



DG Communication is continuously monitoring public opinion by conducting regular Eurobarometer surveys in all 28 EU Member States. **This newsletter aims at providing the general public with the most recent Eurobarometer data on key topics of this week's plenary agenda.**

Although this service cannot be fully exhaustive, as not all items on the plenary agenda have been the subject of a recent Eurobarometer survey, today's edition provides fresh survey data on the following items of the plenary session:

- **'State of the Union': Speech by and debate with the President of the Commission**
- **'Future of Europe': Debate with the Prime Minister of Greece, Alexis Tsipras**
- **Protection of individuals with regard to the processing of personal data by EU institutions**
- **A European Strategy for plastics in a circular economy**
- **European Solidarity Corps**

Parliament's Eurobarometer surveys cover a wide range of issues. They focus primarily on the European citizens' knowledge of the European Parliament and their perceptions of the EU and its main policy challenges. Expectations in view of the European elections, of the European Parliament and the European integration in general also form part of the face-to-face interviews conducted with more than 27.000 respondents.

Together with the Eurobarometer surveys conducted by the European Commission, **the data available allows for a detailed and up-to-date insight into citizens' opinions, expectations and perceptions.**

For additional information on the topics covered in this edition, please contact public.opinion.monitoring@ep.europa.eu.

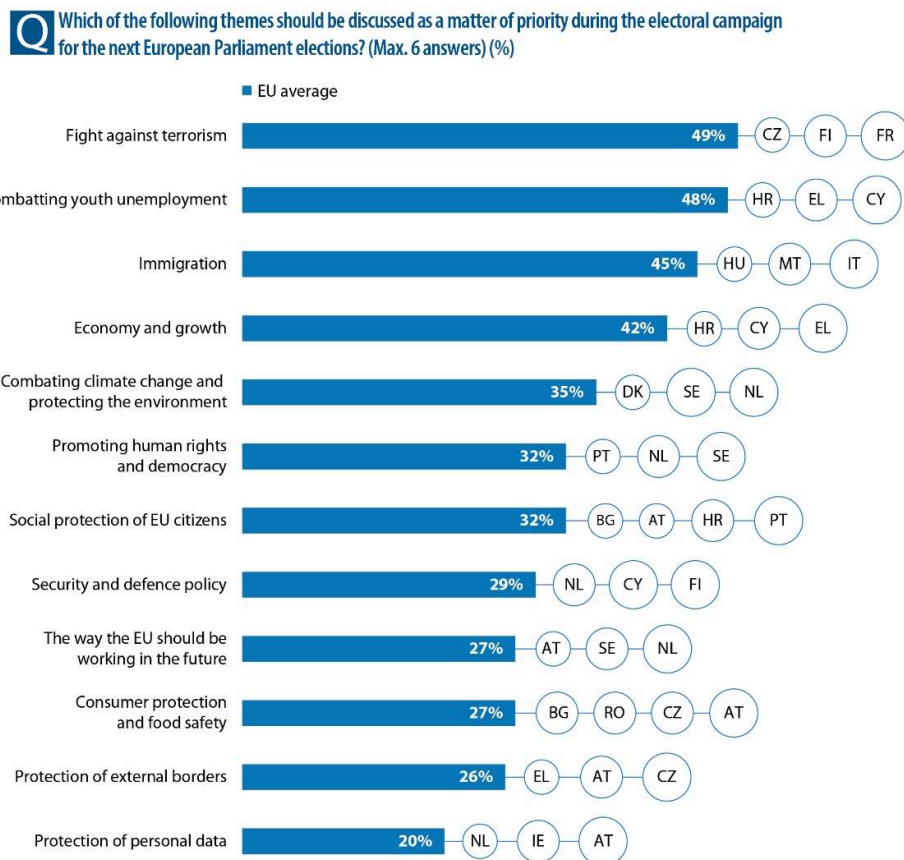
Best regards,

Philipp M. Schulmeister, *Head of Unit*
Public Opinion Monitoring Unit DG Communication

On 12 September 2018, Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker will deliver [his State of the European Union speech to Parliament](#). Members will review the Commission's achievements since taking office as well as assess its objectives for the year to come.

One year to go to the European elections, the latest European Parliament Eurobarometer survey: **'Democracy on the move'**, published last May, focussed on voters' perceptions on the upcoming Parliamentary elections.

Europeans citizens have been asked about the topics they see as priority for the European elections campaign. The following graph shows the ranking of the issues by citations on EU average, combined with the three countries in which the respective issue has attracted the highest number of respondents.

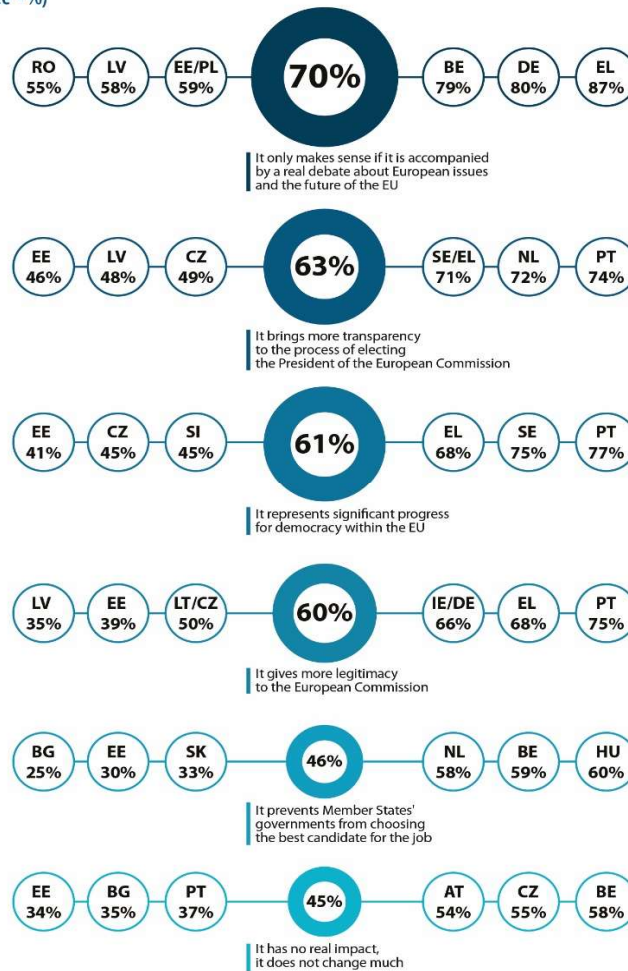


Source: Eurobarometer 2018 89.2, QA11T

For more detailed information: [Special Eurobarometer 2018: Democracy on the Move \(April 2018\)](#)

Respondents all over the EU also see the *Spitzenkandidaten* (lead candidates) process as an important cornerstone of democratic life in the EU. In the framework of this process, one factor receives by far the biggest support across the European Union: 70% of citizens state that the *Spitzenkandidaten* process only makes sense, if it is accompanied by a real debate about European issues and the future of the EU.

Q To what extent do you agree or disagree with each of the following statements regarding this process of electing the President of the European Commission depending on the results of the European Parliament elections?
(Total 'agree' - %)



Source: Eurobarometer 2018 89.2, QA13

For more detailed information: [Special Eurobarometer 2018: Democracy on the Move \(April 2018\)](#)

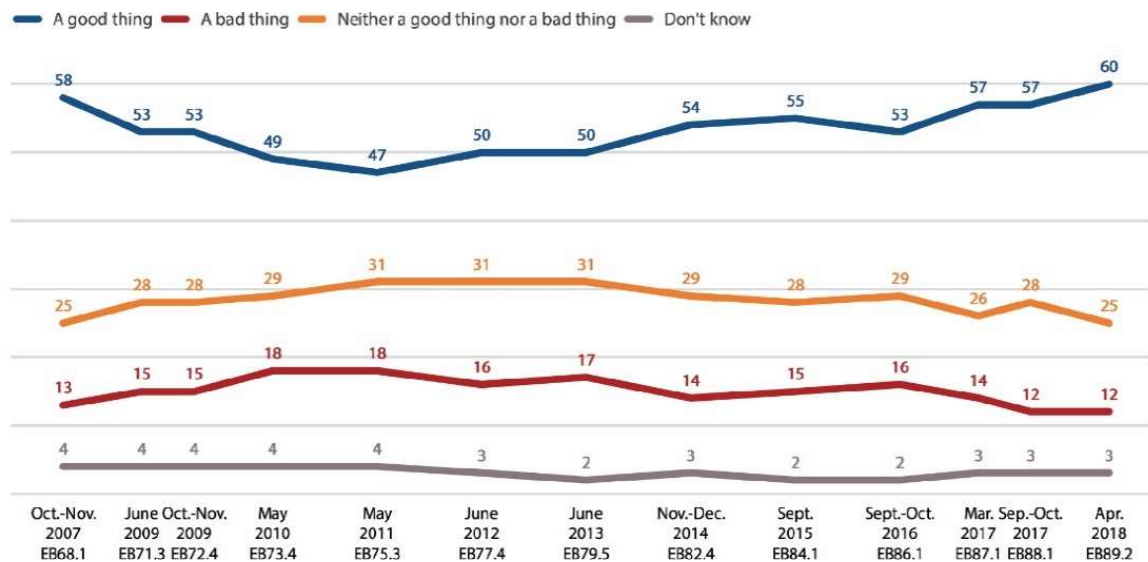
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Debate with the Prime Minister of Greece, Alexis Tsipras, on the Future of Europe

Parliament’s series of [debates on the future of Europe continues. The Prime Minister of Greece, Alexis Tsipras](#), will be the eleventh European Union leader to debate the Future of Europe with MEPs on Tuesday morning.

The latest European Parliament Eurobarometer survey: ‘**Democracy on the move**’, published last May, not only confirmed citizens’ broad support for the European Union, but also reaffirmed the positive outlook a clear majority of European citizens have for the future of the European Union. The Eurobarometer indicator measuring citizens’ support for their country’s EU membership significantly jumped in 2018 to a European average of 60% of citizens who believe that the EU membership of their country is a good thing. This is the highest result both since the start of measuring this indicator in 2007 and, equally significant, the highest result measured since the financial and economic crisis.

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

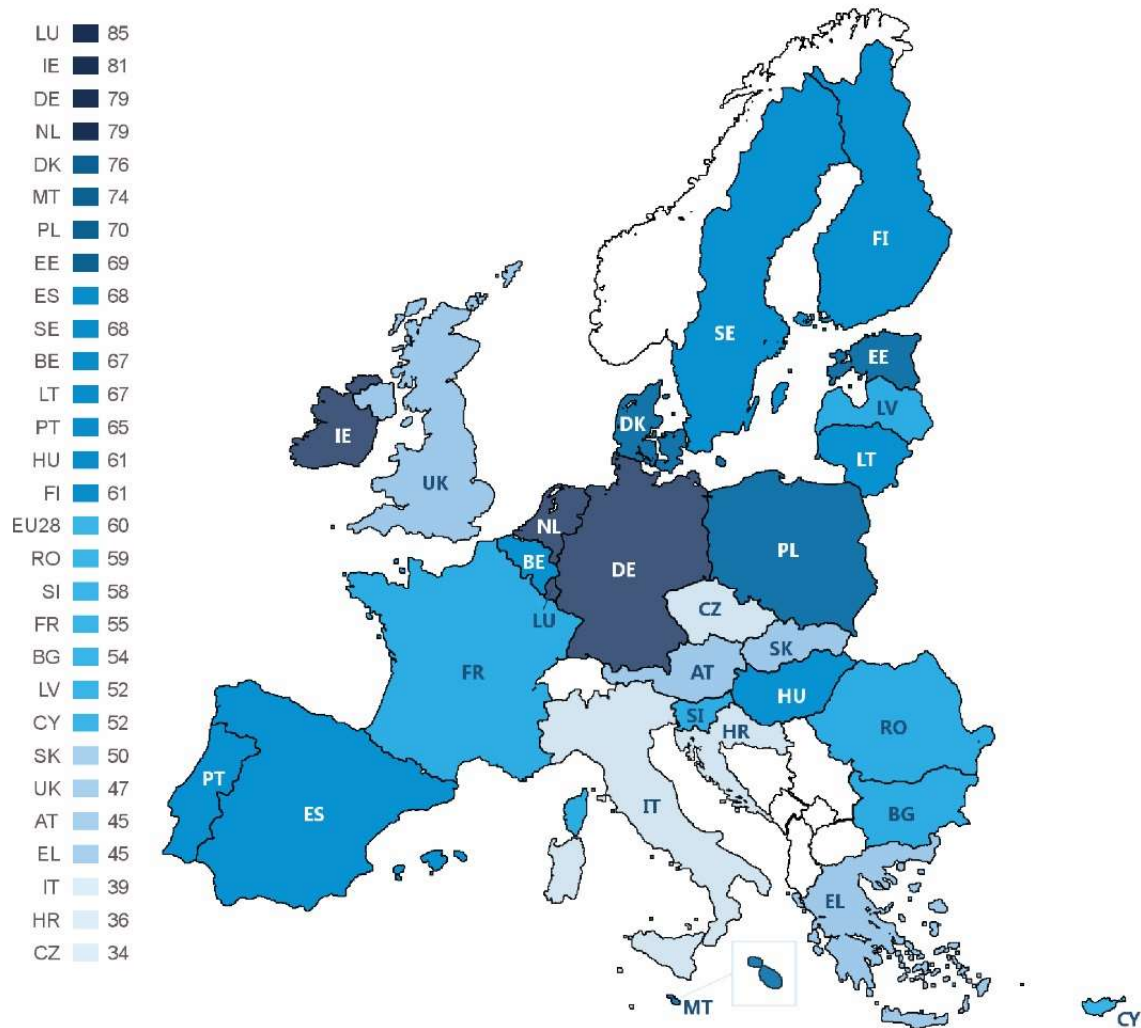


Source: Eurobarometer 2018 89.2, QA23

For more detailed information: [Special Eurobarometer 2018: Democracy on the Move \(April 2018\)](#)

It is, however, more telling to look at the results on this question from a country to country basis, where a larger spread of opinion can be observed, as shown on the next map:

Q Generally speaking, do you think that (OUR COUNTRY)'s membership of the EU is...? (Total 'a good thing' - %)

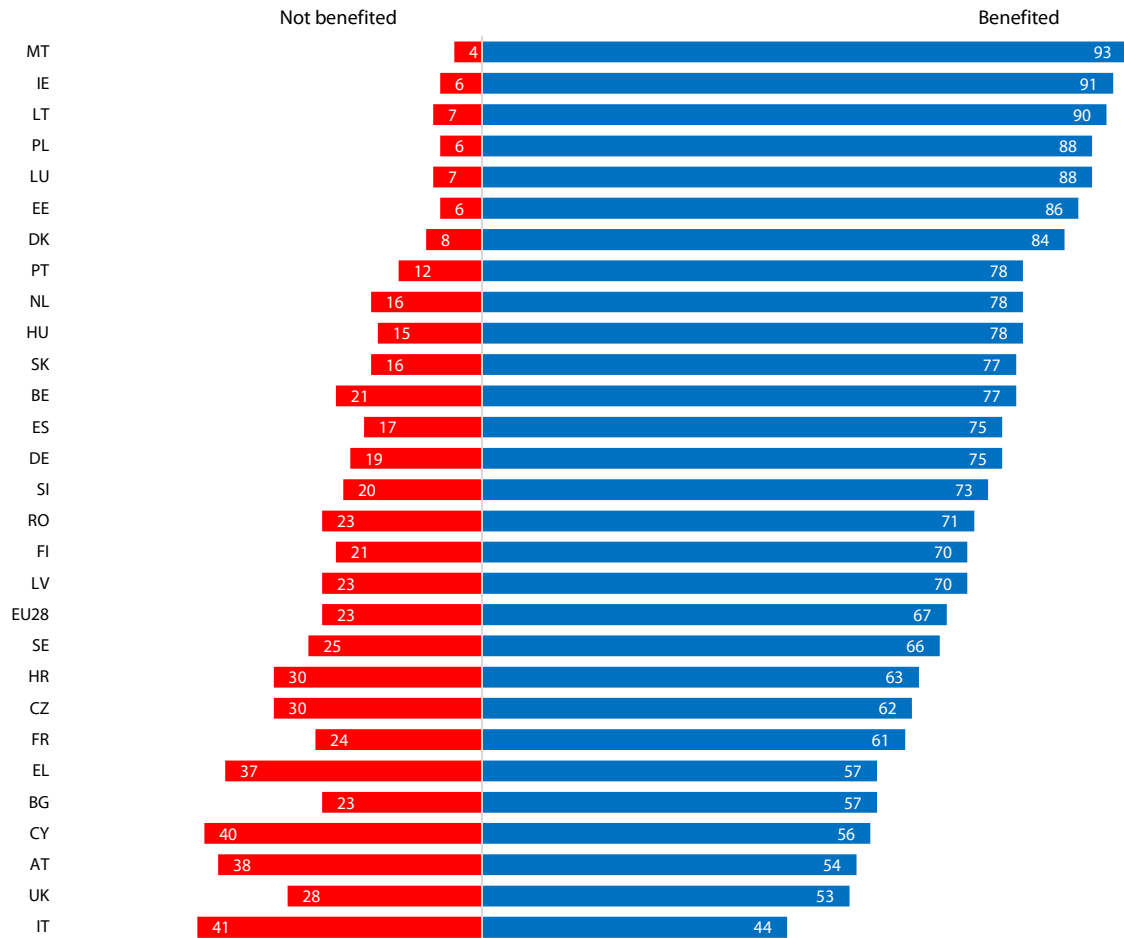


Source: Eurobarometer 2018 89.2, QA23

For more detailed information: [Special Eurobarometer 2018: Democracy on the Move \(April 2018\)](#)

Yet even more important and telling are citizens' answers on the question whether they think that their country has benefitted from being a member of the EU. A record high of 67% of respondents did express this opinion in the last survey, the highest score measured for 35 years.

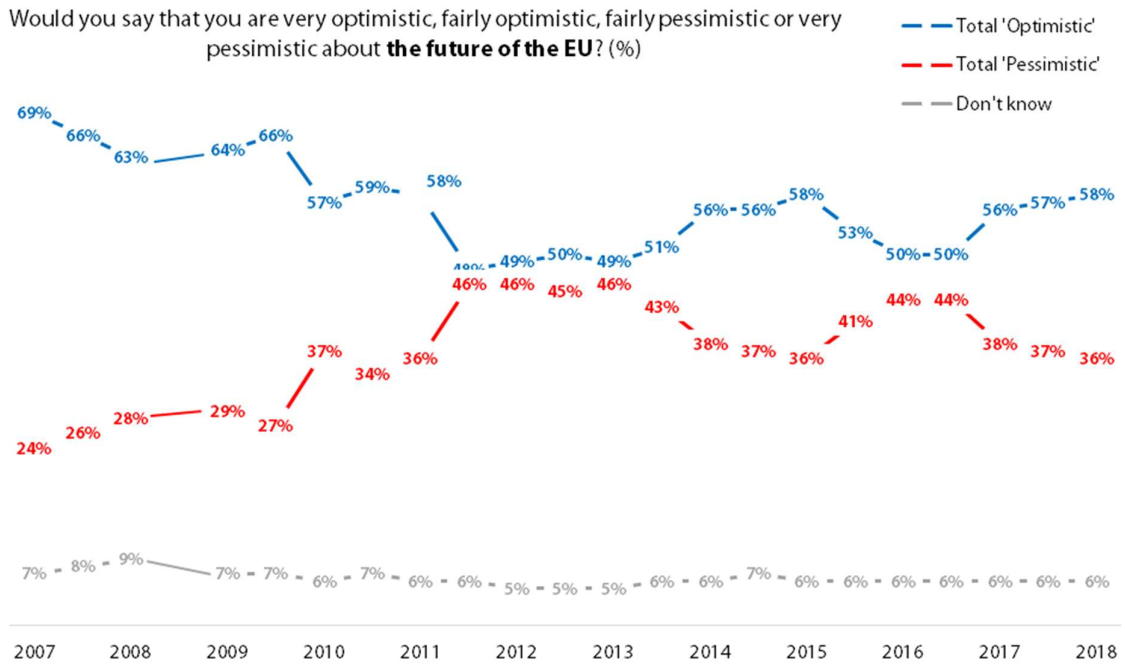
Taking everything into account, would you say that (OUR COUNTRY) has on balance **benefited or not from being a member of the EU?**



Special Eurobarometer 88.2 (2018): QA23

For more detailed information: [Special Eurobarometer 2018: Democracy on the Move \(April 2018\)](#)

Moreover, after a third consecutive increase, 58% of respondents say they are optimistic for the future of the European Union (+1 percentage point since autumn 2017, and +8 since autumn 2016), while slightly above a third of respondents (36%, -1 since autumn 2017) are pessimistic.



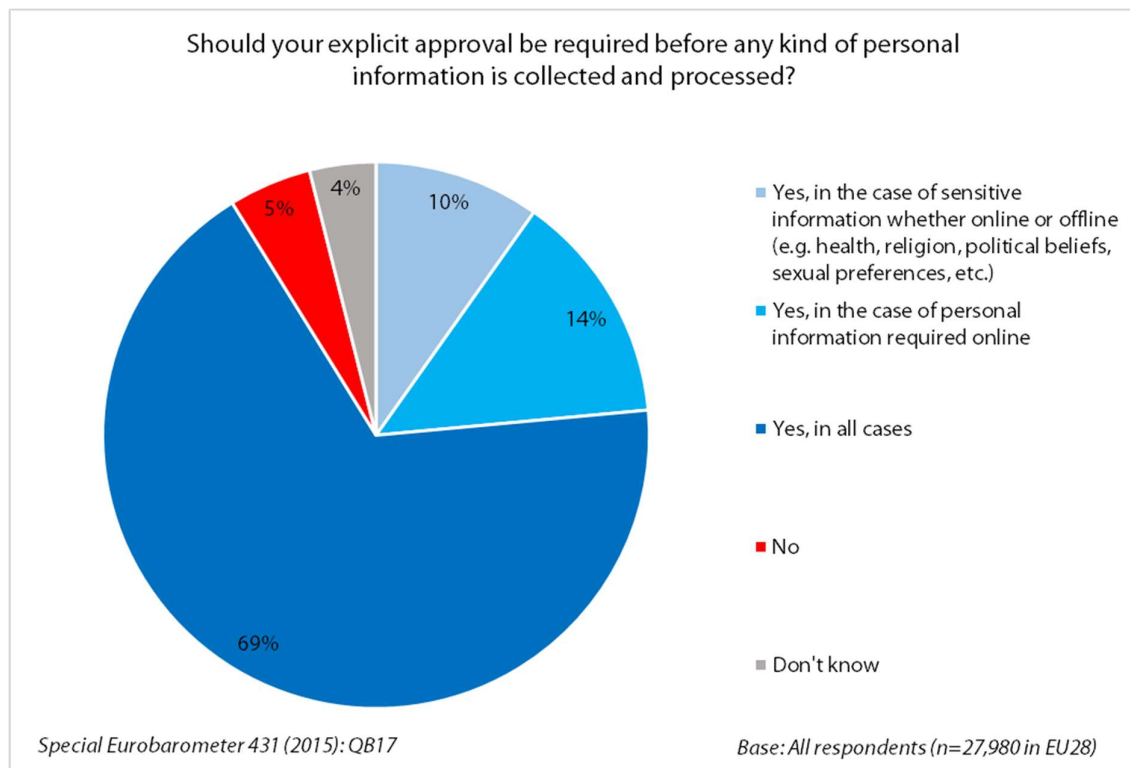
For more detailed information: [Standard Eurobarometer \(March 2018\)](#)

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Protection of individuals with the regard to the processing of personal data by European Union institutions

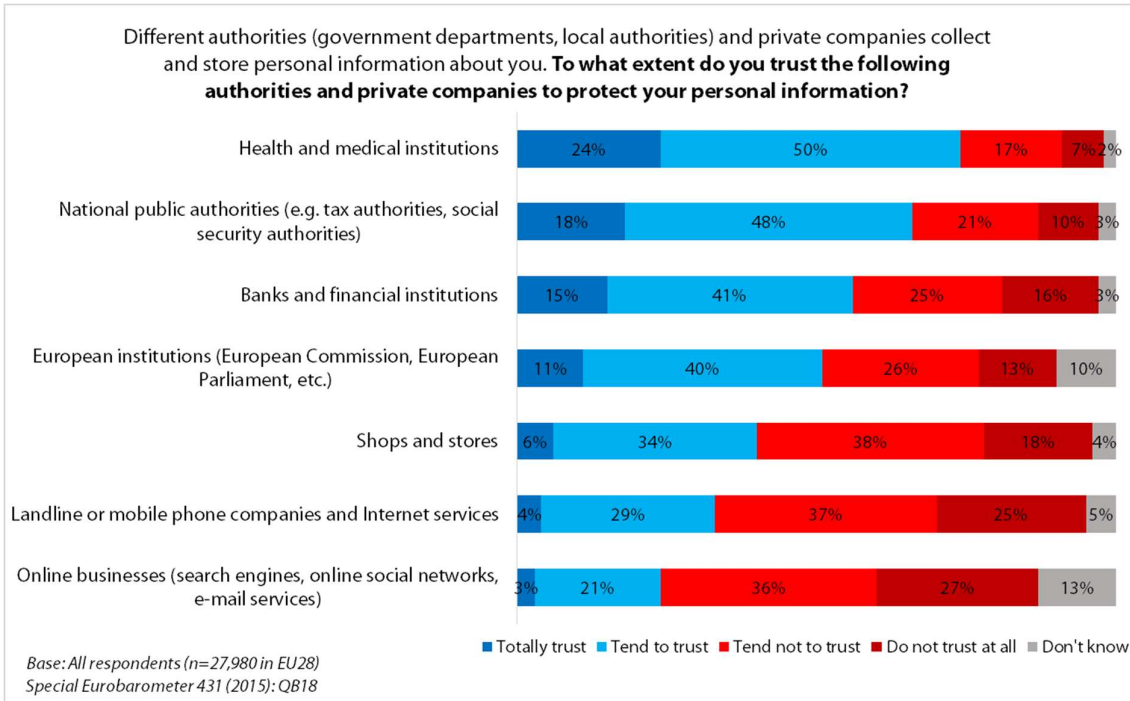
On 23 May 2018, representatives of the Council and the Parliament agreed on a [new regulation on the handling of personal data by EU institutions and other EU bodies](#). When processing personal data, the European Parliament always showed full respect for the rights of the individuals (data subjects) concerned. Therefore, on Wednesday, Plenary will debate these new rules which are aligned with the general data protection regulation (GDPR) which entered into force on 25 May 2018.

Are these concerns shared by European Union citizens? The answer is clearly “yes” according to a Special Eurobarometer on Data protection from March 2015 : 69% of EU respondents say they their explicit approval should be required in all cases before their data is collected and processed.



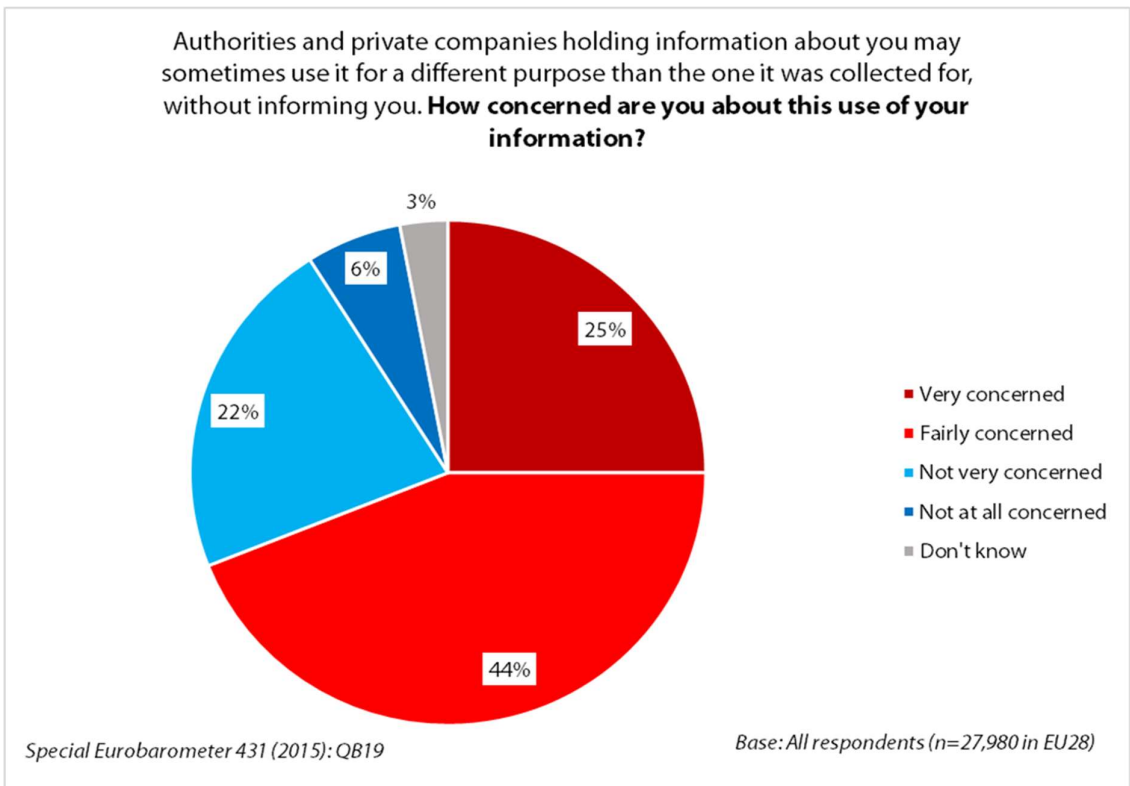
For more detailed information : [Special Eurobarometer on Data protection \(March 2015\)](#)

Moreover, the trust of Europeans in public and financial institutions to protect their personal data is significantly higher than for private corporations. Thus, one in two Europeans (51%) say they trust the European institutions to protect their personal information: of these, 11% totally trust them, and 40% tend to trust them.



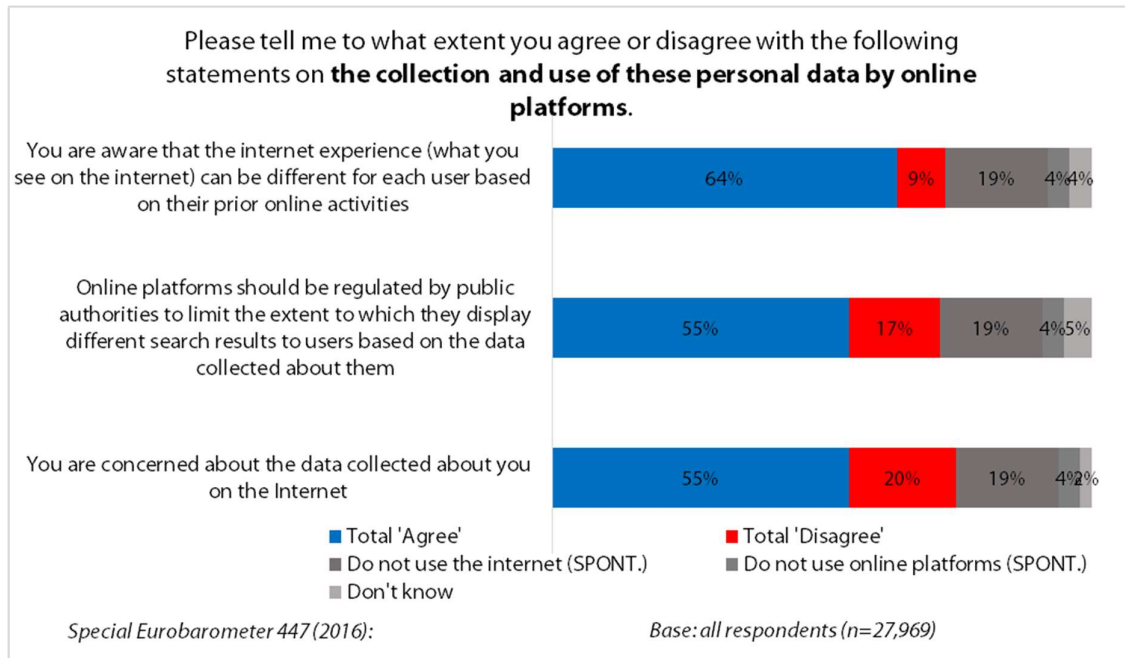
For more detailed information: [Special Eurobarometer on Data protection \(March 2015\)](#)

Finally, around seven out of ten citizens are concerned about their information being used for a different purpose than the one it was collected for:



For more detailed information: [Special Eurobarometer on Data protection \(March 2015\)](#)

According to yet another Special Eurobarometer on Online platforms published in April 2016, at least half of all European Union citizens are concerned about the data collected about them on the Internet. 55% of Europeans think that online platforms should be regulated by public authorities to limit the extent to which they display different search results to users based on the data collected about them. And more than six in ten EU citizens say they are aware that what one gets to see while using the Internet can be different for each user based on their prior online activities (64%).

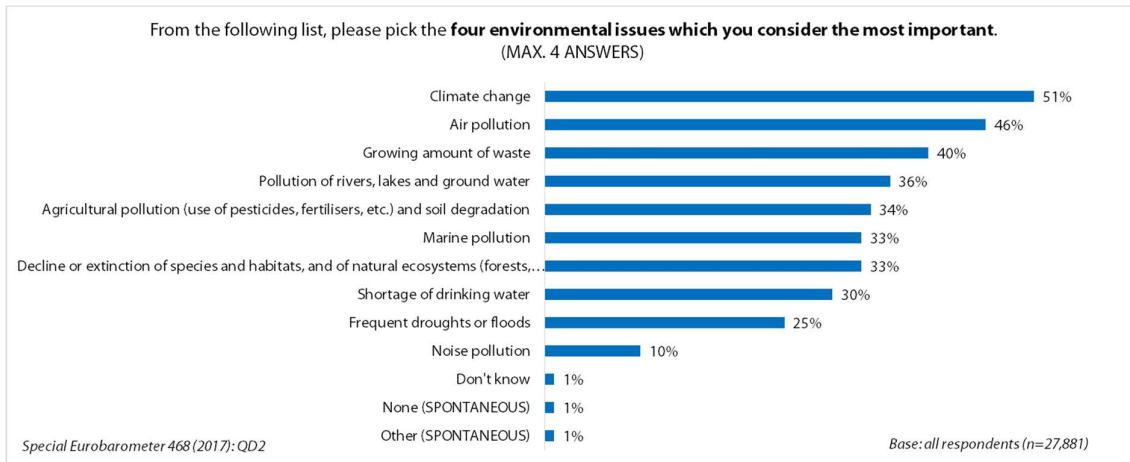


For more detailed information: [Special Eurobarometer on Online platforms \(April 2016\)](#)

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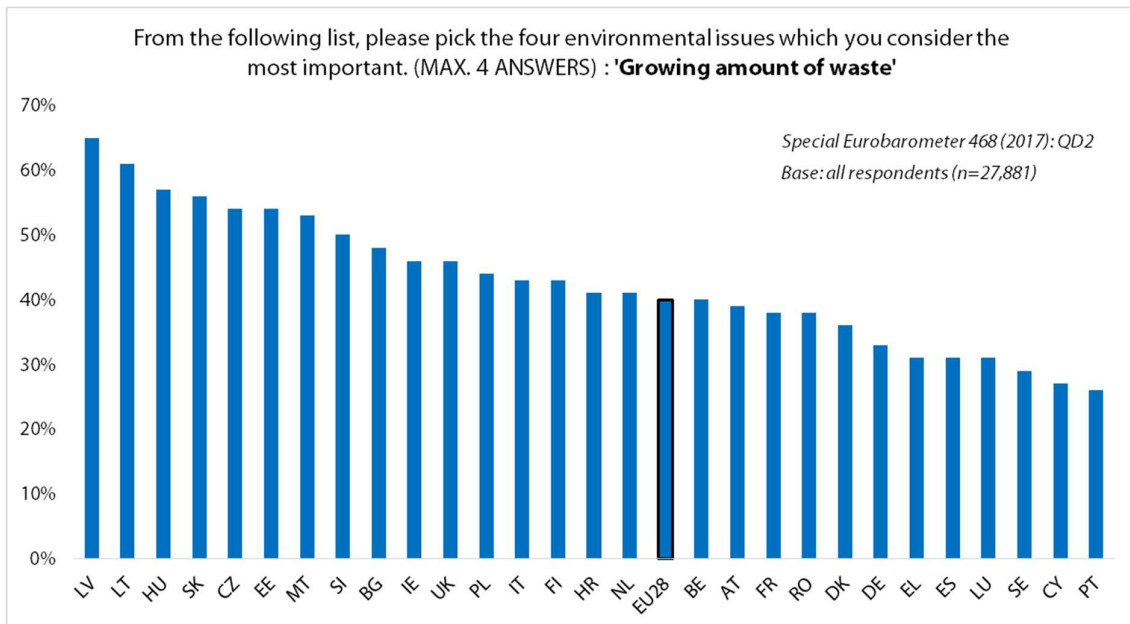
A European Strategy for Plastics in a circular economy

Plastics are everywhere in our daily life. However, the way in which plastics are produced and used today is both unaffordable and unsustainable. On 16 January 2018, the European Commission published a communication laying out [a strategy for plastics in a circular economy](#). On Wednesday, Members will as well promote transformational change and a shift to a circular plastics economy. According to a special Eurobarometer on Attitudes of European citizens towards the environment from October 2017, European Union citizens consider climate change (51%), air pollution (46%) and the growing amount of waste (40%) the most important environmental issues.



For more detailed information: [Special Eurobarometer on Attitudes of European citizens towards the environment \(Oct. 2017\)](#)

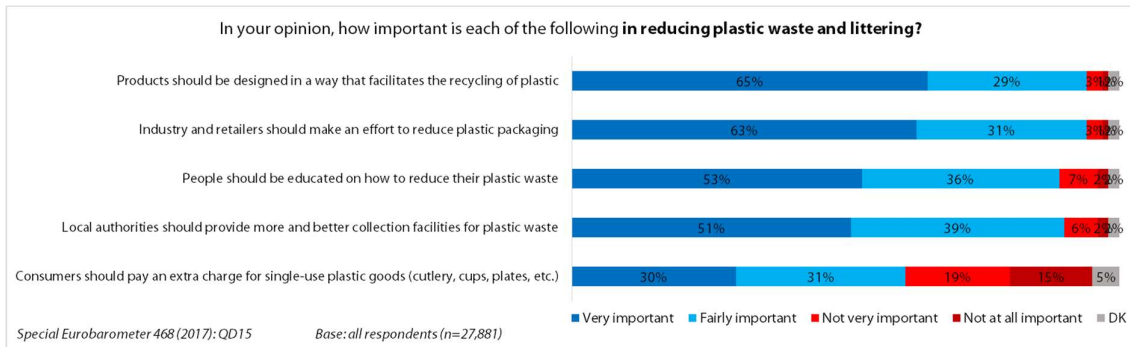
In seven countries, waste is considered as the most important environmental issue.



For more detailed information: [Special Eurobarometer on Attitudes of European citizens towards the environment \(Oct. 2017\)](#)

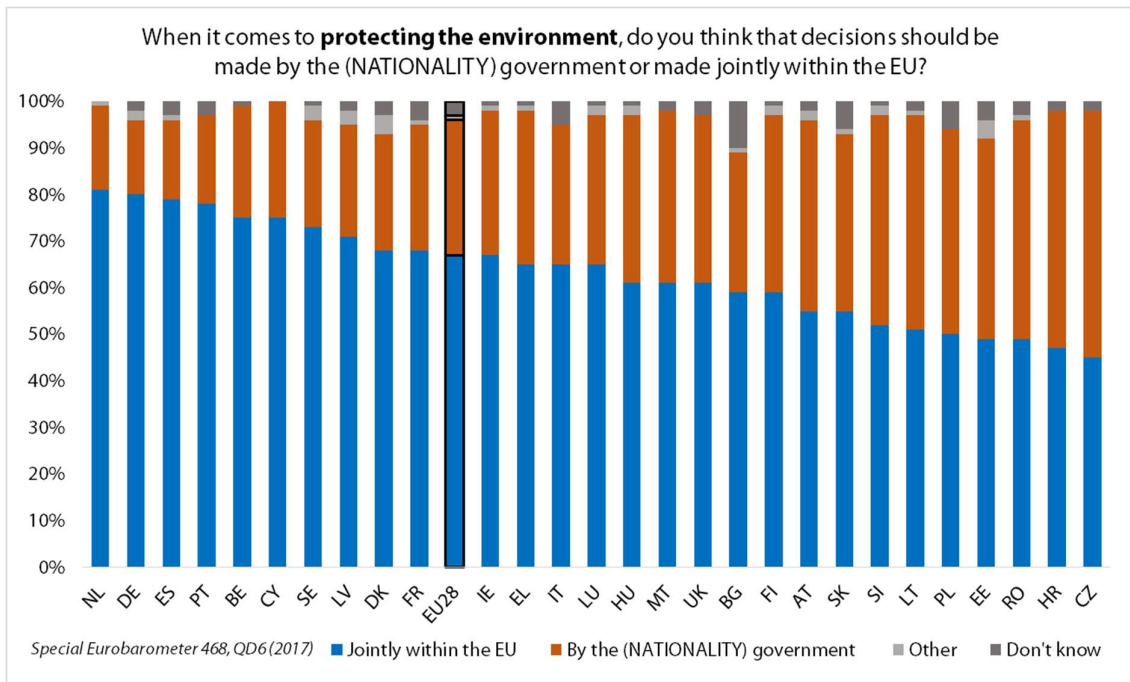
In addition, European Union citizens were asked how important they think a number of measures in reducing plastic waste and littering are - and at least half of respondents think that four of the measures are 'very important':

- products should be designed in a way that facilitates the recycling of plastic (65%)
- industry and retailers should make an effort to reduce plastic packaging (63%)
- people should be educated on how to reduce their plastic waste (53%)
- local authorities should provide more and better collection facilities for plastic waste (51%)



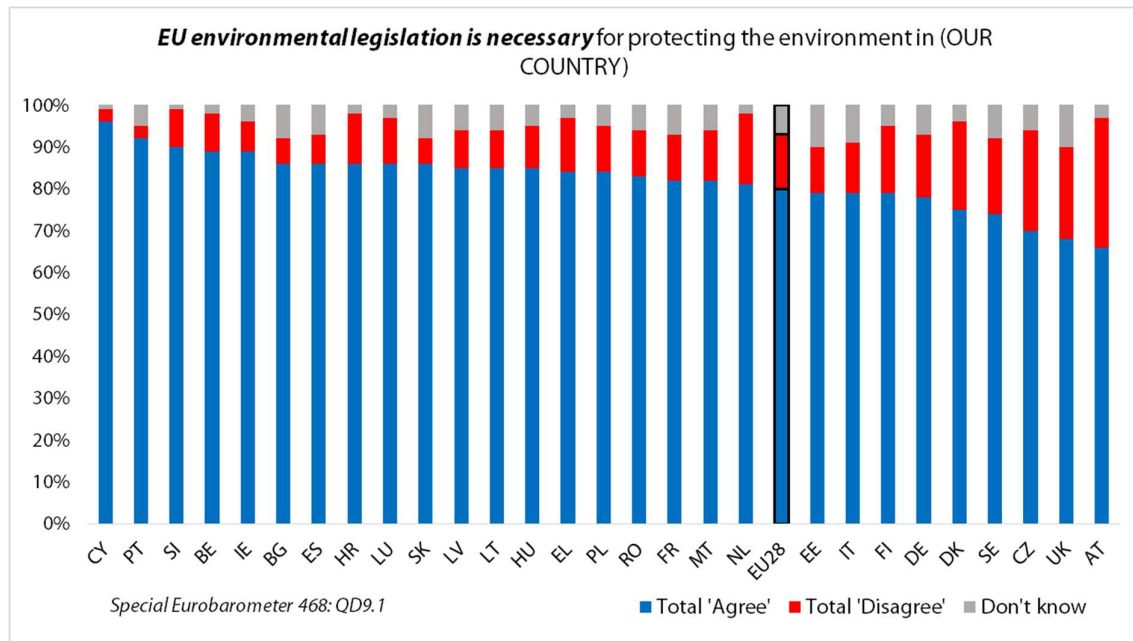
For more detailed information: [Special Eurobarometer on Attitudes of European citizens towards the environment \(Oct. 2017\)](#)

Furthermore, around two-thirds of Europeans (67%) think that environmental decisions should be taken jointly within the European Union. Less than a third (29%) believe that the national government should take such decisions for themselves.



For more detailed information: [Special Eurobarometer on Attitudes of European citizens towards the environment](#)

Moreover, a large majority of Europeans agree that European Union environmental legislation is necessary for protecting the environment in their country.



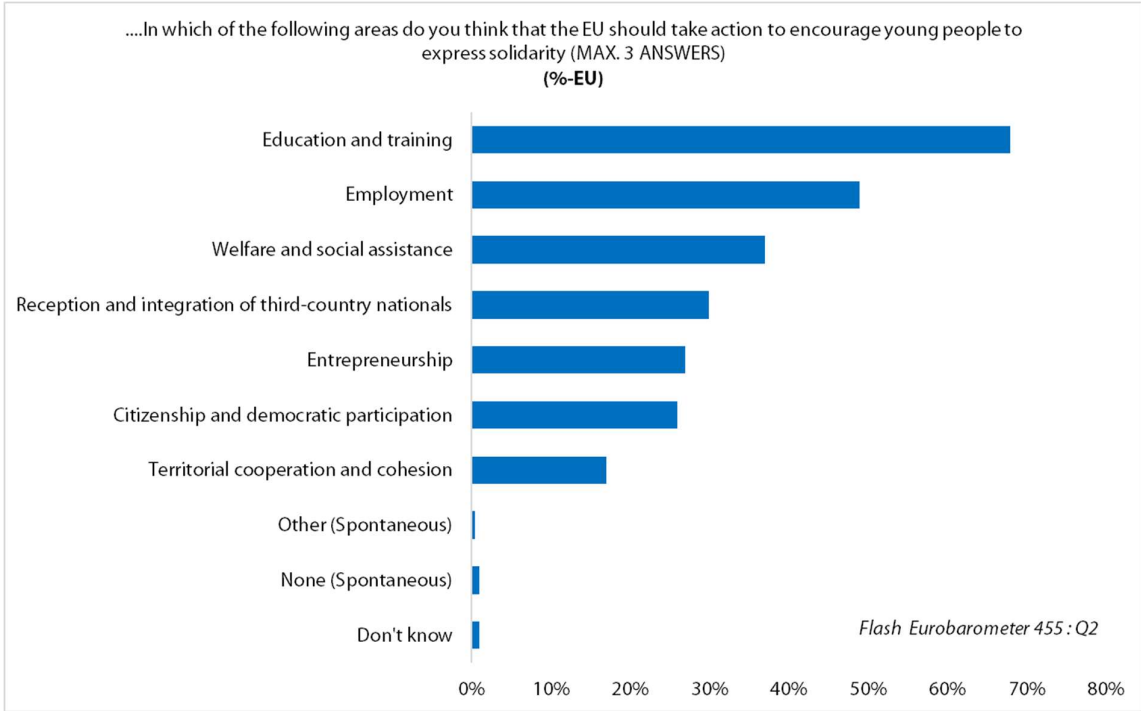
For more detailed information: [Special Eurobarometer on Attitudes of European citizens towards the environment \(Oct. 2017\)](#)

5 European Solidarity Corps

The European Union is built on solidarity, a shared value which is strongly felt throughout European society and which provides a clear compass to guide the European youth in their aspirations for a better Union. Thus, the Plenary will discuss (on Monday) and vote (on Tuesday) the implementation of the [European Solidarity Corps](#) putting the spotlight on the value of volunteering and young people's contribution to society.

In the Flash Eurobarometer 455 (September 2017), respondents were told about the European Solidarity Corps initiative that creates opportunities for young people to volunteer or work in projects in their own country or abroad that benefit communities and people around Europe. They were then asked about the areas where they thought the EU should take action to encourage young people to express solidarity.

More than two thirds of respondents think the EU should take action in the area of education and training to encourage young people to express solidarity (68%). This is the only area mentioned by at least half of all respondents, although almost half (49%) mention employment.



For more detailed information: [Flash Eurobarometer on European Youth \(September 2017\)](#)