



Standard Eurobarometer 96
Winter 2021-2022

Public opinion in the European Union

Report

Fieldwork: Winter 2021 - 2022

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

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

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INTRODUCTION



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The Standard Eurobarometer survey of Winter 2021-2022 (EB96) was conducted in 39 countries or territories: the 27 Member States of the European Union (EU), the five candidate countries (Albania, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Serbia and Turkey), the Turkish Cypriot Community in the part of the country not controlled by the Government of the Republic of Cyprus, and in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Iceland, Kosovo¹, Norway, Switzerland and the United Kingdom. This survey was carried out between 18 January and 14 February 2022, i.e. ten days before the start of the Russian invasion in Ukraine.

The full report of the Standard Eurobarometer 96 survey consists of multiple volumes. The first volume presents the results of general questions about the state of public opinion in the European Union. Four other volumes present Europeans' opinions about the following topics: European citizenship; the COVID-19 (coronavirus) pandemic; the European Union's priorities and media uses in the European Union.

Coronavirus pandemic

In the period between the previous Standard Eurobarometer (EB95, Spring 2021, June-July 2021) and the fieldwork of the current Standard Eurobarometer of Winter 2021-2022 (conducted in January – February 2022) cases of the Delta variant increased in Europe, although they remained lower over the summer than the peak of previous waves. However, in November a new variant of the SARS-CoV2 virus, labelled Omicron² was first detected, and it quickly spread leading to a rapid increase in cases by late December. In the week ending 24 January 2022 there were over 1.5 million confirmed new cases, with Omicron now the dominant variant in Europe. The European Centre for Disease Control (ECDC) affirmed that there was an epidemiological situation of high or very high concern in 25 EU Member States³ and on 24 February 2022, reported that more than 107 million cases of coronavirus had been documented in the EU/EAA, with the largest numbers in France (22.5 million cases), Germany (14.1 million), Italy (12.6 million), Spain (10.9 million) and the Netherlands (6.1 million). Worldwide more than 424.9 million cases had been reported.⁴ On the same date there had been more than 1 million deaths reported in the EU/EAA, and almost 5.9 million deaths worldwide.⁵

Vaccination campaign and booster program

With the surge in Delta cases in the second half of 2021 and evidence of waning immunity from a primary vaccine course, EU countries started to roll out booster campaigns for an additional vaccine dose to enhance protection. The European Medicines Agency (EMA) has authorised booster shots for Pfizer-BioNTech and Moderna vaccines for everyone 18+ at least six months after

their last shot⁶, and for the Janssen vaccine at least two months after the first dose⁷. Eligibility for boosters is a matter for individual countries, and booster programs are at varying stages at the time of writing.

As of 24 February 2022, more than 1.1 billion vaccine doses had been delivered in the EU and 875.6 million doses had been administered. 75% of the population in EU/EEA countries had received at least one vaccine dose, 71.6% had received a full primary course of vaccination, and 50.8% had also received a booster dose. However, vaccination and booster rates vary considerably at country level.⁸

Other Vaccination News

- On 24 November 2021 the European Medicines Agency (EMA) approved the use of the Pfizer-BioNTech Comirnaty vaccine for children aged 5-11, with the rollout starting in December 2021.
- On 24 February 2022 the EMA recommended the approval of Moderna's Spikevax for children aged 6-11⁹, and recommended that a booster dose of Pfizer-BioNTech Comirnaty vaccine may be given where appropriate to adolescents from 12 years of age.
- On 21 December 2021 the European Commission adopted rules that set the validity of the EU Digital COVID Certificate at 9 months (270 days) from the last dose of the primary vaccination to harmonise rules across Member States and to help encourage the uptake of booster doses. These rules came into effect on 1 February 2022.¹⁰
- On 3 February 2022 the European Commission proposed extending the EU Digital COVID Certificate, due to expire on 30 June 2022, by a year to 30 June 2023. This proposal recognises that the impact of potential increases in infections and/or new variants in the second half of 2022 is unclear, as well as the current prevalence of the virus in Europe.¹¹ As of December 2021, 807 million certificates had been issued in the EU, allowing for intra-EU travel.¹²

The economy

In the Autumn 2021 Economic Forecast, GDP was predicted to grow by 5.0% in 2021 in both the EU and the euro area, 0.2 percentage points higher than in the summer 2021 forecast.¹³ Although signs were promising in summer 2021 that the economy was recovering, a resurging pandemic and the Omicron variant means the EU economy started in 2022 weaker than projected. Although the interim winter forecast published in February 2022 shows GDP for 2021 better than predicted at 5.3%, GDP is predicted to shrink to 4.0% in 2022.¹⁴

The unemployment rate in the EU continued to decline in 2021 and by December 2021 was 6.4%, down from 6.5% in November 2021

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

² <https://www.who.int/en/activities/tracking-SARS-CoV-2-variants/>

³ <https://www.ecdc.europa.eu/en/covid-19/country-overviews>

⁴ <https://www.ecdc.europa.eu/en/covid-19/situation-updates>

⁵ <https://www.ecdc.europa.eu/en/publications-data/national-14-day-notification-rate-covid-19>

⁶ <https://www.ema.europa.eu/en/news/comirnaty-spikevax-ema-recommendations-extra-doses-boosters>

⁷ <https://www.ema.europa.eu/en/news/covid-19-vaccine-janssen-ema-recommendation-booster-dose>

⁸ <https://vaccinetracker.ecdc.europa.eu/public/extensions/COVID-19/vaccine-tracker.html#uptake-tab>

⁹ <https://www.ema.europa.eu/en/news/ema-recommends-approval-spikevax-children-aged-6-11>

¹⁰ https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/IP_21_6837

¹¹ https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/IP_22_744

¹² https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/IP_21_6837

¹³ https://ec.europa.eu/info/business-economy-euro/economic-performance-and-forecasts/economic-forecasts/autumn-2021-economic-forecast-recovery-expansion-amid-headwinds_en

¹⁴ https://ec.europa.eu/info/business-economy-euro/economic-performance-and-forecasts/economic-forecasts/winter-2022-economic-forecast-growth-expected-regain-traction-after-winter-slowdown_en

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from 7.5% in December 2020. In the euro area, unemployment stood at 7.0% in December 2021, down from 7.1% in November 2021 and down from 8.2% in December 2020.¹⁵

EU-related events since the Standard Eurobarometer Spring 2021 survey:

- As part of the **Conference of the Future of Europe**, a number of Citizens' Panels took place in the period between September 2021 and February 2022. Four panels of 200 randomly selected citizens from across 27 Member States were chosen to think together about the future they want for the EU. Participants reflected on the diversity of the EU's population. The four panel topics were:
 - ▶ A stronger economy, social justice and jobs / Education, culture, youth and sport / Digital transformation
 - ▶ European democracy/Values and rights, rule of law, security
 - ▶ Climate change, environment / Health
 - ▶ EU in the world / Migration
- On 1 December 2021 the European Commission launched the Global Gateway, a new strategy to promote smart, clean and secure links in digital, energy and transport and to strengthen health, education and research systems around the world. Global Gateway aims to mobilise up to €300 billion in investments between 2021 and 2027 to underpin a lasting global recovery, taking into account the needs and interests of Europe and its partners.¹⁶
- On 16 December 2021 the European Commission signed a Joint Declaration identifying key legislative priorities for 2022. The European Parliament, the Council of the European Union and the European Commission will give top priority to deliver the European Green Deal, achieving a Europe fit for the digital age, creating an economy that works for people, advancing a stronger Europe in the world, promoting the European way of life, and protecting and strengthening democracy and defending common European values. Legislative achievements from the 2021 priority areas were also noted, including the adoption of key legislation for priority areas including a European Climate Law, a European Cybersecurity Competence Centre, the EU Blue Card for highly skilled migrant workers, rules on country-by-country tax reporting, a European Union regime for the control of dual use items, implementation of the European travel information and authorisation system, as well as legislation on preventing the dissemination of terrorist content and tackling child sexual abuse online.¹⁷
- On 1 January 2022 France took over the Presidency of the Council of the EU for a six-month term, with the motto "Recovery, strength and a sense of belonging" highlighting the priorities of their term. In a speech on 9 December 2021 French President Emmanuel Macron declared the French presidency will focus on pursuing an agenda for European sovereignty, building a new European growth model, and creating a more "human-sized" Europe. On 19 January in a speech to the European Parliament President Macron further highlighted the French presidency will promote the values that define Europe to address the key challenges facing European security, democracy and growth¹⁸.
- On 1 January 2022 the European Year of Youth began, highlighting the important role European youth have in shaping and building a greener, more inclusive and digital future¹⁹.
- On 11 January 2022 President of the European Parliament David Sassoli. He had been President since July 2019. On 18 January 2022 Roberta Metsola of Malta was elected the new President of the European Parliament, making her the youngest ever president. She will lead the European Parliament until the 2024 European Elections.
- On 1 March 2022 the European Commission adopted the first annual report on the implementation of the Recovery and Resilience Facility (RRF), which forms the centrepiece of **NextGenerationEU**²⁰. The first regular payment from this fund of €10 billion was disbursed to Spain in December 2021, with further funds expected to flow in 2022. Since March 2022, 22 recovery and resilience plans have been adopted in Member States across the EU. Reforms and investments proposed by Member States have exceeded the target requirements for expenditure on climate and digital objectives, with estimated climate expenditure at 40% (target 37%) and digital at 26% (target 20%).²¹

Elections in the EU since the spring 2021 survey:

- Parliamentary elections were held in Germany in September 2021 and on 8 December 2021 Olaf Scholz was sworn in as Chancellor of Germany after leading the Social Democrats (SDP) to an election win, ending 16 years in power for the conservatives who had been led by Angela Merkel.
- Parliamentary elections were held in Czechia in October 2021, with a surprise victory for the liberal conservative alliance SPOLU over the incumbent ANO. It was the closest legislative election result in the history of Czechia. Petr Fial, leader of the ODS was appointed as the new Prime Minister on 28 November 2021.
- On 14 November 2021 a third parliamentary election was held in Bulgaria after the result of previous elections in 2021 were inconclusive. The new We Continue the Change party (PP), launched two months before the election, won the majority of votes, and formed a coalition with the ITN, BSB and DB parties to form government. On 13 December 2021 Kiril Petkov of PP was sworn in as the new prime minister.
- On 31 January 2022 parliamentary elections in Portugal let to Prime Minister António Costa's Socialist party increasing their seats and giving them an outright majority in the new parliament.

Other noteworthy events since the spring 2021 survey:

- From 21 October – 12 November the UN Climate Change Conference COP26 was held in Glasgow, and the European Commission supported the consensus reached to complete the Paris Agreement rulebook and to keep the Paris Agreement targets alive. As part of COP26 on 1 November 2021 President Ursula von der Leyen pledged €1 billion in funding for the Global Forests Finance Pledge. On 2 November the EU announced a Just Energy Transition Partnership with South

¹⁵ <https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/documents/2995521/14233878/3-01022022-AP-EN.pdf/cfe71acd-ef6c-b52b-085f-838598dd9a88>

¹⁶ https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/IP_21_6433

¹⁷ https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/IP_21_6881

¹⁸ <https://presidence-francaise.consilium.europa.eu/en/news/french-president-emmanuel-macron-s-speech-at-the-european-parliament-strasbourg-19-january-2022/>

¹⁹ https://europa.eu/youth/year-of-youth_en

²⁰ https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_22_1198

²¹ https://ec.europa.eu/economy_finance/recovery-and-resilience-scoreboard/index.html

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Africa and officially launched a joint EU-US initiative, the Global Methane Pledge, a joint EU-US initiative to cut collective methane emissions by at least 30% by 2030. On 9 November 2021 Executive Vice-President Frans Timmermans announced a new pledge of €100 million in finance for the Climate Adaptation Fund²².

²² https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/IP_21_6021

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Methodology used for this survey

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

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

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:

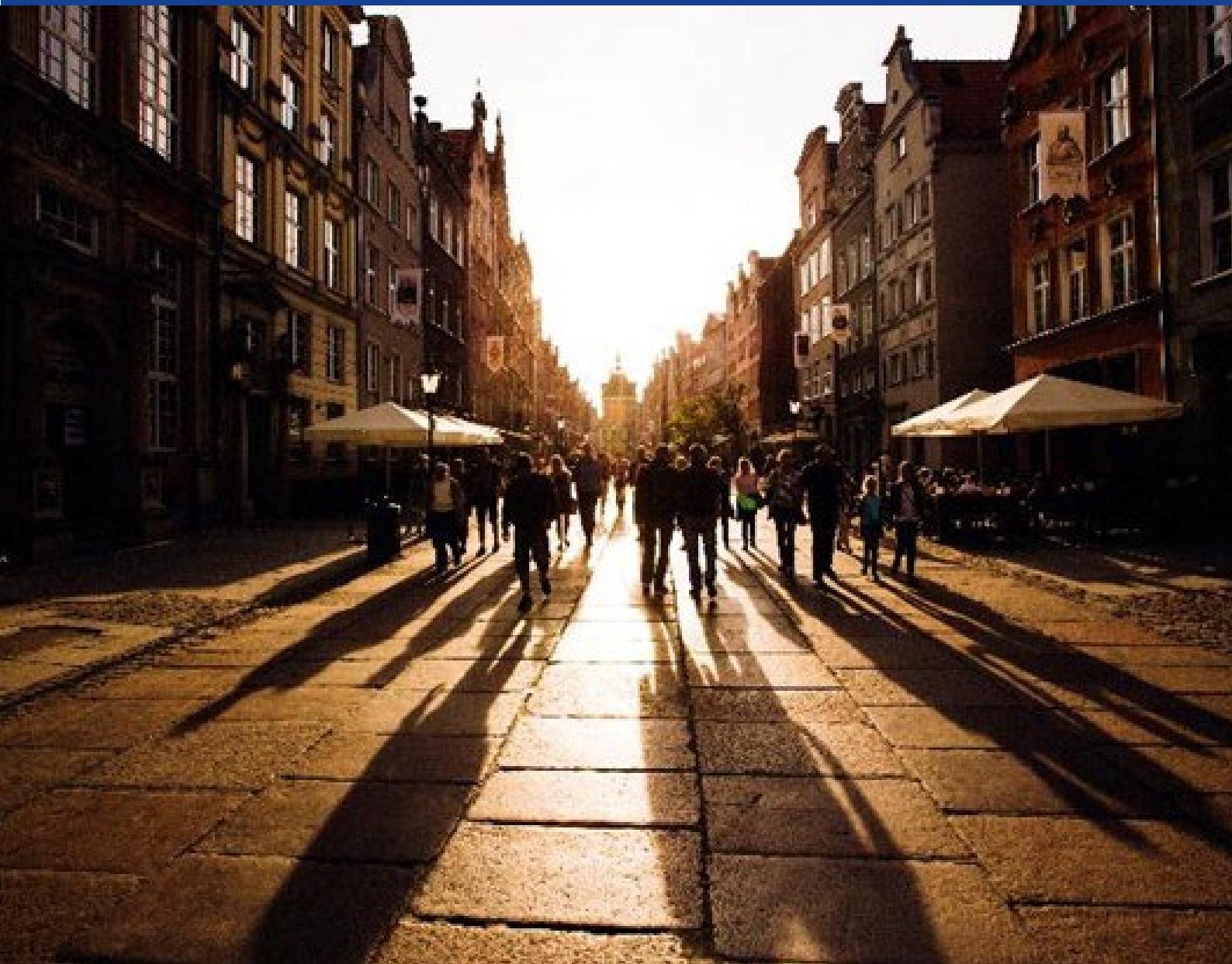
Belgium	BE	Lithuania	LT
Bulgaria	BG	Luxembourg	LU
Czechia	CZ	Hungary	HU
Denmark	DK	Malta	MT
Germany	DE	The Netherlands	NL
Estonia	EE	Austria	AT
Ireland	IE	Poland	PL
Greece	EL	Portugal	PT
Spain	ES	Romania	RO
France	FR	Slovenia	SI
Croatia	HR	Slovakia	SK
Italy	IT	Finland	FI
Republic of Cyprus	CY *	Sweden	SE
Latvia	LV		

European Union – weighted average for the 27 Member States	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	Non 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.**

I. LIFE IN THE EUROPEAN UNION



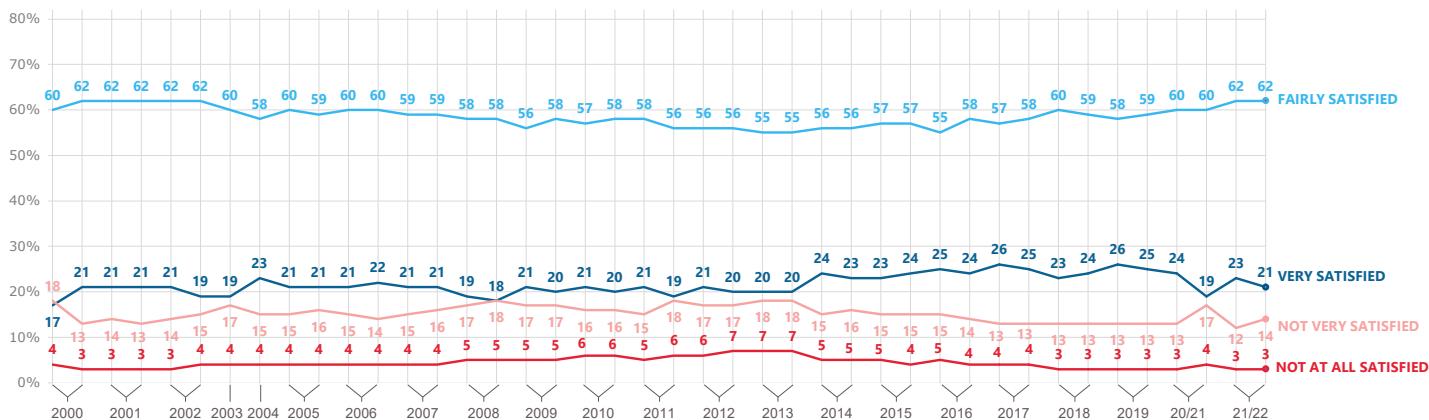
1. The personal situation of Europeans

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

83% of Europeans are satisfied with the life they lead²³, including 62% who are 'fairly satisfied' and 21% who say that they are 'very satisfied'. Since spring 2021 the overall satisfaction level has slightly decreased by two percentage points, after a sharp increase by six percentage points in the previous survey. It is also noticeable that despite a small increase of respondents who are not very satisfied (+2 percentage points), the proportion of respondents who are 'very satisfied' is higher than the overall proportion of respondents who are dissatisfied with the life they lead.

Indeed, less than one fifth of the respondents (17%) 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 remained unchanged at 3% and the share who are 'not very satisfied' now reaches 14% (+2).

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



²³ D70. On the whole, are you very satisfied, fairly satisfied, not very satisfied or not at all satisfied with the life you lead?

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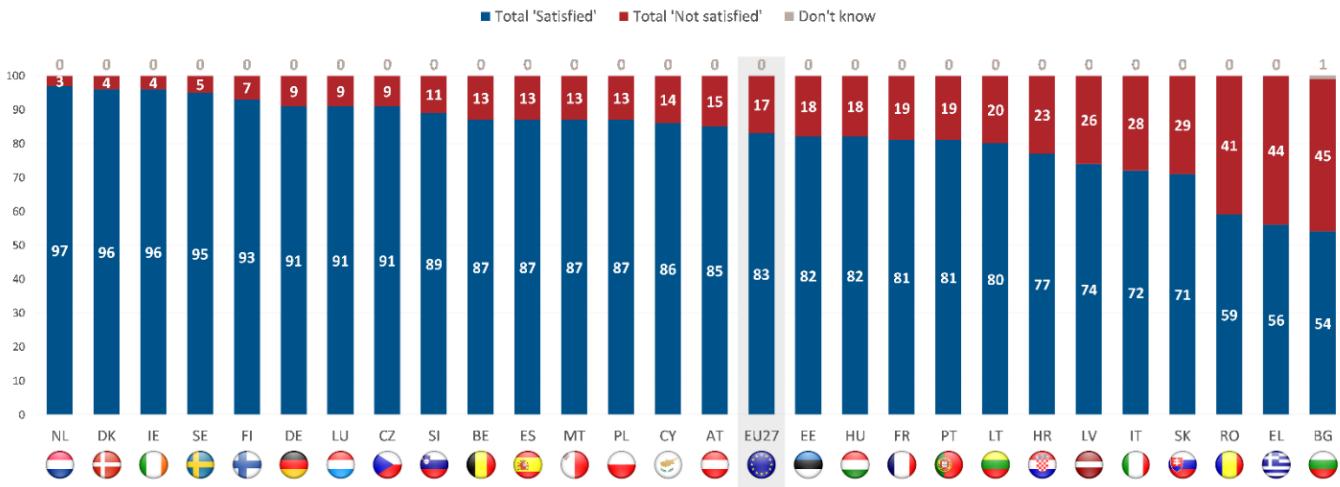
In all 27 Member States of the European Union more than half of respondents are satisfied with the life they lead (unchanged since spring 2021). However, levels of general satisfaction vary widely among Member States, ranging from 97% in the Netherlands and 96% in Denmark and Ireland, where almost all respondents are satisfied with their lives, to 54% in Bulgaria, 56% in Greece and 59% in Romania, three Member States where less than six in ten respondents are satisfied with the life they lead. In three countries more than four in ten respondents say that they are 'very satisfied' with the life they lead, namely Denmark (61%), the Netherlands (52%) and Ireland (49%).

In contrast, in three Member States more than four in ten respondents are dissatisfied with their lives: Bulgaria (45%, including 11% 'not at all satisfied'), Greece (44%, including 10% 'not at all satisfied'), and Romania (41%, including 6% 'not at all satisfied').

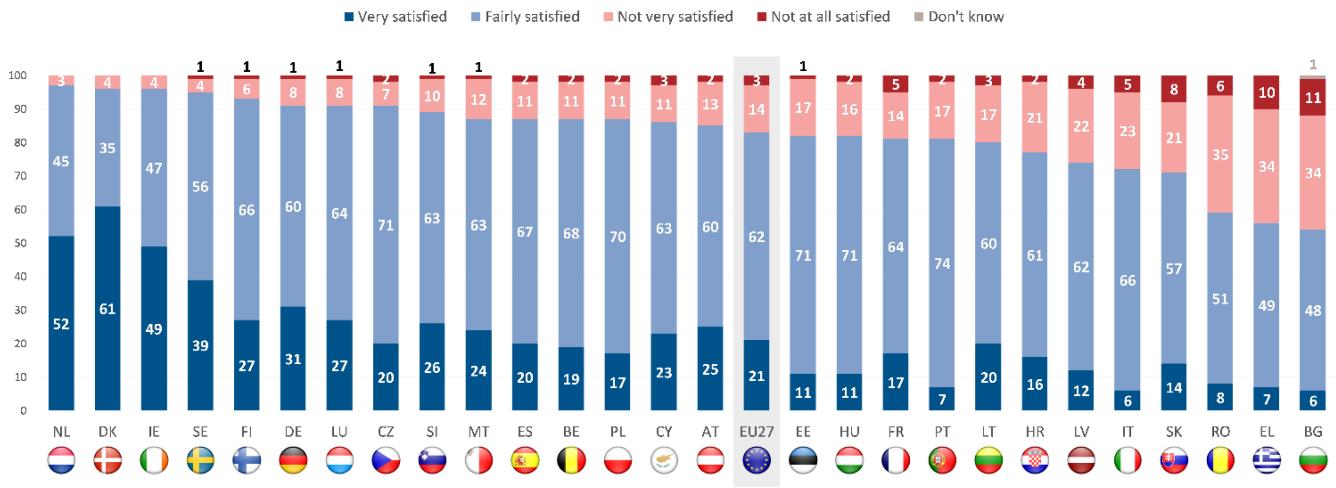
Since winter 2020-2021, satisfaction has increased in nine EU Member States (compared to 26 in the previous survey), most markedly in Ireland (96%, +7), Cyprus (86%, +3) and Portugal (91%, +3). Conversely, satisfaction declined in 18 countries, particularly in Greece, (56%, -8), Slovakia (71%, -8) and Croatia (77%, -8).

Satisfaction with the life respondents lead is almost identical in **euro area** countries (83%, -2 percentage points since spring 2021) and countries **outside the euro area** (81%, -2). Satisfaction has decreased in identical proportions in both areas since the previous survey in spring 2021.

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



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



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The **socio-demographic data** show that in all categories but one, more than half of Europeans are satisfied with the life they lead. However, there are some differences, depending on the socioeconomic status of the respondents. Satisfaction is more widespread among managers (93%) than unemployed people (59%), among respondents who never or almost never have difficulties in paying their bills (93%) than among people who have these difficulties most of the time (47%).

The latter is the only category in which less than one in two respondents are satisfied with the life they lead. (vs. 53% 'not satisfied'). Satisfaction is also higher among people who see themselves as belonging to the upper class (94%) or upper middle class (93%) than among people who see themselves as belonging to the working class of society (72%).

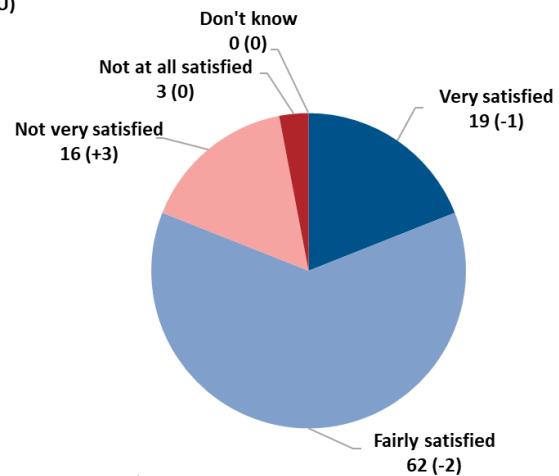
D70 On the whole, are you very satisfied, fairly satisfied, not very satisfied or not at all satisfied with the life you lead?

	Total 'Satisfied'	Total 'Not satisfied'	Don't know
EU27	83	17	0
Gender			
Man	83	17	0
Woman	83	17	0
Age			
15-24	88	12	0
25-39	85	15	0
40-54	83	17	0
55 +	80	20	0
Education (End of)			
15-	72	28	0
16-19	79	21	0
20+	90	10	0
Still studying	90	10	0
Socio-professional category			
Self-employed	85	15	0
Managers	93	7	0
Other white collars	88	12	0
Manual workers	80	20	0
House persons	73	27	0
Unemployed	59	41	0
Retired	80	20	0
Students	90	10	0
Difficulties paying bills			
Most of the time	47	53	0
From time to time	71	29	0
Almost never/ Never	91	9	0
Consider belonging to			
The working class	72	28	0
The lower middle class	76	24	0
The middle class	88	12	0
The upper middle class	93	7	0
The upper class	94	6	0

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When specifically asked about **satisfaction with their daily lives**, more than eight in ten Europeans (81%, -3 percentage points since spring 2021) say that they are satisfied²⁴, including 19% (-1) who are ‘very satisfied’ and 62% (-2) who are ‘fairly satisfied’. Less than a fifth of respondents are dissatisfied with their daily life: 16% (+3) say that they are ‘not very satisfied’ and 3% (unchanged) that they are ‘not at all satisfied’.

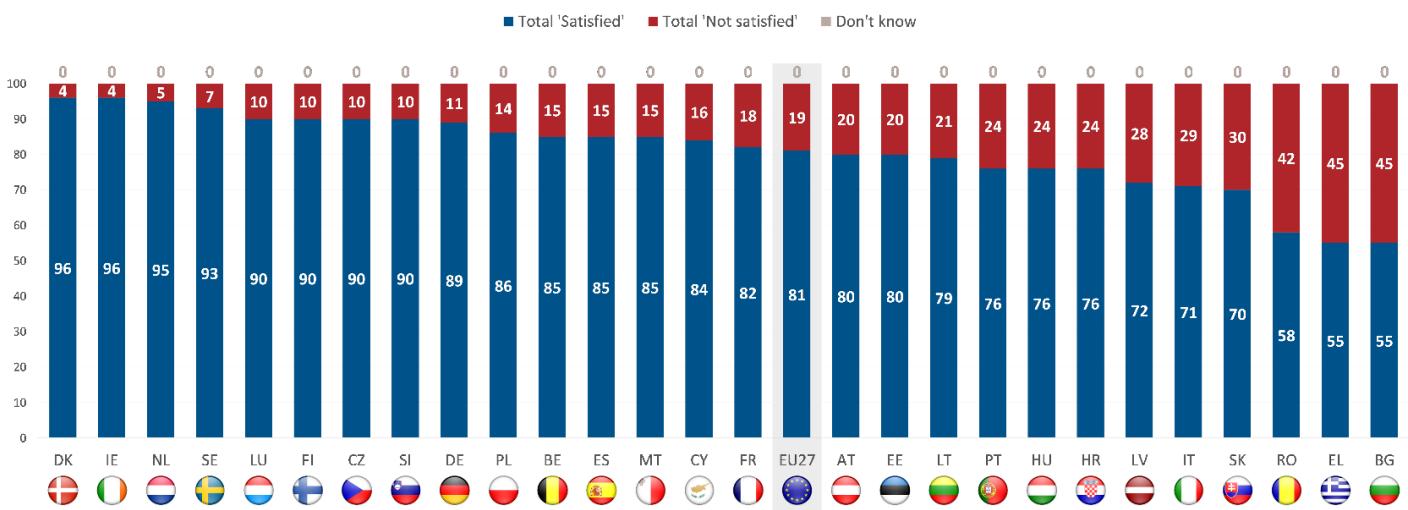
D70a On the whole, are you very satisfied, fairly satisfied, not very satisfied or not at all satisfied with your daily life?
 (%) - EU



At least six in ten respondents in all EU Member States are satisfied with their daily life. However, levels of satisfaction vary across Member States, ranging from 96% in Denmark and Ireland and 95% in the Netherlands, where they are highest, to 55% in Greece and Bulgaria where they are lowest. In three countries more than four in ten respondents say that they are ‘very satisfied’ with their daily life: Denmark (57% ‘very satisfied’), Ireland (46%) and the Netherlands (41%).

In contrast, dissatisfaction levels are particularly high in Bulgaria (45% of ‘not satisfied’, including 11% ‘not at all satisfied’), Greece (45% of ‘not satisfied’, including 10% ‘not at all satisfied’) and Romania (42%, including 7% ‘not at all satisfied’), where more than four in ten respondents are dissatisfied with their daily life.

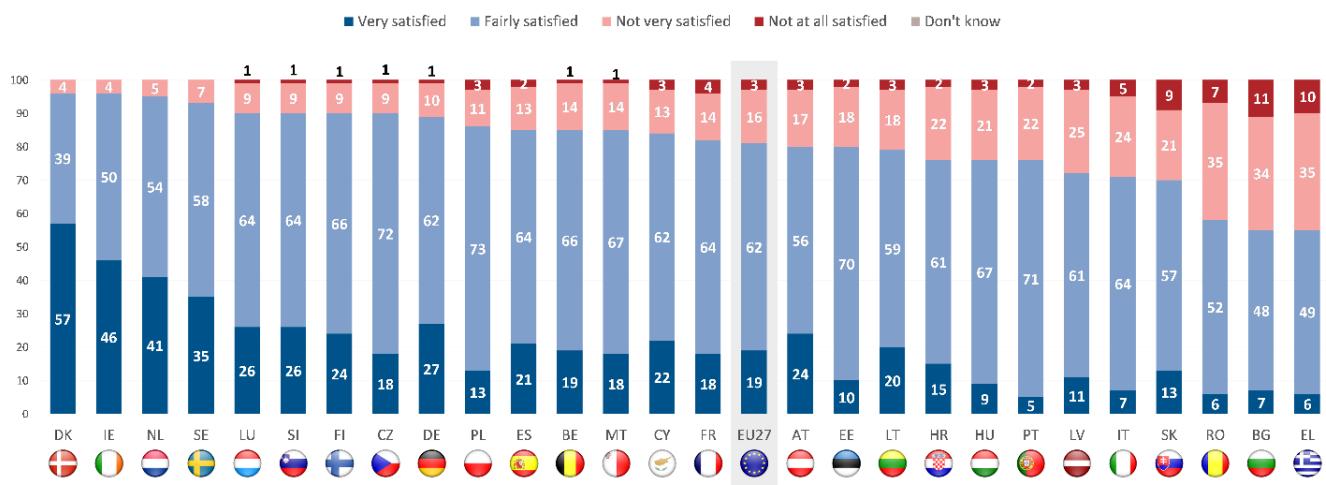
D70a On the whole, are you very satisfied, fairly satisfied, not very satisfied or not at all satisfied with your daily life?
 (%)



²⁴ D70a. On the whole, are you very satisfied, fairly satisfied, not very satisfied or not at all satisfied with your daily life?

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



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The **socio-demographic data** show that in almost all categories more than two-thirds of Europeans are satisfied with their daily life. Satisfaction with daily life is most widespread among managers (92%), respondents who never or almost never have difficulties in paying their bills (90%), students (88%), and people who see themselves as belonging to the upper class (94%) or upper middle class of society (90%).

People who have difficulties paying their bills most of the time and unemployed are the only two exceptions. Whereas still a majority of unemployed are satisfied (57% vs. 43% 'not satisfied') with their daily life, dissatisfaction prevails amongst people who have most of the time difficulties in paying their bills: 45% 'satisfied' vs. 55% 'not satisfied'.

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

	Total 'Satisfied'	Total 'Not satisfied'	Don't know
EU27	81	19	0
Gender			
Man	81	19	0
Woman	82	18	0
Age			
15-24	88	12	0
25-39	83	17	0
40-54	81	19	0
55 +	79	21	0
Education (End of)			
15-	71	29	0
16-19	78	22	0
20+	88	12	0
Still studying	88	12	0
Socio-professional category			
Self-employed	84	16	0
Managers	92	8	0
Other white collars	86	14	0
Manual workers	79	21	0
House persons	72	28	0
Unemployed	57	43	0
Retired	79	21	0
Students	88	12	0
Difficulties paying bills			
Most of the time	45	55	0
From time to time	70	30	0
Almost never/ Never	90	10	0
Consider belonging to			
The working class	70	30	0
The lower middle class	75	25	0
The middle class	87	13	0
The upper middle class	90	10	0
The upper class	94	6	0

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When looking ahead over the next twelve months, a majority of Europeans expect their personal situation to "stay the same" (55%, unchanged since spring 2021)²⁵. **Just under three in ten respondents** (29%, -3 percentage points) **expect their life in general to get better**. Despite a slight decrease of three percentage points, positive opinions remain more than twice as high as negative opinions.

Indeed, **pessimism prevails amongst 14% of respondents** (+3 percentage points). Finally, a stable proportion of 2% give no answer or say that they do not know.

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



²⁵ QA2.1. What are your expectations for the next twelve months: will the next twelve months be better, worse or the same, when it comes to...? Your life in general.

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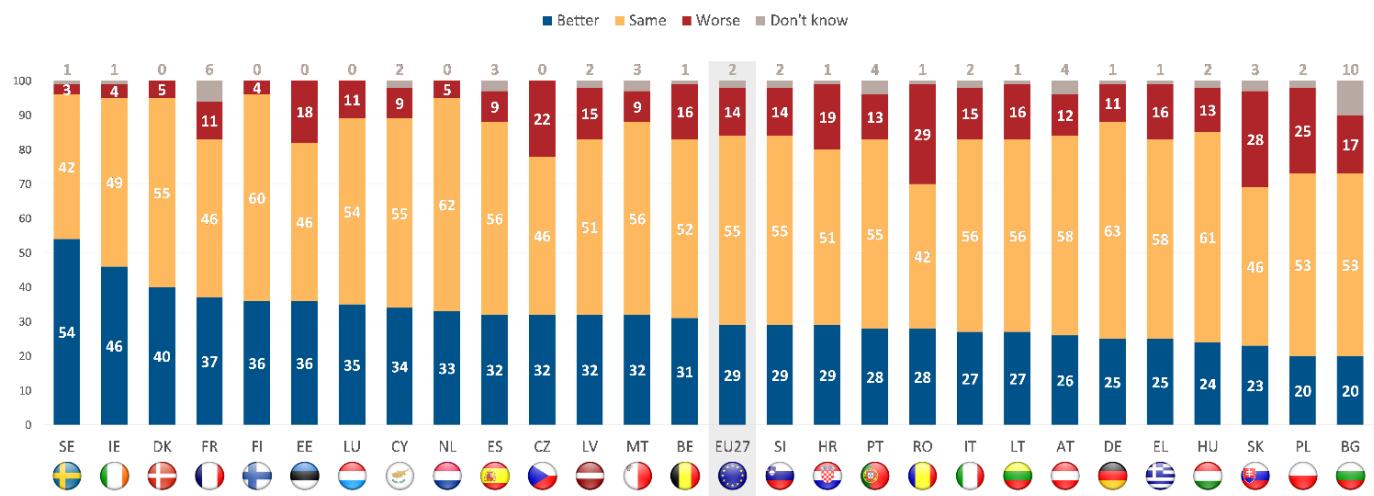
In 26 Member States of the European Union (compared with 25 in spring 2021), respondents are most likely to expect their life in general to be '**the same**' over the next twelve months. Within this group of countries, levels vary widely. Respondents are most likely to give this response in Germany (63%) and in the Netherlands (62%), and least so in Romania (42% vs. 28% 'better' and 29% 'worse').

Optimism dropped within **euro area** countries by three percentage points (30% 'better'), as it did in countries **outside the euro area** (28%, -2).

In only one Member State (compared with two in spring 2021 and four in winter 2020-2021) are respondents slightly more likely to expect life to be '**better**' than either 'worse' or 'the same', namely Sweden (54% 'better' vs. 42% 'same' and 3% 'worse').

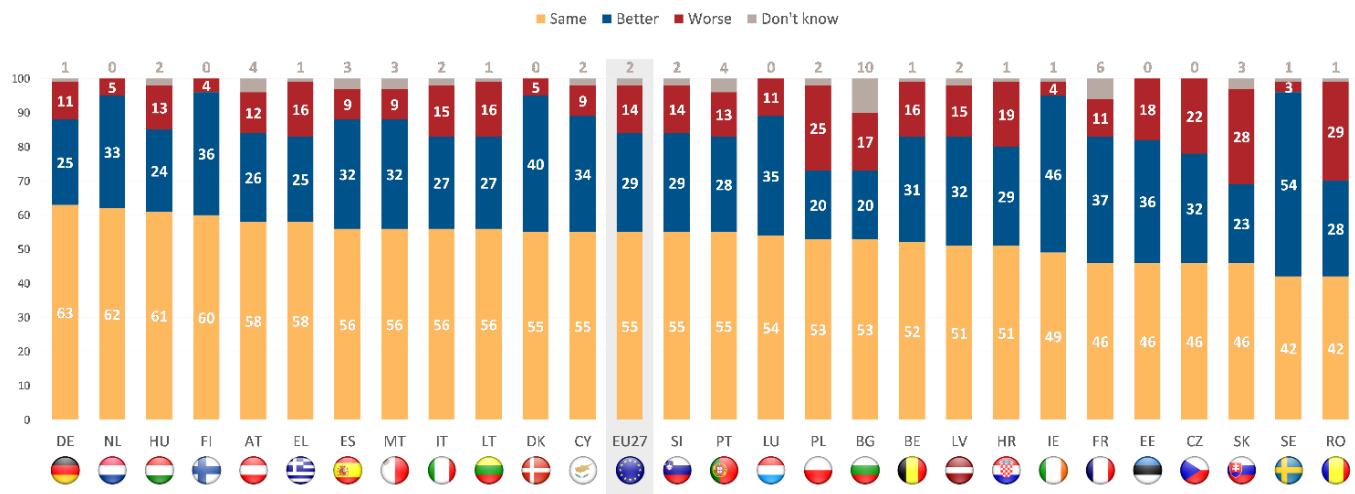
Pessimism is widespread in Romania (29% 'worse'), Slovakia (28%) and Poland (25%). In these countries at least a quarter of respondents expect their personal life to be worse for the next twelve months.

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



Sorted on 'Better'

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

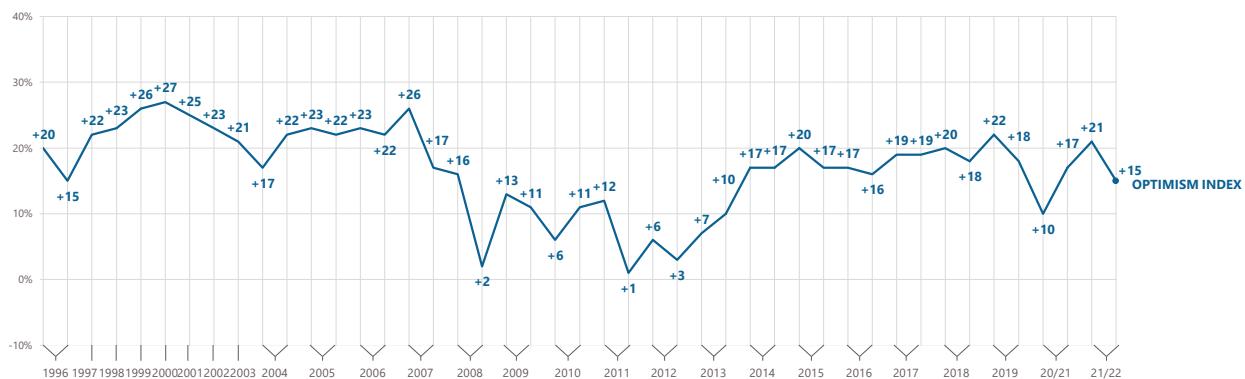


Sorted on 'Same'

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The index measuring the optimism of Europeans regarding their life in general²⁶ over the coming year has decreased sharply by six percentage points for the first time after two consecutive increases between summer 2020 and spring 2021. It currently stands at +15.

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



The index is positive in 24 Member States (compared to all 27 in spring 2021). It is highest in Sweden (+51) and Ireland (+42) and lowest in Bulgaria (+3), Slovakia (+4) and Poland (+5).

Since spring 2021, the index has gained ground in eight Member States, particularly in Cyprus (+9), Sweden (+7) and Slovenia (+7). Conversely, it has lost ground in 19 countries, most significantly in Croatia (-12) and Romania (-12).

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



Better - Worse Winter 2021/2022	15	25	15	51	14	32	35	42	23	11	28	15	9	12	17	14	18	26	11	10	24	-5	15	23	-5	3	10	-1
Better - Worse Spring 2021	21	16	8	44	10	28	32	41	22	12	30	17	13	16	21	20	25	33	18	18	33	4	25	33	5	14	22	11
Δ Spring 2021	▼6	▲9	▲7	▲7	▲4	▲4	▲3	▲1	▲1	▼1	▼2	▼2	▼4	▼4	▼4	▼6	▼7	▼7	▼7	▼8	▼9	▼9	▼10	▼10	▼11	▼12	▼12	

²⁶ Difference between the positive ("better") and negative ("worse") answers.

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The **socio-demographic data** show some significant differences among categories, reflecting the age and social status of respondents. Optimism for the next twelve months is more widespread among 15-24-year-olds (52%) than among those

aged 55 and over (17%), among students (52%) than among retirees (15%) or house persons (27%), and among people who studied up to the age of 20 and beyond (33%) than among those who left school aged 15 or earlier (18%).

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

Your life in general (% - EU)

	Better	Worse	Same	Don't know
EU27	29	14	55	2
 Gender				
Man	31	14	53	2
Woman	28	13	56	3
 Age				
15-24	52	8	38	2
25-39	40	13	45	2
40-54	30	16	52	2
55 +	17	14	66	3
 Education (End of)				
15-	18	17	61	4
16-19	26	16	56	2
20+	33	11	54	2
Still studying	52	7	39	2
 Socio-professional category				
Self-employed	33	14	50	3
Managers	31	10	58	1
Other white collars	34	12	52	2
Manual workers	32	16	50	2
House persons	27	16	54	3
Unemployed	36	20	38	6
Retired	15	14	68	3
Students	52	7	39	2
 Difficulties paying bills				
Most of the time	24	29	42	5
From time to time	29	20	49	2
Almost never/ Never	30	10	58	2
 Consider belonging to				
The working class	24	17	55	4
The lower middle class	29	17	52	2
The middle class	31	11	56	2
The upper middle class	34	10	55	1
The upper class	38	14	48	0

2. The main concerns of Europeans

2.1 Personal concerns

For more than half of Europeans 'rising prices/inflation/cost of living' is the main personal concern, followed by health and the financial situation of the household

In this EB96 survey of winter 2021-2022, **rising prices/inflation/cost of living** represents the main concern that Europeans say that they face personally²⁷. 51% quote this concern in first or second position. The proportion of respondents for whom this issue is a main concern has increased significantly, by 16 percentage points, since spring 2021, and by 24 percentage points, since winter 2020-2021, when it was the second most mentioned item.

Just over a quarter of Europeans (26%) worry about **health**. Since spring 2021, this item has gained one percentage point and remains in second position

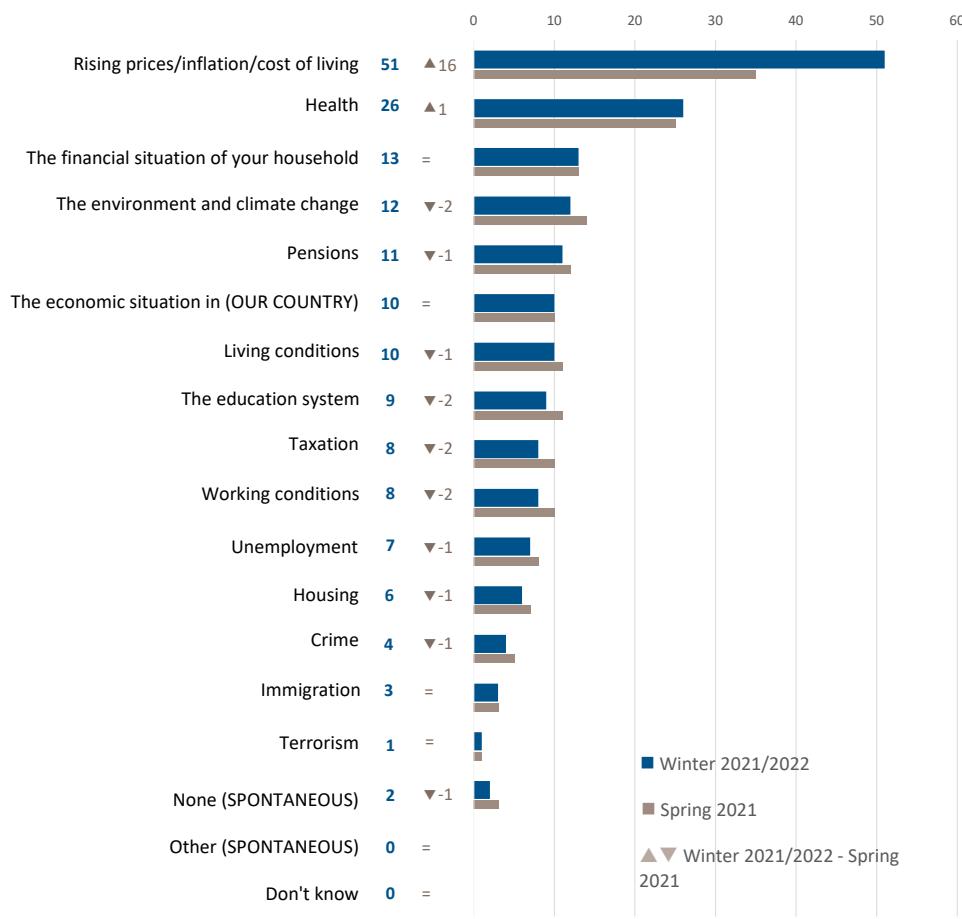
The financial situation of the household is a cause for concern for 13% of respondents (unchanged since spring 2021) and currently ranks in third position.

The environment and climate change has lost one position and dropped to fourth place (12%, -2) among the most important concerns that Europeans face personally.

Pensions (11%, -1) rank fifth followed by **living conditions** (10%, -1) and **the economic situation of the country** (10%, unchanged) in joint sixth position.

Finally, the **education system** (9%, -2), followed by **taxation** (8%, -2) and **working conditions** (8%, -2), **unemployment** (7%, -1), **housing** (6%, -1), **crime** (4%, -1), **immigration** (3%, =) and **terrorism** (1%, =) are mentioned by less than one in ten respondents.

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



²⁷ QA4. And personally, what are the two most important issues you are facing at the moment?

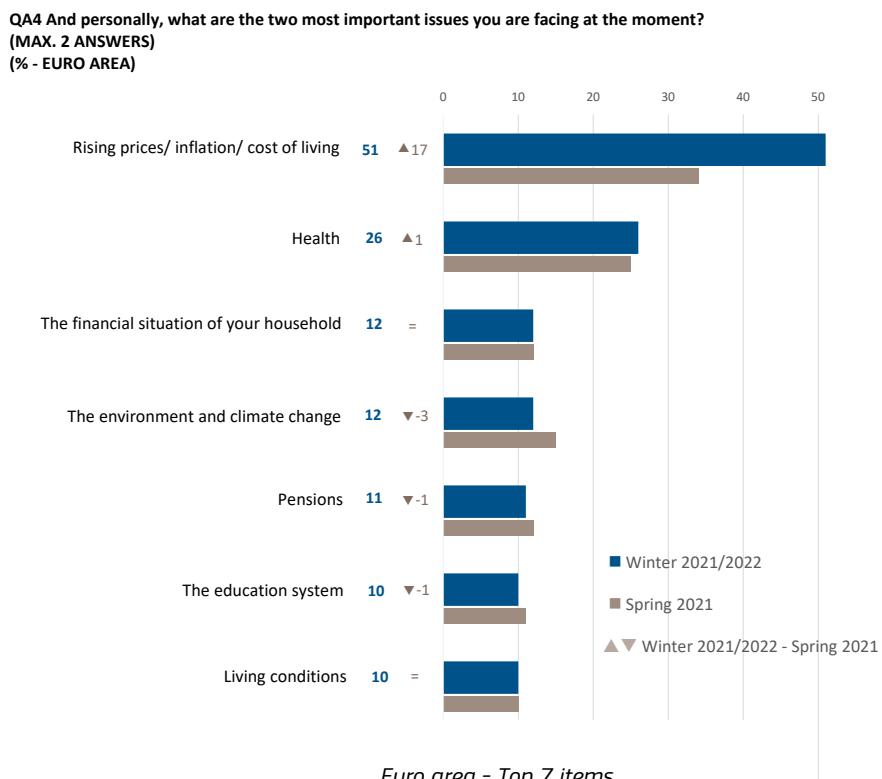
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The hierarchy of problems that respondents say they personally face differs slightly between **euro area** countries and countries **outside the euro area**:

Rising prices/inflation/cost of living tops the list in almost similar proportions both in euro area countries (51%, +17) and in countries outside the euro area (53%, +12).

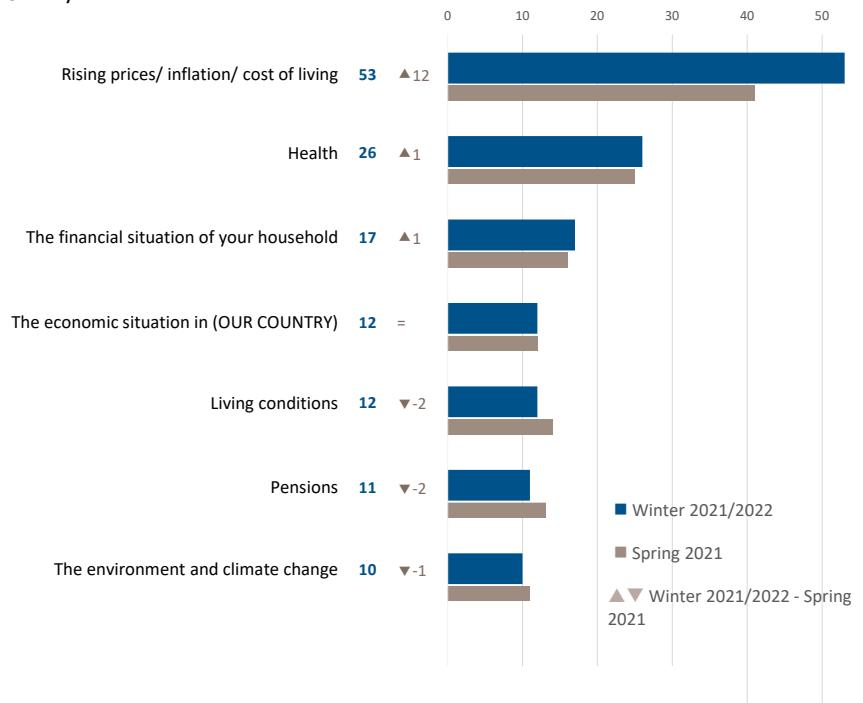
Health ranks second within and outside the euro area in identical proportions (26%). Concerns about this issue have increased identically since spring 2021: +1 percentage point in both the euro area and outside the euro area.

The financial situation of the household stands alone in third place in the countries outside the euro area (17%, +1), whereas it shares this position with the concern for the environment and climate change in the countries of the euro area (both 12%, unchanged for the financial situation of the household, -3 for the environment and climate change).



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**QA4 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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There are significant differences among different Member States:

Rising prices/inflation/cost of living is the leading issue that Europeans say they currently face in 25 Member States (compared with 20 countries in spring 2021). Within these 25 countries, however, mentions range from a high 77% in Lithuania to a low 38% in the Netherlands, where they share this position with 'health' (38%). Concerns are the lowest in Sweden (21%), where they rank in third position, and in Finland (27%), where they stand in second place;

Since spring 2021, proportions for this item have evolved significantly. This issue is of increasing personal concern in all 27 Member States, with the highest increases observed in Denmark (46%, +28), Germany (61%, +24), Luxembourg (57%, +22) and Estonia (75%, +21). Increases are lowest in the Netherlands (38%, +6) and Slovakia (58%, +8);

Health is the leading personal concern in three EU Member States (compared with seven countries in spring 2021), namely in Finland (51%), Sweden (42%) and the Netherlands (38%) jointly with rising prices/inflation/cost of living. This concern is least mentioned in Bulgaria (16%);

Since spring 2021 health has gained ground in 14 Member States, most specifically in Sweden (42%, +5), while it less of a concern in 13 countries, most particularly in Lithuania (18%, -10) and in Malta (20%, -7);

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

The financial situation of the household ranks second in four Member States, including Finland where it reaches its highest level (27%). Conversely, mentions are lowest in five countries with 9% each: Spain, Germany, Netherlands, Lithuania, and Latvia. Since spring 2021, this concern has gained ground in 12 countries, led by Bulgaria (23%, +4) and Malta (14%, +4), while it has remained unchanged in Austria (13%) and Portugal (10%). Conversely, concerns have decreased in 13 countries, most sharply in Lithuania (9%, -7), Finland (27%, -5) and Ireland (10%, -5);

The environment and climate change is the second most frequently mentioned item in four countries. It reaches its highest percentage in the Netherlands and in Sweden (both 29%), and records its lowest score in Bulgaria (2%). Proportions have increased since spring 2021 in only four Member States, namely in Portugal (5%, +4), Denmark (27%, +1), Spain (7%, +1) and Slovenia (9%, +1). Concerns have remained unchanged in six countries and have fallen in 17, most notably in Ireland (12%, -11) and in Belgium (18%, -9);

The economic situation of the country comes third in Czechia (13%) and reaches its highest level in Croatia (17%), whereas it is least quoted in Luxembourg (2%);

Pensions rank third in Bulgaria (18%), where mentions are highest, in Portugal (17%) and in Slovenia (15%). In contrast, this concern at a personal level is only cited by 5% of respondents in Luxembourg;

Living conditions are an issue for 17% of respondents in Greece, where this item ranks third, as it does in Austria (15%). This item is also quoted by 17% in Bulgaria, but only scores at 5% in Lithuania, where it is lowest.

Working conditions are mentioned by 14% of respondents in Portugal but by only 3% in the Netherlands;

Taxation is quoted by 30% in Lithuania, where it ranks second, and by 15% in Italy, where it stands in third position, but only by 1% in Cyprus;

Housing is mentioned by 24% of respondents in Luxembourg, where it ranks second, 20% in Ireland, where it ranks third, as it does in the Netherlands (15%, jointly third with the education system). This concern is least mentioned in Greece (1%) and in Italy (1%);

18% of respondents in Sweden mention **crime** as a concern at a personal level, while it is not mentioned at all in Estonia and Portugal;

Unemployment is mentioned by 16% of respondents in Spain, where it ranks third, while it is quoted by only 1% of respondents in Czechia, Malta and the Netherlands;

Finally, the **education system** is an issue for 15% of respondents in the Netherlands, where it ranks third, whereas only 6% mention this concern in five countries, namely in Croatia, Lithuania, Portugal, Poland and Finland.

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

	Rising prices/ inflation/ cost of living	Health	The financial situation of your household	The environment and climate change	Pensions	The economic situation in (OUR COUNTRY)	Living conditions
EU27	51	26	13	12	11	10	10
Gender							
Man	51	24	12	12	10	11	10
Woman	52	28	14	11	12	8	10
Age							
15-24	40	17	10	15	1	8	11
25-39	53	17	15	13	2	12	11
40-54	54	24	15	11	4	12	11
55 +	53	34	12	10	23	8	9
Education (End of)							
15-	52	36	14	4	25	6	10
16-19	56	25	15	8	11	11	11
20+	50	26	11	17	7	10	9
Still studying	36	18	9	18	2	6	10
Socio-professional category							
Self-employed	51	22	11	14	5	17	10
Managers	53	21	8	20	4	11	10
Other white collars	56	23	13	13	5	12	11
Manual workers	55	22	17	8	6	12	12
House persons	50	28	15	9	10	10	11
Unemployed	43	15	26	3	3	7	10
Retired	53	38	11	10	28	6	9
Students	36	18	9	18	2	6	10
Difficulties paying bills							
Most of the time	48	17	38	3	12	7	13
From time to time	50	23	20	6	12	10	13
Almost never/ Never	52	28	8	15	11	10	9
Consider belonging to							
The working class	57	25	19	4	17	8	11
The lower middle class	54	24	18	7	14	10	12
The middle class	50	27	9	14	9	10	10
The upper middle class	42	26	7	25	6	9	5
The upper class	38	20	21	26	8	11	16

Items mentioned by 10% or more

2.2 The main concerns at national level

After a significant increase, rising prices/ inflation/ cost of living have become the main concern at a national level, followed by health and the economic situation of the country

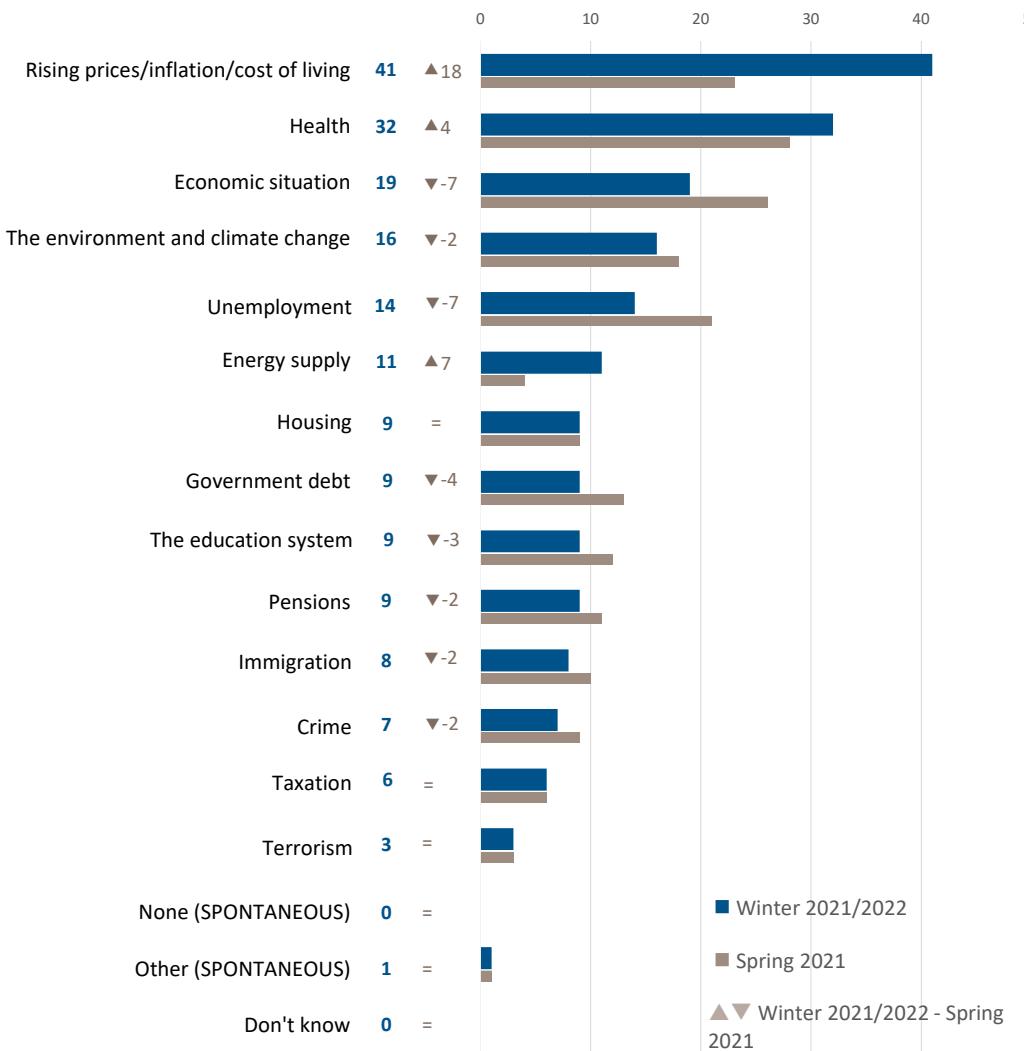
In this EB96 survey from winter 2021-2022, **rising prices/ inflation/ cost of living is the most important national issue for Europeans**, and mentions have increased dramatically since spring 2021 (41%, +18 percentage points)²⁸. This is on top of a seven-point increase in mentions between winter 2020-2021 and spring 2021.

Mentions of **health** have increased slightly, although this issue has dropped from first to second position (32%, +4). **Health** is the only other issue mentioned by at least one in five Europeans. The **economic situation** has dropped from second to third position and mentions have also decreased since spring 2021 (19%, -7).

The environment and climate change has risen from fifth to fourth position (16%, -2), while **unemployment** has dropped from fourth to fifth (14%, -7). **Energy supply** is the only other issue mentioned by at least one in ten. It is in sixth position, up from thirteenth in spring 2021 (11%, +7).

Fewer than one in ten respondents mention the other issues: **housing** (9%, =), **government debt** (9%, -4), **the education system** (9%, -3), **pensions** (9%, -2), **immigration** (8%, -2), **crime** (7%, -2), **taxation** (6%, =) and **terrorism** (3%, =).

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

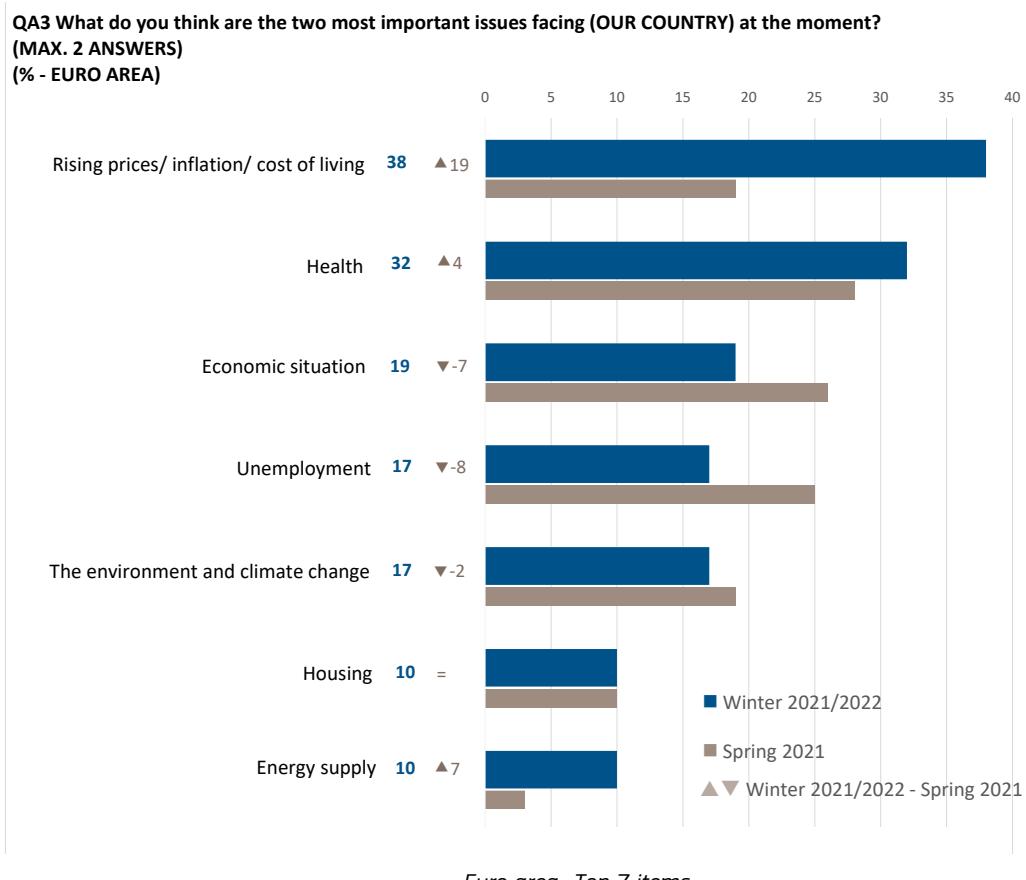


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In both the **euro area** countries and those **outside the euro area** rising prices/ inflation/ cost of living is the leading concern:

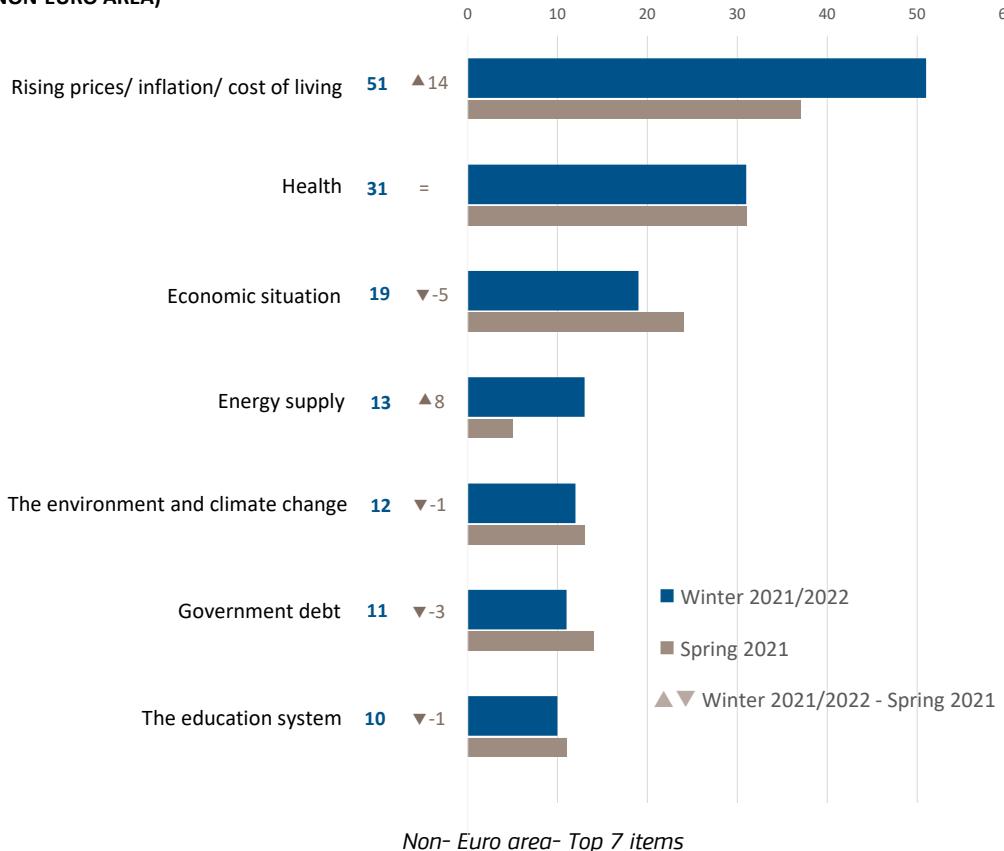
Rising prices/ inflation/ cost of living tops the list of concerns in the **euro area** countries (38%, +19 percentage points since spring 2021 and up from fourth position), followed by health (32%, +4) and the economic situation (19%, -7) in third position. Unemployment (17%, -8) and the environment and climate change (17%, -2) share jointly fourth position, ahead of the government debt (8%, -5) in sixth;

In the countries **outside the euro area**, rising prices/inflation/cost of living remains the main national concern (51%, +14), ahead of health (31%, =) and the economic situation (19%, -5). Energy supply shoots up to fourth position (13%, +8), followed by the environment and climate change (12%, -1) and the government debt (11%, -3).



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



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Rising prices/ inflation/ cost of living is viewed as one of the three most important issues facing their country by citizens in 25 EU Member States, while health ranks in the top three in 23 countries and the economic situation is in the top three in 13 Member States.

More in detail:

Rising prices/ inflation/ cost of living ranks first in 16 Member States (up from seven in spring 2021), with the largest proportions in Estonia (71%), Czechia (70%) and Lithuania (69%). It is the second most mentioned concern in five countries, with the largest share in Luxembourg (50%). It is in third position in four countries including the Netherlands (34%).

Health is the most mentioned issue in six Member States (up from five in spring 2021): Slovenia (52%), Spain (42%), Greece (41%), Italy (38%), Austria (37%) and Cyprus (36%). It is the second most mentioned issue in ten countries including Bulgaria (44%), Hungary (41%) and Portugal (39%), and the third most mentioned issue in seven countries including Ireland (39%) and Denmark (36%).

The economic situation does not rank first in any country (down from four countries in spring 2021). It is the second most mentioned concern in Greece (40%), Cyprus (35%), Italy (34%) and Croatia (25%). It is the third most mentioned issue in nine countries including Slovakia (28%), Romania (27%) and Bulgaria (26%).

The environment and climate change is the most mentioned item in Denmark (44%) and Sweden (34%). It is the second most mentioned item in the Netherlands (40%), Malta (30%) and Germany (29%) and the third most mentioned item in France and Luxembourg (both 17%).

Unemployment is the second most mentioned issue in Spain (35%) and third in Greece (34%) and Croatia (23%).

Energy supply is the second most mentioned issue in Estonia (50%) and Belgium (28%), and the third most mentioned in Czechia (28%).

Housing is the most mentioned concern in Luxembourg (54%), Ireland (50%) and the Netherlands (42%) and ranks equal seventh at EU level along with government debt, the education system, and pensions (all 9%).

Government debt is the second most mentioned issue in Czechia (31%) and the third most mentioned in Finland (26%) and Slovenia (17%).

Crime and taxation are the only other issues that rank in the top three in any member State. **Crime** is the second most mentioned issue in Sweden (32%), while **taxation** is the second most mentioned issue in Lithuania (27%).

Q3 What do you think are the two most important issues facing (OUR COUNTRY) at the moment? (MAX. 2 ANSWERS)
 (%)

	EU27	BE	BG	CZ	DK	DE	EE	IE	EL	ES	FR	HR	IT	CY	LV	LT	LU	HU	MT	NL	AT	PL	PT	RO	SI	SK	FI	SE
Rising prices/ inflation/ cost of living	41	40	63	70	39	45	71	44	32	27	39	55	30	32	57	69	50	49	54	34	35	58	47	43	39	56	35	16
Health	32	21	44	12	36	22	33	39	41	42	29	25	38	36	32	20	15	41	25	31	37	33	39	30	52	33	30	24
Economic situation	19	11	26	14	8	10	13	8	40	26	11	25	34	35	22	21	3	19	20	7	21	20	25	27	14	28	22	7
The environment and climate change	16	19	3	7	44	29	8	13	4	5	17	4	7	4	1	3	17	9	30	40	16	9	8	9	6	7	22	34
Unemployment	14	8	11	1	2	3	2	8	34	35	15	23	29	15	8	8	5	8	3	1	19	4	17	7	5	13	12	8
Energy supply	11	28	10	28	21	16	50	7	2	8	4	7	10	2	14	10	9	5	2	13	8	9	2	9	13	10	7	23
Housing	9	5	1	15	4	15	2	50	1	6	7	4	3	7	4	1	54	7	6	42	5	5	6	5	14	5	2	5
Government debt	9	15	3	31	7	8	1	5	9	6	8	12	9	3	10	6	1	12	10	2	10	10	8	10	17	8	26	1
The education system	9	9	9	9	8	11	5	3	6	5	15	4	7	12	15	7	11	10	7	7	10	7	6	11	3	9	8	21
Pensions	9	10	10	8	4	8	6	3	4	11	13	13	7	5	12	5	5	11	2	4	8	7	10	11	8	13	8	6
Immigration	8	9	3	2	11	11	3	2	10	6	10	5	9	28	3	9	4	11	12	6	15	7	2	3	5	2	9	16
Crime	7	7	3	0	4	6	0	8	8	4	16	12	3	11	1	1	12	4	11	6	6	4	3	8	8	4	4	32
Taxation	6	10	2	2	5	2	3	5	5	8	4	4	8	2	13	27	5	4	4	3	4	11	18	6	4	3	9	4
Terrorism	3	2	1	0	2	3	1	1	1	1	6	2	1	2	1	1	0	2	0	1	3	3	1	1	1	1	2	
Other (SPONTANEOUS)	1	0	1	0	0	1	0	1	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
None (SPONTANEOUS)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Don't know	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	

1st MOST FREQUENTLY MENTIONED ITEM

2nd MOST FREQUENTLY MENTIONED ITEM

3rd MOST FREQUENTLY MENTIONED ITEM

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



Rising prices/ inflation/ cost of living	41	40	63	70	39	45	71	44	32	27	39	55	30	32	57	69	50	49	54	34	35	58	47	43	39	56	35	16
Health	32	21	44	12	36	22	33	39	41	42	29	25	38	36	32	20	15	41	25	31	37	33	39	30	52	33	30	24
Economic situation	19	11	26	14	8	10	13	8	40	26	11	25	34	35	22	21	3	19	20	7	21	20	25	27	14	28	22	7
The environment and climate change	16	19	3	7	44	29	8	13	4	5	17	4	7	4	1	3	17	9	30	40	16	9	8	9	6	7	22	34
Unemployment	14	8	11	1	2	3	2	8	34	35	15	23	29	15	8	8	5	8	3	1	19	4	17	7	5	13	12	8
Energy supply	11	28	10	28	21	16	50	7	2	8	4	7	10	2	14	10	9	5	2	13	8	9	2	9	13	10	7	23
Housing	9	5	1	15	4	15	2	50	1	6	7	4	3	7	4	1	54	7	6	42	5	5	6	5	14	5	2	5
Government debt	9	15	3	31	7	8	1	5	9	6	8	12	9	3	10	6	1	12	10	2	10	10	8	10	17	8	26	1
The education system	9	9	9	9	8	11	5	3	6	5	15	4	7	12	15	7	11	10	7	7	10	7	6	11	3	9	8	21
Pensions	9	10	10	8	4	8	6	3	4	11	13	13	7	5	12	5	5	11	2	4	8	7	10	11	8	13	8	6
Immigration	8	9	3	2	11	11	3	2	10	6	10	5	9	28	3	9	4	11	12	6	15	7	2	3	5	2	9	16
Crime	7	7	3	0	4	6	0	8	8	4	16	12	3	11	1	1	12	4	11	6	6	4	3	8	8	4	4	32
Taxation	6	10	2	2	5	2	3	5	5	8	4	4	8	2	13	27	5	4	4	3	4	11	18	6	4	3	9	4
Terrorism	3	2	1	0	2	3	1	1	1	6	2	1	2	1	1	0	2	0	1	3	3	1	3	1	1	1	2	
Other (SPONTANEOUS)	1	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
Cyprus issue	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
None (SPONTANEOUS)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Don't know	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0

Highest percentage per country

Lowest percentage per country

Highest percentage per item

Lowest percentage per item

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

	Rising prices/ inflation/ cost of living	Health	Economic situation	The environment and climate change	Unemployment	Energy supply
EU27	41	32	19	16	14	11
 Gender						
Man	40	29	19	16	15	12
Woman	41	34	19	16	14	9
 Age						
15-24	35	30	18	21	17	8
25-39	43	29	21	17	15	10
40-54	43	32	21	14	14	12
55 +	40	33	18	15	14	11
 Education (End of)						
15-	39	38	22	6	22	7
16-19	45	31	21	12	14	10
20+	39	30	16	23	10	14
Still studying	32	32	18	25	16	9
 Socio-professional category						
Self-employed	42	26	24	15	13	16
Managers	41	28	17	26	10	13
Other white collars	43	32	21	16	13	12
Manual workers	43	32	21	11	15	10
House persons	35	37	25	11	20	8
Unemployed	41	29	21	8	37	7
Retired	42	34	15	14	12	11
Students	32	32	18	25	16	9
 Difficulties paying bills						
Most of the time	45	28	21	8	27	5
From time to time	41	34	22	10	17	8
Almost never/ Never	40	31	18	19	12	12
 Consider belonging to						
The working class	47	35	20	9	19	8
The lower middle class	43	31	20	13	14	10
The middle class	38	31	19	18	13	12
The upper middle class	36	26	16	29	9	14
The upper class	49	31	14	25	2	13

Items mentioned by 10% or more

2.3 Main concerns at European level

Environment and climate change is ranking first amongst main concerns at European level, closely followed by rising prices/ inflation/cost of living

The environment and climate change is now the most important issue facing the EU at the moment, rising from second position in spring 2021 (26%, +1 percentage point)²⁹.

Mentions of **Rising prices/ inflation/ cost of living** have increased considerably, moving it from sixth position in spring 2021 to second position (24%, +12). **Immigration** remains in third position (22%, -3).

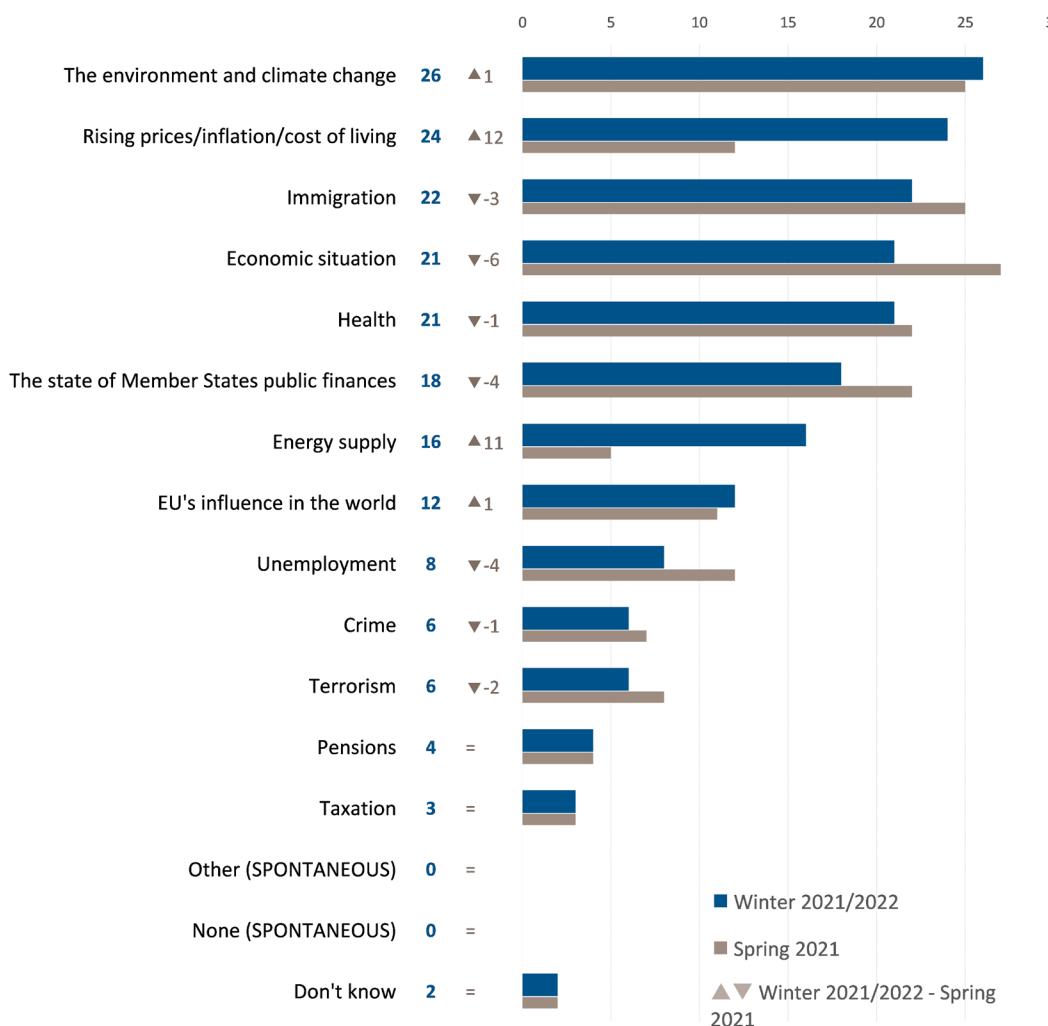
The **economic situation** has declined from first position in spring 2021 to fourth position (21%, -6), reversing almost all the increase seen between winter 2020-2021 and spring 2021. **Health** shares fourth position (21%, -1).

The **state of Member State's public finances** has dropped from fourth to sixth position (18%, -4). Mentions of **energy supply** have increased notably since spring 2021 and this concern has moved from eleventh to seventh position (16%, +11) – the second largest increase recorded.

The **EU's influence on the world** is in eighth position (12%, +1) and **unemployment** has dropped from sixth position in spring 2021 and now sits in ninth place (8%, -4).

Four other issues are mentioned by fewer than one in ten respondents: **crime** (6%, -1), **terrorism** (6%, -2), **pensions** (4%, =) and **taxation** (3%, =).

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



²⁹ Q5. What do you think are the two most important issues facing the EU at the moment?

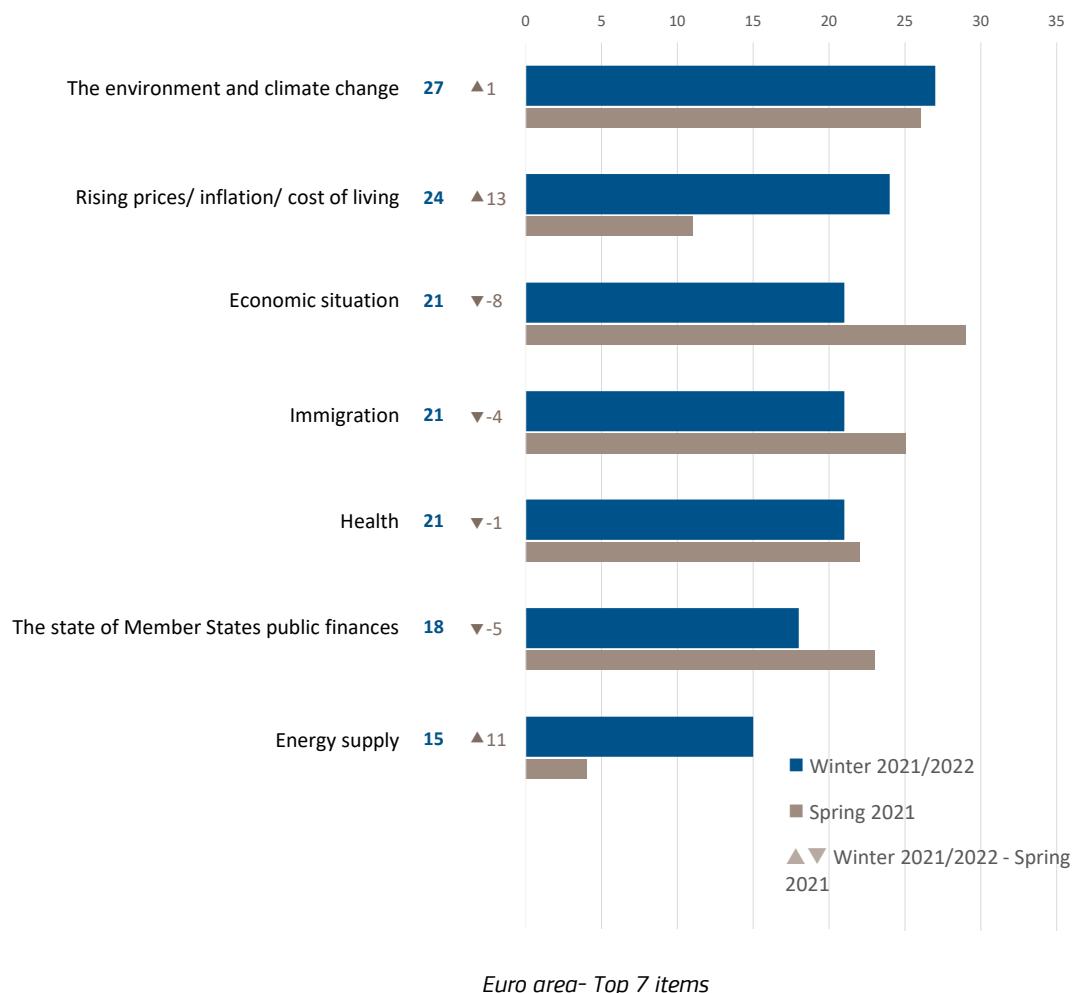
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The ranking of the three most important issues by respondents in the euro area and in countries outside the euro area is slightly different.

The environment and climate change (27%, +1 percentage point since spring 2021) tops the list in the countries of the **euro area**, closely followed by rising prices/ inflation/ cost of living (24%, +13) and the economic situation (21%, -8), health (21%, -1) and immigration (21%, -4) sharing the third position.

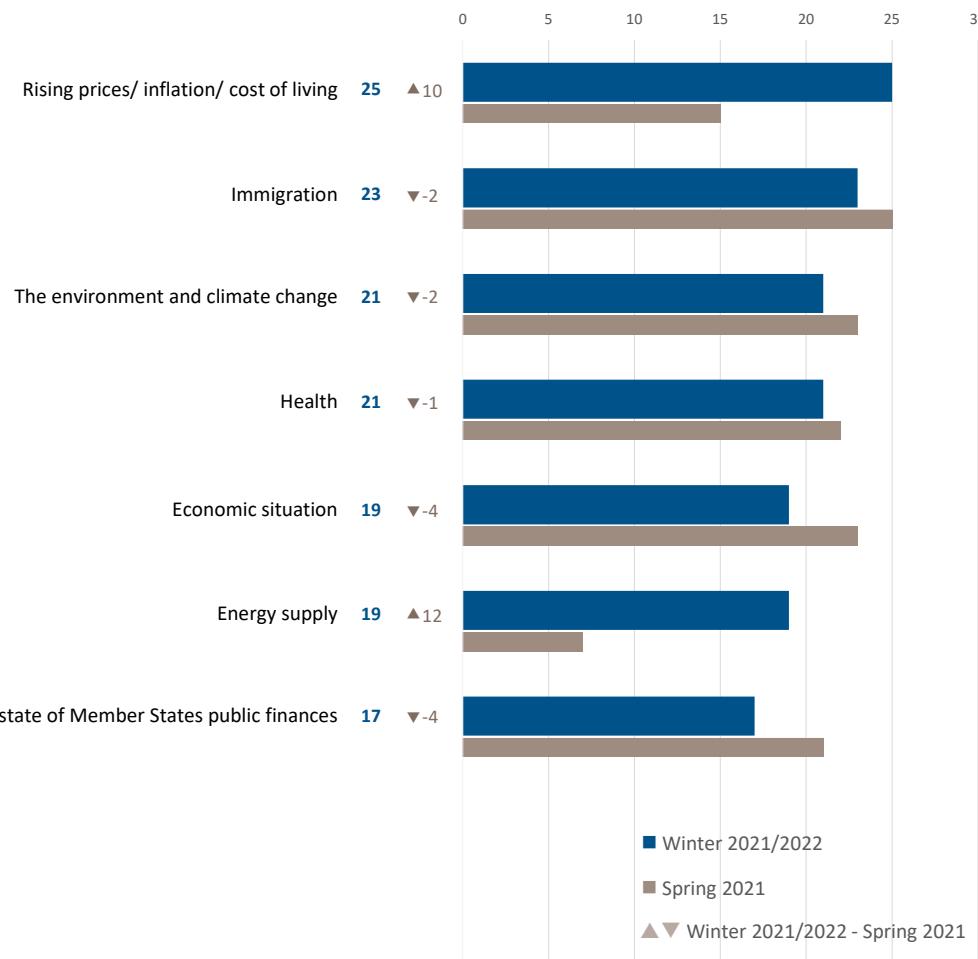
In the countries **outside the euro area** rising prices/ inflation/ cost of living comes first 25% (+10), followed by immigration (23%, -2), the environment and climate change (21%, -2) and health (21%, -1), which share the third position.

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



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



Non-Euro area -Top 7 items

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National results show that the environment and climate change ranks as the most important issue facing the EU at an overall level and is in the top three in 16 EU Member States.

The environment and climate change is the most mentioned issue in nine countries (no change from spring 2021), with the highest levels seen in Denmark (53%), Sweden (52%) and the Netherlands (50%). It ranks second in Ireland (29%) and Portugal (25%), and joint second with immigration in Luxembourg (28% each). The environment and climate change ranks third in Hungary and Slovenia (both 22%) and joint third with immigration in Czechia (25% each issue) and Estonia (26% each issue).

Since spring 2021, concerns about this issue have increased in 13 countries (compared with 24 in the previous survey), most notably in Portugal (25%, +17) and Malta (35%, +14), where rises exceed 10 percentage points. Conversely, concerns have lost ground in 14 countries, particularly in Ireland (29%, -16) and in Lithuania (14%, -14).

Rising prices/ inflation/ cost of living is the most mentioned issue in six Member States (up from 0 in spring 2021), with the largest shares in Czechia (35%), Croatia (33%), Ireland and Latvia (both 32%) – although it is only the second most mentioned issue in Czechia after energy supply. Rising prices/ inflation/ cost of living is the second most mentioned issue in six countries including Czechia, Estonia (30%) and Germany (29%). It ranks third in Malta (26%), Italy (25%), and Romania and Belgium (both 21%). It ranks joint third with immigration and the economic situation in Portugal (all 20%).

Since spring 2021, concerns about this issue have gained ground in all 27 Member States, with scores reaching from Czechia (35%, +20) and Luxembourg (30%, +18) to Lithuania (26%, +2) and Cyprus (9%, +3).

Immigration ranks third at an overall EU level with 22% in the EU saying it is the one of the most important issues facing the EU, and it is also the most mentioned issue in Cyprus (61%), Lithuania (34%) and Hungary (33%). It is the second most mentioned issue in seven countries, with the highest levels in the Netherlands (33%), Denmark, Luxembourg, and Malta (all 28%). Immigration is the third most mentioned issue in nine countries including Latvia (28%), France (25%) and Greece (24%). It shares third place in Bulgaria with the economic situation (25% each), in Estonia and Czechia with the environment and climate change, and in Portugal with rising prices/ inflation/ cost of living and the economic situation (all 20%).

Since spring 2021, concerns about immigration have increased in five Member States, most notably in Cyprus (61%, +13), while proportions remained unchanged in Hungary (33%). Conversely, proportions decreased in 21 countries, most markedly Czechia (25%, -17) and in Belgium (23%, -14).

The economic situation is the most mentioned issue in Spain (down from three countries in spring 2021), and the second most mentioned in Italy (30%), Austria (25%) and Romania (22%). It is the third most mentioned issue in Slovakia (25%), Croatia (23%), Cyprus (19%), Lithuania (17%). It shares third place with immigration in Bulgaria (both 25%) and with rising prices/ inflation/ cost of living and immigration in Portugal (all 20%).

Since spring 2021, concerns about this issue have increased in only two countries, namely in Slovakia (25%, +2) and Romania (22%, +1). Conversely they have decreased in 25 Member States, most notably in Ireland (16%, -14) and Slovenia (16%, -12).

Health is the most mentioned issue in six countries including Greece (38%), Slovenia and Bulgaria (both 35%) and it shares first place with the state of Member States' public finances in Portugal (26%). It ranks second in Cyprus (32%), Croatia (27%) and Spain (25%), and third in Poland and Austria (both 23%).

Since spring 2021, mentions of this concern have gained ground in nine countries, most markedly in Cyprus (32%, +7) and Bulgaria (35%, +6), while proportions have remained unchanged in Greece (38%) and Estonia (15%).

Further results are:

The state of Member States' public finances ranks joint first in Portugal along with health (both 26%, -1 and -14). It ranks second in Finland (31%, -14), Greece (27%, -6), Slovakia (26%, -3) and Hungary (24%, -2) and third in Germany (22%, -8) and Luxembourg (18%, +1).

Energy supply ranks seventh at an overall EU level but is the most mentioned issue in Estonia (47%, +37) and Czechia (42%, +39), where increases are higher than 30 percentage points. It is in second place in Sweden (30%, +19) and Latvia (30%, +28) and third in Denmark (23%, +18) and Ireland (20%, +15). It is noticeable that concerns for energy supply increased in all 27 Member States with increases of at least ten percentage points in 17 countries.

The EU's influence in the world ranks eighth overall and is the only other issue that ranks in the top three in any country featuring in third position in Finland (27%, +7) and the Netherlands (23%, +1).

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

	The environment and climate change	Rising prices/inflation/cost of living	Immigration	Health	Economic situation	The state of Member States public finances	Energy supply	EU's influence in the world
EU27	26	24	22	21	21	18	16	12
 Gender								
Man	26	25	22	20	20	18	17	13
Woman	26	24	21	22	21	17	14	11
 Age								
15-24	33	23	20	23	20	15	12	12
25-39	27	25	20	21	22	20	15	13
40-54	25	25	22	21	21	19	17	12
55 +	23	24	23	21	20	16	16	12
 Education (End of)								
15-	15	26	22	25	23	14	10	6
16-19	22	26	22	22	23	18	14	11
20+	32	22	22	17	18	19	21	17
Still studying	36	21	21	24	19	16	13	13
 Socio-professional category								
Self-employed	26	26	21	19	24	21	20	13
Managers	37	22	22	15	18	21	21	19
Other white collars	26	26	21	23	20	19	19	14
Manual workers	22	25	22	21	23	18	14	10
House persons	18	27	18	30	18	12	12	9
Unemployed	19	27	20	22	27	15	11	7
Retired	23	24	24	21	19	15	15	12
Students	36	21	21	24	19	16	13	13
 Difficulties paying bills								
Most of the time	16	31	19	20	24	20	11	8
From time to time	21	26	20	25	22	16	13	9
Almost never/ Never	29	23	23	19	20	18	17	14
 Consider belonging to								
The working class	18	28	23	23	22	16	12	9
The lower middle class	24	26	22	20	23	17	16	11
The middle class	28	24	21	21	20	17	16	14
The upper middle class	37	17	23	15	19	21	21	19
The upper class	37	26	17	17	9	30	21	17

Items mentioned by 10% or more

3. Political aspects

3.1 Interest in politics

After a slight decrease in the previous survey, the index measuring how interested Europeans are in politics³⁰ has slightly gained ground in this EB96 survey from winter 2021-2022: 18% (+1 index point) of respondents have a “strong” interest in politics, while 48% (+1) have a “moderate” interest and 17% (-1) show “low” interest. Conversely, the proportion of respondents who are not interested in political matters at all has decreased slightly, by one index point (down to 17%).

When it comes to the interest in politics, Europeans are primarily interested in **national political matters**³¹. Almost eight in ten respondents (79%, +1 percentage point since spring 2021) discuss politics with friends or relatives, including 53% (-1) who do so ‘occasionally’, and 26% (+2) who say that they talk about them ‘frequently’. Conversely, a slightly decreasing proportion (21%, -1) ‘never’ discuss national political matters.

In 25 Member States a majority of respondents ‘occasionally’ discuss **national political matters** with their friends or relatives. Respondents in Spain and the Netherlands are an exception. In Spain 44% of respondents occasionally discuss national political matters, but an identical proportion (44%) never discuss such matters with their friends and relatives. Conversely, in the Netherlands the proportion of respondents who frequently discuss national political matters outnumber those who do so occasionally (54%, ‘frequently’ vs. 41%, ‘occasionally’).

National political matters are most ‘frequently’ discussed in the Netherlands (54%), followed by Greece (44%) and Czechia (41%), where more than four in ten respondents answer this way. In contrast, more than three in ten respondents ‘never’ discuss national political matters with their relatives and friends in four countries, most strikingly in Spain (44%), Cyprus (35%), France (32%) and Portugal (31%).

Since spring 2021, national political matters are more ‘frequently’ discussed in 18 Member States, most particularly in the Netherlands (54%, +14 percentage points), Czechia (41%, +12) and Germany (37%, +1), while proportions remained unchanged in Poland (16%) and Luxembourg (28%). Conversely, proportions decreased in seven countries, led by Ireland (24%, -20), the only Member State where decreases exceed 10 percentage points.

More than three-quarters of Europeans discuss **local political matters** with their friends and relatives (76%, +1): 21% (-1) do so ‘frequently’ and 55% (+2) ‘occasionally’, while 24% (-1) say that they ‘never’ discuss them. As in the previous survey, it is noteworthy that in this EB96 survey the proportion of respondents who never discuss local political matters outnumbers the proportion who frequently do so.

At least three in ten respondents ‘frequently’ **discuss local political matters** in the Netherlands, Germany (30% for both), Estonia (32%) and Greece (34%). On the other end of the scale, 12% of respondents in Spain and 10% in Poland do so.

In 26 Member States a majority of respondents ‘occasionally’ discuss **local political matters**. This group of countries is led by Poland (69%) and Hungary (68%). Spain is the only exception, where respondents who ‘never’ discuss such matters outnumber those who ‘occasionally’ do so (46%, ‘never’, vs. 42%, ‘occasionally’).

Since spring 2021, local political matters are more ‘frequently’ discussed in 13 Member States, most strikingly in the Netherlands (30%, +10 percentage points), while proportions have decreased in 14 countries, led by Lithuania (22%, -10).

Although discussion of **European political matters** seems to be slightly less widespread, they are still discussed by more than two-thirds of respondents (67%, +1), including 14% (unchanged) who discuss them ‘frequently’ and 53% (+1) who do so ‘occasionally’. 33% (-1) answered ‘never’.

³⁰ 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,

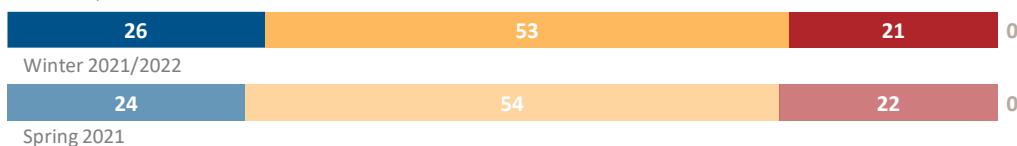
European). Each group corresponds to a different index level: “not at all interested in politics” = 0; “slightly” = 1 to 2; “moderately” = 3 to 4; “strongly” = 5 to 6.

³¹ 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.

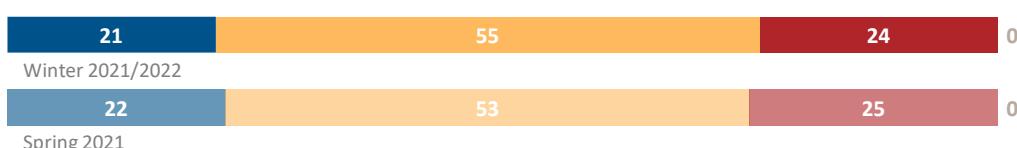
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QD71 When you get together with friends or relatives, would you say you discuss frequently, occasionally or never about...? (% - EU)

National political matters



Local political matters



European political matters



■ ■ ■ Frequently ■ ■ ■ Occasionally ■ ■ ■ Never ■ ■ ■ Don't Know

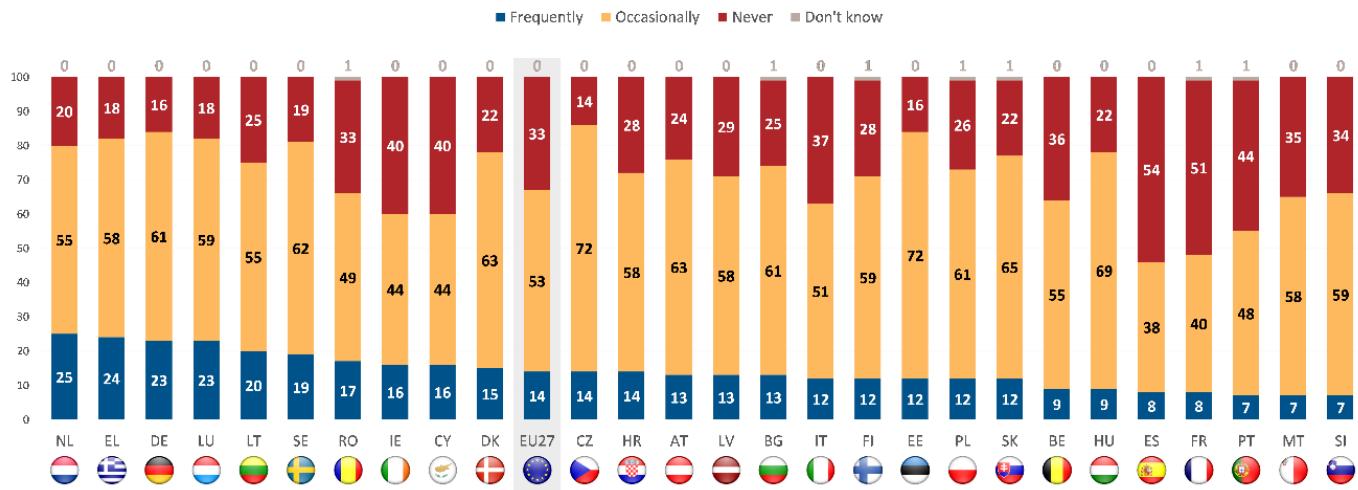
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In 25 Member States (compared with 24 in spring 2021) a majority of respondents ‘occasionally’ discuss **European political matters** with their friends or relatives. Respondents in France and Spain are an exception. In Spain 38% of respondents occasionally discuss European political matters but 54% say that they ‘never’ do so. In France a similar pattern can be observed: 40% ‘occasionally’ discuss those matters with their friends and relatives, but 51% ‘never’ do so.

European political matters are most ‘frequently’ discussed in the Netherlands (25%), followed by Greece (24%) where around a quarter of respondents answer this way. In contrast, more than four in ten respondents ‘never’ discuss European political matters with their relatives and friends in Spain (54%), France (51%) and Portugal (44%).

Since winter 2020-2021, European political matters are more ‘frequently’ discussed in 15 Member States, led by Sweden (19%, +9), Lithuania (20%, +8) and the Netherlands (25%, +8), while proportions remained unchanged in five countries, namely Germany (23%), Cyprus (16%), Hungary (9%), Spain (8%) and Slovenia (7%). Conversely, proportions decreased in seven countries, most strikingly in Austria (13%, -4).

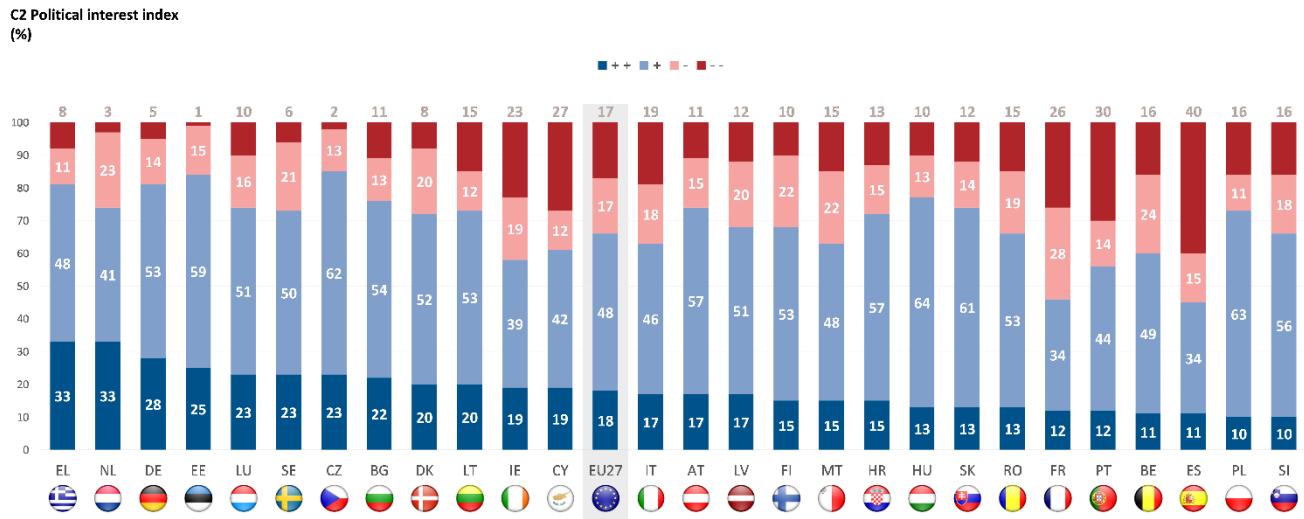
D71.2 When you get together with friends or relatives, would you say you discuss frequently, occasionally or never about...
 (% - European political matters)



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In 10 Member States of the European Union (compared with seven in spring 2021) at least one in five respondents have a ‘strong’ interest in politics. In these countries, interest is the most widespread in Greece (33%), the Netherlands (33%) and Germany (28%). Conversely, in five Member States at least one fifth of respondents are ‘not at all’ interested in political matters, led by Spain (40%) and Portugal (30%) and Cyprus (27%).

Since spring 2021, the proportion of Europeans who are strongly interested in political matters has increased in 15 Member States (compared with 11 in the previous survey), especially in the Netherlands (33%, +10), while proportions have remained unchanged in Greece (33%), Germany (28%) and Romania (13%). Conversely, fewer respondents are strongly interested in politics in nine Member States, most strikingly in Ireland (19%, -7) and Belgium (11%, -6).



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The **socio-demographic data** show that interest in European political matters is significantly correlated with education and the social position of respondents. Men and the most socially and economically advantaged categories tend to discuss European political matters with friends and relatives more often. While 20% of those who continued education up to the age of 20 or beyond, 21% of managers, 19% of the self-employed, 25% of those who

see themselves as belonging to the upper middle class and 25% of those defining themselves as belonging to the upper class of society 'frequently' discuss European political matters, those who finished education aged 15 or younger (7%), unemployed people (9%), house persons (10%), and those who see themselves as belonging to the working class of society (8%) do so less often.

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

European political matters (%) - EU)

	Frequently	Occasionally	Never	Don't know
EU27	14	53	33	0
 Gender				
Man	17	55	28	0
Woman	12	51	36	1
 Age				
15-24	12	46	42	0
25-39	14	54	32	0
40-54	15	56	29	0
55 +	15	52	33	0
 Education (End of)				
15-	7	39	53	1
16-19	12	55	32	1
20+	20	58	22	0
Still studying	13	47	40	0
 Socio-professional category				
Self-employed	19	61	20	0
Managers	21	60	19	0
Other white collars	13	59	28	0
Manual workers	12	52	35	1
House persons	10	43	47	0
Unemployed	9	45	45	1
Retired	14	51	35	0
Students	13	47	40	0
 Difficulties paying bills				
Most of the time	14	44	42	0
From time to time	12	51	36	1
Almost never/ Never	15	55	30	0
 Consider belonging to				
The working class	8	45	46	1
The lower middle class	11	53	36	0
The middle class	16	56	28	0
The upper middle class	25	61	14	0
The upper class	25	62	13	0

3.2 Trust in institutions

National institutions

Trust in most national institutions has remained unchanged or has decreased for some of them.

Since spring 2021, trust in national political institutions has increased only for one body, namely the national parliament³²:

- 35% of respondents (-2 percentage points since spring 2021) trust their **national government**, compared with 60% (+1) who do not;
- A slightly higher proportion of respondents (36%, +1) trust their **national parliament**, compared with 58% (-1) who 'tend not to trust' it;
- Trust in **national political parties** has also remained stable (21%), whereas three quarters of respondents (75%, -1) say that they distrust them.
- A majority of respondents trust their **regional or local public authorities** (57%, unchanged), and the public administration (51%, -1, versus 44% (unchanged) 'tend not to trust'. **Since spring 2021**, trust in other national institutions remained stable for two, and decreased slightly for the two others:
- The highest level of trust at national level is still commanded by **health and medical staff**, who are trusted by 78% (-2) of Europeans.

- Almost three-quarters of respondents (73%, unchanged) tend to trust the **army**, while 22% 'tend not to trust' it (unchanged);
- Trust in **the police** has decreased slightly: 70% trust this institution (-1), while 27% (+1) do not.
- Trust in the **national justice/ legal system** has remained unchanged: 54% of respondents do so, while 43% (unchanged) 'tend not to trust' this institution.
- **Trust in supranational bodies has decreased** for all institutions since spring 2021:
 - A majority of 47% of Europeans say that they trust the **European Union** (-2), whereas 44% (+2) 'tend not to trust' it;
 - Nearly half of respondents (48%, -3) trust the **United Nations** and 39% (+3) do not;
 - Almost half of respondents (45%, -4) trust **NATO**, while 40% (+5) do not.

³² QA6b. How much trust you have in certain institutions? For each of the following institutions, do you tend to trust it or tend not to trust it. Political parties; Justice/the (NATIONALITY) legal system; The police; The army; Public administration in (OUR

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

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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)

Health and medical staff in (OUR COUNTRY)



The army



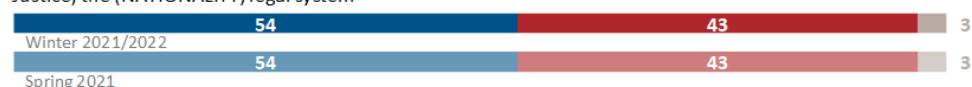
The police



Regional or local public authorities



Justice, the (NATIONALITY) legal system



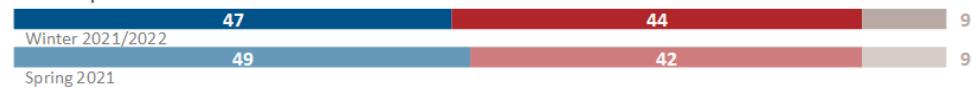
Public administration in (OUR COUNTRY)



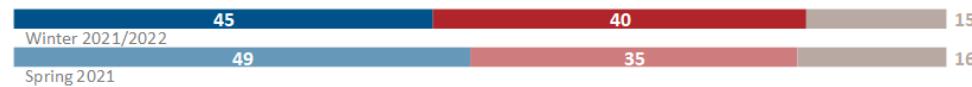
The United Nations



The European Union



NATO



The (NATIONALITY PARLIAMENT) (USE PROPER NAME FOR LOWER HOUSE)



The (NATIONALITY) Government



Political parties

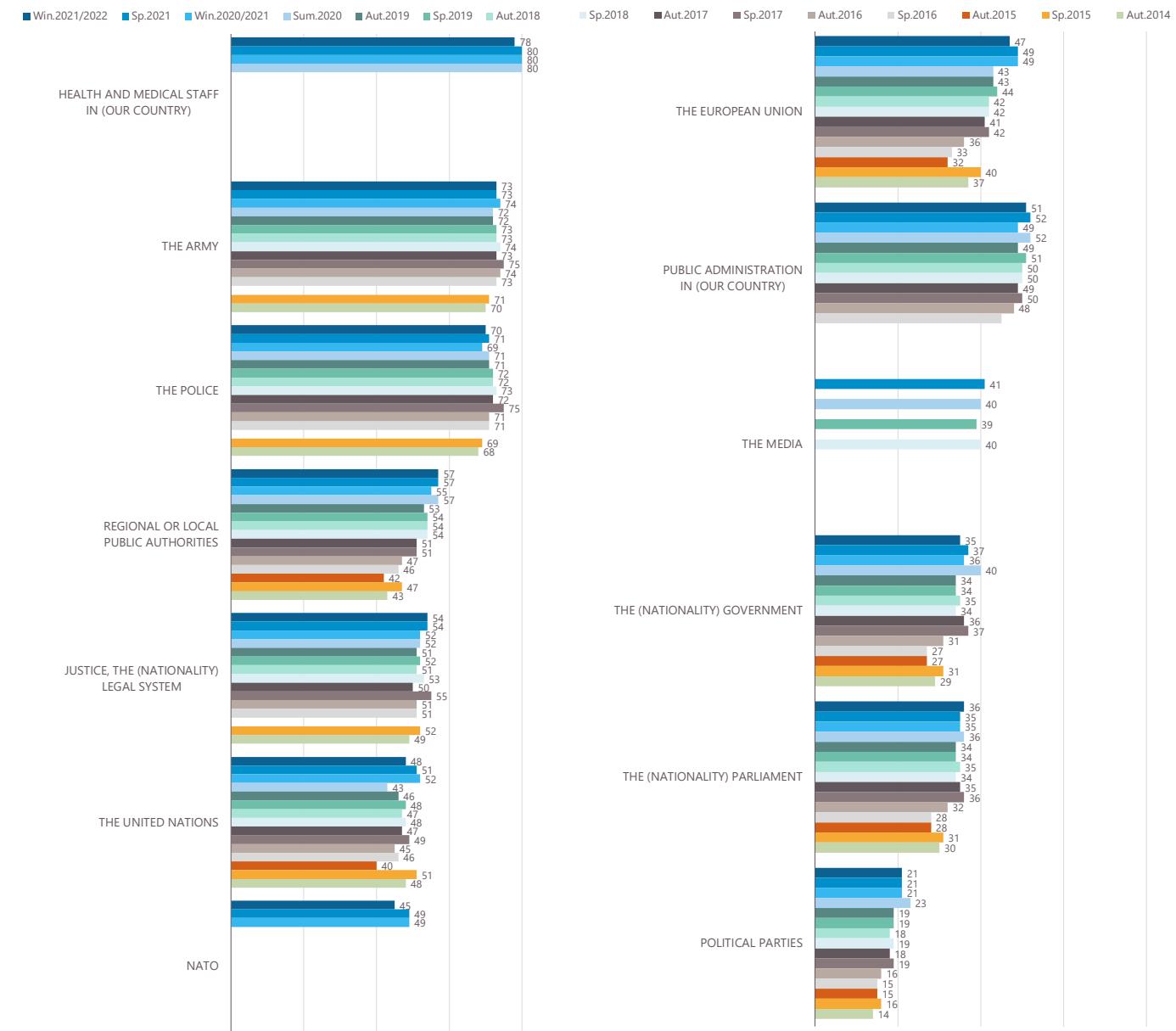


■ Tend to trust ■ Tend not to trust ■ Don't know

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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 - TEND TO TRUST)



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

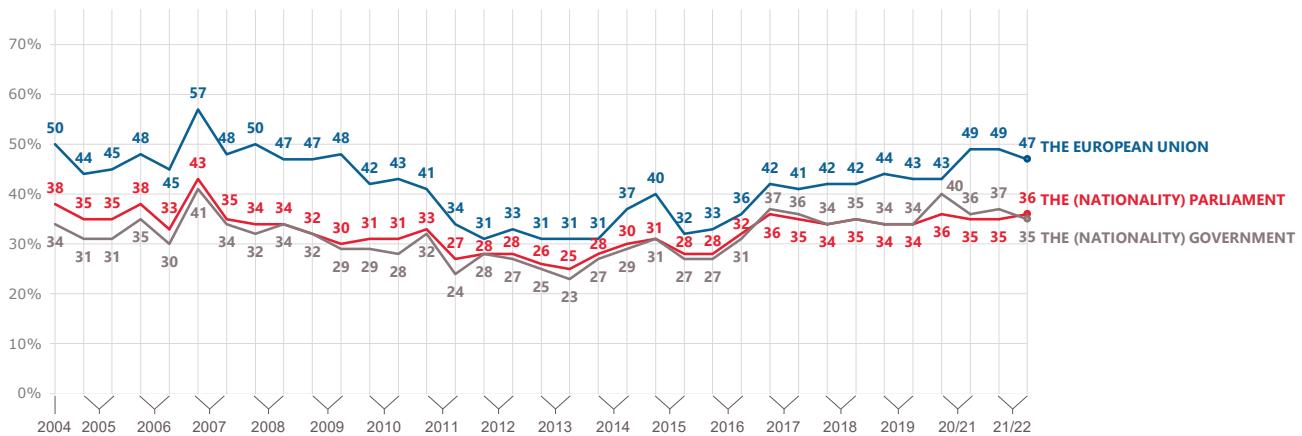
Almost half of all Europeans trust the European Union (47%), despite a slight decrease of two percentage points since spring 2021. This is the second highest level recorded for this indicator since autumn 2009. However, trust in the European Union remains at a slightly higher level in the countries **outside the euro area** (52%, -2) than in the **euro area** countries (45%, -3), where an identical proportion of respondents ‘tend not to trust’ the European Union (45%, +1).

Trust in **national governments** has slightly decreased (35%, -2 percentage points since spring 2021) while trust in **national parliaments** has slightly gained ground (36%, +1). As a result of this evolution, trust in national parliament is currently higher than trust in national governments. The gap between trust in the EU and trust in national governments remains high (at +12) and is still at its second highest point since autumn 2010, when it stood at +15.

Conversely, distrust in the European Union has slightly increased (44% “tend not to trust”, +2 percentage points since spring 2021), as has distrust in national governments (60%, +1), whereas distrust in national parliaments has slightly decreased (58%, -1).

The **trust index**³³ measuring the difference between trust and distrust has decreased by four index points but remains positive at +3 for the European Union. However, despite a slight increase of two index points, the trust index for the national parliament is still negative at -22, as is the index for the national government, which has lost ground: down from -22 to -25.

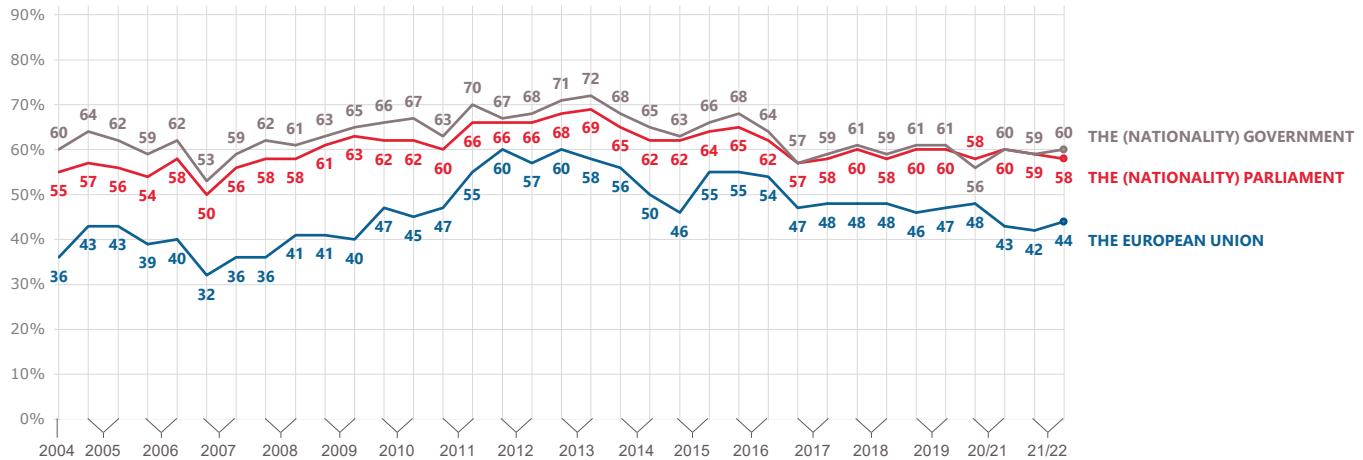
QA6b How much trust do you have in certain institutions? For each of the following institutions, do you tend to trust it or tend not to trust it?
(% - EU - TEND TO TRUST)



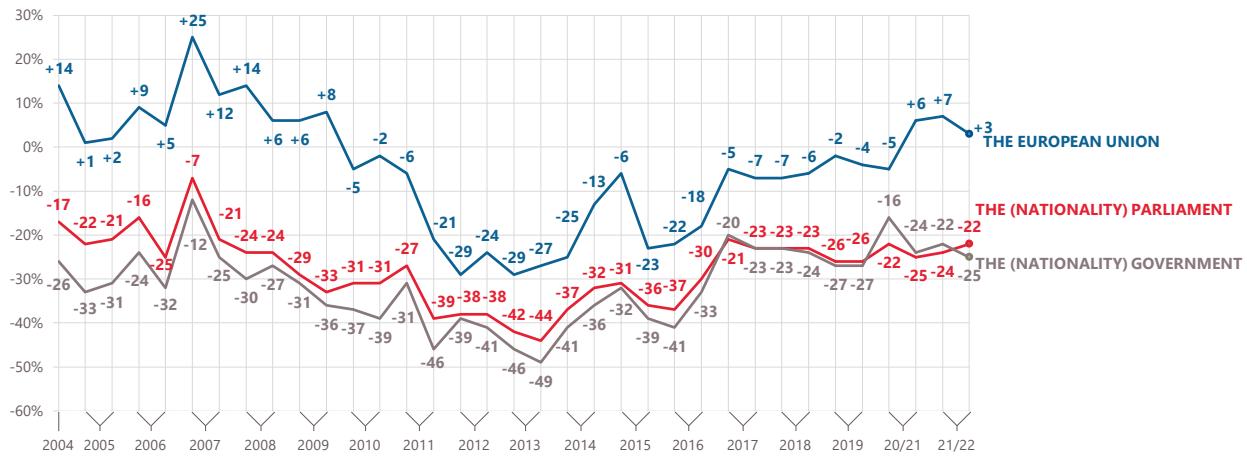
³³ Difference between the positive (“tend to trust”) and negative (“tend not to trust”) answers.

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

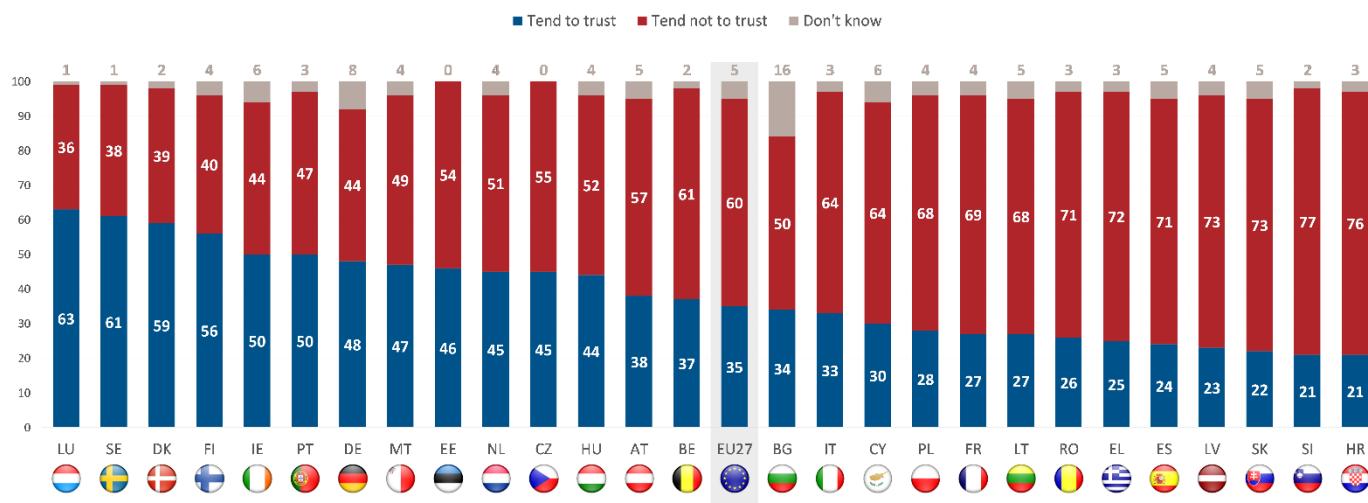


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A majority of respondents in seven Member States of the European Union (compared with six in spring 2021) trust their **national government**. Respondents in Luxembourg (63%) and Sweden (61%) are the most positive about their national government, while respondents in Slovakia (22%), Croatia (21%) and Slovenia (21%) are the least so. Conversely, the proportion of respondents who tend not to trust their government exceeds 70% in seven countries, most strikingly in Slovenia (77%) and in Croatia (76%). It should be noted that the proportion of respondents who expressed no opinion is particularly high in Bulgaria (16%).

Since 2021, trust in the national government has increased in six Member States, most significantly in Czechia (45%, +17), Bulgaria (34%, +12) and Sweden (61%, +11), while it has remained unchanged in Poland (28%). Conversely, trust has decreased in 18 countries, particularly in Lithuania (27%, -14).

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)

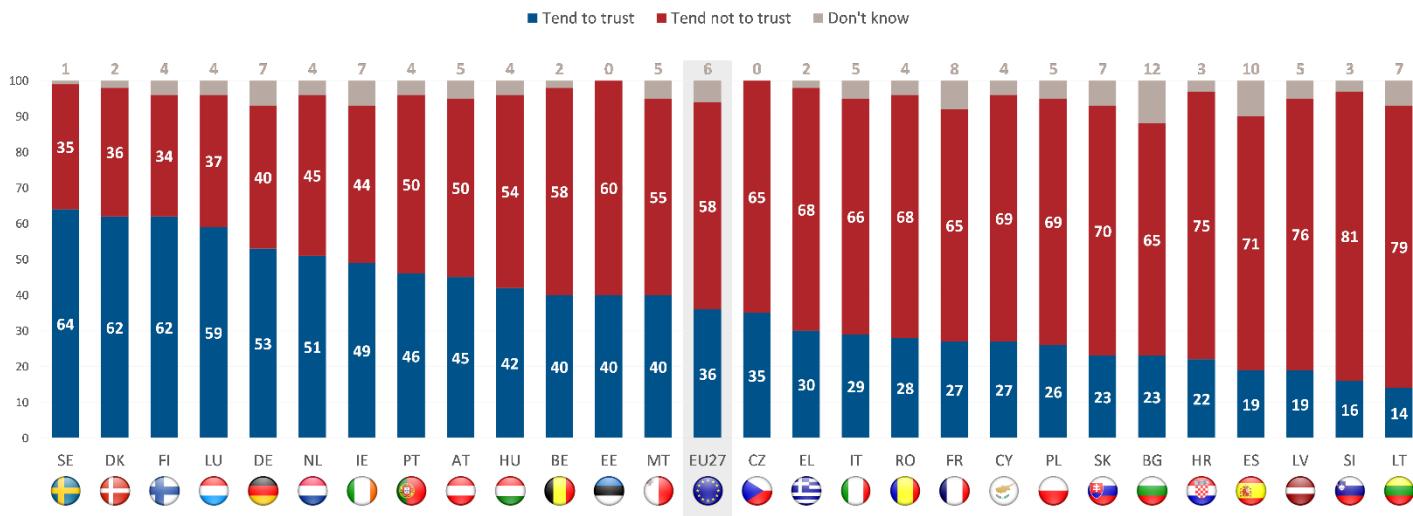


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A majority of respondents trust their **national parliament** in seven Member States (unchanged since spring 2021). Within this group of countries, the highest scores can be observed in Sweden (64%), and Denmark and Finland (both 62%), where proportions exceed sixty percent, and the lowest in Ireland (49%, versus 44% ‘tend not to trust’ and 7% ‘don’t know’). In contrast, a majority of respondents tend not to trust their national parliament in 20 EU Member States, most particularly in Slovenia (81%), Lithuania (79%) and Latvia (76%), where more than three-quarters of respondents distrust their national parliament. The proportions of respondents who give no answer are highest in Bulgaria (12%) and Spain (10%).

Since spring 2021, trust in the national parliament has increased in 10 Member States, most particularly in Czechia (35%, +15) and Sweden (64%, +9), while trust levels have remain unchanged in six countries. Conversely, trust has decreased in 11 countries, most significantly in Lithuania (14%, -9).

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) (USE PROPER NAME FOR LOWER HOUSE))



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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	35	60	5
Gender			
Man	36	60	4
Woman	35	60	5
Age			
15-24	36	58	6
25-39	33	63	4
40-54	33	63	4
55 +	39	56	5
Education (End of)			
15-	31	63	6
16-19	31	64	5
20+	41	55	4
Still studying	40	54	6
Socio-professional category			
Self-employed	36	61	3
Managers	47	49	4
Other white collars	34	61	5
Manual workers	28	68	4
House persons	30	65	5
Unemployed	21	76	3
Retired	39	55	6
Students	40	54	6
Difficulties paying bills			
Most of the time	18	78	4
From time to time	28	67	5
Almost never/ Never	40	55	5
Consider belonging to			
The working class	28	67	5
The lower middle class	30	65	5
The middle class	39	56	5
The upper middle class	49	48	3
The upper class	51	47	2

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) (USE PROPER NAME FOR LOWER HOUSE) (% - EU)

	Tend to trust	Tend not to trust	Don't know
EU27	36	58	6
Gender			
Man	37	59	4
Woman	35	58	7
Age			
15-24	37	56	7
25-39	34	62	4
40-54	33	62	5
55 +	38	56	6
Education (End of)			
15-	29	63	8
16-19	31	64	5
20+	43	52	5
Still studying	42	51	7
Socio-professional category			
Self-employed	36	60	4
Managers	48	47	5
Other white collars	36	59	5
Manual workers	27	68	5
House persons	28	63	9
Unemployed	19	76	5
Retired	39	54	7
Students	42	51	7
Difficulties paying bills			
Most of the time	18	77	5
From time to time	27	67	6
Almost never/ Never	41	53	6
Consider belonging to			
The working class	25	68	7
The lower middle class	31	63	6
The middle class	39	55	6
The upper middle class	53	43	4
The upper class	55	42	3

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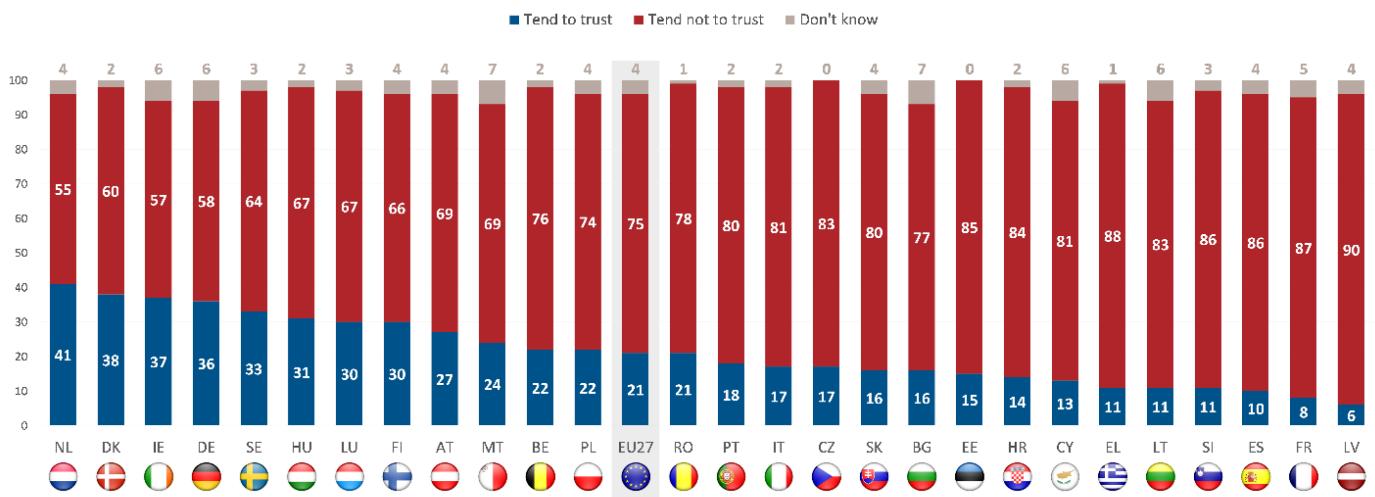
Political parties

Distrust in political parties is predominant in all 27 Member States of the European Union. It is highest in Latvia (90%), followed by Greece (88%) and France (87%). On the other end of the scale, distrust is lowest in Ireland (57%) and the Netherlands (55%).

Indeed, more than a third of respondents trust their political parties in the Netherlands (41%), Denmark (38%), Ireland (37%) and Germany (36%).

Since spring 2021, trust has increased in 13 Member States, most significantly in Ireland (37%, +11), while it has remained unchanged in four countries, namely in Sweden (33%), Poland (22%), Cyprus (13%) and Greece (11%). Conversely, trust has decreased in eleven countries, most particularly in Austria (27%, -8).

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	74	4
Woman	21	75	4
Age			
15-24	23	70	7
25-39	21	76	3
40-54	20	77	3
55 +	22	74	4
Education (End of)			
15-	17	79	4
16-19	20	77	3
20+	25	72	3
Still studying	24	68	8
Socio-professional category			
Self-employed	20	77	3
Managers	31	66	3
Other white collars	21	76	3
Manual workers	18	79	3
House persons	17	78	5
Unemployed	12	85	3
Retired	23	73	4
Students	24	68	8
Difficulties paying bills			
Most of the time	10	88	2
From time to time	15	82	3
Almost never/ Never	25	71	4
Consider belonging to			
The working class	15	81	4
The lower middle class	17	80	3
The middle class	24	72	4
The upper middle class	35	61	4
The upper class	48	49	3

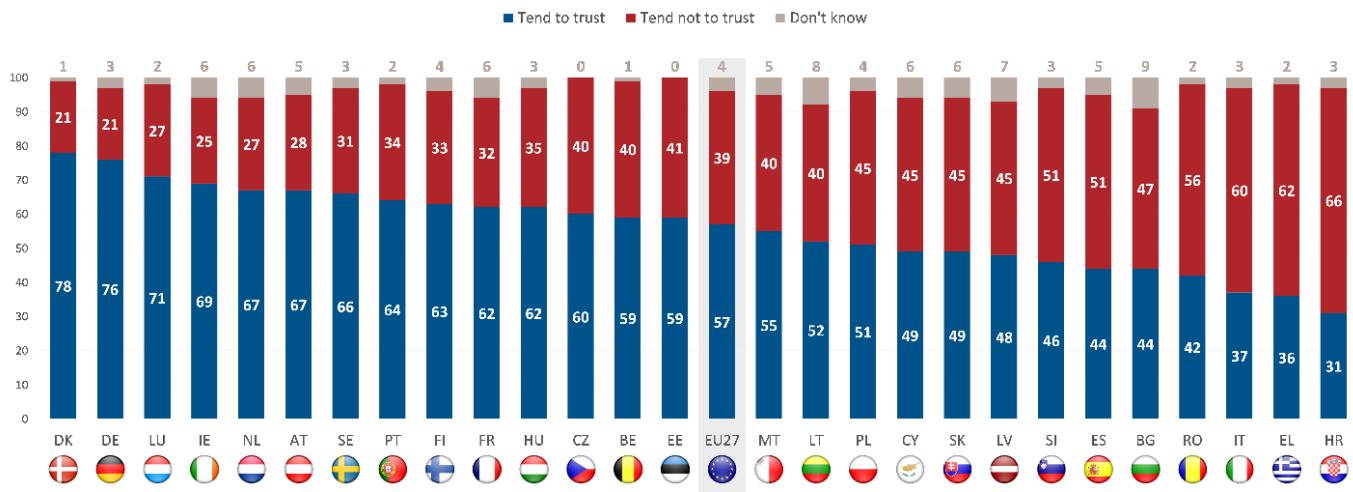
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Regional or local public authorities

Unlike political parties, trust in regional or local authorities is predominant in 20 Member States (compared with 17 in spring 2021). Within this group of countries, trust is highest in Denmark (78%), Germany (76%) and Luxembourg (71%), where trust levels exceed 70%, and lowest in Latvia (48% 'tend to trust', 45% 'tend not to trust', 7% 'don't know'). Conversely, distrust is predominant in seven countries, most particularly in Croatia (66%), Greece (62%) and Italy (60%), where at least six in ten respondents distrust regional or local public authorities.

Since spring 2021, trust has increased in 10 Member States, most significantly in Ireland (69%, +14) and the Netherlands (67%, +10), while it has remained unchanged in Belgium (59%), France (62%) and Bulgaria (44%). Conversely, trust has decreased in 14 countries, most markedly in Latvia (48%, -5) and Finland (63%, -5).

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)



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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	57	39	4
Gender			
Man	56	41	3
Woman	58	38	4
Age			
15-24	58	37	5
25-39	55	42	3
40-54	53	43	4
55 +	59	37	4
Education (End of)			
15-	52	44	4
16-19	53	43	4
20+	62	35	3
Still studying	62	34	4
Socio-professional category			
Self-employed	53	44	3
Managers	66	31	3
Other white collars	57	40	3
Manual workers	51	45	4
House persons	47	47	6
Unemployed	39	55	6
Retired	61	35	4
Students	62	34	4
Difficulties paying bills			
Most of the time	34	61	5
From time to time	47	49	4
Almost never/ Never	63	33	4
Consider belonging to			
The working class	49	46	5
The lower middle class	56	41	3
The middle class	59	38	3
The upper middle class	67	30	3
The upper class	67	33	0

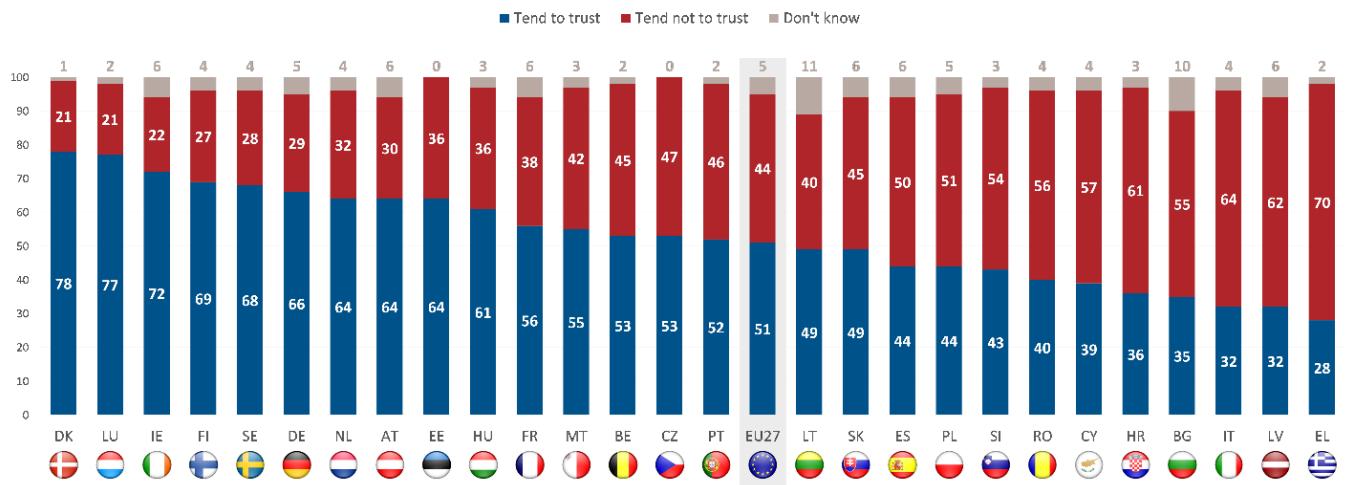
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Public administration

Trust in the national public administration is predominant in 17 Member States (compared with 15 in spring 2021). Levels of trust vary widely among Member States, ranging from 78% in Denmark and 77% in Luxembourg, to 28% in Greece. Conversely, distrust outweighs trust in 10 countries, most particularly in Italy (64%), Greece (70%) and Latvia (62%).

Since spring 2021, trust has increased in 14 Member States, most significantly in Ireland (72%, +11), while it has remained unchanged in Belgium (53%). Conversely, trust has decreased in 12 countries, most markedly in Greece (28%, -5).

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))



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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	51	44	5
Gender			
Man	51	45	4
Woman	52	43	5
Age			
15-24	51	41	8
25-39	51	46	3
40-54	49	47	4
55 +	53	42	5
Education (End of)			
15-	46	49	5
16-19	48	47	5
20+	59	38	3
Still studying	54	40	6
Socio-professional category			
Self-employed	47	49	4
Managers	63	34	3
Other white collars	52	45	3
Manual workers	48	48	4
House persons	44	48	8
Unemployed	36	59	5
Retired	54	41	5
Students	54	40	6
Difficulties paying bills			
Most of the time	31	64	5
From time to time	41	54	5
Almost never/ Never	58	38	4
Consider belonging to			
The working class	45	49	6
The lower middle class	48	48	4
The middle class	54	42	4
The upper middle class	64	33	3
The upper class	70	30	0

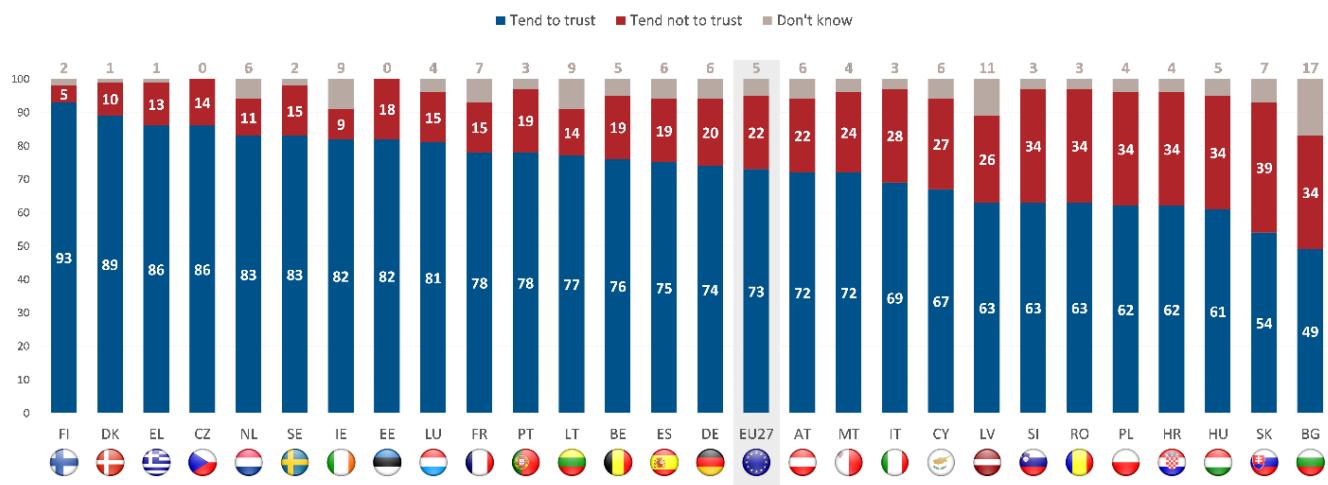
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The army, the police and justice

Trust in **the army** is predominant in all 27 Member States of the European Union (unchanged since spring 2021). However, levels of trust vary from a high of 93% in Finland to a low of 49% in Bulgaria. However, more than a third of respondents distrust the army in seven countries, namely in Slovakia (39%), Romania, Slovenia, Croatia, Poland, Hungary and Bulgaria (all 34%). It is noteworthy that the proportion of respondents who give no answer is particularly high in Bulgaria (17%) and Latvia (11%).

Since spring 2021, trust has increased in 12 Member States, notably in Malta (72%, +5), while it has remained unchanged in Finland (93%) and Sweden (83%). Conversely, trust has declined in 13 countries, most significantly in France (78%, -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	73	22	5
Gender			
Man	73	22	5
Woman	73	21	6
Age			
15-24	71	25	4
25-39	72	24	4
40-54	72	23	5
55 +	75	19	6
Education (End of)			
15-	74	20	6
16-19	71	24	5
20+	76	19	5
Still studying	71	25	4
Socio-professional category			
Self-employed	71	24	5
Managers	78	18	4
Other white collars	73	23	4
Manual workers	69	26	5
House persons	69	24	7
Unemployed	68	27	5
Retired	77	17	6
Students	71	25	4
Difficulties paying bills			
Most of the time	65	29	6
From time to time	66	29	5
Almost never/ Never	77	18	5
Consider belonging to			
The working class	69	25	6
The lower middle class	72	23	5
The middle class	74	21	5
The upper middle class	80	15	5
The upper class	80	18	2

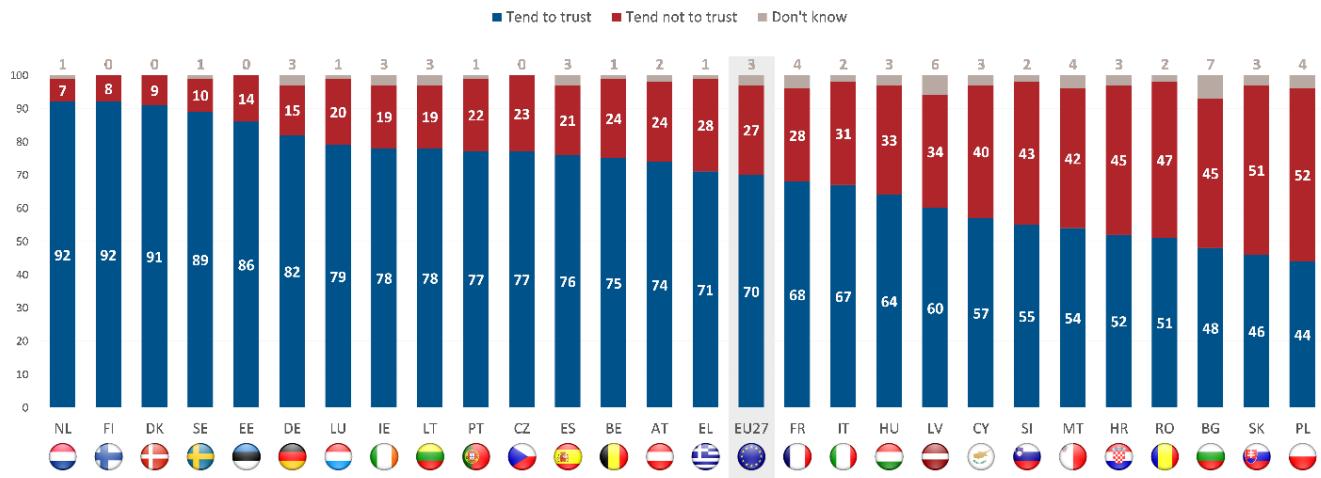
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Trust in **the police** outweighs distrust in 25 Member States (unchanged since spring 2021). Levels of trust range from 92% in the Netherlands and Finland, to 48% in Bulgaria, where only a relative majority trust the police (vs. 45% 'tend not to trust' and 7% 'don't know').

Conversely, distrust is predominant in Poland (52%) and Slovakia (51%).

Since spring 2021, trust in the police has increased in 11 Member States, most markedly in the Netherlands (92%, +9) and Lithuania (78%, +7), while proportions have remained unchanged in Bulgaria (48%) and Denmark (91%). In contrast, trust has decreased in 14 countries, particularly in Malta (54%, -6) and Portugal (77%, -6).

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)



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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)

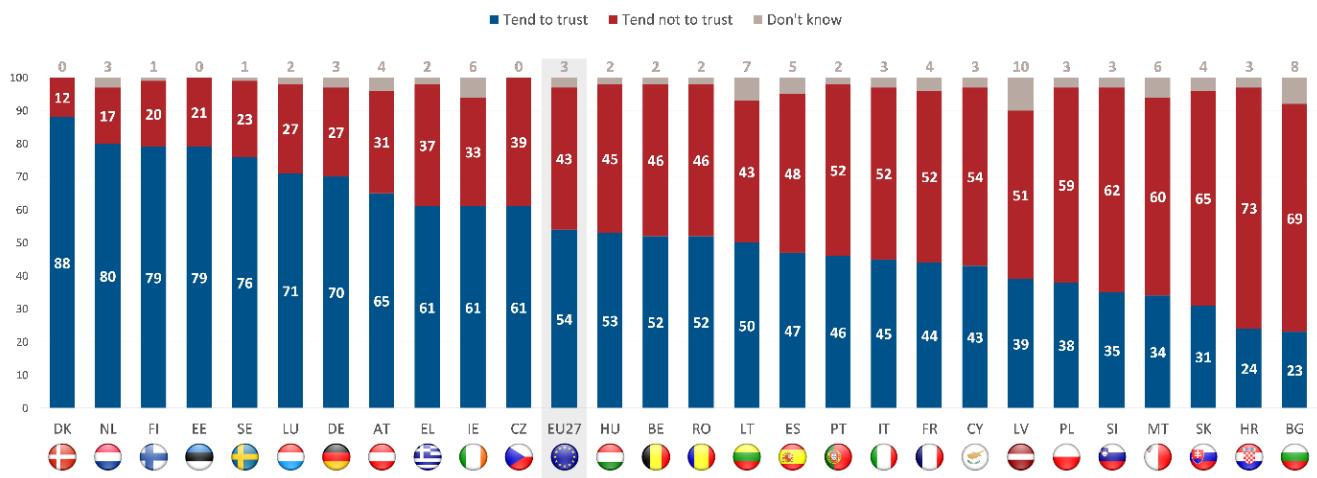
	Tend to trust	Tend not to trust	Don't know
EU27	70	27	3
Gender			
Man	69	28	3
Woman	72	25	3
Age			
15-24	64	33	3
25-39	67	30	3
40-54	69	29	2
55 +	75	22	3
Education (End of)			
15-	72	24	4
16-19	67	30	3
20+	76	22	2
Still studying	68	29	3
Socio-professional category			
Self-employed	70	28	2
Managers	78	20	2
Other white collars	69	29	2
Manual workers	65	33	2
House persons	70	27	3
Unemployed	58	38	4
Retired	77	20	3
Students	68	29	3
Difficulties paying bills			
Most of the time	57	40	3
From time to time	62	35	3
Almost never/ Never	75	22	3
Consider belonging to			
The working class	63	33	4
The lower middle class	69	29	2
The middle class	73	25	2
The upper middle class	82	16	2
The upper class	70	28	2

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Trust in **justice and the national legal system** is predominant in 15 Member States (unchanged since 2021). Levels of trust range from 88% in Denmark and 80% in the Netherlands to 23% in Bulgaria and 24% in Croatia. However, distrust outweighs trust in 12 countries, most notably in Croatia (73% 'tend not to trust' vs. 24% 'tend to trust') and Bulgaria (69% vs. 23%), where more than two-thirds of respondents distrust their national justice/legal system.

Since spring 2021, trust has increased in 15 Member States, particularly in Czechia (61%, +7) and the Netherlands (80%, +7), while this proportion has remained unchanged in three countries, namely in Germany (70%), Luxembourg (71%) and Hungary (53%). Conversely, trust has decreased in nine countries, most markedly in Ireland (61%, -7).

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	54	43	3
Gender			
Man	53	44	3
Woman	54	42	4
Age			
15-24	55	41	4
25-39	54	42	4
40-54	53	44	3
55 +	53	44	3
Education (End of)			
15-	46	50	4
16-19	48	48	4
20+	61	36	3
Still studying	60	36	4
Socio-professional category			
Self-employed	51	46	3
Managers	67	31	2
Other white collars	54	43	3
Manual workers	48	49	3
House persons	51	44	5
Unemployed	41	55	4
Retired	53	44	3
Students	60	36	4
Difficulties paying bills			
Most of the time	36	60	4
From time to time	45	52	3
Almost never/ Never	59	38	3
Consider belonging to			
The working class	43	53	4
The lower middle class	48	49	3
The middle class	57	40	3
The upper middle class	72	27	1
The upper class	66	33	1

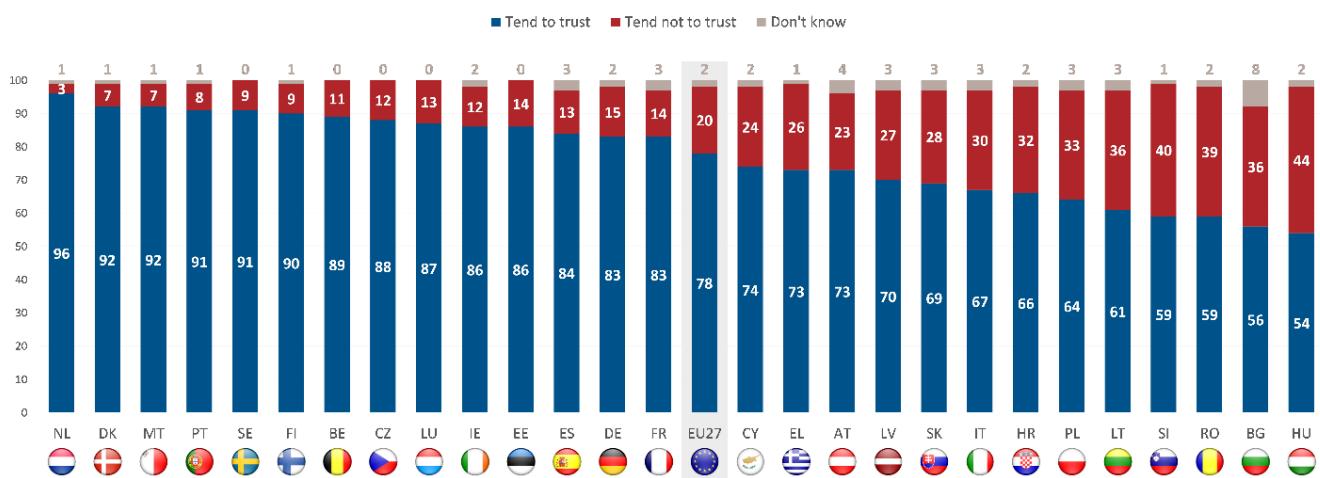
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Health and medical staff

A majority in all 27 Member States (unchanged since spring 2021) trust the health and medical staff in their country. However, levels of trust range from 96% in the Netherlands, 92% in Denmark and in Malta, where they are highest, to less than six in ten respondents in Romania (59%), Slovenia (59%), Bulgaria (56%) and Hungary (54%), where they are lowest. However, in Hungary (44%) and in Slovenia (40%) at least four in ten respondents distrust their health and medical staff.

Since spring 2021, trust has gained ground in nine Member States, most markedly in Malta (92%, +3), while proportions have remain unchanged in four countries, namely in Czechia (88%), Luxembourg (87%), Ireland (86%) and Croatia (66%). Conversely, trust has declined in 14 countries, particularly in Hungary (54%, -8) and in Slovenia (59%, -7).

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))



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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	78	20	2
Gender			
Man	78	20	2
Woman	77	20	3
Age			
15-24	79	19	2
25-39	76	22	2
40-54	76	22	2
55 +	80	18	2
Education (End of)			
15-	76	21	3
16-19	73	24	3
20+	83	15	2
Still studying	82	16	2
Socio-professional category			
Self-employed	76	22	2
Managers	85	14	1
Other white collars	76	22	2
Manual workers	73	24	3
House persons	70	26	4
Unemployed	68	30	2
Retired	81	17	2
Students	82	16	2
Difficulties paying bills			
Most of the time	65	32	3
From time to time	68	29	3
Almost never/ Never	83	15	2
Consider belonging to			
The working class	72	25	3
The lower middle class	76	22	2
The middle class	79	19	2
The upper middle class	88	10	2
The upper class	87	13	0

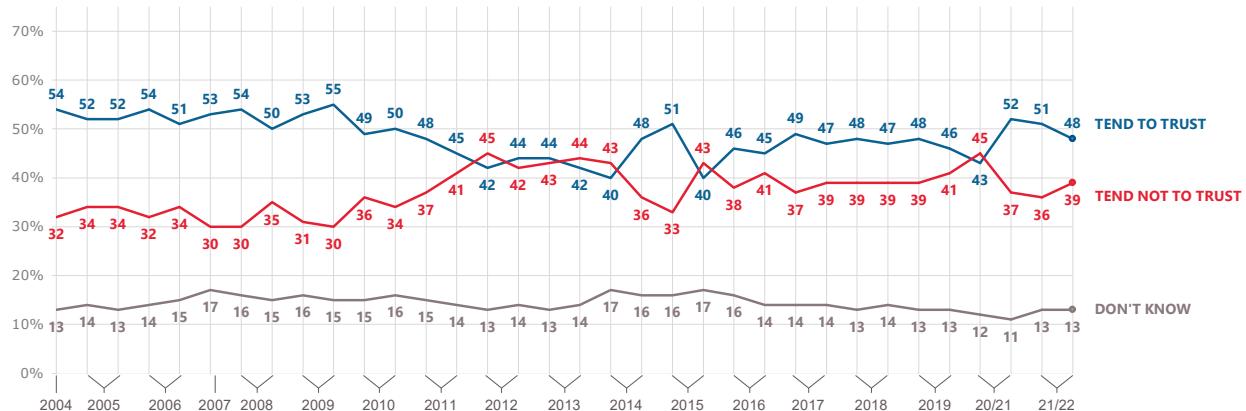
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The United Nations

Despite a slight decrease since spring 2021 of respondents who 'tend to trust' the **United Nations**³⁴, trust outnumbers distrust: 48% (-3 percentage points) 'tend to trust' vs. 39% (+3) 'tend not

to trust. This is the first increase of distrust levels since spring 2020, when it was at its highest level since spring 2012 (at 45%).

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)



³⁴ 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

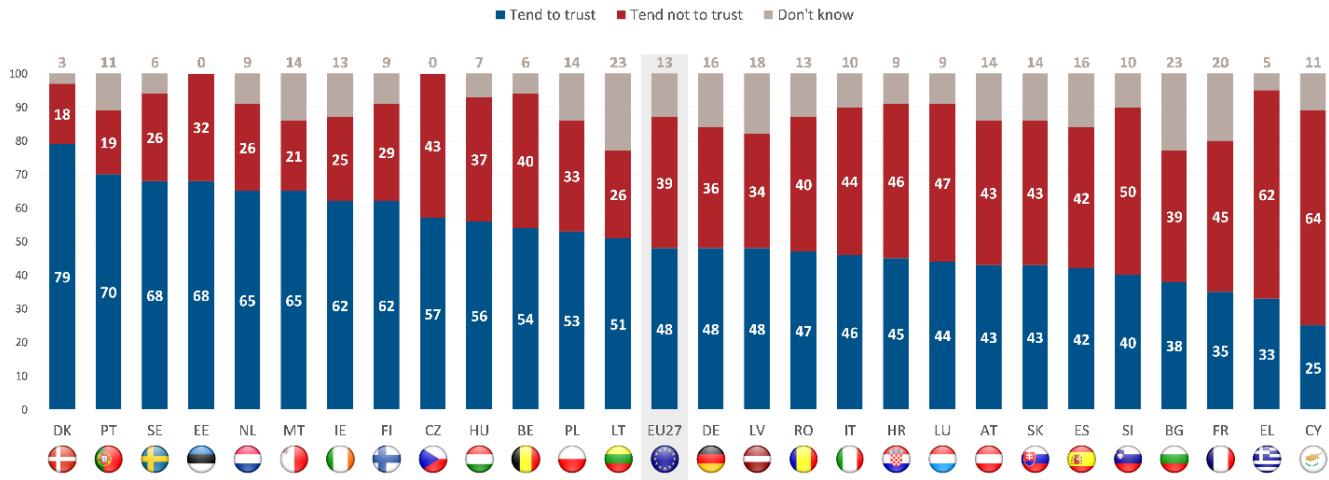
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Trust in the **United Nations** is predominant in 17 Member States of the European Union (compared with 23 in spring 2021). Within this group of countries trust ranges from 79% in Denmark and 70% in Portugal, to 46% in Italy (vs. 44% 'tend not to trust') and 47% in Romania (vs. 40%). Conversely, distrust is predominant in ten countries, most markedly in Cyprus (64%, vs. 25% 'tend to trust') and Greece (62% vs. 33%).

It is noteworthy that the proportion of respondents who do not answer this question exceeds 10% in sixteen Member States, most particularly in Bulgaria, Lithuania (each 23%) and France (20%).

Since spring 2021, trust in the United Nations has increased in six Member States, particularly in Slovakia (43%, +5), while proportions have remained unchanged in Germany (48%) and Estonia (68%). Conversely, trust has decreased in 19 countries, most significantly in Lithuania (51%, -18) and Ireland (62%, -12).

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)



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 (%)



		EU27	SK	MT	PT	CZ	DK	HU	EE	DE	NL	HR	AT	EL	PL	IT	FI	BG	LV	CY	SI	FR	SE	RO	BE	LU	E5	IE	LT
Tend to trust	Winter 2021/2022	48	43	65	70	57	79	56	68	48	65	45	43	33	53	46	62	38	48	25	40	35	68	47	54	44	42	62	51
	Δ Spring 2021	▼3	▲5	▲4	▲3	▲3	▲1	▲1	=	=	▼1	▼1	▼2	▼2	▼3	▼3	▼4	▼4	▼5	▼5	▼6	▼7	▼7	▼10	▼10	▼12	▼18		
Tend not to trust	Winter 2021/2022	39	43	21	19	43	18	37	32	36	26	46	43	62	33	44	29	39	34	64	50	45	26	40	40	47	42	25	26
	Δ Spring 2021	▲3	▼5	▲3	=	▲4	▲2	=	=	▼1	▼5	▲2	▲1	▲3	▲6	▲4	▼5	▲6	▼1	▲7	▲4	▲7	▲1	▲6	▲3	▲12	▲8	▼1	▼5
Don't know	Winter 2021/2022	13	14	14	11	0	3	7	0	16	9	9	14	5	14	10	9	23	18	11	10	20	6	13	6	9	16	13	23
	Δ Spring 2021	=	=	▼7	▼3	▼7	▼3	▼1	=	▲1	▲6	▼1	▲1	▼1	▼1	▲9	▼2	▲6	▼2	▲2	▼1	▲6	▲1	▲6	▼2	▲2	▲13	▲23	

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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	48	39	13
Gender			
Man	49	40	11
Woman	46	38	16
Age			
15-24	55	32	13
25-39	50	40	10
40-54	49	40	11
55 +	44	39	17
Education (End of)			
15-	34	45	21
16-19	43	44	13
20+	57	32	11
Still studying	59	30	11
Socio-professional category			
Self-employed	51	39	10
Managers	61	29	10
Other white collars	51	38	11
Manual workers	44	45	11
House persons	38	39	23
Unemployed	33	53	14
Retired	43	39	18
Students	59	30	11
Difficulties paying bills			
Most of the time	32	52	16
From time to time	40	47	13
Almost never/ Never	53	34	13
Consider belonging to			
The working class	37	45	18
The lower middle class	45	43	12
The middle class	51	37	12
The upper middle class	63	29	8
The upper class	73	20	7

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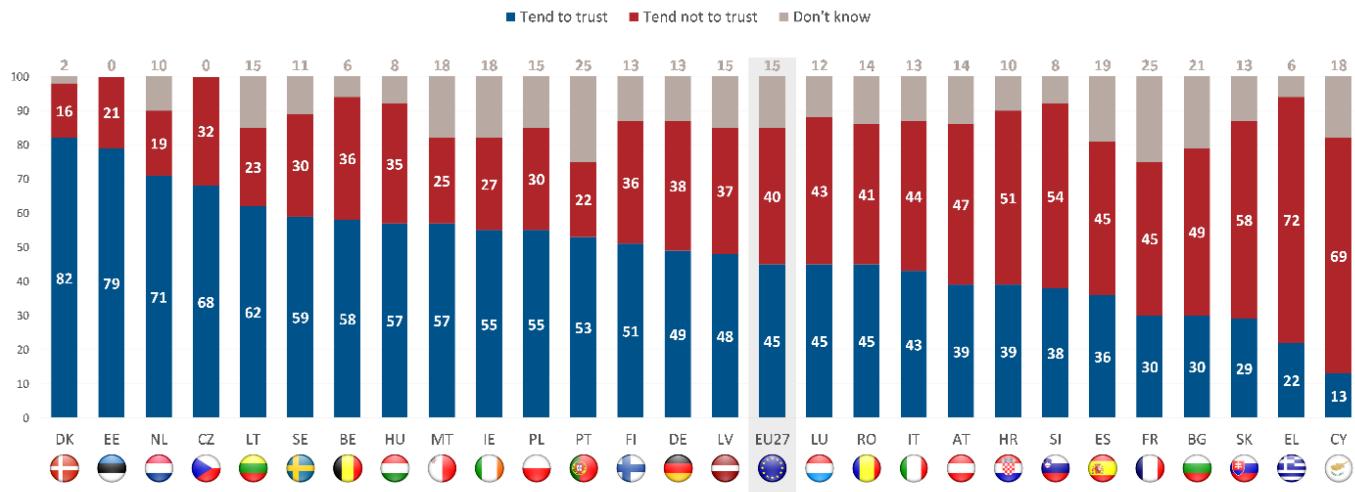
NATO

NATO³⁵ enjoys the trust of a majority of respondents in 17 Member States of the European Union (compared with 18 in spring 2021). Within this group of countries, levels of trust range from 82% in Denmark and 79% in Estonia, where they are highest, to 45% in Luxembourg (vs. 43% 'tend not to trust') and Romania (vs. 41%). Conversely, distrust prevails in ten countries, most particularly in Cyprus (69%) and in Greece (72%).

It is noteworthy that the proportion of respondents who do not provide an answer exceed 10% in 20 countries, most notably in France and Portugal (each 25%) and in Bulgaria (21%), where more than a fifth of respondents do not answer this question.

Since spring 2021, trust in NATO has increased in five Member States, most particularly in Portugal (53%, +10) and to a smaller extent in Czechia (68%, +4), while proportions have remained unchanged in Malta (57%), the Netherlands (71%) and Estonia (79%). Conversely, trust has decreased in 19 other countries, most significantly in Lithuania (62%, -14) and in Sweden (59%, -10).

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)



³⁵ North Atlantic Treaty Organisation

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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	45	40	15
Gender			
Man	48	40	12
Woman	43	39	18
Age			
15-24	50	34	16
25-39	48	40	12
40-54	46	41	13
55 +	43	40	17
Education (End of)			
15-	34	43	23
16-19	40	45	15
20+	54	33	13
Still studying	54	32	14
Socio-professional category			
Self-employed	46	41	13
Managers	59	31	10
Other white collars	49	38	13
Manual workers	40	46	14
House persons	34	41	25
Unemployed	33	51	16
Retired	43	39	18
Students	54	32	14
Difficulties paying bills			
Most of the time	28	54	18
From time to time	37	48	15
Almost never/ Never	51	35	14
Consider belonging to			
The working class	35	45	20
The lower middle class	41	44	15
The middle class	49	38	13
The upper middle class	65	27	8
The upper class	76	20	4

4. Provision of public services in the European Union

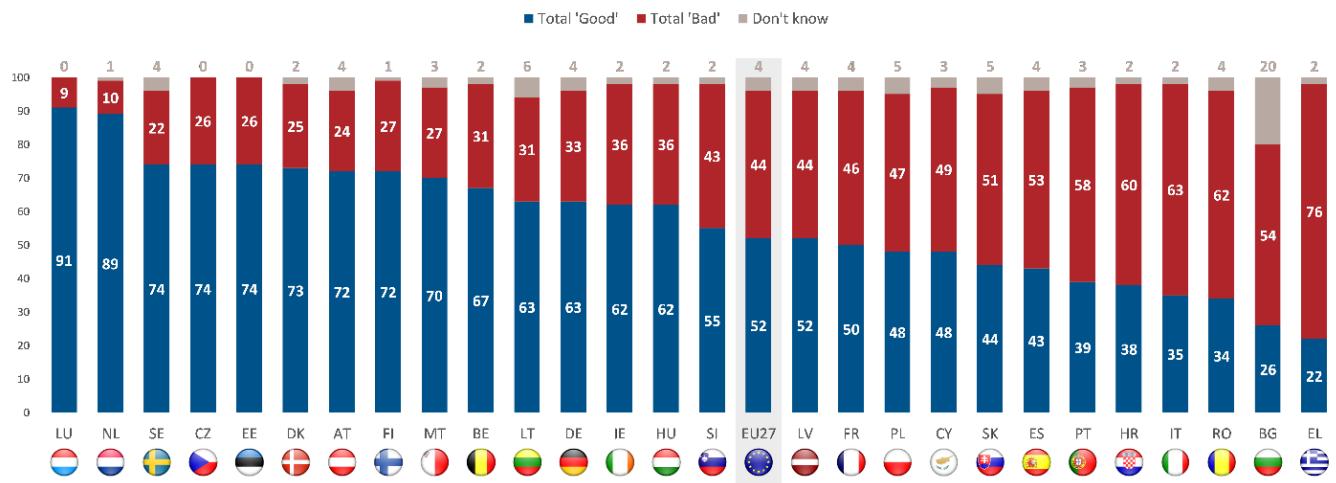
More than half of Europeans consider that provision of public services in their country is good

Despite a slight decrease since spring 2021, more than half of Europeans (52%, -1 percentage point) say that the provision of public services in their country is 'good'³⁶, including 7% (-1) who think that provision is 'very good' and 45% (unchanged) who say that it is 'rather good'. Conversely, 44% (+1) say that provision of public services in their country is 'bad', including 33% (-1) who think it is 'rather bad' and 11% (+2) say that it is 'very bad'.

A majority in 17 Member States of the European Union (compared with 16 in spring 2021) approve of the provision of public services at national level, with scores ranging from 91% in Luxembourg and 89% in the Netherlands, to 48% in Poland, where only a relative majority holds this opinion (vs. 47% 'bad'). On the other hand, respondents are predominantly negative in nine Member States (unchanged since spring 2021). The impression that the provision of public services nationally is bad is most marked in Greece, where more than seven in ten respondents (76%) give this answer, but also in Italy (63%) and Romania (62%). Bulgaria stands out with a high proportion of respondents who say that they do not know (20%).

Since spring 2021, satisfaction with the provision of public services nationally has gained ground in 10 Member States of the EU (compared with 18 in the previous survey), most markedly in Ireland 62%, +14) and Portugal (39%, +7), while it has remained unchanged in Poland (48%), Hungary (62%) and the Netherlands (89%). In contrast, satisfaction has declined in 14 countries, most notably in Finland (7%, -9) and Romania (34%, -7).

QA1.7 How would you judge the current situation in each of the following?
 (% - The provision of public services in (OUR COUNTRY))



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

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

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

	Total 'Good'	Total 'Bad'	Don't know
EU27	52	44	4
Gender			
Man	53	44	3
Woman	51	45	4
Age			
15-24	59	34	7
25-39	52	45	3
40-54	51	47	2
55 +	50	46	4
Education (End of)			
15-	42	54	4
16-19	50	47	3
20+	57	40	3
Still studying	60	33	7
Socio-professional category			
Self-employed	52	47	1
Managers	60	38	2
Other white collars	55	42	3
Manual workers	49	48	3
House persons	39	57	4
Unemployed	33	64	3
Retired	53	42	5
Students	60	33	7
Difficulties paying bills			
Most of the time	27	69	4
From time to time	42	55	3
Almost never/ Never	59	38	3
Consider belonging to			
The working class	41	54	5
The lower middle class	46	50	4
The middle class	57	40	3
The upper middle class	66	33	1
The upper class	73	22	5

5. The direction in which things are going

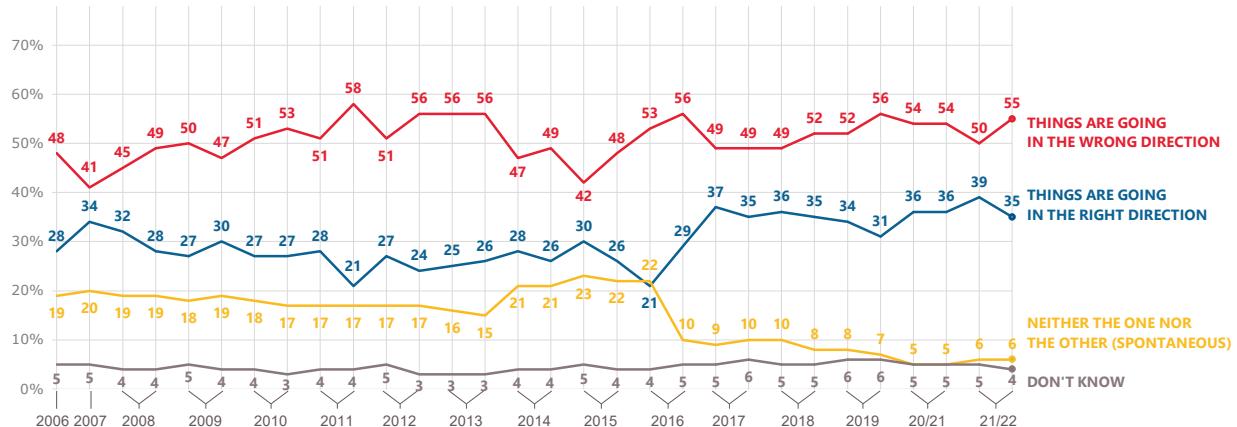
5.1 The direction in which things are going at national level

Over half of respondents (55%, +5 percentage points since spring 2021) consider that things are going ‘in the wrong direction’ in their country³⁷.

In parallel, positive impressions have decreased by four percentage points, down to 35% of respondents who now think that things are going ‘in the right direction’ while 6% (unchanged) spontaneously say ‘neither the one nor the other’. 4% (-1) of respondents say that they “don’t know”.

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)

As a result of this evolution, positive views now stand at their lowest level since autumn 2019, when they were at 31%.



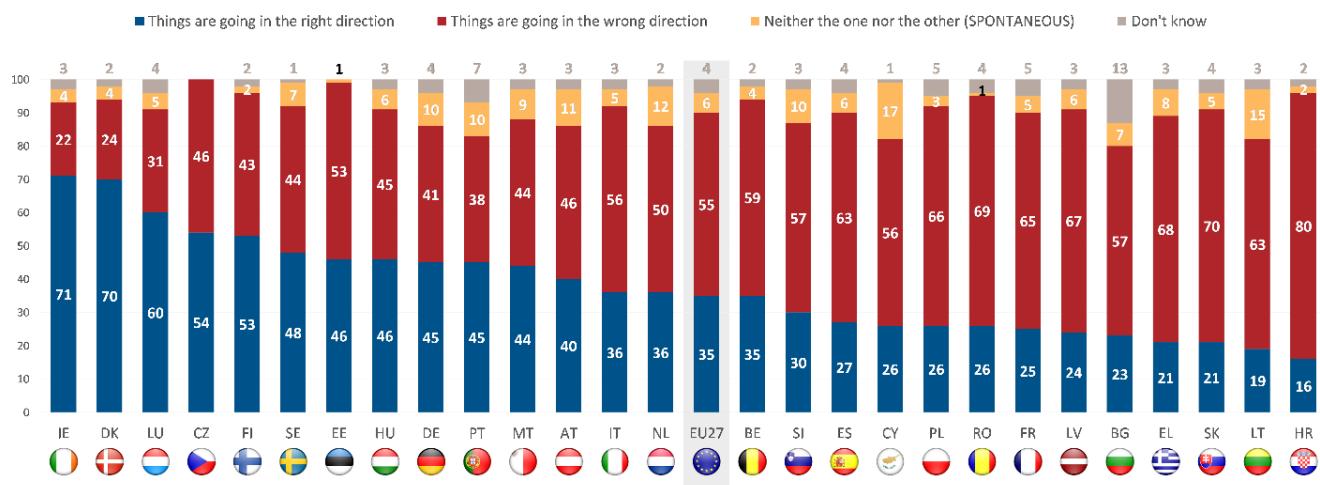
³⁷ D73.1. At the present time, would you say that, in general, things are going in the right direction or in the wrong direction...? In (OUR COUNTRY)

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A majority of respondents in nine Member States of the European Union (compared with 12 in spring 2021) believe that things are going in the right direction in their country. Scores within this group, however, range from 45% in Portugal (compared with 38% who think that things are going in the wrong direction) and 46% in Hungary (vs. 45%) to 71% in Ireland (vs. 22%). Respondents in 17 EU Member States (up from 15 in spring 2021) predominantly believe that things are going in the wrong direction. Respondents in Croatia (80%) and Slovakia (70%) are particularly pessimistic. Opinion is evenly split in Malta: 44% vs. 44% and 9% 'neither in the one nor in the other' and 3% 'don't know'.

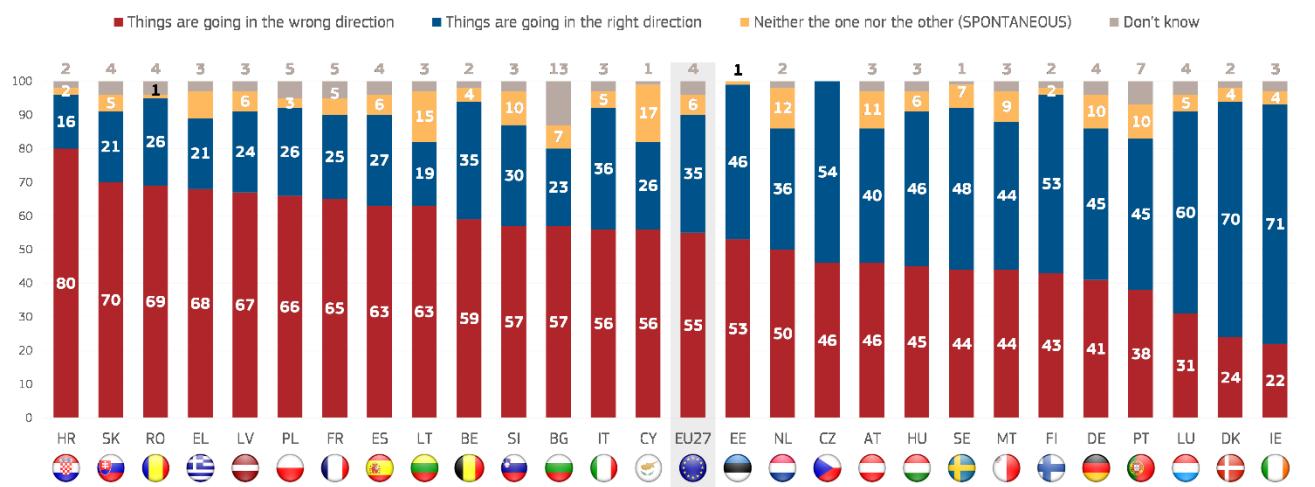
Since spring 2021, positive opinions of the direction taken at national level have gained ground in only four EU Member States, namely in Czechia (54%, +16 percentage points since spring 2021 but +33 since winter 2020-2021), Ireland (71%, +7), Cyprus (26%, +4) and Sweden (48%, +1). Conversely, optimism has declined in 23 countries, most markedly in Lithuania (19%, -29 since spring 2021 but -39 since winter 2020-2021), the Netherlands (36%, -19), Belgium (35%, -16) and Austria (40%, -13), where decreases exceed ten percentage points.

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



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))



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

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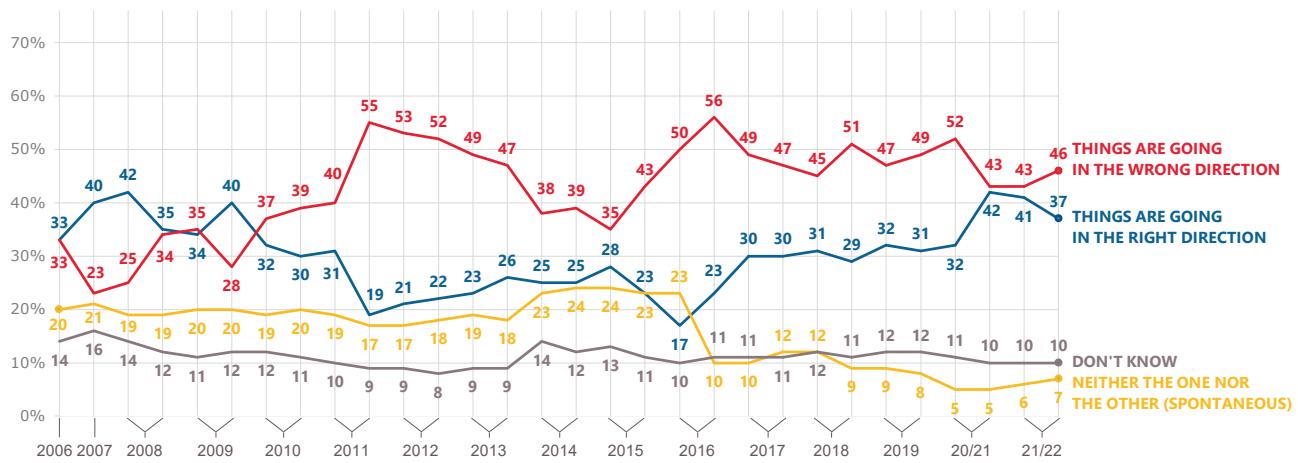
5.2 The direction in which things are going in the European Union

In this EB96 survey of winter 2021-2022, **the proportion of Europeans who believe that things are going in the wrong direction in the European Union outnumbers the proportion with an optimistic view**: 46% (+3 percentage points since spring 2021) say that things are going in 'the wrong direction' in the

European Union while 37% (-4) believe they are going in 'the right direction'. 7% (+1) of respondents spontaneously answer 'neither the one nor the other', and 10% expressed no opinion (unchanged)³⁸.

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)



³⁸ 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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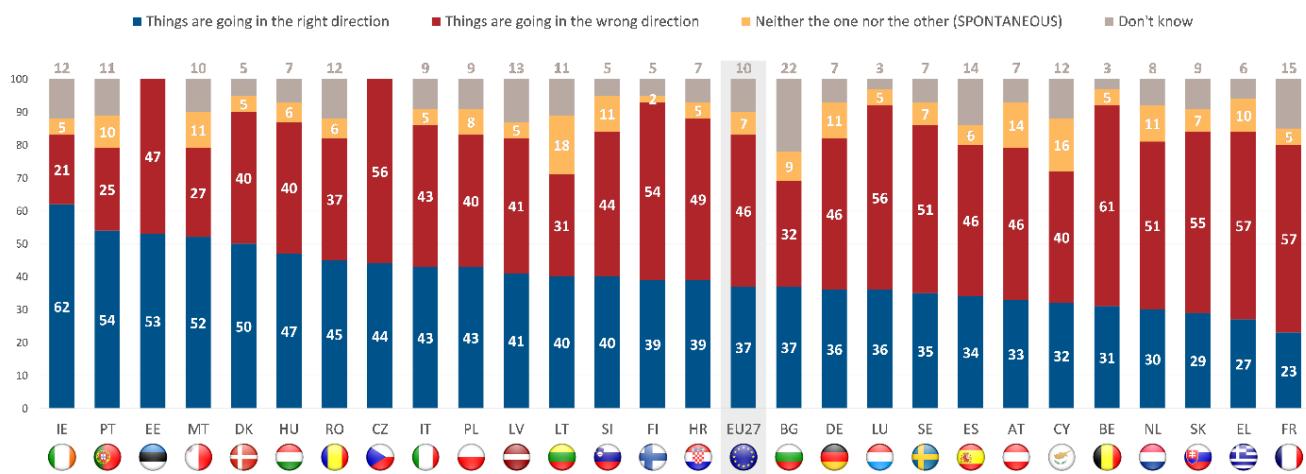
A majority of respondents in 10 Member States of the European Union (compared with 16 in spring 2021) think that things are going in the right direction in the European Union. Optimistic views are most widespread in Ireland (62%), Portugal (54%) and Estonia (53%) and least so in Greece (27% vs. 57% 'wrong direction') and France (23% vs. 57%) just around a quarter of respondents agree.

Proportions are evenly split in Italy (43% vs. 43% and 5% 'neither the one nor the other', 9% 'don't know') and Latvia (41% vs. 41% and 5%, 13%).

Conversely, the feeling that things are going in the wrong direction is predominant in 15 countries, most significantly in Belgium (61%), Greece (57%) and France (57%). In total, more than one in two respondents hold a negative opinion in nine countries.

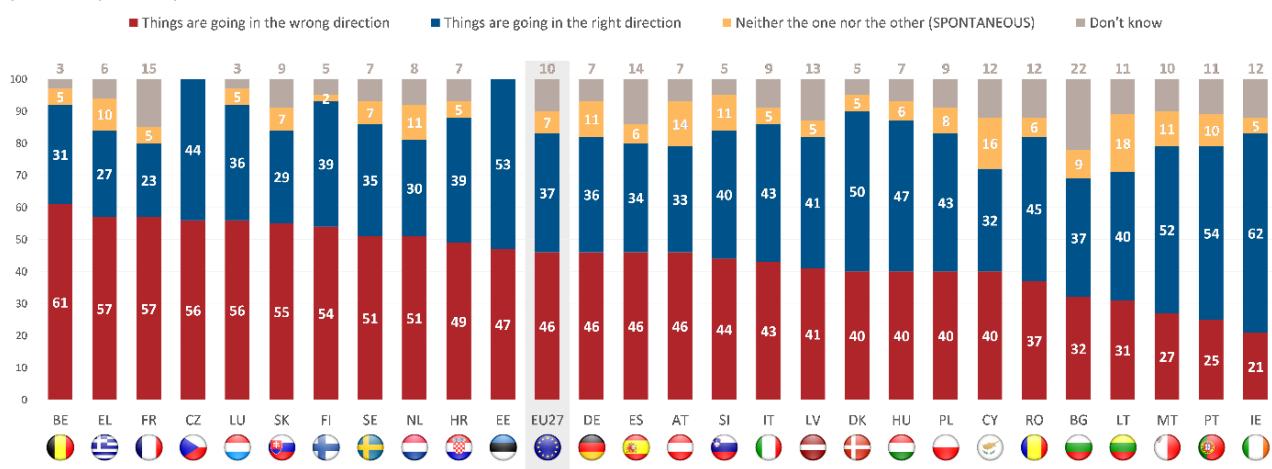
Since spring 2021, optimism about the direction in which things are going in the European Union has gained ground in three Member States, namely Cyprus (32%, +6), Czechia (44%, +2) and Portugal (54%, +1), while proportions have remained unchanged in Germany (36%) and Greece (27%). Conversely, optimism has declined in 22 countries, most significantly in Lithuania (40%, -22) and Belgium (31%, -16).

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



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

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



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

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D75.1 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) (%)



	Winter 2021/2022	CZ	IE	CY	SE	DE	BG	HU	MT	EL	DK	SI	ES	FR	IT	SK	FI	PT	PL	LU	EE	RO	LV	HR	AT	BE	NL	LT
Things are going in the right direction	35	54	71	26	48	45	23	46	44	21	70	30	27	25	36	21	53	45	26	60	46	26	24	16	40	35	36	19
Δ Spring 2021	▼4	▲16	▲7	▲4	▲1	▼1	▼1	▼2	▼2	▼2	▼3	▼3	▼4	▼4	▼6	▼6	▼7	▼7	▼8	▼8	▼8	▼13	▼16	▼19	▼29			
Things are going in the wrong direction	55	46	22	56	44	41	57	45	44	68	24	57	63	65	56	70	43	38	66	31	53	69	67	80	46	59	50	63
Δ Spring 2021	▲5	▼12	▼14	▼6	▼9	▲2	▲1	=	▲7	▲3	▲2	▼2	▲2	▲8	▲8	▲3	▲3	▲12	▲8	▲4	▲7	▲11	▲6	▲9	▲14	▲10	▲9	▲11
Neither the one nor the other (SPONTANEOUS)	6	0	4	17	7	10	7	6	9	8	4	10	6	5	5	2	10	3	5	1	1	6	2	11	4	12	15	
Δ Spring 2021	=	▼2	▲4	▲4	▲7	▲1	▼1	▲3	▼2	▼1	=	▲4	▲1	▼1	=	▲2	▲2	=	▼1	▲2	▲1	▼2	▲4	▲1	=	▲4	▲8	▲15
Don't know	4	0	3	1	1	4	13	3	3	3	2	3	4	5	3	4	2	7	5	4	0	4	3	2	3	2	2	3
Δ Spring 2021	▼1	▼2	▲3	▼2	▲1	▼2	▲1	▼1	▼3	=	▲1	▲1	▲1	▼3	▼2	▲1	▲2	▼5	=	▲2	=	▼1	▼2	▼2	▼1	▲2	▲2	▲3

D75.2 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 (%)



	Winter 2021/2022	CY	CZ	PT	DE	EL	IT	MT	FR	EE	LU	DK	HU	PL	BG	ES	RO	SK	IE	LV	AT	HR	FI	SI	SE	NL	BE	LT	
Things are going in the right direction	37	32	44	54	36	27	43	52	23	53	36	50	47	43	37	34	45	29	62	41	33	39	39	40	35	30	31	40	
Δ Spring 2021	▼4	▲6	▲2	▲1	=	=	▼1	▼1	▼3	▼4	▼4	▼5	▼5	▼7	▼7	▼7	▼7	▼8	▼8	▼8	▼9	▼9	▼10	▼11	▼16	▼22			
Things are going in the wrong direction	46	40	56	25	46	57	43	27	57	47	56	40	40	40	32	46	37	55	21	41	46	49	54	44	51	51	61	31	
Δ Spring 2021	▲3	▼4	▲7	▲7	=	▲2	▲3	▲9	▲6	▲5	▲6	▲2	▲6	▲7	▲6	▲5	▲3	▲3	▼9	▲2	▲2	▲6	▲10	▲2	▲6	▼4	=	▲8	▼6
Neither the one nor the other (SPONTANEOUS)	7	16	0	10	11	10	5	11	5	0	5	5	6	8	9	6	6	7	5	5	14	5	2	11	7	11	5	18	
Δ Spring 2021	▲1	▲2	▼5	▼1	▲1	▼1	▼1	▼3	▼1	▼1	▲1	▼1	▲2	▲3	=	=	▼1	▲3	▲5	▲3	▲1	▲3	▲2	▲4	▲7	▲5	▲5	▲18	
Don't know	10	12	0	11	7	6	9	10	15	0	3	5	7	9	22	14	12	9	12	13	7	7	5	5	7	8	3	11	
Δ Spring 2021	=	▼4	▼4	▼7	▼1	▼1	▼1	▼5	▼2	=	▼3	=	▲1	▼4	=	▲1	▲3	▲1	▲12	▲3	▲1	▼4	▲5	=	▲7	▲6	▲3	▲10	

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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	35	55	6	4
Gender				
Man	36	54	6	4
Woman	34	56	6	4
Age				
15-24	39	52	5	4
25-39	34	57	6	3
40-54	33	58	6	3
55 +	35	53	7	5
Education (End of)				
15-	30	59	5	6
16-19	32	59	6	3
20+	40	50	7	3
Still studying	42	48	5	5
Socio-professional category				
Self-employed	38	55	5	2
Managers	45	46	7	2
Other white collars	36	55	6	3
Manual workers	29	63	5	3
House persons	27	61	8	4
Unemployed	19	74	4	3
Retired	36	51	8	5
Students	42	48	5	5
Difficulties paying bills				
Most of the time	16	76	5	3
From time to time	28	64	4	4
Almost never/ Never	40	49	7	4
Consider belonging to				
The working class	26	63	6	5
The lower middle class	32	58	6	4
The middle class	39	52	6	3
The upper middle class	46	44	8	2
The upper class	42	51	6	1

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

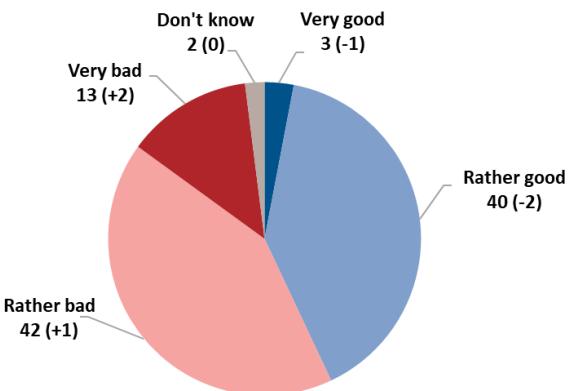
	Things are going in the right direction	Things are going in the wrong direction	Neither the one nor the other (SPONTANEOUS)	Don't know
EU27	37	46	7	10
Gender				
Man	37	47	7	9
Woman	36	46	7	11
Age				
15-24	45	36	7	12
25-39	38	47	6	9
40-54	37	48	8	7
55 +	33	48	8	11
Education (End of)				
15-	28	49	6	17
16-19	35	49	7	9
20+	39	45	8	8
Still studying	47	35	7	11
Socio-professional category				
Self-employed	38	47	7	8
Managers	44	41	8	7
Other white collars	41	46	6	7
Manual workers	34	50	7	9
House persons	29	49	6	16
Unemployed	23	63	5	9
Retired	33	46	8	13
Students	47	35	7	11
Difficulties paying bills				
Most of the time	21	64	6	9
From time to time	32	52	6	10
Almost never/ Never	40	42	8	10
Consider belonging to				
The working class	28	51	7	14
The lower middle class	33	51	6	10
The middle class	40	45	7	8
The upper middle class	46	40	7	7
The upper class	51	36	9	4

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5.3 The situation in the country in general

More than half of Europeans see the current situation in their country in a negative light³⁹: 55% consider that it is bad (+3 percentage points since spring 2021), including 13% (+2) for whom it is 'very bad' and 42% (+1) who answer 'rather bad'. Conversely, 43% (-3) say that it is good, including 3% (-1) for whom it is 'very good' and 40% (-2) who say 'rather good'.

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

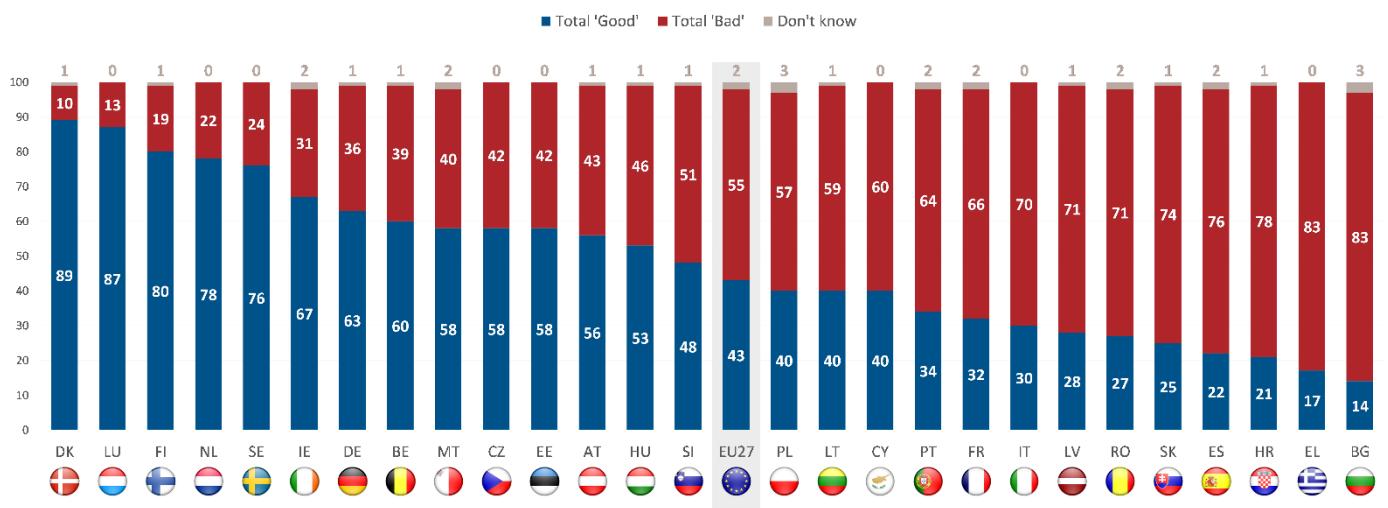


(Winter 2021/2022 - Spring 2021)

Differences in perceptions among different EU Member States are significant. Thus, 75 percentage points (compared with 74 percentage points in spring 2021) separate the highest positive score in Denmark (89%) with the lowest, in Bulgaria (14%). Positive opinions outweigh negative opinions of the general national situation in 13 Member States (compared with 15 in spring 2021). They exceed 80% in two countries, namely Denmark (89%) and Luxembourg (87%). In contrast, opinions are predominantly negative in 14 Member States (compared with 12 in spring 2021). At least 80% of respondents in Bulgaria (83%) and Greece (83%) say that the situation is bad.

Since spring 2021, positive opinions on the national situation in general have gained ground in eight Member States (down from 19 in the previous survey), most significantly in Portugal (34%, +16) and to a smaller extent in Cyprus (40%, +7) and in Italy (30%, +6). Positive perceptions have remained unchanged in Malta (58%). Conversely, they have lost ground in 18 countries, most notably in Lithuania (40%, -20), Greece (58%, -18), and Belgium (60%, -17).

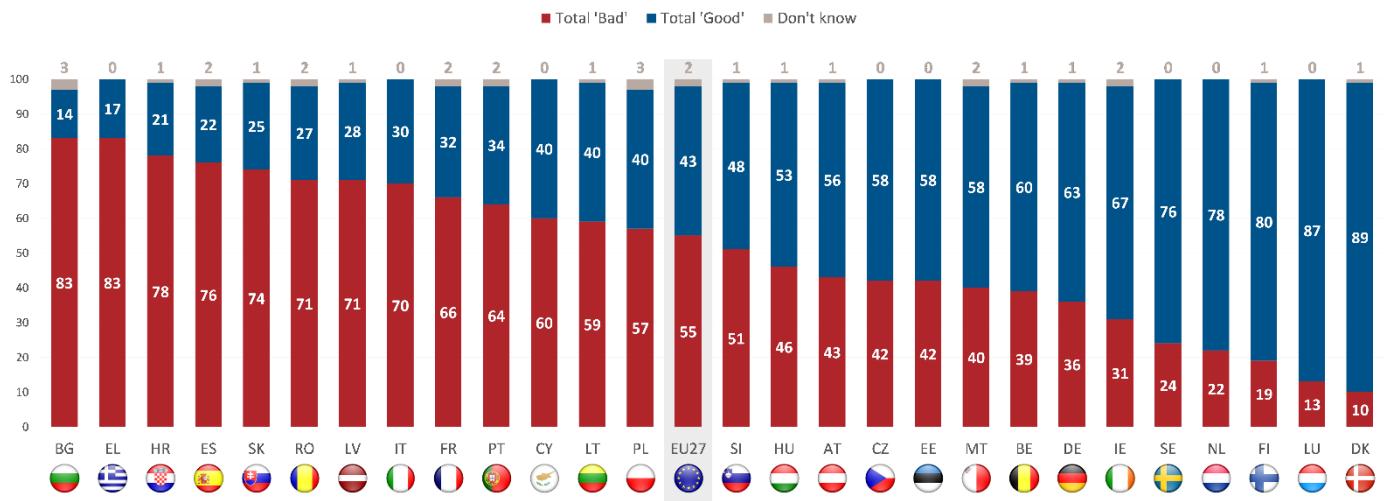
QA1.1 How would you judge the current situation in each of the following?
(% - The situation in (OUR COUNTRY) in general)



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

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



Sorted by 'Total Bad'

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

	EU27	PT	CY	IT	SE	ES	CZ	HU	IE	MT	EL	HR	DK	SI	LU	FI	BG	NL	PL	RO	FR	SK	DE	LV	AT	BE	EE	LT	
Total 'Good'	Winter 2021/2022	43	34	40	30	76	22	58	53	67	58	17	21	89	48	87	80	14	78	40	27	32	25	63	28	56	60	58	40
	Δ Spring 2021	▼3	▲16	▲7	▲6	▲5	▲4	▲3	▲3	▲2	=	▼2	▼2	▼3	▼3	▼4	▼4	▼5	▼5	▼6	▼7	▼8	▼8	▼10	▼13	▼13	▼17	▼18	▼20
Total 'Bad'	Winter 2021/2022	55	64	60	70	24	76	42	46	31	40	83	78	10	51	13	19	83	22	57	71	66	74	36	71	43	39	42	59
	Δ Spring 2021	▲3	▼17	▼6	▼5	▼5	▼3	▼3	▼4	▲3	▲3	▲3	▲3	▲3	▲3	▲5	▲3	▲8	▲5	▲7	▲7	▲8	▲7	▲11	▲13	▲13	▲16	▲18	▲19
Don't know	Winter 2021/2022	2	2	0	0	0	0	2	0	1	2	2	0	1	1	1	0	1	3	0	3	2	2	1	1	1	1	0	1
	Δ Spring 2021	=	▲1	▼1	▼1	=	▲1	=	▲2	▼3	▼1	▼1	=	=	▼1	▲1	▼3	=	▼1	=	=	▲1	▼1	=	=	▲1	=	▲1	

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

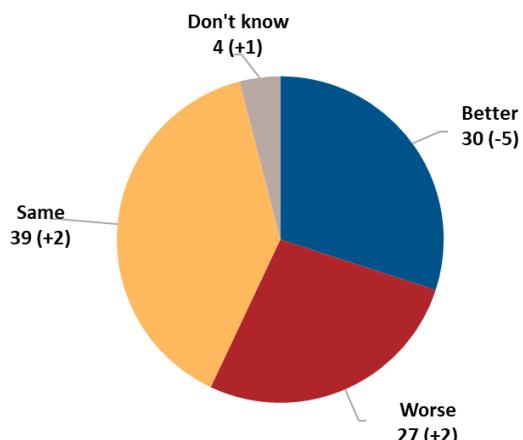
The situation in (OUR COUNTRY) in general (% - EU)

	Total 'Good'	Total 'Bad'	Don't know
EU27	43	55	2
 Gender			
Man	45	54	1
Woman	42	56	2
 Age			
15-24	49	49	2
25-39	43	56	1
40-54	42	57	1
55 +	43	56	1
 Education (End of)			
15-	29	69	2
16-19	39	60	1
20+	52	47	1
Still studying	52	46	2
 Socio-professional category			
Self-employed	44	55	1
Managers	56	43	1
Other white collars	46	53	1
Manual workers	36	62	2
House persons	29	69	2
Unemployed	26	73	1
Retired	44	54	2
Students	52	46	2
 Difficulties paying bills			
Most of the time	16	83	1
From time to time	33	66	1
Almost never/ Never	50	49	1
 Consider belonging to			
The working class	30	68	2
The lower middle class	37	62	1
The middle class	49	50	1
The upper middle class	60	39	1
The upper class	69	30	1

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When looking ahead over the next twelve months, an increasing majority of Europeans expect the situation in their country in general to “stay the same” (39%, +2 percentage points since spring 2021)⁴⁰. Three in ten respondents expect it to get better (30%, -5). Thus, optimism still outnumbers negative perceptions, although **pessimism has slightly increased**. Over a quarter of Europeans believe that the next twelve months are going to be worse when it comes to the situation in their country in general: 27%, +2 percentage points. Finally, 4% (+1) of respondents give no answer or say that they do not know.

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



(Winter 2021/2022 - Spring 2021)

In 17 Member States of the European Union (compared with 25 in spring 2021), respondents are most likely to expect the situation in their country in general to be **“the same”** over the next twelve months. Within this group of countries, levels vary widely. They are most likely to give this response Hungary (51%) and least so in Bulgaria (35% vs. 21% ‘better’ and 33% ‘worse’).

In Ireland respondents are most likely to expect life to be **‘better’** than either ‘worse’ or ‘the same’ (52% ‘better’ vs. 33% ‘same’ and 14% ‘worse’).

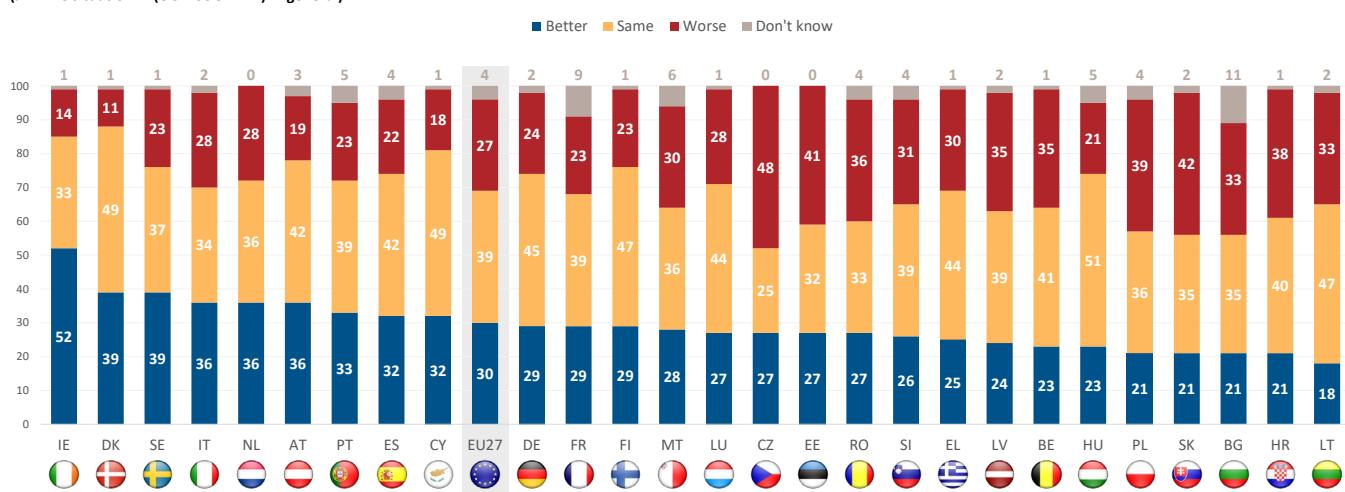
Pessimism is widespread in Czechia (48% ‘worse’), Slovakia (42%) and Estonia (41%). In these countries at more than four in ten respondents expect the situation their country within the next twelve months to worsen.

It is also noteworthy that one in ten respondents (11%) do not answer this question in Bulgaria.

Optimism has decreased within **euro area** countries (31% ‘better’, -six percentage points since spring 2021), as it has done in countries **outside the euro area** (25%, -5).

Since spring 2021, optimism has increased in six Member States, namely in Cyprus (32%, +8), Slovenia (26%, +6), Ireland (52%, +4), Czechia (27%, +3), Greece (25%, +2) and Portugal (33%, +2). Conversely, optimism has decreased in 21 countries, most significantly, and by more than 10 percentage points, in Lithuania (18%, -16), Finland (29%, -12), Belgium (23%, -11) and Luxembourg (27%, -11).

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



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

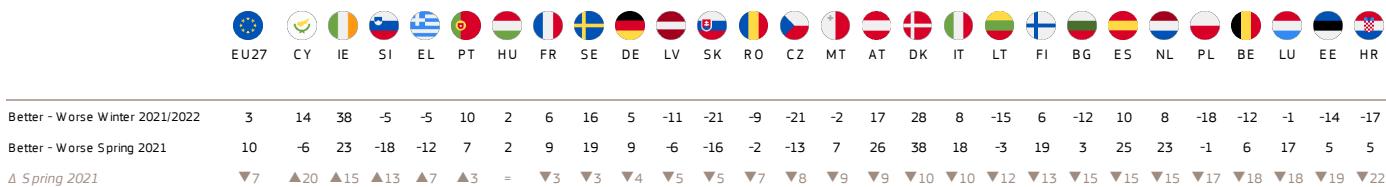
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The index measuring the optimism of Europeans regarding the situation in their country in general⁴¹ over the coming year **has decreased sharply by seven percentage points but remains positive**. It currently stands at +3 (down from +10 in spring 2021).

The index is positive in 13 Member States (compared with 18 in spring 2021). It is highest in Ireland (+38), Denmark (+28) and Austria (+17). Conversely, the **index is negative in 14 countries**, most markedly in Slovakia and Czechia (both -21).

Since spring 2021, the index has gained ground in five Member States, namely in Cyprus, where it became positive (+20 index points, up from -6 to +14), Ireland (+15), Slovenia, where it remains negative (+13, up from -18 to -5), Greece, where it remains negative too (+7, up from -12 to -5) and Portugal (+3). The index has remained unchanged in Hungary (at +2), while it has decreased in 21 countries, most markedly in Croatia (-22, down from +5 to -17), Estonia (-19, down from +5 to -14), in Luxembourg (-18, down from +17 to -1) and in Belgium (-18, down from +6 to -12).

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



⁴¹ Difference between the positive ("better") and negative ("worse") answers.

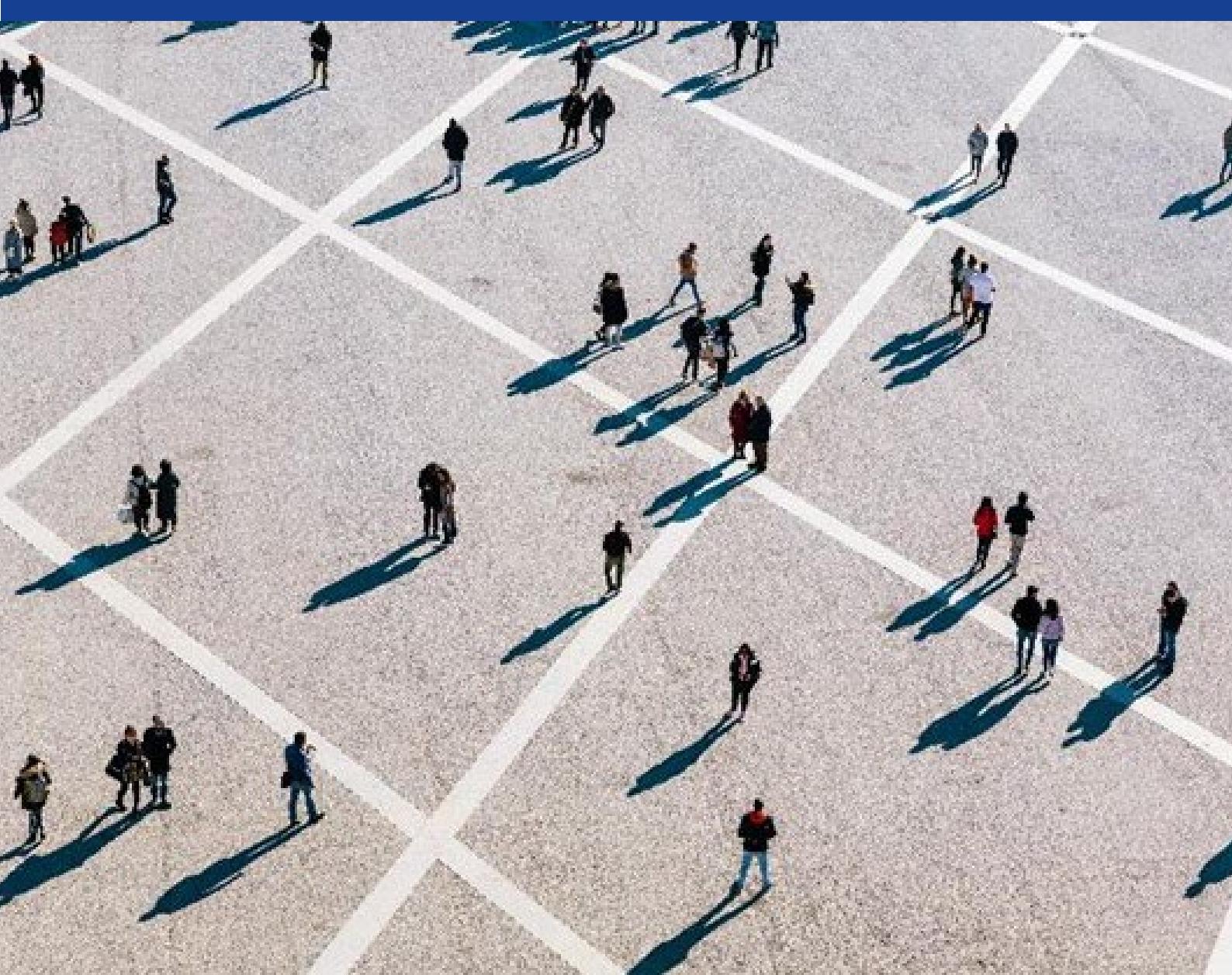
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QA2.2 What are your expectations for the next twelve months: will the next twelve months be better, worse or the same, when it comes to...?

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

	Better	Worse	Same	Don't know
EU27	30	27	39	4
 Gender				
Man	30	28	38	4
Woman	30	26	40	4
 Age				
15-24	39	20	37	4
25-39	35	27	35	3
40-54	30	29	38	3
55 +	25	28	43	4
 Education (End of)				
15-	25	28	42	5
16-19	27	29	40	4
20+	32	27	38	3
Still studying	42	18	37	3
 Socio-professional category				
Self-employed	32	28	38	2
Managers	33	27	38	2
Other white collars	33	25	39	3
Manual workers	29	29	38	4
House persons	31	29	36	4
Unemployed	27	35	34	4
Retired	24	27	44	5
Students	42	18	37	3
 Difficulties paying bills				
Most of the time	20	40	36	4
From time to time	26	32	39	3
Almost never/ Never	32	24	40	4
 Consider belonging to				
The working class	23	30	42	5
The lower middle class	28	30	38	4
The middle class	32	25	40	3
The upper middle class	38	26	35	1
The upper class	42	32	26	0

II. THE EUROPEAN UNION AND ITS CITIZENS



1. Attachment to the European Union

1.1 What does the European Union symbolize?

Most respondents associate the European Union with the “freedom to travel, study and work anywhere in the EU”

In line with previous Eurobarometer surveys, the **“freedom to travel, study and work anywhere in the EU”** (53%, no change since spring 2021) remains the most highly ranked association with the EU. More than one third mention **“peace”** (34%, no change) and **“the euro”** (33%, -2 percentage points), followed by **“cultural diversity”** (26%, -1), **“stronger say in the world”** (26%, no change) and **“democracy”** (25%, -2). Other positive associations cited by at least one in five are **“quality of life of future generations”** (22%, -1) and **“economic prosperity”** (20%, -1).

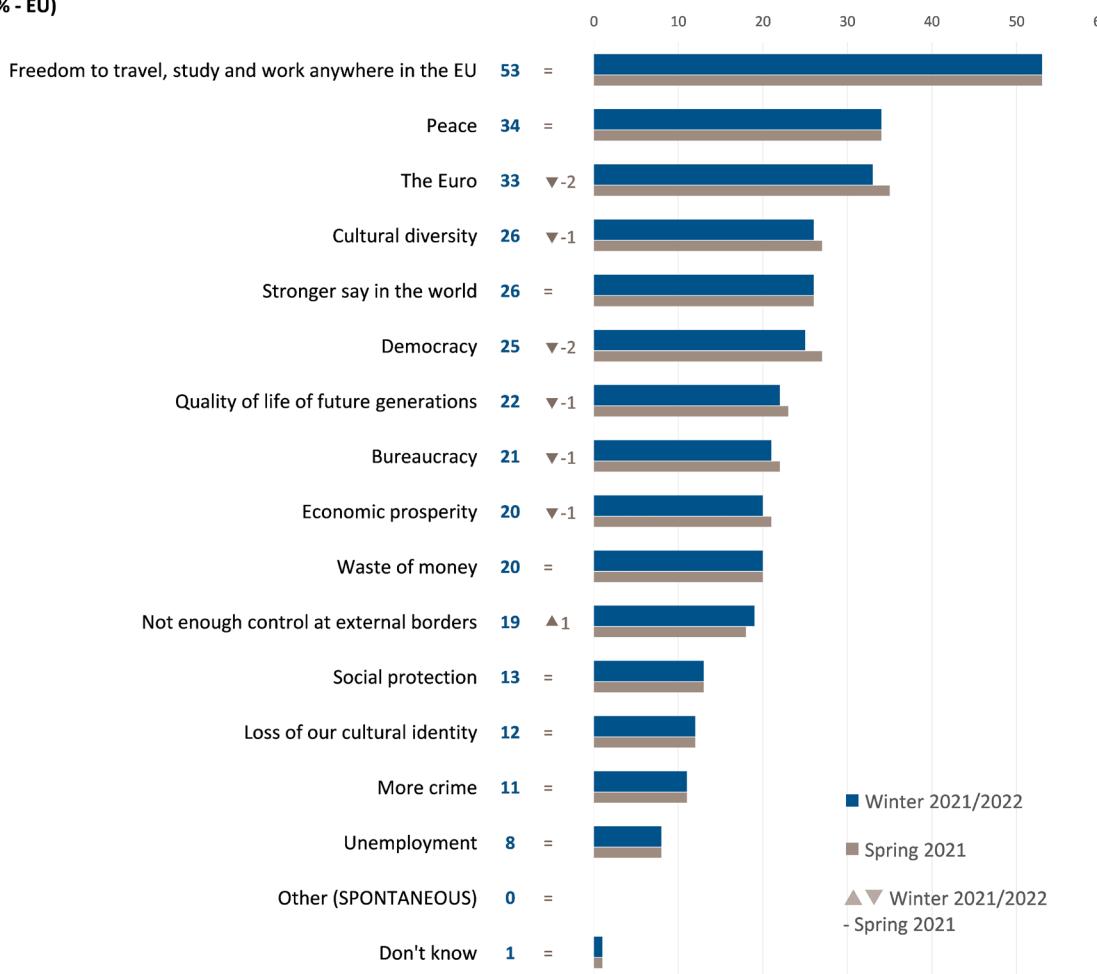
The most highly ranked negative associations are **“bureaucracy”** (21%, -1), **“waste of money”** (20%, no change) and **“not enough control at external borders”** (19%, +1).

All other responses were mentioned by smaller proportions: **“social protection”** (13%, no change), **“loss of our cultural identity”** (12%, no change), **“more crime”** (11%, no change) and **“unemployment”** (8%, no change).

Both positive and negative associations with the European Union have remained broadly stable since the last Eurobarometer survey in spring 2021 (EB95), with the largest evolutions observed for associations of the EU with **“the euro”** and **“democracy”** (both -2 percentage points)⁴².

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

(% - EU)



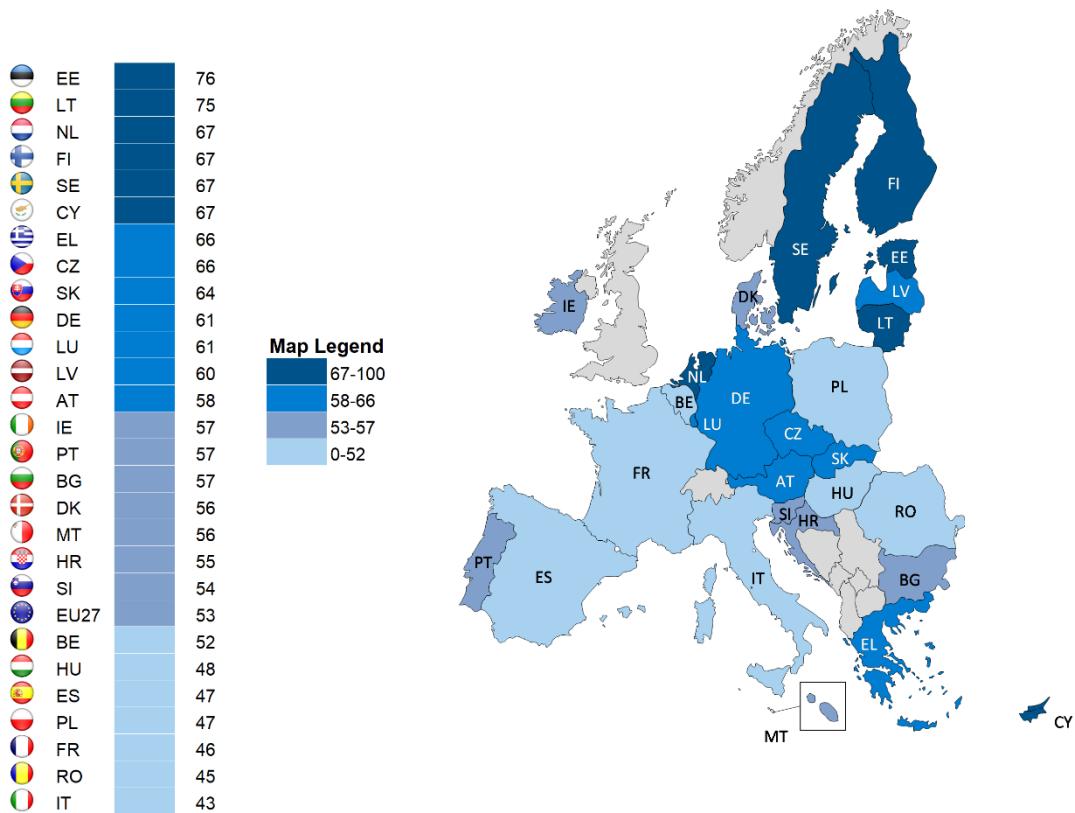
⁴² QA7. What does the EU mean to you personally?

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In all 27 EU Member States, the **“freedom to travel, study and work anywhere in the EU”** is the most frequently mentioned association with the European Union. Respondents in Estonia (76%), Lithuania (75%), the Netherlands, Finland, Sweden, and Cyprus (all 67%) are the most likely to give this answer.

Conversely, in Italy (43%), Romania (45%), France (46%), Poland, Spain (both 47%) and Hungary (48%), less than half mention this association.

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



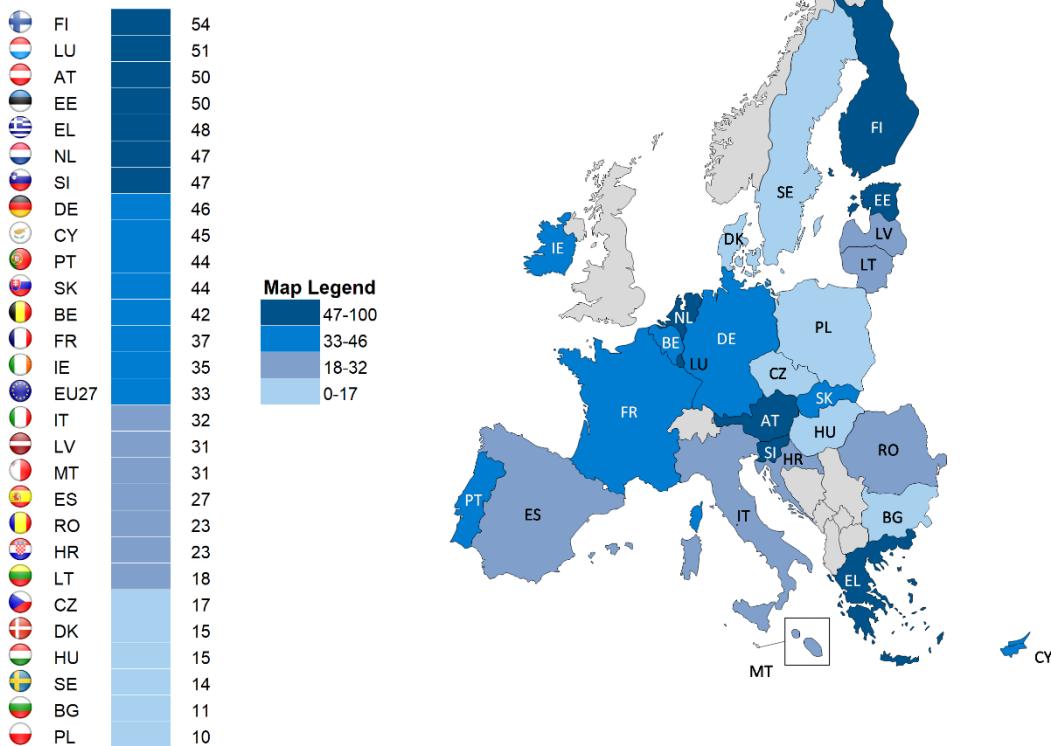
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Membership of the euro area constitutes a clear dividing factor when it comes to associations of the EU with “**the euro**”. Respondents in countries belonging to the **euro area** (39%) are significantly more likely than those living **outside the euro area** (15%) to associate the EU with “the euro”

At country level, more than a quarter in all but one euro area countries mention this item, ranging from half of the respondents or more in Finland (54%), Luxembourg (51%), Austria and Estonia (both 50%) to 27% in Spain.

The only exception is Lithuania, where less than one fifth (18%) give this answer. Conversely, this proportion is below a quarter in all countries outside the euro area, with the highest proportions observed in Croatia and Romania (both 23%) and the lowest in Poland (10%), Bulgaria (11%) and Sweden (14%).

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



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The **socio-demographic data** reveals that the “**freedom to travel, study and work anywhere in the EU**” is the most highly ranked association with the EU among almost all the categories. However, there are still differences in the extent to which respondents give this answer. In particular, this view is widespread among the youngest respondents (62% among the 15-24 year olds, compared with 48% among those aged 55 or more) and those who remained longer in full-time education (62% among those who finished aged 20 or more, compared with 39% among those who left aged 15 or less). Moreover, managers (65%, compared with 41% among house persons), those with the least financial difficulties (57% of those who never or almost never have difficulties paying their bills, compared with 38% of those who have difficulties most of the time) and those who see themselves as belonging to the upper or upper middle class of society (66-68%, compared with 46% of those who consider themselves as working class) are also among the most likely to give this answer.

Education, occupation, financial situation, and social class are key factors also when it comes to most of the other **positive** associations with the EU. For instance, associations with the EU of “**peace**” is most widespread among those who ended full-time education aged 20 or more (40%, compared with 29% of those who left aged 19 or less), managers (45%, compared with 22% of the unemployed), those who never or almost never have difficulties paying their bills (38%, compared with 20% of those who have difficulties most of the time) and those who consider themselves as being part of the upper or upper middle class of society (42-46%, compared with 26% of those who see themselves as working class).

Age has an impact when it comes to **negative** associations with the EU, with the oldest respondents aged 55 or more being much more likely than the 15-24 year-olds to mention most of the items with a negative connotation. For instance, close to one quarter (23%) of those aged 55 or more associate the EU with “**waste of money**”, compared with around one in ten (11%) of those aged 15-24.

Lastly, and unsurprisingly, respondents who have a positive image of the EU are more likely than those who have a negative image to mention **positive** associations, while the reverse is true for terms that carry a **negative** connotation. For instance, those having a positive view of the EU are more likely to cite “**peace**” (46%, compared with 15% of those holding a negative view), while those having a negative image of the EU are more likely to mention “**waste of money**” (50%, compared with 8% of those with a positive image).

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

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

	Freedom to travel, study and work anywhere in the EU	Peace	The Euro	Cultural diversity	Stronger say in the world	Democracy	Quality of life of future generations	Bureaucracy
EU27	53	34	33	26	26	25	22	21
Gender								
Man	53	34	34	26	26	27	22	23
Woman	53	34	33	26	27	24	21	18
Age								
15-24	62	36	33	33	28	29	26	13
25-39	56	32	32	27	28	26	24	20
40-54	54	32	33	27	27	26	22	24
55 +	48	35	34	22	25	23	19	22
Education (End of)								
15-	39	29	37	15	20	18	14	17
16-19	48	29	30	21	23	21	19	21
20+	62	40	37	33	32	32	27	24
Still studying	65	40	34	37	32	32	28	13
Socio-professional category								
Self-employed	54	34	34	25	29	27	22	23
Managers	65	45	37	35	37	34	27	22
Other white collars	57	33	34	26	28	27	24	22
Manual workers	47	25	29	22	21	21	20	22
House persons	41	28	28	20	20	18	20	13
Unemployed	44	22	31	19	17	18	17	24
Retired	49	37	35	22	25	24	18	22
Students	65	40	34	37	32	32	28	13
Difficulties paying bills								
Most of the time	38	20	31	18	19	12	14	25
From time to time	46	27	31	24	22	20	20	20
Almost never/ Never	57	38	34	27	29	28	23	21
Consider belonging to								
The working class	46	26	29	19	20	18	16	20
The lower middle class	49	30	33	24	23	22	22	23
The middle class	55	36	34	29	29	28	22	20
The upper middle class	66	46	37	32	37	36	30	26
The upper class	68	42	34	26	41	50	40	18
Image of the EU								
Total 'Positive'	64	46	36	33	39	37	32	13
Neutral	50	29	34	23	20	20	16	22
Total 'Negative'	34	15	26	15	9	7	10	37

Items mentioned by more than 20% of respondents

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

Majorities in all candidate countries support EU membership

Despite a six-percentage point decrease since the last Standard Eurobarometer survey in spring 2021, an overwhelming majority support EU membership in Albania (85%). Large majorities support EU membership also in Montenegro (67%, +5 percentage points) and North Macedonia (63%, +1). Six in ten say EU membership would be a good thing in Turkey, where, following a six-percentage point decrease between winter 2020-2021 and spring 2021, this proportion has increased by 16 percentage points in the current survey. A majority is also in favour of EU membership in Serbia (42%), an increase by three percentage points since spring 2021 and by seven percentage points since winter 2020-2021⁴³.

Around four in ten (41%) in the Turkish Cypriot Community agree that the full application of EU legislation would be a good thing, a decrease by five percentage points since spring 2021⁴⁴.

More than nine in ten respondents in Albania (92%, -5 percentage points since spring 2021) think their country would benefit from being a member of the EU, followed by North Macedonia (80%, no change) and Montenegro (78%, +3). Following a nine-percentage point increase, seven in ten give this answer in Turkey, while more than six in ten hold this view in Serbia (62%, +2)⁴⁵.

In the Turkish Cypriot Community, nearly half (48%) think that their community would benefit from EU membership, a decrease of four percentage points since spring 2021 and of 18 percentage points since winter 2020-2021⁴⁶.

QA7bd Generally speaking, do you think that (OUR COUNTRY)'s membership of the EU would be...? (%)



	Winter 2021/2022	41	85	63	67	42	60
A good thing	Δ Spring 2021	▼5	▼6	▲1	▲5	▲3	▲16
A bad thing	Winter 2021/2022	12	7	10	19	24	22
Neither good nor bad	Δ Spring 2021	▲1	▲4	▼4	▼1	▼3	▼2
Refusal (SPONTANEOUS)/Don't know	Winter 2021/2022	23	0	1	0	1	1
	Δ Spring 2021	▼8	=	▲1	▼1	=	▲1

QA7ce Taking everything into account, would you say that (OUR COUNTRY) would benefit or not from being a member of the EU? (%)



	Winter 2021/2022	48	92	80	78	62	70
Would benefit	Δ Spring 2021	▼4	▼5	=	▲3	▲2	▲9
Would not benefit	Winter 2021/2022	25	8	19	22	33	27
Refusal (SPONTANEOUS)/Don't know	Δ Spring 2021	▲11	▲6	=	▼2	▼5	▼12
	Winter 2021/2022	27	0	1	0	5	3
	Δ Spring 2021	▼14	▼1	=	▼1	▲3	▲3

⁴³ QA7b. Generally speaking, do you think that (OUR COUNTRY)'s membership of the EU would be...?

⁴⁴ QA7d. Generally speaking, do you think that for the Turkish Cypriot Community the full application of EU legislation would be...?

⁴⁵ QA7c. Taking everything into account, would you say that (OUR COUNTRY) would benefit or not from being a member of the EU?

⁴⁶ QA7e. Taking everything into consideration, would you say that the Turkish Cypriot Community would benefit or not from the full application of the EU legislation?

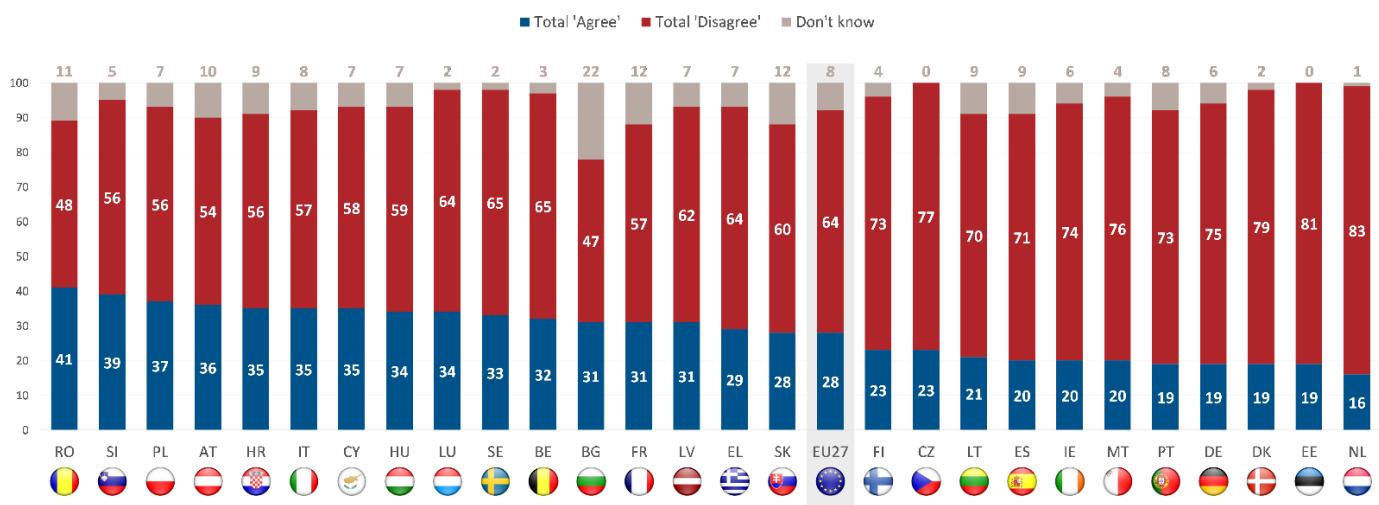
1.3 Easier to face the future outside the EU?

A large majority reject the prospect of leaving the European Union

A clear majority think it is better for their country to be within the European Union than outside⁴⁷. More than six in ten (64%, -1 percentage point since spring 2021) disagree that their country could better face the future outside the European Union, with 35% (-2) who “totally disagree” with the statement. Nearly three in ten (28%, no change) agree their country could better face the future outside the EU, with less than one in ten (9%, -1) in total agreement with this statement. Less than one in ten (8%) say they “don’t know”. These proportions have remained broadly stable since spring 2021.

Large majorities of respondents in both the **euro area** and the **non-euro area** disagree that their country could better face the future outside the EU. Nonetheless, in line with previous Standard Eurobarometer surveys, this view is more widespread among those in the euro area (66% vs 26% “agree”) than outside the euro area (59% vs 34%).

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)



A majority of respondents in all the 27 EU Member States think it is better for their country to be within the European Union than outside. More than eight in ten share this view in the Netherlands (83%, +5 percentage points) and Estonia (81%, +1), followed by at least three quarters in Denmark (79%, +1), Czechia (77%, +11) Malta (76%, +3) and Germany (75%, -2). Bulgaria (47%, -6) and Romania (48%, no change) are the only countries where less than half disagree that their country could better face the future outside the EU.

⁴⁷ 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.

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In 11 EU Member States, the share of respondents who disagree that their country could better face the future outside the EU has increased since spring 2021. Czechia (+11 percentage points) stands out for a particularly large increase in the proportion who disagree with this statement, followed by Italy and the Netherlands (both +5).

At the opposite end of the spectrum, this proportion has declined in 12 countries. Decreases by at least ten percentage points are observed in Belgium (-18), Ireland (-15) and Luxembourg (-10). This share of respondents remains unchanged in four countries: Croatia, Finland, Romania and Slovakia.

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 (%)

		EU27	BE	IE	LU	CY	HU	BG	MT	DE	ES	LV	AT	SI	FR	DK	EE	PL	RO	IT	PT	SK	HR	EL	FI	SE	NL	CZ	LT
Total 'Agree'	Winter 2021/2022	28	32	20	34	35	34	31	20	19	20	31	36	39	31	19	19	37	41	35	19	28	35	29	23	33	16	23	21
	Δ Spring 2021	=	▲15	▲9	▲9	▲8	▲5	▲3	▲3	▲1	▲1	▲1	▲1	▲1	▲1	=	▼1	▼1	▼1	▼1	▼2	▼2	▼2	▼3	▼4	▼4	▼5	▼8	▼10
Total 'Disagree'	Winter 2021/2022	64	65	74	64	58	59	47	76	75	71	62	54	56	57	79	81	56	48	57	73	60	56	64	73	65	83	77	70
	Δ Spring 2021	▼1	▼18	▼15	▼10	▼8	▼6	▼6	▲3	▼2	▼4	▼4	▼3	▼2	▼2	▲1	▲1	▲3	=	▲5	▲3	=	=	▲4	=	▲2	▲5	▲11	▲1
Don't know	Winter 2021/2022	8	3	6	2	7	7	22	4	6	9	7	10	5	12	2	0	7	11	8	8	12	9	7	4	2	1	0	9
	Δ Spring 2021	▲1	▲3	▲6	▲1	=	▲1	▲3	▼6	▲1	▲3	▲3	▲2	▲1	▲2	=	=	▼2	▲1	▼3	▼1	▲2	▲3	=	▲4	▲2	=	▼3	▲9

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The **socio-demographic data** shows that majorities across all categories think it is better for their country to be within the European Union than outside. However, some differences can still be observed. The youngest respondents (70% of those aged 15-24, compared with 62% of those aged 55 or more), those who finished full-time education aged 20 or more (74%, compared with 55% of those who left education aged 15 or less) and managers (78%, compared with 54% of house persons) are among the most likely to disagree that their country could better face the future outside the EU.

Levels of disagreement are also particularly high among those who never or almost never have difficulties paying their bills (70%, compared with 45% of those who have difficulties most of the time) and those who consider themselves belonging to the upper or upper middle class of society (75-81%, compared with 56% of those who see themselves as part of the working class).

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	28	64	8
Gender			
Man	29	65	6
Woman	27	64	9
Age			
15-24	23	70	7
25-39	29	66	5
40-54	30	63	7
55 +	28	62	10
Education (End of)			
15-	30	55	15
16-19	32	59	9
20+	22	74	4
Still studying	19	74	7
Socio-professional category			
Self-employed	31	64	5
Managers	19	78	3
Other white collars	28	66	6
Manual workers	35	57	8
House persons	33	54	13
Unemployed	35	55	10
Retired	25	64	11
Students	19	74	7
Difficulties paying bills			
Most of the time	41	45	14
From time to time	36	55	9
Almost never/ Never	23	70	7
Consider belonging to			
The working class	31	56	13
The lower middle class	30	62	8
The middle class	26	68	6
The upper middle class	22	75	3
The upper class	18	81	1

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2. The European institutions

2.1 The trust the European institutions inspire

Despite slight declines, majorities still trust the European institutions

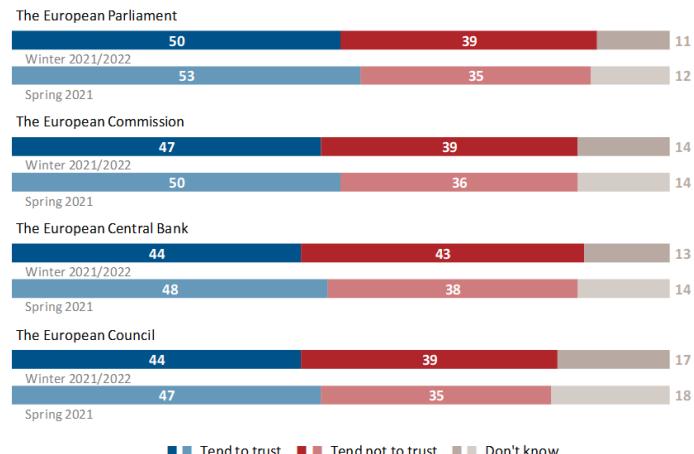
Respondents were asked whether they tended to trust or not to trust the European Parliament, the European Commission, the European Central Bank and the European Council⁴⁸. A majority trust each of the institutions in question. In line with previous Eurobarometer surveys, the **European Parliament** (50%, -3 percentage points since spring 2021) is the institution that is most trusted by European citizens, followed by the **European Commission** (47%, -3), the **European Central Bank** (44%, -4) and the **European Council** (44%, -3). More than four in ten tend not to trust the European Central Bank (43%, +5), while 39% tend not to trust the European Parliament (+4), the European Commission (+3) and the European Council (+4). A significant minority of respondents (between 11% and 17%) do not know whether they trust these institutions or not.

Respondents in countries **outside the euro area** are more likely than those in countries within the **euro area** to trust each of these institutions. For instance, those in the non-euro area are more likely to trust the European Central Bank than those in the euro area (51% vs 41%).

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



QA8 Please tell if you tend to trust or tend not to trust these European institutions?
(% - EU)



Following a rise in levels of trust between summer 2020 and spring 2021, the proportions of respondents who tend to trust each of these institutions have decreased in the current Eurobarometer survey. The largest decrease can be observed for the European Central Bank (-4 since spring 2021), while trust in the European Parliament and in the European Commission has declined by three percentage points.

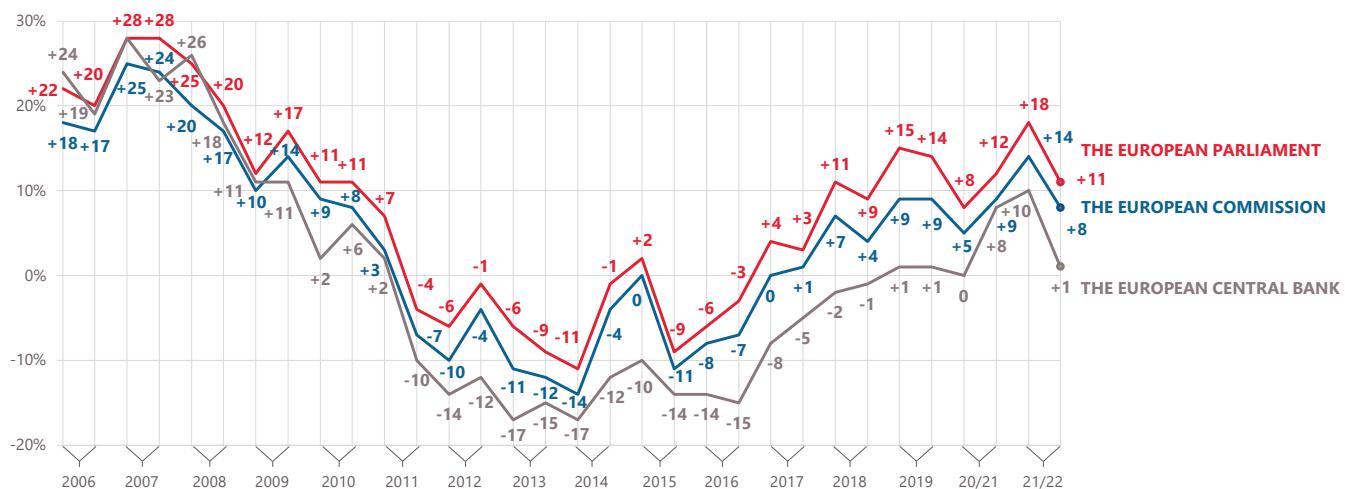
⁴⁸ QA8. Please tell me if you tend to trust or tend not to trust these European institutions. 1. The European Parliament; 2. The European Commission; 3. The European Central Bank; 4. The European Council.

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As a result of these declines, the trust index for the three institutions has worsened compared to spring 2021⁴⁹. This is particularly the case for the European Central Bank, for which the trust-distrust ratio has lost nine points since spring 2021 (from +10 to +1) and is currently back at a level last attained in 2019.

The gap between the proportion who tend to trust and the one who tend not to trust these institutions has narrowed also for the European Parliament (from +18 to +11) and for the European Commission (from +14 to +8). In both cases, although the decreases have more than offset the increases observed between winter 2020-2021 and spring 2021, the trust index remains at levels higher than in summer 2020.

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))



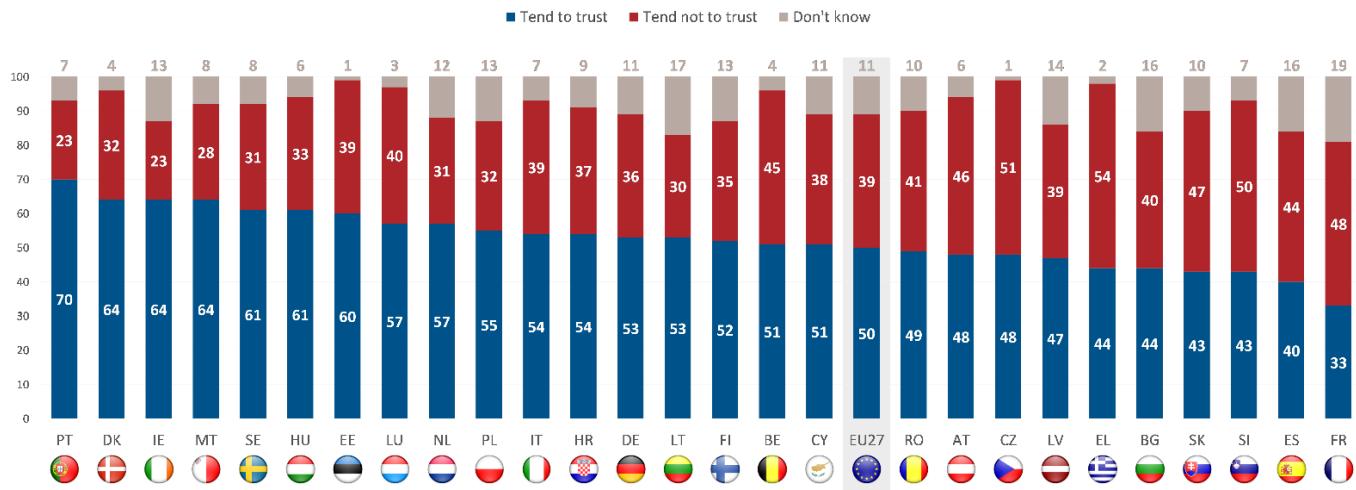
⁴⁹ The trust index is the difference between proportion who "tend to trust" and the proportion who "tend not to trust".

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A majority of respondents trust the **European Parliament** in 21 EU Member States (compared with 25 in spring 2021). Respondents in Portugal (70%), Denmark, Ireland and Malta (all 64%) are the most likely to trust the European Parliament.

In six countries, respondents holding this view are in the minority: Greece (54% "tend not to trust" vs 44% "tend to trust"), Czechia (51% vs 48%), Slovenia (50% vs 43%), France (48% vs 33%), Slovakia (47% vs 43%) and Spain (44% vs 40%).

QA8.1 Please tell if you tend to trust or tend not to trust these European institutions?
(% - The European Parliament)



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Public opinion in the European Union
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QA8.1 Please tell if you tend to trust or tend not to trust these European institutions?

The European Parliament (%) - EU)

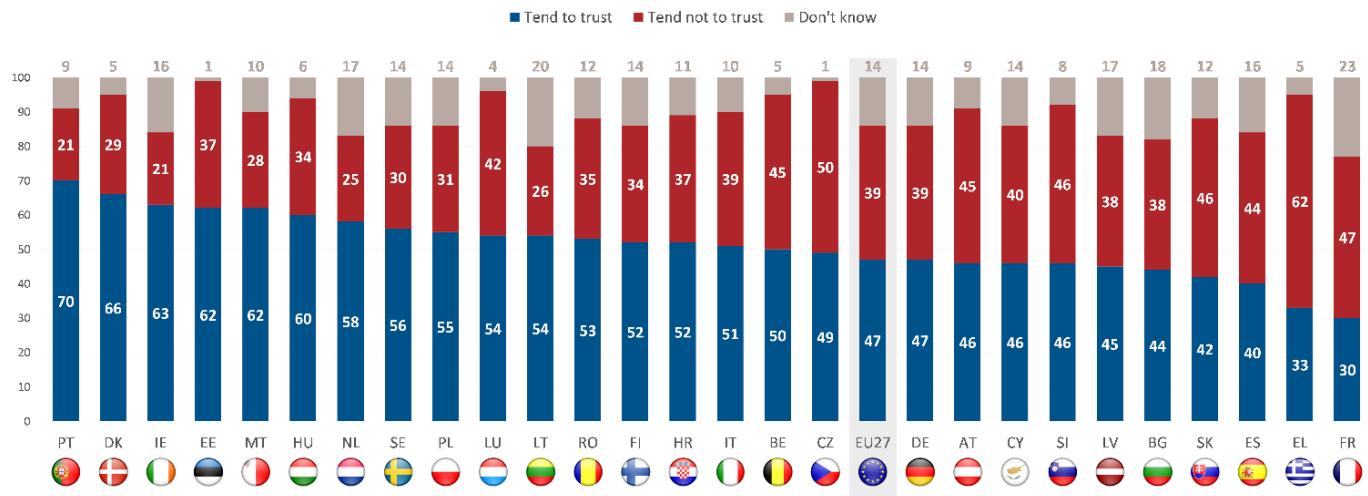
	Tend to trust	Tend not to trust	Don't know
EU27	50	39	11
 Gender			
Man	49	41	10
Woman	50	37	13
 Age			
15-24	56	31	13
25-39	52	39	9
40-54	49	42	9
55 +	47	40	13
 Education (End of)			
15-	38	45	17
16-19	44	45	11
20+	59	32	9
Still studying	61	28	11
 Socio-professional category			
Self-employed	51	41	8
Managers	65	28	7
Other white collars	55	36	9
Manual workers	41	48	11
House persons	41	42	17
Unemployed	30	59	11
Retired	47	39	14
Students	61	28	11
 Difficulties paying bills			
Most of the time	29	59	12
From time to time	41	48	11
Almost never/ Never	55	34	11
 Consider belonging to			
The working class	35	48	17
The lower middle class	43	45	12
The middle class	55	36	9
The upper middle class	66	26	8
The upper class	68	28	4
 Image of the EU			
Total 'Positive'	77	15	8
Neutral	37	47	16
Total 'Negative'	9	86	5

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In 21 EU Member States (compared with 26 in spring 2021), a majority trust the **European Commission**. The largest proportions giving this answer can be found in Portugal (70%), Denmark (66%) and Ireland (63%).

At the opposite end of the scale, Greece stands out for a large proportion who distrust the European Commission (62% “tend not to trust” vs 33% “tend to trust”). The share of respondents who distrust this institution outweighs the one who trust it also in Czechia (50% vs 49%), France (47% vs 30%), Slovakia (46% vs 42%) and Spain (44% vs 40%), while opinions are divided in Slovenia (46% vs 46%).

QA8.2 Please tell if you tend to trust or tend not to trust these European institutions?
 (% - The European Commission)



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Public opinion in the European Union
Winter 2021-2022

QA8.2 Please tell if you tend to trust or tend not to trust these European institutions?

The European Commission (%) - EU)

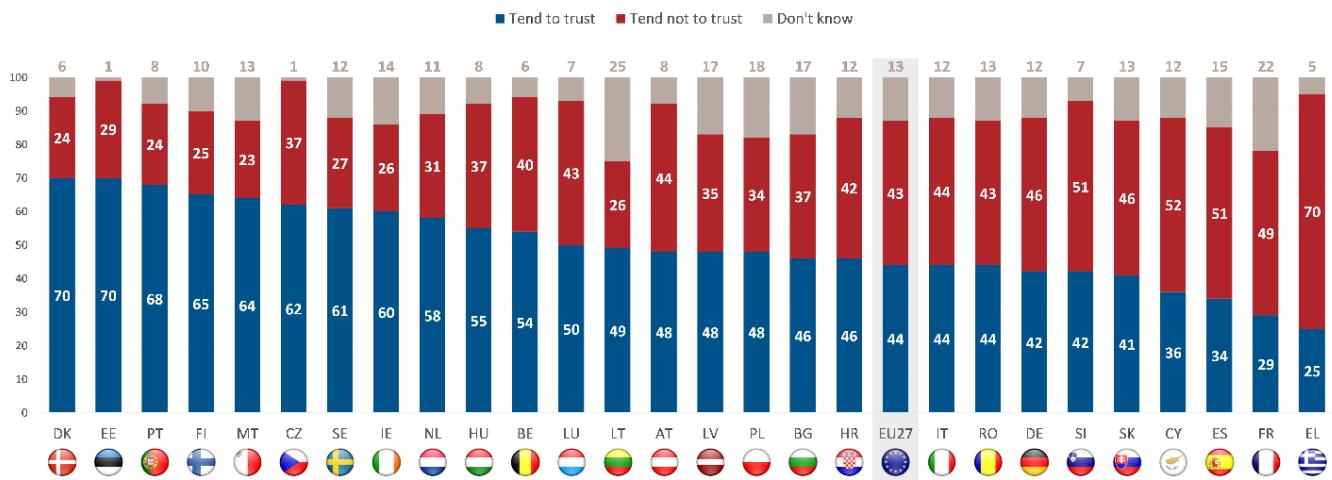
	Tend to trust	Tend not to trust	Don't know
EU27	47	39	14
Gender			
Man	47	42	11
Woman	47	37	16
Age			
15-24	55	30	15
25-39	50	40	10
40-54	47	42	11
55 +	43	41	16
Education (End of)			
15-	36	45	19
16-19	41	45	14
20+	55	33	12
Still studying	60	26	14
Socio-professional category			
Self-employed	47	43	10
Managers	64	27	9
Other white collars	52	37	11
Manual workers	41	46	13
House persons	38	43	19
Unemployed	27	60	13
Retired	43	40	17
Students	60	26	14
Difficulties paying bills			
Most of the time	26	60	14
From time to time	39	48	13
Almost never/ Never	52	34	14
Consider belonging to			
The working class	32	48	20
The lower middle class	42	45	13
The middle class	53	36	11
The upper middle class	65	26	9
The upper class	66	27	7
Image of the EU			
Total 'Positive'	74	15	11
Neutral	34	47	19
Total 'Negative'	8	85	7

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A majority in 19 EU Member States (compared with 23 in spring 2021) tend to trust the **European Central Bank**, with more than two thirds giving this answer in Denmark, Estonia (both 70%) and Portugal (68%).

Once again, Greece stands out for a high share of respondents who tend not to trust the European Central Bank (70% “tend not to trust” vs 25% “tend to trust”). Majorities distrust this institution in another six countries: Cyprus (52% vs 36%), Spain (51% vs 34%), Slovenia (51% vs 42%), France (49% vs 29%), Slovakia (46% vs 41%) and Germany (46% vs 42%). Opinions are divided in Italy (44% vs 44%).

QA8.3 Please tell if you tend to trust or tend not to trust these European institutions?
 (% - The European Central Bank)



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QA8.3 Please tell if you tend to trust or tend not to trust these European institutions?

The European Central Bank (%) - EU)

	Tend to trust	Tend not to trust	Don't know
EU27	44	43	13
Gender			
Man	44	45	11
Woman	43	41	16
Age			
15-24	48	36	16
25-39	46	44	10
40-54	45	44	11
55 +	40	44	16
Education (End of)			
15-	32	49	19
16-19	38	49	13
20+	53	36	11
Still studying	52	34	14
Socio-professional category			
Self-employed	47	44	9
Managers	60	32	8
Other white collars	49	40	11
Manual workers	38	49	13
House persons	36	45	19
Unemployed	26	62	12
Retired	40	43	17
Students	52	34	14
Difficulties paying bills			
Most of the time	24	64	12
From time to time	35	52	13
Almost never/ Never	49	38	13
Consider belonging to			
The working class	29	52	19
The lower middle class	38	49	13
The middle class	49	40	11
The upper middle class	64	28	8
The upper class	62	33	5
Image of the EU			
Total 'Positive'	67	22	11
Neutral	32	50	18
Total 'Negative'	12	82	6

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The analysis at country level highlights that the trust index for these three institutions has deteriorated in most countries since the last Standard Eurobarometer survey in spring 2021. This is particularly the case for Belgium, France and Luxembourg, where the index has significantly decreased for all the three institutions, while Greece is the country where this index has increased the most.

In 21 EU Member States, the trust index for the **European Parliament** has declined since spring 2021, most notably in Belgium (-21 points), France and Luxembourg (both -19). Conversely, the largest increases are observed in Greece, the Netherlands (both +7) and Cyprus (+4). The trust-distrust ratio has remained stable in Poland.

Very similar evolutions can be observed in the case of the **European Commission**, with the trust index for this institution decreasing in 20 EU Member States. The most notable declines are again found in Belgium (-22 points), France (-18) and Luxembourg (-16), while the largest increases are observed in the Netherlands (+12), Greece (+7) and Poland (+5). This index remains unchanged in Italy and Romania.

In 25 out of the 27 EU Member States, the trust index for the **European Central Bank** has deteriorated since spring 2021. Once again, Belgium, Luxembourg (both -26 points) and France (-22) are the countries where the trust-distrust ratio has decreased the most. At the opposite end of the scale, the only two countries where the trust index has increased are Czechia and Greece (both +3).

Q48 Please tell if you tend to trust or tend not to trust these European institutions?
 Trust index (Tend to trust - Tend not to trust) (%)

		EU27	EL	NL	CY	IT	SE	PL	HR	HU	FI	SK	DE	PT	BG	DK	EE	LT	CZ	LV	MT	AT	IE	SI	ES	RO	FR	LU	BE
The European Parliament	Tend to trust - Tend not to trust Winter 2021/2022	+11	-10	+26	+13	+15	+30	+23	+17	+28	+17	-4	+17	+47	+4	+32	+21	+23	-3	+8	+36	+2	+41	-7	-4	+8	-15	+17	+6
	Δ Spring 2021	▼7	▲7	▲7	▲4	▲3	▲5	=	▼2	▼2	▼3	▼8	▼8	▼9	▼10	▼11	▼11	▼12	▼12	▼12	▼13	▼14	▼15	▼16	▼19	▼19	▼21		
The European Commission	Tend to trust - Tend not to trust Winter 2021/2022	+8	+33	-29	+24	+6	+15	+12	+18	+18	+26	+8	-1	+26	+49	+37	-4	+25	+42	-4	0	+34	+7	+1	+6	+28	+12	-17	+5
	Δ Spring 2021	▼6	▲12	▲7	▲5	▲4	▲2	=	=	▼1	▼1	▼4	▼5	▼5	▼5	▼7	▼7	▼8	▼8	▼10	▼10	▼11	▼12	▼12	▼14	▼14	▼16	▼18	▼22
The European Central Bank	Tend to trust - Tend not to trust Winter 2021/2022	+1	+25	-45	0	+14	+41	+34	+40	+46	+18	-9	+34	+4	-4	+44	+4	+1	-16	+27	+9	-17	+41	-5	+23	+13	-20	+14	+7
	Δ Spring 2021	▼9	▲3	▲3	▼2	▼3	▼4	▼4	▼5	▼5	▼5	▼6	▼8	▼8	▼10	▼10	▼11	▼11	▼12	▼12	▼13	▼13	▼15	▼15	▼17	▼22	▼26	▼26	

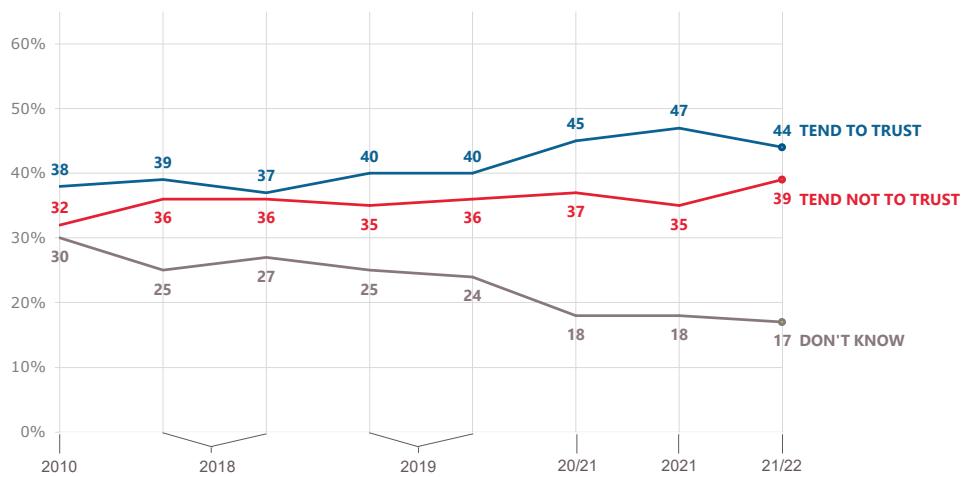
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Public opinion in the European Union
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Following a seven-percentage point increase between autumn 2019 and spring 2021, trust in the **European Council** has

declined by three percentage points in the current survey (44%), while the level of distrust has increased by four (39%).

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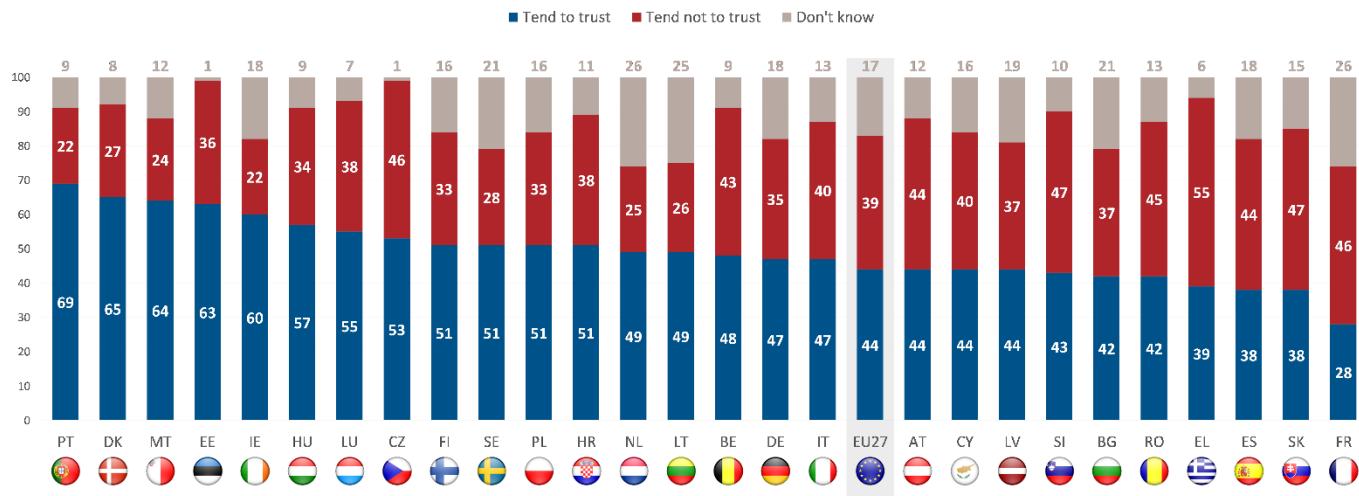
QA8.4 And do you tend to trust or tend not to trust these European institutions?
The European Council (% - EU)



In 20 EU Member States (compared with 24 in spring 2021), a majority of respondents tend to trust the European Council. The highest shares of respondents giving this answer are observed in Portugal (69%), Denmark (65%) and Malta (64%).

At the opposite end of the scale, distrust outweighs trust in six countries: Greece (55% vs 39%), Slovakia (47% vs 38%), Slovenia (47% vs 43%), France (46% vs 28%), Romania (45% vs 42%) and Spain (44% vs 38%). Opinions are divided in Austria (44% vs 44%).

QA8.4 Please tell if you tend to trust or tend not to trust these European institutions?
(% - The European Council)



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Public opinion in the European Union
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QA8.4 Please tell if you tend to trust or tend not to trust these European institutions?

The European Council (% - EU)

	Tend to trust	Tend not to trust	Don't know
EU27	44	39	17
Gender			
Man	45	41	14
Woman	44	37	19
Age			
15-24	52	31	17
25-39	48	39	13
40-54	45	41	14
55 +	40	40	20
Education (End of)			
15-	33	44	23
16-19	38	45	17
20+	53	31	16
Still studying	57	28	15
Socio-professional category			
Self-employed	48	40	12
Managers	61	27	12
Other white collars	49	36	15
Manual workers	38	47	15
House persons	37	42	21
Unemployed	26	57	17
Retired	40	38	22
Students	57	28	15
Difficulties paying bills			
Most of the time	25	59	16
From time to time	36	48	16
Almost never/ Never	50	33	17
Consider belonging to			
The working class	31	47	22
The lower middle class	39	44	17
The middle class	50	35	15
The upper middle class	62	25	13
The upper class	54	33	13
Image of the EU			
Total 'Positive'	71	15	14
Neutral	31	47	22
Total 'Negative'	9	82	9

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2.2 Trust in the European Union

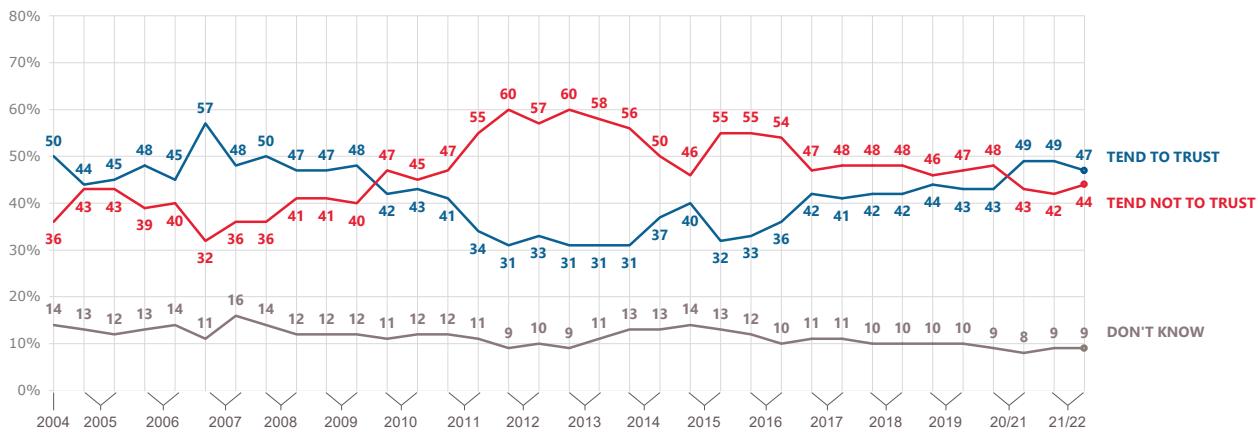
A majority continue to trust the European Union

A majority of the respondents (47%) tend to trust the European Union. After having reached its highest level since spring 2007 in the last Standard Eurobarometer surveys, the proportion who trust the EU has slightly declined (-2 percentage points since spring 2021), with the share of respondents who tend not to trust the EU slightly increasing (44%, +2). Slightly less than one in ten (9%) express no opinion⁵⁰.

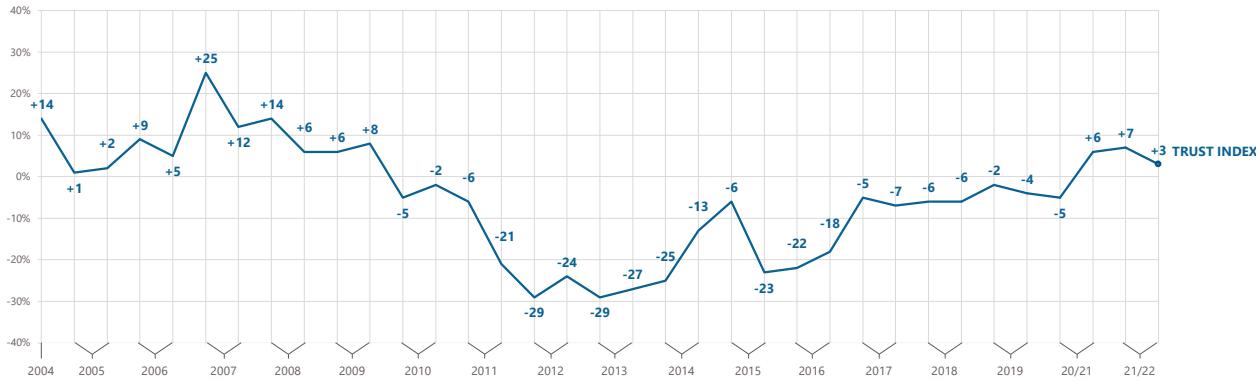
Respondents in countries **outside the euro area** are more likely than those within the **euro area** to trust the European Union (52% vs 45%).

The slight decrease in the level of trust in the European Union directly translates in a deterioration of the trust index since the last Standard Eurobarometer survey. Following an increase by 12 points between summer 2020 and spring 2021, the gap between the proportion who trust the EU and the one who distrust it has declined by four points in the current survey and now stands at +3.

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)



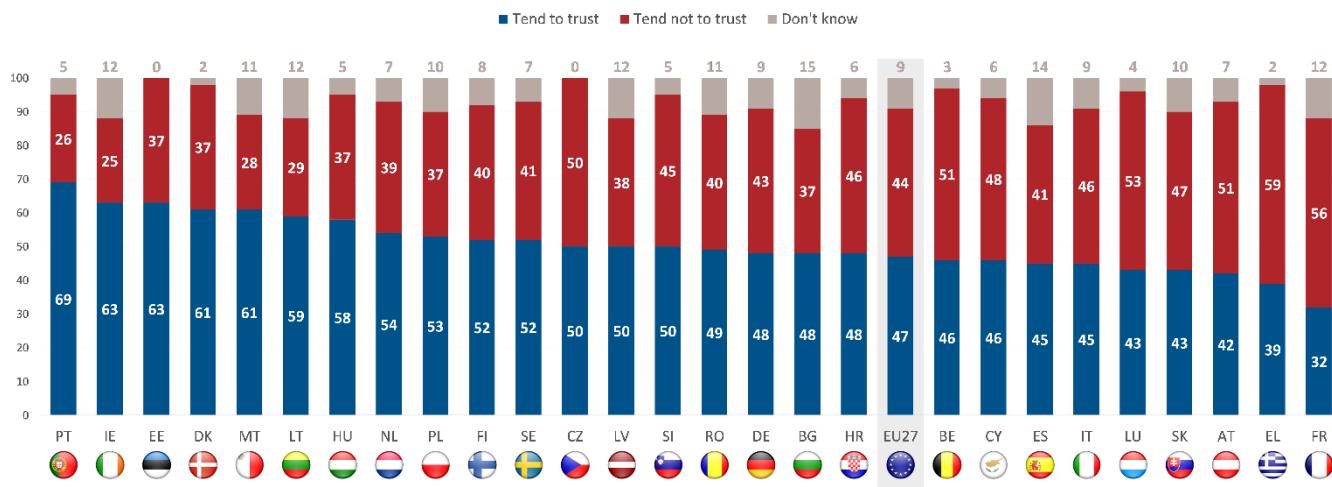
⁵⁰ QA6b.10. I would like to ask you a question about how much trust you have in certain institutions. For each of the following institutions, please tell me if you tend to trust it or tend not to trust it. The European Union.

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There are large variations at country level in the proportions of respondents who trust the EU. In 18 EU Member States, a majority tend to trust the EU (compared with 21 in spring 2021). Respondents in Portugal (69%), Estonia and Ireland (both 63%) are the most likely to give this answer.

At the opposite end of the spectrum, more than half of the respondents distrust the EU in Greece (59% "tend not to trust" vs 39% "tend to trust"), France (56% vs 32%), Luxembourg (53% vs 43%), Austria (51% vs 42%) and Belgium (51% vs 46%). Distrust outweighs trust in another three countries: Cyprus (48% vs 46%), Slovakia (47% vs 43%) and Italy (46% vs 45%). Opinions are divided in Czechia (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 share of respondents who tend to trust the EU has declined in 17 countries since spring 2021, and by at least five percentage points in nine countries. The largest decreases are observed in Lithuania (59%, -10), Spain (45%, -9) and Ireland (63%, -8). Conversely, this proportion has increased in six EU Member States, and most notably in the Netherlands (54%, +5 percentage points). The level of trust remains stable in four countries: Denmark, Estonia, Slovakia and Sweden.

The proportion who tend not to trust the EU has increased in 16 countries, particularly in Portugal (26%, +8 percentage points), Bulgaria (37%, +8) and Luxembourg (53%, +7). Conversely, this share of respondents has decreased in eight countries, and by more than five percentage points in the Netherlands (39%, -10), Sweden (41%, -7) and Finland (40%, -6). The level of distrust remains unchanged in Estonia, Latvia and Slovakia.

QAGb.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 (%)

		EU27	EURO AREA	NON-EURO AREA	NL	EL	HU	CZ	DE	CY	DK	EE	SK	SE	MT	PL	FI	HR	AT	FR	IT	PT	LV	SI	BE	BG	RO	IE	ES	LT	
Tend to trust	Winter 2021/2022	47	45	52	54	39	58	50	48	46	61	63	43	52	61	53	52	48	42	32	45	69	50	43	50	46	48	49	63	45	59
	Δ Spring 2021	▼2	▼3	▼2	▲5	▲3	▲2	▲1	▲1	▲1	=	=	=	=	▼1	▼2	▼2	▼3	▼3	▼4	▼4	▼4	▼5	▼5	▼7	▼7	▼7	▼8	▼9	▼10	
Tend not to trust	Winter 2021/2022	44	45	40	39	59	37	50	43	48	37	37	47	41	28	37	40	46	51	56	46	26	38	53	45	51	37	40	25	41	29
	Δ Spring 2021	▲2	▲1	▲3	▼10	▼3	▼2	▲3	▼1	▲2	▲3	=	=	▼7	▲4	▲5	▼6	▲2	▲6	▲6	▲2	▲8	=	▲7	▲4	▲4	▲8	▲5	▼4	▲4	▼2
Don't know	Winter 2021/2022	9	10	8	7	2	5	0	9	6	2	0	10	7	11	10	8	6	7	12	9	5	12	4	5	3	15	11	12	14	12
	Δ Spring 2021	=	▲2	▼1	▲5	=	=	▼4	=	▼3	▼3	=	=	▲7	▼3	▼3	▲8	▲1	▼3	▼2	▲2	▼4	▲5	▼2	▲1	▲3	▼1	▲2	▲12	▲5	▲12

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The **socio-demographic data** highlight that trust in the European Union is particularly widespread among the youngest respondents, those who stayed longer in full-time education and those in a better socio-economic situation. An absolute majority of those aged 15-24 (56%), of those who finished education aged 20 or more (55%), of managers (61%) and of those who have the least difficulties paying their bills (52%) say they trust the EU.

Conversely, respondents who trust the EU are in the minority among the following socio-demographic categories:

- respondents aged 55 or more (43% "tend to trust" vs 45% "tend not to trust");
- those who left full-time education aged 15 or less (37% "tend to trust" vs 48% "tend not to trust") or aged between 16 and 19 (40% vs 50%);

- the unemployed (30% "tend to trust" vs 61% "tend not to trust"), house persons (39% vs 45%) and manual workers (40% vs 52%);
- those who have difficulties paying their bills most of the time (26% "tend to trust" vs 63% "tend not to trust") or from time to time (39% vs 52%).

These findings are broadly in line with those of 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	47	44	9
Gender			
Man	47	45	8
Woman	46	43	11
Age			
15-24	56	34	10
25-39	48	46	6
40-54	47	46	7
55 +	43	45	12
Education (End of)			
15-	37	48	15
16-19	40	50	10
20+	55	38	7
Still studying	62	31	7
Socio-professional category			
Self-employed	49	44	7
Managers	61	33	6
Other white collars	49	43	8
Manual workers	40	52	8
House persons	39	45	16
Unemployed	30	61	9
Retired	43	45	12
Students	62	31	7
Difficulties paying bills			
Most of the time	26	63	11
From time to time	39	52	9
Almost never/ Never	52	39	9

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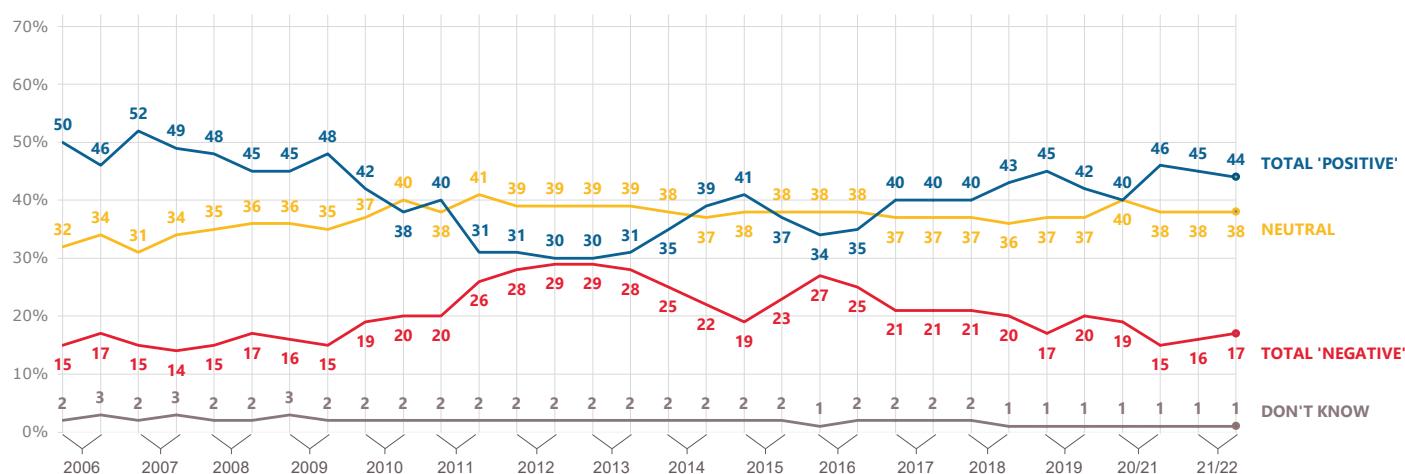
2.3 The European Union's image

A majority of respondents have a positive image of the EU

A majority of respondents have a positive image of the EU (44%), with this proportion slightly deteriorating over the last two Eurobarometer surveys (-1 percentage point since spring 2021; -2 since winter 2020-2021). Less than four in ten (38%, no change) have a neutral image of the EU, while 17% (+1) have a negative view⁵¹.

As in previous Standard Eurobarometer surveys, while majorities in both **euro area** and **non-euro area** countries have a positive image of the EU, respondents in euro area countries are less likely to see the EU in a positive light compared with those in non-euro area countries (42% vs 48%). Less than four in ten have a neutral image of the EU in both euro area (39%) and non-euro area (36%) countries. Lastly, respondents outside the euro area are slightly less likely to hold a negative view of the EU than those within the euro area (16% vs 18%). Since spring 2021, the share of respondent having a positive image of the EU in the euro area has slightly decreased (-2 percentage points), while the proportion of those outside the euro area holding a negative view has increased (+3).

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



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

	EU27	EURO AREA	NON-EURO AREA
Total 'Positive'	Winter 2021/2022	44	42
	△ Spring 2021	▼1	▼2
Neutral	Winter 2021/2022	38	39
	△ Spring 2021	=	▲1
Total 'Negative'	Winter 2021/2022	17	18
	△ Spring 2021	▲1	▲1
Don't know	Winter 2021/2022	1	0
	△ Spring 2021	=	=

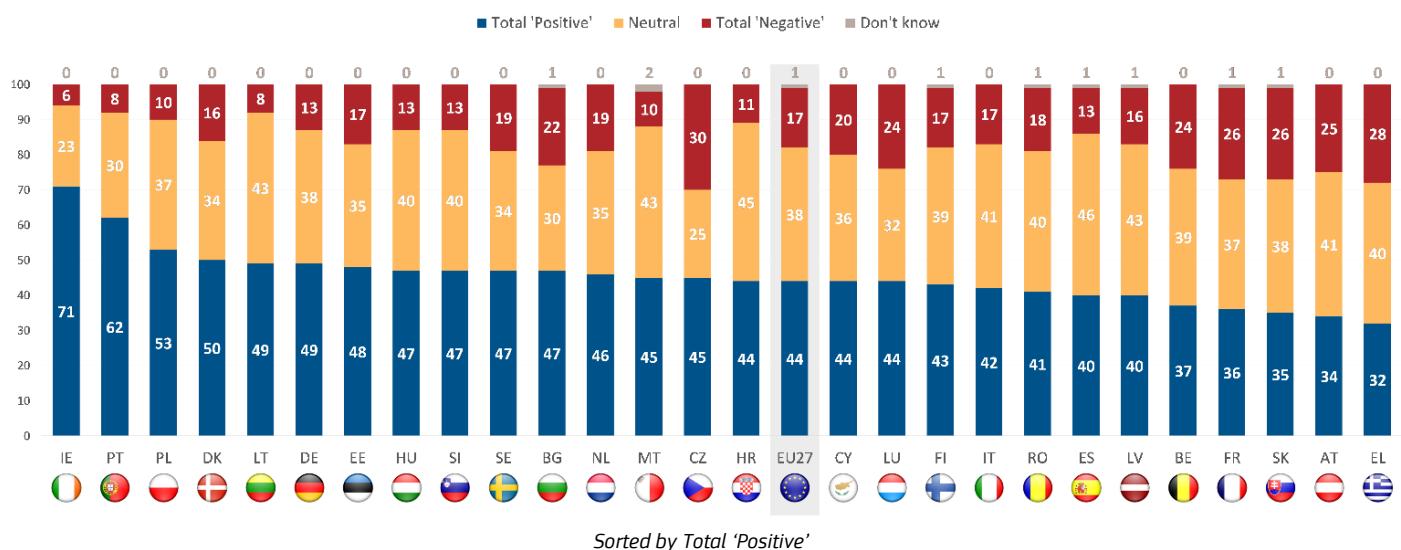
⁵¹ D78. In general, does the EU conjure up for you a very positive, fairly positive, neutral, fairly negative or very negative image?

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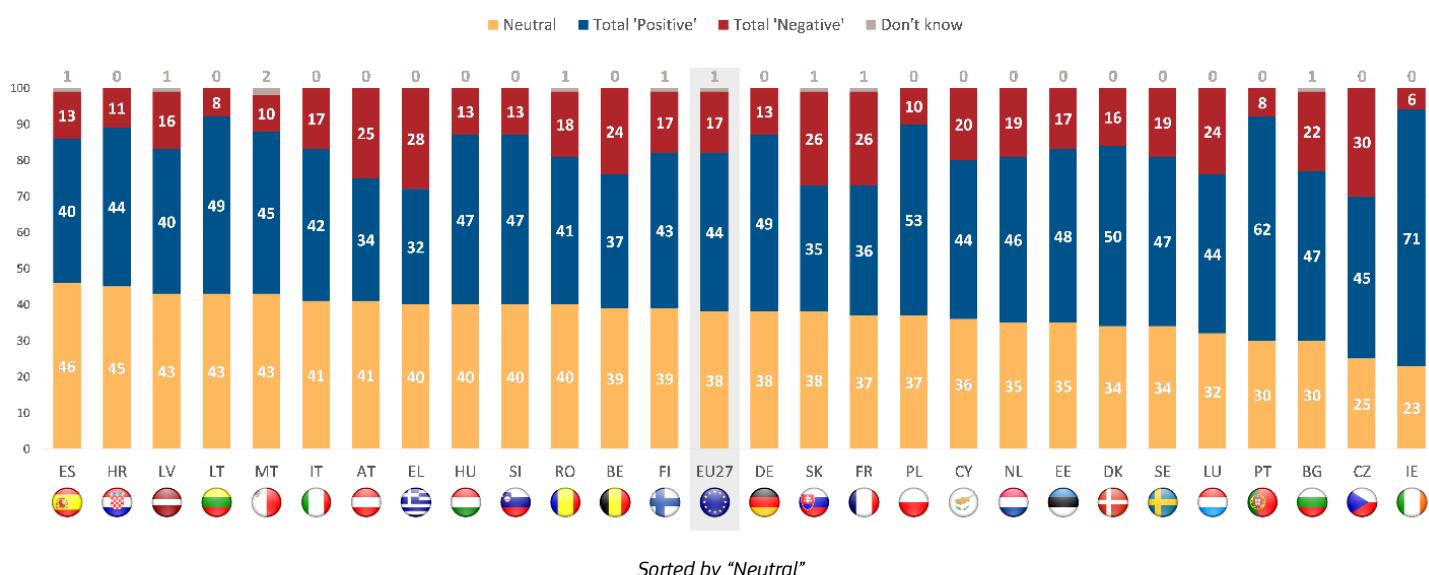
In 19 EU Member States, the majority of respondents have a positive image of the European Union (compared with 20 in spring 2021) and, in all countries, the share of respondents holding a positive view of the EU outweighs the one holding a negative opinion. The gap between these proportions is the widest in Ireland (71% "positive" vs 6% "negative"), Portugal (62% vs 8%) and Poland (53% vs 10%). At the opposite end of the scale, this gap is the lowest in Greece (32% vs 28%), Austria (34% vs 25%) and Slovakia (35% vs 26%).

The majority have a neutral image of the EU in eight countries: Spain (46% "neutral" vs 40% "positive"), Croatia (45% vs 44%), Latvia (43% vs 40%), Austria (41% vs 34%), Greece (40% vs 32%), Belgium (39% vs 37%), Slovakia (38% vs 35%) and France (37% vs 36%). In all countries, the neutral image of the EU outweighs the negative one, with the only exception of Czechia (25% "neutral" vs 30% "negative").

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

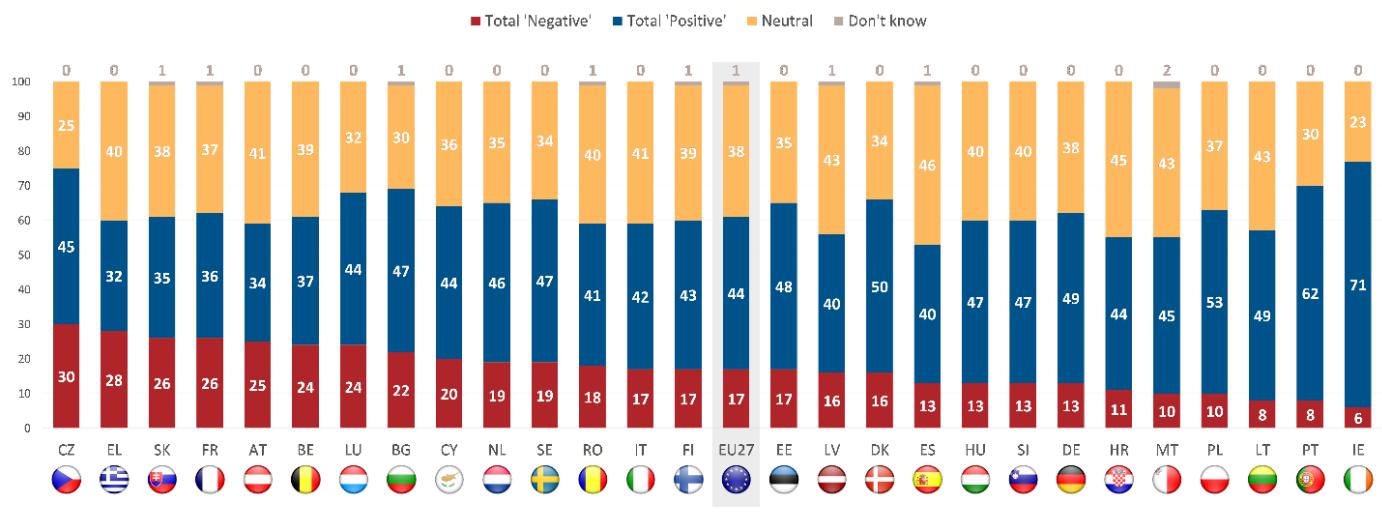


D78 In general, does the EU conjure up for you a very positive, fairly positive, neutral, fairly negative or very negative image? (%)



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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 eight EU Member States, the proportion of respondents who have a positive image of the European Union has increased since spring 2021, most notably in the Netherlands (46%, +7 percentage points), Czechia (45%, +7) and Sweden (47%, +5). Conversely, this share has declined in 15 countries, and by more than five percentage points in Bulgaria (47%, -11), Lithuania (49%, -8), Slovenia (47%, -6) and Spain (40%, -6). This proportion has remained stable in four countries: Portugal (62%), Poland (53%), Germany (49%) and Croatia (44%).

In 17 countries, respondents are more likely than they were in spring 2021 to hold a negative view of the EU. The largest increases are recorded in Bulgaria (22%, +9 percentage points), Luxembourg (24%, +6), Czechia (30%, +5) and France (26%, +5). At the other end of the scale, this proportion has declined in eight countries, particularly in Finland (17%, -6).

Lastly, in 14 countries, the share of respondents who have a neutral image of the EU has increased, especially in Lithuania (43%, +12 percentage points) and Belgium (39%, +5). This proportion has decreased in 11 countries, and by at least five percentage points in Czechia (25%, -12), Cyprus (36%, -6), Denmark (34%, -5) and the Netherlands (35%, -5).

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

	EU27	EURO AREA	NON-EURO AREA	CZ	NL	SE	DK	CY	IE	IT	FI	DE	HR	PL	PT	EL	HU	SK	EE	LU	RO	LV	AT	BE	MT	FR	ES	SI	LT	BG			
Total 'Positive'	Winter 2021/2022	44	42	48	45	46	47	50	44	71	42	43	49	44	53	62	32	47	35	48	44	41	40	34	37	45	36	40	47	49	47		
	Δ Spring 2021	▼1	▼2	=	▲7	▲7	▲5	▲4	▲3	▲1	▲1	▲1	=	=	=	▼1	▼1	▼1	▼2	▼2	▼3	▼4	▼4	▼5	▼6	▼6	▼8	▼11					
Neutral	Winter 2021/2022	38	39	36	25	35	34	34	36	23	41	39	38	45	37	30	40	40	38	35	32	40	43	41	39	43	37	46	40	43	30		
	Δ Spring 2021	=	▲1	▼3	▼12	▼5	▼1	▼5	▼6	▲1	▼2	▲4	▲2	▼2	▲1	▲3	=	▼2	▲1	▼4	▼2	▲1	▲4	▲5	▲1	=	▲4	▲4	▲12	▲4			
Total 'Negative'	Winter 2021/2022	17	18	16	30	19	19	16	20	6	17	13	11	10	8	28	13	26	17	24	18	16	25	24	10	26	13	13	8	22			
	Δ Spring 2021	▲1	▲1	▲3	▲5	▼2	▼4	▲2	▲3	▼2	▲2	▼6	▼2	▲2	▲2	=	▼2	▲1	▲2	▲1	▲6	▲4	▲1	=	▼1	▲2	▲5	▲2	▲2	▼4	▲9		
Don't know	Winter 2021/2022	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	2	1	1	0	0	0	1					
	Δ Spring 2021	=	=	=	=	=	▼1	=	=	▼1	▲1	=	=	▼1	=	=	▲1	=	=	▲1	▼1	=	▲1	=	=	=	=	=	▼2				

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The **socio-demographic data** reveal patterns similar to those observed for trust in the European Union, with age, education and socio-economic status being key factors when it comes to the image respondents have of the EU.

Respondents aged 15-24 (54%) are much more likely than those aged 55 or more (40%) to have a positive image of the European Union, and the same holds true for those who remained in full-time education until the age of 20 or more (53%) compared with those who finished education aged 15 or less (32%).

Six in ten among managers have a positive view of the EU, compared with less than three in ten among the unemployed (28%). Lastly, respondents who never or almost never have difficulties paying their bills (49%) are much more likely to say the EU conjures up for them a positive image than those who have difficulties most of the time (26%).

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

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

	Total 'Positive'	Total 'Negative'	Don't know
EU27	44	17	1
Gender			
Man	46	19	0
Woman	42	16	1
Age			
15-24	54	11	1
25-39	47	17	0
40-54	43	19	0
55 +	40	18	1
Education (End of)			
15-	32	19	2
16-19	38	20	0
20+	53	16	0
Still studying	60	9	0
Socio-professional category			
Self-employed	46	19	0
Managers	60	11	0
Other white collars	48	15	0
Manual workers	37	20	0
House persons	36	17	2
Unemployed	28	30	1
Retired	39	18	1
Students	60	9	0
Difficulties paying bills			
Most of the time	26	34	1
From time to time	35	21	1
Almost never/ Never	49	14	1

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3. Knowledge of the European Union

3.1 Knowledge of how the European Union works

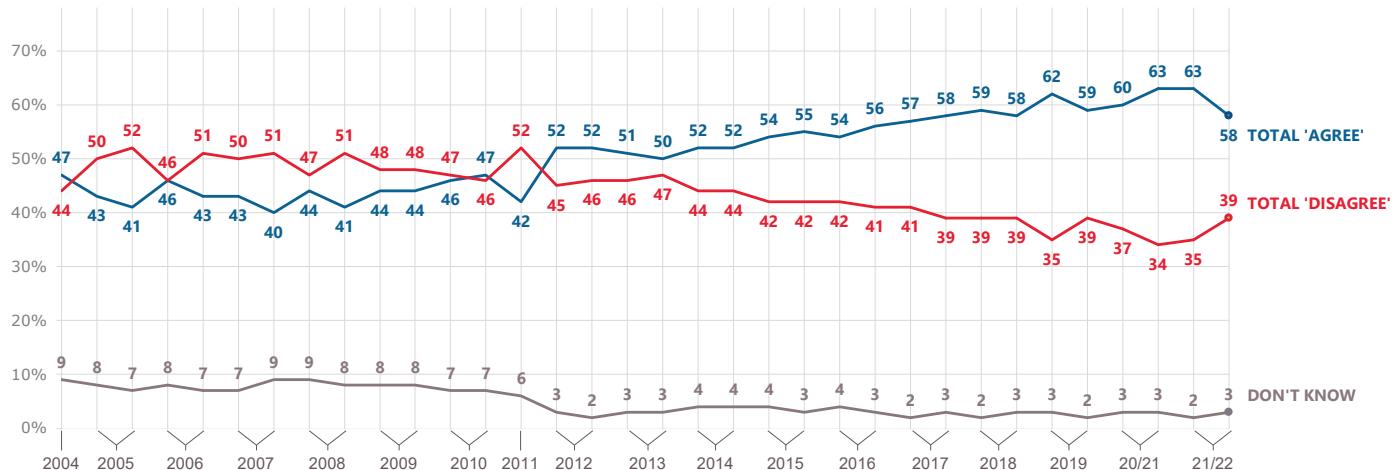
A clear majority say they understand how the EU works

Almost six in ten respondents (58%) say they understand how the EU works. After having attained its highest level since autumn 2004 in the last Standard Eurobarometer surveys, subjective understanding of how of the EU works has decreased by five percentage points since spring 2021, and is now at the same level as in autumn 2018.

Close to four in ten (39%, +4 percentage points) say they do not understand how the EU works, while 3% (+1) express no opinion⁵².

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

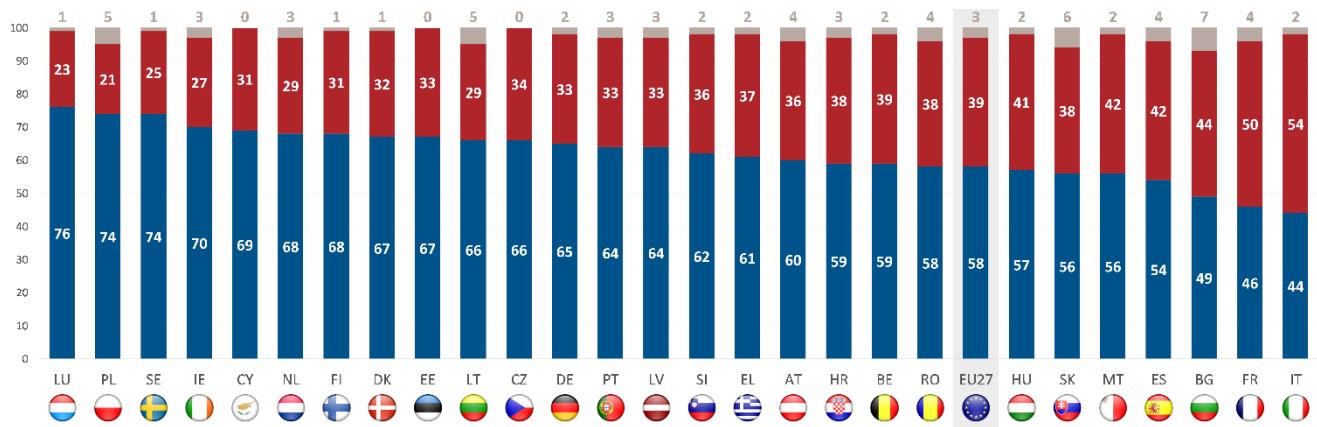
I understand how the EU works (% - EU)



In 25 out of the 27 EU Member States, a majority say they understand how the EU works. The highest proportions giving this answer can be observed in Luxembourg (76%), Poland and Sweden (both 74%), while the lowest can be found in Italy (44%), France (46%) and Bulgaria (49%).

QA9.1 To what extent do you agree or disagree with each of the following statements?
 (% - I understand how the EU works)

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



⁵² QA9.1. Please tell me to what extent you agree or disagree with each of the following statements. I understand how the European Union works.

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The **socio-demographic data** show that subjective understanding of how the EU works is higher among men (63%, compared with 53% of women) and among those in the central age cohorts (62-65% of those aged 25-54, compared with 52-58% of younger and older respondents). Moreover, respondents staying longer in education and those with a higher socio-economic status are also more likely to say that they understand how the EU works. In particular, those who ended full-time education aged 20 or more (72%) are much more likely than those who finished aged 15 or less (34%) to agree with the statement.

Subjective understanding is also high among managers (79%), especially when compared with house persons (41%). Respondents who never or almost never have difficulties paying their bills (63%) are more likely to say that they understand how the EU works than those who have difficulties most of the time (40%). The same holds true for those who see themselves as part of the upper or upper middle class of society (78-80%) compared with those who place themselves within the working class (42%).

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	58	39	3
Gender			
Man	63	35	2
Woman	53	44	3
Age			
15-24	58	39	3
25-39	65	33	2
40-54	62	36	2
55 +	52	44	4
Education (End of)			
15-	34	61	5
16-19	54	43	3
20+	72	26	2
Still studying	63	35	2
Socio-professional category			
Self-employed	68	29	3
Managers	79	20	1
Other white collars	66	32	2
Manual workers	55	42	3
House persons	41	56	3
Unemployed	45	53	2
Retired	49	47	4
Students	63	35	2
Difficulties paying bills			
Most of the time	40	56	4
From time to time	49	48	3
Almost never/ Never	63	34	3
Consider belonging to			
The working class	42	53	5
The lower middle class	52	45	3
The middle class	64	34	2
The upper middle class	78	21	1
The upper class	80	19	1

3.2 Objective knowledge of the European Union

Around one quarter of respondents correctly answer all three questions concerning the European Union

After measuring the subjective impression of understanding, this Standard Eurobarometer survey then quantified objective level of knowledge of the European Union, using a “true/false” quiz consisting of three statements (“the euro area currently consists of 19 Member States”; “the Members of the European Parliament are directly elected by the citizens of each Member State”; “Switzerland is a Member State of the EU”)⁵³.

Around nine in ten respondents (91%, -1 percentage point since spring 2021) were able to give at least one correct answer, while only around one quarter (26%, +1) gave three correct answers. The share of respondents giving three correct answers is significantly higher in the non-euro area (32%, +2) than in the euro area (25%, +2). Respondents in Czechia (46%, +13), Estonia (41%, +7) and Luxembourg (41%, +9) are the most likely to answer the three questions correctly.

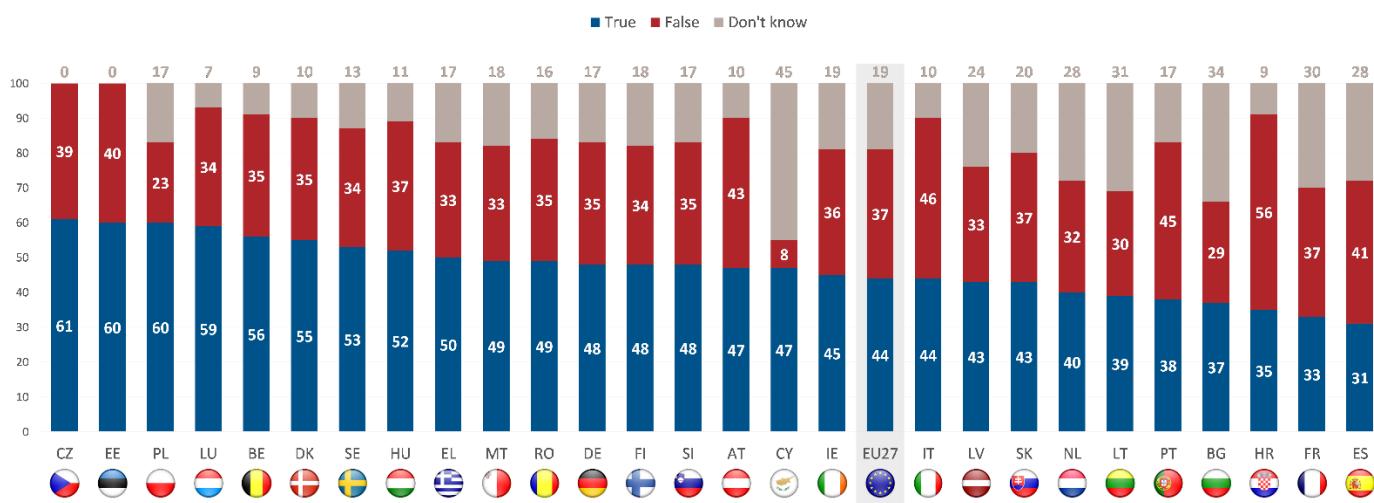
The euro area currently consists of 19 Member States

More than four in ten respondents (44%) correctly answer that “the euro area currently consists of 19 Member States”. Conversely, more than a third (37%) answer incorrectly and 19% say they “don’t know”. These proportions have remained unchanged since spring 2021. Respondents in **euro area** countries (41%) are significantly less likely to correctly answer this question than those in **non-euro area** countries (54%).

In nine countries, at least half of the respondents know the euro area currently consists of 19 Member States. At least six in ten correctly answer this question in Czechia (61%), Estonia and Poland (both 60%). At the opposite end of the spectrum, 31% in Spain, 33% in France and 35% in Croatia give a correct answer. Croatia is the only country where an absolute majority give an incorrect answer (56%), while at least three in ten say they “don’t know” in Cyprus (45%), Bulgaria (34%), Lithuania (31%) and France (30%).

In 12 countries, the proportion of respondents who know the euro area currently comprises 19 Member States has increased since the last Standard Eurobarometer in spring 2021. Increases by more than five percentage points can be found in Czechia (+12 percentage points), Malta (+8), Luxembourg (+7) and Portugal (+6). Conversely, declines in this share of respondents are recorded in 13 countries, with particularly noticeable decreases observed in Lithuania (-24), Finland (-19) and the Netherlands (-13). This figure has remained stable in Croatia and Greece.

SD20a.1 For each of the following statements about the EU could you please tell whether you think it is true or false?
 (% - The Euro area currently consists of 19 Member States)



⁵³ SD20a. For each of the following statements about the EU could you please tell whether you think it is true or false? 1. The Euro area currently consists of 19 Member States; 2. The members of the European

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

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

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

	True	False	Don't know
EU27	44	37	19
Gender			
Man	46	39	15
Woman	43	35	22
Age			
15-24	43	38	19
25-39	47	38	15
40-54	46	39	15
55 +	42	35	23
Education (End of)			
15-	37	31	32
16-19	45	37	18
20+	47	38	15
Still studying	42	41	17
Socio-professional category			
Self-employed	48	41	11
Managers	50	40	10
Other white collars	52	36	12
Manual workers	44	37	19
House persons	41	31	28
Unemployed	35	40	25
Retired	41	34	25
Students	42	41	17
Difficulties paying bills			
Most of the time	34	42	24
From time to time	44	38	18
Almost never/ Never	46	36	18
Consider belonging to			
The working class	37	34	29
The lower middle class	44	37	19
The middle class	47	39	14
The upper middle class	47	39	14
The upper class	56	32	12

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

Long-term trends reveal that knowledge of the fact that MEPs are directly elected by European citizens increases during European Parliament election periods and decreases afterwards. This share of respondents increased in the run-up of the May 2019 European elections and decreased thereafter.

Most recently, this proportion has stabilised at a level that is higher than the one observed after the 2014 European Parliament elections. In the current survey, more than six in ten (63%, -1 percentage point since spring 2021) correctly answer this question, while around a quarter (24%, no change) give an incorrect answer, and a further 13% (+1) say they "don't know".

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

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

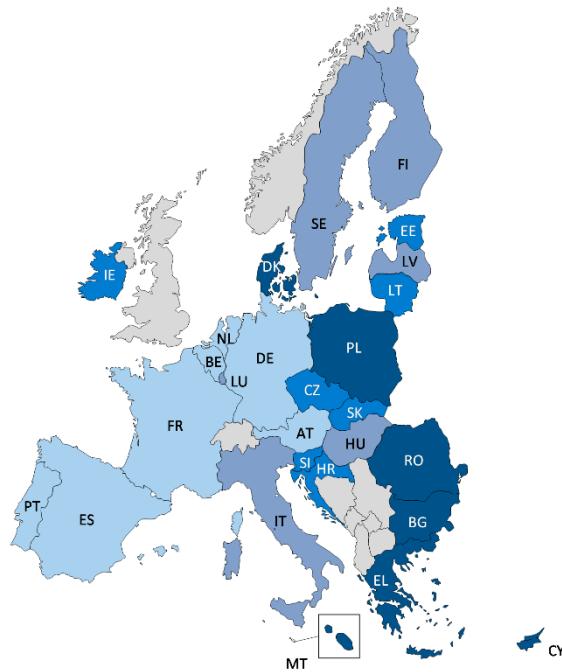
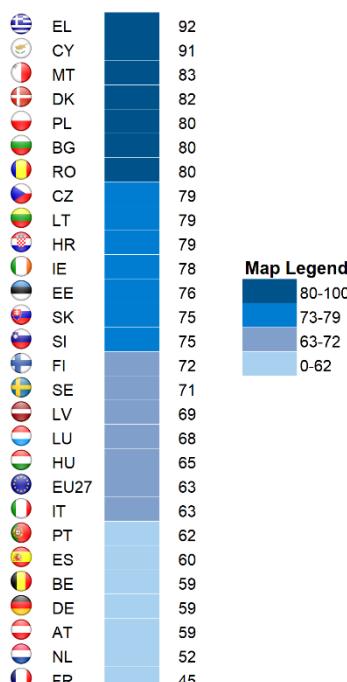


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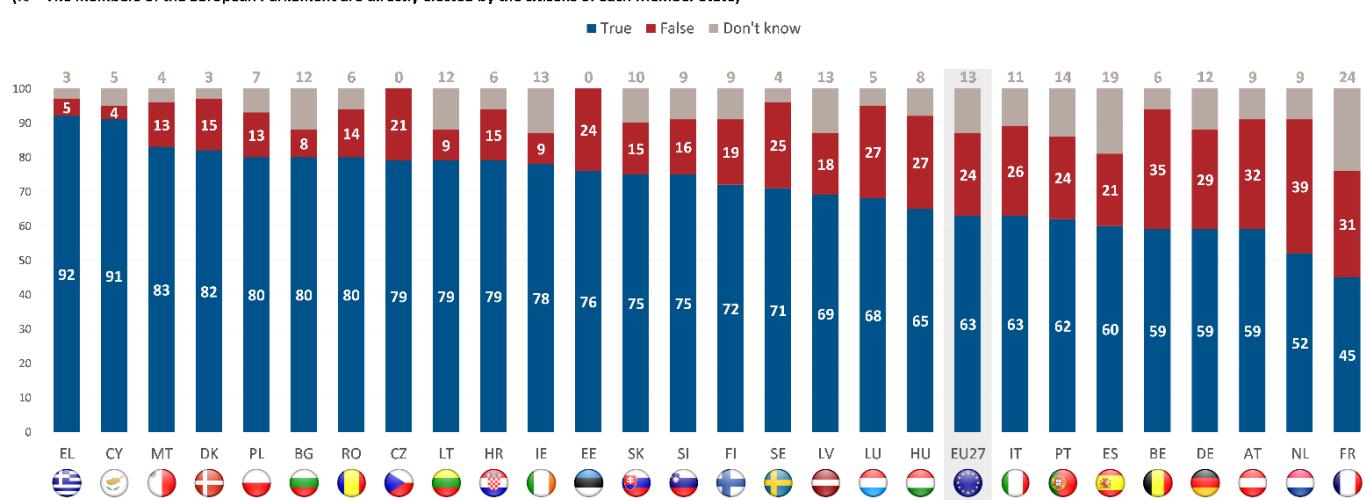
In all but one country, an absolute majority of respondents know that MEPs are directly elected by the citizens of each Member State. The only exception is France, where 45% give a correct answer. The highest proportions correctly answering this question are found in Greece (92%) and Cyprus (91%), followed by Malta (83%). Apart from France, the lowest proportions giving a correct answer are observed in the Netherlands (52%), Austria, Belgium and Germany (all 59%). Respondents are most likely to answer this question incorrectly in the Netherlands (39%), Belgium (35%) and Austria (32%), while less than one in ten do so in Cyprus (4%), Greece (5%), Bulgaria (8%), Ireland and Lithuania (both 9%). In France, almost one quarter (24%) say they "don't know".

In 11 EU Member States, the share of respondents who know that MEPs are directly elected by the citizens of each country has increased since spring 2021, most notably in Czechia, Germany (both +7 percentage points) and Estonia (+6). Conversely, respondents are less likely than they were in spring 2021 to give a correct answer in 13 countries. The largest decreases are found in Finland, Portugal and Spain (all -9). Results are stable in Croatia, the Netherlands and Slovenia.

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



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



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

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

	True	False	Don't know
EU27	63	24	13
 Gender			
Man	67	24	9
Woman	60	25	15
 Age			
15-24	57	29	14
25-39	64	27	9
40-54	66	24	10
55 +	63	21	16
 Education (End of)			
15-	53	21	26
16-19	65	23	12
20+	67	26	7
Still studying	60	28	12
 Socio-professional category			
Self-employed	69	24	7
Managers	71	24	5
Other white collars	69	24	7
Manual workers	62	26	12
House persons	51	24	25
Unemployed	55	28	17
Retired	62	22	16
Students	60	28	12
 Difficulties paying bills			
Most of the time	56	26	18
From time to time	62	25	13
Almost never/ Never	65	24	11
 Consider belonging to			
The working class	60	20	20
The lower middle class	59	28	13
The middle class	66	25	9
The upper middle class	67	27	6
The upper class	81	15	4

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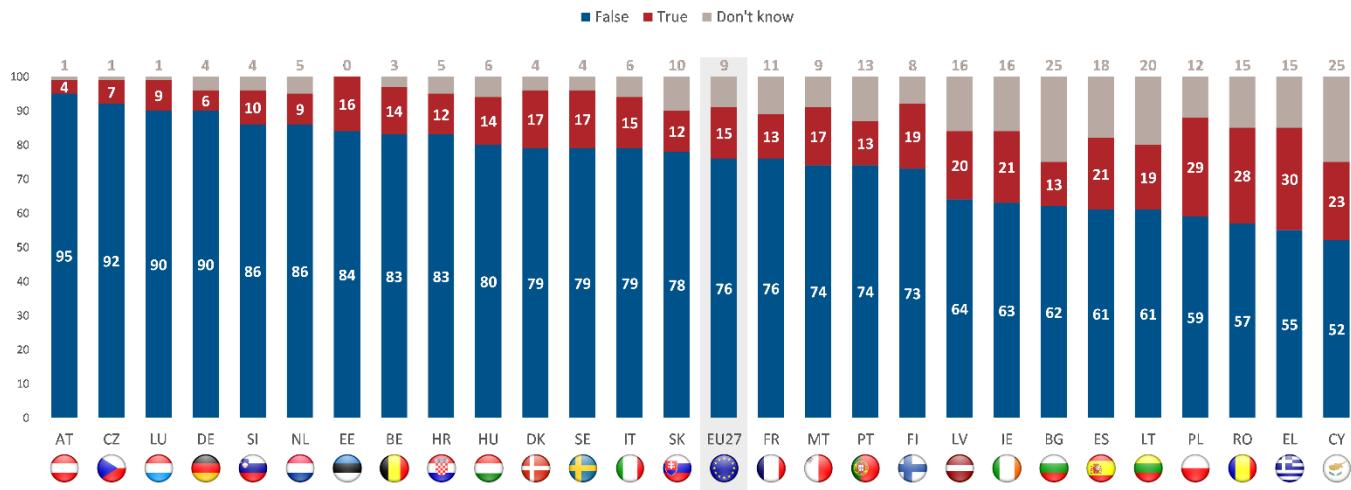
["Switzerland is a Member State of the EU"](#)

Around three quarters (76%, +1 percentage point since spring 2021) correctly indicate that Switzerland is not a Member State of the EU, with 15% (-1) incorrectly answering this question and almost one in ten (9%, no change) providing no answer.

An absolute majority in all countries know that Switzerland is not a Member State of the EU. This proportion ranges from nine in ten or more in Austria (95%), Czechia (92%), Germany and Luxembourg (both 90%) to less than six in ten in Cyprus (52%), Greece (55%), Romania (57%) and Poland (59%). Conversely, more than one quarter give an incorrect answer in Greece (30%), Poland (29%) and Romania (28%), while relatively high proportions offer no answer in Bulgaria, Cyprus (both 25%) and Lithuania (20%).

In 12 countries, the proportion correctly indicating that Switzerland is not an EU Member State has increased since spring 2021, and by more than five percentage points in Czechia (+10 percentage points), Romania (+9) and Bulgaria (+8). At the other end of the scale, in 11 EU Member States, respondents are less likely to give a correct answer than they were in spring 2021. Ireland (-22) stands out for a particularly large decrease in this proportion, followed by Finland (-11) and Lithuania (-9). This figure has remained stable in four countries: France, Germany, Malta and the Netherlands.

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



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

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

	True	False	Don't know
EU27	15	76	9
Gender			
Man	13	81	6
Woman	16	72	12
Age			
15-24	19	72	9
25-39	18	75	7
40-54	14	80	6
55 +	13	75	12
Education (End of)			
15-	16	61	23
16-19	16	76	8
20+	12	84	4
Still studying	18	75	7
Socio-professional category			
Self-employed	13	83	4
Managers	9	89	2
Other white collars	15	79	6
Manual workers	19	71	10
House persons	22	58	20
Unemployed	16	69	15
Retired	12	76	12
Students	18	75	7
Difficulties paying bills			
Most of the time	18	65	17
From time to time	20	69	11
Almost never/ Never	13	80	7
Consider belonging to			
The working class	18	65	17
The lower middle class	15	76	9
The middle class	14	80	6
The upper middle class	11	87	2
The upper class	19	78	3

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SD20a For each of the following statements about the EU could you please tell whether you think it is true or false?
 (% - Correct answers)

			EU27	BE	BG	CZ	DK	DE	EE	IE	EL	ES	FR	HR	IT	CY	LV	LT	LU	HU	MT	NL	AT	PL	PT	RO	SI	SK	FI	SE
The Euro area currently consists of 19 Member States	True	Winter 2021/2022	44	56	37	61	55	48	60	45	50	31	33	35	44	47	43	39	59	52	49	40	47	60	38	49	48	43	48	53
		Δ Spring 2021	=	▼5	▼4	▲12	▲4	▲5	▲2	▼7	=	▲1	▼3	=	▲4	▼4	▼4	▼24	▲7	▲3	▲8	▼13	▲5	▲5	▲6	▼3	▼5	▼8	▼19	▼6
The members of the European Parliament are directly elected by the citizens of each Member State	True	Winter 2021/2022	63	59	80	79	82	59	76	78	92	60	45	79	63	91	69	79	68	65	83	52	59	80	62	80	75	75	72	71
		Δ Spring 2021	▼1	▼6	▼3	▲7	▲4	▲7	▲6	▼6	▲2	▼9	▼4	=	▲2	▲5	▼6	▼4	▲4	▼1	▼6	=	▲5	▲1	▼9	▲3	=	▼5	▼9	▼4
Switzerland is a Member State of the EU	False	Winter 2021/2022	76	83	62	92	79	90	84	63	55	61	76	83	79	52	64	61	90	80	74	86	95	59	74	57	86	78	73	79
		Δ Spring 2021	▲1	▼7	▲8	▲10	▲5	=	▲4	▼22	▼6	▲2	=	▲3	▲3	▼3	▼7	▼9	▲3	▲3	=	=	▲5	▼3	▼1	▲9	▼1	▲1	▼11	▼3

4. The European Union today and tomorrow

4.1 Should more decisions be taken at European level?

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

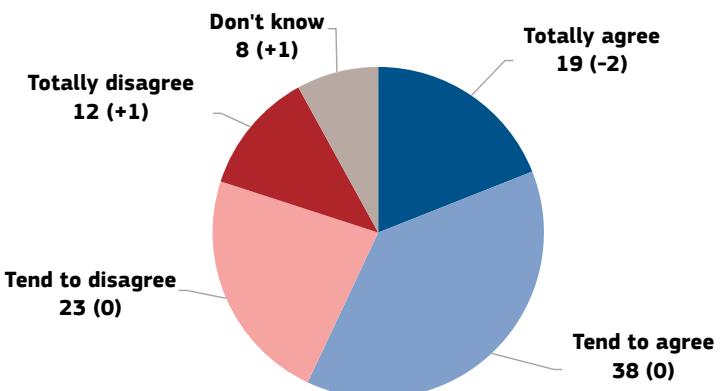
A large majority (57%) agree that more decisions should be taken at EU level. Following a five-percentage point increase between autumn 2019 and summer 2020, this share of respondents remained stable ever since, before slightly declining in the current survey (-2 percentage points since spring 2021). More than one third (35%, +1) disagree with this statement, while 8% (+1) say they "don't know".

Respondents in the **euro area** (58%, -1 percentage point since spring 2021) are more likely to agree that more decisions should be taken at EU level than those in the **non-euro area** (52%, -4)⁵⁴.

In 20 EU Member States, a majority of respondents agree that more decisions should be taken at EU level. Respondents in Cyprus (83%), Spain (76%), Belgium and Portugal (both 73%) are the most likely to be in agreement with this statement. At the opposite end of the scale, one third or less agree in Sweden (26%), Finland (31%) and Slovakia (33%). More than six in ten disagree with this statement in Sweden (71%), Finland (65%), Denmark (64%) and Czechia (62%). In a further three countries, a majority disagree that more decisions should be taken at EU level: Slovakia (54% "disagree" vs 33% "agree"), Austria (53% vs 41%) and Ireland (47% vs 43%).

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

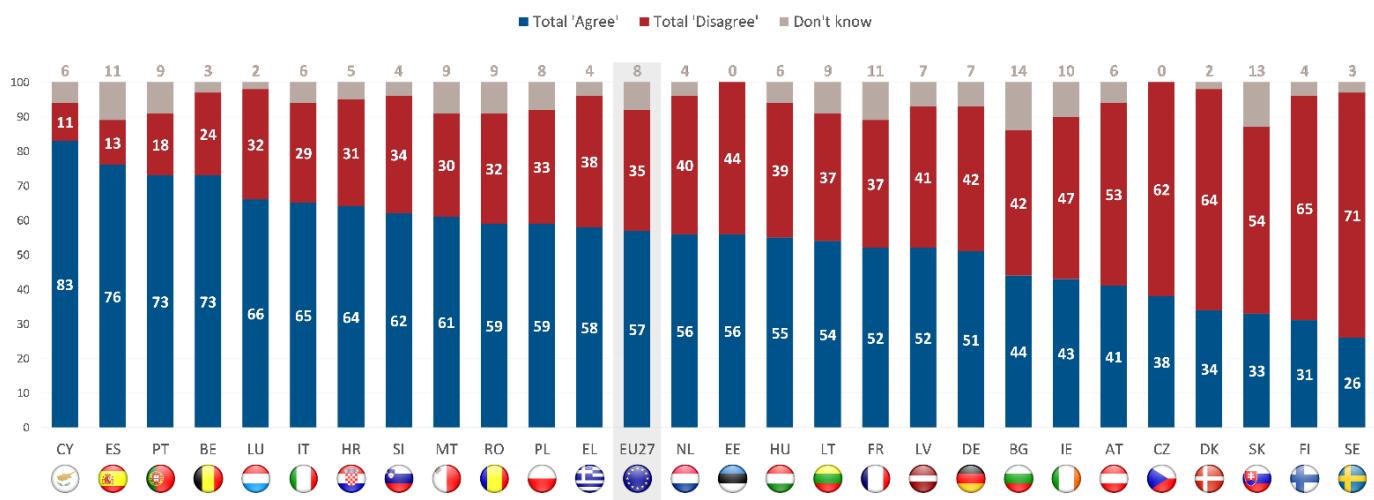
More decisions should be taken at EU level
 (% - EU)



(Winter 2021/2022 - Spring 2021)

The share of respondents who agree that more decisions should be taken at EU level has decreased in 17 EU Member States since spring 2021. The largest declines are recorded in Bulgaria, Romania (both -10 percentage points) and Latvia (-9). This proportion has remained stable or only slightly increased in the remaining ten countries.

QA9.3 To what extent do you agree or disagree with each of the following statements?
 (% - More decisions should be taken at EU level)



⁵⁴ 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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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	EURO AREA	NON-EURO AREA	DK	NL	BE	IT	DE	EE	ES	CY	PL	FI	EL	LU	PT	IE	HR	AT	FR	SE	LT	HU	SI	CZ	MT	SK	LV	BG	RO
Total 'Agree'	Winter 2021/2022	57	58	52	34	56	73	65	51	56	76	83	59	31	58	66	73	43	64	41	52	26	54	55	62	38	61	33	52	44	59
	Δ Spring 2021	▼2	▼1	▼4	▲2	▲2	▲1	▲1	=	=	=	=	=	▼1	▼1	▼1	▼3	▼3	▼3	▼4	▼4	▼7	▼7	▼7	▼8	▼8	▼8	▼9	▼10	▼10	
Total 'Disagree'	Winter 2021/2022	35	34	42	64	40	24	29	42	44	13	11	33	65	38	32	18	47	31	53	37	39	34	62	30	54	41	42	32		
	Δ Spring 2021	▲1	=	▲5	▲1	▼4	▼4	▼1	▼1	=	▼1	▲2	▲1	▼4	▲2	▲2	▲2	▼7	▲4	▲3	▲4	▲1	▼2	▲8	▲5	▲11	▲12	▲3	▲6	▲12	▲9
Don't know	Winter 2021/2022	8	8	6	2	4	3	6	7	0	11	6	8	4	4	2	9	10	5	6	11	3	9	6	4	0	9	13	7	14	9
	Δ Spring 2021	▲1	▲1	▼1	▼3	▲2	▲3	=	▲1	=	▲1	▼2	▼1	▲4	▼1	▼1	▼1	▲10	▼1	=	=	▲3	▲9	▼1	▲2	▼3	▼4	▲5	▲3	▼2	▲1

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The **socio-demographic data** reveal that majorities of respondents in most categories agree that more decisions should be taken at EU level. However, differences can still be observed according to both age and socio-economic status of the respondents.

The view that more decisions should be taken at EU level is particularly widespread among the youngest respondents (65% of those aged 15-24, compared with 53% of those aged 55 or more), those finishing full-time education aged 20 or more (59%, compared with 52% of those who left aged 15 or less) and managers (63%, compared with 51% of the unemployed).

Furthermore, close to six in ten of those who never or almost never have difficulties paying their bills (59%) agree that more decisions should be taken at EU level, while a minority of those who have difficulties most of the time give this answer (43% "agree" vs 47% "disagree"). Lastly, the level of agreement with this statement is high among those who see themselves as belonging to the upper class of society (71%, compared with 50% of those who consider themselves as part of the working class or the lower middle class).

These results are all in line with those observed in the last Standard Eurobarometer surveys.

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	57	35	8
Gender			
Man	57	37	6
Woman	56	35	9
Age			
15-24	65	26	9
25-39	61	34	5
40-54	56	38	6
55 +	53	38	9
Education (End of)			
15-	52	34	14
16-19	55	38	7
20+	59	37	4
Still studying	67	25	8
Socio-professional category			
Self-employed	58	37	5
Managers	63	34	3
Other white collars	59	36	5
Manual workers	55	39	6
House persons	55	33	12
Unemployed	51	40	9
Retired	53	37	10
Students	67	25	8
Difficulties paying bills			
Most of the time	43	47	10
From time to time	55	37	8
Almost never/ Never	59	34	7
Consider belonging to			
The working class	50	38	12
The lower middle class	50	42	8
The middle class	61	33	6
The upper middle class	63	35	2
The upper class	71	26	3

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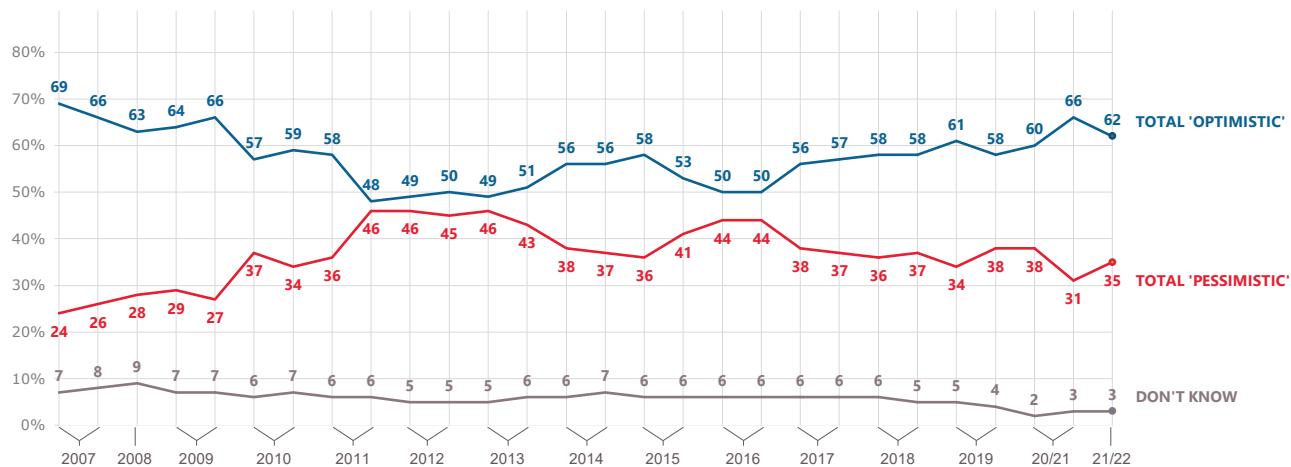
4.2 The future of the European Union

A clear majority is optimistic about the future of the EU

More than six in ten respondents (62%) are optimistic about the future of the European Union. Following a six-percentage point increase between summer 2020 and spring 2021, this share of respondents has declined by four percentage points in the current survey. Conversely, more than one third (35%, +4) are pessimistic about the future of the EU. Less than one in twenty (3%) express no opinion.

The share of respondents who are optimistic about the future of the EU is higher in **non-euro area** countries than in **euro area** countries (66% vs 61%). Nevertheless, both these proportions have decreased since this question was last asked in spring 2021 (-5 and -4 percentage points, respectively). Conversely, respondents in the euro area are more likely to say they are pessimistic than those in the non-euro area (36% vs 32%), with both proportions increasing since spring 2021 (+4 and +5, respectively)⁵⁵.

QA10 Would you say that you are very optimistic, fairly optimistic, fairly pessimistic or very pessimistic about the future of the EU?
 (% - EU)



QA10 Would you say that you are very optimistic, fairly optimistic, fairly pessimistic or very pessimistic about the future of the EU?
 (EU - OPTIMISM INDEX (TOTAL 'OPTIMISTIC' - TOTAL 'PESSIMISTIC'))



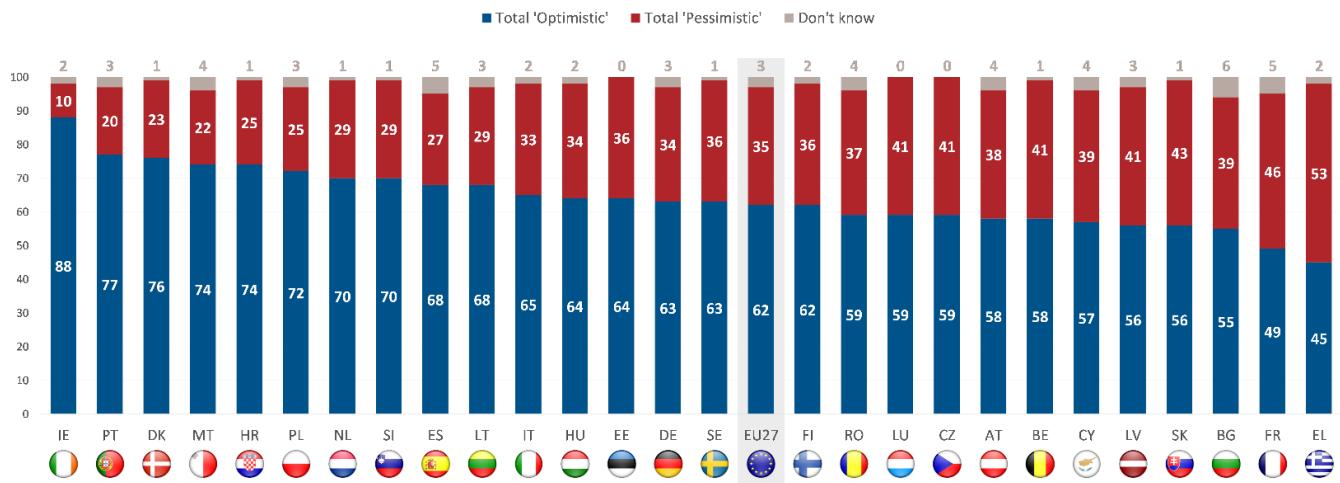
⁵⁵ QA10. Would you say that you are very optimistic, fairly optimistic, fairly pessimistic or very pessimistic about the future of the EU?

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In all but one EU Member States, a majority of respondents say they are optimistic about the future of the European Union. The only exception is Greece, where more than half of the respondents (53%) say they are pessimistic (compared to 45% "optimistic"). Ireland (88%) stands out for a particularly high proportion who express optimism, followed by Portugal (77%) and Denmark (76%). At the opposite end of the scale, less than half in France (49%) say they are optimistic, while 55% in Bulgaria and 56% in Latvia and Slovakia give this answer.

In 20 EU Member States, the proportion of respondents who are optimistic about the future of the EU has declined since spring 2021. This share has decreased the most in Romania (-11 percentage points), Bulgaria (-9) and Poland (-7). The only noticeable increase can be observed in the Netherlands (+5), while this proportion has increased by three percentage points or less in a further five countries. This figure is stable in Estonia.

QA10 Would you say that you are very optimistic, fairly optimistic, fairly pessimistic or very pessimistic about the future of the EU? (%)



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The **socio-demographic data** highlight that majorities in most categories are optimistic about the future of the EU. In line with the patterns observed in terms of trust in and image of the EU, age, education and socio-economic status are key discerning factors when it comes to optimism about the future of the EU.

Optimism is particularly widespread among 15-24 year-olds (73%, compared with 58% of those aged 55 or more) and those who finished education aged 20 or more (69%, compared with 52% of those who left aged 15 or less). Managers (74%) and other white-collar workers (69%) are the most likely to be optimistic about the future of the EU, especially when compared to the unemployed (45%).

More than two thirds among respondents who have never or almost never difficulties paying their bills (68%) are optimistic, while only a minority among those who have difficulties most of the time (38% “optimistic” vs 58% “pessimistic”) share this view. The level of optimism is also high among those who see themselves as part of the upper class of society (78%, compared with 52% of those who consider themselves as belonging to the working class).

Lastly, those who have a positive image of the EU (89%) are much more likely to be optimistic than those who hold a negative opinion of the EU (15%).

QA10 Would you say that you are very optimistic, fairly optimistic, fairly pessimistic or very pessimistic about the future of the EU?
 (% - EU)

	Total 'Optimistic'	Total 'Pessimistic'	Don't Know
EU27	62	35	3
Gender			
Man	62	36	2
Woman	63	33	4
Age			
15-24	73	25	2
25-39	65	33	2
40-54	61	37	2
55 +	58	37	5
Education (End of)			
15-	52	40	8
16-19	58	39	3
20+	69	30	1
Still studying	77	21	2
Socio-professional category			
Self-employed	64	34	2
Managers	74	25	1
Other white collars	69	30	1
Manual workers	57	40	3
House persons	56	38	6
Unemployed	45	52	3
Retired	58	37	5
Students	77	21	2
Difficulties paying bills			
Most of the time	38	58	4
From time to time	54	44	2
Almost never/ Never	68	29	3
Consider belonging to			
The working class	52	43	5
The lower middle class	56	41	3
The middle class	68	30	2
The upper middle class	72	27	1
The upper class	78	22	0
Image of the EU			
Total 'Positive'	89	10	1
Neutral	54	41	5
Total 'Negative'	15	83	2

III. ECONOMIC ISSUES IN THE EUROPEAN UNION



1. How Europeans perceive the economic situation

1.1 Personal aspects

Assessment of personal job and financial situations

Perceptions regarding the personal situation have declined slightly, along with a slight fall in optimism for the future

A majority of Europeans remain satisfied with their personal situation (personal job situation and financial situation of their household) and expect it to stay the same over the next twelve months. There has been a slight deterioration in the current assessment of Europeans' personal situation since the spring 2021 Standard Eurobarometer survey (EB95). There has also been a slight fall in optimism for the future.

- Around seven in ten respondents (72%) are positive about the financial situation of their household (-2 percentage points since spring 2021). By contrast, 26% consider that their household's financial situation is 'bad' (+2) and 2% (=) express no opinion⁵⁶.

- While a majority of respondents still expect the next twelve months to stay the same, there has been a slight fall in optimistic expectations: 59% of Europeans (-1 percentage point) expect their financial situation to stay the same over the coming year, while 22% (-3) expect it to improve and 17% (+4) expect it to deteriorate.
- Six in ten respondents (60%, -4 percentage points) are positive about their personal job situation, while 21% (+1) describe it as 'bad', and 19% (+3) express no opinion.
- Around six in ten respondents (58%, =) expect their personal job situation to stay the same over the next twelve months, while 21% (-2) expect it to improve and 10% (+1) expect it to deteriorate⁵⁷.

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

The financial situation of your household



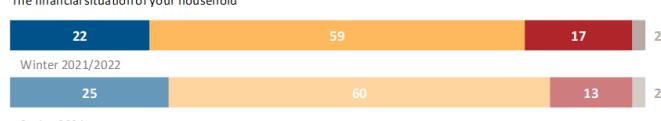
Your personal job situation



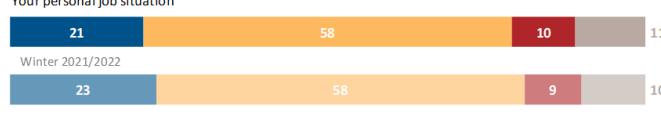
■ Total 'Good' ■ Total 'Bad' ■ Don't know

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

The financial situation of your household



Your personal job situation



■ Better ■ Same ■ Worse ■ Don't know

⁵⁶ QA1a4-5. How would you judge the current situation in each of the following? The financial situation of your household/your personal job situation.

⁵⁷ 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.

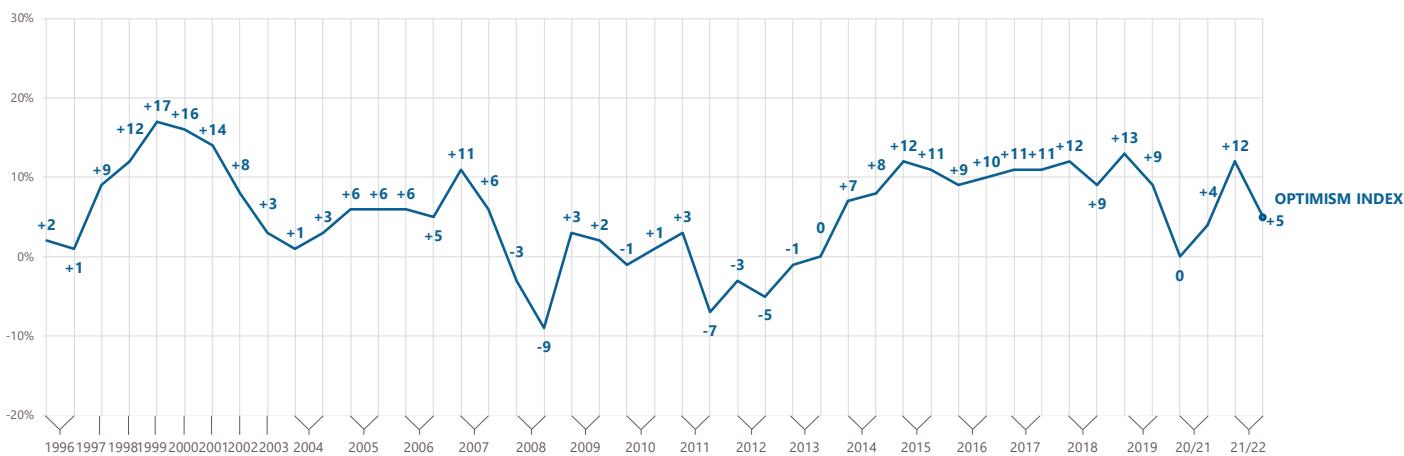
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The optimism index⁵⁸ for expectations regarding the household financial situation stands at +5 (-7 index points since spring 2021).

The figure has been somewhat volatile during the coronavirus pandemic, following a more stable period between 2014 and 2019.

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

The financial situation of your household (EU - OPTIMISM INDEX (BETTER - WORSE))



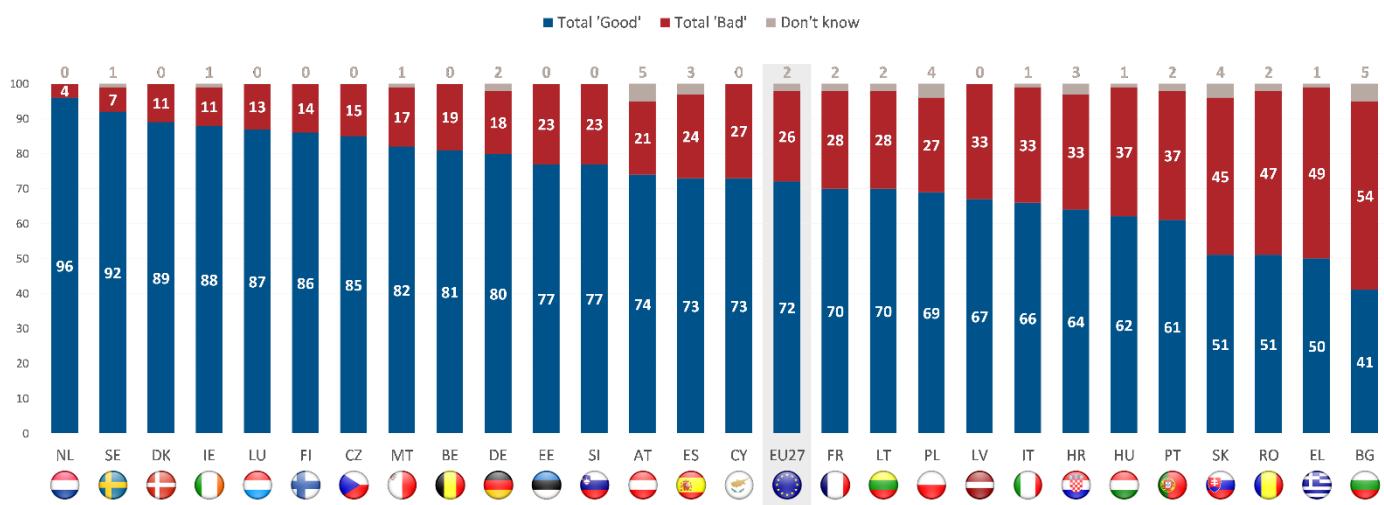
⁵⁸ Difference between positive ("better") and negative ("worse") answers.

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A majority of respondents consider that the **financial situation of their household** is 'good' in 26 Member States of the European Union, most markedly in the Netherlands (96%), Sweden (92%), Denmark (89%), Ireland (88%), Luxembourg (87%) and Finland (86%).

Respondents are predominantly negative rather than positive in Bulgaria (54% 'bad' vs 41% 'good'), while the proportion of negative ratings is also high in Greece (49%), Romania (47%) and Slovakia (45%).

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



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The **socio-demographic** data show that a majority of respondents in most groups consider that the financial situation of their household is 'good'. This view is held most strongly by respondents aged 15-24 (79%), those who remained in education until the age of 20 or older (83%), managers (90%), those who never or almost never have difficulties paying bills (86%) and those who consider themselves as belonging to the upper class (92%) or upper middle class (91%) 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 (67% 'bad' vs 32% 'good') and people who have difficulties paying their bills most of the time (81% vs 17%).

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

	Total 'Good'	Total 'Bad'	Don't know
EU27	72	26	2
Gender			
Man	74	24	2
Woman	71	27	2
Age			
15-24	79	18	3
25-39	74	25	1
40-54	70	28	2
55 +	70	28	2
Education (End of)			
15-	59	39	2
16-19	67	31	2
20+	83	16	1
Still studying	79	17	4
Socio-professional category			
Self-employed	73	26	1
Managers	90	9	1
Other white collars	79	20	1
Manual workers	69	29	2
House persons	60	37	3
Unemployed	32	67	1
Retired	71	27	2
Students	79	17	4
Difficulties paying bills			
Most of the time	17	81	2
From time to time	52	46	2
Almost never/ Never	86	12	2
Consider belonging to			
The working class	52	46	2
The lower middle class	60	39	1
The middle class	82	16	2
The upper middle class	91	8	1
The upper class	92	8	0

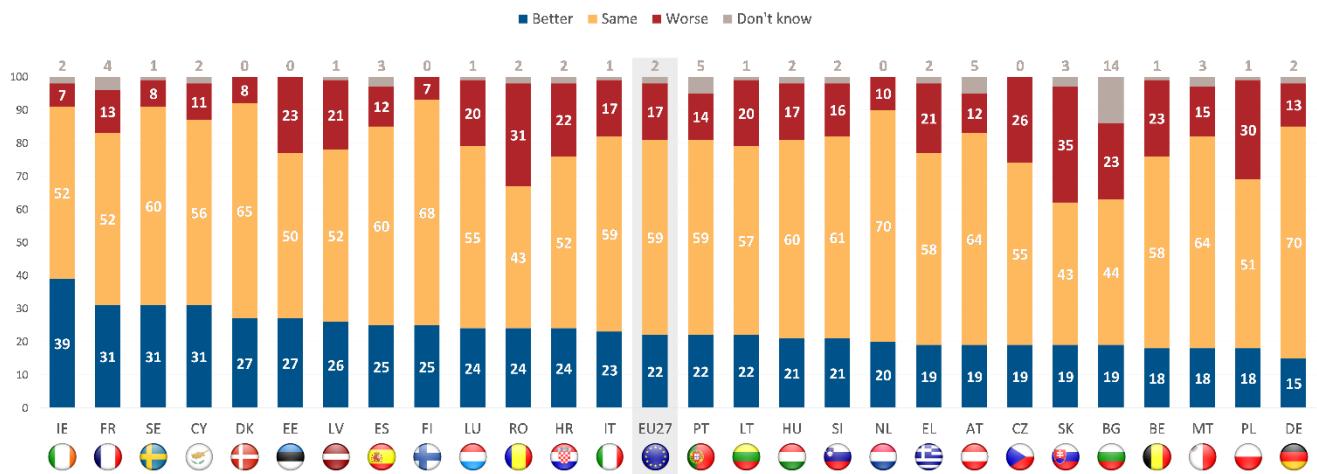
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Public opinion in the European Union
Spring 2021

In all Member States, the prevailing view is that the **financial situation of the household** is expected to stay the same, with respondents particularly likely to say this in the Netherlands, Germany (70% in both) and Finland (68%).

Optimism outweighs pessimism in 20 countries, with respondents most likely to be optimistic in Ireland (39%), France, Cyprus and Sweden (31% in all three countries). By contrast, respondents are more likely to be pessimistic than optimistic in seven Member States, with respondents most pessimistic in Slovakia (35%), Romania (31%) and Poland (30%).

Since spring 2021, the **optimism index** for the household financial situation has improved in six EU Member States, most strikingly in Ireland (+14 index points), Cyprus (+13), and Slovenia (+7). It has stayed the same in Hungary, and has declined in 20 countries, with the largest decreases seen in Croatia (-17), Estonia (-16), Poland (-14), Bulgaria and Slovakia (-13 in both countries).

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



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

	EU27	IE	CY	SI	FI	AT	FR	HU	DK	NL	SE	EL	LT	DE	IT	LV	PT	MT	BE	LU	RO	CZ	ES	BG	SK	PL	EE	HR	
Better - Worse Winter 2021/2022	+5	+32	+20	+5	+18	+7	+18	+4	+19	+10	+23	-2	+2	+2	+6	+5	+8	+3	-5	+4	-7	-7	+13	-4	-16	-12	+4	+2	
Better - Worse Spring 2021	+12	+18	+7	-2	+15	+5	+17	+4	+20	+11	+26	+2	+6	+7	+11	+11	+14	+12	+5	+14	+4	+5	+25	+9	-3	+2	+20	+19	
Δ Spring 2021		▼7	▲14	▲13	▲7	▲3	▲2	▲1	=	▼1	▼1	▼3	▼4	▼4	▼5	▼5	▼6	▼6	▼9	▼10	▼10	▼11	▼12	▼12	▼13	▼13	▼14	▼16	▼17

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The **socio-demographic** data show 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 (36% vs 11%), but the reverse is true of respondents aged 55 or over (12% vs 18%).

Optimism outweighs pessimism in most other groups, notably respondents who remained in education until the age of 20 or older (25% vs 14%), students (35% vs 10%), self-employed workers (29% vs 16%), white collar workers (29% vs 15%). By contrast, levels of pessimism are highest among respondents who left education by the age of 15 (20% pessimistic vs 13% optimistic), those who are retired (17% pessimistic vs 9% optimistic) and those who have difficulties paying their bills most of the time (35% vs 22%).

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

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

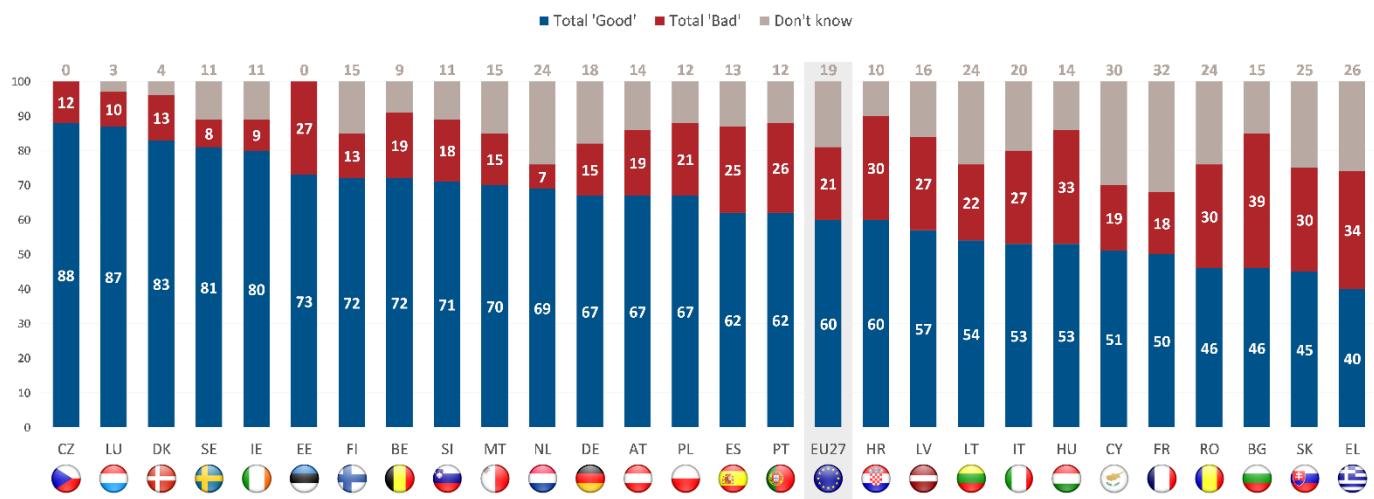
	Better	Worse	Same	Don't know
EU27	22	17	59	2
 Gender				
Man	24	16	58	2
Woman	21	18	59	2
 Age				
15-24	36	11	51	2
25-39	33	15	49	3
40-54	24	19	55	2
55 +	12	18	68	2
 Education (End of)				
15-	13	20	64	3
16-19	20	19	58	3
20+	25	14	59	2
Still studying	35	10	53	2
 Socio-professional category				
Self-employed	29	16	53	2
Managers	22	12	65	1
Other white collars	29	15	54	2
Manual workers	26	20	51	3
House persons	19	21	58	2
Unemployed	31	27	37	5
Retired	9	17	72	2
Students	35	10	53	2
 Difficulties paying bills				
Most of the time	22	35	39	4
From time to time	24	25	49	2
Almost never/ Never	22	11	65	2

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Six in ten Europeans (60%) say that their **personal job situation** is 'good', while around one in five (21%) say it is 'bad' and the remainder (19%) do not know. In all 27 EU Member States, a majority of respondents are positive about their personal job situation, most markedly in Czechia (88%), Luxembourg (87%),

Denmark (83%), Sweden (81%) and Ireland (80%). Respondents are most likely to be negative about their personal job situation in Bulgaria (39%), Greece (34%), Hungary (33%), Slovakia, Romania and Croatia (30% in all three countries).

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



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The **socio-demographic** data show that a majority of respondents in most groups are positive about their personal job situation. Men (64%) are more likely than women (58%) to be positive, while the most positive age groups are those aged 25-39 (73%) and 40-54 (71%). This is partly because they are more likely to have an opinion (either positive or negative) than those in the youngest or oldest age groups.

Positive views are also strongly held by respondents who remained in education until the age of 20 or older (73%), managers (90%), other white collar workers (82%) and those who consider themselves as belonging to the upper class or upper middle class of society (77% for both). However, respondents are more likely to say that their personal job situation is 'bad' rather than 'good' if they are unemployed (76% bad vs 16% good) and if they have difficulties paying bills most of the time (59% vs 24%).

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

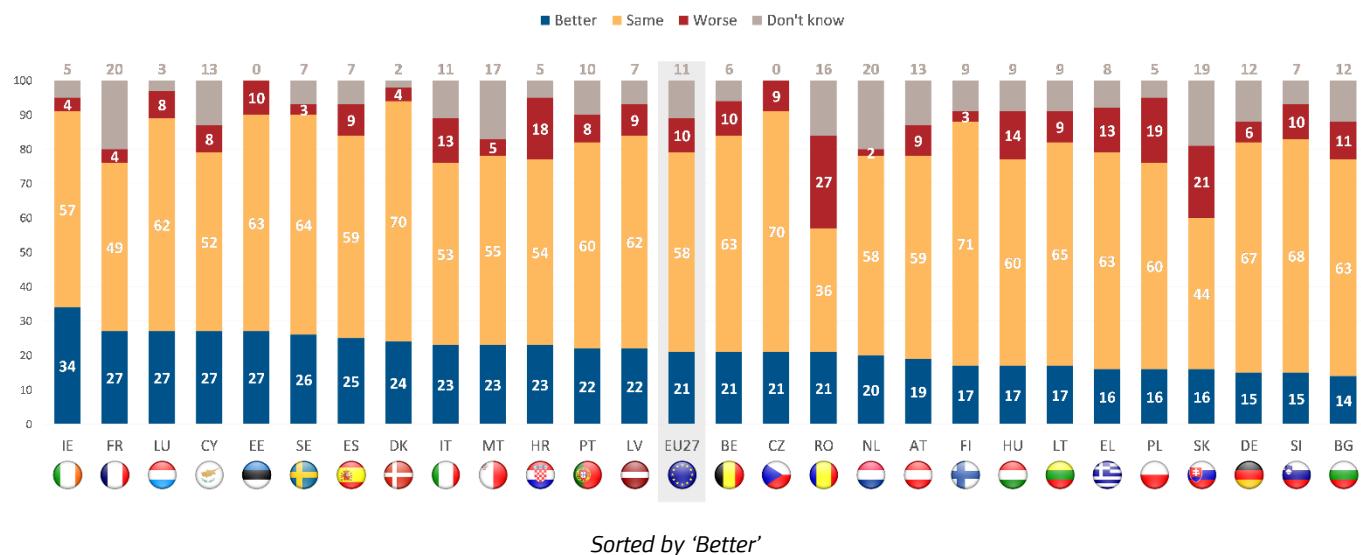
	Total 'Good'	Total 'Bad'	Don't know
EU27	60	21	19
 Gender			
Man	64	21	15
Woman	58	20	22
 Age			
15-24	58	19	23
25-39	73	24	3
40-54	71	26	3
55 +	49	17	34
 Education (End of)			
15-	40	24	36
16-19	59	24	17
20+	73	16	11
Still studying	56	15	29
 Socio-professional category			
Self-employed	74	24	2
Managers	90	9	1
Other white collars	82	17	1
Manual workers	72	25	3
House persons	39	29	32
Unemployed	16	76	8
Retired	41	13	46
Students	56	15	29
 Difficulties paying bills			
Most of the time	24	59	17
From time to time	50	34	16
Almost never/ Never	69	11	20
 Consider belonging to			
The working class	46	32	22
The lower middle class	51	28	21
The middle class	68	15	17
The upper middle class	77	9	14
The upper class	77	7	16

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Public opinion in the European Union
Spring 2021

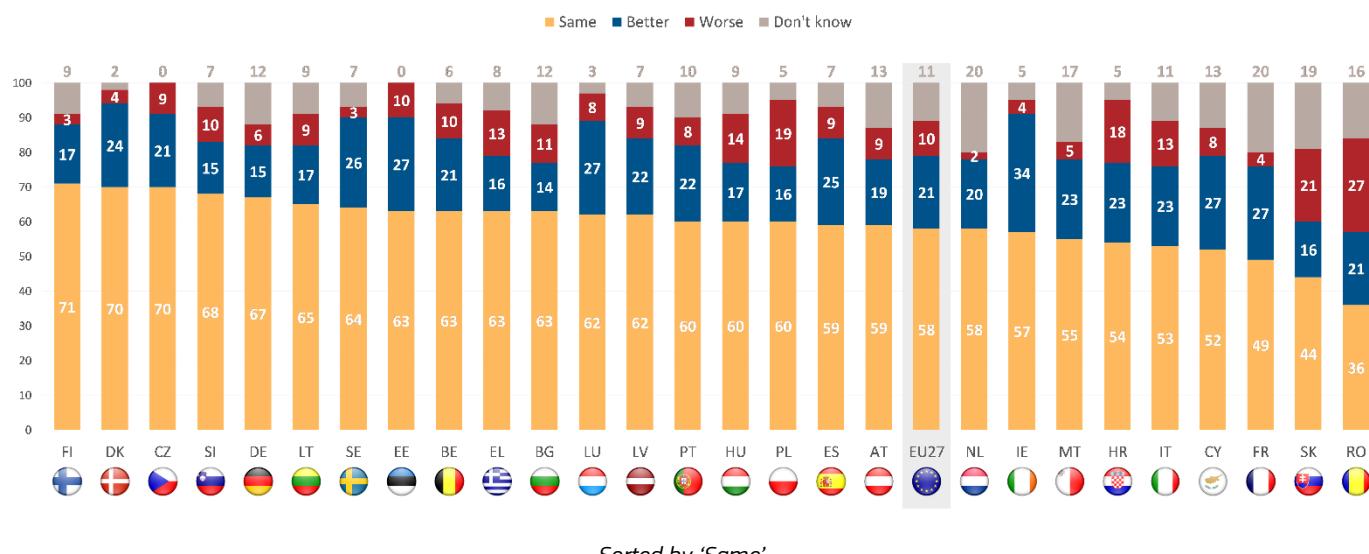
A majority of respondents in all Member States expect their **personal job situation** to remain the same over the next twelve months. This view is most strongly held in Finland (71%), Czechia and Denmark (70% in both countries). Among those who expect the situation to change, optimists outnumber pessimists in 24 Member States, with optimism the most widespread in Ireland (34%), Estonia, France, Cyprus and Luxembourg (27% in all four countries).

In three countries, respondents are more likely to be pessimistic than optimistic: Romania (27% 'worse' vs 21% 'better'), Slovakia (21% vs 16%) and Poland (19% vs 16%).

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



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



Sorted by 'Same'

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Public opinion in the European Union
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Since spring 2021, the **optimism index** for the personal job situation has improved in 10 EU Member States, most notably Cyprus (+11 index points) and the Netherlands (+6).

It has stayed the same in Latvia, and has deteriorated in 16 countries, with the largest falls seen in Spain, Croatia (-10 index points in both) and Bulgaria (-9).

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

Your personal job situation (INDEX) (%)

	EU27	CY	NL	IE	MT	FI	LU	SI	CZ	DK	AT	LV	FR	EL	IT	LT	HU	PT	BE	DE	EE	SE	SK	PL	RO	BG	ES	HR
Better - Worse Winter 2021/2022	+11	+19	+18	+30	+18	+14	+19	+5	+12	+20	+10	+13	+23	+3	+10	+8	+3	+14	+11	+9	+17	+23	-5	-3	-6	+3	+16	+5
Better - Worse Spring 2021	+14	+8	+12	+25	+13	+10	+16	+3	+11	+19	+9	+13	+24	+5	+12	+10	+5	+16	+14	+12	+20	+27	+1	+4	+1	+12	+26	+15
▲ Spring 2021	▼3	▲11	▲6	▲5	▲5	▲4	▲3	▲2	▲1	▲1	▲1	=	▼1	▼2	▼2	▼2	▼3	▼3	▼3	▼4	▼6	▼7	▼7	▼9	▼10	▼10		

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The **socio-demographic** data show that, in nearly every group, a majority expect their personal job situation to remain the same over the next twelve months. The only exception is the group of unemployed respondents, who are slightly more likely to say the situation will get better than stay the same (36% vs 35%).

In most categories optimism outweighs pessimism, most notably respondents aged 15-24 (37% vs 8%), students (39% vs 7%), respondents who remained in education until the age of 20 or older (23% vs 8%), self-employed respondents (28% vs 13%), and unemployed respondents (36% vs 20%).

By contrast, there are some groups where levels of optimism and pessimism are quite similar: respondents aged 55 or over (9% optimistic vs 8% pessimistic), those who left education at the age of 15 or before (12% vs 9%), house persons (14% vs 12%), retired respondents (5% vs 6%) and those who have difficulties paying bills most of the time (20% vs 22%).

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

Your personal job situation (%) - EU)

	Better	Worse	Same	Don't know
EU27	21	10	58	11
 Gender				
Man	23	10	57	10
Woman	19	10	59	12
 Age				
15-24	37	8	45	10
25-39	32	11	54	3
40-54	24	14	59	3
55 +	9	8	63	20
 Education (End of)				
15-	12	9	58	21
16-19	19	12	58	11
20+	23	8	62	7
Still studying	39	7	43	11
 Socio-professional category				
Self-employed	28	13	56	3
Managers	22	6	70	2
Other white collars	26	11	61	2
Manual workers	25	14	57	4
House persons	14	12	58	16
Unemployed	36	20	35	9
Retired	5	6	62	27
Students	39	7	43	11
 Difficulties paying bills				
Most of the time	20	22	47	11
From time to time	21	17	52	10
Almost never/ Never	21	6	62	11
 Consider belonging to				
The working class	18	11	57	14
The lower middle class	20	12	57	11
The middle class	22	10	58	10
The upper middle class	21	6	64	9
The upper class	33	10	51	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 remained stable

Attitudes towards the national economy and European economy are unchanged since spring 2021⁵⁹.

Four in ten respondents in the EU (39%, -1 percentage point since spring 2021) are positive about the **economic situation in their country**, while 59% (+1) are negative and 2% (=) say they don't know.

More than four in ten Europeans (45%, +1 percentage point since spring 2021) consider that the **situation of the European economy** is 'good', while a similar proportion 44% (-1) think that it is 'bad' and 11% (=) say they don't know.

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

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

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

The situation of the European economy



Winter 2021/2022

The situation of the (NATIONALITY) economy



Winter 2021/2022

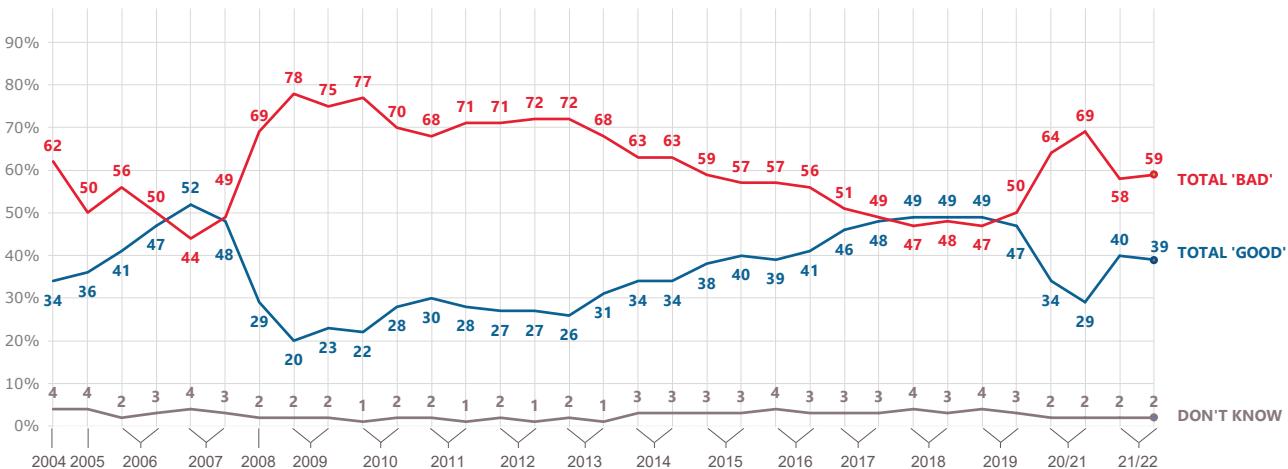
The situation of the European economy



Spring 2021

■ Total 'Good' ■ Total 'Bad' ■ Don't know

Negative views continue to outweigh positive views regarding the **situation of the national economy** in the 27 Member States as a whole. However, perceptions have stabilised since spring 2021, following major fluctuations between autumn 2019 and spring 2021.



⁵⁹ 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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Public opinion in the European Union
Spring 2021

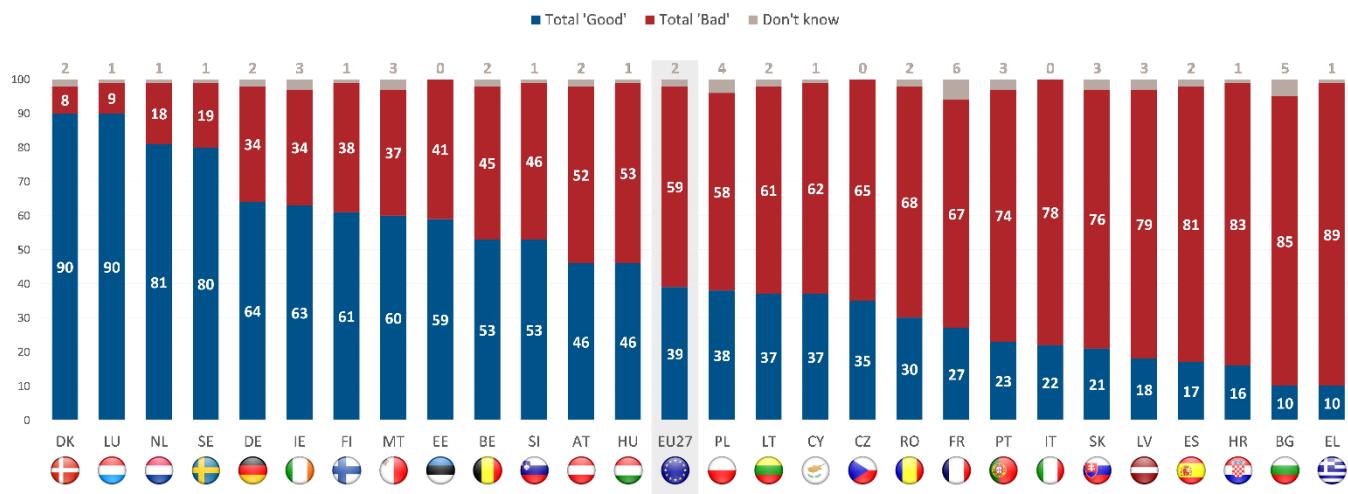
Assessments of the **national economic situation** continue to vary considerably within the 27 EU Member States, with a difference of 80 percentage points between the positive opinions recorded in Luxembourg and Denmark (90% in both), compared with Bulgaria and Greece (10% in both countries).

Respondents are predominantly positive in 11 Member States, compared with 12 in spring 2021.

Respondents in Luxembourg, Denmark (90% in both), the Netherlands (81%) and Sweden (80%) are the most positive.

A majority of respondents are negative in 16 Member States, most markedly in Greece (89%), Bulgaria (85%), Croatia (83%) and Spain (81%).

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



Standard Eurobarometer 96
Public opinion in the European Union
Spring 2021

Respondents from countries outside the euro area are slightly more likely to be positive about the national economic situation than countries in the euro area (41% vs 39%). However, the difference has narrowed since spring 2021: in the **euro area** countries, perceptions of the national economic situation have remained unchanged, while in countries **outside the euro area**, positive opinions have decreased by 3 percentage points, with negative perceptions showing a corresponding increase (+3).

Since spring 2021, positive perceptions of the national economic situation have gained ground in 12 Member States, most notably Portugal (23%, +12 percentage points), Denmark (90%, +6), Italy (22%, +6) and Cyprus (37%, +6).

Perceptions have become more negative in 13 countries, with large decreases seen in Lithuania (37%, -18 percentage points), Belgium (53%, -13) and Estonia (59%, -10). There has been no change in Czechia (35%, =) and Croatia (16%, =).

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

	EU27	EURO AREA	NON-EURO AREA	PT	DK	IT	CY	IE	ES	SI	HU	FI	SE	EL	LU	CZ	HR	BG	FR	AT	RO	SK	DE	MT	NL	PL	LV	EE	BE	LT			
Total 'Good'	Winter 2021/2022	39	39	41	23	90	22	37	63	17	53	46	61	80	10	90	35	16	10	27	46	30	21	64	60	81	38	18	59	53	37		
	Δ Spring 2021			▼1	=	▼3	▲12	▲6	▲6	▲6	▲5	▲5	▲3	▲2	▲2	▲2	▲1	▲1	=	▼2	▼3	▼3	▼4	▼4	▼5	▼6	▼6	▼7	▼10	▼13	▼18		
Total 'Bad'	Winter 2021/2022	59	59	56	74	8	78	62	34	81	46	53	38	19	89	9	65	83	85	67	52	68	76	34	37	18	58	79	41	45	61		
	Δ Spring 2021			▲1	=	▲3	▼14	▼4	▼5	▼6	▼8	▼7	▼3	▼2	▼2	▼3	▼2	▲1	▲2	=	▲5	▲3	▲2	▲4	▲3	▲5	▲10	▲5	▲7	▲6	▲10	▲11	▲16
Don't know	Winter 2021/2022	2	2	3	3	2	0	1	3	2	1	1	1	1	1	0	1	5	6	2	2	3	2	3	1	4	3	0	2	2			
	Δ Spring 2021			=	=	=	▲2	▼2	▼1	=	▲3	▲2	=	=	=	▲1	▲1	▼2	▼2	=	▲1	=	▲1	=	▼4	▲1	▼1	▲1	=	▲2	▲2		

Standard Eurobarometer 96
Public opinion in the European Union
Spring 2021

The **socio-demographic** data show that, in most groups, a majority of respondents are negative about the national economic situation. The exceptions are managers (54% 'good' vs 44% 'bad') and those who place themselves in the upper class (67% vs 32%) or upper middle class (60% vs 39%) of society. Among respondents who remained in education until the age of 20 or older, equal proportions are positive and negative (both 49%).

The proportions that rate the national economic situation as 'bad' are highest among Europeans who finished education aged 15 or earlier (73%), unemployed respondents (77%), house persons (70%), people who have difficulties paying their bills most of the time (83%) and those who place themselves in the working class of society (72%).

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

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

	Total 'Good'	Total 'Bad'	Don't know
EU27	39	59	2
Gender			
Man	42	56	2
Woman	37	60	3
Age			
15-24	42	54	4
25-39	40	59	1
40-54	38	60	2
55 +	39	58	3
Education (End of)			
15-	24	73	3
16-19	35	63	2
20+	49	49	2
Still studying	46	50	4
Socio-professional category			
Self-employed	41	58	1
Managers	54	44	2
Other white collars	40	59	1
Manual workers	34	64	2
House persons	28	70	2
Unemployed	21	77	2
Retired	40	57	3
Students	46	50	4
Difficulties paying bills			
Most of the time	15	83	2
From time to time	29	69	2
Almost never/ Never	46	52	2
Consider belonging to			
The working class	26	72	2
The lower middle class	31	67	2
The middle class	45	53	2
The upper middle class	60	39	1
The upper class	67	32	1

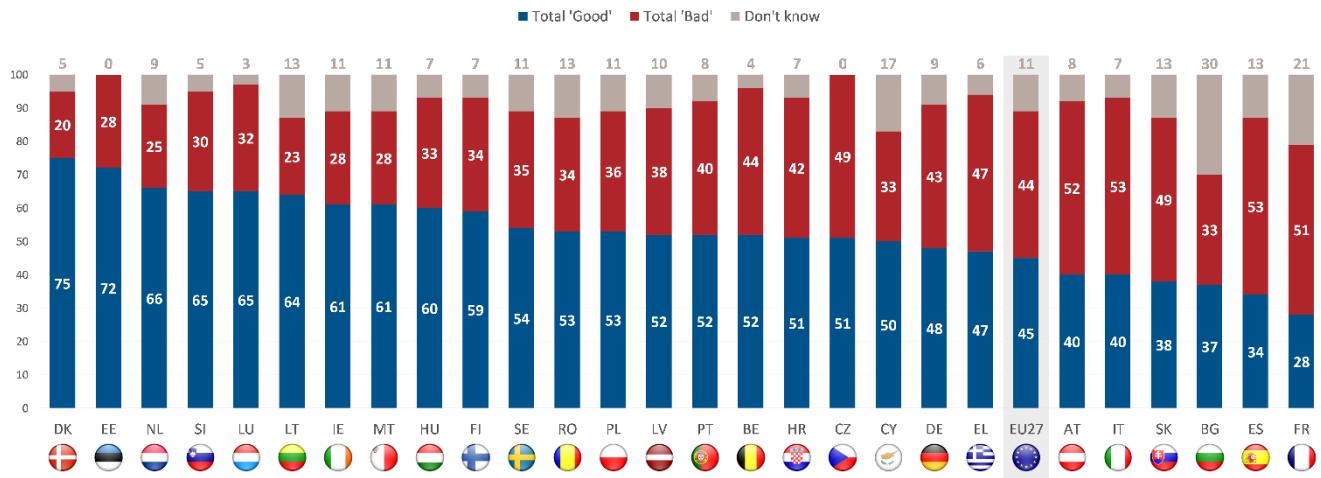
Standard Eurobarometer 96
Public opinion in the European Union
Spring 2021

A majority of respondents consider that the **situation of the European economy** is 'good' in 21 EU Member States, compared with 22 in spring 2021. Respondents in Denmark (75%), Estonia (72%), the Netherlands (66%), Slovenia and Luxembourg (65% in both) are the most positive about the European economic situation.

A majority of respondents are negative about the situation of the European economy in five Member States: Italy, Spain (53% in both), Austria (52%), France (51%) and Slovakia (49%).

There is an equal split of positive and negative views in Greece (47% vs 47%).

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



Standard Eurobarometer 96
Public opinion in the European Union
Spring 2021

Respondents from countries outside the euro area are more likely to be positive about the economic situation in the European Union than countries in the euro area (53% vs 42%). The gap has narrowed slightly since spring 2021. In the **euro area countries**, positive perceptions of the European economy have increased marginally (+1 percentage point), while in **countries outside the euro area**, positive opinions have decreased by three percentage points.

Since spring 2021, positive perceptions of the situation of the European economy have gained ground in nine Member States. The largest increases in positive perceptions can be seen in Denmark (75%, +13 percentage points), Italy (40%, +11) and Luxembourg (65%, +7). There has been a decline in positive perceptions in 15 countries, most notably in Lithuania (64%, -16), Belgium (52%, -13), Sweden (54%, -11) and Bulgaria (37%, -8). In three countries (Greece, Croatia and Hungary), there has been no change since spring 2021.

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

The situation of the European economy (%)

	EU27	EURO AREA	NON-EURO AREA	DK	IT	LU	ES	DE	PT	FI	CY	CZ	EL	HR	HU	AT	FR	RO	MT	NL	EE	PL	SI	IE	LV	SK	BG	SE	BE	LT			
Total 'Good'				45	42	53	75	40	65	34	48	52	59	50	51	47	51	60	40	28	53	61	66	72	53	65	61	52	38	37	54	52	64
Winter 2021/2022																																	
Δ Spring 2021				▲1	▲1	▼3	▲13	▲11	▲7	▲4	▲3	▲3	▲3	▲2	▲1	=	=	=	▼1	▼2	▼2	▼3	▼3	▼4	▼4	▼7	▼7	▼7	▼8	▼11	▼13	▼16	
Total 'Bad'				44	47	36	20	53	32	53	43	40	34	33	49	47	42	33	52	51	34	28	25	28	36	30	28	38	49	33	35	44	23
Δ Spring 2021				▼1	▼1	▲3	▼9	▼12	▼3	▼2	▼1	▼3	▼10	▼5	▲5	▲2	▲2	▼1	▼1	▲4	▲4	▲8	▼3	▲4	▲5	▲2	▼4	▲5	▲2	▲8	=	▲9	▲3
Don't know				11	11	11	5	7	3	13	9	8	7	17	0	6	7	7	8	21	13	11	9	0	11	5	11	10	13	30	11	4	13
Δ Spring 2021				=	=	=	▼4	▲1	▼4	▼2	▼2	=	▲7	▲3	▼6	▼2	▼2	▲1	▲2	▼2	▼2	▼5	▲6	=	▼1	▲2	▲11	▲2	▲5	=	▲11	▲4	▲13

Standard Eurobarometer 96
Public opinion in the European Union
Spring 2021

The **socio-demographic** data show that, in some categories, a majority of respondents think that the situation of the European economy is 'good' rather than 'bad'. This applies in particular to 15-24 year olds (52% vs 36%), respondents who remained in education until the age of 20 or older (54 vs 37%), managers (56% vs 36%), students (53% vs 35%) and those who place themselves in the upper class (70% vs 27%) or upper middle class (60% vs 34%) of society.

By contrast, groups that are particularly likely to say that the situation of the European economy is 'bad' rather than 'good' are those who finished education aged 15 or earlier (54% 'bad' vs 30% 'good'), house persons (50% vs 33%), unemployed respondents (58% vs 29%), people who have difficulties paying their bills most of the time (59% vs 27%), and those who consider themselves as part of the working class (50% vs 34%) or lower middle class (51% vs 38%) of society.

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

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

	Total 'Good'	Total 'Bad'	Don't know
EU27	45	44	11
Gender			
Man	46	45	9
Woman	43	44	13
Age			
15-24	52	36	12
25-39	46	45	9
40-54	45	46	9
55 +	41	45	14
Education (End of)			
15-	30	54	16
16-19	42	47	11
20+	54	37	9
Still studying	53	35	12
Socio-professional category			
Self-employed	51	43	6
Managers	56	36	8
Other white collars	49	42	9
Manual workers	42	49	9
House persons	33	50	17
Unemployed	29	58	13
Retired	41	44	15
Students	53	35	12
Difficulties paying bills			
Most of the time	27	59	14
From time to time	38	51	11
Almost never/ Never	49	40	11
Consider belonging to			
The working class	34	50	16
The lower middle class	38	51	11
The middle class	49	41	10
The upper middle class	60	34	6
The upper class	70	27	3

Standard Eurobarometer 96
Public opinion in the European Union
Spring 2021

The employment situation

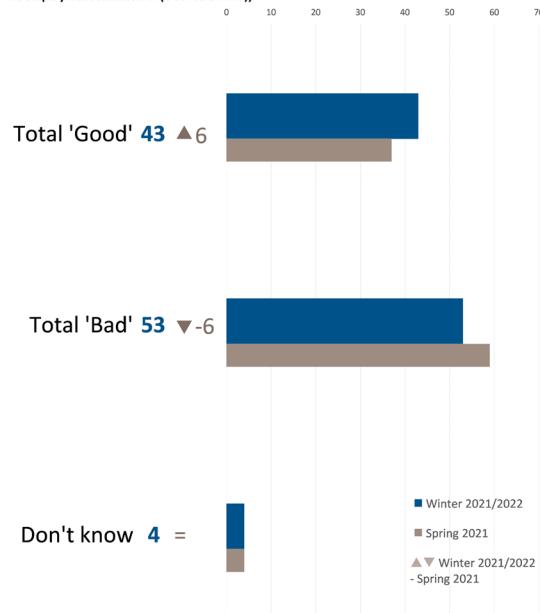
Europeans have become more positive towards the **employment situation in their country**: 43% (+6 percentage points since spring 2021) consider that the employment situation in their country is 'good', while 53% (-6) think that it is 'bad' and 4% (=) express no opinion⁶⁰.

A majority of respondents are positive about the **employment situation in their country** in 15 Member States of the European Union, compared with 12 in spring 2021. Respondents are most likely to be positive in Denmark (94%), the Netherlands (88%), Czechia (87%) and Luxembourg (81%). Judgements are predominantly negative in 12 EU Member States, in particular in Greece (94%), Spain (85%), Italy (80%), Bulgaria, Croatia (73% in both) and Portugal (72%).

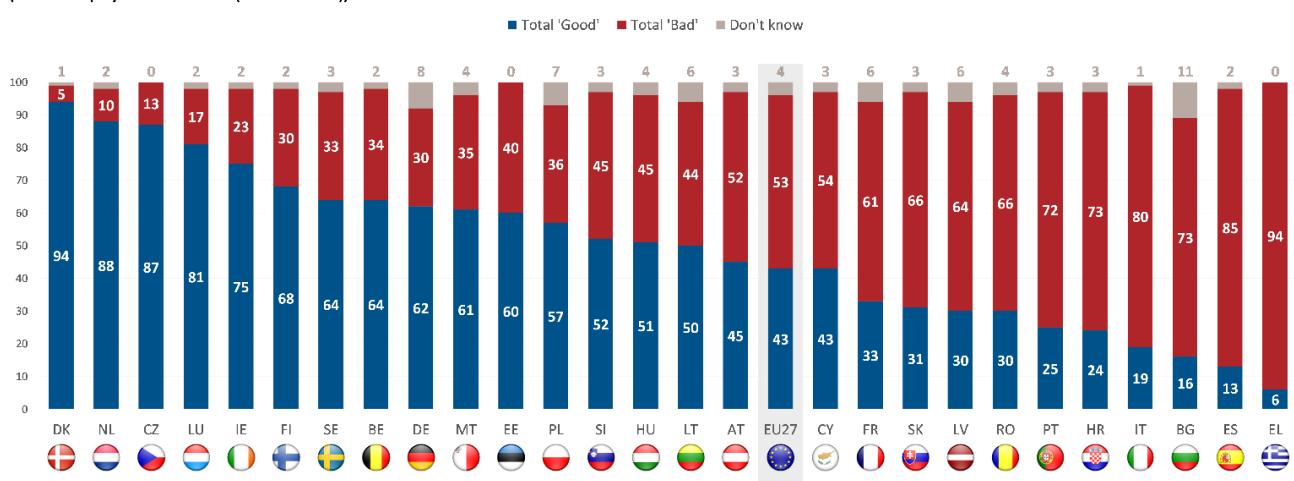
Since spring 2021, positive opinions on the **national employment situation** have gained ground in 23 Member States, most strikingly in Czechia (87%, +16 percentage points), Finland (68%, +16), Portugal (25%, +16) and Ireland (75%, +13).

Positive opinions have lost ground in three countries: Romania (30%, -4), Malta (61%, -4) and Belgium (64%, -2). There has been no change in Greece (6%, =).

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



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



⁶⁰ QA1a6. How would you judge the current situation in each of the following? The employment situation in (OUR COUNTRY).

Standard Eurobarometer 96
Public opinion in the European Union
Spring 2021

The **socio-demographic** data show predominantly negative views about the national employment situation. The proportions that think the employment situation is 'good' are highest among respondents who remained in education until the age of 20 or older (53%), managers (58%), those who never or almost never have difficulties paying bills (50%), and respondents who consider themselves as belonging to the upper class (75%) or upper middle class (64%) 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 (24%), unemployed respondents (19%), house persons (25%), people who have difficulties paying their bills most of the time (16%) and those who consider themselves part of the working class of society (30%).

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

	Total 'Good'	Total 'Bad'	Don't know
EU27	43	53	4
Gender			
Man	46	50	4
Woman	40	55	5
Age			
15-24	45	50	5
25-39	45	52	3
40-54	43	54	3
55 +	41	54	5
Education (End of)			
15-	24	71	5
16-19	41	55	4
20+	53	44	3
Still studying	47	47	6
Socio-professional category			
Self-employed	44	54	2
Managers	58	38	4
Other white collars	48	50	2
Manual workers	41	56	3
House persons	25	72	3
Unemployed	19	79	2
Retired	41	52	7
Students	47	47	6
Difficulties paying bills			
Most of the time	16	80	4
From time to time	32	65	3
Almost never/ Never	50	45	5
Consider belonging to			
The working class	30	65	5
The lower middle class	37	58	5
The middle class	47	49	4
The upper middle class	64	32	4
The upper class	75	21	4

Standard Eurobarometer 96
Public opinion in the European Union
Spring 2021

1.2.2 Expectations for the next twelve months

National and European situations

Macroeconomic expectations have declined at both national and European level

While perceptions of the current economic situation have been stable at both national and European level, expectations for the next twelve months have become less positive. There have been decreases in levels of optimism for the economy at both national and European levels.

Just over a quarter of respondents in the EU (28%, -7 percentage points since spring 2021) expect the **economic situation in their country** to get better over the coming year, while 31% (+2) expect it to get worse and 37% (+4) expect it to remain unchanged.

A quarter of Europeans (25%, -5 percentage points since spring 2021) also expect the **economic situation in the EU** to get better over the coming year, while 24% (+1) expect it to deteriorate and 41% (+3) expect it to stay the same⁶¹.

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

The economic situation in (OUR COUNTRY)



Winter 2021/2022

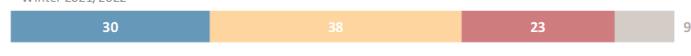


Spring 2021

The economic situation in the EU



Winter 2021/2022



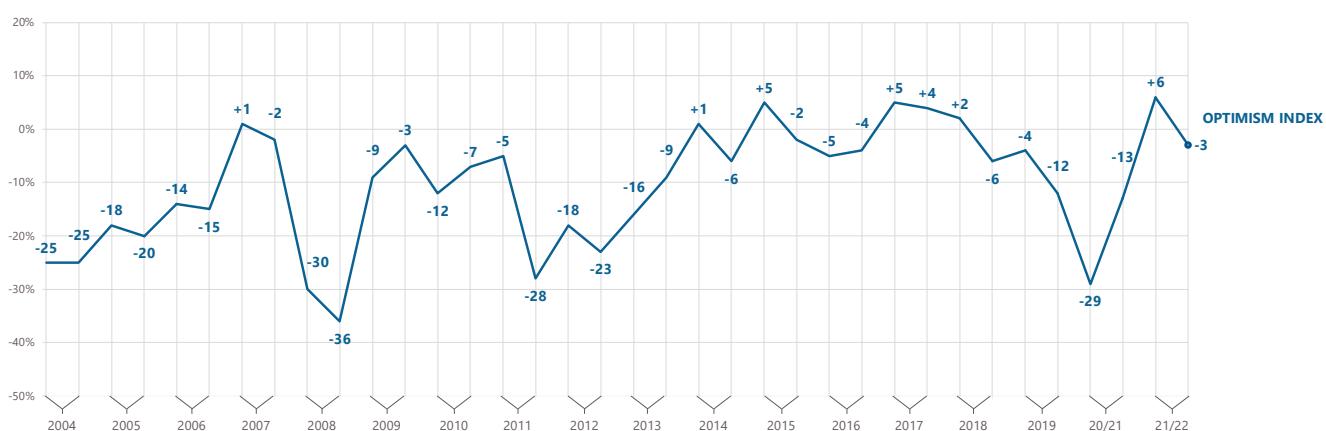
Spring 2021

■ Better ■ Same ■ Worse ■ Don't know

As a result of these evolutions, the optimism indices for the national and European economic situations have decreased, checking some of the improvement registered in the previous survey (Standard Eurobarometer 95). At -3, the optimism index for the **national economic situation** has fallen 9 index points since spring 2021.

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

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



⁶¹ QA2a3-7. What are your expectations for the next twelve months: will the next twelve months be better, worse or the same, when it comes to...?

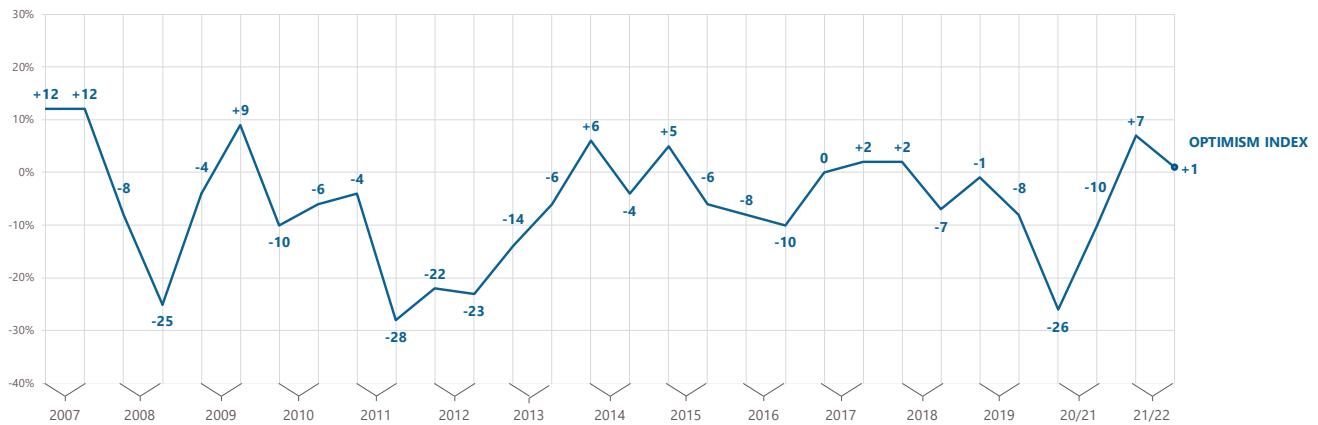
The economic situation in (OUR COUNTRY)/The economic situation in the EU.

Standard Eurobarometer 96
Public opinion in the European Union
Spring 2021

At +1, the optimism index for the **European economic situation** has fallen 6 index points since spring 2021, returning to a level

similar to those recorded between spring 2017 and spring 2019.

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



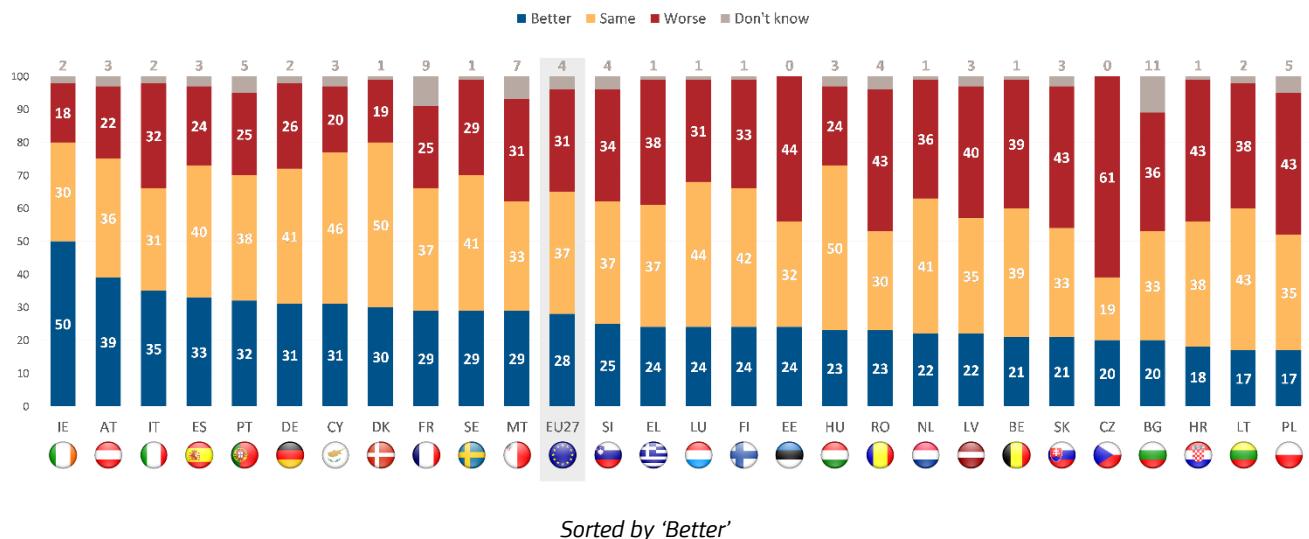
Standard Eurobarometer 96
Public opinion in the European Union
Spring 2021

In the case of the **national economic situation**, respondents are most likely to expect the next 12 months to be 'better' in three countries, while there are nine Member States where the most common response is that things will get 'worse', and 14 where 'the same' is the most frequent answer. In Belgium, equal proportions expect things to 'get worse' and 'stay the same'.

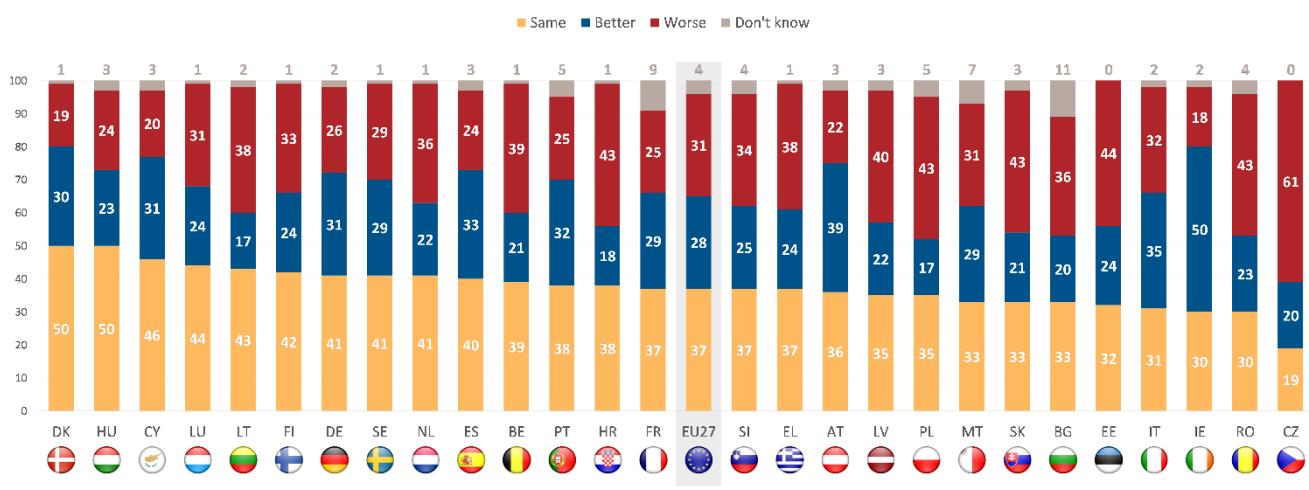
Optimists outnumber pessimists in nine EU Member States, and respondents are most likely to be optimistic in Ireland (50%), Austria (39%), Italy (35%) and Spain (33%).

In 17 Member States, pessimism outweighs optimistic expectations. Pessimism is most prevalent in Czechia (61%), Estonia (44%), Croatia, Poland, Romania and Slovakia (43% in all four countries). There is an equal share of optimistic and pessimistic views in Sweden (29% for both responses).

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



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



Sorted by 'Same'

Standard Eurobarometer 96
Public opinion in the European Union
Spring 2021

Since spring 2021, the **optimism index** for the national economic outlook has improved in six EU Member States, with some large increases in Ireland (+22 index points), Cyprus (+18) and Slovenia (+10).

The index has deteriorated in 20 Member States, most notably in the Netherlands (-36 index points), Estonia (-28), Belgium, Croatia (-21 in both), Luxembourg and Poland (-20 in both). There has been no change since spring 2021 in Latvia.

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

	EU27	IE	CY	SI	EL	FR	PT	LV	SK	DE	HU	CZ	MT	FI	ES	IT	LT	BG	RO	AT	SE	DK	LU	PL	BE	HR	EE	NL	
Better - Worse Winter 2021/2022	-3	+32	+11	-9	-14	+4	+7	-18	-22	+5	-1	-41	-2	-9	+9	+3	-21	-16	-20	+17	0	+11	-7	-26	-18	-25	-20	-14	
Better - Worse Spring 2021	+6	+10	-7	-19	-20	+3	+6	-18	-19	+10	+7	-32	+9	+2	+21	+15	-9	-1	-4	+34	+17	+29	+13	-6	+3	-4	+8	+22	
△ Spring 2021		▼9	▲22	▲18	▲10	▲6	▲1	▲1	=		▼3	▼5	▼8	▼9	▼11	▼11	▼12	▼12	▼15	▼16	▼17	▼17	▼18	▼20	▼20	▼21	▼21	▼28	▼36

Standard Eurobarometer 96
Public opinion in the European Union
Spring 2021

The **socio-demographic** data show that, in many groups, respondents are most likely to say that the national economic situation will stay the same over the next twelve months.

In a small number of groups, the prevailing view is that the situation will get better: those aged 15-24 (38% 'better'), students (40%) and those who consider themselves as belonging to the upper class of society (36%).

In some groups, respondents are most likely to say that things will get worse in the next 12 months: unemployed respondents (40% 'worse') and those who have difficulties paying their bills either most of the time (44%) or some of the time (37%).

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

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

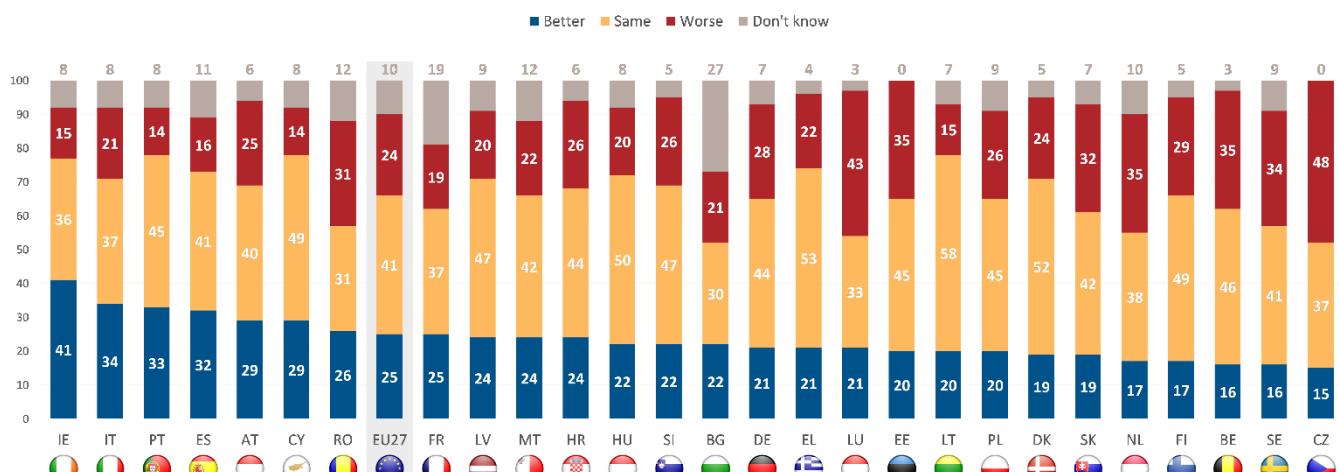
	Better	Worse	Same	Don't know
EU27	28	31	37	4
Gender				
Man	29	32	36	3
Woman	28	30	38	4
Age				
15-24	38	24	34	4
25-39	30	32	35	3
40-54	28	34	36	2
55 +	26	31	39	4
Education (End of)				
15-	25	31	39	5
16-19	27	33	36	4
20+	29	30	38	3
Still studying	40	22	34	4
Socio-professional category				
Self-employed	32	32	34	2
Managers	31	31	37	1
Other white collars	30	30	37	3
Manual workers	26	34	37	3
House persons	29	32	35	4
Unemployed	25	40	32	3
Retired	24	30	41	5
Students	40	22	34	4
Difficulties paying bills				
Most of the time	18	44	33	5
From time to time	25	37	35	3
Almost never/ Never	31	28	38	3
Consider belonging to				
The working class	23	32	40	5
The lower middle class	27	35	35	3
The middle class	31	29	37	3
The upper middle class	33	32	34	1
The upper class	36	35	29	0

Standard Eurobarometer 96
Public opinion in the European Union
Spring 2021

In terms of expectations for the **economic situation in the EU**, the prevailing view is that it will stay 'the same' in 23 countries. In Ireland, the most common response is that the economic situation in the EU will get better, while the most common view in Czechia and Luxembourg is that it will get worse. In Romania, equal proportions say it will 'get worse' and 'stay the same'.

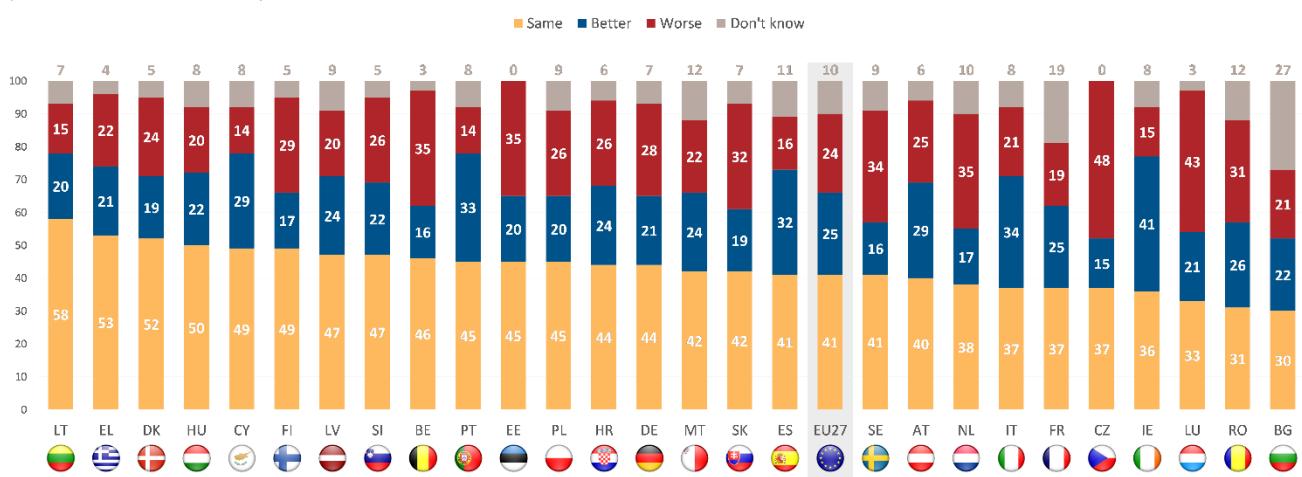
Optimism outweighs pessimism in 12 Member States of the European Union. The highest levels of optimism are seen in Ireland (41%), Italy (34%), Portugal (33%) and Spain (32%). Pessimism outweighs optimism in 15 Member States, with respondents the most pessimistic in Czechia (48%), Luxembourg (43%), Belgium, Estonia and the Netherlands (35% in all three countries).

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



Sorted by 'Better'

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



Sorted by 'Same'

Standard Eurobarometer 96
Public opinion in the European Union
Spring 2021

Since spring 2021, the **optimism index** for the economic outlook in the EU has improved in four Member States: Ireland (+15 index points), Cyprus (+11), France (+4) and Slovenia (+3). There has been no change in Portugal and Greece.

The optimism index has declined in 21 Member States. There have been some very large decreases, most markedly in Estonia, Sweden (-24 index points in both countries), Spain (-20) and Croatia (-18).

QA2.7 What are your expectations for the next twelve months: will the next twelve months be better, worse or the same, when it comes to...?

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

	EU27	IE	CY	FR	SI	EL	PT	DE	LT	SK	FI	LV	IT	NL	LU	HU	AT	BE	DK	RO	PL	MT	BG	CZ	HR	ES	EE	SE		
Better - Worse Winter 2021/2022	+1	+26	+15	+6	-4	-1	+19	-7	+5	-13	-12	+4	+13	-18	-22	+2	+4	-19	-5	-5	-6	+2	+1	-33	-2	+16	-15	-18		
Better - Worse Spring 2021	+7	+11	+4	+2	-7	-1	+19	-5	+9	-9	-7	+10	+20	-11	-14	+10	+13	-9	+5	+5	+5	+14	+15	-19	+16	+36	+9	+6		
△ Spring 2021		▼6	▲15	▲11	▲4	▲3	=	=	▼2	▼4	▼4	▼5	▼6	▼7	▼7	▼8	▼8	▼9	▼10	▼10	▼10	▼11	▼12	▼12	▼14	▼14	▼18	▼20	▼24	▼24

Standard Eurobarometer 96
Public opinion in the European Union
Spring 2021

In the **socio-demographic** data, the prevailing view in nearly all categories is that the economic situation in the EU will stay the same over the next twelve months. The only exception is the group of respondents who consider themselves to be part of the upper class of society, the majority of whom think things will get better (37%). In addition, a relatively high proportion of 15-24 year olds (34%) and students (36%) also think that the economic situation in the EU will improve.

However, there are some groups who are more likely to be pessimistic than optimistic. This applies in particular to those aged 55 or over (25% 'worse' vs 20% 'better'), retired respondents (24% vs 19%), unemployed respondents (29% vs 24%), those who have difficulties paying their bills, either most of the time (31% vs 18%) or some of the time (29% vs 22%), and those who consider themselves to be part of the working class of society (24% vs 19%).

QA2.7 What are your expectations for the next twelve months:will the next twelve months be better, worse or the same, when it comes to...?

The economic situation in the EU (%) - EU

	Better	Worse	Same	Don't know
EU27	25	24	41	10
 Gender				
Man	26	25	40	9
Woman	24	24	41	11
 Age				
15-24	34	20	37	9
25-39	29	24	39	8
40-54	25	26	41	8
55 +	20	25	43	12
 Education (End of)				
15-	22	23	39	16
16-19	23	26	42	9
20+	25	25	42	8
Still studying	36	18	38	8
 Socio-professional category				
Self-employed	28	24	42	6
Managers	25	25	44	6
Other white collars	28	23	41	8
Manual workers	24	27	40	9
House persons	22	26	37	15
Unemployed	24	29	37	10
Retired	19	24	43	14
Students	36	18	38	8
 Difficulties paying bills				
Most of the time	18	31	38	13
From time to time	22	29	39	10
Almost never/ Never	26	22	42	10
 Consider belonging to				
The working class	19	24	43	14
The lower middle class	24	27	39	10
The middle class	26	24	42	8
The upper middle class	29	27	37	7
The upper class	37	32	27	4

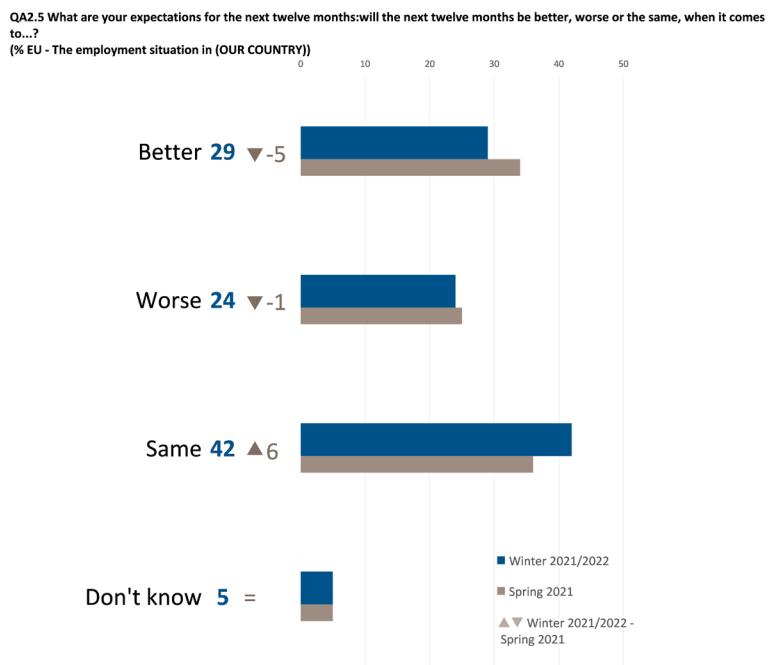
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The employment situation

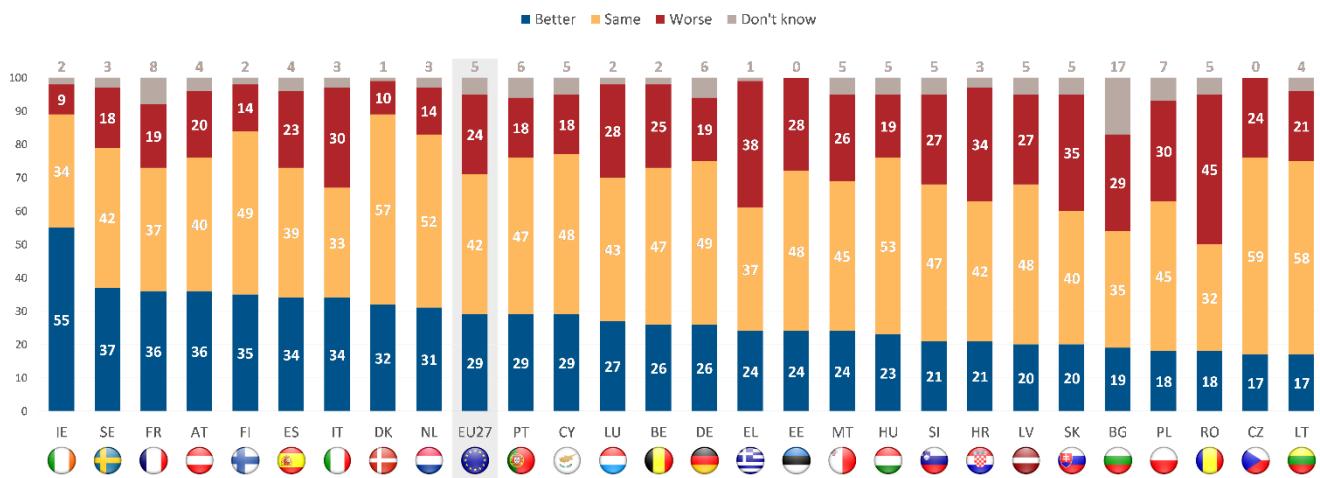
Despite an improvement in Europeans' assessment of the current employment situation in their country, expectations regarding the **national employment outlook** for the next twelve months have declined: 29% of Europeans (-5 percentage points since spring 2021) expect the next twelve months to be 'better' when it comes to the employment situation in their country, while 24% (-1) expect them to get 'worse' and 42% (+6) think they will stay 'the same'⁶².

In relation to the national employment outlook, respondents are most likely to say that the situation will stay 'the same' in 23 Member States. 'Better' is the most frequent answer given in Ireland and Italy, while the prevailing view is that the employment situation will get worse in Greece and Romania.

Optimism outweighs pessimism in 14 Member States of the European Union. The highest levels of optimism are seen in Ireland (55%), Sweden (37%), Austria, France (36% in both) and Finland (35%). Pessimism outweighs optimism in 13 Member States, with respondents the most pessimistic in Romania (45%), Greece (38%), Slovakia (35%) and Croatia (34%).



QA2.5 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))



⁶² 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 spring 2021, the **optimism index** for the employment outlook has increased in eight Member States, most notably in Ireland (+23 index points) and Cyprus (+16).

The optimism index has deteriorated in 18 Member States, with the largest falls seen in Denmark (-18 index points), Estonia (-17) and Spain (-15). There has been no change in Lithuania.

QA2.5 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) (%)

	EU27	IE	CY	FR	PT	CZ	EL	SI	FI	LT	LU	DE	LV	HU	SE	SK	IT	BE	AT	NL	PL	BG	MT	HR	RO	ES	EE	DK
Better - Worse Winter 2021/2022	+5	+46	+11	+17	+11	-7	-14	-6	+21	-4	-1	+7	-7	+4	+19	-15	+4	+1	+16	+17	-12	-10	-2	-13	-27	+11	-4	+22
Better - Worse Spring 2021	+9	+23	-5	+8	+3	-13	-20	-12	+16	-4	+1	+10	-4	+7	+22	-11	+9	+7	+23	+27	-2	+3	+11	+1	-13	+26	+13	+40
△ Spring 2021	▼4	▲23	▲16	▲9	▲8	▲6	▲6	▲5	=	▼2	▼3	▼3	▼3	▼4	▼5	▼6	▼7	▼10	▼10	▼13	▼13	▼14	▼14	▼15	▼17	▼18		

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The **socio-demographic** data show that, in nearly every group, the prevailing view is that the national employment situation will stay the same over the next twelve months. The exceptions are those who have difficulties paying their bills most of the time (who are most likely to think the employment situation will get worse), and also those who consider themselves to be part of the upper class of society (who are most likely to predict improvement).

Views are most optimistic among respondents aged 15-24 (34% 'better'), students (34%), those who left education aged 20 or above (32%) and those who consider themselves to be part of the upper class (39%) or upper middle class (34%) of society.

The most pessimistic groups are unemployed respondents (32% 'worse') and those who have difficulties paying their bills, either most of the time (37%) or some of the time (32%).

QA2.5 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	29	24	42	5
Gender				
Man	30	24	41	5
Woman	28	23	43	6
Age				
15-24	34	20	41	5
25-39	31	24	41	4
40-54	28	26	42	4
55 +	26	24	43	7
Education (End of)				
15-	26	27	40	7
16-19	27	26	42	5
20+	32	21	44	3
Still studying	34	19	43	4
Socio-professional category				
Self-employed	31	25	42	2
Managers	30	20	47	3
Other white collars	31	22	42	5
Manual workers	28	27	40	5
House persons	27	29	40	4
Unemployed	28	32	35	5
Retired	26	23	43	8
Students	34	19	43	4
Difficulties paying bills				
Most of the time	21	37	36	6
From time to time	25	32	39	4
Almost never/ Never	31	20	44	5
Consider belonging to				
The working class	23	26	44	7
The lower middle class	28	26	40	6
The middle class	31	23	42	4
The upper middle class	34	20	44	2
The upper class	39	32	27	2

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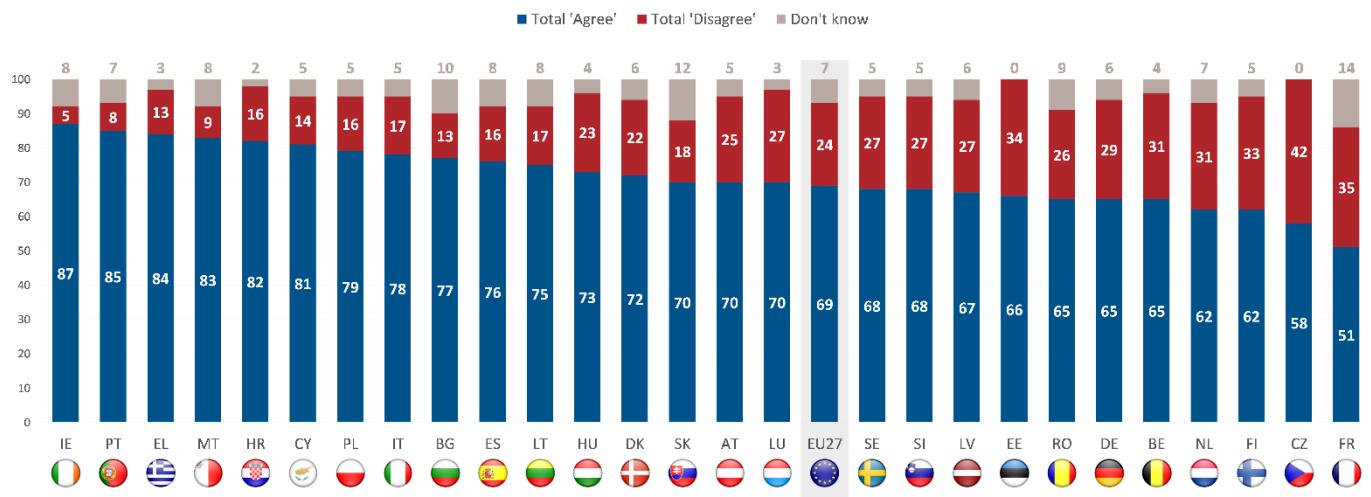
2. The European Union and economic reforms

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

Around seven in ten respondents in the EU (69%, -2 percentage point since spring 2021) consider that “**the European Union has sufficient power and tools to defend the economic interests of Europe in the global economy**”, while 24% (+1) disagree and 7% (+1) express no opinion⁶³.

There is a consensus among respondents that the European Union is capable of defending European interests in the global economy. This view is supported by an absolute majority of respondents in all Member States, in proportions ranging from 51% in France to 87% in Ireland. Levels of disagreement vary by Member State, ranging from 5% in Ireland to 42% in Czechia.

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)



Since spring 2021, levels of agreement have been stable in many countries, with 10 Member States registering changes of no more than two percentage points. Agreement has increased the most in Luxembourg (70%, +7 percentage points), Malta (83%, +6) and Italy (78%, +5). Agreement has fallen most strongly in Romania (65%, -8), Portugal (85%, -6), Czechia (58%, -5) and Latvia (67%, -5).

Respondents from countries **outside the euro area** are slightly more likely to agree that the European Union is capable of defending European interests in the global economy, compared with countries **in the euro area** (72% vs 67%). There has been a small decrease since spring 2021, both in the **euro area countries** (-2 percentage points) and **countries outside the euro area** (-3).

QB4.1 For each of the following statements, do you totally agree, tend to agree, tend to disagree or totally disagree.
 The EU has sufficient power and tools to defend the economic interests of Europe in the global economy (%)

	EU27	EURO AREA	NON-EURO AREA	LU	MT	IT	BE	IE	EE	DK	CY	HR	BG	LT	PL	FI	SK	SE	DE	EL	FR	HU	AT	SI	ES	NL	CZ	LV	PT	RO	
Total 'Agree'	69	67	72	70	83	78	65	87	66	72	81	82	77	75	79	62	70	68	65	84	51	73	70	68	76	62	78	65	65		
Δ Spring 2021	▼2	▼2	▼3	▲7	▲6	▲5	▲4	▲3	▲2	▲1	=	▼1	▼1	▼1	▼2	▼2	▼3	▼3	▼3	▼3	▼4	▼5	▼5	▼6	▼8	▼8	▼8				
Total 'Disagree'	24	25	22	27	9	17	31	5	34	22	14	16	13	17	16	33	18	27	29	13	35	23	25	27	16	31	42	27	8	26	
Δ Spring 2021	▲1	▲1	▲2	▼3	▲1	▼4	▼8	▼11	▼2	▲1	=	▲3	▲2	▼7	▲1	▼4	▼1	▼2	▲3	▲3	▲1	▲2	▲2	▲2	▲3	▼1	▲11	▲3	▲5	▲6	
Don't know	7	8	6	3	8	5	4	8	0	6	5	2	10	8	5	5	5	12	5	6	3	14	4	5	5	8	7	0	6	7	9
Δ Spring 2021	▲1	▲1	▲1	▼4	▼7	▼1	▲4	▲8	=	▼2	▼1	▼3	▼1	▲8	=	▲5	▲3	▲4	=	▲2	▲1	▲1	▲3	▲1	▲5	▼6	▲2	▲1	▲2	▲1	

⁶³ 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.

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

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The **socio-demographic** data show 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 (74%) and 25-39 year olds (73%), students (78%), other white collar workers (75%) and those who consider themselves as belonging to the upper class of society (79%). Agreement is lowest among unemployed respondents (60%) and those who have difficulties paying their bills most of the time (58%).

Attitudes are related to general perceptions about the EU. Respondents who have a generally positive image of the EU mostly agree with the statement (81%), whereas views are more divided among those who hold a negative image of the EU (46% agree, 47% disagree).

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

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

(% - EU)

	Total 'Agree'	Total 'Disagree'	Don't know
EU27	69	24	7
Gender			
Man	70	25	5
Woman	68	23	9
Age			
15-24	74	18	8
25-39	73	22	5
40-54	70	25	5
55 +	65	26	9
Education (End of)			
15-	67	18	15
16-19	68	25	7
20+	68	28	4
Still studying	78	15	7
Socio-professional category			
Self-employed	71	25	4
Managers	71	26	3
Other white collars	75	21	4
Manual workers	70	24	6
House persons	63	23	14
Unemployed	60	30	10
Retired	64	26	10
Students	78	15	7
Difficulties paying bills			
Most of the time	58	31	11
From time to time	68	25	7
Almost never/ Never	70	23	7
Consider belonging to			
The working class	65	23	12
The lower middle class	66	27	7
The middle class	72	23	5
The upper middle class	67	29	4
The upper class	79	20	1

