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Concerns and perceptions of EU citizens



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April 2024

Methodology

How did we conduct the survey ?



Survey conducted online by BVA Xsight from **March 27th to April 9th, 2024, in the 27 EU countries.**



Total sample of 22 726 European people made up of **27 representative samples of each country's population aged 15 and over** (16+ for Luxembourg).

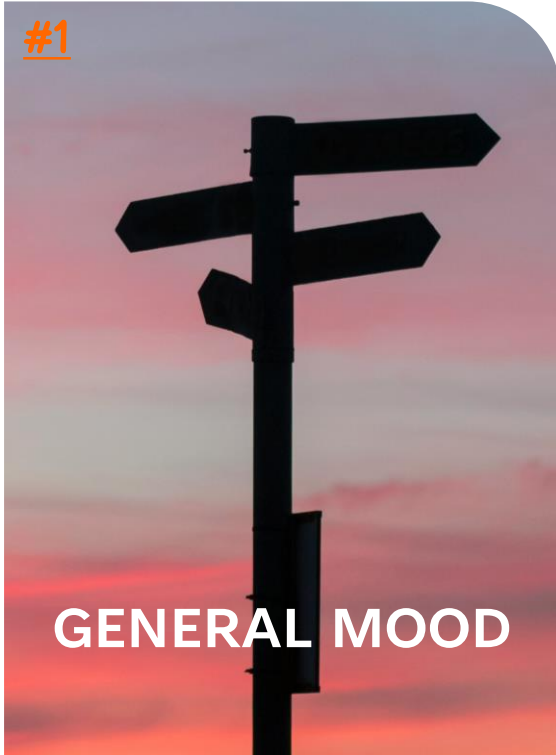


The representativeness of the survey was ensured by the quota method. The samples of each country were built according to national statistics (gender, age, occupation and place of residence). The European average has been weighted according to each country's population weight.

A detailed notice for this survey can be consulted on the French “Survey Commission” website.

Summary

This European study covers several topics.



01

GENERAL MOOD

Personal perspectives : optimism or pessimism

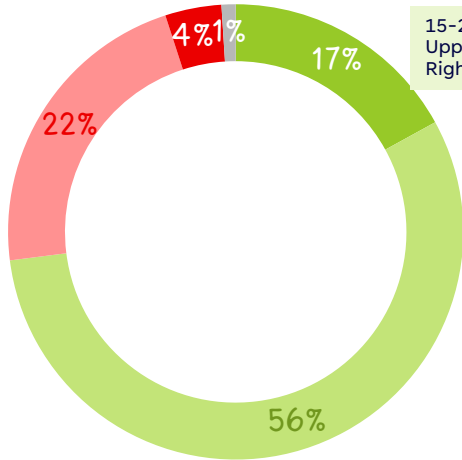
3 out of 4 Europeans are optimistic about their personal future



European Union

PESSIMISTIC
26%

OPTIMISTIC
73%



- Very optimistic
- Somewhat optimistic
- Somewhat pessimistic
- Very pessimistic
- No answer*

*Item not suggested

Q1. In general, would you say you are optimistic or pessimistic when you think about your personal future?

Base: to all

% OPTIMISTIC

Above average

Croatia	84%
Romania	82%
Ireland	82%
Luxembourg	82%
Netherlands	81%
Cyprus	81%
Bulgaria	80%
Malta	79%
Lithuania	78%
Spain	77%

Average

Denmark	76%
Poland	76%
Slovakia	76%
Latvia	76%



European Union

73%



Slovenia	75%
Austria	74%
Belgium	74%
Portugal	73%
Sweden	73%
Germany	71%
Estonia	71%

Below average

Italy	70%
France	69%
Finland	69%
Greece	67%
Czech Republic	65%
Hungary	60%

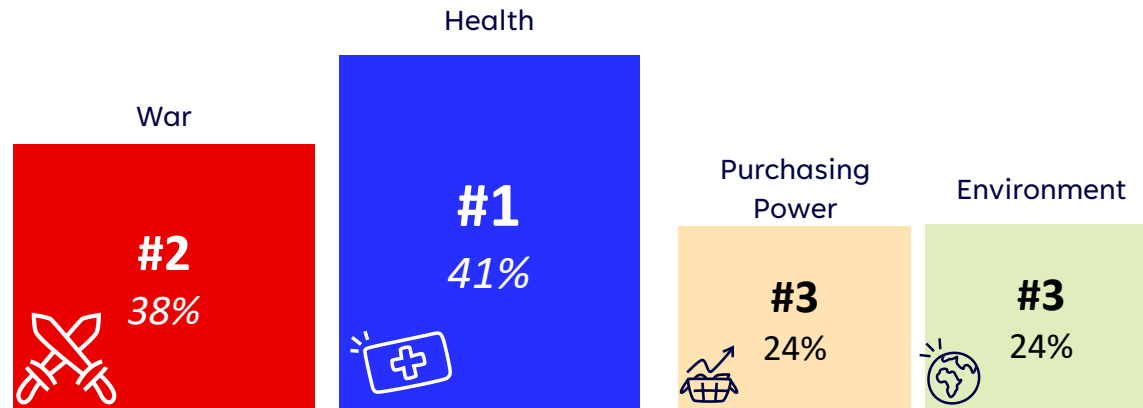
The main concerns of European citizens

After years of pandemics and the arrival of war in Europe, Europeans are mainly concerned with health, war and inflation. However, the environment is equal in importance as purchasing power.

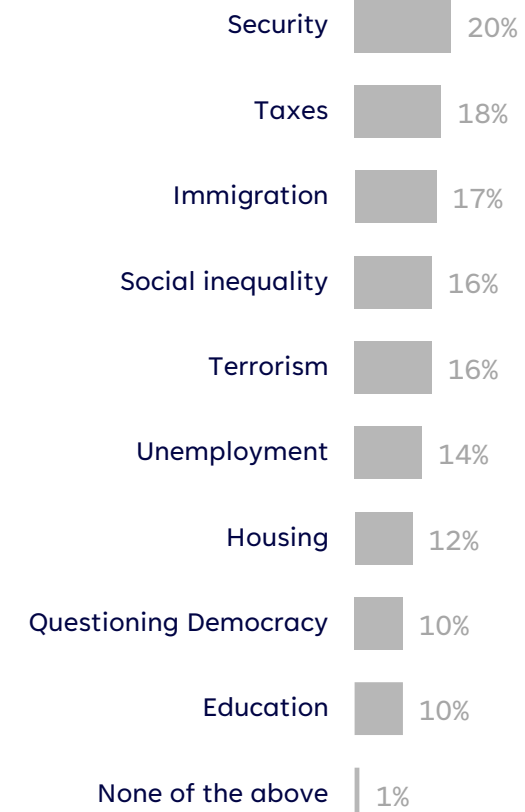


European Union

3 biggest issues



Other issues



Q2. Which of the following issues are of most concern to you personally?

Base: to all / Maximum 3 answers possible

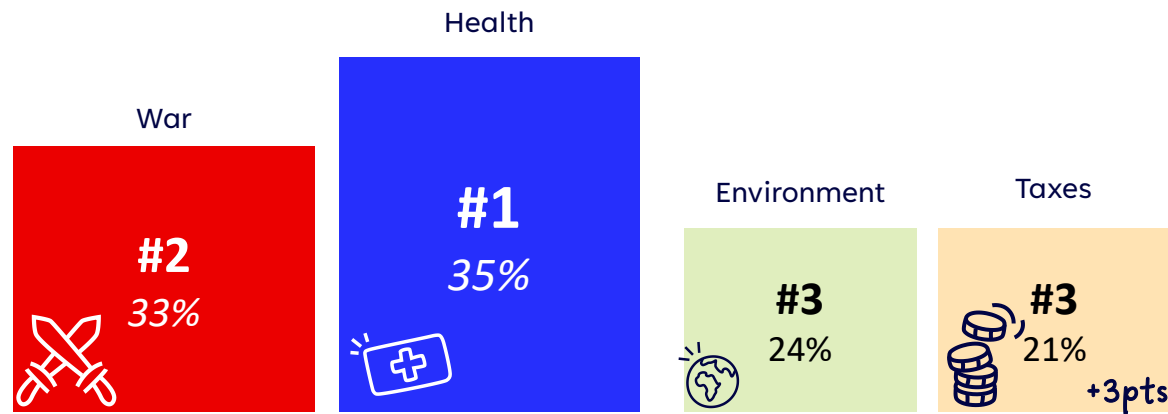
And for people under 30 yo ?

The environment is the 3rd most important concern for 15-29 years old people. Greater concern for education, unemployment and housing.

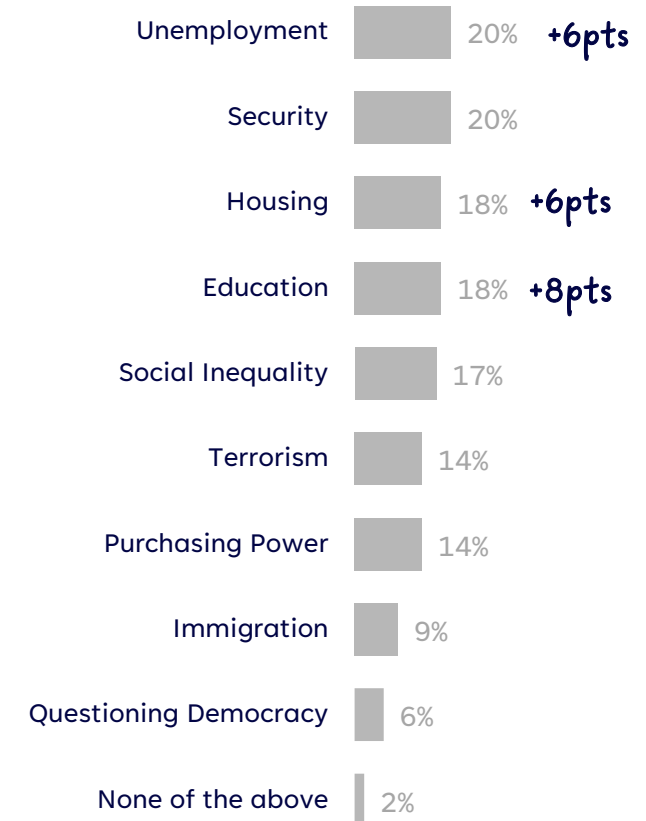


European Union

3 biggest issues



Other issues



Q2. Which of the following issues are of most concern to you personally?

Base: to all / Maximum 3 answers possible

The main concerns of European citizens

3 biggest issues in each country

COUNTRY

-  Austria
-  Belgium
-  Bulgaria
-  Croatia
-  Cyprus
-  Czech Republic
-  Denmark
-  Estonia
-  Finland
-  France
-  Germany
-  Greece
-  Hungary
-  Ireland
-  Italy
-  Latvia
-  Lithuania
-  Luxembourg
-  Malta
-  Netherlands
-  Poland
-  Portugal
-  Romania
-  Slovakia
-  Slovenia
-  Spain
-  Sweden

Top 1

War	37%
Health	39%
Health	56%
Health	43%
Health	50%
War	45%
War	44%
War	49%
War	43%
Purchasing Power	40%
War	44%
Health	61%
Health	50%
Health	58%
Health	43%
War	54%
War	56%
War	35%
Health	49%
War	35%
War	59%
Health	54%
Health	51%
War	44%
Health	52%
Health	47%
War	40%

Top 2

Health	32%
Purchasing Power	36%
War	43%
Purchasing Power	32%
War	29%
Health	38%
Health	38%
Taxes	49%
Health	41%
Health	37%
Health	32%
Purchasing Power	35%
Purchasing Power	26%
Housing	43%
War	43%
Health	47%
Health	40%
Health	34%
Environment	35%
Health	33%
Health	47%
Purchasing Power	33%
War	40%
Health	33%
War	31%
Purchasing Power	31%
Health	33%

Top 3

Immigration	29%
War	30%
Purchasing Power	29%
War	27%
Security	25%
Immigration	24%
Environment	31%
Health	43%
Security	26%
War	27%
Immigration	28%
Unemployment	25%
Democracy	22%
Immigration	22%
Environment	31%
Security	28%
Taxes	37%
Purchasing Power	28%
War	29%
Purchasing Power	30%
Security	28%
War	32%
Purchasing Power	33%
Social Inequality	21%
Security	24%
Unemployment	29%
Terrorism	29%

The main concerns of European citizens

Health issues are more concentrated in the Eastern countries and around the Mediterranean

FOCUS ON HEALTH



Health

#1
41%



War

#2
38%

Purchasing Power

#3
24%

Environment

#3
24%

Q2. Which of the following issues are of most concern to you personally?

Base: to all / Maximum 3 answers possible

% HEALTH

Above average

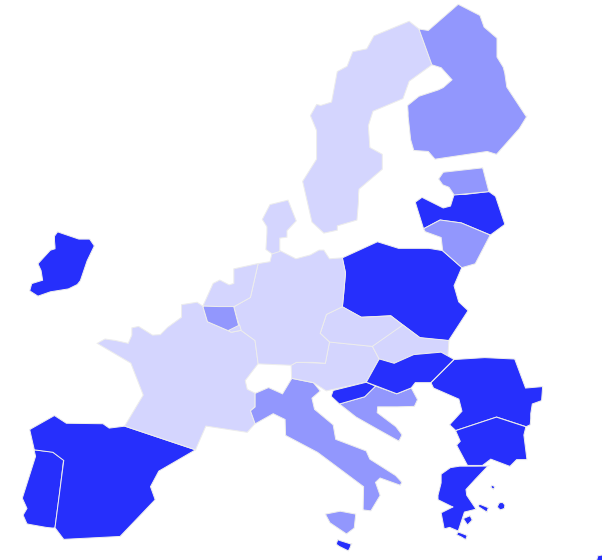
Greece	61%
Ireland	58%
Bulgaria	56%
Portugal	54%
Slovenia	52%
Romania	51%
Cyprus	50%
Hungary	50%
Malta	49%
Latvia	47%
Poland	47%
Spain	47%

Average

Italy	43%
Estonia	43%
Croatia	43%
Finland	41%
Lithuania	40%
Belgium	39%

European Union
41%

50+ yo : 47%
Women : 45%
Left (political position) : 44%



Below average

Denmark	38%
Czech Republic	38%
France	37%
Luxembourg	34%
Slovakia	33%
Sweden	33%
Netherlands	33%
Germany	32%
Austria	32%

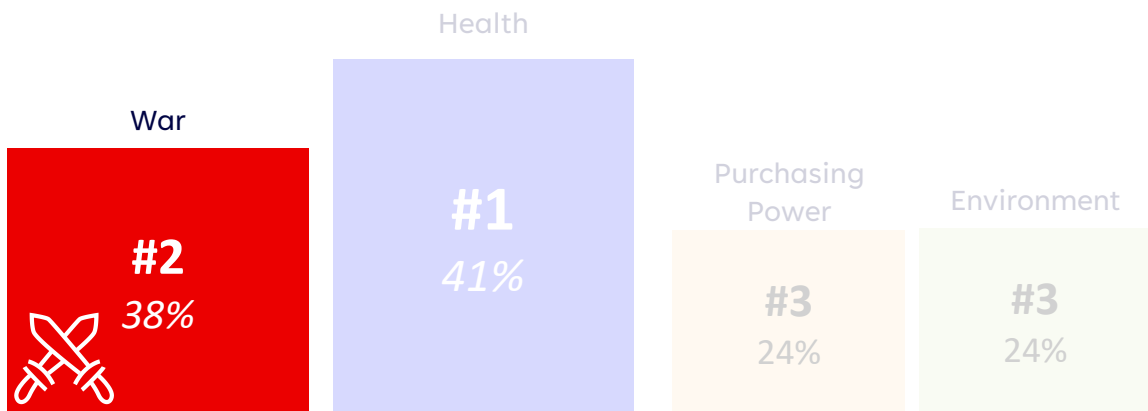
The main concerns of European citizens

An Eastern Block much more sensitive to War : countries which are situated closest to Ukraine are more worried about war

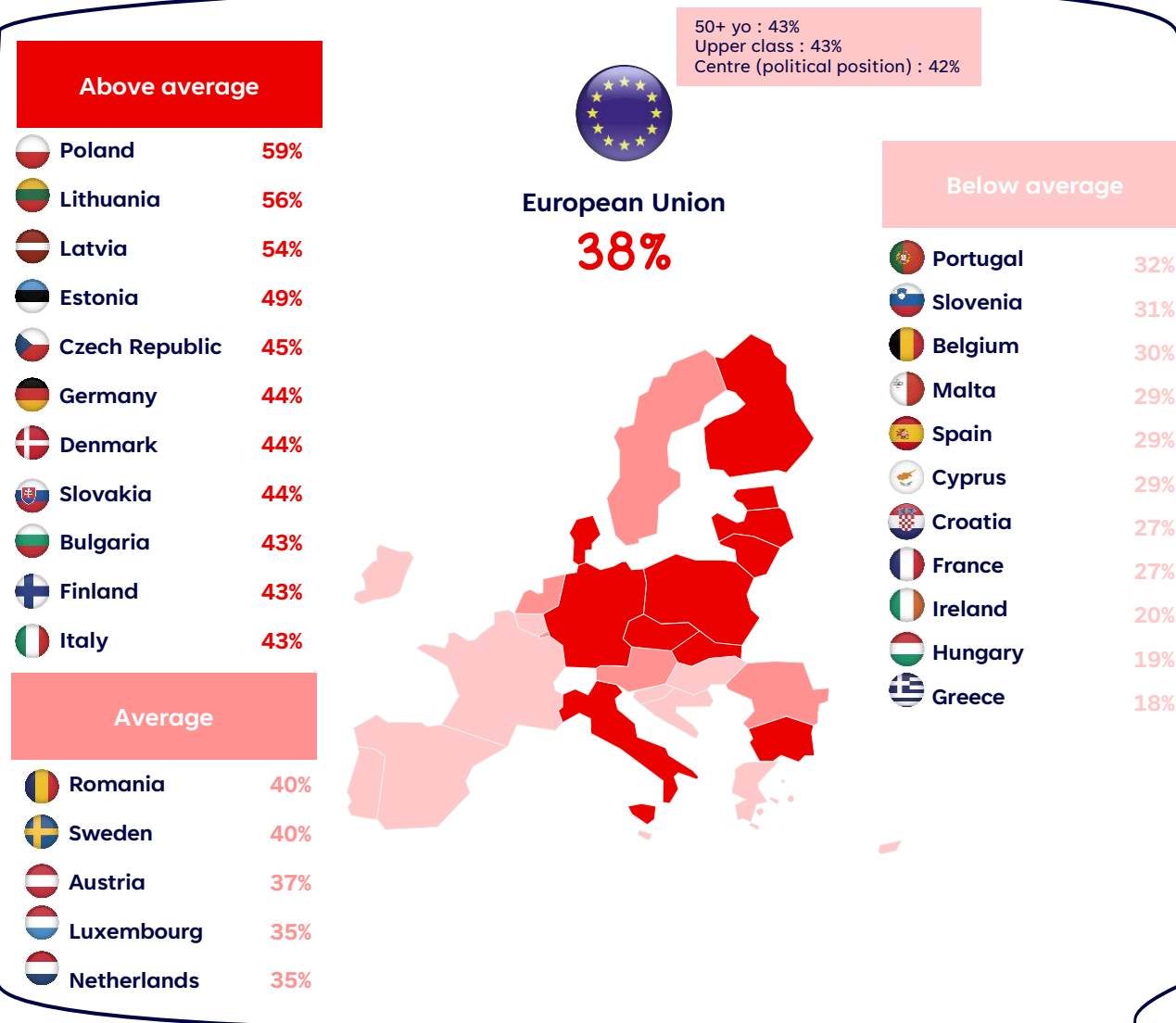
FOCUS ON WAR



European Union



% WAR



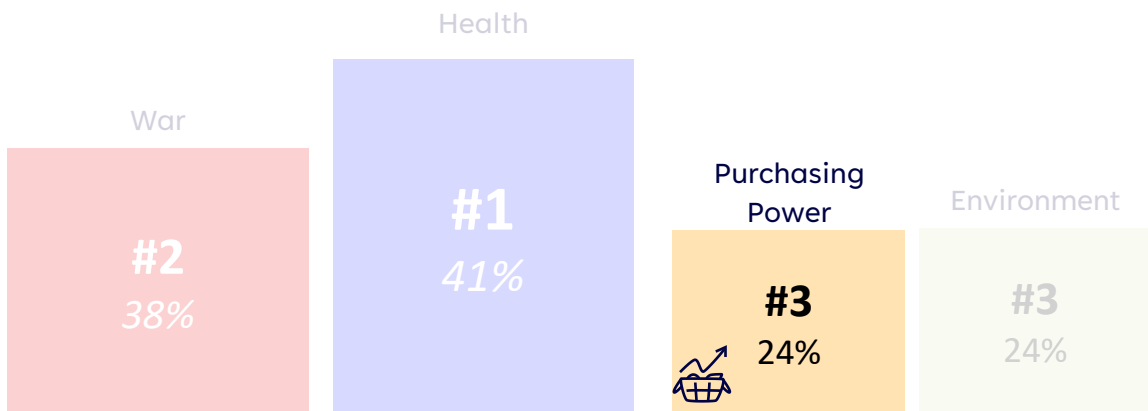
The main concerns of European citizens

Purchasing power is an issue that particularly affects Western European countries, France most specifically,

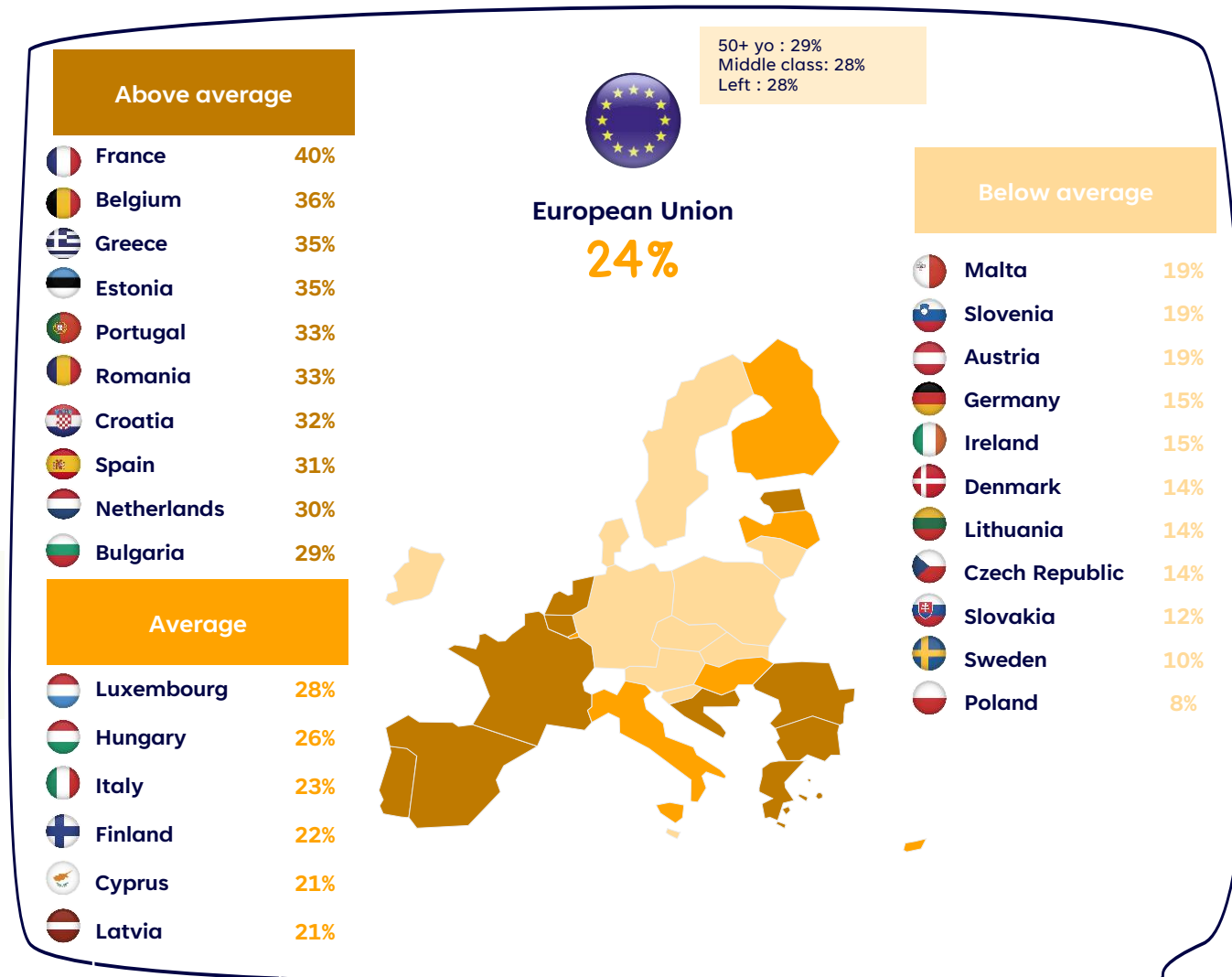
FOCUS ON PURCHASING POWER



European Union



% PURCHASING POWER



Q2. Which of the following issues are of most concern to you personally?

Base: to all / Maximum 3 answers possible

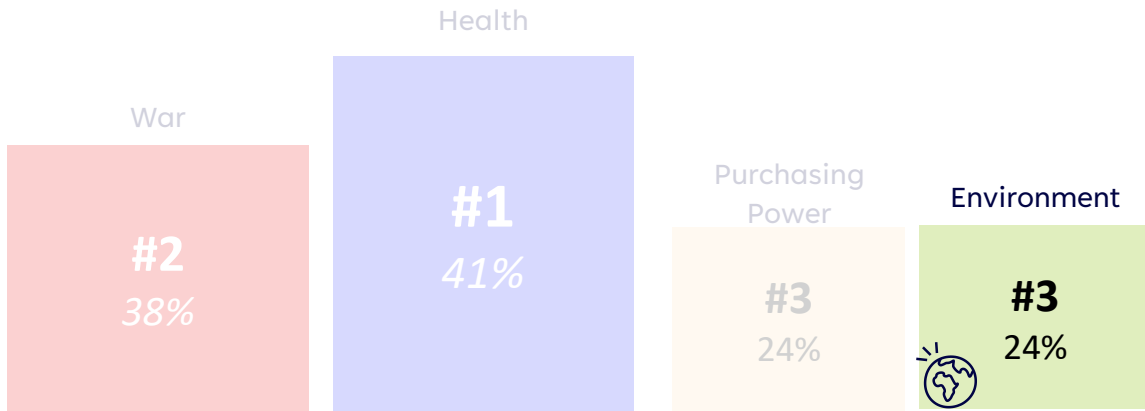
The main concerns of European citizens

Environment is overall an issue for Western European countries

FOCUS ON THE ENVIRONMENT

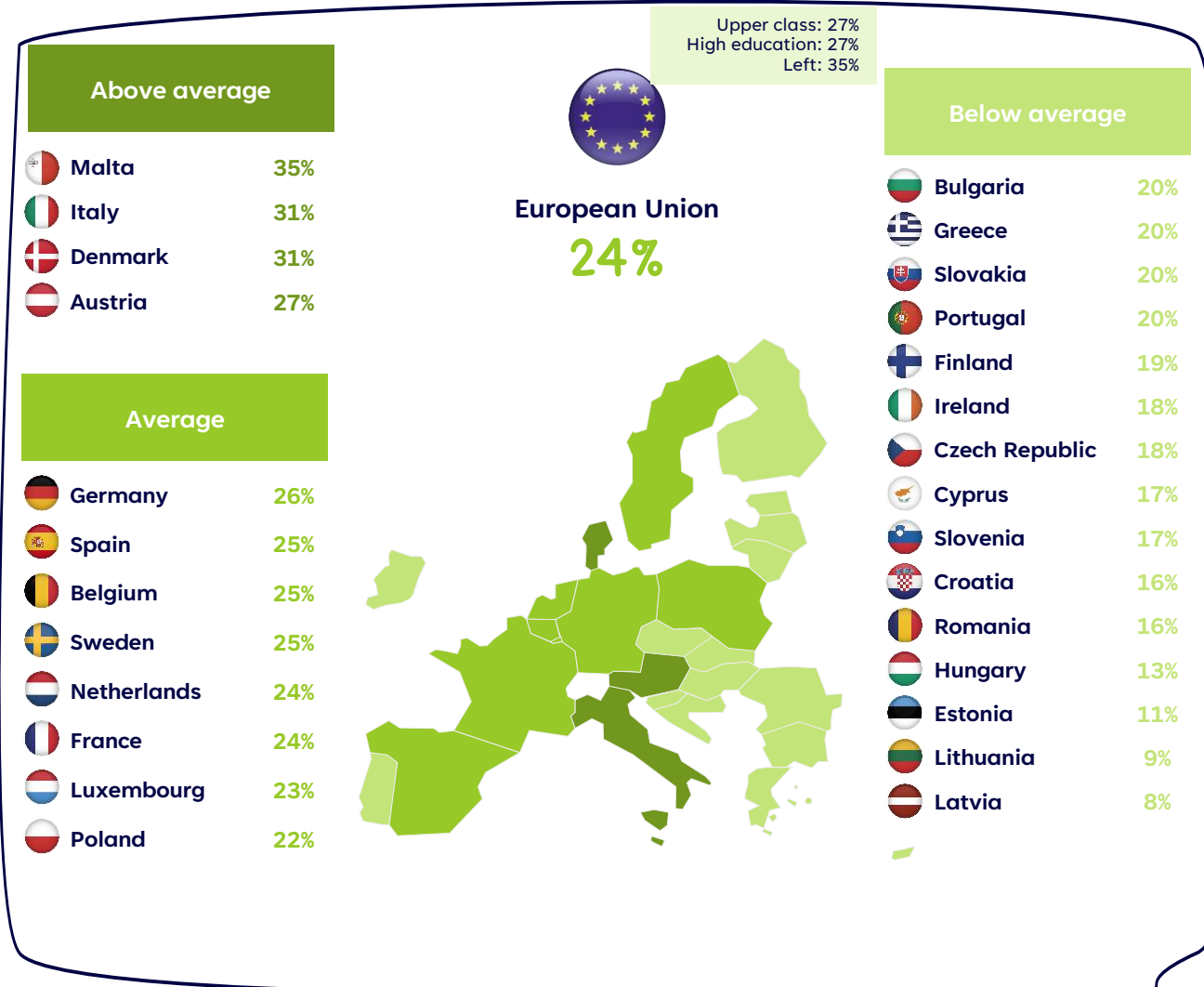


European Union



The environment is the 3rd most important concern for 15-29 year-olds

% THE ENVIRONMENT



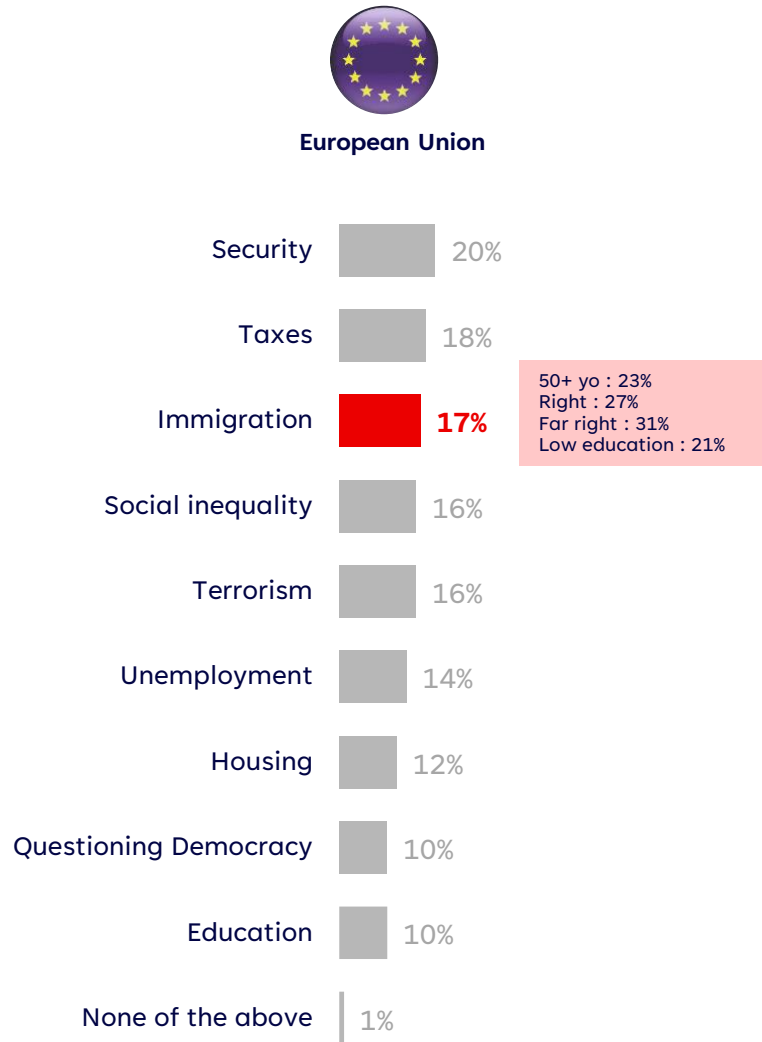
Q2. Which of the following issues are of most concern to you personally?

Base: to all / Maximum 3 answers possible

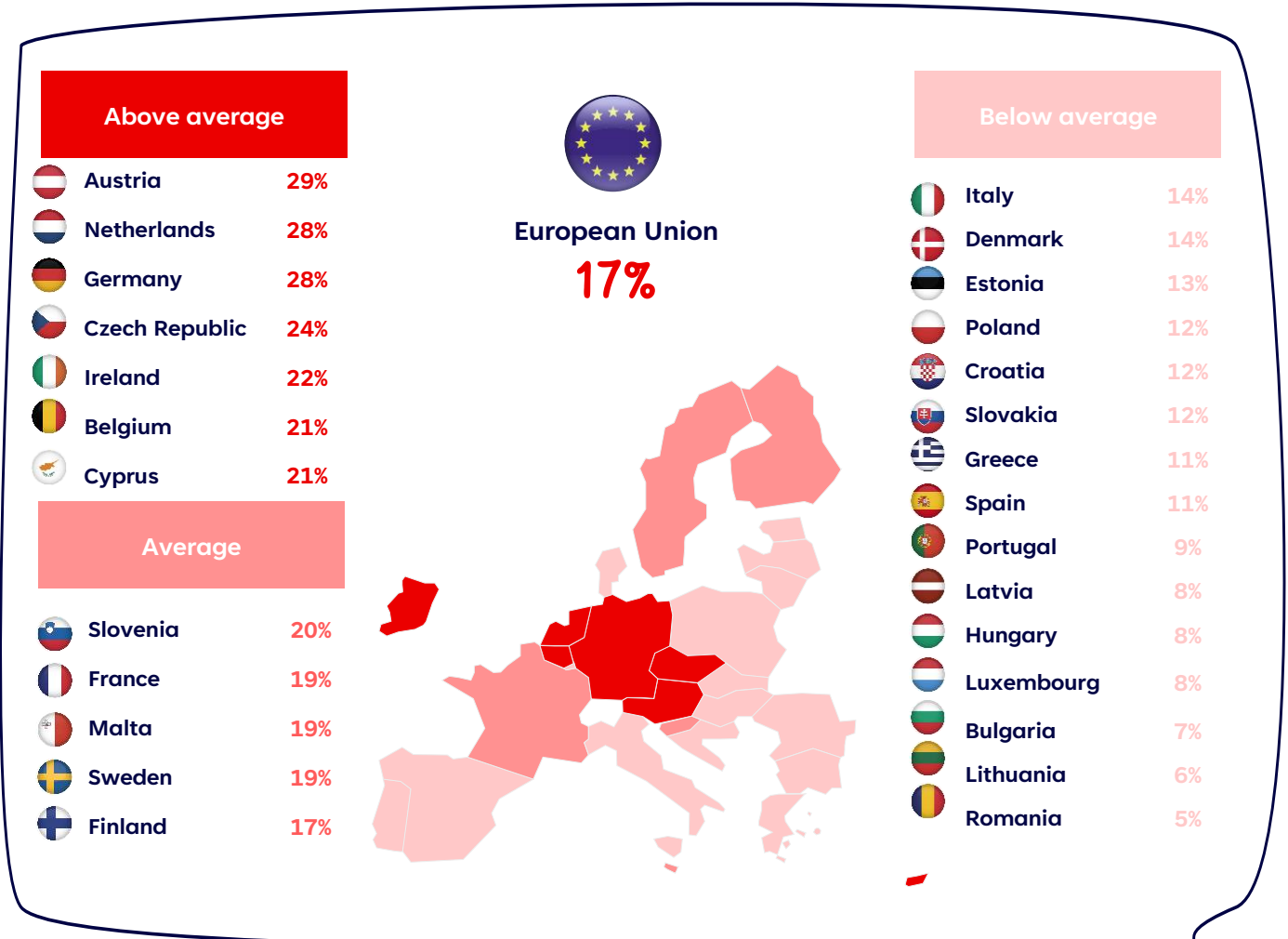
The main concerns of European citizens

A 'hard' block on immigration in central UE

FOCUS ON IMMIGRATION



% IMMIGRATION

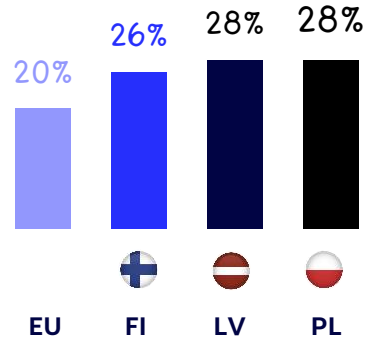


Q2. Which of the following issues are of most concern to you personally?

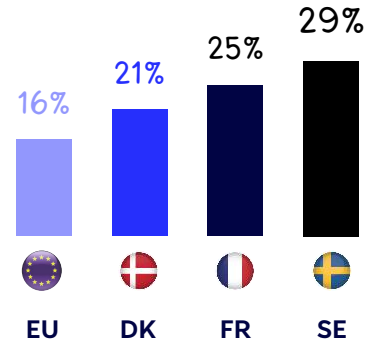
Base: to all / Maximum 3 answers possible

Some special cases in European countries

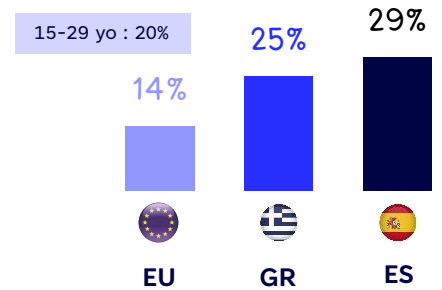
Security



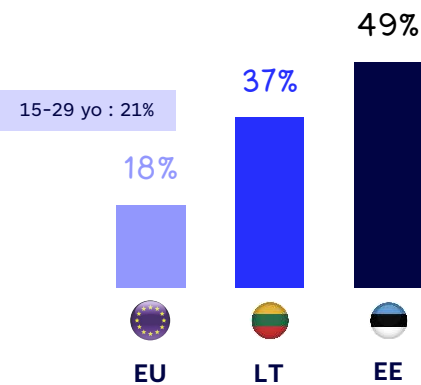
Terrorism



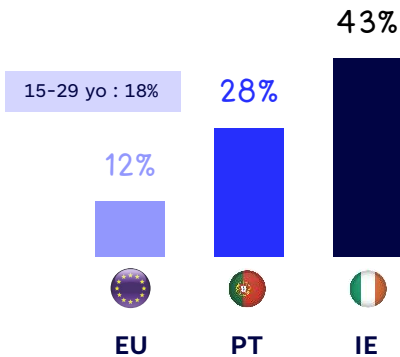
Unemployment



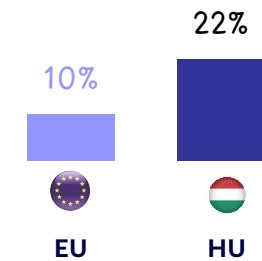
Taxes



Housing



Questioning Democracy



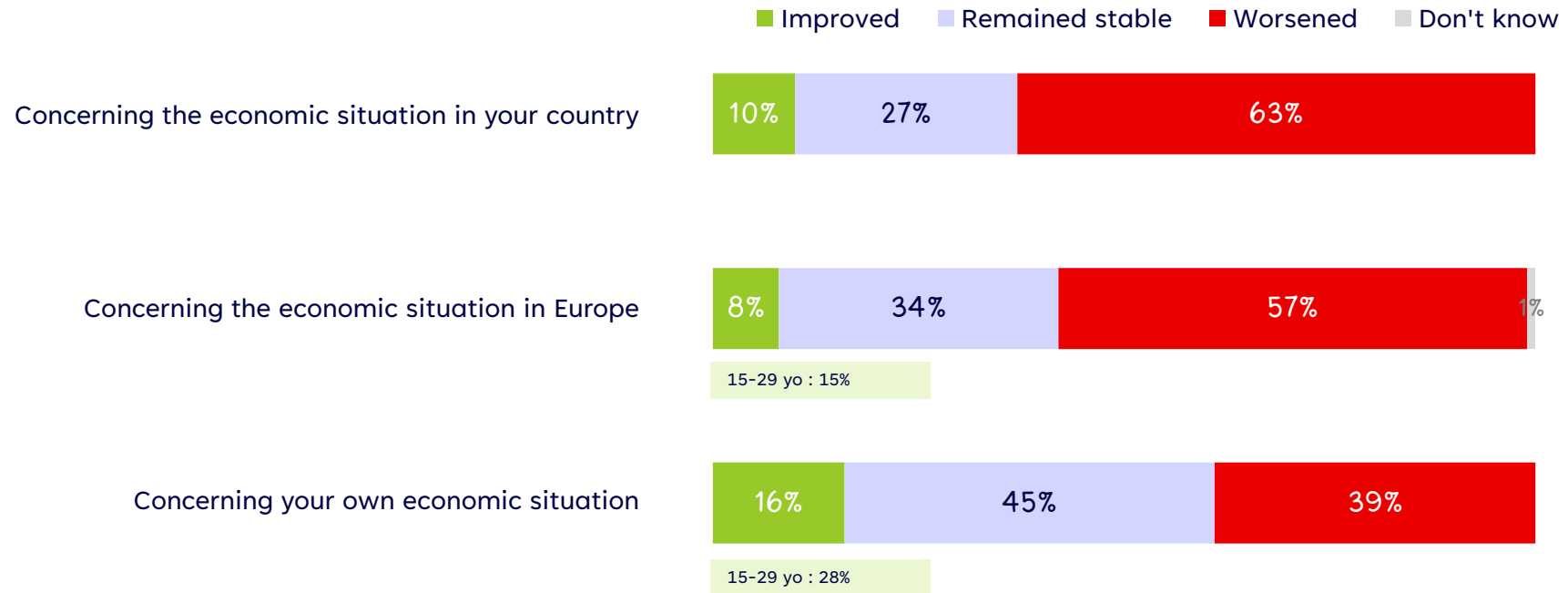
Q2. Which of the following issues are of most concern to you personally?
Base: to all / Maximum 3 answers possible

Perception of the economic situation

Europeans see a worsening economic situation in their countries and in Europe as a whole



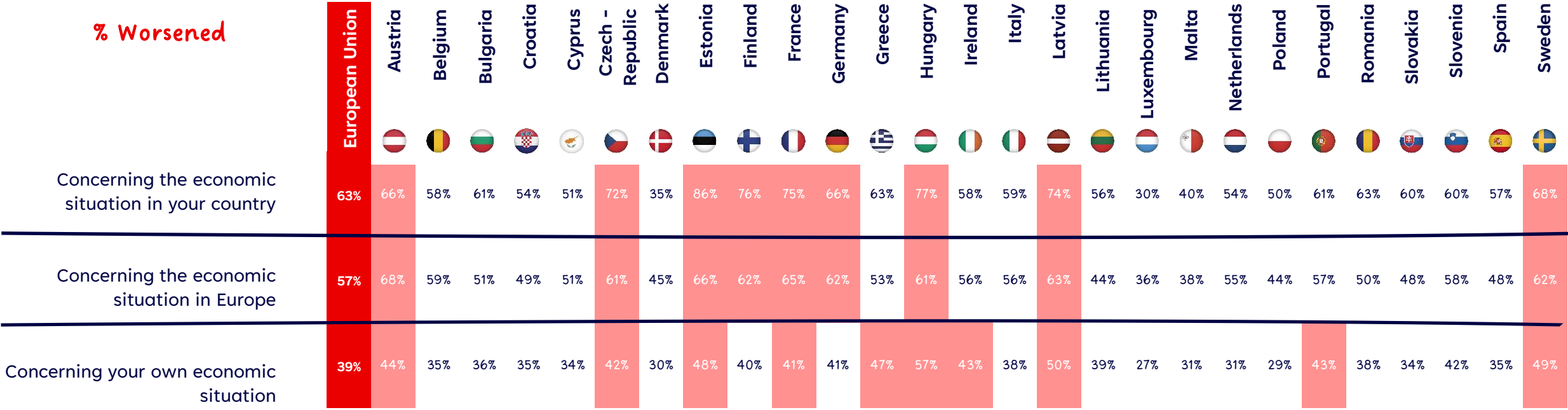
European Union



Q3. Personally, over the last three years, would you say that the situation...

Base: to all

Perception of the economic situation - Results by country



Q3. Personally, over the last three years, would you say that the situation...

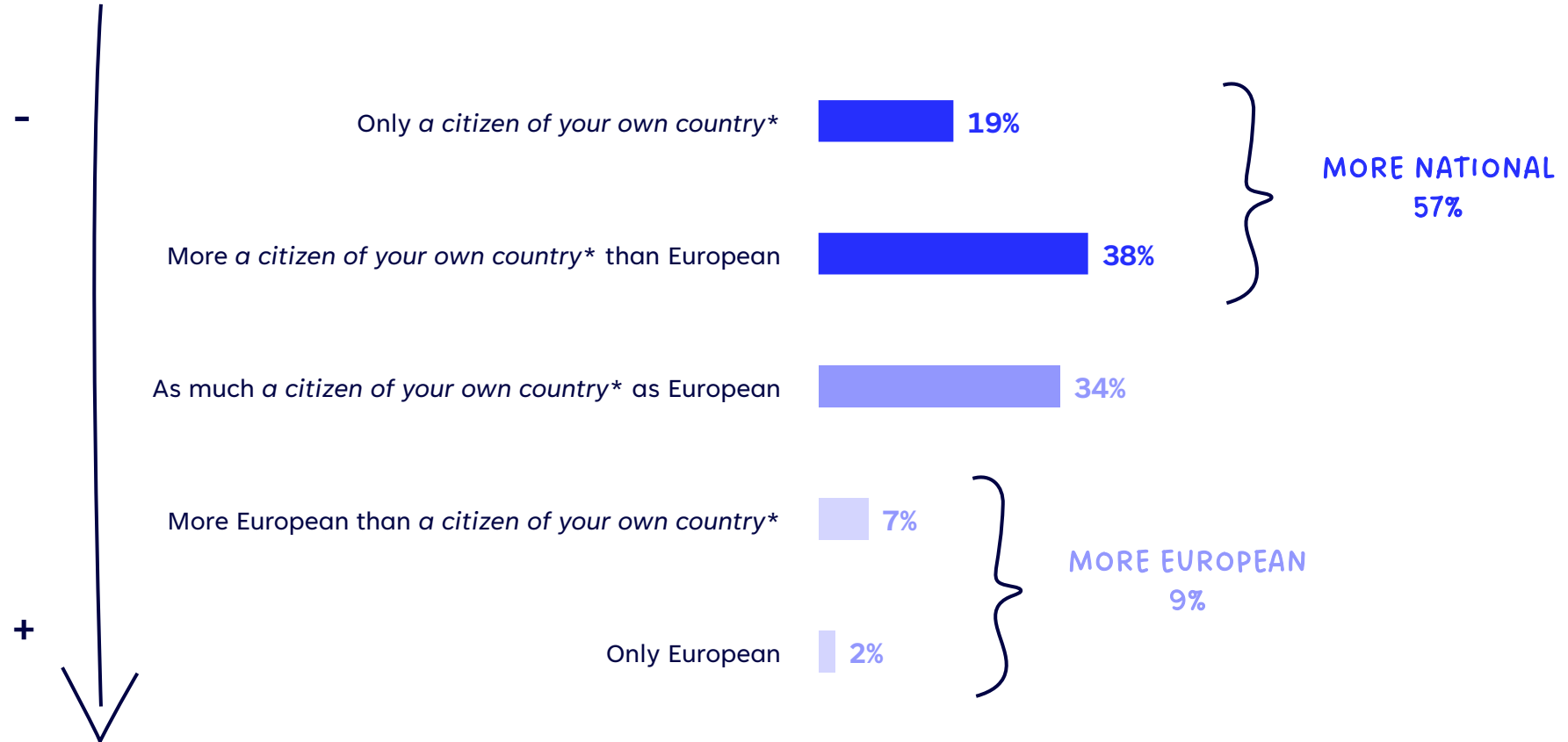
Base: to all

Sense of belonging to Europe

EU citizens feel closer to their country than to Europe, but only 1 out of 5 do not feel European at all



Sense of belonging to Europe



Q4. Do you personally feel...?

Base: to all

*The wording was adapted for each country. For example, in Spain, it was replaced by "Spanish".

Sense of belonging to Europe – Results by country

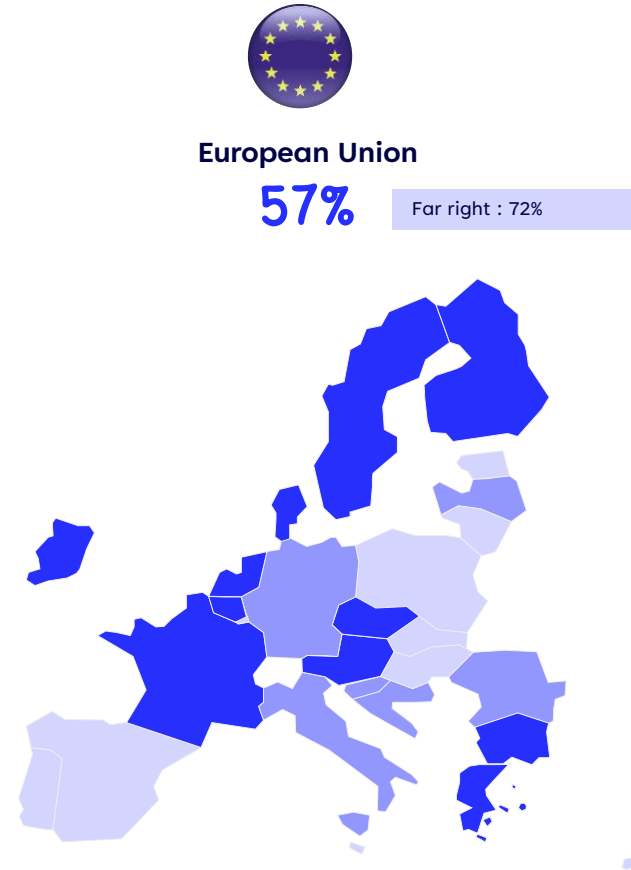
% MORE NATIONAL

Above average

Sweden	71%
Netherlands	68%
Denmark	68%
Finland	68%
Ireland	65%
Czech Republic	65%
France	64%
Bulgaria	64%
Austria	61%
Greece	61%
Belgium	61%

Average

Slovenia	60%
Croatia	58%
Italy	58%
Latvia	56%
Germany	55%
Romania	55%



Below average

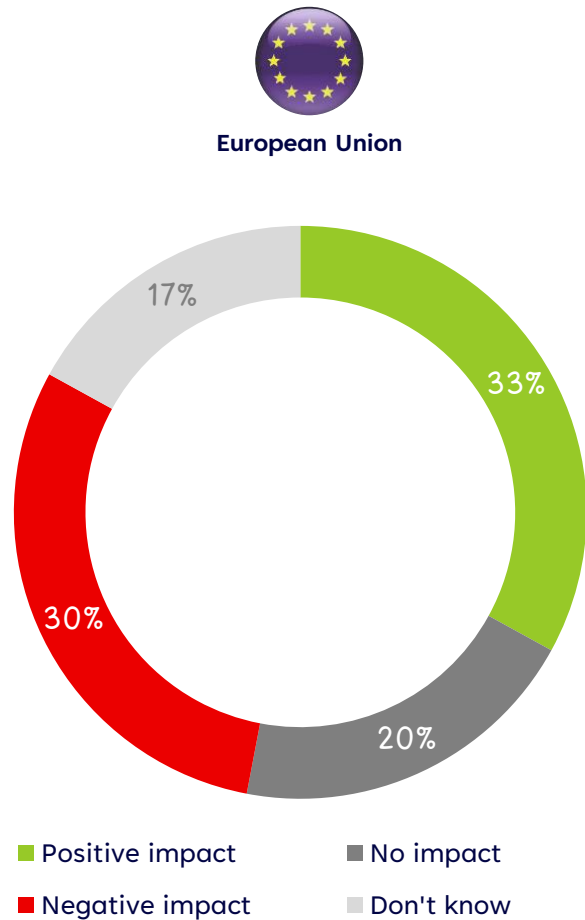
Portugal	54%
Estonia	53%
Lithuania	53%
Slovakia	53%
Poland	49%
Cyprus	49%
Hungary	46%
Spain	46%
Malta	42%
Luxembourg	38%

Q4. Do you personally feel...?

Base: to all

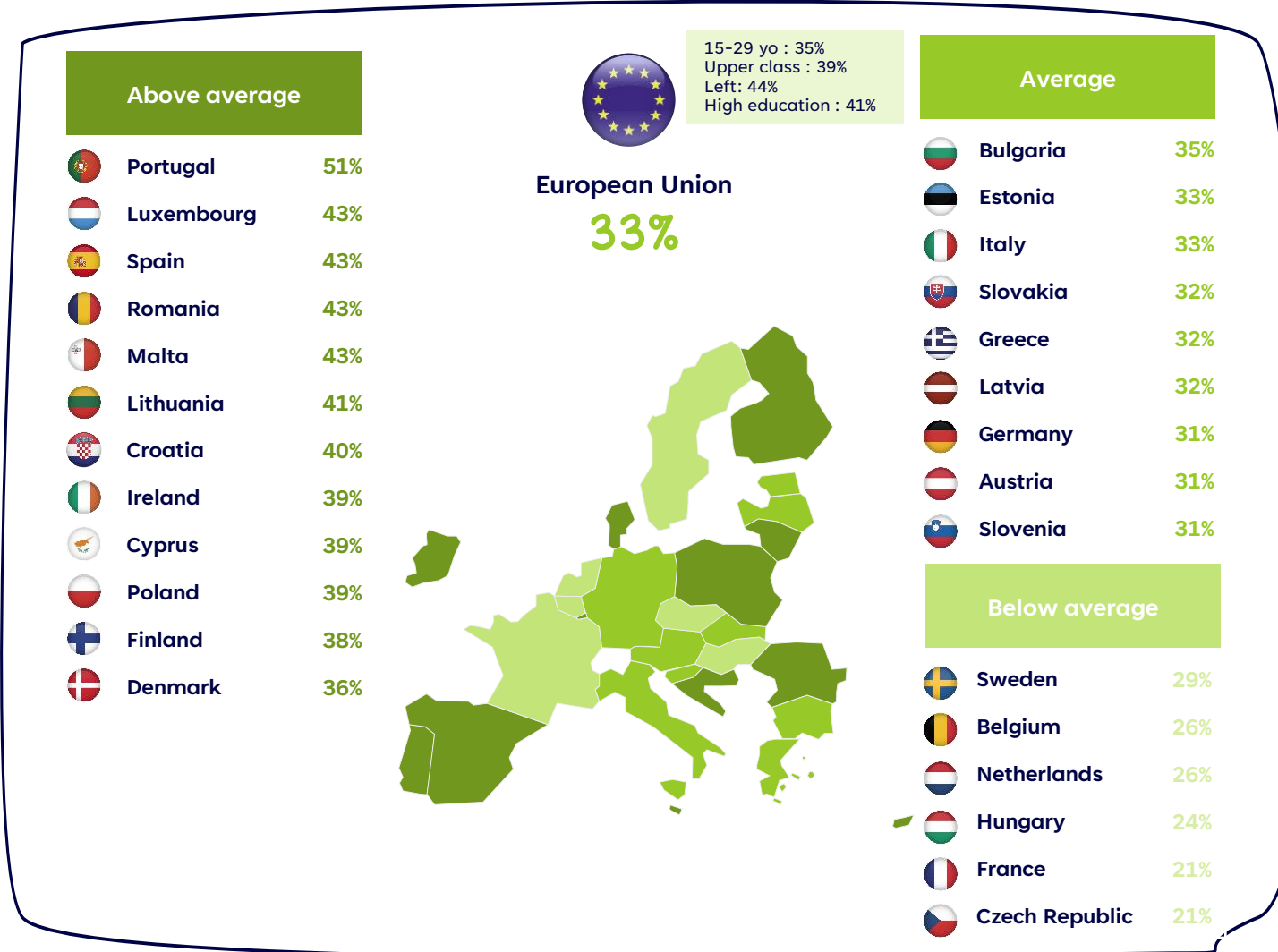
Global impact of European Union decisions

Positive impact of the EU is not clearly seen by citizens



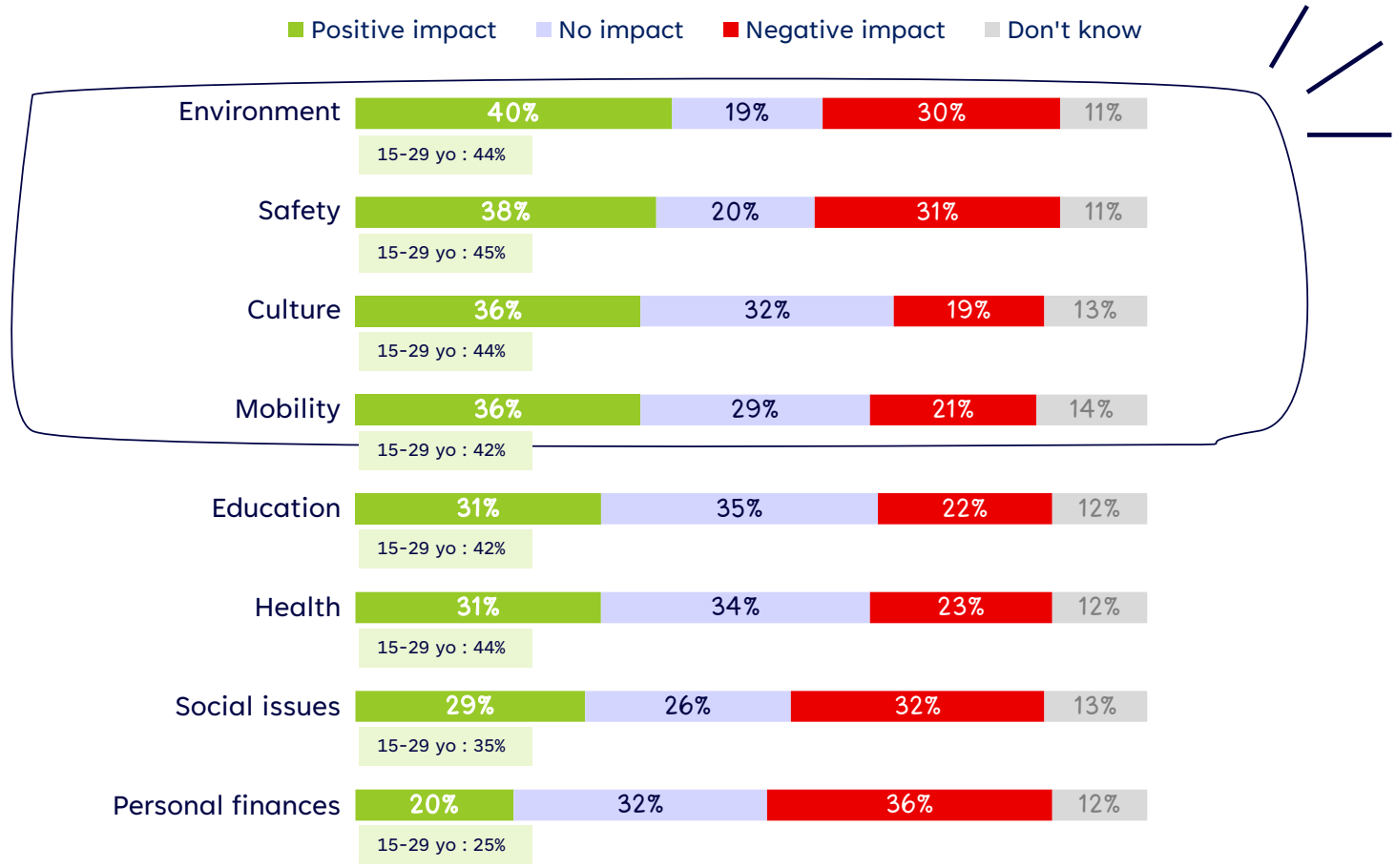
Q7. Would you say that, overall, the European Union's decisions have a positive, negative or no impact on your life?
Base: to all

% POSITIVE IMPACT



Detailed impact of European Union decisions

The impact of EU decisions is better seen as far as the environment and safety are concerned (whether it is positive nor negative). The impact on social issues and personal finances is mostly seen as negative.



Q8. More specifically, would you say that in each of the following areas, the European Union's decisions have an impact on your life?

Base: to all

Impact of European Union decisions - Results by country

% Positive impact

	European Union	Austria	Belgium	Bulgaria	Croatia	Cyprus	Czech - Republic	Denmark	Estonia	Finland	France	Germany	Greece	Hungary	Ireland	Italy	Latvia	Lithuania	Luxembourg	Malta	Netherlands	Poland	Portugal	Romania	Slovakia	Slovenia	Spain	Sweden
Environment	40%	33%	34%	43%	48%	52%	31%	40%	37%	45%	29%	35%	44%	30%	48%	44%	38%	43%	47%	45%	32%	47%	60%	49%	38%	40%	50%	35%
Safety	38%	30%	34%	36%	38%	37%	31%	49%	47%	48%	26%	34%	35%	25%	38%	37%	47%	56%	45%	41%	38%	51%	54%	49%	38%	38%	49%	40%
Culture	36%	28%	29%	39%	39%	43%	34%	31%	40%	36%	30%	33%	39%	24%	36%	42%	38%	40%	41%	44%	23%	42%	49%	38%	37%	37%	48%	30%
Mobility	36%	33%	27%	50%	50%	38%	27%	35%	53%	47%	28%	30%	34%	27%	37%	34%	44%	42%	50%	48%	30%	44%	52%	44%	42%	48%	49%	43%
Education	31%	29%	23%	35%	39%	43%	32%	26%	36%	31%	20%	29%	32%	20%	37%	33%	31%	27%	42%	53%	22%	35%	44%	41%	36%	39%	42%	31%
Health	31%	27%	35%	32%	31%	46%	26%	23%	30%	25%	27%	24%	30%	18%	32%	34%	28%	32%	39%	54%	25%	37%	44%	42%	29%	24%	43%	23%
Social issues	29%	24%	24%	32%	34%	40%	18%	24%	29%	20%	19%	24%	39%	21%	33%	33%	26%	35%	32%	45%	24%	37%	48%	38%	26%	27%	39%	27%
Personal finances	20%	15%	15%	24%	27%	24%	15%	19%	13%	16%	13%	16%	19%	15%	21%	20%	16%	20%	28%	26%	15%	27%	33%	30%	23%	16%	27%	16%

Q8. More specifically, would you say that in each of the following areas, the European Union's decisions have an impact on your life?

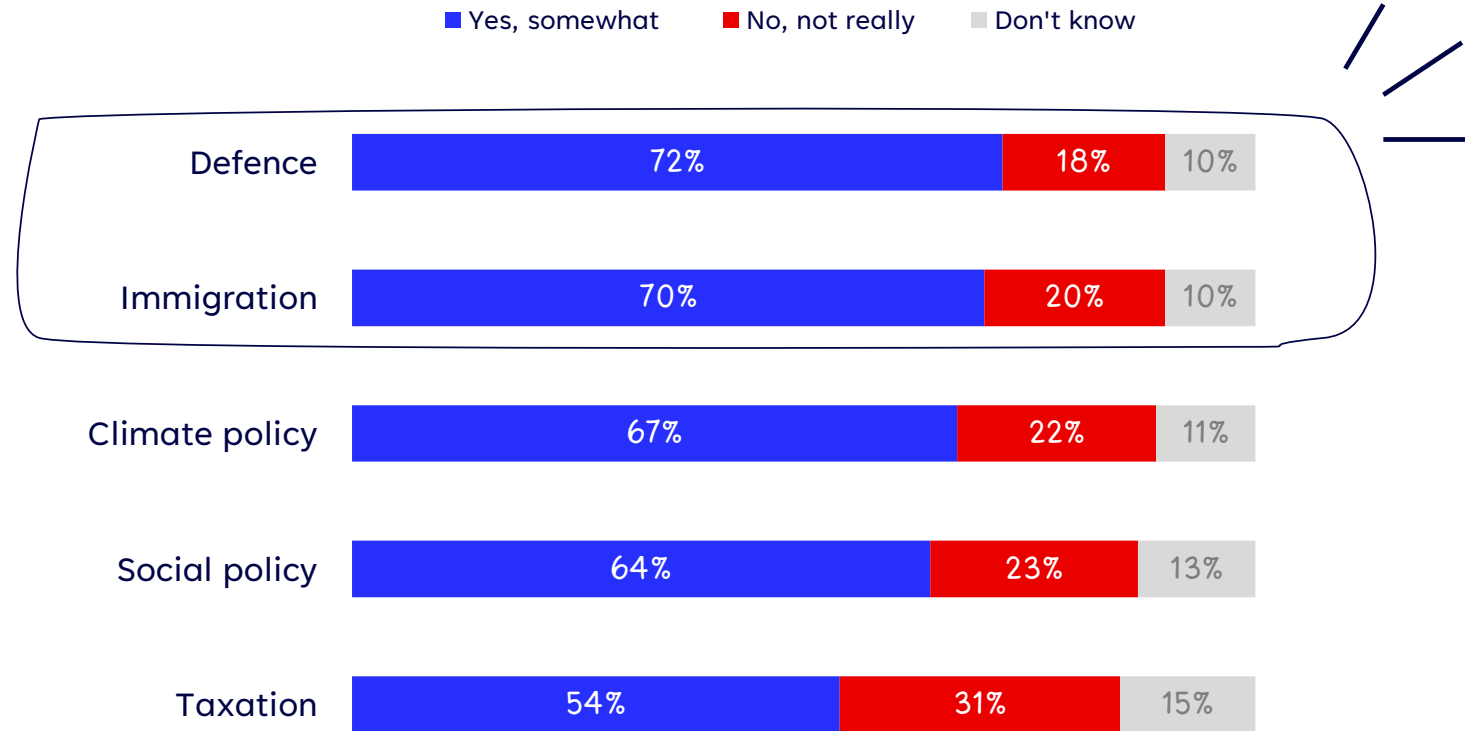
Base: to all

Strengthening the European common policy

A need of European common policy, especially on Defense and Immigration.



European Union



Q9. In your opinion, should Europe strengthen its common policy on...

Base: to all

Strengthening the European common policy – Results by country

% Yes, somewhat

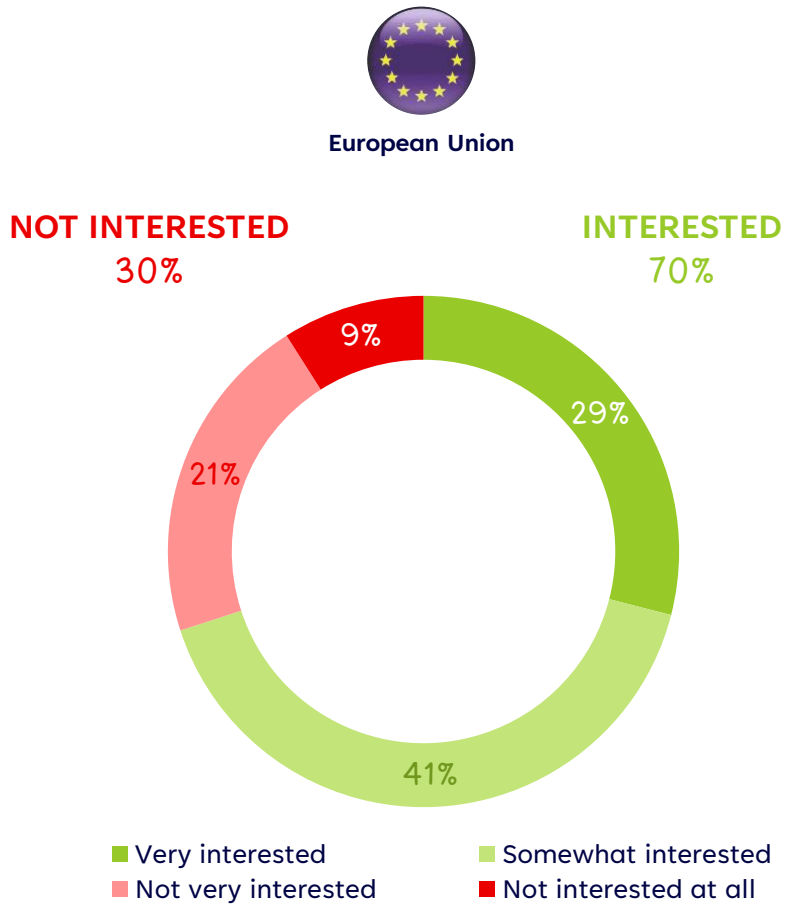
	European Union	Austria	Belgium	Bulgaria	Croatia	Cyprus	Czech - Republic	Denmark	Estonia	Finland	France	Germany	Greece	Hungary	Ireland	Italy	Latvia	Lithuania	Luxembourg	Malta	Netherlands	Poland	Portugal	Romania	Slovakia	Slovenia	Spain	Sweden
Defence	72%	64%	73%	72%	69%	48%	67%	68%	83%	78%	72%	71%	50%	79%	62%	71%	80%	81%	68%	60%	70%	81%	81%	80%	69%	69%	69%	68%
Immigration	70%	70%	70%	76%	71%	50%	69%	61%	68%	64%	66%	69%	48%	72%	73%	78%	69%	67%	60%	84%	70%	65%	80%	71%	62%	82%	79%	66%
Climate policy	67%	65%	66%	67%	69%	56%	41%	71%	51%	62%	68%	65%	57%	71%	65%	74%	57%	58%	68%	73%	62%	63%	78%	70%	61%	65%	74%	66%
Social policy	64%	61%	63%	75%	70%	55%	59%	44%	63%	50%	59%	63%	52%	72%	60%	70%	69%	65%	54%	56%	50%	62%	76%	72%	65%	72%	77%	48%
Taxation	54%	52%	60%	45%	61%	38%	51%	34%	45%	42%	55%	52%	38%	59%	45%	61%	68%	59%	55%	44%	42%	41%	57%	73%	40%	52%	65%	42%

Q9. In your opinion, should Europe strengthen its common policy on...

Base: to all

Interest in European Elections

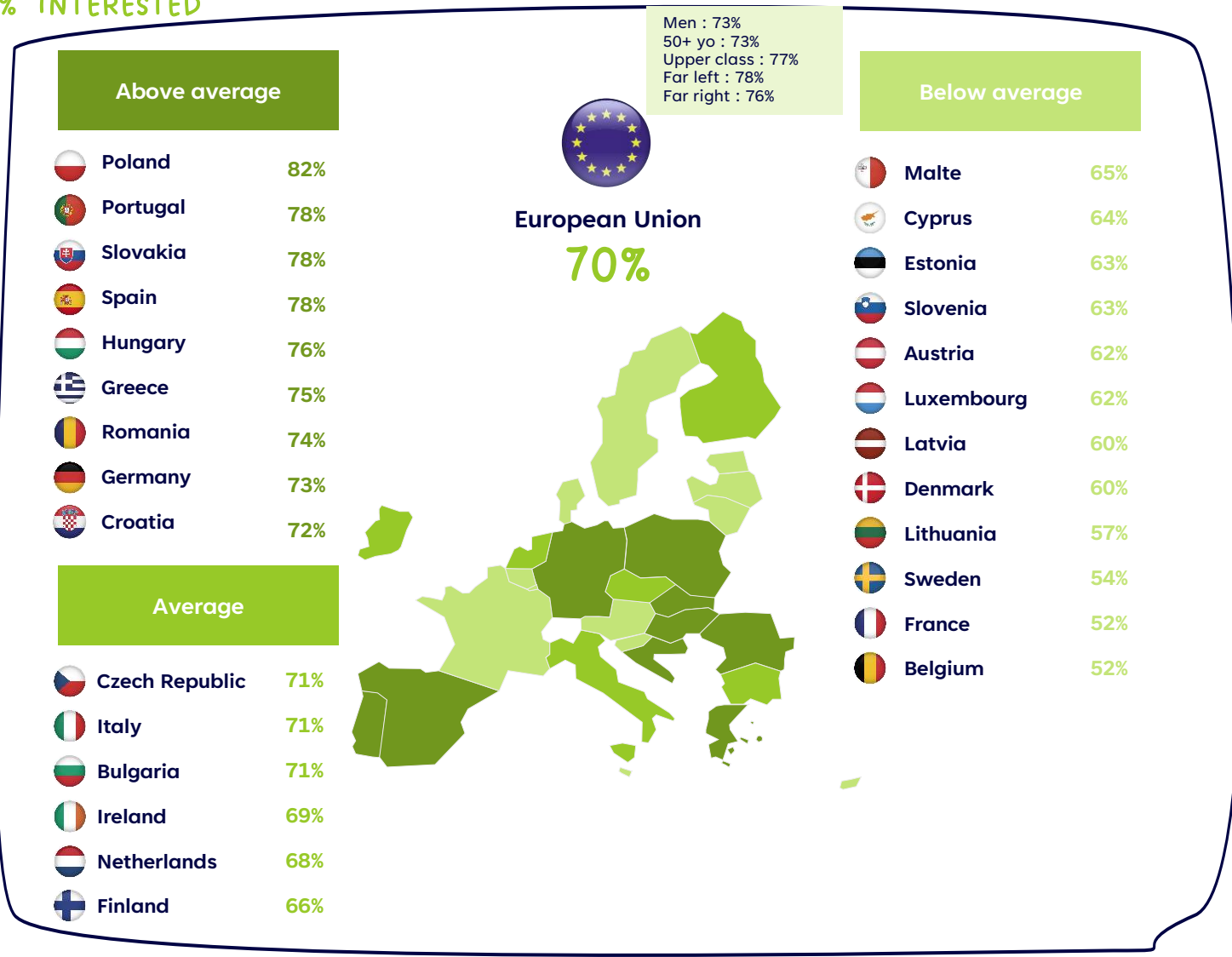
More than 2/3 of Europeans say they are interested in the coming European elections



Q5. The European elections, which elect the Members of the European Parliament, will take place on 9 June 2024. Are you interested in these European elections ?

Base: to all

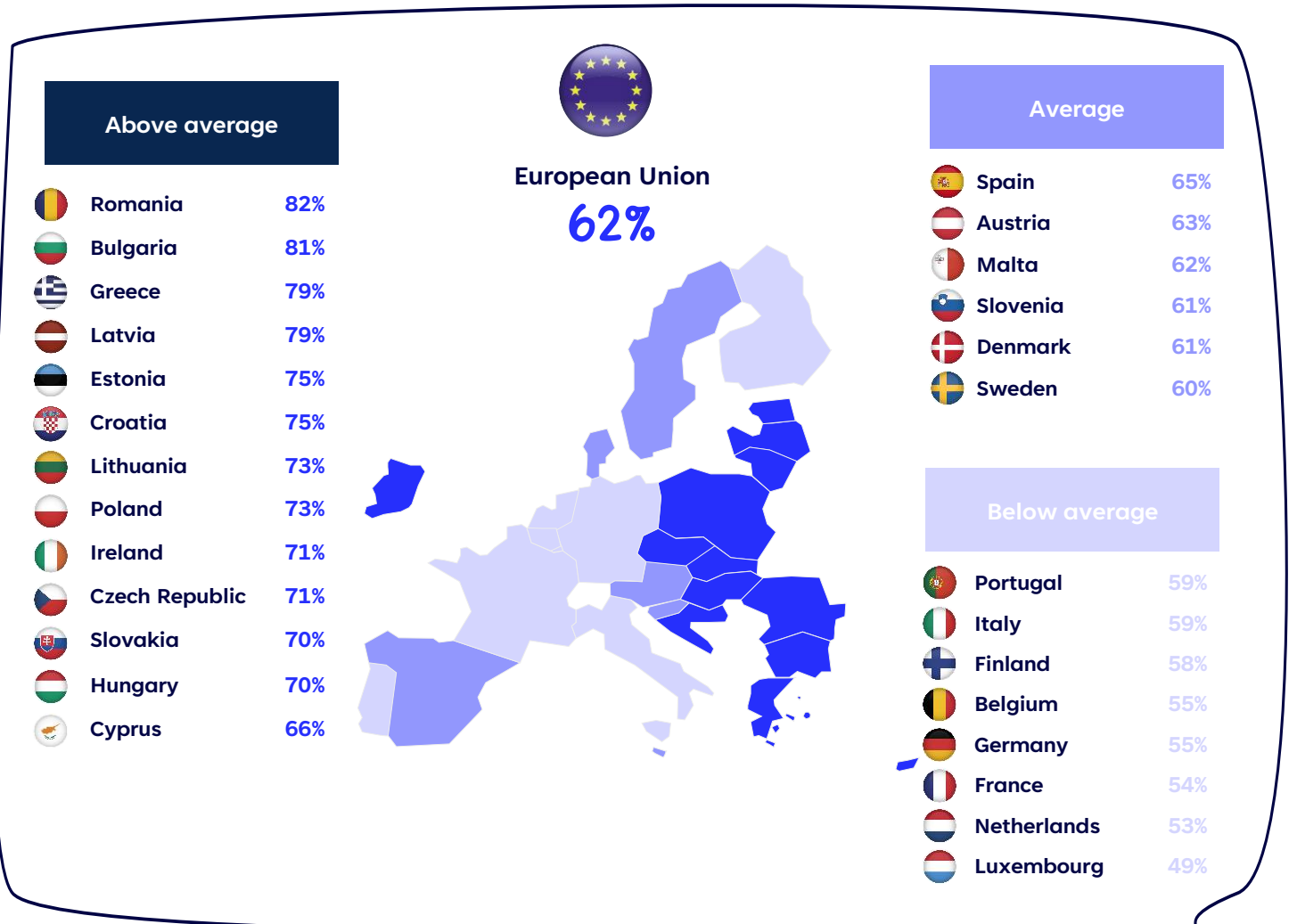
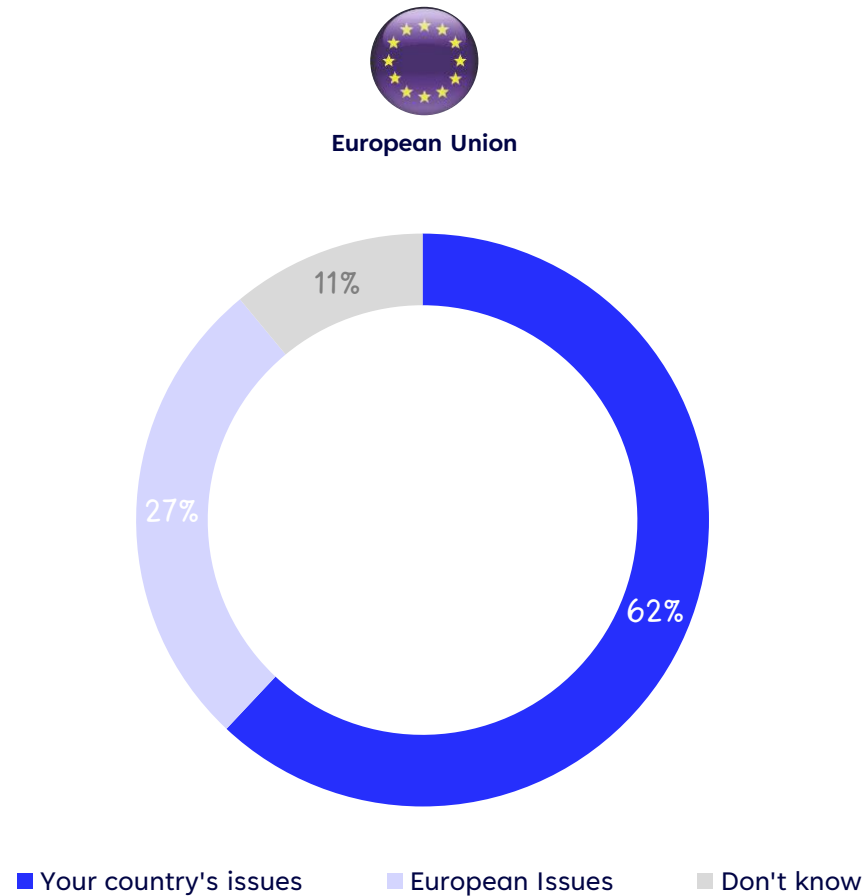
% INTERESTED



Consideration between national or European priorities

If they were to vote, the majority of Europeans would first consider national priorities, particularly in the countries that joined the European Union most recently

% NATIONAL CONSIDERATION



Q6. Whether you decide to vote or not, would you consider above all...

Base: to potential voters (according to the voting age in each country)

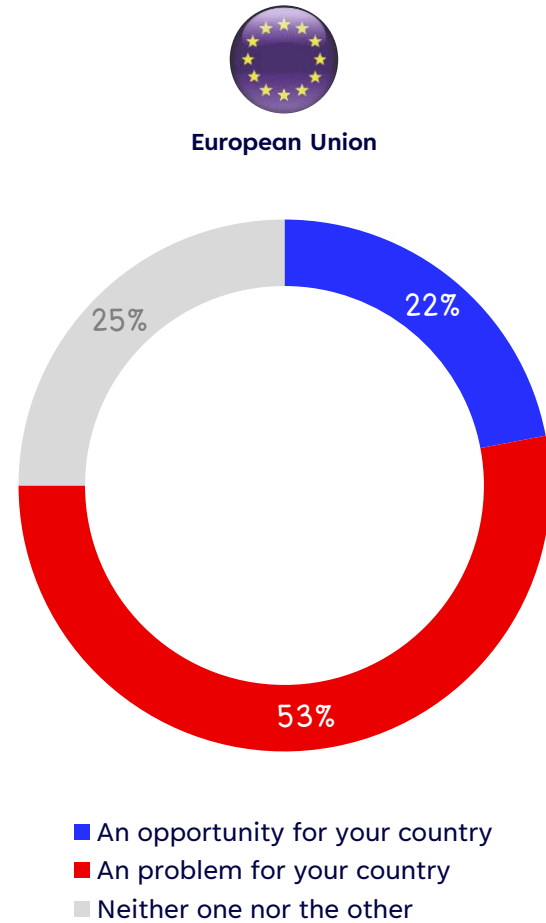


02

MIGRATIONS

Perception of immigration in Europe

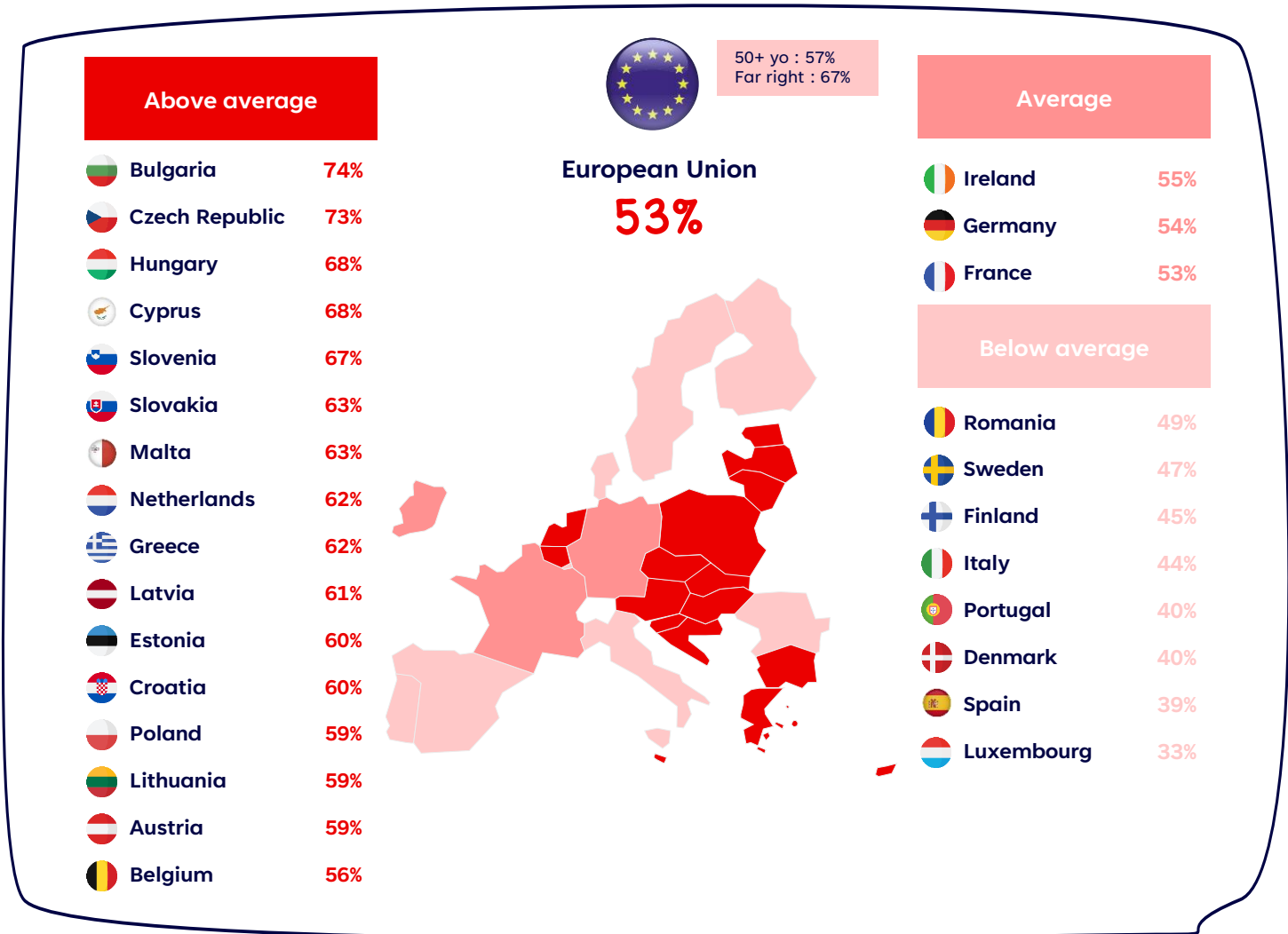
For a majority of EU citizens, immigration is a problem for their country, especially in the Eastern countries



Q10. In general, do you think immigration is...

Base: to all

% PROBLEM FOR YOUR COUNTRY



Perception of immigration

7 out of 10 Europeans believe that their country takes in too many migrants and they are broadly in favor of greater control on immigration. The idea of setting quotas at a global level tends to be approved.



European Union

■ Tend to agree ■ Tend to disagree ■ No answer*

The European Union needs to take more action to combat illegal immigration



Quotas should be introduced for each country at European level for the reception of migrants



Your country takes in too many migrants



On the whole, migrants are well received in your country



Europe needs immigration today



Q11. Do you agree or disagree with each of the following statements?

Base: to all

*Item not suggested

Perception of immigration – Results by country

% Tend to agree

	European Union	Austria	Belgium	Bulgaria	Croatia	Cyprus	Czech - Republic	Denmark	Estonia	Finland	France	Germany	Greece	Hungary	Ireland	Italy	Latvia	Lithuania	Luxembourg	Malta	Netherlands	Poland	Portugal	Romania	Slovakia	Slovenia	Spain	Sweden
The European Union needs to take more action to combat illegal immigration	85%	89%	86%	88%	86%	86%	86%	79%	86%	86%	82%	82%	89%	85%	88%	87%	85%	88%	79%	81%	88%	88%	91%	80%	82%	88%	84%	80%
Quotas should be introduced for each country at European level for the reception of migrants	74%	72%	76%	71%	76%	83%	39%	71%	60%	63%	76%	79%	88%	49%	79%	81%	64%	62%	74%	78%	79%	59%	76%	64%	50%	71%	78%	73%
Your country takes in too many migrants	71%	77%	73%	76%	73%	84%	72%	57%	68%	62%	70%	77%	90%	54%	78%	74%	61%	63%	69%	77%	79%	67%	75%	57%	57%	75%	70%	70%
On the whole, migrants are well received in your country	59%	68%	73%	36%	69%	61%	33%	67%	67%	60%	63%	65%	66%	30%	60%	52%	69%	63%	79%	50%	67%	35%	78%	58%	54%	64%	68%	64%
Europe needs immigration today	39%	37%	35%	19%	39%	31%	17%	46%	17%	47%	38%	44%	27%	22%	45%	47%	21%	28%	47%	45%	28%	31%	50%	33%	23%	26%	50%	40%

Q11. Do you agree or disagree with each of the following statements?

Base: to all

Reasons to be in favor of immigration

Those who are in favor of more immigration in Europe think it is important to compensate shortage labour



Only 39% say Europe need immigration today



To **compensate for a shortage of labour** in certain professions



To **alleviate the birth rate crisis** in Europe and limit the ageing of the population



To **show solidarity** with suffering peoples



To **promote Europe's cultural diversity**



To **benefit from certain types of expertise** (better diplomas, experts, etc.)



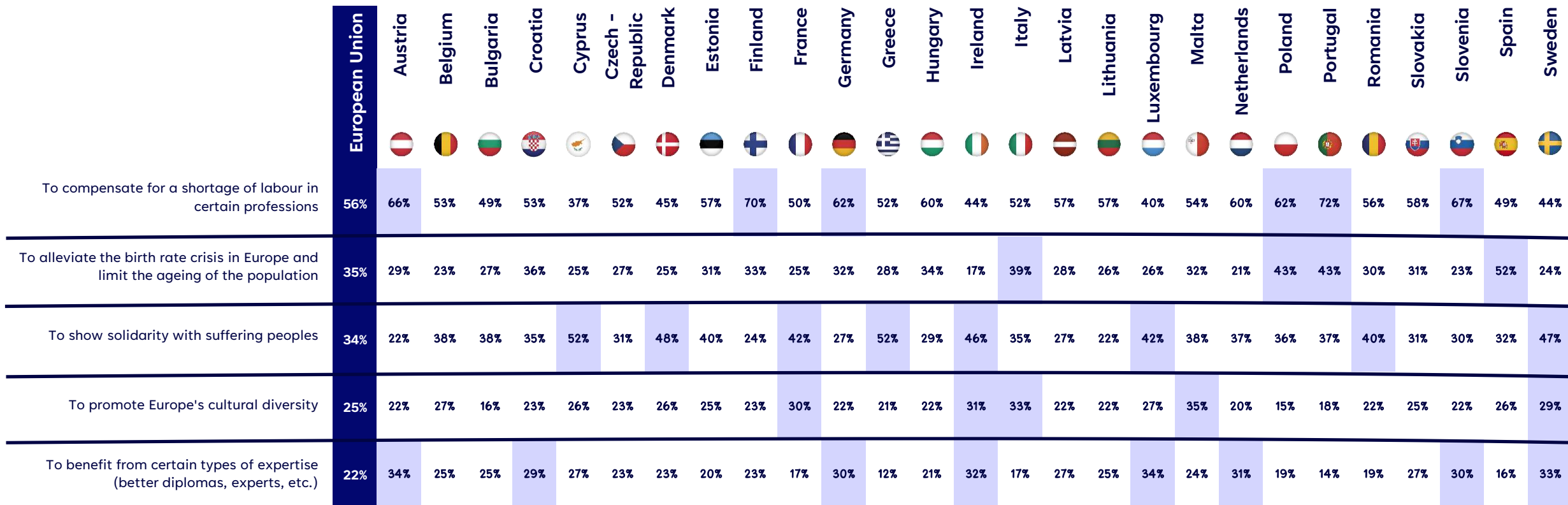
None of the above



Q12. You said that Europe needs immigration today. What do you think are the main reasons?

Base: to people who think Europe needs immigration / Maximum 2 answers possible

Reasons to be in favor of immigration – Results by country



Q12. You said that Europe needs immigration today. What do you think are the main reasons?

Base: to people who think Europe needs immigration / Maximum 2 answers possible



03

WAR

Feeling about a potential imminent war between Europe and Russia

A large majority of European fear this threat ; less than a third of them believe that Europe has enough resources to defend itself



European Union

■ Tend to agree ■ Tend to disagree ■ Don't know

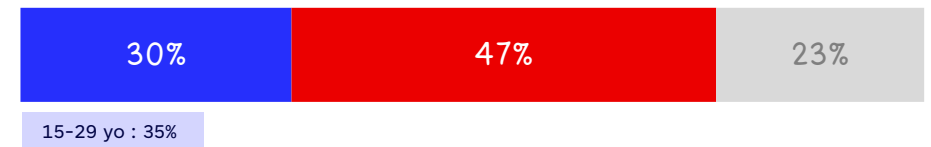
Today, I fear the threat of an imminent war in Europe with Russia



We need a European army, common to all member countries



Europe has sufficient military equipment to defend itself in the event of military aggression (even without the support of the United States)

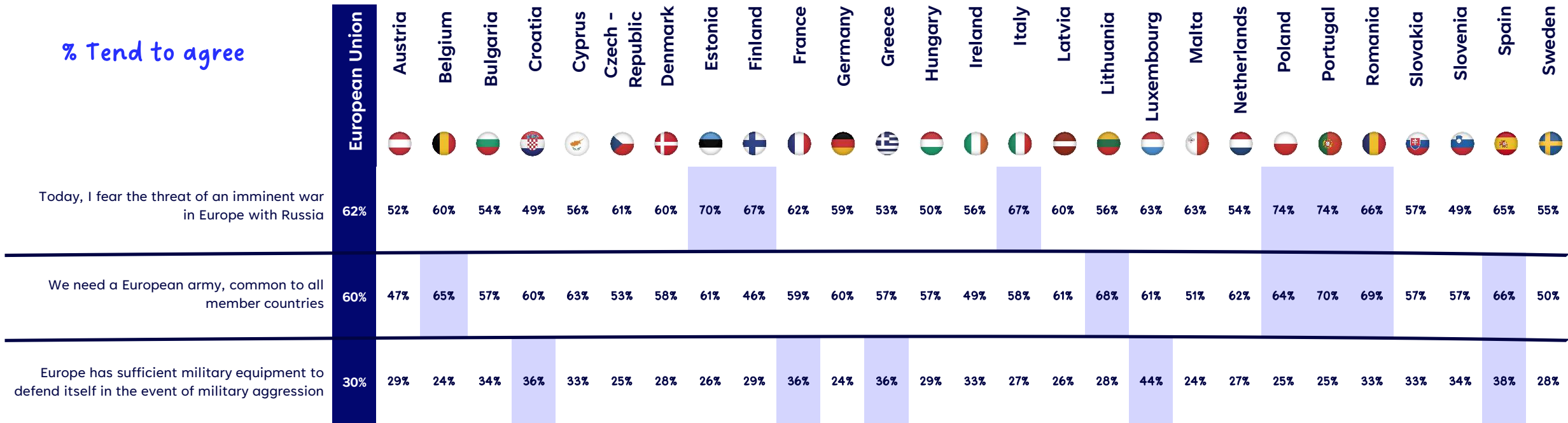


Q13. Do you agree or disagree with each of the following statements?

Base: to all

Opinion about war - Results by country

% Tend to agree



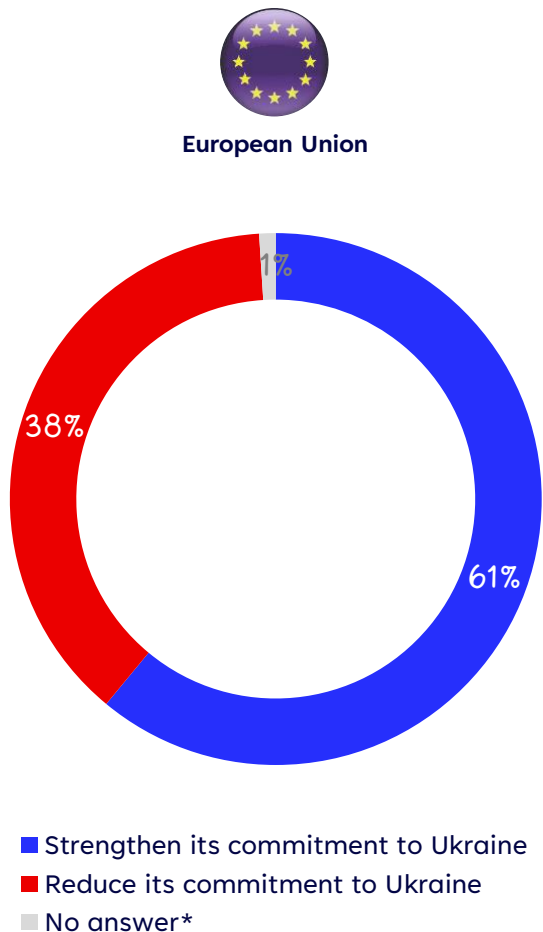
Q13. Do you agree or disagree with each of the following statements?

Base: to all

Perception of EU support for Ukraine

For most Europeans, the EU must step up its support for Ukraine – but some countries are more reluctant to this idea

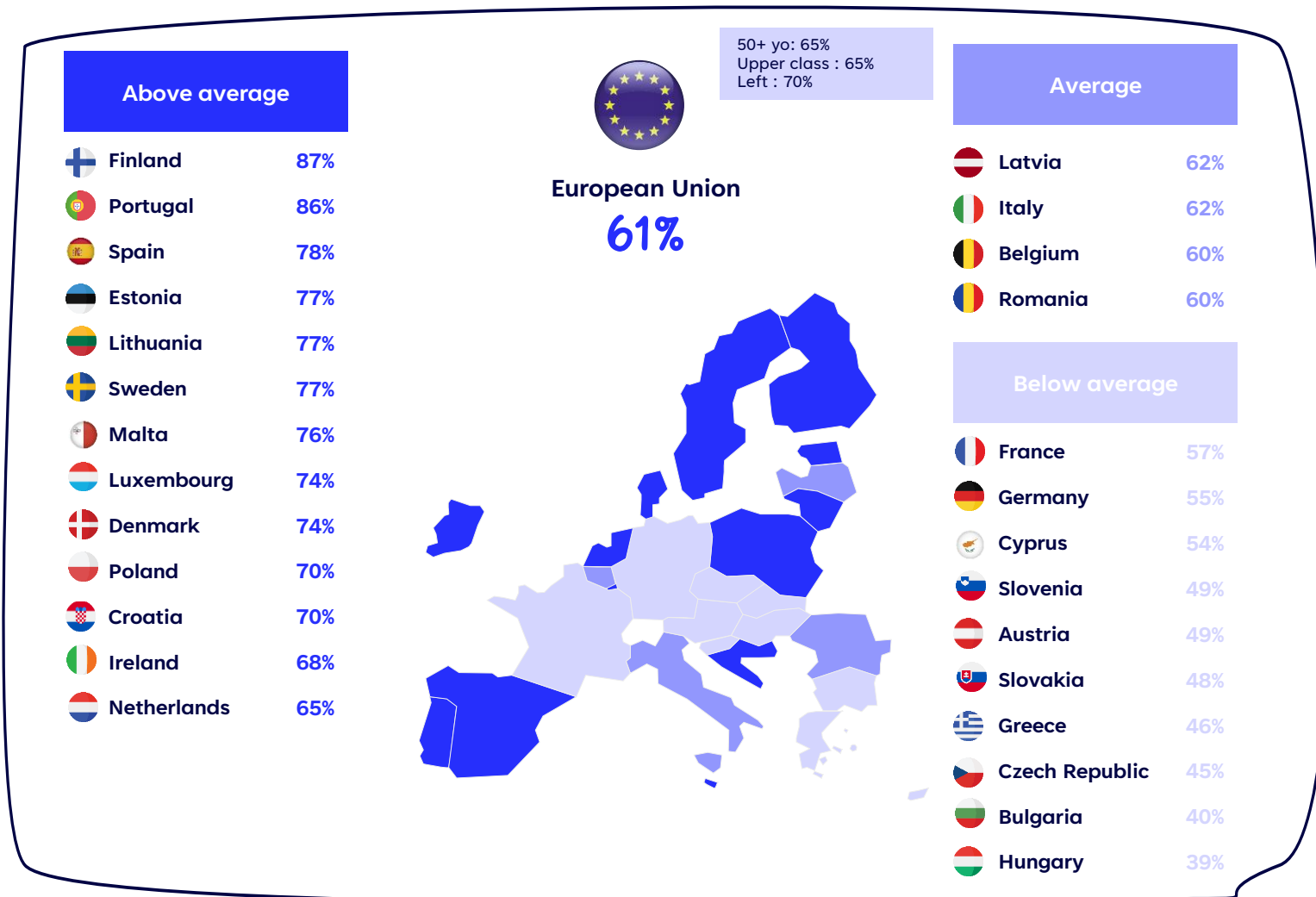
% STRENGTHEN ITS COMMITMENT



*Item not suggested

Q14. With regard to the conflict in Ukraine, overall would you say that the European Union should...

Base: to all



Perception of the EU's alternatives in the conflict in Ukraine

Nearly two thirds of Europeans are ready to negotiate with Vladimir Putin hoping for peace ; they are also strongly opposed to sending armed troops



European Union

% Yes, somewhat

Negotiate a **ceasefire with Vladimir Putin**



Maintain **economic sanctions against Russia** (freezing of Russian assets, no visas, etc.)



Increase its **economic aid to Ukraine**



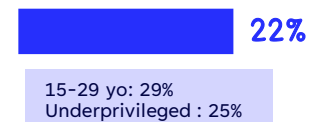
Increase its **military aid to Ukraine** (arms, tanks, etc.)



Take in **more Ukrainian refugees**



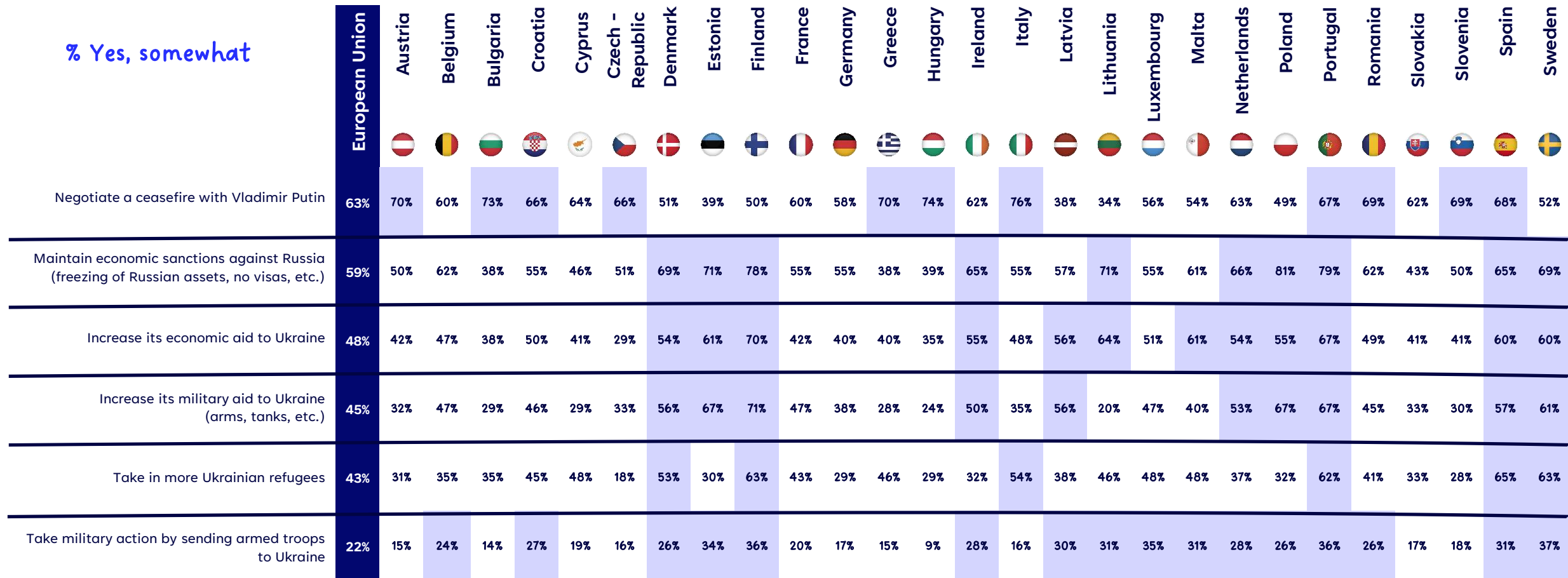
Take **military action** by sending armed troops to Ukraine



Q15. Still on the subject of the conflict in Ukraine, would you say that the European Union should... ?

Base: to all

Perception of the EU's alternatives in the conflict in Ukraine - Results by country

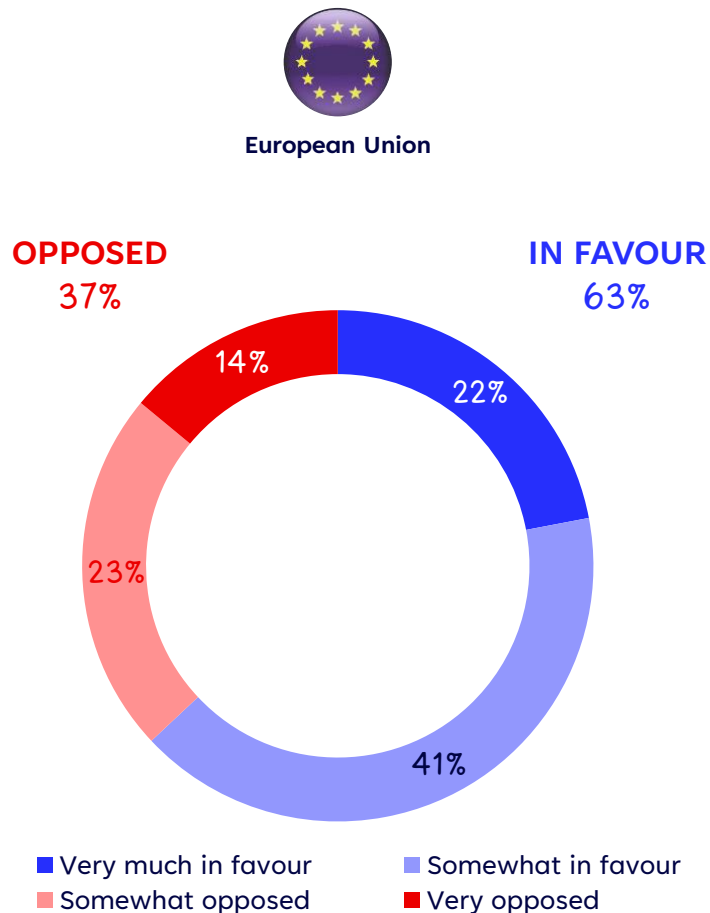


Q15. Still on the subject of the conflict in Ukraine, would you say that the European Union should... ?

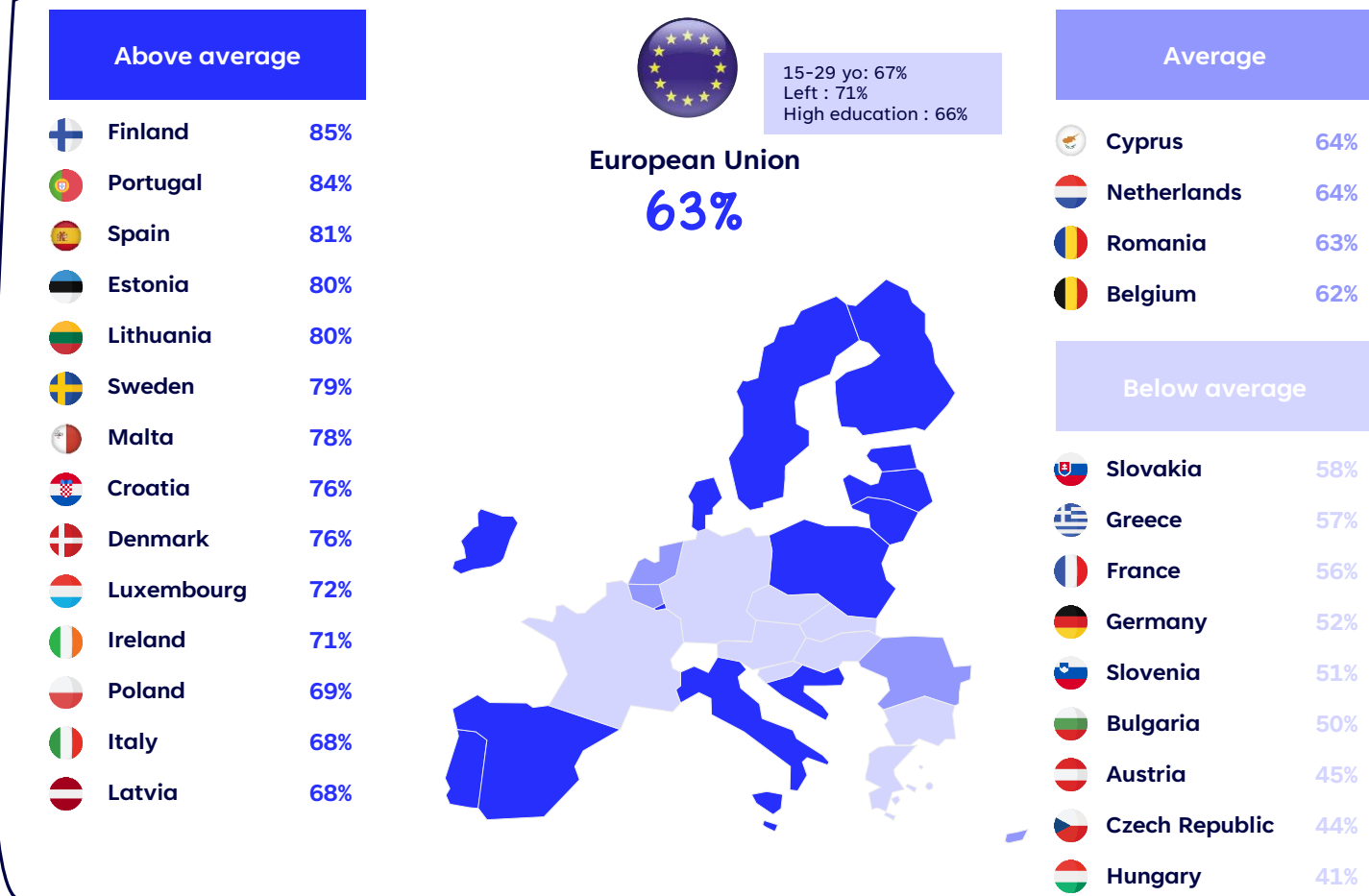
Base: to all

Opinion about Ukraine joining the European Union

The potential idea of Ukraine joining the EU receives a predominantly positive reception, except in Hungary, Czech Republic and Austria.



% IN FAVOUR



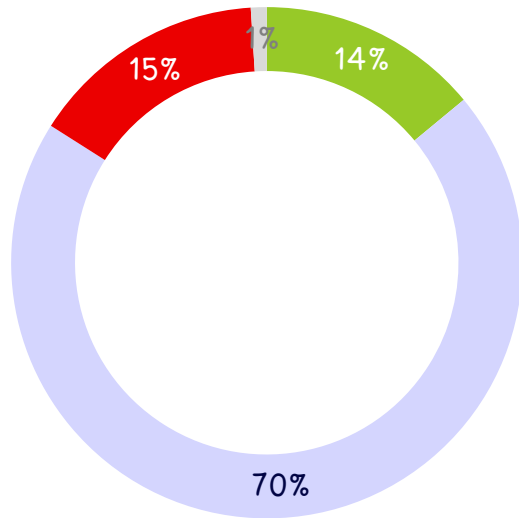
Q16. Are you in favor of or opposed to Ukraine joining the European Union?

Base: to all

Feeling European since the war in Ukraine

The conflict in Ukraine seems to have a limited impact on the feeling of belonging to Europe

% MORE EUROPEAN THAN BEFORE

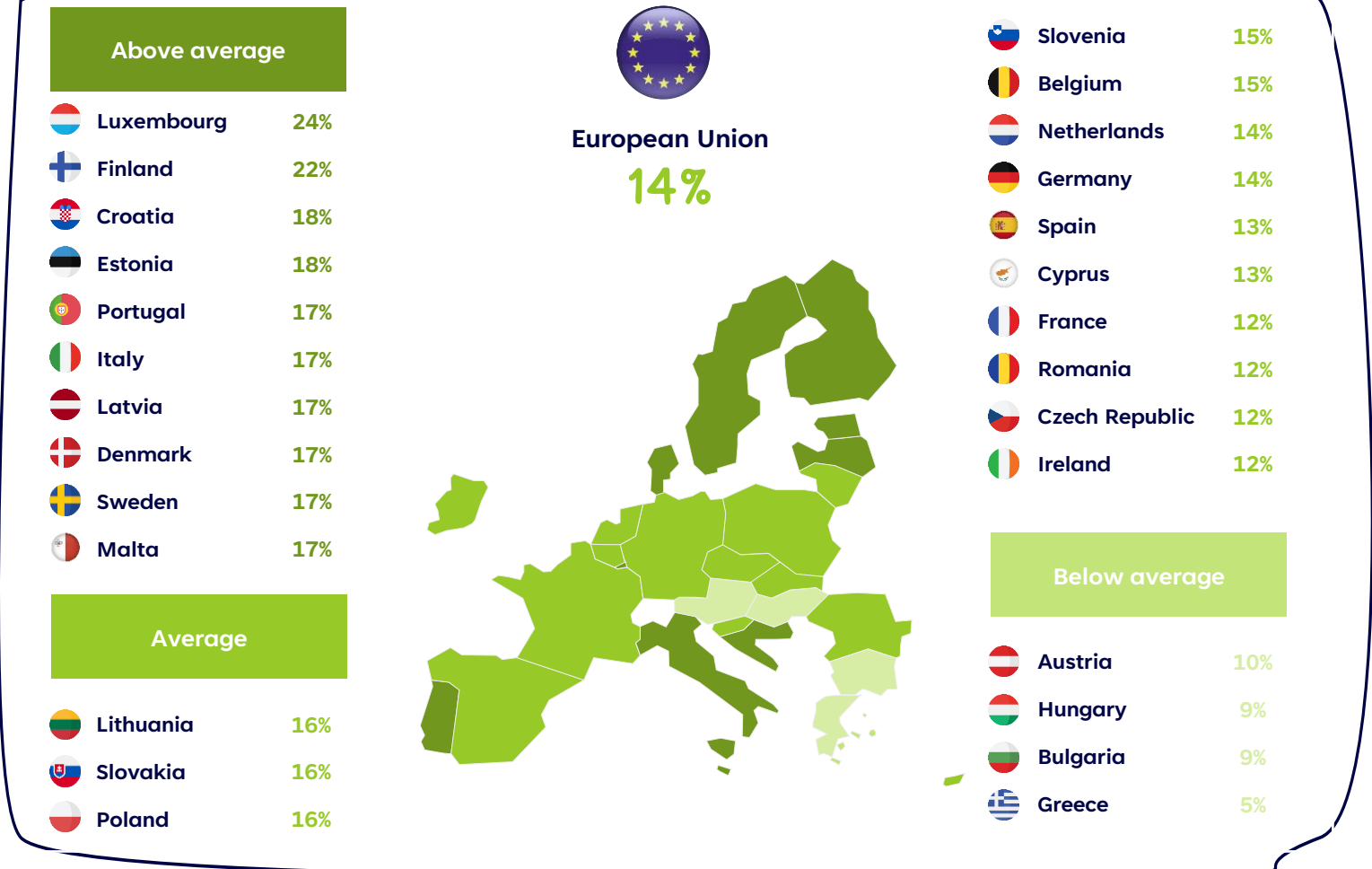


■ More European than before
 ■ Just as European as before
■ Less European than before
 ■ No answer*

*Item not suggested

Q17. Since the start of the war in Ukraine, do you feel...

Base: to all



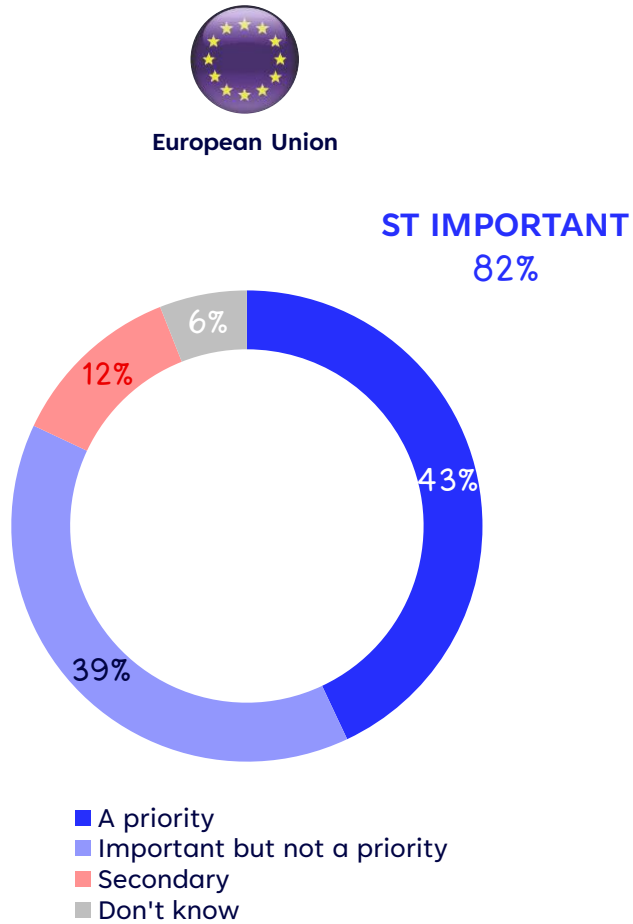


04

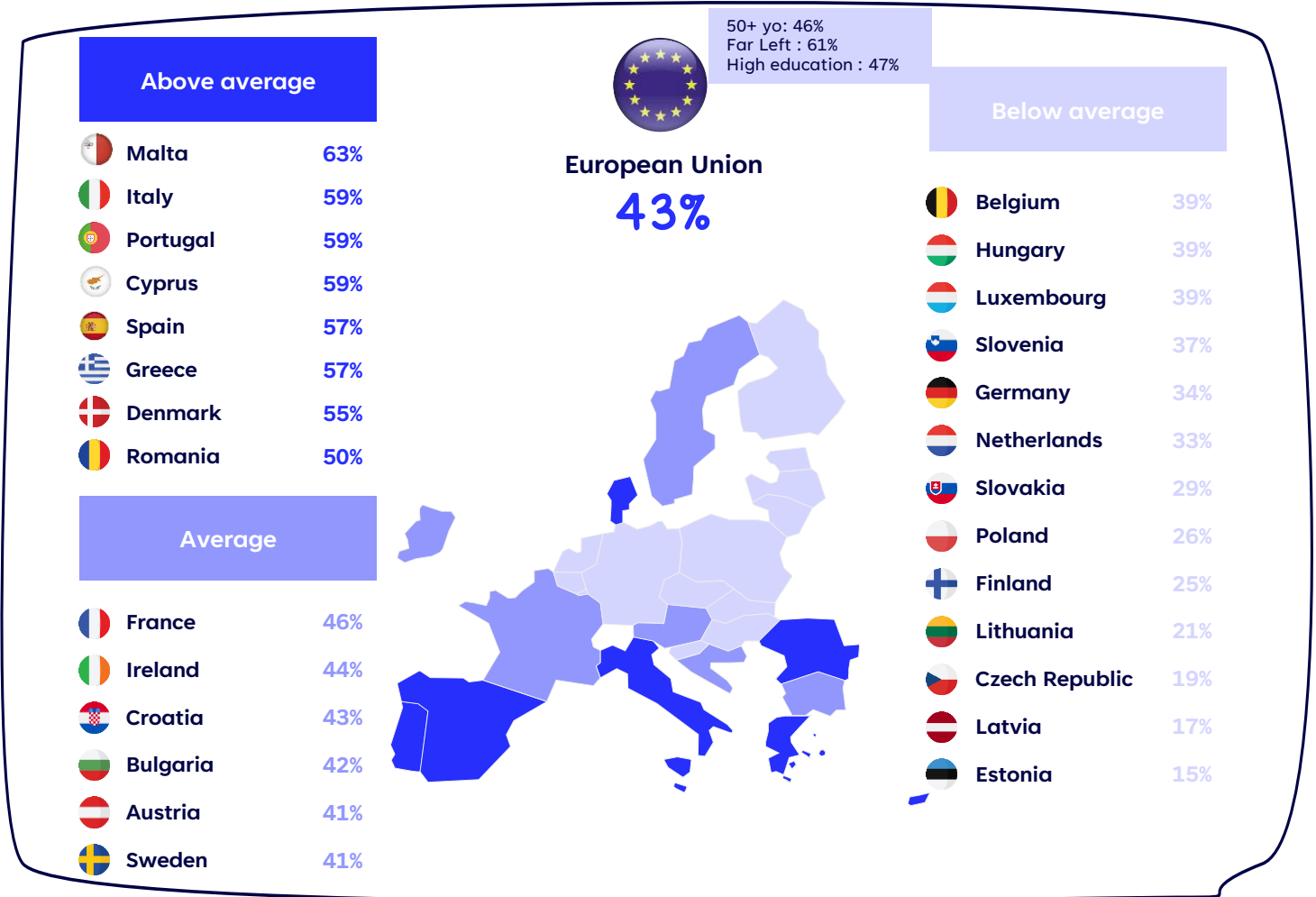
ENVIRONMENT

Concern about fight against climate change

The fight against climate change is important for 82% of Europeans, and a priority for 43% of them



% A PRIORITY

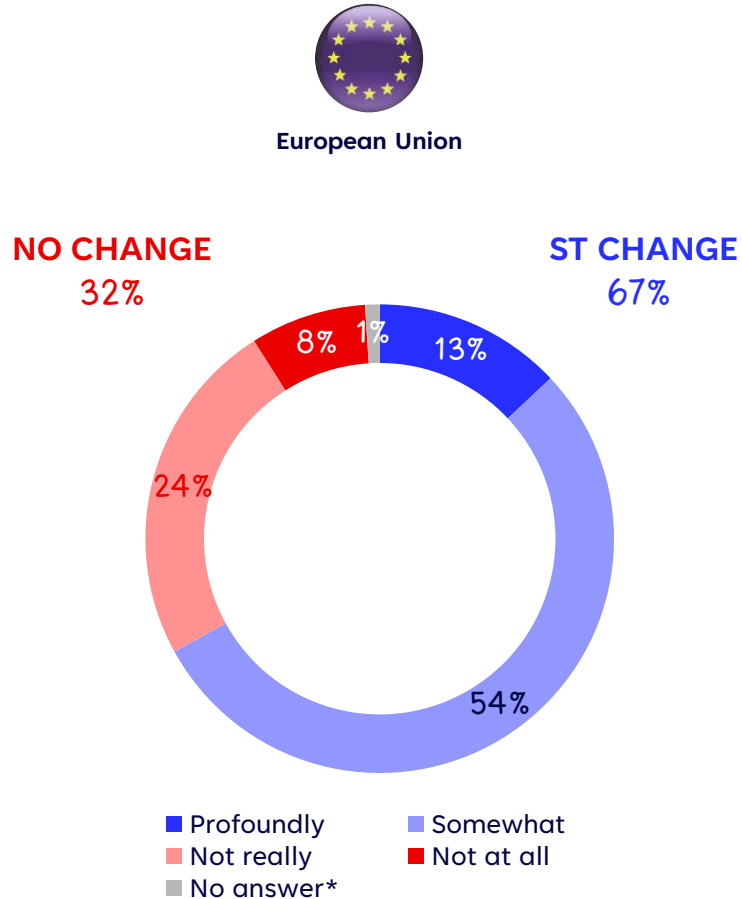


Q18. In your opinion, for the European Union, the fight against climate change should be...?

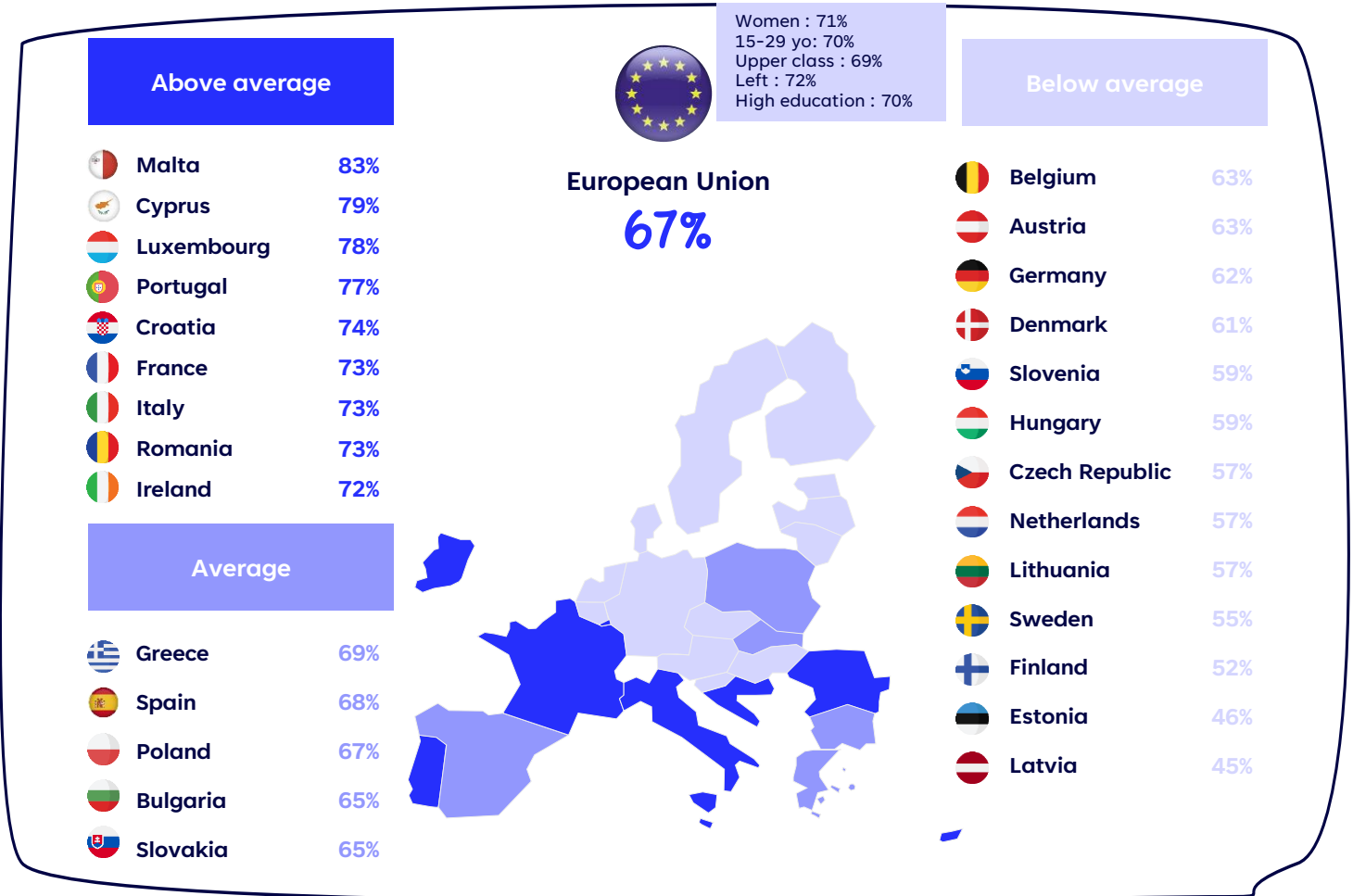
Base: to all

Lifestyle changes to limit the impact on the environment

Only a few Europeans have deeply changed their lifestyles in the last 12 months to limit their impact on the environment



% CHANGE IN THE LIFESTYLE



*Item not suggested

Q19. In the last 12 months, have you changed your lifestyle to limit your impact on the environment?

Base: to all

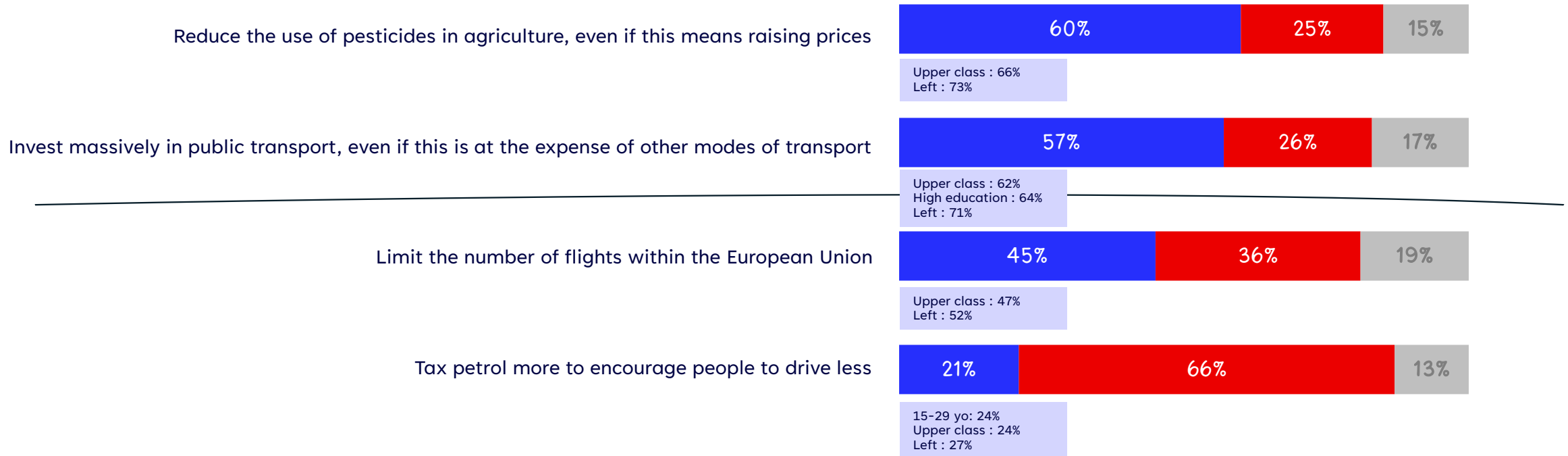
Opinion about measures in favor of the environment

The fight against pesticides and investment in public transport tend to be approved by a majority of EU citizens, unlike the increase of taxes which is strongly disapproved.



European Union

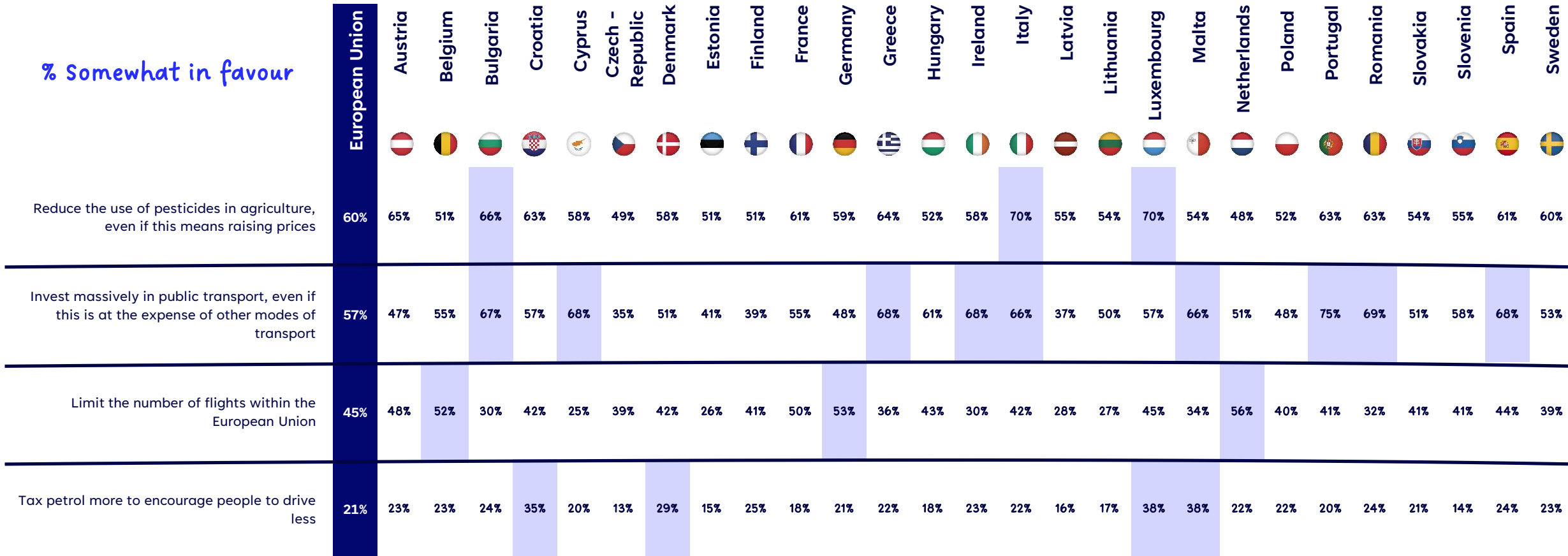
■ Somewhat in favour ■ Somewhat against ■ Don't know



Q20. Are you in favor or against Europe adopting each of the following measures and applying them to all its Member States?

Base: to all

Opinion about environment – Results by country



Q20. Are you in favor or against Europe adopting each of the following measures and applying them to all its Member States?

Base: to all



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Many Thanks !



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April 2024