



EFFECTS OF THE ECONOMIC AND FINANCIAL CRISIS ON EUROPEAN PUBLIC OPINION

Is this the worst crisis in European public opinion?

Since 1973, Europeans have held consistently positive views about their country's membership of the EU, although the proportion describing it as a "good thing" has varied, from 46% in the spring of 1997 to 71% in the spring of 1991, a few months after the 1990 Schengen Convention and the reunification of Germany.

Positive opinion on EU membership has dipped below the 50% level at other times: around the turn of the century (49% in the spring of 1999 and the spring of 2000, 48% in the spring of 2001), before the enlargement of 2004 (48% in the autumn of 2003 and the spring of 2004), and during the economic and financial crisis (49% in the spring of 2010 and 47% in the spring of 2011).

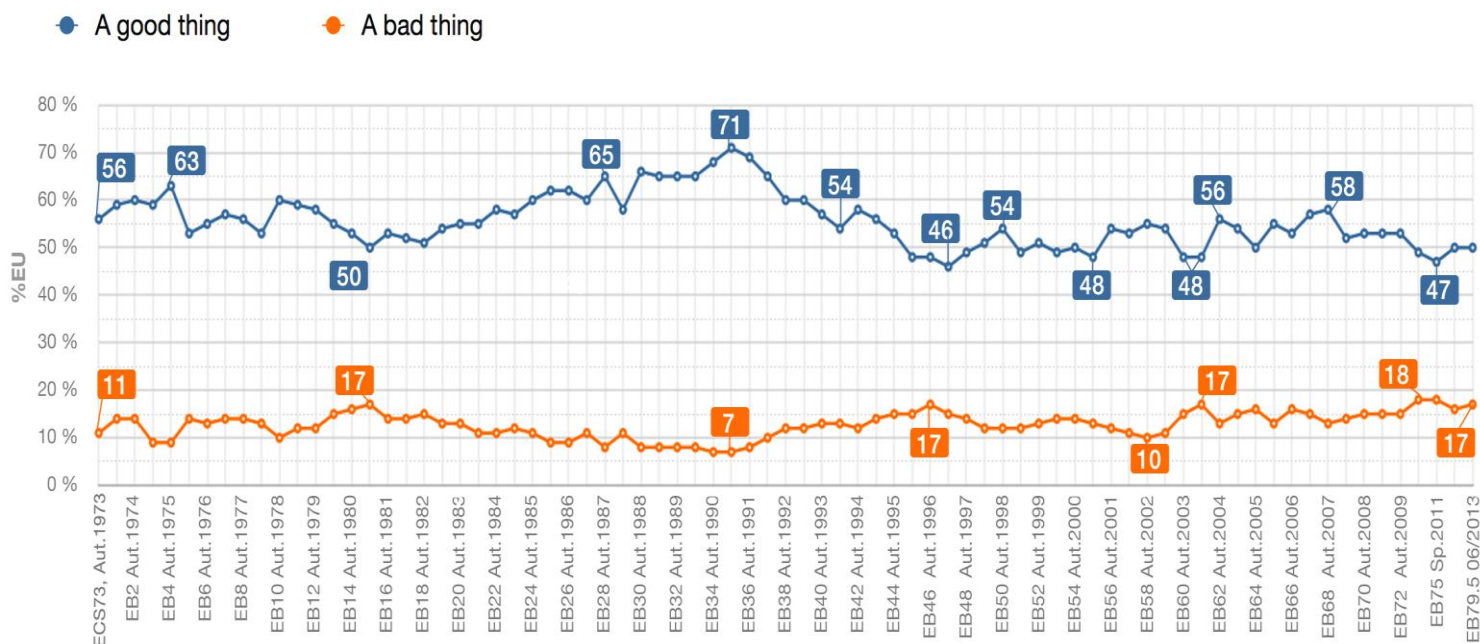
Between the spring of 2007 (before the start of the crisis) and the autumn of 2013, the feeling among EU citizens that their country's membership is a good thing showed a general decrease, but remained above the 46% low point of 1997.

Although attitudes have become less positive in recent years, the changes have tended to be small, except in the Member States most affected by the crisis. The view that membership of the EU is a good thing declined most between 2007 and 2013 in Spain (47%, -26 percentage points), Greece (34%, -21) and Portugal (36%, -19).

In the same period, the most positive increases were in Sweden (64%, +14), Malta (64%, +13) and Finland (53%, +11).

No. Positive views on EU membership were at their lowest levels in the spring of 1997.

Generally speaking, do you think that (OUR COUNTRY)'s membership of the EU is...?



Eurobarometer has been surveying the views of Europeans since 1973 and gives a unique insight into how opinions and attitudes have changed over time. Surveys are carried out in all Member States of the European Union.



EFFECTS OF THE ECONOMIC AND FINANCIAL CRISIS ON EUROPEAN PUBLIC OPINION

What impact has the crisis had on personal finances?

While general opinions on the state of the national economy may have been strongly affected by the crisis, there has been little overall impact when it comes to Europeans' perceptions of their personal financial situation. Indeed, the proportion feeling positively about their financial situation increased slightly from 61% in 2007 to 63% in 2013.

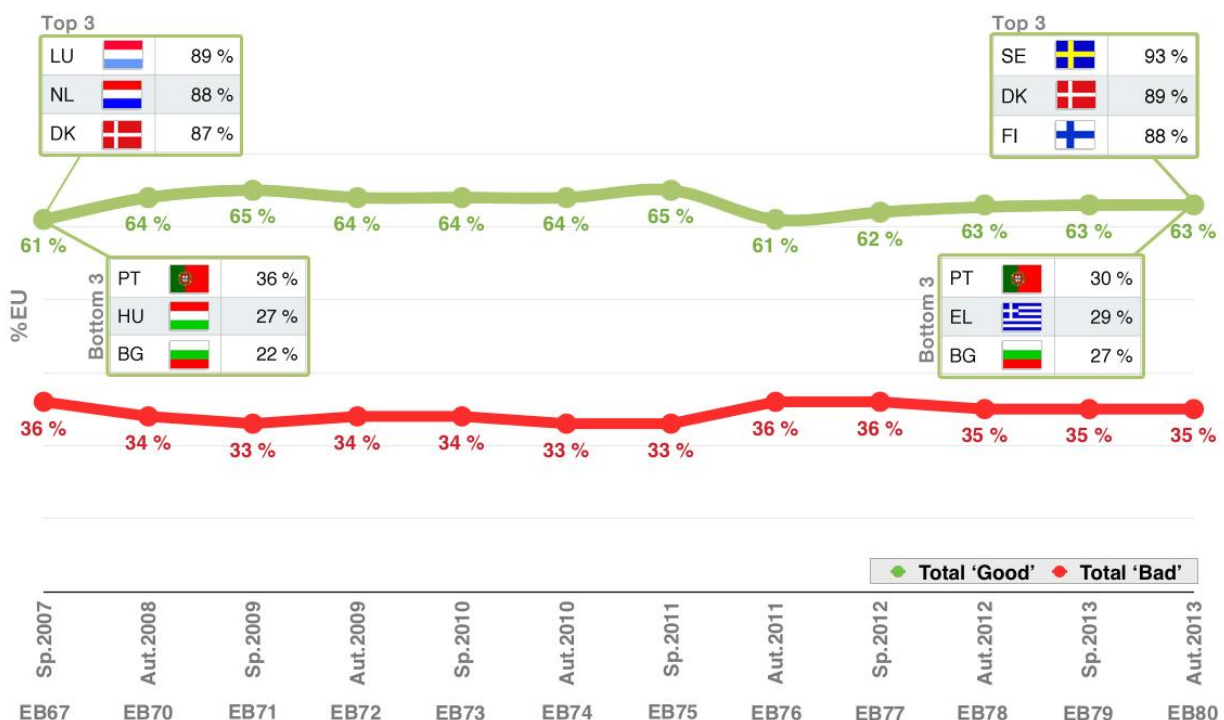
Of course, the European picture disguises major differences between Member States – ranging from 93% in Sweden to 27% in Bulgaria – but these are somewhat less extreme than those seen in relation to national economic optimism.

Between 2007 and 2013, positive perceptions increased most in Malta (75%, +19 percentage points), Germany (78%, +14), the Czech Republic (63%, +13) and Hungary (39%, +12). The most significant decreases occurred in Cyprus (42%, -37), Ireland (54%, -20), Greece (29%, -19), Slovenia (53%, -17) and Spain (54%, -13).

People with a higher level of education and those with better-paid jobs are considerably more likely to be positive about their financial situation, and the gap has widened since 2007 between the highest-paid workers and the unemployed. Another trend worth observing is the rise in positive sentiment among students and retirees.

People's perceptions of their financial situation have remained stable overall, but there are striking differences between Member States.

How would you judge the current situation in each of the following? The financial situation of your household (asked in 2008-2013) / Your financial situation (asked in 2007 only)





EFFECTS OF THE ECONOMIC AND FINANCIAL CRISIS ON EUROPEAN PUBLIC OPINION

Has the crisis widened the gap between countries in Europe?

Across Europe as a whole, optimism about the national economic situation decreased noticeably between the autumn of 2008 and the autumn of 2013. Despite minor fluctuations, the view has remained downbeat.

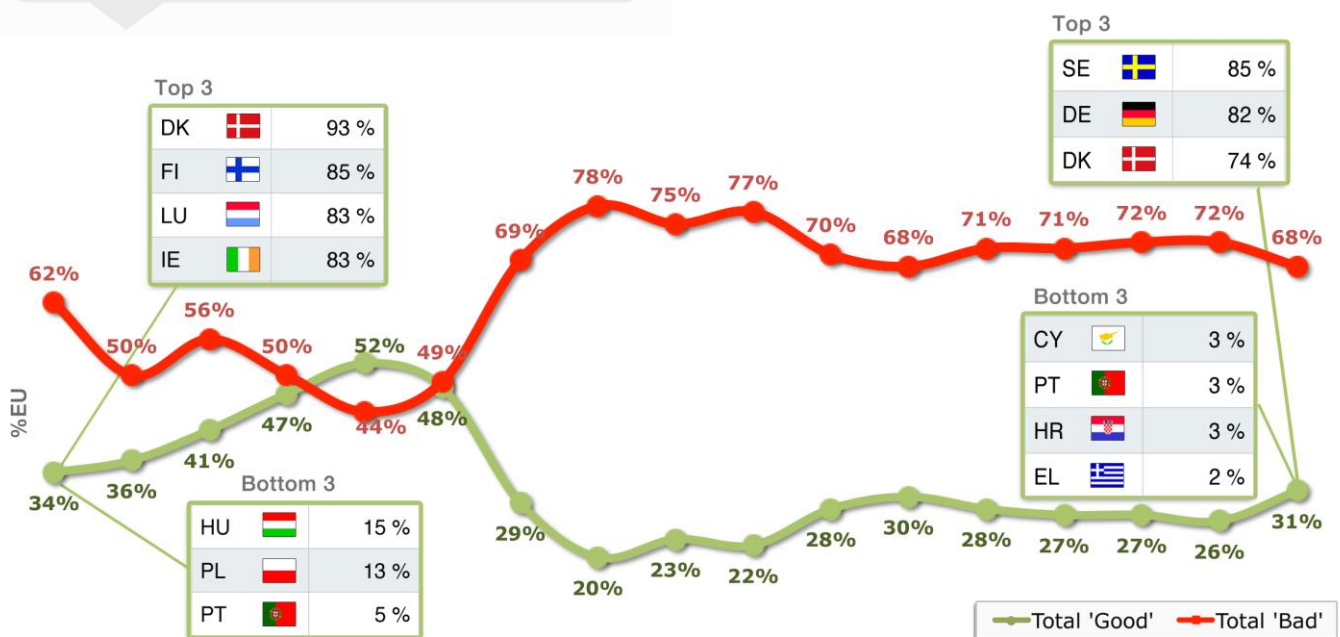
There has been a divergence between Member States ever since this question was first asked in 2004. Then, positive views on the national economy ranged from 93% in Denmark to as low as 5% in Portugal.

This pattern has not changed in the intervening period. The national mood is relatively buoyant in Scandinavian countries (85% in Sweden, 74% in Denmark) and Germany (82%). On the other hand, in the countries worst affected by the crisis positive sentiment is at an all-time low – Greece (2%), Cyprus (3%), Portugal (3%), Croatia (3%) and Spain (4%).

While the overall decline in economic confidence is undeniable, the crisis has not driven Europe further apart. Rather, it has exacerbated differences that were already there.

No. The gap between the most and least positive countries remains largely unchanged.

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



| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|----------|---------|---------|----------|---------|----------|----------|---------|----------|---------|----------|---------|----------|---------|----------|---------|----------|
| Aut.2004 | Sp.2005 | Sp.2006 | Aut.2006 | Sp.2007 | Aut.2007 | Aut.2008 | Sp.2009 | Aut.2009 | Sp.2010 | Aut.2010 | Sp.2011 | Aut.2011 | Sp.2012 | Aut.2012 | Sp.2013 | Aut.2013 |
| EB62 | EB63 | EB65 | EB66 | EB67 | EB68 | EB70 | EB71 | EB72 | EB73 | EB74 | EB75 | EB76 | EB77 | EB78 | EB79 | EB80 |



EFFECTS OF THE ECONOMIC AND FINANCIAL CRISIS ON EUROPEAN PUBLIC OPINION

How has the crisis affected the image of the EU?

Before the crisis, around half of Europeans had a positive image of the EU. Since then, there has been a substantial deterioration, and by the autumn of 2013 less than a third of Europeans shared this opinion.

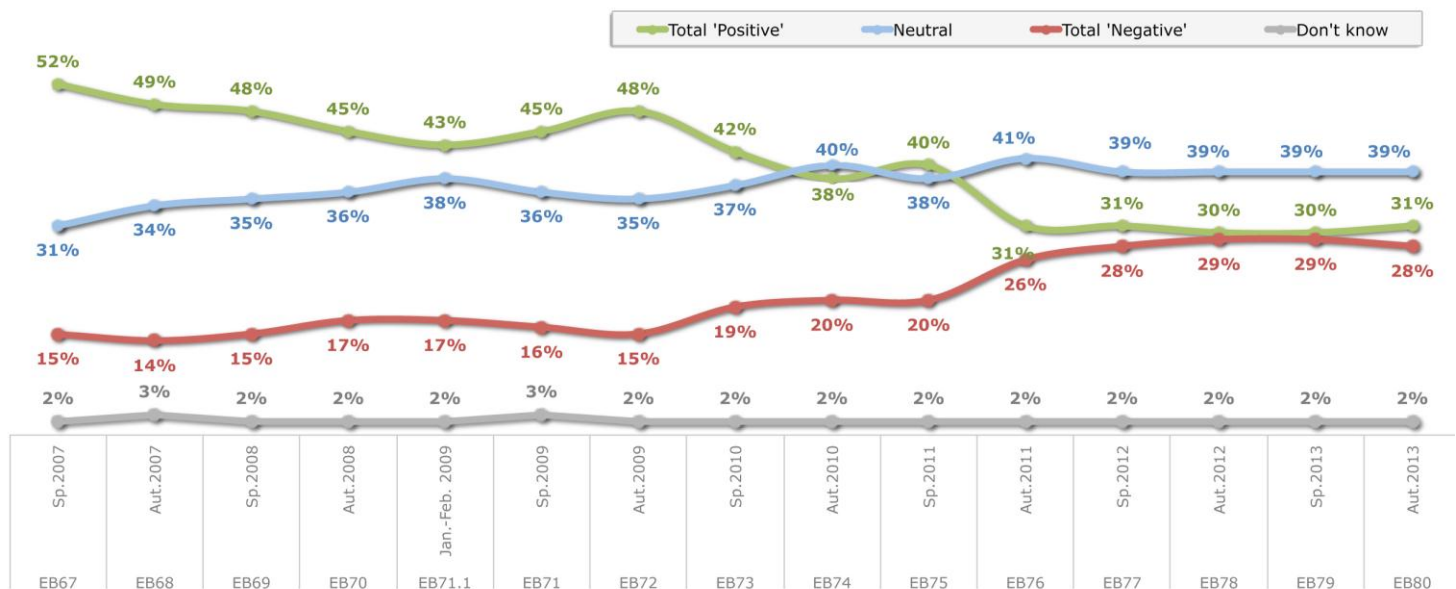
While this appears to mirror the decline in positive views of national economies, the real picture is less clear-cut. The decrease in the positive image has not been uniform, with the European elections in 2009 seeing a notable improvement. So, while the economy is undoubtedly an important factor in attitudes towards the EU, it is not the only one.

There is a correlation between perceptions and levels of information and engagement. Europeans who consider themselves well-informed about European matters are much more likely to view the EU positively (46%, compared with 24% of those who consider themselves less well-informed). This is matched by a similar correlation between people who feel their voice counts in Europe and have a positive view overall.

Dealing with the continuing fallout of the crisis is of course a priority, but issues of communication and democratic participation are also key to restoring faith in the EU.

The crisis is only one of several factors driving public perceptions of the EU.

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





EUROPEAN IDENTITY

How interested are Europeans in other EU countries?

Increasingly, Europeans are looking beyond the boundaries of their own country. Since 2006, a growing number have visited another country, read a book in a different language and socialised with other Europeans.

However, these increases have stalled since 2010, except for use of the Internet to purchase a product or a service from another EU country (a question that was asked for the first time in the spring of 2010).

The growing level of activity between 2006 and 2010 is largely the result of increases in countries that were recent newcomers to the EU (after the 2004 enlargement).

Notable examples include Slovakia (+18 percentage points for “visited another country”; +17 for “read a book, newspaper or magazine in a language other than your mother tongue”; and +18 for “socialised with people from another EU country”), Latvia (+16; +11; +16) and Lithuania (+12; +10; +12). This then levelled off between 2010 and 2013.

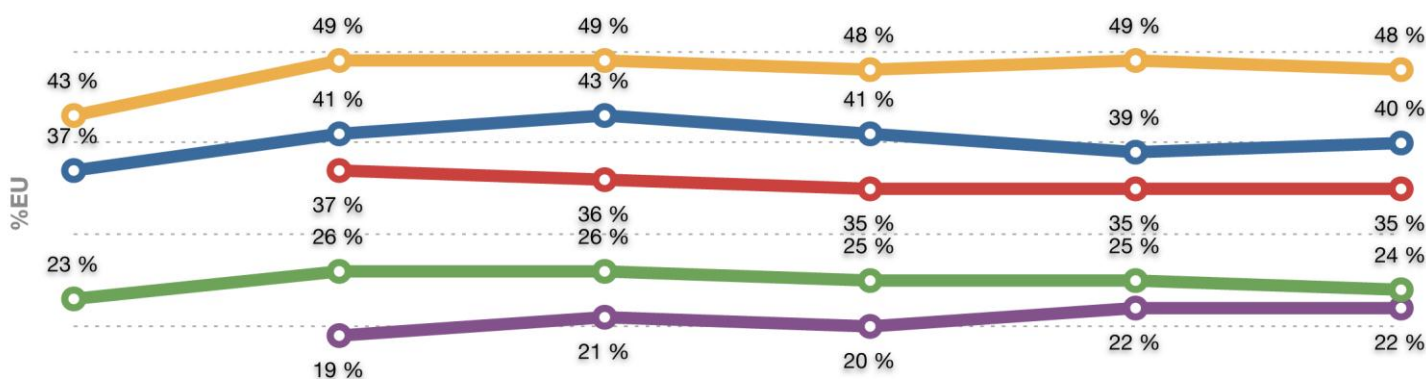
Different countries vary enormously. For example, in Luxembourg and – to a lesser extent – the Netherlands, Sweden, Malta and Denmark, it is common for people to travel abroad, socialise with people from other countries and read in other languages, while it is much less common to do so in Bulgaria, Italy, Hungary and Romania.

Significant proportions of Europeans are interested in other EU countries, and this interest has generally increased since 2006.

In the last 12 months have you...?

- Visited another EU country
- Read a book, newspaper or magazine in a language other than your mother tongue
- Socialised with people from another EU country
- Watched TV programs in a language other than your mother tongue
- Used Internet in order to purchase a product or a service from another EU country

Answer: “Yes”



| | | | | | |
|-------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|------------------|-----------------|------------------|
| EB65.1 Feb.-Mar.2006 | EB73 Sp.2010 | EB77 Sp.2012 | EB78 Aut.2012 | EB79 Sp.2013 | EB80 Aut.2013 |
|-------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|------------------|-----------------|------------------|

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EUROPEAN IDENTITY

What really unites Europeans?

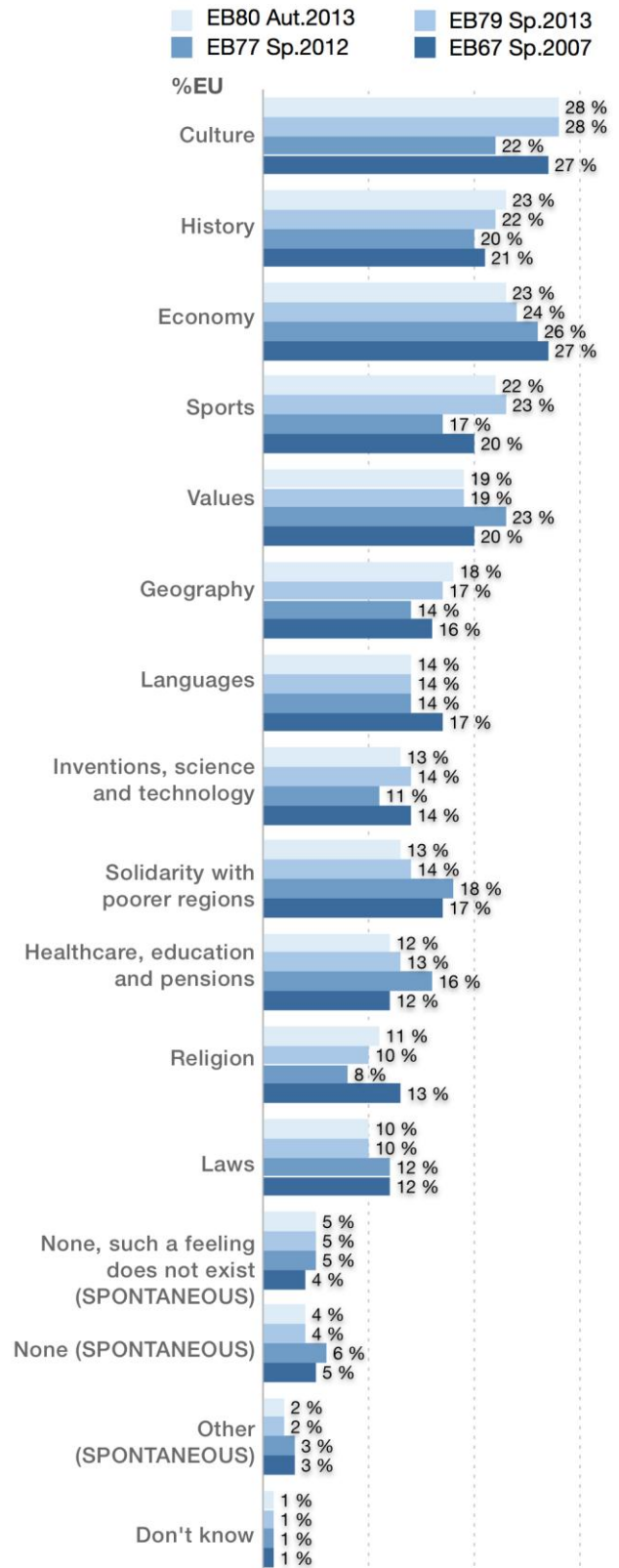
What brings Europeans together? What do they most have in common? Culture is the main thing – 28% of people say this creates a feeling of community among Europeans. But there are many other things too, with history, the economy, sports, values and geography being among the most prominent. This suggests that European identity is multi-faceted, and that being a European means many different things to different people.

Compared with 2007, people are now less likely to say that the economy is a factor in uniting Europeans (down four percentage points). Similarly, Europeans are less likely to regard solidarity with poorer regions as a key part of European identity (also down four points), so it may be that people see the economic and financial crisis as having weakened the feeling of community in the EU.

However, these changes are small, and the overall picture is similar to that in 2007. Despite economic problems, therefore, the perception of European identity has remained mostly stable over time.

Culture, history and the economy are the elements that most create a feeling of community among EU citizens.

In your opinion, among the following issues, which are those that most create a feeling of community among European Union citizens? (ROTATE – MAX. 3 ANSWERS)



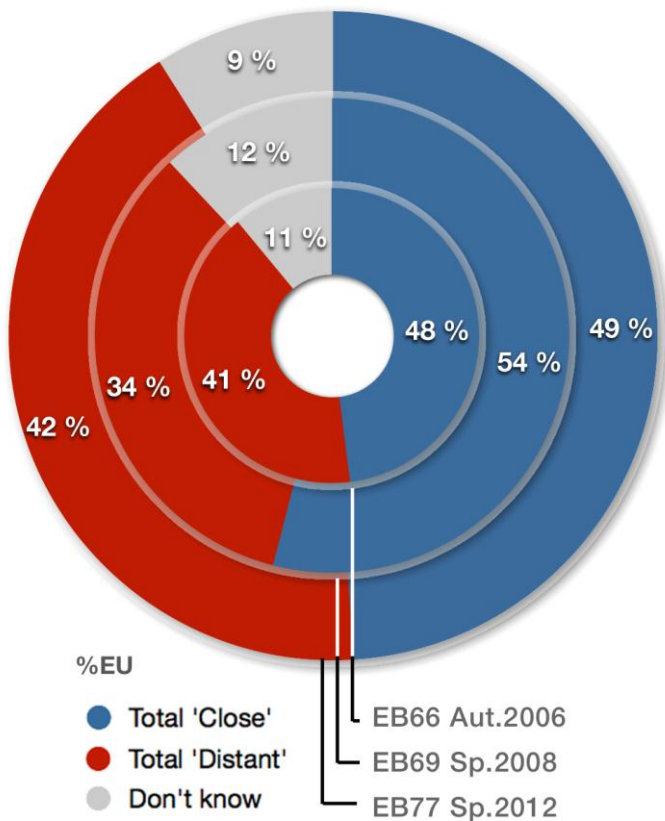


EUROPEAN IDENTITY

How close are European countries in terms of “shared values”?

Europeans are divided on whether they think different EU Member States have “shared values”: around half (49%) think countries are close in their shared values, but nearly as many (42%) do not think so.

In your opinion, in terms of shared values, are European Union Member States...?



This picture has not changed greatly over time, with views being almost identical now to what they were before the economic and financial crisis (in 2006).

Although 2008 saw a slight change – people thought countries were closer in their shared values at this time – the broad pattern has stayed the same.

The most positive views are held in Slovakia (70%, -1 percentage point since 2006), Poland (68%, +9), the Czech Republic (63%, -5) and Bulgaria (63%, +1), all of which joined the EU in the past decade.

The feeling of shared values has deteriorated most in countries that have been hit hard by the crisis, such as Portugal (down 21 points since 2006) and Greece (down 20 points).

This suggests that, in some countries at least, people may feel solidarity between Member States has been damaged because of the economic downturn.

Close, for about half of EU citizens, but distant for more than four Europeans in ten.



EUROPEAN IDENTITY

Has the crisis brought Europeans together or driven them apart?

Four in ten Europeans agree that, as a consequence of the economic and financial crisis, they feel closer to the citizens of other European countries (41%, -1 percentage point since the spring of 2012, when this question was first asked). However, more than half (53%, +2) say they do not feel closer to other EU citizens.

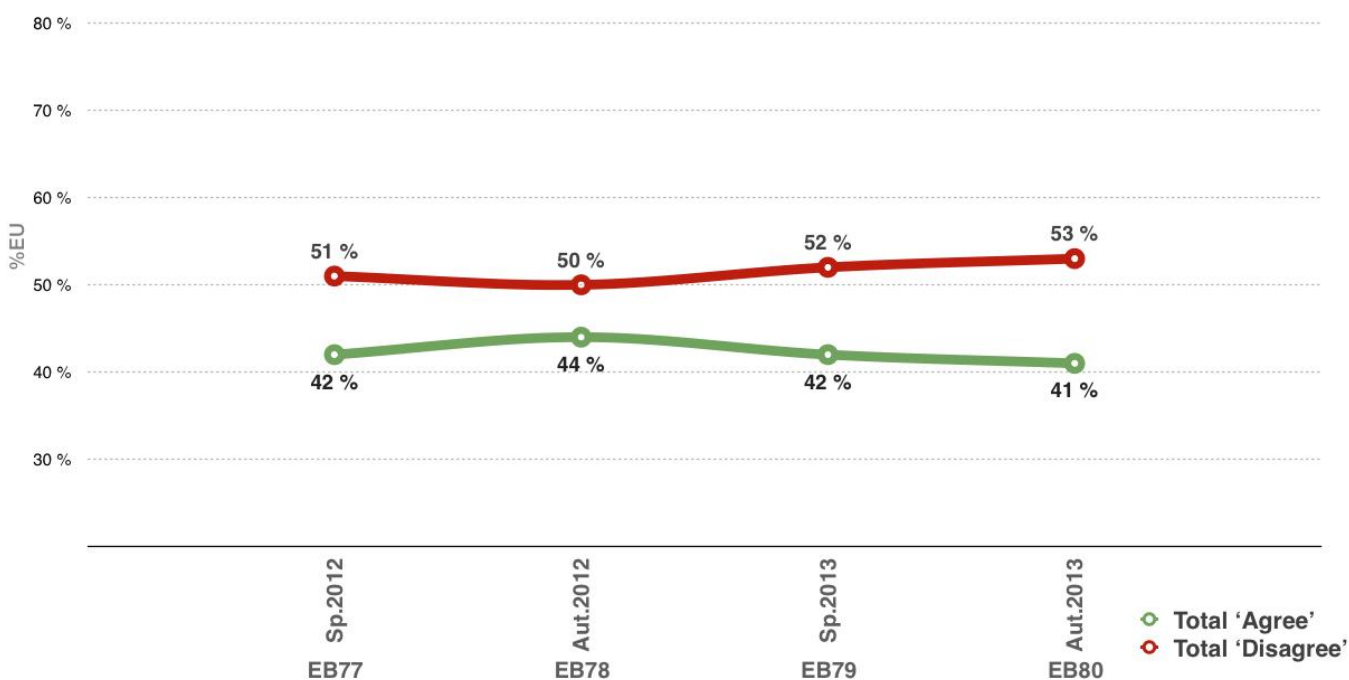
In several countries that have benefited from EU financial assistance, there is a stronger feeling of togetherness with other European citizens. This applies to people in Cyprus (60%), Greece (54%) and Ireland (50%). The figure is also high in Italy (52%), another country that has experienced financial difficulties.

As a consequence of the crisis, you feel closer to the citizens in other European countries.

In contrast, people in Denmark (22%) and the Netherlands (28%) are least likely to feel that the crisis has brought them closer to their fellow EU citizens.

Solidarity between Member States seems to be an important driver when it comes to feeling close to other EU citizens as a consequence of the crisis. Indeed, people in Cyprus and Greece are also the most likely to say that the European Parliament should defend "solidarity between Member States" as a priority.

In countries where the crisis has been most acute, a majority feel closer to other EU citizens, but overall fewer than half of Europeans feel this way.





CHALLENGES AND PRIORITIES FOR THE EU

What issues are Europeans most concerned about?

The economy has always been at the heart of Europeans' concerns, and has been brought into sharp focus by the economic and financial crisis.

While people have consistently regarded unemployment as the most important issue facing their country, the impact of the crisis saw the proportion saying this rise from 34% to 49% between the spring of 2007 and the autumn of 2013.

The economic situation witnessed a similar rise in public concern during this period. A fifth of Europeans considered it to be the most important issue facing their country in 2007, while in 2013 a third of them did so.

Broader societal issues around crime, healthcare, housing and immigration have seen corresponding decreases since 2007, although the most recent data available from Eurobarometer shows that this trend may be in reversal.

Concerns over inflation and the cost of living have remained high but relatively stable, with around one in five people putting these issues at the top of the list in both 2007 and 2013.

The economy and unemployment remain people's top concerns, followed by inflation and the rising cost of living.

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

| | EB67 Sp. 2007 | EB80 Aut. 2013 | 2007-2013 | |
|----------------------------|------------------|-------------------|-----------|-------------------------------|
| Unemployment | 34 % | 49 % | ▲ +15 | Increase of economic concerns |
| Economic situation | 20 % | 33 % | ▲ +13 | |
| Rising prices\ inflation | 18 % | 20 % | ▲ +2 | |
| Crime | 24 % | 11 % | ▼ -13 | Decrease of social concerns |
| Health and social security | 18 % | 12 % | ▼ -6 | |
| Immigration | 15 % | 12 % | ▼ -3 | |
| Terrorism | 12 % | 2 % | ▼ -10 | |
| Pensions | 12 % | 10 % | ▼ -2 | |
| The educational system | 9 % | 8 % | ▼ -1 | |
| Taxation | 8 % | 11 % | ▲ +3 | |
| Housing | 8 % | 5 % | ▼ -3 | |
| Protecting the environment | 7 % | 5 % | ▼ -6 | |
| Energy related issues | 4 % | | | |
| Defence\ Foreign affairs | 2 % | * | * | |
| Government debt | * | 14 % | * | |



CHALLENGES AND PRIORITIES FOR THE EU

Are Europeans finding it more difficult to make ends meet?

We can learn a lot about people's standard of living by looking at their ability to pay their bills each month. This problem affects a substantial proportion of Europeans: in the autumn of 2013, 13% said they had difficulties paying bills most of the time, and 28% said it happened from time to time.

However, these proportions have stayed very similar over recent years. The proportion who said they had problems (at least some of the time) varied only from 37% to 41% between 2009 and 2013.

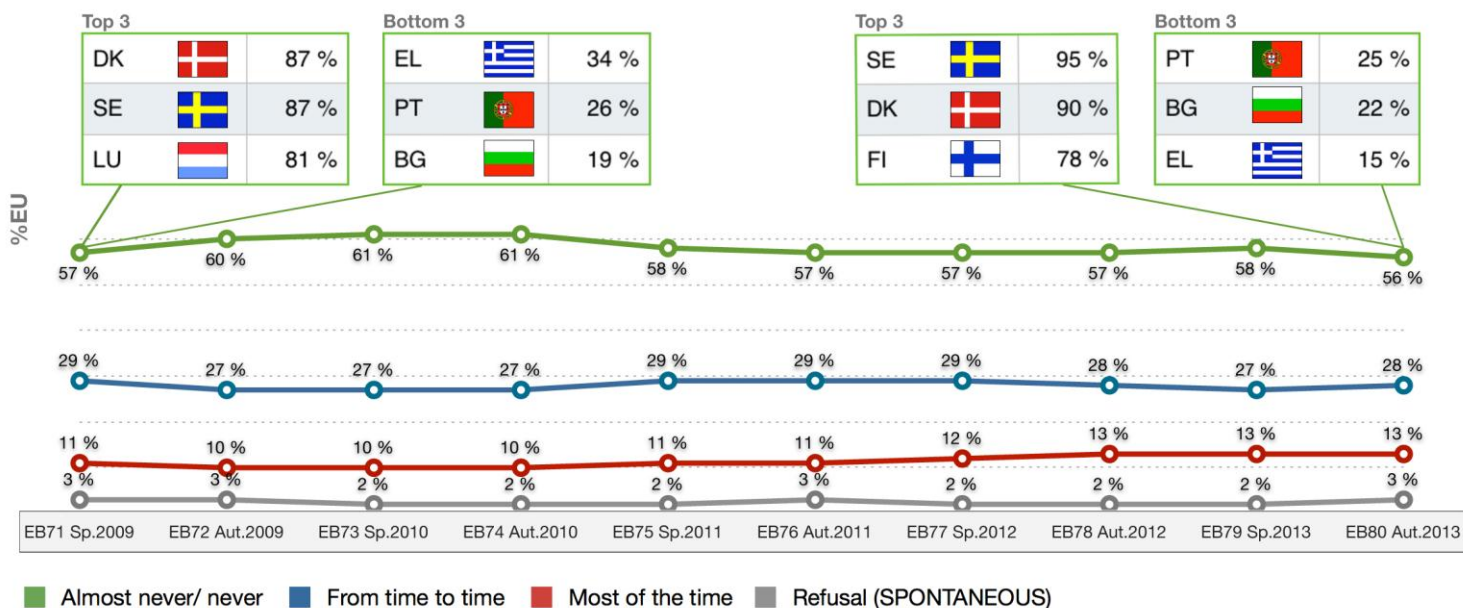
Other Eurobarometer findings on the way Europeans perceive the financial situation of their household tell the same story. Has the crisis left most Europeans unaffected, or are people simply unwilling to admit to personal financial difficulties?

Of course, the European picture disguises major differences between Member States. In Sweden (4%) and Denmark (9%), only a small proportion of people say they have difficulties paying bills most of the time, or from time to time, whereas this problem affects large proportions in Greece (85%), Portugal (74%), Bulgaria (73%) and Cyprus (71%).

Financial difficulties are also concentrated in certain demographic groups. Unemployed people, in particular, are far more likely than those who are working or retired to have regular problems paying bills.

Overall, the crisis appears to have had little impact on the ability of Europeans to pay their bills each month.

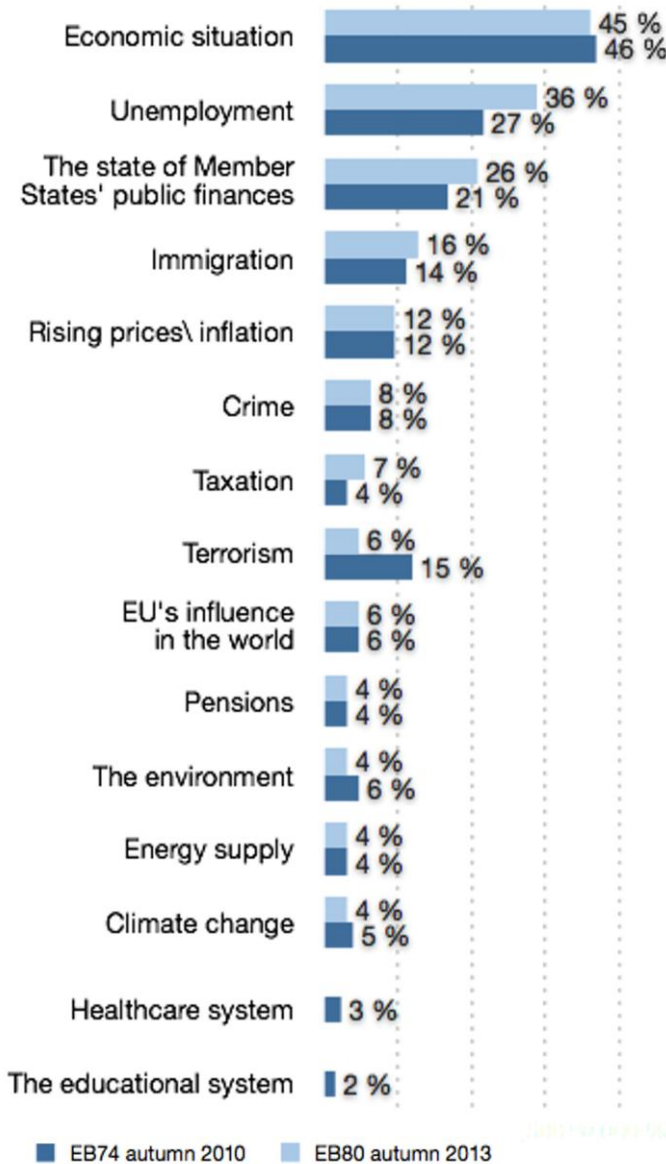
During the last twelve months, would you say you had difficulties to pay your bills at the end of the month...?





CHALLENGES AND PRIORITIES FOR THE EU

What do you think are the two most important issues facing the European Union at the moment?



What are the main issues facing the EU?

Whereas unemployment is perceived, by far, as the most important issue at national level, things are slightly different at EU level: the economic situation comes in first place, mentioned by 45% of EU citizens in the autumn of 2013 (-1 percentage point since the autumn of 2010).

Unemployment comes in second position, after a 9-point increase (36%), with two other items related to the economy in third and fifth position: the state of Member States' public finances – mentioned by 26% of Europeans (+5) – and rising prices/inflation (12%, unchanged). In fourth position, immigration is the first non-economic issue to be mentioned (16%, +2).

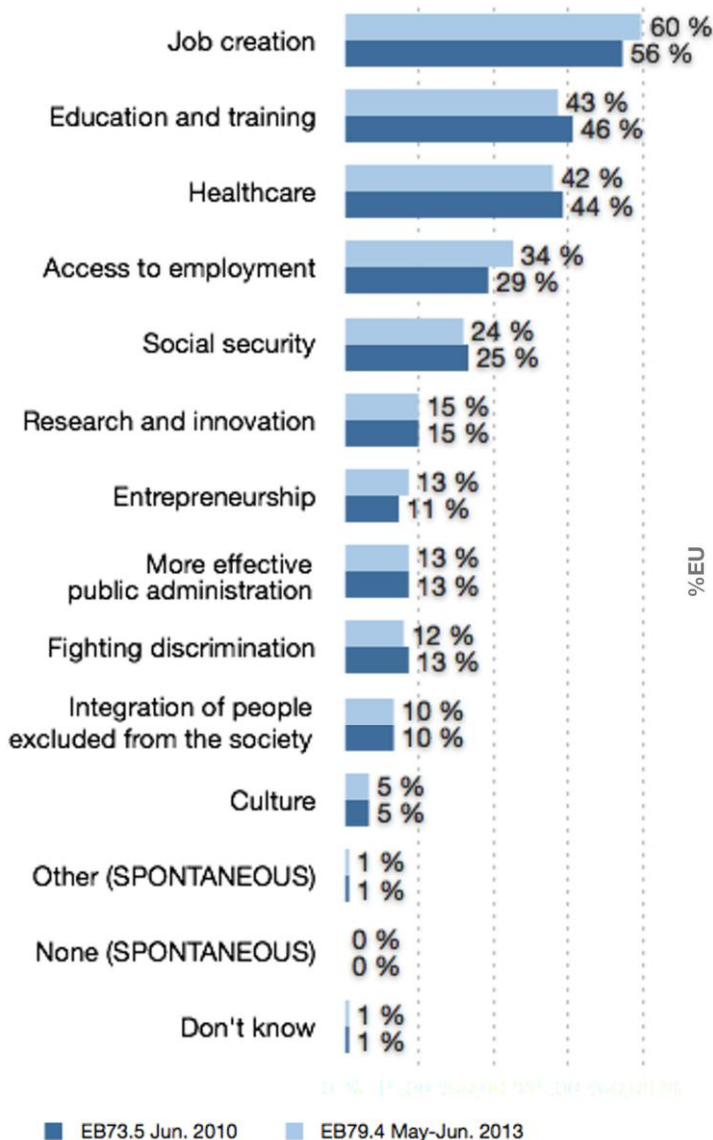
The economic situation is seen as the main issue facing the EU in 22 Member States, with the highest proportions in the Netherlands (63%) and Spain (58%). More than half of respondents mention the economic situation in Cyprus (57%), but there respondents regard unemployment as the number one issue facing the EU (61%). Unemployment also ranks first in Italy (49%) and Luxembourg (48%), while in Austria (48%), Finland (48%) and Germany (43%), the state of Member States' public finances is perceived as the main issue at European level.

Europeans cite the economic situation as the main issue facing the EU, followed by unemployment.



CHALLENGES AND PRIORITIES FOR THE EU

When it comes to social and employment issues, in your opinion, in which three of the following areas should the EU invest its resources as a priority?



What are the priorities for the EU – and who should benefit?

Job creation is the area where Europeans would most like to see the EU invest its resources. This is in line with the predominant feeling that the economic situation and unemployment are the main challenges facing the EU. Six in ten see job creation as a priority, well ahead of other social and employment issues such as education and training (43%) and healthcare (42%). Since 2010, job creation has increased as a priority (up four percentage points), as has access to employment (up five points). Overall, though, priorities have remained similar over time.

Job creation ranks highest as a priority in almost all Member States. However, education and training is seen as the most important issue in Denmark, Germany and the Netherlands, three countries where the unemployment rate is well below the EU average.

A majority of Europeans think that, when it comes to social and employment issues, EU support should be spread across the whole of the EU, whereas one in three think that there should be a focus on the poorest countries or regions. It is generally the people who live in “poorer” countries who are in favour of targeted support.

The EU should focus on job creation, and this should be spread across all Member States.



DEMOCRACY IN THE EU

How do Europeans view the political landscape of the EU?

Since the start of Eurobarometer, Europeans have been asked whether they are satisfied with the way democracy works in their country. Over this long time period, we can see two things: firstly, the majority of Europeans have been satisfied (at least most of the time). Secondly, satisfaction with democracy at a national level tends to be higher than satisfaction with the way democracy works in the EU (measured since 1994).

Attitudes have become less positive over the past few years. In 2009, 54% of respondents were satisfied with democracy in the EU, but this had fallen to 43% by 2013.

This decline may be linked to Europeans' perceptions of their country's interests in the EU: 53% disagree that the interests of their country are well taken into account by the EU, and this negative feeling has grown in recent years.

Although there are only a few differences between the euro area and the rest of the EU in attitudes to democracy in one's own country, opinions differ when it comes to satisfaction with democracy in the EU: dissatisfaction is much higher in the euro area (51%) than outside (35%).

Dissatisfaction with democracy in the EU is also higher in countries that have been most affected by the economic and financial crisis, such as Greece (75%), Portugal (75%) and Cyprus (61%). On the contrary, satisfaction is most pronounced in Poland (69%), Luxembourg (64%) and Denmark (63%).

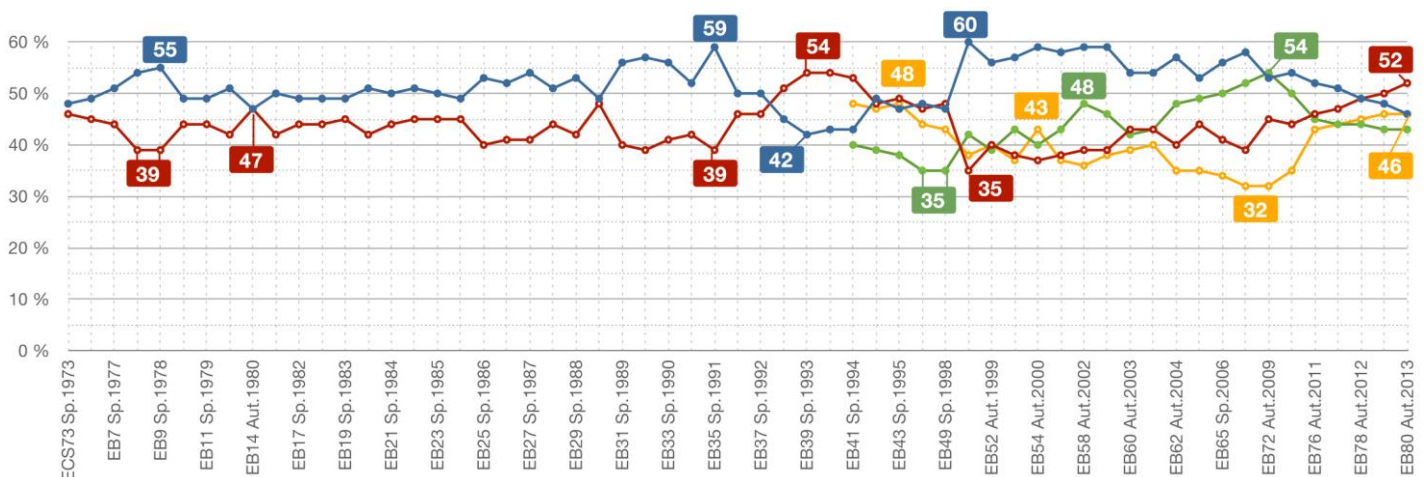
Europeans are divided on how well democracy is working – in the EU and in individual countries.

On the whole, are you very satisfied, fairly satisfied, not very satisfied or not at all satisfied with the way democracy works in (OUR COUNTRY)?

- Total 'Satisfied'
- Total 'Not satisfied'

And how about the way democracy works in the EU?

- Total 'Satisfied'
- Total 'Not satisfied'



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DEMOCRACY IN THE EU

Do EU citizens feel their voice counts?

Over the last decade, there has been a gradual positive evolution in the number of Europeans who agree that their voice counts in the European Union. More recently, with the addition of the question on whether people feel their voice counts in their own country, it is consistently clear that a larger proportion say their voice counts at national level.

The timing of European elections has a strong bearing on this issue. There was an increase in the proportion who felt their voice counted in the EU in the autumn of 2004, just a few months after the European Parliament elections of June 2004, and again in the spring of 2009, shortly after the 2009 elections.

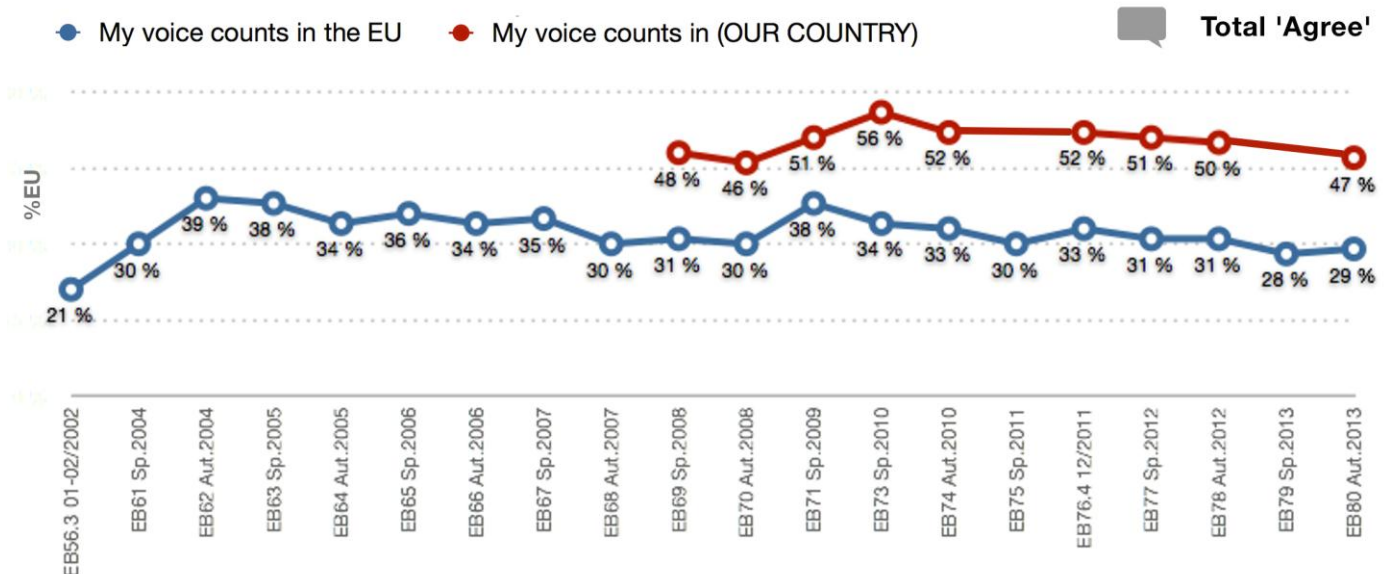
The economic and financial crisis has also made a difference. In the Member States most affected by the crisis, people are much less likely to feel their voice counts both at national level and in the EU, notably in Greece (where only 20% feel that their voice counts at national level and 13% at EU level) and Cyprus (22%; 11%).

At the other end of the scale, people mostly feel that their voice is taken into account in Denmark (93% at national level; 57% at EU level) and Sweden (91%; 47%).

Eurobarometer results show that, if people feel their voice counts in the EU, they are also more likely to feel confident in the EU, to have a positive image of it, and be optimistic about its future.

Citizens are more likely to feel they have a voice in the EU at the time of the EP elections.

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





DEMOCRACY IN THE EU

How much do European citizens know about the EU?

When tested on their knowledge of the EU, most Europeans know some basic facts: that there are 28 Member States, that MEPs are elected directly by citizens of each country, and that Switzerland is not an EU Member State. This level of knowledge has changed little over the years, with a majority consistently answering correctly.

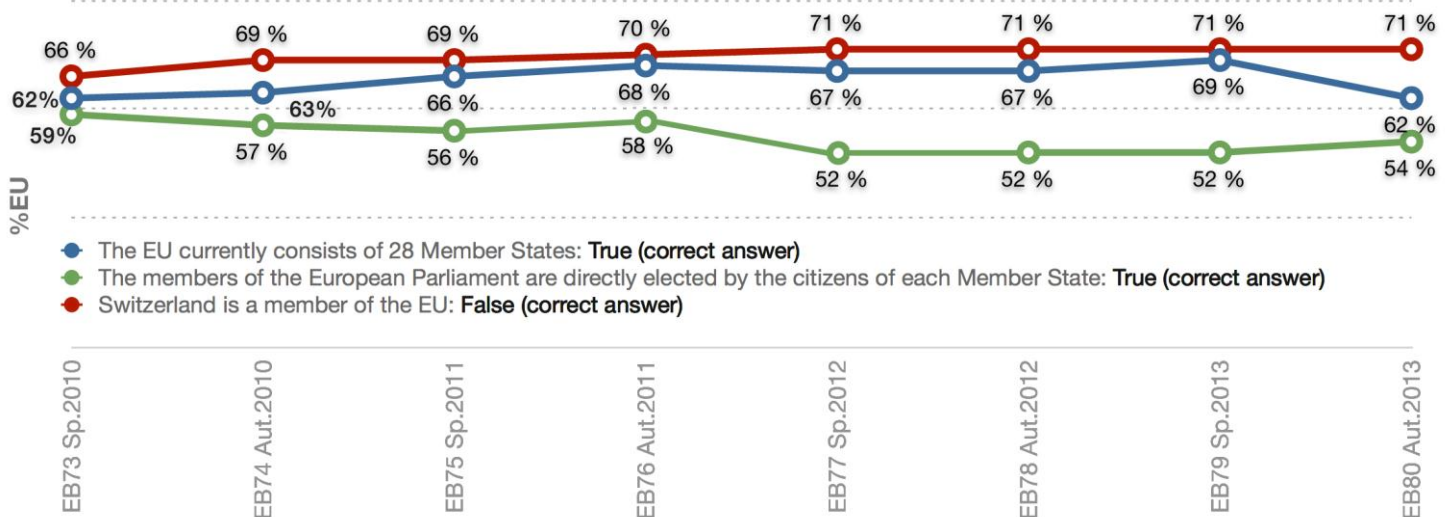
However, knowledge varies strikingly from one Member State to another. In the autumn of 2013, the proportions in different countries who knew that the EU consists of 28 Member States varied from 45% to 85%, those who knew that MEPs are elected directly by citizens varied from 44% to 91%, and those who knew that Switzerland is not a member of the EU varied from 51% to 93%.

At the same time, only half of Europeans agree that they understand how the EU works, and this varies considerably across demographic groups: just 30% of those who left school by the age of 15 feel that they understand how the EU works, compared with 64% of those who continued their studies until the age of 20 or beyond.

These findings are important, because greater knowledge of the EU can lead to more positive opinions. The image that people have of the EU is more positive among those who feel they understand how the EU works (41% positive) than among those who say they don't understand how it works (20% positive).

Most know the key facts about the EU, but do not always feel they know how it works.

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





DEMOCRACY IN THE EU

How well-informed are citizens about European issues?

Most EU citizens have heard of the European Parliament and the European Commission. Over time, awareness has been stable, ranging from 87% to 92% for the European Parliament, and from 77% to 85% for the European Commission.

However, in the autumn of 2013, only 29% of EU citizens said they feel well-informed about European matters, which was a slight decrease from the autumn of 2010 (32%).

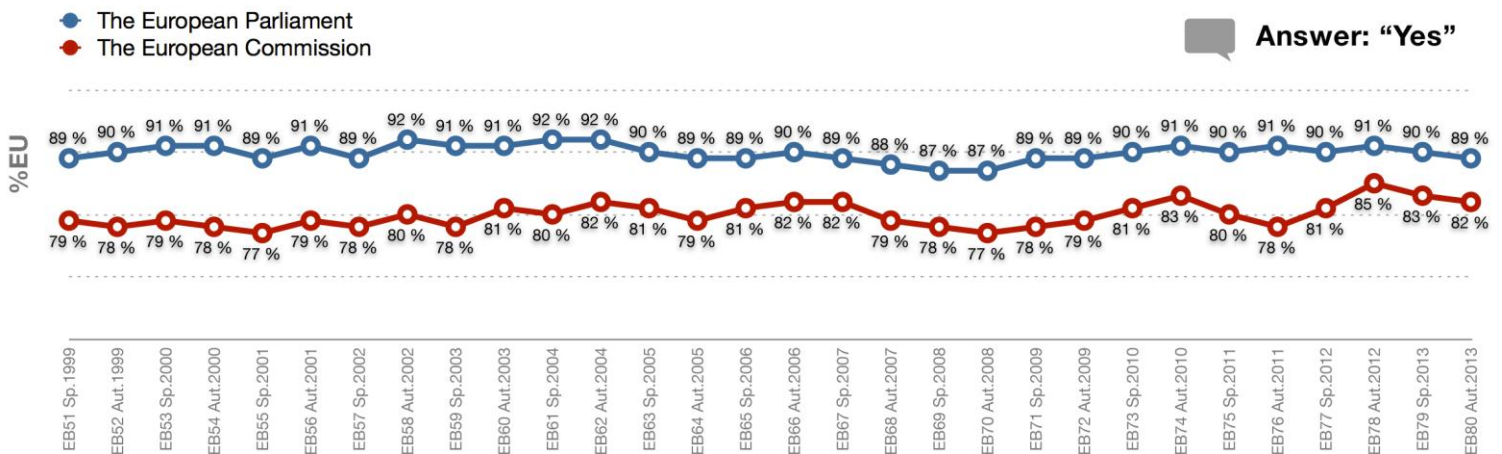
The feeling of being well-informed is highest in Luxembourg (52%, -4 percentage points since the autumn of 2010), Finland (48%, +6) and Denmark (48%, +3). The countries where citizens feel least well-informed are Spain (18%, -2) and France (18%, -7).

Even among those who stayed longer in education (41%), or who work in a managerial position (45%), less than half feel well-informed.

As with other Eurobarometer questions, this suggests that most people know the basic facts about the European Union, but do not feel they have any depth of knowledge.

Most people, whatever their socio-demographic status, say they lack information on EU matters.

Have you heard of ...?





EU CITIZENSHIP

How “European” do EU citizens feel?

Most people in the EU see themselves as “European”. This has been the majority view since 1992, with the proportion ranging from 51% to 63% during that time. There are different shades of feeling European: some people feel “national and European”, others “European and national”, and a small minority feel “European only”. But overall, the majority have felt European in some way every time this question has been asked.

However, a substantial minority of Europeans feel “national only”, in proportions varying from 33% to 46% over the last 20 years or so.

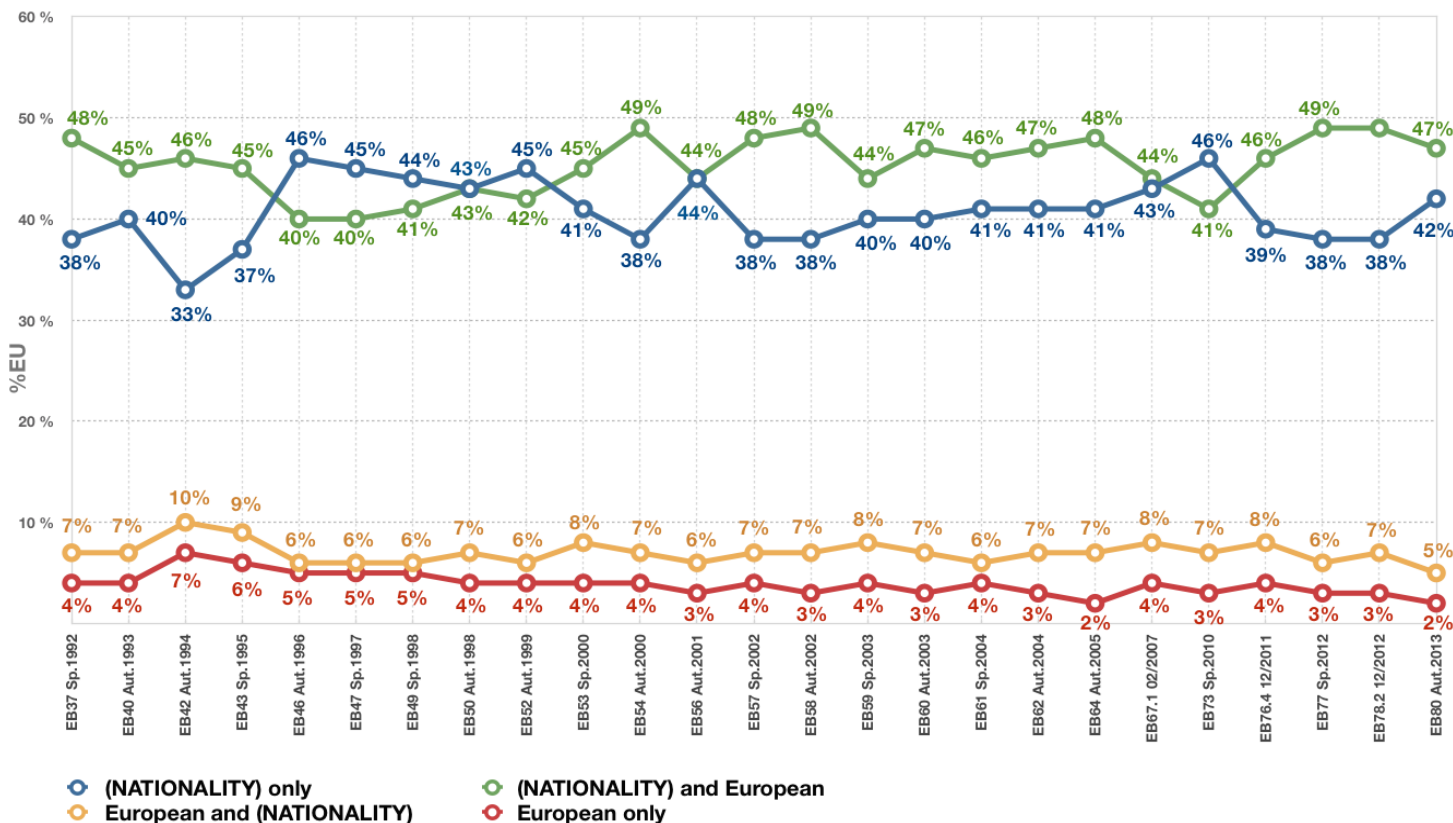
The feeling of being European varies significantly between Member States: 77% of citizens feel European in some way in Luxembourg, and at least two-thirds feel the same in Croatia (70%), Belgium (67%) and Slovakia (66%).

This proportion falls to around a third in the UK (33%) and Ireland (34%), and to less than half in Greece (44%), Romania (46%), Portugal and Bulgaria (both 48%).

Variations also exist between socio-demographic groups: the feeling of being European (in its various forms) is strongest among men, people under 40, and those who stay longer in education.

The majority say they feel European in some way.

Do you see yourself as...?



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EU CITIZENSHIP

Do EU citizens know their rights?

Nearly six in ten Europeans say they “feel they are citizens of the EU”. In Luxembourg, 85% of citizens say this, and more than seven in ten say the same in Malta (74%), Finland, Germany (both 73%), Estonia (72%) and Denmark (71%). However, fewer than half of respondents consider themselves to be EU citizens in Greece, the UK (both 42%), Italy (45%), Cyprus (46%) and Bulgaria (49%).

Despite feeling part of the EU, the majority of Europeans say they do not know their rights as an EU citizen. The highest level of awareness is in Finland, where close to two-thirds of respondents know their rights (64%), followed by Cyprus (59%), Austria, Estonia, Denmark and Luxembourg (all 58%).

In contrast, less than 40% of the population know their rights in France (29%), Italy (31%), the UK (34%), Bulgaria and Greece (both 36%).

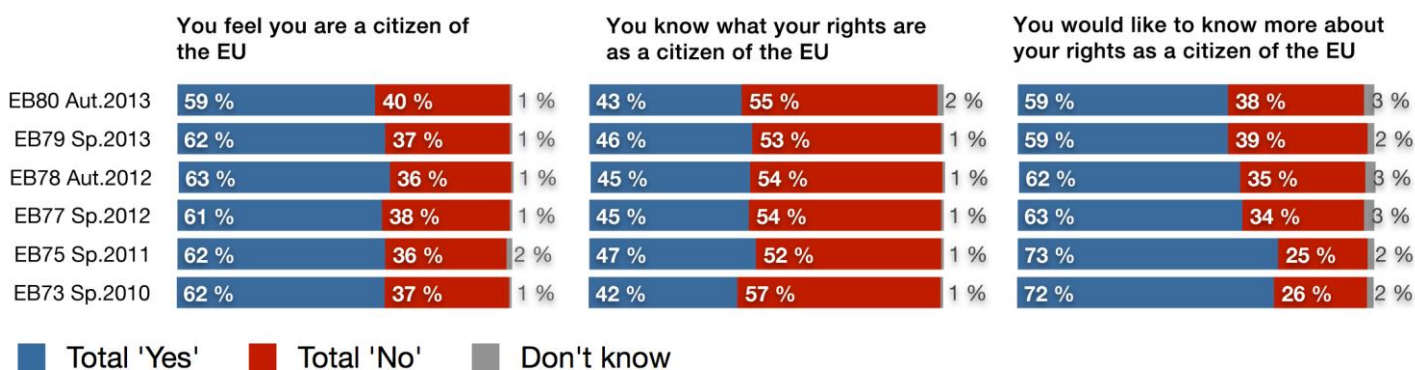
Reflecting this lack of knowledge, most Europeans would like to know more about their rights as EU citizens. However, they have become less interested in knowing their rights over the past few years, with the level falling from 72% in the spring of 2010 to 59% in the autumn of 2013.

Perhaps this issue has become less pressing, with the economic and financial crisis focusing attention on more immediate concerns, such as employment and living standards. Or does it indicate a growing disengagement from the EU and European matters?

People who remain in education for longer are much more likely to say they know their rights as an EU citizen. Conversely, those who left education by the age of 15 know less about their rights but are also less likely to want to know more.

The majority do not know their rights in the EU. Most want to know more, but the overall level of interest is declining.

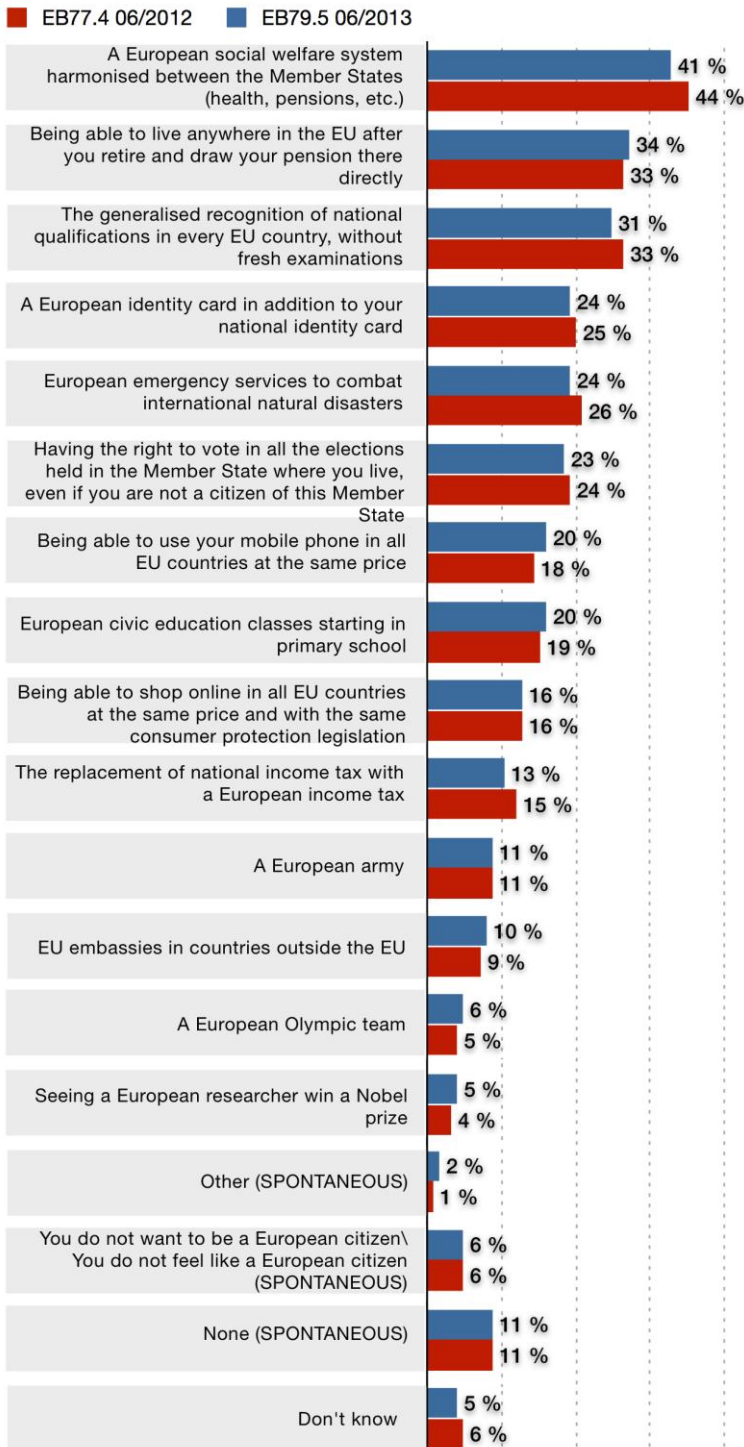
For each of the following statements, please tell me to what extent it corresponds or not to your own opinion.





EU CITIZENSHIP

Which of the following things would do most to strengthen your feeling of being a European citizen?



Does more harmonisation lead to a stronger feeling of EU citizenship?

Most Europeans feel that they are “citizens of the EU”, but how can this feeling be strengthened? Many think that the answer lies in greater harmonisation across the EU. The most popular way of increasing the sense of EU citizenship is through a European social welfare system harmonised between the Member States (chosen by 41%). Support for this idea is widespread across the EU, ranking highest in 23 Member States.

Other popular measures include harmonisation of the pension system (being able to live anywhere in the EU after retirement and to draw a pension there directly), chosen by 34%, and harmonisation of national qualifications, mentioned by 31%.

A harmonised pension system is the most popular measure in Denmark (alongside a European social welfare system), Ireland and the Netherlands, while the harmonisation of national qualifications ranks highest in Germany. In Austria, “European emergency services to combat international natural disasters” is the most popular measure. Across the EU as a whole, this hierarchy remained similar between June 2012 and June 2013.

Harmonisation of social welfare systems, pensions and qualifications is key to strengthening European identity.



EU CITIZENSHIP

Are the perceived benefits of membership helping to create a sense of EU citizenship?

Europeans are generally inclined to feel that their country has benefited from EU membership: the proportion expressing this view has ranged from 41%, in the spring of 1997, to 59%, between 1989 and 1991, and again in the spring of 2007.

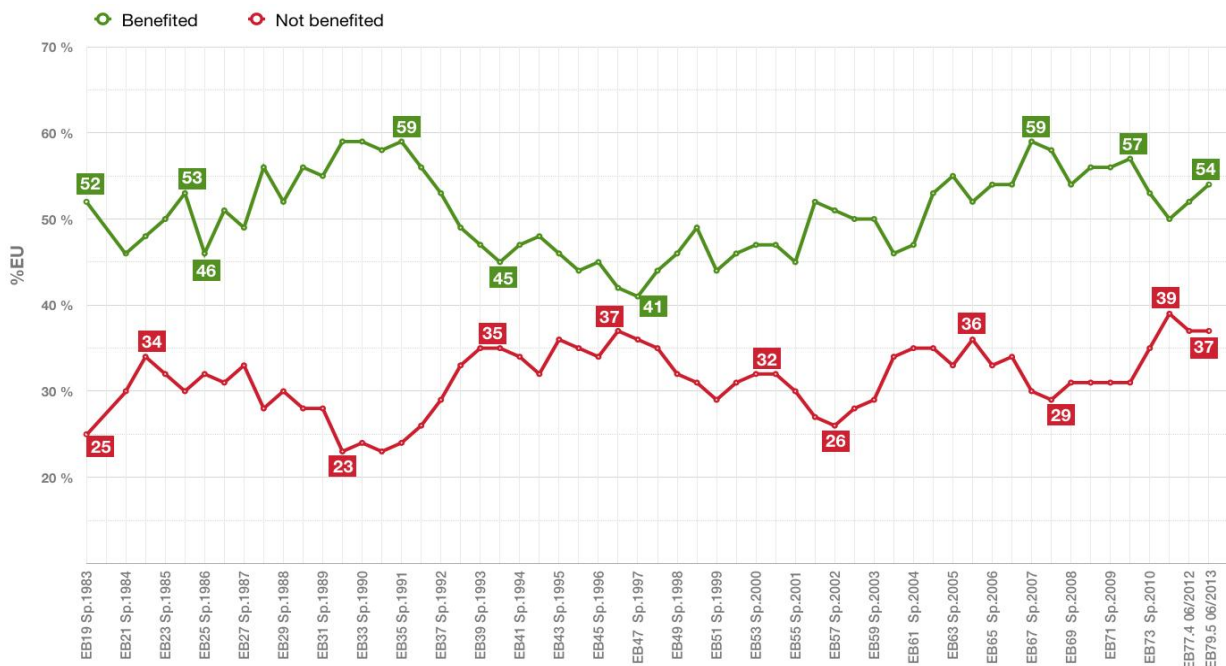
The share of Europeans saying that their country has benefited from EU membership fell below 50% a number of times between 1983 and 2013: for relatively short periods in 1984, the spring of 1986 and 1987, the autumn of 2003 and the spring of 2004, and for a much longer period between the autumn of 1992 and the spring of 2001. Since the 2004 enlargement, however, this proportion has remained consistently above 50%.

There is a positive link between seeing the benefits of EU membership and having a feeling of EU citizenship. In the spring of 2011 – the last time the two questions were asked in the same survey – countries where respondents were most likely to acknowledge the benefits of EU membership also had large proportions of respondents who regarded themselves as EU citizens: Luxembourg (73% and 88%, respectively), Slovakia (72%; 79%), Poland (73%; 72%) and Ireland (78%; 71%).

On the other hand, Member States where less than half thought their country had benefited from EU membership were also those where the fewest respondents felt that they were citizens of the EU: the UK (35%; 41%), Bulgaria (46%; 44%), Greece (47%; 44%) and Latvia (47%; 48%).

Those who see the benefits of EU membership are also more likely to have a feeling of EU citizenship.

Taking everything into account, would you say that (OUR COUNTRY) has on balance benefited or not from being a member of the EU?





THE FUTURE OF EUROPE

Are Europeans optimistic about the future of the EU?

Europeans have generally remained optimistic about the future of the EU. However, optimism has declined since the spring of 2007, just before the beginning of the economic and financial crisis, when 69% were optimistic. In the autumn of 2013, this had fallen to 51%, with a significant minority of people saying they were pessimistic (43%).

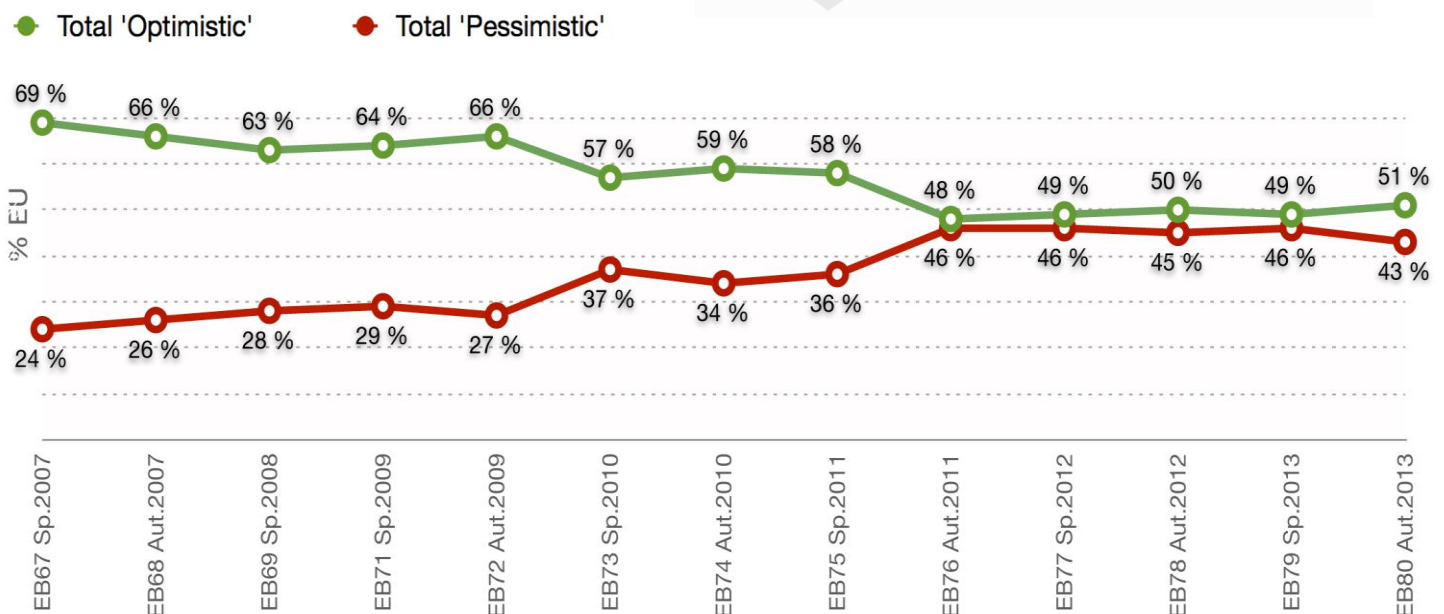
In the spring of 2007, people were more likely to be optimistic rather than pessimistic in every Member State. However, by the autumn of 2013 pessimism prevailed in eight countries. The decline in optimism during this period was particularly pronounced in Cyprus (-41 percentage points), Greece (-38), Italy (-28), Portugal (-26), Spain (-26) and Slovenia (-26). Optimism at the end of 2013 was highest in Denmark (75%), Ireland (67%), Malta (67%), Estonia (66%), Lithuania (66%) and Poland (66%).

Levels of optimism vary across different socio-demographic groups. Optimism is greater among young people (59% of those aged 15-24), those who remained in education until at least the age of 20 (59%) and those who rarely or never have difficulties paying their bills (58%).

In contrast, pessimism is common among older people (47% among those aged 55 or over), those who finished education by the age of 15 (53%) and those who struggle most of the time to pay their bills (63%).

Most remain optimistic, but there has been a marked decline in optimism since the onset of the economic and financial crisis.

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





THE FUTURE OF EUROPE

Will EU countries have to work more closely together as a consequence of the crisis?

The economic and financial crisis could have some unexpectedly positive outcomes for the European Union: a large majority of EU citizens consider that, as a consequence of the crisis, EU countries will have to work more closely together.

This opinion is shared by more than eight in ten Europeans, and has exceeded this threshold each time the question has been asked between the spring of 2012 and the autumn of 2013.

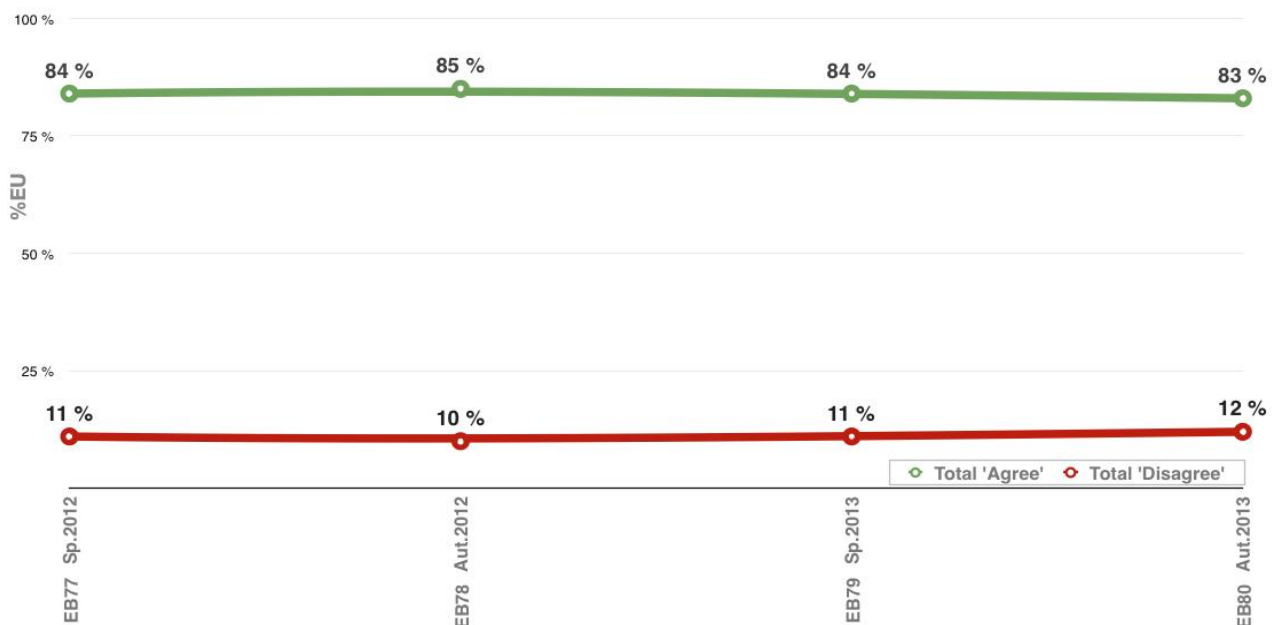
Agreement is widespread in all Member States, ranging from 97% in Cyprus, 93% in Luxembourg and 91% in Estonia to 74% in Austria and Italy, 78% in Portugal and 79% in Lithuania and the UK.

Public opinion has remained at much the same level since 2012 in most countries, with the largest increases in Estonia (91%, +8 percentage points), Ireland (83%, +7) and Finland (90%, +6).

This feeling is shared by significant majorities of Europeans in all socio-demographic categories. More than two-thirds in every category consider that EU countries will have to work more closely together as a result of the crisis, a proportion that exceeds 90% among some groups.

Definitely, think European citizens. A large majority share this view in all EU countries and socio-demographic categories.

For each of the following statements, please tell me whether you totally agree, tend to agree, tend to disagree or totally disagree. As a consequence of the crisis, EU countries will have to work more closely together.





THE FUTURE OF EUROPE

Do Europeans see globalisation as an opportunity or a threat?

EU citizens generally see globalisation as an opportunity for economic growth. Every time this question has been asked since the spring of 2008, Europeans have been more likely to agree than disagree that globalisation is an opportunity for growth.

The highest levels of agreement are in the Nordic countries: Sweden (80%), Denmark (79%) and Finland (73%). However, in Greece (27%), Cyprus (32%) and Italy (32%), less than a third of the population hold this view.

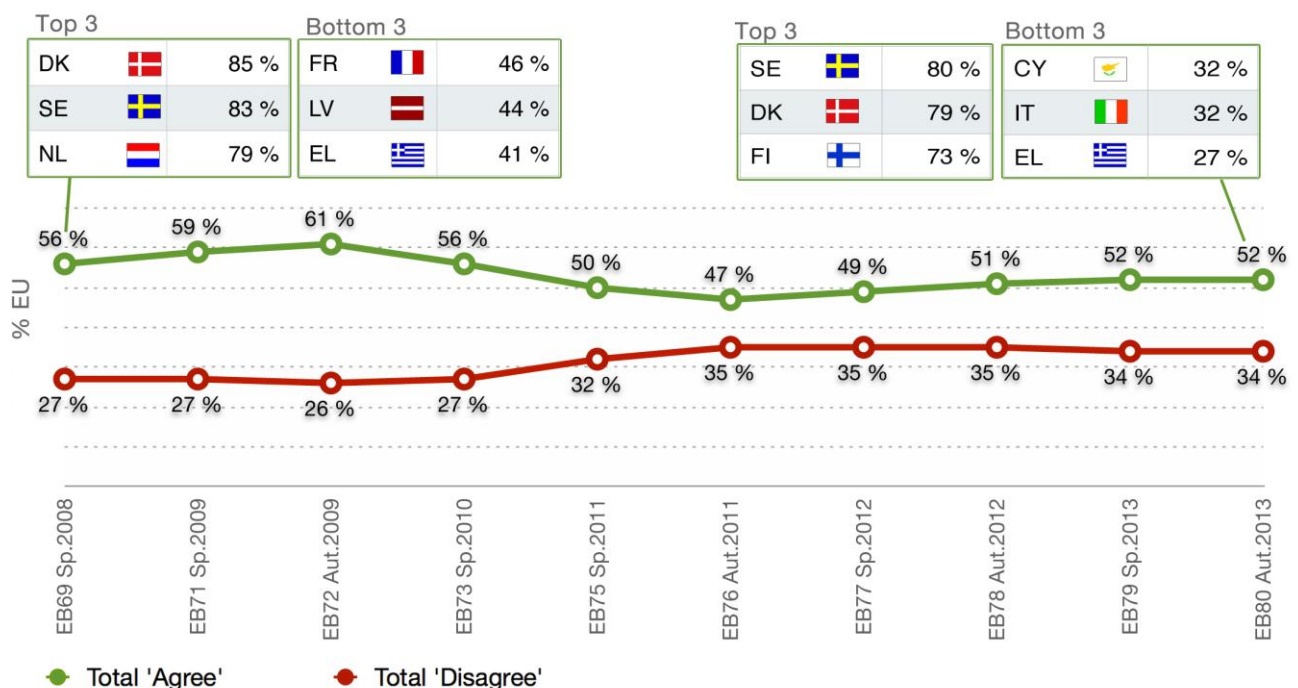
At the overall EU level, attitudes to globalisation do not appear to have been affected too much by the economic and financial crisis. The proportion of Europeans agreeing that it is an opportunity for economic growth has fallen, but only by four percentage points between the spring of 2008 and the autumn of 2013.

However, changes at the country level tell a different story: views on the positive impact of globalisation have declined sharply in Member States that have been hit hard by the crisis: Italy (-18 percentage points), Cyprus (-18), Greece (-14) and Portugal (-13).

In contrast, the perception of globalisation as an opportunity for economic growth has increased in countries such as Luxembourg (+9), Finland (+9) and Germany (+7).

Please tell me to what extent you agree or disagree with each of the following statements. Globalisation represents an opportunity for economic growth.

Most see it as an opportunity, but not in the countries hit hardest by the crisis.





THE FUTURE OF EUROPE

How strong is the EU's influence on the world stage?

When comparing the political influence of the EU with other major players, Europeans make a clear distinction between the various countries used for comparison.

In the eyes of most Europeans, the political influence of the EU is stronger than that of India and Brazil. They also think that the EU's influence is stronger than Japan's, although to a lesser extent. However, compared with China and, in particular, the US, Europeans tend to see the EU's influence as weaker rather than stronger.

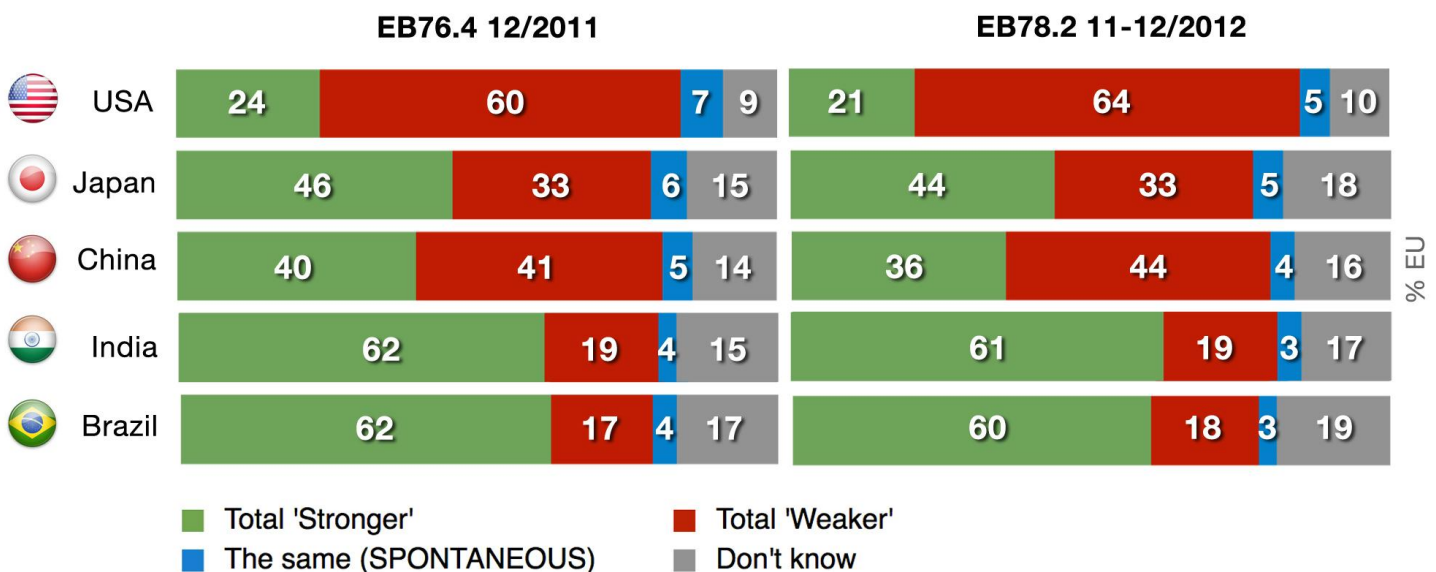
Between 2011 and 2012, there was a decline in the perceived political influence of the EU against all these countries.

Expectations for the future position of the EU on the world stage are very similar to its position today: imagining what the situation will be in 2020, large majorities of Europeans think the EU will be more influential than India and Brazil, and a slight majority think this with regard to Japan. A majority also expect the EU's influence to outweigh that of Russia.

On the other hand, only a third of Europeans expect the influence of the EU to be stronger than that of the US and China in 2020, while more than half expect it to be weaker.

Europeans regard the EU as more influential than India, Brazil and Japan – but less so than China and the US.

And would you say that the political influence of the EU is currently stronger or weaker than that of...? The US/Japan/China/India/Brazil





COMMUNICATING EUROPE

Where do EU citizens get their news on European political matters?

EU citizens mostly get their news on European political matters from television, far more than from other media: three in four Europeans give this answer, 40% mention the press, 31% the radio and 29% the Internet, whereas more than one in ten (12%) answer spontaneously that they do not look for such news.

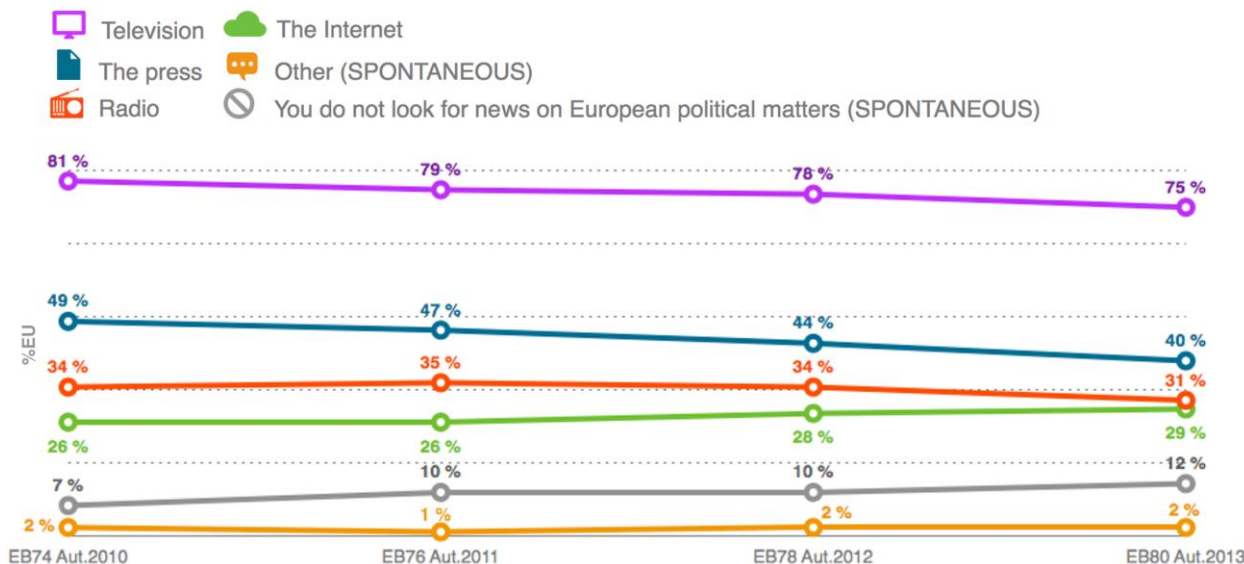
This hierarchy of “passive information” channels (sources of news that are received without necessarily actively looking for them) is unchanged since the autumn of 2010. However, traditional media have declined since then, with television (-6 percentage points), the press (-9) and radio (-3) all losing some ground. Conversely, the Internet has seen a 3-point rise. The largest positive evolution, though, is in the proportion who say that they do not look for news on European political matters (+5).

Television is the most-mentioned item in all Member States, led by Romania (88%), Croatia (86%), Denmark (85%) and Bulgaria (85%). Around two-thirds of respondents get their news on European political affairs through the press in Finland (68%), Sweden (66%), Austria (64%) and Luxembourg (64%). Ireland is the only country where more than half the population cite the radio (51%), while in Estonia (54%) and Latvia (52%) more than half of people receive their news on European political matters through the Internet.

Wide variations exist between socio-demographic categories, although television is the first source for news on European affairs in all cases. However, whereas 63% of young people aged 15 to 24 mention television, 80% of those aged 55 and over do so. The Internet comes in second place among people aged 15-24 (51%) and 25-39 (42%), while it is fourth behind the press and radio for those aged 40 and over.

Television is by far the number one medium for “passively” receiving news on European affairs.

Where do you get most of your news on European political matters? Firstly? And then?





COMMUNICATING EUROPE

How has the Internet changed the way people get information about the EU?

When looking for information about the EU, close to half of Europeans use TV (48% in the autumn of 2013), followed by the Internet (33%), daily newspapers (26%), discussions with friends and relatives (19%) and the radio (17%), while more than a fifth of people (21%) spontaneously say that they never look for such information.

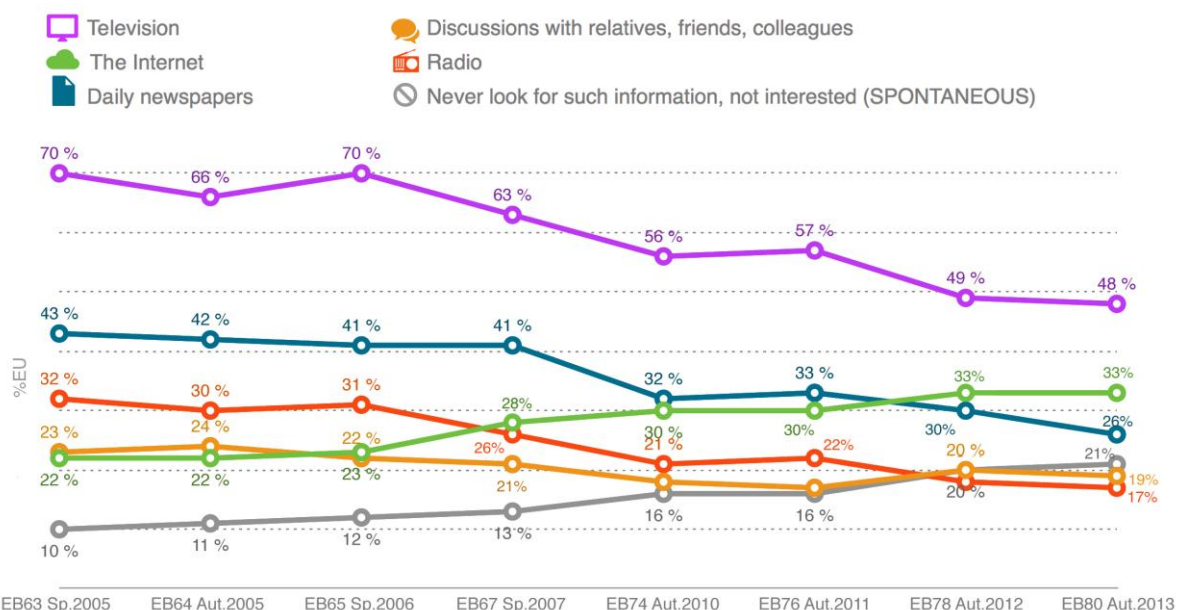
The way this picture has evolved since the spring of 2005 reflects the changes in the media landscape over this period. The most notable beneficiary is the Internet: in the spring of 2005, it was the fifth most popular source of information on the EU, mentioned by just over one in five Europeans.

When you are looking for information about the European Union, its policies, its institutions, which of the following sources do you use? Which others?

While it has risen by 11 percentage points since then, there have been corresponding declines in the use of TV (-22 percentage points), daily newspapers (-17) and radio (-15). There has also been a rise of 11 percentage points in the numbers of respondents who say they never look for EU-related information. Young people, those with higher levels of education, managers and students are more likely to prefer the Internet to TV as a source of information on the EU.

This reflects more general trends in media use: for example, in the autumn of 2013, 87% of 15-24 year-olds said they use the Internet “every day or almost every day”, compared to just 29% of people aged 55 and over. In contrast, 93% of people aged 55 and over said they watch TV every day or almost every day, compared to 79% of 15-24 year-olds.

TV remains the preferred source for those actively seeking EU-related information, but the Internet is quickly catching up.





COMMUNICATING EUROPE

How is social media affecting citizens' engagement with the EU?

Most Europeans use online social networks, with three in ten using them daily or almost daily. Among other things, such networks can influence citizens' political engagement: more than half of EU citizens consider that they are "a modern way to keep abreast of political affairs" (52% in the autumn of 2013), that they "can get people interested in political affairs" (52%), and that they are "a good way to have [one's] say on political issues" (51%).

Positive sentiment towards online social networks has increased steadily since the autumn of 2010, when these questions were first asked, with rises of around 10 percentage points in each of these three categories. However, the degree of positive opinion tends to be linked to age, level of education and socio-economic status, as well as frequency of use.

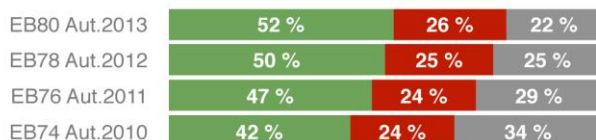
Whereas, in the autumn of 2013, 70% of 15-24 year-olds said they used online social networks daily or almost daily, only 7% of people aged 55 and over did so. Those who use social networks the most (young people, the well-educated and managers) are also most likely to be convinced of their capacity to boost citizens' engagement with the EU. Conversely, older people, those who left education earlier and manual workers are less likely to have a positive opinion, or indeed any opinion, largely as a result of using such networks less frequently.

When a majority of Europeans consider that their voice does not count in the EU, and do not trust the different political institutions, social networks can play a role in bringing citizens closer to politics and to the EU. However, there is also a rising level of distrust towards social networks: in the autumn of 2013, 44% of Europeans considered that "information on political affairs from online social networks cannot be trusted", an increase of 7 percentage points since the autumn of 2010.

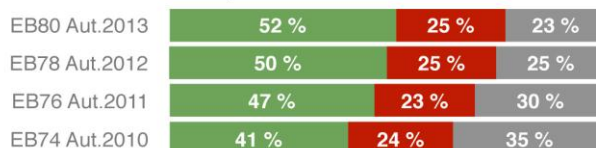
Please tell me whether you totally agree, tend to agree, tend to disagree or totally disagree with each of the following statements.

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

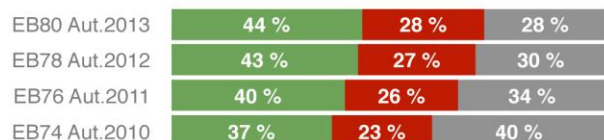
Online social networks are a modern way to keep abreast of political affairs



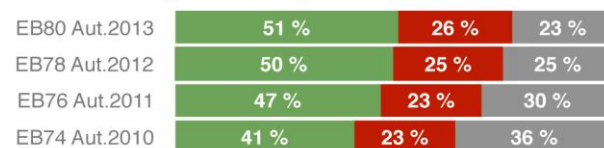
Online social networks can get people interested in political affairs



Information on political affairs from online social networks cannot be trusted



Online social networks are a good way to have your say on political issues



%EU



COMMUNICATING EUROPE

Is the EU's message getting through?

Less than three Europeans in ten feel well-informed about European affairs (29%), while a large majority feel they are not well-informed (69%). The proportion of Europeans feeling well-informed has remained fairly stable over time, though the general trend is downwards: it has declined by three percentage points since the autumn of 2010, when almost a third answered this way (32%), despite rising to 33% in the autumn of 2011.

Luxembourg stands out as the only EU Member State where more than half the population feel well-informed about European matters (52% in the autumn of 2013). Large minorities also feel well-informed in Denmark (48%) and Finland (48%). In contrast, less than a quarter of people feel well-informed about European matters in France (18%), Spain (18%), Portugal (21%), Bulgaria (21%) and Italy (23%).

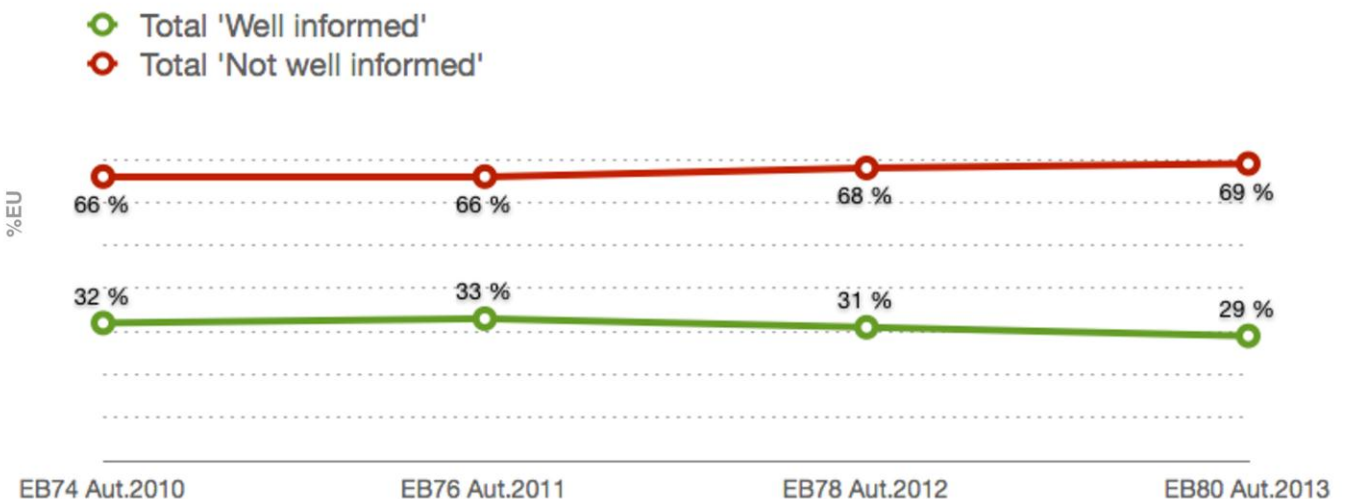
There are few differences between socio-demographic categories: in every category, large majorities feel they are not well-informed, most strikingly among women (73%), those aged 75 and over (76%), and those who left school before the age of 16 (82%).

The proportions of those feeling they are not well-informed, while lower, are still substantial among men (64%), all the other age groups (between 67% and 68%), and those who studied until the age of 20 or over (57%).

The explanation may lie partly in the fact that a large majority of Europeans consider that the EU needs a clearer message (81% in the autumn of 2013). Just 11% of Europeans disagree with this statement.

It appears not, since less than a third of Europeans feel well-informed about European affairs, and more than eight out of ten say that the EU needs a clearer message.

Overall, to what extent do you think that you are well-informed or not about European matters?





THE EU'S ASSETS AND ACHIEVEMENTS

What does the EU mean to its citizens?

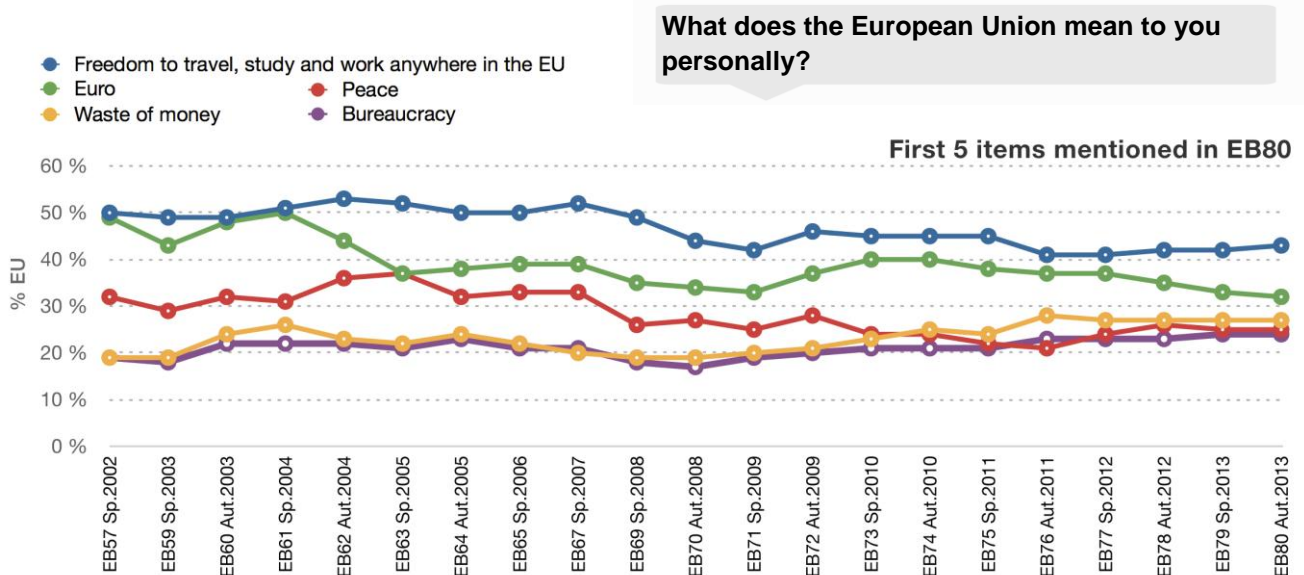
“Freedom to travel, study and work anywhere in the EU” is the first thing that most Europeans associate with the EU, and this has been the case every time this question has been asked in Eurobarometer surveys. The second thing they most associate with the EU is the euro: in the spring of 2002, only a few months after the single currency came into circulation, it was mentioned by nearly as many people (49%) as freedom to travel, study and work (50%). The euro has remained in second place in every survey since, despite a significant fall (to 32% by the autumn of 2013).

Three other dimensions were mentioned by around a quarter of Europeans in the autumn of 2013: “waste of money”, “peace”, and “bureaucracy”. Of these five main aspects, two are definitely positive (“freedom to travel, study and work anywhere in the EU” and “peace”), one arguably neutral (“the euro”), and two negative (“waste of money” and “bureaucracy”). Although positive aspects continue to predominate, both lost some ground between 2002 and 2013 (-7 points for freedom; -7 points for peace). Meanwhile, negative aspects saw a corresponding increase (+8 points for waste of money; +5 points for bureaucracy).

Two phases can be distinguished in these overall trends: between 2002 and 2007, results were generally stable, with the exception of the euro, which decreased after its peak post-introduction in 2002. Then, with the beginning of the economic and financial crisis, positive perceptions of the EU steadily started to lose ground, while negative perceptions became more widespread between the spring of 2007 and the autumn of 2013 (-9 points for freedom to travel, study and work; -8 for peace; +7 for waste of money; +3 for bureaucracy).

Positive perceptions are generally more pronounced among the younger generations (with the exception of peace), people with a higher level of education and more affluent citizens (managers, and those who have no difficulties paying their bills), whereas negative perceptions are highest among the elderly and those who finished full-time education earlier (with the exception of bureaucracy).

The EU is still mostly characterised by the freedom to travel, study and work in other Member States.





THE EU'S ASSETS AND ACHIEVEMENTS

What are the EU's main assets?

For one in three Europeans, "the economic, industrial and trading power of the EU" is one of its two main assets (33%), while around the same proportion cite the "EU's respect for democracy, human rights and the rule of law" (31%). "The good relationship between the EU's Member States" and "the standard of living of EU citizens" are mentioned by around a quarter of people.

However, "the quality of infrastructure in the EU", "the skills and talents of EU citizens", "the EU's capacity for research and innovation" and "the EU's commitment to environmental responsibility" are only mentioned by around one in ten EU citizens.

Negative perceptions of European research and innovation are given further emphasis when the EU is compared with the rest of the world. When asked whether "progress and innovation" is best embodied by the EU, only a third of EU citizens think the EU embodies this value better than any other countries or group of countries.

A significant minority of Europeans answer spontaneously that the EU has no main assets, notably in Greece (29%), Portugal, Slovenia and Spain (all 18%).

The Member States in which people are most likely to value the economic, industrial and trading power of the EU are the Netherlands (47%), Croatia (43%), Denmark (43%), Lithuania (41%), Estonia (41%), Romania and Ireland (both 39%).

This compares to just 21% of people in Cyprus, 22% in Greece, 26% in Latvia and 27% in Finland. Given these findings, the economic situation of Member States does not seem to be the main driver in respondents' perceptions of the EU's main assets.

Economic and industrial power, trade, values and peace are seen as the EU's main assets.

In your opinion, what are the main assets of the EU? Firstly? And secondly?





THE EU'S ASSETS AND ACHIEVEMENTS

What are the EU's most positive results?

“The free movement of people, goods and services within the EU” and “peace among the Member States of the EU” are regarded as the most positive results of the EU, with both items being mentioned by over half of Europeans in the autumn of 2013.

Other perceived successes include “the euro” (25% in the autumn of 2013), “student exchange programmes such as ERASMUS” (23%) and “the economic power of the EU” (20%).

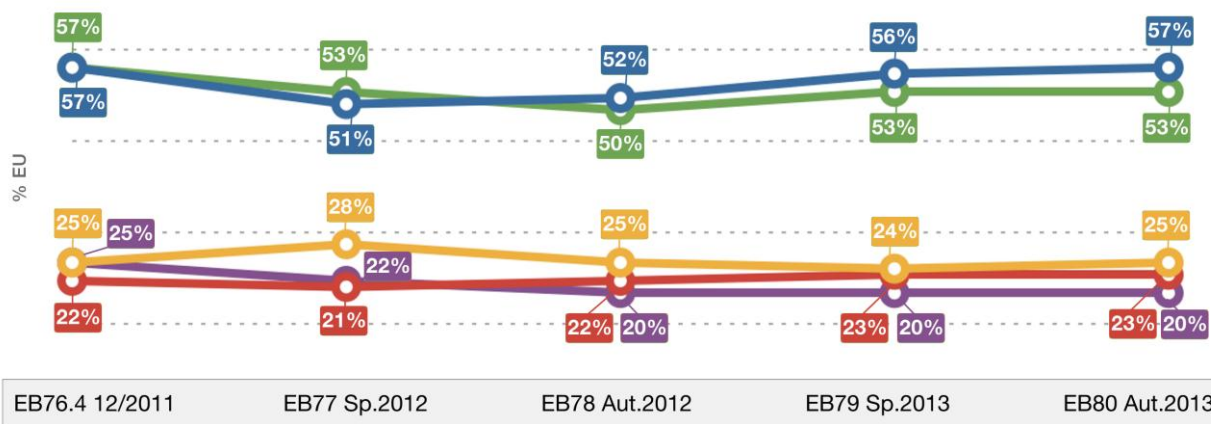
Opinion has remained relatively stable since December 2011: “the free movement of people, goods and services” and “peace” have alternately occupied first and second place and have both remained at or above the 50% mark. “The economic power of the EU”, however, registered a 5-point decrease over this period.

In the autumn of 2013, there was little difference in the perception of the EU's successes between countries in the euro area and those outside the euro area, except when it came to the single currency: 31% of the people in the euro area mentioned “the euro” as a success, compared with just 13% of those outside the euro area.

There are strong differences between countries: in the autumn of 2013, “the free movement of people, goods and services within the EU” was cited as the most important success in 22 Member States (including Belgium, where it was ranked equally with peace), with over 70% of people doing so in Slovakia, Bulgaria, Latvia, Lithuania and Croatia, although this item was least likely to be mentioned in the UK and Malta. In Germany, Sweden, Denmark, France, the UK and Luxembourg, people considered “peace” to be the most important success of the EU.

Free movement of people and peace are perceived as the most important successes of the EU.

Which of the following do you think is the most positive result of the EU?



First 5 items mentioned in EB80



THE EU'S ASSETS AND ACHIEVEMENTS

For each of the following achievements of the EU, could you tell me whether you have benefited from it or not.

What do Europeans think the EU does for them?

Has benefited Has not benefited Don't know

No\ less border controls when travelling abroad

| | | | |
|---------------|------|------|-----|
| EB80 Aut.2013 | 40 % | 55 % | 5 % |
| EB79 Sp.2013 | 41 % | 55 % | 4 % |
| EB78 Aut.2012 | 41 % | 54 % | 5 % |
| EB77 Sp.2012 | 44 % | 50 % | 6 % |
| EB73 Sp.2010 | 44 % | 49 % | 7 % |

Less expensive communication costs when using a mobile phone in another EU country

| | | | |
|---------------|------|------|------|
| EB80 Aut.2013 | 26 % | 68 % | 6 % |
| EB79 Sp.2013 | 27 % | 67 % | 6 % |
| EB78 Aut.2012 | 26 % | 68 % | 6 % |
| EB77 Sp.2012 | 25 % | 68 % | 7 % |
| EB73 Sp.2010 | 27 % | 63 % | 10 % |

Less expensive flights and a wider choice of airlines

| | | | |
|---------------|------|------|-----|
| EB80 Aut.2013 | 25 % | 69 % | 6 % |
| EB79 Sp.2013 | 27 % | 67 % | 6 % |
| EB78 Aut.2012 | 26 % | 68 % | 6 % |

Improved consumers rights when buying products or services in another EU country

| | | | |
|---------------|------|------|------|
| EB80 Aut.2013 | 19 % | 73 % | 8 % |
| EB79 Sp.2013 | 20 % | 72 % | 8 % |
| EB78 Aut.2012 | 20 % | 73 % | 7 % |
| EB77 Sp.2012 | 26 % | 65 % | 9 % |
| EB73 Sp.2010 | 27 % | 62 % | 11 % |

Strengthened rights of air transport passengers in the EU

| | | | |
|---------------|------|------|------|
| EB80 Aut.2013 | 17 % | 75 % | 8 % |
| EB79 Sp.2013 | 18 % | 74 % | 8 % |
| EB78 Aut.2012 | 17 % | 75 % | 8 % |
| EB77 Sp.2012 | 18 % | 72 % | 10 % |
| EB73 Sp.2010 | 21 % | 68 % | 11 % |

Receiving medical assistance in another EU country

| | | | |
|---------------|------|------|-----|
| EB80 Aut.2013 | 12 % | 82 % | 6 % |
| EB79 Sp.2013 | 12 % | 82 % | 6 % |
| EB78 Aut.2012 | 12 % | 82 % | 6 % |
| EB77 Sp.2012 | 15 % | 78 % | 7 % |
| EB73 Sp.2010 | 19 % | 72 % | 9 % |

Living in another EU country

| | | | |
|---------------|------|------|-----|
| EB80 Aut.2013 | 11 % | 83 % | 6 % |
| EB79 Sp.2013 | 11 % | 83 % | 6 % |
| EB78 Aut.2012 | 11 % | 83 % | 6 % |
| EB77 Sp.2012 | 13 % | 80 % | 7 % |

Working in another EU country

| | | | |
|---------------|------|------|-----|
| EB80 Aut.2013 | 11 % | 83 % | 6 % |
| EB79 Sp.2013 | 11 % | 83 % | 6 % |
| EB78 Aut.2012 | 11 % | 83 % | 6 % |
| EB77 Sp.2012 | 13 % | 80 % | 7 % |

Studying in another EU country

| | | | |
|---------------|------|------|-----|
| EB80 Aut.2013 | 8 % | 86 % | 6 % |
| EB79 Sp.2013 | 8 % | 86 % | 6 % |
| EB78 Aut.2012 | 9 % | 85 % | 6 % |
| EB77 Sp.2012 | 11 % | 83 % | 6 % |

In the autumn of 2013, four in ten Europeans said they had benefited from easier travel across borders within the EU, while around a quarter had benefited from reduced costs when using their mobile phone in another Member State or from less expensive flights and a wider choice of airlines. Around one in five said they had benefited from improved consumer rights when buying products or services in another EU country, while one in six had benefited from strengthened rights for air passengers in the EU. Around one in ten had received medical assistance or had lived, worked, or studied in another Member State.

Overall, however, the majority of Europeans do not feel that they have benefited from any of the EU's various achievements. Moreover, there has been a downward trend since 2010 with regard to all of the achievements measured.

Young Europeans, those who stayed at school until the age of 20 or beyond, and more affluent citizens (managers, and those who have no difficulties paying their bills) are generally most likely to say they have benefited from the EU's achievements. These particular groups are also the most likely to be pro-European, and it represents a challenge for the EU to broaden the socio-demographic profile of those who are able to benefit from its achievements.

Easier travel and reduced communication costs are seen as the main personal benefits, though these have not been experienced by the majority of EU citizens.



EUROPEAN INTEGRATION

How has the crisis affected attitudes towards the euro?

Most Europeans are in favour of a “European economic and monetary union with one single currency, the euro”. Public opinion on this issue has always remained above 50% in favour, though the level has fluctuated between 51% and 67% since the autumn of 2000.

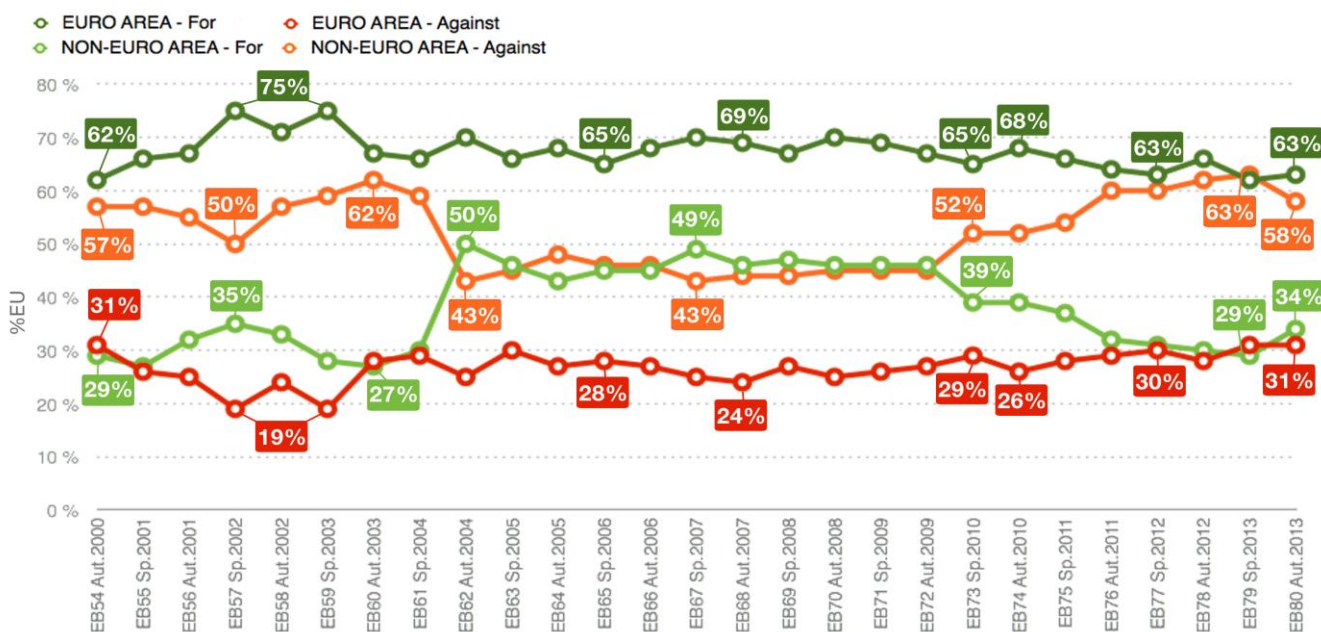
Within the euro area, a strong majority of people have always supported a European economic and monetary union, varying between 62% and 75% since 2000. Positive opinion reached its peak of 75% in the spring of 2002, a few months after the single currency entered into circulation, and again in the spring of 2003. From the autumn of 2009, support started to decrease, most likely as a consequence of the sovereign debt crisis in the euro area.

Please tell me whether you are for it or against it: A European economic and monetary union with one single currency, the euro.

Outside the euro area, three phases can be identified. Between the autumn of 2000 and the spring of 2004, a large majority of respondents were against the euro. Between the autumn of 2004 and the autumn of 2009, people were divided, with a maximum of 7 points between those in favour and those against. Finally, since the spring of 2010, a majority again oppose the euro.

In the autumn of 2013, 63% of the population in the euro area supported the single currency, as opposed to only 34% outside the euro area. The first time this question was asked, in the autumn of 2000, support was similar to what it is now in the 11 countries then constituting the euro area (62% in favour, 31% against), but was lower in the four countries then outside the area (29% vs. 57%). Attitudes towards the euro are highly correlated with attitudes towards the EU overall: the more people support it, the more likely they are to trust the EU, have a positive image of the EU, and feel European.

Attitudes to the euro remain positive, but have decreased since the beginning of the crisis along with general attitudes towards the EU.





EUROPEAN INTEGRATION

Are Europeans in favour of a common foreign policy for the EU?

For a large majority of Europeans, the EU should speak with one voice abroad. In the autumn of 2013, 63% of EU citizens were in favour of “a common foreign policy of the 28 Member States of the EU”.

This opinion has remained the view of more than six in ten Europeans every time this question has been asked since the autumn of 1992 – although at that time, the question was differently worded: “the Member States of the European community should have one common foreign policy towards countries outside the European community”.

Support for a common foreign policy reached its peak in the spring of 2007 (72%) and its lowest point in the spring of 2012 (61%).

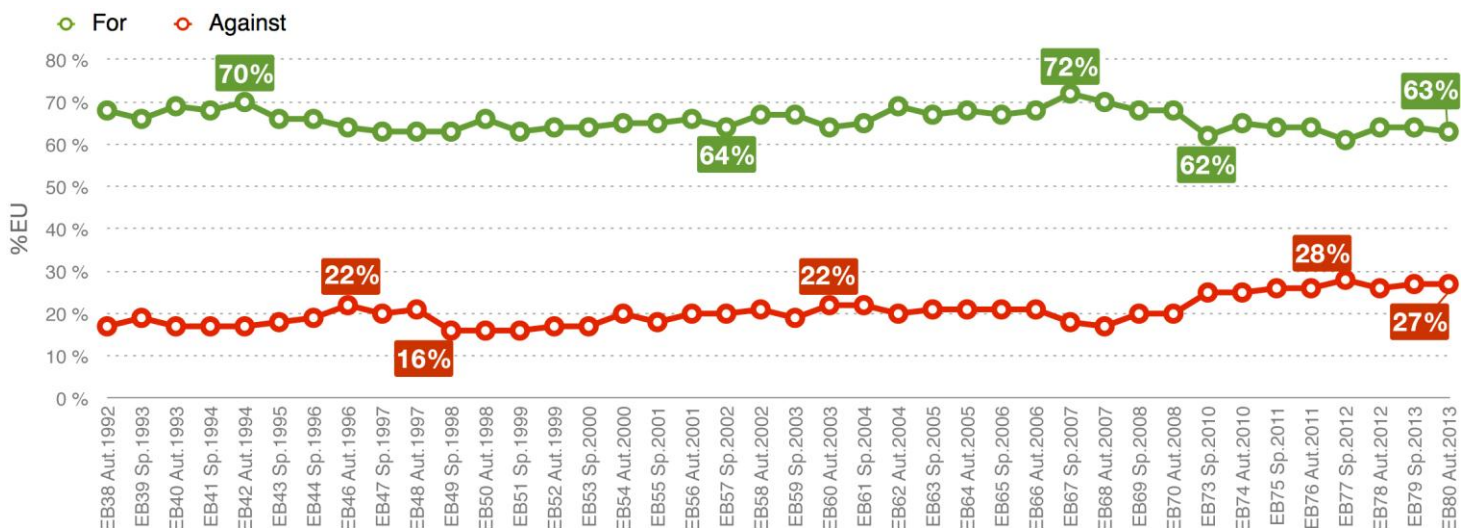
In the autumn of 2013, majorities of people in the Nordic countries and the UK were against a common foreign policy: in the UK and Sweden, opposition has been the majority view since the spring of 2010; for Denmark and Finland, this has been the case since the spring of 2012.

However, a majority were in favour in all other EU Member States, with support at its strongest in Slovakia (76%), Croatia (76%), Bulgaria (75%) and Germany (75%).

Majorities of the population are in favour of a common foreign policy across all socio-demographic groups, suggesting perhaps that Europeans see it as a necessary step in order for the EU to be a leading diplomatic power in the future.

Yes, and this opinion is shared across most EU Member States and all socio-demographic categories.

Please tell me whether you are for it or against it: A common foreign policy of the 28 Member States of the EU.



Eurobarometer has been surveying the views of Europeans since 1973 and gives a unique insight into how opinions and attitudes have changed over time. Surveys are carried out in all Member States of the European Union.



EUROPEAN INTEGRATION

Is there a place for a European defence and security policy?

In the autumn of 2013, almost three-quarters of Europeans said they were in favour of a common defence and security policy among EU Member States (73%). This has been the majority view in the EU since the autumn of 1992: support was at its highest in the autumn of 1994 (79%) and at its lowest in the spring of 1996 (60%).

Support for a common European defence and security policy has always been stronger than for a common foreign policy, or for a European monetary union with a single currency, whenever opinions on these policies have been tested together. In all Member States, an absolute majority of people are in favour of a common defence and security policy, with the strongest support in Latvia (87% in the autumn of 2013), Slovakia (85%), Belgium (84%), Estonia (84%) and Luxembourg (84%).

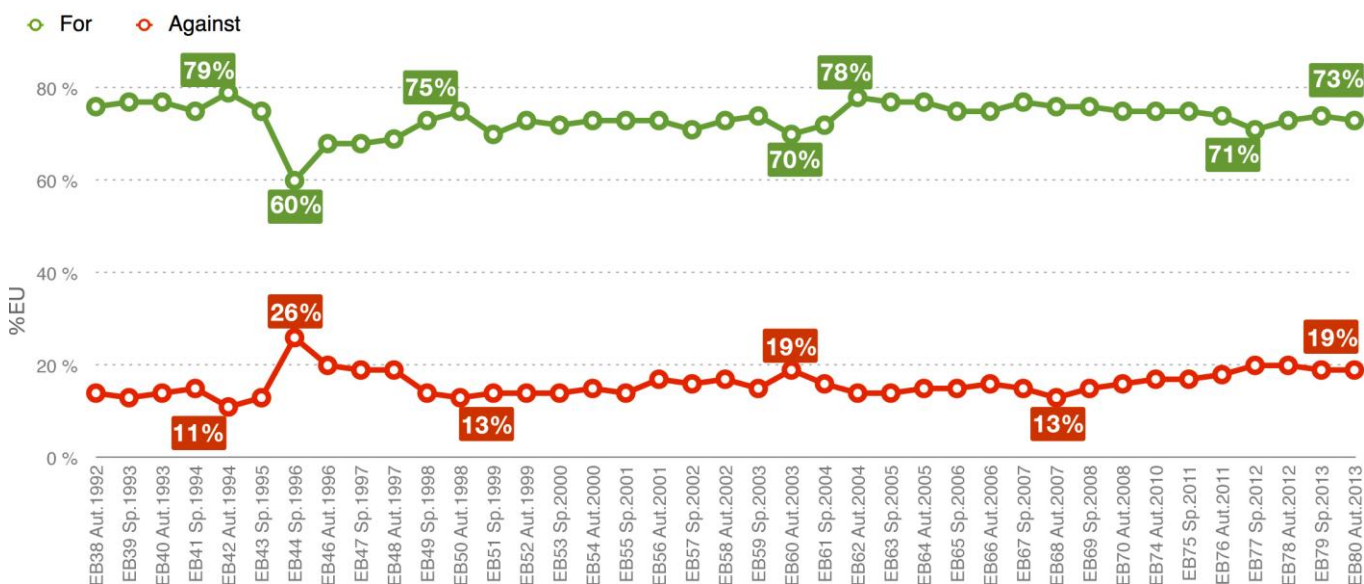
In contrast, support is just above 50% in Ireland (51%) and the UK (54%).

It is interesting to note how public opinion in the three main contributors to European defence spending differs on this topic: whereas support in the UK is way below the European average of 73%, in both France (77%) and Germany (82%) it is higher.

However, defence policy does not seem to be a priority for Europeans in the future. When asked, in the spring of 2012, what aspects should be emphasised by the European institutions in the coming years to strengthen the EU, defence policy (at 13%) came only sixteenth out of eighteen items in a list dominated by “economic and monetary policy” (43%), “health policy” (32%), “immigration policy” (28%) and “education policy” (28%).

There is strong support for a common defence and security policy, but Europeans do not regard it as a priority.

Please tell me whether you are for it or against it: A common defence and security policy among EU Member States.





EUROPEAN INTEGRATION

Do Europeans support further enlargement of the EU?

The European Union has changed dramatically since 2004: after three successive enlargements (in 2004, 2007 and 2013), the number of Member States has almost doubled (from 15 to 28), and the EU population has risen from 380 million to more than 500 million. Are Europeans ready for further enlargement?

In the autumn of 2013, over a third of Europeans (37%) supported further enlargement of the EU, while more than half (52%) were opposed. The level of support for further enlargement has fluctuated significantly since the autumn of 2000, from a high of 53% in the autumn of 2004 to a low of 36% in the autumn of 2011 and the spring of 2012.

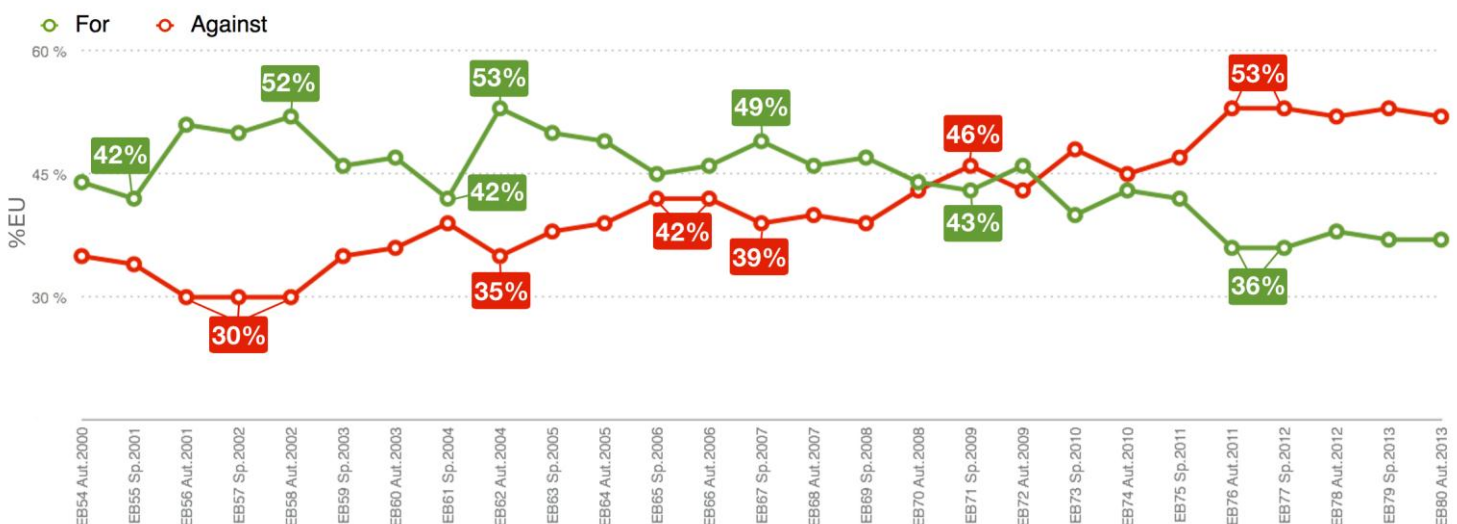
The highest level of support was reached just after the 2004 enlargement, for which there seem to be a number of reasons.

Firstly, it is likely that some EU citizens who were initially concerned about this enlargement were relieved by its relatively successful outcome. Secondly, the “newcomers” were probably still enthusiastic about further enlargements, when interviewed only a few months after their own accession. There was also a peak in support for further enlargement in the spring of 2007, after the accession of Romania and Bulgaria on 1 January that year.

Opinion on further enlargement differs markedly across Member States, with a majority in favour in 13 countries and a majority against in the 15 other Member States. Support is strongest in Croatia (71% in the autumn of 2013), confirming the “halo effect” of countries who have entered the EU most recently, Lithuania (64%), Romania (64%) and Poland (61%), while it is weakest in Austria (17%), France (23%) and Germany (23%).

Despite fluctuating support over the past decade, Europeans are generally resistant to further enlargement.

Please tell me whether you are for it or against it: Further enlargement of the EU to include other countries in future years.



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QUALITY OF LIFE IN THE EU

Are Europeans satisfied with their lives?

A large majority of Europeans are satisfied with the life they lead, and this feeling has been predominant over time. Between 1973 and 2013, the proportion of Europeans satisfied with their lives systematically exceeded two-thirds (ranging between 68% and 84%).

Satisfaction varies significantly between different Member States, though. In the autumn of 2013, more than 90% of people were satisfied with their lives in Denmark (97%), Sweden (97%), Finland (94%), the Netherlands (94%), Belgium (93%) and Luxembourg (93%), whereas less than half of the population was satisfied in Bulgaria (35%), Greece (38%), Portugal (39%) and Hungary (49%).

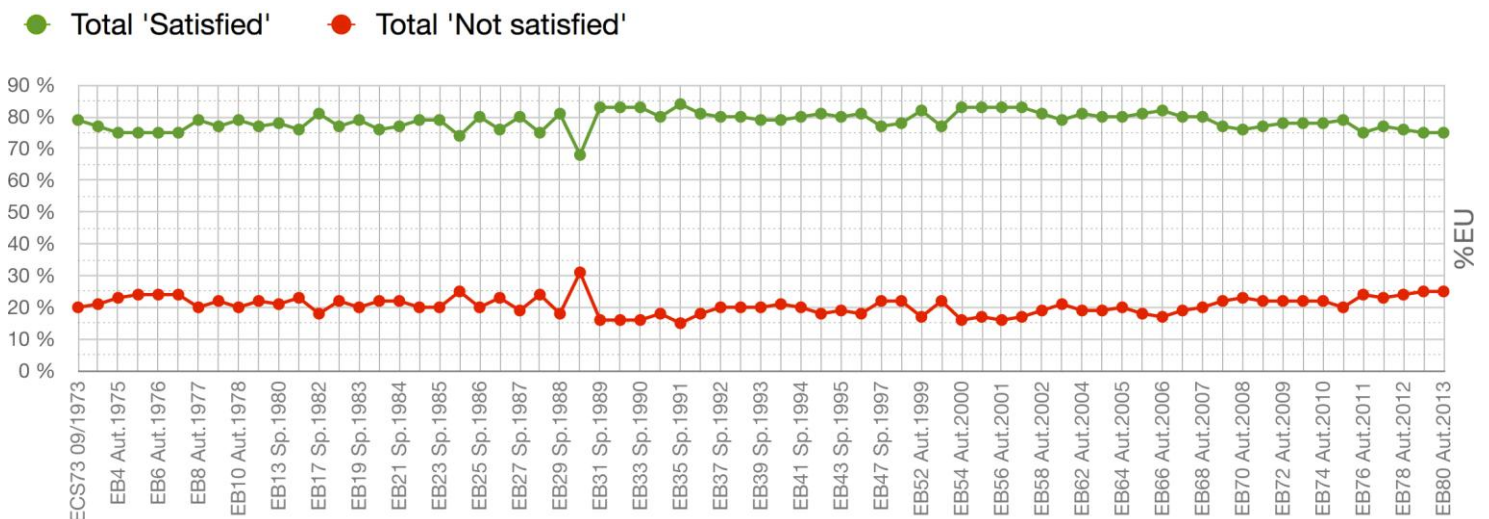
In most socio-demographic categories, the majority of Europeans are satisfied with their lives, but there are some differences according to age and level of education. Young Europeans aged 15-24 (86%) are more satisfied than those aged 40-54 (71%) or 55 and over (74%), and those with a higher level of education are more likely to be satisfied (85%) than those who left school at the age of 15 or under (65%).

However, these socio-demographic criteria do not reveal the widest gap in life satisfaction: work and money play a greater role. Just over half of those who are unemployed say they are satisfied (53%), while 47% are not satisfied. In contrast, at least three-quarters of working Europeans are satisfied, regardless of their socio-professional group.

Similarly, a majority of the most financially vulnerable Europeans, who have difficulties paying their bills most of the time, are dissatisfied with their lives (58%), whereas 89% of those who are more financially secure are satisfied.

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

In general they are, but level of income plays a huge role in life satisfaction.



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QUALITY OF LIFE IN THE EU

Are Europeans happy living where they do?

More than three-quarters of Europeans (76% in November-December 2012) say they are happy living in the EU, with the highest levels of satisfaction in Luxembourg (95%) and Sweden (90%).

This opinion is held by most people in almost all Member States, the only exceptions being Hungary (where only 31% say they are happy living in the EU, while 64% say they are unhappy) and Greece (48%; 49%).

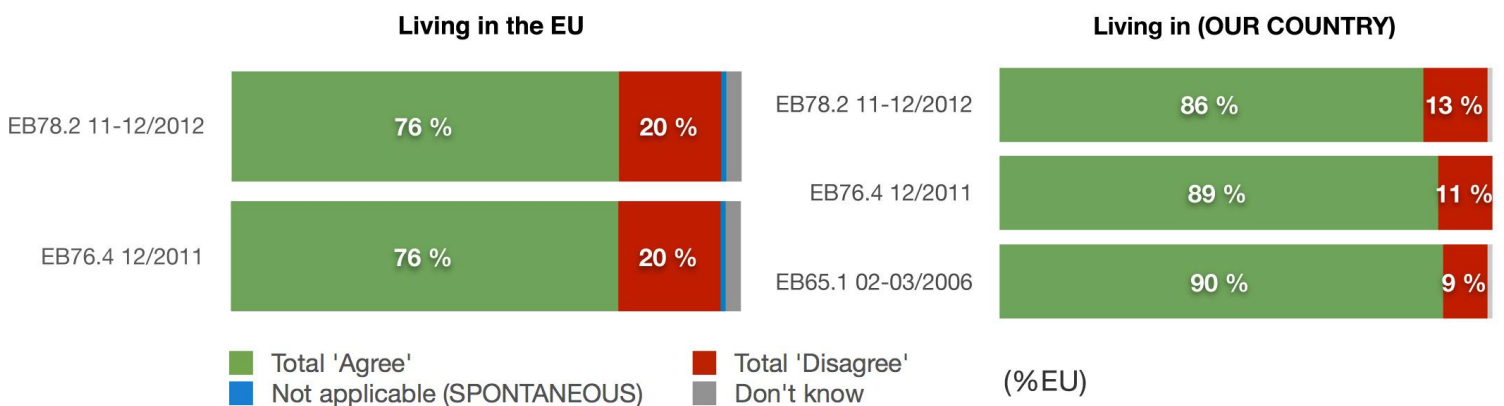
The level of happiness is even higher when the question is asked at the national level: in November-December 2012, 86% of Europeans said they are happy living in their country, with people in Sweden (99%), Denmark (98%), Finland (97%), Austria (97%), Luxembourg (96%) and the Netherlands (96%) being most positive on this count. Hungary was again an exception, with only 36% of respondents saying they are happy living in their country.

Comparing the two indicators shows that, in most Member States, happiness with living in one's country is stronger than happiness with living in the EU: this difference is most pronounced in Greece (where 79% are happy living in their country and 48% in the EU), Austria (97%; 70%) and Cyprus (79%; 54%). The scores are almost identical in Slovakia (87%; 85%), Luxembourg (96%; 95%), Poland (86%; 85%), Estonia (78%; 77%) and Lithuania (69%; 69%), while Bulgaria stands out as the only Member State where respondents are happier with living in the EU (65%) than with living in their country (61%).

Regardless of the level analysed, happiness is less pronounced among those Europeans who face difficulties in their lives: the unemployed and those who struggle to pay their bills. The young are happier than the elderly to live in the EU, whereas the opposite is true when it comes to living in one's country.

A large majority of Europeans say they are happy living in the EU, and an even larger majority are happy living in their country.

Please tell me to what extent you agree or disagree with the following statements.
You are happy living in (OUR COUNTRY)
You are happy living in the EU

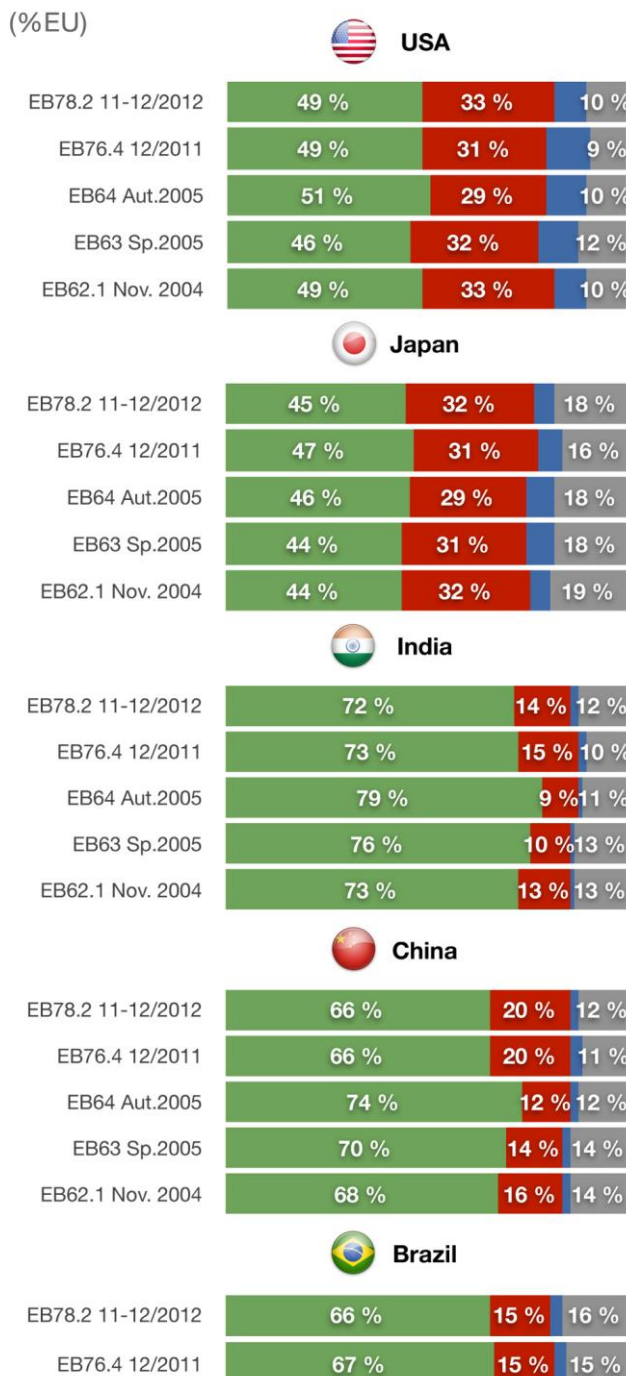




QUALITY OF LIFE IN THE EU

In general, would you say that the standard of the quality of life in Europe at the moment is better or less good than in...?

Legend: Total 'Better' (green), Total 'Less good' (red), The same (SPONTANEOUS) (blue), Don't know (grey)



Is life in the EU better or worse than elsewhere?

Most Europeans consider that the quality of life in the EU is substantially better than in India, China and Brazil - and, to a lesser extent, than in the US and Japan.

Very little change has been measured over time on this indicator: the feeling that quality of life in the EU is better than in other countries was certainly stronger before the economic and financial crisis (in the autumn of 2005), but even since then the level of positive opinion has declined only slightly.

Respondents with a higher level of education and more affluent citizens (managers, and those who never struggle to make ends meet) are most likely to consider that the EU's quality of life is better than in other countries.

Most Europeans consider life in the EU to be better than in India, China and Brazil – and, to a lesser extent, than in the US and Japan.



QUALITY OF LIFE IN THE EU

Has the crisis affected people's perceptions of the cost of living?

Only a minority of Europeans (28%) describe the cost of living in their own country as "good", whereas 71% say it is "bad". Similar proportions say that the affordability of energy (30%) and of housing (27%) are good in their country, while 67% and 68% respectively say they are "bad".

Views were at their least positive in the autumn of 2008, but then showed a significant improvement in May-June 2009. Since then, there has been very little change.

So, at least since 2009, it appears that the economic and financial crisis has had little impact on perceptions of the cost of living, or of the affordability of energy and housing.

There are strong variations between Member States in perceptions of the cost of living. People in Sweden, Denmark and the Netherlands are the most positive, whereas those in Greece, Portugal, Croatia and Romania are the most negative.

These findings suggest that people's perceptions about the cost of living are more a reflection of their own financial situation, rather than an assessment of the overall cost of living in these Member States.

Despite the crisis, overall perceptions of the cost of living have remained stable.

How would you judge the current situation in each of the following?
The cost of living in (OUR COUNTRY)
How affordable energy is in (OUR COUNTRY)
How affordable housing is in (OUR COUNTRY)

