



EU challenges and priorities

EUROBAROMETER REPORT JUNE – JULY 2024

FLASH EUROBAROMETER 550



Survey conducted by Ipsos European Public Affairs at the request of the European Commission, Directorate-General for Communication

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

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

This Flash Eurobarometer survey provides an overview of EU citizens' perceptions and expectations regarding the future of the European Union (EU). It examines key themes, such as: (1) optimism about the EU's future, (2) perceived strengths and challenges of the EU, (3) priority areas for the EU, (4) global challenges impacting the EU, (5) the state of democracy in the EU, and (6) values best embodied by the EU – compared to other countries in the world. The study also explores EU citizens' confidence in the EU's economic performance and their concerns about the EU's security in the next five years.

On behalf of the European Commission, Directorate-General for Communication, Ipsos European Public Affairs interviewed a representative sample of EU citizens, aged 15 and over, in each of the 27 Member States of the EU. Between 25 June and 2 July 2024, 25 658 interviews were conducted via computer-assisted web interviewing (CAWI), using Ipsos online panels and their partner network.

BE		Belgium
BE		Bulgaria
CZ		Czechia
DK		Denmark
DE		Germany
EE		Estonia
IE		Ireland
EL		Greece
ES		Spain
EU27		European Union

FR		France
HR		Croatia
IT		Italy
CY		Rep. of Cyprus *
LV		Latvia
LT		Lithuania
LU		Luxembourg
HU		Hungary
MT		Malta

ML		Netherlands
AT		Austria
PL		Poland
PT		Portugal
RO		Romania
SI		Slovenia
SK		Slovakia
FI		Finland
SE		Sweden

* Cyprus as a whole is one of the 27 EU Member States. For practical reasons, interviews are only carried out in the part of the country controlled by the government of the Republic of Cyprus

Notes

- Survey results are subject to sampling tolerances meaning that not all apparent differences between countries and socio-demographic groups may be statistically significant. Thus, only differences that are statistically significant (at the 5% confidence level) – i.e. where it can be reasonably certain that they are unlikely to have

occurred by chance – are highlighted in the text.

- Survey data are weighted to marginal age by gender population distributions using post-stratification weighting. The EU27 are weighted according to the size of the 15+ population of each country.
- Percentages may not add up to 100%, as they are rounded to the nearest percent. Due to rounding, it may also happen that the percentages for separate response options do not exactly add up to the totals mentioned in the text. Response percentages exceed 100% if the question allowed respondents to select multiple responses.
- The graphs for Q3 include differences in percentage points compared to Flash Eurobarometer 533 (conducted in August 2023).¹ Trend differences are calculated from percentages with one decimal and are then rounded to the nearest integer.
- In this report, countries are referred to by their official abbreviation. The abbreviations used in this report are indicated below.

¹ See: <https://europa.eu/eurobarometer/surveys/detail/3092>

Main findings

Optimism about the future of the EU

- At the EU level, close to six in ten respondents (58%) are optimistic about the future of the EU, with 11% replying they are 'very optimistic' and 47% 'rather optimistic'. Fewer respondents report being pessimistic about the future of the EU: 9% are 'very pessimistic' and 28% 'rather pessimistic'.

Strengths, current challenges, and priorities of the EU

Perceptions about the strengths of the EU

- The largest shares of respondents select the EU's respect for democracy, human rights and the rule of law (38%), the economic, industrial and trading power of the EU (34%) and the good relationships and solidarity between the EU's Member States (28%) as main strengths of the EU.
- Another three strengths are each selected by more than one in five respondents: the standard of living of EU citizens (23%), the EU's commitment to protecting the climate and the environment (23%) and the EU's ability to promote peace and democracy outside its borders (21%).

Opinions about the EU's current main challenges

- Half of respondents (50%) think that the war in Ukraine is one of the current main challenges the EU is facing. This challenge is the top-ranking one out of the ten challenges presented to respondents. Irregular migration (selected by 41%) and environmental issues and climate change (35%) complete the top-three of main challenges for the EU.

Perceived global challenges for the future of the EU

- More than four in ten respondents (44%) consider conflicts in the world to be one of the main global challenges for the future of the EU. This is closely followed by climate change and environmental issues (selected by 42% of respondents) and irregular migration (40%).

Views about areas the EU should address as a priority

- Environment and climate change as well as irregular migration are the top-ranking priorities for the EU (both selected by 33% of respondents). About three in ten respondents (29%) think the EU should address security and defence as a priority and 25% answer that the EU should prioritise the war in Ukraine. Public health (21%) and jobs, social equality and skills (20%) are each selected as a priority for the EU by about one in five respondents.

Values best embodied by the EU

- A majority of respondents reply that respect for fundamental rights and values (53%) and freedom of speech and expression (53%) are values best embodied by the EU – in comparison with other countries. Moreover, about one in two respondents select this response for social equality and welfare (49%), tolerance and openness to others (48%) and solidarity with countries within and outside the EU (48%).

Democracy in the EU

Perceived threats to democracy in the EU

- When asked to select the most serious threats to democracy in the EU, growing distrust and scepticism towards democratic institutions (36%) and false and/or misleading information in general circulating online and offline (34%) are selected most frequently.
- These threats are followed by propaganda and false and/or misleading information from a non-democratic foreign source (31%), covert foreign interference in the politics and economy of [one's] country, including through financing of domestic actors (30%) and a lack of engagement and interest in politics and elections among regular citizens (27%).

Expected strength of the EU's democracy

- Over half of respondents (55%) express confidence in the strength of the EU's democracy in the next five years (10% feel 'very confident' and 45% 'somewhat

confident'). In contrast, about four in ten respondents answer that they are not confident about the strength of the EU's democracy (28% are 'somewhat unconfident' and 13% 'very unconfident').

Outlook for the EU: economy and security

Confidence in the EU's economy

- One in two respondents feel confident about the performance of the EU's economy in the next five years (8% feel 'very confident' and 42% 'somewhat confident'). More than four in ten respondents, on the other hand, do not feel confident about the EU's economic performance (32% are 'somewhat unconfident' and 13% 'very unconfident').

Concerns about the EU's security

- More than six in ten respondents (64%) are concerned about the EU's security in the next five years (17% are 'very concerned' and 47% 'somewhat concerned'). On the other hand, about one in three respondents indicate they are not concerned about the EU's security in the next five years (26% are 'not very concerned' and 6% 'not concerned at all').

1. Optimism about the future of the EU

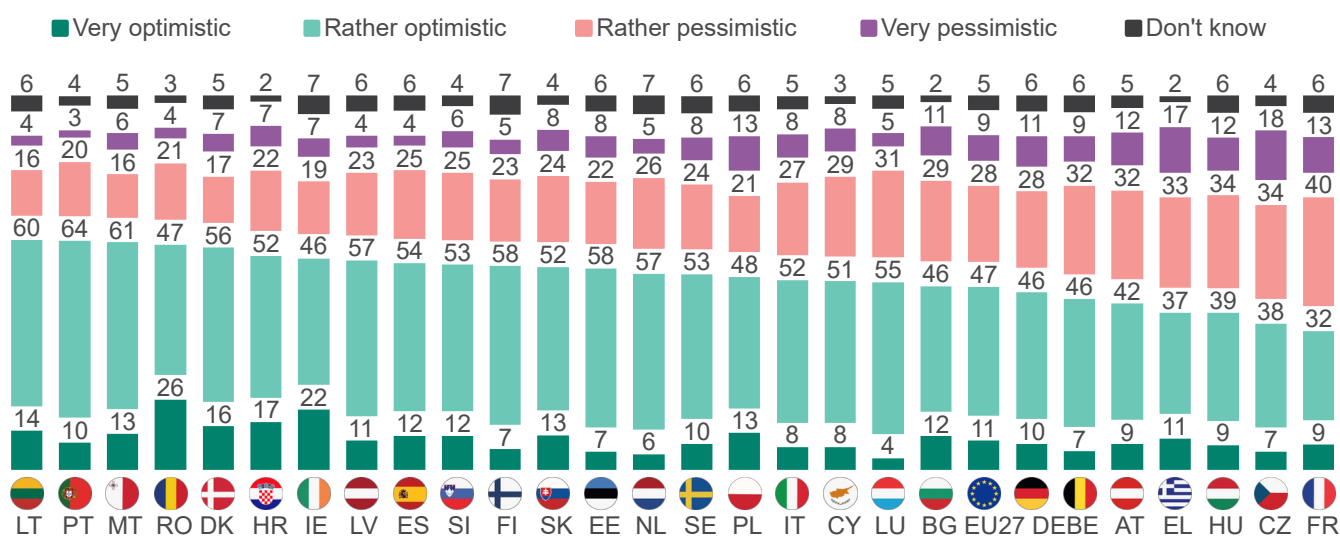
At the EU level, close to six in ten respondents (58%) are optimistic about the future of the EU, with 11% replying they are 'very optimistic' and 47% 'rather optimistic'. Fewer respondents report being pessimistic about the future of the EU: 9% are 'very pessimistic' and 28% 'rather pessimistic'.

Individual country results

In 23 Member States, more than 50% of respondents are 'very' or 'rather' optimistic about the future of the EU. At the highest end of the country ranking, in Lithuania, three-quarters of respondents are optimistic about the future of the EU (14% are 'very optimistic' and 60% 'rather optimistic'). At the lowest end of the country ranking, in France, the total share being optimistic about the future of the EU is just 42%.

Romania stands out with 26% of respondents feeling 'very optimistic' about the future of the EU. The share of respondents being 'very pessimistic' about the future of the EU, on the other hand, remains below 20% in all Member States (from 3% in Portugal to 18% in Czechia).

Q1 Please tell me if you are very optimistic, rather optimistic, rather pessimistic or very pessimistic regarding the future of the European Union (EU)?



(%) Base: n=25 658 – All respondents

Socio-demographic considerations

The socio-demographic analysis shows that the overall level of optimism is slightly higher among men (59%) than among women (56%).

The level of optimism about the future of the EU is also higher among younger respondents (61% of 'optimistic' responses for 15-24 year-olds and 62% for 25-39 year-olds), while it is somewhat lower for older respondents (54% for 40-54 year-olds and 56% for 55+ year-olds).

When looking at the level of education, respondents who left school aged 16-19 are the least optimistic about the future of the EU (53% of 'optimistic' responses), compared to both lower educated (59% for those who left school aged 15 or younger) and higher educated respondents (61% for those who completed their education aged 20 or older).

2. Strengths, challenges, and priorities of the EU

This section discusses EU citizens' perceptions about strengths of the EU, main challenges the EU is facing and areas the EU should prioritise.

2.1. Perceptions about the strengths of the EU

Respondents were presented with a list of ten strengths, and they were asked which of these (if any) are the main strengths of the EU.

The largest shares of respondents select the EU's respect for democracy, human rights and the rule of law (38%), the economic, industrial and trading power of the EU (34%) and the good relationships and solidarity between the EU's Member States (28%) as main strengths of the EU.

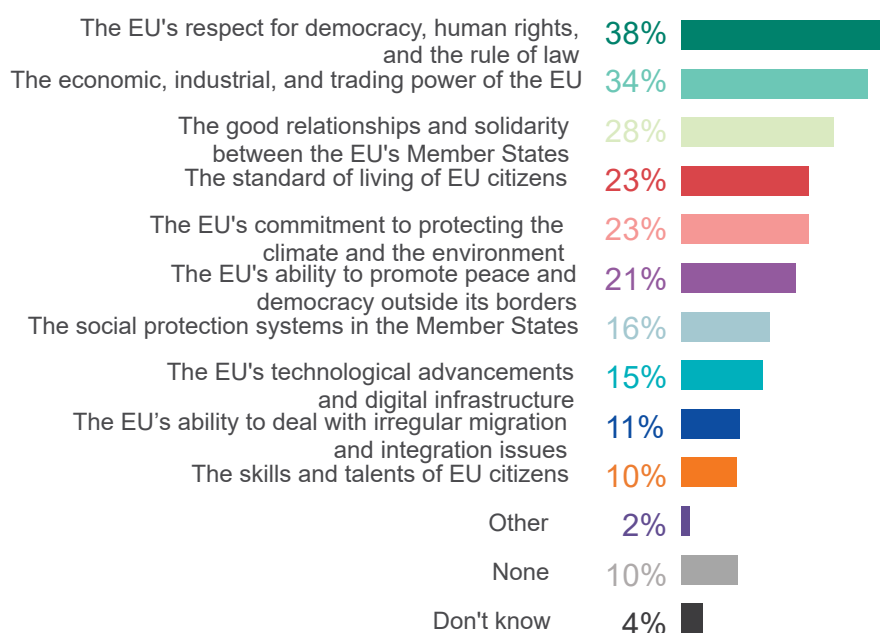
Another three strengths are each selected by more than one in five respondents: the standard of living of EU citizens (23%), the EU's commitment to protecting the climate and the environment (23%) and the EU's ability to

promote peace and democracy outside its borders (21%).

Smaller shares of under one in six select the social protection systems in the Member States (16%) and the EU's technological advancements and digital infrastructure (15%). One in ten respondents mention the EU's ability to deal with irregular migration and integration issues (11%) and a similar share refer to the skills and talents of EU citizens (10%).

Finally, just one in ten respondents reply that none of the strengths listed in the survey are strengths of the EU.

Q2 In your opinion, which of the following do you think are the main strengths of the EU? Please select up to three answers. [MULTIPLE ANSWERS]



(%) Base: n=25 658 – All respondents

Individual country results

In 15 Member States, the EU's respect for democracy, human rights and the rule of law is the (joint) most-selected strength of the EU. This strength is selected by a slim majority of respondents in both Finland and Luxembourg (both 51%) and in Portugal (55%). In the other Member States, the share indicating respect for democracy, human rights and the rule of law as one of the main strengths of the EU ranges from 26% in Czechia to 43% in Cyprus, Denmark and Spain.

In 11 Member States, the (joint) most-frequently cited strength of the EU is its economic, industrial and trading power. This applies, for example, to Slovenia (43%) as well as Croatia and the Netherlands (both 41%). In the remaining Member States, the share selecting this strength ranges from 26% in Finland, Greece, and Sweden to 40% in Lithuania.

The highest shares of respondents thinking that one of the main strengths of the EU is the good relationships and solidarity between the EU's Member States are observed in Estonia (39%), Portugal (38%), Ireland (36%) and Malta (36%), while Hungary demonstrates the lowest level of agreement with this sentiment (20%).

In Poland (36%) and Bulgaria (38%), respondents are most likely to think that one of the main strengths of the EU is the standard of living of EU citizens. This view is also shared by 38% of respondents in Croatia. In Poland and Bulgaria, this strength is the highest-ranking one, but not so in Croatia. Sweden is found at the lower end of the country ranking, with 13% of respondents selecting this strength; a similarly low share is also observed in Italy (15%).

Compared to other Member States, respondents in Denmark (37%) are more likely to think that one of the main strengths of the EU is the EU's commitment to protecting the climate and the environment. Respondents in Estonia (10%), on the other hand, are the least likely to mention this strength.

Across all Member States less than 30% of respondents mention the following as main strengths of the EU:

- The EU's ability to promote peace and democracy outside its borders (from 13% in Croatia and Malta, to 26% in Luxembourg)
- The social protection systems in the Member States (from 10% in Denmark and the Netherlands, to 25% in Spain)
- The EU's technological advancements and digital infrastructure (from 11% in France, Luxembourg, and Sweden, to 24% in Poland)
- The EU's ability to deal with irregular migration and integration issues (from 6% in Hungary to 23% in the Netherlands)
- The skills and talents of EU citizens (from 5% in Luxembourg to 16% in Ireland).

Finally, the share of respondents answering that none of the strengths listed in the survey are strengths of the EU ranges from 3% in Portugal to 14% in Czechia and Greece.

Q2 In your opinion, which of the following do you think are the main strengths of the EU? Please select up to three answers. [MULTIPLE ANSWERS]

	The EU's respect for democracy, human rights, and the rule of law	The economic, industrial, and trading power of the EU	The good relationships and solidarity between the EU's Member States	The standard of living of EU citizens	The EU's commitment to protecting the climate and the environment	The EU's ability to promote peace and democracy outside its borders	The social protection systems in the Member States	The EU's technological advances and digital infrastructure	The EU's ability to deal with irregular migration and integration issues	The skills and talents of EU citizens	None
EU27	38	34	28	23	23	21	16	15	11	10	10
BE	32	32	26	24	22	22	19	12	16	11	9
BG	35	30	28	38	20	14	19	19	8	10	11
CZ	26	30	28	25	17	21	12	14	13	8	14
DK	43	34	24	21	37	21	10	14	21	10	6
DE	38	34	30	22	20	22	17	12	8	8	13
EE	41	39	39	30	10	14	11	22	8	13	8
IE	37	39	36	29	20	17	20	13	10	16	4
EL	41	26	30	29	18	18	17	17	9	9	14
ES	43	39	29	26	22	20	25	15	11	11	5
FR	35	36	27	17	23	24	13	11	11	12	13
HR	35	41	31	38	20	13	19	20	12	11	8
IT	40	27	23	15	25	20	16	15	8	13	12
CY	43	29	31	27	22	17	21	16	7	9	10
LV	35	31	33	29	19	15	17	18	7	9	9
LT	36	40	30	30	21	24	14	23	10	9	6
LU	51	39	29	26	15	26	20	11	7	5	6
HU	37	38	20	19	23	17	14	21	6	12	11
MT	40	34	36	31	29	13	16	23	8	14	4
NL	31	41	28	21	33	20	10	15	23	6	7
AT	35	32	25	30	23	20	13	13	10	7	13
PL	35	32	23	36	25	21	13	24	9	8	8
PT	55	34	38	26	28	23	19	14	12	11	3
RO	35	37	28	30	23	19	15	19	9	11	8
SI	37	43	31	31	19	16	20	21	14	8	7
SK	35	36	34	35	19	21	14	17	16	9	7
FI	51	26	34	21	30	23	14	12	11	15	4
SE	41	26	32	13	29	21	11	11	14	11	8

Note: Responses 'Other' and 'Don't know' not shown.
(%) Base: n=25 658 – All respondents

Socio-demographic considerations

The socio-demographic analysis shows some differences by gender. For instance, men are more likely than women to consider the economic, industrial, and trading power of the EU (37% vs 31% of women), the standard of living of EU citizens (25% vs 22%) and the EU's technological advancements and digital infrastructure (17% vs 13%) as main strengths of the EU. In contrast, women tend to see the strength of the EU in its commitment to protecting the climate and the environment (25% vs 22% of men) and its ability to promote peace and democracy outside its borders (22% vs 19%).

Respondents aged 55 or older (43%) are more likely to think that one of the main strengths of the EU is the respect for democracy, human rights, and the rule of law, compared to those in younger age categories (33%-36%). Those aged 15-24 (27%) and those aged 25-39 (26%) are more likely to think that one of the main strengths of the EU is the standard of living of EU citizens, compared to those aged 40-54 (23%) and those aged 55 or older (21%).

There are also some differences by the level of education. Notably, longer educated respondents (those who left education aged 20 or older) are more likely than those who left education aged 16-19 or aged 15 or younger to consider the EU's respect for democracy, human rights and the rule of law (41% vs 30%-37%), the economic, industrial and trading power of the EU (36% vs 30%-32%) and the standard of living of EU citizens (25% vs 20%-21%) as the EU's main strengths.

2.2. Opinions about the EU's current main challenges

Half of respondents across the EU (50%) think that the war in Ukraine is one of the current main challenges the EU is facing. This challenge is the top-ranking one out of the ten challenges presented to respondents. Irregular migration (selected by 41%) and environmental issues and climate change (35%) complete the top-three of current main challenges for the EU.

About one in three respondents (32%) think that one of the main challenges of the EU is the cost of living and about three in ten (29%) mention terrorism and security issues.

Four challenges are each selected by about one in five respondents: social inequalities (21%), the conflict in the Middle East (20%), insufficient economic growth (19%) and disinformation and information manipulation (19%). Less than one in ten respondents (8%) select the impact of digital technologies on the society as one of the main challenges for the EU.

Q4 Which of the following do you think are the current main challenges the EU is facing?
Please select up to three answers. [MULTIPLE ANSWERS]



(%) Base: n=25 658 – All respondents

Individual country results

In all but three Member States, the war in Ukraine is the (joint) most-mentioned challenge currently being faced by the EU. It is selected by more than 50% of respondents in 20 Member States. The share of respondents indicating the war in Ukraine as one of the main challenges being faced by the EU varies between 28% in Cyprus and 74% in Lithuania.

In two Member States, respondents are most likely to select irregular migration as one of the main challenges being faced by the EU; this applies to Cyprus (64%) and Austria (48%). In Czechia (54%) and Slovenia (52%), equal shares select irregular migration and the war in Ukraine. Irregular migration is also mentioned by a slim majority of respondents in Malta (52%), Croatia (51%) and Poland (51%) – although in these countries, this challenge is not the top-ranking one. In contrast, in Finland, just 23% of respondents select irregular migration as one of the main challenges of the EU.

Environmental issues and climate change – the third-ranking challenge at EU level – is selected by between 16% of respondents in Estonia and Latvia, and 48% of respondents in the Netherlands.

The cost of living is the top-ranking challenge in Greece (selected by 54% of respondents). A slim majority (51%) also select this challenge in Ireland and Malta. In contrast, less than two in ten respondents in Denmark (16%), Lithuania (17%) and Sweden (18%) think that the cost of living is one of the main challenges of the EU. A similar result is observed for those indicating terrorism and security issues as one of the main challenges being faced by the EU, with the share mentioning this challenge ranging from 14% in Italy to 44% in Sweden.

In all Member States, the remaining challenges listed in the survey are selected by not more than 30% of respondents:

- Social inequalities (between 7% in Malta and 29% in Hungary)
- The conflict in the Middle East (between 12% in Estonia and 29% in Ireland)
- Insufficient economic growth (between 8% in the Netherlands and 30% in Estonia)

- Disinformation and information manipulation (between 11% in Cyprus and 30% in Slovakia)
- Impact of digital technologies on the society (between 4% in Cyprus and 14% in Denmark).

Q4 Which of the following do you think are the current main challenges the EU is facing? Please select up to three answers. [MULTIPLE ANSWERS]

	The war in Ukraine	Irregular migration	Environmental issues and climate change	The cost of living	Terrorism and security issues	Social inequalities	The conflict in the Middle East	Insufficient economic growth	Disinformation and information manipulation	Impact of digital technologies on the society
EU27	50	41	35	32	29	21	20	19	19	8
BE	51	38	39	31	27	20	20	18	17	8
BG	54	43	26	26	25	26	19	25	25	7
CZ	54	54	26	20	31	13	13	22	23	8
DK	58	37	45	16	32	16	24	9	18	14
DE	49	40	36	27	34	23	22	17	18	6
EE	63	44	16	46	27	20	12	30	19	5
IE	52	45	30	51	21	13	29	11	17	7
EL	33	46	32	54	29	23	17	23	15	5
ES	43	42	35	36	24	25	23	21	21	8
FR	45	42	34	37	37	19	16	24	20	7
HR	58	51	26	37	27	16	16	24	18	7
IT	48	38	43	34	14	24	26	24	13	9
CY	28	64	28	48	35	19	23	19	11	4
LV	63	35	16	36	30	24	14	25	27	5
LT	74	48	24	17	35	17	20	12	25	5
LU	58	35	36	32	29	28	22	10	21	8
HU	62	33	33	24	30	29	17	19	20	6
MT	53	52	47	51	20	7	24	11	14	6
NL	56	40	48	27	27	16	21	8	21	10
AT	42	48	35	33	33	22	15	18	19	6
PL	56	51	30	29	30	15	15	16	24	9
PT	59	50	32	29	30	23	26	17	15	5
RO	52	33	29	34	36	18	14	21	21	10
SI	52	52	34	32	25	15	25	17	19	6
SK	53	41	26	28	25	24	13	24	30	12
FI	69	23	36	27	41	17	20	18	22	6
SE	58	32	41	18	44	15	20	11	26	8

Note: Responses 'Other', 'None', 'Don't know' not shown. (%) Base: n=25 658 – All respondents

Socio-demographic considerations

The socio-demographic analysis shows that opinions about the current challenges of the EU vary slightly by gender. Notably, women (32%) are more likely than men (27%) to indicate terrorism and security issues as a main challenge.

Larger differences are observed across age categories. For instance, those aged 55 or above (58%), followed by those aged 40-54 (48%), are more likely than younger respondents (41%) to mention the war in Ukraine. Respondents over 40 years-of-age (42%-48%) are also more likely to mention irregular migration (vs 33%-34% of those aged 39 or younger).

Longer educated respondents (those who left education aged 20 or older) (37%) are more likely to mention environmental issues and climate change as a current main challenge of the EU, compared to those who left education earlier (30%-33%).

2.3. Views about areas the EU should address as a priority

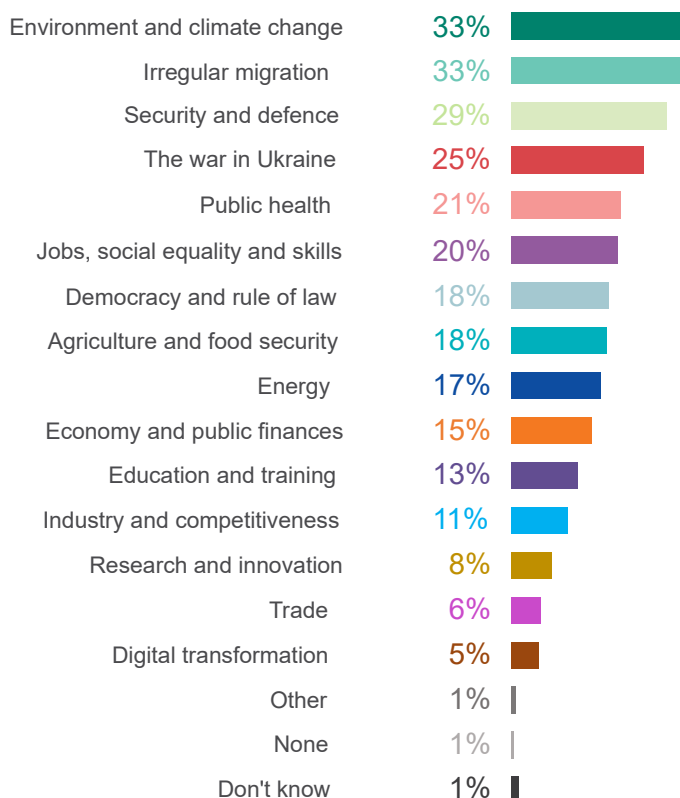
EU citizens were also asked which areas they think the EU should address as a priority (they could select up to three responses from a list of 15).

In the joint first place come environment and climate change and irregular migration, both selected by 33% of respondents. About three in ten respondents (29%) think the EU should address security and defence as a priority. A quarter of respondents (25%) answer that the EU should prioritise the war in Ukraine. Public health (21%), and jobs, social equality and skills (20%) are each selected as a priority for the EU by about one in five respondents.

Respondents are less likely to think the EU should prioritise democracy and the rule of law (18%), agriculture and food security (18%), energy (17%), economy and public finances

(15%), education and training (13%), industry and competitiveness (11%). Finally, the smallest shares think the EU should prioritise research and innovation (8%), trade (6%) and the digital transformation (5%).

Q6 Which of the following areas do you think the EU should address as a priority? Please select up to three answers. [MULTIPLE ANSWERS]



(%) Base: n=25 658 – All respondents

Individual country results

The analysis at individual country level shows a large variation in EU citizens' views about the areas the EU should prioritise.

In nine Member States, environment and climate change is selected by the (joint) largest share of respondents as one of the area the EU should prioritise. The share of respondents thinking that environment and climate change should be prioritised by the EU ranges from 11% in Estonia and 12% in Latvia to 48% in Malta.

In another nine Member States, the largest share of respondents think that the EU should prioritise irregular migration. In Spain, irregular migration, and environment and climate change are selected by equal shares (35%). The proportion selecting irregular migration as an EU priority ranges from 17% in both Finland and Romania, to 50% in Cyprus.

In six Member States, security and defence is the top-ranking priority. This applies, for instance, to Estonia (52%) and Lithuania (51%). In contrast, just 20% of respondents see this as a priority in Italy.

The proportion of respondents thinking the EU should prioritise the war in Ukraine is the highest in Lithuania (48%) and Estonia (46%). In contrast, the share selecting the war in Ukraine as a priority is more than three times smaller in Cyprus (12%) and Greece (14%).

In Bulgaria, the largest share of respondents (31%) think the EU should prioritise public health. In the other Member States, the proportion selecting this area varies between 11% in Estonia and 29% in Slovenia. Similar proportions are observed for jobs, social equality, and skills (selected by between 13% of respondents in both Czechia and Denmark, and 31% in Portugal) and democracy and rule of law (between 10% in Estonia and Latvia, and 28% in Hungary).

In Croatia (33%) and Slovakia (31%), respondents are most likely to think that the EU should prioritise agriculture and food security. Slovenia (32%) joins these Member States at the high end of the country ranking (although it is not the top-ranking priority in this country). In

contrast, about one in ten respondents mention agriculture and food security as a priority for the EU in Lithuania (10%), Cyprus (11%) and Sweden (11%).

Across all Member States, not more than about three in ten respondents think the EU should prioritise energy (from 10% in Cyprus and Portugal, to 28% in Czechia), the economy and public finances (from 9% in Denmark and Germany, to 31% in Cyprus) and education and training (from 6% in Czechia and Poland, to 25% in Bulgaria).

The proportions mentioning industry and competitiveness, research and innovation, trade, and the digital transformation are overall the lowest, remaining below 20% across all EU Member States.

Q6 Which of the following areas do you think the EU should address as a priority? Please select up to three answers.
[MULTIPLE ANSWERS]

	Environm ent and climate change	Irregul ar migrati on	Secur ity and defen ce	The war in Ukrai ne	Publ ic heal th	Jobs, social equal ity and skills	Democr acy and rule of law	Agricult ure and food security	Ener gy	Econo my and public financ es	Educati on and training	Industry and competit iveness	Resear ch and innovati on	Tra de	Digital transforma tion
EU 27	33	33	29	25	21	20	18	18	17	15	13	11	8	6	5
BE	34	32	31	23	19	20	15	19	17	17	14	7	6	5	4
BG	22	22	27	21	31	27	23	18	16	20	25	11	5	5	3
CZ	17	45	33	30	17	13	12	21	28	13	6	13	7	6	4
DK	45	25	32	34	14	13	24	13	16	9	9	10	8	10	7
DE	36	35	31	24	16	15	23	12	15	9	16	16	8	6	9
EE	11	32	52	46	11	22	10	20	22	19	9	18	7	4	2
IE	30	41	22	32	23	21	16	16	18	19	10	5	6	7	3
EL	28	31	25	14	28	23	27	18	21	28	12	8	6	6	3
ES	35	35	22	23	24	26	18	19	11	17	14	10	11	5	5
FR	34	36	31	19	20	16	15	27	19	17	14	12	6	5	4
HR	28	32	29	24	23	24	19	33	19	19	11	10	5	5	3
IT	40	27	20	29	26	26	15	13	18	17	9	8	10	6	6
CY	30	50	32	12	24	19	20	11	10	31	14	6	6	5	4
LV	12	25	45	41	18	27	10	17	15	19	12	15	6	6	2
LT	18	32	51	48	14	20	13	10	14	18	9	8	5	4	2
LU	37	31	38	19	13	30	21	13	16	11	18	11	12	2	5
HU	29	19	26	18	25	25	28	22	18	12	17	12	9	5	5
MT	48	41	23	23	19	20	16	21	20	18	15	7	6	5	4
NL	41	37	34	30	16	17	16	17	16	11	13	5	3	5	8
AT	33	41	26	19	23	18	19	17	15	11	14	14	10	5	6
PL	25	41	38	30	15	16	15	22	22	15	6	8	5	4	4
PT	32	39	37	29	24	31	15	14	10	17	14	7	6	4	3
RO	24	17	36	21	26	23	23	23	18	19	16	8	9	7	6
SI	28	36	23	18	29	27	17	32	18	17	7	11	6	6	4
SK	23	24	27	19	25	26	20	31	22	17	9	12	10	6	3
FI	29	17	45	42	15	21	22	18	11	18	8	13	7	5	3
SE	39	31	33	37	14	19	22	11	16	13	8	8	9	9	3

Note: Responses 'Other', 'None', 'Don't know' not shown. (%) Base: n=25 658 – All respondents

Socio-demographic considerations

Women (23%) are more likely than men (18%) to think the EU should prioritise public health. A similar pattern is seen for environment and climate change (35% vs 31% of men), security and defence (31% vs 28%), and jobs, social equality and skills (21% vs 19%). Men, on the other hand, are more likely than women to think the EU should prioritise energy (20% vs 14% of women), industry and competitiveness (12% vs 9%), research and innovation (9% vs 6%), trade (7% vs 5%) and digital transformation (6% vs 4%).

There is also some variation across age groups. The older the respondents, the more likely they are to think the EU should prioritise irregular migration: 39% of those age 55 or above share this view, compared to 23% of those aged 15- 24. Similar differences are observed, for example, for security and defence, the war in Ukraine, democracy and the rule of law, and agriculture and food security. In contrast, respondents aged 15-24 (10%) are somewhat more likely to think that the EU should prioritise education and training (vs 7% of those aged 55 or above). A similar pattern is observed for research and innovation, trade and digital transformation.

Differences across levels of education are limited and do not show a clear pattern.

3. Perceived global challenges for the future of the EU

Respondents were also presented with a list of ten global challenges, and they were asked which of these (they could select up to three) are the most important for the future of the EU.

More than four in ten respondents (44%) consider conflicts in the world to be one of the main global challenges for the future of the EU. This is closely followed by climate change and environmental issues (selected by 42% of respondents) and irregular migration (40%).

Between one in five and one in four respondents think that the main global challenges for the future of the EU are terrorism (27%), breakdown in global relations between countries (25%), cyber and hybrid threats and new forms of conflicts (23%) and risk that the EU will lose its economic independence (22%).

Small shares select organised crime (17%), the decline of the proportion of the European population in the world (14%) and the risks arising from new technologies (11%) as main global challenges for the future of the EU.

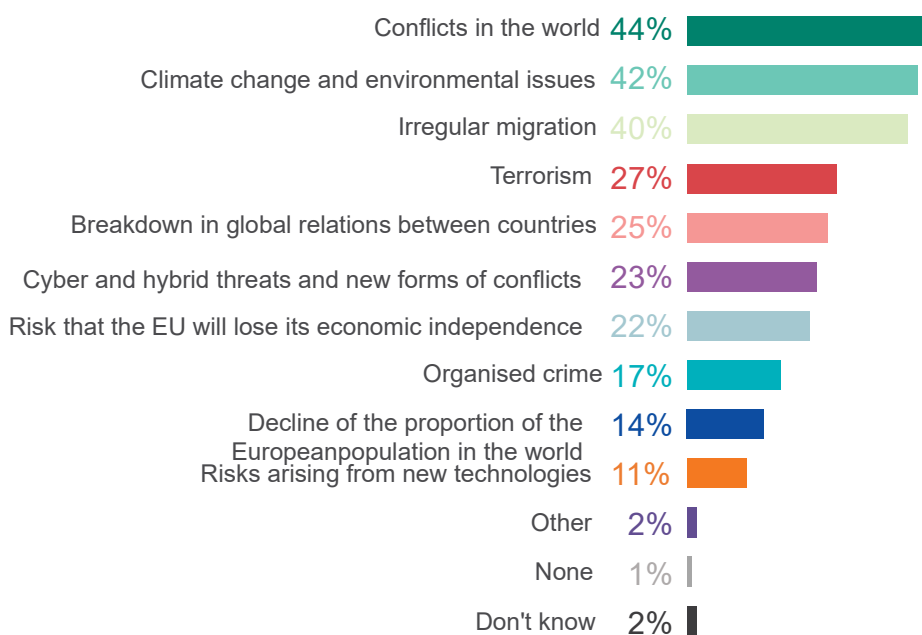
Individual country results

In 14 Member States, conflicts in the world is the (joint) most-selected global challenge for the future of the EU. Conflicts in the world is selected by more than half of respondents in Lithuania and Portugal (both 55%), as well as in Finland and Luxembourg (both 52%). In contrast, 37% of respondents identify this challenge in Czechia and Bulgaria.

In six Member States, respondents are most likely to consider climate change and environmental issues as one of the main global challenges for the future of the EU. In France and Spain, this is the joint top-ranking challenge. At least half of respondents select this challenge in Malta (59%), Italy (51%) and the Netherlands (50%), compared to just about one in four respondents in Latvia (24%) and Estonia (26%).

In ten Member States, irregular migration is the (joint) most-selected global challenge for the future of the EU. Cyprus (60%) has the highest share of respondents selecting irregular

Q5 Which of the following do you think are the main global challenges for the future of the EU? Please select up to three answers. [MULTIPLE ANSWERS]



(%) Base: n=25 658 – All respondents

migration, followed – at a distance – by Malta (52%), Czechia (52%) and Poland (50%). Finland is found at the bottom of the country ranking, with 23% of respondents selecting this challenge.

There is also a variation in the proportion of respondents replying that terrorism is one of the global challenges for the future of the EU, selected by between 17% of respondents in Italy and 34% in Sweden. Similarly, there is a notable variation for breakdown of global relations between countries (between 16% in Slovenia and 40% in Estonia and Lithuania) and cyber and hybrid threats and new forms of conflicts (between 11% in Greece and 42% in Denmark). Somewhat lower figures are observed for the risk that the EU will lose its economic independence, mentioned by between 12% of respondents in Denmark and 32% in Bulgaria.

Sweden stands out with the 41% of respondents identifying organised crime as one of the main global challenges for the future of the EU. In the other Member States, the proportion selecting this challenge ranges from 9% in Cyprus and Lithuania to 23% in Croatia and Finland.

Across all Member States, not more than a quarter of respondents think that one of the global challenges for the future of the EU is the decline of the proportion of the European population in the world (from 5% in the Netherlands to 25% in Greece). Finally, between 5% of respondents in Cyprus and Lithuania, and 15% in the Netherlands see the risks arising from new technologies as a main global challenge for the future of the EU.

Q5 Which of the following do you think are the main global challenges for the future of the EU? Please select up to three answers. [MULTIPLE ANSWERS]

	Climate change and environmental issues	Irregular migration	Terrorism	Breakdown in global relations between countries	Cyber and hybrid threats and new forms of conflicts	Risk that the EU will lose its economic independence	Organised crime	Decline of the proportion of the European population in the world	Risks arising from new technologies	Climate change and environmental issues
EU27	44	42	40	27	25	23	22	17	14	11
BE	44	40	34	29	20	26	22	22	9	13
BG	37	28	40	27	33	23	32	17	23	9
CZ	37	28	52	31	22	22	26	14	16	10
DK	42	48	31	25	24	42	12	21	11	12
DE	44	43	39	28	27	23	23	20	9	9
EE	47	26	45	24	40	31	26	11	22	9
IE	48	43	44	25	31	23	18	17	11	9
EL	41	38	41	30	33	11	26	16	25	9
ES	43	43	42	26	26	24	22	15	14	13
FR	40	40	40	32	24	26	26	17	13	10
HR	42	36	42	31	27	18	28	23	21	9
IT	48	51	39	17	28	18	19	12	16	14
CY	42	36	60	33	34	13	29	9	15	5
LV	50	24	33	20	30	36	21	13	21	11
LT	55	30	39	25	40	29	16	9	20	5
LU	52	42	37	24	29	21	30	20	6	9
HU	39	44	30	26	27	22	26	16	24	10
MT	50	59	52	19	21	16	16	19	18	8
NL	49	50	32	28	17	29	19	16	5	15
AT	39	39	43	27	24	19	27	20	14	11
PL	45	34	50	27	25	27	18	11	17	11
PT	55	44	47	31	23	22	21	15	16	7
RO	47	32	33	32	23	23	23	22	20	8
SI	40	38	49	25	16	28	30	20	17	10
SK	38	35	42	24	24	28	29	13	18	13
FI	52	41	23	31	22	34	23	23	13	8
SE	43	45	30	34	21	20	13	41	7	11

Note: Responses 'Other', 'None', 'Don't know' not shown.

(%) Base: n=25 658 – All respondents

Socio-demographic considerations

There are small differences between men and women in their perceptions about the global challenges for the future of the EU. Women (46%) are somewhat more likely than men (42%) to mention world conflicts, while men (42%) are more likely than women (38%) to see irregular migration as one of the main global challenges for the future of the EU.

Respondents aged 55 or above (45%) and those aged 40-54 (41%) are more likely than those aged 15-24 (30%) or aged 25-39 (34%) to mention irregular migration as one of the main global challenges for the future of the EU. Additionally, respondents aged 55 or above (26%) are more likely than younger respondents (20%-23%) to mention cyber and hybrid threats and new forms of conflicts.

When looking at differences across the level of education, it emerges that lower educated respondents (those who left education aged 15 or younger) (34%) are the least likely to consider irregular migration as one of the main challenges for the future of the EU (vs. 41%-43% of those who left education aged 16-19 or aged 20 or above).

4. Democracy in the EU

This chapter delves into EU citizens' perceptions of the key threats facing democracy within the EU. It further examines citizens' outlook on the strength and resilience of EU democracy over the next five years.

4.1. Perceived threats to democracy in the EU

Respondents were asked to select the most serious threats to democracy in the EU. They could select up to three threats from a list of ten.

The two threats mentioned most frequently by respondents are growing distrust and scepticism towards democratic institutions (36%) and false and/or misleading information in general circulating online and offline (34%). These threats are followed by propaganda and false and/or misleading information from a non-democratic foreign source (31%), covert foreign interference in the politics and economy of [their] country, including through financing of domestic actors (30%) and lack of engagement

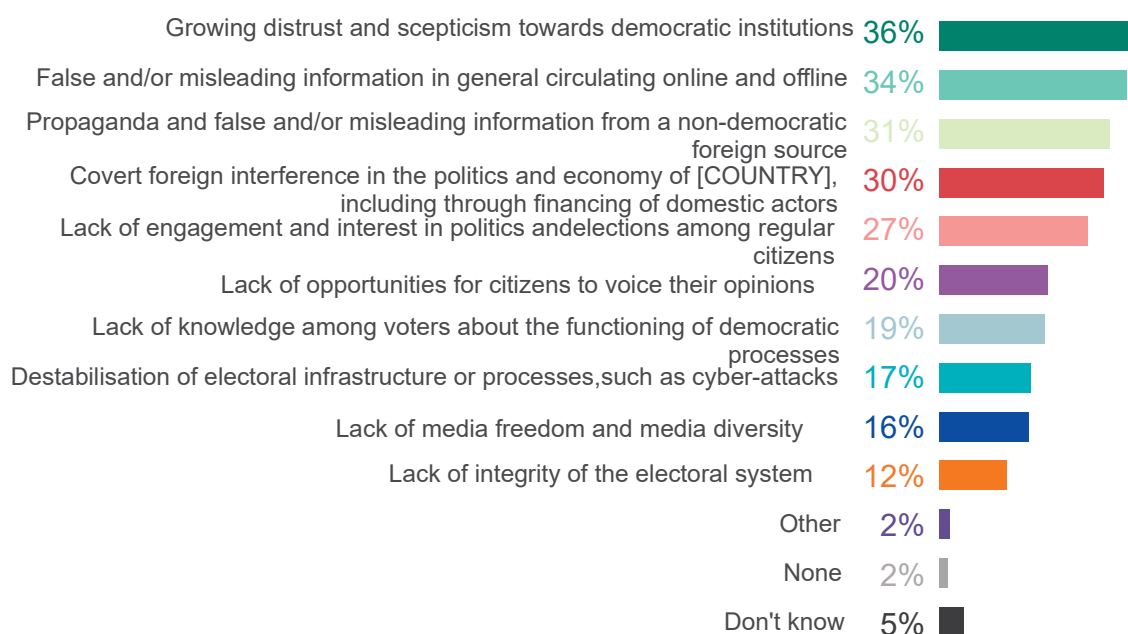
and interest in politics and elections among regular citizens (27%).

Lack of opportunities for citizens to voice their opinions (20%) and lack of knowledge among voters about the functioning of democratic processes (19%) are each cited by about one in five respondents.

Finally, the smallest shares mention as threats the destabilisation of electoral infrastructure or processes, such as via cyber-attacks (17%), lack of media freedom and media diversity (16%) and lack of integrity of the electoral system (12%).

Just a handful of respondents (2%) reply that none of the threats listed in the survey constitute a serious threat to democracy in the EU.

Q7 In your view, which of the following are the most serious threats to democracy in the EU? Please select up to three answers. [MULTIPLE ANSWERS]



(%) Base: n=25 658 – All respondents

Individual country results

Growing distrust and scepticism towards democratic institutions ranks first as one of the most serious threats to democracy in the EU in ten Member States. In Estonia and the Netherlands, it is the joint highest-ranking threat. In Luxembourg, close to half of respondents (47%) cite this threat, in contrast with about a quarter of respondents in Hungary (24%) and Sweden (26%).

False and/or misleading information in general circulating online and offline is the (joint) most-selected threat to democracy in the EU in 11 Member States. The share of respondents choosing this threat is the highest in Malta (46%), Slovakia (45%) and Ireland (43%) and the lowest in Italy (25%) and Bulgaria (26%).

Propaganda and false and/or misleading information from a non-democratic foreign source ranks first in Lithuania (50%). In another four Member States, this threat is the joint highest ranking one – e.g. in Estonia (41%) and Poland (37%). The share selecting this threat is lowest in Cyprus (20%), Greece (23%) and Italy (23%).

Covert foreign interference in the politics and economy of [their] country, including through financing of domestic actors is the most-selected threat in Bulgaria (49%), Latvia (40%) and Belgium (33%). In the other Member States, the share selecting this threat varies between 23% in Malta and 38% in Slovenia.

Lack of engagement and interest in politics and elections among regular citizens ranks first in Greece (41%). This threat is also identified by 40% of respondents in Portugal, in contrast with 17% of respondents in Hungary.

The share of respondents mentioning a lack of opportunities for citizens to voice their opinions as one of the most serious threats to democracy in the EU is the highest in Italy (26%) and the lowest in Lithuania (12%).

Lack of knowledge among voters about the functioning of democratic processes is mentioned by close to three in ten respondents in Malta (29%) and Luxembourg (28%), while only just above one in ten respondents (12%) do so in Slovenia.

In all Member States, less than a quarter of respondents select destabilisation of electoral infrastructure or processes, such as cyber-attacks as a threat, ranging from less than one in ten respondents in Latvia (7%) and Malta (8%) to about two in ten respondents in Germany (20%) and Denmark (22%).

Lack of media freedom and media diversity and lack of integrity of the electoral system are each mentioned by no more than a quarter of respondents across all Member States.

Q7 In your view, which of the following are the most serious threats to democracy in the EU? Please select up to three answers. [MULTIPLE ANSWERS]

	Growing distrust and scepticism towards democratic institutions	False and/or misleading information in general circulating online and offline	Propaganda and false and/or misleading information from a non-democratic foreign source	Covert foreign interference in the politics and economy of COUNTRY], incl. through financing of domestic actors	Lack of engagement and interest in politics and elections among regular citizens	Lack of opportunities for citizens to voice their opinions	Lack of knowledge among voters about the functioning of democratic processes	Destabilisation of electoral infrastructure or processes, such as cyber-attacks	Lack of media freedom and media diversity	Lack of integrity of the electoral system
EU27	36	34	31	30	27	20	19	17	16	12
BE	28	31	29	33	23	21	20	18	15	13
BG	41	26	25	49	29	21	17	14	18	22
CZ	35	36	27	33	20	22	15	17	16	7
DK	32	35	35	28	26	18	18	22	12	8
DE	39	35	34	30	21	21	22	20	12	8
EE	41	39	41	34	32	18	16	11	13	20
IE	29	43	36	29	26	20	24	19	15	12
EL	37	27	23	28	41	19	23	11	26	18
ES	42	37	29	28	27	14	17	16	21	15
FR	27	32	32	30	31	22	20	18	13	13
HR	38	35	25	35	37	24	27	11	17	13
IT	42	25	23	27	36	26	16	14	20	11
CY	42	28	20	26	35	23	26	9	18	17
LV	37	31	36	40	38	19	17	7	15	6
LT	34	35	50	33	30	12	15	15	11	13
LU	47	42	32	27	31	18	28	10	11	5
HU	24	42	30	31	17	19	18	11	26	26
MT	37	46	29	23	32	23	29	8	17	13
NL	39	39	33	33	20	13	17	19	12	7
AT	40	37	32	27	23	25	26	14	14	9
PL	34	37	37	30	22	17	17	18	20	19
PT	44	36	30	31	40	16	23	15	14	11
RO	41	39	34	27	20	16	26	17	16	15
SI	44	37	28	38	24	21	12	13	25	13
SK	33	45	38	37	19	20	15	13	21	9
FI	37	40	38	25	33	14	13	18	14	8
SE	26	40	36	30	25	18	21	15	17	9

Note: Responses 'Other', 'None', 'Don't know' not shown. (%) Base: n=25 658 – All respondents

Socio-demographic considerations

When asked which threats to democracy in the EU are most serious, men are more likely than women to mention propaganda and false and/or misleading information from a non-democratic foreign source (33% vs 29%), covert foreign interference in the politics and economy of [their] country, including through financing of domestic actors (31% vs 29%), destabilisation of electoral infrastructure or processes, such as cyber- attacks (18% vs 15%) and lack of media freedom and media diversity (17% vs 15%).

Respondents aged 55 or older are more likely than younger respondents to select the threats of growing distrust and scepticism towards democratic institutions (41% vs 31%-36%), false and/or misleading information in general circulating online and offline (37% vs 32%-33%), propaganda and false and/or misleading information from a non-democratic foreign source (34% vs 29%), and covert foreign interference in the politics and economy of [their] country, including through financing of domestic actors (34% vs 23%-28%).

Respondents who have completed their education aged of 20 or older (38%) are somewhat more likely than lower educated respondents (31%-36%) to reply that one of the most serious threats to democracy is growing distrust and scepticism towards democratic institutions. However, they are less likely to mention a lack of opportunities for citizens to voice their opinions (20% vs 22%-23%).

4.2. Expected strength of the EU's democracy

Over half of respondents (55%) express confidence in the strength of the EU's democracy in the next five years (10% feel 'very confident' and 45% 'somewhat confident'). In contrast, about four in ten respondents answer that they are not confident about the strength of the EU's democracy (28% are 'somewhat unconfident' and 13% 'very unconfident').

Individual country results

There is a large variation across the Member States in the proportion of respondents having confidence in the strength of the EU's democracy in the next five years. In Lithuania, more than three-quarters of respondents report being confident (18% are 'very confident' and 58% 'somewhat confident'). In Slovenia, on the other hand, only about half as many respondents (37%) express confidence in the EU's democracy. In Romania, 21% of respondents feel 'very confident' about the strength of the EU's democracy; in Bulgaria, on the other hand, 21% report being 'very unconfident'.

Men (59%) are more likely than women (52%) to express confidence in the strength of the EU's democracy in the next five years.

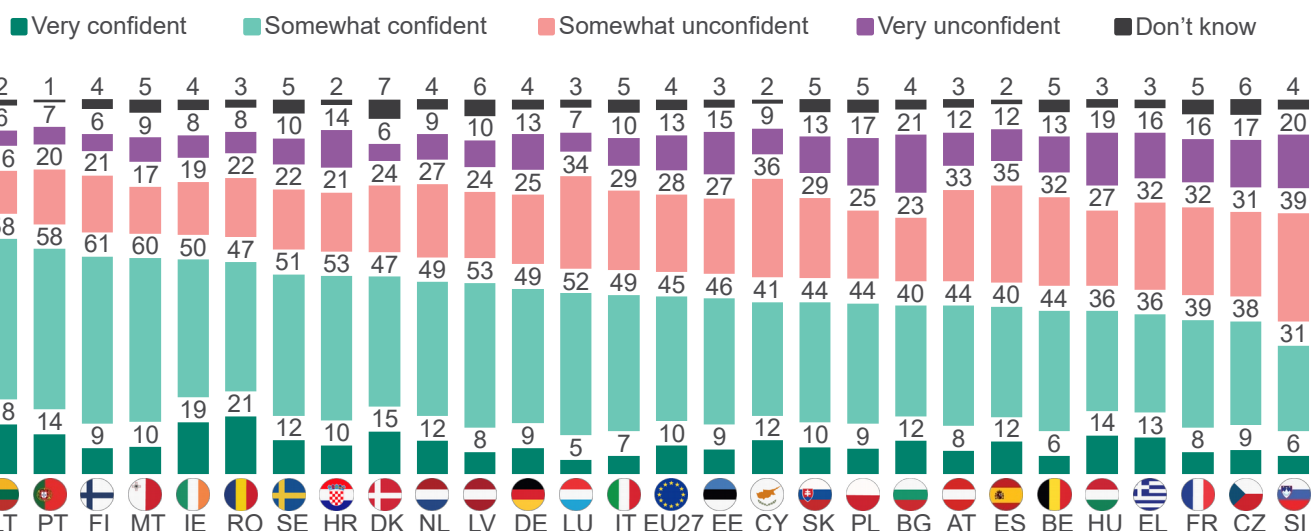
Respondents aged 40-54 are the least likely to report being confident about the EU's democracy (52% vs 55%-58% in other age groups).

The share of respondents reporting to be confident about the strength of the EU's democracy is higher among respondents who completed their education aged 20 or older (58%) than among lower educated respondents (53%).

While 79% of respondents who are optimistic about the future of the EU are also confident about the strength of the EU's democracy in the next five years, this share is just 22% for respondents who are pessimistic about the EU's future.

Socio-demographic considerations

Q8 How confident are you in the strength of the EU's democracy in the next five years?



(%) Base: n=25 658 – All respondents

5. Outlook for the EU: economy and security

This chapter examines EU citizens' confidence in the future performance of the EU's economy in the next five years and their level of concern about the EU's security in the next five years.

(41%) and Slovenia (42%). The largest share of respondents reporting to be 'very unconfident', however, is observed in Czechia (26%).

5.1. Confidence in the EU's economy

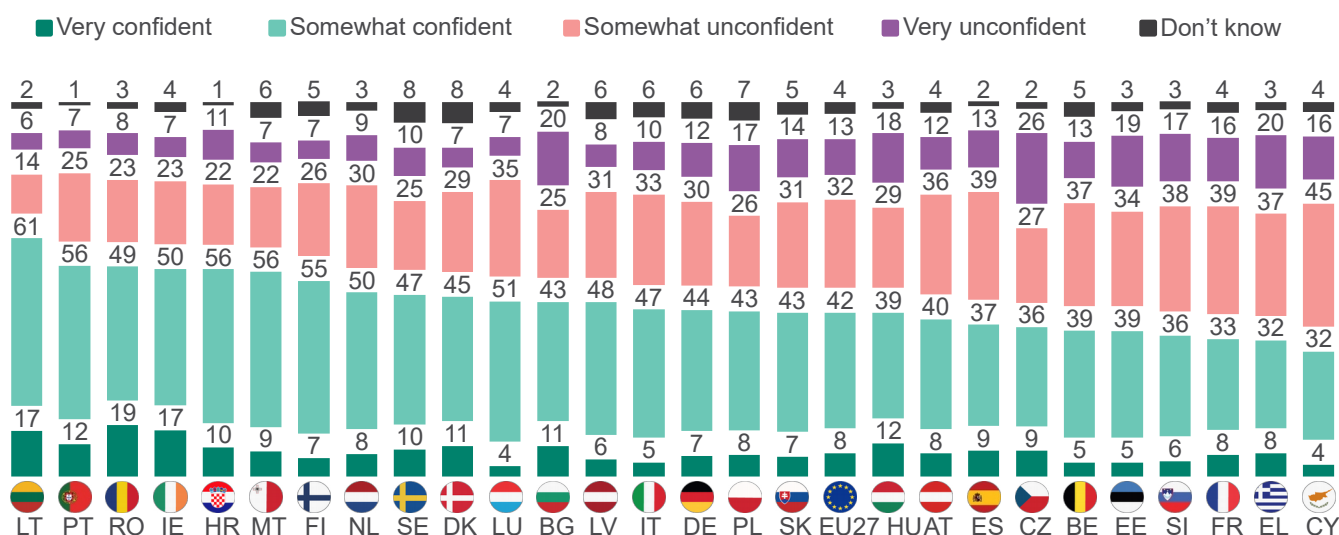
One in two respondents feel confident about the performance of the EU's economy in the next five years (8% feel 'very confident' and 42% 'somewhat confident'). More than four in ten respondents, on the other hand, do not feel confident about the EU's economic performance (32% are 'somewhat unconfident' and 13% 'very unconfident').

Individual country results

In 18 Member States, at least half of respondents feel 'very' or 'somewhat' confident about the performance of the EU's economy in the next five years. Lithuania stands out with more than three-quarters of respondents being confident about the EU's economy (17% are 'very confident' and 61% 'somewhat confident').

In contrast, confidence about the performance of the EU's economy is lowest in Cyprus (36%). Other Member States at the lower end of the country ranking include Greece (40%), France

Q9 How confident are you in the performance of the EU's economy in the next five years?



(%) Base: n=25 658 – All respondents

Socio-demographic considerations

The socio-demographic analysis shows that men (54%) are more likely than women (47%) to feel confident about the performance of the EU's economy in the next five years.

Respondents aged 40-54 (47%) show a lower level of confidence about the performance of the EU's economy in the next five years, compared to those aged 15-24 or aged 25-39 (both 52%) and then those aged 55 or above (51%).

Highly educated respondents (those who completed education aged 20 or older) (54%) tend to be more confident about the EU's economy in the next five years compared to those who left school aged 16-19 (47%); the corresponding figure for those who left school aged 15 or younger is 50%.

About three-quarters of respondents who are optimistic about the future of the EU (74%) are also confident about the performance of the EU's economy in the next five years; among those pessimistic about the EU's future, however, just 19% express confidence in the EU's economy.

5.2. Concerns about the EU's security

More than six in ten respondents (64%) are concerned about the EU's security in the next five years (17% are 'very concerned' and 47% 'somewhat concerned'). On the other hand, about one in three respondents indicate they are not concerned about the EU's security in the next five years (26% are 'not very concerned' and 6% 'not concerned at all').

Individual country results

In all but one Member State (Sweden), more than half of respondents are 'very' or 'somewhat' concerned about the EU's security in the next five years. The overall highest level of concern is observed in Portugal (77%). In Sweden, on the other hand, less than half of respondents express concern (10% are 'very concerned' and 37% 'somewhat concerned'). The highest shares of respondents feeling 'very concerned' about the EU's security are observed in Latvia (28%), followed by Czechia (24%), France (23%) and Poland (23%). In contrast, the share of respondents feeling 'not at all concerned' remains below 10% in all Member States (from 3% in Luxembourg and Portugal to 9% in Hungary and Sweden).

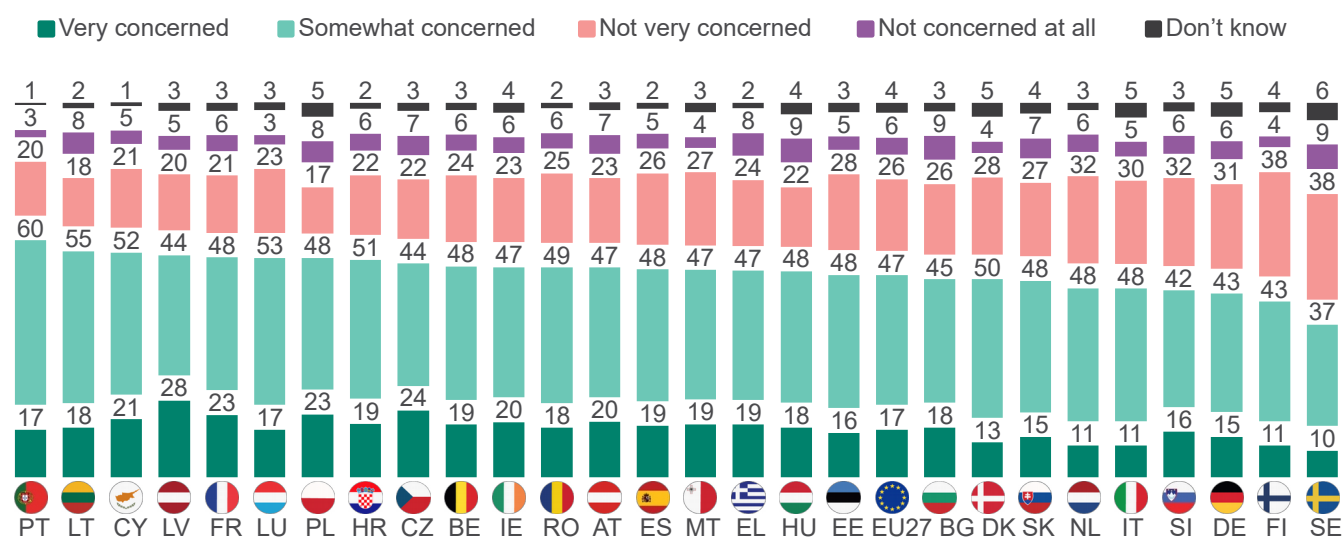
Socio-demographic considerations

Women (66%) are slightly more likely than men (63%) to express concern about the EU's security in the next five years.

Younger respondents (aged 15-24) (56%) are less likely to be concerned about the EU's security in the next five years compared to respondents in older age groups (64%-67%).

Respondents who are pessimistic about the future of the EU (67%) are somewhat more likely to be concerned about the EU's security in the next five years than respondents who are optimistic about the future of the EU (63%).

Q10 How concerned are you about the EU's security in the next five years?



(%) Base: n=25 658 – All respondents

6. Values best embodied by the EU

Respondents were asked to consider whether certain values are best embodied by the EU, other countries in the world, or both equally.

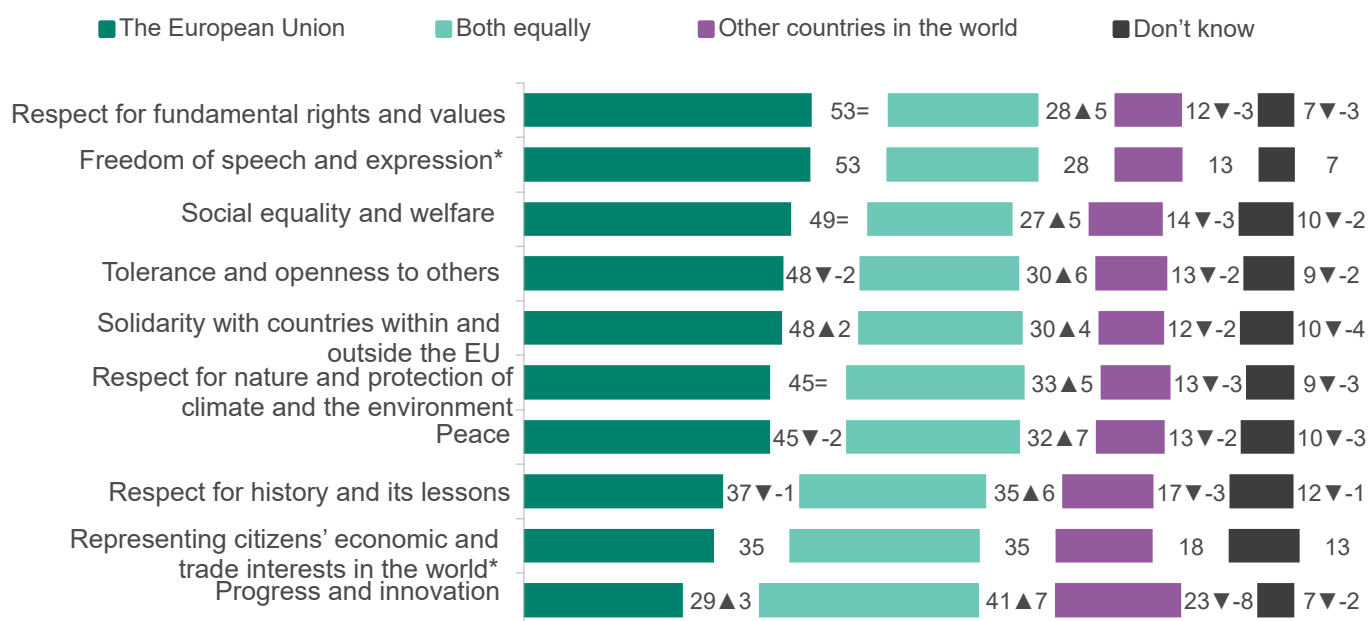
A majority of respondents reply that respect for fundamental rights and values (53%) and freedom of speech and expression (53%) are values best embodied by the EU – in comparison with other countries. Moreover, about one in two respondents select this response for social equality and welfare (49%), tolerance and openness to others (48%) and solidarity with countries within and outside the EU (48%).

More than four in ten respondents answer that respect for nature and protection of climate and the environment (45%) and peace (45%) are best embodied by the EU in comparison with other countries. Lower proportions are observed for respect for history and its lessons (37% 'best embodied by the EU') and

Finally, when it comes to progress and innovation, just 29% of respondents answer that the EU best embodies this value, while 23% state that it is better represented by other countries in the world; 41% of respondents answer that the EU and other (groups of) countries embody progress and innovation equally.

Compared to August 2023 (Flash Eurobarometer 533),² the percentage of respondents who believe the EU best embodies tolerance and openness to others and peace has decreased. In contrast, the perception of the EU best embodying solidarity has increased, indicating a positive trend. Additionally, there is an increase in those who view the EU as best representing progress and innovation.

Q3 For each of these values, do you think they are best embodied by the EU, by other countries (or groups of countries) in the world or by both equally?



(%) Base: n=25 658 – All respondents

▼ ▲ Evolution 2024-2023

* Item not asked in 2023

representing citizens' economic and trade interests in the world (35%).

2

See:

<https://europa.eu/eurobarometer/surveys/detail/3092>

Individual country results

In 17 Member States, at least 50% of respondents share the view that respect for fundamental rights and values is best embodied by the EU compared to other countries. This view is most frequently expressed in Luxembourg (75%) and Finland (68%), while the lowest shares are seen in Bulgaria (36%) and Hungary (38%). In nine Member States, respect for fundamental rights and values is the (joint) highest-ranking value.

Similarly, in 17 Member States, more than 50% of respondents believe that the EU best embodies the value of freedom of speech and expression, from 51% in Croatia and Denmark to 72% in Luxembourg. In some countries, the proportion holding this view is lower, ranging from 35% in Bulgaria to 50% in Cyprus. Freedom of speech and expression is the (joint) highest-ranking value in 12 Member States.

Luxembourg (74%) and Finland (69%) have the highest shares of respondents indicating that the EU best embodies social equality and welfare. Conversely, the lowest proportions sharing this view are observed in Bulgaria (34%) and Czechia (35%).

The proportion selecting tolerance and openness to others the EU as being best embodied by the EU ranges from 34% in Czechia to 66% in Luxembourg.

Between 37% of respondents in Bulgaria and Denmark and 62% in Slovenia reply that solidarity with countries within and outside the EU is best embodied by the EU.

In seven Member States, a majority of respondents think that respect for nature and protection of climate and the environment is best embodied by the EU. This applies, for instance, to Finland (62%) and Estonia (60%). Hungary (33%) has the lowest share of respondents replying that this value is best embodied by the EU.

In six Member States, at least half of respondents share the view that peace is best embodied by the EU in comparison to other countries. The share of respondents replying that this value is best embodied by the EU

varies between 28% in Bulgaria and 68% in Luxembourg.

Smaller proportions think that respect for history and its lessons is best embodied by the EU, ranging from 26% in Hungary to 48% in Portugal. Similar shares are observed for representing citizens' economic and trade interests in the world (from 29% in France, Greece and Italy to 48% in Ireland and Luxembourg).

In line with the EU average results, across all countries, the smallest share of respondents reply that the EU best embodies progress and innovation compared to other countries (from 21% in Luxembourg to 39% in Portugal). In eight Member States, the proportion of respondents answering that the EU best embodies the value of progress and innovation has significantly increased compared to August 2023 (Flash Eurobarometer 533).

Socio-demographic considerations

For all of the values presented in this survey, men are more likely than women to think that the EU best embodies these; for example, 55% of men, compared to 51% of women, reply that the EU best embodies respect for fundamental rights and values in comparison with other countries.

The youngest (aged 15-24) and oldest respondents (aged 55 and above) are more likely than respondents aged between 25 and 54 to share the view that the EU best embodies most of the values presented in the survey. For example, 54% of those aged 15-24 and 51% of those aged 55 and above, compared to 45%-48% of those aged 24-54, answer that the EU best embodies social equality and welfare.

Similarly, when looking at respondents' level of education, for almost all values presented in the survey, higher educated respondents are more likely to answer that these are best embodied by the EU. This applies, for instance, to respect for nature and the protection of climate and the environment (48% of those who completed their education aged 20 or older vs 41% of those who left school aged 15 or younger), social equality and welfare (52% vs 45%), peace (48% vs 40%), respect for fundamental rights and values (55% vs 50%).

Q3 For each of these values, do you think they are best embodied by the EU, by other countries (or groups of countries) in the world or by both equally? **Response 'The European Union'**

	Respect for fundamental rights and values	Freedom of speech and expression	Social equality and welfare	Tolerance and openness to others	Solidarity with countries within and outside the EU	Respect for nature and protection of climate and the environment	Peace	Respect for history and its lessons	Representing citizens' economic and trade interests in the world	Progress and innovation
EU27	53	53	49	48	48	45	45	37	35	29
BE	50	52	49	44	47	41	44	32	35	26
BG	36	35	34	37	37	35	28	28	31	23
CZ	40	36	35	34	38	43	38	28	32	25
DK	48	51	50	39	37	42	38	31	37	31
DE	57	56	51	49	48	45	46	36	35	26
EE	62	62	60	57	53	60	55	42	35	30
IE	49	49	54	50	48	42	49	38	48	36
EL	47	46	42	45	39	38	38	33	29	27
ES	60	56	57	55	52	48	50	44	40	38
FR	50	53	46	43	48	41	46	37	29	23
HR	55	51	51	52	55	49	48	46	40	30
IT	55	55	48	48	49	44	43	44	29	28
CY	48	50	47	47	48	50	44	31	32	27
LV	47	49	46	43	48	47	48	35	33	25
LT	53	55	54	52	46	53	49	39	41	34
LU	75	72	74	66	58	54	68	47	48	21
HU	38	38	38	38	41	33	33	26	33	24
MT	59	58	59	59	47	44	48	44	43	30
NL	54	59	54	45	47	44	43	28	36	33
AT	57	55	55	49	47	47	48	38	33	22
PL	51	47	48	53	48	55	49	31	42	39
PT	63	65	63	63	59	51	59	48	42	37
RO	46	47	39	45	45	44	43	32	39	36
SI	59	60	52	54	62	55	55	40	40	32
SK	40	38	40	37	40	42	35	32	32	26
FI	68	68	69	56	58	62	62	40	39	34
SE	53	56	53	42	44	49	49	33	38	26

Note: Responses 'Other', 'None', 'Don't know' not shown. (%) Base: n=25 658 – All respondents

Technical specifications

Between 25 June and 2 July 2024, Ipsos European Public affairs carried out Flash Eurobarometer 550 at the request of the European Commission, Directorate-General for Communication. It is a general public survey coordinated by the Directorate-General for Communication, 'Media monitoring and Eurobarometer' unit. Flash Eurobarometer 550 covers the population of EU citizens, residents in one of the 27 Member States of the European Union, and aged 15 years and over.

All interviews were carried via Computer-Assisted Web Interviewing (CAWI), using Ipsos online panels and their partner network. Respondents were selected from online access panels, groups of pre-recruited individuals who have agreed to take part in research. Sampling quota were set based on age (15-24 year-olds, 25-34 year-olds, 35-44 year-olds, 45-54 year-

olds, 55-64 year-olds and 65+ year-olds), gender and geographic region (NUTS1, NUTS2 or NUTS 3, depending on the size of the country and the number of NUTS regions).

Margin of error

Survey results are subject to sampling tolerances. The 'margin of error' quantifies uncertainty about (or confidence in) a survey result. As a general rule, the more interviews conducted (sample size), the smaller the margin of error. A sample of 500 will produce a margin of error of not more than 4.4 percentage points, and a sample of 1 000 will produce a margin of error of not more than 3.1 percentage points.

Statistical Margins due to the sampling process

(at the 95% level of confidence)

various sample sizes are in rows

various observed results are in columns

	5%	10%	15%	20%	25%	30%	35%	40%	45%	50%	
	95%	90%	85%	80%	75%	70%	65%	60%	55%	50%	
N=50	6,0	8,3	9,9	11,1	12,0	12,7	13,2	13,6	13,8	13,9	N=50
N=500	1,9	2,6	3,1	3,5	3,8	4,0	4,2	4,3	4,4	4,4	N=500
N=1000	1,4	1,9	2,2	2,5	2,7	2,8	3,0	3,0	3,1	3,1	N=1000
N=1500	1,1	1,5	1,8	2,0	2,2	2,3	2,4	2,5	2,5	2,5	N=1500
N=2000	1,0	1,3	1,6	1,8	1,9	2,0	2,1	2,1	2,2	2,2	N=2000
N=3000	0,8	1,1	1,3	1,4	1,5	1,6	1,7	1,8	1,8	1,8	N=3000
N=4000	0,7	0,9	1,1	1,2	1,3	1,4	1,5	1,5	1,5	1,5	N=4000
N=5000	0,6	0,8	1,0	1,1	1,2	1,3	1,3	1,4	1,4	1,4	N=5000
N=6000	0,6	0,8	0,9	1,0	1,1	1,2	1,2	1,2	1,3	1,3	N=6000
N=7000	0,5	0,7	0,8	0,9	1,0	1,1	1,1	1,1	1,2	1,2	N=7000
N=7500	0,5	0,7	0,8	0,9	1,0	1,0	1,1	1,1	1,1	1,1	N=7500
N=8000	0,5	0,7	0,8	0,9	0,9	1,0	1,0	1,1	1,1	1,1	N=8000
N=9000	0,5	0,6	0,7	0,8	0,9	0,9	1,0	1,0	1,0	1,0	N=9000
N=10000	0,4	0,6	0,7	0,8	0,8	0,9	0,9	1,0	1,0	1,0	N=10000
N=11000	0,4	0,6	0,7	0,7	0,8	0,9	0,9	0,9	0,9	0,9	N=11000
N=12000	0,4	0,5	0,6	0,7	0,8	0,8	0,9	0,9	0,9	0,9	N=12000
N=13000	0,4	0,5	0,6	0,7	0,7	0,8	0,8	0,8	0,9	0,9	N=13000
N=14000	0,4	0,5	0,6	0,7	0,7	0,8	0,8	0,8	0,8	0,8	N=14000
N=15000	0,3	0,5	0,6	0,6	0,7	0,7	0,8	0,8	0,8	0,8	N=15000
	5%	10%	15%	20%	25%	30%	35%	40%	45%	50%	
	95%	90%	85%	80%	75%	70%	65%	60%	55%	50%	

	Number of interviews	fieldwork dates	Population 15+ (absolute number)	Population 15+ (as % of EU27 population)
EU27	25658	25.6.2024-2.7.2024	381995912	100,00 %
BE	1015	25.6.2024-1.7.2024	9804276	2.57%
BG	1014	25.6.2024-1.7.2024	5534291	1.45%
CZ	1003	25.6.2024-1.7.2024	9076721	2.38%
DK	1006	25.6.2024-1.7.2024	4985196	1.31%
DE	1000	25.6.2024-1.7.2024	72429868	18.96%
EE	1001	25.6.2024-1.7.2024	1141965	0.30%
IE	1005	25.6.2024-1.7.2024	4251954	1.11%
EL	1005	25.6.2024-2.7.2024	9022623	2.36%
ES	1003	25.6.2024-28.6.2024	41548146	10.88%
FR	1006	25.6.2024-28.6.2024	56395315	14.76%
HR	1009	25.6.2024-1.7.2024	3302096	0.86%
IT	1009	25.6.2024-1.7.2024	51653102	13.52%
CY	506	25.6.2024-1.7.2024	772474	0.20%
LV	1007	25.6.2024-1.7.2024	1582531	0.41%
LT	1005	25.6.2024-1.7.2024	2430152	0.64%
LU	502	25.6.2024-1.7.2024	555994	0.15%
HU	1004	25.6.2024-1.7.2024	8206689	2.15%
MT	505	25.6.2024-2.7.2024	473069	0.12%
NL	1014	25.6.2024-1.7.2024	15083914	3.95%
AT	1004	25.6.2024-1.7.2024	7789728	2.04%
PL	1004	25.6.2024-1.7.2024	31085397	8.14%
PT	1008	25.6.2024-1.7.2024	9116355	2.39%
RO	1004	25.6.2024-1.7.2024	15983170	4.18%
SI	1002	25.6.2024-1.7.2024	1799441	0.47%
SK	1005	25.6.2024-1.7.2024	4555340	1.19%
FI	1002	25.6.2024-1.7.2024	4723642	1.24%
SE	1010	25.6.2024-28.6.2024	8692463	2.28%

Questionnaire

ASK ALL

Q1 Please tell me if you are very optimistic, rather optimistic, rather pessimistic or very pessimistic regarding the future of the European Union (EU)?

(ONE ANSWER ONLY)

Very optimistic	1
Rather optimistic	2
Rather pessimistic	3
Very pessimistic	4
Don't know	998

ASK ALL

Q2 In your opinion, which of the following do you think are the main strengths of the EU? Please select up to three answers.

(MAX. THREE ANSWERS, RANDOMISE 1-10) (CODES 12 & 998 ARE EXCLUSIVE)

The standard of living of EU citizens	1
The social protection systems in the Member States	2
The economic, industrial, and trading power of the EU	3
The EU's respect for democracy, human rights, and the rule of law	4
The skills and talents of EU citizens	5
The EU's ability to deal with irregular migration and integration issues	6
The EU's technological advancements and digital infrastructure	7
The good relationships and solidarity between the EU's Member States	8
The EU's ability to promote peace and democracy outside its borders	9
The EU's commitment to protecting the climate and the environment	10
Other	11
None	12
Don't know	998

ASK ALL

Q3 For each of these values, do you think they are best embodied by the EU, by other countries (or groups of countries) in the world or by both equally?

(ONE ANSWER PER LINE - RANDOMISE STATEMENTS 1-10)

(STATEMENTS)

Q3_1 Respect for nature and protection of climate and the environment

Q3_2 Social equality and welfare

Q3_3 Peace

Q3_4 Progress and innovation

Q3_5 Respect for fundamental rights and values

Q3_6 Tolerance and openness to others

Q3_7 Respect for history and its lessons

Q3_8 Solidarity with countries within and outside the EU

Q3_9 Freedom of speech and expression

Q3_10 Representing citizens' economic and trade interests in the world

(RESPONSE SCALE)

The European Union	1
Other countries in the world	2
Both equally	3
Don't know	998

ASK ALL

Q4 Which of the following do you think are the current main challenges the EU is facing? Please select up to three answers.

(MAX. THREE ANSWERS, RANDOMISE 1-10) (CODES 12 & 998 ARE EXCLUSIVE)

Social inequalities	1
Insufficient economic growth	2
The cost of living	3
The war in Ukraine	4
The conflict in the Middle East	5
Environmental issues and climate change	6
Irregular migration	7
Terrorism and security issues	8
Impact of digital technologies on the society	9
Disinformation and information manipulation	10
Other	11
None	12
Don't know	998

ASK ALL

Q5 Which of the following do you think are the main global challenges for the future of the EU? Please select up to three answers.

(MAX. THREE ANSWERS, RANDOMISE 1-10) (CODES 12 & 998 ARE EXCLUSIVE)

Risks arising from new technologies	1
Climate change and environmental issues	2
Irregular migration	3
Conflicts in the world	4
Terrorism	5
Cyber and hybrid threats and new forms of conflicts	6
Organised crime	7
Breakdown in global relations between countries	8
Decline of the proportion of the European population in the world	9
Risk that the EU will lose its economic independence	10
Other	11
None	12
Don't know	998

ASK ALL

Q6 Which of the following areas do you think the EU should address as a priority? Please select up to three answers.

(MAX. THREE ANSWERS, RANDOMISE 1-15) (CODES 17 & 998 ARE EXCLUSIVE)

Irregular migration	1
The war in Ukraine	2
Security and defence	3
Economy and public finances	4
Industry and competitiveness	5
Agriculture and food security	6
Environment and climate change	7
Education and training	8
Jobs, social equality and skills	9
Energy	10
Trade	11
Research and innovation	12
Digital transformation	13
Public health	14
Democracy and rule of law	15
Other	16
None	17
Don't know	998

ASK ALL

Q7 In your view, which of the following are the most serious threats to democracy in the EU? Please select up to three answers.

(MAX. THREE ANSWERS, RANDOMISE 1-10) (CODES 12 & 998 ARE EXCLUSIVE)

False and/or misleading information in general circulating online and offline	1
Propaganda and false and/or misleading information from a non-democratic foreign source	2
Destabilisation of electoral infrastructure or processes, such as cyber-attacks	3
Covert foreign interference in the politics and economy of [COUNTRY], including through financing of domestic actors	4
Lack of engagement and interest in politics and elections among regular citizens	5
Lack of opportunities for citizens to voice their opinions	6
Lack of integrity of the electoral system	7
Lack of media freedom and media diversity	8
Growing distrust and scepticism towards democratic institutions	9
Lack of knowledge among voters about the functioning of democratic processes	10
Other	11
None	12
Don't know	998

ASK ALL

Q8 How confident are you in the strength of the EU's democracy in the next five years?

(ONE ANSWER ONLY)

Very confident	1
Somewhat confident	2
Somewhat unconfident	3
Very unconfident	4
Don't know	998

ASK ALL

Q9 How confident are you in the performance of the EU's economy in the next five years?

(ONE ANSWER ONLY)

Very confident	1
Somewhat confident	2
Somewhat unconfident	3
Very unconfident	4
Don't know	998

ASK ALL

Q10 How concerned are you about the EU's security in the next five years?

(ONE ANSWER ONLY)

Very concerned	1
Somewhat concerned	2
Not very concerned	3
Not concerned at all	4
Don't know	998

Data annex

Q1 Please tell me if you are very optimistic, rather optimistic, rather pessimistic or very pessimistic regarding the future of the European Union (EU)?

	Very optimistic	Rather optimistic	Rather pessimistic	Very pessimistic	Don't know
EU27	11	47	28	9	5
BE	7	46	32	9	6
BG	12	46	29	11	2
CZ	7	38	34	18	4
DK	16	56	17	7	5
DE	10	46	28	11	6
EE	7	58	22	8	6
IE	22	46	19	7	7
EL	11	37	33	17	2
ES	12	54	25	4	6
FR	9	32	40	13	6
HR	17	52	22	7	2
IT	8	52	27	8	5
CY	8	51	29	8	3
LV	11	57	23	4	6
LT	14	60	16	4	6
LU	4	55	31	5	5
HU	9	39	34	12	6
MT	13	61	16	6	5
NL	6	57	26	5	7
AT	9	42	32	12	5
PL	13	48	21	13	6
PT	10	64	20	3	4
RO	26	47	21	4	3
SI	12	53	25	6	4
SK	13	52	24	8	4
FI	7	58	23	5	7
SE	10	53	24	8	6

Flash Eurobarometer 550 – EU challenges and priorities / fieldwork: 25/6/2024-2/7/2024 %, Base (EU27): n=25 658 – All respondents

Q2 In your opinion, which of the following do you think are the main strengths of the EU? Please select up to three answers. [MULTIPLE ANSWERS]

	The EU's respect for democracy, human rights, and the rule of law	The economic, industrial, and trading power of the EU	The good relationships and solidarity between the EU's Member States	The standard of living of EU citizens	The EU's commitment to protecting the climate and the environment	The EU's ability to promote peace and democracy outside its borders	The social protection systems in the Member States	The EU's technological advancements and digital infrastructure	The EU's ability to deal with irregular migration and integration issues	The skills and talents of EU citizens	Other	None	Don't know
EU27	38	34	28	23	23	21	16	15	11	10	2	10	4
BE	32	32	26	24	22	22	19	12	16	11	2	9	5
BG	35	30	28	38	20	14	19	19	8	10	1	11	4
CZ	26	30	28	25	17	21	12	14	13	8	2	14	4
DK	43	34	24	21	37	21	10	14	21	10	1	6	5
DE	38	34	30	22	20	22	17	12	8	8	2	13	3
EE	41	39	39	30	10	14	11	22	8	13	2	8	4
IE	37	39	36	29	20	17	20	13	10	16	1	4	3
EL	41	26	30	29	18	18	17	17	9	9	1	14	1
ES	43	39	29	26	22	20	25	15	11	11	2	5	3
FR	35	36	27	17	23	24	13	11	11	12	1	13	5
HR	35	41	31	38	20	13	19	20	12	11	1	8	2
IT	40	27	23	15	25	20	16	15	8	13	1	12	4
CY	43	29	31	27	22	17	21	16	7	9	1	10	2
LV	35	31	33	29	19	15	17	18	7	9	2	9	4
LT	36	40	30	30	21	24	14	23	10	9	1	6	3
LU	51	39	29	26	15	26	20	11	7	5	2	6	4
HU	37	38	20	19	23	17	14	21	6	12	2	11	5
MT	40	34	36	31	29	13	16	23	8	14	2	4	2
NL	31	41	28	21	33	20	10	15	23	6	3	7	4
AT	35	32	25	30	23	20	13	13	10	7	2	13	2
PL	35	32	23	36	25	21	13	24	9	8	1	8	4
PT	55	34	38	26	28	23	19	14	12	11	1	3	2
RO	35	37	28	30	23	19	15	19	9	11	2	8	2
SI	37	43	31	31	19	16	20	21	14	8	2	7	2
SK	35	36	34	35	19	21	14	17	16	9	1	7	2
FI	51	26	34	21	30	23	14	12	11	15	1	4	6
SE	41	26	32	13	29	21	11	11	14	11	3	8	6

Flash Eurobarometer 550 – EU challenges and priorities / fieldwork: 25/6/2024-2/7/2024 %, Base (EU27): n=25 658 – All respondents

Q3_1 For each of these values, do you think they are best embodied by the EU, by other countries (or groups of countries) in the world or by both equally? Respect for nature and protection of climate and the environment

	The European Union	Both equally	Other countries in the world	Don't know
EU27	45=	33▲5	13▼-3	9▼-3
BE	41=	35▲8	14▼-3	11▼-5
BG	35▲5	46▲8	11▼-11	8▼-2
CZ	43▲4	33▲5	14▼-7	10▼-1
DK	42▼-9	36▲11	11▲3	10▼-5
DE	45▼-2	32▲7	14=	9▼-6
EE	60=	23▲1	6▼-2	11▲1
IE	42▼-9	37▲12	13▼-1	8▼-1
EL	38▲2	41▲11	13▼-12	9▼-1
ES	48▲3	32▲3	12▼-3	8▼-3
FR	41▼-1	31▲6	17▼-3	11▼-2
HR	49▼-1	35▲4	10▼-2	7▼-1
IT	44▲3	32▲3	16▼-4	9▼-1
CY	50▲2	35▲7	9▼-9	7=
LV	47▼-1	36▲6	6▼-3	12▼-3
LT	53=	29▲2	8▼-2	10=
LU	54▼-4	27▲12	7▼-8	12=
HU	33▲1	44▲9	14▼-7	9▼-3
MT	44▼-3	37▲10	10▼-11	9▲4
NL	44▼-3	39▲12	10▼-3	8▼-6
AT	47▲1	29▲4	14▼-1	10▼-4
PL	55▲6	31▼-2	8▼-2	6▼-2
PT	51▼-7	33▲8	8=	8▼-1
RO	44▲1	39▲5	11▼-5	7▼-1
SI	55▼-1	27▲3	11▼-1	8=
SK	42=	38▲10	13▼-6	7▼-4
FI	62▼-8	26▲9	5▲1	7▼-2
SE	49▼-7	28▲7	12▲2	11▼-2

Flash Eurobarometer 550 – EU challenges and priorities / fieldwork: 25/6/2024-2/7/2024

%, Base (EU27): n=25 658 – All respondents

▼▲ Trend 2024-2023 (comparison with Flash Eurobarometer 533, August 2023)

Q3_2 For each of these values, do you think they are best embodied by the EU, by other countries (or groups of countries) in the world or by both equally? Social equality and welfare

	The European Union	Both equally	Other countries in the world	Don't know
EU27	49=	27▲5	14▼-3	10▼-2
BE	49▼-5	27▲8	13▼-1	11▼-2
BG	34▲6	37▲8	21▼-9	9▼-5
CZ	35▲7	27▲2	22▼-9	16▲1
DK	50▼-8	30▲10	10▲2	11▼-3
DE	51▼-2	23▲7	14▼-3	11▼-2
EE	60▲5	20▼-1	8▼-3	12▼-1
IE	54▼-4	28▲8	11▼-2	8▼-2
EL	42▼-1	36▲11	14▼-9	8▼-1
ES	57▲1	26▲3	11▼-3	6▼-1
FR	46▼-3	25▲7	17=	12▼-3
HR	51▲4	30▲1	11▼-4	9▼-1
IT	48▲5	28▲2	14▼-7	11=
CY	47▲1	32▲8	13▼-8	8▼-1
LV	46▲1	27▲1	12▼-1	16▼-1
LT	54▲2	24▲3	11▼-2	12▼-3
LU	74▲8	12▲2	8▼-6	7▼-4
HU	38▲1	31▲4	20▼-5	12▼-1
MT	59▼-3	26▲6	9▼-4	6▲1
NL	54▼-3	31▲12	7▼-4	8▼-5
AT	55▼-2	20▲5	15▼-2	10▼-1
PL	48▲3	29=	14=	9▼-4
PT	63▼-3	27▲8	6▼-3	5▼-2
RO	39▼-3	37▲5	15▼-3	9▲1
SI	52=	22▲1	14▼-2	12▲1
SK	40▲7	29▲4	20▼-7	12▼-3
FI	69▼-1	19▲4	4▼-1	8▼-2
SE	53▼-10	24▲5	13▲5	11=

Flash Eurobarometer 550 – EU challenges and priorities / fieldwork: 25/6/2024-2/7/2024

%, Base (EU27): n=25 658 – All respondents

▼▲ Trend 2024-2023 (comparison with Flash Eurobarometer 533, August 2023)

Q3.3 For each of these values, do you think they are best embodied by the EU, by other countries (or groups of countries) in the world or by both equally? Peace

	The European Union	Both equally	Other countries in the world	Don't know
EU27	45▼-2	32▲7	13▼-2	10▼-3
BE	44▼-5	34▲8	12▲1	11▼-3
BG	28▲3	44▲10	19▼-10	9▼-4
CZ	38▲1	34▲5	19▼-4	10▼-2
DK	38▼-11	42▲16	11▲1	9▼-6
DE	46▼-4	31▲9	12▼-1	11▼-4
EE	55=	27▲1	8▲1	11▼-2
IE	49▼-5	33▲9	11▼-2	7▼-3
EL	38▼-2	35▲9	16▼-8	11▲2
ES	50▼-2	30▲5	11▼-2	9▼-1
FR	46▼-4	30▲9	15▼-1	10▼-5
HR	48▼-2	32▲4	10▼-2	10▲1
IT	43▲1	31▲3	14▼-3	13▼-1
CY	44▲1	32▲7	14▼-8	11▲1
LV	48=	32▲5	9▼-3	11▼-3
LT	49▼-7	30▲9	11▲1	10▼-2
LU	68▲5	19▲7	6▼-11	7▼-1
HU	33▲2	33▲5	21▼-6	13▼-1
MT	48▼-4	31▲8	10▼-5	11▲1
NL	43▼-8	41▲16	9▼-2	8▼-5
AT	48▼-2	25▲5	16▼-1	11▼-2
PL	49▲1	34▲1	11=	6▼-2
PT	59▼-4	31▲9	4▼-2	6▼-3
RO	43▼-3	37▲5	12▼-2	8▲1
SI	55=	26▲4	10▼-5	9▲1
SK	35▼-3	38▲13	21▼-4	7▼-6
FI	62▼-3	26▲7	5▲1	7▼-5
SE	49▼-6	29▲6	11▲1	11▼-1

Flash Eurobarometer 550 – EU challenges and priorities / fieldwork: 25/6/2024-2/7/2024

%, Base (EU27): n=25 658 – All respondents

▼ ▲ Trend 2024-2023 (comparison with Flash Eurobarometer 533, August 2023)

Q3.4 For each of these values, do you think they are best embodied by the EU, by other countries (or groups of countries) in the world or by both equally? Progress and innovation

	The European Union	Both equally	Other countries in the world	Don't know
EU27	29▲3	41▲7	23▼-8	7▼-2
BE	26▲2	42▲8	23▼-7	9▼-3
BG	23▲3	49▲9	23▼-10	5▼-2
CZ	25▲4	43▲9	26▼-10	7▼-3
DK	31▼-4	45▲7	15▲2	10▼-5
DE	26▲4	39▲9	26▼-11	9▼-2
EE	30▼-1	43▲6	18▼-2	9▼-3
IE	36▲2	42▲7	15▼-6	7▼-3
EL	27▲1	46▲11	22▼-11	5▼-2
ES	38▲6	35=	22▼-5	5▼-1
FR	23▲1	41▲8	28▼-6	8▼-3
HR	30▲5	41▲3	24▼-8	5=
IT	28▲5	41▲9	26▼-13	6▼-2
CY	27▲1	47▲14	22▼-12	5▼-3
LV	25▲1	49▲7	17▼-5	9▼-3
LT	34▼-3	38▲6	21=	7▼-3
LU	21▼-3	37▲14	35▼-13	7▲2
HU	24▲1	48▲8	21▼-7	7▼-3
MT	30▲7	47▲12	19▼-16	4▼-3
NL	33▼-1	44▲11	15▼-5	9▼-5
AT	22▲2	41▲7	32▼-6	5▼-3
PL	39▲6	38▼-1	19▼-2	4▼-3
PT	37▲1	43▲10	17▼-8	3▼-3
RO	36▲3	44▲7	16▼-8	5▼-2
SI	32▲5	32▲4	31▼-8	6▼-2
SK	26▲4	44▲8	24▼-9	5▼-3
FI	34▼-2	45▲8	12▼-1	9▼-5
SE	26▼-1	43▲6	20▼-2	11▼-3

Flash Eurobarometer 550 – EU challenges and priorities / fieldwork: 25/6/2024-2/7/2024

%, Base (EU27): n=25 658 – All respondents

▼▲ Trend 2024-2023 (comparison with Flash Eurobarometer 533, August 2023)

Q3.5 For each of these values, do you think they are best embodied by the EU, by other countries (or groups of countries) in the world or by both equally? Respect for fundamental rights and values

	The European Union	Both equally	Other countries in the world	Don't know
EU27	53=	28▲5	12▼-3	7▼-3
BE	50▼-5	32▲11	11▼-2	8▼-4
BG	36▲6	43▲8	15▼-12	6▼-3
CZ	40▲4	34▲6	16▼-7	9▼-2
DK	48▼-8	36▲13	9▲1	6▼-6
DE	57▲1	23▲5	13▼-3	7▼-3
EE	62▲4	20=	9▼-2	9▼-3
IE	49▼-10	34▲12	10▼-2	7▼-1
EL	47▲2	33▲8	13▼-9	6▼-2
ES	60=	24=	10=	7▲1
FR	50▼-2	27▲9	15▼-4	8▼-3
HR	55▲3	30▲3	10▼-4	6▼-2
IT	55▲4	27▲4	13▼-6	6▼-2
CY	48▲1	31▲9	14▼-7	7▼-3
LV	47▲2	31▲5	10▼-3	12▼-4
LT	53▼-3	27▲7	11▼-2	9▼-2
LU	75▲8	15▲5	6▼-10	4▼-3
HU	38▼-2	37▲8	18▼-6	8▼-1
MT	59▼-4	27▲6	7▼-4	7▲1
NL	54▼-1	33▲12	7▼-4	6▼-6
AT	57▲1	22▲4	15▼-2	7▼-3
PL	51▲5	30=	13▼-2	6▼-3
PT	63▼-8	30▲11	5▼-1	3▼-2
RO	46▲1	36▲4	13▼-4	6▼-1
SI	59▲4	24▲1	10▼-3	7▼-2
SK	40▲3	35▲7	18▼-7	8▼-2
FI	68▼-4	22▲6	5▲1	5▼-3
SE	53▼-10	27▲7	13▲5	7▼-2

Flash Eurobarometer 550 – EU challenges and priorities / fieldwork: 25/6/2024-2/7/2024

%, Base (EU27): n=25 658 – All respondents

▼▲ Trend 2024-2023 (comparison with Flash Eurobarometer 533, August 2023)

Q3.6 For each of these values, do you think they are best embodied by the EU, by other countries (or groups of countries) in the world or by both equally? Tolerance and openness to others

	The European Union	Both equally	Other countries in the world	Don't know
EU27	48▼-2	30▲6	13▼-2	9▼-2
BE	44▼-4	33▲10	12▼-3	12▼-3
BG	37▲5	41▲9	14▼-14	8=
CZ	34▲1	34▲5	19▼-5	13▼-1
DK	39▼-10	38▲11	12▲3	11▼-4
DE	49▼-4	27▲7	13▼-2	10▼-1
EE	57▲2	24=	8▼-1	11▼-2
IE	50▼-5	31▲8	10▼-3	9▲1
EL	45▲1	34▲10	14▼-9	7▼-2
ES	55▼-3	26▲3	10▼-2	9▲1
FR	43▼-2	29▲5	17▼-1	11▼-3
HR	52▲1	31▲3	12▼-2	5▼-2
IT	48=	28▲5	16▼-3	8▼-2
CY	47=	30▲4	13▼-6	11▲2
LV	43=	30▲3	10▼-3	18=
LT	52▼-5	28▲8	11▼-1	10▼-3
LU	66▲2	17▲3	7▼-6	10▲1
HU	38▲3	32▲2	21▼-4	10▼-1
MT	59▼-1	27▲5	6▼-3	8=
NL	45▼-8	36▲14	9▼-2	9▼-4
AT	49▲1	28▲6	14▼-4	9▼-2
PL	53▲6	29▼-2	11▼-3	7▼-2
PT	63▼-4	27▲6	6=	4▼-2
RO	45▼-1	36▲4	13▼-2	6▼-1
SI	54▲1	27▲4	12▼-4	8▼-1
SK	37▲2	35▲9	19▼-6	9▼-5
FI	56▼-7	28▲9	5▼-1	11▼-1
SE	42▼-14	32▲9	13▲3	14▲1

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%, Base (EU27): n=25 658 – All respondents

▼▲ Trend 2024-2023 (comparison with Flash Eurobarometer 533, August 2023)

Q3.7 For each of these values, do you think they are best embodied by the EU, by other countries (or groups of countries) in the world or by both equally? Respect for history and its lessons

	The European Union	Both equally	Other countries in the world	Don't know
EU27	37▼-1	35▲6	17▼-3	12▼-1
BE	32▼-8	37▲7	17=	15▲1
BG	28▲5	39▲10	26▼-12	8▼-4
CZ	28▲1	32▲2	26▼-2	14▼-1
DK	31▼-8	42▲13	11=	16▼-5
DE	36=	34▲6	16▼-5	15▼-1
EE	42▼-2	33▲6	12▼-3	14▼-1
IE	38▼-5	41▲14	12▼-6	8▼-3
EL	33▼-1	37▲7	21▼-6	10▼-1
ES	44▲2	32▲3	14▼-4	11▼-1
FR	37▼-4	29▲6	21=	13▼-1
HR	46▲2	34▲4	12▼-4	7▼-3
IT	44=	32▲4	14▼-4	10=
CY	31▼-4	41▲14	17▼-9	11▼-2
LV	35▲5	37▲3	13▼-4	15▼-4
LT	39▼-5	39▲10	12▼-3	11▼-3
LU	47▼-1	29▲10	11▼-9	14=
HU	26=	45▲10	20▼-8	10▼-2
MT	44▲7	34=	12▼-8	10▲1
NL	28▼-4	44▲13	15▼-5	13▼-5
AT	38=	32▲6	19▼-2	11▼-4
PL	31▲1	37▲2	22▲1	10▼-4
PT	48▼-8	37▲10	9▼-1	7▼-1
RO	32▼-4	44▲9	16▼-4	9▼-1
SI	40▲1	33▲6	17▼-6	10▼-1
SK	32▲1	35▲5	24▼-3	9▼-3
FI	40▼-7	38▲11	9▲1	13▼-5
SE	33▼-7	35▲7	16▲2	16▼-2

Flash Eurobarometer 550 – EU challenges and priorities / fieldwork: 25/6/2024-2/7/2024

%, Base (EU27): n=25 658 – All respondents

▼▲ Trend 2024-2023 (comparison with Flash Eurobarometer 533, August 2023)

Q3.8 For each of these values, do you think they are best embodied by the EU, by other countries (or groups of countries) in the world or by both equally? Solidarity with countries within and outside the EU

	The European Union	Both equally	Other countries in the world	Don't know
EU27	48▲2	30▲4	12▼-2	10▼-4
BE	47▼-1	30▲5	12▼-1	11▼-3
BG	37▲7	39▲7	15▼-8	9▼-6
CZ	38▲5	36▲4	12▼-6	14▼-3
DK	37▼-2	39▲10	11=	13▼-8
DE	48=	30▲5	14=	9▼-4
EE	53▲2	22▲1	7▼-1	18▼-2
IE	48▼-2	34▲10	10▼-4	8▼-4
EL	39▲2	34▲6	16▼-8	11▼-1
ES	52=	28▲1	11▼-2	9=
FR	48▲4	28▲4	12▼-4	12▼-5
HR	55▲3	27▲2	9▼-4	8▼-1
IT	49▲4	29▲3	13▼-4	10▼-3
CY	48▲5	32▲7	12▼-9	9▼-3
LV	48▲8	32▲1	6▼-2	14▼-7
LT	46▼-1	30▲6	10▼-1	14▼-4
LU	58▲1	25▲7	8▼-4	9▼-4
HU	41▲4	31▲4	15▼-6	12▼-2
MT	47▼-4	31▲3	9▼-3	13▲4
NL	47▼-3	35▲11	8▼-2	10▼-7
AT	47▲3	28▲2	15▼-1	10▼-4
PL	48▲8	32▼-1	11▼-2	10▼-5
PT	59▼-8	31▲11	6=	4▼-3
RO	45▼-2	37▲5	12▼-1	6▼-2
SI	62▲3	22▲1	9▼-4	8=
SK	40=	36▲10	15▼-3	9▼-7
FI	58▲1	24▲6	6▲1	12▼-7
SE	44▼-8	29▲8	12▲2	15▼-2

Flash Eurobarometer 550 – EU challenges and priorities / fieldwork: 25/6/2024-2/7/2024

%, Base (EU27): n=25 658 – All respondents

▼▲ Trend 2024-2023 (comparison with Flash Eurobarometer 533, August 2023)

Q3_9 For each of these values, do you think they are best embodied by the EU, by other countries (or groups of countries) in the world or by both equally? Freedom of speech and expression

	The European Union	Both equally	Other countries in the world	Don't know
EU27	53	28	13	7
BE	52	29	12	8
BG	35	39	19	8
CZ	36	35	20	9
DK	51	35	9	5
DE	56	25	12	8
EE	62	20	10	8
IE	49	33	12	7
EL	46	35	13	6
ES	56	26	11	7
FR	53	25	13	8
HR	51	32	12	5
IT	55	28	12	5
CY	50	33	12	6
LV	49	28	12	11
LT	55	28	9	8
LU	72	17	6	5
HU	38	35	18	10
MT	58	26	8	8
NL	59	29	9	4
AT	55	26	14	6
PL	47	32	15	6
PT	65	26	6	3
RO	47	38	11	4
SI	60	24	11	5
SK	38	34	21	7
FI	68	22	5	5
SE	56	26	11	7

Flash Eurobarometer 550 – EU challenges and priorities / fieldwork: 25/6/2024-2/7/2024

%, Base (EU27): n=25 658 – All respondents

Q3_10 For each of these values, do you think they are best embodied by the EU, by other countries (or groups of countries) in the world or by both equally? Representing citizens' economic and trade interests in the world

	The European Union	Both equally	Other countries in the world	Don't know
EU27	35	35	18	13
BE	35	35	17	12
BG	31	43	17	10
CZ	32	32	23	14
DK	37	37	11	14
DE	35	33	19	13
EE	35	37	15	13
IE	48	32	10	9
EL	29	39	20	12
ES	40	32	17	12
FR	29	34	20	17
HR	40	34	17	9
IT	29	37	20	14
CY	32	36	21	11
LV	33	37	12	18
LT	41	31	13	15
LU	48	25	14	14
HU	33	36	20	11
MT	43	34	12	12
NL	36	45	10	9
AT	33	34	24	10
PL	42	34	15	9
PT	42	39	11	9
RO	39	38	15	8
SI	40	29	22	10
SK	32	38	22	8
FI	39	36	12	14
SE	38	29	17	17

Flash Eurobarometer 550 – EU challenges and priorities / fieldwork: 25/6/2024-2/7/2024

%, Base (EU27): n=25 658 – All respondents

Q4 Which of the following do you think are the current main challenges the EU is facing? Please select up to three answers. [MULTIPLE ANSWERS]

	The war in Ukraine	Irregular migration	Environmental issues and climate change	The cost of living	Terrorism and security issues	Social inequalities	The conflict in the Middle East	Insufficient economic growth	Disinformation and information manipulation	Impact of digital technologies on the society	Other	None	Don't know
EU27	50	41	35	32	29	21	20	19	19	8	1	1	1
BE	51	38	39	31	27	20	20	18	17	8	2	1	1
BG	54	43	26	26	25	26	19	25	25	7	1	1	1
CZ	54	54	26	20	31	13	13	22	23	8	1	2	2
DK	58	37	45	16	32	16	24	9	18	14	2	1	2
DE	49	40	36	27	34	23	22	17	18	6	2	1	1
EE	63	44	16	46	27	20	12	30	19	5	2	0	1
IE	52	45	30	51	21	13	29	11	17	7	1	0	1
EL	33	46	32	54	29	23	17	23	15	5	1	1	1
ES	43	42	35	36	24	25	23	21	21	8	2	0	1
FR	45	42	34	37	37	19	16	24	20	7	1	1	0
HR	58	51	26	37	27	16	16	24	18	7	1	1	1
IT	48	38	43	34	14	24	26	24	13	9	1	1	1
CY	28	64	28	48	35	19	23	19	11	4	1	1	1
LV	63	35	16	36	30	24	14	25	27	5	1	0	2
LT	74	48	24	17	35	17	20	12	25	5	0	0	1
LU	58	35	36	32	29	28	22	10	21	8	2	0	1
HU	62	33	33	24	30	29	17	19	20	6	1	1	2
MT	53	52	47	51	20	7	24	11	14	6	2	1	1
NL	56	40	48	27	27	16	21	8	21	10	2	1	1
AT	42	48	35	33	33	22	15	18	19	6	2	0	1
PL	56	51	30	29	30	15	15	16	24	9	1	1	2
PT	59	50	32	29	30	23	26	17	15	5	1	0	0
RO	52	33	29	34	36	18	14	21	21	10	1	1	2
SI	52	52	34	32	25	15	25	17	19	6	1	1	1
SK	53	41	26	28	25	24	13	24	30	12	1	1	1
FI	69	23	36	27	41	17	20	18	22	6	1	1	1
SE	58	32	41	18	44	15	20	11	26	8	2	1	1

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%, Base (EU27): n=25 658 – All respondents

Q5 Which of the following do you think are the main global challenges for the future of the EU? Please select up to three answers. [MULTIPLE ANSWERS]

	Conflicts in the world	Climate change and environmental issues	Irregular migration	Terrorism	Breakdown in global relations between countries	Cyber and hybrid threats and new forms of conflicts	Risk that the EU will lose its economic independence	Organised crime	Decline of the proportion of the European population in the world	Risks arising from new technologies	Other	None	Don't know
EU27	44	42	40	27	25	23	22	17	14	11	2	1	2
BE	44	40	34	29	20	26	22	22	9	13	2	1	2
BG	37	28	40	27	33	23	32	17	23	9	1	1	2
CZ	37	28	52	31	22	22	26	14	16	10	1	1	3
DK	42	48	31	25	24	42	12	21	11	12	2	0	2
DE	44	43	39	28	27	23	23	20	9	9	2	1	2
EE	47	26	45	24	40	31	26	11	22	9	1	0	1
IE	48	43	44	25	31	23	18	17	11	9	1	0	1
EL	41	38	41	30	33	11	26	16	25	9	1	0	2
ES	43	43	42	26	26	24	22	15	14	13	3	0	2
FR	40	40	40	32	24	26	26	17	13	10	2	1	2
HR	42	36	42	31	27	18	28	23	21	9	1	1	1
IT	48	51	39	17	28	18	19	12	16	14	2	1	1
CY	42	36	60	33	34	13	29	9	15	5	1	1	1
LV	50	24	33	20	30	36	21	13	21	11	1	0	4
LT	55	30	39	25	40	29	16	9	20	5	1	1	1
LU	52	42	37	24	29	21	30	20	6	9	2	0	2
HU	39	44	30	26	27	22	26	16	24	10	2	1	2
MT	50	59	52	19	21	16	16	19	18	8	1	1	2
NL	49	50	32	28	17	29	19	16	5	15	2	1	2
AT	39	39	43	27	24	19	27	20	14	11	2	1	2
PL	45	34	50	27	25	27	18	11	17	11	1	1	2
PT	55	44	47	31	23	22	21	15	16	7	1	0	1
RO	47	32	33	32	23	23	23	22	20	8	1	1	2
SI	40	38	49	25	16	28	30	20	17	10	1	1	2
SK	38	35	42	24	24	28	29	13	18	13	1	1	2
FI	52	41	23	31	22	34	23	23	13	8	1	0	1
SE	43	45	30	34	21	20	13	41	7	11	1	1	2

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%, Base (EU27): n=25 658 – All respondents

Q6 Which of the following areas do you think the EU should address as a priority? Please select up to three answers.
[MULTIPLE ANSWERS]

	Environm ent and climate change	Irregul ar migrati on	Securi ty and defen ce	The war in Ukrai ne	Publ ic healt h	Jobs, social equali ty and skills	Democra cy and rule of law	Agricultu re and food security	Ener gy	Econo my and public financ es	Educati on and training	Industry and competitiven ess	Resear ch and innovati on	Trad e	Digital transformat ion	Oth er	Non e	Don 't know
EU27	33	33	29	25	21	20	18	18	17	15	13	11	8	6	5	1	1	1
BE	34	32	31	23	19	20	15	19	17	17	14	7	6	5	4	1	1	1
BG	22	22	27	21	31	27	23	18	16	20	25	11	5	5	3	1	1	1
CZ	17	45	33	30	17	13	12	21	28	13	6	13	7	6	4	1	0	1
DK	45	25	32	34	14	13	24	13	16	9	9	10	8	10	7	1	1	2
DE	36	35	31	24	16	15	23	12	15	9	16	16	8	6	9	1	0	1
EE	11	32	52	46	11	22	10	20	22	19	9	18	7	4	2	0	0	1
IE	30	41	22	32	23	21	16	16	18	19	10	5	6	7	3	1	0	1
EL	28	31	25	14	28	23	27	18	21	28	12	8	6	6	3	0	1	1
ES	35	35	22	23	24	26	18	19	11	17	14	10	11	5	5	1	0	2
FR	34	36	31	19	20	16	15	27	19	17	14	12	6	5	4	0	1	1
HR	28	32	29	24	23	24	19	33	19	19	11	10	5	5	3	1	0	1
IT	40	27	20	29	26	26	15	13	18	17	9	8	10	6	6	1	0	1
CY	30	50	32	12	24	19	20	11	10	31	14	6	6	5	4	0	1	1
LV	12	25	45	41	18	27	10	17	15	19	12	15	6	6	2	1	1	2
LT	18	32	51	48	14	20	13	10	14	18	9	8	5	4	2	1	0	1
LU	37	31	38	19	13	30	21	13	16	11	18	11	12	2	5	0	0	2
HU	29	19	26	18	25	25	28	22	18	12	17	12	9	5	5	1	0	2
MT	48	41	23	23	19	20	16	21	20	18	15	7	6	5	4	1	0	0
NL	41	37	34	30	16	17	16	17	16	11	13	5	3	5	8	1	1	1
AT	33	41	26	19	23	18	19	17	15	11	14	14	10	5	6	1	1	1
PL	25	41	38	30	15	16	15	22	22	15	6	8	5	4	4	0	1	2
PT	32	39	37	29	24	31	15	14	10	17	14	7	6	4	3	1	0	1
RO	24	17	36	21	26	23	23	23	18	19	16	8	9	7	6	0	0	1
SI	28	36	23	18	29	27	17	32	18	17	7	11	6	6	4	1	1	1
SK	23	24	27	19	25	26	20	31	22	17	9	12	10	6	3	1	1	1
FI	29	17	45	42	15	21	22	18	11	18	8	13	7	5	3	1	0	2
SE	39	31	33	37	14	19	22	11	16	13	8	8	9	9	3	1	1	1

Flash Eurobarometer 550 – EU challenges and priorities / fieldwork: 25/6/2024-2/7/2024

%, Base (EU27): n=25 658 – All respondents

Q7 In your view, which of the following are the most serious threats to democracy in the EU? Please select up to three answers. [MULTIPLE ANSWERS]

	Growing distrust and scepticism towards democratic institutions	False and/or misleading information in general circulating online and offline	Propaganda and false and/or misleading information from a non-democratic foreign source	Covert foreign interference in the politics and economy of [COUNTRY], including through financing of domestic actors	Lack of engagement and interest in politics and elections among regular citizens	Lack of opportunities for citizens to voice their opinions	Lack of knowledge among voters about the functioning of democratic processes	Destabilisation of electoral infrastructure or processes, such as cyber-attacks	Lack of media freedom and media diversity	Lack of integrity of the electoral system	Other	None	Don't know
EU27	36	34	31	30	27	20	19	17	16	12	2	2	5
BE	28	31	29	33	23	21	20	18	15	13	3	2	6
BG	41	26	25	49	29	21	17	14	18	22	2	2	2
CZ	35	36	27	33	20	22	15	17	16	7	3	2	5
DK	32	35	35	28	26	18	18	22	12	8	2	1	8
DE	39	35	34	30	21	21	22	20	12	8	3	2	5
EE	41	39	41	34	32	18	16	11	13	20	1	1	3
IE	29	43	36	29	26	20	24	19	15	12	2	1	3
EL	37	27	23	28	41	19	23	11	26	18	1	1	4
ES	42	37	29	28	27	14	17	16	21	15	3	2	4
FR	27	32	32	30	31	22	20	18	13	13	2	2	5
HR	38	35	25	35	37	24	27	11	17	13	1	1	3
IT	42	25	23	27	36	26	16	14	20	11	1	1	4
CY	42	28	20	26	35	23	26	9	18	17	1	2	5
LV	37	31	36	40	38	19	17	7	15	6	1	1	5
LT	34	35	50	33	30	12	15	15	11	13	1	0	3
LU	47	42	32	27	31	18	28	10	11	5	3	1	4
HU	24	42	30	31	17	19	18	11	26	26	3	1	5
MT	37	46	29	23	32	23	29	8	17	13	2	2	3
NL	39	39	33	33	20	13	17	19	12	7	3	2	7
AT	40	37	32	27	23	25	26	14	14	9	3	1	2
PL	34	37	37	30	22	17	17	18	20	19	1	1	4
PT	44	36	30	31	40	16	23	15	14	11	1	1	3
RO	41	39	34	27	20	16	26	17	16	15	2	1	3
SI	44	37	28	38	24	21	12	13	25	13	3	1	4
SK	33	45	38	37	19	20	15	13	21	9	1	1	4
FI	37	40	38	25	33	14	13	18	14	8	2	1	5
SE	26	40	36	30	25	18	21	15	17	9	3	1	7

Flash Eurobarometer 550 – EU challenges and priorities / fieldwork: 25/6/2024-2/7/2024

%, Base (EU27): n=25 658 – All respondents

Q8 How confident are you in the strength of the EU's democracy in the next five years?

	Very confident	Somewhat confident	Somewhat unconfident	Very unconfident	Don't know
EU27	10	45	28	13	4
BE	6	44	32	13	5
BG	12	40	23	21	4
CZ	9	38	31	17	6
DK	15	47	24	6	7
DE	9	49	25	13	4
EE	9	46	27	15	3
IE	19	50	19	8	4
EL	13	36	32	16	3
ES	12	40	35	12	2
FR	8	39	32	16	5
HR	10	53	21	14	2
IT	7	49	29	10	5
CY	12	41	36	9	2
LV	8	53	24	10	6
LT	18	58	16	6	2
LU	5	52	34	7	3
HU	14	36	27	19	3
MT	10	60	17	9	5
NL	12	49	27	9	4
AT	8	44	33	12	3
PL	9	44	25	17	5
PT	14	58	20	7	1
RO	21	47	22	8	3
SI	6	31	39	20	4
SK	10	44	29	13	5
FI	9	61	21	6	4
SE	12	51	22	10	5

Flash Eurobarometer 550 – EU challenges and priorities / fieldwork: 25/6/2024-2/7/2024

%, Base (EU27): n=25 658 – All respondents

Q9 How confident are you in the performance of the EU's economy in the next five years?

	Very confident	Somewhat confident	Somewhat unconfident	Very unconfident	Don't know
EU27	8	42	32	13	4
BE	5	39	37	13	5
BG	11	43	25	20	2
CZ	9	36	27	26	2
DK	11	45	29	7	8
DE	7	44	30	12	6
EE	5	39	34	19	3
IE	17	50	23	7	4
EL	8	32	37	20	3
ES	9	37	39	13	2
FR	8	33	39	16	4
HR	10	56	22	11	1
IT	5	47	33	10	6
CY	4	32	45	16	4
LV	6	48	31	8	6
LT	17	61	14	6	2
LU	4	51	35	7	4
HU	12	39	29	18	3
MT	9	56	22	7	6
NL	8	50	30	9	3
AT	8	40	36	12	4
PL	8	43	26	17	7
PT	12	56	25	7	1
RO	19	49	23	8	3
SI	6	36	38	17	3
SK	7	43	31	14	5
FI	7	55	26	7	5
SE	10	47	25	10	8

Flash Eurobarometer 550 – EU challenges and priorities / fieldwork: 25/6/2024-2/7/2024

%, Base (EU27): n=25 658 – All respondents

Q10 How concerned are you about the EU's security in the next five years?

	Very concerned	Somewhat concerned	Not very concerned	Not concerned at all	Don't know
EU27	17	47	26	6	4
BE	19	48	24	6	3
BG	18	45	26	9	3
CZ	24	44	22	7	3
DK	13	50	28	4	5
DE	15	43	31	6	5
EE	16	48	28	5	3
IE	20	47	23	6	4
EL	19	47	24	8	2
ES	19	48	26	5	2
FR	23	48	21	6	3
HR	19	51	22	6	2
IT	11	48	30	5	5
CY	21	52	21	5	1
LV	28	44	20	5	3
LT	18	55	18	8	2
LU	17	53	23	3	3
HU	18	48	22	9	4
MT	19	47	27	4	3
NL	11	48	32	6	3
AT	20	47	23	7	3
PL	23	48	17	8	5
PT	17	60	20	3	1
RO	18	49	25	6	2
SI	16	42	32	6	3
SK	15	48	27	7	4
FI	11	43	38	4	4
SE	10	37	38	9	6

Flash Eurobarometer 550 – EU challenges and priorities / fieldwork: 25/6/2024-2/7/2024

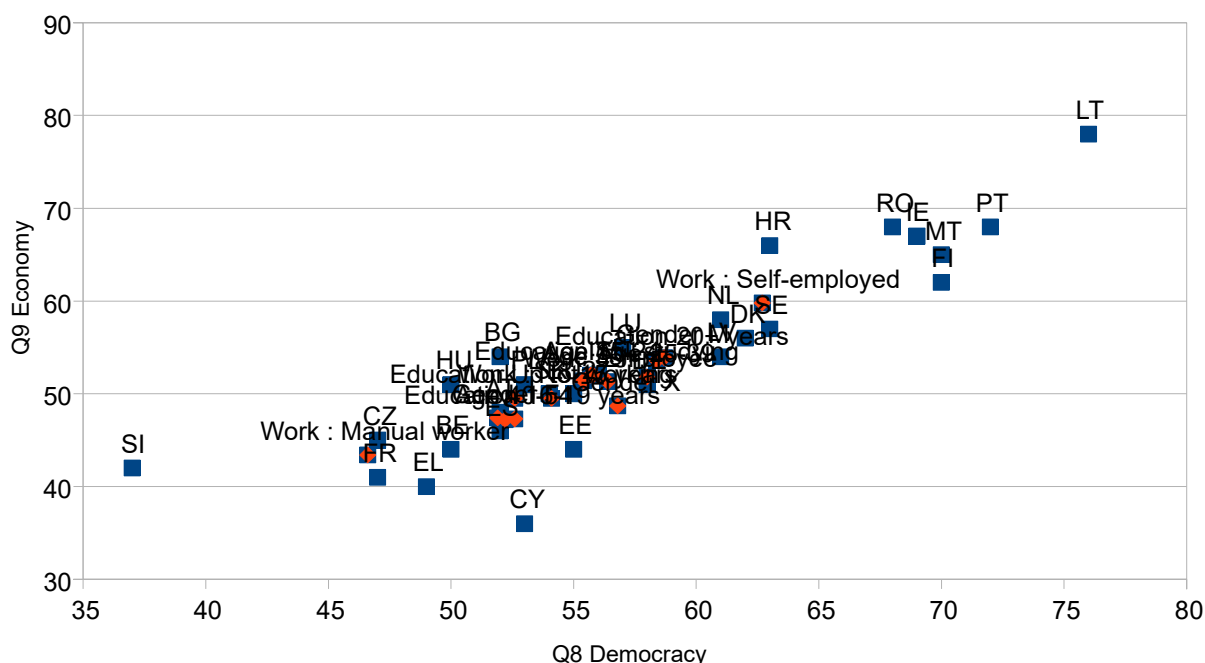
%, Base (EU27): n=25 658 – All respondents

Comments

It is now a well-established habit that Eurobarometer reports are in English only. Until now, the .xls data files available had the text (the wording of the questions, the various possible answers, the names of the categories, etc.) in two languages, French and English. In French were the numbers of people who gave a particular answer, and in English the corresponding percentages. In the data files for this report, there is only English. Is this an isolated case, or is it the start of a new way of doing things? Does this single language mean a single way of thinking?

The French are among the most pessimistic. They are the most pessimistic about the future of the European Union (Q1). Their level of pessimism is exceeded only by that of the Slovenes and Czechs for question Q8 (confidence in the strength of EU democracy). They are exceeded only by the Greeks and Cypriots for Q9 (confidence in the performance of the EU economy).

The XY graph of confidence in democracy and the EU economy can be plotted. As is often the case, differences in opinion are greater between national groups than between social groups.

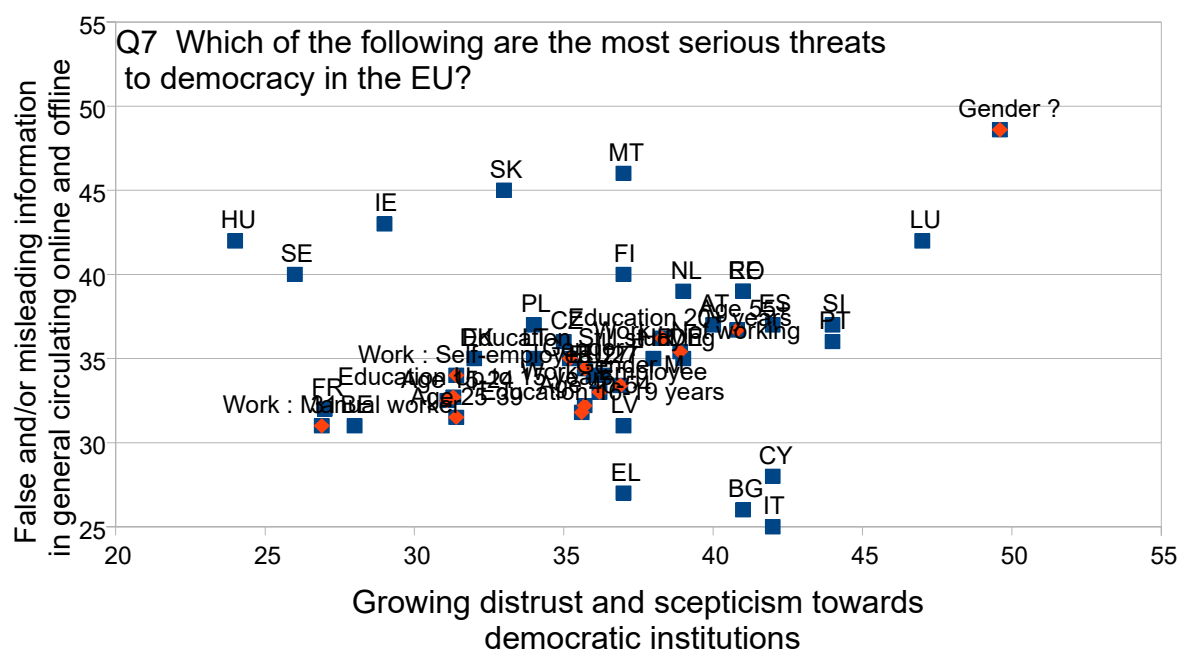


There are some interesting exceptions. Question Q7 asks what are the most worrying threats to democracy in the EU, and the two most frequently cited answers are 1) mistrust and scepticism towards democratic institutions and 2) the dissemination of false and/or misleading information.

On the subject of mistrust and scepticism, the variability of opinions among the various social groups is of the same order as for the countries: between 25% and 50% of quotations. On the other hand, when it comes to the dissemination of misleading information, the range of quotes varies between 25% and 47% between countries, much more than between social groups, between 31% and 37%.

A spectacular exception is the group of people of undefined sex/gender, nearly 50% of whom cite mistrust and scepticism, and almost the same proportion the dissemination of false or misleading information: this group is thus placed very high and very far to the right on the graph. In contrast,

people who define themselves by their usual gender (male or female) have opinions very close to the average. "Non-binary" people therefore form a group with a very different opinion from the rest of the people surveyed, but it is a small group (around 50 people out of over 25,000 people surveyed).



In conclusion, what do people think are the European Union's priorities?

1) Questions Q4 and Q5 say that the main challenges the European Union is currently facing (or will have to face in the next few years) are conflicts in Ukraine and around the world, climate change and environmental issues, and irregular migration.

Question Q6 says that the environment and climate change must be tackled first.

For these questions Q4, Q5, Q6, the cost of living, terrorism, inequality, disinformation, digital technology... only come afterwards.

2) Question Q2 states that the European Union's main asset is "The EU's respect for democracy, human rights and the rule of law". Europeans are clearly saying that democracy is an advantage, not a liability.

3) Question Q7 says that the main threats to democracy are linked to information. The main threats are mistrust and scepticism, and the dissemination of false or misleading information. The lack of integrity, freedom or diversity of the media is much less important, as is the lack of interest in and knowledge of democratic processes.

Yes, the inhabitants of the European Union want to participate in democratic life, but they need relevant information that they can freely exchange with each other.

To achieve this, they need a fair common language, they need Esperanto.