



SPECIAL EUROBAROMETER 550

Attitudes of Europeans towards the environment

EUROBAROMETER REPORT
FIELD-WORK MARCH-APRIL 2024



This survey has been requested by the European Commission, Directorate-General for Environment (DG ENV) and co—ordinated by the European Commission, Directorate-General for Communication (DG COMM 'Media monitoring and Eurobarometer' Unit)

This document does not represent the point of View of the European Commission. The interpretations and opinions contained in it are solely those of the authors.

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Document prepared by Pierre Dieumegard for [Europe-Democracy-Esperanto](#).

The purpose of this "provisional" document is to enable more people in the European Union to become aware of documents produced by the European Union (and financed by their taxes).

If there are no translations, citizens are excluded from the debate.

This document "Eurobarometer" [only existed in English](#), in a pdf-file . From the initial file, we created a odt-file, prepared by Libre Office software, for machine translation to other languages. The results are now [available in all official languages](#).

It is desirable that the EU administration takes over the translation of important documents. "Important documents" are not only laws and regulations, but also the important information needed to make informed decisions together.

In order to discuss our common future together, and to enable reliable translations, the international language Esperanto would be very useful because of its simplicity, regularity and accuracy.

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Introduction

Introduction

This report presents the results of the Special Eurobarometer public opinion survey 550 on the environment.

The Directorate-General for Environment is the European Commission department responsible for EU policy on the environment. It aims to protect, preserve, and improve the environment for present and future generations, proposing and implementing policies that ensure a high level of environmental protection and preserve the quality of life of EU citizens. It also makes sure that Member States apply EU environmental law correctly and represents the European Union in environmental matters at international meetings¹-

Methodology

This Special Eurobarometer 550 on the environment was part of the Eurobarometer wave 101.2, and was conducted between 06 March and 08 April 2024. Some 26,346 respondents from different social and demographic groups were interviewed in the appropriate national language. This survey was commissioned by the European Commission, Directorate-General for Environment (DG ENV).

The methodology used was that of the Standard Eurobarometer surveys carried out by the Directorate-General for Communication ("Media monitoring and Eurobarometer" Unit)². Interviews were conducted face-to-face, either physically in people's homes or through remote video interaction in the appropriate national language. Interviews with remote video interaction ("online face-to-face" or CAVI, Computer Assisted Video Interviewing), which were only conducted in Czechia, Denmark, Malta, and Finland. A technical note concerning the interviews conducted by the member institutes of the Verian network is annexed to this report.

Throughout the report, results are compared to Special Eurobarometer 501 of 2019³⁴.

We would like to thank the people across the European Union who have offered their time to take part in this survey.

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

Note: In this report, EU countries are referred to by their official abbreviations, as listed below:

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

* 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 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.

1 http://ec.europa.eu/dgs/environment/index_en.htm

2 The Eurobarometer methodological approaches: <https://europa.eu/eurobarometer/about/eurobarometer>

3 <https://europa.eu/eurobarometer/surveys/detail/2257>

4 It should be noted that the trend comparison also includes the results from the UK.



Key findings

There is widespread concern about the impact of environmental issues on Europeans' daily life and on their health.

- More than three-quarters of Europeans (78%) agree that environmental issues have a direct effect on their daily life and their health.
- More than four in five respondents (84%) are worried about the impact on their health of chemicals present in everyday products, while a similar proportion (84%) is worried about the impact of harmful chemicals in everyday products on the environment. Findings have slightly decreased since the previous survey in 2019. Over seven in ten respondents (72%) take into account the chemical safety of products when making purchases.
- Around six in ten Europeans consider plastic waste (61%) and chemical waste (60%) as the most problematic types of waste in their country. Electronic waste places a distant third, and was mentioned by 27% of respondents.
- When asked about the main threats linked to water issues in their country, 21% of respondents mention pollution, followed by overconsumption and wasting water (17%)..

Unequal awareness and understanding of environmental issues

- A narrow majority of Europeans (51%) feel well informed about water-related problems, such as pollution, floods, droughts or inefficient use of water in their country. However, a slightly smaller proportion (48%) do not feel well informed about water related issues.
- When measuring the self-reported knowledge of the term PFAS (also known as 'forever chemicals'), only 29% of respondents have heard of the term before the survey, while 71% had not.

Strong support for fundamental changes in society in order to restore nature and protect the environment

- When asked to identify the most effective ways of tackling environmental problems, almost six in ten Europeans think that the promotion of the circular economy through reducing waste (58%) and reusing or recycling products is the most effective way of tackling environmental problems. A total of 55% mention "better ensuring that products sold on the EU market do not contribute to harming the environment". Furthermore, more than one in two respondents (52%) consider that "ensuring that environmental laws are respected" is the most effective way of tackling environmental problems.
- Over nine in ten Europeans (92%) consider that companies should pay for the costs of cleaning up their pollution.

- Still almost three-quarters of respondents (74%) agree with the statement that public authorities should pay for the costs of cleaning up pollution.
- Six in ten Europeans think that the amount of public funding to support the transition to a greener economy is not enough in their country.
- Moreover, when asked if national stakeholders are currently doing enough to use water efficiently, a majority of respondents considers that none of the stakeholders were doing so. 75% of Europeans consider that industry is not doing enough to use water efficiently, around two thirds of respondents also think that energy producers (67%), tourism (66%) and public administration (65%) are currently not doing enough to efficiently use water resources in their country.

EU legislation and policy are crucial for environmental protection

- Strengthening nature conservation rules and ensuring they are respected (24%), closely followed by ensuring that nature is protected when planning new developments or infrastructure (22%) and restoring nature to compensate damage caused by human activities (22%) are considered the main EU's priorities in protecting the nature.
- Around four in five (84%, +1 percentage point in comparison to 2019 Eurobarometer survey) agree that EU environmental legislation is necessary for protecting the environment in their country, while a slightly smaller proportion (81%, -1 percentage point in comparison to 2019 survey) agree that the EU should assist non-EU Member States to improve their environmental standards.
- Over three quarters (78%) of Europeans consider that the EU should propose additional measures to address water-related problems in Europe.
- Regarding hazardous chemicals, over half of Europeans (52%) consider that the actual level of protection of human health and the environment from hazardous chemicals is too low and should be increased.

Consumer behaviour is shifting towards sustainability

- Almost six in ten respondents are willing to pay more for sustainable products (59%).
- 72% of Europeans state that they take into account the chemical safety of products when making purchases.
- When asked about what respondents would personally do to reduce the amount of waste, 66% state that they would consider correctly sorting their waste for recycling. 52% would use reusable packaging and 49% would primarily buy products that do not have more packaging than necessary. 41% primarily would buy products in recycled packages.



I. General perceptions of environmental issues

This first chapter explores how environmental issues affect daily life and health. It then delves into an analysis of the most effective ways for addressing these environmental challenges.

1. Impact of environmental issues on daily life and health

Over three quarters of Europeans think that environmental issues have a direct effect on their daily life and health.

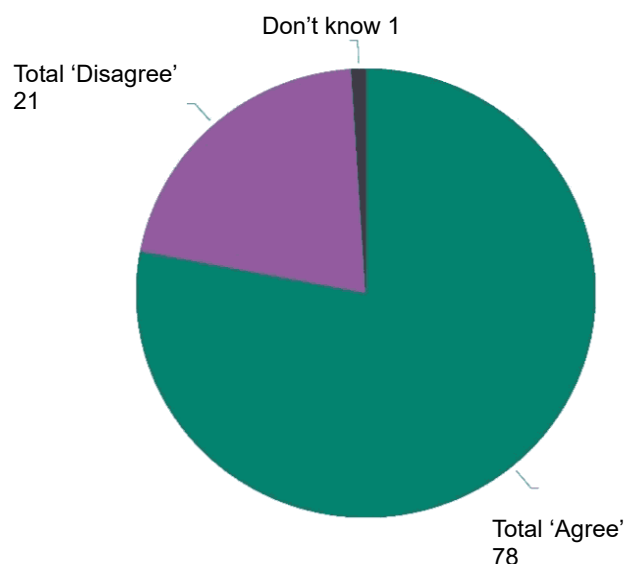
78% of respondents consider that environmental issues have a direct effect on their daily life and health⁵ including 36% who totally agree with this statement and 42% who tend to agree with it. Just over one fifth of respondents disagree with this statement (21%, +1 percentage point since 2019), with 16% who tend to disagree and 5% who totally disagree. 1% of respondents 'don't know' or did not provide an answer (-1 percentage point).

In all 27 Member States, at least six in ten respondents consider that environmental issues have a direct effect on their daily life and health. However, approval rates vary widely amongst Member States, reaching from 98% in Malta, 95% in Greece, 93% in Cyprus and Spain and 90% in Portugal, where they are highest, to 60% in Estonia, 61% in Denmark and 64% in Germany, where they are lowest.

In five Member States, over half of respondents totally agree with the statement that environmental issues have a direct effect on their daily life and health, namely Malta (83%), Cyprus (73%), Spain (61%), Greece (60%) and Luxembourg (54%).

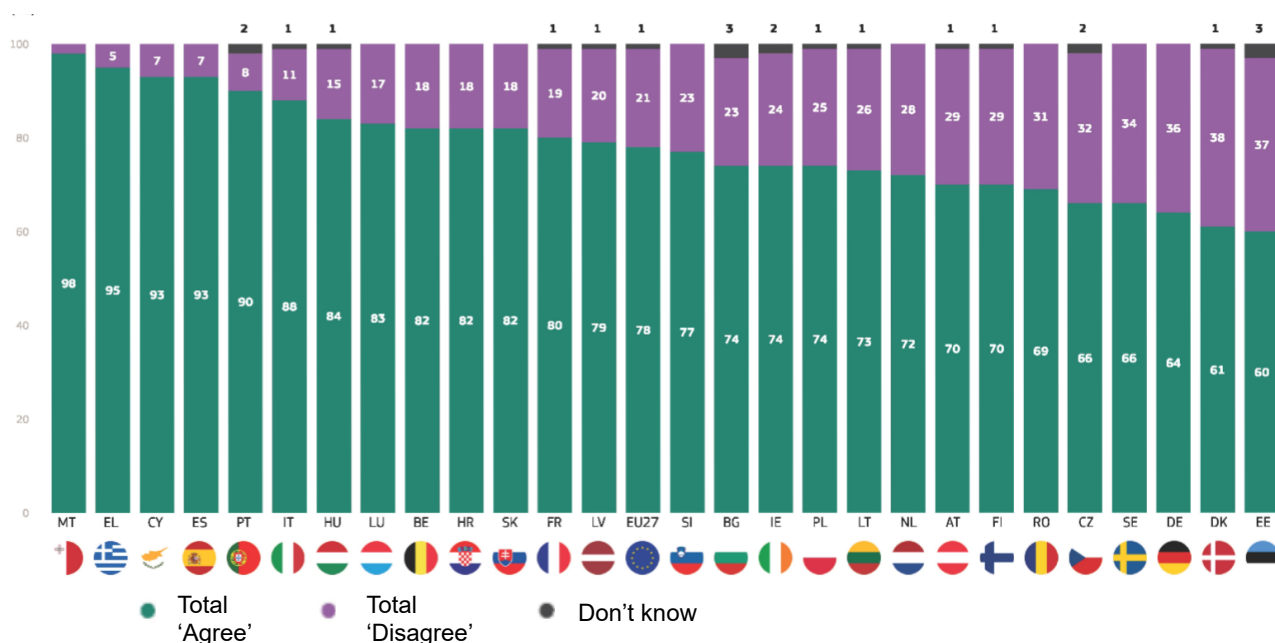
Conversely, in six Member States at least three in ten respondents disagree with this statement, most markedly in Denmark (38%), Estonia (37%) and Germany (36%). Denmark (16%) and Sweden (13%) have the highest proportion of respondents who totally disagree with this statement.

QB1. Please tell me to what extent you agree or disagree with each of the following statements.:- Environmental issues have a direct effect on your daily life and health (EU27) (%)



⁵ QB1. Please tell me to what extent you agree or disagree with each of the following statements: Environmental issues have a direct effect on your daily life and health.

**QB1. Please tell me to what extent you agree or disagree with each of the following statements.
Environmental issues have a direct effect on your daily life and health (%)**



Since 2019, the proportion of respondents who consider that environmental issues have a direct impact on their daily life and health increased in 11 Member States, most notably in Sweden (66%, +10) and the Netherlands (72%, +9), while proportions remained unchanged in Germany (88%), Croatia (82%) and Czechia (66%). Proportions decreased in 13 Member States, including Ireland (74%, -10) and Estonia (60%, -10).

The analysis of the sociodemographic data shows the following:

Findings are generally consistent across different socio-demographic groups, although there are some minor differences. Women are more likely than men to agree that environmental issues have a direct effect on their daily life and health (79% vs. 76%), while agreement is higher among the 40-54 year olds (80%) than in other age groups (70%). Agreement is lower among respondents living in rural areas (76%) compared with those living in large towns (82%).

**QB1 Please tell me to what extent you agree or disagree with each of the following statements.
Environmental issues have a direct effect on your daily life and health (% - EU)**

	Total 'Agree'	Total 'Disagree'	Don't know
EU27	78	21	1
Gender			
Man	76	23	1
Woman	79	20	1
Age			
15-24	77	22	1
25-39	77	23	0
40-54	80	20	0
55+	77	22	1
Education (End of)			
15-	77	22	1
16-19	76	23	1
20+	80	20	0
Still studying	80	19	1
Difficulties paying bills			
Most of the time	75	24	1
From time to time	78	21	1
Almost never / Never	77	22	1
Consider belonging to			
The working class	77	22	1
The lower middle class	77	23	0
The middle class	79	21	0
The upper middle class	79	21	0
The upper class	74	26	0
Subjective urbanisation			
Rural village	76	23	1
Small / mid size town	76	23	1
Large town	82	17	1

2. Ways of tackling environmental problems

The promotion of the circular economy through reducing waste, and reusing or recycling products is considered as the most effective way of tackling environmental problems, closely followed by the restoration of nature.

When looking at the first action selected at an EU level, we can see that none stands out distinctively by a large margin. The most selected was the promotion of the circular economy through the reduction of waste and reusing or recycling of products (17%). It was then closely followed by the restoration of nature (15%), better ensuring that products sold on the EU market do not contribute to harming the environment and ensuring that environmental laws are respected (both 14%).

Lagging slightly behind are investing in Research and Development to find technological solutions, as well as providing more information and education to build more environmental consciousness, increasing taxation on activities that pollute (10% each) and removing government subsidies on activities that pollute (9%).

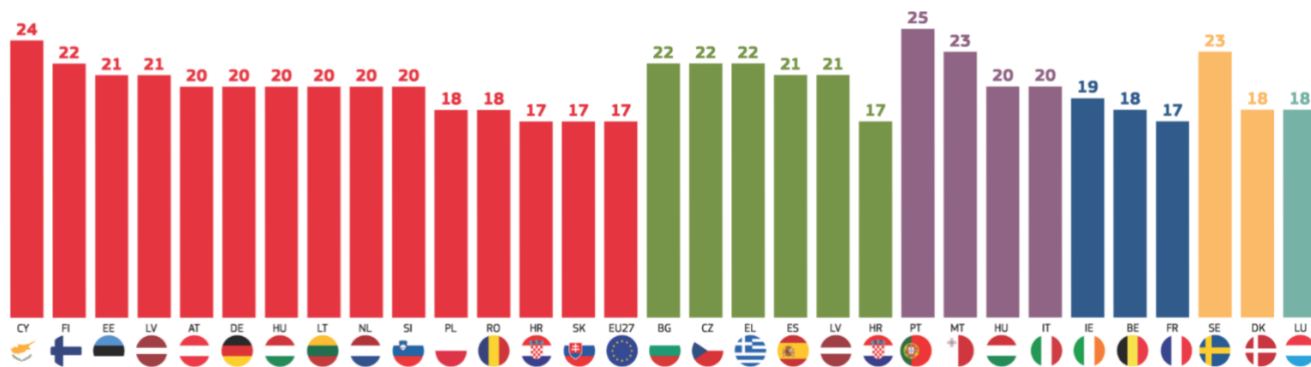
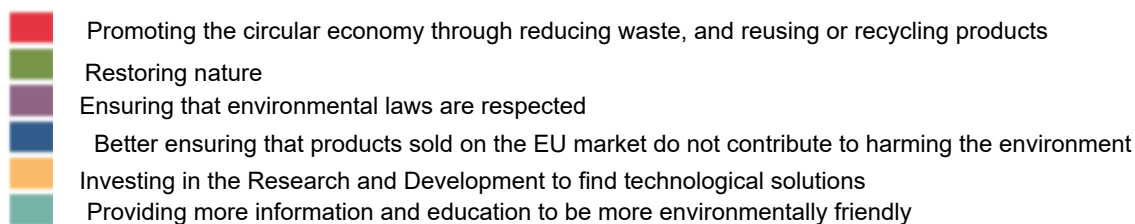
QB2a. In your opinion, which of the following actions would be the most effective way of tackling environmental problems? First? (EU27) (%)



At a country level we see some differences, with six actions being selected as top first choice across the EU27. In line with the overall results, the most selected is promoting the circular economy through reducing waste and reusing or recycling products, selected in 14 Member States, many from Eastern and Central Europe — with highest results in Cyprus (24%).

It is followed by restoring nature, most selected in six Member States — with highest results in Bulgaria, Czechia, and Greece (each 22%). Unlike the EU average, where better ensuring that products sold on the EU market do not contribute to harming the environment comes in third place, ensuring that environmental laws are respected is the third most selected action at Member State level, being most selected by four Member States — with highest results in Portugal (25%).

QB2a. In your opinion, which of the following actions would be the most effective way of tackling environmental problems? First? (%)



Better ensuring that products sold on the EU market do not contribute to harming the environment and ensuring that environmental laws are respected comes next, being most selected in three Member States — with highest results in Ireland (19%).

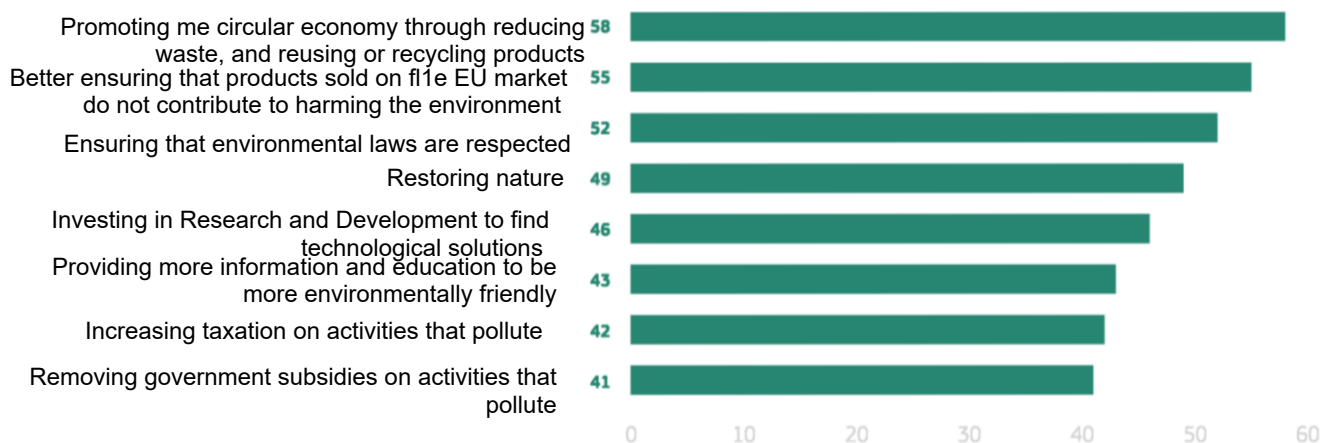
Investing in Research and Development to find technological solutions is selected in two of the Nordics states - Sweden, and Denmark, being highest in the former (23%).

Finally comes providing more information and education to become more environmentally friendly, selected by 18% of respondents in Luxembourg. Removing government subsidies or increasing taxation does not come as the main selected action in any Member State.

When asked about the most effective actions that should be taken to tackle environmental problems⁶, 58% of Europeans mention the promotion of the circular economy through reducing waste and reusing or recycling products, in first, second, third or fourth position. A total of 55% mention “better ensuring that products sold on the EU market do not contribute to harming the environment”. Still, more than one in two respondents (52%) consider that “ensuring that environmental laws are respected” is the most effective way of tackling environmental problems.

49% consider that it would be most effective to “restore nature”, 46% mention investment in Research and Development to find technological solutions to environmental problems. 43% consider that it is necessary to provide more information and education to be more environmentally friendly. 42% mention “increasing taxation on activities that pollute” and 41% state that the most effective action would be to remove government subsidies on activities that pollute.

QB2T. In your opinion, which of the following actions would be the most effective way of tackling environmental problems? First? Second? Third? Fourth? (EU27) (%)



⁶ QB2. In your opinion, which of the following actions would be the most effective way of tackling environmental problems? First? Second? Third? Fourth?

“Promoting the circular economy through reducing waste and reusing or recycling products” tops the list at the EU-level. On the country level it ranks first in eleven Member States, most significantly in Finland (67%), Austria and the Netherlands (each 65%). Portugal (43%), Denmark (49%) and Greece (52%) are the only Member States where this action does not rank in the top three.

Better ensuring that products sold on the EU market do not contribute to harming the environment is second at the EU-level. However, it tops the list of actions in Slovakia (65%), Ireland (63%), Slovenia (60%) and France (57%), while it ranks in second or third position in 16 other Member States, including Romania and Italy (each 59%), where proportions are also high.

Ensuring that environmental laws are respected ranks in third position at the EU-level, taking first position in Malta (64%), Italy (61%) and Lithuania (60%). This action ranks second in six Member States, including Portugal (62%), where over six in ten support this.

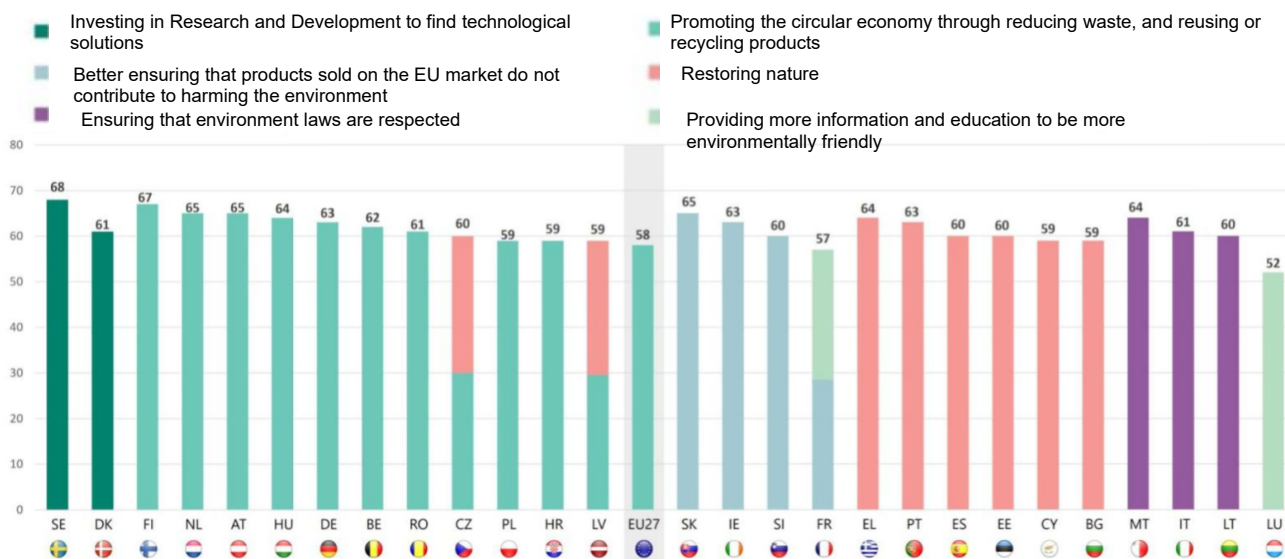
Restoring nature comes fourth at the EU—level, but ranks first in eight Member States, most significantly in Greece (64%), Portugal (63%), Spain, Estonia and Czechia (all 60%).

Investing in Research and Development to find technological solutions to environmental problems tops the list in Sweden (68%) and Denmark (61%). Proportions are also high in Finland (59%), where this point ranks second. On the other hand, proportions for this item are lowest in Bulgaria (38%), where less than four in ten respondents support this approach

also ranks first in Luxembourg (52%), second in Spain (54%) and third in five other Member States. Proportions for this item are lowest in Sweden (25%) and the Netherlands (26%), where just over a quarter of respondents support this position.

The remaining two items are mentioned less frequently. However, increasing taxation on activities that pollute ranks third in Bulgaria (49%) and removing government subsidies on activities that pollute ranks third in the Netherlands (52%).

QB2T. In your opinion, which of the following actions would be the most effective way of tackling environmental problems? First? Second? Third? Fourth? (EU27) (%)



Providing more information and education to be more environmentally friendly ranks first in France (57%), where it shares this position with better ensuring that products sold on the EU market do not contribute to harming the environment. Providing more information and education

The analysis of the sociodemographic data shows that findings are generally consistent across different socio-demographic groups, although there are some minor differences for some of the items.

40-54 year olds are more likely to mention 'promoting the circular economy through reducing waste, and reusing or recycling products' (60% vs. 57%-59%), while 15-24 year olds are most likely to mention 'investing in research and development to find technological solutions' (51% vs. 43%-49%). Those who remained in full-time education till the age of 20 or beyond (51%) and students (52%) are also more likely to say so.

Conversely, those who left full-time education earliest are more likely to mention 'providing more information and education to be more environmentally friendly' (47% vs. 41%-44%) and 'restoring nature' (55% vs. 51%-53%) as the most effective way of tackling environmental problems. Housepersons (50%) and those who have most of the time difficulties in paying their bills (50%) are also more likely to mention 'providing more information and education to be more environmentally friendly'.

'Promoting the circular economy through reducing waste, and reusing or recycling products' is mentioned less often amongst respondents living in rural areas or in small/mid-sized towns (both 57%) compared with those living in large towns (62%).

QB2T In your opinion, which of the following actions would be the most effective way of tackling environmental problems? First? Second? Third? Fourth? (% - EU)								
	Promoting the circular economy through reducing waste, and reusing or recycling products	Better ensuring that products sold on the EU market do not contribute to harming the environment	Ensuring that environment laws are respected	Restoring nature	Investing in Research and Development to find technological solutions	Providing more information and education to be more environmentally friendly	Increasing taxation on activities that pollute	Removing government subsidies on activities that pollute
EU27	58	55	52	49	46	43	42	41
Gender								
Man	59	55	52	48	48	43	41	42
Woman	58	56	53	49	45	44	43	39
Age								
15-24	57	52	54	52	51	45	39	36
25-39	59	54	52	49	49	43	43	43
40-54	60	57	51	48	47	43	43	42
55+	58	56	53	48	43	43	41	40
Education (End of)								
15-	54	56	55	54	38	47	39	36
16-19	59	55	53	50	45	44	42	40
20+	61	55	51	45	51	41	43	44
Still studying	57	55	53	50	52	43	41	38
Socio-professional category								
Self-employed	61	52	51	47	46	43	44	43
Managers	57	56	53	45	54	43	44	43
Other white collars	60	56	52	46	50	42	43	42
Manual workers	61	56	50	50	45	44	41	41
House persons	53	52	54	55	41	50	42	36
Unemployed	52	54	52	51	45	49	41	38
Retired	58	56	55	48	42	42	41	40
Students	56	54	54	51	52	43	42	38
Difficulties paying bills								
Most of the time	55	57	49	51	36	50	36	45
From time to time	58	56	52	48	45	45	43	42
Almost never / Never	59	55	53	48	43	42	42	40
Consider belonging to								
The working class	56	54	53	52	43	45	41	38
The lower middle class	57	54	53	53	42	44	42	40
The middle class	61	57	52	47	48	43	42	41
The upper middle class	59	55	52	40	56	41	45	45
The upper class	62	50	54	44	59	41	47	39
Subjective urbanisation								
Rural village	57	54	52	51	45	44	39	39
Small / mid size town	57	55	54	47	46	44	43	42
Large town	62	57	51	48	49	43	43	40



II Attitudes towards environmental policy and legislation

This chapter focuses on the role of the EU in environmental protection. Respondents were asked about the EU's role in environmental legislation and in providing assistance to non-EU Member States. The analysis then shifts to the EU's priorities in protecting nature, public opinion on funding the transition to greener economies, and who bears responsibility for addressing pollution.

proportion of respondents who 'don't know' dropped by two percentage points (down to 3%).

Since 2019, the proportion of those in 'total agreement' that the EU should assist non-EU Member States in improving their environmental standards has slightly decreased (-1), which was accompanied by a sharper increase in the proportion of those who disagree (+3 pp).

1. The EU's role in environmental policymaking

There is strong support for the role of EU legislation in protecting the environment.

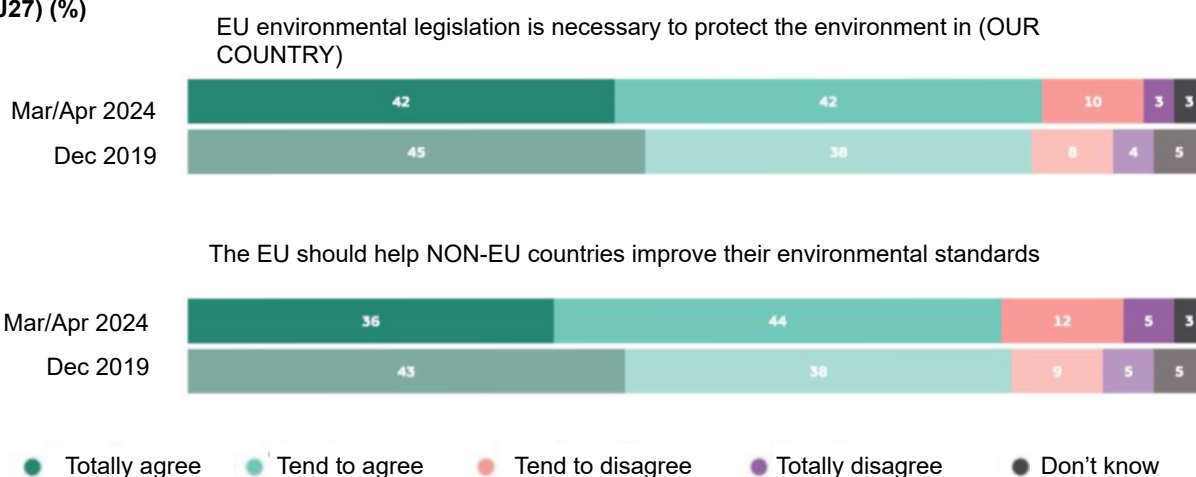
Respondents were asked to what extent they agree or disagree with two statements relating to environmental law in the EU⁷.

More than four in five respondents (84%, +1 percentage point since 2019) agree that EU environmental legislation is necessary for protecting the environment in their country, including 42% who 'totally agree' (-3) and 42% (+4) who 'tend to agree'. On the other hand, 13% (+1) disagree with the statement, including 3% who 'totally disagree' (-1) and 10% (+2) who 'tend to disagree'

A slightly smaller proportion (80%, -1 percentage point since 2019) agree that the EU should assist non-EU Member States to improve their environmental standards, including 36% who 'totally agree' (-7), and 44% (+6) who 'tend to agree'. On the other hand, 17% (+3) disagree with this statement, including 5% who 'totally disagree' and 12% (+3) who 'tend to disagree'.

Since the last survey in 2019, there has been very little changes. There was an increase of one percentage point in the proportion of respondents who 'agree' that EU environmental legislation is necessary for protecting the environment, alongside a slight increase (+1) of respondents opposing this idea. Simultaneously, the

QB3. Please tell me to what extent you agree or disagree with each of 1112 following statements. (EU27) (%)

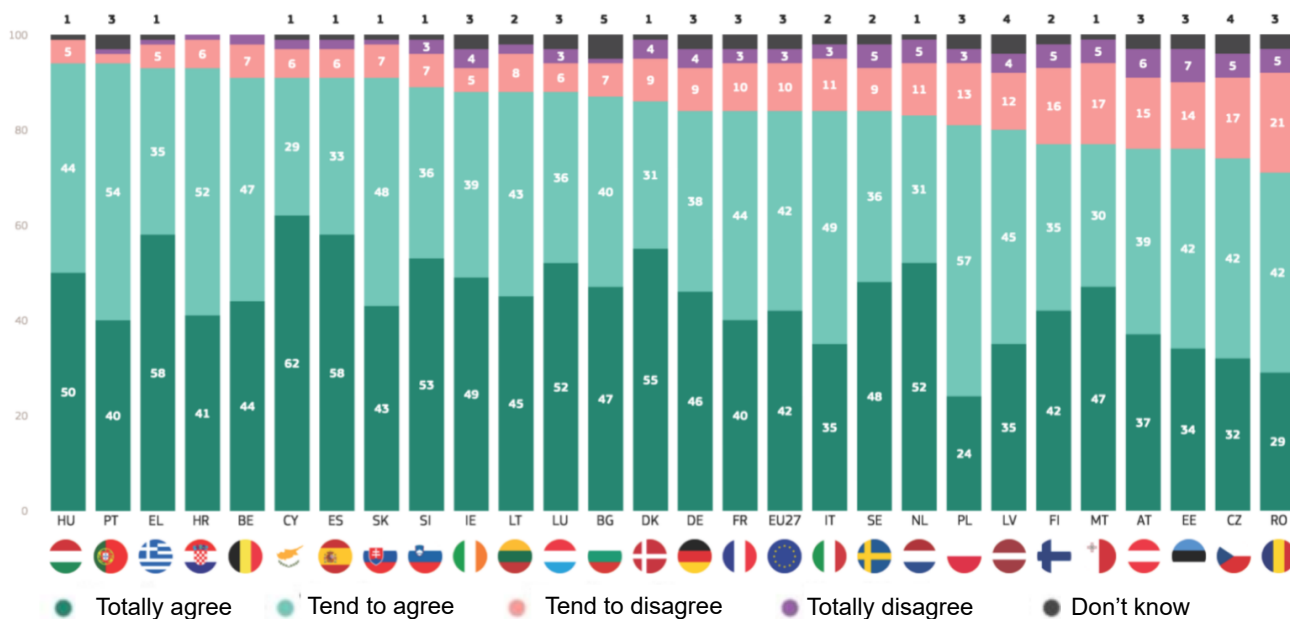


7 QB3. Please tell me to what extent you agree or disagree with each of the following statements: 1. EU environmental legislation is necessary for protecting the environment in (OUR COUNTRY); 2. The EU should assist non-EU Member States to improve their environmental standards.

In all 27 Member States, over seven in ten respondents agree with the statement that EU environmental legislation is necessary to protect the environment in their country. Proportions of respondents that agree⁸ from a high of 94% in Hungary and Portugal to just over seven in ten in Romania (71%) and Czechia (74%). Respondents in Cyprus (62%), Greece and Spain (each 58%) are most likely to 'totally agree' with the statement, while the proportion of respondents who tend to disagree with this idea is highest in Romania (21%), Czechia and Malta (17%). Level of disagreement is overall proportional to level of agreement, being highest in Romania (26%) and lowest in Portugal and Hungary (3% and 5% respectively).

Since the previous survey in 2019, the proportion of respondents who agree with the statement increased in 10 Member States, most strikingly in Croatia (93%, +7) and Hungary (94%, +5), while it remained unchanged in Spain, Slovakia (each 91%) and Bulgaria (87%). Conversely, proportions dropped in 14 Member States, most markedly in Romania (71%, -7) and Malta (77%, -6).

QB3.1. Please tell me to what extent you agree or disagree with each of the following statements.: -EU environmental legislation is necessary to protect the environment in (OUR COUNTRY) (%)

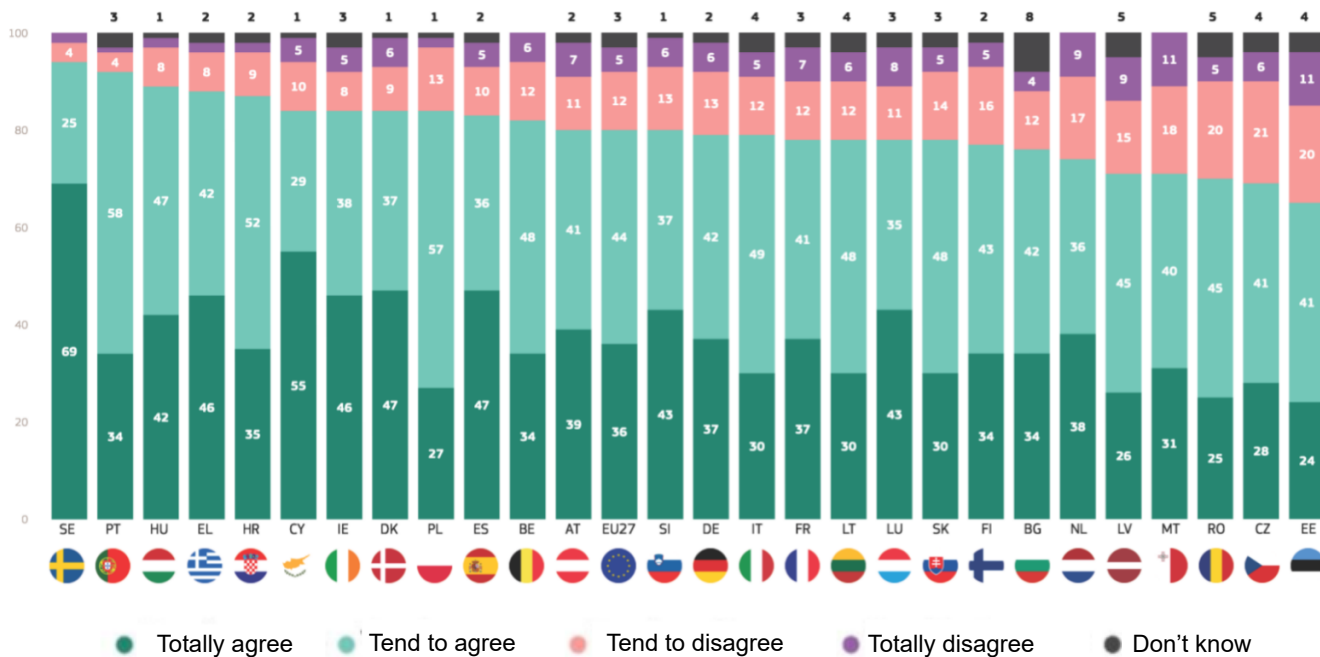


8 Agreement level is the sum of 'totally agree' and 'tend to agree'.

In all 27 Member States over six in ten respondents agree with the statement that the EU should assist non-EU Member States in improving their environmental standards. Proportions of those agreeing⁹ range from a high of 94% in Sweden and 92% in Portugal to lows of 65% in Estonia and 69% in Czechia. Respondents in Sweden (69%) and Cyprus (55%) are most likely to 'totally agree' with this statement, while the proportion of respondents who tend to oppose this idea is highest in Czechia (21%), Romania and Estonia (each 20%).

Since the previous survey in 2019, the proportion of respondents who agree with the statement increased in 10 Member States, most notably in four Member States, namely Italy (79%, +5), Croatia (87%, +4), Belgium (82%, +3) and Spain (83%, +1). In another five Member States proportions remained the same, while proportions decreased in 18 Member States, most markedly in Cyprus (84%, -9).

QB3.2. Please tell me to what extent you agree or disagree with each of the following statements.: -The EU should help NON-EU countries improve their environmental standards (%)



⁹ Agreement level is the sum of 'totally agree' and 'tend to agree'.

The analysis of the sociodemographic data shows the following patterns:

Younger respondents are slightly more likely than older respondents to agree with the two statements. Agreement that EU environmental legislation is necessary for protecting the environment in their country ranges from 87% among 15-24 year olds to 83% among those aged 55 or over, while a similar range can be seen in the proportion that agree that the EU should assist non-EU countries to improve their environmental standards (from 84% among 15-24 year olds to 78% among those aged 55 or over).

More highly educated people are more likely to agree with the two statements. The difference is greatest in the proportion that agree that the EU should assist non-EU countries to improve their environmental standards (82% of people who left education aged 20 or over compared with 78% of those who left school aged 15 or below).

Respondents that have difficulties paying bills most of the time are less likely to agree that the EU should assist non-EU countries to improve their environmental standards (74% vs. 82% of those who rarely or never have difficulties). There is less of a difference for the other statement although the pattern remains the same.

People living in a large town are more likely to agree with the two statements; for example, 87% agree that EU environmental legislation is necessary for protecting the environment in their country, compared with 81% living in a rural village and 82% living in a small or mid-size town.

People who hold a positive image of the EU are more likely to agree with the statements. For example, among those who hold a positive image of the EU, 92% agree with the statement the EU environmental legislation is necessary to protect the environment in their country, compared with 64% of those who hold a negative image of the EU.

QB3.1 Please tell me to what extent you agree or disagree with each of the following statements. EU environmental legislation is necessary to protect the environment in (OUR COUNTRY) (% — EU)

	Total 'Agree'	Total 'Disagree'	Don't know
EU27	84	13	3
Gender			
Man	84	14	2
Woman	85	12	3
Age			
15-24	87	11	2
25-39	85	13	2
40-54	85	13	2
55+	83	14	3
Education (End of)			
15-	84	12	4
16-19	84	14	2
20+	86	12	2
Still studying	90	7	3
Difficulties paying bills			
Most of the time	82	14	4
From time to time	82	16	2
Almost never / Never	86	12	2
Subjective urbanisation			
Rural village	82	15	3
Small / mid size	85	13	2

town			
Large town	87	11	2
Image of the EU			
Positive	92	7	1
Neutral	83	14	3
Negative	64	32	4

QB3.2 Please tell me to what extent you agree or disagree with each of the following statements. The EU should help NON-EU countries improve their environmental standards (% - EU)

	Total 'Agree'	Total 'Disagree'	Don't know
EU27	80	17	3
Gender			
Man	80	18	2
Woman	80	17	3
Age			
15-24	84	14	2
25-39	81	17	2
40-54	80	18	2
55+	78	19	3
Education (End of)			
15-	78	16	6
16-19	78	19	3
20+	82	17	1
Still studying	88	10	2
Difficulties paying bills			
Most of the time	74	20	6
From time to time	78	20	2
Almost never / Never	82	16	2
Subjective urbanisation			
Rural village	77	20	3
Small / mid size town	79	19	2
Large town	84	14	2
Image of the EU			
Positive	88	11	1
Neutral	78	19	3
Negative	58	37	5

2. The EU's priorities in protecting nature

Restoring nature to compensate for damage caused by human activities and ensuring that nature is protected when planning new developments or infrastructure are considered as EU's priorities in protecting nature.

When asked what main action the EU should prioritise to protect nature, the most selected action was strengthening nature conservation rules and ensuring that they are respected (24%). It is very closely followed by restoring nature and ensuring that nature is protected when planning new developments or infrastructure (both 22%). Lagging slightly behind is informing citizens better about the importance of nature (16%) and expanding the areas where nature is protected (15%).

QB13a. Which of the following actions should the EU prioritise to protect nature? First? (EU27) (%)



When asked about the actions that the EU should prioritise to protect nature¹⁰, two measures share first position. 45% mention “restore nature to compensate for damage caused by human activities” and a similar proportion of 45% suggest ensuring that nature is protected when planning new developments or infrastructure.

A slightly smaller proportion of respondents feel that the EU should strengthen nature conservation rules and ensure that they are respected. 31% want the EU to “expand the areas where nature is protected” and 30% want the EU “inform citizens better about the importance of nature”.

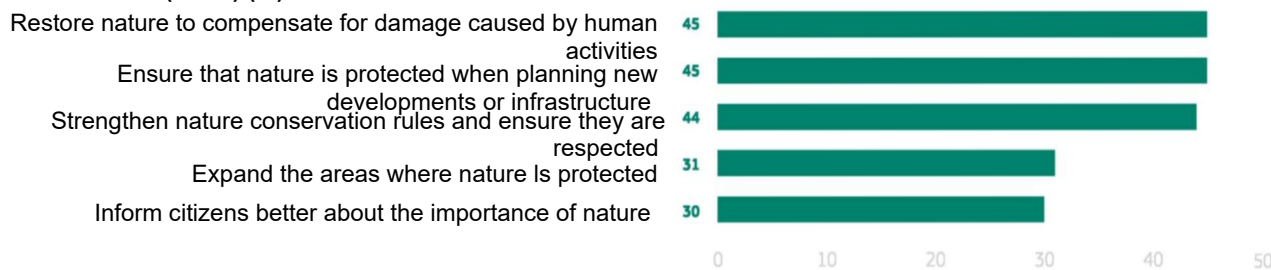
Restore nature to compensate for damage caused by human activities tops the list at the EU level and ranks first or joint—first in 12 Member States, most significantly in Germany and Bulgaria (each 55%). This item ranks second or third in the remaining Member States, except Luxembourg (39%), where it came in fourth position.

Ensuring that nature is protected when planning new developments or infrastructure ranks joint first at the EU level for respondents in nine Member States, including

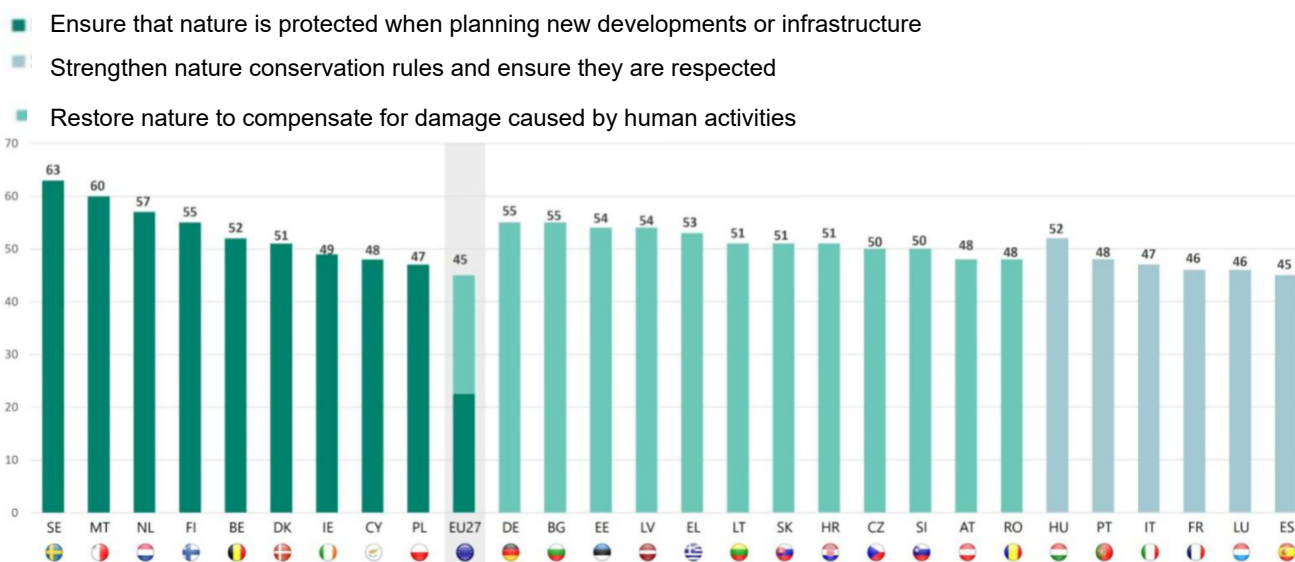
Sweden (63%) and Malta (60%), where at least six in ten respondents prioritise this. This position ranks second or third in the remaining 18 Member States.

Strengthen nature conservation rules and ensure that they are respected ranks second at the EU level, but first in six Member States, including, most significantly, Hungary (52%) and Portugal (48%). Proportions are also high in Sweden (55%), the Netherlands and Finland (each 51%), where this statement rank second. Expand the areas where nature is protected ranks third at the EU—level, second in Romania (38%), as well as joint third in Cyprus (36%) with strengthen nature conservation rules and ensure they are respected and Czechia (28%). This item does not rank in the top three in any other country. Inform citizens better about the importance of nature ranks second in Ireland (40%) and Romania (38%), jointly with two other items, namely “expand areas where nature is protected” and “strengthen nature conservation rules and ensure they are respected”. At the other end of the scale is Sweden, with less than a fifth of respondents mentioning this item (18%).

QB13T. Which of the following actions should the EU prioritise to protect nature? First? And then? (EU27) (%)



QB13T. Which of the following actions should the EU prioritise to protect nature ? First ? And then ? (% - The most mentioned answer by country)



10 QB13. Which of the following actions should the EU prioritise to protect nature? First? And then?

The analysis of the sociodemographic data shows that findings are generally consistent across different socio-demographic groups, although there are some minor differences for some of the items.

Those who remained longest in full-time education are most likely to mention 'strengthen nature conservation rules and ensure that they are respected' (47% vs. 41%-43%) and 'ensuring that nature is protected when planning new developments or infrastructure' (49% vs. 41%-43%). This same pattern applies to managers (51% and 49% respectively) and to those who hold a positive image of the EU (both 47%).

Conversely, those who hold a negative image of the EU are more likely to mention 'restore nature to compensate for damage caused by human activities' (49% vs. each 45%) and 'expand the areas where nature is protected' (34% 29%-32%).

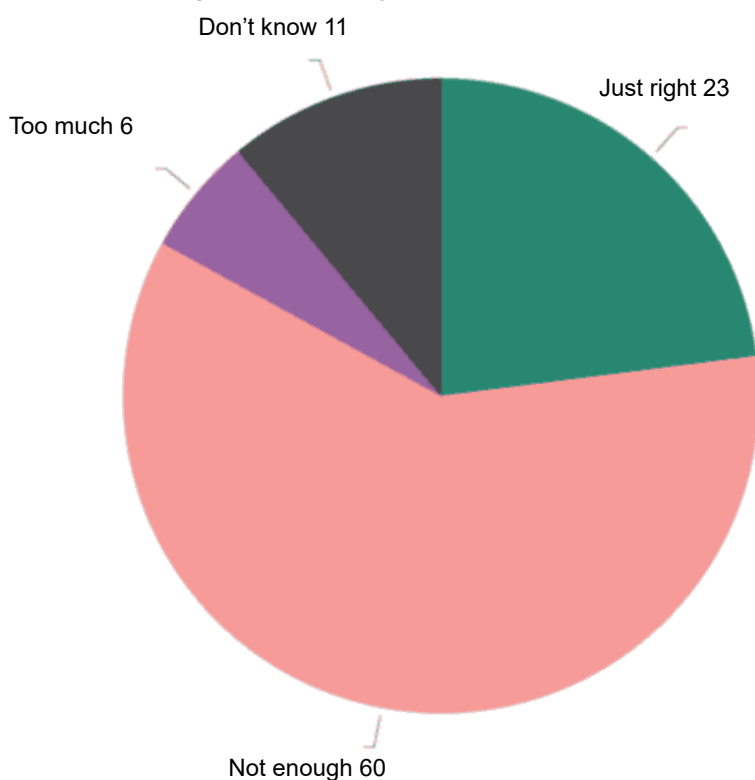
QB13T. Which of the following actions should the EU prioritise to protect nature ? First ? And then ? (%)					
	Restore nature to compensate for damage caused by human activities	Ensure that nature is protected when planning new developments or infrastructure	Strengthen nature conservation rules and ensure they are respected	Expand the areas where nature is protected	Inform citizens better about the importance of nature
EU27	45	45	44	31	30
Gender					
Man	45	45	46	30	31
Woman	46	45	43	32	30
Age					
15-24	43	44	47	33	31
25-39	46	46	44	31	30
40-54	46	45	45	31	30
55+	46	44	43	30	31
Education (End of)					
15-	45	41	41	31	34
16-19	47	43	43	31	32
20+	45	49	47	30	27
Still studying	42	46	48	33	29
Socio-professional category					
Self-employed	43	45	44	32	32
Managers	43	49	51	28	28
Other white collars	47	48	45	30	28
Manual workers	49	43	44	31	30
House persons	44	40	37	36	36
Unemployed	45	37	39	35	38
Retired	45	44	43	30	31
Students	41	47	47	33	29
Difficulties paying bills					
Most of the time	44	47	42	29	30
From time to time	47	43	43	32	32
Almost never / Never	45	46	45	30	30
Image of the EU					
Positive	45	47	47	29	30
Neutral	45	44	43	32	31
Negative	49	41	37	34	30

3. Public funding to support the transition to a greener economy

Six in ten Europeans think that the amount of public funding to support the transition to a greener economy is not enough in their country.

When asked whether public funding to support the transition to a greener economy is 'enough', 'just right' or 'too much'¹¹, 60% of respondents consider that the amount of public funding to support the transition to a greener economy is not enough in their country. Just over one fifth (23%) say that public funding is just right and 6% say that it is too much. It is noteworthy that over one in ten respondents answered 'don't know' or did not provide an answer to this question.

QB5. Do you think that the amount of public funding to support the transition to a greener economy in (OUR COUNTRY) is...? (EU27) (%)

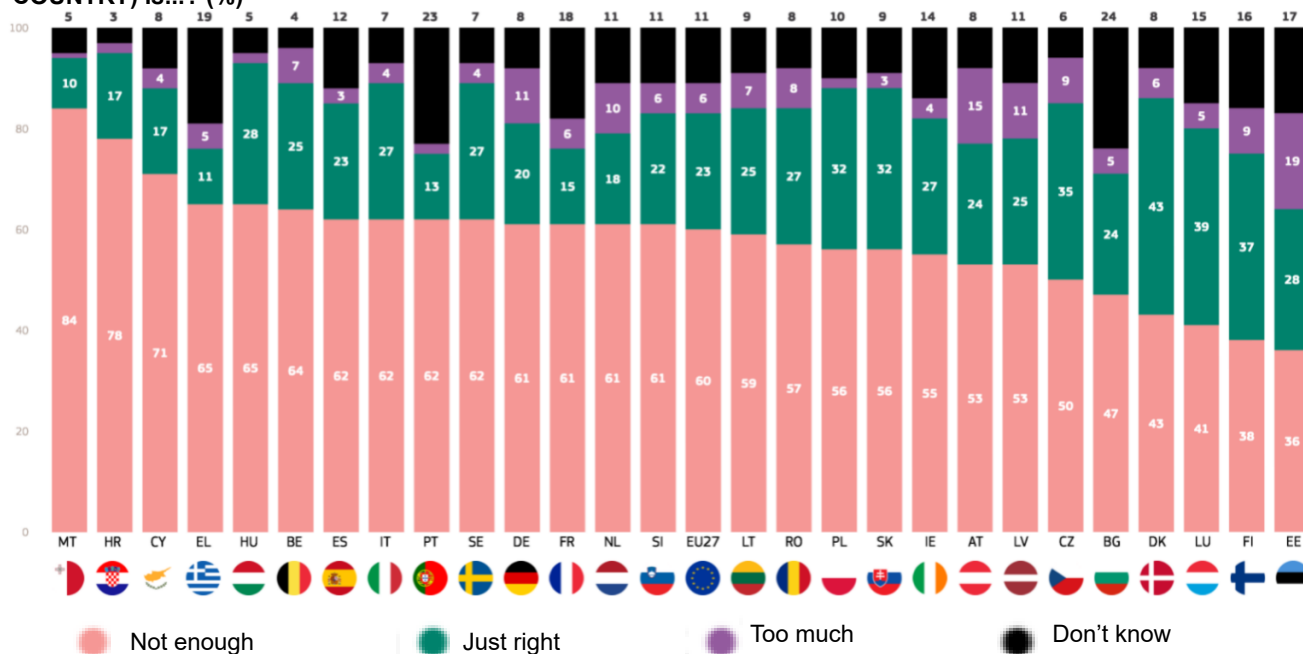


¹¹ QB5. Do you think that the amount of public funding to support the transition to a greener economy in (OUR COUNTRY) is...?

In 26 Member States a majority of respondents considers that the amount of public funding to support the transition to a greener economy in their country is not enough. However, proportions vary widely between Member States.

The highest proportions of respondents who feel that funding is not enough are found in Malta (84%), Croatia (78%) and Cyprus (71%), while the lowest proportions of respondents with this opinion are in Estonia (36%) and Finland (38%). Public opinion is evenly split in Denmark (43% 'not enough' vs. 43% 'just right' and 6% 'too much').

QB5. Do you think that the amount of public funding to support the transition to a greener economy in (OUR COUNTRY) is...? (%)



Proportion of respondents who think that the amount of public funding to support the transition to a greener economy in their country is just right range from a high of 43% in Denmark and 39% in Luxembourg, to approximately one in ten respondents in Malta (10%) and Greece (11%), where proportions are lowest. In six Member States this proportion exceeds thirty percent.

Relatively few respondents consider that the amount of public funding to support the transition to a greener economy in their country is too high, with the highest proportion of these respondents found in Estonia (19%), Austria (15%), Germany and Latvia (11%), where over a tenth of respondents felt this way.

It is noteworthy that in 14 Member States at least one tenth of respondents say that they do not know or do not provide an answer. Proportions of these respondents are highest in Bulgaria (24%) and Portugal (23%), where they make up over a fifth of respondents.

The analysis of the sociodemographic data shows that findings are generally consistent across different socio-demographic groups. However, respondents who remained in full-time education till the age of 20 or beyond are more likely to consider that public funding to support the transition to a greener economy in their country is too low (62%) than those who ended their education earlier (53%- 60%). This same pattern applies to managers (66% vs. 54%-62%) and those who have a positive image of the EU (62%) compared with those who hold a negative image (55%).

QB5 Do you think that the amount of public funding to support the transition to a greener economy in (OUR COUNTRY) is...? (% - EU)

	Just right	Not enough	Too much	Don't know
EU27	23	60	6	11
Gender				
Man	25	58	7	10
Woman	22	61	5	12
Age				
15-24	23	61	5	11
25-39	24	61	6	9
40-54	25	61	7	7
55+	21	58	7	14
Education (End of)				
15-	22	53	6	19
16-19	23	60	7	10
20+	23	62	7	8
Still studying	26	62	2	10
Socio-professional category				
Self-employed	24	59	8	9
Managers	23	66	5	6
Other white collars	26	61	5	8
Manual workers	24	59	7	10
House persons	20	58	7	15
Unemployed	20	54	9	17
Retired	21	58	6	15
Students	24	62	4	10
Difficulties paying bills				
Most of the time	16	61	7	16
From time to time	22	60	8	10
Almost never / Never	25	59	5	11
Image of the EU				
Positive	26	62	3	9
Neutral	22	60	6	12
Negative	16	55	16	13

4. Responsibility for cleaning up pollution

Over nine in ten Europeans consider that companies should pay for the costs of cleaning up their pollution.

Regarding the costs of cleaning up pollution¹², 92% of respondents agree with the statement that companies should pay for the costs of cleaning up their pollution, including 59% who totally agree and 33% who tend to agree. 7% disagree with this statement, with 60% tending to disagree and 1% totally disagreeing).

Almost three quarters of respondents (74%) agree with the statement that public authorities should pay for the costs of cleaning up pollution, including 30% of respondents who totally agree and 44% who tend to agree. On the other hand, 23% of respondents disagree (16% tend to disagree and 7% totally disagree). 3% of respondents 'don't know' or do not provide an answer to this question.

QB4. Please tell me to what extent you agree or disagree with the following statements regarding the cost of cleaning up pollution (EU27) (%)

Companies should pay for the costs of cleaning up their pollution



Public authorities should pay for the costs of cleaning up pollution

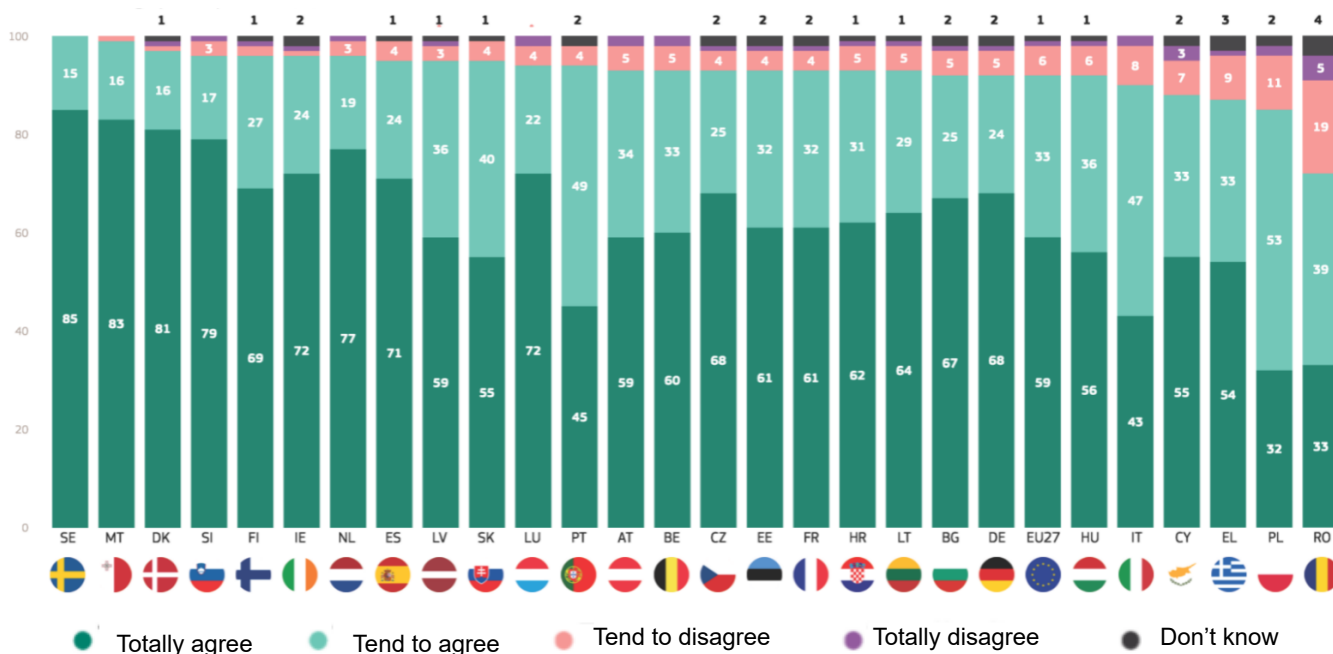


● Totally agree
 ● Tend to agree
 ● Tend to disagree
 ● Totally disagree
 ● Don't know

¹² QB4. Please tell me to what extent you agree or disagree with the following statements regarding the cost of cleaning up pollution? 1. Public authorities should pay for the costs of cleaning up pollution, 2. Companies should pay for the costs of cleaning up their pollution

In all 27 Member States, over seven in ten respondents consider that companies should pay for the costs of cleaning up their pollution, with proportions reaching from highs of 100% in Sweden and 99% in Denmark, to 72% in Romania, 85% in Poland, 87% in Greece and 88% in Cyprus.

QB4.2. Please tell me to what extent you agree or disagree with the following statements regarding the cost of cleaning up pollution - Companies should pay for the costs of cleaning up their pollution (%)

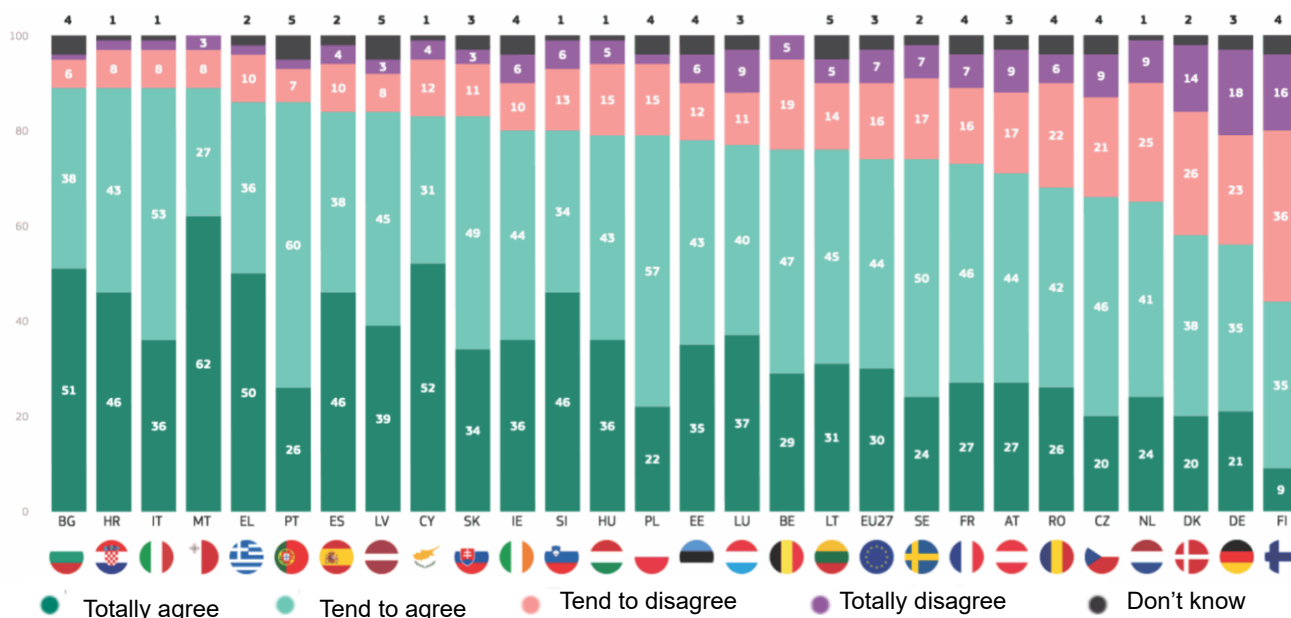


In eight Member States over 70% of respondents totally agree with this idea, most markedly in Sweden (85%), Malta (83%) and Denmark (81%), while by contrast only 32% in Poland and 33% in Romania totally agree with this idea.

Proportions of respondents who disagree are highest in Romania (24%). In a further four Member States at least a tenth of respondents disagree: Poland (13%), Greece, Cyprus and Italy (each 10%)

In 26 Member States a majority of respondents agrees with the statement that public authorities should pay for the costs of cleaning up pollution. Within this group of Member States proportions vary widely. They are highest in Bulgaria, Croatia, Italy and Malta (all 89%) and lowest in Germany (56%) and Denmark (58%). In Finland, a minority of respondents holds this opinion: 44% agree vs. 52% disagree.

QB4.1. Please tell me to what extent you agree or disagree with the following statements regarding the cost of cleaning up pollution-Public authorities should pay for the costs of cleaning up pollution (%)



The proportion of respondents who totally agree with this statement is particularly high in Malta (62%) and Cyprus (52%), where over half of respondents totally agree.

On the other hand, over a third of respondents disagree with the statement. In Finland, a majority (52%) disagrees, with 41% of German, 40% of Danish and 34% of Dutch respondents disagreeing.

The analysis of the sociodemographic data shows the following:

Younger respondents are more likely to consider that public authorities should pay for the costs of cleaning up pollution (80%) compared with other age groups (70%-76%). Students (78%) and house persons (76%) are also more likely to say so than other occupational groups. This same pattern applies to those who live in large towns (78%) especially when compared to those living in rural villages (71%). Finally, those who hold a positive image of the EU (77%) also agree upon this statement than those who hold a negative image (67%).

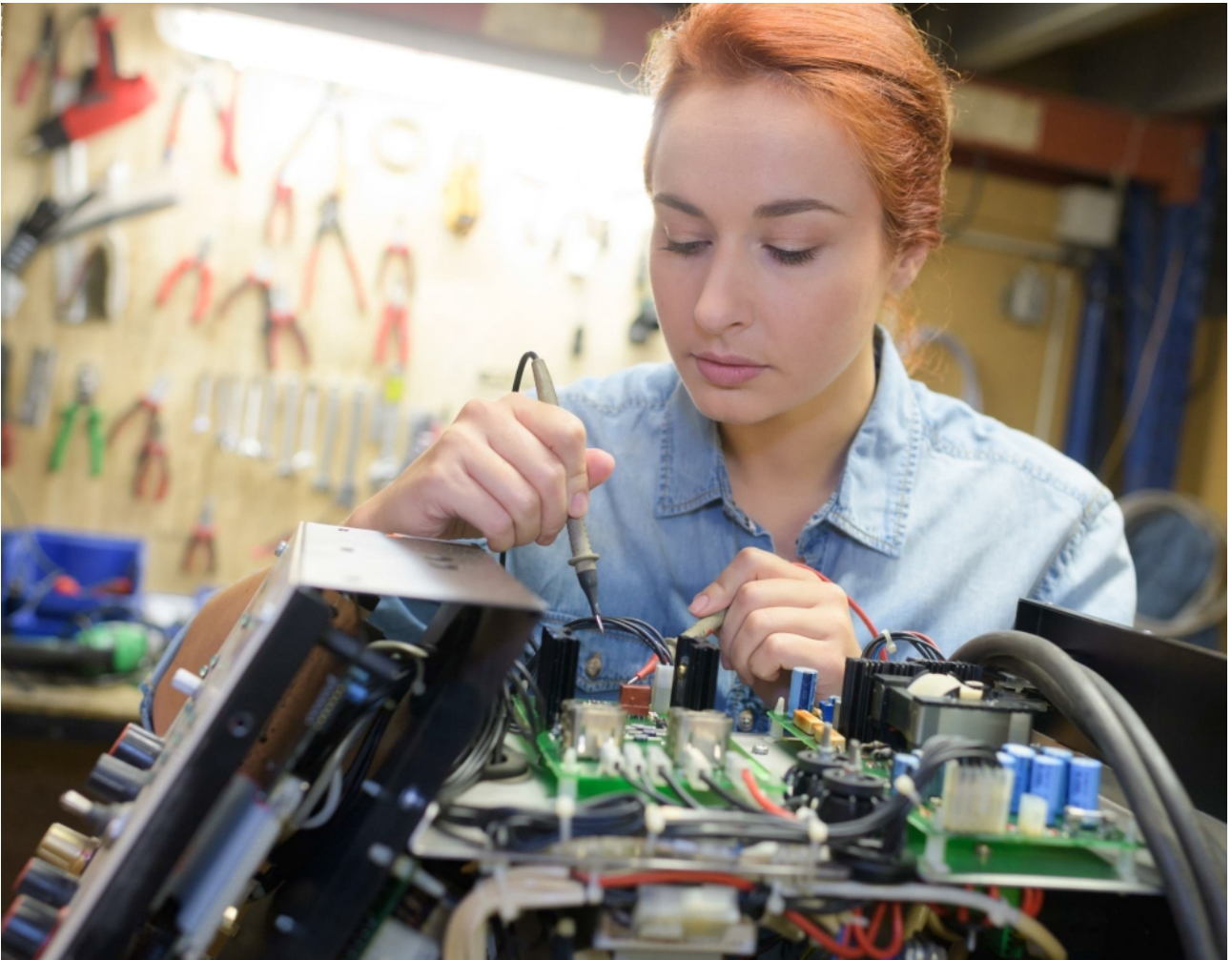
Answer patterns are even more consistent when it comes to the responsibility of companies. The strongest differences are those between respondents who hold a positive image of the EU and those who don't. 95% of the first consider that companies should pay for the costs of cleaning up their pollution, while only 87% of those with a negative image do so.

QB4.1 Please tell me to what extent you agree or disagree with the following statements regarding the cost of cleaning up pollution Public authorities should pay for the costs of cleaning up pollution (% - EU)

	Total 'Agree'	Total 'Disagree'	Don't know
EU27	74	23	3
Gender			
Man	71	26	3
Woman	76	21	3
Age			
15-24	80	17	3
25-39	76	22	2
40-54	74	24	2
55+	70	26	4
Education (End of)			
15-	73	22	5
16-19	76	21	3
20+	70	28	2
Still studying	79	18	3
Socio-professional category			
Self-employed	76	22	2
Managers	71	27	2
Other white collars	77	21	2
Manual workers	74	24	2
House persons	76	19	5
Unemployed	76	20	4
Retired	71	25	4
Students	78	19	3
Difficulties paying bills			
Most of the time	71	26	3
From time to time	74	24	2
Almost never/ Never	78	19	3
Image of the EU			
Positive	77	21	2
Neutral	74	23	3
Negative	67	30	3

QB4.2 Please tell me to what extent you agree or disagree with the following statements regarding the cost of cleaning up pollution Companies should pay for the costs of cleaning up their pollution (% - EU)

	Total 'Agree'	Total 'Disagree'	Don't know
EU27	92	7	1
Gender			
Man	92	7	1
Woman	91	7	2
Age			
15-24	91	8	1
25-39	90	9	1
40-54	91	8	1
55+	92	6	2
Education (End of)			
15-	89	8	3
16-19	91	8	1
20+	92	7	1
Still studying	94	5	1
Socio-professional category			
Self-employed	90	9	1
Managers	93	6	1
Other white collars	92	7	1
Manual workers	90	9	1
House persons	90	8	2
Unemployed	90	8	2
Retired	92	6	2
Students	92	7	1
Difficulties paying bills			
Most of the time	90	8	2
From time to time	92	7	1
Almost never / Never	92	6	2
Image of the EU			
Positive	95	5	0
Neutral	89	9	2
Negative	87	11	2



III. Green and circular economy

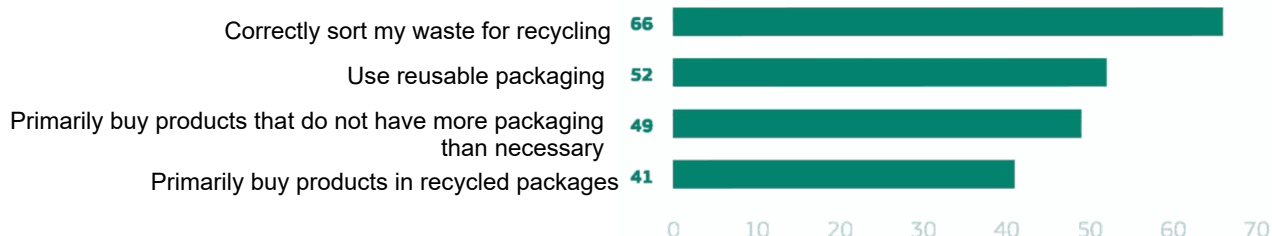
The third chapter focuses on citizens' efforts to reduce waste, their perceptions of the most problematic types of waste, and their willingness to pay more for sustainable products.

1. Citizens' actions to reduce waste

Over half of Europeans would consider correctly sorting their waste or using reusable packaging to reduce the amount of waste.

When asked what respondents would personally do to reduce the amount of waste¹³, most state that they would correctly sort their waste for recycling. This is followed by using reusable packaging and primarily buying products that do not have more packaging than necessary. Last comes primarily buying products in recycled packages.

QB6. Which of the following would you consider doing yourself to reduce the amount of waste? Please select all options that apply to you. (MULTIPLE ANSWERS POSSIBLE) (EU27) (%)

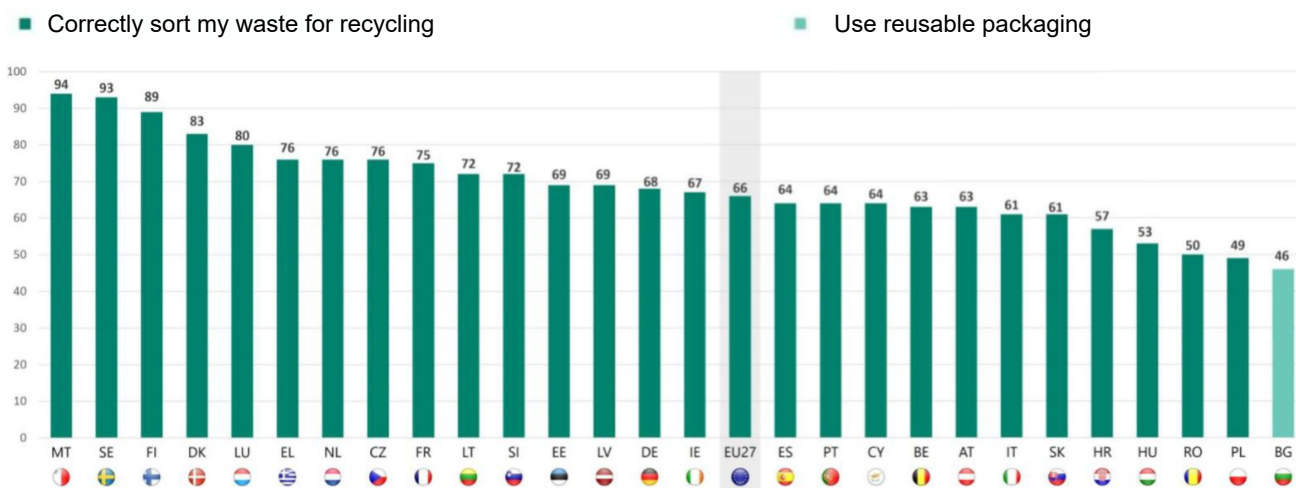


13 QB6. Which of the following would you consider doing yourself to reduce the amount of waste?

'Correctly sorting my waste' is the most frequently selected action in 26 Member States. It is most selected in Malta (94%) and Sweden (93%), where over nine in ten respondents state that they would consider correctly sorting their waste. Proportions are lowest in Bulgaria (40%), where this action comes in second place.

'Using reusable packaging' ranks second at the EU-level, ranking in first position in Bulgaria (46%). In all other Member States this item comes in second or third place. Proportions are particularly high in Sweden (82%) and Malta (74%).

QB6. Which of the following would you consider doing yourself to reduce the amount of waste? Please select all options that apply to you. (MULTIPLE ANSWERS POSSIBLE) (% - The most mentioned answer by country)



'Primarily buying products that do not have more packaging than necessary' ranks second or third in 23 Member States, including Sweden (81%) where mentions are highest. In Cyprus (28%), Portugal (29%), Malta (33%) and Lithuania (34%) this item does not rank in the top three.

'Primarily buying products in recycled packages' ranks second in Italy (40%) and is the third most frequently selected action in six Member States, including Greece (53%). It is noteworthy that Sweden (71%) has the highest proportion of respondents mentioning this item, although this issue does not rank in the country's top three.

The analysis of the sociodemographic data shows that the answer patterns are largely consistent amongst the different sociodemographic groups.

Some minor differences can be seen for those who remained in full-time education until the age of 20 or longer.

This group is systematically more likely to mention all for individual actions to reduce the amount of waste. This exact same pattern applies to managers and to a smaller extent to the self-employed and to students. For example, 55% of managers say that they 'primarily buy products that do not have more packaging than necessary', compared with 43% of house persons.

Respondents who live in large towns are also more likely to mention all four actions than those who live in rural areas. For example, 57% of those living in urban areas mention 'use reusable packaging' compared with 49% of those living in rural areas.

QB6 Which of the following would you consider doing yourself to reduce the amount of waste? Please select all options that apply to you. (MULTIPLE ANSWERS POSSIBLE) (% - EU)

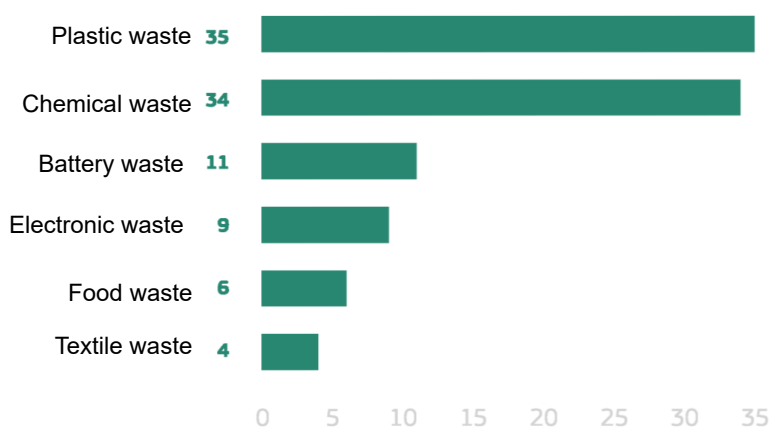
	Correctly sort my waste	Use reusable packaging	Primarily buy products that do not have more packaging than necessary	Primarily buy products in recycled packages
EU27	66	52	49	41
Education (End of)				
15-	64	45	41	35
16-19	64	47	47	39
20+	69	58	56	45
Still studying	65	59	49	49
Socio-professional category				
Self-employed	64	52	52	44
Managers	67	55	55	47
Other white collars	65	54	51	43
Manual workers	64	49	47	38
House persons	64	41	43	35
Unemployed	67	50	49	35
Retired	68	50	49	40
Students	65	58	48	47
Subjective urbanisation				
Rural village	63	49	47	38
Small / mid size town	67	50	47	40
Large town	67	57	54	46

2. Most problematic types of waste

Europeans consider that plastic waste and chemical waste are the most problematic types of waste in their country.

When asked which type of waste was deemed most problematic, EU respondents selected most often plastic and chemical waste (35% and 34% respectively). Other types of waste lag far behind, with battery waste coming after (11%), followed by electronic waste (9%), food waste (6%) and textile waste (4%).

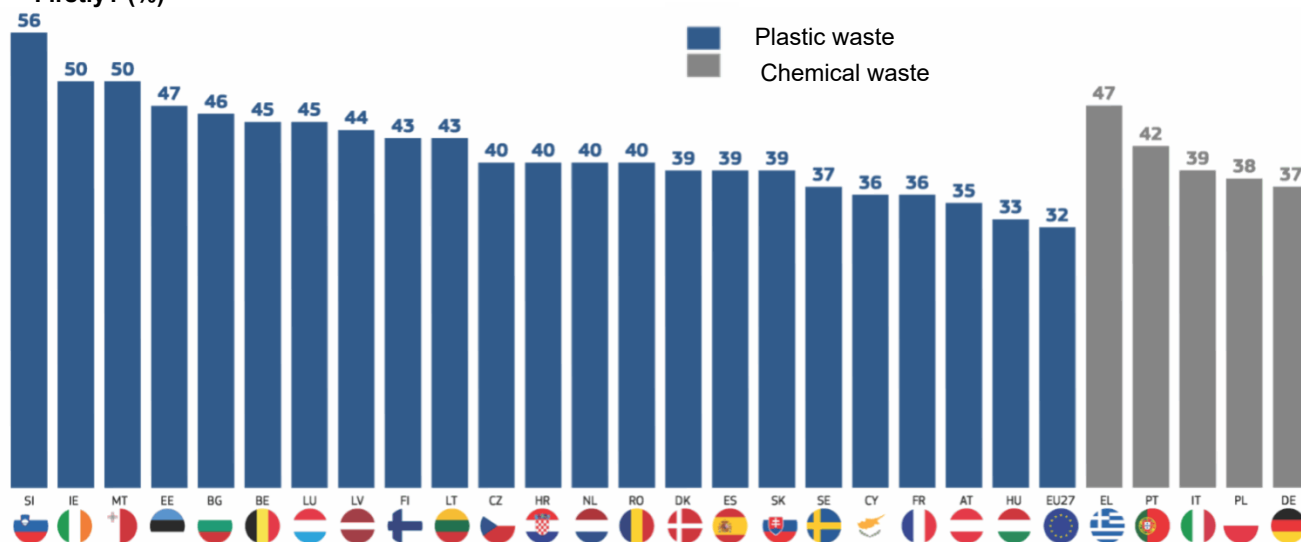
Q87a. In your opinion, which of the following types of waste are most problematic in (OUR COUNTRY)? Firstly? (EU27) (%)



In 22 Member States, plastic waste is considered to be the most problematic type of waste in their countries. This is particularly the case in Slovenia (56%), Ireland (50%) and Malta (50%).

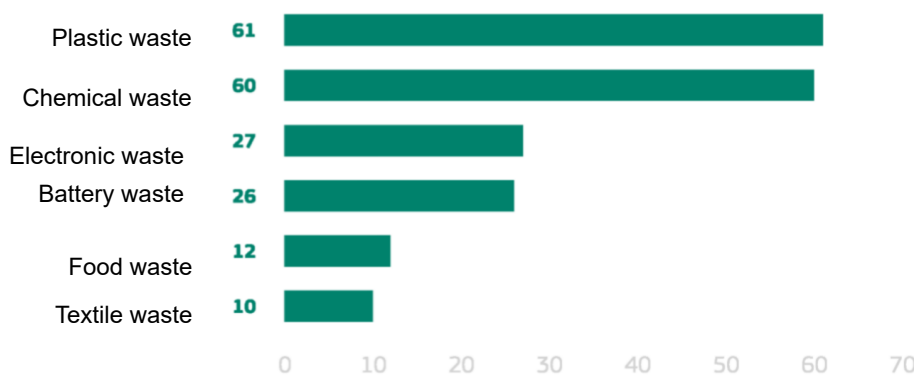
As of the other 5 Member States, they considered chemical waste as the most problematic one instead. This is particularly the case for Greece (47%), Portugal (42%) and Italy (37%).

QB7a. In your opinion, which of the following types of waste are most problematic in (OUR COUNTRY)? Firstly? (%)



When assessing the most problematic types of waste in their country¹⁴, when respondents are asked to indicate two types, 61% of Europeans rank plastic waste as the most or second most problematic. This is closely followed by chemical waste (60%). Lagging far behind these two is electronic waste, selected by 27% of respondents, followed by battery waste (26%). Food waste (12%) and textile waste (10%) are mentioned by around one tenth of respondents.

QB7T. In your opinion, which of the following types of waste are most problematic in (OUR COUNTRY)? Firstly? And then? (EU27) (%)



¹⁴ QB7. In your opinion, which of the following types of waste are the most problematic in (OUR COUNTRY)? Firstly? And then?

Plastic waste ranks first at the EU level and is the most frequently mentioned item in 20 Member States, particularly in Slovenia (75%), Ireland (74%) and Belgium (71%), where it was selected by more than seven in ten respondents. In Sweden (59%) it shares first position with chemical waste. Plastic waste ranks second in the seven remaining Member States.

Chemical waste stands second at the EU level but ranks first in eight Member States, especially in Greece (73%), where proportions are highest. It ranks second in 18 Member States, the highest of which is in Spain (64%). It ranks third in one Member State, Ireland, where just under one third (32%) consider it the most important type of waste in their country.

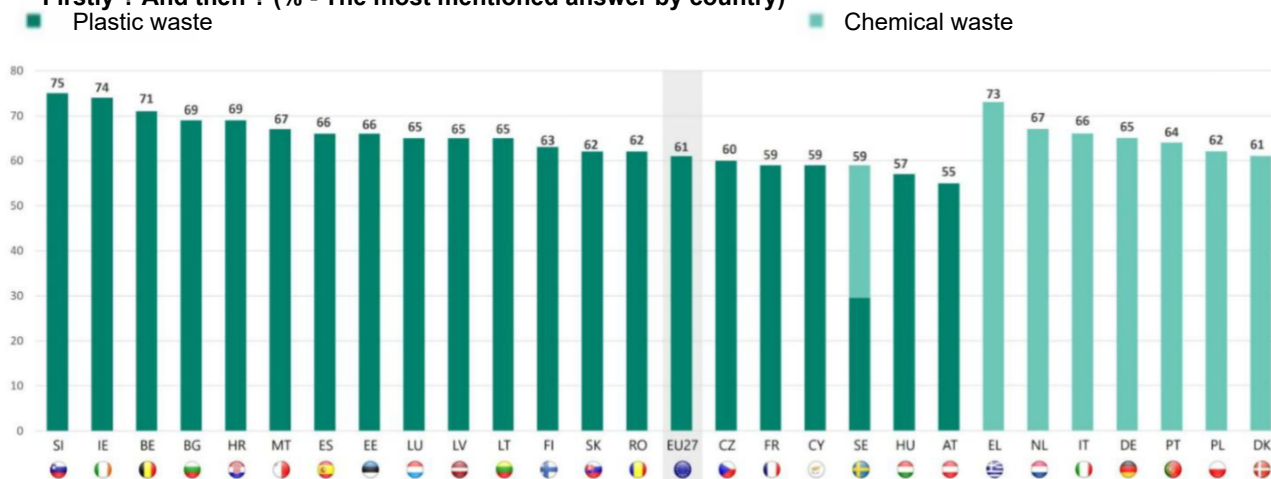
Electronic waste is ranked in third place at the EU level but second in Sweden (31%). Electronic waste is the third most frequently mentioned type of waste in 15 Member States. It does not rank in the top three in the remaining 11 Member States.

Battery waste is the third most frequently mentioned type of waste in nine Member States, including Cyprus (51%) where proportions are the highest. It does not rank in the top three in the remaining 18 Member States. At the other end of the scale, only 12% of respondents mention this type of waste in Ireland.

Food waste ranks second in Ireland (38%), where proportions are highest, and stands in third position in Romania (31%) and Bulgaria (22%). It does not rank in the top three in the remaining 24 Member States. In six Member States less than a tenth of respondents mention food waste, with the lowest proportion in Greece (6%).

Textile waste does not rank in the top three in any Member State. Proportions are highest in Finland (21%), where over a fifth of respondents consider this type of waste as most problematic in their country. The lowest proportion of respondents are in Greece (3%), Cyprus (4%), Germany (4%) and Hungary (5%).

QB7T. In your opinion, which of the following types of waste are most problematic in (OUR COUNTRY) ? Firstly ? And then ? (% - The most mentioned answer by country)



The analysis of the sociodemographic data shows no significant differences according to gender. However, respondents aged 55+ are more likely to mention 'chemical waste' (63%) than other age groups (56%-59%). So do those who left full-time education earliest (64% vs. 59%- 61%). The retired (63%) and the self-employed (63%) are also more likely than other occupational categories to mention chemical waste.

Those who live in rural areas are more likely to mention 'battery waste' and 'chemical waste' than those living in large towns (28% and 62% respectively compared to 22% and 59%).

QB7T In your opinion, which of the following types of waste are most problematic in (OUR COUNTRY)? Firstly? And then?

	Plastic waste	Chemical waste	Electronic waste	Battery waste	Food waste	Textile waste
EU27	61	60	27	26	12	10
Age						
15-24	63	56	28	24	15	10
25-39	59	59	27	26	14	11
40-54	61	59	27	27	12	10
55+	62	63	26	26	10	8
Education (End of)						
15-	60	64	24	29	11	6
16-19	62	61	25	27	12	9
20+	61	59	29	25	12	11
Still studying	61	58	30	24	13	11
Socio-professional category						
Self-employed	62	63	24	25	11	11
Managers	60	59	29	26	12	11
Other white collars	60	59	27	27	13	11
Manual workers	60	60	26	28	14	9
House persons	63	63	24	26	10	9
Unemployed	63	54	26	28	12	10
Retired	63	63	26	25	10	8
Students	61	56	30	24	14	11
Subjective urbanisation						
Rural village	61	62	26	28	11	9
Small / mid size town	61	60	27	28	11	10
Large town	63	59	29	22	14	10

3. Willingness to pay more for sustainable products

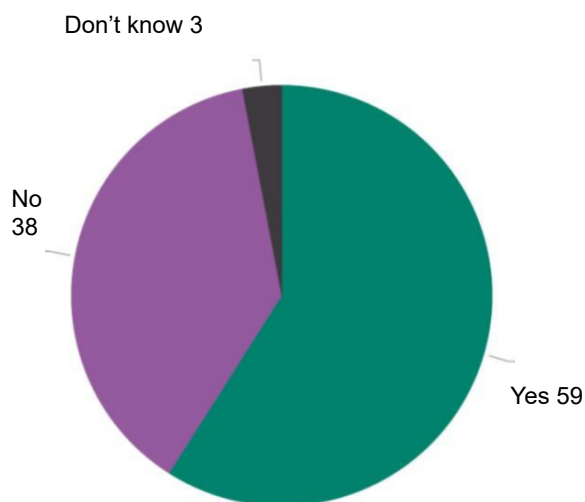
Almost six in ten respondents are willing to pay more for sustainable products.

When asked whether Europeans were willing to pay more for sustainable products that are easier to repair, recyclable and/or produced in an environmentally sustainable way¹⁵, almost six in ten respondents answer 'yes' (59%). Almost four in ten respondents answer 'no' (38%) and 3% answer 'don't know'.

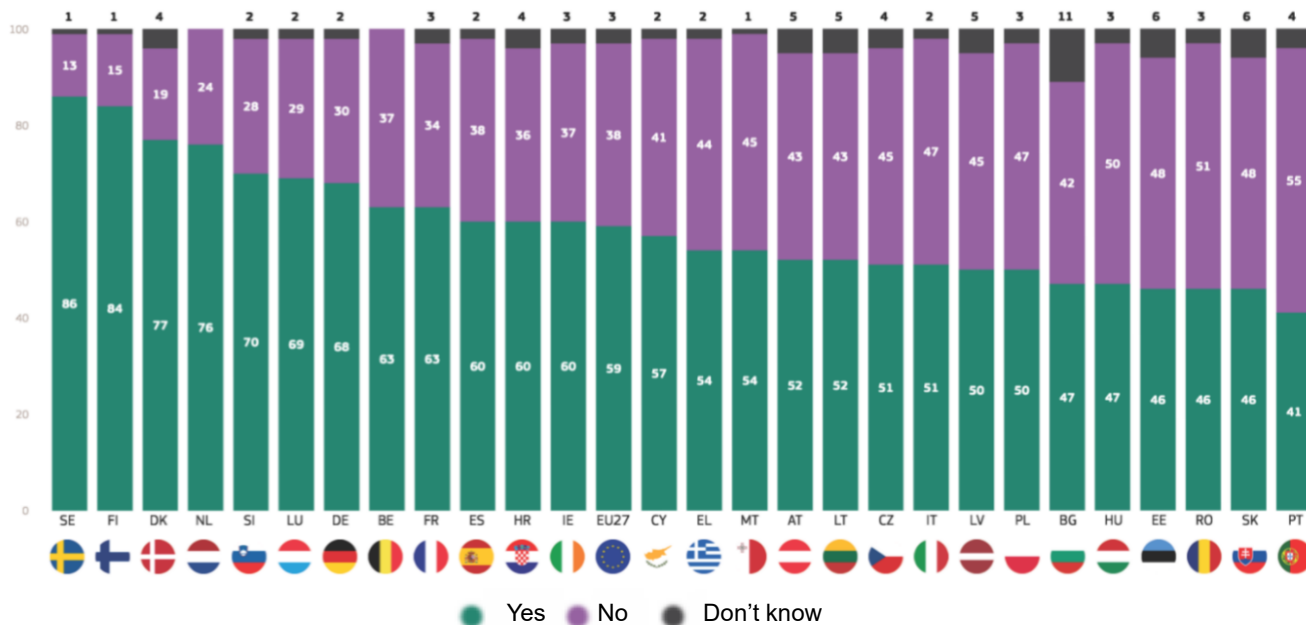
In 22 Member States a majority of respondents would accept to pay more for products that are easier to repair, recyclable and/or produced in an environmentally sustainable way when buying products such as furniture, textiles or electronic devices. However, within this group of Member States, proportions vary widely, going from 86% in Sweden and 84% in Finland, to 47% in Bulgaria.

On the contrary, in five Member States more respondent would not be willing to pay more than willing to pay more — reaching a majority in Portugal (55% Romania (51%) and Hungary.).

QB8. When you buy products such as furniture, textiles, or electronic devices. would you be willing to pay more for products that are easier to repair, recyclable and/or produced in an environmentally sustainable way? (EU27) (%)



QB8. When you buy products such as furniture, textiles, or electronic devices, would you be willing to pay more for products that are easier to repair. recyclable and/or produced in an environmentally sustainable way? (%)



15 QB8. When you buy products such as furniture, textiles, or electronic devices, would you be willing to pay more for products that are easier to repair, recyclable and/or produced in an environmentally sustainable way?

The analysis of the sociodemographic data shows only very little differences according to gender and age. However, those who remained longest in full-time education are more likely to pay more for sustainable products (69%) than those who left full-time education at the age of 15 or before (47%). This same pattern applies to managers (67%) especially compared to housepersons (47%) and the unemployed (49%).

Those who almost never or never have difficulties in paying their bills (65%) are also more likely to say so than those who most of the time have such difficulties (41%). Significant differences in answer patterns can also be observed for those who consider themselves as upper class of society (79%), where almost eight in ten respondents say 50, compared to those who see themselves as working class (50%).

QB8 When you buy products such as furniture, textiles, or electronic devices, would you be willing to pay more for products that are easier to repair, recyclable and/or produced in an environmentally sustainable way? (% - EU)

	Yes	No	Don't know
EU27	59	38	3
Gender			
Man	59	38	3
Woman	60	38	2
Age			
15-24	61	37	2
25-39	60	37	3
40-54	59	39	2
55+	59	38	3
Education (End of)			
15-	47	50	3
16-19	55	42	3
20+	69	29	2
Still studying	66	31	3
Socio-professional category			
Self-employed	61	37	2
Managers	67	31	2
Other white collars	61	36	3
Manual workers	55	42	3
House persons	47	51	2
Unemployed	49	47	4
Retired	60	37	3
Students	64	33	3
Difficulties paying bills			
Most of the time	41	56	3
From time to time	51	46	3
Almost never / Never	65	33	2
Consider belonging to			
The working class	50	46	4
The lower middle class	58	39	3
The middle class	62	36	2
The upper middle class	73	26	1
The upper class	79	21	0



IV. Hazardous chemicals

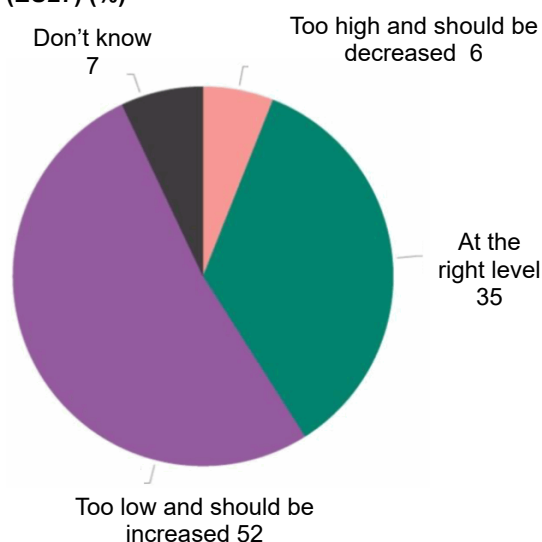
The fourth chapter focuses on perceptions of the European Union's efforts in safeguarding the environment and human health against hazardous chemicals. It then delves into the apprehensions surrounding hazardous chemicals regarding environment, health and purchasing decisions. Finally, it reports on self-reported familiarity with PFAS and associated concerns on the environment and human health.

1. EU's environmental protection from hazardous chemicals

Over half of Europeans consider that the actual level of protection of human health and the environment from hazardous chemicals is too low and should be increased.

A majority (52%) of Europeans think that the EU's current level of protection from hazardous chemicals on the environment and human health is too low and should be increased¹⁶. Over a third (35%) consider that the current level of protection is at the right level and 6% say it is too high and should be decreased. It is noteworthy that the proportion of respondents who answer 'don't know' exceeds the level of respondents who consider the level of protection as too high.

QB9. In order to protect human health and the environment from hazardous chemicals, do you think that the current level of protection in the EU is... (EU27) (%)



¹⁶ QB9. In order to protect human health and the environment from hazardous chemicals, do you think that the current level of protection in the EU is...?

In 21 Member States a majority considers that the current protection from hazardous chemicals in the EU for human health and the environment is too low and should be increased.

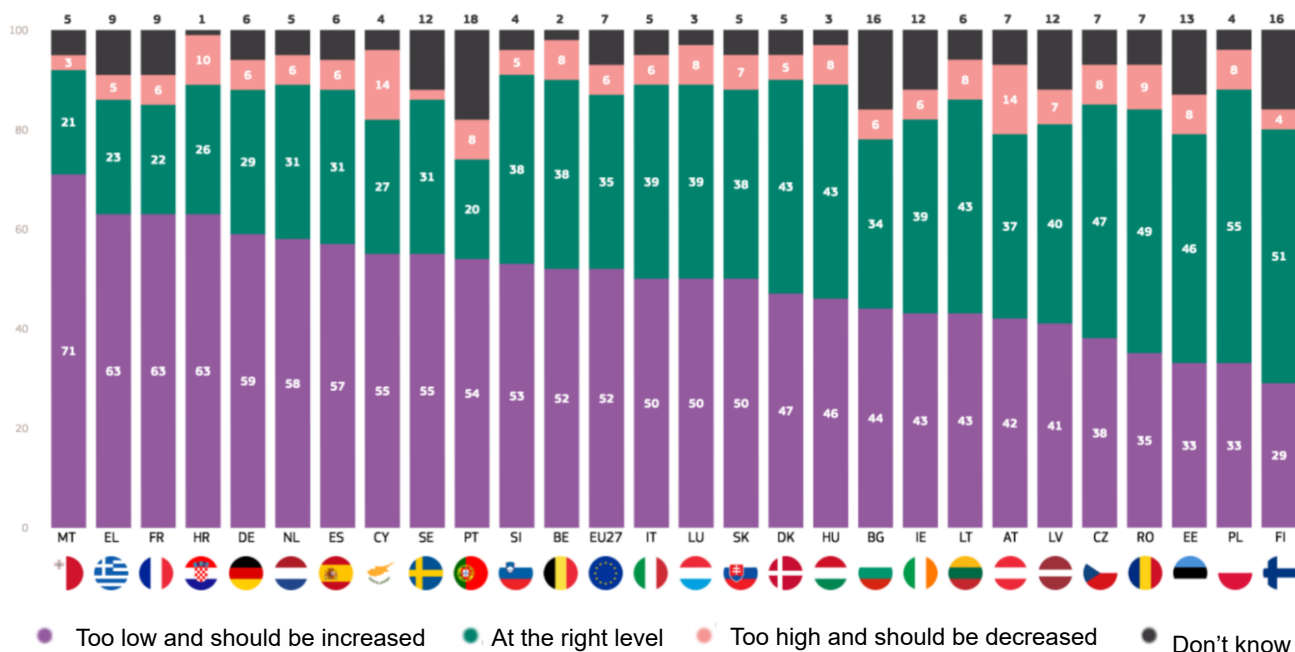
level of protection to be about right. In another three Member States, namely Romania (49%), Czechia (47%) and Estonia (46%), more respondents think it is about right rather than too low, but neither reaches a majority.

However, within this group proportions vary widely, from 71% in Malta and 63% in Greece, to 41% in Latvia (vs. 40% at the right level) and 42% in Austria (vs. 37% at the right level).

Opinions are evenly split in Lithuania: 43% 'at the right level' vs. 43% 'too low and should be increased'.

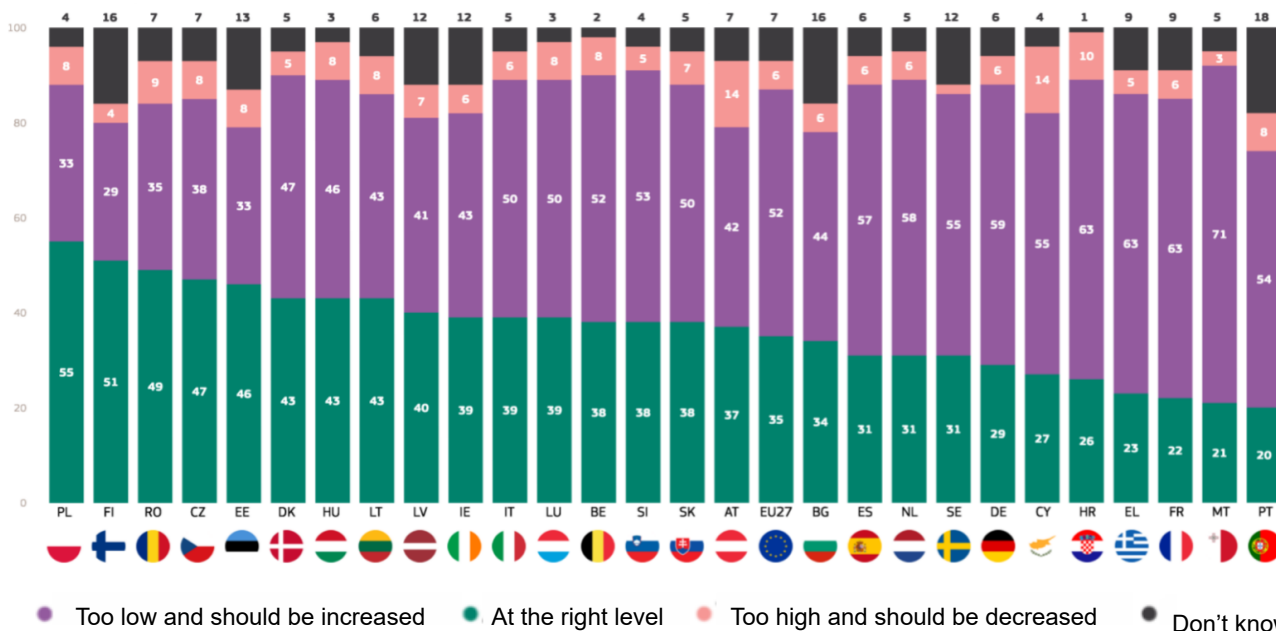
In two Member States, namely Poland (55%) and Finland (51%), a majority of respondents considers the current

QB9. In order to protect human health and the environment from hazardous chemicals do you think that the current level of protection in the EU is... (%)



● Too low and should be increased ● At the right level ● Too high and should be decreased ● Don't know

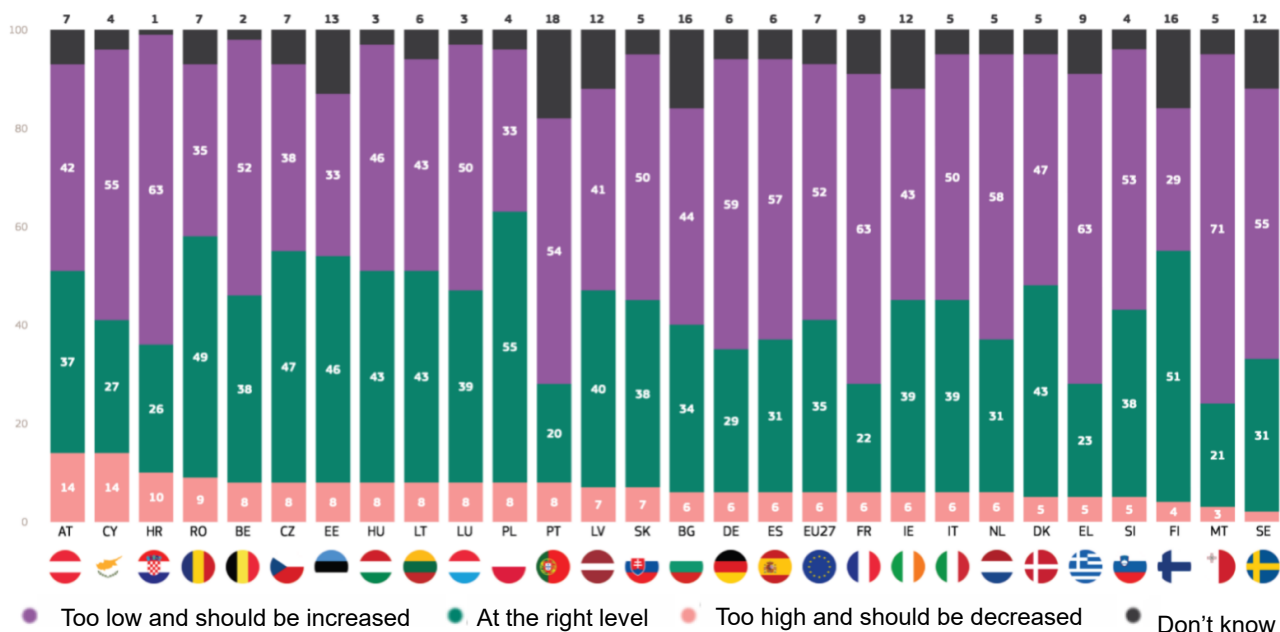
QB9. In order to protect human health and the environment from hazardous chemicals do you think that the current level of protection in the EU is... (%)



● Too low and should be increased ● At the right level ● Too high and should be decreased ● Don't know

In Austria, Cyprus (each 14%) and Croatia (10%) at least one in ten respondents consider that the current level of protection is too high and should be decreased. Finally, it is noteworthy that in Portugal (18%), Finland, Bulgaria (each 16%), Estonia (13%), Latvia, Ireland and Sweden (each 12%) over one in ten respondents say that they don't know.

QB9. In order to protect human health and the environment from hazardous chemicals do you think that the current level of protection in the EU is... (%)



The analysis of the sociodemographic data shows consistent answer patterns throughout the different categories. Nevertheless, older respondents are more likely to consider that the protection of human health from hazardous chemicals is too low. 55% of those aged 55+ say so, compared to 48% of younger respondents. The unemployed stand out with a lower proportion agreeing upon this statement (46% compared to 51%-56% in other occupational groups).

QB9 In order to protect human health and the environment from hazardous chemicals, do you think that the current level of protection in the EU is... (% - EU)

	Too low and should be increased	At the right level	Too high an should be decreased	Don't know
EU27	52	35	6	7
Age				
15-24	48	39	7	6
25-39	50	33	7	5
40-54	53	35	7	5
55+	55	31	5	9
Education (End of)				
15-	52	30	5	13
16-19	52	34	8	6
20+	53	36	6	5
Still studying	51	37	6	6
Socio-professional category				
Self-employed	53	34	8	5
Managers	52	38	6	4
Other white collars	51	38	6	5
Manual workers	51	36	7	6
House persons	55	29	8	8
Unemployed	46	35	7	12
Retired	55	30	6	9
Students	51	37	7	5

2. Concerns about hazardous chemicals

Over eight in ten Europeans are worried about the impact of harmful chemicals in everyday products on their health and on the environment.¹⁷

A large majority of respondents (84%) says that they are worried about the impact of harmful chemicals in everyday products on their health; 41% totally agree and 43% tend to agree. A small proportion (15%) say they are not worried.

Compared with a previous survey conducted in 2019, the proportion of respondents who are worried about the impact of harmful chemicals in everyday products on their health decreased slightly, by one percentage point, whereas the proportion of those who are not worried increased symmetrically. While the overall change is small, when looking at the granular level there is a decrease of four percentage points amongst those who 'totally agree' and an increase of three percentage points amongst those who 'tend to agree'.

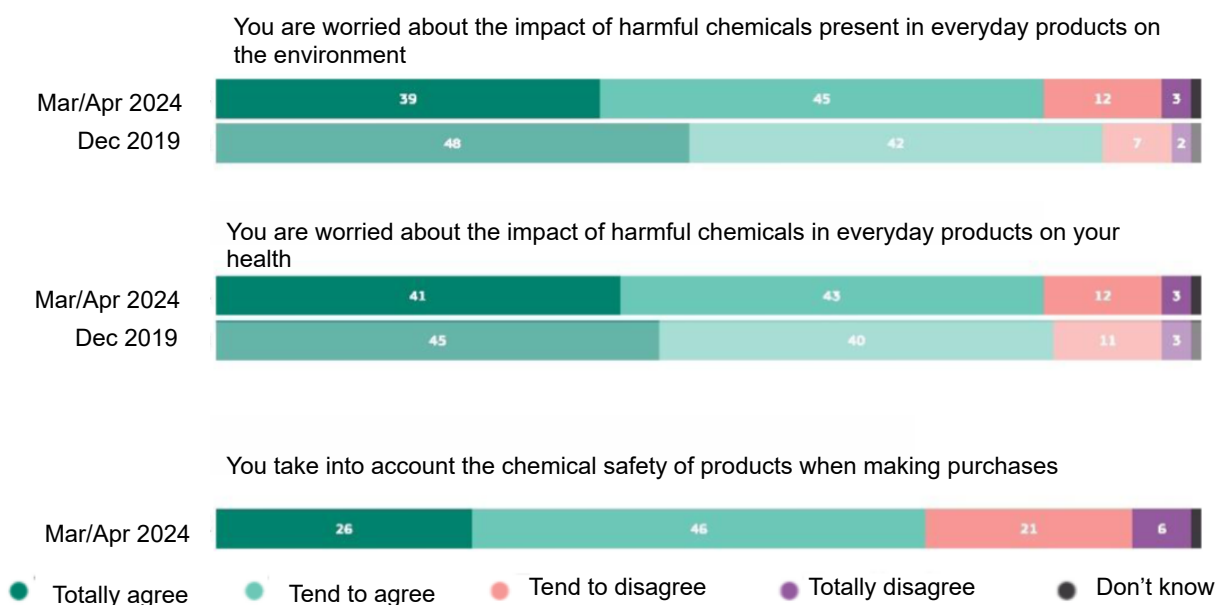
The same proportion of Europeans (84%) say that they are worried about the impact of harmful chemicals present in everyday products on the environment, including 39%

who 'totally agree' to being worried. Again, 15% of respondents say they are not worried.

Since 2019, the proportion of respondents worried about the impact of harmful chemicals in everyday products on the environment dropped sharply by six percentage points, while the proportion of those who are not worried increased symmetrically. In detail, the proportion of those who 'totally agree' to being worried decreased by nine percentage points, while those who 'tend to agree' to being worried increased by three percentage points. As a result, moderate answer patterns gained ground for both items, while more polarised answer patterns declined.

Nearly three quarters (72%) of Europeans state that they take into account the chemical safety of products when making purchases, including 26% who 'totally agree' with this statement and 46% who 'tend to agree'. Just over a quarter of respondents (27%) disagree, including 6% who 'totally disagree'.

QB10. The following statements relate to everyday products, such as frying pans, toys, and cleaning detergents. Please- tell me to what extent you agree or disagree with the following statements. {EU27} (%)



17 QB10. Please tell me to what extent you agree or disagree with each of the following statements: 1. You are worried about the impact of chemicals present in everyday products on the environment; 2. You are worried about the impact of chemicals present in everyday products on your health; 3. You take into account the chemical safety of products when making purchases.

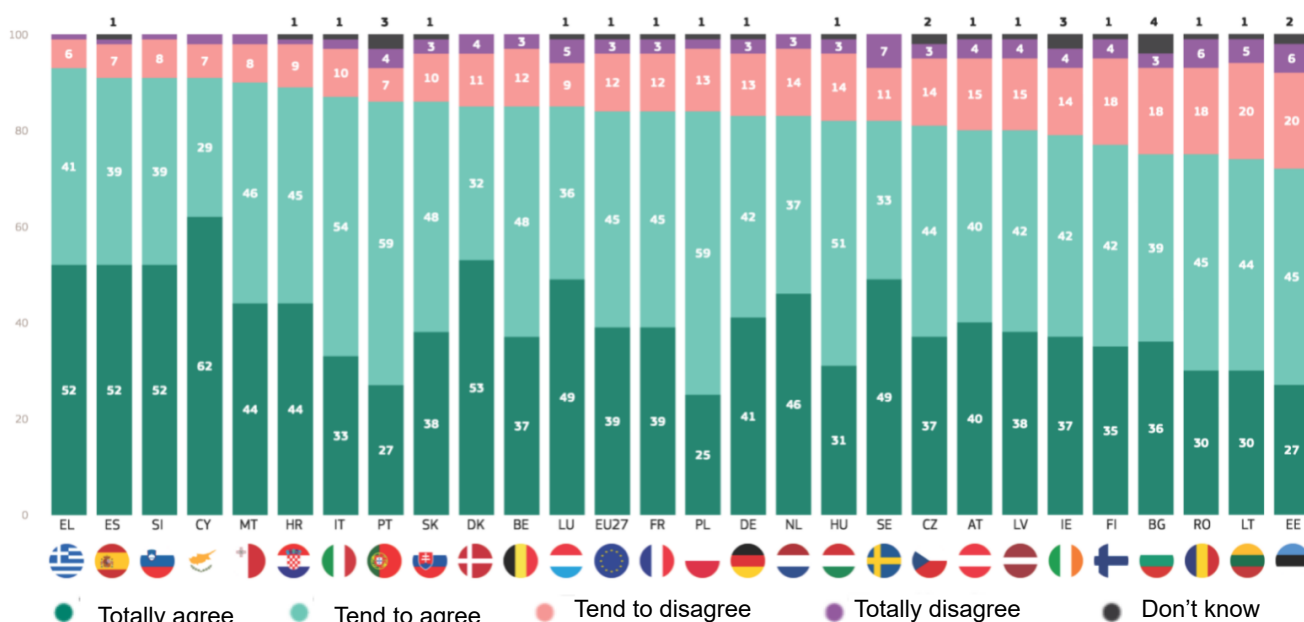
a) Concern about the impact of harmful chemicals on the environment

In all 27 Member States over seven in ten respondents state that they are worried about the impact of harmful chemicals in everyday products on the environment. Proportions range from 93% in Greece and 91% in Spain, Slovenia and Cyprus, where they are highest, to 72% in Estonia and 74% in Lithuania, where they are the lowest. In five Member States over half of respondents 'totally agree' with the statement, most notably in Cyprus (62%).

Conversely, in five Member States at least a fifth of respondents disagree with this statement, most notably in Estonia (26%) and Lithuania (25%). Despite being very high across the board, the proportion of respondents who are worried about the impact of harmful chemicals in everyday products on the environment declined in all 27 Member States since 2019.

The decrease exceeds ten percentage points in six Member States, namely Estonia (72%, -13), Bulgaria (75%, -12), Portugal (86%, -11), Luxembourg (85%, -10), Latvia (80%, -10) and Ireland (79%, 10).

QB10.2. The following statements relate to everyday products, such as frying pans, toys, and cleaning detergents. Please tell me to what extent you agree or disagree with the following statements : You are worried about the impact of harmful chemicals present in everyday products on the environment (%)



b) Concern about the impact of harmful chemicals on health

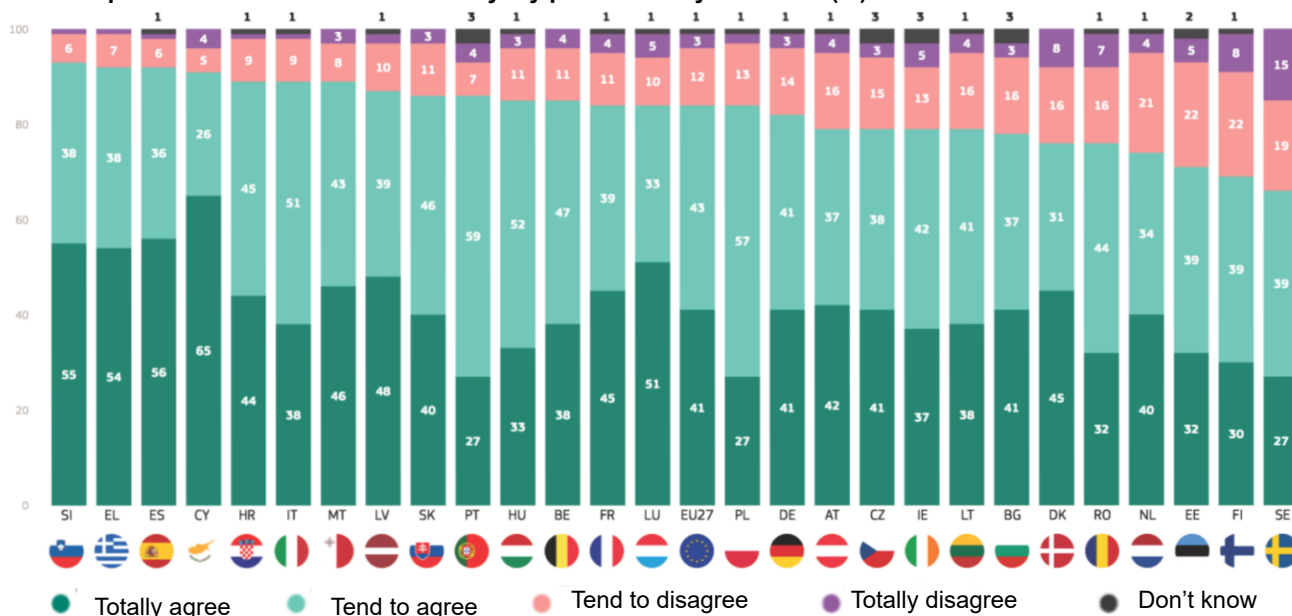
In all 27 Member States at least two thirds of respondents state that they are worried about the impact of harmful chemicals in everyday products on their health. Proportions range from 93% in Slovenia, 92% in Greece and Spain, where they are highest, to 66% in Sweden and 69% in Finland, where less than seven in ten respondents are worried about it. In five Member States over half of the respondents 'totally agree' with the statement, against most notably in Cyprus (65%).

In contrast, in eight Member States at least a fifth of respondents disagree with this statement, including 34% in Sweden.

Since 2019, the proportion of respondents worried about the impact of harmful chemicals in everyday products on their health increased in five Member States, including the Netherlands (74%, +3 percentage points), while proportions remained unchanged in Italy (89%), Austria (79%) and Denmark (76%).

In contrast, proportions declined in the remaining 19 Member States, most notably in Bulgaria (78%, -12) and Portugal (86%, -10).

QB10.3. The following statements relate to everyday products, such as frying pans, toys, and cleaning detergents. Please tell me to what extent you agree or disagree with the following statements.: -You are worried about the impact of harmful chemicals in everyday products on your health (%)

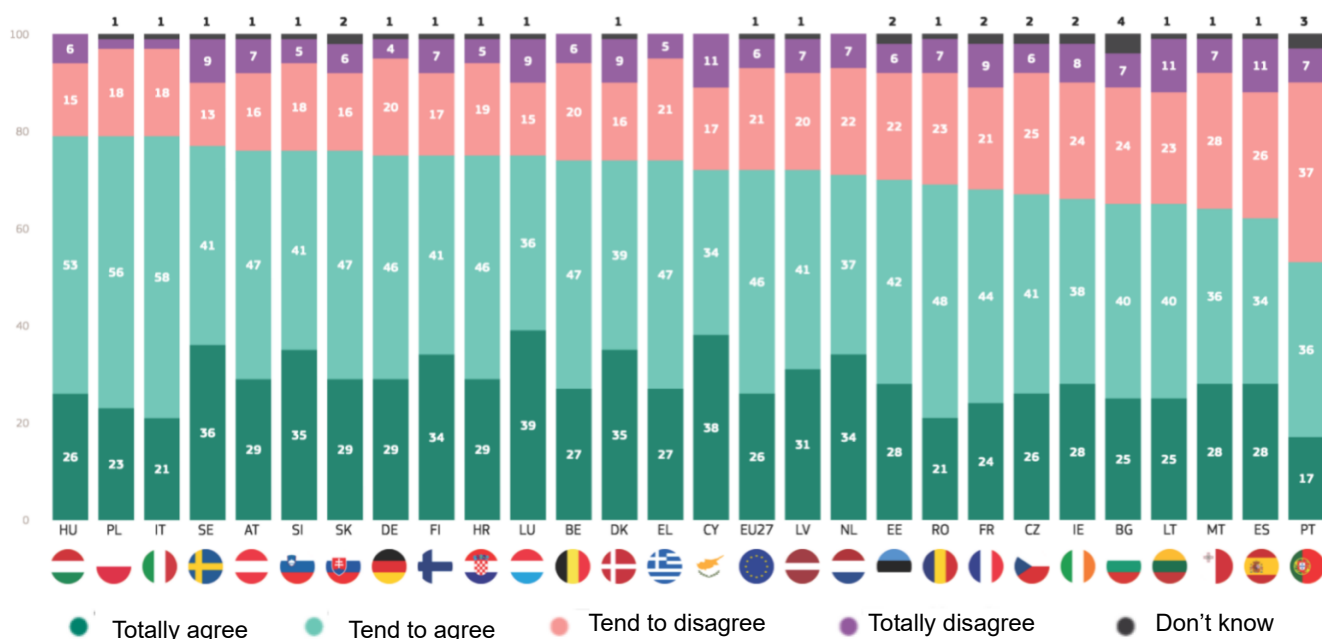


c) Accounting for the chemical safety of products when making purchases

In all 27 Member States over half of respondents agree that they consider the chemical safety of products when making purchases. Proportions range from 79% in Hungary, Poland and Italy, where they are highest, to 53% in Portugal and 62% in Spain, where they are the lowest. In eight Member States at least three in ten respondents 'totally agree' with the statement, particularly high in Luxembourg (39%) and Cyprus (38%).

In contrast, at least three in ten respondents disagree in nine Member States, especially in Portugal (44%). Moreover, in Spain, Cyprus and Lithuania, more than one in ten statement. respondents (each 11%) totally disagree with the statement.

QB10.1. The following statements relate to everyday products, such as frying pans, toys, and cleaning detergents. Please tell me to what extent you agree or disagree with the following statements.:-You take into account the chemical safety of products when making purchases (%)



The analysis of the sociodemographic data shows that older respondents and those who stayed in full-time education till the age of 20 are more likely to agree upon all three statements than their respective counterparts. For example, 77% of those who studied longest take into account the chemical safety of products when making purchases, compared to 66% of those who left full-time education at the age of 15 or earlier.

This same answer pattern applies to those who almost never or never have difficulties in paying their bills. For instance, 85% of them say that they are worried about the impact of chemicals in everyday products on their health, compared with 80% amongst those who have such difficulties most of the time.

Those who hold a positive image of the EU are also more likely to agree systematically upon all three statements than those who hold a negative image. For example, 89% of them are worried about the impact of harmful chemicals present in everyday products on the environment, compared with 77% of those who have a negative image of the EU

QB10 The following statements relate to everyday products, such as frying pans, toys, and cleaning detergents. Please tell me to what extent you agree or disagree with the following statements. (% - Total 'Agree')

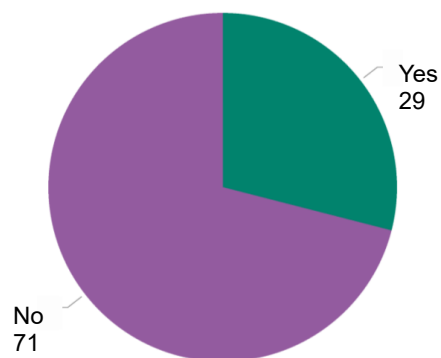
	You are worried about the impact of harmful chemicals present in everyday products on the environment	You are worried about the impact of harmful chemicals in everyday products on your health	You take into account the chemical safety of products when making purchases
EU27	84	84	72
Gender			
Man	83	82	69
Woman	87	86	74
Education (End of)			
15-	83	84	66
16-19	84	84	72
20+	87	84	77
Still studying	83	82	64
Difficulties paying bills			
Most of the time	82	80	61
From time to time	82	83	70
Almost never / Never	86	85	74
Image of the EU			
Positive	89	87	76
Neutral	83	82	70
Negative	77	78	64

3. Self-reported knowledge and concerns regarding PFAS

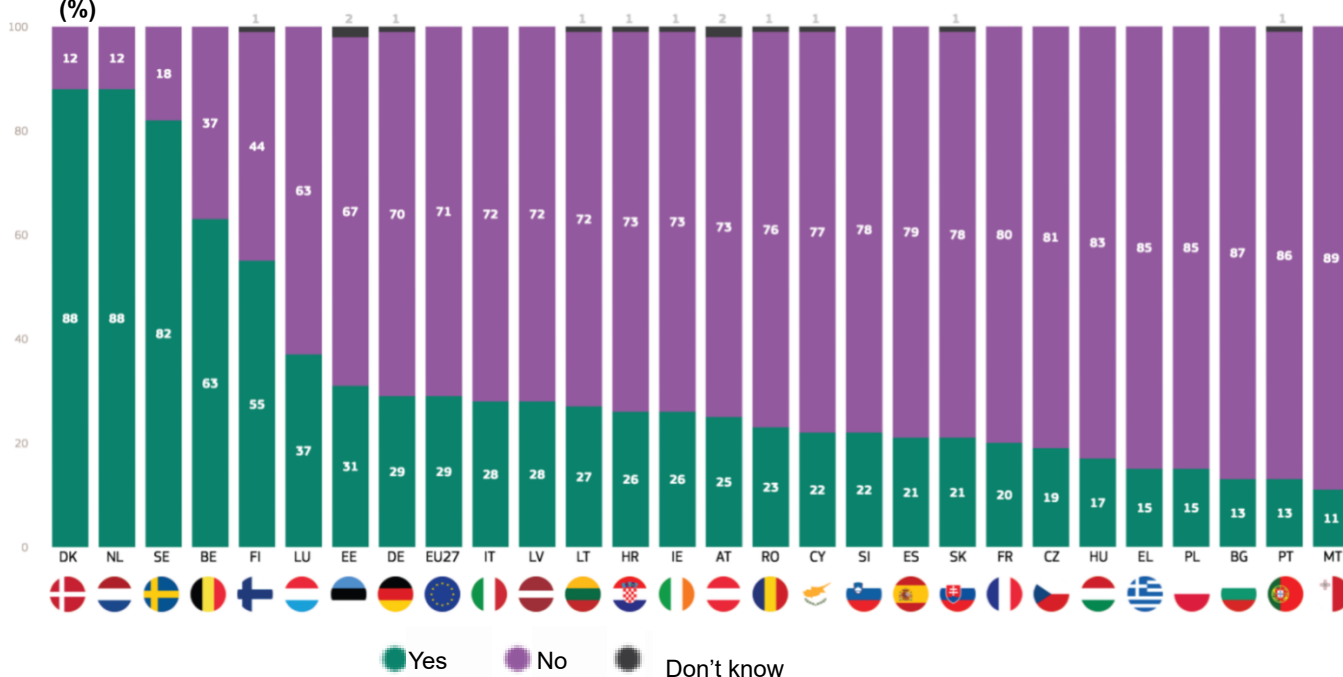
a) Self-reported knowledge of PFAS

When measuring the self-reported knowledge of the term PFAS (also known as 'forever chemicals')¹⁸, 29% of Europeans say that they have heard it, while 71% have not.

QB11. Have you heard of the term PFAS, also known as 'forever chemicals'? (EU27) (%)



QB11. Have you heard of the term PFAS, also known as 'forever chemicals'? (%)



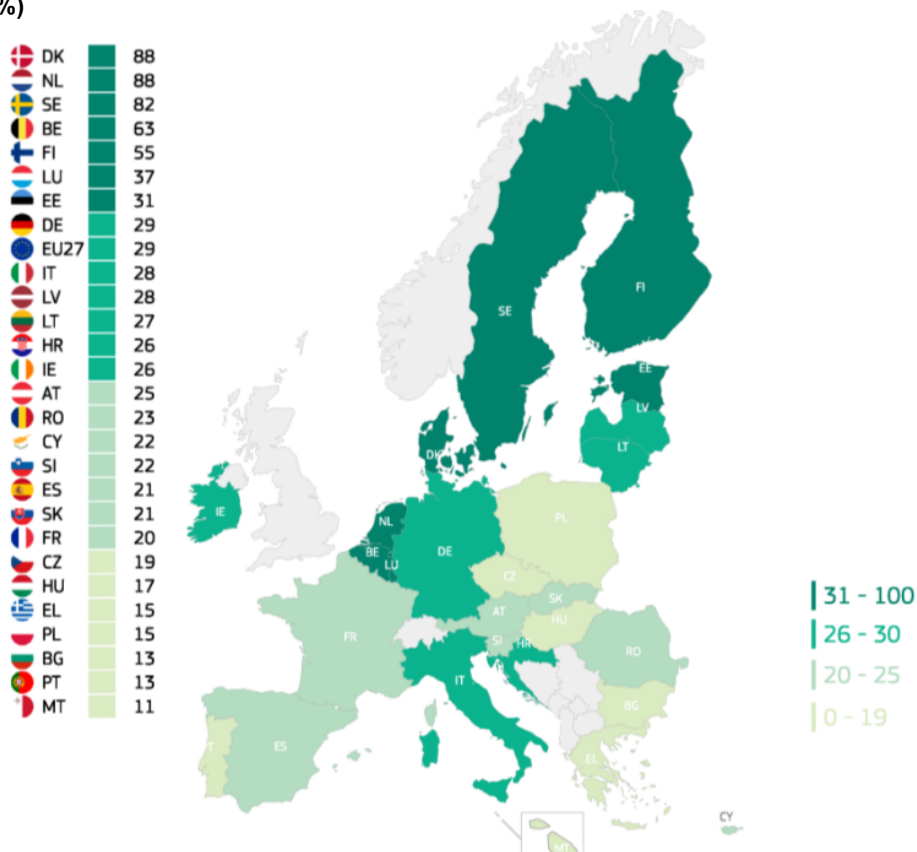
18 QB11. Have you heard of the term PFAS, also known as 'forever chemicals'?

The map below shows the proportion of respondents in each Member State who have heard of the term PFAS.

Over half of respondents in five Member States heard of PFAS before the survey — in Denmark, the Netherlands (each 88%), Sweden (82%), Belgium (63%) and Finland (55%).

At the other end of the scale, in seven Member States fewer than one in five respondents have heard of the term PFAS. Awareness levels are lowest in Portugal, Bulgaria (each 13%) and Malta (11%), where just over one in ten respondents have heard of it.

QB11. Have you heard of the term PFAS, also known as 'forever chemicals'? - Yes (%)



The analysis of the sociodemographic data shows some significant differences, mostly linked to education and social position.

Thus, those who remained longest in full-time education are over twice as likely to have heard of PFAS (41%) than those who left full-time education at the age of 15 or before (15%). The same patterns apply to managers (40%) and to a smaller extent to students (30%). Differences are also sharp when looking at those who see themselves as upper- class of society (54%) compared to those who consider themselves as working class (19%).

Respondents who hold a positive image of the EU (34%) are also more likely to say so than those who have a negative image (26%).

QB11 Have you heard of the term PFAS, also known as 'forever chemicals'? (% - EU)

	Yes	No	Don't know
EU27	29	71	0
Education (End of)			
15-	15	85	0
16-19	23	76	1
20+	41	59	0
Still studying	30	70	0
Socio-professional category			
Self-employed	38	62	0
Managers	40	59	1
Other white collars	32	68	0
Manual workers	24	76	0
House persons	20	80	0
Unemployed	23	76	1
Retired	26	74	0
Students	30	70	0
Consider belonging to			
The working class	19	81	0
The lower middle class	26	73	1
The middle class	30	70	0
The upper middle class	53	46	1
The upper class	54	45	1
Image of the EU			
Positive	34	65	1
Neutral	23	77	0
Negative	26	74	0

After being asked about their knowledge of the term PFAS, all respondents were provided with the following definition: PFAS, also known as "forever chemicals" are man-made chemicals that are used in many products, such as food packaging, non-stick pans, outdoor clothing, and many others. They have useful properties, like resisting heat, oil, stains, or water, or are used for non-stick coatings. Many PFAS can have adverse effects on the environment and human and animal health and are considered "forever chemicals" because they do not degrade and can persist in the environment for a long time.

After the definition was provided, respondents were then asked about their concerns about the impact of PFAS on human health and on the environments as well as on their purchasing decisions.

b) Concerns regarding PFAS

When asked about the level of concern regarding PFAS¹⁹, 84% of respondents say that they are concerned about the effects of PFAS on the environment — 44% totally agreeing and 40% tending to agree. Few respondents (13%) disagree with the statements.

A similar proportion (81%) say that they are concerned about potential health effects of being exposed to PFAS — 39% totally agreeing and 42% tending to agree. Few again disagree with the statement (16%).

QB12. To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements? (EU27) (%)

You are concerned about the effects of PFAS on the environment



You are concerned about the potential health effects of being exposed to PFAS.



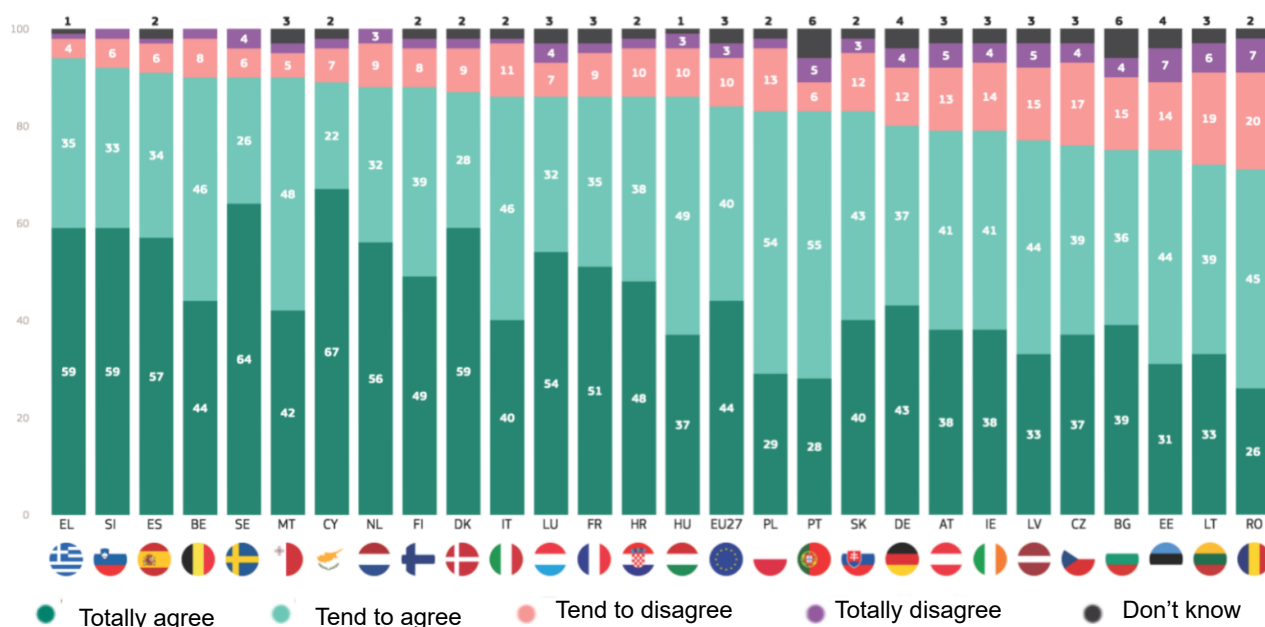
● Totally agree ● Tend to agree ● Tend to disagree ● Totally disagree ● Don't know

¹⁹ QB12. To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements? 1. You are concerned about the potential health effects of being exposed to PFAS; 2. You are concerned about the effects of PFAS on the environment.

In all 27 Member States over seven in ten respondents say they are concerned about the effects of PFAS on the environment. Levels of concern are highest in Greece (94%), Slovenia (92%), Spain (91%), Belgium, Sweden and Malta (each 90%), where at least nine in ten respondents say so. Levels of concerns are lowest in in Romania (71%) and in Lithuania (72%). In nine Member States, over half of respondents totally agree with the statements, with levels being highest in Cyprus (67%) and Sweden (64%).

Disagreement with the statement is highest in Romania (27%) and Lithuania (25%), where at least a quarter of respondents oppose this idea.

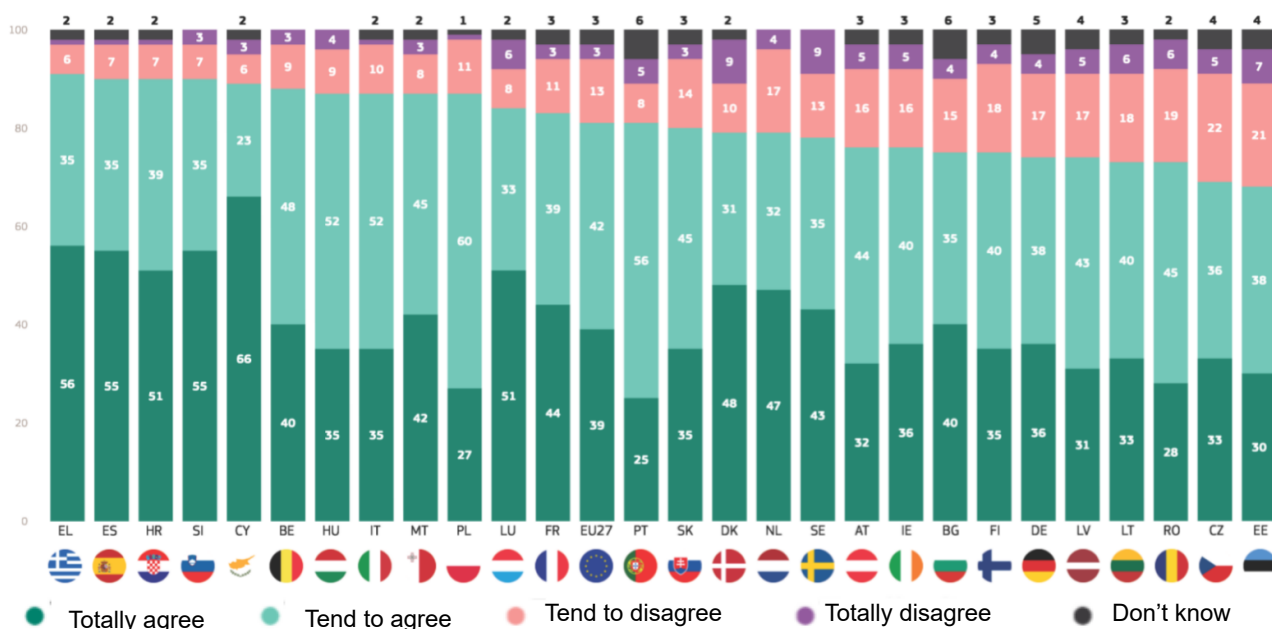
QB12.2. To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements? :-You are concerned about the effects of PFAS on the environment (%)



In all 27 Member States over two thirds of respondents say they are concerned about the potential health effects of PFAS of being exposed to PFAS. Levels of concern are highest in Greece (91%), Spain, Croatia and Slovenia (each 90%), where at least nine in ten respondents say so. Levels of concern are lowest in Estonia (68%) and in Czechia (69%). In Cyprus (66%), Greece (56%), Slovenia, Spain (each 55%), Croatia and Luxembourg (each 51%) over half of respondents totally agree with this statement.

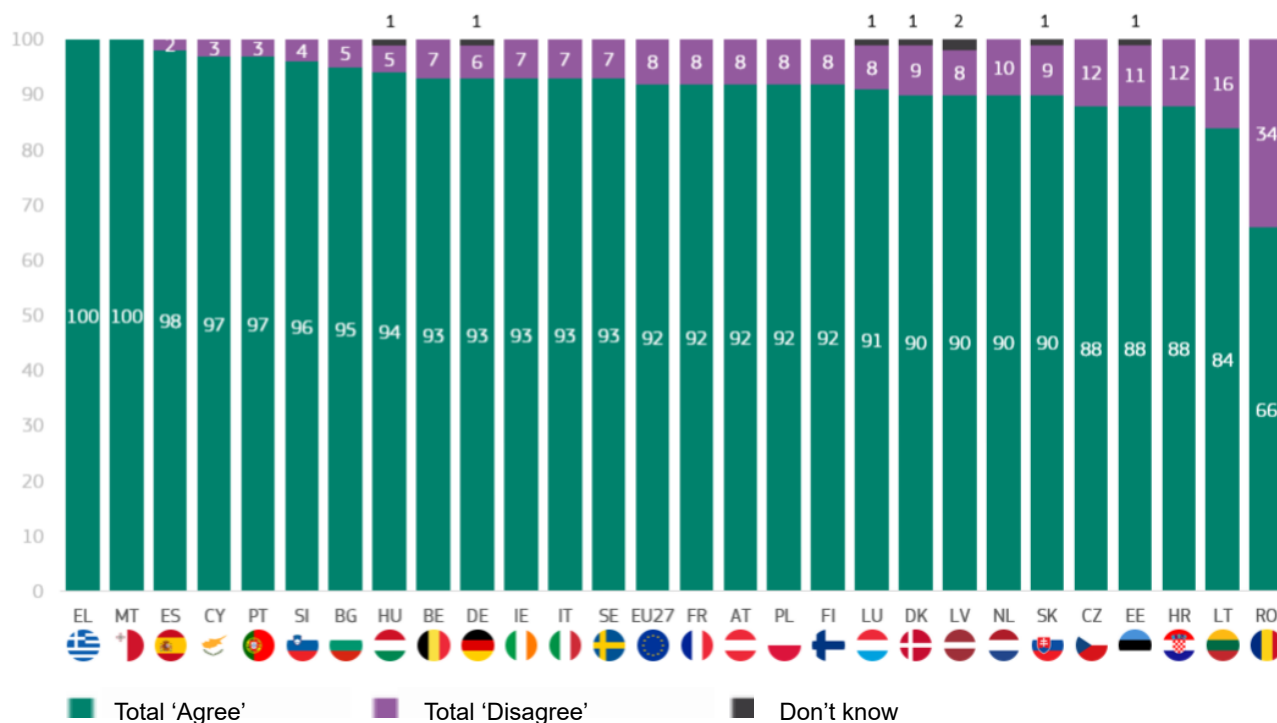
Disagreement with the statement is highest in Estonia (28%), Czechia (27%) and Romania (25%).

QB12.1. To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements? :-You are concerned about me potential health effects of being exposed to PFAS. (%)

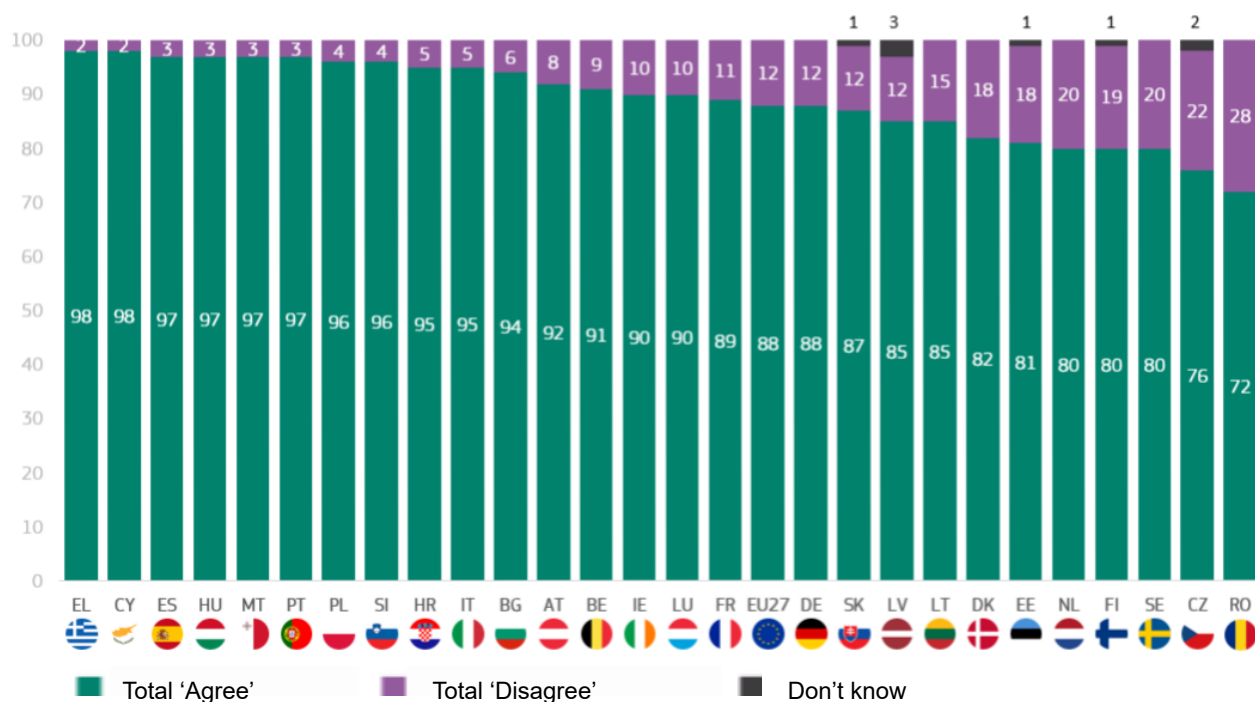


As previously mentioned, respondents were asked about their concern about PFAS following a short introductory text. Thus, both respondents who were previously aware of PFAS and those who were not, were asked about their level of concern.

QB12.2.have heard. You are concerned about the effects of PFAS on the environment (EU27) (%)



QB12.1.have heard. You are concerned about the potential health effects of being exposed to PFAS. (EU27) (%)



While overall a large majority of respondents states that they are concerned about PFAS, no matter whether they knew about it or not prior to the survey, respondents who report prior knowledge of PFAS are more likely to be concerned about their impact on human health and the environment. They are especially more likely to say they 'totally agree' with being concerned about those impact.

QB12. To what extent do you agree or disagree mm the following statements? (EU27) (%)

	You are concerned about the potential health effects of being exposed to PFAS			You are concerned about the effects of PFAS on the environment			
		Have heard	Not heard		Have heard	Not heard	
Totally agree	39	51	34	Totally agree	44	59	38
Tend to agree	42	37	45	Tend to agree	40	33	43
Tend to disagree	13	9	14	Tend to disagree	10	7	12
Totally disagree	3	3	3	Totally disagree	3	1	3
Don't know	3	0	4	Don't know	3	0	4
Total 'Agree'	81	88	79	Total 'Agree'	84	92	81
Total 'Disagree'	16	12	17	Total 'Disagree'	12	8	15

The analysis of the sociodemographic data shows that older respondents and those who stayed in full-time education till the age of 20 are more likely to agree upon the two statements than their respective counterparts. For example, 88% of those who studied longest are concerned about the effects of PFAS on the environment, compared to 79% of those who left full-time education at the age of 15 or earlier.

The same answer pattern applies to those who almost never or never have difficulties in paying their bills. For instance, 86% of them are concerned about the environmental impact of PFAS, compared with 81% amongst those who have such difficulties most of the time.

QB12.1 To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements? You are concerned about the potential health effects of being exposed to PFAS. (% - EU)

	Total 'Agree'	Total 'Disagree'	Don't know
EU27	81	16	3
Gender			
Man	80	18	2
Woman	83	14	3
Age			
15-24	79	18	3
25-39	82	16	2
40-54	83	15	2
55+	81	16	3
Education (End of)			
15-	78	17	5
16-19	81	16	3
20+	84	15	1
Still studying	82	16	2
Difficulties paying bills			
Most of the time	78	17	5
From time to time	81	16	3
Almost never / Never	83	15	2
Image of the EU			
Positive	85	13	2
Neutral	80	17	3
Negative	74	23	3

Those who hold a positive image of the EU are also more likely to agree systematically upon all three statements than those who hold a negative image. For example, 85% of them are worried about the potential health impact of PFAS when being exposed to them, compared with 74% of those who have a negative image of the EU.

QB12.2 To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements? You are concerned about the effects of PFAS on the environment. (% - EU)

	Total 'Agree'	Total 'Disagree'	Don't know
EU27	84	13	3
Gender			
Man	83	14	3
Woman	85	12	3
Age			
15-24	85	13	2
25-39	84	14	2
40-54	84	14	2
55+	84	13	3
Education (End of)			
15-	79	16	5
16-19	82	15	3
20+	88	11	1
Still studying	87	12	1
Difficulties paying bills			
Most of the time	81	15	4
From time to time	81	16	3
Almost never / Never	86	12	2
Image of the EU			
Positive	88	10	2
Neutral	82	15	3
Negative	75	21	4



V. Water-related issues

The fifth chapter focuses on water-related issues. It begins by exploring Europeans' awareness of water-related threats in their respective countries, followed by an examination of perceptions of water-related risks at a national level. Finally, it examines the role of national stakeholders in effective water management before discussing additional measures to tackle water issues in Europe.

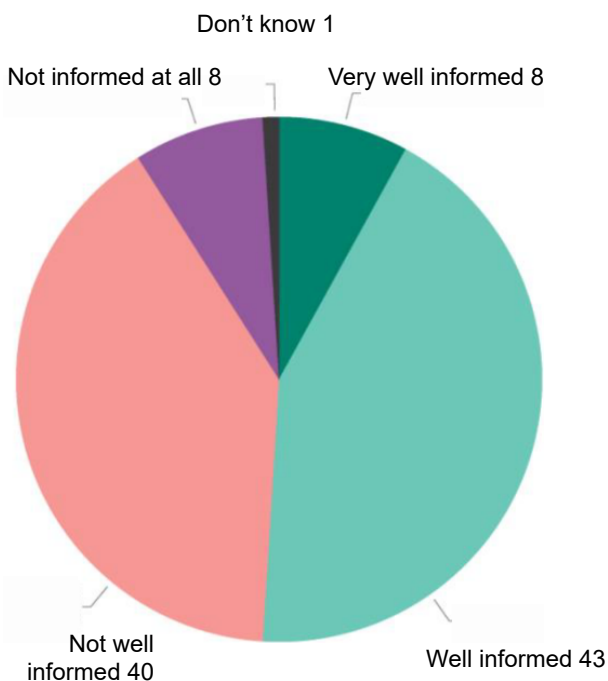
1. Awareness of water-related problems at national level

Europeans are split on how well informed they feel about water-related problems in their country.

Just over half of respondents (51%) feel well informed about water-related problems such as pollution, floods, droughts, and inefficient use of water in their country²⁰ - 43% feeling 'well informed' and 8% feeling 'very well informed'.

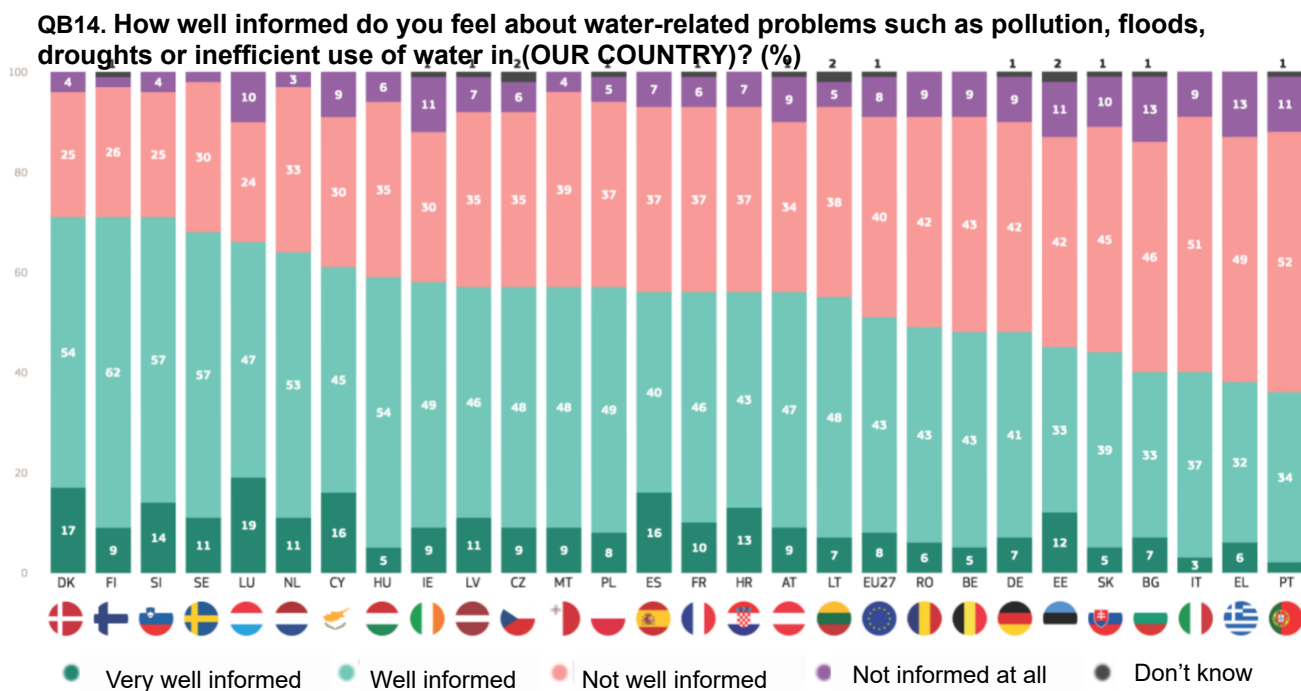
A slightly smaller proportion (48%) does not feel well informed about water-related problems in their country, with 40% feeling 'not well informed' and 8% feeling 'not at all informed'. Only 1% of respondents say they don't know.

QB14. How well Informed do you feel about water-related problems such as pollution, floods, droughts or inefficient use of water in (OUR COUNTRY)? (EU27) (%)



²⁰ How well informed do you feel about water-related problems such as pollution, floods, droughts or inefficient use of water in (OUR COUNTRY)?

Over half of respondents in 18 Member States consider that they are well informed about water-related problems in their country. Within this group, proportions are highest in Denmark, Finland and Slovenia (71%), where over seven in ten respondents feel well informed. The proportion of respondents who feel very well informed is highest in Luxembourg (19%), Denmark (17%), Spain and Cyprus (each 16%).



On the other hand, over half of respondents in nine Member States do not feel well informed about water-related problems in their country, with levels being highest in Portugal (63%), Greece (62%) and Italy (60%). In seven Member States at least one in ten respondents does not feel well informed at all about these problems.

The analysis of the sociodemographic data shows the following:

While a majority of men (55%) considers to be well informed about water-related issues in their country, it is only a minority of women (49% vs. 51%) who says so.

Differences are also significant between those who left fulltime education earliest (38%), where only a small minority feels informed, and those who stayed in fulltime education until the age of 20 or longer (62%).

Managers are also more likely to say so (61%) than housepersons (39%) or the unemployed (43%). So do those who almost never or never have difficulties in paying their bills (57%), compared with those who have such difficulties most of the time (38%). It is noteworthy that in this respect there are no differences between urban areas and those living in more rural ones.

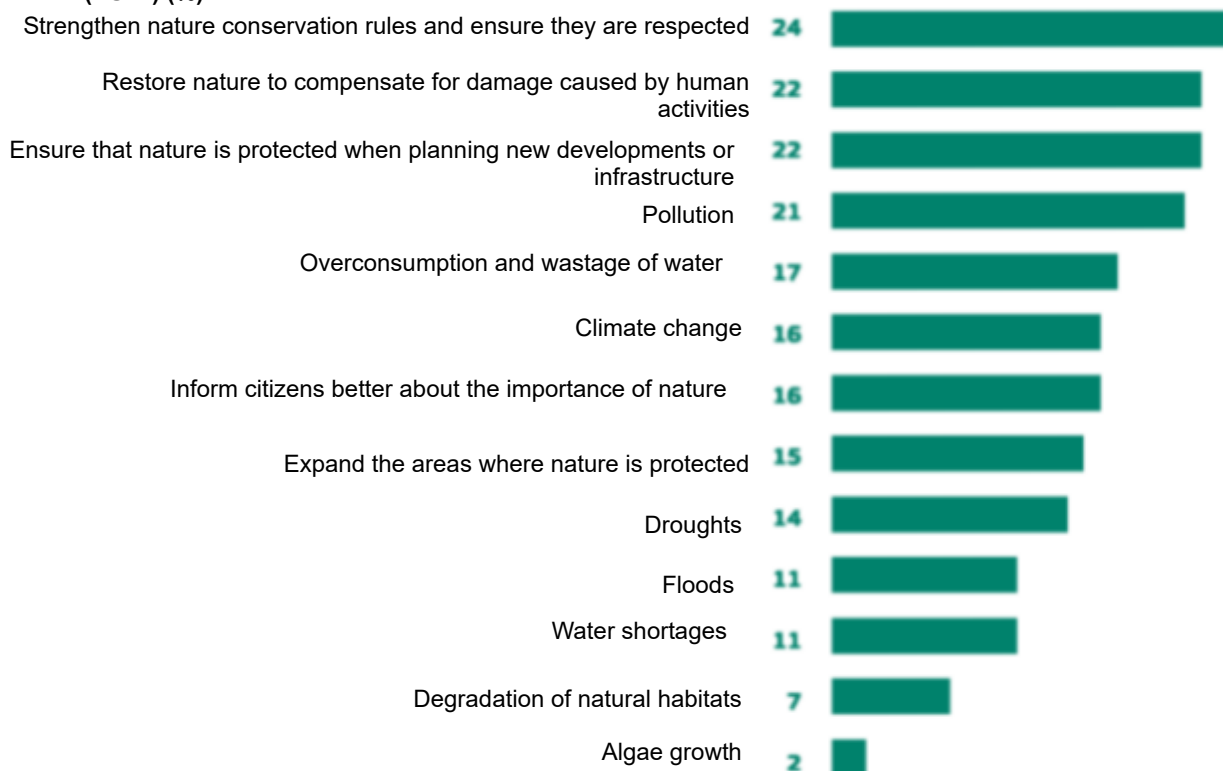
QB14 How well informed do you feel about water-related problems such as pollution, floods, droughts or inefficient use of water in (OUR COUNTRY)? (% — EU)					
	Very well informed	Well informed	Not well informed	Not informed at all	Don't know
EU27	8	43	40	8	1
Gender					
Man	10	45	39	6	0
Woman	7	42	42	9	0
Education (End of)					
15-	6	32	48	14	0
16-19	7	41	44	8	0
20+	11	51	34	4	0
Still studying	7	44	40	8	1
Socio-professional category					
Self-employed	11	47	36	5	1
Managers	11	50	34	5	0
Other white collars	10	45	40	5	0
Manual workers	7	42	44	7	0
House persons	7	32	48	13	0
Unemployed	7	36	43	13	1
Retired	8	43	39	9	1
Students	8	43	40	8	1
Difficulties paying bills					
Most of the time	7	31	44	17	1
From time to time	6	36	47	10	1
Almost never / Never	9	48	37	6	0
Subjective urbanisation					
Rural village	9	43	40	7	1
Small / mid-size town	8	44	40	8	0
Large town	8	44	40	8	0

2. Main threats linked to water

Almost seven in ten Europeans consider pollution to be the main water-related threat in their country.

Respondents were asked what they thought were the main threats linked to water from a pre-coded list. Pollution was most often selected as the main threat, by 21% of respondents. Overconsumption of water comes next (17%), followed by climate change (16%) and droughts (14%). The other available options were chosen by citizens as follows: floods (11%), water shortages (11%), degradation of natural habitats (7%) and algae growth (2%).

QB13a. Which of the following actions should the EU prioritise to protect nature? First ? (EU27) (%)



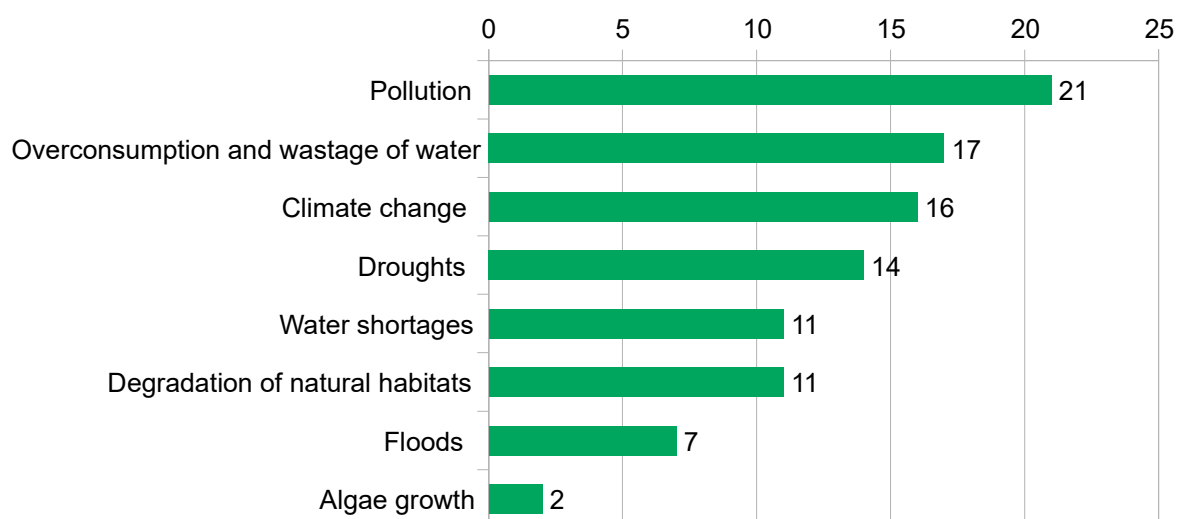
(*the previous graph is incorrect, see next page*)

Respondents were then asked to select from a list of eight water-related problems the four that they felt posed the greatest threat to their country²¹. The following results refer to the cumulative responses of all four answers.

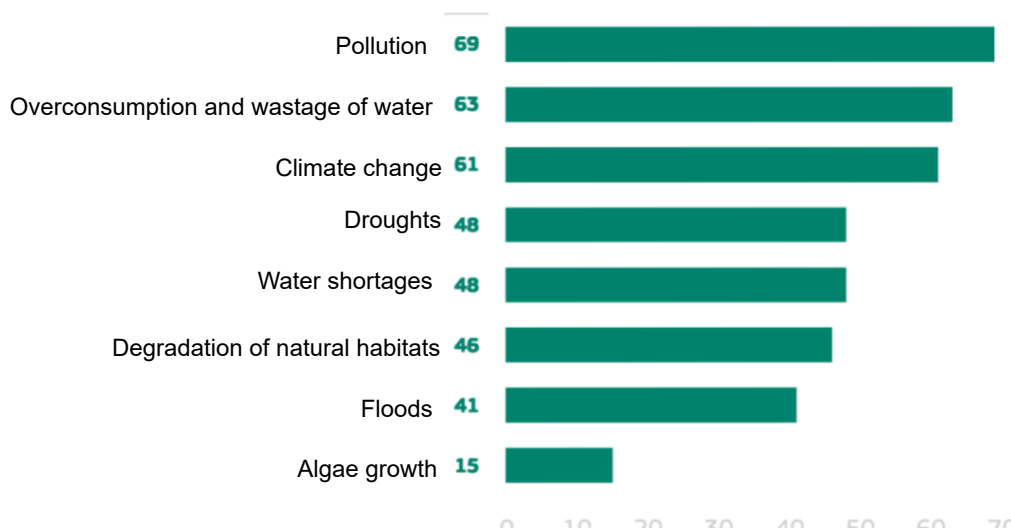
Pollution (21%) is perceived as the main threat linked to water in their country, followed by overconsumption and wastage of water (17%) and climate change (16%). Droughts (14%) rank after, followed by floods (11%), water shortages (11%) and algae growth as last (2%).

(*the previous graph was incorrect, the correct graph would be as follows *)

QB15a. What do you believe are the main threats linked to water in (OUR COUNTRY)? First? (%)



QB15T. What do you believe are the main threats linked to water in (OUR COUNTRY)? First? Second? Third? Fourth? (EU27) (%)



21 QB15. What do you believe are the main threats linked to water in (OUR COUNTRY)? First? Second? Third? Fourth?

Pollution ranks first or jointly first in 21 Member States, and is highest in Finland (89%), Slovenia (85%), Denmark (83%), Lithuania (83%) and Slovakia (80%). Pollution is the second most frequently selected threat in Germany (66%) and Italy (64%), while it comes third in Malta (66%), Spain (64%) and Portugal (60%). Cyprus is the only country where pollution does not rank in the top three.

Water shortages rank second in Spain (67%) and Portugal (64%). Despite not ranking in the top three in any other Member States, it is deemed a top-three issue by a majority of respondents in seven Member States, namely Cyprus (62%), Malta (60%), Germany, Poland (both 52%), Czechia (51%), Bulgaria (50%) and Poland (51%). It comes lowest in Finland (9%).

Overconsumption of water and wastage of water ranks first in Germany (70%) and second or third in 19 Member States, coming highest in Cyprus, Croatia, and Slovakia (each 71%). It does not rank in the top three in seven Member States, but only in two does a majority not rank it as a main threat to their country — namely Romania (47%) and Latvia (42%).

Climate change ranks third at EU level but comes first in three Member States, namely Croatia (74%, jointly with pollution), Portugal (69%, jointly with droughts) and Italy (68%). This threat ranks second or third in another 14 Member States, coming highest in Sweden (70%). It does not rank in the top three in 10 Member States, and is not considered a main threat by a majority in four Member States — coming lowest in Estonia (36%).

Droughts top the list of water-related threats in four Member States, namely in Cyprus, Spain (each 77%), Malta and Portugal (each 69%). They rank second in Czechia and Romania (each 60%) and third in Bulgaria (59%) and Slovakia (52%). Despite not ranking in the top

three in any other Member States it is deemed a main three by a majority of respondents in France (58%) and Poland (51%). It comes lowest in Finland (8%).

Degradation of natural habits ranks second in Finland (73%), where proportions are highest, followed by Estonia (68%), Lithuania (58%) and Latvia (51%). It comes third in Sweden (66%), Hungary (60%) and Croatia (59%). Despite not ranking in the top three in any other Member States it is deemed a top-three issue by a majority of respondents in Austria (53%), Germany (57%), Denmark (56%), Romania (54%) and Slovenia (51%). It comes lowest in Bulgaria and Spain (both 34%).

Floods rank third in Denmark (62%), Slovenia (59%) and Finland (55%). Despite not ranking in the top three in any other Member States they are deemed a top-three issue by a majority of respondents in Belgium (58%), Ireland (56%), the Netherlands (54%), Italy and Romania (both 50%). They rank lowest in Malta (11%) and Estonia (14%).

Finland stands out with a high proportion of respondents mentioning algae growth (66%) as a water-related problem in their country. This issue ranks third in Finland but does not figure in the top three in any other Member State, nor is it selected by a majority elsewhere. In seven Member States it is mentioned by less than one tenth of respondents.

QB15T. What do you believe are the main threats linked to water in (OUR COUNTRY)? First? Second? Third? Fourth? (%)	EU27	AT	BE	BG	CY	CZ	DE	DK	EE	EL	E5	FI	FR	HR	HU	IE	IT	LT	LU	LV	MT	NL	PL	PT	RO	5E	SI	SK
Pollution	69	64	76	78	54	68	66	83	73	72	64	89	70	74	76	83	64	83	74	85	66	70	70	60	70	78	85	80
Overconsumption and wastage of water	63	63	64	62	71	59	70	55	67	63	64	51	62	71	64	58	62	54	67	42	67	57	62	59	47	62	64	71
Climate change	61	56	71	49	64	41	61	74	36	54	60	61	60	74	53	61	68	55	51	50	55	64	58	69	59	70	54	49
Droughts	48	30	31	59	77	60	33	11	24	48	77	8	58	37	48	13	47	43	39	24	69	44	51	69	60	21	39	52
Watershortages	48	41	33	50	62	51	52	21	21	43	67	9	46	36	38	33	49	19	33	13	60	47	52	64	36	34	26	42
Degradation of natural habitats	46	53	47	34	36	49	57	56	68	47	34	73	37	59	60	45	44	58	42	51	38	43	38	42	54	66	51	41
Floods	41	46	58	43	26	33	38	62	14	55	19	16	46	41	37	56	50	26	44	43	11	54	39	22	50	36	59	45
Algae growth	15	20	13	8	8	15	13	21	41	7	6	66	13	8	20	30	13	28	14	47	16	13	21	9	19	28	7	10

The analysis of the sociodemographic data shows that respondents who remained longest in fulltime education are consistently more likely to mention any of the threats. Pollution is chosen as number one threat regardless of the sociodemographic status of the respondents.

There are some minor differences according to occupational categories. Managers (65%) and students (69%) are more likely to mention climate change than other categories, while housepersons stand out with high proportions of mentioning droughts (56% vs. 45%-50%) and water shortages (55% vs. 42%-49%).

Respondents living in rural areas are also more likely to mention water shortages (51% vs. 44% of respondents living in large towns), while those living in urban areas mention more often pollution (71% vs. 69% in rural areas) and climate change (63% vs. 58%).

QB15T What do you believe are the main threats linked to water in (OUR COUNTRY)? First? Second? Third? Fourth? (% - EU)								
	Pollution	Overconsumption and wastage of water	Climate change	Degradation of natural habitats	Droughts	Water shortages	Floods	Algae growths
EU27	69	63	61	46	48	48	41	15
Gender								
Man	69	63	61	47	48	48	39	15
Woman	69	62	61	46	48	48	42	15
Age								
15-24	69	63	66	48	45	43	41	15
25-39	70	63	59	48	48	47	39	17
40-54	68	64	61	47	48	50	40	15
55+	69	62	60	44	50	49	42	13
Education (End of)								
15-	65	63	58	40	55	55	42	11
16-19	69	62	61	46	48	48	41	15
20+	70	63	60	48	47	46	40	16
Still studying	70	63	69	50	43	41	39	15
Socio-professional category								
Self-employed	69	64	57	47	49	48	42	15
Managers	68	63	65	50	46	49	38	14
Other white collars	70	62	60	49	45	49	41	16
Manual workers	68	64	60	46	49	49	40	16
House persons	70	58	52	37	56	55	42	16
Unemployed	76	63	58	43	49	42	41	15
Retired	68	62	60	44	50	47	43	13
Students	67	64	69	49	45	42	40	14
Subjective urbanisation								
Rural village	69	63	58	44	48	51	39	15
Small / mid-size town	67	64	62	46	49	48	41	14
Large town	71	61	63	49	48	44	41	15

3. The role of national stakeholders in efficient water management

When asked if specific actors are currently doing enough to use water efficiently, a majority of respondents considers that none are — with the exception of fisheries and aquaculture.

Three quarters (75%) of Europeans consider that industry is not doing enough to use water efficiently, while 17% consider it is doing about the right amount²².

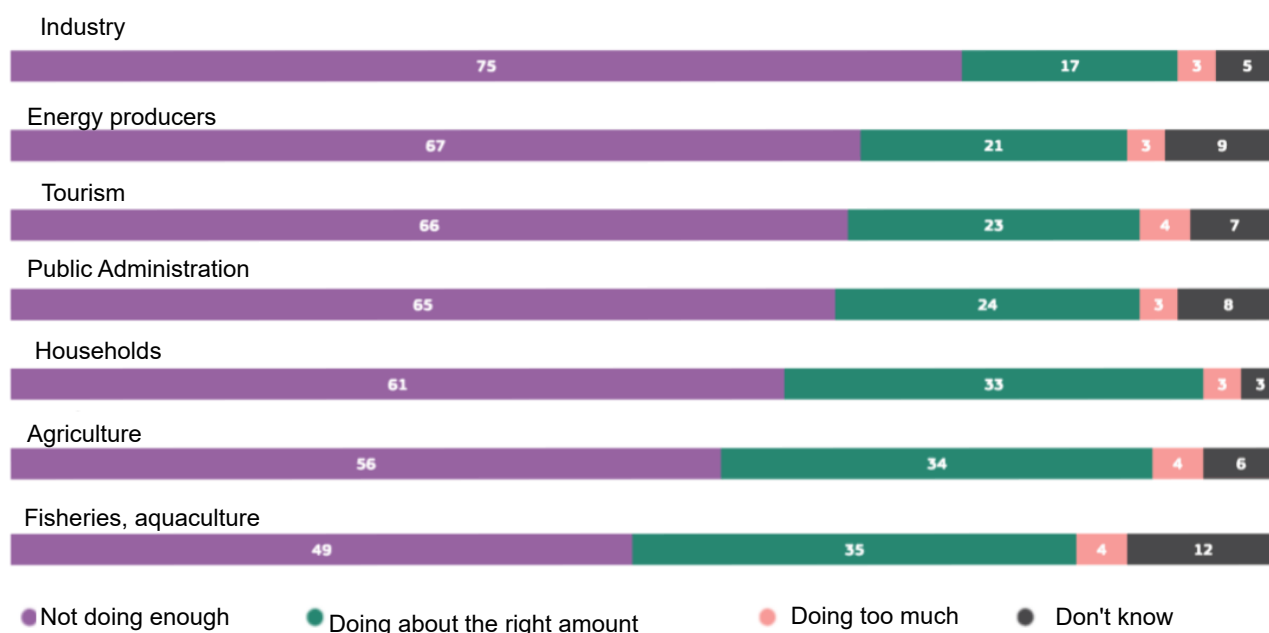
Around two thirds of respondents also think that energy producers (67% 'not enough' vs. 21% 'about the right amount'), tourism (66% vs. 23%) and public administration (65% vs. 24%) are currently not doing enough to efficiently use water resources in their country.

Over six in ten respondents (61%) say that households are not doing enough to use water resources efficiently (vs. 33% 'about the right amount') and 56% say the same for agriculture (vs. 34% 'about the right amount').

Finally, 49% of respondents think that fisheries/aquaculture are not currently doing enough to use water efficiently in their country, while 35% consider they are doing about the right amount. For all actors, between 3% and 4% of respondents think they are doing

too much. It is noteworthy that 'don't know' answers are consistently lower than ten percent, except for fisheries and aquaculture (12%).

QB16. In your opinion, are each of the following actors currently doing too much, about right or not enough to use water efficiently in (OUR COUNTRY)? (EU27) (%)



22 QB16. In your opinion, are each of the following actors currently doing too much, about the right amount or not enough to use water efficiently in (OUR COUNTRY)? 1. Industry, 2. Households, 3. Agriculture, 4. Energy producers, 4. Fisheries, aquaculture, 5. Tourism, 6. Public Administration.

In 26 Member States a majority of respondents consider that the industry sector is currently not doing enough to use water efficiently in their country. However, within this group proportions vary widely, being highest in Greece (92%) and Malta (87%), and lowest in Finland and Estonia (51%).

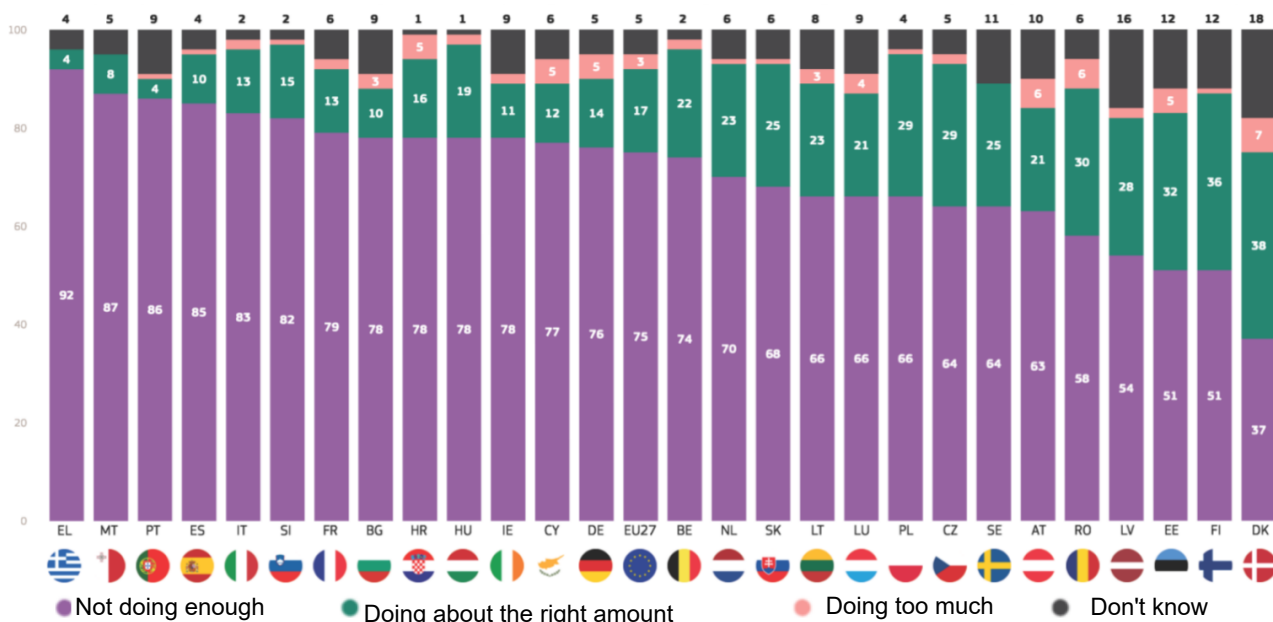
Only in Denmark does a minority think that industry is not doing enough (37%), being nearly split with those who think it is doing about the right amount (38%).

In 21 Member States at least half of respondents say that energy producers are currently not doing enough to use

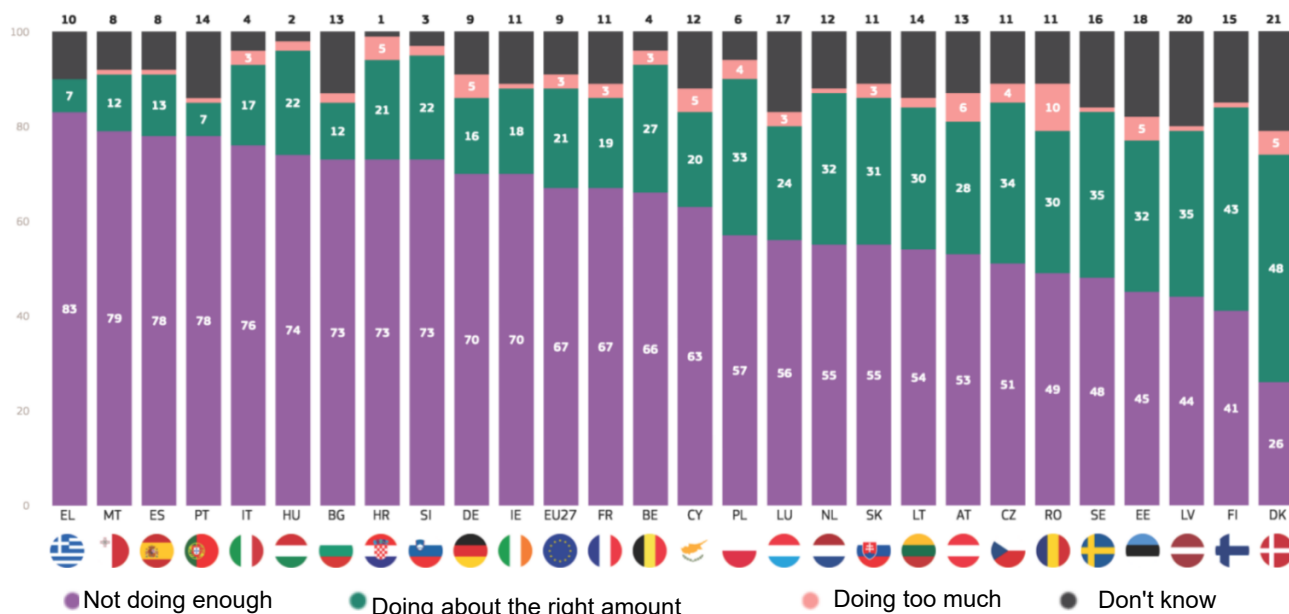
water resources efficiently in their country. Within this group proportions range from 83% in Finland and 79% in Malta to 51% in Czechia. In two Member States only a minority holds this opinion, namely Finland (41% vs. 43% about the right amount) and Denmark (26% vs. 48%).

It is noteworthy that in Denmark and Latvia 'don't know' rates are particularly high, at 21% and 20% respectively.

QB16.1. In your opinion are each of the following actors currently doing too much, about right or not enough to use water efficiently in (OUR COUNTRY)?:- Industry (%)



QB16.4. In your opinion, are each of the following actors currently doing too much, about right or not enough to use water efficiently in (OUR COUNTRY)?:- Energy producers (%)

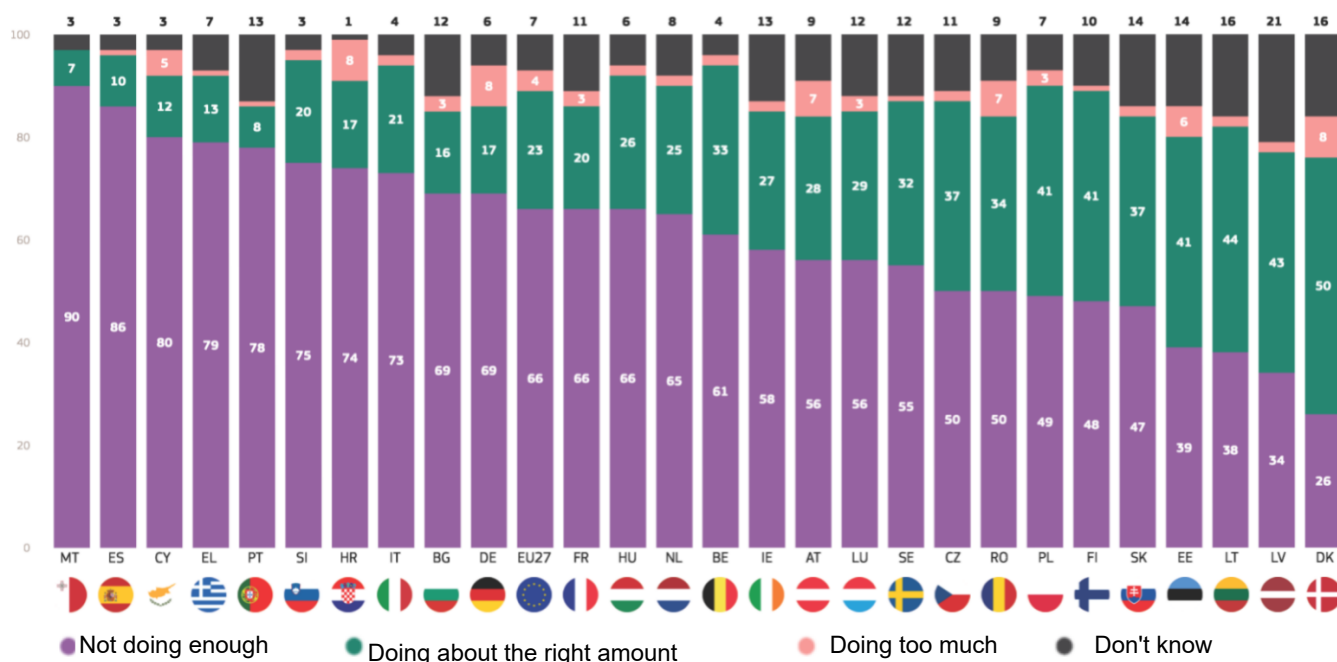


In 20 Member States at least half of respondents think that the tourism sector is currently not doing enough to use water resources efficiently in their country. Within this group, proportions range from 90% in Malta and 86% in Spain to 50% in Czechia and Romania.

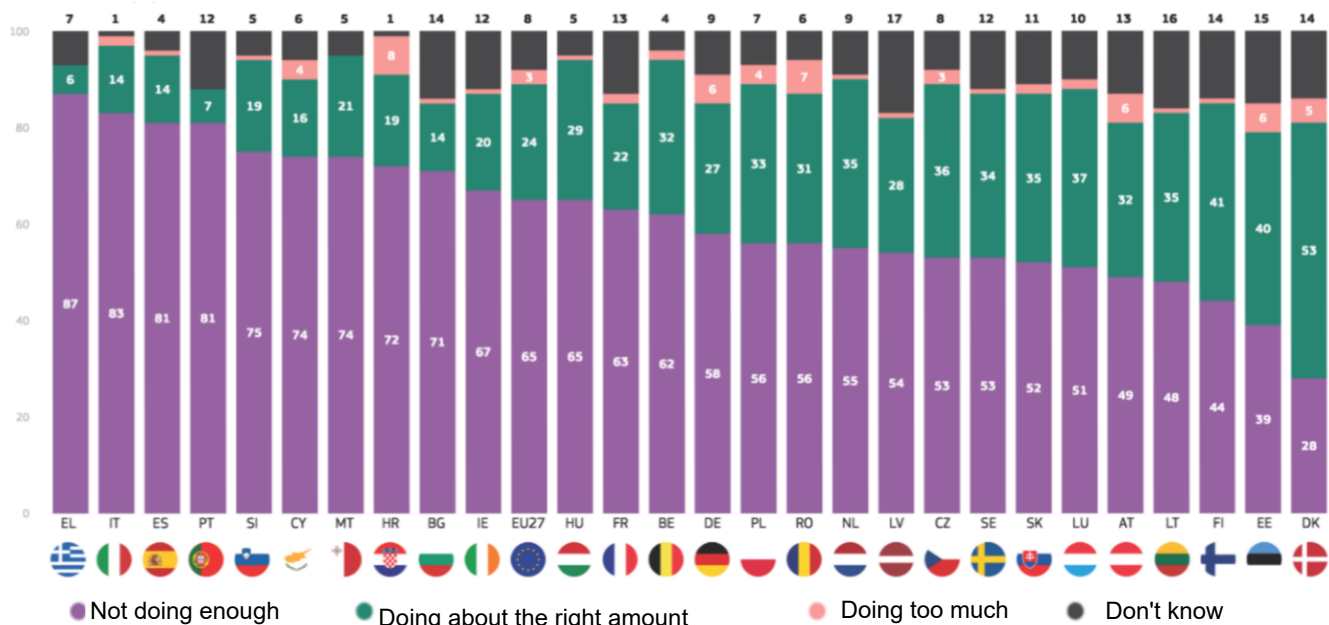
In four Member States more respondents think that it is doing about the right amount rather than not enough, namely in Denmark (50% vs. 26% 'not enough'), Latvia (45% vs. 34%), Lithuania (44% vs. 38%) and Estonia (41% vs. 39%). In Latvia over one fifth of respondents say that they don't know (21%).

In 22 Member States at least half of respondents say that the public administration is currently not doing enough to use water resources efficiently in their country. Within this group proportions range from 87% in Greece and 83% in Italy to 51% in Luxembourg. In two Member States more respondents think that it is doing about the right amount rather than not enough, again in Denmark (53% vs. 28% 'not enough') and Estonia (40% vs. 39%).

QB16.6. In your opinion are each of the following actors currently doing too much, about right or not enough to use water efficiently in (OUR COUNTRY)?:-Tourism (%)



QB16.7. In your opinion, are each of the following actors currently doing too much, about right or not enough to use water efficiently in (OUR COUNTRY)?:-Public Administration (%)



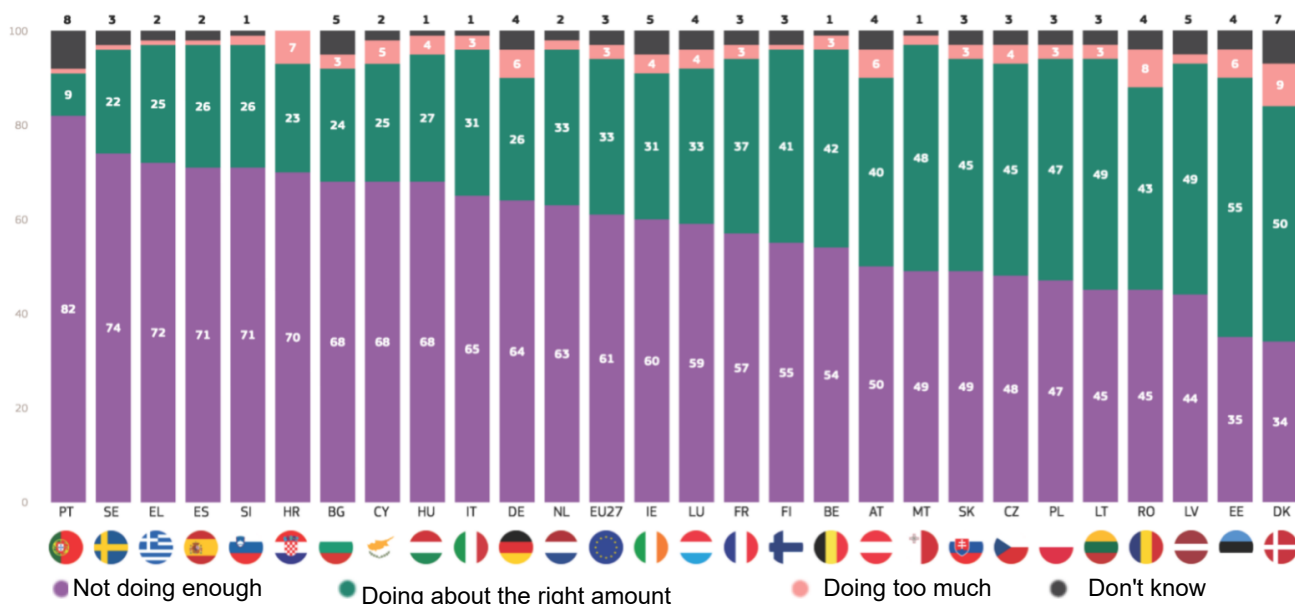
In 18 Member States at least half of respondents say that households are currently not doing enough to use water-resources efficiently in their country. In this group, proportions range from 82% in Portugal and 74% in Sweden to 50% in Austria.

In four Member States more respondents think that it is doing about the right amount rather than not enough, again in Denmark (50% vs. 34% 'not enough'), Estonia (35% vs 55%), Latvia (49% vs 44%) and Lithuania (49% vs 45%). Views are split or nearly split in Poland (47% for both) and Malta (48% 'about right' vs 49% 'not enough').

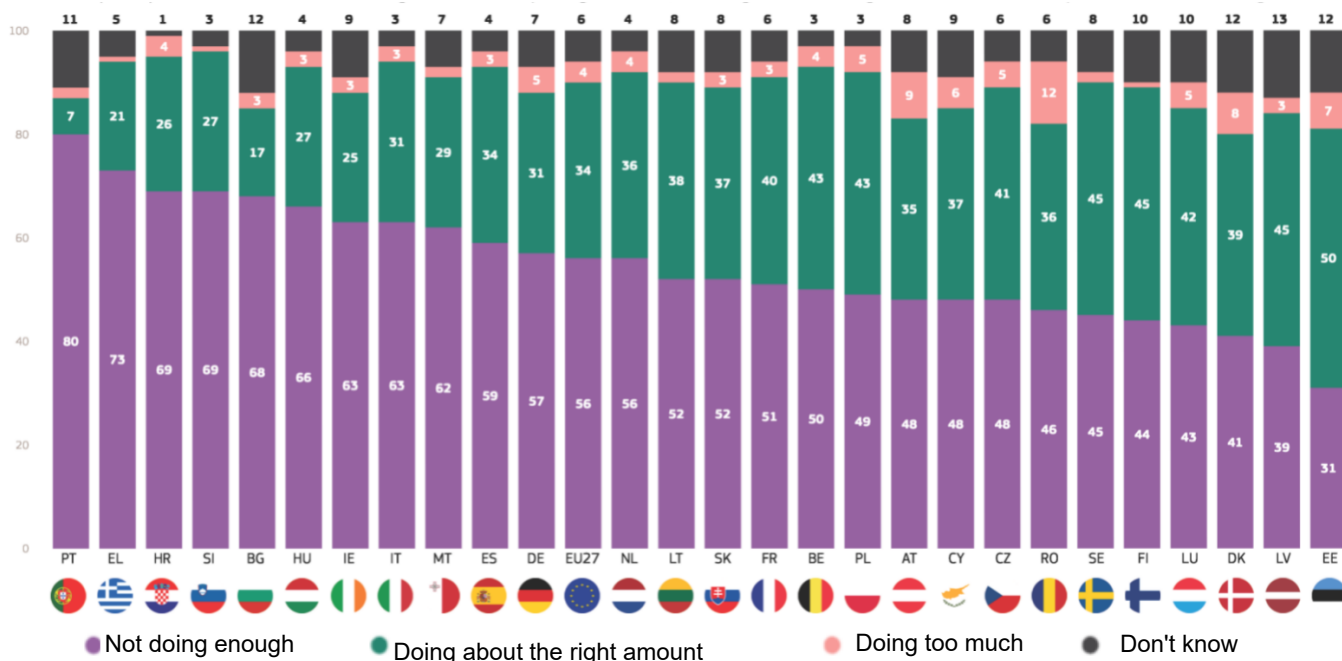
In 16 Member States at least half of respondents think that the agricultural sector is currently not doing enough to use water resources efficiently in their country. In this group proportions range from 80% in Portugal and 73% in Greece, to 50% in Belgium. In two Member States more respondents think that it is doing about the right amount rather than not enough, again in Estonia (50% vs. 31% 'not enough') and Latvia (45% vs 39%).

Views are split or nearly split in Sweden (45% for both) Finland (45% 'about right' vs 44% 'not enough') and Luxembourg (42% 'about right' vs 43% 'not enough').

QB16.2. In your opinion, are each of the following actors currently doing too much, about right or not enough to use water efficiently in (OUR COUNTRY)?:-Households (%)



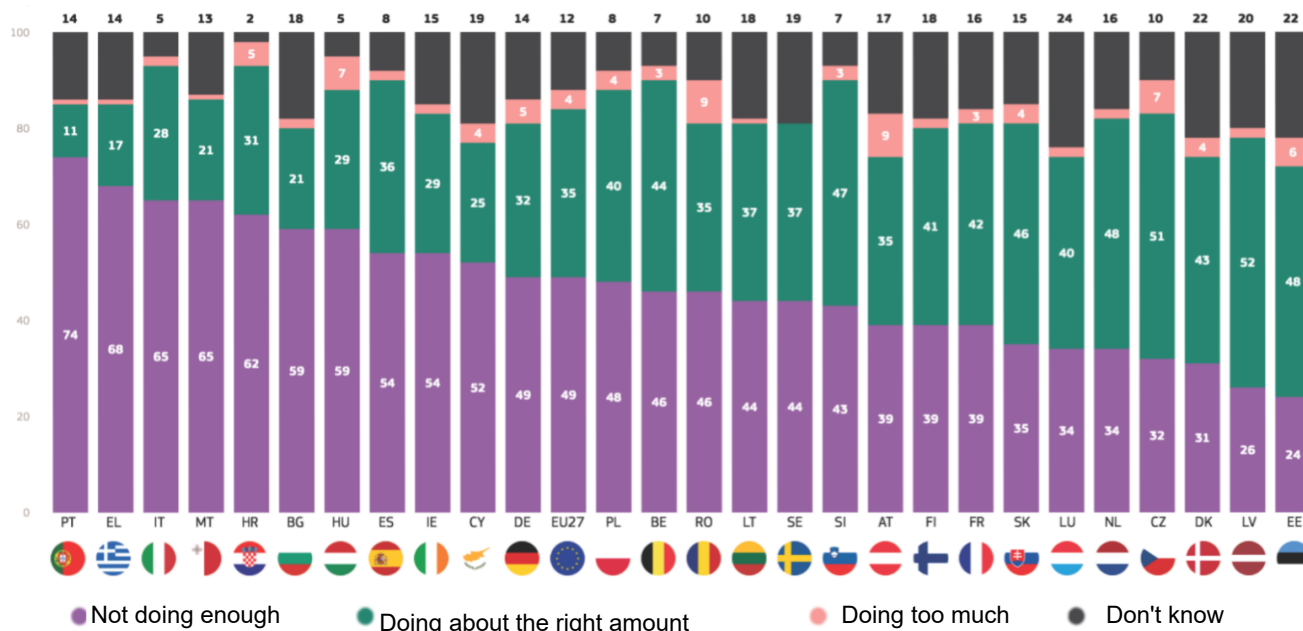
QB16.3. In your opinion, are each of the following actors currently doing too much, about right or not enough to use water efficiently in (OUR COUNTRY)?:-Agriculture (%)



In 10 Member States over half of respondents say that fisheries/aquaculture is currently not doing enough to use water resources efficiently in their country. In this group, proportions range from 74% in Portugal to 52% in Cyprus. In ten Member States more respondents think that it is doing about the right amount rather than not enough, the gap being consistently highest in Estonia (48% vs. 24% 'not enough') and Latvia (52% vs 26%). In Czechia, a majority (52%) also thinks it is doing enough.

It is noteworthy that in 20 Member States at least a tenth of respondents say that they don't know, with proportions highest in Luxembourg (24%) and Estonia (22%).

QB16.5. In your opinion, are each of the following actors currently doing too much, about right or not enough to use water efficiently in (OUR COUNTRY) ? :-Fisheries, aquaculture (%)



The analysis of the sociodemographic data shows that respondents, no matter their socioeconomic status, considered that all of the mentioned sectors need to do more to use water efficiently.

In particular, across all different socio—demographic groups, the industry sector was picked most often as the actor that is 'not doing enough' while the fisheries and aquaculture sector was the least often selected.

4. Additional measures to address water problems in Europe

Over three quarters of Europeans consider that the EU should propose additional measures to address water—related problems in Europe

Over three quarters (78%) of respondents think that the

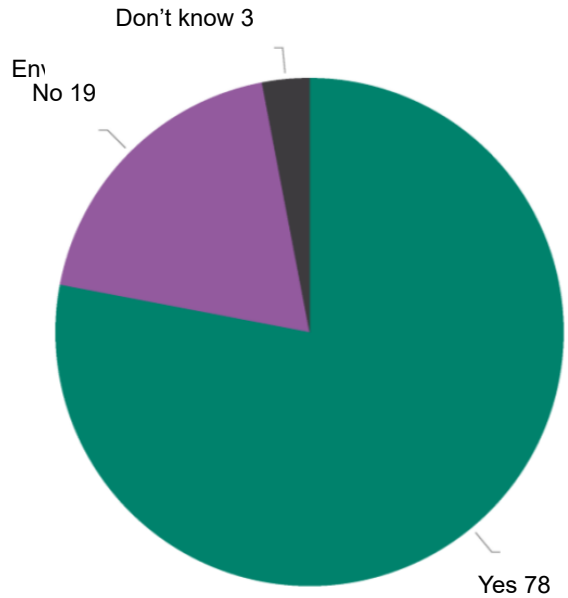
QB16 In your opinion, are each of the following actors currently doing too much, about right or not enough to use water efficiently in (OUR COUNTRY)? (% - 'Not doing enough')							
	Industry	Energy producers	Tourism	Public Administration	Households	Agriculture	Fisheries, aquaculture
EU27	75	67	66	65	61	56	49
Gender							
Man	75	66	65	64	60	56	49
Woman	76	67	67	66	62	56	49
Age							
15-24	73	63	84	62	57	52	49
25-39	76	67	65	55	60	57	52
40-54	76	68	68	66	63	58	50
55+	75	67	66	65	61	55	48
Education (End of)							
15-	75	68	69	69	60	54	50
16-19	76	67	65	65	59	56	51
20+	75	66	67	64	64	57	48
Still studying	75	65	67	63	57	54	49
Socio-professional category							
Self-employed	76	69	70	69	63	60	53
Managers	76	68	70	65	67	60	52
Other white collars	77	68	65	67	62	59	52
Manual workers	75	66	64	65	59	55	50
House persons	75	65	67	67	56	49	47
Unemployed	76	68	62	62	57	54	43
Retired	74	66	65	64	61	55	47
Students	75	65	67	62	57	54	50
Difficulties paying bills							
Most of the time	78	71	69	71	62	58	52
From time to time	76	67	66	69	60	56	54
Almost never / Never	75	66	66	63	61	56	47
Consider belonging to							
The working class	76	67	65	66	57	56	49
The lower middle class	77	68	67	65	63	56	51
The middle class	75	66	66	66	61	55	49
The upper middle class	72	64	68	62	67	62	48
The upper class	76	71	62	62	61	56	53
Image of the EU							
Positive	78	68	69	67	65	60	53
Neutral	74	66	64	64	58	53	48
Negative	70	63	61	64	55	49	45

EU should propose additional measures to address water

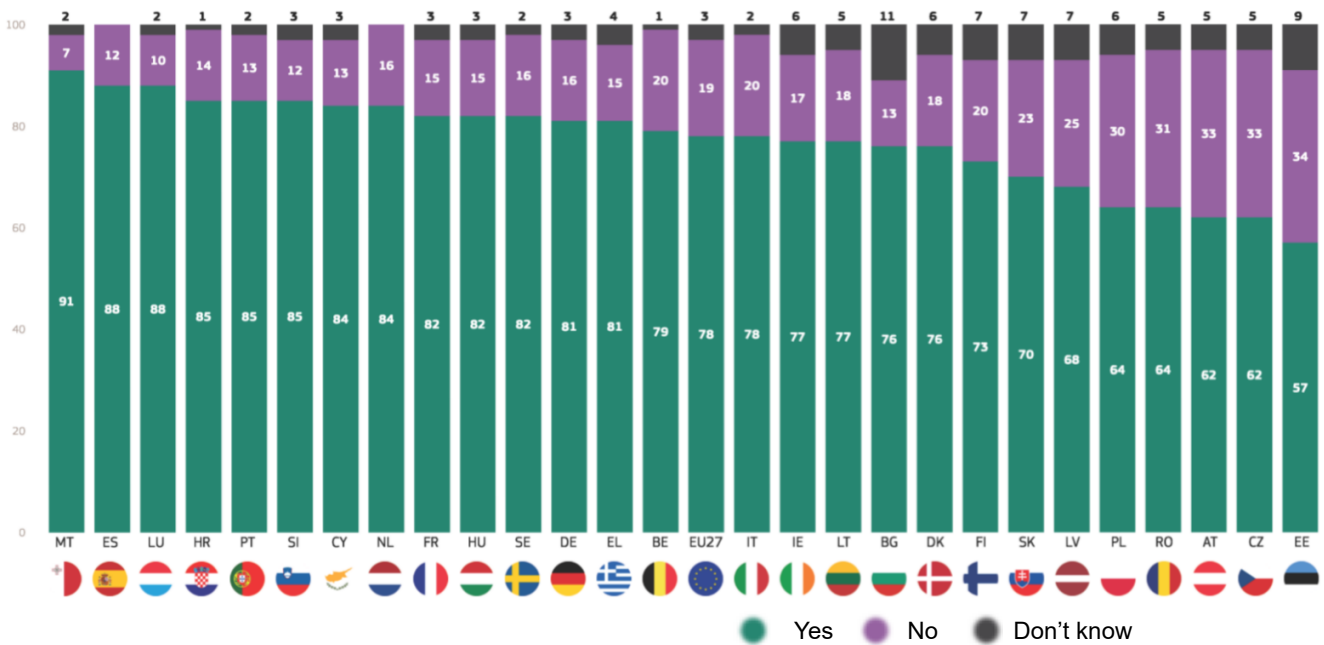
QB17. Do you think the EU should propose additional measures to address water problems in Europe? (EU27) (%)

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problems in Europe²³. Just under one fifth (19%) oppose this idea and 3% say that they don't know.



QB17. Do you think the EU should propose additional measures to address water problems in Europe? (%)



²³ QB17. Do you think the EU should propose additional measures to address water problems in Europe?

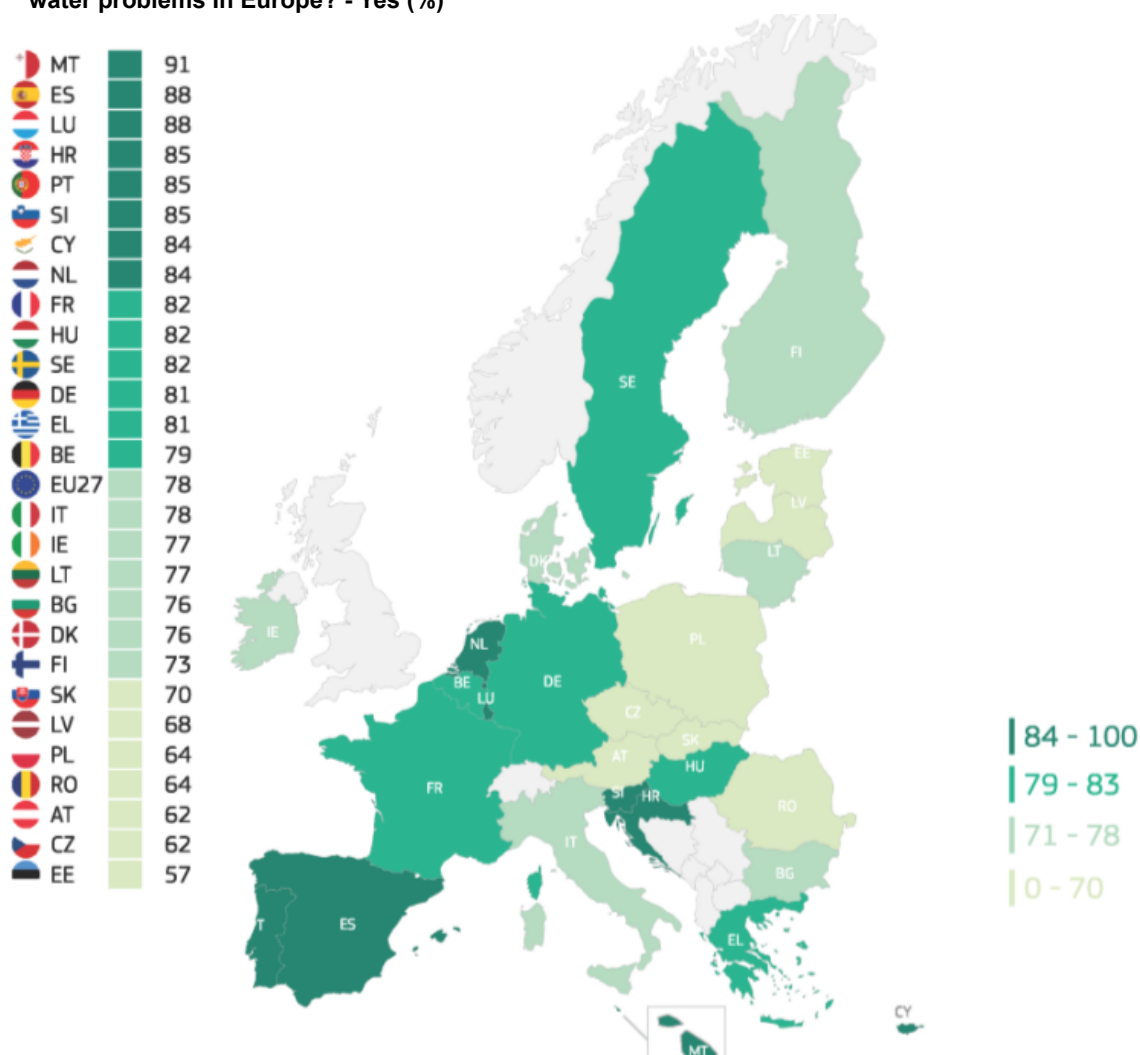
The map below shows the proportion of respondents in each Member State who consider that the EU should propose additional measures to address water problems in Europe.

A majority of respondents in all 27 Member States think that the EU should propose additional measures to address water-related problems in Europe. However, proportions vary widely amongst Member States. They are highest in Malta (91%), followed by Spain and Luxembourg (88%), while they are lowest in Czechia and Austria (each 62%), and Estonia (57%).

Opposition to this idea is symmetrically strongest in those three Member States: Estonia (34%), Czechia and Austria (each 33%). Overall, opposition exceeds a quarter of respondents in six Member States.

It is noteworthy that Bulgaria shows a high proportion of respondents who answer 'don't know' (11%).

QB17. Do you think the EU should propose additional measures to address water problems in Europe? - Yes (%)



The analysis of the sociodemographic data shows strong support for the idea that the EU should propose additional measures to address water problems in Europe. In particular, support is stronger amongst those who remained longest in fulltime education (80%), students (82%), managers (83%), those living in large towns (83%) and those who hold a positive image of the EU (85%), especially when compared to those who hold a negative image (64%).

QB17 Do you think the EU should propose additional measures to address water problems in Europe? (% - EU)

	Yes	No	Don't know
EU27	78	19	3
Gender			
Man	77	20	3
Woman	79	17	4
Age			
15-24	80	17	3
25-39	78	19	3
40-54	78	19	3
55+	78	18	4
Education (End of)			
15-	76	19	5
16-19	77	20	3
20+	80	18	2
Still studying	82	15	3
Socio-professional category			
Self-employed	77	20	3
Managers	83	16	1
Other white collars	79	19	2
Manual workers	76	21	3
House persons	74	23	3
Unemployed	75	21	4
Retired	78	17	5
Students	81	16	3
Image of the EU			
Positive	85	13	2
Neutral	75	21	4
Negative	64	32	4



Conclusion

This report presents the results of a Special Eurobarometer survey conducted in March - April 2024. It examines the attitudes and experiences of respondents in the EU regarding the environment.

Europeans continue to express high levels of concern about the environment, which they continue to see as an issue that affects them personally. Findings have been consistent over the past five years. Environmental issues significantly impact Europeans' daily lives and health, with over three-quarters acknowledging this effect. Concerns about the health impacts of chemicals in everyday products are shared by more than four in five respondents, who are equally worried about the environmental implications. Since the 2019 survey, these concerns have slightly diminished.

EU legislation and policy are crucial for environmental protection, as perceived by the public. 45% of respondents prioritise restoring nature and safeguarding it in new developments as key EU objectives. 84% percent acknowledge the necessity of EU environmental laws for domestic protection, and 81% support the EU's role in elevating environmental standards outside its borders. Additionally, 78% favour proposing more EU measures to address water-related issues, and 52% call for stronger protections against hazardous chemicals.

The survey findings indicate that respondents want more to be done to protect the environment, and that responsibility should be shared. Strong support exists for making substantial societal changes to restore and protect nature. Nearly six in ten Europeans advocate for promoting a circular economy by minimizing waste and enhancing reuse and recycling as the most effective environmental strategies. Additionally, 55% emphasize the importance of ensuring that products sold in the EU do not harm the environment, and over half believe in the strict enforcement of environmental laws.

An overwhelming majority (92%) insists that companies should cover the costs of pollution cleanup, with almost three quarters supporting similar financial responsibilities for public authorities. Public funding for green economic transitions is deemed insufficient by six in ten Europeans. Furthermore, a majority are dissatisfied with the efforts of national stakeholders in using water resources efficiently, with 75% pointing to the industry's inadequacy in this regard.

Generally, willingness towards more sustainable consumer behaviour can be observed. 59% of Europeans are prepared to pay more for sustainable products, and 72% consider chemical safety when purchasing.

Effective waste reduction strategies include diligent recycling by 66% of respondents, the use of reusable packaging by 52%, and a preference for minimally packaged products by 49%. Moreover, 41% choose products packaged in recycled materials.

At the EU level as a whole plastic and chemical wastes are viewed as the most problematic, cited by 61% and 60% of respondents respectively, with electronic waste trailing at 27%. The primary water-related threats identified

are pollution (69%), and overconsumption and wastage of water (63%).

However, awareness and understanding of environmental issues varies. Just over half of Europeans consider themselves well informed about water-related issues like pollution and droughts, while a slightly smaller group feels uninformed. Knowledge of PFAS ('forever chemicals') is limited; only 29% had heard of them prior to the survey, contrasting with the 71% who had not. Respondents who had previously heard of PFAS are more likely to report a high level of concern about their impact on their health and on the environment than those who had not, but the high level of concern across the board highlights that increased awareness about forever chemicals impacts on their perceived danger.

Comments:

(Pierre Dieumegard)

It is a pity that a study on Europeans' attitudes to the environment does not include a single question on the major environmental problem of our time: global warming and greenhouse gases.

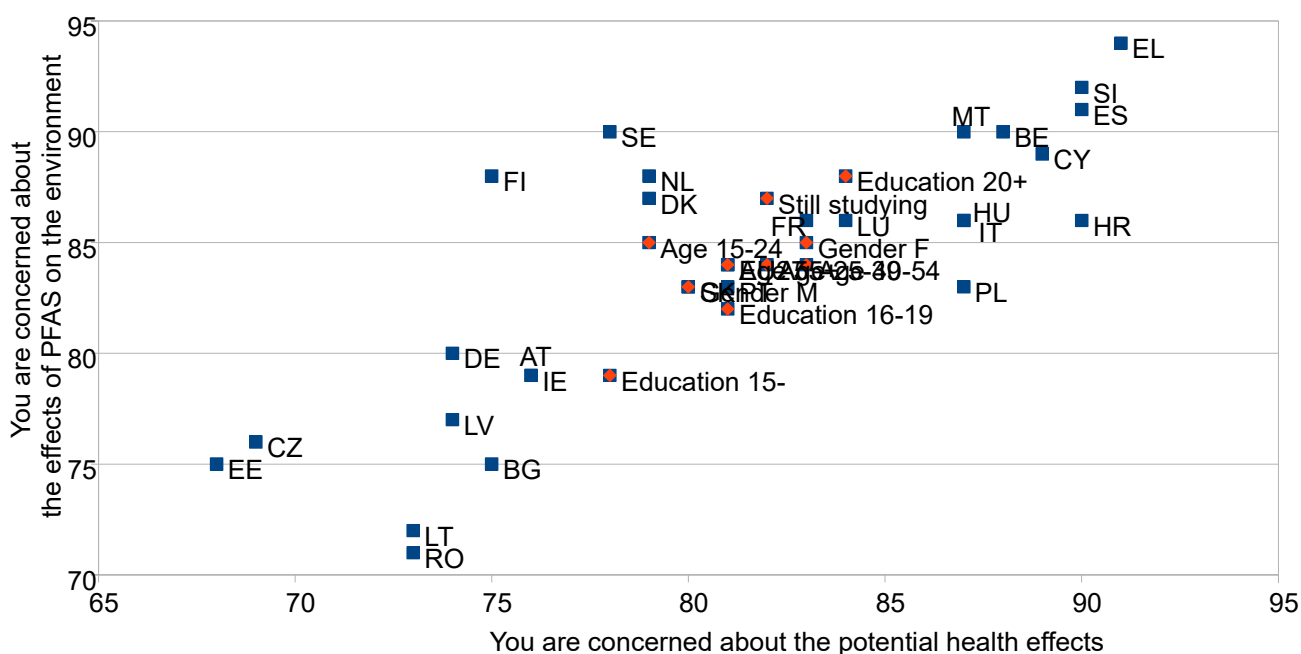
In part V 2 "Main threats linked to water", the first graph is bad, because it is a mixture of the results of questions 13 (actions to be taken) and 15 (threats to water). A correct graph has been inserted.

Knowledge of "forever chemicals"

Polyfluoroalkyls (PFAS) are chemical compounds that have been widely used for decades, and are therefore present in our environment. Research shows that they can be toxic, even in small quantities.

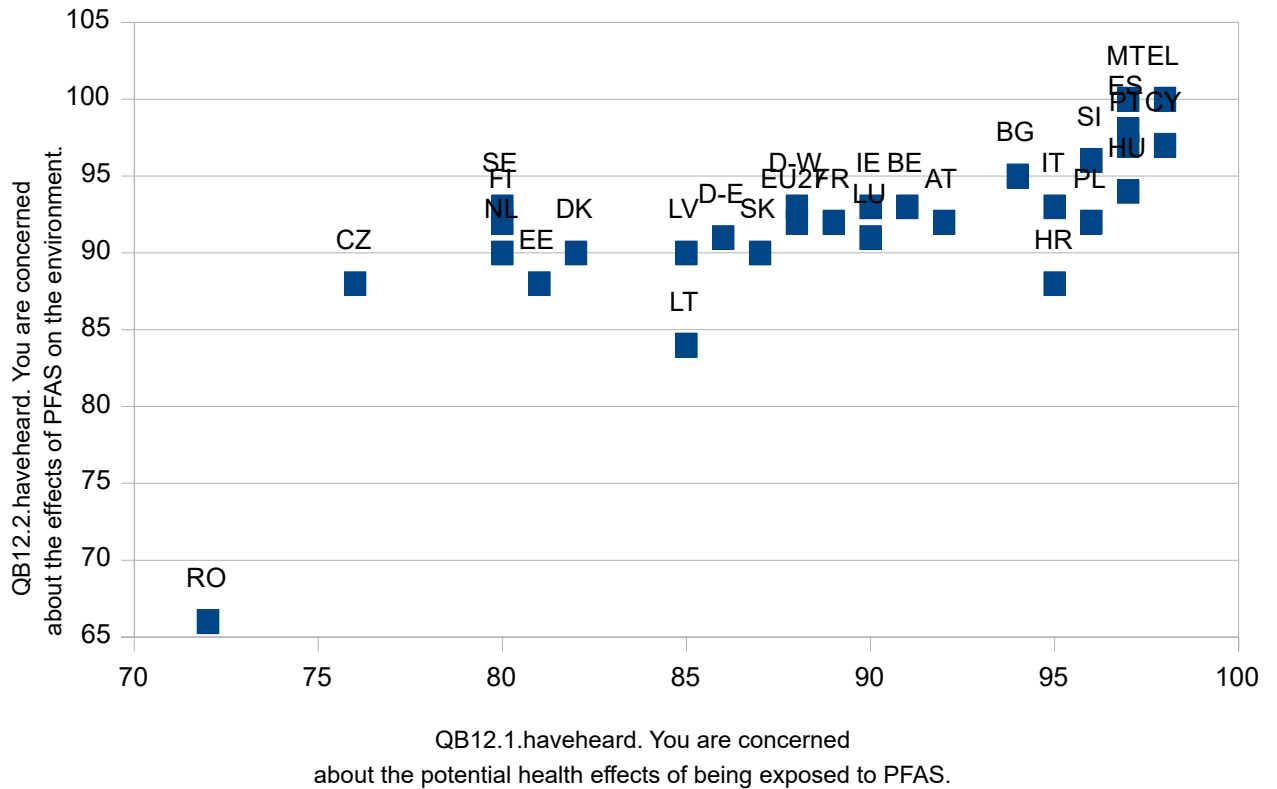
In France, after many years of silence, PFAS were mentioned on the radio, on television and in the newspapers in early 2024. Petitions were sent to candidates in the European elections. Then the media silence returned.

QB12.1 - QB12.2 (You are concerned ... PFAS)



And even when the people questioned were already aware of the problem of PFAS, their perception of how dangerous they are varies greatly from country to country. The graph below shows the responses of people who had already heard of the PFAS problem.

Whereas in Greece (EL) and Malta (MT) all those who have heard of the PFAS are concerned about their impact on the environment, in Romania (RO) only two thirds of those questioned are concerned. It's hard to make European policy when public opinion varies so widely!

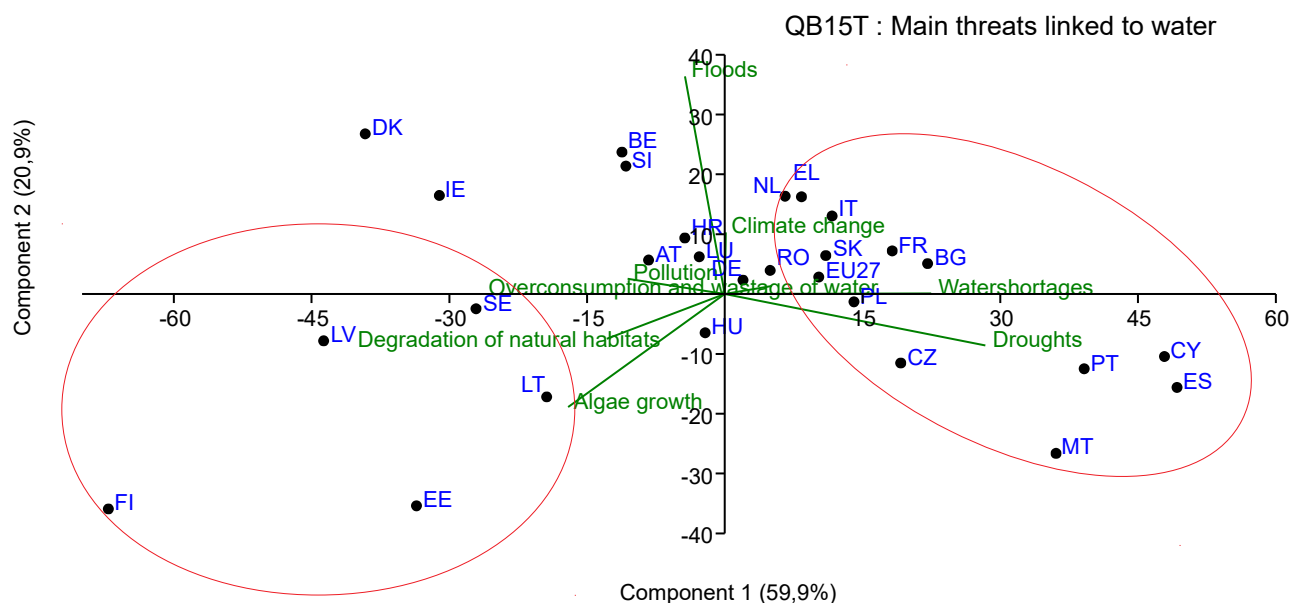


Water policy

Generally speaking, the differences in opinion are much greater between countries than between social groups (gender, level of education, age, etc.).

Table QB15T was processed using principal component analysis (PCA = ACP)²⁴.

It's not surprising that Finland isn't worried about drought or lack of water, but it is interesting to see that groups of countries sharing the same geographical characteristics also share the same concerns about water. The Mediterranean countries are most concerned about drought and lack of water (red ellipse on the right), while the countries around the Baltic Sea have more biological concerns, algae growth and the degradation of natural habitats (red ellipse on the left).



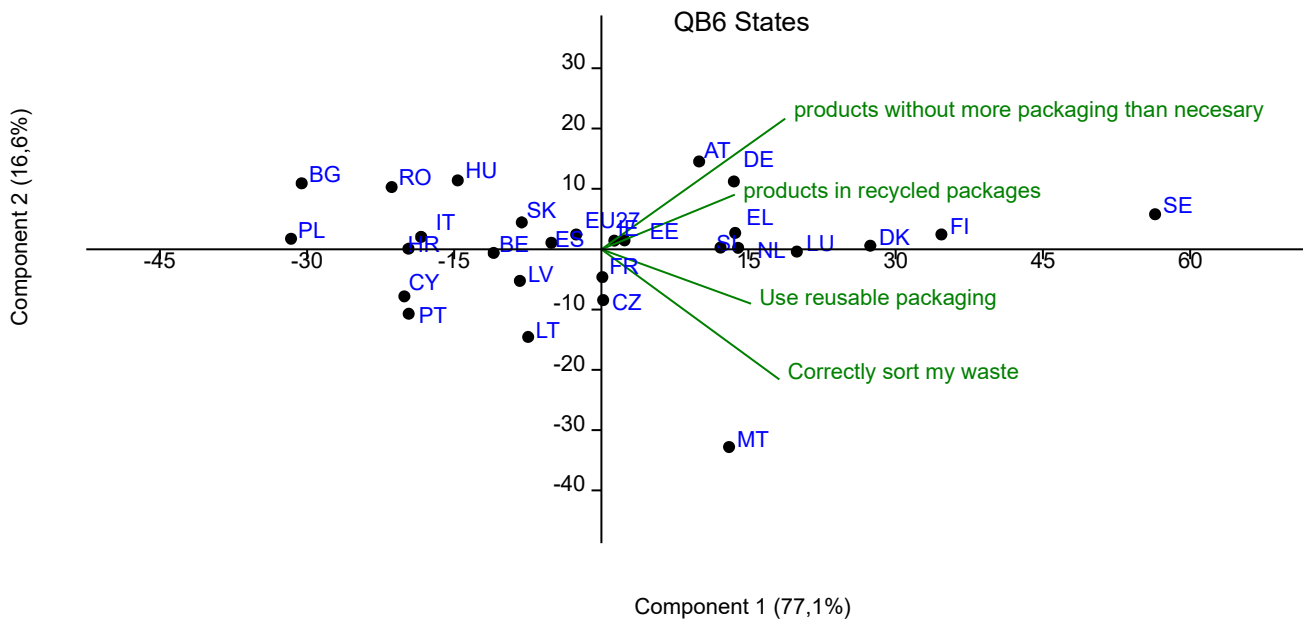
24 Hammer, Ø., Harper, D.A.T., and P. D. Ryan, 2001. PAST: Paleontological Statistics Software Package for Education and Data Analysis. *Palaeontologia Electronica* 4(1): 9pp. <https://www.nhm.uio.no/english/research/resources/past/>

Personal action on the problem of rubbish

This is the subject of question Q6: "QB6 Which of the following would you consider doing yourself to reduce the amount of waste? Please select all options that apply to you."

The biggest contrast is between active and inactive countries. People in some countries say they are doing several things (Sweden, Denmark, Finland), while people in other countries say they are not doing much (Bulgaria, Romania, Poland, Hungary, Italy, Croatia).

People with little education, house-persons or unemployed are less active in reducing waste than people with a long education or managers.



Technical Specifications

Between 6 March and 8 April 2024, Verian (former Kantar Public) on behalf of Kantar Belgium carried out the wave 101.2 of the Eurobarometer survey, on request of the European Commission, Directorate-General for Communication, "Media monitoring and Eurobarometer" Unit.

Wave 101.2 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 countries is a stratified multi-stage, random (probability) one. In each country, the sample frame is first stratified by NUTS regions and within each region by a measure of urbanity (DEGURBA). The number of sample points selected in each strata reflects the stratum population 15+. At the second stage sampling points were drawn with probability proportional to their 0+ population size from within each stratum. The samples 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 areas²⁵.

In each of the selected sampling points, a starting coordinate was drawn at random and a reverse geocoding tool used to identify the closest address to the coordinate. This address was the starting address for the random walk. 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. The approach to the random selection was conditional on the household size. By way of example for households with two 15+ members the script was used to select either the informant (person responding to the screener questionnaire) or the other eligible member in the household. For households with three 15+ members the script was used to select either the informant (1/3 of the time) or the two other eligible members in the household (2/3 of the time). Where the two other members were selected, the interviewer was then told to either ask for the youngest or oldest. The script would randomly assign the selection to youngest or oldest with equal probability. This process continues for four 15+ household members — randomly asking for the youngest, 2nd youngest and oldest. For households with five 15+ members we revert to the last birthday rule.

If no contact was made with anyone in the household, or if the respondent selected was not available (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, Finland, and Sweden. In the two latter countries, a sample of addresses within each sampling point were selected from the address or population register (in Finland, selection is not done in all sample points, but in some where response rates are expected to improve). The selection of addresses was done in a random manner. Households were then contacted by telephone and recruited to take part in the survey. In the Netherlands, a dual frame RDD sample (mobile and landline numbers) are used as there is no comprehensive population register with telephone numbers available. The selection of numbers on both frames is done in a random manner with each number getting an equal probability of selection. Unlike Sweden and Finland, the sample is unclustered.

²⁵ Urban Rural classification based on DEGURBA (<https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/web/degree-of-urbanisation/background>)

Interviewing mode per country

Interviews were conducted through face-to—face interviews, either physically in people's homes or through remote video interaction in the appropriate national language. Interviews with remote video interaction (“online face-to-face” or CAVI, Computer Assisted Video Interviewing, were conducted only in Czechia, Denmark and Malta).

COUNTRIES	No OF CAPI INTERVIEWS	No OF CAVI INTERVIEWS	TOTAL No INTERVIEWS
Belgium (BE)	1,043		1,043
Bulgaria (BG)	1,065		1,065
Czechia (CZ)	788	219	1,007
Denmark (DK)	739	244	983
Germany (DE)	1,516		1,516
Estonia (EE)	1,007		1,007
Ireland (IE)	1,006		1,006
Greece (EL)	1,000		1,000
Spain (ES)	1,009		1,009
France (FR)	1,012		1,012
Croatia (HR)	1,004		1,004
Italy (IT)	1,034		1,034
Cyprus (CY)	501		501
Latvia (LV)	1,001		1,001
Lithuania (LT)	1,007		1,007
Luxembourg (LU)	507		507
Hungary (HU)	1,008		1,008
Malta (MT)	345	155	500
Netherlands (NL)	1,005		1,005
Austria (AT)	1,015		1,015
Poland (PL)	1,010		1,010
Portugal (PT)	1,019		1,019
Romania (RO)	1,049		1,049
Slovenia (SI)	1,004		1,004
Slovakia (SK)	1,011		1,011
Finland (FI)	1,000		1,000
Sweden (SE)	1,023		1,023
Total EU27	25,728	618	26,346

Response rates

For each country a comparison between the responding sample and the universe (i.e. the overall population in the country) 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 wave 101.2 of the EUROBAROMETER survey, the response rates for the EU27 countries, calculated by Verian (former Kantar Public), are:

COUNTRIES	RESPONSE RATES
Belgium (BE)	53.5%
Bulgaria (BG)	48.6%
Czechia (CZ)	60.1%
Denmark (DK)	39.9%
Germany (DE)	30.2%
Estonia (EE)	81.5%
Ireland (IE)	38.0%
Greece (EL)	30.8%
Spain (ES)	29.5%
France (FR)	44.4%
Croatia (HR)	46.3%
Italy (IT)	28.6%
Cyprus (CY)	51.3%
Latvia (LV)	35.6%
Lithuania (LT)	47.6%
Luxembourg (LU)	29.8%
Hungary (HU)	62.8%
Malta (MT)	64.0%
Netherlands (NL)	71.4%
Austria (AT)	41.6%
Poland (PL)	44.9%
Portugal (PT)	50.2%
Romania (RO)	54.9%
Slovenia (SI)	44.7%
Slovakia (SK)	55.7%
Finland (FI)	28.7%
Sweden (SE)	76.7%

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 1000 interviews, the real percentages vary within the following confidence limits:

Statistical Margins due to the sampling process											
(at the 95% level of confidence)											
<i>various sample sizes are in rows</i>						<i>various observed results are in columns</i>					
	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%	

Questionnaire

QB1 Please tell me to what extent you agree disagree with each of the following statements Environmental issues have a direct effect on your daily life and health

(READ OUT - ONE ANSWER ONLY)

- 1 Totally agree
- 2 Tend to agree
- 3 Tend to disagree
- 4 Totally disagree
- 5 Don't know

1QU E8924 QA7 MODIFIED

QB2abcd In your opinion, which of the following actions would be the most effective way of tackling environmental problems? First? Second? Third Fourth?

(SHOW SCREEN - READ OUT — ROTATE - ONE ANSWER ITEM)

- 1 Better ensuring that products sold on the EU market do not contribute to harming the environment
- 2 Investing in Research and Development to find technological solutions
- 3 Providing more information and education to be more environmentally friendly
- 4 Restoring nature
- 5 Ensuring that environmental laws are respected
- 6 Removing government subsidies on activities that pollute
- 7 Increasing taxation on activities that pollute
- 8 Promoting the circular economy through reducing waste, and reusing or recycling products
- 9 None of the above (SPONTANEOUS)
- 10 Don't know

2QU NEW

QB3 Please tell me to what extent you agree or disagree with the following statement.

SHOW SCREEN - READ OUT — ROTATE - ONE ANSWER PER ITEM)

- Totally agree
- Tend to agree
- Tend to disagree

Totally disagree

Don't know

1 EU environmental legislation is necessary to protect the environment in (OUR COUNTRY)

1 2 3 4 5

2 The EU should assist NON-EU countries to improve their environmental standards

1 2 3 4 5

1QU EB924 QA11

QB4 Please tell me to what extent you agree or disagree with the following statements regarding the cost of cleaning up pollution.

(READ OUT — DO NOT ROTATE - ONE ANSWER PER LINE)

- Totally agree
- Tend to agree
- Tend to disagree
- Totally disagree
- Don't know

1 Public authorities should pay for the costs of cleaning up pollution

1 2 3 4 5

2 Companies should pay for the costs of cleaning up their pollution

1 2 3 4 5

1QU NEW

QB5 Do you think that the amount of public funding to support the transition to a greener economy in [OUR COUNTRY] is...?

(READ OUT — ONE ANSWER ONLY)

- 1 Just right
- 2 Not enough
- 3 Too much
- 4 Don't know

1QU NEW

QB6 Which of the following would you consider doing yourself to reduce the amount of waste? Please select all options that apply to you.

(SHOW SCREEN - READ OUT — ROTATE — MULTIPLE ANSWERS POSSIBLE)

- 1 Use reusable packaging
- 2 Correctly sort my waste for recycling
- 3 Primarily buy products in recycled packages
- 4 Primarily buy products that do not have more packaging than necessary
- 5 None of the above (SPONTANEOUS)

1QU NEW

QB7ab In your opinion, which of the following types of waste are most problematic in (OUR COUNTRY)? Firstly? And then?

(SHOW SCREEN - READ OUT — ONE ANSWER PER ITEM)

- 1 Plastic waste
- 2 Electronic waste
- 3 Battery waste
- 4 Food waste
- 5 Textile waste
- 6 Chemical waste
- 7 All of these (SPONTANEOUS)
- 8 None of these (SPONTANEOUS)
- 9 Don't know

1QU NEW

QB8 When you buy products such as furniture, textiles, or electronic devices, would you be willing to pay more for products that are easier to repair, recyclable and/or produced in an environmentally sustainable way?

(READ OUT — ONE ANSWER ONLY)

- 1 Yes
- 2 No
- 3 Don't know

1QU NEW

QB9 In order to protect human health and the environment from hazardous chemicals, do you think that the current level of protection in the EU is...

(READ OUT — ONE ANSWER ONLY)

- 1 Too high and should be decreased
- 2 At the right level

3 Too low and should be increased

4 Don't know

1QU NEW

QB10 The following statements relate to everyday products, such as frying pans, toys, and cleaning detergents.

Please tell me to what extent you agree or disagree with the following statements.

(READ OUT — ROTATE ITEMS 2 AND 3 — ONE ANSWER PER LINE)

- Totally agree
- Tend to agree
- Tend to disagree
- Totally disagree
- Don't know

1 You take into account the chemical safety of products when making purchases

1 2 3 4 5

2 You are worried about the impact of harmful chemicals present in everyday products on the environment

1 2 3 4 5

3 You are worried about the impact of harmful chemicals in everyday products on your health

1 2 3 4 5

1.5QU E8924 QA7 MODIFIED

QB11 Have you heard of the term PFAS, also known as 'forever chemicals'?

(READ OUT — ONE ANSWER ONLY)

- 1 Yes
- 2 No
- 3 Don't know

1QU NEW

QB12 Introduction text

(READ OUT)

PFAS, also known as "forever chemicals" are man-made chemicals that are used in many products, such as food packaging, non-stick pans, outdoor clothing, and many others. They have useful properties, like resisting heat, oil, stains or water, or are used for non-stick coatings. Many PFAS can have adverse effects on the environment and human and animal health and

are considered "forever chemicals" because they do not degrade and can persist in the environment for a long time.

4 Not informed at all

5 Don't know

QB12 To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements?

1QU NEW

(READ OUT — DO NOT ROTATE — ONE ANSWER PER LINE)

ASK ALL

Totally agree

QB15abcd What do you believe are the main threats linked to water in (OUR COUNTRY)? First? Second? Third? Fourth?

Tend to agree

(READ OUT — ONE ANSWER ONLY)

Tend to disagree

1 Pollution

Totally disagree

2 Climate change

Don't know

3 Degradation of natural habitats

1 You are concerned about the potential health effects of being exposed to PFAS.

4 Floods

12 3 4 5

5 Droughts

2 You are concerned about the effects of PFAS on the environment.

6 Water shortages

7 Algae growth

1QU NEW

8 Overconsumption and wastage of water

9 No other threat

QB13ab Which of the following actions should the EU prioritise to protect nature?

10 Other (SPONTANEOUS)

1 1 Don't know

(READ OUT - ONE ANSWER ONLY)

2QU NEW

1 Expand the areas where nature is protected

QB16 In your opinion, are each of the following actors currently doing too much, about right or enough to use water efficiently in (OUR COUNTRY)

2 Restore nature to compensate for damage caused by human activities

(READ OUT — DO NOT ROTATE - ONE ANSWER PER LINE)

3 Strengthen nature conservation rules and ensure they are respected

Not doing enough

4 Inform citizens better about the importance of nature

Doing about the right amount

5 Ensure that nature is protected when planning new developments or infrastructure

Doing too much

6 None (SPONTANEOUS)

Don't know

7 Don't know

1 Industry

1QU NEW

1 2 3 4

QB14 How well informed do you feel about water-related problems such as pollution, floods, droughts or inefficient use of water in (OUR COUNTRY)?

2 Households

(READ OUT - ONE ANSWER ONLY)

1 2 3 4

1 Very well informed

3 Agriculture

1 2 3 4

2 Well informed

4 Energy producers

1 2 3 4

3 Not well informed

5 Fisheries, aquaculture

1 2 3 4

6 Tourism

1 2 3 4

7 Public Administration

1 2 3 4

3.SQU NEW

QB17 Do you think the EU should propose additional measures to address water problems in Europe?

(READ OUT - ONE ANSWER ONLY)

1 Yes

2 No

3 Don't know

1QU NEW

