UNCERTAINTY | EU | HOPE
PUBLIC OPINION IN TIMES OF COVID-19

A Public Opinion Survey Commissioned by the European Parliament
First Results - 14 July 2020

KANTAR
Methodology

**Coverage:** 27 EU Member States

**Fieldwork dates:** 11/06 – 29/06

**Data collection method:**
Online, using online access panel (25 out of the 27 EU Member States)
By telephone in Malta and Cyprus

**Total number of completed interviews:** 24,798

**Population:**
16-54: Bulgaria, Czechia, Croatia, Greece, Hungary, Poland, Portugal, Romana, Slovenia, Slovakia
16-64: Austria, Belgium, Germany, Denmark, Spain, Finland, France, Ireland, Italy, the Netherlands, Sweden
16+: Cyprus and Malta

**The ‘total EU’ result** is weighted according to the size of the population of each country
Over two thirds (68%) of respondents agree that the EU should have more competences to deal with crises such as the COVID-19 pandemic.
In Portugal, Luxembourg, Cyprus, Malta and Estonia, more than 80% agree that the EU should have more competences to deal with such crises.
In Czechia, Sweden, the Netherlands, Finland and Croatia, the least number of respondents believe that the EU should have more competences.

Q - To what extent do you agree with the following statement: the EU should have more competences to deal with crises such as the COVID-19 pandemic? (% - TOTAL AGREE)
A clear majority of respondents believe that the EU should have a bigger budget to overcome the consequences of the pandemic.

Q - Which of the following statements is closest to your opinion? (%)

- The EU should have greater financial means to be able to overcome the consequences of the Coronavirus pandemic (56%)
- The EU's financial means are sufficient to be able to overcome the consequences of the Coronavirus pandemic (30%)
- Don't know (14%)

Graph showing the distribution of responses.
In 15 EU Member States, an absolute majority of respondents support a bigger budget for the EU. This view is shared by a relative majority in a total of 20 EU Member States.

Q - Which of the following statements is closest to your opinion? (%)

- The EU should have greater financial means to be able to overcome the consequences of the Coronavirus pandemic
- The EU’s financial means are sufficient to be able to overcome the consequences of the Coronavirus pandemic
- Don't know
Most Europeans see EU spending on public health as most important, followed by investments in economic recovery, employment and the fight against climate change.

Q - Given the current context, on which of the following would you like the EU budget to be spent? (MAX. 4 ANSWERS) (%)
Public health is the most mentioned policy area in 17 EU Member States.

Q - Given the current context, on which of the following would you like the EU budget to be spent? (MAX. 4 ANSWERS) (% for top mention)

Answer options:
- Public health
- Economic recovery and new opportunities for businesses
- Employment and social affairs
- Climate change and environmental protection

Graph showing the percentage of mentions across different EU Member States.
Most respondents (53%) remain not satisfied with the solidarity between EU Member States in fighting COVID-19, but this proportion has lost ground.
In Ireland and in Estonia, nearly two thirds are satisfied with the solidarity between EU Member States - dissatisfaction is highest in Italy and Luxembourg.
Most countries are increasingly satisfied with the solidarity between EU Member States. The largest increases since April can be found in Portugal and Spain (+9 points)*.

Q - How satisfied or not are you with the solidarity between EU Member States in fighting the COVID-19 pandemic? (% - TOTAL SATISFIED)

*countries without evolution were not surveyed in the first wave

Wave 2 (06/2020) - Wave 1 (04-05/2020)
A large majority (76%, +2pp) of EU citizens have already heard about measures or actions initiated by the EU to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Q - Have you already heard, seen or read about measures or actions initiated by the EU to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic? (%)

- Yes, and you know what these measures or actions are: 36 (+3)
- Yes, but you don’t know what they are: 40 (-1)
- No: 17 (-3)
- Don’t know: 7 (+1)

Total ‘Yes’ 76 (+2)

Wave 2 (06/2020) - Wave 1 (04-05/2020)
In all EU Member States, more than 50% of respondents have heard about the EU measures and actions against COVID-19.
Satisfaction with the EU measures to fight the COVID-19 pandemic has increased by 6 points compared to April 2020.

Q - How satisfied or not are you with the measures the EU has taken so far against the COVID-19 pandemic? (%)

- Very satisfied: 6 (-)
- Fairly satisfied: 43 (+6)
- Not very satisfied: 36 (-2)
- Not at all satisfied: 10 (-4)
- Don't know: 5 (=)

Total ‘Satisfied’: 49 (+6)
Total ‘Not satisfied’: 46 (-6)
In 18 countries a majority of citizens is satisfied with the EU measures to fight the COVID-19 pandemic.

Q - How satisfied or not are you with the measures the EU has taken so far against the COVID-19 pandemic? (%)
Satisfaction with the EU measures against COVID-19 has overall increased in 18 countries. The biggest increases are measured in Spain (+15 pp) and Portugal (+13 pp).

Q - How satisfied or not are you with the measures the EU has taken so far against the COVID-19 pandemic (%)?

*countries without evolution were not surveyed in the first wave

Wave 2 (06/2020) - Wave 1 (04-05/2020)
Hope and uncertainty remain the prevailing feelings among respondents

Q - What feeling best describes your current emotional status? (MAX. 3 ANSWERS)
Negative feelings are sharply declining, while confidence and helpfulness are on the rise.

Q - What feeling best describes your current emotional status? (MAX. 3 ANSWERS) (%)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Feeling</th>
<th>Wave 1 (04-05/2020)</th>
<th>Wave 2 (06/2020)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Uncertainty</td>
<td>45 ▼ 5</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hope</td>
<td></td>
<td>41 =</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Confidence</td>
<td>24 ▲ 3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Frustration</td>
<td>23 ▼ 4</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Helplessness</td>
<td>21 ▼ 8</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fear</td>
<td>17 ▼ 5</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Helpfulness</td>
<td>16 ▲ 2</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anger</td>
<td>13 ▼ 1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>6 ▲ 1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Don't know</td>
<td>6 ▲ 2</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
EU Member States are divided between hope and uncertainty.

Q - What feeling best describes your current emotional status? (MAX. 3 ANSWERS)
(% - THE MOST MENTIONED ANSWER BY COUNTRY)
A majority of respondents (57%) still reports having experienced personal financial difficulties since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Q - Have you experienced any of the following since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic in (OUR COUNTRY)? (MULTIPLE ANSWERS POSSIBLE)
Loss of income is the reported as the key issue in 21 Member States overall.

Q - Have you experienced any of the following, since the start of the coronavirus pandemic in (OUR COUNTRY)? (MULTIPLE ANSWERS POSSIBLE) (% - THE MOST MENTIONED ANSWER BY COUNTRY)
More information


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