



ЕВРОПЕЙСКИ ПАРЛАМЕНТ PARLAMENTO EUROPEO EVROPSKÝ PARLAMENT EUROPA-PARLAMENTET
EUROPÄISCHES PARLAMENT EUROOPA PARLAMENT ΕΥΡΩΠΑΪΚΟ ΚΟΙΝΟΒΟΥΛΙΟ EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT
PARLEMENT EUROPÉEN PARLAIMINT NA HEORPA PARLAMENTO EUROPEO EIROPAS PARLAMENTS
EUROPOS PARLAMENTAS EURÓPAI PARLAMENT IL-PARLAMENT EWROPEW EUROPEES PARLEMENT
PARLAMENT EUROPEJSKI PARLAMENTO EUROPEU PARLAMENTUL EUROPEAN
EURÓPSKY PARLAMENT EVROPSKI PARLAMENT EUROOPAN PARLAMENTTI EUROPAPARLAMENTET

Directorate-General for Communication
Public Opinion Monitoring Unit

Brussels, 24 September 2012

European public opinion: Two years to go to the 2014 European Elections *European Parliament Eurobarometer (EP/EB77.4)*

FOCUS ON GENDER ANALYSIS

Coverage: EU-27 (26 622 EU citizens)
Target group: Europeans aged 15 and over
Methodology: Face-to-face (CAPI; PAPI)
Fieldwork: 2-17 June 2012, carried out by TNS Opinion

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INTRODUCTION

This focus presents the differing opinions of women and men on a number of crucial questions raised in the Eurobarometer/European Parliament survey entitled *'Two years to go to the 2014 European Elections'*¹, carried out between **2 and 19 June 2012** in the 27 EU Member States. It was published on the occasion of the joint conference of the European Parliament and of national parliaments on gender equality issues which took place the 3 October 2012.

It concerns, in particular, women's and men's opinions on the **image of the EU**, their country's **membership of the EU**, their **feeling that their voice counts** in the EU and their **sense of identity**.

Bearing in mind that the **six most-populated Member States account for a combined weighting of approximately 70 % of the EU average**, each of the findings should also be viewed in the context of the various national results.

Detailed results are consequently set out in graphs and tables, **first at the European level and** then broken down **into national variations**.

Before outlining the main findings, it is worth recalling that the results of previous Eurobarometer surveys show that women are usually less knowledgeable than men about EU issues. Might that have played a role in the replies analysed here?

MAIN FINDINGS

- **More men than women** have a **positive image** of the EU (42 % M; 39 % W). At the same time, more men than women say that **EU membership is a good thing** (53 % M; 48 % W).
- In response to these two questions, women chose the 'neutral' statement. **More women than men** have a '**neutral image of the EU**', and more women than men see **membership** of the EU '**neither as a good thing nor as a bad thing**'.
- The majority of both women and men feel that **their voice does not count** in the EU, but **men tend to be somewhat more positive than women** (43 % M; 41 % W chose the answer '**My voice counts in the EU**').
- As regards **their sense of identity**, **women feel strongly rooted in their 'national identity only'** (46 % W; 41 % M). This trend is confirmed across most of the Member States. Conversely, the sense of being '**national and European**' comes out on top **for men** (45 % M; 42 % W).

¹ This survey will be also available to the participants of the Joint Conference.

A. Positive or neutral image of the EU

- *At the European level*, the **EU's image** in the eyes of the majority of Europeans is **improving**. 40 % of Europeans have a positive image of the EU (+9 percentage points compared with the previous survey in November 2011).

Men are more positive than women: 42 % of them have a positive image of the EU as opposed to 39 % of women. At the same time, **more women** than men have a **'neutral' image of the EU** (37 % W; 33 % M).

- *Nationally*, **differences in opinion** between women and men **vary** from +3 to -10 percentage points as regards a **'positive image of the EU'** and from +11 to -3 as regards a **'neutral image of the EU'**.

B. Support for EU membership: greater among men than women

- *At the European level*, an **absolute majority** of Europeans say that **EU membership is a good thing** (50 %).

Many more men than women agree with this statement (53 % of men; 48 % of women), while, in a similar vein to their answers concerning the EU's image, more women than men say that **EU membership is neither a good nor a bad thing** (33 % W; 28 % M).

- *Nationally*, there are **wide differences in the answers** given by women and men, ranging from +2 to -10 percentage points for the statement **'EU membership is a good thing'** and from +11 to -5 for the statement **'EU membership is neither a good nor a bad thing'**.

C. My voice counts in the EU: an increasing proportion but not a majority

- *At the European level*, the majority of citizens still think that **their voice does not count in the EU (54 %)**. **This perception is decreasing** (-7 percentage points compared with the previous survey in December 2011), and people's feeling that their voice counts in the EU is on the increase, at 42 % (+9 percentage points).

Replies differ by gender only slightly, with a few more men than women thinking that **their voice counts in the EU** (43 % as opposed to 41 % W).

- *Nationally*, the results show **large variations** between women and men: from +6 to -8 percentage points for the statement **'My voice counts in the EU'** and from +8 to -5 for **'My voice does not count in the EU'**.

D. Stronger sense of 'national identity' among women

- *At the European level*, in the space of a year there has been an **increase in the proportion of Europeans who feel rooted in a 'national identity only'** (44%; +5 percentage points) and a decrease in the proportion who see their identity as both **'national and European'** (43%; -3).

Many more women than men see themselves as being **'national only'** in the near future (46 % W; 41 % M).

- **Nationally**, the sense of **'national identity only'** is much **stronger among women**. **This is true in 23 Member States, with scores ranging from 69 % to 21 %.**

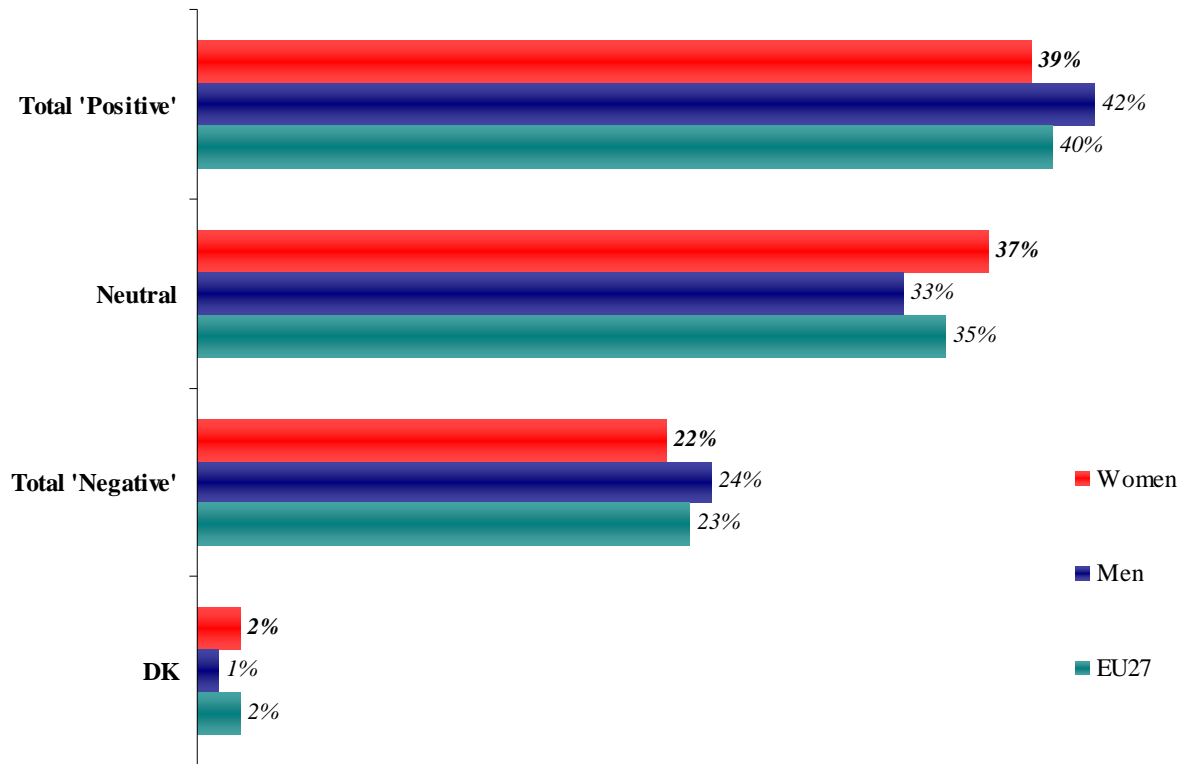
Furthermore, women's and men's replies on the sense of 'national identity only' differ by +13 to -2 percentage points.

The feeling of being both **'national and European'** is **greater among men** in 18 Member States, and the difference between women's and men's scores varies from +6 to -9 percentage points.

I. IMAGE OF THE EU

QP2 *In general, does the EU conjure up for you a very positive, fairly positive, neutral, fairly negative or very negative image?*

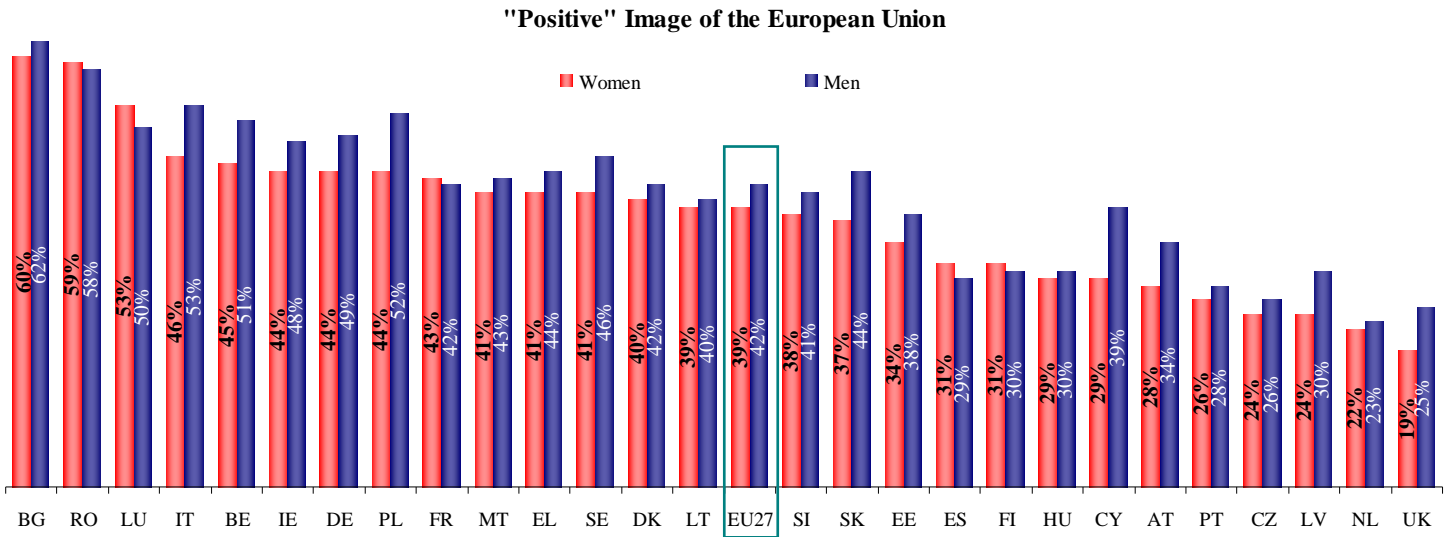
▪ European average



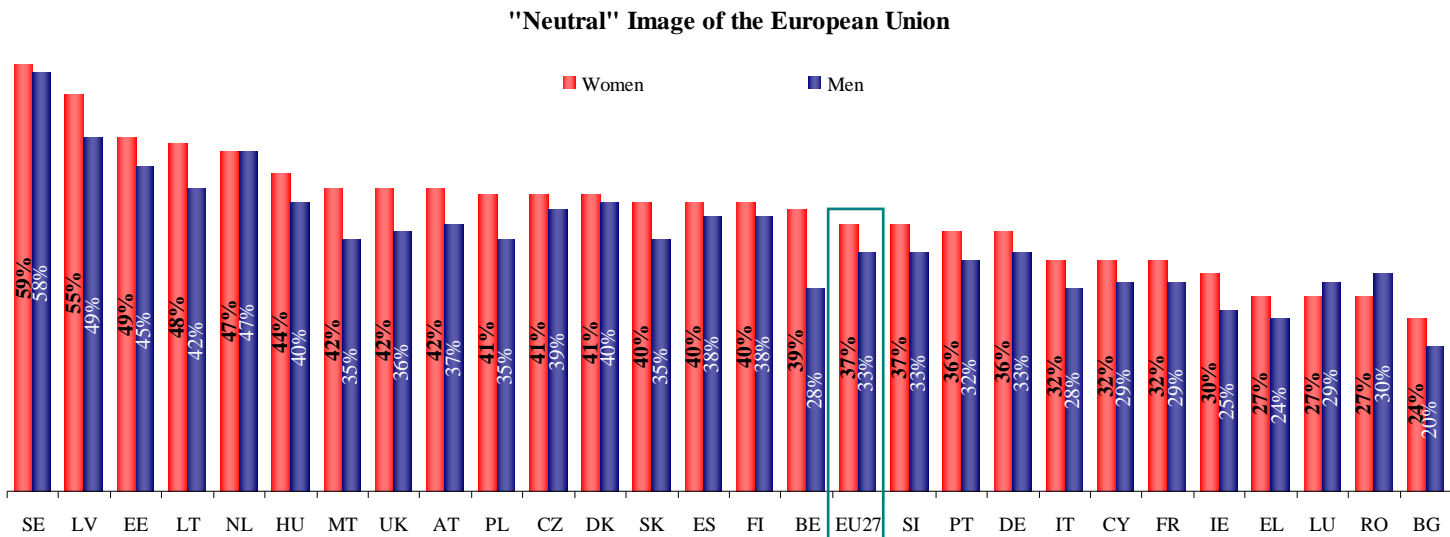
QP2 *In general, does the EU conjure up for you a very positive, fairly positive, neutral, fairly negative or very negative image?*

▪ National results

a) Positive image of the European Union



b) Neutral image of the European Union



QP2 *In general, does the EU conjure up for you a very positive, fairly positive, neutral, fairly negative or very negative image?*

- Differences between women and men at national level

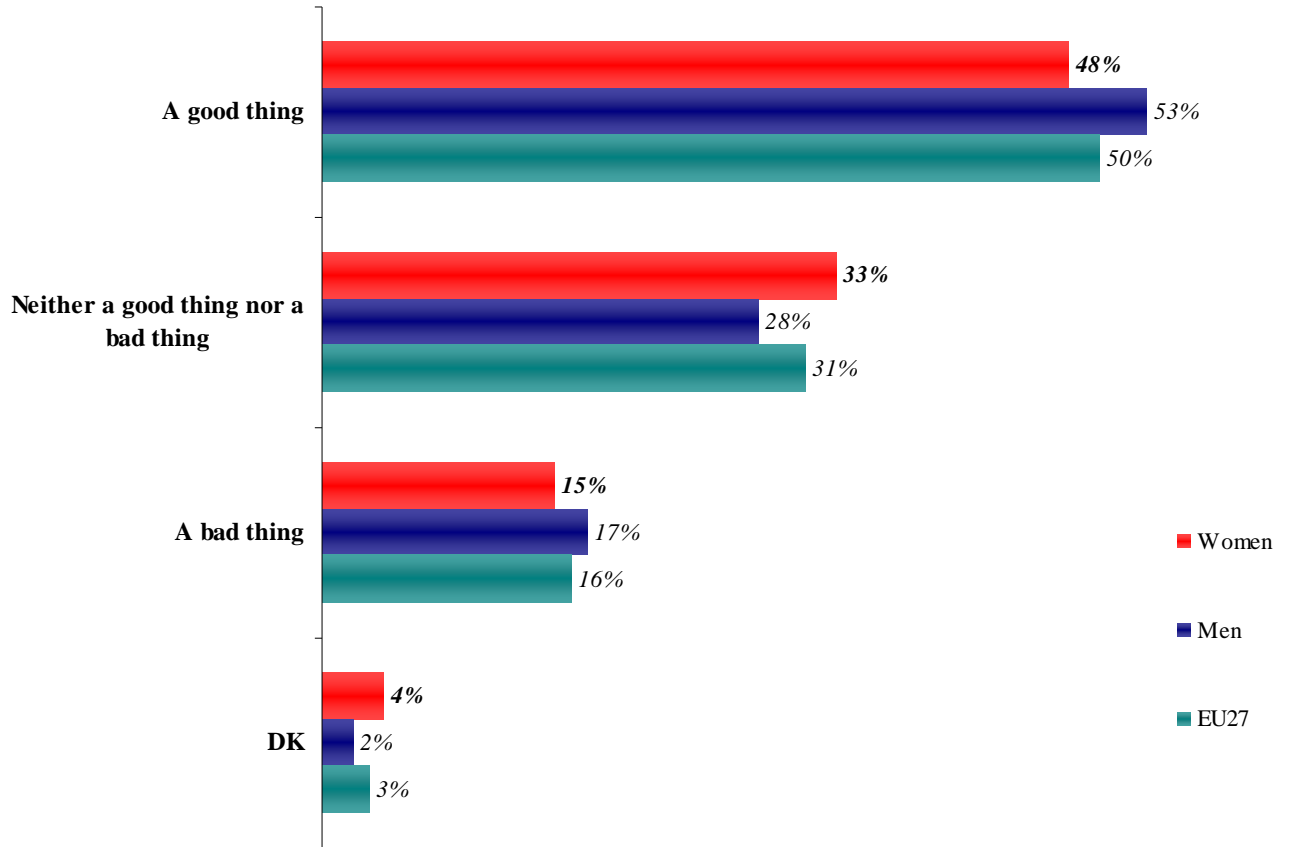
Image of the EU: total 'positive'				
	TOTAL	Men	Women	Diff.
LU	51%	50%	53%	+3
ES	30%	29%	31%	+2
FI	30%	30%	31%	+1
FR	43%	42%	43%	+1
RO	58%	58%	59%	+1
HU	29%	30%	29%	-1
LT	40%	40%	39%	-1
NL	23%	23%	22%	-1
DK	41%	42%	40%	-2
BG	61%	62%	60%	-2
CZ	25%	26%	24%	-2
MT	42%	43%	41%	-2
PT	28%	28%	26%	-2
<i>EU27</i>	<i>40%</i>	<i>42%</i>	<i>39%</i>	<i>-3</i>
SI	39%	41%	38%	-3
EL	42%	44%	41%	-3
EE	36%	38%	34%	-4
IE	46%	48%	44%	-4
DE	46%	49%	44%	-5
SE	43%	46%	41%	-5
AT	31%	34%	28%	-6
BE	48%	51%	45%	-6
LV	26%	30%	24%	-6
UK	22%	25%	19%	-6
IT	49%	53%	46%	-7
SK	40%	44%	37%	-7
PL	48%	52%	44%	-8
CY	34%	39%	29%	-10

Image of the EU: total 'neutral'				
	TOTAL	Men	Women	Diff.
BE	34%	28%	39%	+11
MT	38%	35%	42%	+7
LV	52%	49%	55%	+6
LT	45%	42%	48%	+6
PL	38%	35%	41%	+6
UK	39%	36%	42%	+6
SK	38%	35%	40%	+5
AT	40%	37%	42%	+5
IE	28%	25%	30%	+5
BG	22%	20%	24%	+4
EE	48%	45%	49%	+4
<i>EU27</i>	<i>35%</i>	<i>33%</i>	<i>37%</i>	<i>+4</i>
HU	42%	40%	44%	+4
IT	30%	28%	32%	+4
PT	34%	32%	36%	+4
SI	35%	33%	37%	+4
CY	30%	29%	32%	+3
EL	26%	24%	27%	+3
FR	30%	29%	32%	+3
DE	35%	33%	36%	+3
ES	39%	38%	40%	+2
FI	39%	38%	40%	+2
CZ	40%	39%	41%	+2
SE	58%	58%	59%	+1
DK	41%	40%	41%	+1
NL	47%	47%	47%	=
LU	28%	29%	27%	-2
RO	29%	30%	27%	-3

II. SUPPORT FOR EU MEMBERSHIP

QP23 Generally speaking, do you think that (YOUR COUNTRY)'s membership of the EU is...?

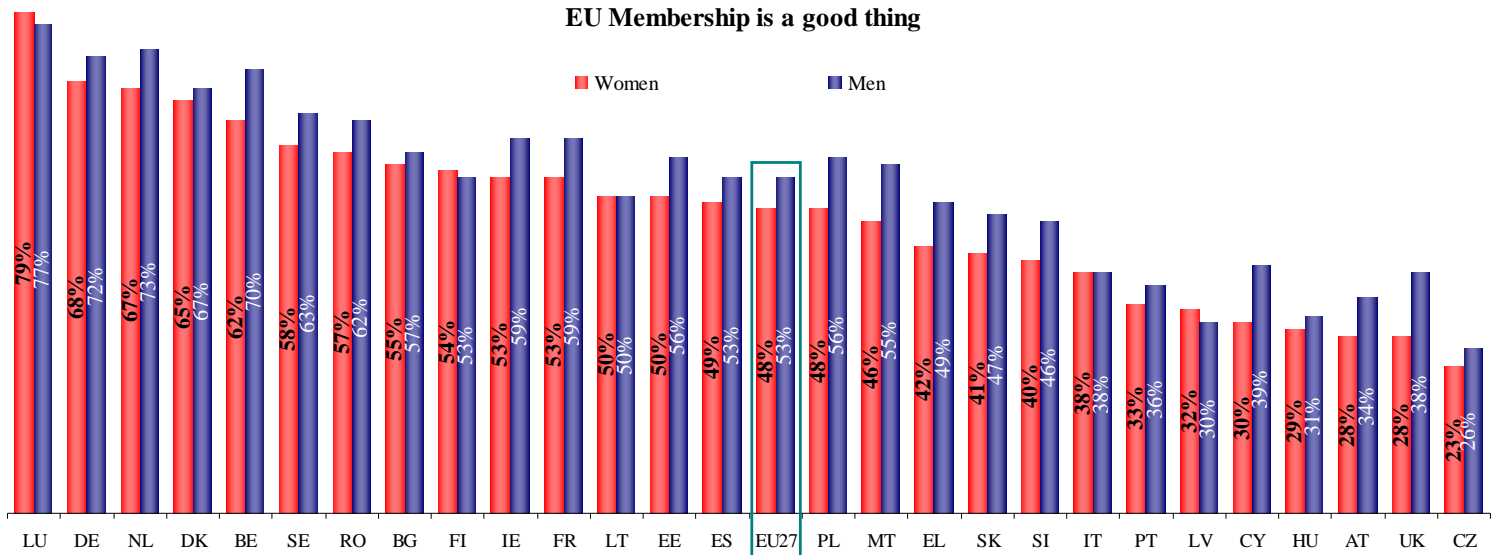
a. European average



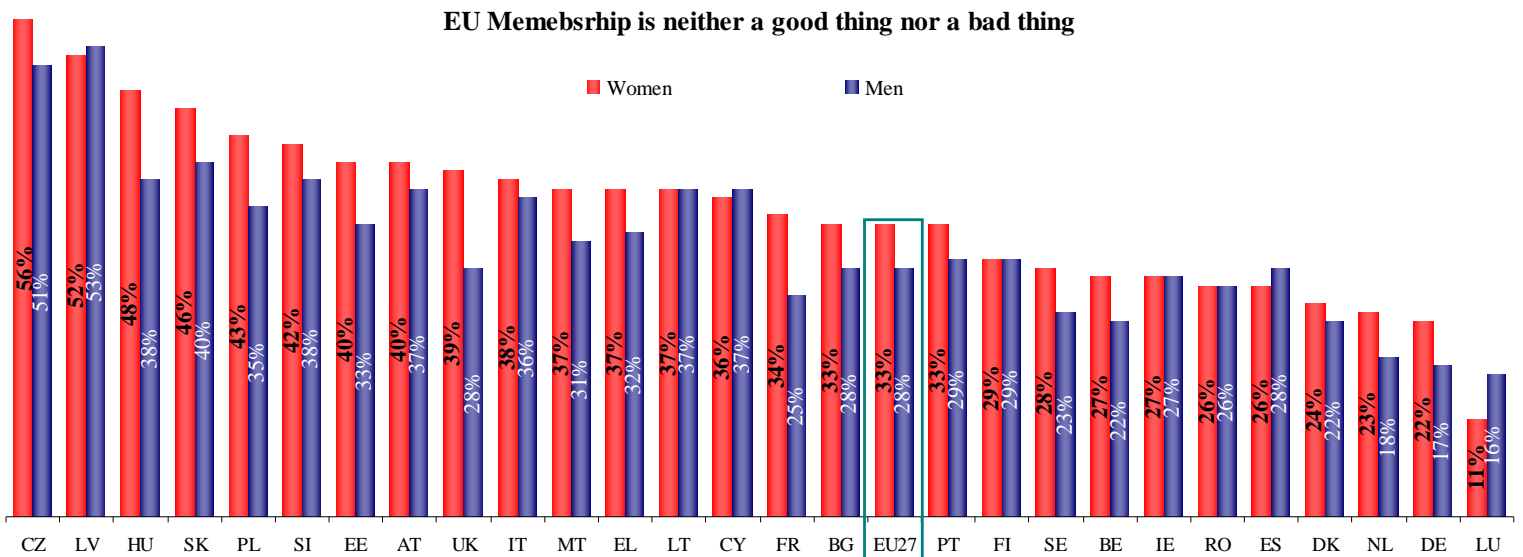
QP23 Generally speaking, do you think that (YOUR COUNTRY)'s membership of the EU is...?

b. National results

a) EU membership is a good thing



b) EU membership is neither a good thing nor a bad thing



QP23 Generally speaking, do you think that (YOUR COUNTRY)'s membership of the EU is...?

c. Differences between women and men at national level

EU membership is a good thing				
	TOTAL	Men	Women	Diff.
LV	31%	30%	32%	+2
LU	78%	77%	79%	+2
FI	53%	53%	54%	+1
LT	50%	50%	50%	=
IT	38%	38%	38%	=
BG	56%	57%	55%	-2
DK	66%	67%	65%	-2
HU	30%	31%	29%	-2
PT	34%	36%	33%	-3
CZ	24%	26%	23%	-3
DE	70%	72%	68%	-4
ES	51%	53%	49%	-4
EU27	50%	53%	48%	-5
RO	59%	62%	57%	-5
SE	61%	63%	58%	-5
IE	56%	59%	53%	-6
FR	56%	59%	53%	-6
NL	70%	73%	67%	-6
AT	31%	34%	28%	-6
SI	43%	46%	40%	-6
SK	44%	47%	41%	-6
EE	53%	56%	50%	-6
EL	45%	49%	42%	-7
BE	66%	70%	62%	-8
PL	52%	56%	48%	-8
CY	35%	39%	30%	-9
MT	50%	55%	46%	-9
UK	33%	38%	28%	-10

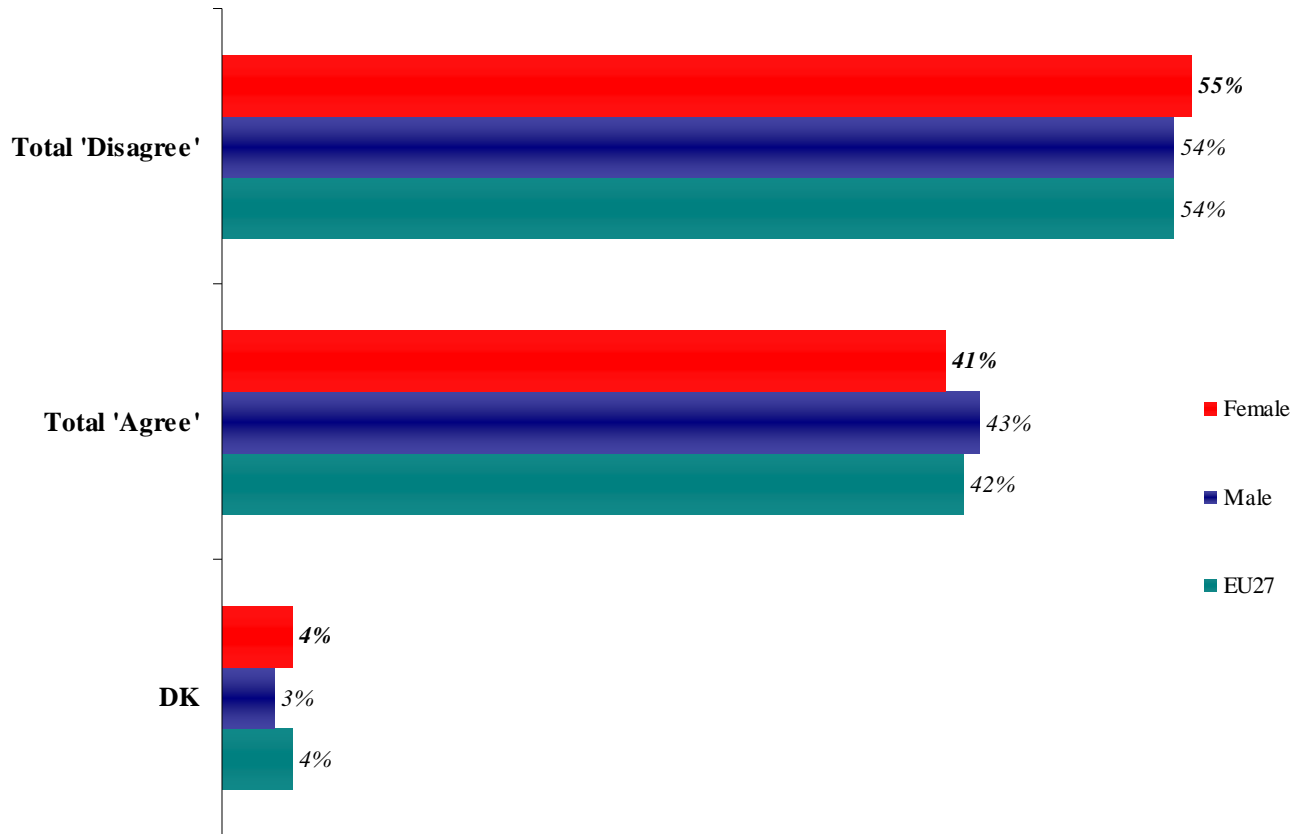
EU membership is neither a good thing nor a bad thing				
	TOTAL	Men	Women	Diff.
UK	33%	28%	39%	+11
HU	43%	38%	48%	+10
FR	30%	25%	34%	+9
PL	39%	35%	43%	+8
EE	37%	33%	40%	+7
MT	34%	31%	37%	+6
SK	43%	40%	46%	+6
CZ	54%	51%	56%	+5
BE	24%	22%	27%	+5
NL	20%	18%	23%	+5
SE	25%	23%	28%	+5
BG	31%	28%	33%	+5
DE	20%	17%	22%	+5
EL	35%	32%	37%	+5
EU27	31%	28%	33%	+5
PT	31%	29%	33%	+4
SI	40%	38%	42%	+4
AT	38%	37%	40%	+3
IT	37%	36%	38%	+2
DK	23%	22%	24%	+2
FI	29%	29%	29%	=
IE	27%	27%	27%	=
LT	37%	37%	37%	=
RO	26%	26%	26%	=
CY	36%	37%	36%	-1
LV	53%	53%	52%	-1
ES	27%	28%	26%	-2
LU	13%	16%	11%	-5

III.MY VOICE COUNTS IN THE EU

QP22.1 To what extent do you agree or disagree with each of the following statements?

My voice counts in the EU

a. European average

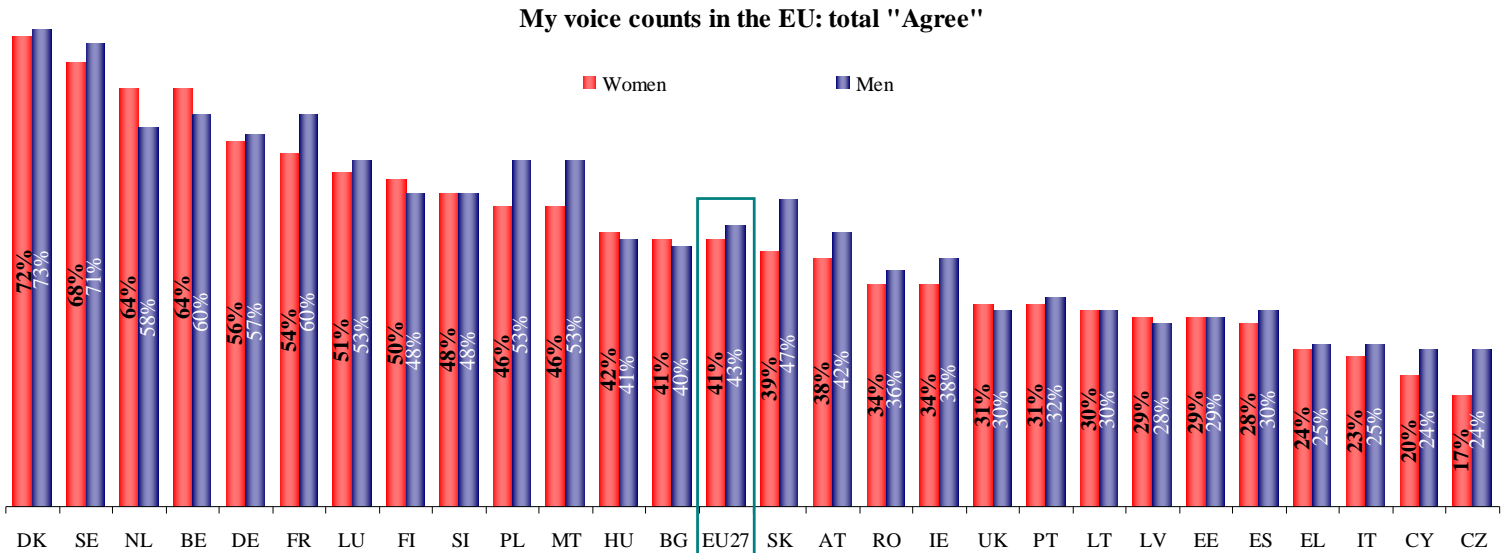


QP22.1 To what extent do you agree or disagree with each of the following statements?

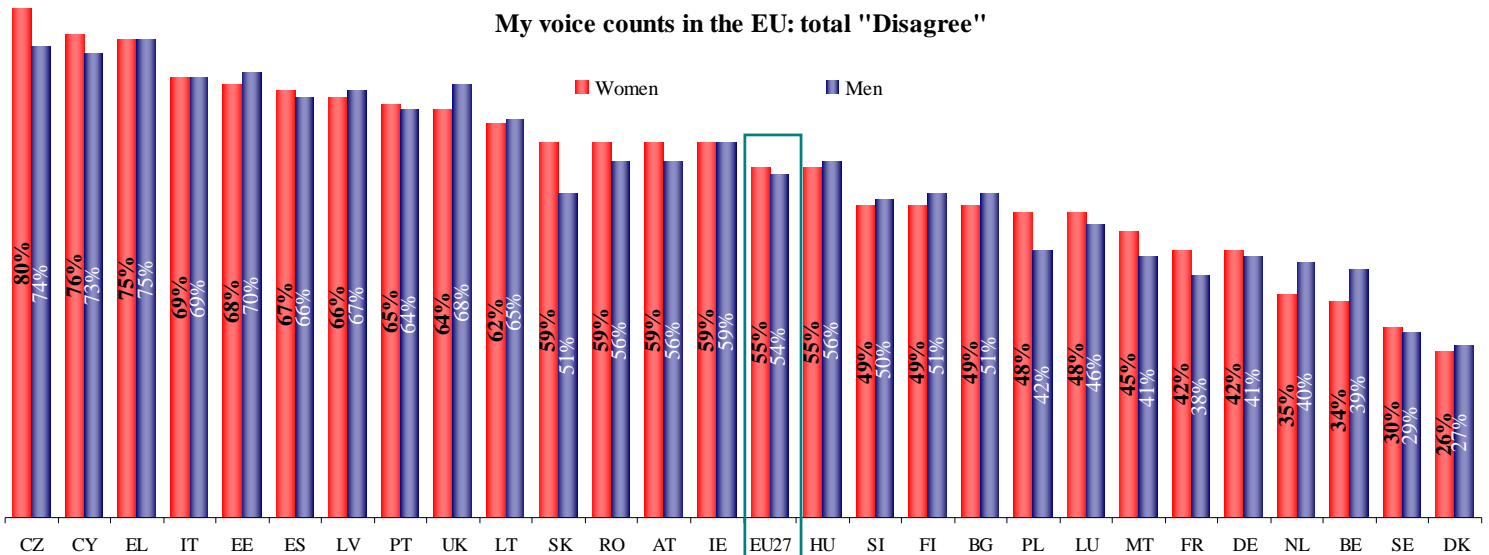
My voice counts in the EU

b. National results

a) My voice counts in the EU: total 'Agree'



a) My voice counts in the EU: total 'Disagree'



QP22.1 To what extent do you agree or disagree with each of the following statements?

My voice counts in the EU

c. Differences between women and men at national level

My voice counts in the EU: total 'AGREE'				
	TOTAL	Men	Women	Diff.
NL	62%	58%	64%	+6
BE	62%	60%	64%	+4
FI	49%	48%	50%	+2
HU	41%	41%	42%	+1
UK	30%	30%	31%	+1
LV	29%	28%	29%	+1
BG	41%	40%	41%	+1
LT	30%	30%	30%	=
SI	48%	48%	48%	=
EE	29%	29%	29%	=
DE	56%	57%	56%	-1
DK	73%	73%	72%	-1
PT	32%	32%	31%	-1
EL	24%	25%	24%	-1
ES	29%	30%	28%	-2
RO	35%	36%	34%	-2
IT	24%	25%	23%	-2
LU	52%	53%	51%	-2
<i>EU27</i>	<i>42%</i>	<i>43%</i>	<i>41%</i>	<i>-2</i>
SE	70%	71%	68%	-3
IE	36%	38%	34%	-4
AT	40%	42%	38%	-4
CY	22%	24%	20%	-4
FR	57%	60%	54%	-6
CZ	20%	24%	17%	-7
PL	49%	53%	46%	-7
MT	49%	53%	46%	-7
SK	43%	47%	39%	-8

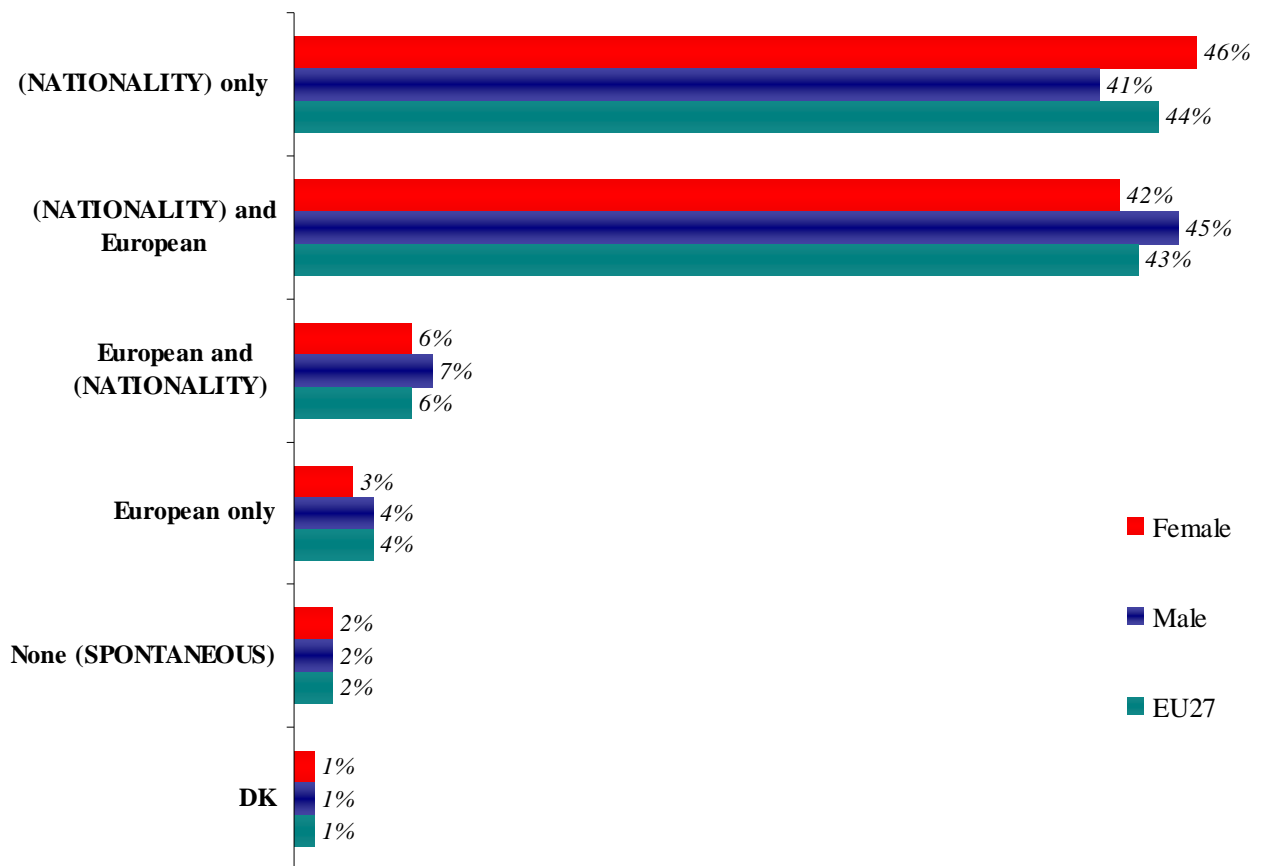
My voice counts in the EU: total 'DISAGREE'				
	TOTAL	Men	Women	Diff.
SK	55%	51%	59%	+8
CZ	78%	74%	80%	+6
PL	45%	42%	48%	+6
MT	43%	41%	45%	+4
FR	40%	38%	42%	+4
CY	74%	73%	76%	+3
RO	58%	56%	59%	+3
AT	58%	56%	59%	+3
LU	47%	46%	48%	+2
PT	64%	64%	65%	+1
DE	42%	41%	42%	+1
ES	66%	66%	67%	+1
<i>EU27</i>	<i>54%</i>	<i>54%</i>	<i>55%</i>	<i>+1</i>
SE	29%	29%	30%	+1
IT	69%	69%	69%	=
IE	59%	59%	59%	=
EL	75%	75%	75%	=
LV	66%	67%	66%	-1
DK	26%	27%	26%	-1
HU	56%	56%	55%	-1
SI	50%	50%	49%	-1
EE	69%	70%	68%	-2
FI	50%	51%	49%	-2
BG	50%	51%	49%	-2
LT	63%	65%	62%	-3
UK	66%	68%	64%	-4
BE	37%	39%	34%	-5
NL	37%	40%	35%	-5

IV. IDENTITY OF EU CITIZENS

QP8 *In the near future, do you see yourself as...?*

- *national only*
- *national and European*
- *European and national*
- *European only*
- *none (spontaneous)*
- *no answer (spontaneous)*
- *don't know*

a. European average

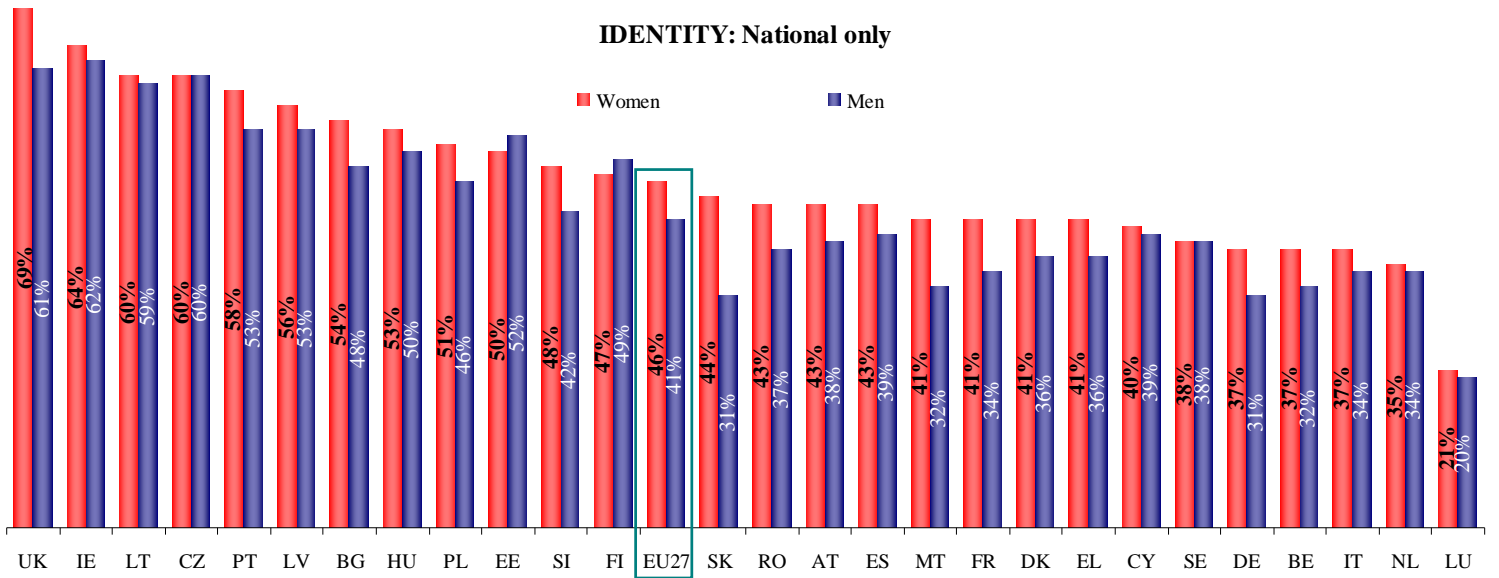


QP8 *In the near future, do you see yourself as...?*

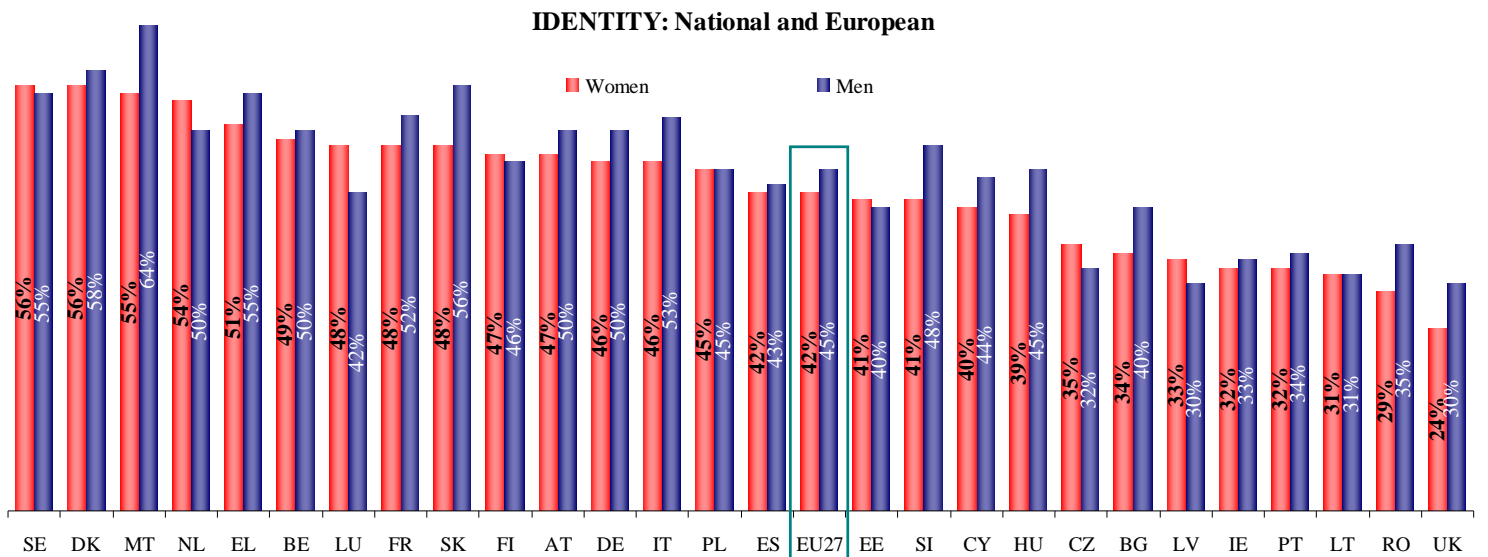
- national only
- national and European

b. National results

a) National only



b) National and European



QP8 *In the near future, do you see yourself as...?*

- *national only*
- *national and European*

c. *Differences between women and men at national level*

IDENTITY: national only				
	TOTAL	Men	Women	Diff.
SK	38%	31%	44%	+13
MT	37%	32%	41%	+9
UK	65%	61%	69%	+8
FR	38%	34%	41%	+7
BG	52%	48%	54%	+6
SI	45%	42%	48%	+6
RO	40%	37%	43%	+6
DE	34%	31%	37%	+6
EU27	44%	41%	46%	+5
PL	49%	46%	51%	+5
AT	40%	38%	43%	+5
DK	38%	36%	41%	+5
EL	39%	36%	41%	+5
BE	34%	32%	37%	+5
PT	56%	53%	58%	+5
ES	41%	39%	43%	+4
LV	55%	53%	56%	+3
HU	52%	50%	53%	+3
IT	36%	34%	37%	+3
IE	63%	62%	64%	+2
LT	59%	59%	60%	+1
CY	39%	39%	40%	+1
LU	21%	20%	21%	+1
NL	34%	34%	35%	+1
CZ	60%	60%	60%	=
SE	38%	38%	38%	=
EE	51%	52%	50%	-2
FI	48%	49%	47%	-2

IDENTITY:(NATIONALITY) and European				
	TOTAL	Men	Women	Diff.
LU	45%	42%	48%	+6
NL	52%	50%	54%	+4
LV	31%	30%	33%	+3
CZ	34%	32%	35%	+3
SE	56%	55%	56%	+1
EE	41%	40%	41%	+1
FI	46%	46%	47%	+1
LT	32%	31%	31%	=
PL	45%	45%	45%	=
BE	50%	50%	49%	-1
ES	43%	43%	42%	-1
IE	33%	33%	32%	-1
DK	57%	58%	56%	-2
PT	33%	34%	32%	-2
AT	49%	50%	47%	-3
EU27	43%	45%	42%	-3
CY	42%	44%	40%	-4
DE	48%	50%	46%	-4
EL	53%	55%	51%	-4
FR	50%	52%	48%	-4
BG	37%	40%	34%	-6
HU	42%	45%	39%	-6
RO	32%	35%	29%	-6
UK	27%	30%	24%	-6
IT	49%	53%	46%	-7
SI	44%	48%	41%	-7
SK	52%	56%	48%	-8
MT	60%	64%	55%	-9