

PLENARY INSIGHTS

Public opinion at a glance

April 2022



Each plenary session, DG COMM's Public Opinion Monitoring Unit (POMU) provides Members with relevant public opinion data on key topics on the agenda:

- **Conclusions of the European Council meeting of 24-25 March 2022/Ukraine:** Various surveys demonstrate general approval for the reaction of 'the West' and specifically the EU's position in this conflict. Findings further suggest general support for the economic sanctions against Russia ([Public opinion data on the war in Ukraine collected by POMU](#)).

- **Report of the UN's Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change:** 93% of the people surveyed consider climate change a serious problem. 63% of respondents believe that first of all national governments are responsible for tackling climate change, ahead of business, industry and the EU ([Special Eurobarometer on Climate Change](#)).

- **Right to repair:** Nearly eight in ten respondents (79%) think manufacturer should be required to make it easier to repair digital devices or replace their individual parts (e.g. screens or batteries), with one quarter (25%) saying "Yes, even if the device costs more", according to the findings of an [Eurobarometer survey on "Attitudes towards the Impact of Digitalisation on Daily Lives"](#).

- **Global approach to research and innovation:** Seven in ten (70%) respondents think we should cooperate enthusiastically with the rest of the world and not isolate ourselves, according to a [Special Eurobarometer on European citizens' knowledge and attitudes towards science and technology](#). The majority of respondents think researchers in China (58%), the United States (57%), and Japan (54%) are ahead of researchers in the EU in making scientific discoveries.

- **The situation of marginalised Roma communities in the EU:** A majority of Europeans (61%) think discrimination against Roma people is widespread in their country, according to a [Eurobarometer survey on "Discrimination in the European Union."](#) Racial profiling is also widespread across the bloc, a [survey by EU Agency for Fundamental Rights](#) found. Police officers searched or asked 34% of people from ethnic minorities for their identity papers, compared with 14% of the general population.

- On a slightly different note, the latest edition of [European Parliament's 'Review of European and National Election Results'](#) has been published last week. It is the most comprehensive database covering developments in the political spectrum across the EU. It traces back election results and the composition of the European Parliament to its first direct election in 1979. The mid-term edition takes stock of changes in the hemicycle composition since the past European Elections. For a paper copy of this publication, please contact the POMU.

For more information on the topics covered in this edition, the methodology of our surveys or on additional services offered to Members by DG COMM's Public Opinion Monitoring Unit, please contact:

Philipp M. Schulmeister - Head of Public Opinion Monitoring Unit
philipp.schulmeister@ep.europa.eu or dgcomm-pom@europarl.europa.eu
@EP_Trend

Conclusions European Council of 24-25 March 2022/Ukraine

On Wednesday 6 April, [MEPs will review the March European Council](#) and its outcomes with Presidents Charles Michel and Ursula von der Leyen, and EU diplomacy chief Josep Borrell. EU leaders held an extensive discussion during their meeting on 24-25 March about the Russian invasion of Ukraine, the international sanctions against Vladimir Putin's regime, and the overall consequences for the EU's economy - with a particular focus on energy prices. During her visit to Kyiv, EP President Metsola expressed the European Union's support to the Ukrainian people and condemned the unjustified Russian attack.

DG COMM's Public Opinion Monitoring Unit is producing a rolling comprehensive overview on surveys and polls from across the EU and beyond on citizens' opinions towards Russia's invasion of Ukraine and the unprecedented array of sanctions taken by the EU and its international allies. The findings presented below are based on either multi-countries surveys and/or surveys conducted in individual Member States. Full details [here](#).

Various surveys demonstrate **general approval for the reaction of 'the West' and specifically the EU position**. Most EU citizens are content with the reaction of their governments in the current crisis, a phenomenon often described as '*rally round the flag*' effect denoting an increased, albeit often short-run, popular support of a country's government or political leaders during periods of international crisis or war.

Findings further suggest wide-spread **support for the economic sanctions against Russia** even if this could have a bad effect on one own country's economy. **However, readiness to face further rises in energy or food prices in case of a prolonged war is somehow limited and results vary between countries as well as between sociodemographic groups.**

Humanitarian aid, accepting refugees, and military support by organising supplies of military equipment are among the ways to help Ukraine which find majority support. However, most respondents are not in favour of intervening in the war by sending troops to Ukraine. Majorities are **against direct NATO intervention in Ukraine.**

A range of surveys suggests that **support for Ukraine's EU membership has increased significantly** since the beginning of the war.

A recent [YouGov survey](#) for instance finds a relative majority of Germans (46%), Italians (45%) and French (42%) support the Ukraine to join the EU. 30% of respondents in each of these countries are opposed to Ukraine's accession. Spanish respondents are the most in favour: 6 out of 10 people want Ukraine to join the Union, only 14% are opposed.

Opinion has changed significantly in France and Germany since 2018. At the time, only 22% of French people and 30% of Germans thought Ukraine should be allowed to join the EU. Conversely, 49% of the French and 47% of the Germans were opposed to it.

The figure below gives the net score of support for a particular country joining the European Union.

La France, l'Allemagne, l'Espagne et l'Italie sont favorables à une entrée de l'Ukraine dans l'UE

Voici une liste de pays ayant postulé pour rejoindre l'Union Européenne (UE), qui ont postulé dans le passé ou qui ont été examinés en tant que futurs membres. Pour chacun d'eux, veuillez indiquer si, selon vous, ils devraient ou non être autorisés à intégrer l'UE. Soutien NET

■ Soutien majoritaire ■ Soutien modéré ■ Opposition modérée ■ Opposition majoritaire

	France	Allemagne	Espagne	Italie
Norvège	+61	+67	+71	+62
Suisse	+53	+56	+68	+52
Islande	+51	+56	+61	+51
Ukraine	+12	+16	+46	+15
Monténégro	-9	+5	+27	+8
Macédoine	-13	+5	+26	+3
Bosnie-Herzégovine	-16	+2	+27	+4
Albanie	-22	-19	+16	+18
Serbie	-19	-14	+18	-4
Kosovo	-25	-14	+8	-3
Israël	-47	-21	-23	-22
Turquie	-50	-44	-9	-26
Kazakhstan	-43	-36	-19	-32
Maroc	-50	-43	-42	-36
Russie	-69	-60	-58	-53

YouGov

Du 9 au 21 mars 2022

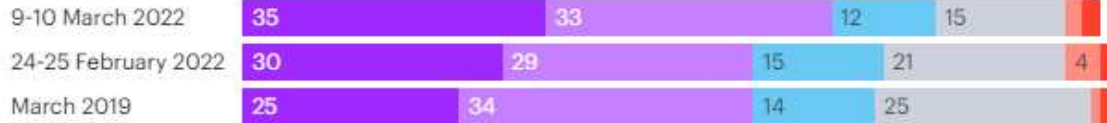
For more detailed information: [YouGov survey "Les Européens sont-ils favorables à l'adhésion de l'Ukraine à l'UE?" \(March 2022\)](#)

Support for NATO membership in general terms also rose in the countries that were already NATO members and has further increased since the Russian invasion. In Britain, support for NATO membership rose from 59% in March 2019 to 68% in March 2022, and in Germany from 54% to 64% for the same months. In France, support for membership increased from 39% to 47%, while opposition remained constant (15-16%). The number who neither support nor oppose NATO membership is largely the same, at 25-27%, while the number of "unsures" has fallen from 20% to 12%, according to another [YouGov survey](#).

Do you support or oppose [country's] membership of NATO? %

■ Strongly support
 ■ Tend to support
 ■ Neither support nor oppose
 ■ Don't know
 ■ Tend to oppose
 ■ Strongly oppose

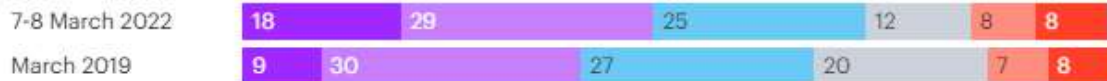
Great Britain



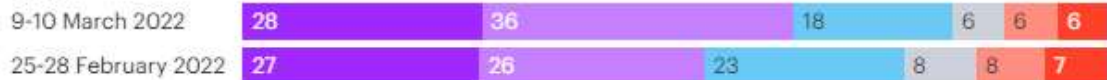
Germany



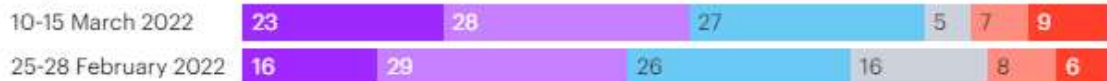
France



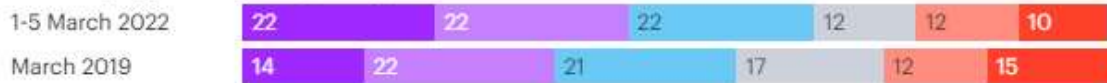
Spain



Italy



Sweden (support for joining NATO)



Poland



YouGov

Latest data: 1-15 March 2022

For more detailed information: [YouGov survey "What impact has the Russian invasion of Ukraine had on European attitudes to NATO?" \(March 2022\)](#)

For the first time, absolute majorities of Finnish respondents affirm that they would support their country's application to join the NATO. **Support for NATO membership hits therefore a record high in Finland.** In Sweden support for NATO membership has also steadily increased in recent weeks.

Not surprisingly, **popularity of Russian President Putin is in decline in the EU** and shifting also in Member States that in the past exhibited more positive sentiment towards Russia. Putin/Russia are condemned for its invasion, perceived as unjustified by clear majorities.

Solidarity with the Ukrainian refugees is a shared feeling among respondents in several surveys and particularly high in Poland, marking an important shift in attitude on the issue.

Feelings of sadness, fear, and anger prevail when respondents are asked what emotions the war in Ukraine evokes. Respondents describe the use of Russian nuclear weapons as a major concern as well as the fear that the conflict could continue to last long and/or spread to EU Member States.

In economic terms many fear a major economic crisis because of the conflict leading to **sharply rising energy prices as well as a general increase of the cost of living.**

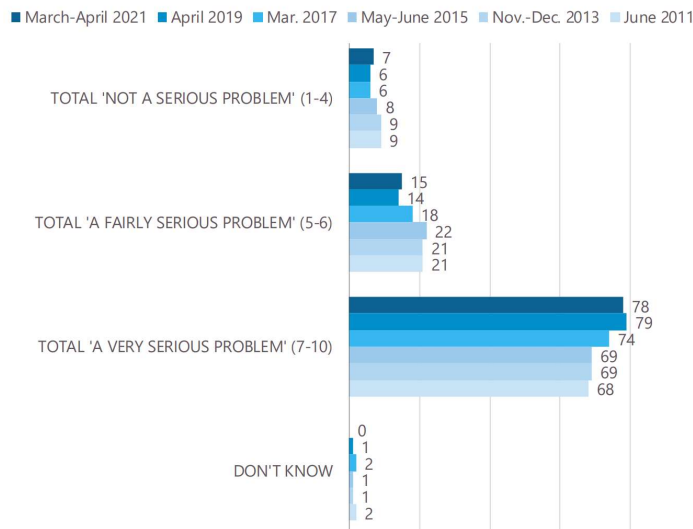
Last but not least, the war in Ukraine has a **knock-on effect on national politics and (upcoming) elections.** A range of recent national voting intention polls already shows the impact of the war in Ukraine on the standing governments leading to an increase of support, specifically relevant in the context of (upcoming) national elections in France and Hungary.

Assessment: Report of the UN's Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change

On Monday 4 April, [MEPs will discuss with the Commission the latest IPCC report](#), which calls for urgent measures to limit global warming to 1.5°C. In February 2022, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) - which provides regular assessments on the scientific basis of climate change, its impacts and future risks - released the latest report entitled "Climate Change 2022: Impacts, Adaptation and Vulnerability." The new assessment shows that the extent and magnitude of climate change impacts are larger than previously estimated under the IPCC's previous assessment in 2014.

A [Special Eurobarometer on Climate change](#) finds that more than nine out of ten people surveyed consider **climate change to be a serious problem** (93%), with almost eight out of ten (78%) considering it to be very serious.

QB2R And how serious a problem do you think climate change is at this moment? Please use a scale from 1 to 10, with '1' meaning it is "not at all a serious problem" and '10' meaning it is "an extremely serious problem".
(% - EU27)

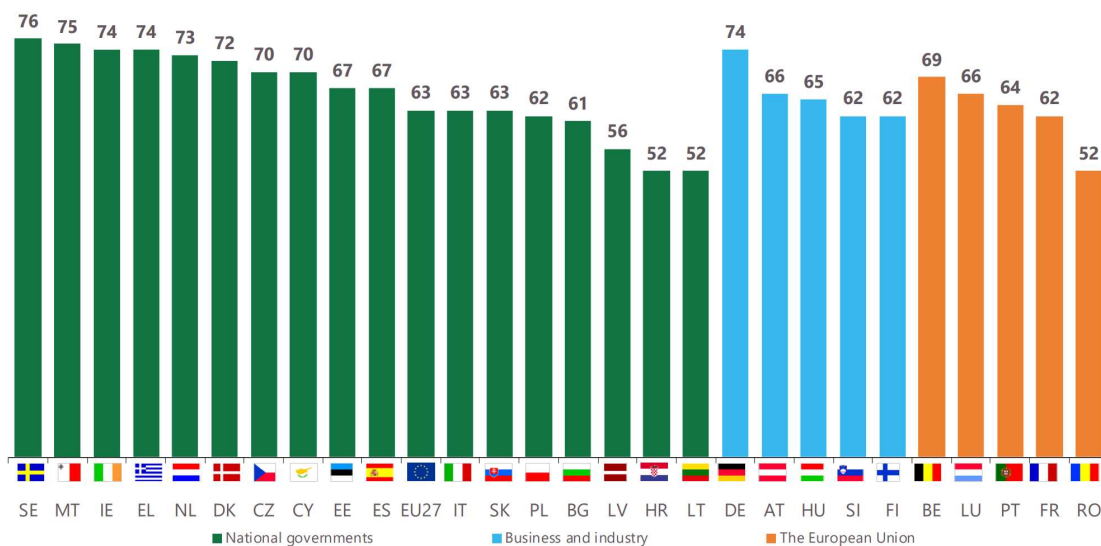


For more detailed information: [Special EB 513 on Climate Change \(July 2021\)](#)

Almost half of all Europeans have taken environmentally friendly action, although they don't believe they bear the main responsibility for tackling climate change. More than half of Europeans say that **national governments** (63%), **business and industry** (58%) and the **European Union** (57%) are responsible for tackling climate change within the European Union. Over four in ten Europeans answer regional and local authorities (43%, +10) or 'you personally' (41%, +5). Finally, three in ten respondents believe that responsibility for tackling climate lies with environmental groups (30%, +2).

A **national analysis** highlights that, in 17 EU Member States, respondents place national governments in first position among the actors responsible for tackling climate change, with the highest scores being recorded in Sweden (76%), Malta (75%) and Ireland (74%) and Greece (74%). At the other end of the scale, slightly more than half of respondents share this opinion in Romania (51%), Slovenia (52%), and Lithuania and Croatia (52% in both countries, where this is the most mentioned actor).

QB3 In your opinion, who within the EU is responsible for tackling climate change? (MULTIPLE ANSWERS POSSIBLE)
(% - THE MOST MENTIONED ANSWER BY COUNTRY)



For more detailed information: [Special EB 513 on Climate Change \(July 2021\)](#)

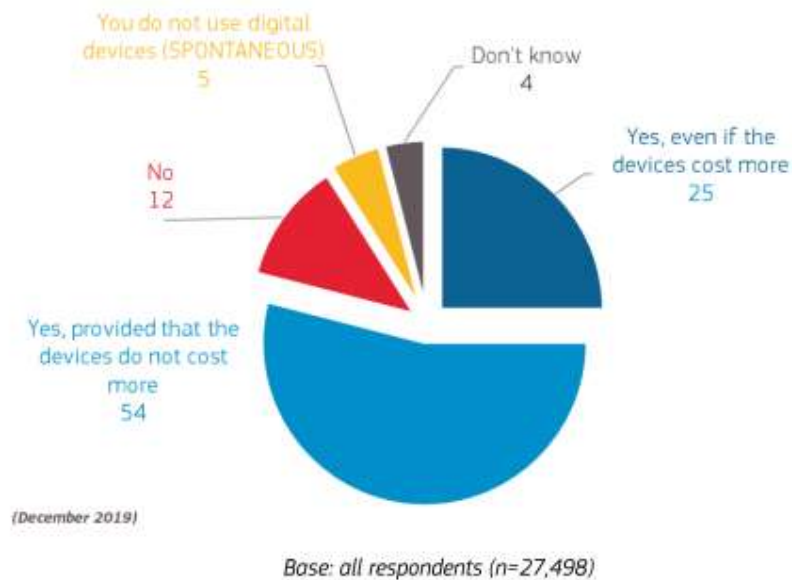
Right to repair

On Thursday 7 April, MEPs will vote on resolution setting out their expectations for the upcoming Commission initiative on the consumers' "[Right to repair](#)". The draft text stresses that an effective right to repair should address a product's lifecycle and take into account product design, ethical production, standardisation, labelling on reparability and on the expected lifespan of a product. A proper right to repair, according to MEPs, also entails giving the repair industry and consumers access to information on repair and maintenance free of charge.

Nearly eight in ten respondents (**79%**) **think manufacturer should be required to make it easier to repair digital devices or replace their individual parts** (e.g. screens or batteries), with one quarter (25%) saying “Yes, even if the device costs more”, according to the findings of an [Eurobarometer survey on “Attitudes towards the Impact of Digitalisation on Daily Lives”](#).

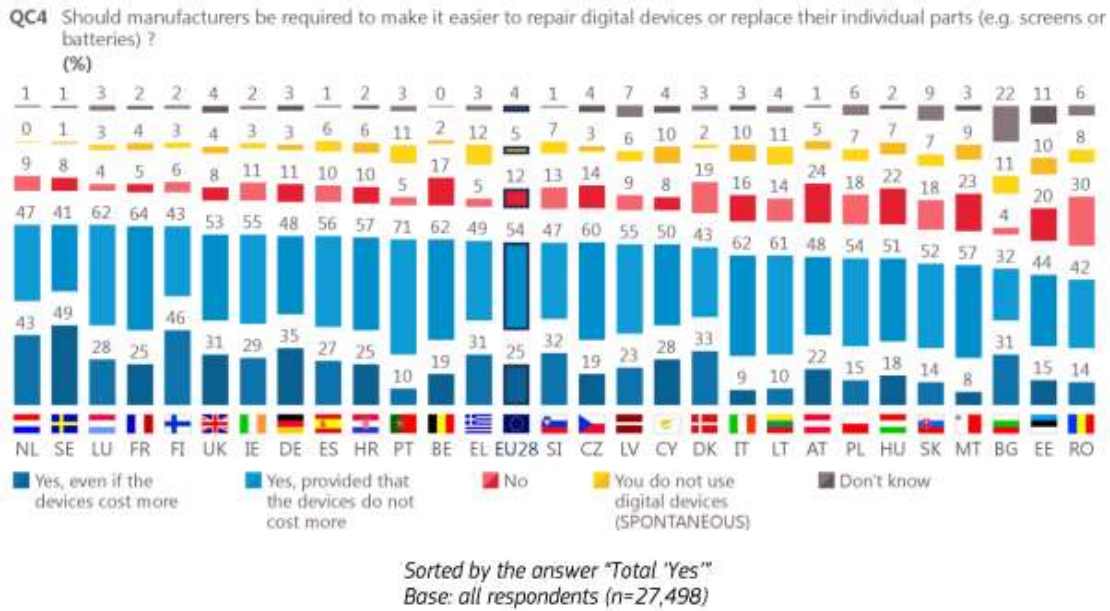
However, more than half (54%) think manufacturers should be required to do so provided that the devices do not cost more. Around one in ten (12%) say manufacturers should not be required to make it easier to repair digital devices. 5% spontaneously say they do not use digital devices, while 4% say they don’t know.

QC4 Should manufacturers be required to make it easier to repair digital devices or replace their individual parts (e.g. screens or batteries) ? (% - EU)



For more detailed information: [Eurobarometer survey on “Attitudes towards the Impact of Digitalisation on Daily Lives \(March 2020\)](#).

The **country analysis highlights that a majority of respondents in each country think manufacturers should be required to make it easier to repair digital devices or replace individual parts**. Proportions range from 90% in Luxembourg, the Netherlands and Sweden, to 56% in Romania, 59% in Estonia and 63% in Bulgaria.



For more detailed information: [Eurobarometer survey on "Attitudes towards the Impact of Digitalisation on Daily Lives \(March 2020\)](#)

Global approach to research and innovation

On Wednesday 6 April, MEPs will be discussing with the European Commission a [Global approach to research and innovation: Europe's strategy for international cooperation in a changing world](#).

Seven in ten (70%) respondents think **we should cooperate enthusiastically with the rest of the world and not isolate ourselves**, according to a [Special Eurobarometer on European citizens' knowledge and attitudes towards science and technology](#)

The majority in every Member State considers cooperating enthusiastically with the rest of the world - not isolating ourselves - is closest to their point of view, although proportions range from 87% in Ireland, 84% in Portugal, and 81% in Estonia to 54% in Croatia, 55% in Romania and 56% in Slovakia, Cyprus and Greece.

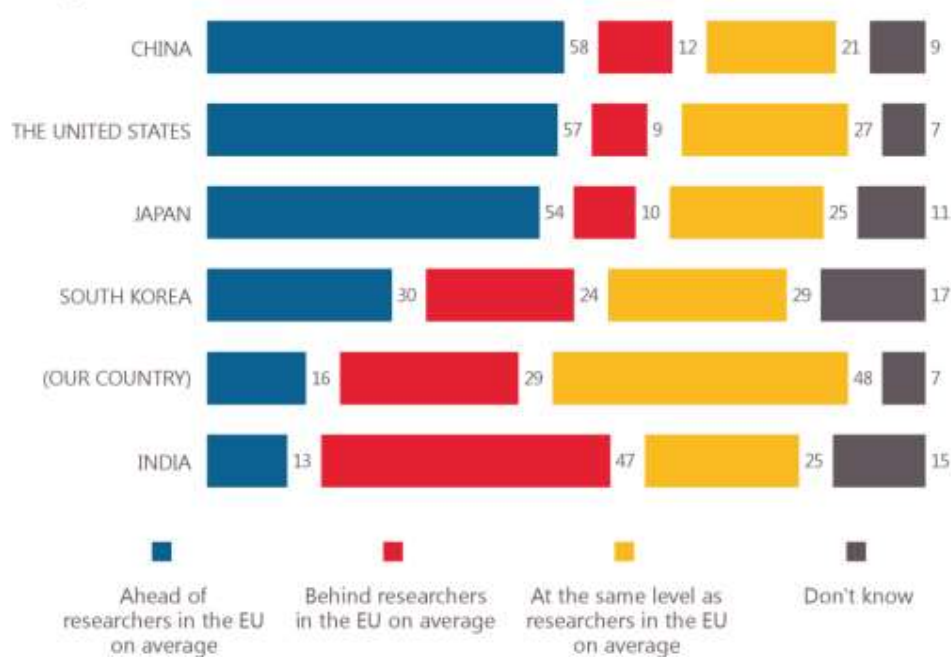
Respondents were also asked **whether they thought researchers in several countries were ahead, behind, or at the same level as researchers in the European Union on average**, in terms of making new scientific discoveries. **The majority of respondents (58%) think researchers in China are ahead of those in the EU in making scientific discoveries.** Just over one in five (21%) say researchers in the EU and China are at the same level, while 12% think they are behind those in the EU. Almost one in ten (9%) say they don't know.

Almost six in ten (57%) respondents think researchers in the United States are, on average, ahead of researchers in the EU. Just over one-quarter (27%) think they are at the same level, while 9% think scientists in the United States are behind the EU on average. More than one in twenty say they don't know (7%).

When asked about researchers in Japan, 54% of respondents think they are ahead of those in the EU on average in making new scientific discoveries, 25% say they are at the same level, and 10% think they are behind those in the EU. Just over one in ten (11%) say they don't know. Opinion about researchers in South Korea is more divided. Three in ten (30%) respondents think they are ahead of their counterparts in the EU, 29% that they are at the same level, and 24% think they are

behind researchers in the EU. Almost one in five say they don't know (17%). More than one in ten (16%) respondents think researchers in their own country are ahead of EU researchers on average when it comes to making new scientific discoveries. Almost half (48%) think they are at the same level, while 29% think researchers in their country are behind those in the EU. Just over one in ten (13%) respondents think researchers in India are ahead of those in the EU in terms of making new scientific discoveries. One quarter (25%) think they are at the same level, while almost half (47%) think they are behind EU researchers. More than one in ten (15%) say they don't know.

QA19 Do you think researchers in the following countries are ahead, behind, or at the same level as researchers in the European Union on average, in terms of making new scientific discoveries? (% - EU27)



For more detailed information: [Special Eurobarometer on European citizens' knowledge and attitudes towards science and technology \(September 2021\)](#)

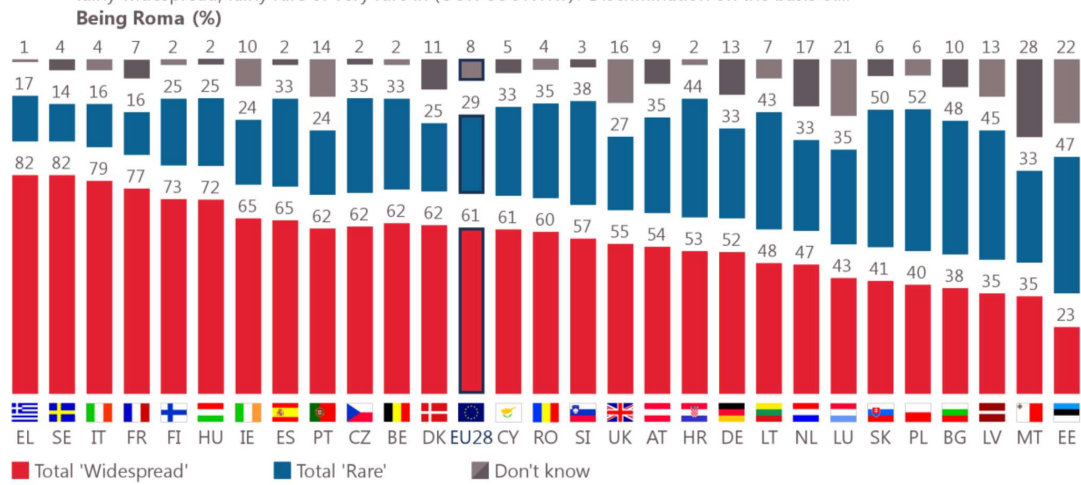
The Special Eurobarometer on European citizens' knowledge and attitudes towards science and technology further shows that 9 in 10 EU citizens (**86%**) think that the overall influence of science and technology is positive. They expect a range of technologies: notably, **solar energy (92%)**, **vaccines and combatting infectious diseases (86%)** and **artificial intelligence (61%)** to have a positive effect in the future.

The situation of marginalised Roma communities in the EU

On Thursday 7 April, MEPs will debate [the situation of marginalised Roma communities in the EU](#).

A majority of Europeans, just over six in ten (61%), think **discrimination against Roma people is widespread** in their country, according to a [Eurobarometer survey on "Discrimination in the European Union."](#) In 19 countries, more than half of all respondents think discrimination on this basis is widespread, with the highest proportions in Greece and Sweden (both 82%) and Italy (79%). At the other end of the scale, 23% in Estonia, and 35% in Malta and Latvia think the same way.

QC1.3 For each of the following types of discrimination, could you please tell me whether, in your opinion, it is very widespread, fairly widespread, fairly rare or very rare in (OUR COUNTRY)? Discrimination on the basis of...



For more detailed information: [Eurobarometer survey "Discrimination in the European Union \(October 2019\)](#)

EXTERNAL INSIGHT: The EU Agency for Fundamental Rights' report on ["Police stops in Europe: everyone has a right to equal treatment"](#) examines the question how minorities are treated by law enforcement authorities. It draws on findings from FRA's [Fundamental Rights Survey](#) (2020), [EU Minorities and Discrimination Survey](#) (2017) and its [Roma and Travellers Survey](#) (2020).