European Parliament

European Commission

Special Eurobarometer 500 - First Results

Future of Europe

Survey requested and co-ordinated by the
European Commission's and European Parliament's
Directorates-General for Communication

Fieldwork: October-November 2020

KANTAR

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Introduction

Introduction

This report presents the first results of the Special Eurobarometer survey n° 500 (EB94.1) on the Future of Europe (FoE), which was carried out between 22 October and 20 November 2020 in the 27 EU Member States.

This is the ninth report in the "Future of Europe" (FoE) series, and follows from previous surveys in 2006[1], 2009[2], 2011[3], 2012[4], 2014[5], 2016[6], 2017[7] and 2018[8], which were conducted on behalf of the Commission presenting a snapshot of the way Europeans perceive the EU and its future.

It is the first Future of Europe (FoE) survey since the European Parliament elections in May 2019 and the new European Commission took office with Ursula von der Leyen as President in December 2019. This Special Eurobarometer is however different from previous surveys in the FoE series, as it is an inter-institutional survey conducted jointly for the European Commission and the European Parliament. Its questionnaire contains questions from both institutions.

For the legislative term until 2024, the European Parliament, the Council of the European Union and the European Commission agreed to deliver an ambitious political and legislative agenda for recovery and renewed vitality[9]. Inspired by European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen's policy agenda document[10], the three Institutions have set out six strategic policy goals for the European Union over the five-year period 2019-2024[11], stipulated as follows: i) to implement the European Green Deal; ii) to shape Europe's Digital Decade; iii) to deliver an economy that works for people; iv) to make Europe stronger in the world; v) to promote a free and safe Europe; vi) to protect and strengthen our democracy and defend our common European values.

As part of the 'strengthening democracy and defending European values' strand, EU common legislative priorities set out a proposal for a Conference on the Future of Europe to provide an opportunity to hear citizens' views and hold discussions on the way forward for the European project, its institutions and core mission. However, the advent of the coronavirus pandemic (discussed further below) has meant that this Conference has been delayed for the time being.

Therefore, this survey has an important focus on the Conference on the future of Europe, measuring attitudes towards the project and some of the key themes to be covered by the Conference.

The fieldwork was conducted during the coronavirus global pandemic, thus some questions were specifically developed to measure attitudes towards the future of Europe in the light of this. Consequently, many questions on this survey were developed to reflect these unique circumstances, and as

[1] Special Eurobarometer 251:
http://ec.europa.eu/COMMFrontOffice/publicopinion/index.cfm/Survey/getSurveyDetail/instruments/SPECIAL/surveyKy/586/p/4
[2] Standard Eurobarometer 71 Spring 2009 – Future of Europe report:
http://ec.europa.eu/COMMFrontOffice/publicopinion/index.cfm/Survey/getSurveyDetail/instruments/STANDARD/surveyKy/829
[3] Special Eurobarometer 379:
http://ec.europa.eu/COMMFrontOffice/publicopinion/index.cfm/Survey/getSurveyDetail/instruments/SPECIAL/surveyKy/1059/p/2
[4] Special Eurobarometer 394:
http://ec.europa.eu/COMMFrontOffice/publicopinion/index.cfm/Survey/getSurveyDetail/search/future/surveyKy/1070
[5] Special Eurobarometer 413:
http://ec.europa.eu/COMMFrontOffice/publicopinion/index.cfm/Survey/getSurveyDetail/instruments/SPECIAL/surveyKy/2038
[6] Special Eurobarometer 451:
http://ec.europa.eu/commfrontoffice/publicopinion/index.cfm/Survey/getSurveyDetail/instruments/SPECIAL/surveyKy/2131
[7] Special Eurobarometer 467:
http://ec.europa.eu/commfrontoffice/publicopinion/index.cfm/Survey/getSurveyDetail/instruments/SPECIAL/surveyKy/2179
[8] Special Eurobarometer 479: https://ec.europa.eu/commfrontoffice/publicopinion/index.cfm/Survey/getSurveyDetail/search/future/surveyKy/2217
[9] https://www.europarl.europa.eu/resources/library/media/20201217RES94217/20201217RES94217.pdf
[10] https://ec.europa.eu/info/sites/info/files/political-guidelines-next-commission_en_0.pdf
[11] Joint Declaration of the European Parliament, the Council of the European Union and the European Commission EU Legislative Priorities for 2021
https://www.europarl.europa.eu/resources/library/media/20201217RES94218/20201217RES94218.pdf

such there is only a limited number of trend questions which can be compared against previous FoE surveys.

The survey was conducted at a time when the coronavirus pandemic was still widely prevalent across all European countries, with continuing impacts on health, the economy and restrictions on multiple aspects of everyday life of European citizens. Several countries had, around mid-March 2020, established a range of public health measures, including physical distancing, and in some cases the closure of schools, businesses, and lockdowns limiting the movement of citizens. Many countries also closed their borders[12]. Many of the most stringent public health measures were gradually phased out across the EU between April and June, including the re-opening of borders. However, cases began to rise again from August 2020. Consequently, new public health measures had to be taken again in an attempt to minimise the rise in cases.

On 30 November[13], i.e. shortly after the end of the fieldwork, the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC) reported 322,000 deaths in Europe as a whole and more than 1.4 million deaths worldwide.

The impact of restriction measures to fight the pandemic have had a major impact on the economies of all EU Member States with many people's incomes and jobs negatively impacted. These impacts have been reflected in public opinion data. The Standard Eurobarometer survey of summer 2020[14] documented a sharp decline in the public perception of the state of the economy, following a period of stability between 2017 and 2019. The proportion of Europeans who thought the current situation of their national economy was "good" fell from 47% to 34% (-13 percentage points) between autumn 2019 and summer 2020. Moreover, most Europeans in summer 2020 had a pessimistic outlook about the future prospects of their country's economy; more than four in ten thought that their country's economy would not recover from the adverse effects of the coronavirus outbreak until 2023 or later (42%), while a further 7% felt that it will never recover.

The aim of this survey was to measure the opinions of Europeans, in the EU as a whole and in each Member State, on political participation and democracy, their level of interest in participating in the Conference on the future of Europe, the future of Europe and the EU, and the role of the EU in tackling the coronavirus pandemic.

TOPICS

This First Results report is structured around the following topics:

I. Attitudes towards the EU including public image and reflecting on its future; Opinions on how EU citizens can best make their voices heard, and the extent to which people feel their voices should be taken into consideration by the EU;

II. Opinions on the Conference on the future of Europe, including willingness to participate and methods of participation;

III. Attitudes towards the future of Europe, including assets, global challenges and future progress;

IV. Attitudes towards the EU's response to the coronavirus pandemic, including priorities and financial support.

Note

As a result of the UK leaving the European Union on 31 January 2020, the Union now has 27 Member States. The overall EU level results presented in this report are therefore based on EU27, and not EU28 as was the case in previous waves. Care should therefore be taken interpreting the results from the current wave with previous results.

[12] https://www.ecdc.europa.eu/en/novel-coronavirus/event-background-2019
[13] https://www.ecdc.europa.eu/en/cases-2019-ncov-eueea
[14] https://ec.europa.eu/commfrontoffice/publicopinion/index.cfm/survey/getsurveydetail/instruments/standard/surveyky/2262

For trend questions, the evolution of results from the previous survey is sometimes shown with EU28 and sometimes with EU27.

Consequences of the coronavirus pandemic on fieldwork

The methodology used is that of Eurobarometer surveys as carried out by the European Commission's and European Parliament's Directorates-General for Communication ("Media monitoring and Eurobarometer" Unit and "Public Opinion Monitoring" Unit). Given the impact of COVID-19 and subsequent health safety measures, the face-to-face methodology was either not possible or only to a certain extent in some countries. In Denmark, Germany, Greece, Latvia, Malta, the Netherlands, Slovenia, Slovakia and Sweden, a share of interviews were conducted online, while the rest were conducted as normal, via face-to-face interviews. In Belgium, Czechia, Estonia, Ireland, Lithuania, Luxembourg and Finland, all interviews were conducted online[15]. A technical note on the manner in which the interviews were conducted by the institutes within the Kantar network is appended as an annex to this report. Also included are the interview methods and the confidence intervals.

Where feasible, interviews were conducted face-to-face in people's homes or on their doorstep and in the appropriate national language. In all countries where face-to-face interviewing was feasible CAPI (Computer Assisted Personal Interviewing) was used. For all interviews conducted face to face, hygiene and physical distancing measures have always been respected in line with government regulations, and whenever possible, interviews were conducted outside homes, on doorsteps, to remain in open air and maintain social distance. Where face-to-face interviews were not enough to reach to target or were not feasible at all, interviews were conducted online with Computer-Assisted Web Interviewing (CAWI) technique.

Note

In this report, 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 European Union Member States. However, the "acquis communautaire" has been suspended in the part of the country which is not controlled by the government of the Republic of Cyprus. For practical reasons, only the interviews carried out in the part of the country controlled by the government of the Republic of Cyprus are included in the "CY" category and in the EU27 average.

[15] Online interviewing took the form of probabilistic panels and access panels, depending on what is available in the country.

We wish to **thank** the people throughout the European Union who have given their time to take part in this survey.

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

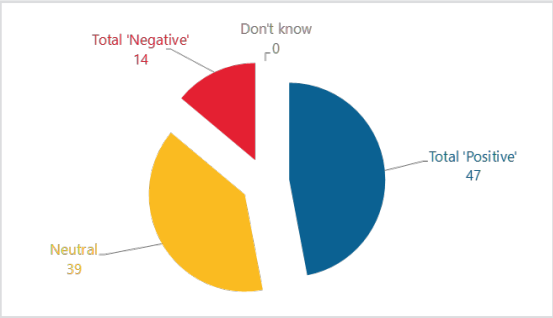
I. EU citizens and the EU

1. Image of the EU

Almost half of Europeans hold a positive image of the EU, and citizens are more likely to give a positive than a negative response in all EU Member States

Almost half (47%) of Europeans hold a positive image of the EU, while just 14% hold a negative image. Around four in ten Europeans have a 'neutral' image (39%) of the EU.

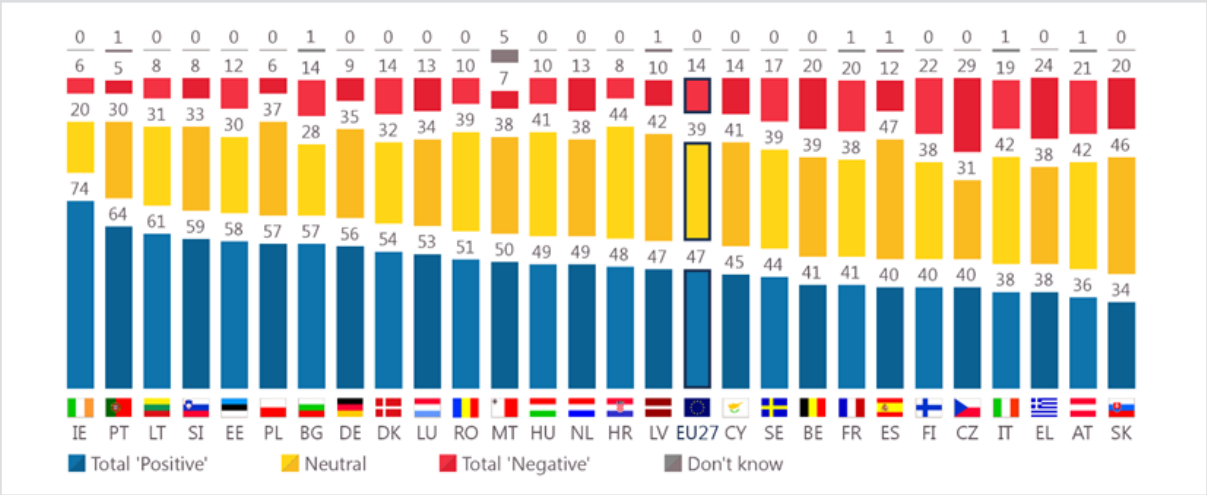
SD16 In general does the EU conjure up for you a very positive, fairly positive, neutral, fairly negative or very negative image ?
(% - EU)



In every country, more people perceive the EU positively than negatively. In 12 of the 27 EU Member States, at least half have a positive image of the EU. The countries with the most positive rating of the EU are Ireland (74%), Portugal (64%) and Lithuania (61%), with more than six in ten in each of these countries giving a positive rating. The countries with the least positive image of the EU are Slovakia (34%), Austria (36%), Greece and Italy (both 38%), with less than four in ten in each giving a positive rating.

In most countries, a positive rating is the predominant viewpoint. However, in five countries the pattern is different. A neutral rating is the majority view in Spain (47%), Slovakia (46%), Italy and Austria (both 42%) and the neutral and positive ratings are equally balanced in Greece (38%).

SD16 In general does the EU conjure up for you a very positive, fairly positive, neutral, fairly negative or very negative image ?
(% - EU)



2. Evolution of the EU's image

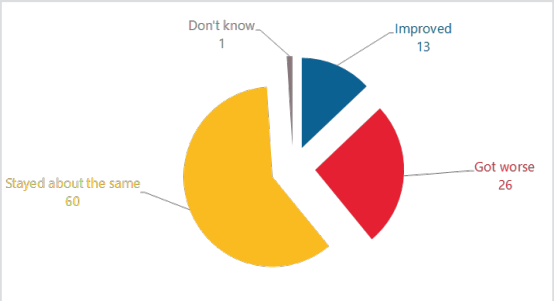
Six in ten Europeans have not changed their opinion of the EU in the last six months. Among those whose perception has changed, respondents are more likely to say their image has got worse than better and this is reflected across most Member States

Respondents were asked to reflect on their **image of the EU over the past six months**, which broadly covered the period May 2020 - October 2020 which was during the period of the pandemic. Most Europeans (60%) say that the image they have of the EU has stayed the same in the past six months, while 26% say the image they have of the EU has got worse and 13% say it has improved.

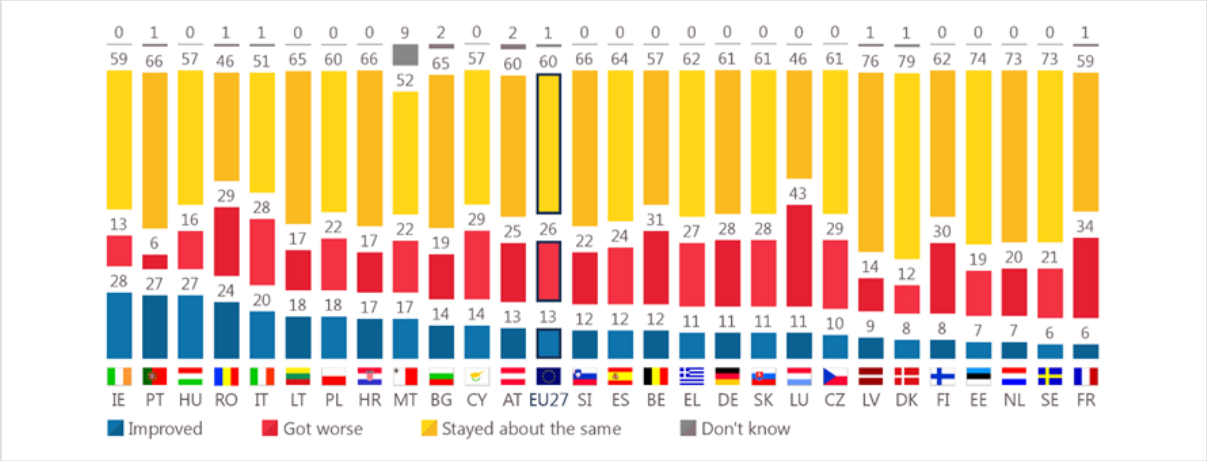
The most dominant opinion in all countries is that respondents' image of the EU has stayed the same over the past six months: between 46% and 79% give this response. However, on balance, in most countries, respondents are more likely to say that their opinion of the EU had got worse rather than better.

The only exceptions to this are Ireland, Portugal, Hungary and Lithuania, where the opposite pattern occurs and a higher proportion say their image has improved; and Croatia, where views are evenly balanced. Respondents in Ireland, Portugal, Hungary and Romania are most likely to say their image of the EU has improved, around one in four (24%-28%) giving this response. On the other hand, the following countries are most likely to say that their image of the EU has got worse: Luxembourg (43%), France (34%), Belgium (31%) and Finland (30%).

QA27 In the past six months, would you say that this image you have of the EU improved, got worse or stayed about the same ?
(% - EU)



QA27 In the past six months, would you say that this image you have of the EU improved, got worse or stayed about the same ?
(% - EU)



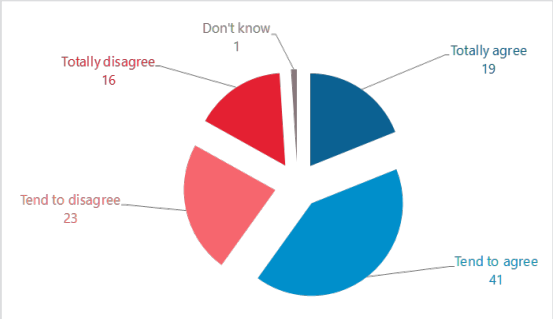
3. Reflection on the future of the European Union

Six in ten Europeans say that the pandemic has made them reflect on the future of the EU and this is the majority opinion in most EU countries

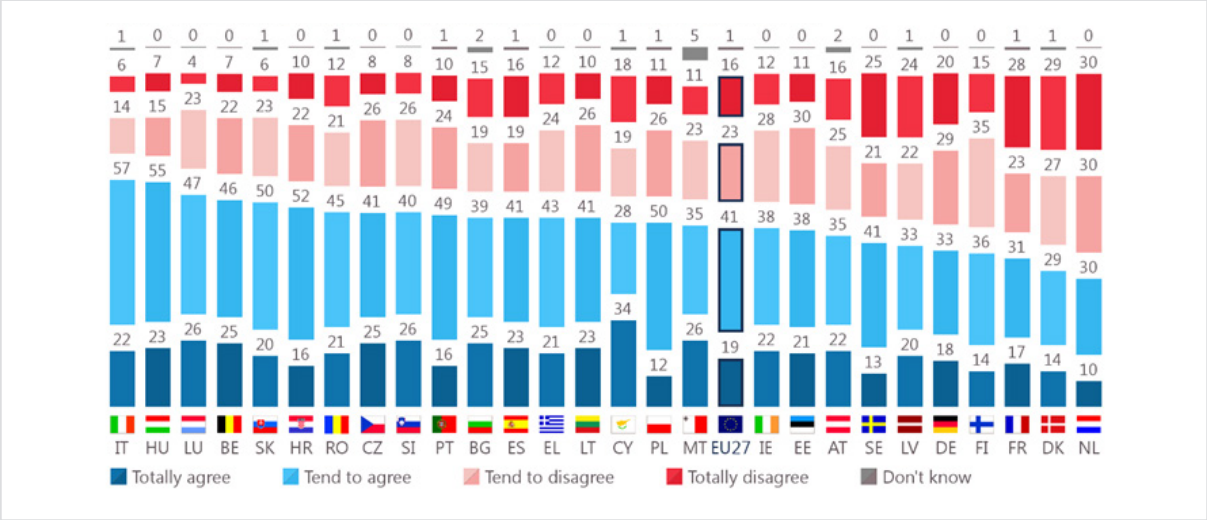
Six in ten Europeans (60%) agree that the coronavirus crisis has made them **reflect on the future of the European Union** (19% 'totally agree' and 41% 'tend to agree') while 39% disagree with this (23% 'tend to disagree' and 16% 'totally disagree').

In all but four Member States (Netherlands, Denmark, France and Finland), **a majority agree that the crisis has made them reflect on the future of the EU.** The countries most likely to say that the crisis has made them reflect are Italy (79%), Hungary (78%), Luxembourg (73%) and Belgium (71%), with more than seven in ten stating this viewpoint.

QA14 The Coronavirus crisis made you reflect on the future of the European Union :
(% - EU)



QA14 The Coronavirus crisis made you reflect on the future of the European Union :
(% - EU)



II. Are citizens heard?

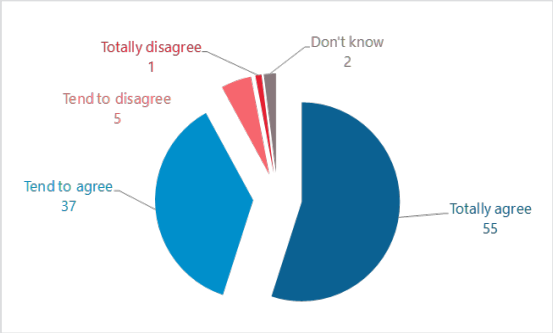
1. Perception of citizens' voices within the EU

There is very strong support for EU citizens to have more of a voice in decisions relating to the future of Europe and this is reflected across all Member States

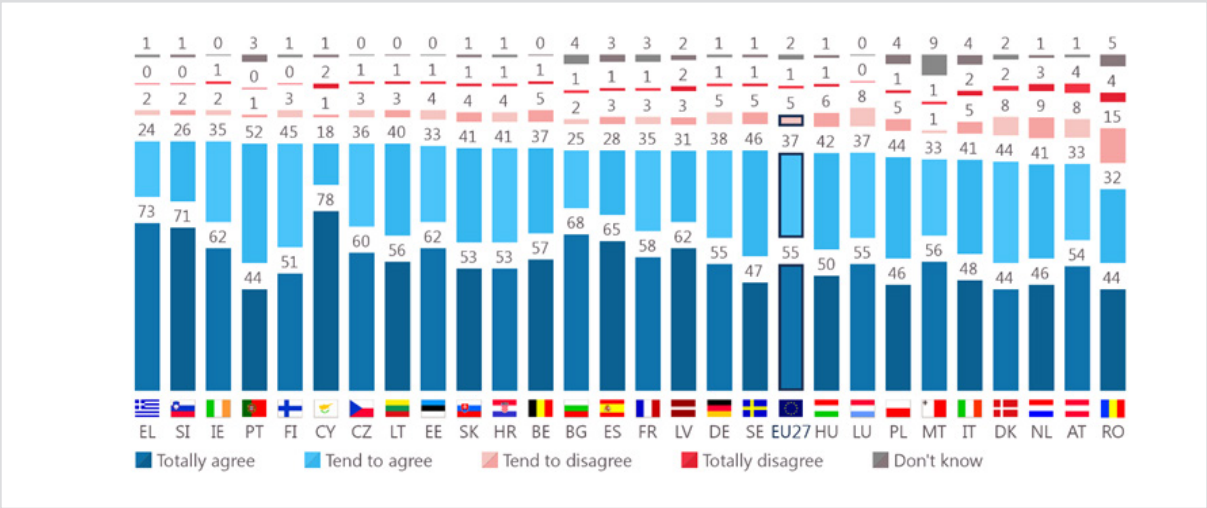
A very large majority of Europeans (92%) agree that **EU citizens' voices should be taken more into account for decisions relating to the future of Europe.** Overall, more than half (55%) 'totally agree' with this statement while 37% 'tend to agree' and only 6% disagree with it.

This **strong desire for EU citizens' voices to be taken more into account is reflected across all Member States.** In fact, in every country, with the sole exception of Romania, more than eight in ten agree with this. This viewpoint is most strongly held in Greece, Slovenia and Ireland (all 97%). The lowest level of agreement to this statement is found in Romania (76%), although this still represents a large majority.

QA4.1 Please tell me to what extent you agree or disagree with each of the following statements. **EU citizens' voice should be more taken into account for decisions relating to the future of Europe (% – EU)**



QA4.1 Please tell me to what extent you agree or disagree with each of the following statements. **EU citizens' voice should be more taken into account for decisions relating to the future of Europe (% – EU)**



2. Best ways to ensure people's voices are heard at EU level

Europeans consider voting in European elections as the most effective way of ensuring their voices are heard at EU level, with this viewpoint being particularly prevalent in Nordic countries

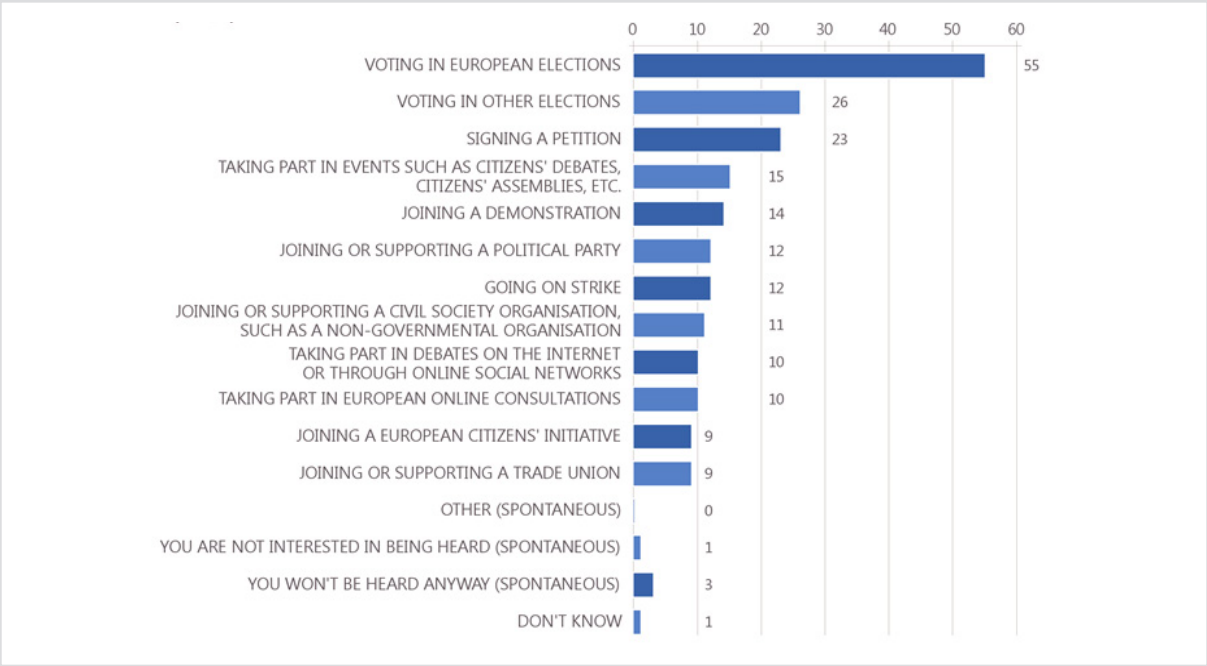
Respondents were presented with a range of ways in which EU citizens could potentially make sure their voices are heard by decision-makers at EU level and were able to select up to three responses to describe which they felt were the best methods.

Voting in European elections is clearly regarded as the most effective way of ensuring voices are heard by decision-makers at EU level, with 55% of Europeans choosing this response as one of the best methods. Other popular choices mentioned by around a quarter of respondents are voting in other elections (26%) and signing a petition (23%).

Other types of political participation mentioned by more than 10% of Europeans are: **taking part in events such as citizens' debates, citizens' assemblies** (15%), **joining a demonstration** (14%), **joining or supporting a political party or going on strike** (both 12%), and **joining or supporting a civil society organisation, such as a non-governmental organisation** (11%).

Around one in ten think their voice is best heard through **taking part in European online consultations** (10%), **taking part in debates on the internet or through online social networks** (10%), **joining or supporting a trade union** (9%), or **joining a European Citizens' Initiative** (9%). Overall, 4% of Europeans feel they either wouldn't be heard anyway or that they have no interest in being heard.

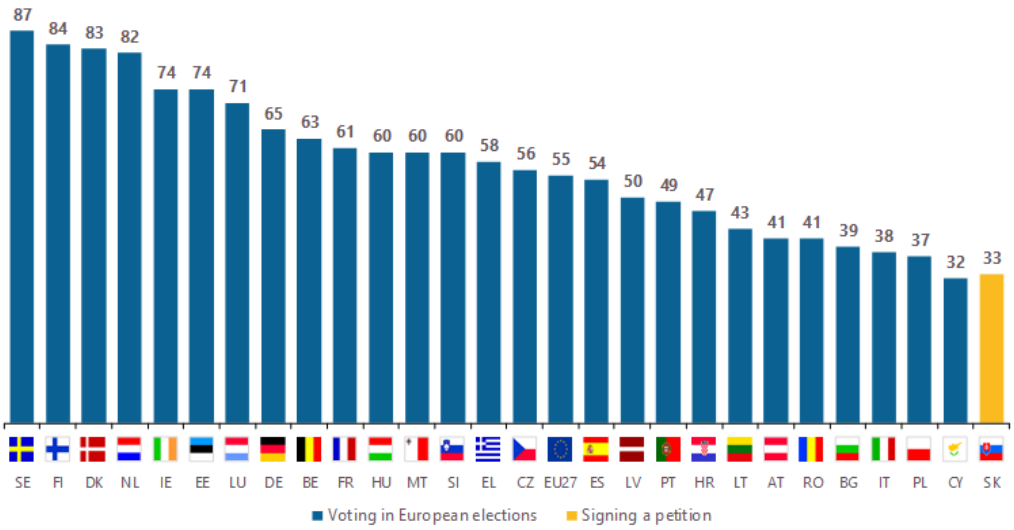
QA2 Which of the following do you think are the best ways of ensuring your voice is heard by decision-makers at EU level?
(MAX. 3 ANSWERS)
(% - EU)



Voting in European elections is the top ranked answer among all Europeans in terms of the best way of ensuring their voice is heard. This is also the top ranked answer in all Member States with the sole exception of Slovakia, where **signing a petition** is the top ranked choice.

Although voting in European elections leads in almost all Member States, there is wide variation by country. The highest rates are found in Nordic EU countries: 87% in Sweden, 84% in Finland and 83% in Denmark. While still the top ranked choice, support for voting in European elections as a way of making your voice heard is lower in Cyprus (32%), Slovakia (32%), where petitions are slightly more popular (33%), and Poland (37%).

QA2 Which of the following do you think are the best ways of ensuring your voice is heard by decision-makers at EU level? (MAX. 3 ANSWERS)
(% - THE MOST MENTIONED ANSWER BY COUNTRY)



III. Conference on the future of Europe

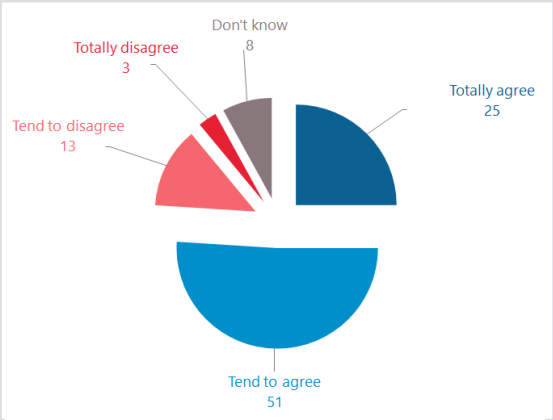
1. A progress for democracy within the EU

Three-quarters of Europeans feel that the Conference on the future of Europe will represent significant progress for EU democracy and this is a majority viewpoint in all Member States

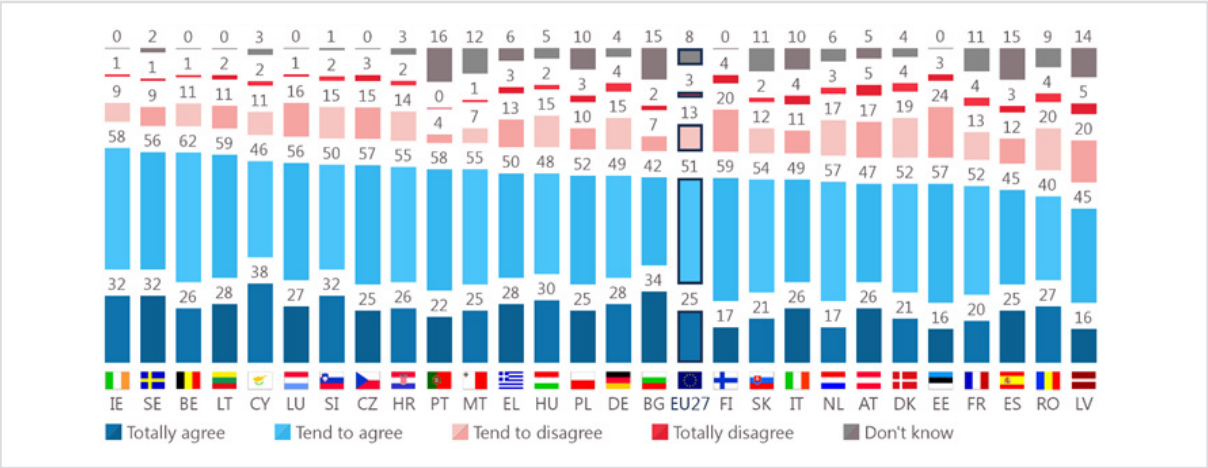
Three-quarters of Europeans consider that the Conference on the future of Europe[16] will have a positive impact on democracy within the EU: **76% agree that it would represent significant progress for democracy within the EU** (25% 'totally agree' and 51% 'tend to agree').

In every country, a clear majority agree that the Conference on the future of Europe would represent significant progress for democracy. The strongest levels of agreement are found in Ireland (90%), Sweden (88%), Belgium (88%) and Lithuania (87%) where more than 85% hold this view. The lowest levels of agreement are found in Latvia (61%) and Romania (67%) where less than seven in ten agree.

QA6.2 To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements about the Conference on the future of Europe:
The Conference would represent significant progress for democracy within the EU (% - EU)



QA6.2 To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements about the Conference on the future of Europe:
The Conference would represent significant progress for democracy within the EU (% - EU)



[16] Before being asked questions on this topic, respondents were informed about the Conference on the Future of Europe (CoFE) by being presented with the following explanation: The EU is working towards launching a multitude of events, debates, and consultations over a two year period. This will be called the "Conference on the Future of Europe". The aim is to debate and shape the future of Europe and of the EU. The Conference should identify what the EU does well, what it should do, and what it needs to do better, in order to increase its capacity to act, and to make it more democratic".

2. Who should be involved?

Europeans mostly favour the involvement of ordinary citizens, young people, national governments and academics/experts in the Conference on the future of Europe

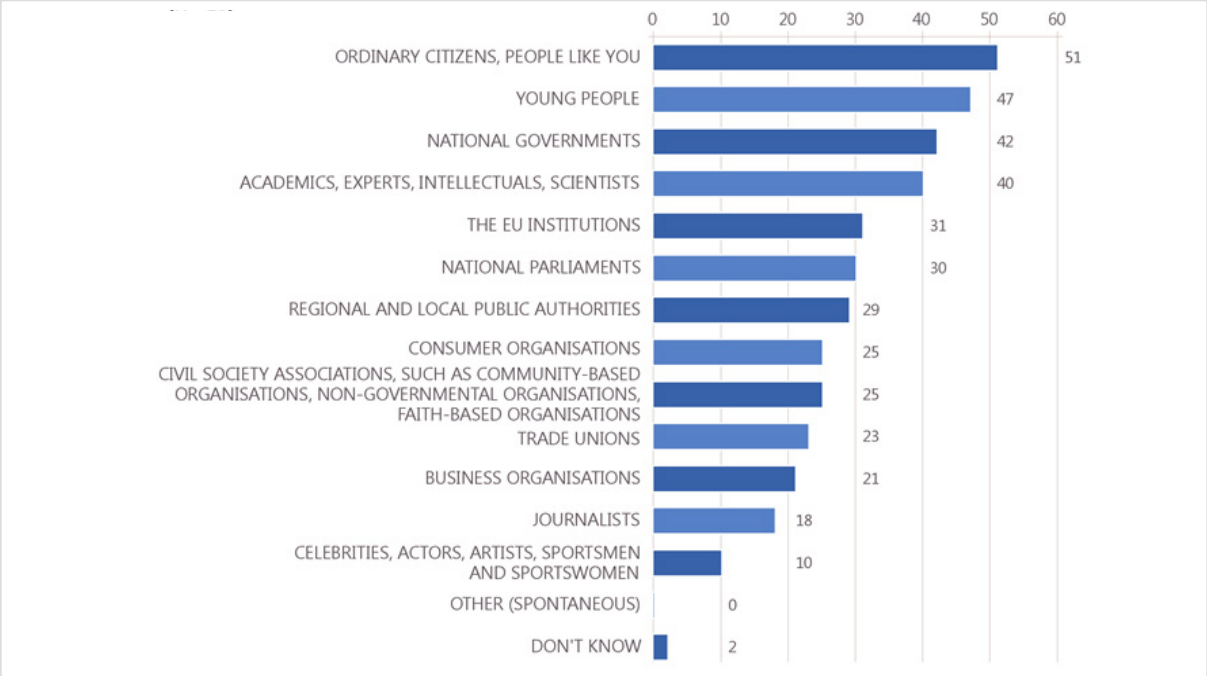
Respondents were presented with a list of possible contributors to the Conference on the future of Europe and were asked who they thought should have an active role in it. Most of these possible contributors are selected by at least two in ten Europeans suggesting a **desire for the involvement of a range of contributors to the Conference on the future of Europe**, including citizens, experts, journalists and various organisations at local, national and EU level.

51% of the respondents think that **ordinary citizens, people like you** should be actively involved. Other contributors which Europeans are most likely to think should be involved, include **young people** (47%), **national governments** (42%), **academics, experts, intellectuals and scientists** (40%), **EU institutions** (31%), **national parliaments** (30%) **and regional and local public authorities** (29%).

One fourth of respondents feel that the Conference on the future of Europe should include the active involvement of **consumer organisations** and **civil society associations,** such as community-based organisations, non-governmental organisations, faith-based organisations.

There is relatively less support among Europeans for the active involvement of **business associations** (21%), **journalists** (18%) and **celebrities** such as actors, artists, and sportspeople (10%).

QA5 Who do you think should be actively involved in the Conference on the Future of Europe? (MULTIPLE ANSWERS POSSIBLE)
(% - EU)



The top five choices out of a list of 15 among all Europeans in terms of who should be involved in the EU are ordinary citizens (first), young people (second), national governments (third) and academics, experts, intellectuals, scientists (fourth), EU institutions (fifth).

Ordinary citizens, people like you, is also the top ranked (or joint top ranked) choice in ten countries, and in each of these countries at least half think this group should be involved. The highest ratings on this measure can be found in Ireland (70%), France (67%) and the Netherlands (65%).

Young people is the top ranked (or joint top ranked) choice in eight countries, and preference for the involvement of this group is highest in Cyprus (78%), Bulgaria (72%) and Greece (68%).

National governments is the top (or joint top) ranked choice in seven countries, led by Denmark (63%).

Academics, experts, intellectuals, scientists is the top ranked choice in four countries, and the involvement of this group was especially favoured by Estonia (68%) and Sweden (65%).

EU institutions is the fifth choice among Europeans in terms of who should be involved in the Conference on the Future of Europe, ranking third in Slovenia alongside national governments (34%).

QA5 Who do you think should be actively involved in the Conference on the Future of Europe?
(MULTIPLE ANSWERS POSSIBLE)
(% – EU)

	Ordinary citizens, people like you	Young people	National governments	Academics, experts, intellectuals, scientists	The EU institutions	National parliaments	Regional and local public authorities	Consumer organisations	Civil society associations, such as community-based organisations, non-governmental organisations, faith-based organisations	Trade unions	Business organisations	Journalists	Celebrities, actors, artists, sportsmen and sportswomen	Other (SPONTANEOUS)	Don't know
EU27	51	47	42	40	31	30	29	25	25	23	21	18	10	0	2
BE	60	40	38	55	32	27	26	30	29	21	20	11	3	0	0
BG	46	72	35	43	38	23	23	27	28	18	24	29	21	0	2
CZ	46	29	53	47	30	38	24	12	18	16	12	12	5	0	0
DK	54	31	63	58	36	47	29	29	27	39	42	23	5	1	1
DE	63	63	44	47	34	35	32	34	26	30	24	27	14	0	1
EE	38	36	42	68	24	33	19	13	40	15	27	16	3	0	0
IE	70	54	57	52	40	33	33	29	39	26	33	16	6	0	0
EL	64	68	43	58	40	32	33	37	32	24	26	14	16	0	1
ES	39	38	43	38	35	25	23	15	17	15	19	10	5	1	5
FR	67	47	32	28	25	20	27	28	21	22	20	13	6	0	3
HR	43	56	37	41	33	31	24	15	20	15	16	17	12	0	0
IT	35	39	43	23	28	27	27	23	22	16	15	12	9	0	4
CY	62	78	35	51	28	30	23	25	26	18	15	28	16	0	1
LV	37	43	41	39	19	24	15	9	20	21	26	27	7	1	3
LT	35	35	52	54	28	34	16	15	29	20	18	19	6	0	0
LU	61	47	42	49	36	32	23	25	31	28	16	16	4	0	0
HU	35	50	38	39	25	24	20	20	24	24	10	12	11	0	1
MT	60	54	47	43	39	33	28	25	31	27	22	29	12	0	2
NL	65	49	59	59	33	43	20	25	40	30	22	19	4	0	0
AT	53	51	38	41	34	30	40	38	31	31	26	27	23	1	3
PL	38	35	39	34	22	30	37	16	30	18	18	18	12	0	3
PT	58	44	58	54	42	37	45	43	35	40	52	33	16	1	5
RO	32	46	34	33	31	28	28	19	22	21	20	26	18	0	3
SI	50	50	34	60	34	27	20	25	25	20	15	19	6	0	0
SK	50	45	46	36	28	38	24	13	17	20	12	23	6	0	1
FI	42	28	52	50	38	36	21	14	25	19	31	14	3	0	1
SE	62	33	63	65	43	41	32	24	31	33	29	22	3	0	0

1st MOST FREQUENTLY MENTIONED ITEM
2nd MOST FREQUENTLY MENTIONED ITEM
3rd MOST FREQUENTLY MENTIONED ITEM

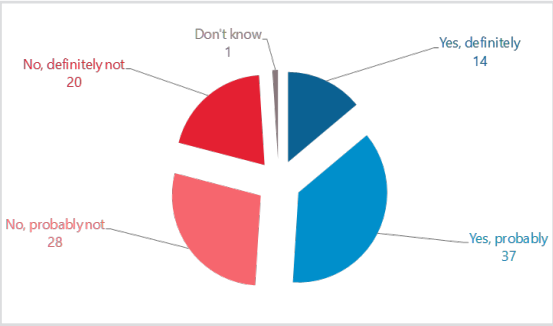
3. Willingness to participate

Around half of Europeans would definitely or probably like to get involved in the Conference on the future of Europe, although this varies considerably by country

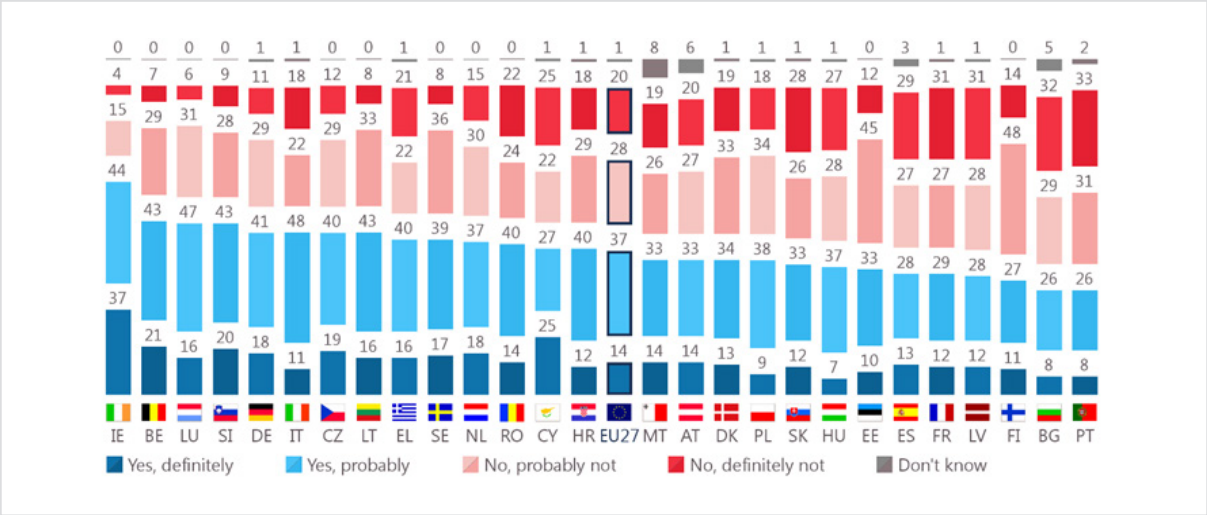
51% of respondents say they would be **willing to take part, as a citizen, in the activities of the Conference on the future of Europe,** although only 14% say that they would definitely take part, while 37% say they would probably take part. This leaves 48%, who are less inclined to get involved: 28% say they would probably not participate and 20% say they would definitely not participate.

There is a wide variation between EU Member States in the **willingness to get involved in the Conference on the future of Europe.** Respondents in Ireland are the most enthusiastic (81% would like to be involved) followed by Belgium (64%), Luxembourg (63%) and Slovenia (63%). Citizens in Portugal (34%), Bulgaria (34%) and Finland (38%) are least enthusiastic about getting involved in the Conference on the future of Europe.

QA7 Would you personally be willing to take part, as a citizen, in the activities of the Conference on the Future of Europe?
(% - EU)



QA7 Would you personally be willing to take part, as a citizen, in the activities of the Conference on the Future of Europe?
(% - EU)



4. Ways of contributing to the activities of the Conference on the Future of Europe

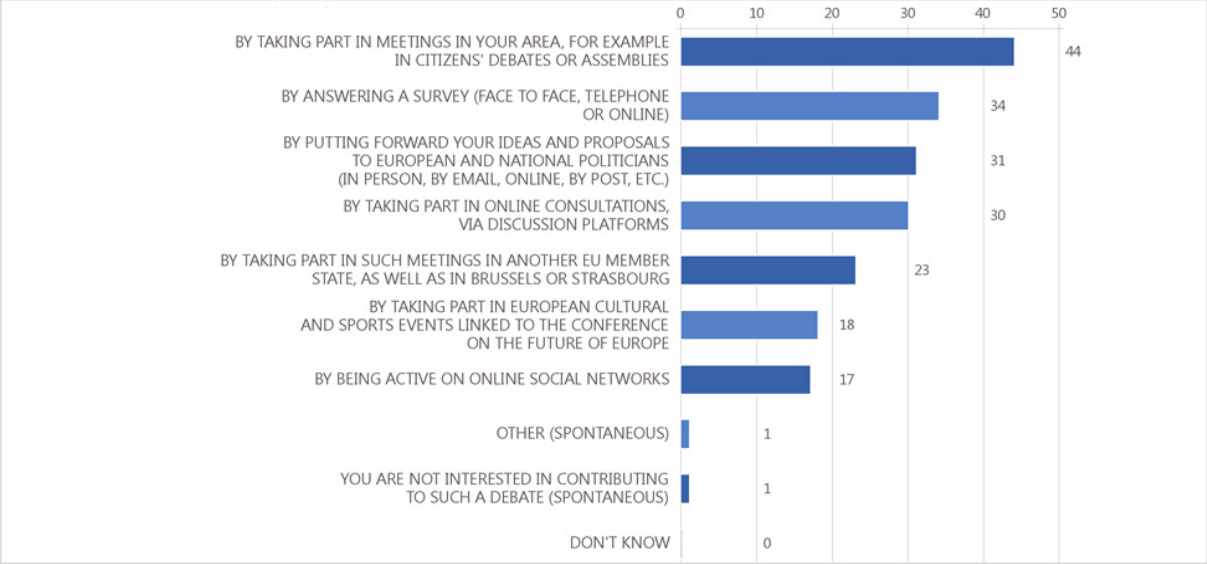
Europeans who expressed a willingness to be involved in the Conference on the future of Europe would prefer to participate through local meetings, surveys, by putting forward proposals to EU and national politicians, and through online consultations

Respondents who expressed willingness to be involved in the Conference on the future of Europe were presented with a list of possible ways to get involved and were asked to select the first way in which they would most like to get involved, and then to pick a second option. The chart below shows the combined proportions of each item mentioned in either question.

The clear top preference among Europeans willing to get involved is to **take part in meetings in their local area**, for example citizens' debates or assemblies (44%). The next most popular methods of involvement among this group are by **answering a survey** (34%), **putting forward ideas and proposals to European and national politicians** (in person, by email, online, by post etc.) (31%) and **taking part in online consultations** via discussion platforms (30%).

Other options selected by a lower proportion of Europeans willing to get involved include **taking part in such meetings in another EU Member State, as well as in Brussels or Strasbourg** (23%), **taking part in European cultural and sports events** linked to the Conference on the future of Europe (18%) and **being active on online social networks** (17%).

QA8T How would you like to contribute to the activities of the Conference on the Future of Europe? Firsly? And then? (MAX. 2 ANSWERS)
(% - EU)



Base: All respondents who expressed willingness to be personally involved in the Conference on the future of Europe (N = 13766)

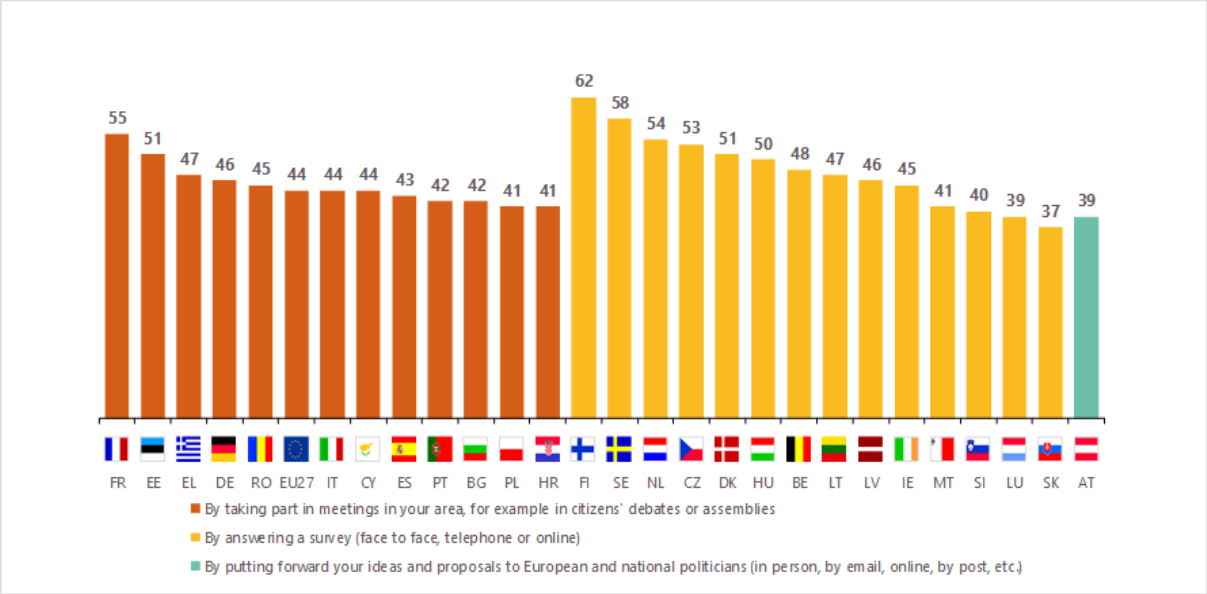
The two most preferred ways of getting involved, among Europeans who expressed an interest in getting involved, are to take part in meetings in their local area and answering a survey. These are also featured as the top ranked preference in all Member States, except for Austria.

Taking part in meetings, for example citizens' debates or assemblies, the top ranked choice among all respondents, is also the top choice in 12 EU countries, and support for this is highest in France (55%) and Estonia (51%).

Answering a survey, the second ranked choice among all Europeans, is the top choice in 14 Member States, and this was especially favoured in Finland (62%) and Sweden (58%).

In Austria, neither of these is ranked highest and Austrians are instead most likely to want to take part by **putting forward ideas and proposals to European and national politicians** (39%).

QA8T How would you like to contribute to the activities of the Conference on the Future of Europe? Firsly? And then? (MAX. 2 ANSWERS)
(% – EU)



Base: All respondents who expressed willingness to be personally involved in the Conference on the future of Europe (N = 13766)

IV. Future of Europe

1. Main assets of the EU

Europeans consider that the EU's respect for democracy, human rights and the rule of law as well as its economic, industrial and trading power are EU main assets

Europeans consider that the **EU's respect for democracy, human rights and the rule of law** (32%) and its **economic, industrial and trading power** (30%) are the main assets of the EU.

Other assets considered relatively important to Europeans include the **standard of living of EU citizens** (23%), the **good relationship and solidarity between the EU's Member States** (23%), the **EU's ability to promote peace and democracy outside its borders** (18%), the **social protection systems in the Member States** (16%) and the **EU's commitment to environmental responsibility** (13%).

Finally, around one in ten Europeans mention the EU's capacity for **research and innovation** (12%), the **quality of infrastructure in the EU** (11%) and the **skills of talents of EU citizens** (10%).

This question was also asked in the Special Eurobarometer survey "Europeans in 2019", conducted in March 2019[17]. However, the question was adapted for the October/November 2020 Future of Europe survey, to take account of the coronavirus crisis; one new item was added, and another item was slightly modified[18]. Therefore, only broad comparisons can be made with March 2019, and analysis of change over time should be interpreted with some caution.

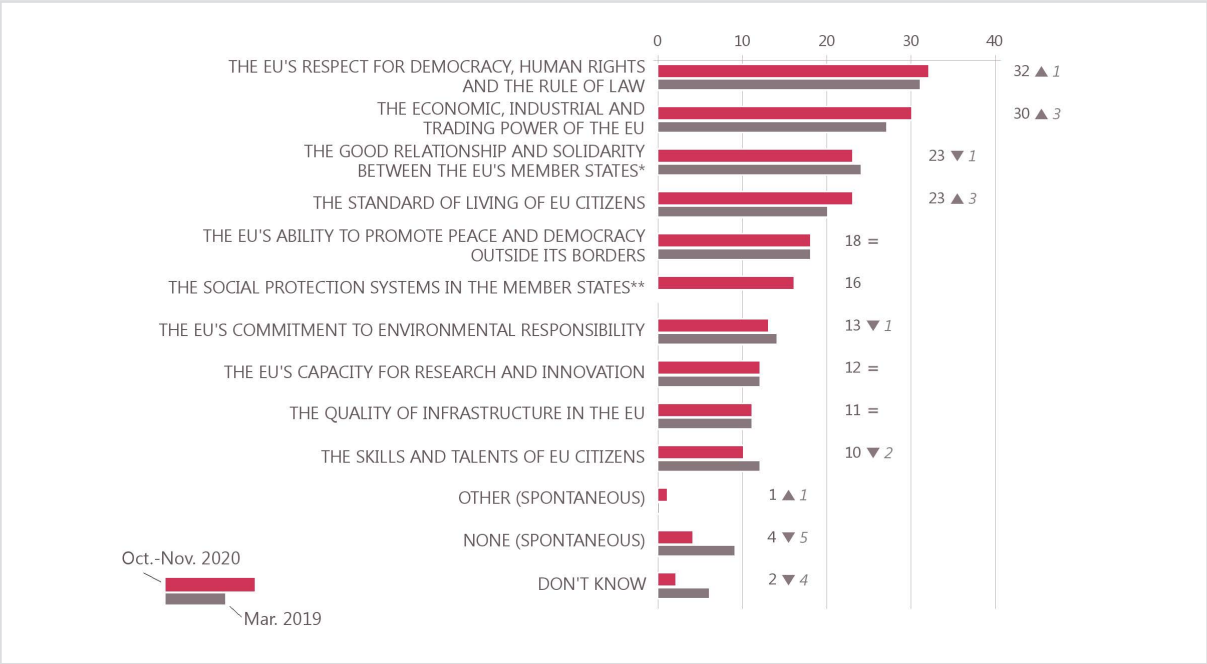
However, overall, **the results remain very similar to those recorded in March 2019**. The top two assets mentioned by Europeans – the EU's respect for democracy, human rights and the rule of law; its economic, industrial and trading power, and the standard of living of EU citizens(19) - remain the same and in the same order of prevalence. Only two small increases between March 2019 and October/November 2020 in perceptions of the EU's main assets are observed: economic, industrial and trading power (30%, +3 percentage points since March 2019) and the standard of living of EU citizens (23%, +3pp).

[17] Special Eurobarometer 486 "Europeans in 2019" https://ec.europa.eu/commfrontoffice/publicopinion/index.cfm/survey/getsurveydetail/instruments/special/surveyky/2225

[18] One new item was included in the present October/November 2020 FoE survey: 'The social protection systems in the Member States' and one item was slightly reworded from 'The good relationship between the EU's member states' to 'The good relationship and solidarity between the EU's member states'.

[19] The good relationship and solidarity between the EU's Member States' ranked equal third in October/November 2020; however this item has been slightly modified since the previous survey.

QA10T In your opinion, what are the main assets of the EU? Firstly? And then?
(MAX. 2 ANSWERS)
(% – EU)



* Statement modified (see footnote) ** Statement was included for the first time in Oct/Nov 2020 (see footnote)

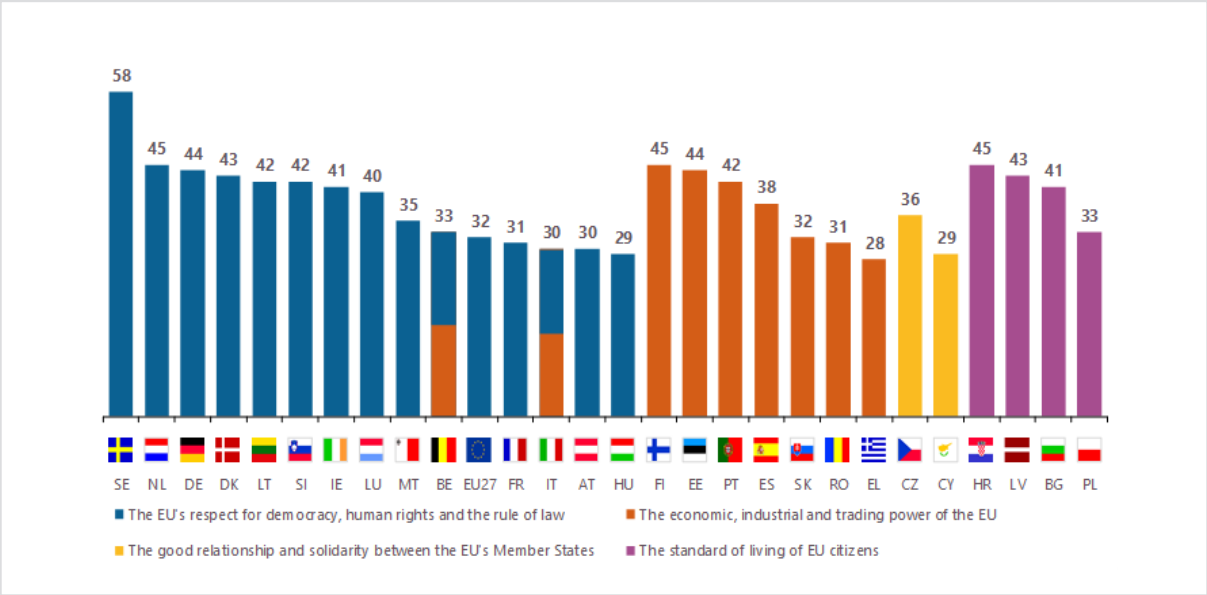
Europeans consider that the **EU's respect for democracy, human rights and the rule of law** and its **economic, industrial and trading power** are the EU's main assets. These assets are also ranked highest in most Member States.

The EU's respect for democracy, human rights and the rule of law is ranked as the most important (or joint most important) asset in 14 countries, and this viewpoint is especially prominent in Sweden where 58% see this as a key asset.

The EU's economic, industrial and trading power is ranked as the most important (or joint most important) asset in nine countries, led by Finland (45%) and Estonia (44%).

Four countries see the EU's main asset as the **standard of living of EU citizens**, especially Croatia (45%), Latvia (43%) and Bulgaria (41%). Finally, just two countries, Czechia (36%) and Cyprus (29%), think the EU's main asset is its **good relationship and solidarity** between the Member States.

QA10T In your opinion, what are the main assets of the EU? Firstly? And then?
(MAX. 2 ANSWERS)
(% – THE MOST MENTIONED ANSWER BY COUNTRY)



2. Main challenges for the future of the EU

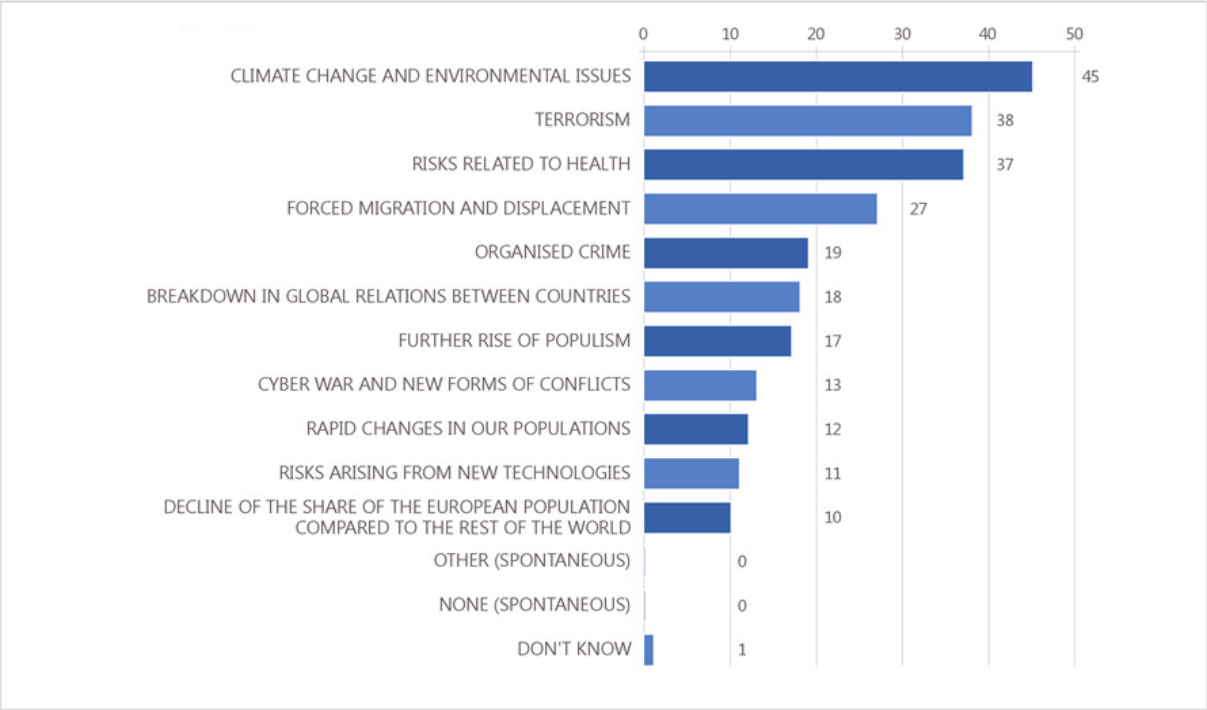
Europeans see climate change, terrorism, health-related risks and forced migration and displacement as the main global challenges for the future of the EU

Climate change is clearly regarded as the main global challenge affecting the future of the EU, with 45% of Europeans selecting this as the main challenge. The second and third most mentioned issues, mentioned by a similar proportion of Europeans are **terrorism** (38%) and **health-related risks** (37%). The fourth most cited challenge, mentioned by just over a quarter of Europeans, is **forced migration and displacement** (27%).

Other challenges mentioned by just under one in five Europeans include **organised crime** (19%), **breakdown in global relations between countries** (18%), and the **further rise of populism** (17%).

Challenges considered relatively less important to Europeans include cyber war and new forms of conflicts (13%), rapid changes in the population (12%), risks arising from new technologies (11%), and the decline of the share of the European population compared to the rest of the world (10%).

QA12 Which of the following do you think are the main global challenges for the future of the EU?
(MAX. 3 ANSWERS)
(% - EU)



Europeans see **climate change and the environment, terrorism, health-related risks, and forced migration and displacement** as the main global challenges for the future of the EU. These challenges are also reflected in the opinions of Member States.

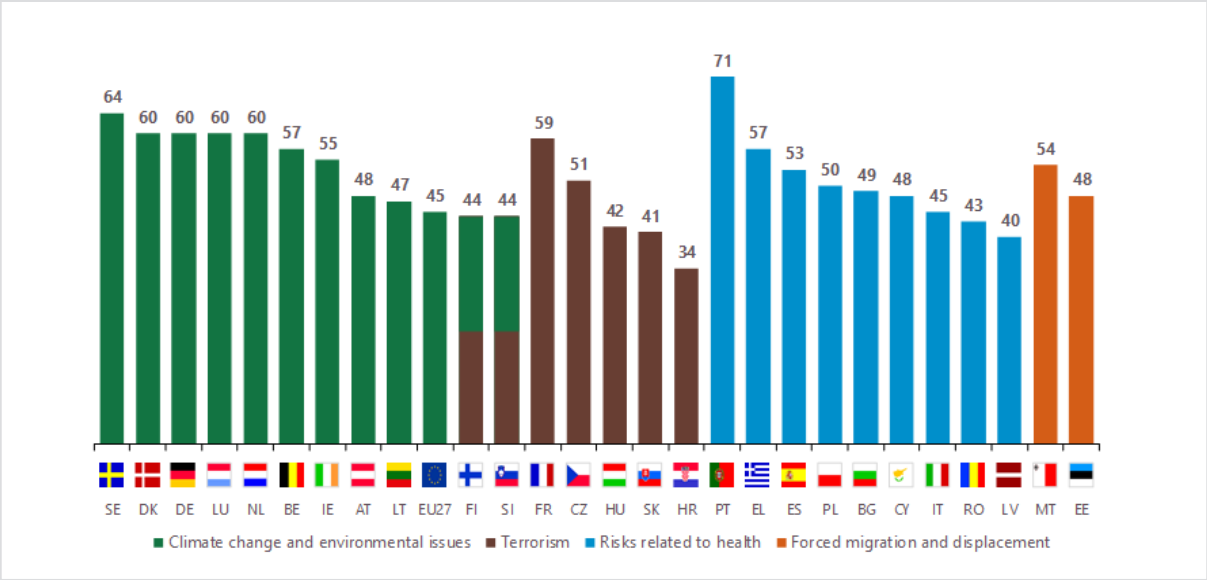
Climate change is considered the main global challenge for the future of the EU among all Europeans and this is also seen as the main challenge (or joint main challenge) in 11 countries. Climate change is most frequently cited as a challenge in Sweden (64%), and Denmark, Germany, Luxembourg and the Netherlands (all 60%).

Terrorism is regarded as a main global challenge (or joint main challenge) in seven countries, and especially in France[20] (59%) and Czechia (51%).

Risks related to health is seen as a core challenge in nine countries, and this is especially prominent in Portugal (71%).
Finally, two Member States – Malta (54%) and Estonia (48%) - see as EU's main challenge **forced migration and displacement.**

[20] The fieldwork took place during the "Charlie-Hebdo" terror attacks trial, which took place from September to December, and shortly after the murder of the school teacher Samuel Paty (16 October).

QA12 Which of the following do you think are the main global challenges for the future of the EU?
(MAX. 3 ANSWERS)
(% - EU)

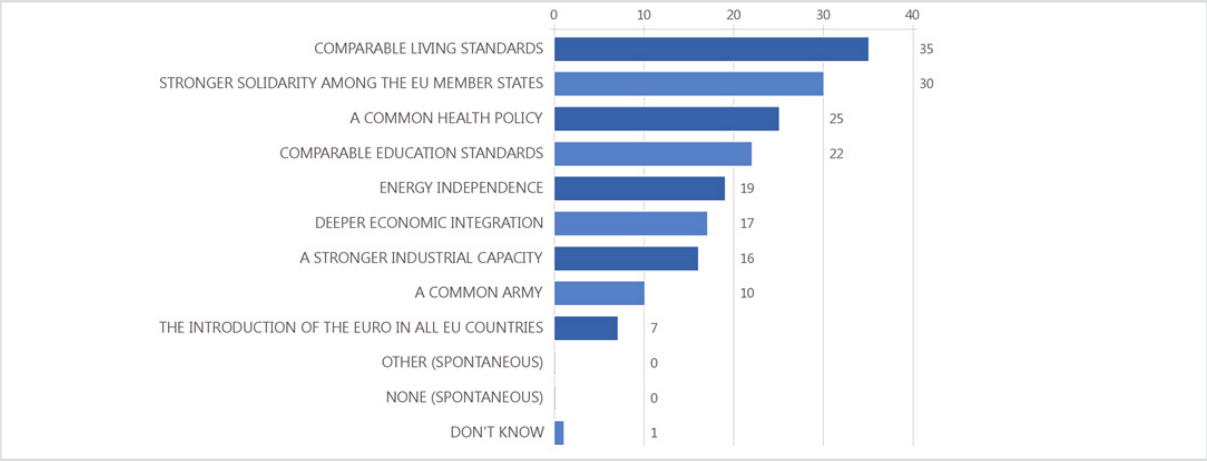


3. What would be the most helpful for the future of Europe?

Comparable living standards, stronger solidarity among Member States and a common health policy are regarded as the most helpful developments for the future of Europe

Comparable living standards (35%) and **stronger solidarity among Member States** (30%) are regarded as the two most helpful developments for the future of Europe. Europeans also prioritise the development of a **common health policy** (25%) and **comparable education standards** (22%). Lower ranked priorities, mentioned by less than two in ten, include **energy independence** (19%), **deeper economic integration** (17%), a **stronger industrial capacity** (16%), and a **common army** (10%). Finally, less than one in ten respondents mention **the introduction of the euro in all EU countries** (7%).

QA18 Which two of the following would you consider to be most helpful for the future of Europe?
(MAX. 2 ANSWERS)
(% - EU)

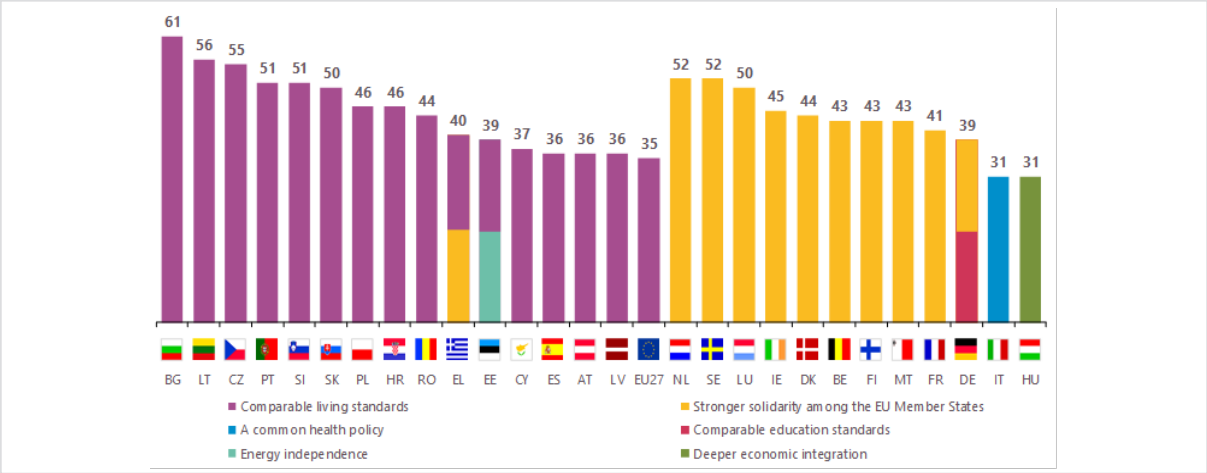


A desire for **comparable living standards** is seen as the most helpful development for the future of Europe among Europeans overall, and this is also the top priority (or joint top priority) in 15 Member States, led by Bulgaria (61%), Lithuania (56%) and Czechia (55%).

Stronger solidarity among the EU Member States is selected as the highest ranked (or joint highest ranked) answer in 11 countries, and higher scores can be found in the Netherlands and Sweden (52% in both countries) and Luxembourg (50%).

In some countries, a different pattern of first ranked reponses is observed. In Italy, the most helpful development is a common health policy (31%), and in Hungary it is deeper economic integration (31%). Greece gives jointly priority to comparable living standards and stronger solidarity among Member States (40% each), Estonia gives jointly priority to comparable living standards and energy independence (39% each), and Germany gives jointly priority to stronger solidarity among Member States and comparable education standards (39% each).

QA18 Which two of the following would you consider to be most helpful for the future of Europe?
(MAX. 2 ANSWERS)
(% - THE MOST MENTIONED ANSWER BY COUNTRY)



V. The EU and the Coronavirus pandemic

1. Priorities of the EU in its response to the pandemic

In its response to the pandemic, Europeans would most like the EU to prioritise a European health policy, investment for treatments and vaccinations, and a European strategy to tackle a similar crisis in the future

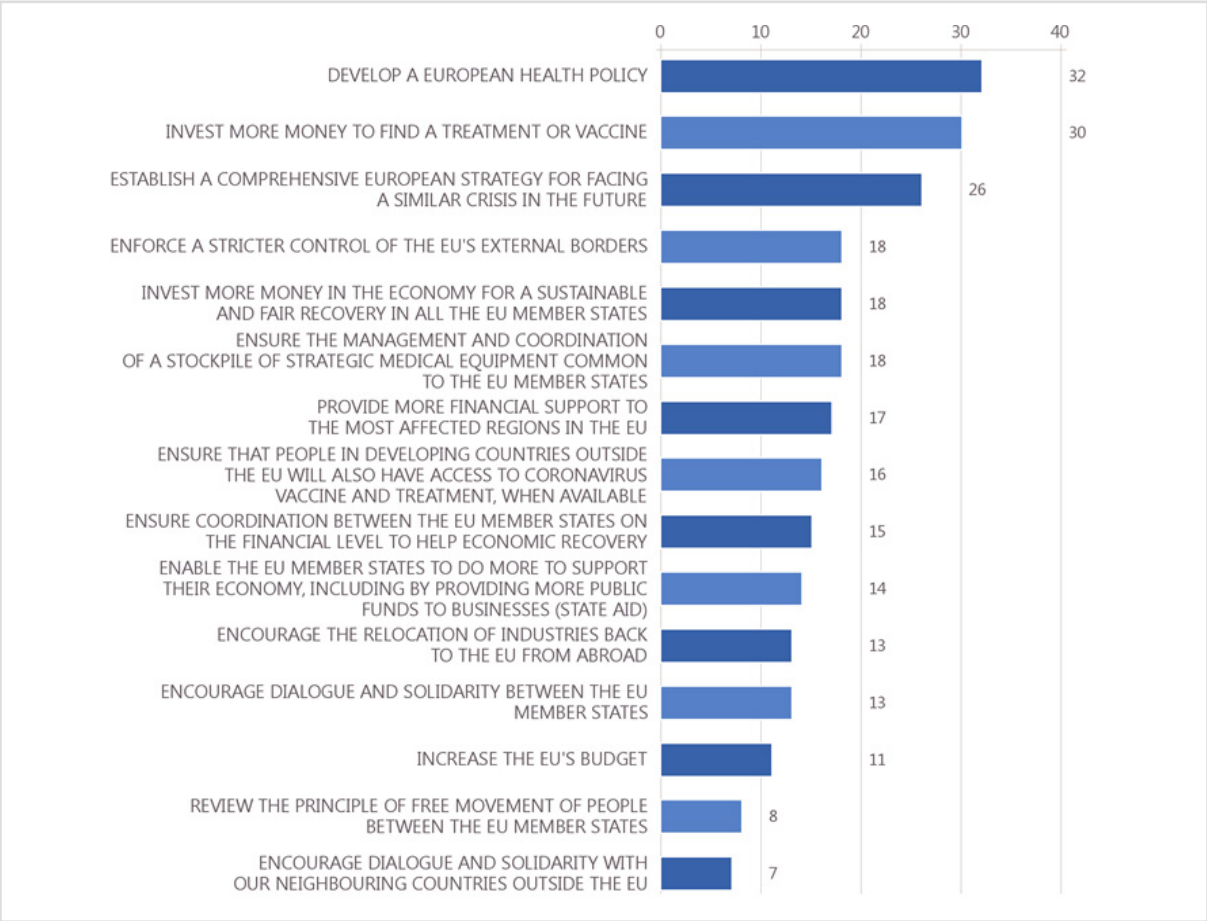
When asked about what the EU should prioritise in its response to the coronavirus pandemic, the three main priorities for Europeans are to **develop a European health policy** (32%), to **invest more money to find a treatment or vaccine** (30%) and to **establish a comprehensive European strategy for facing a similar crisis in the future** (26%).

Further priorities mentioned by at least 15% of all Europeans include **investing more money in the economy** for a sustainable and fair recovery in all the EU Member States (18%), enforcing a **stricter control of the EU's external borders** (18%), ensuring the management and coordination of a **stockpile of strategic medical equipment** common to the EU Member States (18%), providing more financial support to the **most affected regions in the EU** (17%), ensuring that people in **developing countries outside the EU will also have access to coronavirus vaccine and treatment** when available (16%) and ensuring coordination between the EU Member States on the financial level to help economic recovery (15%).

Other priorities of relatively lower importance to Europeans, still mentioned by at least 10%, include enabling EU Member States to do more to **support their economy, including by providing more public funds to businesses** (state aid) (14%), encouraging the **relocation of industries back to the EU from abroad** (13%), encouraging **dialogue and solidarity between the EU Member States** (13%), and **increasing the EU budget** (11%).

Finally, less than 10% of Europeans consider that **reviewing the principle of free movement of people** between the EU Member States (8%) and encouraging **dialogue and solidarity with neighbouring countries outside the EU** (7%) should be a top priority for the EU in its response to the pandemic.

QA31 And what should the European Union now prioritise in its response to the Coronavirus Pandemic?
(MAX. 3 ANSWERS)
(% – EU)



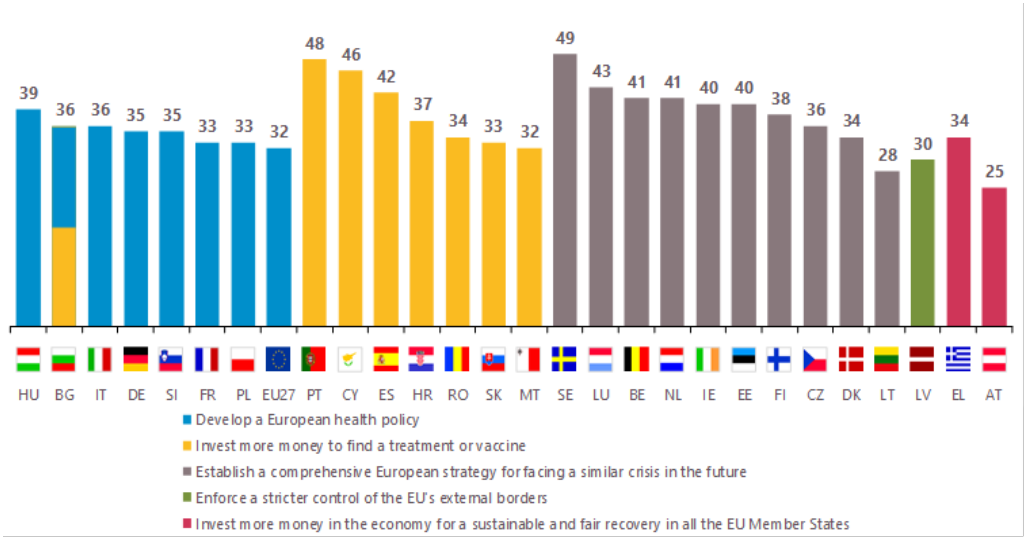
Developing a European health policy, the top ranked choice among all EU respondents, is the top choice (or joint top choice) in seven EU Member States, led by Hungary (39%).

Investing money in treatments and vaccines, the second ranked choice, is the top choice (or joint top choice) in eight Member States, especially favoured in Portugal (48%) and Cyprus (46%).

Establishing a comprehensive European strategy for facing a similar crisis in the future, the third ranked choice, is the top choice in ten Member States, and especially in Sweden where nearly half (49%) select this as a top priority.

There are three countries which have a different top priority. In Greece and Austria the top ranked priority is **investing more money in the economy for a sustainable and fair recovery in all EU Member States** (34% in Greece and 25% in Austria), while Latvian respondents are most in favour of **enforcing a stricter control of the EU's external border** (30%).

QA31 And what should the European Union now prioritise in its response to the Coronavirus Pandemic?
(MAX. 3 ANSWERS)
(% – THE MOST MENTIONED ANSWER BY COUNTRY)



2. EU financial support

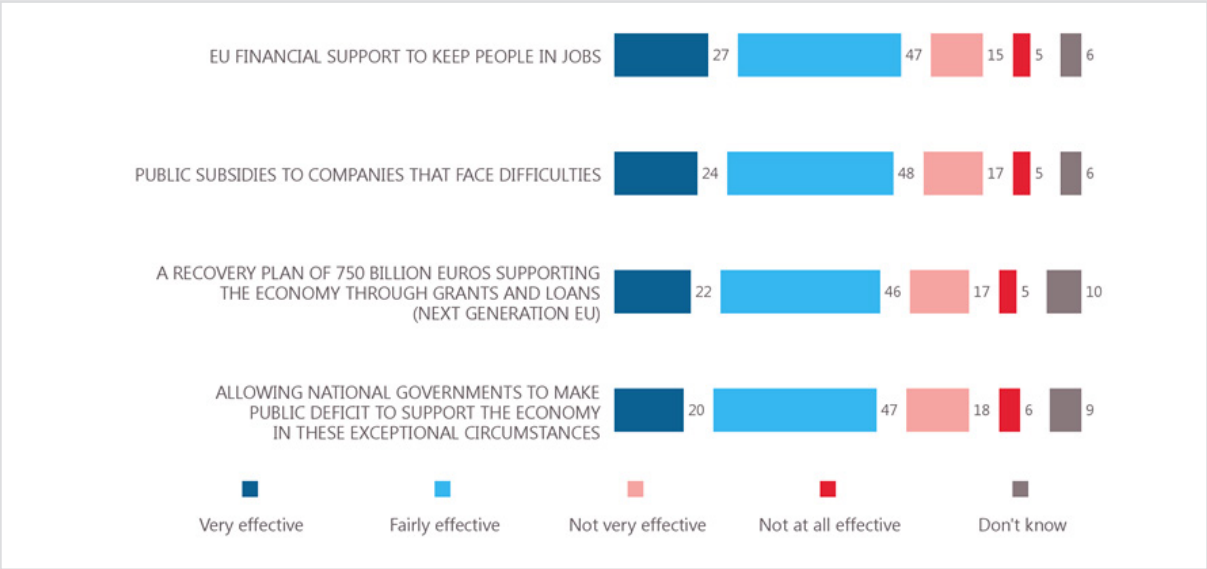
Most Europeans consider that the various economic measures taken by the EU in response to the pandemic are effective

Respondents were asked to rate their views on the effectiveness of four measures taken by the European Union to respond to the economic effects of the coronavirus pandemic.

Overall, these different measures are considered effective by large majorities of EU citizens. Almost three-quarters of respondents consider **EU financial support to keep people in jobs** to be effective (74%, of which 27% say 'very effective' and 47% 'fairly effective'). An almost equal proportion of Europeans rate the effectiveness of **public subsidies to companies facing difficulties** (72%, of which 24% say 'very effective' and 48% 'fairly effective').

Around two in three Europeans consider that the **recovery plan of 750 billion euros to support the economy ('Next Generation EU')** is effective (68%, of which 22% say 'very effective' and 46% 'fairly effective'), while a similar proportion of Europeans rate the effectiveness of **allowing national governments to make public deficit to support the economy** in these exceptional circumstances (67%, of which 20% say 'very effective' and 47% 'fairly effective').

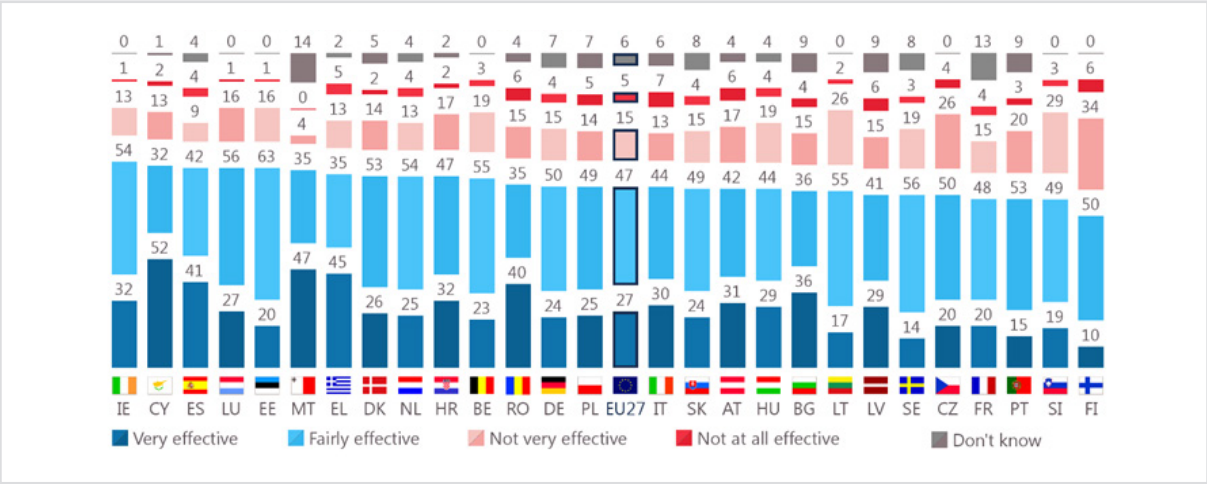
QA32 How effective or not do you think that each of the following measures decided by the European Union is, to respond to the economic effects of the Coronavirus Pandemic?
(% - EU)



A majority of citizens in all countries rate these EU economic policies in response to the pandemic as effective

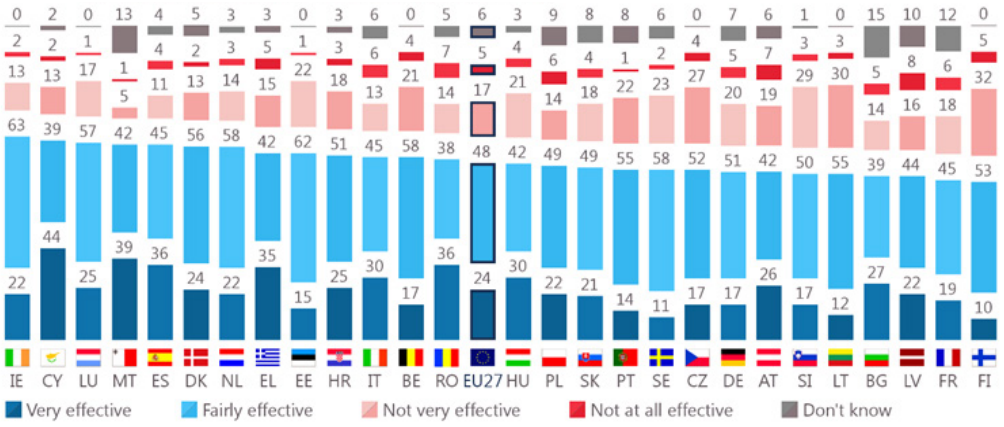
At least six in ten in each country say that **EU financial support to keep people in jobs** is an effective measure, and this rises to more than eight in ten in Ireland (86%), Cyprus (84%), Spain, Luxembourg and Estonia (all 83%), and Malta (82%). At the other end of the scale, less than seven in ten respondents find this measure effective in Finland (60%), and Slovenia, Portugal, France (all 68%).

QA32.2 How effective or not do you think that each of the following measures decided by the European Union is, to respond to the economic effects of the Coronavirus Pandemic?
(% - EU financial support to keep people in jobs)



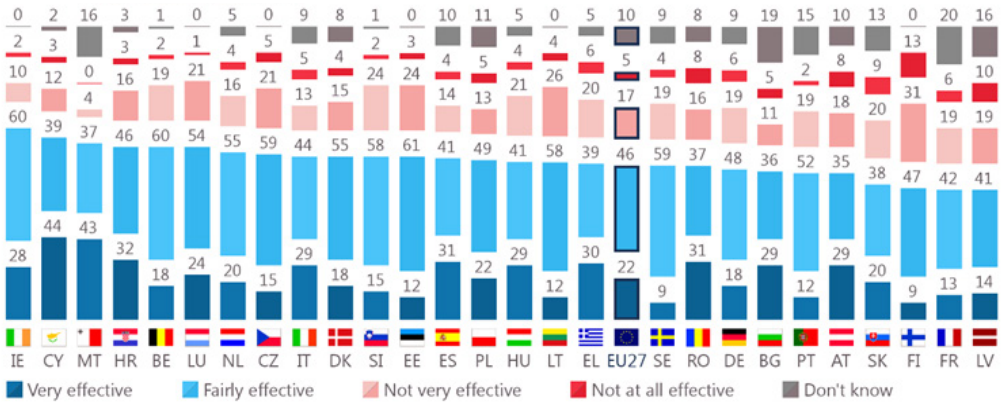
Similarly, more than six in ten respondents in each country think **public subsidies for companies that face difficulties** are effective, rising to more than eight in ten in Ireland (85%), Cyprus (83%), Luxembourg (82%), Malta and Spain (both 81%). The countries which are least likely to rate this policy as effective are Finland (63%), France (64%), Bulgaria and Latvia (both 66%).

QA32.4 How effective or not do you think that each of the following measures decided by the European Union is, to respond to the economic effects of the Coronavirus Pandemic? **(% - Public subsidies to companies that face difficulties)**



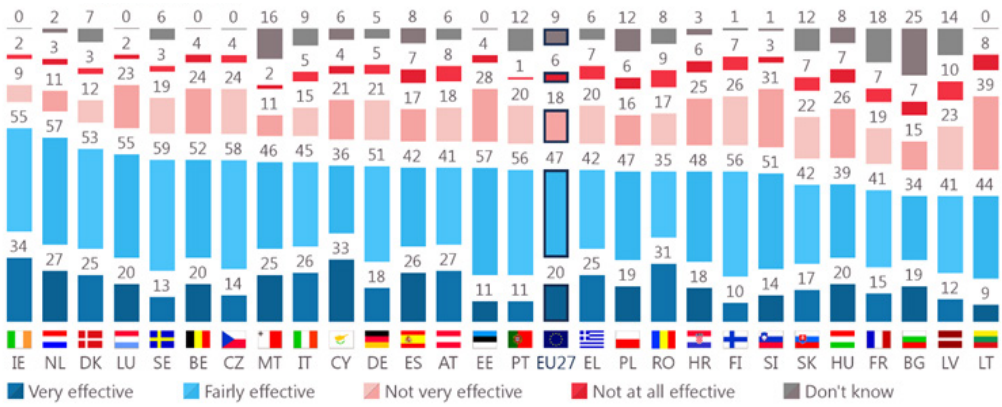
A majority in all Member States (at least 55%) rate the **EU recovery plan of 750 billion euros to support the economy** as an effective measure. Respondents in Ireland (88%), Cyprus (83%) and Malta (80%) are again most positive, at least eight in ten rating this measure as effective. At the other end of the scale, less than six in ten of the following countries rate this plan as effective: Latvia and France (both 55%), Finland (56%) and Slovakia (58%).

QA32.1 How effective or not do you think that each of the following measures decided by the European Union is, to respond to the economic effects of the Coronavirus Pandemic? **(% - A recovery plan of 750 billion euros supporting the economy through grants and loans - Next Generation EU)**



There are varying levels of support when it comes to **allowing governments to make public deficit to support the economy in these exceptional circumstances**, although again a majority in all countries are supportive. Ratings of effectiveness vary from 89% in Ireland and 84% in the Netherlands (most supportive) to 53% in Bulgaria, Latvia and Lithuania (least supportive).

QA32.3 How effective or not do you think that each of the following measures decided by the European Union is, to respond to the economic effects of the Coronavirus Pandemic? **(% - Allowing national governments to make public deficit to support the economy in these exceptional circumstances)**



Conclusion

This survey took place in October and November 2020 amidst the second wave of the coronavirus global pandemic, at a time when citizens had been living with the virus for several months. This experience of living with the pandemic over the longer-term, and the impact on citizens' health, financial security and personal freedoms, has clearly shaped the views of European citizens in terms of their attitudes towards the future of Europe.

Six in ten Europeans say that the **pandemic has made them reflect on the future of the EU** and this is the majority opinion in most Member States. **Europeans are largely supportive of the economic measures taken by the EU in response to the pandemic**, especially EU support to keep people in jobs and public subsidies to support businesses, with over seven in ten (72%) rating these measures as effective. On balance, **Europeans feel more positive than negative about the EU.** Almost half (47%) of Europeans hold a positive image of the EU, while just 14% are negative, the remainder (39%) holding a neutral stance.

Against the backdrop of the pandemic, there is a **strong desire for more citizen participation when making decisions about the future of the EU**, and evidence shows that this desire has **strengthened over the past 12 months**. A majority of Europeans agree (92% overall and 55% strongly) that EU citizens' voices should be more taken into account in decisions relating to the future of Europe.

In this context, there is a **high level of positive support for the Conference on the future of Europe,** recognized as a priority by President von der Leyen at the beginning of her term of office, and requested by the newly elected European Parliament[21]. More specifically, three-quarters of Europeans believe that the Conference on the future of Europe will have a positive impact on democracy. When asked about who should participate in the Conference on the future of Europe, respondents **prioritise**

[21] https://www.europarl.europa.eu/doceo/document/TA-9-2020-0010_EN.html

the involvement of ordinary citizens and young people. However, at a broader level, there is a desire for the **involvement of a range of contributors to the Conference on the future of Europe,** including citizens, experts, businesses, and various organisations at EU, national and local levels. Europeans are divided in terms of their desire for personal involvement in the Conference on the future of Europe. **Half of the respondents overall express an interest in taking part personally.** These participants mention a range of ways in which they would like to get involved including participation through local meetings, surveys, putting forward proposals to politicians, and online consultations.

The **EU's respect for democratic principles and human rights**, as well as **EU's economic, industrial and trading power are the EU's main assets** according to respondents, with these issues mentioned by at least three in ten Europeans. Europeans are also aware of the global challenges facing the EU, and **climate change** is considered the **leading global challenge to the future of the EU** (45% mention this), despite recent attention being focused on the more immediate problems of the coronavirus pandemic. Other challenges noted by significant proportions of respondents include **terrorism** and **health-related risks**, each mentioned by over one in three Europeans.

Looking to the future, **Europeans would like the EU to prioritise in its response to the pandemic a European health policy, investment for treatments and vaccinations and an EU-wide strategy to tackle a similar crisis in the future,** each of these mentioned by at least one in four Europeans. More generally, beyond the more immediate concerns of the pandemic, **Europeans would mainly like to see the EU develop more parity in living standards and stronger solidarity between Member States**, each of these mentioned by at least three in ten respondents.

Annex

Technical Specifications

Between the 22nd October and 20th November 2020, Kantar carried out the Special Eurobarometer survey no 500 (EB94.1) on the Future of Europe (FoE), at the request of the European Commission's and European Parliament's Directorates-General for Communication ("Media monitoring and Eurobarometer" Unit and "Public Opinion Monitoring" Unit).

The wave 94.1 covers the population of the respective nationalities of the European Union Member States, resident in each of the 27 Member States and aged 15 years and over.

The basic sample design applied in all States where a face to face mode of data collection has been feasible is a multi-stage, random (probability) one. In each country, a number of sampling points were drawn with probability proportional to their population size.

The sampling points were drawn systematically from each of the «administrative regional units», after stratification by individual unit and type of area. They thus represent the whole territory of the countries surveyed according to the EUROSTAT NUTS II (or equivalent) and according to the distribution of the resident population of the respective nationalities in terms of metropolitan, urban and rural areas .

In each of the selected sampling points, a starting address was drawn, at random. Further addresses (every Nth address) were selected by standard «random route» procedures, from the initial address. In each household, the respondent was drawn, at random (following the «last birthday rule»). If no one answered the interviewer in a household, or if the respondent selected was not available (not present or busy), the interviewer revisited the same household up to three additional times (four contact attempts in total). Interviewers never indicate that the survey is conducted on behalf of the European Commission beforehand; they may give this information once the survey is completed, upon request.

The recruitment phase was slightly different in the Netherlands, Sweden and Denmark. In these countries, a sample of addresses within each areal sampling point (1km2 grid) were selected from the address or population register. The selection of addresses was done in a random manner. Households were then contacted by telephone and recruited to take part in the survey.

[1] Urban Rural classification based on DEGURBA (https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/web/degree-of-urbanisation/background)

	COUNTRIES	INSTITUTES	N° INTERVIEWS	FIELDWORK DATES		POPULATION 15+	PROPORTION EU27
BE	Belgium	Kantar Belgium (Kantar TNS)	1.043	02/11/2020	18/11/2020	9.188.369	2,45%
BG	Bulgaria	Kantar TNS BBSS	1.053	23/10/2020	15/11/2020	5.995.194	1,60%
CZ	Czechia	Kantar CZ	1.050	02/11/2020	18/11/2020	8.956.740	2,39%
DK	Denmark	Kantar Gallup	1.050	23/10/2020	19/11/2020	4.848.611	1,29%
DE	Germany	Kantar Deutschland	1.588	23/10/2020	19/11/2020	71.728.398	19,10%
EE	Estonia	Kantar Emor	1.011	02/11/2020	18/11/2020	1.073.224	0,29%
IE	Ireland	Kantar Belgium	1.050	02/11/2020	18/11/2020	3.896.482	1,04%
EL	Greece	Taylor Nelson Sofres Market Research	1.030	23/10/2020	20/11/2020	9.187.524	2,45%
ES	Spain	TNS Investigación de Mercados y Opinión	1.025	23/10/2020	17/11/2020	40.006.943	10,65%
FR	France	Kantar Public France	1.008	22/10/2020	16/11/2020	52.732.499	14,04%
HR	Croatia	Hendal	1.051	23/10/2020	16/11/2020	3.488.460	0,93%
IT	Italy	Kantar Italia	1.024	22/10/2020	10/11/2020	52.397.331	13,95%
CY	Rep. Of Cyprus	CYMAR Market Research	504	22/10/2020	13/11/2020	734.695	0,20%
LV	Latvia	Kantar TNS Latvia	1.050	23/10/2020	18/11/2020	1.568.124	0,42%
LT	Lithuania	TNS LT	1.049	04/11/2020	20/11/2020	2.300.257	0,61%
LU	Luxembourg	Kantar Belgium	550	02/11/2020	20/11/2020	503.275	0,13%
HU	Hungary	Kantar Hoffmann	1.049	28/10/2020	14/11/2020	8.351.017	2,22%
MT	Malta	MISCO International	552	23/10/2020	20/11/2020	426.055	0,11%
NL	Netherlands	TNS NIPO	1.029	22/10/2020	19/11/2020	14.165.638	3,77%
AT	Austria	Das Österreichische Gallup Institut	1.010	22/10/2020	05/11/2020	7.580.083	2,02%
PL	Poland	Kantar Polska	1.017	23/10/2020	15/11/2020	32.139.021	8,56%
PT	Portugal	Marktest – Marketing, Organização e Formação	1.027	23/10/2020	16/11/2020	8.869.051	2,36%
RO	Romania	Centrul Pentru Studierea Opiniei si Pietei (CSOP)	1.050	23/10/2020	16/11/2020	16.372.216	4,36%
SI	Slovenia	Mediana DOO	1.050	22/10/2020	14/11/2020	1.767.202	0,47%
SK	Slovakia	Kantar Slovakia	1.050	22/10/2020	19/11/2020	4.592.379	1,22%
FI	Finland	Kantar TNS Oy	1.022	04/11/2020	20/11/2020	4.488.064	1,20%
SE	Sweden	Kantar Sifo	1.042	22/10/2020	20/11/2020	8.149.850	1,90%
		TOTAL EU27	27.034	22/10/2020	20/11/2020	375.506.702	100%*

* It should be noted that the total percentage shown in this table may exceed 100% due to rounding
** Recruitments in Belgium, Czechia, Ireland and Luxembourg are carried out by Ronin International, Consumerhouse, Infas and GDCC. Non-probabilistic sample in Belgium, Czechia, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Luxembourg, Malta and Slovakia was randomly drawn from Kantar's LifePoints panel and from Norstat panel in Lithuania.

	COUNTRIES	N° OF CAPI INTERVIEWS	N° OF CAWI INTERVIEWS	TOTAL N° INTERVIEWS
BE	Belgium		1.043	1.043
BG	Bulgaria	1.053		1.053
CZ	Czechia		1.050	1.050
DK	Denmark	593	457	1.050
DE	Germany	1.242	346	1.588
EE	Estonia		1.011	1.011
IE	Ireland		1.050	1.050
EL	Greece	786	244	1.030
ES	Spain	1.025		1.025
FR	France	1.008		1.008
HR	Croatia	1.051		1.051
IT	Italy	1.024		1.024
CY	Rep. Of Cyprus	504		504
LV	Latvia	716	334	1.050
LT	Lithuania		1.049	1.049
LU	Luxembourg		550	550
HU	Hungary	1.049		1.049
MT	Malta	358	194	552
NL	Netherlands	839	190	1.029
AT	Austria	1.010		1.010
PL	Poland	1.017		1.017
PT	Portugal	1.027		1.027
RO	Romania	1.050		1.050
SI	Slovenia	68	982	1.050
SK	Slovakia	793	257	1.050
FI	Finland		1.022	1.022
SE	Sweden	285	757	1042
	TOTAL EU27	16.498	10.536	27.034

CAPI: Computer-Assisted Personal interviewing
CAWI: Computer-Assisted Web interviewing

Consequences of the coronavirus pandemic on fieldwork

Where feasible, interviews were conducted face-to-face in people's homes or on their doorstep and in the appropriate national language. In all countries where face-to-face interviewing was feasible CAPI (Computer Assisted Personal Interviewing) was used. For all interviews conducted face to face, hygiene and physical distancing measures have always been respected in line with government regulations, and whenever possible, interviews were conducted outside homes, on doorsteps, to remain in open air and maintain social distance. Where **face-to-face interviews were not enough to reach to target or were not feasible at all,** interviews were conducted online with Computer-Assisted Web Interviewing **(CAWI) technique.**

In **Sweden, Netherlands** and **Denmark,** face-to-face interviewing was feasible, but it was not possible to reach the target number of interviews within the fieldwork period. Therefore, to hit the target number of interviews within the fieldwork period an online survey was offered to those who refused the face-to-face option at the telephone recruitment stage. As a result, data collection was made through interviews via CAPI and CAWI modes.

The **face-to-face interviews alone** were not enough to reach to target in **Germany, Greece, Latvia, Malta, Slovenia** and **Slovakia.** In these countries, additional interviews were conducted online with CAWI technique. Moreover, face-to-face interviews were **not feasible at all** in **Belgium, Czechia, Estonia, Finland, Ireland, Lithuania and Luxembourg.** In these countries, interviews were conducted **only** online.

The online design in each country differed based on what was feasible within the fieldwork period. In principle, the online sample was based on a probabilistic sample design: respondents were recruited in a probabilistic random manner, ensuring that all individuals in this country have an equal chance to be interviewed.

In **Belgium, Czechia, Luxembourg, Ireland and Slovakia** respondents were recruited by telephone via a dual frame RDD sample design. Telephone numbers were drawn from the national telephone numbering plans.

In **these countries**, the response rates were not sufficiently large to achieve the target sample size in the fieldwork period, so this sample was supplemented with a non-probabilistic sample randomly drawn from Kantar's LifePoints panel. Also, in **Germany, Greece** and **Malta**, where face-to-face interviews were not enough to reach the target, LifePoints panel sample was used as a supplement.

In **Estonia, Denmark, Finland, Sweden, Latvia and Slovenia,** only people randomly selected through a probabilistically drawn sample were interviewed online. In **Lithuania** the same approach was used but there were insufficient numbers to reach the target sample size. This sample was supplemented with a non-probabilistic sample drawn from Norstat's panel.

In Estonia and Finland, the respondents are recruited through a telephone survey. In Estonia a dual frame random sample is drawn from the national telephone numbering plans whilst in Finland and Sweden a random sample is drawn from the telephone register.

Response rates

For each country a comparison between the responding sample and the universe is carried out. Weights are used to match the responding sample to the universe on gender by age, region and degree of urbanisation. For European estimates (i.e. EU average), an adjustment is made to the individual country weights, weighting them up or down to reflect their 15+ population as a proportion of the EU 15+ population.

The response rates are calculated by dividing the total number of complete interviews with the number of all the addresses visited, apart from ones that are not eligible but including those where eligibility is unknown. For Eurobarometer 94.1, the response rates for the EU27, calculated by Kantar, are:

BE*	26,3%	EL	26,1%	LT*	27,6%	PT	36,6%
BG	45,5%	ES	34,7%	LU*	27,5%	RO	74,5%
CZ*	54,0%	FR	28,4%	HU	65,2%	SI	31,8%
DK	33,8%	HR	55,6%	MT	77,2%	SI*	45,3%
DK*	16,6%	IT	21,3%	NL	68,5%	SK	65,1%
DE	17,6%	CY	39,7%	NL*	26,8%	FI*	13,9%
EE*	21,6%	LV	37,1%	AT	44,3%	SE	54,1%
IE*	20,9%	LV*	15,9%	PL	40,0%	SE*	33,4%

*CAWI (for probabilistic sample) and without taking into account recruitment phase

Margins of error

Readers are reminded that survey results are estimations, the accuracy of which, everything being equal, rests upon the sample size and upon the observed percentage. With samples of about 1,000 interviews, the real percentages vary within the following confidence limits:

Statistical Margins due to the sampling process
(at the 95% level of confidence)

various sample sizes are in rows *various observed results are in columns*

	5%	10%	15%	20%	25%	30%	35%	40%	45%	50%	
	95%	90%	85%	80%	75%	70%	65%	60%	55%	50%	
N=50	6.0	8.3	9.9	11.1	12.0	12.7	13.2	13.6	13.8	13.9	N=50
N=500	1.9	2.6	3.1	3.5	3.8	4.0	4.2	4.3	4.4	4.4	N=500
N=1000	**1.4**	**1.9**	**2.2**	**2.5**	**2.7**	**2.8**	**3.0**	**3.0**	**3.1**	**3.1**	**N=1000**
N=1500	1.1	1.5	1.8	2.0	2.2	2.3	2.4	2.5	2.5	2.5	N=1500
N=2000	1.0	1.3	1.6	1.8	1.9	2.0	2.1	2.1	2.2	2.2	N=2000
N=3000	0.8	1.1	1.3	1.4	1.5	1.6	1.7	1.8	1.8	1.8	N=3000
N=4000	0.7	0.9	1.1	1.2	1.3	1.4	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	N=4000
N=5000	0.6	0.8	1.0	1.1	1.2	1.3	1.3	1.4	1.4	1.4	N=5000
N=6000	0.6	0.8	0.9	1.0	1.1	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.3	1.3	N=6000
N=7000	0.5	0.7	0.8	0.9	1.0	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.2	1.2	N=7000
N=7500	0.5	0.7	0.8	0.9	1.0	1.0	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.1	N=7500
N=8000	0.5	0.7	0.8	0.9	0.9	1.0	1.0	1.1	1.1	1.1	N=8000
N=9000	0.5	0.6	0.7	0.8	0.9	0.9	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	N=9000
N=10000	0.4	0.6	0.7	0.8	0.8	0.9	0.9	1.0	1.0	1.0	N=10000
N=11000	0.4	0.6	0.7	0.7	0.8	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9	N=11000
N=12000	0.4	0.5	0.6	0.7	0.8	0.8	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9	N=12000
N=13000	0.4	0.5	0.6	0.7	0.7	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.9	0.9	N=13000
N=14000	0.4	0.5	0.6	0.7	0.7	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8	N=14000
N=15000	0.3	0.5	0.6	0.6	0.7	0.7	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8	N=15000
	5%	10%	15%	20%	25%	30%	35%	40%	45%	50%	
	95%	90%	85%	80%	75%	70%	65%	60%	55%	50%	