

DG COMM | Public Opinion Monitoring Unit

SPRING 2021

KEY FINDINGS

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

EURO

BAROMETER

RESILIENCE AND RECOVERY

Public opinion one year into the pandemic

KANTAR PUBLIC



European Parliament

Methodology



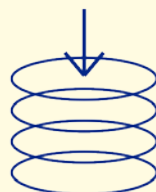
Coverage

27
EU Member
States



Fieldwork
dates

16 Mar
to
12 Apr 2021



Data collection
method

Face to face: BG, DE, ES,
FR, HR, IT, CY, HU, AT, PL
and RO,
Mixed F2F-CAWI: EL,
MT, SK, NL, SI
CAWI only: BE, CZ, EE, FI,
IE, LT, LU, PT, DK, LV, SE



Total number of
completed interviews

26,669



Population

15+



The total EU

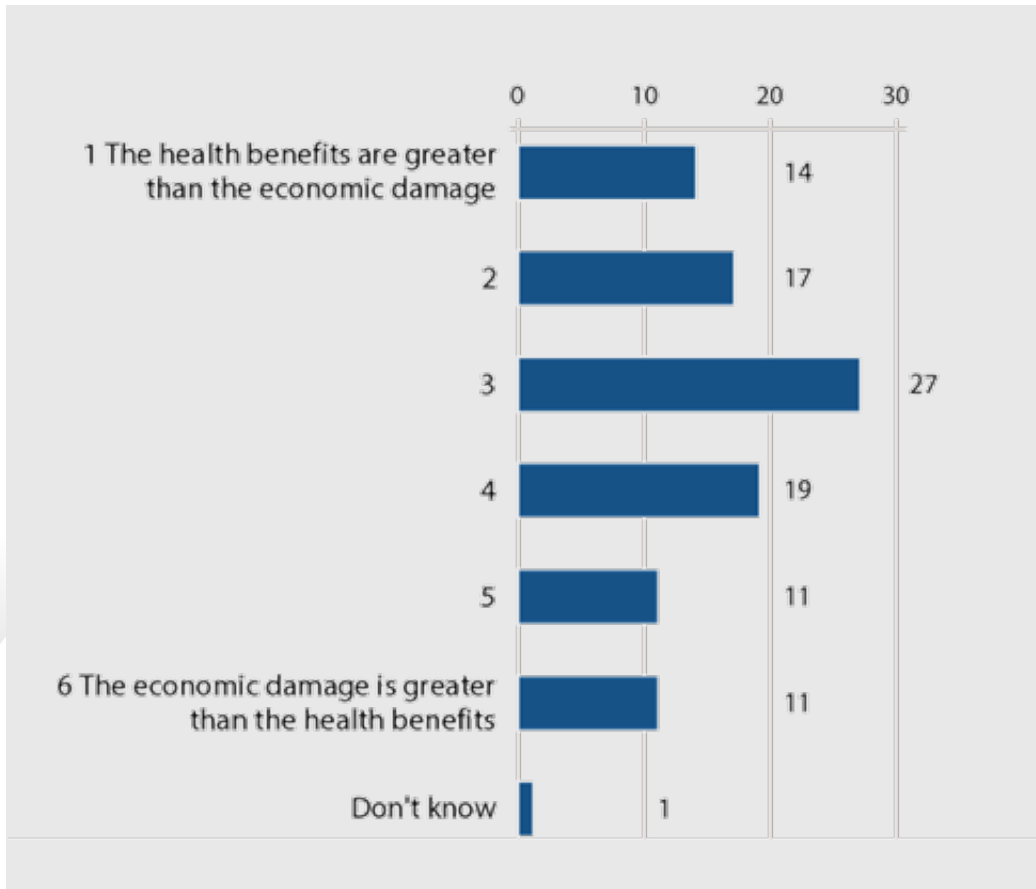
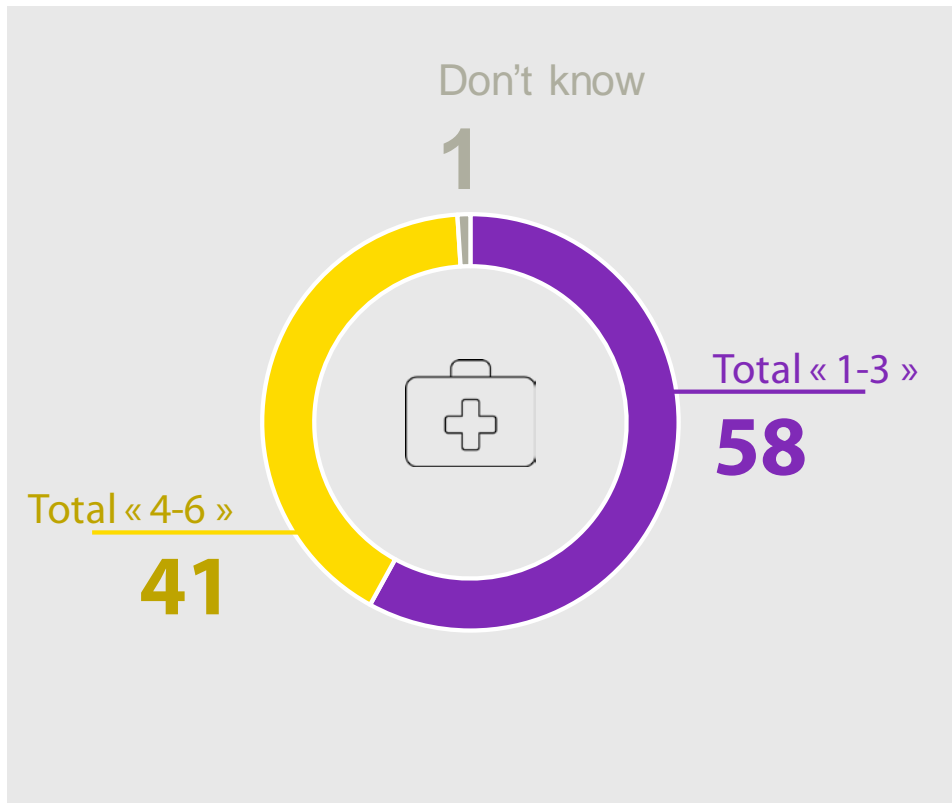
Is weighted
according to
the size of the
population of
each country

This Eurobarometer survey has been commissioned by the European Parliament and conducted by Kantar. For more information or access to the full results, please visit <https://www.europarl.europa.eu/at-your-service/en/be-heard/Eurobarometer> or contact the Public Opinion Monitoring Unit, DG Communication, European Parliament (dgcomm-pom@ep.europa.eu)

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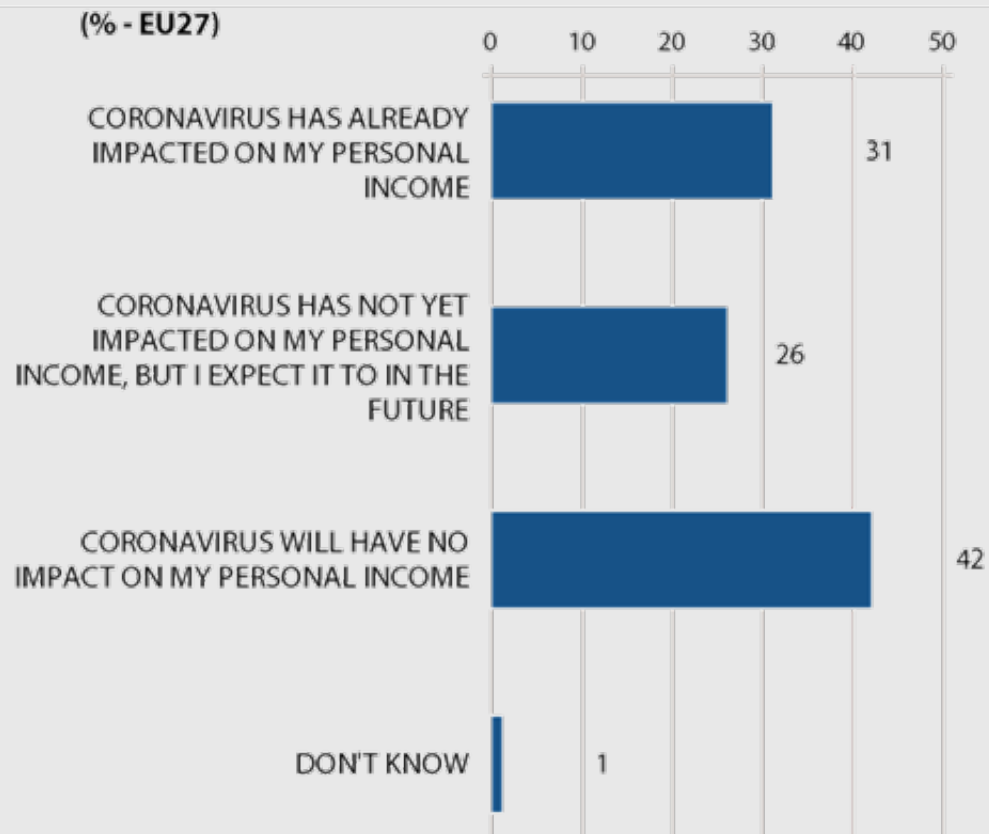
QA6 Where do you position yourself between these two statements regarding the consequences of the restriction measures in (OUR COUNTRY?) Please use this scale from 1 to 6, where “1” means that economic damage is greater than the health benefits, the remaining numbers indicate something in between these two positions. (%-EU27)

58% of respondents lean towards thinking that the health benefits are greater than the economic damage.



Base: 26,669, all respondents

QA8 Thinking about personal income, which one of these statements comes closest to your current situation? (% - EU27)



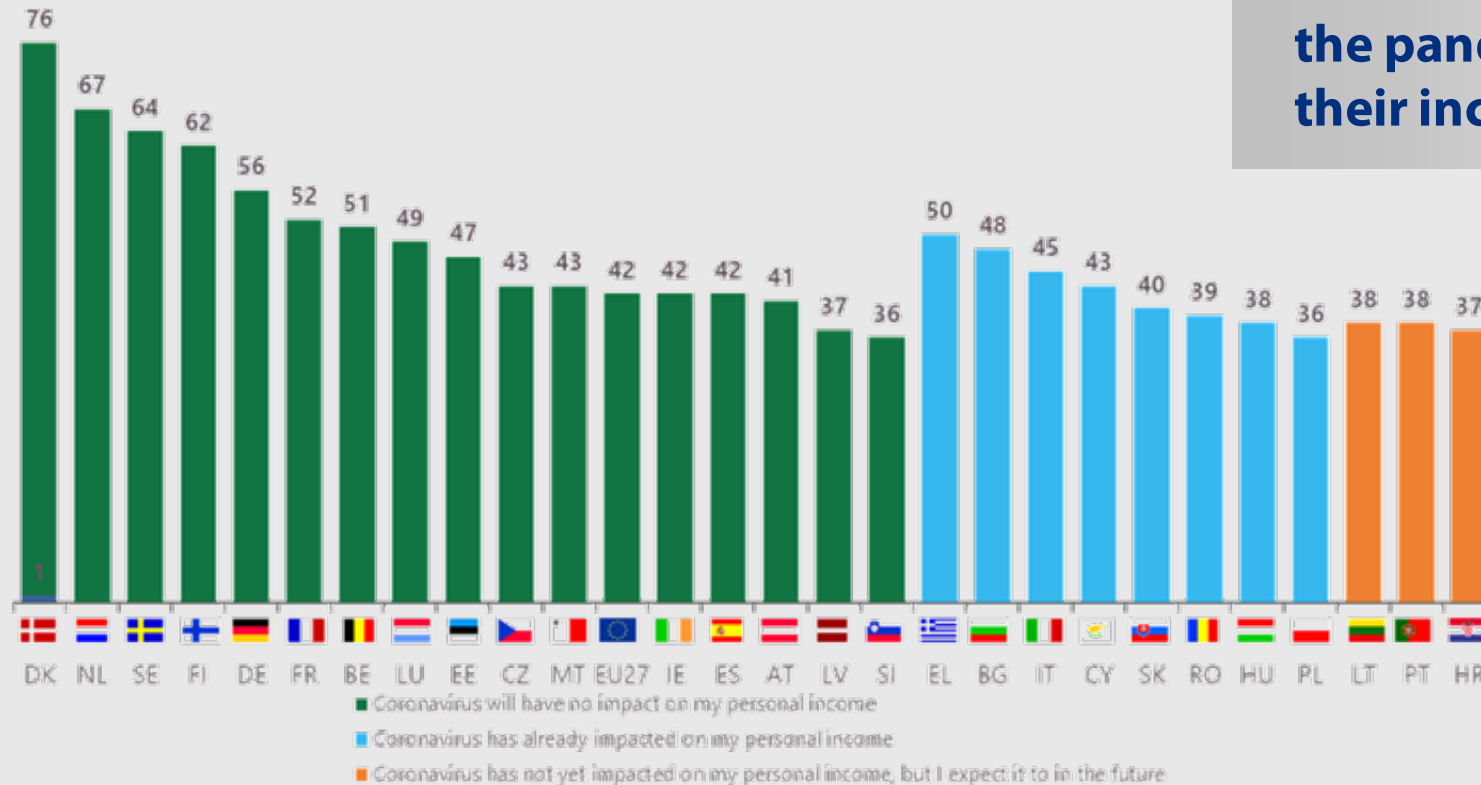
More than three in ten Europeans say that the crisis has already impacted their income. 26% foresee that the pandemic will influence their income in the future, and 42% that it will have no impact.

Base: 26,669, all respondents

QA8 Thinking about your personal income, which one of these statements comes closest to your current situation? (% - The most mentioned answer by country)

In eight countries most respondents say their personal income has already been impacted by the pandemic.

In additional three countries most respondents think that the pandemic will impact on their income in the future.

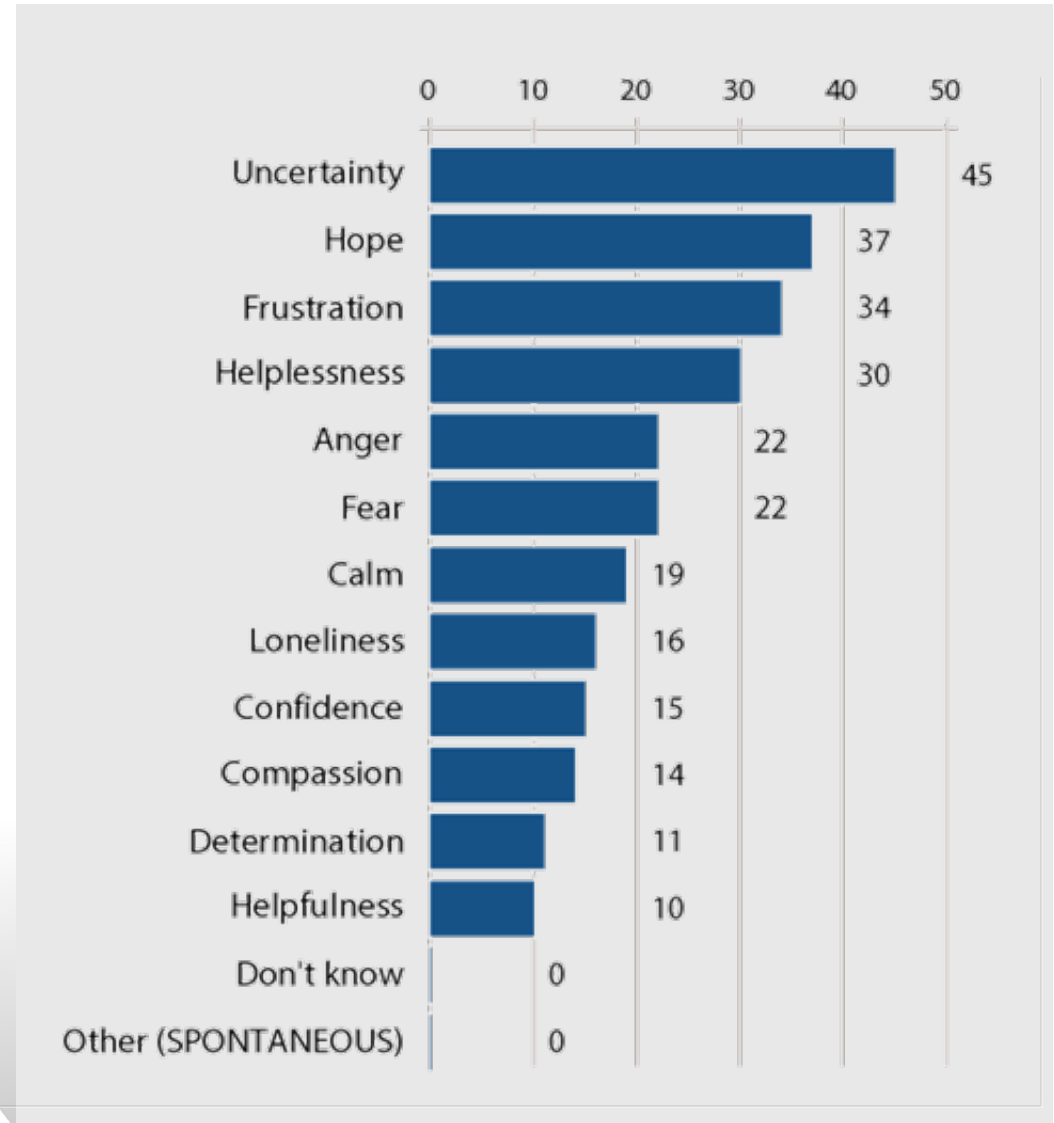


Base: 26,669,
all respondents



QA7 What feelings best describe your current emotional status? (MAX. 4 Answers) (% - EU27)

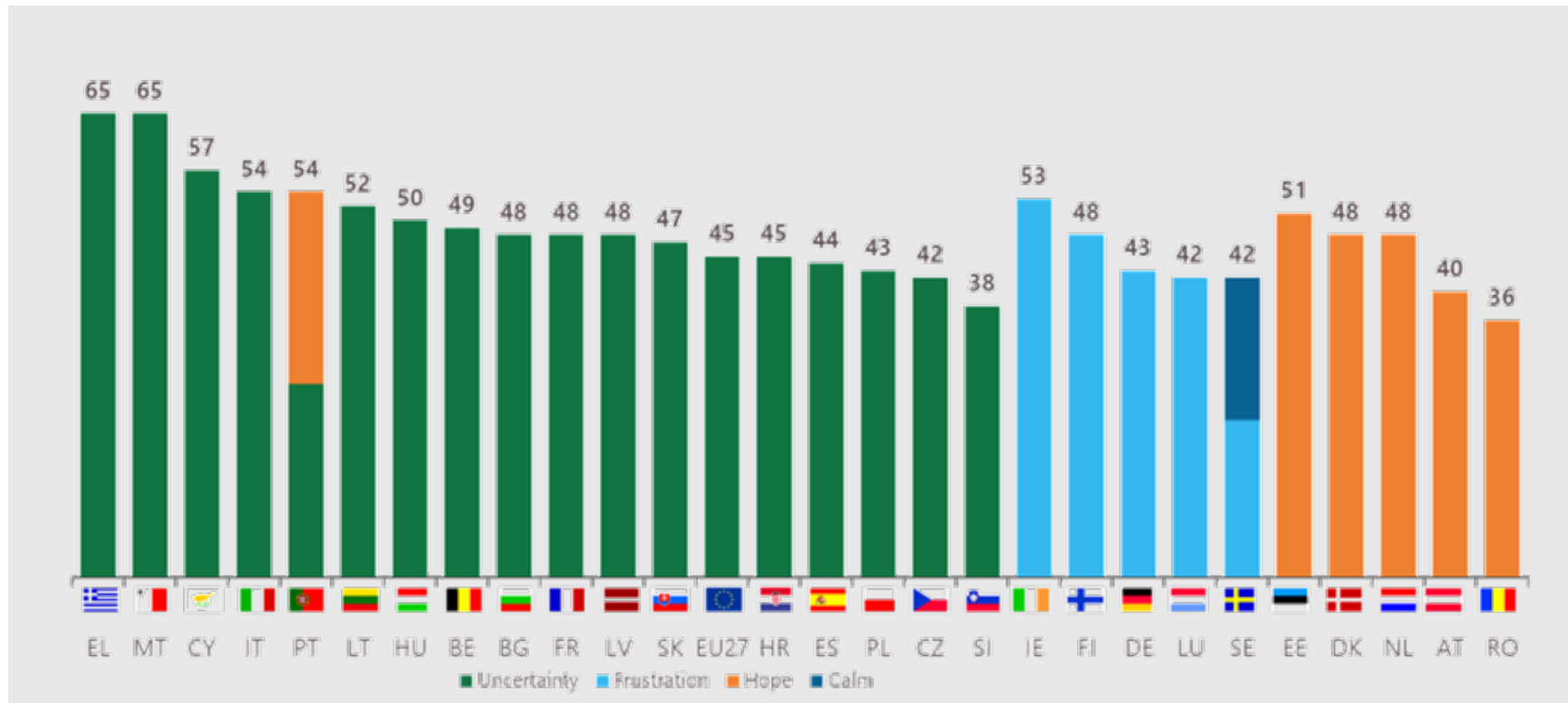
**When it comes to their current emotional status, most of the respondents (45%) claimed that they feel “uncertainty”.
37% stated that they feel “hope”.**



Base: 26,669, all respondents

QA7 What feelings best describe your current emotional status? (% - The most mentioned answer by country)

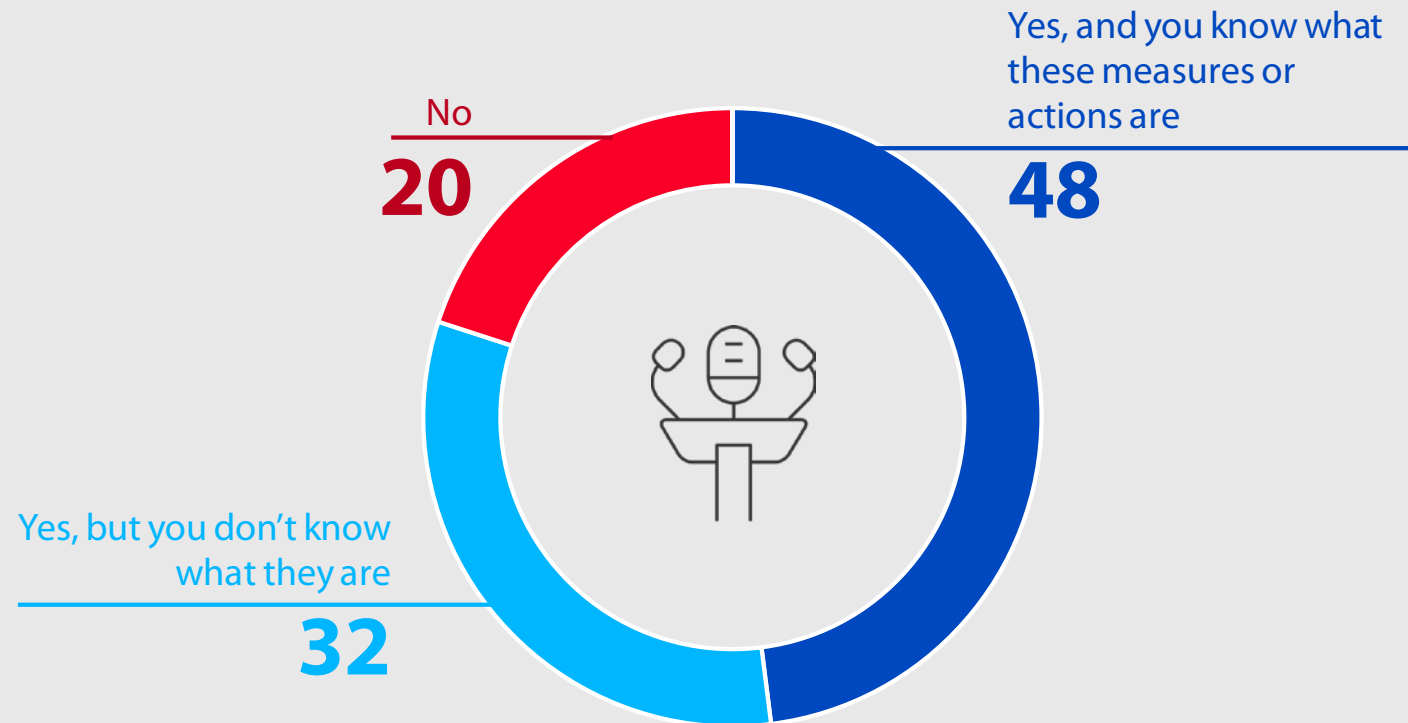
“Uncertainty” is the top answer in 17 Member States, “hope” is the top answer in 6 Member States, while “frustration” tops the list in five Member States.



Base: 26,669, all respondents

QA1 Have you recently heard, seen or read about measures or actions initiated by the EU to respond to the Coronavirus pandemic? (% - EU27)

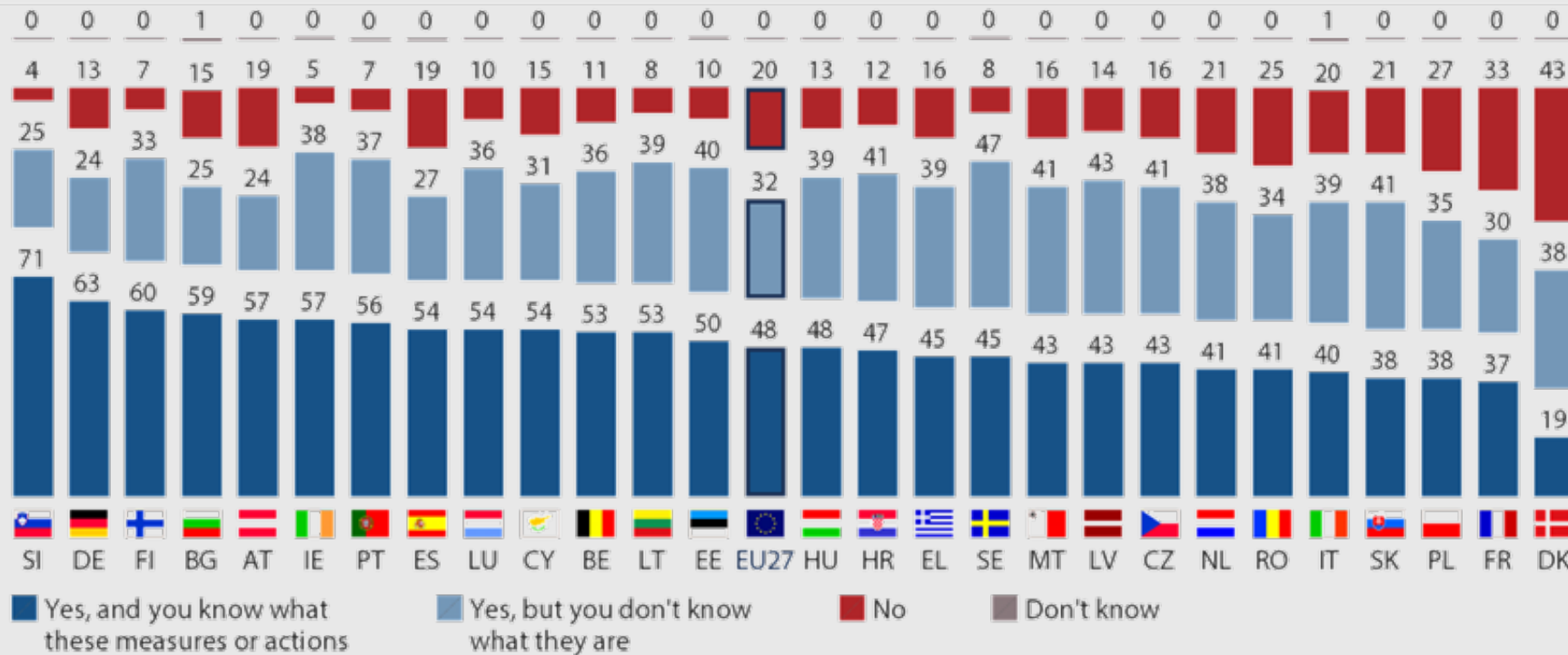
I know what EU did since last summer: Almost half (48%) of the respondents have heard, seen or read about measures/actions by the EU in response to the COVID-19 pandemic and know what these measures are.



Base: 26,669, all respondents

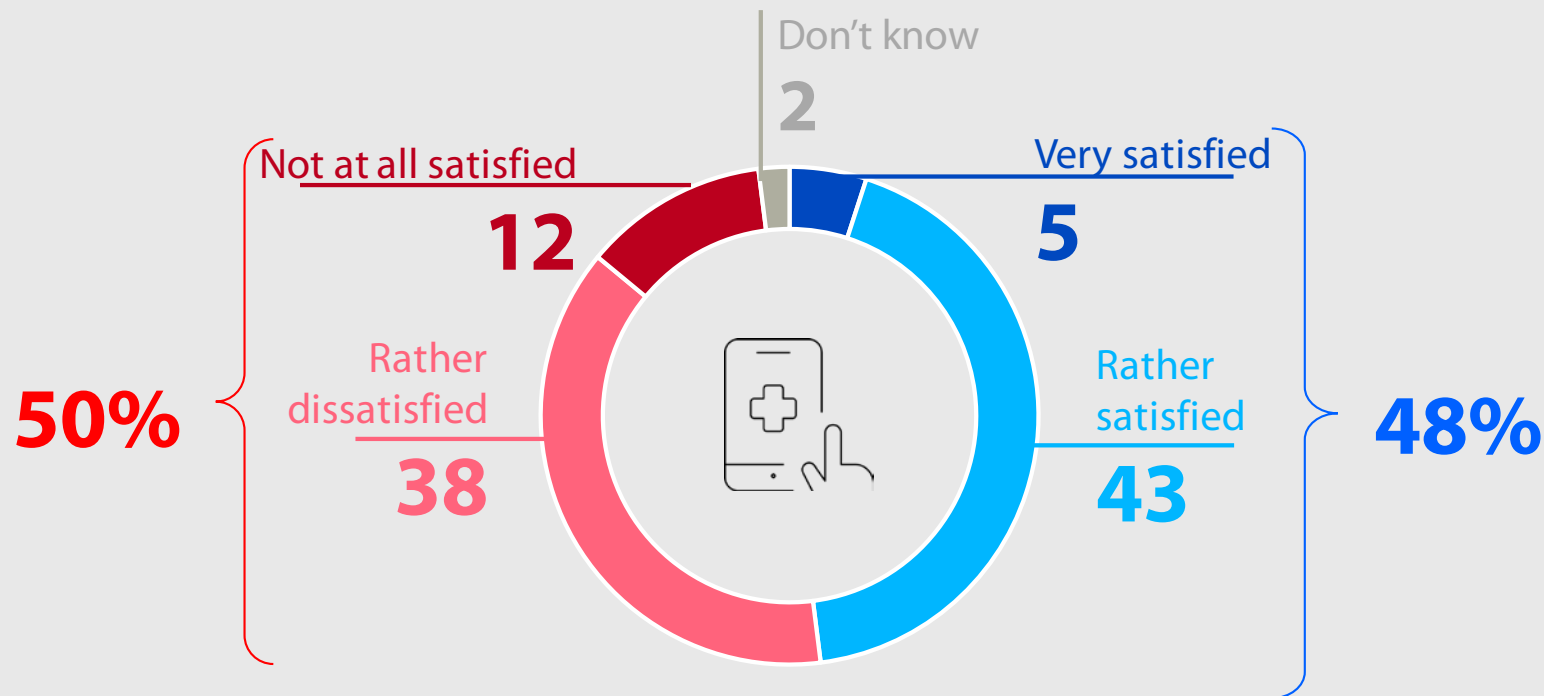
QA1 Have you recently heard, seen or read about measures or actions initiated by the EU to respond to the Coronavirus pandemic? (%)

The largest share of respondents who know what the measures are come from Slovenia (71%), Germany (63%) and Finland (60%). In contrast these shares are lowest in France (37%) and Denmark (19%).



QA2 In general, how satisfied are you with the measures taken to fight the coronavirus pandemic by the European Union? (% - EU)

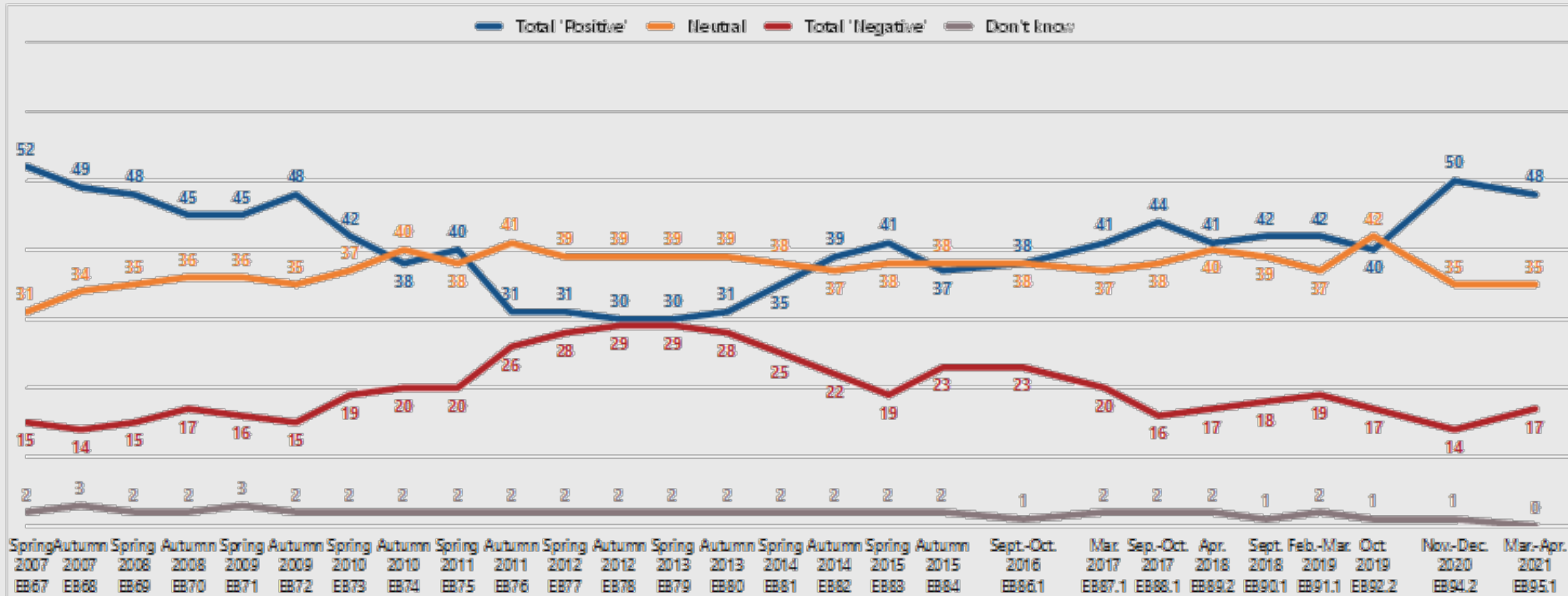
Close to a half of respondents (48%) are very satisfied or rather satisfied with the measures taken by the EU to fight the pandemic.



Base: 21,407, those aware of EU's measures against the coronavirus pandemic

SD15 In general does the EU conjure up for you a very positive, fairly positive, neutral, fairly negative or very negative image? (% EU)

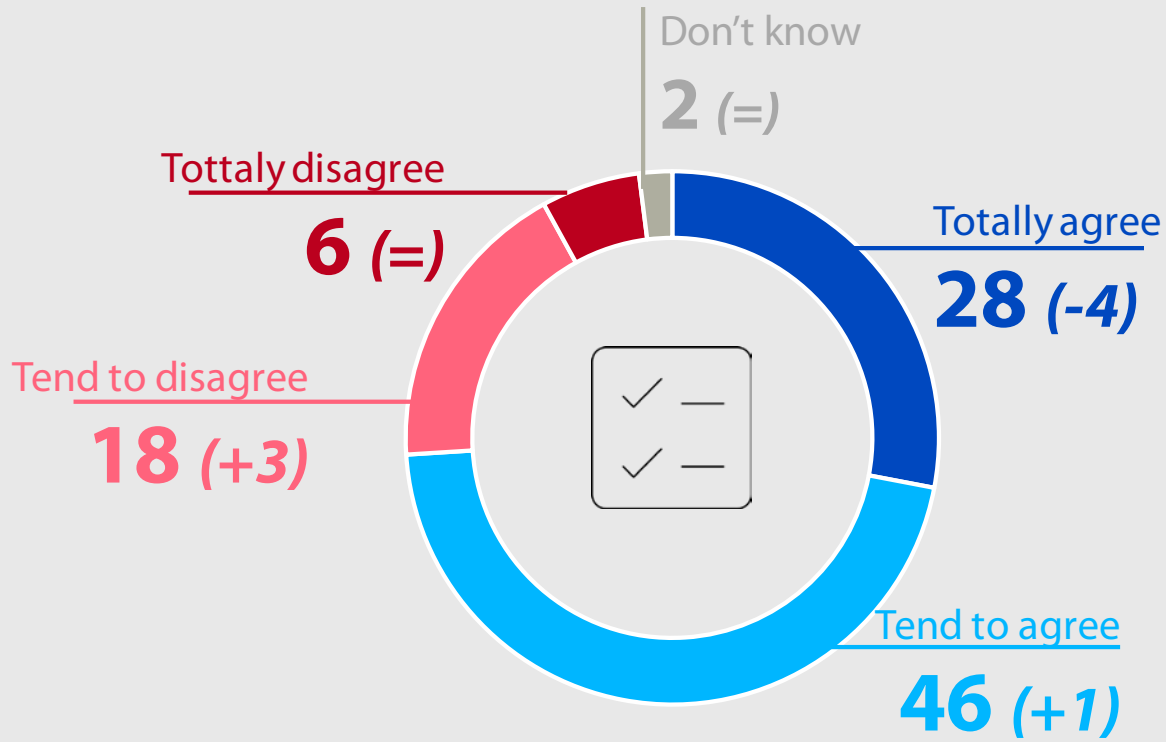
A majority of EU citizens have a positive image of the EU. Albeit a slight drop since December 2020, the positive EU image remains at its highest level since more than a decade.



Base: 26,669, all respondents

QA3 To what extent do you agree with the following statement the EU should have more competences to deal with crises such as the Coronavirus pandemic? (% EU)

About three quarters (74%) agree that the EU should have more competences to deal with crises similar to the current pandemic.

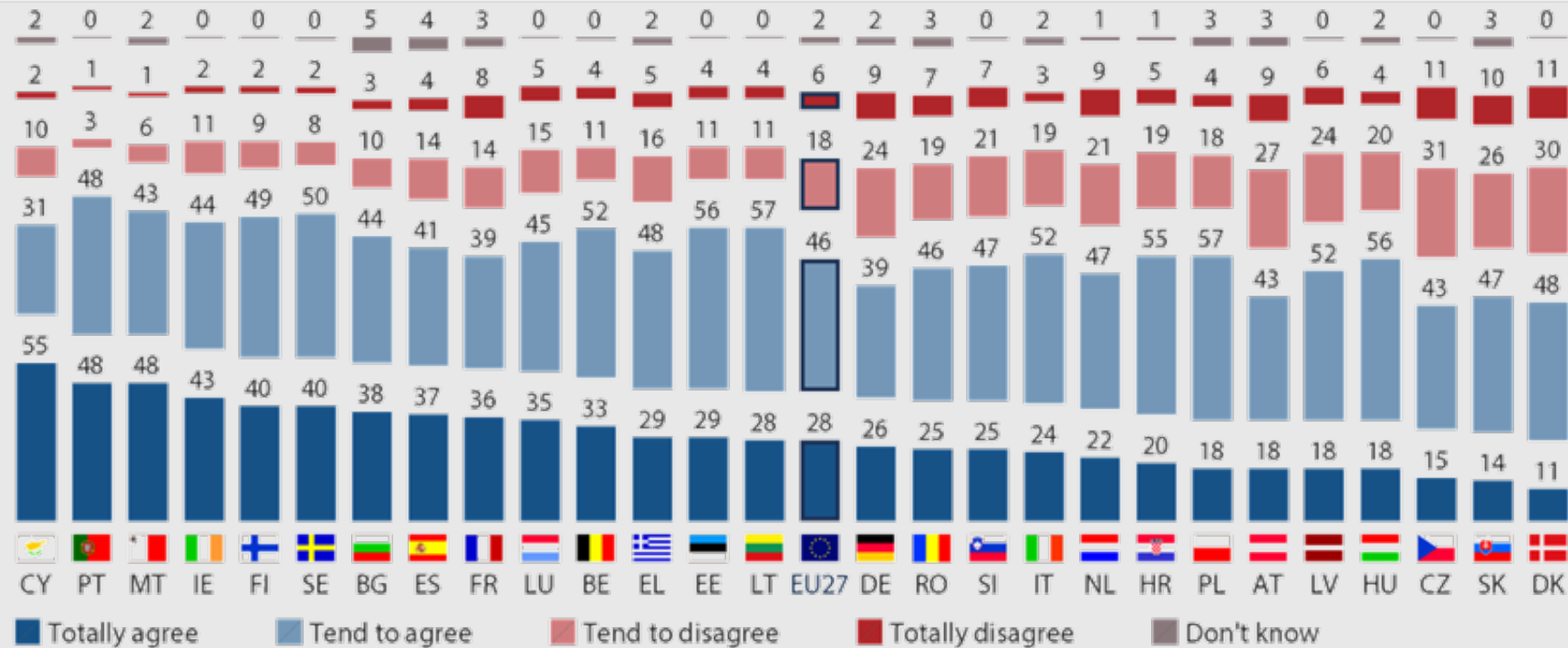


Mar-Apr 2021, EB95.1 – Oct-Nov 2020, EB94.1
Base: 26,669, all respondents



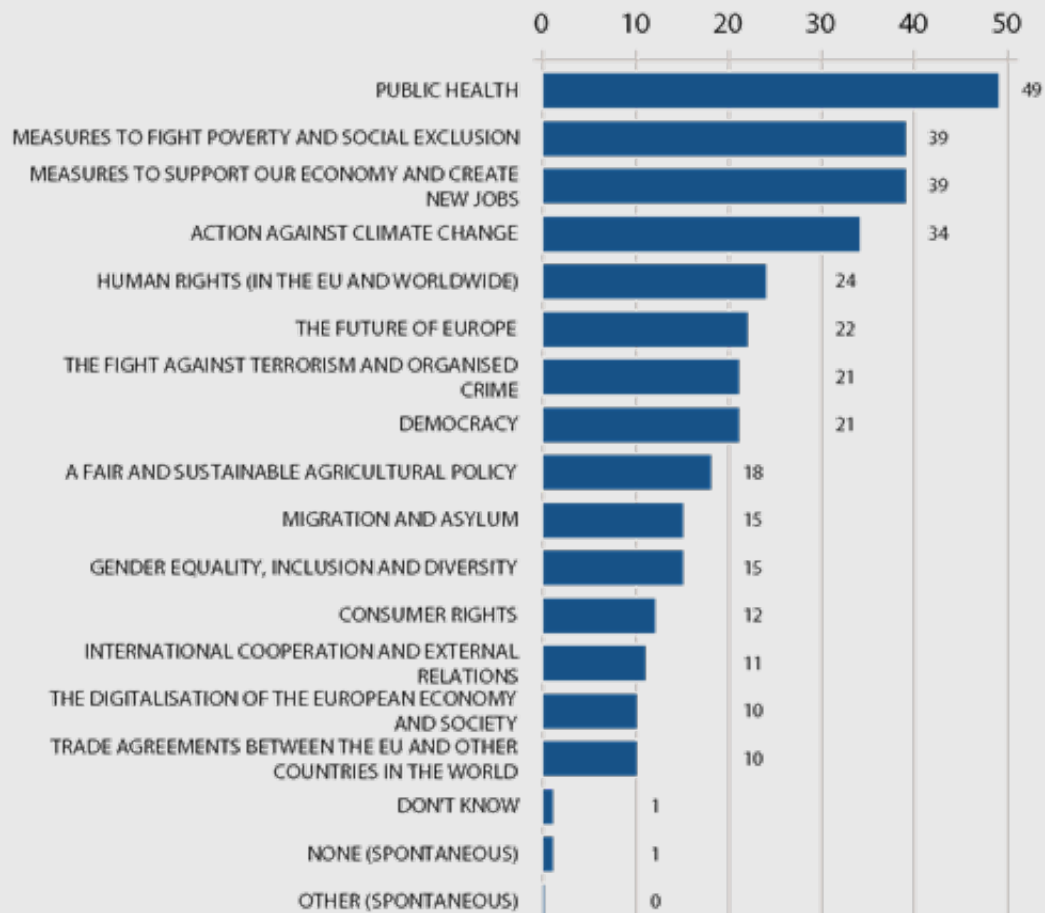
QA3 To what extent do you agree the following statement: the EU should have more competences to deal with crises such as the Coronavirus pandemic (%)

In all Member States, a large majority of respondents agree to some extent that the EU should have more competences to deal with crises similar to the COVID-19 pandemic.



Base: 26,669, all respondents

QA9T Which of the following topics you like to see addressed in priority by the European Parliament? Firstly? And then? (Max. 4 answers) (% - EU27)



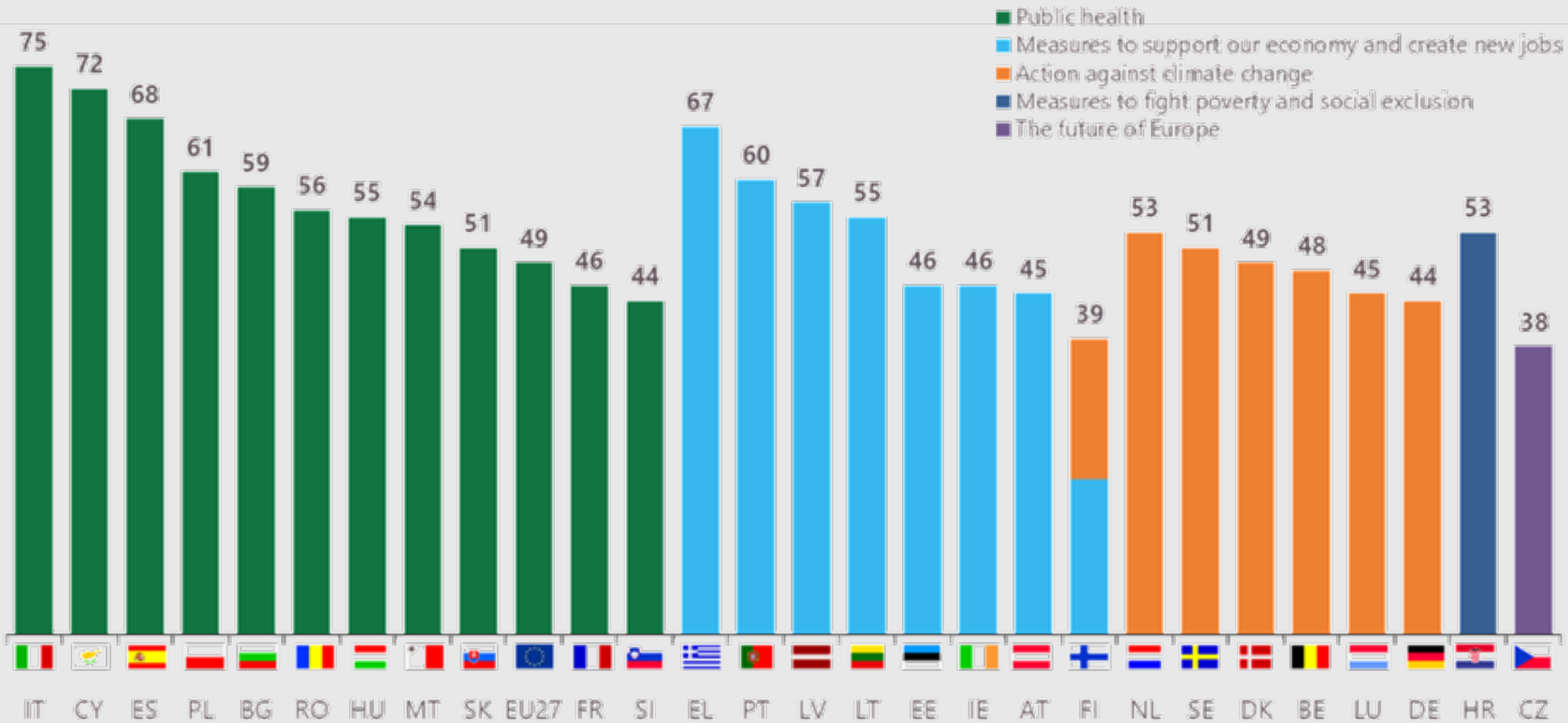
Around half of respondents believe that “public health” should on top the European Parliament’s priority list.

“Measures to fight poverty and social exclusion” along with “measures to support our economy and create new jobs” came in second with both securing 39% of answers, followed by “climate change” (34%).

Base: 26,669, all respondents

QA9T Which of the following topics you like to see addressed in priority by the European Parliament? Firstly? And then? (Max. 4 answers) (% - The most mentioned answer by country)

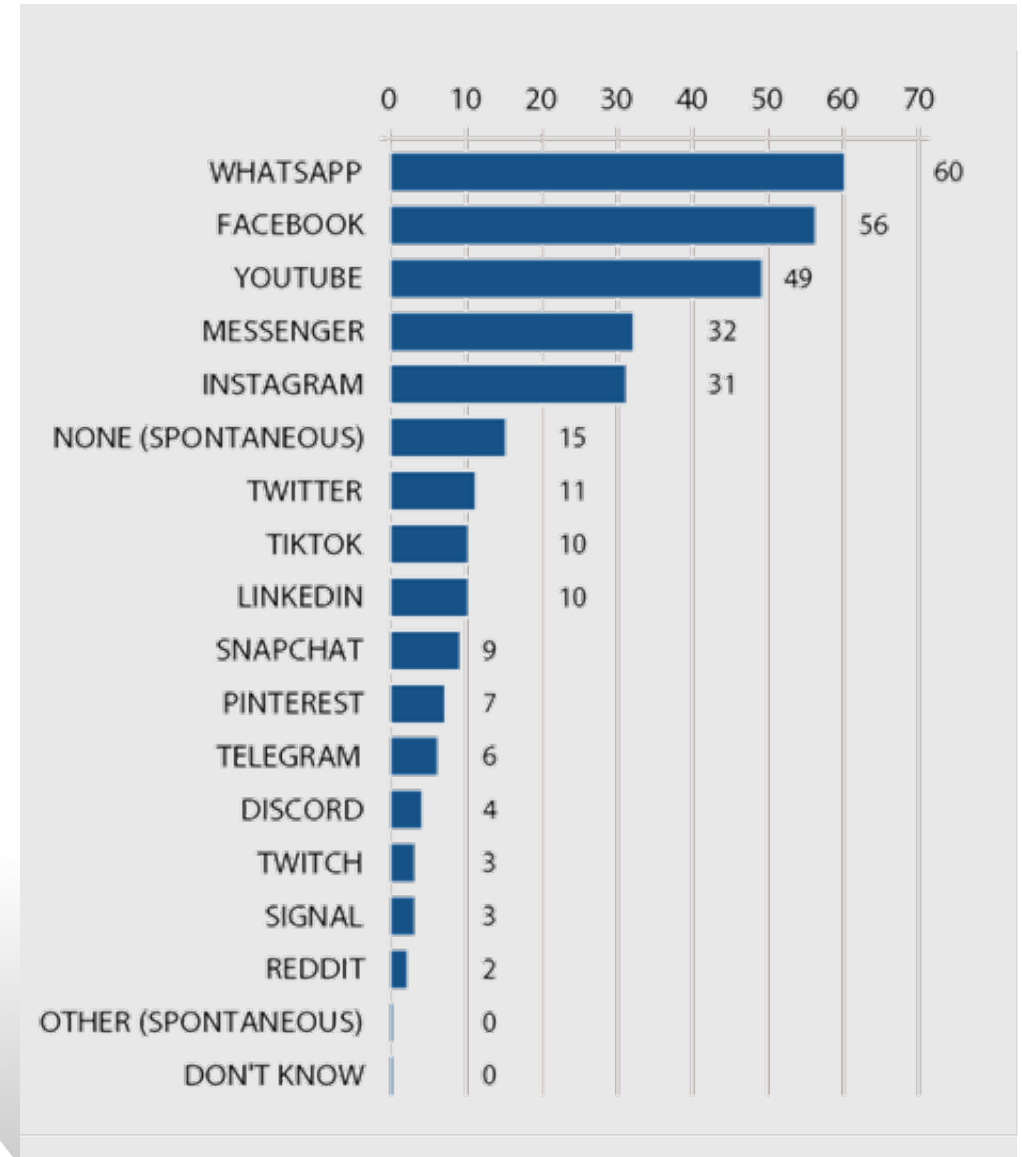
In 11 Member States public health is the most given answer; measures to support the economy and create new jobs comes first in 8, climate change in 7.



Base: 26,669, all respondents

QA13 Which online social network(s) have you used in the last 7 days for any purpose? (Multiple answers possible) (%- EU27)

Among the listed social networks those most widely used in the last week are: WhatsApp (60%), Facebook (56%) and YouTube (49%).



Base: 26,669, all respondents

QA14 How have you used social network(s) in the last 7 days? (Multiple answers possible) (%- EU27)

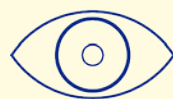


Up to 78% of the respondents have used social networks to send messages to friends and family, 57% use them to watch photo and video content.

Every second citizen (53%) would use social networks to follow news and current events.

Base: 26,669, all respondents

Some takeaways



People's perceptions

A clear majority agree that the **health benefits of restrictions measures are greater than economic damage**; however, close to a third of Europeans have seen their personal income impacted by the pandemic, with some categories much more impacted than others.

Uncertainty, hope, frustration and helplessness continue to best describe the emotional status of EU citizens.

Frustration is now the main feeling in a few countries, and anger has gained ground.



The EU and the pandemic

On the positive side: there is a good awareness of the EU measures and actions taken by the EU to respond the pandemic, and a large majority of EU citizens agree that the EU should have more competences to deal with similar crisis. However, **those who are aware are divided between satisfaction and dissatisfaction with these measures**, and more than half are not satisfied the solidarity between EU Member States in fighting the pandemic.

The **image of the EU remains at a very high level**. In all countries but one, a majority of respondents have a positive image of the EU, this proportion reaching at least 50% in 12 countries.

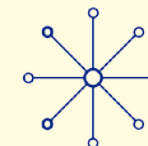


EU and EP priorities

Close to three-quarters of EU citizens think that **the EU should have more competences** to deal with such crises in the future.

In terms of topics, the EP should focus first on public **health, fighting poverty and the economy**. Climate change is in fourth position, but in first place in 7 (wealthy) countries.

More than two thirds think that the Conference would represent **significant progress for democracy**, but a relative majority think that the COFE won't have a real impact .



Online social networks

Among the listed social networks those most widely used in the last week are: **WhatsApp (60%), Facebook (56%) and YouTube (49%)**, with of course, large variations depending on age .

More than three quarters have used the social networks to send messages to friends and family, while 57% have used them to watch photo and video content.

Meanwhile, more than half of respondents use social networks **to follow news and current events**.