

Future of Europe

Special Eurobarometer 500
October - November 2020

**A joint survey
of the European Commission and the European Parliament**



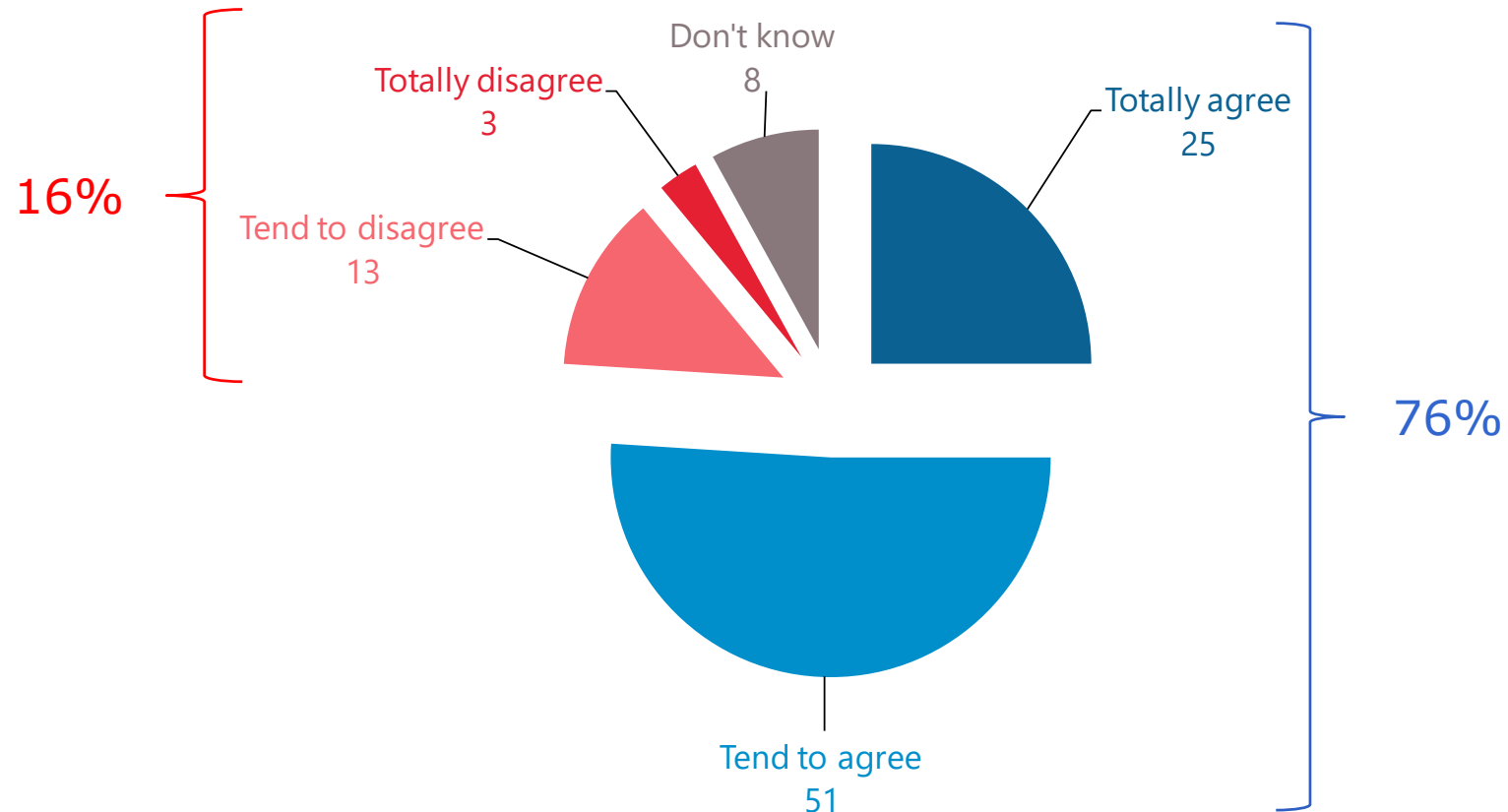
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Conference on the Future of Europe

3 in 4 respondents agree that the Conference on the future of Europe would be a step forward for democracy in the EU.

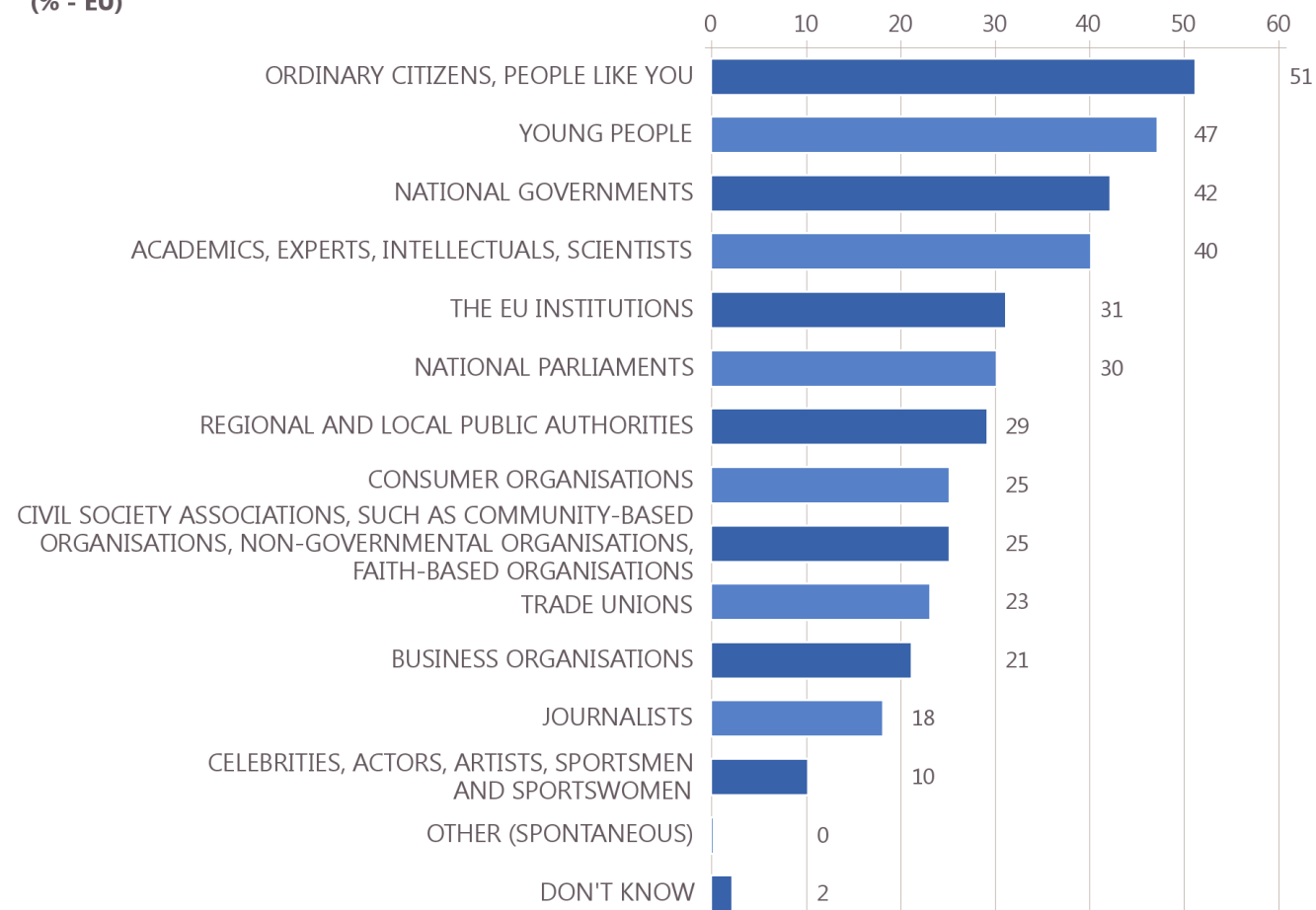
QA6.2 To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements about the Conference on the future of Europe:

The Conference would represent significant progress for democracy within the EU
(% - EU)



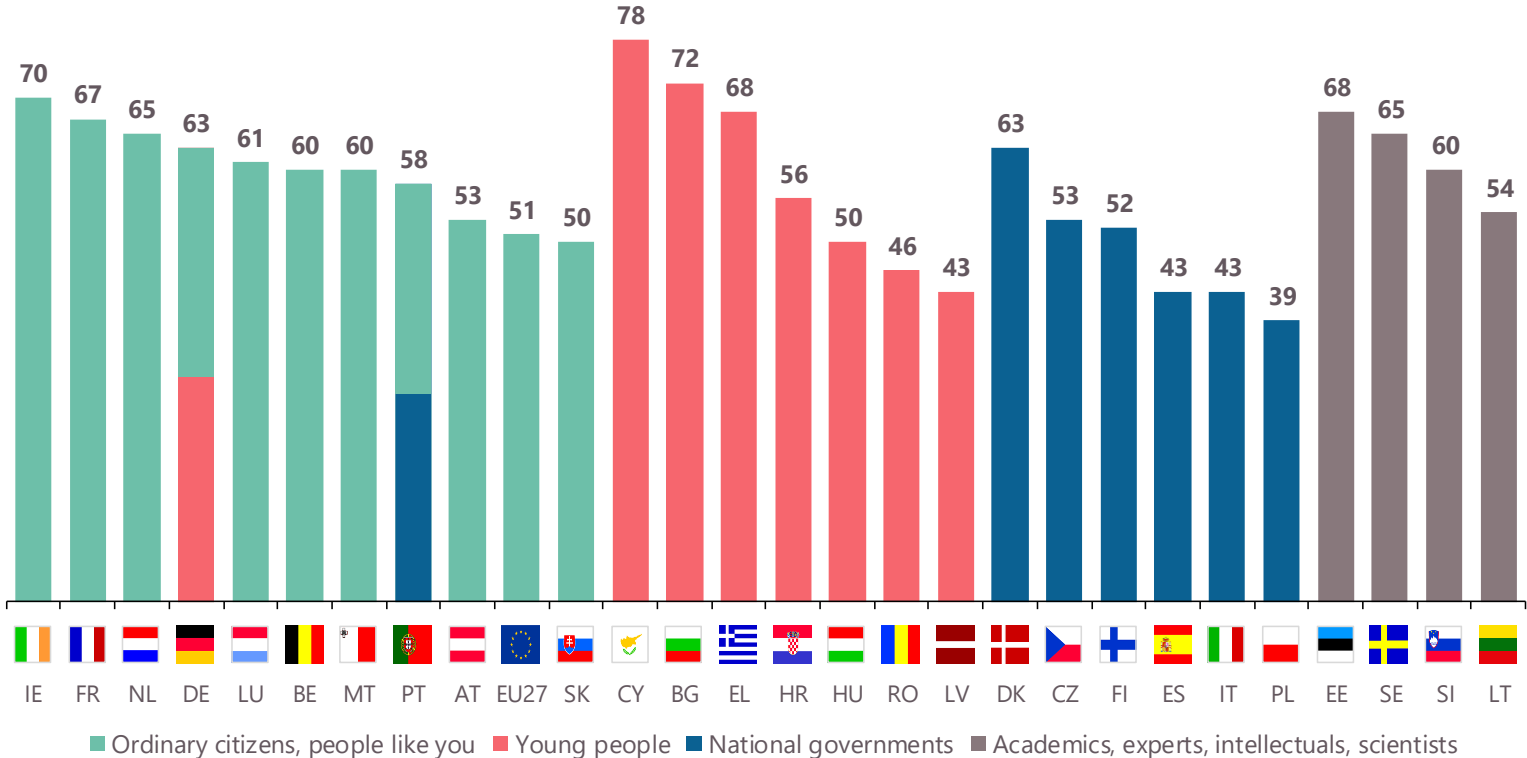
There is a desire for «ordinary citizens» to be actively involved, as well as young people, national governments and experts.

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



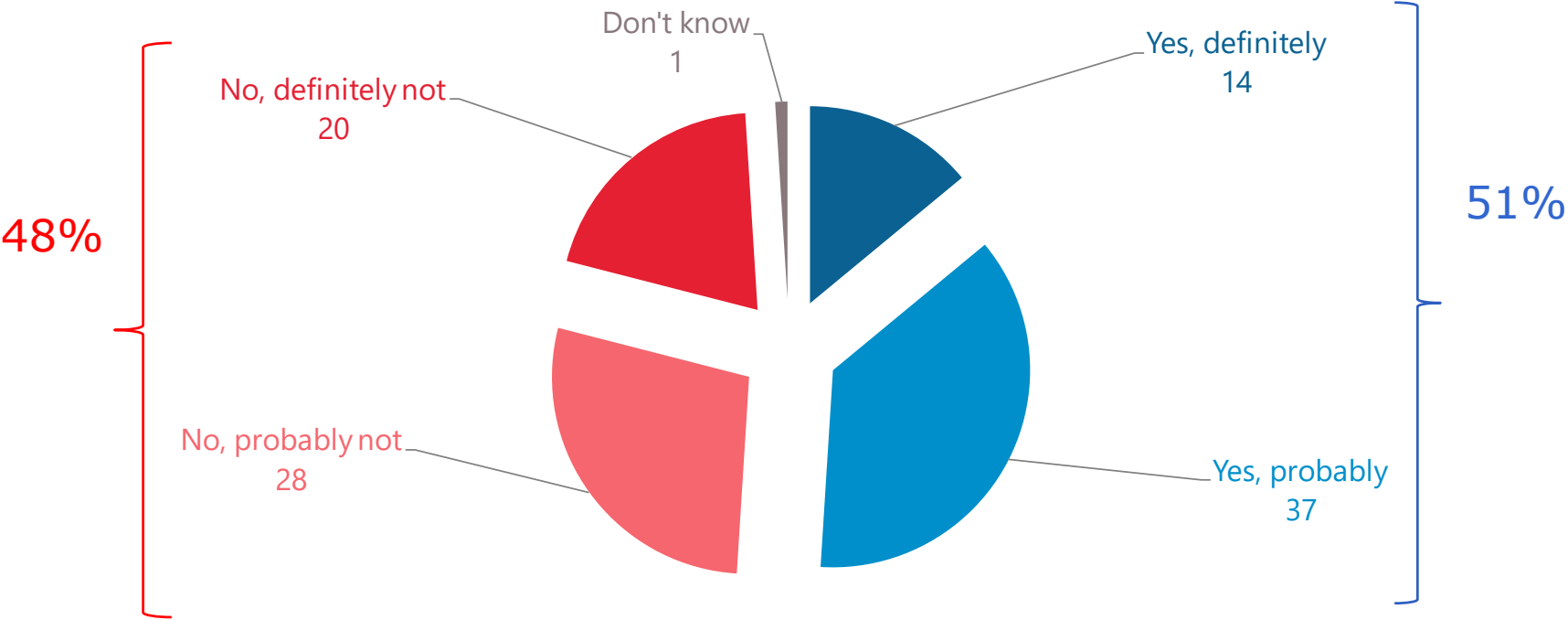
The most given answer varies between countries: «ordinary citizens» is first in 10 Member States, young people in 8 Member States. This includes Germany, where both items are equally most mentioned.

QA5 Who do you think should be actively involved in the Conference on the Future of Europe?
(MULTIPLE ANSWERS POSSIBLE)
(% - THE MOST MENTIONED ANSWER BY COUNTRY)



Half of respondents say they would be willing to take part in the activities linked to the Conference on the future of Europe.

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

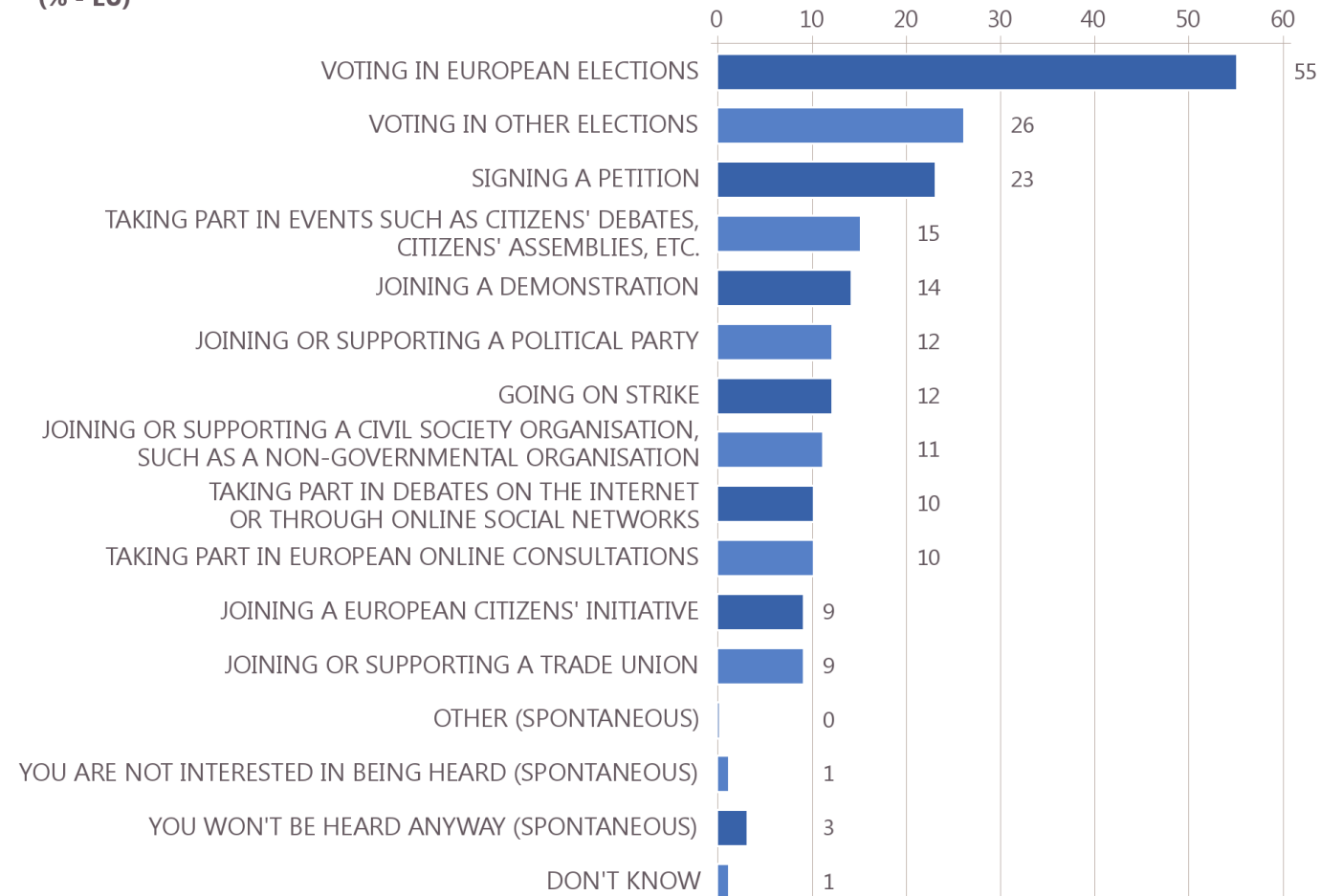


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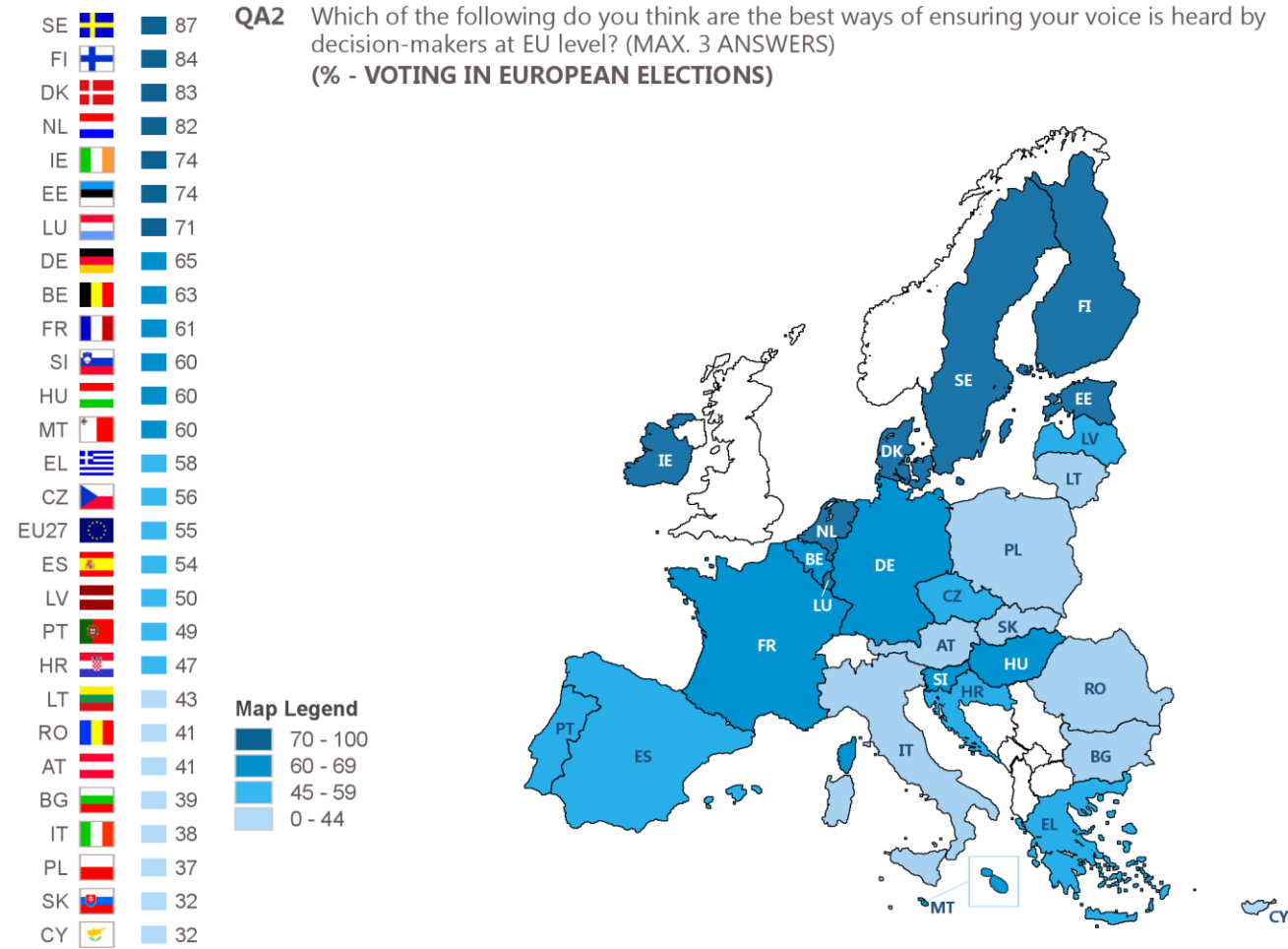
Citizens' voice in the EU

«Voting in European elections» is seen as the main way of making sure one's voice is heard by decision-makers at EU level, way above all other items.

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

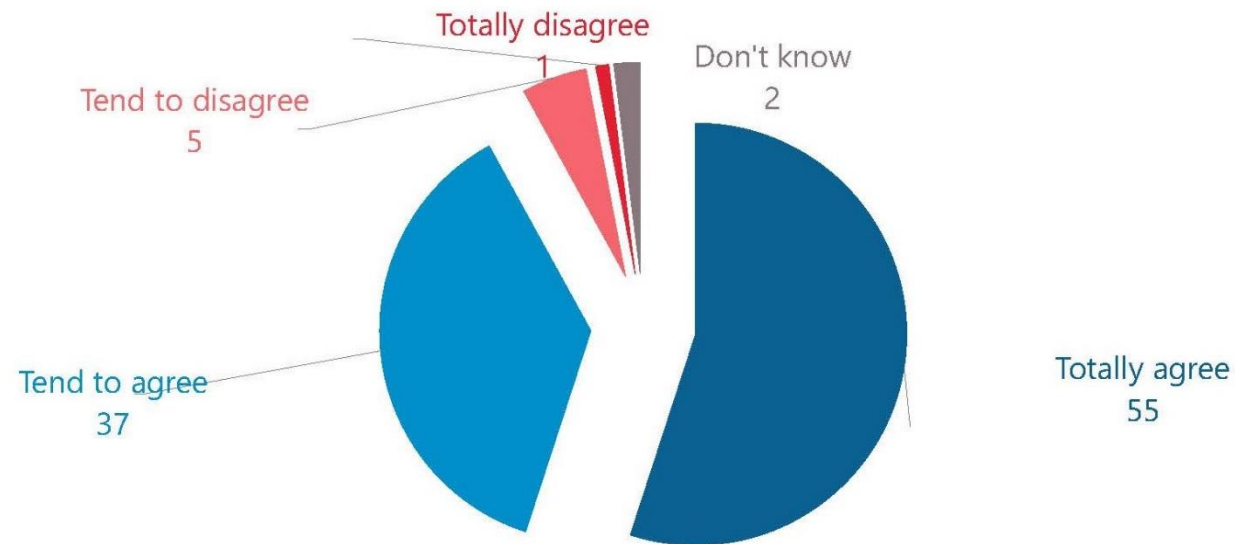


«Voting in European elections» gets higher scores in Northern parts of Europe.



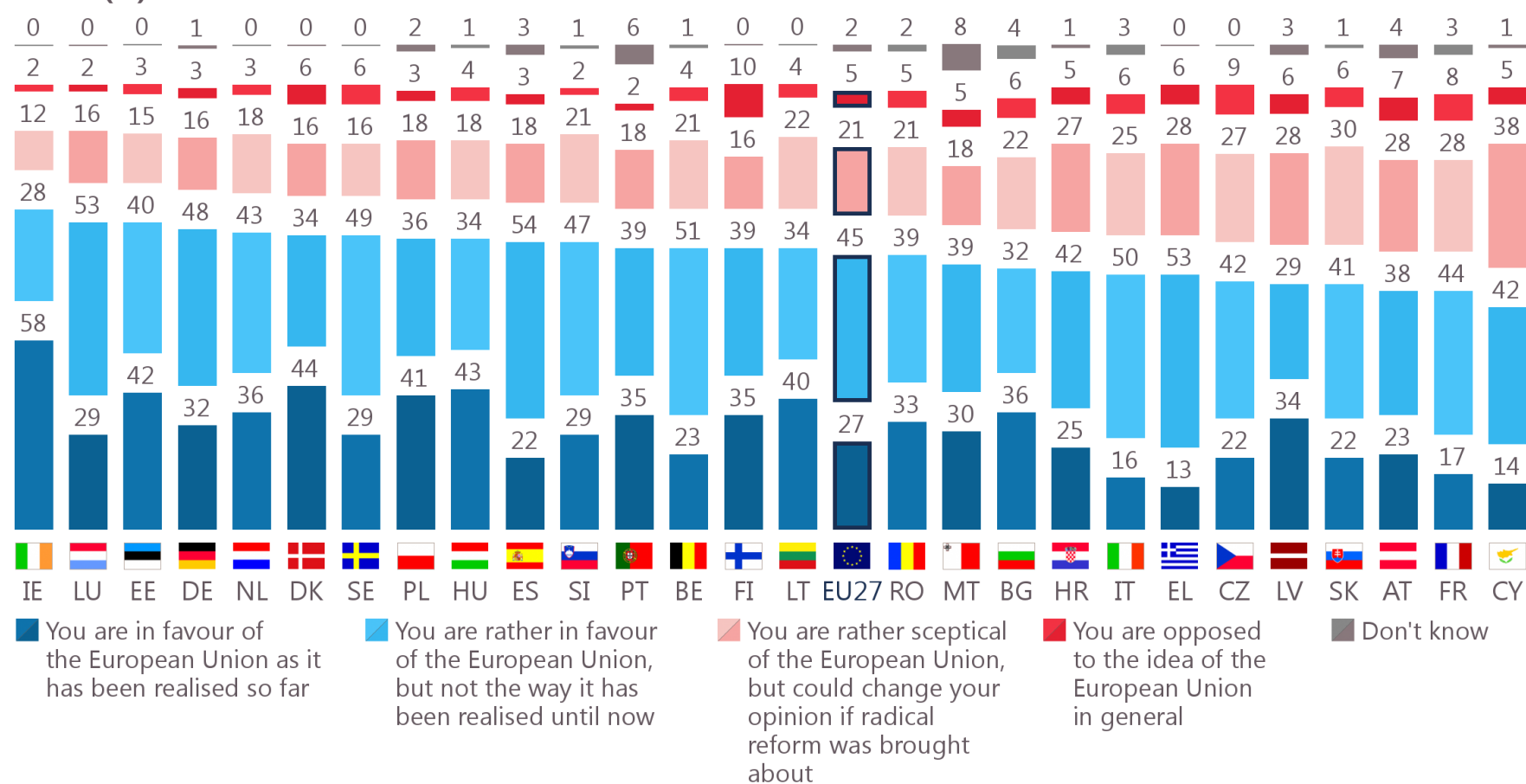
55% of Europeans now 'totally agree' that «the voice of EU citizens should be more taken into account for decisions relating to the future of Europe».

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



27% of Europeans are in favour of the EU as it has been realised so far, while 45% are also in favour of the EU, but not the way it has been realised until now. 21% are rather sceptical, but could change their opinion. 5% are opposed to the idea of the European Union in general.

QA29 Which of the following statements regarding the European Union is closest to your opinion?
(%)

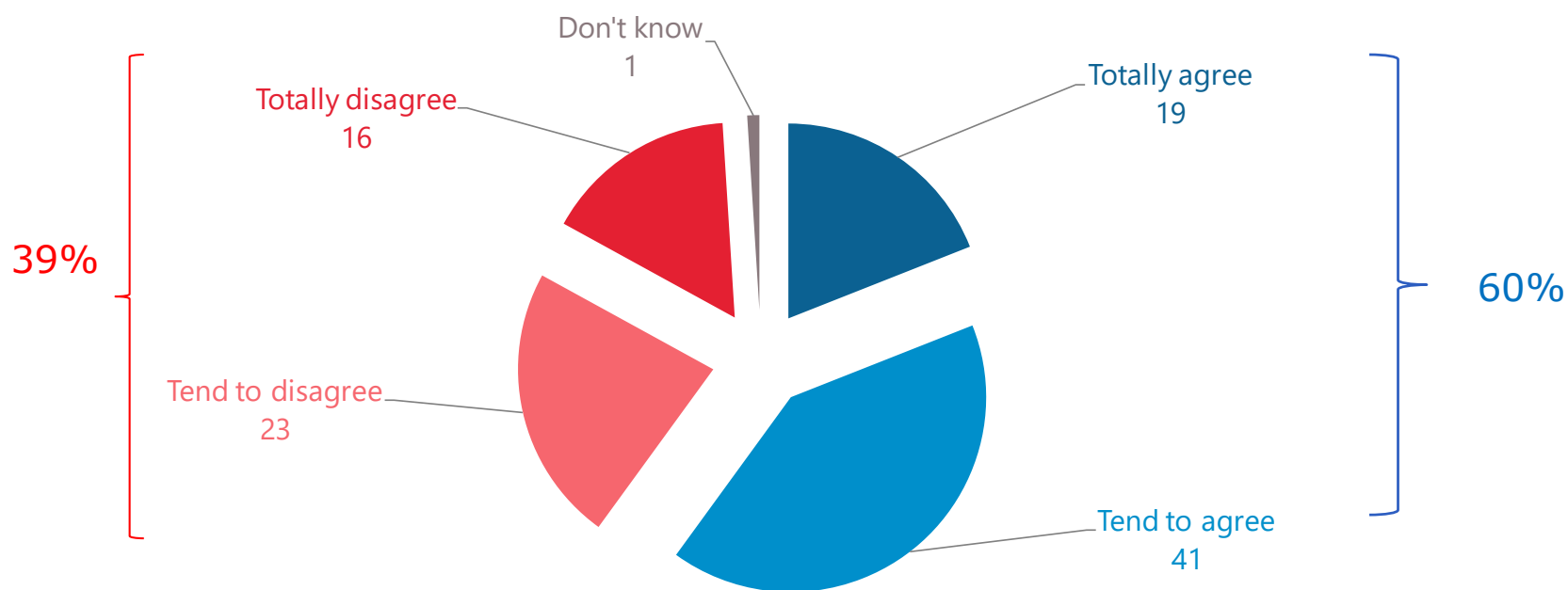


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Future of Europe

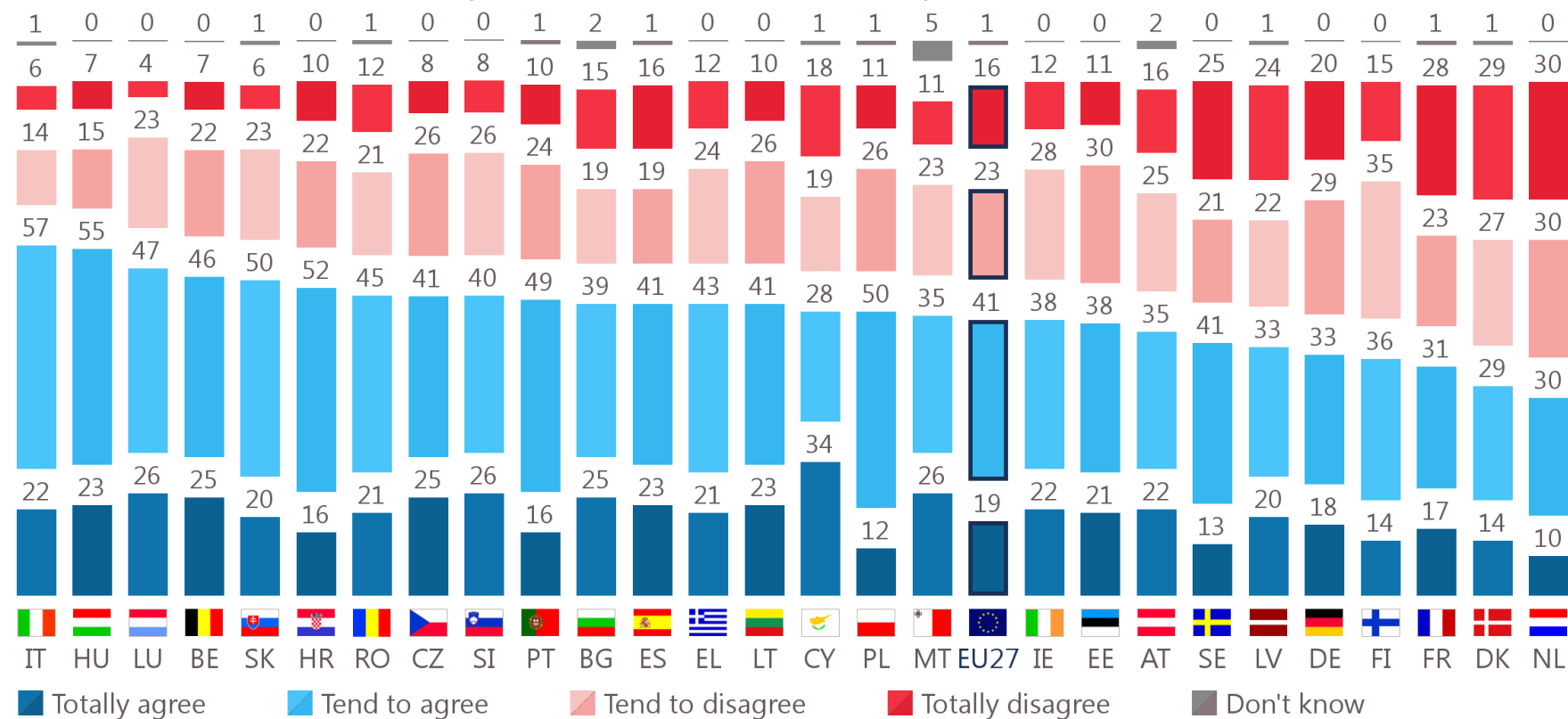
6 in 10 Europeans agree that «the Coronavirus crisis» has made them «reflect on the future of the EU».

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



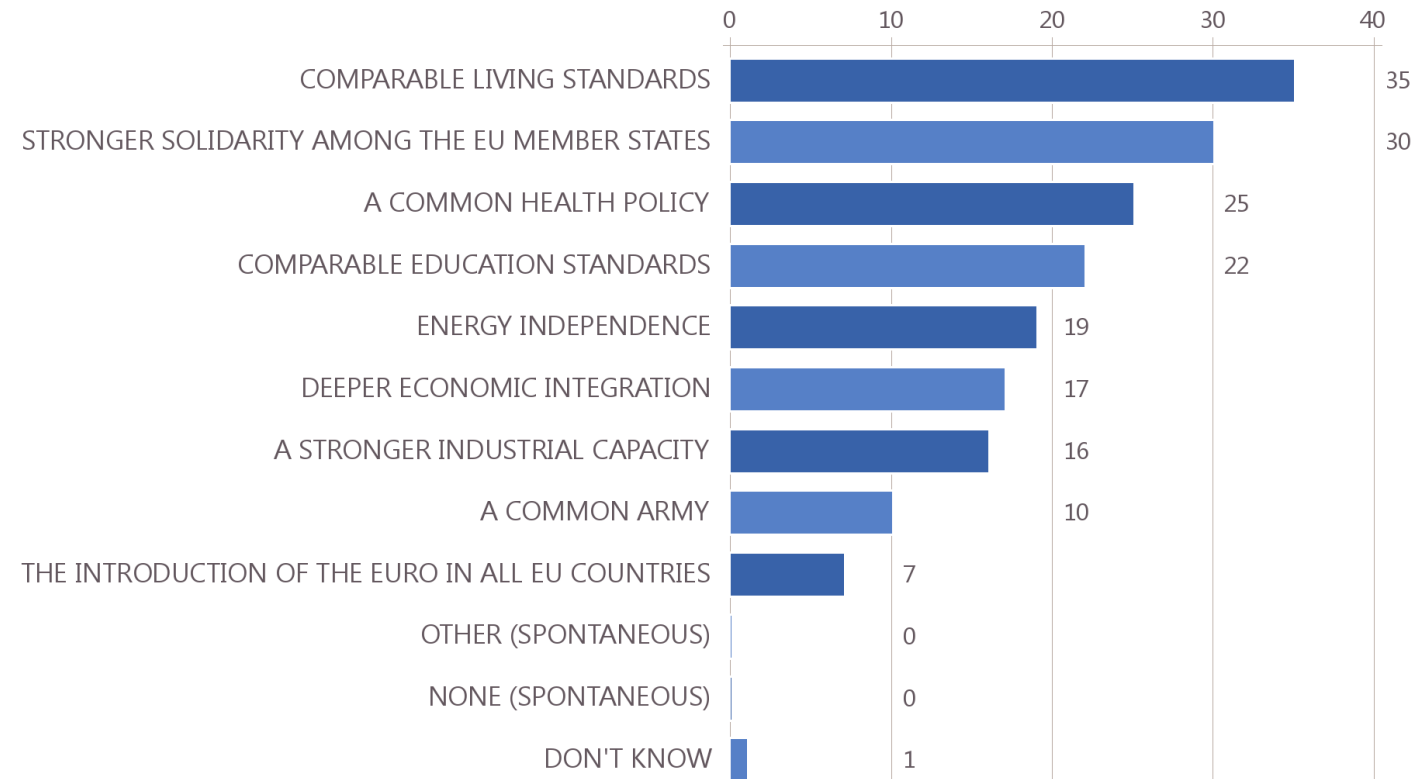
In all but 4 Member States, a majority agree that the Coronavirus crisis has made them reflect on the future of the EU. The highest proportions are in Italy, Hungary, Luxembourg and Belgium.

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



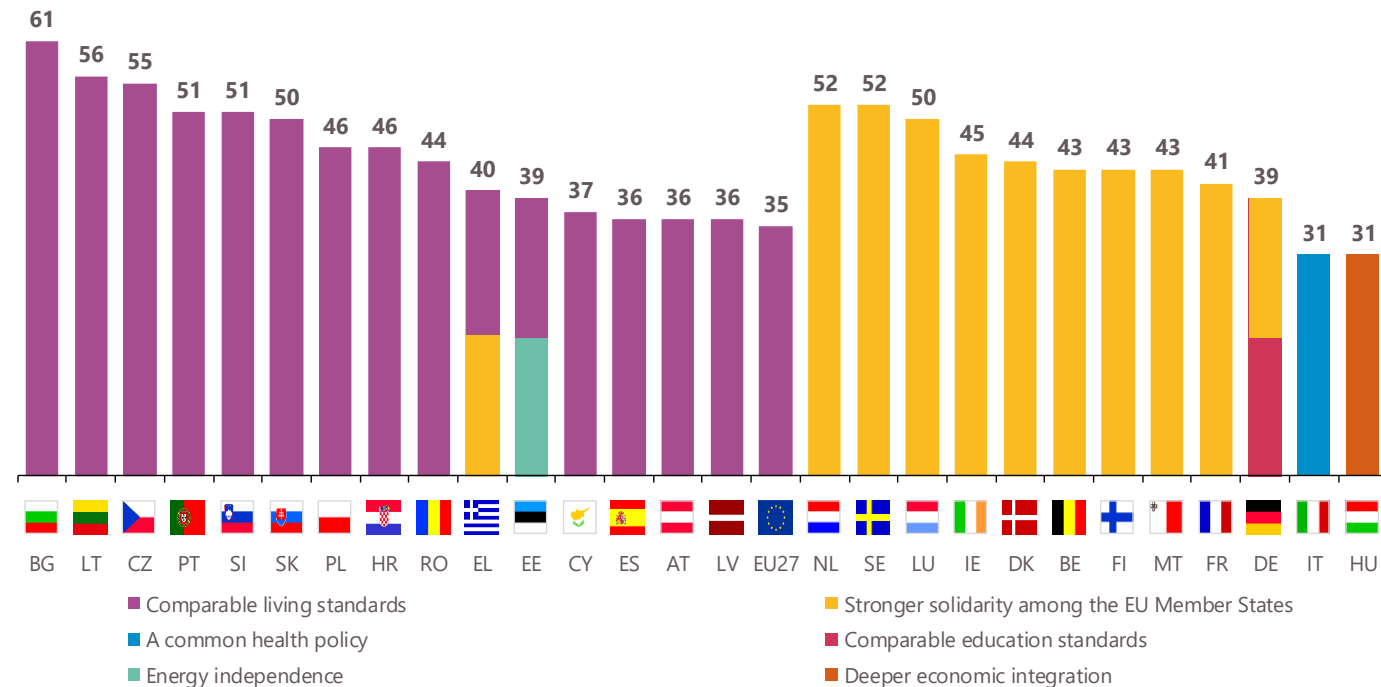
«Comparable living standards» and «stronger solidarity among EU Member States» are seen as the two most helpful things for the future of Europe.

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

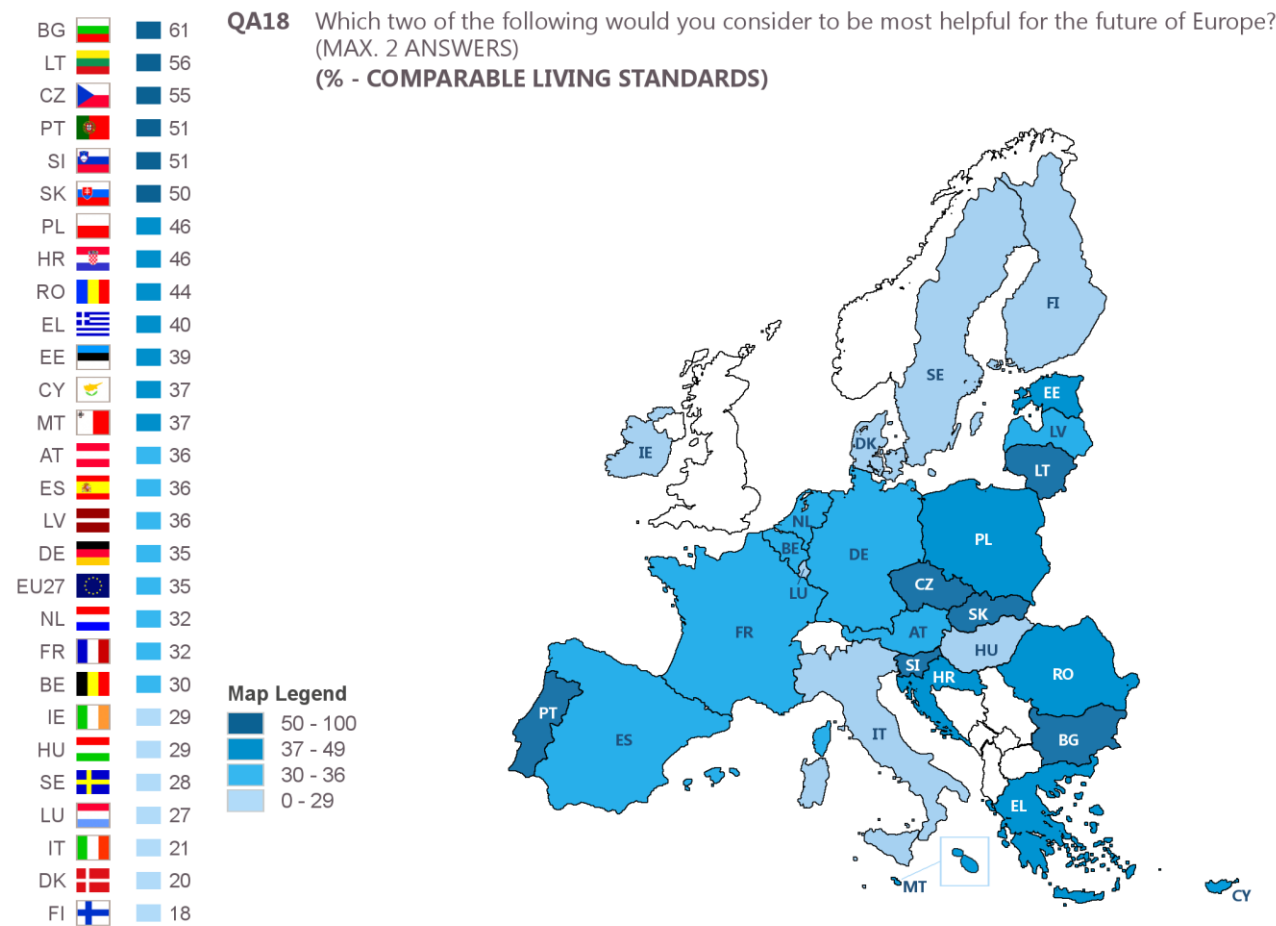


«Comparable living standards» is the most given answer in 15 Member States; «Stronger solidarity between EU Member States» in 11. Both items are equally most mentioned in Greece.

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



In 6 Member States, at least half cite «comparable living standards» as being the most helpful for the future of Europe, highest in Bulgaria. In 3 Member States, less than a quarter say this, lowest in Finland.



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EU's assets and challenges

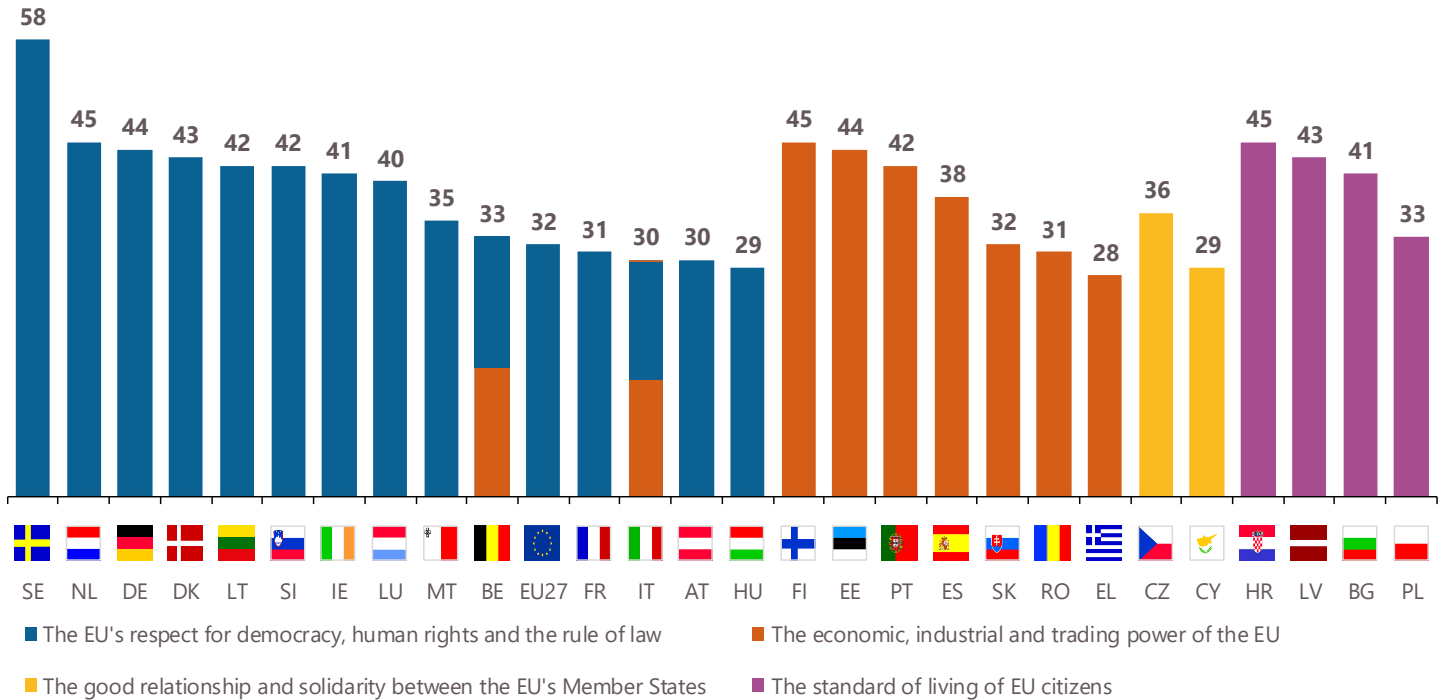
The EU’s main assets are: «respect for democracy, human rights and the rule of law» and «the economic, industrial and trading power of the EU».

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

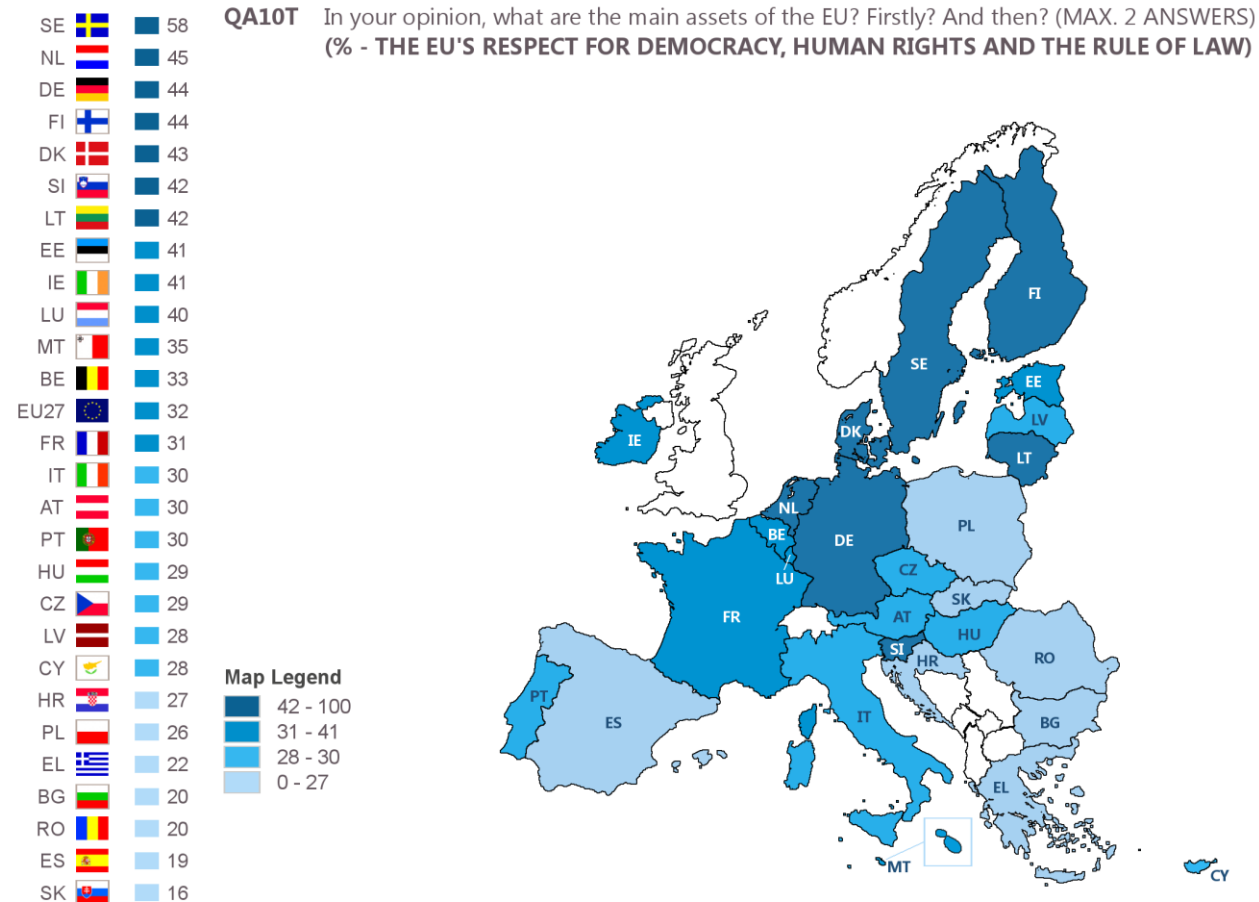


The «EU’s respect for democracy, human rights and the rule of law» is the most mentioned answer in 14 Member States. «The economic, industrial and trade power of the EU» comes first in 9 Member States. In Belgium and Italy both items come first.

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

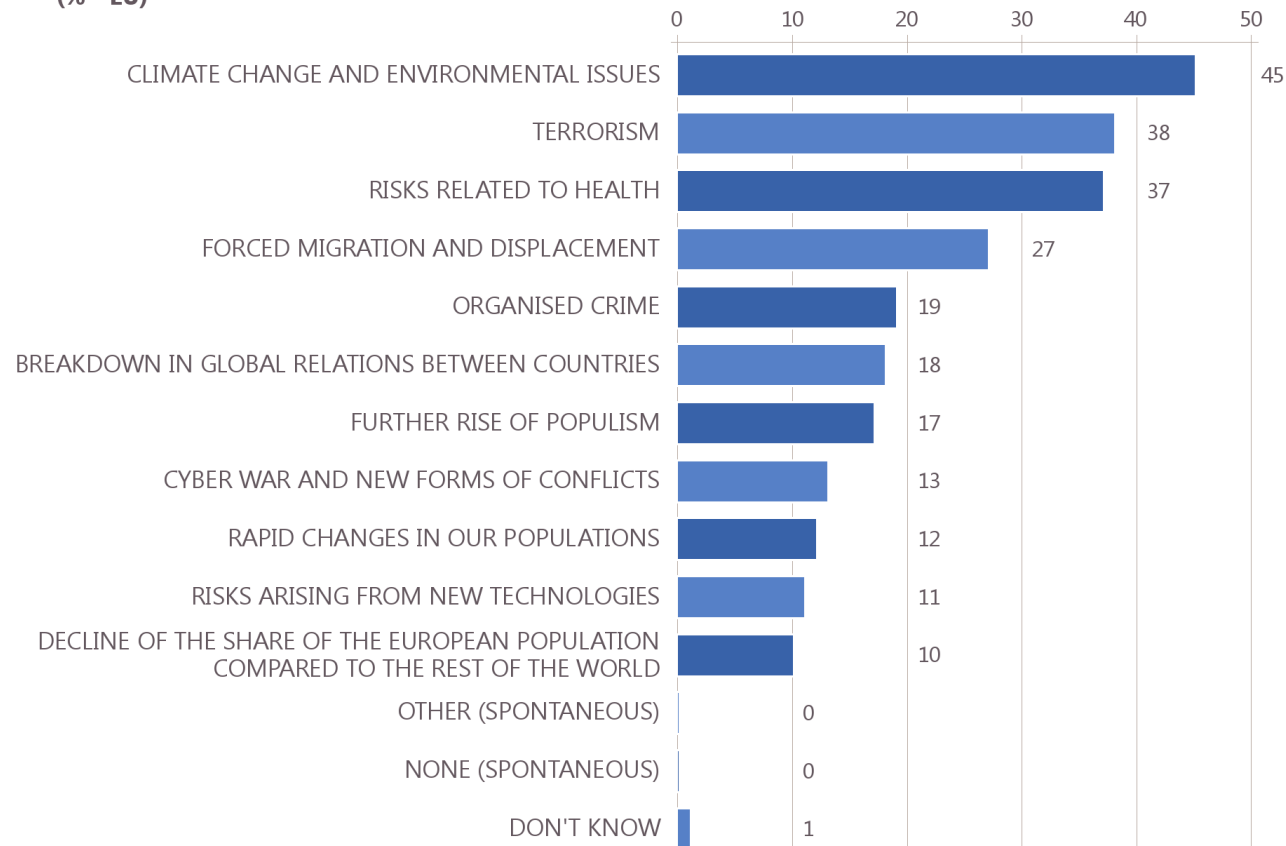


There is wide variation in the proportion that see «respect for democracy, human rights and the rule of law» as one of the EU's main assets, from more than half in Sweden to less than a fifth in Slovakia and Spain.



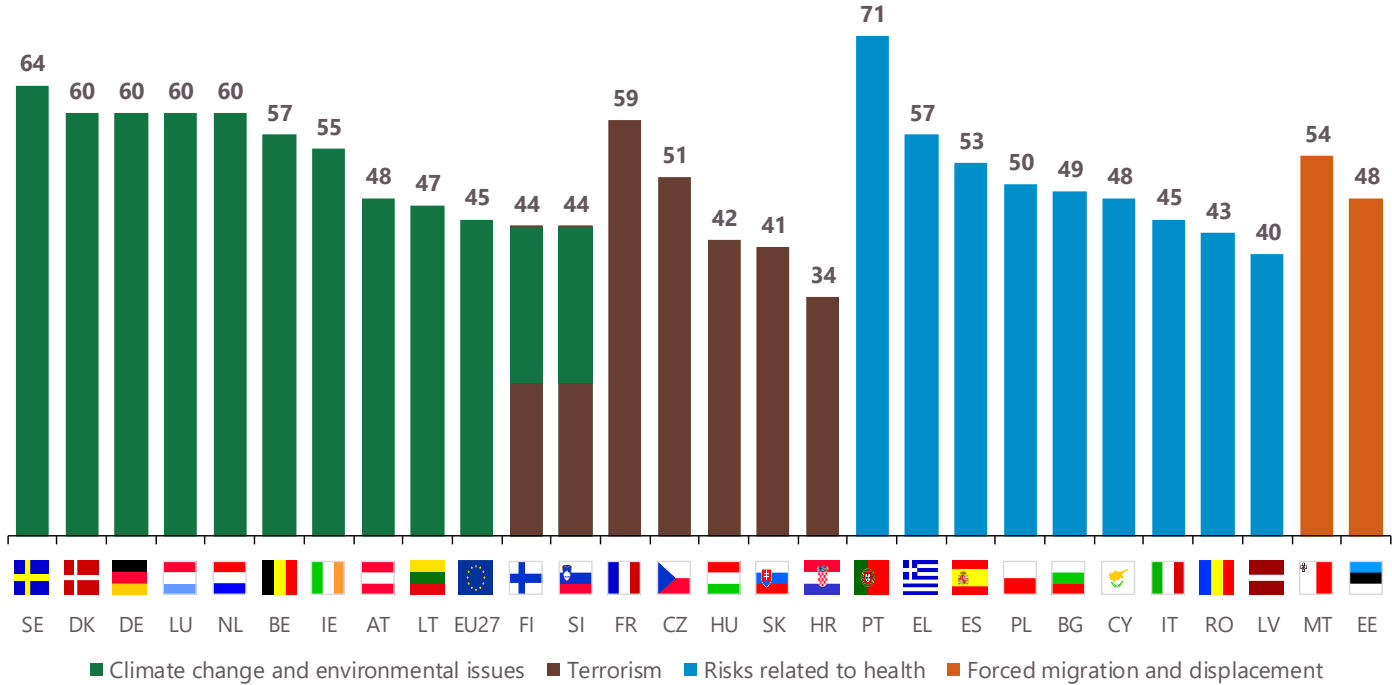
«Climate change and environmental issues» is seen as the biggest challenge for the future of the EU, followed by «terrorism», «risks related to health» and «forced migration and displacement».

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

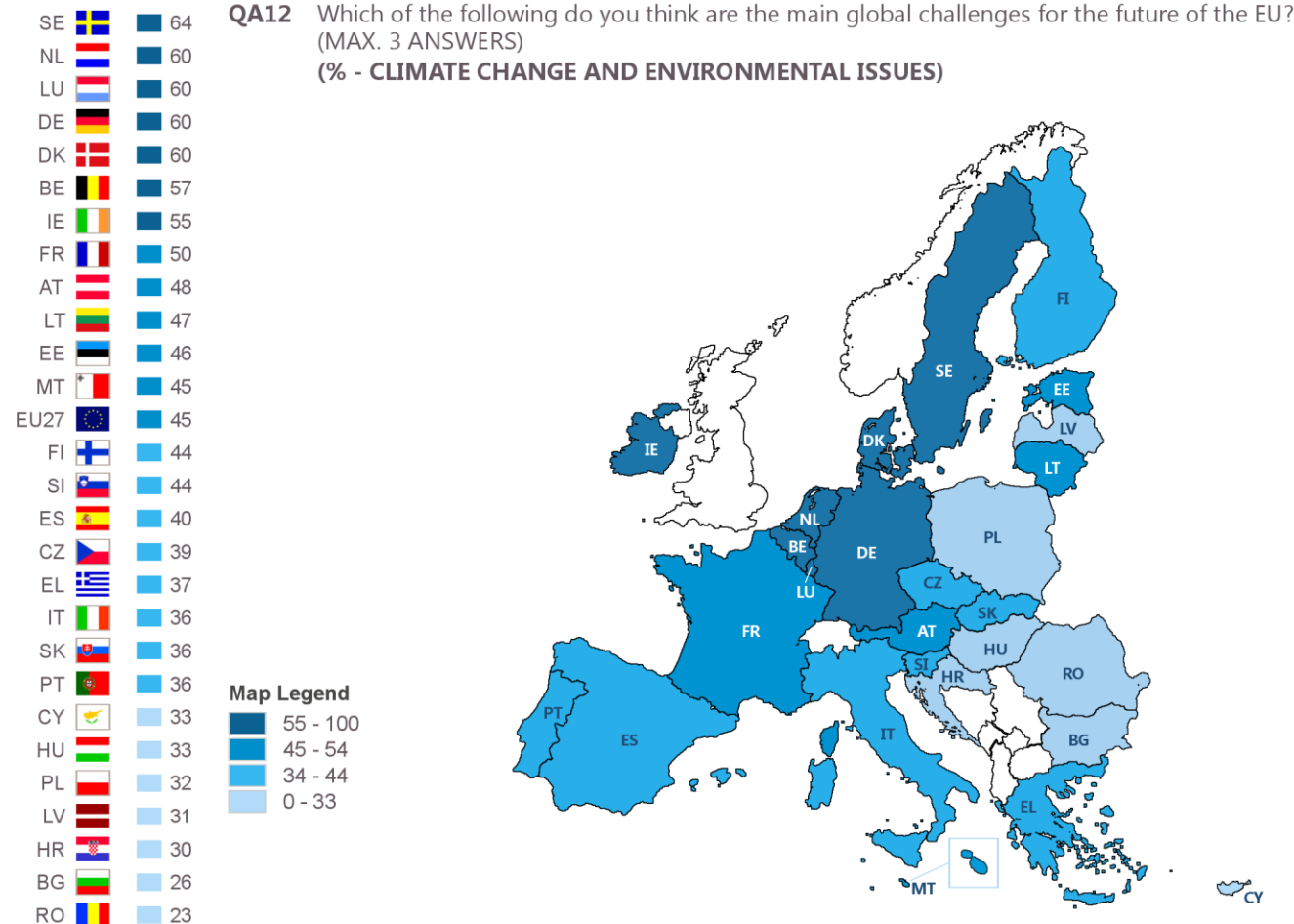


«Climate change» is the most given answer in 11 Member States; «terrorism» is the most mentioned answer in another 7 Member States (both items equally first in Finland and Slovenia), while «risks related to health» comes first in 9.

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



In 7 Member States, more than half say «climate change and environmental issues» is one of the EU's main challenges, highest in Sweden. In 5 Member States less than a third say this.



METHODOLOGY

- Fieldwork: 22/10 – 20/11/2020; EB Wave 94.1
- Population: aged 15+
- Coverage: 27 EU Member States
- Method: face-to-face interviews and alternative interview modes (online) where face-to-face interviews were not possible because of the Coronavirus pandemic
- Number of interviews: 27 034
- Survey requested by the European Commission (DG COMM.A3) and the European Parliament (DG COMM/POMU)



European Parliament



European
Commission