, +1 percentage point since summer 2020) consider that “**the European Union has sufficient power and tools to defend the economic interests of Europe in the global economy**”, while 25% (+2) disagree and 6% (-3) express no opinion⁴⁷.

There is a consensus among Europeans that the European Union is capable of defending European interests in the global economy. A large majority of respondents agree with this statement in both the euro area countries (68%, +1 percentage point) and the non-euro area countries (75%, +2). It is supported by an absolute majority of respondents in all Member States, in proportions ranging from 52% in France to 84% in both Ireland and Portugal. Levels of disagreement vary by Member State, ranging from 7% in Malta to 40% in Belgium.



⁴⁷ QB4.1 For each of the following statements, please tell me whether you totally agree, tend to agree, tend to disagree or totally disagree: The EU

has sufficient power and tools to defend the economic interests of Europe in the global economy.

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Since summer 2020, levels of agreement have been stable in many countries, with 13 Member States registering changes of no more than two percentage points. Agreement has increased the most in Denmark (77%, +14 percentage points), Italy (74%, +7), the Netherlands (68%, +7) and Finland (64%, +7). Agreement has fallen most strongly in Belgium (60%, -7).

QB4.1 For each of the following statements, do you totally agree, tend to agree, tend to disagree or totally disagree.

The EU has sufficient power and tools to defend the economic interests of Europe in the global economy (%)

	EU27 	Total 'Agree'	Win.2020/2021 - Sum.2020		Total 'Disagree'	Win.2020/2021 - Sum.2020		Don't know
EU27		69	▲ 1		25	▲ 2		6
EURO AREA		68	▲ 1		25	▲ 1		7
NON-EURO AREA		75	▲ 2		20	▲ 2		5
DK		77	▲ 14		22	▼ 1		1
IT		74	▲ 7		19	▼ 5		7
NL		68	▲ 7		27	▼ 2		5
FI		64	▲ 7		36	▼ 7		0
RO		77	▲ 6		17	▼ 3		6
HR		83	▲ 5		15	▼ 3		2
BG		81	▲ 5		10	▼ 1		9
LV		75	▲ 4		25	▲ 5		0
SE		73	▲ 4		25	▼ 3		2
AT		72	▲ 4		22	▼ 6		6
LU		65	▲ 4		35	▼ 4		0
PT		84	▲ 2		16	▲ 10		0
PL		77	▲ 2		17	▲ 1		6
CY		76	▲ 2		20	▲ 5		4
SI		73	▲ 2		27	▲ 2		0
IE		84	▲ 1		16	▼ 1		0
EL		81	▲ 1		18	▲ 3		1
LT		79	▲ 1		21	▲ 9		0
MT		78	▲ 1		7	▲ 1		15
SK		76	▲ 1		19	=		5
ES		77	▼ 1		15	▲ 3		8
HU		75	▼ 1		21	▲ 4		4
DE		64	▼ 1		30	▲ 3		6
EE		62	▼ 2		38	▲ 2		0
CZ		61	▼ 3		39	▲ 15		0
FR		52	▼ 4		36	▲ 4		12
BE		60	▼ 7		40	▲ 13		0

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Analysis of the **socio-demographic** data shows that a clear majority in every category agree that "the European Union has sufficient power and tools to defend the economic interests of Europe in the global economy". Levels of agreement are highest among 15-24 year olds (73%), students (75%), self-employed respondents (73%) and white-collar workers (73%). Agreement is lowest among unemployed respondents (62%) and those who have difficulties paying their bills most of the time (60%).

QB4.1 For each of the following statements, do you totally agree, tend to agree, tend to disagree or totally disagree.

The EU has sufficient power and tools to defend the economic interests of Europe in the global economy
(% - EU)

	Total 'Agree'	Total 'Disagree'	Don't know
EU27	69	25	6
 Gender			
Man	70	26	4
Woman	69	23	8
 Age			
15-24	73	20	7
25-39	71	25	4
40-54	70	25	5
55+	67	25	8
 Education (End of)			
15-	65	20	15
16-19	70	24	6
20+	69	27	4
Still studying	75	19	6
 Socio-professional category			
Self-employed	73	23	4
Managers	71	26	3
Other white collars	73	24	3
Manual workers	70	24	6
House persons	65	22	13
Unemployed	62	28	10
Retired	66	26	8
Students	75	19	6
 Difficulties paying bills			
Most of the time	60	32	8
From time to time	72	22	6
Almost never/ Never	70	24	6
 Consider belonging to			
The working class	67	23	10
The lower middle class	67	27	6
The middle class	72	23	5
The upper middle class	70	27	3
The upper class	74	24	2

